

Seminar course

# Quantum Software Systems

(aka “qc-systems-seminar”)

Kick-off meeting

<https://dse.in.tum.de/>

Aleksandra Świerkowska  
Francisco Romão  
Emmanouil (Manos) Giortamis  
Prof. Pramod Bhatotia



# Course instructors

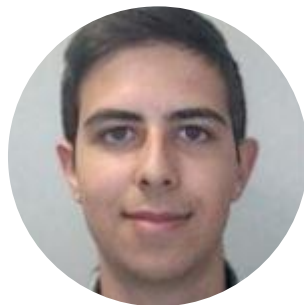


Chair of Computer Systems

<https://dse.in.tum.de/team/>



Aleksandra Świerkowska



Francisco Romão



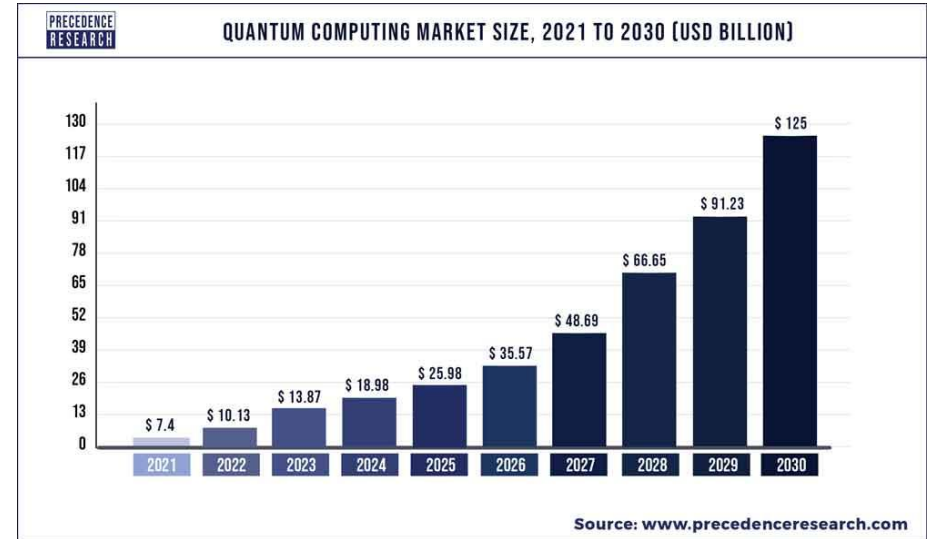
Manos Giortamis



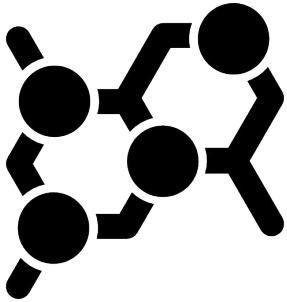
Prof. Pramod Bhatotia

# Motivation for quantum computing (QC)

- Quantum computers will be the world's fastest computing devices
  - They can solve problems intractable for classical computers
- QC is still at an infant stage
  - Many open problems and opportunities for research exist
  - Exciting field for exploration and discovery



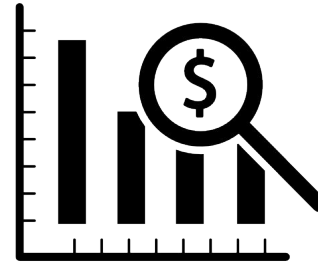
# Applications of QC



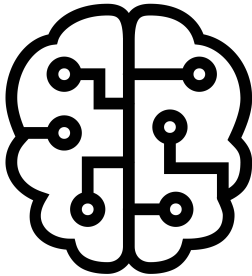
Chemistry



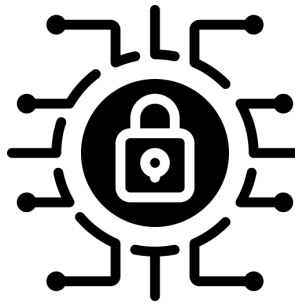
Pharmaceuticals



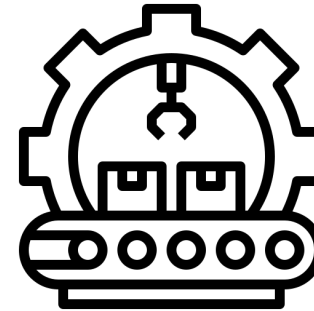
Finance



AI



Cybersecurity



Manufacturing

# Tech giants + startups adopt QC



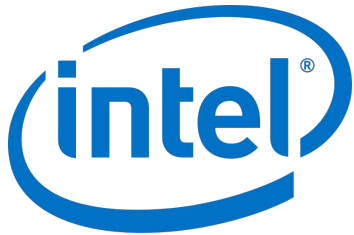
IBM Q™



rigetti



D:wave  
The Quantum Computing Company™



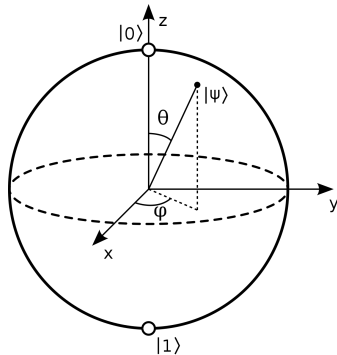
Atos



# Quantum vs classical computing

|             | Classical                  | Quantum                          |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bit         | 0 or 1                     | Superposition of 0 and 1         |
| Hardware    | $>10^9$ of bits, “perfect” | $10^2$ - $10^3$ of qubits, noisy |
| Programming | High-level                 | Qubit/Gate level                 |
| Determinism | Yes                        | Inherently probabilistic         |

- Quantum devices perform computations on qubits
- Qubit: A two-state quantum-mechanical system
- State of a qubit: Represented as a two dimensional complex vector



Bloch sphere

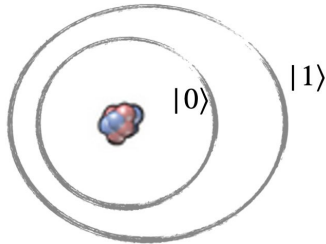
$$|\psi\rangle = a_0|0\rangle + a_1|1\rangle$$

$$a_0, a_1 \in \mathbb{C}, \quad \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} |a_k|^2 = 1$$

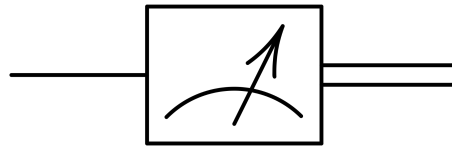
Linear combination of  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$

# Superposition and measurement

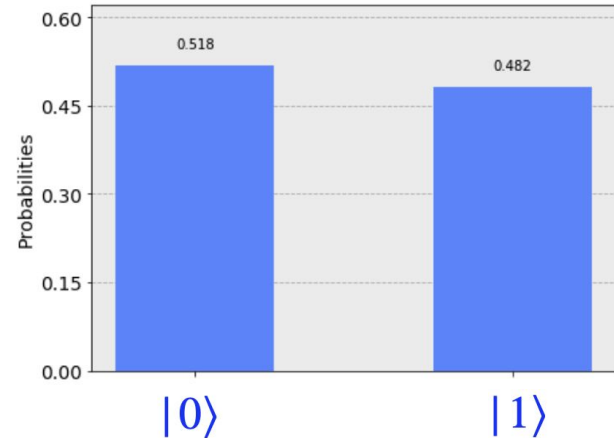
- Superposition: Qubit in state ‘between’  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$
- State of a qubit in superposition cannot be observed/copied
- After measuring a qubit, it decoheres to either  $|0\rangle$  or  $|1\rangle$



Superposition



Measurement





# Quantum operations

- Quantum Operator = Gate
- Gates are reversible

**Unary Gates**  
(e.g. Hadamard Gate)

$$|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\boxed{\text{H}}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle + |1\rangle) = |+\rangle$$

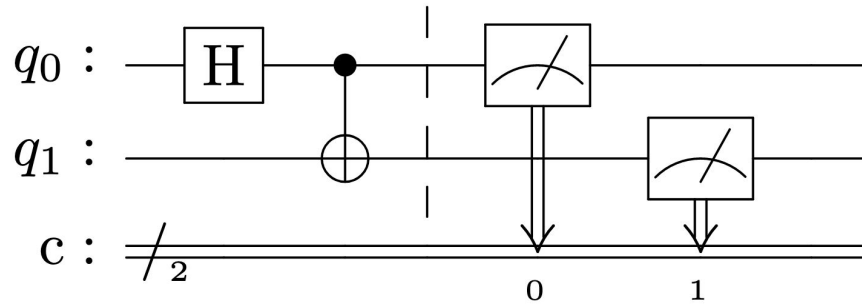
$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Binary Gates**  
(e.g. CNOT Gate)

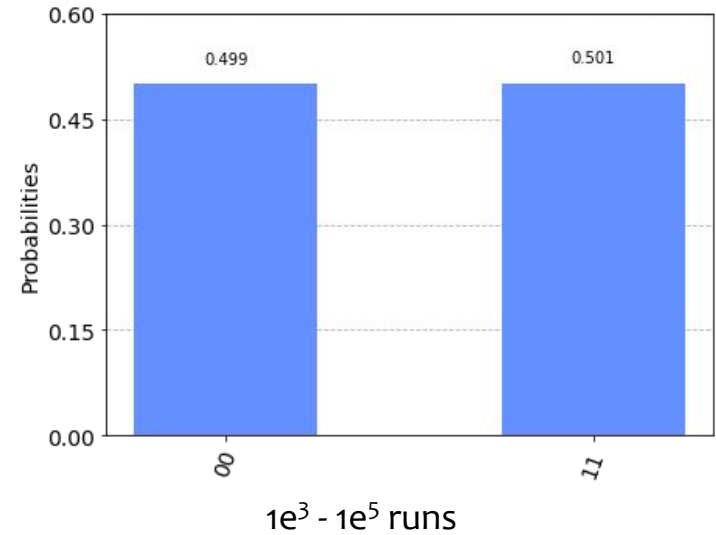
$$\begin{array}{c} |+\rangle \\ |0\rangle \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{CNOT}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|00\rangle + |11\rangle)$$

$$CNOT = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

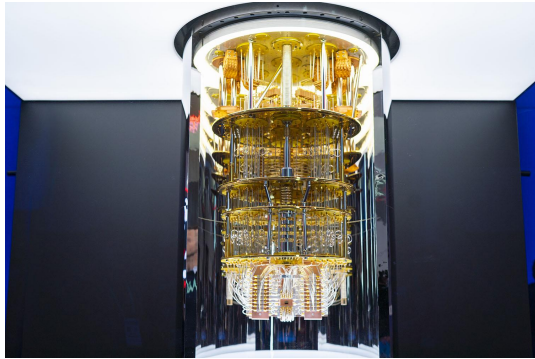
# Quantum circuits



Quantum circuit with 2 qubits, 2 gates and 2 measurements



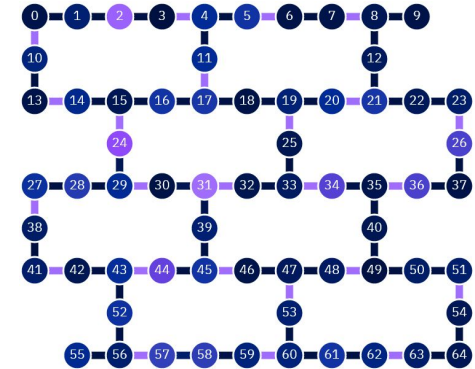
# Quantum Computers



Quantum computer



Quantum chip



Qubit topology

# Programming quantum computers

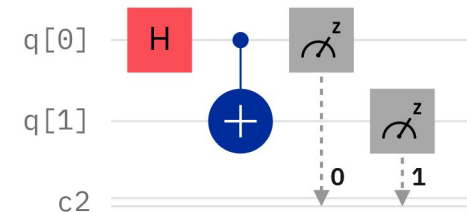
```
# Importing standard Qiskit libraries
from qiskit import QuantumCircuit, transpile, IBMQ
from qiskit.visualization import plot_histogram

provider = IBMQ.load_account()
backend = provider.backend.ibmq_oslo

qc = QuantumCircuit(2)

qc.h(0)
qc.cx(0,1)
qc.measure_all()

qc = transpile(qc, backend)
job = backend.run(qc)
counts = job.result().get_counts()
plot_histogram(counts)
```



Visualised circuit

```
1 OPENQASM 2.0;
2 include "qelib1.inc";
3
4 qreg q[2];
5 creg c[2];
6
7 h q[0];
8 cx q[0], q[1];
9 measure q[0] -> c[0];
10 measure q[1] -> c[1];
```

Assembly

# Programming quantum computers

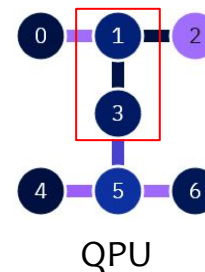
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qc = transpile(qc, backend)
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counts = job.result().get_counts()
plot_histogram(counts)
```



```
OPENQASM 2.0;
include "qelib1.inc";
qreg q[7];
creg meas[2];
rz(pi/2) q[0];
sx q[0];
rz(pi/2) q[0];
cx q[0],q[1];
barrier q[0],q[1];
measure q[0] -> meas[0];
measure q[1] -> meas[1];
```

## New assembly

# Programming quantum computers

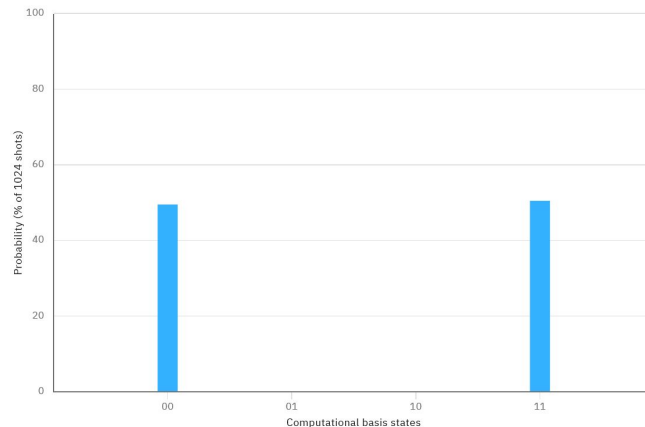
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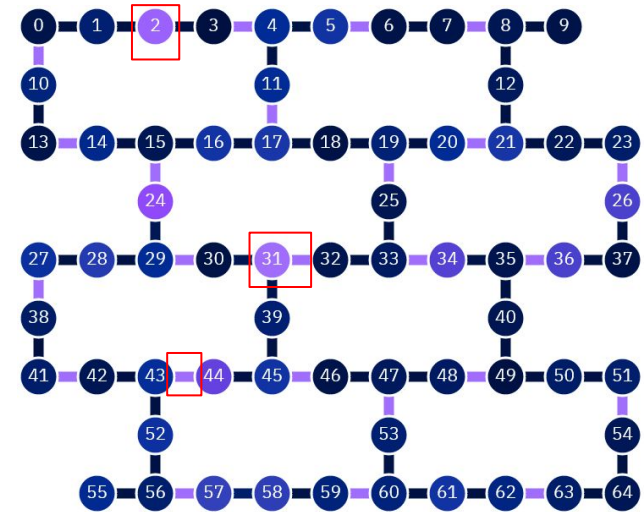


Results

# Current state: NISQ era

## Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum (NISQ) era

- Noisy hardware:
  - Prone to environmental noise
  - Prone to decoherence errors and cross-talk noise
  - Limited error mitigation/correction

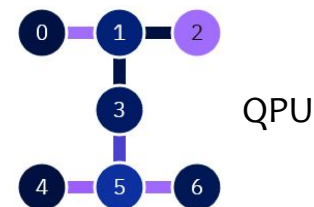
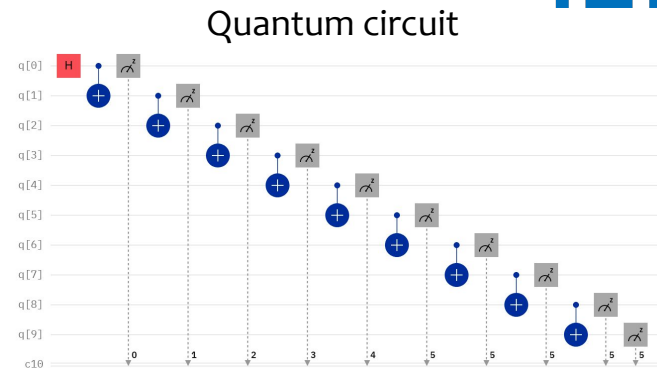


Purple nodes and links have higher noise !

Large quantum circuits on NISQ computers give low-quality results !

# Current state: NISQ era

- Intermediate-Scale:
  - Currently up to a few 100s of qubits
    - 10.000s needed for quantum advantage
  - Low quantum-volume
  - Limited qubit connectivity



Large quantum circuits can't be transpiled on the QPUs !



Existing QC hardware is limited in terms of quantity and quality

Which are the research challenges for software systems in quantum computing?

# Tentative topics

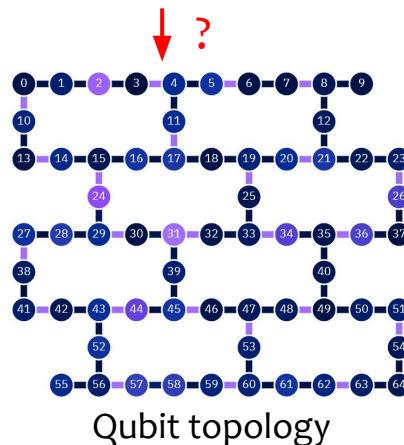
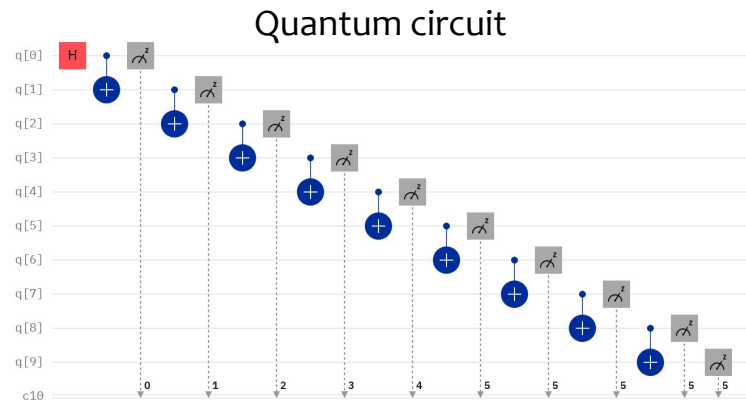
Papers from top conferences (e.g., ASPLOS, HPCA, MICRO, PLDI)

| Tentative topics                  |
|-----------------------------------|
| #1: Transpilation (qubit mapping) |
| #2: Quantum resource management   |
| #3: Circuit cutting & knitting    |
| #4: Circuit multiprogramming      |
| #5: Circuit transformations       |
| #6: Quantum Error Correction      |

# Challenge #1: Transpilation (qubit mapping)

Transpilation modifies a given circuit to match the topology of a specific quantum backend

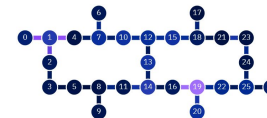
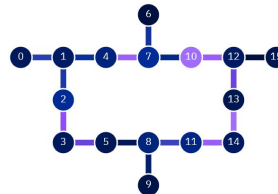
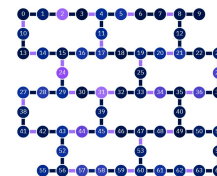
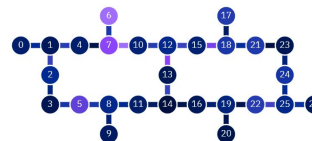
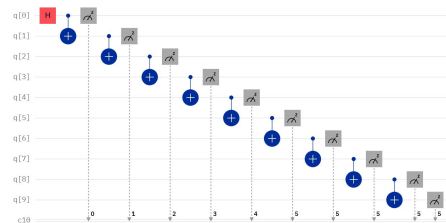
- How can we optimally map logical qubits to physical qubits?
  - Avoid noisy qubits
  - Avoid noisy qubit links
  - Minimise SWAP operations
- How can we do it fast?
  - NP-hard problem
  - Greedy approaches
  - Heuristics



# Challenge #2: Quantum resource management

Selecting the best machine for a given quantum circuit is challenging

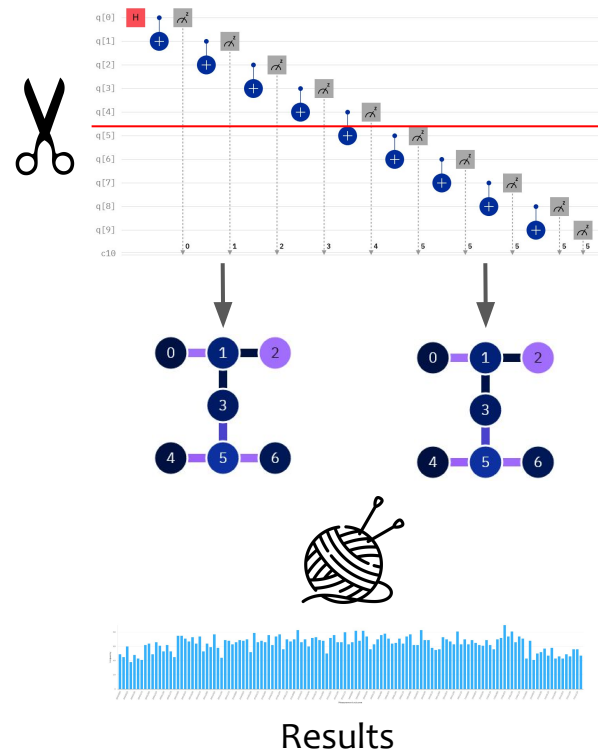
- Which machines does the circuit fit into?
- Which machines support the circuit's operations?
- Which topology best fits our circuit?
- Which machine has the best noise properties?



# Challenge #3: Circuit cutting and knitting

Circuit cutting and knitting is a method of dividing a quantum circuit into smaller fragments, executing them and merging the results back

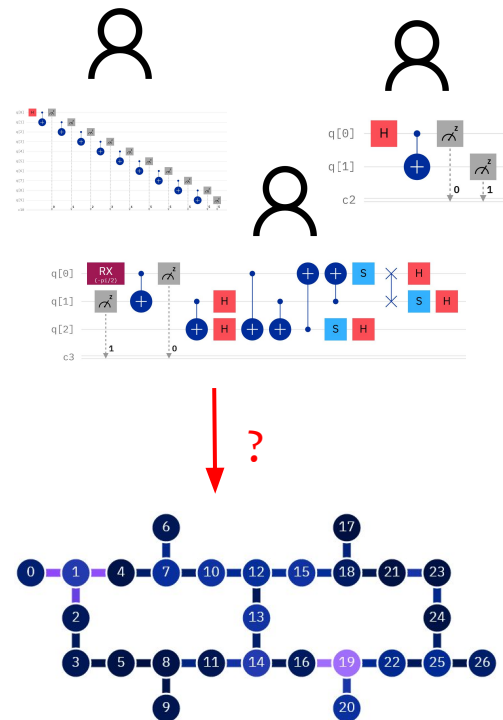
- Which are the optimal cut locations?
- What is the additional quantum cost ?
- What is the additional classical cost?
- How can we mitigate the (exponential) costs?



# Challenge #4: Circuit multiprogramming

Multiprogramming enables multiple circuits to be executed on the same QPU in parallel

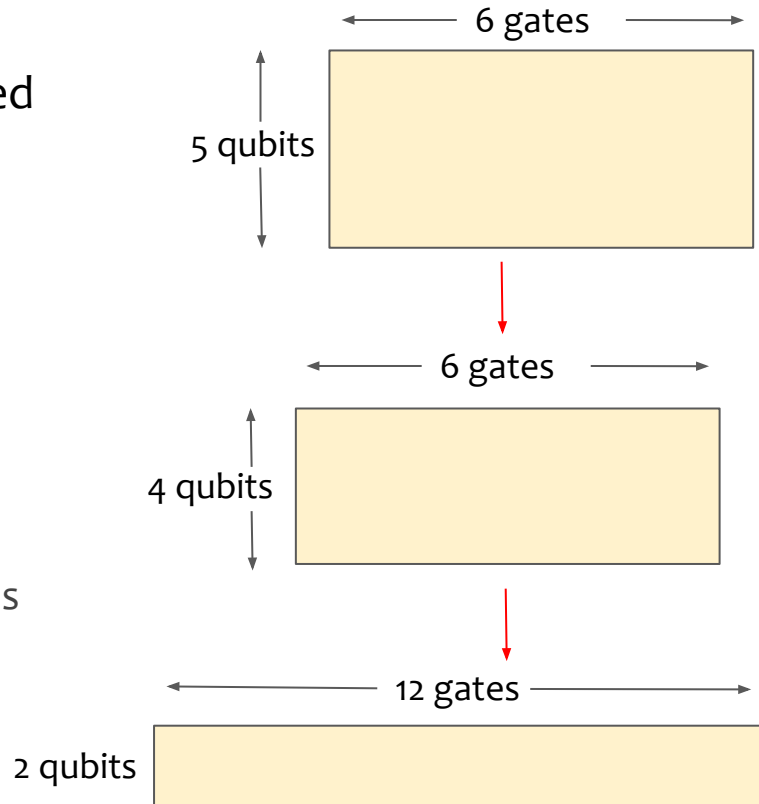
- How can we optimally map multiple circuits on a QPU?
  - Equally good partitions
- How can we minimise circuit interference ?
  - Crosstalk noise
  - Measurement interference
  - Unequal depths



# Challenge #5: Circuit transformations

There are circuit transformations that aim to change a circuit in a way that its fidelity is improved

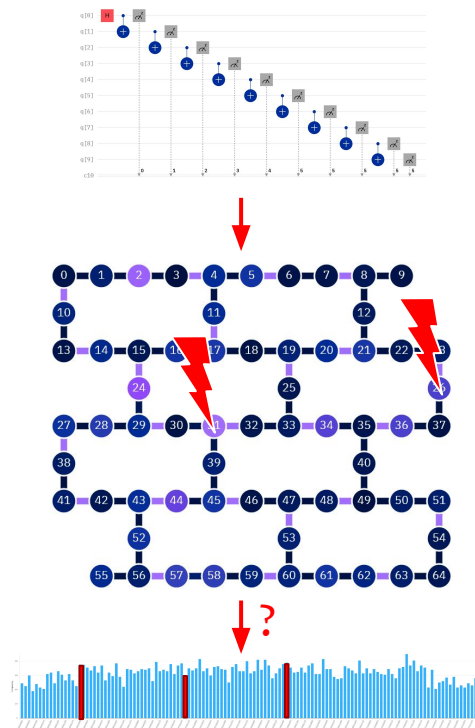
- Circuit compaction
  - Width (# of qubits) reduced
  - Depth (# of consecutive gates) increased
- How to use it optimally ?
  - Tradeoff between allocating less qubits but adding intermediate measurement operations
  - Possible decoherence errors



# Challenge #6: Quantum Error Correction

Quantum Error Correction is a technique allowing for detecting and correcting errors occurring during execution:

- How can we protect a circuit against errors of the device (e.g., gate errors)?
  - Encode circuit with a QEC code
  - Cyclically check if the states were not changes
  - Use heuristic to predict the error patterns and propose correction strategy
- How can we provide strongest protection?
- How can we predict the patterns most accurately?
- How can we do it with limited number of qubits?
- How can we do it fast?



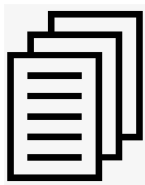


Format

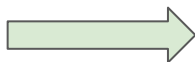
# Bird's eyes view



Student



Research papers  
(Top systems conferences)



Understand



Research  
ideas



**1** presentation



**1** short report



Peer-reviewing

# Overview

## Phase I

Kick-off



## Phase II: Understand & explore

Understand



Presentation

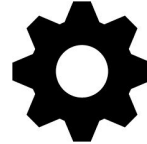


## Phase III: Research

Design



Implement  
( Bonus)

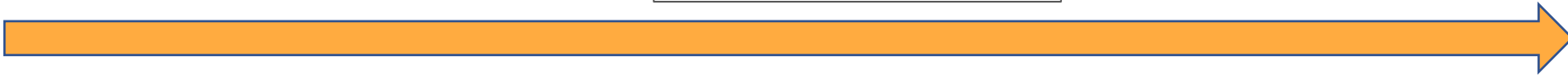


## Phase IV: Report & review

Report



Peer-review



# Phase I: Kick-off meeting



**Format and motivation**  
(all participants meeting)



**Paper selection**  
(Top systems conferences)



**The first week**

## **NOTE**

1. A list of papers will be provided for FCFS bidding
2. Paper presentation guidelines will be provided for the next phase

# Phase II: Understand & explore



## Understand the paper(s)

### Focus

1. **Understand** the paper and related work
2. Also **explore** a “laundry list” of research ideas/directions



## Paper presentation

### Focus

1. Explain the work/related work (“**why?**” and “**how?**”)
2. Explain and discuss all possible research directions
3. Pick a research direction



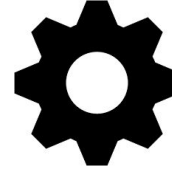
# Phase III: Research



## Research work

### **Focus:**

Indepth research work to nail-down the problem and detailed approach to solve it!



## Research prototype

### **Bonus: (Optional)**

**“Build the system to solve it!”** and show us the working idea and associated results



# Phase IV: Report & review



## Report

### Focus

Prepare a single “short & sweet” report summarizing

- (a) Paper
- (b) Research work



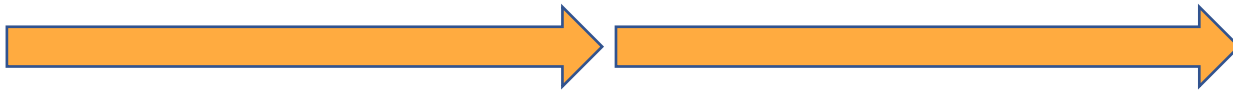
## Peer-review

### Focus

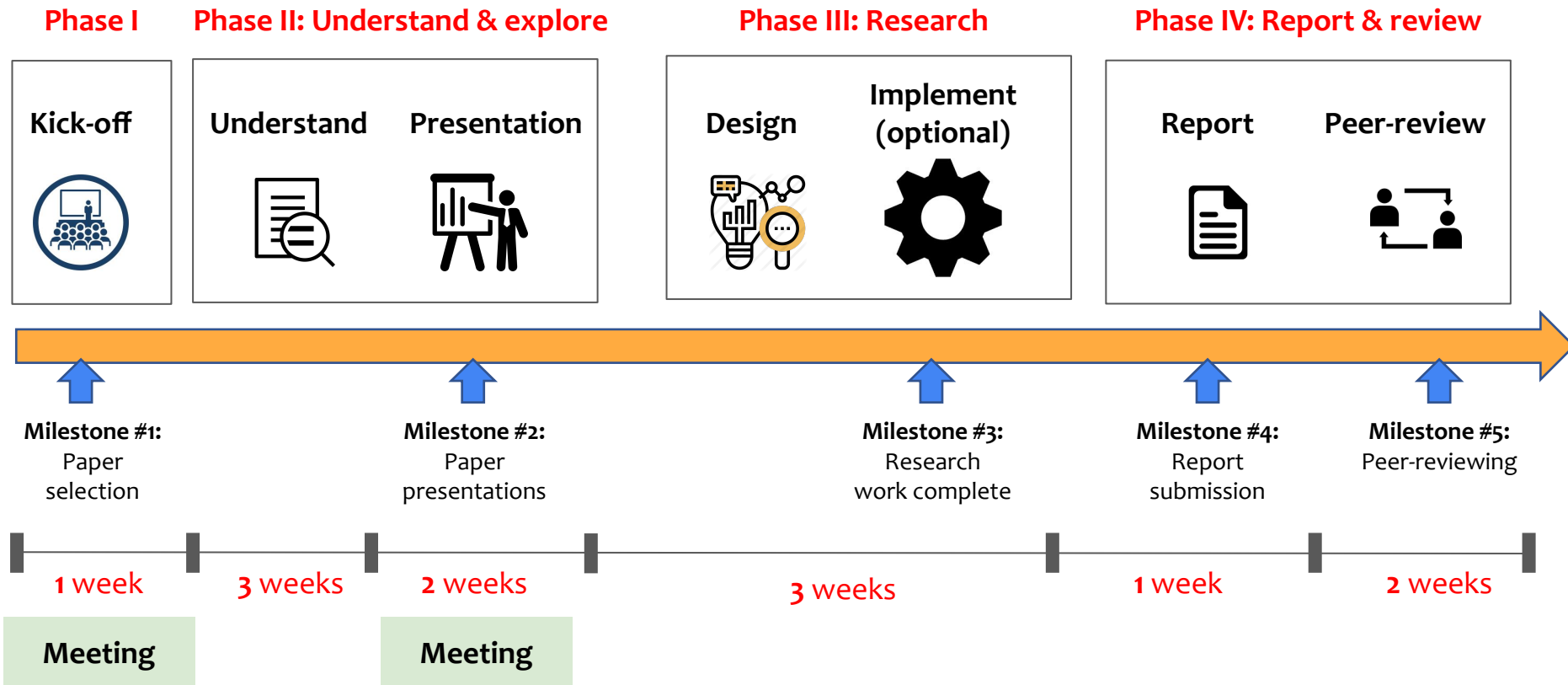
Give constructive (positive and critical) feedback for

- (a) Paper summary
- (b) Research work

# END.



# Overall timeline





# Organization



- Format
  - Seminar course
- Communication
  - Slack for announcements and information sharing
  - Hotcrp for report submission and peer-reviewing
- Meetings (**in-person, attendance is compulsory**)
  - **Meeting #1:** Kick-off
  - **Meeting #2:** Paper presentation

# Learning goals



- Learn about the cutting-edge research in quantum computing systems
- Promote critical thinking
- Cultivate an environment for innovation
  - To push the boundaries by advancing the state-of-the-art
- Improve scientific skills
  - Presentation
  - Writing
  - Communication: discussion and arguing
  - Mentorship: giving feedback and moderating discussion
- Encourage system building and evaluation
  - Learn by building, breaking, and benchmarking systems
- Importantly, to have fun!

- University plagiarism policy
  - <https://www.cit.tum.de/en/cit/studies/students/examination-matters-modules/informatics/practical-courses-seminar-courses/>
- Decorum
  - Promote freedom of thoughts and open exchange of ideas
  - Cultivate dignity, understanding and mutual respect, and embrace diversity
  - Racism and bullying will not be tolerated

# Contact



- Aleksandra Świerkowska
  - [aleksandra.swierkowska@tum.de](mailto:aleksandra.swierkowska@tum.de)
- Francisco Romão
  - [francisco.romao@tum.de](mailto:francisco.romao@tum.de)
- Manos Giortamis
  - [emmanouil.giortamis@in.tum.de](mailto:emmanouil.giortamis@in.tum.de)
- Prof. Pramod Bhatotia
  - [pramod.bhatotia@in.tum.de](mailto:pramod.bhatotia@in.tum.de)
- All seminar-related info: <https://github.com/TUM-DSE/seminars>



## Communication:

Join us with TUM email address (@tum.de)

[ls1-courses-tum.slack.com](https://ls1-courses-tum.slack.com)

#ss-25-qc-systems