CPEN 400Q Lecture 11
Quantum compilation I

Monday 10 February 2025

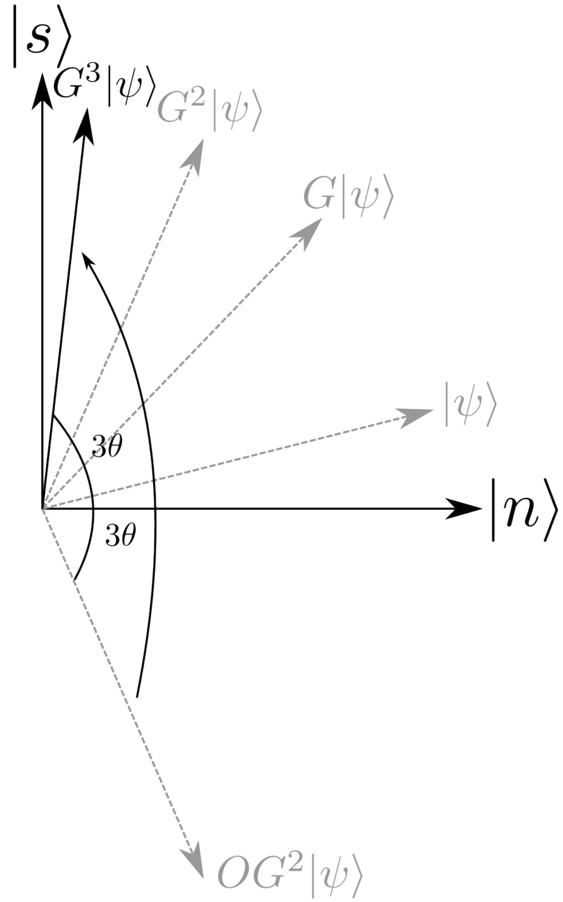
Announcements

- Quiz 4 today
- Literacy Assignment 1 due Wednesday 23:59
- Assignment 2 due Thursday 27 Feb at 23:59
- Project details available soon on PrairieLearn
- Tutorial tomorrow (hands-on assignment about compilation!)

Quiz

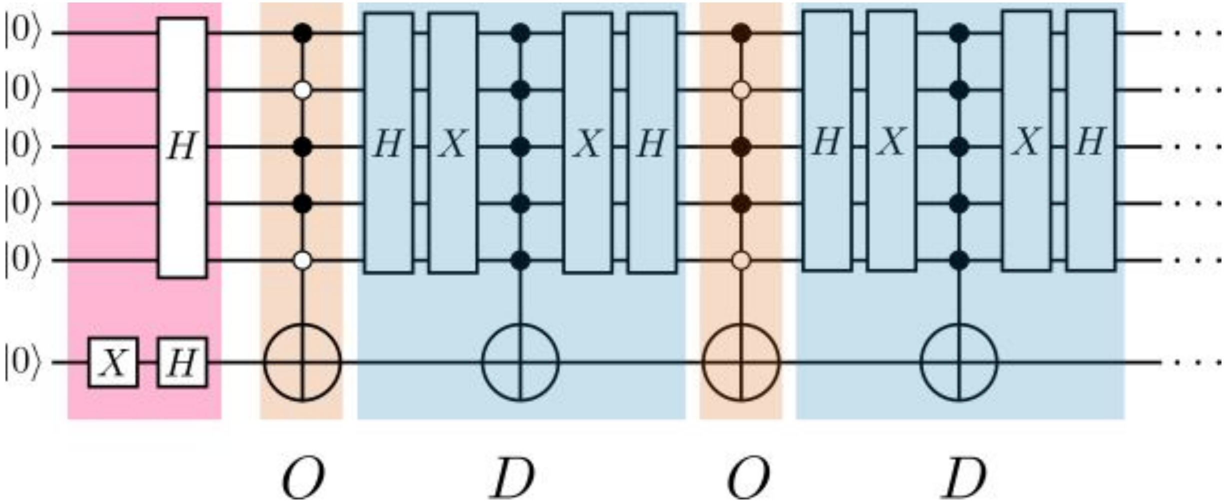
Last time

We discussed how Grover search of an unstructured space has a square-root speedup in **query complexity** over classical methods.



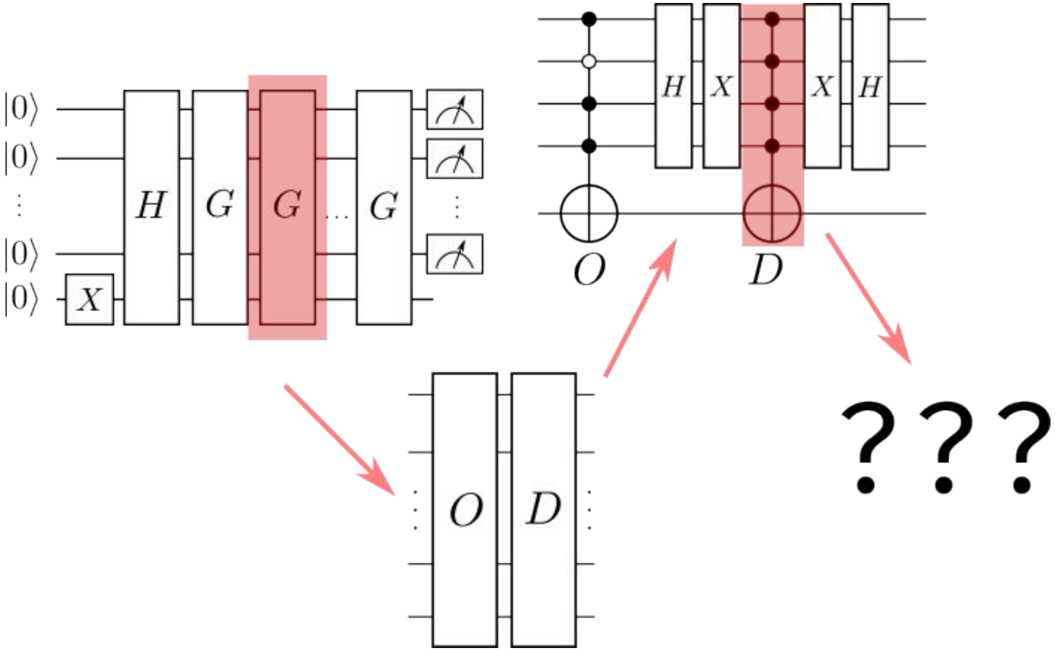
Last time

We implemented Grover's algorithm in PennyLane



Last time

We finished off with this picture



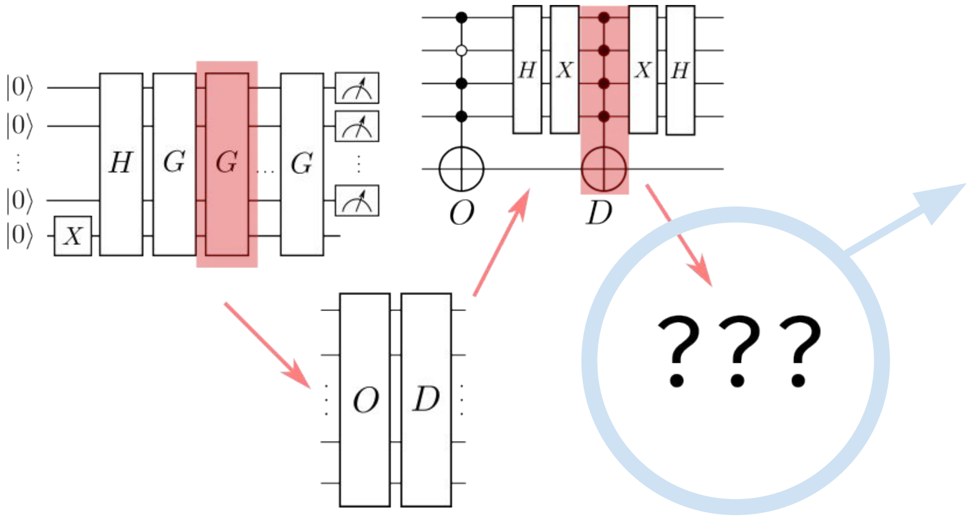
Today

Learning outcomes:

- explain the limitations of query complexity as a metric
- define and calculate **cost metrics** of quantum circuits
- define and list key **universal** gate sets
- perform local **optimizations** on quantum circuits
- **decompose** multi-controlled operations

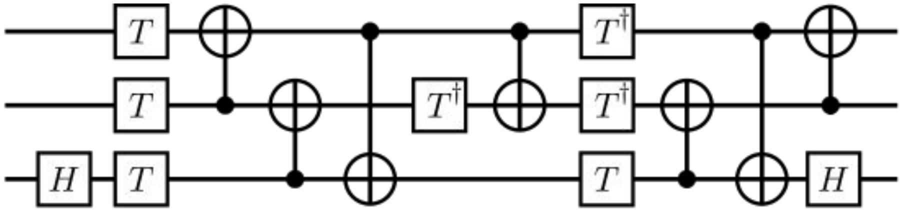
In tomorrow’s tutorial assignment and Wednesday’s lecture, we will put this into context within the 💗**quantum compilation stack**💗

Quantum circuit synthesis and optimization

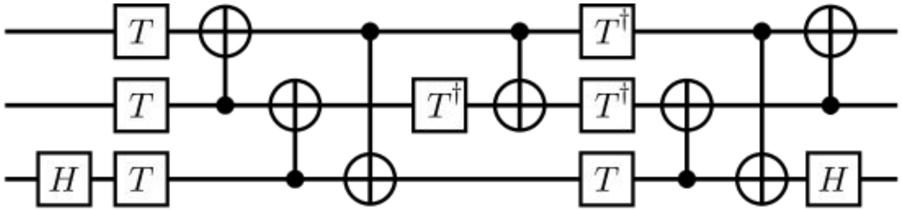


- How do we decide what goes here?
- What criteria determine whether our choice is “good”?
- How do we improve on our choices?

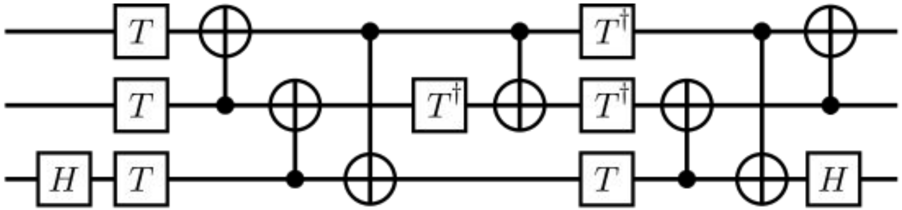
Circuit width



Gate count

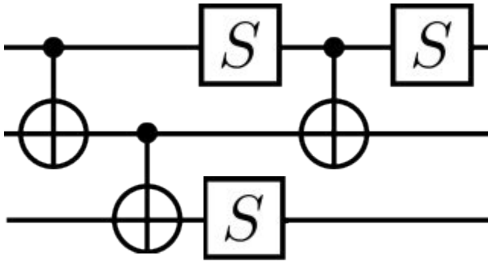


Circuit depth



Circuit depth

The circuit depth is the length of the longest path in its **directed acyclic graph (DAG)** representation.

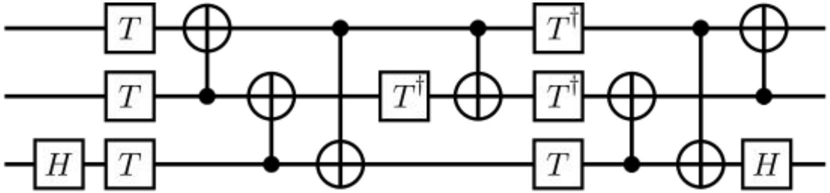


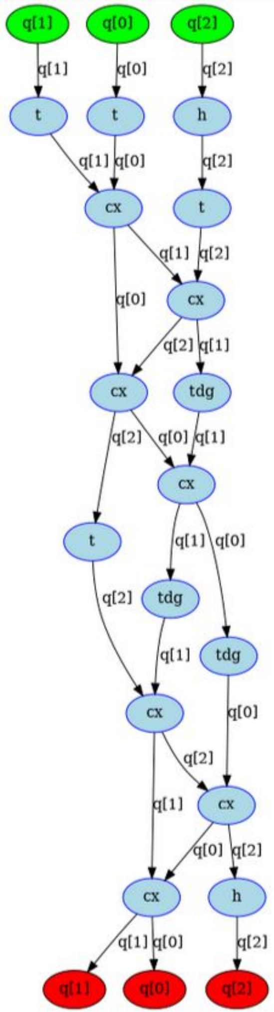
Key metrics

Circuit depth

Generally don’t do by hand; NetworkX is your best friend.

https://networkx.org/

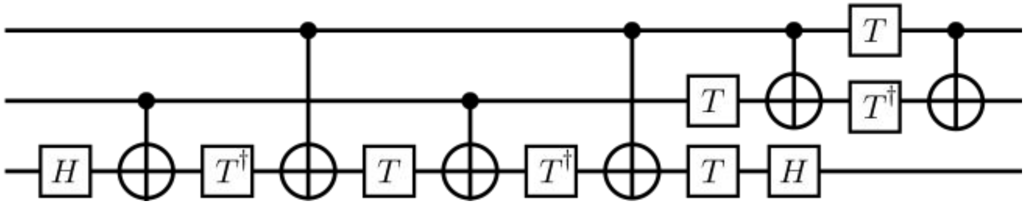




(DAG generated in Qiskit)

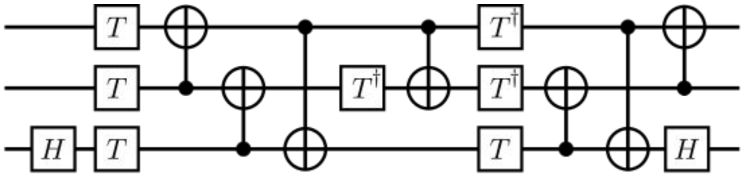
Exercise

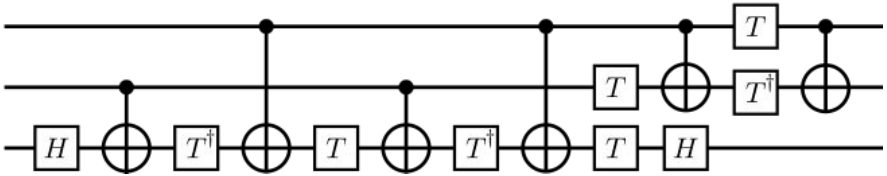
Determine resource counts of the following circuit.



Circuit synthesis and decomposition

What do these circuits do?





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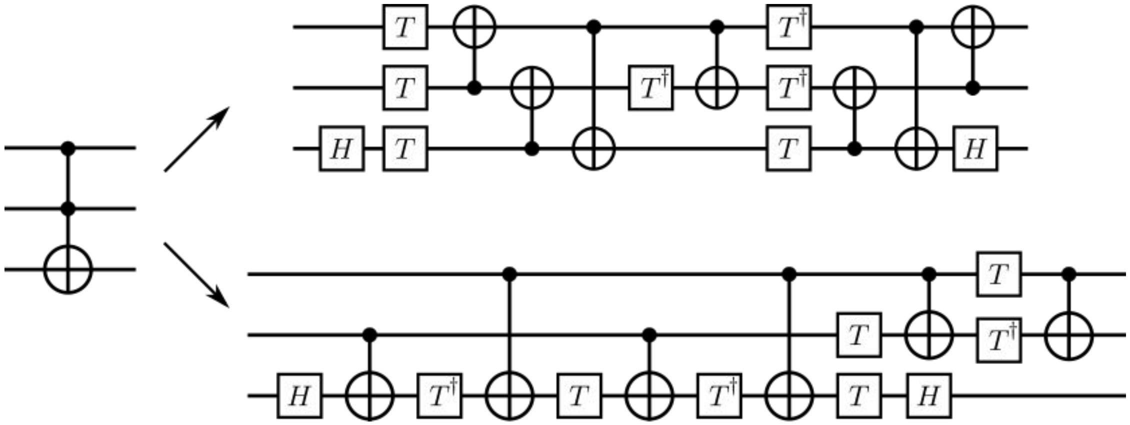

Circuit synthesis

Given:

- arbitrary unitary matrix U
- a finite set of gates $\{G_k\}$
- a target precision, ϵ

Find

$$U' = C_1 C_2 \cdots C_m$$

s.t.

$$||U - U'|| < \epsilon, C_i \in \{G_k\}$$

Universal gate sets

A $\{G_k\}$ for which this can be done is called a **universal gate set.**

Examples for a single qubit:

- Any two Pauli rotations (exact)
- Hadamard and T (approximate)

Theoretical bound: $O(\log^c(1/\epsilon))$ gates, c varies from 1-4 depending on assumptions.

Universal gate sets

Any single-qubit unitary can be expressed using a sequence of 3 Pauli rotations around a minimum of 2 unique axes

- ZYZ
- XYX
- XYZ
- 9 other combinations *(Euler angles)*

qml.Rot

class Rot(*phi, theta, omega, wires, id=None*)

Bases: `pennylane.operation.Operation`

Arbitrary single qubit rotation

$$R(\phi,\theta,\omega) = RZ(\omega)RY(\theta)RZ(\phi) = \begin{bmatrix} e^{-i(\phi+\omega)/2}\cos(\theta/2) & -e^{i(\phi-\omega)/2}\sin(\theta/2) \\ e^{-i(\phi-\omega)/2}\sin(\theta/2) & e^{i(\phi+\omega)/2}\cos(\theta/2) \end{bmatrix}.$$

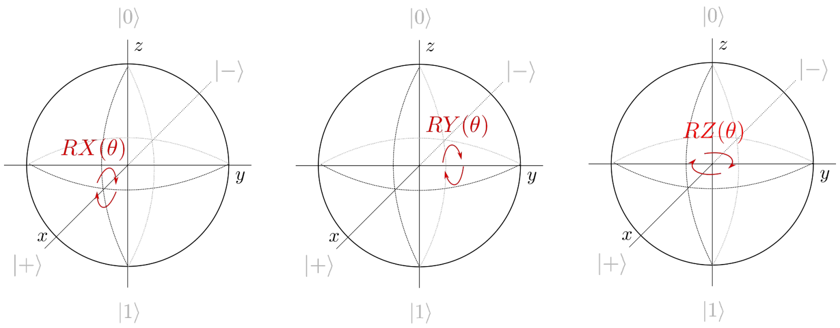

Image: Xanadu Quantum Codebook Node I.6

Universal gate sets

Using a different gate set is like *speaking a different language*.

I would like to use a real quantum computer.

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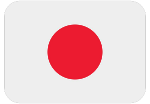
J’aimerais utiliser un vrai ordinateur quantique.

I would like to use a real computer that is quantum.

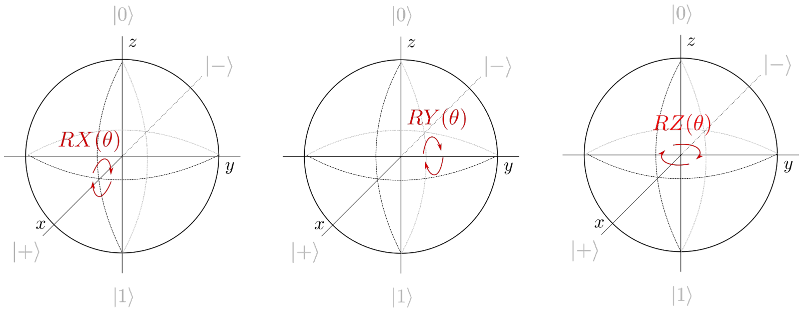


本当の量子コンピュータを作りたい。

A real quantum computer, I would like to use.

Hardware-specific example

RX/*RY*/*RZ* are **arbitrary-angle** rotations about **fixed axes**



IonQ's trapped ion hardware native gates: *GPI*/*GPI2*, **fixed-angle** rotations about **arbitrary axes** in *xy*-plane

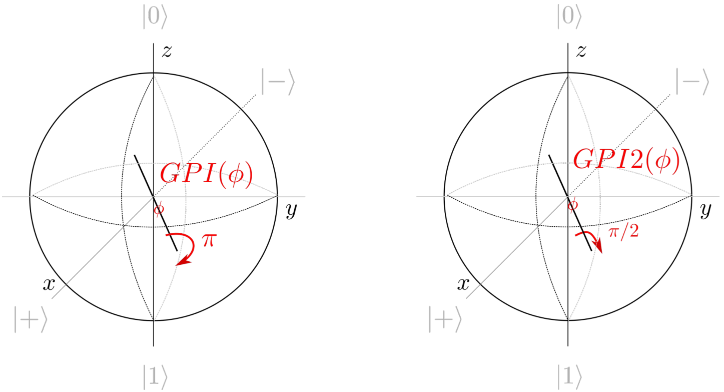


Image adapted from Xanadu Quantum Codebook Node I.6
See blog post: https://pennylane.ai/blog/2023/06/the-ionizer-building-a-hardware-specific-transpiler-using-pennylane

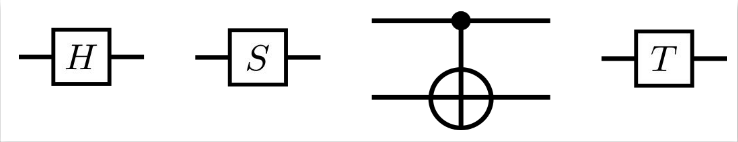
Exercise

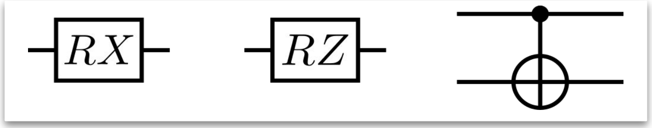
Express Pauli X in terms of H and T.

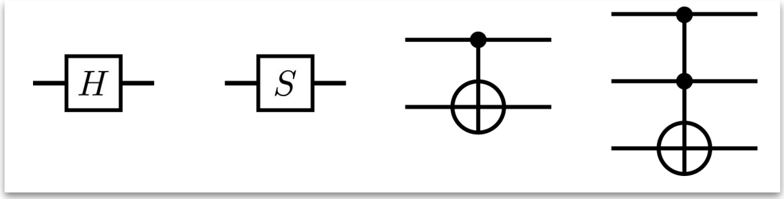
Hint: start by expressing it using H and Z.

Universal gate sets

Multi-qubit gate sets

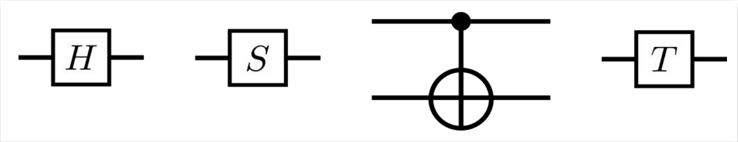






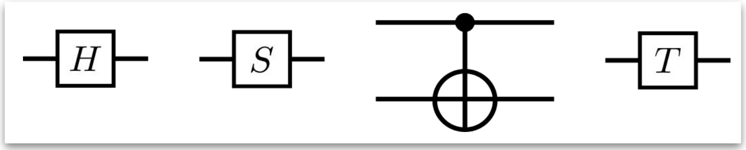
Exercise

Express CZ using gates from



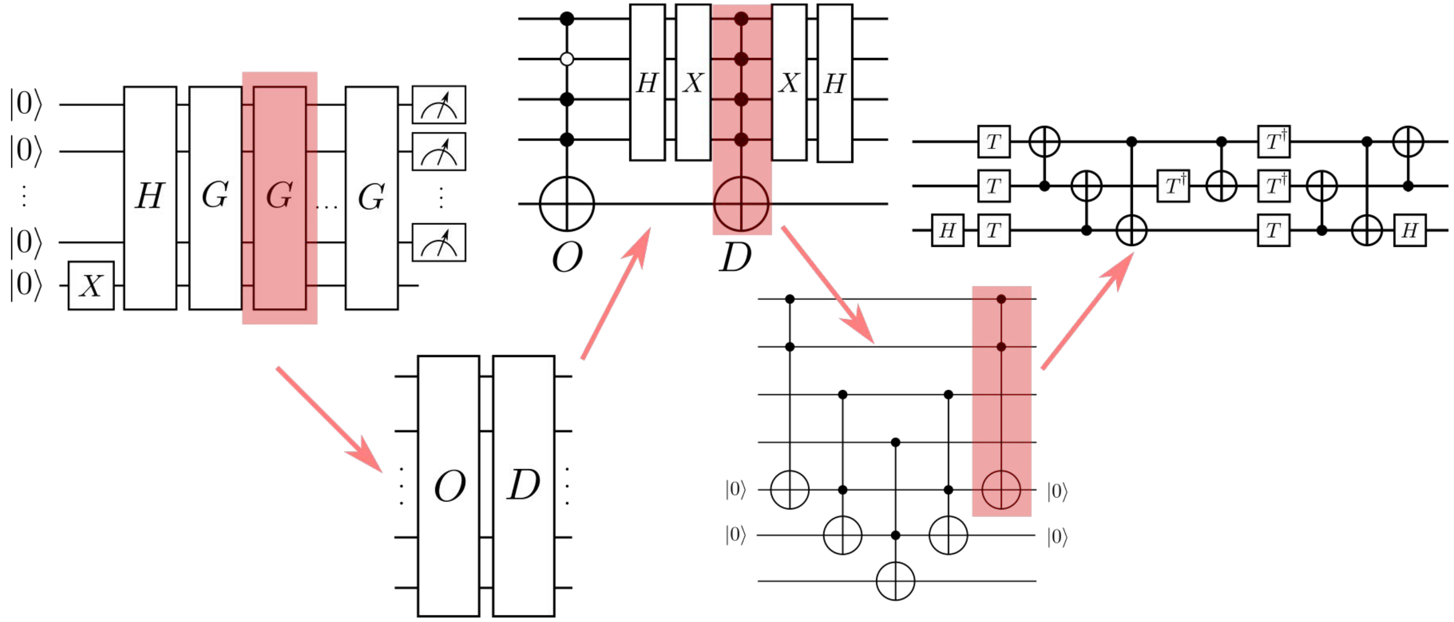
Take-home exercise

Express controlled Hadamard using gates from



Circuit decomposition

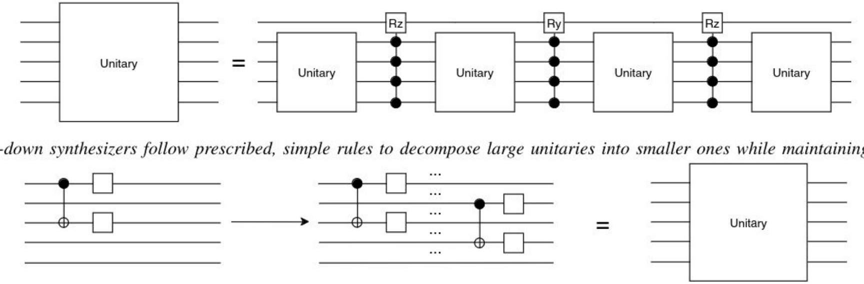
Decompositions of many common operations are **known**.



Synthesis and decomposition techniques

For under-specified or arbitrary operations, or for special gate sets, we may need to ***find*** a decomposition.

- search problem
- number-theoretic techniques
- numerical methods



(a) *Top-down synthesizers follow prescribed, simple rules to decompose large unitaries into smaller ones while maintaining equality.*

(b) *Bottom-up synthesizers start with an empty circuit and build up to equality.*

Figure 1: *Quantum synthesizers are either top-down or bottom-up.*

Image: E. Younis, K. Sen, K. Yelick, and C. Iancu. *QFAST: Conflating Search and Numerical Optimization for Scalable Quantum Circuit Synthesis.* arXiv:2103.07093 [quant-ph]

Challenges

Synthesis is hard!

- algorithm complexity and computational resources

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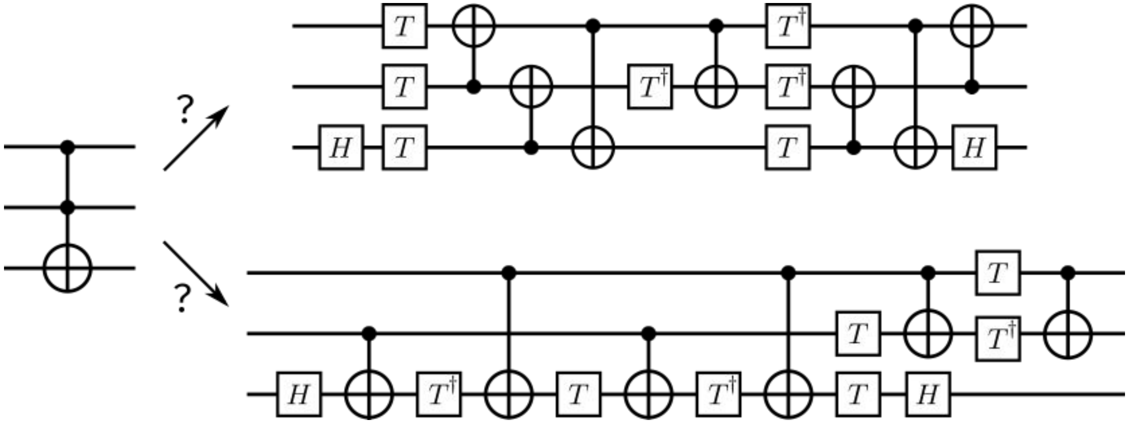
- how to choose the best decomposition to *enable further optimization* down the line?



Challenges

Synthesis is hard!

- algorithm complexity and computational resources
- how to choose the best decomposition to *enable further optimization* down the line?
- manage tradeoffs between various resources

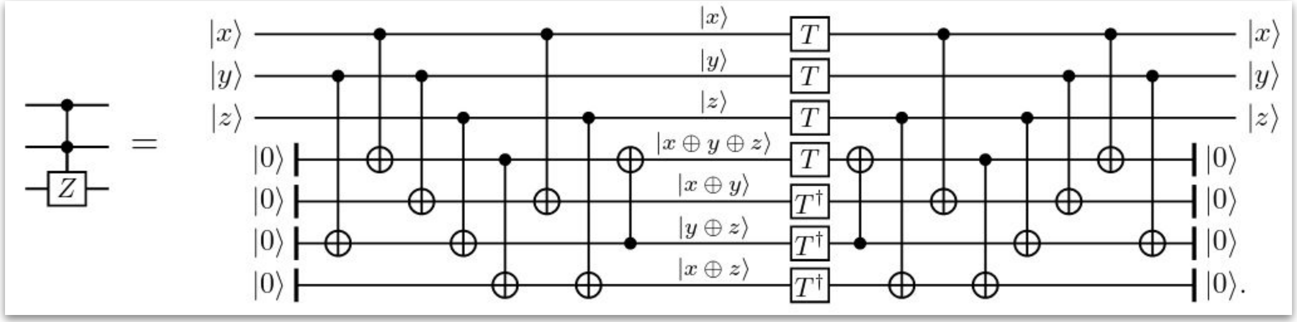
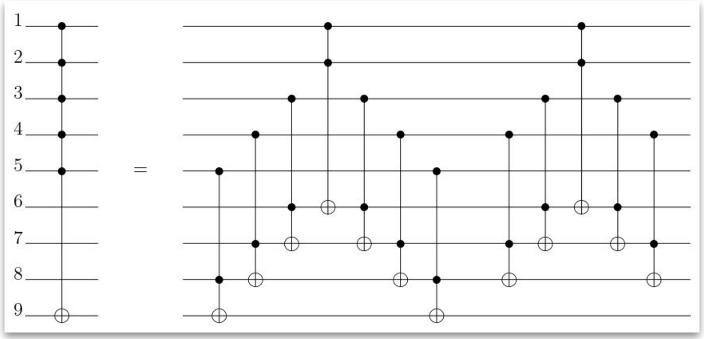


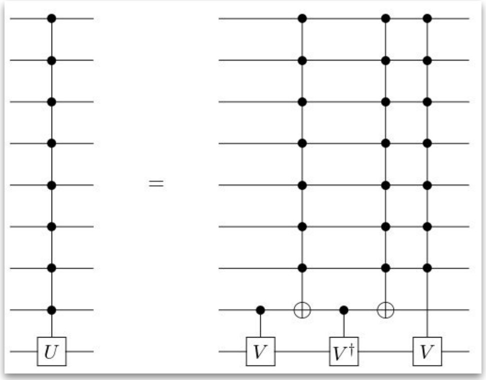
Image: P. Selinger (2013) *Quantum circuits of T -depth one*. Phys. Rev. A 87, 042302 (2013)

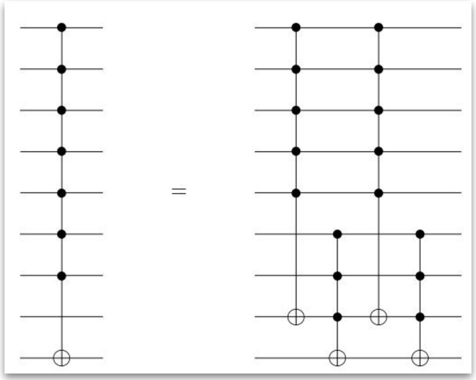
Example

Let’s decompose a multi-controlled NOT.

Multi-controlled NOT decomposition strategies



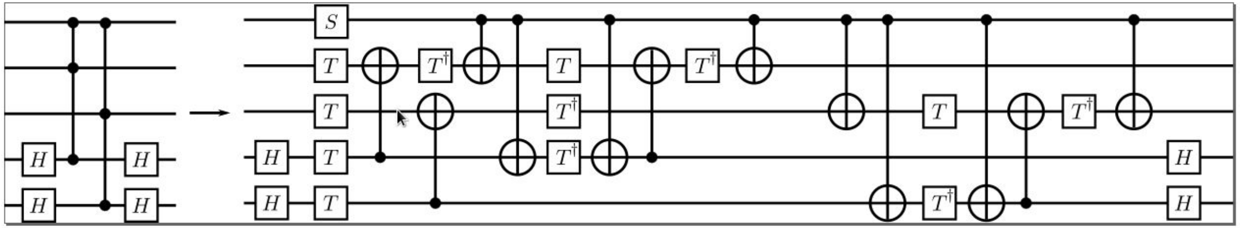




Circuit optimization

Machine-independent (or dependent) sequence of *passes* to reduce:

- gate count (overall, or for particular gate)
- circuit depth
- qubit count



Optimization passes

Passes have varying levels of complexity:

- inverse cancellation

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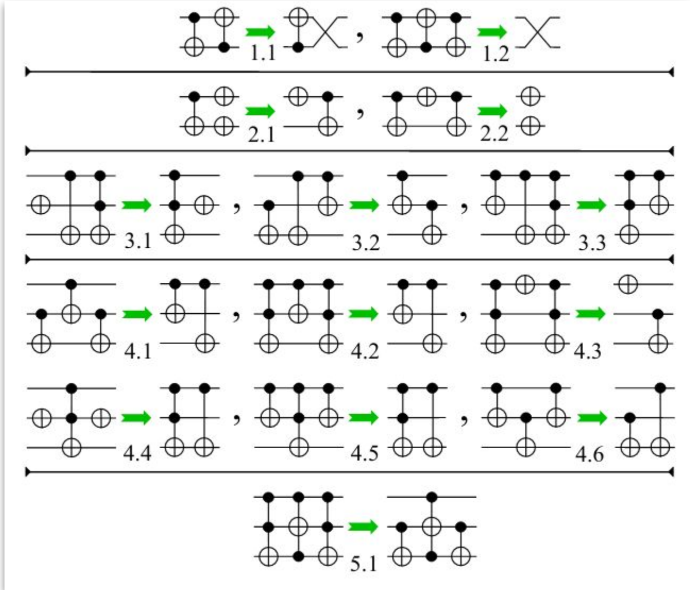
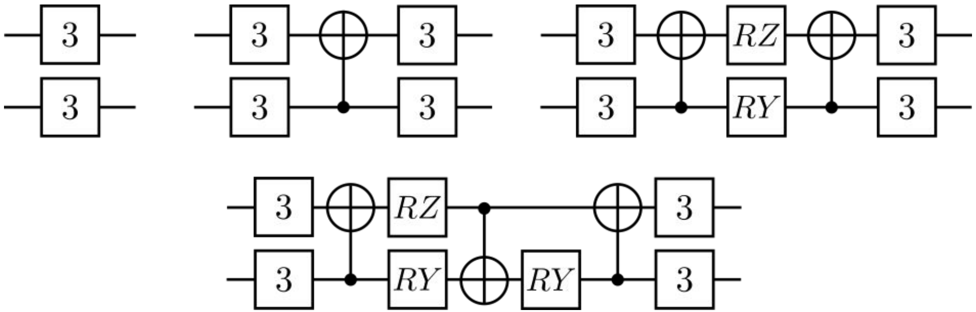


Image: D. M. Miller, D. Maslov, G. W. Dueck. *A Transformation Based Algorithm for Reversible Logic synthesis*. DAC 2003.

Optimization passes

Passes have varying levels of complexity:

- inverse cancellation
- rotation merging
- template matching
- two-qubit block *resynthesis*

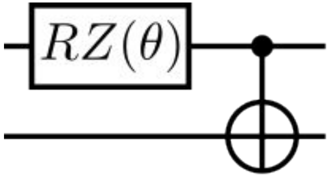


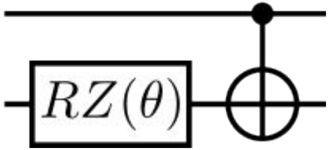
Reference: V. V. Shende, I. L. Markov, and S. S. Bullock (2004) *Minimal universal two-qubit controlled-NOT-based circuits*. Phys. Rev. A 69 062321.

Commutation

Commutation relations can help us move gates “through” each other to enable optimizations.

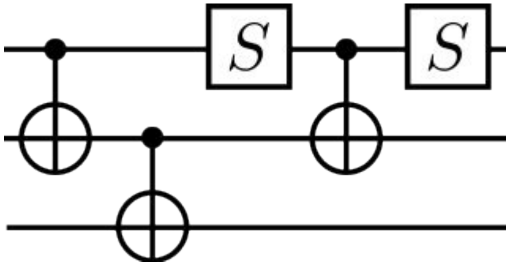
Exercise: do the following gates commute?





Exercise

Determine this circuit’s resource counts, then optimize it.
What is the minimum depth?



Next time

Content:

- The quantum compilation stack (from top to bottom)

Action items:

- A2 and Lit A1 (last question from A2 will be posted this week)
- Tutorial Assignment 2 tomorrow

Recommended reading:

- Nielsen and Chuang 4.5
- Transforms blog post (*syntax is out-of-date, but idea holds*)
- Explore the **qml.transforms** module