

How to Write a Scalable Compiler for an Error-Prone Quantum Computer

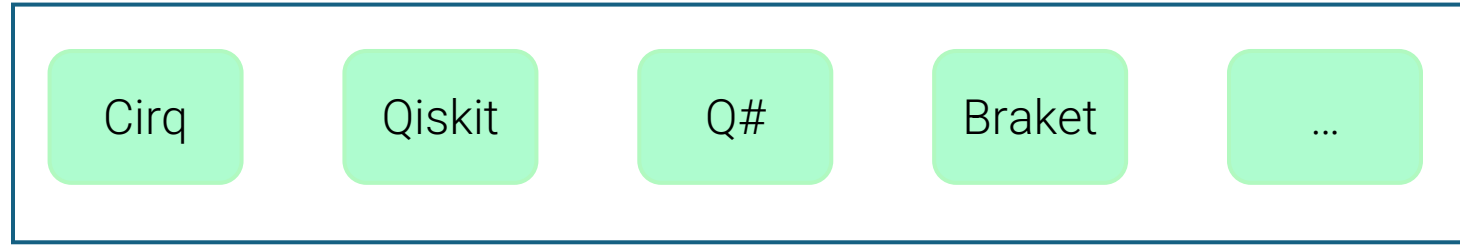
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University of Edinburgh

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Riverlane

April 16, 2025

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective



Languages

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective

Cirq

Qiskit

Q#

Braket

...

Languages

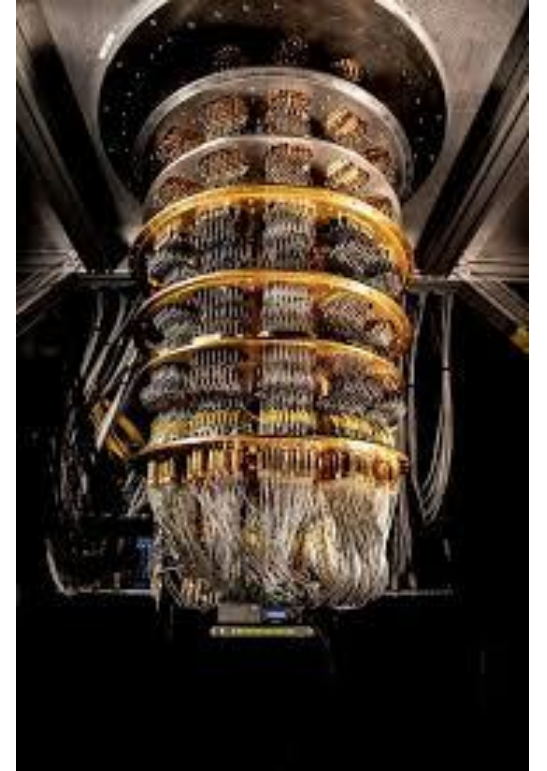
Superconducting

Photonic

Trapped
Ion

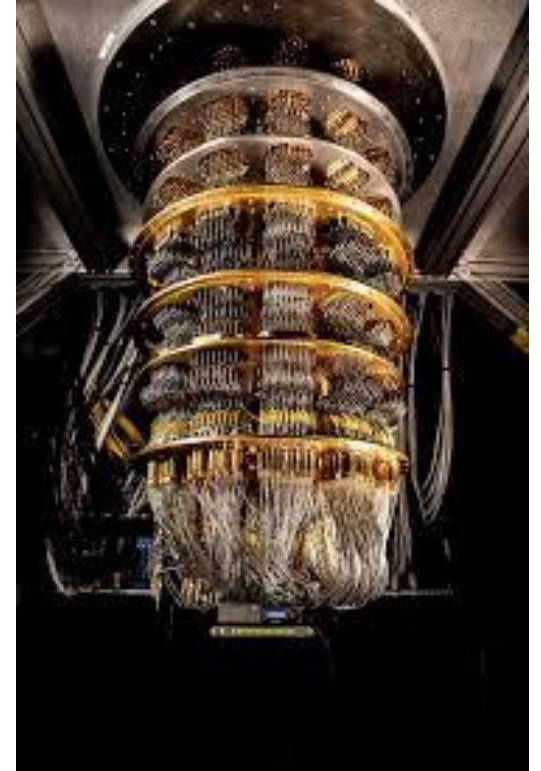
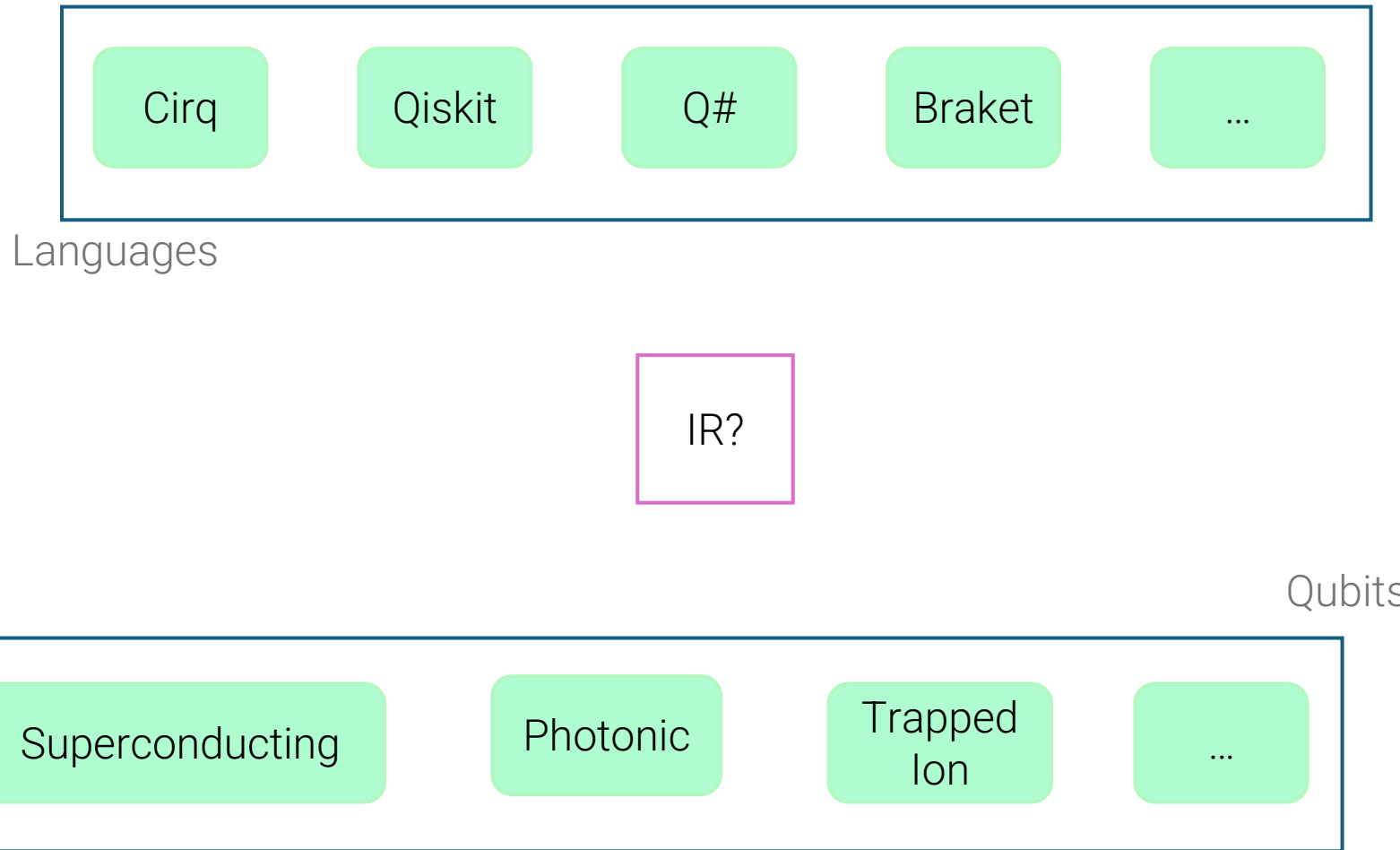
...

Qubits



[Google Quantum AI]

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective



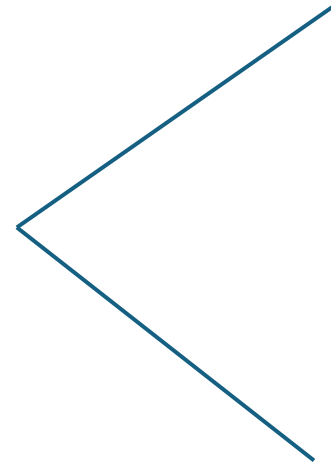
[Google Quantum AI]

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective

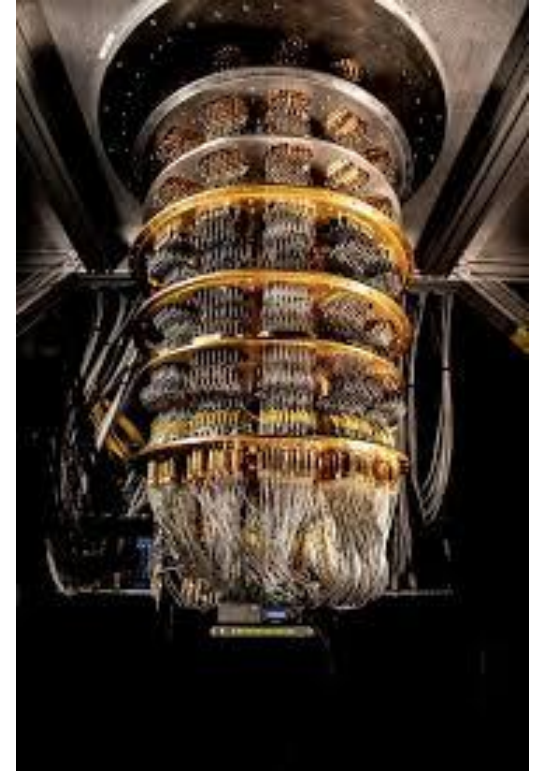
Languages



Qubit



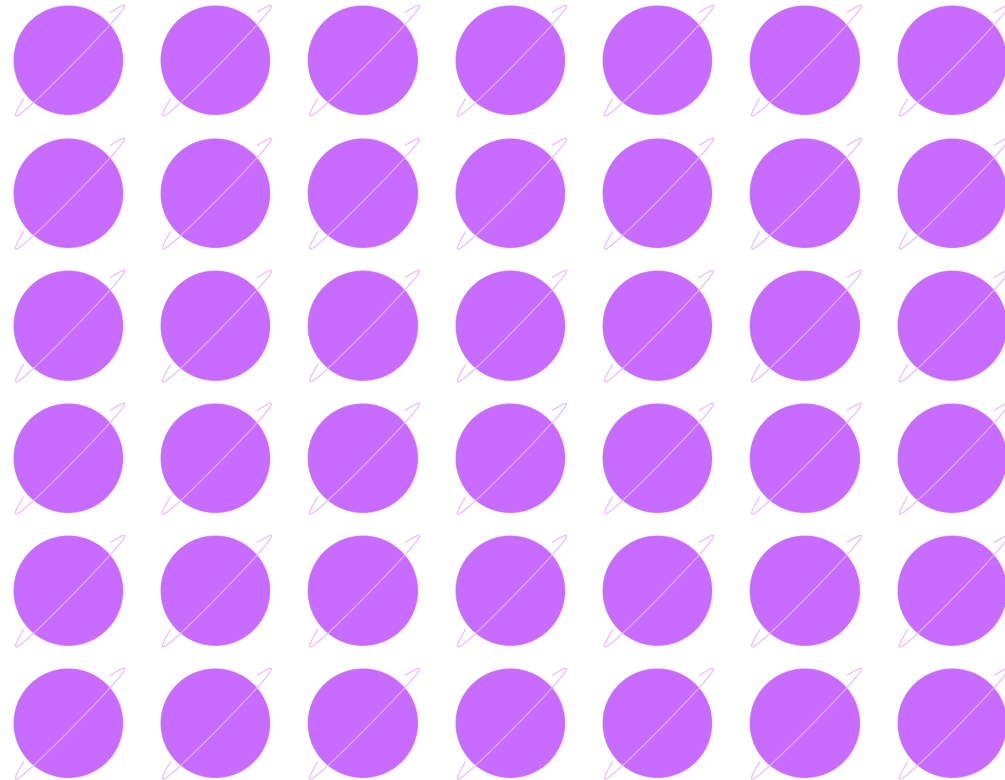
Qubits



[Google Quantum AI]

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective

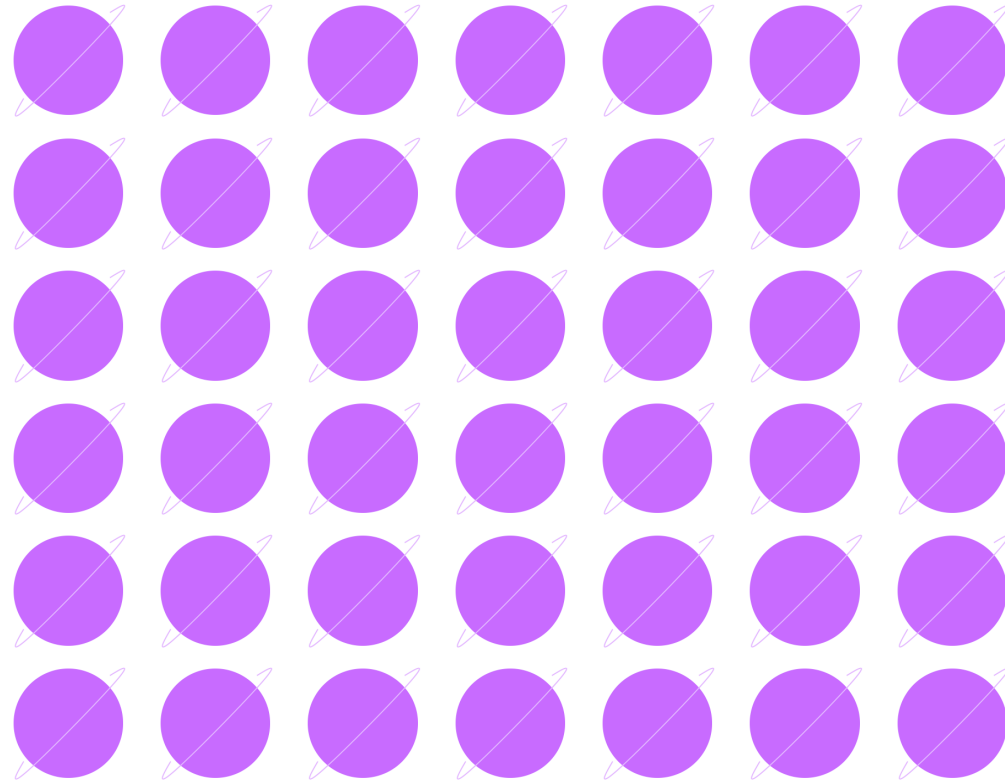
Languages



Qubits

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective

Languages



+

Control System

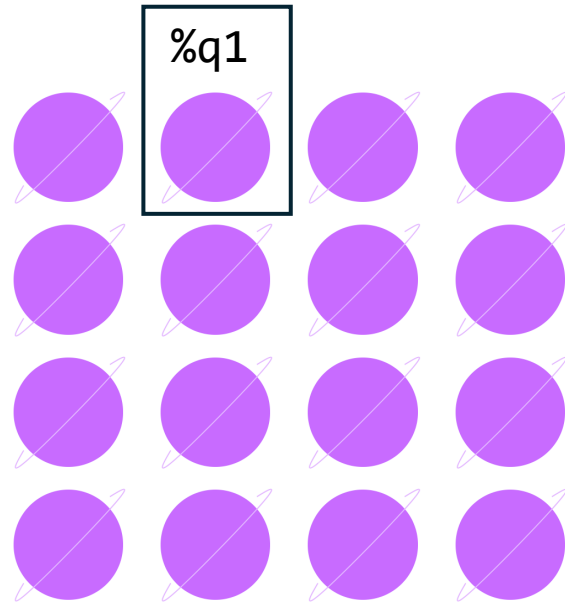
Qubits

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective

Languages

Control System

Qubits



```
quantum.circuit {  
    %q1 = quantum.alloc<1> {"state" = 0}  
    Qubit reference
```

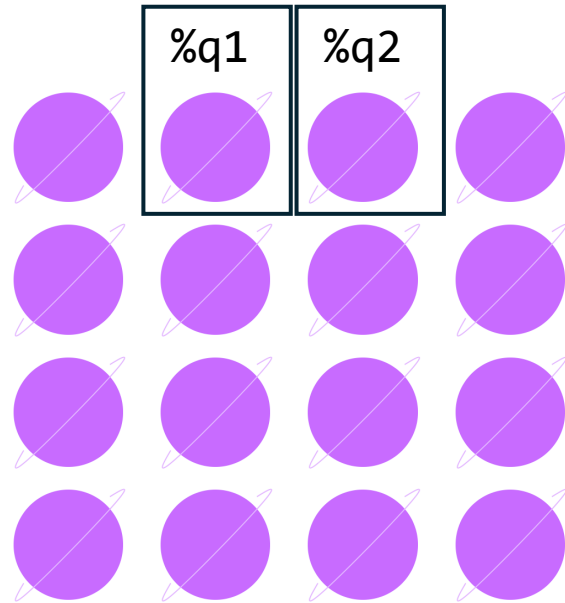
```
} : () -> ()
```

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective

Languages

Control System

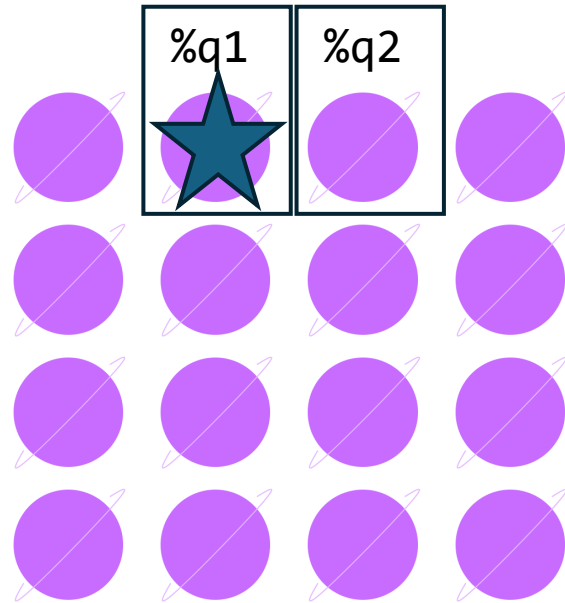
Qubits



```
quantum.circuit {  
    %q1 = quantum.alloc<1> {"state" = 0}  
    %q2 = quantum.alloc<1> {"state" = 1}  
  
} : () -> ()
```

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective

Languages



Control System

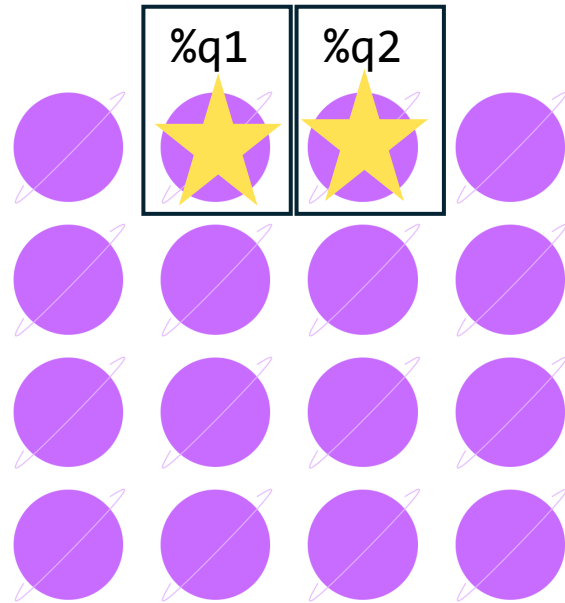
Qubits

```
quantum.circuit {  
    %q1 = quantum.alloc<1> {"state" = 0}  
    %q2 = quantum.alloc<1> {"state" = 1}  
    quantum.gate <#quantum.TGate> (%q1)  
}
```

Act on qubit, changing probability of measuring 1 or 0
} : () -> ()

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective

Languages



Control System

Qubits

```
quantum.circuit {  
    %q1 = quantum.alloc<1> {"state" = 0}  
    %q2 = quantum.alloc<1> {"state" = 1}  
    quantum.gate <#quantum.TGate> (%q1)  
    quantum.gate <#quantum.CNOT> (%q1, %q2)  
} : () -> ()
```

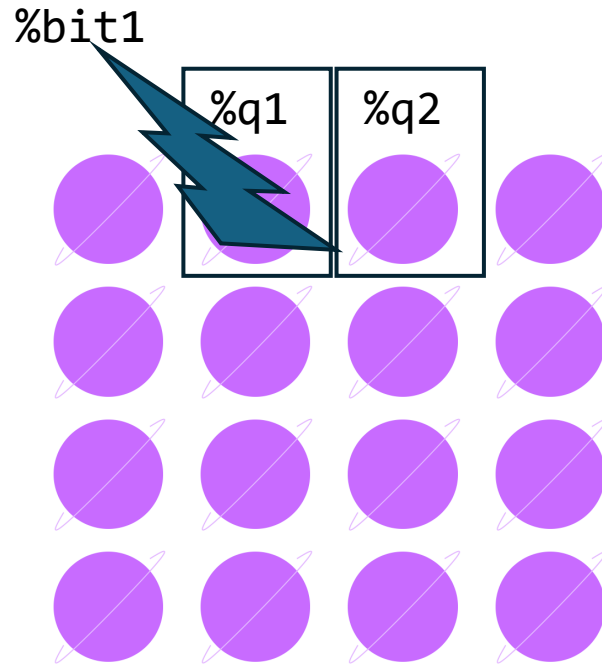
Interact two qubits

Quantum Computing from a Compiler Perspective

Languages

Control System

Qubits

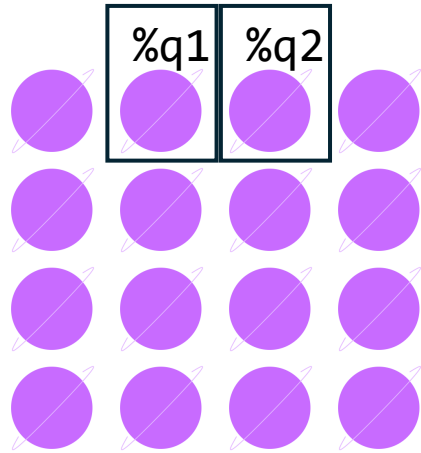


```
quantum.circuit {  
    %q1 = quantum.alloc<1> {"state" = 0}  
    %q2 = quantum.alloc<1> {"state" = 1}  
    quantum.gate <#quantum.TGate> (%q1)  
    quantum.gate <#quantum.CNOT> (%q1, %q2)  
    %bit1 = quantum.measure (%q1)  
}  
: () -> ()
```

Measure a qubit and get a bit

Quantum Physics and Intermediate Representations

Languages



Control System

Qubits

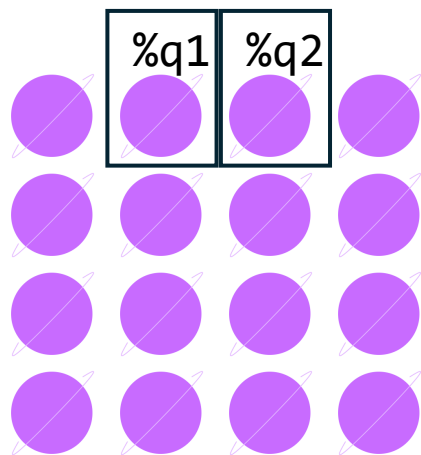
- › No Cloning
 - › Can swap values

```
quantum.gate <#quantum.CNOT> (%q1, %q2)
```

 Not allowed to be equal

Quantum Physics and Intermediate Representations

Languages



Control System

Qubits

- › No Cloning
 - › Can swap values
- › Physical Connectivity Matters

```
quantum.gate <#quantum.CNOT> (%q1, %q2)
```



Must be physically next to each other after register allocation.

Quantum Physics and Intermediate Representations

Lan

Your memory *is* your computation space!

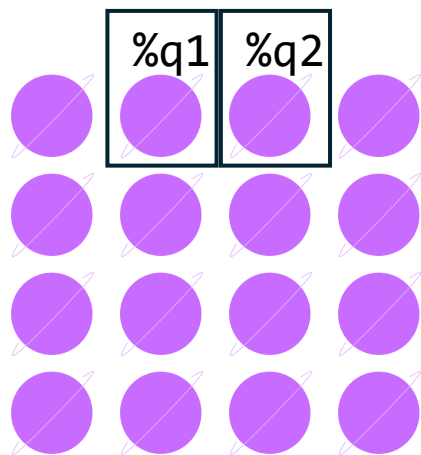
Contr

ion.

Qubits

Quantum Physics and Intermediate Representations

Languages



Control System

Qubits

- › No Cloning
 - › Can swap values
- › Physical Connectivity Matters
- › Measurement is 'final'

```
%bit1 = quantum.measure (%q1)  
%bit2 = quantum.measure (%q1)
```

No other gates => %bit1 = %bit2

Quantum Physics and Intermediate Representations

Languages

- › QSSA for optimisations
New qubit value after using a qubit

```
qssa.circuit {  
    %q1 = qssa.alloc<1> {"state" = 0}  
    %q2 = qssa.alloc<1> {"state" = 0}  
    %q3 = qssa.gate <#quantum.TGate> (%q1)  
    %q4, %q5 = qssa.gate <#quantum.CNOT> (%q3, %q2)  
    %bit1 = qssa.measure (%q4)  
} : () -> ()
```

Control System

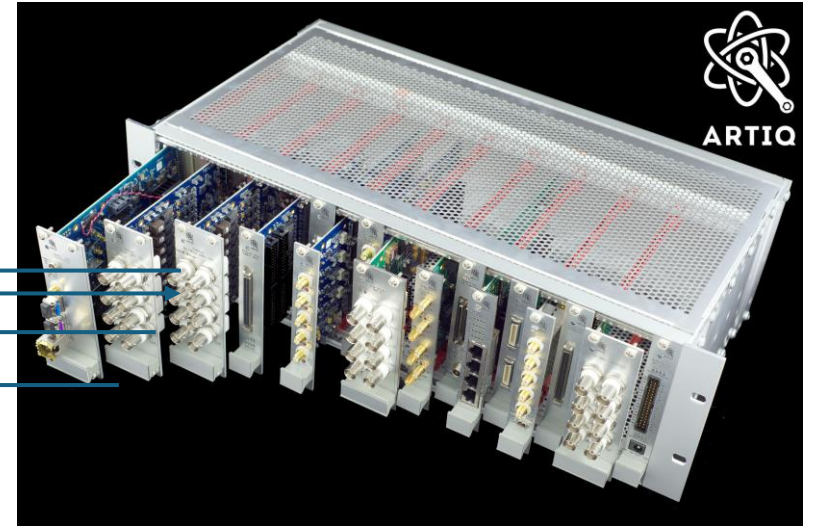
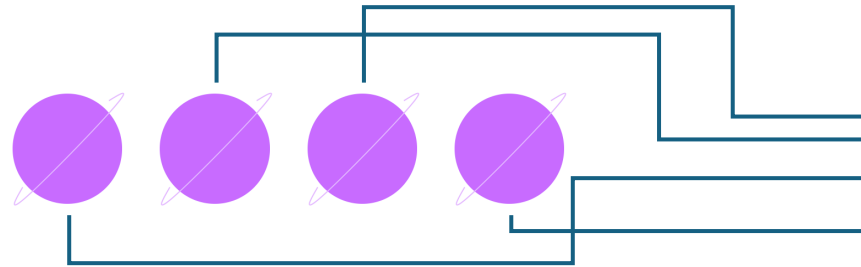
Qubits

Hardware

Languages

Control System

Qubits



Hardware

Languages

Control Box 1

Control Box 2

Control Box 3

Control Box ...

Control System

Qubits

- › Coordinated
- › Synchronised
- › Transpiler required

```
%q4, %q5 = qssa.gate <#quantum.CNOT> (%q3, %q2)
```

Hardware

Languages

QSSA

QREF

Control System

Pulse

Qubits

- › Coordinated
- › Synchronised
- › Transpiler required

```
%q4, %q5 = qssa.gate <#quantum.CNOT> (%q3, %q2)
```

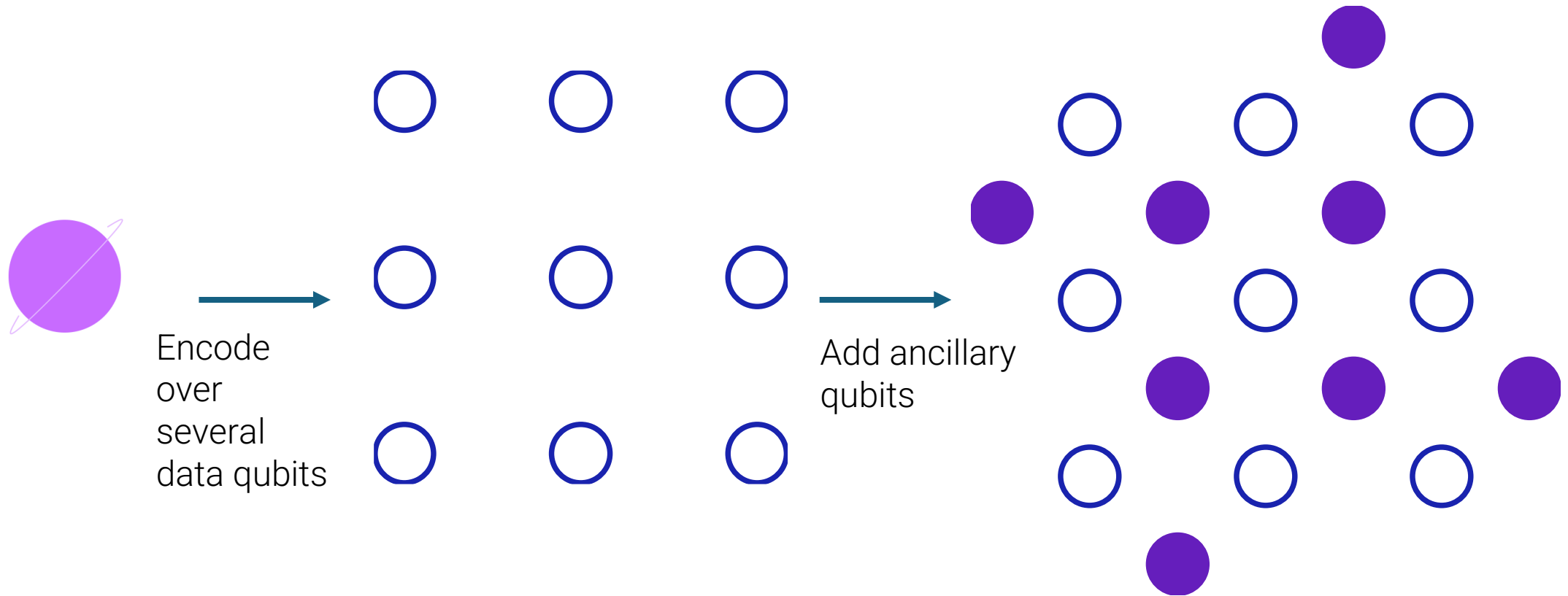
```
pulse.drive (line, duration, intensity)
```

Quantum Errors and Correcting Them

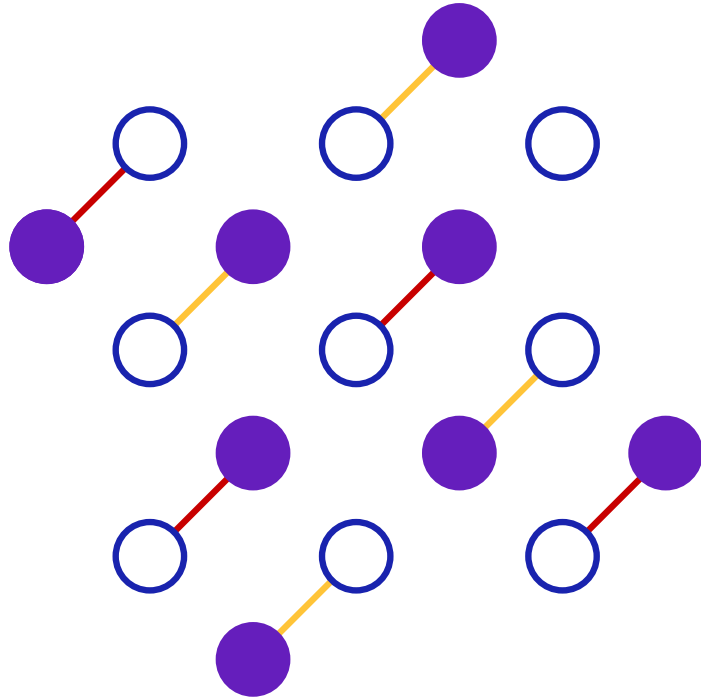


- ~ 1 per 1000 operations on a qubit result in an error
- Existing qubits decohere on average in the order of microseconds

Quantum Errors and Correcting Them (One Method)

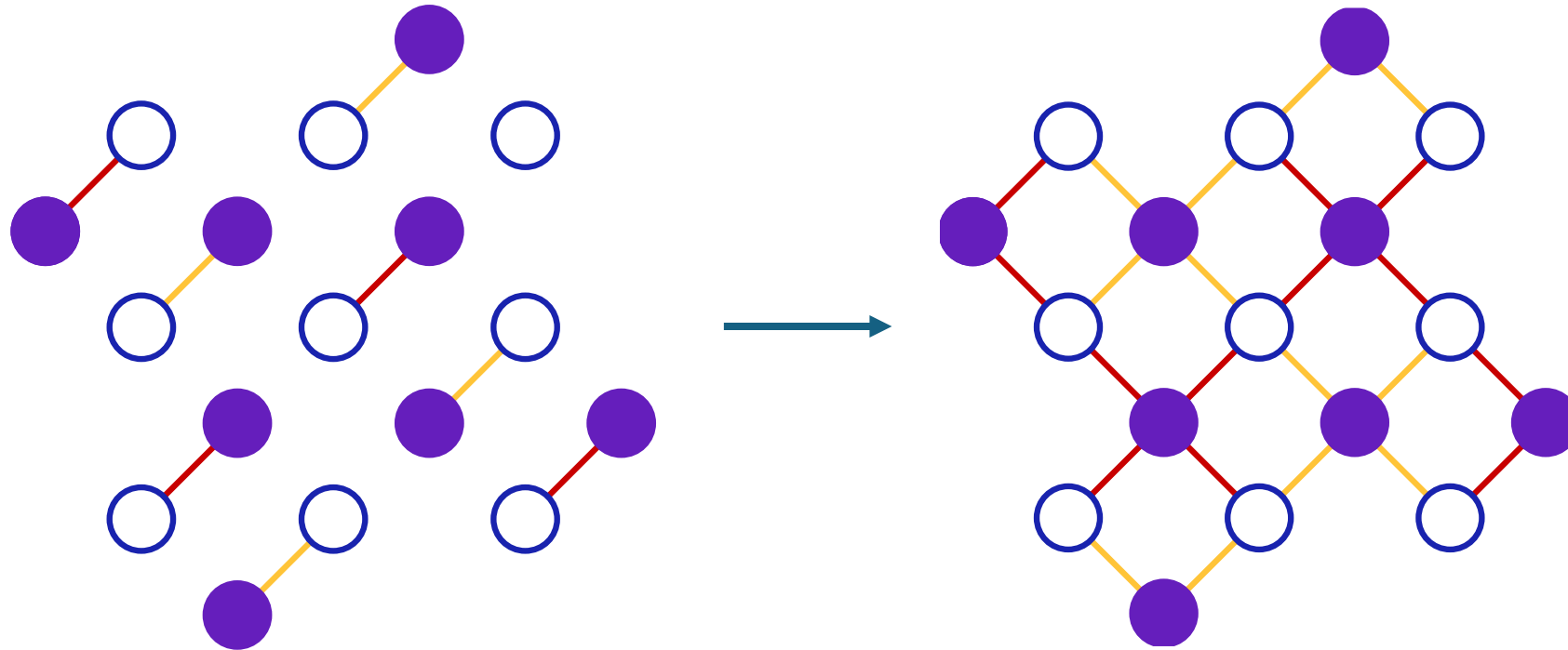


Quantum Errors and Correcting Them (One Method)



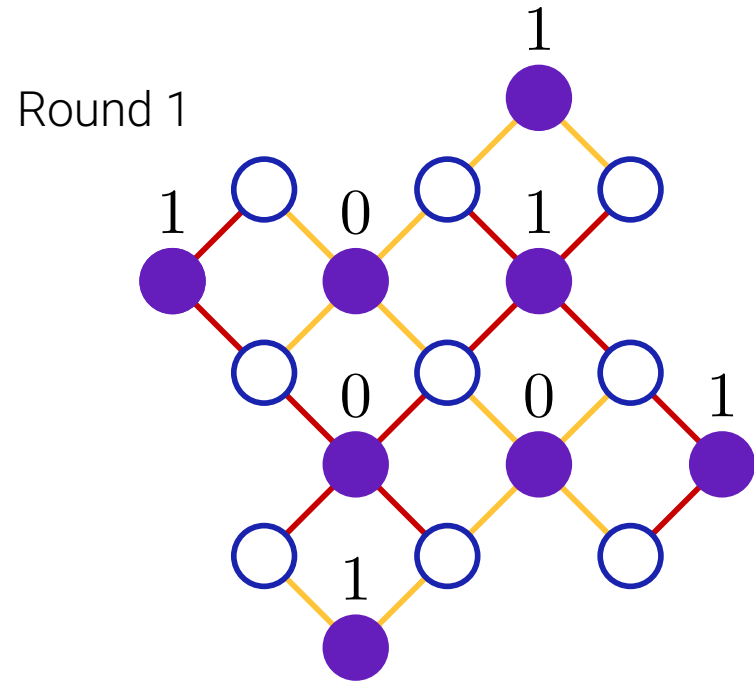
Interact data qubits with ancillas

Quantum Errors and Correcting Them (One Method)



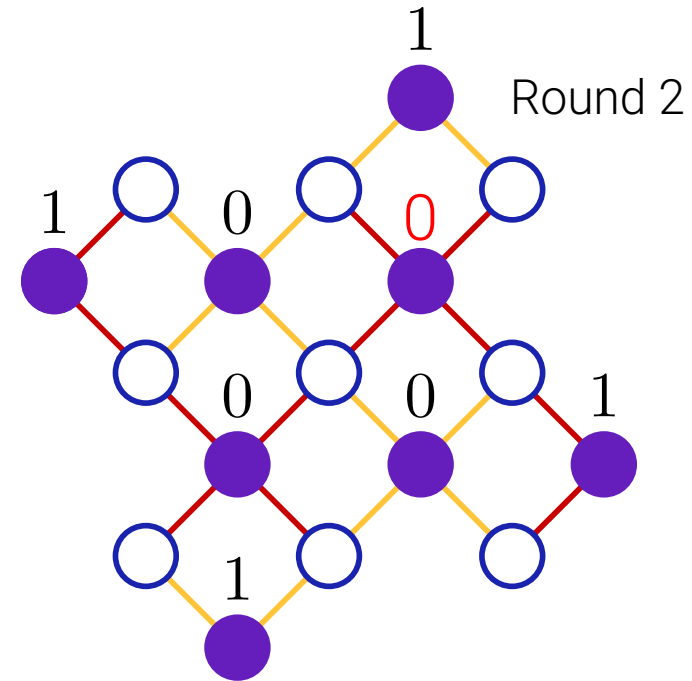
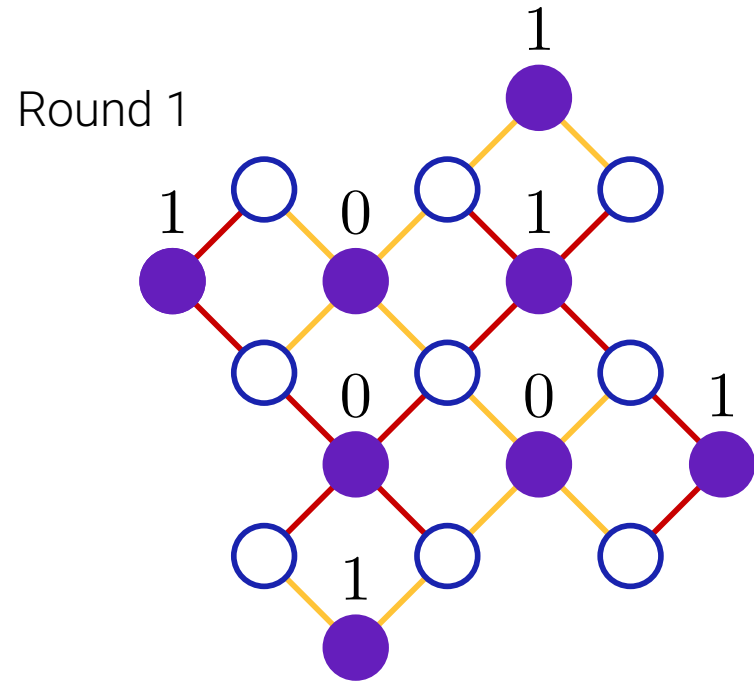
Interact data qubits with ancillas

Quantum Errors and Correcting Them (One Method)



Measure, then repeat whole process

Quantum Errors and Correcting Them (One Method)



Measure, then repeat whole process, compare the results

Adapting the Computation Stack

Languages

QSSA

QREF

Control System

Pulse

Qubits

Adapting the Computation Stack

Languages

QSSA

QREF

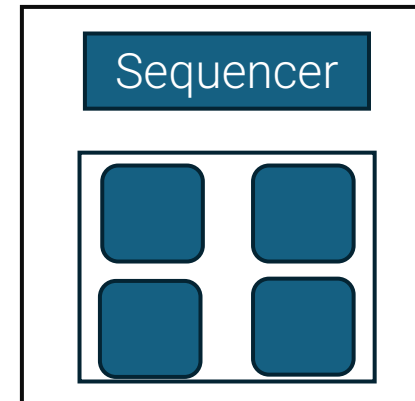
- › Separate decoding system
- › Coordinated with the control system

Control System

Pulse

Decoding
System

Qubits



Decoders



[Riverlane Error-Correction Box]

Scaling?

Languages

QSSA

QREF

- Millions of qubits and operations needed
- Error Rate: 1 per 1000 operations
- Error-corrected operation $\sim 10 \mu\text{s}$
- Must process Terrabytes / Second
- Code generation and integration done by hand
- Massive parallelism to exploit

[[Beverland](#). M, [Murali](#). P, [Troyer](#). M, [Svore](#). K, et al.]

Control System

Pulse

Decoding
System

Qubits

Scaling?

Languages

QSSA

QREF

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[[Beverland](#). M, [Murali](#). P, [Troyer](#). M, [Svore](#). K, et al.]

Control System

Pulse

Decoding
System

Qubits

An MLIR-based Framework



An MLIR-based Framework – Adding Nothing

Languages

QSSA

QREF



```
qssa.circuit {  
    %q1 = qssa.alloc<1> {"state" = 0}  
    %q2 = qssa.alloc<1> {"state" = 0}  
    %q3 = qssa.gate <#quantum.SGate> (%q1)  
    %q4, %q5 = qssa.gate <#quantum.CNOT> (%q3,  
    %q2)  
    %bit1 = qssa.measure (%q4)  
} : () -> ()
```

Control System

Pulse


Decoding
System

An MLIR-based Framework – Adding Nothing

Languages

QSSA

QREF



```
qssa.circuit {  
  %q1 = qssa.alloc<1> {"state" = 0}  
  %q2 = qssa.alloc<1> {"state" = 0}  
  %q3 = qssa.gate <#quantum.SGate> (%q1)  
  %q4 = qssa.gate <#quantum.Id> (%q2)  
  %q4, %q5 = qssa.gate <#quantum.CNOT> (%q3, %q4)  
  %bit1 = qssa.measure (%q4)  
} : () -> ()
```

Control System

Pulse

Decoding
System

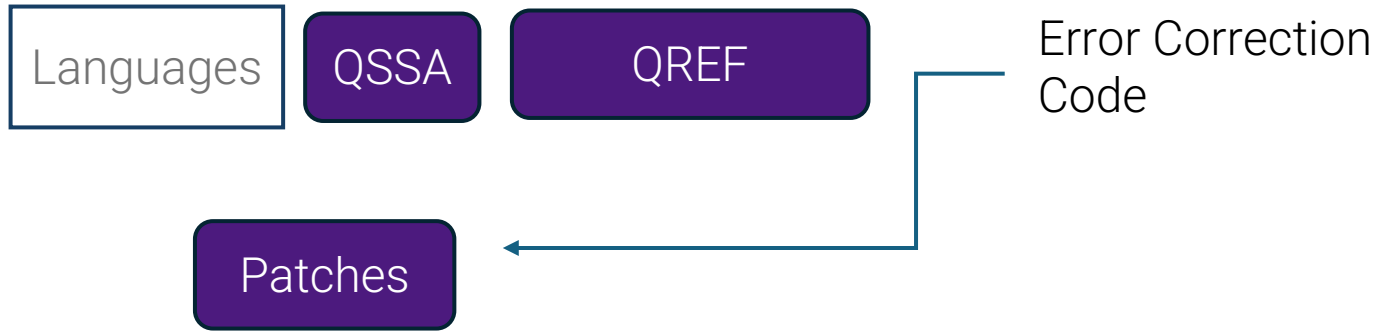
An MLIR-based Framework – Encoded Qubits



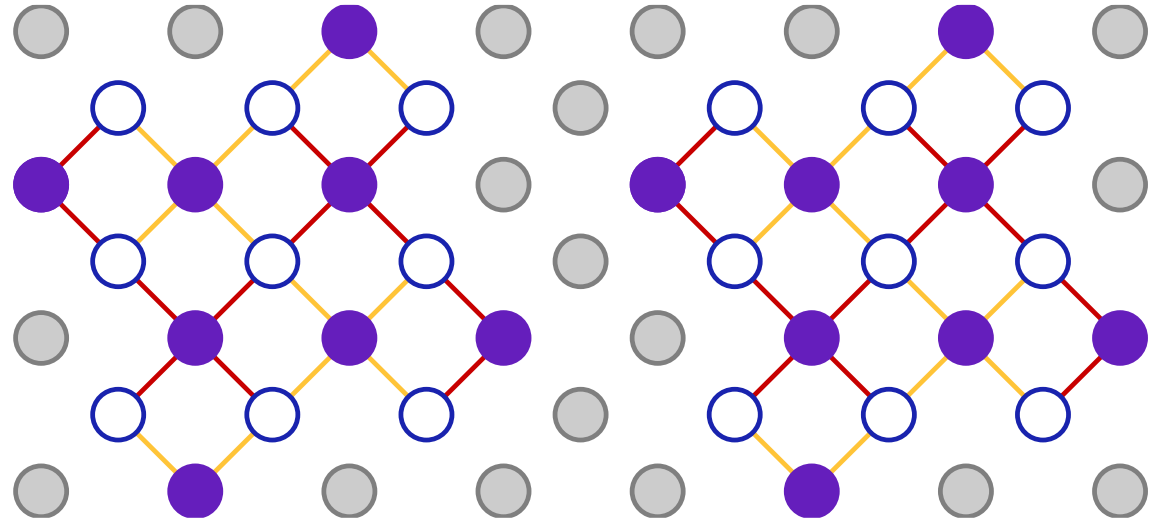
- Transpile to new gate set
- New operations
- Implement interface



An MLIR-based Framework – Encoded Qubits



`%p2 = patches.merge (%p0, %p1)`

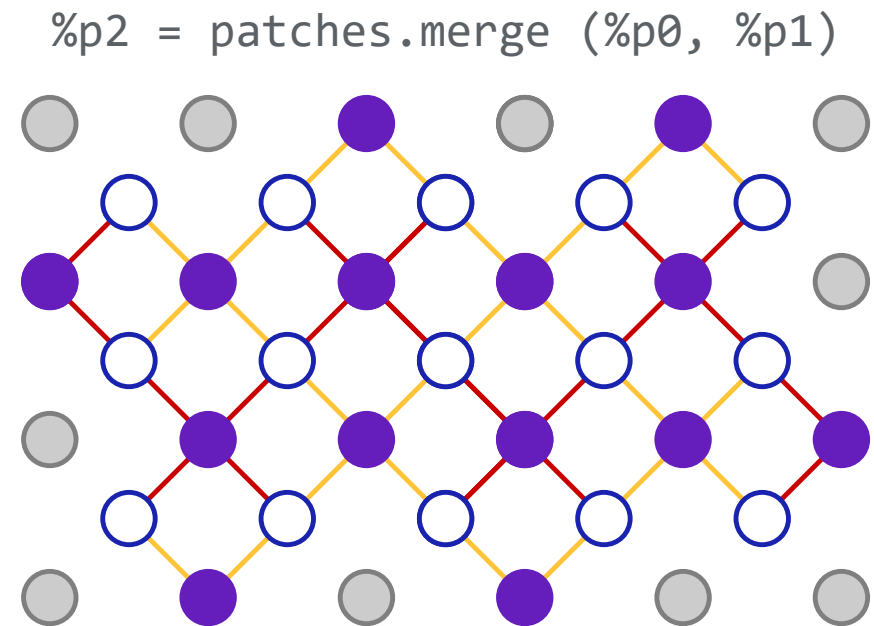
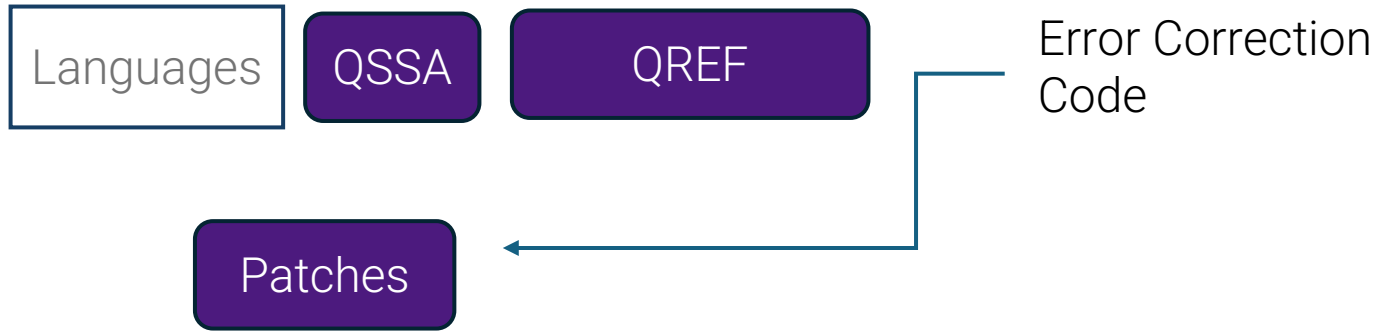


Control System

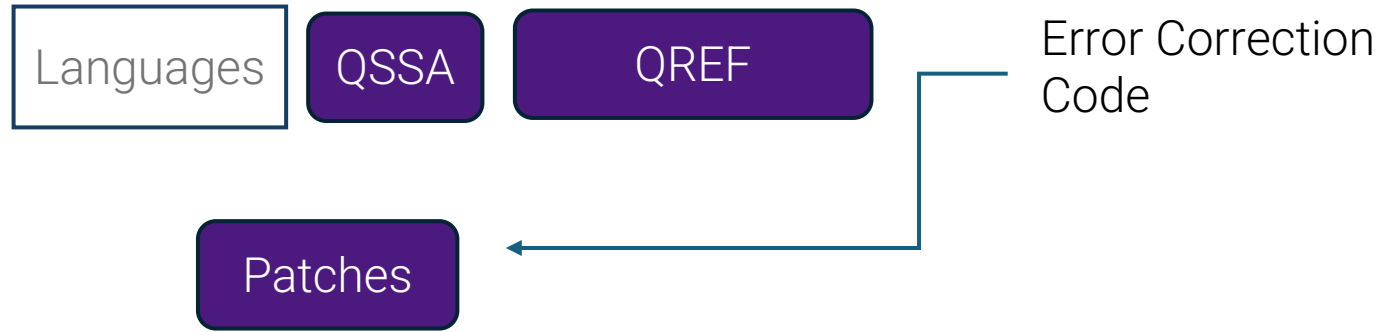
Pulse

Decoding
System

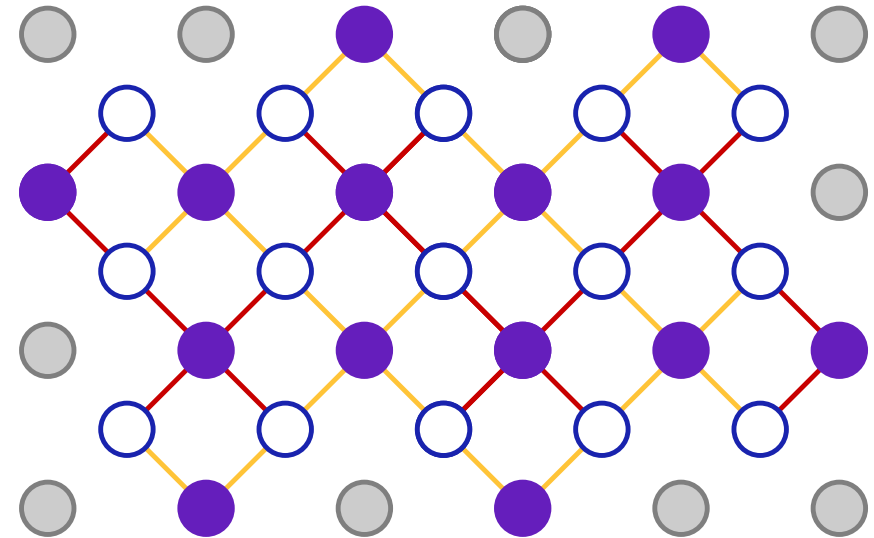
An MLIR-based Framework – Encoded Qubits



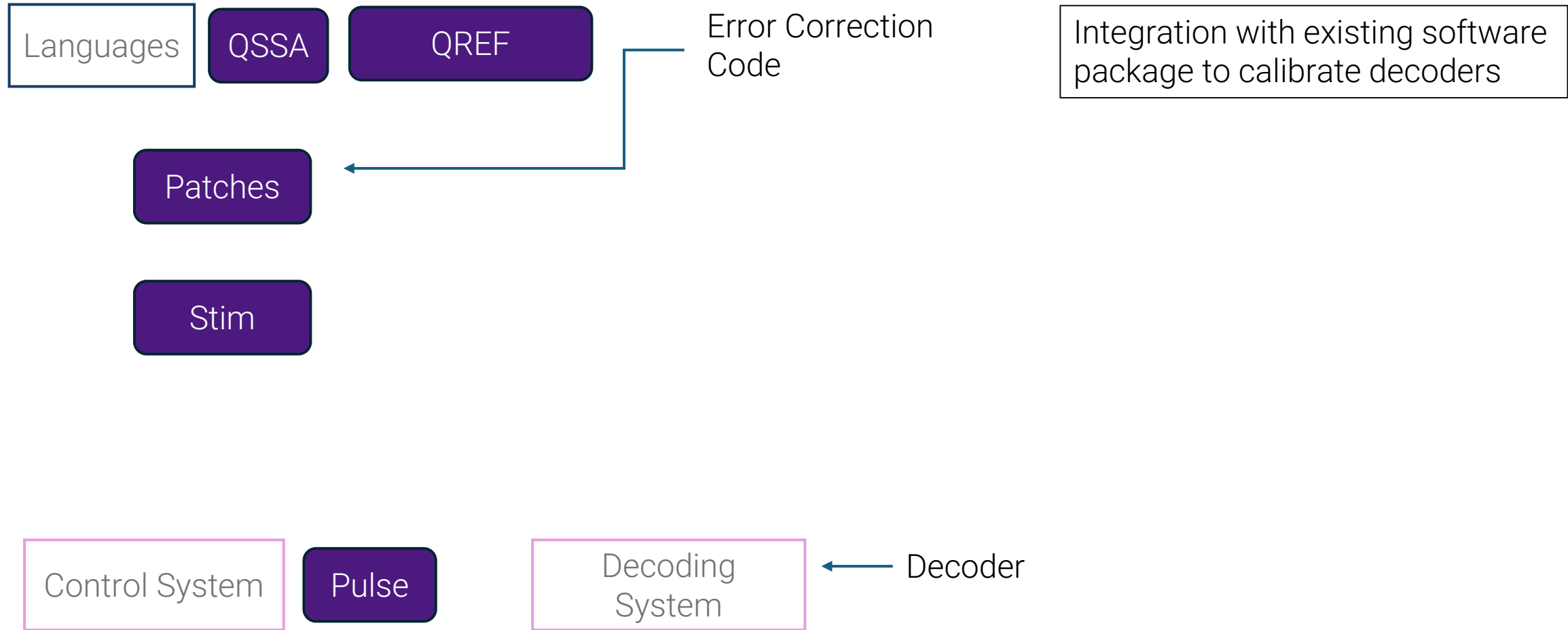
An MLIR-based Framework – Encoded Qubits



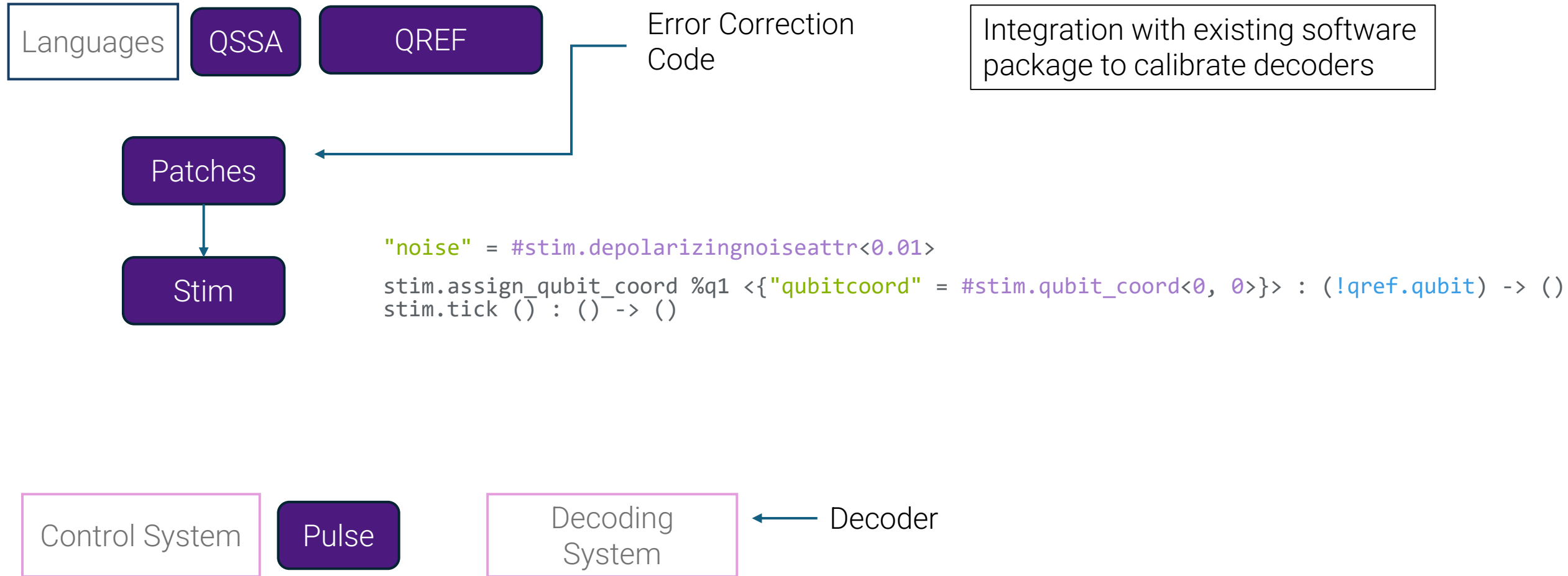
```
%p2 = patches.merge (%p0, %p1)
%p3, %p4 = patches.split (%p2)
```



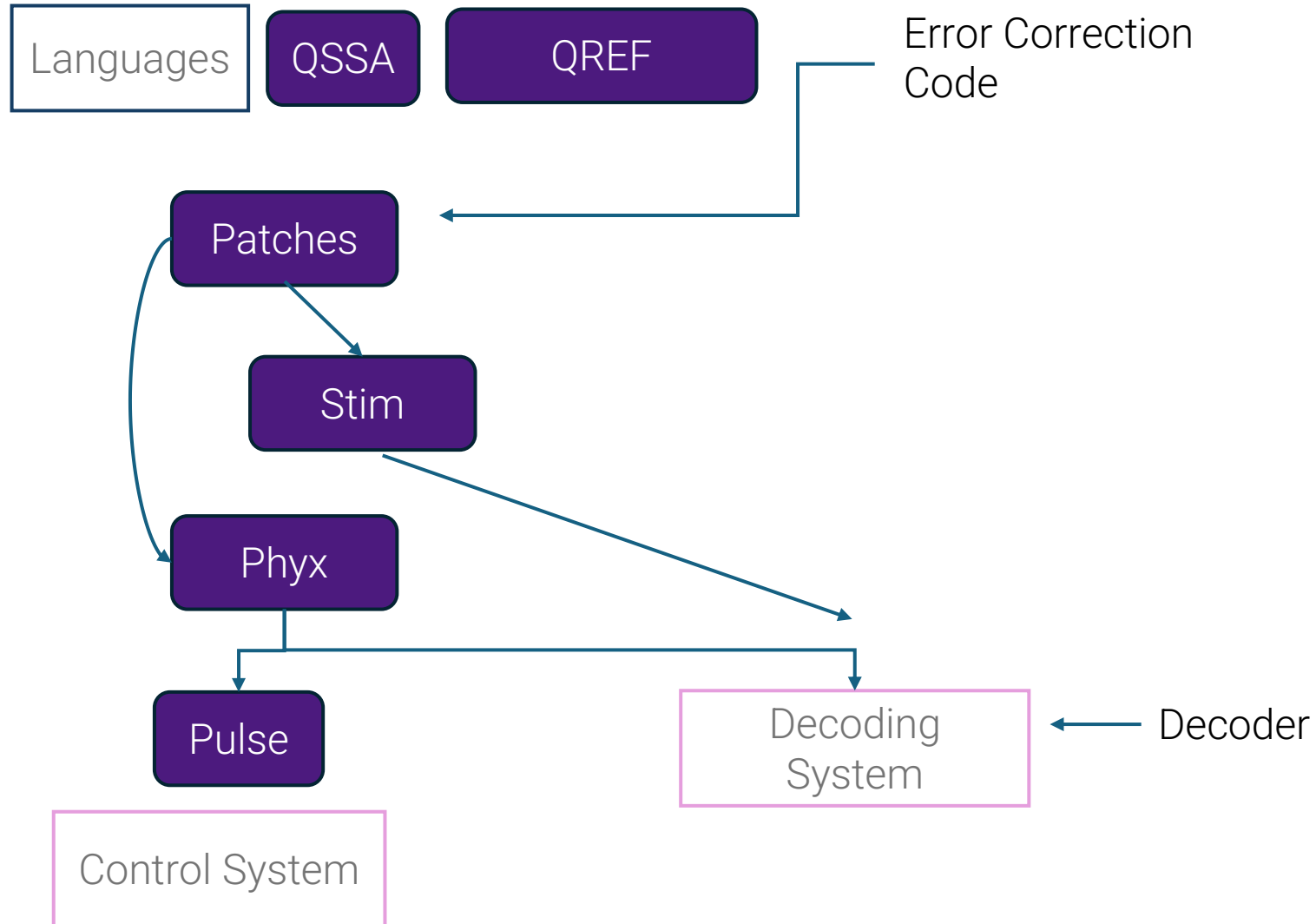
An MLIR-based Framework – Calibrate Decoder



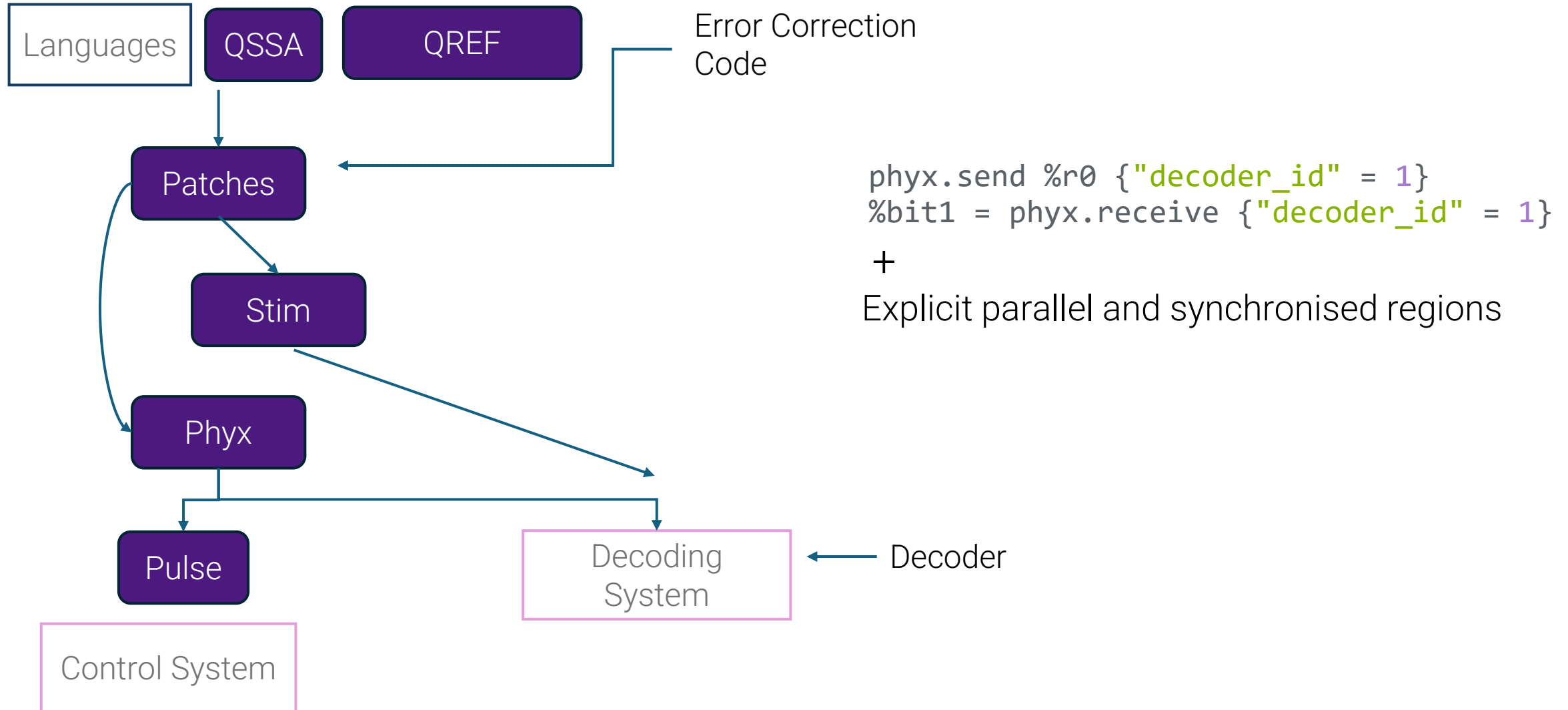
An MLIR-based Framework – Calibrate Decoder



An MLIR-based Framework – Coordination

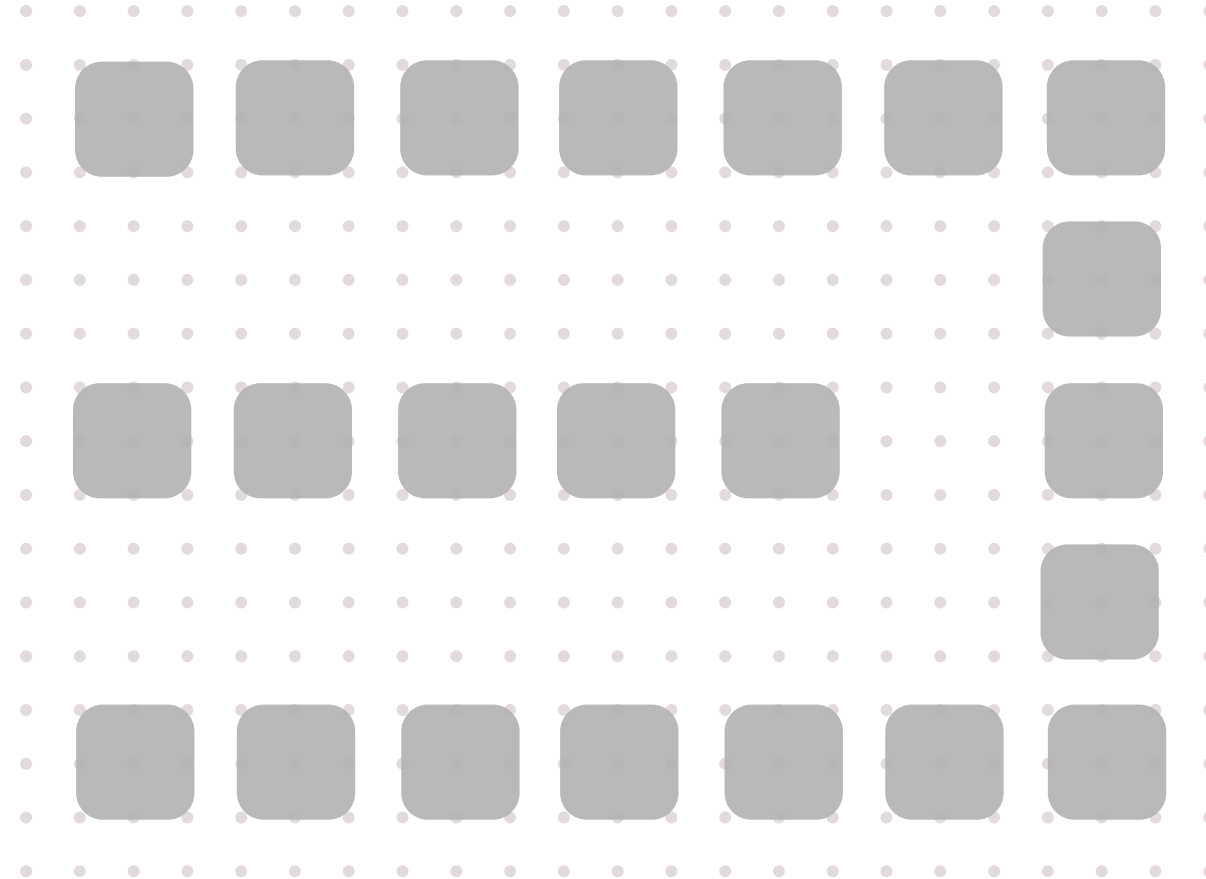


An MLIR-based Framework – Coordination



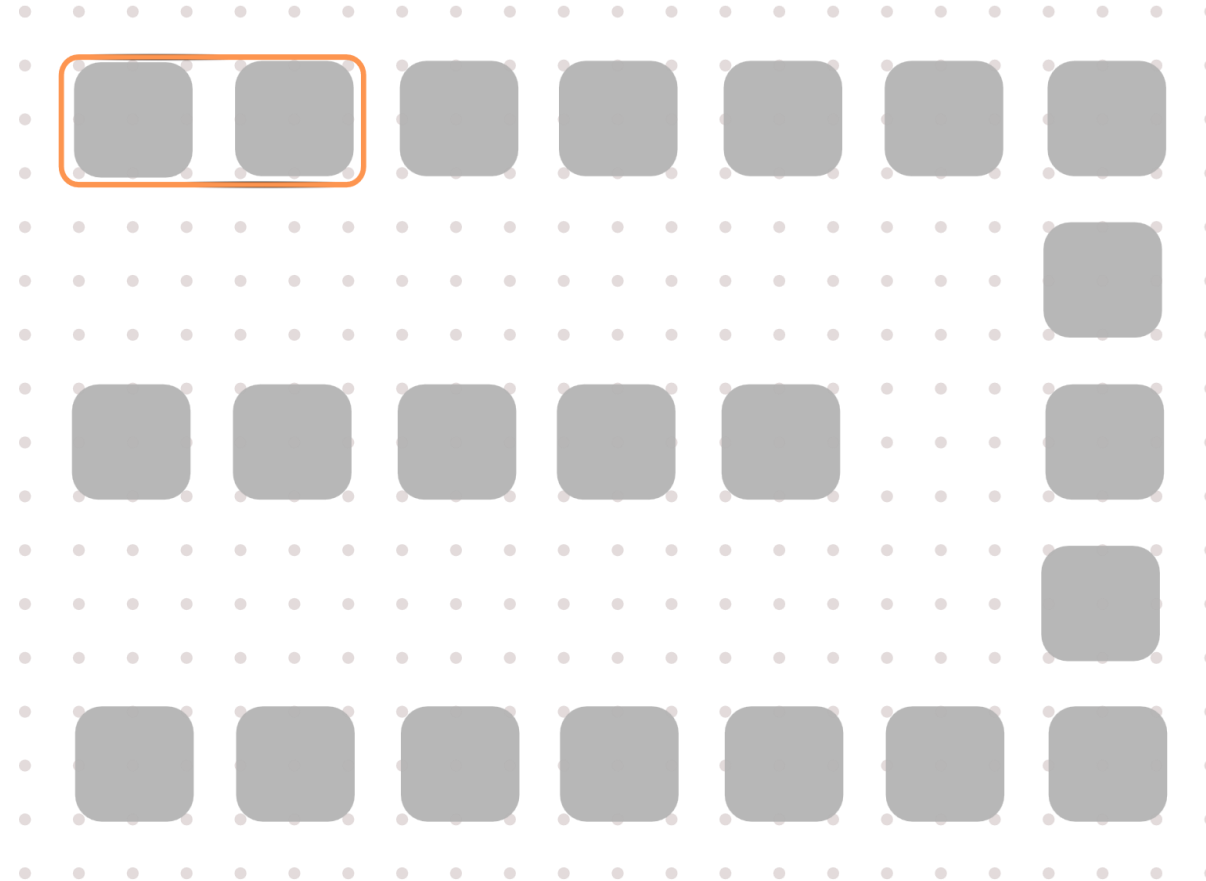
Optimisations

Register Allocation



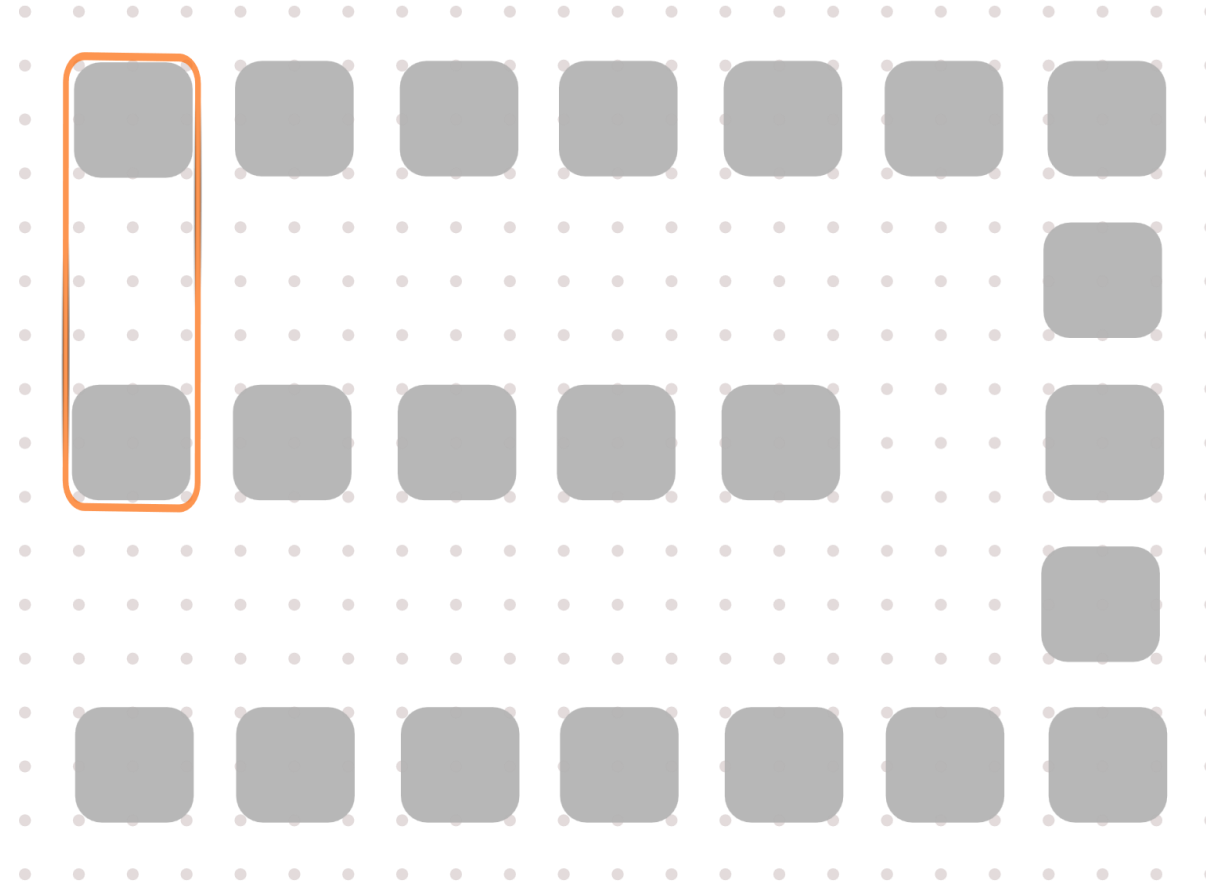
Optimisations

Register Allocation



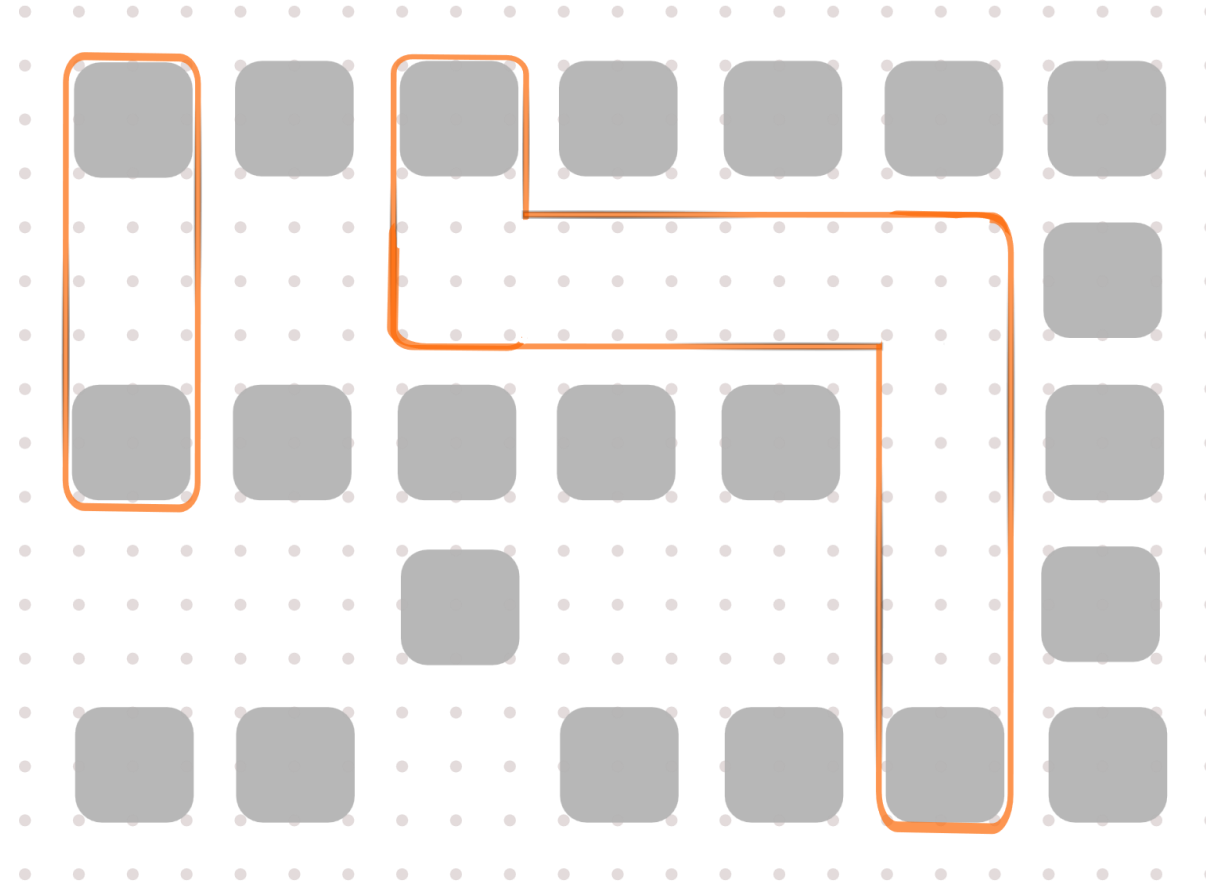
Optimisations

Register Allocation



Optimisations

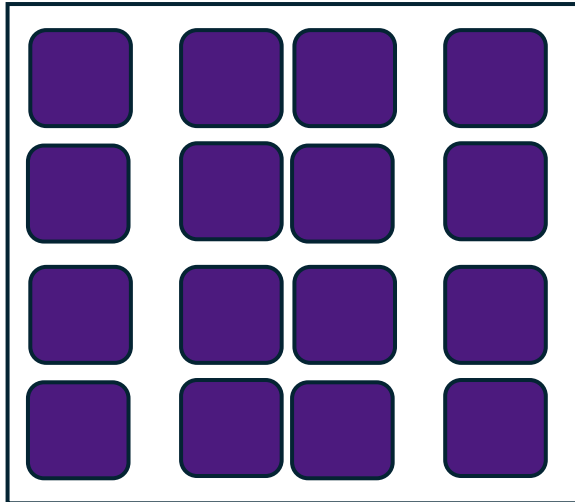
Register Allocation



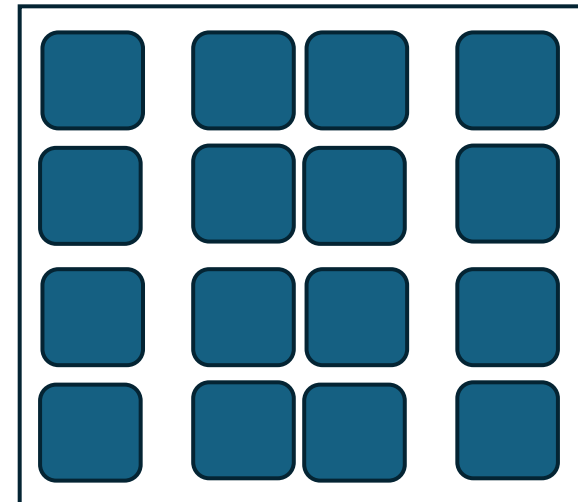
Optimisations

Instruction Scheduling and the Abstraction Problem

Quantum Chips



Decoder Chips



Parallelism? Abstractions for Algorithms? Knowledge About Hardware?