

# Adding measurement to ISO

October 22, 2025

## 1 Related Work

There are two most relevant papers that attempt to solve the same problems:

- combine classical and quantum data in a syntactically ergonomic way;
- allow impure operations by allowing measurements;
- should be able to express quantum channels like bit-flip etc.

### 1. Qunity, Voichick et. al.

*Main Idea:* Allow not only unitaries but isometries and superoperators as trace preserving and trace non-increasing maps respectively. Pure expressions in Qunity have the same typing rules as the reversible classical language  $\Pi$ .

The new thing is the ability to express mixed states where the classical and quantum data are expressed in a unified way using the try-catch block.

Pure types are considered subtypes of mixed types.

$$\frac{\Delta_0 \vdash e_0 : T \quad \Delta_1 \vdash e_1 : T}{\Delta_0, \Delta_1 \vdash \text{try } e_0 \text{ catch } e_1 : T} \quad \text{T-Try}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \Delta_0, \Delta_1 \vdash \text{try } e_0 \text{ catch } e_1 : T \rrbracket (|\tau_0, \tau_1\rangle | \tau'_0, \tau'_1\rangle) \\ &:= \llbracket \Delta_0 \vdash e_0 : T \rrbracket (|\tau_0\rangle | \tau'_0\rangle) \\ &\quad + \left( 1 - \text{tr}(\llbracket \Delta_0 \vdash e_0 : T \rrbracket (|\tau_0\rangle | \tau'_0\rangle)) \right) \cdot \llbracket \Delta_1 \vdash e_1 : T \rrbracket (|\tau_1\rangle | \tau'_1\rangle) \end{aligned}$$

Measurement is implemented in an ad-hoc way as the following function  $\text{Bit} \Rightarrow \text{Bit}$  using the concept that “partial trace (or discarding) is equivalent to measuring and discarding”

The function first copies the input (sharing via entanglement) and throws away the copy where copying only copies the basis element thus implementing the isometry  $|00\rangle\langle 0| + |11\rangle\langle 1|$  and fst works as partial trace.

$$\text{meas}_T := \lambda x \mapsto (x, x) \triangleright \text{fst}_{\text{Bit} \otimes \text{Bit}}$$

An example usage of this measurement:

$$\text{coin} := \text{meas}_{\text{Bit}}(\text{had } 0) = () \triangleright \text{left}_{\text{Bit}} \triangleright \text{had} \triangleright (\lambda x(x, x)) \triangleright (\lambda(x_0, x_1)x_0)^{T \otimes T}$$

*Remarks:*

- Instead of operational semantics they provide a compilation procedure to low level circuits in QASM.
- They mention that patterns in match constructs can be non-exhaustive but this does not follow from their typing rules.

## 2. Combining quantum and classical control, Dave et. al.

*Main Idea:*

- a new modality to incorporate pure quantum types in a mixed quantum typesystem;
- modify “quantum configurations” of quantum lambda calculus to give operational semantics to mixed quantum computations;
- denotational semantics motivated by von Neumann algebras.

Term grammar for the pure quantum subsystem is that of ISO.

Instead of an operational semantics they give an equational theory for pure subsystem.

The classical subsystem is basically a call by value linear lambda calculus which can work with types from quantum fragment (the bold font).

$\mathcal{B}(\mathbf{Q})$  is the type that represents mixed state quantum computation on the Hilbert space determined by the type  $\mathbf{Q}$ . This  $\mathcal{B}$  is the new modality where  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  represents the space of bounded operators on  $H$  which is a vN algebra.

The rule for the term  $\text{pure}(t)$  introduces a state  $t$  from the quantum control fragment as a term of type  $\mathcal{B}(\mathbf{Q})$  into the main calculus. The typing rule for measurement maps a term  $M$  of quantum type  $\mathcal{B}(\mathbf{Q})$  to a term  $\text{meas}(M)$  of classical type  $\bar{\mathbf{Q}}$ , where the type  $\bar{\mathbf{Q}}$  is defined inductively on the structure of the pure quantum type  $\mathbf{Q}$ .

$$\frac{\Delta \vdash M : \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{Q})}{\Delta \vdash \text{meas}(M) : \bar{\mathbf{Q}}} \quad \frac{\cdot \vdash t : \mathbf{Q}}{!\Delta \vdash \text{pure}(t) : \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{Q})}$$

Operationally,

$$(t, u_\sigma, \text{pure}(t')) \xrightarrow{1} (t \otimes t', u_{\sigma \text{swap}} \circ (u_\sigma \otimes u_{\text{id}}), x)$$

$$(\sum_i p_i \cdot \sum_j \alpha_{ij} \cdot \mathbf{b}'_{ij} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{b}_i \otimes \cdots, u_{\sigma_s}, \text{meas}(x)) \xrightarrow{|p_d|^2} (\sum_j \alpha_{kj} \cdot \mathbf{b}'_{kj} \otimes \cdots, u_{\text{id}}, \bar{\mathbf{b}}_k)$$

*Remarks:*

- The use of von Neumann algebra in denotational semantics is interesting since it relates more closely to physical realizations.
- writing programs is not so straightforward (might be biased on this).

## 2 Ideas

Val & term types

$$a, b ::= 1 \mid a \oplus b \mid a \otimes b \mid [a]$$

Iso types

$$T ::= a \leftrightarrow b \mid \overline{(a \leftrightarrow b)} \Rightarrow T \mid a \Rightarrow b$$

Pure values

$$v ::= () \mid x \mid \text{inj}_\ell v \mid \text{inj}_r v \mid \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$$

Combination of values

$$e ::= v \mid e_1 + e_2 \mid \alpha e$$

Products

$$p ::= () \mid x \mid \langle p_1, p_2 \rangle$$

Extended Values

$$e ::= v \mid \text{let } p_1 = \omega p_2 \text{ in } e$$

Isos

$$\omega ::= \{ \mid v_1 \leftrightarrow e_1 \mid v_2 \leftrightarrow e_2 \dots \} \mid \lambda f. \omega \mid \overline{\mu f. \omega} \mid f \mid \omega_1 \omega_2$$

CPMs

$$\Lambda ::= \{ \mid v_1 \leftrightarrow e_1 \mid v_2 \leftrightarrow e_2 \dots \} \mid \lambda f. \Lambda \mid f \mid \text{does } \Lambda_1 \Lambda_2 \text{ make sense here?}$$

Terms

$$t ::= () \mid x \mid \text{inj}_\ell t \mid \text{inj}_r t \mid \langle t_1, t_2 \rangle \mid \omega t \mid \text{let } p = t_1 \text{ in } t_2 \mid t_1 + t_2 \mid \alpha \cdot t \mid \text{meas}(t) \mid \text{alloc}(?) \mid \Lambda t$$

meas(t) when  $t$  is pair?

Typing for an iso in this quantum extension originally is given as:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{ll} \Delta_1; \Psi \vdash_v v_1 : a & \dots \quad \Delta_n; \Psi \vdash_v v_n : a \\ \Delta_1; \Psi \vdash_v e_1 : b & \dots \quad \Delta_n; \Psi \vdash_v e_n : b \\ \text{OD}_a\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} & \text{OD}_b^{\text{ext}\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}} \end{array}}{\begin{array}{c} \left( \begin{array}{ccc} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{array} \right) \text{ is } \overline{\text{unitary}} \text{ isometry} \\ \hline \Psi \vdash_\omega \left\{ \begin{array}{l} v_1 \leftrightarrow a_{11} \cdot e_1 + \dots + a_{1n} \cdot e_n \\ \vdots \\ v_n \leftrightarrow a_{n1} \cdot e_1 + \dots + a_{nn} \cdot e_n \end{array} \right\} : \overline{a \leftrightarrow b} \quad a \Rightarrow b \end{array}}$$