

Von Neumann Algebras Form a Model for the Quantum Lambda Calculus

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QPL 2016
9 June 2016

We present ...

A denotational model for

the Quantum Lambda Calculus
[Selinger & Valiron 2000s]

by

von Neumann Algebras
[von Neumann (with Murray) '30s-'40s]

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generalisation of matrix algebras e.g. $\mathcal{M}_n = \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$

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\approx linear lambda calculus + quantum primitives

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- Type system is based on **linear logic** with the exponential modality "!"
 - Each input can be used only (at most) once, unless it has a **duplicable** type !A
- Studied extensively by Selinger and Valiron in 2000s

Syntax of Quantum Lambda Calculus

We follow [Selinger & Valiron '06, '09] (with \oplus type, without recursion)

Type $A, B ::= \top \mid \text{qbit} \mid !A \mid A \multimap B \mid A \otimes B \mid A \oplus B$

Term $M, N, L ::= x \mid * \mid \text{new} \mid \text{meas} \mid U \mid \lambda x.M \mid MN$

| $\text{let } \langle x, y \rangle = N \text{ in } M$

| $\langle M, N \rangle \mid \text{inl}(M) \mid \text{inr}(N)$

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Models of Quantum Lambda Calculus

A (denotational/categorical) *model* of a language consists of a category \mathbf{C} and an interpretation $\llbracket - \rrbracket$:

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Models of quantum lambda calculi are nontrivial!

- Selinger & Valiron introduced a quantum lambda calculus with its operational semantics in 2005
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- Two other models (both accommodate recursion)
 - [Hasuo & Hoshino, LICS'11], via Gol
 - [Pagani, Selinger & Valiron, POPL'14], applying quantitative semantics

Previous and our approaches

One reason that designing such a semantics [of QLC] is difficult is that quantum computation is inherently defined on finite dimensional Hilbert spaces, whereas the semantics of higher-order functional programming languages [...] is inherently infinitary. [Pagani, Selinger & Valiron '14]

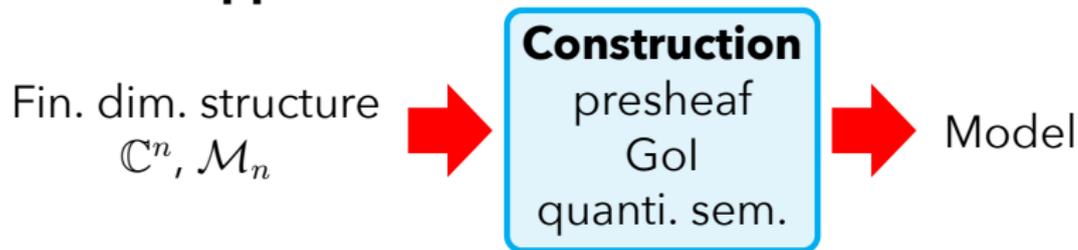
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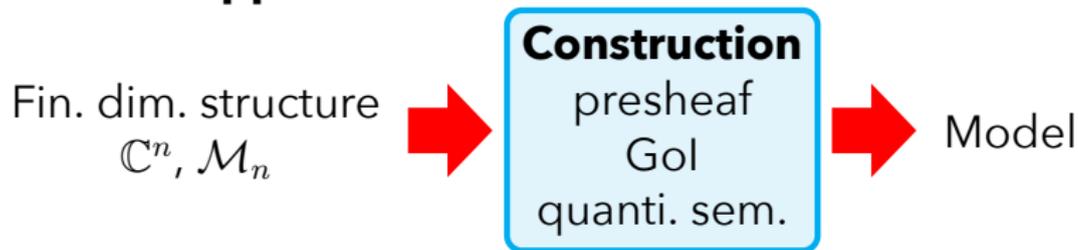
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Previous approaches:



Our approach: simply use **von Neumann algebras**, an **infinite dimensional** generalisation of matrix algebras

Von Neumann algebras

- A *von Neumann algebra* (aka. *W^* -algebra*) is a $*$ -algebra ('ring') of operators on a Hilbert space which is closed in a suitable topology
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[The theory of von Neumann algebras] generalizes many familiar facts about finite-dimensional algebra, and is currently one of the most powerful tools in the study of quantum physics. [P. R. Halmos 1973]

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$$\llbracket \text{qbit} \rrbracket = \mathcal{M}_2$$

2×2 matrices

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tensor product of v.N. alg.

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How does this work?

Categorical structures for the QLC

A *concrete model of the QLC* [Selinger & Valiron '09] is:

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- and certain conditions (e.g. L preserves \otimes, \oplus)

Our model

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- \mathbf{vN} : v.N. algebras and **normal unital *-homomorphisms** (aka. normal MIU-maps)
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Goal. \mathbf{vN}^{op} forms a concrete model of the QLC.

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Theorem (Kornell 2012). *The SMC $(\mathbf{vN}^{\text{op}}, \otimes, \mathbb{C})$ is **closed**. Namely: for any v.N. alg. \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} there is $\mathcal{B}^{*\mathcal{A}}$ (called the *free exponential*) s.t.*

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Warning: we do not know a good description of the free exponential. (Even $\mathcal{M}_2^{*\mathcal{M}_2}$ is hard!)

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- The inclusion \mathcal{J} has a right adjoint \mathcal{F} (via AFT)
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Theorem (Benton). *If we have a symm. mon. adjunction between a SMC and a cartesian monoidal category as in*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{F} & \\ (\mathbf{B}, \times, 1) & \perp & (\mathbf{C}, \otimes, I) \\ & \xleftarrow{G} & \end{array}$$

then the comonad FG on \mathbf{C} is linear exponential.

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- *i.e.* a normal CPsU-map $\llbracket B \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket A \rrbracket$
(quantum process!)

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Conclusions

Von Neumann algebras are powerful enough to interpret Selinger & Valiron's Quantum Lambda Calculus, via the adjunctions:

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