

# Quantum Computing – 2 Qbits

Bill Celmaster

April 12, 2026

# Overview

- ▶ 2-Qbit product states
- ▶ 2-Qbit general states
- ▶  $2 \times 2$  Quantum Gates (pictures, words), unitary matrices and quantum circuits
- ▶ A simple quantum circuit and algorithm for IBM's computer
  - ▶ Introduction to IBM's environment
  - ▶ Some Python scripts (for non-Python people)
  - ▶ Translating those scripts to pictures and gates
  - ▶ Predicting the quantum behavior of the quantum circuit
  - ▶ Execution of the algorithm on actual hardware

## 2-Qbit **product** states

- ▶ Think of this as 2 **uncorrelated** stationary electrons with spin<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Each electron is in its own state,  $|s_i\rangle = \alpha_i|0\rangle + \beta_i|1\rangle$ .
  - ▶ In vector notation  $s_i = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_i \\ \beta_i \end{pmatrix}$
- ▶ Write  $|s_1\rangle|s_2\rangle$  or  $|s_1s_2\rangle$ .
- ▶ 4 basis states are  $|00\rangle, |01\rangle, |10\rangle, |11\rangle$
- ▶  $|s_1s_2\rangle = \alpha_1\alpha_2|00\rangle + \alpha_1\beta_2|01\rangle + \beta_1\alpha_2|10\rangle + \beta_1\beta_2|11\rangle$ 
  - ▶ Vector notation:  $s_1 \otimes s_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1\alpha_2 \\ \alpha_1\beta_2 \\ \beta_1\alpha_2 \\ \beta_1\beta_2 \end{pmatrix}$
- ▶ Let  $\langle s_3s_4|s_1s_2\rangle \equiv \alpha_3^*\alpha_4^*\alpha_1\alpha_2 + \alpha_3^*\beta_4^*\alpha_1\beta_2 + \beta_3^*\alpha_4^*\beta_1\alpha_2 + \beta_3^*\beta_4^*\beta_1\beta_2$ 
  - ▶ Vector notation:  $(s_3 \otimes s_4, s_1 \otimes s_2)$
- ▶ Prob. of measuring  $|s_3s_4\rangle$  if system is in state  $|s_1s_2\rangle$ , is  $|\langle s_3s_4|s_1s_2\rangle|^2$

---

<sup>1</sup>By forced separation, we avoid Fermi statistics.

## 2-Qbit **general** states

- ▶ (Normalized) 2-Qbit general states superpose the 4 basis states.

- ▶  $|\psi\rangle = \alpha_1|00\rangle + \alpha_2|01\rangle + \alpha_3|10\rangle + \alpha_4|11\rangle$

- ▶  $|\phi\rangle = \beta_1|00\rangle + \beta_2|01\rangle + \beta_3|10\rangle + \beta_4|11\rangle$

- ▶ where  $\sum_{i=1}^4 |\alpha_i|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^4 |\beta_i|^2 = 1$

- ▶ Vector notation:  $\psi = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_3 \\ \alpha_4 \end{pmatrix}$ , etc.

- ▶ **In general**,  $|\psi\rangle$ ,  $|\phi\rangle$  are **not** product states

- ▶ General inner product:  $\langle\phi|\psi\rangle \equiv \sum_{i=1}^4 \beta_i^* \alpha_i$

- ▶ Vector notation:  $(\phi^*, \psi)$

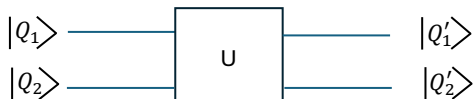
## The EPR state – an example of a 2-Qbit general state

- ▶ The EPR state is  $|EPR\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle|0\rangle + |1\rangle|1\rangle)$ .
  - ▶ If the first Qbit is  $|0\rangle$ , so is the second Qbit, etc.
  - ▶  $P(|00\rangle : |EPR\rangle) = P(|11\rangle : |EPR\rangle) = \frac{1}{2}$   
 $P(|01\rangle : |EPR\rangle) = P(|10\rangle : |EPR\rangle) = 0$
  - ▶ Therefore we can't factorize  $|EPR\rangle$  as  $|s_1 s_2\rangle$ 
    - ▶ Otherwise  $0 = P(|01\rangle : |EPR\rangle) = P(|0\rangle : s_1)P(|1\rangle : s_1)$
    - ▶ Then either  $P(|0\rangle : s_1) = 0$  or  $P(|1\rangle : s_1) = 0$
    - ▶ **Implying either  $P(|00\rangle : |EPR\rangle) = 0$  or  $P(|11\rangle : |EPR\rangle) = 0$**
  - ▶ We say that the EPR state is correlated.

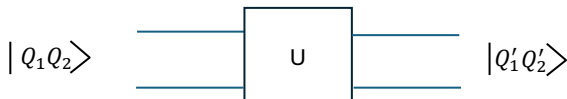
- ▶ Vector representation of the EPR state is  $|0\rangle|0\rangle \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

## Gates with 2-Qbit inputs and 2-Qbit outputs

- ▶ Analogy with a Boolean gate -  $|Q_i\rangle$  and  $|Q'_i\rangle$  are either  $|0\rangle$  or  $|1\rangle$



- ▶ Alternative picture using product state notation



- ▶ Most general input and output (no Boolean counterpart)

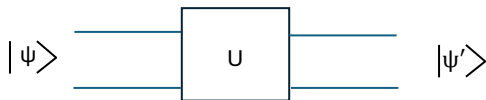


Figure:  $|\psi\rangle = \alpha_1|00\rangle + \alpha_2|01\rangle + \alpha_3|10\rangle + \alpha_4|11\rangle$   
 $|\psi'\rangle = \beta_1|00\rangle + \beta_2|01\rangle + \beta_3|10\rangle + \beta_4|11\rangle$

## 2-Qbit matrix representation of “product” gates

▶  $|Q_1 Q_2\rangle \rightarrow |v, w\rangle = \mathbf{v} \otimes \mathbf{w}$  and  $U \rightarrow \mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B}$ .  $U|Q_1 Q_2\rangle \rightarrow |\mathbf{A}v, \mathbf{B}w\rangle$

▶ Then

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} v'_1 \\ v'_2 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} w'_1 \\ w'_2 \end{pmatrix} &= \mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B} \left( \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} \right) \\ &= \left( \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} \right) \end{aligned}$$

▶ With the 4 basis states  $|00\rangle, |01\rangle, |10\rangle, |11\rangle$

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} v_1 w_1 \\ v_1 w_2 \\ v_2 w_1 \\ v_2 w_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

▶ and  $\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B}$  becomes

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_{21} & A_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & B_{21} & B_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Probability-Factorization and Product Gates

- ▶ Recall:  
Prob. of measuring  $|s_3s_4\rangle$  if system is in state  $|s_1s_2\rangle$ , is  $|\langle s_3s_4|s_1s_2\rangle|^2$
- ▶ Interpret by saying the two Qbits are uncorrelated:
  - ▶  $P(|s_3s_4\rangle : |s_2s_1\rangle) = P(|s_3\rangle : |s_1\rangle)P(|s_4\rangle : |s_2\rangle)$
- ▶ What if a product gate  $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B}$  is applied to  $|s_1s_2\rangle$ ?
- ▶  $P_{\mathbf{M}}(|s_3s_4\rangle : |s_2s_1\rangle) = \text{prob. of } |s_3s_4\rangle \text{ after applying } \mathbf{M} \text{ to } |s_1s_2\rangle.$

$$\begin{aligned}P_{\mathbf{M}}(|s_3s_4\rangle : |s_2s_1\rangle) &= (|\langle s_3|\mathbf{A}|s_1\rangle|^2) (|\langle s_4|\mathbf{B}|s_2\rangle|^2) \\ &= P_{\mathbf{A}}(|s_3\rangle : |s_1\rangle)P_{\mathbf{B}}(|s_4\rangle : |s_2\rangle)\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ This is interpreted as following:
  - ▶ Assume two *uncorrelated* input Qbits.
  - ▶ Then a product gate produces uncorrelated output Qbits.
  - ▶ Think of the product gate acting independently on each Qbit.

## 2-Qbit matrix representation of "general" gates

- ▶ Recall:

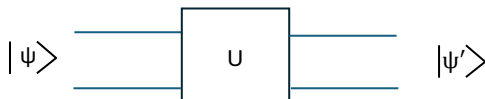


Figure:  $|\psi\rangle = \alpha_1|00\rangle + \alpha_2|01\rangle + \alpha_3|10\rangle + \alpha_4|11\rangle$   
 $|\psi'\rangle = \beta_1|00\rangle + \beta_2|01\rangle + \beta_3|10\rangle + \beta_4|11\rangle$

- ▶ Write  $|\psi'\rangle = \mathbf{U}|\psi\rangle$ .

- ▶ In component notation

$$\begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \beta_3 \\ \beta_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{11} & U_{12} & U_{13} & U_{14} \\ U_{21} & U_{22} & U_{23} & U_{24} \\ U_{31} & U_{32} & U_{33} & U_{34} \\ U_{41} & U_{42} & U_{43} & U_{44} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_3 \\ \alpha_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

- ▶  $\mathbf{U}$  is unitary (i.e.  $\mathbf{U}^{-1} = \mathbf{U}^\dagger$ )
- ▶ In general,  $\mathbf{U}$  does not have the form of a product gate.

## 2-Qbit EPR gate (*Bell gate*)

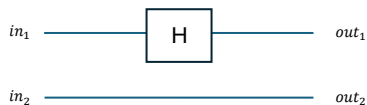
- ▶ Input the product state (2 independent Qbits)  $\mathbf{v}_{in} = |0\rangle|0\rangle \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .
- ▶ Construct gate with matrix  $\mathbf{U} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .
- ▶ Apply the gate to the input-state:  $\mathbf{v}_{out} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{v}_{in}$ .
- ▶  $\mathbf{v}_{out} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle|0\rangle + |1\rangle|1\rangle)$ .
- ▶ This is the EPR state  $|EPR\rangle$  (Sometimes called the (*Bell state*))

# How to construct the EPR gate

- ▶ There are **not** single physical components corresponding to each possible gate ( $\mathbf{U}$ ).
- ▶ Instead, we build gates from standard components.
  - ▶ One standard gate followed by another, by another, looks like
$$\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{U}_1\mathbf{U}_2\cdots\mathbf{U}_N$$

# The Hadamard $\otimes$ Identity gate

$$\mathbf{U}_{\text{Had} \otimes \mathbf{I}_2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\mathbf{v}_{out} = (\mathbf{U}_{\text{Had} \otimes \mathbf{I}_2}) \mathbf{v}_{in}$$

## EXAMPLE

$$\mathbf{v}_{in} = |0\rangle \otimes |0\rangle \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then

$$\mathbf{v}_{out} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle + |1\rangle) \otimes |0\rangle$$



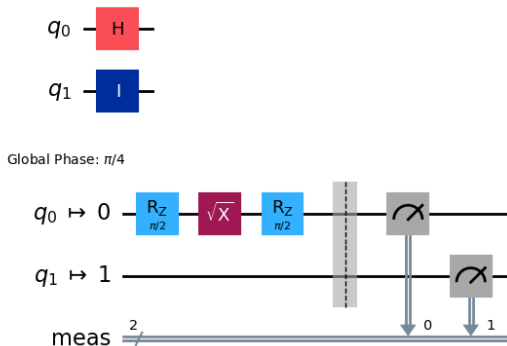
# Run the Hadamard $\otimes$ Identity circuit at IBM

- ▶ Create the circuit with input Qbits are  $|0\rangle$  and  $|0\rangle$
- ▶ Execute 1000 times
- ▶ Print results

```
... PREAMBLE AS BEFORE ...
## First create a circuit locally
# 1. Create a 2-qubit circuit
qc = QuantumCircuit(2)
# 2a. Apply Hadamard gate to qbit 0 [WE CALLED THIS QBIT 1]
qc.h(0)
# 2b. Apply identity gate to qbit 1 [WE CALLED THIS QBIT 2]
qc.id(1)
# 2c. Display this meta-circuit
display(qc.draw("mpl"))
# 3. Measure
qc.measure_all()

...SET UP IBM HARDWARE AS BEFORE AND DRAW THE TRANSPILED CIRCUIT
display(isa_circuit.draw("mpl", idle_wires=False))
## Running and analyzing the circuit
# 8. Create the program to be run on the IBM cloud, which analyzes outputs of quantum circuit
sampler = Sampler(mode=backend)
# 9. Run the circuit with 1000 shots
job = sampler.run([isa_circuit], shots=1000)
print("Job ID:", job.job_id())
# 10. Get results (waits until job finishes)
result = job.result()
# 11. Extract counts
counts = result[0].data.meas.get_counts()
# 12. Change to probabilities and print
total = sum(counts.values())
probs = {k: v / total for k, v in counts.items()}
print("Probabilities:", probs)
```

## Results from the Hadamard $\otimes$ Identity run



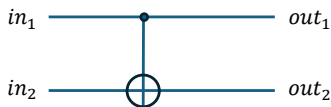
Job ID: d7b9sbh5a5qc73dn7b20

Probabilities: {'01': 0.489, '00': 0.508, '10': 0.003}

- ▶ '01' : 0.489 means 0.489 is the fraction of outcomes with Output Qbit #1 has z-value 0 and Output Qbit #2 has z-value 1
- ▶ We see that about half the results are  $q_0 = |0\rangle$ , half are  $q_0 = |1\rangle$ .
- ▶ In each of those results,  $q_1 = |0\rangle$
- ▶ A **small fraction (0.003)** differ.

# The CNOT gate

$$\mathbf{U}_{\text{CNOT}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



“Truth table” is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{in}_1 & \mathbf{in}_2 & \mathbf{out}_1 & \mathbf{out}_2 \\ |0\rangle & |0\rangle & |0\rangle & |0\rangle \\ |0\rangle & |1\rangle & |0\rangle & |1\rangle \\ |1\rangle & |0\rangle & |1\rangle & |1\rangle \\ |1\rangle & |1\rangle & |1\rangle & |0\rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

# Run the CNOT circuit at IBM

- ▶ Create the circuit with input Qbits are  $|0\rangle$  and  $|0\rangle$
- ▶ Execute 10000 times
- ▶ Print results

.....

```
# Create a 2-qubit circuit
qc = QuantumCircuit(2)
```

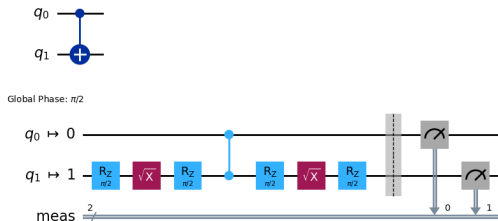
```
# Perform a CNOT (controlled-X) gate on qubit 1, controlled by qubit 0
qc.cx(0, 1)
```

.....

```
# Run the circuit with the number of shots
job = sampler.run([isa_circuit], shots=10000)
```

.....

# Results from the CNOT run



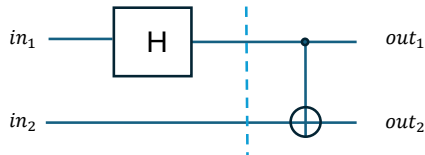
Job ID: d7c01qjklj2c73f0qsp0  
Probabilities: {'00': 0.9454, '10': 0.052, '01': 0.0015, '11': 0.0011}

- ▶ '00' : 0.9454 means 0.9454 is the fraction of outcomes with Output Qbit #1 has z-value 0 and Output Qbit #2 has z-value 0
- ▶ We see that about 5% of the results come from other Qbit combos.
- ▶ About 5% of results are *wrong*.

# The EPR gate

$$U_{\text{EPR}} = U_{\text{CNOT}} U_{\text{Had} \otimes I_2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



We previously saw that  $U_{\text{EPR}} : |0\rangle|0\rangle \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle|0\rangle + |1\rangle|1\rangle)$ .

# Run the EPR circuit at IBM

- ▶ Create the circuit with input Qbits are  $|0\rangle$  and  $|0\rangle$
- ▶ Execute 10000 times
- ▶ Print results

.....

```
## First create a circuit locally
# Create a new circuit with two qubits
qc = QuantumCircuit(2)

# Add a Hadamard gate to qubit 0
qc.h(0)

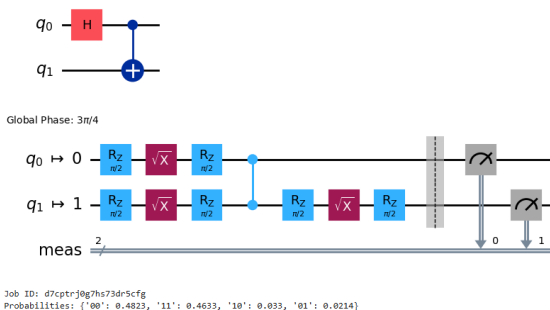
# Perform a controlled-X gate on qubit 1, controlled by qubit 0
qc.cx(0, 1)
```

.....

```
# Run the circuit with the number of shots
job = sampler.run([isa_circuit], shots=10000)
```

.....

# Results from the EPR run



- ▶ '00' : .4823, '11' : .4633 means *0.4823 is fraction of outcomes with Output Qbit #1 has z-value 0 and Output Qbit #2 has z-value 0 and 0.4633 is the fraction of outcomes with Output Qbit #1 has z-value 1 and Output Qbit #2 has z-value 1*
- ▶ The states  $|0\rangle|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle|1\rangle$  are about equally likely
- ▶ We see that about 5% of the results come from other Qbit combos.
- ▶ **About 5% of results are *wrong*.**

# EPR with rotation

- ▶ Recall

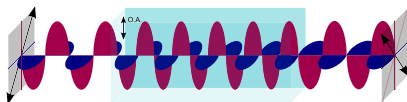


Figure: Half-wave plate. Different refractive indices for vertical and horizontal polarizations.

In code, this is `qc.ry(0,0)` resulting in  $|0\rangle$ .

- ▶ Now rotate

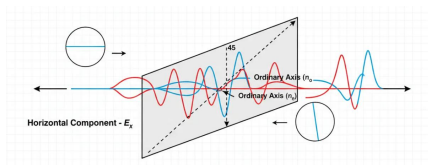


Figure: Rotation. Generated by Gemini.

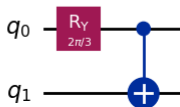
$$\text{qc.ry}(2*\text{np.pi}/x,0) \rightarrow \left(\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{x}\right)|0\rangle - \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{x}\right)|1\rangle\right).$$

## EPR with rotation – results

- ▶ Hadamard gate  $\rightarrow$  rotation gate; don't print transpiled circuit

```
# Add a rotation gate to qubit 0  
qc.ry(2*np.pi/3,0)
```

- ▶ New circuit should produce  $(\cos(\frac{\pi}{3})|0\rangle|0\rangle - \sin(\frac{\pi}{3})|1\rangle|1\rangle)$



Job ID: d7e5sc95a5qc73dqig8g

Probabilities: {'11': 0.7205, '00': 0.257, '01': 0.0175, '10': 0.005}

- ▶ '00' : .257, '11' : .7205 means *0.257 is fraction of outcomes with Output Qbit #1 has z-value 0 and Output Qbit #2 has z-value 0 and 0.7205 is the fraction of outcomes with Output Qbit #1 has z-value 1 and Output Qbit #2 has z-value 1*
- ▶ Prob. of  $|0\rangle|0\rangle$  is 0.75; Prob. of  $|1\rangle|1\rangle$  is 0.25
- ▶ We see that about 2% of the results come from other Qbit combos.