# Bachelor Thesis Decoding the Color Code

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April 3, 2023

#### Abstract

The study of Quantum Error Correction (QEC) is essential to the development of quantum computers, as it provides a way to protect quantum information from errors that can occur in a real-world setting subject to electromagnetic/thermal and other noise.

In this thesis, we will give an overview of quantum error correction codes and introduce decoding schemes for the color code, a QEC code that uses three colorable three-regular graph configurations of stabilizers to perform quantum error correction.

We also compare the thresholding performance of various ECC codes and decoding schemes, finding a pseudo-threshold of 10<sup>-3</sup>% for the Steane color code using a lookup table decoder and around 16% for the MWPM Surface/Toric/Cylindric codes. While unable to determine these Thresholds more precisely due to computational limitations, the author believes that upon further calculation the

the higher surface code threshold and the lower toric code threshold. An attempt was made at constructing a lifting decoder for a toric hexagonal honeycomb lattice color code and a step-by-step guide to this construction is included, however this decoder is incomplete and only works for a small subset of possible errors (individually occurring ones) due to a bug in the lifting procedure and is therefore not included in the thresholding comparison.

Cylindric code could be found to have a threshold that lies between

# Contents

1	Inti	oducti	ion	4			
2	Background  2.1 Schroedinger picture						
3	Error detection and correction 1						
	3.1 3.2 3.3	Classic 3.1.1 3.1.2 Quant	cal codes  Repetition code  Ringcode  cum Error Model  ogical codes  Surface code  Toric code  Color code	11 11 13 14 14 15 16			
4	Decoding Schemes 18						
	4.1	4.1.1 4.1.2	lers for Surface/Toric codes  MWPM decoding	18 18 19 19 20 21			
5	Thr	aresholds 22					
6	Cor	clusio	$\mathbf{n}$	25			
7	<b>Ap</b> <sub>1</sub> 7.1 7.2		edinger picture calculation of CNOT circuit				

7.3	Lifting	g Decoder	33
7.4	Thresh	nolds	44
	7.4.1	Surface/Toric code thresholds	44
	7.4.2	Color code thresholds	49

# 1 Introduction

In the last few years quantum computers have been the focus of intense research since they are expected to be able to solve problems that are intractable for classical computers. Quantum computers employ principles of quantum mechanics, whereby states can exist in superpositions of multiple states, and can be entangled, i.e. correlated in order to perform computation.

One area where quantum computers are expected to be able to outperform classical computers is decrypting RSA encryption by efficiently factoring large numbers. This has recently been shown by researchers at the Beijing Academy of Quantum Information Sciences to require merely 10 error-corrected qubits [1] to efficiently factor a 40-bit length number, and is estimated to require merely 372 error-corrected qubits to efficiently decrypt 2048-bit RSA encryption. It can therefore with high confidence be said that within the next decade RSA encryption will no longer be viable for protecting sensitive data.

Others include simulations of quantum systems, which can be of great use in medical research and quantum chemistry, as well as optimization problems, which are of great use in logistics and scheduling. Further, the quantum Fourier transform, which is a quantum algorithm that can be used to efficiently compute the discrete Fourier transform, can be used for things like computing ideal signal output from 5G towers to minimize interference. While providing significantly less advantage over classical computers than the aforementioned applications, the quantum search algorithm also provides a square-root improvement in the time complexity of searching for a specific item in a database, which could also have wide applications.

In order to be able to use quantum computers for these applications, we need to ensure their resiliency towards errors introduced by thermal, electromagnetic and other noise. This can be done via Quantum Error Correction (QEC) codes, which we will introduce and discuss in this thesis.

# 2 Background

A quantum computer operates on so-called *qudits*, which can be any multilevel quantum system. Physical implementations of these include particles with spin, as well as controlled EM waves, i.e. lasers.

In this thesis, we will focus on *qubit*-based systems, i.e. two-level quantum systems as base units of computation.

In this chapter, we will analyze a quantum circuit diagram using different pictures of quantum mechanics, namely the Schroedinger and the Heisenberg picture. A quantum circuit diagram is a visual representation of the computation done in a quantum computer, whereby:

- States progress in time along horizontal parallel lines
- Time goes from left to right
- Gates are unitary matrix operators
- $\bullet$  Gates denoted X, Y, Z are the single qubit Pauli operators  $\sigma_x,\sigma_y,\sigma_z$
- Gates can act on one or multiple qubits, whereby an X gate on qubit 1 in a 3-qubit system should be interpreted as  $(X \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I})|\psi_{1,2,3}\rangle$
- $\bullet$   $M_{\{X,Y,Z\}^n}$  denotes an n qubit measurement of  $\{{\rm X,Y,Z}\}$

In classical computation, a *complete logical signature* is a group of operators, which can be successively applied to express any general boolean computation. One example of such a signature is  $\{\neg, \land\}$ . A quantum equivalent of this is the Pauli Group amended by the *Clifford group*, whereby the Clifford group is the group of operators that project eigenstates of a Pauli group operator onto an eigenstate of a Pauli group operator.

While not enabling universal computation (e.g. the phase estimation in Shor's algorithm [2] would require an additional T gate), the union of Clifford and Pauli group is a complete logical signature for those quantum operations that can be simulated efficiently on a classical computer [3]. This is relevant for quantum error correction, as applying corrective gates after an error is computationally and experimentally expensive and should therefore be put off until the first non-Clifford gate is encountered in the program. Until that point the propagation of the error through the circuit can be simulated efficiently.

The Clifford Group can be generated by:

• The Hadamard-Gate H, which performs single qubit basis changes from eigenstates of X to eigenstates of Z and vice-versa:

$$H|+\rangle = |0\rangle, H|0\rangle = |+\rangle, H|-\rangle = |1\rangle, H|1\rangle = |-\rangle$$

• The Phase-Gate P, which performs single qubit sign flips on the state parts which are  $|1\rangle$  in the computational basis:

$$P(\alpha|0\rangle \pm \beta|1\rangle) = \alpha|0\rangle \mp \beta|1\rangle$$

 The CNOT-Gate, which on a two qubit system performs an X gate on the second qubit if the first qubit is |1>, so maps:

$$\alpha|00\rangle + \beta|01\rangle + \delta|10\rangle + \gamma|11\rangle$$

$$\mapsto \alpha|00\rangle + \beta|01\rangle + \gamma|10\rangle + \delta|11\rangle$$

In the  $\sigma_z$ -basis their matrix representations are:

• 
$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$
;  $P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix}$ 

$$\bullet \ CNOT = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

# 2.1 Schroedinger picture

In the Schroedinger picture, we focus on the time evolution of qubit states:

$$|\psi\rangle = |\psi(t)\rangle \tag{1}$$

Measurements project these states onto eigenstates of the measurement operators via a projection P, so:

$$P_M^{\pm}|\psi\rangle = \frac{(M\pm\mathbb{I})|\psi\rangle}{2} \tag{2}$$

Where M is a matrix representation of the physical observable to be measured. For example, a measurement of a single qubit's spin along the z-axis would be represented as:

$$M_Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{3}$$

And that measurement would perform a projection  $P_Z$ :

$$P_Z^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} or P_Z^- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (4)

on the state, depending on whether the measurement result yielded +1 or -1.

Therefore, to calculate the output of a quantum circuit in the Schroedinger picture, simply apply the measurements and gates on the input states. As

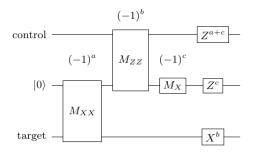


Figure 1: A Quantum Circuit to implement a measurement based Controlled- $X_{|\psi\rangle_{control} \to |\psi\rangle_{target}}$  Gate, where  $|0\rangle$  is the +1 eigenstate in  $\sigma_z$ -basis.

can be seen explicitly calculated in the Schroedinger picture in Appendix 7.1, the circuit from Figure 1 implements a CNOT gate from the control qubit to the target qubit.

We will now analyze this circuit in the Heisenberg picture [4], finding that it results in an equal output.

# 2.2 Heisenberg picture and stabilizer formalism

#### 2.2.1 Stabilizer group

We call an operator/gate S, to which the input state is an eigenvector  $(S|\psi\rangle = |\psi\rangle)$ , a *stabilizer* of that input state. For *n*-qubit systems, we write these stabilizers as *n*-tensor-products of pauli operators  $P \in P_G$ , where  $P_G$  is the group generated by the Pauli operators and the Pauli operators are the operators on  $\mathbb{F}_2$  such that:

$$\forall P \in P_G : P^2 = \mathbb{I}. \tag{5}$$

In the Heisenberg picture, stabilizers are tracked instead of states. The stabilizer group  $S_G$  is the group generated by the set of stabilizers:

$$S_G = \langle S_0, ..., S_n \rangle : S | \psi_{in} \rangle = | \psi_{in} \rangle \forall S \in S_G$$
 (6)

So for the example in Figure 1 it is the group of operators to whom  $|\psi_{control}\rangle \otimes |0\rangle \otimes |\psi_{target}\rangle$  is an eigenstate, namely  $\mathbb{I} \otimes Z \otimes \mathbb{I}$  (and trivially  $\mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I}$ , which we choose to ignore as a stabilizer since any three-qubit state is stabilized by it, and it can be generated by squaring any stabilizer constructed through tensor products of Pauli matrices).

A stabilizer group is always an abelian group i.e. its elements commute, since if:

$$\forall A, B \in S : AB|\psi\rangle = BA|\psi\rangle = |\psi\rangle \Rightarrow [A, B]|\psi\rangle = 0 \tag{7}$$

#### 2.2.2 Effect of gates on stabilizers

To determine the effect a gate operation A has on a stabilizer, consider the following:

If  $S|\psi\rangle = |\psi\rangle$  then:

$$A|\psi\rangle = AS|\psi\rangle = AS\mathbb{I}|\psi\rangle = \underbrace{ASA^{\dagger}}_{=S'}A|\psi\rangle$$
 (8)

So we now know that the post-gate state is an eigenstate of S'.

Therefore  $S'_G = \langle AS_0A^{\dagger}, ..., AS_nA^{\dagger} \rangle$ .

#### 2.2.3 Effect of measurements on stabilizers

After a measurement M, an n qubit input state will always collapse into either the +1 or the -1 eigenstate of the measurement operator. In the first case the acting measurement operator was  $\mathbb{I}^{\otimes n} + M$ , in the second it was  $\mathbb{I}^{\otimes n} - M$ .

A Pauli measurement operator M can either commute with all stabilizer operators, in which case M itself is a stabilizer already. In this case the measurement has no effect on the state, since the measurement of a stabilizer

projects onto identity. Otherwise it can anticommute with at least one operator in  $S_G$ , since Pauli operators as well as their tensor products can only commute or anti-commute with each other. The product of two operators that both anticommute with another operator will then commute with that operator.

So in order to obtain the new stabilizers  $S'_G$ :

- 1. Identify  $S \in S_G : \{S, M\} = 0$
- 2. Remove S from  $S_G$
- 3. Add M to  $S_G$
- 4. replace each  $N \in S_G \cup \overline{X} \cup \overline{Z}$  with SN if  $\{N, M\} = 0$

where  $\overline{X}$  and  $\overline{Z}$  are the sets of logical X and Z operators respectively. A logical operator is an operator which acts on a systems metastructure that can be treated as its own qubit.

#### 2.2.4 Circuit Analysis in Stabilizer formalism

In the following, stabilizers will be written without the tensor product symbols, so in our case the stabilizer is initially:  $S_G^0 = \langle IZI \rangle$ , the logical  $\overline{X}$  operator is XXX and the logical  $\overline{Z}$  operator is ZIZ.

In the circuit shown in Figure 1, the measurements project onto:

$$P_1^{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{I}^{\otimes 3} \pm \mathbb{I} \otimes X \otimes X \right) \tag{9}$$

$$P_2^{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{I}^{\otimes 3} \pm X \otimes X \otimes \mathbb{I} \right) \tag{10}$$

$$P_3^{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{I}^{\otimes 3} \pm \mathbb{I} \otimes X \otimes \mathbb{I} \right) \tag{11}$$

After the first measurement, the state is stabilized by IXX, since it collapses into an eigenstate of the measurement operator. Notably, if the measurement operator M anticommutes with some element of the stabilizer S:

$$SP_{-}S^{\dagger} = \frac{1}{2}S\left(\mathbb{I}^{\otimes 3} - M\right)S^{\dagger} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\mathbb{I}^{\otimes 3} + M\right)SS^{\dagger} = P_{+} \tag{12}$$

So by applying an anticommuting previous stabilizer operator after the measurement one can ensure that the state is in the  $P_+$  projected state

 $P_{+}|\psi_{init}\rangle$  (in short, +1 and -1 eigenstates have the same stabilizers if we add conditional gates accordingly).

In our case, IZI and IXX anticommute, so now the state is stabilized by  $S_G^1 = \langle IXX \rangle$ . Both initial logical operators commute with the first measurement operator, so they are left unchanged.

After the second measurement  $M_2$ =ZZI, since this measurement anticommutes with the IXX stabilizer, the new stabilizers are:  $S_G^2 = \langle ZZI \rangle$ . The logical  $\overline{X}$  and  $\overline{Z}$  operators are unaffected, since they commute with the measurement operator.

After the third measurement  $M_3$  =IXI, since this measurement anticommutes with the stabilizer, the new stabilizers are:  $S_G^3 = \langle IXI \rangle$ . The logical  $\overline{Z}$  operator anticommutes with the measurement, so is replaced by  $\overline{Z_3}$ =ZZI · ZIZ = IIZ. The logical  $\overline{X}$  is unaffected since it commutes with the measurement operator.

The stabilizer for the control and target qubit is still identity, and logical  $\overline{Z}:ZIZ\to IIZ.$ 

Since this circuit maps  $Z_{control} \otimes Z_{target} \mapsto I_{control} \otimes Z_{target}$ , and via a similar analysis it can be shown that it also maps  $I \otimes Z \mapsto Z \otimes Z$ ,  $Z \otimes I \mapsto Z \otimes I$ ,  $X \otimes I \mapsto X \otimes X$  and  $I \otimes X \mapsto I \otimes X$ , this circuit implements a logical CNOT from the first to the third qubit.

## 3 Error detection and correction

The concept of (classical) error-correcting codes (ECC) was introduced by Claude Shannon in 1948 [5]. Fundamentally, an ECC encodes *logical* information within a large superset of basic information carriers.

In the case of a classical computer, this means encoding a bitstring within a system containing more physical bits than the length of the encoded message, with the goal of message transmission being resilient to some bits being faulty or subject to interference (i.e. EM-interference).

Analogously, in the case of a quantum computer this means encoding a *logical* qubit within a system of multiple qubits, with a similar goal of resilience towards errors caused by external influences.

In this chapter, we will give an overview of different quantum error correction codes, starting with adaptations of classical codes.

#### 3.1 Classical codes

Two known classical ECCs are the repetition and the ring code. In Quantum error correction, we speak of [[n, k, d]] stabilizer codes if an encoding scheme allows for n physical qubits to encode k logical qubits to an error distance of d, i.e.  $\lfloor \frac{d-1}{2} \rfloor$  arbitrary individual errors being corrigible.

In the following, I will refer to the classical codes as having a distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$ , to indicate that they do not protect against an arbitrary single-qubit error but only against flips in one specific eigenbasis.

#### 3.1.1 Repetition code

For this error code information is encoded by repeating the intended message some amount of times, and then decoding it by performing a majority vote on the transmitted message.

A quantum equivalent of the 3-bit repetition code performed on the message  $|1\rangle$  is the  $[[3,1,\frac{1}{2}]]$  repetition code depicted in Figure 2, including so-called syndrome extraction. A syndrome is a stabilizer that can be measured to detect whether and where an error has occurred in a multi-qubit system. It is crucial that the measurement of such syndromes occurs without harming the actual quantum information stored in the data-qubits. Therefore two additional ancilla-qubits (both initialized to  $|0\rangle$ ) are attached to the circuit via CNOTs. This circuit is stabilized by IZZ and ZZI, measured by ancilla

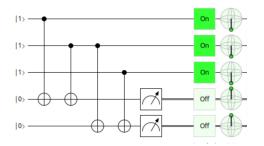


Figure 2: Bitflip Syndrome extractor for  $[[3,1,\frac{1}{2}]]$  repetition code

+1 measurement result on first ancilla indicates a bitflip error on qubits 1 or 2, +1 result on second ancilla indicates bitflip on second or third qubit

1 and 2. The measurement result will therefore be a vector of length two, with each entry either being +1 or -1. To simplify the algebra this will be changed to the binary representation of 0 for +1 and 1 for -1.

To represent the code, stabilizers can be stacked together to a so-called parity-check-matrix, which satisfies:

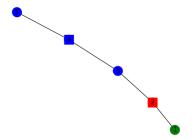
$$M_{pc} \cdot \vec{v}_{error} = \vec{v}_{syndrome} \tag{13}$$

So e.g. the parity check matrix for the  $[3,1,\frac{1}{2}]$  repetition code would be:

$$M_{pc3} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{14}$$

And the syndrome for an X error on the first qubit would be  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

If we draw a graph to represent this code, with here square nodes being ancilla qubits and round nodes being data qubits, we obtain the following:

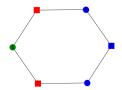


**Figure 3:** Graph for  $[[3,1,\frac{1}{2}]]$  repetition code with error on node 1 marked in green and resulting syndrome marked red. Squares represent ancilla qubits and circles represent data qubits.

#### 3.1.2 Ringcode

The ring code's graph essentially simply loops around at the repetition code's single-edged ancilla nodes via an additional ancilla. It's edge matrix where the nth row represents which data qubit is connected to the nth ancilla qubit is the following:

$$M_{pc3} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{15}$$



**Figure 4:** Graph for  $[[3,1,\frac{1}{2}]]$  ring code with error on node 1 marked in green and resulting syndrome marked in red. Squares represent ancilla qubits and circles represent data qubits.

## 3.2 Quantum Error Model

This way of encoding information however leaves a notable issue:

It only detects bitflip, or Pauli-X, errors occurring on the stored quantum information. While using Hadamard gates one could trivially adapt this code to instead detect Pauli-Z errors, it is not possible to use linear codes like the repetition code to *simultaneously* detect Pauli-X and Pauli-Z errors occurring.

Unlike classical computers, on a quantum computer the type of error is not limited to a bitflip. Even for single-qubit states there exists an infinite amount of differing possible errors, since when representing a single qubit state as a vector on a Bloch sphere it immediately becomes apparent that there are an infinite number of vectors on that sphere which are different from it. It turns out though, that the change from one normalized state to another is merely a sum of rotations.

Noise can therefore be modeled as a sum of Pauli gates. Any single qubit error operator matrix E can be written as:

$$E = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \alpha \mathbb{I} + \beta X + \delta Y + \gamma Z \tag{16}$$

With an appropriate choice of  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ . In effect, this means that with probability  $\alpha$ , the effect of the error  $E|\psi\rangle$  will be  $\mathbb{I}$ ; with probability  $\beta$  its effect will be X, and so on.

It is hence sufficient to determine which of these errors  $\mathbb{I}$ , X, Y or Z has occurred, and we can apply the appropriate operator to return to the initial state. Since an identity noise occurring is irrelevant to us, and XY as well as ZY (anti-) commute, we need only detect for X and Z errors occurring in order to detect any single qubit errors. (because of the commutation relation between  $\{X,Y\}$  and  $\{Y,Z\}$  a Y error will appear as both an X and Z error).

# 3.3 Topological codes

Hypergraph product codes, introduced by Tillich and Zémor [6], provide a toolset for generating valid codes from existing encoding schemes. A hypergraph product code of two existing codes will always remain a valid detection code.

The parity check matrix H of a hypergraph product code is generated by

two m by n parity check matrices of valid codes in the following way:

$$M_{PC_{Hypergraph}} = \begin{pmatrix} (M_{pc1} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{n_2} | \mathbb{I}_{m_1} \otimes M_{pc2}^T) & 0 \\ 0 & (\mathbb{I}_{n_1} \otimes M_{pc2} | M_{pc1}^T \otimes \mathbb{I}_{m_2}) \end{pmatrix}$$
(17)

#### 3.3.1 Surface code

We can therefore form a hypergraph product code of two repetition codes to obtain the  $[[d^2,1,d]]$  "Surface-Code" which can detect up to d of both X and Z errors, and therefore any error happening [7]. We can draw this code as a graph, whereby the code's stabilizers are understood as an adjacency Matrix of data to ancilla qubits. Like the repetition code, the Surface code is a code that is regular until its boundary nodes. The logical operators on the surface code are lines that go from one boundary to another that lies across, as this triggers every ancilla along the way twice, thus nonce, and therefore takes the message back to the codespace.

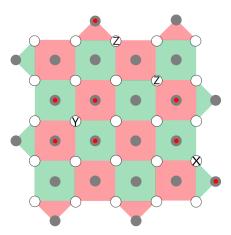


Figure 5: Distance 5 Surface code with data qubits in white and ancilla qubits in grey. Green Faces represent Z stabilizers and Red faces represent X stabilizers. Errors on data qubits are marked by respective Pauli names and violated stabilizers are marked in red.

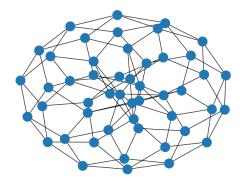
#### 3.3.2 Toric code

Similarly, a hypergraph product code of two ring codes can be generated.

Unlike in Figure 5, it is also possible to draw topological ECC graphs without colored plaquettes, by drawing it such that the data qubits are on edges of the graph and the ancilla qubits for Z-checks are on faces while the ancilla qubits for X-checks lie on nodes. This representation is called a Tanner graph [6] and is used in Figure 6.

Since the resulting Tanner graph forms a torus, we call this code the "Toric code".

The logical operators on the toric code are loops, so a circle of 'errors' on nodes is a logical X operator, and a circle of 'errors' on faces is a logical Z operator.



**Figure 6:** Tanner graph for [[49,1,7]] toric code.

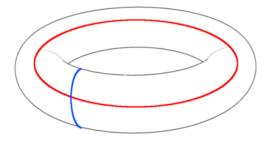
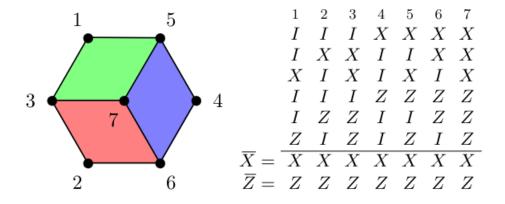


Figure 7: Logical  $\overline{X}$  and  $\overline{Z}$  operators on toric code Tanner graph. Image courtesy of James Wooton's contribution to Wikipedia.

#### 3.3.3 Color code

The color code's parity-check-matrix's rows are both the code's X stabilizers and Z stabilizers. Any three-colorable and three-valent graph represents a valid color code. On the color code, an error is bounded by syndromic faces of all colors. The simplest color code is the [[7,1,3]] Steane code [8].



**Figure 8:** Graph for the [[7,1,3]] color code, also known as the Steane code, and its stabilizers. Figure from [8].

# 4 Decoding Schemes

An important task towards achieving fault-tolerant quantum computation is finding efficient decoding schemes. Since error propagation on non-clifford gates cannot be simulated efficiently [3], and we are only given syndromes by our ECC, the decoding scheme must be able to compute occured errors from syndromes in time before the quantum algorithm our computer intends to calculate reaches a non-Clifford operation. This ideally requires very fast classical computation of the syndrome decoding.

In this chapter, we will introduce some of the main decoding schemes for varying types of quantum error correction codes.

# 4.1 Decoders for Surface/Toric codes

Syndromes on the surface/toric code are a set of nodes and faces on the code's Tanner graph. The node ancilla syndromes correspond to Z errors, while the face ancilla syndromes correspond to X errors. Since neighboring errors will trigger an ancilla that is between both errors twice, a chain of errors will only appear as two ancilla syndrome bits being flipped at its borders. The task of a decoding scheme for a surface/toric code is thus to find the shortest paths between node pairs/face pairs, since the most likely chain of errors to occur given a < 50% physical error rate is the shortest one.

In practice, decoders for surface/toric codes only need to be able to match nodes, since the matching of faces is just matching nodes on the dual graphs and the resulting data qubit errors can just be joined (i.e. if an edge is found to have an error on both the X graph as well as the dual Z graph, we know a Y error has occurred on that edge/data-qubit). An example of a distance 5 surface code with two Z errors, one X error and one Y error is shown in Figure 5. As with the ringcode, the decoding problem can be seen as either the solution of Equation 13 for a minimum weight  $\vec{v}_{error}$  or as a graph matching problem.

## 4.1.1 MWPM decoding

1. Find a set of unmatched nodes that can be reached from the matching by alternating between matched and unmatched edges. Call these nodes "augmenting nodes".

- 2. Find an augmenting path starting from each augmenting node, i.e. a path that starts and ends with an unmatched node, and alternates between matched and unmatched edges.
- 3. If such a path is found, flip all edges along it from matched to unmatched, and vice versa.
- 4. Repeat until no augmenting path is found.

This decoding scheme has the advantage of being guaranteed to find a global optimum of decoding edge paths, i.e. it finds the shortest vector of edges that are bounded by the syndrome nodes. Under the assumption of high error rates and/or large decoding graphs, this scheme also requires significantly less computational memory overhead than the union-find scheme [9].

#### 4.1.2 Union-Find decoder

- 1. Initialize a cluster set for each syndrome node
- 2. Grow each cluster by one edge in each direction
- 3. Merge all clusters that share a node
- 4. For all clusters with an even amount of syndrome nodes, perform MWPM within that cluster. Pop the found error edges from the graph.
- 5. Repeat until all clusters are merged/discarded.

While the union-find decoder is faster for small to medium sized graphs and relatively simple to implement, it is not guaranteed to find a global optimum and its performance degrades significantly for large graphs and high error rates [10]. For this reason, a MWPM algorithm was chosen for decoding the toric subgraphs of the color code in our lifting decoder thresholding in Chapter 4.2.2.

#### 4.2 Color code decoders

Unlike the surface and toric codes, in the color code the data qubits sit on the graphs nodes, and the ancillas on the graphs faces. Decoding the color code entails matching three differently colored faces to its enclosed nodes. This is a significantly more challenging task than decoding the 2D-codes, since optimal three-colored graph matching is a confirmed NP-hard problem [11].

#### 4.2.1 Lookup table decoding

A lookup table decoder works by generating the syndromes for the entire set of possible input errors, thus creating a table holding possible errors responsible for each possible syndrome. The decoding then consists of merely assuming the minimum weight error that leads to the known syndrome, since given low physical error rate, the least amount of errors leading to an error is the most probable event.

This decoding scheme is particularly useful for small codes, as well as non-topological (random) LDPC (Low-Density-Parity-Check) codes, since these cannot be decoded using graph theory. A big issue with this decoding scheme is that generating lookup tables is extremely computationally expensive  $(O(2^n)$ , since a syndrome must be computed and stored for every possible error vector, having length n and 2 possibilities per entry).

This renders it practically unfeasible to generate lookup tables for codes with a larger number of total data qubits.

```
The syndrome [1 1 1 0 0 0]

can be caused by the following errors:

(0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)

(0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)

(1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)

(1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)

(0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)

The most likely cause of this syndrome is

(0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
```

**Figure 9:** Lookup table for an X error on the central qubit of a Steane code (qubit 7), generating code can be found in Appendix 7.2.1

In Figure 9 is an example of the lookup table result for an X error on qubit 7 (the central qubit) on the Steane code. The resulting syndrome is (1,1,1,0,0,0), with the first three bits indicating the steane code faces X checks, and the second three bits indicating the Steane code faces Z checks.

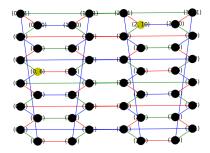
The lookup table will return a set of many possible errors resulting in that syndrome, but simply choosing the one with the least number of errors (minimum weight) gives the correct error prediction.

#### 4.2.2 Lifting decoder

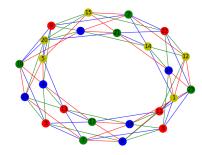
The Lifting decoder works as follows:

- Create dual of color code graph
- Generate single-edge-colored subgraphs of the dual
- Decode subgraphs using MWPM/Union-Find
- Unify all edges from subgraph corrections
- Find all shortest-length loops on this union
- If there are remaining edges not forming a loop, abort the liftin procedure
- All nodes bounded by the faces that are elements of the shortest-length loop sets are error nodes.

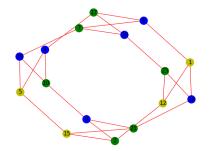
By sub-tiling the graph into smaller subgraphs, we can reduce the problem of decoding e.g. a honeycomb lattice toric color code to a set of MWPM-decodable toric graphs that merely need to be "lifted" into a combination of subgraph decodings to decode the original color code graph [11]. This decoding is not optimal, as it does not take into account the other two colored subgraphs when computing an MWPM edge prediction. The polynomial time complexity of the lifting decoder does not violate the NP-hardness of the 3-color matching problem, since the lifting procedure does not provide an optimal solution. A graphical depiction of the steps of the lifting decoder is shown in Figure 10.



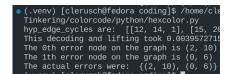
(a) Original toric honeycomb lattice color code. Errors are marked yellow, face colors are implied by opposing colors wrapping them.



(b) Dual of color code lattice. Nodes are faces on the original lattice yellow marked nodes represent syndromes.



(c) Red subgraph to be decoded via MWPM



(d) Correct error prediction output for single distributed error nodes.

**Figure 10:** Steps in the lifting decoder. Generating code can be found in 7.3 and the entire git repository can be found in [12]

# 5 Thresholds

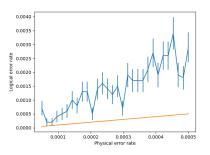
To compare different codes and decoding schemes we introduce the concept of thresholds, whereby the threshold of a specific code of scalable distance with a specific decoding scheme is defined as the physical error rate *per* at which the logical error rate becomes greater than 50% in the limit of infinite distance.

Thresholds can vary depending on the error model, i.e. some codes can have a higher threshold for X than for Z errors. For simplicity's sake in the following, we will assume equal X, Y and Z error rates of  $\frac{per}{3}$ .

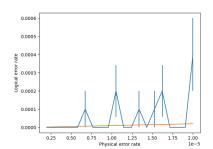
Using this error model, we found a threshold of  $16.3\pm0.5\%$  for the surface

code,  $16.0 \pm 0.5\%$  for the toric code and  $16.1 \pm 0.5$  from subfigures b), d) and f) in Figure 12. Their thresholds are within single error margins of each other, and can therefore be called identical.

Since the Steane code for which we generated a lookup table is not a distance-scalable code, only a *pseudo*-threshold can be found here, i.e. the crossing point to worse performance than unencoded information. As can be seen in Figure 11, the pseudo-threshold lies around  $(1 \pm 0.5)10^{-5}$ .



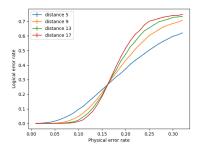
(a) Lookup table Steane code threshold



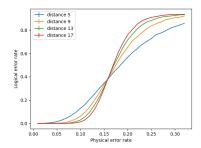
(b) Detailed view at around  $per = 10^{-5}$ 

Figure 11: Lookup table pseudo threshold for the Steane code, generating code can be found in Appendix 7.2.2

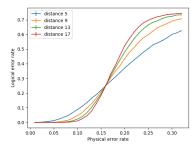
Unfortunately, a threshold for the hexagonal toric color code using the lifting decoder could not be found due to a lifting bug resulting in false error predictions for certain error patterns.



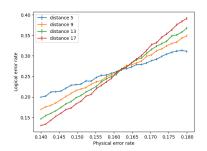
(a) Surface code MWPM thresholding overview



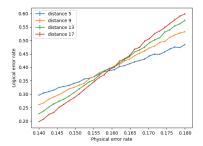
(c) Toric code MWPM thresholding overview  $\,$ 



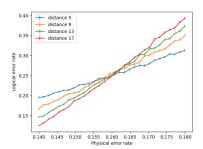
(e) Cylinder code MWPM thresholding overview



(b) Detailed view for precise threshold determination of surface code



(d) Detailed view for precise threshold determination of toric code



(f) Detailed view for precise threshold determination of cylinder code

**Figure 12:** Thresholding of the surface/toric/cylinder code using the MWPM decoder implemented in the PyMatching [9] library. Generating code can be found in Appendix 7.4.1

# 6 Conclusion

In this thesis, we gave an overview of existing quantum codes as well as some decoding schemes. The determined thresholds of  $16.3 \pm 0.5\%$  for the surface code and  $16.0 \pm 0.5\%$  for the toric code were within single and threefold error margin respectively to the literature values [13]. Their thresholds were however not distinguishable with great confidence, and especially for the cylindric code it might be of interest to calculate these thresholds more precisely by using more significant computational resources in future works. The pseudothreshold for the Steane code was found to be around  $10^{-5}$ , which is the same as in the literature [14]. While the lifting decoder for the hexagonal toric lattice color code did not produce thresholdable output, it did work as a proof-of-concept on smaller error vectors as in 10.

Future work could include adapting a better cycle-finder algorithm for the lifted subgraph in order to obtain a decoder for distance- and logicalqubit-scalable color codes.

# References

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# 7 Appendix

## 7.1 Schroedinger picture calculation of CNOT circuit

In the quantum circuit depicted in figure 1 the input state can be written as  $|\psi_{control}\rangle \otimes |0\rangle \otimes |\psi_{target}\rangle$  and the measurement in the first timestep can be expressed as  $\mathbb{I} \otimes X \otimes X$ .

The initial state  $|\phi_{t=0}\rangle = |\psi_{control}\rangle \otimes |\psi_{ancilla}\rangle \otimes |\psi_{target}\rangle$  where

$$|\psi_{control}\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$$

$$|\psi_{ancilla}\rangle = |0\rangle$$

$$|\psi_{target}\rangle = \gamma|0\rangle + \delta|1\rangle$$

therefore:

$$|\phi_{t=0}\rangle = \alpha \left(\gamma |000\rangle + \delta |001\rangle\right) + \beta \left(\gamma |100\rangle + \delta |101\rangle\right) \tag{18}$$

If the first measurement result is +1, the state becomes:

$$|\phi_{t=1}^{+}\rangle = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} + \mathbb{I} \otimes X \otimes X) |\phi_{t=0}\rangle$$
$$= \alpha (\gamma (|000\rangle + |011\rangle) + \delta (|001\rangle + |010\rangle))$$
$$+ \beta (\gamma (|100\rangle + |111\rangle) + \delta (|101\rangle + |110\rangle))$$

if the result is -1, it becomes:

$$|\phi_{t=1}^{-}\rangle = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} - \mathbb{I} \otimes X \otimes X) |\phi_{t=0}\rangle$$
$$= \alpha (\gamma (|000\rangle - |011\rangle) + \delta (|001\rangle - |010\rangle))$$
$$+ \beta (\gamma (|100\rangle - |111\rangle) + \delta (|101\rangle - |110\rangle))$$

In the case of the +1 Measurement  $\rightarrow$  a=0:

$$|\phi_{t=2}^{++}\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} + Z \otimes Z \otimes \mathbb{I} \right) |\phi_{t=1}^{+}\rangle$$

$$= (|000\rangle\langle 000| + |001\rangle\langle 001| + |110\rangle\langle 110| + |111\rangle\langle 111|) |\phi_{t=1}^{+}\rangle$$

$$= \alpha \left(\gamma |000\rangle + \delta |001\rangle\right) + \beta \left(\gamma |111\rangle + \delta |110\rangle\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi_{t=2}^{+-}\rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} - Z \otimes Z \otimes \mathbb{I} \right) |\phi_{t=1}^{+}\rangle \\ &= \left( |010\rangle\langle 010| + |011\rangle\langle 011| + |100\rangle\langle 100| + |101\rangle\langle 101| \right) |\phi_{t=1}^{+}\rangle \\ &= \alpha \left( \gamma |011\rangle + \delta |010\rangle \right) + \beta \left( \gamma |100\rangle + \delta |101\rangle \right) \end{aligned}$$

In the case of the -1 Measurement  $\rightarrow$  a=1:

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi_{t=2}^{-+}\rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} + Z \otimes Z \otimes \mathbb{I} \right) |\phi_{t=1}^{-}\rangle \\ &= \alpha \left( \gamma |000\rangle + \delta |001\rangle \right) - \beta \left( \gamma |111\rangle + \delta |110\rangle \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$|\phi_{t=2}^{--}\rangle = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} - Z \otimes Z \otimes \mathbb{I}) |\phi_{t=1}^{-}\rangle$$
$$= -\alpha (\gamma |011\rangle + \delta |010\rangle) + \beta (\gamma |100\rangle + \delta |101\rangle)$$

Now the applied measurement is  $\mathbb{I} \otimes X \otimes \mathbb{I}$ , which means:

$$\begin{split} |\phi_{t=3}^{++++}\rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} + \mathbb{I} \otimes X \otimes \mathbb{I} \right) |\phi_{t=2}^{++}\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2} ((|010\rangle + |000\rangle) \langle 000| + (|011\rangle + |001\rangle) \langle 001| \\ &+ (|000\rangle + |010\rangle) \langle 010| + (|001\rangle + |011\rangle) \langle 011| \\ &+ (|110\rangle + |100\rangle) \langle 100| + (|111\rangle + |101\rangle) \langle 101| \\ &+ (|100\rangle + |110\rangle) \langle 110| + (|101\rangle + |111\rangle) \langle 111|) |\phi_{t=2}^{++}\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\alpha \left( \gamma(|000\rangle + |010\rangle) + \delta(|011\rangle + |001\rangle)) \\ &+ \beta \left( \gamma(|101\rangle + |111\rangle) + \delta(|100\rangle + |110\rangle))) \end{split}$$

In this case, a,b and c would each be zero, therefore no further gate would be applied.

As intended, this state is equivalent to  $CNOT_{|\psi_{Control}\rangle \to |\psi_{Target}\rangle} |\phi_{t=0}\rangle$ .

Notably, each measurement sequence has a differing resulting ancilla state, however we do not care since ancillas are meant to be discarded.

Verifying that the other 7 measurement/computation paths also yield a CNOT implementation is left as an exercise to the reader.

# 7.2 Lookup table decoding

#### 7.2.1 Table generation

```
1 from typing import List
2 from numpy import array, vstack, hstack, zeros, uint8, ones,
     ndarray
3 from itertools import product
4 from random import random
6 def genSteaneLookupTable()->dict:
      # Generate Steane parity check matrix from identical
      # X and Z PCMs
9
      H = array([[1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1],
10
                     [0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1],
11
                     [0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1]])
      pcm = vstack((hstack((H, zeros(H.shape))),
                        hstack((zeros(H.shape), H))))
14
      # Generate lookup table
      lookup_table = {}
17
      for error in product([0, 1], repeat=14):
18
          syndrome = tuple(pcm @ error % 2)
19
          if syndrome in lookup_table:
              lookup_table[syndrome].append(error)
21
          else:
              lookup_table[syndrome] = [error]
23
      # Remove duplicates from lookup table
      for key in lookup_table:
26
          lookup_table[key] = list(set(lookup_table[key]))
27
28
      return lookup_table
29
30
  def findMinWeight(predictions) -> ndarray:
32
      Find the minimum weight tuple for a given prediction
33
34
      curr_pred = ones(14,dtype=uint8)
      curr_best_weight = 100
36
      for pred in predictions:
          pred = array(pred)
38
          yweight = 0
          for i in range(int(len(pred)/2)):
```

```
if pred[i] & pred[i+7] == 1:
41
                   yweight += 1
42
                   pred[i] = 0
43
                   pred[i+7] = 0
44
           if yweight + sum(pred) < curr_best_weight:</pre>
45
               curr_pred = pred
46
               curr_best_weight = yweight + sum(pred)
47
      return curr_pred
48
49
  def main():
50
      syndrome = array([1,1,1,0,0,0])
51
      possibles = genSteaneLookupTable()[tuple(syndrome)]
53
54
      print(f"The syndrome {syndrome}\n can be caused by the
     following errors: ")
56
      print(f"The most likely cause of this syndrome is\n {
57
     findMinWeight(possibles)}")
59 if __name__ == " __main__ ":
60 main()
```

#### 7.2.2 Thresholding

```
1 from betterlookup import genSteaneLookupTable, findMinWeight,
      findMinWeight
2 from random import random
g from numpy import zeros, uint8, concatenate, array,\
      array_equal, linspace, vstack, hstack, zeros, ndarray,
     logspace
5 from matplotlib.pyplot import errorbar, legend, \
      savefig, xlabel, ylabel, plot
  def genSteaneError(per)->ndarray:
      """ Generates an error vector on the Steane code"""
9
      empty7 = zeros(7, dtype=uint8)
10
      xerror = empty7.copy()
11
      zerror = empty7.copy()
12
      for i in range(len(xerror)):
          if random()<per:</pre>
14
              xerror[i] = 1
      for j in range(len(zerror)):
16
          if random()<per:</pre>
17
              zerror[j] = 1
18
      yerror = concatenate((xerror, zerror)) # generating too
```

```
long errors
      for k, bit in enumerate(yerror[:6]):
20
          if random()<per:</pre>
21
               yerror[k] = (yerror[k] + 1)%2
22
               yerror[2*k] = (yerror[2*k]+1)%2
23
      # error = (concatenate((xerror, empty7)) + yerror \
            + concatenate((empty7, zerror)))%2
25
      return yerror
26
27
  def steaneLerCalc(steaneH, nr, per, logicals)->float:
28
      """Calculates the logical error rate of the steame
29
      code decoded with a lookup table"""
30
      numErrors = 0
31
      looktable = genSteaneLookupTable()
32
      for _ in range(nr):
33
          actual_error = genSteaneError(per)
34
          syndrome = steaneH@actual_error %2
35
          predictions = looktable[tuple(syndrome)]
36
          pred = findMinWeight(predictions)
37
          pred_L_flips = logicals@pred %2
38
          actual_L_flips = logicals@actual_error %2
          if not array_equal(actual_L_flips, pred_L_flips):
40
               numErrors += 1
41
      return numErrors/nr
42
43
44 def makeHgpPcm(Hx, Hz)->ndarray:
45
      Makes a full parity check matrix including x and z
46
      checks for a hypergraph product code of two other codes
47
48
      Hx = hstack((Hx, zeros(Hx.shape, dtype=uint8)))
49
      Hz = hstack((zeros(Hz.shape, dtype=uint8), Hz))
50
      H = vstack((Hx, Hz))
51
      return H
52
  def main():
55
      steanelogicals = \
          array([\
56
               [1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
               [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1]]
      steaneH = array([[1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1],
59
60
                         [0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1],
                         [0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1]])
61
      pers = linspace(2*10**(-6), 2*10**(-5), 20)
      lers = []
63
```

```
nr = 10000
64
      H = makeHgpPcm(steaneH, steaneH)
65
      for per in pers:
66
          print(f"per={per}")
          lers.append(\
68
               steaneLerCalc(H, nr, per, steanelogicals))
      lers = array(lers)
70
      std_err = (lers*(1-lers)/nr)**0.5
71
      errorbar(pers, lers, yerr=std_err)
72
73
      plot(pers,pers)
      xlabel("Physical error rate")
74
      ylabel("Logical error rate")
75
      savefig("img/figures/steaneLookupThreshold.png")
76
78 if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```

## 7.3 Lifting Decoder

```
import networkx as nx
2 from pymatching import Matching
3 from numpy import zeros, uint8, linspace, array
4 from random import random
5 from random import sample
6 from typing import List, FrozenSet, Set
7 from os import makedirs
8 from os.path import exists
9 from time import time
10 from matplotlib.pyplot import figure, savefig, title, show,
     xlabel, ylabel, legend, errorbar, close, plot
11 11 11 11
12 The main function of this file will generate a set of images
13 of the pertaining color code graph, its dual, and its
     respective
14 2- colored subgraphs and print an error prediction on the
     subgraphs.
16 A folder "img/hexcolor/" will be created to save image files
     if it does not exist.
17 ппп
18
19 def colorize_graph_black(G: nx.Graph) -> bool:
      0.00
20
21
      Args:
        G(nx.Graph): some graph
```

```
Returns:
23
          bool: wether it was successful in changing the graph
24
     object
25
                 to all black edges.
      0.00
26
      for u, v, attr in G.edges(data=True):
          G[u][v]['color'] = 'black'
28
      return True
29
  def tor_hex48_color_encode(G: nx.Graph,m: int=6,n: int=4) ->
     bool:
32
      Args:
33
          G(nx.Graph): graph we want to encode with three
34
     colored faces
          n,m: how many by how many hexagon, default to 6 and 4
35
      like in delfosse
      Returns:
36
          bool: Success of graph object modification procedure
37
38
      rgb_list = ['r', 'g', 'b']
      # initialize all edge colors to black
40
      for u, v, attr in G.edges(data=True):
41
          G[u][v]['color'] = 'black'
42
      # colorizing algorithm
44
45
      # horizontal edges
46
      for i in range(int(n/2)):
               for j in range(m):
48
                   first\_coordinate = (2*i,2*j)
49
                   second_coordinate = (2*i+1,2*j)
50
                   G[first_coordinate][second_coordinate]['color
51
      '] = rgb_list[j%3]
      for i in range(int(n/2)):
52
          for j in range(m):
               first\_coordinate = (2*i+1,2*j+1)
54
               second\_coordinate = ((2*i+2)%n, 2*j+1)
55
               G[first_coordinate][second_coordinate]['color'] =
56
      rgb_list[(j-1)%3]
      # left ladder edges
57
      for i in range(int(n/2)):
          for j in range(2*m):
               first_coordinate = (2*i,j)
               second_coordinate = (2*i,(j+1)\%(2*m))
61
```

```
G[first_coordinate][second_coordinate]['color'] =
62
      rgb_list[(1-j)%3]
      # right ladder edges
63
      for i in range(int(n/2)):
          for j in range(2*m):
65
               first_coordinate = (2*i+1,j)
               second_coordinate = (2*i+1,(j+1)\%(2*m))
67
               G[first_coordinate][second_coordinate]['color'] =
68
      rgb_list[(1-j)%3]
      return True
69
70
71 def make_a_base_graph(m: int=6,n: int=4) -> nx.Graph:
      \Pi_{i}\Pi_{j}\Pi_{j}
72
73
      Args:
          m(int), n(int): desired dimension of faces on graph (
74
     m by n)
      Returns:
75
          G(nx.Graph): A basic color code graph of dimensions m
76
      by n
                        with colored edges encircling opposite
     colored faces.
      0.00
78
      G = nx.hexagonal_lattice_graph(m, n, periodic=True)
      colorize_graph_black(G)
80
      tor_hex48_color_encode(G,m,n)
      for node in G.nodes:
82
          G.nodes[node]['color'] = 'black'
          G.nodes[node]['fault_ids'] = 0
84
      return G
87 def draw_graph_with_colored_edges_and_nodes(G: nx.Graph, file
     : str=None, name: str=None) -> bool:
88
      Draws a graph who's nodes and edges have colors.
89
      Options:
90
          filename (str): save file to specified name (will plt
      .show() otherwise)
          name (str): will create figure with specified name
92
93
      pos = nx.get_node_attributes(G, 'pos')
      node_colors = [data['color'] for _, data in G.nodes(data=
95
     True)]
      edge_colors = [G[u][v]['color'] for u, v in G.edges()]
96
      figure()
98
```

```
if name:
99
           title(name)
100
       if pos:
           nx.draw(G, pos, with_labels=True, node_color=
      node_colors, edge_color=edge_colors)
       elif not pos:
           nx.draw(G, with_labels=True, node_color=node_colors,
104
      edge_color=edge_colors)
       if nx.get_edge_attributes(G,"fault_ids"):
           nx.draw_networkx_edge_labels(G, pos, edge_labels=nx.
106
      get_edge_attributes(G, "fault_ids"))
       if file:
107
           savefig(file)
108
       else:
109
           show()
110
       close()
111
       return True
def flag_color_graph(graph: nx.Graph, per: float=0.1) -> Set[
      anv]:
115
       Args:
116
           graph(nx.Graph): graph to be altered with errors on
117
      nodes
           per(float): probability on error occuring on each
118
      node
       Returns:
119
           set(node): Actually occured errors
120
121
       error_nodes = set()
       for node in graph.nodes:
123
           if random() < per:</pre>
               graph.nodes[node]['fault_ids'] = 1
125
                graph.nodes[node]['color'] = 'y'
126
               error_nodes.add(node)
127
       return error_nodes
  def find_6_loops(graph: nx.Graph) -> List[FrozenSet[any]]:
       Args:
132
           nx.Graph: input graph
133
134
       Returns:
           set[frozenset]: Topology of nodes comprising faces on
       input graph """
       cycles = set()
136
```

```
for node in graph.nodes:
137
           for node1 in graph.neighbors(node):
138
                for node2 in graph.neighbors(node1):
139
                    for node3 in graph.neighbors(node2):
140
                        for node4 in graph.neighbors(node3):
141
                             for node5 in graph.neighbors(node4):
142
                                 for node6 in graph.neighbors(
143
      node5):
                                      if node6 == node:
144
                                          cycles.add(frozenset([
145
      node, node1, node2, node3, node4, node5]))
       faces = [cycle for cycle in cycles if len(cycle) == 6]
146
       return faces
147
148
149 def find_face_color(graph: nx.Graph, face: FrozenSet) -> str:
150
       Args:
           graph: graph on which face lies
           face(set[nodes]): face to analyze
153
       Returns:
154
           color(str): color of face
       0.00
156
       rgb = set(['r','g','b'])
157
       boundary_colors = set()
158
       for node in face:
           for node2 in face:
160
                if node2 in graph.neighbors(node):
161
                    boundary_colors.add(graph[node][node2]['color
      '])
       face_color = rgb - boundary_colors
163
       face_color = face_color.pop()
164
       return face_color
165
166
  def dual_of_three_colored_graph(graph: nx.Graph):# -> nx.
167
      Graph:
       0.00\,0
168
       Args:
169
           graph(nx.Graph): graph of which we want the dual
       Returns:
           dual_graph(nx.Graph): the dual of that graph
173
174
       dual_graph = nx.Graph()
       faces = find_6_loops(graph)
175
       # init nodes
       for i, face in enumerate(faces):
```

```
dual_graph.add_node(i, color = 'black')
178
           color_of_face = find_face_color(graph, face)
179
           dual_graph.nodes[i]['color'] = color_of_face
180
           # This is the part for error -> syndrome inheritance
181
      to the dual graph
           dual_graph.nodes[i]['fault_ids'] = 0
           for node in face:
183
                if graph.nodes[node]['fault_ids'] == 1:
184
                    dual_graph.nodes[i]['fault_ids'] = (
185
      dual_graph.nodes[i]['fault_ids']+1)%2
       # connect nodes
186
       for i, face in enumerate(faces):
187
           otherfaces = faces[:i]+faces[((i+1)%(len(faces)+1)):]
           for j, face2 in enumerate(otherfaces):
189
                lap_nodes = set(face & face2)
190
                if lap_nodes:
191
                    # A three-colorable graph will only ever have
192
       two nodes between two faces
                    node1 = lap_nodes.pop()
193
                    node2 = lap_nodes.pop()
194
                    connecting_color = graph[node1][node2]['color
      ']
                    # we are iterating not over the list of faces
196
      , but over the list of otherfaces
                    # what is j?
                    second_face_pos = [k for k in range(len(faces
198
      )) if faces[k] == otherfaces[j]].pop()
199
                    dual_graph.add_edge(i,second_face_pos, color
200
      = connecting_color)
201
202
       return dual_graph, faces
203
204
  def subtile(Graph: nx.Graph, color: str) -> nx.Graph:
205
       \Pi_{i}\Pi_{j}\Pi_{j}
206
       Args:
207
           Graph(nx.Graph): graph we want to subtile
           color(str): color in format "r", "g", "b" of which all
209
       edges
                        in the subtiling will be comprised
210
211
       Returns:
           G(nx.Graph): subtiled graph (does not edit original
212
      object)
213
```

```
G = Graph.copy()
214
       for edge in G.edges:
215
           u, v = edge[0], edge[1]
216
           if G.edges[u,v]['color'] != color:
217
               G.remove_edge(u,v)
218
       G.remove_nodes_from(list(nx.isolates(G)))
       return G
220
221
  def decode_subtile(graph: nx.Graph) -> List[any]:
222
       Args:
224
           graph(nx.Graph): graph with "fault_ids" property on
225
      some nodes
       Returns:
226
           prediction(List[edges]): predicted error edges on
      graph
       0.00
228
       # we'll change og and revert this time
229
230
       # renamed_copy = graph.copy()
       # make renamed_copy usable (hopefully)
231
       for i, node in enumerate(graph.nodes):
           graph.nodes[node]['og_name'] = node
           graph = nx.relabel_nodes(graph, {node: i})
       matching = Matching(graph)
235
       # generate syndrome on renamed_copy
       syndrome = zeros(len(graph.nodes), dtype=uint8)
237
       for node in graph.nodes:
238
           if graph.nodes[node]['fault_ids'] == 1:
239
               syndrome[node] = 1
240
       # predict edges on the renamed_copy
241
       prediction = matching.decode_to_edges_array(syndrome)
242
       # rename nodes to be actually usable
243
       for edge in prediction:
244
           for i in range(len(edge)):
245
               edge[i] = graph.nodes[edge[i]]['og_name']
246
       # revert the graph back to normal
       for node in graph.nodes:
248
           graph = nx.relabel_nodes(graph, {node: graph.nodes[
      node]['og_name']})
251
       return prediction
def make_a_shower(graph: nx.Graph) -> nx.Graph:
       Args:
255
```

```
graph (nx. Graph): graph we want a yellow syndrome
256
      flagged copy of
       Returns:
           shower(nx.Graph): graph with yellow marked syndrome
      nodes
       shower = graph.copy()
260
       for node in shower.nodes:
261
           if shower.nodes[node]['fault_ids'] == 1:
262
               shower.nodes[node]['color'] = 'y'
263
       return shower
264
265
def find_hyper_edges(dual_graph: nx.Graph, edges_array_r:
      List[any],
                         edges_array_g: List[any], edges_array_b:
267
       List[any]) -> List[any]:
268
       Takes: a dualgraph and its subgraph matching edges arrays
269
       Returns: list of cycles on the dual graph
270
       0.00
271
       # generate the surrounding edges of cycles
       set_of_all_edges_bounding_hyperedge = set()
      for color in [edges_array_r, edges_array_g, edges_array_b
274
      ]:
           for edge in color:
               addable_edge = tuple(sorted(edge))
276
               set_of_all_edges_bounding_hyperedge.add(
277
      addable_edge)
       # make a graph of only error cycles
       error_bound_graph = dual_graph.copy()
279
       bad_edges = []
280
       # this is necessary because we can't modify edges during
      iteration
       for edge in error_bound_graph.edges:
282
           if edge not in set_of_all_edges_bounding_hyperedge:
283
               bad_edges.append(edge)
       error_bound_graph.remove_edges_from(bad_edges)
285
       isolates = list(nx.isolates(error_bound_graph))
       error_bound_graph.remove_nodes_from(isolates)
287
       # draw_graph_with_colored_edges_and_nodes(
      error_bound_graph, "img/hexcolor/decodergraph.png")
       cycles = nx.cycle_basis(error_bound_graph)
       return cycles
290
def flag_c_graph_specific(graph: nx.Graph, nodes: List[any])
```

```
-> bool:
293
       Flags down specific nodes on a graph from a list of nodes
294
295
       for node in nodes:
296
           graph.nodes[node]['fault_ids'] = 1
           graph.nodes[node]['color'] = 'y'
208
       return True
299
300
  def lift(dual_edge_cycles: List[any], faces: List[FrozenSet])
       -> Set[any]:
302
       Takes: List of dual graph cycles, facenodes to face map
303
       Returns: List of enclosed og nodes
304
       0.00
305
       ## Strategy: understand and comment the below code
306
       enc_nodes = set()
       for dual_edge_cycle in dual_edge_cycles:
308
           face_on_dec = dual_edge_cycle.pop()
           bounded_nodes = faces[face_on_dec]
310
           for face in dual_edge_cycle:
               bounded_nodes = bounded_nodes & faces[face]
312
           bounded_nodes = frozenset(bounded_nodes)
313
           enc_nodes.add(bounded_nodes)
314
       # clear up empty frozenset and pop the items to a set
       if frozenset() in enc_nodes:
316
           enc_nodes.remove(frozenset())
317
       res = set()
318
       for enc_node in enc_nodes:
           res.add(next(iter(set(enc_node))))
320
       return res
321
  def total_decoder(graph: nx.Graph, per: float) -> bool:
323
324
       Takes: a color code graph and physical error rate
325
       Returns: Success of correction operation
327
       actual_errors = flag_color_graph(graph, per)
       #### dualizing and subtiling
329
       dual, faces = dual_of_three_colored_graph(graph)
       subr, subg, subb = subtile(dual, 'r'), subtile(dual, 'g')
331
      , subtile(dual, 'b')
       #### decoding part
332
       pred_r, pred_g, pred_b = decode_subtile(subr),
      decode_subtile(subg), decode_subtile(subb)
```

```
hyper_edge_cycles = find_hyper_edges(dual, pred_r, pred_g
334
      , pred_b)
       ## get back to og nodes from dual nodes/ faces
335
       og_enc_nodes_by_dual_cycles = lift(hyper_edge_cycles,
336
      faces)
       return og_enc_nodes_by_dual_cycles == actual_errors
338
  def cc_ler_calc(graph: nx.Graph, per: float, nr: int) ->
      float:
       numErrors = 0
340
       for _ in range(nr):
341
           if not total_decoder(graph, per):
342
               numErrors += 1
343
       return numErrors/nr
344
345
  def cc_threshold_plotter(dists: List[any], pers: List[float],
346
       nr:int, file=None) -> bool:
       log_errors_all_dist = []
347
       for d in dists:
348
           print("Simulating d = {}".format(d))
349
           origG = make_a_base_graph(d[0],d[1])
           lers = []
351
           for per in pers:
               print(f"per={per}")
353
                graph = origG.copy()
               lers.append(cc_ler_calc(graph, per, nr))
355
           log_errors_all_dist.append(array(lers))
356
       figure()
357
       for dist, logical_errors in zip(dists,
      log_errors_all_dist):
           std_err = (logical_errors*(1-logical_errors)/nr)**0.5
359
           errorbar(pers, logical_errors, yerr=std_err, label="L
360
      ={}".format(dist))
       plot(pers, pers, label = 'Threshold')
361
       xlabel("Physical error rate")
362
       ylabel("Logical error rate")
363
       legend(loc=0)
364
       if file:
           if not exists("img/hexcolor"):
366
               makedirs("img/hexcolor")
           savefig("img/hexcolor/"+file)
368
369
       else:
           show()
370
       close()
       return True
372
```

```
373
  def main() -> bool:
374
375
376
       #### just making sure image filesaves work
377
       if not exists("img/hexcolor"):
           makedirs("img/hexcolor")
379
       #### initialize color code graph with errors
380
       origG = make_a_base_graph()
381
       actual_errors = flag_color_graph(origG, 0.05)
382
       ## This is for manually setting faults
383
       \# \text{ actual\_errors} = [(0,0),(1,2)]
384
       # flag_c_graph_specific(origG, actual_errors)
385
       #### dualizing and subtiling
386
       dual, faces = dual_of_three_colored_graph(origG)
387
       subr, subg, subb = subtile(dual, 'r'), subtile(dual, 'g')
388
      , subtile(dual, 'b')
       #### flag syndromes yellow for better visualizing
389
       dual_syn, subr_syn, subg_syn, subb_syn = make_a_shower(
390
      dual), make_a_shower(subr), make_a_shower(subg),
      make_a_shower(subb)
       #### decoding part
391
       start = time()
      pred_r, pred_g, pred_b = decode_subtile(subr),
393
      decode_subtile(subg), decode_subtile(subb)
      hyper_edge_cycles = find_hyper_edges(dual, pred_r, pred_g
394
      , pred_b)
       ## get back to og nodes from dual nodes/ faces
395
       print("hyp_edge_cycles are: ", hyper_edge_cycles)
       og_enc_nodes_by_dual_cycles = lift(hyper_edge_cycles,
397
      faces)
       end = time()
       #### visualizing part
399
       print(f"This decoding and lifting took {end-start}
400
      seconds.")
       draw_graph_with_colored_edges_and_nodes(origG, "img/
      hexcolor/original.png")
       draw_graph_with_colored_edges_and_nodes(dual_syn, "img/
      hexcolor/dual.png")
      for i, graph in enumerate([subr_syn, subg_syn, subb_syn])
           draw_graph_with_colored_edges_and_nodes(graph, f"img/
      hexcolor/{i}.png")
       # print("The red prediction is: ", pred_r)
      # print("The green prediction is: ", pred_g)
```

```
# print("The blue prediction is: ", pred_b)
       # print("Hyperedges are: ", hyper_edges)
408
       if og_enc_nodes_by_dual_cycles:
409
           for i in range(len(og_enc_nodes_by_dual_cycles)):
410
               print(f"The {i}th error node on the graph is {
411
      og_enc_nodes_by_dual_cycles.pop()}")
       print("The actual errors were: ", actual_errors)
412
      return True
413
414
       \# dists = [(6,4)]\#,(12,8),(24,8)]
       \# pers = linspace(0.01, 0.2, 20)
416
       # nr = 1000
417
      # cc_threshold_plotter(dists, pers, nr, "firstThreshold")
       # return True
419
421 if __name__ == "__main__":
      main()
```

## 7.4 Thresholds

## 7.4.1 Surface/Toric code thresholds

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
3 from pymatching import Matching
4 from scipy.sparse import hstack, kron, eye, csr_matrix,
     block_diag
5 from ldpc import mod2
7 ####################### Helper functions
     ######################
8 def genRepPCM(distance):
      Generates a repetition code parity-check-matrix
          distance(Int): distance of the code
      Returns:
13
          pcm(np.array([[]])): repetition code parity check
14
     matrix corresponding to distance
      0.00
      nq = distance
                      # number of qubits
16
                      # number of ancillas
      na = nq - 1
17
      pcm = np.array([[0 for _ in range(nq)] for _ in range(na)
18
     ])
      for i in range(na):
19
          pcm[i][i] = 1
```

```
pcm[i][(i+1) \% nq] = 1
21
      return pcm
22
23
24 def genRingPCM(distance):
25
      Generates a ring code parity-check-matrix
26
27
      Args:
28
           distance(Int): distance of
29
30
      Returns:
31
           pcm(np.array([[]])): generated parity check matrix of
32
      distance
      0.00
33
      pcm=np.eye(distance)
34
      for i in range(distance):
35
           pcm[i][(i+1)\%distance] = 1
36
      return pcm
37
38
39 def ring_code(n):
40
      scipy sparse Parity check matrix of a ring code with
41
     length n.
      0.00
42
      return csr_matrix(genRingPCM(n))
43
44
45 def rep_code(n):
      0.00\,0
46
      scipy sparse Parity check matrix of a rep code with n
47
     qubits
      \Pi_{-}\Pi_{-}\Pi
48
      return csr_matrix(genRepPCM(n))
49
50
51 def genXStabilizers(first_pcm_generator, second_pcm_generator
      , dist):
      0.00
52
      check matrix for the X stabilizers of a hypergraph
53
     product code of distance dist
54
      H1 = first_pcm_generator(dist)
      H2 = second_pcm_generator(dist)
56
      H = hstack(
57
           [kron(H1, eye(H2.shape[1])), kron(eye(H1.shape[0]),
58
     H2.T)],
           dtype=np.uint8
```

```
60
                  return H
61
62
63 def genZStabilizers(first_pcm_generator, second_pcm_generator
                , dist):
                   0.00
64
                  check matrix for the Z stabilizers of a hypergraph
65
                product code of distance dist
66
                  H1 = first_pcm_generator(dist)
                  H2 = second_pcm_generator(dist)
68
                  H = hstack(
69
                                           [kron(eye(H1.shape[1]), H2), kron(H1.T, eye(H2.
                shape[0]))],
                                          dtype=np.uint8
71
72
                  return H
73
74
75 def genHxHz(first_code, second_code, d):
76
                   generates Hx and Hz of a hgp code from two codes
78
                  Hx = genXStabilizers(first_code, second_code, d).todense
79
                 Hz = genZStabilizers(first_code, second_code, d).todense
                ()
                 # Hx = np.hstack((Hx, np.zeros(Hx.shape, dtype=np.uint8))
81
                )
                 # Hz = np.hstack((np.zeros(Hz.shape, dtype=np.uint8), Hz)
82
83
                  return Hx, Hz
84
85
86 def compute_lz(hx,hz):
                                          #lz logical operators
87
                                          ||f|| = |f|| =
88
                                          # hx = hx.todense()
89
                                          # hz = hz.todense()
90
                                          ker_hx=mod2.nullspace(hx) #compute the kernel
91
                basis of hx
                                          im_hzT=mod2.row_basis(hz) #compute the image
92
                basis of hz.T
93
                                          #in the below we row reduce to find vectors in kx
94
                  that are not in the image of hz.T.
```

```
log_stack=np.vstack([im_hzT,ker_hx])
95
               pivots=mod2.row_echelon(log_stack.T)[3]
96
               log_op_indices=[i for i in range(im_hzT.shape[0],
97
      log_stack.shape[0]) if i in pivots]
               log_ops=log_stack[log_op_indices]
98
               return log_ops
100
  def calc_logicals(hx, hz):
101
       """ calculates actual logical operators from two parity
      check matrices of
       codes generating a hgp code
103
104
       lx = compute_lz(hz, hx)
106
       lz = compute_lz(hx, hz)
107
       lx=np.vstack((np.zeros(lz.shape,dtype=np.uint8),lx))
108
       lz=np.vstack((lz,np.zeros(lz.shape,dtype=np.uint8)))
109
       # temp = mod2.inverse(lx@lz.T %2)
       \# lx = temp@lx % 2
       return np.hstack((lx, lz))
114 def makeHgpPcm(Hx, Hz):
       Makes a full parity check matrix including x and z checks
116
       for a
       hypergraph product code of two other codes
117
118
       # Hx = genXStabilizers(first_code, second_code, d).
119
      todense()
       # Hz = genZStabilizers(first_code, second_code, d).
120
      todense()
      Hx = np.hstack((Hx, np.zeros(Hx.shape, dtype=np.uint8)))
       Hz = np.hstack((np.zeros(Hz.shape, dtype=np.uint8), Hz))
      H = np.vstack((Hx, Hz))
123
       return csr_matrix(H)
124
  ##################### Hotstuff
      ################################
def lerCalc(H, logicals, nr=1000, per = 0.3):
       "calculates logical error rate assuming a noise model of
      p/3 X,Y,Z errors"
       matching = Matching.from_check_matrix(H)#, faults_matrix=
      logicals)
       numErrors = 0
      for _ in range(nr):
131
```

```
noise = np.zeros(H.shape[1], dtype=np.uint8)
           halflength = int(len(noise)/2)
133
           for i in range(halflength):
134
               # this is physical X errors, editing first half
      of entries
               if np.random.rand() < per/3:</pre>
                    noise[i] = (noise[i]+1) % 2
137
               # this is physical Z errors, editing second half
138
      of entries
139
               if np.random.rand() < per/3:</pre>
                    noise[i+halflength] = (noise[i+halflength] +
140
      1) % 2
               # this is physical Y errors, assuming same
141
      syndrome as X and Z implies same error
               if np.random.rand() < per/3:</pre>
142
                    noise[i] = (noise[i]+1) % 2
143
                    noise[i+halflength] = (noise[i+halflength] +
144
      1) % 2
           noise = csr_matrix(noise)
145
           noise = noise.T
146
           syndrome = csr_matrix(((H@noise).todense() % 2))
           prediction = csr_matrix(matching.decode(syndrome.
148
      todense())).T
           predicted_flips = (logicals@prediction).todense() % 2
149
           actualLflips = (logicals@noise).todense() % 2
           if not np.array_equal(actualLflips, predicted_flips):
               numErrors += 1
       return numErrors/nr
153
def thresholdPlotter(dists, pers, nr, first_code, second_code
      , codename):
156
       plots logical error rates of a quantum code with a list
      of distances
       and physical error rates
158
       0.00
159
       np.random.seed(2)
160
       log_errors_all_dist = []
       for d in dists:
162
           print("Simulating d = {}".format(d))
163
           Hx, Hz = genHxHz(first_code, second_code, d)
164
           H = makeHgpPcm(Hx, Hz)
           logicals = csr_matrix(calc_logicals(Hx, Hz))
166
           lers = []
           for per in pers:
168
```

```
print(f"per={per}")
169
               lers.append(lerCalc(H, logicals, nr, per))
           log_errors_all_dist.append(np.array(lers))
       plt.figure()
       for dist, logical_errors in zip(dists,
173
      log_errors_all_dist):
           std_err = (logical_errors*(1-logical_errors)/nr)**0.5
174
           plt.errorbar(pers, logical_errors, yerr=std_err,
      label="distance {}".format(dist))
       plt.xlabel("Physical error rate")
176
       plt.ylabel("Logical error rate")
177
       plt.legend(loc=0)
178
       plt.savefig(codename)
180
  def main():
181
       dists = range(5,20,4)
182
       pers = np.linspace(0.01, 0.32, 32)
183
       nr = 30000
184
       print("Thresholding the surface code...")
185
       thresholdPlotter(dists, pers, nr, rep_code, rep_code, "
186
      surfaceThresholdOverview.png")
       print("Thresholding the toric code...")
187
       thresholdPlotter(dists, pers, nr, ring_code, ring_code, "
188
      toricThresholdOverview.png")
       print("Thresholding the cylindric code...")
       thresholdPlotter(dists, pers, nr, rep_code, ring_code, "
190
      cylinderThresholdOverview.png")
192 if __name__ == "__main__":
      main()
```

## 7.4.2 Color code thresholds

```
from betterlookup import genSteaneLookupTable, findMinWeight,
    findMinWeight

from random import random
from numpy import zeros, uint8, concatenate, array,\
    array_equal, linspace, vstack, hstack, zeros, ndarray,
    logspace
from matplotlib.pyplot import errorbar, legend, \
    savefig, xlabel, ylabel, plot

def genSteaneError(per)->ndarray:
    """ Generates an error vector on the Steane code"""
    empty7 = zeros(7, dtype=uint8)
    xerror = empty7.copy()
```

```
zerror = empty7.copy()
      for i in range(len(xerror)):
13
          if random()<per:</pre>
14
               xerror[i] = 1
      for j in range(len(zerror)):
16
          if random()<per:</pre>
               zerror[j] = 1
18
      yerror = concatenate((xerror,zerror)) # generating too
19
     long errors
      for k, bit in enumerate(yerror[:6]):
20
          if random()<per:</pre>
21
               yerror[k] = (yerror[k] + 1)%2
22
               yerror[2*k] = (yerror[2*k]+1)%2
23
      # error = (concatenate((xerror, empty7)) + yerror \
24
            + concatenate((empty7, zerror)))%2
      return yerror
26
27
  def steaneLerCalc(steaneH, nr, per, logicals)->float:
28
      """Calculates the logical error rate of the steame
29
      code decoded with a lookup table"""
30
      numErrors = 0
      looktable = genSteaneLookupTable()
32
      for _ in range(nr):
33
          actual_error = genSteaneError(per)
34
          syndrome = steaneH@actual_error %2
          predictions = looktable[tuple(syndrome)]
36
          pred = findMinWeight(predictions)
37
          pred_L_flips = logicals@pred %2
38
          actual_L_flips = logicals@actual_error %2
39
          if not array_equal(actual_L_flips, pred_L_flips):
40
               numErrors += 1
41
      return numErrors/nr
42
43
44 def makeHgpPcm(Hx, Hz)->ndarray:
45
      Makes a full parity check matrix including x and z
      checks for a hypergraph product code of two other codes
47
48
      Hx = hstack((Hx, zeros(Hx.shape, dtype=uint8)))
49
      Hz = hstack((zeros(Hz.shape, dtype=uint8), Hz))
      H = vstack((Hx, Hz))
51
52
      return H
53
54 def main():
      steanelogicals = \
```

```
array([\
56
               [1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
57
               [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1]])
58
      steaneH = array([[1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1],
59
                        [0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1],
60
                        [0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1]])
61
      pers = linspace(2*10**(-6), 2*10**(-5), 20)
62
      lers = []
63
      nr = 10000
64
      H = makeHgpPcm(steaneH, steaneH)
      for per in pers:
66
          print(f"per={per}")
67
          lers.append(\
68
               steaneLerCalc(H, nr, per, steanelogicals))
69
      lers = array(lers)
70
      std_err = (lers*(1-lers)/nr)**0.5
71
      errorbar(pers, lers, yerr=std_err)
72
      plot(pers,pers)
73
      xlabel("Physical error rate")
74
      ylabel("Logical error rate")
75
      savefig("img/figures/steaneLookupThreshold.png")
78 if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```