

Locality of Small-Set-Flip Decoder.

David Ponnarovsky

July 2, 2025

Introduction

Last Time:

- ▶ An almost $\mathbf{QNC}_1 = \text{noisy-}\mathbf{QNC}_1$.
- ▶ Original fault tolerance gives us way to prepare 'memmory'.

Today:

- ▶ More about Noise, p -local noise $\leftrightarrow^1 (p', q')$ -initial error per correction cycle.
- ▶ Formal statement, of the decoding theroem.
- ▶ A bit on the locality of the algorithm.

TAKEAWAYS:

- ▶ More about codes.
- ▶ First view to fault tolerance.
- ▶ Nice open problems.

¹When using the LDPC codes

Nosiy Circuit.



(p', q) -Simplified Model.

Definition

Local Stochastic Noise. Denote by E the subset of faulty qubits. We say that an error model behave according to the local stochastic noise, if:

$$\Pr[|E| = t] \leq O(p^t)$$

For some $p \in (0, 1)$. For example, depolarizing channel is local stochastic noise.

Definition

Let $p', q \in (0, 1)$ and let C be an error correction code, The decoding problem at the (p', q) -**Simplified Model**, is defined to find (a correction to) error E , promised it subjected to local stochastic noise p , given syndrom measurement subjected to local stochastic noise q .

(p', q) -Simplified Model.

Claim.

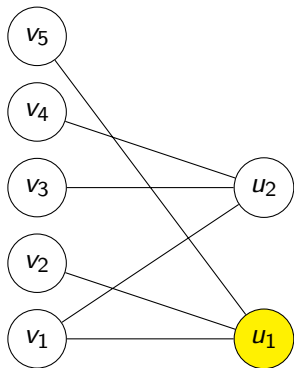
Assume that C is an LDPC code, and let D be an decoding algorithm which first measure the syndorm, then for any $p \in (0, 1)$ there is $p', q \in (0, 1)$ (functions of p , and the 'locality'² of C) such that the running of D according to the standrart p -noise, is equivalence to it's running when subjected to (p', q) -Simplified Model. [gottesman2014]

3

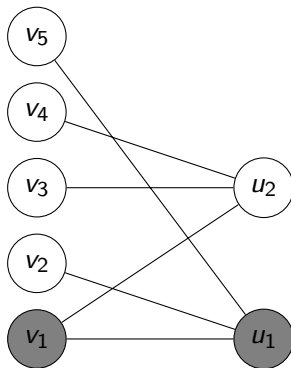
²degree in the Tannner graph of C .

³Riminder to David!!, draw an example.

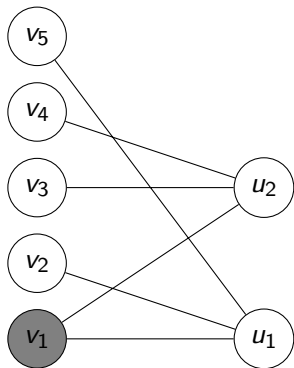
standart model, $t = 0$



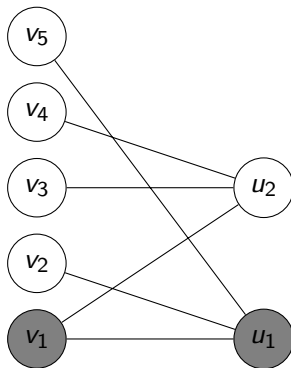
(p', q) -model



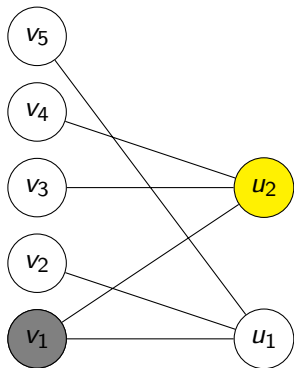
standart model, $t = 1$



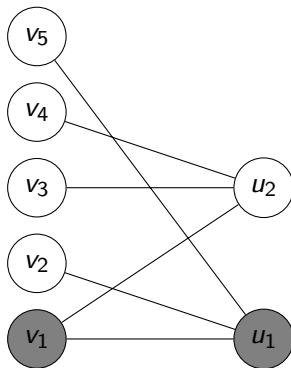
(p', q) -model



standart model, $t = 2$



(p', q) -model



Reducing error formal statement.

Theorem 5.30. *We use the notations of Section 5.1.1.*

There exist two non-zero constants $p_1, p_2 > 0$ such that the following holds. Suppose the pair (E, D) satisfies a local stochastic noise model with parameter $(p_{\text{phys}}, p_{\text{synd}})$ where $p_{\text{phys}} < p_1$ and $p_{\text{synd}} < p_2$. If we run Algorithm 4 with f_0 steps on the input (E, D) , then there exists a random variable $E_{\text{ls}} \subseteq V_Q$ with a local stochastic distribution with parameter $p_{\text{ls}} = p_1^c$ and such that:

$$\mathbb{P}\left[E_{\text{ls}} \text{ and } E \oplus \hat{E} \text{ are not equivalent}\right] \leq e^{-\Theta(\sqrt{N})}.$$


Figure: Formal statement, error reduction using the Small-set-flip parallel decoder.

Decoder. (Simplified version).

Look for a 'small set' F of qubits such that:

1. F contained in the support of some X -type stabilizer.
2. F touched many unsatisfied Z -type stabilizer. Or, flipping F , decrease the Z -type syndrome.

For parallelizing the decoder, we color the check nodes in the Tanner graph such that no two checks of the same color share a bit.⁴ Then, in the i th iteration, we look in parallel over all X -type stabilizers at the i th color.

⁴Since the code is LDPC, we can do it with $O(1)$ colors. 

Locality.

D

denote by $U = E \cup F_1 \cup F_2, \dots, F_m$ the execution support, the combination of faulty qubits and the qubits flipped by the decoder.

F

for any set $K \subset U$ with $\Gamma_Q(K) \cap \Gamma_Q(U/K) = \emptyset$ there is a valid execution of the Decoder, on the input $(E \cap K, D \cap \Gamma_X(K))$ whose output is $\hat{E} \cap K$ and whose support is $U \cap K$.

5

⁵An execution might change upon the order of the small set being chosen, yet notice that for small errors, the algorithm is always correct.

Lemma 5.18 (α -percolation, [38]). *We use the notations of Section 5.1.1.*

Let $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ then there exists a threshold $p_{\text{th}} = p_{\text{th}}(\alpha) > 0$ such that for any $t \in \mathbb{N}^$, for any $p_{\text{phys}} < p_{\text{th}}$ and for any $p_{\text{synd}} < p_{\text{th}}$ the following holds. If an error (E, D) is chosen according to a local stochastic noise with parameter $(p_{\text{phys}}, p_{\text{synd}})$ then:*

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\text{MaxConn}_{\alpha}(E \cup D) \geq t\right] \leq C|\mathcal{V}| \left(\frac{\max(p_{\text{phys}}, p_{\text{synd}})}{p_{\text{th}}}\right)^{\alpha t},$$

where $C = C(p, \alpha)$ is independent of t .

Figure: Formal statement, error reduction using the Small-set-flip parallel decoder.

The Decoding Algorithm.

First notice that the repetition code could be defined as Tanner code, for any Δ -regular graph G and local code C_0 which is the repetition over Δ bits.

In particular G could be a bipartite expander graph. Denote the right and the left vertices subsets by V^- and V^+ .

Decoding:

For $\Omega(\log n)$ iterations, do:

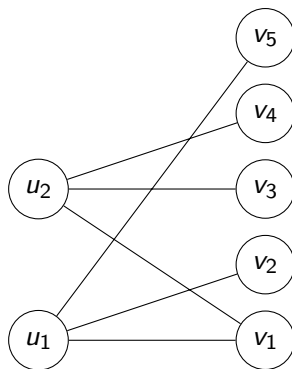
1. In every even iteration, all the vertices in V^+ 'correct' their local view based on the majority.
2. In every odd iteration, all the vertices in V^- 'correct' their local view based on the majority.

For having a constant depth error reduction procedure, it's enough to run the decoding above for two iterations.

The Decoding Algorithm.

Data: $x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$

```
1 for  $v \in V^+$  do
2    $x'_v \leftarrow$ 
      $\arg \min \{y \in C_0 : |y + x|_v|\}$ 
3 end
4 for  $v \in V^-$  do
5    $x'_v \leftarrow$ 
      $\arg \min \{y \in C_0 : |y + x|_v|\}$ 
6 end
7 return  $x$ 
```



The Decoding Algorithm.

Proof.

Denote by $S^{(0)} \subset V^+$ and $T^{(0)} \subset V^-$ the subsets of left and right vertices adjacent to the error. And denote by $T^{(1)} \subset T^{(0)}$ the right vertices such any of them is connect by at least $\frac{1}{2}\Delta$ edges to vertices at $S^{(0)}$.

Note that that any vertex in $V^- / T^{(1)}$ has on his local view less than $\frac{1}{2}\Delta$ faulty bits, So it corrects into his 'right' (codeword in C_0) local view in the first right correction round.

Therefore after the right correction round the error is set only on $T^{(1)}$'s neighbourhood, namely at size at most $\Delta|T^{(1)}|$. We will show:

$$\Delta|T^{(1)}| \leq \text{constant} \cdot |e|$$

Using the expansion property we get an upper bound on $T^{(1)}$ size:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{2}\Delta|T^{(1)}| &\leq \Delta \frac{|T^{(1)}||S^{(0)}|}{n} + \lambda\sqrt{|T^{(1)}||S^{(0)}|} \\ \left(\frac{1}{2}\Delta - \frac{|S^{(0)}|}{n}\Delta\right)|T^{(1)}| &\leq \lambda\sqrt{|T^{(1)}||S^{(0)}|} \\ \Delta^2|T^{(1)}| &\leq \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{|S^{(0)}|}{n}\right)^{-2} \lambda^2|S^{(0)}|\end{aligned}$$

Since any left vertex adjoins to at least single faulty bit we have that $|S^{(0)}| \leq |e|$. Combining with the inequality above we get:




$$\Delta|T^{(1)}| \leq \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{|e|}{n}\right)^{-2} \lambda^2 \frac{|e|}{\Delta}$$

Hence for $|e|/n \leq \beta = \frac{1}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{2\lambda^2}{\Delta}}$ it holds that $\Delta|T^{(1)}| \leq \frac{1}{2}|e|$. ⁶

⁶Reminder for David!!! Explain why $\lambda^2/\Delta \geq 1$, and to describe how to correct the proof.

The Franch's Construction.

Tillich and Zemor 2014 Leverrier, Tillich, and Zemor 2015
GrosPELLIER 2019

-  Tillich, Jean-Pierre and Gilles Zemor (Feb. 2014). “Quantum LDPC Codes With Positive Rate and Minimum Distance Proportional to the Square Root of the Blocklength”. In: *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory* 60.2, pp. 1193–1202. DOI: 10.1109/tit.2013.2292061. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1109%2Ftit.2013.2292061>.
-  Leverrier, Anthony, Jean-Pierre Tillich, and Gilles Zemor (Oct. 2015). “Quantum Expander Codes”. In: *2015 IEEE 56th Annual Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science*. IEEE. DOI: 10.1109/focs.2015.55. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1109%2Ffocs.2015.55>.
-  GrosPELLIER, Antoine (Nov. 2019). “Constant time decoding of quantum expander codes and application to fault-tolerant quantum computation”. *Theses. Sorbonne Université*. URL: <https://theses.hal.science/tel-03364419>.

The Franch's Construction.

Franch gadgets.

- ▶ Encoded states and magic preparation (via original fault tolerance).
- ▶ Hypergraph product code. (Quantum Expander Codes).
 $[[n, \Theta(n), \Theta(\sqrt{n})]]$.

Theorem ⁷

There exists a threshold p_0 such that the following holds. Let $p < p_0$, let $\delta > 0$ and let D be a circuit with m qubits, with T time steps and $|D|$ locations. We assume that the output of D is a quantum state $|\psi\rangle$.

Then there exists another circuit D' whose output is $|\psi\rangle$ and such that when D' is subjected to a local noise model with parameter p , there exists a \mathcal{N} a local stochastic noise on the qubits of $|\psi\rangle$ with parameters $p' = c \cdot p$ such that:

$$\Pr[\text{output of } D' \text{ is not } \mathcal{N}(|\psi\rangle)] \leq \delta$$

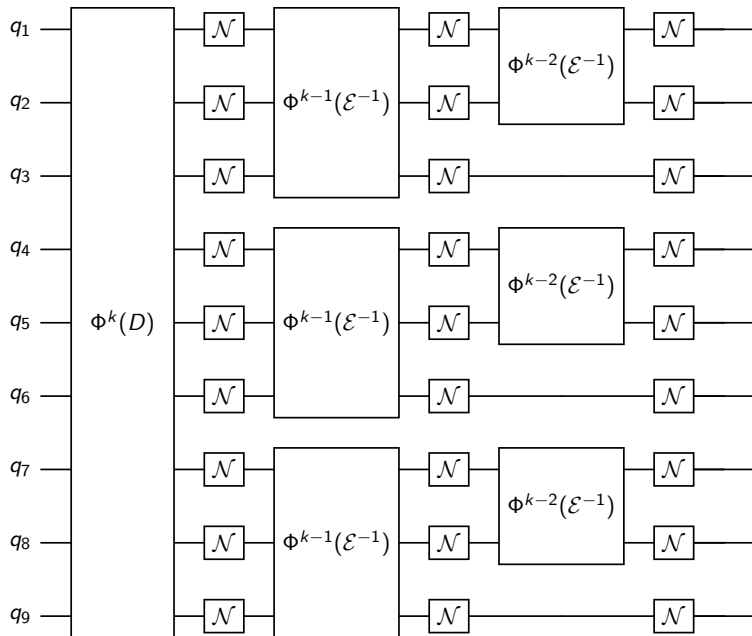
In addition D' has m' qubits and T' time steps where:

$$m' = m \text{ polylog } (|D|/\delta)$$

$$T' = T \text{ polylog } (|D|/\delta)$$

⁷Theorem 6.4 in Grossepi  ier 2019

Proof Sketch.



Proof Sketch.

The probability that the i th bit will absorb an error at the end is bounded by:

$$(cp)^{2^{k-1}} + (cp)^{2^{k-2}} + \dots (cp)^{2^{k-3}} + \dots + cp \leq c_2 p$$

So we prepared the state $|\psi\rangle$, subjected to local noise (depolarizing noise) at rate $c_2 p$.

Corollary

We can assume that we have an access to polynomially number of magic states encoded in whatever code we like. Moreover, denote by n the complexity parameter (input length). if the encoding gate (of the desired code) is D and it's depth is T , such that

$$T \text{polylog}(|D|) = O(\log n)$$

then the preparation of the magic is in noisy-QNC₁.

Hypergraph Product Code.

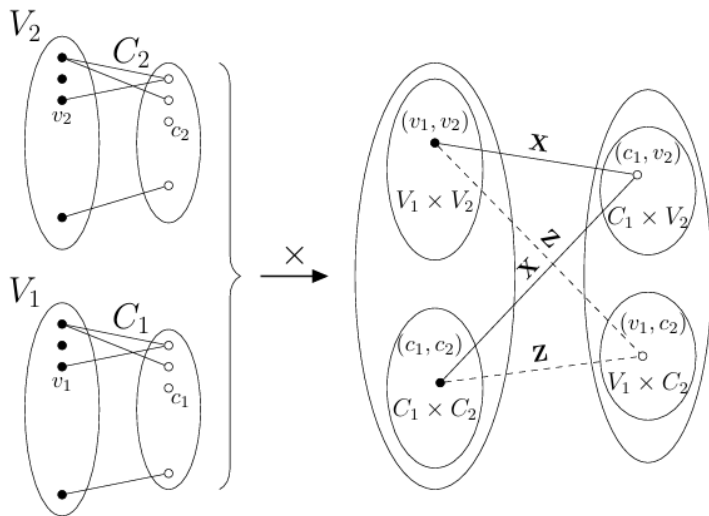


Figure: Hypergraph Product code Tanner graph / stabilizers.

Hypergraph Product Code.

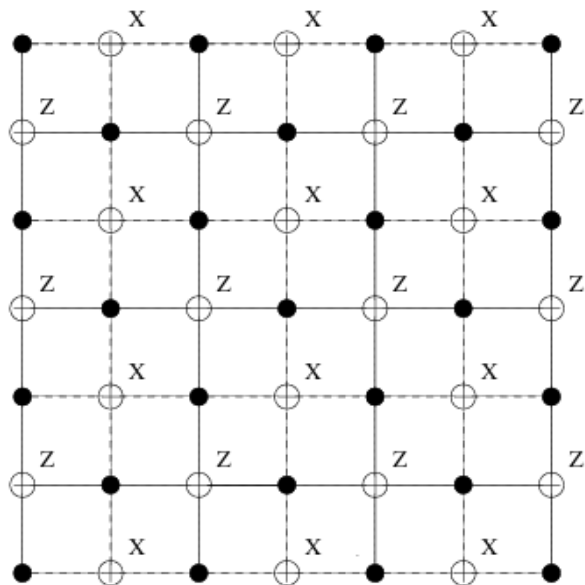


Figure: The Toric code can be thought of as the hypergraph product

Error reduction in the Quantum Expander Code.

Quantum Expander Code.

Consider C_1, C_2 (classical) expanders codes⁸. Consider the Hypergraph code defined by them.

Proof Idea

- ▶ First, proving that for adversarial errors with weight at most $\alpha\sqrt{n}$, the error can be reduced by a constant factor. The proof uses the expansion in classical codes.
- ▶ Second, showing that with probability $1 - \Theta(e^{-\sqrt{n}})$, the error can be decomposed into disjoint errors, each with a size of at most $\alpha\sqrt{n}$.

⁸such C_1^\perp, C_2^\perp also have a good distance.

Fault Tolerance at Constant Space Overhead.

Start.

We prepare \sqrt{n} blocks at length $\Theta(\sqrt{n})$ each, we do it sequentially, so the preparation requires $\Theta(\sqrt{n} \text{polylog } n)$ ancillas.

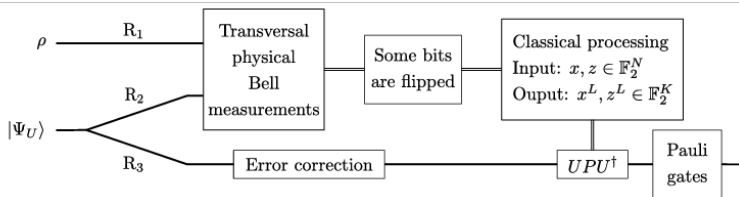
Error reduction.

Constantly apply rounds of error reduction.

Simulate a gate.

- ▶ If the gate is a logical Pauli, we apply it in a transversal manner.
- ▶ We prepare the magic state suite for the gate and simulate the gate using the magic procedure - Entangle the states (through transversal CNOT), measure and decode the measurement. Then applying a correction which might be either transversal logical Pauli (if the gate were Clifford) or logical Clifford (if the gate were T). For the second we will have to repeat on the procedure.

Fault Tolerance at Constant Space Overhead.



An almost $\mathbf{QNC}_1 = \text{noisy-}\mathbf{QNC}_1$

Encode each qubit by expander code at length $\Theta(\log^{10}(n))$.
Prepare $2|D|$ magic states from each type in the beginning.

Where did we cheat?

Decide what correction to apply UPU^\dagger given the measurement is not a trivial task. In particular, it isn't clear if it can be done in constant depth.

Open Problems.

- ▶ Is there a non-trivial lower bound for deciding UPU^\dagger ?
- ▶ Implementing logical gates natively without magic states at a constant depth.

Sheets.

1. The Tanner graph of the classical code C_X used to correct X -type errors is the subgraph of G_Q induced by the $V \times V \cup C \times C$ qubits and the set of Z -type generators.