Hardness of Computing Fault Tolerance.

David Ponarovsky

June 22, 2025

Introduction

- ► Noisy Circuits.
- ► Importance and relevance
- Objectives of the presentation

Nosiy Circuit.



Nosiy Circuit.

Definition

p- Depolarizing Channel. The qubit depolarizing channel with parameter $p \in [0,1]$ is the quantum channel \mathcal{D}_p defined by:

$$\mathcal{D}_{p}(\rho) = (1-p)\rho + p \cdot \frac{l}{2}$$

where ρ is a single-qubit density matrix and I is the identity matrix.

Definition

p-Noisy Circuit. Given a circuit C (regardless of the model), its p-noisy version \tilde{C} is the circuit obtained by alternately taking layers from C and then passing each (qu)bit through a p-Depolarizing channel.

Threshoold Theorem.

Theorem (Threshoold Theorem. Informal.)

There is a universal $p_{th} \in (0,1)$ such that for any $p < p_{th}$, any circuit in BQP can be simulated by a p-noisy BQP circuit. The simulating circuit has a depth that is at most poly log n times the original depth.

Definition

Definition (NC - Nick's Class)

 \mathbf{NC}_i is the class of decision problems solvable by a uniform family of Boolean circuits, with polynomial size, depth $O(\log^i(n))$, and fan-in 2.

Definition (QNC)

The class of decision problems solvable by polylogarithmic-depth, and finate fan out/in quantum circuits with bounded probability of error. Similarly to \mathbf{NC}_i , \mathbf{QNC}_i is the class where the decisdes the circuits have $\log^i(n)$ depth.

Definition (QNC_G)

For a fixing finate fan in/out gateset G, the class with deciding circuits composed only for gates in G and at depath at most polylogaritmic. And in similar to \mathbf{QNC}_i , $\mathbf{QNC}_{G,i}$ is the restirction to circuits with depath at most $\log^i(n)$.

Pippenger's Construction.

Encode each bit with the repetition code $0 \mapsto 0^m$, $1 \mapsto 1^m$. Now observe that any logical operation, without decoding, can be made in O(1) depth.

For example, $OR(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ can be computed by applying in parallel $OR(x_i, y_i)$ for each i.

The 'Decoding' trick.

Instead of completely decoding, we would apply only a single step of partial decoding. We assume that in each code block the bits are partitioned into random disjoint triples, and we will apply a local correction to each of the triples by majority.

Claim

There are constants $\alpha, \eta \in (0,1)$ such that for any bit string x at a distance $\leq \alpha n$ from the code (Repetition Code), one cycle of local correction on x yields x' such that:

$$d(x',C) \leq d(x,C)$$

The 'Decoding' trick.

Suppose that a bit obserb a bit flip with probability p. So in expectation we expect that entire bolck at length n will absorb pn flips.

$$\eta (\beta + p) n \leq \beta n$$

$$\beta \geq \frac{p}{1 - \eta}$$

From now on, we will assume that the graphs are bipartite and we will denote the right and the left vertices by V^- and V^+ . Notice that such expanders near Ramanujan exist, see for example [LZ22]. The partition into two subsets enable us to come with a simple efficient decoder.

Expanders code are known for having good decoders, beneath, in $\ref{eq:condition}$, we introduce a procedure to reduce an error. In overall, we alternately let to the right and then the left vertices to correct their own local view. In Theorem 7 we prove that when the applied error has size at most βn , for some constant β then the error's weight reduced by $\frac{1}{2}$. Repeating over the procedure $\Theta(\log(n))$ times completely correct the error.

We will call to the first stage, when only the right vertices suggest correction the right round, and to the second stage a left round. For the whole procedure, we will call a single correction round.

```
Data: x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n
  Result:
           arg min \{ y \in C : |y + x| \}
           if d(y, C) <
1 for v \in V^+ do
u_2
3 end
4 for v \in V^- do
5 x'_v \leftarrow  arg min \{y \in C_0 : |y + x|_v|\}
                                        u_1
6 end
                                                 (a) location.
7 return x
```

Lemma

If the error is at wight less than βn then a single round of the majority reduce the error by at least constant fraction.

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 $\frac{1}{2}\delta_0\Delta$ edges to vertices at $S^{(0)}$.

Note that that any vertex in $V^-/T^{(1)}$ has on his local view less than $\frac{1}{2}\delta_0\Delta$ faulty bits, So it corrects into his right 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 that this amount is strictly lower by a constant factor than |e|.

First, let's use the expansion property (??) for getting an upper bound on $\mathcal{T}^{(1)}$ size:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2}\delta_0 \Delta |T^{(1)}| &\leq \Delta \frac{|T^{(1)}||S^{(0)}|}{n} + \lambda \sqrt{|T^{(1)}||S^{(0)}|} \\ \left(\frac{1}{2}\delta_0 \Delta - \frac{|S^{(0)}|}{n}\Delta\right) |T^{(1)}| &\leq \lambda \sqrt{|T^{(1)}||S^{(0)}|} \\ |T^{(1)}| &\leq \left(\frac{1}{2}\delta_0 \Delta - \frac{|S^{(0)}|}{n}\Delta\right)^{-2} \lambda^2 |S^{(0)}| \end{aligned}$$

Since any left vertex adjoins to at most Δ faulty bits we have that $\Delta |S^{(0)}| \leq |e|$. Combing with the inequality above we get:

$$|\Delta|T^{(1)}| \leq \left(\frac{1}{2}\delta_0\Delta - \frac{|e|}{n}\right)^{-2}\lambda^2|e|$$

Hence for $|e|/n \le \beta = \frac{1}{2}\delta_0\Delta - \sqrt{2\lambda}$ it holds that $\Delta|\mathcal{T}^{(1)}| \le \frac{1}{2}|e|$. Namely the error is reduced by half.

The Franch's Construction.

```
[TZ14] [LTZ15] [Gro19]
```

- [TZ14] Jean-Pierre Tillich and Gilles Zemor. "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 (Feb. 2014), pp. 1193–1202. DOI: 10.1109/tit.2013.2292061. URL: https://doi.org/10.1109%2Ftit.2013.2292061.
- [LTZ15] Anthony Leverrier, Jean-Pierre Tillich, and Gilles Zemor. "Quantum Expander Codes". In: 2015 IEEE 56th Annual Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science. IEEE, Oct. 2015. DOI: 10.1109/focs.2015.55. URL: https://doi.org/10.1109%2Ffocs.2015.55.
- [Gro19] Antoine Grospellier. "Constant time decoding of quantum expander codes and application to fault-tolerant quantum computation". Theses. Sorbonne Université, Nov. 2019. URL:



Figure: Caption for the image



Figure: Caption for the image

Error reduction in the Quantum Expander Code.

Quantum Expander Code.

Consider C_1 , C_2 (classical) expanders codes¹. Consider the Hypergraph code defined by them.

First

Error Reducing Stage. One shows that for any error with weight at most $\alpha\sqrt{n}$, the error can be reduced. The proof uses the expansion in the classical codes.

Second

Then, one shows that with probability $1 - \Theta(e^{-\sqrt{n}})$, the error can be decomposed into disjoint errors, each with size at most $\alpha \sqrt{n}$.



¹such C_1^{\perp} , C_2^{\perp} also have a good distance.



Figure: Caption for the image

Disjointness.