

Another reason that makes finding good qunantum LDPCs a difficult task.

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October 2, 2023

Claim 0.1. *Let C_X/C_Z^\perp be a CSS qLDPC code with non-constant distance. Denote by H_X, H_Z their parity check matrices and by C'_Z, H'_Z the code and the parity check matrix obtained by removing one arbitrary check from H_Z . Then $C_X/C_Z'^\perp$ is a CSS pair with constant distance.*

Proof. First, notice that any of the rows of H'_Z commute with the rows of H_X , so we definitely obtain a CSS code with higher rate. Second, any codeword of the quantum code $C_X/C_Z'^\perp$ has the form

$$|\mathbf{x}\rangle = \sum_{z \in C_Z'^\perp} |x + z\rangle$$

Using the fact that the generator matrix of the dual of any binary code is the transposed parity check matrix of it, the above becomes:

$$|\mathbf{x}\rangle = \sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_2^s} |x + H_Z^\top z\rangle$$

Observe that because $C_X/C_Z^\perp \subset C_X/C_Z'^\perp$, we have also that the following state is in $C_X/C_Z'^\perp$:

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{x}'\rangle &= \sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_2^{s+1}} |x + H_Z^\top z\rangle \\ &= \sum_{w \in \mathbb{F}_2} \sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_2^s} |x + H_Z^\top z + h'w\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\mathbf{x}\rangle + |\mathbf{x} + h'\rangle) \end{aligned}$$

Where h' is the check that was removed from H_Z to obtain C'_Z . Now let us give a quantum circuit that acts non-trivially on no more than a constant number of qubits and with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ transforms $|\mathbf{x}\rangle$ to $|\mathbf{x}'\rangle$. So first we prepare an ancilla in the $|+\rangle$ state, then controlled on its value we add h' . After that, we rotate back the ancilla by applying H (Hadamard) again and measuring.

With probability $\frac{1}{2}$ we measure $|0\rangle$ and the remaining qubits hold the state $|\mathbf{x}'\rangle$. As h' is also a check of the LDPC code C_Z , it has a constant weight and thus all the circuit touches a constant number of qubits. Therefore, the operator which transforms $|\mathbf{x}\rangle$ into $|\mathbf{x}'\rangle$ is supported only on Paulis with constant degree. \square