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Quantum Codes from Classical Codes

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Overview

- qubits and qudits
- quantum codes (QECC)
 - CSS codes
 - stabilizer codes
- entanglement assisted quantum codes (EAQECC)
 - general code constructions
 - varying the hull dimension
 - propagation rules
- summary & outlook

Quantum Information

Quantum-bit (qubit)

basis states:

$$\text{"0"} \hat{=} |0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^2, \quad \text{"1"} \hat{=} |1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^2$$

general state:

$$|q\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle \quad \text{where } \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}, |\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$$

measurement (read-out):

result "0" with probability $|\alpha|^2$

result "1" with probability $|\beta|^2$

Quantum Information

Quantum register

basis states:

$$|b_1\rangle \otimes \dots \otimes |b_n\rangle =: |b_1 \dots b_n\rangle = |\mathbf{b}\rangle \quad \text{where } b_i \in \{0, 1\}$$

general state:

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \{0,1\}^n} c_{\mathbf{x}} |\mathbf{x}\rangle \quad \text{where } \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \{0,1\}^n} |c_{\mathbf{x}}|^2 = 1$$

→ normalized vector in $(\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes n} \cong \mathbb{C}^{2^n}$

Qudits

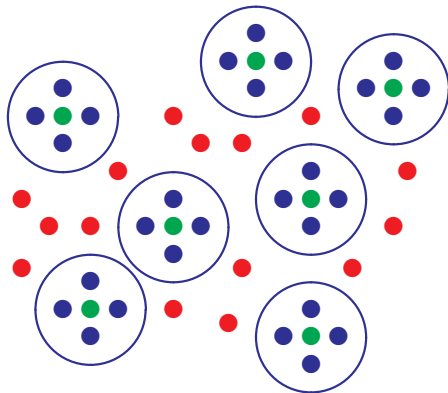
generalization to $(\mathbb{C}^q)^{\otimes n}$: basis states $|\mathbf{b}\rangle$ labelled by vectors $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$

⇒ group algebra $\mathbb{C}[\mathbb{F}_q^n]$

The Basic Idea of QECC

Classical Codes

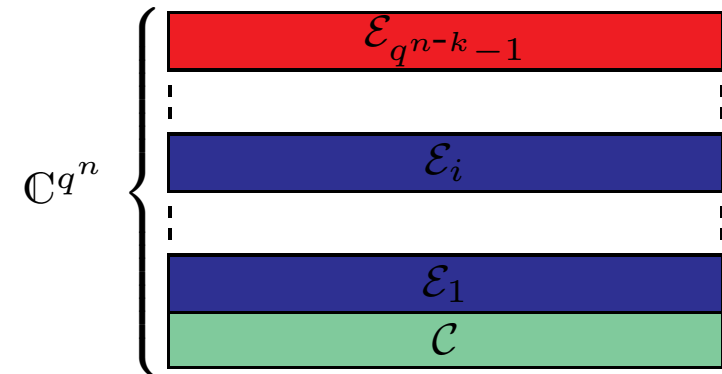
Partition of the set of all words of length n over an alphabet of size q .



- codewords
- errors of bounded weight
- other errors

Quantum Codes

Orthogonal decomposition of the vector space $\mathcal{H}^{\otimes n}$, where $\mathcal{H} \cong \mathbb{C}^q$.



$$\mathcal{H}^{\otimes n} = \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{E}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{E}_{q^{n-k}-1}$$

$$\text{encoding: } |\mathbf{x}\rangle \mapsto U_{\text{enc}}(|\mathbf{x}\rangle \otimes |0\rangle)$$

Quantum Errors

Bit-flip error:

- Interchanges $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$. Corresponds to “classical” bit error.

- Given by NOT gate $X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Phase-flip error:

- Inverts the **relative** phase of $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$. Has no classical analogue!

- Given by the matrix $Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

Combination:

- Combining bit-flip and phase-flip gives $Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = XZ$.

Error Basis

Pauli Matrices

$$\sigma_x := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_y := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_z := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad I := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- vector space basis of all 2×2 matrices
- unitary matrices which generate a *finite* group

Error Basis for many Qubits/Qudits

\mathcal{E} error basis for subsystem of dimension d with $I \in \mathcal{E}$

$\implies \mathcal{E}^{\otimes n}$ error basis with elements

$$E := E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_n, \quad E_i \in \mathcal{E}$$

weight of E : number of factors $E_i \neq I$

Quantum Depolarizing Channel

- analogue of the binary symmetric channel (BSC) and uniform symmetric channel (USC)
- either transmits a quantum state faithfully or replaces it with a completely random (maximally mixed) state

$$\rho \mapsto (1 - p)\rho + p\mathbb{1} = (1 - p)\rho + \frac{p}{d^2} \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} E\rho E^\dagger,$$

where \mathcal{E} is (nice) unitary error basis

- after *discretisation*, each error operator E different from identity is equally likely

other quantum channels:

dephasing channel, amplitude damping channel, asymmetric channels

warning: A quantum channel implies a discrete channel, not the other way round.

Quantum Error-Correcting Codes (QECC)

- **subspace** \mathcal{C} of a complex vector space $\mathcal{H} \cong \mathbb{C}^N$
usually: $\mathcal{H} \cong \mathbb{C}^q \otimes \mathbb{C}^q \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbb{C}^q =: (\mathbb{C}^q)^{\otimes n}$ “ n qudits”
- **errors:** described by linear transformations acting non-trivially on some of the subsystems (local errors)
- **notation:** $\boxed{\mathcal{C} = ((n, K, d))_q}$ or $\boxed{\mathcal{C} = \llbracket n, k, d \rrbracket_q}$
 K -dimensional or q^k -dimensional subspace \mathcal{C} of $(\mathbb{C}^q)^{\otimes n} \cong \mathbb{C}^{q^n}$
- **minimum distance** d :
 - detection of all errors acting nontrivially on $d - 1$ subsystems
 - correction of all errors acting on $\lfloor (d - 1)/2 \rfloor$ subsystems
 - correction of all erasures affecting up to $d - 1$ subsystems
[Grassl, Beth, & Pellizzari, *Codes for the Quantum Erasure Channel*, PRA **56**, pp. 33–38 (1997)]

Bit-flips and Phase-flips

Let $C \leq \mathbb{F}_2^n$ be a linear code. Then the image of the state

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{|C|}} \sum_{c \in C} |c\rangle$$

under first a phase-flip $z \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$ and then a bit-flip $x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$ is given by

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{|C|}} \sum_{c \in C} (-1)^{z \cdot c} |c + x\rangle.$$

Hadamard transform $H \otimes \dots \otimes H$ maps this to

$$\frac{(-1)^{x \cdot z}}{\sqrt{|C^\perp|}} \sum_{b \in C^\perp} (-1)^{x \cdot b} |b + z\rangle$$

CSS Codes

Introduced by R. Calderbank, P. Shor, and A. Steane

[Calderbank & Shor PRA, **54**, 1098–1105, 1996]

[Steane, PRL **77**, 793–797, 1996]

Construction: Let $C_1 = [n, k_1, d_1]_q$ and $C_2 = [n, k_2, d_2]_q$ be classical linear codes with $C_2^\perp \leq C_1$. Let $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_K\}$ be representatives for the cosets C_1/C_2^\perp . Define quantum states

$$|\mathbf{x}_i + C_2^\perp\rangle := \frac{1}{\sqrt{|C_2^\perp|}} \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in C_2^\perp} |\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{y}\rangle$$

Theorem: Then the vector space \mathcal{C} spanned by these states is a quantum code with parameters $[[n, k_1 + k_2 - n, d]]_q$ where

$$d \geq \min \{ \text{wgt}(C_1 \setminus C_2^\perp), \text{wgt}(C_2 \setminus C_1^\perp) \} \geq \min(d_1, d_2).$$

($d = \min(d_1, d_2)$ when $C_2^\perp = C_1$)

CSS Codes — how they work

Basis states:

$$|\mathbf{x}_i + C_2^\perp\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|C_2^\perp|}} \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in C_2^\perp} |\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{y}\rangle$$

Suppose a **bit-flip** error \mathbf{b} happens to $|\mathbf{x}_i + C_2^\perp\rangle$:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{|C_2^\perp|}} \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in C_2^\perp} |\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{b}\rangle$$

Now, we introduce an ancilla register initialized in $|0\rangle$ and compute the syndrome.

CSS Codes — how they work

Let H_1 be the parity check matrix of C_1 , i. e., $\mathbf{x}H_1^t = 0$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in C_1$.

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{|C_2^\perp|}} \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in C_2^\perp} |\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{b}\rangle |(\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{b})H_1^t\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|C_2^\perp|}} \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in C_2^\perp} |\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{b}\rangle |\mathbf{b}H_1^t\rangle$$

measure the ancilla to obtain $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{b}H_1^t$

use this to correct the error by a conditional operation which flips the bits in \mathbf{b}

Phase-flips: Suppose we have the state

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{|C_2^\perp|}} \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in C_2^\perp} (-1)^{(\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{y}) \cdot \mathbf{z}} |\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{y}\rangle$$

$H^{\otimes n}$ yields a superposition over a coset of C_2 which has a bit-flip.

Correct it as before (with a parity check matrix for C_2).

independent correction of bit-/phase flips \implies correction of combinations

Quantum Stabilizer Codes

[Gottesman, PRA **54** (1996); Calderbank, Rains, Shor, & Sloane, IEEE-TIT **44** (1998)]

Basic Idea

Decomposition of the complex vector space into eigenspaces of operators.

Error Basis for Qudits

[A. Ashikhmin & E. Knill, Nonbinary quantum stabilizer codes, IEEE-TIT **47** (2001)]

$$\mathcal{E} = \{X^\alpha Z^\beta : \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}_q\},$$

where (you may think of $\mathbb{C}^q \cong \mathbb{C}[\mathbb{F}_q]$)

$$X^\alpha = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q} |x + \alpha\rangle\langle x| \quad \text{for } \alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q$$

and

$$Z^\beta = \sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_q} \omega^{\text{Tr}(\beta z)} |z\rangle\langle z| \quad \text{for } \beta \in \mathbb{F}_q \quad (\omega = \omega_p = \exp(2\pi i/p))$$

Stabilizer Codes

common eigenspace of an Abelian subgroup \mathcal{S} of the group \mathcal{G}_n with elements

$$\omega^\gamma (X^{\alpha_1} Z^{\beta_1}) \otimes (X^{\alpha_2} Z^{\beta_2}) \otimes \dots \otimes (X^{\alpha_n} Z^{\beta_n}) =: \omega^\gamma X^\alpha Z^\beta,$$

where $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$, $\gamma \in \mathbb{F}_p$

quotient group:

$$\overline{\mathcal{G}}_n := \mathcal{G}_n / \langle \omega I \rangle \cong (\mathbb{F}_q \times \mathbb{F}_q)^n \cong \mathbb{F}_q^n \times \mathbb{F}_q^n \quad \text{as additive spaces}$$

\mathcal{S} Abelian subgroup

$$\iff (\alpha, \beta) \star (\alpha', \beta') = 0 \text{ for all } \omega^\gamma (X^\alpha Z^\beta), \omega^{\gamma'} (X^{\alpha'} Z^{\beta'}) \in \mathcal{S},$$

where \star is a symplectic inner product on $\mathbb{F}_q^n \times \mathbb{F}_q^n$

Stabilizer codes correspond to trace symplectic

self-orthogonal codes over $\mathbb{F}_q^n \times \mathbb{F}_q^n$

Trace Symplectic Self-Orthogonal Codes

most general:

additive codes $C \subset \mathbb{F}_q^n \times \mathbb{F}_q^n$ that are self-orthogonal with respect to

$$(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) \star (\mathbf{v}', \mathbf{w}') := \text{Tr}(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}' - \mathbf{v}' \cdot \mathbf{w}) = \text{Tr}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n v_i w'_i - v'_i w_i\right) \quad (1)$$

special cases:

for \mathbb{F}_q -linear codes $C \subset \mathbb{F}_q^n \times \mathbb{F}_q^n$, (1) reduces to the symplectic inner product

$$(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) \star (\mathbf{v}', \mathbf{w}') := \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}' - \mathbf{v}' \cdot \mathbf{w} = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i w'_i - v'_i w_i$$

for \mathbb{F}_{q^2} -linear codes $C \subset \mathbb{F}_{q^2}^n$ (1) reduces to the Hermitian inner product

$$\mathbf{x} \star \mathbf{y} := \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^q y_i \quad (\text{identifying } \mathbb{F}_q \times \mathbb{F}_q \text{ and } \mathbb{F}_{q^2})$$

Quantum Codes from Classical Codes

Hermitian self-orthogonal code

linear code $C = [n, k, d']_{q^2} \leq \mathbb{F}_{q^2}^n$ that is self-orthogonal with respect to the Hermitian inner product

$$\mathbf{x} \star \mathbf{y} := \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^q y_i,$$

i. e., $C \leq C^* = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}^n \mid \forall \mathbf{y} \in C: \mathbf{x} \star \mathbf{y} = 0\}$

Theorem: (Hermitian construction)

Let $C = [n, k, d']_{q^2}$ be a Hermitian self-orthogonal code and let

$$d := \min\{\text{wgt}(\mathbf{c}) : \mathbf{c} \in C^* \setminus C\} \geq d_{\min}(C^*).$$

Then there exists a quantum code $\mathcal{C} = \llbracket n, n - 2k, d \rrbracket_q$. \mathcal{C} is *pure* iff $d = d_{\min}(C^*)$.

[Ketkar et al., *Nonbinary stabilizer codes over finite fields*, IEEE-TIT **52**, pp. 4892–4914 (2006)]

A Connection to Boolean Functions

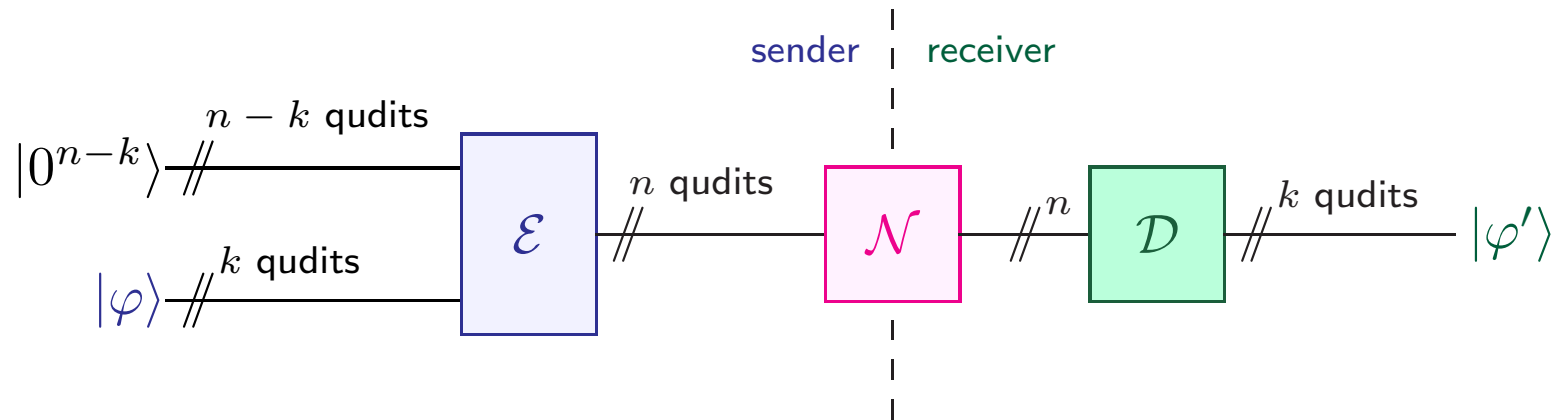
[Aggarwal & Calderbank, IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory, **54**, 1700–1707 (2008)]

- $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=0}^{2^n-1} y_i x_1^{c_1} \cdots x_n^{c_n}$ a Boolean function
- P_1, \dots, P_n distinct, mutually commuting orthogonal projection operators on \mathbb{C}^{2^n} of rank 2^{n-1}
- $P_f = f(P_1, \dots, P_n) = \bigvee_{i=0}^{2^n-1} y_i P_1^{c_1} \cdots P_n^{c_n}$
is a projection operator, where $P \vee P' := P + P' - PP'$ and $P^0 := I - P$
- $\text{rank}(P_f) = |\{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}_2^n : f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 1\}| = \text{wgt}(f) = K$
- conditions on the *complementary set* of f

$$\text{Cset}_f = \left\{ \mathbf{a} : \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} f(\mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{a}) = 0 \right\}$$

imply that P_f projects onto a QECC $((n, K, d))_2$

Quantum Error-Correcting Code (QECC)



Scheme of a communication protocol using a QECC $[[n, k, d]]_q$

quantum Singleton bound: $2d \leq n + 2 - k$

[E. Rains, Nonbinary Quantum Codes, IEEE-TIT **45**, pp. 1827–1832 (1999)]

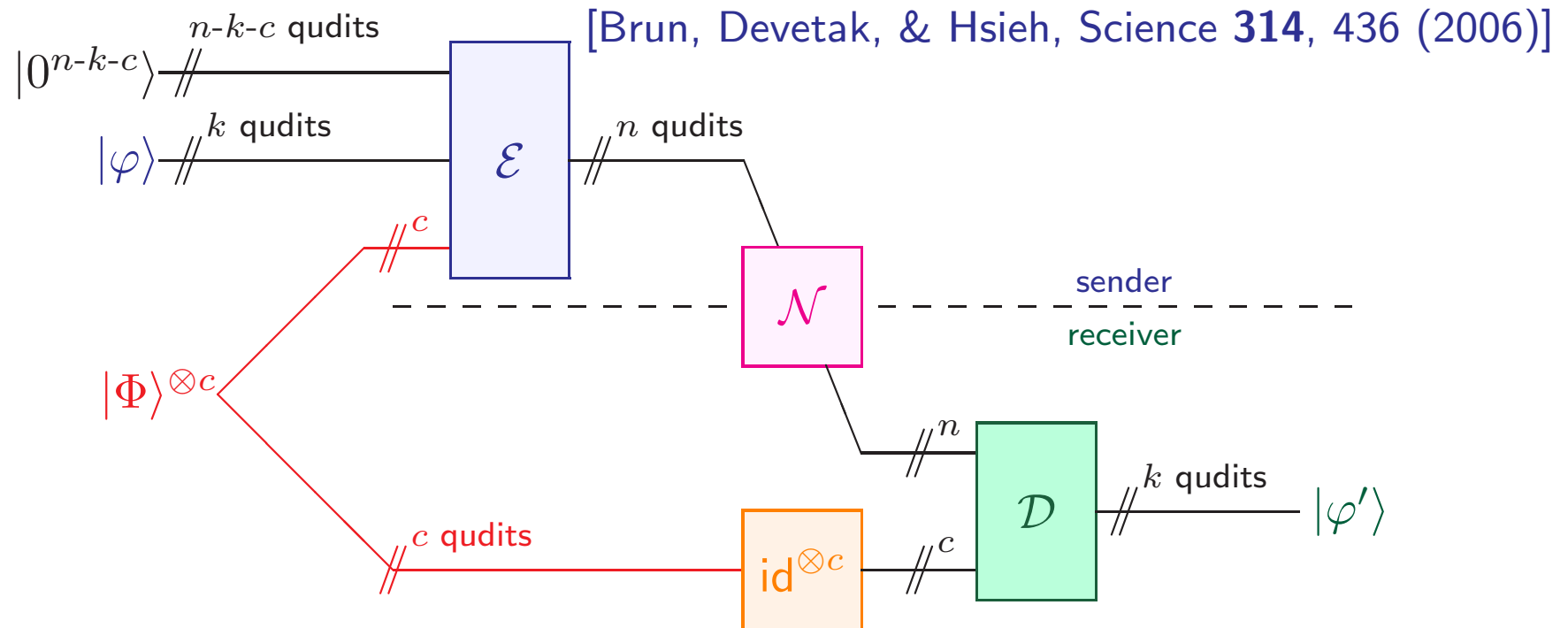
open question:

For which n, k do quantum MDS codes exist?

QMDS conjecture:

$n \leq q^2 + 1$ for $d > 2$ ($n \leq q^2 + 2$ in some cases)

Entanglement-Assisted QECC



Communication scheme using an entanglement-assisted QECC $\mathcal{C} = \llbracket n, k, d; c \rrbracket_q$

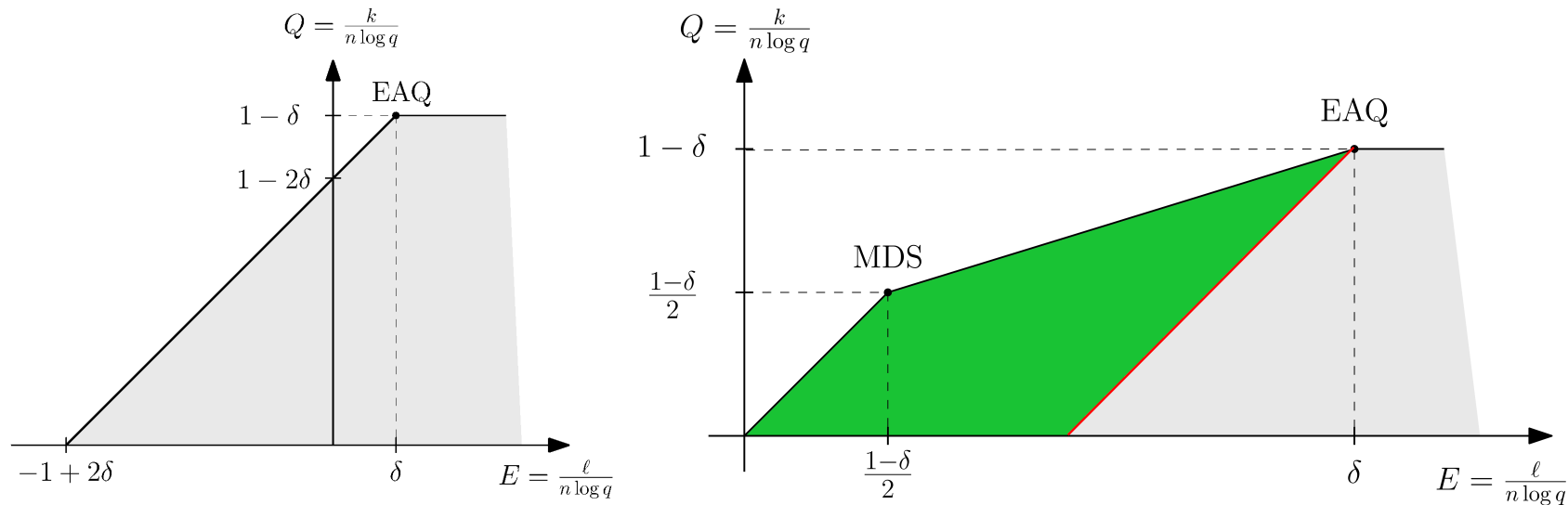
similar to a QECC of length $n + c$

\implies **conjectured bound:** $2d \leq n + c + 2 - k$

[Brun, Devetak, & Hsieh, arXiv:quant-ph/0608027]

Singleton-type Bounds

[Grassl, Huber, Winter, IEEE-TIT 68, pp. 3942–3950 (2022)]



$$(a) \quad \delta = \frac{d-1}{n} < \frac{1}{2}$$

$$(c) \quad \delta > \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\mathcal{C} = \llbracket n, k, d; c \rrbracket_q:$$

$$(a) \quad d < n/2 + 1: \quad k \leq \min\{n + c + 2 - 2d, n - d + 1\}$$

$$(c) \quad d \geq n/2 + 1: \quad k \leq c,$$

$$k \leq \frac{n-d+1}{3d-3-n} (c + (2d - 2 - n)),$$

$$k \leq n - d + 1$$

Constructing Entanglement-Assisted QECC

Hermitian hull: $\text{Hull}(C) = C \cap C^*$

C is Hermitian self-orthogonal $\iff \text{Hull}(C) = C$

Theorem: (Hermitian construction)

Let $C = [n, k, d']_{q^2}$ be a linear code with $c = k - \dim \text{Hull}(C)$ and let

$$d := \min\{\text{wgt}(\mathbf{c}) : \mathbf{c} \in C^* \setminus \text{Hull}(C)\} \geq d_{\min}(C^*).$$

Then there exists an entanglement-assisted quantum code $\mathcal{C} = \llbracket n, n - 2k + c, d; c \rrbracket_q$.

[Galindo et al., *Entanglement-assisted quantum error-correcting codes over arbitrary finite fields*, Quantum Inform. Proc., (2019)]

Proof idea: Lengthen the code C by c positions to make it self-orthogonal. Additional positions correspond to c maximally entangled states.

LCD Codes

C is a linear complementary dual (LCD) code $\iff \text{Hull}(C) = C \cap C^\perp = \{\mathbf{0}\}$

Theorem [Carlet et al., IEEE-TIT **64** pp. 3010–3017 (2018)]

For $q > 2$, any linear code over \mathbb{F}_{q^2} is monomially equivalent to a Hermitian LCD code.

Corollary

Given a linear code $C = [n, k, d]_{q^2}$, there exists an EAQECC $\mathcal{C} = \llbracket n, k, d; n - k \rrbracket_q$.

This is the point EAQ in the previous diagram.

but:

EAQECC from LCD codes require the maximal amount $c = n - k$ of entanglement.

Decreasing the Hull Dimension

[Luo, Ezerman, Grassl, Ling, arXiv:2207.05647]

Lemma

$$\dim \text{Hull}(C) = k - \text{rank}(GG^*) \text{ and } c = \text{rank}(GG^*)$$

where G is a generator matrix of C and G^* its conjugate transpose

Theorem

For $C = [n, k, d]_{q^2}$ with $q > 2$ and $\dim \text{Hull}(C) = \ell$, there exist equivalent codes C' with $\dim \text{Hull}(C') = \ell'$ for each $\ell' \in \{0, 1, \dots, \ell\}$.

Proof idea: Decompose C into the hull and its complement. Multiply the information set of the hull by some a_i with $a_i^{q+1} \neq 1$ to reduce the dimension of the hull.

Propagation Rule

Hermitian construction of a pure EAQECC $[[n, k, d; c]]_q$ with $q > 2$ and $\dim \text{Hull}(C) = \ell$ implies codes $[[n, k + i, d; c + i]]_q$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, \ell\}$.

Increasing the Hull Dimension

Theorem

The maximal dimension of the Hermitian hull is $\ell_{\max} = \dim C - c_{\min}$, where

$$c_{\min} = \min \left\{ \text{rank} \left(G \text{diag}(b_1, \dots, b_n) G^* \right) : b_i \in \mathbb{F}_q^* \right\}.$$

Theorem [E. Rains, IEEE-TIT 45, pp. 1827–1832 (1999)]

A code $C = [n, k, d]_{q^2}$ is equivalent to a Hermitian self-orthogonal code iff the puncture code

$$P(C) = (C \star C)^\perp = \left\{ (c_1 \tilde{c}_1^q, \dots, c_n \tilde{c}_n^q) : \mathbf{c}, \tilde{\mathbf{c}} \in C \right\}^\perp$$

contains a word $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ of weight n .

Open problem:

How to efficiently compute c_{\min} and find \mathbf{b} ?

More Propagation Rules

non-trivial propagation rules from [Luo, Ezerman, Grassl, Ling, arXiv:2207.05647]

(6) increasing the dimension of a pure quantum code with $q > 2$ by using extra entanglement, provided that $c \leq n - k - 2$:

$$\llbracket n, k, d; c \rrbracket_q \longrightarrow \llbracket n, k + 1, d; c + 1 \rrbracket_q$$

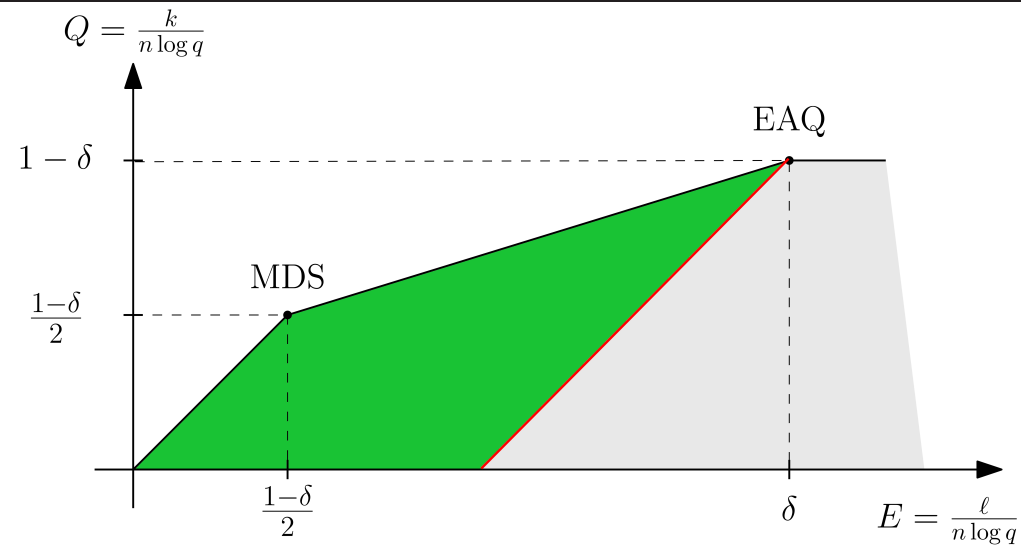
(7) reducing the length by using extra entanglement, provided that $c \leq n - k - 2$:

$$\llbracket n, k, d; c \rrbracket_q \longrightarrow \llbracket n - 1, k, d; c + 1 \rrbracket_q$$

(8) shortening a pure quantum code:

$$\llbracket n, k, d; c \rrbracket_q \longrightarrow \llbracket n - 1, k + 1, d - 1; c \rrbracket_q$$

Singleton-type Bounds [arXiv:2207.05647]



(c) $\delta > \frac{1}{2}$

Theorem

EAQECC $[[n, k, d; c]]_q$ from the Hermitian or CSS-like construction obey the bound

$$k \leq \min\{n + c + 2 - 2d, n - d + 1\}$$

using classical MDS codes and teleportation, we achieve the point MDS

[M. Grassl, Phys. Rev. A **103** (2021)]

Summary & Outlook

- trace-symplectic self-orthogonal codes yield QECC
- any code $[n, k, d]_{q^2}$ can be used to construct EAQECC
- random codes have a small (Hermitian) hull, i.e., require a lot of entanglement
- goal: find codes with a large Hermitian hull, i.e., requiring little entanglement
- propagation rules allow to utilise more entanglement
[arXiv:2207.05647](https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.05647)
- initial online tables for qubits and qutrits at
<http://eaqecc.codetables.de>
- find new constructions beating the bound $k \leq n + c + 2 - 2d$ for $d > n/2$

Thank you!
Danke! Merci!
Hvala!

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