

**A THEORY OF SINGLE-SHOT ERROR
CORRECTION FOR ADVERSARIAL NOISE**

ARXIV:1805.09271

ACCEPTED TO QUANTUM SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



The University of Sheffield
HICKS BUILDING



Sheffield

my group works on:

Quantum error correction

Magic state distillation

Circuit compilation

Resource estimation

Classical simulation methods

Magic theory



“Old” South Wales
my place of birth!

what?

Deal with **noisy measurements** without measurement repetition.

Fault tolerance in a single shot

Bombin Phys. Rev. X 5, 031043 2015 / QIP2015

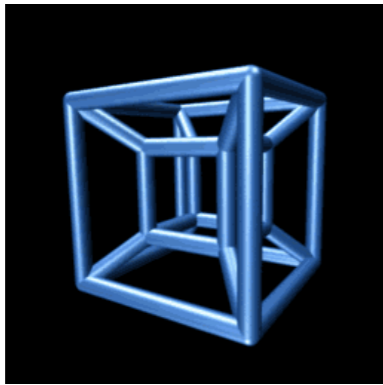
why?

faster: no need for d repeated measurements

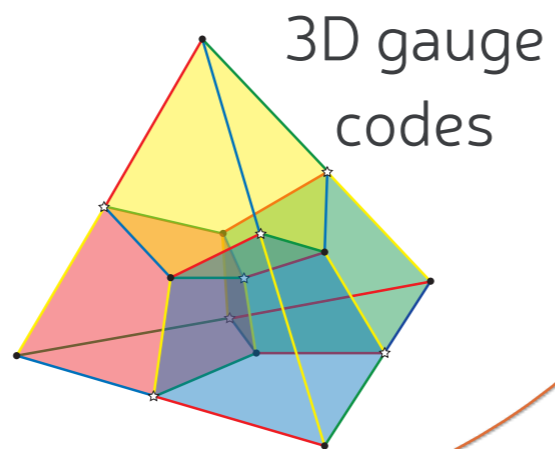
more reliable: handles time correlated noise / fabrication faults

Bombin Phys. Rev. X 6, 041034 (2016) / QIP2017

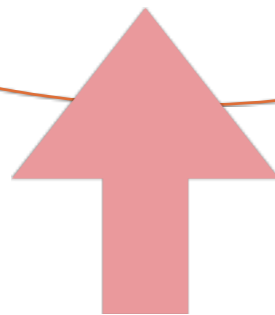
Topological single shot codes



4D topological codes



3D gauge codes



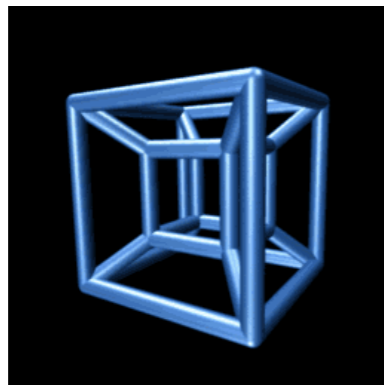
Trade off bounds

Bravyi-Poulin-Terhal PRL (2010)

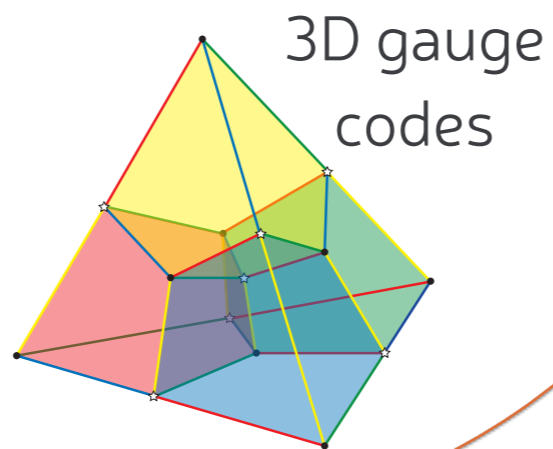
e.g. in 2D constrained by $kd^2 = O(n)$

All single shot codes

Topological single shot codes



4D topological codes



?????
Codes with better $[[n,k,d]]$ parameters
?????

Key results

Given any classical code
use homological product
to construct quantum “*single shot*” code

classical LDPC \rightarrow quantum LDPC

+ 4 mini-results on
foundations of single-shot error correction

1

Review single-shot

2

3 mini-results

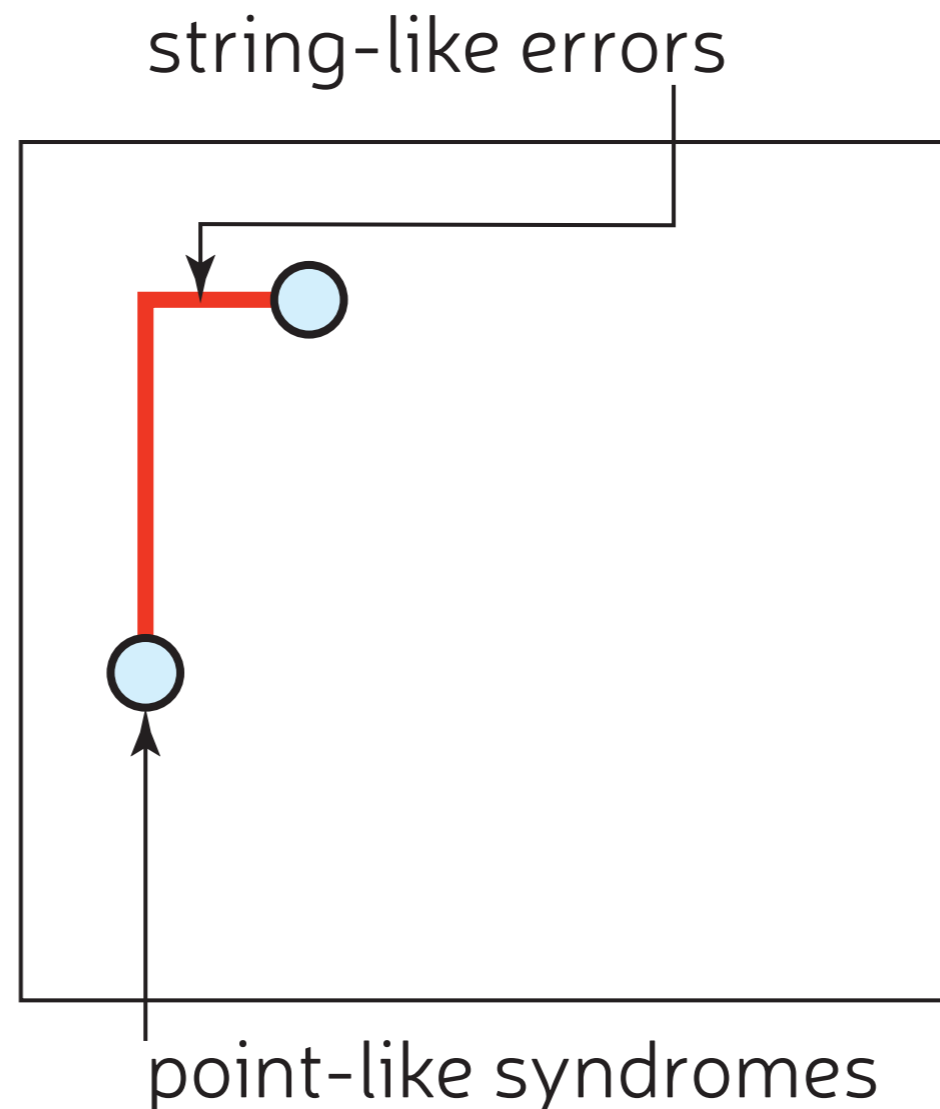
3

The homological product codes

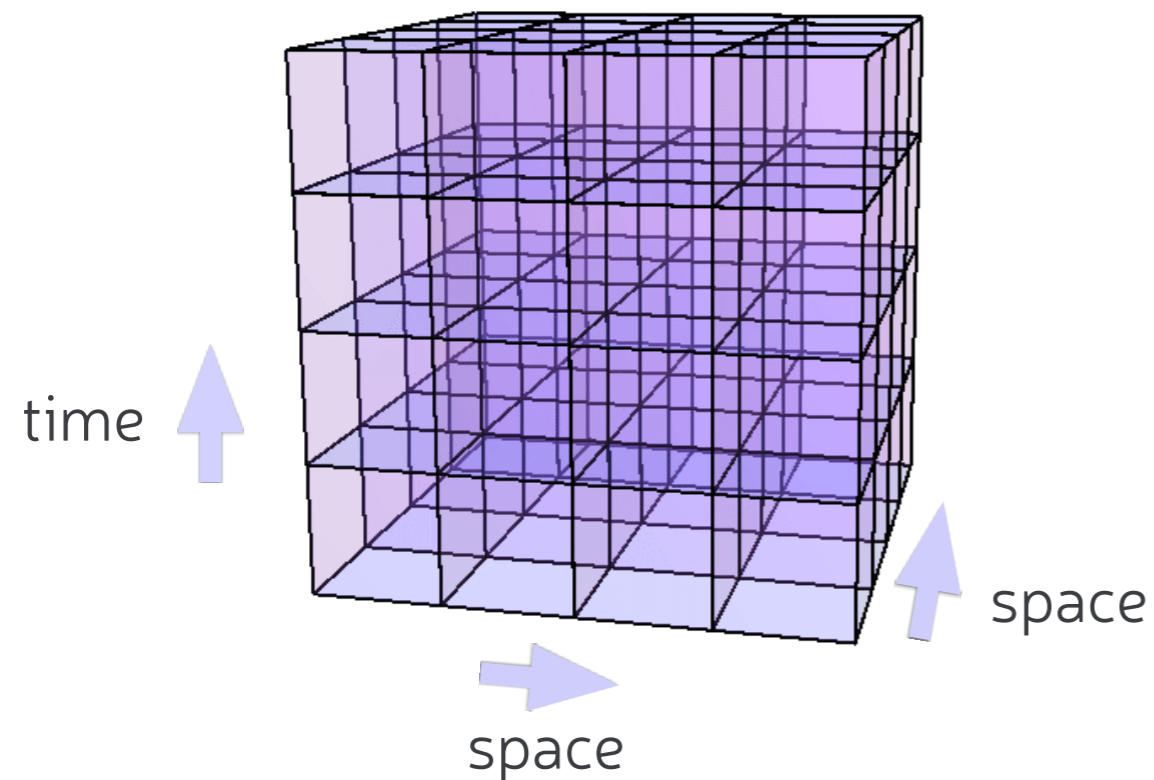
Noisy measurement problem in Toric code problem:

two measurement errors

looks same as long qubit error

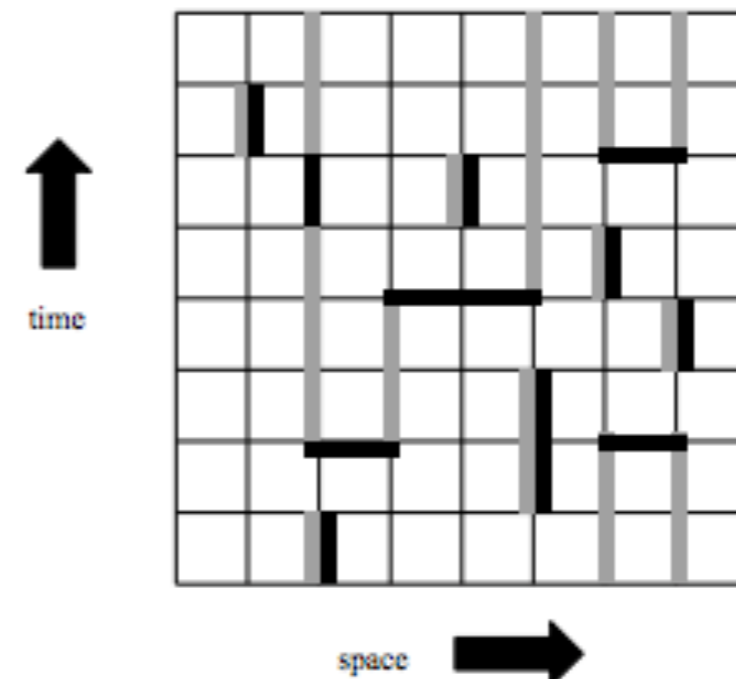


Solution for toric code: repeat measurements



2D Toric code: with history of measurement data leads to 3D space-time.

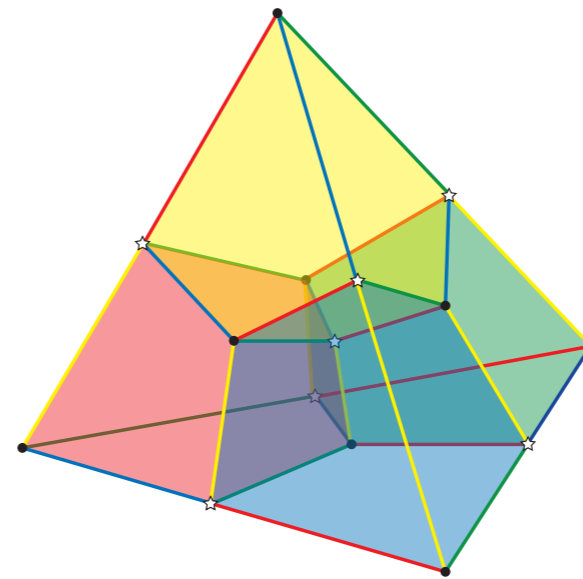
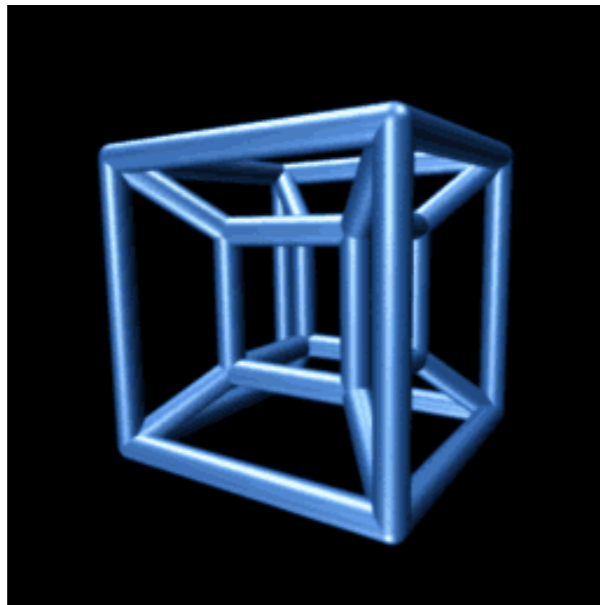
Perform minimum weight decoding in space-time picture.



2D cross section from [Dennis Kitaev Preskill '01]

Single shot: the basic idea

Measure code stabilisers once and try to infer error,
but measurement outcomes are noisy!



Possible for 3D gauge colour code
or 4D topological code (e.g. 4D toric code)

See e.g. [Kubica, Preskill arXiv:1809.10145]

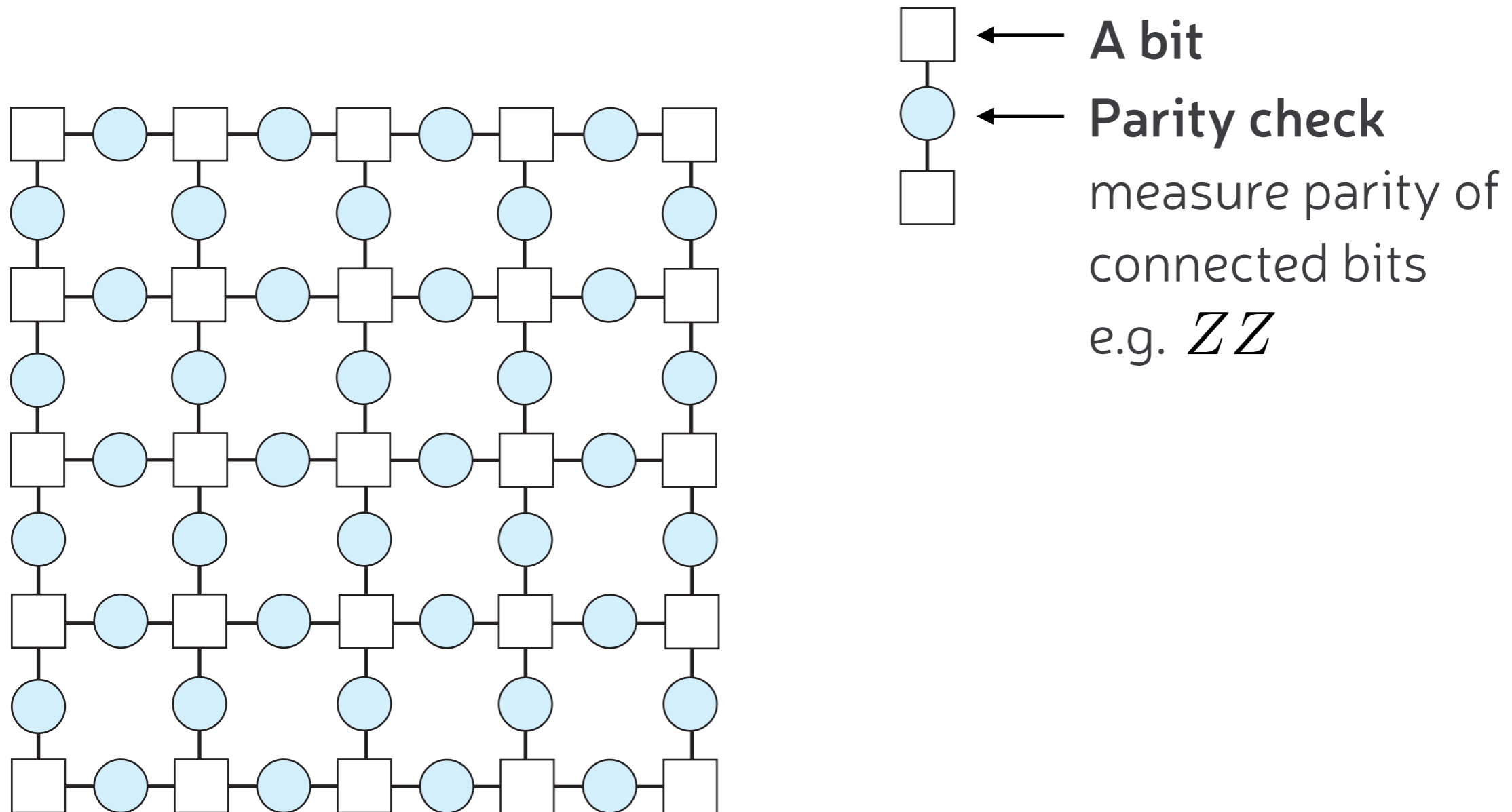
[Breuckmann PhD thesis '18]

[Breuckmann, Duivenvoorden, Michels, Terhal QIC '17]

[Brown, Nickerson, Browne, Nat Comms '16]

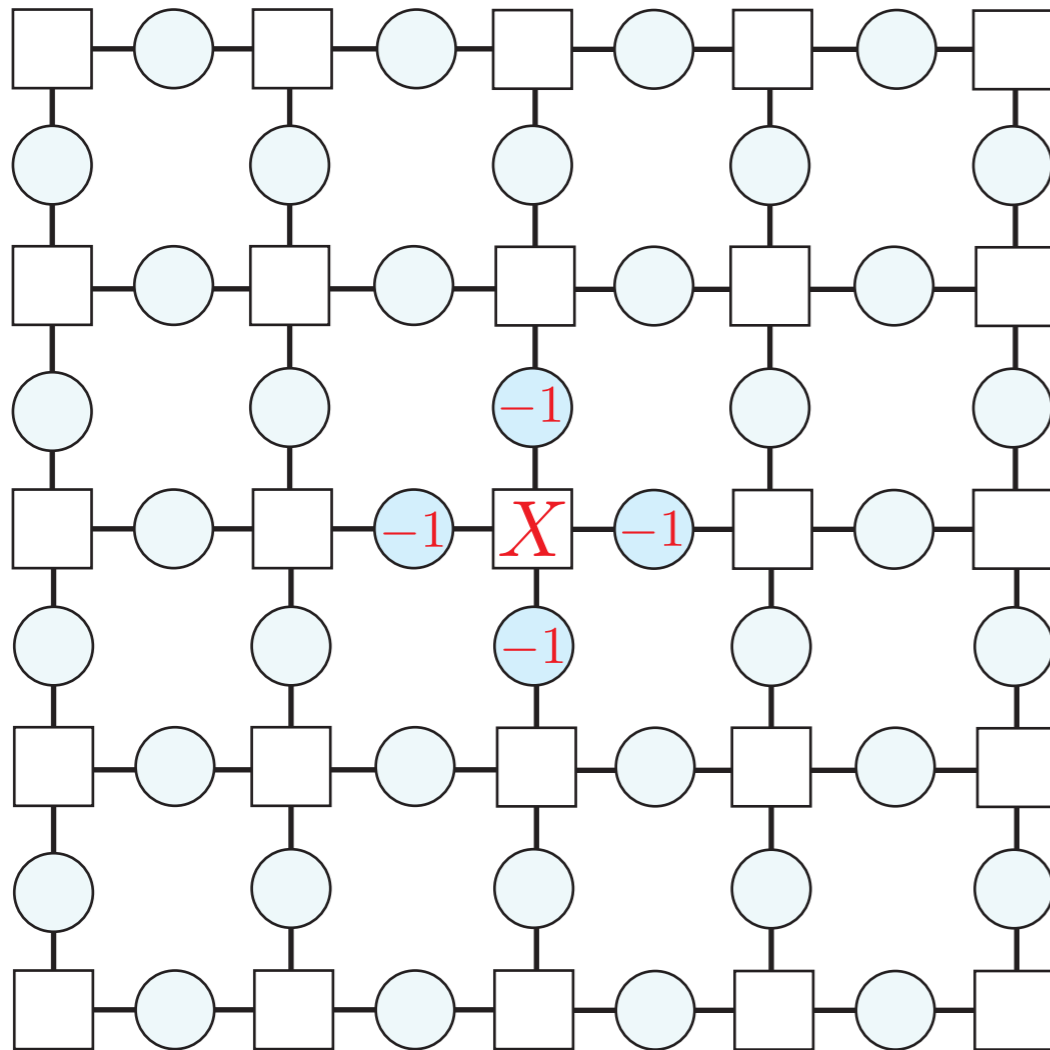
[Pastawski, Clemente, Circa PRA '11]





[Dennis Kitaev Preskill J. Math. Phys. '01]

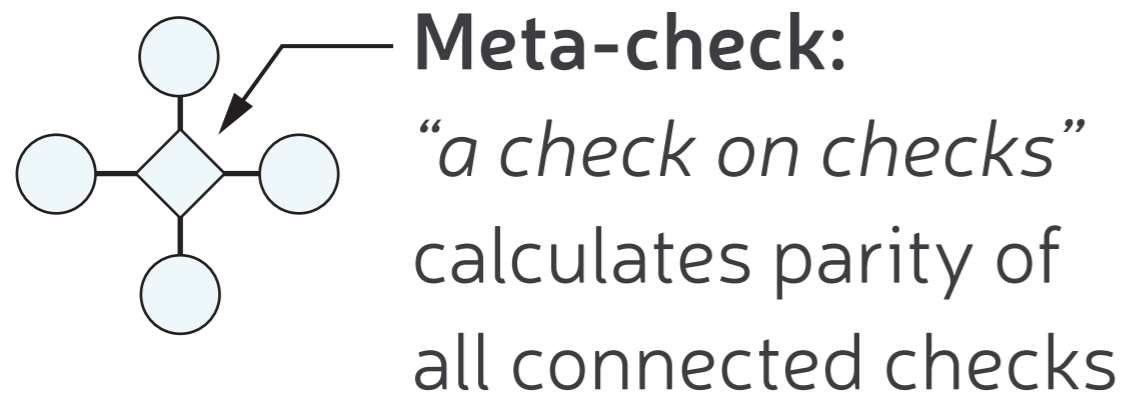
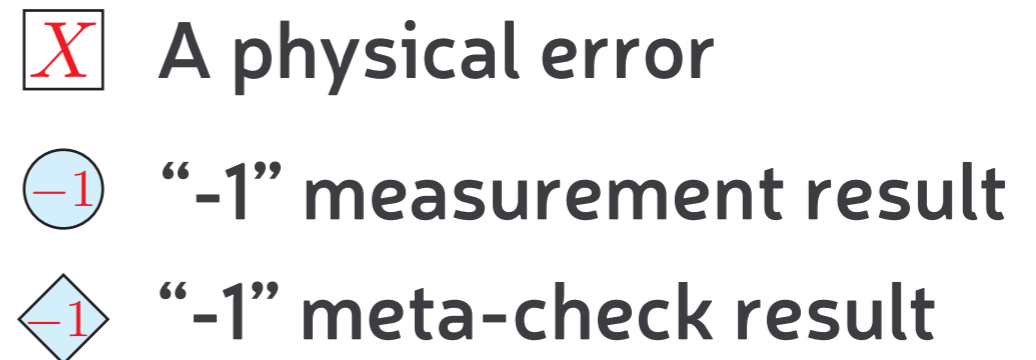
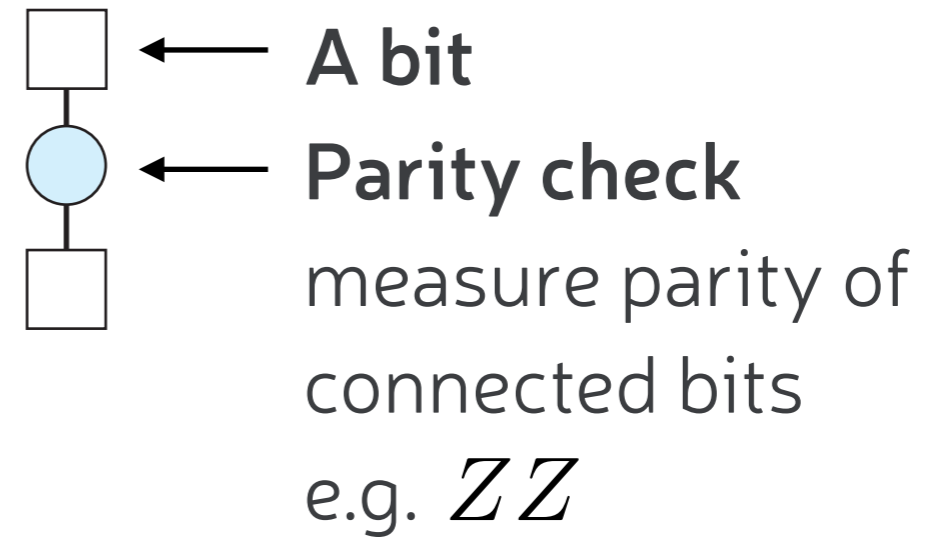
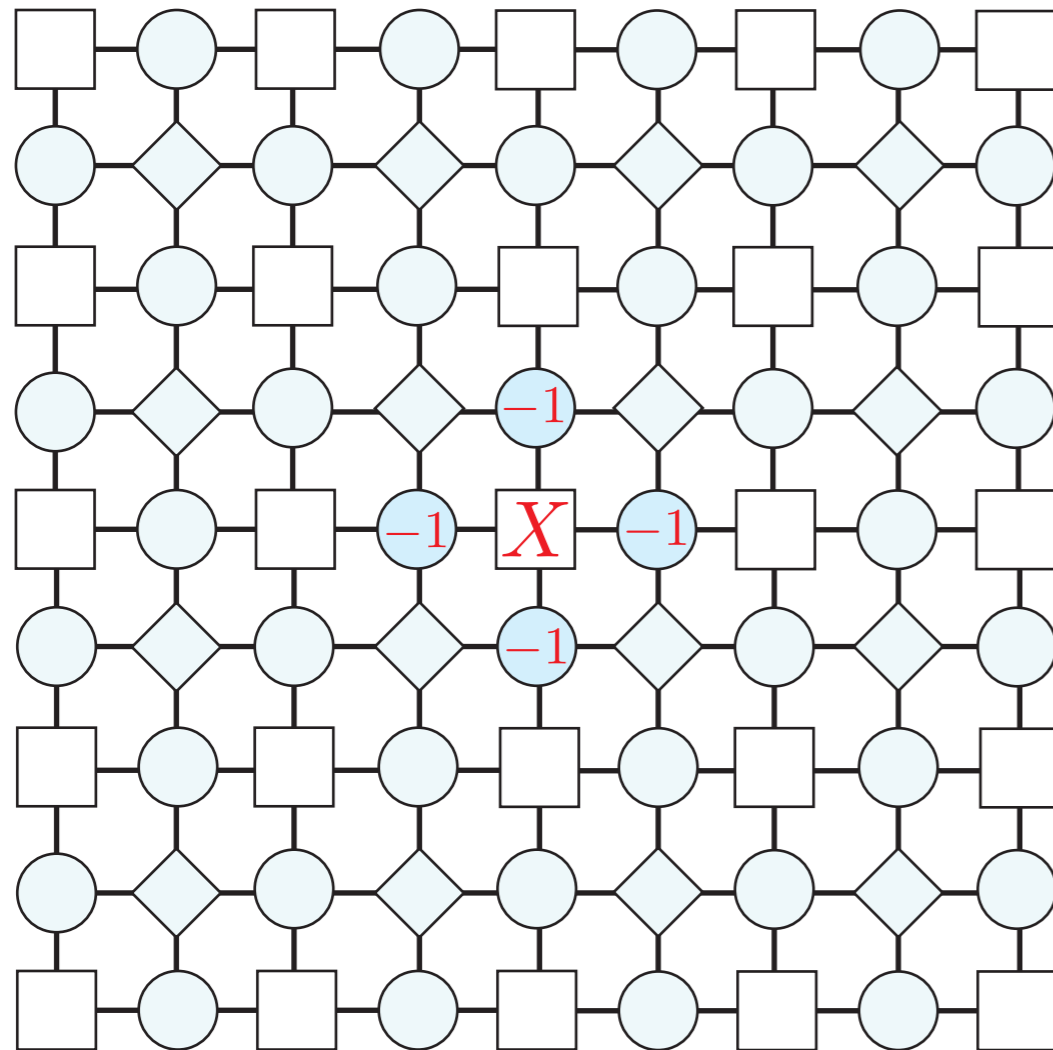


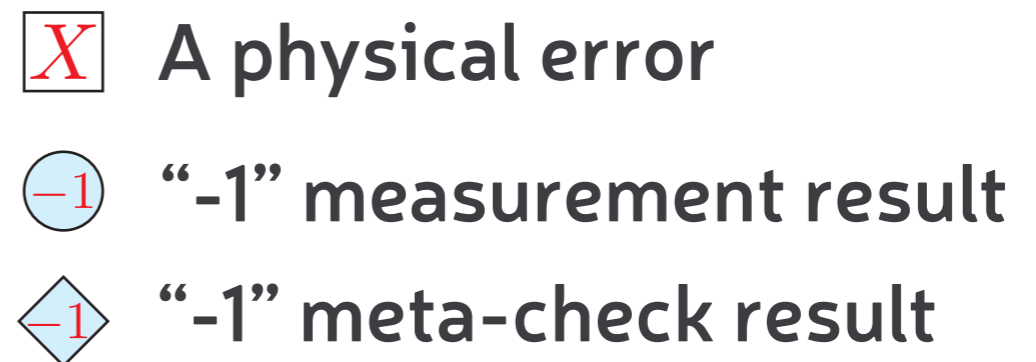
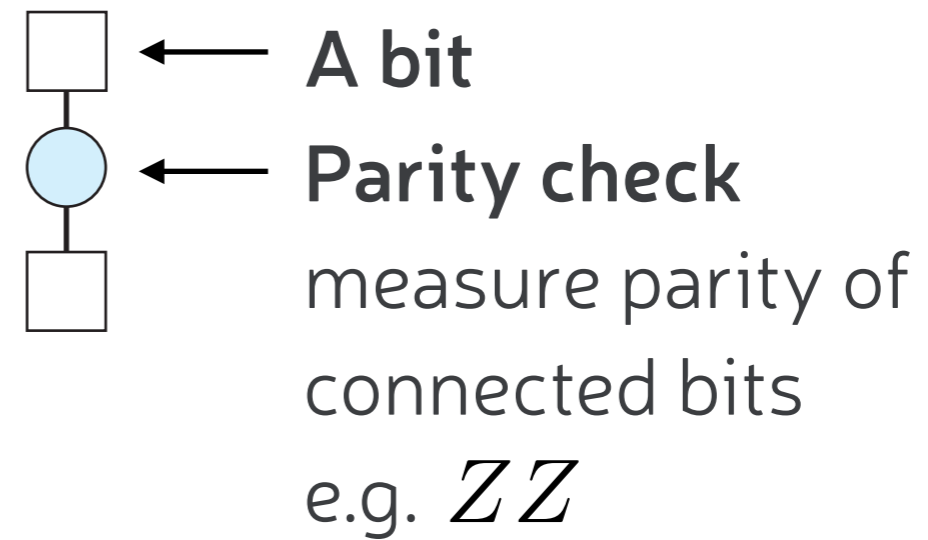
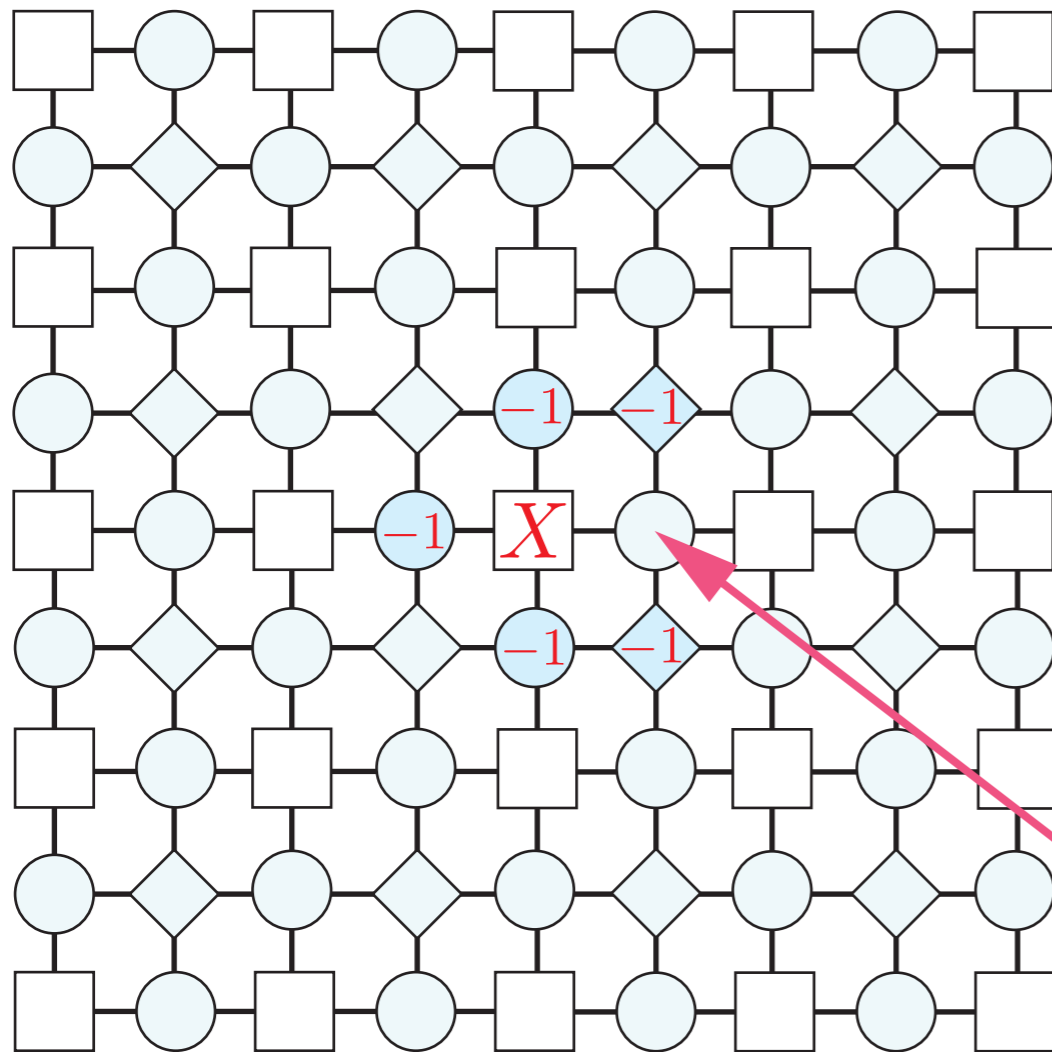
Classical single-shot: possible in 2D!


warm up example

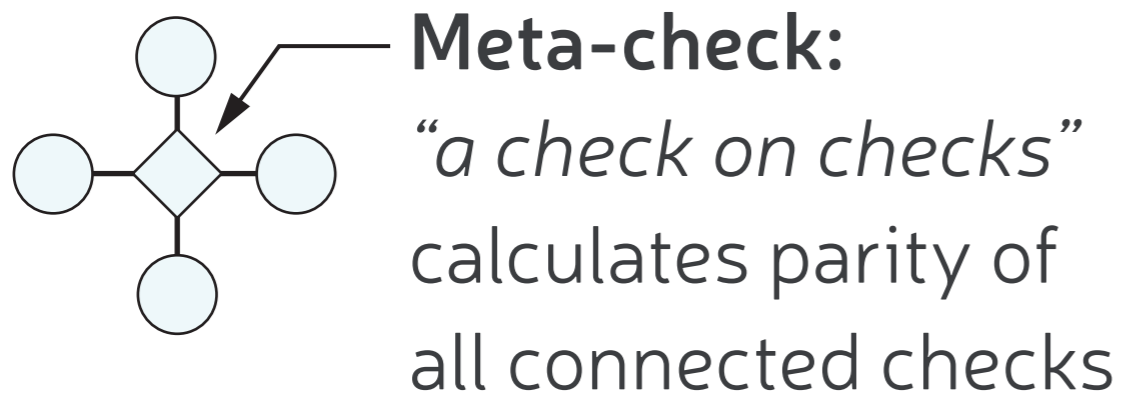


-  ← A bit
-  ← Parity check
measure parity of
connected bits
e.g. ZZ
-  A physical error
-  “-1” measurement result





 **Measurement error!!!**
 should be “-1” but experiment reports “+1”



Formal definition: Redundancy & metacheck:

Consider a set of Pauli checks that stabiliser codespace:

$$\mathcal{M} = \{M_1, M_2, \dots\}$$

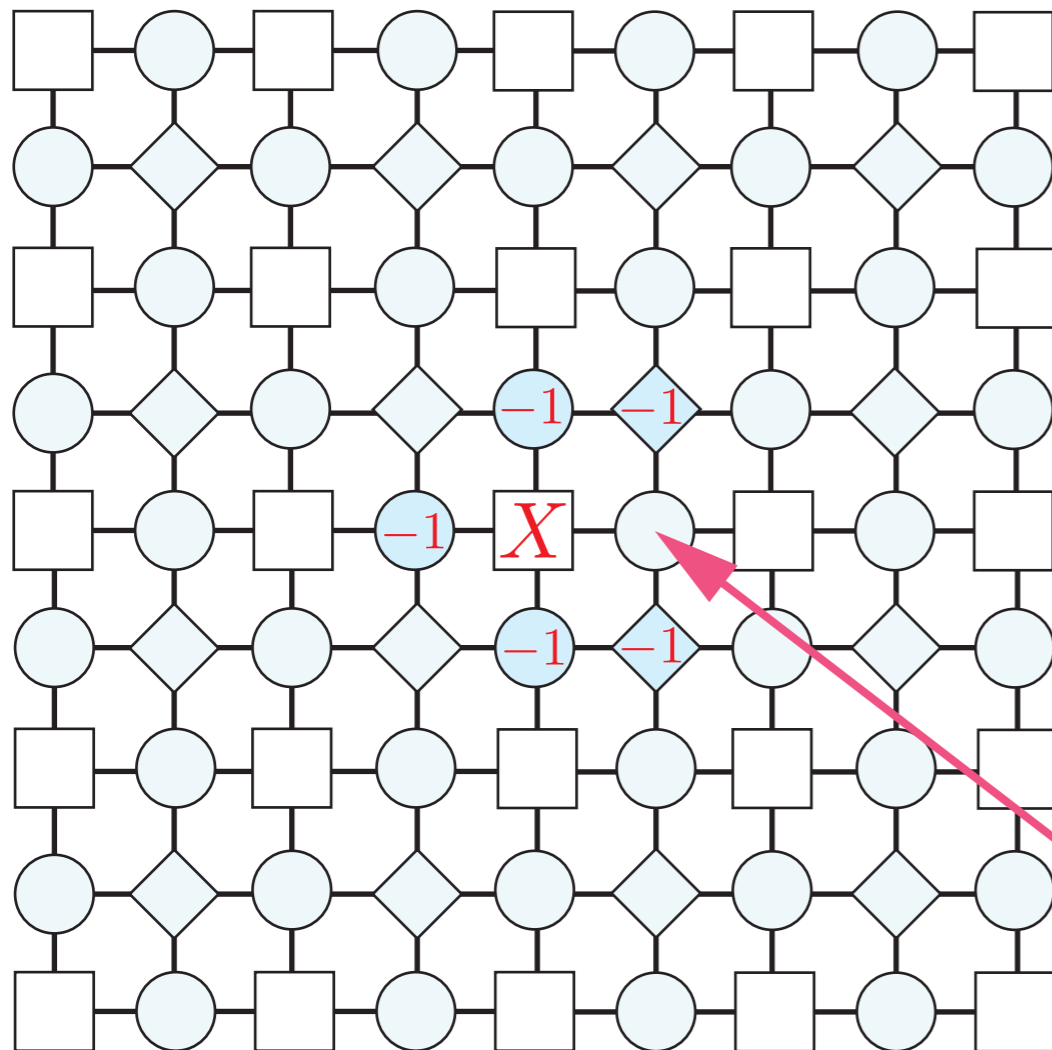
allow \mathcal{M} to be overcomplete

A redundancy is a sets of check multiplying to identity

$$\text{e.g. } M_1 M_2 M_3 = \mathbb{I}$$

Leads to consistency condition on parity checks.

Metacheck are a subset of redundancies that we choose to enforce.



Two stage decoder

Stage 1: Correct measurement error

Look at metachecks, find low weight measurement correction.

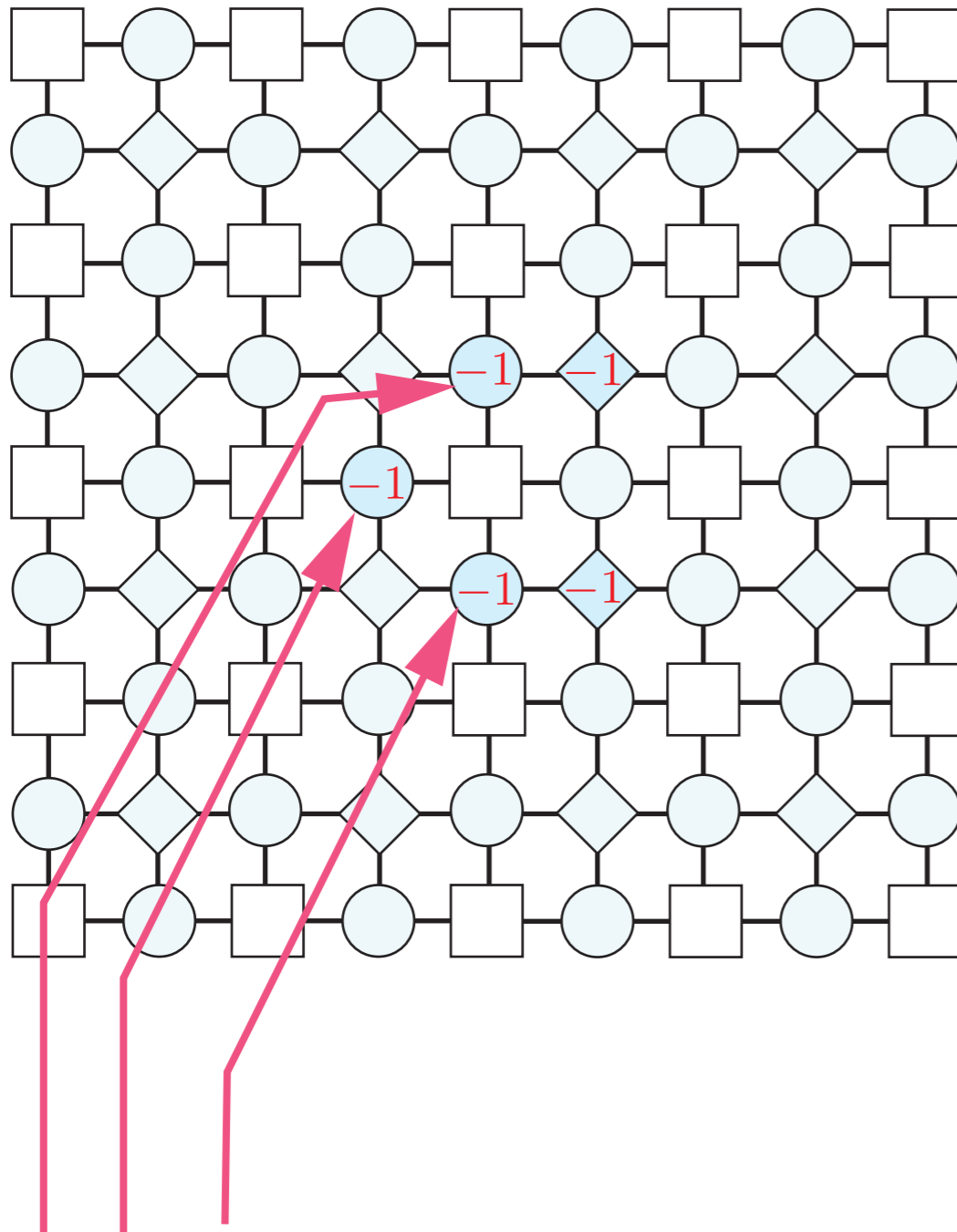
Stage 2: Correct physical bits

Look at repaired checks find low weight physical correction.



Measurement error!!!

should be “-1” but experiment reports “+1”



Two stage decoder

Stage 1: Correct measurement error

Look at metachecks, find low weight measurement correction.

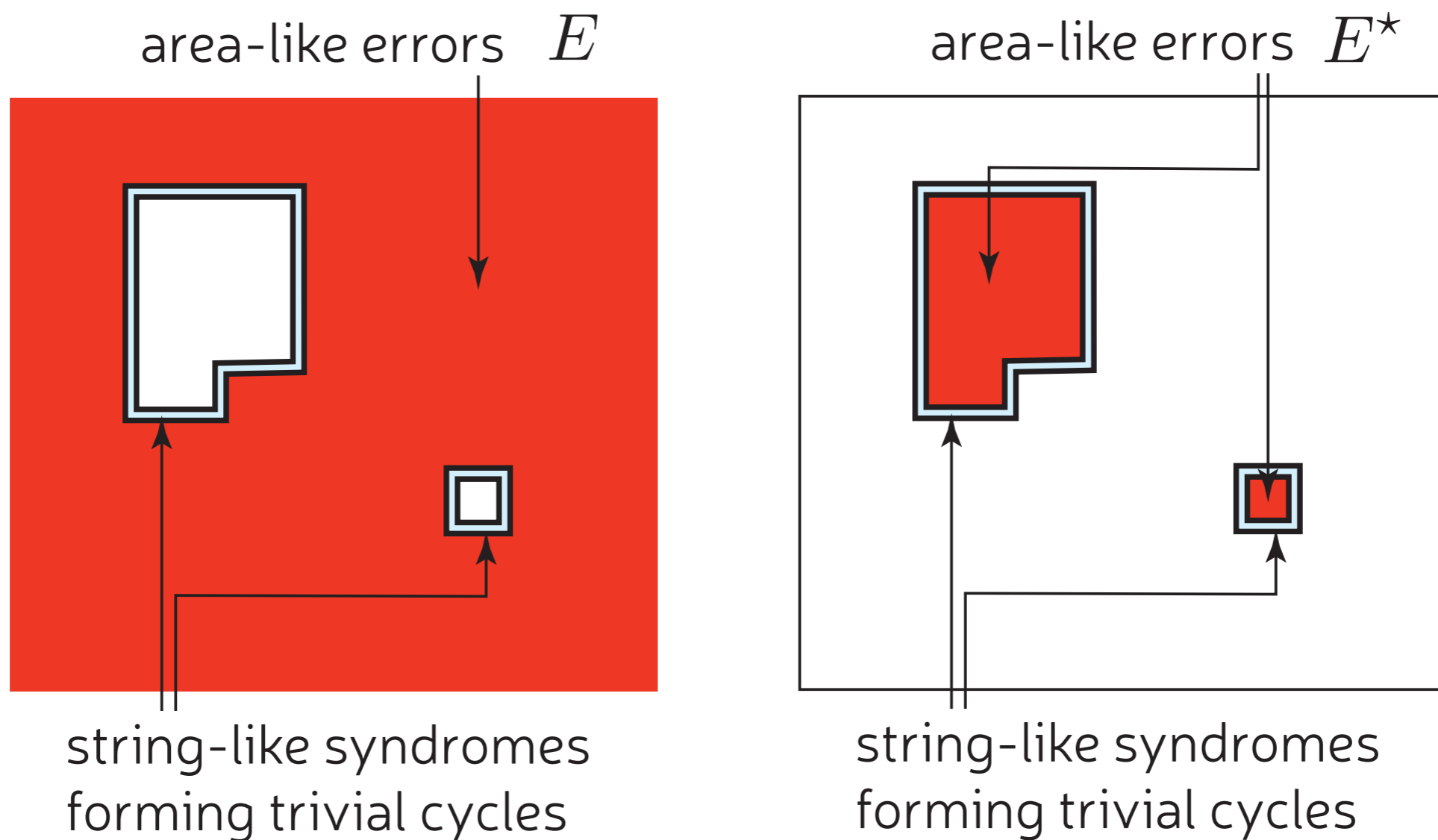
Stage 2: Correct physical bits

Look at repaired checks find low weight physical correction.

Same signature caused by **triple measurement error** and **no physical error**

Correction leads to a **residual error**

Area-law / soundness property



boundary size = syndrome weight = x

$$\text{then } \text{wt}[E^*] \leq f(x) = x^2/2$$

Adversarial quantum error correction

Error model

x = num. of measurement errors

y = num. of single-qubit Pauli errors

Standard QEC

if $x=0$ and $y < d/2$
then
can correct perfectly
Residual error weight = 0

Single-shot QEC

if $x, y <$ some upperbound
then
there is a decoder such that
Residual error weight $\leq f(x)$

where f is some function
s.t. $f(0)=0$

Adversarial quantum error correction

Error model

\mathbf{x} = num. of measurement errors

\mathbf{y} = num. of single-qubit Pauli errors

Good family of SS codes

a family of n -qubit codes has good single shot QEC if

- 1) \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} bounds grow $\Omega(n^a)$
- 2) $f \in \text{poly}(x)$

Single-shot QEC

if $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} <$ some upperbound then there is a decoder such that Residual error weight $\leq f(\mathbf{x})$

where \mathbf{f} is some function s.t. $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$

Area-law / soundness property

A code & check set is (t, f) sound if

Given any consistent syndrome of weight $= x \leq t$ some constant

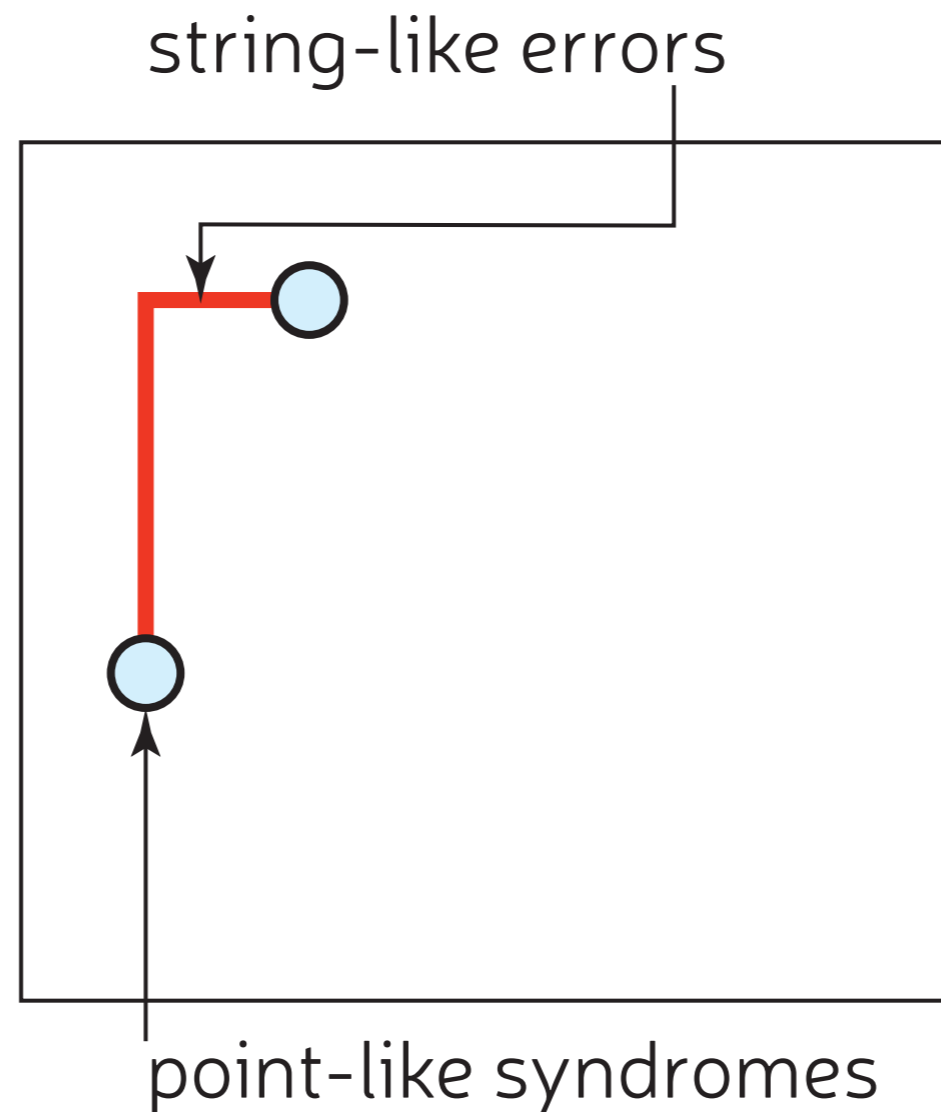
There exists an Pauli correction of weight $\leq f(x) \in \text{poly}(x)$

A code & check family has good soundness if

All members are (t_n, f) where t_n grows as $\Omega(n^a)$

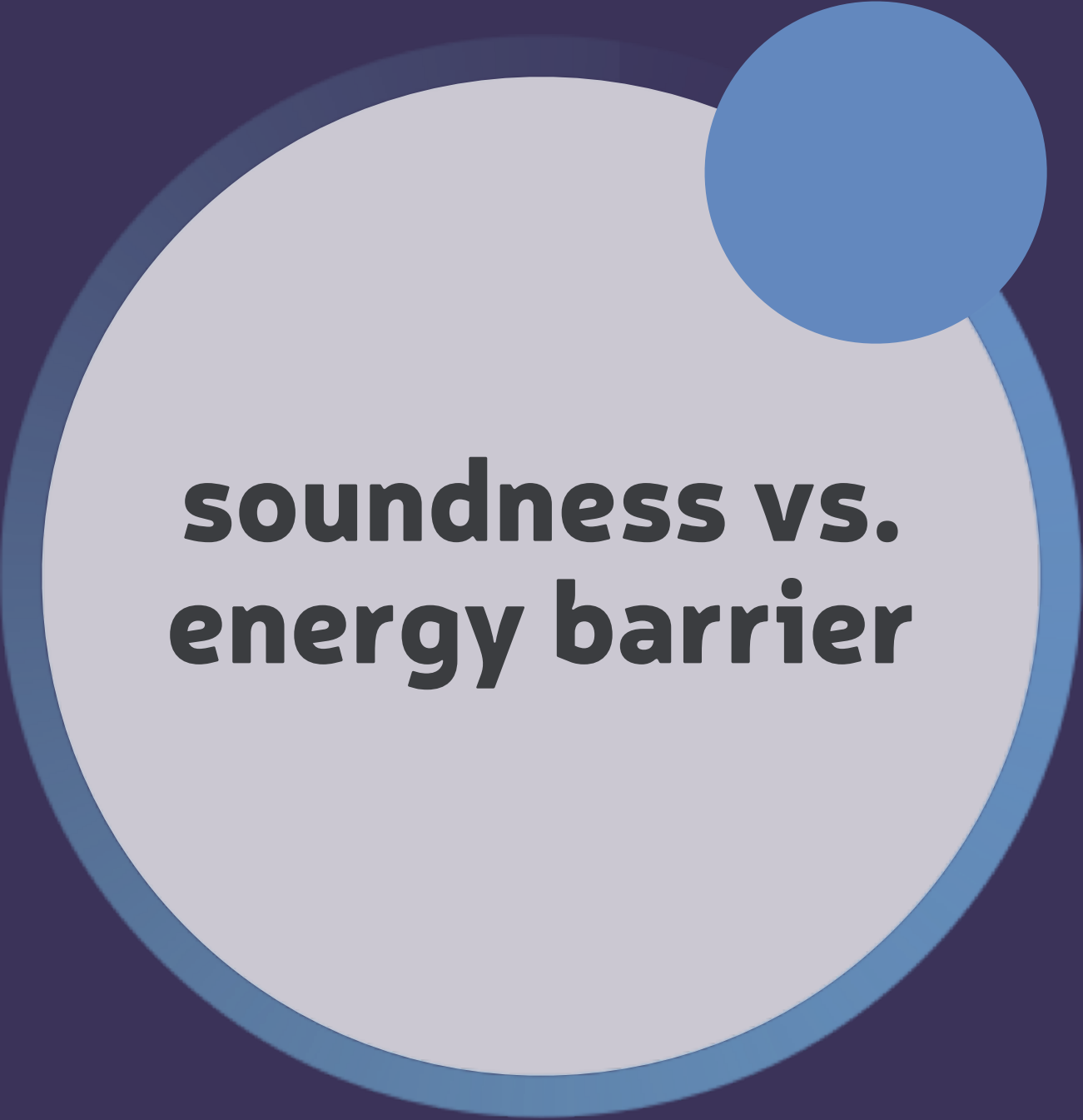
Mini result 1: Good soundness \rightarrow good single-shot EC
proof uses two-stage decoder

Toric code problem: has poor soundness



syndrome weight = 2

then $\text{wt}[E] \leq f(2) = ? \text{unbounded?}$



**soundness vs.
energy barrier**

Is soundness just the same thing as a large energy barrier?



Energy barrier for one check set

Consider walks from one logical state to an orthogonal logical state,

- A walk is made of small steps $|\psi_{j+1}\rangle = P_j|\psi_j\rangle$

a check family of n -qubit codes has a

Macroscopic Energy barrier

if the **energy barrier** grows as $\Omega(n^c)$

ψ_0
●
 $|0_L$

ψ_5

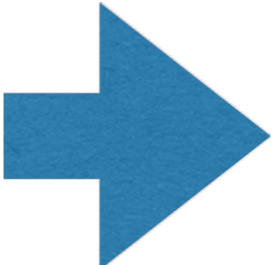
The energy of a state is the number of violated stabiliser checks.

The **energy penalty** of a walk is the “peak” energy during the walk.

The **energy barrier** of a check set is the min energy penalty over all walks.

**LDPC +
good soundness**  **macroscopic energy barrier**

Theorem 2 *Any LDPC check family with good soundness and code distance d_Q growing as $\Omega(n^c)$ for some constant $0 < c$ will also have a macroscopic energy barrier.*

**LDPC +
macroscopic energy barrier**  **good soundness**

?????

Theorem 2 *Any LDPC check family with good soundness and code distance d_Q growing as $\Omega(n^c)$ for some constant $0 < c$ will also have a macroscopic energy barrier.*



No 2D topological code can have a macroscopic energy barrier, [Bravyi, Terhal *NJP* '09]



Corollary 1 *Any 2D topological check family with code distance d_Q growing as $\Omega(n^c)$ for some constant $0 < c$ will not have good soundness.*



**Choice of
check set**

Recall we:

Consider a set of Pauli checks that stabilise the codespace:

$$\mathcal{M} = \{M_1, M_2, \dots\}$$

Soundness is a property of the set of stabiliser checks.

S000....

We can ask:

“Given a code family does there exist a check-family with good soundness?”

Thm: for all codes \exists checks w/ good soundness!

Proof sketch.

For every code we can find stabiliser generators that upto local Cliffords are of “**diagonalised**” form

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 &= X_1 Z_2 I_3 Z_4 \dots \\ S_2 &= Z_1 X_2 I_3 Z_4 \dots \\ S_3 &= Z_1 I_2 X_3 Z_4 \dots \end{aligned}$$

Then every 1-bit syndrome can be corrected by a weight 1 error

$$Z_j S_j Z_j = -S_j$$

So residual error is less than syndrome, so $f(x) = x$

Mini result 1: Good soundness \longrightarrow good single-shot EC

Mini result 2*: Good soundness + LDPC + distance $\Omega(n^a)$
 \longrightarrow macroscopic energy barrier

Mini result 3:** 2D topological code + distance $\Omega(n^a)$
 \longrightarrow bad soundness

Mini result 4: for all codes \exists checks w/ good soundness!

** corollary following from
S. Bravyi and B. Terhal,

* similar result (w/ stronger soundness def) is used in study of PCP the
D. Aharonov and L. Eldar, *SIAM Journal on Computing* **44**, 1230 (2015).

Moral:

Easy to find codes/checks with good soundness

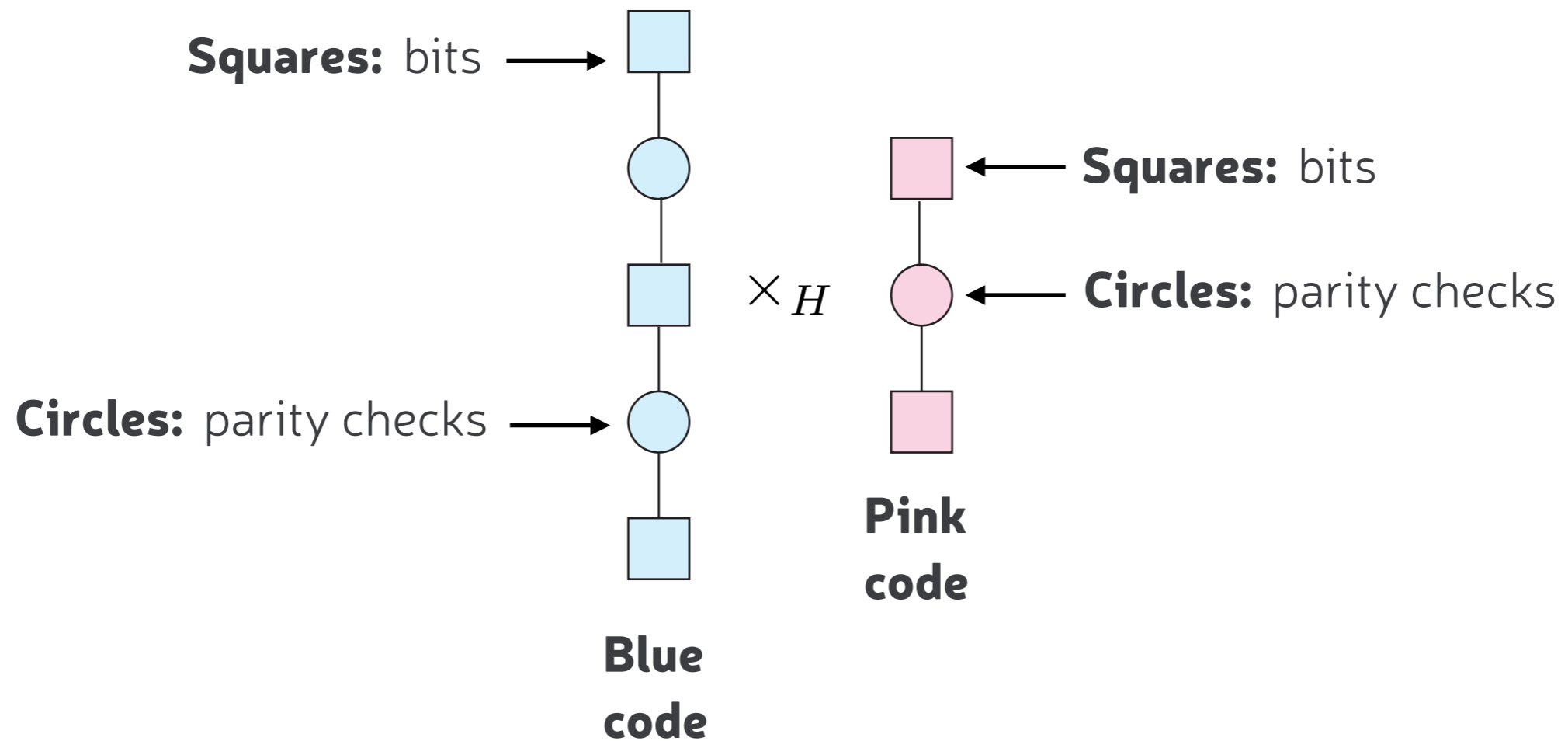
Tricky to find LDPC codes/checks with good soundness



**1 big result:
homological
product
constructions**

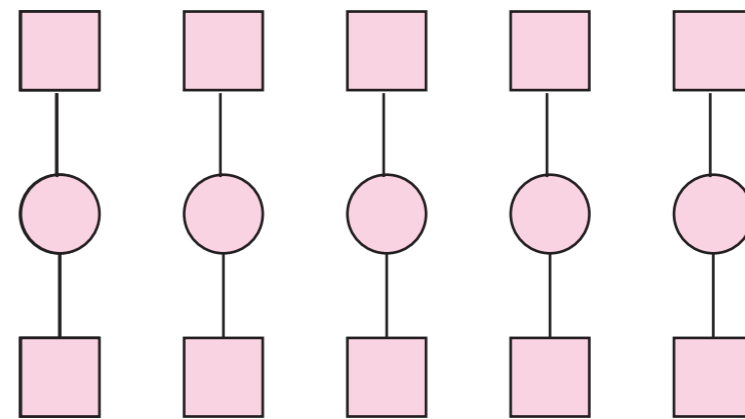
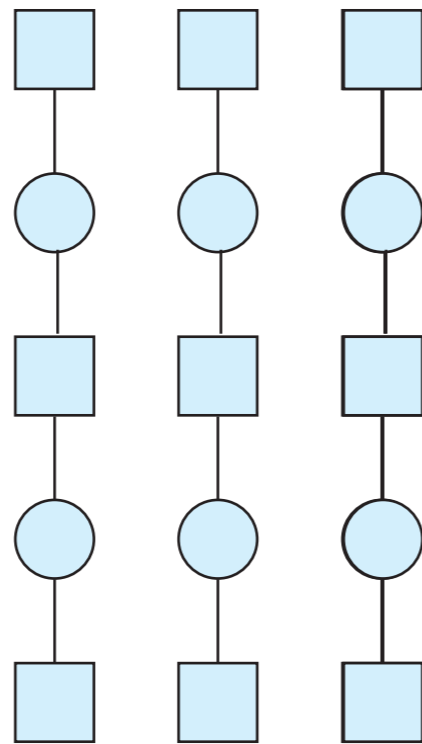
Warmup: Revise hyper graph product

Take two Tanner graphs representing classical code

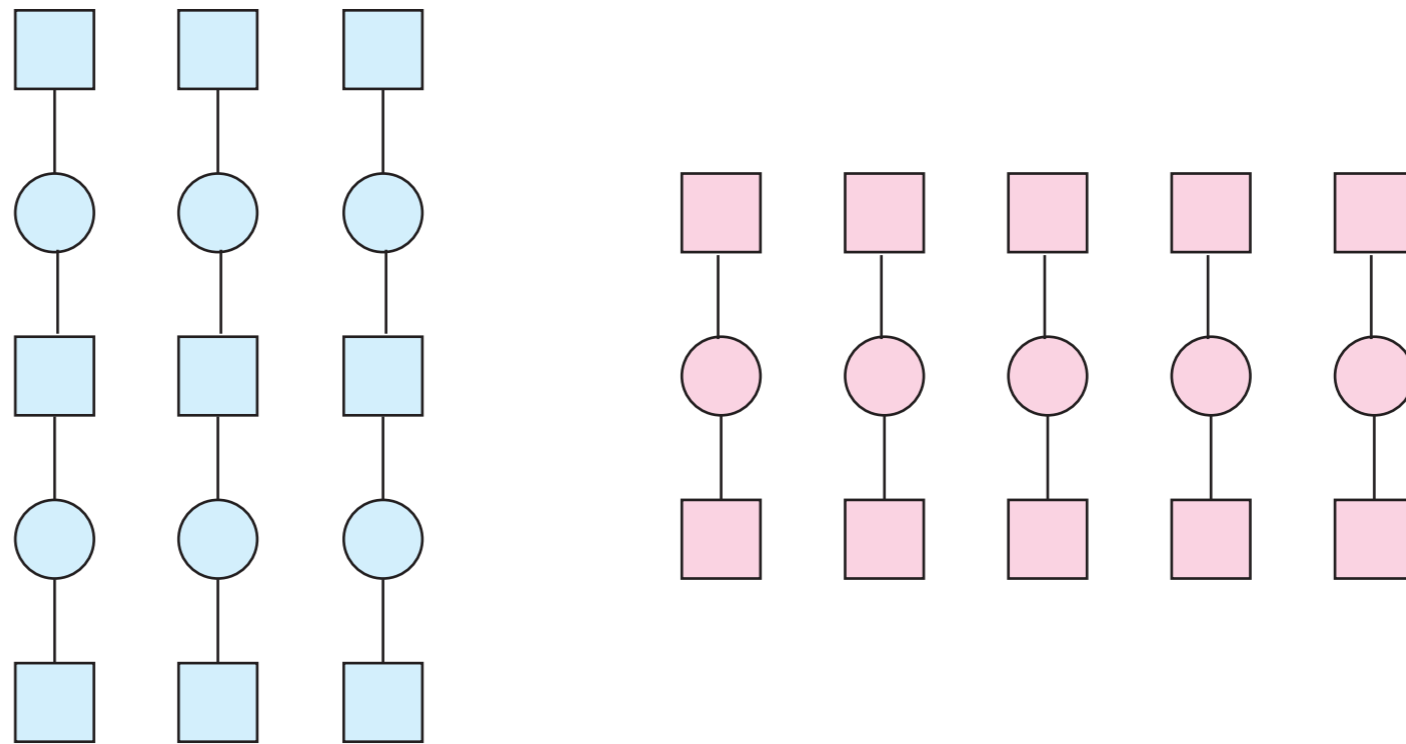


Essentially same as hyper graph product: [Tillich & Zemor IEEE '09]

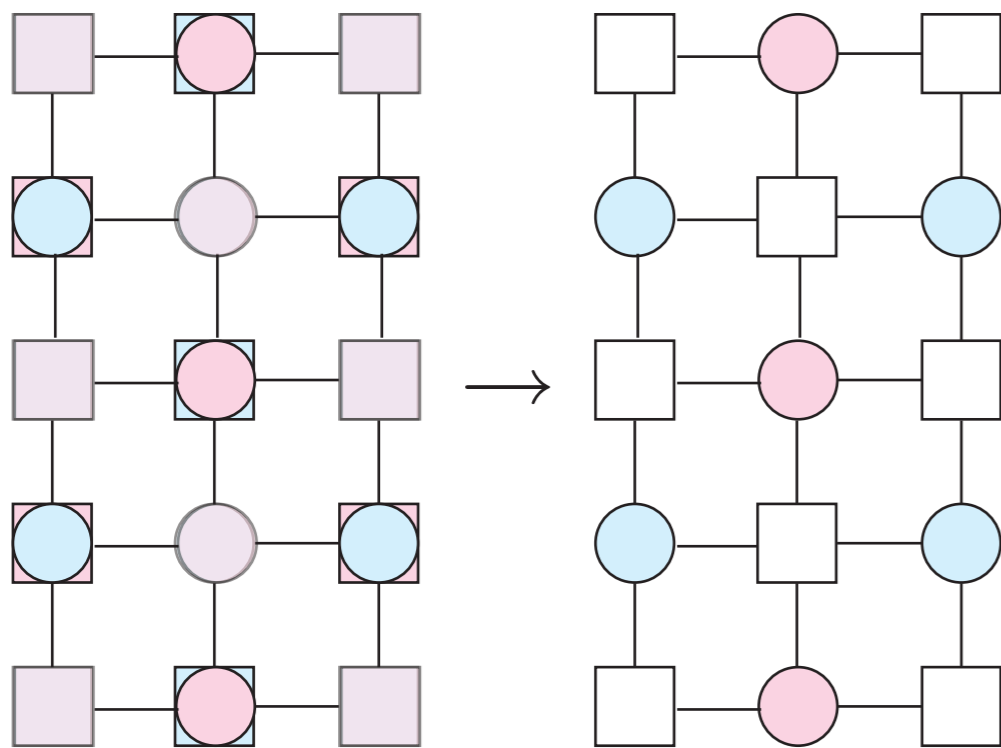
Clone the codes



Superimpose codes



Relabel vertices

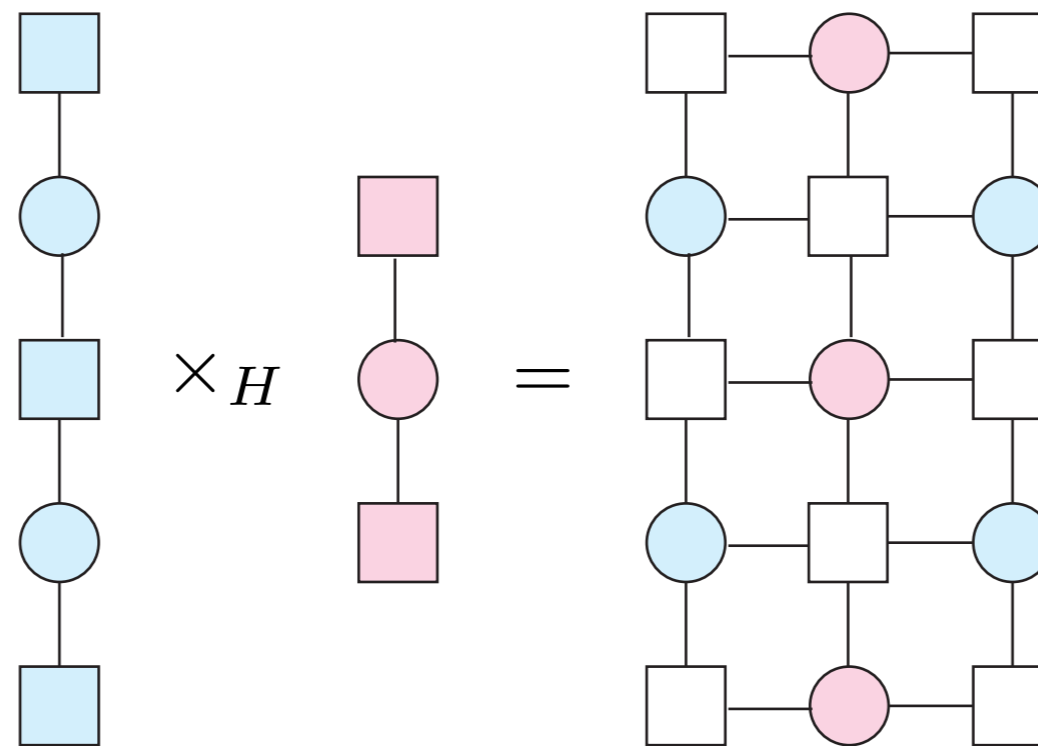


Finished!
A quantum code

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{light purple square} &= \text{light blue square} + \text{pink square} \rightarrow \text{white square} \\
 \text{light purple circle} &= \text{light blue circle} + \text{pink circle} \rightarrow \text{white circle} \\
 \text{light blue square with pink circle} &= \text{light blue square} + \text{pink circle} \rightarrow \text{pink circle} \\
 \text{light blue circle with pink square} &= \text{light blue circle} + \text{pink square} \rightarrow \text{light blue circle}
 \end{aligned}
 \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{white square} \\ \text{white circle} \end{array} \right\} \text{qubits}$$

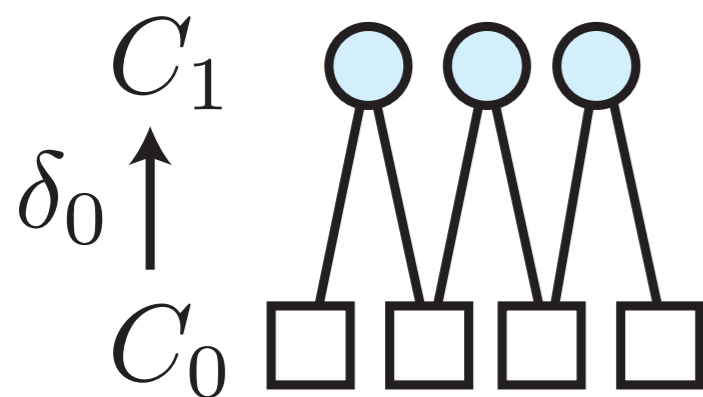
$\text{pink circle} \rightarrow Z \text{ checks}$
 $\text{light blue circle} \rightarrow X \text{ checks}$



**Always yields valid quantum code
for any pair of initial classical codes**

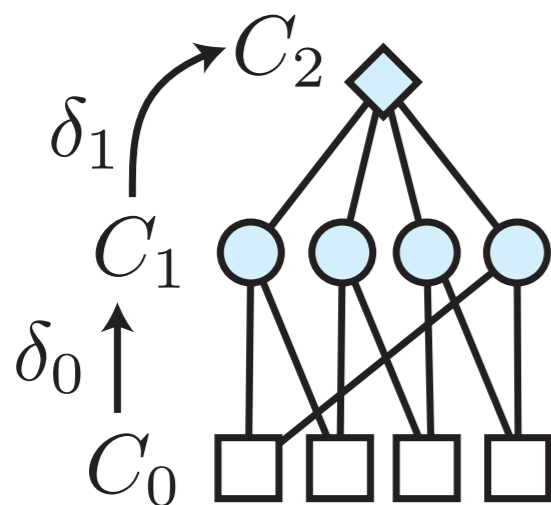
Unlike CCS construction where duality is required.

Why valid quantum code: because a chain complex!



Bipartite graph

$$[\delta_0]_{i,j} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if vertex } i \text{ in } C_0 \text{ is adjacent to vertex } j \text{ in } C_1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



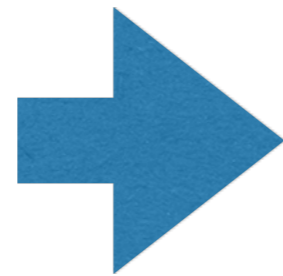
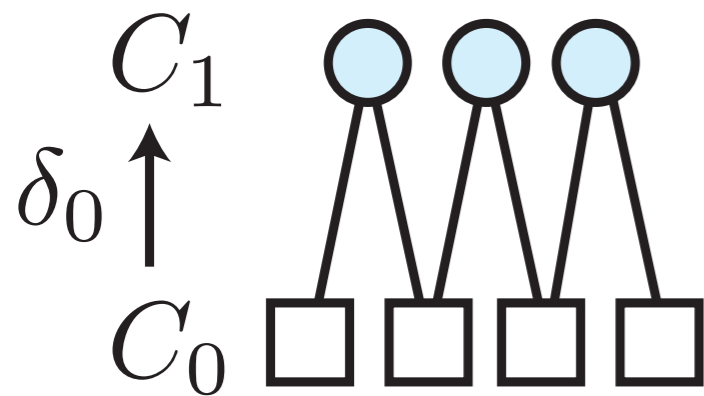
Tripartite graph

$$[\delta_0]_{i,j} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if vertex } i \text{ in } C_0 \text{ is adjacent to vertex } j \text{ in } C_1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

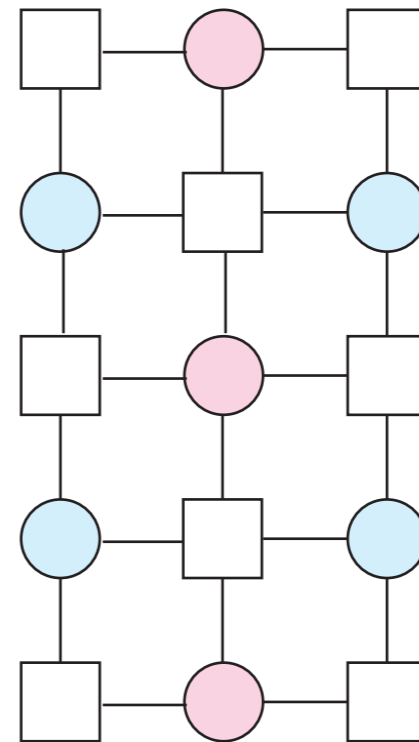
$$[\delta_1]_{i,j} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if vertex } i \text{ in } C_1 \text{ is adjacent to vertex } j \text{ in } C_2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We say such a graph forms a **chain complex** if and only if

$$\delta_i \delta_{i-1} = 0 \text{ for all } i$$



hypergraph
product



$$\tilde{\delta}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{I} \otimes \delta_0^T \\ \delta_0 \otimes \mathbb{I} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\tilde{\delta}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_0 \otimes \mathbb{I} & \mathbb{I} \otimes \delta_0^T \end{pmatrix}$$

since

$$\tilde{\delta}_1 \tilde{\delta}_0 = 2\delta_0 \otimes \delta_0^T = 0$$

the new object is indeed a chain complex!

We say such a graph forms a **chain complex** if and only if

$$\delta_i \delta_{i-1} = 0 \text{ for all } i$$

If the graph has **3** or more parts then we can define a quantum code

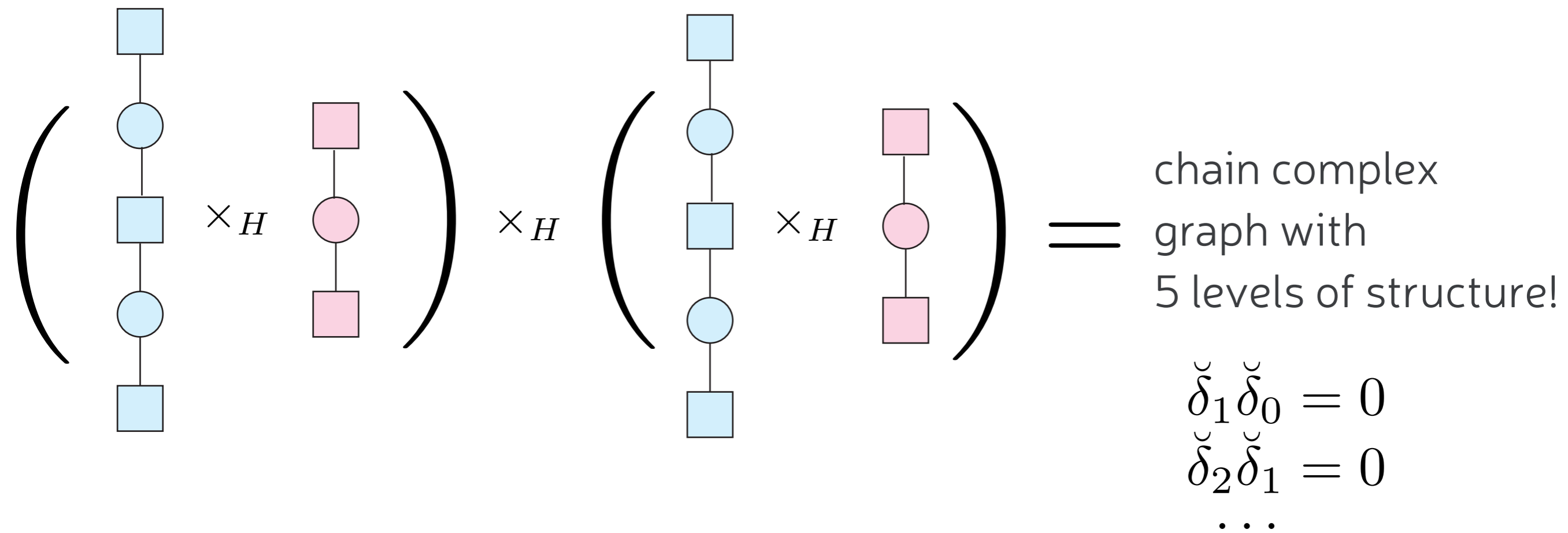
$$C_{j+1} = \text{the X checks} \longrightarrow H_X = \delta_j$$

$$C_j = \text{the qubits}$$

$$C_{j-1} = \text{the Z checks} \longrightarrow H_Z = \delta_{j-1}^T$$

$$\text{commutative } H_X H_Z^T = \delta_j (\delta_{j-1}^T)^T = \delta_j \delta_{j-1} = 0$$

Double homological product



give a quantum code with metachecks!
 classical LDPC \rightarrow quantum LDPC

We say such a graph forms a **chain complex** if and only if

$$\delta_i \delta_{i-1} = 0 \quad \text{for all } i$$

If the graph has **5** or more parts then we can define a quantum code

$$\begin{array}{l}
 C_{j+2} = \text{the X metachecks} \quad \nearrow \delta_{j+1} \\
 C_{j+1} = \text{the X checks} \quad \longrightarrow H_X = \delta_j \\
 C_j = \text{the qubits} \\
 C_{j-1} = \text{the Z checks} \quad \longrightarrow H_Z = \delta_{j-1}^T \\
 C_{j-2} = \text{the Z metachecks} \quad \searrow \delta_{j-2}^T
 \end{array}$$

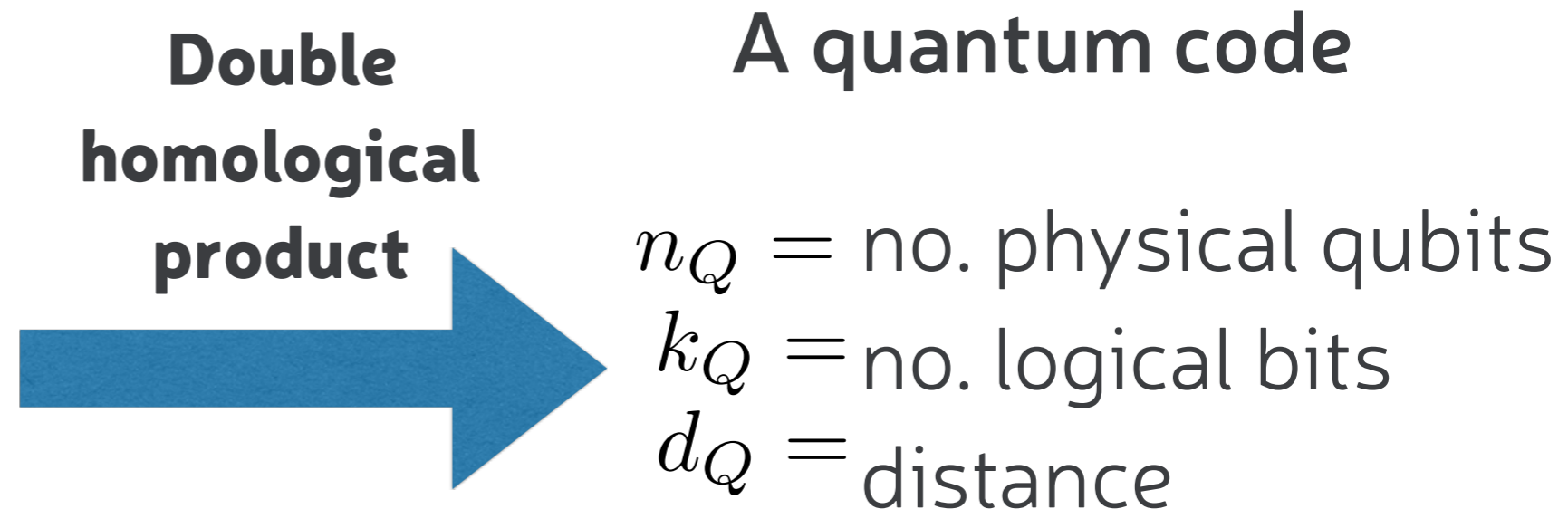
$$\delta_i \delta_{i-1} = 0 \quad \text{entails that valid metacheck codes!}$$

Given *any* classical code with

n = no. physical bits

k = no. logical bits

d = distance



where...

$$n_Q = n^4 + 4n^2(n - k)^2 + (n - k)^4 \sim O(n^4)$$

$$k_Q = k^4$$

$$d_Q = d^2$$

Distance recently improved from $d_Q \geq d$ bound, by Zeng and Pryadko
arXiv:1810.01519

Given **any** classical code with

n = no. physical bits

k = no. logical bits

d = distance

Double
homological
product



A quantum code

n_Q = no. physical qubits

k_Q = no. logical bits

d_Q = distance

where...

$$n_Q = n^4 + 4n^2(n - k)^2 + (n - k)^4 \sim O(n^4)$$

$$k_Q = k^4$$

$$d_Q = d^2$$

Theorem: Furthermore, the above code is always $(d-1, f)$ sound with $f(x) = x^3/4$ or better!

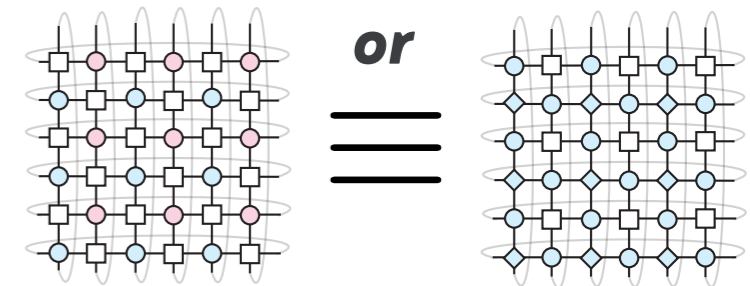
Any classical code

Step one:

First homological product



A quantum code without metachecks **or**
 a classical code with metachecks



Step two:

Second homological product



A quantum code
 with meta checks & good soundness

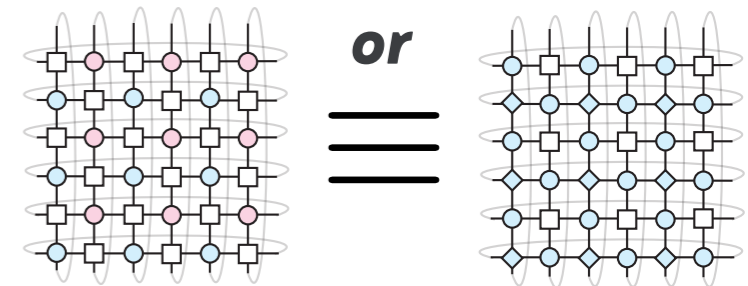
Any classical code

Step one:

First homological product



A quantum code without metachecks **or**
 a classical code with metachecks



Lemma: Furthermore, the new classical code is always (d, f) sound with $f(x) = x^2/4$ or better!

Proof Sketch. *by explicit decoder design*

Initial code $[n, k, d]$ with parity check matrix H

Hypergraph classical codes with bits arranged in 2D:

□ □ □ □ □ ← checks of H applied to every row

□ □ □ □ □ ←

□ □ □ □ □ ←

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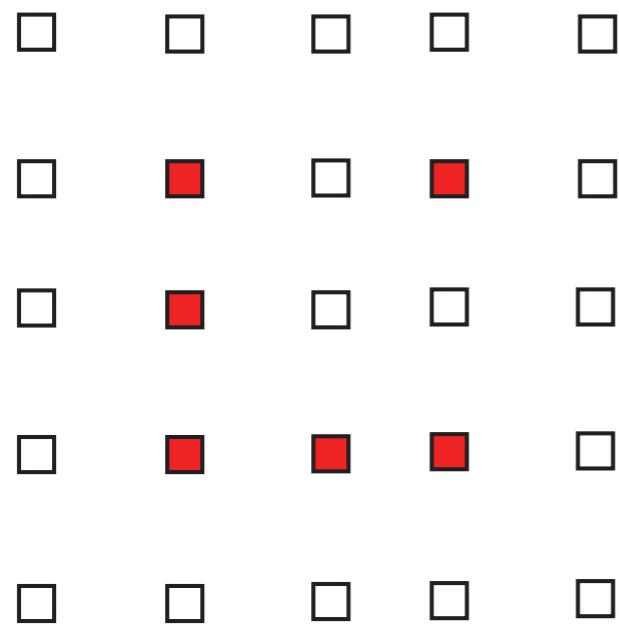
↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

checks of H^T applied to every column

Lemma: Furthermore, the new classical code is always (d, f) sound with $f(x) = x^2/4$ or better!

Proof Sketch. *by explicit decoder design*

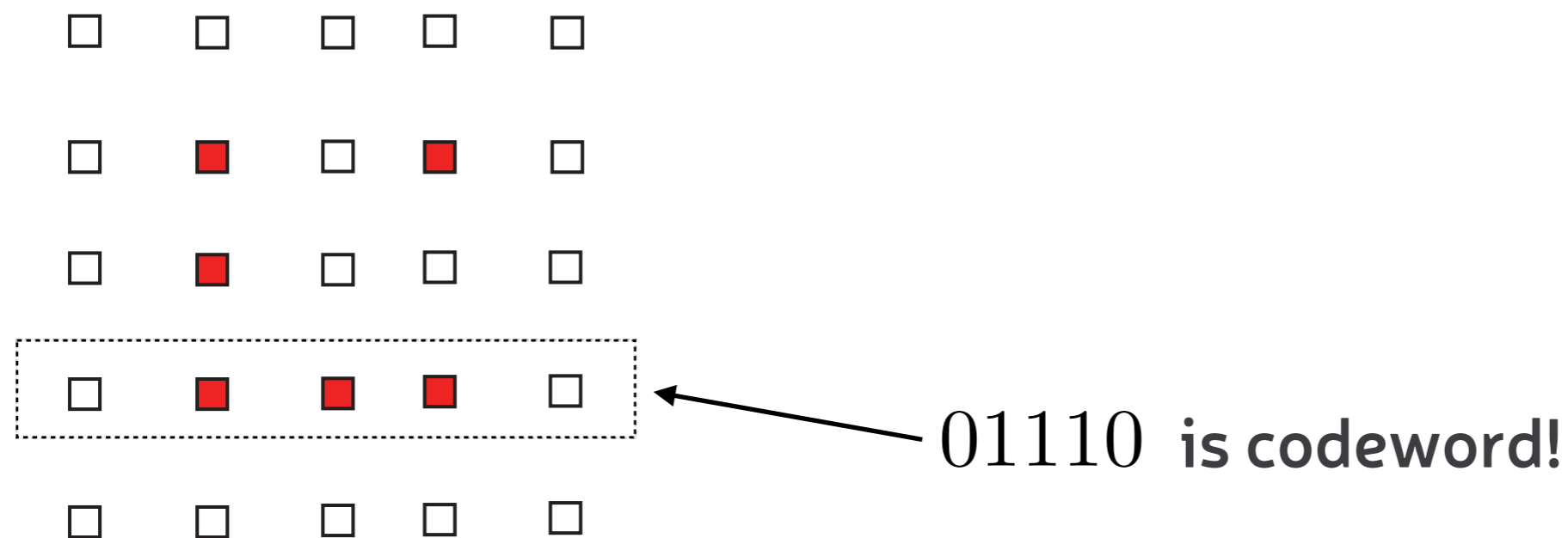
Consider some error pattern: *which we then minimise weight of!*



Lemma: Furthermore, the new classical code is always (d, f) sound with $f(x) = x^2/4$ or better!

Proof Sketch. *by explicit decoder design*

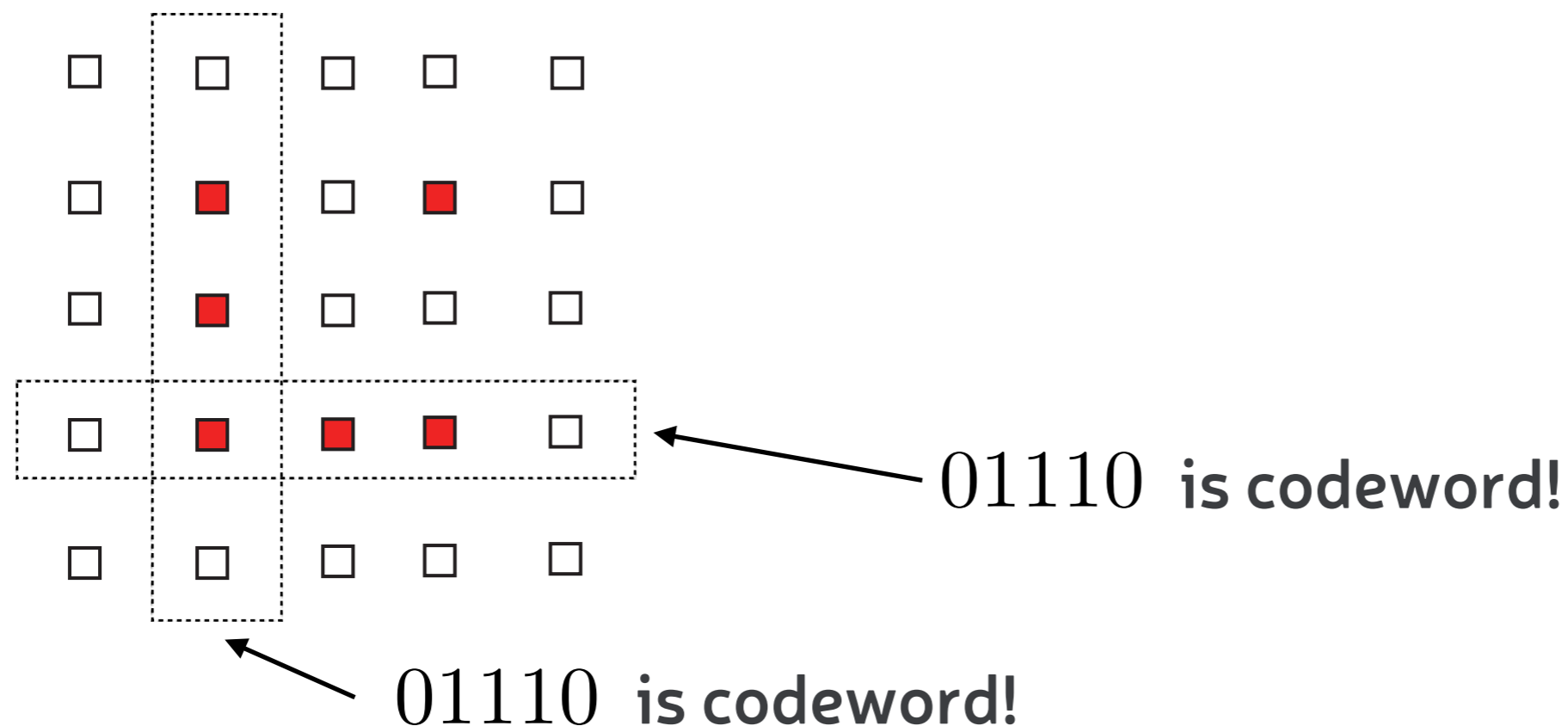
Look for **codewords** for original code in rows/columns



Lemma: Furthermore, the new classical code is always (d, f) sound with $f(x) = x^2/4$ or better!

Proof Sketch. *by explicit decoder design*

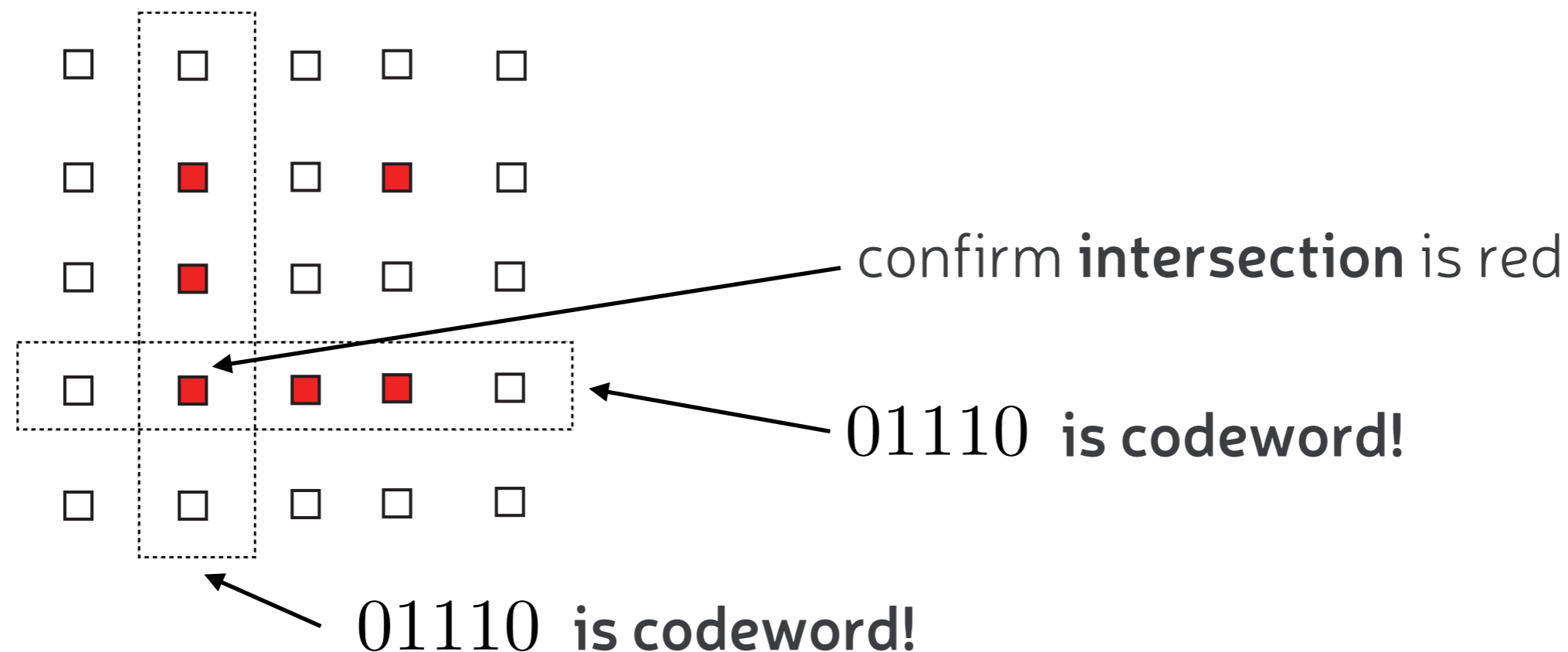
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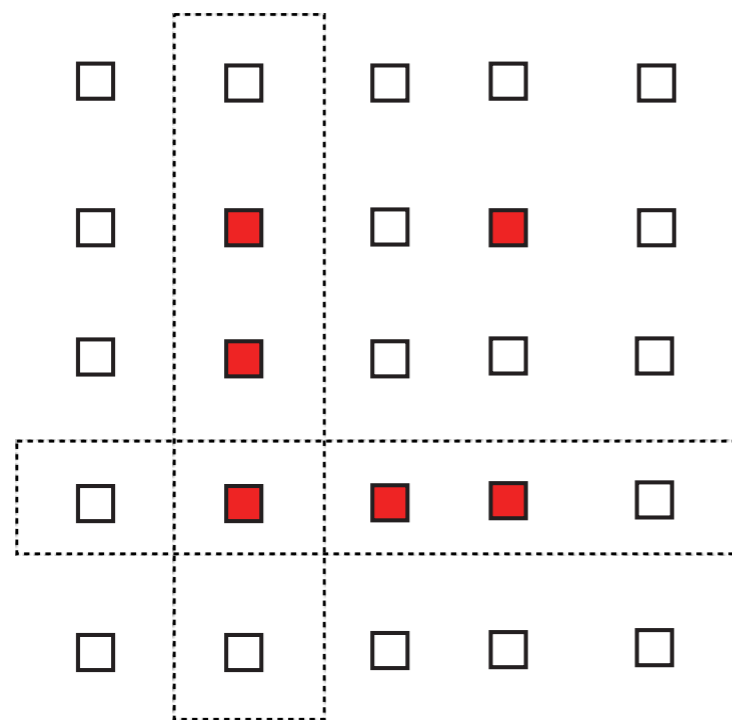
Look for **codewords** for original code in rows/columns



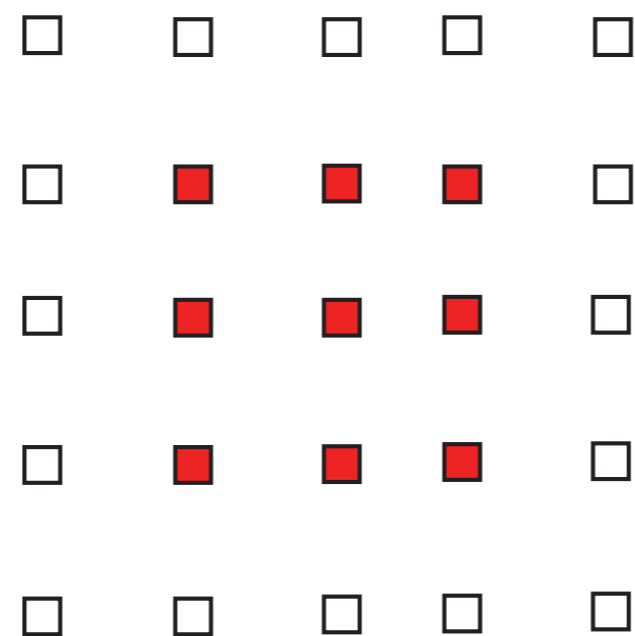
Lemma: Furthermore, the new classical code is always (d, f) sound with $f(x) = x^2/4$ or better!

Proof Sketch. *by explicit decoder design*

Form “product of code words”



01110 × 01110

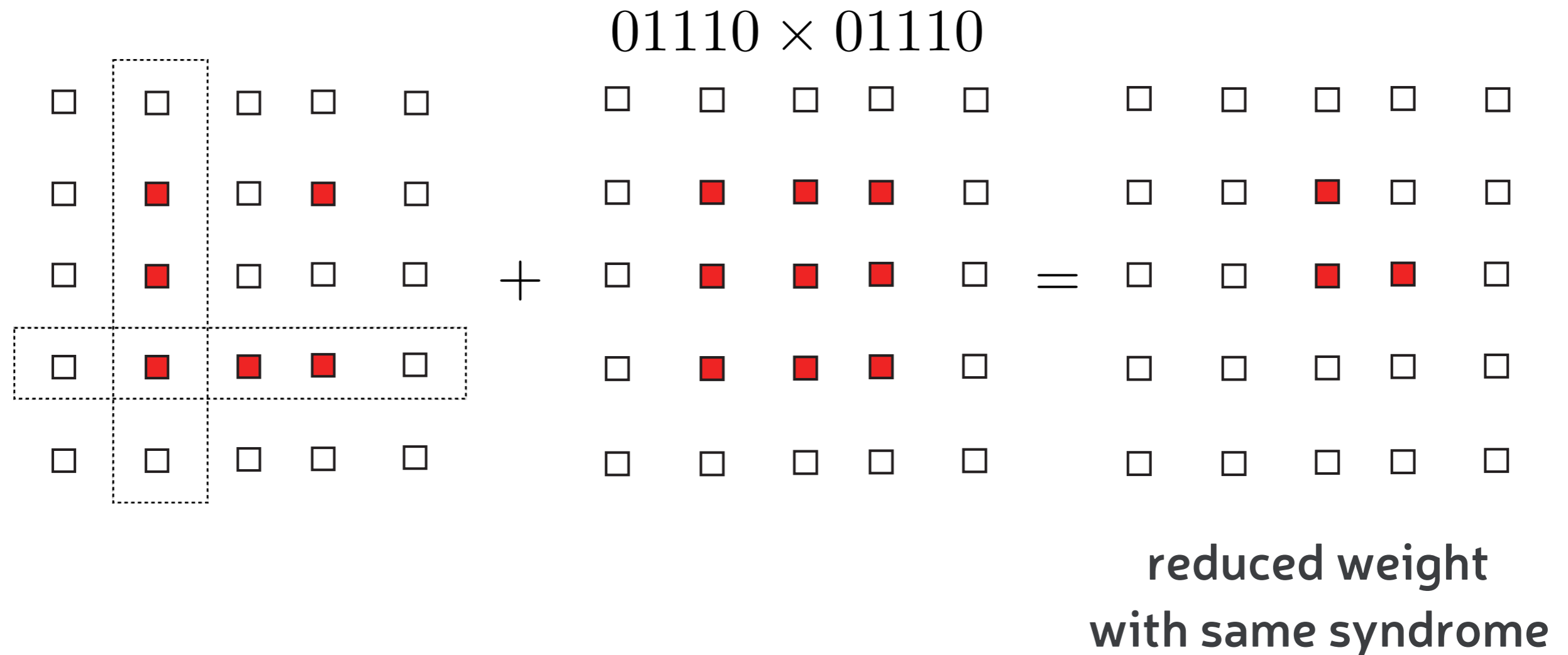


has trivial syndrome

Lemma: Furthermore, the new classical code is always (d, f) sound with $f(x) = x^2/4$ or better!

Proof Sketch. *by explicit decoder design*

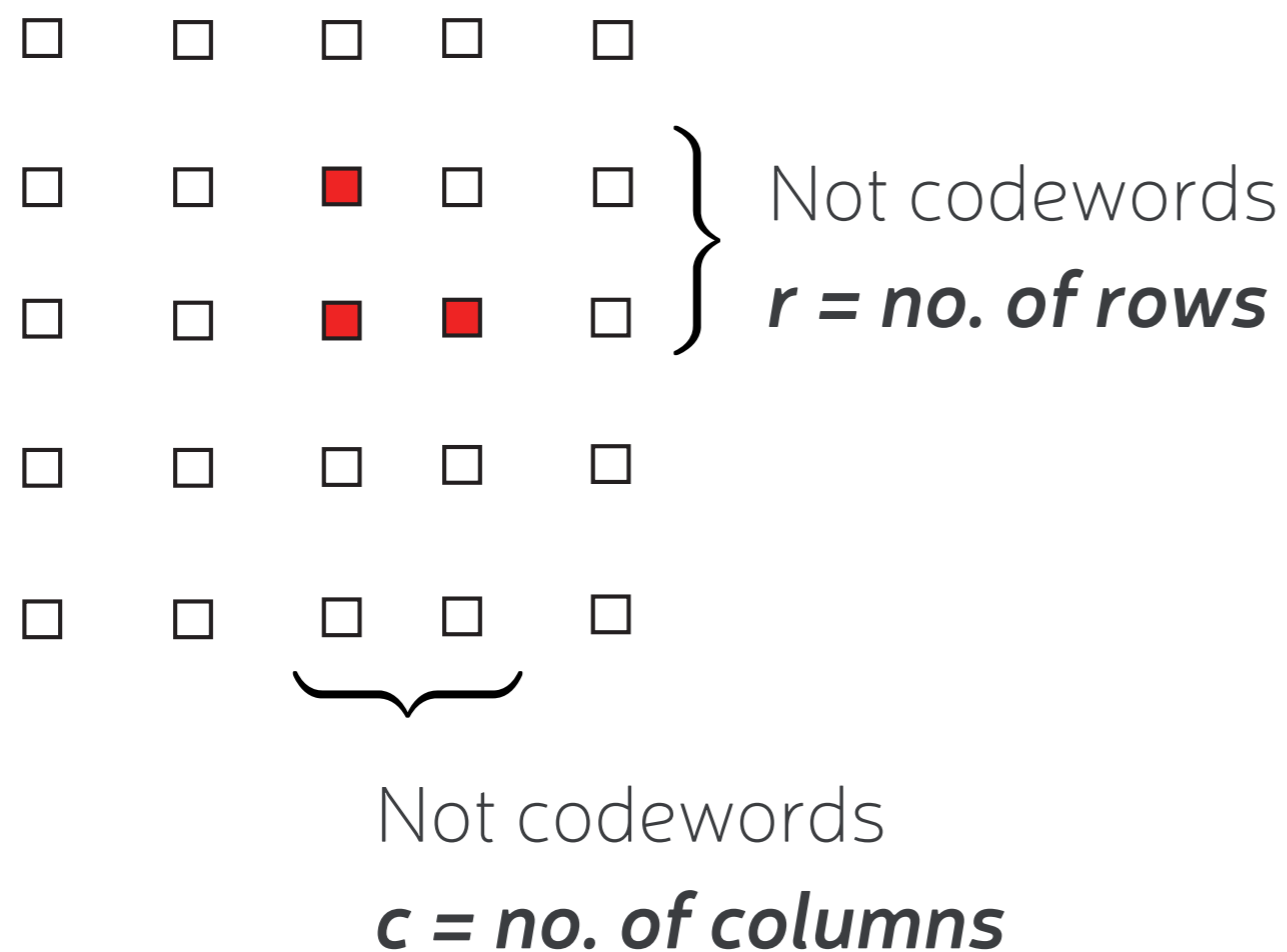
Add “product of code words”



Lemma: Furthermore, the new classical code is always (d, f) sound with $f(x) = x^2/4$ or better!

Proof Sketch. *by explicit decoder design*

Repeat until



Every row/column
that is **not a codeword**
leads to violated **check**

Therefore,

syndrome weight $x \geq c + r$

but $\text{wt}(E) \leq cr$

combined $\text{wt}(E) \leq x^2 / 4$

Lemma: Furthermore, the new classical code is always (d, f)
sound with $f(x) = x^2 / 4$ or better!



**Redundancy,
overheads
& talking heads**

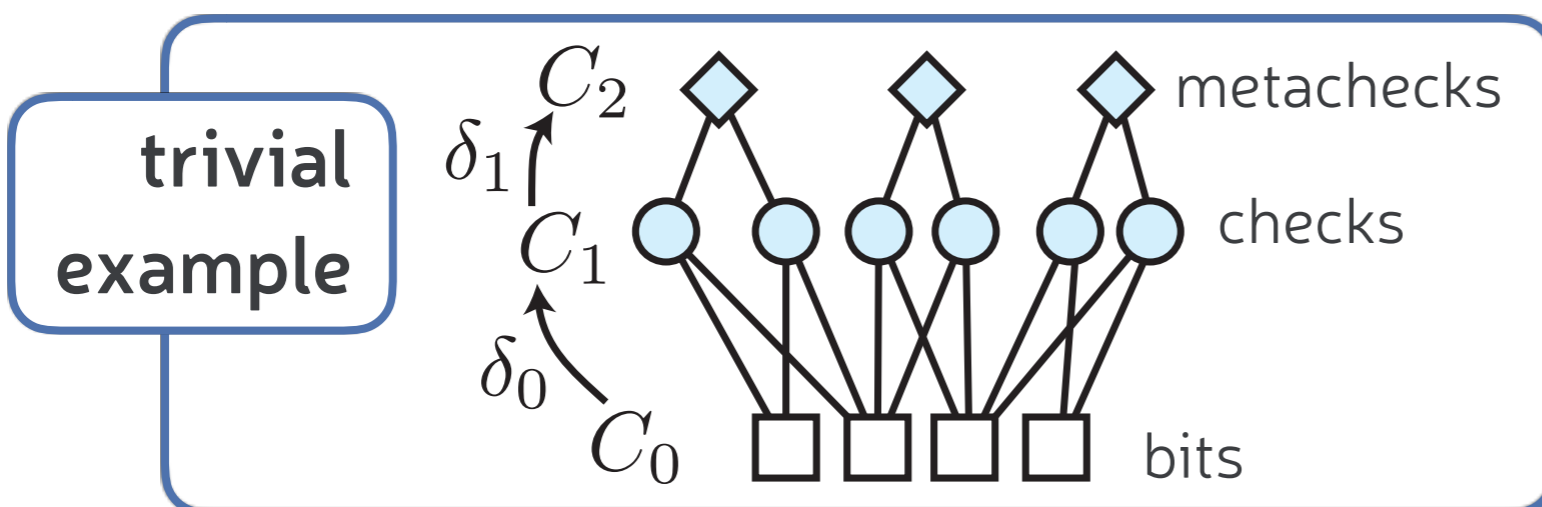
Quantify redundancy

$$\nu = \frac{\text{number of checks measurements}}{\text{num. stabiliser generators}}$$

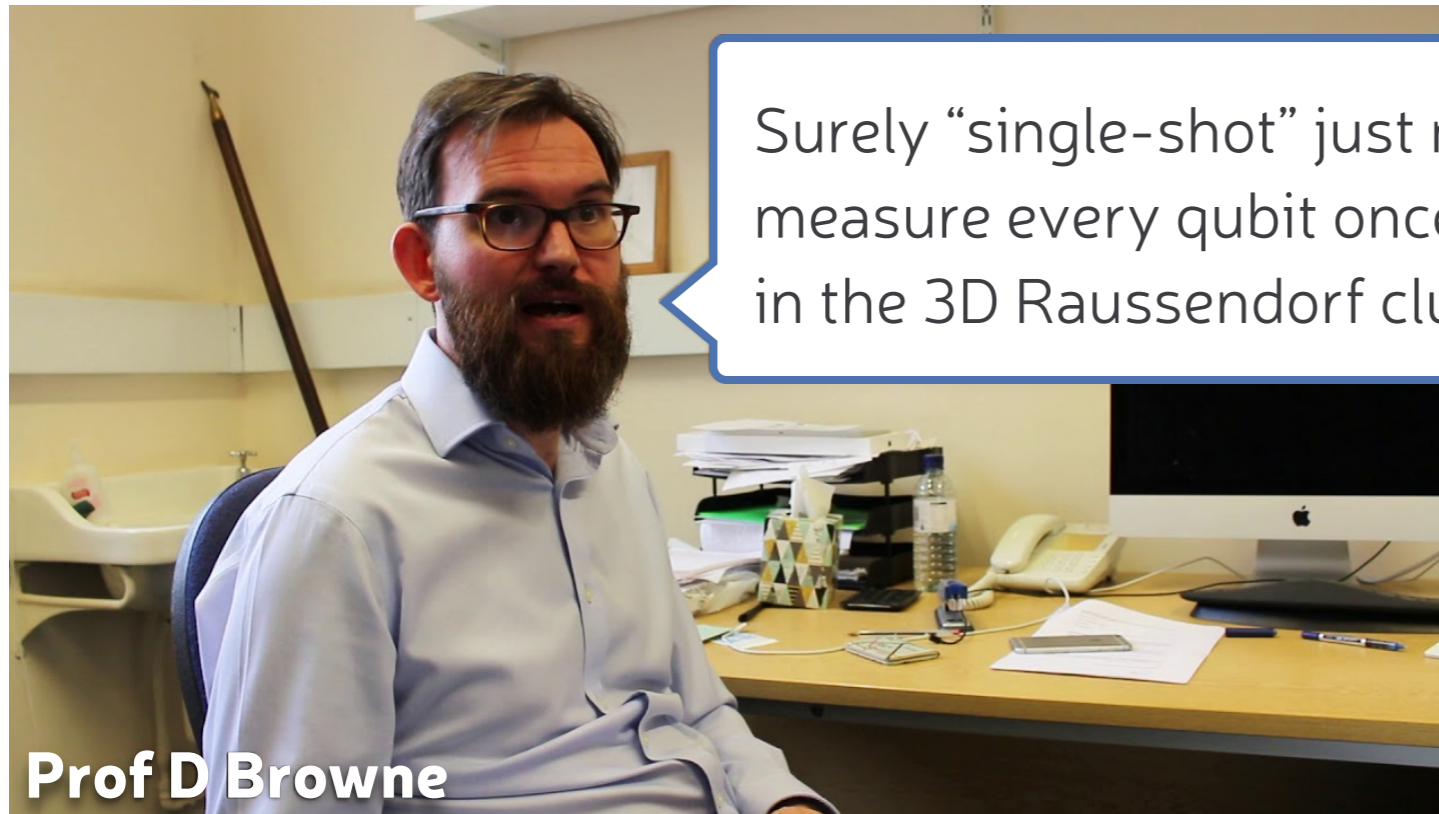
so $\nu = 1 \iff$ **no redundancy**

“**Interesting**” examples of single-shot have: $\nu \leq$ some constant

Formalism allows “trivial/uninteresting” single shot achieved using repeated measurements, but then $\nu \sim d$



Analysis of double homological product shows... $\nu < 2$



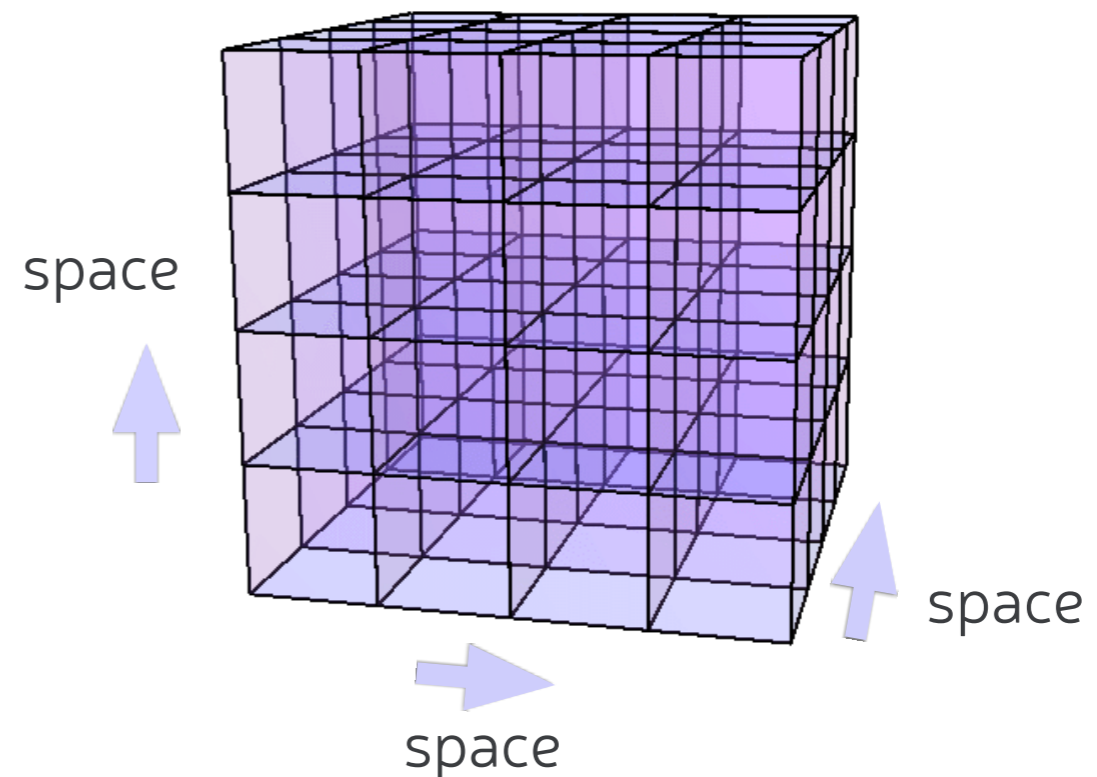
Surely “single-shot” just means you measure every qubit once. And you do this in the 3D Raussendorf cluster state model

Prof D Browne

Raussendorf 3D cluster state

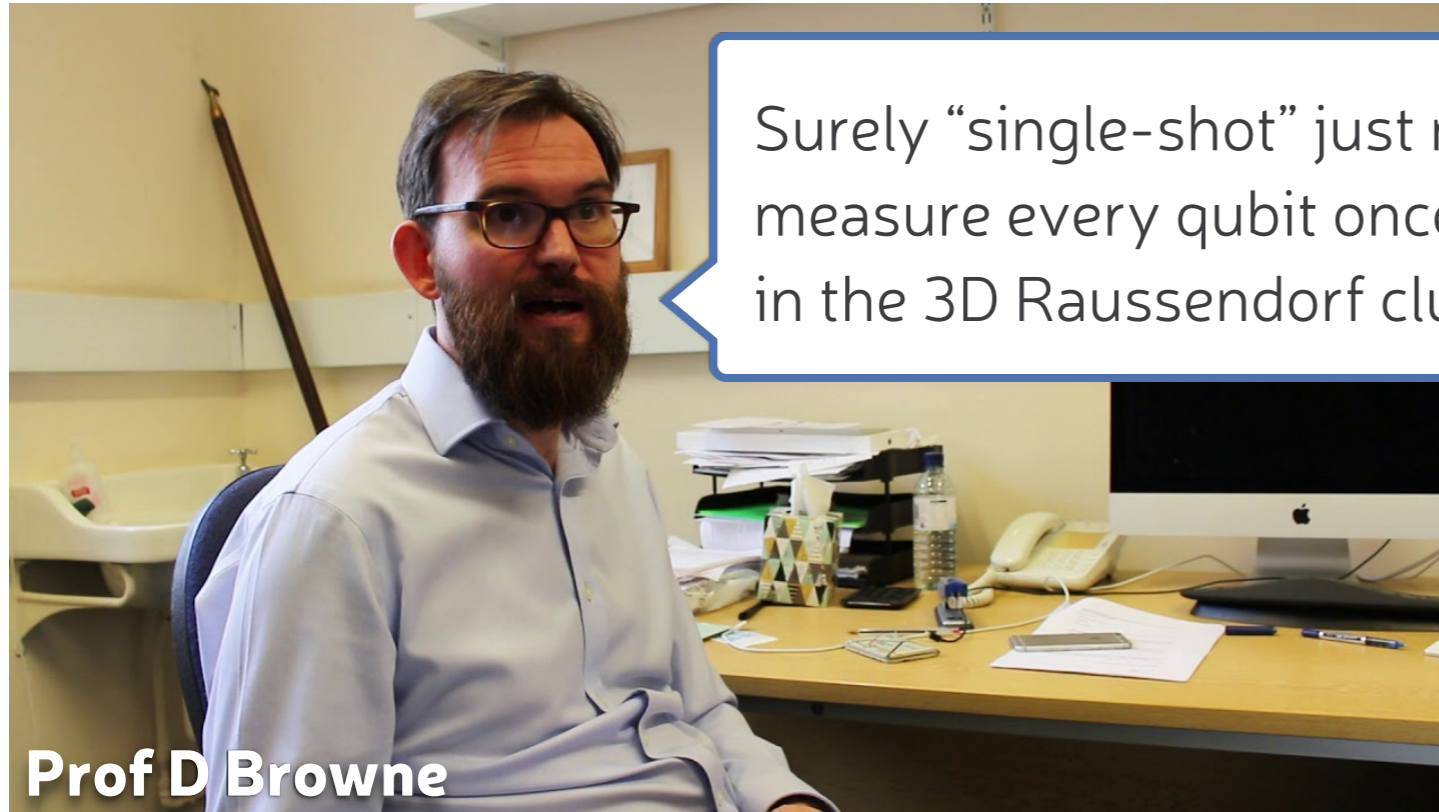
e.g. [Raussendorf, et al NJP '07]

Like 2D toric code,
but 3 “space” dimensions.



Fiolated codes: extends idea to other CCS codes
[Bolt, Duclos-Cianci, Poulin, Stace, PRL '16]

Basically repeated teleportation



Surely “single-shot” just means you measure every qubit once. And you do this in the 3D Raussendorf cluster state model

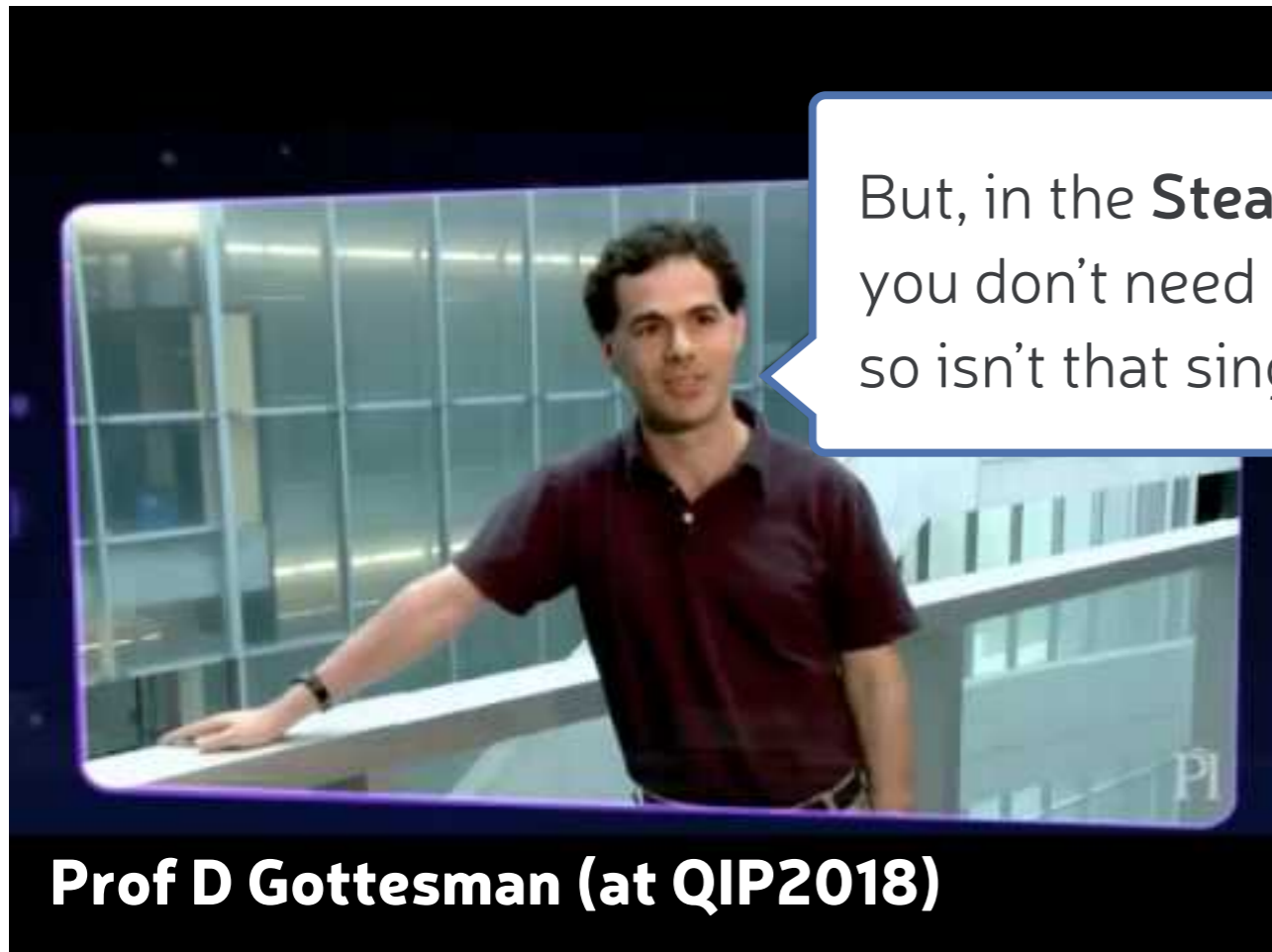
Prof D Browne

Hmmm.... maybe, maybe not...

But you have to pay an extra factor d in space cost in lieu of a factor d in measurement redundancy.

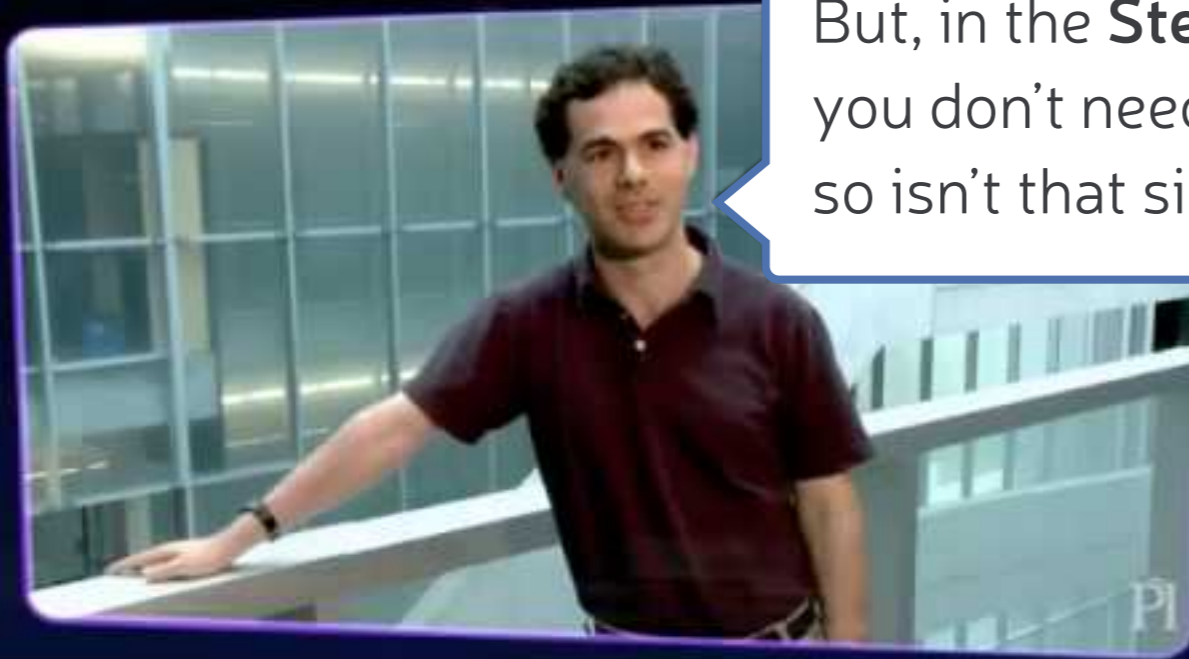
So if permitted, surely they would be **uninteresting** examples





But, in the **Steane model** of error correction you don't need repeated measurements, so isn't that single shot!

Refresher on Steane (a.k.a oold skool) EC:
Don't measure checks individually,
instead teleport through an ancilla $|+_L\rangle$
which you prepare offline to very high fidelity



Prof D Gottesman (at QIP2018)

But, in the **Steane model** of error correction you don't need repeated measurements, so isn't that single shot!

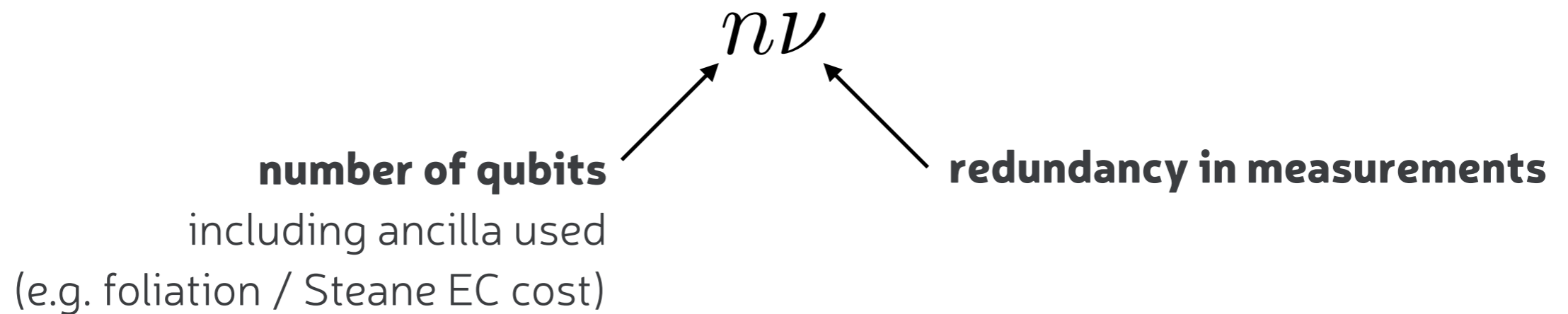
Hmmm... this sounds a lot like foliated codes again.

This offline state preparation doesn't normally use a factor d of extra resource.

Surely this is **“uninteresting”** again



What matters is resource cost



but we also want lots of logical qubits... so $\frac{n\nu}{k}$

number of logical qubits

The text explains the need for many logical qubits, leading to the expression $\frac{n\nu}{k}$. An arrow points from the **number of logical qubits** label to the denominator k in the fraction.

How does this scale with the code distance

for 2D Toric code:

$$\frac{n\nu}{k} = O(d^3)$$

$$k = O(1), n = O(d^2), \nu = O(d)$$

for 4D Toric code:

$$\frac{n\nu}{k} = O(d^2)$$

$$k = O(1), n = O(d^2), \nu = O(1)$$

for double homological product codes

$$\frac{n\nu}{k} \sim \frac{n_c^4}{k_c^4}$$

where $[n_c, k_c, d_c]$ are initial classical parameters

there are classical codes where $\frac{n_c}{k_c} = O(1)$

so possible to achieve

$$\frac{n\nu}{k} = O(1) \text{ constant overhead}$$



Future work

Closing remarks

Soundness is sufficient condition for single-shot error correction

Constant overhead quantum fault-tolerance with quantum expander codes

Authors: [Omar Fawzi](#), [Antoine Grospellier](#), [Anthony Leverrier](#)



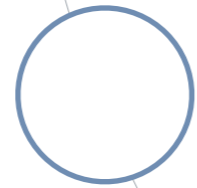
Uses single-shot codes with bad soundness!

Need to revisit problem to include also these examples of single-shot.



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

reference more papers,
give examples of single shot codes/
decoders,
discuss redundancy,



THANK YOU!



QUANTERA

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Research Council