
Assignment 4

Due: Wednesday, Nov 16th, 2022 @ 5:00PM

CPSC 447/547 Introduction to Quantum Computing (Fall 2022)

1 Introduction

Welcome to Assignment 4 for CPSC 447/547 (Introduction to Quantum Computing). As usual, collaboration is encouraged; if you discussed with anyone besides the course staff about the assignment, *please list their names* in your submission.

Getting Started.

This assignment has two parts, a *written portion* and a *programming portion*. **Important note:** The programming portion of this assignment is optional for 547 students; please complete the *547 project* instead. Typesetting your solutions to the written portion is not mandatory but highly encouraged. See the instructor's note on Ed for details about Latex for quantum computing. Some basic familiarity with Python and object-oriented programming is required to complete the programming portion of this assignment. No Python packages, except for math and numpy, are allowed. To start,

- Create a folder for Assignment 4, e.g., A4/
- Download the starter files for this assignment to that folder from the [course website](#):
 - `written.tex`
 - `A4.py`
 - `requirement_A4.py` (Do not modify)
- Write your solutions in `A4.py` (for programming tasks) and in `written.tex` or on paper (for written tasks).
- Debug and test your solution locally by running `'python3 A4.py'` on command line. This will check for any violation of the requirements and run correctness tests. Feel free to add more tests in `A4.py`. Do not hardcode your solutions for each public test cases.

Submission. Once you have completed and are ready to submit, upload two files to Gradescope (accessed through Canvas): `written.pdf` and `A4.py`. Gradescope will immediately show the results from running the requirement test and public test cases. If your file fails the tests in `requirement_A4.py`, a **0** score will be assigned.

After the deadline, your written solution will be graded manually by our course staff; your programming solution will be graded using our auto-grading script that contains private test cases. Late submissions (for up to two days) will receive a 50% penalty.

WRITTEN PORTION

This portion of the assignment has a total of 65 points.

2 Grover's Algorithm

Task 2.1 (10 pts)

Consider a function $f : \{0, 1\}^4 \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$. In the standard Grover's algorithm, we assume we know the number of inputs such that $f(x) = 1$. Suppose there are $K = 2$ of those satisfied inputs: $x = 8 = 1000$ and $x = 9 = 1001$.

- Given an oracle to the above function, O_f^\pm , we want to find those inputs x such that $f(x) = 1$. What is the optimal number of iterations in Grover's algorithm? That is, after how many iterations of oracle access is the probability of measuring $|1000\rangle$ or $|1001\rangle$ maximized? (Write the exact number, not in the big-O notation.)
- After the optimal number of iterations, what is the probability that $|1001\rangle$ is measured? (Write the exact number, not in big-O.)

Task 2.2 (★ pts)

Following the previous question,

- Suppose we apply one more iteration than the optimal number, what is the probability that $|1001\rangle$ is measured? (Write the exact number, not in big-O.)

3 Density Operators

Task 3.1 (★ pts)

Recall from lecture, we define the density operator for an n -qubit quantum state as a Hermitian matrix $\rho \in \mathbb{C}^{2^n \times 2^n}$ where $\rho \succcurlyeq 0$ (positive semi-definite) and $\text{Tr}(\rho) = 1$ (unit trace).

- Show that if $\langle v | \rho | v \rangle \geq 0$ holds for all unit vectors $|v\rangle$, then $\rho \succcurlyeq 0$.

Task 3.2 (30 pts)

A density operator can be used to represent an ensemble of quantum states. Suppose the probability of sampling $|\psi_j\rangle$ is p_j , then the matrix for the density operator is

$$\rho = \sum_j p_j |\psi_j\rangle \langle \psi_j|$$

- Suppose we have a pure state, e.g., $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|1\rangle$ with probability 1. What is its density matrix ρ_a ? (Write down the matrix explicitly.)
- Suppose we have a mixed state, e.g., $|0\rangle$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ and $|1\rangle$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$. What is its density matrix ρ_b ? (Write down the matrix explicitly.)

- (c) Suppose we have another mixed state, e.g., $|0\rangle$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ and $|+\rangle$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$. What is its density matrix ρ_c ? (Write down the matrix explicitly.)
- (d) Recall from lecture, in the Bloch sphere picture, we can locate a density matrix $\rho = \frac{1}{2}(I + r_x\sigma_x + r_y\sigma_y + r_z\sigma_z)$ with Cartesian coordinate (r_x, r_y, r_z) . Write down the coordinates for ρ_a, ρ_b, ρ_c from previous questions.
- (e) Notice that pure states are on the surface of the Bloch sphere and mixed states are at the interior of the Bloch sphere. We can define "how pure" a quantum state is by how close ρ is to the surface. Define $r = \sqrt{r_x^2 + r_y^2 + r_z^2}$ to be the distance from the origin to ρ . Show that $\text{Tr}(\rho^2) = \frac{1}{2}(1 + r^2)$.
- (f) We can use $\text{Tr}(\rho^2)$ to evaluate the "purity" of n -qubit quantum states. Here $\rho \in \mathbb{C}^{2^n \times 2^n}$. What is the lower bound and the upper bound of $\text{Tr}(\rho^2)$? Also write down two example quantum states, $\rho_{lower}, \rho_{upper}$, that saturate the bounds respectively.

4 Entropy

Task 4.1 (★ pts)

In information theory, entropy is a quantity commonly used to measure the level of "uncertainty" in a random variable's outcomes. For example, if we have a discrete random variable x , such that x has outcome x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n with probability p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n respectively, then we can define the entropy of x as

$$H(x) = - \sum_{j=1}^n p_j \log(p_j).$$

Here the log function has base 2, so the entropy is in the unit of bits¹. In the special case where a random variable has two outcomes, such as a coin flip where the probability of heads is p and the probability of tails is $1 - p$. We define the binary entropy as

$$H(p) = -p \log(p) - (1 - p) \log(1 - p).$$

- (a) Suppose Alice flips a fair coin, i.e., getting the outcome of heads ($x = H$) or tails ($x = T$) with equal probability. What is $H(x)$?
- (b) Consider Alice and Bob play a series of 5 games. First player who wins 3 games wins the series. For example, the series might end with outcome AAA, or BAAA, or BBAAB. Assuming either player has equal probability of winning a game (with no ties). Let x be the random variable for the number of games played in a series. What is $H(x)$?

Task 4.2 (25 pts)

Recall from lecture, our definition of density matrix ρ is analogous to that of probability density $p = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n\}$. For example, the positive condition in $\rho \succcurlyeq 0$ is analogous to $p \geq 0$ and the unity condition $\text{Tr}(\rho) = 1$ is analogous to $\sum_j p_j = 1$.

¹[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entropy_\(information_theory\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entropy_(information_theory))

We can therefore define a similar measure of uncertainty in qubits. This is called the von Neumann entropy:

$$S(\rho) = -\text{Tr}(\rho \log(\rho)),$$

where $\log(\rho)$ is defined by Spectral theorem and applying the log function to the eigenvalues: $\log(\rho) = \sum_j \log(\lambda_j) |\psi_j\rangle\langle\psi_j|$.

- For a single qubit pure state. e.g., $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|1\rangle$ with probability 1. What is its entropy $S(\rho_a)$?
- For a mixed state, e.g., $|0\rangle$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ and $|1\rangle$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$. What is its entropy $S(\rho_b)$?
- For another mixed state, e.g., $|0\rangle$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ and $|+\rangle$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$. What is its entropy $S(\rho_c)$?
- For an arbitrary single-qubit mixed state with density matrix $\rho = \frac{1}{2}(I + r_x\sigma_x + r_y\sigma_y + r_z\sigma_z)$, that is with Cartesian coordinate (r_x, r_y, r_z) in Bloch sphere. What are the eigenvalues of ρ ? (Write your answer in terms of r_x, r_y, r_z .)
- Following the previous question, what is $S(\rho)$? (Write your answer in terms of r_x, r_y, r_z .)

PROGRAMMING PORTION

This portion of the assignment has a total of 35 points.

Important: *This portion is optional for CPSC 547 students.*

In lectures, we discussed quantum error correction and how to correct general quantum errors by modeling them with Pauli errors. In this programming task, you'll first write a simulator (Task 5) that computes the measurement results of a quantum circuit with only Clifford gates, Pauli \hat{X} and CNOT, together with initialization and measurement in the \hat{Z} basis. Given some (random) Pauli \hat{X} errors at specific positions throughout the circuit, your simulator will generate the measurement results stored as classical bits. Next, you'll implement a QEC decoder (Task 6) that takes the measurement results as input and compute a most likely error pattern that generated this measurement result. This most likely error pattern can therefore be used to correct the physical qubit errors and protects the state of the logical qubit.

5 Clifford Gate Simulation

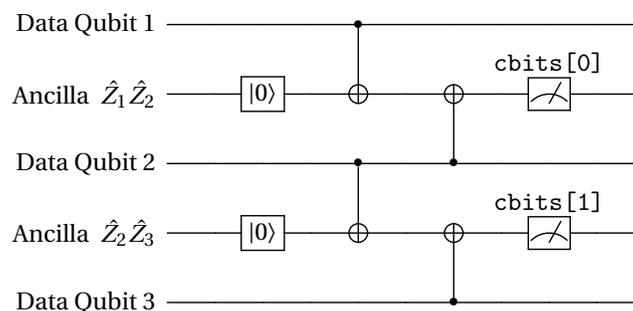


Figure 1: Quantum Repetition Code (single round of measurement, code distance $d = 3$).

According to the Gottesman–Knill theorem, Clifford gates can be efficiently simulated in polynomial time. This kind of simulation avoids keeping track of the exponential-sized quantum state vector and thus can simulate many more qubits than what you implemented in Assignment 1. Such simulation is especially helpful for analyzing quantum error correction codes.

We take the quantum repetition code as an example – it’s implemented with CNOT gates, $|0\rangle$ initialization gates and \hat{Z} measurement gates. A single measurement round of the quantum repetition code is shown in Figure 1. It consists of 4 steps:

- Step 0: initialize ancilla qubits to $|0\rangle$ states
- Step 1: simultaneous CNOT gates
- Step 2: simultaneous CNOT gates
- Step 3: measure ancilla qubits in \hat{Z} basis (= measure joint $\hat{Z}_1\hat{Z}_2$ of adjacent data qubits)

We assume the circuit is initialized into a joint +1 eigenstate of all stabilizer (measurement) operators. Recall from lecture, this is called a logical codeword. Note that $|0_L\rangle$ and $|1_L\rangle$ form an orthonormal basis, i.e., $\langle 0_L|1_L\rangle = 0$. Any superposition of these two logical basis states is a logical state as well. Since quantum error correction does not obtain any information of the logical qubit, we cannot make any assumption of the logical state. Fortunately, knowing that the initial state is a joint +1 eigenstate is already enough for simulation.

To see how this is possible, we first look at two equivalent circuits in Figure 2. Only Pauli \hat{X} error on the control qubit propagates to the target qubit. Thus, assuming there are some kind of errors before the CNOT gate, we can easily calculate the errors after the CNOT gate by commuting them through the CNOT gate.

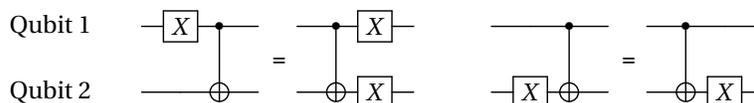


Figure 2: Equivalent Circuits.

Task 5.1 (5 pts)

Implement the function that computes the errors after gates:

- `x_error`: a Pauli X error. E.g. before = `[False]` then after = `[True]`, vice versa.
- `cx`: CNOT gate. E.g. before = `[True, False]` then after = `[True, True]`.
- `initialize`: initialize multiple qubits into their $|0\rangle$ states. after = `[False, ...]`.

```
class Gate(object):
    ...
    def commute_through(self, pauli_x_errors_before):
        # YOUR IMPLEMENTATION HERE
```

Task 5.2 (10 pts)

Implement the function that simulates one step. If this step is a normal gate, it updates the Pauli \hat{X} errors `self.qubits.pauli_x_errors` by invoking the `commute_through` function. If

this step is a measurement gate, it updates the corresponding classical bits `self.cbits.state` with new measurement: if it's +1 measurement then `False`, if it's -1 measurement then `True`. A -1 measurement implies some Pauli X errors in the circuit, which needs to be corrected.

```
class QuantumCircuit(object):
    ...
    def evolveOneStep(self):
        # YOUR IMPLEMENTATION HERE
```

You can check your implementation with public tests. One example test is shown in [Figure 3](#):

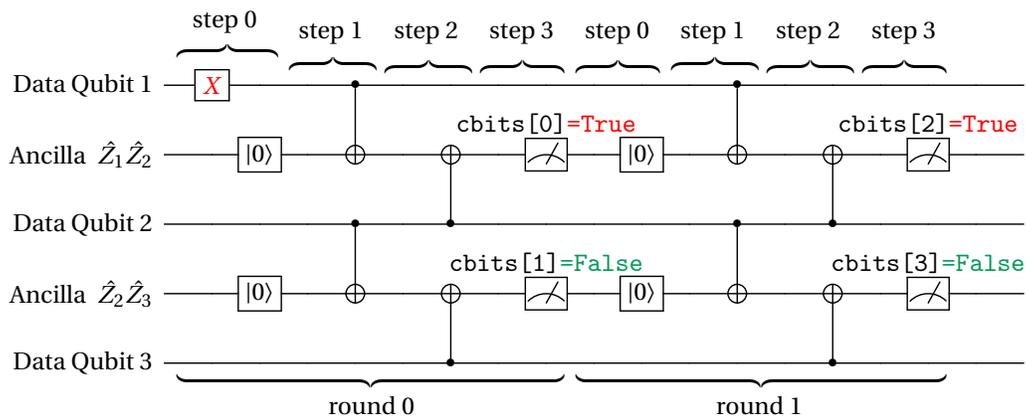


Figure 3: Basic example of simulation (2 rounds of measurements, each round has 4 steps).

6 Quantum Error Correction (QEC) Decoder

Given the simulator you've implemented in Task 5, you can simulate the measurement results given any random Pauli errors. In Task 6, you'll implement a decoder that takes the measurement results as input, and try to identify and correct the errors in the circuit.

Your decoder should be aware of the noise model, which defines in which position errors can happen, and at what probability. For simplicity, we consider three kinds of noise models.

- *Code-Capacity Noise Model*: each data qubit has \hat{X} error in step 0 with probability p .
- *Phenomenological Noise Model*: multiple rounds of measurement, each applying the code-capacity noise model. Additionally, except for the last round, each stabilizer is subject to measurement error with probability p , i.e. the measurement result is flipped. Note that `noisy_measurements = 0` is equivalent to the code-capacity noise model.
- *Circuit-Level Noise Model*: errors can happen anywhere (not limited to data qubits) with probability p , except for the last round of measurement with `step > 0`.

Note that all three kinds of noise model assume a noiseless final measurement round. It's practical because the last measurement result usually comes from measuring all the data qubits and compute (classically) the stabilizer results directly from the data qubit measurements.

You'll implement a Most-Likely Error (MLE) decoder for each of these noise models. A MLE decoder computes the most likely error pattern that causes this syndrome (all the stabilizer measurement results). Assuming each error is independent, the probability of an error pattern $E \subseteq \{e\}$ is the product of each occurring error p_e where $e \in E$ and each non-occurring error $1 - p_e$ where $e \notin E$.

$$P(E) = \prod_{e \in E} p_e \prod_{e \notin E} (1 - p_e) = \prod_{e \in E} \frac{p_e}{1 - p_e} \prod_e (1 - p_e) \propto \prod_{e \in E} \frac{p_e}{1 - p_e}$$

Thus, maximizing $P(E)$ is equivalent to maximizing $\prod_{e \in E} \frac{p_e}{1 - p_e}$, which is also equivalent to minimizing $\sum_{e \in E} \log \frac{1 - p_e}{p_e} = \sum_{e \in E} w_e$ where the weight is defined as $w_e = \log \frac{1 - p_e}{p_e}$. Since our noise model only has single probability p_e , you can safely use $w_e = 1$. In conclusion, the decoding problem can be formalized as: given any syndrome S , compute error pattern E

$$E = \operatorname{argmin}_E \sum_{e \in E} w_e = \operatorname{argmin}_E \sum_{e \in E} \ln \frac{1 - p_e}{p_e}, \text{ subject to } S(E) = S$$

Note that you don't have to implement an algorithm that solves the above mathematical problem. You only need to understand the concepts and convert the problem properly to implement the decoder. Install a library by "pip3 install fusion-blossom==0.2.1".

Task 6.1 (8 pts)

Implement a Most-Likely Error (MLE) decoder for code-capacity noise model.

```
class QuantumRepetitionCode(object):
    ...
    def decode_code_capacity_noise(self, p, measurements, visualize=False):
        # YOUR IMPLEMENTATION HERE
```

All the possible errors in the code-capacity noise model are shown in [Figure 4](#).

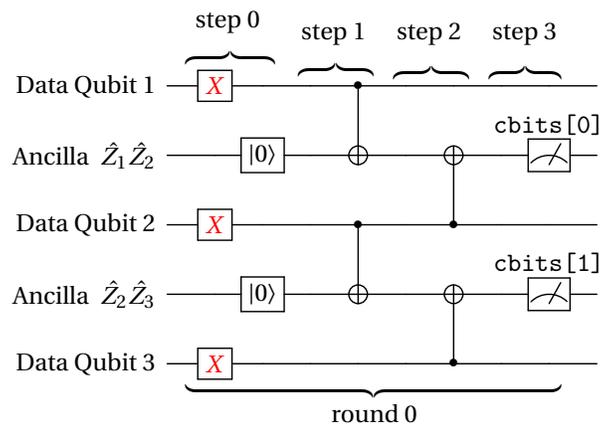


Figure 4: Code-Capacity Noise Model.

The measurement result is the parity check of the two adjacent data qubit errors. In order to solve the most likely error pattern that causes the measurement result, you can use the

fusion-blossom library (<https://github.com/yuewuo/fusion-blossom>) to solve a Minimum-Weight Parity Subgraph (MWPS). Given any (non-negative weighted) graph, it solves a subgraph E (a subset of edges) that has minimum total weight ($\sum_{e \in E} w_e$) while satisfying the parity check:

- **normal vertex**: number of edges incident to this vertex is **even**. This is useful when describing `cbit = False`.
- **defect vertex**: number of edges incident to this vertex is **odd**. This is useful when describing `cbit = True`: odd number of independent errors causing this -1 stabilizer measurement.
- **virtual vertex**: number of edges incident to this vertex is **arbitrary**. This is useful when an independent error only causes a single defect vertex, in which case you can connect the other end to a virtual vertex.

We have created the vertices for you in the starter code. Here is the layout of vertices. You can modify `testBasicDecode()` function by changing `visualize=False` to `visualize=True` to open the visualization tool for ease of debugging². The middle two white vertices corresponds to the measurement results (normal vertex or defect vertex), while the yellow ones are virtual vertices. You should first complete the decoding graph by adding edges to it. Each edge corresponds to an independent error (the three \hat{X} errors in Figure 4). Each edge connects the 2 vertices that can detect the error. Specifically, you should append edges to `weighted_edges` list, with a format `(vertex_index_1, vertex_index_2, weight)`.



Figure 5: Decoding Graph of Code-Capacity Noise Model (vertex indices [0, 1, 2, 3] from left to right)

Then, try to convert the measurement results to defect vertices in their indices. For example, a measurement results of `[False, False]` corresponds to defect vertices `[]`. Similarly, `[True, False]` \rightarrow `[1]`, `[False, True]` \rightarrow `[2]`, `[True, True]` \rightarrow `[1,2]`. Defect vertices are marked as red circle in the visualization tool.

Finally, given the Minimum-Weight Parity Subgraph (MWPS) result subgraph, you'll calculate the correction on the data qubits. Specifically, `correction` is a list of bool value with length equal to the number of data qubits (or code distance d in quantum repetition code). A `True` means the corresponding data qubit should be corrected by \hat{X} . Given the indices of edges in subgraph (depending on how you add the edges), you can flip the value in the `correction`.

Once finished, you should pass the `testBasicDecode` test case.

Task 6.2 (8 pts)

Implement a Most-Likely Error (MLE) decoder for phenomenological noise model.

```
class QuantumRepetitionCode(object):
    ...
    def decode_phenomenological_noise(self, p, measurements, visualize=False):
        # YOUR IMPLEMENTATION HERE
```

²You need a browser to open the visualization tool. Although it's not necessary to finish the assignment, it helps in debugging.

All the possible errors in the phenomenological noise model are shown in [Figure 6](#).

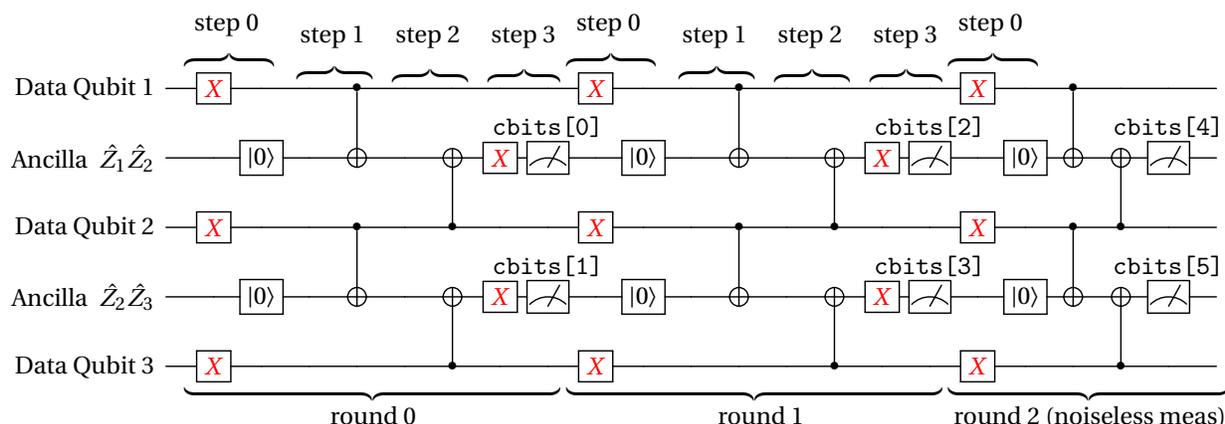


Figure 6: Phenomenological Noise Model (`noisy_measurement = 2`).

The phenomenological noise model adds pure measurement errors on top of the code-capacity noise model. In this case, the defect vertex does not necessarily correspond to a -1 stabilizer measurement (or `cbit = True`) because a single error will change all the measurement values afterwards. Thus, here we use defect vertices to represent measurement results that are *different* from the previous round. A pure measurement error appears as a pair of defect vertices because the measurement result will change twice.

We have built the vertices in the starter code, but feel free to modify it as you like. Similar to the previous task, you'll first complete the decoding graph as shown in [Figure 7](#). Then create the defect vertices given the measurement results. Finally build the correction given the MWPS. Note that not all edges in the MWPS change the correction pattern, e.g. pure measurement errors do not affect data qubits.

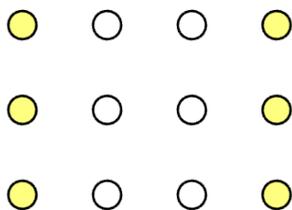


Figure 7: Decoding Graph of Phenomenological Noise Model (vertex indices [0, 1, 2, 3] at the bottom)

Once finished, you should pass the `testDecodePhenomenological` test case.

Task 6.3 (★ pts)

Implement a Most-Likely Error (MLE) decoder for circuit-level noise model.

```
class QuantumRepetitionCode(object):
    ...
    def decode_circuit_level_noise(self, p, measurements, visualize=False):
        # YOUR IMPLEMENTATION HERE
```

All the possible errors in the circuit-level noise model are shown in [Figure 8](#).

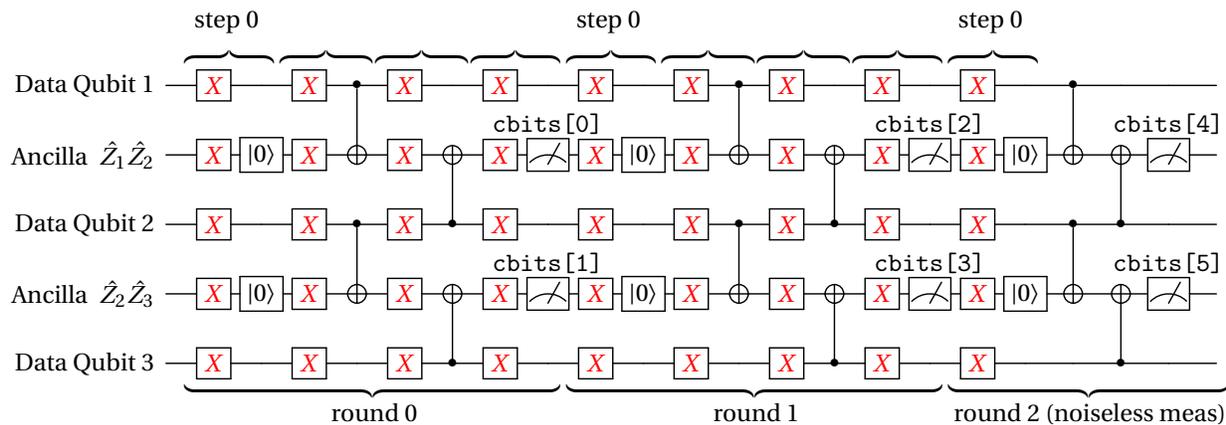


Figure 8: Circuit-Level Noise Model (`noisy_measurement = 2`).

Note that there are some errors that correspond to diagonal edges in the decoding graph. For example an error at round 0, step 2 on data qubit 2 generates defect vertices in round 0 at $\hat{Z}_1\hat{Z}_2$ stabilizer and round 1 at $\hat{Z}_2\hat{Z}_3$ stabilizer.

Task 6.4 (4 pts)

Evaluate decoder thresholds. In this task, you do not need to submit any results. You may need to modify your code to support different `noisy_measurements` and `d` (code distance) values. You'll get full score by achieving a reasonable logical error rate as shown in the following figures.

For the code-capacity noise model, it has an optimal threshold of $p_{th} = 0.5$. That is, given any physical error rate below the threshold, one can always achieve exponentially lower logical error rate by increasing the code distance `d`. Use the `evaluateDecoderThreshold` function to evaluate your decoder. An example is in [Figure 9](#).

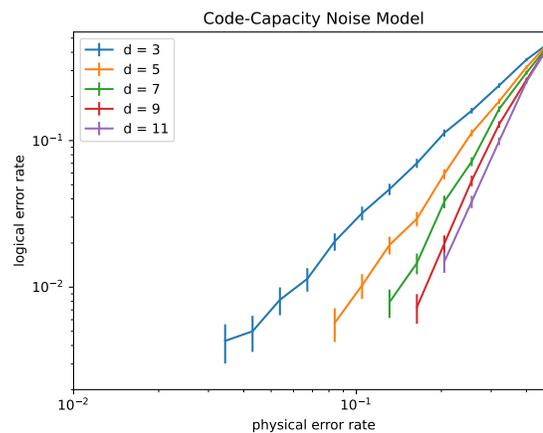
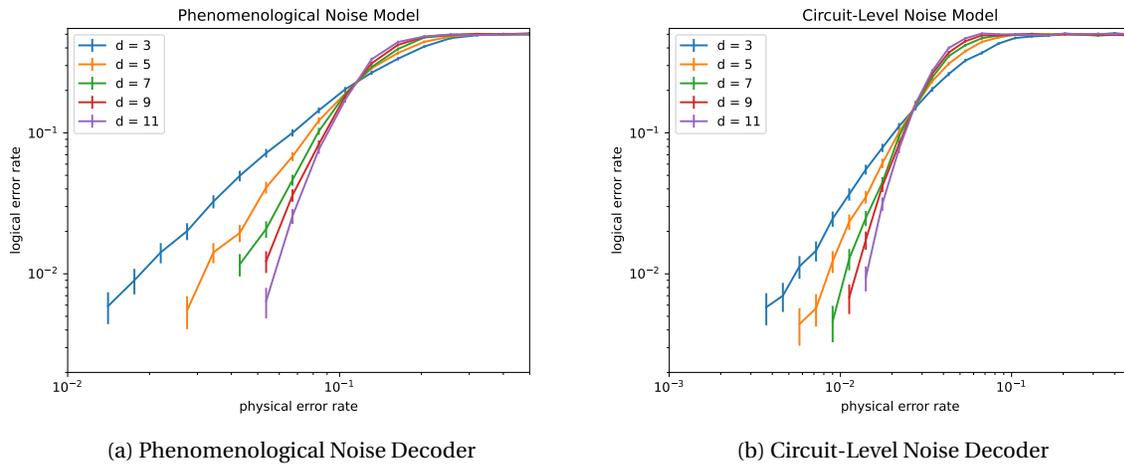


Figure 9: Code Capacity Noise Decoder

For the phenomenological noise model and circuit-level noise model, it has lower threshold.

Use the `evaluateDecoderThresholdPhenomenological/CircuitLevel` functions to evaluate your decoder. Examples are shown in [Figure 10a](#) and [Figure 10b](#).



Task 6.5 (★ pts)

Understand logical error rate. In the previous evaluation, we use `noisy_measurements = d` to simulate a minimum fault-tolerant logical state preparation. In reality, the logical qubit should last for much longer than the lifetime of a physical qubit. When the physical error rate is below the threshold, we can increase the code distance to achieve exponentially longer logical qubit lifetime. Use the `evaluateLogicalErrorAccumulation` function to understand how logical qubit's error rate changes with time (rounds of noisy measurements). We also plot the physical qubit's error accumulation labeled in $d = 1$. An example is in [Figure 11](#).

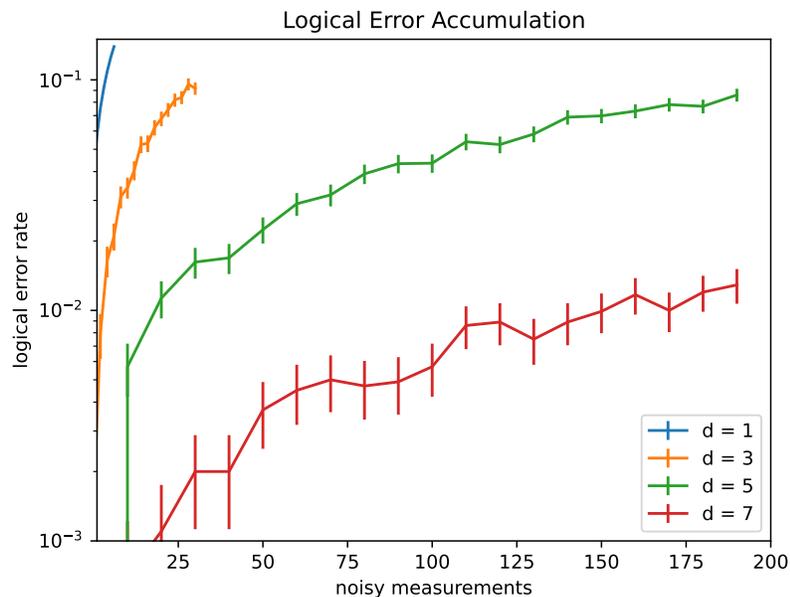


Figure 11: Logical Error Accumulation in Phenomenological Noise Model with $p = 0.02$