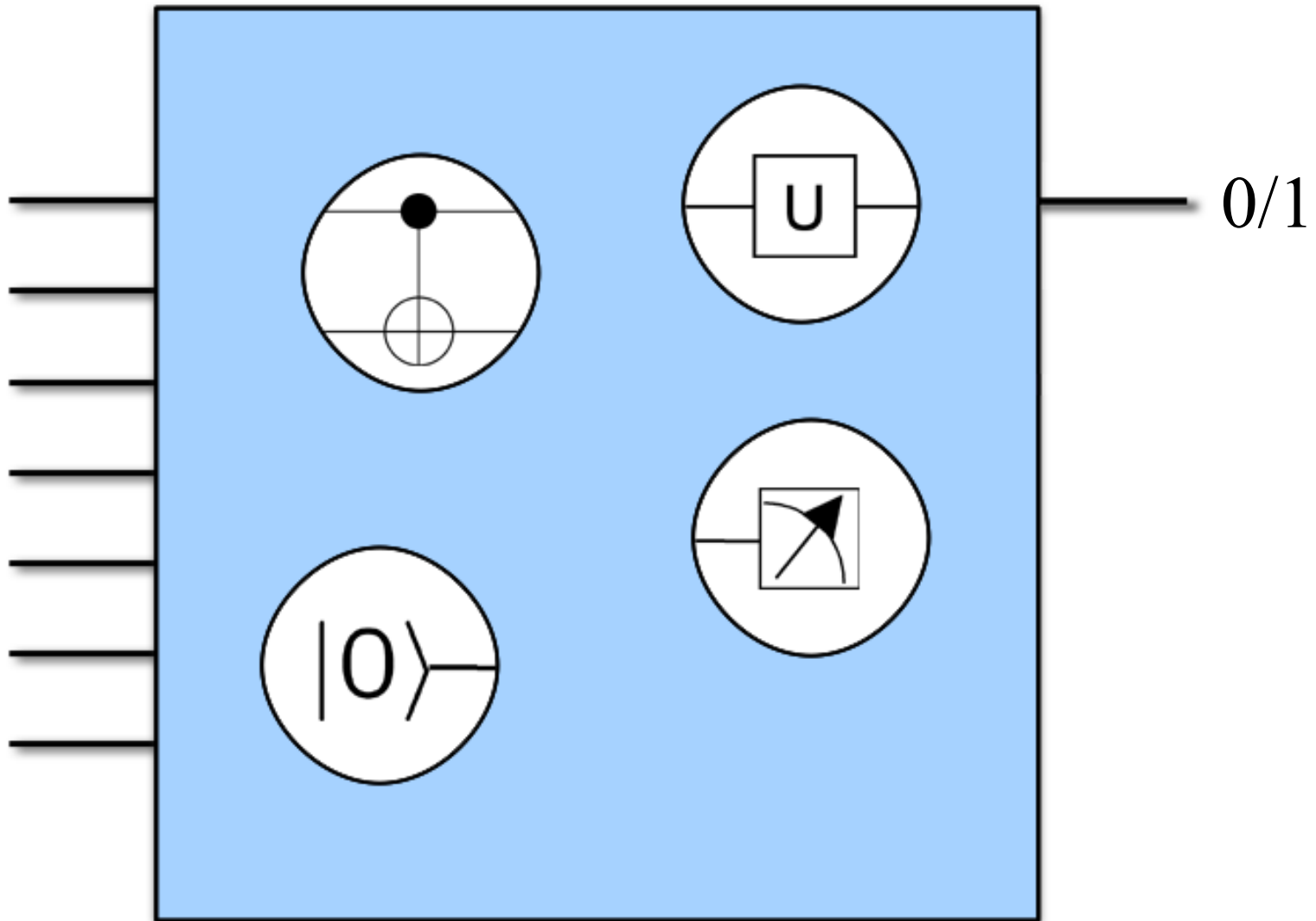


Fault-tolerance threshold for a distance-three quantum code

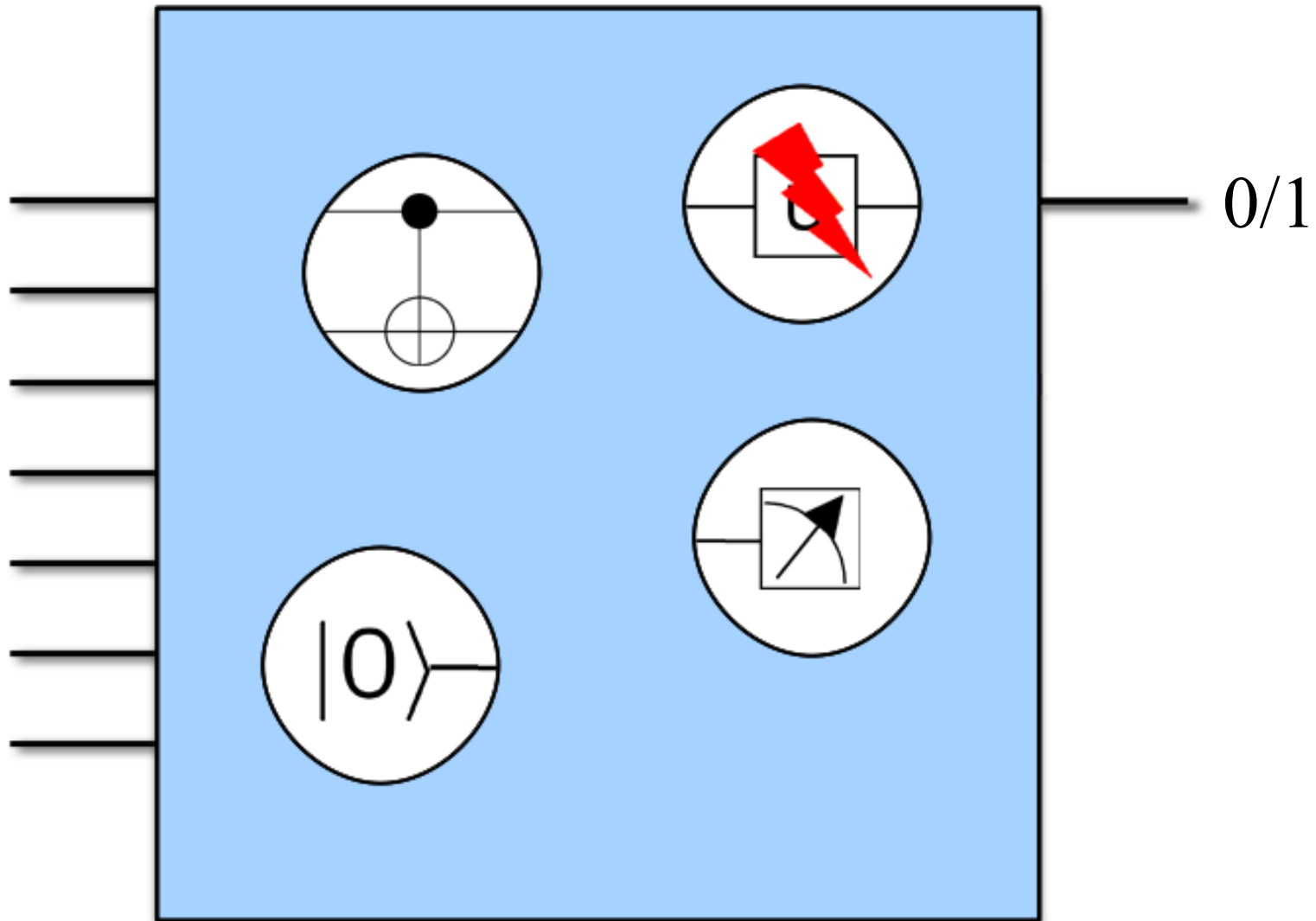
Ben Reichardt
UC Berkeley



N gate circuit

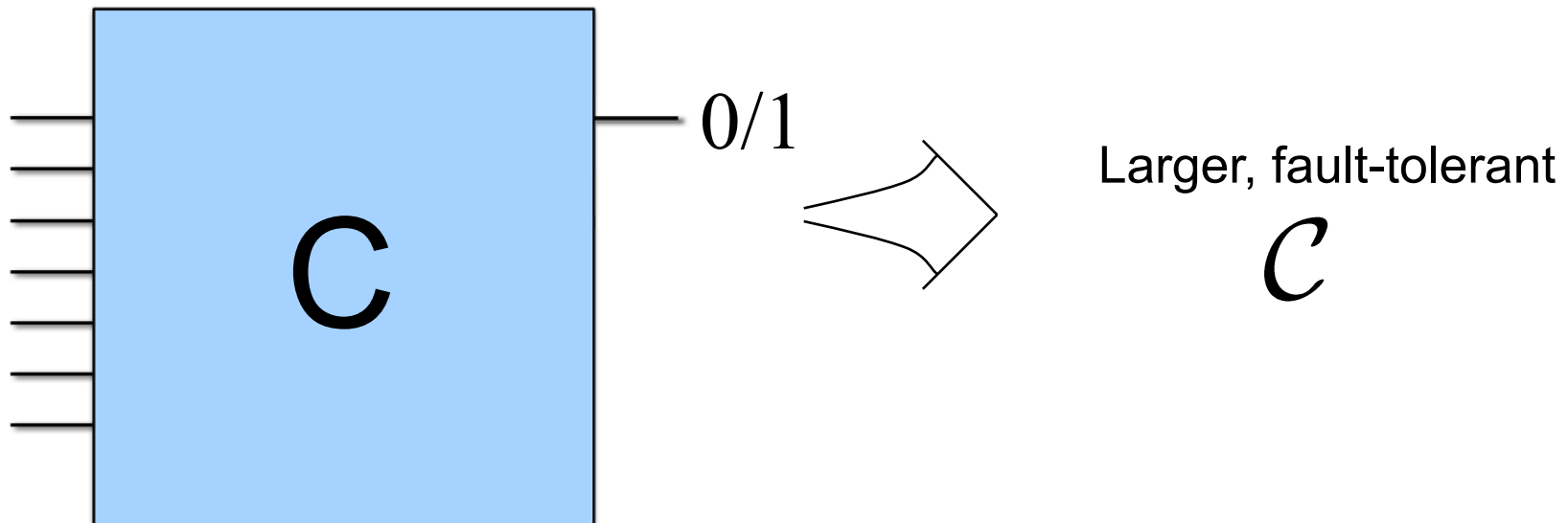


N gate circuit \Rightarrow Need error $\ll 1/N$



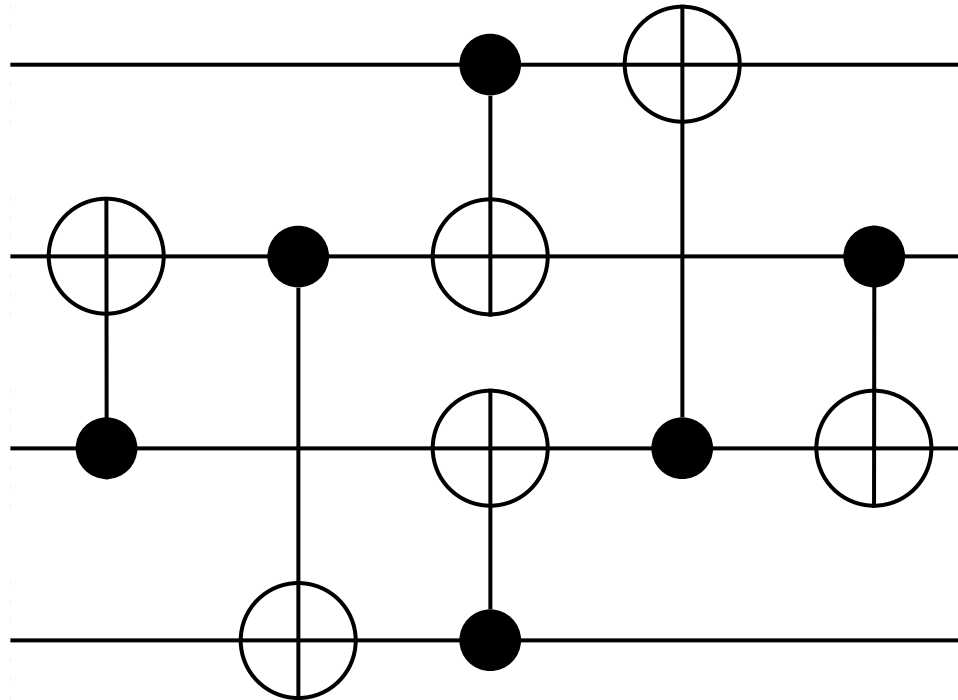
Quantum fault-tolerance problem

- Classical fault-tolerance: Von Neumann (1956)



Intuition

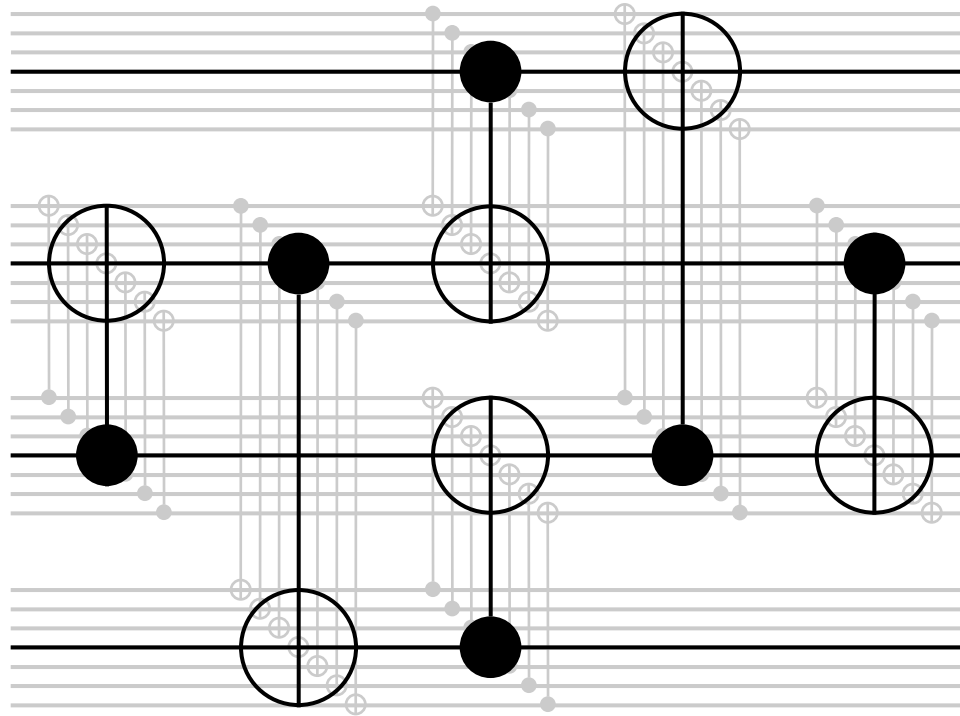
- Work on encoded data



- Quantum fault-tolerance: Shor (1996)

Intuition

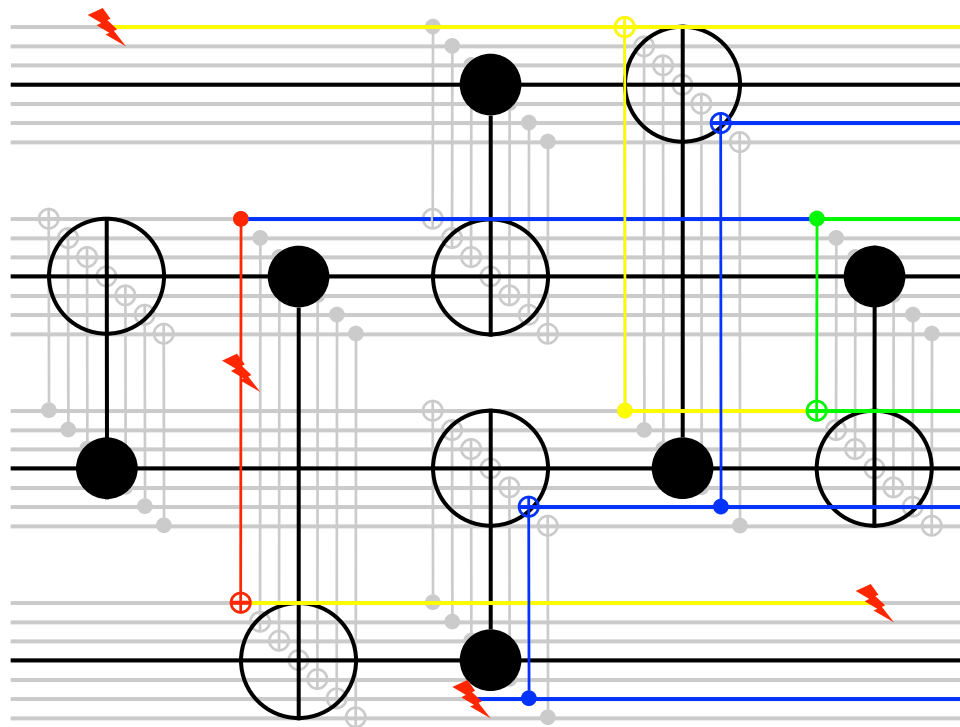
- Work on encoded data



- Quantum fault-tolerance: Shor (1996)

Intuition

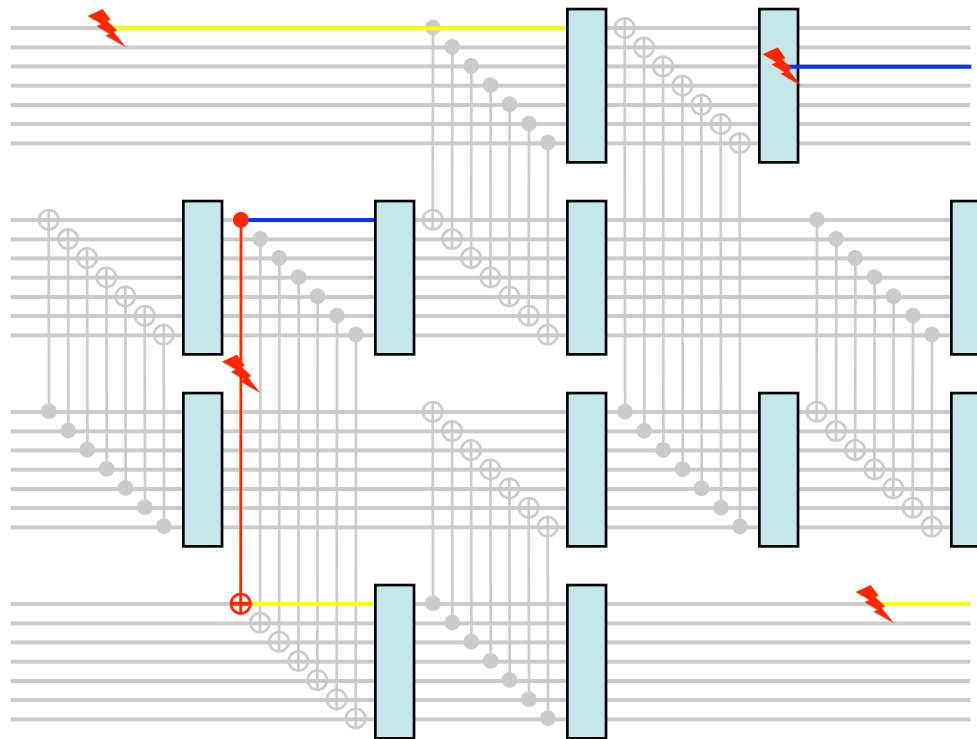
- Work on encoded data
- Correct errors to prevent spread



- Quantum fault-tolerance: Shor (1996)

Intuition

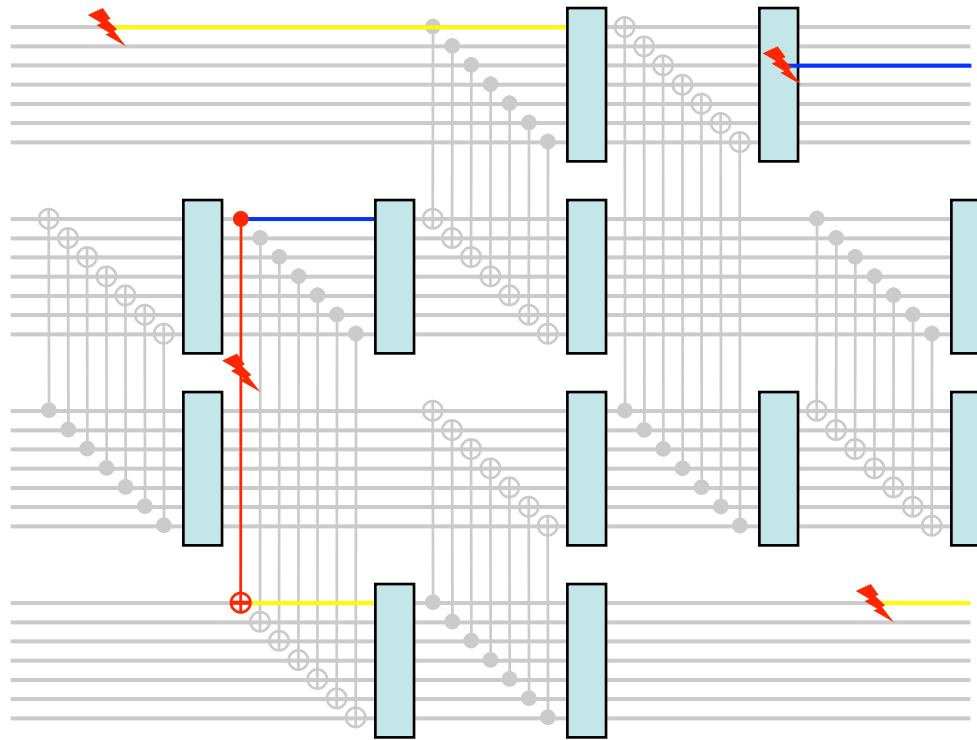
- Work on encoded data
- Correct errors to prevent spread



- Quantum fault-tolerance: Shor (1996)
 - Using a $\text{poly}(\log N)$ -sized code, tolerate $1/\text{poly}(\log N)$ gate error

Intuition

- Work on encoded data
- Correct errors to prevent spread
- Concatenate procedure for arbitrary reliability



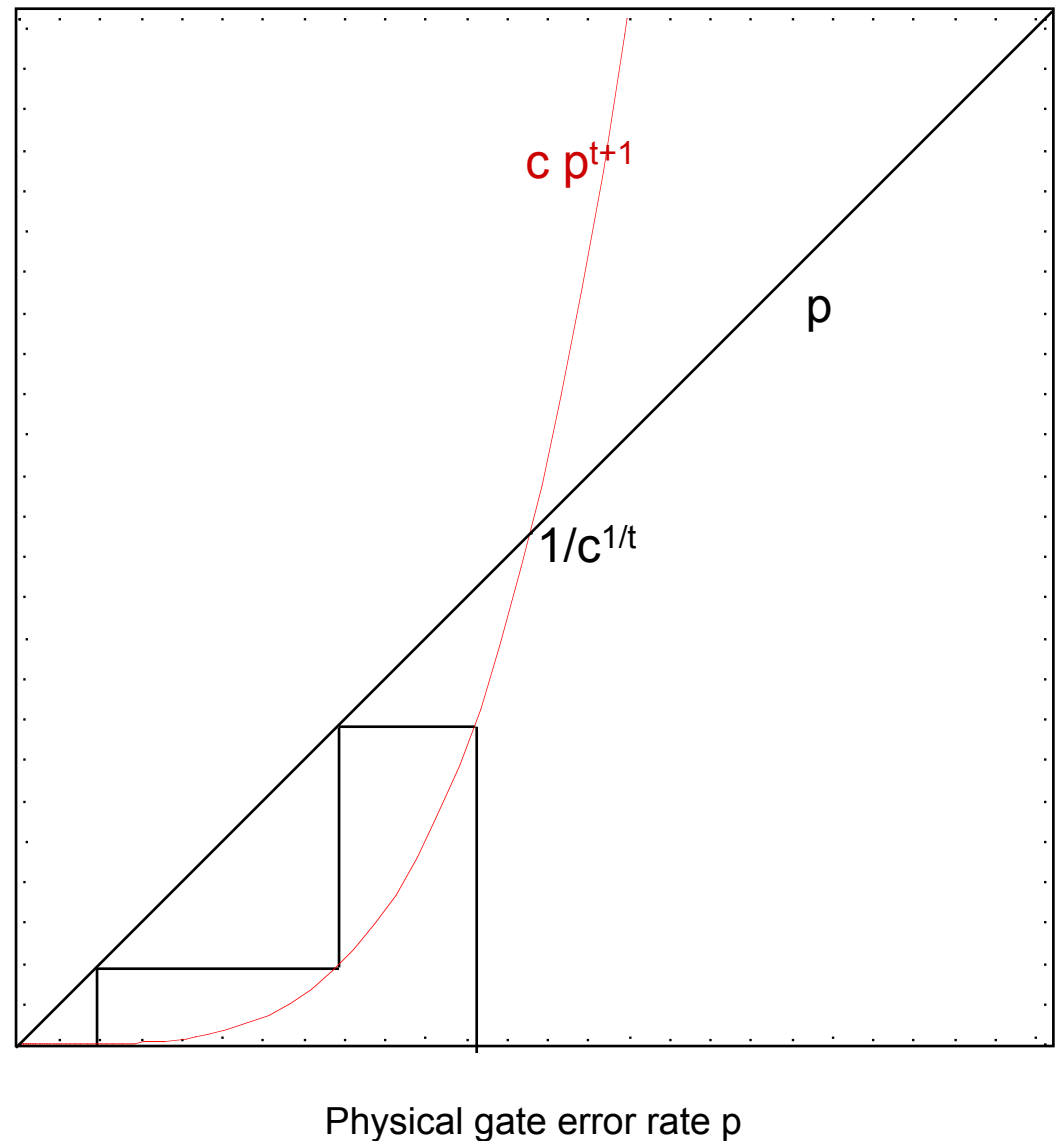
- Shor (1996): $\text{poly}(\log N)$ -sized code to tolerate $1/\text{poly}(\log N)$ gate error
- Aharonov & Ben-Or (1997), Kitaev (1997),
Gottesman-Evslin-Kakade-Preskill (1997), Knill-Laflamme-Zurek (1997)

Threshold from concatenation

- N gate circuit
 \Rightarrow Want error $\ll 1/N$
- m-qubit, t-error correcting code

Probability of error	Physical bits per logical bit	Logical gate error rate
p	1	
$c p^{t+1}$	m	
$\sim p^{(t+1)^2}$	m^2	
$p^{(t+1)^3}$	m^3	

$O(\log \log N)$ concatenations
 poly(log N) physical bits / logical



Distance-3 code thresholds

- Basic estimates
 - Aharonov & Ben-Or (1997)
 - Knill-Laflamme-Zurek (1998)
 - Preskill (1998)
 - Gottesman (1997)
- Optimized estimates
 - Zalka (1997)
 - Reichardt (2004)
 - Svore-Cross-Chuang-Aho (2005)
- 2-dimensional locality constraint
 - Szkopek et al (2004)
 - Svore-Terhal-DiVincenzo (2005)
- But no constant threshold was even proven to exist for distance-3 codes!
 - Aharonov & Ben-Or proof only works for codes of distance at least 5
- Today: Threshold for distance-3 codes

Distance-2 code threshold

- Knill (2005) has highest threshold estimate ~5%
 - ... Albeit with large constant overhead (1-3% more reasonable)
 - Again, no threshold has been proved to exist
- Gaps between proven and estimated thresholds
 - Estimates are as high as ~5%
 - But no proven lower-bounds (?)
 - Aliferis-Gottesman-Preskill (2005): 2.6×10^{-5}
- Caveat on small versus large codes
 - Steane (2003) found 23-qubit Golay code had higher threshold (based on simulations), particularly with slow measurements
 - 23-qubit Golay code proven: 10^{-4}

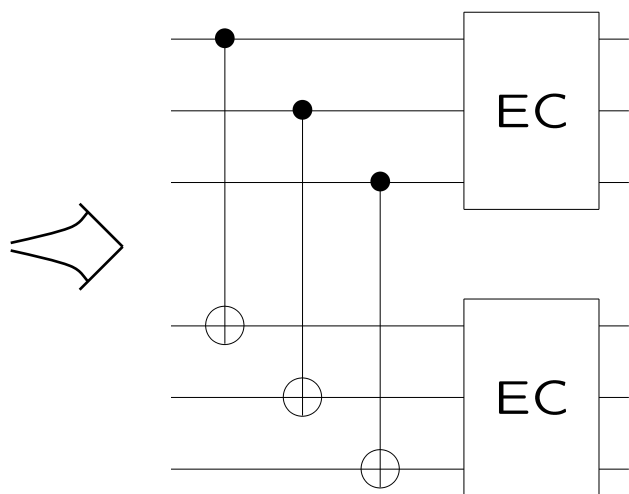
Fault-tolerance for m-bit repetition code

■ Encoding

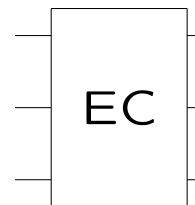
- $0 \rightarrow 00\dots 0$
 - $1 \rightarrow 11\dots 1$
- > distance m

■ **Gate compilation rule:** transverse, followed by error correction

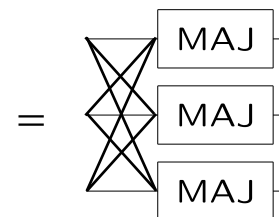
- e.g., CNOT_L



■ Error correction:



- e.g., classically, with majority gate and fan-out:



■ Concatenation...

$$0_k = 0_{k-1} 0_{k-1} 0_{k-1} = \dots = 0^{3^k}$$

$$1_k = 1_{k-1} 1_{k-1} 1_{k-1} = \dots = 1^{3^k}$$

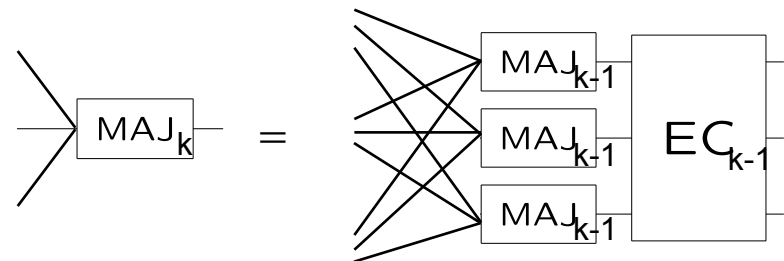
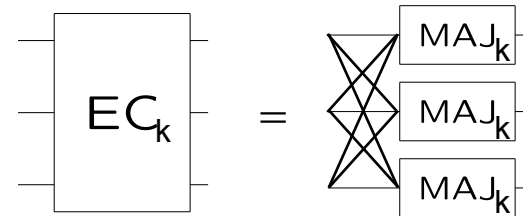
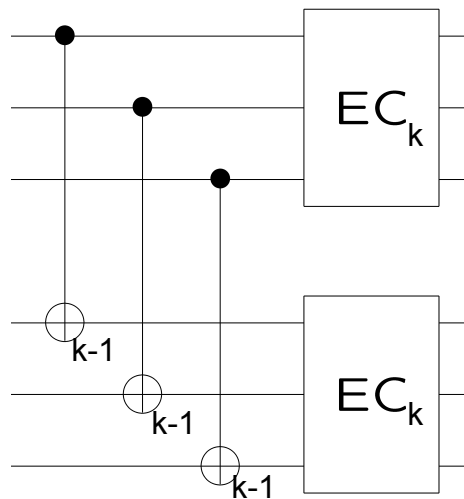
Classical fault-tolerance for repetition code

Concatenation:

$$0_k = 0_{k-1}0_{k-1}0_{k-1} = \dots = 0^{3^k}$$

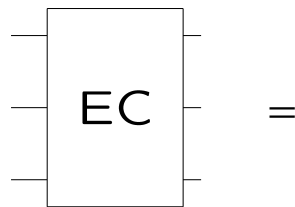
$$1_k = 1_{k-1}1_{k-1}1_{k-1} = \dots = 1^{3^k}$$

$\text{CNOT}_k =$



Quantum fault-tolerance for repetition code

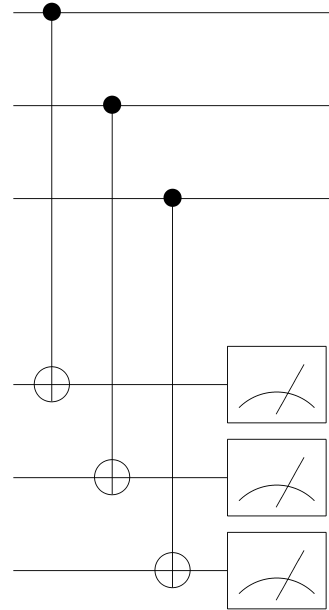
Error correction



=

$$|+\rangle_L \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|000\rangle + |111\rangle \right)$$

100

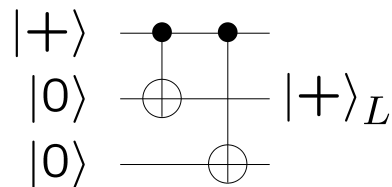


apply correction

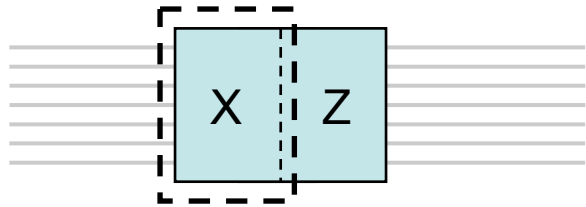
100
011

1100
+ 1011

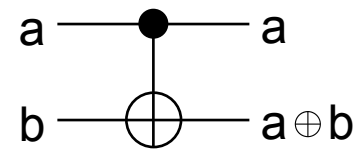
Ancilla preparation and verification



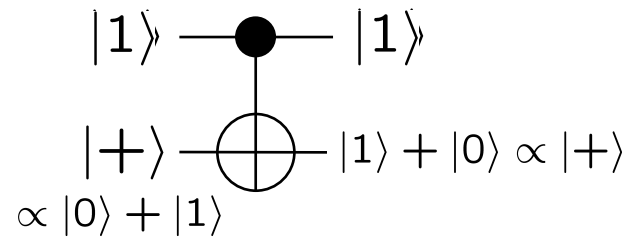
Quantum fault-tolerance scheme



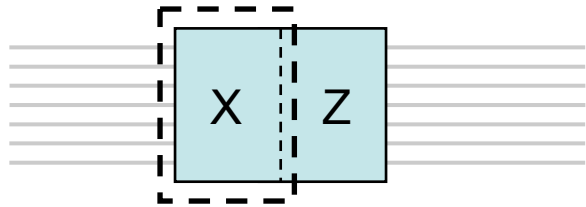
Def: CNOT



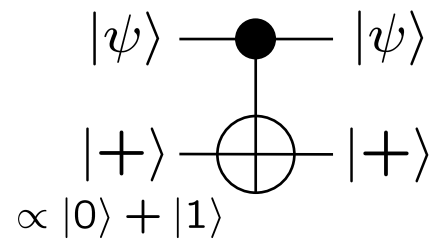
Fact 1:



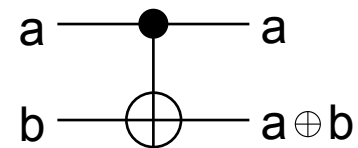
Quantum fault-tolerance scheme



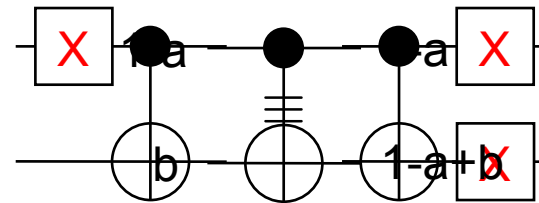
Fact 1:



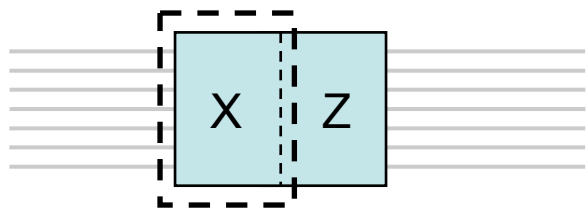
Def: CNOT



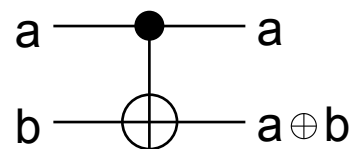
Fact 2:



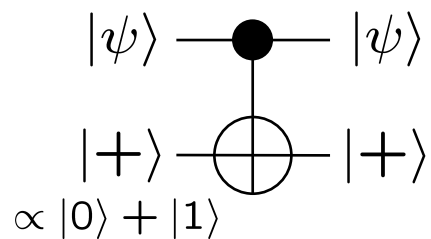
Quantum fault-tolerance scheme



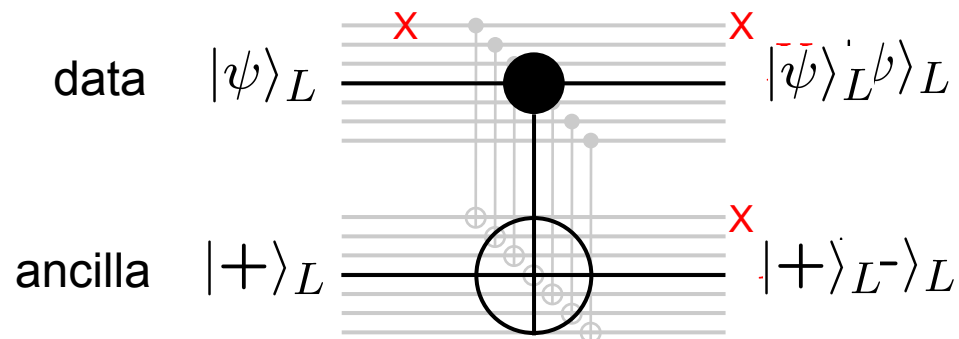
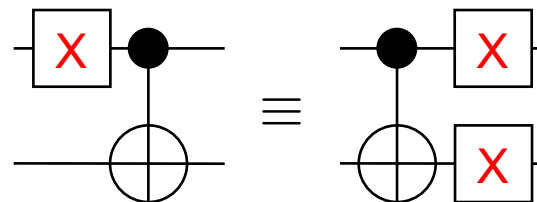
Def: CNOT



Fact 1:



Fact 2:



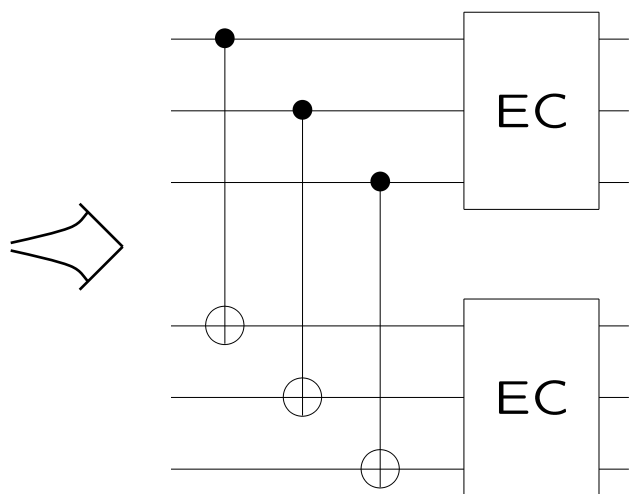
Fault-tolerance for m-bit repetition code

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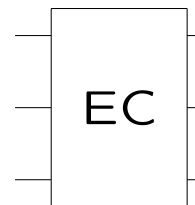
- $0 \rightarrow 00\dots 0$
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- > distance m

■ **Gate compilation rule:** transverse, followed by error correction

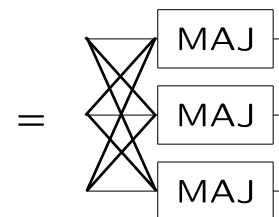
- e.g., CNOT_L



■ Error correction:



- e.g., classically, with majority gate and fan-out:



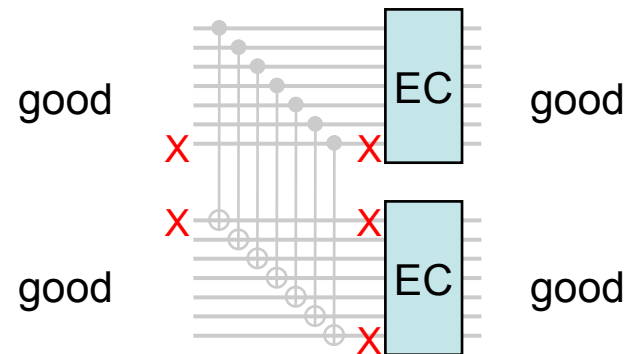
■ Concatenation...

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Aharonov & Ben-Or threshold proof intuition

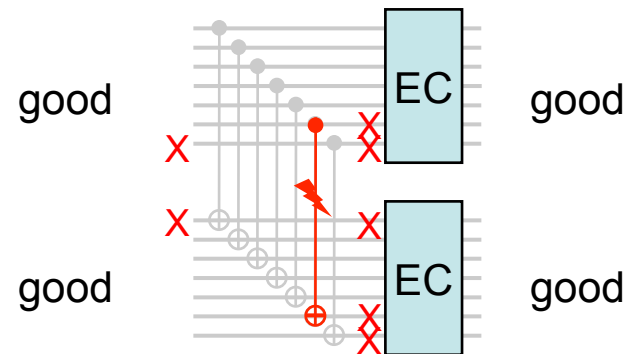
- **Idea:** Maintain inductive invariant of (1-)goodness. (A block is good “if it has at most one bad subblock.”)



(assuming no level $k-1$ errors, $m \geq 5$)

Aharonov & Ben-Or threshold proof intuition

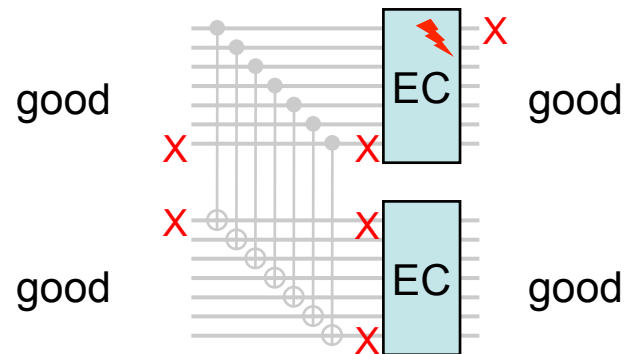
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(assuming one level $k-1$ error, $m \geq 7$)

Aharonov & Ben-Or threshold proof intuition

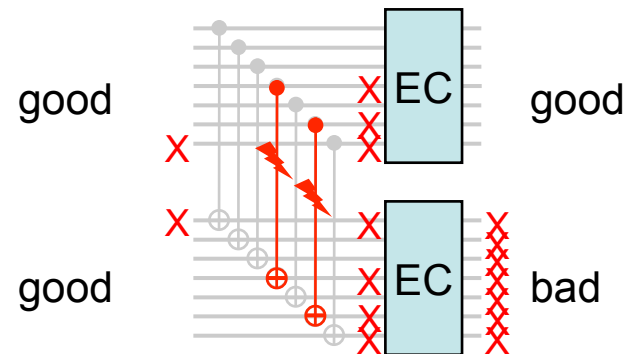
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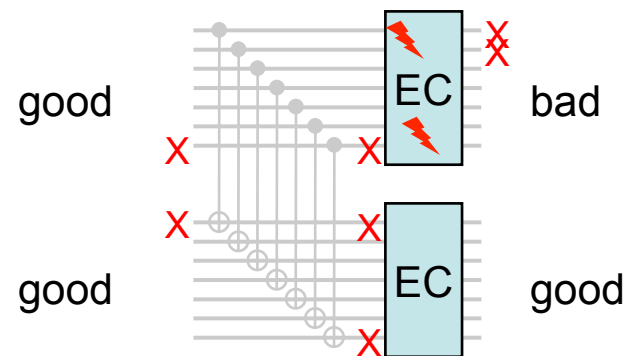
- **Idea:** Maintain inductive invariant of (1-)goodness. (A block is good “if it has at most one bad subblock.”)



(two level $k-1$ errors, $m=7$)

Aharonov & Ben-Or threshold proof intuition

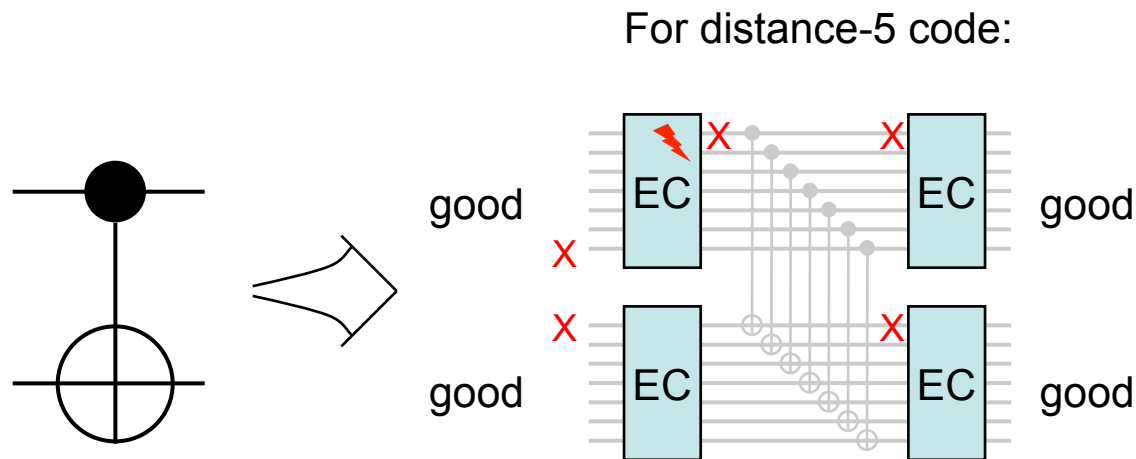
- **Idea:** Maintain inductive invariant of (1-)goodness. (A block is good “if it has at most one bad subblock.”)



(two level $k-1$ errors)

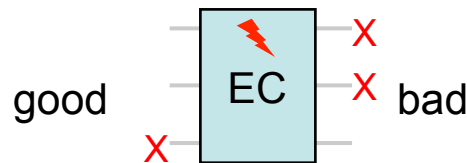
Aharonov & Ben-Or threshold proof intuition

- **Idea:** Maintain inductive invariant of (1-)goodness. (A block is good “if it has at most one bad subblock.”)



Aharonov & Ben-Or threshold proof intuition

- **Idea:** Maintain inductive invariant of (1-)goodness. (A block is good “if it has at most one bad subblock.”)
- Why not for distance-three codes?



(one level $k-1$ error is already too many)

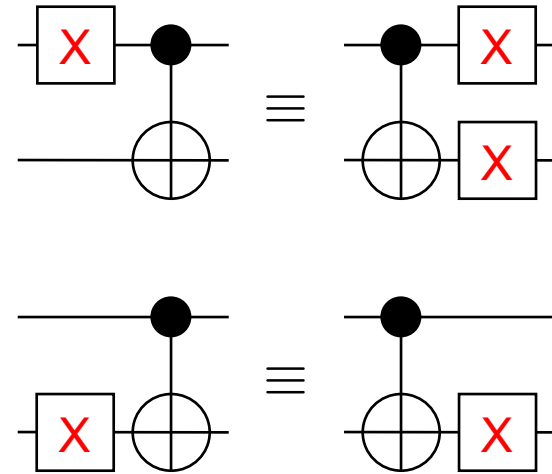
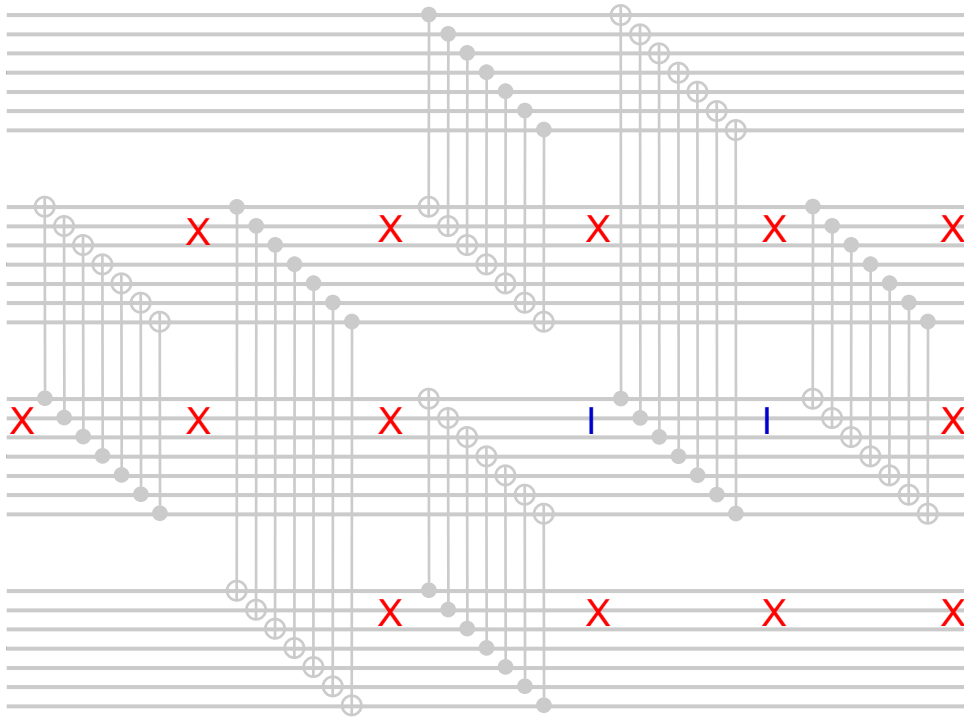
- **New idea:** Most blocks should have no bad subblocks. Maintain inductive invariant of a controlled probability distribution of errors: “wellness.” (A block is well “if it only rarely has a bad subblock.”)

Concatenated distance-3 code proof overview

- Def: Error states
- Def: Relative error states
- **Def: 1-good block**
- Aharonov/Ben-Or threshold setup
- Def: Logical failure
- Aharonov/Ben-Or threshold proof
- **Def: “well” block**
- Distance-3 code threshold setup and proof for stabilizer operations
- Extension to **universality** via magic states distillation

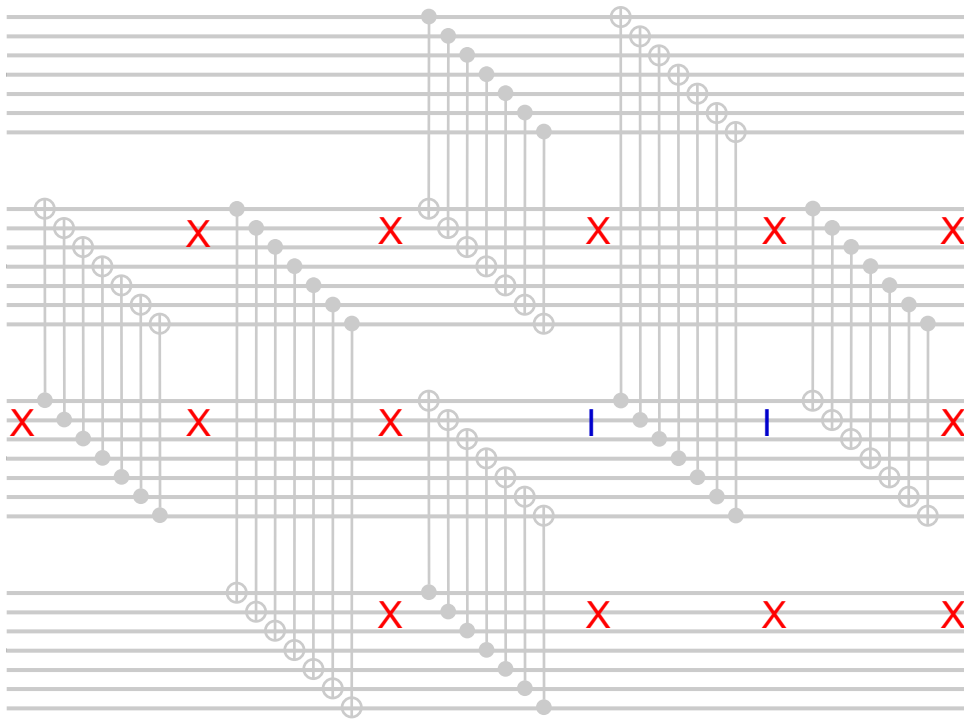
Def: Error states

■ Tracking errors

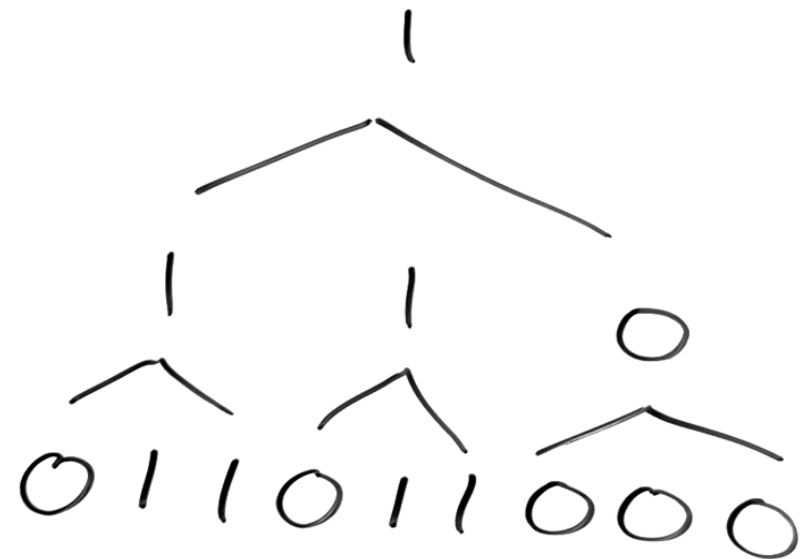


Def: Error states

■ Tracking errors



■ Block error states: ideal recursive decoding

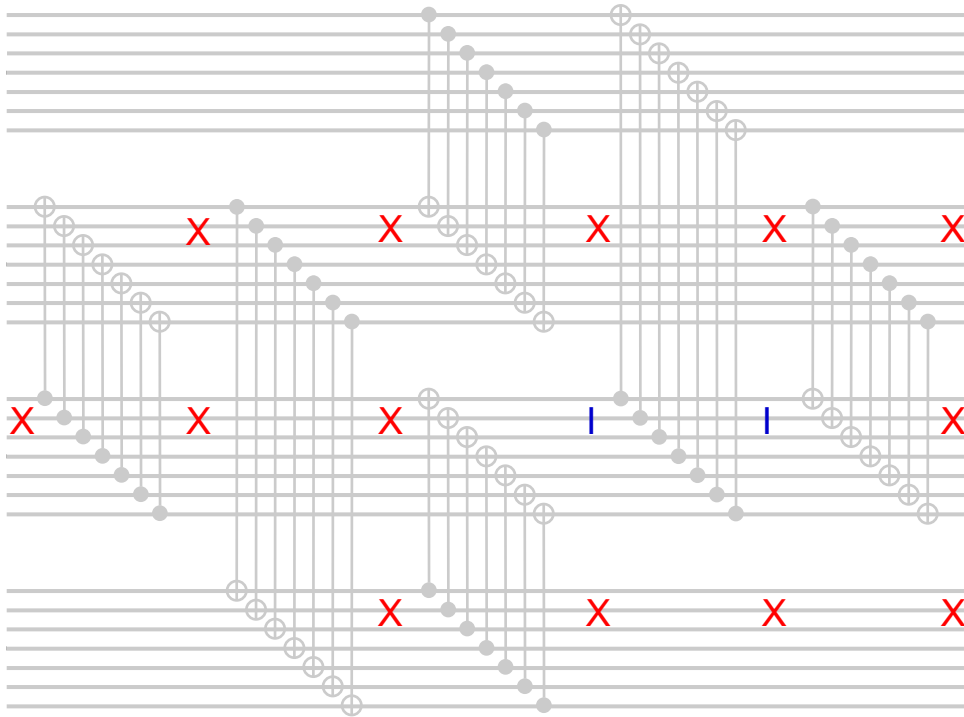


■ Note: Block errors do not follow same rules as bit errors

- e.g., $001 + 010 = 011$

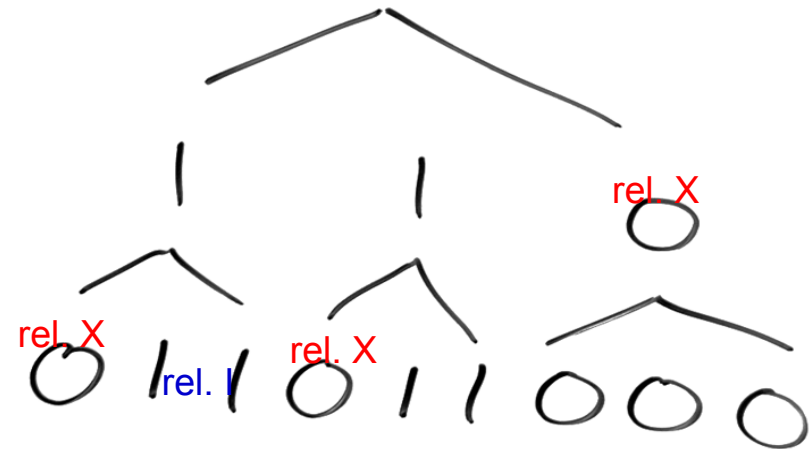
Def: *Relative Error states*

■ Tracking errors



■ Block error states: ideal recursive decoding

■ Relative error states

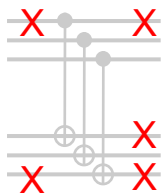


■ Note: relative state is relative to *state* of superblock, not superblock's relative state

■ We can measure block relative states.

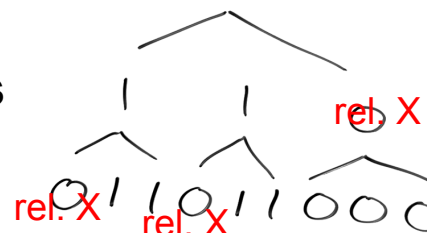
Def: good

■ Tracking errors



■ Block error states: ideal recursive decoding

■ Relative error states

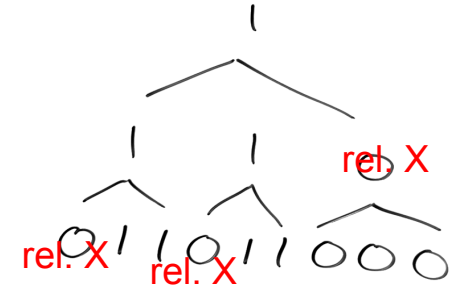


- **Def:** A block_k is relative (1-)good_k if it has at most one subblock_{k-1} either in relative error or not relative good_{k-1} itself.
(Every bit [\equiv block₀] is relative good₀.)

good examples

- **Relative error states** based on ideal recursive decoding

- A **good** block has at most one subblock either in relative error or bad.



good



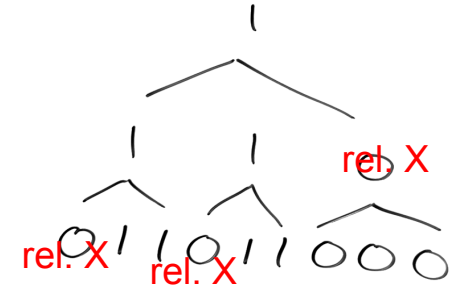
bad



good examples

■ **Relative error states**
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good

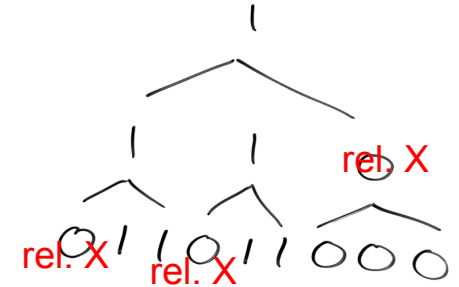
bad



good examples

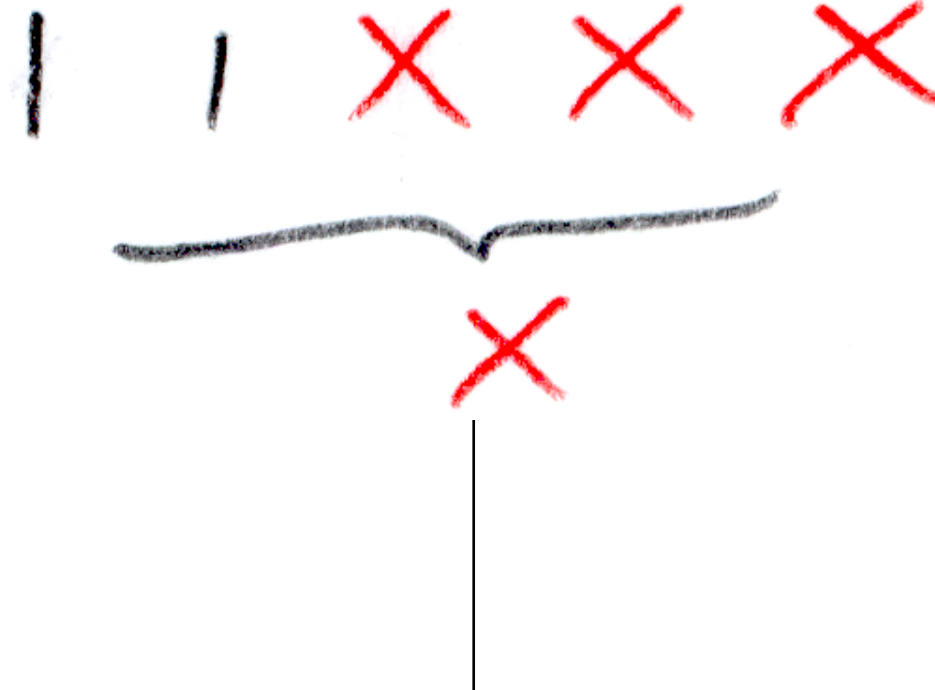
■ **Relative error states**
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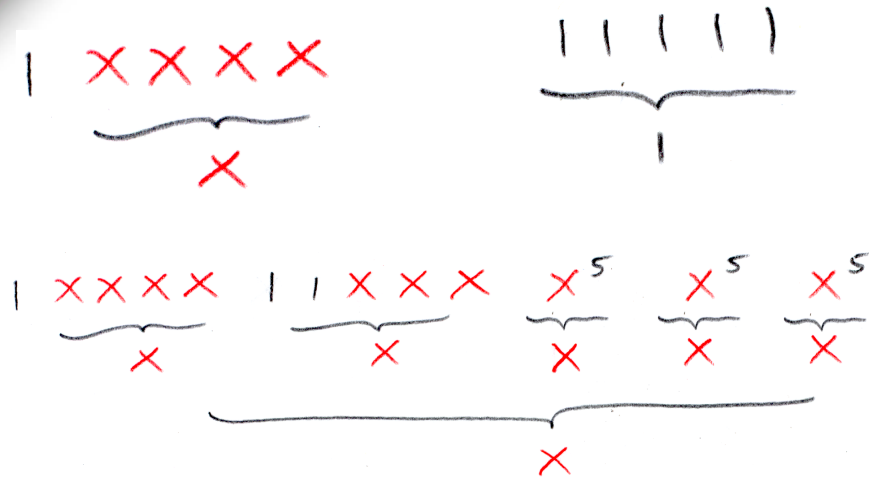
good

bad

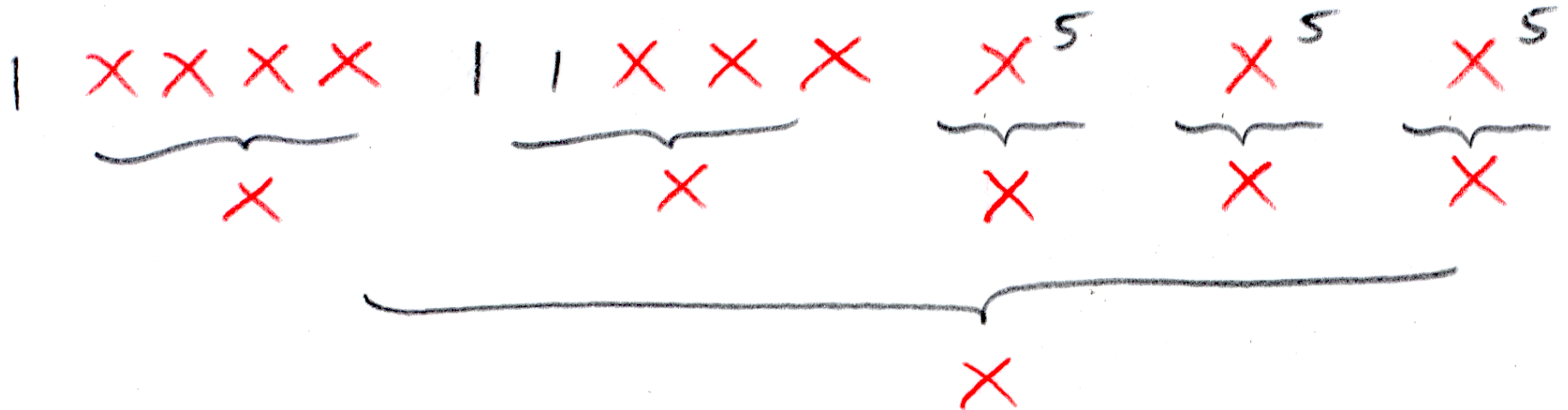


good

(at most one subblock either in
relative error or bad)



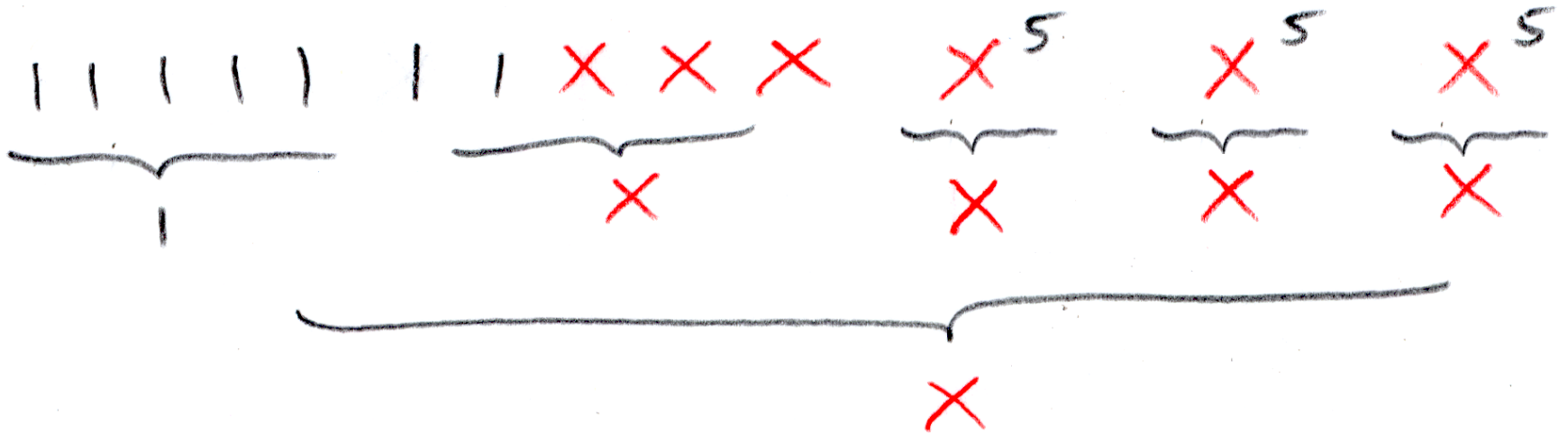
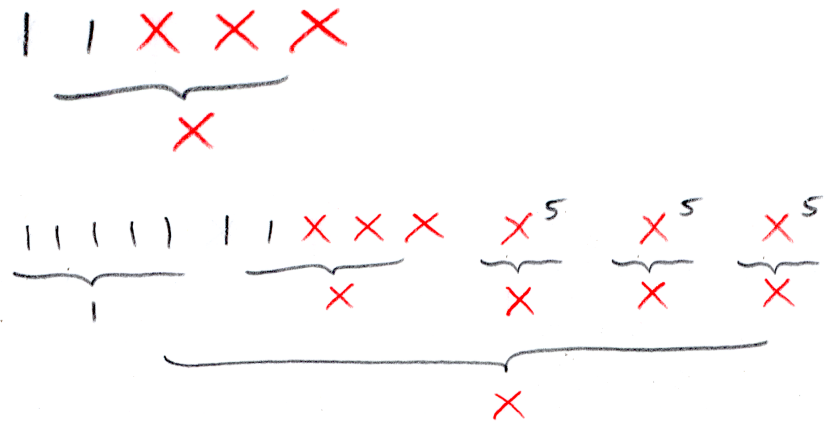
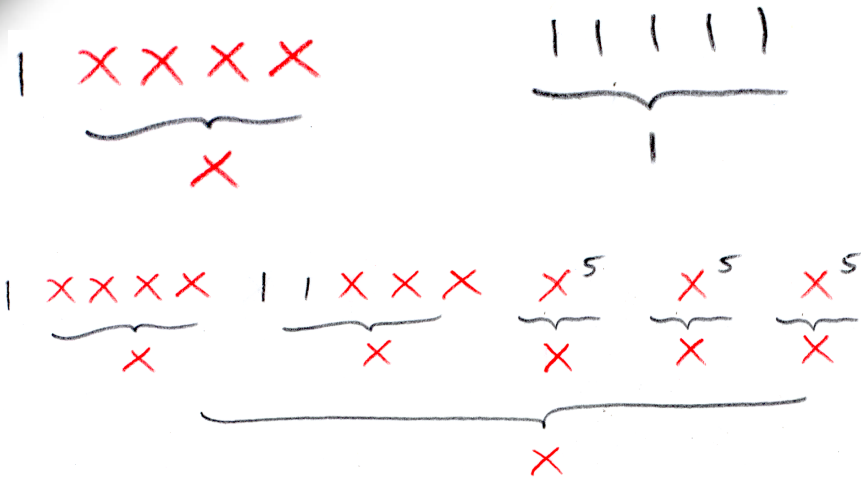
bad



good

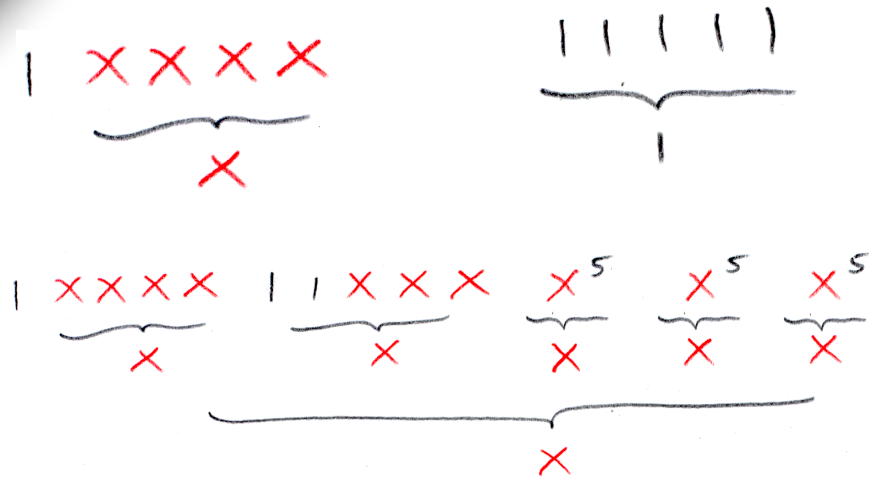
(at most one subblock either in
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bad

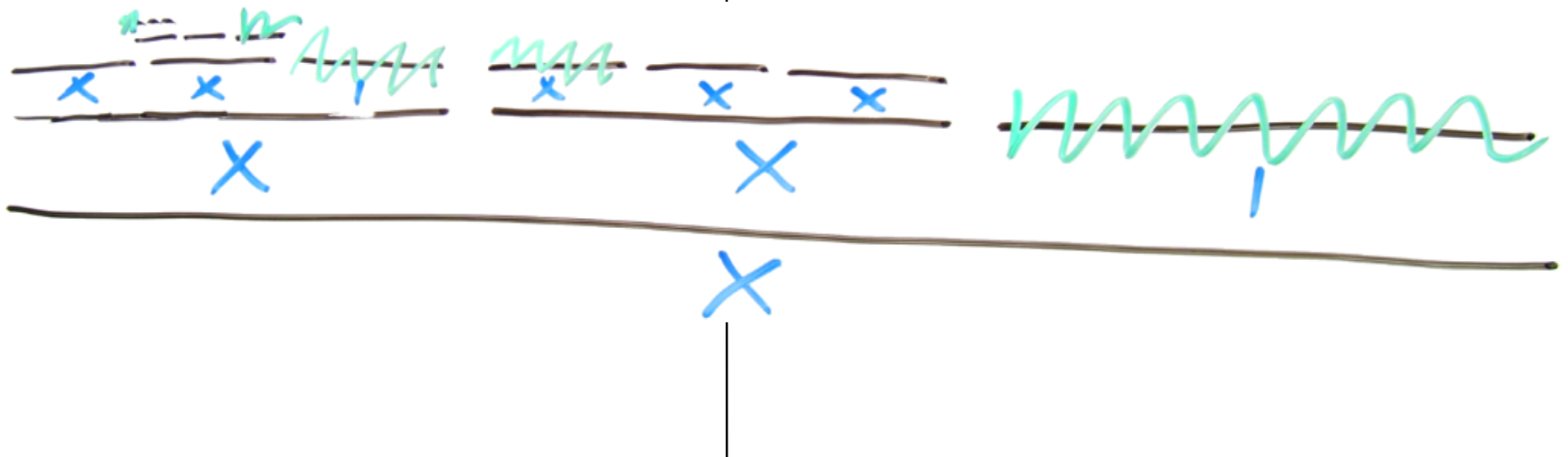
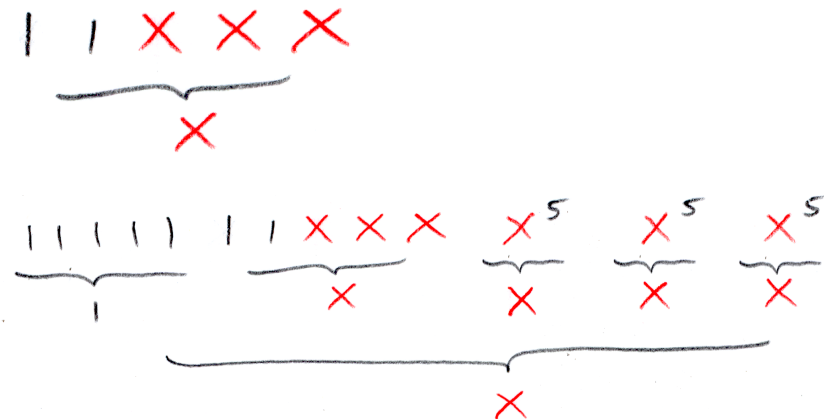


good

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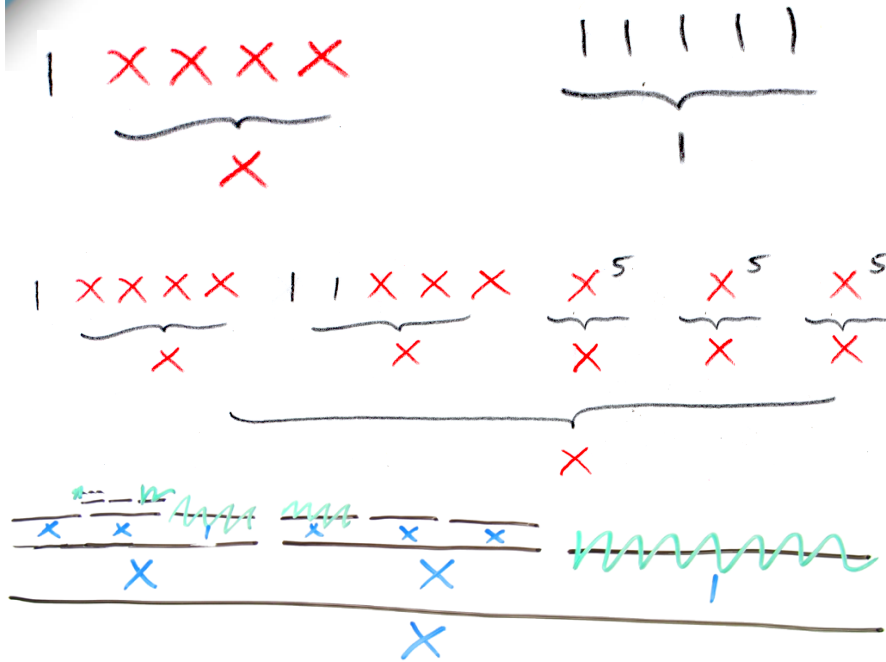


bad

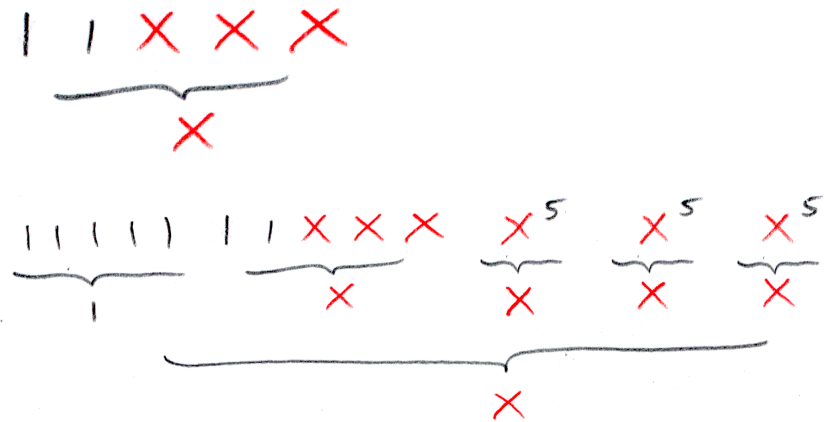


good

(at most one subblock either in
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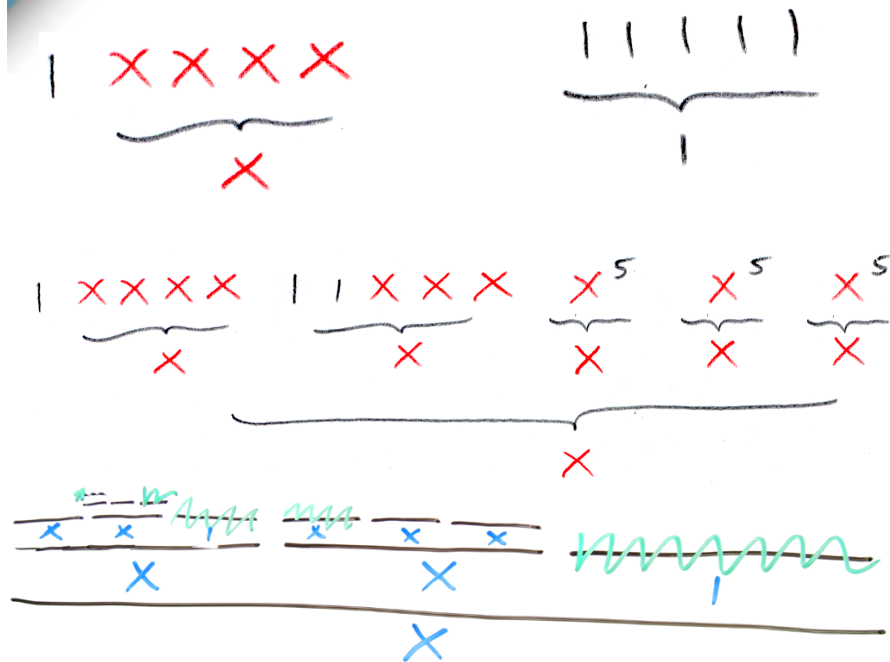


bad

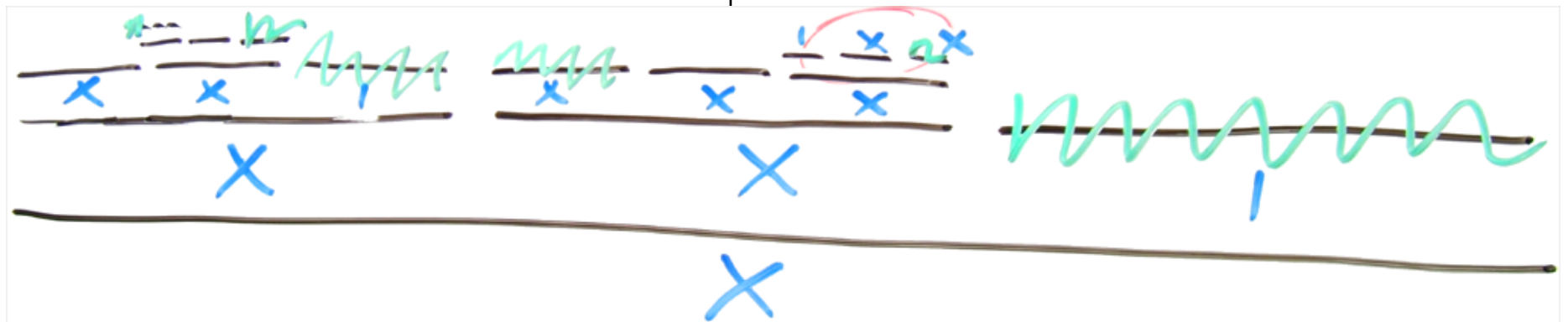
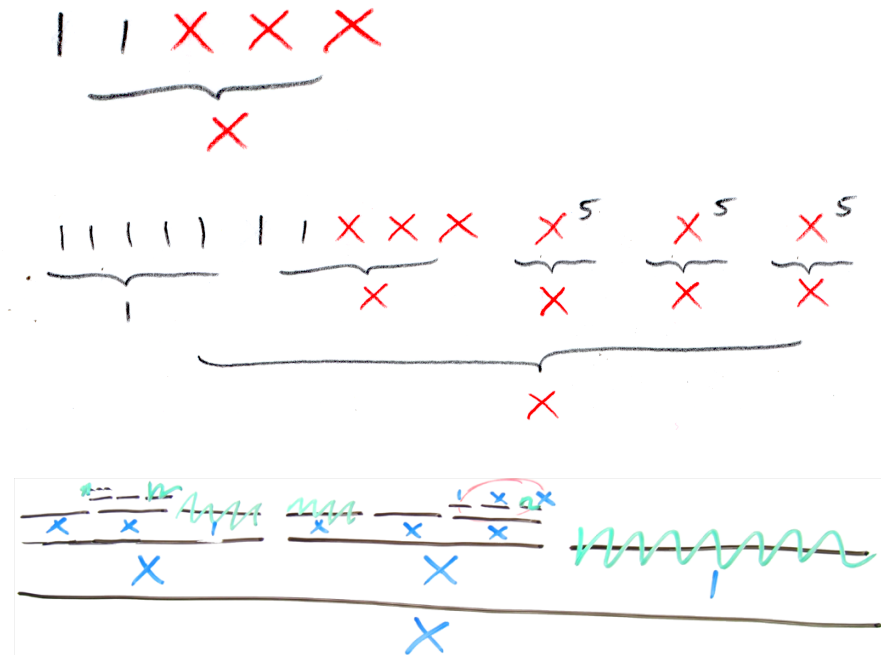


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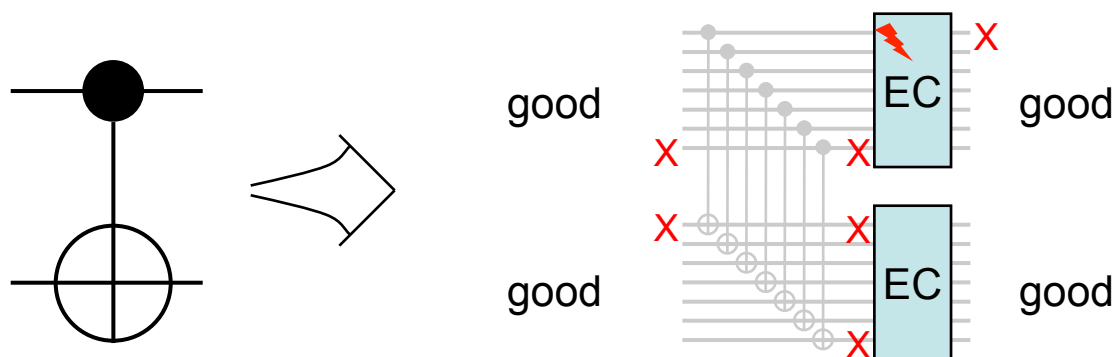


bad



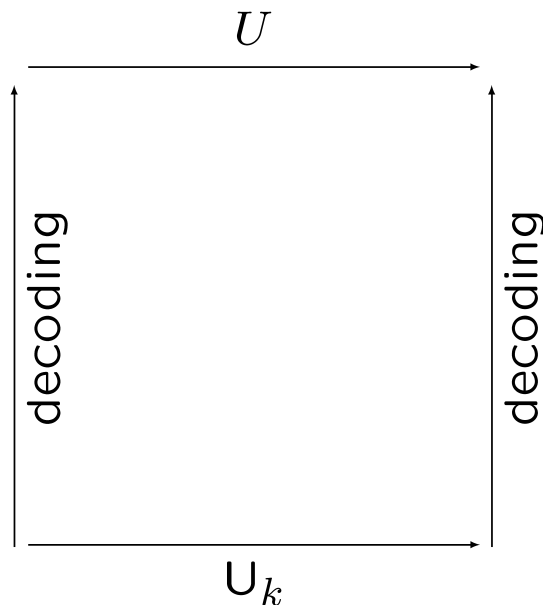
Aharonov/Ben-Or threshold setup

- **Base noise model:** CNOT_0 gates fail, giving \times errors, independently w/ prob. p .
 - **Claim C_k (CNOT_k):** On success:
 - If the input blocks are good_k, then the output blocks are good_k, and a logical CNOT is applied.
 - On arbitrary inputs, the output blocks_k are good_k and a possibly incorrect logical effect is applied.
- The failure probability is at most C_k ($C_0 = p$).



Def: Logical failure

- **Def:** Logical operation U_k on one or more blocks s_k has the correct logical effect if the diagram commutes:



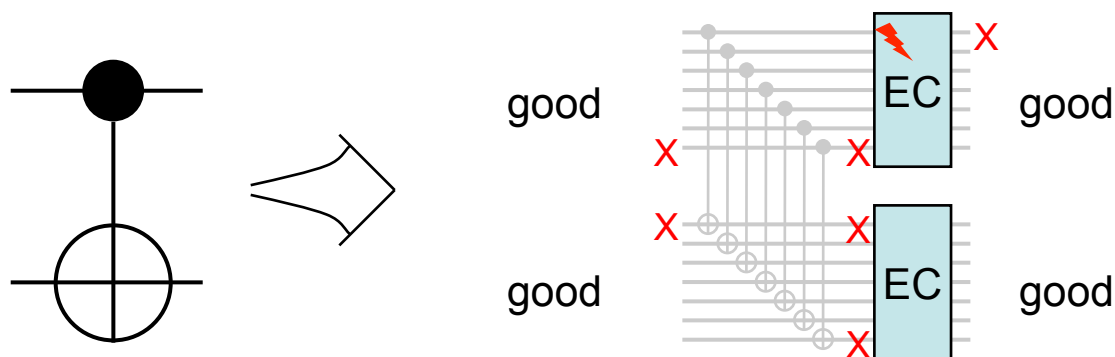
- U_k has a possibly incorrect logical effect if the same diagram commutes but with $P \circ U$ on the top arrow, where P is a Pauli operator or Pauli product on the involved blocks.

Aharonov/Ben-Or threshold setup

■ **Claim C_k (CNOT $_k$):** On success:

- If the input blocks are good $_k$, then the output blocks are good $_k$, and a logical CNOT, the correct logical effect, is applied.
- On arbitrary inputs, the output blocks $_k$ are good $_k$ and a possibly incorrect logical effect is applied.

The failure probability is at most C_k ($C_0 = p$).



■ **Claim B_k (Correction $_k$):** On success:

- If the input block is good, then the output block is good and no logical effect is applied.
- On arbitrary input, the output block is good.

The failure probability is at most B_k ($B_0 = 0$).

Aharonov/Ben-Or threshold proof

- **Two operations:**

- B. Error correction
- C. (Logical) CNOT gate

- **Two indexed claims:**

B_k	Error correction _k	success except w/ prob. $\leq B_k$
C_k	CNOT _k	success except w/ prob. $\leq C_k$

- **Proofs by induction:** Implications:

B	$k-1 \longrightarrow k$ \nearrow $k-1 \longrightarrow k$	C	$B_k = O((B_{k-1} + C_{k-1})^2)$ $C_k = O(B_k + C_{k-1}^2)$
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- **Base noise model:** CNOT₀ gates fail with X errors independently w/ prob. p

$$B_0 = 0 \quad C_0 = p$$



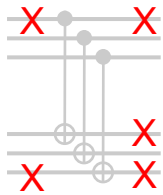
Proof overview

- Def: Error states
- Def: Relative error states
- **Def: 1-good block**
- Aharonov/Ben-Or threshold setup
- Def: Logical failure
- Aharonov/Ben-Or threshold proof
- **Def: “well” block**
- Distance-3 code threshold setup and proof for stabilizer operations

- Extension to **universality** via magic states distillation

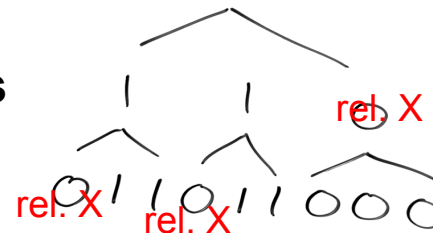
Def: well

Tracking errors

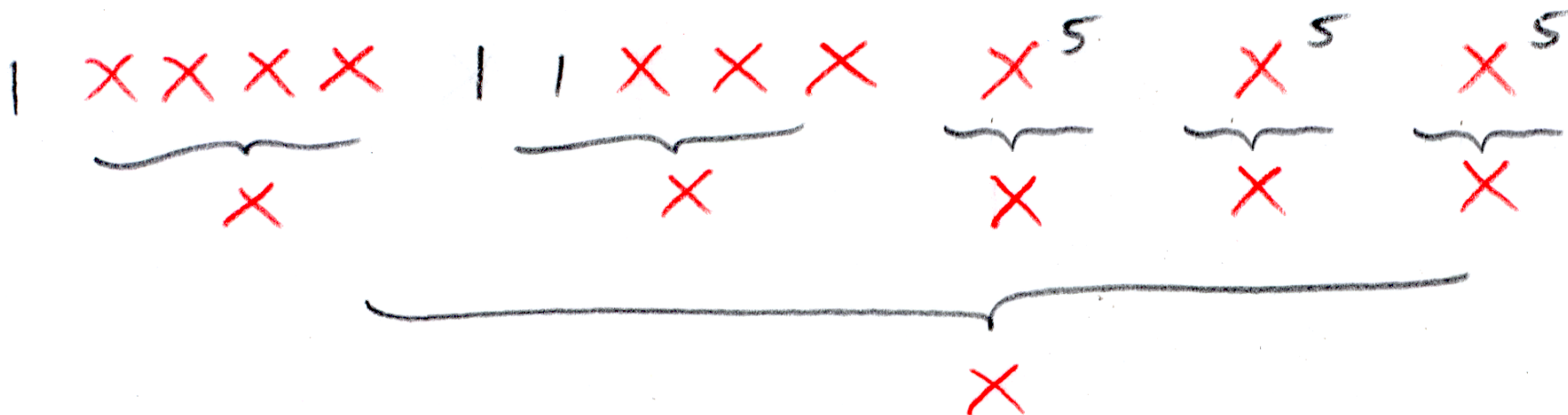


Block error states: ideal recursive decoding

Relative error states

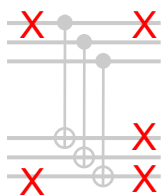


- Def:** A block_k is relative good well (p_k) if it has at most one subblock relative to itself (p_k) and at most one subblock relative to itself (p_k).
(Every bit [≡ block₀] is relative well₀.)
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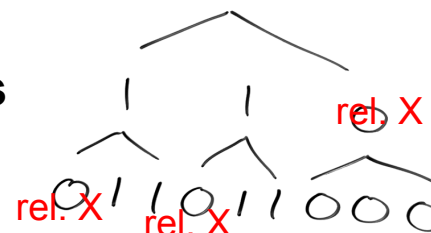
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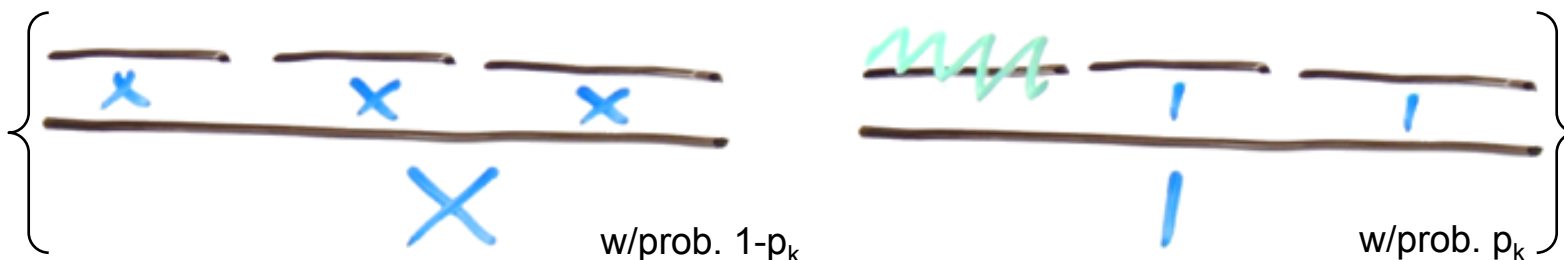


■ **Def:** A block_k is relative (1-)well_k(p₁, ..., p_k) if it has at most one subblock_{k-1} either in relative error or not relative well_{k-1}(p₁, ..., p_{k-1}) itself.

Additionally, the probability of such a subblock, conditioned on the block's state and the state of all bits in other blocks, is $\leq p_k$.

(Every bit \equiv block₀) is relative well₀.)

■ **Note:** Conditioned on block's state, e.g.,



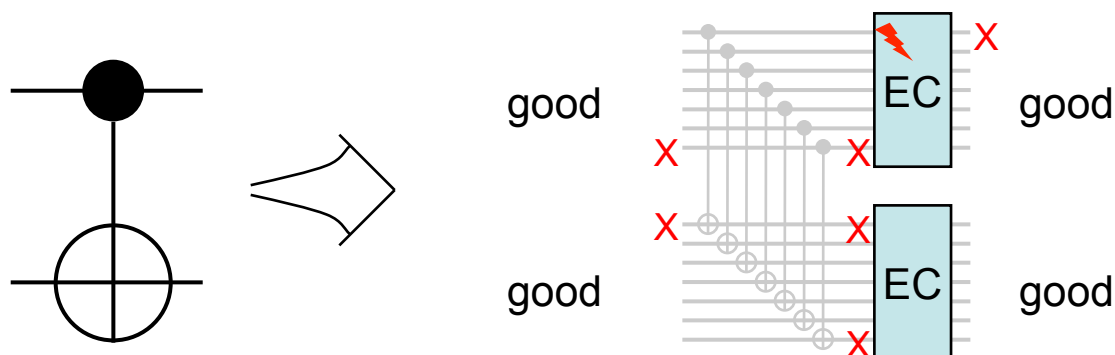
is *not* 1-well.

Aharonov/Ben-Or threshold setup

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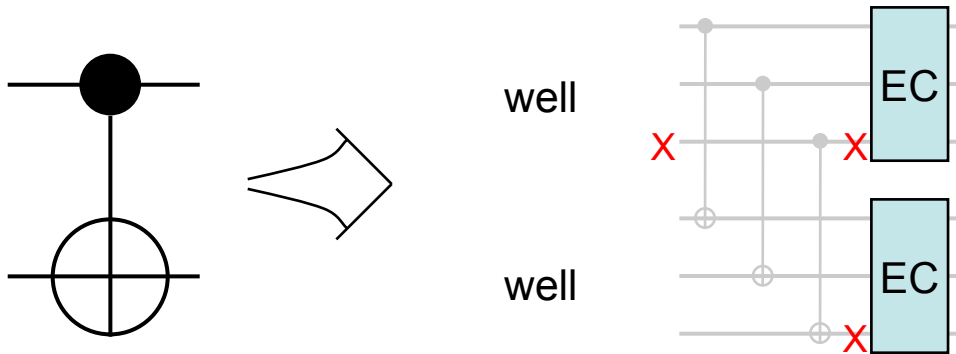
$$B_0 = 0 \quad C_0 = p$$

Dist 3 code setup

■ **Claim C_k ($CNOT_k$):** On success:

- If the input blocks are $well_k(b_1, \dots, b_k)$, then the output blocks are $well_k(b_1, \dots, b_k)$, and a logical CNOT is applied.
- On arbitrary inputs, the output blocks $_k$ are $well_k(b_1, \dots, b_k)$ and a possibly incorrect logical effect is applied.

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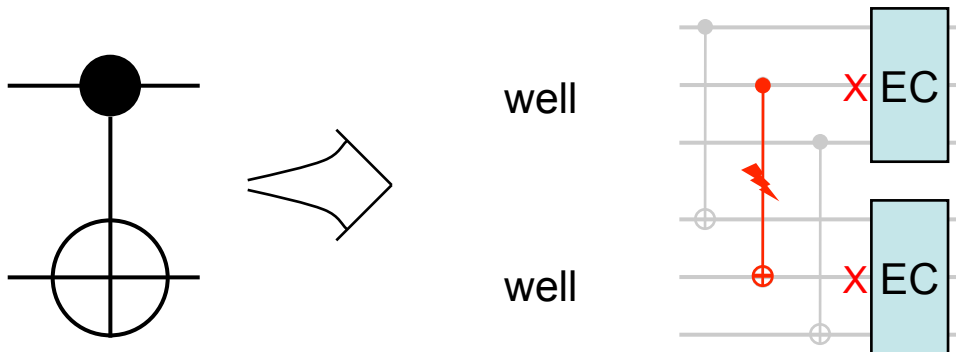


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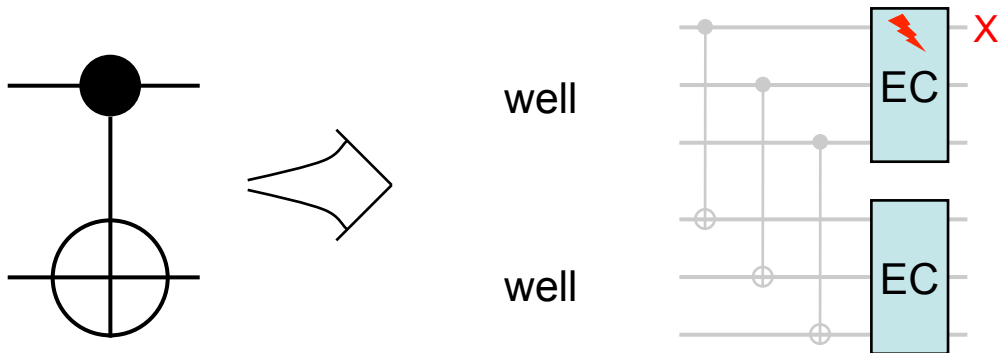


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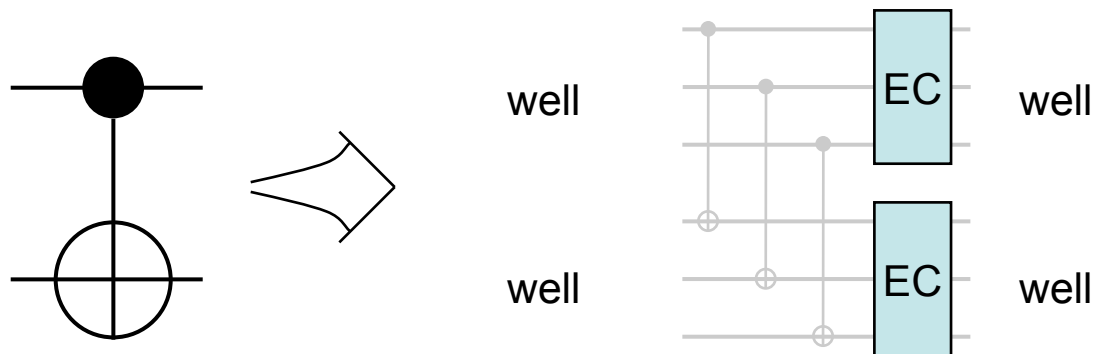


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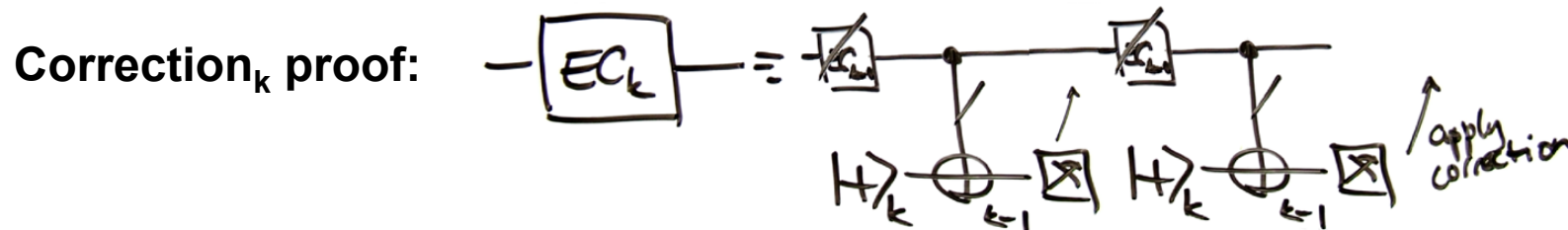
The failure probability is at most B_k ($B_0 = 0$).

Additionally, if all but one of the input subblocks $_{k-1}$ are $\text{well}_{k-1}(b_1, \dots, b_{k-1})$, then with probability at least $1-B_k$ there is no logical effect and the output is $\text{well}_k(b_1, \dots, b_k)$.

Dist 3 threshold proof

■ **Claim B_k (Correction $_k$):** With probability at least $1 - B_k$ the output block $_k$ is $\text{well}_k(b_1, \dots, b_k)$ and, if the input is $\text{well}_k(b_1, \dots, b_k)$, there is no logical effect.

Additionally, if all but one of the input subblocks $_{k-1}$ are $\text{well}_{k-1}(b_1, \dots, b_{k-1})$, then with probability at least $1 - B'_k$ there is no logical effect and the output is $\text{well}_k(b_1, \dots, b_k)$.



Declare success if Ancillas $_k$ both succeed & at most one level $k-1$ failure.

$$B_k \equiv 2A_k + (b_k + 2a_k + 2nB_{k-1} + 2nC_{k-1})^2$$

$$B'_k \equiv 2A_k + 2a_k + 2nB_{k-1} + 2nC_{k-1}$$

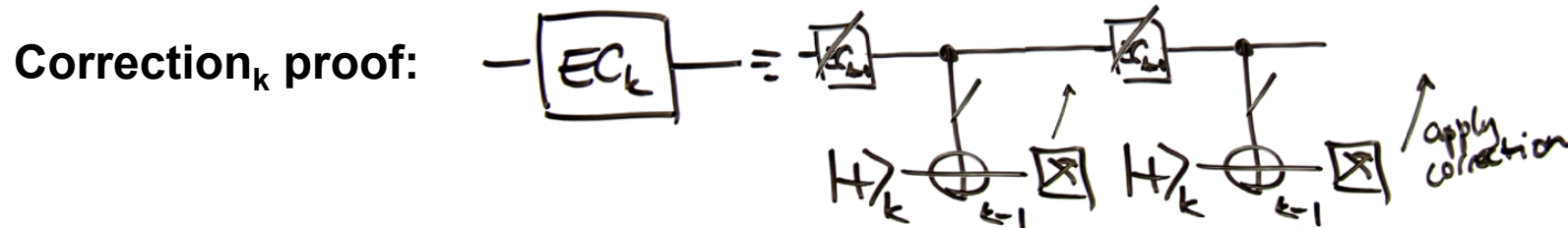
$$b_k \equiv (2a_k + 2nB_{k-1} + 2nC_{k-1}) / (1 - B'_k)$$

Proof is mostly similar to Aharonov/Ben-Or proof, with one exception...

Dist 3 threshold proof

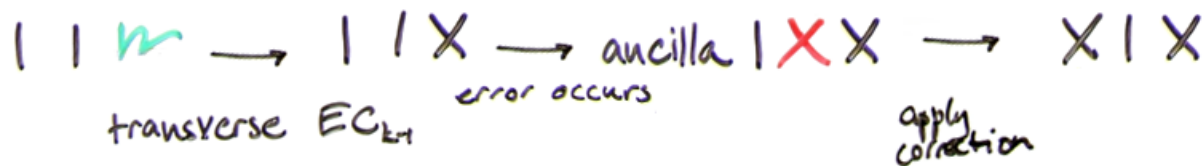
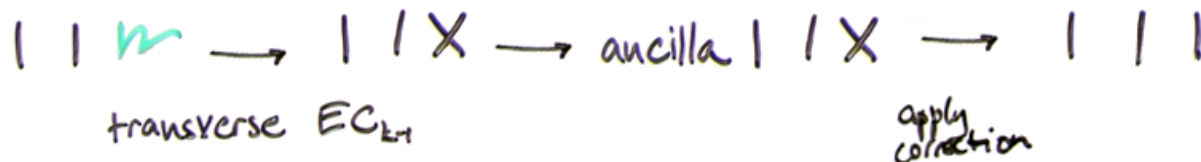
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Proof is mostly similar to Aharonov/Ben-Or proof, with one exception...
Why are two syndrome extractions necessary?

input uncontrolled:



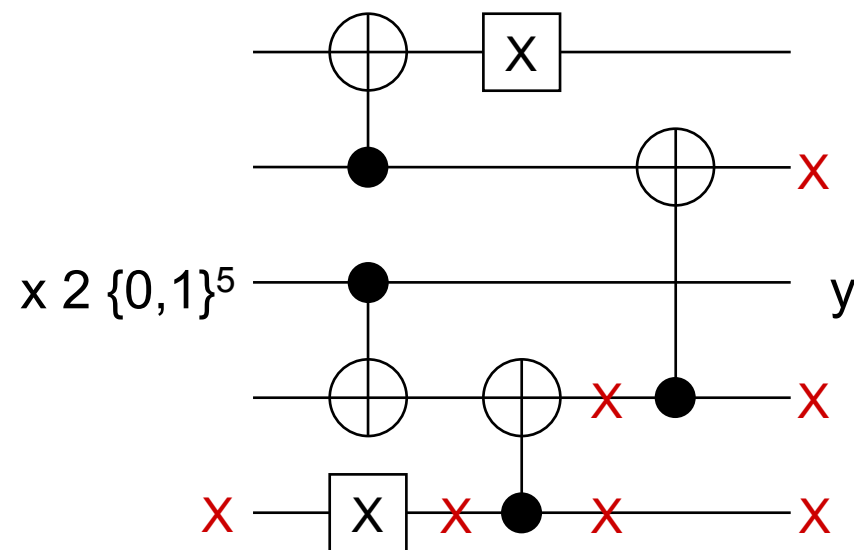
Stabilizer operations

Def: Stabilizer operations are

- Clifford group unitaries

$$\left\langle H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, K = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix}, \text{CNOT} \right\rangle$$

- Preparation of $|0\rangle, |1\rangle$
- Measurement in $|0\rangle, |1\rangle$



$$y = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + x \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Gottesman-Knill Theorem: Stabilizer operations are efficiently classically simulable.

Universality from stabilizer operations & repeated preparation of $\cos \frac{\theta}{2} |0\rangle + \sin \frac{\theta}{2} |1\rangle$

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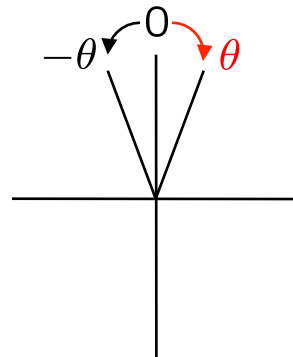
Theorem: [Shi'02] CNOT + any single-qubit gate not in Clifford group gives quantum universality.

Fact 1: Stab ops + prepare $|\psi\rangle = \cos \frac{\theta}{2} |0\rangle + \sin \frac{\theta}{2} |1\rangle$! universality.

(if $\theta \neq k \pi/2$)

Proof: How to apply $U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\theta} \end{pmatrix}$

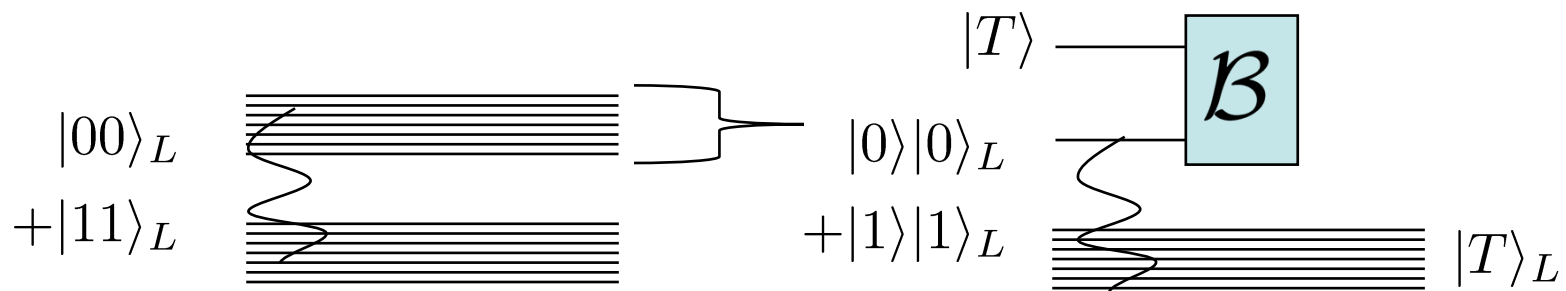
$$\begin{aligned} & (\alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle) (|0\rangle + e^{i\theta}|1\rangle) \\ &= \alpha|00\rangle + \beta e^{i\theta}|11\rangle \\ &+ \alpha e^{i\theta}|01\rangle + \beta|10\rangle \end{aligned}$$



Application

Theorem: [Shi'02] CNOT + any single-qubit gate not in Clifford group gives quantum universality.

Fact 1: Stab ops + prepare $\cos \frac{\theta}{2} |0\rangle + \sin \frac{\theta}{2} |1\rangle$! universality.



Stabilizer op.

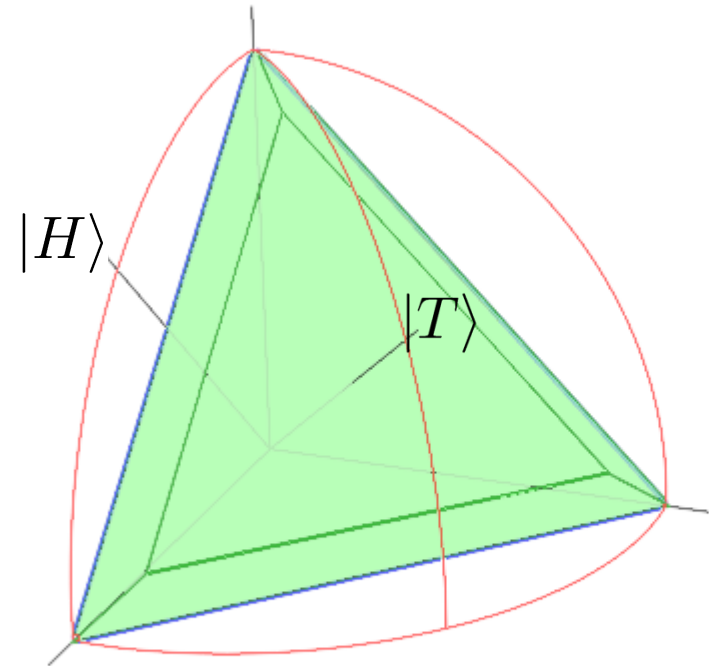
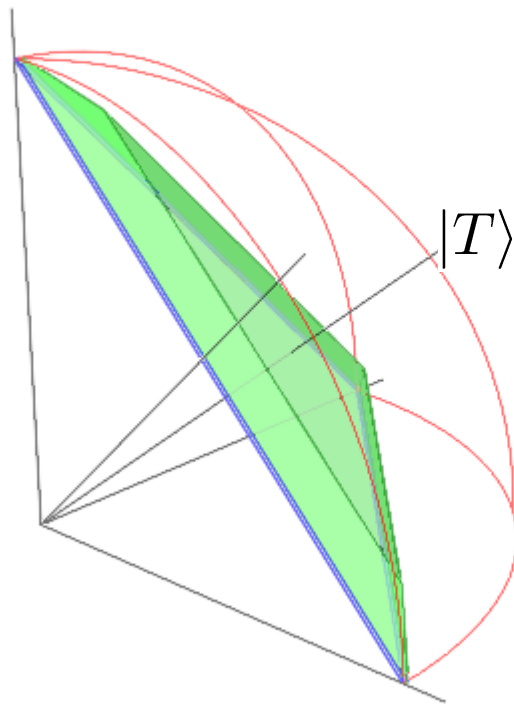
fault-tolerance



Universal

fault-tolerance

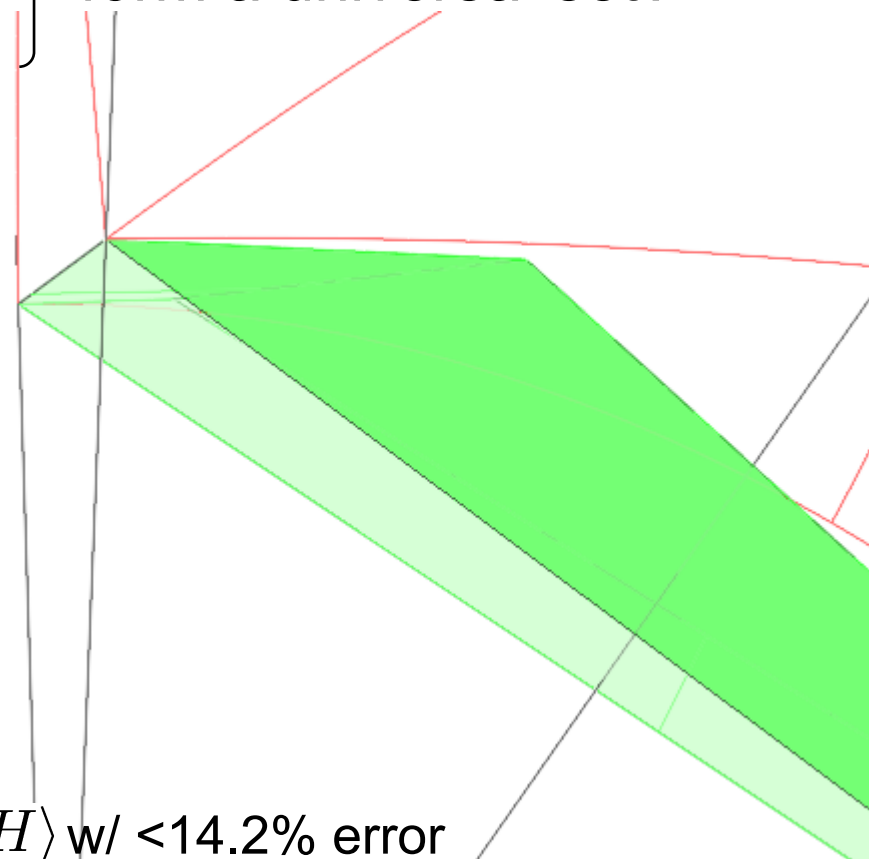
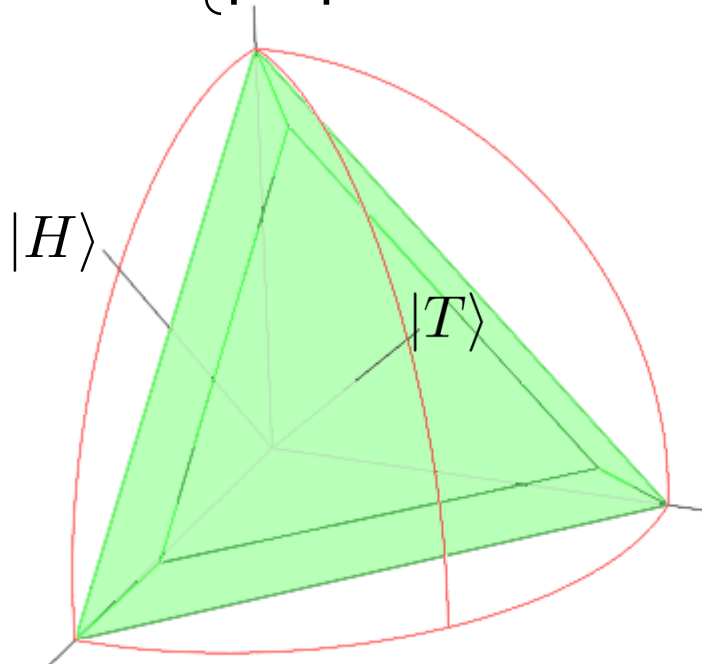
Q: Do $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{stabilizer operations,} \\ \text{prepare } \rho \end{array} \right\}$ form a universal set?



[Bravyi-Kitaev '04, Knill '04] Yes for $|H\rangle$ w/ <14.2% error

[Bravyi-Kitaev '04] Yes for $|T\rangle$ w/ <17.3% error
 $\frac{1}{2}(1 - \sqrt{\frac{3}{7}})$

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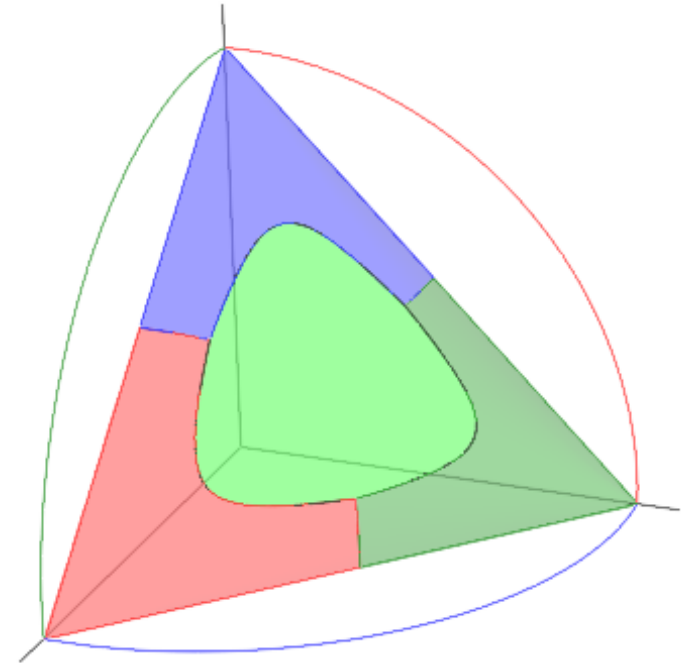
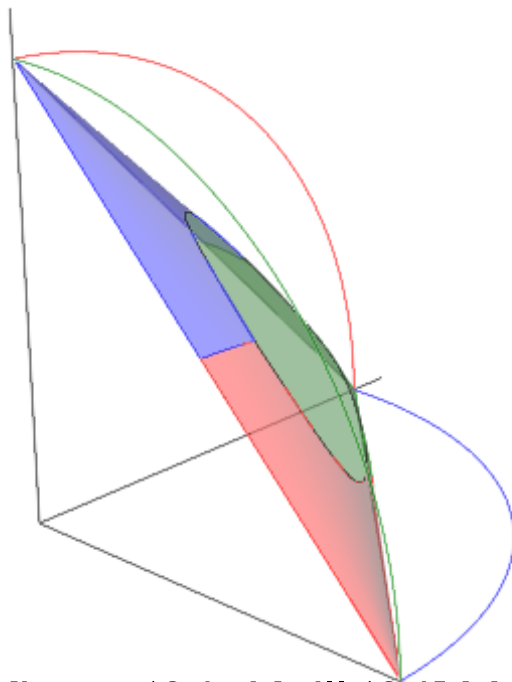
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Theorem: [R '04]

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Conclusion

Proof overview:

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- Def: Relative error states
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- Def: Logical failure
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Open questions:

- Optimize proof for improving provable threshold
- Prove threshold for postselection-based fault-tolerance scheme
 - also for specialized error models
- Prove upper/lower bounds on magic states distillation, improve efficiency...

