Data-driven decoding of quantum error correcting codes using graph neural networks Moritz Lange¹, Pontus Havström¹, Basudha Srivastava^{1, 2}, Isak Bengtsson³, Valdemar Bergentall¹, Karl Hammar¹, Olivia Heuts¹, Evert van Nieuwenburg⁴, and Mats Granath¹



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Introduction

We develop a model-free, data-driven, approach to decoding, using a graph neural network (GNN). The decoding problem is formulated as a graph classification task in which a set of stabilizer measurements is mapped to an annotated detector graph for which the neural network predicts the most likely logical error class. We show that the model can be trained on simulated data with circuit-level noise on the surface code as well as on experimental detector data for the repetition code [2], with performance on par with noise-informed matching decoders. Although training is computationally demanding, inference is fast and scales approximately linearly with the space-time volume of the code.













Decoding [3, 4] simulated experimental data [5], with circuitlevel noise, on the rotated surface code with code distance d.



Decoding experimental data [2] on the repetition code with code distance d, over 50 rounds of stabilizer measurements.



800 200600 400 1000 U Training epoch

GNN training and test accuracy versus number of training epochs for circuit-level noise.

 $d^2 \cdot d_t$

Scaling of average decoding time per syndrome versus code volume d^2d_t for GNN and MWPM.

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