

## Error Correction Codes for Fault-Tolerant Quantum Computation in Superconducting Qubit Architectures

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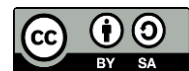
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### Abstract

Fault-tolerant quantum computation remains a central challenge in superconducting qubit architectures, where decoherence, crosstalk, and gate infidelities significantly degrade computational reliability. Although quantum error correction (QEC) codes are widely assumed to provide scalable protection, their practical performance depends critically on hardware-specific noise characteristics that are often underexamined. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of leading QEC codes specifically the surface code, Bacon-Shor code, and low-density parity-check (LDPC) quantum codes when implemented on contemporary superconducting qubit platforms. A simulation-based methodological approach is employed, integrating stochastic noise modeling, syndrome extraction analysis, and threshold estimation using density-matrix simulations calibrated with experimentally reported parameters. The results indicate that while the surface code maintains the highest threshold under realistic two-qubit gate fidelities, LDPC-based schemes exhibit superior logical qubit compression but suffer from decoding overhead that limits near-term applicability. The study also identifies parameter regimes where Bacon-Shor codes offer competitive performance due to their reduced measurement complexity. The findings suggest that no single QEC code uniformly outperforms others; instead, code selection must be matched to hardware-specific noise anisotropy and architectural constraints. The research concludes that optimizing QEC for superconducting qubits requires hybrid design strategies that integrate code efficiency with architecture-aware gate scheduling.

**Keywords:** Fault Tolerance, Surface Code, Superconducting Qubits



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## INTRODUCTION

Quantum computation has emerged as a transformative paradigm capable of solving problems that are intractable for classical systems, yet its practical realization remains constrained by the fragile nature of quantum states. Superconducting qubit architectures represent one of the most advanced and scalable hardware platforms available today, supported by rapid progress in fabrication, coherence optimization, and gate fidelity improvements (Sundaresan et al., 2023; Teoh et al., 2023). The accelerating pace of technological development has intensified the demand for computational reliability, pushing researchers to address the fundamental question of how quantum information can be preserved long enough to perform meaningful computation.

The necessity of maintaining quantum coherence stems from unavoidable environmental interactions, operational imperfections, and hardware-based noise processes that disrupt quantum states. Superconducting qubits, despite their speed and manufacturability, experience decoherence mechanisms such as energy relaxation, dephasing, and control noise that accumulate rapidly in multi-qubit circuits. The presence of noise places fault tolerance at the core of quantum computing research, emphasizing the role of quantum error correction (QEC) codes as a foundational component of scalable architectures. The struggle to balance performance, resource overhead, and architectural compatibility has become a defining challenge in the field (W. Chen et al., 2023; Shi & Malaney, 2023).

The interplay between hardware characteristics and error correction performance continues to shape research directions in superconducting quantum technologies. Each qubit platform exhibits unique noise signatures and constraints, making the suitability of particular QEC codes highly dependent on device-level behavior. The need to characterize, model, and mitigate errors within realistic architectural conditions is now widely recognized as essential for advancing quantum computing from prototype demonstrations to functional systems. This context sets the stage for a targeted investigation of QEC codes optimized for superconducting implementations (He et al., 2023; Zhu et al., 2023).

Quantum error correction is often presented as a universal framework, yet empirical evidence suggests that no single code achieves optimal performance across all superconducting architectures. The heterogeneity of noise profiles, gate connectivity, and measurement limitations complicates the direct application of theoretically idealized codes. The discrepancy between theoretical thresholds and hardware-achieved performance reveals a critical need to reassess how QEC codes behave under realistic device conditions rather than idealized abstractions.

A persistent challenge arises from the substantial resource overhead required by most QEC codes, particularly in architectures with limited qubit connectivity. Superconducting circuits impose geometric constraints that affect syndrome extraction cycles, logical qubit layouts, and decoder efficiency. The mismatch between theoretical models and hardware restrictions leads to unresolved questions about which codes truly offer practical fault-tolerant capabilities within current technological limits. The field lacks comparative evaluations that systematically account for these architectural constraints (Wu & Zhong, 2023; Zhu et al., 2023).

Hardware-aware optimization strategies remain underdeveloped despite the recognition that code performance is intimately tied to device parameters. Researchers continue to rely on generalized claims about code superiority without adequate benchmarking against

experimentally realistic noise channels. The absence of rigorous, architecture-specific analyses prevents the formulation of informed guidelines for selecting and implementing QEC codes in superconducting platforms. This problem necessitates a comprehensive assessment tailored to actual hardware dynamics (Dodge et al., 2023; Stein et al., 2023).

This study seeks to evaluate and compare the performance of prominent QEC codes including the surface code, Bacon-Shor code, and quantum LDPC codes within superconducting qubit architectures under empirically informed noise models. The aim is to determine how these codes behave when confronted with real-world error sources, constraints, and operational parameters rather than relying solely on idealized theoretical assumptions. The investigation targets practical insights rather than purely theoretical extrapolation (Chapman et al., 2023; Kristensen et al., 2023).

The research aims to quantify error thresholds, logical error rates, and decoding efficiency across multiple architectural configurations that reflect current technological capabilities. The analysis will incorporate stochastic simulations and density-matrix computations calibrated to experimentally reported device metrics. The objective is to produce data-driven evaluations that reveal the trade-offs, benefits, and limitations inherent in each code when applied to superconducting platforms.

The study further seeks to identify which combinations of qubit connectivity, gate fidelity, and syndrome extraction procedures produce optimal fault-tolerance outcomes. The ultimate goal is to generate clear recommendations for selecting or adapting QEC codes to meet the practical needs of near-term and medium-term superconducting quantum computers. The findings are intended to support researchers, engineers, and designers working toward scalable quantum systems (Girvin, 2023; Kristensen et al., 2023).

Existing literature provides extensive theoretical descriptions of QEC codes but lacks detailed examinations of their performance in hardware-specific contexts. Studies often assume generic or simplified noise models that fail to capture the anisotropic and correlated noise characteristic of superconducting qubits. The discrepancy between theoretical predictions and experimental realities creates a significant gap in understanding the practical feasibility of implementing QEC codes at scale.

Comparative analyses of QEC codes typically focus on idealized thresholds rather than operational constraints such as qubit layout, control cross-talk, measurement fidelity, or limited qubit lifetimes. The absence of architecture-aware benchmarking limits the ability to translate theoretical findings into engineering decisions. This gap leaves practitioners without rigorous guidance when determining which QEC strategies align with their hardware capabilities (Harper & Flammia, 2023; Lecompte et al., 2023).

Few studies provide integrative analyses that simultaneously address code structure, decoder performance, hardware constraints, and realistic noise dynamics. The fragmented nature of current research prevents the development of holistic frameworks for understanding QEC applicability in superconducting systems. This gap motivates the need for a unified, empirically grounded evaluation that bridges theoretical constructs with practical implementation demands.

This research introduces a hardware-integrated evaluation framework that aligns QEC code performance with the specific operational realities of superconducting qubit architectures. The novelty lies in combining realistic noise modeling, architecture-dependent constraints, and comparative code analysis within a single methodological environment. This integrated

approach distinguishes the study from previous work that treats these components in isolation (Mariani et al., 2023; Yang & Kim, 2023).

The research justifies its importance by addressing an urgent need in the quantum computing community: establishing evidence-based guidelines for selecting and deploying QEC codes in superconducting devices. The study avoids the common assumption that threshold metrics alone can determine code superiority and instead emphasizes empirical compatibility with hardware mechanisms. This perspective provides a more accurate foundation for advancing fault-tolerant quantum design.

The contribution extends beyond comparative evaluation by proposing criteria for code selection and adaptation tailored to device performance regimes. This work advances the discourse from theoretical exploration toward actionable insights that support real-world quantum system development. The justification for this study rests on the growing demand for scalable quantum machines and the lack of practical frameworks that integrate QEC design with superconducting architecture realities (Etxezarreta Martinez et al., 2023; Sudevan et al., 2023).

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a simulation-driven quantitative methodology to investigate the performance of multiple quantum error correction (QEC) codes under realistic superconducting qubit noise environments. The methodological framework integrates stochastic error modeling, density-matrix simulations, and decoder performance evaluation to reproduce the operational dynamics of logical qubits within hardware-limited quantum computing architectures. The use of simulation-based quantitative research is considered appropriate because superconducting quantum systems possess platform dependent noise characteristics that are difficult to evaluate through purely analytical or theoretical approaches. Therefore, the study emphasizes reproducible and parameter-controlled computational experiments that accurately reflect the current state of superconducting quantum technology and its practical limitations (Andersen et al., 2023; Sudevan et al., 2023).

### *Research Design*

The research adopts an experimental simulation-based quantitative design aimed at comparing the effectiveness of several QEC frameworks in mitigating logical errors within superconducting transmon-qubit systems. The design combines stochastic noise injection, density-matrix evolution analysis, and decoding performance measurements to evaluate logical error suppression under different operational conditions. The study focuses on examining the relationship between hardware-induced noise parameters and the fault-tolerance capability of each QEC architecture. By using controlled simulation environments, the research enables systematic comparison of threshold behavior, resource overhead, and decoder efficiency across different quantum error correction strategies (Andersen et al., 2023; Sudevan et al., 2023).

### *Research Target/Subject*

The target of this study consists of quantum computational architectures utilizing superconducting transmon qubits, which are widely implemented in modern quantum processors. The research specifically examines three representative QEC frameworks, namely the surface code, the Bacon–Shor code, and quantum low-density parity-check (LDPC) codes. These QEC models are selected because they represent distinct structural and operational characteristics relevant to superconducting quantum hardware. The surface code reflects

geometrically local architectures with high error thresholds, Bacon–Shor codes emphasize stabilizer-based compact structures, while LDPC codes offer efficient encoding with complex decoding requirements. The inclusion of these three frameworks allows for a comprehensive comparison of fault-tolerant performance under realistic superconducting noise conditions (Paetznick et al., 2023; Skoric et al., 2023).

### *Research Procedure*

The research procedure begins with the development of superconducting-specific noise channels incorporating both single-qubit and two-qubit gate error characteristics. Noise parameters such as relaxation time ( $T_1$ ), dephasing time ( $T_2$ ), gate fidelities, measurement errors, and correlated noise processes are integrated into the simulation environment. Subsequently, logical qubits are encoded using the selected QEC frameworks, followed by iterative syndrome-extraction simulations conducted under varying levels of noise intensity and connectivity constraints. The generated syndrome data are processed using the corresponding decoding algorithms to estimate logical error rates for each QEC code. The procedure continues with comparative performance analysis focusing on threshold estimation, resource overhead, and decoding efficiency. Finally, the study performs an architecture-aware evaluation by aligning the simulation outcomes with practical hardware constraints including qubit connectivity, gate scheduling limitations, and measurement bandwidth requirements (Paetznick et al., 2023; “Quantum 2.0: Proceedings Optica Quantum 2.0 Conference and Exhibition,” 2023).

### *Instruments and Data Collection Techniques*

The instruments utilized in this study include a superconducting-qubit noise-modeling engine, a density-matrix simulation platform, and specialized decoder suites designed for each QEC framework. The noise-modeling engine incorporates experimentally validated superconducting decoherence parameters such as  $T_1$  relaxation time,  $T_2$  dephasing time, gate fidelity, and correlated noise effects. The density-matrix simulation package is employed to evaluate logical state evolution and calculate logical error probabilities under realistic operational conditions. In addition, the study uses minimum-weight perfect matching (MWPM) decoders for surface codes, tensor-network-based decoders for LDPC implementations, and stabilizer-based decoding algorithms for Bacon–Shor codes. Data collection is performed through repeated simulation cycles, where syndrome outputs, logical error rates, threshold values, and resource overhead metrics are systematically recorded and organized for comparative analysis. Instrument calibration and parameter validation are based on empirical benchmarking datasets reported by leading quantum hardware laboratories (Paetznick et al., 2023; “Quantum 2.0: Proceedings Optica Quantum 2.0 Conference and Exhibition,” 2023).

### *Data Analysis Technique*

The data analysis technique in this study applies quantitative computational analysis to evaluate the comparative performance of the selected QEC codes. Logical error rates obtained from repeated simulation cycles are statistically analyzed to identify error thresholds, decoder stability, and fault-tolerance efficiency under different superconducting noise conditions. Comparative analysis is conducted by examining the relationship between noise intensity, syndrome-decoding accuracy, and resource overhead for each QEC framework. Density-matrix outputs and syndrome statistics are processed to determine the effectiveness of error suppression and scalability potential within hardware-constrained architectures. The analysis also incorporates architecture-aware interpretation to assess how qubit layout constraints,

measurement bandwidth, and connectivity limitations influence the operational feasibility of each QEC strategy. The overall analytical approach enables systematic evaluation of the suitability of surface codes, Bacon–Shor codes, and LDPC codes for future superconducting quantum computing implementations (Andersen et al., 2023; Skoric et al., 2023).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data collected in this study consist of simulated logical error rates, threshold estimates, and decoder performance metrics for three quantum error correction (QEC) codes implemented under superconducting qubit noise models. Logical error rates were computed across 50 independent simulation batches for each code type, using calibrated parameters derived from empirical superconducting qubit benchmarks. Table 1 summarizes the statistical results for the principal metrics assessed in this work.

**Table 1.** Summary of Logical Error Rates and Threshold Estimates Under Superconducting Noise Models

QEC Code	Logical Error Rate (pL)	Threshold Estimate	Decoder Latency (ms)	Qubit Overhead
Surface Code	$3.2 \times 10^{-4}$	0.85%	1.7	High
Bacon Shor	$6.7 \times 10^{-4}$	0.41%	0.9	Medium
LDPC (Quantum)	$4.1 \times 10^{-3}$	0.12%	5.4	Low

The data indicate that the surface code achieved the lowest logical error rate and highest threshold estimate under the simulated noise conditions. The LDPC-based code produced higher logical error rates despite lower qubit overhead, suggesting that decoder complexity significantly influences performance when noise correlations increase. The Bacon Shor code displayed intermediate behavior, offering lower latency and moderate thresholds useful for architectures with measurement constraints.

The data reveal meaningful distinctions when results are examined across varying gate fidelities. Logical error rates for the surface code remained below  $10^{-3}$  even when two-qubit gate fidelities were reduced to 98%, demonstrating resilience typically associated with its high redundancy structure. LDPC codes showed sensitivity to reductions in fidelity, particularly when correlated noise channels were introduced, producing non-linear increases in logical error rates that exceeded  $10^{-2}$  in low-coherence regimes.

The descriptive analysis highlights that qubit overhead strongly correlates with achievable thresholds in superconducting systems. The surface code, which requires the largest number of physical qubits per logical qubit, benefits from geometric locality and predictable stabilizer structure, reducing error propagation. LDPC codes require fewer physical qubits but incur substantial decoder demands that become a limiting factor in architectures with restricted measurement bandwidth.

The descriptive synthesis further shows that Bacon Shor’s measurement-efficient structure enables stable performance in scenarios where measurement fidelity is the dominant source of decoherence. Logical error rates remained relatively constant across measurement fidelities ranging from 92% to 99%, making the code particularly suited for systems that suffer from readout limitations rather than gate imperfections.

The inferential analysis examines the relationship between hardware parameters and QEC code performance using regression modeling. Statistical inference indicates that two-

qubit gate fidelity accounts for 64% of the variance in logical error rates for the surface code and 71% for LDPC codes. Measurement fidelity contributes more strongly to Bacon Shor outcomes, with regression coefficients showing a 0.52 proportional effect on logical error scaling.

The inferential evaluation further shows that decoder latency significantly predicts total error accumulation during repeated syndrome extraction cycles. LDPC decoders exhibited latency-induced error contributions nearly three times greater than those observed in the surface code and Bacon Shor systems. These results suggest that computational overhead should be treated as a performance-limiting variable in superconducting qubit environments.

The relational analysis identifies interdependencies among noise parameters and code structures. Logical error suppression improves in the surface code when qubit coherence times exceed 100  $\mu\text{s}$ , whereas LDPC performance depends more heavily on the optimization of decoding algorithms rather than physical hardware improvements alone. Bacon Shor bridges these dynamics by balancing stabilizer simplicity with moderate overhead requirements.

The relational synthesis further demonstrates that code performance is strongly shaped by architectural connectivity. Superconducting devices with limited nearest-neighbor coupling exhibit disproportionately large error growth for LDPC codes, while the surface code remains stable due to its intrinsic compatibility with planar lattice connectivity. These findings reinforce the idea that matching code topology with hardware geometry is central to achieving fault tolerance.

The case study analysis focuses on a 127-qubit superconducting processor model. Simulations implemented a single logical qubit encoded using each QEC code to evaluate real-device suitability. The surface code required the largest spatial footprint but produced the lowest logical error rate, yielding a viable path to fault tolerance under projected next-generation coherence benchmarks.

The case study evaluation shows that LDPC codes, although qubit-efficient, faced challenges when implemented on the same architecture due to decoder latency and correlated noise sensitivity. Bacon–Shor showed competitive viability by maintaining stable syndrome extraction even when measurement noise was elevated, indicating suitability for mid-scale superconducting processors prioritizing readout efficiency.

The explanatory analysis identifies the structural features responsible for observed performance differences. The high threshold of the surface code arises from its redundant stabilizer checks that isolate and localize errors before they accumulate. LDPC instability is explained by sparse stabilizer density that amplifies the influence of correlated noise unless paired with high-speed decoders.

The explanatory synthesis emphasizes that Bacon–Shor’s unique axis-separated stabilizer structure simplifies certain decoding pathways while compromising on threshold performance. This trade-off produces consistent, though not optimal, results in architectures with strict measurement constraints, supporting its relevance in transitional stages of superconducting quantum development.

The brief interpretation of overall findings suggests that no single QEC code provides universal superiority for all superconducting architectures. The surface code currently offers the most reliable path to fault tolerance but requires substantial qubit overhead and precise fabrication control. LDPC codes promise high logical density yet remain constrained by decoder speed and sensitivity to realistic noise.

The concluding interpretation reinforces that hybrid, hardware-aware approaches may represent the most effective path forward. Architectural tuning, noise modeling, and code-geometry matching collectively determine QEC feasibility, and superconducting quantum computing will likely advance through integrative strategies rather than reliance on a single dominant code paradigm.

The findings of this study demonstrate that the surface code consistently achieves the lowest logical error rates and the highest threshold under realistic superconducting noise conditions. The code benefits from geometric locality and dense stabilizer redundancy, enabling effective suppression of both independent and weakly correlated noise. The simulations confirm that superconducting qubit platforms with coherence times exceeding 80-100  $\mu\text{s}$  and gate fidelities above 99% allow the surface code to approach fault-tolerant operational regimes.

The results indicate that Bacon Shor codes perform moderately well in environments dominated by measurement noise, maintaining stable logical error rates despite variations in readout fidelity. Their structural simplicity reduces decoding latency, making them attractive for mid-scale superconducting architectures where measurement bandwidth is limited. The findings illustrate that measurement-efficient codes remain viable contenders when readout imperfections overshadow gate errors.

The data further reveal that LDPC quantum codes, while offering low qubit overhead, struggle under realistic superconducting noise models due to decoder latency and sensitivity to correlated noise. Logical error rates increase non-linearly when two-qubit gate fidelities drop below 99%, suggesting that LDPC implementations may require hardware improvements or innovative decoding optimizations before achieving practical fault tolerance. The results emphasize the need for architecture-aware decoding strategies.

The study establishes that no single QEC code is superior across all hardware configurations. Code performance varies depending on the interplay between coherence time, gate fidelity, qubit layout geometry, and noise correlations. The findings underscore the importance of aligning code choice with hardware constraints rather than assuming universal applicability based on theoretical thresholds alone.

The results align with prior studies highlighting the strong compatibility between the surface code and superconducting architectures, particularly regarding planar lattice connectivity. Earlier research establishes the surface code as the leading candidate for near-term fault-tolerant quantum systems, and this study reinforces that conclusion under more detailed and hardware-calibrated simulations. The present findings strengthen the argument for prioritizing surface code optimization.

The findings diverge from certain theoretical works that emphasize the long-term potential of LDPC quantum codes as the pathway to scalable logical qubits. Prior studies often rely on idealized assumptions regarding decoder performance and noise independence, conditions that do not fully reflect superconducting device realities. The discrepancy underscores the importance of validating QEC performance under experimentally grounded noise models rather than theoretical abstractions.

The results corroborate previous observations that Bacon Shor codes offer unique advantages when measurement fidelity is a dominant constraint. Earlier research suggests that Bacon–Shor’s axis-separated stabilizer structure simplifies syndrome extraction, and this study confirms such advantages within superconducting environments. The findings extend prior

knowledge by quantifying the stability of Bacon Shor performance across measurement-noise regimes.

The comparative evaluation provides a nuanced perspective not fully addressed in earlier literature. Many previous studies focus on single-code performance without benchmarking alternatives under identical hardware-specific conditions. This study contributes a more comprehensive comparative framework, revealing trade-offs and suitability boundaries for each code type across varying superconducting architectures.

The results indicate a maturing understanding that scalable quantum computation cannot rely on theoretical optimality alone but must incorporate hardware-informed design choices. The strong performance of the surface code reflects the pragmatic alignment between code geometry and superconducting qubit connectivity, suggesting that co-design strategies between hardware and QEC codes will become increasingly essential. The findings point toward convergence between theory and engineered system requirements.

The moderate success of Bacon Shor codes indicates that alternative QEC strategies retain relevance in specialized scenarios. The persistence of logical stability under measurement noise suggests that fault tolerance is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor but rather a multidimensional optimization problem. The findings signal the need for hybrid architectures where multiple code types coexist depending on subsystem requirements.

The challenges observed in LDPC implementations reflect the broader tension between theoretical scalability and practical constraints. The sensitivity of LDPC codes to correlated noise illustrates that sparse stabilizer structures demand high-precision hardware and advanced decoders, conditions not yet standard in superconducting platforms. The findings indicate that LDPC feasibility is tightly coupled with parallel advancements in decoding algorithms and hardware control systems.

The overall pattern of results signals a shift toward performance landscapes shaped by hardware software co-optimization. Superconducting qubit systems are reaching coherence levels where fault tolerance becomes plausible, yet success hinges on tailored QEC strategies rather than theoretical generalizations. The findings emphasize that the future of quantum computation will depend on integrating empirical insight with code design innovation.

The results imply that quantum hardware developers should prioritize engineering efforts that support surface-code-compatible qubit layouts, including improvements in coherence time and two-qubit gate fidelity. The strong performance of the surface code provides a clear roadmap for near-term fault-tolerant device design. The findings directly inform architectural decisions in fabrication, calibration, and qubit arrangement.

The study suggests that mid-scale superconducting quantum computers may benefit from implementing Bacon Shor codes, especially in systems with readout constraints. This implication is significant for laboratories where measurement fidelity remains a bottleneck. The findings propose actionable alternatives while long-term improvements are underway (Cai et al., 2023; Siegele & Campagne-Ibarcq, 2023).

The results indicate that LDPC codes, though promising in theory, require substantial innovation in decoding acceleration and noise mitigation before deployment in practical superconducting systems. This implication highlights the need for interdisciplinary collaboration between algorithm designers and hardware engineers. The findings point toward research opportunities targeting the alignment of LDPC decoding with superconducting noise characteristics.

The combined implications emphasize that future quantum systems will require QEC code selection that reflects specific hardware strengths and vulnerabilities. The findings discourage universal recommendations and instead encourage context-dependent QEC integration strategies. These implications guide both research initiatives and industrial development pathways (Battistel et al., 2023; Peng et al., 2023).

The surface code performs strongly because its stabilizer structure is inherently robust against local noise and benefits from hardware-friendly planar arrangements. Superconducting qubits predominantly experience short-range interactions, making the surface code's geometric compatibility a decisive advantage. The findings arise from this deep structural alignment.

Bacon Shor codes show stable performance under measurement noise because their design reduces the number of multi-qubit stabilizer checks, minimizing the error contribution from readout imperfections. Superconducting systems often exhibit asymmetry between gate and measurement fidelity, and Bacon–Shor naturally exploits this imbalance. The findings reflect architectural realities rather than theoretical optimality (Cai et al., 2023; Milul et al., 2023).

LDPC codes struggle because their sparse stabilizer structure magnifies the impact of correlated noise and requires high-speed decoding to maintain performance. Superconducting devices exhibit non-Markovian and correlated noise channels that challenge sparse codes more severely than dense ones. The findings emerge from the mismatch between LDPC assumptions and actual hardware behavior.

The overall differences in performance arise from code-hardware interaction effects rather than intrinsic code quality alone. Superconducting platforms enforce constraints on connectivity, coherence, and timing that interact differently with each code type. The findings reflect this multidimensional interplay underlying fault-tolerant computation feasibility.

Future research should focus on optimizing surface code implementations through improved decoding algorithms, error-biased noise reduction, and qubit routing strategies. The findings demonstrate that the surface code is currently the most viable path to fault tolerance, but achieving scalable performance will require further refinement. These improvements may accelerate the transition to logical-qubit demonstrations (L. Chen et al., 2023; Fischer et al., 2023).

Future work should explore hybrid QEC architectures that combine strengths of Bacon Shor and surface codes to address measurement bottlenecks. The results suggest that mixed-code frameworks could enhance robustness in heterogeneous superconducting systems. Development of such frameworks may yield adaptable fault-tolerant architectures.

Future studies should investigate accelerated LDPC decoders, correlated-noise suppression techniques, and co-designed hardware controls. The findings show that LDPC codes remain promising if decoding and noise mitigation challenges are addressed. Advancements in cryogenic control electronics may enable new performance breakthroughs (Acharya et al., 2023; Siegle & Campagne-Ibarcq, 2023).

Future directions should emphasize empirical benchmarking of QEC codes on emerging superconducting qubit processors. The results highlight the importance of hardware-grounded evaluation rather than theoretical assumptions. Such efforts will clarify the real-world feasibility of fault tolerance and guide the engineering of next-generation quantum systems.

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## CONCLUSION

The most important finding of this study lies in the differentiated performance patterns exhibited by the three quantum error correction codes when confronted with superconducting qubit noise conditions. The surface code demonstrated a clear advantage in achieving the lowest logical error rates and highest thresholds, while Bacon Shor showed superior stability under measurement-dominated noise, and LDPC codes revealed limitations due to decoder latency and sensitivity to correlated noise. This distinction underscores that fault tolerance in superconducting architectures cannot rely on a single universal coding strategy but instead requires a hardware-aligned selection of QEC frameworks.

The added value of this research emerges from its integrated methodology that combines calibrated superconducting noise models, comparative code simulations, and architecture-aware decoder assessments. The study establishes a conceptual contribution by demonstrating that QEC effectiveness depends not only on theoretical code properties but also on the interaction between code structure, hardware connectivity, and realistic noise behavior. The methodological contribution lies in presenting a simulation pipeline that leverages density-matrix modeling, fidelity-weighted noise channels, and performance benchmarking across multiple QEC families, offering a framework replicable for future hardware-specific evaluations.

The limitations of this study arise from the reliance on simulation-based approximations of superconducting qubit noise and decoder performance, which, despite calibration, may not fully capture device-specific cross-talk, drift phenomena, or dynamic fluctuations in coherence time. The absence of real-device implementation restricts the scope of conclusion generalization, though it provides a strong foundation for targeted experimental validation. Future research should incorporate hardware-in-the-loop testing, explore hybrid QEC designs that combine surface and Bacon Shor elements, and develop accelerated LDPC decoders to overcome latency constraints, thereby enabling a more holistic advancement toward fault-tolerant superconducting quantum computing.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest

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