# Perfect codes in Cartesian products of 2-paths and infinite paths 

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#### Abstract

We introduce and study a common generalization of 1-error binary perfect codes and perfect single error correcting codes in Lee metric, namely perfect codes on products of paths of length 2 and of infinite length. Both existence and nonexistence results are given.


## 1 Introduction

Perfect codes appeared in error correcting codes theory during the late 40's with the work of Golay and Hamming [3, 6]. They constructed perfect binary single-error correcting codes of length $n$ where $n=2^{q}-1$ for some integer $q$.

Later, Golomb and Welch [4, 5] proved, for any length $n$, the existence of perfect single-error correcting codes in Lee metric. Such codes can be considered either as regular periodic tilings of the euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^{n}$ by Lee spheres of radius 1 or as periodic tilings of the grid $\mathbb{Z}^{n}$ by balls of radius 1 . Perfect codes have also been studied on other alphabets or mixed one (see [2]).

In [1], Biggs introduced perfect codes in graphs. From this point of view, a perfect binary single-error correcting code of length $k$ is a perfect code on the hypercube $Q_{k}$, and a tiling of the grid $\mathbb{Z}^{n}$ by balls of radius 1 is nothing more than a perfect code of $\mathbb{Z}^{n}$.

[^0]Both $Q_{k}$ and the grid $\mathbb{Z}^{n}$ are cartesian products of paths either of length $2\left(P_{2}\right)$ or of infinite length $\left(P_{\infty}\right)$. We study the existence of perfect codes on the mixed product $P_{\infty}^{n} \square P_{2}^{k}=\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$.

In the next section, we give the definitions we will use along this paper. Section 3 presents classical results on error correcting codes. In section 4, we construct new codes, and in section 5, we prove some inexistence results. The last section summarizes what we know and what is still open.

## 2 Definitions

Given $G_{1}=\left(V_{1}, E_{1}\right)$ and $G_{2}=\left(V_{2}, E_{2}\right)$ two graphs, the cartesian product $G_{1} \square G_{2}$ is the graph with vertex set $V_{1} \times V_{2}$ and satisfying $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right)\left(y_{1}, y_{2}\right) \in E\left(G_{1} \square G_{2}\right)$ if and only if $x_{1} y_{1} \in E_{1}$ and $x_{2}=y_{2}$ or $x_{2} y_{2} \in E_{2}$ and $x_{1}=y_{1}$. We will use the notation $G^{n}$ for the graph $G \square G \square \ldots \square G$ ( $n$ times).

The hypercube of dimension $k$ is the graph $Q_{k}$ whose vertices are the words of length $k$ over the alphabet $\{0,1\}$, and where two vertices are adjacent if they differ in exactly one place. Notice that $Q_{1}$ is $P_{2}$ the path with 2 vertices and that $Q_{k+1}=Q_{k} \square P_{2}$. For two vertices $u$ and $v$ in $Q_{k}$, we will denote by $u+v$ the vertex $\left(\left(u_{1}+v_{1}\right),\left(u_{2}+v_{2}\right), \ldots,\left(u_{k}+v_{k}\right)\right)$ where + is the sum modulo 2 .

The infinite grid $\mathbb{Z}^{n}$ is the graph whose vertices are the words of length $n$ over the alphabet $\mathbb{Z}$ and where two vertices are adjacent if and only if they differ by 1 in exactly one place. Notice that if we denote by $P_{\infty}$ the two ways infinite path, we have also $\mathbb{Z}^{1}=P_{\infty}$ and $\mathbb{Z}^{n+1}=\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square P_{\infty}$.

We will consider in the same idea the vertices of the cycle of length $l$, denoted by $C_{l}$, as the elements of $\mathbb{Z} / l \mathbb{Z}$. For two vertices $u$ and $v$, we will denote by $u+v$ the vertex $(u+v) \bmod l$.

From now on, we will work on the cartesian product $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$. This graph can also be considered as follows : the vertices are words of length $n+k$ whose $n$ first symbols are in $\mathbb{Z}$ and the $k$ others are in $\{0,1\}$. Two vertices are adjacent if they differ by 1 in exactly one place. Notice that this graph is regular with degree $2 n+k$. Moreover, $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{0}=\mathbb{Z}^{n}$ and $\mathbb{Z}^{0} \square Q_{k}=Q_{k}$.

For two vertices $x$ and $y$, we will denote by $d(x, y)$ the classical distance on graphs. For our graph $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$,

$$
d\left(\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n+k}\right),\left(y_{1}, y_{2}, \ldots, y_{n+k}\right)\right)=\sum_{i=1}^{n+k}\left|x_{i}-y_{i}\right|
$$

If $n=0$, this is the Hamming distance, and if $k=0$, this is the Manhattan distance.
For an integer $r$ and a vertex $c$, we call ball of radius $r$ centered on $c$ the set of vertices $v$ such that $d(c, v) \leq r$. In this paper, we will only consider balls of radius 1 .

In a graph, a single error correcting code (or code for shorter) is a set of vertices such that any two code's vertices are at distance at least 3. This is equivalent to say that the balls centered on these vertices are disjoint.


Figure 1: A perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{1} \square Q_{1}$


Figure 2: There exists no perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{1} \square Q_{2}$
A code is said to be perfect if any vertex of the graph is at distance at most one of a code's vertex. It also means that any vertex belongs to a ball centered on a code's vertex and thus that these balls form a tiling of the graph.

Figure 1 shows a perfect code in $\mathbb{Z}^{1} \square Q_{1}$. But a perfect code does not always exists as figure 2 shows.

Let $G$ be a finite graph. On $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square G$, we will say that a code is $i$-periodic $(i \in\{1, \ldots, n\})$ if there exists a positive integer $p_{i}$ such that for any vertex $x=\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}, v\right)$ (where $\left.\forall i, x_{i} \in \mathbb{Z}, v \in V(G)\right)$, the vertex $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{i-1},\left(x_{i}+p_{i}\right), x_{i+1}, \ldots, x_{n}, v\right)$ is in the code if and only if $x$ is in the code. $p_{i}$ is called the $i$-period. A code is periodic of period $\left(p_{1}, p_{2}, \ldots, p_{n}\right)$ if it is $i$-periodic of $i$-period $p_{i}$ for all $i$.

Proposition 1 Let $S$ be a periodic code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square G$ of period $\left(p_{1}, p_{2}, \ldots, p_{n}\right)$. There exists some set $T$ of words $t=\left(t_{1}, t_{2}, \ldots, t_{n}, v\right)$ with $\forall i \in\{1 \ldots, n\}, 0 \leq t_{i}<p_{i}$ and $v \in V(G)$ such that $S$ is the set of words

$$
\left\{\left(t_{1}+\alpha_{1} p_{1}, t_{2}+\alpha_{2} p_{2}, \ldots, t_{n}+\alpha_{n} p_{n}, v\right) \mid t \in T, \alpha_{i} \in \mathbb{Z}\right\}
$$

## 3 Perfect codes deduced from known constructions

From the classical results on error correcting codes, we get:
Theorem 2 If $n=0$, there exists a perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$ if and only if there exists an integer $p$ such that $k=2^{p}-1$.

Examples of these perfect codes are the classical Hamming codes [6], but when $k \geq 15$, other perfect codes with the same length are known (for a survey on this topic, see [2]).

Theorem 3 There exists a i-periodic perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square G$ of i-period $p_{i}$ if and only if a perfect code on the graph $\mathbb{Z}^{n-1} \square C_{p_{i}} \square G$ exists.

Proof : Let $S$ be a perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n-1} \square C_{p_{i}} \square G$. Then one can easily check that the set of words

$$
\left\{\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n-1}, c+\alpha p_{i}, v\right) \mid\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n-1}, c, v\right) \in S, \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}\right\}
$$



Figure 3: A perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{2} \square Q_{1}$
is a perfect code of $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square G$.
On the other hand, let us consider a perfect $i$-periodic code $S$ on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square G$ of $i$-period $p_{i}$. Without loss of generality, we can suppose that $i=n$. The set of words

$$
\left\{\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}, v\right) \mid\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}, v\right) \in S, 0 \leq x_{n}<p_{n}\right\}
$$

is a perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n-1} \square C_{p_{n}} \square G$.
Thus, there exists a periodic perfect code on the grid $\mathbb{Z}^{n}$ of period $\left(p_{1}, \ldots, p_{n}\right)$ if and only if a perfect code on the graph $C_{p_{1}} \square \ldots \square C_{p_{n}}$ exists.

In 1968, Golomb and Welch [4] proved the existence in Lee metric of perfect one error correcting codes for any word length $n$ over an alphabet of $2 n+1$ elements. This is a perfect code on the graph $C_{2 n+1}^{n}$, and this implies the following well known result.

Theorem 4 If $k=0$, for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a periodic perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$.

## 4 Constructing perfect codes

A perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{2} \square Q_{1}$ exists (see figure 3). We can consider this construction as a tiling of $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$ with balls of radius 1 and of radius 0 . The set of balls of radius 1 is obtain from the set of balls of radius 0 by a translation. With this approach, such a tiling can be generalized for any $n$ on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{1}$.

But it is a special case of a more general construction we present hereby.
Theorem 5 There exists a perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$ whenever there are some $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{N}^{*}$ such that $k=2^{\alpha}-1$ and $n=\beta 2^{\alpha-1}$.

Proof : Let $k=2^{\alpha}-1$ and $n=\beta 2^{\alpha-1}$. We will construct a perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$.
From theorem 2, there exists a perfect code $A_{0}$ on $Q_{k}$. We denote by $e_{1}, \ldots, e_{k}$ the $k$ vertices of $Q_{k}$ at distance 1 of $(0, \ldots, 0)$ and by $A_{i}$ the set $\left\{c+e_{i} \mid c \in A_{0}\right\}$. By definition of a perfect code, any $A_{i}$ is also a perfect code on $Q_{k}$ and $A_{0}, A_{1}, \ldots, A_{k}$ is a partition of $V\left(Q_{k}\right)$. To prove the theorem, we will construct a mapping from $\mathbb{Z}^{n}$ that characterizes a perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$. Denote by $x=\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ an element of $\mathbb{Z}^{n}$.

## THE CASE $\beta$ EVEN:

Let $\beta=2 p$. We have $n=p(k+1)$.
We define the following mapping from $\mathbb{Z}^{p(k+1)}$ to $\mathbb{Z} /(k+1)(2 p+1) \mathbb{Z}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(x)= & \sum_{i=0}^{k} \sum_{j=1}^{p}((2 p+1) i+j) x_{i p+j} \bmod (k+1)(2 p+1) \\
\text { That is } f(x)= & x_{1}+2 x_{2}+\ldots+p x_{p} \\
& +(2 p+2) x_{p+1}+(2 p+3) x_{p+2}+\ldots+(3 p+1) x_{2 p} \\
& +\ldots \\
& +(k(2 p+1)+1) x_{k p+1}+\ldots+(k(2 p+1)+p) x_{(k+1) p} \\
& \bmod (k+1)(2 p+1)
\end{aligned}
$$

We claim that the set $C=\left\{(x, v) \mid \exists i \in\{0, \ldots, k\}\right.$ with $\left.f(x)=i(2 p+1), v \in A_{i}\right\}$ is a perfect code of $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$. To prove this, we will use the following lemma.

Lemma 6 For any $x \in \mathbb{Z}^{n}$ and $\theta \in\{1, \ldots,(k+1)(2 p+1)-1\}$, there exists exactly one neighbour $y$ of $x$ such that $f(y)=f(x)+\theta$ if $\theta \neq 0 \bmod 2 p+1$ and no neighbour if $\theta=0 \bmod 2 p+1$.

Proof : Let $\theta \in\{1, \ldots,(k+1)(2 p+1)-1\}$ satisfy $\theta \neq 0 \bmod 2 p+1$. There exist $i \in\{0, \ldots, k\}, j \in\{1, \ldots, 2 p\}$ such that $\theta=(2 p+1) i+j$. If $j \leq p$ then $f\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{i p+j}+\right.$ $\left.1, \ldots, x_{n}\right)=f(x)+\theta$. Else, $f\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{(k-i) p+(2 p+1-j)}-1, \ldots, x_{n}\right)=f(x)+\theta$ (notice that $k-i \in\{0, \ldots, k\}$ and $2 p+1-j \in\{1, \ldots, p\}$ ). We have thus considered $(k+1) 2 p=2 n$ distinct neighbours of $x$, so every neighbour of $x$. Therefore there are no neighbour left for the case $\theta=0 \bmod 2 p+1$.

Suppose that $C$ is not a code with minimum distance 3. Then there exist two distinct vertices $(x, v)$ and $\left(x^{\prime}, v^{\prime}\right) \in C$ at distance less or equal to 2 . Let $i$ and $i^{\prime}$ be the integers such that $f(x)=i(2 p+1)$ and $f\left(x^{\prime}\right)=i^{\prime}(2 p+1)$. We have $v \in A_{i}$ and $v^{\prime} \in A_{i^{\prime}}$.
$1^{\text {st }}$ case : $x=x^{\prime}$. Thus $v$ and $v^{\prime}$ are in a same $A_{i}$ and $v \neq v^{\prime}$ so $d\left(v, v^{\prime}\right) \geq 3$ : a contradiction.
$2^{\text {nd }}$ case $: d\left(x, x^{\prime}\right)=1$. From lemma $6, f(x)-f\left(x^{\prime}\right) \neq 0 \bmod 2 p+1$ but $f(x)-f\left(x^{\prime}\right)=$ $\left(i-i^{\prime}\right)(2 p+1):$ a contradiction.
$3^{r d}$ case : $d\left(x, x^{\prime}\right)=2$. Then $v=v^{\prime}$; and since $A_{0}, \ldots, A_{k}$ is a partition of $V\left(Q_{k}\right)$, $i=i^{\prime}$ and $f(x)=f\left(x^{\prime}\right)$. Let $u$ be a common neighbour of $x$ and $x^{\prime}$. We have $f(u)-f(x)=f(u)-f\left(x^{\prime}\right)$ which is impossible by lemma 6.

We only have to prove now that this code is perfect. Let $(x, v)$ be a vertex of $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$. If $f(x)=i(2 p+1)$ then $A_{i}$ being a perfect code, there exists $v^{\prime} \in A_{i}$ (so $\left(x, v^{\prime}\right) \in C$ ) such that $d\left((x, v),\left(x, v^{\prime}\right)\right) \leq 1$. Else, since $A_{0}, \ldots, A_{k}$ is a partition of $V\left(Q_{k}\right)$, there exists $i \in\{0, \ldots, k\}$ such that $v \in A_{i}$. By lemma 6 , there exists a neighbour $x^{\prime}$ of $x$ such that $f\left(x^{\prime}\right)=i(2 p+1)$. Thus, $\left(x^{\prime}, v\right) \in C$.

## THE CASE $\beta$ ODD:

Let $\beta=2 p+1$. Notice that $\frac{k+1}{2}$ is an integer. We have $n=(2 p+1) \frac{k+1}{2}$.
We define the following mapping from $\mathbb{Z}^{n}$ to $\mathbb{Z} /(k+1)(2 p+2) \mathbb{Z}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
g(x)= & \sum_{i=0}^{k} \sum_{j=1}^{p}((2 p+2) i+j) x_{i p+j} \\
& +\sum_{l=1}^{\frac{k+1}{2}}(p+1)(2 l-1) x_{(k+1) p+l} \bmod (k+1)(2 p+2)
\end{aligned}
$$

That is $g(x)=x_{1}+2 x_{2}+\ldots+p x_{p}$ $+(2 p+3) x_{p+1}+(2 p+4) x_{p+2}+\ldots+(3 p+2) x_{2 p}$ $+\ldots$

$$
+(k(2 p+2)+1) x_{k p+1}+\ldots+(k(2 p+2)+p) x_{(k+1) p}
$$

$$
+(p+1) x_{(k+1) p+1}+\ldots+k(p+1) x_{(k+1) p+\frac{k+1}{2}}
$$

$$
\bmod (k+1)(2 p+2)
$$

We claim that the set $C=\left\{(x, v) \mid \exists i \in\{0, \ldots, k\}\right.$ with $\left.g(x)=i(2 p+2), v \in A_{i}\right\}$ is a perfect code of $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$. To prove this, we will use the following lemma.

Lemma 7 For any $x \in \mathbb{Z}^{n}$ and $\theta \in\{1, \ldots,(k+1)(2 p+2)-1\}$, there exists exactly one neighbour $y$ of $x$ such that $g(y)=g(x)+\theta$ if $\theta \neq 0 \bmod 2 p+2$ and no neighbour if $\theta=0 \bmod 2 p+2$.

Proof : Let $\theta \in\{1, \ldots,(k+1)(2 p+2)-1\}$ satisfy $\theta \neq 0 \bmod 2 p+2$. There exist $i \in\{0, \ldots, k\}, j \in\{1, \ldots, 2 p+1\}$ such that $\theta=(2 p+2) i+j$.

- If $j<p+1$ then $g\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{i p+j}+1, \ldots, x_{n}\right)=g(x)+\theta$.
- If $j>p+1$ then $g\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{(k-i) p+(2 p+2-j)}-1, \ldots, x_{n}\right)=g(x)+\theta$ (notice that $k-i \in\{0, \ldots, k\}$ and $2 p+2-j \in\{1, \ldots, p\})$.
- If $j=p+1$ then $\theta=(p+1)(2 i+1)$ and
- if $i<\frac{k+1}{2}, g\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{(k+1) p+i+1}+1, \ldots, x_{n}\right)=g(x)+\theta$
- if $i \geq \frac{k+1}{2}, g\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{(k+1) p+k-i+1}-1, \ldots, x_{n}\right)=g(x)+\theta$ (notice that $k-$ $\left.i+1 \in\left\{1, \ldots, \frac{k+1}{2}\right\}\right)$.

We have thus considered $(k+1)(2 p+1)=2 n$ distinct neighbours of $x$, so every neighbour of $x$. Therefore, there are no neighbour left for the case $\theta=0 \bmod 2 p+2$.

Suppose that $C$ is not a code with minimum distance 3. Then there exist two distinct vertices $(x, v)$ and $\left(x^{\prime}, v^{\prime}\right) \in C$ at distance less or equal to 2 . Let $i$ and $i^{\prime}$ be the integers such that $g(x)=i(2 p+2)$ and $g\left(x^{\prime}\right)=i^{\prime}(2 p+2)$. We have $v \in A_{i}$ and $v^{\prime} \in A_{i^{\prime}}$.
$1^{\text {st }}$ case : $x=x^{\prime}$. Thus $v$ and $v^{\prime}$ are in a same $A_{i}$ and $v \neq v^{\prime}$ so $d\left(v, v^{\prime}\right) \geq 3$ : a contradiction.
$2^{\text {nd }}$ case : $d\left(x, x^{\prime}\right)=1$. From lemma $7, g(x)-g\left(x^{\prime}\right) \neq 0 \bmod 2 p+2$ but $g(x)-g\left(x^{\prime}\right)=$ $\left(i-i^{\prime}\right)(2 p+2):$ a contradiction.
$3^{r d}$ case : $d\left(x, x^{\prime}\right)=2$. Then $v=v^{\prime}$; and since $A_{0}, \ldots, A_{k}$ is a partition of $V\left(Q_{k}\right)$, $i=i^{\prime}$ and $g(x)=g\left(x^{\prime}\right)$. Let $u$ be a common neighbour of $x$ and $x^{\prime}$. We have $g(u)-g(x)=g(u)-g\left(x^{\prime}\right)$ which is impossible by lemma 7 .

We only have to prove now that this code is perfect. Let $(x, v)$ be a vertex of $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$. If $g(x)=i(2 p+2)$ then $A_{i}$ being a perfect code, there exists $v^{\prime} \in A_{i}\left(\right.$ so $\left.\left(x, v^{\prime}\right) \in C\right)$ such that $d\left((x, v),\left(x, v^{\prime}\right)\right) \leq 1$. Else, since $A_{0}, \ldots, A_{k}$ is a partition of $V\left(Q_{k}\right)$, there exists $i \in\{0, \ldots, k\}$ such that $v \in A_{i}$. By lemma 7 , there exists a neighbour $x^{\prime}$ of $x$ such that $g\left(x^{\prime}\right)=i(2 p+2)$. Thus, $\left(x^{\prime}, v\right) \in C$.

Proposition 8 There exists a i-periodic perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n+1} \square Q_{k}$ of i-period 4 if and only if a perfect code on the graph $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k+2}$ exists.

Proof: This proposition is an immediate consequence of theorem 3 since $Q_{2}=C_{4}$.
Corollary 9 If there exists an integer $p$ such that $2 n+k=2^{p}-1$, then their exists a perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$.

Proof: This is a consequence of proposition 8 and theorem 2 .
Corollary 10 There exists a perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$ whenever there are some $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $k=2^{\alpha}-2 \gamma-1$ and $n=\beta 2^{\alpha-1}+\gamma$.

Proof : This is a consequence of theorem 5, proposition 8 , and corollary 9 .

## 5 Nonexistence of perfect codes

Theorem 11 Suppose that $k \geq 2 n$. Then there exists a perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$ if and only if there exists an integer $p$ such that $2 n+k=2^{p}-1$.

Proof : From corollary 9, we know that a perfect code exists when $n$ and $k$ satisfy the condition.

For $x=\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right) \in \mathbb{Z}^{n}$, let $Q_{k}(x)$ be the set of vertices $\left(u_{1}, \ldots, u_{n+k}\right)$ of $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$ such that $u_{i}=x_{i}$ for any $1 \leq i \leq n$. Suppose there exists a perfect code $C$ on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$.

Since $C$ is a perfect code, any vertex has to be in exactly one ball centered on a vertex of $C$. A ball centered on a vertex in $Q_{k}(x)$ contains $k+1$ vertices in $Q_{k}(x)$. A ball centered on some vertex in a $Q_{k}(y)$ such that $d(y, x)=1$ contains exactly one vertex in $Q_{k}(x)$.

We consider $\gamma$ the minimum number of vertices of the code we can find in a $Q_{k}(x)$. Let $x \in \mathbb{Z}^{n}$ satisfy $\left|Q_{k}(x) \cap C\right|=\gamma$. Let $\left(y_{i}\right)_{1 \leq i \leq 2 n}$ be the vertices of $\mathbb{Z}^{n}$ at distance 1 from $x$. We define $a_{i}=\left|Q_{k}\left(y_{i}\right) \cap C\right|-\gamma$. Let $a=\max \left(a_{i}\right)$ and $y$ be a $y_{i}$ such that $a_{i}=a$.

Suppose $a=0$, and thus that every $a_{i}$ is null. We consider the vertices of $Q_{k}(x)$. $(k+1) \gamma$ of them are in balls centered on vertices of $Q_{k}(x)$, and $2 n \gamma$ in balls centered on some vertex of $Q_{k}\left(y_{i}\right)$ for some $i$. Thus we have $(k+1) \gamma+2 n \gamma=2^{k}$. So $k+1+2 n$ is a factor of $2^{k}$, and there is some $p$ such that $2 n+k=2^{p}-1$.


Figure 4: Nonexistence of a perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{2} \square Q_{2}$
Now suppose $a>0$. Counting the vertices of $Q_{k}(x)$, we get :

$$
\begin{equation*}
(k+1) \gamma+\sum_{i=1}^{2 n}\left(a_{i}+\gamma\right)=2^{k} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

and by counting those of $Q_{k}(y)$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
(k+1)(\gamma+a)+\sum_{i=1}^{2 n}\left(\gamma+b_{i}\right)=2^{k} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $b_{i}$ are nonnegative integers defined in a way similar to the $a_{i}$ 's. Doing (2) - (1), we obtain $a(k+1)+\sum_{i=1}^{2 n} b_{i}=\sum_{i=1}^{2 n} a_{i}$. Then, since $\sum_{i=1}^{2 n} b_{i} \geq 0$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{2 n} a_{i} \leq 2 n a$, we have $a(k+1) \leq 2 n a$ and so $k<2 n$.
Proposition 12 There exist no perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{2} \square Q_{2}$ nor on $\mathbb{Z}^{3} \square Q_{2}$.
Proof : Notice that any $Q_{2}(x)$ may contain 1 vertex of the code ( $Q_{2}$ of type ' $\bullet$ ') or no vertex (type ' $\varnothing$ '). A $Q_{2}$ of type ' $\bullet$ ' has exactly 1 neighbour of type ' $\bullet$ ' while a type ' $\varnothing$ ' has exactly 4 neighbours of type ' $\bullet$ '. See figure 4 for $\mathbb{Z}^{2} \square Q_{2}$. A similar but tedious case analysis proves the nonexistence of a perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{3} \square Q_{2}$.

## 6 Conclusion and open problems

We recapitulate our results in table 1 where $\sqrt{ }$ means existence:
$a$ by theorem 2
$b$ by theorem 4
$c$ by theorem 2 and proposition 8
$d$ by theorem 5
$e$ by theorem 5 and proposition 8
and - means nonexistence by theorem 11 except for $-_{f}$ that are proven by proposition 12 .
Clearly, any empty case fulfilling would be interesting. Furthermore, this table suggest that there are no perfect code on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$ when $k$ is even. By proposition 8 , it would be sufficient to prove this nonexistence when $k=2$.

| $n \backslash k$ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | $\sqrt{ }$ | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{\text {a }}$ | - | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{1}$ | - | - | - | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{1}$ | - | - | - | - |  |
| 1 | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{6}$ | $\sqrt{ }{ }_{c, d}$ | - | - | - | $\sqrt{*}$ | - | - | - | - | - | - | $\ldots$ |
| 2 | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{6}$ | $V_{d}$ | $-_{f}$ | $\sqrt{c, d}$ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | $\sqrt{ }$ |  |
| 3 | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{6}$ | $\sqrt{c, d}$ | $-f$ |  |  |  | - | - | - | $\sqrt{ }$ | - | - | . |
| 4 | $\sqrt{ }{ }_{b}$ | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{\prime}$ |  | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{\prime}$ |  |  |  | $\checkmark^{c, d}$ | - | - | - | - | $\cdots$ |
| 5 | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{6}$ | $\sqrt{c, d}$ |  |  |  | $\sqrt{ }{ }_{c}$ |  |  |  |  | - | - | $\ldots$ |
| 6 | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{6}$ | $\sqrt{ }{ }_{d}$ |  | $\sqrt{c, d}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{6}$ | $\sqrt{c, d}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{6}$ | $\checkmark_{d}$ |  | $\sqrt{ }{ }_{d}$ |  |  |  | $\sqrt{ }{ }_{d}$ |  |  |  |  | $\cdots$ |
| 9 | $\sqrt{ }{ }^{6}$ | $\sqrt{ }{ }_{c, d}$ |  |  |  | $\sqrt{ }$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 1: Existence of perfect codes on $\mathbb{Z}^{n} \square Q_{k}$

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