Maximally Entangled States in the Hydrogen Molecule: The Role of Spin and Correlation

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Abstract

Many electron calculations on a simplest realistic two electron system i.e. $H_2$ molecule was applied and as the consequence correlation effects was reflected accurately in the wavefunctions of $H_2$. Zanardi’s entanglement measurement, demonstrated that the maximum of entanglement for the ground state happens when $U = J$ and this resolved the controversial conclusion of $U = 0$ for maximum entanglement. It was shown that the ground and third excited states are maximally entangled. These maximally entangled states and also the minimally entangled states are correlated to their spin’s property. The wavefunctions of the not magnetic ($S = 0$) ground and excited states explicitly depend on correlation parameters whereas the first excited states which is magnetic ($S^2 = 2$ and $S_z \neq 0$) is not entangled. The second excited state is not magnetic but its wavefunction does not depend on correlation parameters therefore it is a moderately entangled state. In any case, by switching on a magnetic field an entangled state with $S_z = 0$ can be extracted from a not entangled degenerate magnetic state. We suggest that in a realistic molecular scale system, there is two criteria for finding maximally entangled electronic states, first the system should be in moderately correlated regime and second the system should have a non-magnetic ($S_z = 0$) electronic state.

Keywords: Hubbard Model, Entanglement, Hydrogen Molecule

1. Introduction

Since Einstein, Podolsky and Rosen [1] and Schrödinger [2] investigated the non-classical properties of quantum systems and entered new concept as entanglement in to quantum physics, it had become strange property in interaction between particles. Recent study of the entanglement and achievement in this respect has become a useful resource for quantum communications and information processing [3] such as quantum teleportation [4,5], super dense coding [6], quantum key distribution [7], and quantum cryptography [8]. Entanglement also has been suggested as a quantitative measure for electron-electron (e-e) correlation in many body systems [9,10]. As a simple illustration of entanglement one can say that, if there is no way to write the states of two particles as a product of the states of two sub systems in the Hilbert space, then there will be an entangled system [11]. A lot of investigation has been done about measuring entanglement, such as the Wooters’ measure [12] and the Schliemann’s measure [13,14]. Through Gittings’ investigation [15], it is shown that all these entanglement measures are not suitable but the Zanardi’s measure [16,17] satisfies all desirable properties of entanglement measurement for fermionic systems.

$H_2$ molecule is the simplest two electron systems that can be used to implement a many body calculation based on Hubbard model [18]. Traditional Hubbard model which is a priory many-body approach usually is used as a first attempt to calculate entanglement. This model gives maximum entanglement by setting e-e interaction parameter $U = 0$, which is a controversial conclusion [17,19,20]. To overcome this controversial conclusion a new calculation i.e. going beyond Hubbard model for obtaining entanglement of the non-magnetic ground and magnetic excited states of $H_2$ molecule was done. The $H_2$ molecule is one of the simplest realistic two electrons correlated systems in nature which our model can be implemented with considering all direct and exchange interaction terms beyond Hubbard model. This imple-
mentation lets us consider correlation effects more accurately in the wavefunctions. Zanardi’s measurement was employed for calculating entanglement. To find the effect of the spin on the entanglement of states; the ground and excited state of \( H_2 \) was investigated and surprisingly the results give maximally entangled states with non-zero \( U \) value. We also discuss the difference between maximally, moderately and zero entangled states based on their spin and correlation.

### 2. Calculation Method

The complete Hubbard Hamiltonian is defined as [21]:

\[
H = \sum_{ij\sigma} t_{ij} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ijlm\sigma\sigma'} V_{ijlm} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma}^\dagger c_{m\sigma'} c_{l\sigma'}
\]

(1)

where \( t_{ij} \) is hopping and on-site for electrons under the influence of both hydrogen nuclei and \( V_{ijlm} \) is all electron-electron interactions. The first term contains non-interacting part of Hamiltonian which can be written as:

\[
\sum_{ij\sigma} t_{ij} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} = \varepsilon_0 \sum_{i-1,2\sigma} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{i\sigma} + t \sum_{i\sigma} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{i\sigma}
\]

(2)

\[
t_{21} = t_{12}
\]

(3)

where \( \varepsilon_0 \) is the energy of atomic orbital, \( c_{i\sigma}^\dagger \) and \( c_{i\sigma} \) are fermionic creation and annihilation operators respectively on site \( i \) with spin \( \sigma \), and \( t \) stands for the hopping integral between two \( H \) atomic sites of the electrons with the same. The second term of Hamiltonian that contains e-e interaction part can be written as:

\[
\frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij\sigma\sigma'} V_{ij\sigma\sigma'} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma}^\dagger c_{m\sigma'} c_{l\sigma'} = U \sum_{i-1,2} n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow} + \frac{1}{2} J \sum_{i\sigma<j\sigma'} n_{i\sigma} n_{j\sigma'} + \frac{1}{2} X_1 \sum_{i\sigma<j\sigma} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma}^\dagger c_{i\sigma'} c_{j\sigma'}
\]

(4)

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} X_2 \sum_{i\sigma<j\sigma} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma}^\dagger c_{i\sigma'} c_{j\sigma'}
\]

where \( V_{ij\sigma\sigma'} \) stands for all \( 2^4 \) Coulomb interaction parameters between electrons, which is \( U \) as on-site Coulomb repulsion or \( V_{1111} \) and \( V_{2222} \), and \( J \) as inter-site Coulomb repulsion or \( V_{1212} \) and \( V_{2121} \) and \( n_{ij\sigma} = c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{i\sigma} \) is density operator. The last terms \( X_1 \) and \( X_2 \) are the exchange interactions parameters that can only be interpreted by quantum mechanics and are demonstrated as:

\[
X_1 = V_{1112} = V_{1211} = V_{1212} = V_{2111} = V_{2122} = V_{2212} = V_{2221}
\]

\[
X_2 = V_{1122} = V_{1221} = V_{2112} = V_{2211} \quad (5)
\]

We consider two electrons of 1s orbital of two \( H \) atoms of \( H_2 \) molecule with both spin orientations up and down, therefore we have four states for a single electron and as the result for their combination there are \( C(4,2)=6 \) states which are represented with notation \( |n_1,n_2,n_3,n_4\rangle \) as:

\[
|\phi_1\rangle = |1100\rangle, |\phi_2\rangle = |1010\rangle, |\phi_3\rangle = |1001\rangle, |\phi_4\rangle = |0110\rangle, |\phi_5\rangle = |0101\rangle, |\phi_6\rangle = |0011\rangle
\]

(6)

With these sets of states, the Hamiltonian parameters were calculated and Hamiltonian matrix is:

\[
H = \begin{pmatrix}
U & 0 & t + X_1 & -t - X_1 & 0 & X_2 \\
J & -X_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
& J & -X_2 & 0 & t + X_1 & 0 \\
& 0 & 0 & 0 & -J & 0 \\
X_2 & 0 & t + X_1 & -t - X_1 & 0 & U
\end{pmatrix}
\]

(7)

All the diagonal elements contain a term \( t_{ij} \), where it is twice \( \varepsilon_0 \) and this one is roughly two times of the energy of an electron in the 1s state of atomic hydrogen i.e. \( \varepsilon_0 = -24.6eV \) and are not written here. Using \textit{ab initio} energies for \( H_2 \) and the values of \( \varepsilon_0 \) and \( t \) from [22] the Hamiltonian parameters, \( U, J, X_1 \) and \( X_2 \), were evaluated and are given in Table 1.

Entanglement measurement is defined by von Neumann’s entropy as [16]:

\[
S(\rho_A) = -\text{tr}(\rho_A \log_2 \rho_A)
\]

(8)

where \( A \) is the label of one of the subsystems which in our model is 1s orbital of one of the Hydrogen atoms and \( \rho_A \) is reduced density matrix defined as:

\[
\rho_A = \text{tr}_B \rho_0 = \sum_j \langle j |_B \langle \psi | \langle \psi | \rangle_B
\]

(9)

Where \( \text{tr}_B \) stands for tracing over all sites except the \( B \) sites and \( |j \rangle_B \) is eigenstates for \( B \) subsystem \( \{|n_2,n_3\} \) \( i.e. |00\rangle, |01\rangle, |10\rangle \) and |11\rangle. After this calculation, the reduced density matrix for the ground state (not normalized) becomes:

\[
\rho_A = \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & \alpha_s^2 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \alpha_s^2 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{pmatrix}
\]

(10)

For other states, reduced density matrices have been evaluated accordingly and their entanglements were calculated. The resultant entanglement values are listed in Table 2. By action of \( S^2 \) operator on the \( |E_0\rangle \ldots |E_3\rangle \) eigenstates, one could find total spin of each state in
which \( |E_0\rangle, |E_2\rangle \) and \( |E_3\rangle \) have \( S^z = 0 \), but \( |E_1\rangle \) has \( S^z = 2 \). Some of the eigenvalues and eigenstates of hydrogen molecule are dependent to parameters of Hamiltonian via \( \alpha_\pm(x) = x \pm \sqrt{1 + x^2} \) and \( x = (U - J)/4(t + X_1) \). All eigenvalues and \( S^z \), eigenstates (not normalized) and also their related \( S_z \) are summarized in Table 2.

### 3. Results and Discussion

Based on the results summarized in Table 2 the wavefunction of the ground and third excited state are dependent upon e-e correlation parameters via \( \alpha_\pm(x) = x \pm \sqrt{1 + x^2} \) with \( x = (U - J)/4(t + X_1) \). Both of these states are nonmagnetic (\( S = 0 \)). The wavefunctions of the first and second excited states are explicitly independent from Hamiltonian parameters. There is no dependency of any wavefunction to exchange interaction \( X_2 \). Using parameters of Table 1 and von Neumann’s entropy given by Equation (6) an entanglement value of \( S(\rho) \approx 2 \) was obtained for ground and third excited states. The maximum available value of entanglement is \( \log_2 \sqrt{d} \) for a system with the Hilbert space dimension of the smaller subsystem as \( d \) [23]. Accordingly, for \( H_2 \) molecule the maximum available entanglement is 2 and much closed values were obtained for these states. The results of maximally entangled ground and third excited states can be explained by the corresponding wave functions of these states. The wavefunctions of the ground and third excited states are superposition of four body basis of the systems i.e. \( \phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3 \) and \( \phi_4 \) with equal coefficients since the value of \( \alpha_\pm(x) \) become 1 by considering the values of Table 1, therefore is maximum mixing and hence maximum entanglement. From Table 2, one can realize that the first excited state \( |E_1\rangle \) is a spin triplet state with \( S = 1 \) and its wavefunction is independent from correlation parameters. The value of entanglement for the \( S_z = 0 \) eigenfunction is 1 while its value for the eigenfunction with \( S_z = \pm 1 \) is zero. The difference between entanglements of the degenerate wavefunctions with different \( S_z \) can be explained by their related wave functions. The \( |E_1, S_z = 0\rangle \) state is a linear combination of \( \phi_1 \) and \( \phi_2 \) whereas the \( |E_1, S_z = \pm 1\rangle \) state are separable (\( \phi_3 \) or \( \phi_4 \)). The importance of the nonzero spin of the first excited state is that this kind of state can be detected by Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) under some condition [24]. When the magnetic field is absent the wavefunction is a superposition of the degenerate wavefunctions with different \( S_z \) values. The calculated entanglement of this degenerate state is zero. However, after switching on the magnetic field, a wavefunction with distinct value of entanglement emerges. According to Table 2 the values of the \( S_z \) and entanglement for this state are 0 and 1 respectively. This might be a way for switching to a pure entangled state.

The second excited state \( |E_2\rangle \) is nonmagnetic, \( S = 0 \), where the wavefunction is independent from correlation parameters. The calculated entanglement is 1. The wavefunction of this state is only a linear combination of two basis set \( \phi_1 \) and \( \phi_2 \), hence its entanglement is smaller than ground and third excited states. By comparing the values of the entanglement listed in Table 2, one can conclude that the nonmagnetic states (\( S = 0 \)) in which the wavefunction depend on interaction parameters are maximally entangled and the magnetic states whose wavefunctions are independent from correlation

### Table 1. The calculated values of Hamiltonian parameters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hamiltonian parameter</th>
<th>( \epsilon_0 )</th>
<th>( t )</th>
<th>( U )</th>
<th>( J )</th>
<th>( X_1 )</th>
<th>( X_2 )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calculated value (eV)</td>
<td>-24.6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. The parametric energies of hydrogen molecule are listed in the first column of the Table, where \( \alpha_\pm(x) = x \pm \sqrt{1 + x^2} \) and \( x = (U - J)/4(t + X_1) \). The values of energies from [22] are listed in the second column, eigenfunction for these states are also listed in the third column. The \( S^2 \) and \( S_z \) of each state are given in the next columns and the last column is the calculated entanglement \( S(\rho_A) \) for these states, based on Zanardi’s measurement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( E ) (eV)</th>
<th>( \epsilon )</th>
<th>( \psi )</th>
<th>( S^2 )</th>
<th>( S_z )</th>
<th>( S(\rho_A) )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( E_0 = 2\epsilon_0 + J + X_2 + 2(t + X_1)\alpha_\pm(x) )</td>
<td>-51.60</td>
<td>( \phi_1 + \phi_2 + \alpha_\pm(x)(\phi_3 + \phi_4) )</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>( \approx 2 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( E_1 = 2\epsilon_0 + J - X_2 )</td>
<td>-40.58</td>
<td>( \phi_1 + \phi_2 + \phi_3 )</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( E_2 = 2\epsilon_0 + J - X_2 )</td>
<td>-40.58</td>
<td>( \phi_1 + \phi_2 + \phi_3 )</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( E_3 = 2\epsilon_0 + J + X_2 + 2(t + X_1)\alpha_\pm(x) )</td>
<td>-22.32</td>
<td>( \phi_1 + \phi_2 + \alpha_\pm(x)(\phi_3 - \phi_4) )</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>( \approx 2 )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
parameters are not entangled at all. Using von Neumann’s entropy given by Equation (6), the variation of entanglement for the ground state of $H_2$ molecule with respect to the combination of correlation parameters $x = (U - J)/4(t + X_1)$ were calculated and is plotted in figure 1. It is clear from this figure that the value of entanglement is maximum for $x = 0 \ (U = J)$. This conclusion resolves the unphysical gesture previously reported by other groups [17,19,20] who obtained maximally entangled ground state with $U = 0.06$ and this value of $x$ gives maximally entangled ground state. The maximum entanglement value for $x = 0.06$ is 1.99. As is observable in Figure 1, for the extreme limit or $U$ much greater than $t$, i.e. strongly correlated systems the entanglement becomes smaller and tends to 1. The non-magnetic property of this state sets a limit on minimum available entanglement for this state. This point can be explained by using eigenfunction listed in Table 2. For $|x|$ much greater than 1, one of the $\alpha_1$ or $\alpha_2$ goes to zero and the other one becomes very large. In both cases the ground state wavefunctions listed in Table 2 reduce from extension over the four components to an extension over two components similar to $|E_0\rangle$ state. Therefore the corresponding value of entanglement reduces from 2 to 1. This also can be explained by tendency of the strongly correlated systems with $U$ much greater than $t$ to unpaired electronic configuration in atomic orbital such as $\phi_2$ and $\phi_1$ states. Such states tend to have parallel spin and as the result the maximum entanglement becomes maximum available entanglement as it is apparent in Figure 1. In this scheme both spatial and spin have to be considered for correlated wavefunction [17]. Neglecting exchange interaction in our model ($X_1 = X_2 = 0$), results to considerable change in energy levels of the system (see Table 2). However, the dependence of the ground and third excited state wavefunctions on the exchange parameters is only to $X_1$ and putting $X_1 = 0$ yields $x = 0.07$ and as the result the maximum entanglement becomes 1.99 which is the same as the case of nonzero $X_1 (x = 0.06)$. Hence in order to have maximally entangled states, the most effective parameters are direct Columbic interaction parameters $U$ and $J$ and exchange interaction parameters do not alter the value of entanglement significantly.

\[ x = (U - J)/4(t + X_1) \]

4. Conclusions

A many electron calculation on a simplest realistic two electron system i.e. $H_2$ molecule was applied. Going beyond traditional Hubbard model lets to account correlation effects accurately in the many electron wavefunction of the ground and excited states. Using $ab\ initio$ e-e interaction parameters gives a moderately correlated regime for the molecule and consequences maximally entangled ground and third excited state. The wavefunctions of the not magnetic ($S = 0$) ground and third excited states explicitly depend on correlation parameters whereas the first excited states which is magnetic ($S^2 = 2$ and $S_x \neq 0$) is not entangled. The second excited state is not magnetic but its wavefunction does not depend on correlation parameters therefore it is a moderately entangled state. In any case, by switching on a magnetic field an entangled state with $S_z = 0$ can be extracted from a not entangled degenerate magnetic state. We suggest that in a realistic molecular scale system, there is two criteria for finding maximally entangled electronic states, first the system should be in moderately correlated regime and second the system should have a non-magnetic ($S_x = 0$).
0) electronic state.

5. References


