No-go theorem for one-way quantum computing on naturally occurring two-level systems

The MIT Faculty has made this article openly available. Please share how this access benefits you. Your story matters.

| Citation       | Chen, Jianxin et al. "No-go theorem for one-way quantum computing on naturally occurring two-level systems." Physical Review A 83 [2011]. ©2011 American Physical Society. |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| As Published   | http://dx.doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.83.050301                                                                                                                                                        |
| Publisher      | American Physical Society                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Version        | Final published version                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Citable link   | http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/65640                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Terms of Use   | Article is made available in accordance with the publisher’s policy and may be subject to US copyright law. Please refer to the publisher’s site for terms of use.                                           |
No-go theorem for one-way quantum computing on naturally occurring two-level systems

Jianxin Chen,1 Xie Chen,2 Runyao Duan,1,3 Zhengfeng Ji,4,5 and Bei Zeng6

1Department of Computer Science and Technology, Tsinghua National Laboratory for Information Science and Technology, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
2Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
3Centre for Quantum Computation and Intelligent Systems (QCIS), Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, University of Technology, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
4Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
5State Key Laboratory of Computer Science, Institute of Software, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China
6Institute for Quantum Computing and Department of Combinatorics and Optimization, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

(Received 30 May 2010; revised manuscript received 18 August 2010; published 9 May 2011)

The ground states of some many-body quantum systems can serve as resource states for the one-way quantum computing model, achieving the full power of quantum computation. Such resource states are found, for example, in spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ and spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ systems. It is, of course, desirable to have a natural resource state in a spin-$\frac{1}{2}$, that is, qubit system. Here, we give a negative answer to this question for frustration-free systems with two-body interactions. In fact, it is shown to be impossible for any genuinely entangled qubit state to be a nondegenerate ground state of any two-body frustration-free Hamiltonian. What is more, we also prove that every spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ frustration-free Hamiltonian with two-body interaction always has a ground state that is a product of single- or two-qubit states. In other words, there cannot be any interesting entanglement features in the ground state of such a qubit Hamiltonian.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevA.83.050301

Quantum computers are distinct from classical ones, not only in that they can solve hard problems that are intractable on classical computers, factoring large numbers for example [1], but also in that they can be implemented in architectures such as one-way quantum computing [2–4] that have no evident classical analogs at all. Unlike the quantum circuit model [5–7], which employs entangling gates during the computation, one-way quantum computation requires only single-particle measurements on some prepared entangled state, also known as the resource state. This quantum computation scheme sheds light on the role of entanglement in quantum computation and provides possible advantages in physical implementation of quantum computers. Moreover, from the theoretical computer science perspective, although one-way quantum computations are polynomial-time equivalent to the unitary circuit model, they may have advantages over the circuit model in terms of parallelizability [3,8,9]. For example, the quantum Fourier transform [10], the key quantum part of Shor’s factoring algorithm, is approximately implementable in constant depth in the one-way model [11]. All these nice facts about the one-way computing model make it a worthy topic to pursue both theoretically [12–19] and experimentally [4].

Quantum entanglement is believed to be a necessary ingredient of quantum computation [20–22]. This is also the case in the one-way quantum computing [23–26]. However, the entanglement used in a one-way quantum computer is cleanly separated in the initial preparation step from the whole computation. Moreover, it usually has a regular structure and is independent of the computation problem and inputs. This allows us to focus on the preparation of some specific entangled resource state.

An appealing idea is to obtain the resource state in some strongly correlated quantum many-body system at low temperature. This approach requires the resource state to be the nondegenerate ground state of some gapped Hamiltonian, which involves only two-body nearest-neighbor interactions. In this way, the resource state can be effectively created via cooling, and the procedure is robust against thermal noises. We also want the Hamiltonian to be frustration free; that is, the ground state minimizes the energy of each local term of the Hamiltonian simultaneously, so that measurements in the course of the computation leave the remaining particles in the ground space.

The canonical resource state for one-way quantum computing, known as the cluster state [2], does not naturally occur as a ground state of a physical system [27]. As a result, there have been significant efforts to identify alternative resource states that appear naturally as ground states in spin lattices [13,14,28–30]. In Ref. [29], a natural resource state called triCluster is found in a spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ system. Very recently, a two-body spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ Hamiltonian from a quantum magnet was found whose unique ground state is also a universal resource state for one-way quantum computing [30]. As two-level systems are more widely available in practice than higher-level systems, it is natural to ask whether there exists a universal resource state in spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ (qubit) system that naturally occurs.

In this Rapid Communication, however, we show that it is not the case. Namely, a genuinely entangled qubit state cannot be a nondegenerate ground state of any two-body frustration-free Hamiltonian, as there is always a product of single qubit states in the ground space. This indicates that one-way computing with naturally occurring resource states cannot be done with qubits. Therefore, the best one can hope for is to find natural a resource state in spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ systems, the existence of which remains an open question, or one needs to resort to some other techniques, such as the perturbation approaches [31,32].
Hamiltonian $H_{\Psi_1}$ as its ground state, there always exists a product state of single qubits also in the ground space of $H$ for $n \geq 3$.

As $H_q$ has the smallest ground space, we only need to prove the theorem for $H_q$ instead of the general $H$. Also, it is equivalent to prove that $S(\{|\Psi\rangle\})$ is of dimension at least 2 and contains a product state of single qubits.

**Proof of the theorem.** We prove this theorem by induction. Before doing so, we examine the following fact. Let $|\Psi\rangle$ and $|\Phi\rangle$ be two $n$-qubit states that can be transformed into each other by invertible local operations. That is, there are $2 \times 2$ nonsingular linear operators $L_1, \ldots, L_n$, such that $|\Psi\rangle = L|\Phi\rangle$, where $L = L_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes L_n$. This is equivalent to saying that $|\Psi\rangle$ and $|\Phi\rangle$ can be transformed to each other via stochastic local operation and classical communication (SLOCC) [36,37]. Noticing the fact [38] that $|\Psi\rangle$ is a ground state of $H$ if and only if $|\Phi\rangle$ is a ground state of $H'$ and the trivial fact that $L$ maps product states to product states, we only need to discuss states that are representatives of equivalent classes induced by such local transforms $L$. Equivalently, it suffices to consider SLOCC equivalent classes.

For three-qubit genuinely entangled states, there are only two different SLOCC equivalent classes [37], represented by the $|W\rangle$ and $|GHZ\rangle$, respectively, where $|W\rangle = (|001\rangle + |010\rangle + |100\rangle)/\sqrt{3}$, and $|GHZ\rangle = (|000\rangle + |111\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$. For the $|W\rangle$ state, one has $S(|W\rangle) = \text{span}(|W\rangle, |000\rangle)$.
No-GO THEOREM FOR ONE-WAY QUANTUM COMPUTING

therefore, the product state |000⟩ is in the ground space. While for |GHZ⟩,
\[ S(|\text{GHZ}\rangle) = \text{span}\{|000\rangle, |111\rangle\}, \]
both product states |000⟩ and |111⟩ are in the ground space. This then proves the theorem for the three-qubit case.

Now we proceed to the four-qubit case. Note that |\Psi⟩ is genuinely entangled, meaning all ρ_{ij} must be of rank at least 2; that is, the dimension of the supp(ρ_{ij}) is at least 2 and the rank of Π_{ij} is at most 2. We discuss two cases here.

Case 1. If for some pair of qubits, say (3, 4), the rank of their reduced density matrix ρ_{34} is 2, then the pair of qubits 3, 4 can be encoded as a single qubit. Therefore, we can reduce our problem to a similar one of smaller system size.

To be more precise, suppose ρ_{34} is supported on two orthogonal states |ψ_{034}⟩ and |ψ_{134}⟩. Define an isometry
\[ V : |0\rangle_y → |ψ_{034}\rangle_y, |1\rangle_y → |ψ_{134}\rangle_y, \]
which maps a single qubit to two qubits. That is, we have used qubit 3′ to encode the two qubits 3, 4. Define |\Phi⟩ = V|\Psi⟩ so that |\Psi⟩ is a ground state of H if and only if |\Phi⟩ is a ground state of H′ = V^† HV. One can easily verify that H′ is still a two-body frustration-free Hamiltonian and |\Phi⟩ is a genuinely entangled state of three qubits. This reduces to a case already proved and there is product state |α⟩_1 ⊗ |α⟩_2 ⊗ |α⟩_3 which is also a ground state of H′.

Let |β_{34}⟩ = V|α⟩_3, a two-qubit state of qubits 3, 4. If it is a product state, then we are done. If it is entangled, as ρ_{34} is supported on a two-dimensional space, there always exists a product state |β_{3}⟩ ⊗ |β_{4}⟩ ∈ supp(ρ_{34}) [39]. Consider now the bipartition between qubits 1, 2 and qubits 3, 4. As |β_{34}⟩ is entangled, any projection term that concerns two qubits from different partitions will have trivial constraints on qubits 3 and 4. Therefore, the product state |α⟩_1 ⊗ |α⟩_2 ⊗ |β_{3}⟩ ⊗ |β_{4}⟩ is also a ground state of H.

Case 2. If all of the supp(ρ_{ij}) are of rank 3 or 4, we employ the homogeneous 2-SAT and completion techniques in Ref. [34] to finish the proof. The completion procedure employs new projection terms to the frustration-free Hamiltonian without changing the ground space. For any three qubits, say 1, 2, 3, the procedure takes two rank-1 Hamiltonian terms, say Π_{12} and Π_{23}, and generates a possibly new constraint Ω_{13}. See Fig. 1 for an illustration. We briefly review the specific rule for obtaining Ω_{13} from Π_{12} and Π_{23} and refer the interested readers to Ref. [34] for the proof and details. Let Π_{12} = |φ⟩_1 ⟨φ|, Π_{23} = |θ⟩_2 ⟨θ|, and Ω_{13} = |ω⟩_1 ⟨ω|, where |φ⟩_1, |θ⟩_2, and |ω⟩_1 are two-qubit pure states. Denote, for example, ω_{01} as the amplitude (α, β|φ⟩). Then relation is given by ω_{01} = φ_{0} e^{iβ} |φ⟩, where ε = |0⟩⟨1| - |1⟩⟨0| and the summation of repeated indices is implicit [34].

The key point here is that the construction of H_{θ} guarantees that no new constraint could ever be added during the completion procedure. Therefore, H_{θ} corresponds to a quantum 2-SAT that satisfies all the conditions (homogeneous and completed) in Lemma 2 of Ref. [34] and it follows from the lemma that there is a product of single-qubit states in the ground space of H_{θ}.

This proves the theorem for the four-qubit case and the general n-qubit case can be proved by the same induction.

Entanglement versus frustration for a qubit system. We have shown a no-go theorem for one-way quantum computing, which says that in order to do one-way quantum computing with a natural ground state, one has to go to higher-dimensional particle systems other than two-level systems. Interestingly, little extra work will give a better understanding for the relationship of entanglement and frustration for qubit systems, which we now show.

Theorem 2. For any two-body frustration-free Hamiltonian H of a qubit system, there always exists a ground state, which is a product of single- or two-qubit states.

Let |ψ⟩ be a ground state. If |ψ⟩ is a genuinely entangled state of more than two qubits, there cannot be any nontrivial constraint interacting the qubits of |ψ⟩ and the remaining qubits in the system. We can therefore apply Theorem 1 to that part of the system and replace |ψ⟩ with a product state to get another ground state.

This theorem indicates that frustration is a necessary condition for genuine many-body-ground-state entanglement in any qubit system.

In the language of quantum 2-SAT, the above theorem states that if a quantum 2-SAT is satisfiable, there will be a ground state that is the product of single- or two-qubit states. This is a much simpler form than the recursive construction in Ref. [34].

If we further require some symmetry of the Hamiltonian, say, a certain kind of translational invariance, there could be only two phases for a nondegenerate frustration-free system with qubits at zero temperature: One is a product state phase, and the other is a dimer phase [40]. This relationship of entanglement and frustration is not true in a spin-1 (qutrit) system. For instance, the famous AKLT state [33] is a nondegenerate ground state of a two-body frustration-free Hamiltonian on a chain. Interestingly, the AKLT state and some of its variants on a chain are indeed powerful enough to process single-qubit information in the one-way quantum computing model [13,19,28,41].

Summary and discussion. We have shown that it is impossible for a genuinely entangled qubit state to be a unique ground state of any two-body frustration-free Hamiltonian H, because there is always a product state of single qubits also in the ground space of H. This indicates that one-way computing cannot be done on naturally occurring qubit systems. Furthermore, we use a similar technique to prove that every spin-1/2 frustration-free Hamiltonian with two-body interaction always has a ground state that is a product of single- or two-qubit states. These results are strong in the sense that they are independent of the lattice structure and therefore
valid for any lattice geometry with natural nearest-neighbor interactions in the Hamiltonian.

A direct consequence also follows for condensed-matter theory. Namely, without frustration, there is no genuine many-body entanglement in a spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ system with two-body interaction. This is not the case for frustration-free higher spin systems or spin-$\frac{3}{2}$ systems with more than two-body interactions. These observations are also closely related to the study of quantum computational complexity theory, which shows that quantum 2-SAT is easy, but quantum 3-SAT might be much more difficult [34,42]. Our result also simplifies the structure of the solution space of quantum 2-SAT with large-enough local dimensions or quantum interactions. These observations are also closely related to the study of quantum computational complexity theory, which shows that quantum 2-SAT is easy, but quantum 3-SAT might be much more difficult [34,42]. Our result also simplifies the structure of the solution space of quantum 2-SAT given in Ref. [34]. However, a full characterization of the solution-space structure needs further investigation. We hope that our result helps in further investigations of local Hamiltonian problems and in linking the fields of condensed matter, quantum information, and computer science.

We thank S. Bartlett, S. Bravyi, and X.-G. Wen for valuable discussions. R.D. is partly supported by QCIS, University of Technology, Sydney, and the NSF of China (Grants No. 60736011 and No. 60702080). Z.J. acknowledges support from NSF of China (Grants No. 60736011 and No. 60721061); his research at Perimeter Institute is supported by the Government of Canada through Industry Canada and by the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Research & Innovation. B.Z. is supported by NSERC and QuantumWorks.

[1] P. W. Shor, SIAM Rev. 41, 303 (1999).
[2] R. Raussendorf and H. J. Briegel, Phys. Rev. Lett. 86, 5188 (2001).
[3] R. Raussendorf and H. J. Briegel, Quantum Inf. Comput. 2, 443 (2002).
[4] P. Walther, K. J. Resch, T. Rudolph, E. Schenck, H. Weinfurter, V. Vedral, M. Aspelmeyer, and A. Zeilinger, Nature (London) 434, 169 (2005).
[5] D. Deutsch, Proc. R. Soc. London A 425, 73 (1989).
[6] A. C.-C. Yao, in FOCS (1993), pp. 352–361.
[7] A. Barenco, C. H. Bennett, R. Cleve, D. P. DiVincenzo, N. Margolus, P. Shor, T. Sleator, J. A. Smolin, and H. Weinfurter, Phys. Rev. A 52, 3457 (1995).
[8] R. Jozsa, in Quantum Information Processing, edited by D. G. Angelakakis et al. (IOS Press, 2006), pp. 137–158.
[9] A. Broadbent and E. Kashefi, Theor. Comput. Sci. 410, 2489 (2009).
[10] M. A. Nielsen and I. L. Chuang, Quantum Computation and Quantum Information (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2000).
[11] D. E. Browne, E. Kashefi, and S. Perdrix, in TQC 2010 (Springer-Verlag, 2011), pp. 35–46.
[12] R. Raussendorf, D. E. Browne, and H. J. Briegel, Phys. Rev. A 68, 022312 (2003).
[13] D. Gross and J. Eisert, Phys. Rev. Lett. 98, 220503 (2007).
[14] D. Gross, J. Eisert, N. Schuch, and D. Perez-Garcia, Phys. Rev. A 76, 052315 (2007).
[15] D. Gross and J. Eisert, Phys. Rev. A 82, 040303(R) (2010).
[16] V. Danos, E. Kashefi, and P. Panangaden, J. ACM 54, 8 (2007).
[17] S. Popescu, Phys. Rev. Lett. 99, 250501 (2007).
[18] H. J. Briegel, D. E. Browne, W. Dür, R. Raussendorf, and M. van den Nest, Nat. Phys. 5, 19 (2009).
[19] X. Chen, R. Duan, Z. Ji, and B. Zeng, Phys. Rev. Lett. 105(2), 020502 (2010).
[20] R. Jozsa and N. Linden, Proc. R. Soc. London A 459, 2011 (2005).
[21] Y.-Y. Shi, L.-M. Duan, and G. Vidal, Phys. Rev. A 74, 022320 (2006).
[22] G. Vidal, Phys. Rev. Lett. 91, 147902 (2003).
[23] M. Van den Nest, A. Miyake, W. Dür, and H. J. Briegel, Phys. Rev. Lett. 97, 150504 (2006).
[24] M. Van den Nest, W. Dür, G. Vidal, and H. J. Briegel, Phys. Rev. A 75, 012337 (2007).
[25] D. Gross, S. T. Flammia, and J. Eisert, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 190501 (2009).
[26] M. J. Brenner, C. Mora, and A. Winter, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 190502 (2009).
[27] M. A. Nielsen, Rep. Math. Phys. 57, 147 (2006).
[28] G. K. Brennen and A. Miyake, Phys. Rev. Lett. 101, 010502 (2008).
[29] X. Chen, B. Zeng, Z.-C. Gu, B. Yoshida, and I. L. Chuang, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 220501 (2009).
[30] J. Cai, A. Miyake, W. Dür, and H. J. Briegel, Phys. Rev. A 82, 052309 (2010).
[31] M. Van den Nest, K. Luttmer, W. Dür, and H. J. Briegel, Phys. Rev. A 77, 012301 (2008).
[32] S. D. Bartlett and T. Rudolph, Phys. Rev. A 74, 040302 (2006).
[33] I. Affleck, T. Kennedy, E. H. Lieb, and H. Tasaki, Phys. Rev. Lett. 59, 799 (1987).
[34] S. Bravyi, e-print arXiv:quant-ph/0602108.
[35] The class NP is the collection of problems that can be verified in polynomial time on a classical computer. A problem is NP-Complete if any problems in NP can be reduced to it in polynomial time.
[36] C. H. Bennett, S. Popescu, D. Rohrlich, J. A. Smolin, and A. V. Thapliyal, Phys. Rev. A 63, 012307 (2000).
[37] W. Dür, G. Vidal, and J. I. Cirac, Phys. Rev. A 62, 062314 (2000).
[38] S. Bravyi, C. Moore, and A. Russell, in Proceedings of Innovations in Computer Science (2010), pp. 482–489.
[39] K. R. Parthasarathy, Proc. Math. Sci. 114, 365 (2004).
[40] S. Sachdev, Nat. Phys. 4, 173 (2008).
[41] R. Kaltenbaek, J. Lavoie, B. Zeng, S. D. Bartlett, and K. J. Resch, Nat. Phys. 6, 850 (2010).
[42] L. Eldar and O. Regev, in ICALP (2008), pp. 881–892.