Entanglement Swapping of Generalized Cat States and Secret Sharing

Vahid Karimipour,† Saber Bagherinezhad,‡ and Alireza Bahraminasab§

1Department of Physics, Sharif University of Technology
P.O. Box 11365-9161, Tehran, Iran
2Department of Computer Science, Sharif University of Technology
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We introduce generalized cat states for \(d\)-level systems and obtain concise formulas for their entanglement swapping with generalized Bell states. We then use this to provide both a generalization to the \(d\)-level case and a transparent proof of validity for an already proposed protocol of secret sharing based on entanglement swapping.

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I. INTRODUCTION

There are numerous uses of spatially separated entangled pairs of particles such as quantum key distribution and secret sharing,† teleportation,‡ superdense coding,§ and cheating bit commitment. It has been argued that three or more spatially separated particles in an entangled state (such as a GHZ or cat state) have similar or even broader applications. It is first essential to distinguish between GHZ states and cat states. By an \(n\)-party cat state, we mean a highly entangled state of \(n\) particles, while by a GHZ state we mean one, which contradicts an interpretation in terms of any local hidden variable theory. Constructing the latter types of states for general multi-level multi-particle systems is a difficult task, although some general criteria have been outlined for their identification.† On the other hand we will show that one can easily define \(n\)-party cat states with nice properties (i.e: entanglement swapping) which allows them to be used in a secret sharing protocol and possibly in many other communication protocols, although they may not be used for testing non-locality properties of quantum mechanics. More recently, applications such as reducing communication complexity, quantum teleportation, and networked cryptographic conferencing have also been suggested as possible new applications of these multi-particle entangled states.

For practical applications such as mentioned above, there has been much interest in manipulating entangled states of many particles. In particular it has been shown that by appropriate Bell measurements, entanglement can be swapped between different particles, a scheme which has been generalized to multi-particle case in. In fact to the question of “Which particles get entangled when we make cat state measurement on a group of particles?”, there is a general pencil and paper rule which provides the answer. One just has to connect the particles being measured to frame a polygon and those not being measured to frame a complementary polygon. These two polygons represent the two multi-particle cat states obtained after the manipulation. However for most applications it is highly necessary to know exactly the type (e.g. the labels) of the cat state that the particles are forming and a knowledge of only the particles sharing the entanglement is not enough. In fact in almost any of the communication protocols mentioned above, the information to be transferred is encoded in the type of the labels of the cat states involved. For this reason one needs also a simple pencil and paper rule for determining the types and the labels of the cat states involved in a swapping process.

It may not be so illuminating to derive a general formula for such a purpose, although it is rather straightforward to do so. However if we restrict to the most common type of swapping, that is, the swapping of a cat state and a Bell state, then transparent, graphical and very useful rules can be derived as we will show below. Furthermore we will derive the rules for general \(d\)-level systems. We will then apply these rules to the quantum key distribution and secret sharing protocols of and show that the rules of encoding and decoding of this protocol, expressed otherwise only in tables, even when few parties are involved, can be neatly expressed by closed formulas in the general case.

The structure of this paper is as follows. In section 2 we review the basic properties of \(d\)-level Bell states and introduce \(d\)-level cat states. In section 3 we derive simple graphical rules for entanglement swapping of \(d\)-level Bell and cat states. We then apply in section 4, these rules to the secret sharing protocol of Cabello to see how simple the encoding and decoding rules of this protocol are. We conclude the paper with a discussion.

II. GENERALIZED CAT STATES FOR D-LEVEL SYSTEMS

In studying \(d\)-level states and their entanglement properties we are following an interesting trend to general-
ize the well known quantum algorithms and protocols of quantum computation and communication to non-binary systems, like quantum gates for qudits [30], quantum error correcting codes [31, 32], and generalization of the BB84 protocol [33] for quantum key distribution [8]. (For a review on quantum key distribution see [34].) In fact considerations of quantum hardware may bring about some advantage to non-binary systems, since bigger Hilbert spaces can be made by coupling fewer d-dimensional systems than 2-dimensional ones, and it is well known that complete coupling of quantum bits gets much more difficult with the number of qubits increasing. Some researchers have even considered quantum computation and communication with continuous variables [35, 36]. Besides these, it is very instructive to study quantum computation and communication for non-binary systems, like quantum gates for qudits [30], quantum error correcting codes [31, 32], and generalization of the quantum fourier transform when the controller and the target qudits. In particular the controlled shift gates which play the role of CNOT gate, act as follows:

\[ R_c|i,j \rangle = |i, j + i \rangle \] (6)

Equipped with the \( d \)-level Hadamard and CNOT (\( R_c \)) gates, one can construct \( d \)-level cat states simply as in the 2-level case by the circuit shown in fig. (1), where \( |u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_n\rangle \) is a computational basis vector, in which \( u_i \in \{0, 1, 2, \ldots, d - 1\} \).

The resulting cat state will be:

\[ |\Psi(u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_n)\rangle := \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} \zeta^{ju_1} |j, j + u_2, j + u_3, \ldots, j + u_n\rangle. \] (7)

These states are orthonormal, \( \langle \Psi(v_1, \ldots, v_n)|\Psi(u_1, \ldots, u_n)\rangle = \delta_{u_1,v_1} \cdots \delta_{u_n,v_n} \) and complete: any computational basis vector can be expanded in terms of these generalized cat states:

\[ |u_1, u_2, u_3, \ldots, u_n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} \zeta^{-ju_1} |\Psi(j, u_2-u_1, u_3-u_1, \ldots, u_n-u_1)\rangle, \] (8)

Quite analogously to the 2-level case, one can generate a cat state of \( n \) particles from a cat state of \( n - 1 \) particles in two ways, either using Zeilinger et. al. method [25], that is: acting by an \( R_c \) gate on one particle of the \( (n - 1) \)-cat state and one qudit of a Bell state, subsequently measuring the target qudit, or by using the method of [26] by performing a Bell state measurement on two particles, one from an \( (n - 1) \)-cat state and the other from a 3-cat state, projecting the rest onto an \( n \)-cat state.

III. SOME SIMPLE RULES FOR ENTANGLEMENT SWAPPING

Entanglement swapping is nothing but tensor multiplying two cat states, expanding them in the computational basis of the product space, swapping a subset of particles and then re-expanding the resulting state in terms of the new cat states. The idea and the essential calculation is best illustrated by the simplest example, that is, swapping two Bell states. Suppose particles 1 and 2 are in a Bell state \( |\Psi(u_1, u_2)\rangle_{1,2} \), and particles 3 and 4 are in a Bell state \( |\Psi(v_1, v_2)\rangle_{3,4} \). This state of the
Among the many applications of entanglement swapping mentioned in the introduction, in this section we consider the secret key sharing protocol proposed by Cabello in [2, 3]. In this protocol n members of a group want to agree upon a secret key (For n = 2, we have...
In [4], it is shown by way of a couple of examples for 3 members of the group. In the protocol proposed by Cabello [4] the n members of the group share an n-cat state, and each of them has also a Bell state. Each of the members swaps her or his Bell state with the cat state, and hence the second label of the secret key, \( v'_1 + \ell \). The random two dit key is the pair of labels of Alice’s Bell state, that is \((u_1 - k_1, v'_1 + \ell_1)\). At this stage the cat state is sent to Alice, she measures the state and announces the labels \((v_1 + k_1 + k_2 + \cdots + k_n, v'_1 + \ell_2, v'_2 + \ell_3, \cdots, v'_n + \ell_n)\) of this state in public. It is now clear that each member of the group say the i-th one, \((i = 2, 3, \cdots, n)\), knowing his own Bell state \((u_i, v'_i)\) at the beginning of the protocol, his final Bell state \((v_i - k_i, u_i - \ell_i - \ell_i)\) and the publicly announced cat state, can independently determine \(\ell_i\) and hence the second label of the secret key, \(v'_i + \ell_i\). (Note that the shared cat state labels and all the Bell labels including those of Alice \((v_1, v'_1)\) are assumed to be known to all the members at the beginning of the protocol). However to determine the first label of the key, that is \(u_1 - k_1\), the members need a knowledge of \(k_1\), which no subset of the group can determine independently. It can only be found by sharing their values of \(k_i, i = 2, 3, \cdots, n\) with each other. Once this is done all members can determine the value of \(k_1\) from the publicly announced label of Alice \(v_1 + k_1 + k_2 + \cdots + k_n\).

The way we have presented this protocol, which starts with general Cat and Bell states, rather than with special ones with say all the labels being zero (i.e. \(\Phi(0, 0)\)), has the advantage that it shows how the encoding and decoding scheme works for consecutive qudits, when the

FIG. 4: Entanglement swapping between a cat state and a Bell state
FIG. 5: A protocol for d-level secret sharing.
same Bell and Cat states are re-used. To compare our results with those of [4], it is enough to set all the original labels \( u_i, v_i, v'_i = 0 \). It is then easy to see from fig. 3 that our results completely match the tables presented in that article.

V. DISCUSSION

We have provided closed formulas for entanglement swapping of \( d \)-level cat states and Bell states. We have then used our formulas for providing transparent proof for the validity of a secret sharing protocol between \( n \) parties based on entanglement swapping. We expect that our graphical method of representing cat states and our formulas for entanglement swapping (ES) may find applications in every ES-based protocol in quantum communication.

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