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Degrees of Entanglement of Dicke States of Qubits

Abstract

We have calculated the bounds $\mu_{n,m}$ of the expected values of the Mermin operators for Dicke states $v_{n,m}$. These are symmetric states of n qubits among which m qubits are in one possible state and $n-m$ qubits are in the other possible state. We show that $\lambda_{n,\lfloor\gamma_{n,m}\rfloor} \leq \mu_{n,m} < \lambda_{n,\lfloor\gamma_{n,m}\rfloor+1}$, where $\lambda_{n,m}$ is the expected value of the Mermin operator for the GHZ state $u_{n,m}$ of n qubits in which m qubits are entangled. The number $\gamma_{n,m} = \frac{2 \ln \mu_{n,m}}{\ln 2} - n + 2$ is a degree of entanglement of the state $v_{n,m}$ relative to the state $u_{n,m}$. This puts the entanglement properties of $v_{n,m}$ between the entanglement properties of the GHZ states of n qubits with $\lfloor\gamma_{n,m}\rfloor$ entangled qubits and those with $\lfloor\gamma_{n,m}\rfloor+1$ entangled qubits. For a fixed n , the degree $\gamma_{n,m}$ increases with m and reaches its maximum for either $m = \lfloor\frac{1}{2}n\rfloor$ or $m = \lfloor\frac{1}{2}(n+1)\rfloor$, for which it satisfies $\gamma_{n,m} < n$.