

SCALING OF ENTANGLEMENT IN FINITE ARRAYS OF EXCHANGE-COUPLED QUANTUM DOTS

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Received 8 September 2003

We present a finite-size scaling analysis of the entanglement in a two-dimensional arrays of quantum dots modeled by the Hubbard Hamiltonian on a triangular lattice. Using multistage block renormalization group approach, we have found that there is an abrupt jump of the entanglement when a first-order quantum phase transition occurs. At the critical point, the entanglement is constant, independent of the block size.

Keywords:

PACS numbers: 03.65.Ud, 71.10.Fd, 05.10.Cc

1. Introduction

After the pioneering work of Benioff,¹ Feynman,² and Deutsch³ in field of quantum information and computing, the developments in this field has been explosive in the past few years.^{4,5} A lot of exciting progress have been made, such as the experimental realization of Shor's quantum factoring algorithm with NMR scheme for quantum computation,⁶ teleportation,⁷ cryptography⁸ and dense coding.⁹ Central to all these remarkable achievements is the concept of the quantum entanglement.^{10–14} Just like energy, the entanglement has now been regarded as a controllable and a fungible physical resource.¹⁵ Experimentally, entanglements have already been produced for up to four photons^{16,17} and even between two macroscopic states such as two superconducting qubits, each of which contains as many as 10^9 electrons.¹⁸ But theoretically, because an ensemble's Hilbert space grows exponentially with the number of its component particles, we are still far from fully understanding the contents of the entanglement. Only for the simplest state with two distinguishable particles can we have a complete description of the entanglement measure. For states of more than two particles, especially for mixed states, the current knowledge about their entanglement is very limited and all the related complexities have just begun to be explored.

2. Entanglement Measure for Fermions

For spin-only entanglement of localized distinguishable particles, the most suitable and famous measure of the entanglement is the Wootters' measure.¹⁹ Recently, Schlieman^{20,21} examined the influence of quantum statistics on the definition of the entanglement. He discussed a two-fermion system with the Slater decomposition instead of Schmit decomposition for the entanglement measure. If we take each of the indistinguishable fermions to be in the single-particle Hilbert space C^N with f_m, f_m^+ ($m = 1, \dots, N$) denotes the fermionic annihilation and creation operators of single-particle states and $|\Omega\rangle$ represents the vacuum state, then a pure two-electron state can be written as

$$\sum_{m,n} \omega_{mn} f_m^+ f_n^+ |\Omega\rangle,$$

where $\omega_{mn} = -\omega_{nm}$. Analogous to the Schmidt decomposition, it can be proved that every $|\Psi\rangle$ can be represented in a appropriately chosen basis in C^N in a form of Slater decomposition,²⁰

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^K |z_i|^2}} \sum_{i=1}^K z_i f_{a_1(i)}^+ f_{a_2(i)}^+ |\Omega\rangle, \quad (1)$$

where $f_{a_1(i)}^+ |\Omega\rangle, f_{a_2(i)}^+ |\Omega\rangle, i = 1, \dots, K$, form an orthonormal basis in C^N . The number of the nonvanishing coefficients z_i is called the Slater rank, which is then used for the entanglement measure. With similar technique, the case of two-boson system is studied by Li²² and Paškauskas.²³

Gittings²⁴ put forward three desirable properties of any entanglement measure:

- (a) Invariance under local unitary transformations;
- (b) Non-invariance under non-local unitary transformations;
- (c) Correct behavior as distinguishability of the subsystems is lost.

These requirements make the relevant distinction between one-particle unitary transformation and one-site unitary transformations. As claimed in Ref. 24, a natural way for achieving this distinction is to use a basis based upon sites rather on particles. Through Gittings' investigation, it is shown that all the above-discussed entanglement measures fail the tests of the three criteria. Only the Zanardi's measure²⁵ survives, which is given in Fock space as the von Neuman entropy, namely,

$$E_j = -\text{Tr} \rho_j \ln \rho_j, \rho_j = \text{Tr}_j |\psi\rangle \langle \psi|, \quad (2)$$

where Tr_j denotes the trace over all but the j th site and ψ is the antisymmetric wave function of the studied system. Hence E_j actually describes the entanglement of the j th site with the remaining sites. A generalization of this one-site entanglement is to define an entanglement between one L -site block with the rest of the systems,³⁰

$$E_L = -\text{Tr}(\rho_L \log_2 \rho_L). \quad (3)$$

3. Entanglement and Quantum Phase Transition

Quantum phase transition (QPT) is a qualitative change of some physical properties in a quantum many-body system as some parameter in the Hamiltonian is varied.²⁶ At the critical point when QPT occurs, a long-range correlation can develop in the system. QPT is caused by quantum fluctuations at the absolute zero of temperature and is a pure quantum effect. Similarly, entanglement is also a unique quantum property with non-local states of two or more quantum systems superposed with each other. Hence it is inviting to study the relationship between them. Recently it has been argued that the property responsible for the long-range correlation in QPT is entanglement.²⁷ So far, there have been some efforts in this direction, such as the analysis of the XY model about the single-spin entropies and two-spin quantum correlations,^{28,29} the entanglement between a block of L contiguous sites and the rest of the chain³⁰ and also the scaling of entanglement near QPT.³¹ Since there is still no analytical proof to validate the above speculation, the role played by the entanglement in quantum critical phenomena remains elusive. Generally speaking, there exists at least two difficulties in resolving this issue. First, until now, only two-particle entanglement is well explored. How to quantify the multi-particle entanglement is not clear. Second, QPT closely relates to the notorious many-body problems, which is almost intractable analytically except in some special toy models, such as the Ising model and the XY model. Until now, the only effective and accurate way to deal with QPT in critical region is the density-matrix RG method.³³ Unfortunately, it is only efficient for one-dimensional cases because of the much more complicated boundary conditions for two-dimensional situation.

In order to investigate entanglement behavior in QPT for two-dimensional cases, we used the original real-space RG technique.³² This method contains uncontrollable approximations. But by using bigger block size while at the same time comparing some of the obtained results with those already known from other methods to check the errors, we can still get reliable results. For the entanglement measure, we used Zanardie's measure. It is in essence a bipartite measure, since most of the present quantum computation applications concern two-particle entanglement, it is still very meaningful and informative to carry out the study with it.

4. Calculation Method

We have shown previously that for a half-filled triangular quantum lattice, there exists a metal-insulator phase transition with the ratio of electron repulsion and hopping term to be the tuning parameter.³⁴⁻³⁶ In the following, we will use the same model and technique to explore the scaling properties of the entanglements.

The model we use is the Hubbard model with the Hamiltonian, i.e.

$$H = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle, \sigma} [c_{i\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{j\sigma} + \text{H.c.}] + U \sum_i \left(\frac{1}{2} - n_{i\uparrow} \right) \left(\frac{1}{2} - n_{i\downarrow} \right) + K \sum_i I_i \quad (4)$$

where t is the nearest-neighbor hopping term, U is the local repulsive interaction

and $K = -U/4$ and I_i is the unit operator. $c_{i\sigma}^+$ ($c_{i\sigma}$) creates (annihilates) an electron with spin σ in a Wannier orbital located at site i ; the corresponding number operator is $n_{i\sigma} = c_{i\sigma}^+ c_{i\sigma}$ and $\langle \rangle$ denotes the nearest-neighbor pairs. Here, “H.c.” denotes the Hermitian conjugate. The order parameter for metal-insulator transition (MIT) is the charge gap defined by

$$\Delta_g = E(N_e - 1) + E(N_e + 1) - 2E(N_e),$$

where $E(N_e)$ denotes the lowest energy for a N_e -electron system. In our case, N_e is equal to the site number N_s of the lattice. We already know that at the critical point $(U/t)_c = 12.5$, there will be a quantum phase transition, i.e. MIT, signature denoted by a jump of Δ_g from Zero to non-zero. Unlike the charge gap calculated from the energy levels, the Zanardi measure of the entanglement is defined upon the wave function corresponding to $E(N_e)$ instead, as show in Eq. (2). Before showing how to get entanglement from RG method, let us first briefly review the multi-staged real-space RG method.

The essence of real-space RG method is to map the original Hamiltonian to a new Hamiltonian with much fewer degrees of freedom which keeps the physical quantities we are interested in unchanged.³² The map can be iterated until the final Hamiltonian can be easily handled. The crucial step in this method is how to related the parameters between the old and the new Hamiltonians. This can be realized by dividing the original lattice into blocks and then build the new Hamiltonian upon blocks, namely regard each block to be an effective site.

Figure 1 shows schematically the hexagonal block structure we used in our calculations and the coupling between blocks. For each block, we solve it numerically in the subspaces of 6 electrons with 3 spin up and 3 spin down, 7 electrons with 4 spin up and 3 spin down, 7 electrons with 3 spin up and 4 spin down, and 8 electrons with 4 spin up and 4 spin down. In all the subspaces, we keep the lowest-energy non-degenerate state, which is also required to belong to the same irreducible representations of $C_{6\nu}$ symmetry group. It should be mentioned here that if there is degeneracy then one possible solution is to average over the degenerated states. The kept states will then be taken as the 4 states for an effective site,

$$|0\rangle', |\uparrow\rangle', |\downarrow\rangle', |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle'.$$

Denoting the energies corresponding to the first two states by E_1, E_2 , then after some intensive calculations, we can obtain the new Hamiltonian on the effective lattice, which has the same structure as the original Hamiltonian, i.e.

$$H' = -t' \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle, \sigma} [c_{i\sigma}'^+ c_{j\sigma}' + \text{H.c.}] + U' \sum_i \left(\frac{1}{2} - n_{i\uparrow}' \right) \left(\frac{1}{2} - n_{i\downarrow}' \right) + K' \sum_i I_i, \quad (5)$$

where the prime $'$ denotes the operator action upon the block states and

$$t' = 3\lambda^2 t, \quad (6)$$

$$U' = 2(E_1 - E_3), \quad (7)$$

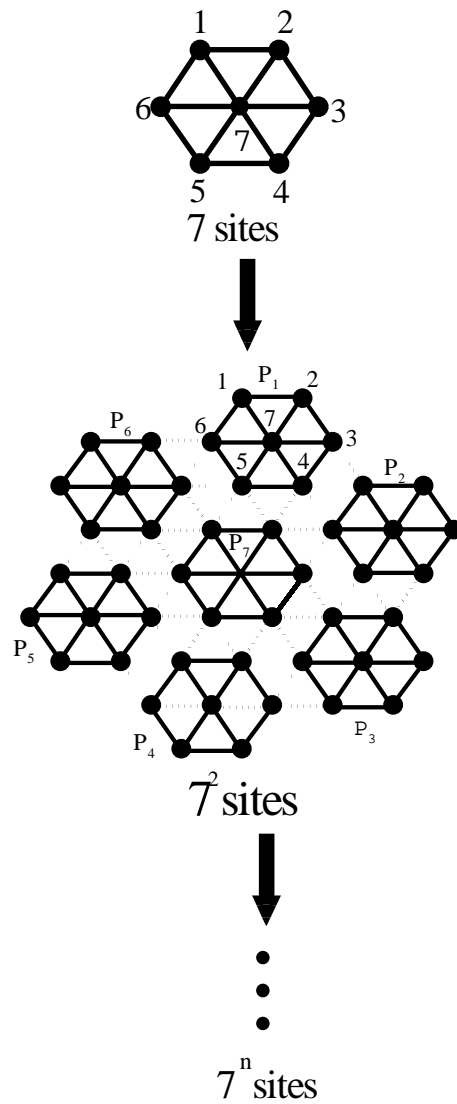


Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of the triangular lattice with hexagonal blocks. The hexagonal block is used for the renormalization process. The iteration direction is shown by the arrow. The dotted lines represent the interblock interactions and solid line intrablock ones.

$$K' = (E_1 + E_3)/2. \quad (8)$$

with

$$\lambda = \langle -\sigma, \sigma'_p c_{i(p)\sigma}^+ |_p - \sigma \rangle'_p = \langle \sigma'_p c_{i(p)\sigma}^+ | 0 \rangle'_p,$$

where σ denotes \uparrow or \downarrow . The above equations are the so-called RG flow equations. Usually, they are iterated until we get the fixed point. But besides the fixed points,

we can get more if we keep track of the results from each RG iteration. For example, if we stop the RG flow at the first iteration, then the obtained t' and U' will be parameters of an effective 7-site hexagonal block mapped from the original system of 7^2 sites. Since the hexagonal block Hamiltonian can be solved numerically, then the physical quantities for a system containing 49 sites can be obtained. In this way, we can study the system of the size $7^2, 7^3, 7^4, 7^5, 7^6 \dots$. This is the so-called multi-stage real-space RG method, which is well adapted to start the finite-size scaling analysis. For entanglement, because at the i th iteration, the effective site involves 7^i starting sites, what we are calculating by this procedure is equivalent to getting the entanglement between the L -site block and the surrounding seven L -site blocks. As L increases with the RG flow, the scaling of the entanglement with L comes out readily.

5. Results and Discussion

In Fig. 2 we show the results of the entanglement as a function of (U/t) for different system sizes. The crossing point in Fig. 2a represents the critical value of U/t , which is shown to be $(U/t)_c = 12.5$. It is exactly equal to the critical value for metal-insulator transition (MIT) when the same order parameter U/t is used.^{34–36} In Fig. 2b, with proper scaling, all the curves in Fig. 2a collapse onto one curve, which can be expressed as

$$E_7 = f(qN^{\frac{1}{2}}) \quad (9)$$

where $q = U/t - (U/t)_c$ measures the deviation distance of the system away from the critical state. By the one-parameter scaling theory, near the phase transition point, E_7 can be written as

$$E_7 = q^{y_E} f(L/\xi) \quad (10)$$

where $\xi = q^{-\nu}$ is the correlation length of the system with the critical exponent ν . Hence,

$$E_7 = q^{y_E} f(Lq^\nu) = q^{y_E} f(N^{\frac{1}{2\nu}} q), \quad (11)$$

where we used $N = L^2$ for the two-dimensional systems. Now we can have,

$$y_E = 0, \quad \nu = 1 \quad (12)$$

It is interesting to note that we have acquired the same ν as the study of MIT. This shows the great consistency of the results since the critical exponent ν is only dependent upon the inherent symmetry and dimension of the investigated system.

Another significant results lie in the metal state, since the system is highly entangled with $E_7 = 2$ while in the insulating state, and the system is partly

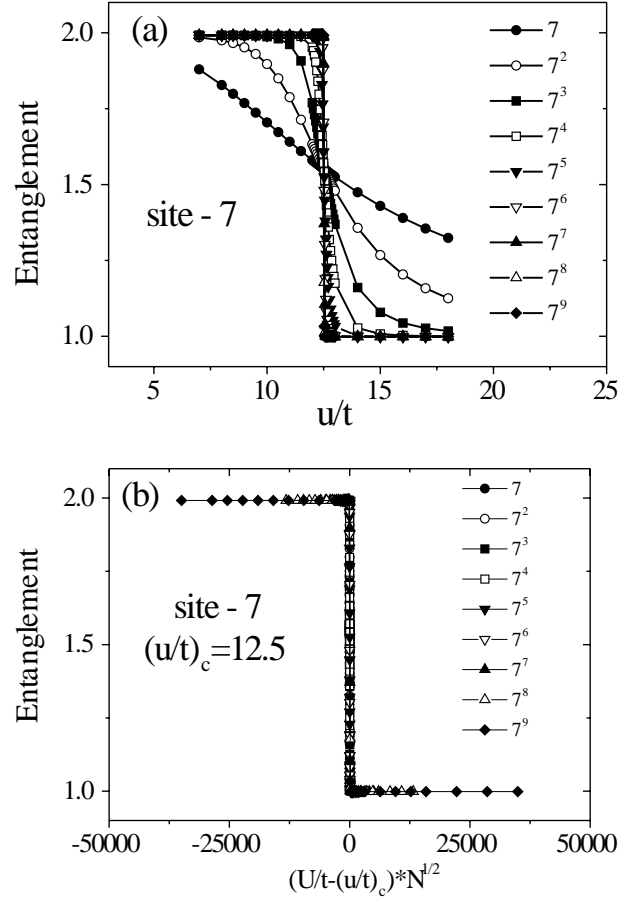


Fig. 2. Variations of the entanglement between site 7 and the neighboring sites (See Fig. 1) against the ratio of on-site electron interaction U to the hopping term t for different system size, i.e. the number of sites: 7 (solid circle), 7^2 (open circle), 7^3 (solid square), 7^4 (open square), 7^5 (solid down triangle), 7^6 (open down triangle), 7^7 (solid up triangle), 7^8 (open up triangle), 7^9 (solid diamond).

entangled with $E_7 = 1$. The reduced density matrix ρ_7 is four dimensional, thus the maximally entangled state can be written as

$$\rho_7 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} & & & \\ & \frac{1}{4} & & \\ & & \frac{1}{4} & \\ & & & \frac{1}{4} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (13)$$

in the basis $|0\rangle, |\uparrow\rangle, |\downarrow\rangle, |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle$. The related entanglement is

$$E_7 = - \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{1}{4} \log_2 \frac{1}{4} = 2.$$

Unlike the metal state, in which the sites can have equal probability in any of the four basis states, the insulating states should be expected to have electrons showing less mobility. From the calculations, we know that in the insulating state,

$$\rho_7 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & \\ & \frac{1}{2} & & \\ & & \frac{1}{2} & \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (14)$$

which means that the central site has equal probability to be in $|\uparrow\rangle, |\downarrow\rangle$ and no occupation in $|0\rangle, |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle$. This coincides well with the above expectations. The corresponding entanglement is then

$$E_7 = - \sum_{i=2}^3 \frac{1}{2} \log_2 \frac{1}{2} = 1.$$

All the above discussions are confined to the entanglement between the central site and its surrounding sites. Because the central site is a very special site showing the highest symmetry in the block, one may wonder what can happen to the neighbor sites, for example, the entanglement between site 1 and the rest 6 sites. To answer this question, the same calculations are conducted and the results are presented in Fig. 3. Following the same procedures as for site 7, we can get the transition point and the critical exponents. It is no surprise that the same values are obtained. The only difference is that in the metal state, the maximal entanglement is a little less than 2 and the minimal one is a little less than 1. This can be explained by the asymmetric position of site 1 in the block.

It should be mentioned that the calculated entanglement here has a corresponding critical exponent $y_E = 0$. This means that the entanglement is constant at the critical point over all sizes of the system, which can be well seen from Figs. 2a and 3a also. But it is not a constant over all values of U/t . There is an abrupt jump across the critical point as $L \rightarrow \infty$, which can be easily seen in Figs. 2b and 3b. If we divide the regime of the order parameter into non-critical regime and critical regime, the results can be summarized as follows:

- (1) In the non-critical regime, i.e. U/t is away from $(U/t)_c$, as L increases, the entanglement will saturate finally onto two different values depending upon the sign of $U/t - (U/t)_c$.
- (2) At the critical point, the entanglement is actually a constant independent of the size L .

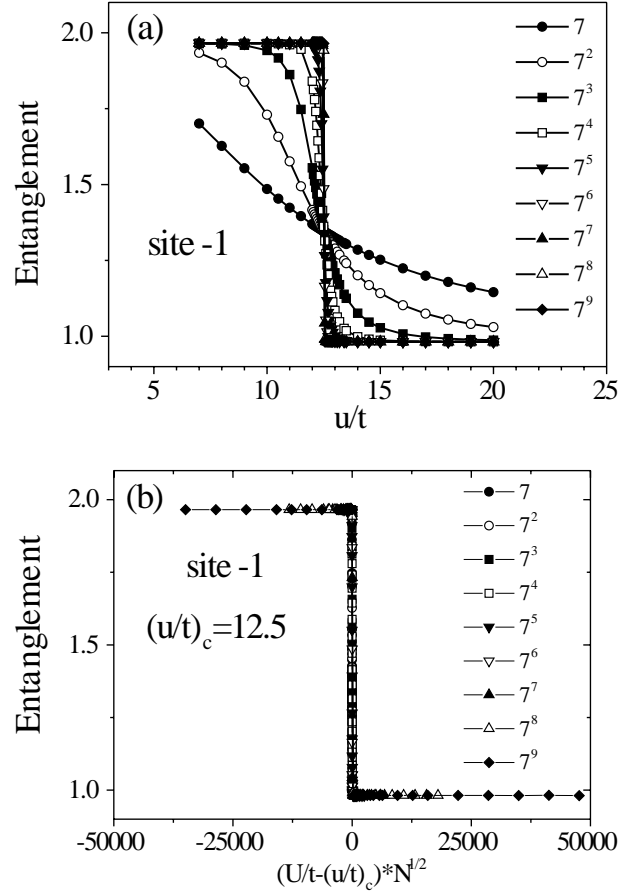


Fig. 3. The same as in Fig. 2, but for the entanglement between site 1 and the rest 6 sites of the block.

These properties are qualitatively different from the single-site entanglement discussed by Osborne,²⁸ where the entanglement with Zanardi's measure increases from zero to the maximum at the critical point and then decreases again to zero as the order parameter γ for XY mode is tuned. The peculiar properties of the entanglement we have found here can be of potential interest to make an effective ideal entanglement "switch". For example, with seven blocks of quantum dots on triangular lattice, the entanglement among the blocks can be regulated as "0" or "1" almost immediately once the tuning parameter U/t crosses the critical point 12.5. The switch errors will depend upon the size of the blocks. Since it has already been a well-developed technique to change U/t for quantum dot lattice, the above scheme should be workable. To remove the special confinement we have made upon the calculated entanglement, namely only the entanglement of site 1 and site 7 with the rest sites are considered, in the following, we will prove that what we

are switching here is actually the average pairwise entanglement between the seven blocks.

Let E_{ij} denotes the entanglement between i th and j th site. Then the total two-site entanglement E_{tot} can be obtained, i.e.

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \sum_{i=2}^7 E_{1i} + \sum_{i=3}^7 E_{2i} + \sum_{i=4}^7 E_{3i} + \sum_{i=5}^7 E_{4i} + \sum_{i=6}^7 E_{5i} + E_{67}. \quad (15)$$

From the symmetry of the sites, we know that

$$\begin{aligned} E_{ij} &= E_{ji}, \\ E_{13} &= E_{24} = E_{35} = E_{46}, E_{14} = E_{25} = E_{36}, \\ E_{17} &= E_{27} = E_{37} = E_{47} = E_{57} = E_{67}. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

By substituting the above equalities into Eq. (15), we have,

$$E_{\text{tot}} = 6E_{17} + 3(2E_{12} + 2E_{13} + E_{14}). \quad (17)$$

Because

$$E_7 = 7E_{17}, \quad E_1 = 2E_{12} + 2E_{13} + E_4 \quad (18)$$

We finally have $E_{\text{tot}} = 6E_7 + 3E_1$. The average 2-site entanglement is

$$E_{\text{average}} = \frac{E_{\text{tot}}}{7} = \frac{1}{7}(2E_7 + E_1).$$

Because

$$\begin{aligned} E_7 &= f(qN^{\frac{1}{2}}), \\ E_1 &= g(qN^{\frac{1}{2}}), \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

then we should have $E_{\text{average}} = h(qN^{0.5})$. This tells us that the average pairwise entanglement also has the properties shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

Until now, almost all the finite-scaling work about the entanglements are done in one-dimensional cases, such as Ising model with a transverse magnetic field or XY model, where different scaling properties of the entanglement are found. In Ref. 37, the one-dimensional Harper Hamiltonian is investigated. The average concurrence shows different scaling properties in the metal and insulating states. In Ref. 30, Vidal calculated the entanglement with Zanardi measure between a L -site block with all the rest spin chains using XY model. At the critical point, the entanglement demonstrates a logarithmic dependence on the size L . Similar results are also found by Osterloh³¹ in the concurrence derivative over the order parameter λ . None of the above work has reported the switching properties of the entanglement scaling over size. Hence it seems that the dimension of the investigated systems seem to play an important role also in the entanglement scaling, just as expected from QPT viewpoint.

6. Summary

In summary, by using a multi-stage real-space renormalization group method, the scaling properties of the entanglement with the Zanardi's measure over the block size when QPT happens has been investigated in details. The critical exponent $\nu = 1$ has been found, which coincides well with our previous work in studying a quite different physical property, the charge gap. When the block size $L \rightarrow \infty$, the entanglement shows an abrupt change when the tuning parameter crosses the phase transition point. This property might be well applied to make an "entanglement switch".

Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge the financial support of the Office of Naval Research (N00014-97-2-0192).

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