

Problem Set 6

AS.171.402: Applied Quantum Information [Spring 2022]

Due Date: May 1, 2022 (11:59 pm)

Simulating the ground state of the Hydrogen Molecule using VQE

In this problem set, we will explore the use of the Variational Quantum Eigensolver (VQE) algorithms to simulate and identify the ground state of the Hydrogen molecule.

The hydrogen molecule, H_2 , consists of two-electrons, and in a minimal basis representation each electron has orbital and spin degrees of freedom. Therefore, the energy of the molecule can be modeled using a Hamiltonian on two qubits. Quantum information theorists in collaboration with quantum chemists have mapped the minimal Hamiltonian on to one acting on two-qubits,

$$\hat{H} = g_0 + g_1 \hat{Z}_1 + g_2 \hat{Z}_2 + g_3 \hat{Z}_1 \hat{Z}_2 + g_4 \hat{Y}_1 \hat{Y}_2 + g_5 \hat{X}_1 \hat{X}_2, \quad (1)$$

where, the parameters $\{g_0, g_1, \dots, g_5\}$ are scalar parameters that are dependent on the bond length, R of the molecule.

In this problem, we will try to reproduce the following ground-state energy dependence of the Hydrogen molecule on bond-length R using the VQE algorithm.

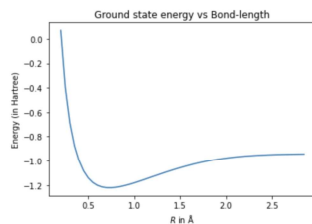


FIG. 1: Ground state energy dependence on the bond-length of the Hydrogen molecule.

We provide an accompanying dataset `g_values.csv` that contains the values of g_j ,

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$j \in \{0, \dots, 5\}$ for increasing R . In the following, we will use the Variational Quantum Eigensolver (VQE) algorithm to solve for the ground state of the Hamiltonian shown in Eq. 1.

- (a) We start by constructing a variational circuit ansatz based on known physics of the molecule. The ansatz wavefunction for the ground state based on Hartree-Fock theory and the Unitary Coupled Cluster Theory is given by,

$$|\psi_{\text{UCC}}(\Theta)\rangle = e^{-i\Theta \hat{Y}_1 \hat{X}_2} |10\rangle. \quad (2)$$

where $\Theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ is the variational parameter to be optimized over.

- Show that $e^{-i\Theta \hat{Y}_1 \hat{X}_2} = \hat{V}^\dagger e^{-i\Theta \hat{Z}_1 \hat{Z}_2} \hat{V}$, with $\hat{V} = R_x(-\frac{\pi}{2}) \otimes R_y(\frac{\pi}{2})$.
- Construct a two-qubit circuit that prepares the variational state $|\psi_{\text{UCC}}(\Theta)\rangle$ using only the following gates: $\{\hat{R}_x(\theta), \hat{R}_y(\theta), \hat{R}_z(\theta), \hat{C}X\}$.
[Hint: Use the decomposition of the gate $R_{zz}(\theta) = e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}\hat{Z}_1\hat{Z}_2}$ in terms of two $\hat{C}X$ gates.]
- In the accompanying jupyter notebook, write a function `create_UCC_ansatz(theta)` that returns a parametrized circuit the as obtained in (ii).

- Calculate analytically the expectation value of the Hamiltonian in Eq. 1 as a function of Θ .

$$\begin{aligned} |10\rangle &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ |11\rangle &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

[Hint: Expand the exponential in Eq. 2 and simplify.]

$$\begin{aligned} a) i) e^{-i\Theta \hat{Y}_1 \hat{X}_2} &= \hat{V}^\dagger e^{-i\Theta \hat{Z}_1 \hat{Z}_2} \hat{V} \quad R_x(-\frac{\pi}{2}) R_z(\theta) V^\dagger e^\Lambda V = e^{V^\dagger \Lambda V} \\ &= e^{-i\Theta (-i\sigma_z \otimes \sigma_z)} \\ &= e^{-i\Theta (R_x(\frac{\pi}{2}) \otimes R_y(\frac{\pi}{2})) (Z_1 \otimes Z_2) (R_x(-\frac{\pi}{2}) \otimes R_y(\frac{\pi}{2}))} \\ &= e^{-i\Theta (R_x(\frac{\pi}{2}) \hat{Z}_1 R_x(\frac{\pi}{2}) \otimes R_y(\frac{\pi}{2}) \hat{Z}_2 R_y(\frac{\pi}{2}))} \\ &= e^{-i\Theta \hat{Y}_1 \hat{X}_2} \end{aligned}$$

ii)



$$j.i) \langle \psi | \hat{H} | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi | g_0 + g_1 \hat{Z}_1 + g_2 \hat{Z}_2 + g_3 \hat{Z}_1 \hat{Z}_2 + g_4 \hat{Y}_1 \hat{Y}_2 + g_5 \hat{X}_1 \hat{X}_2 | \psi \rangle$$

$$e^{-i\Theta \hat{Y}_1 \hat{X}_2} = \cos(\Theta) I - i \sin(\Theta) \hat{Y}_1 \hat{X}_2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi | g_0 | \psi \rangle &= \langle 10 | e^{-i\Theta \hat{Y}_1 \hat{X}_2} g_0 e^{i\Theta \hat{Y}_1 \hat{X}_2} | 10 \rangle \\ &= \langle 10 | \cos(\Theta) + \sin(\Theta) \langle 01 | g_0 \cos(\Theta) | 10 \rangle - \sin(\Theta) | 10 \rangle \\ &= g_0 [\cos^2(\Theta) \langle 10 | 10 \rangle + \cos(\Theta) \sin(\Theta) \langle 01 | 10 \rangle - \sin(\Theta) \cos(\Theta) \langle 10 | 01 \rangle + \sin^2(\Theta) \langle 01 | 01 \rangle] \\ &= g_0 [\cos^2(\Theta) + \sin^2(\Theta)] \\ &= g_0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi | g_1 \hat{Z}_1 | \psi \rangle &= g_1 \hat{Z}_1 [\cos^2(\Theta) \langle 10 | 10 \rangle + \cos(\Theta) \sin(\Theta) \langle 01 | 10 \rangle - \sin(\Theta) \cos(\Theta) \langle 10 | 01 \rangle + \sin^2(\Theta) \langle 01 | 01 \rangle] \\ &= g_1 [\cos^2(\Theta) \langle 10 | \hat{Z}_1 | 10 \rangle + \cos(\Theta) \sin(\Theta) \langle 01 | \hat{Z}_1 | 10 \rangle - \sin(\Theta) \cos(\Theta) \langle 10 | \hat{Z}_1 | 01 \rangle + \sin^2(\Theta) \langle 01 | \hat{Z}_1 | 01 \rangle] \\ &= g_1 [\cos^2(\Theta) - \cos^2(\Theta)] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi | g_2 \hat{Z}_2 | \psi \rangle &= g_2 \hat{Z}_2 [\cos^2(\Theta) \langle 10 | 10 \rangle + \cos(\Theta) \sin(\Theta) \langle 01 | 10 \rangle - \sin(\Theta) \cos(\Theta) \langle 10 | 01 \rangle + \sin^2(\Theta) \langle 01 | 01 \rangle] \\ &= g_2 [\cos^2(\Theta) \langle 10 | \hat{Z}_2 | 10 \rangle + \cos(\Theta) \sin(\Theta) \langle 01 | \hat{Z}_2 | 10 \rangle - \sin(\Theta) \cos(\Theta) \langle 10 | \hat{Z}_2 | 01 \rangle + \sin^2(\Theta) \langle 01 | \hat{Z}_2 | 01 \rangle] \\ &= g_2 [\cos^2(\Theta) - \sin^2(\Theta)] = g_2 \cos(2\Theta) \end{aligned}$$

