

Coulomb interaction driven entanglement of electrons on helium, theory and experiment

Morten Hjorth-Jensen^{1,2}

Department of Physics and Astronomy and Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB), Michigan State University, USA¹

Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Norway²

January 20-21, 2025, Nordic Quantum days

Overview and Motivation

How to use many-body theory to design quantum circuits (Quantum engineering)

1. Many-body methods like F(ull)C(onfiguration)I(nteraction) theory with
 - ▶ Adaptive basis sets (see for example [Sigmundson et al arXiv:2111.09638](#))
 - ▶ Time dependence
 - ▶ Optimization of experimental parameter
 - ▶ Feedback from experiment
2. Finding optimal parameters for tuning of entanglement
3. Numerical experiments to mimick real systems, using many-body methods to develop **quantum twins** ([inspiration from work by Herschel Rabitz et al on Control of quantum phenomena, see New Journal of Physics 12 \(2010\) 075008](#))!

Collaborators and people to thank

MSU

Niyaz Beysengulov and Johannes Pollanen (experiment, Physics); Zachary Stewart, Jared Weidman, and Angela Wilson (quantum chemistry)

University of Oslo

Øyvind Sigmundson Schøyen, Stian Dysthe Bilek, and Håkon Emil Kristiansen (Physics and quantum chemistry). In addition collaboration on point defects with Marianne Bathen and Lasse Vines.

What is this talk about?

Here we describe a method for generating motional entanglement between two electrons trapped above the surface of superfluid helium. In this proposed scheme these electronic charge qubits are laterally confined via electrostatic gates to create an anharmonic trapping potential. When the system is cooled to sufficiently low temperature these in-plane charge qubit states are quantized and circuit quantum electrodynamic methods can be used to control and readout single qubit operations. Perspectives for quantum simulations with quantum dots systems will be discussed.

Literature and more reading

1. Justyna P. Zwolak and Jacob M. Taylor, Rev. Mod. Phys. 95, 011006, Advances in automation of quantum dot devices control
2. Pollanen and many other, Accelerating Progress Towards Practical Quantum Advantage: The Quantum Technology Demonstration Project Roadmap
3. Osada et al, introduction to quantum technologies, Springer, 2022
4. Original inspiration a series of articles of Loss and DiVincenzo from the nineties, Quantum Computation with Quantum Dots

Quantum Engineering, Di Vincenzo criteria

Quantum computing requirements

1. be scalable
2. have qubits that can be entangled
3. have reliable initializations protocols to a standard state
4. have a set of universal quantum gates to control the quantum evolution
5. have a coherence time much longer than the gate operation time
6. have a reliable read-out mechanism for measuring the qubit states
7. ...more

Candidate systems

1. Superconducting Josephon junctions
2. Single photons
3. Trapped ions and atoms
4. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
5. **Quantum dots, experiments at MSU**
6. Point Defects in semiconductors
7. ...more

Electrons (quantum dots) on superfluid helium

Electrons on **superfluid helium** represent (see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuDuM-fe-lA&ab_channel=JoshuahHeath) a promising platform for investigating strongly-coupled qubits.

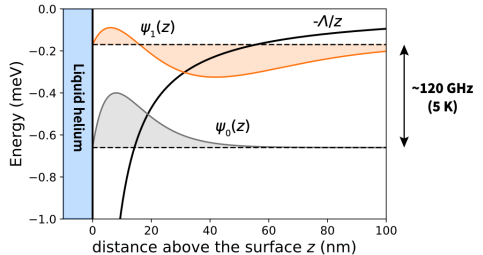
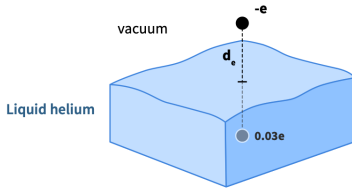
A systematic investigation of the controlled generation of entanglement between two trapped electrons under the influence of coherent microwave driving pulses, taking into account the effects of the Coulomb interaction between electrons, may be of great interest for quantum information processing using trapped electrons.

To read more

1. See Single electrons on solid neon as a solid-state qubit platform, David Schuster et al, Nature **605**, 46–50 (2022)
2. See Mark Dykman et al, Spin dynamics in quantum dots on liquid helium, PRB **107**. 035437 (2023) at <https://link.aps.org/doi/10.1103/PhysRevB.107.035437>.

Experimental setup I

Electrons on helium



- Very high mobilities: $\mu > 10^7 \text{ cm}^2/(\text{V s})$
- Low densities: $n_s \approx 10^6 - 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-2}$
- Almost no screening: long range Coulomb interactions

“1D Hydrogen atom”
with Rydberg series of states

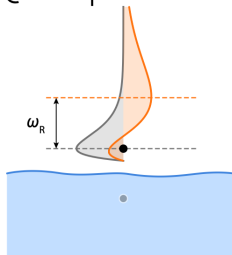
$$E_n = -\frac{m_e \Lambda^2}{2\hbar^2 n^2} \quad (n = 1, 2, 3 \dots)$$

$$E_0 = -0.66 \text{ meV} \quad (\sim 160 \text{ GHz}, 7.6 \text{ K})$$

$$E_1 = -0.17 \text{ meV} \quad (\sim 40 \text{ GHz}, 1.9 \text{ K})$$

More on experimental setup II

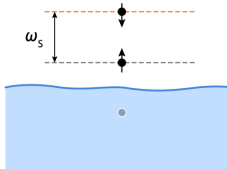
Qubit platforms with electrons on helium



Rydberg states

$$\omega_R/2\pi = 120 \text{ GHz}$$

P.M. Platzman and M.I. Dykman
Science **284**(5422), pp.1967 (1999)

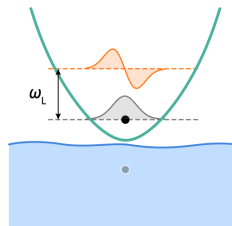


Spin states

$$\omega_s/2\pi = 5 \text{ GHz at } B = 0.2 \text{ T}$$

($T_2 \approx 1.5 \text{ s}$)

S. A. Lyon, *Phys. Rev. A* **74**, 052338 (2006)



Lateral motional states

$$\omega_s/2\pi = 5 \text{ GHz}$$

D.I. Schuster et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **105**, 040503 (2010)

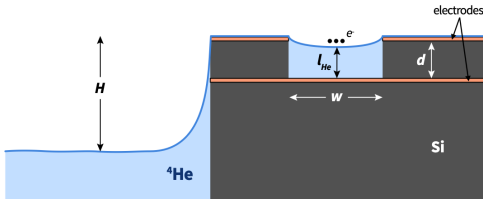
D. Konstantinov - OIST (Okinawa)
A. Chepelianskii - Universite Paris-Sud

S. Lyon - Princeton
E. Kawakami - RIKEN

D. Schuster - University of Chicago
J. Pollanen - EeroQ/MSU

More on experimental setup III

Electron storage/isolation

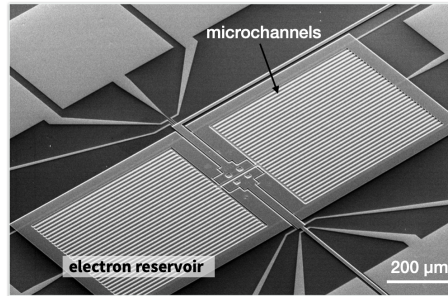


microstructures filled by capillary action of superfluid ^4He

$$l_{\text{He}} = d - \frac{w^2}{8} \frac{\rho g H}{\alpha_t}$$

α_t - surface tension of liquid helium

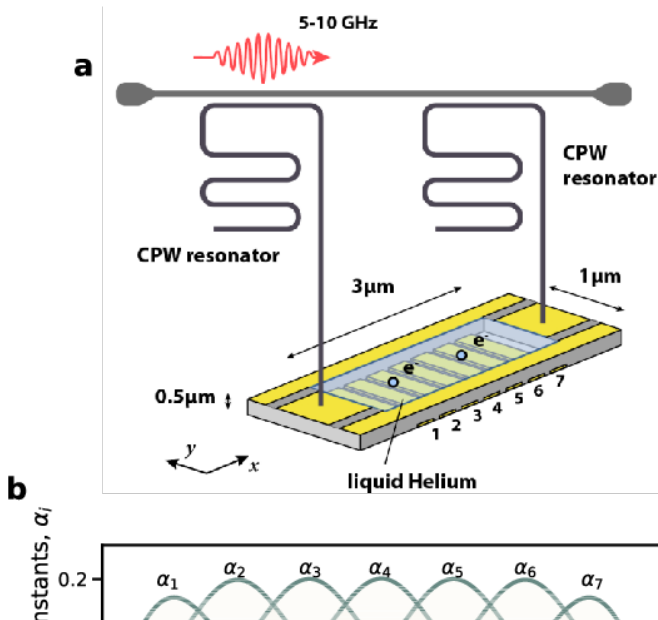
ρ - density liquid helium



Electron Reservoirs:

Set of long helium microchannels is used to store electrons

Experimental set up



Entanglement

Entanglement is the fundamental characteristic that distinguishes quantum systems composed of two or more coupled objects from their classical counterparts. The study of entanglement in precisely engineered quantum systems with countably many degrees of freedom is at the forefront of modern physics and is a key resource in quantum information science (QIS). This is particularly true in the development of two-qubit logic for quantum computation.

The generation of two-qubit entanglement has been demonstrated in a wide variety of physical systems used in present-day quantum computing, including superconducting circuits, trapped ions, semiconductor quantum dots, color-center defects in diamond, and neutral atoms in optical lattices, just to name a few.

More on Entanglement

Generating an entanglement between two quantum systems rely on exploiting interactions in a controllable way. The details in the interaction Hamiltonian between two systems defines the protocol schemes for two-qubit logic.

In superconducting circuits the interaction between qubits may arise from direct capacitive coupling between circuit elements or by indirect coupling of two qubits to a common resonator (virtually populating resonator mode) which results in a non-local Hamiltonian in the form of exchange interaction. This allow to implement various schemes for entanglement, such as controlled-phase gate, resonator-induced phase gate, cross-resonance gates etc.

Entanglement gates in trapped ions and more

Entanglement gates in trapped ions are produced by means of the Coulomb interaction, where shared motional modes of two or more ions, entangled to their internal states, used for transferring excitations between ion qubits. This has been experimentally demonstrated.

In photonic quantum computing schemes two-qubit entangling operations are realized by nonlinear interactions between two photons scattering from quantum dots, plasmonic nanowires, diamond vacancy centers and others embedded into waveguides. Two-qubit gates in semiconductor quantum dots are based on spin-spin exchange interactions or generated by coupling to a superconducting resonator via artificial spin-orbit interaction.

Quantum dots and the Coulomb interaction

Coulomb interaction governed entanglement can be realized in the system of electrons on the surface of superfluid helium, where qubit states are formed by in-plane lateral motional or out-of plane Rydberg states. Trapped near the surface of liquid helium these states have different spatial charge configurations and the wavefunctions of different electrons do not overlap.

This results in a strong exchange free Coulomb interaction which depends on the states of the electrons. The lack of disorder in the systems also leads to slow electron decoherence, which has attracted interest to the system as a candidate for quantum information processing.

Electrons on helium is another qubit platform

To our knowledge two qubit gates have never been discussed in a proper manner for these systems.

The static Coulomb interaction arises from a virtual photon exchange process between two charge particles according to quantum electrodynamics. This results in a correlated motion of two charges generating quantum entanglement.

Surface state electrons (SSE)

Surface state electrons (SSE) 'floating' above liquid helium originates from quantization of electron's perpendicular to the surface motion in a trapping potential formed by attractive force from image charge and a large ~ 1 eV barrier at the liquid-vacuum interface. At low temperatures the SSE are trapped in the lowest Rydberg state for vertical motion some 11 nm above the helium surface, which is perfectly clean and has a permittivity close to that of vacuum.

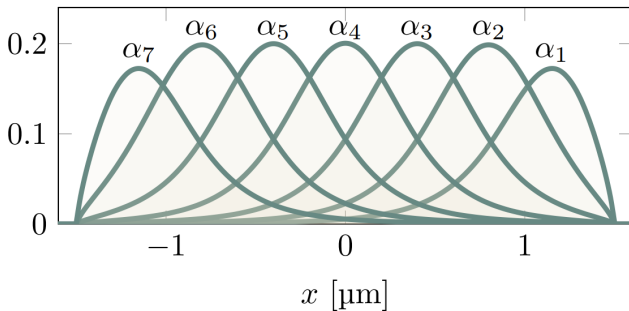
The weak interaction with the environment, which is mainly governed by interaction with quantized surface capillary waves (ripplons) and bulk phonons, ensures long coherence times - a vital ingredient for any qubit platform.

Computational details

Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}_1^2}{2} + \sum_{i=1}^7 V_i \alpha_i[\hat{x}_1] + \frac{\hat{p}_2^2}{2} + \sum_{i=1}^7 V_i \alpha_i[\hat{x}_2] + \frac{\kappa}{\sqrt{(\hat{x}_1 - \hat{x}_2)^2 + a^2}} \quad (1)$$

$$= h[\hat{p}_1, \hat{x}_1] + h[\hat{p}_2, \hat{x}_2] + u[\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2] \quad (2)$$

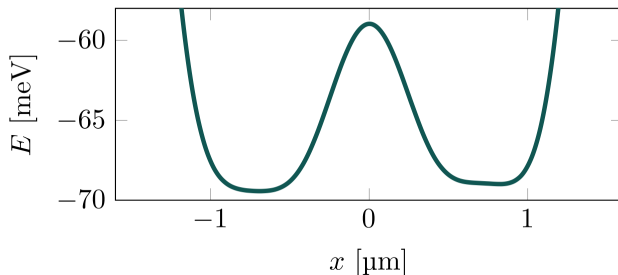


Computational details

Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}_1^2}{2} + v[\hat{x}_1] + \frac{\hat{p}_2^2}{2} + v[\hat{x}_2] + \frac{\kappa}{\sqrt{(\hat{x}_1 - \hat{x}_2)^2 + a^2}} \quad (3)$$

$$= h[\hat{p}_1, \hat{x}_1] + h[\hat{p}_2, \hat{x}_2] + u[\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2] \quad (4)$$



Computational details

Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}_1^2}{2} + v[\hat{x}_1] + \frac{\hat{p}_2^2}{2} + v[\hat{x}_2] + \frac{\kappa}{\sqrt{(\hat{x}_1 - \hat{x}_2)^2 + a^2}} \quad (5)$$

$$\equiv h[\hat{p}_1, \hat{x}_1] + h[\hat{p}_2, \hat{x}_2] + u[\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2] \quad (6)$$

Energy states:

$$|\Phi_k\rangle = \sum_{i < j} c_{ij,k} \frac{|\varphi_i \varphi_j\rangle - |\varphi_j \varphi_i\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad (7)$$

(Slater basis)

Computational details

Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}_1^2}{2} + v^L[\hat{x}_1] + \frac{\hat{p}_2^2}{2} + v^R[\hat{x}_2] + \frac{\kappa}{\sqrt{(\hat{x}_1 - \hat{x}_2)^2 + a^2}} \quad (8)$$

$$\equiv h^L[\hat{p}_1, \hat{x}_1] + h^R[\hat{p}_2, \hat{x}_2] + u[\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2] \quad (9)$$

Energy states:

$$|\Phi_k\rangle = \sum_i \sum_j C_{ij,k} |\varphi_i^L \varphi_j^R\rangle, \quad (10)$$

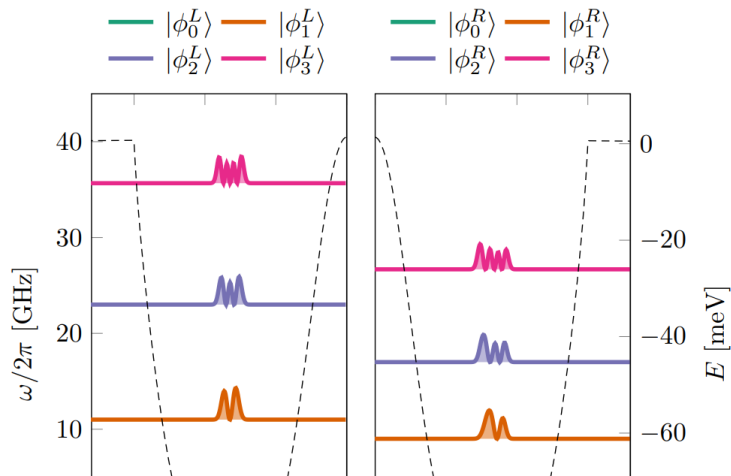
(product basis)

Computational details

Energy states:

$$|\Phi_k\rangle = \sum_i \sum_j C_{ij,k} |\varphi_i^L \varphi_j^R\rangle, \quad (11)$$

(product basis)



Computational details

Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}_1^2}{2} + v^L[\hat{x}_1] + \frac{\hat{p}_2^2}{2} + v^R[\hat{x}_2] + \frac{\kappa}{\sqrt{(\hat{x}_1 - \hat{x}_2)^2 + a^2}} \quad (12)$$

$$\equiv h^L[\hat{p}_1, \hat{x}_1] + h^R[\hat{p}_2, \hat{x}_2] + u[\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2] \quad (13)$$

Energy states:

$$|\Phi_k\rangle = \sum_i \sum_j c_{ij,k} |\varphi_i^L \varphi_j^R\rangle, \quad (14)$$

(Hartree basis)

Computational details

Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}_1^2}{2} + v^L[\hat{x}_1] + \frac{\hat{p}_2^2}{2} + v^R[\hat{x}_2] + \frac{\kappa}{\sqrt{(\hat{x}_1 - \hat{x}_2)^2 + a^2}} \quad (15)$$

$$\equiv h^L[\hat{p}_1, \hat{x}_1] + h^R[\hat{p}_2, \hat{x}_2] + u[\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2] \quad (16)$$

Energy states:

$$|\Phi_k\rangle = \sum_{i=0}^{N^L} \sum_{j=0}^{N^R} C_{ij,k} |\varphi_i^L \varphi_j^R\rangle, \quad (17)$$

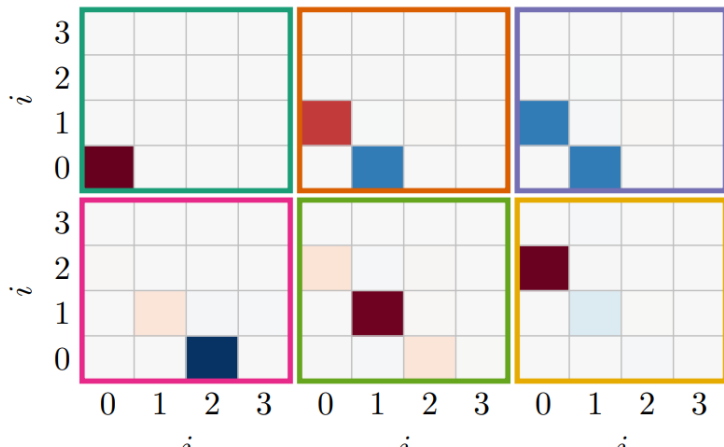
(Hartree basis)

Computational details

Energy states:

$$|\Phi_k\rangle = \sum_{i=0}^{N^L} \sum_{j=0}^{N^R} C_{ij,k} |\varphi_i^L \varphi_j^R\rangle, \quad (18)$$

(Hartree basis)



Computational details

Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}_1^2}{2} + v^L[\hat{x}_1] + \frac{\hat{p}_2^2}{2} + v^R[\hat{x}_2] + \frac{\kappa}{\sqrt{(\hat{x}_1 - \hat{x}_2)^2 + a^2}} \quad (19)$$

$$\equiv h^L[\hat{p}_1, \hat{x}_1] + h^R[\hat{p}_2, \hat{x}_2] + u[\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2] \quad (20)$$

Energy states:

$$|\Phi_k\rangle = \sum_{i=0}^{N^L} \sum_{j=0}^{N^R} C_{ij,k} |\varphi_i^L \varphi_j^R\rangle, \quad (21)$$

(Hartree basis)

Results and discussions

By adjusting the potential we can change the anharmonicities and detuning of the wells.

1. What values of these give interesting interactions?
2. Inspiration from superconducting qubits, see High-Contrast ZZ Interaction Using Superconducting Qubits with Opposite-Sign Anharmonicity, [Zhao et al Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 200503](#)

We search for well configurations corresponding to three different types of interaction between the two electrons.

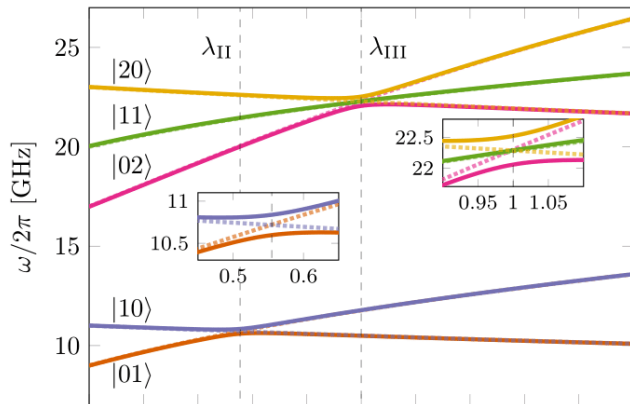
1. In configuration I we address both qubits independently and can thereby perform single-qubit state rotations and measurements.
2. Configurations II and III correspond to avoided level crossings between two (E_{01}, E_{10}) and three (E_{11}, E_{20}, E_{02}) energy levels respectively, where the electrons' motion becomes correlated, that is they are entangled.

Both anharmonicity and detuning changes with the shape of our well. We create a voltage parameterization

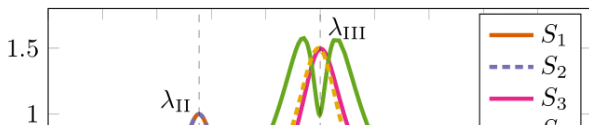
$$V(\lambda) = (1 - \lambda)V_{\text{I}} + \lambda V_{\text{III}} \quad (22)$$

Entanglement and more

(a)



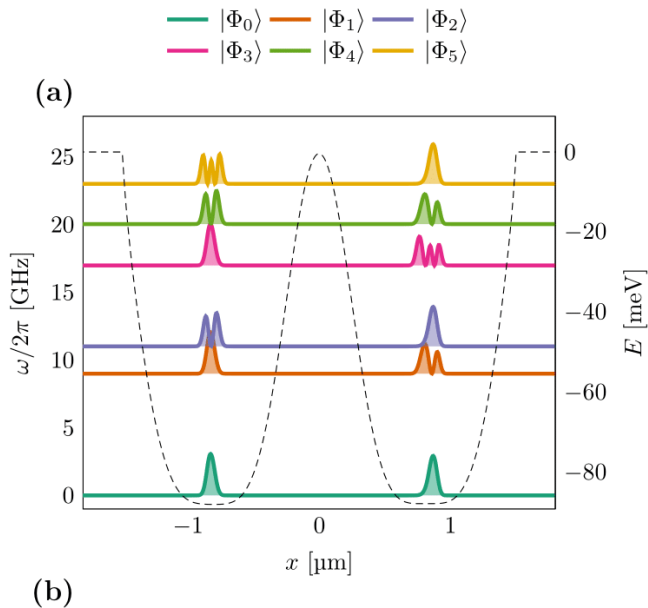
(b)



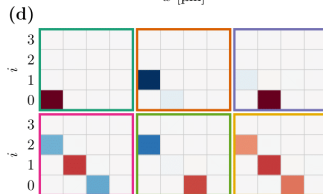
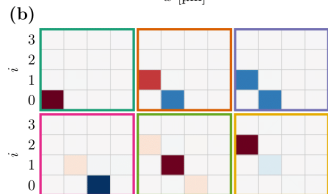
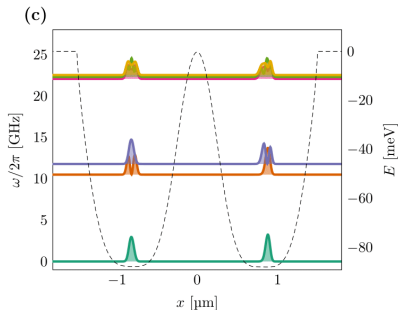
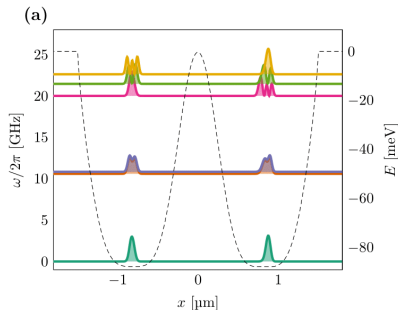
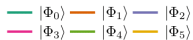
Legend to figure

1. (a) In this figure we have plotted the transition energy from the ground state to the labeled excited state as a function of the voltage parameter λ . The labeled states are the computational basis states when $\lambda = 0$.
2. (b) The von Neumann entropy of the five lowest excited states of the two-body Hamiltonian as a function of the configuration parameter λ . The ground state has zero entropy, or close to zero entropy. We have included the points for the double and triple degeneracy points. λ_{II} and λ_{III} in the figure. The von Neumann entropy is calculated using the binary logarithm.
3. (c) In this figure we have plotted the anharmonicities for the left well (α^L) and the right well (α^R) as a function of the well parameterization λ . We have also included the detuning $\Delta\omega = \omega^R - \omega^L$ between the two wells. We have marked configuration II at $\lambda_{II} \approx 0.554$ and configuration III at $\lambda_{III} = 1$.

Particle densities and coefficients



Potential wells, the one-body densities, and single-particle states



Where we are now

1. Adding time-dependent studies of two electrons in two wells in one and two dimensions
2. Studies of the time-evolution of entangled states (now two electrons only)
3. Use theory to find optimal experimental setup
4. Expect two-electron system realized experimentally in approx 1 year, great potential for studies of quantum simulations

Plans

1. Add two and three-dimensions in order to simulate in a more realistic way such many-body systems.
2. Develop time-dependent FCI code, useful up to approximately 10 particles with **effective** (and effective Hilbert space) Hamiltonians in two and three dimensions
3. Develop codes for studies of entanglement as function of time
4. Do tomography and extract density matrix and compare with experiment.
5. Study the feasibility of various setups for quantum simulations of specific Hamiltonians such as the Lipkin model
6. For larger many-body systems, study for example time-dependent CC theory