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Effect of the unpolarized spin state in spin-correlation measurement of two protons produced in the $^{12}\text{C}(d,^2\text{He})$ reaction

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**Abstract**

In this note we discuss the effect of the unpolarized state in the spin-correlation measurement of the $^1S_0$ two-proton state produced in $^{12}\text{C}(d,^2\text{He})$ reaction at the KVI, Groningen. We show that in the presence of the unpolarized state the *maximal* violation of the CHSH-Bell inequality is lower than the classical limit if the purity of the state is less than $\sim 70\%$. In particular, for the KVI experiment the violation of the CHSH-Bell inequality should be corrected by a factor $\sim 10\%$ from the pure $^1S_0$ state.
1 Introduction

In an experiment performed at the Kernfysisch Versneller Instituut (KVI), Groningen [5] with the goal to test Bell inequality violation in Nuclear Physics (perhaps to be applied in quantum information physics), the experimental group, by bombarding a $^{12}$C target with 170 MeV $d$, was able to generate a singlet-spin, two-proton state coupled to unpolarized state with $\sim 10\%$ contribution. In this paper we will analyze the experimental results of this experiment and we will show that the effect of the unpolarized state is important and could not be neglected.

2 CHSH inequalities and entanglement in a mixed ensemble

Bell-type inequalities relating averages of four random dichotomic variables $a$, $a'$ and $b$, $b'$ representing measurements of spin in directions $\hat{a}$, $\hat{a}'$ and $\hat{b}$, $\hat{b}'$. The Clauser, Horne, Shimony and Holt (CHSH) [3] form of Bell-type inequalities for spin 1/2 case could be written in this form

$$|E(\phi_1, \phi_2)| = |E(\phi_1, \phi_2) + E(\phi_1, \phi_2') + E(\phi_1', \phi_2) - E(\phi_1', \phi_2')| \leq 2,$$

(1)

where $\phi_i$ is the analyzer angular setting for the $i^{th}$ particles ($i = 1, 2$) and $E(\phi_i, \phi_j)$ is the correlation function defined as

$$E(\phi_i, \phi_j) = \frac{N_{++} + N_{--} - N_{+-} - N_{-+}}{N_{\text{total}}}.$$

(2)

In quantum-theory language the CHSH operator corresponding to the CHSH inequality is represented by an operator

$$B = \hat{a} \cdot \sigma \otimes (\hat{b} + \hat{b}') \cdot \sigma + \hat{a}' \cdot \sigma \otimes (\hat{b} - \hat{b}') \cdot \sigma,$$

(3)

acting in Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$ in $2 \otimes 2$ dimension. The correlation function is given by the mean value of the operator $\hat{a} \sigma \otimes \hat{b} \sigma$. For a pure state this correlation function could be easily computed, e.g. for singlet state we have

$$E(\phi_i, \phi_j) = -\cos(\phi_i - \phi_j).$$

(4)

For mixed state, however, the mean value should be averaged over the ensemble and therefore the CHSH inequality not a sufficient condition to test the presence of entanglement[7]. Different measures of the entanglement have been proposed in the literature for mixed state$^1$, e.g. entanglement of formation, distillation, relative entropy of entanglement, negativity, etc... Here we will use the entanglement of formation as our measure of the entanglement.

$^1$Any measurement of the entanglement should not increase by local operation (e.g. unitary transformation) and classical communication (e.g. phone calls.), known as LOCC
In a mixed ensemble any bipartite quantum state $\rho_{AB}$ can be written as:

$$\rho_{AB} = \frac{1}{4} \left( I \otimes I + A \cdot \sigma \otimes I + I \otimes P \cdot \sigma + \sum_{i,j=1}^{3} D_{ij} \sigma_i \otimes \sigma_j \right). \quad (5)$$

$\sigma_i$ are the Pauli matrices, $I$ is the identity operator, $A$ and $P$ are vectors in $\mathbb{R}^3$. The $D_{ij}$ form a $3 \times 3$ matrix called the correlation matrix $D$. In this representation of the density matrix the mean value of the CHSH-Bell operator is given by [4]

$$\langle B \rangle = \hat{a} \cdot \left[ D(\hat{b} + \hat{b}') \right] + \hat{a}' \cdot \left[ D(\hat{b} - \hat{b}') \right]. \quad (6)$$

Using the representation of the density matrix given in Eq. (5), we characterize any bipartite quantum state $\rho_{AB}$ by

- The entanglement measured by the “tangle”, $\tau$, of the entanglement of formation [6] and defined by

  $$\tau = \max\{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2 - \lambda_3 - \lambda_4, 0\}, \quad (7)$$

  where the $\lambda$'s are the square roots of the eigenvalues, in decreasing order, of the matrix, $\rho_{AB}(\sigma_y \otimes \sigma_y \rho_{AB}^* \sigma_y \otimes \sigma_y)$ and $\rho_{AB}^*$ is the complex conjugation of $\rho_{AB}$ in the computational basis $\{|++\rangle, |+-\rangle, |-+\rangle, |--\rangle\}$.

- The maximum amount of the CHSH-Bell violation of the state $\rho_{AB}$ [4]

  $$\langle B \rangle_{max}^{\rho_{AB}} = 2\sqrt{M(\rho_{AB})}. \quad (8)$$

  $M(\rho_{AB})$ is the sum of the two larger eigenvalues of $DD^\dagger$. \footnote{In this case the directions $\hat{b}$ and $\hat{b}'$ of the analyser setting are equal to $\cos(\theta)c_{max}^2 + \sin(\theta)c_{max}'^2$ and the direction $\hat{a}$, $\hat{a}'$ are equal to $Dc_{max}^* \sqrt{\frac{||Dc_{max}||^2}{||Dc_{max}||}}$, $Dc_{max}'^2 \sqrt{\frac{||Dc_{max}'||^2}{||Dc_{max}'||}}$, respectively. $c_{max}$ and $c_{max}'$ are two unit (not unique) and mutually orthogonal vectors in $\mathbb{R}^3$ that maximize the function $||Dc||^2 + ||Dc'||^2$ (see Ref. [4] for more detail).}

- The purity of the state that measures how far the state is from pure state

  $$S_L = \text{Tr}(\rho_{AB}^2). \quad (9)$$

### 3 Analysis of the experimental data of the KVI experiment

The spin state of the two protons produced in the $^{12}\text{C}(d,^2\text{He})$ reaction at $E_d = 170$ MeV at KVI [5] is a singlet state mixed with the unpolarized (random contamination) state with $\gamma$ ($0 \leq \gamma \leq 1$) controlling the degree of mixing (the details of the experimental setup and analysis method of the $(d,^2\text{He})$ reaction
were described in detail in Ref. [5]). Given all that, we can write the density matrix of such state as

$$\rho_W = (1 - \gamma) \frac{I}{4} + \gamma |\Psi^-\rangle\langle\Psi^-|$$

which interpolates between the unpolarized state $I/4$ and singlet state $|\Psi^-\rangle = (|+\rangle - |--\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$. This class of states is called Werner states [7]. The purity of Werner states is a monotonic function of $\gamma$. Thus, in this paper we use $\gamma$ as our measure of purity. Also, for Werner state it is easy to prove using the condition noted above that

$$\langle B\rangle_{Werner}^{max} = \gamma \langle B\rangle_{pure}^{max}. \quad (11)$$

Note that, a violation of the modified Bell-inequality does not exclude an explanation with a hidden variable theory. In Fig. 1 we plot $\langle B\rangle_{Werner}^{max}$ and the tangle $\tau$ versus the purity $\gamma$. As we can see in this figure the Werner state does not violate the Bell inequality if its purity $\gamma$ is less than $1/\sqrt{2} \sim 70\%$. However, the entanglement is still non-zero in the Werner state until $\gamma > 1/3 \sim 33\%$. Therefore, some quantum correlation cannot be seen only...
Table 1: Experimental data and quantum theory predictions for a pure singlet states (case 1) and mixed Werner states (case 2) for several violating cases of the CHSH-Bell inequality according to the definition given in Eq. 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHSH-Bell Inequality</th>
<th>QM case 1</th>
<th>QM case 2</th>
<th>Exp. Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$E(50^\circ, 0^\circ, 25^\circ, 75^\circ)$</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>2.21</td>
<td>0.67±2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E(60^\circ, 0^\circ, 30^\circ, 90^\circ)$</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>1.21±2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E(70^\circ, 0^\circ, 35^\circ, 105^\circ)$</td>
<td>2.72</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>1.54±2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E(80^\circ, 0^\circ, 40^\circ, 120^\circ)$</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>2.11±2.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E(90^\circ, 0^\circ, 45^\circ, 135^\circ)$</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>2.23±2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E(100^\circ, 0^\circ, 50^\circ, 150^\circ)$</td>
<td>2.79</td>
<td>2.51</td>
<td>2.39±2.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E(110^\circ, 0^\circ, 55^\circ, 165^\circ)$</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>2.58±2.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E(120^\circ, 0^\circ, 60^\circ, 180^\circ)$</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>2.75±2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\chi^2$</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

by measuring the violation of the Bell-type inequality because some of them (Werner states) are entangled but still do not violate Bell inequality. Note that there is a possible experimental measurement of the entanglement based on the entanglement witness [8] that we think to implement in the future experiment.

In Tab. 1 we compare the quantum theory predictions assuming a pure singlet state (case 1) and mixed Werner states (case 2) for the spin of the two detected protons for several violating cases of the CHSH-Bell inequality. The value of $\chi^2 = \sum_i \left( \frac{R_i - R_{i,exp}}{\Delta R_{i,exp}} \right)^2$ is given in the bottom of the table for both cases. We have found that $\chi^2_{\text{Werner}} < \chi^2_{\text{Singlet}}$ as expected. However, we cannot judge this result as evidence of the mixing of the singlet with the unpolarized state because the experimental data suffer from large errors.

4 Conclusion

In this paper we have discussed the effect of the unpolarized state in the spin correlations measurement of the $^1S_0$ two proton state produced in $^{12}$C($^3$He, $^2$He) reaction at KVI. We have shown that even a small coupling (less than 10%) of the pure singlet state with the unpolarized state changes dramatically the Bell-violation value. After introducing the contribution of the unpolarized state we have found a better $\chi^2$. The experimental results are suffering from a large statistical error and therefore not conclusive for testing Bell’s inequality, but with a modified experimental setup, measurements with significantly improved precision will become feasible.
Acknowledgments

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