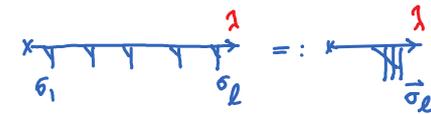
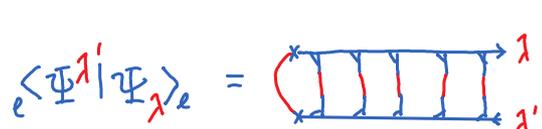
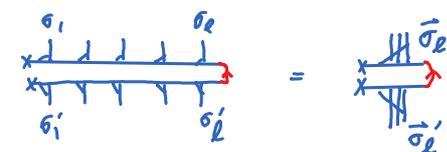


1. Basis change

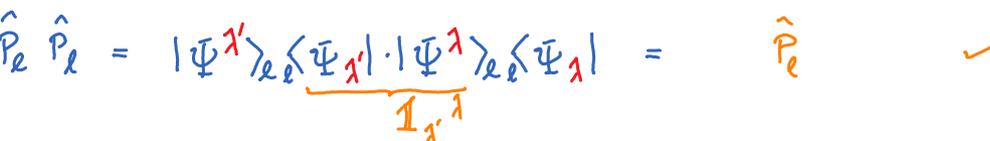
Recall: a set of MPS $|\Psi_\lambda\rangle_e = |\vec{\sigma}_e\rangle [A^{\sigma_1} \dots A^{\sigma_\ell}]'_\lambda =$  (1)
 specified by given left-normalized tensors

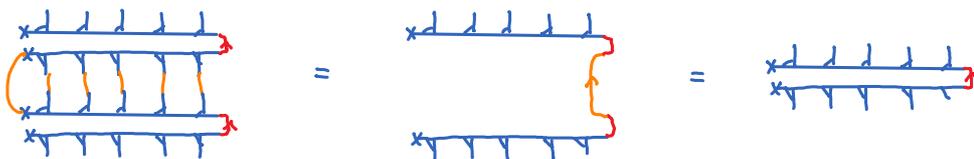
defines an orthonormal basis for a state space $V_e = \text{span}\{|\Psi_\lambda\rangle_e\} \subseteq V_1 \otimes V_2 \otimes \dots \otimes V_\ell =: V^{\otimes \ell}$ (2)

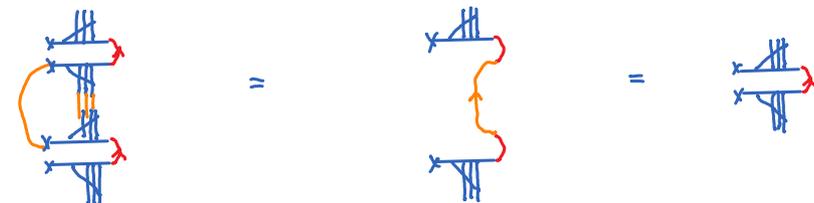
since $\langle \Psi^{\lambda'} | \Psi^\lambda \rangle_e =$  =  (3)

Projector onto V_e : $\hat{P}_e = |\Psi^\lambda\rangle_e \langle \Psi^\lambda| =$  (4)
 (sum over λ implied)

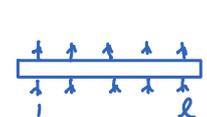
Indeed:

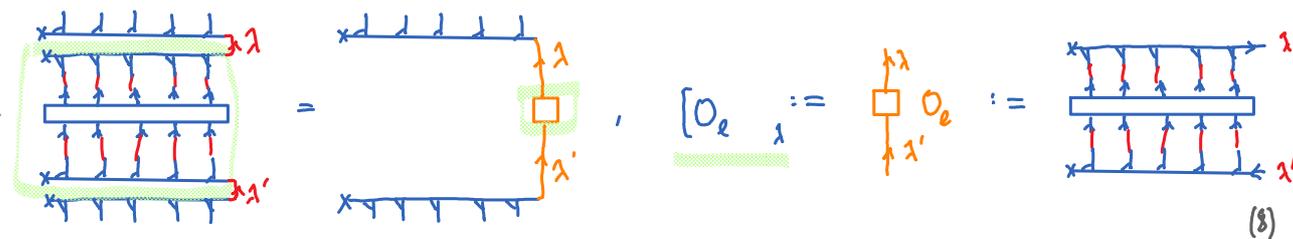
$\hat{P}_e \hat{P}_e = |\Psi^{\lambda'}\rangle_e \langle \Psi^{\lambda'}| \cdot |\Psi^\lambda\rangle_e \langle \Psi^\lambda| =$  (5)

$=$  (6a)

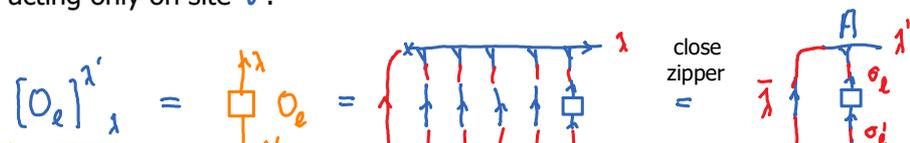
$=$  (6b)

Operators defined on $V_e^{\otimes \ell}$ can be mapped to V_e using these projectors:

$\hat{O} =$  $\xrightarrow{\hat{P}_e} \hat{O}_e =: \hat{P}_e \hat{O} \hat{P}_e =: |\Psi^{\lambda'}\rangle_e [O_e]_{\lambda'} \langle \Psi^\lambda|$ (7)

$\hat{O}_e =$  (8)

Simplest case: 1-site operator acting only on site ℓ :

$\hat{o}_\ell =$  , $[O_e]_{\lambda'} =$  (9)

$$\hat{O}_e = \uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow, \quad [O_e]^{\lambda'}_{\lambda} = \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square O_e \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \left[\begin{array}{c} \uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow \\ \square \\ \uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow \end{array} \right] \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{zipper} \\ \uparrow\bar{\lambda} \\ \left[\begin{array}{c} \uparrow\sigma_e \\ \square \\ \uparrow\sigma_e \end{array} \right] \\ A^\dagger \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \quad (9)$$

During iterative diagonalization, the space \mathbb{V}_ℓ is constructed through a sequence of isometric maps: (possibly involving truncation)

Each $\frac{A}{V}$ defines an isometric map to a new (possibly smaller) basis:

$$A_\ell: \mathbb{V}_\ell \otimes \mathbb{V}_{\ell-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{V}_\ell, \quad \begin{array}{c} \times \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \times \\ \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \\ \sigma_1 \quad \sigma_{\ell-1} \quad \sigma_\ell \\ \times \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \times \end{array} \xrightarrow{A} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \xrightarrow{A} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \quad (10)$$

old basis $|\sigma_\ell\rangle |\Psi_{\lambda'}\rangle_{\ell-1}$ \mapsto new basis $|\Psi_\lambda\rangle_\ell = |\sigma_\ell\rangle |\Psi_{\lambda'}\rangle_{\ell-1}$

Each such map also induces a transformation of operators defined on its domain of definition. It is useful to have a graphical depiction for how operators transform under such maps.

Consider an operator defined on $\mathbb{V}^{\otimes(\ell-1)}$, represented on $\mathbb{V}_{\ell-1}$ by $\hat{O}_{\ell-1} = \hat{P}_{\ell-1} \hat{O} \hat{P}_{\ell-1}$ (11)

What is its representation on \mathbb{V}_ℓ ? $\hat{O} = \hat{O}_{\ell-1} \otimes \mathbb{1}_\ell = \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow \\ \uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow \end{array} \uparrow$ (12)

$$\hat{O}_\ell = \begin{array}{c} \times \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \times \\ \times \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \times \\ \times \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \times \\ \times \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \times \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \times \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \times \\ \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \\ O_{\ell-1} \\ \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \\ \times \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \times \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array}, \quad [O_\ell]^{\lambda'}_{\lambda} := \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square O_e \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} := \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\bar{\lambda} \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \quad (13)$$

Explicitly: $[O_\ell]^{\lambda'}_{\lambda} = A^\dagger \uparrow\lambda' \bar{\sigma}_e \bar{\lambda}' [O_{\ell-1}]^{\bar{\lambda}'}_{\bar{\lambda}} A \bar{\lambda} \sigma_e \lambda$ (14)

Similarly, for operator with non-trivial action also on site: $\hat{O}_\ell = \hat{O}_{\ell-1} \otimes \hat{O}_\ell = \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow \\ \uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \square \\ \uparrow \end{array}$ (15)

Just replace \uparrow by $\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \square \\ \uparrow \end{array}$ in (9):

$$[O_\ell]^{\lambda'}_{\lambda} := \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square O_e \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} := \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\bar{\lambda} \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} =: \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\bar{\lambda} \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\bar{\lambda} \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} := \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\bar{\lambda} \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \quad (16)$$

$$= A^\dagger \uparrow\lambda' \bar{\sigma}_e \bar{\lambda}' [O_{\ell-1}]^{\bar{\lambda}'}_{\bar{\lambda}} [O_\ell]^{\sigma_e'}_{\sigma_e} A \bar{\lambda} \sigma_e \lambda = [O_{\ell-1}]^{\bar{\lambda}'}_{\bar{\lambda}} [\tilde{O}_\ell]^{\bar{\lambda}'}_{\bar{\lambda}} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow\lambda \\ \square \\ \uparrow\lambda' \end{array} \quad (17)$$

Thus, the isometry A maps the local operator into an effective basis associated with $\mathbb{V}_{\ell-1}$, and \mathbb{V}_ℓ

2. Iterative diagonalization



Consider spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ chain:
$$\hat{H}^N = \sum_{\ell=1}^L \hat{S}_\ell \cdot \vec{h}_\ell + J \sum_{\ell=2}^L \hat{S}_\ell \cdot \hat{S}_{\ell-1} \quad (1)$$

For later convenience, we write the spin-spin interaction in covariant (up/down index) notation:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{S}_\ell \cdot \hat{S}_{\ell-1} &= \hat{S}_\ell^x \hat{S}_{\ell-1}^x + \hat{S}_\ell^y \hat{S}_{\ell-1}^y + \hat{S}_\ell^z \hat{S}_{\ell-1}^z \\ &= \hat{S}_\ell^+ \hat{S}_{\ell-1}^- + \hat{S}_\ell^- \hat{S}_{\ell-1}^+ + \hat{S}_\ell^z \hat{S}_{\ell-1}^z = \hat{S}_\ell^{t_a} \hat{S}_{\ell-1}^a \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

covariant index combination, sum on $\alpha \in \{+, -, z\}$ implied!

where we defined the operator triplets
$$\hat{S}_a \in \{\hat{S}_+, \hat{S}_-, \hat{S}_z\}, \quad \hat{S}^{t_a} \in \{\hat{S}^{t_+}, \hat{S}^{t_-}, \hat{S}^{t_z}\} \quad (2)$$

with components
$$\hat{S}_z := \hat{S}^{t_z} = \hat{S}^z, \quad \hat{S}_\pm := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{S}^x \pm i\hat{S}^y) =: \hat{S}^{t_\mp} \quad (4)$$

In the basis $\{|\vec{\sigma}_\ell\rangle\} = \{|\sigma_\ell\rangle \dots |\sigma_2\rangle |\sigma_1\rangle\}$, the Hamiltonian can be expressed as

$$\hat{H}^{\vec{\sigma}} = |\vec{\sigma}\rangle H^{\vec{\sigma}}_{\vec{\sigma}} \langle \vec{\sigma}| \quad (5)$$

'no hat' means 'matrix representation'

$H^{\vec{\sigma}}_{\vec{\sigma}}$ is a linear map acting on a direct product space: $V^{\otimes L} := V_1 \otimes V_2 \otimes \dots \otimes V_L$

where V_ℓ is the 2-dimensional representation space of site ℓ .

$\hat{H}^{\vec{\sigma}}$ is a sum of single-site and two-site terms.

On-site terms:
$$\hat{S}_{a\ell} = |\sigma'_\ell\rangle (S_a)^{\sigma'_\ell \sigma_\ell} \langle \sigma_\ell| \quad (6)$$

Matrix representation in V_ℓ :
$$(S_a)^{\sigma'_\ell \sigma_\ell} = \langle \sigma'_\ell | \hat{S}_{a\ell} | \sigma_\ell \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} (S_a)^{\uparrow \uparrow} & (S_a)^{\uparrow \downarrow} \\ (S_a)^{\downarrow \uparrow} & (S_a)^{\downarrow \downarrow} \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$S_+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_- = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_z = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

Nearest-neighbor interactions, acting on direct product space, $|\sigma_\ell\rangle \otimes |\sigma_{\ell-1}\rangle$:

$$\hat{S}_\ell^{t_a} \otimes \hat{S}_{\ell-1}^a = |\sigma'_\ell\rangle |\sigma'_{\ell-1}\rangle (S_a)^{\sigma'_{\ell-1} \sigma_{\ell-1}} (S^{t_a})^{\sigma'_\ell \sigma_\ell} \langle \sigma_{\ell-1}| \langle \sigma_\ell| \quad (9)$$

Matrix representation in $V_{\ell-1} \otimes V_\ell$:
$$S^{\sigma'_{\ell-1} \sigma_{\ell-1} \sigma'_\ell \sigma_\ell} \quad (8)$$

We define the 3-leg tensors $\mathcal{S} \leftarrow \mathcal{S}^+$ with index placements matching those of A tensors for wavefunctions:

$$\dots \alpha_{l-1} \dots \alpha_l \dots$$

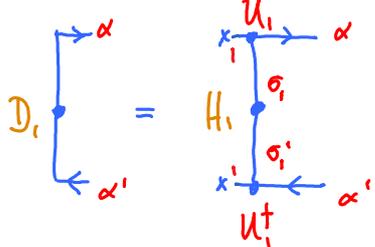
We define the 3-leg tensors S, S^\dagger with index placements matching those of A tensors for wavefunctions: incoming upstairs, outgoing downstairs (fly in, roll out), with a (by convention) as middle index.

Diagonalize site 1

Matrix acting on v_i :

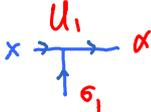
$$H_i = \underbrace{S_{a_1}^\dagger}_{\text{chain of length 1}} \cdot \underbrace{h_i^a}_{\text{site index: } l=i} = U_i D_i U_i^\dagger \quad (10)$$


$D_i = U_i^\dagger H_i U_i$ is diagonal, with matrix elements

$$(D_i)^{\alpha'}_{\alpha} = (U_i^\dagger)^{\alpha'}_{\sigma_i'} (H_i)^{\sigma_i'}_{\sigma_i} (U_i)^{\sigma_i}_{\alpha} \quad (11)$$


Eigenvectors of the matrix H_i are given by column vectors of the matrix $(U_i)^{\sigma_i}_{\alpha}$:

Eigenstates of operator \hat{H}_i are given by: $|\alpha\rangle = |\sigma_i\rangle (U_i)^{\sigma_i}_{\alpha}$ (13)

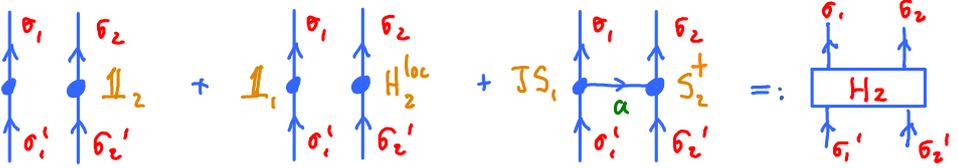


Add site 2

Diagonalize H_2 in enlarged Hilbert space, $\mathcal{H}_{(2)} = \text{span}\{|\sigma_2\rangle|\sigma_1\rangle\}$ (14)

Matrix acting on $v_i \otimes v_2$:
$$H_2 = \underbrace{\vec{S}_1 \cdot \vec{h}_1}_{H_1^{loc}} \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 + \mathbb{1}_1 \otimes \underbrace{\vec{S}_2 \cdot \vec{h}_2}_{H_2^{loc}} + \underbrace{J S_{a_1} \otimes S_2^a}_{H_{12}^{loc}} \quad (15)$$

Matrix representation in $v_i \otimes v_2$ corresponding to 'local' basis, $\{|\sigma_2\rangle|\sigma_1\rangle\}$:

$$H_2^{\sigma_1', \sigma_2'}_{\sigma_1, \sigma_2} = H_1^{loc} + \mathbb{1}_1 + H_2^{loc} + JS_1 =: H_2 \quad (16)$$


We seek matrix representation in $v_i \otimes v_2$ corresponding to enlarged, 'site-1-diagonal' basis, defined as

$$|\tilde{\alpha}\rangle \equiv |\alpha\sigma_2\rangle \equiv |\sigma_2\rangle|\alpha\rangle = |\sigma_2\rangle|\sigma_1\rangle U_{\alpha}^{\sigma_1} \quad \alpha \rightarrow \tilde{\alpha} = \begin{matrix} \mathbb{1} \\ \uparrow \\ \sigma_1 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} U_1 \alpha \mathbb{1} \\ \uparrow \\ \sigma_2 \end{matrix} \tilde{\alpha} \quad (17)$$

$$\hat{H}_2 = |\tilde{\alpha}\rangle H_2^{\tilde{\alpha}'} \langle \tilde{\alpha} |, \quad H_2^{\tilde{\alpha}'}_{\alpha} = \langle \tilde{\alpha}' | \hat{H}_2 | \tilde{\alpha} \rangle = \langle \tilde{\alpha}' | \sigma_1', \sigma_2' \rangle H_2^{\sigma_1', \sigma_2'} \langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2 | \tilde{\alpha} \rangle$$

To this end, attach U_i^\dagger, U_i to in/out legs of site 1, and $\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}$ to in/out legs of site 2:

$$\dots \tilde{\alpha} \quad U_i \alpha \mathbb{1} \quad \tilde{\alpha}' \quad U_i \alpha \mathbb{1} \quad \tilde{\alpha} \quad U_i \alpha \mathbb{1} \quad \dots$$

To this end, attach u_1, u_1^\dagger to in/out legs of site 1, and u_2, u_2^\dagger to in/out legs of site 2.

(18)

First term is already diagonal. But other terms are not.

Now diagonalize H_2 in this enlarged basis: $H_2 = U_2 D_2 U_2^\dagger$ (19)

$D_2 = U_2^\dagger H_2 U_2$ is diagonal, with matrix elements

$$D_2^{\beta' \beta} = (U_2^\dagger)^{\beta' \tilde{\alpha}'} (H_2)^{\tilde{\alpha} \tilde{\alpha}'} (U_2)^{\tilde{\alpha} \beta}$$

(20)

Eigenvectors of matrix H_2 are given by column vectors of the matrix $(U_2)^{\tilde{\alpha} \beta} = (U_2)^{\alpha \sigma_2 \beta}$:

Eigenstates of the operator \hat{H}_2 :

$$|\beta\rangle = |\tilde{\alpha}\rangle (U_2)^{\tilde{\alpha} \beta} = |\sigma_2\rangle |\alpha\rangle (U_2)^{\alpha \sigma_2 \beta} = |\sigma_2\rangle |\sigma_1\rangle (U_1)^{\sigma_1 \alpha} (U_2)^{\alpha \sigma_2 \beta} \quad (21)$$

$$\rightarrow \beta = \alpha \xrightarrow{\sigma_2} \beta = \alpha \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} \alpha \xrightarrow{\sigma_2} \beta \quad (22)$$

Add site 3

Transform each term involving new site into the 'enlarged, site-12-diagonal basis', defined as

$$|\tilde{\beta}\rangle \equiv |\beta \sigma_3\rangle \equiv |\sigma_3\rangle |\beta\rangle \quad \beta \xrightarrow{\sigma_3} \tilde{\beta} = \alpha \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} \alpha \xrightarrow{\sigma_2} \beta \quad (23)$$

For example, spin-spin interaction, H_{32}^{int} :

Local basis:

enlarged, site-12-diagonal basis:

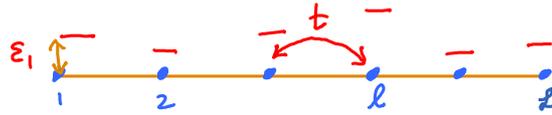
(24)

Then diagonalize in this basis: $H_3 = U_3 D_3 U_3^\dagger$, etc. (25)

At each iteration, Hilbert space grows by a factor of 2. Eventually, truncations will be needed...!

3. Spinless fermions

Consider tight-binding chain of spinless fermions:



$$\hat{H} = \sum_{l=1}^z \epsilon_l \hat{c}_l^\dagger \hat{c}_l + \sum_{l=2}^z t_l (\hat{c}_l^\dagger \hat{c}_{l-1} + \hat{c}_{l-1}^\dagger \hat{c}_l) \quad (1)$$

Goal: find matrix representation for this Hamiltonian, acting in direct product space $V_1 \otimes V_2 \otimes \dots \otimes V_z$, while respecting fermionic minus signs:

$$\{\hat{c}_l, \hat{c}_{l'}\} = 0, \quad \{\hat{c}_l^\dagger, \hat{c}_{l'}^\dagger\} = 0, \quad \{\hat{c}_l^\dagger, \hat{c}_{l'}\} = \delta_{ll'} \quad (2)$$

First consider a single site (dropping the site index l):

Hilbert space: $\text{span}\{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$, local index: $n = \sigma \in \{0, 1\}$ (local occupancy)

$$\text{Operator action: } \hat{c}^\dagger |0\rangle = |1\rangle, \quad \hat{c}^\dagger |1\rangle = 0 \quad (3a)$$

$$\hat{c} |0\rangle = 0, \quad \hat{c} |1\rangle = |0\rangle \quad (3b)$$

The operators $\hat{c}^\dagger = |\sigma'\rangle \langle \sigma|$ and $\hat{c} = |\sigma\rangle \langle \sigma'|$

$$\text{have matrix representations in } V: \quad C^{\dagger \sigma'}_{\sigma} = \langle \sigma' | \hat{c}^\dagger | \sigma \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \langle 0 | & \langle 1 | \\ \langle 0 | & \langle 1 | \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} |0\rangle & |1\rangle \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad C^{\dagger \uparrow}_{\downarrow} \quad (4a)$$

$$C^{\sigma'}_{\sigma} = \langle \sigma' | \hat{c} | \sigma \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad C^{\downarrow}_{\uparrow} \quad (4b)$$

Shorthand: we write $\hat{c}^\dagger \doteq C^\dagger, \hat{c} \doteq C$ where \doteq means 'is represented by'

lower case denotes operator in Fock space upper case denotes matrix in 2-dim space V

$$\text{Check: } C^\dagger C + C C^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbb{1} \quad (5)$$

$$C^\dagger C^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad C C = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (6)$$

For the number operator, $\hat{n} := \hat{c}^\dagger \hat{c}$ the matrix representation in V reads:

$$n := C^\dagger C = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2}(1 - Z) \quad (7)$$

$$\text{where } Z := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ is representation of } \hat{z} = 1 - 2\hat{n} = (-1)^{\hat{n}} \quad (8)$$

$$\text{Useful relations: } \hat{c} \hat{z} = -\hat{z} \hat{c}, \quad \hat{c}^\dagger \hat{z} = -\hat{z} \hat{c}^\dagger \quad (9)$$

'commuting \hat{c} or \hat{c}^\dagger past \hat{z} produces a sign'

[exercise: check this algebraically, using matrix representations!]

Intuitive reason: \hat{c} and \hat{c}^\dagger both change \hat{n} -eigenvalue by one, hence change sign of $(-1)^{\hat{n}}$.

For example:
$$\hat{c}^\dagger (-1)^{\hat{n}} = \hat{c}^\dagger = -(-1)^{\hat{n}} \hat{c}^\dagger \tag{10a}$$
 non-zero only when acting on $|0\rangle = (-1)^0 = 1$ $= (-1)^1 = -1$

Similarly:
$$\hat{c} (-1)^{\hat{n}} = -\hat{c} = -(-1)^{\hat{n}} \hat{c} \tag{10b}$$
 non-zero only when acting on $|1\rangle = (-1)^1 = -1$ $= (-1)^0 = 1$

Now consider a chain of spinless fermions:

Complication: fermionic operators on different sites anticommute: $c_l c_{l'} = -c_{l'} c_l$ for $l \neq l'$

Hilbert space: $\text{span} \{ |\vec{n}\rangle_{\mathcal{L}} = |n_1, n_2, \dots, n_{\mathcal{L}}\rangle \}$, $n_i \in \{0, 1\}$ (11)

Define canonical ordering for fully filled state:

$$|n_1=1, n_2=1, \dots, n_{\mathcal{L}}=1\rangle = c_{\mathcal{L}}^\dagger \dots c_1^\dagger c_1 |vac\rangle \tag{12}$$

Now consider:

$$c_1^\dagger |n_1=0, n_2=1\rangle = \hat{c}_1^\dagger \hat{c}_2^\dagger |vac\rangle = -\hat{c}_2^\dagger \hat{c}_1^\dagger |vac\rangle = -|n_1=1, n_2=1\rangle \tag{13}$$

To keep track of such signs, matrix representations in $V_1 \otimes V_2$ need extra 'sign counters', tracking fermion numbers:

$$c_1^\dagger = c_1^\dagger \otimes (-1)^{n_2} = c_1^\dagger \otimes z_2 \tag{14}$$

$$c_2^\dagger = \mathbb{1}_1 \otimes c_2^\dagger =: c_2^\dagger \tag{15}$$

(shorthand: omit unity)

Here \otimes denotes a direct product operation; the order (space 1, space 2, ...) matches that of the indices on the corresponding tensors: $A^{G_1 G_2 \dots}$

Check whether $\hat{c}_1^\dagger \hat{c}_2^\dagger = -\hat{c}_2^\dagger \hat{c}_1^\dagger$? (16)

$$\begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \otimes \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \stackrel{(14,15)}{=} \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \otimes \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \stackrel{(9)}{=} \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \otimes \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \stackrel{(9)}{=} \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \otimes \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \tag{17}$$

Algebraically:

$$c_1^\dagger c_2^\dagger = \dots \tag{14} \quad c_2^\dagger c_1^\dagger = \dots \tag{9} \quad c_1^\dagger c_2^\dagger = -c_2^\dagger c_1^\dagger$$

$$= \mathbb{1} \uparrow \mathbb{1} \uparrow \dots \mathbb{1} \uparrow c \uparrow c^\dagger \uparrow \mathbb{1} \uparrow \dots \mathbb{1} \uparrow \quad (27)$$

since at site l we have $z_l z_l = \mathbb{1}_l$, $\xrightarrow{(10a)} c_l^\dagger z_l = c_l^\dagger$, (28)

non-zero only when acting on $|\dots, n_l = 0, \dots\rangle$,
and in this subspace, $z_l = i$

Conclusion: $\hat{c}_l^\dagger c_{l-1} \doteq c_l^\dagger c_{l-1}$ and similarly, $\hat{c}_{l-1}^\dagger \hat{c}_l \doteq c_{l-1}^\dagger c_l$ (29)
[using (10b)]

Hence, the hopping terms end up looking as though fermions carry no signs at all.

For spinful fermions, this will be different.

4. Spinful fermions

Consider chain of spinful fermions. Site index: $l = 1, \dots, L$, spin index: $s \in \{\uparrow, \downarrow\} := \{+, -\}$

$$\{\hat{c}_{ls}, \hat{c}_{l's'}\} = 0, \quad \{\hat{c}_{ls}^\dagger, \hat{c}_{l's'}^\dagger\} = 0, \quad \{\hat{c}_{ls}^\dagger, \hat{c}_{l's'}\} = \delta_{ll'} \delta_{ss'} \quad (1)$$

Define canonical order for fully filled state: $\hat{c}_{N\downarrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{N\uparrow}^\dagger \dots \hat{c}_{2\downarrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{1\downarrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{1\uparrow}^\dagger |Vac\rangle$ (2)

First consider a single site (dropping the index l):

Hilbert space: $= \text{span}\{|0\rangle, |\downarrow\rangle, |\uparrow\rangle, |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle\}$, local index: $\sigma \in \{0, \downarrow, \uparrow, \uparrow\downarrow\}$ (3)

constructed via: $|0\rangle \equiv |Vac\rangle, \quad |\downarrow\rangle \equiv \hat{c}_\downarrow^\dagger |0\rangle,$ (4)

$$|\uparrow\rangle \equiv \hat{c}_\uparrow^\dagger |0\rangle, \quad |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle \equiv \hat{c}_\downarrow^\dagger \hat{c}_\uparrow^\dagger |0\rangle = \hat{c}_\downarrow^\dagger |\uparrow\rangle = -\hat{c}_\uparrow^\dagger |\downarrow\rangle$$
 (5)

To deal with minus signs, introduce $\hat{z}_s := (-1)^{\hat{n}_s} = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \hat{n}_s)$ $s \in \{\uparrow, \downarrow\}$ (6)

$\hat{z}_s \leftarrow \hat{c}_s^\dagger \hat{c}_s$

We seek a matrix representation of $\hat{c}_s^\dagger, \hat{c}_s, \hat{z}_s$ in direct product space $\tilde{V} := V_\uparrow \otimes V_\downarrow$. (7)

(Matrices acting in this space will carry tildes.)

$$\hat{z}_\uparrow \doteq z_\uparrow \otimes \mathbb{1}_\downarrow = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1(1) & 0(1) \\ 0(1) & -1(1) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{pmatrix} =: \tilde{z}_\uparrow$$
 (8)

$$\hat{z}_\downarrow \doteq \mathbb{1}_\uparrow \otimes z_\downarrow = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \\ & & 1 \\ & & & -1 \end{pmatrix} =: \tilde{z}_\downarrow$$
 (9)

$$\hat{z}_\uparrow \hat{z}_\downarrow \doteq z_\uparrow \otimes z_\downarrow = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & -1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & -1 \end{pmatrix} =: \tilde{z}$$
 (10)

$$\hat{c}_\uparrow^\dagger \doteq c_\uparrow^\dagger \otimes z_\downarrow = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} & 1 & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ 1 & & & \end{pmatrix} =: \tilde{c}_\uparrow^\dagger$$

$$\hat{c}_\uparrow \doteq c_\uparrow \otimes z_\downarrow = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \end{pmatrix} =: \tilde{c}_\uparrow$$
 (11)

$$\hat{c}_\downarrow^\dagger \doteq \mathbb{1}_\uparrow \otimes c_\downarrow^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & & \\ 1 & 0 & & \\ & & 0 & 0 \\ & & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} =: \tilde{c}_\downarrow^\dagger$$
 (12)

$$\hat{c}_\downarrow \doteq \mathbb{1}_\uparrow \otimes c_\downarrow = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \end{pmatrix} =: \tilde{c}_\downarrow$$
 (12)

