

Consider the following eigenstates of a hypothetical quantum system.

$$\begin{aligned}
 |00\rangle &= (1\ 0\ 0\ 0)^\dagger && \text{no fermions} \\
 |10\rangle &= (0\ 1\ 0\ 0)^\dagger && \text{one fermion in state } \phi_1 \\
 |01\rangle &= (0\ 0\ 1\ 0)^\dagger && \text{one fermion in state } \phi_2 \\
 |11\rangle &= (0\ 0\ 0\ 1)^\dagger && \text{two fermions, one in state } \phi_1, \text{ one in state } \phi_2
 \end{aligned}$$

Let fermion states ϕ_n be modeled by a one dimensional box of length L .

$$\phi_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

Creation and annihilation operators are formed from outer products of state vectors. Sign changes make the operators antisymmetric.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{b}_1^\dagger &= |10\rangle\langle 00| - |11\rangle\langle 01| && \text{Create one fermion in state } \phi_1 \\
 \hat{b}_1 &= |00\rangle\langle 10| - |01\rangle\langle 11| && \text{Annihilate one fermion in state } \phi_1 \\
 \hat{b}_2^\dagger &= |01\rangle\langle 00| + |11\rangle\langle 10| && \text{Create one fermion in state } \phi_2 \\
 \hat{b}_2 &= |00\rangle\langle 01| + |10\rangle\langle 11| && \text{Annihilate one fermion in state } \phi_2
 \end{aligned}$$

Let \hat{r} be the position operator

$$\hat{r} = \sum_{n,m} r_{nm} \hat{b}_n^\dagger \hat{b}_m$$

where

$$r_{nm} = \int_0^L \phi_n^*(x) x \phi_m(x) dx$$

Note that for a one dimensional box

$$r_{nn} = \langle x \rangle = \frac{1}{2}L$$

Verify that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle 10|\hat{r}|10\rangle &= r_{11} \\
 \langle 10|\hat{r}|01\rangle &= r_{12} \\
 \langle 01|\hat{r}|10\rangle &= r_{21} \\
 \langle 01|\hat{r}|01\rangle &= r_{22}
 \end{aligned}$$