

Consider the following eigenstates of a hypothetical quantum system.¹

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

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.

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

Given the wavefunction operator

$$\hat{\psi} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{n,m} \phi_n(x)\phi_m(y)\hat{b}_n\hat{b}_m$$

show that

$$\hat{\psi}|11\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\phi_1(x)\phi_2(y) - \phi_1(y)\phi_2(x))|00\rangle$$

¹Adapted from problem 16.2.1 of “Quantum Mechanics for Scientists and Engineers.”
<https://ee.stanford.edu/~dabm/QMbook.html>