

## 6 Perturbation theory

**Definition 6.1. Model Hamiltonian.** The electronic Hamiltonian<sup>1</sup> can be expressed as the sum of a *zeroth order* or “*model*” Hamiltonian  $H_0$  and a *perturbation*  $V_c$ , known as the *fluctuation potential*. For well-behaved electronic systems, a common choice for the model Hamiltonian is the diagonal part of the Fock operator.

$$H_0 \equiv f_p^p \tilde{a}_p^p \quad V_c \equiv f_p^q (1 - \delta_p^q) \tilde{a}_q^p + \frac{1}{4} \bar{g}_{pq}^{rs} \tilde{a}_{rs}^{pq} \quad (6.1)$$

This choice of  $H_0$  brings the advantage that its eigenbasis is the standard basis of determinants.

$$H_0 \Phi = 0 \Phi \quad H_0 \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} = \mathcal{E}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} \quad \mathcal{E}_{q_1 \dots q_k}^{p_1 \dots p_k} \equiv \sum_{r=1}^k f_{p_r}^{q_r} - \sum_{r=1}^k f_{q_r}^{p_r} \quad (6.2)$$

In general the model Hamiltonian is chosen to make the matrix representation of  $H_c$  in the model eigenbasis diagonally dominant.<sup>2</sup> Our choice of  $H_0$  is appropriate for *weakly correlated systems*, where the reference determinant can be chosen to satisfy  $\langle \Phi | \Psi \rangle \gg \langle \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} | \Psi \rangle$  for all substituted determinants. In this context it is convenient to employ intermediate normalization for the wavefunction, which will be assumed from here on out.

**Definition 6.2. Perturbation theory.** *Perturbation theory* analyzes the polynomial order with which the wavefunction and its observables depend on the fluctuation potential. For this purpose, we define a continuous series of Hamiltonians  $H(\lambda) \equiv H_0 + \lambda V_c$  parametrized by a *strength parameter*  $\lambda$  that smoothly toggles between the model Hamiltonian at  $\lambda = 0$  to the exact one at  $\lambda = 1$ . The  $m^{\text{th}}$ -order contribution to a quantity  $X$  is then defined as the  $m^{\text{th}}$  coefficient in its Taylor series about  $\lambda = 0$ , denoted  $X^{(m)}$ . In particular, the wavefunction and correlation energy can be expanded as follows.

$$\Psi = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \Psi^{(m)} \quad E_c = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} E_c^{(m)} \quad \Psi^{(m)} \equiv \frac{1}{m!} \left. \frac{\partial^m \Psi(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda^m} \right|_{\lambda=0} \quad E_c^{(m)} \equiv \frac{1}{m!} \left. \frac{\partial^m E(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda^m} \right|_{\lambda=0} \quad H(\lambda) \Psi(\lambda) = E(\lambda) \Psi(\lambda) \quad (6.3)$$

The order(s) at which a term contributes to the wavefunction or energy provides one measure of its relative importance.

**Remark 6.1.** Projecting the Schrödinger equation by  $\Phi$  and using eq 6.2, along with intermediate normalization, implies

$$E_c = \langle \Phi | V_c | \Psi \rangle \quad \implies \quad E_c^{(m+1)} = \langle \Phi | V_c | \Psi^{(m)} \rangle \quad (6.4)$$

where the equation on the right follows from generalizing the energy expression to  $E(\lambda) = \langle \Phi | \lambda V_c | \Psi(\lambda) \rangle$ . In words, this says that the  $m^{\text{th}}$ -order wavefunction contribution determines the  $(m+1)^{\text{th}}$ -order energy contribution. This immediately identifies the first-order energy as  $E_c^{(1)} = \langle \Phi | V_c | \Phi \rangle = 0$ , since  $V_c$  consists of  $\Phi$ -normal-ordered operators.

**Definition 6.3. Model space projection operator.** The projection onto the reference determinant,  $P = |\Phi\rangle\langle\Phi|$ , is termed the *model space projection operator*. Its complement is the *orthogonal space projection operator*.<sup>3</sup>

$$Q \equiv 1_n - P = \sum_k \left( \frac{1}{k!} \right)^2 \sum_{\substack{a_1 \dots a_k \\ i_1 \dots i_k}} |\Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}\rangle \langle \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}| \quad (6.5)$$

Note that  $P$  and  $Q$  satisfy the following relationships, which are characteristic of complementary projection operators.

$$P + Q = 1_n \quad P^2 = P \quad Q^2 = Q \quad PQ = QP = 0 \quad (6.6)$$

Due to intermediate normalization, we also have that  $P\Psi = \Phi$  and  $Q\Psi = \Psi - \Phi$ .

**Definition 6.4. Resolvent.** The *resolvent*,  $R_0 \equiv (-H_0)^{-1}Q$ , is the negative<sup>4</sup> inverse of  $H_0$  in the orthogonal space.

$$R_0 \Phi = 0 \Phi \quad R_0 \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} = (\mathcal{E}_{a_1 \dots a_k}^{i_1 \dots i_k})^{-1} \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} \quad R_0 = \sum_k \left( \frac{1}{k!} \right)^2 \sum_{\substack{a_1 \dots a_k \\ i_1 \dots i_k}} \frac{|\Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}\rangle \langle \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}|}{\mathcal{E}_{a_1 \dots a_k}^{i_1 \dots i_k}} \quad (6.7)$$

The equation on the right is the spectral decomposition of the resolvent.<sup>5</sup> Restriction to the orthogonal space is necessary because  $H_0$  is singular in the model space, which means that  $H_0^{-1}$  does not exist there.

<sup>1</sup>For the sake of brevity I will here refer to  $H_c$  as “the electronic Hamiltonian”. We could also use  $H_e = E_0 + H_c$ , which will simply shift some of the equations by a constant.

<sup>2</sup>See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diagonally\\_dominant\\_matrix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diagonally_dominant_matrix).

<sup>3</sup> $1_n \equiv 1|_{\mathcal{F}_n}$  is the identity on  $\mathcal{F}_n$ , which is equivalent to a projection onto this subspace. For our purposes, this is the identity.

<sup>4</sup>The annoying sign factor is required for consistency with  $R(\zeta) \equiv (\zeta - H_0)^{-1}Q$ , which is a more general definition of the resolvent.

<sup>5</sup>This follows from the eigenvalue equations, but you can derive it explicitly by substituting equation 6.5 into  $R_0 = (-H_0)^{-1}Q$ .

**Remark 6.2. A recursive solution to the Schrödinger equation.** Operating  $R_0$  on  $H(\lambda)\Psi(\lambda) = E(\lambda)\Psi(\lambda)$  gives<sup>6</sup>

$$\Psi(\lambda) = \Phi + R_0(\lambda V_c - E(\lambda))\Psi(\lambda) \quad (6.8)$$

which provides a recursive equation for  $\Psi(\lambda)$  that can be used to solve for wavefunction contributions order by order.

**Example 6.1.** The first two derivatives of equation 6.8 are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \Psi(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} &= R_0 \left( V_c - \frac{\partial E(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} \right) \Psi(\lambda) + R_0(\lambda V_c - E(\lambda)) \frac{\partial \Psi(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} \\ \frac{\partial^2 \Psi(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda^2} &= -R_0 \frac{\partial^2 E(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda^2} \Psi(\lambda) + 2R_0 \left( V_c - \frac{\partial E(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} \right) \frac{\partial \Psi(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} + R_0(\lambda V_c - E(\lambda)) \frac{\partial^2 \Psi(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda^2} \end{aligned}$$

which can be used to determine the first- and second-order wavefunction contributions.

$$\Psi^{(1)} = \left. \frac{\partial \Psi(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} \right|_{\lambda=0} = R_0 V_c \Phi \quad \Psi^{(2)} = \left. \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda^2} \right|_{\lambda=0} = R_0 V_c \Psi^{(1)} = R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi \quad (6.9)$$

Here we have used  $E_c^{(0)} = E_c^{(1)} = 0$  and  $R_0 \Phi = 0$  to simplify the result.

**Example 6.2.** Plugging in the spectral decomposition for  $R_0$  allows us to expand  $\Psi^{(1)}$  in the determinant basis.

$$\Psi^{(1)} = R_0 V_c \Phi = \sum_i \Phi_i^a \frac{\langle \Phi_i^a | V_c | \Phi \rangle}{\mathcal{E}_a^i} + \left( \frac{1}{2!} \right)^2 \sum_{ij} \Phi_{ij}^{ab} \frac{\langle \Phi_{ij}^{ab} | V_c | \Phi \rangle}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij}} \quad (6.10)$$

The expansion truncates at double excitations because the maximum excitation level of  $V_c$  is +2.

**Example 6.3.** The numerators in example 6.2 are easily evaluated using Slater's rules, which leads to the following.

$$\Psi^{(1)} = \sum_i \Phi_i^a \frac{f_a^i}{\mathcal{E}_a^i} + \left( \frac{1}{2!} \right)^2 \sum_{ab} \Phi_{ij}^{ab} \frac{\bar{g}_{ab}^{ij}}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad E_c^{(2)} = \langle \Phi | V_c | \Psi^{(1)} \rangle = \sum_i \frac{f_a^i f_a^i}{\mathcal{E}_a^i} + \left( \frac{1}{2!} \right)^2 \sum_{ab} \frac{\bar{g}_{ij}^{ab} \bar{g}_{ab}^{ij}}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij}}$$

Note that the singles contribution vanishes for canonical Hartree-Fock references, since  $f_a^i = 0$ . These extra terms are required for non-canonical orbitals, such as those obtained from restricted open-shell Hartree-Fock (ROHF) theory.

**Definition 6.5. Resolvent line.** We can generalize our previous definition of the *resolvent line* as follows

$$\vdots Y \equiv \sum_k \left( \frac{1}{k!} \right)^2 \sum_{\substack{a_1 \dots a_k \\ i_1 \dots i_k}} \frac{y_{a_1 \dots a_k}^{i_1 \dots i_k} \tilde{a}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}}{\mathcal{E}_{a_1 \dots a_k}^{i_1 \dots i_k}} \quad Y = Y_{n \rightarrow n} + Y_{n \nrightarrow n} \quad Y_{n \rightarrow n} = y_0 + \sum_k \left( \frac{1}{k!} \right)^2 \sum_{\substack{p_1 \dots p_k \\ q_1 \dots q_k}} y_{p_1 \dots p_k}^{q_1 \dots q_k} \tilde{a}_{q_1 \dots q_k}^{p_1 \dots p_k} \quad (6.11)$$

where  $Y$  is an arbitrary operator. The last equation is the Wick expansion of  $Y_{n \rightarrow n}$ , which denotes the purely particle-number-conserving part<sup>7</sup> of  $Y$ . This definition immediately implies  $\vdots |\Psi\rangle = R_0 |\Psi\rangle$  for all  $\Psi$ .<sup>8</sup> Other expressions are defined by giving resolvent lines priority in the order of operations, with maximum priority given to the rightmost resolvent.

$$Y_1 \vdots Y_2 \dots \vdots Y_n \equiv Y_1 (\vdots Y_2 (\dots (\vdots Y_n))) \quad \vdots \overline{Y_1 \vdots Y_2 \dots \vdots Y_n} \equiv \vdots Y_1 (\vdots \overline{Y_2 (\dots (\vdots \overline{Y_n}))}) \quad (6.12)$$

This definition also specifies the interpretation rule for a graphs with resolvent lines, which are formally defined below.

**Corollary 6.1. Wick's theorem for perturbation theory.**  $Y R_0 Y_1 \dots R_0 Y_m |\Phi\rangle = (\vdots Y \vdots Y_1 \dots \vdots Y_m \vdots + \vdots \overline{Y \vdots Y_1 \dots \vdots Y_m} \vdots) |\Phi\rangle$

Proof: This follows directly from Wick's theorem and definition 6.5.

**Definition 6.6. Resolvent graph.** A *resolvent graph* represents a normal-ordered product of operators and resolvents. Graphs with disconnected parts that don't share any resolvent lines are considered products of separate resolvent graphs. Vertical spaces between resolvent lines in a resolvent graph are termed *levels*, which are numbered from top to bottom with zero indexing. Therefore, an operator lies in the  $k^{\text{th}}$  level if there are  $k$  resolvent lines above it. Formally, then, an  $m$ -resolvent graph  $G(\rho, m) \equiv (G, \rho, m)$  associates each operator  $o$  in  $G$  with a specific level  $\rho(o) = \rho_o$  in  $\{0, 1, \dots, m\}$  through the *level map*  $\rho$ . Therefore, each line  $l$  in  $G$  crosses resolvents  $\min(\rho_{h(l)}, \rho_{t(l)}) + 1$  through  $\max(\rho_{h(l)}, \rho_{t(l)})$ .

<sup>6</sup>This follows from  $R_0 H_0 \Psi = -Q\Psi = -\Psi + \Phi$ .

<sup>7</sup>The component that maps  $\mathcal{F}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_n$  for all  $n$ , which can always be written as a linear combination of excitation operators.

<sup>8</sup>Since any  $|\Psi\rangle$  can be written as  $Y|\Phi\rangle$ , this follows from applying eq 6.7 to each term in the Wick expansion of  $Y$  in  $R_0 Y|\Phi\rangle$ .

**Example 6.4.** In diagram notation,  $\Psi^{(1)}$  and  $E_c^{(2)}$  can be expressed as follows.

$$\Psi^{(1)} = \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} \quad E_c^{(2)} = \text{diagram 3} + \text{diagram 4} \quad (6.13)$$

**Example 6.5.** The expansion for  $\Psi^{(2)}$  can be evaluated using corollary 6.1. Assuming Brillouin's theorem for simplicity,

$$\Psi^{(2)} = R_0 V_c R_0 V_c |\Phi\rangle = \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} + \text{diagram 3} + \text{diagram 4} + \text{diagram 5} + \text{diagram 6} + \text{diagram 7} + \text{diagram 8} + \text{diagram 9} + \text{diagram 10} \quad (6.14)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{abc \\ ij}} \Phi_i^a \frac{\bar{g}_{aj}^{bc} \bar{g}_{bc}^{ij}}{\mathcal{E}_a^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{bc}^{ij}} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{ab \\ jk}} \Phi_i^a \frac{\bar{g}_{jk}^{ib} \bar{g}_{ab}^{jk}}{\mathcal{E}_a^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{ab}^{jk}} + \frac{1}{2^3} \sum_{\substack{abcd \\ ij}} \Phi_{ij}^{ab} \frac{\bar{g}_{ab}^{cd} \bar{g}_{cd}^{ij}}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{cd}^{ij}} + \frac{1}{2^3} \sum_{\substack{ab \\ ijkl}} \Phi_{ij}^{ab} \frac{\bar{g}_{kl}^{ij} \bar{g}_{ab}^{kl}}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{ab}^{kl}} \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{abc \\ ijk}} \Phi_{ij}^{ab} \frac{\bar{g}_{ac}^{ij} \bar{g}_{kb}^{cj}}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{ac}^{ik}} + \frac{1}{2^2} \sum_{\substack{abcd \\ ijk}} \Phi_{ijk}^{abc} \frac{\bar{g}_{ad}^{ij} \bar{g}_{bc}^{dk}}{\mathcal{E}_{abc}^{ijk} \mathcal{E}_{ad}^{ij}} - \frac{1}{2^2} \sum_{\substack{abc \\ ijkl}} \frac{\bar{g}_{ab}^{il} \bar{g}_{lc}^{jk}}{\mathcal{E}_{abc}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{ab}^{il}} + \frac{1}{2^4} \sum_{\substack{abcd \\ ijkl}} \Phi_{ijkl}^{abcd} \frac{\bar{g}_{ac}^{ij} \bar{g}_{cd}^{kl}}{\mathcal{E}_{abcd}^{ijkl} \mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij}} \end{aligned} \quad (6.15)$$

where the operators in the final diagram do not form an equivalent pair because they pass through different resolvent lines. The third-order contribution to the correlation energy can be evaluated as the complete contractions of  $V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c$

$$E_c^{(3)} = \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} + \text{diagram 3} = \frac{1}{2^3} \sum_{\substack{abcd \\ ij}} \frac{\bar{g}_{ij}^{ab} \bar{g}_{ab}^{cd} \bar{g}_{cd}^{ij}}{\mathcal{E}_{ij}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{cd}^{ij}} + \frac{1}{2^3} \sum_{\substack{ab \\ ijkl}} \frac{\bar{g}_{ij}^{ab} \bar{g}_{kl}^{ij} \bar{g}_{ab}^{kl}}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{ab}^{kl}} + \sum_{\substack{abc \\ ijk}} \frac{\bar{g}_{ac}^{ij} \bar{g}_{kb}^{cj}}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{ac}^{ik}} \quad (6.16)$$

which is equivalent to contracting the doubles contributions to  $\Psi^{(2)}$  with  $\frac{1}{4} \bar{g}_{ij}^{ab} \bar{a}_{ab}^{ij}$ . Note that  $E_c^{(m+1)}$  always only depends on the doubles contribution to  $\Psi^{(m)}$ , but that the doubles coefficients themselves may involve triples, quadruples and higher contributions from wavefunction components of order less than  $m$ .

**Example 6.6.** Using  ${}^{(m)}c_{ab\dots}^{ij\dots} = \langle \Phi_{ij\dots}^{ab\dots} | \Psi^{(m)} \rangle$ , the second order CI coefficients can be determined from eq 6.14 by contracting a bare excitation operator with the top of each diagram. Interpreting these graphs gives the following.

$$\begin{aligned} {}^{(2)}c_a^i &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{bc \\ j}} \frac{\bar{g}_{aj}^{bc} \bar{g}_{bc}^{ij}}{\mathcal{E}_a^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{bc}^{ij}} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{b \\ jk}} \frac{\bar{g}_{jk}^{ib} \bar{g}_{ab}^{jk}}{\mathcal{E}_a^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{ab}^{jk}} \\ {}^{(2)}c_{ab}^{ij} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{cd}} \frac{\bar{g}_{ab}^{cd} \bar{g}_{cd}^{ij}}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{cd}^{ij}} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{kl}} \frac{\bar{g}_{kl}^{ij} \bar{g}_{ab}^{kl}}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{ab}^{kl}} + \hat{P}_{(a/b)} \sum_{\substack{c \\ k}} \frac{\bar{g}_{ac}^{ik} \bar{g}_{kb}^{cj}}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{ac}^{ik}} \\ {}^{(2)}c_{abc}^{ijk} &= \hat{P}_{(a/bc)} \sum_d \Phi_{ijk}^{abc} \frac{\bar{g}_{ad}^{ij} \bar{g}_{bc}^{dk}}{\mathcal{E}_{abc}^{ijk} \mathcal{E}_{ad}^{ij}} - \hat{P}_{(a/bc)} \sum_l \frac{\bar{g}_{ab}^{il} \bar{g}_{lc}^{jk}}{\mathcal{E}_{abc}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{ab}^{il}} \\ {}^{(2)}c_{abcd}^{ijkl} &= \hat{P}_{(ab/cd)} \frac{\bar{g}_{ab}^{ij} \bar{g}_{cd}^{kl}}{\mathcal{E}_{abcd}^{ijkl} \mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij}} \end{aligned}$$

Note that the second order quadruples coefficient is disconnected. Prop. 6.1 shows that the second-order quadruples operator is actually a simple product of first-order doubles operators. This fact was an early motivation for coupled-pair many-electron theory,<sup>9</sup> since it justifies approximating  $\Psi_{\text{CIDQ}} = (1 + C_2 + C_4)\Phi$  by  $\Psi_{\text{CPMET}} = (1 + C_2 + \frac{1}{2}C_2^2)\Phi$ .

**Proposition 6.1.**  ${}^{(2)}C_4 = \frac{1}{2} {}^{(1)}C_2^2$

Proof: This follows from rearranging the resolvent denominator.

$$\frac{1}{\mathcal{E}_{ijkl}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{abcd}^{ij}} + \frac{1}{\mathcal{E}_{ijkl}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{abcd}^{kl}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_{cd}^{kl} + \mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij}}{\mathcal{E}_{ijkl}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{abcd}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{abcd}^{kl}} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{cd}^{kl}} \implies {}^{(2)}C_4 = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^4 \sum_{\substack{abcd \\ ijkl}} \tilde{a}_{abcd}^{ijkl} \frac{\bar{g}_{ab}^{ij} \bar{g}_{cd}^{kl}}{\mathcal{E}_{abcd}^{ijkl} \mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij}} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^4 \sum_{\substack{abcd \\ ijkl}} \tilde{a}_{abcd}^{ijkl} \frac{\bar{g}_{ab}^{ij} \bar{g}_{cd}^{kl}}{\mathcal{E}_{ab}^{ij} \mathcal{E}_{cd}^{kl}} = \frac{1}{2} {}^{(1)}C_2^2$$

<sup>9</sup>This is the original name for coupled-cluster doubles.

**Lemma 6.1. The Energy Substitution Lemma.**  $\Psi^{(m)}$  equals the sum of a “principal term”  $(R_0 V_c)^m \Phi$  plus all possible substitutions of adjacent factors  $(R_0 V_c)^{r_i}$  in the principal term by  $R_0 E_c^{(r_i)}$ . Each term in the sum is weighted by a sign factor  $(-)^k$ , where  $k$  is the number of substitutions.

Proof: See appendix A.

**Example 6.7.** Lemma 6.1 is consistent with equation 6.9 because substitution of the rightmost factors in the principal term leaves a resolvent acting on the reference determinant and because the first-order energy contribution equals zero. The first non-trivial examples of the energy substitution lemma begin at third order.

$$\Psi^{(3)} = R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c \Phi \quad (6.17)$$

$$\Psi^{(4)} = R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(3)} R_0 V_c \Phi \quad (6.18)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi^{(5)} = & R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi \\ & - R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c \Phi + R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(3)} R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi \\ & - R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(3)} R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(4)} R_0 V_c \Phi \end{aligned} \quad (6.19)$$

**Theorem 6.1. The Bracketing Theorem.**  $\Psi^{(m)}$  equals the principal term plus all possible insertions of nested brackets into the principal term. Each term in the sum is weighted by  $(-)^k$  where  $k$  is the total number of brackets.<sup>10</sup>

Proof: See appendix A.

**Example 6.8.** Equations 6.17 and 6.18 are clearly consistent with thm 6.1, since  $E_c^{(2)} = \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle$  and  $E_c^{(3)} = \langle V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \rangle$ .

$$\Psi^{(3)} = R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi \quad (6.20)$$

$$\Psi^{(4)} = R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi \quad (6.21)$$

The first non-vanishing terms with nested brackets appear at fifth-order

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi^{(5)} = & R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi \\ & - R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi + R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi \\ & - R_0 V_c R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi + R_0 \langle V_c R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi \end{aligned} \quad (6.22)$$

which follows from substituting equation 6.20 into  $E^{(4)} = \langle \Phi | V_c | \Psi^{(3)} \rangle$  in the energy substitution expansion of  $\Psi^{(5)}$ .

**Definition 6.7. Insertion graph.**

**Example 6.9.** Assuming Brillouin’s theorem, the simplest non-vanishing term with an inserted bracket appears in  $\Psi^{(3)}$ .

$$R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi = \frac{\text{level of the insertion}}{\text{remainder} \quad \text{insertion}} \begin{array}{c} \text{0th level} \\ \text{1st level} \end{array}$$

<sup>10</sup>The “brackets” here are reference expectation values:  $\langle W \rangle \equiv \langle \Phi | W | \Phi \rangle$ .

## A Proof of the Linked-Diagram Theorem

**Notation A.1.** Let “ $Y^m$  choose  $Z^k$ ”, denoted  ${}^m C_k(Y : Z)$ , refer to a sum over the  $m$  choose  $k$  permutations of  $Y^{m-k} Z^k$ ,<sup>11</sup> where  $Y$  and  $Z$  are operators that may or may not commute.<sup>12</sup> This defines a generalization of the binomial theorem.

$$(Y + Z)^m = \sum_{k=0}^m {}^m C_k(Y : Z) \quad (\text{A.1})$$

Furthermore, let  ${}^m C(Y : Z_1, \dots, Z_k)$  be a sum over permutations of  $Y^{m-k} Z_1 \cdots Z_k$  that preserve the ordering of the  $Z_i$ 's.<sup>13</sup> When all of the  $Z_i$ 's equal  $Z$ , we can write  ${}^m C(Y : Z_1, \dots, Z_k) = {}^m C_k(Y : Z)$ .

**Proposition A.1.**  $\Psi(\lambda) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (R_0(\lambda V_c - E(\lambda)))^m \Phi$

Proof: This follows by infinite recursion of equation 6.8 with the assumption  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (R_0(\lambda V_c - E(\lambda)))^m \Psi(\lambda) = 0$ .

**Definition A.1. Integer compositions.** The *compositions* of an integer  $m$  are the ways of writing  $m$  as a sum of positive integers. The full set of integer compositions of  $m$  is given by  $\mathcal{C}(m) = \mathcal{C}_1(m) \cup \mathcal{C}_2(m) \cup \cdots \cup \mathcal{C}_m(m)$  where  $\mathcal{C}_k(m) = \{(r_1, \dots, r_k) \in \mathbb{N}_0^k \mid r_1 + \cdots + r_k = m\}$  are the integer compositions of  $m$  into  $k$  parts.

**Lemma A.1. The Energy Substitution Lemma.**

Proof: Using equation A.1 and a double sum identity<sup>14</sup> in the infinite recursion formula for  $\Psi(\lambda)$  gives the following.

$$\Psi(\lambda) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (R_0(\lambda V_c - E(\lambda)))^m \Phi = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^m \lambda^{m-k} (-)^k {}^m C_k(R_0 V_c : R_0 E(\lambda)) \Phi = \sum_{k'=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \lambda^{k'} (-)^{k' + k} C_k(R_0 V_c : R_0 E(\lambda)) \Phi$$

The  $k' = 0$  term has no operators separating  $\Phi$  from the resolvent and vanishes. Taylor expansion of the energies gives

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi(\lambda) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k'=1}^{\infty} \sum_{p_1=1}^{\infty} \cdots \sum_{p_k=1}^{\infty} \lambda^{k' + p_1 + \cdots + p_k} (-)^{k' + k} C_k(R_0 V_c : R_0 E_c^{(p_1)}, \dots, R_0 E_c^{(p_k)}) \Phi \\ &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \sum_{(r_1, \dots, r_{k+1})} \mathcal{C}_{k+1}(m) \lambda^m (-)^{k + r_{k+1}} C_k(R_0 V_c : R_0 E_c^{(r_1)}, \dots, R_0 E_c^{(r_k)}) \Phi \end{aligned}$$

where we have used a multi-sum reduction to group constant powers of  $\lambda$ . Writing the two inner sums as a single sum over  $\mathcal{C}(m)$  and differentiating with respect to  $\lambda$  completes the proof.

$$\Psi^{(m)} = \frac{1}{m!} \frac{\partial^m \Psi(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda^m} \Big|_{\lambda=0} = \sum_{(r_1, \dots, r_{k+1})} \mathcal{C}(m) (-)^{k + r_{k+1}} C_k(R_0 V_c : R_0 E_c^{(r_1)}, \dots, R_0 E_c^{(r_k)}) \Phi \quad (\text{A.2})$$

**Theorem A.1. The Bracketing Theorem.**

Proof: The proposition holds for  $m = 1$  because  $\Psi^{(1)} = R_0 V_c \Phi$  and there are no possible bracketings. Assume it holds for  $m - 1$ . Then by the energy substitution lemma it also holds for  $m$  because  $E_c^{(r_i)}$  equals  $\langle \Phi | V_c | \Psi^{(r_i)} \rangle$  which, by our inductive assumption, equals  $\langle V_c(R_0 V_c)^{r_i} \rangle$  plus all nested bracketings.

<sup>11</sup>For example,  ${}^4 C_2(Y : Z) = Y^2 Z^2 + Y Z Y Z + Y Z^2 Y + Z Y^2 Z + Z Y Z Y + Z^2 Y^2$ .

<sup>12</sup>If they do commute, then  ${}^m C_k(Y : Z) = \binom{m}{k} Y^{m-k} Z^k$ .

<sup>13</sup>For example,  ${}^4 C(Y : Z_1, Z_2) = Y^2 Z_1 Z_2 + Y Z_1 Y Z_2 + Y Z_1 Z_2 Y + Z_1 Y^2 Z_2 + Z_1 Y Z_2 Y + Z_1 Z_2 Y^2$ .

<sup>14</sup>Reverse double-sum reduction:  $\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^m t_{m-k, k} = \sum_{k'=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} t_{k', k}$ . See <http://functions.wolfram.com/GeneralIdentities/12/>.