

# Gauging & Duality

Tycho Van Camp

October 2025

## Abstract

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The process of promoting a global symmetry to a local symmetry, formally referred to as ‘gauging’, is introduced in the tensor-network framework. Succinctly, this is done by introducing so-called gauge degrees of freedom, enlarging the Hilbert space, after which we then project onto the locally gauge-invariant subspace. This process is encapsulated in what we call the ‘gauging map’, and when supplemented with a ‘disentangler’, we retrieve Kramers-Wannier-like dualities.

## 2 THE GAUGING PROCEDURE

We gauge at the level of states, which should be interpreted as the map  $\mathcal{G} : \mathcal{H}_m \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{m+g}$  such that the global symmetry  $U(g)|\psi\rangle = \bigotimes_i u_i(g)|\psi\rangle = |\psi\rangle$  becomes a local symmetry  $\hat{u}_i(g)|\hat{\psi}\rangle = |\hat{\psi}\rangle \forall i$ . Herein, we have introduced gauge degrees of freedom (d.o.f) on the edges between the sites- denoted by  $i+1/2$ - such that the local Hilbert spaces become:  $\hat{\mathcal{H}}_i := \mathcal{H}_{i-1/2} \otimes \mathcal{H}_i \otimes \mathcal{H}_{i+1/2}$ . For all practical purposes we shall also initiate the gauge d.o.f in the trivial state  $|e\rangle_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ . For the case we will be considering, we use the group algebra  $\mathbb{C}[G]$  to represent the gauge d.o.f labelled by the group elements:  $\{|g\rangle \mid g \in G\}$ . We will also be using the left- and right regular representations:

$$L_g^i \equiv L(g)^i \equiv \vec{X}_i(g) := \sum_{h \in G} |gh\rangle \langle h| \quad (1)$$

$$R_g^i \equiv R^i(g) \equiv \overleftarrow{X}_i(g) := \sum_{h \in G} |h\bar{g}\rangle \langle h| \quad (2)$$

The local Gauss law reads  $\hat{u}_g^i = R_g^{i-\frac{1}{2}} \otimes u_g^i \otimes L_g^{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ . Upon confirming that the left- and right regular representations acting on the same site commute:

$[L_g, R_h] = 0$ , we can construct a projector onto the locally gauge-invariant subspace using the group-averaged type projector:

$$\mathcal{P}_i := \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} u_g^i \quad (3)$$

Naturally, the global projector is taken over all sites:  $\mathcal{P} = \Pi_i \mathcal{P}_i$ . Summarizing: the enlarging of the local Hilbert spaces and subsequent projection onto the states which are locally gauge-invariant is encapsulated in the gauging map  $\mathcal{G} |\psi\rangle = \mathcal{P}(|\psi\rangle \otimes_i |e\rangle_{i+\frac{1}{2}})$ .

Gauging of operators  $O$  is defined by  $\Gamma : \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_{m+g})$ , and satisfy:

$$(i) \quad u_g^i \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G} \quad (4)$$

$$(ii) \quad [u_g^i, \Gamma[O]] = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$(iii) \quad \mathcal{G} \cdot U_g = \mathcal{G} \quad (6)$$

$$(iv) \quad \Gamma[O]\mathcal{G}|\psi\rangle = \mathcal{G}O|\psi\rangle \quad (7)$$

*Note: remember to add the fundamental theorem of MPS somewhere!*

Identifying the possible symmetries of the tensors which constitute the gauging map greatly aids in the diagrammatic derivations which will be used. For example [list some examples here with diagrams]. Similarly, we do this for the left- and right legs of the projectors: [insert symmetries of R and L here, with diagrams]

The gauging map, complemented with a so-called ‘disentangler’  $\mathcal{U}$  is what constitutes a ‘duality’[explain what is meant by the term duality]. By pulling the disentangler through the gauging map, we possibly get a simpler action which reduces the complexity of identifying operators on each side of the duality.

### 3 Gauging $\mathbb{Z}_2$

In this section, we illustrate the gauging procedure via the simplest example of  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -symmetry. Supplementing the gauging by an appropriate disentangler will yield the Kramers-Wannier duality [ref KW].

### 4 Gauging of $G$ -symmetry for $G$ -Cluster State SPTO

In this section, we gauge the  $G$ -symmetry of SSB states and use an appropriate disentangler so as to obtain the trivial- and  $G$ -cluster states.

## REFERENCES

- Gauging Quantum Phases: A Matrix Product State Approach; D. Blanik, J. Garre-Rubio, N. Schuch; DOI: 10.1103/gkh9-lgrk

- Gauging Quantum States with Nonanomalous Matrix Product Operator Symmetries; J. Garre-Rubio, I. Kull; DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevB.107.075137
- Gauging Quantum States: From Global to Local Symmetries in Many-body Systems; J. Haegeman, K. Van Acoleyen, N. Schuch, J.I. Cirac, F. Verstraete; DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevX.5.011024