The Kitaev Model Visually

Bond Operators

$$k_{ij} = \sigma_i^\alpha \sigma_j^\alpha$$
$$\alpha \in x, y, z$$
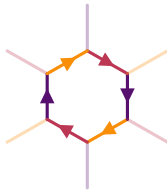
Plaquette Operators

$$W_p = K_{12}K_{23}...K_{n1}$$
$$= \sigma_1^x \sigma_2^y ... \sigma_n$$

The Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{\text{bonds}} J^\alpha K_{ij}$$

Bond Types

x

y

z