

1. Perturbation theory and the linked diagram theorem

Definition 1.1. Model problem. In perturbation theory, the *model Hamiltonian* is an operator $H_0 \approx H_e$ which approximates the full Hamiltonian and has eigenfunctions spanning the complete n -particle Fock space. An obvious choice in electronic structure is the diagonal one-particle component of H_e , which is diagonal in the determinant basis.

$$H_0 \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} = \mathcal{E}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} \quad H_c = H_0 + V_c \quad H_0 \equiv f_p^p \tilde{a}_p^p \quad \mathcal{E}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} \equiv (f_{a_1}^{a_1} + \dots + f_{a_k}^{a_k} - f_{i_1}^{i_1} - \dots - f_{i_k}^{i_k})$$

where the perurbation is $V_c \equiv f_p^q (1 - \delta_p^q) \tilde{a}_p^p + \frac{1}{4} \bar{g}_{pq}^{rs} \tilde{a}_p^{pq}$. In this context, the reference determinant Φ is termed the *model function*. Note that we are playing fast and loose with Einstein summation here: the i and a indices are not summed over, but the p index in H_0 is. The eigenvalue can be determined by noting that $a_p^p \Phi_k = n_p^k \Phi_k$ where n_p^k is the occupation number of ψ_p in Φ_k . Therefore $\tilde{a}_p^p = a_p^p - \tilde{a}_{p^\circ}^{p^\circ} = a_p^p - n_p$ which implies that $\tilde{a}_p^p \Phi_k = (n_p^k - n_p) \Phi_k$. It then follows that $\sum_p f_p^p \tilde{a}_p^p \Phi_k = (\sum_{p \in \Phi_k} f_p^p - \sum_{p \in \Phi} f_p^p) \Phi_k$, which leads to the expression above for $\mathcal{E}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}$.

Definition 1.2. Model space projection operators. The projection $P = |\Phi\rangle\langle\Phi|$ onto the model function is termed the *model space projection operator*, and its orthogonal complement $Q = 1 - P = \sum_k (\frac{1}{k!})^2 \sum_{a_1 \dots a_k} |\Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}\rangle \langle \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}|$ is the *orthogonal space projection operator*. Note that $P^2 = Q^2 = 1$ and $PQ = QP = 0$ are necessary consequences of the fact that P and Q are projection operators for orthogonal subspaces, and note that $P + Q = 1$. Assuming *intermediate normalization*, where we set the norm of the wavefunction such that $\langle\Phi|\Psi\rangle = 1$ rather than $\langle\Psi|\Psi\rangle = 1$, the model space projection operator takes the wavefunction into our model function, $P\Psi = \Phi\langle\Phi|\Psi\rangle = \Phi$.

Definition 1.3. Resolvent. Let R_0 be minus¹ the inverse of H_0 in the orthogonal space, so that $-R_0 H_0 = Q$. The operator R_0 is termed the *resolvent*. Explicitly, we can apply resolution of the identity in the orthogonal space to get

$$R_0 = (-H_0)^{-1} Q = \sum_k \left(\frac{1}{k!}\right)^2 \sum_{\substack{a_1 \dots a_k \\ i_1 \dots i_k}} (-H_0)^{-1} |\Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}\rangle \langle \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}| = \sum_k \left(\frac{1}{k!}\right)^2 \sum_{\substack{a_1 \dots a_k \\ i_1 \dots i_k}} \frac{|\Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}\rangle \langle \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}|}{\mathcal{D}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}} \quad \mathcal{D}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} \equiv -\mathcal{E}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}$$

where we recognize that H_0^{-1} does not exist outside of the model space because $H_0 \Phi = 0 \implies H_0 P = 0$. Note that R_0 simply acts as the null operator outside of the orthogonal space, so that $R_0 Q = R_0$ and $R_0 P = 0$.

Definition 1.4. Rayleigh-Schrödinger perturbation theory. Rearranging the Schrödinger equation to the form $H_0 \Psi = (E_c - V_c) \Psi$ and operating R_0 on both sides, recognizing that $R_0 H_0 = -Q$ and $Q\Psi = (1 - P)\Psi = \Psi - \Phi$, we find

$$R_0 H_0 \Psi = -Q\Psi = -\Psi + \Phi = R_0 (E_c - V_c) \Psi \implies \Psi = \Phi - R_0 (E_c - V_c) \Psi = \Phi + R_0 (V_c - E_c) \Psi$$

which gives a recursive equation for Ψ . Straightforward induction gives $\Psi = \sum_{k=0}^n (R_0 (V_c - E_c))^k \Phi + (R_0 (V_c - E_c))^{n+1} \Psi$. Noting that $H_0 \Phi = 0$ and $\langle\Phi|\Psi\rangle = 1$, projecting the Schrödinger equation by Φ gives an expression for the correlation energy: $E_c = \langle\Phi|V_c|\Psi\rangle$. Assuming the recursive definition for Ψ converges, we find

$$\Psi = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (R_0 (V_c - E_c))^k \Phi \quad E_c = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \langle\Phi|V_c|\Psi^{(k)}\rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \langle\Phi|V_c (R_0 (V_c - E_c))^k |\Phi\rangle \quad (1.1)$$

which can be solved iteratively in orders of perturbation theory. Introducing a perturbation parameter $V_c \mapsto \lambda V_c$ that acts as a switch to turn the perturbation on, $\lambda = 1$, or off, $\lambda = 0$, the wavefunction and correlation energy are given by

$$\Psi(\lambda) = \sum_k \frac{1}{k!} \lambda^k \left(\frac{\partial^k \Psi}{\partial \lambda^k} \right)_{\lambda=0} \equiv \sum_k \lambda^k \Psi^{(k)} \quad E_c(\lambda) = \sum_k \frac{1}{k!} \lambda^k \left(\frac{\partial^k E_c}{\partial \lambda^k} \right)_{\lambda=0} \equiv \sum_k \lambda^k E_c^{(k)}$$

and we can separate eq (1.1) in powers of λ . The first-order energy contribution vanishes $\lambda E_c^{(1)} = \lambda \langle\Phi|V_c|\Phi\rangle = 0$ since V_c is composed of Φ -normal operators. The first order wavefunction contribution is $\lambda \Psi^{(1)} = \lambda R_0 (V_c - E_c^{(1)}) \Phi = \lambda R_0 V_c \Phi$,

¹The annoying sign factor is required for consistency with the standard definition $R_0 \equiv (E_0 - H_0)^{-1} Q$. Since we have already subtracted off E_0 , we have $R_0 = (-H_0)^{-1} Q$. This also results in a more convenient sign rule for the bracketing theorem.

which can be directly evaluated using Wick's theorem and Φ normal ordering

$$\begin{aligned}
\Psi^{(1)} &= R_0 V_c \Phi = \sum_k \left(\frac{1}{k!} \right)^2 \sum_{\substack{a_1 \dots a_k \\ i_1 \dots i_k}} |\Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}\rangle \frac{\langle \Phi | \tilde{a}_{a_1 \dots a_k}^{i_1 \dots i_k} V_c | \Phi \rangle}{\mathcal{D}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k}} \\
&= \sum_{ia} |\Phi_i^a\rangle \frac{\sum_{pq} f_p^q (1 - \delta_p^q) \langle \Phi | \tilde{a}_a^{i\circ} \tilde{a}_q^{p\bullet} | \Phi \rangle}{f_i^i - f_a^a} + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{ijab} |\Phi_{ij}^{ab}\rangle \frac{\frac{1}{4} \sum_{pqrs} \bar{g}_{pq}^{rs} P_{(r/s)}^{(p/q)} \langle \Phi | \tilde{a}_a^{i\circ} \tilde{a}_b^{j\circ} \tilde{a}_{r\circ}^{p\bullet} \tilde{a}_{s\circ}^{q\bullet} | \Phi \rangle}{f_i^i + f_j^j - f_a^a - f_b^b} \\
&= \sum_{ia} |\Phi_i^a\rangle \frac{f_a^i}{f_i^i - f_a^a} + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{ijab} |\Phi_{ij}^{ab}\rangle \frac{\bar{g}_{ab}^{ij}}{f_i^i + f_j^j - f_a^a - f_b^b}
\end{aligned}$$

where we have recognized that only singly and doubly excited determinants can fully contract V_c . The second-order energy contribution, $\lambda^2 E_c^{(2)} = \lambda^2 \langle \Phi | V_c | \Psi^{(1)} \rangle$, can be evaluated from our expression for $\Psi^{(1)}$.

$$E^{(2)} = \sum_{ia} \langle \Phi | V_c \tilde{a}_i^a | \Phi \rangle \frac{f_a^i}{f_i^i - f_a^a} + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{ijab} \langle \Phi | V_c \tilde{a}_{ij}^{ab} | \Phi \rangle \frac{\bar{g}_{ab}^{ij}}{f_i^i + f_j^j - f_a^a - f_b^b} = \sum_{ia} \frac{f_i^a f_a^i}{f_i^i - f_a^a} + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{ijab} \frac{\bar{g}_{ij}^{ab} \bar{g}_{ab}^{ij}}{f_i^i + f_j^j - f_a^a - f_b^b}$$

Note that the one-particle contributions involving f_i^a are present only for non-Hartree-Fock references. In both canonical and non-canonical Hartree-Fock $f_i^a = 0$. The second order wavefunction contribution is $\lambda^2 \Psi^{(2)} = -\lambda^2 E_c^{(2)} R_0 \Phi + \lambda^2 R_0 (V_c - E_c^{(1)}) R_0 (V_c - E_c^{(1)}) \Phi = \lambda^2 R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi$ since $R_0 \Phi = 0$ and $E_c^{(1)} = 0$. The third order energy can be then obtained from $\Psi^{(2)}$ as $\lambda^3 E_c^{(3)} = \lambda^3 \langle \Phi | V_c | \Psi^{(2)} \rangle$. In this manner, one can in principle solve the Schrödinger equation recursively by alternately evaluating the wavefunction and energy contributions at increasing orders in the perturbation parameter.

Derivation 1.1. Writing the RSPT wavefunction equation as $\Psi = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (R_0 V_c - R_0 E_c)^k \Phi$, note that if R_0 and V_c were to commute we could to an ordinary binomial expansion of $(R_0 V_c - R_0 E_c)^k$ to give $\sum_{p=0}^k \binom{k}{p} (-)^p (R_0 V_c)^{k-p} (R_0 E_c)^p$. Since they don't commute, we can write the binomial expansion in the following slightly modified form

$$(R_0 E_c - R_0 V_c)^k = \sum_{p=0}^k (-)^p \{R_0 E_c\}^p \text{insert} \{R_0 V_c\}^{k-p}$$

where $\{B_1, \dots, B_p\} \text{insert} \{A\}^{k-p}$ denotes the sum over all $\binom{k}{p}$ possible ways of inserting $k-p$ copies of A into the product $B_1 \dots B_p$. For example, $\{B_1, B_2\} \text{insert} \{A\}^2$ evaluates to $AAB_1B_2 + AB_1AB_2 + AB_1B_2A + B_1AAB_2 + B_1AB_2A + B_1B_2AA$. This allows the wavefunction expansion to be easily grouped by orders

$$\begin{aligned}
\Psi &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{p=0}^k (-)^p \{R_0 E_c\}^p \text{insert} \{R_0 V_c\}^{k-p} \Phi \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{(n_1, n_2) \in \mathcal{C}_2(n) \cup \{(0, n)\}} \sum_{(r_1, \dots, r_m) \in \mathcal{C}(n_1)} (-)^m \{R_0 E_c^{(r_1)}, \dots, R_0 E_c^{(r_m)}\} \text{insert} \{R_0 V_c\}^{n_2} \Phi = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \Psi^{(n)}
\end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{C}(n)$ denotes the set of integer compositions of n , i.e. all ordered tuples (r_1, \dots, r_m) of strictly positive integers that add up to n . $\mathcal{C}_k(n) \subset \mathcal{C}(n)$ is the set of k -tuple integer compositions of n , i.e. all (r_1, \dots, r_k) of fixed length k such that $r_1 + \dots + r_k = n$. The rearrangement follows from the fact that all possible terms of the form $(-)^k \{R_0 E_c^{(n_1)}, \dots, R_0 E_c^{(n_k)}\} \text{insert} \{R_0 V_c\}^{n_{k+1}} \Phi$ contribute to the sum, and the composition sums group these into all possible terms of this form that are of a given order n in the perturbation parameter λ . Note that we have appended the tuple $(0, n)$ to our sum over $\mathcal{C}_2(n)$ but not $(n, 0)$ since R_0 acting directly on Φ gives 0. These results are summarized in lem 1.1.

Lemma 1.1. The Energy Substitution Lemma. *The n^{th} -order contribution to the wavefunction is given by*

$$\Psi^{(n)} = (R_0 V_c)^n \Phi + \sum_{(n_1, n_2) \in \mathcal{C}_2(n)} \sum_{(r_1, \dots, r_m) \in \mathcal{C}(n_1)} (-)^m \{R_0 E_c^{(r_1)}, \dots, R_0 E_c^{(r_m)}\} \text{insert} \{R_0 V_c\}^{n_2} \Phi$$

which can be evaluated as the sum of a principal term, $(R_0 V_c)^n \Phi$, plus all possible m -tuple substitutions of adjacent factors $(R_0 V_c)^{r_k}$ in the principal term by $R_0 E_c^{(r_k)}$ times a sign factor $(-)^m$.

Example 1.1. Using the energy substitution lemma, we can directly write down the first few wavefunction contributions

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi^{(1)} &= R_0 V_c \Phi \\ \Psi^{(2)} &= R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(1)} R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(1)} \Phi \\ \Psi^{(3)} &= R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(2)} \Phi + R_0 E_c^{(1)} R_0 E_c^{(1)} R_0 V_c \Phi + R_0 E_c^{(1)} R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(1)} \Phi \\ &\quad + R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(1)} R_0 E_c^{(1)} \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(1)} R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(1)} R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(1)} \Phi\end{aligned}$$

where we have directly evaluated the formula of lem 1.1 without simplifying. These expressions can be simplified by recognizing that $E_c^{(1)} = 0$ and that any term with an energy factor next to Φ vanishes since $R_0 \Phi = 0$. Omitting these terms, the wavefunction contributions can be simplified as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi^{(1)} &= R_0 V_c \Phi \\ \Psi^{(2)} &= R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi \\ \Psi^{(3)} &= R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c \Phi \\ \Psi^{(4)} &= R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(3)} R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c \Phi \\ \Psi^{(5)} &= R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(4)} R_0 V_c \Phi + R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(3)} R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi \\ &\quad - R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(3)} R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 E_c^{(2)} R_0 V_c \Phi\end{aligned}$$

Projecting these equations by $\langle \Phi | V_c$ then yields $E_c^{(2)}$, $E_c^{(3)}$, $E_c^{(4)}$, $E_c^{(5)}$, and $E_c^{(6)}$.

Theorem 1.1. The Bracketing Theorem. *The n^{th} -order contribution to the wavefunction consists of a principal term $(R_0 V_c)^n \Phi = R_0 V_c \cdots R_0 V_c \Phi$ plus the sum over all possible ways of inserting one or more pairs of brackets $\langle \cdots \rangle \equiv \langle \Phi | \cdots | \Phi \rangle$ into the principal term, $R_0 V_c \cdots R_0 \langle V_c \cdots R_0 V_c \rangle \cdots R_0 V_c \Phi$, allowing nested brackets. Each of these terms gets a phase factor $(-)^k$ where k is the total number of brackets.*

Proof: This obviously holds for $\Psi^{(1)}$ since $\Psi^{(1)} = R_0 V_c \Phi$ and there are no possible bracketings. Assume it holds up to $n-1$ and consider n . By the substitution lemma, $\Psi^{(n)}$ equals a principal term $R_0 V_c \cdots R_0 V_c \Phi$ plus all unique substitutions of factors $(R_0 V_c)^{r_1}, \dots, (R_0 V_c)^{r_m}$ in the principal term with energy factors $R_0 E_c^{(r_1)}, \dots, R_0 E_c^{(r_m)}$, weighted by a sign $(-)^m$. But, by our inductive assumption, the substituted energies $E_c^{(r_k)} = \langle \Phi | V_c | \Psi^{(r_k)} \rangle$ are sums of a principal term $\langle V_c R_0 V_c \cdots R_0 V_c \rangle$ plus all possible bracketings, with the appropriate sign factor, which shows that $\Psi^{(n)}$ is the sum over all nested bracketings and completes the proof.

Example 1.2. Noting that bracketings of the form $R_0 \langle V_c \rangle$ vanish because $\langle V \rangle_c = E_c^{(1)} = 0$, and that any bracketing including the last factor vanish because $R_0 \langle V_c \cdots R_0 V_c \rangle \Phi = \langle V_c \cdots R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 \Phi = 0$, we can write down the bracketing theorem expansion for the first few contributions to the wavefunction as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi^{(1)} &= R_0 V_c \Phi \\ \Psi^{(2)} &= R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi \\ \Psi^{(3)} &= R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi \\ \Psi^{(4)} &= R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi \\ \Psi^{(5)} &= R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 V_c R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi \\ &\quad - R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi + R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \Phi \\ &\quad - R_0 V_c R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi - R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi + R_0 \langle V_c R_0 \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \rangle R_0 V_c \Phi\end{aligned}$$

The bracketing expansions for the corresponding energies are as follows.

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

Remark 1.1. Individual terms in the perturbation expansion are readily evaluated using Wick's theorem and Φ -normal ordering. Using resolution of the identity in the orthogonal space, the general structure of a principal term is as follows.

$$(R_0 V_c)^n |\Phi\rangle = Q(R_0 V_c)^n |\Phi\rangle = \sum_k |\Phi_k\rangle \langle \Phi_k | (R_0 V_c)^n |\Phi\rangle = \sum_k |\Phi_k\rangle \sum_{k_1 \dots k_n} \frac{\langle \Phi_k | V_c | \Phi_{k_1} \rangle \langle \Phi_{k_1} | V_c | \Phi_{k_2} \rangle \langle \Phi_{k_2} | \dots | \Phi_{k_n} \rangle \langle \Phi_{k_n} | V_c | \Phi \rangle}{\mathcal{D}_{k_1} \mathcal{D}_{k_2} \dots \mathcal{D}_{k_n}}$$

Terms with bracketing insertions differ from the principal term by a scalar $\langle \dots \rangle$ which can be factored out, leaving a squared resolvent at the point of insertion. By orthonormality of the determinant basis, the squared resolvent equals

$$R_0^2 = \sum_{k_1 k_2} \frac{|\Phi_{k_1}\rangle \langle \Phi_{k_1} | \Phi_{k_2}\rangle \langle \Phi_{k_2} |}{\mathcal{D}_{k_1} \mathcal{D}_{k_2}} = \sum_{k_1 k_2} \frac{|\Phi_{k_1}\rangle \delta_{k_1 k_2} \langle \Phi_{k_2} |}{\mathcal{D}_{k_1} \mathcal{D}_{k_2}} = \sum_k \frac{|\Phi_k\rangle \langle \Phi_k |}{\mathcal{D}_k^2}$$

which is of course equal to $(H_0^2)^{-1}$ restricted to the orthogonal space where it is non-singular, $R_0^2 H_0^2 = Q$. Consequently, every wavefunction contribution is proportional to a term of the following generic form

$$R_0^{p_1} V_c R_0^{p_2} V_c \dots R_0^{p_n} V_c |\Phi\rangle = \sum_k |\Phi_k\rangle \langle \Phi | \tilde{a}_k^\dagger R_0^{p_1} V_c R_0^{p_2} V_c \dots R_0^{p_n} V_c | \Phi \rangle \quad R_0^p = \sum_k \frac{|\Phi_k\rangle \langle \Phi_k |}{\mathcal{D}_k^p}$$

which can be evaluated by determining all complete Φ -normal contractions of $\tilde{a}_k^\dagger R_0^{p_1} V_c R_0^{p_2} V_c \dots R_0^{p_n} V_c$, where \tilde{a}_k^\dagger is a de-excitation operator $\tilde{a}_k^\dagger \in \{\tilde{a}_{a_1 \dots a_n}^{i_1 \dots i_n} \mid i_1 < \dots < i_n, a_1 < \dots < a_n\}$.

Remark 1.2. Note that, when an operator of the form $M_o = \sum_i a_i |\Phi\rangle m_i \langle \Phi | a^i$ or $M_v = \sum_a a^a |\Phi\rangle m_a \langle \Phi | a_a$ is contracted on the left and on the right, we can make the following rearrangement

$$\sum_i \overline{a^p a_i} |\Phi\rangle m_i \langle \Phi | \overline{a^i a_s} = |\Phi\rangle \langle \Phi | m_p \overline{a^p a_s} \quad \sum_a \overline{a_q a^a} |\Phi\rangle m_a \langle \Phi | \overline{a_a a^r} = |\Phi\rangle \langle \Phi | m_q \overline{a_q a^r}$$

where the requirement that m_p have a hole index and m_q have a particle index is taken care of by the contractions. In words, contracting one operator to the left side of M_o and another operator to the right side is equivalent to contracting these operators to each other and freezing out the term from M_o that matches the left (or, equivalently, the right) index. This generalizes directly to operators of the form $\sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_k} \tilde{a}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} |\Phi\rangle M_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} \langle \Phi | \tilde{a}_{a_1 \dots a_k}^{i_1 \dots i_k}$ and can be used to simplify the contractions of an operator product with an intervening resolvent, $Q R_0^n Q'$:

$$\overline{\overline{Q R_0^n Q'}} = \sum_k \frac{\overline{\overline{Q \tilde{a}_k^\dagger}} |\Phi\rangle \langle \Phi | \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_k^\dagger Q'}}}{\mathcal{D}_k^n} = |\Phi\rangle \langle \Phi | \sum_k \frac{\overline{\overline{Q \tilde{a}_k^\dagger}} \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_k^\dagger Q'}}}{\mathcal{D}_k^n} = |\Phi\rangle \langle \Phi | \overline{\overline{Q \tilde{a}_k^\dagger Q'}} \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_k^\dagger Q'}}.$$

Here, we have introduced the notion of a *resolvent line* $\overline{\overline{\cdot}}$. Complete contractions through a resolvent line are defined as

$$\overline{\overline{a^{p_1} \dots a^{p_k} a_{q_1} \dots a_{q_k} \overline{\overline{a^{r_1} \dots a^{r_k} a_{s_1} \dots a_{s_k}}}}} \equiv \frac{\overline{\overline{a^{p_1} \dots a^{p_k} a_{q_1} \dots a_{q_k} a^{r_1} \dots a^{r_k} a_{s_1} \dots a_{s_k}}}}{(\mathcal{D}_{p_1 \dots p_k}^{q_1 \dots q_k})^n}.$$

That is, each hole contraction $\overline{a^p a_s}$ through the resolvent line $\overline{\overline{\cdot}}$ fixes a hole index in the denominator $(\mathcal{D}_{\dots p \dots})^n$ and each particle contraction $\overline{a_q a^r}$ fixes a particle index in the denominator $(\mathcal{D}^{\dots q \dots})^n$. This result further generalizes to completely contracted products with multiple resolvents, and is codified in the next proposition.

Proposition 1.1. Reduced Wick theorem for expectation values with resolvents.

$$\langle \Phi | Q R_0^{p_1} Q_1 R_0^{p_2} Q_2 \dots R_0^{p_n} Q_n | \Phi \rangle = \overline{\overline{Q}} \overline{\overline{Q_1}} \overline{\overline{Q_2}} \dots \overline{\overline{Q_n}}$$

Example 1.3. The reduced Wick theorem of prop 1.1 can be used to evaluate the following

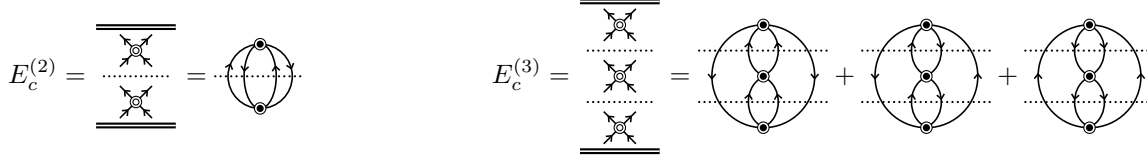
$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{r_1 s_1}^{p_1 q_1} \tilde{a}_{r_2 s_2}^{p_2 q_2}}} &= P_{(r_2/s_2)}^{(p_2/q_2)} \tilde{a}_{r_1 s_1}^{p_1^\circ q_1^\circ} \tilde{a}_{r_2 s_2}^{p_2^\bullet q_2^\bullet} \\ \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{r_1 s_1}^{p_1 q_1} \tilde{a}_{r_2 s_2}^{p_2 q_2} \tilde{a}_{r_3 s_3}^{p_3 q_3}}} &= P_{(r_1/s_1 | r_3/s_3)}^{(p_1/q_1 | p_3/q_3)} \tilde{a}_{r_1 s_1}^{p_1^\circ q_1^\circ} \tilde{a}_{r_2 s_2}^{p_2^\bullet q_2^\bullet} \tilde{a}_{r_3 s_3}^{p_3^\bullet q_3^\bullet} + P_{(r_1/s_1 | r_2/s_2 | r_3/s_3)}^{(p_1/q_1 | p_2/q_2 | p_3/q_3)} \tilde{a}_{r_1 s_1}^{p_1^\circ q_1^\circ} \tilde{a}_{r_2 s_2}^{p_2^\bullet q_2^\bullet} \tilde{a}_{r_3 s_3}^{p_3^\bullet q_3^\bullet} \\ &\quad + P_{(r_1/s_1 | r_3/s_3)}^{(p_1/q_1 | p_3/q_3)} \tilde{a}_{r_1 s_1}^{p_1^\circ q_1^\circ} \tilde{a}_{r_2 s_2}^{p_2^\bullet q_2^\bullet} \tilde{a}_{r_3 s_3}^{p_3^\bullet q_3^\bullet} \end{aligned}$$

in order to derive the second- and third-order energy contributions

$$E_c^{(2)} = \langle V_c R_0 V_c \rangle = \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 \overline{\overline{g_{p_1 q_1}^{r_1 s_1} g_{p_2 q_2}^{r_2 s_2}}} \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{r_1 s_1}^{p_1 q_1} \tilde{a}_{r_2 s_2}^{p_2 q_2}}} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{ij}^{ab} g_{ab}^{ij}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab}}$$

$$E_c^{(3)} = \langle V_c R_0 V_c R_0 V_c \rangle = \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^3 \overline{\overline{g_{p_1 q_1}^{r_1 s_1} g_{p_2 q_2}^{r_2 s_2} g_{p_3 q_3}^{r_3 s_3}}} \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{r_1 s_1}^{p_1 q_1} \tilde{a}_{r_2 s_2}^{p_2 q_2} \tilde{a}_{r_3 s_3}^{p_3 q_3}}} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{ij}^{ab} g_{ab}^{cd} g_{cd}^{ij}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{cd}} + \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{ij}^{ab} g_{bk}^{jc} g_{ca}^{ki}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab} \mathcal{D}_{ki}^{ca}} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{ij}^{ab} g_{kl}^{ij} g_{ab}^{kl}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab} \mathcal{D}_{kl}^{ab}}$$

where we have used implicit summation (over all indices) to keep the expressions relatively compact. Here, we have assumed a canonical Hartree-Fock (RHF or UHF) reference so that the one-particle perturbation vanishes $f_p^q(1 - \delta_p^q) = 0$ and $V_c = \frac{1}{4} \overline{\overline{g_{pq}^{rs} \tilde{a}_{rs}^{pq}}}$. Non-canonical Hartree-Fock (such as ROHF) has the same second-order contribution, but introduces two additional terms at third order. In Hugenholtz diagram notation, this looks as follows.



Example 1.4. Contributions to the wavefunction can be separated into singles, doubles, triples, etc. contributions by a resolution of the identity in the orthogonal space

$$\Psi^{(n)} = Q\Psi^{(n)} = \sum_k \left(\frac{1}{k!}\right)^2 \sum_{\substack{a_1 \dots a_k \\ i_1 \dots i_k}} \Phi_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a_1 \dots a_k} {}^{(n)}c_{a_1 \dots a_k}^{i_1 \dots i_k} \quad {}^{(n)}c_{a_1 \dots a_k}^{i_1 \dots i_k} \equiv \langle \Phi | a_{a_1 \dots a_k}^{i_1 \dots i_k} | \Psi^{(n)} \rangle$$

which turns the problem into one of identifying contributions to the CI coefficients. At first order in the wavefunction, only doubles contributions are non-vanishing.

$${}^{(1)}c_a^i = \langle \tilde{a}_a^i R_0 V_c \rangle = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_a^i}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = 0 \quad {}^{(1)}c_{ab}^{ij} = \langle \tilde{a}_{ab}^{ij} R_0 V_c \rangle = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{ab}^{ij}}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{ab}^{ij}}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{ab}^{ij}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab}}$$

At second order in the wavefunction, singles, triples, and disconnected quadruples are introduced.

$${}^{(2)}c_a^i = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_a^i}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_a^i}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_a^i}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{am}^{ef} g_{ef}^{im}}}}{\mathcal{D}_i^{ef} \mathcal{D}_{im}^{ef}} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{mn}^{ie} g_{ae}^{mn}}}}{\mathcal{D}_i^{ae} \mathcal{D}_{mn}^{ae}}$$

$${}^{(2)}c_{ab}^{ij} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{ab}^{ij}}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{ab}^{ij}}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{ab}^{ij}}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{ab}^{ef} g_{ef}^{ij}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ef}} - P_{(a/b)} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{am}^{ef} g_{eb}^{im}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab} \mathcal{D}_{im}^{ef}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{mn}^{ij} g_{mn}^{ab}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab} \mathcal{D}_{mn}^{ab}}$$

$${}^{(2)}c_{abc}^{ijk} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{abc}^{ijk}}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{abc}^{ijk}}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{abc}^{ijk}}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{ab}^{ef} g_{bc}^{ij} g_{ae}^{im}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ijk}^{ab} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ef}} - P_{(a/bc)} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{mc}^{jk} g_{ab}^{im}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ijk}^{ab} \mathcal{D}_{im}^{ab}}$$

$${}^{(2)}c_{abcd}^{ijkl} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{abcd}^{ijkl}}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{abcd}^{ijkl}}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = \overline{\overline{\tilde{a}_{abcd}^{ijkl}}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} \overline{\overline{V_c}} = P_{(ab/cd)} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{cd}^{kl} g_{ab}^{ij}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ijkl}^{abcd} \mathcal{D}_{ijkl}^{ab}}$$

Here, the indices m, n, e, f are implicitly summed over, and the Hugenholtz diagrams have been translated into Goldstone diagrams in order to evaluate the phase of each term. The disconnected quadruples term can be factored as follows

$$P_{(ab/cd)} \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{cd}^{kl} g_{ab}^{ij}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ijkl}^{abcd} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab}} = \frac{1}{2} P_{(ab/cd)} \left(\frac{\overline{\overline{g_{cd}^{kl} g_{ab}^{ij}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ijkl}^{abcd} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab}} + \frac{\overline{\overline{g_{ab}^{ij} g_{cd}^{kl}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ijkl}^{abcd} \mathcal{D}_{kl}^{cd}} \right) = \frac{1}{2} P_{(ab/cd)} \left(\frac{\overline{\overline{g_{cd}^{kl} g_{ab}^{ij}}}}{\mathcal{D}_{ijkl}^{abcd} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab} \mathcal{D}_{kl}^{cd}} \right) = \frac{1}{2} P_{(ab/cd)} {}^{(1)}c_{ab}^{ij} {}^{(1)}c_{cd}^{kl}$$

where we have brought the two terms to a common denominator and used the fact that $\mathcal{D}_{ijkl}^{abcd} = \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{ab} + \mathcal{D}_{kl}^{cd}$.² Plugging this result into the CI wave operator, we find that the lowest-order contribution to the quadruple excitation operator is a product of two double excitation operators.

$${}^{(2)}\hat{C}_4 = \left(\frac{1}{4!}\right)^2 {}^{(2)}c_{abcd}^{ijkl} \tilde{a}_{ijkl}^{abcd} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{4!}\right)^2 \left(P_{(ab/cd)} {}^{(1)}c_{ab}^{ij} {}^{(1)}c_{cd}^{kl} \right) \tilde{a}_{ijkl}^{abcd} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) {}^{(1)}c_{ab}^{ij} \tilde{a}_{ij}^{ab} \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) {}^{(1)}c_{cd}^{kl} \tilde{a}_{kl}^{cd} = \frac{1}{2} {}^{(1)}\hat{C}_2^2$$

²This is actually an example of the Frantz-Mills factorization theorem, thm 1.2.

Definition 1.5. Diagrams with external lines are termed *open*, whereas those with only internal lines are *closed*. A diagram in which there is a path between any two operators is termed *connected*. Otherwise, the diagram is *disconnected* and comprises one or more parts without cross-contractions. A disconnected diagram is considered *linked* if none of its parts is closed. A disconnected diagram with a closed part is *unlinked*.

Definition 1.6. In perturbation theory, there is one more distinction to be made, owing to the presence of resolvent lines: principal terms $R_0 V_c \cdots R_0 V_c \Phi$ generate disconnected diagrams with one common set of resolvent lines, whereas bracketed terms $R_0 V_c \cdots R_0 \langle V_c \cdots R_0 V_c \rangle \cdots R_0 V_c \Phi$ generate disconnected (and unlinked) diagrams whose parts have their own sets of resolvent lines. In the second case, we refer to the disconnected parts as *separate* diagrams, whereas in the first case we consider them parts to make up one *combined* diagram.

Theorem 1.2. The Frantz-Mills Factorization Theorem. *A diagram with separate open parts equals the sum over all relative orderings of its parts in the corresponding combined diagram.*

Proof: Apart from the resolvent lines, the separate and combined diagrams are identical and share a numerator, so we need only consider the denominators. Let $\mathcal{D}_1, \dots, \mathcal{D}_n$ be the denominator factors for one diagram with n operators and let $\mathcal{D}'_1, \dots, \mathcal{D}'_{n'}$ be the denominator factors for another diagram with n' operators, ordered from bottom to top. We proceed by induction on $n + n' = m$. As a base case, consider $m = 2$, of which the only non-trivial possibility is $n = n' = 1$. There are two possible orderings for the combined diagram: either the operator of the first diagram is below the operator of the second diagram, or vice versa. In either case the upper resolvent crosses the lines of both diagrams, contributing a factor $\mathcal{D}_1 + \mathcal{D}'_1$, but in the first case the lower resolvent crosses the lines of the first diagram and in the second case it crosses the lines of the second diagram. The sum of the denominators for these two orderings is $\frac{1}{\mathcal{D}_1(\mathcal{D}_1 + \mathcal{D}'_1)} + \frac{1}{\mathcal{D}'_1(\mathcal{D}_1 + \mathcal{D}'_1)} = \frac{\mathcal{D}_1 + \mathcal{D}'_1}{\mathcal{D}_1(\mathcal{D}_1 + \mathcal{D}'_1)\mathcal{D}'_1} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{D}_1\mathcal{D}'_1}$ which confirms the proposition for $m = 2$. Now, suppose it holds for $m - 1$ and consider m . The different orderings for the combined graph can be grouped into two classes: those for which the first graph has the topmost operator, and those for which the second one does. All of the terms in either class have a common factor $\frac{1}{\mathcal{D}_n + \mathcal{D}'_{n'}}$ from the topmost resolvent. Factoring this out, the sum over the first class is equivalent to a sum over all orderings with the topmost operator of the first diagram removed. By our inductive assumption, this evaluates to $\frac{1}{\mathcal{D}_1 \cdots \mathcal{D}_{n-1} \mathcal{D}'_1 \cdots \mathcal{D}'_{n'}}$. Similarly, after pulling out the common factor, the sum over the second class is equivalent to a sum over all orderings with the topmost operator of the second diagram removed, which evaluates to $\frac{1}{\mathcal{D}_1 \cdots \mathcal{D}_n \mathcal{D}'_1 \cdots \mathcal{D}'_{n'-1}}$ by our inductive assumption. Therefore, the sum over all orderings is $\frac{1}{\mathcal{D}_n + \mathcal{D}'_{n'}} \left(\frac{1}{\mathcal{D}_1 \cdots \mathcal{D}_{n-1} \mathcal{D}'_1 \cdots \mathcal{D}'_{n'}} + \frac{1}{\mathcal{D}_1 \cdots \mathcal{D}_n \mathcal{D}'_1 \cdots \mathcal{D}'_{n'-1}} \right) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{D}_1 \cdots \mathcal{D}_n \mathcal{D}'_1 \cdots \mathcal{D}'_{n'}}$, which implies that the proposition holds for all m and completes the proof for the case of two separate diagrams. For multiple separate parts, the proposition still follows by combining one pair at a time, since the set of final orderings is the cartesian product of the pairwise orderings.

Corollary 1.1.