

# Tensor network diagrams

Tensor = multi-dimensional array

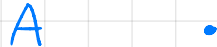
Rank (order, degree) of a tensor = # of dimensions = # of indices = # of legs

Dimension of a leg = size of the tensor along the corresponding dimension

NB: Rank of matrix  
= # of non-zero  
singular values

Hermitian conjugates:

Rank 0: scalar



$$A^\dagger = A^*$$



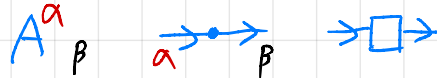
Rank 1: vector



$$A^\dagger_\alpha = (A^\alpha)^*$$



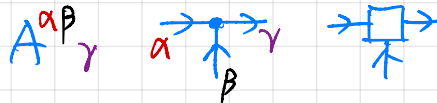
Rank 2: matrix



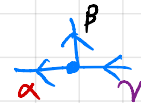
$$A^{\dagger\beta}_\alpha = (A^\alpha_\beta)^*$$



Rank-3 tensor



$$A^{\dagger\gamma}_{\beta\alpha} = (A^{\alpha\beta}_\gamma)^*$$



Covariant notation: transformation within each “leg space” differs with super- vs subscript, visualized by leg directions

⇒ In TN:  $|\alpha\rangle = |\beta\rangle U^\beta_\alpha$  (ket) vs.  $\langle\alpha| = U^{\dagger\alpha}_\beta \langle\beta|$  (bra) (sum over repeated indices)

$$U^\beta_\alpha = \langle\beta|\alpha\rangle \quad U^{\dagger\alpha}_\beta = \langle\alpha|\beta\rangle$$

## Example: two spins

Consider spin 1/2 (or qubit):  $\{|\uparrow\rangle, |\downarrow\rangle\}$  ( $\{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$ )  
 index = 1 2 1 2

Tensor network representation of two spins:

$S_{1z}$   $S_{2z}$  (put bases backwards)  
 index =

$$|S=1, S_z=1\rangle = |\uparrow\rangle|\uparrow\rangle \quad ①$$

$$|S=1, S_z=0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\downarrow\rangle|\uparrow\rangle + |\uparrow\rangle|\downarrow\rangle) \quad ②$$

$$|S=1, S_z=-1\rangle = |\downarrow\rangle|\downarrow\rangle \quad ③$$

$$|S=0, S_z=0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\downarrow\rangle|\uparrow\rangle - |\uparrow\rangle|\downarrow\rangle) \quad ④$$

$|\gamma\rangle = A^{\alpha\beta}_\gamma |\beta\rangle|\alpha\rangle$   
 $A^{\alpha\beta}_\gamma = \langle\alpha|\langle\beta|\gamma\rangle$

$$A^{11}_1 = A^{22}_3 = 1$$

$$A^{12}_2 = A^{21}_2 = A^{12}_4 = -A^{21}_4 = 1/\sqrt{2}$$

$$A^{\alpha\beta}_\gamma = 0 \text{ otherwise}$$

If we exploit the conservation of  $S_z$ :

$S_{1z}$   $S_z = S_{1z} + S_{2z}$   
 $S_{2z}$

“Kirchhoff’s law”

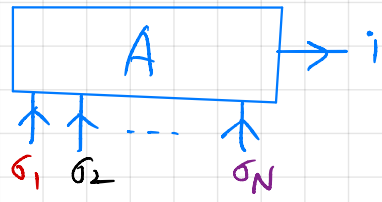
## Example: spineless fermions on N sites

$$|E_i\rangle = \underbrace{|n_1, n_2, \dots, n_N\rangle}_{\text{put bases backwards}} A^{n_1 n_2 \dots n_N} |i\rangle$$

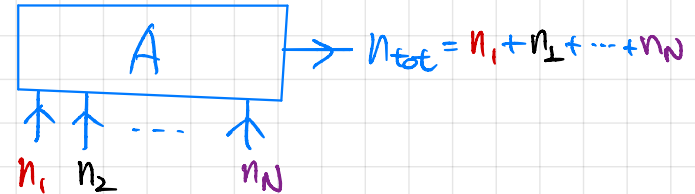
(put bases backwards)

$|n_N\rangle \dots |n_2\rangle |n_1\rangle = (c_N^\dagger)^{n_N} \dots (c_2^\dagger)^{n_2} (c_1^\dagger)^{n_1} |0\rangle$

$(\sigma_l = n_l + 1 : \text{index})$

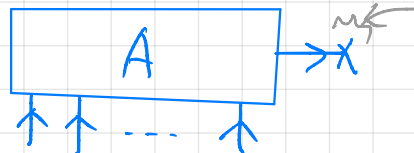


If we exploit the particle number conservation:



$n_{\text{tot}} = n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_N$


Projection onto a specific state:



“dummy” leg with singleton dimension

## Rank-1 tensors do not appear in practice

Physical reason: conservation laws

  $S_z, n, \dots$  can describe trivial cases only

Computational reason: vectors are “thin” matrices

```
>> A = ones(1,3);
```

```
>> whos A
```

Name	Size	Bytes	Class	Attributes
A	1x3	24	double	

```
>> A = rand(10,1);
```

```
>> whos A
```

Name	Size	Bytes	Class	Attributes
A	10x1	80	double	

## Why some of literature don't specify arrows?

If symmetries (conservation laws) are not used (e.g., our coding materials based on the bare MATLAB), arrow directions are mere bookkeeping.

If a tensor network library exploits symmetries (e.g., QSpace), arrow directions should be incorporated into the data structure.

In any case, it's a good practice to specify arrows for identifying underlying quantum mechanical structure!