

1 Current Operator

Derivation of velocity operator

Let us recall the semi-classical model where the movement of electrons is described as the movement of the wave-packet. And the velocity is given by the group velocity of the wave packet.

$$v_g = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial E}{\partial k}$$

In analogy,

$$v = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} = \frac{\partial H}{\hbar \partial k}$$

Wavefunction subject to adiabatic evolution

$$|\Psi(t)\rangle = \exp\left(-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_0}^t dt' E_n(t')\right) (|n\rangle - i\hbar \sum_{n' \neq n} |n'\rangle \frac{\langle n' | \frac{\partial}{\partial t} | n \rangle}{E_n - E_{n'}})$$

The expectation value of the velocity

$$\bar{v}(q, t) = \frac{\partial E_n(q)}{\hbar \partial q} - i \sum_{n' \neq n} (\langle n | \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} | n' \rangle \frac{\langle n' | \frac{\partial}{\partial t} | n \rangle}{E_n - E_{n'}} - c.c.)$$

$$\bar{v}(q, t) = \frac{\partial E_n(q)}{\hbar \partial q} - i \left(\langle \frac{\partial n}{\partial q} | \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} \rangle - \langle \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} | \frac{\partial n}{\partial q} \rangle \right)$$

Where the second term is the Berry phase.