The problem of thermalization. Let $\{|n\rangle\}_n$ be the set of normalized eigenstates for \hat{H} with energies E_n , then the state evolves $|\psi\rangle \to |\psi(t)\rangle$ as

$$|\Psi(t)\rangle = \sum_{n} e^{-iE_n t} |n\rangle, \qquad c_n = \langle n|\Psi\rangle.$$

However for observable \hat{O}

$$\langle \hat{O}(t) \rangle = \langle \Psi(t) | \hat{O} | \Psi(t) \rangle = \sum_{n.n'} e^{it(E_n - E_{n'})} \bar{c}_n c_{n'} \langle n | \hat{O} | n' \rangle.$$

If a stationary value exists, this must be

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} \langle \hat{O}(t) \rangle = \lim_{t\to\infty} \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t \, d\tau \langle \hat{O}(\tau) \rangle = \sum_n |c_n|^2 \langle n|\hat{O}|n \rangle = \mathrm{tr} \left[\hat{\rho}_{\mathrm{diag}} \hat{O} \right], \quad \ \hat{\rho}_{\mathrm{diag}} \propto \sum_n c_n |c_n|^2 |n \rangle \langle n|,$$

with $\operatorname{tr} \hat{\rho}_{\text{diag}} = 1$, which must be compared with the thermal enemble

$$\hat{\rho}_{\rm th} = \frac{1}{Z_{\beta}} e^{-\beta \hat{H}} = \frac{1}{Z_{\beta}} \sum_{n} e^{-\beta E_n} |n\rangle \langle n|.$$

We see that a thermal ensemble is attained if $|c_n|^2 = \frac{1}{Z}e^{-\beta E_n}$. The projectors on the eigenstates $P_n = |n\rangle\langle n|$ are conserved quantities, so thermalization seems impossible.

The importance of locality. Consider Hamiltonian in the form

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{j} \hat{h}_{j},$$

with \hat{h}_j an operator that acts non trivially on a finite range around the lattice j.

We also ask all the connected correlators to vanish

$$\lim_{|j-j'|\to\infty} \left(\langle \hat{O}_j \hat{O}_{j'} \rangle - \langle \hat{O}_j \rangle \langle \hat{O}_{j'} \rangle \right),$$

this is the definition of the cluster property.

Conservation laws and locality. According to different conserved charges $\{\hat{H}_j\}$, the entropy maximization constrained to the knowledge of the expectation values of \hat{H}_j gives a generalization of the Gibbs ensemble

$$\hat{\rho} = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\sum_j \beta_j \hat{H}_j}.$$

To proof it we can

$$F[\hat{\rho}] = S[\hat{\rho}] + \lambda \left(\operatorname{tr} \hat{\rho} - 1 \right) - \sum_{j} \beta_{j} \left(\operatorname{tr} \rho \hat{H}_{j} - E_{j} \right),$$

where λ is a Lagrange multiplier to impose the normalization $\operatorname{tr} \hat{\rho} = 1$ and β_j are the Lagrange multipliers associated with the charges.

$$\delta F[\hat{\rho}] = -\operatorname{tr}\left(\mathbb{1} + \ln \hat{\rho}\right)\delta\hat{\rho} + \lambda\operatorname{tr}\delta\hat{\rho} - \sum_{j}\beta_{j}\operatorname{tr}\hat{H}_{j}\delta\hat{\rho} \stackrel{(1)}{=}\operatorname{tr}\left[\left(\mathbb{1}(\lambda - 1 + \ln Z) + \sum_{j}\beta_{j}\hat{H}_{j} - \sum_{j}\beta_{j}\hat{H}_{j}\right)\delta\hat{\rho}\right] = 0,$$

with $\stackrel{(1)}{=}$ we substitute $\rho = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\sum_j \beta_j \hat{H}_j}$.