

# Construction of $U(1) \otimes SL(M, \mathbb{R})$ fermionic coherent states on the particle-preserving dynamical group.

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## Abstract

The dynamical group of a fermionic system with  $M$  modes which preserves total particle number is identified as  $G = U(1) \otimes SL(M, \mathbb{R})$ . A reference state  $|\phi_0\rangle$  is constructed as a member of the full occupancy basis by partitioning the modes into  $\pi_1$  ( $S$  occupied modes) and  $\pi_0$  ( $M - S$  unoccupied modes). The quotient space of  $(G, |\phi_0\rangle)$  is shown to be generated by  $\hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_j$ , where  $i \in \pi_0, j \in \pi_1$ , and a generalised coherent state  $|Z\rangle$  belonging to this quotient space is decomposed into the full occupancy basis. The overlap element  $\langle Z_a | Z_b \rangle$  is shown to be  $\frac{\det(I_S + Z_a^\dagger Z_b)}{\sqrt{\det(I_S + Z_a^\dagger Z_a) \det(I_S + Z_b^\dagger Z_b)}}$ . The action of the "transition operator"  $\hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_j$  (for arbitrary  $i, j$ ) on  $|Z\rangle$  is expressed in the full occupancy basis, and the expression for a general two-body-interacting total-particle-preserving Hamiltonian matrix element  $\langle Z_a | \hat{H} | Z_b \rangle$  is given. The time complexity of calculating said quantities is discussed.

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## 1 Construction of $U(1) \otimes SL(M, \mathbb{R})$ coherent states

Consider a system with  $M$  modes and  $S < M$  fermions, each occupying one of the modes. The Pauli exclusion principle forbids more than one fermion in a single mode, and thus the full Hilbert space is spanned by a full occupancy basis where each element is parametrised by a permuted sequence of  $S$  ones and  $M - S$  zeroes. The size of this basis is  $\binom{M}{S}$ .

## 1.1 Dynamical group and its operator algebra

The basis of the system as described above can be transversed by applying the transition operators

$$\hat{T}_{ij} = \hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_j \quad (1)$$

Using the commutator identities in Eq. 80 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{T}_{ij}, \hat{T}_{i'j'}] &= [\hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_j, \hat{f}_{i'}^\dagger \hat{f}_{j'}] \\ &= [\hat{f}_i^\dagger, \hat{f}_{i'}^\dagger] \hat{f}_j \hat{f}_{j'} + \hat{f}_{i'}^\dagger [\hat{f}_i^\dagger, \hat{f}_{j'}] \hat{f}_j + \hat{f}_i^\dagger [\hat{f}_j, \hat{f}_{i'}^\dagger] \hat{f}_{j'} + \hat{f}_{i'}^\dagger \hat{f}_i^\dagger [\hat{f}_j, \hat{f}_{j'}] \\ &= 2\hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_{i'}^\dagger \hat{f}_j \hat{f}_{j'} + \hat{f}_{i'}^\dagger (2\hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_{j'} - \delta_{ij'}) \hat{f}_j + \hat{f}_i^\dagger (\delta_{i'j} - 2\hat{f}_{i'}^\dagger \hat{f}_j) \hat{f}_{j'} + 2\hat{f}_{i'}^\dagger \hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_j \hat{f}_{j'} \\ &= \hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_{j'} \delta_{i'j} - \hat{f}_{i'}^\dagger \hat{f}_j \delta_{ij'} = \hat{T}_{ij'} \delta_{i'j} - \hat{T}_{i'j} \delta_{ij'} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

We see that  $\hat{T}_{ij}$  form the Lie algebra of  $U(M)$ , however, since our total particle number is preserved, we choose to perform a basis transformation like so:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{S} &= \sum_{i=1}^M \hat{T}_{ii} \\ \hat{H}_i &= \hat{T}_{i+1,i+1} - \hat{T}_{ii} \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2 \dots M-1 \\ \hat{E}_{ij} &= \hat{T}_{ij} \quad \text{for } i > j \\ \hat{E}_{ij}^\dagger &= \hat{T}_{ji} \quad \text{for } i > j \end{aligned}$$

This set of operators forms the basis to the Lie algebra of  $U(1) \otimes SL(M, \mathbb{R})$ , which we will identify as our dynamical group  $G$ . Other choices of  $G$  would lead to equivalent coherent state constructions: namely, not transforming the basis at all would simply yield  $G = U(M)$ , as done in [1, Sec. 4.3.4]; taking a complex linear transformation  $\hat{T}_{ij} + \hat{T}_{ji}$  and  $i(\hat{T}_{ij} - \hat{T}_{ji})$  would form the basis to the Lie algebra of  $U(1) \otimes SU(M)$ , which is equal to our choice under complexification of its algebra.

## 1.2 Reference state and quotient space

For the reference state we partition the set of modes like so:

$$\pi_1 = \{1, 2 \dots S\} \quad \pi_0 = \{S+1, S+2 \dots M\} \quad (3)$$

and then

$$|\phi_0\rangle = |\pi_1\rangle = |n_1, n_2 \dots n_M\rangle \quad \text{where } n_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } i \in \pi_1 \\ 0 & \text{for } i \in \pi_0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Then the action of a transition operator on the reference state is

$$\hat{T}_{ij} |\phi_0\rangle = \begin{cases} (-1)^{S+j} |\pi_1 - \{j\} + \{i\}\rangle & \text{if } i \in \pi_0, j \in \pi_1 \\ n_i |\phi_0\rangle & \text{if } i = j, j \in \pi_1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Therefore the exponential map of the first option transverses the quotient space, and an unnormalised coherent state is formed as

$$|Z\rangle = \exp\left(\sum_{i \in \pi_0} \sum_{j \in \pi_1} (-1)^{S+j} Z_{ij} \hat{T}_{ij}\right) |\phi_0\rangle \quad (6)$$

We see that the general coherent state has  $S(M-S)$  complex parameters<sup>1</sup>. The normalised state  $|Z\rangle$  can be constructed like so:

$$|Z\rangle = N(Z) |Z\rangle \quad \text{where} \quad N(Z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\{Z|Z\}}} \quad (7)$$

Note that, for the sake of simplicity of notation, the row indices on  $Z$  are shifted by  $S$ , i.e.  $Z_{ij}$  labels the  $(i-S)$ -th row,  $j$ -th column of the  $(M-S, S)$  matrix  $Z$ .

### 1.3 Decomposition into the full occupancy basis

In this subsection we decompose a coherent state  $|Z\rangle$  into the full occupancy basis; i.e. we wish to find the overlap

$$\langle n_1, n_2 \dots n_M | Z \rangle \quad \text{for any sequence of } n_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad \text{where} \quad \sum_{i=1}^M n_i = S \quad (8)$$

#### 1.3.1 General approach to CS decomposition

This method is based on the approach in [3, App. E]. Suppose we have a reference state  $|\phi_0\rangle$ , and the quotient space of the dynamical group of some system is transversed by the exponential map of the operator  $\hat{D}(z)$ , so that

$$|z\rangle = e^{\hat{D}(z)} |\phi_0\rangle \quad (9)$$

and  $\hat{D}(z)$  is a linear combination of transition operators which all destroy the vacuum state<sup>2</sup>. Define  $\hat{\phi}_0$  as such an operator so that

$$\hat{\phi}_0 |\text{vac.}\rangle = |\phi_0\rangle \quad (10)$$

Then we can write

$$|z\rangle = e^{\hat{D}(z)} \hat{\phi}_0 e^{-\hat{D}(z)} |\text{vac.}\rangle \quad (11)$$

using the fact that  $\hat{D}(z) |\text{vac.}\rangle = 0$ . We now express the operator product using Hadamard's lemma:

$$e^{\hat{D}(z)} \hat{\phi}_0 e^{-\hat{D}(z)} = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{r!} [\hat{D}(z), \hat{\phi}_0]_r \quad (12)$$

---

<sup>1</sup>There is no further reduction of degrees of freedom due to normalisation or fixing the global phase, as it can be trivially seen that, in the decomposition into the full occupancy basis, the reference state always appears with coefficient 1. A trivial but interesting consequence is that normalisation, which projects an element of the space of  $|Z\rangle$  onto the space of  $|Z\rangle$  is bijective.

<sup>2</sup>This is characteristic of dynamical groups which preserve total particle number.

where

$$\left[\hat{A}, \hat{B}\right]_r = \left[\hat{A}, \left[\hat{A}, \hat{B}\right]_{r-1}\right] \quad \text{and} \quad \left[\hat{A}, \hat{B}\right]_0 = \hat{B} \quad (13)$$

are the repeated commutators. The unnormalised coherent state is obtained by acting with this sum on the vacuum state.

### 1.3.2 Repeated commutators of the fermionic coherent states

In our case, we identify

$$\hat{D}(Z) = \sum_{i \in \pi_0} \sum_{j \in \pi_1} (-1)^{S+j} Z_{ij} \hat{T}_{ij} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\phi}_0 = \hat{f}_{\langle \pi_1 \rangle}^\dagger \quad (14)$$

To find the repeated commutators, we first observe

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\hat{T}_{ij}, \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle}^\dagger\right] &= \sum_{k=1}^{|\langle \sigma \rangle|} \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_1}^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_{k-1}}^\dagger \left[\hat{T}_{ij}, \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_k}^\dagger\right] \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_{k+1}}^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_{|\langle \sigma \rangle|}}^\dagger \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{|\langle \sigma \rangle|} \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_1}^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_{k-1}}^\dagger \left(\hat{f}_i^\dagger \delta_{j, \langle \sigma \rangle_k}\right) \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_{k+1}}^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_{|\langle \sigma \rangle|}}^\dagger \\ &= \begin{cases} \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_1}^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_{k-1}}^\dagger \hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_{k+1}}^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle_{|\langle \sigma \rangle|}}^\dagger & \text{where } \langle \sigma \rangle_k = j \quad \text{if } j \in \langle \sigma \rangle \\ 0 & \text{if } j \notin \langle \sigma \rangle \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

When calculating  $\left[\hat{D}(Z), \hat{\phi}_0\right]$ , the expression is simplified due to the trivial nature of the creation operator product sequence, with every  $j \in \langle \pi_1 \rangle$  and every  $i > S$ :

$$\left[\hat{T}_{ij}, \hat{f}_{\langle \pi_1 \rangle}^\dagger\right] = \hat{f}_1^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_{j-1}^\dagger \hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_{j+1}^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_S^\dagger \quad \text{where } i \in \pi_0, j \in \pi_1 \quad (16)$$

Therefore the full commutator is

$$\left[\hat{D}(Z), \hat{\phi}_0\right]_1 = \sum_{i \in \pi_0} \sum_{j \in \pi_1} (-1)^{S+j} Z_{ij} \hat{f}_1^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_{j-1}^\dagger \hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_{j+1}^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_S^\dagger \quad (17)$$

To find the second commutator, we commute  $\hat{D}(Z)$  with the result of Eq. 17:

$$\left[\hat{D}(Z), \hat{\phi}_0\right]_2 = \sum_{i \in \pi_0} \sum_{j \in \pi_1} \sum_{i' \in \pi_0} \sum_{j' \in \pi_1} (-1)^{2S+j+j'} Z_{ij} Z_{i'j'} \left[\hat{T}_{i'j'}, \hat{f}_1^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_{j-1}^\dagger \hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_{j+1}^\dagger \cdots \hat{f}_S^\dagger\right] \quad (18)$$

The result is zero if  $j = j'$  (since the commutator vanishes) or if  $i = i'$  (since there would be two creation operators acting on the  $i$ -th mode). Hence we can restrict the sum domains for  $j'$  as  $\pi_1 - \{j\}$  and for  $i'$  as  $\pi_0 - \{i\}$ , respectively. Then, the index pairs  $i, i'$  and  $j, j'$  are all 2-element (not necessarily ascending) sequences on  $\pi_0$  and  $\pi_1$ , respectively. Therefore, the expression can be rewritten by summing the

summand over all *ascending* subsequences  $\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_2\langle\pi_0\rangle, \langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_2\langle\pi_1\rangle$ , and also summing over all of their permutations. By induction it is obvious that the  $x$ -th commutator can be expressed as

$$\left[\hat{D}(Z), \hat{\phi}_0\right]_x = \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_x\langle\pi_0\rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_x\langle\pi_1\rangle} (-1)^{Sx + \sum\langle b \rangle} \sum_{P_a \in P^x} \sum_{P_b \in P^x} \left( \prod_{u=1}^x Z_{P_a\langle a \rangle_u, P_b\langle b \rangle_u} \right) \hat{f}_{v(P_a\langle a \rangle, P_b\langle b \rangle)}^\dagger \quad (19)$$

where the creation operator product is over a (not necessarily ascending) sequence  $v(P_a\langle a \rangle, P_b\langle b \rangle)$  which is constructed by taking the ascending sequence  $\langle\pi_1\rangle$  and then replacing element  $P_b\langle b \rangle_i$  by element  $P_a\langle a \rangle_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, x$ . A trivial but important corollary of this construction is that the sign of any further permutation of either  $P_a\langle a \rangle$  or  $P_b\langle b \rangle$  equals the sign of the corresponding permutation of the entire  $v$  sequence. Before proceeding, let us find the monotonic ordering of  $\hat{f}_{v(P_a\langle a \rangle, P_b\langle b \rangle)}^\dagger$  using Eq. 82. First, since  $\text{sgn}(P) = \text{sgn}(P^{-1})$ , we undo the permutations on  $\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle$ , obtaining:

$$\hat{f}_{v(P_a\langle a \rangle, P_b\langle b \rangle)}^\dagger = \text{sgn}(P_a)\text{sgn}(P_b)\hat{f}_{v(\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle)}^\dagger \quad (20)$$

We now wish to find the sign of the permutation which turns  $v(\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle)$  into an ascending sequence. This permutation can be expressed as a composition of cyclic permutations, where each brings a particular element  $\langle a \rangle_i$  (which is the  $\langle b \rangle_i$ -th element of  $v$ ) right after the largest element smaller or equal to  $S$ , starting with  $\langle a \rangle_x$  and working backwards. For the  $i$ -th element of the replacement subsequence,  $\langle a \rangle_i$ , the old index of the element is  $\langle b \rangle_i$ , and the new index of the element is  $S - (x - i)$ , where  $x - i$  counts the number of elements which were shifted before  $\langle a \rangle_i$ , thus lowering the target index by 1 each. Thus the sign of the corresponding cyclic permutation is  $(-1)^{S+1+i-x-\langle b \rangle_i}$ . Permuting all the elements of the replacement subsequence until  $v$  is ascending yields the total sign

$$\text{sgn}(v \rightarrow \langle v \rangle) = (-1)^{\sum_{i=1}^x S+1+i-x-\langle b \rangle_i} = (-1)^{\frac{1}{2}x(2S-1-x)-\sum\langle b \rangle} \quad (21)$$

Collecting the monotone-ordered creation operator product sequences, we obtain

$$\left[\hat{D}(Z), \hat{\phi}_0\right]_x = (-1)^{\frac{1}{2}x(x+1)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_x\langle\pi_0\rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_x\langle\pi_1\rangle} \hat{f}_{\langle\pi_1-\{b\}+\{a\}\rangle}^\dagger \sum_{P_a \in P^x} \sum_{P_b \in P^x} \text{sgn}(P_a)\text{sgn}(P_b) \left( \prod_{u=1}^x Z_{P_a\langle a \rangle_u, P_b\langle b \rangle_u} \right) \quad (22)$$

Now: since the product of scalar matrix elements  $Z_{P_a\langle a \rangle_u, P_b\langle b \rangle_u}$  is commutative, we may permute the order in which the product is taken without altering the result:

$$\prod_{u=1}^x Z_{P_a\langle a \rangle_u, P_b\langle b \rangle_u} = \prod_{u=1}^x Z_{P_c P_a\langle a \rangle_u, P_c P_b\langle b \rangle_u} \quad \text{for any } P_c \in P^x \quad (23)$$

Choosing  $P_c = P_a^{-1}$  and noting that  $\text{sgn}(P_a) = \text{sgn}(P_a^{-1})$  we obtain

$$\sum_{P_a \in P^x} \sum_{P_b \in P^x} \text{sgn}(P_a)\text{sgn}(P_b) \left( \prod_{u=1}^x Z_{P_a\langle a \rangle_u, P_b\langle b \rangle_u} \right) = \sum_{P_a \in P^x} \sum_{P_b \in P^x} \text{sgn}(P_a^{-1}P_b) \left( \prod_{u=1}^x Z_{\langle a \rangle_u, P_a^{-1}P_b\langle b \rangle_u} \right) \quad (24)$$

Since  $P^x$  forms a group under composition, there is a unique element  $P_a^{-1}P_b \in P^x$  for all  $P_b \in P^x$ , and therefore summing over all  $P_b$  is equivalent to summing over all  $P_a^{-1}P_b$ . Denoting  $P_a^{-1}P_b = P_c$  we obtain

$$\sum_{P_a \in P^x} \sum_{P_b \in P^x} \text{sgn}(P_a^{-1}P_b) \left( \prod_{u=1}^x Z_{\langle a \rangle_u, P_a^{-1}P_b \langle b \rangle_u} \right) = \sum_{P_a \in P^x} \sum_{P_c \in P^x} \text{sgn}(P_c) \left( \prod_{u=1}^x Z_{\langle a \rangle_u, P_c \langle b \rangle_u} \right) \quad (25)$$

The summand is independent on  $P_a$ , turning the sum over  $P_a$  into a constant factor of  $|P^x| = x!$ . The rest of the expression can be identified as the determinant of a submatrix of  $Z$  equal to  $Z_{\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle}$ . Hence the commutator becomes

$$\left[ \hat{D}(Z), \hat{\phi}_0 \right]_x = (-1)^{\frac{1}{2}x(x+1)} x! \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_x \langle \pi_0 \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_x \langle \pi_1 \rangle} \det(Z_{\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle}) \hat{f}_{\langle \pi_1 - \{b\} + \{a\} \rangle}^\dagger \quad (26)$$

### 1.3.3 The unnormalised coherent state

Substituting Eq. 26 into Eq. 12 and acting on the vacuum state, for which we invoke Eq. 83, allows us to write down the unnormalised fermionic coherent state:

$$|Z\rangle = \sum_{r=0}^{\min(S, M-S)} (-1)^{\frac{1}{2}r(r+1)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_0 \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_1 \rangle} \det(Z_{\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle}) |\pi_1 - \{b\} + \{a\}\rangle \quad (27)$$

where we used the fact that  $\left[ \hat{D}(Z), \hat{\phi}_0 \right]_r = 0$  if  $r$  is bigger than either  $S$  or  $M - S$ , as there are no subsequences of  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_0$  of size  $r$ .

## 2 Overlaps of $U(1) \otimes SL(M, \mathbb{R})$ coherent states

### 2.1 Overlap of two coherent states

Consider two unnormalised fermionic coherent states  $|Z_a\rangle, |Z_b\rangle$ . To calculate their overlap, we use Eq. 27:

$$\{Z_a|Z_b\} = \sum_{r=0}^{\min(S, M-S)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_0 \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_1 \rangle} \det((Z_a)_{\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle})^* \det((Z_b)_{\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle}) \quad (28)$$

where we used the fact that the full occupancy basis is orthonormal. Let us express  $Z_a$  using its Hermitian conjugate, using the fact that  $\det(A)^* = \det(A^*)$ :

$$\{Z_a|Z_b\} = \sum_{r=0}^{\min(S, M-S)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_0 \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_1 \rangle} \det((Z_a^\dagger)_{\langle b \rangle, \langle a \rangle}) \det((Z_b)_{\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle}) \quad (29)$$

Invoking the Cauchy-Binet formula for both possible reductions yields

$$\{Z_a|Z_b\} = \sum_{r=0}^{\min(S, M-S)} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_1 \rangle} \det((Z_a^\dagger Z_b)_{\langle b \rangle, \langle b \rangle}) = \sum_{r=0}^{\min(S, M-S)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_0 \rangle} \det((Z_b Z_a^\dagger)_{\langle a \rangle, \langle a \rangle}) \quad (30)$$

We identify the determinant of a submatrix with row indices equal to column indices as a principal minor of the square matrix  $Z_a^\dagger Z_b$  (or  $Z_b Z_a^\dagger$ ). The sum over all  $k$ -order principal minors of a square matrix  $A_{(n \times n)}$ , here denoted  $T_k^A$ , is easily calculable from the characteristic polynomial of  $A$  defined as  $p_A(\lambda) = \det(\lambda I_n - A)$ , using the well-known formula

$$\det(\lambda I_n - A) = \sum_{k=0}^n \lambda^{n-k} (-1)^k T_k^A \quad (31)$$

Evaluating the characteristic polynomial at  $\lambda = -1$  yields

$$\det(-I_n - A) = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^n T_k^A \quad \text{or, to standardise the sign,} \quad \det(I_n + A) = \sum_{k=0}^n T_k^A \quad (32)$$

Since the overlap is a sum of all principal minors of all orders, it can be evaluated as

$$\{Z_a | Z_b\} = \det(I_S + Z_a^\dagger Z_b) = \det(I_{M-S} + Z_b Z_a^\dagger) \quad (33)$$

This also gives us the normalisation function  $N(Z)$ :

$$N(Z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\det(I_S + Z^\dagger Z)}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\det(I_{M-S} + Z Z^\dagger)}} \quad (34)$$

## 2.2 Overlap integrals of creation and annihilation operators

Consider the overlap integral of a general normal-ordered product sequence of creation and annihilation operators:

$$\langle Z_a | \hat{f}_{P_1 \langle \rho \rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{P_2 \langle \rho' \rangle} | Z_b \rangle \quad (35)$$

The rest of Sec. 2.2 is dedicated to calculating this overlap integral. We can observe certain general rules which apply to the expression, which allow us to rewrite it as a composition of simpler problems, each of which is tackled below.

First, the overlap integral can be conceptualised as the overlap of  $\hat{f}_{P_1 \langle \rho \rangle}^\dagger | Z_a \rangle$  and  $\hat{f}_{P_2 \langle \rho' \rangle} | Z_b \rangle$ . Since each annihilation operator lowers the total particle number by one, this overlap vanishes if  $|\langle \rho \rangle| \neq |\langle \rho' \rangle|$ .

Second, due to the normal ordering, the overlap vanishes if any index repeats more than once in either  $\langle \rho \rangle$  or  $\langle \rho' \rangle$ . This guarantees that strictly descending, resp. ascending sequences  $\langle \rho \rangle^-$ ,  $\langle \rho' \rangle^+$  exist, and can be constructed by undoing the permutations  $P_1, P_2$ .

Third, we shall partition  $\rho$  and  $\rho'$  like so:

$$\rho = \sigma \cup \tau \quad \text{where} \quad \sigma \in \pi_1, \tau \in \pi_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \rho' = \sigma' \cup \tau' \quad \text{where} \quad \sigma' \in \pi_1, \tau' \in \pi_0 \quad (36)$$

The monotone-ordered overlap integral then becomes

$$\langle Z_a | \hat{f}_{P_1 \langle \rho \rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{P_2 \langle \rho' \rangle} | Z_b \rangle = \text{sgn}(P_1) \text{sgn}(P_2) \langle Z_a | \hat{f}_{\langle \tau \rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma' \rangle} \hat{f}_{\langle \tau' \rangle} | Z_b \rangle \quad (37)$$

The scope of the rest of this section is to express the overlap integral in closed form.



### 2.2.1 Action of the fermionic operators on the coherent state

Let us define  $\eta_x(S)$  as the number of elements of  $S$  smaller than  $x$ . Then the action of the creation and annihilation operator on an occupancy basis state is

$$\hat{f}_i^\dagger |\sigma\rangle = \begin{cases} (-1)^{\eta_i(\sigma)} |\sigma + \{i\}\rangle & \text{if } i \notin \sigma \\ 0 & \text{if } i \in \sigma \end{cases} \quad (38)$$

$$\hat{f}_i |\sigma\rangle = \begin{cases} (-1)^{\eta_i(\sigma)} |\sigma - \{i\}\rangle & \text{if } i \in \sigma \\ 0 & \text{if } i \notin \sigma \end{cases} \quad (39)$$

Therefore, the action of the creation operator on an unnormalised fermionic coherent state is

$$\begin{aligned} i \in \pi_1 \quad : \quad \hat{f}_i^\dagger |Z\rangle = \\ \sum_{r=0}^{\min(S, M-S)} (-1)^{\frac{1}{2}r(r+1)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_0 \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_{r-1} \langle \pi_1 - \{i\} \rangle} \det(Z_{\langle a \rangle, \langle b \cup \{i\} \rangle}) (-1)^{i-1-\eta_i(\langle b \rangle)} |\pi_1 - \{b\} + \{a\}\rangle \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

$$\begin{aligned} i \in \pi_0 \quad : \quad \hat{f}_i^\dagger |Z\rangle = \\ \sum_{r=0}^{\min(S, M-S-1)} (-1)^{\frac{1}{2}r(r+1)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_0 - \{i\} \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_1 \rangle} \det(Z_{\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle}) (-1)^{S-r-\eta_i(\langle a \rangle)} |\pi_1 - \{b\} + \{a\} + \{i\}\rangle \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

And, the action of the annihilation operator on an unnormalised fermionic coherent state is

$$\begin{aligned} i \in \pi_1 \quad : \quad \hat{f}_i |Z\rangle = \\ \sum_{r=0}^{\min(S-1, M-S)} (-1)^{\frac{1}{2}r(r+1)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_0 \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_1 - \{i\} \rangle} \det(Z_{\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle}) (-1)^{i-1-\eta_i(\langle b \rangle)} |\pi_1 - \{b\} + \{a\} - \{i\}\rangle \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

$$\begin{aligned} i \in \pi_0 \quad : \quad \hat{f}_i |Z\rangle = \\ \sum_{r=1}^{\min(S, M-S)} (-1)^{\frac{1}{2}r(r+1)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_{r-1} \langle \pi_0 - \{i\} \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_1 \rangle} \det(Z_{\langle a \cup \{i\} \rangle, \langle b \rangle}) (-1)^{S-r-\eta_i(\langle a \rangle)} |\pi_1 - \{b\} + \{a\}\rangle \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

It is precisely the annihilation operators which are of importance to us. By applying Eqns. 42 and 43 repeatedly, for  $\sigma \in \pi_1, \tau \in \pi_0$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle} \hat{f}_{\langle \tau \rangle} |Z\rangle = \\ \sum_{r=|\tau|}^{\min(S-|\sigma|, M-S)} (-1)^{\frac{1}{2}r(r+1)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_{r-|\tau|} \langle \pi_0 - \tau \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_1 - \sigma \rangle} (-1)^{|\tau|(S-r)+\frac{1}{2}|\tau|(|\tau|-1)+\sum_i \eta_{\tau_i}(\langle a \rangle)} \\ \cdot (-1)^{-|\sigma|+\sum_i (\sigma_i + \eta_{\sigma_i}(\langle b \rangle))} \det(Z_{\langle a \cup \tau \rangle, \langle b \rangle}) |\pi_1 \cup a - b \cup \sigma\rangle \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

where we used the fact that

$$\sum_i \eta_{\tau_i}(\langle a \cup \tau \rangle) = \sum_i \eta_{\tau_i}(\langle a \rangle) + \sum_i \eta_{\tau_i}(\langle \tau \rangle) = \sum_i \eta_{\tau_i}(\langle a \rangle) + \frac{1}{2}|\tau|(|\tau| - 1) \quad (45)$$

### 2.2.2 Overlap integral with a product sequence of fermionic operators

Applying Eq. 44 to  $\hat{f}_\sigma \hat{f}_\tau |Z_a\rangle$  and  $\hat{f}_{\sigma'} \hat{f}_{\tau'} |Z_b\rangle$  and taking the overlap yields

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Z_a | \hat{f}_{\langle \tau \rangle}^\dagger \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma \rangle}^\dagger \hat{f}_{\langle \sigma' \rangle} \hat{f}_{\langle \tau' \rangle} | Z_b \rangle &= \sum_{r=|\tau|}^{\min(S-|\sigma|, M-S)} (-1)^{\frac{1}{2}r(r+1)} \sum_{r'=|\tau'|}^{\min(S-|\sigma'|, M-S)} (-1)^{\frac{1}{2}r'(r'+1)} \\ &\sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_{r-|\tau|} \langle \pi_0 - \tau \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle \pi_1 - \sigma \rangle} \sum_{\langle a' \rangle \in \Gamma_{r'-|\tau'|} \langle \pi_0 - \tau' \rangle} \sum_{\langle b' \rangle \in \Gamma_{r'} \langle \pi_1 - \sigma' \rangle} (-1)^{|\tau|(S-r) + \frac{1}{2}|\tau|(|\tau|-1) + \sum_i \eta_{\tau_i}(\langle a \rangle)} \\ &\cdot (-1)^{-|\sigma| + \sum_i (\sigma_i + \eta_{\sigma_i}(\langle b \rangle))} (-1)^{|\tau'|(S-r') + \frac{1}{2}|\tau'|(|\tau'|-1) + \sum_i \eta_{\tau'_i}(\langle a' \rangle)} (-1)^{-|\sigma'| + \sum_i (\sigma'_i + \eta_{\sigma'_i}(\langle b' \rangle))} \\ &\det\left((Z_a^\dagger)_{\langle b \rangle, \langle a \cup \tau \rangle}\right) \det\left((Z_b)_{\langle a' \cup \tau' \rangle, \langle b' \rangle}\right) \langle \pi_1 \cup a - b \cup \sigma | \pi_1 \cup a' - b' \cup \sigma' \rangle \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

The occupancy basis overlap is equivalent to

$$\langle \pi_1 \cup a - b \cup \sigma | \pi_1 \cup a' - b' \cup \sigma' \rangle = \delta_{\langle a \rangle, \langle a' \rangle} \delta_{\langle b \cup \sigma \rangle, \langle b' \cup \sigma' \rangle} \delta_{r-|\tau|, r'-|\tau'|} \delta_{r+|\sigma|, r'+|\sigma'|} \quad (47)$$

Note that, since  $|\sigma| + |\tau| = |\sigma'| + |\tau'|$  unless the overlap vanishes due to mismatched total number of particles, the final two Kronecker deltas for  $r, r'$  are equivalent.

We now take

$$\gamma = r - |\tau| = r' - |\tau'| \quad \text{so that} \quad r = \gamma + |\tau|, r' = \gamma + |\tau'| \quad (48)$$

$$\langle \alpha \rangle \in \Gamma_\gamma \langle \pi_0 - \tau \cup \tau' \rangle \quad \text{so that} \quad \langle a \rangle = \langle a' \rangle = \langle \alpha \rangle \quad (49)$$

$$\langle \beta \rangle \in \Gamma_{\gamma+|\tau|-|\sigma'-\sigma \cap \sigma'|} \langle \pi_1 - \sigma \cup \sigma' \rangle \quad \text{so that} \quad \langle b \rangle = \langle \beta \cup \sigma' - \sigma \cap \sigma' \rangle, \langle b' \rangle = \langle \beta \cup \sigma - \sigma \cap \sigma' \rangle \quad (50)$$

where  $|\tau| - |\sigma'| = |\tau'| - |\sigma|$  and the construction of  $\langle b \rangle, \langle b' \rangle$  omits  $\sigma \cap \sigma'$ , since the terms with  $\langle b \rangle$  containing any element in  $\sigma$  vanish (same for  $\langle b' \rangle$  and  $\sigma'$ ).

Substituting  $r, r', \langle a \rangle, \langle a' \rangle, \langle b \rangle, \langle b' \rangle$  and using simple algebraic manipulation we can show that, for terms with non-vanishing Kronecker deltas, the total sign simplifies significantly. Denoting  $\varsigma = \sigma - \sigma \cap \sigma', \varsigma' = \sigma' - \sigma \cap \sigma'$ , the overlap can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} &= (-1)^{S(|\tau|+|\tau'|)+(|\varsigma|-1)(|\varsigma'|-1)+1+\sum \langle \varsigma \rangle + \sum \langle \varsigma' \rangle + \sum_i \eta_{(\sigma \cap \sigma')_i}(\langle \varsigma \cup \varsigma' \rangle)} \sum_{\gamma=0} \sum_{\langle \alpha \rangle \in \Gamma_\gamma \langle \pi_0' - \tau \cup \tau' \rangle} \sum_{\langle \beta \rangle \in \Gamma_{\gamma+|\tau|-|\varsigma'|} \langle \pi_1' - \sigma \cup \sigma' \rangle} \\ &(-1)^{\sum_i \eta_{\varsigma_i}(\langle \beta \rangle) + \sum_i \eta_{\varsigma'_i}(\langle \beta \rangle) + \sum_i \eta_{\tau_i}(\langle \alpha \rangle) + \sum_i \eta_{\tau'_i}(\langle \alpha \rangle)} \det\left((Z_a^\dagger)_{\langle \beta \cup \varsigma' \rangle, \langle \alpha \cup \tau \rangle}^{(r, \sigma, \varsigma, \tau' - \tau \cap \tau')}\right) \det\left((Z_b)_{\langle \alpha \cup \tau' \rangle, \langle \beta \cup \varsigma \rangle}^{(r, \tau - \tau \cap \tau', \varsigma, \sigma')}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

where the superscript  $(r.X), (c.X)$  means omitting the rows or columns specified by the set of indices  $X$ , and where the summation over  $\gamma, \langle \alpha \rangle, \langle \beta \rangle$  is such that all square submatrices of  $(Z_a^\dagger)^{(r, \sigma)}, (Z_b)^{(c, \sigma')}$

are present in the sum, as denoted by the apostrophed  $\pi_1, \pi_0$ , which represents the omission of indices corresponding to the removed rows and columns.

We now choose to permute the rows and columns of  $(Z_a^\dagger)^{(r,\sigma)}, (Z_b)^{(c,\sigma')}$  as to bring the rows and columns which are included in every submatrix in every term of the sum to the lowest-index position. This introduces an extra sign factor to the determinant, which cancels the second sign term in the sum above. Formally

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} (Z_a^\dagger)_{\langle\zeta'\rangle, \langle\tau\rangle} & (Z_a^\dagger)_{r, \langle\zeta'\rangle}^{(c, \tau \cup \tau')} \\ (Z_a^\dagger)_{c, \langle\tau\rangle}^{(r, \sigma \cup \sigma')} & (Z_a^\dagger)_{(r, \sigma \cup \sigma', c, \tau \cup \tau')} \end{pmatrix} \quad (52)$$

$$Y = \begin{pmatrix} (Z_b)_{\langle\tau'\rangle, \langle\zeta\rangle} & (Z_b)_{r, \langle\tau'\rangle}^{(c, \sigma \cup \sigma')} \\ (Z_b)_{(r, \tau \cup \tau', c, \sigma \cup \sigma')} & (Z_b)_{c, \langle\zeta\rangle}^{(r, \tau \cup \tau', c, \sigma \cup \sigma')} \end{pmatrix} \quad (53)$$

The resulting expression is exactly in the form which is treated by Theorem E.3. Hence, if  $|\tau| \leq |\tau'|$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Z_a | \hat{f}_{\langle\tau\rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{\langle\sigma\rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{\langle\sigma'\rangle} \hat{f}_{\langle\tau'\rangle} | Z_b \rangle &= (-1)^{S(|\tau|+|\tau'|)+(|\zeta|-1)(|\zeta'|-1)+1+\sum\langle\zeta\rangle+\sum\langle\zeta'\rangle+\sum_i \eta_{(\sigma \cap \sigma')_i}(\langle\zeta \cup \zeta'\rangle)} \\ (-1)^{|\tau'|(1+|\tau'|-|\tau|)} \det &\begin{pmatrix} 0_{|\tau'|, |\tau|} & (Z_b)_{\langle\tau'\rangle, \langle\zeta\rangle} & (Z_b)_{r, \langle\tau'\rangle}^{(c, \sigma \cup \sigma')} \\ (Z_a^\dagger)_{\langle\zeta'\rangle, \langle\tau\rangle} & (Z_a^\dagger)_{r, \langle\zeta'\rangle}^{(c, \tau \cup \tau')} (Z_b)_{c, \langle\zeta\rangle}^{(r, \tau \cup \tau')} & (Z_a^\dagger)_{r, \langle\zeta'\rangle}^{(c, \tau \cup \tau')} (Z_b)_{(r, \tau \cup \tau', c, \sigma \cup \sigma')} \\ (Z_a^\dagger)_{c, \langle\tau\rangle}^{(r, \sigma \cup \sigma')} & (Z_a^\dagger)_{(r, \sigma \cup \sigma', c, \tau \cup \tau')} (Z_b)_{c, \langle\zeta\rangle}^{(r, \tau \cup \tau')} & I + (Z_a^\dagger)_{(r, \sigma \cup \sigma', c, \tau \cup \tau')} (Z_b)_{(r, \tau \cup \tau', c, \sigma \cup \sigma')} \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

If  $|\tau| \geq |\tau'|$ , we have  $|\zeta| \leq |\zeta'|$ , which allows us to apply Theorem E.3 to obtain the expression

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Z_a | \hat{f}_{\langle\tau\rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{\langle\sigma\rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{\langle\sigma'\rangle} \hat{f}_{\langle\tau'\rangle} | Z_b \rangle &= (-1)^{S(|\tau|+|\tau'|)+(|\zeta|-1)(|\zeta'|-1)+1+\sum\langle\zeta\rangle+\sum\langle\zeta'\rangle+\sum_i \eta_{(\sigma \cap \sigma')_i}(\langle\zeta \cup \zeta'\rangle)} \\ (-1)^{|\zeta'|(1+|\zeta'|-|\zeta|)} \det &\begin{pmatrix} 0_{|\zeta'|, |\zeta|} & (Z_a^\dagger)_{\langle\zeta'\rangle, \langle\tau\rangle} & (Z_a^\dagger)_{r, \langle\zeta'\rangle}^{(c, \tau \cup \tau')} \\ (Z_b)_{\langle\tau'\rangle, \langle\zeta\rangle} & (Z_b)_{r, \langle\tau'\rangle}^{(c, \sigma \cup \sigma')} (Z_a^\dagger)_{c, \langle\tau\rangle}^{(r, \sigma \cup \sigma')} & (Z_b)_{r, \langle\tau'\rangle}^{(c, \sigma \cup \sigma')} (Z_a^\dagger)_{(r, \sigma \cup \sigma', c, \tau \cup \tau')} \\ (Z_b)_{c, \langle\zeta\rangle}^{(r, \tau \cup \tau')} & (Z_b)_{(r, \tau \cup \tau', c, \sigma \cup \sigma')} (Z_a^\dagger)_{c, \langle\tau\rangle}^{(r, \sigma \cup \sigma')} & I + (Z_b)_{(r, \tau \cup \tau', c, \sigma \cup \sigma')} (Z_a^\dagger)_{(r, \sigma \cup \sigma', c, \tau \cup \tau')} \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (55)$$

Note that for the case  $|\tau| > |\tau'|$ , we can simply take

$$\langle Z_a | \hat{f}_{\langle\tau\rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{\langle\sigma\rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{\langle\sigma'\rangle} \hat{f}_{\langle\tau'\rangle} | Z_b \rangle = \langle Z_b | \hat{f}_{\langle\tau'\rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{\langle\sigma'\rangle}^\dagger - \hat{f}_{\langle\sigma\rangle} \hat{f}_{\langle\tau\rangle} | Z_a \rangle^* \quad (56)$$

so that we can always use Eq. 54 as the standard expression.

### 3 Full-variational equations of motion

In this section we express the time-dependent Schrodinger equation discretised on a finite unnormalised coherent state basis of size  $Z$ , where the full wavestate  $|\Psi\rangle$  is parametrised by the time-dependent

quantities  $Z_{ij}^m$ , which describes the  $m$ -th basis state  $|Z^m\rangle$ , and  $A_m$ , which is the decomposition coefficient of  $|Z^m\rangle$ . Formally

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{m=1}^N A_m |Z^m\rangle \quad (57)$$

Note that we use the unnormalised states because, unlike their normalised counterparts, they have no explicit dependence on  $(Z_{ij}^m)^*$ , allowing for the use of Wirtinger derivatives. This does not affect the interpretation of the result, since the square norm of the superposition  $|\Psi\rangle$  remains 1 when propagated by the Schrodinger equations of motion.

To find the equations of motion we shall use the Lagrangian formulation of the Schrodinger equation

$$L = \frac{i}{2} \left( \langle \Psi | \dot{\Psi} \rangle - \langle \dot{\Psi} | \Psi \rangle \right) - \langle \Psi | \hat{H} | \Psi \rangle \quad (58)$$

### 3.1 Derivatives of coherent states

Consider the partial derivative of  $|Z\rangle$  with respect to the parameter  $Z_{ij}$ . Using Eq. 6 the result can be expressed as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial Z_{ij}} |Z\rangle = \hat{T}_{ij} |Z\rangle \quad (59)$$

Since the fermionic operator have no explicit dependence on  $Z$ , it commutes with the partial derivative. Hence we can take the partial derivative of an unnormalised coherent state transformed by a sequence of fermionic operators:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial Z_{ij}} \hat{f}_{\langle\rho\rangle}^\dagger \hat{f}_{\langle\sigma\rangle} |Z\rangle = \hat{f}_{\langle\rho\rangle}^\dagger \hat{f}_{\langle\sigma\rangle} \hat{T}_{ij} |Z\rangle \quad (60)$$

Consider a mixed partial derivative:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial Z_{ij}} \frac{\partial}{\partial Z_{kl}} |Z\rangle = \hat{T}_{kl} \hat{T}_{ij} |Z\rangle = \hat{T}_{ij} \hat{T}_{kl} |Z\rangle \quad (61)$$

The exchange of transition operators can be seen from the fact that  $i, k \in \pi_0$  and  $j, l \in \pi_1$  for the expression to be non-vanishing, which yields  $[\hat{T}_{ij}, \hat{T}_{kl}] = \hat{T}_{il} \delta_{kj} - \hat{T}_{kj} \delta_{il} = 0$ .

We shall also express the total time derivative of the unnormalised coherent state:

$$\left| \dot{Z} \right\rangle = \frac{d}{dt} |Z\rangle = \sum_{i \in \pi_0} \sum_{j \in \pi_1} \frac{\partial Z_{ij}}{\partial t} \frac{\partial}{\partial Z_{ij}} |Z\rangle = \sum_{i \in \pi_0} \sum_{j \in \pi_1} \dot{Z}_{ij} \hat{T}_{ij} |Z\rangle \quad (62)$$

Notice that the resulting Euler-Lagrange equations couple the evolution of  $Z_{ij}^m$  and  $A_m$ , which means that in the fully variational method, the basis state evolution is guided by their decomposition coefficients in the trial wavestate. In Sec. 3.4 we shall describe an approach which decouples these quantities, rendering the time-evolution of  $|Z^m\rangle$  only dependent on the initial values of  $Z_{ij}^m$ .

### 3.2 Matrix element of the quadratic $S$ -preserving Hamiltonian

For an  $S$ -preserving Hamiltonian, the one-body interaction can be expressed as  $V_{\alpha,\beta}^{(1)} \hat{f}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{f}_\beta$ , and two-body interaction as  $\frac{1}{2} V_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma,\delta}^{(2)} \hat{f}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{f}_\beta^\dagger \hat{f}_\gamma \hat{f}_\delta$ , where

- $V^{(1)}$  is Hermitian
- $V^{(2)}$  is anti-symmetric w.r.t. exchange of the first or second pair of indices, and Hermitian w.r.t. exchange of the two pairs of indices.

Then

$$\hat{H} = V_{\alpha,\beta}^{(1)} \hat{f}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{f}_\beta + \frac{1}{2} V_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma,\delta}^{(2)} \hat{f}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{f}_\beta^\dagger \hat{f}_\gamma \hat{f}_\delta \quad (63)$$

### 3.3 Schrodinger Euler-Lagrange equations

Using Wirtinger derivatives, the Euler-Lagrange equations are

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial A_m^*} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{A}_m^*} = 0 \quad (64)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial (Z_{ij}^m)^*} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial}{\partial (\dot{Z}_{ij}^m)^*} = 0 \quad (65)$$

with the equations obtained by differentiating w.r.t.  $A_m, Z_{ij}^m$  being complex conjugates of the equations stated above, providing no additional information.

We can also expand the Lagrangian in Eq. 58 as

$$L = \sum_{m,n} \left[ \frac{i}{2} \left( \{Z^m | Z^n\} (A_m^* \dot{A}_n - \dot{A}_m^* A_n) + A_m^* A_n \left( \{Z^m | \dot{Z}^n\} - \{\dot{Z}^m | Z^n\} \right) \right) - A_m^* A_n \{Z^m | \hat{H} | Z^n\} \right] \quad (66)$$

And its partial derivatives then become

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial A_m^*} = \sum_n \left[ \frac{i}{2} \left( \dot{A}_n \{Z^m|Z^n\} + A_n \left( \{Z^m|\dot{Z}^n\} - \{\dot{Z}^m|Z^n\} \right) \right) - A_n \{Z^m|\hat{H}|Z^n\} \right] \quad (67)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{A}_m^*} = -\frac{i}{2} \sum_n A_n \{Z^m|Z^n\} \quad (68)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{A}_m^*} = -\frac{i}{2} \sum_n \left[ \dot{A}_n \{Z^m|Z^n\} + A_n \left( \{Z^m|\dot{Z}^n\} + \{\dot{Z}^m|Z^n\} \right) \right] \quad (69)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L}{\partial (Z_{ij}^m)^*} = \sum_n \left[ \frac{i}{2} \left( \{Z^m|\hat{f}_j^\dagger \hat{f}_i|Z^n\} (A_m^* \dot{A}_n - \dot{A}_m^* A_n) + A_m^* A_n \left( \{Z^m|\hat{f}_j^\dagger \hat{f}_i|\dot{Z}^n\} - \{\dot{Z}^m|\hat{f}_j^\dagger \hat{f}_i|Z^n\} \right) \right) \right. \\ \left. - A_m^* A_n \{Z^m|\hat{f}_j^\dagger \hat{f}_i \hat{H}|Z^n\} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (70)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial (\dot{Z}_{ij}^m)^*} = -\frac{i}{2} \sum_n A_m^* A_n \{Z^m|\hat{f}_j^\dagger \hat{f}_i|Z^n\} \quad (71)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial (\dot{Z}_{ij}^m)^*} = -\frac{i}{2} \sum_n \left[ \{Z^m|\hat{f}_j^\dagger \hat{f}_i|Z^n\} (A_m^* \dot{A}_n + \dot{A}_m^* A_n) + A_m^* A_n \left( \{Z^m|\hat{f}_j^\dagger \hat{f}_i|\dot{Z}^n\} + \{\dot{Z}^m|\hat{f}_j^\dagger \hat{f}_i|Z^n\} \right) \right] \quad (72)$$

The Euler-Lagrange equations are then

$$i \sum_n \left[ \dot{A}_n \{Z^m|Z^n\} + A_n \sum_{i \in \pi_0} \sum_{j \in \pi_1} \dot{Z}_{ij}^n \{Z^m|\hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_j|Z^n\} \right] = \sum_n A_n \{Z^m|\hat{H}|Z^n\} \quad (73)$$

$$i \sum_n \left[ A_m^* \dot{A}_n \{Z^m|\hat{f}_j^\dagger \hat{f}_i|Z^n\} + A_m^* A_n \sum_{i' \in \pi_0} \sum_{j' \in \pi_1} \dot{Z}_{i'j'}^n \{Z^m|\hat{f}_j^\dagger \hat{f}_i \hat{f}_{i'}^\dagger \hat{f}_{j'}|Z^n\} \right] = \sum_n A_m^* A_n \{Z^m|\hat{f}_j^\dagger \hat{f}_i \hat{H}|Z^n\} \quad (74)$$

for  $m = 1 \dots N$  in the first system of equations and  $m = 1 \dots N, i \in \pi_0, j \in \pi_1$  in the second system of equations.

### 3.3.1 Matrix formulation of the Euler-Lagrange equations

Let us construct the generalised coordinate vector

$$\vec{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{Q}^A \\ \vec{Q}^Z \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q_m^A = A_m, \quad \vec{Q}^Z = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{Q}^{Z,1} \\ \vdots \\ \vec{Q}^{Z,M-S} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{Q}^{Z,i} = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{Q}^{Z,i,1} \\ \vdots \\ \vec{Q}^{Z,i,S} \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q_m^{Z,ij} = Z_{ij}^m \quad (75)$$

The Euler-Lagrange equations can then be expressed in matrix form

$$i\Omega \frac{d}{dt} \vec{Q} = \vec{R} \quad (76)$$

where  $\Omega$  is an  $(NS(M-S), NS(M-S))$  matrix and  $\vec{R}$  is an  $(NS(M-S))$ -dimensional vector, both being functions of  $\vec{Q}$ .

### 3.4 Decoupled basis propagation

## A Notation in this article

- $\langle S \rangle$ : A sequence constructed from the elements of set  $S \subset \mathbb{N}^+$  such that  $\langle S \rangle_i < \langle S \rangle_j \iff i < j$ . Such sequence shall be referred to as ascending. If  $S$  is a number, the sequence is explicitly  $\langle 1, 2 \dots S \rangle$ . The length of  $\langle S \rangle$  shall be denoted as  $|\langle S \rangle|$ .
- $\langle S \rangle^-$ : An object analogous to  $\langle S \rangle$ , except the sequence is strictly descending.
- $\Gamma_n \langle S \rangle$ : Set of all subsequences of length  $n$  of sequence  $\langle S \rangle$ .
- $\langle S_1 \rangle \oplus \langle S_2 \rangle$ : An ascending sequence constructed from ascending sequences  $\langle S_1 \rangle$  and  $\langle S_2 \rangle$  with no common elements, such that it contains every element from  $\langle S_1 \rangle$  and  $\langle S_2 \rangle$ .
- Two sequences are said to be disjoint if the sets upon which they are built are disjoint; that is, they share no common index.
- $M_{\langle S_1 \rangle, \langle S_2 \rangle}$  where  $M$  is a matrix: This denotes a matrix  $M'$  such that  $M'_{ij} = M_{\langle S_1 \rangle_i, \langle S_2 \rangle_j}$ , which is a submatrix of  $M$ .
- $|\langle S \rangle\rangle$ : An element of the full occupancy basis where the  $i$ -th mode is occupied iff  $i \in \langle S \rangle$ .
- $\hat{f}_{\langle S \rangle}^\dagger$ : A product of  $N = |\langle S \rangle|$  fermionic creation operators  $\hat{f}_{\langle S \rangle_1}^\dagger \dots \hat{f}_{\langle S \rangle_N}^\dagger$ . An analogous construction can be defined for a sequence of annihilation operators.
- $P^k$ : The set of permutations of  $k$  elements. For an element  $P \in P^k$  and an ascending sequence  $\langle S \rangle$ , we denote  $P\langle S \rangle_i$  the  $i$ -th element of the (not necessarily ascending) sequence constructed by permuting  $\langle S \rangle$  by  $P$ .
- $\uparrow \hat{f}_{\sigma_1}^\dagger \dots \hat{f}_{\sigma_n}^\dagger \downarrow$ : The *monotonic ordering* of a product of fermionic creation (or annihilation) operators. The result is the product of the same set of operators  $\hat{f}_{\rho_1}^\dagger \dots \hat{f}_{\rho_n}^\dagger \equiv \hat{f}_{\langle \rho \rangle}^\dagger$ ,  $\{\rho\} = \{\sigma\}$  such that their indices are in an ascending order. Equivalently, for any permutation  $P \in P^n$ , we have  $\uparrow \hat{f}_{P\langle \rho \rangle}^\dagger \downarrow = \hat{f}_{\langle \rho \rangle}^\dagger$ . *Note*: If applied to a sequence of both creation and annihilation operators, the monotonic ordering first applies a normal ordering, and then is applied to the creation and annihilation operators separately.
- $I_n$  denotes the identity matrix of order  $n$ .
- $\hat{I}$  denotes the identity operator.
- $\eta_x(S)$  is the number of elements in  $S$  smaller than  $x$ .
- $\eta_x^y$  is equal to one if  $x > y$  and to zero otherwise. It can be seen that  $\eta_x(S) = \sum_{s \in S} \eta_x^s$ .

## B Properties of fermionic creation and annihilation operators

Let  $|n_1, n_2 \dots n_M\rangle$  denote an element of the full-occupancy basis for which  $n_i$  particles occupy the  $i$ -th mode (for fermions  $n_i \in \{0, 1\}$ ). Then the action of the fermionic creation and annihilation operator on the  $i$ -th mode is [2, Eq. 3.47]

$$\hat{f}_i^\dagger |n_1, n_2 \dots n_M\rangle = (-1)^{\sum_{j<i} n_j} \sqrt{1-n_i} |n_1 \dots n_{i-1}, n_i + 1, n_{i+1} \dots n_M\rangle \quad (77)$$

$$\hat{f}_i |n_1, n_2 \dots n_M\rangle = (-1)^{\sum_{j<i} n_j} \sqrt{n_i} |n_1 \dots n_{i-1}, n_i - 1, n_{i+1} \dots n_M\rangle \quad (78)$$

The operators obey well-known anti-commutator identities:

$$\{\hat{f}_i, \hat{f}_j\} = 0 \quad \{\hat{f}_i^\dagger, \hat{f}_j^\dagger\} = 0 \quad \{\hat{f}_i, \hat{f}_j^\dagger\} = \delta_{ij} \quad (79)$$

Using the identity  $[\hat{A}, \hat{B}] = 2\hat{A}\hat{B} - \{\hat{A}, \hat{B}\} = \{\hat{A}, \hat{B}\} - 2\hat{B}\hat{A}$ , we can express the corresponding commutator relations:

$$[\hat{f}_i, \hat{f}_j] = 2\hat{f}_i\hat{f}_j \quad [\hat{f}_i^\dagger, \hat{f}_j^\dagger] = 2\hat{f}_i^\dagger\hat{f}_j^\dagger \quad [\hat{f}_i, \hat{f}_j^\dagger] = \delta_{ij} - 2\hat{f}_j^\dagger\hat{f}_i \quad [\hat{f}_i^\dagger, \hat{f}_j] = 2\hat{f}_i^\dagger\hat{f}_j - \delta_{ij} \quad (80)$$

We shall also state the Wick contraction  $\hat{A}\hat{B}:-\hat{A}\hat{B}:$  for every pairing of fermionic operators:

$$\overline{\hat{f}_i\hat{f}_j} = 0 \quad \overline{\hat{f}_i^\dagger\hat{f}_j^\dagger} = 0 \quad \overline{\hat{f}_i^\dagger\hat{f}_j} = 0 \quad \overline{\hat{f}_i\hat{f}_j^\dagger} = \delta_{ij} \quad (81)$$

A corollary of Eq. 79 is that exchanging two neighbouring creation or two annihilation operators in a product sequence flips the sign of the product. Since any permutation  $P$  of a sequence can be constructed from composing pairwise swaps ( $i \leftrightarrow i+1$ ), we have

$$\hat{f}_{\langle\sigma\rangle}^\dagger = \text{sgn}(P)\hat{f}_{P\langle\sigma\rangle}^\dagger \quad \hat{f}_{\langle\sigma\rangle} = \text{sgn}(P)\hat{f}_{P\langle\sigma\rangle} \quad (82)$$

This is useful, since the action of a creation operator sequence with ascending indices on the vacuum state has a trivial sign:

$$\hat{f}_{\langle\sigma\rangle}^\dagger |\text{vac.}\rangle = |\sigma\rangle \quad \text{therefore} \quad \hat{f}_{P\langle\sigma\rangle}^\dagger |\text{vac.}\rangle = \text{sgn}(P) |\sigma\rangle \quad (83)$$

## C Invalidity of the boson-analogous construction

The  $SU(M)$  bosonic coherent state with  $S$  particles can be expressed as

$$|z\rangle = N(z) \left( \sum_{m=1}^M z_m \hat{b}_m^\dagger \right)^S |\text{vac.}\rangle \quad (84)$$



where  $N(z)$  is some real-valued normalisation function. Let us create a "naive" fermionic coherent state with  $S$  particles by replacing the bosonic creation operators by their fermionic counterparts:

$$|z\rangle = N(z) \left( \sum_{m=1}^M z_m \hat{f}_m^\dagger \right)^S |\text{vac.}\rangle \quad (85)$$

Expanding the multinomial product, we see that all terms with repeated creation operators  $\hat{f}_i^\dagger \hat{f}_i^\dagger$  vanish, yielding

$$|z\rangle = N(z) \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma^S \langle M \rangle} \left( \prod_{i=1}^S z_{\langle a \rangle_i} \right) \sum_{P \in P^S} \hat{f}_{P\langle a \rangle}^\dagger = N(z) \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma^S \langle M \rangle} \left( \prod_{i=1}^S z_{\langle a \rangle_i} \right) \hat{f}_{\langle a \rangle}^\dagger \sum_{P \in P^S} \text{sgn}(P)$$

However, since  $\text{sgn}(P)$  is an irreducible representation of the permutation group on  $P^S$ , it is orthogonal to the trivial representation (for  $S > 1$ ), and hence its sum over all group elements vanishes. Hence

1. For  $S = 0, 1$ , the naive construction is equivalent to the construction in this article up to a meaningless transformation of the  $z$  parameter.
2. For  $S > 1$ , the naive construction vanishes.

## D Determinant of the upper-left zero block matrix

Consider an  $(m+n, m+n)$  matrix in the form

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0_{(m,m)} & A_{(m,n)} \\ B_{(n,m)} & C_{(n,n)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (86)$$

whose determinant we wish to calculate. If  $m > n$ , the determinant is trivially zero. Therefore, we can assume  $m \leq n$  for the non-trivial case.

Consider the matrices

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} I_{(m,m)} & A_{(m,n)} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Y = \begin{pmatrix} I_{(m,m)} \\ B_{(n,m)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (87)$$

Their product is

$$YX = \begin{pmatrix} I_{(m,m)} & A_{(m,n)} \\ B_{(n,m)} & (BA)_{(n,n)} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{therefore} \quad M - YX = \begin{pmatrix} I_{(m,m)} & 0_{(m,n)} \\ 0_{(m,n)} & (C - BA)_{(n,n)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (88)$$

Then, using the matrix determinant lemma we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \det(M) &= \det(M - YX + YX) \\ &= \det(I_{(m,m)} + X(M - YX)^{-1}Y) \det(M - YX) \end{aligned} \quad (89)$$

Since  $M - YX$  is block-diagonal, its determinant and inverse can be expressed like so:

$$\det(M - YX) = (-1)^m \det(C - BA) \quad \text{and} \quad (M - YX)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} I_{(m,m)} & 0_{(m,n)} \\ 0_{(m,n)} & (C - BA)_{(n,n)}^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad (90)$$

Therefore

$$X(M - YX)^{-1}Y = A(C - BA)^{-1}B - I_{(m,m)} \quad (91)$$

We substitute these results into Eq. 89 and use the matrix determinant lemma again to expand  $\det(C - BA)$ :

$$\det(M) = (-1)^m \det(A(C - BA)^{-1}B) \det(I_{(m,m)} - AC^{-1}B) \det(C) \quad (92)$$

We shall also use the Woodbury matrix identity to expand the inverse of  $C - BA$  and express the product of the first two determinants as the determinant of the product of their respective matrices, finally obtaining

$$\begin{aligned} \det(M) &= (-1)^m \det((AC^{-1}B + AC^{-1}B(I_{(m,m)} - AC^{-1}B)^{-1}AC^{-1}B)(I_{(m,m)} - AC^{-1}B)) \det(C) \\ &= (-1)^m \det(AC^{-1}B) \det(C) \end{aligned} \quad (93)$$

## E Constrained sum of complementary minor products

Consider two matrices  $X, Y$  of shapes  $(m, n)$  and  $(n, m)$ , respectively. For a given pair of index sequences  $\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle$  of equal length, we shall refer to the submatrix determinants  $\det(X_{\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle})$ ,  $\det(X_{\langle b \rangle, \langle a \rangle})$  as the complementary minors of  $X, Y$  over  $\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle$ . In this section we shall obtain the sum of products of all complementary minors of all ranks which are constrained by inclusion of the first  $u$  rows and first  $v$  columns.

**Lemma E.1** *For a square matrix  $M$ , the sum of all principal minors of all ranks which contain the first  $n$  rows/columns is equal to  $\det(I^{(n)} + M)$ , where  $I^{(n)}$  is the identity matrix with the first  $n$  elements along the diagonal set to zero.*

*Proof.* We will proceed by induction. Firstly, for  $n = 0$ , the sum is the sum of all principal minors for each rank  $r$ , denoted  $E_r$ . These sums form the coefficients of the characteristic polynomial of  $M$  like so: [5, Th. 1.2.16]

$$\det(tI - M) = \sum_{r=0}^x (-1)^r t^{x-r} E_r \quad (94)$$

where  $x$  is the number of rows of  $M$ . Evaluating this sum at  $t = -1$  yields

$$\begin{aligned} \det(-I - M) &= \sum_{r=0}^x (-1)^r (-1)^{x-r} E_r \\ \det(I + M) &= \sum_{r=0}^x E_r \end{aligned} \quad (95)$$

which shows the lemma holds for  $n = 0$ . Now: assume the lemma holds for  $n$ . For  $n + 1$ , we have the sum of all principal minors of  $M$  which contain the first  $n + 1$  rows/columns. We identify this as equivalent to the sum of all principal minors of  $M$  which contain the first  $n$  rows/columns, from which we subtract the sum of all principal minors of  $M$  which contain the first  $n$  rows/columns and do *not* contain the  $(n + 1)$ -th row/column. I.e. we can write

$$\sum_{r=n+1}^x \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle x^{(n+1)} \rangle} \det(M_{\langle n+1 \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle, \langle n+1 \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle}) = \sum_{r=n}^x \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle x^{(n)} \rangle} \left[ \det(M_{\langle n \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle, \langle n \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle}) - \det(M'_{\langle n \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle, \langle n \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle}) \right] \quad (96)$$

where  $M'$  is obtained by setting all elements in the  $(n + 1)$ -th row/column to zero. To the right side of the equation we apply the lemma, since it is assumed it holds for  $n$ :

$$\sum_{r=n+1}^x \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle x^{(n+1)} \rangle} \det(M_{\langle n+1 \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle, \langle n+1 \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle}) = \det(I^{(n)} + M) - \det(I^{(n)} + M') \quad (97)$$

Now, taking the Laplace expansion of  $\det(I^{(n)} + M)$  along the  $(n + 1)$ -th row, the element in the  $(n + 1)$ -th column is  $1 + M_{n+1, n+1}$  and its cofactor is  $\det(I^{(n)} + M')$ . Subtracting 1 from this element and adding the cofactor to the full Laplace expansion preserves the determinant, revealing

$$\det(I^{(n)} + M) = \det(I^{(n+1)} + M) + \det(I^{(n)} + M') \quad (98)$$

Substituting Eq. 98 into Eq. 97 yields

$$\sum_{r=n+1}^x \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle x^{(n+1)} \rangle} \det(M_{\langle n+1 \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle, \langle n+1 \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle}) = \det(I^{(n+1)} + M) \quad (99)$$

which finishes the proof.

**Theorem E.2** *The sum of the products of all complementary minors of  $X, Y$  of all ranks, constrained by the inclusion of the first  $u$  rows and the first  $k$  columns of  $X$ , is equal to*

$$(-1)^v \det \left( I^{(u+v)} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Y_{r.v} \\ X_{c.v} & X^{(c.v)} Y^{(r.v)} \end{pmatrix} \right) = (-1)^u \det \left( I^{(u+v)} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & X_{r.u} \\ Y_{c.u} & Y^{(c.u)} X^{(r.u)} \end{pmatrix} \right) \quad (100)$$

where subscript  $r, z, c, z$  specifies the rows or columns of a submatrix by inclusion of the index sequence  $z$ , and the superscript  $(r, z), (c, z)$  specifies the rows or columns of a submatrix by omission of the index sequence  $z$ .

*Proof.* Consider the explicit form of the sum formulated in the theorem:

$$\sum_{r=0}^{\min(m,n)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle m^{(u)} \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle n^{(v)} \rangle} \det(X_{\langle u \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle, \langle v \rangle \oplus \langle b \rangle}) \det(Y_{\langle v \rangle \oplus \langle b \rangle, \langle u \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle}) \quad (101)$$

where  $\langle x^{(y)} \rangle$  signifies the sequence  $\langle x \rangle$  with the first  $y$  elements omitted.

By applying the modified Cauchy-Binet formula [4, App. C] we can contract either of the two sequences  $\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle$ . Contracting sequence  $\langle a \rangle$  yields

$$= (-1)^v \sum_{r=0}^{\min(m,n)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_r \langle (m+v)^{(u+v)} \rangle} \det(M_{\langle u+v \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle, \langle u+v \rangle \oplus \langle a \rangle}) \quad \text{where} \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Y_{r,v} \\ X_{c,v} & X^{(c,v)} Y^{(r,v)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (102)$$

Applying lemma E.1 directly yields the first result in the theorem. Contracting sequence  $\langle b \rangle$  first and then applying the lemma yields the second result in the theorem. The proof is thus finished.

**Theorem E.3** *Consider the following sum of asymmetrically constrained complementary minor products*

$$S = \sum_r \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_{r_a} \langle m \rangle} \sum_{\langle b \rangle \in \Gamma_{r_b} \langle n \rangle} \det(X_{u_x \oplus \langle a \rangle, v_x \oplus \langle b \rangle}) \det(Y_{v_y \oplus \langle b \rangle, u_y \oplus \langle a \rangle}) \quad (103)$$

where  $u_x + v_y = v_x + u_y$  and  $v_x \leq v_y$ ,  $r_a$  and  $r_b$  are taken such that the submatrices in each term are square, the sum over  $r$  includes all possible square minors of  $X, Y$  which satisfy the constraints, and where  $D_{k \oplus \langle l \rangle, m \oplus \langle n \rangle}$  is the smallest submatrix of  $D$  which contains the upper left block of  $D$  with shape  $(k, m)$ , as well as the submatrix of the lower right block of  $D$  given by the row index sequence  $\langle l \rangle$  and column index sequence  $\langle n \rangle$ . The sum evaluates to

$$S = (-1)^{v_y(1+v_y-v_x)} \det \left( I^{(u_x+v_y)} + \begin{pmatrix} 0_{v_y, v_x} & Y_{r, v_y} \\ X_{c, v_x} & X^{(c, v_x)} Y^{(r, v_y)} \end{pmatrix} \right) \quad (104)$$

*Proof.* We start with a few observations. Firstly, the constraint  $u_x + v_y = v_x + u_y$  is not arbitrary, and it is in fact necessary for the sum to be constructable, which can be seen from inspecting the dimensions of  $X, Y$ —this also makes the choice of  $r_a, r_b$ , and the summation limits of  $r$  unique. Secondly, the notation  $D_{k \oplus \langle l \rangle, m \oplus \langle n \rangle}$  can be thought of as  $D_{\langle x \rangle, \langle y \rangle}$ , where  $\langle x \rangle$  is formed from indices  $1 \dots k$  concatenated with the sequence  $\langle l \rangle$  where each element was increased by  $k$ , with construction of  $\langle y \rangle$  being analogous. Thirdly, the fact only one of two possible contractions is presented follows from the minimal assumption  $v_x \leq v_y$ , which loses no generality. Should the opposite be true, relabelling  $X, Y$  and  $\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle$  reduces the problem to its original form; should we instead specify  $u_x \leq u_y$ , relabelling  $X, Y$  or  $\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle$  once again reduces the problem to the statement above.

Denote  $\Delta v = v_y - v_x$ . Consider the matrix  $X' = I_{\Delta v} \oplus X$ , i.e.

$$X' = \begin{pmatrix} I_{\Delta v} & \\ & X \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{hence} \quad \det(X'_{u_x + \Delta v \oplus \langle a \rangle, v_x + \Delta v \oplus \langle b \rangle}) = \det(X_{u_x \oplus \langle a \rangle, v_x \oplus \langle b \rangle}) \quad (105)$$

We can use the modified Cauchy-Binet formula to contract  $\langle b \rangle$  like so:

$$S = (-1)^{v_y} \sum_{r=0}^{\min(m,n)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_{r_a} \langle m \rangle} \det(M_{u_x + v_y \oplus \langle a \rangle, u_y + v_y \oplus \langle a \rangle}) \quad \text{where} \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} 0_{v_y, v_y} & Y_{r, v_y} \\ X'_{c, v_y} & X'^{(c, v_y)} Y^{(r, v_y)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (106)$$

We now observe that

$$X'_{c.v_y} = \begin{pmatrix} I_{\Delta v} & 0_{\Delta v, v_x} \\ 0_{v_x, \Delta v} & X_{c.v_x} \end{pmatrix} \quad (107)$$

and since the first  $\Delta v$  rows of  $X'^{(c.v_y)}$  are zero, we also have

$$X'^{(c.v_y)} Y^{(r.v_y)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0_{r, \Delta v} \\ X^{(c.v_x)} Y^{(r.v_y)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (108)$$

Taking the Laplace expansion of  $M$  for all  $(\Delta v, \Delta v)$  minors along the first  $\Delta v$  columns, there is only one non-zero contribution, which is  $\det(I_{\Delta v}) = 1$ . Considering its cofactor for any arbitrary constrained minor of  $M$ , we can rewrite the sum as

$$S = (-1)^{v_y(1+\Delta v)} \sum_{r=0}^{\min(m,n)} \sum_{\langle a \rangle \in \Gamma_{r_a} \langle m \rangle} \det \left( M'_{u_x+v_y \oplus \langle a \rangle, v_x+u_y \oplus \langle a \rangle} \right) \quad \text{where} \quad M' = \begin{pmatrix} 0_{v_y, v_x} & Y_{r.v_y} \\ X_{c.v_x} & X^{(c.v_x)} Y^{(r.v_y)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (109)$$

Since  $u_x + v_y = v_x + u_y$ , this sum can be reducing by direct application of Lemma E.1, which finishes the proof.

*Note.* We shall now explicitly state the construction of  $r_a, r_b$  and the summation limits on  $r$ . Since we demand the submatrices of  $X, Y$  be square, we have

$$u_x + r_a = v_x + r_b = r \geq 0 \quad (110)$$

$$u_y + r_a = v_y + r_b = r \geq 0 \quad (111)$$

To satisfy both equations and inequalities, we take

$$\begin{aligned} r_a &= r - \min(u_x, u_y), & r_b &= r - \min(v_x, v_y), \\ r &= \max(\min(u_x, u_y), \min(v_x, v_y)) \dots \min(X_{\text{rows}} - u_x + \min(u_x, u_y), X_{\text{cols}} - v_x + \min(v_x, v_y)) \end{aligned} \quad (112)$$

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