

key equation  $\rightarrow E_{\{\tau\}} = \sum_i O_{\tau_i, \tau_{i+1}}$

$O_{\tau_i, \tau_{i+1}}$

The diagram illustrates the key equation  $E_{\{\tau\}} = \sum_i O_{\tau_i, \tau_{i+1}}$ . It shows the operator  $O_{\tau_i, \tau_{i+1}}$  (represented by a gray rectangle) is equal to the sum of three terms, each representing a different configuration of the system. Each term consists of two vertical paths, each with a purple triangle at the top and bottom, and a central gray rectangle. The paths are labeled  $\tau_i$  and  $\tau_{i+1}$ . The first term shows the paths with magenta squares. The second term shows the paths with magenta squares and a central gray rectangle, with an arrow labeled  $h_{i,i+1}$  pointing to it. The third term shows the paths with magenta squares and a central gray rectangle.