

A general two-particle operator takes the form

$$F = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} \sum_{\substack{i,j \\ k,l}} |i\rangle_{\alpha} |j\rangle_{\beta} \underbrace{\langle i,j | F | k,l \rangle}_{\text{two-particle matrix element}} \langle k|_{\alpha} \langle l|_{\beta}$$

Example: Pair interaction $V^{(2)}(\vec{r}, \vec{r}')$

$$\Rightarrow \langle i,j | V^{(2)} | k,l \rangle =$$

$$= \int d\vec{r} \int d\vec{r}' \psi_i^*(\vec{r}) \psi_j^*(\vec{r}') V^{(2)}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}') \psi_k(\vec{r}) \psi_l(\vec{r}')$$

Here the operator of interest is

$$\underline{\sigma_{ijkl}} := \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} |i\rangle_{\alpha} |j\rangle_{\beta} \langle k|_{\alpha} \langle l|_{\beta} =$$

$$= \underbrace{\left(\sum_{\alpha} |i\rangle_{\alpha} \langle k|_{\alpha} \right)}_{= a_i^{\dagger} a_k} \underbrace{\left(\sum_{\beta} |j\rangle_{\beta} \langle l|_{\beta} \right)}_{= a_j^{\dagger} a_l} =$$

$$- \sum_{\alpha} |i\rangle_{\alpha} \underbrace{\langle k|_{\alpha} |j\rangle_{\alpha}}_{= \delta_{kj}} \langle l|_{\alpha} =$$

$$= a_i^{\dagger} a_k \underbrace{a_j^{\dagger} a_l}_{= a_j^{\dagger} a_k + \delta_{kj} 1} = \underline{a_i^{\dagger} a_j^{\dagger} a_k a_l}$$

Thus $\sigma_{ij,kl}$ replaces two particles in states k, l by two particles in states i, j , and we can write

$$F = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ijkl} \langle i, j | F | k, l \rangle a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger a_l a_k$$

b) Fermions

We will show that the relation

$$\sigma_{ij} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^N |i\rangle_\alpha \langle j|_\alpha = a_i^\dagger a_j$$

holds also for fermions. For this, consider an antisymmetrized state $S_- |i_1, \dots, i_N\rangle$ with the ordering convention that

$$i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_N$$

Then

$$[\sigma_{ij}, S_-] = 0$$

$$\sigma_{ij} S_- |i_1, \dots, i_N\rangle = S_- \sum_{\alpha} |i\rangle_{\alpha} \langle j|_{\alpha} |i_1, \dots, i_N\rangle$$

$$= \begin{cases} |i_1, \dots, i_N\rangle & \text{if } i_{\alpha} = j \text{ and } i_{\beta} \neq i \text{ for } \beta \neq \alpha \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

Two cases:

(i) $i = j$: The state is reproduced if $n_i = 1$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{\sigma_{ii} S_- |i_1, \dots, i_N\rangle} = n_i S_- |i_1, \dots, i_N\rangle =$$

$$= n_i^\dagger |u_1 u_2 \dots\rangle = \underline{a_i^\dagger a_i |u_1 u_2 \dots\rangle}$$

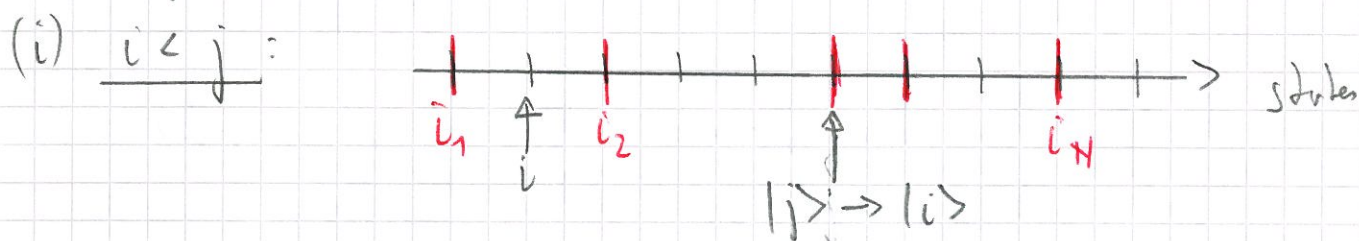
(4)

(ii) $i \neq j$: Then the result is nonzero only if $n_j = 1$ and $n_i = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_{ij} |i_1 \dots i_N\rangle = n_j (1 - n_i) |i_1 \dots i_N\rangle_{j \rightarrow i}$$

where $|i_1 \dots i_N\rangle_{j \rightarrow i}$ is the product state with $|j\rangle$ replaced by $|i\rangle$.

To proceed this state has to be reordered. Again there are two cases:



To reorder the state, the number of exchanges needed is

$$K(i, j) = \sum_{i < k < j} n_k$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_{ij} |u_1 \dots u_i \dots u_j \dots\rangle = n_j (1 - n_i) (-1)^{K(i, j)} |u_1 \dots u_{i+1} \dots u_{j-1} \dots\rangle$$

Compare this to

$$\begin{aligned} a_i^\dagger a_j |u_1 \dots u_i \dots u_j \dots\rangle &= a_i^\dagger n_j (-1)^{\sum_{k < j} n_k} |u_1 \dots u_i \dots u_{j-1} \dots\rangle \\ &= (1 - n_i) n_j (-1)^{\sum_{k < j} n_k} (-1)^{\sum_{k < i} n_k} |u_1 \dots u_{i+1} \dots u_{j-1} \dots\rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Now } \sum_{k < j} n_k + \sum_{k < i} n_k = 2 \sum_{k < i} n_k + K(i, j) + n_i = 0$$

□

(ii) $i > j$: The number of exchanges is again

$$K(i,j) = \sum_{j < k < i} n_k$$

but now

$$\begin{aligned} a_i^\dagger a_j |n_1, n_j, n_i, \dots\rangle &= a_i^\dagger n_j (-1)^{\sum_{k < j} n_k} | \dots, n_{j-1}, \dots \rangle \\ &= (1-n_i) n_j \underbrace{(-1)^{\sum_{k < i} n_k - 1} (-1)^{\sum_{k < j} n_k}}_{=0} | \dots, n_{j-1}, \dots, n_i+1, \dots \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{total exponent: } \sum_{k < i} n_k + \sum_{k < j} n_k - 1 =$$

$$= 2 \sum_{k < i} n_k + K(i,j) + \underbrace{n_j - 1}_{=0} \quad \square$$

This proves the representation

$$\underline{T = \sum_{i,j} t_{ij} a_i^\dagger a_j}$$

for single particle operators.

For two-particle operators consider

$$\underline{\sigma_{ijkl}} = \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} |i\rangle_\alpha |j\rangle_\beta \langle k|_\alpha \langle l|_\beta =$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= a_i^\dagger a_k a_j^\dagger a_l - \delta_{kj} a_i^\dagger a_l = \\ &\quad \underbrace{= \delta_{kj} - a_j^\dagger a_k}_{=0} = \underline{a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger a_l a_k} \end{aligned}$$

To summarize, a general Hamiltonian including an external potential and pair interactions can be written as

$$H = \sum_{ij} (t_{ij} + V_{ij}^{(1)}) a_i^\dagger a_j + \\ + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ijkl} \langle ij | V^{(2)} | kl \rangle a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger a_l a_k.$$

The difference between bosons and fermions enters only through the commutation relations for the annihilation and creation operators.

4° Field operators

Creation and annihilation operators are always defined w.r.t. a single particle basis. Under a change of basis, $|i\rangle \rightarrow |\lambda\rangle$ the basis states transform as

$$|\lambda\rangle = \sum_i |i\rangle \langle i|\lambda\rangle$$

The corresponding operators satisfy

$$a_i^\dagger |0\rangle = |i\rangle, \quad a_\lambda^\dagger |0\rangle = |\lambda\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow a_\lambda^\dagger |0\rangle = \sum_i \langle i|\lambda\rangle a_i^\dagger |0\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} a_\lambda^\dagger = \sum_i \langle i|\lambda\rangle a_i^\dagger \\ a_\lambda = \sum_i \langle \lambda|i\rangle a_i \end{cases}$$

In this section we formulate the second quantized theory w.r.t. the position and momentum representations.

a) Position representation

Single particle states are represented by wave function

$$\phi_i(\vec{r}) = \langle \vec{r} | i \rangle, \quad \phi_i^* = \langle i | \vec{r} \rangle$$

The corresponding creation and annihilation

operators are called field operators and defined by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \psi^+(\vec{r}) &= \sum_i \phi_i^*(\vec{r}) a_i^\dagger \\ \psi(\vec{r}) &= \sum_i \phi_i(\vec{r}) a_i \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Then

$$\psi^+(\vec{r})|0\rangle = \sum_i |0\rangle \langle 0|\vec{r}\rangle = |\vec{r}\rangle$$

i.e. $\psi^+(\vec{r})$ creates and $\psi(\vec{r})$ annihilates a particle at position $\vec{r}$.

Properties of the field operators:

(i) Commutation relations: To simplify notation we introduce

$$\left. \begin{aligned} [A, B]_- &= AB - BA = [A, B] \\ [A, B]_+ &= AB + BA = \{A, B\} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Then it follows straightforwardly from the relations for the $a_i^\dagger, a_i$ that

$$[\psi(\vec{r}), \psi(\vec{r}')]_{\pm} = 0$$

$$[\psi^+(\vec{r}), \psi^+(\vec{r}')]_{\pm} = 0$$

$$[\psi(\vec{r}), \psi^+(\vec{r}')]_{\pm} = \sum_{ij} \phi_i(\vec{r}) \phi_j^*(\vec{r}') \underbrace{[a_i, a_j^\dagger]_{\pm}}_{=\delta_{ij}}$$

$$= \sum_i \phi_i(\vec{r}) \phi_i^*(\vec{r}') = \underline{\delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}')} \quad (4)$$

(ii) Kinetic energy: $T = \sum_{ij} t_{ij} a_i^\dagger a_j$ with

$$t_{ij} = \int d^3r \phi_i^*(\vec{r}) \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \right) \phi_j(\vec{r}) =$$

$$= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int d^3r (\nabla \phi_i^*) \cdot (\nabla \phi_j)$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{T} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \sum_{ij} \int d^3r (\nabla \phi_i^* a_i^\dagger) \cdot (\nabla \phi_j a_j)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int d^3r \left(\nabla \sum_i \phi_i^* a_i^\dagger \right) \cdot \left(\nabla \sum_j \phi_j a_j \right) =$$

$$= \underline{\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int d^3r (\nabla \psi^\dagger) \cdot (\nabla \psi)} \quad \textcircled{T}$$

(iii) Single particle potential: $V^{(1)} = \sum_{ij} V_{ij}^{(1)} a_i^\dagger a_j$

$$V_{ij}^{(1)} = \int d^3r \phi_i^*(\vec{r}) \phi_j(\vec{r}) v^{(1)}(\vec{r})$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{V^{(1)} = \int d^3r v^{(1)}(\vec{r}) \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}) \psi(\vec{r})} \quad \textcircled{V^{(1)}}$$

(iv) Two-particle interaction:

$$\langle ij | V^{(2)} | kl \rangle = \int d^3r \int d^3r' \phi_i^*(\vec{r}) \phi_j^*(\vec{r}') \times$$

$$\times V^{(2)}(\vec{r}, \vec{r}') \phi_k(\vec{r}) \phi_l(\vec{r}')$$

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$$\Rightarrow V^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ijkl} \langle ij | V^{(2)} | kl \rangle a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger a_l a_k$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r \int d^3r' V^{(2)}(\vec{r}, \vec{r}') \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}) \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \psi(\vec{r}') \psi(\vec{r})$$

(v) Particle density: $n(\vec{r}) := \sum_{\alpha} \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_{\alpha})$

where $\vec{r}_{\alpha}$ is the position operator of the α 'th particle. Thus the single particle operator of particle α is $\delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_{\alpha})$ with matrix elements

$$n_{ij}(\vec{r}) = \int d^3r_{\alpha} \phi_i^*(\vec{r}_{\alpha}) \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_{\alpha}) \phi_j(\vec{r}_{\alpha}) = \phi_i^*(\vec{r}) \phi_j(\vec{r})$$

(w) $\Rightarrow \underline{n(\vec{r})} = \sum_{ij} \phi_i^*(\vec{r}) \phi_j(\vec{r}) a_i^\dagger a_j = \underline{\psi^\dagger(\vec{r}) \psi(\vec{r})}$

and the total particle number operator is

$$\hat{N} = \int d^3r \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}) \psi(\vec{r})$$

Remark on the term "second quantization":

The relations (T), (Vⁿ), (w) follow (formally) from the corresponding expressions of single particle quantum mechanics

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \langle T \rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int d^3r |\nabla \psi|^2 & \text{expectation value of kinetic energy} \\ \langle V^{(n)} \rangle = \int d^3r V^{(n)}(\vec{r}) |\psi(\vec{r})|^2 & \text{expectation value of potential energy} \\ n(\vec{r}) = |\psi(\vec{r})|^2 & \text{probability density} \end{array} \right.$$

by replacing the single particle wave function by the field operators.

b) Equations of motion

We derive an equation of motion for the

field operator in the Heisenberg picture:

$$\psi(\vec{r}, t) := \psi_H(\vec{r}, t) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} t H} \psi(\vec{r}) e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} t H}$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_U$

with the Hamiltonian

$$H = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int d^3r (\nabla \psi^\dagger) \cdot (\nabla \psi) +$$

$$+ \int d^3r V^{(n)}(\vec{r}) \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}) \psi(\vec{r}) +$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r \int d^3r' V^{(2)}(\vec{r}, \vec{r}') \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}) \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \psi(\vec{r}') \psi(\vec{r})$$

Since H commutes with U , we have

$$\underline{i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t}} = - [H, \psi]_- = - \underline{e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} t H} [H, \psi(\vec{r})]_- e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} t H}}$$

with $\psi(\vec{r}) = \psi(\vec{r}, 0)$. The following relations are useful:

$$\underline{[AB, C]_- = A[B, C]_\pm \mp [A, C]_\pm B}$$

(see exercise 1.1. a) for proof). With this:

$$\begin{aligned} [T, \psi(\vec{r})]_- &= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int d^3r' [\nabla' \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \cdot \nabla' \psi(\vec{r}'), \psi(\vec{r})] \\ &= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int d^3r' \left(\nabla' \psi^\dagger \cdot \underbrace{[\nabla' \psi(\vec{r}'), \psi(\vec{r})]_\pm}_{=0} \mp \right. \\ &\quad \left. \mp [\nabla' \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}'), \psi(\vec{r})]_\pm \cdot \nabla' \psi(\vec{r}') \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \nabla' [\psi^\dagger(\vec{r}'), \psi(\vec{r})]_\pm = \pm \nabla' \delta(\vec{r}' - \vec{r}) \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{upper: fermions} \\ \text{lower: bosons} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{[T, \psi(\vec{r})]} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int d^3r' (-\nabla' \delta(\vec{r}' - \vec{r})) \cdot \nabla' \psi(\vec{r}') =$$

$$= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi(\vec{r})$$

In the same way we show that

$$\underline{[V^{(1)}, \psi(\vec{r})]_- = -V^{(1)}(\vec{r}) \psi(\vec{r})}$$

For the two-particle contribution we need to compute

$$\frac{1}{2} \int d^3r' \int d^3r'' v^{(2)}(\vec{r}', \vec{r}'') [\underbrace{\psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}'') \psi(\vec{r}'') \psi(\vec{r}'), \psi(\vec{r})}]$$

$$= \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}'') \psi(\vec{r}'') \psi(\vec{r}') \psi(\vec{r}) -$$

$$- \psi(\vec{r}) \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}'') \psi(\vec{r}'') \psi(\vec{r}') =$$

$$= \underbrace{[\psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}''), \psi(\vec{r})]_-}_{\text{}} \psi(\vec{r}'') \psi(\vec{r}') =$$

$$= \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') [\psi^\dagger(\vec{r}''), \psi(\vec{r})]_\pm \mp [\psi^\dagger(\vec{r}'), \psi(\vec{r})]_\pm \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}'')$$

$$= \underline{\pm \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \delta(\vec{r}'' - \vec{r}) - \delta(\vec{r}' - \vec{r}) \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}'')}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r' \int d^3r'' v^{(2)}(\vec{r}', \vec{r}'') [\psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}'') \psi(\vec{r}'') \psi(\vec{r}'), \psi(\vec{r})]_-$$

$$= \pm \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r' v^{(2)}(\vec{r}', \vec{r}) \underbrace{\psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \psi(\vec{r}) \psi(\vec{r}')}_{\text{}} +$$

$$= \mp \psi(\vec{r}') \psi(\vec{r})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -\frac{1}{2} \int d^3 r'' v^{(2)}(\vec{r}, \vec{r}'') \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}'') \psi(\vec{r}'') \psi(\vec{r}) \\
 & = - \int d^3 r' v^{(2)}(\vec{r}, \vec{r}') \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \psi(\vec{r}') \psi(\vec{r})
 \end{aligned}$$

where it has been assumed that the interaction is symmetric, $v^{(2)}(\vec{r}, \vec{r}') = v^{(2)}(\vec{r}', \vec{r})$.

To summarize:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + v^{(1)}(\vec{r}) \right]}_{\text{single particle Hamiltonian } H^{(1)}} \psi(\vec{r}, t)$$

$$+ \int d^3 r' v^{(2)}(\vec{r}, \vec{r}') e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} t H} \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}') \psi(\vec{r}') \psi(\vec{r}) e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} t H}$$

Using that

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
 \psi(\vec{r}) &= e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} t H} \psi(\vec{r}, t) e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} t H} \\
 \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}) &= e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} t H} \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}, t) e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} t H}
 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

the interaction term becomes

$$\int d^3 r' v^{(2)}(\vec{r}, \vec{r}') \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}', t) \psi(\vec{r}', t) \psi(\vec{r}, t)$$

c) Momentum representation

In the momentum representation the eigenfunctions are plane waves. To allow for normalization, we assume confinement of the particle to a volume

$$\left. \begin{aligned} V &= L_x L_y L_z \\ \Rightarrow \phi_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r}) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{V}} \exp[i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}] \end{aligned} \right\}$$

with periodic boundary conditions

$$\phi_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r} + L_x \vec{e}_x) = \phi_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r}) \quad \text{etc.}$$

$\Rightarrow$ permissible momentum vectors are of the form

$$\vec{k} = 2\pi \left(\frac{v_x}{L_x}, \frac{v_y}{L_y}, \frac{v_z}{L_z} \right), \quad v_{x,y,z} \in \mathbb{Z}$$

These states are orthonormal,

$$\int d^3r \phi_{\vec{k}}^*(\vec{r}) \phi_{\vec{k}'}(\vec{r}) = \delta_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}'}$$

Matrix elements

(i) Kinetic energy: $t_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}'} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int d^3r \phi_{\vec{k}}^* \nabla^2 \phi_{\vec{k}'}$

$$= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} |\vec{k}|^2 \int d^3r \phi_{\vec{k}}^*(\vec{r}) \phi_{\vec{k}'}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} |\vec{k}|^2 \delta_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}'}$$

(ii) Single-particle potential:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{V_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}'}^{(1)}} &= \frac{1}{V} \int d^3\vec{r} \, v^{(1)}(\vec{r}) e^{-i(\vec{k}-\vec{k}') \cdot \vec{r}} = \\ &= \underline{\frac{1}{V} \hat{v}^{(1)}(\vec{k}-\vec{k}')} \end{aligned}$$

where $\hat{v}^{(1)}(\vec{q}) = \int d^3\vec{r} \, e^{-i\vec{q} \cdot \vec{r}} v^{(1)}(\vec{r})$

is the Fourier transform of the potential.

(iii) Two-particle interaction:

We assume that the interaction potential is translationally invariant, i.e.

$$v^{(2)}(\vec{r}, \vec{r}') = v^{(2)}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}')$$

Then the matrix element of interest is

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \vec{k}', \vec{q}' | V^{(2)} | \vec{k}, \vec{q} \rangle = \\ &= \frac{1}{V^2} \int d^3\vec{r} \int d^3\vec{r}' e^{i(\vec{k}-\vec{k}') \cdot \vec{r}} e^{i(\vec{q}-\vec{q}') \cdot \vec{r}'} \times \\ &\quad \times \underline{v^{(2)}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}')} \\ &= \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\vec{p}} \hat{v}^{(2)}(\vec{p}) e^{i\vec{p} \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}')} \end{aligned}$$

inverse Fourier transform

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$$\Rightarrow \langle \vec{k}, \vec{q}' | \hat{V}^{(2)} | \vec{k}, \vec{q} \rangle =$$

$$= \frac{1}{V^3} \sum_{\vec{p}} \hat{V}^{(2)}(\vec{p}) \underbrace{\int d^3r e^{i(\vec{k}-\vec{k}'+\vec{p}) \cdot \vec{r}}}_{V \delta_{\vec{k}-\vec{k}', -\vec{p}}} \times$$

$$\times \underbrace{\int d^3r' e^{i(\vec{q}-\vec{q}'-\vec{p}) \cdot \vec{r}'}}_{V \delta_{\vec{q}-\vec{q}', \vec{p}}} =$$

$$= \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\vec{p}} \hat{V}^{(2)}(\vec{p}) \delta_{\vec{k}-\vec{k}', -\vec{p}} \delta_{\vec{q}-\vec{q}', \vec{p}}$$

It follows that the Hamiltonian in second quantized form reads

$$H = \sum_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}'} \left[\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} |\vec{k}|^2 \delta_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}'} + \frac{1}{V} \hat{V}^{(2)}(\vec{k}-\vec{k}') \right] a_{\vec{k}}^\dagger a_{\vec{k}'} +$$

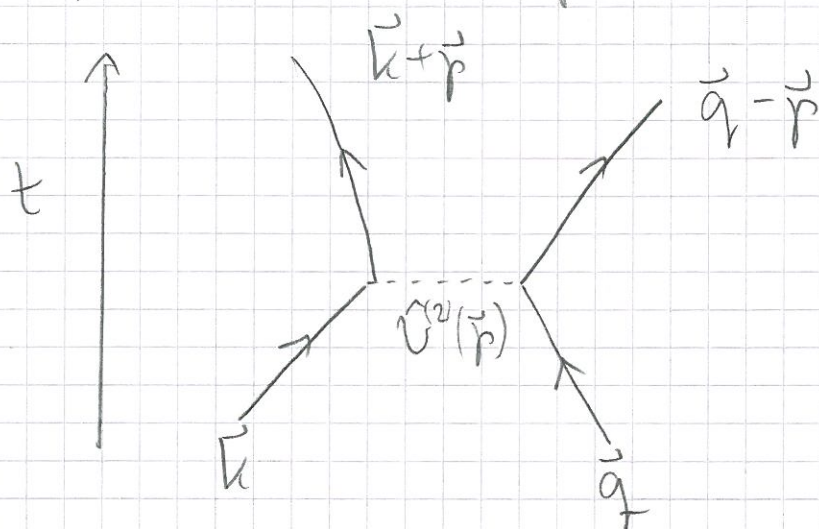
$$+ \frac{1}{2V} \sum_{\substack{\vec{k}, \vec{q}, \\ \vec{p}}} \hat{V}^{(2)}(\vec{p}) a_{\vec{k}+\vec{p}}^\dagger a_{\vec{q}-\vec{p}}^\dagger a_{\vec{q}} a_{\vec{k}}$$

Interpretation of the interaction term:

Two particles with momenta $(\vec{k}, \vec{q})$ are

replaced by two particles with momenta $(\vec{k} + \vec{p}, \vec{q} - \vec{p})$. This conserves the total momentum, and the transferred momentum $\vec{p}$ is provided by the interaction.

Such interactions are conveniently represented by Feynman diagrams:



(iv) Density operator¹⁾: $n(\vec{r}) = \psi^\dagger(\vec{r}) \psi(\vec{r})$

$$\psi(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V}} \sum_{\vec{k}} e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} a_{\vec{k}},$$

$$\psi^\dagger(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V}} \sum_{\vec{k}} e^{-i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} a_{\vec{k}}^\dagger$$

$$\Rightarrow n(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}'} e^{i\vec{r} \cdot (\vec{k} - \vec{k}')} a_{\vec{k}'}^\dagger a_{\vec{k}}$$

¹⁾ Note that this is not the same as ρ .