

Consider the following eigenstates of a hypothetical quantum system.¹

$ 00\rangle = (1, 0, 0, 0)$	no fermions
$ 10\rangle = (0, 1, 0, 0)$	one fermion in state ϕ_1
$ 01\rangle = (0, 0, 1, 0)$	one fermion in state ϕ_2
$ 11\rangle = (0, 0, 0, 1)$	two fermions, one in state ϕ_1 , one in state ϕ_2

Let fermion states ϕ_n be modeled by a one dimensional box of length L .

$$\phi_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

Creation and annihilation operators are formed from outer products of state vectors. Sign changes make the operators antisymmetric.

$\hat{b}_1^\dagger = 10\rangle\langle 00 - 11\rangle\langle 01 $	Create one fermion in state ϕ_1
$\hat{b}_1 = 00\rangle\langle 10 - 01\rangle\langle 11 $	Annihilate one fermion in state ϕ_1
$\hat{b}_2^\dagger = 01\rangle\langle 00 + 11\rangle\langle 10 $	Create one fermion in state ϕ_2
$\hat{b}_2 = 00\rangle\langle 01 + 10\rangle\langle 11 $	Annihilate one fermion in state ϕ_2

Given the wavefunction operator

$$\hat{\psi} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{n,m} \phi_n(x)\phi_m(y)\hat{b}_n\hat{b}_m$$

show that

$$\hat{\psi}|11\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\phi_1(x)\phi_2(y) - \phi_1(y)\phi_2(x))|00\rangle$$

¹Adapted from problem 16.2.1 of “Quantum Mechanics for Scientists and Engineers.”
<https://ee.stanford.edu/~dabm/QMbook.html>