

We prove that the Slater determinant is normalized.

Proof

The Slater determinant is defined as

$$\Psi(\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \begin{vmatrix} \phi_1(\vec{x}_1) & \dots & \phi_N(\vec{x}_1) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_1(\vec{x}_N) & \dots & \phi_N(\vec{x}_N) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_N=1}^N \epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \phi_{i_1}(\vec{x}_1) \dots \phi_{i_N}(\vec{x}_N),$$

where the final equality comes from the definition of the determinant, and  $\langle \phi_i | \phi_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$ .

Then,  $\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle =$

$$\int \prod_{k=1}^N d^3x_k \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \sum_{j_1, \dots, j_N=1}^N \epsilon_{j_1, \dots, j_N} \phi_{j_1}^*(\vec{x}_1) \dots \phi_{j_N}^*(\vec{x}_N) \right] \cdot$$

$$\left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_N=1}^N \epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \phi_{i_1}(\vec{x}_1) \dots \phi_{i_N}(\vec{x}_N) \right] =$$

$$\frac{1}{N!} \sum_{\substack{i_1, \dots, i_N \\ j_1, \dots, j_N}} \epsilon_{j_1 \dots j_N} \epsilon_{i_1 \dots i_N} \int \prod_{k=1}^N d^3x_k \phi_{j_k}^*(\vec{x}_k) \phi_{i_k}(\vec{x}_k) =$$

This is because  
 $\iint f(x)g(y)dx dy = (\int f(x)dx)(\int g(y)dy)$

$$\frac{1}{N!} \sum_{\substack{i_1, \dots, i_N \\ j_1, \dots, j_N}} \epsilon_{j_1 \dots j_N} \epsilon_{i_1 \dots i_N} \prod_{k=1}^N \left( \int d^3x_k \phi_{j_k}^*(\vec{x}_k) \phi_{i_k}(\vec{x}_k) \right) =$$

$$\frac{1}{N!} \sum_{\substack{i_1, \dots, i_N \\ j_1, \dots, j_N}} \epsilon_{j_1 \dots j_N} \epsilon_{i_1 \dots i_N} \prod_{k=1}^N \delta_{j_k i_k} =$$

$$\frac{1}{N!} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_N} (\epsilon_{i_1 \dots i_N})^2 = \frac{1}{N!} \cdot N! = 1,$$

where the penultimate equality comes from the fact that  $|\epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N}| = 1$

only if  $(i_1, \dots, i_N)$  is a permutation of  $(1, \dots, N)$ , and there are  $N!$  such permutations.

