

”Dedicated to Prof. R.S. Berry on the occasion of his 70th Birthday”

## Real-space renormalization group study of the Hubbard model on a non-bipartite lattice

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**Abstract:** We present the real-space block renormalization group equations for fermion systems described by a Hubbard Hamiltonian on a triangular lattice with hexagonal blocks. The conditions that keep the equations from proliferation of the couplings are derived. Computational results are presented including the occurrence of a first-order metal-insulator transition at the critical value of  $U/t \approx 12.5$ .

**Keywords:** Metal-insulator transition; Renormalization group method; Triangular lattice; Quantum dots.

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## 1 Introduction

The ability to prepare arrays with made to measure electronic properties has generated much recent activity[1]. This was made possible by the development of synthetic methods for the preparation of, so called, quantum dots. For our purpose these dots act like designer atoms. The properties of individual dots can be designed by the choice of composition and size. Size is a particular variable we wish to emphasize. Quantum dots are aggregates of tens or hundreds of atoms (or molecules) and so are nanoscale building blocks. The size of the dots is however small enough so that, since the highest lying electron(s) are confined to the volume of the dot, the electronic energy levels are still discrete. For a chemist, it is convenient to think of the higher-most electrons of each dot as the valence electron of an atom[2].

These dots can self assemble into a planar array. For, e.g., Ag nanodots, the packing is hexagonal. The reason why adjacent dots in such an array may have an unequal charge distribution is related to their nano-scale size. Unlike the smaller ordinary atoms, a quantum dot does not require a high energy cost to induce an electron transfer from a neighboring dot. This is technically stated by saying that the charging energy of a dot is atypically low. Electrostatic considerations suggest that the charging energy scales inversely with size and this has been experimentally born out. Metallic quantum dots have charging energy of well below an eV while atoms have charging energies of at least several eV's.

The current attention on architecture with quantum dots building blocks is partly motivated by potential applications of such nanoscale quantum devices. In this paper we explore how corresponding computations can be carried out. The technical problem is that the Coulombic repulsion between two electrons (of opposite spins) that occupy the same dot cannot be described in a one electron approximation. It requires allowing for correlation of electrons. The simplest model Hamiltonian that can describe the Coulombic (or charging energy) effects is due to Hubbard[3]. This paper is a study of exploring a computationally tractable method for solving for the states of the Hubbard Hamiltonian for a lattice. The development makes essential use of the nature of the intended applications. At low temperatures, only those states of the array that are quite close to the ground state are important[4].

The Hubbard model is the simplest model one can use to study the Mott metal-insulator transition, i.e. the transition from a metallic to an insulating phase driven by correlations between electrons[5]. Despite the extensive efforts in studying the Hubbard model [3, 6, 7] there are still difficulties in extending the one-dimensional results to higher-dimensions. The difficulties mainly come from the electron correlations inherent in this model, which becomes more complicated in two and three-dimensions. Several methods have been developed to treat these problems such as exact diagonalization methods[8], quantum Monte-Carlo simulations[9] and a variety of approxi-

mation techniques like mean-field theory[10], Green's function decoupling schemes[11], functional integral formulations [12], variational approach[13] and perturbation expansion [14]. It is already known that the numerical methods suffer from the finite-size effect and perturbation calculations are not useful when dealing with the intermediate-to-strong correlations. In this context, using the real-space renormalization group method seem to be a promising direction because of its non-perturbative nature. In fact, this method has been applied to quantum lattice systems[15]. For example, the density matrix renormalization group[16] has provided a revolutionary way to obtain reliable results for the one-dimensional Hubbard model and the numerical renormalization group for interacting finite Fermi systems[17] and for excitations in atoms[18]. To apply the renormalization group method to higher dimensions, the simplest way is to use the block renormalization group method(BRG)[19]. The BRG method has already been applied to interacting electrons in two-dimensional systems for both bipartite lattices[20] and more recently for nonpartite lattices such as the triangular one[21].

In this paper, we present the real-space block renormalization group equations for fermion systems on a triangular lattice with hexagonal blocks. By using operator transformations, we obtain the conditions that make the renormalized Hamiltonian in the bare Hubbard model have the same structure as the old one, i.e. the renormalization group equations in the parameters space with constant dimension will remain the same, without any proliferation of couplings. Finally, using numerical calculations we show that the metal-insulator transition occurs at the critical value of  $U/t \approx 12.5$ .

## 2 Real-space renormalization group

In this section, we present a general computational procedure for applying the BRG method for interacting fermions on a lattice using the Hubbard Hamiltonian. As an example we will take the hexagonal block on a triangular lattice. The Hubbard Hamiltonian can be written as follows,

$$H = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle, \sigma} [c_{i\sigma}^+ c_{j\sigma} + H.c.] + U \sum_i n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow} - \mu \sum_i (n_{i\uparrow} + n_{i\downarrow}), \quad (1)$$

where  $t$  is the nearest-neighbor hopping term,  $U$  is the local repulsive interaction and  $\mu$  is the chemical potential.  $c_{i\sigma}^+$  ( $c_{i\sigma}$ ) creates(annihilates) an electron with spin  $\sigma$  in a Wannier orbital located at site  $i$ ; the corresponding number operator is  $n_{i\sigma} = c_{i\sigma}^+ c_{i\sigma}$  and  $\langle \rangle$  denotes the nearest-neighbor pairs. H.c. denotes the Hermitian conjugate.

The essence of the BRG method is to map the above many-particle Hamiltonian on a lattice to a new one with fewer degrees of freedom and with the same low-lying energy levels [22]. Then the mapping is repeated leading to a final Hamiltonian for which an exact solution can be obtained. The procedure can be divided into three steps: First divide the  $N$ -site lattice into appropriate

$n_s$ -site blocks labeled by  $p(p = 1, 2, \dots, N/n_s)$  and separate the Hamiltonian  $H$  into intrablock part  $H_B$  and interblock  $H_{IB}$

$$H = H_B + H_{IB} = \sum_p H_p + \sum_{\langle p,p' \rangle} V_{p,p'}, \quad (2)$$

where

$$H_p = -t \sum_{\langle i^{(p)}, j^{(p)} \rangle} [c_{i^{(p)}\sigma}^+ c_{j^{(p)}\sigma} + H.C.] + U \sum_{i^{(p)}} n_{i^{(p)}\uparrow} n_{i^{(p)}\downarrow} - \mu \sum_{i^{(p)}} (n_{i^{(p)}\uparrow} + n_{i^{(p)}\downarrow}), \quad (3)$$

and

$$V_{p,p'} = -t \sum_{\langle i^{(p,b)}, j^{(p',b)} \rangle} [c_{i^{(p,b)}\sigma}^+ c_{j^{(p',b)}\sigma} + H.C.] \quad (4)$$

in which  $i^{(p)}$  denotes the  $i$ th site on the  $p$ th block and  $i^{(p,b)}$  denotes the border site of the block  $p$ .

The second step is to solve  $H_p$  exactly to get the eigenvalues  $E_{p_i}$  and eigenfunctions  $\Phi_{p_i}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, 4^{n_s}$ ). Then we can build the eigenfunctions of  $H_B$  by direct multiplication of  $\Phi_{p_i}$ , which can be written as  $|\Psi_B(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{N/n_s}) \rangle = |\Phi_{1i_1} \rangle |\Phi_{2i_2} \rangle \dots |\Phi_{N/n_s i_{N/n_s}} \rangle$  ( $i_1, i_2, \dots \in \{1, 2, \dots, 4^{n_s}\}$ ).

The last step is to treat each block as one site on a new lattice and the correlations between blocks as hopping interactions. The original Hilbert space has four states per site. By following the above procedure one obtains an equivalent Hamiltonian with  $(4^{n_s})^{N/n_s} = 4^N$  degrees of freedom, which is the same as the original Hamiltonian. But in the realistic case, if we only care about the properties related to some special energy levels of the system it is not necessary to keep all the states for a block to obtain the new Hamiltonian. For example, when studying the metal-insulator-transition[23], we may only need to consider the ground state and the first excited state energies.

The above scheme is a general procedure for applying the BRG method. In order to make the new Hamiltonian more tractable, it is desirable to make it have the same structure as the original one, i.e. the reduction in size should not be accompanied by a proliferation of new couplings. Then we can use the iteration procedures to solve the model. To achieve this goal it is necessary to keep only 4 states in step 2, which can be understood from the following renormalized intrasite Hamiltonian. The four selected states are taken to be

$$|\Phi_{p1} \rangle \equiv |0 \rangle'_p, \quad (5)$$

$$|\Phi_{p2} \rangle \equiv c_{p\uparrow\downarrow}^+ |0 \rangle'_p = |\uparrow\downarrow \rangle'_p, \quad (6)$$

$$|\Phi_{p3} \rangle \equiv c_{p\uparrow}^+ |0 \rangle'_p = |\uparrow \rangle'_p, \quad (7)$$

$$|\Phi_{p4}\rangle \equiv c_{p\downarrow}^{\prime+}|0\rangle'_p = |\downarrow\rangle'_p, \quad (8)$$

where  $c_{p\sigma}^{\prime+}(c_{p\sigma}^{\prime-})$  is the creation(annihilation)operator of the block state  $|\sigma\rangle'_p$  and their corresponding energies are  $E_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ).

Our next task is to rewrite the old Hamiltonian  $H = H_B + H_{IB}$  in the space spanned by the truncated basis

$$H' = \sum_{\Psi_B^{Truncated} \bar{\Psi}_B^{Truncated}} |\Psi_B^{Truncated}\rangle \langle \Psi_B^{Truncated}| H | \bar{\Psi}_B^{Truncated}\rangle \langle \bar{\Psi}_B^{Truncated}|, \quad (9)$$

where the truncated basis is given by

$$|\Psi_B^{Truncated}(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{N/n_s})\rangle = |\Phi_{1i_1}\rangle |\Phi_{2i_2}\rangle \dots |\Phi_{N/n_s i_{N/n_s}}\rangle \quad (i_1, i_2, \dots \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}) \quad (10)$$

In order to avoid proliferation of additional couplings in  $H'$ , the four states kept from the block cannot be arbitrarily chosen. Some definite conditions must be satisfied in order to make  $H'$  have the same structure as  $H$ . Substituting  $H$  into  $H'$  and using the product of different operators (see Table I) we can get the expression for  $H_p$

$$\begin{aligned} H_p &= |0\rangle'_p E_1 \langle 0|'_p + |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle'_p E_2 \langle \downarrow\uparrow|'_p + |\downarrow\rangle'_p E_4 \langle \downarrow|'_p + |\uparrow\rangle'_p E_3 \langle \uparrow|'_p \\ &= E_1 + (E_3 - E_1)n'_{p,\uparrow} + (E_4 - E_1)n'_{p,\downarrow} + (E_1 + E_2 - E_3 - E_4)n'_{p,\uparrow}n'_{p,\downarrow} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Note that by keeping only four states from the block states in the beginning gives no other extra couplings in the new Hamiltonian.

Table I: The product of different operator transformations\*

	$\langle 0 '$	$\langle \uparrow '$	$\langle \downarrow '$	$\langle \uparrow\downarrow '$
$ 0\rangle'$	$1 - n'_\uparrow - n'_\downarrow + n'_\uparrow n'_\downarrow$	$c'_\uparrow - n'_\downarrow c'_\uparrow$	$c'_\downarrow - n'_\uparrow c'_\downarrow$	$c'_\downarrow c'_\uparrow$
$ \uparrow\rangle'$	$c'^+_\uparrow - c'^+_\uparrow n'_\downarrow$	$n'_\uparrow - n'_\uparrow n'_\downarrow$	$c'^+_\uparrow c'_\downarrow$	$-n'_\uparrow c'_\downarrow$
$ \downarrow\rangle'$	$c'^+_\downarrow - c'^+_\downarrow n'_\uparrow$	$c'^+_\downarrow c'_\uparrow$	$n'_\downarrow - n'_\downarrow n'_\uparrow$	$n'_\downarrow c'_\uparrow$
$ \uparrow\downarrow\rangle'$	$c'^+_\uparrow c'^+_\downarrow$	$-n'_\uparrow c'^+_\downarrow$	$c'^+_\uparrow n'_\downarrow$	$n'_\uparrow n'_\downarrow$

\*In this table the product reads  $|0\rangle'\langle 0|' = 1 - n'_\uparrow - n'_\downarrow + n'_\uparrow n'_\downarrow$ , etc.

Comparing the above intrasite Hamiltonian with Eq.(1), we get the next conditions in order to copy the intrasite structure of the old Hamiltonian, i.e.  $E_3 = E_4$ . Because of the additional vacuum energy  $E_1$  in the new Hamiltonian we rewrite the intrasite part of Eq.(1) as

$$H_B = U \sum_i n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow} - \mu \sum_i (n_{i\uparrow} + n_{i\downarrow}) + K \sum_i I_i \quad (12)$$

where we introduce another parameter  $K$  to the original system and  $I_i$  is a unit operator. The new intrasite Hamiltonian is given by

$$H'_B = (E_1 + E_2 - 2E_3) \sum_p n'_{p\uparrow} n'_{p\downarrow} - (E_1 - E_3) \sum_p (n'_{p\uparrow} + n'_{p\downarrow}) + E_1 \sum_p I_p. \quad (13)$$

Then the renormalized parameters  $U, \mu$  and  $K$  can be obtained from the following relations

$$U' = E_1 + E_2 - 2E_3 \quad (14)$$

$$\mu' = E_1 - E_3 \quad (15)$$

$$K' = E_1 \quad (16)$$

in which  $E_1, E_2$  and  $E_3$  are functions of the old parameters  $t, U, \mu, K$ .

For the half-filled case,  $\mu = U/2$ ,  $H_B$  can be expressed as

$$H_B = U \sum_i \left(\frac{1}{2} - n_{i\uparrow}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2} - n_{i\downarrow}\right) + K \sum_i I_i \quad (17)$$

with the initial value of  $K = -\frac{U}{4}$ . By using the particle-hole symmetry,  $E_1 = E_2$ , the renormalization group equations for  $U$  and  $K$  take the form

$$U' = 2(E_1 - E_3) \quad (18)$$

$$K' = (E_1 + E_3)/2 \quad (19)$$

To illustrate this procedure, let us consider the triangular lattice with hexagonal blocks as shown in figure 1. For this non-bipartite lattice the interaction between blocks can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} V_{pp'} &= (-t) \sum_{\sigma, i_1, i'_1, i_2, i'_2} \{ [|\Phi_{pi_1}\rangle \langle \Phi_{pi_1}| c_{1(p)\sigma}^+ |\Phi_{pi'_1}\rangle \langle \Phi_{pi'_1}|] \\ &\times [|\Phi_{p'i_2}\rangle \langle \Phi_{p'i_2}| c_{5(p')\sigma} |\Phi_{p'i'_2}\rangle \langle \Phi_{p'i'_2}|] \\ &+ [|\Phi_{pi_1}\rangle \langle \Phi_{pi_1}| c_{2(p)\sigma}^+ |\Phi_{pi'_1}\rangle \langle \Phi_{pi'_1}|] \\ &\times [|\Phi_{p'i_2}\rangle \langle \Phi_{p'i_2}| c_{4(p')\sigma} |\Phi_{p'i'_2}\rangle \langle \Phi_{p'i'_2}|] \\ &+ [|\Phi_{pi_1}\rangle \langle \Phi_{pi_1}| c_{2(p)\sigma}^+ |\Phi_{pi'_1}\rangle \langle \Phi_{pi'_1}|] \\ &\times [|\Phi_{p'i_2}\rangle \langle \Phi_{p'i_2}| c_{5(p')\sigma} |\Phi_{p'i'_2}\rangle \langle \Phi_{p'i'_2}|] + H.C. \} \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

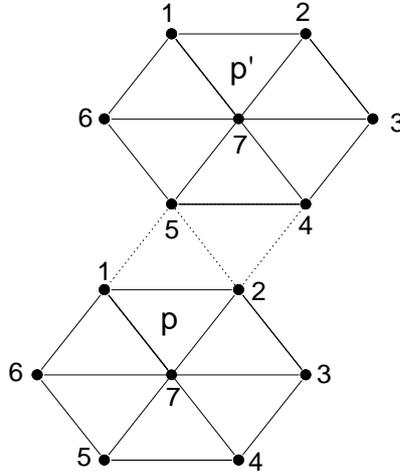


Figure 1: Schematic diagram of the triangular lattice with hexagonal blocks. Only two neighboring blocks  $p$  and  $p'$  are drawn here. The dotted lines represent the interblock interactions and solid line intrablock ones.

Since we would like to keep  $V_{pp'}$  of the form

$$V_{pp'} = (-t') \sum_{\sigma} [c_{p\sigma}^+ c'_{p'\sigma} + H.C], \tag{21}$$

we use the product transformation in Table I to simplify Eq. (20),

$$\begin{aligned} V_{pp'} = & \sum_{\sigma, \langle i,j \rangle} \{ \langle \sigma |'_p c_{i(p)\sigma}^+ | 0 \rangle'_p + [ \langle -\sigma, \sigma |'_p c_{i(p)\sigma}^+ | -\sigma \rangle'_p - \langle \sigma |'_p c_{i(p)\sigma}^+ | 0 \rangle'_p ] n'_{p-\sigma} \} c_{p\sigma}^+ \\ & \times \{ \langle 0 |'_{p'} c_{j(p')\sigma} | \sigma \rangle'_{p'} + [ \langle -\sigma |'_{p'} c_{j(p')\sigma} | \sigma, -\sigma \downarrow \rangle'_{p'} - \langle \sigma |'_{p'} c_{j(p')\sigma} | 0 \rangle'_{p'} ] n'_{p'-\sigma} \} c'_{p'\sigma} + H.C., \\ & ( \langle ij \rangle = \langle 1, 5 \rangle, \langle 2, 4 \rangle, \langle 2, 5 \rangle ). \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

It can be easily seen now that in order to make all the extra couplings vanish, it is necessary to make further restrictions upon the selected states,

$$\langle -\sigma, \sigma |'_p c_{i(p)\sigma}^+ | p - \sigma \rangle'_p = \langle \sigma |'_p c_{i(p)\sigma}^+ | 0 \rangle'_p, \tag{23}$$

$$\langle -\sigma |'_{p'} c_{j(p')\sigma} | \sigma, -\sigma \rangle'_{p'} = \langle 0 |'_{p'} c_{j(p')\sigma} | \sigma \rangle'_{p'} \tag{24}$$

Using similar calculations to the other neighboring interactions of the block, we can finally obtain the following conditions,

$$\langle -\sigma, \sigma |'_p c_{i(p)\sigma}^+ |_p - \sigma \rangle'_p = \langle \sigma |'_p c_{i(p)\sigma}^+ | 0 \rangle'_p = \lambda \quad (25)$$

for all the border sites on the block. Then the new hopping term becomes,

$$V_{pp'} = \nu \lambda^2 \sum_{\sigma} c_{p\sigma}^+ c'_{p'\sigma}, \quad (26)$$

where  $\nu$  represents the number of couplings between neighboring blocks. In figure 1  $\nu = 3$ . The last renormalization group equation is readily obtained

$$t' = \nu \lambda^2 t. \quad (27)$$

Up to now, we have given a general discussion of the conditions under which no proliferation of couplings results from the application of the BRG method to non-partite lattice. Because on the border of non-partite lattice block, there is only one type of sites, the above procedures can be extended to other lattices with different dimensions or blocks without much difficulty.

### 3 State Selections

After deriving the conditions for the renormalization group equations, the next task is to select states that satisfy these conditions. At this stage the symmetry properties of the lattice play an important role. From Eqs.(23) and (24), it can be easily seen that if we assume the particle number in the state  $|0 \rangle'$  to be  $N_e - 1$ , then in  $|\uparrow \rangle'$ ,  $|\downarrow \rangle'$  and  $|\uparrow\downarrow \rangle'$ , there should be  $N_e$ ,  $N_e$ ,  $N_e + 1$  particles respectively. Moreover if the spin in  $|0 \rangle'$  is  $S_z$ , the spins for  $|\uparrow \rangle'$ ,  $|\downarrow \rangle'$  and  $|\uparrow\downarrow \rangle'$ , should be  $S_z + 1/2$ ,  $S_z - 1/2$  and  $S_z$ . The total electron number  $N_e$  and the spin  $S_z$  for each block are good quantum numbers since their corresponding operators commute with the Hubbard Hamiltonian. So when we diagonalize the Hubbard Hamiltonian of the selected block, we keep  $N_e$  and  $S_z$  fixed to be  $(N_e-1, S_z)$ ,  $(N_e, S_z+1/2)$ ,  $(N_e, S_z-1/2)$  and  $(N_e+1, S_z)$  respectively. Thus we obtain four groups of eigenenergies and eigenstates corresponding to the above quantum numbers. From each group, we select the lowest-energy state to form the final required four states. It should be mentioned that the lowest-energy state has to be selected according to definite special symmetry considerations, which shall be discussed in the next paragraph. In order to obtain the insulating to conducting gap, which is defined to be the energy difference between extracting one electron from the system and adding one electron to it,  $N_e$  is selected to be equal to  $N_s$ . For  $S_z$ , we choose it to be zero so as to make the block have the same spin property as the one-site. So now the renormalized lattice will be composed of  $N/n_s$  renormalized "sites" with  $N/n_s$  "particles".

Instead of forcing the above conserved quantities upon the selected states in analogy to the one site properties in a consistent way, here we get them directly from the no-coupling-proliferation

conditions.  $\lambda$  does not depend on  $\sigma$  in Eq. (25), this can be guaranteed by the particle-hole symmetry, which means that only in half-filled lattice can the renormalized Hamiltonian have exactly the same form as the original one[24]. Moreover, the irrelevance of  $\lambda$  with respect to the border site  $i^{(p,b)}$  can be shown by requiring the selected states to belong to the same irreducible representation of the spatial group of the lattice. For the triangular lattice with hexagonal blocks, the Hamiltonian is invariant under  $C_{6v}$  [25]. So if we choose the same one-dimensional irreducible representation of the group  $C_{6v}$  for  $|0\rangle'$ ,  $|\uparrow\rangle'$ ,  $|\downarrow\rangle'$  and  $|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle'$ , the conditions can be satisfied.

#### 4 Numerical Calculations and discussions

The insulating to conducting gap  $\Delta_g$ [7] and the ground state energy per site  $E_g$  for the half-filled Hubbard model on a triangular lattice with hexagonal blocks can be written as

$$\Delta_g = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} U^{(n)} \quad (28)$$

and

$$E_g = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{K^{(n)} + \frac{U^{(n)}}{4}}{7^n} + \frac{U}{2} \quad (29)$$

where  $n$  denotes the number of iterations in the renormalization equations. As  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , the lattice containing  $7^n$  sites will be renormalized to one 'site', which can be solved exactly to obtain the above equations.  $U/2$  is added in Eq.(29) in order to compensate the chemical potential energy subtracted in the original Hamiltonian. The metal-insulator-transition for this lattice can be examined by considering the energy gap  $\Delta$  as a function of  $(U/t)$ . If the insulating gap disappears the system exhibits metallic behavior. Otherwise it is insulating.

Figure 2 shows the numerical results for the scaled gap  $\Delta_g/t$  as a function of  $(U/t)$ . There is a first-order phase transition at  $(U/t)_c \approx 12.5$ . This finding is quite different from the case of half-filled square lattice where an insulating gap exists for arbitrarily small values of  $U/t$ . This is because there is a perfect nesting of the Fermi surface on a square lattice, which makes the model unstable toward antiferromagnetism as soon as a nonzero  $U$  is turned on, driving the system to an insulating state.

On the triangular lattice, for the lack of perfect nesting, metal-insulator-transition takes place at a finite value of  $U/t$ . But because there is no exact solution to the two-dimensional Hubbard model, there are still controversies upon the exact value for this critical point. The situation becomes more complicated and subtle because of the frustrations inherent in the triangular lattice, which may induce a nontrivial competition among different magnetic phases. In the Hartree-Fock calculations by Krishnamurthy et al.[26, 27] they found that for small  $U/t$  the system is a paramagnetic metal which turns to a metal with incommensurate spiral spin-density wave at  $U_{c1}/t = 3.97$ .

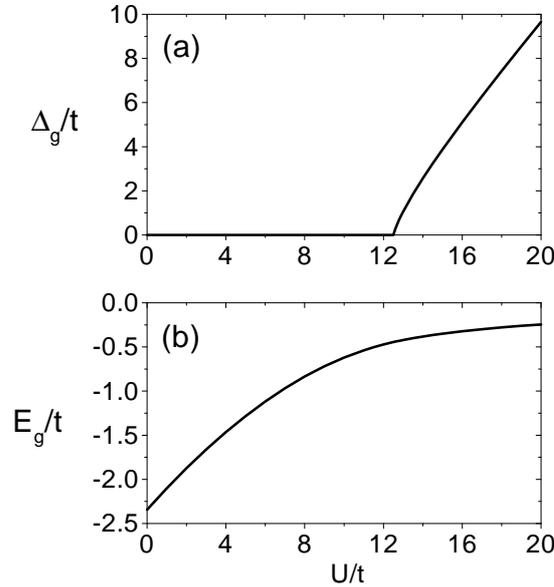


Figure 2:  $U/t$  dependence of (a) the insulating gap and (b) the ground-state energy per site.

Two successive first-order phase transitions occur at  $U_{c2}/t = 4.45$ , a semi-metallic linear spin-density wave is stabilized and a first-order metal-insulator-transition to an anti-ferromagnetic insulator occurs at  $U_{c3}/t = 5.27$ . Capone et al.[28] obtained qualitatively similar phase transitions by using the Kotliar-Ruckenstein slave-boson technique. That is, the weak-coupling paramagnetic metal continuously evolves into a spiral metal at  $U_{c1}/t = 6.68$ , which crosses the linearly polarized spin-density-wave ground state at  $U_{c2}/t = 6.84$ . The latter phase undergo a further first-order transition toward an anti-ferromagnetic insulator at  $U_{c3}/t = 7.68$ . The exact diagonalization results exhibit a first-order transition between the paramagnetic metal and the anti-ferromagnetic insulator at  $U/t = 12.07$ , without intermediate "exotic" phases[29]. Our results for the critical value of  $(U/t) \approx 12.5$  for the metal-insulator-transition and the ground state energy as a function of  $U/t$  are in agreement with results obtained by the exact diagonalization method[29].

In summary, we find that there is a first-order phase metal-insulator-transition, at  $(U/t)_c = 12.5$  in full agreement with the exact diagonalization result  $U/t = 12.07$ .

## 5 Concluding Remarks

A practical renormalization method for an array described by a Hubbard Hamiltonian has been presented. Specifically, we could find conditions under which the renormalized Hubbard Hamilto-

nian on a nonpartite lattice has no proliferation of coupling. The method is especially suited for getting the lowest excited states. An application demonstrating the identification of a first order metal-insulator transition has been discussed in detail. In future work we intend to build upon the present results in two directions. First, to apply them to the computation of the transport properties of lattices of quantum dots. We also hope to be able to incorporate into the method one essential aspect of quantum dots that, so far, is not included. This is the (small but finite) variability of the chemical potential. This results from the size fluctuations of dots as they are prepared in the laboratory. In real-space BRG method, how to truncate the states for one block is of central importance to the accuracy of the final results. In this paper, four states for each block are selected from the requirement of non-proliferations of parameters. This greatly simplifies the theoretical handling of this problem while keeping the main related physics. But for two-dimensional system, how to judge the convergence when more states are kept is still an open problem in this direction. More work is under way.

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