

Free Particle propagator

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \quad \dim = 1$$

$$\phi_p(x) = \frac{e^{iPx}}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \quad , \quad E_p = \frac{p^2}{2m}$$

$$G_T(x,y) = \sum_n \phi_n(x) \phi_n^*(y) e^{-i E_n T / \hbar} = \int \frac{dp}{2\pi\hbar} e^{i \frac{(x-y)p}{\hbar}} e^{-i \frac{p^2}{2m} T} \Rightarrow$$

$$\int dp e^{-ap^2 + bp} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} e^{b^2/4a}$$

$$G_T(x,y) = \left(\frac{m}{2\pi i \hbar T} \right)^{1/2} e^{i \frac{m(x-y)^2}{2\hbar T}}$$

We compute the same using path integral method. We use discretized version and in the end take $N \rightarrow \infty$.

$$G_T(x,y) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{B}^{-N} \int dx_{N-1} \dots dx_1 e^{-\frac{m}{2i\hbar\epsilon} \sum_{n=1}^N (x_n - x_{n-1})^2}$$

$$\mathcal{B} = \left(\frac{2\pi i \epsilon \hbar}{m} \right)^{1/2}$$

Factors like $(x_n - x_{n-1})^2$ couple integrals together. To get rid of this we change variables

$$z_k = x_k - x_{k-1} \quad z_k \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{N-1} z_k = x_1 - x_0 + x_2 - x_1 + \dots + x_{N-1} - x_{N-2} = x_{N-1} - y$$

B.C.
 $x = x_0$
 $y = x_0$

let $a = \frac{m}{2i\epsilon\hbar}$

①

$$\begin{aligned}
G_T(x,y) &= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} B^{-N} \int dz_{N-1} dz_{N-2} \dots dz_1 e^{-a(x-x_{N-1})^2 - a \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} z_k^2} \\
&= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} B^{-N} \int dz_{N-1} \dots dz_1 e^{-a \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} z_k^2} e^{-a(x-y - \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} z_k)^2} \\
&= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} B^{-N} \int dz_{N-1} \dots dz_1 e^{-a \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} z_k^2} \int du e^{-a(x-y-u)^2} \delta(u - \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} z_k) \\
&= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} B^{-N} \int dz_{N-1} \dots dz_1 e^{-a \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} z_k^2} \int du e^{-a(x-y-u)^2} \int \frac{d\ell}{2\pi} e^{i\ell(u - \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} z_k)} \\
&= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} B^{-N} \int \frac{d\ell}{2\pi} \int du e^{-a(x-u-y)^2} e^{i\ell u} \prod_{n=1}^{N-1} \int dz_n e^{-az_n^2} e^{i\ell z_n} \\
&\quad \text{N-1 Gaussian integrals} \\
&= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} B^{-N} \int \frac{d\ell}{2\pi} \int du e^{-a(x-u-y)^2} e^{i\ell u} \left[\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} e^{-\frac{\ell^2}{4a}} \right]^{N-1} \\
&= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{\pi}{a} \right)^{\frac{N-1}{2}} B^{-N} \int \frac{d\ell}{2\pi} \int du e^{-a(x-u-y)^2} e^{i\ell u} e^{-(N-1)\frac{\ell^2}{4a}} \\
&= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} B^{-N} \left(\frac{\pi}{a} \right)^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{(N-1)/4a}} \int du e^{-a(x-u-y)^2} e^{-\frac{u^2}{4(N-1)/4a}} \\
&= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} B^{-N} \left(\frac{\pi}{a} \right)^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{4a\pi}{N-1}} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} e^{-a(x-y)^2/(N-1)} \\
&= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{m}{2\pi i \epsilon} \right)^{N/2} \left(\frac{2\pi i \epsilon T}{m} \right)^{N/2} \sqrt{\frac{a}{\pi(N-1)}} e^{-\frac{a(x-y)^2}{N-1}} \\
&= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{m}{2\pi i \epsilon T (N-1)} \right] e^{-\frac{m(x-y)^2}{2\pi \epsilon T (N-1)}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon}} \\
&= \frac{m}{2\pi i \epsilon T} e^{i \frac{m(x-y)^2}{2\pi T}}
\end{aligned}$$