

Finish the previous week's calculation:

EXAMPLE Non-interacting particles

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{\alpha} (\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu) a_{\alpha}^{\dagger} a_{\alpha} \quad \zeta \leftrightarrow \phi$$

$$Z_0 = \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \int \prod_{k=1}^M \prod_{\alpha} \frac{1}{N} d\phi_{\alpha k}^* d\phi_{\alpha k} \exp \left\{ -\epsilon \sum_{k=2}^M \left[ \sum_{\alpha} \phi_{\alpha k}^* \frac{\phi_{\alpha k} - \phi_{\alpha k-1}}{\epsilon} + \sum_{\alpha} (\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu) \phi_{\alpha k}^* \phi_{\alpha k-1} \right] + \right. \\ \left. - \epsilon \sum_{\alpha} \phi_{\alpha 1}^* \frac{\phi_{\alpha 1} - \zeta \phi_{\alpha 1}}{\epsilon} + \sum_{\alpha} (\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu) \phi_{\alpha 1}^* \phi_{\alpha 1} \right\}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \zeta \epsilon &= \frac{\beta}{M} \\ \alpha &:= 1 - \frac{\beta}{M} (\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu) \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$Z_0 = \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \int \prod_{k=1}^M \prod_{\alpha} \frac{1}{N} d\phi_{\alpha k}^* d\phi_{\alpha k} \exp \left\{ -\sum_{\alpha} \begin{bmatrix} \phi_{\alpha 1}^* & \dots & \phi_{\alpha M}^* \end{bmatrix} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & -\zeta a \\ -a & 1 & & \\ 0 & -a & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & & & -a & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{S(\alpha)} \begin{bmatrix} \phi_{\alpha 1} \\ \vdots \\ \phi_{\alpha M} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Gaussian integrations

$$Z_0 = \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{\alpha} (\det S(\alpha))^{-1}$$

$$\det S(\alpha) = \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{LAPLACE EXPANSION} \\ \text{with respect to} \\ \text{1st row} \end{array} \right) = \left. \begin{array}{l} \dots \\ \dots \end{array} \right\} \text{to be finished}$$

$$\det S(\alpha) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -a & 1 & & \\ 0 & -a & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} + (-\zeta a) (-1)^{M+1} \det \begin{pmatrix} -a & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & -a & & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & & & -a & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= 1 - \zeta a (-1)^{M+1} (-a)^{M-1} = 1 - \zeta a^M =$$

$$= 1 - \zeta \left[ 1 - \frac{\beta}{M} (\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu) \right]^M$$

$$\xrightarrow{M \rightarrow \infty} 1 - \zeta e^{-\beta(\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu)}$$

$$\left. \left( 1 + \frac{x}{n} \right)^n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} e^x \right\}$$

$$Z_0 = \prod_{\alpha} \left( 1 - \zeta e^{-\beta(\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu)} \right)^{-1} \rightarrow \text{Familiar expression for the GC partition function}$$

Green's functions

(intro) QM: Recall the propagator:  $\langle \bar{r} | e^{-i\hat{H}t} | \bar{r}' \rangle$   $\hat{H}$ -time independent.

(Retarded) One-particle Green's function:  $G^R(\bar{r}, \bar{r}', t) := -i\theta(t) \langle \bar{r} | e^{-i\hat{H}t} | \bar{r}' \rangle = -i\theta(t) \sum_n e^{-i\epsilon_n t} \phi_n(\bar{r}) \phi_n^*(\bar{r}')$

(retarded prop.) (spin ignored)

Fourier transform:  $\tilde{G}^R(\bar{r}, \bar{r}', \omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i(\omega+i\eta)t} G^R(\bar{r}, \bar{r}', t) = \sum_n \frac{\phi_n(\bar{r}) \phi_n^*(\bar{r}')}{\omega + i\eta - \epsilon_n}$  ( $\eta = 0^+$ )

notation  
 $G^R(\bar{r}, \bar{r}', \omega)$

Recall the calculation:  $\theta(x) = \frac{i}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \frac{e^{ixt}}{x + i0^+}$  (•)

Eigenenergies ( $\epsilon_n$ )  $\leftrightarrow$  Poles of  $G^R(\bar{r}, \bar{r}', \omega)$

Many-body systems

$G^R(\bar{r}, t, \bar{r}', t') = -i\theta(t-t') \langle 0 | \hat{\Psi}(\bar{r}, t) \hat{\Psi}^+(\bar{r}', t') | 0 \rangle$

$G^R(\bar{r}, \bar{r}', t) = -i\theta(t) \langle 0 | [\hat{\Psi}(\bar{r}, t) \hat{\Psi}^+(\bar{r}', 0)]_{-S} | 0 \rangle$  ( $T=0$ )

Heisenberg op. (position representation)

$G^R(\bar{r}, \bar{r}', \epsilon) = -i\delta(\bar{r} - \bar{r}')$   $\} A(t) = e^{i\hat{H}t} A e^{-i\hat{H}t}$  ( $\hbar=1$ )

$G^R(x, x', t) = -i\theta(t) \langle [a_x(t), a_{x'}^+(t')]_{-S} \rangle = -i\theta(t) \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} e^{-\beta\hat{H}} [a_x(t), a_{x'}(t')]_{-S}$

$\rightarrow$  retarded one-particle Green's function at any  $T$ , for any 1-particle basis  $\{|x\rangle\}$ .  $\hat{H} \leftrightarrow \hat{H} - \mu\hat{N}$  (GCE).

Non-interacting systems:  $\hat{H} = \sum_x (\epsilon_x - \mu) a_x^+ a_x$  (diagonal basis)

Solving the e.o.m  $\rightarrow G_0^R(x, t) = -i\theta(t) e^{-i(\epsilon_x - \mu)t}$  ( $\times \delta_{xx}$ )

Another point of view - see later today

$$G_0^R(\alpha, \omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i(\omega+i\eta)t} G_0^R(\alpha, t) = \frac{1}{\omega - (\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu) + i\eta} \quad (\eta=0^+) \quad (2)$$

[Poles  $\leftrightarrow$  single-particle excitation energies]

Matsubara Green's function (1-particle) ("imaginary time", "thermal" G.f.)

(g)  $G(\alpha, \alpha', \tau) = - \langle T_{\tau} a_{\alpha}(\tau) a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger} \rangle = - \theta(\tau) \langle a_{\alpha}(\tau) a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger} \rangle - \eta \theta(-\tau) \langle a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger} a_{\alpha}(\tau) \rangle$   
sign conventional (absent in Negele-Orland)  
(or  $G(\alpha\tau, \alpha'\tau')$ )

$T_{\tau}$  - time-ordering operator.

$$\begin{cases} a_{\alpha}(\tau) = e^{\tau\hat{H}} a_{\alpha} e^{-\tau\hat{H}} \\ a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger}(\tau) = e^{\tau\hat{H}} a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger} e^{-\tau\hat{H}} \end{cases} \quad \{ a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger}(\tau) \neq [a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger}]^{\dagger}$$

the operators are evolved in imaginary time.

For  $\tau = it$  recover the standard Heisenberg op. } No specification of the meaning of  $G(\alpha, \alpha', 0)$  for now.

- often easier calculable
- recall the connection between real-time dynamics and stat. phys.

Consider only  $\tau \in [-\beta, \beta]$  •  $G(\alpha, \alpha', \tau)$  is (anti)periodic with period  $\beta$ .

• Demonstrate for  $\tau \in ]-\beta, 0[$ :  $G(\alpha, \alpha', \tau) = -\eta \langle a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger} a_{\alpha}(\tau) \rangle = -\frac{\eta}{Z} \text{Tr} (e^{-\beta\hat{H}} a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger} e^{\tau\hat{H}} a_{\alpha} e^{-\tau\hat{H}})$   
 $= -\frac{\eta}{Z} \text{Tr} (e^{\tau\hat{H}} a_{\alpha} e^{-(\tau+\beta)\hat{H}} a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger}) =$   
 $= -\frac{\eta}{Z} \text{Tr} (e^{-\beta\hat{H}} \underbrace{e^{\beta\hat{H}} e^{\tau\hat{H}} a_{\alpha} e^{-(\tau+\beta)\hat{H}}}_{a_{\alpha}(\tau+\beta)} a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger}) = -\frac{\eta}{Z} \text{Tr} (e^{-\beta\hat{H}} a_{\alpha}(\tau+\beta) a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger}) = -\eta \langle a_{\alpha}(\tau+\beta) a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger} \rangle = \eta G(\alpha, \alpha', \tau+\beta)$

• Analogous calculation for  $\tau \in ]0, \beta[ \rightarrow G(\alpha, \alpha', \tau) = \eta G(\alpha, \alpha', \tau-\beta)$  (•)

Expansion in Fourier series:  $G(\alpha, \alpha', \tau) = \frac{1}{\beta} \sum_{\omega_n} e^{-i\omega_n \tau} G(\alpha, \alpha', i\omega_n)$   
 $G(\alpha, \alpha', i\omega_n) = \int_0^{\beta} dz e^{i\omega_n z} G(\alpha, \alpha', z)$

with  $\omega_n = \begin{cases} \frac{2\pi}{\beta} n & (\text{bosons}) \\ \frac{2\pi}{\beta} (n+\frac{1}{2}) & (\text{fermions}) \end{cases}$  - Matsubara frequencies (•)

$(\sum_{\omega_n} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty}) \quad \left( \sum_{\omega_n} \xrightarrow{I \rightarrow 0^+} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \right)$

Non-interacting systems:  $\hat{H} = \sum_{\alpha} (\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu) a_{\alpha}^{\dagger} a_{\alpha}$ , evolution of  $a_{\alpha}, a_{\alpha}^{\dagger}$

calculated before:  $a_{\alpha}(z) = e^{-(\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu)z} a_{\alpha}$   
 $a_{\alpha}^{\dagger}(z) = e^{-(\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu)z} a_{\alpha}^{\dagger}$

(from def, or solving the e.o.m.)

$\otimes$   $G_0(\alpha, z) = -e^{-(\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu)z} [\theta(z)(1 + \zeta n_{\alpha}) + \theta(-z)\zeta n_{\alpha}]$ ;  $n_{\alpha} = \langle a_{\alpha}^{\dagger} a_{\alpha} \rangle$

$G_0(\alpha, i\omega_n) = \frac{1}{i\omega_n - (\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu)}$

} another approach - later today

$G_0(\alpha, \omega) = G_0(\alpha, i\omega_n \rightarrow \omega + i\eta)$

(true also for interacting systems)

Many-particle Green's functions:

$G^{(2n)}(z_1 z_1 \dots z_n z_n | z'_1 z'_1 \dots z'_n z'_n) = (-1)^n \langle T_z a_{\alpha_1}(z_1) \dots a_{\alpha_n}(z_n) a_{\alpha'_n}^{\dagger}(z'_n) \dots a_{\alpha'_1}^{\dagger}(z'_1) \rangle$   
 (imaginary time)  $T_z \hat{A}_{\alpha_1}(z_1) \dots \hat{A}_{\alpha_n}(z_n) = \int^P A_{\alpha_{p(1)}}(z_{p(1)}) \dots A_{\alpha_{p(n)}}(z_{p(n)})$   
 such that  $z_{p(1)} > z_{p(2)} > \dots > z_{p(n)}$

$G^{(2n)}(z_1 t_1 \dots z_n t_n | z'_1 t'_1 \dots z'_n t'_1) = (-i)^n \langle T_x a_{\alpha_1}(t_1) \dots a_{\alpha_n}(t_n) a_{\alpha'_n}^{\dagger}(t'_n) \dots a_{\alpha'_1}^{\dagger}(t'_1) \rangle$

One-body Green's function - path integral

Consider  $G(z, z') = - \langle T_z a_{\alpha}(z) a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger}(z') \rangle$

Take  $z > z'$

$\hookrightarrow G(z, z') = -\frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} \left\{ e^{-\beta H} a_{\alpha} e^{-(z-\tau)H} a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger} e^{-\tau H} \right\}$  ( $\hat{H} = \hat{H} - \mu \hat{N}$ )

Split the time intervals into  $M$  steps. Take  $z = k_1 \epsilon$ ,  $z' = k_2 \epsilon$ .  $\epsilon = \frac{\beta}{M}$

Alike for the partition function  $\rightarrow$  use the coherent-state representation of the trace  
 $\rightarrow$  plug the coherent-state unity between each two neighboring time slices.

$G(z, z') = -\frac{1}{Z} \int \prod_{k=1}^M d\mu_k(\zeta_k) e^{-\sum_{k=1}^M \sum_{\alpha} \zeta_k^{\dagger} \zeta_k} \langle \zeta_M | e^{-\epsilon \hat{H}} | \zeta_{M-1} \rangle \langle \zeta_{M-1} | e^{-\epsilon \hat{H}} | \zeta_{M-2} \rangle \dots \langle \zeta_{k_1+1} | e^{-\epsilon \hat{H}} | \zeta_{k_1} \rangle$   
 $\cdot \langle \zeta_{k_1} | e^{-\epsilon \hat{H}} | \zeta_{k_1-1} \rangle \dots \langle \zeta_{k_2} | a_{\alpha'}^{\dagger} e^{-\epsilon \hat{H}} | \zeta_{k_2-1} \rangle \langle \zeta_{k_2-1} | \dots \langle \zeta_1 | e^{-\epsilon \hat{H}} | \zeta_0 \rangle$

With the b.c.  $\zeta_n = \zeta_0$   
 $\zeta_n^* = \zeta_0^*$

$(M \rightarrow \infty)$   
 $(\epsilon \rightarrow 0)$

$$G(\alpha\tau, \alpha'z') = -\frac{1}{2} \int \mathcal{D}[\zeta^* \zeta] \zeta_\alpha(\tau) \zeta_{\alpha'}^*(z') e^{-S[\zeta^* \zeta]} \quad (4)$$

• Take  $\tau < z'$

$$\hookrightarrow G(\alpha\tau, \alpha'z') = -\frac{\zeta}{2} \text{Tr} \left[ e^{-(\beta-\tau)\hat{H}} a_{\alpha'} e^{-(z'-\tau)\hat{H}} a_\alpha e^{-\tau\hat{H}} \right] = \dots \text{(the same steps)}$$

$$= -\frac{\zeta}{2} \int \mathcal{D}[\zeta^* \zeta] \zeta_{\alpha'}^*(z') \zeta_\alpha(\tau) e^{-S[\zeta^* \zeta]} =$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \int \mathcal{D}[\zeta^* \zeta] \zeta_\alpha(\tau) \zeta_{\alpha'}^*(z') e^{-S[\zeta^* \zeta]}$$

$\tau = z' \rightarrow$  chronological ordering equivalent to normal ordering  
 $\rightarrow$  creation op. evaluated one step ( $\epsilon$ ) later.  
 $\rightarrow$  use the expression for  $\tau < z'$ .

$$G(\alpha\tau, \alpha'z') = -\frac{1}{2} \int \mathcal{D}[\zeta^* \zeta] \zeta_\alpha(\tau) \zeta_{\alpha'}^*(z') e^{-S[\zeta^* \zeta]} \quad (\text{no } \mathbb{T} \text{ operator!})$$

This generalizes to statistical averages of time-ordered products of arbitrary operators, n-particle Green's functions in particular.

$$\langle \mathbb{T}_\tau \Theta_1(a_\alpha^+(z_1), a_\alpha(z_1)) \dots \Theta_n(a_\alpha^+(z_n), a_\alpha(z_n)) \rangle = (\bullet)$$

Chronological ordering taken care of automatically!

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int \mathcal{D}[\zeta^* \zeta] \Theta_1(\zeta_\alpha^+(z_1), \zeta_\alpha(z_1)) \dots \Theta_n(\zeta_\alpha^+(z_n), \zeta_\alpha(z_n)) e^{-S[\zeta^* \zeta]}$$

Example:

Non-interacting particles

•  $G_0(\alpha\tau, \alpha'z') = 0$  for  $\alpha \neq \alpha'$

Take  $\alpha = \alpha'$ .

Notation below  
 $\phi \leftrightarrow \zeta$   
 $\zeta \rightarrow \phi$

$$\hat{H} = \sum_\alpha (\epsilon_\alpha - \mu) a_\alpha^+ a_\alpha \quad \zeta \leftrightarrow \phi$$

$$Z_0 = \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{k=1}^M \prod_\alpha \frac{1}{N} \int d\phi_{\alpha k}^* d\phi_{\alpha k} \exp \left\{ -\epsilon \sum_{k=2}^M \left[ \sum_\alpha \frac{\phi_{\alpha k}^* \phi_{\alpha k} - \phi_{\alpha k-1}}{\epsilon} + \sum_\alpha (\epsilon_\alpha - \mu) \phi_{\alpha k}^* \phi_{\alpha k-1} \right] + \right.$$

$$\left. - \epsilon \sum_\alpha \phi_{\alpha 1}^* \frac{\phi_{\alpha 1} - \zeta \phi_{\alpha 1}}{\epsilon} + \sum_\alpha (\epsilon_\alpha - \mu) \phi_{\alpha 1}^* \phi_{\alpha 1} \right\}$$

$\epsilon = \frac{\beta}{M}$   
 $a := 1 - \frac{\mu}{\epsilon_\alpha - \mu}$

$$Z_0 = \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{k=1}^M \prod_\alpha \frac{1}{N} \int d\phi_{\alpha k}^* d\phi_{\alpha k} \exp \left\{ -\sum_\alpha \left[ \phi_{\alpha 1}^* \dots \phi_{\alpha M}^* \right] \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & -a \\ -a & 1 & & \\ 0 & -a & \dots & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & & & -a & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{S(\alpha)} \begin{bmatrix} \phi_{\alpha 1} \\ \vdots \\ \phi_{\alpha M} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$G_0(\alpha, \tau_{k_1} - \tau_{k_2}) = -\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2} \int \prod_{k=1}^M \left( \prod_{\alpha'} \frac{1}{N} \int d\phi_{\alpha' k}^* d\phi_{\alpha' k} \right) \phi_{\alpha k_1} \phi_{\alpha k_2}^* e^{-\sum_{k=1}^M \sum_\alpha \phi_{\alpha k}^* S_{\alpha k}(\alpha) \phi_{\alpha k}} =$$

$\rightarrow$  Moments of the Gaussian distribution (see the exercise class)

$$= -\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \left[ S(\alpha) \right]_{k_1 k_2}^{-1}$$

Inversion of  $S(x) \rightarrow [S(x)]^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \zeta a^{n-1} & \zeta a^{n-2} & \dots & \zeta a \\ a & 1 & \zeta a^{n-1} & \dots & \vdots \\ a^2 & a & 1 & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a^{n-1} & \dots & a & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{1-\zeta a^n}$

$G_0(x, \tau_{k_1} - \tau_{k_2}) = - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1-\zeta a^n} \zeta a^{M+k_1-k_2} & \tau_{k_1} - \tau_{k_2} \leq 0 \text{ (row \# < column \#)} \\ \frac{1}{1-\zeta a^n} a^{k_1-k_2} & \tau_{k_1} - \tau_{k_2} > 0 \end{cases}$

$\tau_1 - \tau_2 = (k_1 - k_2)\epsilon$   
 $\epsilon = \frac{\beta}{M}$   
 $k_1 - k_2 = n \frac{\tau_1 - \tau_2}{\beta}$   
 Remember to use the expression valid for  $\tau_{k_1} - \tau_{k_2} < 0$  in the case  $k_1 = k_2$ !  
 (see p. 6)

$\bullet a^n = \left[1 - \frac{\beta}{M}(\epsilon_2 - \mu)\right]^n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\beta(\epsilon_2 - \mu)}$

$\bullet \frac{1}{1-\zeta a^n} = \frac{1}{1-\zeta e^{-\beta(\epsilon_2 - \mu)}} = \frac{e^{\beta(\epsilon_2 - \mu)}}{e^{\beta(\epsilon_2 - \mu)} - \zeta} = n_2 e^{\beta(\epsilon_2 - \mu)}$   
 $\hookrightarrow$  F.D or B-E distributions.

$\bullet \frac{1}{1-\zeta a^n} \zeta a^n a^{k_1-k_2} \Rightarrow n_2 e^{\beta(\epsilon_2 - \mu)} \zeta e^{-\beta(\epsilon_2 - \mu)} e^{-(\epsilon_2 - \mu)(\tau_1 - \tau_2)} = n_2 \zeta e^{-(\epsilon_2 - \mu)(\tau_1 - \tau_2)}$

$\bullet \frac{1}{1-\zeta a^n} a^{k_1-k_2} \Rightarrow n_2 e^{\beta(\epsilon_2 - \mu)} e^{-(\epsilon_2 - \mu)(\tau_1 - \tau_2)} = \frac{e^{\beta C}}{e^{\beta C} - \zeta} e^{-C(\tau_1 - \tau_2)} = (1 + \zeta n_2) e^{-(\epsilon_2 - \mu)(\tau_1 - \tau_2)}$

$G_0(x, \tau_1 - \tau_2) = \begin{cases} -\zeta n_2 e^{-(\tau_1 - \tau_2)(\epsilon_2 - \mu)} & \tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \\ -(1 + \zeta n_2) e^{-(\tau_1 - \tau_2)(\epsilon_2 - \mu)} & \tau_1 > \tau_2 \end{cases}$

(in agreement with the result from solving the e.o.m.)

Another way to calculate the path integral for  $G_0$  (and  $Z_0$  alike)  
 (simpler)

$G(x, \tau, x', \tau') = -\frac{1}{2} \int \mathcal{D}[\zeta^* \zeta] \zeta_x(\tau) \zeta_{x'}^*(\tau') e^{-S[\zeta^*, \zeta]} \rightarrow$  diagonalize  $S$  by Fourier transform.

$\rightarrow G_0(x, \tau, \tau_2) = \langle T a_x(\tau) a_{x'}^+(\tau_2) \rangle_0 = -\delta_{xx'} e^{-(\epsilon_2 - \mu)(\tau_1 - \tau_2)} \{ \theta(\tau_1 - \tau_2 - \eta) (1 + \zeta n_2) + \zeta n_2 \theta(\tau_2 - \tau_1 + \eta) \}$   
 $= -\delta_{xx'} g_x(\tau_1 - \tau_2 - \eta) \quad \eta = 0^+$

$\rightarrow$  Key quantity for perturbation theory.