

For simplicity of notation let

$$K(b, a) \equiv K_V(x_b, y_b, t_b; x_a, y_a, t_a)$$

Start with this equation adapted from (3.75).

$$K(b, a) = \int_{y_a}^{y_b} \int_{x_a}^{x_b} \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \frac{m \dot{x}^2}{2} dt + \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \frac{M \dot{y}^2}{2} dt \right) \\ \times \exp \left(-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} V(x(t_c), y(t_c)) dt_c \right) \mathcal{D}x(t) \mathcal{D}y(t)$$

This is the power series expansion of the exponential of V .

$$\exp \left(-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} V(x(t_c), y(t_c)) dt_c \right) = 1 - \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} V(x(t_c), y(t_c)) dt_c + \dots$$

Hence the perturbation expansion of K is

$$K(b, a) = K_0(b, a) + K^{(1)}(b, a) + \dots$$

where $K_0(b, a)$ is the free particle propagator and

$$K^{(1)}(b, a) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{y_a}^{y_b} \int_{x_a}^{x_b} \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \frac{m \dot{x}^2}{2} dt + \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \frac{M \dot{y}^2}{2} dt \right) \\ \times \int_{t_a}^{t_b} V(x(t_c), y(t_c)) dt_c \mathcal{D}x(t) \mathcal{D}y(t)$$

Interchange the order of the integrals.

$$K^{(1)}(b, a) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \int_{y_a}^{y_b} \int_{x_a}^{x_b} \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \frac{m \dot{x}^2}{2} dt + \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \frac{M \dot{y}^2}{2} dt \right) \\ \times V(x(t_c), y(t_c)) \mathcal{D}x(t) \mathcal{D}y(t) dt_c$$

Factor the exponential as follows.

$$K^{(1)}(b, a) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \int_{y_a}^{y_b} \int_{x_a}^{x_b} \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_c} \frac{m \dot{x}^2}{2} dt \right) \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_c}^{t_b} \frac{m \dot{x}^2}{2} dt \right) \\ \times \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_c} \frac{M \dot{y}^2}{2} dt \right) \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_c}^{t_b} \frac{M \dot{y}^2}{2} dt \right) V(x(t_c), y(t_c)) \mathcal{D}x(t) \mathcal{D}y(t) dt_c$$

The exponentials are free particle propagators.

$$\begin{aligned} \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_c} \frac{m \dot{x}^2}{2} dt \right) &= K_0(x(t_c), t_c, x_a, t_a, m) \quad m \text{ propagates from } x_a, t_a \text{ to } x(t_c), t_c \\ \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_c}^{t_b} \frac{m \dot{x}^2}{2} dt \right) &= K_0(x_b, t_b, x(t_c), t_c, m) \quad m \text{ propagates from } x(t_c), t_c \text{ to } x_b, t_b \\ \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_c} \frac{M \dot{y}^2}{2} dt \right) &= K_0(y(t_c), t_c, y_a, t_a, M) \quad M \text{ propagates from } y_a, t_a \text{ to } y(t_c), t_c \\ \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_c}^{t_b} \frac{M \dot{y}^2}{2} dt \right) &= K_0(y_b, t_b, y(t_c), t_c, M) \quad M \text{ propagates from } y(t_c), t_c \text{ to } y_b, t_b \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$K^{(1)}(b, a) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \int_{y_a}^{y_b} \int_{x_a}^{x_b} K_0(x(t_c), t_c, x_a, t_a, m) K_0(x_b, t_b, x(t_c), t_c, m) \\ \times K_0(y(t_c), t_c, y_a, t_a, M) K_0(y_b, t_b, y(t_c), t_c, M) V(x(t_c), y(t_c)) \mathcal{D}x(t) \mathcal{D}y(t) dt_c$$

Let $x_c = x(t_c)$ and $y_c = y(t_c)$. Since we are integrating over all possible paths $x(t)$ and $y(t)$, we have $-\infty < x_c < \infty$ and $-\infty < y_c < \infty$. Hence the integral can be transformed into an integral over x_c and y_c .

$$K^{(1)}(b, a) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} K_0(x_c, t_c, x_a, t_a, m) K_0(x_b, t_b, x_c, t_c, m) \\ \times K_0(y_c, t_c, y_a, t_a, M) K_0(y_b, t_b, y_c, t_c, M) V(x_c, y_c) dx_c dy_c dt_c$$

These are the free particle propagators in three dimensions.

$$K_0(x_c, t_c, x_a, t_a, m) = \left(\frac{m}{2\pi i \hbar (t_c - t_a)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{im |\mathbf{x}_c - \mathbf{x}_a|^2}{2\hbar (t_c - t_a)} \right) \quad m \text{ from } x_a, t_a \text{ to } x_c, t_c$$

$$K_0(x_b, t_b, x_c, t_c, m) = \left(\frac{m}{2\pi i \hbar (t_b - t_c)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{im |\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{x}_c|^2}{2\hbar (t_b - t_c)} \right) \quad m \text{ from } x_c, t_c \text{ to } x_b, t_b$$

$$K_0(y_c, t_c, y_a, t_a, M) = \left(\frac{M}{2\pi i \hbar (t_c - t_a)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{iM |\mathbf{y}_c - \mathbf{y}_a|^2}{2\hbar (t_c - t_a)} \right) \quad M \text{ from } y_a, t_a \text{ to } y_c, t_c$$

$$K_0(y_b, t_b, y_c, t_c, M) = \left(\frac{M}{2\pi i \hbar (t_b - t_c)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{iM |\mathbf{y}_b - \mathbf{y}_c|^2}{2\hbar (t_b - t_c)} \right) \quad M \text{ from } y_c, t_c \text{ to } y_b, t_b$$

Hence

$$K^{(1)}(b, a) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\frac{m}{2\pi i \hbar (t_c - t_a)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{im |\mathbf{x}_c - \mathbf{x}_a|^2}{2\hbar (t_c - t_a)} \right) \\ \times \left(\frac{m}{2\pi i \hbar (t_b - t_c)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{im |\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{x}_c|^2}{2\hbar (t_b - t_c)} \right) \\ \times \left(\frac{M}{2\pi i \hbar (t_c - t_a)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{iM |\mathbf{y}_c - \mathbf{y}_a|^2}{2\hbar (t_c - t_a)} \right) \\ \times \left(\frac{M}{2\pi i \hbar (t_b - t_c)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{iM |\mathbf{y}_b - \mathbf{y}_c|^2}{2\hbar (t_b - t_c)} \right) V(\mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{y}_c) d\mathbf{x}_c d\mathbf{y}_c dt_c$$

Let $t_a = 0$ and $t_b = T$.

$$\begin{aligned}
K^{(1)}(b, a) = & -\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^T \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\frac{m}{2\pi i \hbar t_c} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{im|\mathbf{x}_c - \mathbf{x}_a|^2}{2\hbar t_c} \right) \\
& \times \left(\frac{m}{2\pi i \hbar (T - t_c)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{im|\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{x}_c|^2}{2\hbar (T - t_c)} \right) \\
& \times \left(\frac{M}{2\pi i \hbar t_c} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{iM|\mathbf{y}_c - \mathbf{y}_a|^2}{2\hbar t_c} \right) \\
& \times \left(\frac{M}{2\pi i \hbar (T - t_c)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp \left(\frac{iM|\mathbf{y}_b - \mathbf{y}_c|^2}{2\hbar (T - t_c)} \right) V(\mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{y}_c) d\mathbf{x}_c d\mathbf{y}_c dt_c
\end{aligned}$$