

Homework 5

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Exercise 1 in Lecture 15 In the classical limit

$$\hbar \rightarrow 0$$

$$\langle [\hat{B}(t), \hat{A}] \rangle_{\text{eq}} \rightarrow 0$$

and the ratio becomes ill-defined. It acquires meaning when we replace the commutator $i[\hat{B}(t), \hat{A}]$ divided by \hbar by the corresponding Poisson bracket. We then recover a classical expression for the susceptibility, soluble analytically for certain models like the Caldeira-Leggett model (see corresponding lecture).

Solution Suppose

$$\hat{A} = \sum_{m,n \geq 0} A_{mn} \hat{x}^m \hat{p}^n, \quad (1)$$

$$\hat{B} = \sum_{m,n \geq 0} B_{mn} \hat{x}^m \hat{p}^n, \quad (2)$$

and we have (below we omit the hat over operators)

$$\begin{aligned} [A, B] &= \sum_{m,n,p,q \geq 0} A_{mn} B_{pq} (x^m [p^n, x^p] p^q + x^p [x^m, p^q] p^n) \\ &= \sum_{m,n,p,q \geq 0} A_{mn} B_{pq} (-x^m [x^p, p^n] p^q + x^p [x^m, p^q] p^n). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Here

$$\begin{aligned} [x^m, p^q] &= x^{m-1} [x, p^q] + [x^{m-1}, p^q] x \\ &= x^{m-1} [x, p^q] + (x^{m-2} [x, p^q] + [x^{m-2}, p^q] x) x \\ &= x^{m-1} [x, p^q] + x^{m-2} [x, p^q] x + [x^{m-2}, p^q] x^2 \\ &= \dots \\ &= \underbrace{x^{m-1} [x, p^q] + x^{m-2} [x, p^q] x + x^{m-3} [x, p^q] x^2 + \dots + [x, p^q] x^{m-1}}_{m \text{ terms}}, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

and further we have

$$\begin{aligned} [x, p^q] &= p[x, p^{q-1}] + \underbrace{[x, p]}_{i\hbar} p^{q-1} \\ &= p(\underbrace{[x, p]}_{i\hbar} p^{q-2} + p[x, p^{q-2}]) + i\hbar p^{q-1} \\ &= 2i\hbar p^{q-1} + p^2 [x, p^{q-2}] \\ &= \dots = i\hbar q p^{q-1}, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

so

$$[x^m, p^q] = i\hbar q \underbrace{(x^{m-1} p^{q-1} + x p^{q-1} x^{m-2} + \dots + p^{q-1} x^{m-1})}_{m \text{ terms}}. \quad (6)$$

In the classical limit we have $xp \approx px$, so

$$[x^m, p^q] \approx i\hbar q m \cdot x^{m-1} p^{q-1},$$

and

$$\lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{i\hbar} [x^m, p^q] = qm \cdot x^{m-1} p^{q-1}. \quad (7)$$

So we find

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{i\hbar} [A, B] &= \sum_{m,n,p,q \geq 0} A_{mn} B_{pq} (-pn \cdot x^m x^{p-1} p^{n-1} p^q + mq \cdot x^p x^{m-1} p^{q-1} p^n) \\
&= \sum_{m,n,p,q \geq 0} (A_{mn} m x^{m-1} p^n \cdot B_{pq} q x^p p^{q-1} - A_{mn} n x^m p^{n-1} \cdot B_{pq} p x^{p-1} p^q) \\
&= \frac{\partial A}{\partial x} \frac{\partial B}{\partial p} - \frac{\partial A}{\partial p} \frac{\partial B}{\partial x} =: \{A, B\}.
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

So we recover the classical expression.

Exercise 2 in Lecture 15 When is

$$\chi_{BA}[z] = \frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{n,q} (p_q - p_n) B_{nq} A_{qn} \frac{1}{z - \omega_{qn}} \tag{9}$$

independent to the temperature? Here

$$\omega_{qn} = (E_q - E_n) / \hbar, \tag{10}$$

and

$$\chi_{BA}[\omega] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt \chi_{BA}(t) e^{i\omega t}, \quad \chi_{BA}(t) = \frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [\hat{B}(t), \hat{A}] \rangle_{\text{eq}} \Theta(t). \tag{11}$$

Solution When $[\hat{B}(t), \hat{A}]$ is a number (and not an operator), the susceptibility is always independent to the temperature. This can be seen for example in the case of harmonic oscillator in the next exercise.

Another example of temperature-independent susceptibility is diamagnetism, but this originates from B^2 dependence of the Hamiltonian and is beyond the linear response theory.

Exercise 4 in Lecture 16 Show that the quantum susceptibility χ_{BA} is temperatureinvariant for a reservoir consisting of harmonic oscillators (note: here we must take χ_{BA} in its most primitive sense, where the operators A and B are linear in the position and momentum variables of the oscillators).

Solution Here we have

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2, \tag{12}$$

and the EOMs of operators are

$$\dot{x} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [x, H] = \frac{p}{m}, \quad \dot{p} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [p, H] = -m\omega^2 x, \tag{13}$$

so we have

$$x = x(0) \cos \omega t + \frac{p(0)}{m} \sin \omega t, \quad p = p(0) \cos \omega t - m\omega^2 x(0) \sin \omega t. \tag{14}$$

So $[x(t), x(0)]$, $[x(t), p(0)]$, $[p(t), x(0)]$, and $[p(t), p(0)]$ are all pure numbers and contain no operator. Now A and B are all linear combinations of x_i and p_i , with i indexing the harmonic oscillators in the reservoir, so $[A(t), B(0)]$ or the inverse is also a number and contains no operator, so by definition $\chi_{BA} \propto \langle [B(t), A(0)] \rangle$ is just that number times $i\Theta(t)/\hbar$, without any temperature dependence.

Exercise 3 in Lecture 17

Solution The matrix element $\langle 1|\Phi|0\rangle$ corresponds to the dipole matrix element $\langle f|\mathbf{d}|i\rangle$, and $\omega \text{Re } Y$ (\propto spectral density) corresponds to the density of states of photons (which is the imaginary part of the photon Green function).