

Exercise 1: Zassenhaus Formula (10 points)

Consider two operators A and B , with $[A, [A, B]] = [B, [A, B]] = 0$.

i) Derive the Baker-Campbell-Hausdorff formula

$$e^{A+B} = e^A e^B e^{-\frac{1}{2}[A,B]}. \quad (1)$$

For this purpose show

$$[A^n, B] = nA^{n-1}[A, B] \quad (2)$$

first and then derive the following differential equation by defining $f(t) = e^{tA}e^{tB}$

$$\frac{df}{dt} = (A + B + t[A, B])f(t). \quad (3)$$

Find another solution of this differential equation.

Hint: Calculating the commutator $[e^{tA}, B]$ will be of great use.

ii) If the relations $[A, [A, B]] = [B, [A, B]] = 0$ do not hold, the formula can be extended to general cases. This extension is known as Zassenhaus formula and given by

$$e^{A+B} = e^A e^B e^{-\frac{1}{2}[A,B]} e^{-\frac{1}{6}(2[B,[B,A]]+[A,[B,A]])} e^{Z_3} e^{Z_4} \dots, \quad (4)$$

where Z_3, Z_4, \dots contain higher powers of the operators A and B . Use this formula to show the following relation for the Hamilton operator $H = H_0 + V$

$$e^{-i\epsilon H} = e^{-i\epsilon(H_0+V)} = e^{-i\epsilon V/2} e^{-i\epsilon H_0} e^{-i\epsilon V/2} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3), \quad (5)$$

with small parameter $\epsilon > 0$.

Exercise 2: Lie-Trotter Formula (5 points)

A useful formula in the derivation of Feynman's path integral is the Lie-Trotter formula

$$e^{X+Y} = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(e^{\frac{X}{m}} e^{\frac{Y}{m}} \right)^m. \quad (6)$$

In case of the path integral, X and Y represent operators acting on the Hilbert space, but nevertheless the formula also holds if X and Y are $n \times n$ complex matrices.

Prove the formula by making use of the Taylor expansion of the matrix logarithm

$$\log(\mathbb{1} + A) = A + \mathcal{O}(\|A\|^2). \quad (7)$$

Exercise 3: Functional derivative - chain rule (5 points)

Recall the definition of the functional derivative

$$\delta F[x] = \int \frac{\delta F[x]}{\delta x(s)} \delta x(s) ds. \quad (8)$$

Consider the following functional

$$F[g(f)] = \int g(f(x)) dx, \quad \text{with} \quad g(f) = \left(\frac{d}{dx} f(x) \right)^n. \quad (9)$$

i) Calculate the derivative using

$$\frac{\delta F[g(f)]}{\delta f(y)} = \int \frac{\delta F[g(f)]}{\delta g(f(s))} \frac{\delta g(f(s))}{\delta f(y)} ds. \quad (10)$$

ii) Calculate the derivative using

$$\frac{\delta F[g(f)]}{\delta f(y)} = \frac{d}{ds} F[g(f(x) + s\delta(x-y))] \Big|_{s=0}. \quad (11)$$