

**Exercise 1: Partition function of the harmonic oscillator** (10 points)

Recall the Hamilton function of the 1 dimensional harmonic oscillator

$$H(p, x) = T + V = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2. \quad (1)$$

i) Use the Hamilton function to compute the partition function of the system

$$Z_1 = \int e^{-\beta H} \frac{dp dx}{2\pi}, \quad (2)$$

with  $\beta = 1/T$ .

ii) We can obtain a similar result from the quantum mechanical case. Recall the energies of the discrete spectrum of the quantum mechanical harmonic oscillator  $E_n$  and calculate

$$Z_2 = \sum_n e^{-\beta E_n}. \quad (3)$$

iii) Finally another possibility to obtain the partition function is using the Mehler formula given by

$$\langle x | e^{-\beta H} | x \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{2\pi \sinh(\beta\omega)}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2 m\omega}{\sinh(\beta\omega)} (\cosh(\omega\beta) - 1)\right). \quad (4)$$

Calculate the partition function using

$$Z_3 = \int \langle x | e^{-\beta H} | x \rangle dx. \quad (5)$$

iv) Calculate the free energy

$$F = -\frac{1}{\beta} \log(Z), \quad (6)$$

for all three cases  $Z_1$ ,  $Z_2$  and  $Z_3$  and discuss the limit  $\beta \ll 1$  for  $F_2$  and  $F_3$ .

**Exercise 2: Gaussian integrals** (4 points)

Calculate the following Gaussian integrals

i) Calculate

$$\langle x^{2n} \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{a}{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^{2n} e^{-\frac{1}{2}ax^2} dx \quad (7)$$

ii) Calculate

$$\langle x^{2n} \rangle = \left(\frac{d}{dJ}\right)^{2n} \left[ \sqrt{\frac{a}{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{1}{2}ax^2 + Jx} dx \right] \Bigg|_{J=0} \quad (8)$$

**Exercise 3: Euclidean path integral** (6 points)

Following the same steps as in the lecture, derive the one dimensional, euclidean path integral

$$\langle x_2 | U(\tau_2 - \tau_1) | x_1 \rangle = \int_{y(\tau_1)=x_1}^{y(\tau_2)=x_2} e^{-S_E[y]} Dy, \quad (9)$$

with evolution operator (for imaginary time  $\tau_2 > \tau_1$ )

$$U(\tau_2 - \tau_1) = e^{-(\tau_2 - \tau_1)H}, \quad (10)$$

with a time independent Hamilton operator  $H = H_0 + V = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V$ . The quantity  $S_E[y]$  is the euclidean action

$$S_E[y] = \int \left( \frac{m\dot{y}^2}{2} + V \right) d\tau, \quad (11)$$

that needs to be identified in the derivation.