

Mechanika Kwantowa dla doktorantów  
zestaw 9 – 15.12.2016 at 8:15

1. Using path integral formalism calculate the propagator of a free particle moving on a circle of radius  $r$ . The problem consists in performing the summation over all possible windings of a free motion. So the trajectory from  $x_i \rightarrow x_f$  is characterized by the winding number  $n$

$$x_f^{(n)} = x_i + s + nL$$

where  $L = 2\pi r$  and  $s$  is the shortest distance along the circle between  $x_i$  and  $x_f$ . The summation over  $n$  can be performed by means of a Poisson summation formula. Solution of this problem can be found in a book:

*Classical and Quantum Dynamics: From Classical Paths to Path Integrals*  
by Walter Dittrich, Martin Reuter  
(Springer)

2. Using known formula for a classical action of a harmonic oscillator in one dimension  $S(b, a, T)$  calculate  $\partial^2 S / \partial b \partial a$ . Show that in focal points  $\partial^2 S / \partial b \partial a$  has a singularity and when the particle crosses the focal point  $\partial^2 S / \partial b \partial a$  changes its sign. Using the formula

$$E(b, a, T) = -\frac{\partial S(b, a, T)}{\partial T}$$

calculate the energy and  $\partial E / \partial T = -\partial^2 S(b, a, T) / \partial T^2$ . Next, calculate

$$D = -\frac{\partial^2 S / \partial b \partial a}{\partial^2 S / \partial T^2}$$

at the conjugate (focal) points. Suppose the system crosses the focal point, what happens to the sign of  $D$ ?

3. For the harmonic oscillator the energy is given by

$$E = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2.$$

Show that for fixed  $E$  the time of motion from  $a \rightarrow b$  is equal to

$$T = \frac{1}{\omega} \left[ \arcsin \frac{b}{x_T} - \arcsin \frac{a}{x_T} \right]$$

where

$$\pm x_T = \pm \sqrt{\frac{2E}{m\omega^2}}$$

are classical turning points. From this formula derive  $\partial T / \partial E$ . Note that this is the quantity responsible for the singularities of  $S$ .