

1. (a)

Take everything to be in 1+1 dimensions. Inserting the resolution of the identity and remembering what $\langle p|q\rangle$ is gives us

$$\begin{aligned}
K(q', q; T) &= \langle q' | e^{-iHT} \int dp |p\rangle \langle p|q\rangle \\
&= \int dp \langle q' | e^{-ip^2 T/2m} |p\rangle \langle p|q\rangle \\
&= \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} e^{-ip^2 T/2m} e^{ipq'} e^{-ipq} \\
&= \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} \exp \left\{ \frac{-iT}{2m} \left[p^2 + \frac{2m(q-q')}{T} p \right] \right\} \\
&= \exp \left[\frac{im(q'-q)^2}{2T} \right] \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} \exp \left\{ \frac{-iT}{2m} \left[p + \frac{m(q-q')}{T} \right]^2 \right\}.
\end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

The remaining integral is Gaussian, and we get

$$\begin{aligned}
K(q', q; T) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{iT/2m}} \exp \left[\frac{im(q'-q)^2}{2T} \right] \\
&= \boxed{\sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi iT}} \exp \left[\frac{im(q'-q)^2}{2T} \right]}.
\end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

1. (b)

First, let's prove that the propagator and the 2-point Green's function are equal:

$$\begin{aligned}
G(q', q; T) &\equiv \langle 0 | \Psi(T, q') \Psi^\dagger(0, q) | 0 \rangle \\
&= \langle 0 | e^{-iHT} \Psi(0, q') e^{iHT} \Psi^\dagger(0, q) | 0 \rangle \\
&= \langle 0 | \Psi(0, q') e^{iHT} \Psi^\dagger(0, q) | 0 \rangle.
\end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

The last line comes from the fact that $H|0\rangle = 0 \rightarrow e^{-iHT}|0\rangle = |0\rangle$. Then we have

$$\boxed{G(q', q; T) = \langle q' | e^{iHT} |q\rangle = K(q', q; T)}, \tag{4}$$

since $\Psi^\dagger(0, q) |0\rangle = |q\rangle$. To confirm this in the case $V = 0$, expand in Fourier series:

$$\begin{aligned}
G(q', q; T) &= \langle 0 | \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} a_k e^{-iE_k T + ikq'} \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} a_p^\dagger e^{-ipq} |0\rangle \\
&= \int \frac{dp dk}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-iE_k T + ikq'} e^{-ipq} \langle 0 | [a_k, a_p^\dagger] |0\rangle \\
&= \int \frac{dp dk}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-iE_k T + ikq'} e^{-ipq} (2\pi) \delta(p - k) \\
&= \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} e^{-ip^2 T/2m} e^{ipq'} e^{-ipq}.
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

This is (literally) the same integral we already evaluated in (1), so the solution is the same:

$$\boxed{G(q', q; T) = \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi i T}} \exp\left[\frac{im(q' - q)^2}{2T}\right] = K(q', q; T)}. \tag{6}$$

1. (c)

We could evaluate the Gaussian integral directly, but let's just see what happens for $N=1$. In this case, there is no integral, and $\epsilon = T$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
K_1(q', q; T) &= F(\epsilon)^1 \exp\left[\frac{i\epsilon m}{2\epsilon^2}(q' - q)\right] \\
&= F(\epsilon) \exp\left[\frac{im(q' - q)^2}{2T}\right].
\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Apparently when there is no potential the path integral will give the correct answer with any choice of subdivision of the path. Then (7) will match (6) if

$$\boxed{F(\epsilon) = \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi i \epsilon}}}. \tag{8}$$

1. (d)

It is possible to do this using matrices, but let's just start by seeing what happens if we integrate over a particular q_i :

$$\begin{aligned}
K(q, q'; T) &= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} F(\epsilon)^N \int dq_1 \dots dq_{N-1} \exp \left\{ i\epsilon \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \left[\frac{m(q_{i+1} - q_i)^2}{2\epsilon^2} + f q_i \right] \right\} \\
&= \dots \int dq_i \exp \frac{im}{2\epsilon} \left[(q_{i+1} - q_i)^2 + \frac{2\epsilon^2}{m} f q_i + (q_i - q_{i-1})^2 \right] \dots \quad (9)
\end{aligned}$$

Expanding and factoring out the terms which don't depend on q_i gives us

$$\begin{aligned}
K(q, q'; T) &= \dots \exp \left[\frac{im}{2\epsilon} (q_{i+1}^2 + q_{i-1}^2) \right] \\
&\times \int dq_i \exp \left\{ \frac{im}{2\epsilon} \left[-2q_{i+1}q_i + q_i^2 + \frac{2\epsilon^2}{m} f q_i + q_i^2 - 2q_i q_{i-1} \right] \right\} \dots \\
&= \dots \exp \left[\frac{im}{2\epsilon} (q_{i+1}^2 + q_{i-1}^2) \right] \\
&\times \int dq_i \exp \left\{ \frac{im}{\epsilon} \left[q_i^2 - \left(q_{i+1} + q_{i-1} - \frac{\epsilon^2}{m} f \right) q_i \right] \right\} \dots \quad (10)
\end{aligned}$$

We can complete the square for q_i :

$$\begin{aligned}
q_i^2 - \left(q_{i+1} + q_{i-1} - \frac{\epsilon^2}{m} f \right) q_i \\
= \left[q_i - \frac{1}{2} \left(q_{i+1} + q_{i-1} - \frac{\epsilon^2}{m} f \right) \right]^2 - \frac{1}{4} \left(q_{i+1} + q_{i-1} - \frac{\epsilon^2}{m} f \right)^2. \quad (11)
\end{aligned}$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
K(q, q'; T) &= \dots \exp \left\{ \frac{im}{4\epsilon} \left[2q_{i+1}^2 + 2q_{i-1}^2 - \left(q_{i+1} + q_{i-1} - \frac{\epsilon^2}{m} f \right)^2 \right] \right\} \\
&\times \int dq'_i \exp \left(\frac{im}{\epsilon} q_i'^2 \right) \dots \quad (12)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \dots \exp \left[\frac{im}{4\epsilon} (q_{i+1} - q_{i-1})^2 + \frac{i\epsilon}{2} f(q_{i+1} + q_{i-1}) - \frac{i\epsilon^3}{4m} f^2 \right] \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{-im\epsilon}} \dots \\
&= \dots \sqrt{\frac{\pi i\epsilon}{m}} \exp \left(-\frac{i\epsilon^3}{4m} f^2 \right) \\
&\quad \times \exp \left[\frac{im}{4\epsilon} (q_{i+1} - q_{i-1})^2 + \frac{i\epsilon}{2} f(q_{i+1} + q_{i-1}) \right] \dots \quad (13)
\end{aligned}$$

Now, take N to be even and do the integrals over q_i for odd i . Then we are left with the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
K(q, q'; T) &= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} F(\epsilon)^N \sqrt{\frac{\pi i\epsilon}{m}}^{N/2} \\
&\quad \times \exp \left(-\frac{i\epsilon^3}{4m} f^2 \right)^{N/2} \exp \left[\frac{i\epsilon}{2} f(q_N + q_0) \right] \\
&\quad \times \int \{dq\} \exp \left\{ \sum_j \left[\frac{im(q_{j+1} - q_j)^2}{4\epsilon} - 2i\epsilon f q_j \right] \right\}. \quad (14)
\end{aligned}$$

$\{dq\}$ represents the remaining variables that have not yet been integrated over, and j should be taken to run over only these variables. The remaining integral is identical to our original integral, but with $\epsilon \rightarrow 2\epsilon$. This makes sense, because we are effectively doubling the time step between points. So we see what will happen if we iterate this process: we will halve the number of steps each time and produce a factor out front. Let's evaluate the prefactor P out front, taking $N = 2^M$:

$$\begin{aligned}
P &= F(\epsilon)^N \prod_{j=0}^{M-1} \sqrt{\frac{2^j \pi i\epsilon}{m}}^{N/2^{j+1}} \prod_{k=0}^{M-1} \exp \left(-\frac{i2^{3k}\epsilon^3}{4m} f^2 \right)^{N/2^{k+1}} \\
&\quad \times \prod_{q=0}^{M-1} \exp \left[\frac{i2^q\epsilon}{2} f(q_N + q_0) \right]. \quad (15)
\end{aligned}$$

First, note that the first two factors are identical to the free case, since they just come from performing the Gaussian integrals. This implies that they must give

$$F(\epsilon)^N \prod_{j=0}^{M-1} \sqrt{\frac{2^j \pi i\epsilon}{m}}^{N/2^{j+1}} \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi iT}} \quad (16)$$

as N goes to infinity. Now let's deal with the edge term. We have

$$\begin{aligned}
\prod_{q=0}^{M-1} \exp \left[\frac{i2^q \epsilon}{2} f(q_N + q_0) \right] &= \exp \left[\frac{i\epsilon}{2} f(q_N + q_0) \sum_{q=0}^{M-1} 2^q \right] \\
&= \exp \left[\frac{i\epsilon}{2} f(q_N + q_0) \frac{2^M - 1}{2 - 1} \right] \\
&\rightarrow \exp \left[\frac{iN\epsilon}{2} f(q_N + q_0) \right] \\
&= \exp \left[\frac{iT}{2} f(q_N + q_0) \right].
\end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

The remaining factor is

$$\begin{aligned}
\prod_{k=0}^{M-1} \exp \left(-\frac{i2^{3k} \epsilon^3}{4m} f^2 \right)^{N/2^{k+1}} &= \exp \left(-\frac{iN\epsilon^3}{4m} f^2 \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} \frac{2^{3k}}{2^{k+1}} \right) \\
&= \exp \left(-\frac{iN\epsilon^3}{4m} f^2 \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} 2^{2k-1} \right).
\end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

But

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{k=0}^{M-1} 2^{2k-1} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} 4^k \\
&= \frac{4^M - 1}{2(4 - 1)} \\
&= \frac{1}{6} (2^{2M} - 1) \\
&= \frac{1}{6} (N^2 - 1),
\end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned}
\prod_{k=0}^{M-1} \exp \left(-\frac{i2^{3k} \epsilon^3}{4m} f^2 \right)^{N/2^{k+1}} &\rightarrow \exp \left(-\frac{iN^3 \epsilon^3 f^2}{24m} \right) \\
&= \exp \left(-\frac{iT^3 f^2}{24m} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

Then the prefactor is

$$P \rightarrow \exp \left[\frac{iT}{2} f(q_N + q_0) \right] \exp \left(-\frac{iT^3 f^2}{24m} \right), \quad (21)$$

and the final expression for the path integral should be

$$\begin{aligned} K(q, q'; T) &\rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi iT}} \exp \left[\frac{iT}{2} f(q' + q) \right] \exp \left(-\frac{iT^3 f^2}{24m} \right) \exp \left[\frac{im(q' - q)^2}{4(2^{M-1}\epsilon)} \right] \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi iT}} \exp \left[\frac{im}{2T}(q' - q)^2 + \frac{iT}{2} f(q' + q) - \frac{iT^3 f^2}{24m} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$