

Real-time GFs at finite temperature

At $T > 0$ to find neutron cross section we must take into account the thermal distribution of the initial states $|\psi_I\rangle$:

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega d\omega} = \frac{K}{2\pi K'} \left(\frac{M}{2\pi}\right)^2 |V_q|^2 \sum_I \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} \sum_{j\ell} P_I \langle \psi_I | e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{x}_j(t)} e^{i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{x}_\ell(0)} | \psi_I \rangle$$

$$P_I = \frac{1}{Z(\beta)} e^{-\beta E_I} \quad \text{Boltzmann factor}$$

$$\frac{1}{Z(\beta)} \sum_I \langle \psi_I | e^{-\beta H} e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{x}_j(t)} e^{i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{x}_\ell(0)} | \psi_I \rangle$$

$$\equiv \langle e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{x}_j(t)} e^{i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{x}_\ell(0)} \rangle_\beta \quad - \text{thermal average}$$

$$\vec{x}_j(t) = \vec{R}_j + \vec{u}_j(t)$$

This leads to consideration of quantity

$$F(\vec{q}, t) = \sum_{j\ell} e^{i\vec{q}\cdot(\vec{R}_\ell - \vec{R}_j)} \langle e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{u}_j(t)} e^{i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{u}_\ell(0)} \rangle_\beta$$

$$\approx q^2 \sum_{j\ell} e^{i\vec{q}\cdot(\vec{R}_\ell - \vec{R}_j)} \langle \underline{\vec{u}_j(t) \cdot \vec{u}_\ell(0)} \rangle_\beta$$

real-time
GF at
nonzero T

Define: time ordered finite-T GF:

$$g_{ij}(t-t') = -i \langle T [u_i(t) u_j(t')] \rangle_{\beta}$$

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle_{\beta} = \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} (e^{-\beta H} \hat{O})$$

Retarded:

$$G_{ij}^R(t-t') = -i \theta(t-t') \langle [u_i(t), u_j(t')] \rangle_{\beta}$$

Analytic continuation

- key result derived in Appendix 2 of the textbook.
- every aspiring theorist in the class should go through this derivation.
- Relates $G_{ij}^R(t-t')$ to $g_{ij}(t-t')$ via "spectral representation"

$$G_{ij}^R(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} (1 - e^{-\beta\omega'}) \frac{A_{ij}(\omega')}{\omega - \omega' + i\epsilon} \quad (1)$$

$$g_{ij}(\omega_n) = -\frac{1}{\beta} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} (1 - e^{-\beta\omega'}) \frac{A_{ij}(\omega')}{-i\omega_n - \omega'}$$

$$G_{ij}^R(\omega) = -\beta g_{ij}(i\omega - \epsilon) \quad \leftarrow \text{analytic continuation}$$

Here $A_{ij}(\omega)$ is the "spectral function" (or "spectral density") given by

$$\left[\begin{aligned} A_{ij}(\omega) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} \langle u_i(t) u_j(0) \rangle_{\beta} \\ &= \frac{2\pi}{Z(\beta)} \sum_{m,n} e^{-\beta E_m} \langle n | u_i | m \rangle \langle m | u_j | n \rangle \delta(E_m - E_n + \omega) \end{aligned} \right]$$

↖ Lehmann representation

Note that when $i=j$ (which is usually the case of interest) $A_{ii}(\omega)$ is real and non-negative.

For phonons we previously derived $g_k(\omega_k) = \frac{1}{\beta M} \frac{1}{\omega_k^2 + \Omega_k^2}$
 so we get immediately:

$$\begin{aligned} G_k^R(\omega) &= -\frac{1}{M} \frac{1}{-(\omega + i\varepsilon)^2 + \Omega_k^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2M\Omega_k} \left(\frac{1}{\omega - \Omega_k + i\varepsilon} - \frac{1}{\omega + \Omega_k + i\varepsilon} \right) \end{aligned}$$

• One can obtain $A_k(\omega)$ from $G_k^R(\omega)$ by inverting Eq. (1)

$$A_k(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} \langle u_k(t) u_k(0) \rangle_{\beta} \quad - \text{Real (see Lehmann representation)}$$

Use the formula

$$\frac{1}{x+i\epsilon} = \mathcal{P} \frac{1}{x} - i\pi \delta(x)$$

↑ principal part

$$G_k^R(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} (1 - e^{-\beta\omega'}) A_k(\omega') \left[\mathcal{P} \frac{1}{\omega - \omega'} - i\pi \delta(\omega - \omega') \right]$$

$$\text{Im } G_k^R(\omega) = -\frac{1}{2} (1 - e^{-\beta\omega}) A_k(\omega)$$

$$A_k(\omega) = \frac{2}{1 - e^{-\beta\omega}} \text{Im } G_k^R(\omega)$$

← holds generally
[whenever $A_k(\omega)$ is real]

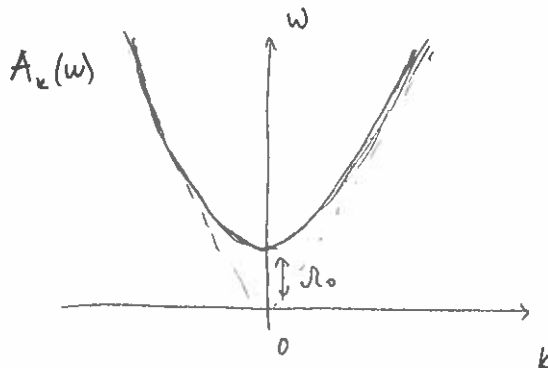
$$= \frac{\pi}{M\Omega_k (1 - e^{-\beta\omega})} \left[\delta(\omega - \Omega_k) - \delta(\omega + \Omega_k) \right]$$

Physical meaning:

$$\Omega_k = \sqrt{\Omega_0^2 + D_k} \geq 0$$

energy dispersion
of the
phonon

suppose $D_k \approx v_k^2 k^2$



$$A_k(\omega) = \frac{2\pi}{Z(\beta)} \sum_{n,m} e^{\beta E_n} |\langle n | u_k | m \rangle|^2 \delta(E_m - E_n + \omega)$$

$A_k(\omega)$ contains full information about the excitation spectrum
AND some information about the wave functions

THE FEYNMAN-DYSON EXPANSION

(Systematics of Feynman diagrams.)

1. The interaction picture

$$H = H_0 + H_1$$

Schrödinger picture

Interaction picture

Heisenberg picture

$$i \frac{\partial |\Psi_S\rangle}{\partial t} = H |\Psi_S\rangle$$

\hat{O}_S - time indep.

$$i \frac{\partial |\Psi_I\rangle}{\partial t} = H_1(t) |\Psi_I\rangle$$

$$\hat{O}_I(t) = e^{iH_0 t} \hat{O}_S e^{-iH_0 t}$$

$|\Psi_H\rangle$ - time indep

$$i \frac{\partial \hat{O}_H}{\partial t} = [H, \hat{O}_H]$$

$$H_1(t) = e^{iH_0 t} H_1 e^{-iH_0 t}$$

• Evolution of states is given by time-evolution operator

$$|\Psi_I(t)\rangle = e^{iH_0 t} |\Psi_S(t)\rangle \equiv U(t, t') |\Psi_I(t')\rangle \leftarrow$$

$$|\Psi_S(t)\rangle = e^{iH t} |\Psi_S(0)\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow U(t, t') = e^{iH_0 t} e^{-iH(t-t')} e^{-iH_0 t'}$$

Operator $U(t, t')$ satisfies Eq. of motion

$$i \frac{\partial U(t, t')}{\partial t} = H_I(t) U(t, t') \quad (\text{check!})$$

and the "group property",

$$U(t, t') U(t', t'') = U(t, t'') \quad (\text{check!})$$

and

$$U(t, t') = U(t', t)^{\dagger},$$

$$U(t, t') U(t, t')^{\dagger} = 1 \quad (\text{check!})$$

Relation between Interaction and Heisenberg pictures

$$\left[\begin{aligned} |\Psi_H\rangle &= e^{iHt} |\Psi_S(t)\rangle = e^{iHt} e^{-iH_0 t} |\Psi_I(t)\rangle = U(t, 0)^{\dagger} |\Psi_I(t)\rangle \\ O_H(t) &= U^{\dagger}(t, 0) O_I(t) U(t, 0) \end{aligned} \right]$$

Some comments on the spectral functions

$$A_k(\omega) = \frac{\pi}{M\Omega_k(1-e^{-\beta\omega})} [\delta(\omega-\Omega_k) - \delta(\omega+\Omega_k)] \quad \Omega_k = \sqrt{\Omega_0^2 + \Phi_k}$$

$T \rightarrow 0$ ($\beta \rightarrow \infty$) limit

$$\frac{1}{1-e^{-\beta\omega}} \rightarrow \begin{cases} 1 & \omega > 0 \\ 0 & \omega < 0 \end{cases} \quad A_k(\omega) = \frac{\pi}{M\Omega_k} \delta(\omega-\Omega_k)$$

$T \rightarrow \infty$ ($\beta \rightarrow 0$) limit

$$e^{-\beta\omega} \rightarrow 1, \quad \frac{1}{1-e^{-\beta\omega}} \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{for any } \omega.$$

This is interpreted simply as the # of phonons per unit volume of the crystal diverging at any energy.

The sum rule

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} A_k(\omega) &= \frac{1}{2M\Omega_k} \left[\frac{1}{1-e^{-\beta\Omega_k}} - \frac{1}{1-e^{\beta\Omega_k}} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2M\Omega_k} \left[\frac{1}{1-e^{-\beta\Omega_k}} - \frac{e^{-\beta\Omega_k}}{e^{-\beta\Omega_k}-1} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2M\Omega_k} \frac{1+e^{-\beta\Omega_k}}{1-e^{-\beta\Omega_k}} = \frac{1}{2M\Omega_k} \coth \frac{1}{2} \beta\Omega_k \end{aligned}$$