

Exercise 1 – Lie-Kato-Trotter product formula

Prove the Lie-Kato-Trotter product formula

$$e^{i(A+B)} \psi = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} (e^{iA/N} e^{iB/N})^N \psi$$

for the case of self-adjoint bounded operators A and B acting on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} ($\psi \in \mathcal{H}$).

Exercise 2 – Path integral formulation of quantum mechanics

Let $\psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Apply the Trotter product formula to the operator

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V(x)$$

to derive the formal expression

$$\left(e^{-it\hat{H}/\hbar} \psi \right) (x_0) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} C \int_{(\mathbb{R})^N} \exp \left\{ \frac{i}{\hbar} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{t}{N} \left[\frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{x_{k+1} - x_k}{t/N} \right)^2 - V(x_k) \right] \right\} \psi(x_N) \prod_{k=1}^N dx_k .$$

Determine C .