

**Exercise** – The Euler-Heisenberg Lagrangian for QED

Consider the effective action that arises when integrating out a fermion of mass  $m$ . When the electromagnetic field  $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$  is constant, the effective Lagrangian is called the Euler-Heisenberg Lagrangian.

The Euler-Heisenberg Lagrangian is determined in terms of the Schwinger integral

$$\int_\epsilon^\infty \frac{ds}{s} e^{-sm^2} \text{Tr} e^{-s\hat{H}}, \quad (1)$$

where

$$\hat{H} = (\hat{p} - eA)^2 + \frac{e}{2} \sigma^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}.$$

Show that the Schwinger integral (1) is proportional to

$$F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \int_\epsilon^\infty \frac{ds}{s} e^{-sm^2} \frac{\text{Re} \cosh(se X)}{\text{Im} \cosh(se X)}$$

for a suitably defined quantity  $X$ . Determine  $X$ .