

Symmetry and its breaking in path integral approach to quantum Brownian motion

Joonhyun Yeo^{1,*}

¹*Department of Physics, Konkuk University, Seoul 05029, Korea*

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We study the Caldeira-Leggett model where a quantum Brownian particle interacts with an environment or a bath consisting of a collection of harmonic oscillators in the path integral formalism. Compared to the contours that the paths take in the conventional Schwinger-Keldysh formalism, the paths in our study are deformed in the complex time plane as suggested by the recent study [C. Aron, G. Biroli and L. F. Cugliandolo, *SciPost Phys.* **4**, 008 (2018)]. This is done to investigate the connection between the symmetry properties in the Schwinger-Keldysh action and the equilibrium or non-equilibrium nature of the dynamics in an open quantum system. We derive the influence functional explicitly in this setting, which captures the effect of the coupling to the bath. We show that in equilibrium the action and the influence functional are invariant under a set of transformations of path integral variables. The fluctuation-dissipation relation is obtained as a consequence of this symmetry. When the system is driven by an external time-dependent protocol, the symmetry is broken. From the terms that break the symmetry, we derive a quantum Jarzynski-like equality for a quantum mechanical work-like quantity given as a function of fluctuating quantum trajectory. In the classical limit, the transformations becomes those used in the functional integral formalism of the classical stochastic thermodynamics to derive the classical fluctuation theorem.

I. INTRODUCTION

Understanding the behavior of thermodynamic quantities and their fluctuations in non-equilibrium situations is a major challenge in statistical mechanics. Recent development of fluctuation theorems (FTs) [1–6] has provided crucial insights into this problem. In classical systems, theoretical progress has been made via stochastic thermodynamics [7, 8], where thermodynamic quantities, such as work, heat or entropy production, are attributed to an individual stochastic trajectory. According to this approach, a probability can be assigned to each stochastic path, and by investigating how it changes under the time-reversed dynamics, one can identify many different forms of FTs arising in various physical situations [3–5, 9–18]. Attempts to extend the classical FTs to the quantum regime have been made [19, 20] resulting in the quantum version of FTs [21–23]. A most notable example is the quantum FT for the fluctuating work defined in the two projective energy measurement scheme (TPM) [24–26]. However, there exist many other definitions of quantum work [27–42] and an appropriate definition for the quantum work is still under debate [43, 44]. This difficulty stems partly from the fact that, unlike classical stochastic thermodynamics, there is no clear notion of a trajectory in quantum systems.

In classical stochastic thermodynamics, the path probability for a stochastic path is given by the Onsager-Machlup (OM) form [45]. By considering the so-called irreversibility defined by the logarithm of the ratio of the probabilities for the forward and the time-reversed paths, one can derive the various FTs mentioned above. An alternative approach is to study the symmetry properties of the Martin-Siggia-Rose-Janssen-De Dominicis

(MSRJD) functional [46–48] for the stochastic dynamics, where an auxiliary response variable is introduced in addition to the dynamical variable. Although the MSRJD formalism is equivalent to the OM one in the sense that, when integrated over this response variable, one recovers the OM form, it provides an additional useful information on equilibrium and non-equilibrium dynamics. In this formalism, one considers a set of time reversal transformations for the main and the auxiliary variables. Equilibrium is characterized by the invariance of the MSRJD functional under this transformation [49–55], and the fluctuation-dissipation relation (FDR) follows as a Ward-Takahashi identity of this symmetry [50–52]. In non-equilibrium situations, the symmetry is broken. The term responsible for the breaking of the symmetry can be used to derive various FTs [51, 52].

Given the success of the classical stochastic thermodynamics, it is natural to seek out a quantum version of stochastic thermodynamics. There have been many recent attempts [56–61] to extend it to the quantum regime using the path integral method [62], which can be regarded as the natural quantum generalization of those using a classical stochastic path. We note that all these approaches [56–61] are confined to treating thermodynamic quantities defined in the TPM scheme. Another route, which we take in this paper, is to look for the quantum generalization of the classical method that uses the symmetry properties of the MSRJD functional integral formalism [49–55] within the path integral formalism. A work in this direction was carried out in Ref. [63], where the quantum version of the field transformations was identified in the Schwinger-Keldysh (SK) path integral formalism [64, 65]. The SK action in equilibrium is shown to be invariant under this transformation, and the FDR is obtained as a corollary of this symmetry [63]. This was generalized in Ref. [66] to non-equilibrium dynamics of a *closed* quantum system. In order to find

* jhyeo@konkuk.ac.kr

the field transformation for the dynamics in a finite time interval, it is necessary to formulate the SK path integral on a deformed contour on the complex time plane [66] compared to the standard Kadanoff-Baym one [65]. From the symmetry breaking term out of equilibrium, the quantum FT for the quantum work, which is not based on the TPM scheme, is obtained [66].

The purpose of this paper is to explore further the latter approach to quantum thermodynamics which uses the symmetry properties of the SK path integral formalism, and extend it to an *open* quantum system, where the system interacts with an environment. As a paradigmatic model of an open quantum system, we study the path integral formulation of the quantum Brownian motion [68] using the Caldeira-Leggett model [67], where the environment is represented by a collection of harmonic oscillators. By applying the method developed in Ref. [66], we investigate how the existence of an environment is encoded in the path integral formulation especially in the symmetry properties of the SK action. On the deformed time contour, we identify the SK action due to the presence of the environment, known as the influence functional [69], responsible for the dissipation into the environment. We find the field transformations that leave the action invariant in equilibrium. We show explicitly that the transformations reduce in the classical limit to those used in classical stochastic thermodynamics thereby making an explicit connection with the MSRJD formalism of classical stochastic thermodynamics. When the system is driven out of equilibrium, the symmetry is broken from which we establish quantum FT for a quantum mechanical work-like quantity which depend on the quantum SK trajectory as in Ref. [66], which is a generalization of the classical work defined in stochastic thermodynamics.

In the next section, we present the SK path integral formalism for the Caldeira-Leggett model on the deformed time contour following the procedure in Ref. [66]. In Sec. III, we identify the field transformations that leave the action invariant. We also show that the equilibrium FDR follows from this symmetry. In Sec. IV, we consider the case where the system is driven out of equilibrium. By identifying the term that breaks the symmetry, we derive the quantum Jarzynski equality. We then apply this analysis to a concrete example where the system is in a harmonic potential whose center is pulled in a time-dependent manner. In the following section, we show explicitly that the present formalism reduces to the MSRJD one for the generalized Langevin equation. We then summarize and conclude with discussion.

II. PATH INTEGRAL ON DEFORMED CONTOURS

In this section, we briefly review the basic idea behind the contour deformation proposed in Ref. [66], and apply it to the path integral representation of the quan-

tum Brownian motion. We consider the Caldeira-Leggett model [67], where a quantum mechanical system interacts with an environment or a bath, which consists of a collection of harmonic oscillators. The total Hamiltonian is given by $H_{\text{tot}}(t) = H_S + H_B + H_I$. The explicit time dependence of the Hamiltonian comes from the system Hamiltonian given by

$$H_S = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(x, \lambda_t) \quad (1)$$

with the potential energy depending on an external time-dependent protocol λ_t . The bath is a collection of harmonic oscillators with frequencies ω_n ($n = 1, 2, \dots$):

$$H_B = \sum_n \left(\frac{p_n^2}{2m_n} + \frac{1}{2} m_n \omega_n^2 q_n^2 \right), \quad (2)$$

and the system and the bath interact via the interaction Hamiltonian

$$H_I = -x \sum_n c_n q_n + \frac{\mu}{2} x^2, \quad (3)$$

where

$$\mu \equiv \sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{m_n \omega_n^2}, \quad (4)$$

and the last term incorporates the renormalization of the system Hamiltonian due to the coupling to the bath [67].

The time evolution of density operator of the total system is given by $\rho(t) = U_{t,0} \rho(0) U_{t,0}^\dagger$ where

$$U_{t,0} = \mathbb{T} \exp\left(-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t H_{\text{tot}}(s) ds\right) \quad (5)$$

with the time ordering operator \mathbb{T} . In the following, we develop the path integral formalism for the density matrix and correlation functions. The time evolution of the system will then be described by tracing out the bath degrees of freedom. For the path integral formalism, we first write the completeness relation for the states $|\mathbf{Q}\rangle \equiv |x, \mathbf{q}\rangle \equiv |x, q_1, q_2, \dots\rangle$,

$$1 = \int d\mathbf{Q} |\mathbf{Q}\rangle \langle \mathbf{Q}|. \quad (6)$$

The density operator can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(t) = & \int d\mathbf{Q}_f d\mathbf{Q}'_f d\mathbf{Q}_i d\mathbf{Q}'_i |\mathbf{Q}_f\rangle \langle \mathbf{Q}_f| U_{t,0} |\mathbf{Q}_i\rangle \\ & \times \langle \mathbf{Q}_i| \rho(0) |\mathbf{Q}'_i\rangle \langle \mathbf{Q}'_i| U_{t,0}^\dagger |\mathbf{Q}'_f\rangle \langle \mathbf{Q}'_f|, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where \mathbf{Q}_f stands for (x_f, \mathbf{q}_f) , etc. The standard path integral representation [62, 68, 73] is obtained by inserting the completeness relation, Eq. (6) at time slices appearing in the discretized expressions of U and U^\dagger . This can be rewritten in terms of the path integral over the paths $x_\pm(s)$ and $\mathbf{q}_\pm(s)$, $0 \leq s \leq t$, of the system and

bath particles, respectively. The forward paths x_+ and \mathbf{q}_+ arising from the matrix element of U have end points $x_+(0) = x_i$, $x_+(t) = x_f$, $\mathbf{q}_+(0) = \mathbf{q}_i$ and $\mathbf{q}_+(t) = \mathbf{q}_f$. On the other hand, the backward paths corresponding to U^\dagger have end points $x_-(0) = x'_i$, $x_-(t) = x'_f$, $\mathbf{q}_-(0) = \mathbf{q}_i$ and $\mathbf{q}_-(t) = \mathbf{q}'_f$. In this paper, we consider the case where the system and the bath are initially at equilibrium, i.e.

$$\rho(0) = \frac{1}{Z_\beta(0)} e^{-\beta H_{\text{tot}}(0)}, \quad (8)$$

where $Z_\beta(0) = \text{Tr} e^{-\beta H_{\text{tot}}(0)}$. We note that the matrix element involving $\rho(0)$ can be represented by the path integral for paths running along the imaginary time axis. In this way, the standard path integral is represented on the Kadanoff-Baym contour [65] consisting of the forward, backward and imaginary-time branches.

As mentioned in Introduction, we use the path integral

$$1 = \int d\mathbf{Q}_f d\mathbf{Q}'_f d\mathbf{Q}_i d\mathbf{Q}'_i \langle \mathbf{Q}'_f | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_-(t) H_{\text{tot}}(t)} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(t) H_{\text{tot}}(t)} | \mathbf{Q}_f \rangle \langle \mathbf{Q}_f | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(t) H_{\text{tot}}(t)} U_{t,0} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(0) H_{\text{tot}}(0)} | \mathbf{Q}_i \rangle \\ \times \langle \mathbf{Q}_i | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(0) H_{\text{tot}}(0)} \rho(0) e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_-(0) H_{\text{tot}}(0)} | \mathbf{Q}'_i \rangle \langle \mathbf{Q}'_i | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_-(0) H_{\text{tot}}(0)} U_{t,0}^\dagger e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_-(t) H_{\text{tot}}(t)} | \mathbf{Q}'_f \rangle. \quad (10)$$

We are also interested in expressing the expectation values of system operators in terms of the path integrals over the deformed time contours. For example, for a *system* operator A_S , we have for $0 \leq t_1 \leq t$, $\langle A_S(t_1) \rangle = \text{Tr}(A_S \rho(t_1)) = \text{Tr}(A_S(t_1) \rho(0))$,

$$\langle A_S(t_1) \rangle = \int d\mathbf{Q}_f d\mathbf{Q}'_f d\mathbf{Q}_i d\mathbf{Q}'_i d\mathbf{Q}_1 d\mathbf{Q}'_1 \langle \mathbf{Q}'_f | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_-(t) H_{\text{tot}}(t)} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(t) H_{\text{tot}}(t)} | \mathbf{Q}_f \rangle \langle \mathbf{Q}_f | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(t) H_{\text{tot}}(t)} U_{t,t_1} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(t_1) H_{\text{tot}}(t_1)} | \mathbf{Q}'_1 \rangle \\ \times \langle \mathbf{Q}'_1 | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(t_1) H_{\text{tot}}(t_1)} A_S e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(t_1) H_{\text{tot}}(t_1)} | \mathbf{Q}_1 \rangle \langle \mathbf{Q}_1 | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(t_1) H_{\text{tot}}(t_1)} U_{t_1,0} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(0) H_{\text{tot}}(0)} | \mathbf{Q}_i \rangle \\ \times \langle \mathbf{Q}_i | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(0) H_{\text{tot}}(0)} \rho(0) e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_-(0) H_{\text{tot}}(0)} | \mathbf{Q}'_i \rangle \langle \mathbf{Q}'_i | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_-(0) H_{\text{tot}}(0)} U_{t,0}^\dagger e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_-(t) H_{\text{tot}}(t)} | \mathbf{Q}'_f \rangle. \quad (11)$$

In the next section, we will also consider two-time correlation functions such as

$$\langle A_S(t_1) B_S(t_2) \rangle = \text{Tr}(U_{t_1,0}^\dagger A_S U_{t,t_1}^\dagger U_{t,t_2} B_S U_{t_2,0} \rho(0)) \quad (12)$$

for two system operators A_S and B_S . We can represent this quantity on a deformed contour as well by using a similar expression to Eq. (11) in which B_S is inserted on the forward path in the form

$$e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(t_2) H_{\text{tot}}(t_2)} B_S e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_+(t_2) H_{\text{tot}}(t_2)}, \quad (13)$$

whereas A_S is on the backward path in the form

$$e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_-(t_1) H_{\text{tot}}(t_1)} A_S e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta_-(t_1) H_{\text{tot}}(t_1)}. \quad (14)$$

representation on a deformed time contour [66] instead of the standard one. The key element of this formulation is the use of an alternative completeness relation, instead of Eq. (6), given by

$$1 = \int d\mathbf{Q} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta(s) H_{\text{tot}}(s)} | \mathbf{Q} \rangle \langle \mathbf{Q} | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \theta(s) H_{\text{tot}}(s)}, \quad (9)$$

at an arbitrary time s , where we have used phase factors characterized by an arbitrary complex-valued function $\theta(s)$ of time s . As we will see below, the actual form of $\theta(s)$ determines the deformation of the paths $x(z)$, $\mathbf{q}(z)$ on the complex time z -plane. In this paper, as in Ref. [66], two different functions $\theta_+(s)$ and $\theta_-(s)$ for forward and backward paths, respectively will be used. Using these functions and the completeness relation Eq. (9) in Eq. (7), we can write the normalization of the density operator $1 = \text{Tr} \rho(t)$ as

where $A_S(t_1) = U_{t_1,0}^\dagger A_S U_{t_1,0}$ is the Heisenberg operator. This can also be rewritten as $\langle A_S(t_1) \rangle = \text{Tr}(U_{t,0}^\dagger U_{t,t_1} A_S U_{t_1,0} \rho(0))$, and if we use the completeness relation, Eq. (9), we have

In the following sections, we will develop path integral representation for these quantities and study symmetries and broken symmetries for them. In order to do that we discretize the time intervals appearing in U and U^\dagger and insert the completeness relation, Eq. (9) into each time slice. We then have to evaluate the matrix element between the neighboring time steps to get the Lagrangians. After obtaining the action for the total system, we will integrate over the bath variables to express everything in terms of the system variables only. As we will see below, the evaluation will take a quite different route depending on whether the Hamiltonian has an explicit time dependence or not. We will discuss these two cases in detail below as well as the other parts.

III. EQUILIBRIUM

In this section, we first develop the path integral formulation for the case where the Hamiltonian is time independent, i.e. $\partial_{\lambda_t} V = 0$. As explained above, for the matrix element involving $U_{t,0}$ in Eq. (10), we have to evaluate the matrix element between the neighboring discretized time steps s_k and s_{k+1} ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle x_{k+1}, \mathbf{q}_{k+1} | e^{-i\theta_+(s_{k+1})H_{\text{tot}}/\hbar} e^{-iH_{\text{tot}}ds/\hbar} \\ & \quad \times e^{i\theta_+(s_k)H_{\text{tot}}/\hbar} | x_k, \mathbf{q}_k \rangle \\ & = \langle x_{k+1}, \mathbf{q}_{k+1} | e^{-i(1+\dot{\theta}_+(s_k))dsH_{\text{tot}}/\hbar} | x_k, \mathbf{q}_k \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where $ds = s_{k+1} - s_k$. This form suggests a reparametrization of time into a complex one $z_+(s) = s + \theta_+(s)$ so that $dz_+ = (1 + \dot{\theta}_+(s))ds$. The above matrix element can then be written as $\exp[(i/\hbar)dz_+\mathcal{L}_+]$ in terms of the Lagrangian \mathcal{L}_+ given as a function of the paths $x_+(z_+), \mathbf{q}_+(z_+)$ and their velocities $\dot{x}_+ = dx_+/dz_+, \dot{\mathbf{q}}_+ = d\mathbf{q}_+/dz_+$ defined along the complex time z_+ with $x_k = x_+(z_+(s_k)), x_{k+1} = x_+(z_+(s_{k+1}))$, $\mathbf{q}_k = \mathbf{q}_+(z_+(s_k))$ and $\mathbf{q}_{k+1} = \mathbf{q}_+(z_+(s_{k+1}))$. Collecting all these parts from the time slices, we end up with a path integral over the fluctuating paths, $x_+(z_+), \mathbf{q}_+(z_+)$ of a factor $\exp[(i/\hbar) \int dz_+ \mathcal{L}_+]$, where the integral on the complex time plane is along the contour $z_+(s), 0 \leq s \leq t$ in the direction from $z_+(0)$ to $z_+(t)$ with the endpoints $x_+(z_+(0)) = x_i, x_+(z_+(t)) = x_f, \mathbf{q}_+(z_+(0)) = \mathbf{q}_i$, and $\mathbf{q}_+(z_+(t)) = \mathbf{q}_f$.

Similarly, the matrix element involving U^\dagger in Eq. (10) is given by the path integral over the path $x_-(z_-), \mathbf{q}_-(z_-)$ defined along the complex time $z_-(s) = s + \theta_-(s)$ of a factor $\exp[(i/\hbar) \int dz_- \mathcal{L}_-]$. The integral, in this case, is along the contour $z_-(s), 0 \leq s \leq t$, starting from $z_-(t)$ ending at $z_-(0)$ (a backward path).

The Lagrangians $\mathcal{L}_{\text{tot}}^\pm$ have three parts originating from the corresponding Hamiltonians, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{tot}}^\pm = \mathcal{L}_S^\pm + \mathcal{L}_B^\pm + \mathcal{L}_I^\pm$, which are given respectively by

$$\mathcal{L}_S^\pm = \frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{dx_\pm}{dz_\pm} \right)^2 - V(x_\pm(z_\pm)), \quad (16)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_B^\pm = \sum_n \left[\frac{m_n}{2} \left(\frac{dq_{\pm,n}}{dz_\pm} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m_n \omega_n^2 q_{\pm,n}^2(z_\pm) \right], \quad (17)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_I^\pm = x_\pm(z_\pm) \sum_n c_n q_{\pm,n}(z_\pm) - \frac{\mu}{2} x_\pm^2(z_\pm). \quad (18)$$

So far the actual contours on the complex time plane are completely general and depends on the detailed form of $\theta_\pm(s)$. In this paper, as in Ref. [66], we take a symmetric constant form, where

$$\theta_\pm(s) = \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4} \quad (19)$$

for $0 \leq s \leq t$. Other choices are possible [66], but the present one is most convenient for the discussion on the symmetry properties of the actions. The contours are

then just horizontal lines parallel to the real time axis given by $s \pm i\hbar\beta/4, 0 \leq s \leq t$ on the complex-time plane as shown in Fig. 1. With this choice, the first factor in Eq. (10) is just the matrix element of $e^{-\beta H_{\text{tot}}/2}$ which can be written as a path integral over the paths which are given along the imaginary time axis (with the real part being equal to t). Finally, the third factor in Eq. (10), which is the matrix element involving $\rho(0)$, again gives that of $e^{-\beta H_{\text{tot}}/2}$. We split this into $e^{-\beta H_{\text{tot}}/4} e^{-\beta H_{\text{tot}}/4}$. Then the paths in this case are given on the two parts along the imaginary time axis as shown Fig. 1, whose real parts are 0.

Combining all these, we find that we have to use the paths $x_\pm(z)$ and $\mathbf{q}_\pm(z)$ given along the contours \mathcal{C}^\pm on the complex time plane as shown Fig. 1. This is quite different from the standard Kadanoff-Baym contour [65, 68, 74], but is an entirely equivalent representation. The upper and lower branches, \mathcal{C}^+ and \mathcal{C}^- run from $i\hbar\beta/2$ to t and t to $-i\hbar\beta/2$, respectively. The normalization condition, Eq. (10) can then be written as

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \frac{1}{Z_\beta(0)} \int dx_i \int d\mathbf{q}_i \int dx_f \int d\mathbf{q}_f \\ & \times \int_{x_i}^{x_f} \mathcal{D}x_+(z) \int_{x_f}^{x_i} \mathcal{D}x_-(z) \int_{\mathbf{q}_i}^{\mathbf{q}_f} \mathcal{D}\mathbf{q}_+(z) \int_{\mathbf{q}_f}^{\mathbf{q}_i} \mathcal{D}\mathbf{q}_-(z) \\ & \times \exp \left[\frac{i}{\hbar} \sum_{a=+,-} \int_{\mathcal{C}^a} dz \mathcal{L}_{\text{tot}}^a(x_a(z), \mathbf{q}_a(z)) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

where the end points of the path integrals indicate the conditions that the paths are subject to, that is, $x_+(i\hbar\beta/2) = x_-(-i\hbar\beta/2) = x_i, x_+(t) = x_-(t) = x_f, \mathbf{q}_+(i\hbar\beta/2) = \mathbf{q}_-(-i\hbar\beta/2) = \mathbf{q}_i$, and $\mathbf{q}_+(t) = \mathbf{q}_-(t) = \mathbf{q}_f$.

We now integrate over the bath degrees of freedom to express everything in terms of the system variables $x_\pm(z)$ only. The bath variables can explicitly be integrated away, since the integrals are Gaussian. The effect of the coupling to the bath then appears as the influence functional [67–69]. Upon integrating over \mathbf{q}_\pm in Eq. (20), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \frac{1}{Z(0)} \int dx_i \int dx_f \int_{x_i}^{x_f} \mathcal{D}x_+(z) \int_{x_f}^{x_i} \mathcal{D}x_-(z) \\ & \times \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} S_+[x_+] + \frac{i}{\hbar} S_-[x_-] - \frac{1}{\hbar} \Psi[x_+, x_-] \right), \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

where

$$S_\pm[x_\pm] = \int_{\mathcal{C}_\pm} dz \mathcal{L}_S^\pm(x_\pm(z)) \quad (22)$$

is the system action, and $Z(0) = Z_\beta(0)/Z_B$ with

$$Z_B = \text{Tr}_B e^{-\beta H_B} = \prod_n \frac{1}{2 \sinh(\beta\hbar\omega_n/2)}. \quad (23)$$

The effect of the coupling to the bath is reflected in Eq. (21) in the form of the influence functional Ψ , which

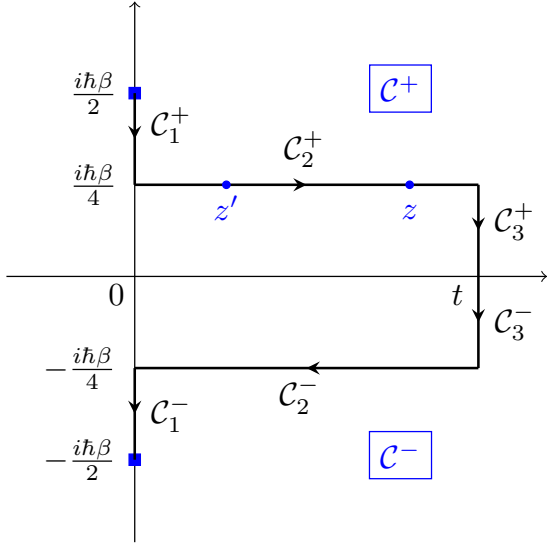


FIG. 1. Contours \mathcal{C}^\pm for $x_\pm(z)$ and $q_\pm(z)$. \mathcal{C}^+ runs from $i\hbar\beta/2$ to t and \mathcal{C}^- from t to $-i\hbar\beta/2$. Each has three segments denoted by \mathcal{C}_1^\pm , \mathcal{C}_2^\pm and \mathcal{C}_3^\pm . On the endpoints (squares), the paths have the same value, over which the trace is performed. For the calculation of the influence functional Ψ in Eq. (24), the double contour integral over z and z' along \mathcal{C}^\pm is performed such that z is always ahead of z' .

we find after a lengthy algebra

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi[x_+, x_-] &= \int_{\mathcal{C}^+} dz \int_{\mathcal{C}^+, z > z'} dz' x_+(z) K(z - z') x_+(z') \\ &+ \int_{\mathcal{C}^-} dz \int_{\mathcal{C}^-, z > z'} dz' x_-(z) K(z - z') x_-(z') \\ &+ \int_{\mathcal{C}^-} dz \int_{\mathcal{C}^+} dz' x_-(z) K(z - z') x_+(z') \\ &+ i\frac{\mu}{2} \int_{\mathcal{C}^+} dz x_+^2(z) + i\frac{\mu}{2} \int_{\mathcal{C}^-} dz x_-^2(z), \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

where

$$K(z) \equiv \sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{2m_n\omega_n} \frac{\cosh(\frac{1}{2}\beta\hbar\omega_n - i\omega_n z)}{\sinh(\frac{1}{2}\beta\hbar\omega_n)}. \quad (25)$$

In Eq. (24), $z > z'$ indicates that the double contour integral is to be performed under the condition that z' is behind z as shown in Fig. 1. The calculation of the influence functional involves evaluating the Gaussian path integrals and applying to the branches shown in Fig. 1. The details of this calculation is presented in Appendix A.

A. Equilibrium Symmetry

We consider the change of variables in the path integral in Eq. (21) as follows:

$$x_\pm(z) \rightarrow \tilde{x}_\pm(z) \equiv x_\pm(t - z \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{2}). \quad (26)$$

We investigate how the action S_\pm and the influence functional Ψ change under this transformation. In order to do that, we first decompose the contour \mathcal{C}^+ into three parts, \mathcal{C}_1^+ , \mathcal{C}_2^+ and \mathcal{C}_3^+ as shown in Fig. 1, where z runs from $i\hbar\beta/2$ to $i\hbar\beta/4$, from $i\hbar\beta/4$ to $t + i\hbar\beta/4$, and from $t + i\hbar\beta/4$ to t , respectively. The corresponding contributions from these contours to the action S_+ in Eq. (22) are denoted by S_1^+ , S_2^+ and S_3^+ , respectively. Then, since $z = is$ with s running from $\hbar\beta/2$ to $\hbar\beta/4$ on \mathcal{C}_1^+ , we can write

$$\begin{aligned} S_1^+[\tilde{x}_+] &= \int_{\hbar\beta/2}^{\hbar\beta/4} ids \left\{ \frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{dx_+(t - is + i\hbar\beta/2)}{ids} \right)^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. - V(x_+(t - is + i\hbar\beta/2)) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

After changing the integration variable from s to $-s + \hbar\beta/2$, we find that this is equal to $S_3^+[x_+]$. In a similar fashion, since $z = t + is$ with $0 \leq s \leq \hbar\beta/4$ on \mathcal{C}_3^+ , we can write

$$\begin{aligned} S_3^+[\tilde{x}_+] &= \int_{\hbar\beta/4}^0 ids \left\{ \frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{dx_+(-is + i\hbar\beta/2)}{ids} \right)^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. - V(x_+(-is + i\hbar\beta/2)) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Again changing the variable from s to $-s + \hbar\beta/2$ gives $S_3^+[\tilde{x}_+] = S_1^+[x_+]$. On \mathcal{C}_2^+ , $z = s + i\hbar\beta/4$ with $0 \leq s \leq t$, we have $t - z + i\hbar\beta/2 = t - s + i\hbar\beta/4$. Therefore, if we change the integration variable from s to $t - s$, we can easily see that $S_2^+[\tilde{x}_+] = S_2^+[x_+]$. Combining all three components, we have $S_+[\tilde{x}_+] = S_+[x_+]$. For \mathcal{C}^- , a similar relation holds. We have shown that the actions are invariant under the equilibrium transformation,

$$S_\pm[\tilde{x}_\pm] = S_\pm[x_\pm]. \quad (29)$$

For the influence functional, it is given by the double integrals and there are obviously more terms to deal with. Nevertheless, we can apply similar change of integration variables and show that

$$\Psi[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-] = \Psi[x_+, x_-]. \quad (30)$$

The detailed derivation is presented in Appendix B. We have shown that in equilibrium Eq. (26) is a symmetry that the action in the path integral formalism of quantum Brownian motion satisfies.

B. Equilibrium Fluctuation Dissipation Relations

In this subsection, we look at the consequences of this symmetry in equilibrium. We consider the two-time correlation function, Eq. (12), between two *system* operators

A_S and B_S , and express it in the path integral representation on a deformed contour. Following the discussion in Sec. II, we need to evaluate an expression similar to

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x'_2, \mathbf{q}'_2 | e^{-i\theta_+(t_2)H_{\text{tot}}/\hbar} B_S e^{i\theta_+(t_2)H_{\text{tot}}/\hbar} | x_2, \mathbf{q}_2 \rangle &= \int d\bar{x} \int d\bar{x}' \int d\bar{q} \langle \bar{x}' | B_S | \bar{x} \rangle \langle x'_2, \mathbf{q}'_2 | e^{\beta H_{\text{tot}}/4} | \bar{x}', \bar{q} \rangle \langle \bar{x}, \bar{q} | e^{-\beta H_{\text{tot}}/4} | x_2, \mathbf{q}_2 \rangle \\ &= \delta(\mathbf{q}_2 - \mathbf{q}'_2) \int d\bar{x} \int d\bar{x}' \langle \bar{x}' | B_S | \bar{x} \rangle \langle x'_2 | e^{\beta H_S/4} | \bar{x}' \rangle \langle \bar{x} | e^{-\beta H_S/4} | x_2 \rangle \\ &= \delta(\mathbf{q}_2 - \mathbf{q}'_2) \langle x'_2 | e^{\beta H_S/4} B_S e^{-\beta H_S/4} | x_2 \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Going from the first to the second line in the above equation, we have represented the matrix elements as path integrals over the paths along the imaginary time axis. We then performed path integrals over the bath variables and integrated over \bar{q} to obtain the delta function. This is again possible since the total Hamiltonian is Gaussian in the bath variable. The details of this calculation is presented in Appendix C. We can now represent the last line of Eq. (31) in terms of the path integral over the system variable $x(z)$ where z runs from $t_2 + i\hbar\beta/4$ to t_2 and then comes back to $t_2 + i\hbar\beta/4$ in the complex time domain (see Fig. 2). The matrix element of B_S is inserted at t_2 . At time slice t_1 , A_S is inserted as $\langle x'_1, \mathbf{q}'_1 | e^{-i\theta_-(t_1)H(t_1)/\hbar} A_S e^{i\theta_-(t_1)H(t_1)/\hbar} | x_1, \mathbf{q}_1 \rangle$, which results in after the similar calculation

$$\delta(\mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}'_1) \langle x'_1 | e^{-\beta H_S/4} A_S e^{\beta H_S/4} | x_1 \rangle. \quad (32)$$

Equation (32) is expressed in terms of the path integral over $x(z)$ with z now running back and forth between $t_1 - i\hbar\beta/4$ and t_1 .

Apart from these two quantities, there are other matrix elements for the evaluation of $\langle A_S(t_1) B_S(t_2) \rangle$. But these have already been evaluated for Eqs. (10) and (11). Combining all these, we have a path integral representation of the two-time correlation function as

$$\begin{aligned} \langle A_S(t_1) B_S(t_2) \rangle &= \frac{1}{Z(0)} \int dx_i \int dx_f \int d\bar{x}_b \int d\bar{x}'_b \\ &\times \int d\bar{x}_a \int d\bar{x}'_a \langle \bar{x}'_b | B_S | \bar{x}_b \rangle \langle \bar{x}'_a | A_S | \bar{x}_a \rangle \\ &\times \left(\int_{x_i}^{\bar{x}_b} + \int_{\bar{x}'_b}^{x_f} \right) \mathcal{D}x_+(z) \left(\int_{x_f}^{\bar{x}'_a} + \int_{\bar{x}_a}^{x_i} \right) \mathcal{D}x_-(z) \\ &\times \exp \left(\frac{i}{\hbar} S'_+[x_+] + \frac{i}{\hbar} S'_-[x_-] - \frac{1}{\hbar} \Psi[x_+, x_-] \right), \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

where

$$S'_\pm[x_\pm] = \int_{\mathcal{C}'_\pm} dz \left[\frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{dx_\pm}{dz} \right)^2 - V(x_\pm(z)) \right]. \quad (34)$$

with the contours \mathcal{C}'_\pm shown in Fig. 2. Compared to \mathcal{C}_\pm , the contours \mathcal{C}'_\pm have additional branches running along

Eq. (11). There are two instances where the two operators are inserted. At time slice t_2 , we have to insert B_S and evaluate the matrix element,

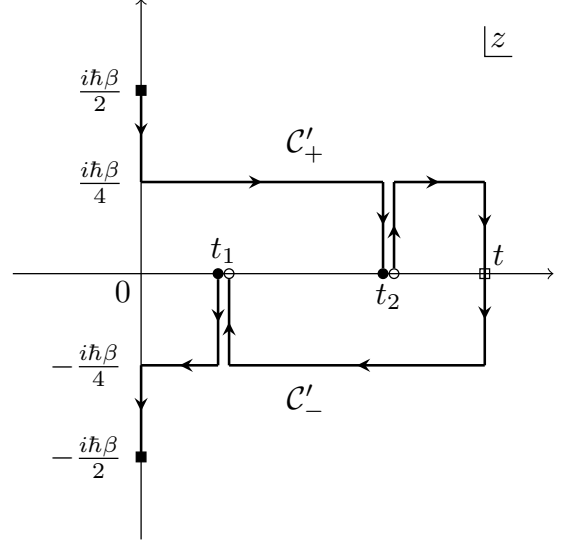


FIG. 2. Contours \mathcal{C}'_\pm for $S'_\pm[x_\pm]$ in Eq. (34) for the two-time correlation function $\langle A_S(t_1) B_S(t_2) \rangle$. The open and filled circles indicate the endpoints where the system operators are inserted. The open and filled squares are the endpoints which are traced over, respectively.

the imaginary time axis as mentioned above. In Eq. (33), the endpoints for the path integrals for x_+ indicate the constraints, $x_+(i\hbar\beta/2) = x_i$, $x_+(t_2^-) = \bar{x}_b$, $x_+(t_2^+) = \bar{x}'_b$ and $x_+(t) = x_f$. The endpoints for $x_-(z)$ are similarly given as $x_-(-i\hbar\beta/2) = x_i$, $x_-(t_1^-) = \bar{x}_a$, $x_-(t_1^+) = \bar{x}'_a$ and $x_-(t) = x_f$. As we can deduce from the delta function for the bath variable in Eqs. (31) and (32), the system operator insertion does not have any effect on the path integrals for the bath variables, which can be integrated over in the exactly same way as before. Therefore, $\Psi[x_+, x_-]$ in Eq. (33) is again given by the same expression as in Eq. (24), for which $x_\pm(z)$ do not have vertical branches at t_1 and t_2 .

We now apply the field transformations given in Eq. (26) to the path integral expression for the two-time correlation function in Eq. (33). We first rewrite Eq. (33) using \tilde{x}_\pm and apply the transformations. As before, $\Psi[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-] = \Psi[x_+, x_-]$. After applying the same

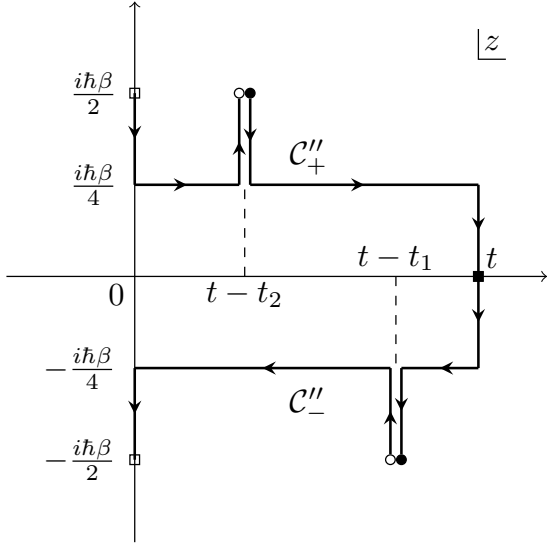


FIG. 3. Contours for $S''_{\pm}[x_{\pm}]$ which appears after taking the field transformations on the two-time correlation function. Note how the endpoints of the paths indicated by open and filled circles and squares are changed from Fig. 2 after the transformation.

integration variable change as before, we find that that $S'_{\pm}[\tilde{x}_{\pm}] = S''_{\pm}[x_{\pm}]$, where S''_{\pm} is the same as Eq. (34) except that the integral is now over the contour C''_{\pm} shown in Fig. 3. On C''_{+} , the path $x_{+}(z)$ now has two parts; one that runs from $x_{+}(i\hbar\beta/2) = x_f$ to $x_{+}(t-t_2+i\hbar\beta/2) = \tilde{x}'_b$ and the other from $x_{+}(t-t_2+i\hbar\beta/2) = \tilde{x}_b$ to $x_{+}(t) = x_i$. Similarly, for $x_{-}(z)$ on C''_{-} , we have one from $x_{-}(t) = x_i$ to $x_{-}(t-t_1-i\hbar\beta/2) = \tilde{x}_a$, and the other from $x_{-}(t-t_1-i\hbar\beta/2) = \tilde{x}'_a$ to $x_{-}(i\hbar\beta/2) = x_f$. As can be seen from Figs. 2 and 3, x_i and x_f switch their places, but since these variables are integrated over, it does not make a difference in the calculation of the correlation function. On the other hand, the endpoints on which the operators are inserted get interchanged (see how the open and filled circles in Fig. 3 are changed from those in Fig. 2). We note that the path integral measure does not change, $\mathcal{D}\tilde{x}_{+}\mathcal{D}\tilde{x}_{-} = \mathcal{D}x_{+}\mathcal{D}x_{-}$ with appropriate changes of the endpoints.

The above consideration shows that, after the transformation, the path integral expression becomes the one for the two-time correlation function for two operators, $e^{-\beta H_{\text{tot}}/2}\tilde{B}_{\text{S}}e^{\beta H_{\text{tot}}/2}$ inserted at time $t-t_2$ and $e^{\beta H_{\text{tot}}/2}\tilde{A}_{\text{S}}e^{-\beta H_{\text{tot}}/2}$ at time $t-t_1$, where \tilde{A}_{S} is defined by $\langle x|\tilde{A}_{\text{S}}|x'\rangle = \langle x'|A_{\text{S}}|x\rangle$ for all $|x\rangle$ and $|x'\rangle$. The operator \tilde{B}_{S} is similarly defined. Here the factors of $e^{\pm\beta H_{\text{tot}}/2}$ account for the upward vertical branches in C''_{\pm} shown in Fig. 3. We can therefore write that

$$\langle A_{\text{S}}(t_1)B_{\text{S}}(t_2)\rangle = \langle \tilde{A}_{\text{S}}(t-t_1-\frac{i\hbar\beta}{2})\tilde{B}_{\text{S}}(t-t_2+\frac{i\hbar\beta}{2})\rangle, \quad (35)$$

where we have defined $\tilde{A}_{\text{S}}(z) = e^{iH_{\text{tot}}z/\hbar}\tilde{A}_{\text{S}}e^{-iH_{\text{tot}}z/\hbar}$. This equation is the consequence of the transformation, Eq. (26) for the two-time correlation function. We note that \tilde{A}_{S} is in fact an operator obtained from the time reversal transformation of A_{S} [75]. This follows from the following consideration. For an observable O , $\tilde{O} = \Theta O \Theta^{-1}$ and $|\tilde{x}\rangle = \Theta|x\rangle$ for the time reversal transformation Θ . We then have $\langle \tilde{x}|\tilde{O}|\tilde{x}'\rangle = \langle x|O|x'\rangle^*$ [75]. Since $|\tilde{x}\rangle = |x\rangle$ and O is a hermitian operator, we have $\langle x|\tilde{O}|x'\rangle = \langle x'|O|x\rangle$. As noted in Ref. [63], Eq. (35) can be interpreted as the invariance of the two time correlation function under the time reversal transformation combined with the Kubo-Martin-Schwinger (KMS) relation [76, 77] which holds in equilibrium. We note that the KMS condition reads in our case $\langle A_{\text{S}}(t_1)B_{\text{S}}(t_2)\rangle = \langle B_{\text{S}}(t_2-i\hbar\beta/2)A_{\text{S}}(t_1+i\hbar\beta/2)\rangle$. Equation (35), in our case, constitutes the equilibrium FDR for the quantum Brownian motion.

We can rewrite the relation, Eq. (35), in terms of more familiar Green's functions, $iG^{>}(t_1, t_2) = \langle x(t_1)x(t_2)\rangle$ and $iG^{<}(t_1, t_2) = \langle x(t_2)x(t_1)\rangle$, as

$$G^{>}(t_1, t_2) = G^{<}(t-t_2+\frac{i\hbar\beta}{2}, t-t_1-\frac{i\hbar\beta}{2}). \quad (36)$$

Since we expect Green's functions depend only on $\tau \equiv t_1 - t_2$, we have

$$G^{>}(\tau) = G^{<}(\tau + i\hbar\beta). \quad (37)$$

In terms of the retarded G^{R} and advanced G^{A} Green's functions, we have $G^{\text{R}}(\tau) - G^{\text{A}}(\tau) = G^{>}(\tau) - G^{<}(\tau)$. The Keldysh Green's function is given as $G^{\text{K}}(\tau) = \frac{1}{2}[G^{>}(\tau) + G^{<}(\tau)]$. From Eq. (37), the FDR takes the following form.

$$\cosh\left(i\frac{\hbar\beta}{2}\partial_{\tau}\right)[G^{\text{R}}(\tau) - G^{\text{A}}(\tau)] = 2\sinh\left(i\frac{\hbar\beta}{2}\partial_{\tau}\right)G^{\text{K}}(\tau). \quad (38)$$

IV. NON-EQUILIBRIUM

In this section, we consider the case where the system Hamiltonian $H_{\text{S}}(s)$ depends on time s explicitly through the potential energy $V(x; \lambda_s)$ with the time-dependent protocol λ_s for $0 \leq s \leq t$. As before, we develop the path integral formulation for this case. For the forward path in Eq. (10), we have to evaluate the matrix element similar to Eq. (15) between the time slices s_k and s_{k+1} , which arises from the discretization of $U_{t,0}$. This is in the form of $\langle x_{k+1}, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}|M_k^+|x_k, \mathbf{q}_k\rangle$, where

$$\begin{aligned}
M_k^+ &= e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}\theta_+(s_{k+1})H_{\text{tot}}(s_{k+1})} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}H_{\text{tot}}(s_k)ds} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\theta_+(s_k)H_{\text{tot}}(s_k)} \\
&\simeq 1 - \frac{i}{\hbar}ds(1 + \dot{\theta}_+(s_k))H_{\text{tot}}(s_k) - \frac{i}{\hbar}ds\theta_+(s_k) \int_0^1 d\xi e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}\xi\theta_+(s_k)H_{\text{tot}}(s_k)} (\partial_s H_{\text{tot}}(s_k)) e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\xi\theta_+(s_k)H_{\text{tot}}(s_k)}, \quad (39)
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used an identity

$$\frac{d}{dt}e^{O(t)} = \int_0^1 d\xi e^{\xi O(t)} \frac{dO(t)}{dt} e^{(1-\xi)O(t)} \quad (40)$$

valid for an arbitrary time-dependent operator $O(t)$. If we only had the first two terms in Eq. (39), the situation would be quite similar to that in the previous section for the time-independent case. The matrix element would just give $\exp(idz_+ \mathcal{L}_{\text{tot}}^+/\hbar)$ where the Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}_{\text{tot}}^+$ has again three components given by Eqs. (16), (17) and (18) except that the system Lagrangian \mathcal{L}_S^+ has an extra dependence on the external protocol λ . But as we will see below, because of the last term in Eq. (39), the system Lagrangian gets significantly modified.

The effect of the time-dependent Hamiltonian is in the last term in Eq. (39) with $\partial_s H_{\text{tot}} = \partial_s H_S = \lambda_s \partial_\lambda V(x; \lambda)$, which we now evaluate for $\theta_+(s) = i\hbar\beta/4$. The matrix element of this term is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
& -\frac{i}{\hbar}ds\delta(\mathbf{q}_{k+1} - \mathbf{q}_k) \left(\frac{i\hbar\beta}{4} \right) \int_0^1 d\xi \langle x_{k+1} | e^{\frac{1}{4}\xi\beta H_S(s_k)} \\
& \quad \times (\partial_s H_S(s_k)) e^{-\frac{1}{4}\xi\beta H_S(s_k)} | x_k \rangle, \quad (41)
\end{aligned}$$

where we have again performed the path integral over the bath variables as in Eq. (31) following the procedures outlined in Appendix C to get the delta function in \mathbf{q} . Note that the matrix element now is with respect to the system variable only. Therefore this term modifies the system Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}_S(x_+(z))$ when z is on the contour \mathcal{C}_2^+ in Fig. 1. On the other parts of the contour \mathcal{C}^+ , where $\partial_s H_S = 0$, the system Lagrangians are the same as the equilibrium ones. Therefore, on \mathcal{C}_2^+ , we have a modified Lagrangian $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^+$ at time slice s_k defined by

$$e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}ds\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^+} = \langle x_{k+1} | 1 - \frac{i}{\hbar}ds(H_S(s_k) + F_+(s_k)) | x_k \rangle, \quad (42)$$

where

$$F_+(s) \equiv i\frac{\beta\hbar}{4} \int_0^1 d\xi e^{\frac{1}{4}\xi\beta H_S(s)} \partial_s H_S(s) e^{-\frac{1}{4}\xi\beta H_S(s)}. \quad (43)$$

For the backward path, we have to evaluate $\langle x_k, \mathbf{q}_k | M_k^- | x_{k+1}, \mathbf{q}_{k+1} \rangle$, where

$$M_k^- = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}\theta_-(s_k)H_{\text{tot}}(s_k)} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}H_{\text{tot}}(s_k)ds} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\theta_-(s_{k+1})H_{\text{tot}}(s_{k+1})}. \quad (44)$$

Following the same argument, we find that the time-dependent Hamiltonian modifies the system Lagrangian when the path $x_-(z)$ is on the contour \mathcal{C}_2^- in Fig. 1. The

modified system Lagrangian $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^-$ at time slice s_k is defined by

$$e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}ds\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^-} = \langle x_k | 1 + \frac{i}{\hbar}ds(H_S(s_k) + F_-(s_k)) | x_{k+1} \rangle, \quad (45)$$

where

$$F_-(s) \equiv -i\frac{\beta\hbar}{4} \int_0^1 d\xi e^{-\frac{1}{4}\xi\beta H_S(s)} \partial_s H_S(s) e^{\frac{1}{4}\xi\beta H_S(s)}. \quad (46)$$

We can easily see that $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^- = (\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^+)^*$.

Since there is no change in the bath part of the action even in the case of the time-dependent Hamiltonian, we get the same influence functional Ψ as in Eq. (24). Therefore, the only change that the time-dependent Hamiltonian makes, for example, in the the normalization condition, Eq. (21) is in the system action S_\pm given in Eq. (22) on the contours \mathcal{C}_2^\pm . We therefore have, instead of S_\pm , a new expression for the system action as

$$\widehat{S}_\pm[x_\pm; \lambda] = \widehat{S}_1^\pm[x_\pm; \lambda_0] + \widehat{S}_3^\pm[x_\pm; \lambda_t] + \widehat{S}_2^\pm[x_\pm; \lambda], \quad (47)$$

where

$$\widehat{S}_1^\pm[x_\pm; \lambda_0] = \int_{\mathcal{C}_1^\pm} dz \mathcal{L}_S^\pm(x_\pm(z), \dot{x}_\pm(z); \lambda_0) \quad (48)$$

$$\widehat{S}_3^\pm[x_\pm; \lambda_t] = \int_{\mathcal{C}_3^\pm} dz \mathcal{L}_S^\pm(x_\pm(z), \dot{x}_\pm(z); \lambda_t) \quad (49)$$

are given in terms of the original Lagrangians in Eq. (16) with the dependence of V on the protocol λ inserted. On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \widehat{S}_2^\pm[x_\pm; \lambda] \\
& = \pm \int_0^t ds \widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^\pm(x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}), \dot{x}_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}); \lambda_s) \quad (50)
\end{aligned}$$

with the modified Lagrangian $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^\pm$ determined from Eqs. (42) and (45).

A. Quantum Fluctuation Theorem

Here we show that a quantum fluctuation theorem can be obtained by studying the behavior of the actions under the transformation, Eq. (26). Specifically we look at the normalization condition, Eq (21), which can be written in the presence of the time-dependent protocol as

$$\begin{aligned}
1 &= \frac{1}{Z(0)} \int dx_i \int dx_f \int_{x_i}^{x_f} \mathcal{D}x_+ \int_{x_f}^{x_i} \mathcal{D}x_- \\
& \quad \times e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\widehat{S}_+[x_+; \lambda] + \frac{i}{\hbar}\widehat{S}_-[x_-; \lambda] - \frac{i}{\hbar}\Psi[x_+, x_-]}, \quad (51)
\end{aligned}$$

By the same methods used in Eqs. (27) and (28), we find that, under the transformation, Eq. (26),

$$\widehat{S}_1^\pm[\tilde{x}_\pm; \lambda_0] = \widehat{S}_3^\pm[x_\pm; \lambda_0] \equiv \widehat{S}_3^\pm[x_\pm; \tilde{\lambda}_t] \quad (52)$$

$$\widehat{S}_3^\pm[\tilde{x}_\pm; \lambda_t] = \widehat{S}_1^\pm[x_\pm; \lambda_t] \equiv \widehat{S}_1^\pm[x_\pm; \tilde{\lambda}_0], \quad (53)$$

where we defined the time-reversed protocol, $\tilde{\lambda}_s \equiv \lambda_{t-s}$. Since $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^\pm$ in general has a different form from \mathcal{L}_S^\pm , the action \widehat{S}_2^\pm does not show simple transformations as S_1^\pm or S_3^\pm does. In fact, if we consider $\widehat{S}_2^\pm[\tilde{x}_\pm; \lambda]$ in Eq. (50), we find, after changing the time integration variable from s to $t-s$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \widehat{S}_2^\pm[\tilde{x}_\pm; \lambda] \\ &= \int_0^t ds \widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^\pm(x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}), -\dot{x}_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}); \tilde{\lambda}_s). \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

Since the Lagrangian $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^\pm$ is not guaranteed to have a standard form with a velocity squared term, it is in general different from $\widehat{S}_2^\pm[x_\pm; \tilde{\lambda}]$. We define their difference as

$$\widehat{S}_2^\pm[\tilde{x}_\pm; \lambda] = \widehat{S}_2^\pm[x_\pm; \tilde{\lambda}] \pm \Sigma_\pm[x_\pm; \tilde{\lambda}], \quad (55)$$

where the actual form of Σ_\pm can be calculated once F_\pm in Eqs. (43) and (46) are known. We can easily derive, regardless of its actual form, Σ_\pm satisfies

$$\Sigma_\pm[x_\pm; \tilde{\lambda}] = -\Sigma_\pm[\tilde{x}_\pm; \lambda]. \quad (56)$$

This term signals the breaking of symmetry in the non-equilibrium situation which was satisfied in the equilibrium case. As we will see, it also plays an important role in the fluctuation theorem we are about to derive.

We now derive the fluctuation theorem. Let us consider

$$\left\langle e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(\Sigma_+[x_+; \lambda] + \Sigma_-[x_-; \lambda])} \right\rangle \quad (57)$$

where the average $\langle \dots \rangle$ is done with respect to the action in the integrand of Eq. (51). We then change the path integral variables from x_\pm to \tilde{x}_\pm . Using Eqs. (52), (53), (30), (55), (56) and the invariance of the Jacobian of the transformation, we find

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(\Sigma_+[x_+; \lambda] + \Sigma_-[x_-; \lambda])} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{Z(0)} \int dx_i \int dx_f \quad (58) \\ & \times \int_{x_f}^{x_i} \mathcal{D}x_+ \int_{x_i}^{x_f} \mathcal{D}x_- e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\widehat{S}_+[\tilde{x}_+; \tilde{\lambda}] + \frac{i}{\hbar}\widehat{S}_-[\tilde{x}_-; \tilde{\lambda}] - \frac{1}{\hbar}\Psi[x_+, x_-]}. \end{aligned}$$

The right hand side is just the normalization with the reverse protocol $\tilde{\lambda}$ except for the factor of $1/Z(0)$. We therefore have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(\Sigma_+[x_+; \lambda] + \Sigma_-[x_-; \lambda])} \right\rangle = \frac{Z(t)}{Z(0)} \quad (59) \\ & \equiv e^{-\beta(\mathcal{F}(t) - \mathcal{F}(0))}, \end{aligned}$$

where we have defined the free energy $\mathcal{F} \equiv -(1/\beta) \ln Z$. If we identify

$$\frac{i}{\hbar} (\Sigma_+[x_+; \lambda] + \Sigma_-[x_-; \lambda]) \equiv -\beta\Xi \quad (60)$$

with Ξ being the quantum mechanical work-like quantity defined on the fluctuating trajectory, we have the Jarzynski-like fluctuation theorem,

$$\langle e^{-\beta\Xi} \rangle = e^{-\beta\Delta\mathcal{F}}. \quad (61)$$

The quantity defined in Eq. (60) has some similarity to the work functional that appears in the path integral representation of the work statistics for the TPM scheme [59]. Both reduce to the familiar classical expression for work in the classical limit as we shall show for Eq. (60) below. But since our formalism is essentially independent of measurement, they are fundamentally different quantities. It is conceptually more similar to the quantum work not based on the TPM scheme as defined in Refs. [34, 39, 41, 42]. In those works, quantum trajectories are also considered in the form of the path integral under the constraint that observables have specified values [34], the trajectories consisting of the projectors of power operators [39], the Keldysh quasi-probability distribution [41], and the Bohmian trajectories [42]. But the work-like quantity we find in Eq. (60) is different from these in that its average value for a closed system [66] is not equal to the change in the average internal energy. Equation (60), arising from the symmetry properties of the SK path integrals, describes an intrinsic property of a quantum process as in Refs. [39, 41] where the quasi-probability distribution arises, and in addition satisfies the Jarzynski-type equality and reduces to the classical work expression in the classical limit.

To the lowest order in \hbar , F_\pm in Eqs. (43) and (46) becomes

$$F_\pm(s) \simeq \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4} \dot{\lambda}_s \partial_\lambda V. \quad (62)$$

Then \widehat{S}_2^\pm can be obtained from Eq. (42) and (45) as

$$\begin{aligned} & \widehat{S}_2^\pm[x_\pm; \lambda] \simeq \pm \int_0^t ds \left[\frac{m}{2} \left\{ \frac{d}{ds} x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}) \right\}^2 \quad (63) \right. \\ & \left. - V(x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}); \lambda_s) \mp \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4} \dot{\lambda}_s \partial_\lambda V(x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}); \lambda_s) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

In order to calculate Σ_\pm defined in Eq. (55), we insert \tilde{x}_\pm into \widehat{S}_2^\pm and see how the action changes from the original one. Using Eq. (26) and changing the integration variable from s to $t-s$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \widehat{S}_2^\pm[\tilde{x}_\pm; \lambda] \simeq \pm \int_0^t ds \left[\frac{m}{2} \left\{ \frac{d}{ds} x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}) \right\}^2 \quad (64) \right. \\ & \left. - V(x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}); \tilde{\lambda}_s) \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4} \dot{\tilde{\lambda}}_s \partial_{\tilde{\lambda}} V(x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}); \tilde{\lambda}_s) \right], \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact that under the change of variable $s \rightarrow t-s$, $\dot{\lambda}_s \rightarrow -d\lambda_{t-s}/ds = -\dot{\tilde{\lambda}}_s$ with $\tilde{\lambda}_s \equiv \lambda_{t-s}$.

This expression differs from $\widehat{S}_2^\pm[x_\pm, \tilde{\lambda}]$ by the change of sign in the last term. From Eq. (55), we deduce that

$$\Sigma_\pm[x_\pm, \lambda] \simeq \frac{i\hbar\beta}{2} \int_0^t ds \dot{\lambda}_s \partial_\lambda V(x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}), \lambda_s). \quad (65)$$

Therefore, to the leading order in \hbar , we have from Eq. (60)

$$\Xi \simeq \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t ds \dot{\lambda}_s \partial_\lambda [V(x_+(s); \lambda_s) + V(x_-(s); \lambda_s)]. \quad (66)$$

We will show in the next section that this expression further reduces to the familiar expression for the classical work $\mathcal{W}_c = \int_0^t ds \dot{\lambda}_s \partial_\lambda V(r(s); \lambda_s)$ defined along the classical stochastic path $r(s)$.

B. Example: a pulled harmonic oscillator

In this subsection, we consider a concrete example to elucidate the nature of quantum work and FT discussed above. As an exactly solvable model, the driven harmonic oscillator has been studied in various settings for

the calculation of the distribution function of the quantum work based on the TPM scheme. See, for example, Refs. [70–72]. In this paper, we consider a harmonic oscillator with its center moving with a specified protocol λ_s for $0 \leq s \leq t$ interacting with the bath. The system Hamiltonian is given by

$$H_S = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega_0^2(x - \lambda_s)^2 \quad (67)$$

with $\partial_s H_S = -m\omega_0^2 \dot{\lambda}_s (x - \lambda_s)$. Using

$$e^{-aH_S} x e^{aH_S} = x \cosh(\hbar\omega_0 a) - i \frac{p}{m\omega_0} \sinh(\hbar\omega_0 a), \quad (68)$$

we have from Eqs. (43) and (46)

$$F_\pm(s) = \mp im\omega_0 \dot{\lambda}_s \left[(x - \lambda_s) \sinh(\beta\hbar\omega_0/4) \mp i \frac{p}{m\omega_0} \{ \cosh(\beta\hbar\omega_0/4) - 1 \} \right]. \quad (69)$$

In order to calculate $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^\pm$ in Eq. (42), we evaluate the matrix element on the right hand side, which is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x_{k+1} | e^{-ids(H_S(s_k) + F_+(s_k))/\hbar} | x_k \rangle &= \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi i \hbar ds}} \exp \left[-\frac{i}{\hbar} ds \frac{m\omega_0^2}{2} (x_k - \lambda_{s_k})^2 - \frac{ds}{\hbar} m\omega_0 \dot{\lambda}_{s_k} (x_k - \lambda_{s_k}) \sinh\left(\frac{\beta\hbar\omega_0}{4}\right) \right] \\ &\times \exp \left[\frac{i}{\hbar} ds \frac{m}{2} \left\{ \left(\frac{x_{k+1} - x_k}{ds} \right) + \dot{\lambda}_{s_k} \left(\cosh\left(\frac{\beta\hbar\omega_0}{4}\right) - 1 \right) \right\}^2 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

This is equal to $\exp[(i/\hbar)ds\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^\pm]$ for this time slice. The Lagrangian $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^-$ for the backward contour can be obtained by the complex conjugate of $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S^+$. Collecting the contributions from all the time slices, we have the action \widehat{S}_2^\pm on the forward and backward branches, \mathcal{C}_2^\pm in Fig. 1. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{S}_2^\pm[x_\pm; \lambda] & \quad (70) \\ = \pm \int_0^t ds & \left[\frac{m}{2} \left\{ \frac{d}{ds} x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}) + \dot{\lambda}_s \left(\cosh\left(\frac{\beta\hbar\omega_0}{4}\right) - 1 \right) \right\}^2 \right. \\ & - \frac{m\omega_0^2}{2} (x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}) - \lambda_s)^2 \\ & \left. \pm im\omega_0 \dot{\lambda}_s (x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}) - \lambda_s) \sinh\left(\frac{\beta\hbar\omega_0}{4}\right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

We note that the explicit time dependence in the system Hamiltonian is responsible for the two new terms proportional to $\dot{\lambda}_s$.

We now put \tilde{x}_\pm instead of x_\pm and see how the action changes from above. Upon changing of the integration

variable from s to $t - s$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{S}_2^\pm[\tilde{x}_\pm; \lambda] & \quad (71) \\ = \pm \int_0^t ds & \left[\frac{m}{2} \left\{ \frac{d}{ds} x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}) + \dot{\lambda}_s \left(\cosh\left(\frac{\beta\hbar\omega_0}{4}\right) - 1 \right) \right\}^2 \right. \\ & - \frac{m\omega_0^2}{2} (x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}) - \tilde{\lambda}_s)^2 \\ & \left. \mp im\omega_0 \dot{\lambda}_s (x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}) - \tilde{\lambda}_s) \sinh\left(\frac{\beta\hbar\omega_0}{4}\right) \right], \end{aligned}$$

By comparing Eq. (71) with $\widehat{S}_2^\pm[x; \tilde{\lambda}]$ and using Eq. (55), we identify

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_\pm[x_\pm; \lambda] & \quad (72) \\ = -2im\omega_0 & \int_0^t ds \dot{\lambda}_s (x_\pm(s \pm \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}) - \lambda_s) \sinh\left(\frac{\beta\hbar\omega_0}{4}\right). \end{aligned}$$

The quantum mechanical work-like quantity Ξ defined on the trajectory, Eq. (60) is then given by

$$\Xi = -\frac{4}{\beta\hbar\omega_0} \sinh\left(\frac{\beta\hbar\omega_0}{4}\right) \int_0^t ds m\omega_0^2 \dot{\lambda}_s (x_c(s) - \lambda_s), \quad (73)$$

where

$$x_c(s) = \frac{1}{2}[x_+(s + \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}) + x_-(s - \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4})] \quad (74)$$

is the variable corresponding to the classical path to be explained in the next section.

V. CLASSICAL LIMIT

In this section, we take the classical limit and show that the above path integral formalism reduces to the MSRJD functional integral for the classical stochastic field satisfying a generalized Langevin equation. We also show that the field transformations used in the previous sections become exactly those used in classical stochastic thermodynamics for the derivation of classical fluctuation theorems [51, 52].

In the $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ limit, the path integral in Eq. (51) is dominated by the stationary points of the action $\widehat{S}_+ + \widehat{S}_- + i\Psi$. In order to study the fluctuation around the saddle point, it is convenient to use [64, 68, 74] for $0 \leq s \leq t$ the classical field x_c defined in Eq. (74) and the quantum field defined by

$$x_q(s) \equiv x_+(s + \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}) - x_-(s - \frac{i\hbar\beta}{4}). \quad (75)$$

To the leading order of $O(\hbar)$, the solution to the stationary point equation for x_q is just $x_q(s) = 0$, while x_c satisfies a deterministic equation [68, 74]. Here we write the quantum mechanical path integral as a functional integral over a fluctuating variables, $x_c(s) = O(1)$ and $x_q(s) = O(\hbar)$ [74]. We first consider how \widehat{S}_2^\pm in Eq. (50) behaves in the $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ limit. To the leading order in \hbar , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{S}_2^+ + \widehat{S}_2^- &\simeq \int_0^t ds [-x_q(s)\{m\ddot{x}_c(s) + \partial_{x_c}V(x_c(s); \lambda_s)\} \\ &\quad - \frac{i\hbar\beta}{2}\dot{\lambda}_s\partial_\lambda V(x_c(s); \lambda_s)], \end{aligned} \quad (76)$$

where we have used the boundary condition $x_q(0) = x_q(t) = 0$.

The connection with the classical MSRJD fields, denoted here by $r(s)$ and $\hat{x}(s)$, are made via [74]

$$r(s) \equiv \frac{1}{2}(x_+(s) + x_-(s)), \quad (77)$$

$$\hat{x}(s) \equiv \lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\hbar}(x_+(s) - x_-(s)). \quad (78)$$

We note from Eqs. (74) and (75) that

$$x_c(s) = r(s) + O(\hbar^2), \quad (79)$$

$$x_q(s) = \hbar(\hat{x}(s) + \frac{i\beta}{2}\dot{r}(s)) + O(\hbar^2). \quad (80)$$

Inserting these into Eq. (76), we find that a part of the integrand can be written as a total time derivative of the

system energy $\mathcal{H}_S(s) \equiv (m/2)\dot{r}^2(s) + V(r(s); \lambda_s)$ and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{i}{\hbar}(\widehat{S}_2^+ + \widehat{S}_2^-) &= \frac{\beta}{2}(\mathcal{H}_S(t) - \mathcal{H}_S(0)) \\ &\quad - i \int_0^t ds \hat{x}(s)\{m\dot{r}(s) + \partial_r V(r(s); \lambda_s)\}. \end{aligned} \quad (81)$$

Now the actions given on the imaginary axis in Eqs. (48) and (49) are given by

$$\lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{i}{\hbar}(\widehat{S}_1^+ + \widehat{S}_1^-) = -\frac{\beta}{2}\mathcal{H}_S(0) \quad (82)$$

$$\lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{i}{\hbar}(\widehat{S}_3^+ + \widehat{S}_3^-) = -\frac{\beta}{2}\mathcal{H}_S(t). \quad (83)$$

The classical limit of the influence functional in Eq. (24) can be calculated in a similar fashion. We first note that for $0 \leq s \leq t$, we can rewrite the kernel in Eq. (25) as $K(s) = N(s) - \frac{i}{2}D(s)$ where

$$N(s) = \sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{2m_n\omega_n} \coth(\frac{1}{2}\beta\hbar\omega_n) \cos(\omega_n s), \quad (84)$$

$$D(s) = \sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{m_n\omega_n} \sin(\omega_n s). \quad (85)$$

In the $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ limit, $N(s) \rightarrow (1/\hbar)(1/\beta)\gamma(s)$, where

$$\gamma(s) \equiv \sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{m_n\omega_n^2} \cos(\omega_n s). \quad (86)$$

Inserting Eqs. (74), (75) and (80) into Eq. (24), we obtain after a lengthy algebra

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\hbar}\Psi &= \frac{1}{2\beta} \int_0^t ds \int_0^t du \hat{x}(s)\gamma(s-u)\hat{x}(u) \\ &\quad - i \int_0^t ds \hat{x}(s) \int_0^s du D(s-u)r(u) \\ &\quad - ir(0) \int_0^t ds \hat{x}(s)\gamma(s) + i\mu \int_0^t ds \hat{x}(s)r(s). \end{aligned} \quad (87)$$

Using the fact that $D(s) = -d\gamma(s)/ds$ and $\mu = \gamma(0)$, and integrating by parts the second term, we finally have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\hbar}\Psi &= \frac{1}{2\beta} \int_0^t ds \int_0^t du \hat{x}(s)\gamma(s-u)\hat{x}(u) \\ &\quad + i \int_0^t ds \hat{x}(s) \int_0^s du \gamma(s-u)\dot{r}(u). \end{aligned} \quad (88)$$

Combining Eqs. (81), (82), (83) and (88), we find that the quantum path integral behaves as a path integral over $Z^{-1}(0) \int \mathcal{D}r(s) \int \mathcal{D}\hat{x} \exp[S_{\text{MSRJD}}[r, \hat{x}]]$, where the

MSRJD action is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{\text{MSRJD}} = & -\frac{1}{2\beta} \int_0^t ds \int_0^t du \hat{x}(s) \gamma(s-u) \hat{x}(u) \\
& -i \int_0^t ds \hat{x}(s) \int_0^s du \gamma(s-u) \dot{r}(u) \\
& -i \int_0^t ds \hat{x}(s) \{m\ddot{r}(s) + \partial_r V(r(s); \lambda_s)\} \\
& -\beta \mathcal{H}_S(0). \tag{89}
\end{aligned}$$

This is exactly the MSRJD action for the generalized Langevin equation

$$m\ddot{r}(s) + \partial_r V(r; \lambda_s) + \int_0^s du \gamma(s-u) \dot{r}(u) = \xi(s), \tag{90}$$

where the noise $\xi(s)$ satisfies

$$\langle \xi(s) \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \xi(s) \xi(s') \rangle = \frac{1}{\beta} \gamma(s-s'). \tag{91}$$

We note that for the case of a factorized initial state of system and bath, a term which depends on the initial value of $r(s)$ appears in the classical limit of the quantum Brownian motion [74]. This does not show here for the initial state given by Eq. (8) [68]. The quantum mechanical work-like quantity, which we found in Eq. (60) becomes in the classical limit, Eq. (66). In terms of the MSRJD variables, it reduces to the familiar expression

$$\mathcal{W}_c = \int_0^t ds \dot{\lambda}_s \frac{\partial V(r(s), \lambda_s)}{\partial \lambda_s}. \tag{92}$$

Finally, if we apply the transformation, Eq. (26) to $x_c(s)$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{x}_c(s) &= \frac{1}{2} [x_+(t-s+i\hbar\beta/4) + x_-(t-s-i\hbar\beta/4)] \\
&= r(t-s) + O(\hbar^2). \tag{93}
\end{aligned}$$

We therefore have in the classical limit,

$$\tilde{r}(s) = \tilde{x}_c(s) = r(t-s). \tag{94}$$

For x_q , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{x}_q(s) &= x_+(t-s+i\hbar\beta/4) - x_-(t-s-i\hbar\beta/4) \\
&= \hbar [\hat{x}(t-s) - \frac{i\beta}{2} \partial_s r(t-s)] + O(\hbar^3). \tag{95}
\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, we can write from Eq. (80) $\tilde{x}_q(s) = \hbar[\hat{x}(s) + (i\beta/2)\partial_s \tilde{r}(s)]$. Combining these two, we conclude that, in the classical limit,

$$\tilde{\hat{x}}(s) = \hat{x}(t-s) - i\beta \partial_s r(t-s). \tag{96}$$

Equations (94) and (96) are exactly the set of transformations used in the study of classical stochastic systems [51–54] to obtain the classical fluctuation theorems.

VI. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

In summary, we have studied the path integral formulation of the quantum Brownian motion where the system particle is interacting with the environment consisting of a collection of bath harmonic oscillators. We have developed the path integral on the deformed time contour following the procedure given in Ref. [66], and generalized to an open quantum system by deriving the expression for the influence functional which captures the effect of the environment on the system. We then identified the field transformations for an open quantum system that leave the path integral action invariant in equilibrium. The transformations for the system variables take the same form as those found in closed systems [63, 66]. The open quantum system considered here is obtained by tracing out the bath degrees of freedom from the closed system consisting of the system and the bath. In this paper, we have confirmed the expectation that the same form of the transformations for the system variables does the job in the open system as those in closed systems by explicitly showing the invariance of the action and the influence functional when the system and the bath are initially at equilibrium. Since a general open quantum system can be regarded as a result of integrating out the bath degrees of freedom, we expect the same field transformations can be used for general open systems. This symmetry in equilibrium results in an identity for the two-time correlation function of the system operators, which we show is just the fluctuation dissipation relation. When the system is driven by an external time-dependent protocol, the action is not invariant under the transformations. In this non-equilibrium situation, using the change in the action under the transformations, we were able to find a version of quantum Jarzynski-type FT. In the process, we identified quantum work-like quantity defined on fluctuating quantum paths, which reduces to the familiar expression for the work defined on a classical stochastic trajectory in the classical limit. Most importantly, we found that the action in the path integral formalism as well as the field transformations reduce in the classical limit to those used in the well-known MSRJD formalism for the classical generalized Langevin equation.

Exploring the symmetry and its breaking in classical stochastic systems has proven to be a quite useful tool for understanding the equilibrium and non-equilibrium behavior of classical thermodynamic quantities [51, 52]. The present work provides a continuation of the previous efforts [63, 66] to find the corresponding formalism in the study of quantum stochastic thermodynamics. In this program, identifying the field transformations is an important first step. The transformations must have the correspondence to the classical ones used in the MSRJD formalism and leave the action and the influence functional invariant at equilibrium. As mentioned above, we have established the transformations for open systems, which can serve as a starting point for the application of this formalism to more general non-equilibrium situ-

ations occurring in an open quantum system where the symmetry is broken. In this paper, we have only considered the case where the system Hamiltonian is driven by the external agent, while the system plus bath are initially at equilibrium. The quantum work-like quantity we have found in this situation is quite similar to that found in Ref. [66] for a closed quantum system driven by an external protocol. In this case, the influence functional stays invariant under the transformation. However, it is possible for the system to stay out of equilibrium even without the time-dependent driving protocol. For example, it would be interesting to study the case where the initial state is given by the product state of the system and the bath or more generally by an arbitrary state. In this case, we expect the influence functional would *not* be invariant under the transformation. In classical stochastic thermodynamics, one can identify the entropy production and heat from the bath by studying the sym-

metry breaking term in the MSRJD functional [52, 54] in a similar situation. The explicit derivation of the influence functional and its symmetry property which we find in this work will be an essential starting point in investigating the entropy production and the heat in open quantum systems using the path integral approach. This is left for future study.

An important but difficult question is to find the physical observable corresponding to the work-like quantity, Eq. (60) that arises in this paper. In closed systems, it was associated with a time integral of an expectation value of an operator [66]. It is, however, hard to assign any simple physical meaning to this rather complicated combination of operators. It would be interesting to find the corresponding operator for the open system and to investigate its physical meaning explicitly. This is also left for future study.

Appendix A: Derivation of the influence functional Ψ

In order to obtain Eq. (24), we need to perform Gaussian path integrals over each bath variable $q_n(z)$ in Eq. (20) which are in general of the form,

$$\int_{q_{n1}}^{q_{n2}} \mathcal{D}q_n(z) \exp\left[\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{\mathcal{C}} dz \left\{ \frac{m_n}{2} \left(\frac{dq_n}{dz}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m_n \omega_n^2 q_n^2(z) + c_n x(z) q_n(z) \right\}\right], \quad (\text{A1})$$

where $q_n(z)$ takes the values q_{n1} and q_{n2} at the start and end of a contour \mathcal{C} , respectively. Let us first consider the case of \mathcal{C}_2^\pm in Fig. 1, where we have $z = s \pm i\hbar\beta/4$, $0 \leq s \leq t$ and the integral over z is just an integral over the real variable s . This type of path integral is well known [62, 73]. For the contour \mathcal{C}_2^+ with the endpoints $q_n(i\hbar\beta/4) = q_{n1}^+$ and $q_n(t + i\hbar\beta/4) = q_{n2}^+$, the result of the path integral, denoted by G_2^+ , is given by [73]

$$G_2^+ = \left(\frac{m_n \omega_n}{2\pi i \hbar \sin(\omega_n t)} \right)^{1/2} \exp\left[\frac{i}{\hbar} \Phi(q_{n2}^+, t; q_{n1}^+, 0 | x_+) \right], \quad (\text{A2})$$

where, for a general time interval (t_1, t_2) ,

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(q_{n2}^+, t_2; q_{n1}^+, t_1 | x_+) &= \frac{m_n \omega_n}{2 \sin(\omega_n(t_2 - t_1))} \left[((q_{n1}^+)^2 + (q_{n2}^+)^2) \cos(\omega_n(t_2 - t_1)) - 2q_{n1}^+ q_{n2}^+ \right] \\ &+ \frac{c_n}{\sin(\omega_n(t_2 - t_1))} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} ds \{ q_{n2}^+ \sin(\omega_n(s - t_1)) + q_{n1}^+ \sin(\omega_n(t_2 - s)) \} x_+(s + i\hbar\beta/4) \\ &- \frac{c_n^2}{m_n \omega_n \sin(\omega_n(t_2 - t_1))} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} du \int_{t_1}^u ds \sin(\omega_n(s - t_1)) \sin(\omega_n(t_2 - u)) x_+(u + i\hbar\beta/4) x_+(s + i\hbar\beta/4). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A3})$$

For the contour \mathcal{C}_2^- which starts from $q_n(t - i\hbar\beta/4) = q_{n2}^-$ and ends at $q_n(-i\hbar\beta/4) = q_{n1}^-$, the result now involves $x_-(s - i\hbar\beta/4)$ and can be similarly obtained from $\Phi(q_{n1}^-, 0; q_{n2}^-, t | x_-) = -\Phi(q_{n2}^-, t; q_{n1}^-, 0 | x_-)$. We have the contribution from \mathcal{C}_2^- as

$$G_2^- = \left(\frac{m_n \omega_n}{-2\pi i \hbar \sin(\omega_n t)} \right)^{1/2} \exp\left[-\frac{i}{\hbar} \Phi(q_{n2}^-, t; q_{n1}^-, 0 | x_-) \right], \quad (\text{A4})$$

where the integral over the time now contains $x_-(s - i\hbar\beta/4)$.

For the contours \mathcal{C}_1^\pm and \mathcal{C}_3^\pm , the paths are along the imaginary axis. All these cases can be studied using the path which starts from $q_n(t_0 + ib) = q_n''$ and ends at $q_n(t_0 + ia) = q_n'$ with $a < b$. For example, $t_0 = 0$ for \mathcal{C}_1^\pm and $t_0 = t$ for \mathcal{C}_3^\pm . The constants a and b can be read off from Fig. 1. The path integral is now with respect to the Euclidean action

and can be calculated as [73]

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \mathcal{D}q_n \exp \left[-\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_a^b ds \left\{ \frac{m_n}{2} \left(\frac{dq_n}{ds} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_n \omega_n^2 q_n^2(t_0 + is) - c_n x(t_0 + is) q_n(t_0 + is) \right\} \right] \\ &= \left(\frac{m_n \omega_n}{2\pi \hbar \sinh(\omega_n(b-a))} \right)^{1/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{\hbar} \tilde{\Phi}_{t_0}(q_n'', b; q_n', a|x) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A5})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Phi}_{t_0}(q_n'', b; q_n', a|x) &= \frac{m_n \omega_n}{2 \sinh(\omega_n(b-a))} \left[(q_n''^2 + q_n'^2) \cosh(\omega_n(b-a)) - 2q_n' q_n'' \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{c_n}{\sinh(\omega_n(b-a))} \int_a^b ds \{ q_n'' \sinh(\omega_n(s-a)) + q_n' \sinh(\omega_n(b-s)) \} x(t_0 + is) \\ &\quad - \frac{c_n^2}{m_n \omega_n \sinh(\omega_n(b-a))} \int_a^b du \int_a^u ds \sinh(\omega_n(s-a)) \sinh(\omega_n(b-u)) x(t_0 + iu) x(t_0 + is). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A6})$$

On the contours \mathcal{C}_1^\pm , we evaluate the path integrals over the bath variable with boundary conditions $q_n(i\hbar\beta/2) = q_{ni}$, $q_n(i\hbar\beta/4) = q_{n1}^+$, $q(-i\hbar\beta/4) = q_{n1}^-$ and $q(-i\hbar\beta/2) = q_{ni}$. The results are given by

$$G_1^+ = \left(\frac{m_n \omega_n}{2\pi \hbar \sinh(\xi_n/4)} \right)^{1/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{\hbar} \tilde{\Phi}_0(q_{ni}, \frac{\hbar\beta}{2}; q_{n1}^+, \frac{\hbar\beta}{4} |x_+) \right], \quad (\text{A7})$$

and

$$G_1^- = \left(\frac{m_n \omega_n}{2\pi \hbar \sinh(\xi_n/4)} \right)^{1/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{\hbar} \tilde{\Phi}_0(q_{n1}^-, -\frac{\hbar\beta}{4}; q_{ni}, -\frac{\hbar\beta}{2} |x_-) \right], \quad (\text{A8})$$

where

$$\xi_n \equiv \beta \hbar \omega_n \quad (\text{A9})$$

and x_\pm appears inside the integral in Eq. (A6) as $x_\pm(\pm is)$. Similarly, on \mathcal{C}_3^\pm , the boundary conditions are given by $q_n(t + i\hbar\beta/4) = q_{n2}^+$, $q_n(t) = q_{nf}$ and $q_n(t - i\hbar\beta/4) = q_{n2}^-$ and the result of the path integral is

$$G_3^+ = \left(\frac{m_n \omega_n}{2\pi \hbar \sinh(\xi_n/4)} \right)^{1/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{\hbar} \tilde{\Phi}_t(q_{n2}^+, \frac{\hbar\beta}{4}; q_{nf}, 0 |x_+) \right], \quad (\text{A10})$$

and

$$G_3^- = \left(\frac{m_n \omega_n}{2\pi \hbar \sinh(\xi_n/4)} \right)^{1/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{\hbar} \tilde{\Phi}_t(q_{nf}, 0; q_{n2}^-, -\frac{\hbar\beta}{4} |x_-) \right], \quad (\text{A11})$$

where x_\pm appears inside the integral in Eq. (A6) as $x_\pm(t \pm is)$.

The integral over the bath variable in Eq. (20) amounts to the evaluation of the following integral

$$I \equiv \prod_n \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} q_{n1}^+ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} q_{n2}^+ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} q_{n1}^- \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} q_{n2}^- \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} q_{ni} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} q_{nf} G_1^+ G_2^+ G_3^+ G_3^- G_2^- G_1^- \quad (\text{A12})$$

All these integrals are Gaussian integral over real variables and can be done explicitly. We first perform integrals over q_{ni} and q_{nf} , respectively, as

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dq_{ni} G_1^+ G_1^- &= \left(\frac{m_n \omega_n}{2\pi \hbar \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \right)^{1/2} \exp \left[-\frac{m_n \omega_n}{2\hbar \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left\{ \cosh(\xi_n/2) ((q_{n1}^+)^2 + (q_{n1}^-)^2) - 2q_{n1}^+ q_{n1}^- \right\} \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\hbar \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left\{ q_{n1}^+ (J_1 + 2 \cosh(\xi_n/2) J_2^+) + q_{n1}^- (J_1 + 2 \cosh(\xi_n/2) J_2^-) \right\} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{m_n \omega_n \hbar \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} J_1^2 + 2 \cosh(\xi_n/2) J_3 \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A13})$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dq_{nf} G_3^+ G_3^- &= \left(\frac{m_n \omega_n}{2\pi \hbar \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \right)^{1/2} \exp \left[-\frac{m_n \omega_n}{2\hbar \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left\{ \cosh(\xi_n/2) ((q_{n2}^+)^2 + (q_{n2}^-)^2) - 2q_{n2}^+ q_{n2}^- \right\} \right. \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\hbar \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left\{ q_{n2}^+ (\tilde{J}_1 + 2 \cosh(\xi_n/2) \tilde{J}_2^+) + q_{n2}^- (\tilde{J}_1 + 2 \cosh(\xi_n/2) \tilde{J}_2^-) \right\} \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{m_n \omega_n \hbar \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \tilde{J}_1^2 + 2 \cosh(\xi_n/2) \tilde{J}_3 \right\} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A14})$$

where

$$J_1 = c_n \int_{\beta \hbar/4}^{\beta \hbar/2} ds \sinh(\omega_n s - \xi_n/4) (x_+(is) + x_-(-is)) \quad (\text{A15})$$

$$J_2^\pm = c_n \int_{\beta \hbar/4}^{\beta \hbar/2} ds \sinh(\xi_n/2 - \omega_n s) x_\pm(\pm is) \quad (\text{A16})$$

$$J_3 = c_n^2 \int_{\beta \hbar/4}^{\beta \hbar/2} du \int_{\beta \hbar/4}^u ds \sinh(\xi_n/2 - \omega_n u) \sinh(\omega_n s - \xi_n/4) \{x_+(iu)x_+(is) + x_-(-iu)x_-(-is)\}, \quad (\text{A17})$$

and

$$\tilde{J}_1 = c_n \int_0^{\beta \hbar/4} ds \sinh(\xi_n/4 - \omega_n s) (x_+(t+is) + x_-(t-is)) \quad (\text{A18})$$

$$\tilde{J}_2^\pm = c_n \int_0^{\beta \hbar/4} ds \sinh(\omega_n s) x_\pm(t \pm is) \quad (\text{A19})$$

$$\tilde{J}_3 = c_n^2 \int_0^{\beta \hbar/4} du \int_0^u ds \sinh(\xi_n/4 - \omega_n u) \sinh(\omega_n s) \{x_+(t+iu)x_+(t+is) + x_-(t-iu)x_-(t-is)\}. \quad (\text{A20})$$

The remaining integrals over q_{n1}^\pm and q_{n2}^\pm are again all Gaussian but not as straightforward as the previous ones, since the variables are coupled. We make a change of variables, with unit Jacobian, as $Q_{n1} \equiv (1/2)(q_{n1}^+ + q_{n1}^-)$, $\bar{q}_{n1} \equiv q_{n1}^+ - q_{n1}^-$, $Q_{n2} \equiv (1/2)(q_{n2}^+ + q_{n2}^-)$ and $\bar{q}_{n2} \equiv q_{n2}^+ - q_{n2}^-$, then we find that the integrals over \bar{q}_{n1} and \bar{q}_{n2} can easily be done. We can then do the remaining integrals by decoupling the variables further as $P_{n1} \equiv (1/\sqrt{2})(Q_{n1} + Q_{n2})$ and $P_{n2} \equiv (1/\sqrt{2})(Q_{n1} - Q_{n2})$. The end results for Eq. (A12) after a lengthy algebra can be summarised as

$$I = \prod_n \left(\frac{1}{2 \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \right) \exp \left[-\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{a=1}^6 \Psi^{(a)}[x_+, x_-] \right], \quad (\text{A21})$$

where we have separated the contributions into six parts in such a way that $\Psi^{(1)}$ involves the integrals over the real time axis only and $\Psi^{(2)}$, $\Psi^{(3)}$ and $\Psi^{(4)}$ contain those over the imaginary time axis. The remaining $\Psi^{(5)}$ and $\Psi^{(6)}$ are given as mixed time integrals over the real and imaginary time axes. We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi^{(1)}[x_+, x_-] &= \sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{2m_n \omega_n \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left[\int_0^t du \int_0^u ds \{x_+(u+i\hbar\beta/4) \cos(\omega_n(u-s) + i\xi_n/2)x_+(s+i\hbar\beta/4) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + x_-(u-i\hbar\beta/4) \cos(\omega_n(u-s) - i\xi_n/2)x_-(s-i\hbar\beta/4) \right\} \\ &\quad \left. - \int_0^t du \int_0^t ds x_+(u+i\hbar\beta/4) \cos(\omega_n(u-s))x_-(s-i\hbar\beta/4) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A22})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi^{(2)}[x_+, x_-] &= -\sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{2m_n \omega_n \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left[\int_{\beta \hbar/4}^{\beta \hbar/2} du \int_{\beta \hbar/4}^{\beta \hbar/2} ds \cosh(\xi_n/2 - \omega_n(u+s))x_-(-iu)x_+(is) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_{\beta \hbar/4}^{\beta \hbar/2} du \int_{\beta \hbar/4}^u ds \cosh(\xi_n/2 - \omega_n(u-s)) \{x_+(iu)x_+(is) + x_-(-iu)x_-(-is)\} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A23})$$

$$\Psi^{(3)}[x_+, x_-] = - \sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{2m_n \omega_n \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left[\int_0^{\beta\hbar/4} du \int_0^{\beta\hbar/4} ds \cosh(\xi_n/2 - \omega_n(u+s)) x_-(t-iu) x_+(t+is) \right. \\ \left. + \int_0^{\beta\hbar/4} du \int_0^u ds \cosh(\xi_n/2 - \omega_n(u-s)) \{x_+(t+iu) x_+(t+is) + x_-(t-iu) x_-(t-is)\} \right], \quad (\text{A24})$$

$$\Psi^{(4)}[x_+, x_-] = - \sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{2m_n \omega_n \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left[\int_{\beta\hbar/4}^{\beta\hbar/2} du \int_0^{\beta\hbar/4} ds \{ \cosh(\xi_n/2 - \omega_n(u-s) - i\omega_n t) x_+(iu) x_+(t+is) \right. \\ \left. + \cosh(\xi_n/2 - \omega_n(u+s) - i\omega_n t) x_+(iu) x_-(t-is) \right. \\ \left. + \cosh(\xi_n/2 - \omega_n(u+s) + i\omega_n t) x_-(iu) x_+(t+is) \right. \\ \left. + \cosh(\xi_n/2 - \omega_n(u-s) + i\omega_n t) x_-(iu) x_-(t-is) \} \right], \quad (\text{A25})$$

$$\Psi^{(5)}[x_+, x_-] = -i \sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{2m_n \omega_n \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left[\int_{\beta\hbar/4}^{\beta\hbar/2} du \int_0^t ds \{ \cosh(3\xi_n/4 - i\omega_n(s-iu)) x_+(iu) x_+(s+i\hbar\beta/4) \right. \\ \left. - \cosh(\xi_n/4 - i\omega_n(s-iu)) x_+(iu) x_-(s-i\hbar\beta/4) \right. \\ \left. + \cosh(\xi_n/4 + i\omega_n(s+iu)) x_-(iu) x_+(s+i\hbar\beta/4) \right. \\ \left. - \cosh(3\xi_n/4 + i\omega_n(s+iu)) x_-(iu) x_-(s-i\hbar\beta/4) \} \right], \quad (\text{A26})$$

and

$$\Psi^{(6)}[x_+, x_-] = -i \sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{2m_n \omega_n \sinh(\xi_n/2)} \left[\int_0^{\beta\hbar/4} du \int_0^t ds \{ \cosh(\xi_n/4 - i\omega_n(t-s+iu)) x_+(t+iu) x_+(s+i\hbar\beta/4) \right. \\ \left. - \cosh(\xi_n/4 + i\omega_n(t-s+iu)) x_+(t+iu) x_-(s-i\hbar\beta/4) \right. \\ \left. + \cosh(\xi_n/4 - i\omega_n(t-s-iu)) x_-(t-iu) x_+(s+i\hbar\beta/4) \right. \\ \left. - \cosh(\xi_n/4 + i\omega_n(t-s-iu)) x_-(t-iu) x_-(s-i\hbar\beta/4) \} \right]. \quad (\text{A27})$$

We note that the prefactor in Eq. (A21) is just Z_B in Eq. (23), which combined with $Z_\beta(0)$ produces $1/Z(0)$ in Eq. (21). We can easily see that the above expressions for $\Psi^{(a)}$ can be rewritten in a more compact way as double contour integrals in Eq. (24). We also note that the terms that depend on μ in Eq. (24) follow from the interaction Lagrangian Eq. (18) not from the Gaussian integration of the bath variables.

Appendix B: Invariance of Ψ under the transformation Eq. (26)

We show that $\Psi[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-] = \Psi[x_+, x_-]$ where \tilde{x}_\pm is given by Eq. (26). We look at how each $\Psi^{(a)}$, $a = 1, 2, \dots, 6$, defined in Appendix A changes under this transformation. We first express $\Psi^{(1)}[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-]$ in terms of x_\pm using Eq. (26) and then it is a simple exercise of change of integration variables, $u \rightarrow t-u$ and $s \rightarrow t-s$ to show that $\Psi^{(1)}[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-] = \Psi^{(1)}[x_+, x_-]$. In this and the following calculations, we use $\int_0^t du \int_u^t ds = \int_0^t ds \int_0^s du$ and similar expressions for a double integral. For $\Psi^{(2)}[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-]$, we change the integration variables as $u \rightarrow \beta\hbar/2 - u$ and $s \rightarrow \beta\hbar/2 - s$. We then find $\Psi^{(2)}[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-] = \Psi^{(3)}[x_+, x_-]$. Similarly, we have $\Psi^{(3)}[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-] = \Psi^{(2)}[x_+, x_-]$. By the same variable change, we have $\Psi^{(4)}[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-] = \Psi^{(4)}[x_+, x_-]$. For $\Psi^{(5)}[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-]$ and $\Psi^{(6)}[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-]$, we use the change of variables, $u \rightarrow \beta\hbar/2 - u$ and $s \rightarrow t-s$. We can easily check that $\Psi^{(5)}[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-] = \Psi^{(6)}[x_+, x_-]$ and $\Psi^{(6)}[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-] = \Psi^{(5)}[x_+, x_-]$. The μ -dependent term is also invariant for the same reason as explained in the main text. Therefore, we conclude that $\Psi[\tilde{x}_+, \tilde{x}_-] = \Psi[x_+, x_-]$.

Appendix C: Integration over the bath variables in the calculation of correlation functions

Here we focus on the calculation of the matrix elements arising in the calculation of the correlation functions given in Eq. (31) as

$$\int d\bar{\mathbf{q}} \langle x'_2, \mathbf{q}'_2 | e^{\beta H_{\text{tot}}/4} | \bar{x}', \bar{\mathbf{q}} \rangle \langle \bar{x}, \bar{\mathbf{q}} | e^{-\beta H_{\text{tot}}/4} | x_2, \mathbf{q}_2 \rangle. \quad (\text{C1})$$

We will show below that when we perform the path integral over the bath variables, we obtain the delta function $\delta(\mathbf{q}_2 - \mathbf{q}'_2)$. We first express these matrix elements using the path integral representation. The paths are along the imaginary time axis with the real part t_2 . The path integral over each bath variable $q_n(z)$ is Gaussian and can be evaluated explicitly as we have done in Appendix A. When integrated over q_n , the second matrix element in Eq. (C1) gives a factor of

$$\left(\frac{m_n\omega_n}{2\pi\hbar\sinh(\xi_n/4)}\right)^{1/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{\hbar}\tilde{\Phi}_{t_2}(q_{n2}, \frac{\beta\hbar}{4}; \bar{q}_n, 0|x)\right], \quad (\text{C2})$$

while the first one gives

$$\left(\frac{m_n\omega_n}{-2\pi\hbar\sinh(\xi_n/4)}\right)^{1/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{\hbar}\tilde{\Phi}_{t_2}(\bar{q}_n, 0; q'_{n2}, \frac{\beta\hbar}{4}|x)\right]. \quad (\text{C3})$$

where $\tilde{\Phi}$ is given in Eq. (A6) and $\xi_n = \beta\hbar\omega_n$. We note that $\tilde{\Phi}_{t_2}(\bar{q}_n, 0; q'_{n2}, \beta\hbar/4|x) = -\tilde{\Phi}_{t_2}(q'_{n2}, \beta\hbar/4; \bar{q}_n, 0|x)$.

If we multiply these two factors and try to integrate over \bar{q}_n , we find that the integral looks ill-defined. We can, however, regularize this integral by putting slightly different β' in Eq. (C3) from β in Eq. (C2) and taking the $\beta' \rightarrow \beta$ limit in the end. Therefore, apart from the prefactors in Eqs. (C2) and (C3), we have to evaluate the integral,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\bar{q}_n \exp\left[-\frac{m_n\omega_n}{2\hbar}\{\coth(\xi_n/4) - \coth(\xi'_n/4)\}\bar{q}_n^2 + \frac{m_n\omega_n}{\hbar}\left\{\frac{q_{n2}}{\sinh(\xi_n/4)} - \frac{q'_{n2}}{\sinh(\xi'_n/4)}\right\}\bar{q}_n\right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{\hbar}(I(\xi_n) - I(\xi'_n))\bar{q}_n - \frac{m_n\omega_n}{2\hbar}\{\coth(\xi_n/4)q_{n2}^2 - \coth(\xi'_n/4)q'^2_{n2}\}\right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{\hbar}(J(\xi_n)q_{n2} - J(\xi'_n)q'_{n2}) + O(\xi_n - \xi'_n)\right], \quad (\text{C4}) \end{aligned}$$

where $\xi'_n = \beta'\hbar\omega_n$ and

$$I(\xi_n) = \frac{c_n}{\sinh(\xi_n/4)} \int_0^{\beta\hbar/4} ds \sinh\left(\frac{\xi_n}{4} - s\right)x(t_2 + is) \quad (\text{C5})$$

$$J(\xi_n) = \frac{c_n}{\sinh(\xi_n/4)} \int_0^{\beta\hbar/4} ds \sinh(s)x(t_2 + is) \quad (\text{C6})$$

with the corresponding primed expressions. We note that we have neglected the terms coming from the double integrals in Eq. (A6) which vanish in the limit $\xi'_n \rightarrow \xi_n$.

We now perform the Gaussian integral over \bar{q}_n . The prefactor coming from this integral combined with two prefactors in Eqs. (C2) and (C3) gives $(m_n\omega_n/(2\pi\hbar\sinh((\xi_n - \xi'_n)/4)))^{1/2}$. We also need a relation

$$I(\xi_n) - I(\xi'_n) = \frac{\xi_n - \xi'_n}{4} \frac{J(\xi_n)}{\sinh(\xi_n/4)} + O((\xi_n - \xi'_n)^2). \quad (\text{C7})$$

Combining all these terms, we find that the result of the path integral over the bath variable gives us

$$\left(\frac{m_n\omega_n}{2\pi\hbar\sinh((\xi_n - \xi'_n)/4)}\right)^{1/2} \exp\left[-\frac{m_n\omega_n}{2\hbar} \frac{1}{\sinh((\xi_n - \xi'_n)/4)} \left\{(q_{n2} - q'_{n2})^2 + O((\xi_n - \xi'_n)^2)\right\}\right]. \quad (\text{C8})$$

In the limit $\xi'_n \rightarrow \xi_n$, the above expression reduces to $\delta(q_{n2} - q'_{n2})$.

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