

[nex119] Velocity correlation function of Brownian particle II

Consider the Langevin equation for the velocity of a Brownian particle of mass m constrained to move along a straight line,

$$m \frac{dv}{dt} = -\gamma v + f(t), \quad (1)$$

where γ is the damping constant and $f(t)$ is a white-noise random force, $\langle f(t)f(t') \rangle = I_f \delta(t - t')$, with intensity $I_f = 2k_B T \gamma$ in thermal equilibrium (see [nex55]).

(a) Convert the differential equation (1) into the algebraic relation,

$$-i\omega m \tilde{v}(\omega) = -\gamma \tilde{v}(\omega) + \tilde{f}(\omega), \quad (2)$$

between the Fourier amplitudes,

$$\tilde{v}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} v(t), \quad \tilde{f}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} f(t), \quad (3)$$

of the velocity and the random force, respectively.

(b) Apply the Wiener-Khintchine theorem (see [nl14]) to calculate from (2) and the above specifications of the random force the velocity spectral density and, via inverse Fourier transform, the velocity correlation function in thermal equilibrium:

$$S_{vv}(\omega) = \frac{2k_B T \gamma}{\gamma^2 + \omega^2 m^2}, \quad \langle v(t)v(t + \tau) \rangle = \frac{k_B T}{m} e^{-\gamma\tau/m}. \quad (4)$$

Solution: