

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiv
1 Introduction	1
2 Elements of magnetism	5
2.1 Macroscopic Maxwell equations: The magnetic moment	6
2.2 Quantum effects and the order parameter	9
2.2.1 Diamagnetism	10
2.2.2 Curie–Weiss theory: Ferromagnetism	11
2.2.3 Magnetization: The order parameter	15
2.2.4 Walls and domains	19
2.3 Dynamics of the magnetization	21
2.3.1 Magnetic particles	24
2.3.2 Homogeneous nucleation	30
2.3.3 Wall dynamics	34
2.4 Macroscopic quantum phenomena in magnets	42
3 Elements of superconductivity	46
3.1 London theory of superconductivity	46
3.2 Condensate wave function (order parameter)	51
3.3 Two important effects	57
3.3.1 Flux quantization	57
3.3.2 The Josephson effect	58
3.4 Superconducting devices	59
3.4.1 Superconducting quantum interference devices (SQUIDs)	59
3.4.2 Current-biased Josephson junctions (CBBJs)	64
3.4.3 Cooper pair boxes (CPBs)	66
3.5 Vortices in superconductors	67
3.6 Macroscopic quantum phenomena in superconductors	79
	vii

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
4	Brownian motion	87
4.1	Classical Brownian motion	88
4.1.1	Stochastic processes	89
4.1.2	The master and Fokker–Planck equations	92
4.2	Quantum Brownian motion	97
4.2.1	The general approach	98
4.2.2	The propagator method	101
5	Models for quantum dissipation	104
5.1	The bath of non-interacting oscillators: Minimal model	104
5.2	Particle in general media: Non-linear coupling model	111
5.3	Collision model	120
5.4	Other environmental models	122
6	Implementation of the propagator approach	127
6.1	The dynamical reduced density operator	127
6.1.1	The minimal model case	127
6.1.2	The non-linear coupling case	136
6.1.3	The collision model case	140
6.2	The equilibrium reduced density operator	147
7	The damped harmonic oscillator	151
7.1	Time evolution of a Gaussian wave packet	151
7.2	Time evolution of two Gaussian packets: Decoherence	159
8	Dissipative quantum tunneling	167
8.1	Point particles	167
8.1.1	The zero-temperature case	168
8.1.2	The finite-temperature case	178
8.2	Field theories	192
8.2.1	The undamped zero-temperature case	193
8.2.2	The damped case at finite temperatures	202
9	Dissipative coherent tunneling	205
9.1	The spin–boson Hamiltonian	205
9.2	The spin–boson dynamics	211
9.2.1	Weak damping limit	211
9.2.2	Adiabatic renormalization	213
9.2.3	Path integral approach	214
10	Outlook	222
10.1	Experimental results	223
10.2	Applications: Superconducting qubits	225

<i>Contents</i>	ix
10.2.1 Flux qubits	226
10.2.2 Charge qubits	227
10.2.3 Phase qubits and transmons	228
10.2.4 Decoherence	231
10.3 Final remarks	232
Appendix A Path integrals, the quantum mechanical propagator, and density operators	235
A.1 Real-time path integrals	235
A.2 Imaginary-time path integrals	245
Appendix B The Markovian master equation	247
Appendix C Coherent-state representation	250
Appendix D Euclidean methods	262
D.1 Harmonic approximation	264
D.2 Bistable potential	265
D.3 Metastable potential	267
<i>References</i>	272
<i>Index</i>	279