Most processes that occur in nature are far from equilibrium and hence cannot be treated within the framework of classical thermodynamics. The traditional nonequilibrium statistical mechanics deals with systems near equilibrium in the linear response regime. Its success has led to the formulation of fluctuation-dissipation relation, Onsager’s reciprocity relations and the Kubo-Green formulae, etc. However, very recent developments in nonequilibrium statistical mechanics have resulted in the discovery of some exact theoretical results for systems driven far away from equilibrium and are collectively called fluctuation theorems [1]. These results include entropy production relations [2], Jarzynski equality [3], Crooks relation [4], Hatano-Sasa identity [5], etc. Some of the above relations have been verified experimentally on single nanosize systems in physical environments where fluctuations play a dominant role [6, 7].

The concept of free energy is of central importance in statistical mechanics and thermodynamics. With the help of free energy one can calculate all the phases of a system and their physical properties. However, the free energy of the system relative to an arbitrary reference state is often difficult to determine. Jarzynski’s result (JE) relates non-equilibrium quantities with equilibrium free energies [3]. This remarkable identity provides a practical tool to determine equilibrium thermodynamic potentials from processes carried out arbitrarily far away from equilibrium. JE has been generalized to arbitrary transitions between nonequilibrium steady states by Hatano and Sasa [5], which has also been verified experimentally [7].

In our present work, we determine the work distributions analytically for two different models. In both these cases charged particle dynamics in a two dimensional harmonic trap in the presence of a magnetic field is considered. In the first case (i), centre of the harmonic trap is dragged with a uniform velocity whereas in the case (ii), the particle is subjected to an ac force. We show that JE is consistent with Bohr-van Leeuwen theorem. We also discuss steady state fluctuation theorems (SSF T) and energy loss in driven systems.

We consider a charged particle motion in two dimensions (x-y plane) in the presence of a time dependent potential $U(\equiv U(x, y, t))$. An external magnetic field $B$ along z-direction will produce Lorentz force on the charged particle. The interaction of the particle with environment can be treated via frictional force along with concomitant fluctuations. The appropriate equations of motion are given by the Langevin’s equations [12, 13]

$$m \ddot{x} = -\gamma \dot{x} - \frac{|e|}{c} B \dot{y} - \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} + \xi_x(t),$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

$$m \ddot{y} = -\gamma \dot{y} + \frac{|e|}{c} B \dot{x} - \frac{\partial U}{\partial y} + \xi_y(t),$$ \hspace{1cm} (3)

where the random force field $\xi_{\alpha}(t)$ is a Gaussian white noise, i.e.

$$\langle \xi_{\alpha}(t) \xi_{\beta}(t') \rangle = D \delta_{\alpha \beta} \delta(t - t'),$$ \hspace{1cm} (4)
with $\alpha, \beta = x, y, e$ is the charge of the particle. $D = 2\gamma k_B T$ is a consistency condition for the system to approach equilibrium in the absence of time independent potential. The friction coefficient is denoted by $\gamma$.

This problem (for time independent potentials) was earlier considered[13] to elucidate the crucial role played by the boundary conditions in the celebrated theorem of Bohr-van Leeuwen on the absence of diamagnetism in classical systems[13,14]. This theorem states that in equilibrium for classical systems the free energy is independent of magnetic field. Hence, diamagnetism does not exist in classical statistical mechanics.

We restrict our analysis to overdamped regime where the corresponding dynamical equations become

$$\gamma \dot{x} = -\frac{|e|B}{c} y - \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} + \xi_x(t)$$

$$\gamma \dot{y} = -\frac{|e|B}{c} x - \frac{\partial U}{\partial y} + \xi_y(t)$$

The associated Fokker-Planck equation[15] leads to an equilibrium distribution $P_e \propto e^{-\frac{U(x,y)}{\beta k_B T}}$ in a stationary regime for time independent potential $U(x,y)$. This distribution $P_e$ is independent of magnetic field consistent with Bohr-van Leeuwen theorem.

We consider in this work two cases for time dependent potentials. For case(i) $U(x,y,t) = \frac{1}{2} k |\vec{r} - \vec{r}^*(t)|^2$, where $\vec{r}$ is a two dimensional vector $\vec{r} = ix + jy$ and $\vec{r}^*(t) = vt(i + j)$, $i$ and $j$ are unit vectors along $x$ and $y$ direction respectively. Here the particle is in a harmonic potential whose centre is dragged along with an uniform speed $\sqrt{2v}$ in a diagonal direction. This problem can also be solved for the motion of the centre in an arbitrary direction with a different protocol. For case(ii), $U(x,y,t) = \frac{1}{2} k (x^2 + y^2) - Az \sin(\omega t)$. Here the particle in a two dimensional harmonic well is subjected to an ac force in $x$-direction. This problem can also be solved for ac drivings in both $x$ and $y$ direction with different amplitudes and with a phase difference.

We rewrite equations (5) and (6) using the variable[12] $z = x + iy, (i = \sqrt{-1})$. For the case(i) we get

$$\dot{z} = -\frac{k p}{\gamma} z + \frac{k p g^*(t)}{\gamma} + \frac{p \xi_x(t)}{\gamma},$$

where $p = \frac{1+iC}{\sqrt{1+C^2}}$, $\xi(t) = \xi_x(t) + i\xi_y(t)$, $g^*(t) = vt(1 + i)$ and $C = \frac{2B}{\gamma e k_B T}$. 

For the case(ii), we get

$$\dot{z} = -\frac{k p}{\gamma} z + \frac{p}{\gamma} (A \sin(\omega t) + \xi(t)).$$

Thermodynamic work $W$ done on the system by an external agent during a time interval $t$ is given by[9,10], for case(i),

$$W = -k v \int_0^t \{ (x - vt') + (y - vt') \} dt',$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

and for case(ii)

$$W = -A \omega \int_0^t \cos(\omega t') x(t') dt,$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

The formal solution of equations (7) and (8) respectively are

$$z(t) = z_0 \exp\left(-\frac{k}{\gamma} pt + \frac{p}{\gamma} \int_0^t dt' \exp\left(-\frac{k}{\gamma} p(t - t')\right)\right)\{k g^*(t') + \xi(t')\},$$

and

$$z(t) = z_0 \exp\left(-\frac{k}{\gamma} pt + \frac{p}{\gamma} \int_0^t dt' \exp\left(-\frac{k}{\gamma} p(t - t')\right)\right)\{\xi(t') + A \sin(\omega t')\}.$$

where $z_0 = x_0 + iy_0$, $x_0$ and $y_0$ are initial coordinates of the particle. The initial distribution for $x_0$ and $y_0$ is assumed to be equilibrium canonical distribution $P_e(x_0,y_0,t) = \frac{2k}{\gamma} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\gamma} k^2 (x_0^2 + y_0^2)\right)$. It may be readily noted from equations (10),(11),(12) and (13) that work done as well as particle co-ordinates at later times are linear functional of Gaussian variables $\xi_x(t)$ and $\xi_y(t)$ and hence their distributions are Gaussian. We calculate full probability distribution for $W$ for both cases following closely the procedures adopted in refs[9,10]. Without going into further details of algebra we give our final results which will be further analyzed.

For the case(i), the average work done $\langle W \rangle$ is

$$\langle W \rangle = 2\gamma v^2 \{ t - \frac{\gamma}{k} \left( 1 - \exp(-k^* t) \cos(\Omega t) \right) - \frac{C \gamma}{k} \sin(\Omega t) \} \exp(-k^* t) \} + \gamma v^2 2C \left\{ \frac{\gamma}{k} \sin(\Omega t) \right\} \exp(-k^* t) - \frac{C \gamma}{k} \right\} \left( 1 - \exp(-k^* t) \cos(\Omega t) \right) \},$$

where $\Omega = \frac{kC}{\gamma(1+C^2)}$ and $k^* = \frac{k}{\gamma(1+C^2)}$. The above equation(13) agrees with the result obtained in refs[9,10] for $B = 0$. The variance of the work is given by

$$\langle W^2 \rangle - \langle W \rangle^2 = \frac{2\langle W \rangle}{\beta},$$

where $\beta = \frac{1}{k_B T}$. The full probability distribution $P(W)$ is

$$P(W) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\langle W \rangle/\beta}} e^{-(W - \langle W \rangle)^2/(4\langle W \rangle/\beta)}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (15)

JE given in equation(1) follows immediately from the above expression, with

$$\langle e^{-\beta W} \rangle = e^{-\beta \Delta F} = 1.$$  \hspace{1cm} (16)
The equation (16) implies $\Delta F = 0$, indicating that the equilibrium free energy of a particle in a harmonic potential is independent of magnetic field, consistent with the Bohr-van Leeuwen theorem. Needless to say that in the present case the free energy of the oscillator is also independent of position of the centre of the harmonic potential as expected on general grounds. However, it is interesting to note that the thermodynamic work $W$ in the transient state depends explicitly on the magnetic field $B$. In the presence of magnetic field relaxation rate of the system $\tau_r = \frac{2(1 + C^2)}{k}$ depends on the magnetic field. It increases with the strength of the magnetic field. Hence the magnetic field gives an additional control over the relaxation time in experimental situation to verify the above and subsequent results.

Only in the asymptotic time limit $t \rightarrow \infty (t \gg \tau_s)$, where the system does not retain the memory of the initial state, one obtains for the averaged work done $\langle W_s \rangle$ in a system in time interval $t$,

$$\langle W_s \rangle \approx 2\gamma v^2 t$$

(17)

Hence power $(p)$ delivered to the system in the steady state is constant $(p = 2\gamma v^2)$. In this state thermodynamic work is essentially a mechanical work delivered to the system by a moving trap with a speed $\sqrt{2v}$ along the diagonal direction in x-y plane. The particle in this state settles to a Gaussian distribution with the same dispersion as in the case of canonical equilibrium distribution. However, the centre of the position of the particle distribution lags behind the instantaneous minimum of the confining potential by a distance $l = \frac{\gamma \tau_s}{k}$ along the diagonal line. The harmonic potential pulls the particle with a force $kl$, at speed $\sqrt{2v}$. Thus the power delivered is $\gamma l \sqrt{2v} = 2\gamma v^2$. This power is dissipated as heat into the surrounding medium. In this regime, the fluctuations in work $\langle W_s \rangle$ is

$$\langle W_s^2 \rangle = \langle W_s \rangle^2 + \frac{2}{\beta} \langle W_s \rangle$$

(18)

In the steady state distribution of work $W_s$ obeys the SSFT(9) namely

$$\frac{P(W_s)}{P(-W_s)} = e^{\beta W_s}$$

(19)

It is important to note that both work and its distribution in the steady state do not depend on the magnetic field. Hence the experimentally obtained results(7) to verify Hatano-Sasa identity(5) for transition between nonequilibrium steady states, remains unaltered irrespective of the magnetic field being present or not. Here transition between nonequilibrium states are induced by varying the speed of the trap[7].

We now turn to case(ii). As mentioned earlier for this case the work distribution is Gaussian and is characterized completely by the first moment and the variance. Expression for $\langle W \rangle$ is too lengthy and is given in appendix A. The variance is given by

$$\langle W^2 \rangle - \langle W \rangle^2 = \frac{2}{\beta} (\langle W \rangle - \Delta F)$$

(20)

Where $\Delta F = \frac{2\pi^2}{2k} \sin^2 (\omega \tau)$. Using the distribution of work one can readily verify the JE, namely $\langle e^{-\beta W} \rangle = e^{-\beta \Delta F}$. $\Delta F$ is the free energy difference between two thermodynamic states. The initial $(t = 0)$ and final states $(t = \tau)$ are characterized by a two dimensional harmonic potential with an additional tilt of magnitude zero and $-Ax \sin (\omega \tau)$, respectively. Note that $\Delta F$ is independent of magnetic field, again reassuring Bohr-van Leeuwen theorem. However, the work distribution is an explicit function of magnetic field.

We now concentrate on the statistics of the work done $W_s$ in the asymptotic regime. In this regime probability distributions are time periodic with a period $\frac{2\pi}{\omega}$. We calculate averaged work done over one period $\frac{2\pi}{\omega}$, which is

$$\langle W_s \rangle = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \langle [W(t + \frac{2\pi}{\omega})] - \langle W(t) \rangle \rangle$$

(21)

$$\langle W_s \rangle = \frac{\pi A^2 \omega \gamma (k^2 + \omega^2 \gamma^2 (1 + C^2))}{(k^2 + (1 + C^2) \gamma^2 \omega^2)^2 - 4k^2 C^2 \gamma^2 \omega^2}$$. (22)

Similarly variance $\langle V_s \rangle$ of the work averaged over a period of oscillation in is given by

$$\langle V_s \rangle = \langle W_s^2 \rangle - \langle W_s \rangle^2$$

(23)

$$\langle V_s \rangle = \frac{2}{\beta} \langle W_s \rangle$$

(24)

In the time periodic state averaged input energy is dissipated into system as heat[9]. Thus one can identify $\langle W_s \rangle$ as a hysteresis loss in the medium. Since the problem being linear we find that the time averaged hysteresis loss is independent of temperature. However, it depends explicitly on the magnetic field and is a symmetric function of magnetic field. Thus the magnetic field becomes a relevant variable in the time periodic asymptotic state. However, it must be noted that variance in the input energy can not be identified with the heat fluctuations[9]. In this time periodic state work done $W_s$ over a period satisfies the SSFT, namely, equation(19).

It may be noted that the validity of SSFT for work done over a single period (equation(24)) is restricted only to overdamped linear models as in the present case. In general this will not hold good in nonlinear situations[17]. However, one can show that if one instead considers work done over a large number of periods, indeed SSFT holds even for nonlinear models. The convergence of SSFT on accessible time scales have been studied in the previous literature[18]. We have calculated separately
the work distribution for $W$, in the inertial regime which satisfies SSFT. Moreover we have also shown that one can obtain the orbital magnetic moment in this nonequilibrium state without violating the Bohr-van Leeuwen theorem. These results will be published elsewhere[16].

In conclusion we have solved analytically the work distribution in the presence of magnetic field in two different cases. The first being the case where minimum of the harmonic potential is dragged with an uniform velocity and in the second case particle is subjected to an ac force. For both cases JE is verified and this equality complements Bohr-van Leeuwen theorem on the absence of diamagnetism in classical system. In case(i) we have shown that such a distribution in steady state does not depend on magnetic field and satisfies SSFT. As opposed to this case in a time periodic asymptotic state for case(ii) magnetic field becomes a relevant variable. The hysteresis loss over a cycle depends explicitly on the magnetic field. Relaxation time in our system can be controlled by magnetic field. All our results are amenable to experimental verification with charged beads in magnetic field.

APPENDIX A:

An expression for $\langle W \rangle$

$$\langle W \rangle = \frac{1}{\gamma[(k^2 + \omega^2(1 - C^2))^2 + 4C^2\omega^2]} \left[ (k^2 + \omega^2(1 - C)^2)\left\{ \frac{-A^2k \sin^2(\omega t)}{2} + \frac{A^2\omega^2t}{2} + \frac{A^2\sin(2\omega t)}{4} \right\} + 2C\omega^2\left\{ \frac{A^2C\omega^2t}{2} + \frac{A^2\omega^2\exp(-kt)}{4} \right\} \right] + \frac{1}{2\gamma[(k^2 + \omega^2(1 - C^2))^2 + 4C^2\omega^2]} \left[ \frac{1}{k^2 + (\omega + \Omega)^2}\left\{ (k^2 + \omega^2(1 - C^2))(k^* + C(\Omega + \omega)) + 2C\omega^2(Ck^* - (\Omega + \omega)) \right\} \cos(\Omega + \omega)t + \left\{ 2C\omega^2(k^* - C(\Omega - \omega)) - (k^2 + \omega^2(1 - C^2))(\Omega - \omega + Ck^*) \right\} \sin(\Omega - \omega)t \right] + c', \quad (25)$$

where

$$c' = \frac{a_1 a_2}{c_1 c_2}. \quad (26)$$

$$a_1 = -2A^2\omega^2(k^* + \Omega^2 + \omega^2),$$
$$a_2 = k^*\left\{ k^2 + \omega^2(1 + C^2) \right\} + \Omega C(k^2 + 3\omega^2 - \omega^2C^2),$$
$$c_1 = (k^2 + \omega^2(1 - C^2))^2 + 4C^2\omega^4,$$
$$c_2 = 2[k^* + (\Omega - \omega)^2][k^* + (\Omega + \omega)^2].$$

Here $\Omega = \frac{kC}{1 + C^2}$, $k^* = \frac{k}{1 + C^2}$ and $C = \frac{ieB}{\gamma c}$ with $k$ here written for $\frac{k}{B}$.

In the absence of magnetic field, $\langle W \rangle$ reduces to

$$\langle W \rangle = -\frac{A^2k}{2\gamma k^2 + \omega^2}\sin(\omega t) + \frac{A^2\omega}{4\gamma(k^2 + \omega^2)}\sin(2\omega t) + \frac{A^2\omega^2t}{2\gamma (k^2 + \omega^2)} - \frac{A^2\omega^2k}{\gamma (k^2 + \omega^2)^2} + \frac{A^2\omega^2}{\gamma (k^2 + \omega^2)^2} \exp(-kt)[k\cos(\omega t) - \omega\sin(\omega t)] \quad (27)$$

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