

**Problem 1. (Points: 10+10+10+10 = 40)**

A system of classical interacting spins  $\{\sigma_i\}$  in a uniform externally controlled magnetic field  $B$  is defined by the Hamiltonian

$$H = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \sigma_i \sigma_j - B \sum_i \sigma_i$$

Here,  $\langle i, j, \rangle$  denotes a sum over all lattice sites  $i$  and their nearest neighbors  $j$ , while the spin-variables take on the values  $\sigma_i \in (0, \pm 1, \pm 2)$ . The number of lattice sites is  $N$ , and the number of nearest neighbors is taken to be  $z$ .  $J > 0$  is the strength of the spin-spin coupling in the system.

**a** Show that, by introducing  $\sigma_i = m + \delta\sigma_i$  and disregarding terms that are quadratic in  $\delta\sigma_i$ , the Hamiltonian may be written on the form

$$H = JNzm^2 - B_{\text{eff}} \sum_i \sigma_i$$

where  $B_{\text{eff}} \equiv B + 2Jzm$ . Here,  $|\delta\sigma_i/m| \ll 1$ , and  $\langle \delta\sigma_i \rangle = 0$ . Give a physical interpretation of  $m$  and  $B_{\text{eff}}$ .

**b** Within this approximation, compute the partition function  $Z = \sum_{\{\sigma_i\}} e^{-\beta H}$ . Show that the Gibbs energy is given

$$G = JNzm^2 - \frac{N}{\beta} \ln(1 + Y(\omega + \alpha m))$$

where  $\omega + \alpha m = \beta B_{\text{eff}}$ , thus giving an expression for  $Y(x)$ .  $\beta = 1/k_B T$ ,  $k_B$  is Boltzmann's constant,  $T$  is the temperature. Explain on physical grounds why  $Y(x) = Y(-x)$ . (A check on your result for  $Y(x)$ :  $Y(0) = 4$ , and  $Y(x)$  is an analytic function of  $x$ .)

**c** State the principle by which to determine  $m$ . Show that the equation for  $m$  is given by

$$m = \frac{Y'(\omega + \alpha m)}{1 + Y(\omega + \alpha m)}$$

where  $Y'(x) = dY(x)/dx$ .

**d** This treatment of the system predicts that it undergoes a phase-transition at  $B = 0$  from a high-temperature state with no magnetic ordering (a paramagnetic state), to a low-temperature state with magnetic ordering (a ferromagnetic state). The transition occurs at a critical temperature  $T_c$ . Within the approximation used above, determine  $T_c$ . If you did not find  $Y(x)$  explicitly in **b**, you should still be able to deduce  $T_c$ , up to one purely numerical multiplicative constant. In that case, you are asked to provide an explicit expression for that numerical constant, based on the information given above.

**Problem 2. (Points: 10+10+10=30)**

A  $d$ -dimensional ideal quantum system in contact with an infinite particle reservoir is defined by the Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \mu) c_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} c_{\mathbf{k}}$$

where  $c_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger}$  and  $c_{\mathbf{k}}$  are creation and destruction operators respectively of single-particle states with quantum number  $\mathbf{k}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}}$  is the single-particle energy of that same state, and  $\mu$  is the chemical potential of the system. The grand canonical partition function of the system is given by

$$Z_g = \prod_{\mathbf{k}} (1 + e^{-\beta(\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \mu)})$$

$\beta = 1/k_B T$ ,  $k_B$  is Boltzmann's constant,  $T$  is temperature. For  $\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} = \hbar c |\mathbf{k}|$ ,  $g(\varepsilon)$  is given by

$$g(\varepsilon) = V \frac{\Omega_d}{(hc)^d} \varepsilon^{d-1} \Theta(\varepsilon)$$

where  $\hbar = h/2\pi$ ,  $h$  is Planck's constant,  $c$  is the speed of light, and  $\Theta(x)$  is the Heaviside step-function  $\Theta(x) = 0, x < 0$ ,  $\Theta(x) = 1, x > 0$ .  $\Omega_d$  is the solid angle in  $d$  dimensions.

**a** Show that the pressure  $p$  and density  $\rho = \langle N \rangle / V$  of this system are given by

$$p = \frac{1}{d} \frac{\Omega_d}{(hc)^d} \int_0^{\infty} d\varepsilon \frac{\varepsilon^d}{e^{\beta(\varepsilon - \mu)} + 1}$$

$$\rho = \frac{\Omega_d}{(hc)^d} \int_0^{\infty} d\varepsilon \frac{\varepsilon^{d-1}}{e^{\beta(\varepsilon - \mu)} + 1}$$

**b** Introduce the fugacity  $z = e^{\beta\mu}$  and show that the exact equation of state for this system,  $\beta p = F(\rho)$ , may be written on the following parametric form

$$\beta p = \frac{1}{\lambda^d} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} b_l z^l$$

$$\rho = \frac{1}{\lambda^d} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} l b_l z^l$$

where it is given that the coefficients  $b_l$  only depend on  $(l, d)$ . Thus, give an expression for the ultra-relativistic thermal de Broglie wavelength  $\lambda$ .

**c** Compute the second virial-coefficient  $B_2(T)$  of this system, defined via

$$\beta p = \rho + B_2(T) \rho^2 + \dots$$

Give an expression for the dimensionless parameter that determines the importance of the correction term to the ideal gas case, and thus give a physical interpretation of this correction term.

**Problem 3. (Points: 10+10+10=30)**

A system of  $N$  one-dimensional anharmonic classical oscillators is described by a Hamiltonian given by

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{p_i^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x_i^2 + \alpha x_i^4 \right]$$

The canonical partition function of this system is given by

$$Z = \frac{1}{h^N N!} \int d\Gamma e^{-\beta H}$$

$$d\Gamma \equiv \prod_{i=1}^N dp_i dx_i$$

In this problem, we will treat the anharmonic term as a small correction to the harmonic Hamiltonian. That is, we will use the approximation

$$e^{ax^2+bx^4} \approx e^{ax^2} (1 + bx^4)$$

**a** Within this approximation, show that the partition function of the system is given by

$$Z = \frac{1}{h^N N!} \left( \frac{2\pi}{\beta\omega} \right)^N \left[ 1 - \frac{3}{4} \frac{\beta\alpha}{\gamma^2} \right]^N$$

where  $\gamma \equiv \beta m \omega^2 / 2$ . For which temperature range do you expect this to be a valid approximation?

**b** Compute the internal energy  $U = \langle H \rangle$  and specific heat  $C_V = (\partial U / \partial T)_V$  of this system.

**c** Use the classical equipartition principle to compute the average of the potential energy  $U_p$  of the system within the approximation used above

$$\langle U_p \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x_i^2 + \alpha x_i^4 \right] \right\rangle$$

Useful formulae:

Partition function in the canonical ensemble:

$$Z = e^{-\beta F}$$

Partition function in the Gibbs ensemble:

$$Z = e^{-\beta G}$$

Partition function in the grand canonical ensemble:

$$Z_g = e^{\beta p V}$$

$$\langle N \rangle = \frac{\partial \ln Z_g}{\partial (\beta \mu)}$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \frac{1}{N! h^{dN}} \int \dots \int d\Gamma \mathcal{O} e^{-\beta H}$$

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k}} F(\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} de g(e) F(e)$$

$$g(e) \equiv \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \delta(e - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}})$$

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^d} \Omega_d \int_0^{\infty} dk k^{d-1}$$

$$\int d^d \mathbf{r} F(|\mathbf{r}|) = \Omega_d \int dr r^{\nu-1} F(r); \quad \Omega_\nu = \frac{2\pi^{\nu/2}}{\Gamma(\nu/2)}$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx x^{2n} e^{-\alpha x^2} = \left( -\frac{d}{d\alpha} \right)^n \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\alpha}}$$

$$\Gamma(z) \equiv \int_0^{\infty} dx x^{z-1} e^{-x}$$

$$\Gamma(z+1) = z \Gamma(z)$$

$$\zeta(z) \equiv \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{l^z}$$

$$\int_0^a dx x^{\nu-1} e^{-x^\nu} = \frac{1}{\nu} \int_0^{a^\nu} du e^{-u}$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} dx \frac{x^z}{e^x - 1} = \zeta(z+1) \Gamma(z+1)$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} dx x e^{-x} = 1$$

**Generalized Equipartition Principle:**

Let the Hamiltonian of a system be given by  $H = \alpha|q|^\nu + H'$ . Here  $q$  is a generalized coordinate or momentum which does not appear in  $H'$ . Let the partition function be given by

$$Z = \int dq \int d\Gamma' e^{-\beta H},$$

such that we have

$$\langle \alpha|q|^\nu \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int dq \int d\Gamma' \alpha|q|^\nu e^{-\beta H}.$$

Then we have

$$\langle \alpha|q|^\nu \rangle = \frac{k_B T}{\nu}.$$

**Three-dimensional volume element in spherical coordinates:**

$$d^3r = d\Omega r^2 dr; \quad d\Omega = d\theta \sin \theta d\phi$$

Here,  $\theta$  is a polar angle and  $\phi$  is an azimuthal angle.