

Problem 1 (25 marks)

For an ideal gas of bosons at low density or high temperature, what is the leading correction to $\beta P = \rho$?

Problem 2 (25 marks)

Imagine an ideal classical gas of N “luxons” — that is: massless, conserved particles with kinetic energy $c|\mathbf{p}|$, where c is the speed of light — confined to volume V . Determine the energy density u and the pressure P as functions of the temperature T . Comment on what you find.

Problem 3 (20 marks)

Thomas–Fermi model of the atom (Section 4.1 in the lecture notes). We know that the TF functional $E_{\text{TF}}[\rho]$ in (4.1.5) is stationary at the TF density ρ_{TF} . Now verify that the extremum is a minimum, that is: show that $E_{\text{TF}}[\rho] > E_{\text{TF}}[\rho_{\text{TF}}]$ for all other permissible ρ .

Problem 4 (30=10+10+10 marks)

Consider a one-dimensional Ising chain (or ring) with N links between next neighbors. There is no on-site energy, and the next-neighbor interaction energy for sites j and $j + 1$ is

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} +J \text{ if } s_j s_{j+1} = -1 \\ -J_+ \text{ if } s_j = s_{j+1} = +1 \\ -J_- \text{ if } s_j = s_{j+1} = -1 \end{array} \right\} = J \frac{1 - s_j s_{j+1}}{2} - J_+ \frac{(1 + s_j)(1 + s_{j+1})}{4} - J_- \frac{(1 - s_j)(1 - s_{j+1})}{4}.$$

We have the standard Ising model for $J_+ = J_- = J$ and a modified Ising model otherwise.

(a) Show that such a modified Ising model is equivalent to a standard Ising model with a certain on-site energy E'_0 and a certain interaction energy J' plus an energy off-set \mathcal{E} , in the sense that the energy of the k th microstate can be written as

$$E_k = N\mathcal{E} + \frac{1}{2}E'_0 \sum_j s_j - J' \sum_j s_j s_{j+1}.$$

State \mathcal{E} , E'_0 , and J' in terms of J , J_+ , and J_- .

(b) Find the canonical partition function of this modified Ising model.

(c) When $J_{\pm} = J \pm \epsilon$, what is the free energy to first order in ϵ ?