

Thermal Physics Cheat Sheet

Thermodynamics

Basics¹⁻³

Temperature & Boltzmann Factor⁴

Maxwell-Boltzmann Distribution⁵

Pressure & Ideal Gas Law⁶

Molecular Flux & Effusion⁷

Mean Free Path & Collisions⁸

Energy¹¹

Adiabatic Processes¹²

Heat Engine 2nd Law¹³

Entropy¹⁴

Thermodynamic Potentials¹⁶

Internal energy, U

$$dU = TdS - pdV \quad (1)$$

Enthalpy, H

$$H \equiv U + PV = \{(3)\} = H(S, p) \quad (2)$$

$$dH = \{(1)\} = TdS - pdV + pdV + VdP = TdS + VdP \quad (3)$$

$$\Delta H = \begin{cases} \text{exothermic} & \Delta H < 0 \\ \text{endothermic} & \Delta H > 0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Helmholtz function, F

$$F \equiv U - TS = \{(6)\} = F(T, V) \quad (5)$$

$$dF = \{(1)\} = TdS - pdV - TdS - SdT = -SdT - pdV \quad (6)$$

Gibbs function, G

$$G \equiv H - TS = \{(8)\} = G(T, p) \quad (7)$$

$$dG = \{(3)\} = TdS + VdP - TdS - SdT = -SdT + VdP \quad (8)$$

Maxwell Relations¹⁶

Derivation of generalized maxwell

$$df(x, y) = \left(\frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x} \right)_y dx + \left(\frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial y} \right)_x dy \quad (9)$$

Work Generalization¹⁷

3rd Law¹⁸

Classical Statistical Mechanics

Equipartition¹⁹

Partition Function²⁰

Statistical Mechanics on Ideal Gases²¹

Chemical Potential²²

Quantum statistics

Bose-Einstein Distribution²⁹

Bose Gases³⁰

Fermi-Dirac Distribution²⁹

Fermi Gases³⁰

Phonons^{23,34}

Real Gases^{26.1,26.4}

Phase Transitions^{28.1-3}

Toolbox

$$\left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial y} \right)_z \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial z} \right)_x \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \right)_y = -1 \quad (10)$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial y} \right)_z \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial z} \right)_x = - \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \right)_y \quad (11)$$

dS is an exact integral and thus only the start and end state needs to be calculated.

$$\left(\frac{\partial u(x, y), v(x, y)}{\partial x} \right)_y = \left(\frac{\partial f(u, v)}{\partial u} \right)_v \left(\frac{\partial u(x, y)}{\partial x} \right)_y + \left(\frac{\partial f(u, v)}{\partial v} \right)_u \left(\frac{\partial v(x, y)}{\partial x} \right)_y \quad (12)$$

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