



MathsNET

A joined up approach to
teaching and learning
mathematics

Lattice Gasses

- What two factors is it important to consider when calculating the partition function for a model system?
- What Hamiltonian is studied in this video? What do all the terms in the Hamiltonian describe? What does the sum run over?
- How many states can each of the spins be in?
- Why is it significant that each term in the summation in the Hamiltonian depends on the value of only one spin variable?

Lattice Gasses



MathsNET
A joined up approach to
teaching and learning
mathematics

- Suppose each spin could be in one of three states rather than one of two states. How many different microstates would there be for a system containing N such spins?
- Explain why (using the arguments in the video) the partition function for the lattice spins is $Z = 2^N \cosh(\beta\mu H)$
- How is the average energy of the system calculated from the partition function? What is the average energy for the system of spins under study in this exercise?
- What happens to the the average energy of the system in the low and high-temperature limits? What does this imply about the behavior of the psins?