

Problem 1. Non-equilibrium entropies of Fermi, Bose, and Boltzmann distributions Consider a gas out of equilibrium with a slightly non-uniform density in $n(x)$ and mean density $\bar{n} = V^{-1} \int n(x) d^3x$. We know that if the gas obeys Boltzmann statistics, its entropy is $S = - \int n \log n dV$.

1.1 Argue that this formula is valid only if the gradients are small: $|\nabla_x n| \ll \bar{n}^{4/3}$ (“coarse-graining condition”) and that $|n(x) - \bar{n}| \ll \bar{n}$.

1.2 Remove the second condition in 1.1 and obtain the general formula for the entropy for both Fermi and Bose gases.

Problem 2. Quantum correction to the Boltzmann thermodynamics Find the the quantum correction to the free energy of the Boltzmann gas (the leading \hbar -dependent term in the expansion of the free energy at small \hbar) for Bose and Fermi gases. From there, find the correction to the pressure. Does the quantum correction increase or decrease the pressure (and why is the answer predictable)?

Problem 3. Degenerate Fermi gas Consider a Fermi gas in 1, 2, and 3 spatial dimensions with density $\bar{n} = N/V$.

3.1 First, set the temperature to zero ($T = 0$) and find the Fermi momentum, Fermi energy, and the total energy in all three cases as a function of density.

3.2 Then compute the leading terms of the small temperature corrections to the basic thermodynamic quantities: thermodynamic potential, free energy, energy, pressure, entropy, and specific heat.

Problem 4. Degenerate Bose gas

4.1 The chemical potential of the degenerate Bose gas vanishes below T^* (the critical temperature of the BEC). Find its temperature dependence at temperatures slightly above T^* .

4.2 Find the discontinuities in the derivatives of thermodynamic quantities at the BEC transition. Which order is this phase transition?

4.3 (*) Can the ideal Bose gas condense in spatial dimensions 1 and 2? Discuss what happens in these cases.

Problem 5. Thermodynamics of radiation Compute the following thermodynamic quantities of a radiation field in a 1D and a 2D cavity and compare it with the textbook example of a 3D cavity.

5.1 Planck formula and the Rayleigh-Jeans and Wien limits of the distribution over frequencies.

5.2 Free energy and the Stefan-Boltzmann constant.

5.3 The relation between the free energy and energy (Boltzmann law).

5.4 Specific heat.

5.5 Pressure.

5.6 The total number of photons in the cavity.

Problem 6. Thermodynamics of solids Compute the following thermodynamic quantities for the harmonic photonic modes in a 1D and a 2D crystal at low temperatures (a.k.a. phonons) and compare with the textbook example of a 3D crystal.

6.1 Free energy.

6.2 Entropy.

6.3 Energy.

6.4 Specific heat.