Statistical Physics (MSc)
Homework 2.

Pál Balázs

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PROBLEM 1.

QUESTION

Using the second quantized formalism show that for non-interacting fermions

$$\Omega_0^F = -k_B T \sum_i \ln\left(1 + e^{-\beta(\epsilon_i - \mu)}\right)$$

where ϵ_i denotes the i-th one-particle level.

SOLUTION

On the lecture using the second quantization we derived, that for non-interacting bosons the grand-canonical potential is

$$\Omega_0^B = k_B T \sum_i \ln\left(1 - e^{-\beta(\epsilon_i - \mu)}\right) \tag{1}$$

We know, that the grand-canonical partition function at fixed T and μ is

$$Z_0 = e^{-\beta \Omega_0^{F,B}} = Tr\left(e^{-\beta \hat{K}_0}\right) \tag{2}$$

where

$$\hat{K}_0 = \hat{H} - \mu \hat{N} \equiv \sum_{k,s} \left(\epsilon_k - \mu\right) a_{k,s}^{\dagger} a_{k,s} \tag{3}$$

Here, ϵ_k is the 1 particle kinetic energy of the k-th particle and the Hamiltonian $\hat{H} = \sum_{k,s} \epsilon_k a_{k,s}^{\dagger} a_{k,s}$. We can expand equation (2) in the second quantization in the following way:

$$Z_0 = \sum_{n_1} \sum_{n_2} \dots \left\langle n_1, n_2 \dots \left| e^{-\beta \sum_{k,s} (\epsilon_k - \mu) a_{k,s}^{\dagger} a_{k,s}} \right| n_1, n_2 \dots \right\rangle \tag{4}$$

The operator inside the sandwich could be expanded into the product

$$e^{-\beta \sum_{k,s} (\epsilon_k - \mu) a_{k,s}^{\dagger} a_{k,s}} = e^{-\beta(\epsilon_1 - \mu) a_1^{\dagger} a_1} \cdot e^{-\beta(\epsilon_2 - \mu) a_2^{\dagger} a_2} \cdot \dots \ . \tag{5}$$

Using this, the equation (4) could be further expanded into another product:

$$Z_0 = \left(\sum_{n_1 \ = \ 0}^{\infty} \left\langle n_1 \left| e^{-\beta(\epsilon_1 - \mu) a_1^{\dagger} a_1} \right| n_1 \right\rangle \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{n_2 \ = \ 0}^{\infty} \left\langle n_2 \left| e^{-\beta(\epsilon_2 - \mu) a_2^{\dagger} a_2} \right| n_2 \right\rangle \right) \cdot \dots \tag{6}$$

Since $a_k^\dagger a_k = n_k$, therefore the exponents could be rewritten in the following form:

$$Z_0 = \left(\sum_{n_1 = 0}^{\infty} \left\langle n_1 \left| e^{-\beta(\epsilon_1 - \mu) n_1} \right| n_1 \right\rangle \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{n_2 = 0}^{\infty} \left\langle n_2 \left| e^{-\beta(\epsilon_2 - \mu) n_2} \right| n_2 \right\rangle \right) \cdot \ldots \tag{7}$$

The operators could be multiplied out from the sandwiches:

$$\left\langle n_k \left| e^{-\beta(\epsilon_k - \mu) n_k} \right| n_k \right\rangle = e^{-\beta(\epsilon_k - \mu) n_k} \underbrace{\langle n_k \,|\, n_k \rangle}_{=1} \tag{8}$$

Thus equation (7) could be rewritten into the form of a product of sum of exponentials

$$Z_0 = \prod_{k = 1}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{n_k = 0}^{\infty} e^{-\beta(\epsilon_k - \mu) n_k} \right) . \tag{9}$$

The n_k occupation number can take the following values:

$$n_k = \begin{cases} 0, 1 & \text{for fermions} \\ 0, 1, 2, \ldots & \text{for bosons} \end{cases}$$

Since our task is to derive the Ω_0 for fermions, we use the first fermionic case here, $n_k \in \{0, 1\}$. With this, the equation (9) could be rephrased in the following way:

$$Z_0 = \prod_{k = 1}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{n_k = 0}^{1} e^{-\beta(\epsilon_k - \mu) n_k} \right) = \prod_{k = 1}^{\infty} \left(e^{-\beta(\epsilon_k - \mu) \cdot 0} + e^{-\beta(\epsilon_k - \mu) \cdot 1} \right) = \prod_{k = 1}^{\infty} \left(1 + e^{-\beta(\epsilon_k - \mu)} \right) \tag{10}$$

Substituting back to equation (2), $\Omega_0^{F,B}$ could be expressed with

$$\Omega_0^{F,B} = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left(Z_0 \right) \tag{11}$$

$$\Omega_0^F = -k_B T \ln \left(\prod_{k = 1}^{\infty} \left(1 + e^{-\beta(\epsilon_k - \mu)} \right) \right) = -k_B T \sum_{k = 0}^{\infty} \ln \left(1 + e^{-\beta(\epsilon_k - \mu)} \right) \tag{12}$$

Thus we've reached to our goal.

PROBLEM 2.

QUESTION

Using the result for Ω_0 calculate Ω_0 and N as a function of (T, V, μ) for a fermionic homogeneous system (non-interacting fermions in a box with periodic boundary conditions). Express your results with Fermi-Dirac integrals. Give the first three terms of the high temperature expansion for Ω_0 and N.

SOLUTION

In the previous task, we derived that for free, non-interacting fermions the grand canonical potential is

$$\Omega_0^F (T, V, \mu) = -k_B T \sum_k \ln \left(1 + e^{-\beta(\epsilon_k - \mu)}\right). \tag{13}$$

The particle number could be expressed using this potential as the following:

$$N = - \left.\frac{\partial \Omega_0^F}{\partial \mu}\right|_{T,V} = k_B T \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left(\sum_k \ln \left(1 + e^{-\beta(\epsilon_k - \mu)}\right)\right) \tag{14}$$

Now we need to express the fermionic grand canonical potential Ω_0^F for enclosed fermions, using Fermi-Dirac integrals.

The Fermi-Dirac integrals could be derived from the distribution of the half-integer spin particles and is defined as the following:

$$\mathcal{F}(s, \alpha) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{x^{s-1}}{e^{x+\alpha} + 1}\, dx \tag{15}$$

PROBLEM 3.

QUESTION

For non-interacting fermions one can define a characteristic temperature T_{deg} by that temperature where the chemical potential is equal to zero:

$$\mu\left(T = T_{\text{deg}}\right) = 0.$$

By dimensional analysis

$$k_B T_{\text{deg}} = z \frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\left(\frac{N}{V}\right)^{2/3}$$

where z is a dimensionless number. Calculate this number z exactly and numerically.

SOLUTION

Let us denote T_{deg} as T_{c} from now on. The value of z could be expressed by simple reordering of the equation:

$$z = \frac{k_B T_{\text{c}}}{\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\left(\frac{N}{V}\right)^{2/3}} = \frac{k_B T_{\text{c}} 2m}{\hbar^2}\left(\frac{N}{V}\right)^{-2/3} \tag{16}$$

PROBLEM 4.

QUESTION

Let us suppose that we have N non-interacting, spinless bosons confined in a 3 dimensional harmonic oscillator potential

$$V(\boldsymbol{r}) = \frac{1}{2}m\omega_1^2 x^2 + \frac{1}{2}m\omega_2^2 y^2 + \frac{1}{2}m\omega_3^2 z^2. \tag{17}$$

Calculate T_c, where the Bose-Einstein condensation occurs.

SOLUTION