

Curie Law

Assuming that the permanent moments in a paramagnet are independent we can write the occupation of an energy level at a temperature T as a Boltzmann factor

$$e^{-E_p/k_B T} = e^{-g\mu_B B J_z/k_B T}.$$

The partition function is then defined as

$$Z = \sum_{J_z=-J}^J e^{-g\mu_B B J_z/k_B T}.$$

By noting that Z is a geometric series calculate the sum.

The magnetization can be found from

$$M = -\frac{Nk_B T^2}{B} \left(\frac{\partial \ln Z}{\partial T} \right)_B$$

where the subscript B means the partial derivative is performed for constant B . Show that, with $x = g\mu_B B J/k_B T$,

$$M = Ng\mu_B J B_J(x),$$

where

$$B_J(x) = \frac{2J+1}{2J} \coth \left[\frac{2J+1}{2J} x \right] - \frac{1}{2J} \coth \left[\frac{x}{2J} \right].$$

Find the leading order term in an approximation for $B_J(x)$ for small x .

Show that the susceptibility is

$$\chi = \frac{M}{H} \approx \mu_0 \frac{M}{B} = \frac{Np^2 \mu_B^2 \mu_0}{3k_B T} \equiv \frac{C}{T}$$

where $p = g\sqrt{J(J+1)}$. C is the Curie constant.