

1. The work function of a metal is the minimum energy required to remove an electron from a metal, and is typically of order 3 eV. find a value for the “penetration depth” of the electron wavefunction outside the metal for electrons at the Fermi energy. *Hint: Use the 1D Schrödinger equation and consider how the wavefunction decays.*
2. Show that the kinetic energy of a free electron gas at absolute zero is

$$E = \frac{3}{5}N\epsilon_F.$$

Derive expressions for the pressure and bulk modulus,

$$p = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial V} \text{ and } B = -V\frac{\partial p}{\partial V}$$

respectively.

3. Estimate the Fermi energy of
  - (a) liquid  $^3\text{He}$  (density  $81 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ), and
  - (b) the neutrons in a neutron star (density  $10^{17} \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ).