

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	1
1.1	Basic Thermodynamic Concepts	3
1.2	Ensembles	8
1.3	The Microcanonical Ensemble	8
1.4	The Level Density	9
1.5	Temperature and Boltzmann Factor	12
1.6	The Canonical Ensemble	16
1.7	Mean Values in the Canonical Ensemble	19
1.8	The Grand Canonical Ensemble	21
1.9	Exercises	23
<b>2</b>	<b>The Relation Between Classical and Quantum Statistics</b>	27
2.1	Fermi and Bose Statistics of Independent Particles	30
2.2	Classical Phase Space	32
2.3	A Few Elementary and Useful Results from Classical Statistical Mechanics	34
2.4	Quantum Corrections to Interatomic Potentials	36
2.5	Example 1: The Harmonic Oscillator	38
2.6	Example 2: A Free Particle	40
2.7	Example 3: A Particle in the Gravitational Field	41
2.8	Exercises	44
<b>3</b>	<b>Microcanonical Temperature</b>	45
3.1	Definition	45
3.2	Finite Size Heat Bath	48
3.3	Level Densities and Partition Functions	53
3.4	Exercises	58
<b>4</b>	<b>Thermal Properties of Vibrations</b>	59
4.1	Normal Modes	59
4.2	Thermal Properties of Harmonic Oscillators	65
4.3	Debye Particles	68

4.4	Degenerate Oscillators . . . . .	72
4.5	The Beyer-Swinhart Algorithm . . . . .	74
4.6	Vibrational Level Densities from Canonical Quantities . . . . .	77
4.7	Other Computational Schemes . . . . .	78
4.8	Level Densities from Bulk Properties . . . . .	78
4.9	Exercises . . . . .	80
<b>5</b>	<b>Rate Constants for Emission of Atoms, Electrons and Photons . . . . .</b>	<b>83</b>
5.1	Atomic Evaporation . . . . .	84
5.2	Electron Emission . . . . .	94
5.3	Photon Emission . . . . .	96
5.4	Photon Emission from a Metal Particle . . . . .	101
5.5	Kinetic Energy Release in Unimolecular Reactions . . . . .	102
5.6	Exercises . . . . .	110
<b>6</b>	<b>The Evaporative Ensemble . . . . .</b>	<b>113</b>
6.1	Decay of Isolated Particles . . . . .	113
6.2	Abundances, Small Particles . . . . .	122
6.3	Evaporation of Large Standard Particles . . . . .	130
6.4	Rates for Large Particles; General Case . . . . .	133
6.5	Large Particle Abundances . . . . .	141
6.6	Metastable Decay Fractions . . . . .	142
6.7	Exercises . . . . .	145
<b>7</b>	<b>Abundance Distributions; Large Scale Features . . . . .</b>	<b>147</b>
7.1	Liquid Drop Energies . . . . .	147
7.2	The Partition Functions . . . . .	151
7.3	Thermal and Chemical Equilibrium . . . . .	155
7.4	Polymerization . . . . .	158
7.5	The Smoluchowski Equation . . . . .	161
7.6	The Aggregation Equation . . . . .	164
7.7	Supersaturated Gases and the Critical Size . . . . .	170
7.8	Exercises . . . . .	173
<b>8</b>	<b>Molecular Dynamics and Monte Carlo Simulations . . . . .</b>	<b>175</b>
8.1	Basics of Molecular Dynamics Simulations . . . . .	177
8.2	Temperature in MD Simulations . . . . .	179
8.3	Monte Carlo Simulations . . . . .	186
8.4	Random Number Generation . . . . .	190
8.5	Simulated Annealing . . . . .	194
8.6	Exercises . . . . .	198
<b>9</b>	<b>Thermal Excitation of Valence Electrons . . . . .</b>	<b>201</b>
9.1	Electron Number Fluctuations in the Grand Canonical Ensemble . . . . .	205
9.2	Thermal Electronic Properties in the Microcanonical Ensemble . . . . .	206
9.3	The Odd-Even Effect . . . . .	207
9.4	Canonical Properties of the Equidistant Spectrum . . . . .	209

9.5	High Energy Level Density of the Equidistant Spectrum . . . . .	214
9.6	Numerical Methods . . . . .	217
9.7	Electronic Shell Structure . . . . .	222
9.8	An Excursion into Bose-Einstein Statistics . . . . .	225
9.9	Exercises . . . . .	227
<b>10</b>	<b>He Droplets . . . . .</b>	<b>229</b>
10.1	The Excitation Spectrum . . . . .	232
10.2	Ripplon Thermal Properties . . . . .	234
10.3	Molecular Beam Temperatures . . . . .	240
10.4	Phonon Level Density . . . . .	241
10.5	Thermal Properties of the Combined Excitation Spectrum . . . . .	244
10.6	Exercises . . . . .	245
<b>11</b>	<b>Melting and Freezing . . . . .</b>	<b>247</b>
11.1	Surface Melting and Melting Point Depression . . . . .	249
11.2	Measurements of Heat Capacities as Signatures of Melting . . . . .	252
11.3	The Lindemann Index . . . . .	253
11.4	A Simple Model of Melting . . . . .	255
11.5	Exercises . . . . .	261
<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>Additional Reading . . . . .</b>	<b>263</b>
A.1	General Statistical Physics . . . . .	263
A.2	Classical Mechanics . . . . .	264
A.3	Clusters etc. . . . .	264
A.4	Fermionic Degrees of Freedom . . . . .	264
A.5	Mathematics and Numerical Methods . . . . .	264
<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>Constants of Nature and Conversion Factors . . . . .</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>Appendix C</b>	<b>Mathematical Help . . . . .</b>	<b>269</b>
C.1	The Euler-Maclaurin Summation Formula . . . . .	269
C.2	Stirling's Formula and the $\Gamma$ Function . . . . .	270
C.3	Some Frequently Occurring Integrals . . . . .	271
<b>Index</b>	<b>. . . . .</b>	<b>275</b>