

Spring 1997 #6 (p 1 of 2)

A system consisting of N atoms with spin $1/2$ is placed in a magnetic field H and is kept at temperature T . Find the entropy, the internal energy, the total magnetic moment, and the specific heat of the system. ($g=2$)

we know that the energy of a single atom is

$$E = -\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{H} = \pm \mu_0 H \quad , \quad |\vec{\mu}| = \frac{g\mu_0}{2} \text{ for spin } 1/2 \text{ partic}$$

Assume the atoms are indistinguishable. So, we have for one atom

$$Z_1 = e^{-\beta\mu_0 H} + e^{+\beta\mu_0 H}$$

Then for N indistinguishable atoms, we have

$$Z = \frac{1}{N!} Z_1^N = \frac{1}{N!} (e^{-\beta\mu_0 H} + e^{+\beta\mu_0 H})^N$$

Then the free energy is

$$F = -kT \ln Z = +kT \ln N! - kTN \ln (e^{-\beta\mu_0 H} + e^{+\beta\mu_0 H})$$

$N \gg 1$

$$\approx kTN \ln N - kTN - kTN \ln (e^{-\beta\mu_0 H} + e^{+\beta\mu_0 H})$$

$$= kTN \left[\ln N - 1 - \ln (e^{-\beta\mu_0 H} + e^{+\beta\mu_0 H}) \right]$$

(i) entropy (note: $e^{-\beta\mu_0 H} + e^{+\beta\mu_0 H} = 2 \cosh(\beta\mu_0 H)$)

so,

$$S = - \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial T} \right)_{N, V} = -kN \left[\ln N - 1 - \ln [2 \cosh(\beta\mu_0 H)] \right] +$$

$$+ kTN \frac{2 \sinh(\beta\mu_0 H)}{2 \cosh(\beta\mu_0 H)} \cdot \left(\frac{-\mu_0 H}{KT^2} \right)$$

$$\therefore S = kN \left[-\ln N + 1 + \ln [2 \cosh(\beta\mu_0 H)] - \frac{\mu_0 H}{KT} \tanh(\beta\mu_0 H) \right]$$

(ii) internal energy

$$E = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} \ln Z = \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} [N \ln N - N \ln (2 \cosh(\beta \mu_0 H))] \\ = -N \frac{2 \sinh(\beta \mu_0 H)}{2 \cosh(\beta \mu_0 H)} \cdot \mu_0 H$$

$$\therefore \boxed{E = -N \mu_0 H \tanh(\beta \mu_0 H)} = N E_{\text{atom}}$$

(iii) total magnetic moment

From Ref eq 7.8.20, we have an expression for the mean magnetic moment per unit volume

$$\bar{M}_z = N_0 \bar{\mu}_z \quad \text{where } N_0 = \frac{N}{V} \text{ \& } \bar{\mu}_z = \frac{-E_{\text{atom}}}{H}$$

So the total magnetic moment is

$$M = \frac{-N E_{\text{atom}}}{H} = \frac{N \mu_0 H \tanh(\beta \mu_0 H)}{H}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{m = N \mu_0 \tanh(\beta \mu_0 H)}$$

(iv) specific heat capacity of system.

$$C_V = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \beta} \frac{\partial \beta}{\partial T} = -\frac{1}{kT^2} \frac{\partial E}{\partial \beta} = +\frac{1}{kT^2} N \mu_0 H \operatorname{sech}^2(\beta \mu_0 H) \mu_0 H$$

$$\therefore \boxed{C_V = \frac{N \mu_0^2 H^2}{kT^2} \operatorname{sech}^2(\beta \mu_0 H)}$$