Contents

Preface xi

Part I The Kinetic Theory of Gases 1

Introduction 3

Chapter 1 Velocity and Position Distributions of Molecules in a Gas 6

1.1 Avogadro's law, or the equation of state of an ideal gas
1.2 Temperature and thermal equilibrium 9
1.3 Equipartition of energy per molecule and its constituent parts — a fundamental problem 13
1.4 The density in an isothermal atmosphere — the Boltzmann factor in the potential energy 20
1.5 The Maxwell–Boltzmann distribution 24
1.6 Averages and distributions 28

Chapter 2 Brownian Motion 32

2.1 Historical background 32
2.2 Characteristic scales of Brownian motion 33
2.3 Random walk 35
2.4 Brownian motion, random force and friction: the Langevin equation 37
2.5 Solving the Langevin equation: approximations and orders of magnitude 41
2.6 Applications and implications 44

Chapter 3 Transport Coefficients 49

3.1 Introduction 49
3.2 The mean free path and mean free time 50
3.3 Self-diffusion 56
3.4 The mobility coefficient 61
3.5 The connection between the diffusion coefficient and the mobility 63
3.6 Viscosity and thermal conductivity 64
3.7 Appendix: a more detailed calculation of the diffusion coefficient 68

Self-assessment exercises 71

Solutions to exercises in the text 74

Solutions to self-assessment exercises 107

Part II Statistical Physics with Paramagnets 119

Introduction 121

Chapter 0 Essential Background in Thermodynamics 124

0.1 The first law 124
0.2 The second law and the entropy 128
0.3 Thermodynamic potentials 129
0.4 The third law 133

Chapter 1 Thermodynamics with Magnetic Variables 134

1.1 Introduction 134
1.2 The first law in magnetic variables 136

Chapter 2 Microscopic States and Averages 138

2.1 Magnetic states, angular momentum and paramagnetism 138
2.2 Microscopic states, observables 141
2.3 Probabilities and averages 143

Chapter 3 Isolated Paramagnet — Microcanonical Ensemble 147

3.1 Number of states and probabilities 147
3.2 Calculating averages and correlations 149
3.3 Numerical examples and Stirling's formula 152

Chapter 4 Isolated Paramagnet — Subsystems and Temperature 156

4.1 Microscopic states and thermodynamic equilibrium 156
4.2 β and the temperature 157
4.3 Sharpness of the maximum 158
4.4 Identification of temperature and entropy 161
4.5 Negative temperature 163
4.6 Summary 164

Chapter 5 Paramagnet at a Given Temperature 165

5.1 The canonical ensemble 165
5.2 The partition function and thermodynamic quantities 167
5.3 Susceptibility and specific heat of a paramagnet 170
5.4 Paramagnet with $J > 1/2$ 173

Chapter 6 Order, Disorder and Entropy 174

Chapter 7 Comparison with Experiment 177

Summary 178

Self-assessment exercises 180

Solutions to exercises in the text 183

Solutions to self-assessment exercises 213

Part III Statistical Physics and Thermodynamics 223

Introduction 225

Chapter 1 The Canonical Ensemble and Thermodynamics 226

1.1 The partition function and the internal energy 226
1.2 Thermodynamic work 228
1.3 Entropy, free energy, the first and second laws 233
1.4 The paramagnet — revisited 236
1.5 On the statistical meaning of the free energy 237

Chapter 2 Harmonic Oscillator and Einstein Solid 243

2.1 Microscopic states 243
2.2 Partition function for oscillators 245
2.3 Einstein's solid 248

Chapter 3 Statistical Mechanics of Classical Systems 253

3.1 Statistical mechanics of a single particle 253
3.2 Statistical mechanics of a classical gas 258

Chapter 4 Statistical Mechanics of an Ideal Gas 261

4.1 The ideal gas 261
4.2 Mixtures of ideal gases — Dalton's law 263
4.3 Maxwell–Boltzmann distribution and equipartition 265
4.4 Ideal gas of quantum particles 268

Chapter 5 The Gibbs Paradox and the Third Law 275

5.1 Two difficulties 275
5.2 The Gibbs paradox and its resolution 276
5.3 Remarks on the third law of thermodynamics 281
5.4 Summary 283

Chapter 6 Fluctuations and Thermodynamic Quantities 284

6.1 Paramagnet: fluctuations in the magnetization 284
6.2 Energy fluctuations and the specific heat 286
6.3 Summary 287

Self-assessment exercises 288

Solutions to exercises in the text 292

Solutions to self-assessment exercises 322

Part IV From Ideal Gas to Photon Gas 337

Introduction 339

Chapter 1 An Ideal Gas of Molecules with Internal Degrees of Freedom 340

1.1 Center of mass and internal motions 340
1.2 Kinematics of a diatomic molecule 342
1.3 Gas of general composite molecules 346
1.4 Diatomic gas: classical treatment 352
1.5 Diatomic molecules: vibration and rotation 356
1.6 The equipartition principle and its violation 361
1.7 Diatomic gas — quantum calculation 363

Chapter 2 Gases in Chemical Reactions 366

2.1 Conditions for chemical equilibrium 366
2.2 The law of mass action 368
2.3 Dissociation in a diatomic gas 373

Chapter 3 Phonon Gas and the Debye Model 376

3.1 Sound waves in a crystal 376
3.2 Vibrational modes, phonons and enumeration of states 379
3.3 The Debye model 382

Chapter 4 Thermodynamics of Electromagnetic Radiation 385

4.1 General considerations of radiation at thermal equilibrium 385
4.2 Radiation density 387
4.3 Black body radiation 390
4.4 Absorption and emission of radiation — Kirchhoff's law 394
4.5 Role of black body radiation in modern physics 398

Appendix Calculation of Some Integrals 401

Self-assessment exercises 403

Solutions to exercises in the text 406

Solutions to self-assessment exercises 434

Part V Of Fermions and Bosons 451

Introduction 453

Chapter 1 Grand Canonical Ensemble 454

1.1 Definitions and motivation 454
1.2 Connection to thermodynamics 455

Chapter 2 Statistical Mechanics of Identical Quantum Particles 458

2.1 Classification of states — occupation numbers 458
2.2 Quantum statistics — many-particle states 460
2.3 Thermodynamics of fermions and bosons 461
2.4 Average occupation numbers 463

Chapter 3 Electrical Conductivity in Metals 466

3.1 The Drude model 466
3.2 A critique of the Drude model 470
3.3 The Sommerfeld model 471
3.4 Electrons at high and low temperatures 474
3.5 Metals at room temperature 478
3.6 Thermodynamics of the Sommerfeld model 479

Chapter 4 Boson Gas 485

4.1 Bose–Einstein distribution 485
4.2 Chemical potential at low temperatures 486
4.3 Bose–Einstein condensation 488
4.4 Superfluidity 490
4.5 Bose–Einstein condensation in helium 493
4.6 Viscosity of a superfluid 497
4.7 Fermi liquid and superconductivity 503

Appendix Calculation of Some Integrals 509

Self-assessment exercises 512

Solutions to exercises in the text 514

Solutions to self-assessment exercises 536

Index 547