

4. The Bose-Einstein (BE) and Fermi-Dirac (FD) Distribution

M 11.1-4, B&S 9.7, 9.9, 10.1-3, K&K 5-6.

Quantum effects become important if the typical distance d between atoms is $d \leq \lambda_T$.

Remember that λ_T depends on temperature, so that at low temperatures quantum effects also become important. Approach the problem via distribution functions.

4.1 Average Number of Particles $f(\epsilon)$

Define $f(\epsilon)$ as the average number of particles in a single particle state of energy ϵ and temperature T .

For Bosons, $f(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{e^{\frac{\epsilon-\mu}{k_B T}} - 1}$. This is the Bose-Einstein Distribution Function.

For Fermions, $f(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{e^{\frac{\epsilon-\mu}{k_B T}} + 1}$. This is the Fermi-Dirac Distribution Function.

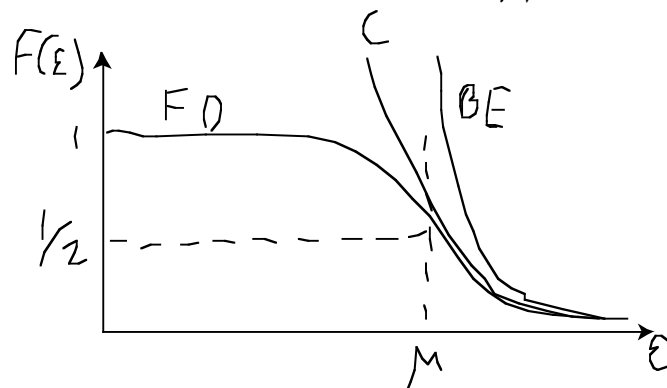
In both cases, μ is the chemical potential.

What determines the chemical potential?

The system has a fixed number of particles N .

$$N = \sum_{\text{all states}} f(\epsilon) = \sum_{\text{all states}} \frac{1}{e^{\beta(\epsilon-\mu)} \pm 1}$$

The energies ϵ of the states are known, and the temperature is known, so μ can be calculated in terms of N – or usually N/V .



For $\epsilon - \mu \gg k_B T$, $f(\epsilon) = e^{-\beta(\epsilon-\mu)}$ for FD and BE. They go towards the classical line (C).

The remainder of the course is devoted to the implications of $f(\epsilon)$.

4.2 The Derivation of Fermi-Dirac Distribution Function

Consider spin $1/2$ particles for simplicity. Consider a single-particle state of energy ϵ , for either spin up or spin down. Take the reservoir to be all the other single particle states, i.e. the gas as a whole.

Subtle point: states are distinguishable, particles are not.

N_s	E_s	$\mu N_s - E_s$	$p(N_s, E_s)$
0	0	0	$1/\zeta_G$

1	ε	$\mu - \varepsilon$	$\frac{e^{\beta(\mu - \varepsilon)}}{\zeta_G}$
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$$\zeta_G = 1 + e^{\beta(\mu - \varepsilon)}$$

NB: lower case ζ now refers to a single state, not a single particle.

(Grand canonical partition $Z_G = \sum_{(N_s, S)} e^{\beta(\mu N_s - E_s)}$)

We are considering one state and $N_s = 0, 1$.

We are after the average number of particles in the state:

$$\begin{aligned} f(\varepsilon) &= \sum_{N_s, E_s} N_s p(N_s, E_s) \\ &= 0 \times \frac{1}{\zeta_G} + 1 \times \frac{e^{\beta(\mu - \varepsilon)}}{\zeta_G} \\ &= \frac{e^{\beta(\mu - \varepsilon)}}{1 + e^{\beta(\mu - \varepsilon)}} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $f(\varepsilon) = \frac{1}{e^{\beta(\varepsilon - \mu)} + 1}$.

4.3 Derivation of the Bose-Einstein Distribution Function

N_s	E_s	$\mu N_s - E_s$	
0	0	0	
1	ε	$\mu - \varepsilon$	
2	2ε	$2(\mu - \varepsilon)$	
...	
N_s	$N_s \varepsilon$	$N_s(\mu - \varepsilon)$	
...	

$$\zeta_G = 1 + e^{\beta(\mu - \varepsilon)} + e^{2\beta(\mu - \varepsilon)} + \dots + e^{N_s \beta(\mu - \varepsilon)} + \dots$$

$$= \sum_{N_s=0}^{\infty} e^{N_s x}$$

where $x = \beta(\mu - \varepsilon)$

This is just a geometric series with ratio $r = e^x$.

$$1 + r + r^2 + \dots = \frac{1}{1 - r}$$

So $\zeta_G = \frac{1}{1 - e^x}$.

$$\begin{aligned} f(\varepsilon) &= \frac{\sum_{N_s=0}^{\infty} N_s e^{N_s x}}{\zeta_G} = \frac{\partial \zeta_G}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \ln \zeta_G}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial \ln(1 - e^x)}{\partial x} = \frac{e^x}{1 - e^x} = \frac{1}{e^{-x} - 1} \\ &= \frac{1}{e^{\frac{\varepsilon - \mu}{k_B T}} - 1} \end{aligned}$$

4.4 Calculation of the Grand Partition Function, Pressure etc.

$$Z_G = \prod_{\text{all single particle states}} \zeta_G$$

where Z_G is for the whole system.

cf. $Z = \zeta^N$ for distinguishable particles in a classical gas.

$$\phi = -k_B T \ln Z_G = -k_B T \sum_{\text{all single particle states}} \ln \zeta_G$$

i.e. each single particle state contributes additively to $\phi (= -pV)$.

$$(a) S = - \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial T} \right)_{V, \mu}$$

(constant V means ϵ does not change.)

$$S = -k_B \sum_{\text{states}} [f(\epsilon) \ln f(\epsilon) + (1 - f(\epsilon)) \ln(1 - f(\epsilon))] \text{ for Fermions}$$

$$S = -k_B \sum_{\text{states}} [f(\epsilon) \ln f(\epsilon) - (1 + f(\epsilon)) \ln(1 + f(\epsilon))] \text{ for Bosons.}$$

(This is not examinable as it needs a lot of algebra...)

$$(b) p = - \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial V} \right)_{T, \mu}$$

For particles in a box,

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial V} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \epsilon} \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial V}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2M}, \quad k^2 \sim \frac{1}{L^2}, \quad V = L^3.$$

$$\frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial V} = \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial L} \frac{\partial L}{\partial V} = -2 \frac{\epsilon}{L} \frac{1}{3L^2} = -\frac{2}{3} \frac{\epsilon}{V}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\text{states}} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \epsilon} &= \sum_{\text{states}} \frac{\partial (-k_B T \ln(1 + e^{\beta(\mu - \epsilon)}))}{\partial \epsilon} \\ &= \frac{2}{3V} \underbrace{\sum_{\text{states}} \epsilon f(\epsilon)}_E \end{aligned}$$

This is true for both FD and BE distribution.

$$p = \frac{2E}{3V}. \text{ Therefore } pV = \frac{2}{3} E.$$

Classically, $E = \frac{3}{2} NkT$. So $pV = Nk_B T$.