Statistical physics 704 (PHY 704)

Qualification	Postgraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	4 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Physics
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Thermodynamic behaviour of an ideal Bose gas: Bose-Einstein functions, the virial expansion, the Riemann zeta-function, Bose-Einstein condensation. Phonons: the field of sound waves, inertial density of the sound field, elementary excitations in liquid helium II. Ideal Fermi systems: thermodynamic behaviour of an ideal Fermi gas, Fermi-Dirac functions and their relation to Bose-Einstein functions, the virial expansion, the Fermi energy, asymptotic expansions at low temperature, magnetic behaviour of an ideal Fermi gas (Pauli paramagnetism, Landau diamagnetism). Quantised fields: free bosonic quantum fields, interacting quantum fields, interacting Hamiltonian, interactions in terms of creation and annihilation operators, imperfect Bose gasses at low temperature, fermionic quantum fields, interacting theory, the ground state of an imperfect Fermi gas. Phase transition in the Ising model: mean field theory, critical exponents.

The information published here is subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information. The General Regulations (G Regulations) apply to all faculties of the University of Pretoria. It is expected of students to familiarise themselves well with these regulations as well as with the information contained in the General Rules section. Ignorance concerning these regulations and rules will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression.