Homework

due *2022-05-03*

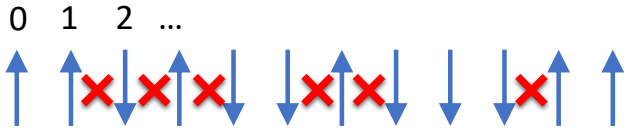
Substitution HW

Problems on this sheet can replace regular HW problems with equal or more total points.

I. ONE-DIMENSIONAL ISING MODEL WITH INTERACTION *[(2+2+4+4) PTS]*

Here we consider a system with *interacting* degrees of freedom. $N+1$ Ising spins $S_i = \pm 1$, $i = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, N$, are arranged in a line. The energy of a microstate is given by the Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}(\{S\}) = -J \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_i S_{i-1} \,.$$



N=11, ν=6

a) To determine the number of microstates, it is useful to find out how many states have the same energy. The system's energy can be expressed through the number of broken bonds ν (a broken bond is a pair of neighboring spins with anti-parallel spins, see sketch). Calculate the possible energies E_ν and the corresponding number of microstates. What is the partition function $Z^{(mc)}(E_\nu)$?

b) Using the results from a), calculate the canonical partition function:

$$Z^{(c)}(\beta) = \sum_{\{S\}} e^{-\beta \mathcal{H}(\{S\})} = \sum_{\nu} Z^{(\mathrm{mc})}(E_\nu) e^{-\beta E_\nu}$$

c) Calculate and sketch the average energy, heat capacity, and Gibbs entropy as function of temperature for $N \to \infty$ (canonical ensemble).

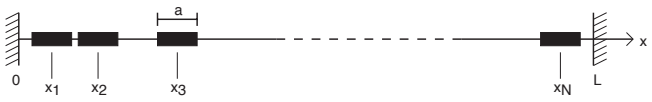
d) Find a relation between heat capacity C and square energy deviations $\Delta E^2 = \left\langle (\mathcal{H} - \langle \mathcal{H} \rangle)^2 \right\rangle$ and justify that fluctuations $\Delta E/N$ vanish in the thermodynamic limit $N \to \infty$.

II. GAS OF EXTENDED PARTICLES *[(5+2) PTS]*

We consider N classical rods of length a in a one-dimensional "volume" of length $L \geq Na$. The interaction potential of two neighboring particles at their center of mass coordinates x_i and x_j shall be

$$\Phi(x_i - x_j) = \begin{cases} \infty & |x_i - x_j| \leq a \\ 0 & \text{sonst} \end{cases}$$

Therefore the particles cannot permeate each other or interchange positions.

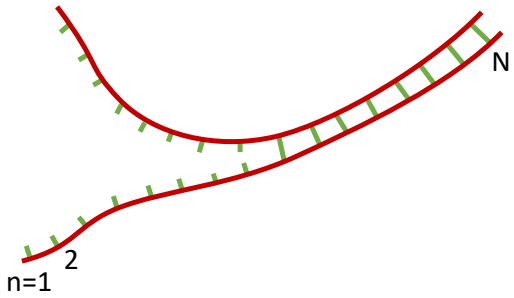


a) Calculate the equation of state $p(T, L, N)$ of the system.

b) Obtain the equation of state in the thermodynamic limit ($N, L \to \infty$ and $n = N/L = \text{const.}$).

III. MOLECULAR ZIPPER *[(4+6) PTS]*

As a (strongly) simplified model for a DNA double helix molecule, we consider a "molecular zipper": two linear molecule strands, which are linked by N connectors. These connectors can open when heated, but only sequentially starting from the beginning of the strands. Breaking one connection cost a finite energy $\epsilon > 0$ and connector $n+1$ can only open if link n is already broken (open). Connection N shall always be closed.



a) Calculate the canonical partition function $Z^{(c)}$ of this system.

b) Calculate the average number of open links $\langle n \rangle$ as function of $x \equiv e^{-\beta\epsilon}$ and sketch $\langle n \rangle / N$ as function of x. Discuss the result.