

PHY 410

HW#2

Assigned 20 Jan 10: Due 25 Jan 10

2.1 Start from the multiplicity function $g(N, s)$ for a N two-state magnet system with spin excess $2s$ given by

$$g(N, s) = \frac{N!}{(N/2 + s)!(N/2 - s)!}$$

Use the Stirling's approximation $\ln N! \approx \frac{1}{2} \ln 2\pi + (N + \frac{1}{2}) \ln N - N$ to show that

$$\ln g(N, s) \approx \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{2}{\pi N} \right) + N \ln 2 - 2s^2 / N \quad (8 \text{ points})$$

$$\text{and } g(N, s) \approx g(N, 0) e^{-2s^2 / N}; g(N, 0) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi N}} 2^N \quad (2 \text{ points})$$

2.2 Consider a system consisting of 4 quantum harmonic oscillators (frequency ω) with total number of energy quanta $n = 2$.

Write down all the microstates $(N; s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4)$, where s_i is the energy quanta of the i^{th} oscillator. (8 points)

Check that the total number of microstates corresponding to the macrostate $(4, 2)$ agree with the multiplicity factor $g(N, n)$ for N oscillators with n quanta. (2 points)

2.3 Consider two binary systems (magnets) \mathcal{S}_1 and \mathcal{S}_2 , $N_1=2$ and $N_2=2$. The spin excess for each system is respectively s_1 and s_2 . Now look at the total system as consisting of 4 magnets, $N=N_1+N_2=4$ and spin excess as $2s=2s_1+2s_2$. Check by explicit calculation that the multiplicity of the macrostate $(4, s)$ of the total system satisfies the equation

$$g(4, s) = \sum_{s_1} \sum_{s_2} g_1(2, s_1) g_2(2, s_2)$$

Where $g_i(2, s_i)$ is the multiplicity of the macrostate $(2, s_i)$ i^{th} subsystem. (9 points)

You can't use the Stirling's approximation (why?). (1 point)