

A problem concerning free energy

Adam Anthony^{*} and Zhite Yu[†]

1. Starting from the fundamental thermodynamic relation $dE = TdS - pdV + \mu dN$, express the following quantities in terms of the derivatives of Helmholtz Free Energy $F = F(T, V, N)$.
 - Entropy S , pressure P and the chemical potential μ
 - Energy E and Gibbs' Free Energy $G \equiv E - TS + pV$
 - The Grand Potential $\Omega \equiv E - TS - \mu N$.
2. Recall that the partition functions for canonical and grand canonical ensembles can be constructed from Helmholtz Free Energy and the Grand Potential, respectively,

$$F = -T \ln Z_C, \quad \Omega = -T \ln Z_{G.C.} \quad (1)$$

From the results of 1, derive a relationship between $\ln Z_C$ and $\ln Z_{G.C.}$.

3. Compare and explain the difference between the result in 2 and the standard result in statistical mechanics (2).

$$Z_{G.C.} = \sum_N e^{-\alpha N} Z_C(N) \quad (2)$$

^{*}Electronic address: antho121@msu.edu

[†]Electronic address: yuzhite@msu.edu