

Consider a system of  $N$  spin *one* degrees of freedom, at temperature  $T$ . The magnetic moment of the  $i$ -th spin ( $i = 1, \dots, N$ )  $\vec{m}_i$  and its spin  $\vec{S}_i$  are related by  $\vec{m}_i = |m|\vec{S}_i$ . The eigenstates of the  $z$ -component of the spin are  $|S_i\rangle = |\uparrow\rangle, |0\rangle, |\downarrow\rangle$ , with eigenvalue  $S_i = +1, 0, -1$  respectively (the factors of  $\hbar$  are absorbed in the coupling constant  $J$  used below). The configurations of the system can be labelled by the  $z$ -component of each spin, and in that basis can be written in the form  $|S_1, \dots, S_N\rangle$ . The spins of the system are interacting only with an external magnetic field  $\vec{B}$  pointing along the  $z$  axis. The total energy  $E$  is

$$E = - \sum_{i=1}^N JBS_i$$

We will also define the magnetization per spin,  $M = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N S_i$ .

- A) Write down expressions for the *probability* of each one of the following configurations at temperature  $T$ :
- i) all spins are up, *i. e.*  $|\uparrow, \dots, \uparrow\rangle$ .
  - ii)  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the spins are up,  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the spins are zero, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the spins are down, (assume that  $N$  is a multiple of 3).
- B) Calculate the partition function  $Z$  for this system.
- C) Find explicit expressions as a function of temperature for the following physical quantities:
- i) the free energy  $F$  per spin.
  - ii) the internal energy  $\langle E \rangle$  per spin.
  - iii) the specific heat  $c$ .
  - iv) the average magnetization per spin  $\langle M \rangle$ .
- D) Calculate the leading order asymptotic behaviors of the magnetization per spin,  $\langle M \rangle$ , and the specific heat  $c$  at low and high temperatures. Give explicit inequalities that the temperature  $T$  has to satisfy in each regime, expressed in terms of the physical parameters of the total energy  $E$ .