

A single, one-dimensional, harmonic oscillator has natural frequency ω and, correspondingly, its energy eigenstates are non-degenerate and have energies $\epsilon_n = \hbar\omega(n + \frac{1}{2})$ (with $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$).

- a) Calculate the canonical partition function Z and the Helmholtz free energy F_1 , each as a function of the temperature T and ω . Express F_1 in the form

$$F_1 = k_B T Y(\hbar\omega/2k_B T),$$

and state the required form of the function Y .

- b) Determine the internal energy E , as a function of T and ω . Derive the leading behavior at low temperatures (i.e., for $T \ll \hbar\omega/k_B$) and at high temperatures (i.e., for $T \gg \hbar\omega/k_B$), and give a brief physical explanation of your result for E in each of these regimes. Sketch E as a function of T for all physical values of T .

Now consider a model of a crystal consisting of N of these harmonic oscillators. The coordinates of the oscillators are supposed to represent the displacements of the atoms of the crystal from their equilibrium positions. *However, you are to neglect any coupling between the oscillators.*

- c) Write down the total Helmholtz free energy F_N governing the crystal, in terms of F_1 .
d) Suppose now that the natural frequency ω is no longer a constant, but instead depends on V/N (i.e., the volume per atom in the crystal), via

$$\omega = \Omega_0 - \Omega_1 \ln(V/N a^3),$$

where Ω_0 and Ω_1 are constant frequencies and a is a constant length. Determine the isothermal compressibility of the crystal κ_T , defined as

$$\kappa_T \equiv -\frac{1}{V} \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial p} \right)_T,$$

where p is the pressure, expressing your answer in terms of T , Ω_0 , Ω_1 , N , V and a .

- e) The volume of the crystal is increased, quasi-statically, from V_1 to V_2 , while T is held constant. Show that the heat transferred to the crystal is given by the formula

$$T \int_{V_1}^{V_2} dV \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial T} \right)_V,$$

but do not attempt to perform the integration.