

② An ideal Fermi gas is most conveniently treated using the grand canonical ensemble:

$$\Xi = \prod_{\vec{p}, s} \sum_{n_{\vec{p}, s}=0}^1 e^{-\beta(\epsilon_{\vec{p}, s} - \mu) n_{\vec{p}, s}} = \prod_{\vec{p}, s} (1 - e^{-\beta(\epsilon_{\vec{p}, s} - \mu)})$$

The index $s = \pm \frac{1}{2}$ labels spin states. If the single-particle energy is independent of spin (and we shall take $\epsilon = \frac{|\vec{p}|^2}{2m}$), then for a gas in a container of macroscopic size the pressure and number density can be written as

$$p = \frac{T}{V} \ln \Xi = \frac{T}{V} \int_0^{\infty} d\epsilon g(\epsilon) \ln(1 + e^{-\beta(\epsilon - \mu)})$$

$$\langle n \rangle = \frac{\langle N \rangle}{V} = \frac{1}{V} \left(\frac{\partial \ln \Xi}{\partial (\beta \mu)} \right)_{\beta, V} = \frac{1}{V} \int_0^{\infty} d\epsilon g(\epsilon) \frac{1}{e^{\beta(\epsilon - \mu)} + 1}$$

Recall now (or find in literature) that in n dimensions the density of states for free particles is $g(\epsilon) = \text{const} \cdot V \cdot \epsilon^{\frac{n}{2}-1}$.

At zero temperature, the occupation numbers are $n(\epsilon) = (1 + e^{\beta(\epsilon - \mu)})^{-1} = \Theta(\epsilon_F - \epsilon)$
 Θ : step function

$$\therefore \langle n \rangle = \frac{\text{const}}{n/2} \epsilon_F^{\frac{n}{2}}$$

$$p = \frac{2}{n} \frac{1}{V} \int_0^{\infty} d\epsilon g(\epsilon) \epsilon n(\epsilon) \stackrel{\text{integration by parts}}{=} \frac{\text{const}}{(\frac{n}{2})(\frac{n}{2}+1)} \epsilon^{\frac{n}{2}+1} =$$

$$= \frac{\langle n \rangle \epsilon_F}{\frac{n}{2} + 1}$$

The compressibility can be found from

$$K_T(0)^{-1} = -V \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial V} \right)_{N,T=0} = \langle n \rangle \frac{dP}{d\langle n \rangle} = \frac{2}{n} \left(\frac{n}{2} + 1 \right) P =$$

$$= \frac{2}{n} E_F \langle n \rangle$$

$$\text{or } K_T(0) = \frac{n}{2 \langle n \rangle E_F}$$

In this calculation we have used two previous equations to write

$$P = \frac{\text{const}}{\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)\left(\frac{n}{2}+1\right)} \left(\frac{n}{2\text{const}} \langle n \rangle\right)^{\frac{2}{n}\left(\frac{n}{2}+1\right)}$$

Alternatively, this result can be obtained

by making use of the relation $\left(\frac{\partial N}{\partial \mu}\right)_{T,V} = \frac{V}{N^2 K_T}$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$K_T(0) = \frac{V}{N^2} \left(\frac{\partial N}{\partial \mu} \right)_{V,T=0} = \frac{1}{\langle n \rangle^2} \frac{d\langle n \rangle}{dE_F} = \frac{n}{2 \langle n \rangle E_F}$$

(b) In 3D, the const is

$$\text{const} = \frac{4}{\pi^2} \left(\frac{m}{2\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2}$$

↑ factor 2 for spin degeneracy is included

We then find that

$$T_F = E_F = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (3\pi^2 \langle n \rangle)^{2/3}$$

$$m = 9.11 \cdot 10^{-31} \text{ kg} \quad N_e \approx N_{\text{atoms}} = \langle n \rangle \approx \frac{10^3 \text{ g}}{M} N_A \approx$$

$$\approx 8.5 \cdot 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3} \quad (\rho\text{-density } M=63.5) \Rightarrow \underline{\underline{T_F \approx 82000 \text{ K}}}$$

(c) $T_F \gg 300 \text{ K}$