



Subject card

Subject name and code	Thermodynamics and statistical physics, PG_00064050						
Field of study	Technical Physics						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject				2028/2029	
Education level	first-cycle studies	Subject group				Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study	
Mode of study	Full-time studies	Mode of delivery				at the university	
Year of study	3	Language of instruction				Polish	
Semester of study	6	ECTS credits				5.0	
Learning profile	general academic profile	Assessment form				exam	
Conducting unit	Department of Atomic Physics and Luminescence -> Faculty of Applied Physics and Mathematics -> Faculties of Gdańsk University of Technology						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Piotr Weber					
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	60
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	60		5.0		60.0	125
Subject objectives	To familiarize students with the basics of classical and quantum statistical physics. To familiarize students with the principles of phenomenological thermodynamics and their interpretation within the formalism of statistical physics. To familiarize students with the elements of the theory of stochastic processes						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome			Method of verification		
	[K6_W02] possesses structured knowledge of the fundamentals of physics, including mechanics, thermodynamics, electricity and magnetism, optics, atomic and molecular physics, solid-state physics, and nuclear and particle physics.	The student uses appropriate analytical and computational methods to solve problems in the field of thermodynamics and statistical physics. The student correctly uses the terminology used in statistical physics. The student has knowledge of the various possible approaches to describing a system in statistical physics.			[SW1] Assessment of factual knowledge [SW2] Assessment of knowledge contained in presentation		
	[K6_U02] is able to analyse and solve complex and non-standard scientific and technical problems using appropriate analytical, computational, numerical, simulation or experimental methods.	The student is able to solve tasks and problems in the field of statistical physics and phenomenological thermodynamics.			[SU1] Assessment of task fulfilment [SU4] Assessment of ability to use methods and tools		

Subject contents	<p>Course content – lecture</p> <p>The lecture consists of several thematic parts. The first part discusses the characteristics of macroscopic systems in terms of equilibrium phenomenological thermodynamics (for systems with fixed or variable number of particles). As part of this issue, the axioms of equilibrium phenomenological thermodynamics (principles of thermodynamics), Maxwell's relations and the concept of chemical potential are presented. In the next part, the basic concepts of probability theory are reminded. The third part concerns the concept of state: in classical mechanics, quantum mechanics and statistical physics. In this part the student learns the concept of statistical state in the classical approach (for continuous and discrete systems) and quantum (the concept of density matrix is described). The methods of describing the evolution of statistical states are discussed (master equation for discrete systems, Chapman-Kolmogorov equation, master equation for continuous systems, Fokker-Planck equation, von Neumann equation). In the next part, the concept of entropy and its connections with information theory is presented. The next three parts present respectively: a microcanonical ensemble, a canonical ensemble and a great canonical ensemble. The next parts discuss practical applications of statistical physics. The following are discussed: real gases (van der Waals equation, virial equation, Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution), quantum gases (quantum statistics), phase transitions, noise and their characteristics (stochastic processes), generalized Langevin equation and the fluctuation-dissipation theorem.</p>		
	<p>Course content – exercises</p> <p>During the exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • problems are solved to consolidate the knowledge and skills acquired during the lecture. • Some specific topics are presented in the form of short comments and sample problems. 		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Exercises - two written tests (each approximately 60 minutes)	50.0%	30.0%
	Lecture - written exam; duration of the exam is approximately 60 minutes	50.0%	70.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	<p>L. E. Reichl, "A Modern Course in Statistical Physics"</p> <p>W. Greiner, L. Neise, H. Stöcker, "Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics"</p> <p>F. Schwabl, "Statistical mechanics"</p>	
	Supplementary literature	<p>B. Ch. Eu, M. Al.-Ghoul "Chemical thermodynamics"</p> <p>P. Atkins, J de Paula, J. Keeler, "Physical chemistry"</p>	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the concept of a state function. • State functions and the natural direction of physicochemical processes. • Explain the concept of a statistical state. • Describe how the concept of the density operator appears in statistical quantum mechanics. • What does it mean for a stochastic process to be a Markov process? • Derivate the Gibbs phase rule. • Find a representative distribution for a macrostate generated by the mean value of a physical quantity. • Present the reasoning leading to the master equation for a continuous random variable, assuming that it is a Markov process. 		
Practical activities within the subject	Not applicable		

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