Statistical physics

Problem set 7

1. Assuming that the probability of fluctuations in a small subvolume is

$$f = C e^{-\frac{1}{2k_B T} (\Delta T \Delta S - \Delta p \Delta V)},$$

calculate the fluctuation matrix g when independent variables are ΔS and ΔV , i.e. find g so that

$$f = C e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^T g x}, \qquad x = (\Delta S, \Delta V)^T.$$

Use this g to calculate the variances $\langle (\Delta V)^2 \rangle$, $\langle (\Delta V)^2 \rangle$ and $\langle \Delta S \Delta V \rangle$, and verify that you get the results obtained at lectures.

2. Using the Einstein theory of fluctuations for SVT-systems discussed at lectures, show that the magnitude of the fluctuations of the internal energy of a small mass element (const. N) is

$$\langle (\Delta U)^2 \rangle = k_B T^2 C_V + k_B V T \kappa_T \left[p - T \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial T} \right)_V \right]^2$$

In the lectures it was shown that the canonical distribution implies that internal energy fluctuations are

$$\langle (\Delta U)^2 \rangle = k_B T^2 C_V \,.$$

What is the reason that these results differ?

3. Gibbs potential G(p,T) is a Legendre trasform of the Helmholtz free energy F(V,T), substituting the free variable $V \to p$. Show that this corresponds to a Laplace transform

$$e^{-\beta G(p,T)} = \int_0^\infty dV e^{\beta p V} e^{-\beta F(T,V)}$$

What is the physical interpretation?