

PROBLEMS

# PION

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# 2024



**SMALL PION  
BIG IMPACT**

 **COMSOL**



 **UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM**  
Institute of Physics

**SPIN**  
Studenten  
Physica  
in Nederland



## Rules

**Please make every exercise on a separate sheet of paper stating your team's name!  
Please answer all questions in English.**

There are 8 questions on 14 pages, with a total of 90 points.

### Rules during test

- It is not allowed to use any (study)books, notes, etc. other than BINAS and a dictionary.
- It is not allowed to communicate (about the problems) via any means with anyone other than team members.
- It is allowed to use a scientific, graphical calculator (Ti-83, Ti-84 or a similar model).
- Mobile phones are tolerated, but can only be used for emergencies, during the duration of the competition.
- If it is brought to the invigilators' attention that a team has been cheating, breaking the rules or misbehaving, they will be disqualified. Disqualification can happen post submission.

### Handing in your work

- All answers must be submitted in English.
- After the 3 hours for the test, the participants are expected to hand in their work to the committee as soon as they enter their room.
- If your team encounters problems with handing in your work, please let the committee (or a volunteer) known as soon as possible! If nothing is heard before the deadline and you hand in nothing, you will be disqualified.
- **Make every exercise on a separate sheet of paper!**
- Make sure your team name is written on every page! The question number should be written on the sheet as well.

The winner of PION2024 is the team with the most points. The second place goes to the best bachelor team, except if the winner of PION is already a bachelor team. In that case, the second place goes to the team with the second most points (bachelor or master). The third place goes to whichever team has the next most points (bachelor or master). The first place will get tickets to PLANCKS; for second and third place, tickets will be requested, but are not guaranteed.

In cases where these rules do not provide, the PION2024-committee will decide.

PION 2024 would not have been possible without help. For this we would like to thank the following companies and institutions.



**Stichting Physica**

We would also like to thank the different universities who contributed to making PION 2024 possible.

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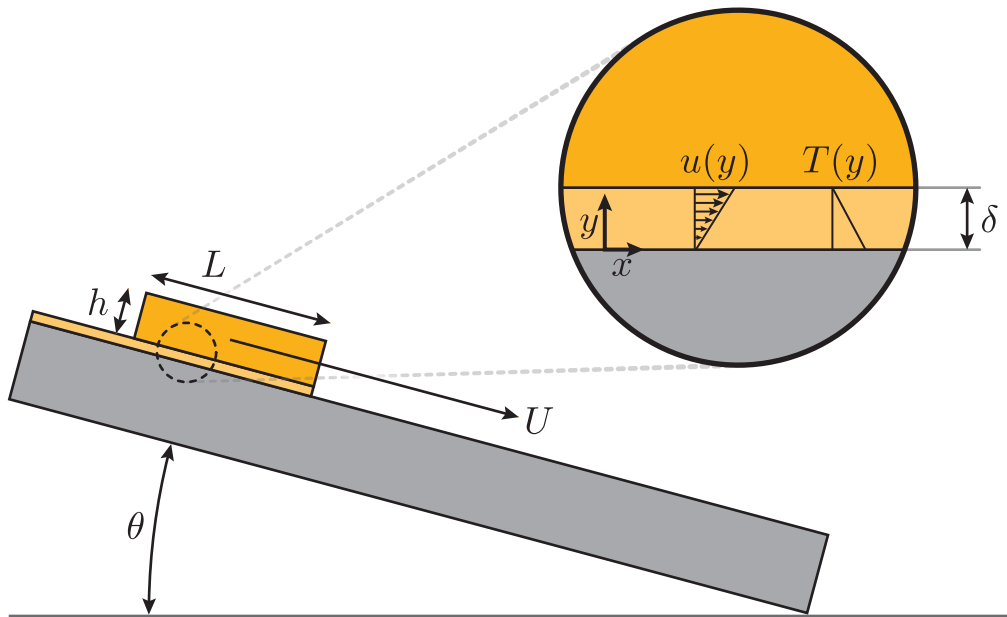
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# 1 Tilted Butter

*dr. S.G. Huisman and prof. dr. ir. L. van Wijngaarden*  
*Physics of Fluids - University of Twente*  
 10 points

A piece of butter with length  $L$ , height  $h$ , width  $w$  (directed into the page), and density  $\rho$  is placed on a heated slope, see figure 1. The slope is hot enough to melt the bottom of the butter, resulting in a thin layer of liquid butter below the solid butter. Because of the liquid layer the solid butter will move down the ramp. We aim to find the terminal velocity  $U$  of the butter and the thickness  $\delta$  of the thin uniform layer of liquid butter. To solve this we will need to simplify the problem and use thermodynamics, fluid dynamics, and classical dynamics.



**Figure 1:** A block of butter (orange) is placed on a heated inclined (angle  $\theta$ ) plate. A thin liquid layer (pale orange) of thickness  $\delta$  is formed between the solid butter and the ramp. Zoom: (rotated) detail of the thin liquid layer. From left to right we have the coordinate system and the velocity and temperature profiles (both plotted horizontally).

**a - 2 pts** The piece of butter experiences 3 forces: gravity, a normal force, and a frictional force due to viscosity. To find the drag force we need to consider the shear stress  $\tau$  at the bottom boundary of the solid butter which is given by:

$$\tau = \frac{F_{\text{drag}}}{A} = \nu \rho \left. \frac{du}{dy} \right|_{y=\delta} \quad (1)$$

where  $F_{\text{drag}}$  is the force acting in the (negative)  $x$  direction,  $A$  the bottom area of the piece of butter,  $\nu$  the kinematic viscosity of the butter, and  $u = u(y)$  is the profile of the horizontal velocity. Fluid mechanics tells us that the velocity at the boundaries (wall-liquid-butter and liquid-butter-solid-butter) should follow the speed of this boundary, and since the melted butter is viscous and the melted layer thin, the velocity profile is assumed to be linear in  $y$  (as sketched in figure 1). After the initial transient the piece of butter will attain a terminal velocity  $U$  where the forces are balanced. **Find the velocity profile  $u(y)$  and write down the balance relating gravity and drag forces and solve for  $U$ .**

**b - 2 pts** After all transients have passed (apart from the mass of the solid butter, which we will assume to be constant, though it is slowly melting and ‘producing’

liquid butter), the butter moves down the slope at a constant speed  $U$ . As the butter moves forward enough material has to melt from the bottom to create a fresh new layer of thickness  $\delta$ . We will assume this will come from the entire area under the butter in a uniform manner. We will call the volumetric melt rate of the butter  $\dot{V}$  (units  $\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ ). **Write down the equation (mass balance) relating  $\dot{V}$  and  $U$  and the geometry, and solve for  $U$ .**

**c - 2 pts** Now that we have used classical dynamics and fluid dynamics, we will now look at the thermodynamics: the melting. We will assume the solid butter is at its melting point  $T_{\text{mp}}$  but still solid. Now in order to melt, the temperature of the slope has to be higher than this, as sketched in the zoom of figure 1. Since the layer is thin we can assume the temperature profile is fully defined by thermal diffusion and that it instantly satisfies this equation (no transients):

$$\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} = 0 \quad (2)$$

and of course this has to satisfy the boundary conditions that the plate is at temperature  $T_{\text{plate}}$  and the butter at its melting point. **Find the temperature profile  $T(y)$ .**

**d - 2 pts** For any material to melt a “latent heat of fusion” or “enthalpy of fusion”, called  $\mathcal{L}$ , has to be supplied to go from solid to liquid (i.e. melting). The units of this enthalpy  $\mathcal{L}$  is  $\text{J}/\text{kg}$ , i.e. the amount of Joules needed per kilogram of material to go from solid to liquid. Since there is a thermal gradient, Fourier’s law tells us the heat flux:

$$\vec{q} = -k\vec{\nabla}T \quad (3)$$

where  $q$  is the heat flux (units  $\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ ) and  $k$  the thermal conductivity (units  $\text{W}/(\text{K}\cdot\text{m})$ ). The heat flux from plate to butter is solely used to melt the solid butter. **Relate the volumetric melt rate  $\dot{V}$  to the heat flux in equation 3.**

**e - 2 pts** We now want to combine the results from questions a, b, and d. **Find the speed of the solid butter  $U$  and the thickness of the liquid layer  $\delta$  expressed in terms of temperatures  $T_{\text{mp}}$  and  $T_{\text{plate}}$ , latent heat  $\mathcal{L}$ , gravity  $g$ , angle  $\theta$ , viscosity  $\nu$ , thermal conductivity  $k$ , density  $\rho$ , and dimensions  $h$ ,  $L$ , and  $w$ , and show that both  $U$  and  $\delta$  scale as  $L^{1/3}$ .**

## 2 Frictionless Ball

*dr. R.J.A.M. Stevens*  
*Physics of Fluids - University of Twente*  
*10 points*

Consider a frictionless ball under the influence of gravity on a slope. Determine the shape of the slope track that minimizes the descent time. That is, determine the path the ball takes from point  $A(x_a, y_a)$  to point  $B(x_b, y_b)$  with gravity  $\mathbf{g} = g\mathbf{e}_y$ . You may assume  $y_a > y_b$ .



### 3 Quantum description of electron spin at a topological surface

prof. dr. ir. A. Brinkman

Quantum Transport in Matter - University of Twente

10 points

Three-dimensional topological insulators are materials with an electrically insulating bulk and conducting surfaces. The electrons at this topological surface state have the special property that the spin expectation value is coupled to the momentum direction. In this problem we will model this behavior and explore some of its consequences. The Hamiltonian of the electrons at the topological surface is given by

$$H = v\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p} \quad (4)$$

where  $v$  is a scalar value,  $\mathbf{p}$  is the momentum, given by  $\mathbf{p} = \frac{\hbar}{i}\nabla$ , and  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$  is the vector with the three Pauli matrices as components,

$$\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

For the two-dimensional surface we can assume  $p_z = 0$ .

**a - 2 pts** Write the Hamiltonian as a matrix. Use  $\psi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi \\ \chi \end{pmatrix} e^{ik_x x} e^{ik_y y}$  as an Ansatz (trial solution) for the eigenstates of  $H$  and, from the time-independent Schrödinger equation derive the allowed energy eigenvalues  $E(k)$ , where  $k = \sqrt{k_x^2 + k_y^2}$ . Make a sketch of  $E$  as function of  $k_x$  and  $k_y$ .

**b - 2 pts** Derive expressions for  $\phi$  and  $\chi$  (and make sure that you normalize the spinor part of the eigenstate).

*Hint: it is useful to use polar coordinates, i.e.  $k_x = k \cos(\theta)$  and  $k_y = k \sin(\theta)$ , where  $\theta$  is the angle of the momentum with respect to the positive  $k_x$ -axis.*

**c - 2 pts** For an eigenstate with  $E_0 > 0$ , calculate  $\langle S_x \rangle$  and  $\langle S_y \rangle$ , where the electron spin operator is given by  $\mathbf{S} = \frac{\hbar}{2}\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ . On the contour of constant energy  $E_0$ , plot the spin expectation value for different momentum directions. This sketch represents the famous spin-momentum locking at topological surfaces.

One of the consequences of the spin-momentum locking is the fact that electrons can pick up a so-called geometric Berry phase,  $\phi_B$ , when changing direction. The Berry phase can be found by integrating over the Berry connection,  $\int d\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{A}$  where  $\mathbf{A} = i\langle \psi | \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \psi \rangle$ . Note, that  $\nabla_{\mathbf{k}}$  refers to polar coordinates in  $k$ -space.

**d - 1 pt** For the spinor-part of the electron eigenstates at the topological surface, give an expression for the Berry connection  $\mathbf{A}$  (Hint: the gradient in polar coordinates in  $k$ -space is given by  $\nabla_{\mathbf{k}} = \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial k} + \hat{\theta} \frac{1}{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}$ )

**e - 1 pt** Assume that an electron on the constant energy contour with  $E = E_0 > 0$  rotates over an angle of  $2\pi$ , calculate the corresponding Berry phase.

Another, related, consequence of spin-momentum locking is the fact that electrons cannot back-scatter.

**f - 2 pts** For an incoming electron with  $\psi_{in}(\theta_{in} = 0)$  calculate the scattering probability  $|\langle \psi_{out} | \psi_{in} \rangle|^2$  as function of the angle  $\theta_{out}$  of the outgoing electron. Sketch the scattering probability in a polar plot and verify that back-scattering ( $\theta_{out} = \pi$ ) is indeed forbidden.

## 4 Plasmon-enhanced molecular biosensing

*dr. O.S. Ojambati*  
*Optical Sciences - University of Twente*  
 10 points

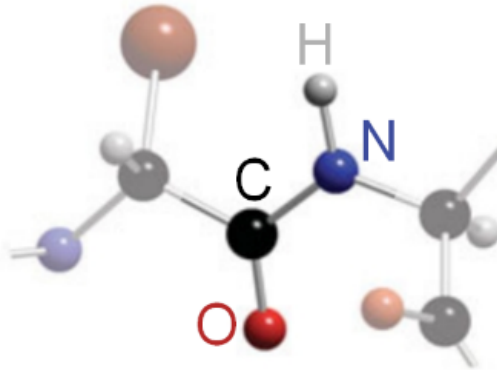
The recent COVID-19 pandemic has shown the world the importance of sensitive, reliable, and easy-to-use sensors in medical diagnosis and point-of-care testing. The goal of this exercise is to model a molecular spectroscopic technique that gives specific vibrational signatures of a molecule and how to enhance the spectroscopic signal. We consider an exemplar protein, which could be the spike protein of the COVID-SARS virus. The protein is a long polymer chain, made from repetitive units of amino acid residues and has 45,000 atoms.

Useful formula; Hermite polynomials

$$H_n(x) = n! \sum_{m=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \frac{(-1)^m}{m!(n-2m)!} (2x)^{n-2m} \quad (6)$$

**a - 1 pts** Determine the number of degrees of freedom for translation, rotational, and vibrational motions of the protein.

**b - 1 pts** We now consider two of the vibrational degrees of freedom, namely, the stretching mode of the hydrogen and the oxygen atoms (see figure 2 that shows a part of the peptide link in the protein). Sketch the potential energy of the vibrational motion of each of the two atoms and explain any differences between the two potential energies.



**Figure 2:** A part of the peptide link

**c - 1 pts** From the potential energy considered in b), an analytical solution of the Schrödinger equation can be obtained for the stretching motion. Without showing a detailed solution, what do you expect for the vibrational energy  $E_n$  of one of the molecular bonds in the protein ( $n$  is the vibrational quantum number)?

**d - 3 pts** Determine which of these transitions are allowed: transition from (i) the ground state to the first excited state and (ii) the ground state to the second excited state.

**e - 2 pts** Now we consider that an electromagnetic radiation with frequency  $\nu$  interacts with the protein and this interaction results in a time-dependent induced dipole moment  $\mu_{ind}(t)$ . Using only classical considerations, derive an expression for  $\mu_{ind}(t)$  for a particular molecular vibration with frequency  $\nu_0$ . Explain the physical meaning of each component of  $\mu_{ind}$  and show the components on an energy level diagram. Identify the components that are needed in molecular biosensing.

**f - 1 pts** Localized surface plasmons on a metallic nanoparticle can enhance the optical field to increase the spectroscopic signature of the protein. From classical electrodynamics in the quasi-static limit, a conducting sphere in a uniform field has an electric potential  $\Phi$  outside the sphere is given as

$$\Phi = -E_0 r \cos \theta + E_0 \frac{\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2}{\epsilon_1 + 2\epsilon_2} \frac{a^3}{r^2} \cos \theta \quad (7)$$

where  $E_0$  the amplitude of the incident electric field,  $\epsilon_1$  and  $\epsilon_2$  are the dielectric functions inside and outside of the metallic nanoparticle, respectively,  $a$  is the radius of the sphere, and  $r$  is the radial position from the center of the particle.

Derive an expression for the electric field  $\mathbf{E}$  and determine the resonance condition where the protein experiences the highest electric field. (*Hint: The gradient of a scalar function is defined as  $\nabla F = \frac{\partial F}{\partial \rho} \mathbf{e}_\rho + \frac{1}{\rho \sin \phi} \frac{\partial F}{\partial \theta} \mathbf{e}_\theta + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial F}{\partial \phi} \mathbf{e}_\phi$* )

## 5 Feeling Hot Hot Hot

*prof. dr. F.G. Mugele*  
*Physics of Complex Fluids - University of Twente*  
 10 points

The heat capacity provides information about the ability of internal degrees of freedom of physical systems to absorb energy. Therefore, heat capacity measurements played an important role in the development of our understanding of both gaseous and – in particular – condensed phases of matter.

**a - 1 pts** Provide a general formula for the thermodynamic definition of a heat capacity, making suitable choices for constant thermodynamic variables. If you consider a fixed volume of matter, say  $1 \text{ cm}^3$ , would the heat capacity of a gas be higher or lower than the one of a liquid of the same substance at standard pressure and temperature? Why?

**b - 3 pts** Sketch the specific heat as a function of temperature for three classical model systems:

1.  $N$  non-interacting spins (magnetic moment  $m$ ) in an external magnetic field  $B$  as an example of a two-level system.
2. a system of  $N$  identical independent quantum mechanical harmonic oscillators with an energy spacing  $\Delta\epsilon = hf$  as Einstein's simplified model of an insulating solid.
3. a classical monatomic ideal gas ( $N$  atoms).

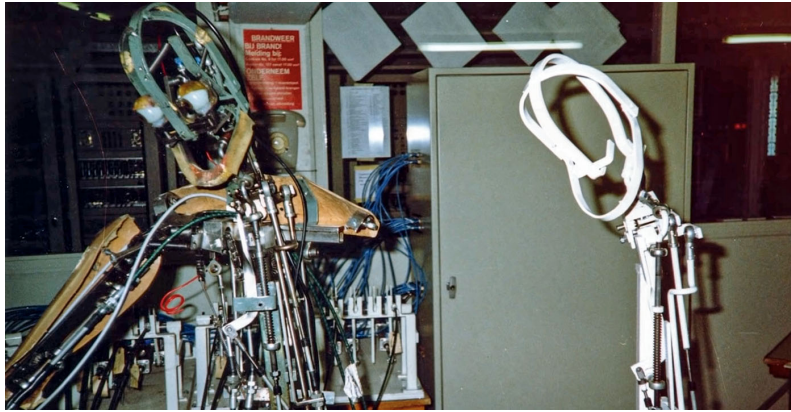
**c - 4 pts** Explain for all three cases the limiting behaviors at high and low temperatures and provide qualitative physical explanations for agreements and deviations of these limits between the different systems. In which of these cases does the heat capacity reflect the equipartition theorem, in which ones not? Explain why.

**d - 2 pts** Make a new sketch comparing the heat capacity vs. temperature of the classical ideal gas (as in part b)) and an ideal Fermi gas for the same number of particles. Explain how and why the heat capacity of the Fermi gas,  $C_{Fermi}$ , is different from the classical ideal gas,  $C_{class}$ , at 'low' temperatures. Thinking of electrons in a metal: what would be a suitable reference temperature and what is its typical value? Provide an estimate for the ratio  $C_{Fermi}/C_{class}$  for this low temperature limit.

## 6 Fata Morgana

*ir. I.C.W.T.A. van Veldhoven*  
*Applied Physics staff - University of Twente*  
*10 points*

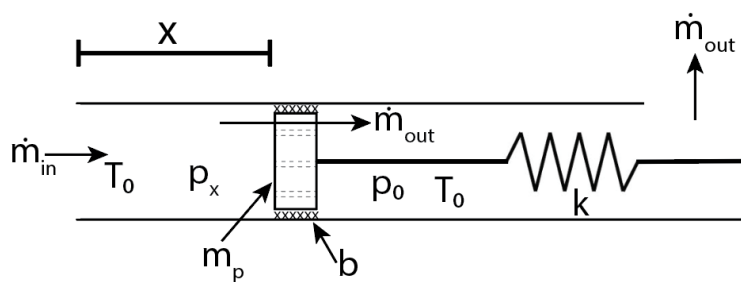
The famous amusement park, *De Efteling*, has an attraction named Fata Morgana. This attraction is a tow boat ride based on the stories of 1001 Arabian nights, populated by 140 different moving puppets, called animatronics. Figure 3 shows such animatronic.



**Figure 3:** Animatronic

These animatronics work with pneumatic valves which are controlled by a control system. Figure 4 shows a pneumatic valve. On the left side air will flow into the system. Due to small holes in the piston, the air flow will be restricted, with a certain fluid resistance  $R_f$ . Due to this restriction a pressure difference will arise between the left and the right side, which will push the piston to the right. The pressure difference, due to the resistance, can be assumed to follow a linear relationship:

$$R_f = \frac{\Delta p}{\dot{m}} \quad (8)$$



**Figure 4:** Pneumatic valve

The holes in the piston are so small that the volume of these holes can be neglected. The output on the right side of the valve is very large so the fluid resistance of this hole can be neglected. This means that the pressure everywhere on the right side of the piston can be assumed to be constant and equal to the ambient pressure,  $p_0$ . The spring is assumed to be linear with spring constant  $k$ . There are three types of friction working on the piston:

1. Viscous forces, due to the fluid flowing through the channels in the piston, this is assumed to be linear with velocity, with a constant of  $b$ .
2. Static friction, due to the constant between the piston and the pipe, this friction is modelled

via this equation:  $F_f = \text{sign}(v)F_{f_0}$ .<sup>1</sup>

3. Air resistance, for simplicity we assume in the calculation of this resistance that the pressure on both sides of the piston is equal to  $p_0$ .

The cross sectional area of the piston is  $A$ . The temperature throughout the whole system, including working fluid, is constant and equal to the ambient temperature,  $T_0$ .

**a - 1 pt** Determine the steady state displacement of the piston as function of a steady state input mass flow of the air and the system parameters.

**b - 4 pt** Derive the first order differential equations that describe (the transient behavior of) this system.

**c - 3 pt** Linearize all the nonlinear differential equations using a Taylor-approximation and make a state space model of this linearized system, with the mass-flow as input and the position of the piston as output.

**d - 2 pt** If the piston is connected to the movement of a puppet, this can be modelled as an increase of the mass of the piston. Explain what this would change (increase, decrease or stay the same) to the response speed and final displacement.

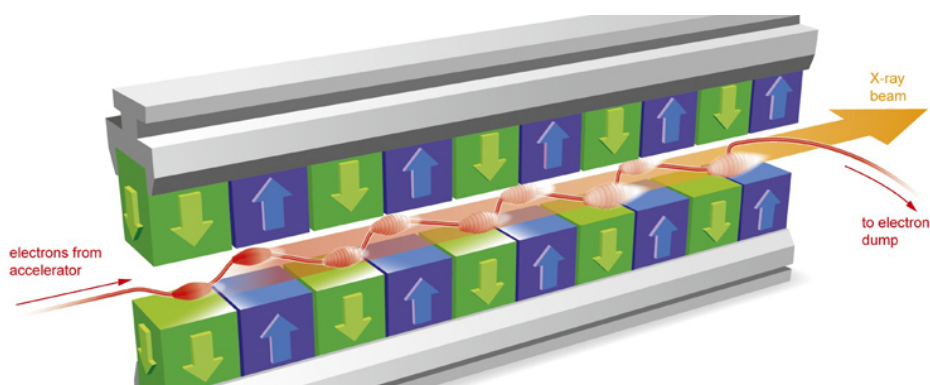
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<sup>1</sup>Definition of the sign function:  $\text{sign}(x) := \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } x < 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } x > 0. \end{cases}$

## 7 Free-electron lasers

*dr. P.J.M. van der Slot and prof. dr ir. D.A.I. Marpaung  
Nonlinear Nanophotonics - University of Twente  
20 points*

In a free-electron laser, electrons are accelerated to high energy and subsequently injected into an undulator where the kinetic energy of the electrons is converted into coherent radiation. Due to the acceleration process, electrons are injected in the form of short bunches. The undulator is a magnetic device that produces a spatially periodic magnetic field. A schematic of the undulator is shown in figure 5. Let the propagation direction of the electrons be the  $z$ -direction and let the magnetic field be orientated along the  $y$ -direction.



**Figure 5:** Schematic overview of a linearly polarized undulator showing the orientation of the permanent magnets producing a spatially alternating magnetic field. © European XFEL.

For simplicity, we ignore end-effects and close to the axis of the undulator we can write for the magnetic field

$$\mathbf{B}_u(\mathbf{r}) = B_{u0} \cos(k_u z) \hat{\mathbf{y}} \quad (9)$$

where  $B_{u0}$  is the amplitude of the magnetic field,  $k_u = 2\pi/\lambda_u$  with  $\lambda_u$  the spatial period of the magnetic field, and  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  is a unit vector in the  $y$ -direction.

In the following, we assume a sufficiently low number of electrons in the bunch such that space-charge forces can be neglected and that the electrons are injected into the undulator magnetic field at  $z = 0$ .

**a - 1.0 pts** Show that the magnetic field can also be described by the vector potential

$$\mathbf{A}_u = \frac{B_{u0}}{k_u} \sin(k_u z) \hat{\mathbf{x}} \quad (10)$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  is a unit vector along the  $x$ -direction.

In absence of any light, the electron equation of motion is given by

$$\frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(\gamma m \mathbf{v}) = -e(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}_u) \quad (11)$$

where  $\gamma$  is the relativistic factor  $\gamma = \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-1/2} \equiv (1 - \beta^2)^{-1/2}$ ,  $v = |\mathbf{v}|$ ,  $\beta = |\boldsymbol{\beta}|$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\beta} = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{c}$  and  $e$  is the charge of the electron. We assume that the electrons are highly relativistic,  $\gamma \gg 1$ .

**b - 2 pt** Derive an expression for the transverse velocity of the electron inside the homogeneous part of the undulator magnetic field in terms of  $\gamma$  and the properties of the undulator field. Assume perfect injection into the undulator field with  $v_x(0) = 0$ .

**c - 2 pt** Show that the average axial electron velocity  $\bar{v}_z$  is given by

$$\bar{v}_z = c \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2\gamma^2} \left( 1 + \frac{K_u^2}{2} \right) \right) \equiv c\bar{\beta}_z \quad (12)$$

where  $K_u \equiv \frac{eB_{u0}}{mck_u}$  is known as the undulator parameter.

**d - 1 pt** Describe the motion of the electron in its rest frame in absence of any radiation.

It is well known that an oscillating electron will emit electromagnetic radiation. Therefore, the above description is only valid in the presence of weak radiation fields. To complete the description, we need to add the electromagnetic field to the equation of motion of the electron as given in eq. 11 via

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\gamma m \mathbf{v}) = e(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times (\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{B}_u)) \quad (13)$$

where  $\mathbf{E}(z, t)$  and  $\mathbf{B}(z, t)$  are the electric and magnetic field components of a plane wave co-propagating with the electrons in the  $z$ -direction.

Let the radiation field be given by a vector potential

$$\mathbf{A}(z, t) = A_0(z, t) \hat{\mathbf{x}} \sin(kz - \omega t + \phi(z, t)) \quad (14)$$

where  $A_0(z, t)$  and  $\phi(z, t)$  are the slowly varying amplitude and phase of the radiation wave,  $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$ ,  $\lambda$  is the (vacuum) wavelength and  $\omega$  is the angular frequency of the radiation wave. The total potential  $\mathbf{A}_t$  experienced by the electron is then

$$\mathbf{A}_t(z, t) = \mathbf{A}(z, t) + \mathbf{A}_u(z) \quad (15)$$

**e - 2 pt** Derive an expression for the transverse velocity  $\mathbf{v}_\perp = v_x \hat{\mathbf{x}}$  in terms of the vector potentials for the radiation and undulator fields. Assume perfect injection ( $v_x(0) = 0$ ), and negligible initial radiation field ( $\mathbf{A}$  is a constant).

We now continue with the derivation of an expression for the change in the energy of the electron in presence of a radiation field.

**f - 2 pt** Using the expression for the change in electron energy with time due to presence of the radiation field show that

$$\frac{d\gamma}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{m^2 c^2} \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( |\mathbf{A}|^2 + 2\mathbf{A}_u \cdot \mathbf{A} \right) \quad (16)$$

Hint: The change in electron energy  $\gamma mc^2$  is given by the work done by the radiation field, which is performed by the electric field component, which gives..?

To find the change in electron energy with propagation through the undulator, we assume highly relativistic electrons and use  $v_x \ll v_z$  (paraxial approximation) to write  $\frac{d}{dt} \approx v_z \frac{d}{dz} \approx c \frac{d}{dz}$  in eq. 16 to obtain

$$\frac{d\gamma}{dz} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{m^2 c^3} \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( |\mathbf{A}|^2 + 2\mathbf{A}_u \cdot \mathbf{A} \right) \quad (17)$$

It turns out that up to close to saturation of the laser, we have that  $|\mathbf{A}_u| \gg |\mathbf{A}|$  and the second term is the dominant term on the RHS. So, we now consider

$$\frac{d\gamma}{dz} = \frac{e^2}{m^2 c^3} \frac{1}{\gamma} \mathbf{A}_u \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{A}. \quad (18)$$

Substituting eqs. 10 and 14 into eq. 18 gives

$$\frac{d\gamma}{dz} = \frac{e^2}{m^2 c^3} \frac{\omega B_{u0}}{\gamma k_u} A_0(z, t) \sin(k_u z) \cos(kz - \omega t + \phi(z, t)) \quad (19)$$



where we have neglected the terms proportional to the derivatives  $\frac{\partial A_0}{\partial t}$  and  $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}$  in order to obtain a basic understanding of how a free-electron laser amplifies light and can generate a coherent radiation field. Using goniometric relations, eq. 19 can be written as

$$\frac{d\gamma}{dz} = \frac{e^2}{m^2 c^3} \frac{\omega}{\gamma} K_u A_0 \frac{1}{2} \left( \sin((k_u + k)z - \omega t + \phi) + \sin((k_u - k)z + \omega t - \phi) \right). \quad (20)$$

The expression  $\theta = (k + k_u)z - \omega t$  that appears in the argument of the first sine function is known as the ponderomotive phase.

**g - 2 pt** Show that there is a specific radiation wavelength that causes the ponderomotive phase to be approximately constant along the propagation direction. Derive an expression for this wavelength in terms of the undulator parameters and the electron energy  $\gamma$ . Assume the case of highly relativistic electrons.

This specific wavelength is called the resonant wavelength of the free-electron laser. For the second sine function in eq. 20, there is no specific wavelength that produces a constant phase and therefore this term is fast oscillating and on average becomes zero.

**h - 1 pts** Explain in words the physical significance of having a resonant wavelength for which the ponderomotive phase is approximately constant when propagating through the undulator.

**i - 2 pt** The resonant wavelength scale as  $\frac{1}{\gamma^2}$  with the electron energy. Provide in words a physical explanation for this scaling.

In a free-electron laser the electrons are typically accelerated in the form of a bunch containing many electrons. The longitudinal size, i.e., the length of the electron bunch in the propagation direction, is much longer than the radiation wavelength that is resonant. For simplicity assume that the bunch has a top-hat profile, meaning a constant charge density within the bunch.

**j - 5 pt** Explain in words how the free-electron laser can generate or amplify coherent radiation having the resonant wavelength. Assume highly relativistic electrons.

## 8 Polymer coatings exposed to vapors

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*Functional Polymer Surfaces - University of Twente*  
 10 points

Smells consist of a combination of molecular vapors with a specific compositions. These smells can originate from many sources, ranging from a bakery that gives off the aroma of fresh bread to a local farm that gives off the stench of manure. Similarly, some diseases can be characterized by a specific smell or biomarkers. Therefore, if we can ‘smell’ these biomarkers, we can potentially speed up the diagnosis for these diseases. However, devices that ‘smell’ these scents are often bulky and costly (think of a mass spectrometer) or not sensitive enough. One promising way to create sensitive sensors for these biomarkers is by coating existing sensor technologies with polymer materials to enhance the signal of these sensors.

In this exercise, we consider two types of polymer coatings to achieve this goal: a thin film and a brush. Thin films consists of a spin-coated film of a polymer material onto the sensor surface, and brushes consist of polymers that are grafted to the sensor by one of their chain ends. This grafting creates a stronger adhesion between the polymer layer an the sensor, but it also changes the physics of these coatings and their interaction with vapors.

The physical behavior of these polymer layers can be described rather accurately using an adapted Flory-Huggins lattice model. This model describes the free energy of a mixture based on an energetic contribution related to the interaction energy between different molecules in the system and entropic contribution related to mixing and the physics of polymers in the canonical ensemble.

**a - 1.5 pts** Consider a binary mixture of molecule  $A$  and molecule  $B$  with identical molecular volumes. Derive a expression for the entropy of mixing of this solution. Normalize your expression based on thermal energy ( $k_B T$ ) and the volume of the system ( $V$ ). Express your answer as a function of the volume fraction of both components ( $\phi_A$  and  $\phi_B$ ).

*Hint: Use the multiplicity of the system in your derivation and assume that the number of molecules is large so Stirling’s approximation ( $\ln(x!) = x \ln x - x$ ) is valid.*

**b - 0.5 pts** Molecule  $A$  can be polymerized. Suppose molecule  $A$  polymerize into perfectly monodisperse polymers consisting of  $N$  monomers. How should your expression be adjusted to reflect this change in the system?

*Hint: What happens to the number of molecules in the system?*

In the following questions, we consider a polymer containing  $N$  segments of length  $b$ . The segments form a linear chain that follows along a line that can follow along a line. The polymer is free to cross the same line segment multiple times.

**c - 1 pt** Derive an expression for the entropy of this polymer.

**d - 1 pt** Now imagine two “finite beings” that each hold the polymer by a different terminal monomer. The beings are at the whims of the gods of thermodynamics. Show that the probability of finding the beings at a distance  $x$  apart for a chain of  $N$  segments can be given by the following expression:

$$P_{1d}(N, x) = -N \ln 2 + \ln(N!) - 2 \ln \left( \frac{N}{2}! \right) - \sum_{s=1}^{x/2} \ln \left( \frac{(N/2) + s}{(N/2) + 1 - s} \right) \quad (21)$$

**e - 1 pt** Show that the expression above can be approximated as a Gaussian distribution function and express this distribution in terms of end-to-end distance ( $x$ ) and the mean-squared end-to-end distance ( $\langle x^2 \rangle$ ).

*Hint: Stirling’s approximation can also be written as  $x! = \sqrt{2\pi x} \left(\frac{x}{e}\right)^x$*

**f - 1 pt** Now the “beings” start to play tug of war with the polymer. They start the game at the same location but a certain point in the game, the beings are a distance  $R$  apart. How did the entropy of the polymer change compared to the starting state where  $R = 0$ ?

A polymer material with perfectly monodisperse chain lengths is deposited onto a sensor surface as a thin film. This thin film is exposed to a molecular vapor. Assume that the interaction energy between the vapor and the polymer is negligible.

**g - 1 pt** Manipulate the expression you derived in question (a) and provide an expression that relates the layer thickness to the chemical potential of the molecular vapor.

Now consider a polymer brush where the polymers are anchored to the surface with a grafting density  $\rho$ . In this configuration, one end of the polymer is confined to the grafting plane and we assume that the other chain end is confined at the top of the brush.

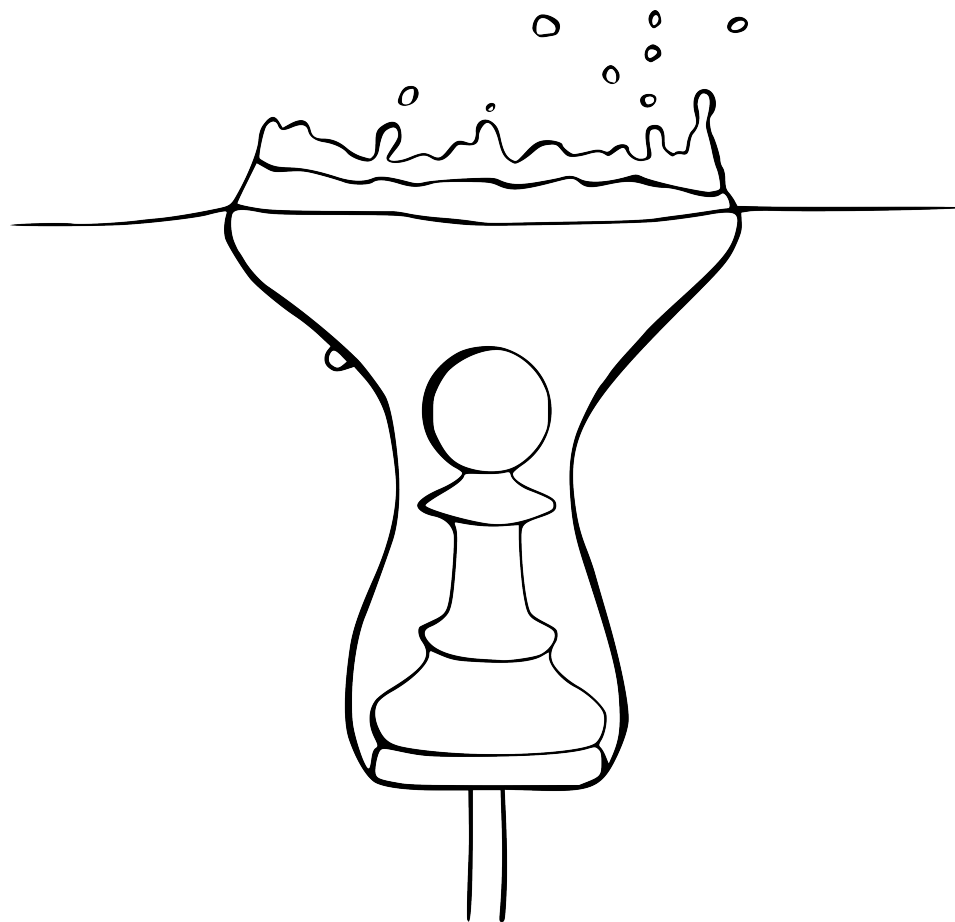
**h - 1.5 pt** Provide an expression that relates the brush height to the chemical potential of the vapor.

**j - 0.5 pts** Comment on the validity of this expression if the mixing of the polymer and the liquid is highly exothermic.

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Thank you for participating!