

Debye frequency

In general

$$3N = \int_0^{\infty} G(\omega) d\omega.$$

So in the Debye model

$$3N = \frac{3V}{2\pi^2 c_s^3} \int_0^{\omega_D} \omega^2 d\omega = \frac{3V}{2\pi^2 c_s^3} \frac{\omega_D^3}{3}$$

whence

$$\omega_D = c_s \sqrt[3]{\frac{6\pi^2 N}{V}}.$$

In summary,

$$G(\omega) = \begin{cases} \frac{9N}{\omega_D^3} \omega^2 & \text{for } \omega < \omega_D \\ 0 & \text{for } \omega > \omega_D \end{cases}$$

Debye model energy and heat capacity

The total energy is

$$E(T, V, N) = \int_0^{\infty} E(\omega) G(\omega) d\omega$$

where $E(\omega)$ is the expected energy in a single harmonic oscillator mode of frequency ω . From the “simple harmonic oscillator” problem, this is

$$E(\omega) = \hbar\omega \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{e^{\beta\hbar\omega} - 1} \right).$$

So, in the Debye model,

$$\begin{aligned} E(T, V, N) &= \frac{9N}{\omega_D^3} \int_0^{\omega_D} \hbar\omega \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{e^{\beta\hbar\omega} - 1} \right) \omega^2 d\omega \\ &= \frac{9N}{\omega_D^3} \hbar \int_0^{\omega_D} \left(\frac{\omega^3}{2} + \frac{\omega^3}{e^{\beta\hbar\omega} - 1} \right) d\omega. \end{aligned}$$

The first part of this integral is

$$\frac{9N}{\omega_D^3} \frac{\hbar}{2} \int_0^{\omega_D} \omega^3 d\omega = \frac{9N}{\omega_D^3} \frac{\hbar}{2} \left[\frac{\omega^4}{4} \right] = \frac{9}{8} N \hbar \omega_D.$$

The second part is

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{9N}{\omega_D^3} \hbar \int_0^{\omega_D} \frac{\omega^3}{e^{\beta\hbar\omega} - 1} d\omega \quad [\dots \text{set } t = \beta\hbar\omega \text{ and } x = x(T) = \beta\hbar\omega_D \dots] \\
&= \frac{9N\hbar}{\beta\hbar(\beta\hbar\omega_D)^3} \int_0^x \frac{t^3}{e^t - 1} dt \\
&= \frac{9Nk_B T}{x^3} \int_0^x \frac{t^3}{e^t - 1} dt \\
&= 3Nk_B T D(x),
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used the definition

$$D(x) \equiv \frac{3}{x^3} \int_0^x \frac{t^3}{e^t - 1} dt.$$

In summary,

$$E(T, V, N) = \frac{9}{8} N \hbar \omega_D + 3Nk_B T D(x) \quad \text{where} \quad x = x(T) = \frac{\hbar\omega_D}{k_B T}.$$

For the heat capacity,

$$\begin{aligned}
C_V(T, V, N) &= \left. \frac{\partial E}{\partial T} \right)_{V, N} \\
&= 3Nk_B D(x) + 3Nk_B T D'(x) \frac{dx}{dT} \\
&= 3Nk_B D(x) + 3Nk_B T \left[-\frac{9}{x^4} \int_0^x \frac{t^3}{e^t - 1} dt + \frac{3}{x^3} \frac{x^3}{e^x - 1} \right] \left(-\frac{\hbar\omega_D}{k_B T^2} \right) \\
&= 3Nk_B D(x) + 3Nk_B T \left[-\frac{9}{x^4} \int_0^x \frac{t^3}{e^t - 1} dt + \frac{3}{x^3} \frac{x^3}{e^x - 1} \right] \left(-\frac{x}{T} \right) \\
&= 3Nk_B D(x) + 3Nk_B \left[3D(x) - \frac{3x}{e^x - 1} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

or, in summary,

$$C_V(T, V, N) = 3Nk_B \left[4D(x) - \frac{3x}{e^x - 1} \right] \quad \text{where} \quad x = x(T) = \frac{\hbar\omega_D}{k_B T}.$$