CHM427 and Graduate Course CHM1480: Statistical Mechanics

Contact info
Course coordinator and Instructor (weeks 1-4): Prof. Dvira Segal
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Course Instructor (weeks 5-12): Dr. Chong Sun, chong.sun@utoronto.ca

Please use UofT emails; please write CHM427/CHM1480 in the subject line

Classes: Thur. 4-6 pm LM123
Office Hours Segal: Tue. 4-5 pm - or email me to set an alternative time.
Chong Sun: Mon. 2-3 pm.
Zoom link will be provided on Quercus.

Prerequisite: CHM326H1, CHM328H1

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge of the foundations of statistical mechanics and its application to gas phase and liquid phase; familiarity with computer molecular dynamics simulations; understanding the integration of statistical mechanics with classical thermodynamics and quantum mechanics; communication of scientific ideas and results; basic scientific programming

Marking Scheme
5 HW sets = 75% (penalty: 2 points/16 per day are taken for late submission)
10 mins. class presentation = 10%
Take-home test= 15%.

Assignments
Submit on Quercus
Assignments will require you to perform simple simulations (recommended with MATLAB or Python).
Assistance-guidence with basic Matlab will be provided. UofT students can use Matlab Online / download and install MATLAB to their personally-owned machines free of charge.
MATLAB (You do not need to install Matlab— Matlab Online is perfectly suitable)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>weight/100</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>set 1</td>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>set 2</td>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>Feb 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>set 3</td>
<td>Feb 10</td>
<td>March 03</td>
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<td>set 4</td>
<td>March 03</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>set 5</td>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>April 07</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>class presentation (last class)</td>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>April 07</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take home test</td>
<td>Last week of semester or exam period</td>
<td>15</td>
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Sets will offer some flexibility in selecting problems to solve.
These are tentative dates, to be modified according to teaching pace. Please follow announcements in class and on the portal.
Academic Integrity
Please click, read and act with honesty: [Academic Integrity at U of T](#) and [Code of behaviour of academic matters](#).

Offences include (but are not limited to): Using ideas of another person without acknowledgement; Submitting your work in more than one course without the approval of the instructor; Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Misconduct will be reported to the Associate Chair, Undergraduate/Graduate Studies

Copyright
[Link to copyright-considerations at UofT](#)
Lectures will be recorded on video and will be shared on Quercus with students in the course.

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Suggested textbook
Tuckerman, Statistical Mechanics: Theory and Molecular Simulation, Oxford
Class notes will be provided. No need to purchase the book

Syllabus

The course will cover basic aspects of equilibrium and nonequilibrium statistical mechanics.

1. Introduction: classical mechanics; relation between statistical mechanics and thermodynamics; microscopic versus macroscopic quantities; average values in statistical mechanics (week 1-2)

2. Ensemble theory: time averages versus ensemble averages; microcanonical, canonical and grand canonical ensembles; fluctuations in different ensembles (week 3-5)

3. Applications to liquids and condensed phases: discussion of reduced distribution functions; radial distribution function; potential of mean force (week 6-7)

4. Quantum ensembles: Quantum ideal gases, Fermi-Dirac and Bose-Einstein statistics (week 8-9)

5. Nonequilibrium statistical mechanics: Brownian motion theory; Langevin and Fokker-Planck equations; correlation function expressions for transport properties; linear response theory. (week 10-11)

6. Numerical simulations: Molecular dynamics in various ensembles; Nose Hoover thermostat; Langevin thermostat; Monte Carlo (embedded)

Announcements
Home assignments, solutions, and other important announcements will be posted on the CHM427-CHM1480 website on Quercus. It is your responsibility to regularly check postings on Quercus.