

ECE215A Winter Quarter 2008
Solutions to HW #4, part 2

4). Acoustical phonons in a two-dim lattice

(a) Excluding zero point term, and assuming the two acoustic waves have the same velocity,

$$\langle U \rangle = 2 \int_0^{\omega_D} \langle n_k \rangle \hbar \omega_k D(\omega) d\omega = 2 \int_0^{\omega_D} \frac{\hbar \omega_k D(\omega) d\omega}{e^{\hbar \omega/kT} - 1}$$

2 polarizations, one longitudinal, one transverse

$$\text{For each polarization } D(\omega) = \frac{dN(k)}{dk} \frac{dk}{d\omega} d\omega = \frac{d}{dk} \left[\left(\frac{L}{2\pi} \right)^2 \pi k^2 \right] \frac{d\omega}{v} = \frac{A}{2\pi v^2} \omega d\omega$$

where we have $\omega = kv \rightarrow$ velocity of sound and ω_D is defined by

$$N_C = \int_0^{\omega_D} D(\omega) d\omega = \int_0^{\omega_D} \frac{A\omega}{2\pi v^2} d\omega = \frac{A\omega_D^2}{4\pi v^2}. \text{ Thus, } \langle U \rangle = \frac{A}{\pi v^2} \int_0^{\omega_D} \frac{\hbar \omega^2 d\omega}{e^{\hbar \omega/kT} - 1}.$$

$$\text{Define } x = \hbar \omega/kT \Rightarrow \langle U \rangle = \frac{A(kT)^3}{\pi v^2 \hbar^2} \int_0^{x_D} \frac{x^2 dx}{e^x - 1}, x_D \equiv \frac{\hbar \omega_D}{kT}.$$

(b) In the limit of low temperature, $x_D \equiv \hbar \omega_D/kT \rightarrow \infty$. And using the clue $\int_0^\infty \frac{x^2 dx}{e^x - 1} \approx 2.40$, we

$$\text{find } \langle U \rangle \approx \frac{(2.40) A (k_B T)^3}{\pi v^2 \hbar^2} = \frac{(2.40)(4N_C)(k_B T)^3}{\omega_D^2 \hbar^2} = \frac{9.6 N_C (k_B T)^3}{\omega_D^2 \hbar^2}$$

$$C_v \approx \frac{d\langle U \rangle}{dT} = \frac{7.20 \cdot A \cdot k_B^3 T^2}{\pi v^2 \hbar^2}$$

(c) In the limit high temperature $\frac{1}{e^x - 1} \approx \frac{1}{x}$

$$\text{So, } \langle U \rangle \approx \frac{A(k_B T)^3}{\pi v^2 \hbar^2} \int_0^{x_D} x dx = \frac{A(k_B T)^3}{\pi v^2 \hbar^2} \frac{x_D^2}{2} = \frac{A(k_B T) \omega_D^2}{2\pi v^2}. \text{ But from definition of } \omega_D$$

in two dim in (a), we have $\omega_D^2 = \frac{4\pi N_C v^2}{A} \Rightarrow \langle U \rangle = 2N_C k_B T$ and $C_v \approx \frac{d\langle U \rangle}{dT} = 2N_C k_B$ (no surprise;

this is just 2/3 of Dulong-Petit law in 3 dim).

5). Phonon propagation in quasi-two-dimensional crystal

(a) Phonon energy is found by assuming only phonons in the quasi-two-dim plane are important.

Phonons propagating in vertical direction have a much larger ω vs. k so are not significantly populated. Furthermore, phonons propagating in the plane with transverse atomic motion directed normal to the

plane are not significantly populated. Thus, each plane of solid contributes $\langle u \rangle_{\text{plane}} = \frac{A}{\pi v^2} \int_0^{\omega_D} \frac{\hbar \omega^2 d\omega}{e^{\hbar \omega/kT} - 1}$.

In the limit of low temperature, this becomes

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$$\langle u \rangle_{plane} = \frac{(2.40) A (k_B T)^3}{\pi v^2 \hbar^2}$$

and for the layered structure, $\langle u \rangle_{solid} = \langle u \rangle_{plane} \frac{t}{2.4a}$, $t \rightarrow$ sample thickness and $\frac{t}{2.4a}$ is the number of planes along vertical direction. So,

$$\langle u \rangle_{solid} = \frac{2.4 A t (k_B T)^3}{2.4 a \pi v^2 \hbar^2} = \frac{V (k_B T)^3}{a \pi v^2 \hbar^2}.$$

$V \rightarrow$ sample volume for $a = 3 \text{ \AA}$, $v = 5000 \text{ m/s}$, $V = 1 \text{ cm}^3$ and $T = 77 \text{ K}$. We get

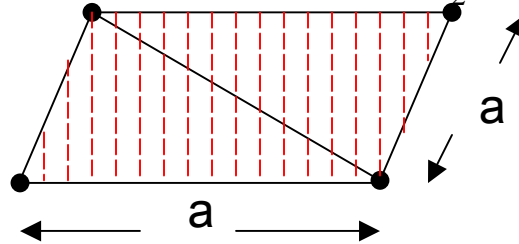
$$\langle U \rangle_{solid} = 4.58 \times 10^{+6} \cdot V [J] = 4.58 J. \text{ And}$$

$$C_v \approx \frac{d \langle u \rangle_{solid}}{dT} = \frac{3 V k_B^3 T^2}{a \pi v^2 \hbar^2} = 1.78 \times 10^5 \cdot V [J/k] = 0.178 J/k$$

(a) at high temperatures $\langle U \rangle_{plane} = 2 N_C k_B T$ where N_C is the number of primitive cells in the 2-D plane.

For a simple hexagonal lattice we know that the primitive cell area $A_{cell} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} a^2$ where a is the lattice constant (see Kittel Chapter 2, Problem 2).

$$cell \text{ area} = 2 \cdot \text{area of equilateral triangle, side } a; \text{ triangle area} = \frac{a}{2} \cdot a \cos 60^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}$$



$$\text{So, } N = \frac{A}{A_{cell}} = \frac{2A}{\sqrt{3}a^2} \text{ and } \langle U \rangle_{solid} = \frac{4A \cdot t \cdot k_B T}{\sqrt{3}a^2 (2.4a)} = \frac{0.96 \cdot V_C k_B T}{a^3}$$

$$\text{So, } \langle U \rangle_{solid} = 0.49 \cdot T [J].$$

$$C_v \cong \frac{d \langle U \rangle}{dT} = \frac{0.96 \cdot V \cdot k_B}{a^3} = 0.49 [J - k^{-1}]$$

6). A 3-dim lattice with four atoms per primitive cell

(a) The number of acoustical lattice waves is 3. The number of optical lattice waves is 9. Of all the optical waves, 3 are longitudinal and 6 are transverse.

(b) From Eqn (14) of Notes 8, the total energy of acoustical phonons according to the Debye model is

$$\langle U_{tot} \rangle = \sum_{p=1}^3 \frac{\hbar V}{2\pi^2 v_{s,p}^3} \left(\frac{k_B T}{\hbar} \right)^4 \int_0^{x_{D,p}} \frac{x^3 dx}{e^x - 1} = \sum_{p=1}^3 3 N_C k_B T \left(\frac{k_B T}{\hbar \omega_D} \right)^3 \int_0^{x_{D,p}} \frac{x^3 dx}{e^x - 1} \text{ subject to the constraint}$$

$\omega_{D,p}^3 = \frac{6\pi^2 v_{s,p}^3 N_C}{V}$ where N_C is the number of unit cells, V is the volume of the crystal sample, and $v_{s,p}$ is the speed of sound for the p th wave type (i.e., polarization). In the limit of low temperature, $x_D = T_D/T$ gets very

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large so we can approximate $\int_0^\infty \frac{x^3 dx}{e^x - 1} = \frac{\pi^4}{15}$. And we get $\langle U_{tot} \rangle = \sum_{p=1}^3 \frac{\pi^4}{5} N_C k_B T \left(\frac{k_B T}{\hbar \omega_D} \right)^3$. The heat

capacity is $C_V \approx d\langle U_{tot} \rangle / dT = \sum_{p=1}^3 \frac{4\pi^4}{5} N_C k_B \left(\frac{k_B T}{\hbar \omega_D} \right)^3$

- (c) The Debye frequency is given by $\omega_{D,p}^3 = \frac{6\pi^2 v_{s,p}^3 N_C}{V}$ where N_C/V is the inverse volume of a primitive cell.

Substitution of the sample parameters leads to $\omega_D = 6.3 \times 10^{13} \text{ s}^{-1}$. Application of the relation $(k_B T_D / \hbar)^3 = \omega_{D,p}^3$ then yields $T_D = 479 \text{ K}$.

- (d) At 77 K we have $T < T_D$ so the low-temperature expression in (b) should be a good approximation, and the sum over polarizations p leads to a factor of 3 since all acoustic waves are assumed to have the same speed of

sound, 5000 m/s. This leads to the result $C_V' \equiv \frac{C_V}{V} \approx \frac{12\pi^4}{5} \frac{N_C}{V} \cdot k_B \left(\frac{T}{T_D} \right)^3 = 4.5 \times 10^5 \text{ J/K}$.

- (e) The classical (Dulong-Petit) heat capacity is given by $3N_C k_B$, and the specific heat capacity by $3(N_C/V)k_B = 1.38 \times 10^6 \text{ J/K}$ – 3 times larger than the 77-K value.