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Concepts in Thermal Physics: , Stephen J. Blundell and Katherine M. Blundell , Oxford U. Press, New York, 2006. \$85.00, \$45.00 paper (464 pp.). ISBN 978-0-19-856769-1, ISBN 978-0-19-856770-7 paper Buy at AmazonStudents' first exposure to statistical mechanics and thermodynamics is always tricky. The mathematical machinery is quite simple, but the concepts are somewhat outside the framework set up in other physics courses. Moreover, with so many results derived from so few assumptions, it is important that the presentation be clear and logical. Concepts in Thermal Physics by Stephen J. Blundell and Katherine M. Blundell fulfills that need admirably, and their textbook will be very useful for an undergraduate course in thermodynamics and statistical mechanics. The authors, who teach in the physics department at Oxford University, first cover basic statistical ideas, then discuss thermodynamics before returning to statistical mechanics. The approach is a good choice: Thermodynamics can—with a few experimental inputs—be applied in a broad range of disciplines to complex systems for which statistical analyses would be impractical. It is important for physics instructors to not lose sight of that generality. To treat thermodynamics as merely an application of statistical mechanics is analogous to treating elasticity theory as just an application of atomic interactions. However, those who favor beginning with statistical mechanics first, as it is more fundamental and therefore easier to understand, may prefer the second edition of Thermal Physics by Charles Kittel and Herbert Kroemer (W. H. Freeman, 1980). I also like the fact that the first physical system discussed in the text is a gas rather than a spin chain—the former is associated more with everyday experience. Although the calculations for a spin system are simpler, the treatment of gases is also easy to understand. On a related note, several figures in the book contain actual experimental data, which are welcome because they make the discussions more relevant. Some figures that seem to include experimental data do not have any references (for example, 9.12). Such omissions should be corrected. The 37 chapters are short, and each covers a single concept. In general, I found the presentation remarkably clear. But there are exceptions: The discussion of magnetic systems—including the change from  $B$  dm to  $m$  dB (in which  $m$  is the magnetic moment and  $B$  is the magnetic field)—is far too short, as is the coverage of how molecular degrees of freedom freeze out. I do not think the chapter on information theory will be useful to readers who do not already know the material. The chapter on photons is unnecessary because all the results can be obtained more efficiently through statistical mechanics rather than through classical thermodynamics, as the authors reveal in a subsequent chapter. And the characterization of heat as “energy in transit” is quite misleading. Of more serious concern is the chapter on phase transitions, which is extremely outdated. With a numerical treatment of simple examples, such as percolation and the Ising model in two dimensions, it should be possible for a textbook to explain the fundamental concept that a phase transition is a qualitative change that is apparent only at the macroscopic level. It should also be possible to introduce the basic idea of scaling at second-order phase transitions and provide a short discussion of Monte Carlo simulations. Unfortunately, the Blundells' coverage falls short; thus, instructors will have to provide supplemental material on the topic. The section on kinetic theory is interposed before the treatment of thermodynamics. The authors point out that teaching the section is optional and can be delayed or omitted. Apart from the section's first two chapters, their suggestion is useful, particularly if the book is used in a one-term course. But in any case, it would be helpful if the book were to clearly explain where in the section the ideal-gas approximation is made. For instance, I could not find any discussion of why the treatment of pressure in chapter 6 is only valid for ideal gases, which is not the case for the Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution as described in chapter 5. Although the problems at the end of each chapter are well chosen, it would help if more were included, especially problems that apply the concepts to different disciplines. The chapters on special topics that discuss applications are nice, but unfortunately they will likely be dropped in a one-term course. Overall, Concepts in Thermal Physics provides an excellent introduction to thermodynamics and statistical mechanics. It deserves serious consideration as a textbook for any undergraduate course on those topics. And the fact that a reasonably priced paperback edition is also available will be welcome news for students. © 2007 American Institute of Physics. Please Note: The number of views represents the full text views from December 2016 to date. Article views prior to December 2016 are not included. An understanding of thermal physics is crucial to much of modern physics, chemistry and engineering. This book provides a modern introduction to the main principles that are foundational to thermal physics, thermodynamics and statistical mechanics. The key concepts are carefully presented in a clear way, and new ideas are illustrated with copious worked examples as well as a description of the historical background to their discovery. Applications are presented to subjects as diverse as stellar astrophysics, information and communication theory, condensed matter physics and climate change. Each chapter concludes with detailed exercises. The second edition of this popular textbook maintains the structure and lively style of the first edition but extends its coverage of thermodynamics and statistical mechanics to include several new topics, including osmosis, diffusion problems, Bayes theorem, radiative transfer, the Ising model and Monte Carlo methods. New examples and exercises have been added throughout. About the Author Stephen Blundell did his undergraduate degree in Physics and Theoretical Physics at Peterhouse, Cambridge and his Ph. D. in the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge. He moved to the Clarendon Laboratory at Oxford to take up an SERC research fellowship, followed by a Junior Research Fellowship at Merton College, where he began research in organic magnets and superconductors using muon-spin rotation. In 1997 he was appointed to a University Lectureship in the Physics Department and a Tutorial Fellowship at Mansfield College, Oxford, and was subsequently promoted to Reader and then Professor. He was a joint winner of the Daiwa-Adrian Prize in 1999 for his work on organic magnets. Katherine Blundell did her undergraduate degree in Physics and Theoretical Physics at New Hall College, Cambridge and her Ph. D. in the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge. She moved to Oxford University Astrophysics department, holding a Junior Research Fellowship at Balliol College, an 1851 Research Fellowship, before taking up a Royal Society University Research Fellowship. Her research concentrates on radio galaxies and quasars. In 2005 she won a Leverhulme prize for her research, and became a Professor of Astrophysics in 2008. Solutions Manual of Concepts in Thermal Physics by Blundell | 2nd edition ISBN 9780199562107 This is NOT the TEXT BOOK. You are buying Solutions Manual of Concepts in Thermal Physics by Blundell | 2nd edition. DOWNLOAD LINK will be sent to you IMMEDIATELY (Please check SPAM box also) once payment is confirmed. 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This book provides a modern introduction to the main principles that are foundational to thermal physics, thermodynamics and statistical mechanics. The key concepts are carefully presented in a clear way, and new ideas are illustrated with copious worked examples as well as a description of the historical background to their discovery. Applications are presented to subjects as diverse as stellar astrophysics, information and communication theory, condensed matter physics and climate change. Each chapter concludes with detailed exercises. The second edition of this popular textbook maintains the structure and lively style of the first edition but extends its coverage of thermodynamics and statistical mechanics to include several new topics, including osmosis, diffusion problems, Bayes theorem, radiative transfer, the Ising model and Monte Carlo methods. New examples and exercises have been added throughout. 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She moved to Oxford University Astrophysics department, holding a Junior Research Fellowship at Balliol College, an 1851 Research Fellowship, before taking up a Royal Society University Research Fellowship. Her research concentrates on radio galaxies and quasars. In 2005 she won a Leverhulme prize for her research, and became a Professor of Astrophysics in 2008. Solutions Manual of Concepts in Thermal Physics by Blundell | 2nd edition ISBN 780199562107 This is NOT the TEXT BOOK. You are buying Concepts in Thermal Physics by Blundell Solutions Manual The book is under the category: Science and Engineering. You can use the menu to navigate through each category. We will deliver your order instantly via e-mail. DOWNLOAD LINK will be included in that email. Once payment is confirmed, Please check Inbox and also SPAM box. We have included the solution manual in a zipped file. You can use winzip free version to extract the file. 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