



Thermal Physics: Entropy and Free Energies

By Joon Chang Lee

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This book is an informal, readable introduction to the basic ideas of thermal physics. It is aimed at making the reader feel comfortable with the extremum principles of entropy and free energies. There is a repeating theme: Molecules (spins) do X to maximize their entropy, and molecules (spins) do XX to minimize their free energy. This finally leads to the idea of the Landau-Ginzburg free energy functional. The author illustrates how powerful the idea is by using two examples from phase transitions.

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Provides a much better presentation than most textbooks that cover thermal physics. -- *IEEE Electrical Insulation Magazine*

The author has been extremely successful in carving out his desired goals. -- *Journal of Statistical Physics, Dec 2002*

The strength of the book is in giving readers an understanding of the basic principles of the subject. -- *Contemporary Physics, 2003*

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