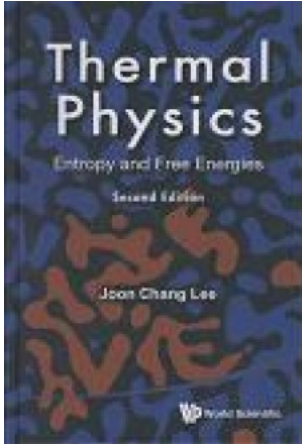


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Sinopsis

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The book aims to explain the basic ideas of thermal physics intuitively and in the simplest possible way. It is intended to make the reader feel comfortable with the ideas of entropy and of free energy. Thermal physics is prone to misunderstanding, confusion and is often overlooked. However, a good foundation is necessary to prepare the reader for advanced level studies.

Contents:

Introduction to Thermal Physics

All You Need to Know to Read the Rest of the Book

Isolated Thermal Systems

Systems in Contact with a Thermal Reservoir

Entropy as a Measure of Disorder

Open Systems Exposed to Heat and Particle Reservoir

Flexible Systems: Systems in Contact with Heat and Volume Reservoir

Two More Energy-Like Functions and Concluding Remarks

Quantum Ideal Gas

Thermodynamics

Energy Versus Free Energy

Phases and Phase Transitions

Second-Order Phase Transitions

Landau-Ginzburg Free Energy Functional and Applications

Quantum Fluid

Computer Simulations