

MATH-486

Statistical mechanics and Gibbs measures

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Data Science	MA2, MA4	Opt.
Ing.-math	MA2, MA4	Opt.
Mathématicien	MA2	Opt.
SC master EPFL	MA2, MA4	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	5
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	Oral
Workload	150h
Weeks	14
Hours	4 weekly
Courses	2 weekly
Exercises	2 weekly
Number of positions	

Remark

Pas donné en 2024-25. Cours donné en alternance une année sur deux.

Summary

This course provides a rigorous introduction to the ideas, methods and results of classical statistical mechanics, with an emphasis on presenting the central tools for the probabilistic description of infinite lattice systems.

Content

The goals of this course are to present

- the probabilistic description of large systems with interacting components,
- the mathematical description of phase transitions occurring in certain discrete models (Curie-Weiss, Ising model, long-range models, etc.)
- the general theory of infinite-volume Gibbs measures (the so-called Dobrushin-Lanford-Ruelle approach)

If times permits, and depending on the interest of the participants, we consider the peculiar properties of certain models with an underlying continuous symmetry (Gaussian free field, Mermin-Wagner Theorem for $O(n)$ models). This course is companion to the course "lattice models", where discrete models are also considered, but with an emphasis on different aspects.

The lectures will be largely based on the book *Statistical mechanics of lattice systems; a concrete mathematical introduction*, by S. Friedli and Y. Velenik (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Keywords

statistical mechanics, phase transitions, Gibbs measures, entropy, Ising model, Gaussian Free Field

Learning Prerequisites**Required courses**

- Analyse 1 et 2
- Théorie de la Mesure
- Probabilités

Assessment methods

Examen oral.

Dans le cas de l'art. 3 al. 5 du Règlement de section, l'enseignant décide de la forme de l'examen qu'il communique aux étudiants concernés.

Supervision

Office hours	No
Assistants	No
Forum	No

Resources

Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI)

No

Bibliography

Statistical mechanics of lattice systems; a concrete mathematical introduction, by S. Friedli and Y. Velenik (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Gibbs Measures and Phase Transitions, by H.-O. Georgii (De Gruyter Studies in Mathematics Vol. 9. Berlin: de Gruyter 1988)

Ressources en bibliothèque

- [Statistical mechanics of lattice systems / Friedli & Velenik](#)
- [Gibbs Measures and Phase Transitions / Georgii](#)
- [\(electronic version\)](#)

Websites

- <http://www.unige.ch/math/folks/velenik/smbook/>

Moodle Link

- <https://go.epfl.ch/MATH-486>