

1. *Pauli exclusion.* Consider population of  $N$  fermions of mass  $m_f$  confined in a one-dimensional "box." Each fermion must be in a different quantum state, but two fermions can have the same momentum  $m_f v$ , where  $v$  is velocity, if they have opposing spins. The momentum states have values separated by  $\Delta(m_f v)$ , and the values can be positive or negative in the single dimension. The fermions will fill momentum states up to a maximum magnitude  $(N/4)\Delta(m_f v)$ .

Suppose the electrons are confined to a three-dimensional box. Argue that, to within factors of order unity, the maximum momentum is  $N^{1/3}\Delta(m_f v)$ .

2. *Heisenberg uncertainty.*  $N$  fermions are confined to a star of radius  $R$ ; this sets the uncertainty in their position in each direction to be at least  $\Delta x = 2R$ . The Heisenberg uncertainty principle,  $\Delta x \Delta(m_f v) \geq \hbar/2$ , implies a corresponding uncertainty in momentum which ensures a maximum momentum value as seen in the previous part. What is the largest momentum of a fermion in the star? The average momentum is of this order. (Answer:  $N^{1/3}\hbar/R$ )
3. You may recall that pressure is provided by particles moving randomly in the ideal gas law,  $pV = NkT$ . Temperature  $kT$  can be replaced by the expression for average kinetic energy  $2\langle KE \rangle/3$ , in which case the law also applies to the pressure provided by degenerate particles:

$$p = \frac{2}{3} \frac{N}{V} \langle KE \rangle \quad (1)$$

Momentum  $m_f v$  in each direction contributes a kinetic energy of  $(m_f v)^2/2m_f$ . What is the order-of-magnitude pressure provided by the average motion of  $N$  degenerate fermions in a star of radius  $R$ ? Note that  $V \sim R^3$ . (Answer:  $\frac{\hbar^2 N_f^{5/3}}{m_f R^5}$ )

4. Stellar size

Consider the Newtonian equation of hydrostatic equilibrium, where  $\rho$  is density,  $p$  is pressure, and  $m$  is the mass enclosed by a surface of radius  $r$ :

$$\frac{dp(r)}{dr} = -\frac{Gm(r)\rho(r)}{r^2} \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{dm(r)}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho(r) \quad (3)$$

We can estimate relationships between characteristic quantities by approximating the equilibrium equations as

$$\frac{p_c}{R} \sim \frac{GM\langle\rho\rangle}{R^2} \quad (4)$$

$$M \sim \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3 \langle\rho\rangle \quad (5)$$

where  $R$  is the radius of the star,  $M$  the total mass,  $p_c$  the central pressure, and angle brackets denote averages over the star.

Combine the approximate equilibrium equations to relate central pressure  $p_c$  to the mass  $M$  and radius  $R$  of the star. (Answer:  $p = 3GM^2/4\pi R^4$ )

5. The total mass of the star will be dominated by the number of baryons  $N_b$  of mass  $m_b$ . For a neutron star, assume degenerate neutrons provide both mass and pressure:  $M = m_n N_n$ , and  $p = \frac{\hbar^2 N_n^{5/3}}{4m_n R^5}$ . What is the radius of the star, in terms of mass? What is the radius of a 1.4 solar mass neutron star? (Answer:  $R = \hbar^2 (M/m_n)^{5/3} / (G m_n M^2)$ , 6 km)

The true radius of a neutron star is closer to 12 km  $\pm$  2 km or so; our calculation neglected many constants, and there is additional pressure provided by the strong interaction at nuclear density and above.

6. Using our approximate relationship for pressure, a mass of  $1.4M_\odot$ , and a radius of 12 km, estimate the pressure at the center of a neutron star. ( $p = 3GM^2/4\pi R^4$ ,  $10^{33}$  pascals).
7. Magnetic pressure is an energy density associated with magnetic fields, given by  $B^2/(2\mu_0)$  (in vacuum). What magnetic field gives pressure comparable to the pressure at the core of a neutron star? ( $10^{14}$  Tesla or  $10^{18}$  Gauss).
8. Go back to the original form of the ideal gas law, with number of particles given by  $N_n = M/m_n$ . What temperature would give pressure comparable to the pressure at the core of a neutron star? ( $10^{11}$  Kelvin)