System Size Dependencies for the Canonical and Grand Canonical Ensembles

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An analysis of system size dependencies for the thermodynamics obtained from the Grand Canonical and Canonical ensembles is described for the homogeneous, non-interacting electron gas. The thermodynamic parameters for a system described by the Canonical ensemble are temperature, density and volume. Those for a system described by the Grand Canonical ensemble are temperature, chemical potential (or average density) and volume. We explore the exact expressions for the *free energy* for each case in order to characterise and compare their system size dependencies. We also discuss the relevance of these results for applications of Density Functional Theory (DFT).

Work supported by U.S. Dept. of Energy grant DE-SC0002139.