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2007 J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 40 11245

(http://iopscience.iop.org/1751-8121/40/37/003)

IOP PUBLISHING JOURNAL OF PHYSICS A: MATHEMATICAL AND THEORETICAL

J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. **40** (2007) 11245–11254 doi:10.1088/1751-8113/40/37/003

Thermostatistic properties of a *q*-deformed ideal Fermi gas with a general energy spectrum

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Received 15 June 2007, in final form 6 August 2007
Published 29 August 2007
Online at stacks.iop.org/JPhysA/40/11245

Abstract

The thermostatistic problems of a q-deformed ideal Fermi gas in any dimensional space and with a general energy spectrum are studied, based on the q-deformed Fermi–Dirac distribution. The effects of the deformation parameter q on the properties of the system are revealed. It is shown that q-deformation results in some novel characteristics different from those of an ordinary system. Besides, it is found that the effects of the q-deformation on the properties of the Fermi systems are very different for different dimensional spaces and different energy spectrums.

PACS numbers: 05.30.−d, 03.75.Ss, 05.70.−a

1. Introduction

It is commonly believed that ubiquitous systems can be naturally described within Boltzmann–Gibbs (BG) statistical mechanics. However, it is found that there is a class of physical systems so that the BG scenario may not be appropriate any longer [1–4] and an extension of the statistical mechanics is required.

There are two principal methods in the literature of introducing the intermediate statistical behavior: the nonextensive statistics introduced by Tsallis [5] and the q-deformed theory related to the quantum groups originally introduced by Biedenharn and Macfarlane [6, 7]. Some possible connections between the nonextensive statistics and quantum groups have been investigated by several researchers [8–13]. For example, the Tsallis entropy can be defined within the q-calculus framework [9–11] and the nonextensivity of classical set theory has been proved to relate to the q-oscillator [13].

The theory of the q-deformed statistics has become a topic of great interest in the last few years because of its possible applications in a wide range of areas, such as anyon physics [14, 15], vertex models [16], quantum mechanics in discontinuous spacetime [17], vibration of polyatomic molecules [18–20], vortices in superfluid films [21] and phonon spectrum in

[4]He [22], etc. In recent years, many researches are devoted to the investigation of q-deformed physical systems [23–35]. For example, in [26], the thermodynamic properties of the q-deformed bosons and fermions are explored and both low- and high-temperature behaviors for the systems confined in a three-dimensional space and with nonrelativistic energy dispersion are discussed.

In this paper, we continue the work of [26] and study the thermostatistic properties of an ideal q-deformed Fermi gas in any dimensional space and with a general energy spectrum. The paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we give a brief review of the previous literature concerning the q-deformed algebra of fermions and the q-deformed Fermi–Dirac distribution. In section 3, we derive the analytical expressions of some important thermodynamic quantities based on the q-deformed Fermi–Dirac distribution. In section 4, the approximations for the thermodynamic quantities are given at the low- and high-temperature limits. The effects of the q-deformation on the properties of a q-deformed Fermi gas are discussed in section 5 and some novel characteristics are revealed. Some important conclusions are given in section 6.

2. *Q*-deformed fermion algebra and the distribution of the *q*-deformed fermions

The symmetric q-deformed fermion algebra is defined in terms of the creation operators $\hat{a}^+$ and annihilation operators $\hat{a}$ which satisfy [6, 7, 36]

$$[\hat{N}, \hat{a}^+] = \hat{a}^+, \qquad [\hat{N}, \hat{a}] = -\hat{a}, \tag{1}$$

and

$$\hat{a}^+\hat{a} = [\hat{N}], \qquad \hat{a}\hat{a}^+ = [1 - \hat{N}], \tag{2}$$

where $\hat{N}$ is the number operator, the q-basic number $[x]$ is defined as

$$[x] \equiv \frac{q^x - q^{-x}}{q - q^{-1}}, \tag{3}$$

and $q \in \mathrm{R}^+$ is the deformation parameter. For the q-deformed fermions, the Hilbert space with basis $|n\rangle$ is constructed such that [37]

$$\begin{aligned} &\hat{N}|n\rangle = n|n\rangle, \qquad \hat{a}|0\rangle = 0, \\ &\hat{a}^+|n\rangle = [1 - n]^{1/2}|n + 1\rangle, \\ &\hat{a}|n\rangle = [n]^{1/2}|n - 1\rangle. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

It should be pointed out that the Pauli principle is also applicable for the q-deformed fermions, i.e., the eigenvalues of the number operator $\hat{N}$ can only be taken the values of $n = 0$ and 1.

To derive the mean occupation numbers of each energy level, we choose the Hamiltonian [29]

$$\hat{H} = \sum_k (\varepsilon_k - \mu)\hat{N}_k, \tag{5}$$

where k is a state label, $\hat{N}_k$ and ε_k are, respectively, the number operator and energy associated with state k, μ is the chemical potential of the system. The mean value of the q-deformed occupation number $f_{k,q}$ is defined by [29]

$$[f_{k,q}] = \frac{1}{\Xi}\mathrm{tr}\{\exp(-\beta\hat{H})[\hat{N}_k]\}, \tag{6}$$

where $\beta = 1/(k_B T)$, k_B is the Boltzmann constant, T is the temperature and $\Xi = \mathrm{tr}[\exp(-\beta\hat{H})]$ is the partition function. With the help of the cyclic property of the trace [37, 38], we can get

$$\frac{[f_{k,q}]}{[1 - f_{k,q}]} = \exp[-\beta(\varepsilon_k - \mu)] \tag{7}$$

from equations (2) and (4)–(6). Using equations (3) and (7), one can derive the statistical distribution of the q-deformed fermions as [26]

$$f_{k,q} = \frac{1}{2\ln q} \ln\left[\frac{z^{-1}\exp(\beta\varepsilon_k) + q}{z^{-1}\exp(\beta\varepsilon_k) + q^{-1}}\right], \tag{8}$$

where $z = \exp(\beta\mu)$ is the fugacity of the system.

It is easily proved that when $q = 1$, equation (8) is simplified as

$$f_{k,1} = \frac{1}{z^{-1}\exp(\beta\varepsilon_k) + 1}, \tag{9}$$

which is just the standard Fermi–Dirac distribution. This means that the q-deformed fermions will be the same as the ordinary fermions when $q \to 1$.

Another important property concerned the distribution is that $f_{k,q}$ satisfies the symmetry property, i.e., $f_{k,q} = f_{k,1/q}$. This implies that the q-deformed fermions with the deformation parameter q may possess the same properties as those with the deformation parameter $1/q$, so that we can restrict our discussion to $q \geqslant 1$ in the following discussion.

3. Thermostatistic properties of q-fermions

We consider an ideal gas of q-fermions confined in a D-dimensional box and with the general energy spectrum

$$\varepsilon = ap^s, \tag{10}$$

where p is the momentum of a particle, and a and s are the positive constants.

According to equation (8), the total number of particles and the total energy of the system can be, respectively, expressed as

$$N = \sum_k \frac{1}{2\ln q} \ln\left[\frac{z^{-1}\exp(\beta\varepsilon_k) + q}{z^{-1}\exp(\beta\varepsilon_k) + q^{-1}}\right] \tag{11}$$

and

$$U = \sum_k \frac{\varepsilon_k}{2\ln q} \ln\left[\frac{z^{-1}\exp(\beta\varepsilon_k) + q}{z^{-1}\exp(\beta\varepsilon_k) + q^{-1}}\right]. \tag{12}$$

When the number of particles in the system is large enough, the sum over state k may be replaced by the integral over the phase space, i.e.,

$$N = \frac{g}{h^D} \int \prod_{i=1}^{D} \mathrm{d}p_i\, \mathrm{d}x_i \frac{1}{2\ln q} \ln\left[\frac{z^{-1}\exp(\beta ap^s) + q}{z^{-1}\exp(\beta ap^s) + q^{-1}}\right] = \frac{gV_D}{\lambda^D} h_\eta(z, q) \tag{13}$$

and

$$U = \frac{g}{h^D} \int \prod_{i=1}^{D} \mathrm{d}p_i\, \mathrm{d}x_i \frac{ap^s}{2\ln q} \ln\left[\frac{z^{-1}\exp(\beta ap^s) + q}{z^{-1}\exp(\beta ap^s) + q^{-1}}\right] = \eta k_B T \frac{gV_D}{\lambda^D} h_{\eta+1}(z, q), \tag{14}$$

where x_i and p_i are, respectively, the ith component of coordinate and momentum of a particle, g is the degree of the spin degeneracy, h is the Planck constant, V_D is the D-dimensional volume of the system, $\eta = D/s$,

$$\lambda = \frac{ha^{1/s}}{\pi^{1/2}(k_B T)^{1/s}} \left[\frac{\Gamma(D/2 + 1)}{\Gamma(D/s + 1)}\right]^{1/D} \tag{15}$$

is the generalized thermal wavelength [39],

$$h_n(z,q) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n)}\int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}x\, x^{n-1}\frac{1}{2\ln q}\ln\left[\frac{z^{-1}\exp(x)+q}{z^{-1}\exp(x)+q^{-1}}\right] \tag{16}$$

may be referred to as the generalized Fermi integral of q-fermions and $\Gamma(x) = \int_0^\infty \exp(-t)t^{x-1}\,\mathrm{d}t$ is the Gamma function. It can be seen from equation (16) that when $q = 1$,

$$h_n(z,1) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n)}\int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}x \frac{x^{n-1}}{z^{-1}\exp(x)+1} \tag{17}$$

is just the standard Fermi integral.

According to equations (13) and (14), we can derive the specific heat at constant volume as

$$\begin{aligned} C_V &= \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial T}\right)_{V_D} = \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial T}\right)_{V_D,z} + \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial z}\right)_{V_D,T}\left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial T}\right)_{V_D} \\ &= Nk_B\left[\eta(\eta+1)\frac{h_{\eta+1}(z,q)}{h_\eta(z,q)} - \eta^2\frac{h_\eta(z,q)}{h_{\eta-1}(z,q)}\right]. \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

Because of the general form of the energy spectrum adopted here, the expressions derived above are valid for a variety of q-deformed fermion and ordinary fermion systems. For example, if $D = 3$, $s = 2$ and $a = 1/(2m)$, equations (13), (14) and (18) may be, respectively, simplified as

$$N = \frac{gV_D}{\lambda^3}h_{3/2}(z,q), \tag{19}$$

$$U = \frac{3}{2}k_BT\frac{gV_D}{\lambda^3}h_{5/2}(z,q), \tag{20}$$

and

$$C_V = Nk_B\left[\frac{15}{4}\frac{h_{5/2}(z,q)}{h_{3/2}(z,q)} - \frac{9}{4}\frac{h_{3/2}(z,q)}{h_{1/2}(z,q)}\right], \tag{21}$$

where $\lambda = \sqrt{h^2/2\pi mk_BT}$ and m is the mass of a particle. Equations (19)–(21) give the properties of a nonrelativistic q-deformed Fermi gas in a three-dimensional space. If $D = 3$, $s = 1$ and $a = c$, equations (13), (14) and (18) become

$$N = \frac{gV_D}{\lambda^3}h_3(z,q), \tag{22}$$

$$U = 3k_BT\frac{gV_D}{\lambda^3}h_4(z,q), \tag{23}$$

and

$$C_V = Nk_B\left[\frac{12h_4(z,q)}{h_3(z,q)} - \frac{9h_3(z,q)}{h_2(z,q)}\right], \tag{24}$$

where $\lambda = hc/(2\pi^{1/3}k_BT)$ and c is the light speed. Equations (22)–(24) present the properties of an ultrarelativistic q-deformed Fermi gas in a three-dimensional space. If $q \to 1$ is set, equations (19)–(21) and (22)–(24) can be further simplified and used to describe the properties of ordinary nonrelativistic and ultrarelativistic Fermi gases in the three-dimensional space, respectively. On the other hand, if D is chosen to be equal to 1 or 2, equations (13), (14) and (18) can be used to describe the characteristics of q-deformed Fermi systems in a low-dimensional space.

4. Low- and high-temperature behaviors of q-fermions

At very low temperatures, the generalized Fermi integral $h_n(z, q)$ can be written as a quickly convergent series:

$$h_n(z,q) = \frac{(\ln z)^n}{\Gamma(n+1)}\left[1 + n(n-1)\frac{\pi^2}{6}\gamma_1(q)\frac{1}{(\ln z)^2} + n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)\frac{7\pi^4}{360}\gamma_3(q)\frac{1}{(\ln z)^4} + \cdots\right], \tag{25}$$

where

$$\gamma_n(q) = \int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}x \frac{x^n}{2\ln q} \ln\left[\frac{\exp(x)+q}{\exp(x)+q^{-1}}\right] \bigg/ \int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}x \frac{x^n}{\exp(x)+1} \tag{26}$$

is a factor related to the deformation parameter q. It can be proved that $\gamma_n(q) > 1$ for $q \neq 1$ and $\gamma_n(q) = 1$ when $q = 1$.

Substituting equation (25) into equations (13), (14) and (18) and keeping terms up to the second power of $k_B T/\varepsilon_F$ only, one can obtain the expressions of μ, U and C_V as the explicit functions of temperature. The results are, respectively, given by

$$\mu = \varepsilon_F\left[1 - \frac{\pi^2}{6}(\eta-1)\gamma_1(q)\left(\frac{k_B T}{\varepsilon_F}\right)^2\right], \tag{27}$$

$$U = \frac{\eta}{\eta+1}N\varepsilon_F\left[1 + \frac{\pi^2}{6}(\eta+1)\gamma_1(q)\left(\frac{k_B T}{\varepsilon_F}\right)^2\right], \tag{28}$$

and

$$C_V = Nk_B\eta\frac{\pi^2}{3}\gamma_1(q)\frac{k_B T}{\varepsilon_F}, \tag{29}$$

where

$$\varepsilon_F = a\left[\frac{h^D\Gamma(D/2+1)}{g\pi^{D/2}}\frac{N}{V_D}\right]^{1/\eta} \tag{30}$$

is the Fermi energy of undeformed Fermi system [40]. It is seen from equations (28) and (29) that the q-deformation increases the total energy and heat capacity at low temperatures, since the factor $\gamma_n(q) > 1$ for $q \neq 1$. The result can be explained by comparing the statistical distribution of the q-deformed fermions with that of the ordinary fermions. According to equation (8), one can find that $f_{k,q} > f_{k,1}$ for $\varepsilon_k > \mu$ and $f_{k,q} < f_{k,1}$ for $\varepsilon_k < \mu$ when $q \neq 1$. This indicates that the q-deformation increases (decreases) the occupation of fermions in the high (low) level at non-zero temperature and hence increases the total energy and heat capacity.

Setting $T = 0$ K in equations (27) and (28), one can obtain the Fermi energy and ground-state energy of the q-deformed Fermi system, which are, respectively, given by equation (30) and

$$U_0 = \frac{\eta}{\eta+1}N\varepsilon_F. \tag{31}$$

It is clearly seen from equations (30) and (31) that both the Fermi energy and ground-state energy are independent of q and the same as those of an original Fermi gas. In fact, it can be further proved that all the properties of the q-deformed fermions are the same as those of the original fermions at $T = 0$ K.

On the other hand, at high temperatures, $k_B T \gg \varepsilon_F$ and hence z is very small, so that $h_n(z, q)$ may be expressed as a series, i.e.,

$$h_n(z, q) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (-1)^i \frac{q^{-i} - q^i}{2 \ln q} \frac{z^i}{i^{n+1}}. \tag{32}$$

Substituting equation (32) into equations (13), (14) and (18) and keeping only the lowest-order correction due to the finite temperature, one can express μ, U and C_V as

$$\mu = \eta k_B T \left(\ln \frac{\varepsilon_F}{k_B T} \right) \left[1 + \ln \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\eta + 1)} \frac{2 \ln q}{q - q^{-1}} \right) \Big/ \left(\eta \ln \frac{\varepsilon_F}{k_B T} \right) \right], \tag{33}$$

$$U = \eta N k_B T \left[1 + \frac{1}{2^{\eta+1} \Gamma(\eta + 1)} \frac{q + q^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}} \ln q \left(\frac{\varepsilon_F}{k_B T} \right)^{\eta} \right], \tag{34}$$

and

$$C_V = \eta N k_B \left[1 + \frac{1 - \eta}{2^{\eta+1} \Gamma(\eta + 1)} \frac{q + q^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}} \ln q \left(\frac{\varepsilon_F}{k_B T} \right)^{\eta} \right]. \tag{35}$$

At high temperatures, the second term in the square bracket in equations (33)–(35) can be neglected, so that the expressions for μ, U and C_V are reduced to those of ordinary Boltzmann gases and independent of q.

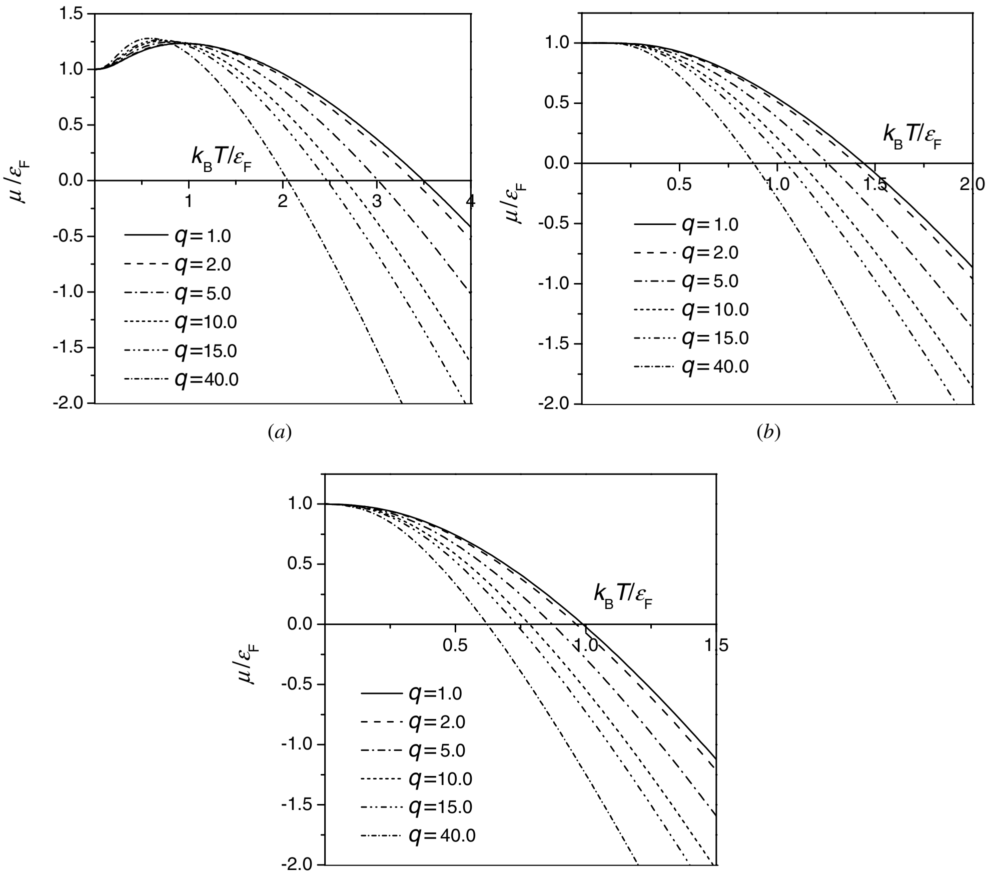
5. Effects of the *q*-deformation on the properties of *q*-fermions

In order to understand more clearly the effects of the q-deformation on the properties of q-deformed Fermi gases, we can use equations (13) and (18) to plot the characteristic curves of the chemical potential and heat capacity varying with the temperature for different $\eta = D/s$, as shown in figures 1 and 2, respectively.

From the curves in figure 1, one can obtain some important results, which are listed as follows:

(i) When $\eta = 0.5$, which may correspond to the system of nonrelativistic ideal fermions in a one-dimensional space, the chemical potential μ is not a monotonic function of temperature and there exists a maximum $\mu_{\max}$ at a certain temperature T_m for any values of q, as shown in figure 1(a). It is also observed from figure 1(a) that there exists a cross point between the curves with $q > 1$ and with $q = 1$ at a certain temperature T_c, so that $\mu_{q>1} > \mu_{q=1}$ when $T < T_c$ and $\mu_{q>1} < \mu_{q=1}$ when $T > T_c$. Figure 3 further shows the curves of $\mu_{\max}/\varepsilon_F$, $k_B T_m/\varepsilon_F$ and $k_B T_c/\varepsilon_F$ varying with the parameter q. It is seen that $\mu_{\max}/\varepsilon_F$ increases monotonically with q, while $k_B T_m/\varepsilon_F$ and $k_B T_c/\varepsilon_F$ decrease monotonically with q.

(ii) When $\eta = 1.0$, which may correspond to the system of nonrelativistic ideal fermions in a two-dimensional space or the system of ultrarelativistic ideal fermions in a one-dimensional space, the chemical potential μ is a monotonically decreasing function of temperature for any values of q, as shown in figure 1(b). At very low temperatures, μ remains nearly equal to the Fermi energy ε_F, which is independent of q. The result coincides with equation (27), since the coefficient of $(k_B T/\varepsilon_F)^2$ in equation (27) becomes zero when $\eta = 1$. This indicates that at low-temperature region, the difference of the chemical potentials between the q-deformed and ordinary Fermi systems disappears in the case of $\eta = 1.0$. At other temperature regions, $\mu_{q>1}$ is always smaller than $\mu_{q=1}$.



(c)

Figure 1. The curves of the scaled chemical potential μ/ε_F varying with the dimensionless temperature k_BT/ε_F for the q-deformed fermions with different parameter q in the cases of (a) $\eta = 0.5$, (b) $\eta = 1.0$ and (c) $\eta = 1.5$, respectively.

(iii) When $\eta = 1.5$, which may correspond to the system of nonrelativistic ideal fermions in a three-dimensional space, the curves of the chemical potential varying with the temperature share similar characteristics with the case of $\eta = 1.0$.

From the curves in figure 2, one can find some important characteristics of the heat capacity varying with the temperature for different values of η and q, which are listed as follows:

(i) When $\eta = 0.5$, there exists a maximum of the heat capacity at a certain temperature for any parameter q and the heat capacity at high temperatures approaches $C_{V,B} = 0.5Nk_B$, the value predicted by the Boltzmann distribution, from above, as shown in figure 2(a). It is also observed that the q-deformation increases the heat capacity at any temperatures in the case of $\eta = 0.5$.

(ii) When $\eta = 1.0$, the curves of $C_V/Nk_B \sim k_BT/\varepsilon_F$ display different characteristics for different values of q, as shown in figure 2(b). When q is smaller than a certain value q_0, C_V is a monotonically increasing function of temperature and $\lim_{T\to\infty} C_V = Nk_B - 0$. When $q > q_0$, there is a maximum of C_V and $\lim_{T\to\infty} C_V = Nk_B + 0$. In order to

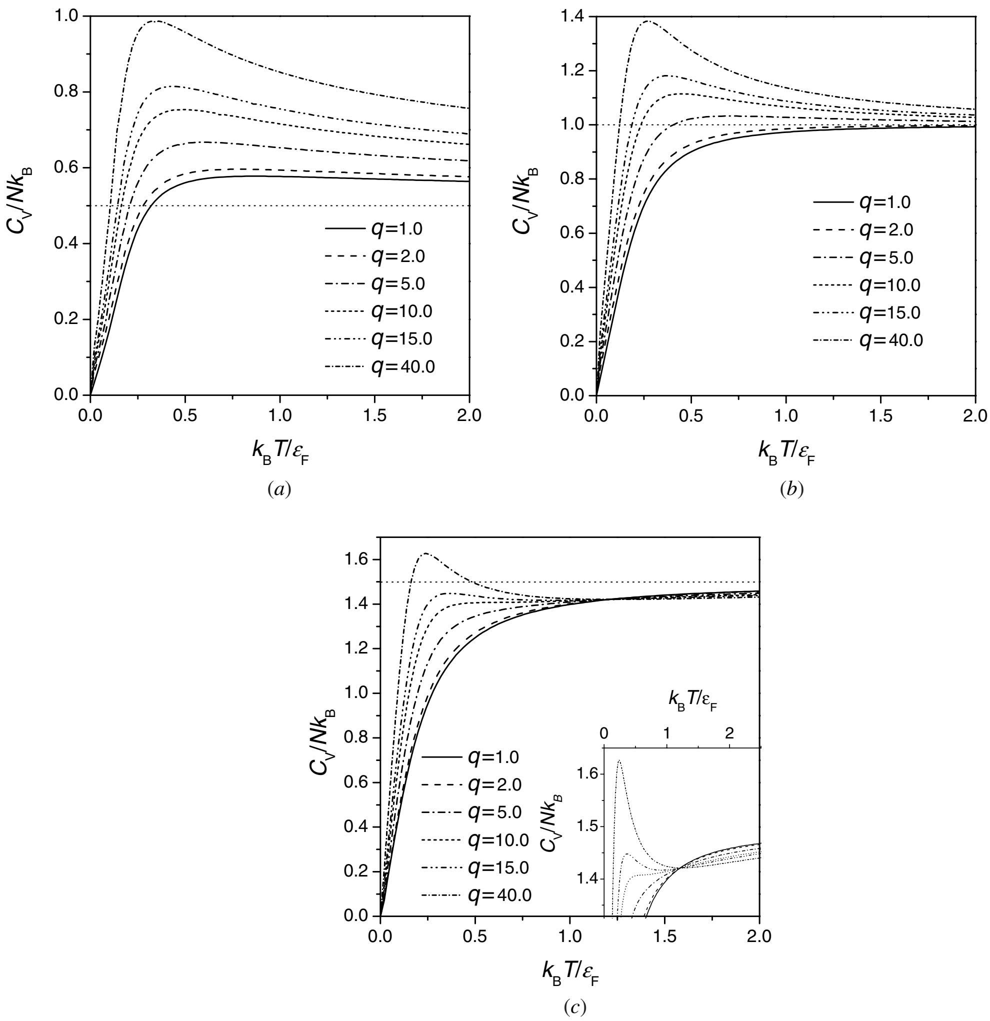


Figure 2. The curves of the scaled heat capacity C_V/Nk_B varying with the dimensionless temperature k_BT/ε_F for the q-deformed fermions with different parameter q in the cases of (*a*) $\eta = 0.5$, (*b*) $\eta = 1.0$ and (*c*) $\eta = 1.5$, respectively. The C_V/Nk_B-axis in the inset is partly stretched in order to show the characteristics of the curves more clearly.

determine q_0, we calculate the heat capacity at high temperatures to the second order in ε_F/k_BT from equations (13), (18) and (32). The result is given by

$$C_{V,\text{high}} = Nk_B\left[1 + \frac{5q^2 + 5q^{-2} - 22}{(q - q^{-1})^2}\frac{(\ln q)^2}{108}\left(\frac{\varepsilon_F}{k_BT}\right)^2\right]. \tag{36}$$

It is seen from equation (36) that if $5q^2 + 5q^{-2} - 22 < 0$, $\lim_{T\to\infty} C_{V,\text{ high}} = Nk_B - 0$, and if $5q^2 + 5q^{-2} - 22 > 0$, $\lim_{T\to\infty} C_{V,\text{ high}} = Nk_B + 0$. It can be determined from the above analysis that $q_0 = \sqrt{(11 + 4\sqrt{6})/5} \approx 2.0$. Similar to the case of $\eta = 0.5$, the heat capacity always increases with the increase of q at any temperature in the case of $\eta = 1.0$.

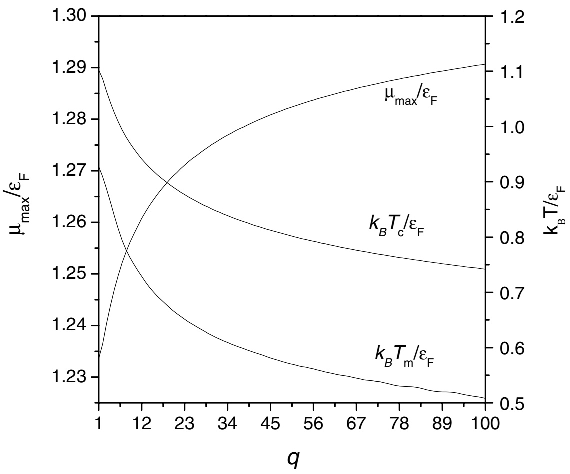


Figure 3. The curves of the maximal scaled chemical potential $\mu_{\max}/\varepsilon_F$ and the corresponding dimensionless temperature k_BT_m/ε_F along with the dimensionless temperature k_BT_c/ε_F varying with the deformation parameter in the case of $\eta = 0.5$.

(iii) When $\eta = 1.5$, the curves of $C_V/Nk_B \sim k_BT/\varepsilon_F$ become more complicated, as shown in figure 2(c). There exists a cross point between the curves of $q > 1$ and $q = 1$, so that $C_{V,\,q>1} > C_{V,\,q=1}$ when $T < T_d$ and $C_{V,\,q>1} < C_{V,\,q=1}$ when $T > T_d$, where T_d is the temperature at the cross point. The influence of the parameter q on the heat capacity is more obvious in the region of $T < T_d$ than in the region of $T > T_d$. For the small parameters q, such as $q = 1.0$ and 2.0, the heat capacity increases monotonously with the temperature. For the large parameters q, such as $q = 15.0$ and 40.0, however, C_V first increases with the temperature and reaches a maximum, then decreases and reaches a minimum below $C_V = 1.5Nk_B$. Unlike the cases of $\eta = 0.5$ and $\eta = 1.0$, the heat capacity at high temperatures approaches $C_V = 1.5Nk_B$ from below for any parameters q. The result can be seen from equation (35) as well, since the coefficient of $(k_BT/\varepsilon_F)^\eta$ in equation (35) is negative in the case of $\eta = 1.5$.

6. Conclusions

With the help of the q-deformed Fermi–Dirac distribution, we have studied the thermostatistic properties of a q-deformed Fermi gas in any dimensional space and with a general energy spectrum. Some important conclusions are obtained as follows. (i) The effects of the q-deformation on the properties of q-deformed Fermi gases display different characteristics for different dimensional spaces and energy spectrums. (ii) The q-deformation may significantly affect the low-temperature behaviors of a Fermi system but does not alter the ground-state properties of the system. (iii) At high temperatures ($k_BT \gg \varepsilon_F$), the q-deformed statistics reduces to the undeformed statistical mechanics, which implies that the q-deformation is a pure quantum effect.

Because of the general forms of the energy spectrum adopted, the results obtained here may be used to study the properties of a variety of q-deformed Fermi systems, such as nonrelativistic or ultrarelativistic q-deformed Fermi systems in any dimensional space.

If $q \to 1$ is set, the results obtained here are as well suitable for the systems of the ordinary fermions.

Acknowledgment

This work was supported by the Natural Science Foundation of Fujian Province (No Z0512002), People's Republic of China.

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