



Special Issue

Thermalization in Isolated Quantum Systems

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The field of mesoscopic physics is going through rapid development with contributions from many subfields of science including atomic, molecular and nuclear physics, condensed matter physics on the micro- and nano-scale, biophysics and quantum information. In all cases, we have to deal with relatively small systems of interacting constituents where statistical features are clearly emerging being described in terms of temperature, entropy, etc., while at the same time one still can study, theoretically and experimentally, individual quantum states.

If traditional statistical physics usually considered statistical ensembles in the limit of infinitely large volume and particle number, and the equilibrium thermalization was reached due to the interaction with a thermostat, in a small system with a finite number of particles thermal equilibrium is established as a result of interparticle interactions which, at high level density, leads to chaotic mixing of simple many-body configurations. Historically this follows the line from Boltzmann to Landau and Lifshitz who stressed in their Statistical Physics that statistical properties can be observed and studied on the level of individual quantum states. This direction of science addresses the emergence of thermodynamic phenomena from quantum mechanics and quantum chaos creating in a sense a new paradigm of statistical mechanics.

This emerging field encompasses different bright ideas and very wide practical applications; its interdisciplinary character leads to different viewpoints and illuminating discussions. We, therefore, solicit contribution to this Special Issue on a new branch of quantum physics and its applications.

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