

H.-O. Georgii, University of Munich

Gibbs Measures and Phase Transitions

1988. XIV, 525 pages. Cloth DM 178.- ISBN 3 11 010455 5

(de Gruyter Studies in Mathematics, Volume 9. Editors: Heinz Bauer and Peter Gabriel)

The concept of a Gibbs measure was introduced in the late 1960s by Dobrushin, Lanford and Ruelle as a natural mathematical object describing an equilibrium state of a physical system consisting of a very large number of interacting components. In probabilistic terms, a Gibbs measure is simply the distribution of a countably infinite family of random variables admitting prescribed conditional probabilities of a particular type. This book provides a systematic and carefully motivated introduction to the general theory of Gibbs measures which is also referred to as classical equilibrium statistical mechanics of infinite lattice systems. A central theme is the phenomenon of non-uniqueness of Gibbs measures since it reflects the physical phenomenon of phase transition. The book is primarily addressed to probabilists and mathematical physicists; familiarity with statistical physics is not required.

Contents:

General theory and basic examples:

Specifications of random fields · Gibbsian specifications · Finite state Markov chains as Gibbs measures · The existence problem · Specifications with symmetries · Three examples of symmetry breaking · Extreme Gibbs measures · Uniqueness · Absence of symmetry breaking. Non-existence

Markov chains and Gauss fields as Gibbs measures:

Markov fields on the integers I · Markov fields on the integers II · Markov fields on trees · Gaussian fields

Shift-invariant Gibbs measures:

Ergodicity · A variational characterization of Gibbs measures · Convex geometry and the phase diagram

Phase transitions in reflection positive models:

Reflection positivity · Low energy oceans and discrete symmetry breaking · Phase transitions without symmetry breaking · Continuous symmetry breaking in N -vector models

Bibliographical notes · References · List of symbols · Index



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Titles in High Energy Physics and Mathematical Physics

Volume 303

P. Breitenlohner, D. Maison, K. Sibold (Eds.)

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François Gieres

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