Contents

Foreword V
Preface XI

1 Introduction 1

2 Equilibrium, Stability, and Metastability 7
  2.1 Types of Equilibria: Stability Criteria 7
  2.2 Boundary of Essential Instability 13
  2.3 Elements of Statistical Theory 16
  2.4 Phase Stability Against Finite Perturbations 19
  2.5 Critical Heterophase Fluctuations 23
  2.6 Relaxation Processes in Metastable Phases 26
  2.7 Dynamics of Heterophase Fluctuations 30
  2.8 Kinetic Nucleation Theory (Multiparameter Version) 35
  2.9 Approximations and Limitations of Classical Nucleation Theory 41
  2.10 Nucleation at a High Degree of Metastability 47
  2.11 Nucleation Bypassing the Saddle Point 51
  2.12 Some Comments on Nucleation Theory 57

3 Attainable Superheating of One-Component Liquids 61
  3.1 Two Approaches to the Determination of the Work of Formation of a
    Critical Bubble 61
  3.2 Boiling-Up Kinetics of Superheated Liquids 65
  3.3 Elements of the Stochastic Theory of Nucleation 74
  3.4 Experimental Procedures in the Analysis of Boiling in Superheated
    Liquids 78
  3.5 Quasistatic Methods of Investigating Limiting Superheating of
    Liquids 82
  3.6 Dynamic Methods of Investigating Explosive Boiling-Up of
    Liquids 88
3.7 Results of Experiments on Classical Liquids  91
3.8 Superheating of Quantum Liquids  107
3.9 Surface Tension of Vapor Nuclei  116
3.10 Cavitation Strength of Cryogenic Liquids  123
3.11 Attainable Superheating of Liquid Argon at Negative Pressures  138
3.12 Initiated Nucleation  145
3.13 Heterogeneous Nucleation  151

4 Nucleation in Solutions of Liquefied Gases  159
4.1 Critical Nucleus and the Work of its Formation  159
4.2 Theory of Nucleation in Binary Solutions  165
4.3 Attainable Superheating of Solutions of Hydrocarbons  172
4.4 Methods of Experimentation on Solutions of Cryogenic Liquids  174
4.5 Solutions with Complete Solubility of the Components  177
4.6 Solutions with Partial Solubility of the Components  182
4.7 Equation of State and Boundaries of Thermodynamic Stability of Solutions  190
4.8 Properties of Critical Bubbles in Binary Solutions  195
4.9 Comparison of Theory and Experiment for Binary Solutions  204
4.10 Kinetics and Thermodynamics of Nucleation in Three-Component Solutions  209
4.11 Attainable Superheating of Ternary Solutions of Cryogenic Liquids  213

5 Nucleation in Highly Correlated Systems  219
5.1 Introduction  219
5.2 Critical Configuration and its Stability  222
5.3 Steady-State Nucleation  228
5.4 Peculiarities of New Phase Formation in the Critical Region  232
5.5 Experimental Investigations of Nucleation in the Vicinity of Critical and Tricritical Points  240
5.6 Comparison of Theory and Experiment  245
5.7 Nucleation in the Vicinity of a Spinodal Curve  253
5.8 Theory of Spinodal Decomposition  259
5.9 Experimental Studies of Spinodal Decomposition  266

6 Nucleation Kinetics Near the Absolute Zero of Temperature  273
6.1 Quantum Tunneling of Nuclei  273
6.2 Limiting Supersaturations of 4He–3He-Solutions  278
6.3 Formation of Quantum Vortices in Superfluid Helium  284
6.4 Quantum Nucleation Near the Boundary of Essential Instability 289
6.5 Quantum Cavitation in Helium 294
6.6 Some Other Problems of Phase Metastability 299

7 Explosive Boiling-Up of Cryogenic Liquids 309
7.1 Superheating in Outflow Processes 309
7.2 Vapor Explosion at the Interface of Two Different Liquids 314

List of Symbols 321
References 323
Index 337