

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	How the Casimir Force was Discovered	1
1.2	Zero-Point Energy	3
1.3	The Lifshitz Theory and Its Generalizations	9
1.4	Overview of Experiments	14
1.5	Some Other Aspects of Casimir Forces	16
1.6	Brief Outline of this Book	18
	References	20
2	On the Problem of van der Waals Forces in Dielectric Media . . .	23
2.1	Introduction	23
2.2	Free Energy of the Equilibrium Electromagnetic Field in an Absorbing Medium.	28
2.3	Stress Tensor of the van der Waals Interaction Inside an Absorbing Medium.	30
2.4	Van der Waals Forces Between Bodies Separated by a Liquid	32
2.4.1	Interaction of a Small Sphere with a Plane Body	33
2.4.2	Interaction Between Two Parallel Plates	34
2.5	Remarks about Repulsive Interactions.	34
2.6	Liquid Films	35
	References	36
3	Local and Global Casimir Energies: Divergences, Renormalization, and the Coupling to Gravity.	39
3.1	Introduction	40
3.2	Casimir Effect Between Parallel Plates: A δ -Potential Derivation	41
3.2.1	TM Modes.	46
3.2.2	Self-energy of Boundary Layer	49

3.3	Surface and Volume Divergences	51
3.4	Casimir Forces on Spheres via δ -Function Potentials	55
3.4.1	TM Spherical Potential	59
3.4.2	Evavluation of Casimir Energy for a Dirichlet Spherical Shell.	61
3.4.3	Surface Divergences in the Energy Density	65
3.4.4	Total Energy and Renormalization	67
3.5	Semitransparent Cylinder.	68
3.5.1	Cylinder Pressure and Energy	69
3.5.2	Weak-coupling Evaluation.	71
3.5.3	Strong Coupling.	76
3.5.4	Local Energy Density	78
3.5.5	Total and Surface Energy	79
3.5.6	Surface Divergences	79
3.6	Gravitational Acceleration of Casimir Energy	82
3.6.1	Green's Functions in Rindler Coordinates	82
3.6.2	Gravitational Acceleration of Casimir Apparatus	85
3.6.3	Summary.	89
3.7	Conclusions	89
	References	91
4	Casimir Effect in the Scattering Approach: Correlations Between Material Properties, Temperature and Geometry.	97
4.1	Introduction	97
4.2	Comparison of Casimir Force Measurements with Theory.	98
4.2.1	The Description of Metallic Mirrors	98
4.2.2	The Role of Geometry	100
4.3	The Scattering Approach.	101
4.3.1	Mirrors on a 1-Dimensional Line	102
4.3.2	Specular Reflection in 3-d Space	104
4.3.3	The Non-specular Scattering Formula	106
4.4	Applications to Non-trivial Geometries	107
4.4.1	Perturbative Treatment of Shallow Corrugations.	107
4.4.2	Non-perturbative Calculations with Deep Gratings	110
4.4.3	Exact Calculations in the Plane-sphere Geometry.	115
4.5	Conclusion.	121
	References	121
5	Geometry and Material Effects in Casimir Physics-Scattering Theory.	129
5.1	Introduction.	130
5.2	General Theory for Casimir Interactions	135
5.2.1	Path Integral Quantization	135
5.2.2	Green's Function Expansions and Translation Formulas	138

5.2.3	Classical Scattering of Electromagnetic Fields	140
5.2.4	Casimir Free Energy in Terms of the Scattering Amplitudes	143
5.3	Constraints on Stable Equilibria	148
5.4	Applications.	152
5.4.1	Cylinders, Wires, and Plate	153
5.4.2	Three-body Effects	157
5.4.3	Orientation Dependence	161
5.4.4	Edge and Finite Size Effects	164
5.4.5	Interior Configurations	166
	References	170
6	Numerical Methods for Computing Casimir Interactions	175
6.1	Introduction	175
6.2	Characterization of Numerical Methods: Three Axes	177
6.2.1	Posing Casimir Problems.	177
6.2.2	Choices of Basis.	179
6.2.3	Solution Techniques for Linear Equations	180
6.3	The Impracticality of Eigenmode Summations	183
6.4	The Complex-Frequency Plane and Contour Choices	184
6.5	Mean Energy/Force Densities and the Fluctuation–Dissipation Theorem	186
6.5.1	Background	187
6.5.2	Finite-Difference Frequency-Domain (FDFD)	192
6.5.3	Boundary-Element Methods (BEMs).	194
6.5.4	Other Possibilities: FEM and Spectral Methods	197
6.5.5	Finite-Difference Time-Domain (FDTD) Methods	198
6.5.6	Accelerating FD Convergence	200
6.6	Path Integrals and Scattering Matrices	201
6.6.1	Monte-Carlo Path Integration.	203
6.6.2	Spectral Methods	204
6.6.3	Boundary-Element Methods (BEMs).	206
6.6.4	Hybrid BEM/Spectral Methods	207
6.6.5	Eigenmode-Expansion/RCWA Methods	208
6.7	Periodicity and Other Symmetries	210
6.8	Nonzero-Temperature Corrections	211
6.9	Concluding Remarks.	212
	References	213
7	Progress in Experimental Measurements of the Surface–Surface Casimir Force: Electrostatic Calibrations and Limitations to Accuracy	219
7.1	Introduction	219
7.2	Motivation for the Experimental Study of the Casimir Force: Some Recent Results	223

7.2.1	Progress in Understanding the Fundamental Casimir Force	224
7.2.2	The Detection of New Long Range Forces	226
7.2.3	Modification of the Casimir Force	227
7.2.4	Hydrogen Switchable Mirror	229
7.2.5	Geometrical Boundary Effects	229
7.2.6	Repulsive Casimir Effect.	231
7.3	Approximations, Electrostatic Calibrations, and Background Effects	233
7.3.1	Inclusion of the Debye Screening Length?.	235
7.3.2	Variable Contact Potential.	238
7.3.3	Patch Potential Effects	240
7.4	Conclusions and Outlooks	245
	References	246
8	Attractive and Repulsive Casimir–Lifshitz Forces, QED Torques, and Applications to Nanomachines	249
8.1	Introduction	250
8.2	MEMS Based on the Casimir Force	254
8.2.1	Actuators.	254
8.2.2	Nonlinear Oscillators	256
8.3	The Design and Control of Casimir Forces	259
8.3.1	Modification of the Casimir Force by Surface Nanostructuring	259
8.3.2	Modification of the Casimir Force Between Metallic Films Using the Skin-Depth Effect.	263
8.3.3	Casimir Force Experiments with Transparent Materials	264
8.3.4	Casimir Forces in a Fluid	266
8.3.5	Repulsive Forces and Casimir Levitation.	268
8.3.6	Devices Based on Repulsive Casimir Forces	273
8.4	QED Torque	274
8.5	Future Directions	278
8.5.1	Phase Transitions and the Casimir Effect	279
8.5.2	Self Assembly and Sorting via the Casimir–Lifshitz Force	279
8.5.3	Casimir Friction	280
8.5.4	Dynamic Casimir Effect	280
8.6	Conclusions	281
	References	281
9	Casimir Force in Micro and Nano Electro Mechanical Systems	287
9.1	Introduction	287
9.2	Micro and Nano Electro Mechanical Systems	290

9.3	Experimental Aspects on the Determination of the Casimir Interaction	292
9.4	Calibrations	295
9.5	Determination of the Casimir Interaction	297
9.6	Current Discussions in the Precise Determination of the Casimir Force	299
9.7	Future Directions: Improved Micromechanical Force Sensors	302
	References	307
10	Characterization of Optical Properties and Surface Roughness Profiles: The Casimir Force Between Real Materials	311
10.1	Introduction	312
10.2	Optical Properties of Materials and the Casimir Force	313
	10.2.1 Dielectric Function in the Casimir Force	314
	10.2.2 Gold Films	317
	10.2.3 Low Permittivity Dielectric Materials	325
10.3	Influence of Surface Roughness on the Casimir–Lifshitz Force	328
	10.3.1 Main Characteristics of a Rough Surface.	329
	10.3.2 Roughness Correction	330
	10.3.3 Distance upon Contact	335
10.4	Conclusions	340
	References	340
11	Fluctuation-Induced Forces Between Atoms and Surfaces: The Casimir–Polder Interaction	345
11.1	Introduction	345
11.2	Understanding Atom–Surface Interactions	348
	11.2.1 Energy of a Polarizable Particle in an Electromagnetic Field	349
	11.2.2 Equilibrium Fluctuations	352
	11.2.3 Polarizability Tensor	354
	11.2.4 Non-perturbative Level Shift	357
11.3	Atoms and a Planar Surface.	360
	11.3.1 Behaviour of the Green function	360
	11.3.2 Asymptotic Power Laws	363
11.4	Beyond Equilibrium	365
	11.4.1 Overview.	365
	11.4.2 Atoms in a Given State and Field in Thermal Equilibrium	365
	11.4.3 Moving Atoms	367
	11.4.4 Non-equilibrium Field.	372

11.5	Measurements of the Atom–Surface Force	
	with Cold Atoms	378
11.5.1	Overview.	378
11.5.2	From van der Waals to Casimir–Polder:	
	Equilibrium	379
11.5.3	The Experiments of the E. Cornell Group	382
11.6	Conclusion.	385
	References	386
12	Modern Experiments on Atom-Surface Casimir Physics.	393
12.1	Introduction	393
12.2	The History of Casimir-Polder Experiments.	394
12.3	The Atom-Surface Interaction	402
12.3.1	Practical Application of the Lifshitz Formula.	402
12.3.2	Limitations of the Lifshitz Theory	403
12.3.3	Higher Orders of Perturbation Theory.	403
12.3.4	Effect of Multipole Polarizabilities	404
12.3.5	Effects of Non-zero Temperature	406
12.3.6	Relativistic and Radiative Corrections.	407
12.3.7	Effects of Nonplanar Geometry and	
	Nonuniformity	407
12.4	Modern Casimir-Polder Experiments.	408
12.4.1	The Heidelberg Approach	410
	References	416
13	Fluctuations, Dissipation and the Dynamical Casimir Effect.	419
13.1	Introduction	419
13.2	Dissipative Effects of the Quantum Vacuum	422
13.2.1	1D Models.	422
13.2.2	Casimir-Driven Decoherence	425
13.2.3	3D Models.	427
13.3	Quantum Friction	429
13.4	Resonant Photon Creation in Time Dependent Cavities.	432
13.4.1	Dynamical Casimir Effect in 1D Cavities	432
13.4.2	Photon Creation in 3D Cavities	436
13.4.3	Time Dependent Electromagnetic Properties	444
13.5	Experimental Perspectives	448
13.5.1	High Frequency Resonators and Photon	
	Detection via Superradiance.	449
13.5.2	Time Dependent Conductivity Induced by Ultra-	
	Short Laser Pulses	449
13.5.3	Optical Parametric Oscillators	450
13.5.4	Superconducting Coplanar Waveguides.	451
13.6	Final Remarks	451
	References	453