

6.19 Probability that 2 molecules chosen @ random from a Maxwellian Gas will have total energy between E , and $E+dE$.

$$P(E)dE \propto e^{-\beta E} g(E)dE \quad \text{by 3.4.3. (unnormalized).}$$

We have two molecules, so the probability distribution is the product of the two one-particle distributions.

$$p(\epsilon_2)p(\epsilon_1)d\epsilon_1d\epsilon_2 \propto g_1(\epsilon_1)g_2(\epsilon_2)e^{-\beta\epsilon_1}e^{-\beta\epsilon_2}d\epsilon_1d\epsilon_2$$

[In general, when the Energy spectrum is of the form $E \sim p^s$, then in d dimensions, $d^d p \sim d\epsilon p^{d-s} = d\epsilon \epsilon^{\frac{d-s}{s}}$

Thus, since for a Maxwellian gas $E \sim p^2$ (i.e. $\frac{p^2}{2m}$),

$$g_1(\epsilon_1) = \epsilon_1^{1/2}, \quad g_2(\epsilon_2) = \epsilon_2^{1/2}$$

$$\Rightarrow p(\epsilon_1)p(\epsilon_2)d\epsilon_1d\epsilon_2 \propto e^{-\beta\epsilon_1}e^{-\beta\epsilon_2}\epsilon_1^{1/2}\epsilon_2^{1/2}d\epsilon_1d\epsilon_2$$

At this point we want to rewrite one of the ϵ 's in terms of E , so we can integrate out the other, and be left with a probability density dependent only on E .

u-sub $\epsilon_2 = E - \epsilon_1 \Rightarrow \frac{d\epsilon_2}{d\epsilon_1} = -1 \Rightarrow d\epsilon_2 = -d\epsilon_1$

$$\Rightarrow p(\epsilon_1)p(\epsilon_2)d\epsilon_1d\epsilon_2 \propto e^{-\beta\epsilon_1}e^{-\beta(E-\epsilon_1)}e^{\beta\epsilon_1}\epsilon_1^{1/2}(E-\epsilon_1)^{1/2}d\epsilon_1dE$$

$$P(E)dE \propto \int_0^E e^{-\beta E} [\epsilon_1(E-\epsilon_1)]^{1/2} d\epsilon_1 dE$$

where I'm only integrating over ϵ_1 . Note that ϵ_1 ranges from 0 to E .

$$P(E)dE \propto \frac{1}{8}\pi e^{-\beta E} E^2 dE$$

More Precisely, we use 3.5.16 with $N=2$: $g(E) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{V^2}{h^6} \frac{(2\pi m)^3}{2} E^2$

$$\Rightarrow P(E)dE = 2 \left(\frac{V^{2/3} \pi m}{h^2} \right)^3 e^{-\beta E} E^2 dE$$

Verify $\langle E \rangle = 3kT$

$$\langle E \rangle = \frac{\int_0^\infty E P(E) dE}{\int_0^\infty P(E) dE} = \frac{\int_0^\infty E^3 e^{-\beta E} dE}{\int_0^\infty E^2 e^{-\beta E} dE} \stackrel{\text{Gaussian Integral}}{=} \frac{\frac{\Gamma(4)}{\beta^4}}{\frac{\Gamma(3)}{\beta^3}} = \frac{6\beta^3}{2\beta^4} = \boxed{3kT}$$