

**Statistical Thermodynamics for Engineers**  
**Professor Saptarshi Basu**  
**Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore**  
**Lecture 12**

**The Dilute Limit and Concept of Molecular Partition Function**

So, welcome to lecture 9. So, in this particular lecture, let us look into some more interesting stuff.

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Thermodynamic properties in dilute limit  
 → we have used Maxwell-Boltz  
 method to investigate FD  
 and BE statistics for an  
 isolated system of independent  
 particles

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→ we have used Maxwell-Boltz  
 method to investigate FD  
 and BE statistics for an  
 isolated system of independent  
 particles

$$\ln W = \sum_j \left[ g_j \ln \frac{g_j \pm N_j}{N_j} \pm g_j \frac{g_j \pm N_j}{g_j} \right]$$

and equilibrium particle distn.

$$N_j = \frac{g_j}{\exp[(\epsilon_j - \mu)/kT] \mp 1}$$

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So, the topic of this lecture will be Thermodynamic Properties in Dilute Limit, so far what we have done is that we have used Maxwell Boltzmann method to investigate FD that is Fermi Dirac and BE which is Bose - Einstein statistics for an isolated system of independent particles. And what we got from that is this is the first expression that you got, ((1):25) and

the equilibrium distribution particle distribution which is also written as,  $N_{sub j}$  is equal to  $g_{sub j}$  divided by exponential  $E_{sub j}$  minus  $\mu$  by  $kT$  bracket closed minus plus 1. So, this is the equilibrium particle distribution and this was the number of particles distribution of particles or the thermodynamic ( $\Omega$ )(2:43).

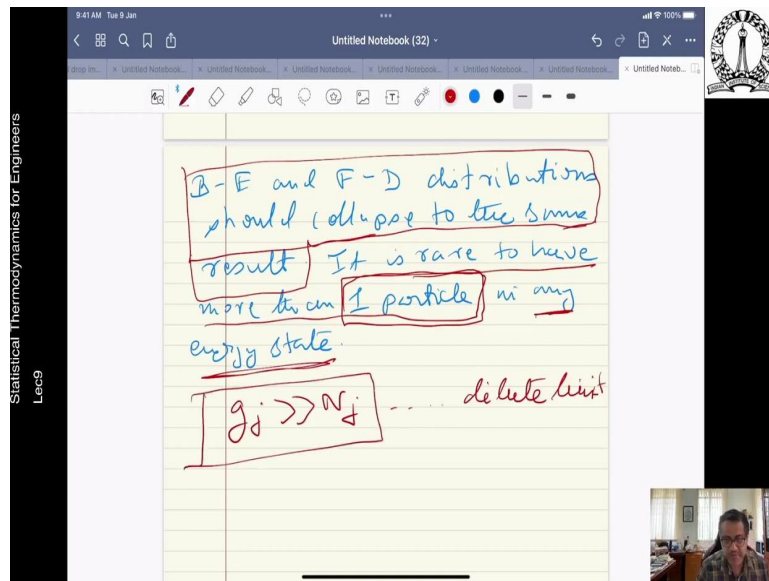
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The screenshot shows a digital notebook with the following handwritten content:

- At the top, the formula for the total number of particles is written as  $N = \sum_j g_j \frac{1}{\exp[(E_j - \mu)/kT] + 1}$ .
- Below this, it says "and equilibrium particle distn."
- The formula for the number of particles in state  $j$  is boxed:  $N_j = \frac{g_j}{\exp[(E_j - \mu)/kT] + 1}$ .
- The section is titled "Dilute limit".
- Below the title, it says: "If  $g_j \gg N_j$  i.e. few particles as compared to energy states".

Now in the dilute limit, we defined something called a dilute limit, so, what is that dilute limit, let us look at it carefully. If  $g_{sub j}$  is much much greater than  $N_{sub j}$  that means the degeneracy is much much greater than number of particles in that particular energy level that is few particles as compared to energy states, so, it is like a stadium where there are a lot of seats but only very poor attendance for example that means very few people have shown up. So, there are very few particles as compared to the energy states that are available.

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So, under this condition both Bose-Einstein and Fermi-Dirac statistics distributions should collapse to the same result. It is rare, why does it collapse because it is rare well to have more than one particle in many energy state in many energy state. So, the Bose-Einstein and Fermi-Dirac distributions should collapse to the same result. It is rare to have more than one particle in any energy state. It is almost impossible.

So, for the dilute limit to be valid  $g_{sub j}$  must be much much greater than  $N_{sub j}$ . This is the criteria for the dilute limit. So, as you can see that there are lots of seats available in our stadiums, it is unlikely that more particles I mean two people will start sitting on the same seat. So, they will probably occupy one seat at least because there are a lot of seats available.

So, that is the reason why Bose-Einstein Statistics does not have any limits on the number of particles per energy state. But Fermi-Dirac statistics actually says it can be only one particle per energy state, but because there are lot of states available the Bose-Einstein statistics and the Fermi-Dirac statistics therefore collapse and they should give you the same result, but this will only happen when the degeneracy is much much greater than the number of particles in that particular energy level.

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$$\ln\left(\frac{g_j}{N_j} \pm 1\right) \approx \ln\left(\frac{g_j}{N_j}\right)$$

$$\ln\left(1 \pm \frac{N_j}{g_j}\right) \approx \pm \frac{N_j}{g_j}$$

$$\ln(1+x) \approx x$$

$$\therefore \ln W_{DL} = \sum_j N_j \left[ \ln \frac{g_j}{N_j} + 1 \right]$$

$$\therefore W_{DL} = \prod_j \frac{g_j^{N_j}}{N_j!}$$

So, therefore,  $\ln g$  by  $N$  sub  $j$  plus minus 1 is basically the same as  $\ln g$  sub  $j$  by  $N$  sub  $j$ , and then of course,  $\ln 1$  plus minus  $N$  sub  $j$  by  $g$  sub  $j$  is almost equal to plus minus  $N$  sub  $j$  by  $g$  sub  $j$ . This comes from the fact that  $\ln 1$  plus  $x$  is almost equal to  $x$ . So, therefore,  $\ln$  in the dilute limit is basically nothing but summation over  $j$   $N$  sub  $j$   $\ln g$  sub  $j$  by  $N$  sub  $j$  plus 1, so therefore in the dilute limit  $j$  sub  $g$  sub  $j$  raise to the  $N$  sub  $j$  by  $N$  sub  $j$  factorial. So, this is the final state that you get.

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$$\therefore \ln W_{DL} = \sum_j N_j \left[ \ln \frac{g_j}{N_j} + 1 \right]$$

$$\therefore W_{DL} = \prod_j \frac{g_j^{N_j}}{N_j!}$$

The Boltzmann  
Maxwell-Boltzmann  
 $N_j$  identical but distinguishable  
particles can be arranged in  
a single energy level  $\epsilon_j$   
among  $g_j$  energy states


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Maxwell-Boltzmann  
 $N_j$  identical but distinguishable particles can be arranged in a single energy level  $\epsilon_j$  among  $g_j$  energy states.  
 No limit on # of particles per state

$$w_j = g_j N_j$$

$$w_a = \prod_j w_j = \prod_j g_j^{N_j}$$


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No limit on # of particles per state

$$w_j = g_j N_j$$

$$w_a = \prod_j w_j = \prod_j g_j^{N_j}$$

$$N_j! \text{ factor is off.}$$


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$$\ln w_{DL} = \sum_j N_j \left[ \ln \frac{g_j}{N_j} + 1 \right]$$

$$w_{DL} = \prod_j \frac{g_j^{N_j}}{N_j!}$$

The Boltzons  
 Maxwell-Boltzmann  
 $N_j$  identical but distinguishable particles can be arranged in a single energy level  $\epsilon_j$  among  $g_j$  energy states.



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$w_j = g_j N_j$

The Boltzons  
Maxwell-Boltzmann  
 $N_j$  identical but distinguishable  
particles can be arranged in  
a single energy level  $E_j$   
among  $g_j$  energy states.  
No limit on # of particles  
per state

$w_j = g_j N_j$

So, this has got a what we can call this the Boltzons, so, Maxwell Boltzmann. So,  $N_j$  identical but distinguishable particles can be arranged in a single energy level  $E_j$  among  $g_j$  energy states. There is no limit or number of articles per state. So,  $w_j$  as we saw was  $g_j$  to the power of  $N_j$ , these are the Boltzons.

Now, if you compare this expression if you compare now this, this is what Boltzmann did. If you compare this expression with the one here energy dilute limit, you will see that basically there is a factor  $N_j$  which is off.  $N_j$  factor is off that is because in comparison to Boltzons and Fermions we do recognize the distinguishable particles a new micro state is formed where the particles are interchanged among the energy levels. So, this is where you know, Boltzmann got it wrong because he assumed that the particles were distinguishable.

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In comparison to bosons  
and fermions

we do recognize that  
for distinguishable particles  
a new microstate is formed  
when particles are exchanged  
among energy levels

So, in comparison so, if you say this is where the Boltzons are different, what Boltzmann did in comparison to bosons and fermions, we do recognize that for distinguishable particles a new microstate is formed when particles are exchanged among energy levels because they are distinguishable that is where Boltzmann got it slightly wrong and that is why the results the Boltzons became very different.

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When particles are exchanged among energy levels

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Partition function

For  $g_j \gg N_j$ , in DL limit

$$N_j = g_j \exp\left(\frac{\mu - E_j}{kT}\right)$$

Now  $g_j \gg N_j$  only when  $E_j \gg \mu$

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Partition function

For  $g_j \gg N_j$ , in DL limit

$$N_j = g_j \exp\left(\frac{\mu - E_j}{kT}\right)$$

Now  $g_j \gg N_j$  only when  $E_j \gg \mu$

But  $E_j$  is always (+ve)

DL clearly applies when  $\mu < 0$ ;  $\mu < 0$  is a charact of ideal gas

So, now that we have we have seen that what the dilute limit looks like and how the fermions and the bosons behave identically in the dilute limit. Let us look at a new definition now, which is called the partition function. So, once again for  $g$  sub  $j$  much much greater than  $N$  sub  $j$  in the dilute limit  $N$  sub  $j$  is equal to  $g$  sub  $j$  exponential  $\mu$  minus  $E$  sub  $j$  divided by  $KT$ . Now  $g$  sub  $j$  is much much greater then  $N$  sub  $j$  only when  $E$  sub  $j$  is much much greater

than  $\mu$ , so  $g_j$  is much much greater than  $N_j$  but this happens only when  $E_j$  is much much greater than  $\mu$ .

But recognize that  $E_j$  is always positive so, that dilute limit clearly applies when  $\mu$  is less than 0 the chemical potential is less than 0. Therefore,  $\mu < 0$  is a characteristic of ideal gas is a characteristic of ideal gas.

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DL clearly applies when  $\mu < 0$ ;  $\mu < 0$  is a charact of ideal gas

$$N_j \exp\left(-\frac{\epsilon_j}{kT}\right) = g_j \exp\left(-\frac{\epsilon_j}{kT}\right)$$

Sum over all 'j'

$$N e^{-\mu/kT} = \sum_j g_j \exp\left(-\frac{\epsilon_j}{kT}\right)$$

$$N e^{-\mu/kT} = \sum_j g_j \exp\left(-\frac{\epsilon_j}{kT}\right) = Z$$

$$N e^{-\mu/kT} = \sum_j g_j \exp\left(-\frac{\epsilon_j}{kT}\right)$$

$$N e^{-\mu/kT} = \sum_j g_j \exp\left(-\frac{\epsilon_j}{kT}\right) = Z$$

molecular partition function

So, therefore  $N_j \exp(-\mu_j / kT)$  is equal to  $g_j \exp(-E_j / kT)$ . So, this is just a simple separation. Now sum overall  $j$  that is sum overall energy levels what you see this  $N e^{-\mu/kT}$  because you have sum with overall energy levels. This side of course is  $\sum_j g_j \exp(-E_j / kT)$ . Now, this particular term this is  $N e^{-\mu/kT}$  equal to let me write again



$n_j$  exponential minus  $E_j$  by  $KT$ . This is called  $Z$  where  $Z$  or  $Z$  is a molecule called the molecular partition function. So, molecular partition function is nothing but sum total of these terms over all energy levels.

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$$N e^{-\mu/KT} = \sum_j (g_j \exp(-E_j/KT)) = Z$$

molecular partition function

$$\frac{n_j e^{-E_j/KT}}{N e^{-\mu/KT}} = \frac{g_j \exp(-E_j/KT)}{Z}$$

↳ jth term of partition function

Now, if you take  $N_j$  minus  $\mu$  by  $KT$  divided by  $N$  exponential minus  $\mu$  by  $KT$  that is nothing but basically  $g_j$  into exponential minus  $E_j$  by  $KT$  divided by  $Z$ . So, what is this particular term? This term that you see over here is basically the  $j$ th term of partition function is the  $j$ th term.

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↳ jth term of partition function

$$\frac{n_j}{N} = \frac{g_j \exp(-E_j/KT)}{Z}$$

↳ population fraction for  $j$ th energy level is given by  $j$ th term of the molecular partition function

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population fraction for  $j$ th energy level is given by  $j$ th term of the molecular partition function divided by the partition function itself.

$$\frac{N_j}{N} = \frac{g_j}{g_k} \exp\left[-\frac{E_j - E_k}{kT}\right]$$

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Now  $N_j = \frac{g_j \exp(-E_j/kT)}{N \exp(-u/kT)}$  (jth term of partition function)

$$\frac{N_j}{N} = \frac{g_j \exp(-E_j/kT)}{Z}$$

$\frac{g_j}{Z} = \frac{N_j}{N}$

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So, therefore, in other words  $N_j \exp(-E_j/kT)$  by  $N \exp(-u/kT)$  because this cancels out,  $N_j$  by  $N$  is  $g_j \exp(-E_j/kT)$  divided by  $Z$ . So,  $N_j$  by  $N$  is actually given as this. Now, so, this means this is like this like a population fraction so, it is a population fraction is given by the  $j$ th term of the molecular partition function divided by the partition function itself, so if you call it so, this is population fraction for  $j$ th energy level is given by the  $j$ th term of the molecular partition function divided by the partition function itself.

So, similarly, you can also write it as  $N_j$  by  $N_k$ . So, this is the relative population in energy level  $j$  and  $K$  are the ratio of the two is  $g_j \exp(-E_j/kT)$  by  $g_k \exp(-E_k/kT)$  divided by  $kT$ . So, this is the relative degeneracy and this is the relative energy difference. So, this is like the ratio of the number of particles in energy level  $j$  versus energy

level  $K$  which is equal to the ratio of degeneracy at those two levels and the exponential of the differential of energy between those two levels that  $E_K$  energy level differential.

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$Z = \sum_j g_j e^{-\frac{E_j}{KT}}$

↓ the term represents relative probability

that a single particle will be in jth energy level.

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So, Z once again let us write it unequivocally in a very large fonts  $g_j$  exponential  $E_j$  by  $KT$ . So, if you look at it carefully that  $j$ th term, what does it physically imply of the partition function represents the relative probability that a single particle will be in  $j$ th energy level. So, this would be that a single particle will be the  $j$ th energy level is given by the  $j$ th term of the partition function. So, the  $j$ th term in terms of physical interpretation represents the relative probability that a single particle will be in the  $j$ th energy level. So, that is how you should interpret it.

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Partition function

For  $g_j \gg N_j$ , in DL limit

$N_j = g_j \exp\left(\frac{\mu - E_j}{KT}\right)$

Now  $g_j \gg N_j$  only when  $E_j \gg \mu$

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And what about this particular term this exponential term that you see So, this is  $e$  minus  $E$  by  $KT$  this particular term that is there in the exponent is basically like a weighting or a

weighting multiplicand that accounts for the influence of temperature on the accessibility of each energy level. So, this is like this.

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the influence of  $T$  on the accessibility of each energy level.

Lim  $T \rightarrow \infty$   $Z = \sum_j g_j$

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$\frac{N_j}{N_k} = \frac{g_j}{g_k} \exp\left[-\frac{(\epsilon_j - \epsilon_k)}{kT}\right]$

$Z = \sum_j g_j e^{-\frac{\epsilon_j}{kT}}$

the term represents relative probability

that a single particle will be in the energy

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$j$ th term  
 represents relative probability  
 that a single particle will be in  $j$ th energy level.  
 $\rightarrow e^{-\frac{E_j}{kT}}$  : weighting multiplicand that accounts for

And in the limit when temperature goes to infinity this just becomes  $g_j$ . So, what does this essentially imply that when if you look at this particular expression very clearly there is a degeneracy term and then there is a multiplicand which sits. This multiplicand is given by the energy so, higher is the energy, lesser is the probability of this particular term of energy in that particular way so, higher energy. So, that means, so, this would essentially translate to that this particular term is like a weighing fraction. So, not all energy levels has got equal probability which is kind of understandable the relative probability of a particle being at a higher energy level is comparatively a little lower.

Now, when this temperature however becomes in finite this means that this particular term essentially drops out and the partition function essentially becomes the sum total of all the degeneracy sum total of all the micro states. Now the role of temperature is essentially this particular role of temperature is essentially it regulates that whether the higher energy levels of energy all the energy levels are accessible to the particle or not. So, if it is low than the higher energy levels are comparatively less and less accessible, but when it is high, all the energy levels becomes equally accessible and therefore, you do not need this term at all, so this weighing fraction is no longer required when you actually have a situation like this.

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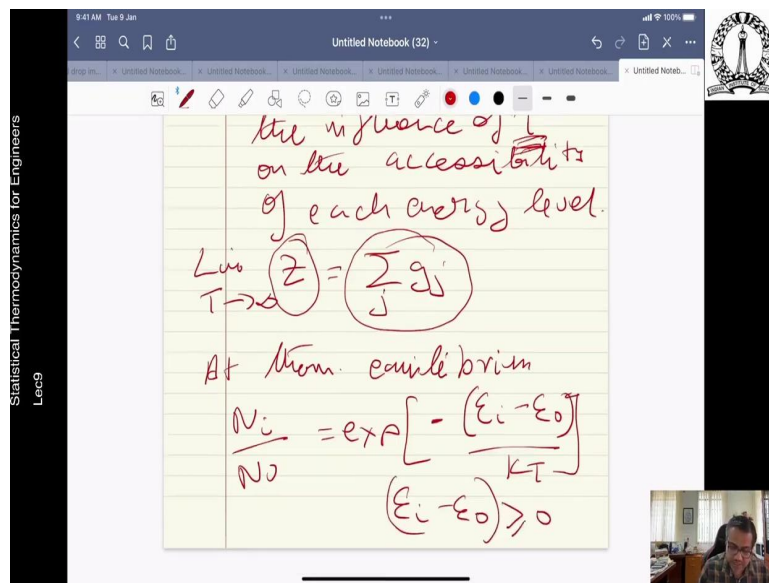
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the influence of  $\downarrow$  on the accessibility of each energy level.

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow 0} Z = \sum_j g_j$$

At therm. equilibrium

$$\frac{N_i}{N_0} = \exp\left[-\frac{(E_i - E_0)}{kT}\right]$$

$$(E_i - E_0) \geq 0$$


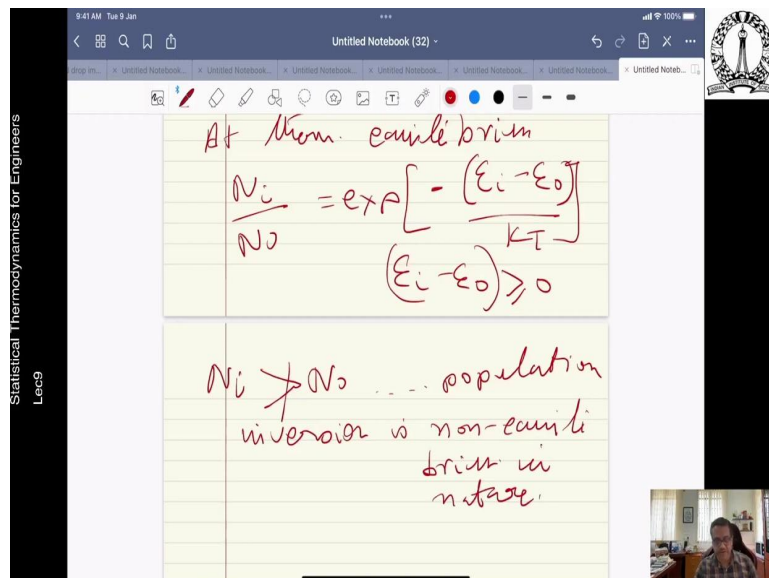
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At therm. equilibrium

$$\frac{N_i}{N_0} = \exp\left[-\frac{(E_i - E_0)}{kT}\right]$$

$$(E_i - E_0) \geq 0$$

$N_i > N_0$  ... population inversion is non-equilibrium in nature.



Now, at thermodynamic equilibrium  $N_i/N_0$  is equal to exponential minus  $E_i$  by  $E_0$  divided by  $kT$  where  $E_i - E_0$  is definitely greater than 0. So, therefore,  $N_i/N_0$  is  $N_0$  so, the population inversion is so,  $N_i$  basically what does this imply is that in  $N_i$  is therefore, cannot be more than  $N_0$  to begin with, the relative. So, the population this also implies that population inversion is non-equilibrium in nature is not an equilibrium situation, non-equilibrium in nature. I think this is quite clear from this particular estimate whatever we have shown here.

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Criteria for DL

$$g_i \gg n_j$$

$$\exp[(\epsilon_j - \mu)/kT] \gg 1$$

$$\exp\left(\frac{\epsilon_j}{kT}\right) \gg 1 \quad \text{as } \epsilon_j \gg 0$$

DL is insured

$$\exp\left[-\frac{\mu}{kT}\right] \gg 1$$

$$\frac{Z}{N} = \exp\left(-\frac{\mu}{kT}\right) \gg 1$$

So, the criteria for dilute limit for DL is one is of course, your  $g$  sub  $j$  is much greater than  $N$   $j$  and exponential  $j$  minus  $\mu$  this also we get by  $kT$  is much much greater than the 1 that means exponential of  $e$  sub  $j$  by  $kT$  is much much greater than equal to 1 as  $e$  sub  $j$  is greater than equal to 0, so the dilute limit is insured if your exponential minus  $\mu$  by  $kT$  is much much greater than 1. So, therefore,  $Z$  by  $N$  which is nothing but exponential minus  $\mu$  by  $kT$  is much much greater than 1.

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For ideal gas  $\mu \ll 0$

$$\frac{N_i}{N_0} = \exp\left[-\frac{(\epsilon_i - \epsilon_0)}{kT}\right]$$

as  $T \rightarrow 0, \epsilon \rightarrow N\epsilon_0$

$$E = \sum N_j \epsilon_j$$

Value of  $\epsilon_0$  is needed to evaluate properties in solution



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$\infty T \rightarrow 0, E \rightarrow N \epsilon_0$   
 $E = \sum N_j \epsilon_j$   
 Value of  $\epsilon_0$  is needed  
 to evaluate properties  
 involving  $\mu$   
 $\epsilon_0 = 0$   
 $\therefore U = 0 \text{ at } T = 0$

Now, for ideal gas,  $\mu$  is much much less than 0. So, therefore,  $N_j$  by  $N$  is equal to exponential minus  $\epsilon_j$  minus  $\mu$  by  $KT$  (24:58) as  $T$  approaches 0 that means the temperature goes to 0,  $E$  goes to  $N \epsilon_0$  and  $E$  is further equal to  $N_j \epsilon_j$ . So, the value of  $\epsilon_0$  is needed to evaluate any properties involving that involving  $\mu$ . So, the value  $\epsilon_0$  is needed to evaluate any property (25:33) in properties involving  $\mu$ . So, we take  $\epsilon_0$  is equal to 0 therefore,  $U$  is equal to 0 at  $T$  equal to 0. The  $E$  equal to 0 and  $T$  equal to 0.

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$\hookrightarrow$  population fraction for  
 $j$ th energy level is  
 given by  $j$ th term of  
 the molecular partition function  
 divided by the partition  
 function itself.  
 $\frac{N_j}{N_k} = \frac{g_j}{g_k} \exp\left[-\frac{\epsilon_j - \epsilon_k}{KT}\right]$   
 $Z = \sum e^{-\epsilon_j / KT}$

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function using

$$\frac{N_j}{N_k} = \frac{g_j}{g_k} \exp\left[-\frac{\epsilon_j - \epsilon_k}{kT}\right]$$

$$Z = \sum_j g_j e^{-\frac{\epsilon_j}{kT}}$$

the term represents relative probability

that a single particle will be in the energy

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level.

$e^{-\frac{\epsilon_j}{kT}}$  weighting multiplicand that accounts for the influence of 'T' on the accessibility of each energy level.

Lim  $Z = \sum_j g_j$   
 $T \rightarrow \infty$

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So, this is the time that we will in the next class do a problem on this degeneracy. So, we have understood gone through the steps now, just do a brief recap, this is the relative probability which is given by the ratio of the degeneracy and this ratio of the weighing fraction, this is the total molecular partition function and which represents like a relative probability of a single particle will be in the jth energy level and this acts like this particular exponential term is like a weighting multiplicand that accounts for the influence of temperature on the accessibility of each energy level. So, that is important.

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that accounts for the influence of 'T' on the accessibility of each energy level.

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} Z = \sum_j g_j$$

At therm. equilibrium

$$\frac{N_i}{N_0} = \exp\left[-\frac{(\epsilon_i - \epsilon_0)}{kT}\right]$$

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At therm. equilibrium

$$\left(\frac{N_i}{N_0}\right) = \exp\left[-\frac{(\epsilon_i - \epsilon_0)}{kT}\right]$$

$(\epsilon_i - \epsilon_0) \geq 0$

$N_i > N_0$  ... population inversion is non-equilibrium in nature.

And at high temperature this particular becomes just a sum total of degenerates. And you can see from this expression that  $N_i/N_0$  since this is always greater than 0, this actually proves that this cannot be valid. So, therefore, population inversion is a non-equilibrium process in nature.

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Sum over all 'j'

$$N e^{-u/kT} = \sum_j g_j \exp\left(\frac{-\epsilon_j}{kT}\right)$$

$$N e^{-u/kT} = \sum_j g_j \exp\left(\frac{-\epsilon_j}{kT}\right) = Z$$

molecular partition function

now  $u/kT$  a eval  $\epsilon_j$

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$$\frac{N_j}{N} = \frac{g_j \exp\left(\frac{-\epsilon_j}{kT}\right)}{Z}$$

population fraction for jth energy level is given by jth term of the molecular partition function divided by the partition function itself.

$$\frac{N_j}{N} = \frac{g_j}{g_k} \exp\left(\frac{-(\epsilon_j - \epsilon_k)}{kT}\right)$$

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$$\frac{N_j}{N_0} = \exp\left(\frac{-\epsilon_j}{kT}\right)$$

$\omega T \rightarrow 0, E \rightarrow N \epsilon_0$

$$E = \sum N_j \epsilon_j$$

value of  $\epsilon_0$  is needed to evaluate properties in solution

$$\epsilon_0 = 0$$

$\therefore U = 0$  at  $T = 0$

And lastly, if you just do a bit of a recall that what is your partition function, so, this is the definition of your partition function. So, these are the terms of the partition function, it can also the  $j$ th partition function can represent is like a population fraction representation for the  $j$ th energy level.

So, these are the different quantities that you have. And this is also to note that at absolute zero, the internal energy is also equal to 0. So, we end that this particular lecture here which is lecture 9. And after that we will do a couple of problems on this partition function before we move any further. So, we will see you in the next class.