

Statistical Thermodynamics for Engineers
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Lecture 25
The Particle in a Box

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$$E_{tr} = E_1 + E_2 + E_3 = \frac{h^2}{8mV^{2/3}} [n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2]$$

$V=L^3$ n_1, n_2, n_3 are translational quantum numbers

Five observations

1. → Quantum #s were not ad hoc. They arose naturally from the maths of the problem

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ad hoc. They arose naturally from the maths of the problem

Classical perspective, this translational motion has 3 degrees of freedom.

One quantum # originates from each degree of freedom.

So, welcome to lecture number 17 of statistical thermodynamics for engineers. So, we have now found out what is the translational energy, let us write it down one more time E_{tr} is E_1 plus E_2 plus E_3 which is equal to $\frac{h^2}{8mV^{2/3}}$ n_1^2 plus n_2^2 plus n_3^2 . So, V was equal to L^3 , is the volume of the cube and n_1, n_2, n_3 are translation quantum numbers. So, there are 5 important observations as we said in the last class that we can make, 5 observations that we can make.

First observation, we note that these quantum numbers are generated automatically, So, the quantum numbers were not adhoc. They were arose naturally from the mathematics of the problem which is nice. So, there is not adhocism over here. So, as we know from our classical perspective, so this particular motion, this translational motion has 3 degrees of freedoms. So, x, y, z; 1, 2, 3, whatever you call it. So, one quantum number originates from each degree of freedom. So, one quantum number for each degree of freedom, so and each quantum number is used to identify the complete state of the system that are concerned with. So, that is good.

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$$(2) \quad E_{tr} = A \sum n_i^2$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_1 \\ n_2 \\ n_3 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} (2, 1, 1) \\ (1, 2, 1) \\ (1, 1, 2) \end{matrix}$$

↳ more than one combination of 3 quantum numbers yields the same total energy
 ↳ gives same energy

So, there is a classical little bit of a classical analogue. The second part which is important is that E_{tr} if we write it properly is A , A is that constant n_i square. So, you can see more than more than one combination of 3 quantum numbers yields the same total energy. And as an example, so an example say, this combination so total, say for example n_1, n_2, n_3 , so let us assume this triplets. So, 2, 1, 1, and 1, 2, 1, and 1, 1, 2, these three gives you the same energy this gives you the same energy, but the individual quantum numbers are different. So, you guessed it right, so this is some kind of a degeneracy of the system.

From the point of view of quantum mechanics, this is a very common feature and we already have an idea of micro-states and macro-state, so the total energy is like a macro-state. And how you possess that total energy in these 3 different ways for example here, this is some kind of the, yes it is micro-state because it does not alter the total energy, but it alters the way that you preserve it you possess some total energy.

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$(n_1, n_2, n_3) \rightarrow (2, 1, 1)$
 $(n_1, n_2, n_3) \rightarrow (1, 2, 1)$
 $(n_1, n_2, n_3) \rightarrow (1, 1, 2)$

gives same energy

No. of independent eigenfunction corresponding to a given eigenvalue is called degeneracy.

degeneracy is (3)

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More generally every unique combination of quantum # represents an independent Eigen state

Energy level \rightarrow eigenvalue

Energy state \rightarrow eigen state

So, point of view of quantum mechanics. So, the number of independent from the point of view of quantum mechanics the number of independent Eigen functions corresponding to a given Eigen value is called degeneracy, the number of independent Eigen functions corresponding to a given Eigen value is called degeneracy. So, for example, in this case the degeneracy is 3, degeneracy is 3 in this particular case. The point of view of quantum mechanics, the number of independent Eigen functions corresponding to a given Eigen values degeneracy in this case for example, the degeneracy is 3.

So, more generally every unique combination of quantum number 3, quantum number represents an independent Eigen state of a system. Each unique combination like 2, 1, 1; 1, 2, 1, these are unique combinations. So, from this perspective what we can say that energy level

is like an Eigen value whereas, energy state this is like the microstate these are the Eigen state. So, each energy level is defined by its Eigen value, whereas each energy state is defined by its Eigen state, defined by its Eigen value.

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$E \propto \frac{h^2}{8mV^{2/3}}$ → Planck's constant

↳ is miniscule

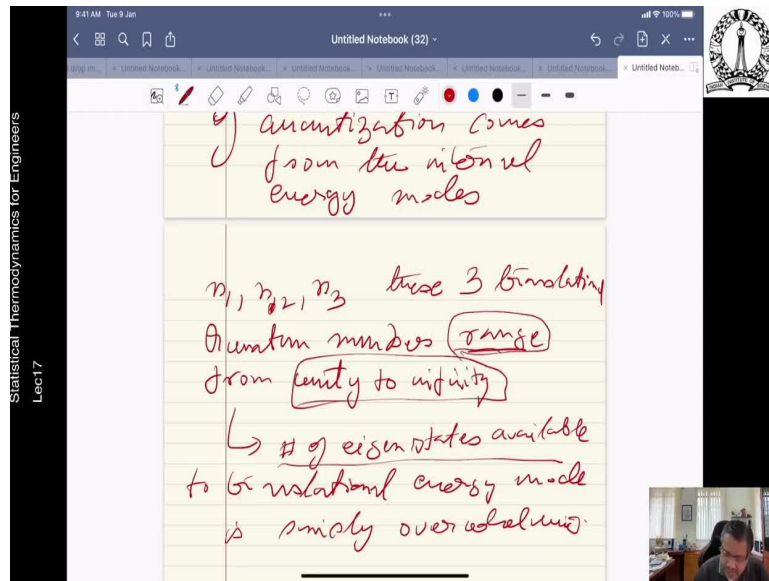
KE of any particle regardless of mass or volume appears continuous.

→ Spectroscopic evidence of quantization comes from the internal energy modes

Now, the third point is that if you look at it a little bit more carefully. So, the point here say E translation is proportional to h^2 divided by $8mV$ to the power of two thirds. Now, if you look at it this is the Planck's constant very low (8:52). So, therefore, this is miniscule due to its dependence on the square of the Planck's constant. For this reason, that kinetic energy of any particle regardless of its size, regardless of mass or volume appears continuous.

So, the spectroscopic evidence, so if you are looking for spectroscopic evidence that means the discreteness of the lines, spectroscopic evidence of quantization comes from the internal energy modes, this is external right this is translation internal energy nodes, vibration, rotation, etcetera. Not through this, not through the translation component at all.

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So, the last one the point that is that these three translational quantum numbers range from unity to infinity, the number of Eigen states. So, since they range from unity to infinity, the number of Eigen states this leads to a number of Eigen states available, accessible to translational energy node is simply overwhelmed. So, if the cube is 3 dimensional as you can see, so it ranges it is got a huge range as a result of that number of Eigen states can also be huge in this particular case.

So, we have got two things like for example, the energy is miniscule and therefore, it appears continuous and therefore, we need to take a look at internal energy nodes for evidence. And we know that n varies from 1 to infinity and the energy levels are like the Eigen values whereas, the energy states correspond to the energy states represented by this quantum numbers are correspond independent Eigen states (12:12).

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Handwritten notes and diagram:

n_1 , n_2 , n_3 axes

ρ simply over volume

the octant

we represent each possible energy state

by its own cube in 3D quantum space

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Handwritten notes and equations:

$$E_{tot} = \frac{h^2}{8mV^{2/3}} [n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2]$$

For some E_{tot} must lie on the surface of a sphere with radius

$$n = [n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2]^{1/2}$$

n is the \therefore # of quantum states N_E associated with $E \leq$

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Handwritten notes and equations:

surface of E volume

$$E \leq E_{tot}$$

$$N_E = \frac{\pi n^3}{6} = \frac{\pi}{6} \left[\frac{8mV^{2/3} E_{tot}}{h^2} \right]^{3/2}$$

$$\therefore N_E = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left(\frac{2m}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} V^{3/2} E_{tot}^{3/2}$$

Differentiate

$$2\pi \left(\frac{2m}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} V^{3/2} E_{tot}^{1/2} dE_{tot}$$

of eigenstates per unit energy in range E_{tot} to $E_{tot} + dE_{tot}$

So, we can represent each possible energy state by its own cube, cube either in a 3d space, how to do that? Let us take a look at this. So, these are the different quantum of states n_1, n_2, n_3 . So, this is a positive octant. So, we represent each possible energy state by its own cube in the 3d quantum number states. So, this is how the representation actually happens. So, we represent each possible energy state by its own cube in 3D quantum number space.

So, if we say that E_{tr} is equal to $\frac{h^2}{8mV} (n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2)$. So, for same E_{tr} , because E_{tr} should be the same that is like a macro state. So, the state must lie on the surface of a sphere with radius $n = \sqrt{n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2}$. n is positive therefore, number of quantum states M_E associated with E less than or equal to E_{tr} .

So, M_E is therefore written as $\frac{4\pi n^3}{6}$ which is also $\frac{4\pi}{6} \left(\frac{8mV}{h^2} E_{tr}\right)^{3/2}$. Therefore, M_E is $\frac{4\pi}{6} \left(\frac{8mV}{h^2} E_{tr}\right)^{3/2}$. So, differentiating this we can differentiate those you will get $\frac{2\pi}{3} \left(\frac{8mV}{h^2} E_{tr}\right)^{1/2} dE_{tr}$. This actually gives you the number of Eigen states per unit energy in the range E_{tr} to $E_{tr} + dE_{tr}$.

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of eigen states per unit energy in range E_{tr} to $E_{tr} + dE_{tr}$

Also called density of states

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$E \leq E_{\text{top}}$

$$N_E = \frac{\pi n^3}{6} = \frac{\pi}{6} \left[\frac{8mV^{2/3} E_{\text{top}}}{h^2} \right]^{3/2}$$

Prob of quantum states

$$N_E = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left(\frac{2m}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} V E_{\text{top}}^{3/2}$$

Differential

$$2\pi \left(\frac{2m}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} V E_{\text{top}}^{1/2} dE_{\text{top}}$$

of eigenstates per unit energy in range E_{top} to $E_{\text{top}} + dE_{\text{top}}$

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source

$$E_{\text{top}} = \frac{h^2}{8mV^{2/3}} [n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2]$$

For some E_{top} , possible combination must lie on the surface of a sphere with radius

$$n = \left[\frac{8mV^{2/3} E_{\text{top}}}{h^2} \right]^{1/2}$$

n is the # of quantum states associated with $E \leq E_{\text{top}}$

So, this is also called density of states, this is also called the density of states. So, therefore, the number of quantum states available is given by this, so this is quantum states and so the numbers must lie on the surface of this possible combination of quantum numbers, must lie on the surface of a sphere with radius this.

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of eigen states per unit energy in range E_{tr} to $E_{tr} + dE_{tr}$

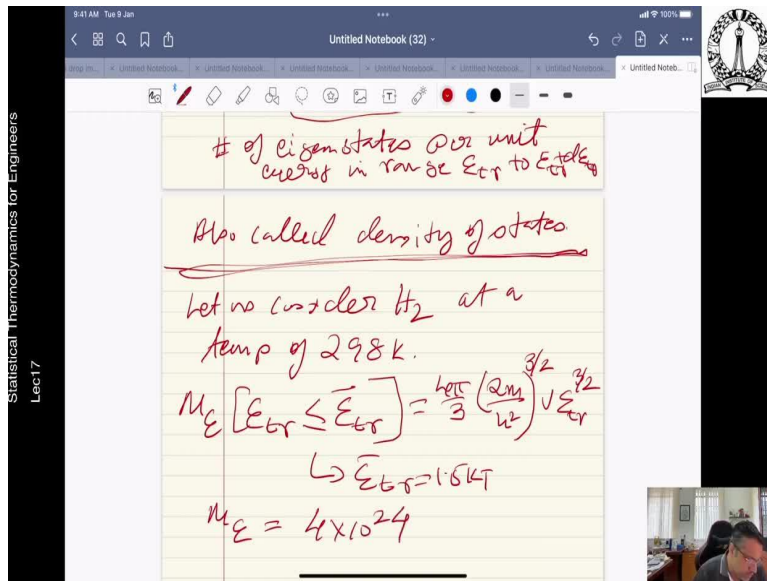
Also called density of states

let us consider H_2 at a temp of 298 K.

$$N_E [E_{tr} \leq \bar{E}_{tr}] = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left(\frac{2m}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} V \bar{E}_{tr}^{3/2}$$

$\hookrightarrow \bar{E}_{tr} = 1.5 kT$

$N_E = 4 \times 10^{24}$



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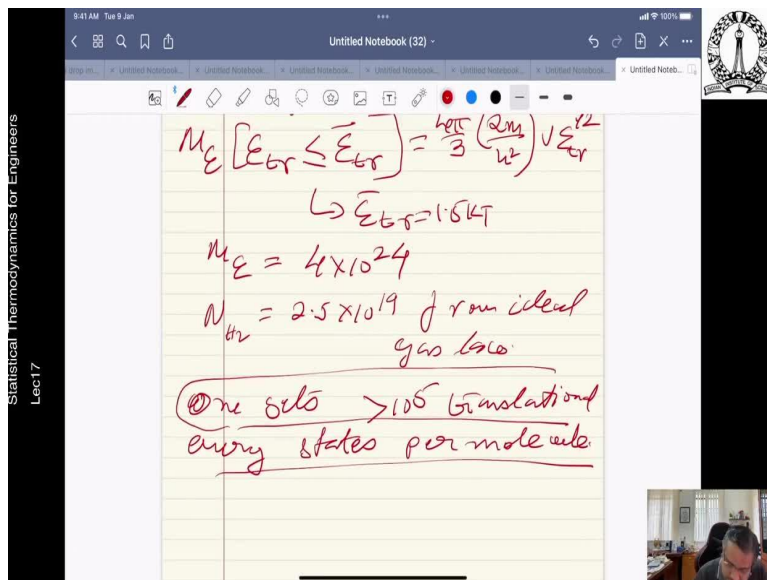
$$N_E [E_{tr} \leq \bar{E}_{tr}] = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left(\frac{2m}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} V \bar{E}_{tr}^{3/2}$$

$\hookrightarrow \bar{E}_{tr} = 1.5 kT$

$N_E = 4 \times 10^{24}$

$N_{H_2} = 2.5 \times 10^{19}$ from ideal gas law.

@ne gets $> 10^5$ translational energy states per molecule.



So, take an state of small example here, let us say hydrogen, let us consider hydrogen at a temperature 298 kelvin. $N_E [E_{tr} \leq \bar{E}_{tr}] = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left(\frac{2m}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} V \bar{E}_{tr}^{3/2}$ (18:52), where \bar{E}_{tr} average energy is about 1.5 KT, this is just an example of hydrogen. So, if you calculate this number, this is actually now therefore equal to 4π by 3, 2 m by h square 3 by 2 \bar{E}_{tr} 3 by 2. So, this will give you the value of N_E is equal to 4 into 10 to the power of 24.

So, the number of hydrogen molecules if we look at it, the number of hydrogen molecules this is actually equal to 2.5 into 10 to the power 19, so that is some ideal gas law. So, one can one gets it is more than 10 to the power of 5 translation energy states per molecule. This is outrageous, so that is the number of molecules that is the number of translational stages that


you are going to get. This essentially almost guarantees that any gas will have its dilute limit(20:59) and liability on it. So, many number of translational stages that are available.

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E.g.
Consider a free particle within a one-dim box of length L .
Determine the average observable steady state energy within this



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length L .
Determine the average observable steady state energy within this box.
$$\langle H \rangle = \frac{\int \psi^* \hat{H} \psi dx dy dz}{\int \psi^* \psi dx dy dz}$$



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average energy in this box

$$\langle H \rangle = \frac{\int \Psi^* \hat{H} \Psi \, dx \, dy \, dz}{\int \Psi^* \Psi \, dx \, dy \, dz}$$

For free particle $v=0$

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2$$

$$\therefore \langle H \rangle = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\int \Psi^* \nabla^2 \Psi \, dx \, dy \, dz}{\int \Psi^* \Psi \, dx \, dy \, dz}$$

$$\Psi_i = \left(\frac{2}{L}\right)^{1/2} \sin\left(\frac{n_i \pi x_i}{L}\right)$$

Now, let us do an example. Consider a free particle within a one-dimensional box of length L . So, you have to determine the average observable steady state energy within this box. So, for any dynamic variables, we already know the rule here for H is for the steady state energy as we know this is given as $\Psi^* \hat{H} \Psi \, dx \, dy \, dz$, $\Psi^* \, dx \, dy \, dz$.

For a free particle v is equal to 0, so that Hamiltonian operator becomes minus \hbar bar square by $2m$ into the Laplace. So, therefore H bar becomes minus \hbar square by $2m$, $\Psi^* \Psi \, dx \, dy \, dz$ divided by $\Psi^* \Psi \, dx \, dy \, dz$. So, this is equation if you look at this, if you look wave number Ψ_i you already found this given by 2 by L to the power half, $n_i \pi$ by Ψ by L . This equation we already made.

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mean energy becomes

$$\langle H \rangle = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int_0^L \Psi^* \frac{d^2 \Psi}{dx^2} dx$$

$$= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\frac{2}{L}\right) \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \int_0^L \sin^2\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$\langle H \rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{4m^2 L} \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \left(\frac{L}{2}\right) = \frac{\hbar^2 n^2}{8m L^2}$$

\hookrightarrow mean particle energy for a 1D box is identical to its energy eigenvalue

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For free particle $V=0$

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2$$

$$\langle \hat{H} \rangle = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\int \psi^* \nabla^2 \psi \, dx \, dy \, dz}{\int \psi^* \psi \, dx \, dy \, dz}$$

$$\psi_i = \left(\frac{2}{L}\right)^{1/2} \sin\left(\frac{n_i \pi x_i}{L}\right)$$

mean energy becomes

$$\langle \hat{H} \rangle = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int \psi^* \frac{d^2 \psi}{dx^2} dx$$


So, this is what we found out about the boundary conditions mean energy becomes we have to just plug this in $\langle \hat{H} \rangle = \int_0^{\infty} \psi^* \hat{H} \psi \, dx$ becomes equal to $\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int_0^L \sin^2 \frac{n \pi x}{L} dx$. If we evaluate this integral, so this will give you $\frac{\hbar^2}{4m} \frac{L}{L} = \frac{\hbar^2}{4m}$, gives you validate the calculation. Also equal to $\frac{\hbar^2}{8m} \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{L^2}$. So, as expected the particle the mean particle energy for 1D box is identical to its energy eigenvalue. So, this is consistent with our general expectation at this is what it should.

So, we can see so therefore, the mean particle energy is this. So, this is a one-dimensional things we have done it. This can actually draw holes if you want a bit size equal to 1 there is only 1 dimension that is available. So, this is identical to what we have seen from your quantum mechanics as indicated by your earlier versions, so like the turbo image.

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$$E_{tot} = \frac{h^2}{8mV^{2/3}} [n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2]$$
 For some E_{tot} , possible combinations must lie on the surface of a sphere with radius $n = \sqrt{n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2}$.

n is the # of quantum states M_E associated with $E \leq E_{tot}$.

$$\langle H \rangle = \frac{h^2}{4\pi^2 m L} \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \left(\frac{L}{2}\right) = \frac{h^2 n^2}{8mL}$$
 ↳ mean particle energy for a 1D box is identical to its energy eigenvalue.

So, this actually completes the translational modes, so we have seen that many translational modes possible, and we have seen that the translational modes can have like these 3 quantum numbers, translational quantum numbers corresponding to its 3 degrees of freedom, there are going to be very large number of energy states that will be available and the energy value is nothing but the Eigen value of this particular system.

But the energy is very miniscule because it is dependent on h square which is a Planck's constant and therefore, we need more need to look at the internal modes if you want to have a good idea that how this would look for specific evidence for the same. So, we will see in the next class where we will go through the uncertainty, start with uncertainty principle in the next class. Thank you.