

# Final Assignment:

## Emergence of the Boltzmann probability distribution

- The task is to code a minimal simulation producing a **key** result of **statistical mechanics** and **thermodynamics**: the **Boltzmann distribution**.
- The distribution governs the probability to observe a state of a given energy. For a system at temperature  $T$ , the probability density function is

$$p(E) \propto e^{-E/k_B T}$$

where  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant.

- The distribution is therefore **exponential** in  $E$ : its log plot (log y axis vs linear x-axis) is a **straight line**.
- You probe this distribution by **sampling** many **configurations** of a simple system.

# Final Assignment: The system

- We consider an extremely simplified setup.
  - ▶ N particles
  - ▶ Only discrete energies
  - ▶ We disregard motion and focus on **energy exchange**
  - ▶ One minimal energy level  $E_0$  (**ground state**)
  - ▶ Equally spaced energy levels at **constant separation**  $\Delta E = E_0$
  - ▶ All energies are measured in units of  $E_0$