

Our universe is filled with black body radiation at a temperature of  $T = 3 \text{ K}$ . This radiation is thought to be a relic from the "big bang" now filling the continuously expanding and cooling universe. Answer the following questions:

- a. Express the photon number density analytically in terms of  $T$ , universal constants and numerical cofactors.
- b. Now determine  $n$  numerically in terms of photons/cm<sup>3</sup>.

(Hint: The Bose-Einstein distribution for photons is given by  $\frac{1}{e^{\beta\hbar\omega} - 1}$ , the integral

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{x^2 dx}{e^x - 1} \simeq 2.4, \text{ and } d^3\mathbf{n} = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} d^3\mathbf{k} )$$