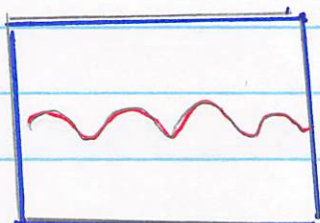


## Last Time



- consider quantum particles in a box

- The waves are broken up into modes

$$\vec{p} = \hbar \vec{k} = \hbar \left( \frac{\pi n_x}{L}, \frac{\pi n_y}{L}, \frac{\pi n_z}{L} \right)$$

- Each mode is an independent subsystem sharing the available energy and particles. Temperature is a parameter describing how the energy is shared,  $\mu$  is a parameter describing how the particles are shared

- The mean number of particles in a mode of single-particle energy  $\epsilon(p)$  is

$$\bar{n}_{BE}^{(p)} = \frac{1}{e^{\beta(\epsilon(p) - \mu)} - 1} \quad \leftarrow \text{if particles are bosons}$$

$$\bar{n}_{FD}^{(p)} = \frac{1}{e^{\beta(\epsilon(p) - \mu)} + 1} \quad \leftarrow \text{if particles are fermions}$$

- The energy in a mode is  $E_p = n \epsilon(p)$  and the mean energy of a mode is

$$\bar{E}_p = \bar{n} \epsilon(p)$$

## Black Body Radiation and the Photon Gas:

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$$\epsilon(p) = \frac{p^2}{2m} \quad \text{non-relativist particles}$$

$$\epsilon(p) = c p \quad \text{light}$$

Then the total number of quantum particles in the box is

$$N = \sum_{\text{modes}} \frac{1}{e^{\beta(\epsilon(p) - \mu)} \mp 1}$$

## Photons

- Photons are bosons.
- $\epsilon(p) = c p$ , since they are relativistic & massless.
- $\mu = 0$  since photons are easily created and destroyed

- The sum over modes / states was:

$$2 \sum_{n_x} \sum_{n_y} \sum_{n_z} \dots \longrightarrow 2 \int \frac{V d^3 p}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \dots = \int \frac{d^3 r d^3 p}{h^3} \dots$$

- The two polarizations "extra" of photons gives "an" overall factor of 2.

$$\sum_{\text{modes}} \dots \longrightarrow 2 \int \frac{V d^3 p}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \dots$$



- Putting Together The ingredients we found:

$$N = 2V \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{cp/kT} - 1}$$

- Looking at this integral, there is a characteristic energy scale for the photons

$$E_0 \sim kT$$

Then,  $p_0 \equiv \frac{E_0}{c} \sim \frac{kT}{c}$ , and the typical wavelength is:

$$\lambda_0 \equiv \frac{\hbar}{p_0} \equiv \frac{\hbar c}{kT} \quad \text{with} \quad \lambda \equiv \frac{\lambda}{2\pi}$$

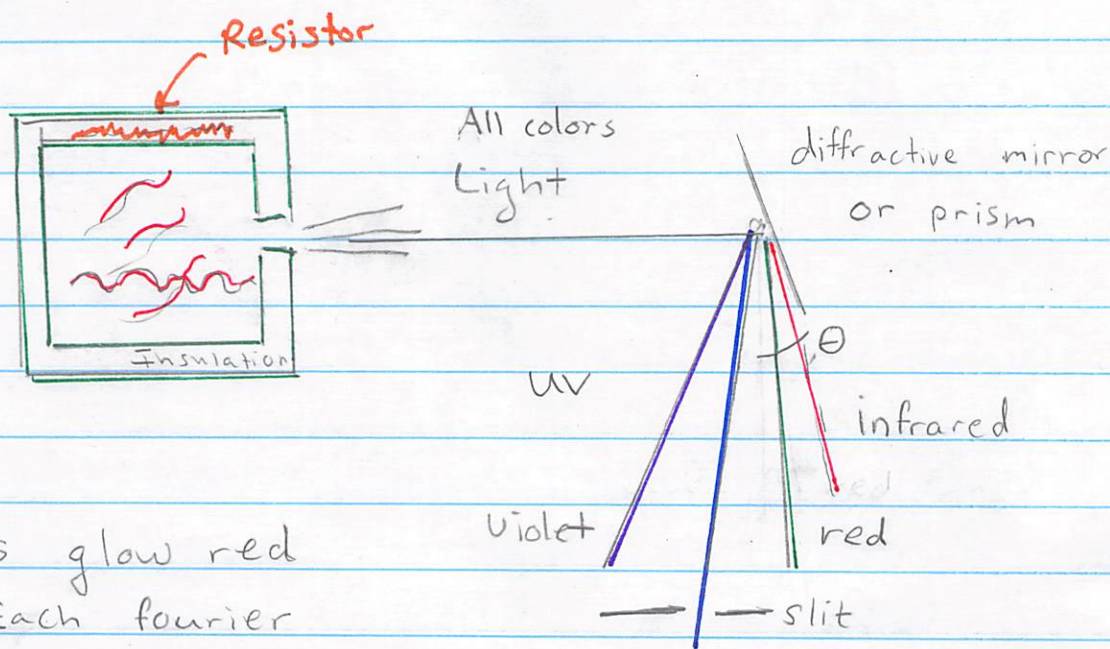
- Then doing integral we found:

$$N = V \underbrace{\left( \frac{p_0}{\hbar} \right)^3}_{\text{units}} \# = V \left( \frac{kT}{\hbar c} \right)^3 \overset{\text{numerical integration}}{0.244} \propto T^3$$

So the density of photons is  $n_\gamma \equiv N/V$

$$n_\gamma \equiv \left( \frac{N}{V} \right) = 0.244 \left( \frac{kT}{\hbar c} \right)^3 = \frac{0.244}{\lambda_0^3}$$

## Experiment



- Objects glow red hot. Each Fourier mode has a certain number of photons
- Watch video of oven.
- We just showed that the photon density in the oven is

$$n_\gamma = 0.244 \left( \frac{kT}{hc} \right)^3$$

## Yields

- We can actually do much more: What is the number of photons per volume with frequency between  $\omega$  and  $\omega + d\omega$ , i.e.

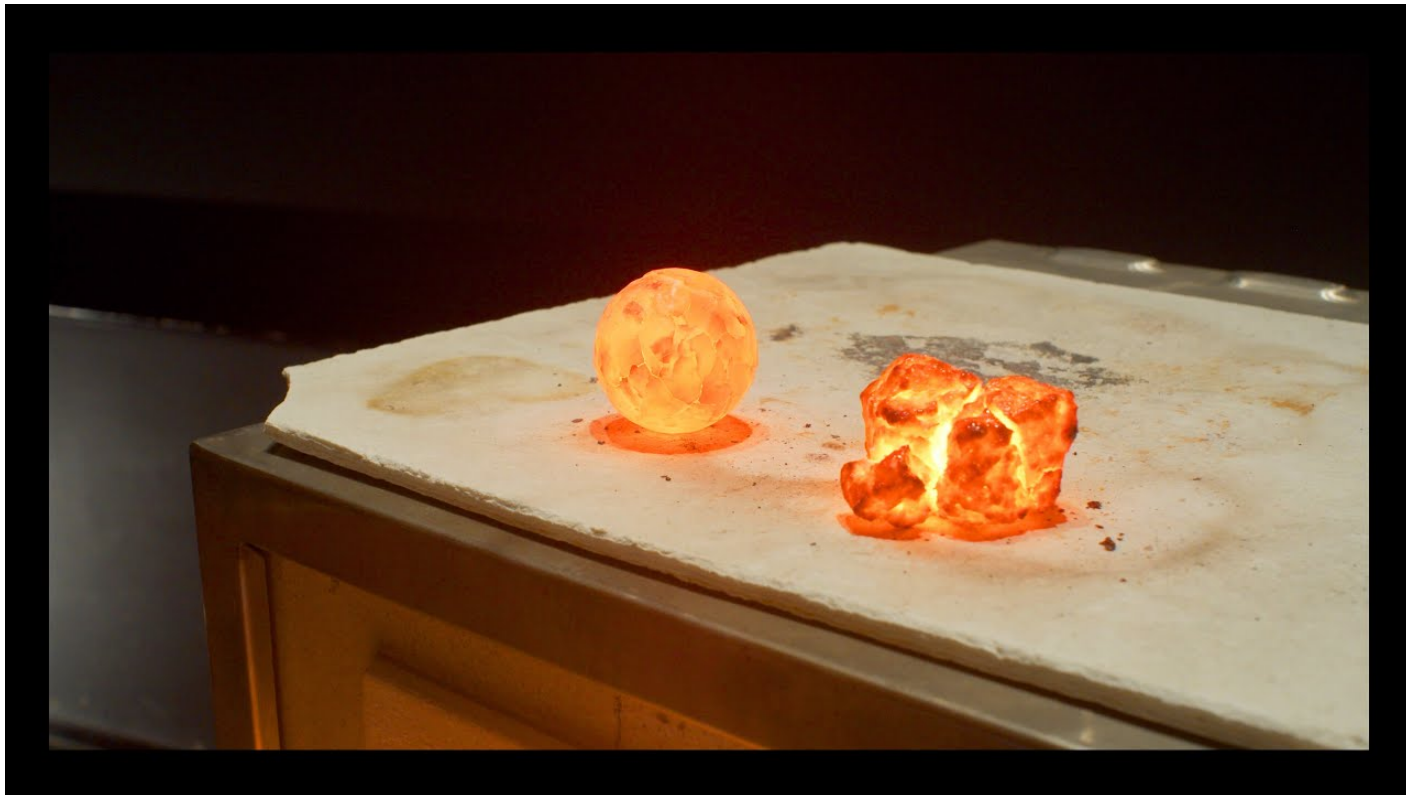
$$\frac{dn_\gamma}{d\omega}$$

note:  $\omega = 2\pi f$



Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Psvo\\_XEc784&t=5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Psvo_XEc784&t=5s)

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$$N = 2V \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{cp/kT} - 1}$$

$$d^3p = 4\pi p^2 dp$$

$$N = 2V \int_0^\infty \frac{4\pi p^2 dp}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{cp/kT} - 1}$$

$$n_\gamma = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \frac{1}{\hbar^3} \int_0^\infty \frac{p^2 dp}{e^{cp/kT} - 1}$$

So

$$dn_\gamma = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \frac{1}{\hbar^3} \frac{p^2 dp}{e^{cp/kT} - 1}$$

Now lets convert to frequency

$$E = cp = \hbar\omega, \quad p = \frac{\hbar\omega}{c}, \quad dp = \frac{\hbar}{c} d\omega$$

So with this change of variables:

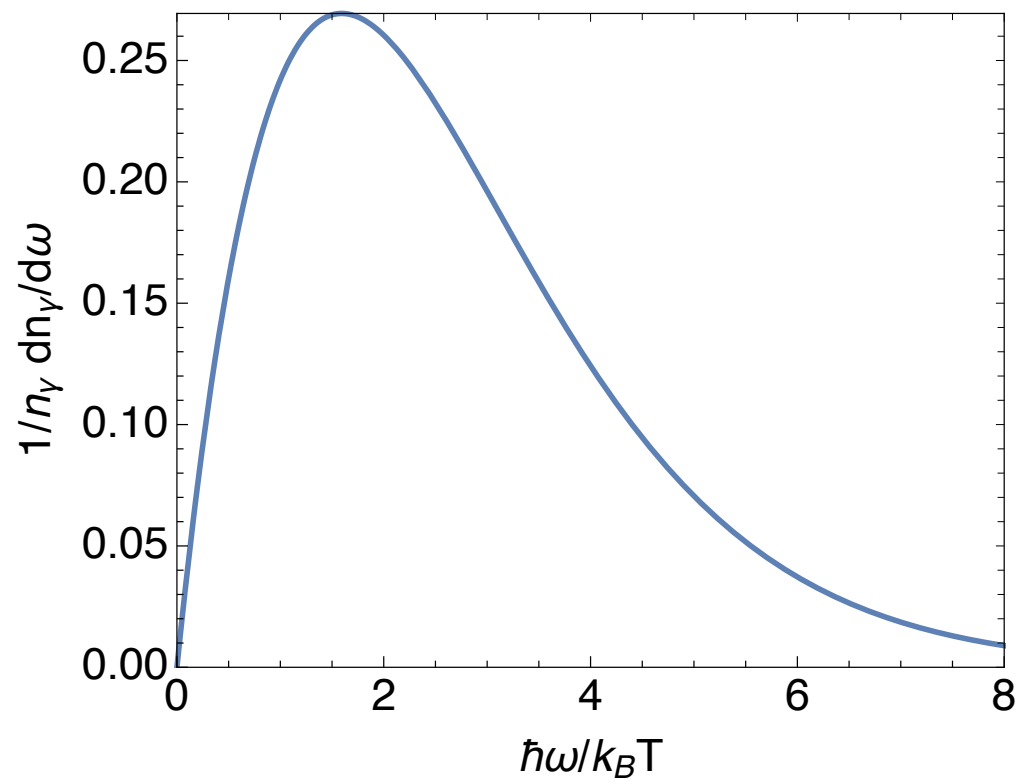
$$dn_\gamma = \frac{1}{\pi^2 c^3} \frac{\omega^2 d\omega}{e^{\hbar\omega/kT} - 1} d\omega$$

Now

$$\frac{1}{n_\gamma} \left( \frac{dn_\gamma}{d\omega} \right) \text{ is shown on the slide}$$

# Photon Spectrum

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$$\frac{dn_\gamma}{d\omega} \propto \frac{\omega^2}{e^{\hbar\omega/k_B T} - 1}$$



- The curve is maximized when

$$\frac{\hbar\omega}{k_B T} \approx 1.613 \text{ so the}$$

So the most probable photon energy is  $\hbar\omega \approx 1.6 k_B T$

### Energy Of The Photon Gas

- The mean energy of the photon gas can be determined from the energies of each mode

$$E_p = \bar{n}_{BE} \epsilon(p)$$

Then

$$E = \sum_{\text{modes}} \bar{n}_{BE} \epsilon(p)$$

$$= 2 \int \frac{V d^3 p}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{\epsilon(p)}{e^{\beta\epsilon(p)} - 1} \quad \text{use } d^3 p = 4\pi p^2 dp$$

and  $\epsilon(p) = cp$

$$= \frac{V}{\pi^2 \hbar^3} \int_0^\infty \frac{p^2 dp (cp)}{e^{cp/kT} - 1}$$

- Again, measure  $p$  in units of  $p_0 = kT/c$  &  $cp_0 = kT$

$$E = V \left( \frac{p_0}{\hbar} \right)^3 cp_0 \left[ \frac{1}{\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{u^3 du}{e^u - 1} \right]$$

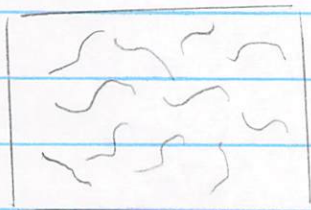
The integral can be done analytically

$$\frac{E}{V} = \left(\frac{p_0}{h}\right)^3 c p_0 \left(\frac{\pi^2}{15}\right) \quad \text{now } c p_0 = k_B T$$

$$= \left(\frac{k_B T}{h c}\right)^3 k_B T \left(\frac{\pi^2}{15}\right) \quad \text{note } \frac{\pi^2}{15} \approx 0.66$$

• So the energy density is :

$$u = 0.66 \frac{k_B T}{\lambda_0^3} \propto T^4 \quad \text{note } u \sim n_\gamma k_B T$$



• Each photon Volume of order  $\lambda_0^3$  and energy of order  $k_B T$

## Energy Per Frequency

The energy per volume is

$$u = \frac{c}{\pi^2 h^3} \int_0^\infty \frac{p^3 dp}{e^{cp/k_B T} - 1}$$

We want  $\frac{du}{d\omega}$ , the energy density per frequency



So

$$du = \frac{c}{\pi^2 \hbar^3} \frac{p^3}{e^{cp/kT} - 1} dp$$

Writing  $p = \frac{\hbar \omega}{c}$   $dp = \frac{\hbar}{c} d\omega$  we find

$$du = \frac{\hbar}{\pi^2 c^3} \frac{\omega^3 d\omega}{e^{\hbar\omega/kT} - 1}$$

So

$$\boxed{\frac{du}{d\omega} = \frac{\hbar}{\pi^2 c^3} \frac{\omega^3}{e^{\hbar\omega/kT} - 1}}$$

↖ energy density per frequency

## The Cosmic Microwave Background

- Many years ago, around 370,000 years after the big bang the electrons and protons recombined to make neutral hydrogen. The temperature was around 3000°K. Over the intervening 15 billion years the universe expanded, and the photons from that epoch got red shifted effectively cooling off; every wavelength gets elongated by the same factor.
- What is observed is a background spectrum of microwave photons at a temperature of 2.725 °K



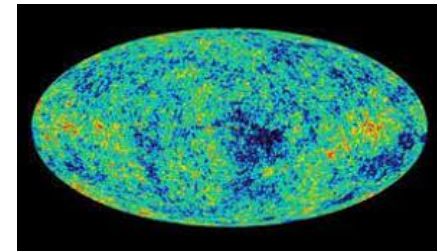
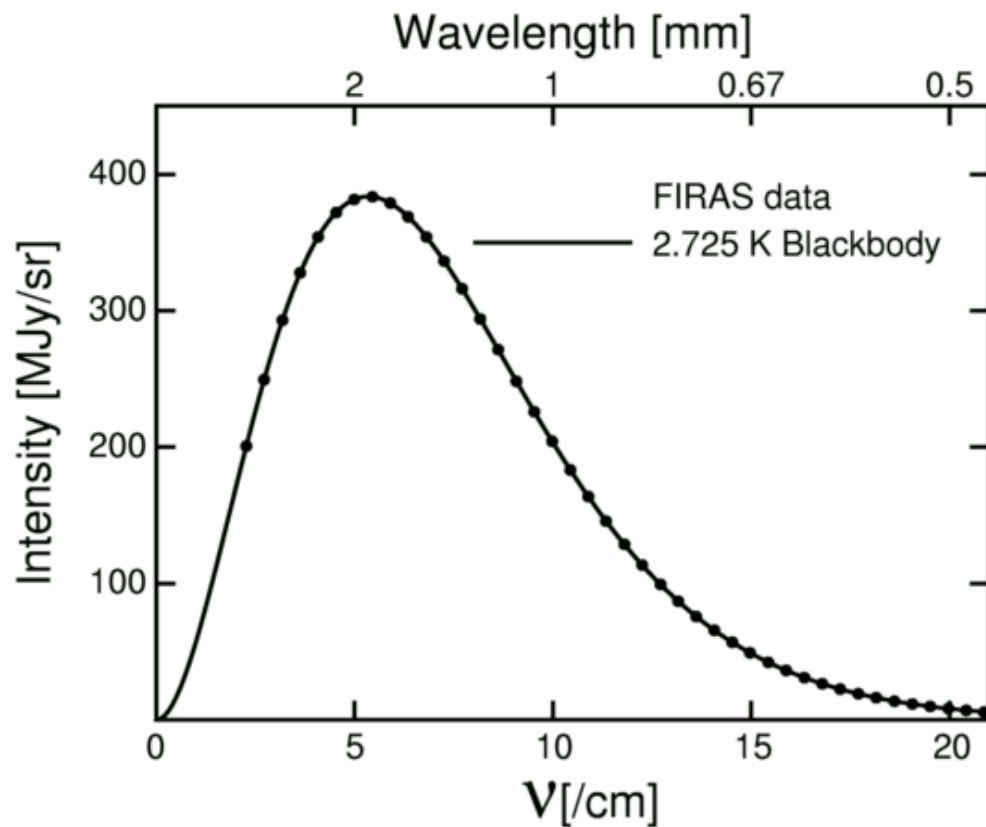
- What is observed in all directions of the sky is the best black body spectrum ever seen.

See Slide:

By fitting the blackbody curve  
we find  $T = 2.725 \text{ K}$

# The cosmic microwave background

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The intensity is proportional to :

$$I \propto \frac{\nu^3}{e^{h\nu/k_B T} - 1}$$

The frequency is  $\nu$  and  $h\nu = \hbar\omega$

## The Pressure and Free energy

- The grand sum for one mode is

$$\mathcal{Z}_p = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-\beta(\epsilon - \mu)}}$$

From here we derived  $\bar{n} \propto \frac{\partial \ln \mathcal{Z}}{\partial \mu}$

- But we have

$$\Phi_G = -k_B T \ln \mathcal{Z}_p \leftarrow \text{one mode}$$

- And so the total grand potential is

$$\Phi_G^{\text{tot}} = \sum_{\text{modes}} -k_B T \ln \mathcal{Z}_p$$

↙ This is general

- $$\Phi_G^{\text{tot}} = \sum_{\text{modes}} k_B T \ln (1 - e^{-\beta(\epsilon(p) - \mu)})$$

$$= 2V \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} k_B T \ln (1 - e^{-\beta \epsilon(p)})$$

↙ This is for the  
photon gas with  
 $\mu = 0$   
and  $\epsilon(p) = cp$

- Once we know  $\Phi_G$  all else follows

$$d\Phi_G = -S dT - P dV - N d\mu$$

↙ pressure!



Differentiating (or using that  $\Phi_G = -pV$  for simple fluids)

$$P = - \frac{\partial \Phi_G}{\partial V} = - 2 \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} k_B T \ln(1 - e^{-\beta c p})$$

So with  $d^3 p = 4\pi p^2 dp$

$$P = \frac{4\pi}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \int_0^\infty p^2 dp k_B T \ln(1 - e^{-\beta c p})$$

• Now integrate by parts once

$$dv = p^2 dp$$

$$u = k_B T \ln(1 - e^{-\beta c p})$$

$$v = \frac{1}{3} p^3$$

$$du = \frac{k_B T e^{-\beta c p}}{1 - e^{-\beta c p}} \beta c dp$$

$$So \quad du = \frac{c dp}{e^{\beta c p} - 1}$$

So

$$P = \frac{4\pi}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{3} p^3 dp \times \frac{c}{e^{\beta c p} - 1}$$

• So comparison with the energy per volume gives

$$P = \frac{1}{3} u$$

- In words; The radiation pressure is  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the energy density

$$p = \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{k_B T}{h c} \right)^3 k_B T \cdot \frac{\pi^2}{15}$$