

# B28 $\beta$ decay

(relativistic)  
 $\mathcal{E} = cp$

$$a) n_p = 2 \int \frac{d^3p}{h^3} \cdot \frac{1}{\frac{1}{3} e^{\beta cp} + 1} = \frac{8\pi}{h^3} \int_0^\infty \frac{p^2 dp}{\frac{1}{3} e^{\beta cp} + 1} = \frac{16\pi}{(h\beta c)^3} g_3(\zeta)$$

high  $T \leftrightarrow \frac{1}{3} e^{\beta cp} \gg 1 \rightarrow \frac{1}{\frac{1}{3} e^{\beta cp} + 1} \approx \frac{1}{3} e^{-\beta cp}, (\zeta \ll 1)$

$$n_{\text{high } T} \approx \frac{8\pi}{h^3} \int_0^\infty e^{-\beta cp} p^2 dp = \frac{8\pi}{h^3} \cdot \frac{1}{(\beta c)^3} \int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^2 dx$$

$$= \frac{16\pi}{(h\beta c)^3} \zeta$$

$$\zeta = \frac{n(h\beta c)^3}{16\pi} \ll 1 \iff \text{high } T \text{ or low density}$$

classical limit

$$\mu_p = kT \ln\left(\frac{n(h\beta c)^3}{16\pi}\right)$$

At  $T=0$   $\mu(T=0) = E_F$

$$g(\mathcal{E}) = \theta(cp - E_F)$$

= 0  
if  $E_F > cp$   
if  $E_F < cp$

$$n = \frac{8\pi}{h^3} \int_0^{E_F/c} p^2 dp = \frac{8\pi}{3(hc)^3} E_F^3$$

b) Reaction produces equal # of  $p, e^-, \bar{\nu}$

$$n_p = \frac{2}{\lambda_p^3} g_{3/2}(e^{\beta\mu_p})$$

$$n_e = n_p = \frac{2}{\lambda_e^3} g_{3/2}(e^{\beta\mu_e})$$

$$n_{\bar{\nu}} = n_p = \frac{16\pi}{(h\beta c)^3} g_3(e^{\beta\mu_{\bar{\nu}}})$$

$$n_n = n_{\bar{\nu}} - n_p = \frac{2}{\lambda_n^3} g_{3/2}(e^{\beta\mu_n})$$

$$\Delta m = m_n - m_p - m_e > 0$$

$$\mu_n = \mu_p + \mu_e + \mu_{\bar{\nu}} \quad \Delta m = ?$$

if  $m_n > m_p + m_e$

if  $m_n < m_p + m_e$

high T:  $kT \ln \left( \frac{1}{2} (n_0 - n_p) \lambda_n^3 \right) = kT \ln \left( \frac{1}{2} n_p \lambda_p^3 \right) + kT \ln \left( \frac{n_p \lambda_0^3}{2} \right) + kT \ln \left( \frac{n_p (\hbar \beta_0)^3}{16\pi} \right) - \Delta m c^2$

$$(n_0 - n_p) \lambda_n^3 = n_p^3 \lambda_p^3 \lambda_0^3 \frac{(\hbar \beta_0)^3}{32\pi}$$

for  $n_p \ll n_0$   $n_p = \left[ n_0 \frac{\lambda_n^3}{\lambda_p^3 \lambda_0^3} \frac{32\pi}{(\hbar \beta_0)^3} \right]^{1/3}$

at  $T=0$ : (fermion)  $\downarrow$

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_n} (3\pi^2 (n_0 - n_p))^{2/3} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_p} (3\pi^2 n_p)^{2/3} + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} (3\pi^2 n_p)^{2/3} + C \left( \frac{3\hbar^3 n_p}{8\pi} \right)^{1/3}$$

$n_p \ll n_0 \rightarrow n_p^{1/3}$  term dominates

$$n_p = \frac{\hbar^2}{3\pi^2 (C\hbar)^3} \left[ \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_n} (3\pi^2 n_0)^{2/3} \right]^3$$

$$n_p \xrightarrow{\text{low } T} \frac{3\pi^2 (C\hbar)^3}{\hbar^2}$$