

**Using Planck's radiation law to derive Wien's displacement law:**

Equation 1 below shows the formula for Planck's radiation law.

$$\rho(\lambda)d\lambda = \frac{8\pi hc}{\lambda^5 \left( e^{hc/\lambda kT} - 1 \right)} d\lambda \quad (1)$$

Wien's law can be derived from this by differentiating  $\rho(\lambda)$  with respect to  $x$ , where  $x$  is a dimensionless value:

$$x = \frac{hc}{\lambda kT} \quad (2)$$

By rearranging this, we can also substitute in,

$$\lambda = \frac{hc}{xkT} \quad (3)$$

to eliminate the variable  $\lambda$  from the equation, so that it can be differentiated. By applying these substitutions, we reach Equation 4 below:

$$\rho(\lambda)d\lambda = \frac{8\pi hc}{\left( \frac{hc}{xkT} \right)^5 (e^x - 1)} d\lambda \quad (4)$$

Which can be simplified and rearranged to Equation 5:

$$\rho(\lambda)d\lambda = \frac{8\pi k^5 T^5}{h^4 c^4} * \frac{x^5}{e^x - 1} d\lambda \quad (5)$$

Since  $k$ ,  $h$  and  $c$  are universal constants, and we are assuming that  $T$  is constant, we can create the substitution in Equation 6 below, where  $A$  is a constant,

$$A = \frac{8\pi k^5 T^5}{h^4 c^4} \quad (6)$$

And thus, we can make the substitution of Equation 6 into Equation 5. This creates Equation 7 below, which is in a format much simpler to differentiate than Equation 1,

$$\rho(\lambda)d\lambda = A \frac{x^5}{e^x - 1} d\lambda \quad (7)$$

To differentiate, we can use the quotient rule:

$$\frac{d\rho}{dx} = A * \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(x^5)(e^x-1) - \frac{d}{dx}(e^x-1)(x^5)}{(e^x-1)^2} \quad (8)$$

$$= A * \frac{(5x^4)(e^x-1) - (e^x-0)(x^5)}{(e^x-1)^2} \quad (9)$$

$$= A * \frac{5x^4e^x - 5x^4 - x^5e^x}{(e^x-1)^2} \quad (10)$$

After simplifying, we reach Equation 11:

$$\frac{d\rho}{dx} = Ax^4 * \frac{e^x(5-x)-5}{(e^x-1)^2} \quad (11)$$

Given that  $\frac{d\rho}{dx} = 0$ , and knowing that  $A \neq 0$  from Equation 6, and we're calculating for a point where  $x \neq 0$ , we can deduce that,

$$e^x(5-x) - 5 = 0 \quad (12)$$

### Writing a program to solve Equation 12 using the Newton Raphson method.

The Newton Raphson method can be used to find a relatively accurate value for the solution to the equation. The method involves inputting a value for  $x$ , and checking its accuracy, and trying a new value for  $x$ , getting closer to the solution until it converges to the correct number. In order to use this method, we must input a value close to the correct value, as an initial estimation. This can be found by plotting a graph of the function and estimating where the intersection is. The curve in Figure 1 is plotted using Python.

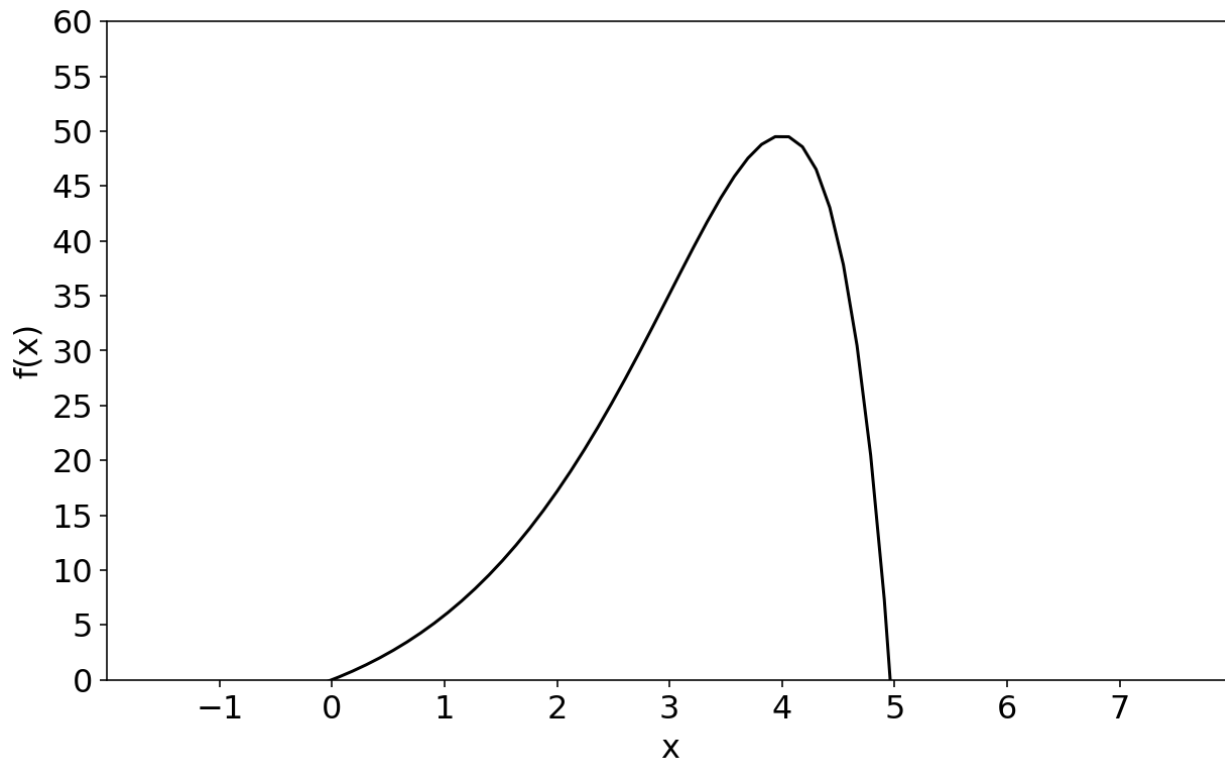


Figure 1- A graph of the function  $e^x(5-x) - 5 = 0$  created in Jupyter Notebook.

The line intersects the x-axis at  $x = 0$  and at  $x \approx 5$ . Using the Newton Raphson method, we can find the exact intercept. The attached file *Newton-Raphson.py* shows the Python code used to find a more accurate value for  $x$  to 6 decimal places. Figure 2 shows the output from the program, from which we can deduce that the closest value for  $x$  is 4.965114.

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In [1]: runfile('C:/Users/mp2521/.spyder-py3/temp.py', wdir='C:/Users/mp2521/.spyder-py3')
Counter, i: 2,    xi: 4.966310,    x(i-1)-x(i): 0.033690,    Precision: 0.006738
Counter, i: 3,    xi: 4.965116,    x(i-1)-x(i): 0.001195,    Precision: 0.000241
Counter, i: 4,    xi: 4.965114,    x(i-1)-x(i): 0.000001,    Precision: 0.000000
```

Figure 2- The output from the program used to calculate  $x$ .

This calculation of  $x$  could then be used to find Wien's constant. Wien's law states that,

$$\lambda_{max} = \frac{B}{T} \quad (13)$$

Where  $B$  is Wien's constant. By looking at a standard blackbody curve, the point where the wavelength is at its maximum, is at the point where  $\frac{d\rho}{dx} = 0$ , and so from Equation 2,

$$\lambda_{max} = \frac{hc}{xkT} \quad (14)$$

Equating Equations 13, and 14, we see that

$$\frac{B}{T} = \frac{hc}{xkT} \Rightarrow B = \frac{hc}{xk} \quad (15)$$

By substituting the following values in for  $h$ ,  $c$  and  $k$ , we can calculate Wien's constant,  $B$ .

$$h = 6.626071 \times 10^{-34} \text{ m}^2\text{kg/s}$$

$$c = 2.997925 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$$

$$k = 1.380649 \times 10^{-23} \text{ m}^2\text{kg/s}^2\text{K}$$

$$\Rightarrow B = \frac{6.626071 \times 10^{-34} \times 2.997925 \times 10^8}{4.965114 \times 1.380649 \times 10^{-23}} = 2.897772 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mK}$$

This value aligns almost exactly with the known value of Wien's constant, which is  $2.89777 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mK}$  [1].

## References

[1] Sheldon R., Wien's Constant, TechTarget.com, Updated February 2023, accessed 01/05/2023  
<https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/Wiensconstant#:~:text=Wien's%20constant%20is%20typically%20represented,%E2%8B%85%2010%2D3>.