

1. First problem:

(a) $\langle(\delta E)^2\rangle = \langle E^2\rangle - \langle E\rangle^2$. We already know that $\langle E^2\rangle = \frac{1}{Q^2} \frac{\partial^2 Q}{\partial \beta^2}$ and $\langle E\rangle = \frac{-1}{Q} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial \beta}$.

Thus, $\langle(\delta E)^2\rangle = \frac{1}{Q^2} \frac{\partial^2 Q}{\partial \beta^2} - \frac{1}{Q^2} \left(\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \beta}\right)^2$.

Now just for kicks, let's take the second derivative of $\ln Q$ with respect to $-\beta$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 \ln Q}{\partial \beta^2} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} \left(\frac{1}{Q} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial \beta} \right) \\ &= \frac{-1}{Q^2} \left(\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \beta} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{Q} \frac{\partial^2 Q}{\partial \beta^2} \quad (\text{using product rule and chain rule}) \\ &= -\langle E\rangle^2 + \langle E^2\rangle \\ \frac{\partial^2 \ln Q}{\partial \beta^2} &= \langle(\delta E)^2\rangle \end{aligned}$$

So we proved it! Also note that $-\frac{\partial \langle E\rangle}{\partial \beta} = \frac{\partial^2 \ln Q}{\partial \beta^2}$ because $\langle E\rangle = \frac{\partial \ln Q}{\partial \beta}$. Thus,

$$\langle(\delta E)^2\rangle = -\frac{\partial \langle E\rangle}{\partial \beta}.$$

(b) $q = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-\beta E_n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-\beta \hbar \omega (n+1/2)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-\beta \hbar \omega /2} e^{-\beta \hbar \omega n} = e^{-\beta \hbar \omega /2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-\beta \hbar \omega n}$. This is just the sum of a geometric series with a pre-factor ahead of it. Using this fact, we find that

$$q = \frac{e^{-\beta \hbar \omega /2}}{1 - e^{-\beta \hbar \omega}} = \frac{1}{e^{\beta \hbar \omega /2} - e^{-\beta \hbar \omega /2}}$$

(c) Now this big Q is just a product of the individual q 's because the oscillators are independent. Thus, we can find that

$$\begin{aligned} Q(\beta, N, V) &= \sum_{n_1, n_2, \dots = 0}^{\infty} \exp \left[-\beta \sum_{\alpha} \left(\frac{1}{2} + n_{\alpha} \right) \hbar \omega_{\alpha} \right] \\ &= \left(\sum_{n_1=0}^{\infty} e^{-\beta \hbar \omega (n_1+1/2)} \right) \left(\sum_{n_2=0}^{\infty} e^{-\beta \hbar \omega (n_2+1/2)} \right) \dots \left(\sum_{n_{DN}=0}^{\infty} e^{-\beta \hbar \omega (n_{DN}+1/2)} \right) \\ &= \prod_{\alpha=1}^{DN} \left(\sum_n e^{-\beta \hbar \omega_{\alpha} (n+1/2)} \right) = \prod_{\alpha=1}^{DN} q(\alpha) \\ &= \prod_{\alpha=1}^{DN} \frac{1}{e^{\beta \hbar \omega_{\alpha} /2} - e^{-\beta \hbar \omega_{\alpha} /2}} \end{aligned}$$

Notice that this is a product of partition functions. When you take the log of this, the product turns into a sum, giving

$$\ln Q = - \sum_{\alpha=0}^{DN} \ln (e^{\beta \hbar \omega_{\alpha}/2} - e^{-\beta \hbar \omega_{\alpha}/2})$$

(d) $\langle E \rangle = \frac{-\partial \ln Q}{\partial \beta}$. Using this and the answer to part(c), we can find

$$\langle E \rangle = \sum_{\alpha=0}^{DN} \frac{\hbar \omega_{\alpha}}{2} \frac{e^{\beta \hbar \omega_{\alpha}/2} + e^{-\beta \hbar \omega_{\alpha}/2}}{e^{\beta \hbar \omega_{\alpha}/2} - e^{-\beta \hbar \omega_{\alpha}/2}}$$

(e) For the canonical ensemble, $P_{\nu} = \frac{e^{-\beta E_{\nu}}}{Q}$. Thus, $\ln P_{\nu} = -\beta E_{\nu} - \ln Q$. Let's plug all this into the expression for S .

$$\begin{aligned} S &= -k_B \sum_{\nu} \frac{1}{Q} (-\beta E_{\nu} e^{-\beta E_{\nu}} - \ln Q e^{-\beta E_{\nu}}) \\ &= k_B \sum_{\nu} \beta E_{\nu} \frac{e^{-\beta E_{\nu}}}{Q} + k_B \ln Q \sum_{\nu} \frac{e^{-\beta E_{\nu}}}{Q} \\ &= k_B \beta \langle E \rangle + k_B \ln Q \quad (\text{because } Q = \sum_{\nu} e^{-\beta E_{\nu}}) \\ &= \frac{\langle E \rangle}{T} + k_B \ln Q \\ TS &= \langle E \rangle + k_B T \ln Q \\ \implies -k_B T \ln Q &= \langle E \rangle - TS \equiv A \\ A &= -k_B T \ln Q \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we can obtain the Helmholtz free energy from the partition function.

(f) We know that $g(\omega)d\omega = \delta(\omega - \omega_0)d\omega$. To get A using this and Q , we compute $A = -k_B T \int_0^{\infty} Q(\omega) g(\omega) d\omega$, where $Q(\omega)$ is our answer from (c). Let's do this integral!

$$\begin{aligned} A &= -k_B T \int_0^{\infty} d\omega \delta(\omega - \omega_0) \sum_{\alpha} -\ln (e^{\beta \hbar \omega_{\alpha}/2} - e^{-\beta \hbar \omega_{\alpha}/2}) \\ &= k_B T \ln (e^{\beta \hbar \omega_0/2} - e^{-\beta \hbar \omega_0/2}) \end{aligned}$$

We can do this since the δ function just picks out the frequency ω_0 .

2. Second problem:

(a) Now the expression for P_{ν} changes because we're looking at the grand canonical partition function. We have $P_{\nu} = \frac{e^{-\beta E_{\nu} + \beta \mu N_{\nu}}}{Z}$. Same as in question 1, let's take

the log of this expression. Then, $\ln P_\nu = -\beta E_\nu + \beta \mu N_\nu - \ln Z$. Plugging into the Gibb's entropy, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} S &= -k_B \sum_\nu \frac{-\beta E_\nu e^{-\beta E_\nu + \beta \mu N_\nu}}{Z} + \frac{\beta \mu N_\nu e^{-\beta E_\nu + \beta \mu N_\nu}}{Z} + \frac{-\ln Z e^{-\beta E_\nu + \beta \mu N_\nu}}{Z} \\ S &= k_B \beta \langle E \rangle - k_B \beta \mu \langle N \rangle + k_B \ln Z \quad (\text{using that } Z = \sum_\nu e^{-\beta E_\nu + \beta \mu N_\nu}) \end{aligned}$$

(b) $E = TS - pV + \mu N$ and $\Phi \equiv E - TS + \mu N \implies \Phi = -pV$.

(c) Let's manipulate S some more from (a).

$$\begin{aligned} S &= k_B \beta \langle E \rangle - k_B \beta \mu \langle N \rangle + k_B \ln Z \\ S &= \frac{\langle E \rangle}{T} - \frac{\mu \langle N \rangle}{T} + k_B \ln Z \\ TS &= \langle E \rangle - \mu \langle N \rangle + k_B T \ln Z \\ \implies -k_B T \ln Z &= \langle E \rangle - \mu \langle N \rangle - TS \\ \text{or } k_B T \ln Z &= -\Phi \end{aligned}$$

Additionally, this also means $k_B T \ln Z = pV$ or $\ln Z = \beta pV$!

(d) The average energy is $\langle E \rangle = \sum_\nu E_\nu P_\nu$. Plugging in for P_ν , we get $\langle E \rangle = \sum_\nu E_\nu \frac{e^{-\beta E_\nu + \beta \mu N_\nu}}{Z}$.

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} -\left(\frac{\partial \ln Z}{\partial \beta}\right)_{\mu, V} &= -\frac{1}{Z} \sum_\nu (-E_\nu + \mu N_\nu) e^{-\beta E_\nu + \beta \mu N_\nu} \\ &= \langle E \rangle - \mu \langle N \rangle \\ \implies \langle E \rangle &= \mu \langle N \rangle - \left(\frac{\partial \ln Z}{\partial \beta}\right)_{\mu, V} \end{aligned}$$

This looks more complicated than before because we're working in the grand canonical ensemble where μ, V, β are held constant and this is not the natural set of variables to yield a clean expression for $\langle E \rangle$.

(e) Similar to E , we can write $\langle N \rangle = \sum_\nu N_\nu P_\nu = \sum_\nu N_\nu \frac{e^{-\beta E_\nu + \beta \mu N_\nu}}{Z}$. We can take the derivative of $\ln Z$ with respect to μ to get a similar expression.

$$\left(\frac{\partial \ln Z}{\partial \mu}\right)_{\beta, V} = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_\nu \beta N_\nu e^{-\beta E_\nu + \beta \mu N_\nu} = \beta \langle N \rangle$$

Thus, $\langle N \rangle = \frac{1}{\beta} \left(\frac{\partial \ln Z}{\partial \mu}\right)_{\beta, V} = \left(\frac{\partial \ln Z}{\partial \beta \mu}\right)_{\beta, V}$. Here, we can pull the β into the derivative as it is constant, and can either be inside or outside.

- (f) We take derivatives with respect to the conjugate field that causes a variable to fluctuate in any ensemble. E is controlled by the “field” $-\beta$ and N is controlled by the “field” $\beta\mu$. Taking the derivatives of the log of the partition function with respect to these fields gives the average of the fluctuating quantity. This is a useful pattern to note – you should be able to identify the correct field for a variable in order to take the correct derivative for any old partition function.
- (g) As we did for $\langle(\delta E)^2\rangle$ in question 1, we can do a similar manipulation in the grand canonical ensemble for $\langle(\delta N)^2\rangle$.

$$\langle(\delta N)^2\rangle = \langle N^2\rangle - \langle N\rangle^2. \text{ We can again infer that } \langle N^2\rangle = \frac{1}{Z^2} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial(\beta\mu)^2} \text{ and } \langle N\rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial\beta\mu}. \text{ Thus, } \langle(\delta N)^2\rangle = \frac{1}{Z^2} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial(\beta\mu)^2} - \frac{1}{Z^2} \left(\frac{\partial Z}{\partial\beta\mu}\right)^2.$$

Back to the log derivatives...

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 \ln Z}{\partial(\beta\mu)^2} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial\beta\mu} \left(\frac{1}{Z} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial\beta\mu} \right) \\ &= \frac{-1}{Z^2} \left(\frac{\partial Z}{\partial\beta\mu} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{Z} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial(\beta\mu)^2} \text{ (using product rule and chain rule)} \\ &= -\langle N\rangle^2 + \langle N^2\rangle \\ \frac{\partial^2 \ln Z}{\partial(\beta\mu)^2} &= \langle(\delta N)^2\rangle \end{aligned}$$

Thus, this is the appropriate derivative to find $\langle(\delta N)^2\rangle$. Note again that we took the second derivative with respect to the “field” $\beta\mu$!

$$\text{Also, } \frac{\partial\langle N\rangle}{\partial\beta\mu} = \frac{\partial^2 \ln Z}{\partial(\beta\mu)^2} \text{ because } \langle N\rangle = \frac{\partial \ln Z}{\partial\beta\mu}. \text{ Thus, } \langle(\delta N)^2\rangle = \frac{\partial\langle N\rangle}{\partial\beta\mu}.$$