

quantum fluctuations make  $g$  subextensive so that  $S(0) \ll n$  & ①

$$S(T) \simeq \int_0^T \frac{C_V}{T}$$

## Second law of thermodynamics

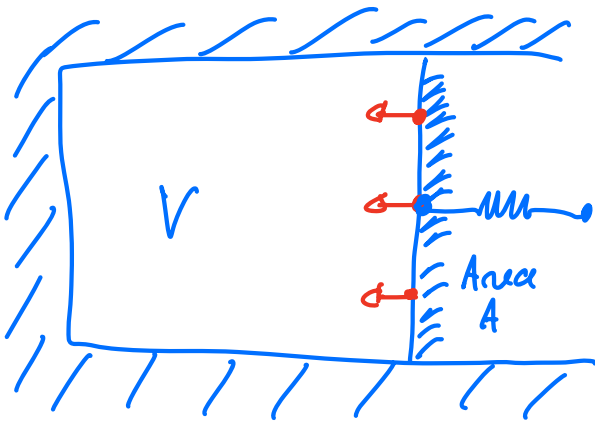
Take two systems with initial energy  $E_1$  &  $E_2$ . Let them evolve in contact with each other and they will relax to  $E_1^*$  &  $E_2^*$  such that

$$S_{\text{final}} = S_1(E_1^*) + S_2(E_2^*) \geq S_{\text{initial}} = S_1(E_1) + S_2(E_2)$$

$\Rightarrow$  the entropy of the isolated system  $S = S_1 + S_2$  has increased

$\Rightarrow$  this is the second law of thermodynamics. Note that it relies on  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

### 3.1.4.3) Pressure & the 1st law of thermodynamics



We let the system equilibrate in a volume  $V$ , and we then exert a force per unit area  $f_a$ , that leads to a compression of the system during

which the right wall moves by a distance  $dx$ . The force exerts a work that is  $dW = f_a \cdot A \cdot dx = f_a dV$  so that the energy evolves as  $E \rightarrow E + f_a dV$  and its variation reads  $dE = f_a dV$

The entropy then evolves as

2

$$S_m(N, V, E) \rightarrow S_m(N, V + dV, E + dE) = S_m(N, V, E) + dV \frac{\partial S_m}{\partial V} + dE \underbrace{\frac{\partial S_m}{\partial E}}_{1/T} \equiv dS$$

$$\Rightarrow dS_m = \frac{\partial S_m}{\partial V} dV + f_a dV \frac{1}{T} \quad (*)$$

If the system does not evolve  $dS_m = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial S_m}{\partial V} = - \frac{f_a}{T}$

In the steady state, the system exerts a force per unit area that balances  $f_a$ , which is the pressure

$$P_m = T \frac{\partial S}{\partial V}$$

(\*) can then be rewritten  $dS = \frac{P_m}{T} dV + \frac{dE}{T}$

so that  $dE = T_m dS_m - P_m dV \Rightarrow 1^{st} \text{ law of thermodynamics.}$

Take home message:

- Finite system  $\Rightarrow$  compute  $\Omega(E)$  or  $\tilde{\Omega}(E)$  to characterize the probability of microstate
- Compute  $S(E)$  in the large  $N$  limit to compute thermodynamic observable (heat capacity, pressure)

- Define macrostates  $\mathcal{Q}_M = \{\mathcal{Q}_m\}$ , their probability are given by  $P(\mathcal{Q}_m) = \frac{\Omega(\mathcal{Q}_m)}{\Omega(E)}$  when  $\Omega(\mathcal{Q}_m)$  is the number of microstates in  $\mathcal{Q}_m$

Then, the large system limit endows  $P(\mathcal{Q}_m)$  with a simpler expression.

let us now show how this microstate / macrostate formalism can be used to **change ensemble**.

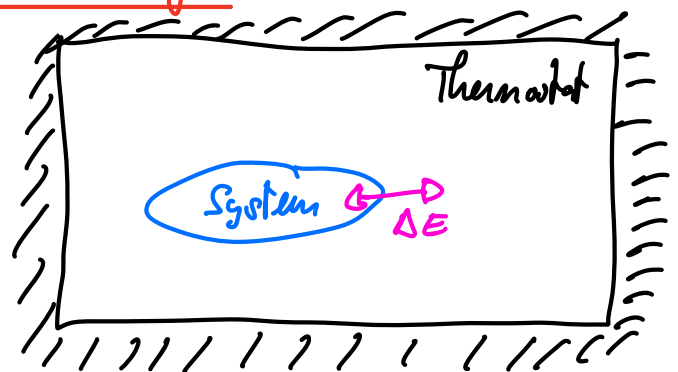
### 3.2) Canonical ensemble

#### 3.2.1) Changing ensemble: the Boltzmann weight

System  $S$  + Thermostat = isolated  
but able to exchange energy

$$E_{\text{tot}} = E_S + E_{\text{th}} \text{ fixed}$$

but  $E_S$  &  $E_{\text{th}}$  can fluctuate.



① We consider large system so that  $E_S, E_{\text{th}} \gg$  interaction energy between  $S$  & thermostat.

② We consider large thermostat so that  $E_{\text{th}} \gg E_S$ .

③ System + thermostat are isolated  $\Rightarrow$  microcanonical ensemble.

$\Rightarrow$  Configuration  $\mathcal{Q} = (\mathcal{Q}_S, \mathcal{Q}_{\text{th}})$  such that  $P_{\text{tot}}(\mathcal{Q}) = \frac{1}{\Omega_{\text{tot}}(E_{\text{tot}})} \delta_{E_{\text{th}}, E_S - E_{\text{tot}}}$

Macrostate: Since we do not care about the thermostat, we can define a macrostate of the system using  $\mathcal{Q}_S$  (4)

$$\Rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_S = \{ \mathcal{Q} = \{ \mathcal{Q}_S, \mathcal{Q}_{th} \} \text{ such that } E_S(\mathcal{Q}_S) + E_{th}(\mathcal{Q}_{th}) = E_{tot} \}$$

This macrostate contains  $\Omega_{th}(\mathcal{Q}_{th}) \gg 1$  states  $\Rightarrow$  macro indeed.

$$\begin{aligned} P_{tot}(\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_S) &= \sum_{\mathcal{Q} \in \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_S} P_{tot}(\mathcal{Q}) = \frac{1}{\Omega_{tot}(E_{tot})} \sum_{\mathcal{Q}_{th} | E(\mathcal{Q}_{th}) = E_{tot} - E(\mathcal{Q}_S)} 1 = \frac{\Omega_{th}(E_{tot} - E(\mathcal{Q}_S))}{\Omega_{tot}(E_{tot})} \\ &= \frac{e^{h_D^{-1} S_m^{th}(E_{tot} - E(\mathcal{Q}_S))}}{\Omega_{tot}(E_{tot})} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $E(\mathcal{Q}_S) \ll E_{tot}$ ,  $S_m^{th}(E_{tot} - E(\mathcal{Q}_S)) \simeq S_m^{th}(E_{tot}) - E(\mathcal{Q}_S) \frac{\partial S_m^{th}(E_{tot})}{\partial E}$

$\frac{1}{T_m^{th}}$

$$\Rightarrow P_{tot}(\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_S) = \frac{e^{h_D^{-1} S_m^{th}(E_{tot})} e^{-\frac{E(\mathcal{Q}_S)}{h_D T_m^{th}}}}{\Omega_{tot}(E_{tot})}$$

$P_{tot}(\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_S)$  is the probability that the full system is in the macrostate

$\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_S \Leftrightarrow$  the probability that the system is in  $\mathcal{Q}_S$ ,  $P_S(\mathcal{Q}_S) \equiv P(\mathcal{Q}_S)$

for simplicity. All in all

$$P(\mathcal{Q}_S) = \frac{\Omega_{th}(E_{tot})}{\Omega_{tot}(E_{tot})} e^{-\frac{E(\mathcal{Q}_S)}{h_D T_m^{th}}} \equiv \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\beta E(\mathcal{Q}_S)} \quad (1)$$

where  $\beta = \frac{1}{k_B T_m + k_B}$  is the inverse temperature (in  $J^{-1}$ ) of the thermostat (5)

and  $Z = \frac{\Omega_{tot}(E_{tot})}{\Omega_{th}(E_{tot})}$  (2') is a normalization factor such that

$$\sum_{q_s} P(q_s) = 1 \Rightarrow$$

$$Z = \sum_{q_s} e^{-\beta E(q_s)} \quad (2)$$

Comment:

\* (1) is called the "canonical distribution" or "the Boltzmann weight."

\*  $Z$  is called the partition function. The definitions (2)' and (2) are equivalent but the second one is typically easier to use to compute  $Z$  and it only depends on the thermostat through  $\beta$ .

Control parameters: While systems in the microcanonical ensemble are characterized by  $N, E, V$ , the system is here controlled by  $N, T, V$ , where  $T$  is the temperature of the thermostat

Helmoltz free energy:  $F(N, V, T) = -k_B T \ln[Z(N, V, T)]$  is called the Helmolty free energy.

(6)

Continuous classical system: For a system described by  $N$  pairs of continuous positions & momenta  $\vec{q}_i$  &  $\vec{p}_i$ , we can generalize this formalism as

classical

$$P(\{\vec{q}_i, \vec{p}_i\}) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\beta H(\{\vec{q}_i, \vec{p}_i\})}$$

$$Z = \int \prod_i d\vec{q}_i d\vec{p}_i e^{-\beta H(\{\vec{q}_i, \vec{p}_i\})}$$

$$\langle O \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \prod_i d\vec{q}_i d\vec{p}_i O(\{\vec{q}_i, \vec{p}_i\}) e^{-\beta H(\{\vec{q}_i, \vec{p}_i\})}$$

QM-compatible

$$P(\{\vec{q}_i, \vec{p}_i\}) = \frac{1}{\tilde{Z}} e^{-\beta H(\{\vec{q}_i, \vec{p}_i\})}$$

$$\tilde{Z} = \int \prod_i \frac{d\vec{q}_i d\vec{p}_i}{h^3} e^{-\beta H(\{\vec{q}_i, \vec{p}_i\})}$$

$$\langle O \rangle = \frac{1}{\tilde{Z}} \int \prod_i \frac{d\vec{q}_i d\vec{p}_i}{h^3} O e^{-\beta H}$$

While this choice does not matter at the classical level, we typically adopt the QM-compatible formalism for the continuous case.

$\Rightarrow$  We stick to this notation, that we silently denote by  $Z$  from hereon.

Indistinguishability If the  $N$  degrees of freedom describe indistinguishable particles, we have overcounted the number of configurations in  $Z \Rightarrow$

$$Z = \frac{1}{h^{3N} N!} \int \prod_{i=1}^N d\vec{q}_i d\vec{p}_i e^{-\beta H(\{\vec{q}_i, \vec{p}_i\})}$$

$\Rightarrow$  our phase-space measure is now  $\frac{1}{h^{3N} N!} \prod_{i=1}^N d\vec{q}_i d\vec{p}_i$ .

Again, our probability measure  $dP = \frac{1}{h^{3N} N!} \prod_{i=1}^N d\vec{q}_i d\vec{p}_i \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\beta H}$  is unaffected. While  $h^{3N}$  plays no role in classical stat mech, the  $N!$  factor is crucial for systems with several species (see exercise 4, Part 5) in order to compute the chemical potential.

## The equipartition theorem

(7)

Consider a Hamiltonian  $H(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , where  $x_1, \dots, x_n = q_1, \dots, q_n$   
 $p_1, \dots, p_n = p_1, \dots, p_n$

We request that  $H$  diverges as  $x_i \rightarrow \pm\infty$  so that  $Z < \infty$ .  
(Automatically true in a box).

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle x_i \frac{\partial H}{\partial x_l} \right\rangle_c &= \frac{1}{Z N!} \int \prod_m \frac{d\vec{q}_m d\vec{p}_m}{h^3} \underbrace{\frac{\partial H}{\partial x_l} e^{-\beta H}}_{\text{IBP}} \cdot x_i \\ &= \frac{1}{Z N!} \int \prod_m \frac{d\vec{q}_m d\vec{p}_m}{h^3} -hT \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x_l} e^{-\beta H} \right) \cdot x_i \\ &= \frac{hT}{Z N!} \int \prod_m \frac{d\vec{q}_m d\vec{p}_m}{h^3} e^{-\beta H} \underbrace{\frac{\partial x_i}{\partial x_l}}_{\delta_{i,l}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\left\langle x_i \frac{\partial H}{\partial x_l} \right\rangle = hT \delta_{i,l}$$

$$\text{E.g. } x_i = p_i; x_l = p_l \Rightarrow \left\langle \frac{p_i p_l}{2m} \right\rangle = \frac{hT}{2} \delta_{i,l}$$

One recovers that each "quadratic degree of freedom" contributes  $\frac{hT}{2}$  to the average energy.

Outline: Below we first compute  $Z$  &  $F$  for the ideal gas & the 2-level system, before studying the statistics of the system in the canonical ensemble to compare them with those in the microcanonical ensemble.