

In-class problem linked to lecture pages 281-294:

Use the partition function to find the average internal energy of a monatomic gas.

In-class problem linked to 281 - 294

$$Z = \frac{V^N}{N!} \left(\frac{2\pi m k T}{h^2} \right)^{\frac{3N}{2}} = \frac{V^N}{N!} \left(\frac{2\pi m k}{h^2} \right)^{\frac{3N}{2}} T^{\frac{3N}{2}}$$

$$\ln Z = \ln \left[\frac{V^N}{N!} \left(\frac{2\pi m k}{h^2} \right)^{\frac{3N}{2}} \right] + \ln \left(T^{\frac{3N}{2}} \right)$$

$$\bar{E} = - \frac{d}{d\beta} \ln Z$$

Recall $\frac{d}{dx} f(y) = \frac{df(y)}{dy} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx}$

$$\beta = \frac{1}{kT} \Rightarrow T = \frac{1}{k\beta}$$

$$\frac{d}{d\beta} f(T) = \frac{df(T)}{dT} \cdot \frac{dT}{d\beta}$$

$$\frac{dT}{d\beta} = \frac{1}{k} (-1)\beta^{-2} = -\frac{1}{k\beta^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{d\beta} = -\frac{1}{k\beta^2} \frac{d}{dT}$$

$$\bar{E} = - \left(-\frac{1}{k\beta^2} \right) \frac{d}{dT} \ln Z$$

$$= \frac{1}{k\beta^2} \frac{d}{dT} \left(\ln T^{\frac{3N}{2}} \right)$$

$$= kT^2 \frac{d}{dT} \left(\frac{3N}{2} \ln T \right) = \frac{kT^2 3N}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{T} = \frac{3NkT}{2}$$