

1. One mole of an ideal monatomic gas undergoes an isothermal expansion from a volume of 2 Liters to a volume of 20 Liters. If the initial pressure is 30 atm calculate the:

- work performed.
- heat exchanged with the environment.
- and change in entropy of the gas.

2. A cylindrical column of gas of given temperature rotates about a fixed axis with constant angular velocity. Find the equilibrium distribution function.

3. A rod-like pollen grain floats in the air at a constant temperature. On average, is the angular momentum vector nearly parallel to or perpendicular to the long axis of the grain?

4. A system of two energy levels  $E_0$  and  $E_1$  is populated by  $N$  particles at temperature  $T$ . The particles populate the energy levels according to the classical distribution law.

- Derive an expression for the average energy per particle.
- Compute the average energy per particle vs the temperature as  $T \rightarrow 0$  and  $T \rightarrow \infty$ .
- Derive an expression for the specific heat of the system of  $N$  particles.

5. a, Derive a formula for the maximum kinetic energy of an electron in a non-interacting Fermi gas consisting of  $N$  electrons in a volume  $V$  at zero absolute temperature?

b, Calculate the energy gap between the ground state and the first excited state for such a Fermi gas consisting of the valence electrons in a 100 Å cube of copper.

c, Compare the energy gap with  $kT$  at 1K.

The density for copper is  $8.93 \text{ g/cm}^3$  and its atomic weight is 63.6.

6. Consider a classical system of  $N$  noninteracting diatomic molecules enclosed in a box of volume  $V$  at temperature  $T$ . The Hamiltonian for a single molecule is

$$H(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2) = \frac{1}{2m}(p_1^2 + p_2^2) + \frac{K}{2}|r_1 - r_2|^2$$

a. Find the Helmholtz free energy of the system.

b. Find  $U/N$ , and compare your result to what the equipartition theorem suggests.

c. Show that the mean-square molecular diameter  $\langle |r_1 - r_2|^2 \rangle = \frac{3kT}{K}$

