

### 3. Boltzmann equation :

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Differential eq. for the distribution function  $f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)$   
(in nonequilibrium situations)

#### ⊙ distribution function

$f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) d^3\vec{r} d^3\vec{v} \equiv$  the mean # of molecules whose  
center of mass at time  $t$  has a position  $\in [\vec{r}, \vec{r} + d\vec{r}]$   
and a velocity  $\in [\vec{v}, \vec{v} + d\vec{v}]$

→ nonequilibrium cases

$$\Rightarrow n(\vec{r}, t) = \int d^3\vec{v} f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)$$

(density)

$\Rightarrow$  average of any function  $\chi(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)$

$$\langle \chi(\vec{r}, t) \rangle \equiv \bar{\chi}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{n(\vec{r}, t)} \int d^3\vec{v} f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) \chi(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)$$

(ex) 1. mean velocity  $\vec{u}(\vec{r}, t)$  of a molecule at  $(\vec{r}, t)$

$$\vec{u}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{n(\vec{r}, t)} \int d^3\vec{v} \vec{v} f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)$$

$$\vec{U} \equiv \vec{v} - \vec{u}$$

$$\overline{\vec{U}} = \langle \vec{U} \rangle = \langle \vec{v} \rangle - \vec{u} = 0$$

2. flux of  $\chi$  through a plane moving with  $\vec{u}(\vec{r}, t)$

$\vec{F}_{\hat{n}}(\vec{r}, t) \equiv$  the net amount of  $\chi$  which is transported  
per unit time per unit area of an element of area  
(normal direction  $\parallel \hat{n}$ ) from its  $(-)$  to its  $(+)$  side.

$$\vec{F}_{\hat{n}}(\vec{r}, t) = \left[ \int_{\hat{n} \cdot \vec{U} > 0} d^3\vec{v} f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) (d\epsilon |\hat{n} \cdot \vec{U}|) \chi dA \right. \\ \left. - \int_{\hat{n} \cdot \vec{U} < 0} d^3\vec{v} f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) (d\epsilon |\hat{n} \cdot \vec{U}|) \chi dA \right] / d\epsilon dA$$

$$= \int d^3\vec{v} \ f \hat{n} \cdot \vec{U} \chi$$

$$= n \langle \hat{n} \cdot \vec{U} \chi \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{F}_{\hat{n}} &= \hat{n} \cdot \vec{F} \\ \vec{F} &= n \langle \vec{U} \chi \rangle \end{aligned}$$

(ex) viscosity

$$P_{zx} = n \langle U_z \cdot m v_x \rangle \quad \sim \text{flux of momentum.}$$

$$= mn \langle U_z \cdot (U_x + U_x) \rangle$$

$$= mn \langle U_z U_x \rangle + mn \langle U_z U_x \rangle$$

$$= mn \langle U_z U_x \rangle$$

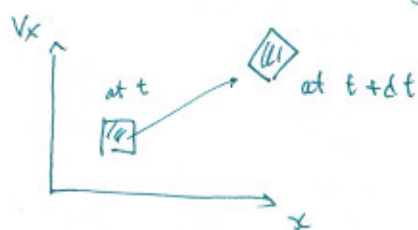
Q Boltzmann eq. in the absence of collisions

each molecule with mass  $m$   
external force  $\vec{F}(\vec{r}, t)$

at  $t$ ,  $(\vec{F}, \vec{v}) \longrightarrow$  at  $t+dt$   $(\vec{F}', \vec{v}')$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{F}' &= \vec{F} + \dot{\vec{F}} dt = \vec{F} + \vec{v} \frac{\partial \vec{F}}{\partial \vec{r}} dt \\ \vec{v}' &= \vec{v} + \dot{\vec{v}} dt = \vec{v} + \frac{\vec{F}}{m} dt \end{aligned}$$

no collision  $\Rightarrow \int f(\vec{r}', \vec{v}', t') d^3\vec{r}' d^3\vec{v}' = \int f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) d^3\vec{r} d^3\vec{v}$



$$\text{and } d^3\vec{r}' d^3\vec{v}' = |J| d^3\vec{r} d^3\vec{v}$$

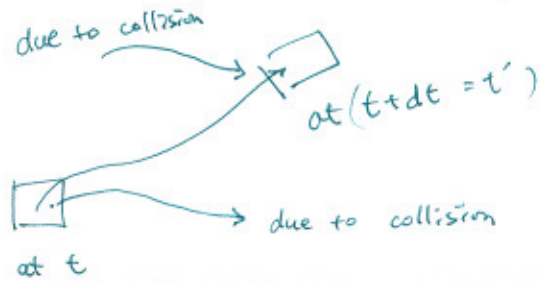
$$J = 1 + O(dt^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(\vec{r}', \vec{v}', t') = f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)$$

$$\Rightarrow Df = \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{r}} + \frac{\vec{F}}{m} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{v}} \right] = 0$$

Boltzmann eq. without collisions.

① Boltzmann equation in the presence of collisions



$$f(\vec{r} + \vec{v} dt, \vec{v} + \dot{\vec{v}} dt, t+dt) d^3\vec{r}' d^3\vec{v}'$$

$$= f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) d^3\vec{r} d^3\vec{v} + \underbrace{D_c f d^3\vec{r} d^3\vec{v} dt}_{\text{caused by collisions}}$$

caused by collisions

Explicit expression of  $D_c f$  will be given later

(see Reif chapter 14.3).

Here, we will find an approximation for  $D_c f$ , based on the assumptions:

(i) collisions will restore a local equilibrium situation described by

$$f^{(0)}(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) = n \left( \frac{m\beta}{2\pi} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}m(\vec{v} - \vec{u})^2}$$

Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution

$$n = n(\vec{r}, t), \quad \beta = \beta(\vec{r}, t), \quad \vec{u} = \vec{u}(\vec{r}, t)$$

(ii) if  $f \neq f^{(0)}$ ,  $f$  goes to  $f^{(0)}$  exponentially rapidly with a relaxation time  $\tau_0$  (mean free time) due to collisions.

$$\Rightarrow D_c f = - \frac{f - f^{(0)}}{\tau_0}$$

"relaxation-time approximation"

$$\boxed{Df \equiv \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{r}} + \frac{\vec{F}}{m} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{v}} = - \frac{f - f^{(0)}}{\tau_0}}$$

check: for fixed  $\vec{r}$  and  $\vec{v}$ ,  $f(t) - f^{(0)}(t) = [f(0) - f^{(0)}(0)] e^{-t/\tau_0}$   
 $D_c f = 0$  if  $f = f^{(0)}$

② Alternative approach for  $f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)$  in the presence of collisions

at ~~time~~ time  $t$ , a molecule has  $(\vec{r}, \vec{v})$ .  
 at time  $t_0 (< t)$ , it has  $(\vec{r}_0, \vec{v}_0)$ .

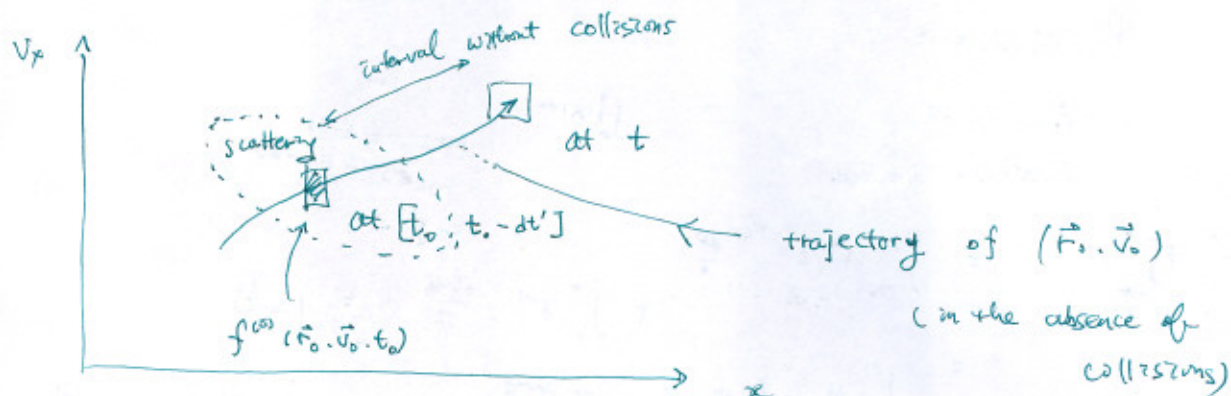
(or  $t_0 = t - t'$ ,  $t' > 0$ )

If there is no collision, one can find  $(\vec{r}_0, \vec{v}_0)$

in terms of  $(\vec{r}, \vec{v})$ , by ~~using~~ solving eq. of motion under the influence of  $\vec{F}$ .

$$\begin{cases} \vec{r}_0 = \vec{r}_0(t'; \vec{r}, \vec{v}) \\ \vec{v}_0 = \vec{v}_0(t'; \vec{r}, \vec{v}) \end{cases}$$

Now consider the effect of collisions



Collisions at  $t_0 \Rightarrow$  We assume that  $f \rightarrow \tilde{f}^{(0)}$  due to collision  
 local equilibrium distribution

We also assume: probability that a molecule suffered a collision in  $[t_0, t_0 - dt']$ , and then had no further collision during the time  $t'$

$$= \frac{dt'}{\tau} e^{-t'/\tau}$$

$$\Rightarrow f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) = \int_0^\infty \tilde{f}^{(0)}(\vec{r}_0(t'), \vec{v}_0(t'), t - t') e^{-t'/\tau} \frac{dt'}{\tau}$$

"path-integral" formulation



① Equivalence of ( Boltzmann eq. ⊕ relaxation-time approximation  
 path integration approach

$$f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) = \int_0^\infty f^{(0)}(\vec{r}_0, \vec{v}_0, t-t') e^{-t'/\tau} dt'/\tau$$

$$- \left( f(\vec{r} + \dot{\vec{r}} dt, \vec{v} + \dot{\vec{v}} dt, t+dt) = \int_0^\infty f^{(0)}(\vec{r}_0, \vec{v}_0, t+dt-t') e^{-t'/\tau} dt'/\tau \right.$$

$$f(\vec{r} + \dot{\vec{r}} dt, \vec{v} + \dot{\vec{v}} dt, t+dt) - f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \frac{\partial f^{(0)}(\vec{r}_0, \vec{v}_0, t-t')}{\partial t} dt e^{-t'/\tau} \frac{dt'}{\tau}$$

$$\Rightarrow Df = \int_0^\infty \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial t} e^{-t'/\tau} \frac{dt'}{\tau}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\infty \frac{\partial f^{(0)}(\vec{r}_0, \vec{v}_0, t-t')}{\partial t'} e^{-t'/\tau} dt'$$

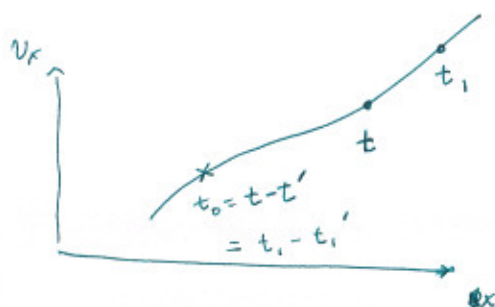
$$= -\frac{1}{\tau} \left[ f^{(0)}(\vec{r}_0, \vec{v}_0, t-t') e^{-t'/\tau} \right]_0^\infty - \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\infty f^{(0)}(\vec{r}_0, \vec{v}_0, t-t') e^{-t'/\tau} dt'/\tau$$

$$= -\frac{1}{\tau} \left[ 0 - f^{(0)}(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) \right] - \frac{1}{\tau} f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\tau} (f^{(0)} - f)$$

→ Boltzmann eq. ⊕ relaxation time approximation

alternative proof:



at  $t$ ,  $(\vec{r}, \vec{v})$

at  $t_0$ ,  $(\vec{r}_0, \vec{v}_0)$

at  $t_1$ ,  $(\vec{r}_1, \vec{v}_1)$

$$f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) = \int_0^\infty f^{(0)}(\vec{r}_0(t'), \vec{v}_0(t'), t-t') e^{-t'/\tau} \frac{dt'}{\tau}$$

$$f(\vec{r}_1, \vec{v}_1, t_1) = \int_0^\infty f^{(0)}(\vec{r}_{0,1}(t'_1), \vec{v}_{0,1}(t'_1), t_1-t'_1) e^{-t'_1/\tau} \frac{dt'_1}{\tau}$$

change of variable  $t'_1 \rightarrow t'$  by using  $t_0 = t - t' = t_1 - t'_1$

$$t'_1 = (t_1 - t) + t'$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \vec{r}_{0,1}(t'_1) \rightarrow \vec{r}_0(t') \\ \vec{v}_{0,1}(t'_1) \rightarrow \vec{v}_0(t') \end{cases}$$

$$f(\vec{r}_1, \vec{v}_1, t_1) = \int_{-(t_1-t)}^\infty f^{(0)}(\vec{r}_0(t'), \vec{v}_0(t'), t-t') e^{-\frac{t' + (t_1-t)}{\tau}} \frac{dt'}{\tau}$$

Now, let's put  $t_1 = t + dt$ .  $\Rightarrow \vec{r}_1 = \vec{r} + \vec{v} dt$ ,  $\vec{v}_1 = \vec{v} + \frac{\vec{F}}{m} dt$

$$\begin{aligned} f(\vec{r} + \vec{v} dt, \vec{v} + \frac{\vec{F}}{m} dt, t + dt) &= \int_{-dt}^\infty f^{(0)} e^{-\frac{t'}{\tau}} e^{-\frac{dt}{\tau}} \frac{dt'}{\tau} \\ &= \int_{-dt}^\infty f^{(0)} e^{-\frac{t'}{\tau}} \frac{dt'}{\tau} \left(1 - \frac{dt}{\tau}\right) \\ &= \underbrace{\int_{-dt}^\infty f^{(0)} e^{-\frac{t'}{\tau}} \frac{dt'}{\tau}}_{= f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)} - \frac{dt}{\tau} \underbrace{\int_{-dt}^\infty f^{(0)} e^{-\frac{t'}{\tau}} \frac{dt'}{\tau}}_{= f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)} \\ &= f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) + \underbrace{\int_{-dt}^0 f^{(0)} e^{-\frac{t'}{\tau}} \frac{dt'}{\tau}}_{= \frac{f^{(0)}}{\tau} dt} = f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) + \boxed{\frac{f^{(0)}}{\tau} dt} \end{aligned}$$

$$\left( \because \int_{b-\delta}^b g dx = G(b) - G(b-\delta) \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(\vec{r} + \vec{v} dt, \vec{v} + \frac{\vec{F}}{m} dt, t + dt) = f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) \quad \delta \rightarrow 0 \quad = \frac{dG(b)}{db} \cdot \delta = g(b) \delta$$

$$+ \frac{f^{(0)}}{\tau} dt - \frac{f}{\tau} dt - \frac{\boxed{\frac{f^{(0)}}{\tau}}}{\tau} (dt)^2$$

(as  $dt \rightarrow 0$ )

$$\Rightarrow Df \cdot dt = f(\vec{r} + \vec{v} dt, \vec{v} + \frac{\vec{F}}{m} dt, t + dt) - f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t)$$

$$= -\frac{f - f^{(0)}}{\tau} \cdot dt$$

# Applications

$$f = f^{(0)}$$

$\Rightarrow pf = 0$  ~ a special case of Liouville's theorem.

- a situation slightly removed from equilibrium

$$f = f^{(0)} + f^{(1)}, \quad f^{(1)} \ll f^{(0)}$$

## Electrical conductivity

$\vec{E} \parallel \hat{z}$  (electric field)

mean thermal velocity

( $\vec{E}$  ~ spatially uniform, time-independent,  $(\frac{e|\vec{E}|}{m})\tau \ll \bar{v}$   
constant density  $n(\vec{r}, t) = n$  ( $\vec{E}$  ~ small enough)

$\Rightarrow f(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) \sim$  independent of  $\vec{r}$  and  $t$ .

( $\vec{E}$  ~ small enough.  
 $\rightarrow$  linear response)

$$\Rightarrow \frac{e\vec{E}}{m} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_z} = - \frac{f - f^{(0)}}{\tau} = - \frac{f^{(1)}}{\tau}$$

$$f^{(0)} = n \left( \frac{m\beta}{2\pi} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\beta E}$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$

$$= \frac{e}{m} E \left( \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial v_z} + \frac{\partial f^{(1)}}{\partial v_z} \right)$$

negligible

$f = f^{(0)} + f^{(1)}$   
 $f^{(0)} \gg f^{(1)}$   
 $\left( E \times \frac{\partial f^{(1)}}{\partial v_z} \right)$   
small      small

$$\Rightarrow f^{(1)} = - \frac{eE\tau}{m} \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial v_z}$$

$$= -eE\tau v_z \frac{df^{(0)}}{dE}$$

(check:  $eE\tau v_z \beta \ll 1$ )

should be required to achieve  $f^{(0)} \gg f^{(1)}$

current density  $\vec{j}_n$  in the  $\hat{n}$  direction

$$\vec{j}_z = e \int f v_z d^3\vec{v}$$

(check:  $f \rightarrow f^{(0)}$ )

$$= e \int (f^{(0)} + f^{(1)}) v_z d^3\vec{v}$$

$\Rightarrow j_n = 0$

$$= e \int f^{(1)} v_z d^3\vec{v} = -e^2 E \int \tau v_z^2 \frac{df^{(0)}}{dE} d^3\vec{v}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_d = \frac{j_z}{e} = -e^2 \int d^3\vec{v} \frac{df^{(1)}}{d\epsilon} \tau v_z^2$$

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$$f^{(1)} = \mathcal{Q} e^{-\beta\epsilon} \rightarrow \frac{df^{(1)}}{d\epsilon} = -\beta f^{(1)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_d = \beta e^2 \int d^3\vec{v} f^{(1)} \tau v_z^2$$

neglect  $\tau = \tau(v)$   
and use  $\bar{\tau}$  (mean value)

$$\approx \beta e^2 \bar{\tau} \int d^3\vec{v} f^{(1)} v_z^2$$

$$= \beta e^2 \bar{\tau} (n \overline{v_z^2})$$

$$= \frac{n e^2 \bar{\tau}}{m}$$

$$\checkmark \quad \frac{1}{2} m \overline{v_z^2} = \frac{1}{2} kT$$

## ② Viscosity

$$\text{when } \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial z} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow f = f^{(1)} = f^{(0)}(v_x - u_x, v_y, v_z)$$

$$= f^{(0)}(u_x, u_y, u_z)$$

$$u_z = v_z - \bar{v}_z = v_z - u_z \quad (z = x, y, z)$$

$$\text{when } \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial z} \neq 0,$$

$f$  depends on  $z$  via  $u_x(z)$

Since  $f$  does not depend on  $t$  and  $\vec{F} = 0$  (no external force)

$$v_z \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = - \frac{f - f^{(0)}}{\tau}$$

$$\frac{\partial u_x}{\partial z} \sim \text{small enough} \Rightarrow f^{(1)} = f - f^{(0)} \ll f^{(0)}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_z \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial z} = - \frac{f^{(1)}}{\tau}$$

$$\Rightarrow f^{(1)} = -\tau v_z \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial z} = -\tau v_z \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial u_x} \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial z} = \tau v_z \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial u_x} \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial z}$$



$$P_{2x} = m \int d^3\vec{v} f v_z v_x$$

$$= m \int d^3\vec{v} f_0 v_z v_x + m \int d^3\vec{v} v_z^2 v_x \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v_x} \tau \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial z}$$

$$\left( f = f_0 + \tau v_z \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v_x} \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial z} \quad \text{and} \quad v_z = v_z \right)$$

$$= m \int d^3\vec{v} v_z^2 v_x \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v_x} \tau \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial z}$$

$$(\because \int d^3\vec{v} f_0 v_z v_x = 0)$$

$$= -\eta \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial z}$$

$$\eta = -m \int d^3\vec{v} v_z^2 v_x \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v_x} \tau$$

$$\approx -m \tau \int d^3\vec{v} v_z^2 v_x \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v_x}$$

$$\int v_x dv_x \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v_x} = \cancel{v_x f_0} \Big|_{-\infty}^{+\infty} - \int dv_x f_0$$

$$= m \tau \int d^3\vec{v} v_z^2 f_0$$

$$= m \tau n \overline{v_z^2}$$

$$= n \tau kT$$

$$\downarrow \quad \frac{1}{2} m \overline{v_z^2} = \frac{1}{2} kT$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} n \tau \cdot m \overline{v^2}$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{3} n \tau m \overline{v^2}$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{3} n m l \bar{v}$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{3} n m l \bar{v}$$