

Classical monatomic ideal gas in the grand canonical ensemble

a. In general

$$\Xi(T, V, \mu) = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} e^{\beta\mu N} Z(\beta, V, N).$$

(Note that $\mu < 0$ — otherwise this sum would usually diverge.) For the classical monatomic ideal gas

$$Z(T, V, N) = \frac{1}{N!} \left[\frac{V}{\lambda^3(T)} \right]^N,$$

so

$$\Xi(T, V, \mu) = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N!} \left[e^{\beta\mu} \frac{V}{\lambda^3(T)} \right]^N.$$

But

$$e^z = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N!} z^N,$$

so

$$\Xi(T, V, \mu) = \exp \left\{ \frac{e^{\beta\mu} V}{\lambda^3(T)} \right\}. \quad (1)$$

b. Thermodynamics tells us that for any pure fluid (not just the ideal gas)

$$N(T, V, \mu) = - \left(\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial \mu} \right)_{T, V} = \left(\frac{\partial p(T, \mu) V}{\partial \mu} \right)_{T, V}$$

(see, for example, appendix J). So the connection between thermodynamics and statistical mechanics for the grand canonical ensemble, namely

$$p(T, \mu) V = k_B T \ln \Xi(T, V, \mu), \quad (2)$$

implies that

$$N(T, V, \mu) = k_B T \left(\frac{\partial \ln \Xi}{\partial \mu} \right)_{T, V}. \quad (3)$$

c. For the classical monatomic ideal gas, equation (1) implies that

$$\ln \Xi(T, V, \mu) = e^{\beta\mu} \frac{V}{\lambda^3(T)}. \quad (4)$$

So equation (3) says that

$$N(T, V, \mu) = k_B T \left[\beta e^{\beta\mu} \frac{V}{\lambda^3(T)} \right] = e^{\beta\mu} \frac{V}{\lambda^3(T)}.$$

But looking back at (2) and (4) shows that

$$N(T, V, \mu) = \frac{p(T, \mu) V}{k_B T}$$

or

$$pV = Nk_B T.$$