

## Number fluctuations in the grand canonical ensemble

$$\begin{aligned}\Xi(T, V, \mu) &= \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} e^{\beta\mu N} Z(T, V, N) \\ \left. \frac{\partial \ln \Xi}{\partial \mu} \right)_{T, V} &= \frac{1}{\Xi} \frac{\partial \Xi}{\partial \mu} = \beta \frac{\sum_{N=0}^{\infty} N e^{\beta\mu N} Z_N}{\Xi} = \beta \langle N \rangle \\ \frac{\partial^2 \ln \Xi}{\partial \mu^2} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left( \frac{1}{\Xi} \frac{\partial \Xi}{\partial \mu} \right) \\ &= - \left( \frac{1}{\Xi} \frac{\partial \Xi}{\partial \mu} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{\Xi} \frac{\partial^2 \Xi}{\partial \mu^2} \\ &= -\beta^2 \langle N \rangle^2 + \beta^2 \langle N^2 \rangle \\ &= \beta^2 (\Delta N)^2\end{aligned}$$

Multiply both sides by  $-k_B T$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \Pi}{\partial \mu^2} = -\frac{(\Delta N)^2}{k_B T} \quad \text{whence} \quad \left. \frac{\partial^2 (pV)}{\partial \mu^2} \right)_{T, V} = \frac{(\Delta N)^2}{k_B T} \quad \text{whence} \quad V \left. \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial \mu^2} \right)_{T, V} = \frac{(\Delta N)^2}{k_B T}$$

But from problem 3.31, “Isothermal compressibility,”

$$\left. \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial \mu^2} \right)_{T, V} = \rho^2 \kappa_T = \frac{N^2}{V^2} \kappa_T,$$

so

$$\begin{aligned}(\Delta N)^2 &= k_B T \frac{N^2}{V} \kappa_T \\ \frac{\Delta N}{N} &= \sqrt{k_B T \frac{\kappa_T}{V}}\end{aligned}$$