

Problem III.5

Let us start from the GIBBS factor

$$w_{N,j}(V,T,\mu) = \frac{\exp(-(\epsilon_{N,j}(N,V) - \mu N)/T)}{\Xi(V,T,\mu)}$$

$$\Xi = \sum_{N,j} \exp(-(\epsilon_{N,j}(N,V) - \mu N)/T)$$

grand partition function

where N_j specify the j^{th} quantum state of the system when it contains N particles.

Now for a system of identical particles:

$$E = \sum_k n_k \epsilon_k$$

$$N = \sum_k n_k$$

and a given state of the system is specified by the occupation of the single-particle states k :

$$\{n_k\} = (n_1, n_2, \dots)$$

So in this case the GPF is expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \Xi(V,T,\mu) &= \sum_{\{n_k\}} \exp\left(-\sum_k \frac{(\epsilon_k - \mu)n_k}{T}\right) = \\ &= \sum_{\{n_k\}} \prod_k \exp\left(-\frac{(\epsilon_k - \mu)n_k}{T}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Now the n_k are all independent, so that

$$\Xi(V,T,\mu) = \prod_k \sum_{\{n_k\}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\epsilon_k - \mu)n_k}{T}\right)$$

Now we have the definition:

$$\Xi_k(V, T, \mu) = \sum_{n_k} \exp\left(-\frac{(\epsilon_k - \mu)n_k}{T}\right),$$

so that the GPF may be expressed as the product :

$$\Xi(V, T, \mu) = \prod_k \Xi_k(V, T, \mu)$$

as required.

It is important to note the logic of this answer. It is not good enough to start from Ξ_k and then to argue that it must be ~~distinguished~~ multiplicative.