

The Hamiltonian for a 3D oscillator is simply the sum of Hamiltonians for 3 1D; so we are free to regard the system as a collection either of  $3N$  1D oscillators or  $N$  3D oscillators. In either case, since the oscillators do not interact, the partition function  $Z$  is a product of the partition functions of the individual oscillators:

$$Z(T, N) = \prod_{i=1}^M Z_i(T) = \prod_{i=1}^M \left( \sum_{n_i=0}^{\infty} g(n_i) e^{-\beta E_i(n_i)} \right)$$

where  $M$  is either  $3N$  or  $N$  and, for the  $i$ th oscillator,  $g(n_i)$  is the degeneracy of the energy level labelled by  $n_i$ .

(a) For a 1D oscillator of angular frequency  $\omega$ , the energy levels are  $E_i(n_i) = (n_i + \frac{1}{2})\hbar\omega$  and are non-degenerate, i.e.  $g(n_i) = 1$ .

$$\therefore Z(T, N) = \prod_{i=1}^{3N} \left( \sum_{n_i=0}^{\infty} e^{-\beta\hbar\omega(n_i + \frac{1}{2})} \right) = \left( e^{-\frac{\beta\hbar\omega}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-\beta\hbar\omega n} \right)^{3N}$$

$$\text{Since } \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^n = \frac{1}{1-q} \text{ if } q = e^{-\beta\hbar\omega} < 1$$

$$\Downarrow \\ Z(T, N) = \left( \frac{e^{-\frac{\beta\hbar\omega}{2}}}{1 - e^{-\beta\hbar\omega}} \right)^{3N}$$

⑥ The energy levels of an isotropic 3D oscillator are  $E_i(n_i) = (n_i + \frac{3}{2}) \hbar \omega$ . The degeneracy of one of these levels is the number of sets of three non-negative integers that add to  $n_i$ . This can be found, for example, by the same method as distribution of balls in boxes.

$$g(n_i) = \frac{(n_i + 2)!}{2! n_i!} = \frac{1}{2} n_i^2 + \frac{3}{2} n_i + 1$$

The partition function for one oscillator is

$$Z_i = e^{-3\beta \hbar \omega / 2} \sum_{n_i=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{2} n_i^2 + \frac{3}{2} n_i + 1 \right) e^{-\beta \hbar \omega n_i}$$

Two additional relations required to evaluate this sum are:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n q^n = q \frac{d}{dq} [L(q)] = \frac{q}{(1-q)^2}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 q^n = \left( q \frac{d}{dq} \right)^2 [L(q)] = \frac{q(1+q)}{(1-q)^3}$$

$$\therefore Z = \left[ e^{-3\beta \hbar \omega / 2} \left( \frac{1}{2} \frac{q(1+q)}{(1-q)^3} + \frac{3}{2} \frac{q}{(1-q)^2} + \frac{1}{1-q} \right) \right]^N$$

which, with  $q = e^{-\beta \hbar \omega}$ , can be reduced to the previous result.