

Generally useful constants (MKS):

```
In[8]:= amu = 1.6605 (10^-27) kg  
NA = 6.02221 (10^23) / mole  
k = 1.38066 (10^-23) J / K  
me = 9.1094 (10^-31) kg  
h = 6.62608 (10^-34) J s  
q = 1.6022 (10^-19) C  
c = 2.9979 (10^8) m / s
```

Out[8]=  $1.6605 \times 10^{-27}$  kg

Out[9]=  $\frac{6.02221 \times 10^{23}}{\text{mole}}$

Out[10]=  $\frac{1.38066 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J}}{\text{K}}$

Out[11]=  $9.1094 \times 10^{-31}$  kg

Out[12]=  $6.62608 \times 10^{-34}$  J s

Out[13]=  $1.6022 \times 10^{-19}$  C

Out[14]=  $\frac{2.9979 \times 10^8 \text{ m}}{\text{s}}$

# Problem 1.12 (Engel)

## Part A

Show that the energy density radiated by a blackbody depends on the temperature as  $T^4$ . The starting point is the formula for energy density as a function of frequency ( $\nu$ ) and temperature ( $T$ ).

$$\rho = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{8 \pi h \nu^3}{c^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{h\nu}{kT}} - 1} d\nu$$

## Solution

**Strategy.** The problem contains a hint: transform the integral by substituting a new variable,  $x$ , for  $\nu = \frac{h\nu}{kT}$ . Then use a definite integral formula provided in the hint to simplify the result.

To make a substitution of variables, we must do *three* things:

- 1) express  $\nu$  as a function of  $x$  and replace  $\nu$  everywhere in the integral with this function
- 2) express  $d\nu$  as a function of  $dx$  and make this substitution
- 3) express the limits of integration ( $\nu = 0 \rightarrow \nu = \infty$ ) in terms of the corresponding values of  $x$

**Execution.** Substitution of variables requires the 3 steps listed above. First, however, we must define some useful expressions:

$$\nu = \frac{kTx}{h}$$

$$\frac{d\nu}{dx} = \frac{kT}{h}$$

$$d\nu = \frac{kT}{h} dx$$

**Step #1.** First, we transform the formula inside the integral by replacing  $\nu$  with  $\frac{kTx}{h}$ . This gives:

$$\frac{8 \pi h \nu^3}{c^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{h\nu}{kT}} - 1}$$

$$\frac{8 \pi h (kTx/h)^3}{c^3} \frac{1}{e^x - 1}$$

$$\frac{8 \pi (kT)^3}{h^2 c^3} \frac{x^3}{e^x - 1}$$

**Step #2.** Next, we replace the index of integration,  $d\nu$ , with the corresponding expression in  $dx$ . This is the result again:

$$d\nu = \frac{kT}{h} dx$$

**Step #3.** The integration with respect to  $\nu$  runs from  $\nu = 0$  to  $\nu = \infty$ . We need to replace these values 0 to  $\nu = \infty$ . As it happens,  $x = 0$  makes  $\nu = 0$ , and  $x = \infty$  makes  $\nu = \infty$ . In other words, we need to inte

**Putting it all together:**

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{8\pi h \nu^3}{c^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{h\nu}{kT}} - 1} d\nu$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{8\pi (kT)^3}{h^2 c^3} \frac{x^3}{e^x - 1} \frac{kT}{h} dx$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{8\pi (kT)^4}{h^3 c^3} \frac{x^3}{e^x - 1} dx$$

$$\frac{8\pi (kT)^4}{h^3 c^3} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^3}{e^x - 1} dx$$

$$\frac{8\pi (kT)^4}{h^3 c^3} \frac{\pi^4}{15}$$

$$\frac{8\pi^5 (kT)^4}{15 (hc)^3}$$

We ultimately arrive (4th line) at a formula that contains a definite integral that can be evaluated using the last two lines which no longer contain an integral, and these show the  $T^4$  dependence of the energy

Note, it is also possible to evaluate the definite integral using *Mathematica* using two different metho

```
In[15]:=  $\int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^3}{e^x - 1} dx$ 
NIntegrate[ $\frac{x^3}{e^x - 1}$ , {x, 0,  $\infty$ }]
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Out[15]=  $\frac{\pi^4}{15}$ 
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Out[16]= 6.49394
```

## Part B

Use the new function obtained in part A to calculate the energy density radiated by a blackbody at 80

## Solution

**Strategy.** Just evaluate this formula at the two temperatures:

$$\frac{8 \pi^5 (k T)^4}{15 (h c)^3}$$

**Execution.**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In[17]:=} & \frac{8 \pi^5 (k \{800 \text{ K}, 4000 \text{ K}\})^4}{15 (h c)^3} \\ \text{Out[17]=} & \left\{ \frac{0.000309909 \text{ J}}{\text{m}^3}, \frac{0.193693 \text{ J}}{\text{m}^3} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

## Comment

*Ideal blackbodies* sound like an esoteric object that is sure to be unimportant to anyone other than a physicist. We actually run into things that approach blackbody behavior all the time.

All matter radiates energy according to the  $T^4$  law seen here. You, me, and the deep blue sea. A candle flame in the lab, a distillation in the organic lab, the solid state furnace in the inorganic lab, the object in the lab. High temperature processes waste a lot of energy!

You may have seen glassware, like distillation columns, that are coated with a thin layer of silver (or chrome, or aluminum, or something pretty). The idea here is to *reflect* the radiated energy back into the apparatus. The rationale for the mathematics seen in this problem.