

Boltzmann distribution law :-

Boltzmann distribution law is very important law in Statistical Thermodynamics. It deals with the probability of distribution of total energy among the particles of the system and lead to the introduction of the concept of partition function.

Let us consider a system of 'N' identical, independent and distinguishable particles. $E_1, E_2, E_3, \dots, E_i$ are the discrete set of energy levels. Let n_1 particles at energy state $E_1, n_2, \dots, E_2, \dots, n_i, \dots, E_i$.

If we assume that the system is closed and isolated then each set of ~~state~~ ~~of population~~ must be governed by two conditions-

$$(1). E = n_1 E_1 + n_2 E_2 + \dots + n_i E_i$$

$$\text{i.e. } E = \sum_i n_i E_i$$

$$\cong E = \sum_i n_i E_i = \text{constant.}$$

$$(2). N = n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_i$$

$$\text{i.e. } N = \sum_i n_i = \text{constant.}$$

$$\text{Probability (W)} = \frac{N!}{n_1! n_2! n_3! \dots n_i!}$$

$$\cong \ln W = \ln N! - \ln \sum_i n_i \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

at. Maximum probability —

$$d \ln W = 0.$$

$$0 = \partial \ln N! - \partial \ln \sum_i n_i!$$

$$\cong \partial \ln N! = \partial \ln \sum_i n_i! \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\text{as } [\partial \ln n_i = 0.]$$

Using Stirling approximation —

$$\ln n! = N \ln N - N$$

Then from eq^s — (2)

$$d \sum_i n_i \ln n_i - d \sum_i n_i = 0$$

$$\text{so, } d \sum_i n_i = 0$$

$$\therefore \sum_i \ln n_i d n_i = 0 \quad \text{————— (3)}$$

Since,

$$E = \sum n_i \epsilon_i$$

$$dE = d \sum n_i \epsilon_i = 0$$

$$\beta dE = \beta d \sum n_i \epsilon_i = 0$$

and $N = \sum n_i$

$$dN = d \sum n_i = 0$$

$$\alpha dN = \alpha d \sum n_i = 0$$

where, α and β are Lagrange undetermined multipliers.

Thus, we have —

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \alpha dN = \alpha d \sum n_i \\ \& \beta dE = \beta \sum \epsilon_i d n_i \end{array} \right\} \text{————— (4)}$$

on adding eq^s — (3) & eq^s — (4)

$$\alpha \sum d n_i + \beta \sum \epsilon_i d n_i + \sum \ln n_i d n_i = 0.$$

$$\approx (\alpha + \beta \epsilon_1 + \ln n_1) d n_1 + (\alpha + \beta \epsilon_2 + \ln n_2) d n_2 + \dots = 0.$$

Each term is separated to be zero.

$$\therefore (\alpha + \beta \epsilon_1 + \ln n_1) d n_1 = 0$$

$$\text{but } dn_1 \neq 0$$

(3)

$$\therefore \alpha + \beta E_1 + \ln n_1 = 0$$

$$\ln n_1 = -(\alpha + \beta E_1)$$

$$\therefore n_1 = \exp\{-(\alpha + \beta E_1)\}$$

$$\therefore n_1 = \exp(-\alpha) \exp(-\beta E_1)$$

$$\therefore n_i = \exp(-\alpha) \exp(-\beta E_i) \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

Since, $N_i = \sum n_i$

$$N_i = \sum \exp(-\alpha) \exp(-\beta E_i)$$

$$\therefore N_i = \sum \exp(-\alpha - \beta E_i)$$

$$\therefore \exp(-\alpha) = \frac{N_i}{\sum \exp(-\beta E_i)} \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

Now putting the value of $\exp(-\alpha)$ from eqn (6) in to eqn (5)

we get.

$$n_i = \frac{N_i}{\sum \exp(-\beta E_i)} \exp(-\beta E_i)$$

$$\frac{n_i}{N_i} = \frac{\exp(-\beta E_i)}{\sum \exp(-\beta E_i)}$$

β has the dimension of energy⁻¹ and is evaluated to $1/kT$

$$\therefore \frac{n_i}{N_i} = \frac{\exp(-E_i/kT)}{\sum \exp(-E_i/kT)} \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

Eqn (7) is the expression of Boltzmann distribution law for non-degenerate state.

But in case of degenerate states —

E_i — (7) is written as —

$$\frac{n_i}{N_i} = \frac{g_i \exp(-\epsilon_i/kT)}{\sum g_i \exp(-\epsilon_i/kT)} \quad \text{--- (8)}$$

where, g_i is statistical weight factor i.e. degeneracy.

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