

Example sheet 2

Answers

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Qu. 1 Recall that the kinetic relations

$$\rho = \int dp 4\pi p^2 n(p) E, \quad P = \int dp 4\pi p^2 n(p) \frac{p^2}{3E}$$

relate the density and pressure of a gas to its density distribution function $n(p)$, where $E = \sqrt{m^2 + p^2}$. Consider a bosonic(-) or fermion(+) field, with mass m , chemical potential μ , with g internal spin degrees of freedom. In thermal equilibrium the density distribution function is;

$$n(p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{E-\mu}{kT}} \pm 1}$$

where $E = \sqrt{m^2 + p^2}$. In the ultra relativistic limit $kT \gg m, \mu$, then $E - \mu \sim E \sim p$ so this is well approximated by;

$$n(p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{p}{kT}} \pm 1}$$

Thus compute the number density $n = \int dp 4\pi p^2 n(p)$ and energy density of an ultra relativistic gas (recall pressure $P = \rho/3$ from the above kinetic relations). You should find for a boson;

$$n_{boson} = \frac{15\zeta(3)a_B g}{k\pi^4} T^3, \quad \rho_{boson} = \frac{1}{2} g a_B T^4$$

and for a fermion;

$$n_{fermion} = \frac{3}{4} n_{boson}, \quad \rho_{fermion} = \frac{7}{8} \rho_{boson}$$

where the radiation constant $a_B = \pi^2 k^4 / 15 \hbar^3 c^3$ (although we are using units where $c = 1$). You may find the following integrals useful;

$$\int_0^\infty dx \frac{x^2}{e^x \pm 1} = \frac{7 \mp 1}{4} \zeta(3), \quad \int_0^\infty dx \frac{x^3}{e^x \pm 1} = \frac{15 \mp 1}{240} \pi^4$$

where $\zeta(x)$ is the Riemann zeta function and in particular $\zeta(3) \simeq 1.202$.

Use the first law to show the equilibrium entropy density is $s = 4\rho/3T$. Also show that it implies $d\rho = Tds$, and check this is true for the expressions you have computed.

Qu. 1 answer Then,

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \int_0^\infty dp 4\pi p^2 n(p) = \frac{4\pi g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \int_0^\infty dp \frac{p^2}{e^{\frac{p}{kT}} \pm 1} \\ &= \frac{4\pi g(kT)^3}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \int_0^\infty dx \frac{x^2}{e^x \pm 1} \end{aligned}$$

setting $x = p/kT$, and then using the integrals;

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{4\pi g(kT)^3}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{7 \mp 1}{4} \zeta(3) = \frac{g(kT)^3}{8\pi^2\hbar^3} (7 \mp 1) \zeta(3) \\ &= \frac{15 a_B g}{8k\pi^4} (7 \mp 1) \zeta(3) T^3 \end{aligned}$$

So for bosons we obtain;

$$n_{boson} = \frac{15\zeta(3)a_B g}{k\pi^4} T^3$$

and for fermions we find;

$$n_{fermion} = \frac{6}{8} \frac{15\zeta(3)a_B g}{k\pi^4} T^3 = \frac{3}{4} n_{boson}$$

Then the energy density is (taking $E \simeq p$ in the ultra relativistic limit);

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &= \int_0^\infty dp 4\pi p^2 n(p) p = \frac{4\pi g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \int_0^\infty dp \frac{p^3}{e^{\frac{p}{kT}} \pm 1} \\ &= \frac{4\pi g(kT)^4}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \int_0^\infty dx \frac{x^3}{e^x \pm 1} \\ &= \frac{g(kT)^4}{2\pi^2\hbar^3} \frac{15 \mp 1}{240} \pi^4 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} g a_B T^4 \frac{15 \mp 1}{16} \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\rho_{boson} = \frac{1}{2} g a_B T^4$$

and then,

$$\rho_{fermion} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{7}{8} g a_B T^4 = \frac{7}{8} \rho_{boson}$$

Assuming there is no chemical potential (it is negligible) for an ultra relativistic gas then, ρ and P and s only depend on T (and not on μ). Then the first law (ignoring chemical potential term);

$$dE = TdS - pdV$$

becomes, using $S = s(T)V$, $E = \rho(T)V$;

$$\rho dV + Vd\rho = TVds + TsdV - pdV$$

so that,

$$V(d\rho - Tds) = dV(Ts - \rho - p)$$

But there is only T dependence, under a variation of V there should be no change in s, ρ, P , and hence the right hand side must vanish implying;

$$s = \frac{\rho + P}{T} = \frac{4}{3} \frac{\rho}{T}$$

using $P = \rho/3$.

Note the left hand side then yields the first law; $d\rho = Tds$. To check this we note there is only T dependence, so we must check; $d\rho/dT = Tds/dT$.

Since $\rho = kT^4$ for a constant k , and $s = \frac{4\rho}{3T} = \frac{4k}{3}T^3$, then,

$$\frac{d\rho}{dT} = 4kT^3, \quad \frac{ds}{dT} = 3\frac{4k}{3}T^2 = 4kT^2 = \frac{1}{T} \frac{d\rho}{dT}$$

and hence indeed $d\rho/dT = Tds/dT$ is true.

Qu. 2 Repeat the calculations in Qu 1 in the non-relativistic limit $kT \ll E - \mu$ and $E \simeq m + \frac{p^2}{2m}$ so;

$$n(p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} e^{-\frac{p^2}{2mkT}}$$

Firstly show that;

$$n = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} (2\pi mkT)^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

and then show;

$$\rho = \left(m + \frac{3}{2}kT \right) n, \quad P = kTn$$

You may find it useful to recall that for a Gaussian integral;

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ax^2} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}}$$

Use the 1st law in a closed system (so the total particle number cannot change) to show the equilibrium entropy density s in this case obeys;

$$n d\rho - nTds = dn(\rho + p - Ts)$$

and hence integrate this to find;

$$s = kn \log \left(\frac{T^{3/2}}{cn} \right)$$

for a constant c .

Qu. 2 answer Now,

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \int_0^\infty dp 4\pi p^2 n(p) = \frac{4\pi g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} \int_0^\infty dp p^2 e^{-\frac{p^2}{2mkT}} \\ &= \frac{g}{2\pi^2\hbar^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} (2mkT)^{\frac{3}{2}} \int_0^\infty dx x^2 e^{-x^2} \end{aligned}$$

setting $x = p/\sqrt{2mkT}$.

Using;

$$2 \int_0^\infty e^{-ax^2} = \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-ax^2} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}}$$

then we find;

$$\int_0^\infty x^2 e^{-x^2} = -\frac{d}{da} \left(\int_0^\infty e^{-ax^2} \right) \Big|_{a=0} = -\frac{d}{da} \left(\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} \right) \Big|_{a=0} = \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{\pi}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{g\sqrt{\pi}}{8\pi^2\hbar^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} (2mkT)^{\frac{3}{2}} \\ &= \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} (2\pi mkT)^{\frac{3}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &= \int_0^\infty dp 4\pi p^2 n(p) E = \int_0^\infty dp 4\pi p^2 n(p) \left(m + \frac{p^2}{2m} \right) \\ &= \frac{4\pi g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} \int_0^\infty dp p^2 e^{-\frac{p^2}{2mkT}} \left(m + \frac{p^2}{2m} \right) \\ &= mn + \frac{1}{2m} \frac{4\pi g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} \int_0^\infty dp p^4 e^{-\frac{p^2}{2mkT}} \\ &= mn + \frac{1}{2m} \frac{4\pi g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} (2mkT)^{\frac{5}{2}} \int_0^\infty dx x^4 e^{-x^2} \end{aligned}$$

setting $x = p/\sqrt{2mkT}$.

Now;

$$\int_0^\infty x^4 e^{-x^2} = \frac{d^2}{da^2} \left(\int_0^\infty e^{-ax^2} \right) \Big|_{a=0} = \frac{d^2}{da^2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} \right) \Big|_{a=0} = \frac{3}{8} \sqrt{\pi}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho &= mn + \frac{3\sqrt{\pi}}{16m} \frac{4\pi g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} (2mkT)^{\frac{5}{2}} \\
&= mn + \frac{3}{2} \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} (2\pi mkT)^{\frac{3}{2}} (kT) \\
&= mn + \frac{3}{2} kTn
\end{aligned}$$

And for pressure;

$$\begin{aligned}
P &= \int_0^\infty dp 4\pi p^2 n(p) \frac{p^2}{3E} = \int_0^\infty dp 4\pi p^2 n(p) \frac{p^2}{3m} \\
&= \frac{1}{3m} \frac{4\pi g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} \int_0^\infty dp p^4 e^{-\frac{p^2}{2mkT}} \\
&= \frac{1}{3m} \frac{4\pi g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} (2mkT)^{\frac{5}{2}} \int_0^\infty dx x^4 e^{-x} \\
&= \frac{1}{3m} \frac{4\pi g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} (2mkT)^{\frac{5}{2}} \frac{3}{8} \sqrt{\pi} \\
&= \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu-m}{kT}} (2\pi mkT)^{\frac{3}{2}} (kT)
\end{aligned}$$

again using $x = p/\sqrt{2mkT}$. So,

$$P = nkT$$

For fixed particle number the first law states;

$$dE = Tds - pdV$$

and we may write $S = sV$ and $E = \rho V$, and also $n \sim 1/V$ so that $dn/n = -dV/V$. Then,

$$\rho dV + V d\rho = TVds + TsdV - pdV$$

so that,

$$d\rho - Tds = \frac{dV}{V} (Ts - \rho - p)$$

and so,

$$nd\rho - nTds = dn(\rho + p - Ts)$$

Then,

$$sdn - nds = \frac{1}{T}dn(\rho + p) - \frac{1}{T}nd\rho$$

so,

$$n^2d\left(\frac{s}{n}\right) = \frac{1}{T}nd\rho - \frac{1}{T}dn(\rho + p)$$

and,

$$d\left(\frac{s}{n}\right) = \frac{1}{nT}d\rho - \frac{1}{n^2T}dn(\rho + p)$$

Using $P = nkT$ and $\rho = (m + 3kT/2)n$ we find;

$$\begin{aligned}d\left(\frac{s}{n}\right) &= \frac{1}{nT}d((m + 3kT/2)n) - \frac{1}{nT}dn(m + 5kT/2) \\&= \frac{3k}{2nT}d(Tn) - \frac{5k}{2n}dn \\&= k\left(\frac{3}{2T}dT - \frac{1}{n}dn\right) \\&= d\left(k \log \frac{T^{3/2}}{n}\right)\end{aligned}$$

Hence we find integrating for a constant c ;

$$s = kn \log \left(\frac{T^{3/2}}{cn}\right)$$

Qu. 3 Use the observed Hubble parameter today $H_0 \simeq 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, and $\Omega_\Lambda \simeq 0.7$, $\Omega_{\text{matter}} \simeq 0.3$ and assuming a flat FRW geometry, compute the density of non-relativistic matter today. You should find a density of $\sim 2.7 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg m}^{-3}$.

The photon radiation today (CMB photons) while free streaming and not in equilibrium, has almost exactly a bose distribution with temperature 2.7 K . Hence show its (very small) contribution to the Hubble expansion today is;

$$\Omega_\gamma \sim 5 \times 10^{-5}$$

You will need the values of the constants;

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ pc} &= 3.2 \text{ light years} , & c &= 3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1} \\ \hbar &= 1.05 \times 10^{-34} \text{ m}^2 \text{ kg s}^{-1} , & k &= 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ m}^2 \text{ kg s}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

The total radiation fraction today, $\Omega_R = 1.68 \Omega_\gamma$ as we shall show later in the course due to the presence of neutrinos. Use the Friedmann equation to show that radiation came to dominate the Hubble expansion over matter at a redshift of $Z_{eq} \sim 3600$.

Qu. 3 answer

The critical energy density is;

$$\rho_c = \frac{3c^2}{8\pi G} H_0^2 = 8.3 \times 10^{-10} \text{kgm}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2}$$

using ($1\text{yr} = 3.2 \times 10^7 \text{s}$).

Thus the **density** (ie. not energy density) of matter today is;

$$\frac{1}{c^2} \rho_{\text{matter}} = \frac{1}{c^2} \Omega_{\text{matter}} \rho_c = 2.76 \times 10^{-27} \text{kgm}^{-3}$$

We have the radiation constant;

$$a_B = \frac{\pi^2 k^4}{15 \hbar^3 c^3} = 7.6 \times 10^{-16} \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{K}^4 \text{m}^2 \text{s}^2}$$

Hence the energy density today for photons is,

$$\rho_\gamma = a_B T^4 = a_B (2.7\text{K})^4 = 4 \times 10^{-14} \text{kgm}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2}$$

Hence,

$$\Omega_\gamma = \frac{\rho_\gamma}{\rho_c} = 5 \times 10^{-5}$$

and hence the total radiation has,

$$\Omega_R = 1.68 \times 5 \times 10^{-5} = 8.2 \times 10^{-5}$$

Then the Friedmann equation is;

$$\rho(t) = \rho_{\text{crit}} (\Omega_\Lambda + \Omega_M(1+Z)^3 + \Omega_R(1+Z)^4)$$

In order for radiation to dominate the energy density we therefore require that $\Omega_R(1+Z)^4 > \Omega_M(1+Z)^3$ and $\Omega_R(1+Z)^4 > \Omega_\Lambda$. Consider the first, then matter-radiation equality happens at redshift Z_{eq} when;

$$\Omega_R(1+Z_{eq})^4 > \Omega_M(1+Z_{eq})^3$$

and hence,

$$1+Z_{eq} = \frac{\Omega_M}{\Omega_R} = 3600$$

Note that certainly $\Omega_R(1+Z)^4 > \Omega_\Lambda$ is satisfied then.

Qu. 4 Consider the Boltzmann equation for the density distribution function $n(t, p)$ of a species with mass m and with chemical potential μ ;

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} - Hp \frac{\partial n}{\partial p} = C$$

where $H = \dot{a}/a$. Suppose at early times the interaction term C is very large and the species is in thermal equilibrium so;

$$n(t, p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{E-\mu(t)}{kT(t)}} \pm 1}$$

where $T(t)$ and $\mu(t)$ are the temperature and chemical potential of the heat bath the species is in equilibrium with at time t . However, suppose interactions rapidly turn off at time t_{freeze} , with temperature T_{freeze} , when the scale factor is a_{freeze} , and subsequently the species then free streams.

Firstly, show that if the interactions turn off in the ultra relativistic regime $kT \gg m, \mu$ then,

$$n(t, p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{p}{kT_{eff}(t)}} \pm 1}, \quad T_{eff}(t) = \frac{a_{freeze}}{a(t)} T_{freeze}$$

Is it true in this case that the distribution is a thermal distribution simply with a redshifted temperature $T_{eff}(T)$? (imagine what happens when the temperature falls below the mass scale of the particle).

Secondly, show that if the interactions turn off in the non-relativistic regime $kT \ll E - \mu$ then,

$$n(t, p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu_{freeze}-m}{kT_{freeze}}} e^{-\frac{p^2}{2mkT_{eff}(t)}}, \quad T_{eff}(t) = \left(\frac{a_{freeze}}{a(t)}\right)^2 T_{freeze}$$

Qu. 4 answer

The solution to the free Boltzmann equation;

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} - Hp \frac{\partial n}{\partial p} = 0$$

is $n(t, p) = n(a(t)p)$. Then,

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = n'(a(t)p) \dot{a} p$$

and,

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial p} = n'(a(t)p) a$$

so that,

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} - Hp \frac{\partial n}{\partial p} = n'(a(t)p) \dot{a} p - \frac{\dot{a}}{a} p n'(a(t)p) a = 0$$

as required.

For initial conditions at $T = T_{freeze}$ which are the thermal distribution for an ultra relativistic species, so,

$$n(t_{freeze}, p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{p}{kT_{freeze}}} \pm 1}$$

Hence,

$$n(t_{freeze}, p) = n(a_{freeze} p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{(a_{freeze} p)}{k a_{freeze} T_{freeze}}} \pm 1}$$

Then the solution at lower temperatures where the species freely streams, is then,

$$n(t, p) = n(a(t)p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{(a(t)p)}{k a_{freeze} T_{freeze}}} \pm 1} = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{p}{k T_{eff}}} \pm 1}$$

with,

$$T_{eff}(t) = \frac{a_{freeze}}{a(t)} T_{freeze}$$

For a massless particle so $E = p$ then this is simply a redshifted thermal distribution. However, if the particle has a small mass, then in the high temperature ultra-relativistic regime $kT \gg m$ then $E \simeq p$, but for $kT \ll m$ a thermal distribution would take a non-relativistic form. However the free streaming particles would maintain the above relativistic form even when $kT_{eff} \ll m$. Thus in this temperature range the free streaming behaviour would deviate strongly from a thermal behaviour at temperature T_{eff} .

For initial conditions at $T = T_{freeze}$ which are the thermal distribution for a non-relativistic species, so,

$$n(t_{freeze}, p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu_{freeze}-m}{kT_{freeze}}} e^{-\frac{p^2}{2mkT_{freeze}}}$$

then,

$$n(t_{freeze}, p) = n(a_{freeze}p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu_{freeze}-m}{kT_{freeze}}} e^{-\frac{(a_{freeze}p)^2}{2mka_{freeze}^2T_{freeze}}}$$

Then the solution at lower temperatures where the species freely streams, is then,

$$\begin{aligned} n(t, p) = n(a(t)p) &= \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu_{freeze}-m}{kT_{freeze}}} e^{-\frac{(a(t)p)^2}{2mka_{freeze}^2T_{freeze}}} \\ &= \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{\mu_{freeze}-m}{kT_{freeze}}} e^{-\frac{p^2}{2mkT_{eff}}} \end{aligned}$$

with,

$$T_{eff}(t) = \left(\frac{a_{freeze}}{a(t)} \right)^2 T_{freeze}$$

Qu. 5 Consider the Boltzmann equation for a fermion species with mass m and vanishing chemical potential and number of spin degrees of freedom g interacting with the photons in the universe, which we approximate as a heat bath with temperature T related to the scale factor a as,

$$\frac{a}{a_0} = \frac{T_0}{T}$$

where a_0, T_0 are the scale factor and temperature today. Assume they do not interact with anything else. The Boltzmann equation is;

$$\frac{d \ln n^c(T)}{d \ln T} = \frac{\Gamma}{H} \left(1 - \frac{n_{eq}^c(T)}{n^c(T)} \right)$$

where the comoving number density and comoving equilibrium density are defined as;

$$n^c = \left(\frac{a}{a_0} \right)^3 n, \quad n_{eq}^c = \left(\frac{a}{a_0} \right)^3 n_{eq}$$

for physical density n and equilibrium density n_{eq} . Assume that at early times then $n^c \simeq n_{eq}^c$ and $\Gamma/H \gg 1$ and when the temperature drops to $T = T_{freeze}$ then $\Gamma/H \sim 1$ and at later times (and lower temperatures) $\Gamma/H \ll 1$. Show that an approximate relic density today for this fermion species if the freeze out occurs when the species is non-relativistic is,

$$\rho_{relic}(T) = T^3 \frac{gm}{\hbar^3} \left(\frac{mk}{2\pi T_{freeze}} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{m}{kT_{freeze}}}$$

Conversely if freeze out occurs in its ultra relativistic regime, temperature is $kT_{freeze} \gg m$, but the temperature today is low so that it is non-relativistic, show;

$$\rho_{relic}(T) = \frac{20 \zeta(3) a_B g m}{k\pi^4} T^3$$

Show that these two answers are consistent with the results for the relic density distributions in Qu 4. by computing the relic densities from these density distributions.

Qu. 5 answer

For temperatures above T_{freeze} we have $n^c(T) = n_{eq}^c(T)$. Then at $T = T_{freeze}$ the species free streams so that for $T < T_{freeze}$ we have,

$$n^c(T)_{relic} = n_{eq}^c(T_{freeze})$$

is constant. Then the physical relic density is;

$$\begin{aligned} n(T)_{relic} &= \left(\frac{a_0}{a}\right)^3 n^c = \left(\frac{a_0}{a}\right)^3 n_{eq}^c(T_{freeze}) = \left(\frac{a_0}{a}\right)^3 \left(\frac{a_0}{a_{freeze}}\right)^{-3} n_{eq}(T_{freeze}) \\ &= \left(\frac{T_0}{T}\right)^{-3} \left(\frac{T_0}{T_{freeze}}\right)^3 n_{eq}(T_{freeze}) \\ &= \left(\frac{T}{T_{freeze}}\right)^3 n_{eq}(T_{freeze}) \end{aligned}$$

At low temperatures where the species is non-relativistic, then the relic energy density will be,

$$\rho_{relic}(T) = m n(T)_{relic}$$

Suppose the freeze out happens when our fermion species is non-relativistic. Then (from Qu 2) with no chemical potential,

$$n_{eq} = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{-m}{kT}} (2\pi mkT)^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

Then we have a relic density;

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{relic}(T) &= m \left(\frac{T}{T_{freeze}}\right)^3 n_{eq}(T_{freeze}) = m \left(\frac{T}{T_{freeze}}\right)^3 \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{\frac{-m}{kT_{freeze}}} (2\pi mkT_{freeze})^{\frac{3}{2}} \\ &= T^3 \frac{gm}{\hbar^3} \left(\frac{mk}{2\pi T_{freeze}}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{m}{kT_{freeze}}} \end{aligned}$$

Suppose the freeze out happens when our fermion species is relativistic (so $kT \gg m, \mu$). Then (from Qu 1),

$$n_{eq}(T) = \frac{3}{4} \frac{15\zeta(3) a_B g}{k\pi^4} T^3$$

Then we have a relic density at low temperatures (when the species is non-relativistic) of;

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{relic}(T) &= m \left(\frac{T}{T_{freeze}} \right)^3 n_{eq}(T_{freeze}) = m \left(\frac{T}{T_{freeze}} \right)^3 \frac{3}{4} \frac{15\zeta(3)a_B g}{k\pi^4} T_{freeze}^3 \\ &= \frac{45\zeta(3)a_B g m}{4k\pi^4} T^3\end{aligned}$$

The relic density distribution for freeze out in the ultra-relativistic case is;

$$n_{relic}(t, p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{p}{kT_{eff}(t)}} + 1}$$

where,

$$T_{eff} = \frac{a_{freeze}}{a(t)} T_{freeze} = \frac{a_{freeze}}{a_0} \frac{a_0}{a(t)} T_{freeze} = \frac{T_0}{T_{freeze}} \frac{T}{T_0} T_{freeze} = T$$

Hence we have,

$$n_{relic}(t, p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{p}{kT}} + 1}$$

so the distribution is simple that of a massless equilibrium fermion at temperature T .

Then from Qu 1 the number density is,

$$n_{relic}(t) = \int_0^\infty dp 4\pi p^2 n_{relic}(t, p) = \frac{4}{3} \frac{15\zeta(3)a_B g}{k\pi^4} T^3$$

Recall from question 2 the energy density in the non-relativistic regime for any density distribution is $\rho_{relic} = \left(m + \frac{3}{2}kT\right) n_{relic} \simeq m n_{relic}$. Hence in the non-relativistic regime the relic density is,

$$\rho_{relic} = m n_{relic}(t) = m \frac{4}{3} \frac{15\zeta(3)a_B g}{k\pi^4} T^3 = \frac{20\zeta(3)a_B g m}{k\pi^4} T^3$$

agreeing with the above result in Qu 6.

From Qu 4, the relic density distribution for freeze out in the non-relativistic case (without chemical potential) is;

$$n_{relic}(t, p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{-\frac{m}{kT_{freeze}}} e^{-\frac{p^2}{2mkT_{eff}(t)}}$$

where,

$$\begin{aligned} T_{eff}(t) &= \left(\frac{a_{freeze}}{a(t)} \right)^2 T_{freeze} = \left(\frac{a_{freeze}}{a_0} \right)^2 \left(\frac{a_0}{a(t)} \right)^2 T_{freeze} = \left(\frac{T_0}{T_{freeze}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{T}{T_0} \right)^2 T_{freeze} \\ &= \frac{T^2}{T_{freeze}} \end{aligned}$$

Hence we have,

$$n_{relic}(t, p) = \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{-\frac{m}{kT_{freeze}}} e^{-\frac{p^2 T_{freeze}}{2mkT^2}}$$

The number density of the relic is computed as;

$$\begin{aligned} n_{relic} &= \int_0^\infty dp 4\pi p^2 n_{relic}(t, p) \\ &= \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{-\frac{m}{kT_{freeze}}} \int_0^\infty dp 4\pi p^2 e^{-\frac{p^2 T_{freeze}}{2mkT^2}} \\ &= \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{-\frac{m}{kT_{freeze}}} 4\pi \left(\frac{2mkT^2}{T_{freeze}} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \int_0^\infty dx x^2 e^{-x^2} \end{aligned}$$

using the substitution $x = p\sqrt{\frac{T_{freeze}}{2mkT^2}}$. Then recalling from Qu 2 that,

$$\int_0^\infty dx x^2 e^{-x^2} = \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\pi}$$

we have,

$$\begin{aligned} n_{relic} &= \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\pi} \frac{g}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{-\frac{m}{kT_{freeze}}} 4\pi \left(\frac{2mkT^2}{T_{freeze}} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \\ &= T^3 \frac{g}{\hbar^3} e^{-\frac{m}{kT_{freeze}}} \left(\frac{mk}{2\pi T_{freeze}} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

and using $\rho_{relic} \simeq m n_{relic}$ we have,

$$\rho_{relic} = T^3 \frac{m g}{\hbar^3} e^{-\frac{m}{kT_{freeze}}} \left(\frac{mk}{2\pi T_{freeze}} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

which indeed agrees as it should.

Qu. 6 Consider the Boltzmann equation as in the previous question,

$$\frac{d \ln n^c(T)}{d \ln T} = \frac{\Gamma}{H} \left(1 - \frac{n_{eq}^c(T)}{n^c(T)} \right)$$

Suppose we treat Γ/H as being constant, so that $\alpha = \Gamma/H$. Let us consider starting the system at a temperature T_i with the in thermal equilibrium so that $n^c(T_i) = n_{eq}^c(T_i)$. Then consider evolving to lower temperatures $T < T_i$.

Confirm that the solution of the Boltzmann equation for $T \leq T_i$ (assuming α is constant) is then,

$$n^c(T) = \left(\frac{T}{T_i} \right)^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T_i) + \alpha T^\alpha \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T')$$

and check that it obeys the boundary condition at $T = T_i$.

For sufficiently large α , and $T < T_i$, and assuming $n_{eq}^c(T)$ is smooth, we may approximate;

$$\int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T') \simeq \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T)$$

since the function $1/T'^{1+\alpha}$ is very strongly peaked at the lower limit T of the integral. Use this to show that for sufficiently large α , then,

$$n^c(T) \simeq n_{eq}^c(T)$$

for $T < T_i$. Further, by Taylor expanding about the lower limit, show that (the constant) α must be large on a scale determined by the form of n_{eq}^c , so,

$$\alpha \gg \frac{d \log n_{eq}^c}{d \log T}$$

Consider a universe with thermal bath temperature $T \sim 1/a$. Show that for a relativistic species the above bound is always true provided $\alpha \gg 1$, and then equilibrium is maintained for all low temperatures $T < T_i$. However, for a non-relativistic species with mass m and with no chemical potential, for equilibrium to persist to a temperature $T < T_i$ then the constant α must be bounded as,

$$\alpha \gg \frac{m}{kT} > 1$$

and hence at sufficiently low temperatures equilibrium cannot be maintained even for large values of α . Basically the decay rate is not sufficiently high to reduce the density particles to their very rapidly decreasing equilibrium value.

Qu. 6 answer The Boltzmann equation;

$$\frac{d \ln n^c(T)}{d \ln T} = \alpha \left(1 - \frac{n_{eq}^c(T)}{n^c(T)} \right)$$

so that,

$$\frac{T}{n^c} \frac{dn^c}{dT} = \alpha \left(1 - \frac{n_{eq}^c(T)}{n^c(T)} \right)$$

so,

$$\frac{dn^c}{dT} = \frac{\alpha}{T} (n^c - n_{eq}^c)$$

Start with the solution in the question,

$$n^c(T) = \left(\frac{T}{T_i} \right)^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T_i) + \alpha T^\alpha \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T')$$

Clearly this satisfies the boundary conditions;

$$n^c(T_i) = n_{eq}^c(T_i)$$

We may write this solution as,

$$\begin{aligned} n^c(T) &= T^\alpha \left(k + \alpha \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T') \right) \\ &= T^\alpha \left(k - \alpha \int_{T_i}^T \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T') \right) \end{aligned}$$

where $k = \left(\frac{1}{T_i} \right)^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T_i)$.

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dT} n^c &= \frac{d}{dT} \left(T^\alpha \left(k - \alpha \int_{T_i}^T \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T') \right) \right) \\ &= \alpha T^{\alpha-1} \left(k - \alpha \int_{T_i}^T \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T') \right) - \alpha T^\alpha \frac{1}{T^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T) \\ &= \alpha \frac{1}{T} n^c(T) - \alpha \frac{1}{T} n_{eq}^c(T) = \frac{\alpha}{T} (n^c - n_{eq}^c) \end{aligned}$$

so we see that indeed it solves the Boltzmann equation.

Using the approximation;

$$\int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T') \simeq \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T)$$

then,

$$\begin{aligned} n^c(T) &= \left(\frac{T}{T_i}\right)^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T_i) + \alpha T^\alpha \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T') \\ &\simeq \left(\frac{T}{T_i}\right)^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T_i) + \alpha T^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T) \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} \\ &= \left(\frac{T}{T_i}\right)^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T_i) + \alpha T^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T) \left[-\frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{1}{T'^\alpha}\right]_T^{T_i} \\ &= \left(\frac{T}{T_i}\right)^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T_i) + \alpha T^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T) \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{1}{T^\alpha} - \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{1}{T_i^\alpha}\right) \\ &= n_{eq}^c(T) + \left(\frac{T}{T_i}\right)^\alpha (n_{eq}^c(T_i) - n_{eq}^c(T)) \end{aligned}$$

and for $T < T_i$ and $\alpha \gg 1$ then $\left(\frac{T}{T_i}\right)^\alpha \simeq 0$ so,

$$n^c(T) \simeq n_{eq}^c(T)$$

If we Taylor expand about the lower limit, we find,

$$\alpha T^\alpha \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T') \simeq \alpha T^\alpha \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} \left(n_{eq}^c(T) + (T' - T) \frac{d}{dT} n_{eq}^c(T) + \dots \right)$$

Using our approximations we therefore find;

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha T^\alpha \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T') &\simeq n_{eq}^c(T) \alpha T^\alpha \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} + \frac{d}{dT} n_{eq}^c(T) \alpha T^\alpha \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} (T' - T) + \dots \\ &= \alpha T^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T) \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} + \alpha T^\alpha \frac{d}{dT} n_{eq}^c(T) \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} (T' - T) + \dots \\ &= \alpha T^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T) \left[-\frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{1}{T'^\alpha}\right]_T^{T_i} + \alpha T^\alpha \frac{d}{dT} n_{eq}^c(T) \left[-\frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \frac{1}{T'^{\alpha-1}} + \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{T}{T'^\alpha}\right]_T^{T_i} + \dots \\ &= \alpha T^\alpha n_{eq}^c(T) \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{1}{T^\alpha} - \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{1}{T_i^\alpha}\right) + \alpha T^\alpha \frac{d}{dT} n_{eq}^c(T) \left(\frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \frac{1}{T^{\alpha-1}} - \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \frac{1}{T_i^{\alpha-1}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \frac{1}{\alpha} \left(\frac{T}{T_i} - \frac{T}{T_i^\alpha} \right) + \dots \\
= & n_{eq}^c(T) - n_{eq}^c(T) \left(\frac{T}{T_i} \right)^\alpha + T \frac{d}{dT} n_{eq}^c(T) \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1} - \frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1} \left(\frac{T}{T_i} \right)^{\alpha-1} \right. \\
& \left. + \left(\frac{T}{T_i} \right)^\alpha - 1 \right) + \dots
\end{aligned}$$

Now, for $T < T_i$ then, $(T/T_i)^\alpha \gg 1$, so then,

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha T^\alpha \int_T^{T_i} \frac{dT'}{T'^{1+\alpha}} n_{eq}^c(T') & \simeq n_{eq}^c(T) + T \frac{d}{dT} n_{eq}^c(T) \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1} - 1 \right) \\
& \simeq n_{eq}^c(T) + T \frac{d}{dT} n_{eq}^c(T) \left(\frac{1}{\alpha-1} \right) \simeq n_{eq}^c(T) + \frac{1}{\alpha} T \frac{d}{dT} n_{eq}^c(T)
\end{aligned}$$

Finally we conclude that the correction is small provided;

$$n_{eq}^c \gg \frac{1}{\alpha} T \frac{dn_{eq}^c}{dT}$$

which implies,

$$\alpha \gg \frac{T}{n_{eq}^c} \frac{dn_{eq}^c}{dT}$$

and hence gives the bound,

$$\alpha \gg \frac{d \log n_{eq}^c}{d \log T}$$

For a relativistic species we have,

$$n_{eq} \propto T^3, \quad n_{eq}^c = a^3 n_{eq} \sim \text{const}$$

Hence,

$$\frac{d \log n_{eq}^c}{d \log T} = 0$$

and hence for any $\alpha \gg 1$ will ensure equilibrium for all temperatures $T < T_i$.

However, for a non-relativistic species we have,

$$n_{eq} \propto T^{3/2} e^{-\frac{m}{kT}}, \quad n_{eq}^c = a^3 n_{eq} \sim b T^{-3/2} e^{-\frac{m}{kT}}$$

for a constant b . Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d \log n_{eq}^c}{d \log T} &= \frac{T}{n_{eq}^c} \frac{dn_{eq}^c}{dT} = \frac{T}{bT^{-3/2}e^{-\frac{m}{kT}}} \frac{d}{dT} (bT^{-3/2}e^{-\frac{m}{kT}}) \\ &= -\frac{3}{2} + \frac{m}{kT}\end{aligned}$$

Hence for sufficiently low temperature so that $m/kT \sim \alpha$ then equilibrium will not be preserved.

Qu. 7 Consider a metric with coordinates $x^\mu = (t, x^i)$;

$$ds^2 = \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = -dt^2 + g_{ij}(t, x) dx^i dx^j$$

The Liouville condition for the phase space distribution $n(t, x^i, p_j)$ of free particles is;

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial n}{\partial x^i} \frac{dx^i}{dt} + \frac{\partial n}{\partial p_i} \frac{dp_i}{dt}$$

Show that for a particular free particle with affine parameter λ and 4-momentum $p^\mu = dx^\mu/d\lambda$ then;

$$\frac{dx^i}{dt} = \frac{p^i}{p^0}$$

Consider the Christoffel connection for the metric $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$ and compute the following components, $\tilde{\Gamma}^t{}_{\mu\nu}$, to show;

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\Gamma}^i{}_{tt} &= 0 \\ \tilde{\Gamma}^i{}_{tk} &= \frac{1}{2} g^{ij} \partial_t g_{jk} \\ \tilde{\Gamma}^i{}_{kl} &= \Gamma^i{}_{kl}\end{aligned}$$

where $\Gamma^i{}_{jk}$ are the Christoffel components of the spatial metric $g_{ij}(t, x)$. Now show that (note the index is 'down'),

$$\frac{dp_i}{dt} = p^j \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial x^k} + g_{ij} \frac{dp^j}{dt}$$

and show that (note the index is 'up'),

$$\frac{dp^i}{dt} = \frac{1}{p^0} \frac{d^2 x^i}{d\lambda^2}$$

and hence use the geodesic equation for the free particle to show that,

$$\dot{p}_i = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \partial_i g_{jk}$$

Hence we derive the Boltzmann equation for free particles;

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \frac{p^i}{p^0} \frac{\partial n}{\partial x^i} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \partial_i g_{jk} \frac{\partial n}{\partial p_i} = 0$$

Qu. 7 answer Consider a particle with curve $x^\mu(\lambda)$, affine parameter λ and 4-momentum $p^\mu = dx^\mu/d\lambda$. Then,

$$\frac{dx^i}{dt} = \frac{dx^i}{d\lambda} \frac{d\lambda}{dt} = \frac{dx^i}{d\lambda} \left(\frac{dt}{d\lambda} \right)^{-1} = p^i (p^0)^{-1}$$

as required.

The geodesic equation for the metric;

$$ds^2 = \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}(t, x) dx^\mu dx^\nu = -dt^2 + g_{ij}(t, x) dx^i dx^j$$

is,

$$\frac{d^2 x^\mu}{d\lambda^2} + \tilde{\Gamma}^\mu_{\alpha\beta} \frac{dx^\alpha}{d\lambda} \frac{dx^\beta}{d\lambda} = 0$$

Now;

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Gamma}^i_{\alpha\beta} &= \frac{1}{2} \tilde{g}^{i\rho} (\partial_\alpha \tilde{g}_{\rho\beta} + \partial_\beta \tilde{g}_{\rho\alpha} - \partial_\rho \tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \tilde{g}^{ij} (\partial_\alpha \tilde{g}_{j\beta} + \partial_\beta \tilde{g}_{j\alpha} - \partial_j \tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta}) \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Gamma}^i_{tt} &= \frac{1}{2} \tilde{g}^{ij} (\partial_t \tilde{g}_{jt} + \partial_t \tilde{g}_{jt} - \partial_j \tilde{g}_{tt}) = 0 \\ \tilde{\Gamma}^i_{tk} &= \frac{1}{2} \tilde{g}^{ij} (\partial_t \tilde{g}_{jk} + \partial_k \tilde{g}_{jt} - \partial_j \tilde{g}_{tk}) = \frac{1}{2} g^{ij} \partial_t g_{jk} \\ \tilde{\Gamma}^i_{kl} &= \frac{1}{2} \tilde{g}^{ij} (\partial_k \tilde{g}_{jl} + \partial_l \tilde{g}_{jk} - \partial_j \tilde{g}_{kl}) = \Gamma^i_{kl} \end{aligned}$$

So;

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \frac{d^2 x^i}{d\lambda^2} + \tilde{\Gamma}^i_{\alpha\beta} \frac{dx^\alpha}{d\lambda} \frac{dx^\beta}{d\lambda} \\ &= \frac{d^2 x^i}{d\lambda^2} + \Gamma^i_{jk} \frac{dx^j}{d\lambda} \frac{dx^k}{d\lambda} + g^{ij} \partial_t g_{jk} \frac{dx^t}{d\lambda} \frac{dx^k}{d\lambda} \\ &= \frac{d^2 x^i}{d\lambda^2} + \Gamma^i_{jk} p^j p^k + g^{ij} \partial_t g_{jk} p^0 p^k \end{aligned}$$

Now;

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dp_i}{dt} &= \frac{d(g_{ij}p^j)}{dt} = p^j \frac{dg_{ij}}{dt} + g_{ij} \frac{dp^j}{dt} \\
&= p^j \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial t} + p^j \frac{dx^k}{dt} \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial x^k} + g_{ij} \frac{dp^j}{dt} \\
&= p^j \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial x^k} + g_{ij} \frac{dp^j}{dt}
\end{aligned}$$

Now;

$$\frac{dp^i}{dt} = \frac{d\lambda}{dt} \frac{dp^i}{d\lambda} = \frac{d\lambda}{dt} \frac{dp^i}{d\lambda} = \frac{1}{p^0} \frac{dp^i}{d\lambda} = \frac{1}{p^0} \frac{d^2 x^i}{d\lambda^2}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dp_i}{dt} &= p^j \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial x^k} + g_{ij} \frac{1}{p^0} \frac{d^2 x^j}{d\lambda^2} \\
&= p^j \partial_t g_{ij} + \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \partial_k g_{ij} - g_{ij} \frac{1}{p^0} (\Gamma^j{}_{mn} p^m p^n + g^{jm} \partial_t g_{mn} p^0 p^n) \\
&= p^j \partial_t g_{ij} + \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \partial_k g_{ij} - g_{ij} \frac{1}{p^0} \Gamma^j{}_{mn} p^m p^n - p^n \delta_i^m \partial_t g_{mn} \\
&= \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \partial_k g_{ij} - \frac{1}{p^0} g_{ij} \Gamma^j{}_{mn} p^m p^n \\
&= \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \partial_k g_{ij} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{p^0} g_{ij} p^m p^n g^{jk} (\partial_m g_{kn} + \partial_n g_{km} - \partial_k g_{mn}) \\
&= \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \partial_k g_{ij} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{p^0} p^m p^n (\partial_m g_{in} + \partial_n g_{im} - \partial_i g_{mn}) \\
&= \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \partial_k g_{ij} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k (2\partial_k g_{ij} - \partial_i g_{jk}) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{p^0} p^j p^k \partial_i g_{jk}
\end{aligned}$$