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A brief introduction to the delights of non-equilibrium statistical physics

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In the beginning ...

- The energy of the universe is constant.
- The entropy of the universe tends toward a maximum.

Rudolf Clausius, 1865

Thermodynamics is organized logically around equilibrium states, in which "nothing happens".

State function: an observable that has a well-defined value in any equilibrium state. E.g. $\mathrm{U}=\mathrm{U}($ state $)=$ internal energy, $\mathrm{S}=\mathrm{S}($ state $)=$ entropy .

Thermodynamic process: a sequence of events during which a system evolves from one equilibrium state $(A)$ to another $(B)$.

During a reversible process, the system and its surroundings remain in equilibrium at all times.

## First Law of Thermodynamics: $\quad \Delta \mathrm{U}=\mathrm{W}+\mathrm{Q}$

$\Delta \mathrm{U}=\mathrm{U}_{\mathrm{B}}-\mathrm{U}_{\mathrm{A}}=$ net change in system's internal energy
$\mathrm{W}=$ work performed on the system
(displacements dX against force F)
Q = heat absorbed by the system
(spontaneous flow of energy via thermal contact)


If we stretch the rubber band slowly: $\mathrm{W}>0, \mathrm{Q}<0$.

## Second Law of Thermodynamics: $\quad \int_{A}^{B} \frac{d Q}{T} \leq \Delta S$

$d Q=$ energy absorbed by system as heat
$\mathrm{T}=$ temperature of thermal surroundings
$\Delta S=S_{B}-S_{A}=$ net change in system's entropy


Isothermal
processes:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\Delta S \geq \frac{Q}{T}=\frac{\Delta U-W}{T} & \\
W \geq \Delta F & \begin{aligned}
\mathrm{F} & =\text { U-TS } \\
& =\text { Helmholtz free energy }
\end{aligned}
\end{array}
$$

## Thermodynamic cycles

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { forward process : } \mathrm{A} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B} & \mathrm{~W}_{\mathrm{F}} \geq \Delta \mathrm{F} \\
\text { reverse process: } \mathrm{A} \mathrm{~B} & \mathrm{~W}_{\mathrm{R}} \geq-\Delta \mathrm{F}
\end{array}
$$



Kelvin-Planck statement of 2nd Law: $\quad \mathrm{W}_{\mathrm{F}}+\mathrm{W}_{\mathrm{R}} \geq 0$
We perform more work during the forward half-cycle $(A \rightarrow B)$ than we recover during the reverse half-cycle $(A \leftarrow B)$... No free lunch !

## Stretching a microscopic rubber band



1. Begin in equilibrium

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \lambda=\mathrm{A} \\
& \lambda: \mathrm{A} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}
\end{aligned}
$$

2. Stretch the molecule

$$
\mathrm{W}=\text { work performed } \geq \Delta \mathrm{F} \text { on average }
$$

3. End in equilibrium
$\lambda=\mathrm{B}$
4. Repeat
... fluctuations are important

Second Law, macro vs micro



Second Law, macro vs micro


## Classical statistical mechanics

system: $\quad x=(q, p)=\left(q_{1}, \cdots q_{n}, p_{1}, \cdots p_{n}\right) \quad$ microscopic environment: $y=(Q, P) \quad$ degrees of freedom

$$
H(x, y ; \lambda)=H_{S}(x ; \lambda)+H_{E}(y)+h_{\mathrm{int}}(x, y)
$$

$$
1 / k_{B} T
$$

Equilibrium state:

$$
p^{e q}(x ; \lambda)=\frac{1}{Z} \exp \left[-\beta H_{S}(x ; \lambda)\right]
$$

State functions:

$$
\begin{aligned}
U & =H_{S}(x ; \lambda) \text { or } \int d x p^{e q} H_{S} \\
S & =-k_{B} \int p^{e q} \ln p^{e q} \\
F & =-k_{B} T \ln Z
\end{aligned}
$$

## Classical statistical mechanics

$$
\begin{array}{rlrl}
\text { system: } & x & =(q, p)=\left(q_{1}, \cdots q_{n}, p_{1}, \cdots p_{n}\right) \\
\text { environment: } & y & =(Q, P) \\
H(x, y ; \lambda) & =H_{S}(x ; \lambda)+H_{E}(y)+h_{\mathrm{int}}(x, y)
\end{array}
$$

First law of thermodynamics: $\Delta \mathrm{U}=\mathrm{W}+\mathrm{Q}$

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\frac{d H_{S}}{d t}=\frac{\partial H_{S}}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{d x}{d t}+\frac{\partial H_{S}}{\partial \lambda} \frac{d \lambda}{d t}
\end{array}\left\{\begin{array}{l}
W=\int d t \frac{d \lambda}{d t} \frac{\partial H_{S}}{\partial \lambda}(x(t) ; \lambda(t)) \\
Q=\int d t \frac{d x}{d t} \cdot \frac{\partial H_{S}}{\partial x}(x(t) ; \lambda(t)) \\
\text { Second law (isothermal): }
\end{array} \quad<\mathrm{W}\right\rangle \geq \Delta \mathrm{F} \underbrace{\partial(\mathrm{~W})}_{\Delta \mathrm{F}}
$$

## Classical statistical mechanics

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { system: } \quad x=(q, p)=\left(q_{1}, \cdots q_{n}, p_{1}, \cdots p_{n}\right) \\
& \text { environment: } \quad y=(Q, P) \\
& H(x, y ; \lambda)=H_{S}(x ; \lambda)+H_{E}(y)+h_{\mathrm{int}}(x, y) \\
& \begin{array}{l}
U=H_{S}(x ; \lambda) \quad \text { or } \quad \int p^{e q} H_{S} \\
S=-k_{B} \int p^{e q} \ln p^{e q} \quad, \quad F=-k_{B} T \ln Z \\
W=\int d t \frac{d \lambda}{d t} \frac{\partial H_{S}}{\partial \lambda} \quad, \quad Q=\int d t \frac{d x}{d t} \cdot \frac{\partial H_{S}}{\partial x}
\end{array} \quad \Delta \mathrm{U}=\mathrm{W}+
\end{aligned}
$$

- Some modifications required if $\mathrm{h}_{\text {int }}$ is not weak
- Same definitions apply if system's evolution is modeled stochastically (e.g. Brownian dynamics)


## Beyond classical thermodynamics:

Fluctuation Theorems

$$
\left\langle e^{-\beta W}\right\rangle=e^{-\beta \Delta F}
$$

$$
\text { C.J., PRL 78, } 2690 \text { (1997) }
$$

... places a strong constraint on $\rho(W)$.


## Beyond classical thermodynamics:

Fluctuation Theorems


## Relation to Second Law

$$
\left.\begin{array}{l}
\text { Jensen's } \\
\text { inequality }
\end{array}\left\langle e^{x}\right\rangle \geq e^{\langle x\rangle},\right\} \longrightarrow\langle W\rangle \geq \Delta F
$$



What is the probability that the 2nd law will be "violated" by at least $\zeta$ ?

$$
\begin{aligned}
P[W<\Delta F-\zeta] & =\int_{-\infty}^{\Delta F-\xi} d W \rho(W) \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\Delta F-\zeta} d W \rho(W) e^{\beta(\Delta F-\zeta-W)} \\
& \leq e^{\beta(\Delta F-\xi)} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d W \rho(W) e^{-\beta W}=\exp (-\zeta / k T)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Folding and unfolding of ribosomal RNA

$$
\frac{\rho_{\text {unfold }}(+W)}{\rho_{\text {refold }}(-W)}=\exp [\beta(W-\Delta F)]
$$





## Nonequilibrium Steady States


(Gallavotti, Cohen, Evans, Searles, Kurchan, Lebowitz, Spohn ... 1990's)

## Autonomous and non-autonomous feedback control



How to design a device with the desired specifications?


What can be achieved by an agent with given abilities of measurement and feedback?

## Maxwell's Demon


"... the energy in A is increased and that in B diminished; that is, the hot system has got hotter and the cold colder and yet no work has been done, only the intelligence of a very observant and neat-fingered being has been employed"
J.C. Maxwell, letter to P.G. Tait, Dec. 11, 1867

## Maxwell's Demon



Is a "mechanical" Maxwell demon possible?
M. Smoluchowski, Phys Z 13, 1069 (1912) no!
R.P. Feynman, Lectures
autonomous feedback control

## Maxwell's Demon



Is a "mechanical" Maxwell demon possible?
R. Landauer, IBM J Res Dev 5, 183 (1961)
O. Penrose, Foundations of Statistical Mechanics (1970) yes, but ...
C.H. Bennett, Int J Theor Physics 21, 905 (1982)
autonomous feedback control

## Second Law of Thermodynamics

... with measurement and feedback


$$
\begin{array}{cl}
\langle W\rangle \geq \Delta F-k_{B} T\langle I\rangle & \text { Sagawa \& Ueda, PRL 100, } 080403 \text { (2008) } \\
\left\langle e^{-\beta W-I}\right\rangle=e^{-\beta \Delta F} & \text { Sagawa \& Ueda, PRL 104, 090602 (2010) }
\end{array}
$$

## Autonomous demons

H.T. Quan et al, PRL 97, 180402 (2006)
D. Mandal and C. Jarzynski, PNAS 109, 11641 (2012)
T. Sagawa and M. Ueda, PRL 109, 180602 (2012)
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A.C. Barato and U. Seifert, EPL 101, 60001 (2013)
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S. Deffner, PRE 88, 062128 (2013)
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Gedankenengineering:
Design a mechanical gadget that ...
(1) systematically withdraws energy from a single thermal reservoir,
(2) delivers that energy to raise a mass against gravity, and
(3) records information in a memory register.


## Guessing the direction of the arrow of time

You are shown a movie depicting a thermodynamic process, $A \rightarrow B$.
Task: determine whether you are viewing the events in the order in which they actually occurred, or a movie run backward of the reverse process.


Two hypotheses:
The molecule was stretched (F)
The molecule was contracted (R)
$L(F \mid W)=\frac{1}{1+\exp [-\beta(W-\Delta F)]}$
~ Shirts et al, PRL 2003 ,
Maragakis et al, J Chem Phys 2008


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## References


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fluctuation theorems for work
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Sagawa, Progress Theor Phys 127, 1 (2012) information processing - non-autonomous
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information processing - autonomous

