

## 218 Part 3: Thermodynamics

Random Behavior of Many Atoms → Simple Laws  
 How to connect Heat, Temperature, Entropy  
 and Statistics to Waves?

### I. Finding New Laws

- Conserved order parameter
- No time reversal symmetry

→ Diffusion Equation

"Standing" & "Travelling" Wave Solutions

### II. Derive Diffusion Equation Microscopically

~~Free Body Diagram~~ →

Random Walks

Probability Distributions

Diffusion in Gases

### III. Kinetic Theory of Gases

### IV. Statistical Mechanics

### V. Laws of Thermodynamics

...

## The Diffusion Equation

Drop of Milk in Coffee - (No Stirring)

- Gradually spreads out through whole cup
- Stirring much faster than waiting
- Convection, currents stir

Perfume in Air [same]

Heat diffusion through metals (fast),  
styrofoam (slow), earth's crust (slow)

What symmetries do these problems have?

- Homogeneous in Space  $\vec{x} \rightarrow \vec{x} + \vec{v}$
- Homogeneous in Time  $t \rightarrow t + \Delta$
- Isotropy under Rotations  $\vec{x} \rightarrow R\vec{x}$
- Reflection in Space  $x \rightarrow -x$
- ~~Reflection in Time  $t \rightarrow -t$~~   $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$  allowed.

What else is special?

Each of these problems describe  
the evolution of a conserved quantity

$$p(x,t) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{cream} \\ \text{Coffee density} \\ \text{Perfume density} \\ \text{Energy density} \end{array} \right\}, \quad \int d^3x p(x,t) = \text{Constant}$$

[Conservation of  
Coffee, Energy, ...]

# Finding New Laws The Diffusion Equation

① Pick an Order Parameter Field

$$\rho(x, t) \quad [\text{Energy density, coffee density, ...}]$$

② Restrict to long time scales

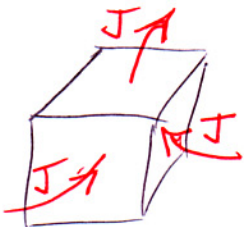
$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \gg \frac{\partial^2 \rho}{\partial t^2}, \dots \quad \text{Minimize \# of time derivatives.}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \mathcal{F}(\rho, \vec{x}, t, \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial y}, \dots)$$

③ Impose the conservation laws.

$\rho$  is conserved

- Can't be created or destroyed
- Can slosh from one place to another
- Call  $\vec{J}$  the current of  $\rho$



Box  $V$   
Surface  $\vec{S}$

$$\int \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} dV = - \int \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{S} = \int -(\nabla \cdot \vec{J}) dV$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \vec{J}}$$

(4) Write the most general function for  $\vec{J}$  allowed by <sup>translational</sup> symmetry

$$\vec{J}_i(\rho, \vec{x}, \vec{t}, \partial_j \rho, \partial_j \partial_k \rho, \dots)$$

- Homogeneous in Space & Time
- Scalars  $\rho, \partial_j \partial_k \rho, (\partial_j \rho)(\partial_k \rho), \dots$

$$\vec{J}_i = -D_{ij}(\rho, \nabla^2 \rho, (\nabla \rho)^2, \dots) \partial_j \rho + E_{ijk}(\rho, \dots) \partial_j \partial_k \rho + \dots$$

$D > 0 \rightarrow \vec{J}$  flows from high  $\rho$  to low  $\rho$

(5) Restrict to long length scales

$$\rho \gg \nabla^2 \rho, (\nabla \rho)^2, \dots$$

$$\partial_j \partial_k \rho \ll \partial_j \rho$$

$$\vec{J}_i = -D_{ij}(\rho) \partial_j \rho$$

(6) Impose Isotropy

$D_{ij}(\rho)$  invariant under rotations

$$\Rightarrow D_{ij}(\rho) = D(\rho) \delta_{ij}$$

(like dielectric tensor, moment of inertia, ...)

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = -\partial_i J_i$$

$$J_i = -D_i(\rho) \partial_i \rho$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \partial_i (D(\rho) \partial_i \rho) = \nabla \cdot (D \nabla \rho)$$

⑦ (Sometimes) Assume  $\rho$  is small, or nearly constant  $D(\rho) \approx D$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (D \nabla \rho) = D \nabla^2 \rho$$

The Diffusion Equation