

Equilibrium Collision Rates

- Now that we have expression for the velocity distribution,

$$f_o(C_i) = \left(\frac{m}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{mC^2}{2kT}}$$

- Let's re-examine bimolecular collision rate expression (z_{AB})

$$z_{AB} = \frac{n_A n_B}{\delta_{AB}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(C_i) f(Z_i) g \sigma_{AB}^T(g) dV_Z dV_C$$

- in order to identify temperature dependence of integral
- AND to find proper expressions for:

1. collision frequency (θ)

2. mean free path (λ)

Collision Freq and Mean Free Path-1

Copyright © 2009, 2021, 2025 by Jerry M. Seitzman.
All rights reserved.

AE/ME 6765

Bimolecular Collision Rate

- Looking at Maxwellian terms

$$f_A(C_i) f_B(Z_i) = \left(\frac{m_A}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{m_A C^2}{2kT}} \left(\frac{m_B}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{m_B Z^2}{2kT}}$$

- Using previous results relating C_i and Z_i to center-of-mass velocity (w_i), relative velocity (g_i) and reduced mass (m_{AB}^*)

$$C_i = w_i - \frac{m_{AB}^*}{m_A} g_i \quad Z_i = w_i - \frac{m_{AB}^*}{m_B} g_i \quad m_{AB}^* = \left(\frac{m_A m_B}{m_A + m_B} \right)$$

- Then
$$e^{-\frac{m_A C^2}{2kT}} e^{-\frac{m_B Z^2}{2kT}} = e^{-\frac{(m_A C^2 + m_B Z^2)}{2kT}} = e^{-\frac{(m_A + m_B) w^2 + m_{AB}^{*2} g^2}{2kT}}$$

- and
$$\left(\frac{m_A}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{m_B}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} = \left(\frac{m_{AB}^*}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{m_A + m_B}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2}$$

Collision Freq and Mean Free Path-2

Copyright © 2009, 2021, 2025 by Jerry M. Seitzman.
All rights reserved.

AE/ME 6765

Bimolecular Collision Rate

- Inserting these into collision rate

$$\begin{aligned}
 z_{AB} &= \frac{n_A n_B}{\delta_{AB}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(C_i) f(Z_i) g \sigma_{AB}^T(g) dV_Z dV_C \\
 &= \frac{n_A n_B}{\delta_{AB}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\frac{m_A + m_B}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{(m_A + m_B)w^2}{2kT}} \left(\frac{m_{AB}^*}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{m_{AB}^* g^2}{2kT}} g \sigma_{AB}^T(g) dV_Z dV_C \\
 &= \frac{n_A n_B}{\delta_{AB}} \int_0^{\infty} \left(\frac{m_A + m_B}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{(m_A + m_B)w^2}{2kT}} 4\pi w^2 dw \quad \begin{matrix} dV_w = 4\pi w^2 dw \\ \text{V\&K} \\ \text{II.6.9,} \\ \text{II.6.10} \end{matrix} \\
 &\quad \times \int_0^{\infty} \left(\frac{m_{AB}^*}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{m_{AB}^* g^2}{2kT}} g \sigma_{AB}^T(g) 4\pi g^2 dg \quad dV_g = 4\pi g^2 dg
 \end{aligned}$$

Collision Freq and Mean Free Path-3

Copyright © 2009, 2021, 2025 by Jerry M. Seltzman.
All rights reserved.

AE/ME 6765

Bimolecular Collision Rate

$$z_{AB} = \frac{n_A n_B}{\delta_{AB}} \left[\int_0^{\infty} \left(\frac{m_A + m_B}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{(m_A + m_B)w^2}{2kT}} 4\pi w^2 dw \right] \left[\int_0^{\infty} \left(\frac{m_{AB}^*}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{m_{AB}^* g^2}{2kT}} g \sigma_{AB}^T(g) 4\pi g^2 dg \right]$$

- First integral resembles

$$\int_0^{\infty} \left(\frac{m}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{m w^2}{2kT}} 4\pi w^2 dw = \int_0^{\infty} \chi(w) dw = 1$$

- So

$$z_{AB} = \frac{n_A n_B}{\delta_{AB}} \int_0^{\infty} \left(\frac{m_{AB}^*}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{m_{AB}^* g^2}{2kT}} g \sigma_{AB}^T(g) 4\pi g^2 dg \quad \delta_{AB} = \begin{cases} 1 & A \neq B \\ 2 & A = B \end{cases}$$

Collision Freq and Mean Free Path-4

Copyright © 2009, 2021, 2025 by Jerry M. Seltzman.
All rights reserved.

AE/ME 6765

Hard Sphere Example

- For hard, elastic spheres $\sigma_{AB}^T(g) = \pi d_{AB}^2 \equiv \sigma_{AB}$

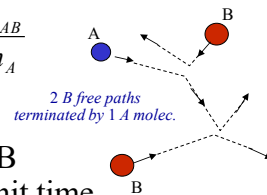
$$\begin{aligned}
 z_{AB} &= \frac{n_A n_B}{\delta_{AB}} \sigma_{AB} \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{m_{AB}^*}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{m_{AB}^*}{2kT} g^2} 4\pi g^3 dg \\
 &= \frac{n_A n_B}{\delta_{AB}} \frac{4\pi}{\pi^{3/2}} \sigma_{AB} \sqrt{\frac{2kT}{m_{AB}^*}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\left[\sqrt{\frac{m_{AB}^*}{2kT}} g \right]^2} \left[\sqrt{\frac{m_{AB}^*}{2kT}} g \right]^3 \left[\sqrt{\frac{m_{AB}^*}{2kT}} dg \right] \\
 &= \frac{n_A n_B}{\delta_{AB}} 4\sigma_{AB} \sqrt{\frac{2kT}{\pi m_{AB}^*}} \underbrace{\int_0^\infty y^3 e^{-y^2} dy}_{I_3(1)=1/2} \quad \text{Mean Relative Speed } \bar{g} = \sqrt{\frac{8kT}{\pi m_{AB}^*}} \\
 z_{AB} &= \frac{n_A n_B}{\delta_{AB}} \sigma_{AB} \sqrt{\frac{8kT}{\pi m_{AB}^*}} \quad \bar{C} = \sqrt{\frac{8kT}{\pi m}} \quad \boxed{z_{AB} = \frac{n_A n_B}{\delta_{AB}} \sigma_{AB} \bar{g}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Collision Freq and Mean Free Path-5
Copyright © 2009, 2021, 2025 by Jerry M. Seltzman.
All rights reserved.

AE/ME 6765

Collision Frequency

- Recall collision frequency $\theta_{AB} = \frac{z_{AB}}{n_A}$
 - number of collisions/sec of one A molecule with **all** B's
 - it is also the number of free paths of B molecules terminated by one A per unit time



- For **hard sphere**

$$\theta_{AB} = n_B \sigma_{AB} \bar{g}$$

What happened to δ_{AB} ?

if $A=B$, then each A-A collision terminates 2 A free paths

- For multiple species present

$$\begin{aligned}
 \theta_A &\equiv \sum_Y \theta_{AY} \quad \text{Y=all coll. partners, including A} \\
 &= \sum_Y n_Y \sigma_{AY} \bar{g}_{AY} \quad \text{hard spheres}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{g} = \sqrt{\frac{8kT}{\pi m_{AY}^*}}$$

Collision Freq and Mean Free Path-6
Copyright © 2009, 2021, 2025 by Jerry M. Seltzman.
All rights reserved.

AE/ME 6765

Mean Free Path

- As before $\lambda_A = \frac{\bar{C}_A}{\theta_A}$ $\bar{C}_A = \sqrt{\frac{8kT}{\pi m_A}}$
- For single-species and hard sphere

$$\lambda = \frac{\bar{C}}{n\sigma\bar{g}} = \frac{\sqrt{1/m}}{n\sigma\sqrt{1/m^*}} \quad m^* = \left(\frac{mm}{m+m} \right) = \frac{m}{2}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{n\sigma\sqrt{2}} \propto \frac{1}{n} \propto \frac{T}{p}$$