

1 Energy fluctuations

Consider a system of fixed volume in thermal contact with a reservoir. Show that the mean square fluctuations in the energy of the system is

$$\langle(\varepsilon - \langle\varepsilon\rangle)^2\rangle = k_B T^2 \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial T}\right)_V \quad (1)$$

Here U is the conventional symbol for $\langle\varepsilon\rangle$. *Hint:* Use the partition function Z to relate $\left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial T}\right)_V$ to the mean square fluctuation. Also, multiply out the term $(\dots)^2$.