

II. The Boltzmann equation

The Boltzmann equation describes the time evolution of the single-particle distribution function $f_{\vec{k}}(X)$ in phase-space ~~the probability~~

Assumptions are:

(i) Binary collisions ~~these~~ $1+2 \rightarrow 1'+2'$
(Note this can be easily generalized to $1+2 \rightarrow 1'$, $1+2 \rightarrow 1'+2'+3'$, etc.)

(ii) Hypothesis of molecular chaos. Statistical assumption about the number of binary collisions $\sim f_{\vec{k}_1} f_{\vec{k}_2} W_{12 \rightarrow 1'2'}$
Transition rate
(probability for collision process)

(iii) ~~$\partial_{\mu} f_{\vec{k}} \ll f_{\vec{k}}$~~ $f_{\vec{k}}$ changes slowly over the characteristic space-time scale of the binary collision process \Rightarrow collision is point-like collision happens at single space-time point X
"localized collisions"

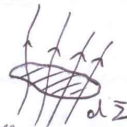
~~A. Collisionless case~~

Note that $N^{\mu}(X) \equiv g \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 k_0} k^{\mu} f_{\vec{k}}(X) \Rightarrow N^0 \equiv g \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} f_{\vec{k}}$ particle density

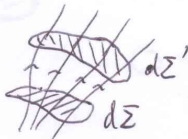
This is simply the relationship between single-particle distribution $f_{\vec{k}}$ and particle density

Now count the no. of ^{particle} world lines crossing $d\Sigma$ hypersurface element $d\Sigma$

$$dN = \int_{d\Sigma} d\Sigma_{\mu} N^{\mu} = \int_{d\Sigma} d\Sigma_{\mu} \int_k k^{\mu} f_{\vec{k}}$$



Now count the no. of particle world lines ~~cross~~ ^{the same} ~~crossing~~ ^{different} a hypersurface element $d\Sigma'$



$$dN' = \int_{d\Sigma'} d\Sigma'_{\mu} \int_k k^{\mu} f_{\vec{k}}$$

Obviously, the no. of world lines crossing $d\Sigma$ and $d\Sigma'$ are the same, so

$$0 = dN' - dN = \int_{d\Sigma'} d\Sigma'_{\mu} \int_k k^{\mu} f_{\vec{k}} - \int_{d\Sigma} d\Sigma_{\mu} \int_k k^{\mu} f_{\vec{k}}$$

1. Collisionless case

Note that the relationship between single-particle distribution fets, $f_{\mathbf{k}}(x)$ and particle density $N^0(x)$ is

$$N^0(x) = g \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} f_{\mathbf{k}}(x) \equiv g \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 k_0} k_0 f_{\mathbf{k}}(x)$$

The particle 4-current is then given by

$$N^\mu(x) = g \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 k_0} k^\mu f_{\mathbf{k}}(x)$$

Now count the number of ~~par~~ world lines crossing a hypersurface Σ with momenta between \mathbf{k} and $\mathbf{k} + d^3\mathbf{k}$. These are

$$k_0 \frac{dN}{d^3\mathbf{k}} \equiv \int d\Sigma_\mu k_0 \frac{dN^\mu}{d^3\mathbf{k}} = \int d\Sigma_\mu k^\mu f_{\mathbf{k}}(x) \frac{g}{(2\pi)^3} \int d\Sigma_\nu k^\nu f_{\mathbf{k}}(x)$$



Cooper-Frye formula

Now follow the world lines to a different hypersurface Σ' . In the collisionless case, the momenta of the particles along the world lines remain the same, and if Σ' encloses all world lines that crossed Σ , we have



$$0 = \frac{k_0 dN'}{d^3\mathbf{k}} - \frac{k_0 dN}{d^3\mathbf{k}}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \int_{\Sigma'} d\Sigma'_\mu k^\mu f_{\mathbf{k}}(x) - \int_{\Sigma} d\Sigma_\mu k^\mu f_{\mathbf{k}}(x)$$

Now take the 4-volume V_4 bounded by Σ, Σ' , and the "tube" connecting them:



Since no world lines cross the tube (there are no collisions that kick particles out of V_4 before their world lines reach Σ'), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \oint_{\partial V_4} d\Sigma_\mu k^\mu f_{\mathbf{k}}(x) = \int_{V_4} d^4x \partial_\mu (k^\mu f_{\mathbf{k}}(x)) \\ &= \int_{V_4} d^4x k^\mu \partial_\mu f_{\mathbf{k}}(x). \end{aligned}$$

↑
Gauss' theorem

But since V_4 was arbitrary, we have

$$\int d^3k \frac{d}{dt} f(k) = 0$$

This is the Boltzmann eq. in the collisionless case.

2. Collisions

The ~~collisionless~~ case with collisions is easily obtained as a generalization of the previous case. Obviously, the number of world lines in V_4 will change on account of collisions, since a collision will change the momentum of the particles such that they are no longer inside the momentum-space interval d^3k . This gives rise to a loss term. On the other hand, collisions may change the momenta of particles ~~in such a way~~ previously not in d^3k in such a way that they are inside d^3k after the collision. This gives rise to a gain term.

We will specify these terms in the following.

Consider a binary collision where ^(at least) one of the particles ^{in the initial state} had momentum k in d^3k . Its collision partner had momentum k_1 . After the collision, they have momenta k' and k'_1 .

The ^(relativistically invariant) average number of collisions of this type is proportional to

$$\frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3k_1}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3k'_1}{(2\pi)^3} f(k) f(k_1) W_{kk_1 \rightarrow k'k'_1}$$

The factor $\frac{1}{2}$ takes into account that the particles ~~of~~ an indistinguishable, i.e., ~~the~~ ~~state~~ $k k_1 \rightarrow k' k'_1$ is indistinguishable from $k k_1 \rightarrow k'_1 k'$.

The number of collisions is proportional to the ^{invariant} momentum-space intervals of the collision partners, multiplied by initial degeneracy factors.

It is also proportional to the single-particle distribution fctns. of the collision partners in the initial state. per d^3k
 k_0

If we are interested in the loss of particles with momentum k in d^3k , irrespective of the momentum of the collision partner, and of the momenta of the final-state particles, we have to integrate over $k_1, k',$ and k'_1 .

The loss term in the Boltzmann eq. finally becomes

$$C_{loss}[f] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{k_1, k', k'_1} f(k_1) f(k'_1) W_{kk_1 \rightarrow k'k'_1}$$

Similarly, the gain term is

$$C_{\text{gain}}[f] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{k_1, k_1'} \int_{k_2, k_2'} f_{k_2'}(x) f_{k_1'}(x) W_{k_1 k_2 \rightarrow k_1' k_2'}$$

where now the initial momenta are k_1, k_2 and the final momenta are k_1', k_2'

The net change of particles with momenta k in d^3k , in terms of the single-particle distribution fct. $f_k(x)$ is

$$C[f] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{k_1, k_1'} \int_{k_2, k_2'} [f_{k_2'}(x) f_{k_1'}(x) W_{k_1 k_2 \rightarrow k_1' k_2'} - f_k(x) f_{k'}(x) W_{k k' \rightarrow k_1 k_2}]$$

This is the collision term ~~on the r.h.s.~~ on the r.h.s. of the Boltzmann eq.,

$$k^\mu \partial_\mu f_k(x) = C[f]$$

It can be further simplified under the assumption that

$$W_{k_1 k_2 \rightarrow k_1' k_2'} = W_{k_1' k_2' \rightarrow k_1 k_2} (= W_{k_1 k_2 \rightarrow k_1' k_2'}) :$$

$$C[f] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{k_1, k_1'} \int_{k_2, k_2'} [f_{k_2'}(x) f_{k_1'}(x) - f_k(x) f_{k'}(x)] W_{k_1 k_2 \rightarrow k_1' k_2'}$$

3. Fields

We can include external fields under the assumption that the fields are ~~so weak~~ sufficiently weak so that they do not influence the dynamics of the collision process. Then, we may simply consider the collisionless case.

~~The previous consideration goes through up to the points where we count the number of world lines going through Σ'~~

Now something interesting happens. ~~The momenta~~ We may still count the no. of worldlines going through Σ , and having momenta between k and $k + d^3k$.

But when we follow the worldlines further until Σ' , the momenta will have changed on account of the external field.

~~The~~ The relativistic version of Newton's law tells us that

$$F^\mu = \frac{d p^\mu}{d\tau}$$

where τ is the proper time in the rest frame of the particle.

Therefore, the momentum change of a particle during a proper time interval $d\tau$ along the world line due to an external field is

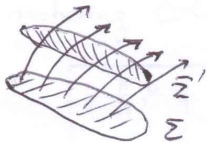
$$dk^\mu = F^\mu d\tau, \quad k^\mu \rightarrow k^\mu + F^\mu d\tau$$

Note that since $m^2 = k^\mu k_\mu = \text{const.}$, ~~$0 = d(k^\mu k_\mu) = 2k^\mu dk_\mu$~~ ,
the momentum change is ⁴⁻orthogonal to k^μ . $= 2k^\mu F_\mu d\tau$

Now consider world lines going through Σ and Σ' . In the case without fields we had the situation that the slope of the worldlines did not change:



Now, on account of the field, all world lines will be "bent" on account of the field:



This means that we may ~~lose~~ some worldlines, since they are "bent out" of Σ' , but we may also gain some world lines, as they are "bent into" Σ .

~~This effect~~

This effect has to be compensated by a "kink" and a "shift" of $\Sigma' \rightarrow \Sigma''$ such that we do not lose or gain world lines. One can convince one self that this kink should be such that $d\Sigma''_\mu F^\mu \equiv 0$. Then,

$$0 = \int_{\Sigma''} d\Sigma''_\mu (k^\mu + F^\mu d\tau) \Big|_{k^\mu + F^\mu d\tau}(x) - \int_{\Sigma} d\Sigma_\mu k^\mu \Big|_{k^\mu}(x)$$

$$\stackrel{\uparrow}{=} \int_{\Sigma''} d\Sigma''_\mu k^\mu \left(\Big|_{k^\mu}(x) + \frac{\partial \Big|_{k^\mu}(x)}{\partial k^\nu} F^\nu d\tau \right) - \int_{\Sigma} d\Sigma_\mu k^\mu \Big|_{k^\mu}(x)$$

$d\Sigma''_\mu F^\mu = 0$

~~Rename $\Sigma'' \rightarrow \Sigma'$, $d\Sigma''_\mu \rightarrow d\Sigma'_\mu$~~

Now add again the tube connecting Σ and Σ'' . Since no world lines are added or lost due to the $\Sigma' \rightarrow \Sigma''$ shift, we obtain

$$0 = \oint_{\partial V_4} d\Sigma_\mu k^\mu f_{\mathbf{k}}(x) + \int_{V_4} d\Sigma_\mu^{\prime\prime} d\tau k^\mu \frac{\partial f_{\mathbf{k}}(x)}{\partial k^\nu} F^\nu$$

But $\frac{k^\mu}{m} \equiv v^\mu$, the 4-velocity of the particles, and $d\Sigma_\mu^{\prime\prime} d\tau v^\mu \equiv d^4X$, is just the 4-volume "swept" by the world lines when going from Σ to Σ''

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \int_{V_4} d^4X \left[\partial_\mu (k^\mu f_{\mathbf{k}}(x)) + m F^\nu \frac{\partial f_{\mathbf{k}}(x)}{\partial k^\nu} \right]$$

$$= \int_{V_4} d^4X \left[k^\mu \partial_\mu + m F^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial k^\nu} \right] f_{\mathbf{k}}(x)$$

Since V_4 was arbitrary,

$$\left(k^\mu \partial_\mu + m F^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial k^\nu} \right) f_{\mathbf{k}}(x) = 0,$$

or, restoring collisions,

$$\boxed{\left(k^\mu \partial_\mu + m F^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial k^\nu} \right) f_{\mathbf{k}}(x) = C[f]}$$

This is the Boltzmann-Vlasov equation. In the collisionless case, one often also calls this Vlasov equation.

4. Mixtures

Let us consider the system of Boltzmann eqs. for N different species,

$$k_i^\mu \partial_\mu f_{\mathbf{k}_i}^{(i)}(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N C_{ij}[\vec{f}] \quad \vec{f} = (f^{(1)}, f^{(2)}, \dots, f^{(N)})$$

Here, the collision term is (taking particles to be distinguishable)

$$C_{ij}[\vec{f}] = \sum_{k, l=1}^N \int_{k_j, k_l, k_e} \left(f_{\mathbf{k}_e}^{(i)} f_{\mathbf{k}_e}^{(j)} W_{\mathbf{k}_e \mathbf{k}_e \rightarrow \mathbf{k}_i \mathbf{k}_j} - f_{\mathbf{k}_i}^{(i)} f_{\mathbf{k}_j}^{(j)} W_{\mathbf{k}_i \mathbf{k}_j \rightarrow \mathbf{k}_e \mathbf{k}_e} \right)$$

In order to simplify the notation we will suppress the " \mathbf{k} "s

$$\hbar k_i^\mu \partial_\mu f_i(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N C_{ij} [f]$$

$$C_{ij} [f] = \sum_{k,l=1}^N \int_{j k l} (f_k f_l W_{kl \rightarrow ij} - f_i f_j W_{ij \rightarrow kl})$$

We shall now show that

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^N \int_i \psi_i(x) C_{ij} [f] = 0$$

for a function $\psi_i(x) = a_i(x) + b_\mu(x) \hbar k_i^\mu$, i.e., which is at most linear in the momentum $\hbar k_i^\mu$. The functions $a_i(x)$ must be such that, for collision partners i, j, k, l :

$$a_i(x) + a_j(x) = a_k(x) + a_l(x),$$

i.e., the functions must be additively conserved.

Now we compute

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^N \int_i \psi_i(x) C_{ij} [f] = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j,k,l} \int_{i j k l} \psi_i (f_k f_l W_{kl \rightarrow ij} - f_i f_j W_{ij \rightarrow kl})$$

Changing integration variables and summation indices in the last term:

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j,k,l} \int_{i j k l} (\psi_i - \psi_k) f_k f_l W_{kl \rightarrow ij}$$

But $W_{kl \rightarrow ij} = \cancel{W_{ij \rightarrow kl}} W_{kl \rightarrow ji}$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j,k,l} \int_{i j k l} (\psi_i - \psi_k + \psi_j - \psi_l) f_k f_l W_{kl \rightarrow ij}$$

$$= \underbrace{a_i + a_j - a_k - a_l}_{=0} + b_\mu \underbrace{(\hbar k_i^\mu + \hbar k_j^\mu - \hbar k_k^\mu - \hbar k_l^\mu)}_{=0}$$

by above constraints

by energy - momentum conservation in binary collisions

5. Conservation laws

(a) Integrate the Boltzmann eq. over $\frac{g d^3 k_i}{(2\pi)^3 k_{0i}}$, sum over i , and use the previous proof with $\psi_i(x) \equiv 1$:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \int_i k_i^\mu \partial_\mu f_i(x) = \sum_{i,j=1}^N \int_i C_{ij} [f] \equiv 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \partial_\mu \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N \int_i k_i^\mu f_i(x)}_{\equiv N_i^\mu \text{ 4-current of particle species } i}$$

N^μ total 4-current of all particle species

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \partial_\mu N^\mu \quad \text{particle no. conservation}$$

(b) Multiply the Boltzmann eq. with k_i^ν , integrate ~~over~~ $\frac{g d^3 k_i}{(2\pi)^3 k_{0i}}$, sum over i , and use previous proof with $\psi_i(x) \equiv k_i^\mu$:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \int_i k_i^\nu k_i^\mu \partial_\mu f_i(x) = \sum_{i,j=1}^N \int_i k_i^\nu C_{ij} [f] \equiv 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \partial_\mu \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N \int_i k_i^\mu k_i^\nu f_i(x)}_{\equiv T_i^{\mu\nu} \text{ energy-momentum tensor of particle species } i}$$

$$\star \quad T^{\mu\nu} \text{ total energy-momentum tensor}$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} \quad \text{energy-momentum conservation}$$