

27.5: The Maxwell-Boltzmann Distribution Has Been Verified Experimentally

The Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution has been verified experimentally by a device called a velocity selector, which is essentially a series of spinning wheels with a hole through which the gas is effused. This ensures that only gas particles with a certain velocity will pass through all the holes as the wheels are spun at various rates. Thus it is possible to count the number of particles with various velocities and show that, indeed they do satisfy the Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution.



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