

Exercise : We derive the Shannon entropy in the canonical ensemble.



Suppose we have a system with energy levels E_i at temperature T . In the canonical ensemble, the probability that the system is in state E_i is

$$p_i = e^{-E_i/k_B T} \cdot \frac{1}{Z}, \text{ where } Z = \sum_i e^{-E_i/k_B T}.$$

We can also rearrange the first equation to express

$$E_i = -k_B T (\ln Z + \ln p_i).$$

We recall that the entropy is given by $S = -\frac{\partial F}{\partial T}$, where

$$F = -k_B T \ln Z.$$

We now compute the entropy:

$$S = -\frac{\partial F}{\partial T} = k_B \ln Z + k_B T \frac{\partial Z}{Z \partial T} =$$

$$k_B \ln Z + \frac{k_B T}{Z} \sum_i e^{-E_i/k_B T} \cdot \frac{E_i}{k_B T^2} = k_B \ln Z + \frac{1}{T} \sum_i E_i p_i$$

$$= k_B \ln Z - k_B \sum_i p_i \ln p_i - k_B \sum_i p_i \ln Z = -k_B \sum_i p_i \ln p_i$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{S = -k_B \sum_i p_i \ln p_i}$$