

## Problem 1C.2

**The wall collision frequency.** It is desired to find the frequency  $Z$  with which the molecules in an ideal gas strike a unit area of a wall from one side only. The gas is at rest and at equilibrium with a temperature  $T$  and the number density of the molecules is  $n$ . All molecules have a mass  $m$ . All molecules in the region  $x < 0$  with  $u_x > 0$  will hit an area  $S$  in the  $yz$ -plane in a short time  $\Delta t$  if they are in the volume  $Su_x\Delta t$ . The number of wall collisions per unit area per unit time will be

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z &= \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} (Su_x\Delta t) f(u_x, u_y, u_z) du_x du_y du_z}{S\Delta t} \\
 &= n \left( \frac{m}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} \left( \int_0^{+\infty} u_x \exp(-mu_x^2/2kT) du_x \right) \\
 &\quad \left( \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp(-mu_y^2/2kT) du_y \right) \left( \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp(-mu_z^2/2kT) du_z \right) \\
 &= n \sqrt{\frac{kT}{2\pi m}} = \frac{1}{4} n \bar{u}
 \end{aligned} \tag{1C.2-1}$$

Verify the above development.