

[tex69] Mobility of a hard sphere in a dilute gas

The mobility constant μ in the equation $\mathbf{u} = \mu \mathbf{F}_{app}$ relates the steady state velocity \mathbf{u} of an object moving through a fluid to the external force applied to the object. In steady-state motion, the external force is balanced by the average force \mathbf{F} exerted by the fluid particles on the object: $\mathbf{F}_{app} = -\mathbf{F}$.

Show that the average force exerted by a dilute gas (density n , particle mass m , temperature T) on a slowly moving heavy hard sphere (radius R , velocity \mathbf{u} with $u \ll \langle v \rangle$) is

$$\mathbf{F} = -\frac{8}{3} \sqrt{2\pi m k_B T} R^2 n \mathbf{u}.$$

Solution: