

9.7) NEUTRONS FORM A GAS IN NUCLEAR REACTORS. FIND \bar{v} AND v^* FOR NEUTRONS AT a) 300K AND b) 630K (A TYPICAL LIGHT-WATER NUCLEAR REACTOR).

THE SPEEDS ARE $\bar{v} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sqrt{\frac{kT}{m}}$ AND $v^* = \sqrt{\frac{2kT}{m}}$

NEUTRONS HAVE A MASS OF 1.675×10^{-27} kg [TIED II FRONT COVER]

$$a) \bar{v}_{300K} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sqrt{\frac{(1.38 \times 10^{-23})(300)}{1.675 \times 10^{-27}}} = 2509 \frac{m}{s} = \boxed{2.51 \frac{km}{s} = \bar{v}_{300K}}$$

$$v^*_{300K} = \sqrt{\frac{2(1.38 \times 10^{-23})(300)}{1.675 \times 10^{-27}}} = 2223 \frac{m}{s} = \boxed{2.22 \frac{km}{s} = v^*_{300K}}$$

$$b) \bar{v}_{630K} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sqrt{\frac{(1.38 \times 10^{-23})(630)}{1.675 \times 10^{-27}}} = 3636 \frac{m}{s} = \boxed{3.64 \frac{km}{s} = \bar{v}_{630K}}$$

$$v^*_{630K} = \sqrt{\frac{2(1.38 \times 10^{-23})(630)}{1.675 \times 10^{-27}}} = 3222 \frac{m}{s} = \boxed{3.22 \frac{km}{s} = v^*_{630K}}$$

THESE AREN'T VERY DIFFERENT SINCE THE SPEEDS ONLY GOES UP BY THE SQUARE ROOT OF THE RATIO:

$$\sqrt{\frac{630}{300}} = \sqrt{2.1} = 1.45 \approx 45\%$$