[tex72] Effect of escaping particles on temperature of 1D ideal gas

A classical ideal gas (particle mass m, particle density n, temperature T, energy density $u = \frac{1}{2}nk_BT$) is contained in the region 0 < x < L. The particles can only move in $\pm x$ -direction. We assume that the velocities satisfy a 1D Maxwell distribution at all times. All particles that hit the wall at x = 0 are reflected elastically. The wall at x = L allows any particle that hits it to pass through with a probability $\epsilon_0 \ll 1$, independent of the particle's energy. Otherwise the particle is reflected elastically.

(a) Calculate the rate at which the system loses particles and energy. Express the rates in the form $dn/dt = f_n(n,T)$ and $du/dt = f_u(n,T)$.

(b) The slowly varying particle density n(t) and energy density u(t) cause a slowly varying temperature T(t) of the remaining gas. Derive from the results of (a) a differential equation for the function T(t) and solve it.

Solution: