

58. (a) The average de Broglie wavelength is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda_{\text{avg}} &= \frac{h}{p_{\text{avg}}} = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2mK_{\text{avg}}}} = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2m(3kT/2)}} = \frac{hc}{\sqrt{2(mc^2)kT}} \\
 &= \frac{1240 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{nm}}{\sqrt{3(4)(938 \text{ MeV})(8.62 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV/K})(300 \text{ K})}} \\
 &= 7.3 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m} = 73 \text{ pm} .
 \end{aligned}$$

(b) The average separation is

$$\begin{aligned}
 d_{\text{avg}} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{n}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{p/kT}} \\
 &= \sqrt[3]{\frac{(1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K})(300 \text{ K})}{1.01 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}}} = 3.4 \text{ nm} .
 \end{aligned}$$

(c) Yes, since $\lambda_{\text{avg}} \ll d_{\text{avg}}$.