

Thermodynamics The Ideal Gas Equation

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Last time

• thermal expansion

Overview

- the ideal gas equation
- moles and molecules

Ideal Gases

An ideal gas is a gas

- at low pressure
- at a temperature much higher than its condensation point
- at a low density

Also, for modeling the gas:

• there are no intermolecular forces aside from collisions

Ideal Gas Equation

The equation of state for an ideal gas:

PV = nRT

where

- P is pressure
- V is volume
- *n* is the number of moles (amount of gas)
- $R = 8.314 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ is the universal gas constant
- T is temperature measured in Kelvin

The LHS and RHS of this equation both have SI units of Joules (energy).



¹Photo from http://thelazybfarm.com.



1 mole or 1 mol. of a substance is $N_A = 6.022 \times 10^{23}$ molecules of that substance. (N_A is Avogadro's number.)

¹Photo from http://thelazybfarm.com.

Why is this even a unit?

Why is this even a unit?

Not such a long time ago scientists really did not have any idea of how much mass an individual molecule would have, or how many molecules would be present in a cubic meter of gas. Even the existence of atoms and molecules was controversial.

1 mole was a macroscopic unit they could work with.

1 mole of a substance is the amount that has the same number of molecules as there are atoms in 12 grams of a pure Carbon-12 sample. (That is $N_A = 6.022 \times 10^{23}$.)

Some History of Atoms and Molecules (Skipping)

Many ancient Indian, Greek, and Roman philosophers argued for a basic unit of matter: the atom.

In Europe, most philosophers thought matter was instead continuous (Aristotle).

Nevertheless, ideas about "corpuscles" (small particles) were important for Newton and his contemporaries.

A chemist, Robert Boyle (1627-1692) speculated that if atoms / corpuscles made up matter, that would resolve many problems arising in chemistry.

He proved correct.

Understanding from Chemical Reactions (Skipping)

John Dalton, a physicist and chemist in ${\sim}1803$ started trying to understand the patterns of chemical reactions.

Electrolysis can dissociate water

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water \longrightarrow oxygen + hydrogen
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and always the same proportions are produced: twice as much hydrogen as oxygen (by volume, at equal pressure, temperature).

This lead him to suppose that

- matter was composed of atoms
- chemical substances that could not be dissociated were elements
- chemical substances that could be dissociated were formed from combinations of atoms

Understanding from Chemical Reactions (Skipping)

Rules of Dalton's theory¹:

- Elements are made of extremely small particles called atoms.
- Atoms of a given element are identical in size, mass, and other properties; atoms of different elements differ in size, mass, and other properties.
- Atoms cannot be subdivided, created, or destroyed.
- Atoms of different elements combine in simple whole-number ratios to form chemical compounds.
- In chemical reactions, atoms are combined, separated, or rearranged.

Which of these turned out to be incorrect?

¹Wikipedia, Dalton, "A New System of Chemical Philosophy" (1808)

Understanding from Chemical Reactions (Skipping)



¹Images from Dalton, "A New System of Chemical Philosophy" (1808) and Wikimedia.

Additional Evidence for atoms: Brownian Motion (Skipping)

In 1827 Robert Brown, a botanist, observed pollen grains suspended in water through a microscope.

He expected to see them suspended at rest, but did not.

Instead the grains of pollen seemed to jump and wiggle about for no discernible reason.

He wondered if it was something peculiar that pollen did so he tried again with dust and soot – and saw the same thing!

This motion is called **Brownian Motion**.

Brownian Motion (Skipping)

Brownian motion remained a mystery until 1905.

Einstein, building on tools he had just developed in his doctoral thesis, developed a theory describing Brownian motion.

It is the result of fast-moving water molecules (too small to see) colliding with the pollen molecules, and jostling them.

Periodic Table

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¹Serway & Jewett, Appendix C.

Periodic Table

The atomic number is the number of protons in the nucleus of an atom for that element.

Symbol
$$-$$
 Ca 20 Atomic number
Atomic mass[†] $-$ 40.078 $-$ Electron configuration

The atomic mass number is average mass of all isotopes of an element weighted by abundance in nature.

(Isotopes of an element have different numbers of neutrons.)

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For example, water is H_2O . Hydrogen has atomic mass 1, Oxygen has atomic mass 16.

$$1 + 1 + 16 = 18 \text{ amu}$$

The molar mass of water is 18 g/mol.

A balloon contains 6.00 g of helium.

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A balloon contains 6.00 g of helium.

How many moles is that?

He: 4.00 amu $\Rightarrow M = 4.00 \text{ g/mol}$

$$n = \frac{m}{M} = 1.50 \text{ mol}$$

Ideal Gas Equation

The equation of state for an ideal gas:

PV = nRT

Can also be written:

 $PV = Nk_BT$

where

- P is pressure
- V is volume
- N is the number of molecules
- $k_B = 1.380649 \times 10^{-23}$ J K⁻¹ is Boltzmann's constant
- T is temperature

Quick Quiz 19.6² On a winter day, you turn on your furnace and the temperature of the air inside your home increases. Assume your home has the normal amount of leakage between inside air and outside air. Is the number of moles of air in your room at the higher temperature

(A) larger than before,

- (B) smaller than before, or
- (C) the same as before?

²Serway & Jewett, pg 579.

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Ideal Gas Equation and the Gas Thermometer

In a constant-volume gas thermometer, the pressure varies linearly with the temperature: a consequence of the ideal gas equation!



$$P = \left(\frac{nR}{V}\right) T$$

Summary

- thermal expansion
- atoms
- the ideal gas equation