

The properties of gases.  
Ideal and real gases.

Lecture Outline:

- I. An ideal gas and the ideal gas law. Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric and isochoric processes.
- II. Mixtures of ideal gases, the concept of molar fractions, partial pressure, Dalton's law.
- III. Description of real gases (isotherms). Compressibility. The van der Waals equation of state. The critical state.
- IV. The interpretation of the pressure of a gas in the kinetic molecular theory of gases. Molecular justification of the pressure and volume correcting factors.
- V. Speed distribution function. Energy distribution function. Collision of particles with the wall and with each other. Collision frequency. Collision numbers. Free mean path.

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Properties of gases (overview)

State of matter:	GAS (g)	LIQUID (l)	SOLID (s)
Fixed shape	no	no	yes
Fixed volume	no	yes	yes

An example of phenomenological description.

State of matter:	GAS (g)	LIQUID (l)	SOLID (s)
The particles' potential energy	small	medium	large
kinetic energy	large	medium	small
ordering	no	yes?	yes

An example of (qualitative) interpretation.

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I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Properties:

- Pressure,  $p$  – experience, c

Unknown Pressure  $P$

Fluid of interest (Gas in most cases)

$h$

Vacuum

Glass tube

760 mm (29.92 in)

Atmospheric pressure

Mercury

Gage Pressure  $\Delta P = P - P_c$

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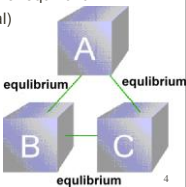
I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Properties:

- Temperature,  $T$  – experience (cold, hot).
  - intensive property!
  - units: °C, K, °F (USA)
  - measurement: gas, liquid, resistance thermometers, etc.
  - homogeneity (thermal conduction): thermal equilibrium
  - wall: insulating or conducting (diathermal)

Zeroth law of thermodynamics

If A is in thermal equilibrium with B and B is in thermal equilibrium with C, then C is in thermal equilibrium with A.



This is fundamental for measuring temperature.

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I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Properties:

- Volume,  $V$  – close to obvious
  - extensive property!
  - units: dm<sup>3</sup>, liter
  - measurement

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I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Properties:

- Amount of substance (mole),  $n$ 
  - extensive quantity!
  - units:
    - name: **mole**; symbol: **mol** (mmol, μmol)
  - $N_A = 6,022 \times 10^{23}$  atoms, molecules, ions, e<sup>-</sup>, ... The Avogadro constant is huge!
  - fundamental property in SI (m, kg, s, A, K, cd)
- Not the same as mass (kilogram in SI)!
- Avogadro's law**: at identical  $p$ ,  $V$  and  $T$ , different gases contain the same number of particles.



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I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Changes of state:

- Phenomenological description.
- Quantitative connections between pairs of properties.
  - One possibility: determining the connection between  $p$  and  $V$ , measurement, plotting, setting up an equation:

Increasing temperature,  $T$

- $p \sim 1/V$  or  $(V \sim 1/p)$ , that is  $pV = \text{constant}$
- curve: isotherm [ $T = \text{constant}$ ]
- shape: hyperbolic
- Boyle's law (also Mariotte)**
- limiting law: valid at small pressure and/or high temperature!

I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Changes of state:

- Phenomenological description.
- Quantitative connection between pairs of properties.
  - Nonlinear equations are often linearized with a suitable mathematical transformation (in modern science, this is unnecessary and statistically undesirable).
  - Calculation of reciprocals is sufficient:
  - $p = f(1/V)$

Increasing temperature,  $T$

Extrapolation

I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Changes of state:

**$pV = \text{constant}$**   
**Boyle's law**  
constant temperature (isotherm)

Small volume, high pressure

Large volume, low pressure

Increasing temperature,  $T$

Extrapolation

I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Changes of state:

**$V/T = \text{constant}$**   
**Gay-Lussac's first (Charles') law**  
constant pressure (isobaric)

High temperature, large volume

Low temperature, small volume

-273°C 0°C

Temperature,  $T$

Increasing temperature,  $T$

I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Changes of state:

High temperature, high pressure

Low temperature, low pressure

Decreasing volume,  $V$

Decreasing volume,  $V$

I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Changes of state:

- $V$  (extensive) also depends on the amount of substance  $n$  ( $p$  and  $T$  do not, they are extensive):
  - $V = \text{constant} \times n$  (i.e.  $V/n = \text{constant}$ )
  - $V_m = V/n$ ;  $V_m = \text{molar volume}$

I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Changes of state:

- The three (or four?) laws unified:
  - $pV = nRT$  or  $pV_m = RT$
- This is
  - **ideal gas law** (alias)
  - **ideal gas equation of state**.
- The concept **ideal gas** is in essence a **state** and not a particular substance (He and H<sub>2</sub> are not ideal gases themselves; at **low pressure and high temperature** all gases behave like an ideal gas.)

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I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Changes of state:

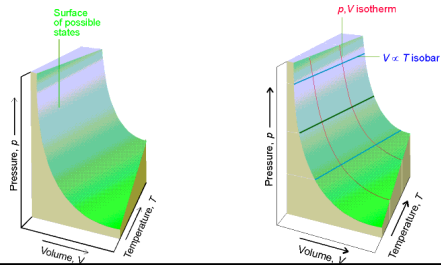
- The three-variable equation of state requires a coordinate system in three dimensions (spatial).
- Result: **surface of possible states** (all the allowed states [combinations of  $p$ ,  $T$ ,  $V$  values])
- In essence a collection of an infinite number of isotherms, isobars and isochores

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Changes of state:

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I. Ideal gas and ideal gas law.  
Changes of state: isothermal, isobaric, isochoric.

Changes of state:

- Note: in the phenomenological description, only the values of physical properties are considered. The energy changes accompanying the changes of states are not investigated.
- For example, there is no information on
  - the heat necessary for increasing the temperature of the gas or the heat evolved during cooling of a gas sample,
  - the work necessary to compress the gas or the work done by the gas upon expansion.

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II. Mixtures of ideal gases, the concept of molar fraction, partial pressure, Dalton's law.

Mixtures of gases: (multicomponent systems)

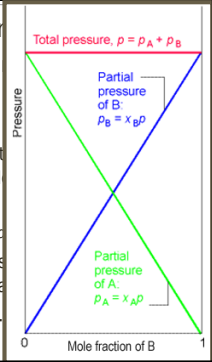
- Gases are fully miscible (air, natural gas, gas mixtures in industrial processes).
- Ideal gases form ideal mixtures. (The g-l, g-s, l-s, l-l, s-s mixtures are often non-ideal!)
- The phenomenological description is still sufficient, knowledge of the structure is unnecessary, there is no need to interpret the findings.
- **Law of combining gas volumes** (Gay-Lussac): needs interpretation, which contributed to the development of the particle-based (atom, molecule) theory of matter.

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II. Mixtures of ideal gases, the concept of molar fraction, partial pressure, Dalton's law.

Mixtures of gases: (multicomponent systems)

- **Dalton's law:** the pressure of a mixture of gases is the sum of the partial pressures.
  - $p = p_A + p_B + \dots$
  - **partial pressure:** the pressure that a component alone would exert under the same conditions.
    - $p_i = n_i RT / V$  or  $p_i = x_i p$
- **molar fraction:** the amount of substance of a component divided by the overall amount of substance.
  - $x_i = n_i / n$ , where  $n = n_A + n_B + \dots$
  - possible values of  $x_i$ :  $0 < x_i < 1$ .



III. Description of real gases (isotherms).  
Compression factor. The van der Waals equation of state. The critical state.

Changes of state (real gases):

- General experience: the simple equations describing ideal gases are not valid under certain conditions (large  $p$ , small  $T$ ), the isotherm gets distorted, the line is not hyperbolic any more, the equation  $pV_m = RT$  does not hold.)
- [Observation first, then precise description, finally explanations (may) follow!]

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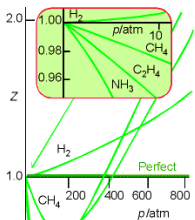
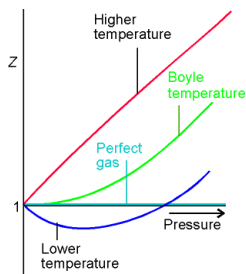
Changes of state (real gases):

- General observation:  $pV_m \neq RT$
- Solution:
  - Demonstrate the deviation (numerically), and show its extent (e.g. on a linearized plot).
  - Ideal gas:  $pV_m = RT$ , so  $pV_m / RT = 1$
  - Real gas:  $pV_m / RT \neq 1$ , so define  $pV_m / RT = Z$
  - $Z$ : **compression factor** (because the deviations always show up at high compressions)
  - Plot  $Z$  as a function of pressure: sometimes larger, sometimes smaller, if  $p \rightarrow 0$ , then  $Z \rightarrow 1$ .
  - The deviation is demonstrated without a description.

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Changes of state :



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III. Description of real gases (isotherms).  
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Changes of state: equations of state for real gases

- Concept: do not seek a new equation, keep the fundamentals of the  $pV_m = RT$  form but modify it.
- A mathematical method using Virial coefficients, which yields the **Virial equation of state**:
  - $pV_m = RT(1 + Bp + Cp^2 + \dots)$  or
  - $pV_m = RT(1 + B/V_m + C/V_m^2 + \dots)$
- This modification makes it possible to describe the experimental data precisely, but the values of  $B$ ,  $C$ , ... must be measured for every gas at every  $T$ !
- Assessment: the form of the equation is the same, the constant can be measured precisely, but they depend on  $T$  and the identity of the gas.

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III. Description of real gases (isotherms).  
Compression factor. The van der Waals equation of state. The critical state.

Changes of state: equations of state for real gases

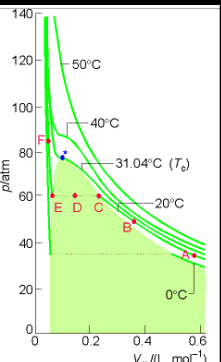
- Concept: do not seek a new equation, keep the fundamentals of the  $pV_m = RT$  form but modify it.
- Another method: the **van der Waals equation** (there are several similar others, but this is the most common)
- Didactic form (the corrections of  $p$  and  $V$  shown):
$$\left(p + \frac{a}{V_m^2}\right)(V_m - b) = RT$$
- Assessment: the two correction constant ( $a$  and  $b$ ) depend on the identity of the gas, but they are independent of  $T$  and  $p$  in a large range (there is no need to measure and record a lot of values). **Simplicity!**
- The values of the constants can be interpreted based on the molecular properties of the gas. **Beauty!**

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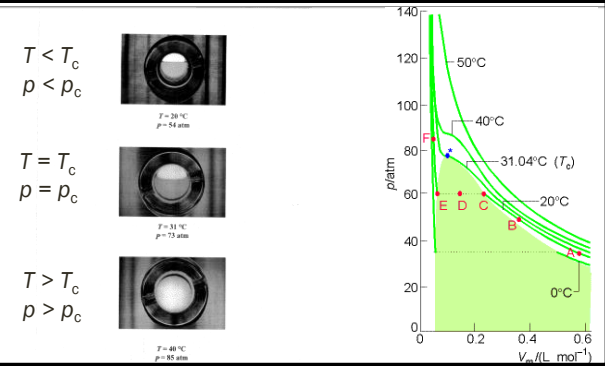
III. Description of real gases (isotherms).  
Compression factor. The van der Waals equation of state. The critical state.

Continue the ideal gas  $\rightarrow$  real gas li

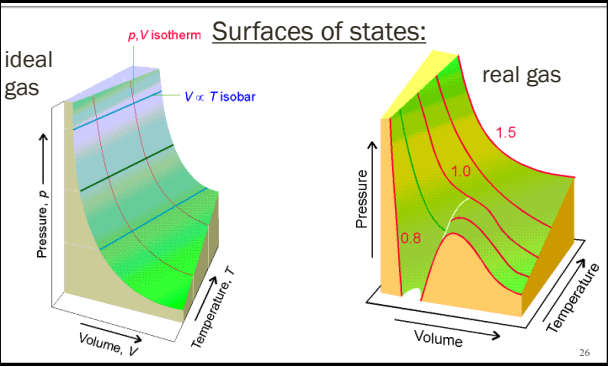
- The  $p$ - $V$  isotherms get more distorted then a state is reached at which interface appears or disappears
- This is the **critical state**, and the isotherm, which is mathematically an inflexion.
- The critical point is characterized by:
  - $T_c$ : critical temperature
  - $p_c$ : critical pressure
  - $V_c$ : critical molar volume



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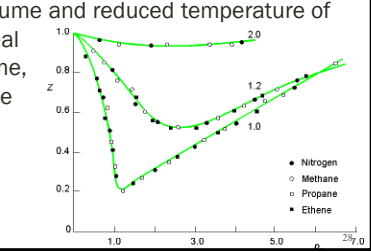
Relation between critical properties and van der Waals constants  $a$  and  $b$  (still phenomenological):

- The first and second derivatives with respect to  $V_m$  are 0:
  - $\frac{dp}{dV_m} = 0$  and  $\frac{d^2p}{dV_m^2} = 0$
- Consequently:
  - $V_c = 3b$   $p_c = a / 27b^2$   $T_c = 8a / 27Rb$  (critical properties)
  - $Z_c = p_c V_c / RT_c = 3/8$  (critical compression factor)

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The principle of corresponding states:

- Dimensionless reduced variables:
  - $p_r = p/p_c$   $V_r = V_m/V_c$   $T_r = T/T_c$
- If the reduced volume and reduced temperature of two samples of real gases are the same, then they exert the same reduced pressure.


$$p_r = \frac{8T_r}{3V_r - 1} - \frac{3}{V_r^2}$$

Practical applications of gas laws

- description of the atmosphere (+barometric formula)
- gas thermometers (for scientific purposes)
- liquefaction of gases
- transport and storage of (natural) gas
- technology of gas phase reaction (synthesis of HCl, NH<sub>3</sub>, pyrolysis, organic syntheses etc.)
- high pressure instrumentation, processes (pneumatic devices, compressors, explosions)
- vacuum technology for generating reduced pressures

IV. Interpretation of gas pressure in the kinetic molecular theory. Molecular justification of the pressure and volume correcting factors.

- Ideal gas:
- molecules with mass  $m$ , and speed  $v$
  - momentum:  $mv$  and kinetic energy:  $\frac{1}{2}mv^2$
  - the size of the molecules is negligible compared to the mean free path (molecules are mass points)
  - a single interaction: completely elastic collision (negligible attraction or repulsion).

IV. Interpretation of gas pressure in the kinetic molecular theory. Molecular justification of the pressure and volume correcting factors.

Ideal gas:

Interpretation of the pressure exerted on the wall: the colliding molecules change their momentum  $mv_x$ .

Result:

$$pV_m = \frac{1}{3}Mc^2 \quad \text{or} \quad p = \frac{Mc^2}{3V_m}$$

where  $M = N_A m$  (molar mass),  $c = \langle v^2 \rangle^{1/2}$  root mean square speed (because kinetic energy is  $\frac{1}{2}mv^2$ ).

On comparison with the  $pV_m = RT$  ideal gas law:

- temperature  $T$  primarily reflects the (average) kinetic energy of the molecules:

$$T = \frac{Mc^2}{3R}$$

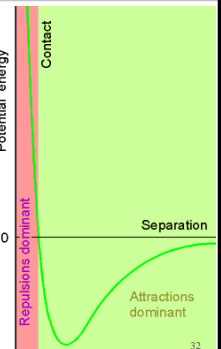
- $R = kN_A$ , where  $k$  is the Boltzmann constant.
- The ideal gas law is thus interpreted or derived!

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IV. Interpretation of gas pressure in the kinetic molecular theory. Molecular justification of the pressure and volume correcting factors.

What about real gases?

- Molecules with mass  $m$  move rarely collisions are not elastic.
- There is repulsion and attraction  
 **$p$  needs a correction!**
  - Pressure correction originates solely repulsive and attractive forces.
  - Instead of  $p$ ,  $(p + a/V_m^2)$  is used.  $a$  depends on the gas, but not on  $T$ .
- At high  $p$ , the size of the molecules relative to the free mean path, so
  - Volume corrections: proportional to  $1/V_m$ . Instead of  $V_m$ ,  $(V_m - b)$  is used.  $b$  depends on the gas but not on  $T$ .



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IV. Interpretation of gas pressure in the kinetic molecular theory. Molecular justification of the pressure and volume correcting factors.

van der Waals constants of a few gases

Note: increasing **polarizability** and **molecule size** results in increasing correcting factors.

Molecule	$a$ ( $\text{dm}^6 \text{ bar mol}^{-2}$ )	$b$ ( $\text{cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ )
He	0.034598	23.733
H <sub>2</sub>	0.24646	26.665
N <sub>2</sub>	1.3661	38.577
O <sub>2</sub>	1.382	31.86
C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub> (benzene)	18.876	119.74

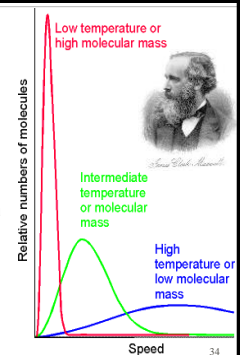
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V. Speed distribution function. Energy distribution function. Collision of particles with the wall and with each other..

Speed distribution functions:

- It would be possible for every molecule to have the same speed. But it is not so!
- Based on the kinetic theory of perfect gases, Maxwell found that the velocity of gas molecules has a well-defined "distribution": this is called **Maxwell speed distribution**.

$$f(v) = 4\pi \left( \frac{M}{2\pi RT} \right)^{3/2} v^2 e^{-Mv^2 / 2RT}$$

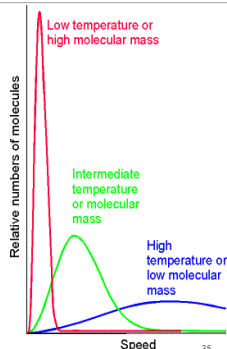


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V. Speed distribution function. Energy distribution function. Collision of particles with the wall and with each other.

Information content of the function (curve):

- starting point
- „endpoint“
- it has a maximum
- it is asymmetric
- curve area (parts)
- effect of  $T$
- effect of  $M$



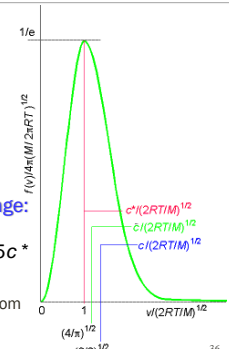
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V. Speed distribution function. Energy distribution function. Collision of particles with the wall and with each other.

Different speeds:

- Most probable speed:**
$$c^* = \sqrt{\frac{2RT}{M}}$$
- Average speed:**
$$\bar{c} = \sqrt{\frac{8RT}{\pi M}} = \sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi}} c^* = 1,128 c^*$$
- Square quadrant quadrangle average:**
$$c = \langle v^2 \rangle^{1/2} = \sqrt{\frac{3RT}{M}} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} c^* = 1,225 c^*$$

Average speeds of gas molecules in the classroom are similar to the sound velocity ( $\sim 300 \text{ m/s}$ ).  
Understandable: this makes the sound spread.



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V. Speed distribution function. Energy distribution function. Collision of particles with the wall and with each other.

Energy distribution functions:

- From statistical (probability) considerations, Boltzmann found that the one-dimensional velocity of the perfect gas molecules shows a definite "distribution" according to kinetic energy: this is called

**Boltzmann energy distribution.**

$$f(v_x) = \left(\frac{m}{2\pi kT}\right)^{1/2} e^{-mv_x^2 / 2kT}$$

$$E_{kin,x} = \frac{1}{2} m v_x^2$$



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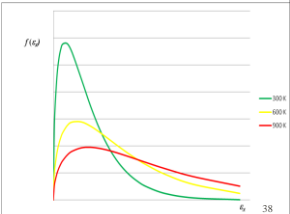
V. Speed distribution function. Energy distribution function. Collision of particles with the wall and with each other.

Energy distribution functions:

- Based on the Boltzmann energy distribution for one-dimensional moving motion, the energy distribution of the total kinetic energy of the perfect gas can also be given.
- These functions at different temperatures are similar to the shape of the Maxwell speed distribution function.

$$f(E) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{1}{kT}\right)^{3/2} \sqrt{E} e^{-E/kT}$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$



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Movies, animations

[Boyle's law](#)

[The ideal gas law](#)

[Kinetic theory of gases](#)

[Speed distribution](#)

[Van der Waals gases](#)

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