

Engineers often need to estimate the pressures and volumes of a gas in a container. The *van der Waals*'s equation is often used for this purpose. It is

$$P = \frac{RT}{\hat{V} - b} - \frac{a}{\hat{V}^2}$$

Where the term  $b$  is a correction for the volume of the molecules and the term  $a/\hat{V}^2$  is a correction for molecular attractions. The gas constant is  $R$ , the *absolute* temperature is  $T$ , and the gas specific volume is  $\hat{V}$ . The value of  $R$  is the same for all gases; it is  $R = 0.08206$  L-atm/mol-K. The values of  $a$ ,  $b$  depend on the type of gas. Some values are given in the following table.

`pressure.m` computes the pressure  $P$  on the basis of the van der Waals equation.

The function's input arguments are  $T$ ,  $\hat{V}$ , and a string variable containing the name of a gas listed in the table.

Gas	$a$ (L <sup>2</sup> -atm/mol <sup>2</sup> )	$b$ (L/mol)
Helium, He	0.0341	0.0237
Hydrogen, H <sub>2</sub>	0.244	0.0266
Oxygen, O <sub>2</sub>	1.36	0.0318
Chlorine, Cl <sub>2</sub>	6.49	0.0562
Carbon dioxide, CO <sub>2</sub>	3.59	0.0427