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Chemical potential...



low
chemical
potential

high
chemical
potential



What is the chemical potential ?

Exemple :

Wikipedia (article chemical potential 2013)



"In thermodynamics, chemical potential, also known as partial molar free energy (**wrong**), is a form of potential energy (**wrong**) that can be absorbed or released during a chemical reaction (**wrong**) [...] At chemical equilibrium or in phase equilibrium the total sum of chemical potentials is zero (**wrong or at least too vague**)

Not so easy !

In thermodynamics

Closed system (constant energy E volume V number of particles N)

$$dS = \frac{1}{T} dE + \frac{P}{T} dV - \frac{\mu}{T} dN \quad (\Leftrightarrow dE = T dS - P dV + \mu dN)$$

☞
$$\frac{\mu}{T} = -\frac{\partial S}{\partial N} \Big)_{E,V}$$

Physical meaning ?

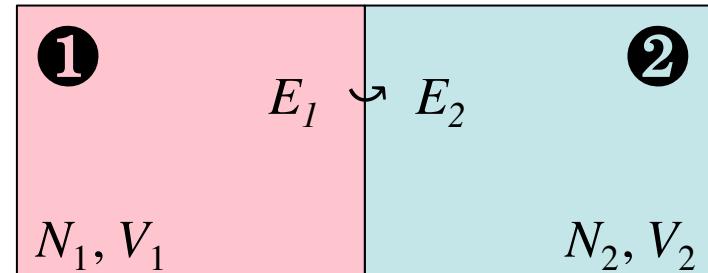


Physical meaning of temperature

Thermal equilibrium

Energy exchange between 1 and 2

$$E_1 + E_2 = E^{\text{tot}} \Rightarrow dE_2 = -dE_1$$



At equilibrium, entropy S is maximum

$$\begin{aligned} dS = dS_1 + dS_2 &= \frac{\partial S_1}{\partial E_1} dE_1 + \frac{\partial S_2}{\partial E_2} dE_2 \\ &= \frac{\partial S_1}{\partial E_1} dE_1 - \frac{\partial S_2}{\partial E_2} dE_1 \end{aligned} \quad \longrightarrow \quad dS = \left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_2} \right) dE_1 \geq 0$$

If $T_1 > T_2$ then $1/T_1 - 1/T_2 < 0$ so that $dE_1 \leq 0$

Energy tends to flow from a system with a **high value of T** to a system with a **low value of T** . This energy transfer continues until $T_1 = T_2$

Physical meaning of temperature = tendency of a system to give energy

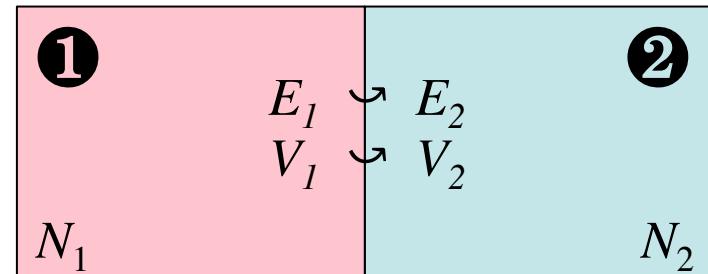


Physical meaning of pressure

Mechanical equilibrium

Volume exchange between 1 and 2

$$dE_2 = -dE_1 \text{ and } dV_2 = -dV_1$$



At equilibrium, entropy S is maximum

$$\begin{aligned} dS = dS_1 + dS_2 &= \left(\frac{\partial S_1}{\partial E_1} - \frac{\partial S_2}{\partial E_2} \right) dE_1 \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{\partial S_1}{\partial V_1} - \frac{\partial S_2}{\partial V_2} \right) dV_1 \end{aligned} \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \begin{aligned} dS &= \left(\frac{P_1}{T_1} - \frac{P_2}{T_2} \right) dV_1 \geq 0 \quad (\text{if } T_1 = T_2 = T) \\ \text{If } P_1 > P_2, \quad dV_1 &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Volume tends to be transferred from a system with a low value of P to a system with a high value of P . This volume change continues until $P_1 = P_2$

Physical meaning of pressure = tendency of a system to take volume

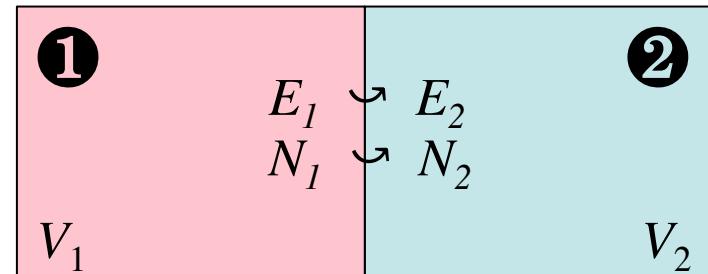


Physical meaning of the chemical potential

Chemical equilibrium

Particles exchange between 1 and 2

$$dE_2 = -dE_1 \text{ and } dN_2 = -dN_1$$



At equilibrium, entropy S is maximum

$$\begin{aligned} dS = dS_1 + dS_2 &= \left(\frac{\partial S_1}{\partial E_1} - \frac{\partial S_2}{\partial E_2} \right) dE_1 \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{\partial S_1}{\partial N_1} - \frac{\partial S_2}{\partial N_2} \right) dN_1 \end{aligned} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad dS = \left(-\frac{\mu_1}{T_1} + \frac{\mu_2}{T_2} \right) dV_1 \geq 0 \quad (\text{if } T_1 = T_2 = T)$$

If $\mu_1 > \mu_2$, $dN_1 \leq 0$

Particles tends to flow from a system with a high value of μ to a system with a high value of μ . This particle transfer continues until $\mu_1 = \mu_2$

*Physical meaning of chemical potential
= tendency of a system to give particles*



Chemical potential...



low chemical
potential

high chemical
potential



Chemical potential...



low chemical potential

not because he is poor...

Because he is
willing to receive
money!!!

high chemical potential

not because she is rich...

because she is generous!!!

In chemistry also, you can be very rich but not very generous (attractive forces)...



Exemples of chemical potential

*Physical meaning of **chemical potential**
= **tendency** of a system **to give particles***

Chemical potential of a proton (H^+) : pH

$$pH = (\mu_{H_+}^0 - \mu_{H_+}) / RT \ln 10$$

pH : **tendency** of a solution **to take H^+**

Chemical potential of water molecules : humidity

$$\ln P_{\text{water}} / P^0 = (\mu_{\text{water}} - \mu_{\text{water}}^0) / RT$$

humidity : **tendency** of an atmosphere **to give water** molecules – further units exists following the context (hydric potential, etc...)

Chemical potential of electrons : Nernst potential

$$E = E^0 + \left(\frac{RT}{nF} \right) \ln \frac{a_{\text{Ox}}}{a_{\text{Red}}} = - \frac{\mu_{e^-}}{F} + \text{Cte}$$

E : **tendency** of system **to take electrons**

Further examples : pC, pOH, etc...



Significance of the standard term

Chemical potential

$$\mu_i = \mu_i^0 + k_B T \ln a_i = \mu_i^0 + k_B T \ln a_i^{\text{ideal}} + k_B T \ln(\gamma_i)$$

Standard term μ_i^0

gives the mass action law constant

Activity coefficient γ_i

depends on N body effects

$$-RT \ln K^0 = \sum_i v_i \mu_i^0$$

Role of the standard state

The standard state 0 is such that the activity coefficient and the ideal activity are both equal to 1.

It depends on the choice of the ideal activity expression a_i^{ideal}

- **Gas phase** : infinitely dilute pure gas with $P = P^0 = 1 \text{ bar}$ $a_i^{\text{ideal}} = \frac{P_i}{P^0}$
- **Liquid or solid mixtures** : pure system $a_i^{\text{ideal}} = x_i$
- **Solutions (convention)** :

✓ Solvent : pure solvent $a_i^{\text{ideal}} = x_i$

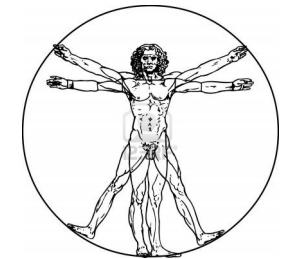
✓ Solutes : infinitely dilute solute with $C = C^0 = 1 \text{ mol.L}^{-1}$ or $m = m^0 = 1 \text{ mol.kg}^{-1}$ or $x = 1$ (depending on the choice of the standard state) $a_i^{\text{ideal}} = C_i / C^0$ or m_i / m^0 or x_i



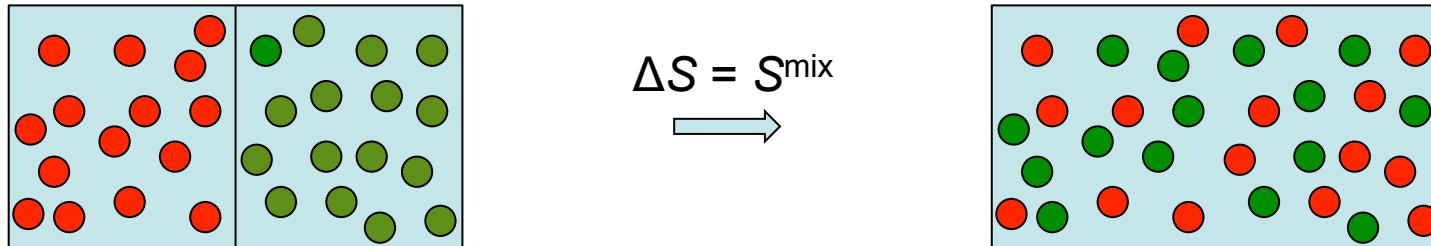
Ideal term

Typically : $a_i^{\text{ideal}} = x_i = \frac{N_i}{N_{\text{tot}}}$ (sometimes with a prefactor)

This formula is exact only for an ideal mixture.



Ideal activity represents a **mixing configurational entropy**.



Ideal mixture = similar molecules (same microscopic configurations)

if mixing, there is only one difference.
the number of states is multiplied by Ω

$$\Omega = \binom{N_1 + N_2}{N_1} = \frac{(N_1 + N_2)!}{N_1! N_2!}$$

$$\longrightarrow S^{\text{mix}} = k_B \ln \Omega = k_B \ln \frac{(N_1 + N_2)!}{N_1! N_2!} \approx -k_B (N_1 \ln(x_1) + N_2 \ln(x_2))$$

Corresponding mixing
chemical potential :

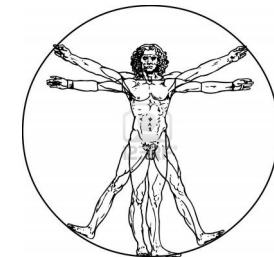
$$\mu_i^{\text{mix}} = \frac{\partial G^{\text{mix}}}{\partial N_i} = -T \frac{\partial S^{\text{mix}}}{\partial N_i} = k_B T \ln x_i$$



Ideal term

Ideal terms are typically valid

- ① For **ideal mixtures** (perfect gas, etc...)
- ② At **low concentration** (gas, solute particles)
- ③ At **high concentration** (solvent, liquid or solid mixtures)



Typically :

- Valid for ① and ② because the interactions between the particles are not important
- Valid for ③ because of Gibbs-Duhem relation

Activity coefficients represent the interactions between the particles that are not included in the standard term.

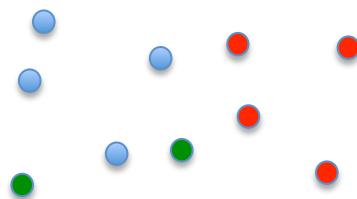
- solute/solute interactions for solutions
- intermolecular interactions for gas



Configurational entropy

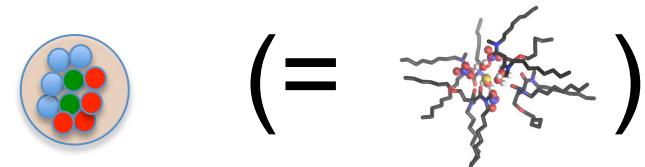
Entropy cost for aggregation

dissociated solutes



dispersed solutes in their phase (whatever it is)

associated solutes (complexation, aggregation, molecules, etc...)



Organized solutes in a supra molecular aggregate

Free energy calculation

c = typical concentration of solutes n = aggregation number

$$G^{\text{init}} = \sum_i \mu_i^0 + NRT \ln \frac{c}{c^0} \quad G^{\text{final}} = \mu_{\text{agg}}^0 + RT \ln \frac{c}{c^0}$$

Difference $\Delta G = (1 - N)RT \ln c + \text{Cte}$

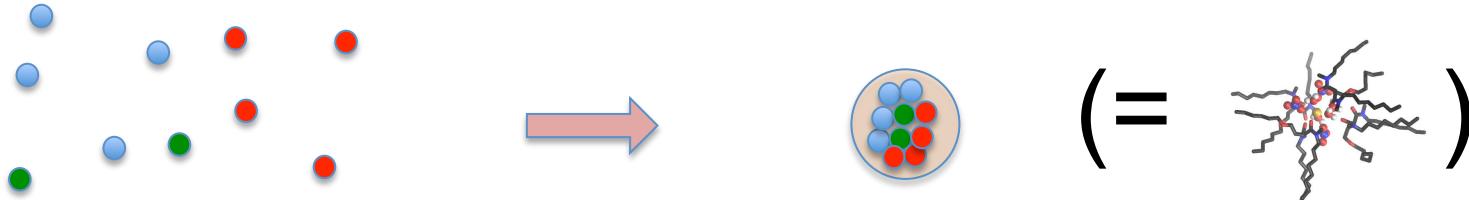
If the solutes are diluted (small c), ΔG becomes infinitely high.

association becomes not stable – at high dilution entropy always wins



Configurational entropy

Configurational entropy cost for aggregation



$$\Delta G = (1 - N)RT \ln c + \text{Cte}$$

$$\frac{\Delta G}{N} \approx -RT \ln c + \Delta G^0 / N$$

No supramolecular organisation for infinite dilute systems

- Ostwald law (weak acids or electrolytes become strong if dilute)
- critical micellar concentration : micelles do not exist if dilute
- re-extraction from dilution (add solvent for re-extraction)
- no molecules in an infinite space

$$\frac{\Delta G}{N} \approx -RT \ln c + \Delta G^0 / N$$
$$\begin{cases} c \geq 10^{24} \Rightarrow \Delta G^0 / N \leq 50 k_B T \approx 100 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1} \\ c \geq 10^{12} \Rightarrow \Delta G^0 / N \leq 25 k_B T \approx 50 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1} \end{cases}$$

weak forces are forces that can be overcome by configurational entropy

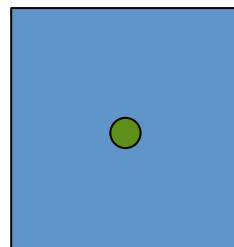


Standard term

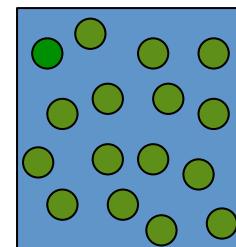
Standard term μ_i^0

Molar free enthalpy of a particle at the standard state, i.e.

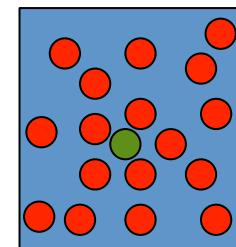
- **gas phase** : one single molecule (because dilute)
 - **liquid mixture, solid mixture and solvent** : pure system
 - **solute particles** : one single solute particle dispersed in the solvent
- ☞ relatively easy evaluation (no correlation)



gas: internal
degrees of freedom



liquids, solids:
anything but
pure system



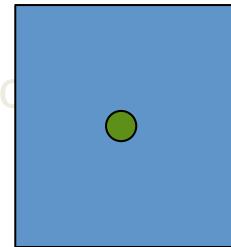
solute:
solvation



Standard term

Gas phase μ_i^0

Noble gas: molecule = a single atom



Hamiltonian (energy) of one single atom
(Born-Oppenheimer approx.)

H		X		He
Li	Be			
Na	Mg			
K	Ca			
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Ta
Fr	Ra	Ac	Unp	Unp

B	C	N	O	F
Al	Si	P	S	Cl
Zn	In	Sn	Sb	Te
Ga	Cd	As	Se	Br
Ge	In	Sn	Sb	I

He	C	N	O	F
Li	Si	P	S	Cl
Na	Al	As	Se	Br
Mg	Zn	In	Sn	I
Ca	Ga	Cd	As	Xe

Experimental validation
for the entropy

$$\mu^0 = \mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{int}} + \mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{trans}} + \mu_{\text{elect}}$$

$$\mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{trans}} = -k_B T \ln \left[\left(\frac{2\pi m k_B T}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} \frac{k_B T}{P^0} \right]$$

$$\mu_{\text{elec}} = -k_B T \ln \left[\omega_0 + \omega_1 \exp(-\varepsilon_1 / k_B T) + \dots \right]$$



degeneracy and energy
of the electronic levels

	exp.	calc.	e.u.
He	30.13	30.11	
Ne	34.95	34.94	
Ar	36.98	36.97	
Kr	39.19	39.18	
Xe	40.53	40.52	
Hg	41.8	41.78	



Standard term

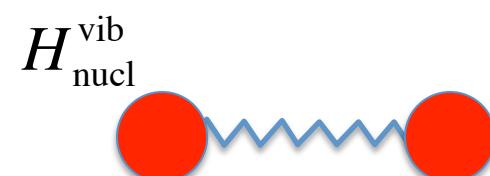
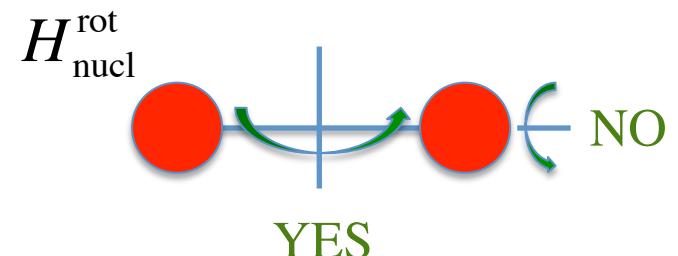
Gas phase μ_i^0

Polyatomic molecules (ex: O₂, N₂, UF₆, etc...)

$$H = H_{\text{nucl}} + H_{\text{elect}}$$

$$H_{\text{nucl}} = H_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{internal}} + H_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{trans}} + H_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{rot}} + H_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{vib}}$$

$$\mu^0 = \mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{int}} + \mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{trans}} + \mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{rot}} + \mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{vib}} + \mu_{\text{elect}}$$



Quantum transition for rotation and vibration

- Low temperature : fundamental state ($\mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{rot}}$, $\mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{vib}}$ constant)
 - High temperature : rotation or vibration ($\mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{rot}}$, $\mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{vib}}$ depends on T)

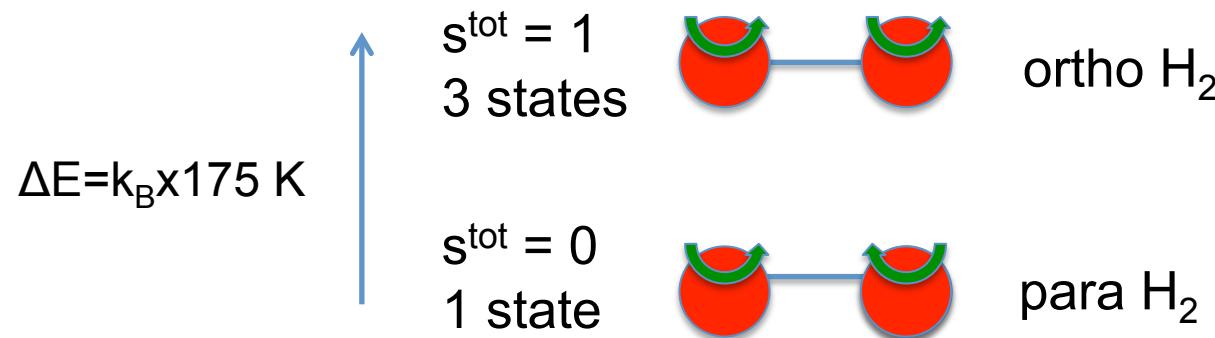


Hydrogen : ortho and para

Ortho and para

$\mu_{\text{nucl}}^{\text{int}}$: internal energy of nuclei

Quantum states of the nuclei



$$\mu_{\text{para}}^0 = \mu_{\text{ortho}}^0 - k_B T \ln(3) + \Delta E$$

Mass action law

$$C_{\text{para}} / C_{\text{ortho}} = \frac{1}{3} \exp(\Delta E / k_B T)$$

Low T : only para H_2

High T : $\frac{1}{4}$ para H_2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ortho H_2

storage of cold H_2





Conclusion

chemical potential
= *tendency to give particles*

Ideal activity : entropy

Standard term : internal free enthalpy or solvation

Activity coefficients : attraction (<1) or repulsion (>1)
between the particles...