

Lecture_07

October 4, 2022

1 Thermodynamic Potentials

Up until this point, we have been working a lot with the internal energy of a system, U , which is a function of state. In principle, we can combine U with any other functions of state (P , V , S , T) to create new functions of state. These are called **thermodynamic potentials**. In this next section, we are going to look at some thermodynamic potentials which can be very useful in certain situations.

1.1 Internal energy, U

We've spent a lot of time dealing with U , so I'm not going to dwell on it too much. Below is simply a summary of where we've encountered U previously. First,

$$dU = TdS - PdV$$

which is the fundamental thermodynamic potential. From this, we can state that, $U = U(S, V)$. Now we will define an isochoric process as one during which the volume stays constant ($dV = 0$). In this case, we have

$$dU = TdS$$

If we have a reversible isochoric process, then we also have that

$$dU = dQ = C_V dT$$

Thus

$$\Delta U = \int_{T_1}^{T_2} C_V dT$$

The fundamental thermodynamic relation also gives us that

$$T = \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial S} \right)_V ; P = - \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial V} \right)_S$$

This is only true at constant volume. To handle a process at constant pressure, we need a different potential.

1.2 Enthalpy, H

Let enthalpy be

$$H = U + PV.$$

Thus, an infinitesimal change in H is given by

$$dH = TdS - PdV + PdV + VdP \quad (1)$$

$$dH = TdS + VdP \quad (2)$$

From this, we can say that $H = H(S, P)$. For an isobaric process ($dP = 0$), we then have

$$dH = TdS$$

and for a reversible process we have

$$dH = dQ = C_P dT$$

Thus

$$\Delta H = \int_{T_1}^{T_2} C_P dT$$

Thus, for a process performed at constant pressure, then the enthalpy represents the heat transferred to or from the system. Our definition of the enthalpy also gives us that

$$T = \left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial S} \right)_P ; V = \left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial P} \right)_S$$

1.3 Helmholtz Free Energy (or Helmholtz Function)

The above potentials are both functions of entropy, S , which can difficult to vary experimentally. This next thermodynamic potential does not suffer the same drawback. Let's define the Helmholtz Free Energy as

$$F = U - TS.$$

This gives

$$dF = TdS - PdV - TdS - SdT \quad (3)$$

$$= -SdT - PdV \quad (4)$$

From this, we can say that $F = F(T, V)$. For an isothermal process, we thus have

$$dF = -PdV$$

giving

$$\Delta F = - \int_{V_1}^{V_2} PdV$$

Our definition of the Helmholtz Free Energy also gives us that

$$S = - \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial T} \right)_V ; P = - \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial V} \right)_T$$

1.4 Gibbs Free Energy (or Gibbs Function)

Let

$$G = H - TS$$

This gives

$$dG = TdS + VdP - TdS - SdT \quad (5)$$

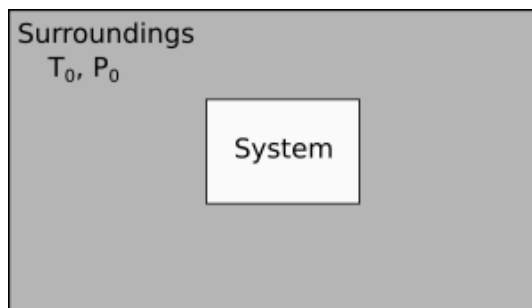
$$= -SdT + VdP \quad (6)$$

Thus $G = G(T, P)$, which is particularly useful as both T and P are easy to control and change in experiments. Thus, if you have an isothermal isobaric process, then $dG = 0$. This will be useful when we are studying phase transitions later. Our definition of the Gibbs Free Energy also gives us that

$$S = - \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial T} \right)_P ; V = \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial P} \right)_T$$

2 Availability

So what use are these new thermodynamic potentials? As a starting point, consider the setup below where we have a system inside some surroundings. The system will be allowed to exchange heat and to do work on the surroundings.



So what happens when energy dU and volume dV are transferred from the surroundings to the system? First, the internal energy of the surroundings will change according to the 1st law by

$$dU_0 = -dU = T_0 dS_0 - P_0 (-dV)$$

The $-$ in dU and in dV are because these quantities are being transferred **to** the system, and as such are negative for the surroundings. Rearranging we have

$$dS_0 = - \left(\frac{dU + P_0 dV}{T_0} \right)$$

If the entropy of the system changes by dS during this process, then the total change in entropy is

$$dS_{\text{Total}} = dS_0 + dS.$$

The second law tells us that $dS_{\text{Total}} \geq 0$. Combining this with the above equation then gives

$$T_0 dS_{\text{Total}} = -(dU + P_0 dV - T_0 dS) \geq 0$$

giving

$$dU + P_0 dV - T_0 dS \leq 0.$$

We will now define a new variable called **availability** and let it be

$$A = U + P_0 V - T_0 S$$

such that (given that P_0 and T_0 are constants)

$$dA = dU + P_0 dV - T_0 dS.$$

This means that

$$dA \leq 0$$

What does this actually mean? It tells us that any changes in a system as it settles down to equilibrium will decrease A . When at equilibrium, A remains constant. As such, in order to figure out what the equilibrium conditions for a system are, all we have to do is minimise A . However, the type of equilibrium we are trying to achieve will affect how A is minimised. What exactly does this mean? Consider the following examples, which will also tie together our thermodynamic potentials.

2.1 Fixed entropy & volume

This means that $dS = 0$ and $dV = 0$. Thus, we have that

$$dA = dU$$

and

$$dA = dU \leq 0.$$

As such, we must minimise the internal energy U to find the equilibrium state of this system.

2.2 Fixed entropy & pressure

This means that $dS = 0$ and $dP = 0$. Thus, we have that

$$dA = dU + P_0 dV$$

Recalling now that the enthalpy $H = U + PV$, such that

$$dH = dU + P dV + V dP$$

which, for constant pressure, becomes

$$dH = dU + P dV$$

As such, the change in availability is given by

$$dA = dH \leq 0.$$

As such, we must minimise the enthalpy H to find the equilibrium state of this system.

2.3 Thermally isolated & fixed volume

If a system is thermally isolated, then $dU = 0$. Thus

$$dA = -T_0 dS \leq 0$$

which gives

$$dS \geq 0$$

As such, we must maximise the entropy to the find equilibrium state of this system.

2.4 Fixed temperature & volume

This means that $dT = 0$ and $dV = 0$. Thus, we have that

$$dA = dU - T_0 dS$$

Recalling that the Helmholtz Free Energy is $F = U - TS$, and following the same steps as for the fixed entropy and pressure scenario, we are left with

$$dA = dF \leq 0.$$

So we must minimise the Helmholtz Free energy to find the equilibrium state.

2.5 Fixed pressure and temperature

This means that $dT = 0$ and $dP = 0$. Thus, we have that

$$dA = dU + P_0 dV - T_0 dS \leq 0$$

Recalling that the Gibbs Free Energy is $G = H - TS = U + PV - TS$, we get that

$$dG = dU + P_0 dV + V dP_0 - T_0 dS - S dT_0 \tag{7}$$

$$= dU + P_0 dV - T_0 dS \tag{8}$$

for constant T_0 and P_0 . We then get

$$dA = dG \leq 0$$

So we must minimise the Gibbs Free energy to find the equilibrium state.

So now we can see where these thermodynamic potentials come in use. Let's consider an example next.

3 Maxwell's Relations

Now we are going to use the results of the 4 thermodynamic potentials to derive what are known as Maxwell's relations. First, we need to do a bit of setup. For a general function of two variables which has an exact differential, $f(x, y)$, we have that

$$df = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_y dx + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right)_x dy$$

as we've used many times before. Because df is an exact differential we can say that

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} \right) = \left(\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} \right)$$

If we then write

$$F_x = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_y ; \quad F_y = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right)_x$$

we have

$$\frac{\partial F_y}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial y}.$$

We can now use these relations on U , H , F , and G .

3.1 Example using the Gibbs Free Energy

The Gibbs Free Energy is $G = H - TS$. As we saw earlier, this gives us that

$$dG = -SdT + VdP.$$

We can also write dG as

$$dG = \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial T} \right)_P dT + \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial P} \right)_T dP$$

which gives

$$S = - \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial T} \right)_P ; \quad V = \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial P} \right)_T$$

Let's consider the first of these statements. We can perform the following operation

$$- \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial P} \right)_T = \left(\frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial P \partial T} \right)$$

We can do the following to the second statement

$$\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial T} \right)_P = \left(\frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial T \partial P} \right)$$

Now

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial T \partial P} \right) = \left(\frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial P \partial T} \right)$$

because G is a function of state (dG is an exact differential). So, we get that

$$- \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial P} \right)_T = \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial T} \right)_P$$

This is one of Maxwell's relations. We can do the same analysis for the other 3 thermodynamic potentials, and we end up with the following relations

$$\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial V} \right)_S = - \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial S} \right)_V \tag{9}$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial P} \right)_S = \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} \right)_P \tag{10}$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial V} \right)_T = \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial T} \right)_V \tag{11}$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial P} \right)_T = - \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial T} \right)_P \tag{12}$$