

Advance Lecture on
Joule-Thompson Experiment and Inversion
Temperature

Ques: For VDW gas, prove: $\mu_{JT} = \frac{1}{c_p} \left[\frac{2a}{RT} - b \right]$

$$dH = T dS + V dP$$

$$dH = T dS + V dP \Rightarrow \left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial P} \right)_T = T \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial P} \right)_T + V$$

Using Maxwell's relation $\rightarrow \left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial P} \right)_T = V - T \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial T} \right)_P$

$$\mu_{JT} = \frac{1}{C_P} \left[T \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial T} \right)_P - V \right]$$

Step1:

The Virial Equation of State (Low Density Approximation)

For **real gases**, we often write the equation of state as a **series expansion** in powers of $\frac{1}{V}$:

$$\frac{PV}{RT} = 1 + \frac{B(T)}{V} + \frac{C(T)}{V^2} + \dots \quad \text{Eq.1}$$

- $B(T)$: **Second virial coefficient** (accounts for pairwise interactions)
- $C(T)$: **Third virial coefficient** (triplet interactions), etc.

For many practical cases, especially at **low pressures** (large V), we can truncate the series to just:

$$\frac{PV}{RT} \approx 1 + \frac{B(T)}{V} \quad \text{Eq.2}$$

Now take the **Van der Waals** equation:

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

We want to expand this in powers of $\frac{1}{V}$ to extract the **virial coefficients**.

Use binomial expansion for $\frac{1}{V-b}$:

$$\frac{1}{V-b} = \frac{1}{V} \left(1 + \frac{b}{V} + \frac{b^2}{V^2} + \dots \right) \Rightarrow \frac{RT}{V-b} \approx \frac{RT}{V} + \frac{RTb}{V^2} + \dots$$

So Van der Waals pressure becomes:

$$P = \frac{RT}{V} + \left(\frac{RTb - a}{V^2} \right) + \dots$$

Multiply both sides by V and divide by RT :

$$\frac{PV}{RT} \approx 1 + \left(b - \frac{a}{RT} \right) \frac{1}{V} \quad \text{Eq.3}$$

Identify Second Virial Coefficient $B(T)$

$$\Rightarrow B(T) = b - \frac{a}{RT}$$

Step2:

From Eq. 2 \rightarrow
$$V \approx \frac{RT}{P} \left(1 - \frac{B(T)P}{RT} \right) = \frac{RT}{P} - B(T) \quad (\text{to first order in } B/V)$$

Recall \rightarrow
$$\mu_{JT} = \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial P} \right)_H = \frac{1}{C_P} \left[T \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial T} \right)_P - V \right]$$

Now substitute $V \approx \frac{RT}{P} - B(T)$:

Compute each piece:

1. $V \approx \frac{RT}{P} - B(T)$
2. $\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial T} \right)_P = \frac{R}{P} - \frac{dB}{dT}$

Now plug into the formula:

$$\mu_{JT} = \frac{1}{C_P} \left[T \left(\frac{R}{P} - \frac{dB}{dT} \right) - \left(\frac{RT}{P} - B(T) \right) \right]$$

Distribute and simplify:

$$\mu_{JT} = \frac{1}{C_P} \left[\frac{RT}{P} - T \frac{dB}{dT} - \frac{RT}{P} + B(T) \right]$$

$$\mu_{JT} = \frac{1}{C_P} \left[T \left(\frac{\partial B}{\partial T} \right) - B(T) \right]$$

Step2:

$$\mu_{JT} = \frac{1}{C_P} \left[T \left(\frac{\partial B(T)}{\partial T} \right) - B(T) \right]$$

Let's plug in the expression for $B(T) = b - \frac{a}{RT}$:

First, compute derivative:

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial T} = \frac{a}{RT^2}$$

Now:

$$\mu_{JT} = \frac{1}{C_P} \left[T \cdot \frac{a}{RT^2} - \left(b - \frac{a}{RT} \right) \right] = \frac{1}{C_P} \left[\frac{a}{RT} - b + \frac{a}{RT} \right] = \frac{1}{C_P} \left(\frac{2a}{RT} - b \right)$$

$$\mu_{JT} = \frac{1}{c_p} \left[\frac{2a}{RT} - b \right]$$

This form is very handy:

- When $T \left(\frac{dB}{dT} \right) > B(T)$, $\mu_{JT} > 0 \rightarrow$ **cooling** occurs.
- When $\mu_{JT} = 0$, that gives the **inversion temperature**.

Step3:

$$\mu_{JT} = \frac{1}{C_P} \left[T \left(\frac{dB}{dT} \right) - B(T) \right]$$

Set $\mu_{JT} = 0$ to get the inversion temperature T_{inv} :

$$T_{inv} \left(\frac{dB}{dT} \right) = B(T)$$

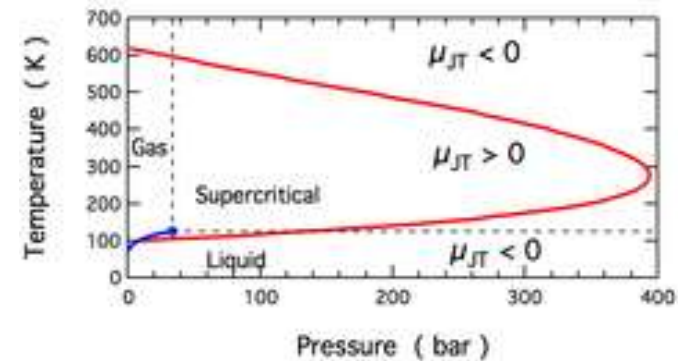
For Van der Waals gas:

$$B(T) = b - \frac{a}{RT} \Rightarrow \frac{dB}{dT} = \frac{a}{RT^2}$$

Plug in:

$$T \cdot \left(\frac{a}{RT^2} \right) = b - \frac{a}{RT} \Rightarrow \frac{a}{RT} = b - \frac{a}{RT} \Rightarrow \frac{2a}{RT} = b \Rightarrow \boxed{T_{inv} = \frac{2a}{Rb}}$$

This gives the **maximum inversion temperature** — again, valid in the **low-pressure limit**. (Another relevant expression of μ_{JT} you may find here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joule-Thomson_effect



Joule Thompson Coefficient for N_2