

Problem Set #5
CHEM101A: General College Chemistry

Donald Aingworth IV

September 19, 2025

10 Topic C Problem 10

This question is intended to give you a “feel” for the size of the SI energy unit.

a) Jorge weighs 69.0 kg (152 pounds). If he is walking at a speed of 1.12 m/sec (about 2.5 miles per hour), what is his kinetic energy in joules? b) If Jorge’s kinetic energy is 1.00 J, how fast is he moving?

10.1 Solution

11 Topic C Problem 11

The average kinetic energy of the atoms in a sample of gaseous argon at a certain temperature is 5188 J/mol.

- a) What is the average kinetic energy of a single argon atom, in joules?
- b) If a argon atom has the kinetic energy you calculated in part a, how fast is it moving?
- c) If the argon sample weighs 1.450 g, what is the total kinetic energy of the atoms in the sample?
- d) What is the temperature of the argon?
- e) What is the most probable kinetic energy for the argon, in J/mol?
- f) What is the root-mean-square speed of the argon atoms?
- g) What is the average speed of the argon?
- h) What is the most probable speed of the argon atoms?

11.1 Solution

12 Topic C Problem 12

A molecule of nitrogen trifluoride is moving at 426 m/sec at 25°C.

- a) What is the kinetic energy of this molecule, in joules?
- b) What is the kinetic energy of this molecule, in J/mol?
- c) Is this molecule moving faster than the average speed of nitrogen trifluoride molecules at this temperature?

12.1 Solution

13 Topic C Problem 13

A sample of O_2 is at 100°C .

- a) What temperature would a sample of O_3 (ozone) need to be in order for it to have the same average kinetic energy as the O_2 ?
- b) What temperature would the O_3 need to be in order for it to have the same average molecular speed as the O_2 ?
- c) What temperature would the O_3 need to be in order for it to have the same root-mean-square speed as the O_2 ?

13.1 Solution

14 Topic C Problem 14

Two identical containers are filled with gases as shown below:

Container 1: $\text{N}_2\text{O}(\text{g})$ at 0°C , 700 torr

Container 2: $\text{NO}_2(\text{g})$ at 0°C , 700 torr

- a) Which gas has the higher rms speed? Explain how you can tell.
- b) Which gas has the higher KEmp (most probable kinetic energy)? Explain.
- c) Which gas weighs more? Explain how you can tell.

14.1 Solution

15 Topic C Problem 15

Two identical containers are filled with gases as shown below:

Container 1: NO₂ at 200°C, 1 atm

Container 2: NO at 100°C, 1 atm

- a) Which gas has the higher average kinetic energy? Explain how you can tell.
- b) Which gas has the higher most probable speed? Explain how you can tell.
- c) Which gas weighs more? Explain how you can tell.

15.1 Solution

16 Topic C Problem 16

Explain the following observations, using the kinetic theory of gases.

- a) When a gas is heated, the pressure that it exerts increases.
- b) Gases can easily be compressed into smaller volumes.
- c) Raising the temperature of 1 mole of helium by 1°C requires the same amount of energy as raising the temperature of 1 mole of argon by 1°C .

16.1 Solution

17 Topic C Problem 17

Two identical containers are filled with gases as shown below:

Container 1: CH_4 at 0°C , 1 atm

Container 2: C_2H_6 at 0°C , 1 atm

- a) Which gas has a larger fraction of molecules with kinetic energies greater than 5000 J/mol ? Explain how you can tell.
- b) Which gas has a larger fraction of molecules with speeds less than 500 m/sec ? Explain how you can tell.

17.1 Solution

18 Topic C Problem 18

Two identical containers are filled with gases as shown below:

Container 1: Ar at 100°C , 1 atm

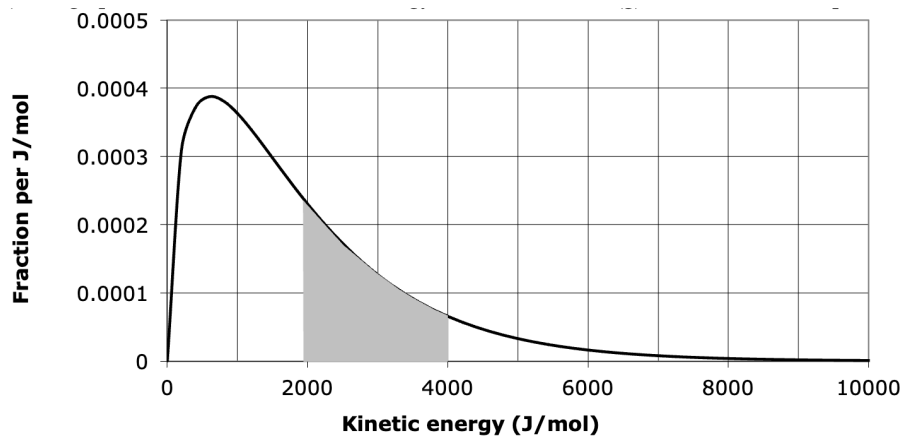
Container 2: CO_2 at 125°C , 1 atm

- a) Which gas has a larger fraction of molecules with kinetic energies lower than 5000 J/mol ? Explain how you can tell.
- b) Which gas has a larger fraction of molecules with speeds above 500 m/sec ? Explain how you can tell.

18.1 Solution

19 Topic C Problem 19

The graph below shows the kinetic energy distribution for $\text{N}_2(\text{g})$ at an unknown temperature.



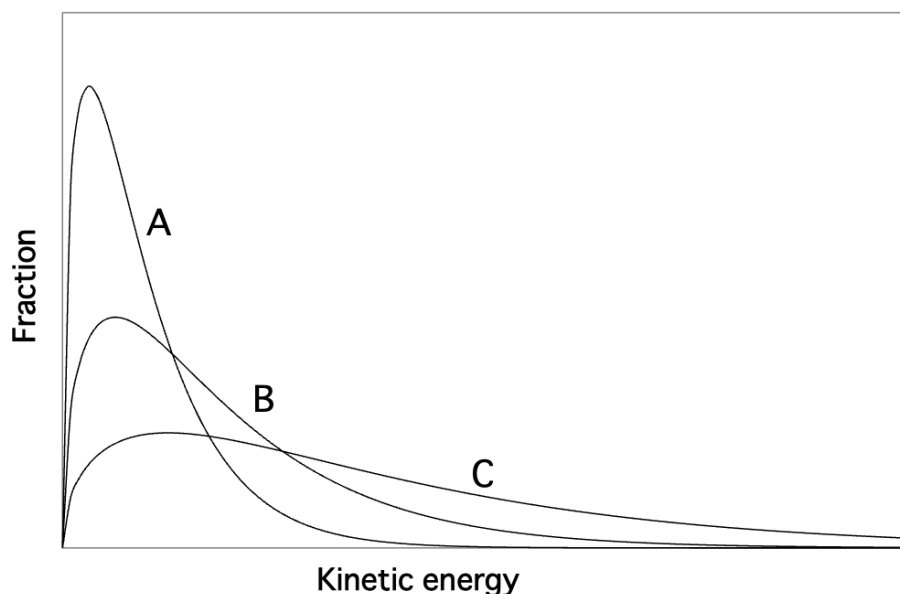
- What is the most probable kinetic energy for the gas, based on the graph?
- What is the approximate temperature of the gas, based on your answer to part a?
- What is the y value when $x = 2000$ J/mol? What does this y value tell you?
- The area of the shaded region is 0.259. What does this value tell you?

19.1 Solution

20 Topic C Problem 20

The following questions relate to the graph below, in which curve B represents the kinetic energy distribution for Ne(g) at 300 K.

- Which curve (A, B, or C) could represent the kinetic energy distribution for Ar(g) at 300 K? Explain your answer briefly.
- Which curve could represent the kinetic energy distribution for Ne(g) at 150 K? Explain your answer briefly.



20.1 Solution (a)

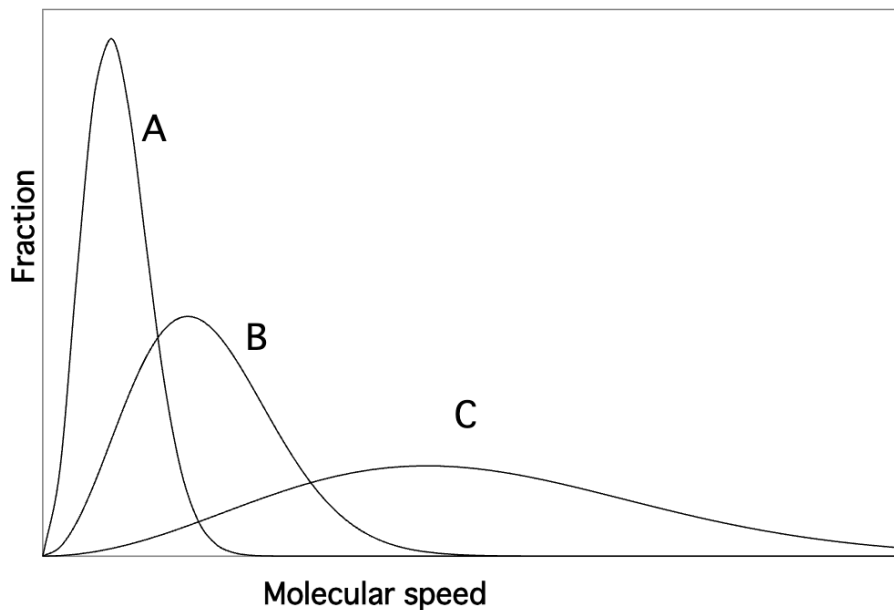
Molar mass has no effect on kinetic energy. This means the curves would be identical, so the curve would be B.

20.2 Solution (b)

The most probable Kinetic Energy is directly related to the temperature. As the temperature would decrease, the most probable Kinetic Energy (the peak) would also decrease. Since the peak would be at a lower Kinetic Energy, the one that would have a peak at a lower Kinetic Energy would be A.

21 Topic C Problem 21

Consider the graph below, in which curve B represents the distribution of speeds for $\text{N}_2(\text{g})$ at 25.0°C .



- Which curve (A, B, or C) could represent the distribution of speeds for $\text{N}_2(\text{g})$ at -125.0°C ? Explain your answer briefly.
- Which curve could represent the distribution of speeds for $\text{H}_2(\text{g})$ at 25.0°C ? Explain your answer briefly.
- Which curve could represent the distribution of speeds for $\text{Ne}(\text{g})$ at -58.4°C ? Explain your answer briefly.

21.1 Solution (a)

The formula of the most probable velocity (v_{mp}) is simple.

$$v_{\text{mp}} = \sqrt{\frac{2RT}{M}} \quad (1)$$

As the temperature would decrease, the most probable velocity (the peak) would also decrease. Since the peak would be at a lower velocity, the one that would have a peak at a lower molecular speed would be A.

21.2 Solution (b)

H₂(g) has a lower molar mass than N₂(g). Looking at the formula for the peak (most probable velocity), as the molar mass decreases, the most probable velocity (the peak) would increase. The curve that fits this description would be C.

21.3 Solution (c)

Measure the value of $\frac{T_1/M_1}{T_2/M_2}$.

$$\frac{T_1/M_1}{T_2/M_2} = \frac{T_1}{T_2} * \frac{M_2}{M_1} = \frac{25 + 273.15}{-58.4 + 273.15} * \frac{20.18}{28.02} \quad (2)$$

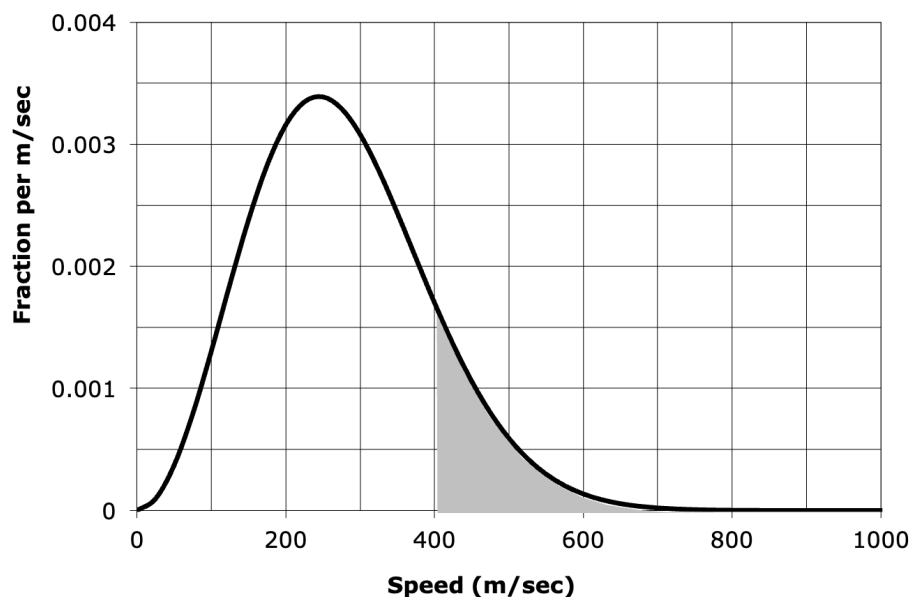
$$= \frac{298.15}{215.75} * \frac{20.18}{28.02} \approx 1 \quad (3)$$

This means that the change from the temperature and molar mass more or less evens out to little change. Conclusively, this means that the best graph would be B.

22 Topic C Problem 22

The graph below shows the distribution of speeds for an unknown gas at 200°C .

- What is the most probable speed for this gas?
- This gas is one of the inert gases. Which one is it, and how did you determine this?
- What is the y value when $x = 200$ m/sec? What does this y value tell you?
- The area of the shaded region (which extends out to infinite speed) is 0.111. What does this value tell you?
- What is the area of the region under the curve that is not shaded? What does this value tell you?



22.1 Solution (a)

The most probable speed is about $\boxed{240 \text{ m/s}}$, the peak. The large size of the divisions makes it difficult to see the peak of the graph.

22.2 Solution (b)

The most probable speed is about 240 m/s. At 200°C, the temperature in kelvin is 473.15K and this can be used to find the molar mass.

$$v_{\text{mp}} = \sqrt{\frac{2RT}{MM}} \rightarrow v_{\text{mp}}^2 = \frac{2RT}{MM} \quad (4)$$

$$MM = \frac{2RT}{v_{\text{mp}}^2} = \frac{2 * 8.31 * 473.15}{240^2} = \frac{7863.753}{57600} \text{ kg/mol} \quad (5)$$

$$= 0.1365 \text{ kg/mol} = 136.5 \text{ g/mol} \approx MM \left(\boxed{\text{Xe(g)}} \right) \quad (6)$$

22.3 Solution (c)

At $x = 200 \text{ m/s}$, $f(x) \approx \boxed{0.0032}$. This tells us that approximately 0.32% of all molecules in the sample would have a speed of exactly 200 m/s. Looking at the answer key, I would disagree that it would be 0.0033. If you look at the graph, the smallest divisions are 0.0005. The intersection of the function with the line is below the halfway point between the 0.0030 and 0.0035 lines. This makes it impossible to be greater than 0.00325, which 0.0033 is greater than and as such an impossible value. Then again, maybe my eyes are bad.

22.4 Solution (d)

It tells us that 11.1% of all particles are faster than 400 m/s.

22.5 Solution (e)

Since the total area under the curve is 1 and all the area is either shaded or not shaded, the area not shaded would be $1 - 0.111 = \boxed{0.889}$. This tells us that about 88.9% of all particles are slower than 400 m/s.

23 Topic C Problem 23

At 62°C, 5.00 mL of argon effuses through a porous barrier in 5 minutes and 13 seconds. In an identical apparatus at 62°C, 5.00 mL of an unknown gas effuses through the barrier in 4 minutes and 22 seconds. The empirical formula of the unknown gas is CH₂. Determine the molecular formula of the gas.

23.1 Solution

We can use the formula of the relation between molar masses and effusion rates. First, we calculate the time in seconds for each. Argon would be monoatomic in this case. I will be calling the gas xCH₂.

$$t_{\text{Ar}} = 5 * 60 + 13 = 313 \text{ s} \quad (7)$$

$$t_{\text{xCH}_2} = 4 * 60 + 22 = 262 \text{ s} \quad (8)$$

Now we use the formula.

$$\frac{\text{rate Ar}}{\text{rate xCH}_2} = \frac{5 \text{ mL}/313 \text{ s}}{5 \text{ mL}/262 \text{ s}} = \frac{262}{313} = \frac{\sqrt{MM(\text{xCH}_2)}}{\sqrt{MM(\text{Ar})}} \quad (9)$$

$$MM(\text{Ar}) = 39.95 \text{ g/mol} \quad (10)$$

$$\sqrt{MM(\text{xCH}_2)} = \sqrt{MM(\text{Ar})} * \frac{262}{313} = \sqrt{39.95 \text{ g/mol}} * \frac{262}{313} \quad (11)$$

$$MM(\text{xCH}_2) = 39.95 \text{ g/mol} * \frac{262^2}{313^2} = 39.95 \text{ g/mol} * 0.701 \quad (12)$$

$$= 27.992 \text{ g/mol} \quad (13)$$

We can calculate the molar mass of empirical CH₂. That in turn can be used to find the number of carbon and/or dihydrogen in eventual formula.

$$MM(\text{CH}_2) = 12.01 \text{ g/mol} + 2 * 1.008 \text{ g/mol} = 14.028 \text{ g/mol} \quad (14)$$

$$x = \frac{MM(\text{xCH}_2)}{MM(\text{CH}_2)} = \frac{27.992 \text{ g/mol}}{14.028 \text{ g/mol}} \approx 2 \quad (15)$$

This sets the final formula of the chemical to be C₂H₄.

24 Topic C Problem 24

If we compare the van der Waals constants for water and nitrogen, we see that water has a higher value of a while nitrogen has a higher value of b . The numbers are:

H₂O: $a = 5.46 \text{ atm}\cdot\text{L}^2/\text{mol}^2$ $b = 0.0305 \text{ L/mol}$

N₂: $a = 1.39 \text{ atm}\cdot\text{L}^2/\text{mol}^2$ $b = 0.0391 \text{ L/mol}$

- a) Explain why water has the higher a value.
- b) Explain why nitrogen has the higher b value.

24.1 Solution (a)

a is a measure for the pressure, in and of a measurement of the attraction of particles. I cannot explain H₂O having a higher value of a due to Physical and atomic factors. I can explain why it makes sense with regard to the physical properties of H₂O. H₂O has a higher boiling point than N₂. Boiling and freezing points are measurements of the points at which the gas cannot overcome the intermolecular forces that control the pressure and condense into a separate state of matter (in this case liquid). Since H₂O has a much higher boiling point than N₂, that would mean that the intermolecular forces are also significantly higher, as would be the pressure. Since pressure from the Ideal Gas Law is not affected by the molar mass, it would have to be affected by something unrelated to the Ideal Gas Law, namely a . This is why a would be higher for H₂O.

24.2 Solution (b)

b is a measure regarding the volume. As the volume of each molecule increases, the value of b should also increase. N₂, being made up of two nitrogen atoms, is made up of a total of 14 protons, about as many neutrons, and a couple fewer electrons. H₂O, meanwhile, would be made up of two Hydrogen atoms and one Oxygen atom, totaling ten protons, about as many neutrons, and eight electrons. Assuming all protons to have equal volume and due to this, as well as Oxygen keeping its electrons closer to itself than Nitrogen, the N₂ has a larger overall volume than the H₂O. This would lead to the N₂ having a higher value of b .

25 Topic C Problem 25

An engineer is designing a reactor that will be filled with oxygen under high pressure. The volume of the reactor is 253 L, the maximum temperature inside the reactor will be 250°C, and the pressure inside the reactor must not exceed 150 atm. The engineer uses the ideal gas law to calculate the maximum number of moles of oxygen that can be put into the reactor without exceeding 150 atm.

- What number of moles does the engineer calculate using the ideal gas law?
- Now use the van der Waals equation to calculate a more accurate value for the pressure inside the reactor at 250°C, using the number of moles you obtained in part *a*. (Van der Waals constants for oxygen are given in the textbook.)
- Based on your answers to parts *a* and *b*, was the engineer justified in using the ideal gas law, or will she create an unsafe situation? Explain your answer briefly.

25.1 Solution (a)

Use the Ideal Gas Law.

$$PV = nRT \quad (16)$$

$$n = \frac{PV}{RT} = \frac{150 \text{ atm} \times 253 \text{ L}}{(250^\circ\text{C} + 273.15\text{K}) \times 0.08206 \text{ atm} \cdot \text{L/mol} \cdot \text{K}} \quad (17)$$

$$= \frac{37950}{42.929689} \text{ mol} = 884.004 \text{ mol} \approx \boxed{884 \text{ mol}} \quad (18)$$

25.2 Solution (b)

Use the Van der Waals equation. The values to be used are $a = 1.364 \frac{\text{L}^2 \cdot \text{atm}}{\text{mol}^2}$ and $b = 0.0319 \text{ L/mol}$.

$$P \rightarrow P + a \left(\frac{n}{V} \right)^2 \quad (19)$$

$$P + a \left(\frac{n}{V} \right)^2 = 250 \text{ atm} + 1.364 \frac{\text{L}^2 \cdot \text{atm}}{\text{mol}^2} * \left(\frac{884.004 \text{ mol}}{253 \text{ mol}} \right)^2 \quad (20)$$

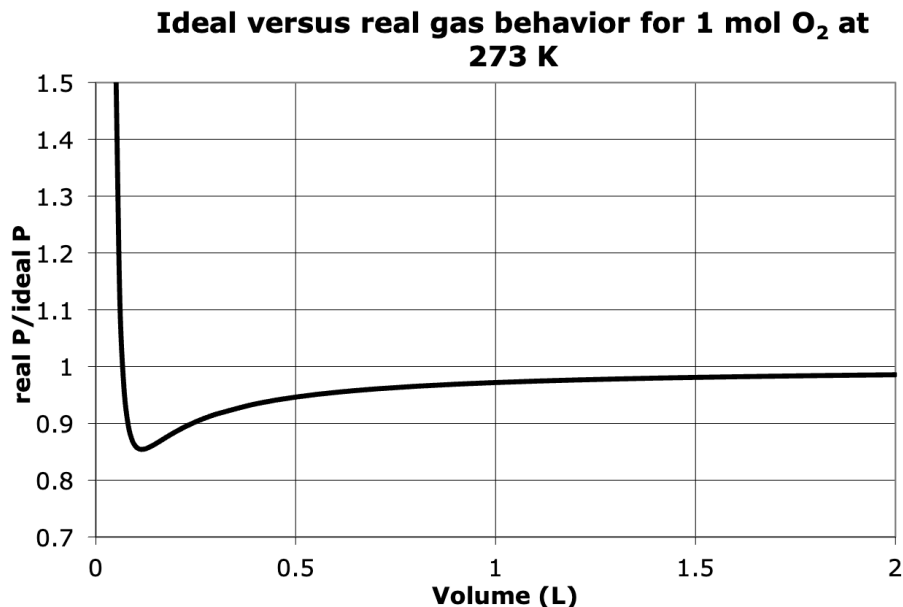
$$= 250 \text{ atm} + 16.65 \text{ atm} = \boxed{266.7 \text{ atm}} \quad (21)$$

25.3 Solution (c)

If there was some room for error (e.g. by 17 atm), then it would be reasonable. However, there appears not to be room for error for the pressure, so the pressure would have to be the 150 atm or less. Were the user to use the supposed suggested amount of moles, the reactor would be very unsafe. The answer is $\boxed{\text{no}}$.

26 Topic C Problem 26

The graph below shows how the actual pressure of a sample of O_2 deviates from the ideal gas prediction. The values on the y axis are the actual pressure of the gas divided by the pressure calculated from the ideal gas law. (A y value of 1 means the actual pressure equals the ideal gas prediction.)



a) Based on this graph, under what conditions is the actual pressure lower than the ideal gas prediction? Why is this?

b) Based on this graph, under what conditions is the actual pressure higher than the ideal gas prediction? Why is this?

26.1 Solution (a)

Whenever the value of $\frac{real\ P}{ideal\ P}$ is less than 1, the actual pressure is less than the ideal pressure. Looking at the graph, it is always less than 1 after the time it is initially equal to 1. That point is approximately one sixth of the way between 0 and 0.5. Multiplying those together, we get $\frac{1}{6} \times 0.5 = \frac{1}{12}$. As such, the range where we know that the actual pressure is lower than the ideal gas prediction

is $\left[\frac{1}{12}, 2 \right]$.

26.2 Solution (b)

This is pretty much the opposite case, but my answer has largely the same meaning. Unless the value of $\frac{real\ P}{ideal\ P}$ is not continuous and permanently jumps

to less than 0.7 somewhere between $V = 0$ and $V = \frac{1}{12}$, the range of this condition is $\left[0, \frac{1}{12}\right)$

Contents

10 Topic C Problem 10	2
10.1 Solution	2
11 Topic C Problem 11	3
11.1 Solution	3
12 Topic C Problem 12	4
12.1 Solution	4
13 Topic C Problem 13	5
13.1 Solution	5
14 Topic C Problem 14	6
14.1 Solution	6
15 Topic C Problem 15	7
15.1 Solution	7
16 Topic C Problem 16	8
16.1 Solution	8
17 Topic C Problem 17	9
17.1 Solution	9
18 Topic C Problem 18	10
18.1 Solution	10
19 Topic C Problem 19	11
19.1 Solution	11
20 Topic C Problem 20	12
20.1 Solution (a)	12
20.2 Solution (b)	12
21 Topic C Problem 21	13
21.1 Solution (a)	13
21.2 Solution (b)	14
21.3 Solution (c)	14
22 Topic C Problem 22	15
22.1 Solution (a)	15
22.2 Solution (b)	16
22.3 Solution (c)	16
22.4 Solution (d)	16
22.5 Solution (e)	16

23 Topic C Problem 23	17
23.1 Solution	17
24 Topic C Problem 24	18
24.1 Solution (a)	18
24.2 Solution (b)	18
25 Topic C Problem 25	19
25.1 Solution (a)	19
25.2 Solution (b)	19
25.3 Solution (c)	19
26 Topic C Problem 26	20
26.1 Solution (a)	20
26.2 Solution (b)	20