



6)

Modeling the Earth's atmosphere

as a diatomic ideal gas with

constant heat capacity  $C_V = \frac{5}{2} N k_B T$

and assuming that it is in mechanical equilibrium (i.e., that pressure forces

balance gravitational forces), and

adiabatic, find the temperature profile  $T(z)$ , the pressure profile

$P(z)$ , and the mass density profile

$\rho(z)$ , where  $z$  is

height above the Earth's surface.

Express your answer in terms of the acceleration due to gravity  $g$  (which you may take to be constant)

6) cont) the temperature  $T_0$  and pressure  $P_0$  at the Earth's surface.

~~Evaluate your answer numerically~~

~~using realistic values~~

Give a numerical answer for

the temperature and ~~the~~ pressure

~~the~~ fractional density  $\frac{\rho(z)}{\rho(0)}$

for  ~~$z = 8800$  m~~ the summit of Dhaulagiri Feng (A.k.a, Mount Everest), taking  $T_0 = 310^\circ\text{K}$

(it's hot in **India!**),  $z = 8800$  meters,

~~and~~  $g = 9.8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}^2}$ , and  $m = \frac{1}{4} m_{\text{O}_2} + \frac{3}{4} m_{\text{N}_2}$ ,

where  $m_{\text{N}_2}$  and  $m_{\text{O}_2}$  are respectively

the masses of the diatomic nitrogen and diatomic oxygen that make



(c) cont)

up the Earth's atmosphere, in

3 to 1 proportion (hence the above

weighting to determine the average

molecular mass).