

- 1.1 Calculate the work performed by a body expanding from an initial volume of 3.12 L to a final volume of 4.01 L at the pressure of 2.34 atm.

As the pressure is constant, the work equation simplifies from

$$L = \int p dV \quad (1)$$

to  $L = p\Delta V$ , or  $L = 2.34(4.01 - 3.12) = 2.08 \text{ L atm} = 211 \text{ J}$

- 1.2 Calculate the pressure of 30 grams of hydrogen inside a container of 1 m<sup>3</sup> at the temperature of 18 °C

Hydrogen gas has a molecular mass of approximately 2 g mol<sup>-1</sup>, so there is about  $n = 15 \text{ mol}$  within this box. As

$$pV = nRT \quad (2)$$

then

$$p = \frac{nRT}{V} = 3.6 \times 10^4 \text{ Pa}$$

- 1.3 Calculate the density and specific volume of nitrogen at the temperature of 18 °C.

Specific volume  $v$  and the density  $\rho$  are related as inverses:  $v = \rho^{-1}$ . The density can be calculated with

$$\rho = \frac{pM}{RT},$$

and if we assume the pressure to be standard atmospheric pressure of  $p = 1 \text{ atm}$ , we get  $\rho = 1.2 \times 10^{-2} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  which subsequently becomes  $v = 803 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1}$ .

- 1.4 Calculate the work performed by 10 grams of oxygen expanding isothermally at 20 °C from 1 to 0.3 atm of pressure.

The isothermal work from pressure  $p_1$  to  $p_2$  is given by the equation

$$L = nRT \ln \frac{p_1}{p_2}, \quad (3)$$

and the molar mass of Oxygen gas is about  $M = 32 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$  so there are  $n = 10/32 \text{ mol}$  of O<sub>2</sub> present.

- 2.1 Calculate the energy variation of a system which performs  $3.4 \times 10^8$  erg of work and absorbs 32 cal of heat.

This can be calculated with the system energy equation

$$\Delta U + L = Q, \quad (4)$$

which states that the variation in system energy plus the work the system performs is equal to the heat exchanged with the surroundings. This means that this becomes

$$\Delta U = Q - L \approx 10^9 \text{ erg}$$

- 2.2 How many calories are absorbed by 3 mol of an ideal gas expanding isothermally from the initial pressure of 5 atm to the final pressure of 3 atm, at the temperature of 0 °C?

As the energy of the system is a function of only the temperature and not the volume, the absorbed energy is equal to the work performed:

$$Q = nRT \ln \frac{p_1}{p_2} \approx 3.5 \times 10^3 \text{ J}$$

- 2.3 One mole of a diatomic ideal gas performs a transformation from an initial state for which temperature and volume are, respectively, 291 K and  $2.1 \times 10^4 \text{ cc}^1$  ( $2.1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^3$ ) to a final state in which the temperature and volume are 305 K and  $1.27 \times 10^4 \text{ cc}$  ( $1.27 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^3$ ). The transformation is represented on the  $(V, p)$  diagram by a straight line. Find the work performed and the heat absorbed by the system.

First, we can get the coordinates of the system and plot it on a  $(V, p)$  graph by solving for the pressure. As

$$p = \frac{nRT}{V}$$

The pressures are

$$p_1 = 1.15 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$$

$$p_2 = 2 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa},$$

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<sup>1</sup>1 cc = 1 cm<sup>3</sup> = 1 mL

So, therefore, the transformation between these two points  $(V_1, p_1) \rightarrow (V_2, p_2)$  has the linear function

$$\begin{aligned} p(V) &= p_1 + \frac{p_2 - p_1}{V_2 - V_1}(V - V_1) \\ &\approx 1.15 \times 10^5 - 10^7(V - 2.1 \times 10^{-2}), \end{aligned}$$

and the work from the first point to the second is the definite integral between the two points along this curve

$$L = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} p(V) dV = 1.3 \times 10^3 \text{ J}$$

Then, from there, the variation in energy is

$$\Delta U = C_V \Delta T = \frac{7}{2} R \Delta T \approx 270 \text{ J}$$

(with  $C_V = \frac{7}{2}R$  because the gas is diatomic) which means that the absorbed energy would be

$$Q = \Delta U + L \approx 1.57 \times 10^3 \text{ J.}$$

- 2.4 A diatomic gas expands adiabatically to a volume 1.35 times larger than the initial volume. The initial temperature is 18 °C. Find the final temperature.

Remembering that  $TV^{\gamma-1}$  is constant under adiabatic expansion and that  $\gamma = 7/5$ , we can just solve algebraically:

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 V_1^{\gamma-1} &= T_2 V_2^{\gamma-1} \\ T_2 &= T_1 \left( \frac{V_1}{V_2} \right)^{\gamma-1} \\ T_2 &= T_1 (1.35)^{-2/5} = -15 \text{ °C} \end{aligned}$$

- 3.1 One mole of a monatomic gas performs a Carnot cycle between the temperatures of 400 K and 300 K. On the upper isothermal transformation, the initial volume is 1 L and the final volume is 5 L. Find the work performed during a cycle, and the amounts of heat exchanged between the two sources.

First, the isothermal expansion occurs, with the system beginning at temperature  $T_H = 400\text{ K}$ . This produces work according to the equation

$$L = nRT \ln \frac{V_2}{V_1}, \quad (5)$$

so the isothermal expansion would produce work at  $T_H$  from  $V_1 = 1\text{ L}$  to  $V_2 = 5\text{ L}$ :

$$L_1 = nRT_H \ln \frac{V_2}{V_1} = 5352\text{ J}.$$

State energy is only a function of temperature, so over any isothermal transformation, the energy variation is zero. That means that the work performed is equal to the heat consumed by the system:

$$Q_1 = 5352\text{ J}.$$

Next, there is the adiabatic expansion. Over the adiabatic expansion, there is no heat exchanged with the environment, and the system transitions from a temperature of  $T_H$  to  $T_C = 300\text{ K}$ . As this gas is monatomic, the adiabatic index is  $\gamma = 5/3$ . For any adiabatic expansion, the work performed is

$$L = \frac{p_2 V_2 - p_1 V_1}{\gamma - 1} = \frac{nR(T_2 - T_1)}{1 - \gamma}, \quad (6)$$

so the work for the adiabatic expansion is

$$L_2 = \frac{nR(T_C - T_H)}{1 - \gamma} \approx 1247\text{ J}.$$

Next, there is an isothermal expansion, but to calculate the work performed, we need to know the volume the adiabatic expanded the system to,  $V_3$ . This can be calculated by knowing that  $TV^{\gamma-1}$  is constant, so

$$V_3 = V_2 \left( \frac{T_H}{T_C} \right)^{(\gamma-1)^{-1}} = V_2 (4/3)^{2/3}.$$

From there, we can calculate the work for the isothermal compression. To do this, we'll first need the ending volume after the isothermal

compression, which can be produced based on the volume rule (which is derived from the adiabatic processes):

$$\frac{V_3}{V_2} = \frac{V_4}{V_1} = \left( \frac{T_H}{T_C} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma-1}}, \quad (7)$$

so the ending volume  $V_4$  is

$$V_4 = \frac{V_3 V_1}{V_2} \approx 1.2 \text{ L}$$

thus, the work over the isothermal compression is

$$L_3 = nRT_C \ln \frac{V_4}{V_3} = nRT_C \ln \frac{V_1}{V_2} = -4014 \text{ J}$$

then, lastly, the adiabatic compression goes from  $T_C$  to  $T_H$ , so it produces the same (negated) work as the adiabatic expansion,

$$L_4 = -1247 \text{ J},$$

and, together, this means that the total work is equal to the total heat consumption:

$$L = Q = L_1 + L_3 = 1338 \text{ J}.$$

- 3.2 What is the maximum efficiency of a thermal engine working between an upper temperature of 400 °C and a lower temperature of 18 °C?

The maximum efficiency  $\eta$  is calculated by the equation

$$\eta \leq 1 - \frac{T_C}{T_H}, \quad (8)$$

so the maximum efficiency would be

$$\max \eta = 1 - \frac{400 + 273.15}{18 + 273.15} = 56.7 \%$$

- 3.3 Find the minimum amount of work needed to extract one calorie of heat from a body at the temperature of 0 F, when the temperature of the environment is 100 F.

The amount of work required to extract  $Q$  heat from a cold source of temperature  $T_C$  with a hot environment temperature  $T_H$  is

$$L = \frac{Q(T_H - T_C)}{T_C} \approx 1532 \text{ J}. \quad (9)$$