

Lecture 4

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Kinetic theory of Gases (ch. 19)

- focus more on the physics of gases
- gas consists of atoms that fill their container's volume & exert pressure on container's walls.
- can associate (p, V, T) w/ gas & these are a consequence of motion of atoms
- kinetic theory of gases relates atomic motion to (p, V, T)

1st question: How to measure the amount of gas in a sample?
Use Avogadro's number!

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$$N_A = 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$$

tells us how many atoms or molecules per mole.

⇒ number n of moles obeys

$$n = \frac{N}{N_A}$$

↗ number of moles
 ↖ number of molecules in sample
 ↖ number of molecules per mole

can also use mass of sample & molar mass M (the mass of 1 mol)

$$n = \frac{M_{\text{sam}}}{M} = \frac{m}{m N_A}$$

↑ molar mass
 ↑ molecular mass

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Ideal Gases

- we want to explain macroscopic behavior of gas (pressure & temperature) in terms of molecular behavior.

How to do so?

Assume low density of gas

Then all real gases obey the ideal gas law: (found experimentally)

$$pV = nRT$$

absolute pressure volume # of moles gas constant temp.

$$R = 8.31 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{mol} \cdot \text{K}}$$

law holds for any single gas or mixture of gases (@ low density)

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can write this in an
alternative way in terms of
Boltzmann constant k_B :

$$k_B = \frac{R}{N_A} = \frac{8.31 \text{ J/mol}\cdot\text{K}}{6.02 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}} = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \frac{\text{J}}{\text{K}}$$

also write as "k"

$$\Rightarrow nR = Nk$$

↑
of molecules

⇒

$$pV = nRT \quad (\text{alternate way to write ideal gas law})$$

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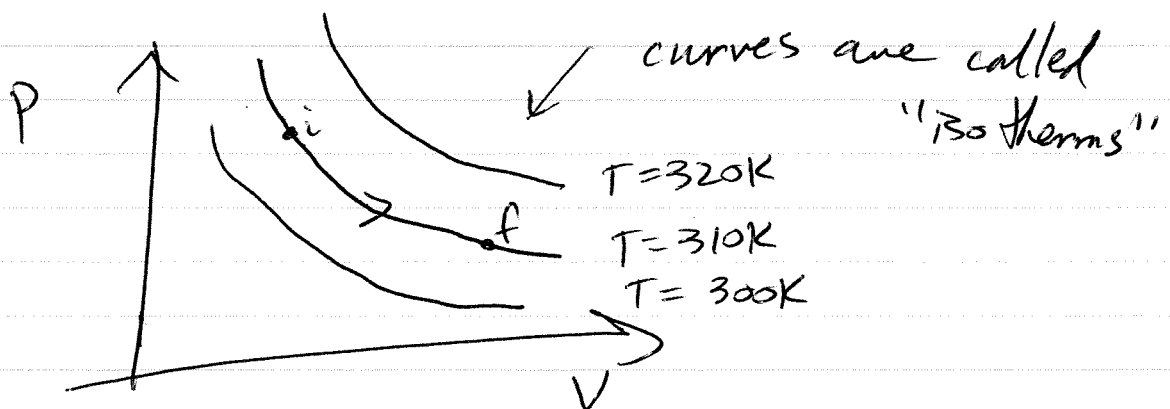
Work done by an Ideal gas @ constant temp.

- Put an ideal gas in piston - cylinder arrangement from before.
- Allow gas to expand from initial to final volume @ constant temp. (isothermal expansion)

then pressure @ a given instant is

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

on a p-V diagram, this looks like



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What is work done by gas during expansion?

$$W = \int_{V_i}^{V_f} P dV$$

$$= \int_{V_i}^{V_f} \frac{nRT}{V} dV$$

$$= nRT \left[\ln V \right]_{V_i}^{V_f}$$

$$= nRT \ln \frac{V_f}{V_i}$$

key formula for
work done
by gas during
expansion

What about sign during
compression?

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What about work done during
a constant volume process?

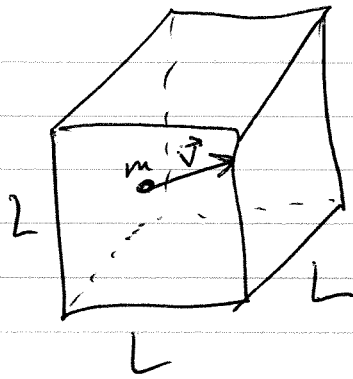
$$W=0$$

constant pressure?

$$W = p (V_f - V_i) = p \Delta V$$

Pressure, Temp., & RMS Speed

- Develop kinetic theory to determine connection between pressure exerted by gas & speed of molecules
- Consider a single gas molecule of mass m & velocity \vec{v} in a box



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Suppose molecule collides
w/ right wall &
collision is elastic

molecule's

change in momentum is along the
x axis & is equal to

$$\Delta p_x = \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{final} \\ \text{momentum}}}{(-mv_x)} - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{initial momentum}}}{(mv_x)} = -2mv_x$$

\Rightarrow momentum delivered to wall is

$$2mv_x$$

molecule will hit wall repeatedly

& time Δt is time between
collisions (travel back to right
wall after

speed is v_x & distance is $2L$
($2L/v_x$)

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$$\Rightarrow \Delta t = \frac{2L}{v_x}$$

average rate at which momentum is delivered is

$$\frac{\Delta p_x}{\Delta t} = \frac{2mv_x}{2L/v_x} = \frac{mv_x^2}{L}$$

From Newton 2nd law, rate @ which momentum is delivered is the force ~~along~~ the wall, acting on

Suppose now that there are many molecules. Then pressure is total force divided by area

$$P = \frac{F_x}{L^2} = \frac{mv_{x1}^2}{L} + \dots + \frac{mv_{xN}^2}{L}$$

$$= \frac{m}{L^3} (v_{x1}^2 + \dots + v_{xN}^2)$$

$N = \#$ of molecules

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$$= \frac{mN}{L^3} \left(\frac{v_{x1}^2 + \dots + v_{xN}^2}{N} \right)$$

$$= \frac{mN}{L^3} (v_x^2)_{\text{avg.}}$$

$$N = n N_A$$

$$\Rightarrow P = \frac{n m N_A (v_x^2)_{\text{avg}}}{L^3}$$

$$= \frac{n M (v_x^2)_{\text{avg}}}{V}$$

← molar mass

↑ volume

Now take into account all directions of velocity (x, y, & z)

$$v^2 = v_x^2 + v_y^2 + v_z^2$$

↓ since directions are random when averaged, we get

$$v_x^2 = \frac{1}{3} v^2$$

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$$\Rightarrow p = \frac{nM (\overline{v^2})_{\text{avg}}}{3V}$$

root-mean-square speed of molecules

also write

$$v_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{(\overline{v^2})_{\text{avg}}}$$

$$\Rightarrow p = \frac{nM v_{\text{rms}}^2}{3V} \Rightarrow pV = \frac{nM v_{\text{rms}}^2}{3}$$

Now use ideal gas law to get

$$pV = nRT$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{nM v_{\text{rms}}^2}{3} = nRT$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{\text{rms}}^2 = \frac{3RT}{M}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{3RT}{M}}$$

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Translational Kinetic Energy

$$K_{\text{avg}} = \left(\frac{1}{2} m v^2 \right)_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{2} m (v^2)_{\text{avg}}$$

$$\uparrow \qquad \qquad \qquad = \frac{1}{2} m v_{\text{rms}}^2$$

average translational
kinetic energy

$$\Rightarrow K_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{2} m \frac{3RT}{M}$$

$$= \frac{3RT}{2N_A}$$

using Boltzmann constant

$$K_{\text{avg}} = \frac{3}{2} kT$$

All ideal gas molecules have
the same average translational
kinetic energy!