

Thermodynamics state of a system
(or what changing temperature can do)

Ways to characterize a system

Macroscopic parameters
(describes the system as whole)

Temperature T

Pressure P

Volume V

Density S

Microscopic parameters
(describes elementary component)

Number of molecules N

Chemical decomposition
(atomic/molecular mass) in
degrees of freedom
velocity/energy distributions

Thermodynamics

Statistical mechanics/physic

Temperature characterizes
the direction of energy flow
from hot to cold

Temperature characterize
the kinetic energy of
(often chaotic) motion
of atoms / molecules.

What happens when the temperature changes?

To really understand what is going on, one
has to use microscopic description. But the more
complex the system is, the harder it is!

Most complex

solids

ordered strong-
interacting particles
often anisotropic

Little better

liquids

strongly interacting
free particles

Simplest

gas

free-moving
non-interacting *
particles
(* ideally)

Phenomenological description

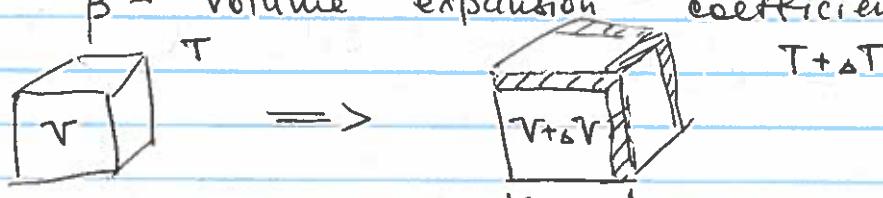
thermal expansion

Thermal expansion of solid / liquids



$\frac{\Delta L}{L} = \alpha \Delta T$ All complicated microscopic physics is hidden in α
 α - coefficient of linear expansion

β - volume expansion coefficient



$$V = L^3$$

$$\Delta V = 3L^2 \Delta L$$

$$\frac{\Delta V}{V} = \frac{3L^2 \Delta L}{L^3} = 3 \frac{\Delta L}{L}$$

since $\Delta L/L \ll 1$

For isotropic solids $\beta \frac{\Delta T}{T} = 3\alpha \frac{\Delta T}{T}$

$$\underline{\beta = 3\alpha}$$

Since change in length/volume is proportional to the change in temperature, we cannot use it to reliably set a temperature standard (or $T=0$) → many experimental temperature scales

Ideal (non-interacting) gasses are much easier to describe

Historically: Robert Boyle's Law (1627-1691)

$$\text{at a constant } T: V \propto 1/P$$

$$PV \propto T$$

Jacques Charles' Law (1746-1823)

$$\text{at constant pressure } P: V \propto T$$

Joseph Gay-Lussac's Law (1778-1850)

$$\text{at constant volume } V: P \propto T$$

Amadeo Avogadro (1776-1856) hypothesis

Two gasses with same (P, V, T) have same number of molecules

$$N_A = 6.02214154 \cdot 10^{23}$$
 number of molecules in one mole of gas

Universal gas law

$$PV = n \cdot RT$$

or

$$PV = N \cdot k_B T$$

(macroscopic)

(microscopic)

n - number of moles

$$R = 8.314 \text{ J/mol} \cdot \text{K}$$

universal gas constant

N - number of molecules

$$k_B = 1.38 \cdot 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$$

Boltzmann constant

$$n \cdot R = \frac{N}{N_A} \cdot R = N \cdot \frac{R}{N_A} = N \cdot k_B$$

$$k_B = R/N_A$$

Important small print

$PV = nRT$ works only if T is in Kelvin!

Then we can also use this for figuring out the absolute zero

