Created in the early 17th century, the gas laws have been around to assist scientists in finding volumes, amount, pressures and temperature when coming to matters of gas. The gas laws consist of three primary laws: Charles’ Law, Boyle’s Law and Avogadro’s Law (all of which will later combine into the General Gas Equation and Ideal Gas Law).

### Introduction

The three fundamental gas laws discover the relationship of pressure, temperature, volume and amount of gas. Boyle’s Law tells us that the volume of gas increases as the pressure decreases. Charles’ Law tells us that the volume of gas increases as the temperature increases. And Avogadro’s Law tell us that the volume of gas increases as the amount of gas increases. The ideal gas law is the combination of the three simple gas laws.

### Ideal Gases

Ideal gas, or perfect gas, is the theoretical substance that helps establish the relationship of four gas variables, pressure \(P\), volume \(V\), the amount of gas \(n\) and temperature \(T\). It has characters described as follow:

1. The particles in the gas are extremely small, so the gas does not occupy any spaces.
2. The ideal gas has constant, random and straight-line motion.
3. No forces between the particles of the gas. Particles only collide elastically with each other and with the walls of container.

### Real Gases

Real gas, in contrast, has real volume and the collision of the particles is not elastic, because there are attractive forces between particles. As a result, the volume of real gas is much larger than of the ideal gas, and the pressure of real gas is lower than of ideal gas. All real gases tend to perform ideal gas behavior at low pressure and relatively high temperature.

The compressibility factor \(Z\) tells us how much the real gases differ from ideal gas behavior.

\[
Z = \frac{PV}{nRT}
\]

For ideal gases, \(Z = 1\). For real gases, \(Z \neq 1\).

### Boyle’s Law

In 1662, Robert Boyle discovered the correlation between Pressure \(P\) and Volume \(V\) (assuming Temperature \(T\) and Amount of Gas \(n\) remain constant):

\[
P \propto \frac{1}{V} \rightarrow PV = x
\]

where \(x\) is a constant depending on amount of gas at a given temperature.

- Pressure is inversely proportional to Volume
Another form of the equation (assuming there are 2 sets of conditions, and setting both constants to each other) that might help solve problems is:

\[ P_1V_1 = x = P_2V_2 \]

**Example 1.1**

A 17.50mL sample of gas is at 4.500 atm. What will be the volume if the pressure becomes 1.500 atm, with a fixed amount of gas and temperature?

**SOLUTION**

\[ V_2 = \frac{P_1 \cdot V_1}{P_2} \]

\[ = \frac{4.500 \text{ atm} \cdot 17.50 \text{mL}}{1.500 \text{ atm}} \]

\[ = 52.50 \text{mL} \]
Charles’ Law

In 1787, French physicists Jacques Charles, discovered the correlation between Temperature (\(T\)) and Volume (\(V\)) (assuming Pressure (\(P\)) and Amount of Gas (\(n\)) remain constant):

\[ V \propto T \rightarrow V = yT \]

where \(y\) is a constant depending on amount of gas and pressure. Volume is directly proportional to Temperature.

Another form of the equation (assuming there are 2 sets of conditions, and setting both constants to each other) that might help solve problems is:

\[ \frac{V_1}{T_1} = y = \frac{V_2}{T_2} \]

Example 1.2

A sample of Carbon dioxide in a pump has volume of 20.5 mL and it is at 40.0 °C. When the amount of gas and pressure remain constant, find the new volume of Carbon dioxide in the pump if temperature is increased to 65.0 °C.

Solution

\[ V_2 = \frac{V_1 \cdot T_2}{T_1} \]

\[ = \frac{20.5\text{mL} \cdot (60+273.15\text{K})}{40+273.15\text{K}} \]
Avogadro's Law

In 1811, Amedeo Avogadro fixed Gay-Lussac's issue in finding the correlation between the Amount of gas\( (n) \) and Volume\((V)\) (assuming Temperature\((T)\) and Pressure\((P)\) remain constant):

\[
V \propto n \rightarrow V = zn
\]

where \(z\) is a constant depending on Pressure and Temperature.

- Volume\((V)\) is directly proportional to the Amount of gas\((n)\)

Another form of the equation (assuming there are 2 sets of conditions, and setting both constants to each other) that might help solve problems is:

\[
\frac{P_1}{n_1} = z = \frac{P_2}{n_2}
\]

**Example 1.3**

A 3.80 g of oxygen gas in a pump has volume of 150 mL, constant temperature and pressure. If 1.20g of oxygen gas is added into the pump. What will be the new volume of oxygen gas in the pump if temperature and pressure held constant?

**SOLUTION**
\[ V_1 = 150 \text{ mL} \]
\[ n_1 = \frac{m_1}{M_{\text{oxygen gas}}} \]
\[ n_2 = \frac{m_2}{M_{\text{oxygen gas}}} \]
\[ V_2 = \frac{V_1 \cdot n_2}{n_1} \]
\[ = \frac{150 \text{ mL} \cdot \frac{5.00 \text{ g}}{32.0 \text{ g mol}^{-1}} \cdot \frac{3.80 \text{ g}}{32.0 \text{ g mol}^{-1}}}{n_1} \]
\[ = 197 \text{ mL} \]

**Ideal Gas Law**

The ideal gas law is the combination of the three simple gas laws. By setting all three laws directly or inversely proportional to Volume, you get:

\[ V \propto \frac{nT}{P} \]

Next replacing the directly proportional to sign with a constant \( R \) you get:

\[ V = \frac{RnT}{P} \]

And finally get the equation:

\[ PV = nRT \]

where \( P \) = the absolute pressure of ideal gas

- \( V \) = the volume of ideal gas
- \( n \) = the amount of gas
- \( T \) = the absolute temperature
- \( R \) = the gas constant

Here, \( R \) is the called the gas constant. The value of \( R \) is determined by experimental results. Its numerical value changes with units.

\[ R = \text{gas constant} = 8.3145 \text{ Joules} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \text{ (SI Unit)} \]
\[ = 0.082057 \text{ L} \cdot \text{atm} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \]

**Example 1.4**
At 655mm Hg and 25.0°C, a sample of Chlorine gas has volume of 750mL. How many moles of Chlorine gas at this condition?

- P=655mm Hg
- T=25+273.15K
- V=750mL=0.75L

\[ n=\frac{PV}{RT} \]
\[ =\frac{655\text{mm Hg} \cdot \frac{1\text{ atm}}{760\text{mm Hg}} \cdot 0.75\text{L}}{0.082057\text{L} \cdot \text{atm} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \cdot (25+273.15\text{K})} \]
\[ =0.026\text{ mol} \]

**Evaluation of the Gas Constant, R**

You can get the numerical value of gas constant, R, from the ideal gas equation, \( PV=nRT \). At standard temperature and pressure, where temperature is 0°C, or 273.15 K, pressure is at 1 atm, and with a volume of 22.4140L,

\[ R=\frac{PV}{RT} \]
\[ =\frac{1\text{ atm} \cdot 22.4140\text{L}}{1\text{ mol} \cdot 273.15\text{K}} \]
\[ =0.082057\text{ L} \cdot \text{atm} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \]

\[ R=\frac{PV}{RT} \]
\[ =\frac{1\text{ atm} \cdot 2.24140 \cdot 10^{-2}\text{m}^3}{1\text{ mol} \cdot 273.15\text{K}} \]
\[ = 8.3145\text{ m}^3\cdot \text{Pa} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \]

**General Gas Equation**

In an Ideal Gas situation, \( \frac{PV}{nRT} = 1 \) (assuming all gases are “ideal” or perfect). In cases where \( \frac{PV}{nRT} \neq 1 \) or if there are multiple sets of conditions (Pressure(P), Volume(V), number of gas(n), and Temperature(T)), use the General Gas Equation:

Assuming 2 set of conditions:

**Initial Case:** Final Case:
\[ P_iV_i = n_iRT_i \quad \quad \quad P_fV_f = n_fRT_f \]

Setting both sides to R (which is a constant with the same value in each case), one gets:

\[ R = \frac{P_iV_i}{n_iT_i} = \frac{P_fV_f}{n_fT_f} \]

If one substitutes one R for the other, one will get the final equation and the General Gas Equation:

\[ \frac{P_iV_i}{n_iT_i} = \frac{P_fV_f}{n_fT_f} \]

**Standard Conditions**

If in any of the laws, a variable is not given, assume that it is given. For constant temperature, pressure and amount:

1. Absolute Zero (Kelvin): \( 0 \, K = -273.15 \, ^\circ C \)

\[ T(K) = T(\circ C) + 273.15 \quad (unit \ of \ the \ temperature \ must \ be \ Kelvin) \]

2. Pressure: 1 Atmosphere (760 mmHg)

3. Amount: 1 mol = 22.4 Liter of gas

4. In the Ideal Gas Law, the gas constant \( R = 8.3145 \) Joules \cdot mol^{-1} \cdot K^{-1} \\
   = 0.082057 \, L \cdot atm\cdot K^{-1} \cdot mol^{-1}

**The Van der Waals Equation For Real Gases**

Dutch physicist Johannes Van Der Waals developed an equation for describing the deviation of real gases from the ideal gas. There are two correction terms added into the ideal gas equation. They are \( 1 + a \frac{n^2}{V^2} \), and \( \frac{1}{V-nb} \).

Since the attractive forces between molecules do exist in real gases, the pressure of real gases is actually lower than of the ideal gas equation. This condition is considered in the van der waals equation. Therefore, the correction term \( 1 + a \frac{n^2}{V^2} \) corrects the pressure of real gas for the effect of attractive forces between gas molecules.

Similarly, because gas molecules have volume, the volume of real gas is much larger than of the ideal gas, the correction term \( (V-nb) \) is used for correcting the volume filled by gas molecules.

**Practice Problems**

1. If 4L of \( \text{H}_2 \) gas at 1.43 atm is at standard temperature, and the pressure were to increase by a factor of 2/3, what is the final volume of the \( \text{H}_2 \) gas? (Hint: Boyle's Law)

2. If 1.25L of gas exists at 35\(^\circ\)C with a constant pressure of .70 atm in a cylindrical block and the volume were to be multiplied by a factor of 3/5, what is the new temperature of the gas? (Hint: Charles's Law)
3. A ballon with 4.00g of Helium gas has a volume of 500mL. When the temperature and pressure remain constant. What will be the new volume of Helium in the ballon if another 4.00g of Helium is added into the ballon? (Hint: Avogadro’s Law)

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**Solutions**

1. **2.40L**

To solve this question you need to use Boyle’s Law:

\[
P_1 V_1 = P_2 V_2
\]

Keeping the key variables in mind, temperature and the amount of gas is constant and therefore can be put aside, the only ones necessary are:

1. Initial Pressure: 1.43 atm
2. Initial Volume: 4 L
3. Final Pressure: 1.43\times1.67 = 2.39
4. Final Volume (unknown): \(V_2\)

Plugging these values into the equation you get:

\[
V_2 = \frac{1.43 \text{ atm} \times 4 \text{ L}}{2.39 \text{ atm}} = 2.38 \text{ L}
\]

2. **184.89 K**

To solve this question you need to use Charles’s Law:

\[
\frac{V_1}{T_1} = \frac{V_2}{T_2}
\]

Once again keep the key variables in mind. The pressure remained constant and since the amount of gas is not mentioned, we assume it remains constant. Otherwise the key variables are:

1. Initial Volume: 1.25 L
2. Initial Temperature: \(35^\circ\text{C} + 273.15 = 308.15\text{K}\)
3. Final Volume: \(1.25L \times \frac{3}{5} = .75 \text{ L}\)
4. Final Temperature: \(T_2\)

Since we need to solve for the final temperature you can rearrange Charles’s:
\[ T_2 = \frac{T_1 V_2}{V_1} \]

Once you plug in the numbers, you get: \( T_2 = \frac{(308.15 \text{ K} \times 0.75 \text{ L})}{(1.25 \text{ L})} = 184.89 \text{ K} \)

3. 1000 mL or 1L

Using Avogadro’s Law to solve this problem, you can switch the equation into \( V_2 = \frac{n_1 \cdot V_2}{n_2} \). However, you need to convert grams of Helium gas into moles.

\[ n_1 = \frac{4.00 \text{ g}}{4.00 \text{ g/mol}} = \text{1 mol} \]

Similarly, \( n_2 = 2 \text{ mol} \)

\[ V_2 = \frac{2 \text{ mol} \cdot 500 \text{ mL}}{1 \text{ mol}} = 1000 \text{ mL or 1L} \]

References


Outside Links

- [http://www.chem.queensu.ca/people/faculty/mombourquette/firstyrchem/GasLaws/index.htm](http://www.chem.queensu.ca/people/faculty/mombourquette/firstyrchem/GasLaws/index.htm)
- [http://vimeo.com/10588774](http://vimeo.com/10588774)