## Thermal concepts

## TEMPERATURE AND HEAT FLOW

Hot and cold are just labels that identify the direction in which thermal energy (sometimes known as heat) will be naturally transferred when two objects are placed in thermal contact. This leads to the concept of the 'hotness' of an object. The direction of the natural flow of thermal energy between two objects is determined by the 'hotness' of each object. Thermal energy naturally flows from hot to cold.
The temperature of an object is a measure of how hot it is. In other words, if two objects are placed in thermal contact, then the temperature difference between the two objects will determine the direction of the natural transfer of thermal energy. Thermal energy is naturally transferred 'down' the temperature difference - from high temperature to low temperature. Eventually, the two objects would be expected to reach the same temperature. When this happens, they are said to be in thermal equilibrium.
Heat is not a substance that flows from one object to another. What has happened is that thermal energy has been transferred. Thermal energy (heat) refers to the non-mechanical transfer of energy between a system and its surroundings.


## KELVIN AND CELSIUS

Most of the time, there are only two sensible temperature scales to chose between - the Kelvin scale and the Celsius scale.

In order to use them, you do not need to understand the details of how either of these scales has been defined, but you do need to know the relation between them. Most everyday thermometers are marked with the Celsius scale and temperature is quoted in degrees Celsius $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$.

There is an easy relationship between a temperature $T$ as measured on the Kelvin scale and the corresponding temperature $t$ as measured on the Celsius scale. The approximate relationship is

$$
T(\mathrm{~K})=t\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)+273
$$

This means that the 'size' of the units used on each scale is identical, but they have different zero points.


The Kelvin scale is an absolute thermodynamic temperature scale and a measurement on this scale is also called the absolute temperature.
Zero Kelvin is called absolute zero (see page 29).

In order to investigate how these quantities are interrelated, we choose:

- one quantity to be the independent variable (the thing we alter and measure)
- another quantity to be the dependent variable (the second thing we measure).
- The third quantity needs to be controlled (i.e. kept constant). The specific values that will be recorded also depend on the mass of gas being investigated and the type of gas being used so these need to be controlled as well.


## EXAMPLES: GASES

For a given sample of a gas, the pressure, the volume and the temperature are all related to one another.

- The pressure, $P$, is the force per unit area from the gas acting at $90^{\circ}$ on the container wall.

$$
p=\frac{F}{A}
$$

The SI units of pressure are $\mathrm{N} \mathrm{m}^{-2}$ or Pa (Pascals).
$1 \mathrm{~Pa}=1 \mathrm{~N} \mathrm{~m}^{-2}$
Gas pressure can also be measured in atmospheres ( $1 \mathrm{~atm} \approx 10^{5} \mathrm{~Pa}$ )

- The volume, $V$, of the gas is measured in $\mathrm{m}^{3}$ or $\mathrm{cm}^{3}$ $\left(1 \mathrm{~m}^{3}=10^{6} \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$
- The temperature, $t$, of the gas is measured in ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ or K


## MICROSCOPIC VS MACROSCOPIC

When analysing something physical, we have a choice.

- The macroscopic point of view considers the system as a whole and sees how it interacts with its surroundings.
- The microscopic point of view looks inside the system to see how its component parts interact with each other.
So far we have looked at the temperature of a system in a macroscopic way, but all objects are made up of atoms and molecules.

According to kinetic theory these particles are constantly in random motion - hence the name. See below for more details. Although atoms and molecules are different things (a molecule is a combination of atoms), the difference is not important at this stage. The particles can be thought of as little 'points' of mass with velocities that are continually changing.

## INTERNAL ENERGY

If the temperature of an object changes then it must have gained (or lost) energy. From the microscopic point of view, the molecules must have gained (or lost) this energy.
The two possible forms are kinetic energy and potential energy.
 resultant force back to ards equilibrium position due to neighbouring molecules $\therefore$ molecule has PE

- The molecules have kinetic energy because they are moving. To be absolutely precise, a molecule can have either translational kinetic energy (the whole molecule is moving in a certain direction) or rotational kinetic energy (the molecule is rotating about one or more axes).
- The molecules have potential energy because of the intermolecular forces. If we imagine pulling two molecules further apart, this would require work against the intermolecular forces.
The total energy that the molecules possess (random kinetic plus inter molecule potential) is called the internal energy of a substance. Whenever we heat a substance, we increase its internal energy.
Temperature is a measure of the average kinetic energy of the molecules in a substance.
If two substances have the same temperature, then their molecules have the same average kinetic energy.

molecules with large mass moving with
molecules with small mass moving with higher average speed


## KINETIC THEORY

Molecules are arranged in different ways depending on the phase of the substance (i.e. solid, liquid or gas).

## SOLIDS

Macroscopically, solids have a fixed volume and a fixed shape. This is because the molecules are held in position by bonds. However the bonds are not absolutely rigid. The molecules vibrate around a mean (average) position. The higher the temperature, the greater the vibrations.


The molecules in a solid are held close together $b$ the intermolecular bonds.

## LIOUIDS

A liquid also has a fixed volume but its shape can change. The molecules are also vibrating, but they are not completely fixed in position. There are still strong forces between the molecules. This keeps the molecules close to one another, but they are free to move around each other.


## GASES

A gas will always expand to fill the container in which it is put. The molecules are not fixed in position, and any forces between the molecules are very weak. This means that the molecules are essentially independent of one another, but they do occasionally collide. More detail is given on page 31.


Molecules in random motion; no xed bonds between molecules so they are free to move

## HEAT AND WORK

Many people have confused ideas about heat and work. In answers to examination questions it is very common to read, for example, that 'heat rises' - when what is meant is that the transfer of thermal energy is upwards.

- When a force moves through a distance, we say that work is done. Work is the energy that has been transmitted from one system to another from the macroscopic point of view.
- When work is done on a microscopic level (i.e. on individual molecules), we say that heating has taken place. Heat is the energy that has been transmitted. It can either increase the kinetic energy of the molecules or their potential energy or, of course, both.
In both cases energy is being transferred.


## Specific heat capacity

## DEFINITIONS AND MICROSCOPIC EXPLANATION

In theory, i an object could be heated up with no energy loss, then the increase in temperature $\Delta T$ depends on three things:

- the energy given to the object $Q$,
- the mass, $m$, and
- the substance rom which the object is made.


Two di erent blocks with the same mass and same energy input will have a di erent temperature change.

We define the thermal capacity $C$ o an object as the energy required to raise its temperature by 1 K . Di erent objects (even di erent samples o the same substance) will have di erent values o heat capacity. Specific heat capacity is the energy required to raise a unit mass o a substance by 1 K . 'Specific' here just means 'per unit mass'.
In symbols,
Thermal capacity $\mathrm{C}=\frac{Q}{\Delta T}\left(\mathrm{~J} \mathrm{~K}^{-1}\right.$ or $\left.\mathrm{J}^{\circ} \mathrm{C}^{-1}\right)$
Specific heat capacity

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{c}=\frac{Q}{(m \Delta T)}\left(\mathrm{J} \mathrm{~kg}^{-1} \mathrm{~K}^{-1} \mathrm{or}_{\mathrm{J} \mathrm{~kg}}{ }^{-1}{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}^{-1}\right) \\
& \mathrm{Q}=m \mathrm{c} \Delta T
\end{aligned}
$$

## Note

- A particular gas can have many di erent values o specific heat capacity - it depends on the conditions used - see page 161.
- These equations re er to the temperature di erence resulting rom the addition o a certain amount o energy. In other words, it generally takes the same amount o energy to raise the temperature o an object rom $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $35^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ as it does or the same object to go rom $402^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $412^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. This is only true so long as energy is not lost rom the object.
- I an object is raised above room temperature, it starts to lose energy. The hotter it becomes, the greater the rate at which it loses energy.


Temperature change $o$ an object being heated at a constant rate

## METHODS OF MEASURING HEAT CAPACITIES AND

 SPECIFIC HEAT CAPACITIESThe are two basic ways to measure heat capacity.

## 1. Electrical method

The experiment would be set up as below:


- the specific heat capacity $c=\frac{I t V}{m\left(T_{2}-T_{1}\right)}$.

Sources o experimental error

- loss o thermal energy rom the apparatus.
- the container or the substance and the heater will also be warmed up.
- it will take some time or the energy to be shared uni ormly through the substance.


## 2. Method o mixtures

The known specific heat capacity o one substance can be used to find the specific heat capacity o another substance.
before


Procedure:

- measure the masses o the liquids $m_{\mathrm{A}}$ and $m_{\mathrm{B}}$.
- measure the two starting temperatures $T_{\mathrm{A}}$ and $T_{\mathrm{B}}$.
- mix the two liquids together.
- record the maximum temperature o the mixture $T_{\max }$.

I no energy is lost rom the system then,
energy lost by hot substance cooling down = energy gained by cold substance heating up
$m_{\mathrm{A}} c_{\mathrm{A}}\left(T_{\mathrm{A}}-T_{\text {max }}\right)=m_{\mathrm{B}} c_{\mathrm{B}}\left(T_{\text {max }}-T_{\mathrm{B}}\right)$
Again, the main source o experimental error is the loss o thermal energy rom the apparatus; particularly while the liquids are being trans erred. The changes o temperature o the container also need to be taken into consideration or a more accurate result.

## Phases [states] of matter and latent heat

## DEFINITIONS AND MICROSCOPIC VIEW

When a substance changes phase, the temperature remains constant even though thermal energy is still being trans erred.


Cooling curve or molten lead (idealized)
The amount o energy associated with the phase change is called the latent heat. The technical term or the change o phase rom solid to liquid is usion and the term or the change rom liquid to gas is vaporization.
The energy given to the molecules does not increase their kinetic energy so it must be increasing their potential energy. Intermolecular bonds are being broken and this takes energy. When the substance reezes bonds are created and this process releases energy.
It is a very common mistake to think that the molecules must speed up during a phase change. The molecules in water vapour at $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ must be moving with the same average speed as the molecules in liquid water at $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.
The specific latent heat $o$ a substance is defined as the amount o energy per unit mass absorbed or released during a change o phase.
In symbols,
Specific latent heat $L=\frac{Q}{M} \quad\left(\mathrm{~J} \mathrm{~kg}^{-1}\right) \quad Q=\mathrm{ML}$
In the idealized situation o no energy loss, a constant rate o energy trans er into a solid substance would result in a constant rate o increase in temperature until the melting point is reached:


Phase-change graph with temperature vs energy
In the example above, the specific heat capacity o the liquid is less than the specific heat capacity o the solid as the gradient o the line that corresponds to the liquid phase is greater than the gradient o the line that corresponds to the solid phase. A given amount o energy will cause a greater increase in temperature or the liquid when compared with the solid.

## METHODS OF MEASURING

The two possible methods or measuring latent heats shown below are very similar in principle to the methods or measuring specific heat capacities (see previous page).

1. A method or measuring the specific latent heat $o$ vaporization $o$ water


The amount o thermal energy provided to water at its boiling point is calculated using electrical energy $=I t V$. The mass vaporized needs to be recorded.

- The specific latent heat $L=\frac{I t V}{\left(m_{1}-m_{2}\right)}$.

Sources o experimental error

- Loss o thermal energy rom the apparatus.
- Some water vapour will be lost be ore and a ter timing.

2. A method or measuring the specific latent heat o usion o water
Providing we know the specific heat capacity o water, we can calculate the specific latent heat o usion or water. In the example below, ice (at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) is added to warm water and the temperature $o$ the resulting mix is measured.


I no energy is lost rom the system then,
energy lost by water cooling down $=$ energy gained by ice $m_{\text {water }} c_{\text {water }}\left(T_{\text {water }}-T_{\text {mix }}\right)=m_{\text {ice }} L_{\text {usion }}+m_{\text {ice }} c_{\text {water }} T_{\text {mix }}$
Sources o experimental error

- Loss (or gain) o thermal energy rom the apparatus.
- I the ice had not started at exactly zero, then there would be an additional term in the equation in order to account or the energy needed to warm the ice up to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.
- Water clinging to the ice be ore the trans er.


## The gas la s 1

GAS LAWS
For the experimental methods shown below, the graphs below outline what might be observed.

## (a) constant volume


(b) constant pressure graph e trapolates

(c) constant temperature


Points to note:

- Although pressure and volume both vary linearly with Celsius temperature, neither pressure nor volume is proportional to Celsius temperature.
- A di erent sample o gas would produce a di erent straightline variation or pressure (or volume) against temperature but both graphs would extrapolate back to the same low temperature, $-273^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. This temperature is known as absolute zero.
- As pressure increases, the volume decreases. In act they are inversely proportional.

The trends can be seen more clearly i this in ormation is presented in a slightly di erent way.
(1) constant volume

(2) constant pressure

(3) constant temperature


From these graphs or a fixed mass o gas we can say that:

1. At constant $V, p \propto T$ or $\frac{p}{T}=$ constant (the pressure law)
2. At constant $p, V \propto T$ or $\frac{V}{T}=$ constant (Charles's law)
3. At constant $T, p \propto \frac{1}{V}$ or $p V=$ constant (Boyle's law)

These relationships are known as the ideal gas laws. The temperature is always expressed in Kelvin (see page 25). These laws do not always apply to experiments done with real gases. A real gas is said to 'deviate' rom ideal behaviour under certain conditions (e.g. high pressure).

## EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

1. Temperature $t$ as the independent variable; $P$ as the dependent variable; $V$ as the control.


- Fixed volume o gas is trapped in the flask. Pressure is measured by a pressure gauge.
- Temperature o gas altered by temperature o bath - time is needed to ensure bath and gas at same temperature.

2. Temperature $t$ as the independent variable; $V$ as the dependent variable; $P$ as the control.


- Volume o gas is trapped in capillary tube by bead o concentrated sul uric acid.
- Concentrated sul uric acid is used to ensure gas remains dry.
- Heating gas causes it to expand moving bead.
- Pressure remains equal to atmospheric.
- Temperature o gas altered by temperature o bath; time is needed to ensure bath and gas at same temperature.

3. $P$ as the independent variable; $V$ as the dependent variable; $t$ as the control.


- Volume o gas measured against calibrated scale.
- Increase o pressure orces oil column to compress gas.
- Temperature o gas will be altered when volume is changed; time is needed to ensure gas is always at room temperature.


## The gas la s 2

## EQUATION OF STATE

The three ideal gas laws can be combined together to produce one mathematical relationship.

$$
\frac{p V}{T}=\text { constant }
$$

This constant will depend on the mass and type o gas
I we compare the value o this constant or di erent masses o di erent gases, it turns out to depend on the number o molecules that are in the gas - not their type. In this case we use the definition o the mole to state that or $n$ moles o ideal gas

$$
\frac{p V}{n T}=\text { a universal constant. }
$$

The universal constant is called the molar gas constant $R$.
The SI unit or $R$ is $\mathrm{J} \mathrm{mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~K}^{-1}$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& R=8.314 \mathrm{~J} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~K}^{-1} \\
& \text { Summary: } \frac{p V}{n T}=R \quad \text { Or } p V=n R T
\end{aligned}
$$

## EXAMPLE

a) What volume will be occupied by 8 g o helium (mass number 4) at room temperature $\left(20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and atmospheric pressure ( $1.0 \times 10^{5} \mathrm{~Pa}$ )

$$
\begin{aligned}
& n=\frac{8}{4}=2 \text { moles } \\
& T=20+273=293 \mathrm{~K} \\
& V=\frac{n R T}{p}=\frac{2 \times 8.314 \times 293}{1.0 \times 10^{5}}=0.049 \mathrm{~m}^{3}
\end{aligned}
$$

b) How many atoms are there in 8 go helium (mass number 4)?

$$
n=\frac{8}{4}=2 \text { moles }
$$

number o atoms $=2 \times 6.02 \times 10^{23}$

$$
=1.2 \times 10^{24}
$$

## LINK BETWEEN THE MACROSCOPIC AND MICROSCOPIC

The equation o state or an ideal gas, $p V=n R T$, links the three macroscopic properties o a gas ( $p, V$ and $T$ ). Kinetic theory (page 26) describes a gas as being composed o molecules in random motion and or this theory to be valid, each o these macroscopic properties must be linked to the microscopic behaviour o molecules.

A detailed analysis o how a large number o randomly moving molecules interact beauti ully predicts another ormula that allows the links between the macroscopic and the microscopic to be identified. The derivation o the ormula only uses Newton's laws and a hand ul o assumptions. These assumptions describe rom the microscopic perspective what we mean by an ideal gas.

The detail o this derivation is not required by the IB syllabus but the assumptions and the approach are outlined on the ollowing page. The result o this derivation is that the pressure and volume o the idealized gas are related to just two quantities:

$$
p V=\frac{2}{3} N \bar{E}_{K}
$$

- The number o molecules present, $N$
- The average random kinetic energy per molecule, $\bar{E}_{K}$.


## Molecular model of an ideal gas

## KINETIC MODEL OF AN IDEAL GAS

Assumptions:

- Newton's laws apply to molecular behaviour
- there are no intermolecular forces except during a collision
- the molecules are treated as points
- the molecules are in random motion
- the collisions between the molecules are elastic (no energy is lost)
- there is no time spent in these collisions.

The pressure of a gas is explained as follows:


The pressure of a gas is a result of collisions between the molecules and the walls of the container.


A single molecule hitting the walls of the container.

- When a molecule bounces off the walls of a container its momentum changes (due to the change in direction - momentum is a vector).
- There must have been a force on the molecule from the wall (Newton II).
- There must have been an equal and opposite force on the wall from the molecule (Newton III).
- Each time there is a collision between a molecule and the wall, a force is exerted on the wall.
- The average of all the microscopic forces on the wall over a period of time means that there is effectively a constant force on the wall from the gas.
- This force per unit area of the wall is what we call pressure.

$$
P=\frac{F}{A}
$$

Since the temperature of a gas is a measure of the average kinetic energy of the molecules, as we lower the temperature of a gas the molecules will move slower. At absolute zero, we imagine the molecules to have zero kinetic energy. We cannot go any lower because we cannot reduce their kinetic energy any further!

## PRESSURE LAW

Macroscopically, at a constant volume the pressure of a gas is proportional to its temperature in kelvin (see page 29). Microscopically this can be analysed as follows

- If the temperature of a gas goes up, the molecules have more average kinetic energy - they are moving faster on average.
- Fast moving molecules will have a greater change of momentum when they hit the walls of the container.
- Thus the microscopic force from each molecule will be greater.
- The molecules are moving faster so they hit the walls more often.
- For both these reasons, the total force on the wall goes up.
- Thus the pressure goes up.
lo temperature high temperature

constant volume lo pressure

high pressure
Microscopic justification of the pressure law


## CHARLES'S LAW

Macroscopically, at a constant pressure, the volume of a gas is proportional to its temperature in kelvin (see page 29). Microscopically this can be analysed as follows

- A higher temperature means faster moving molecules (see left).
- Faster moving molecules hit the walls with a greater microscopic force (see left).
- If the volume of the gas increases, then the rate at which these collisions take place on a unit area of the wall must go down.
- The average force on a unit area of the wall can thus be the same.
- Thus the pressure remains the same.
lo temperature high temperature

lo volume
high volume
Microscopic justification of Charles's law


## BOYLE'S LAW

Macroscopically, at a constant temperature, the pressure of a gas is inversely proportional to its volume (see page 29). Microscopically this can be seen to be correct.

- The constant temperature of gas means that the molecules have a constant average speed.
- The microscopic force that each molecule exerts on the wall will remain constant.
- Increasing the volume of the container decreases the rate with which the molecules hit the wall average total force decreases.
- If the average total force decreases the pressure decreases.

lo volume
high volume
Microscopic justification of Boyle's law


## IB Quest ons - thermal phys cs

The following information relates to questions 1 and 2 below.
A substance is heated at a constant rate of energy transfer. A graph of its temperature against time is shown below.


1. Which regions of the graph correspond to the substance existing in a mixture of two phases?
A. KL, MN and OP
B. LM and NO
C. All regions
D. No regions
2. In which region of the graph is the specific heat capacity of the substance greatest?
A. KL
B. LM
C. MN
D. OP
3. When the volume of a gas is isothermally compressed to a smaller volume, the pressure exerted by the gas on the container walls increases. The best microscopic explanation for this pressure increase is that at the smaller volume
A. the individual gas molecules are compressed
B. the gas molecules repel each other more strongly
C. the average velocity of gas molecules hitting the wall is greater
D. the frequency of collisions with gas molecules with the walls is greater
4. A lead bullet is fired into an iron plate, where it deforms and stops. As a result, the temperature of the lead increases by an amount $\Delta T$. For an identical bullet hitting the plate with twice the speed, what is the best estimate of the temperature increase?
A. $\Delta T$
B. $2 \Delta T$
C. $2 \Delta T$
D. $4 \Delta T$
5. In winter, in some countries, the water in a swimming pool needs to be heated.
a) Estimate the cost of heating the water in a typical swimming pool from $5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to a suitable temperature for swimming. You may choose to consider any reasonable size of pool.
Clearly show any estimated values. The following information will be useful:

| Specific heat capacity of water | $4186 \mathrm{~J} \mathrm{~kg}^{-1} \mathrm{~K}^{-1}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Density of water | $1000 \mathrm{~kg} \mathrm{~m}^{-3}$ |
| Cost per kW h of electrical energy | $\$ 0.10$ |

(i) Estimated values
(ii) Calculations
b) An electrical heater for swimming pools has the following information written on its side:
$50 \mathrm{~Hz} \quad 2.3 \mathrm{~kW}$
(i) Estimate how many days it would take this heater to heat the water in the swimming pool.
(ii) Suggest two reasons why this can only be an approximation.
6. a) A cylinder fitted with a piston contains 0.23 mol of helium gas.


The following data are available for the helium with the piston in the position shown.

Volume $\quad=5.2 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{~m}^{3}$
Pressure $=1.0 \times 10^{5} \mathrm{~Pa}$
Temperature $=290 \mathrm{~K}$
(i) Use the data to calculate a value for the universal gas constant.
(ii) State the assumption made in the calculation in (a) (i).
7. This question is about determining the specific latent heat of fusion of ice.
A student determines the specific latent heat of fusion of ice at home. She takes some ice from the freezer, measures its mass and mixes it with a known mass of water in an insulating jug. She stirs until all the ice has melted and measures the final temperature of the mixture. She also measured the temperature in the freezer and the initial temperature of the water.
She records her measurements as follows:

| Mass of ice used | $m_{\mathrm{i}}$ | 0.12 kg |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Initial temperature of ice | $T_{\mathrm{i}}$ | $-12{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Initial mass of water | $m_{\mathrm{w}}$ | 0.40 kg |
| Initial temperature of water | $T_{\mathrm{w}}$ | $22^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Final temperature of mixture | $T_{\mathrm{f}}$ | $15{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |

The specific heat capacities of water and ice are $c_{\mathrm{w}}=4.2 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~kg}^{-1}{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}^{-1}$ and $c_{\mathrm{i}}=2.1 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~kg}^{-1}{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}^{-1}$
a) Set up the appropriate equation, representing energy transfers during the process of coming to thermal equilibrium, that will enable her to solve for the specific latent heat $L_{\mathrm{i}}$ of ice. Insert values into the equation from the data above, but do not solve the equation.
b) Explain the physical meaning of each energ transfer term in your equation (but not each symbol).
c) State an assumption you have made about the experiment, in setting up your equation in (a).
d) Why should she take the temperature of the mixture immediatel after all the ice has melted?
e) Explain from the microscopic point of view, in terms of molecular behaviour, why the temperature of the ice does not increase while it is melting.

