# THERMAL

PHYSICS

## SPECIFIC HEAT CAPACITY

- How much energy in joules it takes to heat 1kg of a substance by 1K.
- The energy change is given by the mass x specific heat capacity x temperature change.
- $E = mc\Delta t$
- The specific heat capacity of water is 4200J/kg/K

## SPECIFIC LATENT HEAT

- Extra energy is required to change a substance from a solid to a liquid, or a liquid to a gas.
- While this is happening the temperature of the substance will not change.
- The **SPECIFIC LATENT HEAT OF FUSION** is the energy required to change 1kg of a substance from a solid to a liquid whilst it stays at a constant temperature.
- The **SPECIFIC LATENT HEAT OF VAPORISATION** is the energy required to change 1kg of a substance from a liquid to a gas whilst it stays at a constant temperature.
- $\Delta E = ml$

## SPECIFIC LATENT HEAT

- $\Delta E = ml$
- The latent heat of fusion of water: 3.3\*10<sup>5</sup>J/kg
- The latent heat of vaporisation of water:
  2.26\*10<sup>6</sup>J/kg



# **BROWNIAN MOTION**

- If two molecules with different kinetic energies collide, conservation of energy applies and the kinetic energy lost by one is molecule is gained by the other.
- No kinetic energy is transferred if the kinetic energy of the two molecules is the same.
- Temperature is directly proportional to kinetic energy, so particles at OC have the same energy regardless of state.
- SOLIDS: When heated the particles gain kinetic energy, but as their position is fixed, the kinetic energy results in **VIBRATION**.
- LIQUIDS: When heated some of the kinetic energy is TRANSLATIONAL (i.e.: causes the particles to move about without a fixed point) and some is VIBRATIONAL.
- GASES: All the kinetic energy of the molecules is **TRANSLATIONAL.**

# **BROWNIAN MOTION**

- Brownian motion is the constant, random motion of particles.
- This can be observed if watching smoke particles through a microscope, they are constantly being bombarded by the air particles, which are too small to see, and appear to vibrate randomly.

#### **BOYLES LAW**

• AT A CONSTANT TEMPERATURE THE PRESSURE P AND VOLUME V OF A GAS ARE INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL



Volume

• The higher the temperature the further the curve is from the origin.

#### CHARLES LAW

• AT CONSTANT PRESSURE, THE VOLUME V OF A GAS IS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO ITS ABSOLUTE TEMPERATURE, T (IN KELVIN).



#### THE PRESSURE LAW

• AT A CONSTANT VOLUME, THE PRESSURE P OF A GAS IS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO ITS ABSOLUTE TEMPERATURE T (IN KELVIN)



# THE IDEAL GAS LAW

- Combining the three gas laws gives us the ideal gas equation
- $\frac{pV}{T} = constant$ , or  $\frac{p_1V_1}{T_1} = \frac{p_2V_2}{T_2}$
- The constant depends on the **AMOUNT** of gas used, and is nR.
- **n** is the **NUMBER OF MOLES**
- R is the UNIVERSAL GAS CONSTANT 8.31Jmol<sup>-1</sup>K<sup>-1</sup>
- pV = nRT THE IDEAL GAS EQUATION

• 
$$\frac{p_1 V_1}{T_1} = \frac{p_2 V_2}{T_2}$$

- The constant can also be expressed using the NUMBER OF MOLECULES – N
- And k, THE BOLTZMANN CONSTANT which is equal to 1.38\*10<sup>-23</sup>
- pV = NkT

# ASSUMPTIONS OF THE IDEAL GAS LAW

- 1. The molecules in the gas can be considered small hard spheres.
- All collisions are perfectly elastic and motion is frictionless – no energy is lost in collisions and movement.
- 3. All newton's laws apply.
- 4. The distance between the molecules is on average much larger than the size of the molecules.
- 5. The gas molecules are constantly moving in random directions with a distribution of speeds.
- 6. There are no attractive of repulsive forces between the molecules or the surroundings.

## KINETIC ENERGY EQUATION

- The average translation kinetic energy of a molecule of gas is directly proportional to its absolute temperature.
- $KE \propto T$
- The constant is 1.5\*k

• So 
$$E = \frac{3}{2}kT$$

# **KINETIC THEORY**

• 
$$P = \frac{1}{3}Nm\overline{c^2}$$

- Derivation: If there is 1 molecule of gas in a container with equal dimensions, when it hits the wall it will bounce back with the same velocity – v
- Its momentum will change by 2mv.
- The next time it hits the wall it will have travelled a distance of 2d.
- It will take 2d/v to do this, so it will make v/2d collisions with the wall per unit time.

# **KINETIC THEORY**

- This makes the total rate of change of momentum (force) on the wall, the change of momentum of one molecule per collision, times the number of collisions per unit time.
- Hence F=2mv\*v/2d, F=mv<sup>2</sup>/d for one molecule
- There will be n molecules hitting the wall, so F=nmv<sup>2</sup>/d
- Pressure is force/area, so the pressure of the gas molecules hitting one side will be
- $Nmv^2/d^3$

# **KINETIC THEORY**

- $D^3$  is equal to the volume of the room, so  $P=nmv^2/V$
- Only a third of the molecules in the container will contribute to the pressure on one face of the wall as the molecules could be moving in three different directions (x,y,z), so:

• 
$$P = \frac{1}{3}nmv^2$$

• Because the velocity of each of the molecules is not the same we use the mean square speed -  $\overline{c^2}$ 

• Finally: 
$$P = \frac{1}{3}Nm\overline{c^2}$$