**Gas Laws: Overview**

**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)](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Physical_Chemistry/Physical_Properties_of_Matter/Gases/Gas_Pressure), *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**](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Physical_Chemistry/Physical_Properties_of_Matter/Gases/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 ***compressiblity factor (Z)*** tells us how much the real gases differ from ideal gas behavior.

*Z* =*PVnRT*

For ideal gases, *Z*=1. For real gases, *Z*≠1.

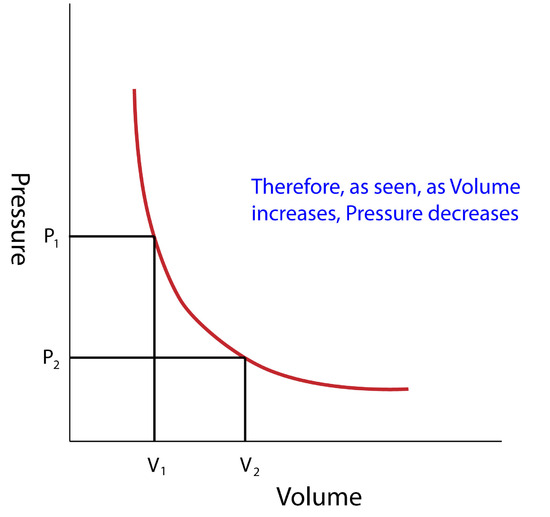
**Boyle's Law**

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

*P*∝1*V*→*PV*=*x*

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

* Pressure is inversely proportional to Volume



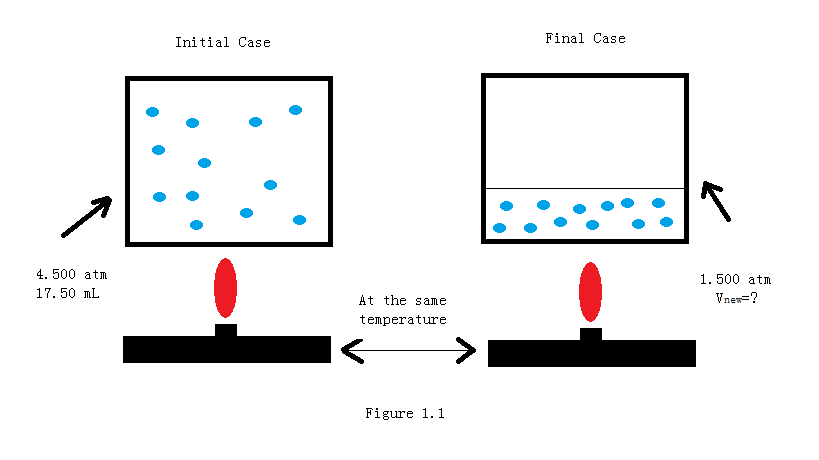
Another form of the equation (assuming there are 2 sets of conditions, and setting both constants to eachother) that might help solve problems is:

***P*1*V*1=*x*=*P*2*V*2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Example** |  |

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?

[](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/@api/deki/files/8693/figure2.png)

**Solution**

*V*2=*P*1⋅ *V*1*P*2

=4.500*atm*⋅17.50*mL*1.500*atm*

= 52.50*mL*

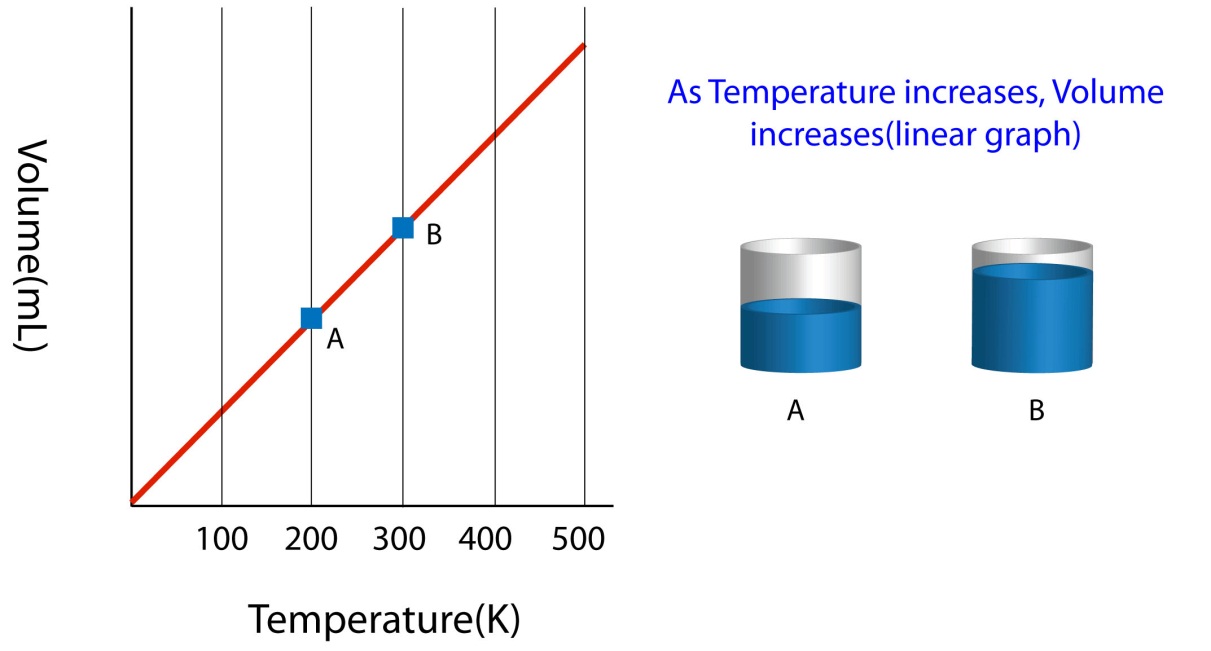
**Charles' Law**

In 1787, French physicists Jacques Charles, discovered the correlation between *Temperature(T)* and *Volume(V)* (assuming [*Pressure (P)*](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Physical_Chemistry/Physical_Properties_of_Matter/Gases/Gas_Pressure)and *Amount of Gas(n)* remain constant):

*V*∝*T*→*V*=*yT*

where y is a constant depending on amount of gas and pressure.

Volume is directly proportional to Temperature

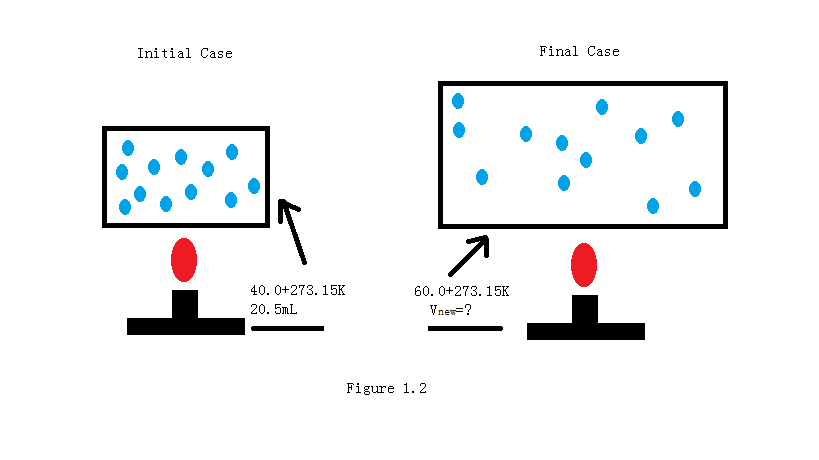
[](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/@api/deki/files/8688/CharlesLaw_(2).jpg)

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

***V*1*T*1=*y*=*V*2*T*2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Example** |  |

Example: 1.2   A sample of Carbon dioxide in a pump has volume of 20.5 mL and it is at 40.0 oC. 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 oC.

[](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/@api/deki/files/8691/figure_1.1.png)

**Solution**

*V*2=*V*1⋅*T*2*T*1

=20.5*mL*⋅(60+273.15*K*)40+273.15*K*

= 22.1*mL*

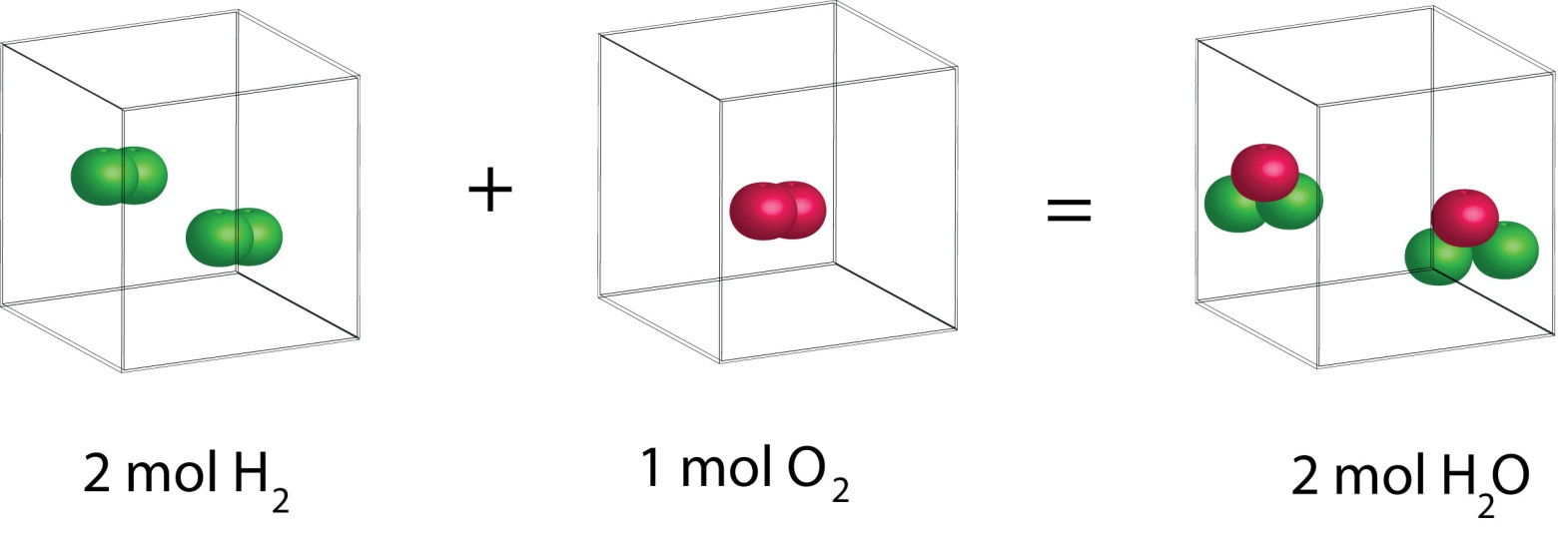
**Avogadro's Law**

 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)*](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Physical_Chemistry/Physical_Properties_of_Matter/Gases/Gas_Pressure)remain constant):

***V*∝*n*→*V*=*zn***

where z is a constant depending on Pressure and Temperature.

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

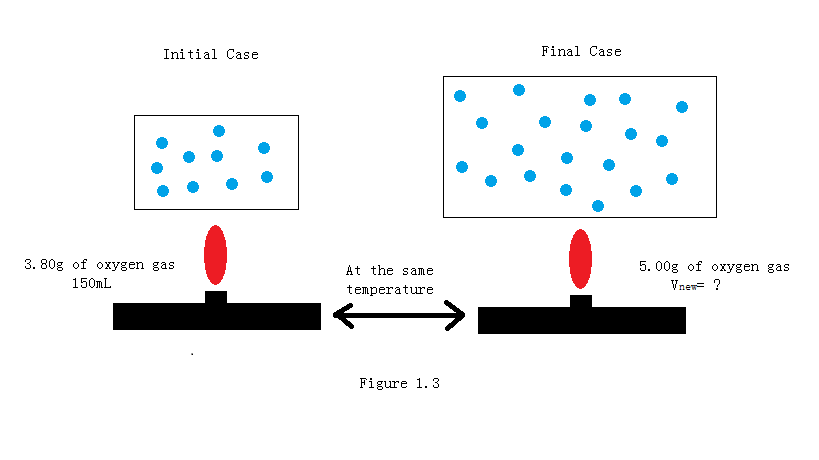
[](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/@api/deki/files/8681/Avogadro.jpg)

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

***P*1*n*1=*z*=*P*2*n*2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Example** |  |

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

**Solution[](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/@api/deki/files/8692/figure_3.png)**

V1=150 mL

*n*1=*m*1*Moxygengas*

*n*2=*m*2*Moxygengas*

*V*2=*V*1⋅*n*2*n*1

= \dfrac{150mL\centerdot \dfrac{5.00g}{32.0g \centerdot mol^-1} \dfrac{3.80g}{32.0g\centerdot mol^-1}

= 197*ml*

[**Ideal Gas Law**](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Physical_Chemistry/Physical_Properties_of_Matter/Gases/The_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*∝*nTP*

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

*V*=*RnTP*

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 = gas constant = 8.3145 Joules · mol-1· K-1(SI Unit)  
                = 0.082057 L · atm·K-1· mol-1**

Example 2.1   At 655mm Hg and 25.0oC, a sample of Chlorine gas has volume of 750mL. How many moles of Chlorine gas at this condition?

 Solution:

 P=655mm Hg

 T=25+273.15K

 V=750mL=0.75L

 n=?

**Solution**

*n*=*PVRT*

=655*mmHg*⋅1*atm*760*mmHg*⋅0.75*L*0.082057*L*⋅*atm*⋅*mol*−1⋅*K*−1⋅(25+273.15*K*)

=0.026*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 oC, or 273.15 K, pressure is at 1 atm, and with a volume of 22.4140L,

***R*=*PVRT***

**1*atm*⋅22.4140*L*1*mol*⋅273.15*K***

**=0.082057*L*⋅*atm*⋅*mol*−1*K*−1**

***R*=*PVRT***

**=1*atm*⋅2.24140⋅10−2*m*31*mol*⋅273.15*K***

**=8.3145*m*3*Pa*⋅*mol*−1⋅*K*−1**

**General Gas Equation**

In an Ideal Gas situation, *PVnRT*=1 (assuming all gases are "ideal" or perfect). In cases where *PVnRT*≠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:

***PiVi*=*niRTiPfVf*=*nfRTf***

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

***R*=*PiViniTiR*=*PfVfnfTf***

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

***PiViniTi*=*PfVfnfTf***

**Standard Conditions**

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

1. Absolute Zero (Kelvin):**0 K = -*273.15 oC***

***T(K) = T(oC) + 273.15  (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 · mol-1· K-1  
                                                                 = 0.082057 L · atm·K-1· 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+*an*2*V*2, and 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+*an*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 1−*nb*is used for correcting the volume filled by gas molecules.

**Practice Problems**

1. If 4L of H2 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 H2 gas? (Hint: Boyle's Law)
2. If 1.25L of gas exists at 35oC 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)

**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:

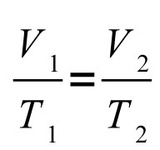
1. Initial Pressure: 1.43 atm
2. Initial Volume: 4 L
3. Final Pressure: 1.43x1.67 = 2.39
4. Final Volume(unknown): V2

Plugging these values into the equation you get:

V2=(1.43atm x 4 L)/(2.39atm) = 2.38 L

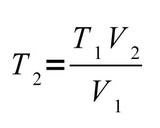
**2. 184.89 K**

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



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: 35oC + 273.15 = 308.15K
3. Final Volume: 1.25L\*3/5 = .75 L
4. Final Temperature: T2

Since we need to solve for the final temperature you can rearrange Charles's:  
  
                                                                                                    
Once you plug in the numbers, you get: T2=(308.15 K x .75 L)/(1.25 L) = 184.89 K

**3. 1000 mL or 1L**

Using Avogadro's Law to solve this problem, you can switch the equation into *V*2=*n*1⋅*V*2*n*2. However, you need to convert grams of Helium gas into moles.

*n*1=4.00*g*4.00*g*/*mol*=1 mol

Similarily, n2=2 mol

***V*2=*n*2⋅*V*2*n*1**

=2*mol*⋅500*mL*1*mol*

=1000 mL or 1L

**References**

1. Petrucci, Ralph H. *General Chemistry: Principles and Modern Applications*. 9th Ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007.
2. Staley, Dennis. *Prentice Hall Chemistry*. Boston, MA: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007.
3. Olander, Donald R. "Chapter2 Equation of State." *General Thermodynamics*. Boca Raton, NW: CRC, 2008. Print
4. O'Connell, John P., and J. M. Haile. "Properties Relative to Ideal Gases." *Thermodynamics: Fundamentals for Applications*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2005. Print.
5. Ghare, Shakuntala. "Ideal Gas Laws for One Component." *Ideal Gas Law, Enthalpy, Heat Capacity, Heats of Solution and Mixing*. Vol. 4. New York, NY, 1984. Print. F.

**Outside Links**

* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gas_laws>
* <http://www.chem.queensu.ca/people/faculty/mombourquette/firstyrchem/GasLaws/index.htm>
* <http://vimeo.com/10588774>