

Specific Volume, Pressure, Temperature

Density and Specific Volume

$$[\rho] = M/L^3 \quad \text{units: kg/m}^3, \text{ lb}_m/\text{ft}^3, \text{ slugs/ft}^3$$

$$[v] = L^3/M \quad \text{units: m}^3/\text{kg}, \text{ ft}^3/\text{lb}_m, \text{ ft}^3/\text{slug}$$

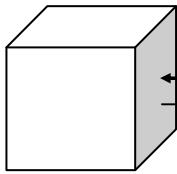
$$v = 1/\rho$$

$$\bar{v} = vM \quad \text{units: m}^3/\text{kmol} \quad (M \text{ is molecular weight with units kg/kmol or g/mol})$$

Pressure

$$[p] = F/L^2$$

units: Pa = N/m², lb_f/in² (psi), lb_f/ft² (psf), bar (= 10⁵ Pa), inHg, mmHg



pressure force is normal (at right angles) to the surface

$$d\mathbf{F}_n = -pdA\hat{\mathbf{n}}$$

surface with small area, dA , and outward pointing unit normal vector, $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$

“ d ” means very small, e.g., dA is a very small area and $d\mathbf{F}$ is a very small force. We use small quantities since over a large area, the pressure could vary from location to location. However, over a very small area the pressure is essentially constant. To get the total force over a large area, we can sum up all the small forces, i.e., integrate over the area: $\mathbf{F}_N = \int_A d\mathbf{F}_N = \int_A p dA(-\hat{\mathbf{n}})$.

absolute pressure: pressure referenced to a vacuum, e.g., $p_{\text{vacuum}} = 0$ (abs)

gage pressure: pressure referenced to the atmosphere, e.g., $p_{\text{atm}} = 0$ (gage)

$$p_{\text{gage}} = p_{\text{abs}} - p_{\text{atm,abs}}$$

Always use absolute pressure when using the ideal gas law and any equation derived using the ideal gas law.

$$p_{\text{atm}} = 101 \text{ kPa (abs)} = 14.7 \text{ psia} = 0 \text{ psig}$$

Temperature

Temperature is a measure of the random kinetic energy of the molecules comprising a substance.

$[\theta] = \theta$ units: °C, K, °F, °R

Always use absolute temperature when using the ideal gas law and any equation derived using the ideal gas law.

Some helpful conversions (the “ θ ” refers to temperature):

$$\theta(\text{K}) = 1.8 \theta(^{\circ}\text{R}) \quad (1.8 = 9/5)$$

$$\theta(^{\circ}\text{C}) = [\theta(^{\circ}\text{F}) - 32]/1.8$$

$$\theta(^{\circ}\text{C}) = \theta(\text{K}) - 273.15$$

$$\theta(^{\circ}\text{F}) = \theta(^{\circ}\text{R}) - 459.67$$

Another convenient conversion formula for casual usage (not scientific usage):

$$10^{\circ}\text{C} = 50^{\circ}\text{F} \quad (\text{for every } 5^{\circ}\text{C increase, add } 9^{\circ}\text{F})$$

Another very approximate approach,

$$\theta(^{\circ}\text{F}) \approx 2 * \theta(^{\circ}\text{C}) + 30 \quad (\text{will give a few degrees error over the range of typical weather temps})$$

$$\theta(^{\circ}\text{C}) \approx (\theta(^{\circ}\text{F}) - 30)/2$$