

Specific heat due to vibrational degrees of freedom of diatomic molecules

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Internal energy of diatomic molecules due to vibrations can be written as:

$$E = NK\theta_v \left[\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{e^{\theta_v/T} - 1} \right]$$

Now specific heat, C_v is defined as: $C_v = \left(\frac{\partial E}{\partial T} \right)_v$

$$\Rightarrow C_v = \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left[\frac{NK\theta_v}{2} + \frac{NK\theta_v}{e^{\theta_v/T} - 1} \right]$$

$$C_v = \frac{\partial (NK\theta_v)}{\partial T \cdot 2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left(\frac{NK\theta_v}{e^{\theta_v/T} - 1} \right)$$

$$C_v = 0 - \frac{NK\theta_v e^{\theta_v/T}}{(e^{\theta_v/T} - 1)^2} \left(-\frac{\theta_v}{T^2} \right)$$

$$C_v = NK \left(\frac{\theta_v}{T} \right) \frac{e^{\theta_v/T}}{(e^{\theta_v/T} - 1)^2}$$

C_v at high temperature limit

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} (C_v) = NK \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \left(\left(\frac{\theta_v}{T} \right)^2 \frac{e^{\theta_v/T}}{(e^{\theta_v/T} - 1)^2} \right)$$

$$\text{let } \frac{\theta_v}{T} = x$$

$$\Rightarrow C_v = NK \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{x^2 e^x}{(e^x - 1)^2} \right) = NK$$

$\Rightarrow x \rightarrow 0$

Method-I Rearranging the limits of functions.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{x}{e^x - 1} \right)^2 e^x$$

$$\text{Since } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{e^x - 1}{x} \right) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow 1^2 \cdot e^0 = 1$$

Thus, $C_0 = NK$

Method-II Applying L'Hopital Rule

$$\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2}{e^x - 1} \right) \left(\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^x \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{2x}{2(e^x - 1)e^x} \right) \cdot 1$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{x}{e^x - 1} \right) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{e^x} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{e^x} \right) \cdot 1 = \frac{1}{1} = 1 \quad (\text{Applying L'Hopital's Rule.})$$