

1. a) The molar specific heat of a diatomic gas is measured at constant volume and found to be $29.1 \text{ J}/(\text{mol K})$. What are the types of energy that are contributing to the molar specific heat?

- i. Translation only
- ii. Translation and rotation only
- iii. Translation and vibration only
- iv. Translation, rotation and vibration

Give a one sentence explanation of your answer.

b) Why does a diatomic gas have a greater energy content per mole than a monatomic gas at the same temperature?

a) $R = 8.31 \text{ J}/\text{mol K}$

$$C_m = \frac{xR}{2} \quad \text{where } x \text{ is the number of degrees of freedom}$$

$$x = \frac{2C_m}{R} = \frac{2(29.1 \text{ J}/\text{mol K})}{8.31 \text{ J}/\text{mol K}} = 7$$

The molar heat capacity of this gas is $\frac{7R}{2}$, which according to the equipartition theorem means there are 7 degrees of freedom that contribute to the internal energy of each molecule: 3 from translation, 2 from rotation and 2 from vibration.

b) Because the internal energy of the gas (the energy content) depends on the number of degrees of freedom of the molecules. A monatomic gas only has 3 degrees of freedom (from translation), while a diatomic gas has 5 degrees of freedom (neglecting vibration) or 7 (including vibration).

1.12 a) N_2 gas

molar mass of N: 14.01 g/mol, so for N_2 , $M = 2 \times 14.01 \text{ g/mol} = 28.02 \text{ g/mol}$

neglecting vibrations, N_2 has 5 degrees of freedom

$$\text{heat capacity per mole: } C_m = \frac{5}{2} R = \frac{5}{2} (8.315 \text{ J/Kmol}) = 20.8 \text{ J/Kmol}$$

$$\text{heat capacity per gram: } \frac{C_m}{M} = \frac{20.8 \text{ J/Kmol}}{28.02 \text{ g/mol}} = 0.742 \text{ J/Kg} = c_s$$

this is close to the experimental value of 0.743 J/Kg

b) CO_2 gas, assuming the molecule is linear (O-C-O)

$$M_C: 12.01 \text{ g/mol}$$

$$M_O: 16.0 \text{ g/mol}$$

$$M_{CO_2}: M_C + 2M_O = 44.01 \text{ g/mol}$$

neglecting vibrations and rotations about the molecular axis,
 CO_2 has five degrees of freedom

$$C_m = \frac{5}{2} R = 20.8 \text{ J/Kmol}$$

$$c_s = \frac{C_m}{M_{CO_2}} = \frac{20.8 \text{ J/Kmol}}{44.01 \text{ g/mol}} = 0.47 \text{ J/Kg}$$

this is smaller than the experimental value of 0.648 J/Kg

c) Ag, $M_{Ag}: 107.9 \text{ g/mol}$

$$C_m = 3R = 3(8.315 \text{ J/Kmol}) = 24.95 \text{ J/Kmol}$$

$$c_s = \frac{C_m}{M_{Ag}} = \frac{24.95 \text{ J/Kmol}}{107.9 \text{ g/mol}} = 0.231 \text{ J/Kg} \quad \text{close to the experimental value}$$

d) Si, $M_{Si}: 28.09 \text{ g/mol}$

$$C_m = 24.95 \text{ J/Kmol}$$

$$c_s = \frac{C_m}{M_{Si}} = \frac{24.95 \text{ J/Kmol}}{28.09 \text{ g/mol}} = 0.88 \text{ J/Kg}$$

larger than the experimental value