

# Phase stability and phase transitions

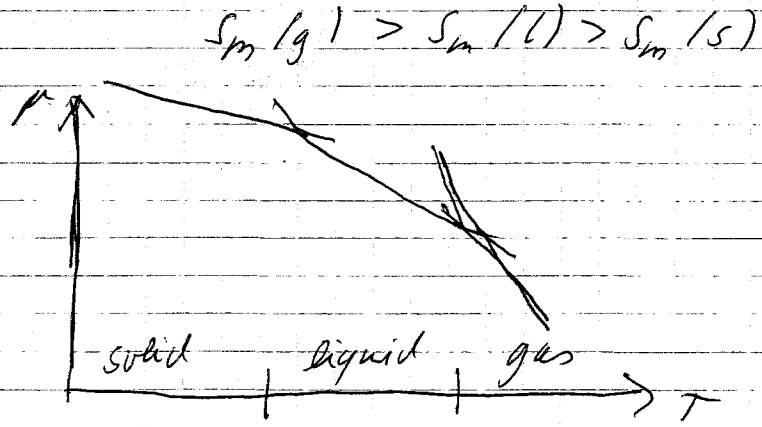
chemical potential  $\mu$ : for a one-component system it is the molar Gibbs energy  
 $\mu = G_m$

At equilibrium, the chemical potential of a substance is the same throughout a sample, regardless of how many phases are present

proof  $\mu_1 > \mu_2$  amount  $dn$  transferred from 1  $\rightarrow$  2

$\Rightarrow dG = (\mu_2 - \mu_1) dn < 0 \Rightarrow$  spontaneous reaction

$\left. \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial T} \right|_p = -S_m \Rightarrow$  temperature raised  $\Leftrightarrow$  chemical potential of pure substance decreases since  $S_m > 0$





Liquid vapour:

$$\frac{dp}{dT} = \frac{\Delta_{\text{vap}} H}{T \Delta_{\text{vap}} V} > 0, \text{ small}$$

$\rightarrow 0, \text{ large}$

$$\Delta_{\text{vap}} V \approx V_m(g) \quad \text{perfect: } V_m(g) = \frac{RT}{p}$$

$$\frac{dp}{dT} = \frac{\Delta_{\text{vap}} H}{T(RT/p)} \Rightarrow \frac{d \ln p}{dT} = \frac{\Delta_{\text{vap}} H}{RT^2} \quad \text{Clausius-Clapeyron}$$

$$\left( \frac{dx}{x} = d \ln x \right)$$

$\Delta_{\text{vap}} H$  temperature independent

$$p = p^* e^{-\chi} \quad \chi = \frac{\Delta_{\text{vap}} H}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{T^*} \right)$$

$\downarrow$   
vapor pressure at  $T^*$

Phase Transition, Ehrenfest classification

first-order phase transition  $\Leftrightarrow$  first derivative of the chemical potential with respect to temperature is discontinuous  
 heating required!

second-order phase transition  $\Leftrightarrow$  first derivative of  $\mu$  with respect to  $T$  is continuous but its second derivative is discontinuous  
 no jump in volume or entropy

$\lambda$ -transition  $\Leftrightarrow$  not first-order but heat capacity becomes infinite at transition temperature

# Phase transitions, the Ehrenfest classification:

transition from a phase  $\alpha$  to a phase  $\beta$

$$\left. \frac{\partial \mu_\beta}{\partial p} \right|_T - \left. \frac{\partial \mu_\alpha}{\partial p} \right|_T = V_{\beta,m} - V_{\alpha,m} = \Delta_{tr} V$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial \mu_\beta}{\partial T} \right|_p - \left. \frac{\partial \mu_\alpha}{\partial T} \right|_p = -S_{\beta,m} + S_{\alpha,m} = \Delta_{tr} S = - \frac{\Delta_{tr} H}{T_{tr}}$$

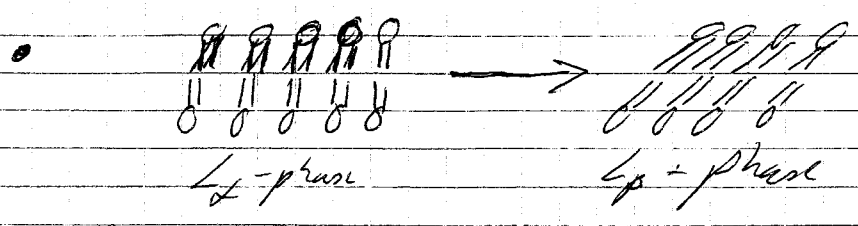
nonzero for melting and vaporization

## first-order phase transition:

- first derivative of the chemical potential with respect to temperature is discontinuous
- $C_p$  becomes infinite

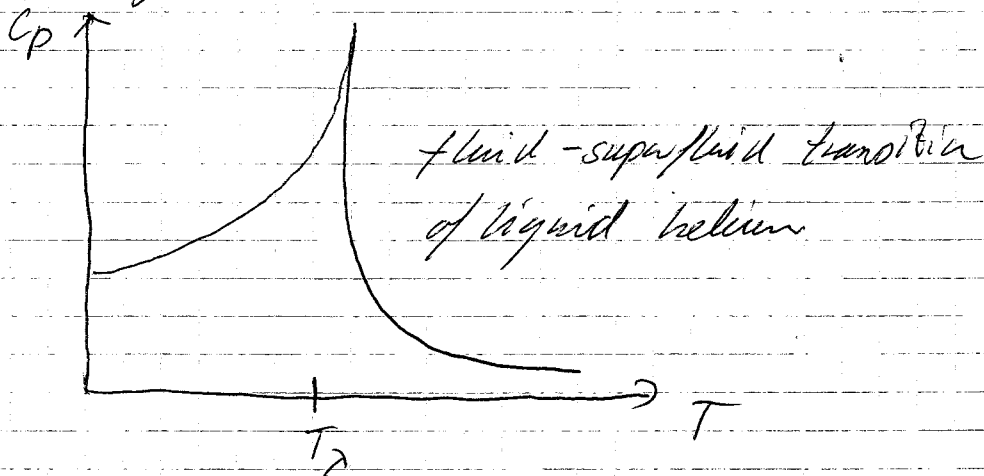
## second-order phase transition:

- first derivative of  $\mu$  with respect to temperature is continuous, but its second derivative is discontinuous
- volume and entropy (and hence the enthalpy) do jump at the transition
- $C_p$  is discontinuous but not infinite



$\lambda$ -transition:

- not first order, but heat capacity becomes infinite
- $c_p$  begins to increase well before the transition



• e.g.: order-disorder transition in  $\beta$ -brass ( $CuZn$ )

- orderly array of alternating  $Cu$  and  $Zn$ -atoms at low  $T$

- higher  $T \Rightarrow$  islands of disorder form  
transition becomes cooperative since these islands support further disorder

- at high  $T$  random array of atoms

# The liquid surface:

## surface tension $\gamma$

- liquids tend to minimize their surface
- work needed to change the surface area  $\omega$

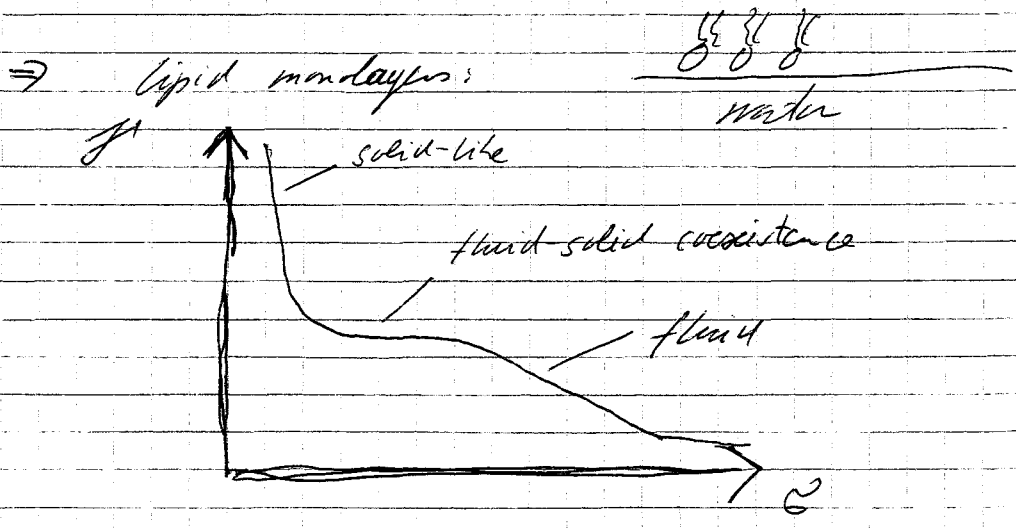
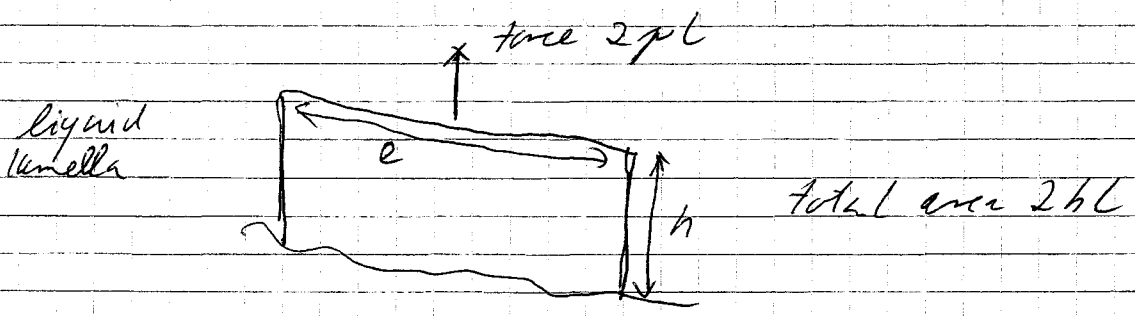
$$dW = \gamma d\omega = \gamma dA \Rightarrow dA < 0 \text{ for } d\omega < 0$$

$\swarrow$   
 $V = \text{const}$   
 $T = \text{const}$

i.e. surfaces have a natural tendency to contract

•  $[\gamma] = \frac{J}{m^2} = \frac{N}{m}$

## • Film balance



bubble: vapor or gas trapped by thin film

cavity: vapour<sup>or gas</sup>-filled hole in liquid

droplet: small volume of liquid in contact with vapour or gas



Laplace equation: 
$$p_{in} = p_{out} + \frac{2\sigma}{r}$$

proof: outward force acting on droplet:

$$4\pi r^2 p_{in}$$

inward force:  $4\pi r^2 p_{out}$   
from pressure

$$dW = \cancel{4\pi r^2 p_{in}} 4\pi (r + dr)^2 - 4\pi r^2 = 8\pi r dr$$

$dr^2 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow dW = 8\pi \sigma r dr$$

force opposing stretching:  $F = 8\pi \sigma r$

$$\Rightarrow \text{total inward force: } 4\pi r^2 p_{out} + 8\pi \sigma r$$

$$\text{equilibrium: } 4\pi r^2 p_{in} = 4\pi r^2 p_{out} + 8\pi \sigma r$$

## Rain clouds: "Nucleation"

46

difference in pressure decreases for  
small droplets

⇒ Kelvin equation

$$p = p_{\text{vap}}^c \cdot \exp\left(\frac{2\gamma}{r} \cdot \frac{1}{\rho \cdot R \cdot T}\right)$$

vapour pressure  
of a droplet of radius  
 $r$

⇒ microscopic water droplets which could  
form clouds are unstable due to increased  
vapour pressure, seeding of <sup>clouds</sup> ~~etc~~, bubble chamber

⇒ supersaturated vapour

nucleation centres are required!

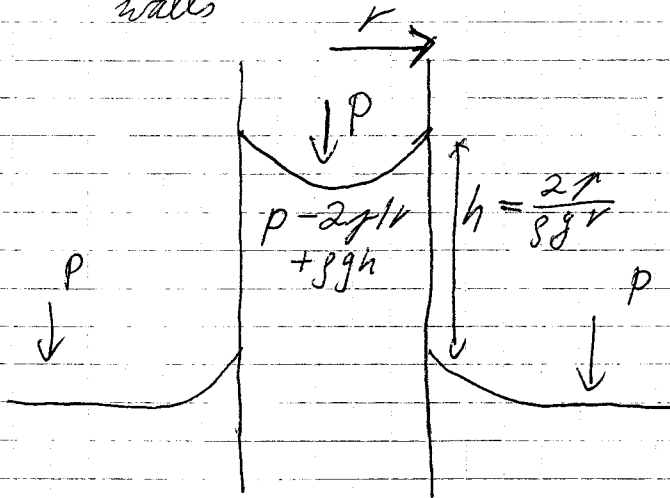
also superheated and supercooled liquids

unstirred  
beaker

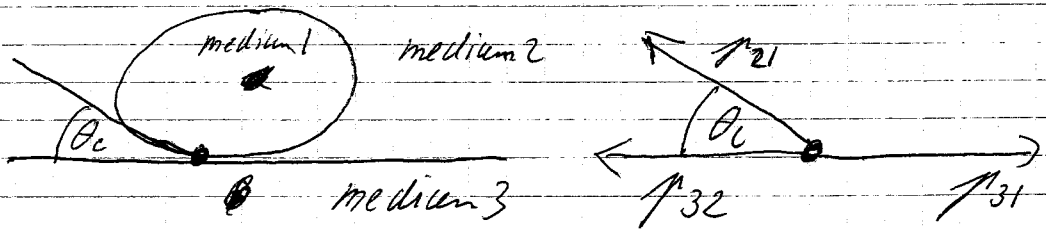


Capillary action:

Liquid that has a tendency to adhere to walls



The contact angle



$$\gamma_{31} = \gamma_{32} + \gamma_{21} \cos \theta_c \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \cos \theta_c = \frac{\gamma_{31} - \gamma_{32}}{\gamma_{21}}$$

work of adhesion of medium 1 to medium 3

$$W_{ad} = \gamma_{31} + \gamma_{21} - \gamma_{32}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\cos \theta_c = \frac{W_{ad}}{\gamma_{21}} - 1}$$

wetting:  $0^\circ < \theta_c < 90^\circ \Leftrightarrow 1 < \frac{W_{ad}}{\gamma_{21}} < 2$

non-wetting:  $90^\circ < \theta_c < 180^\circ \Leftrightarrow 0 < \frac{W_{ad}}{\gamma_{21}} < 1$

potential exercises:

- 6.15, 6.14, 6.9, 6.10

potential problems:

- 6.4, 6.7,