

## 3.020 Lecture 6

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# 1 Thermodynamic potentials and equilibrium

1. For fixed  $U$ , the entropy  $S$  is maximized at equilibrium.
  2. For fixed  $S$  and  $V$ , the internal energy  $U$  is minimized at equilibrium.
  3. For fixed  $S$  and  $P$ , the enthalpy  $H = U + PV$  is minimized at equilibrium.
  4. For fixed  $T$  and  $V$ , the Helmholtz free energy  $F = U - TS$  is minimized at equilibrium.
  5. For fixed  $T$  and  $P$ , the Gibbs free energy  $G = U - TS + PV$  is minimized at equilibrium
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## 2 Math note (aka fun with multi)

State functions and independent variables

- In 3.020, state functions are functions of most 3 independent variables.

$$\underbrace{\text{e.g.}} \quad dU = TdS - PdV + \mu dN$$

implies  $U = U(S, V, N)$

We may never know this state function for most materials but it's still a useful concept.

- Thermodynamic potentials have “natural” independent variables

$$\begin{aligned} S &= S(U, V) & F &= F(T, V) \\ U &= U(S, V) & G &= G(T, P) \\ H &= H(S, P) \end{aligned}$$

not writing “N” dependence to be compact

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- Thermodynamic potentials are related by a change of variables via Legendre transforms

$$\underbrace{U(S, V)} \iff H(S, P)$$

exchanging V for P,  $H = U + PV$

beyond scope of 3.020

### 3 Coefficient relations and independent variables

e.g.  $dU = TdS - PdV + \mu_i dN_i$

coefficients:  $T, P, \mu_i$

independent variables:  $S, V, N_i$

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial U}{\partial S}_{V, N_i} = T, \quad \frac{\partial U}{\partial V}_{S, N_i} = -P, \quad \frac{\partial U}{\partial N_i}_{S, V, N_{j \neq i}} = \mu_i}_{\text{coefficient relations}}$$

### 4 General strategy for deriving thermodynamic relations

Problem: Given dependent state variable  $Z$  and independent state variables  $(X, Y)$ , calculate  $\Delta Z$  for a given process.

e.g. Find  $\Delta V$  for a process involving a pressure change at fixed entropy (i.e. a reversible adiabatic process)

$$dV = \underbrace{X}_{\text{find these coefficients}} dP + \underbrace{Y}_{\text{find these coefficients}} dS$$

find these coefficients

1. Write exact differential

$$dV = \frac{\partial V}{\partial P}_S dP + \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}_P dS$$

Using  $X$  and  $Y$  as shorthand for unknown partial derivatives

2. Use DeHoff Table 4.5 to express  $dP, dS$  in terms of  $dP, dT$

$$dP = \underbrace{\quad}_0 dT + \underbrace{\quad}_1 dP \quad \text{trivial}$$

$$dS = \frac{C_P}{T} dT - V\alpha dP$$

$$dV = X dP + Y \left( \frac{C_P}{T} dT - V\alpha dP \right)$$

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3. Collect terms

$$dV = Y \frac{C_P}{T} dT + (X - YV\alpha) dP$$

4. Compare to known coefficients

$$dV = V\alpha dT - V\beta dP \quad \text{'from Table 4.5'}$$

and equate

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial T}_P = Y \frac{C_P}{T} = V\alpha$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial T}_P = X - YV\alpha = -V\beta$$

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5. Solve for unknowns  $X, Y$

$$Y = \frac{V\alpha T}{C_P}, \quad X = \frac{V^2\alpha^2 T}{C_P} - V\beta$$

$$\Rightarrow dV = \underbrace{\left( \frac{V^2\alpha^2 T}{C_P} - V\beta \right)}_{\text{at fixed entropy}} dP + \frac{V\alpha T}{C_P} dS$$

integrate this to find change  $\Delta V$  for pressure change at fixed entropy

for ideal gas, simplifies to

$$X = -\frac{V}{P} \frac{C_P - R}{C_P}$$

leading to  $\frac{P_{final}}{P_{initial}} = \left(\frac{V_{initial}}{V_{final}}\right)^\gamma, \quad \gamma = \frac{C_P}{C_V}$

in PSet 2, calculate  $dG = \underbrace{\quad} dP + \underbrace{\quad} dS$

## 5 Equilibrium at fixed $T$ and $P$

$G = U + PV - TS$  is minimized

$$dG = dU + PdV + VdP - TdS - SdT \quad \leftarrow \text{chain rule}$$

$$= TdS - PdV + \mu_i dN_i + PdV + VdP - TdS - SdT \quad \leftarrow \text{combined statement}$$

$$= -SdT + VdP + \mu_i dN_i$$

- independent variables:  $T, P, N_i$
- coefficients:  $-S, V, \mu_i$
- by inspection:

$$-S = \frac{\partial G}{\partial T}_{P, N_i}$$

$$V = \frac{\partial G}{\partial P}_{T, N_i}$$

$$\mu_i = \frac{\partial G}{\partial N_i}_{T, P, N_{j \neq i}}$$

- at fixed  $T$  and  $P$ ,  $dT = 0$  and  $dP = 0$ , and equilibrium condition reduces to

$$dG = -S \underbrace{dT}_0 + V \underbrace{dP}_0 + \mu_i dN_i = 0$$

because  $G$  is minimized at equilibrium

- for multicomponent, heterogeneous systems, this becomes  $dG = \mu_i^k dN_i^k$   
superscript k = phase label    subscript i = component label
  - evaluating equilibrium requires knowing how components can exchange between phases, and the effect on the  $\mu_i^k$ s
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- About independent (“natural”) variables
  - If a variable is regulated, a.k.a held constant, then it should be independent
  - Identifying independent & dependent variables from problem statements is KEY to success at thermodynamics
    - e.g. “... *at fixed pressure*...” → choose  $P$  as one independent variable
    - e.g. “...*adiabatic process*...” → choose  $S$  as one independent variable
    - e.g. “...*with temperature held constant*...” → choose  $T$  as one independent variable
    - etc.

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