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Understanding the behavior of gases in everyday objects like balloons involves fundamental principles of chemistry and physics. When a balloon is filled with a specific amount of gas at a given temperature and pressure, it provides a practical example of the ideal gas law in action. This article explores the detailed concepts behind the filling process, the relevance of the ideal gas law, and how temperature and pressure influence the properties of the gas within the balloon. Whether you are a student studying chemistry or an enthusiast curious about the science behind balloons, this comprehensive guide offers valuable insights.

Introduction to Gas Laws and Their Importance

Gases are unique among the states of matter because they are highly compressible and expand to fill their containers uniformly. The behavior of gases is governed by several fundamental laws, which describe how variables such as pressure (P), volume (V), temperature (T), and the amount of gas (n, in moles) relate to each other.

The Ideal Gas Law

The ideal gas law is the cornerstone for understanding gas behavior under various conditions. It is expressed as:

$$PV = nRT$$

Where:

- P = Pressure (typically in atmospheres, atm)
- V = Volume (liters, L)
- n = Number of moles (mol)
- R = Ideal gas constant (8.314 J/(mol·K) or 0.0821 L·atm/(mol·K))
- T = Temperature (Kelvin, K)

This law assumes gases behave ideally, meaning that their particles do not interact and occupy negligible volume. Although real gases deviate from ideal behavior at high pressures and low temperatures, the ideal gas law provides an excellent approximation for many practical purposes.

Understanding the Conditions of the Balloon

Let's analyze the specific parameters of the scenario:

- Volume (V): 1.50 L

- Moles of gas (n): 2.50 mol
- Temperature (T): 25°C
- Pressure (P): To be determined or specified

Converting temperature to Kelvin:

$$[T = 25^{\circ}\text{C} + 273.15 = 298.15, \text{K}]$$

The pressure can be either measured directly or calculated based on the given parameters.

Calculating the Pressure Inside the Balloon

Suppose the pressure is standard atmospheric pressure (1 atm). Using the ideal gas law:

$$[P = \frac{nRT}{V}]$$

Substituting the known values:

$$[P = \frac{(2.50, \text{mol}) \times (0.0821, \text{L}\cdot\text{atm}/(\text{mol}\cdot\text{K})) \times 298.15, \text{K}}{1.50, \text{L}}]$$

Calculating numerator:

$$[2.50 \times 0.0821 \times 298.15 \approx 61.30]$$

Then,

$$[P = \frac{61.30}{1.50} \approx 40.87, \text{atm}]$$

This indicates that, under these conditions, the gas inside the balloon exerts a pressure of approximately 40.87 atm if the temperature is 25°C, and the amount of gas is 2.50 mol in 1.50 L volume.

Note: In typical scenarios, the pressure inside a balloon is close to atmospheric pressure (around 1 atm). The high calculated pressure suggests that the initial parameters may represent a compressed or hypothetical state, or that the gas is under significant pressure.

Impact of Temperature on Gas Behavior in Balloons

Temperature plays a crucial role in determining the behavior of gases within a balloon. As temperature increases or decreases, the volume and pressure of the gas change accordingly, provided the amount of gas remains constant.

Charles's Law: Volume and Temperature Relationship

Charles's law states that at constant pressure and amount of gas, the volume of a gas is directly proportional to its absolute temperature:

$$\left[\frac{V_1}{T_1} = \frac{V_2}{T_2} \right]$$

- Increasing temperature causes the gas to expand, making the balloon larger
- Decreasing temperature causes contraction, reducing volume

Practical Example: If the balloon is taken from room temperature (25°C) to a higher temperature, such as 35°C, the volume will increase proportionally, assuming pressure remains constant.

Gay-Lussac's Law: Pressure and Temperature Relationship

Gay-Lussac's law explains that, at constant volume and amount of gas, the pressure is directly proportional to temperature:

$$\left[\frac{P_1}{T_1} = \frac{P_2}{T_2} \right]$$

- Heating the balloon increases internal pressure, which can cause it to expand or potentially burst if the material cannot withstand the pressure
- Cooling the balloon reduces internal pressure, causing it to shrink

Effects of Pressure on Gas in the Balloon

Pressure influences the density, volume, and overall stability of the gas within the balloon.

Pressure and Volume Relationship: Boyle's Law

Boyle's law states that, at constant temperature and amount of gas:

$$\left[P_1 V_1 = P_2 V_2 \right]$$

- Increasing external pressure compresses the gas, decreasing the volume
- Decreasing external pressure allows the gas to expand

Real-World Application: When a balloon is taken to high altitudes, the external pressure decreases, causing the balloon to expand until its material prevents further expansion.

Pressure and Safety Considerations

- Excess internal pressure can cause balloons to burst
- Properly controlled pressure ensures safety and longevity of the balloon
- Understanding pressure variations is crucial in designing balloons for different environments

Practical Applications and Everyday Examples

The principles discussed are not just theoretical; they have practical implications in various fields:

- **Hobbyist Ballooning:** Ensuring balloons are inflated to safe pressures to prevent bursting
- **Weather Balloons:** Designed to withstand high altitudes with reduced pressure and temperature
- **Industrial Gas Storage:** Maintaining safe pressure levels in gas cylinders
- **Medical Applications:** Use of gas-filled balloons in procedures

Conclusion: Harnessing Gas Laws in Real-Life Scenarios

Understanding the behavior of gases in a balloon filled with 2.50 moles of gas at 25°C and 1.50 L volume involves integrating multiple gas laws—Boyle's, Charles's, and Gay-Lussac's laws—within the framework of the ideal gas law. Temperature and pressure are key variables that influence the size, shape, and safety of balloons. By mastering these principles, one can predict and control the behavior of gases in various practical applications, from everyday balloons to complex scientific instruments.

Summary of Key Points

1. The ideal gas law relates pressure, volume, temperature, and moles of gas: $PV = nRT$.
2. Temperature conversions to Kelvin are essential for accurate calculations.
3. Increasing temperature at constant volume increases pressure, and vice versa.
4. Reducing external pressure causes gases to expand, potentially enlarging balloons.
5. Safety considerations are vital when dealing with high-pressure gases in confined spaces.

Further Reading and Resources

- "Chemistry: The Central Science" by Brown, LeMay, Bursten – for comprehensive chemistry concepts
- Online tutorials on gas laws and their applications
- Scientific articles on gas behavior in high-altitude balloons and industrial storage

By understanding the fundamental principles outlined in this article, you can better appreciate the science behind everyday phenomena like balloons and apply this knowledge to various scientific and engineering challenges.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the pressure of the gas inside the balloon given the volume, moles, and temperature?

Using the ideal gas law $PV = nRT$, where P is pressure, V is volume (1.50 L), n is 2.50 mol, R is 0.0821 L·atm/(mol·K), and T is 298 K, the pressure $P = (nRT)/V = (2.50 \text{ mol})(0.0821 \text{ L}\cdot\text{atm}/(\text{mol}\cdot\text{K}))(298 \text{ K}) / 1.50 \text{ L} \approx 40.8 \text{ atm}$.

How does increasing the temperature affect the pressure of the gas in the balloon?

According to Gay-Lussac's law, increasing the temperature while keeping volume and moles constant will increase the pressure proportionally. Therefore, if temperature rises, pressure inside the balloon will also increase.

If the temperature of the gas is increased from 25°C to 35°C, what is the new pressure inside the balloon?

Convert temperatures to Kelvin: 25°C = 298 K, 35°C = 308 K. Using $P_1/T_1 = P_2/T_2$, $P_2 = P_1 (T_2/T_1)$. Assuming initial pressure $P_1 \approx 40.8 \text{ atm}$, then $P_2 \approx 40.8 \text{ atm} (308/298) \approx 42.1 \text{ atm}$.

What assumptions are made when applying the ideal gas law to this scenario?

The ideal gas law assumes that the gas molecules do not interact and occupy no volume, and that collisions are elastic. It also assumes the gas behaves ideally at the given temperature and pressure conditions.

How would the pressure change if the gas was compressed to a volume of 1.00 L at the same temperature?

Using $P_1V_1 = P_2V_2$ at constant temperature, $P_2 = P_1 (V_1/V_2) = 40.8 \text{ atm} (1.50 \text{ L} / 1.00 \text{ L}) = 61.2 \text{ atm}$. So, compressing the gas to 1.00 L increases the pressure to approximately 61.2 atm.

Additional Resources

A balloon is filled to a volume of 1.50 L with 2.50 moles of gas at 25°C, with pressure and temperature. This scenario offers a perfect opportunity to explore the fundamental principles of gas behavior, thermodynamics, and the ideal gas law. Whether you're a student honing your chemistry skills or a curious enthusiast interested in the science behind everyday objects, understanding how gases behave under different conditions is both fascinating and practical. In this comprehensive guide, we'll dissect this problem step-by-step, providing insights into the underlying principles, relevant calculations, and real-world applications.

Understanding the Basic Principles: The Ideal Gas Law

Before diving into calculations, it's essential to understand the core concept that governs this scenario—the ideal gas law. The ideal gas law is a mathematical relationship that describes how gases behave under various conditions of pressure, volume, temperature, and amount (moles).

The ideal gas law is expressed as:

$$PV = nRT$$

Where:

- P = Pressure (atm, Pa, or Torr)
- V = Volume (L, m³)
- n = Number of moles (mol)
- R = Universal gas constant (8.314 J/mol·K or 0.0821 L·atm/mol·K)
- T = Temperature (Kelvin)

This law assumes gases behave ideally—meaning they follow certain simplifying assumptions such as point particles with no intermolecular forces. While real gases deviate somewhat, especially at high pressures or low temperatures, the ideal gas law provides a robust approximation for most conditions.

Given Data and Initial Conditions

Let's review the known parameters from the scenario:

- Volume (V): 1.50 liters
- Number of moles (n): 2.50 mol
- Temperature (T): 25°C

To work with the ideal gas law, we need to convert all parameters to consistent units, notably temperature in Kelvin and pressure in atmospheres or Pascals.

Conversions:

- Temperature:

$$T(\text{K}) = T(^{\circ}\text{C}) + 273.15 = 25 + 273.15 = 298.15\text{K}$$

- Volume:

Volume is already in liters, compatible with $R = 0.0821 \text{ L}\cdot\text{atm}/\text{mol}\cdot\text{K}$ when pressure is in atm.

Calculating the Pressure of the Gas in the Balloon

Since the question specifies pressure and temperature, a natural starting point is to determine the pressure exerted by the gas inside the balloon under these conditions.

Using the ideal gas law:

$$P = \frac{nRT}{V}$$

Plugging in the known values:

$$P = \frac{(2.50\text{ mol}) \times (0.0821\text{ L}\cdot\text{atm}/\text{mol}\cdot\text{K}) \times (298.15\text{ K})}{1.50\text{ L}}$$

Calculating numerator:

$$2.50 \times 0.0821 \times 298.15 \approx 2.50 \times 24.485 \approx 61.21$$

Now divide by volume:

$$P = \frac{61.21}{1.50} \approx 40.81\text{ atm}$$

Result: The pressure of the gas inside the balloon is approximately 40.81 atm.

Implications of the Calculated Pressure

A pressure of about 40.81 atm is significantly higher than atmospheric pressure (~1 atm). This indicates that the gas molecules are exerting a

strong force on the walls of the balloon, which has several implications:

- Balloon Material: The material must withstand high internal pressure without bursting.
- Elasticity: The elasticity of the balloon material plays a crucial role in accommodating this pressure.
- Real-world Considerations: In practice, balloons are not perfectly elastic, and their rupture point is critical to understanding safety and design.

Additionally, the high pressure suggests that if the gas were compressed further or heated, the pressure could increase, leading to potential rupture.

Exploring Changes in Conditions: What If? Variations in Temperature and Pressure

Understanding how temperature and pressure influence the gas inside the balloon is key to mastering thermodynamics concepts.

Effect of Temperature Changes

- Increasing Temperature: Raising the temperature increases the kinetic energy of molecules, leading to higher pressure if volume and moles are constant.
- Decreasing Temperature: Cooling the gas causes a decrease in pressure, potentially causing the balloon to deflate.

Example:

Suppose the temperature increases to 35°C (308.15 K):

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\[
P_{new} = \frac{nRT_{new}}{V} = \frac{2.50 \times 0.0821 \times 308.15}{1.50}
\approx \frac{2.50 \times 25.24}{1.50} \approx \frac{63.11}{1.50} \approx
42.07\, \text{atm}
\]
```

The pressure increases slightly, illustrating the direct relationship between temperature and pressure.

Effect of Pressure Changes

- Adding more gas (increasing n): Increases pressure if volume and temperature are held constant.
- Changing volume: Compressing the balloon decreases volume, increasing pressure, and vice versa.

Applying Boyle's and Charles's Laws for Practical Insights

Boyle's Law states that at constant temperature:

$$P_1V_1 = P_2V_2$$

Charles's Law states that at constant pressure:

$$\frac{V_1}{T_1} = \frac{V_2}{T_2}$$

Scenario: If the balloon is heated at constant pressure, how much does its volume change?

Suppose the temperature increases from 25°C (298.15 K) to 50°C (323.15 K):

$$V_2 = V_1 \times \frac{T_2}{T_1} = 1.50 \text{ L} \times \frac{323.15}{298.15} \approx 1.50 \times 1.084 \approx 1.626 \text{ L}$$

The volume expands to approximately 1.626 L.

Real-World Applications and Considerations

Understanding the behavior of gases in this scenario extends beyond academic exercises; it has practical implications in various fields:

- Balloon Engineering: Designing balloons that can withstand high internal pressures without bursting.
- Weather Balloons: Tracking atmospheric conditions by observing how gas volume and pressure change with altitude and temperature.
- Aerospace: Managing gas pressures in spacecraft and aerostats.
- Medical Devices: Using gases at controlled pressures and volumes in respiratory therapy.

Safety note: Real gases deviate from ideal behavior at extreme pressures or low temperatures. Engineers and scientists must consider these deviations for precise applications.

Conclusion: From Theory to Practice

This exploration of a balloon filled with 2.50 moles of gas at 25°C and a volume of 1.50 L highlights the power of the ideal gas law as a predictive and analytical tool. By converting between units, applying fundamental gas

laws, and understanding the relationship between pressure, volume, and temperature, we gain valuable insights into the behavior of gases in everyday objects. Whether designing safer balloons, understanding atmospheric phenomena, or simply appreciating the science behind a simple rubber sphere, mastering these principles opens the door to a deeper understanding of the physical world.

Remember: Gases are dynamic; their behavior is governed by the interplay of pressure, volume, temperature, and quantity. Mastery of these concepts enables scientists and engineers to innovate and solve real-world problems with confidence.

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