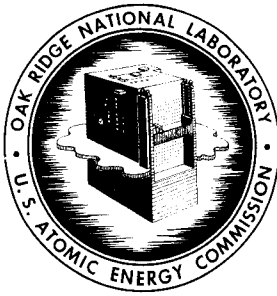


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A COMMENT ON TEMPERATURE-PRESSURE EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN DISPERSED AND CONTINUOUS PHASES OF A MATERIAL

R. N. Lyon

ABSTRACT

This memo calls attention to the fact that the relationship between equilibrium temperature and the pressures in two phases of a material is

$$\Delta s dT = \Delta(vdP) \quad ,$$

and not, as now routinely assumed by bubble investigators, the Clausius-Clapeyron equation

$$\Delta s dT = \Delta v dP \quad .$$

If one phase is discontinuous (subscript "d") and consists of spheres of radius r in a continuous phase (subscript "c") whose pressure is held constant, then the equilibrium temperature will be above the saturation temperature of the continuous phase by an amount

$$(\Delta T_{\text{sup}})_c = 2 \int_0^{(\sigma/r)_e} \frac{v_d}{\Delta s} d \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right)$$

and above the saturation temperature of the discontinuous phase by an amount

$$(\Delta T_{\text{sup}})_d = 2 \int_0^{(\sigma/r)_e} \frac{v_c}{\Delta s} d \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right) \quad .$$

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A COMMENT ON TEMPERATURE-PRESSURE EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN DISPERSED
AND CONTINUOUS PHASES OF A MATERIAL

R. N. Lyon

Routinely, investigators of bubbles erroneously assume that the Clausius-Clapeyron equation applies to the equilibrium between dispersed and continuous phases of a given material even though surface tension causes the discontinuous phase to be at a higher pressure. This leads them to the further error of assuming that the equilibrium temperature of the system is the saturation temperature associated with the pressure of the dispersed phase.

As long as the density of the continuous phase is very large compared with that of the dispersed phase, the errors are slight. Thus, large errors would occur only in the case of droplets in vapor or where pressures approach the critical pressure. For bubbles, however, the more rigorous relationship substitutes the specific volume of the vapor for the volume change in the Clapeyron equation, and thus unaware bubble investigators who make that substitution in order to simplify their calculations are actually improving their analyses.

The following is simple classical thermodynamics a la Gibbs. I present it here merely to call attention to the above points and not with any claim of originality.

For simplicity, we will consider only the potentials of pressure (P) and temperature (T) with their corresponding specific extensive factors, specific volume (v) and specific entropy (s). The increase in specific internal energy, E, of a quantity of a material as it moves from a continuous

phase (subscript "c") to a discontinuous phase (subscript "d") will be

$$E_d - E_c = (Ts)_d - (Ts)_c - (Pv)_d + (Pv)_c \quad (1)$$

The relationship between small changes in the various conditions is found by differentiating Eq. (1) to give

$$\begin{aligned} dE_d - dE_c = T_d ds_d - T_c ds_c - P_d dv_d + P_c dv_c \\ + [s_d dT_d - s_c dT_c - v_d dP_d + v_c dP_c] \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

But the first law states that for each phase under our restrictions

$$dE = q - w = Tds - PdV \quad (3)$$

so that the bracketed part of Eq. (2) must equal zero, and at equilibrium where $T_d = T_c = T$,

$$(s_d - s_c)dT = v_d dP_d - v_c dP_c \quad (4)$$

or $\Delta s dT = \Delta(v dP)$.

Equation (4) reduces to the Clausius-Clapeyron equation

$$\Delta s dT = \Delta v dP \quad (5)$$

when $P_d = P_c = P$. It reduces to an equation developed by Poynting,

$$v_d dP_d = v_c dP_c \quad (6)$$

when the equilibrium temperature is held constant.

In our case, however, we are concerned with the effect of the pressure of the dispersed phase, P_d , on the equilibrium temperature, T .

Holding P_c constant, we get (first derived by G. N. Lewis)

$$\Delta s dT = v_d dP_d \quad (7)$$

Let us consider a vapor-liquid mixture of a material in which the dispersed phase consists of one or more spheres of radius, r , with

surface tension, σ . Then

$$P_d = P_c + \frac{2\sigma}{r} \quad (8)$$

and

$$dP_d = 2d \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right) \quad (9)$$

or

$$\Delta s dT = 2v_d d \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right) \quad (10)$$

If we define "continuous superheat," $(\Delta T_{\text{sup}})_c$, as the equilibrium temperature (T) minus $(T_{\text{sat}})_c$, the saturation temperature corresponding to P_c , then

$$(\Delta T_{\text{sup}})_c = 2 \int_0^{(\sigma/r)_e} \frac{v_d}{\Delta s} d \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right), \quad (11)$$

where the subscript "e" indicates the final equilibrium value of (σ/r) . Notice that v_d rather than Δv occurs in the integral. The latter would be used with the Clapeyron equation where $P_c = P_d$, and can be used to compute the saturation temperature at P_d .

We can also define "discontinuous superheat" as T minus the saturation temperature corresponding to P_d . Combining Eq. (7) with the Clapeyron equation [Eq. (5)], we get

$$(\Delta T_{\text{sup}})_d = 2 \int_0^{(\sigma/r)_e} \frac{v_d - \Delta v}{\Delta s} d \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right) = 2 \int_0^{(\sigma/r)_e} \frac{v_c}{\Delta s} d \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right) \quad (12)$$

For bubbles, except near the critical pressure,

$$v_c \ll v_d \quad \text{and} \quad (\Delta T_{\text{sup}})_d \ll (\Delta T_{\text{sup}})_c$$

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For drops, however, both $(\Delta T_{\text{sup}})_d$ and $(\Delta T_{\text{sup}})_c$ will be negative, since Δs is negative. That is, the equilibrium temperature will be less than saturation temperature corresponding to either the pressure in the drop or that of the surrounding vapor. Since the pressure in the drop is greater than in the vapor, the drop is more subcooled than the vapor, as predicted by Eqs. (11) and (12).

It is worth noting that since Δv is negative, an attempt to apply the Clapeyron equation in place of Eq. (7) in a droplet system would erroneously predict T to be above the saturation temperature corresponding to P_c .

In summary, equilibrium between two phases of a single material in a system involving only heat and pressure energy is described by the equation

$$\Delta s dT = v_d dP_d, \quad (7)$$

where the pressure of the continuous phase is not changed.

When the dispersed phase consists of one or more spheres of radius, r ,

$$(\Delta T_{\text{sup}})_c = 2 \int_0^{(\sigma/r)_e} \frac{v_d}{\Delta s} d \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right) \quad (11)$$

and

$$(\Delta T_{\text{sup}})_d = 2 \int_0^{(\sigma/r)_e} \frac{v_c}{\Delta s} d \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right). \quad (12)$$

An attempt to use the Clausius-Clapeyron equation — that is, to substitute Δv for v_d in Eq. (7) — will usually not cause serious errors in analyzing a bubble system, but can cause drastic errors in analyzing a droplet system.

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