

The background image is a composite of two scenes. On the left, a traditional wooden windmill stands on a grassy bank next to a body of water, with power lines and pylons visible in the distance. On the right, a large industrial power plant with a prominent cooling tower is situated near a waterfront. A semi-transparent red rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the course title in white text.

ME-251: Thermodynamics and energetics I

First Law of Thermodynamics II

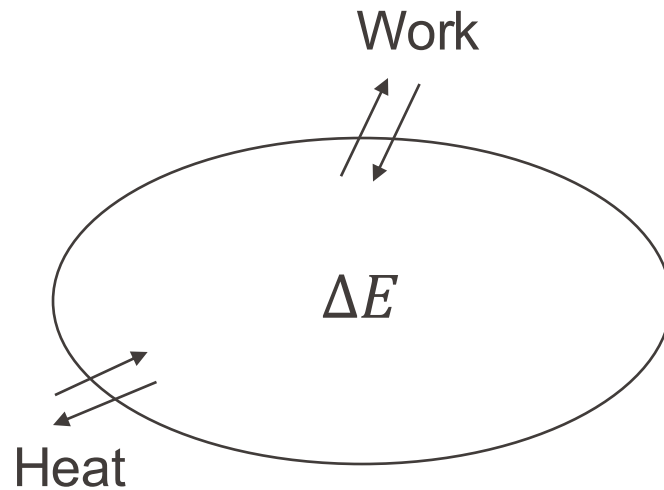
Zhengmao Lu
Energy Transport Advances
Laboratory
EPFL Mechanical Engineering

2025 Fall Semester

Photo Credit: Trougnouf

- Explain key concepts in the first law of thermodynamics
 - Energy change $\Delta E = \Delta KE + \Delta PE + \Delta U$
 - Work (Work done by the system)
 - Heat (Heat received by the system)

- Apply energy balance to closed systems
- Analyze the energy balance of thermodynamic cycles
- Understand and interpret equation of state (p-T-v surface)



Can be intuitively understood as energy conservation

Energy change = Energy going in – Energy going out

Energy flows can take the form of heat, work, ...

Change in the amount of energy contained within a system during some time interval

=

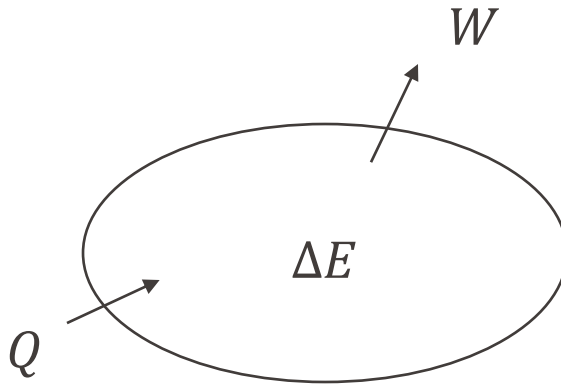
Net amount of energy transferred **into** the system by heat transfer during the time interval

-

Net amount of energy transferred **out of** the system by work during the time interval

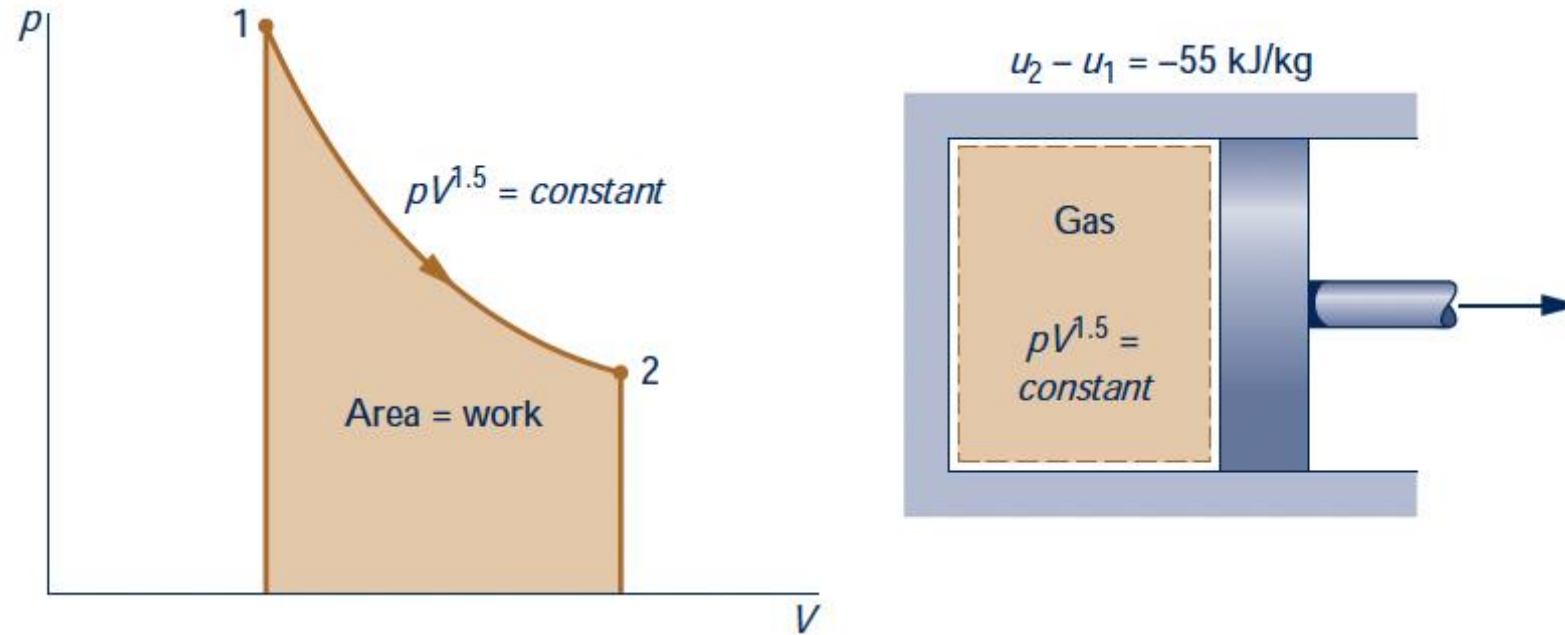
or +

Net amount of energy transferred **into** the system by work during the time interval



$$\Delta E = E_2 - E_1 = Q - W$$

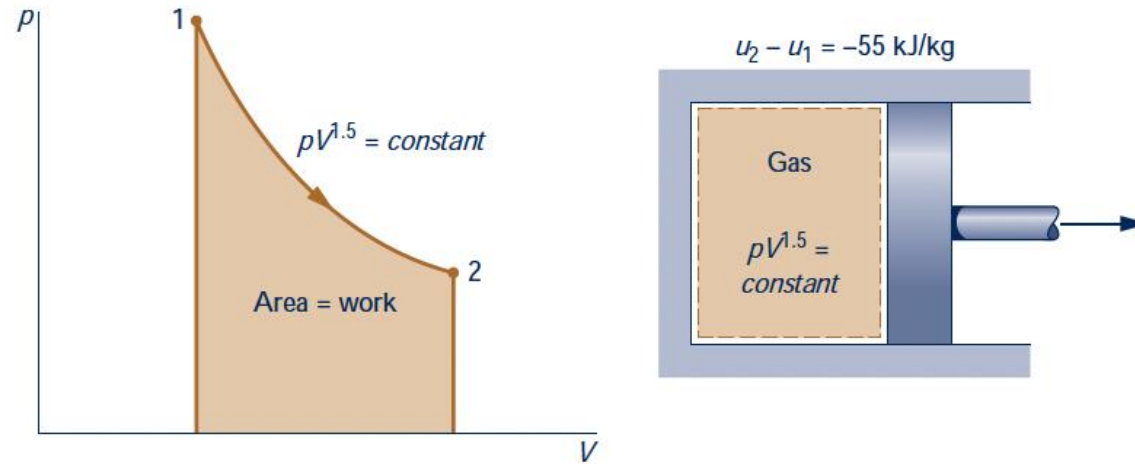
Everything here is in [J]



Gas expansion: $V_1 = 0.1 \text{ m}^3$, $p_1 = 3 \text{ bar}$; $V_2 = 0.2 \text{ m}^3$; $pV^{1.5} = \text{const}$, $m = 0.4 \text{ kg}$

Change in specific internal energy: $u_2 - u_1 = -55 \text{ kJ/kg}$;
no significant change in kinetic/potential energy

Determine the net heat transfer between the gas and the surrounding



The gas inside the piston-cylinder assembly forms a closed system

$$\Delta E = m(u_2 - u_1) = -22 \text{ [kJ]} \quad W = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} p dV = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} \frac{p_1 V_1^{1.5}}{V^{1.5}} dV = -\frac{2p_1 V_1^{1.5}}{V^{0.5}} \Big|_{V_1}^{V_2} = 17.6 \text{ [kJ]}$$

$$\Delta E = Q - W \Rightarrow Q = \Delta E + W = -4.4 \text{ [kJ]}$$

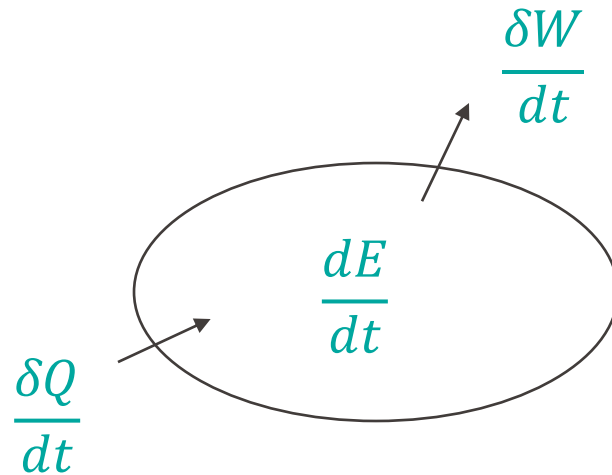
Time rate of change in the amount of energy contained within a system at time t

=

Net rate at which energy is transferred into the system by heat transfer at time t

-

Net rate at which energy is transferred out of the system by work at time t



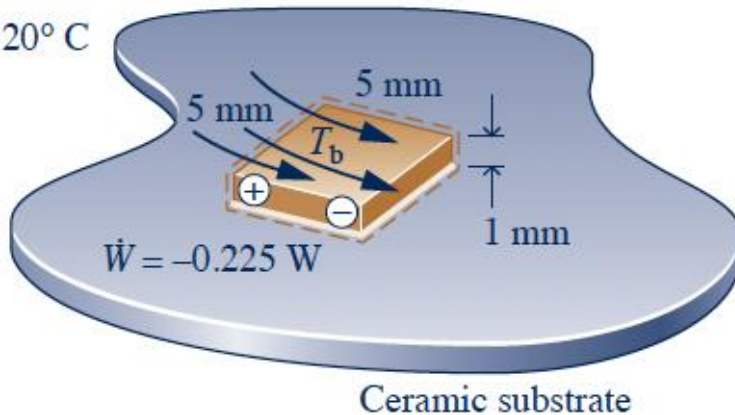
$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \dot{Q} - \dot{W} \quad \text{Heat flow rate - Power}$$

Everything here is in [W]

Coolant

$$h = 150 \text{ W/m}^2 \cdot \text{K}$$

$$T_f = 20^\circ \text{C}$$



Our system is the silicon chip

A silicon chip (5 mm x 5 mm x 1 mm) at a **steady state**

Electric power input is 0.225 W

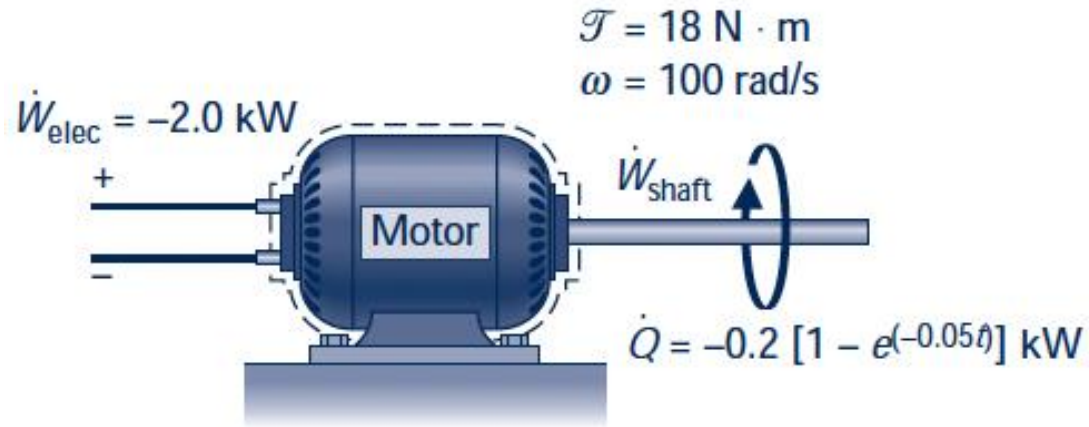
Only the top surface is exchanging heat with the surrounding

$$\dot{Q}_{cool} = hA(T - T_f)$$

Determine the surface temperature of the silicon chip

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \dot{Q} - \dot{W} \Rightarrow 0 = -\dot{Q}_{cool} - \dot{W}$$

$$\dot{Q}_{cool} = hA(T - T_f) \Rightarrow T = \frac{\dot{Q}_{cool}}{hA} + T_f = 80^\circ \text{C}$$



A motor operates with constant electric power input 2 kW, shaft speed ω , and applied torque \mathcal{T}

The heat transfer rate between the motor and the ambient follows

$$\dot{Q} = -0.2(1 - e^{-0.05t}) \quad \dot{Q} \text{ in [kW]}, t \text{ in [s]}$$

Plot the net heat transfer rate, the net power and the energy change of the motor system as a function of time

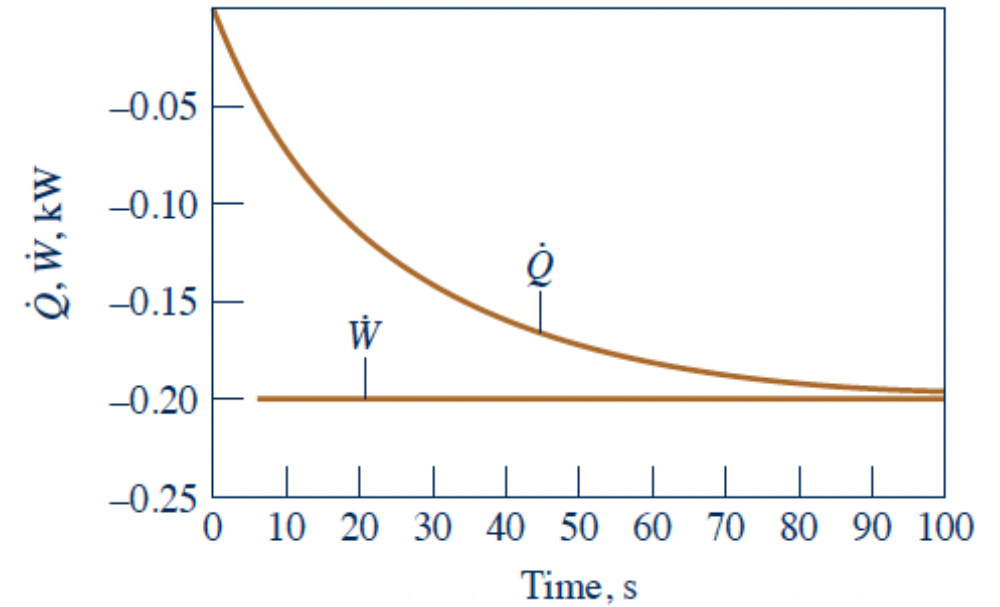
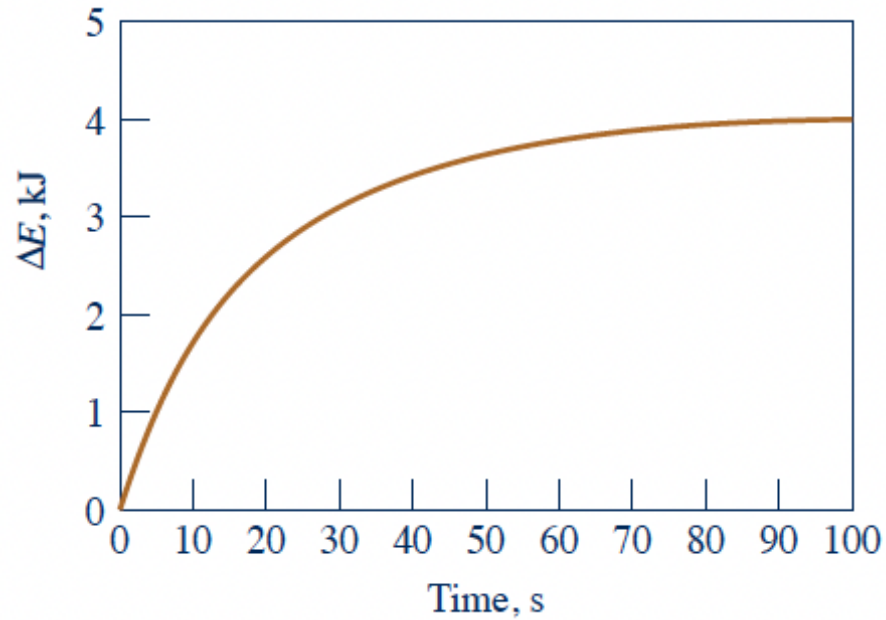
Our system is the motor

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \dot{Q} - \dot{W}$$

$$\dot{W} = \dot{W}_{elec} + \dot{W}_{shaft} = -2 \text{ [kW]} + \mathcal{T}\omega = -0.2 \text{ [kW]}$$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \dot{Q} - \dot{W} = -0.2(1 - e^{-0.05t}) + 0.2 = 0.2e^{-0.05t} \text{ [kW]} \quad t \text{ in [s]}$$

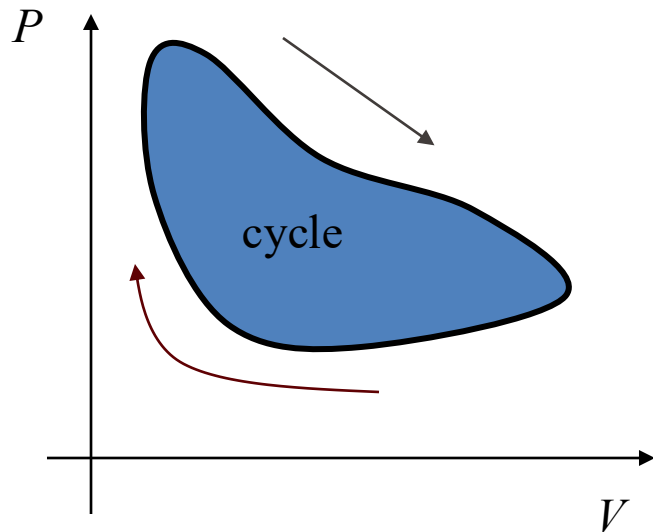
$$\Delta E = \int_0^t 0.2e^{-0.05t} = 4(1 - e^{-0.05t}) \text{ [kJ]} \quad t \text{ in [s]}$$



After 100 seconds, we can consider the motor system to be at a steady state

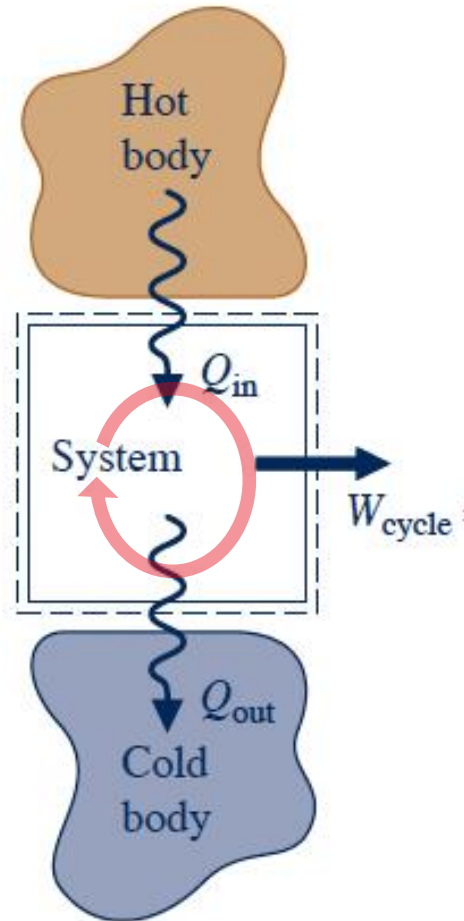
Thermodynamics Cycles

- A thermodynamic cycle is a sequence of processes that begins and ends at the same state.



$$\Delta E_{\text{cycle}} = Q_{\text{cycle}} - W_{\text{cycle}}$$

$$\Delta E_{\text{cycle}} = 0 \Rightarrow Q_{\text{cycle}} = W_{\text{cycle}}$$



System undergoing a cycle to deliver a net work transfer to their surroundings

$$W_{cycle} = Q_{in} - Q_{out}$$

Thermal efficiency

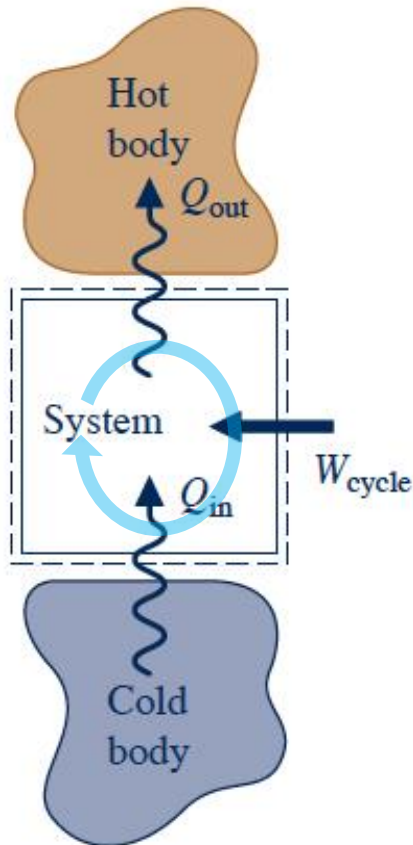
$$\eta = \frac{W_{cycle}}{Q_{in}} = 1 - \frac{Q_{out}}{Q_{in}}$$

First law requires $\eta \leq 1$; we will provide a better bound with the second law of thermodynamics

- Nuclear power plant: 0.32-0.34
- Fossil fuel power plant: 0.35-0.48
- Combustion engine: 0.35-0.42 (gasoline/diesel)

This means around 60% of input energy is discharged to the environment.

Outdoor at 32 degC



Indoor at 25 degC

System undergoing a cycle to transfer heat from a cold body to a hot body

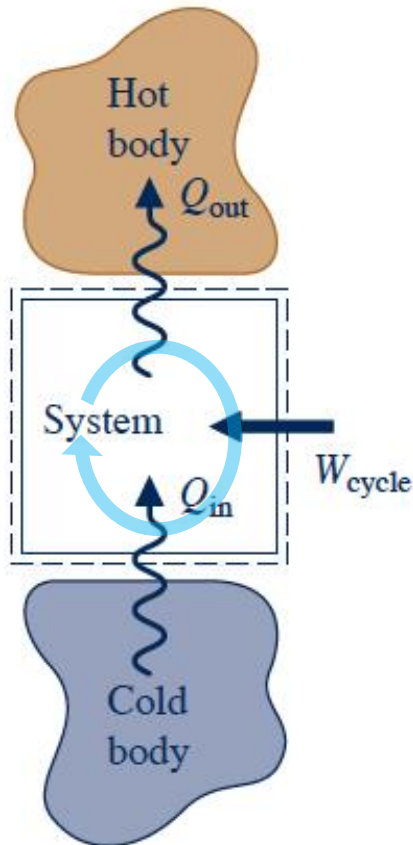
$$0 = Q_{in} - Q_{out} + W_{cycle}$$

Coefficient of performance (COP) for refrigeration and AC

$$\beta = \frac{Q_{in}}{W_{cycle}} = \frac{Q_{in}}{Q_{out} - Q_{in}}$$

W_{cycle} is typically provided by electricity

Indoor at 20 degC



System undergoing a cycle to transfer heat from a cold body to a hot body

$$0 = Q_{in} - Q_{out} + W_{cycle}$$

Coefficient of performance (COP) for heat pump

$$\gamma = \frac{Q_{out}}{W_{cycle}} = \frac{Q_{out}}{Q_{out} - Q_{in}}$$

Outdoor at 0 degC

- Pure substance: uniform in chemical composition.
 - Pure water is a pure substance
 - Ice-water mixture is also a pure substance
 - Air can also be treated as pure substance (made of different gas species, but chemical composition has no spatial variation)
 - Aerosol is NOT a pure substance



The chemical composition of the small suspended particles are not the same as the air

- Homogeneous in both chemical composition and physical structure (solid, liquid, vapor/gas)

Ice-water mixture



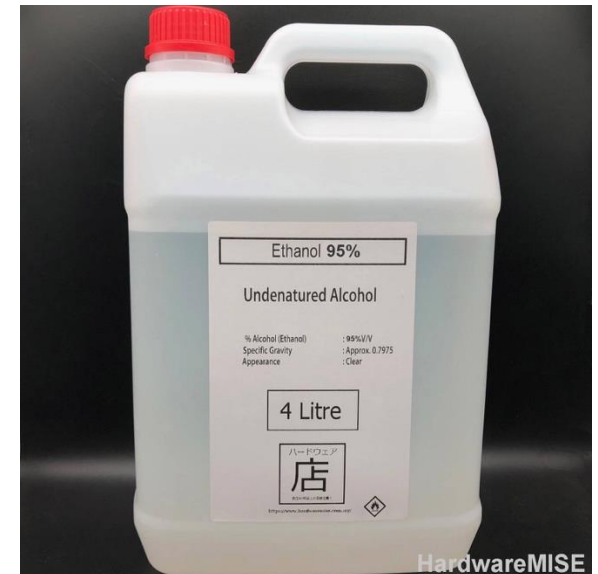
Two phases

Water-oil mixture



Two phases

Ethanol diluted with water



Single phase

System: salt (NaCl) solution + CO₂ bubbles



How many phases are there?

- A. 1
- B. **2**
- C. 3
- D. 4

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- Pressure
- Temperature
- Density
- Specific volume
- Specific internal energy
- ...

These intensive properties are not all independent in a system

- **State principle:** for closed systems

$$\# \text{ of independent properties} = \# \text{ of relevant work exchange modes} + 1 \text{ (associated with heat)}$$

- E.g., for gas in a piston-cylinder assembly, number of independent properties: 2 (**temperature** associated with heat transfer and **pressure** associated with compression/expansion work)
- **Simple system:** only one work exchange mode as the system undergoes quasiequilibrium processes (**two independent properties**).

Pure Substance p-v-T Relation

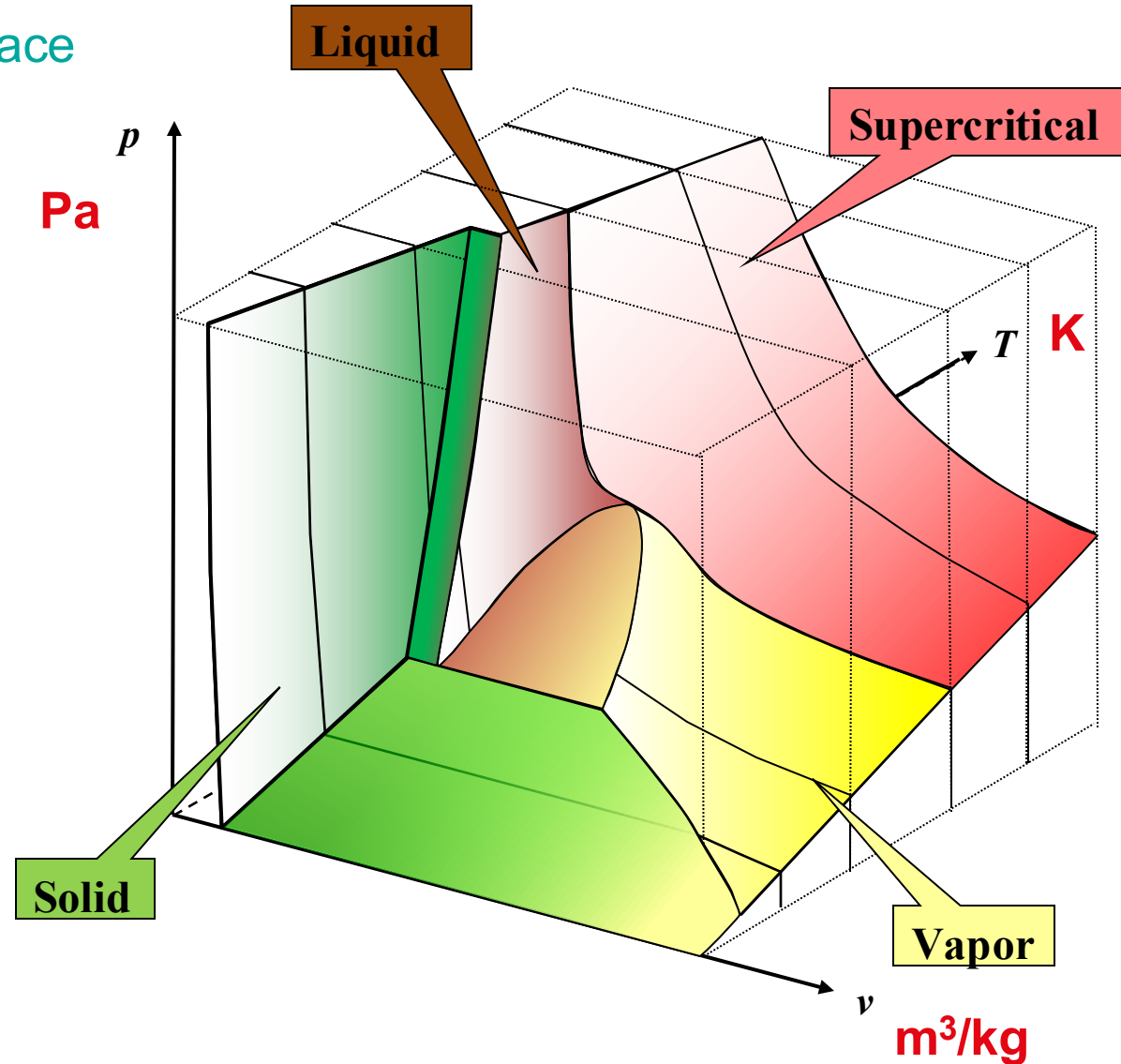
Two independent variable: a surface

Single phase regions:

- **Solid**
- **Liquid**
- **Vapor**
- **Supercritical**

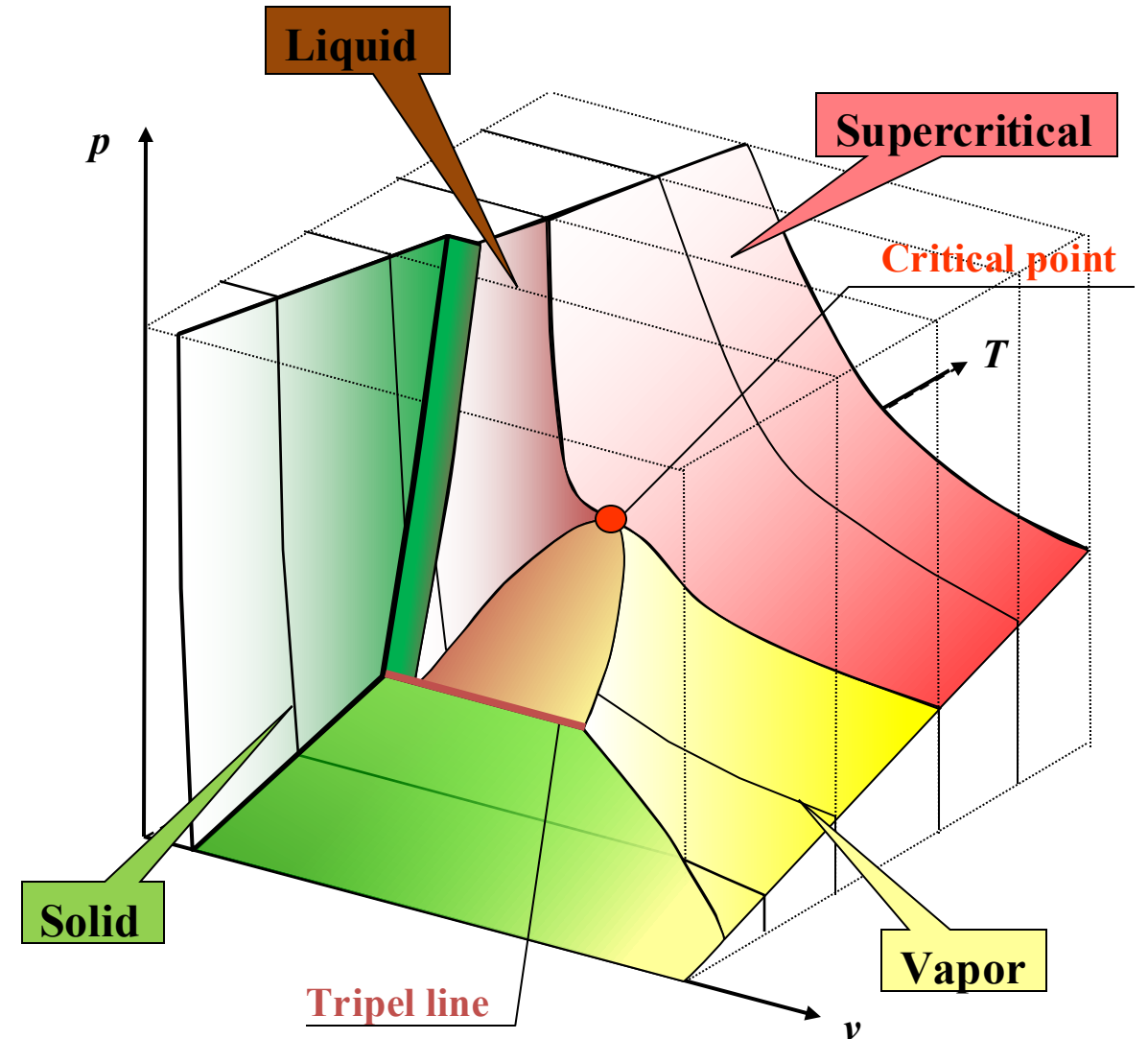
Two phase regions exist between the single-phase regions (co-existence of two phases in equilibrium)

- **Solid-vapor**
- **Liquid-vapor**
- **Solid-liquid**

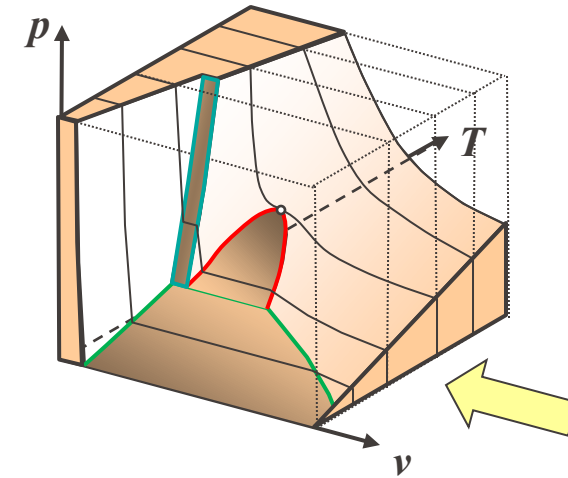
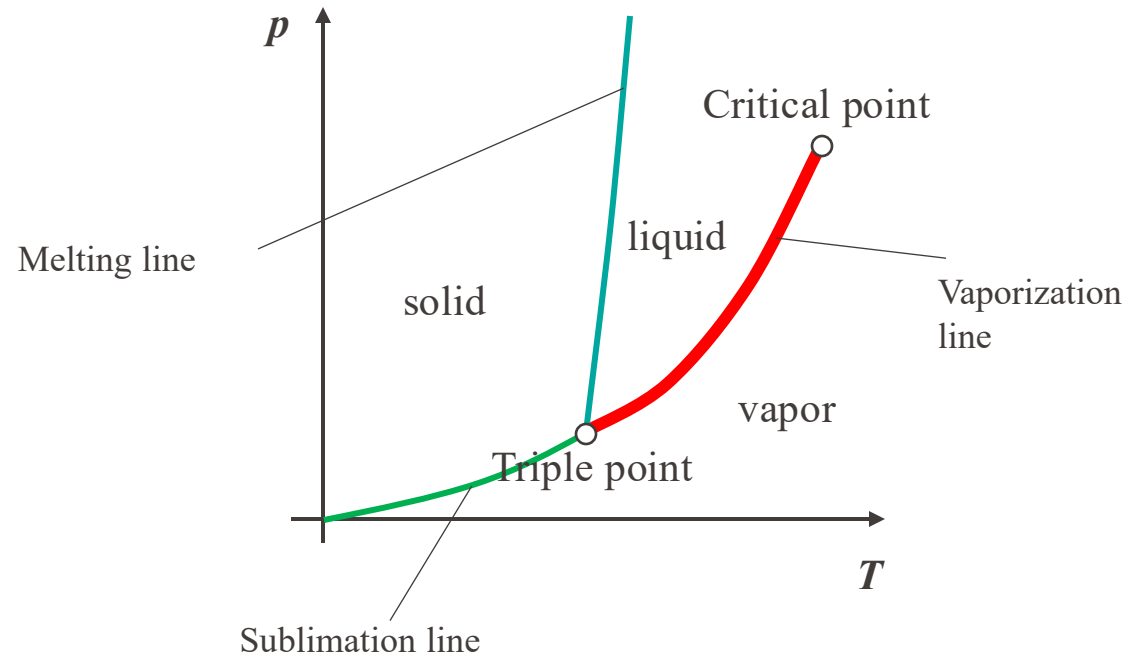


Pure Substance p-v-T Relation

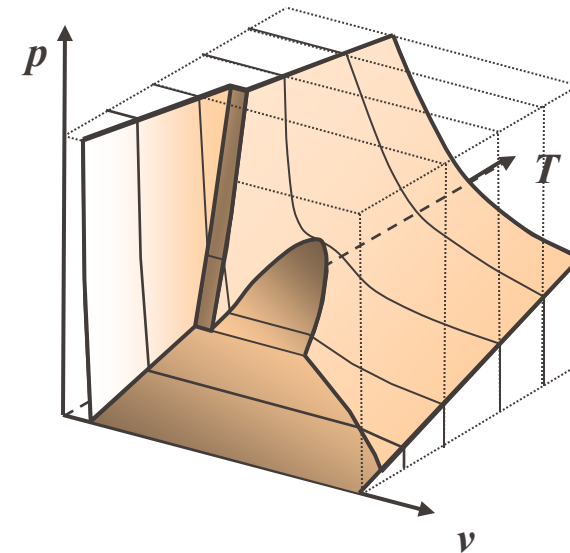
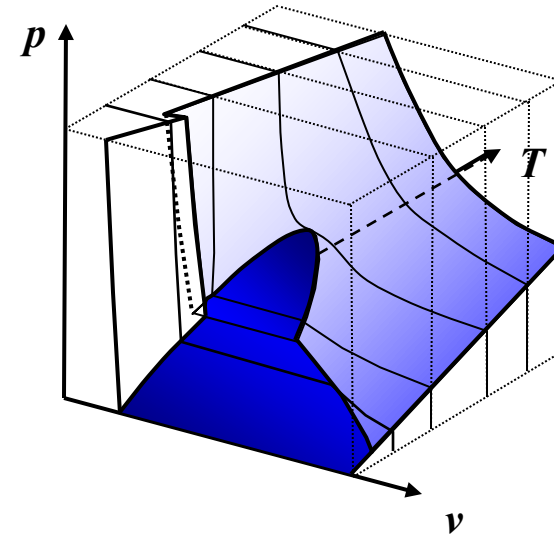
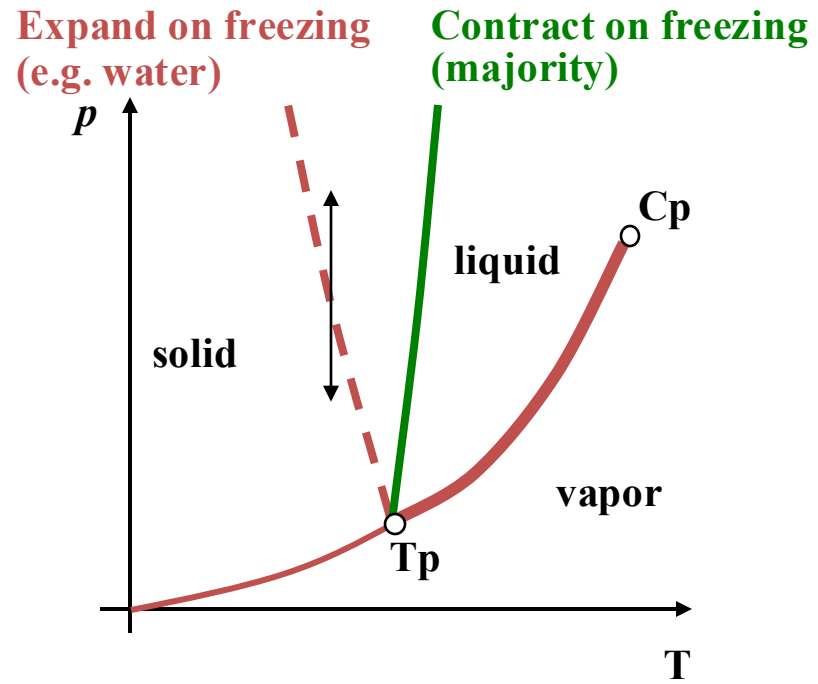
- In two-phase regions p and T are not independent! Need v to determine state.
- State where phase change begins or ends is called **saturation state**.
- Meeting point of the saturated liquid and saturated vapor lines is called **critical point**. Maximum p and T at which liquid and vapor can co-exist.
- **Triple line** separates liquid-vapor and solid-vapor two-phase regions. Three phases co-exist along it.



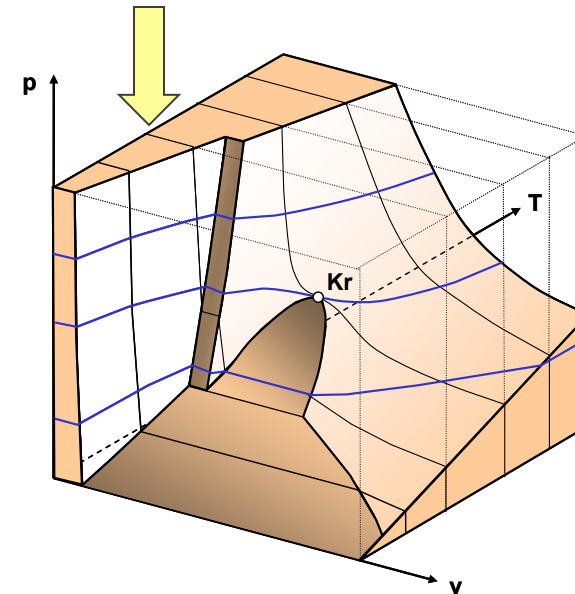
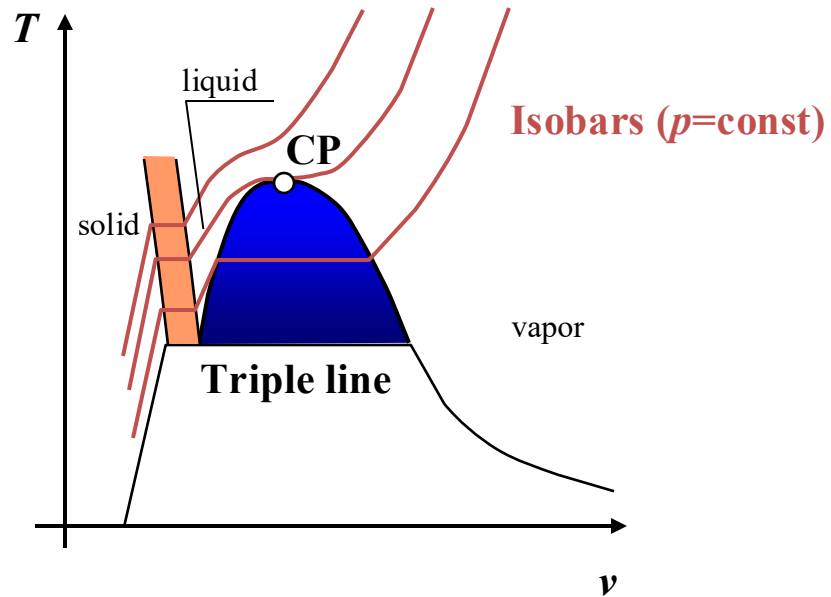
- Projection to p-T plane



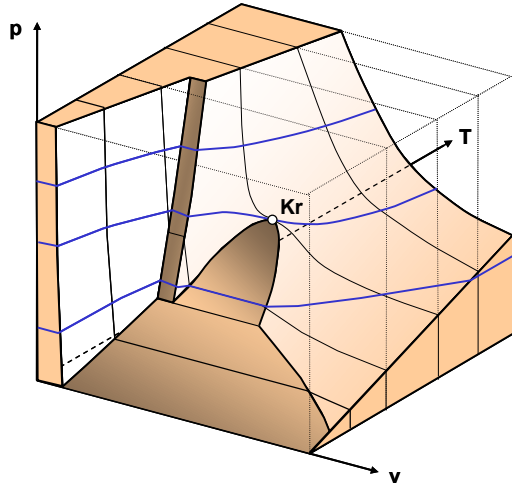
p-T diagram



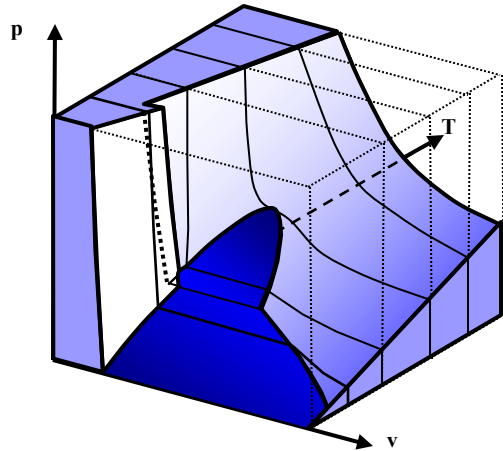
- Projection to T-v plane



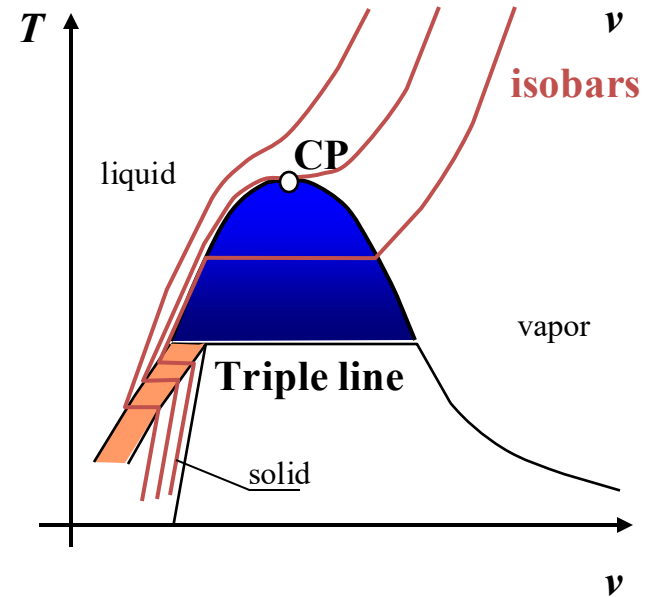
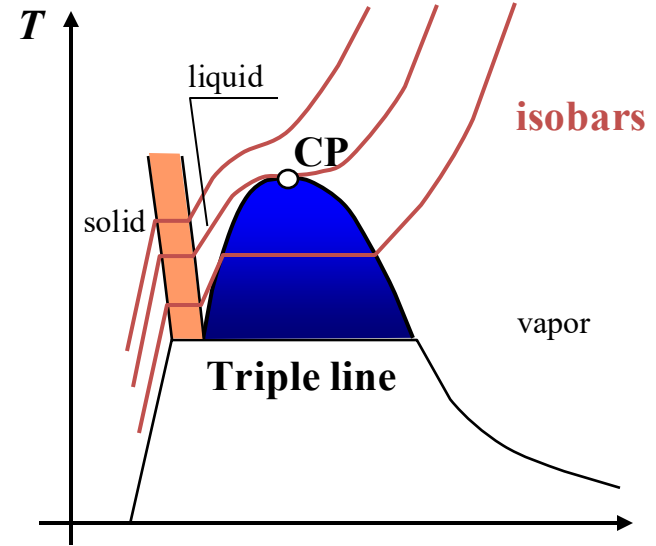
- At very low pressures: phase change from solid to vapor directly
- At moderate pressure (below critical pressure): solid to liquid, and then to vapor. Temperature is constant during isobaric phase change.
- For high pressures, no distinct phase transition between liquid and vapor

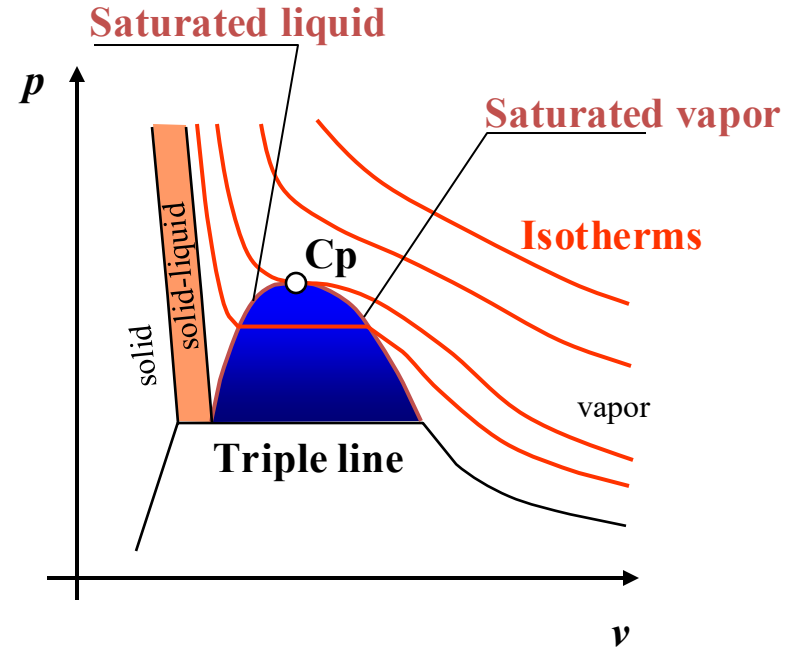
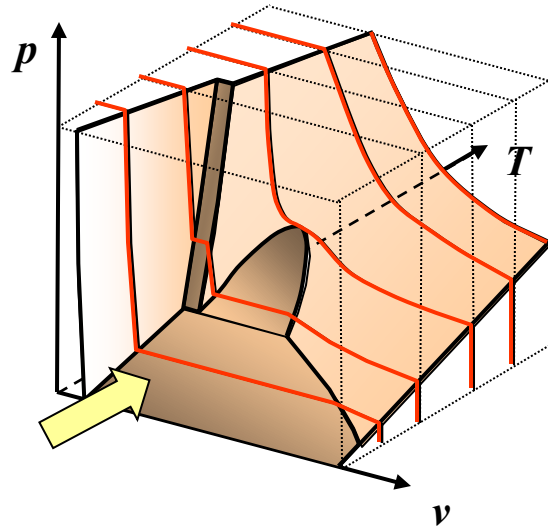


Contract on freezing

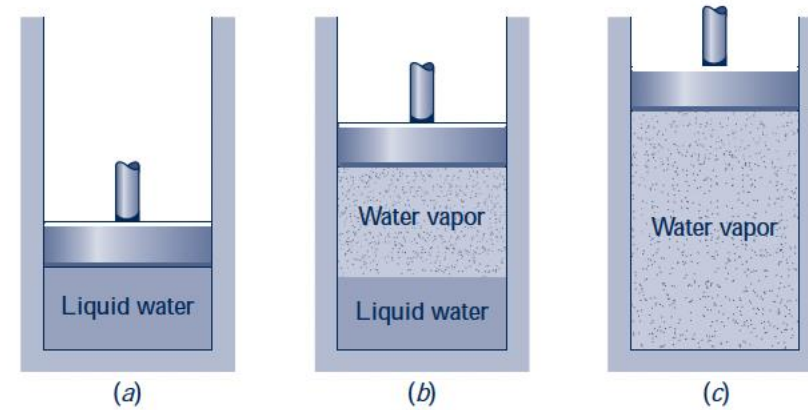
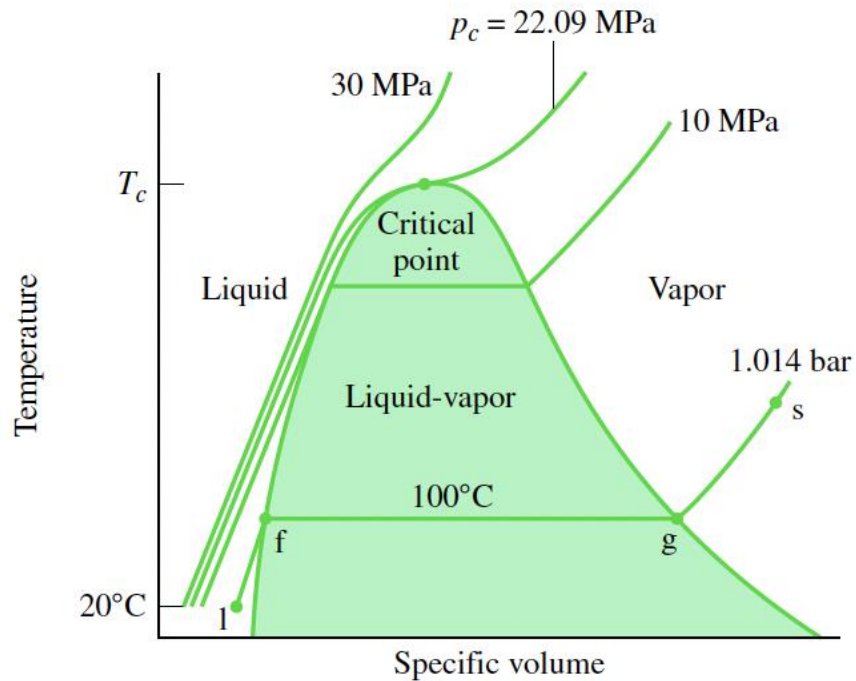


Expand on freezing





- At low temperatures, phase change from solid to vapor directly
- At moderate temperatures (below C_p): solid to liquid, and then to vapor. Pressure is constant during isobaric phase change (between saturated liquid and saturated vapor)
- At high temperatures, no distinct transition between liquid and vapor



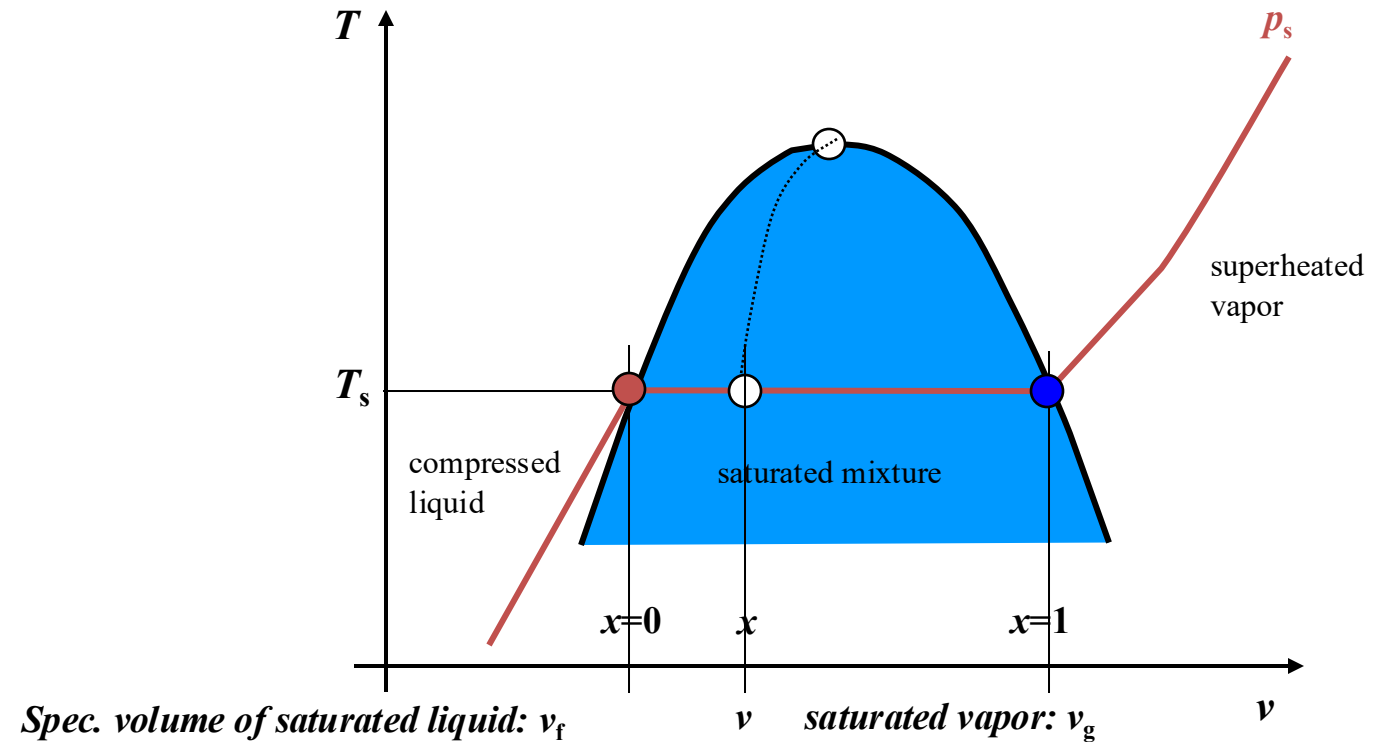
$$\text{Quality: } x = \frac{m_{\text{vapor}}}{m_{\text{liquid}} + m_{\text{vapor}}}$$

$x = 0$, saturated liquid; $x = 1$, saturated vapor

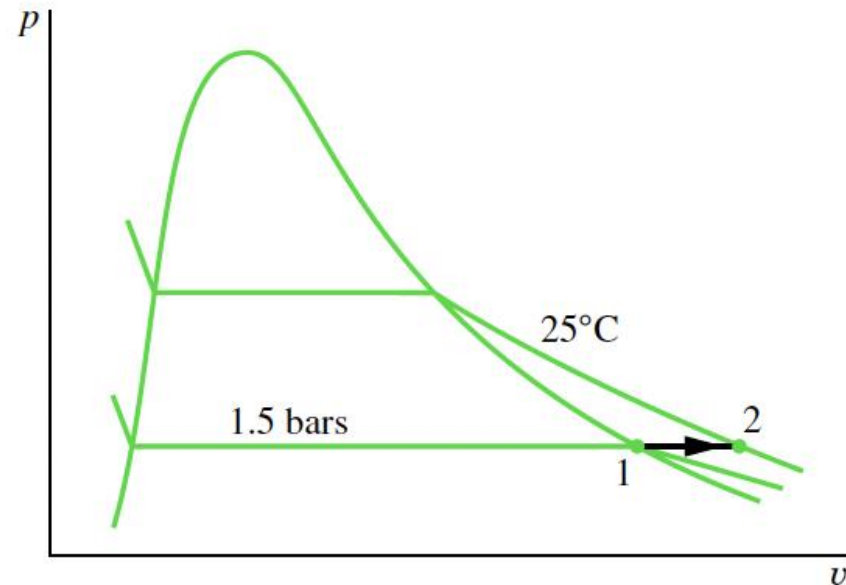
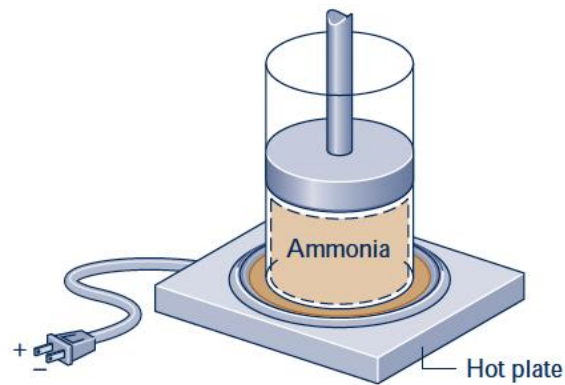
Quality helps us characterize state in two-phase region:

$$y = y_f + x(y_g - y_f)$$

Saturation temperature is only defined after specifying pressure
water: 99.97 °C at 1.014 bar



- A vertical piston-cylinder assembly contains ammonia, initially a saturated vapor, and is placed on a hot plate. The pressure of the ammonia is **1.5 bar**.
- Heating occurs slowly and the ammonia expands at constant pressure until the final temperature is **25°C**.
- Show the initial and final state in p - v - and T - v -diagrams



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