

### Answer on Question #66810, Physics / Molecular Physics | Thermodynamics

Using the first law of the thermodynamics for an adiabatic processes, establish the relation  $PV^{\gamma-1} = C$  where  $\gamma = \frac{C_p}{C_v}$  and  $C$  is a constant. Plot this equation on a P-v diagram. What will be its slope?

#### Solution:

According to the first law of thermodynamics,

$$dU + \delta W = \delta Q = 0 \quad (1)$$

where  $dU$  is the change in the internal energy of the system and  $\delta W$  is work done by the system.

Any work ( $\delta W$ ) done must be done at the expense of internal energy  $U$ , since no heat  $\delta Q$  is being supplied from the surroundings.

Pressure-volume work  $\delta W$  done by the system is defined as

$$\delta W = PdV \quad (2)$$

However,  $P$  does not remain constant during an adiabatic process but instead changes along with  $V$ .

It is desired to know how the values of  $dP$  and  $dV$  relate to each other as the adiabatic process proceeds. For an ideal gas the internal energy is given by

$$U = \alpha nRT \quad (3)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the number of degrees of freedom divided by two,  $R$  is the universal gas constant and  $n$  is the number of moles in the system (a constant).

Differentiating Equation (3) and use of the ideal gas law,  $PV = nRT$ , yields

$$dU = \alpha nRdT = \alpha d(PV) = \alpha(PdV + VdP) \quad (4)$$

Equation (4) is often expressed as  $dU = nC_V dT$  because  $C_V = \alpha R$ .

Now substitute equations (2) and (4) into equation (1) to obtain

$$-PdV = \alpha PdV + \alpha VdP \quad (5)$$

factorize  $-P dV$ :

$$-(\alpha + 1)PdV = \alpha VdP \quad (6)$$

and divide both sides by  $PV$ :

$$-(\alpha + 1) \frac{dV}{V} = \alpha \frac{dP}{P} \quad (7)$$

After integrating the left and right sides from  $V_0$  to  $V$  and from  $P_0$  to  $P$  and changing the sides respectively,

$$\ln \frac{P}{P_0} = \frac{\alpha+1}{\alpha} \ln \frac{V}{V_0} \quad (8)$$

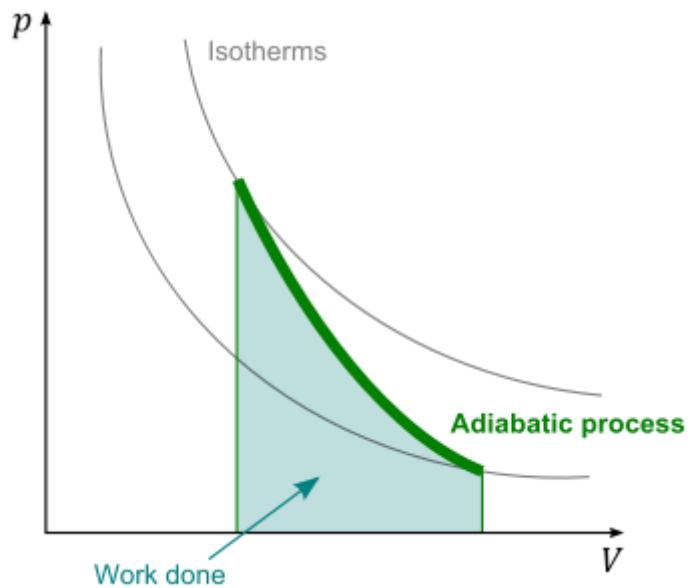
$$\text{Of (8)} \Rightarrow \frac{P}{P_0} = \left( \frac{V}{V_0} \right)^{\gamma} \quad (9)$$

$$\text{where } \gamma = \frac{\alpha+1}{\alpha}$$

Therefore,

$$\left(\frac{P}{P_0}\right) \times \left(\frac{V}{V_0}\right)^\gamma = 1 \quad (10)$$

$$\text{Of (10)} \Rightarrow P_0 V_0^\gamma = P V^\gamma = \text{const}$$



Adiabat on PV diagram is a "steep hyperbola",

the slope is a tangent of angle,

tangent of angle for adiabat is greater than tangent of angle for isotherms (adiabat is steeper isotherms)

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