

# PROCESSES

STATE - specific set of measurable parameters  
 $P, V, T, \dots$

$PV = N k_B T$  is the EQUATION OF STATE  
of an IDEAL GAS

Processes alter the state of a system - four basic modes

ISOTHERMAL

$T = \text{const}$

ISOBARIC

$P = \text{const}$  (think of  
BAROMETER)

ADIABATIC

$Q = 0$      $\Delta U = -W$

ISOCORIC

$V = \text{const}$  (Boothallot,  
ISOVOLUMIC!?)

$W = 0$

$\Delta U = Q$

## HEAT + WORK

Let's construct a system



Gas expands "quasi-statically"

$$dW = \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

System does work against piston

How? Remember  $P = F/A$

$$dW = P A ds$$

$$= P (A ds)$$

$$= P dV$$

$$W = \int dW = \int_{V_i}^{V_f} P dV$$

If  $P = \text{const}$  (ISOBARIC) then

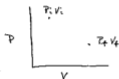
$$W = P \Delta V$$

A useful way of analyzing the work done by a system is a  $P-V$  Diagram. Consider two (Pressure-Volume)

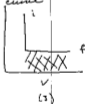
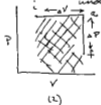
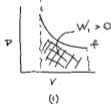
states:

$P_{\text{initial}}$   
 $V_{\text{initial}}$  ( $T_{\text{initial}}$ )

$P_{\text{final}}$   
 $V_{\text{final}}$  ( $T_{\text{final}}$ )



In general there will be a variety of paths that can be taken. Since  $W = \int P dV$ , the work done path will be the area under the curve



The work, as shown above will depend upon the path. Consider here you might produce diagram (2) via track  $i \rightarrow a \rightarrow f$  in an Ideal Gas

$i \rightarrow a$   $P = \text{const}$   
 $V$  increases  $\Delta V$   
 $\Delta V = V_f - V_i$   
 $W = P \Delta V$

$PV = N k_B T$   
 $\Delta T = \frac{P}{N k_B} \Delta V$   
 $Q = C_V \Delta T$  will be positive

$$Q \rightarrow f$$

$$V = \text{const}$$

P decreases

$$W = 0$$

$$\Delta T = \frac{V}{nR} \Delta P$$

T must decrease, heat  
will be lost

The work getting from  $i \rightarrow f$  depends upon the path — the manner in which the material goes from initial to final state.

$W$  is not a state variable

The internal energy, however depends only on initial + final states  $\Delta Q$  is independent of path

$U$  is a state variable