

# Molar heat capacity & frozen mode

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◦  $C_{vm}$  (we put  $V$  in subscript to emphasize that we get this heat capacity with fixed volume)

$$\Delta E_{th} = Q \quad (\text{when: } \begin{cases} \Delta E_{bond} = 0 \\ W = 0 \end{cases})$$

$$Q = \# \text{ moles} \times C_{vm} \times \Delta T$$

The unit of  $C_{vm}$ :  $\frac{[\text{Energy}]}{\{[\text{Temperature}] \times [\text{moles}]\}}$

$$\text{We also know: } \Delta E_{th} = \frac{1}{2} \# \text{ modes in total} \times k_B \times \Delta T$$

$$\text{total } \# \text{ of modes} = \# \text{ modes per molecule} \times \# \text{ molecules}$$

$$= \# \text{ modes per molecule} \times N_A \times \# \text{ moles}$$

Put it back:

$$\Delta E_{th} = \frac{1}{2} \# \text{ modes per molecule} \times \# \text{ moles} \times \cancel{N_A} k_B \times \Delta T$$

$$= Q = \# \text{ moles} \times C_{vm} \times \Delta T$$

$$\text{So: } C_{vm} = \frac{1}{2} \# \text{ modes per molecule} \times R$$

◦ Answer for Act. 3.15 (4):

The meaning of slope: heat capacity  $C$

$$Q = \Delta E_{th} = C \Delta T$$

$$\text{Therefore: } C = \# \text{ moles} \times C_{vm}$$

$$C_{vm} = \frac{C}{\# \text{ moles}}$$

We know from Act. 3.13 that we have 50 atoms for these slopes.

$$50 = \# \text{ moles} \times N_A$$

$$\# \text{ moles} = J_0 / N_A$$

For  $C_1 = 2.1 \times 10^{-21} \text{ J} \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$

$$C_{vm1} = 2.1 \times 10^{-21} / J_0 \times N_A \text{ J} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$$

$$= \frac{2.1 \times 10^{-21} \times 6.02 \times 10^{23}}{J_0} \text{ J} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$$

$$\approx 25.3 \text{ J} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \approx 3 R$$

$$C_2 = 1 \times 10^{-21} \text{ J} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} =$$

$$C_{vm2} = \frac{1 \times 10^{-21} \times 6.02 \times 10^{23}}{J_0} \text{ J} \cdot \text{K} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$$

$$\approx 12 \text{ J} \cdot \text{K} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \approx 1.4 R$$

$$( R = N_A k_B = 8.31 )$$

Due to the definition of  $C_{vm}$ :

$$1 = \# \text{ modes per molecule} = 3 \times 2 = 6$$

$$2 = \# \text{ modes per molecule} = 1.4 \times 2 \approx 3$$

It is consistent with our predictions.

• The meaning of frozen modes

When temperature is low (maybe room temperature), some modes are not activated due to insufficient thermal energy.

If the temperature is raising, the system has enough energy to activate new modes (to get over the energy gap), then frozen modes will be defroze.



