

# Unit : Kinetic theory of gases

## Topics covered :

- Postulates of Kinetic theory of Gases
- Derivation of the Kinetic gas equation
- Compressibility factor
- Deviation of real gases from ideal behaviour
- Causes of Deviation
- van der Waals equation of state for real gases

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## Unit : Gases

Kinetic theory of gases \* [This theory explains the behaviour of a hypothetical ideal gas]

It is based on the following postulates:

1. A gas consists of some basic units called molecules.

↓  
minute particles

These molecules are so small that their actual volume is a negligible fraction of total volume occupied by gas.

2. The molecules move in a random direction with random speed.

3. The molecules undergo collision among themselves and to the walls of container. These collisions are perfectly elastic.

↓ (there is no <sup>net</sup> loss of energy when gas molecule collide  $\bar{c}$  one another or again against the wall of the vessel.)

4. There are no attractive forces between molecules or b/w molecules and the walls of the vessel in which gas is contained. The molecules move completely independent of one another.

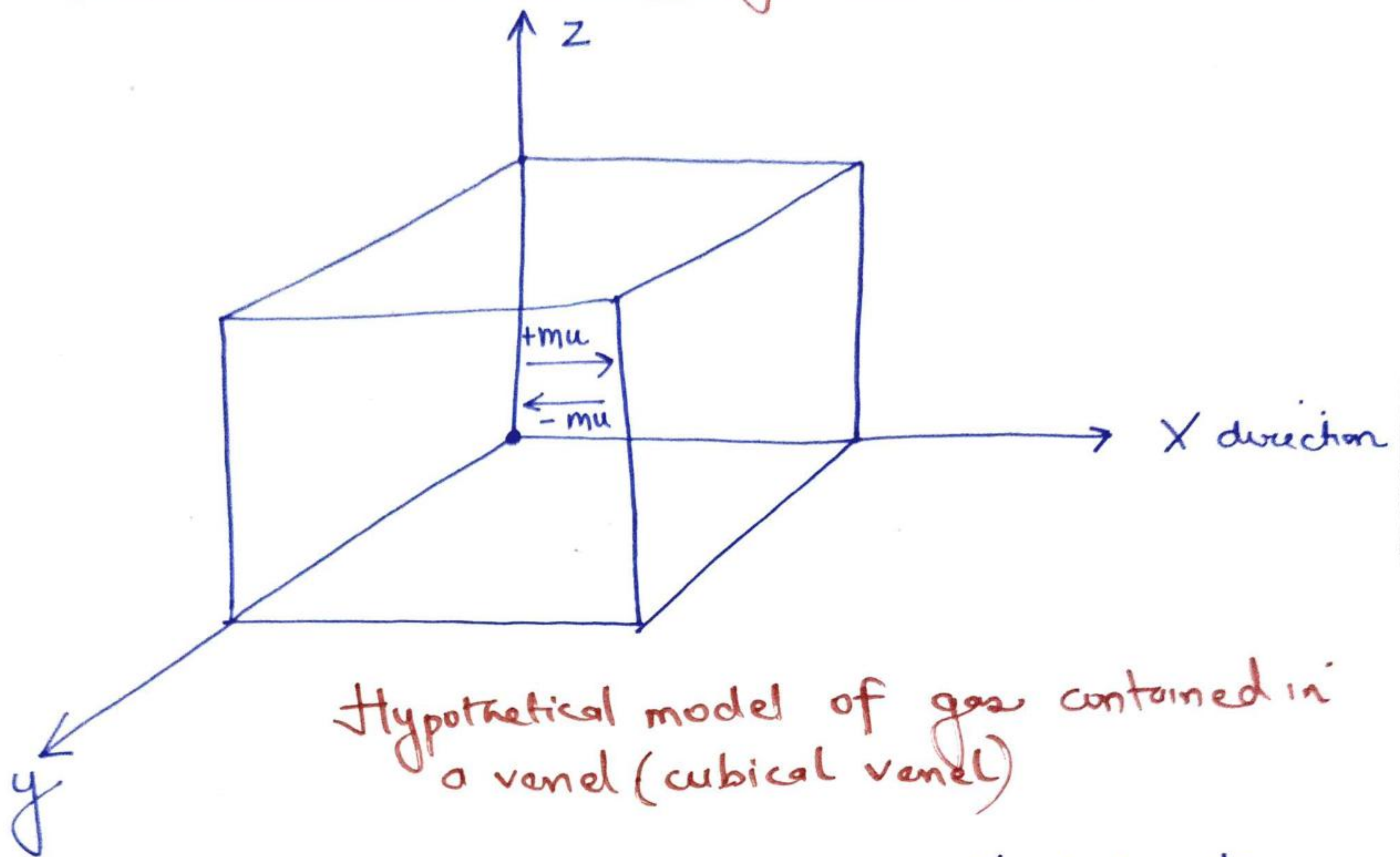
5. The pressure of gas is due to the bombardment of molecules on the walls of the containing vessel.  
(collision with walls account for the pressure of the gas)

Based on these assumptions, a formula (equation) can be derived that connects the pressure, volume, no. of molecules, individual mass and mean velocity.

This equation is known as Kinetic gas equation.



# Derivation of Kinetic gas equation. Page 2



A gas molecule can move in any direction at a given time: in the x-direction,  
in the y-direction  
in the z-direction

Let's consider the motion in the x-direction:

Let the velocity be  $= u_x$

length of cube  $= l$

mass of molecule  $= m$

Velocity of molecule  $= v$

Momentum in the x-direction  $= +mu_x$  (mass  $\times$  velocity)

" " " -x direction  $= -mu_x$   
(negative x direction)

Change in momentum  $= mu_x - (-mu_x)$

$= mu_x + mu_x$

(When an individual molecule collides with a wall its momentum  $2mu_x$ )



get doubled).

Total time taken from one end to other and vice versa =  $t = \frac{\text{distance}}{\text{speed/velocity}}$

$$= \frac{2l}{u_x} \quad (\text{Since length of cube assumed to be } l)$$

Now Rate of change of momentum =  $\frac{\text{change in momentum}}{\text{time taken}}$

$$= \frac{2mu_x}{\frac{2l}{u_x}}$$

$$= \frac{mu_x^2}{l}$$

According to Newton second law, rate of change of momentum is the force exerted by the molecules on the wall.

$$\therefore \text{Force} = \text{Rate of change of momentum} = \frac{mu_x^2}{l}$$

$$\text{Since Pressure} = \frac{\text{force}}{\text{Area}}$$

$$\text{Pressure on wall} = \frac{mu_x^2}{l(l^2) \text{ Area}}$$

$$P = \frac{mu_x^2}{l^3}$$



$$P = \frac{m u_x^2}{V}$$

$V \Rightarrow$  (volume of container (cube)  $= l^3$ )

If there are  $N$  molecules in container (so far we have discussed case of a single molecule, now for  $N$  particles/molecules), In such situation pressure exerted by  $N$  molecules will be

$$P = \frac{m [u_{1x}^2 + u_{2x}^2 + u_{3x}^2 + \dots + u_{Nx}^2]}{V}$$

Now, If velocities are equal i.e.,

$$u_{1x}^2 + u_{2x}^2 + u_{3x}^2 + \dots = N u_x^2$$

$$P = \frac{m [N u_x^2]}{V}$$

$$P = \frac{N m u_x^2}{V} \quad \text{--- (i)}$$

Since velocity in each direction is equal i.e.,

$$u_x^2 = u_y^2 = u_z^2$$

$$\text{Total velocity } u^2 = u_x^2 + u_y^2 + u_z^2$$

$$\text{OR } u^2 = 3 u_x^2$$

$$u_x^2 = \frac{u^2}{3}$$

mean square velocity.  $\therefore$  it can be written as  $c^2$

$$\boxed{u_x^2 = c^2/3}$$



On putting this  $U_{\text{rms}}^2$  value in (i)

$$\therefore P = \frac{Nm c^2}{3V}$$

$$PV = \frac{1}{3} m N c^2$$

→ This is called  
Kinetic gas  
equation

↓  
(connecting  $P$ ,  $V$ , no. of  
molecules, mass and  
mean velocity).

Kinetic energy of a gas molecule is  
directly proportional to absolute temperature  
of gas ( $K.E \propto T$ )

Derivation: Consider an ideal gas equation

$$PV = nRT$$

→ no. of moles

Put  $PV$  value from Kinetic gas equation  
in ideal gas equation

$$\frac{1}{3} m N c^2 = nRT$$

$$m c^2 = \frac{3nRT}{N}$$

Multiply both sides by  $\frac{1}{2}$

$$\frac{1}{2} m c^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{3nRT}{N} \right)$$

$$\text{Kinetic energy } \left( \frac{1}{2} m c^2 \right) = \frac{3nRT}{2N}$$

$$K.E = \left( \frac{3nR}{2N} \right) T$$

(Since  $\frac{3}{2}$ ,  $n$ ,  $R$ ,  $N$  all are  
constants)

$$\boxed{K.E \propto T}$$



All gas laws can be easily derived from K.E gas equation

{ Boyle's law  
 Charles "  
 Avogadro's "  
 Ideal gas equation }

Boyle's law  $\Rightarrow$  According to this law PV is constant at constant Temperature (Pressure  $\times$  volume)

Start with Kinetic gas equation  $\rightarrow PV = \frac{1}{3} m N c^2$

$$PV = \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} m N c^2 \quad [\text{Divide and multiply by 2}]$$

$$PV = \frac{2}{3} N \left[ \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} m c^2}_{\substack{\downarrow \\ \text{K.E.}}} \right]$$

Thus  $PV = \text{constant}$  [Since K.E. is constant at constant temp and  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  $N$  is also constant]

Charles's law  $\Rightarrow$  According to this law  $V \propto T$  at constant pressure

Start with Kinetic gas equation  $\Rightarrow PV = \frac{1}{3} m N c^2$

$$PV = \frac{2}{3} \left( \frac{1}{2} m N c^2 \right) \quad [\text{Multiply and divide by 2}]$$



$$PV = \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} m c^2 \times N$$

K.E.

Since K.E varies  $\propto$  temperature

$\therefore PV \propto T$   
 At constant Pressure [for a definite amount of gas i.e.  $N = \text{constant}$  at constant pressure]

## Avogadro's Law

According to this law, equal volume of all gases under same conditions of temperature and pressure contains equal number of molecules i.e.

$$N_1 = N_2$$

for any two gases, Kinetic gas equation  $(PV = \frac{1}{3} m N c^2)$  can be written as

$$P_1 V_1 = \frac{1}{3} m_1 N_1 c_1^2$$

$$\text{OR } P_1 V_1 = \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} \times m_1 N_1 c_1^2 \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Multiply} \\ \text{\& Divide} \\ \text{by 2} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\text{Similarly } P_2 V_2 = \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} \times m_2 N_2 c_2^2$$

$$\text{At } V_1 = V_2$$

$$P_1 = P_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} m_1 N_1 c_1^2 = \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} m_2 N_2 c_2^2$$

$$\left( \frac{1}{2} m_1 c_1^2 \right) N_1 = \left( \frac{1}{2} m_2 c_2^2 \right) N_2$$



$$(K.E)_1 N_1 = (K.E)_2 N_2$$

Since  $K.E = \frac{1}{2} m c^2$

If two gases are also at the same temperature then K.E is also same  $((K.E)_1 = (K.E)_2)$

Thus  $N_1 = N_2$

### Ideal gas equation

On combining Boyle's law, Charles's law, Avogadro's law, we get

Boyle's law  $V \propto \frac{1}{P}$  (at constant  $T$  &  $n$ )

Charles's law  $V \propto T$  (at constant  $P$  &  $n$ )

Avogadro law  $V \propto n$  (at constant  $T$  &  $P$ )

$$V \propto \frac{1}{P}$$

$$\propto T$$

$$\propto n$$

$$\Rightarrow V \propto \frac{Tn}{P}$$

$$PV \propto nT$$

OR  $PV = nRT$

Ideal gas equation



# Deviations of Real Gases from Ideal behaviour.

Page 1

- ⊗ The equation  $PV = nRT$  derived from the postulates of Kinetic theory of gases is valid for an ideal gas only.
- ⊗ Real gases obey this equation only under certain conditions i.e. at low pressure and at high temperature.
- ⊗ Higher the pressure and lower the temperature, the greater are the deviations from ideal behaviour.

## Compressibility factor (Z)

OR

## Compression factor (Z)

The deviations from ideal behaviour are represented in terms of the compressibility factor  $Z$ .

$$\text{Here } Z = \frac{(PV)_{\text{real}}}{(PV)_{\text{ideal}}} \quad Z = \frac{P V_{\text{real}}}{P V_{\text{ideal}}}$$

$$Z = \frac{PV}{nRT}$$

$$(P V_{\text{ideal}} = nRT)$$

$$Z = \frac{P}{RT} \left( \frac{V}{n} \right)$$

$$Z = \frac{P V_m}{RT}$$

( $\because V_m = \frac{V}{n}$  = molar volume  
i.e. volume occupied by 1 mol of gas)



Page 2

For an ideal gas,  $z = 1$  under all conditions of temperature and pressure.

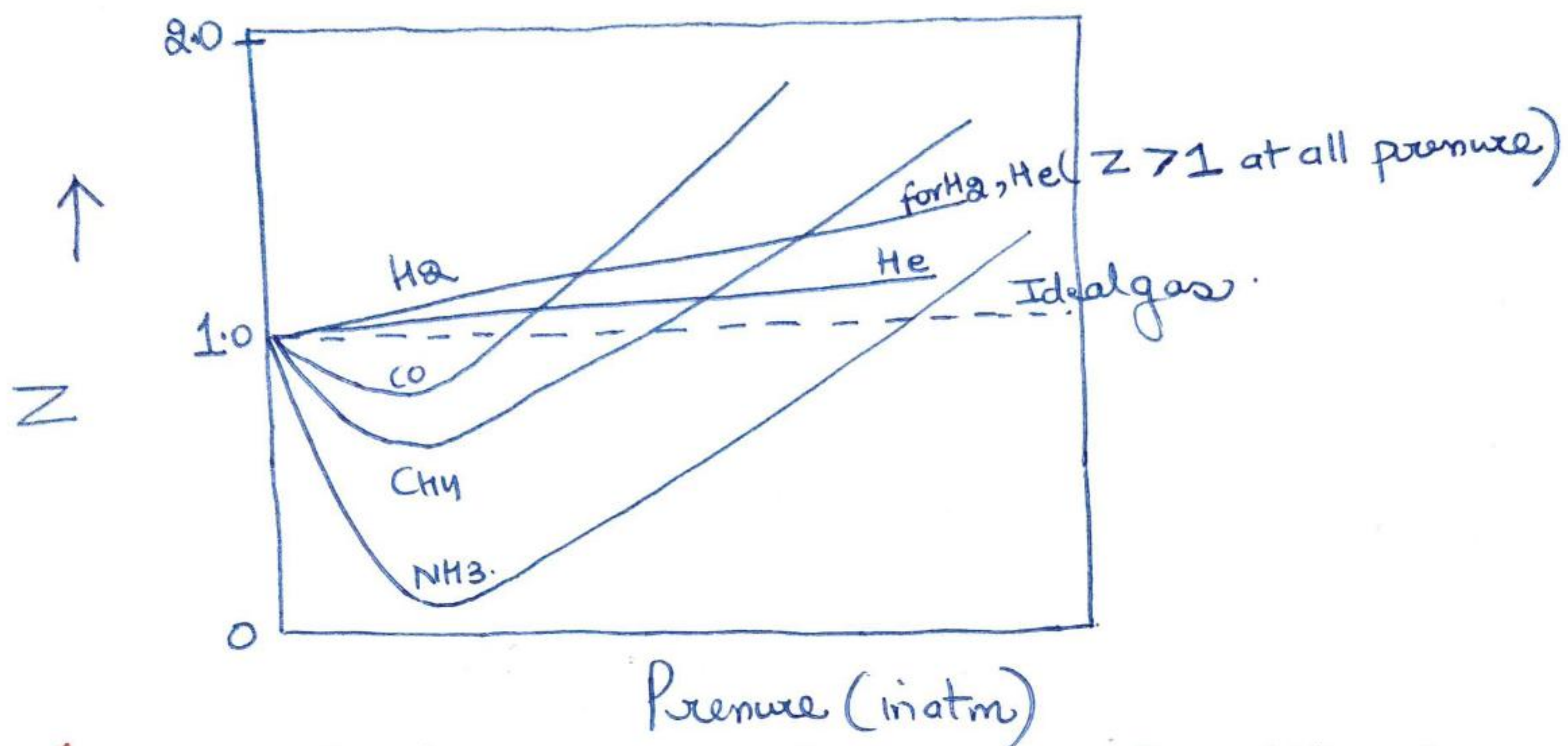


Fig 1: Plot for the compressibility factor for different gases over a range of pressure at a constant temperature

⇒ At extremely low pressure,  $Z$  close to unity which means that the gas behave almost ideally.

⇒ At moderately low pressure,  
 $PV$  is less than  $(PV)_{\text{ideal}}$

$$\Rightarrow Z = \frac{PV}{PV_{\text{ideal}}}$$

$$\text{Thus } Z < 1$$

This is due to the fact at low pressure, long range attractive forces are dominant and favor compression.

eg:  $\text{CO}$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$  are more compressible than ideal gas i.e. ( $Z < 1$ ) (fig 1)



⇒ At very high pressure:-

The compressibility factor  $Z$  goes on decreasing with increase in pressure, passes through a minimum at a certain stage and then begins to increase with increase in pressure. The gases now become less compressible than an ideal gas i.e.  $PV$  is more than  $PV_{ideal}$  so that  $Z > 1$   $\left\{ Z = \frac{PV}{PV_{ideal}} \right\}$

At very high pressure, repulsive forces are dominant.

A gas which obeys the gas laws and the gas equation  $PV = nRT$  at all temperature and pressure is said to be an ideal gas.

But no real gas strictly obeys the gas equation at all temperature and pressure.

Deviation from ideal behavior are observed mainly at high  $P$  and low  $T$ .

In case of ideal gas,  $PV = nRT$ ,  $Z = 1$ .

In case of Real gas  $PV \neq nRT$ ,  $Z \neq 1$

Thus in case of Real gas,  $Z$  can be  $> 1$  or  $< 1$

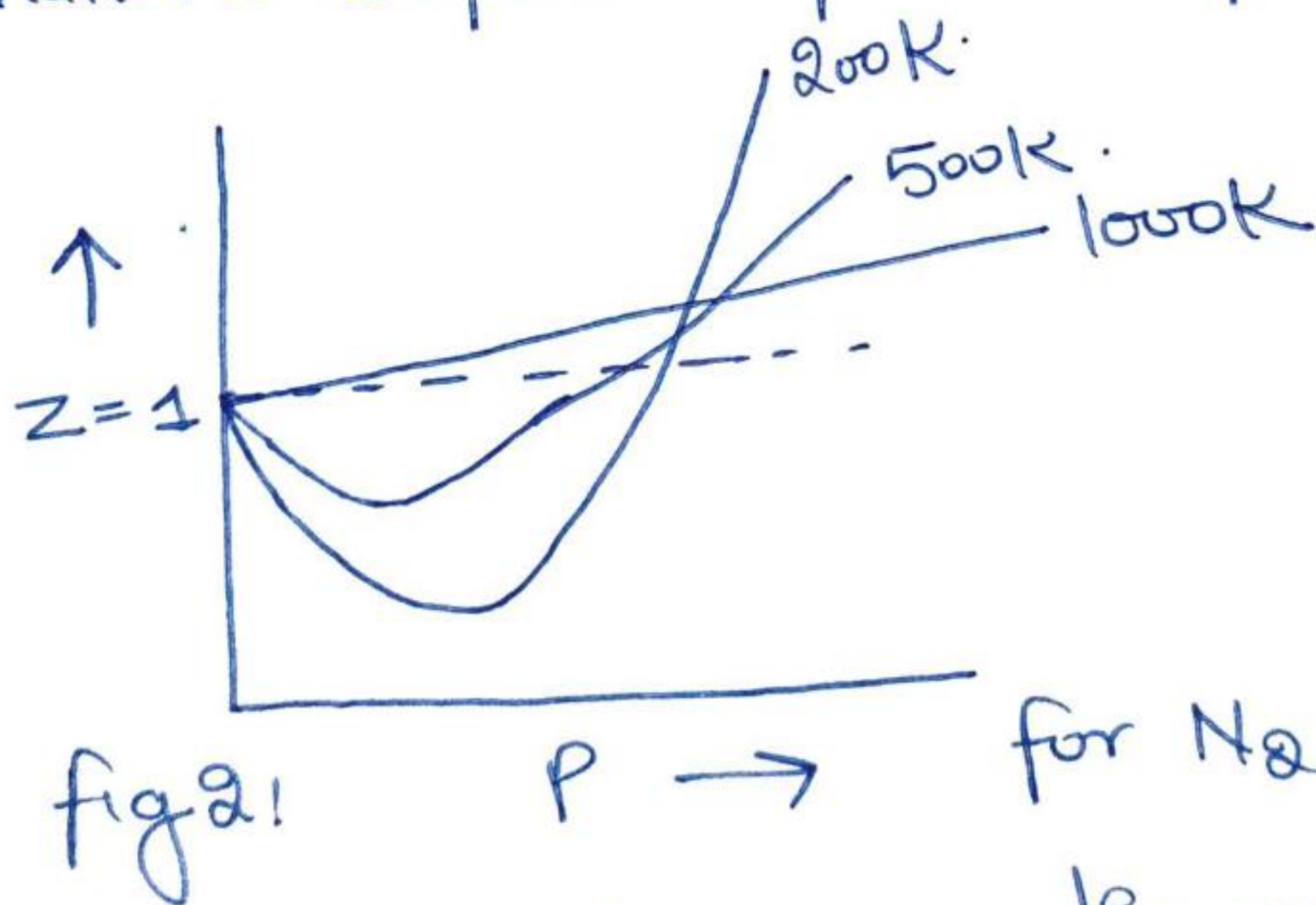


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Case I When  $Z < 1$ , it is a negative deviation. It shows that gas is more compressible than expected from ideal behaviour. This is caused by predominance of attractive forces among molecules of this gas (Refer fig 1)

Case II: when  $Z > 1$ , it is a positive deviation. It shows that gas is less compressible than expected from ideal behaviour. This is caused by predominance of the strong repulsive forces among molecule. (Refer fig 1)

For some gas, at a particular pressure, the extent of deviation depends upon temperature (fig 2).



As the temperature increases, the minimum in the curve shifts upward. Ultimately, a temperature is reached at which the value of  $Z$  remain close to 1. The temperature at which a real gas behaves like an ideal gas over an appreciable pressure range is called Boyle temperature or Boyle Point

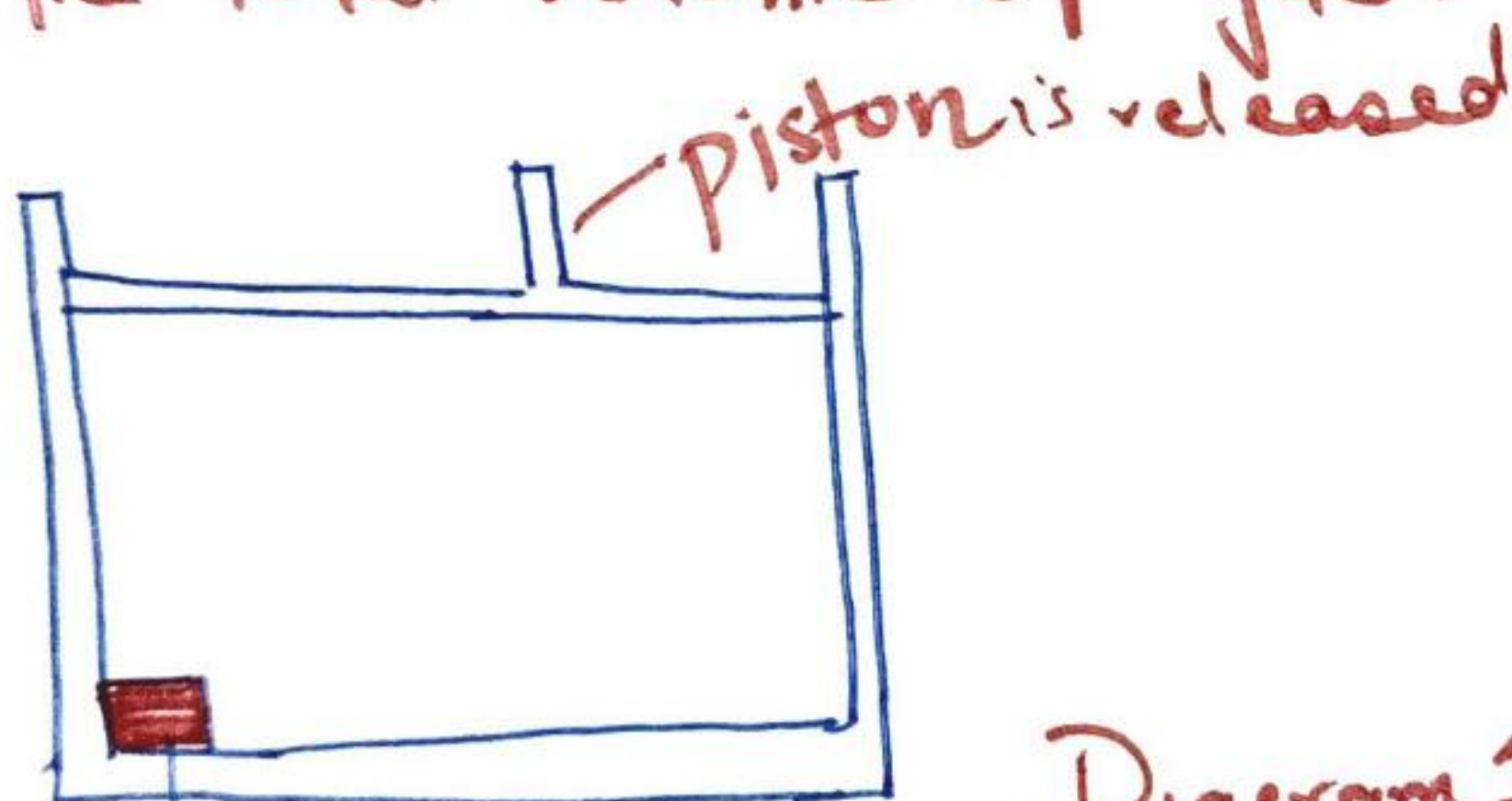


# Causes of deviation from Ideal Behaviour:

⇒ Faulty assumptions in Kinetic theory of gases.

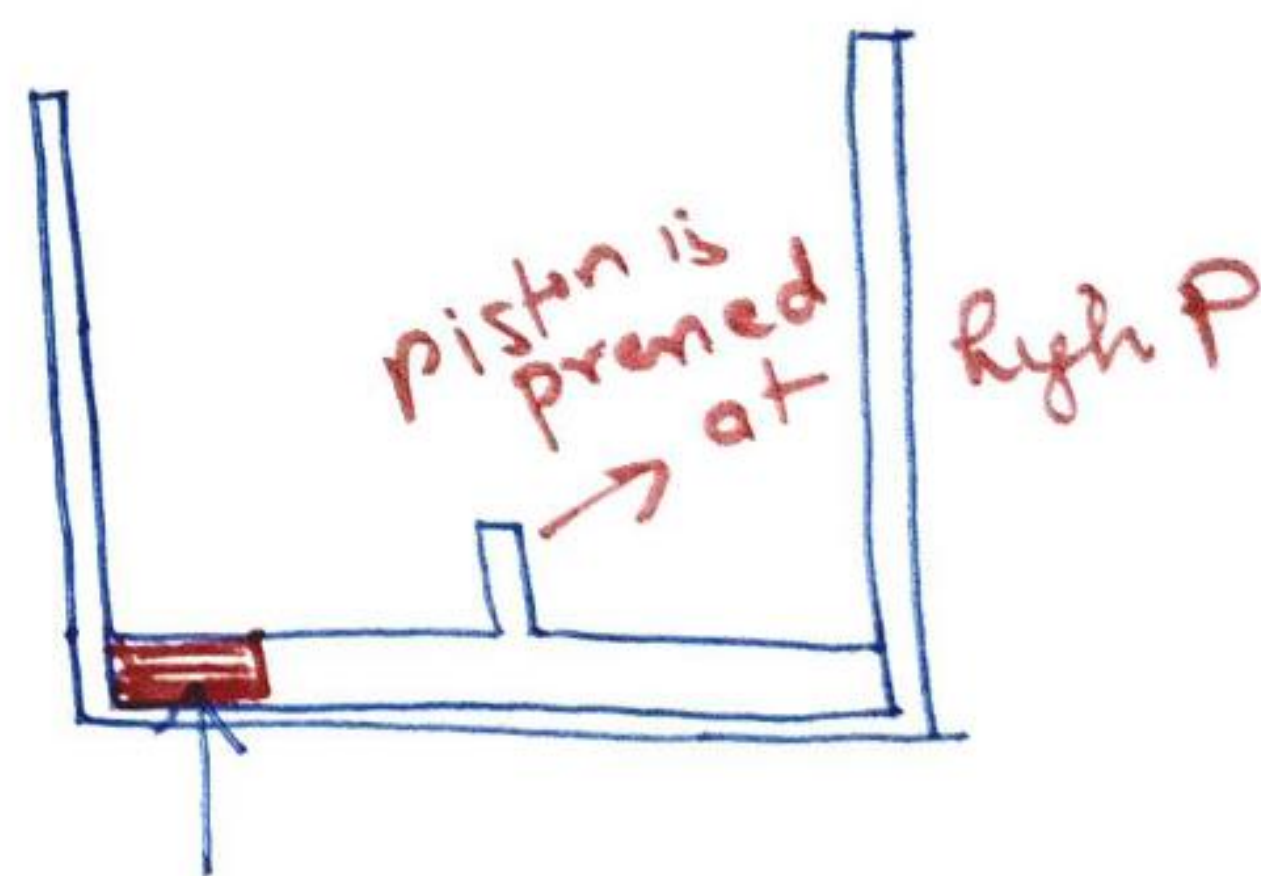
- ① The volume occupied by gas molecules is negligibly ~~very~~ small as compared to the volume occupied by the gas.
- ② The forces of attraction between gas molecules are negligible.

These two assumptions are valid only at low  $P$  and high Temperature, when the volume occupied by the gas molecule is negligible as compared to the total volume of gas.



Volume of gas is negligible.

Ideal situation  
(low pressure)



Volume of gas is significant (cannot be ignored)

Real situation  
(high pressure)

But at high pressure or low temp, that assumption no longer works.



The real gas volume becomes larger than the predicted by ideal gas equation at high pressure (Refer Diagram 1) and also at high pressure, there are more frequent interactions b/w molecules due to ~~strong~~ being in strong proximity  $\bar{c}$  each other. The forces of attraction become appreciable and cannot be ignored.

## Equation of state for the Real Gases (vander Waals equation)

Scientist vander Waal modified the ideal gas law ( $PV = nRT$ ) to describe the behaviour of real gases by including the effects of

- ① volume of gas molecules.
- ② The forces of attraction between gas molecules.

$$PV = nRT$$

$$V_{\text{corrected}} = V - \underline{nb} \rightarrow \text{excluded volume}$$

$$P_{\text{corrected}} = P + \frac{an^2}{V^2}$$

$$\left( P + \frac{an^2}{V^2} \right) (V - nb) = nRT$$

a and b are constant  
different for each gas



## (i) Volume Correction

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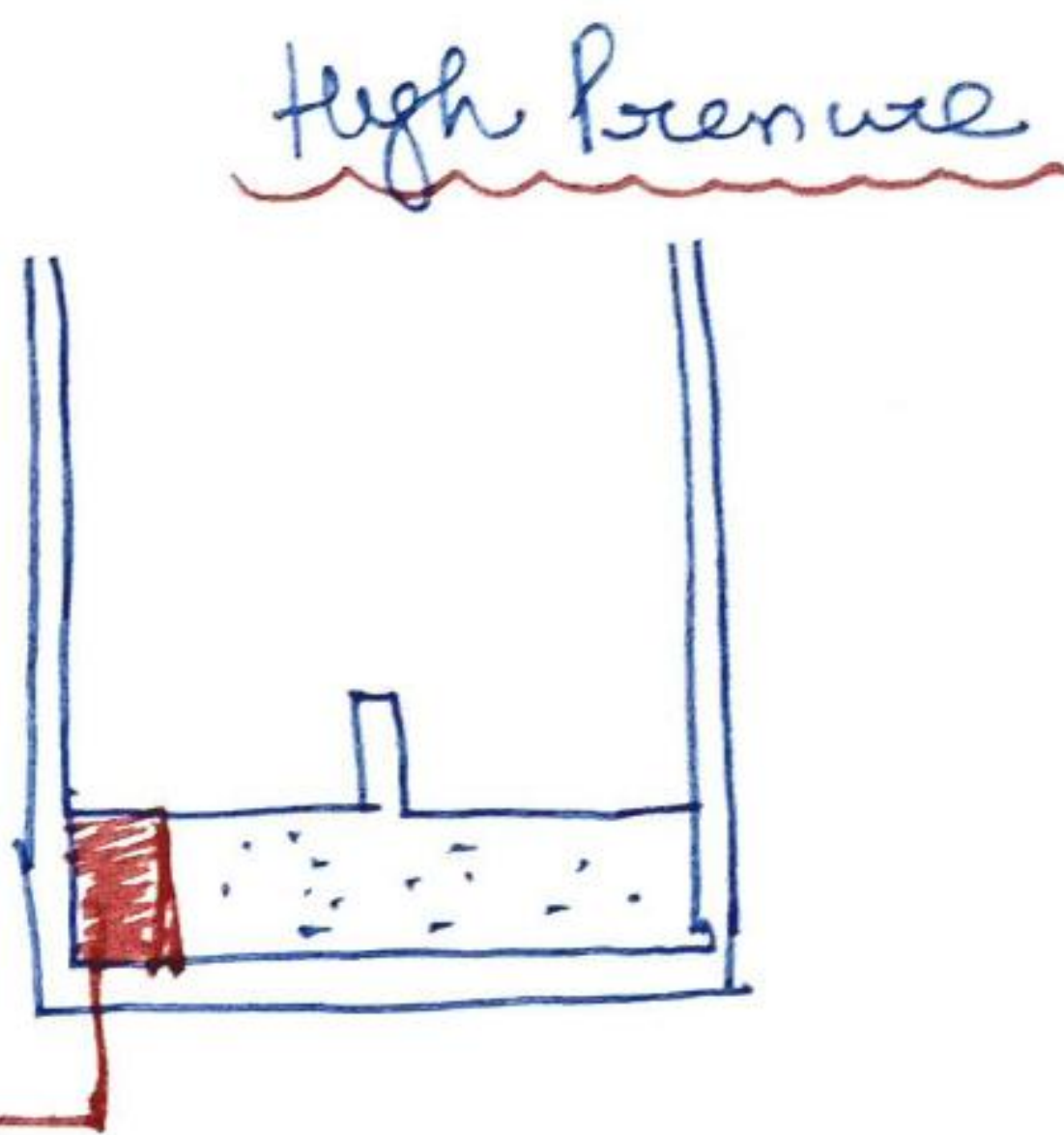
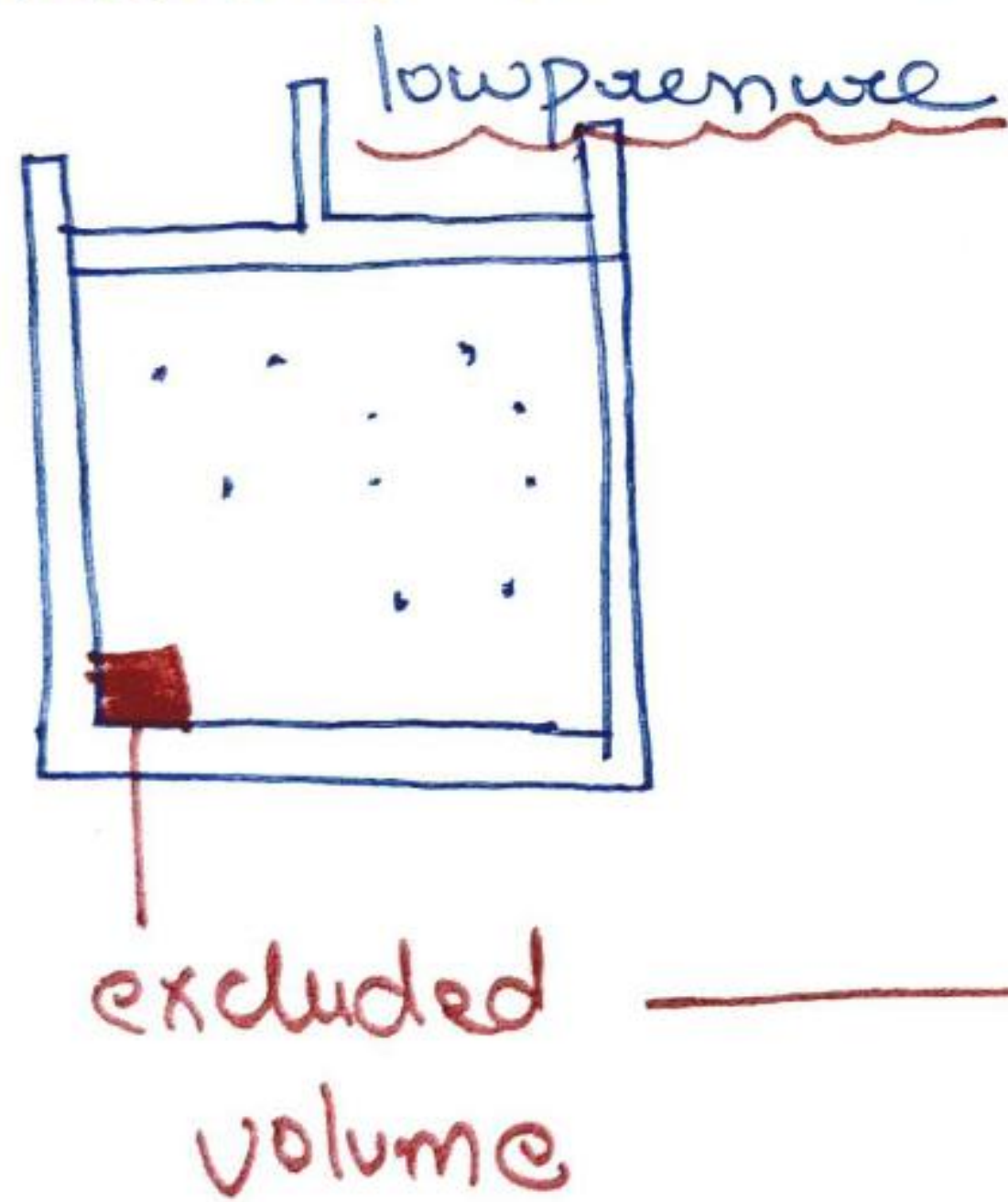
For an ideal gas  $PV = nRT$ .

Now in real gas, the molecular volume cannot be ignored.

∴ Let us assume that 'b' is the volume excluded (out of volume of container) for the moving gas molecules per mole of a gas.

b = actual volume occupied by a mole of gas particles.

Due to n moles of a gas, the volume excluded would be nb



A real gas in container of volume V has only available volume of  $(V - nb)$  and this volume can be thought of as an ideal gas in container of volume  $(V - nb)$ .



Volume term =  $V - nb$   
 corrects for the volume occupied by gaseous molecules

$$V_i = V - nb$$

no. of moles of real gas

$V$  = volume of gas

$b$  = constant whose value depends on the nature of gas.

## (ii) Pressure correction

⇒ The pressure exerted by a real gas would be less than the pressure an ideal gas would have exerted.

⇒ The real gas experiences attraction by its molecule.

∴ If real gas exerts a pressure  $P$ , then an ideal gas would exert a pressure equal to

$P + p \rightarrow$  pressure lost by gas molecules due to attraction.

⇒ Intermolecular attractive forces tends to reduce the pressure from that predicted by Ideal gas law.

$p$  is directly proportional to the extent of attraction between molecules which are hitting the container wall and the molecules which are attracting these.



$$\therefore p \propto \frac{n}{V} \quad \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{Concentration of} \\ \text{molecules which are} \\ \text{hitting the container} \\ \text{wall} \end{array} \right)$$

$$p \propto \frac{n}{V} \quad \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{Concentration of} \\ \text{molecules which} \\ \text{are attracting} \\ \text{these molecules} \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{concentration} = \frac{\text{no. of moles}}{\text{volume}} = \frac{n}{V} \end{array} \right\}$$

It takes two particles to engage in the pairwise intermolecular interaction. (ie squared  $\frac{n^2}{V^2}$ )

$$\Rightarrow p \propto \left( \frac{n}{V} \right) \left( \frac{n}{V} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow p \propto \frac{n^2}{V^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow p = \frac{an^2}{V^2}$$

constant of proportionality depends upon the nature of gas.

Higher value of  $a$  reflects the increased attraction b/w gas molecules.



Hence ideal pressure would be

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$$P_i = P + \frac{an^2}{V^2}$$

Put these value of ideal volume  $V_i$  and ideal pressure  $P_i$  in ideal gas equation

$$P_i V_i = nRT$$

(\*)  
Correction  
of volume  
= +ve

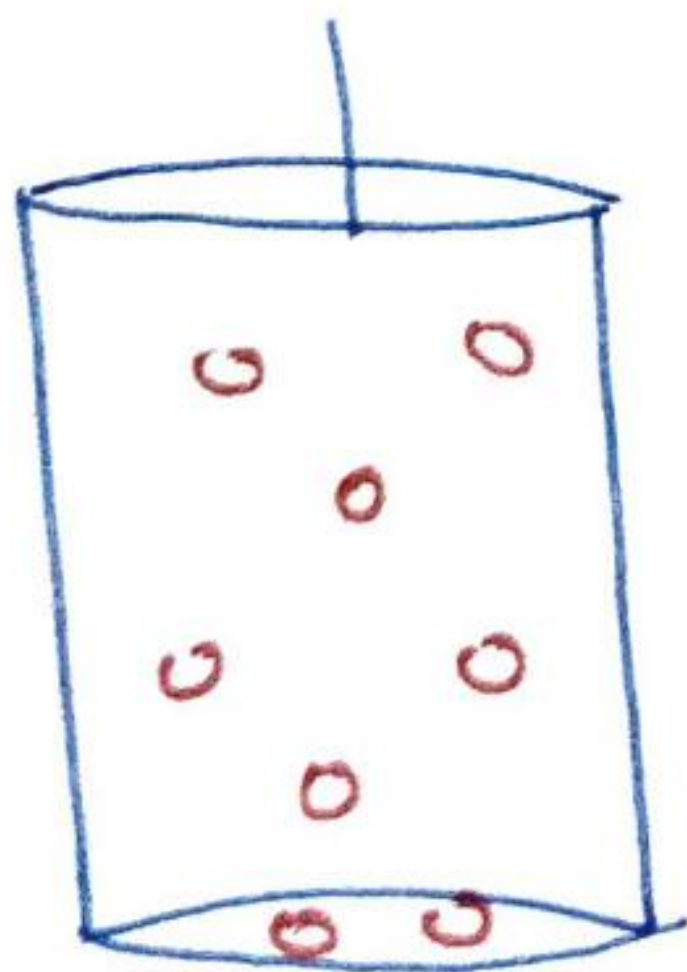
Correction of  
pressure = +ve ( $P \propto 1/V$ )

$$\left(P + \frac{an^2}{V^2}\right) (V - nb) = nRT$$

This is called  
equation of  
state for  
Real gases  
OR Vander Waal  
equation

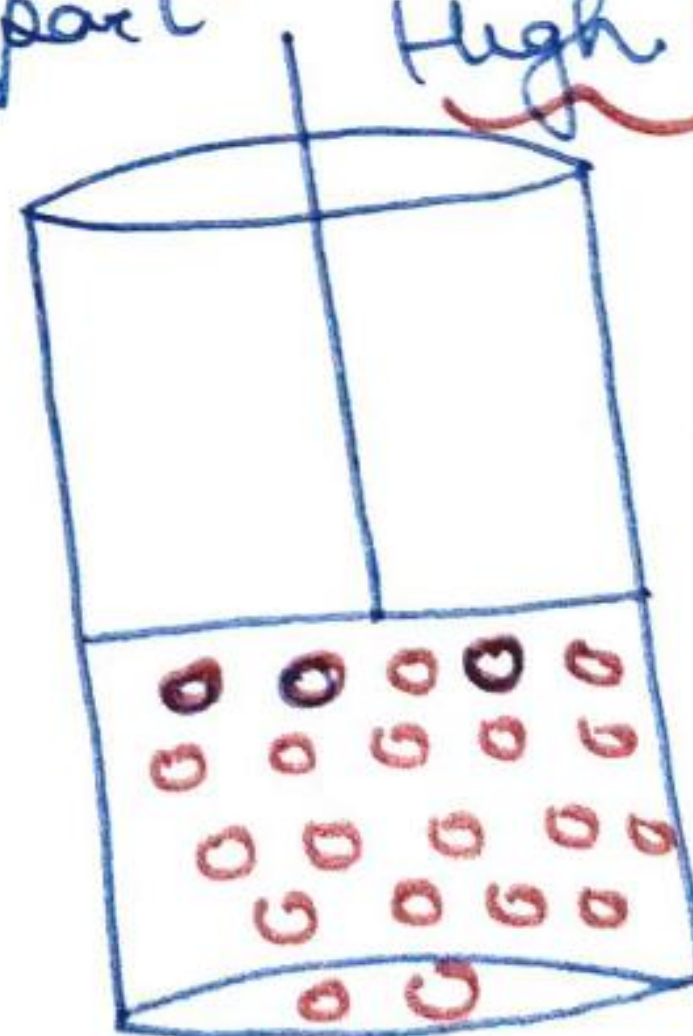
Points to remember :-

- Molecules of an ideal gas are assumed to have zero volume, the volume available to them for motion is same as the volume of container. In contrast the molecules of a real gas have small but measurable volumes. At low pressure, the gaseous molecules are relatively far apart. High pressure



low pressure

(molecules are far apart)



(molecules are close to one another)



- As the pressure of gas increases, the intermolecular distance becomes smaller and smaller. <sup>(molecules are close to one another)</sup> As a result, the volume occupied by the molecules becomes significant compared with the volume of container. Thus total volume occupied by the gas is greater than the volume predicted by the ideal gas.
- Moreover, all molecules are attracted to <sup>one</sup> another by various forces. These forces become important for gases at low temp & high pressure, where intermolecular distances are shorter. Attraction b/w these molecules reduces the number of collision with the container wall. This effect becomes more pronounced as the number of attractive interaction increases. Because the average distance b/w molecules ↓, the pressure exerted by gas on the container wall ↓, and the observed pressure is less than expected.
- The correction for volume is -ve, but the correction for pressure is +ve, to reflect the effect of each factor on  $V$  and  $P$  respectively. ✱  
 Because non-zero molecular volume (as by ideal gas) produce a measured volume that is larger than that predicted by ideal gas law, ∴ we must subtract the molecular volumes to obtain actual volume available.  $(V - nb)$



- Page 8
- Conversely, the attractive intermolecular forces produce a pressure that is less than that expected based on ideal gas law, so  $\frac{an^2}{V^2}$  must be added to measured pressure to correct for these effects.
  - At high temperature, the molecules have sufficient K.E. to overcome intermolecular attraction forces and effect of non-zero volume predominates.
  - Conversely, as temperature is lowered, K.E. of gas molecule ↓. Eventually, a point is reached where the molecules can no longer overcome the intermolecular attractive forces, and the gas liquifies (condenses to liquid).

### Significance of $a$ & $b$

$$\left(P + \frac{an^2}{V^2}\right) (V - nb) = nRT$$

$a \Rightarrow$  Its value is a measure of magnitude of attractive forces among the molecules of gas. If  $a$  is large then intermolecular forces of attraction would be large.

$b \Rightarrow$  Its value is a measure of the effective size of gas molecules. Its value is equal to 4 times the actual volume of gas molecules. It is called as excluded volume or co-volume.



Units of a & b

The units of a and b depend upon the units in which P & V are expressed.

$$\text{Unit of a} = \frac{PV^2}{n^2} = \frac{(\text{Pressure}) (\text{Volume})^2}{\text{mol}^2}$$

If P is atm, V = dm<sup>3</sup>

$$a = \text{dm}^6 \text{ atm mol}^{-2}$$

Unit of b = Same as unit of volume per mole

$$= \text{dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$$

### Explanation of behaviour of real gas by vander Waal eq / Different forms of vander

Waal equation:  $\left(P + \frac{an^2}{V^2}\right)(V - nb) = nRT$

At moderate pressure:

V is large and b is negligible in comparison with V

$$\left(P + \frac{an^2}{V^2}\right)(V) = nRT$$

for n = 1

$$\left(P + \frac{a}{V^2}\right)(V) = RT$$



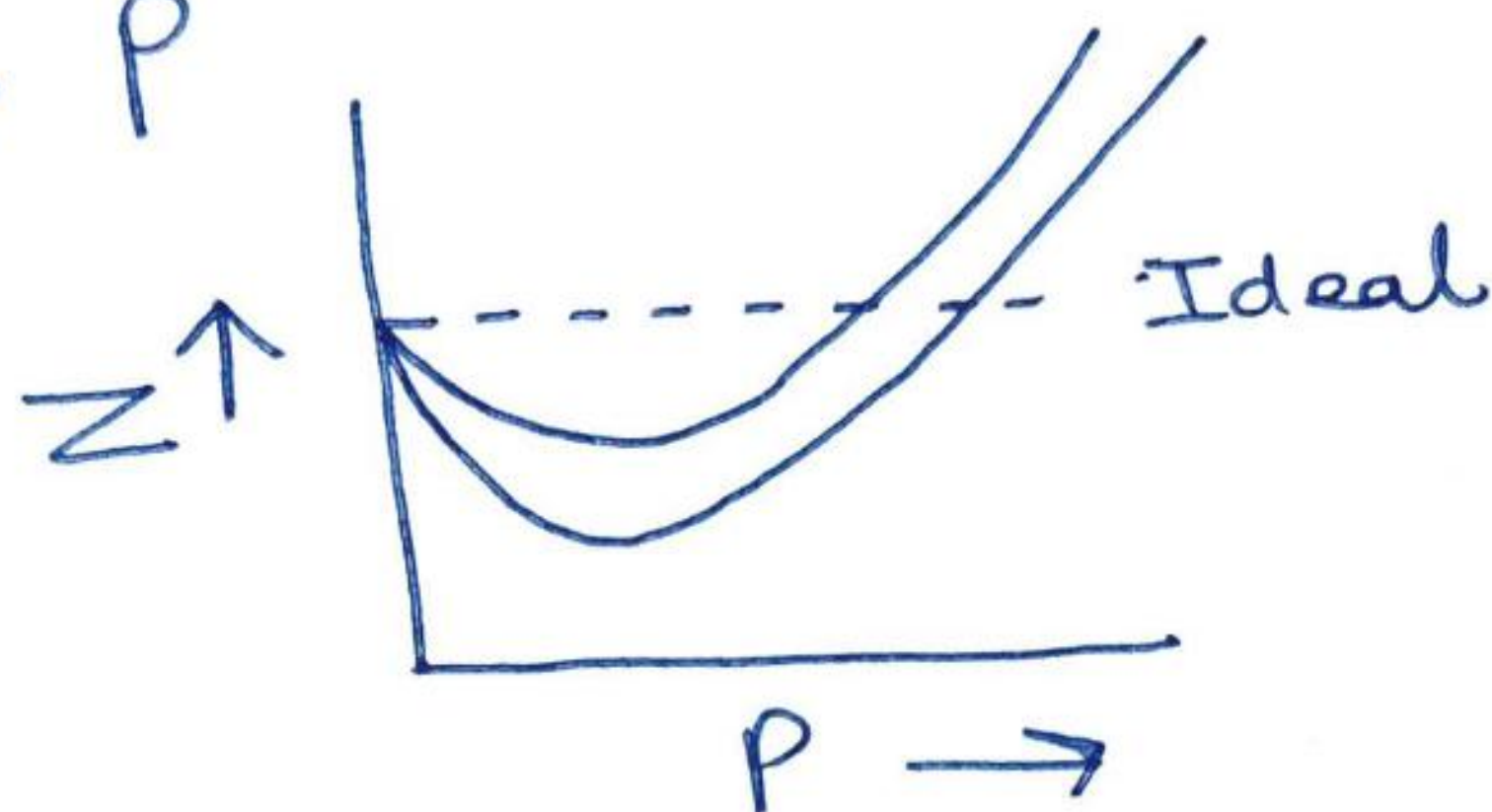
$$PV + \frac{a}{V} = RT$$

$$PV = RT - \frac{a}{V} \quad \text{OR} \quad \frac{PV}{RT} = 1 - \frac{a}{RTV}$$

So at constant  $P$ ,  $P$  ↑ ses ( $V$  ↓ ses) OR  $\frac{a}{RTV}$  ↑ ses

$$Z = 1 - \frac{a}{RTV} \Rightarrow Z < 1$$

This accounts for the initial dip in  $Z$  vs  $P$  plot at low  $P$



At very low Pressure:

$V$  is large,  $\frac{a}{V^2}$  is so small that it can be neglected. Similarly, the correction term  $b$  can also be neglected in comparison to  $V$ .

So equation  $(P + \frac{a}{V^2})(V - b) = \frac{RT}{1}$  reduced to

$$(P)(V) = RT$$

$$(P)(V) = RT$$

$$\boxed{PV = RT} \text{ Ideal gas equation (form=1)}$$

This explains why at very low pressure, the real gas behaves like an ideal gas



At high pressure :

$V$  is so small that  $b$  cannot be ignored. The factor  $\frac{a}{V^2}$  is no doubt large but as  $P$  is very high,  $\frac{a}{V^2}$  can be neglected in comparison to  $P$ .

$$\left(P + \frac{a}{V^2}\right)(V - b) = RT \quad \text{reduces to}$$

$$P \cdot P(V - b) = RT$$

$$PV - Pb = RT$$

$$PV = RT + Pb$$

$$\frac{PV}{RT} = \frac{RT}{RT} + \frac{Pb}{RT}$$

$$\frac{PV}{RT} = 1 + \frac{Pb}{RT}$$

$$\text{OR } Z = 1 + \frac{Pb}{RT}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{Z > 1}$$

As  $P$  is  $\uparrow$ ing, factor  $\frac{Pb}{RT}$   $\uparrow$ ses. This explain why after minima in the curves, the compressibility factor increases continuously with pressure.



At high temperature :

$V$  is very large (at a given  $P$ ) so that both correction factor  $\left(\frac{a}{V^2} \text{ and } b\right)$  becomes negligible. Hence behaves like ideal gas.

### Explanation of the exceptional behaviour of hydrogen and helium :

For  $H_2$  and  $He$  (small mass, lightest gases known),  $Z$  is always greater than 1,  $Z > 1$  (see plot of  $Z$  vs  $P$ ). This is because  $H_2$  and  $He$  are very small molecules. The intermolecular forces of attraction in them are negligible, that is 'a' is very small so that  $\frac{a}{V^2}$  can be ignored / negligible.

$$\left(P + \frac{an^2}{V^2}\right) (V - nb) = nRT \text{ reduces to}$$

$$\left(P + \frac{a}{V^2}\right) (V - b) = RT \quad (n=1)$$

$$P(V - b) = RT$$

$$PV = RT + Pb$$

$$\frac{PV}{RT} = \frac{RT}{RT} + \frac{Pb}{RT}$$



$$Z = 1 + \frac{pb}{RT}$$

$$Z > 1$$

and  $\uparrow$ ses with  $\uparrow$ se in the value of  $P$  at const  $T$

$$p + a \left( \frac{n}{V} \right)^2 \left( \underbrace{V - nb}_{\text{Ideal volume}} \right) = nRT$$

measured pressure  $\rightarrow$   $p$   
 Ideal Pressure  $\rightarrow$   $p + a \left( \frac{n}{V} \right)^2$   
 measured volume  $\rightarrow$   $V$   
 Ideal volume  $\rightarrow$   $V - nb$   
 $nRT$   $\rightarrow$  (correction factor to account for the size of molecule)  
 (Correction factor to account for intermolecular attractions)  $\rightarrow$   $a \left( \frac{n}{V} \right)^2$