

8. (10 points) The ideal gas law relates the volume and pressure of a gas to the temperature of the gas. The formula can be given as

$$PV = cT$$

where P is the pressure of the gas measured in *atmospheres*, V is the volume of the gas measured in *liters*, c is a positive constant, and T is the temperature of the gas measured in *kelvins*. (Remember, a temperature measured in kelvins is always positive!)

(a) If T is held constant, find $\frac{dV}{dP}$.

Assuming $P \neq 0$ we can rewrite the equation as $V = \frac{cT}{P}$. Now we just use the power rule to obtain $\frac{dV}{dP} = -\frac{cT}{P^2}$.

(b) What is the meaning of the sign of your answer to part (a)? Explain this in everyday terms.

Noting that c , T , and P are all positive quantities, part (a) tells us that $\frac{dV}{dP}$ is negative. This says that V is a decreasing function of P . What this means in everyday terms is that as one increases the pressure on a gas, the volume of the gas goes down.

(c) Suppose V , P , and T are all functions of the time t . Find $\frac{dT}{dt}$.

Taking the derivative with respect to t on each side of the equation we have:

$$V \frac{dP}{dt} + P \frac{dV}{dt} = c \frac{dT}{dt}.$$

Thus, we have

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = \frac{1}{c} \left(V \frac{dP}{dt} + P \frac{dV}{dt} \right).$$