

# 1st Law of Thermodynamics - 1

- Monatomic Gas Isobar (1):**
1. The number of moles follows from  $P V_i = n R T_i$ , where  $P$  and the initial values  $V_i$ ,  $T_i$  are given, and  $R = 8.31 \text{ J}/(\text{K} \cdot \text{mol})$  is the gas constant.
  2. Final temperature from  $P V_f = n R T_f$ , where  $P$  and  $V_f$  are given.
  3. Work  $W = P (V_f - V_i)$ .

- $P V$  Diagram Work (2):**
1. Work on path A:  $W = P_1 (V_2 - V_1)$ .
  2. Work on path B:  $W = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} P(V) dV$ , where we have to determine  $P(V)$  first, which is a straight line. From the figure the slope  $a$  of  $P(V)$  is seen to be

$$a = \frac{P_2 - P_1}{V_2 - V_1} \Rightarrow P(V) = P_1 + a(V - V_1)$$

and the integration can be performed:

$$W = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} P(V) dV = (V_2 - V_1) P_1 + a(V_2^2 - V_1^2)/2 - (P_2 - P_1) V_1.$$

3. Work on path C:  $W = P_2 (V_2 - V_1)$ .

## 1st Law of Thermodynamics - 2

**Isothermal Expansion Work (4):**  $P V = n R T$  with  $T$  constant implies

$$W = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} P(V) dV = n R T \int_{V_1}^{V_2} \frac{dV}{V} = n R T \ln \left( \frac{V_2}{V_1} \right) .$$

Note:  $n R T = P_1 V_1$  and one liter =  $(0.1)^3 \text{ m}^3$ .

**Thermodynamic system (5):**  $U$ ,  $W$ ,  $Q$ . Find the sign of  $\Delta U$  from  $U = c_V T$  and  $P V = n R T$ , from  $\Delta W = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} P(V) dV$  the sign of  $\Delta W$ . Then, if the sum of  $\Delta U$  and  $\Delta W$  is positive (negative)  $\Delta Q$  is positive (negative) because of energy conservation.