

Figure 2. Vapor pressure of glycerol

during weighing intervals. There is the additional possibility of decomposition of the glycerol during the ten successive distillations used for preparation. These probably were simple distillations at atmospheric pressure (b.p. 290°C.) and, since polymerization and decomposition are reported to begin at little over 200°C. (7), the purity of the glycerol studied remains in doubt.

To test the effect of minute quantities of water present in the glycerol, an opened sample vial was left in a desiccator for several months and then used for a vapor pressure measurement. The water absorbed, even in this very dry

atmosphere, was sufficient to increase the apparent vapor pressure by a factor of five. Thus, it is possible that thorough drying of Wyllie's glycerol could have lowered the measured vapor pressure to coincide with the present study. A prime advantage of the present method thus becomes its ability to obtain weight measurements without exposure of the glycerol to the atmosphere during the weighing process.

#### NOMENCLATURE

- $A_o$  = orifice area, sq. cm.
- $A_s$  = surface area of evaporating liquid, sq. cm.
- $M$  = molecular weight, grams/gram-mole
- $P$  = pressure, dyne/sq. cm.
- $P_v$  = vapor pressure, dyne/sq. cm.
- $P'_c$  = steady state cell pressure, dyne/sq. cm.
- $r$  = radius of effusion canal (orifice), cm.
- $R$  = gas content,  $8.31 \times 10^7$  dyne cm./gram-mole ° K.
- $t$  = length of effusion canal (foil thickness), cm.
- $T$  = temperature, ° K.
- $W_b$  = Clausing factor for orifice, dimensionless
- $dW/d\theta$  = rate of weight loss, grams/hour
- $\alpha$  = evaporation coefficient, dimensionless

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## Compressibility Factors of 2,2-Dimethylpropane (Neopentane)

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A STANDARD Burnett apparatus was modified and used to determine the compressibility isotherms of gaseous 2,2-dimethylpropane (neopentane) between 1 atm. and the vapor pressure at 30°, 50°, 75°, 100°, 125°, and 150° C., and between 1 and 70 atm. at 161.5°, 175°, and 200° C. The critical temperature of 2,2-dimethylpropane is 160.60° C. (1).

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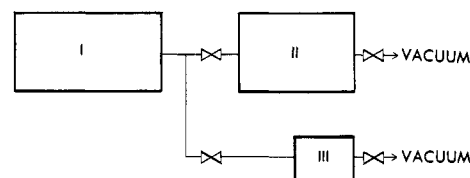


Figure 1. Modified Burnett apparatus

#### APPARATUS

The Burnett method (3) employs two thermostated chambers connected by a valve (Figure 1). The gas under investigation is introduced into  $V_I$  while  $V_{II}$  is evacuated. The pressure in  $V_I$  is measured, whereupon the gas is expanded into  $V_{II}$  and the pressure is again measured. The

evacuation of  $V_{II}$  and expansion of the contents of  $V_I$  into it are then repeated until as low a pressure is reached as can be measured precisely. The compressibility factor can then be calculated at each measured pressure according to the relations given below.

With each expansion, the density of the gas drops an equal fraction of the previous density, giving very large pressure intervals at high pressures. If the expansion chamber is made small so that the pressure interval is small, then the pressures become so close together at the lower pressures that an unreasonable number of measurements is required to complete a single run.

To overcome this disadvantage, a third chamber was added to the first two. Initial expansions are made into the new  $V_{III}$ , until the pressure intervals become less than the maximum desired. Subsequent expansions are made into  $V_{II}$ .

The density of the gas after any expansion into  $V_{III}$  is

$$d_i = (1/M) d_{i-1}$$

where

$$M = (V_I + V_{III}) / V_I$$

Since

$$d = P / zRT$$

$$P_i / z_i RT_i = P_{i-1} / z_{i-1} RT_{i-1} M$$

and

$$z_i = (P_i M / T_i) / (P_{i-1} / z_{i-1} T_{i-1}) \quad (1)$$

Repeated substitution in the denominator of this expression in terms of the previous expansion ultimately yields

$$z_i = (P_i M^i / T_i) / (P_0 / z_0 T_0)$$

Let  $rm$  be the last expansion into  $V_{III}$ , subsequent expansions being made into  $V_{II}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} z_{rm-1} &= (P_{rm-1} N / T_{rm-1}) / (P_{rm} / z_{rm} T_{rm}) \\ &= (P_{rm-1} M^{rm} N / T_{rm-1}) / (P_0 / z_0 T_0) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$N = (V_I + V_{II}) / V_I$$

and in general,

$$z_i = (P_i M^i N^{i-rm} / T_i) / (P_0 / z_0 T_0) \quad (2)$$

where for  $i \leq rm$ ,  $r = i$ , and for  $i > rm$ ,  $r = rm$ .

During any particular run, the temperature might vary  $\pm 0.05^\circ \text{C}$ . To correct for this variation, the temperature of each measurement is retained in Equation 2. When the investigation of a gas is complete, each compressibility is corrected to the nominal isotherm by

$$z_{\text{corr}} = z_i + (\partial z / \partial T)_P (T - T_i)$$

where the unsubscripted  $T$  is the nominal temperature of the isotherm.

Equation 2 permits calculation of  $z_i$  at each measured  $P_i$  and  $T_i$  provided that  $M$ ,  $N$ , and  $P_0 / z_0 T_0$  are known. Rearrangement of Equation 2 shows that

$$P_0 / z_0 T_0 = P_i M^i N^{i-rm} / T_i z_i = \lim_{P_i \rightarrow 0} P_i M^i N^{i-rm} / T_i$$

This limit is determined graphically for each run.

$M$  is determined from a series of expansions into  $V_{III}$  carried down to a low pressure. Then from Equation 1

$$M = (P_{i-1} / z_{i-1} T_{i-1}) / (P_i / z_i T_i) = \lim_{P_i \rightarrow 0} \frac{(P_{i-1} / T_{i-1})}{(P_i / T_i)}$$

$N$  is found by a similar set of expansions into  $V_{II}$ . The limits are taken graphically, and once the constants are determined, they remain unchanged until one of the chambers is disturbed.

## MATERIALS

2,2-Dimethylpropane of 99.92% purity was obtained from the Phillips Chemical Co. Chromatographic analysis showed the presence of over 15% air (or nitrogen) in the vapor phase. This was removed by freezing the hydrocarbon and evacuating the vapor space. Two such treatments reduced the permanent gas to less than 0.02%.

## EXPERIMENTAL

The compressibility cells were thermostated in a stirred oil bath, controlled by a thermistor in conjunction with an a.c. bridge. Temperature control was to  $\pm 0.05^\circ \text{C}$ . Pressures above 3 atm. were measured with a dead weight (piston) gage; below 3 atm., with mercury manometers. Precision of the pressure measurements was estimated to be  $\pm 0.04\%$ .

The compressibility factors of 2,2-dimethylpropane are presented in Table I and in Figure 2. No point deviated from the indicated curves by more than 0.15%, except for a few points in obviously serious error, and the points in the critical region. The data overlap the data of Beattie, Douslin, and Levine (2) at temperatures above the critical and are from 0.57 to 1.9% below them.

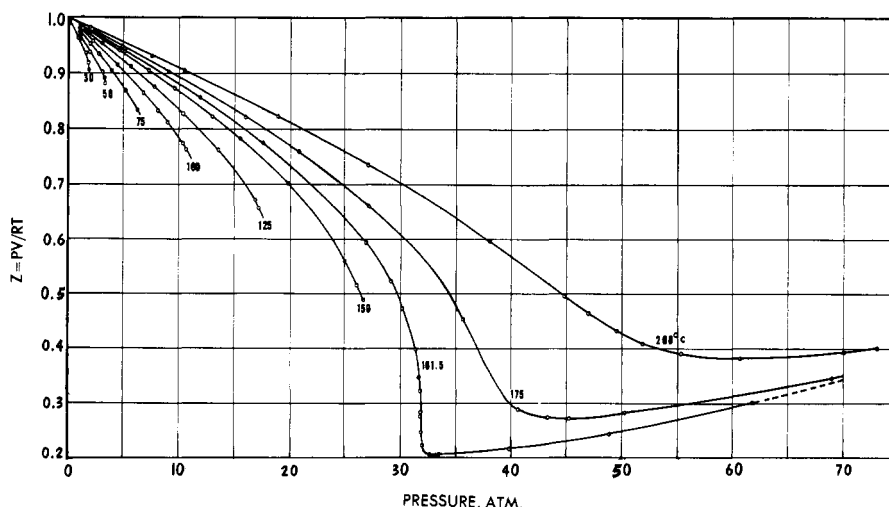


Figure 2. Compressibility factors of 2,2-dimethylpropane

