

EXPERIMENT 14: CALORIMETRY

Introduction: You will find the "specific heat" constant of a metal, "c," by the heat exchanged in a calorimeter, then use the Law of Dulong and Petit to find its atomic mass

Background: Energy is gained or lost by an object when it warms or cools. One unit of energy is the **joule, J**, ($1\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^2/\text{s}^2$). $4.184\text{ joules} = 1\text{ calorie}$ (the heat required to change the temperature of 1 g of water by 1°C (or K) say from 4°C to 5°C). the SI uses joules. In the US, and especially in health science, calories are used. The nutritional calorie is actually a kilocalorie (kcal) or 1000 cal. To simplify our calculations, we can use calories and convert to Joules at the end

Heat flow, Q, measured in joules or calories, is proportional to the mass of the object, its change in temperature, and the **specific heat** constant "c".

$$Q = m \times c \times \Delta T \quad (\text{note } \Delta T \text{ in K is the same as } ^\circ\text{C})$$

The specific heat of water $c = 1.00\text{ cal/g K}$ or 4.184 J/g K . When two objects at different T contact, heat flows from the hot to the cold object until the two reach the same temperature (T_f). The double Styrofoam cups in this experiment serve as a **calorimeter**

In this experiment, you will measure the specific heat of a metal. The metal is heated and placed in the calorimeter with water and the final temperature of the system is recorded. Thus the heat (calories) lost by the metal (Q_m) is equal to the heat gained by the water (Q_w)

$$Q_w = -Q_m \quad \text{thus, } m_w \times c_w \times \Delta T_w = - (m_m \times c_m \times \Delta T_m) \quad \text{use } C_w = 1.00\text{ cal/g K}$$

All the values are known except c_m . Note the negative sign cancels out since ΔT_m is a negative quantity ($T_f - T_i$ is negative). The specific heat of the metal is used to estimate its atomic mass. from the **Law of Dulong and Petit**, stating that the atomic mass of a solid element equals 26 divided by the specific heat, **Atomic mass = 26 / (specific heat)**

Two potential sources of error: a) heat lost by metal to the air as it is being transferred, and b) heat lost by the water to the calorimeter. Ideally, the T_m should be measured just as it is immersed in the calorimeter, but failing that – some initial experiments have shown that the metal loses about 0.2 degrees every second to the air. So timing the transfer process affords us a correction of for example 1 degree per 5 seconds – a typical transfer time. Subtract this from the initial T of the metal as a correction factor. Another experiment reveals that appx 0.3 degrees are lost to the calorimeter – so that must be added to the final temperature of the system.

Safety

Boiling water, and dropping pieces of metal into boiling water can be hazardous.. wear goggles

Materials Needed

Equipment	Chemicals
calorimeter (double Styrofoam cups), thermometer, thermometer clamp, stirring rod, utility clamp, burner or hot plate 600 mL beaker, crucible tongs or loop tool, iron ring, wire gauze	Unknown metal, with a hook

Procedure

1. Obtain a piece of unknown metal sample from the instructor and record its code number
Get a calorimeter (2 Styrofoam cups),. Set up a 600-mL beaker and a thermometer clamp on a ringstand with an iron ring and wire gauze, above a Bunsen burner or on a hot plate if available. Weigh the unknown metal, then weigh the calorimeter to the nearest 0.01 g

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CALORIMETRY

Name: _____
Section _____ Due date: _____
Date submitted: _____

Data Table for Metal: Code # _____ :

Run Number:	1	2	3
Mass of metal			
T of boiling water ($T_{i(m)}$)			
Mass of Calorimeter			
Mass of calorimeter & water			
Initial T ($T_{i(w)}$) of calorimeter water			
Final temperature of metal and water (calorimeter)			

Calculations and results: *Use the corrected ΔT^* values to calculate Q_w

Run Number:	1	2	3
Mass of water in calorimeter			
ΔT^* of water ($T_f - T_{i(w)}) + 0.3$			
ΔT^* metal ($T_f - T_{i(m)}) - 1.0$			
calories gained by the water $Q_w = m \times c_w \times \Delta T_w = -Q_m$ ($c_w = 1.00 \text{ cal/g K}$)			
Specific Heat of metal (c_m) solve for c_m	cal/g K	cal/g K	cal/g K
$c_m = \frac{-Q_m}{m_m \cdot \Delta T_m}$ 	J / g K	J/g K	J/g K
use the factor 4.184 J = 1 cal to convert to J			
Average value of c_m J/g K	True value c_m	% Error	Atomic mass (from Law of Dulong & Petit)

Show the setups of all these calculations on a separate sheet.

Questions

Some of these should be done before coming to lab, as preparation, to save time, and increase your understanding of the complex calculations involved in this experiment.

- 1.. A student places 138 g of an unknown metal at 99.6 °C into 80.50 g of water at 22.1 °C. The entire system reaches a uniform temperature of 31.6 °C. Calculate the specific heat of the metal in J/g K

- 2... Look at the table of specific heat values of elements (page 2 of the instructions)
Do you think the Law of Dulong and Petit is a good law to use for the heavier elements ?
Why or why not ?

- 3 While transferring the piece of unknown metal to the calorimeter, the student drops the metal into the calorimeter roughly, and some water splashes out of the calorimeter. Why must this be avoided? Be specific – how would the loss of water from the calorimeter affect the calculated value of specific heat for the metal ?

4. “Global Warming” (or “climate change as it is called now) depends on the specific heat values of various gases. In a text or CRC Handbook, find a table of specific heat values for these gases : N₂ (g), H₂O (g), CH₄ (g) , CO₂ (g). Show units . Comment on these. If the handbook doesn't have them – try Google. The units may be a bit different – anyway try !

5. A graphical analysis of the Law of Dulong and Petit. Do this as a pre-lab exercise

Set up a table of specific heat values, atomic mass, and 1/atomic mass and fill in the data for at least 13 elements ranging from Na to Bi (see page 2, this experiment).

Element	Specific heat	Atomic mass	1/Atomic mass	note specific heat is in J/gK
Na	1.23	23.0	.	
Al	0.900	27.0	.	Atomic mass is in amu
K			.	
Ti			.	
Fe			.	
Cu			.	
Rb			.	note – if you can't
Nb			.	accommodate Na or Bi
Ag			.	on the graph – then start
La			.	with Al and finish w Hg
Au			.	
Bi			.	

You may plot more if you wish – but don't plot the non-metals or metalloids such as Ge or Sb

Graph 1. Plot specific heat (y axis) vs Atomic mass (x axis). Use a flexible drawing tool or French curve to draw the line. Stockroom has a few of these. Use 10 sq/in graph paper. It would be useful to draw the symbols of the elements above the data points

Graph 2. Plot specific heat (y axis) vs 1/atomic mass (x axis). Use 3 sig figs for all data. Find the slope and equation for the line - Compare with the Law of D & P. (page 1). Again – draw the symbols of the elements above the data points.

For extra credit (5 pts) do an Excel plot of graph #2. If you are not familiar with the Excel graphing program on your Microsoft Word, there are instructions available at the Chem Dept website. Get the equation of the line on the Excel-drawn graph.

Neatness, clarity, proper scale setup are important components of this exercise. Don't forget to properly label the axes and give the graph a title.

Question: What are some advantages and disadvantages to using a graphing program such as Excel.

PS if you have a better graphing program than Excel on your computer, by all means use it.