

# Chemical Potential

- The extra energy from adding a particle  $dU = TdS - PdV + \mu dN$
- The specific Gibbs  $\mu = g$  for a pure substance.
- The quantity which drives particle flow.
- The quantity which defines chemical equilibrium

## Chemistry:

- Instead of measuring a reaction “constant”  $K(T, P)$  for every reaction.
- Measure  $\mu(T, P)$  for each component

# Entropy of mixing

“Ideal solution”, the equivalent of an ideal gas

$$\mu(T, p_i) = g(T, p_i) = g_0(T, P_0) + RT \ln p_i/P_0$$

The specific entropy of each component in the mixture is then

$$s = - \left( \frac{\partial g}{\partial T} \right)_P = -R \ln x_i$$

From which the total entropy of the system is

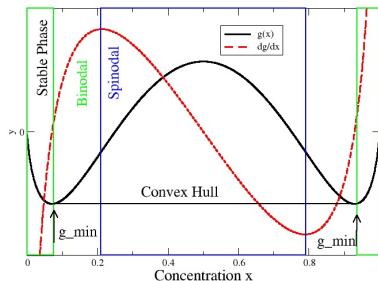
$$S = - \sum x_i s_i = - \sum x_i R \ln x_i$$

# Two component solution

A & B interact  $H = H_0 x_A x_B$

$$G = H_0 x_A x_B + x_A RT \ln x_A + x_B RT \ln x_B$$

n.b,  $\mu_A$  depends on  $x_B$



$$G = H_0 x_A (1 - x_A) + x_A RT \ln x_A + (1 - x_A) RT \ln (1 - x_A)$$

$$\left( \frac{dG}{dx_A} \right)_T = \frac{H_0}{RT} (1 - 2x_A) + \ln \frac{x_A}{1 - x_A} = 0$$

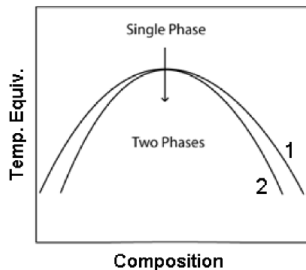
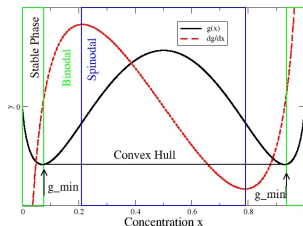
# Binodal and Spinodal

$$G = H_0 x_A (1 - x_A) + x_A RT \ln x_A + (1 - x_A) RT \ln(1 - x_A)$$

At High T

- S dominates,
- system tends to ideal solution.  
Start out of equilibrium (Quench, stir)
- difference in  $\mu$  causes atoms to move.

Spinodal  $\frac{d^2 g}{dx^2} < 0$  Spontaneous separation  
Binodal  $\frac{d^2 g}{dx^2} > 0$  Nucleation and growth



# A miscellany of applications.

The Second Law tell us to increase entropy.  
And move towards lower chemical potential  
It doesn't say how.

# Ammonia Fountain

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMqRxbv\\_IW8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMqRxbv_IW8)

$$dg = dh - s.dT + v.dP + mg.dz$$

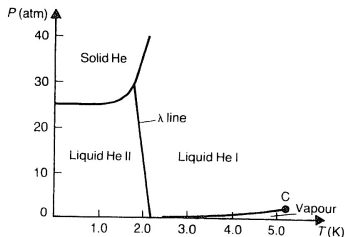
If  $\Delta h < mg\Delta z$  (P,T constant) things move up.

Ammonia dissolves in water with large, negative  $\Delta h$ .

# Helium II Fountain effect

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCJ24176enM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Z6UJbwxBZI>



- He II is a “mixture” of superfluid and “normal” He.
- Superfluid component: “all particles in ground state”
- So can add a particle to superfluid without changing  $S$ .
- “normal” He component has finite entropy.

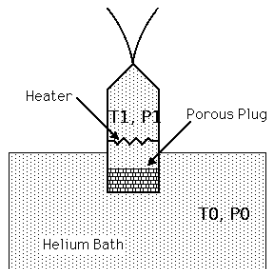
# Helium II Fountain effect

Two vessels of cold He (“system” + “bath”)

Only superfluid flows through plug.

$$\Delta Q = T\Delta S = 0$$

$$\text{Equilibrium: } \mu_1 = \mu_0.$$



If “system” is heated ( $T_1 > T_0$ ), equilibrium requires:

$$-s dT + v dp = 0 \Rightarrow dp/dT = s/v > 0$$

Thus heated “system” is at higher pressure than “bath”.

$$\Delta P = (s/v)\Delta T$$

This pressure difference is sufficient to generate a continuous fountain.

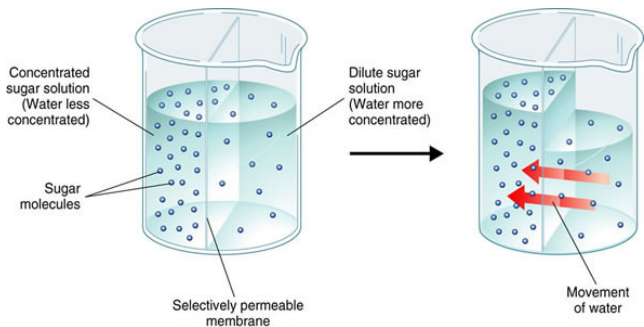


# Osmosis: Chemical potential and ergodicity

*semipermeable membrane*  
between regions A and B

some particles can flow  
e.g. water not sugar.

$$\mu_A^W = \mu_B^W ; \mu_A^S \neq \mu_B^S ;$$



Simple case - noninteracting molecules  $\mu^W \propto p^W$ , so  $p_A^W = p_B^W$

Total pressure: sum of partial pressure  $P = \sum_i p_i$

If A also contains sugar: its *total* pressure is higher by  $p_B^S$ .

If water and sugar interact, Raoult's Law fails  $u^W$  depends on sugar concentration.

If sugar/water attract  $\Delta u^W < 0$ , so for  $\Delta g^W = 0$  must have  $\Delta p^W = 0$ ,

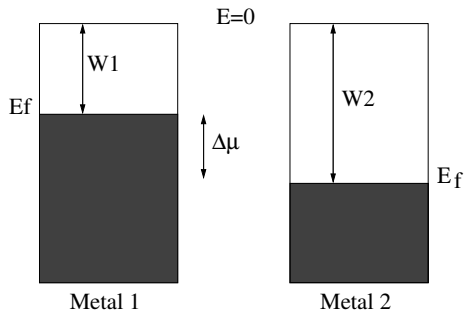
# Too much solvent outside a cell reverses flow of water



Take a slug, add salt...

# Electrons and Fermi Energy

In a metal, electrons occupy energy states up to the “Fermi Level”.



Adding an electron:  $\mu = E_F$ .

Placing two metals together means  $E_F$  must be the same.

$E=0 \implies$  Electron at infinity.

But ...

Work functions,  $\epsilon_W$  are different.

Electrons must flow to equalise  $E_F$

$$V = (W_1 - W_2)/e$$

a “pile” forms a battery.

# On earth, as it is in heaven



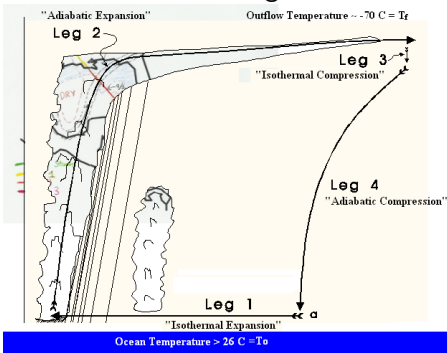
# Hurricanes

A hurricane is a self assembling heat engine.

The hot reservoir is the ocean surface ( $T_h \approx 300K$ ),

The cold reservoir is the top of the atmosphere, ( $T_c \approx 200K$ )

Work is done creating winds.



It approximates to a Carnot cycle.

**Isothermal expansion** - air spirals towards the eye. (+ absorb water)

**Adiabatic expansion** Hot air rises to (low P).

**Isothermal compression** Water vapour condenses and falls as rain, releasing latent heat.

**Adiabatic compression** In theory, air drops back to sea level.

# Thermoelectrics - bonus material

In a *thermoelectric* material

- $\mu_e$  depends on temperature.
- If a temperature gradient is applied,
- electrons or holes flow from hot to cold.

A *thermoelectric heat engine*

- two *thermoelectric* materials:
- electrons flow from hot to cold, around a circuit doing work.
- No moving parts.
- Efficiency reduced by flow of heat.

