

205.

Problem 23.11 (RHK)

An air bubble of 19.4 cm^3 volume is at the bottom of a lake 41.5 m deep where the temperature is 3.8°C . The bubble rises to the surface, which is at a temperature of 22.6°C . We can take the temperature of the bubble to be the same as that of the surrounding water. We have to find its volume just before it reaches the surface.

Solution:

We shall first calculate the amount of air in the bubble. Let it be n mol. Pressure of air at a depth of 41.5 m will be

$$\begin{aligned} P &= P_{atm} + \rho gh, \\ &= (1.01 \times 10^5 + 41.5 \times 9.8 \times 10^3) \text{ Pa} \\ &= 5.07 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}. \end{aligned}$$

It is given that the volume of the air bubble at the bottom of the lake that is at a depth of 41.5 m is

$$V = 19.4 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3 .$$

Temperature of the lake at that depth is 3.8°C . Therefore the initial temperature of the bubble is

$$T = 276.96 \text{ K} .$$

Assuming the ideal gas equation for the air in the bubble, we can find the amount of gas in the bubble,

$$n = \frac{PV}{RT} = \frac{5.07 \times 10^5 \times 19.4 \times 10^{-6}}{8.3145 \times 276.96} \text{ mol} = 4.27 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol} .$$

Therefore, the volume of this air bubble, V' , just before it reaches the surface of the lake, where the temperature is 22.6°C ($T' = 295.76 \text{ K}$), will be

$$\begin{aligned} V' &= \frac{nRT'}{P_{atm}} = \frac{4.27 \times 10^{-3} \times 8.3145 \times 295.76}{1.01 \times 10^5} \text{ m}^3 \\ &= 103.96 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3 = 104 \text{ cm}^3 . \end{aligned}$$