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Problem 25.21 (RHK)

Near absolute zero, the molar heat capacity of aluminium varies with the absolute temperature T and is given by $C = (3.16 \times 10^{-5})T^3 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$. We have to calculate the heat needed to raise the temperature of 1.2 g of aluminium from 6.6 to 15 K.

Solution:

Molar mass of aluminium is $M_{al} = 26.9815 \text{ g}$.

Molar mass of 1.2 g of aluminium will be

$$m_{al} = \frac{1.2}{26.9815} \text{ mol} = 4.45 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol}.$$

It is given that the heat capacity of aluminium at low temperatures varies as

$$C = (3.16 \times 10^{-5})T^3 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}.$$

Therefore, the amount of heat needed for heating 1.2 g of aluminium from 6.6 K to 15 K can be calculated by integration

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= 4.45 \times 10^{-2} \times 3.16 \times 10^{-5} \int_{6.6}^{15} T^3 dT \text{ J} \\ &= 14.06 \times 10^{-7} \left[\frac{T^4}{4} \right]_{6.6}^{15} \text{ J} = 3.52 \times 10^{-7} (15^4 - 6.6^4) \text{ J} \\ &= 17.1 \text{ mJ}. \end{aligned}$$

