

Question: humidifier design

A living room of  $60 \text{ m}^2$  at  $22^\circ\text{C}$  has eq. humidity of 20%, how much water is required to humidify the whole room to a final humidity of 45%? Assume height of ceiling is 3m.

$$\text{Humidity sensor} \Rightarrow H_R = \frac{P}{P_{\text{vap}}}$$

$$\Delta p = (H_{R1} - H_{R0}) \cdot P_{\text{vap}} \quad pV = nRT = \frac{m_A}{M_A} RT$$

$$\Delta m_A = \frac{\Delta p V M_A}{RT} = \frac{(H_{R1} - H_{R0}) \cdot P_{\text{vap}} \cdot V \cdot M_A}{RT} \quad \begin{array}{l} P_{\text{vap}} 22^\circ\text{C} \\ = 2.64 \text{ kPa} \end{array}$$

$$= \frac{(0.45 - 0.20) \cdot 2.64 \times 10^3 \times (60 \times 3) \times 18.02}{8314 \times (273.15 + 22)}$$

$$= 0.87 \text{ kg} \quad (870 \text{ mL})$$

This is a lower-bound estimation. In reality you need humidifier to have water tank  $\gg 870 \text{ mL}$

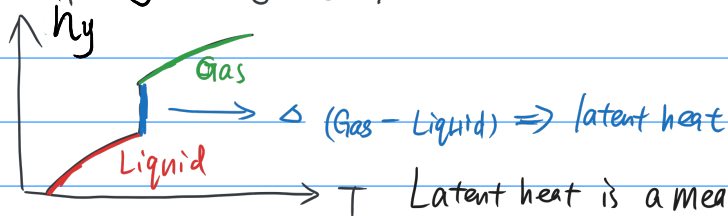
⑦ Enthalpy (of mixed water vapour - air)

Enthalpy  $h_y$  = definition (text book uses  $H_y$ , but I'd like

$$\frac{\partial h_y}{\partial T} = C_s \text{ (specific heat)}$$

to distinguish between enthalpy & humidity)

Unit of  $h_y$ ? Joule / Calories



Latent heat is a measurement of entropy difference (a big topic)

For our application

$$y = \underbrace{C_s}_{\text{specific heat}} (T - T_0) + \underbrace{H \lambda_0}_{\text{abs. humidity}} \rightarrow \text{latent heat}$$

You can see in continuous range ( $\frac{\partial h_y}{\partial T} = C_s$ )

latent heat is associated with if increase humidity

$H \uparrow \quad h_y \uparrow$

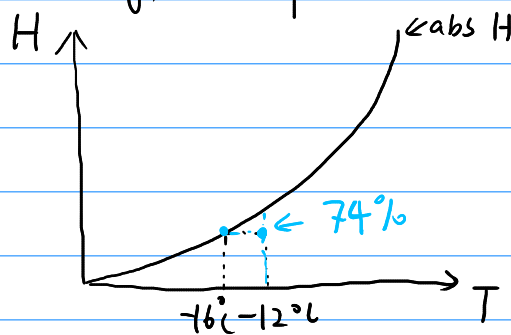
$\Rightarrow T$  uses Celsius

Air/H<sub>2</sub>O mixture:  $h_y = (1.005 + 1.88 H) T + 2501.4 H$  at 0°C

$\frac{\partial h_y}{\partial H} = 1.88 T + 2501.4$  when temp  $\uparrow$  more heat is required to humidify

Myth busting time!

1. My weather app shows outside is  $-12^\circ\text{C}$  & 74% humidity, dew point  $-16^\circ\text{C}$ . what does that mean?



2. In this scenario ( $-12^\circ\text{C}$ , 74%), cold air comes in my house and humidity inside house immediately drops. Why?

$$p_{\text{vap}}(T = -12^\circ\text{C}) = 0.24 \text{ kPa}$$

$$p_{\text{vap}}(T = 22^\circ\text{C}) = 2.64 \text{ kPa}$$

10 times difference!

$$74\% \text{ RH at } -12^\circ\text{C} = p = 0.24 \times 0.74 = 0.178 \text{ kPa}$$

$$H_R(22^\circ\text{C}) = \frac{0.178}{2.64} = 6.7\% \quad \text{!}$$

In other words,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{cold air} \longrightarrow \text{appear dry in high } T \\ \text{hot air} \longrightarrow \text{appear humid in low } T \end{array} \right.$

3. Why does "humid hot" feel worse than "dry hot"?  
 (E.g. compare 35°C in rainforest vs 35°C in desert)  
 R.H. = 95%                      R.H. = 25%

Link to evaporation of human body. Can evaporation be effective in this scenario?

$$P_{vap} \approx 5.6 \text{ kPa} \quad H = \frac{18.02}{28.97} \frac{P_A}{P_T - P_A}$$

$$R.H. = 95\% \Rightarrow H = 0.0345$$

$$R.H. = 25\% \Rightarrow H = 0.00872$$

$$h_g(95\%) = 123.74 \text{ kJ/kg} \\ 37.45 + 87.30$$

$$h_g(25\%) = 57.56 \text{ kJ/kg} \\ 35.75 + 21.81 \\ \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \text{ gas specific heat} \\ \uparrow \text{ latent heat} \end{array}$$

- ① humid air's enthalpy (thermal energy) is much more than dry air
- ② when  $T_{air} \approx T_{skin}$  only driving force is R.H. difference.  
 $N_A$  from skin is smaller in hot & humid air!

# CHE 318 L28

Humidification process = dynamic evaporation

From last lecture we know that vapour press of  $H_2O$  varies by  $T \Rightarrow$  relative humidity changes a lot!

The reversal process: evaporation takes away heat can also be explained by the enthalpy concept.



increase enthalpy / additional heat moves into air

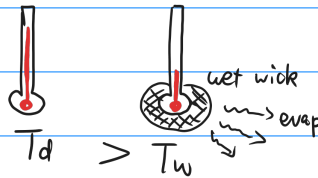
because the heat is associated with water, water temperature will drop

= Final concept we'll introduce is the "wet-bulb temp"  $T_w$

In midterm we talk about interfacial temp  $\downarrow$  due to evaporation.

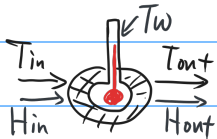
at steady state, when the interface in dry air is  $T_d$ , given the S.S. humidity, we will measure a decreased Temp  $T_w$

$$T_w < T_d$$



(Conceptual experiment  $T_w$  is universal lower bound for humidification process).

## Wet bulb setup analysis



At steady state (a big room) with convection

①  $T_{in} = T_{out}$ , but  $T_w < T_{in}$

② Presumably  $H_{out} > H_{in}$

③ What's happening?  $H_y = C_s(T - T_0) + H\lambda_0$   
 $\uparrow$   
 enthalpy

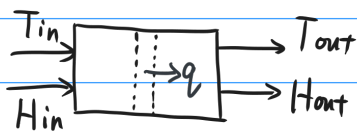
if  $H$  humidify changes, the latent heat flows from the thermometer  $\rightarrow$  air flow but not essentially change  $T$

Useful concepts from last lecture

$$h_y = (1.005 + 1.88 H) (T - T_0) + 2501.4 H$$

↑  
enthalpy  
1 kg dry air
↑  
abs humidity  
measured in  $\frac{\text{kg H}_2\text{O}}{\text{kg air}}$

Wet-bulb experiment: flows (needs some basic heat transfer)



For this control volume, write a heat balance eqn.

Heat flux  $\vec{q}$  from L  $\rightarrow$  R, which balances

$$Q_{in} - Q_{out} = \text{Latent in} - \text{Latent out}$$

$$q = m_A \cdot \lambda_w \cdot A \cdot N_A$$

- $m_A$  mol. weight of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (18 kg/kmol)
- $\lambda_w$  latent heat of evaporation @  $T_w$  (kJ/kg  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
- $N_A$  total mass flux of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  kg mol/s

How do we get  $N_A$ ? (Mass Transfer coeff)

$$N_A = \frac{k_y'}{y_{Bm}} (y_w - y) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_w = \text{mol. frac at bulb interface } (T_w) \\ y = \text{molar fraction in bulk gas} \end{array} \right.$$

$\Rightarrow k_y' / y_{Bm} = k_y \quad y_{Bm} \approx 1$

For humidity, need to convert  $y$  from  $H$

$$y = \frac{[\text{mol of H}_2\text{O}]}{[\text{mol of H}_2\text{O}] + [\text{mol. of air}]} = \frac{H/m_A}{1/m_B + H/m_A}$$

$$\approx \frac{m_B}{m_A} H \quad (H \text{ not R.H. so usually small})$$

Rewrite  $q = m_A \lambda_w A N_A$

$\stackrel{\text{L.H.S}}{=} m_A \cdot \lambda_w \cdot A \cdot \frac{m_B}{m_A} \cdot \overbrace{k_g}^{\text{effective } k \text{ in stagnant B}} \cdot (H_w - H)$

Fourier's law  $q = h(T - T_w) \cdot A$

$\overbrace{h}^{\text{heat transfer coeff}}$

Rearrange everything

$\frac{H - H_w}{T - T_w} = - \frac{h/m_B k_g}{\lambda_w}$

*heat transfer* (pointing to  $h$ )  
*mass transfer* (pointing to  $k_g$ )

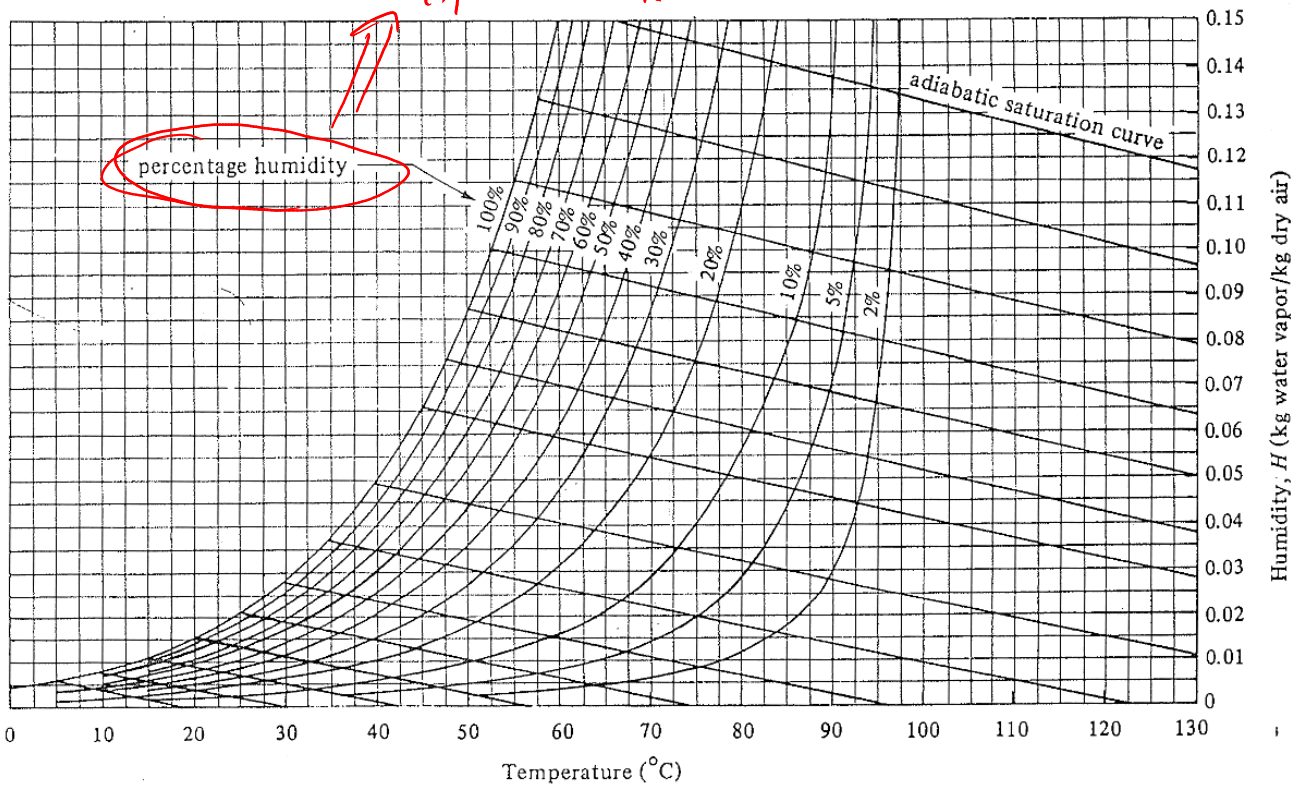
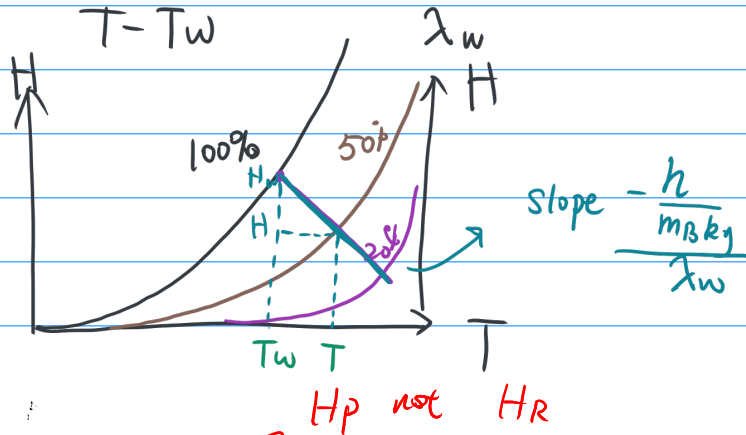


FIGURE 9.3-2. Humidity chart for mixtures of air and water vapor at a total pressure of 101.325 kPa (760 mm Hg). (From R. E. Treybal, Mass-Transfer Operations, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1980. With permission.)

Look at the equation again  $\rightarrow$  heat transfer coefficient

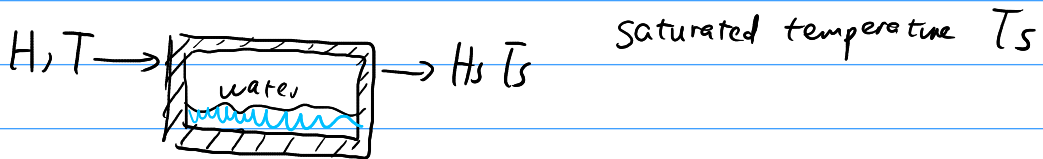
$$\frac{H - H_w}{T - T_w} = - \frac{h / (MB kg)}{\lambda w}$$

$w$ : wet bulb

Ratio  $\frac{h}{MB kg} =$  psychrometric ratio (psychro = cold, metric = measure) measure wet bulb

In the adiabatic (no external heat exchange) process

Heat balance:

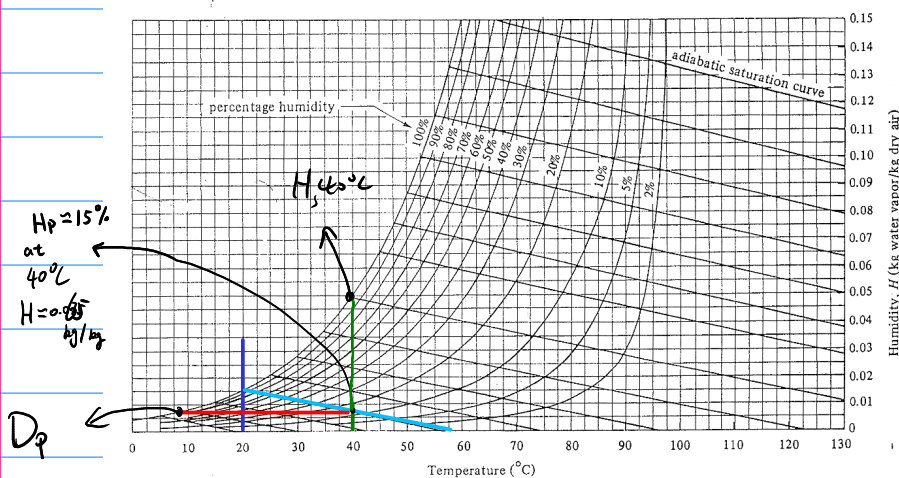


Coincidentally,  $\left( \frac{h}{MB kg} \approx 0.96 - 1.025 \right)$   
 $C_s \approx 1.005 + 1.88 \cdot H$

Use the "adiabatic line"  
 $\downarrow$   
 $T_w$

Let's use the humidity chart for some analysis

Humid air at  $40^\circ C$  has a wet bulb temp of  $20^\circ C$   
 what is  $H$  in current air, and calculate  $H_p$ , Dew point,  $V_H$   
 humid heat & enthalpy



$$H(20^\circ C, sat) = 0.0147 \text{ kg w/kg air}$$

Follow the chart

$$\frac{H - H_w}{T - T_w} = - \frac{1.005 + 1.88H}{\lambda_s}$$

or to solve

$$C_s (T - T_s) + H \lambda_s = C_s (T_s - T_s) + H_s \lambda_s$$

$$\frac{H - H_w}{T - T_w} = - \frac{1.005 + 1.88H}{2501.4}$$

$$H(40^\circ C) = 0.0065$$

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Percentage humidity

at  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$   $H(40^{\circ}\text{C}) = 0.049$

$$H_p = \frac{0.0065}{0.049} = 13\%$$

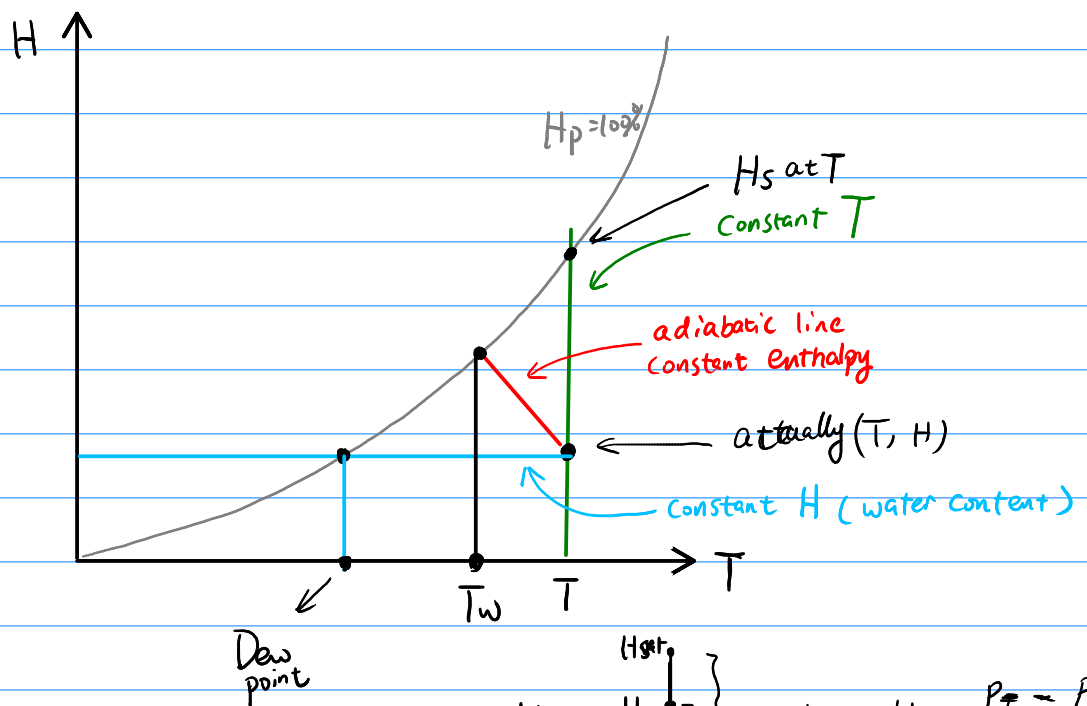
Relative humidity

$$H_R = \frac{P_A}{P_T - P_A} \approx 14\%$$

Dew point : around  $8^{\circ}\text{C}$

$$V_H = 0.90 \text{ m}^3/\text{kg dry air} \quad (\text{use } H \text{ at } 40^{\circ}\text{C})$$

$$C_s = 1.005 + 1.88 H = 1.02 \text{ kJ / (dry air) / }^{\circ}\text{C}$$



$$H_p = \frac{H_{sat}}{H} \quad H_p = H_R \cdot \frac{P_T - P_{vap}}{P_T - P_A}$$

$H_p$  slight smaller than  $H_R$

What is the indication of the wet bulb temperature?

- ① cooling of water using dry air is possible (max cooling  $T_w$ )
- ② vapour pressure difference is driving force (see previous discussion of humid hot)

