

1. The saturation vapour pressure (SVP) of water is the pressure at which the water in two different phases is in *equilibrium*, i.e. as many molecules are leaving one phase as are entering it (per unit time), e.g. liquid water  $\leftrightarrow$  gaseous water vapour, or gaseous water vapour  $\leftrightarrow$  solid crystals.

For water vapour in air (an ideal gas), the SVP is expressed as a *partial pressure* ( $P_{H_2O}$ ). Partial pressure is the pressure of any constituent in the gas, e.g. the total pressure would be

$$P = P_{H_2O} + P_{dry\ air} = P_{H_2O} + P_{N_2} + P_{O_2} + P_{Ar} \quad (1)$$

The SVP can be described by ( $P$  in Pascals and  $T$  in  $^{\circ}C$ )

$$P_{H_2O}(SVP) = 610.78 * \exp\left(\frac{17.2694 * T}{T + 238.3}\right) \quad \text{vapour} \leftrightarrow \text{liquid} \quad (2)$$

$$P_{H_2O}(SVP) = \exp\left(-\frac{6140.4}{(T + 273)} + 28.916\right) \quad \text{vapour} \leftrightarrow \text{solid} \quad (3)$$

so for rain, Eqn. 2 applies and for snow, Eqn. 3 applies.

Finally, the *relative humidity*,  $RH$ , is the ratio of the actual partial pressure of  $H_2O$  to the SVP, usually expressed as a percentage.

(a) Plot a graph of the SVP from  $-40\ ^{\circ}C$  to  $+40\ ^{\circ}C$ . Ensure that the plot is well-labeled.

(b) At 11:00 p.m. on Jan. 14, 2019, Kingston's weather was:  $P = 102.80$  kPa,  $RH = 78\%$ ,  $T = -11\ ^{\circ}C$ . Calculate:

(i) The SVP in Pa.

(ii)  $P_{H_2O}$ .

(iii)  $P_{N_2}$ ,  $P_{O_2}$ ,  $P_{Ar}$ , and  $P_{dry\ air}$ .

(iv) The molar fraction for each constituent (i.e. what fraction of the total number of moles is  $H_2O$ ,  $N_2$ ,  $O_2$ , and  $Ar$ ).

(v) The mean molecular weight,  $\mu$ , of this moist air.

(c) Repeat part (b) for 12:00 noon on Jul. 28, 2018 when  $P = 101.47$  kPa,  $RH = 63\%$ ,  $T = 25\ ^{\circ}C$ .

(d) Compare the mean molecular weights of dry air, warm moist air and cold moist air. (use words!)