VAN DER WAALS CONSTANTS FOR GASES

The van der Waals equation of state for a real gas is

$$(P + n^2a/V^2)(V - nb) = nRT$$

where P is the pressure, V the volume, T the temperature, n the amount of substance (in moles), and R the gas constant. The van der Waals constants a and b are characteristic of the substance and are independent of temperature. They are related to the critical temperature and pressure, T_c and P_c, by

$$a = 27R^2T_c^2/64P_c \qquad b = RT_c/8P_c$$

This table gives values of a and b for some common gases. Most of the values have been calculated from the critical temperature and pressure values given in the table "Critical Constants" in this section. Van der Waals constants for other gases may easily be calculated from the data in that table.

To convert the van der Waals constants to SI units, note that 1 bar L^2/mol^2 = 0.1 Pa m^6/mol^2 and 1 L/mol = 0.001 m^3/mol.

REFERENCE

Reid, R.C, Prausnitz, J. M., and Poling, B.E., *The Properties of Gases and Liquids, Fourth Edition*, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1987.

Substance	*a* bar L^2/mol^2	*b* L/mol
Acetic acid	17.71	0.1065
Acetone	16.02	0.1124
Acetylene	4.516	0.0522
Ammonia	4.225	0.0371
Aniline	29.14	0.1486
Argon	1.355	0.0320
Benzene	18.82	0.1193
Bromine	9.75	0.0591
Butane	13.89	0.1164
1-Butanol	20.94	0.1326
2-Butanone	19.97	0.1326
Carbon dioxide	3.658	0.0429
Carbon disulfide	11.25	0.0726
Carbon monoxide	1.472	0.0395
Chlorine	6.343	0.0542
Chlorobenzene	25.80	0.1454
Chloroethane	11.66	0.0903
Chloromethane	7.566	0.0648
Cyclohexane	21.92	0.1411
Cyclopropane	8.34	0.0747
Decane	52.74	0.3043
1-Decanol	59.51	0.3086
Diethyl ether	17.46	0.1333
Dimethyl ether	8.690	0.0774
Dodecane	69.38	0.3758
1-Dodecanol	75.70	0.3750
Ethane	5.580	0.0651
Ethanol	12.56	0.0871
Ethylene	4.612	0.0582
Fluorine	1.171	0.0290
Furan	12.74	0.0926
Helium	0.0346	0.0238
Heptane	31.06	0.2049
1-Heptanol	38.17	0.2150
Hexane	24.84	0.1744
1-Hexanol	31.79	0.1856
Hydrazine	8.46	0.0462
Hydrogen	0.2452	0.0265
Hydrogen bromide	4.500	0.0442
Hydrogen chloride	3.700	0.0406
Hydrogen cyanide	11.29	0.0881
Hydrogen fluoride	9.565	0.0739
Hydrogen iodide	6.309	0.0530
Hydrogen sulfide	4.544	0.0434
Isobutane	13.32	0.1164
Krypton	5.193	0.0106
Methane	2.303	0.0431
Methanol	9.476	0.0659
Methylamine	7.106	0.0588
Neon	0.208	0.0167
Neopentane	17.17	0.1411
Nitric oxide	1.46	0.0289
Nitrogen	1.370	0.0387
Nitrogen dioxide	5.36	0.0443
Nitrogen trifluoride	3.58	0.0545
Nitrous oxide	3.852	0.0444
Octane	37.88	0.2374
1-Octanol	44.71	0.2442
Oxygen	1.382	0.0319
Ozone	3.570	0.0487
Pentane	19.09	0.1449
1-Pentanol	25.88	0.1568
Phenol	22.93	0.1177
Propane	9.39	0.0905
1-Propanol	16.26	0.1079
2-Propanol	15.82	0.1109
Propene	8.442	0.0824
Pyridine	19.77	0.1137
Pyrrole	18.82	0.1049
Silane	4.38	0.0579
Sulfur dioxide	6.865	0.0568
Sulfur hexafluoride	7.857	0.0879
Tetrachloromethane	20.01	0.1281
Tetrachlorosilane	20.96	0.1470
Tetrafluoroethylene	6.954	0.0809
Tetrafluoromethane	4.040	0.0633
Tetrafluorosilane	5.259	0.0724
Tetrahydrofuran	16.39	0.1082
Thiophene	17.21	0.1058
Toluene	24.86	0.1497
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	20.15	0.1317
Trichloromethane	15.34	0.1019
Trifluoromethane	5.378	0.0640
Trimethylamine	13.37	0.1101
Water	5.537	0.0305
Xenon	4.192	0.0516