

Transport Coefficients for a Dilute Gas

Viscosity	$\eta \approx \frac{1}{3} \langle v \rangle \ell n m$
Thermal Conductivity	$K_T \approx \frac{1}{3} \langle v \rangle \ell n \frac{\partial \bar{\epsilon}}{\partial T}$
Self-Diffusion	$D \approx \frac{1}{3} \langle v \rangle \ell$

where $n=N/V$, $\langle v \rangle = \sqrt{8kT/\pi m}$, $\ell = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}n\sigma_o}$

σ_o = scattering cross-section (usually temperature dependent)
 [$\sigma_o = \pi d^2$ for hard spheres of diameter d]

$\frac{\partial \bar{\epsilon}}{\partial T}$ = single molecule specific heat (usually temperature independent)
 [$\partial \epsilon / \partial T = 3/2 k$ for a monatomic gas]

In terms of T and P (noting that $n=P/kT$)		correct prefactors for hard spheres
$\eta \approx \frac{2}{3\sigma_o} \sqrt{\frac{mkT}{\pi}}$	(varies as $T^{1/2}$, independent of P)*	$5\pi/16\sigma_o$
$K_T \approx \frac{2}{3\sigma_o} \sqrt{\frac{kT}{\pi m}} \frac{\partial \bar{\epsilon}}{\partial T}$	(varies as $T^{1/2}$, independent of P)*	$25\pi/32\sigma_o$
$D \approx \frac{2}{3\sigma_o} \sqrt{\frac{(kT)^3}{\pi m}} \frac{1}{P}$	(varies as $T^{3/2}$ and $1/P$)*	$3\pi/8\sigma_o$

*In general, the T dependence is stronger since for real gases σ_o decreases with increasing T .

Experimental values for argon (Ar)
 at $T=300$ K, $P=1$ atm ($\rho = nm = 1.6$ kg / m³)

calculated molecular diameter d
 (using correct hard sphere expressions)

$\eta = 2.3 \times 10^{-5}$ Nsm ⁻²	3.6×10^{-10} m
$K_T = 0.018$ Js ⁻¹ m ⁻¹ K ⁻¹	3.5×10^{-10} m
$D = 1.9 \times 10^{-5}$ m ² s ⁻¹	3.4×10^{-10} m

Note that one can extract the scattering cross section σ_o , and thus information about the molecular size and intermolecular potential from these transport coefficients.