

History of Pressure



“Are your ears popping?”

Outcomes:

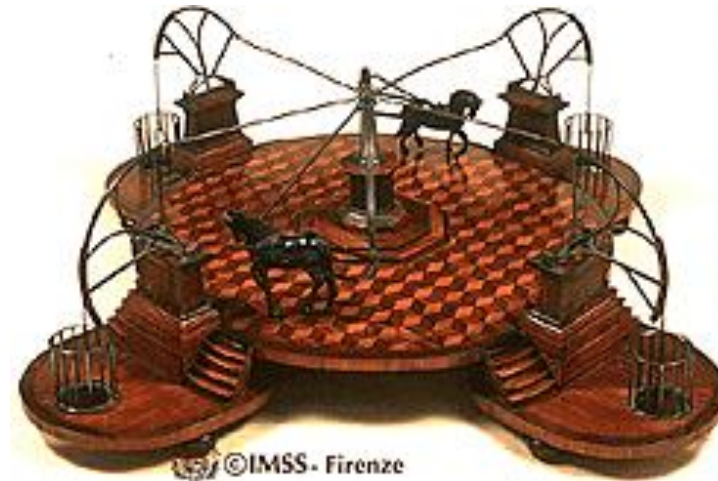
- Example the historical development of the measurement of pressure. *Include: Galileo, Toricelli, von Gureick, Pascal, Huygens, Avogadro, Dalton.*
- Describe the various units used to measure pressure. *Include: atm, kPa, mmHg, mb*

History of the Atmosphere

The study of pressure and its measurement dates back to the late 1500's. Here is a brief summary of the history of pressure measurement.

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642):

- Developed the first **SUCTION PUMP**.
- Used **AIR** to draw **WATER** up a column (like a **SYRINGE**).
- Found that there was a **LIMIT** to how high water could be raised (about **10** meters)
- Thought this was the limit of the "**SUCTION**" of the **VACUUM** created by the **PUMP**.



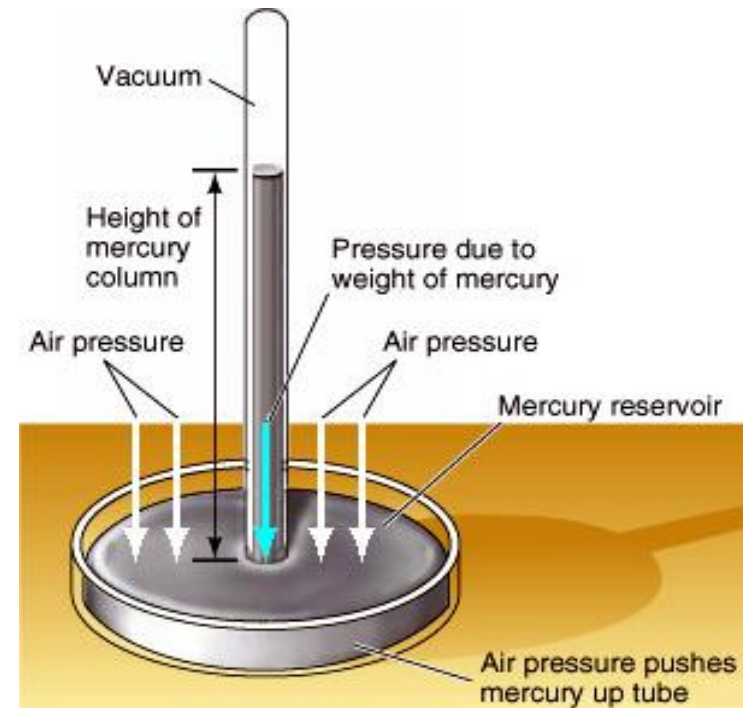
<http://galileo.rice.edu/sci/instruments/pump.html>

History of the Atmosphere

Evangelista Toricelli (1643):

- Studied under GALILEO
- Determined that the limit to the height that the pump could draw water was due to ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.
- Inverted a closed-end TUBE filled with MERCURY into a PAN of mercury at SEA LEVEL.
- The HEIGHT of the mercury in the tube (in mmHG) is equal to the ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE on the mercury in the PAN.
- This is the first BAROMETER.
- In doing so, he found that air has MASS (exerts PRESSURE).
- Also believed that the space in the top of the column was a VACUUM.

[Veritasium - World's Longest Straw](#)



History of the Atmosphere

Otto von Guericke (1643-1645):

- Invented the AIR PUMP.
- Used the air pump to create a VACUUM in two METAL HEMISPHERES.
- The VACUUM was so strong that a team of 16 HORSES could not pull them apart.
- He reasoned that the HEMISPHERES were being held together by ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE and NOT the VACUUM.



Note:

→ von Guericke was CORRECT, vacuums don't "SUCK" it is the ATMOSPHERE that PUSHES.

History of the Atmosphere

Blaise Pascal (1648):

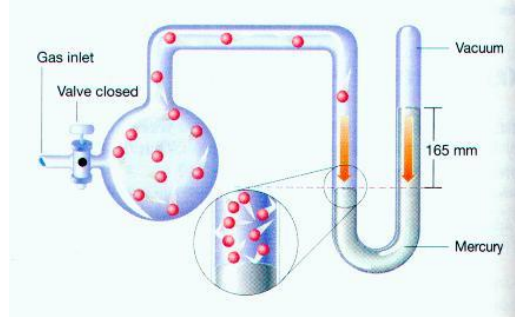
- Used Toricelli's Barometer, and traveled up and down a **MOUNTAIN**.
- He found that the column of mercury would **RISE** as he moved **DOWN** the mountain, indicating that the **ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE** was **INCREASING**.
- Later, the S.I. unit of pressure, the '**PASCAL**' was named after him.



History of the Atmosphere

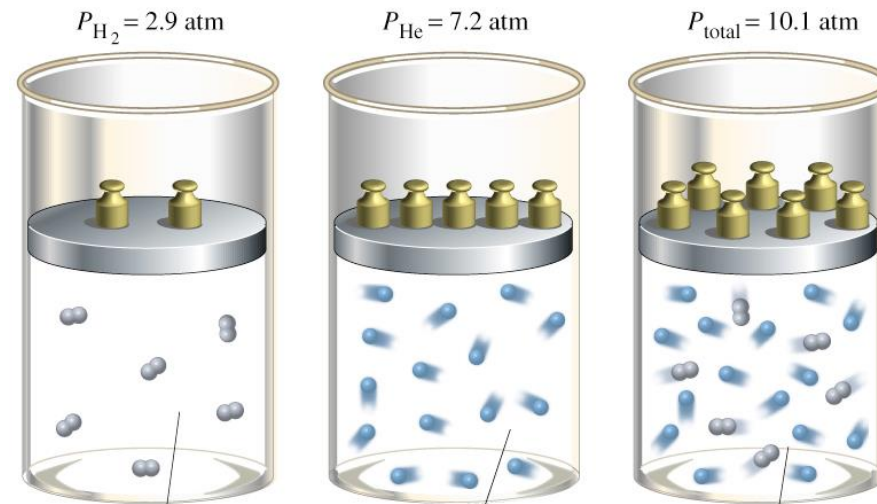
Christian Huygens (1661):

- Developed the MANOMETER to study the ELASTIC forces in gases.



John Dalton (1801):

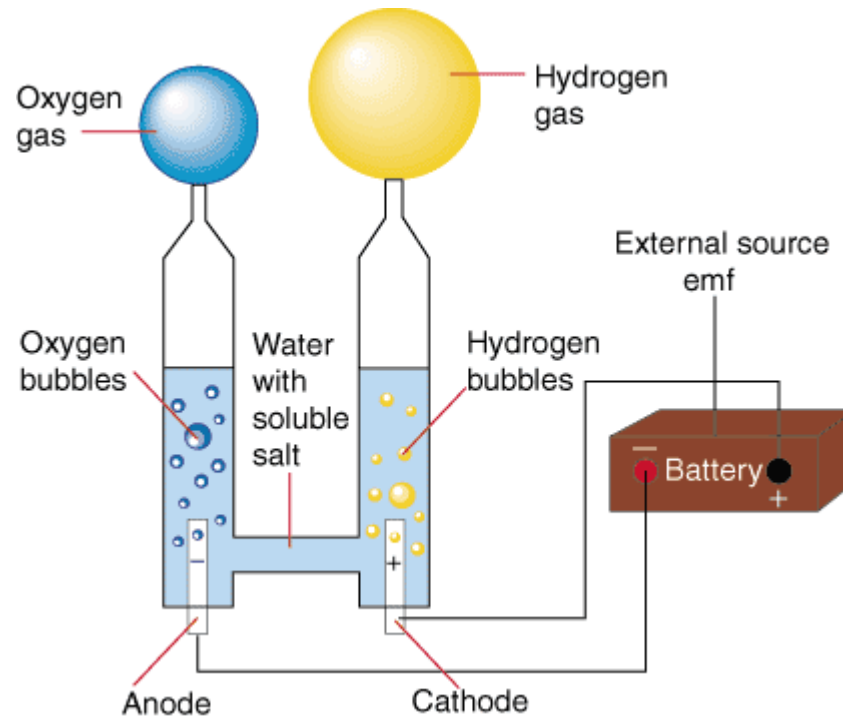
- Stated that in a mixture of gases, the TOTAL PRESSURE is equal to the SUM of the PRESSURES of EACH GAS.
- The pressure exerted by each as is called it's PARTIAL PRESSURE.



History of the Atmosphere

Joseph Louis Gay-Lussac (1808):

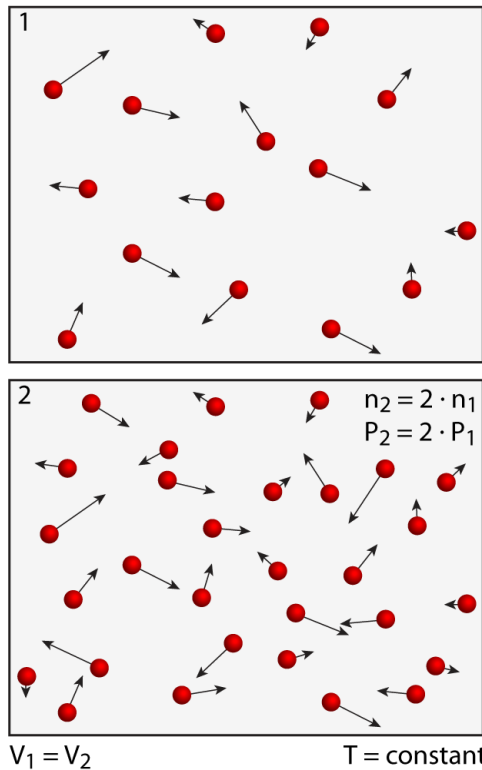
- Observed the law of **COMBINING VOLUMES**.
- *“Gases react in simple volumetric proportions and the volumes of the reactants can be related to the volumes of the products in simple proportions.”*
- He noticed that **2 VOLUMES** of hydrogen combine with **ONE VOLUME** of oxygen to make **TWO VOLUMES** of water.



History of the Atmosphere

Amadeo Avogadro (1811)

- Used some of Gay-Lussac's experiments to determine that the **PRESSURE** in a container is **DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL** to the **NUMBER** of **PARTICLES** in the container.
- Ex. **BALLOON**, **TIRES** etc.



"Equal volume of gases, at same temperature and pressure, contain the same number of particles."

Units of Pressure

$$\frac{F}{A}$$

Pressure

- is the **FORCE** that a gas exerts on a certain **AREA**.
- The pressure exerted by the atmosphere is called **ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE**.

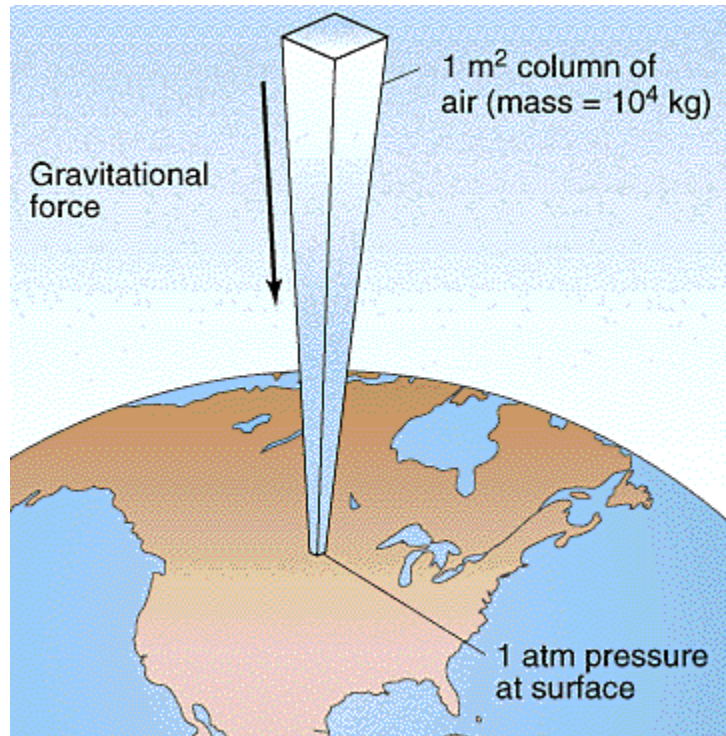
There are many different units that we can use to measure pressure. Pressure is calculated in units of **FORCE** per unit **AREA**.

→ The SI unit of **FORCE** is the **NEWTON** ($kg \cdot m/s^2$).

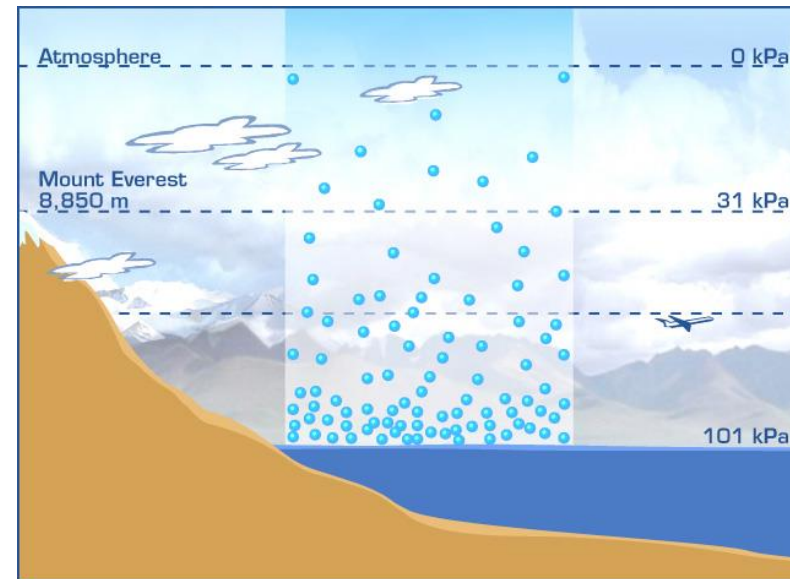
Units of Pressure

Standard Pressure:

- Like any other unit we must have a **STANDARD** to use as a starting point.
- With pressure, we use the atmospheric pressure at **SEA LEVEL**.
- The unit **ATMOSPHERE (atm)** was derived from standard atmospheric pressure at sea level. ***1 atm = standard pressure.***



<http://peter-mulroy.squarespace.com/air-pressure/>



<https://socratic.org/questions/why-is-atmospheric-pressure-measured-at-sea-level>

Units of Pressure

Kilopascal (kPa)

- A force of 1 Newton per meter squared (N/m^2) is our SI unit of pressure, called the **PASCAL** (Pa).

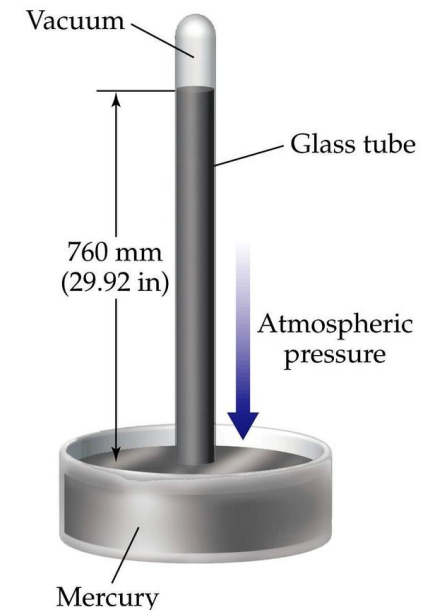
→ $1000 \text{ Pa} = \underline{\mathbf{1 \text{ KILOPASCAL (kPa)}}}$.

→ $101.3 \text{ kPa} = \underline{\mathbf{1 \text{ ATM (standard pressure)}}}$

mmHg

- Using Torricelli's barometer, we can measure pressure in terms of the **HEIGHT** of the mercury **COLUMN**. This is another unit called **MILLIMETERS OF MERCURY (mmHg)**.

→ $760 \text{ mmHg} = \underline{\mathbf{1 \text{ ATM}}} = \underline{\mathbf{101.3 \text{ KPA (standard pressure)}}$



Units of Pressure

Torr

- In honour of Torricelli, it was meant to be the same as mmHg, but its definition has changed over the years.
- We will assume that 1 torr = 1mmHg

Millibar (mb or mbar)

- The BAR is a meteorological unit of pressure. It may also be expressed as MILLIBARS (*mb or mbar*). 1000 mb = 1 bar

$$\rightarrow 1 \text{ bar} = \underline{1 \text{ ATM}} = \underline{760 \text{ mmHg}} = \underline{101.3 \text{ KPA}} \text{ (std pressure)}$$

Converting Units of Pressure

Example:

Convert 1.5 atm to kPa, Pa, and mmHg

$$1.5 \text{ atm} \times \frac{101.3 \text{ kPa}}{1 \text{ atm}} = 151.95 \text{ kPa} \times \frac{1000 \text{ Pa}}{1 \text{ kPa}} = 151\,950 \text{ Pa}$$

$$1.5 \text{ atm} \times \frac{760 \text{ mmHg}}{1 \text{ atm}} = 1140 \text{ mmHg}$$

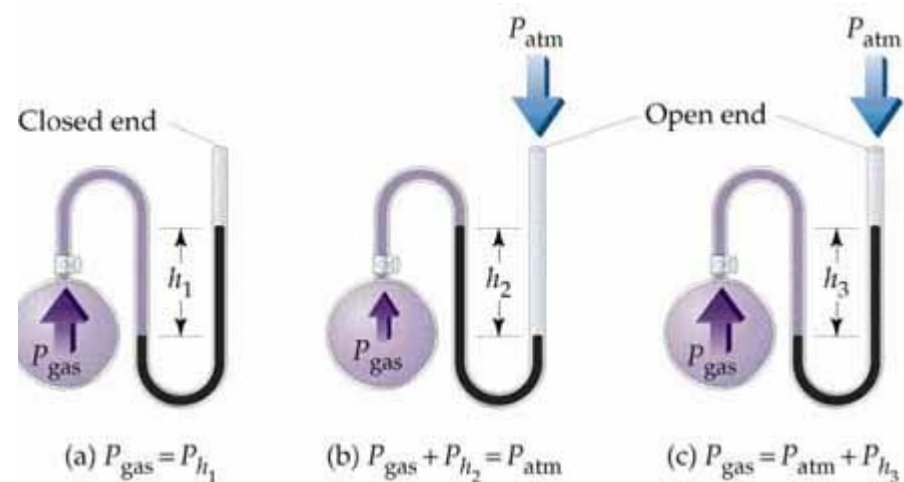
Measuring Pressure

Manometers & Barometers:

Are both used to measure the **PRESSURE** of a gas.

1. *Manometers*

- Measure the pressure of a gas or vapour in a **CLOSED CONTAINER** by **COMPARING** it to that of the **ATMOSPHERE**.
- You have seen this in the first unit.



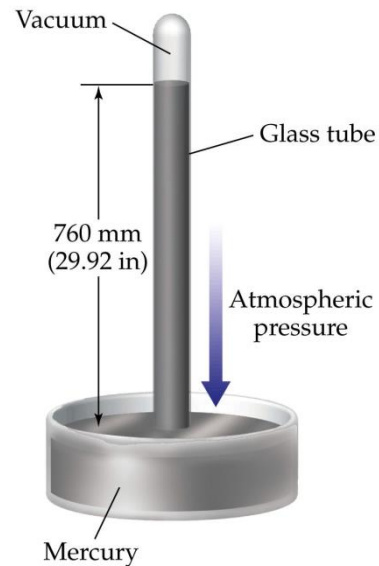
Measuring Pressure

1. Barometers

- Measure the pressure of the **ATMOSPHERE**.
- There are two different types:

a) Mercury Barometers

- Use a **COLUMN** of mercury **INVERTED** in a open **DISH** of mercury (like **TORICELLI'S**).
- The **HEIGHT** of the mercury indicates the **PRESSURE**.
- Are hard to read, but are more accurate.



<https://www.quora.com/How-is-atmospheric-pressure-measured>

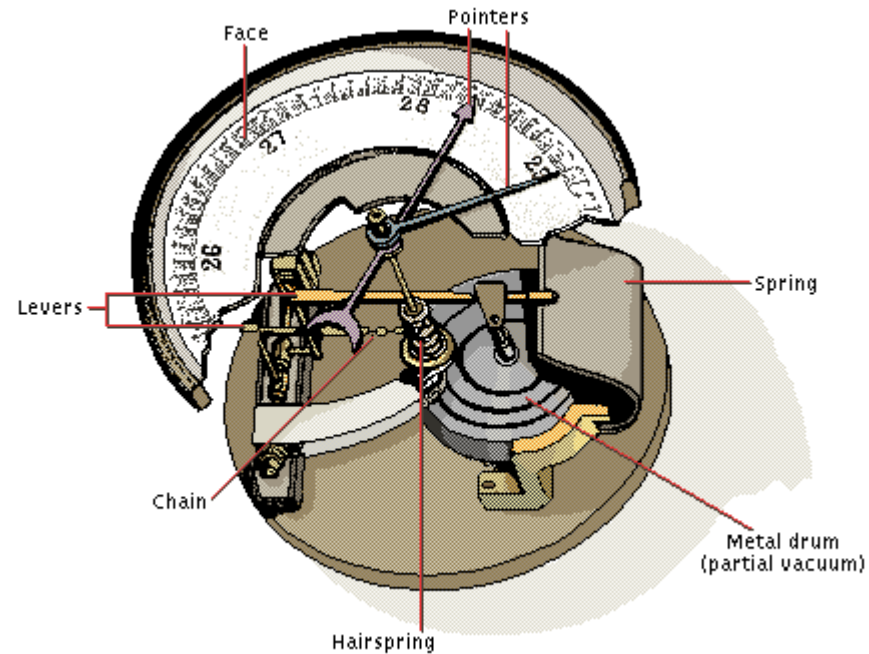


<http://www.charlesedwin.com/mercury.htm>

Measuring Pressure

a) *Aneroid Barometers*

- Use a partially **EVACUATED** metal **DRUM** that **EXPANDS/CONTRACTS** with varying pressure.
- Are inexpensive and easy to read, but are less accurate since it is **MECHANICAL**.



http://www.acr.ac.th/acr/ACR_CAI/Tiwawan/FlipAlbumCD/Albums/Atmosphere_opf_files/

Feeling Pressure

We **FEEL** pressure in various ways:

- *Ear's popping on a plane.*
- *Difficulty breathing at higher altitudes.*
- *The "bends" in divers*
- *Pressure on the body when diving.*



<https://www.dred.com/uk/causes-of-low-blood-pressure.html>

When diving, the changes in pressure are amplified due to the weight of the **ATMOSPHERE**, and the weight of the **WATER**.

Divers will feel more pressure in **SALT** water than in **FRESH** water. Why might this be?

→ *The salt adds more weight to the water, and hence more pressure.*

→ In salt water, it takes a depth of **33FT** to equal **1 ATM**.

→ In fresh water it takes a depth of **34FT** to equal **1 ATM**.