

Q- A diver releases an air bubble of volume 2.0 cm^3 from a depth of 15 m below the surface of a lake where the temperature is 7.0°C . What is the volume of the bubble when it reaches just below the surface of the lake where the temperature is 20°C ?

With depth the pressure of water and hence that of the air, in the bubble changes

The pressure at the surface of the water is equal to the atmospheric pressure

$$P_0 = 1.013 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa.}$$

At depth h the pressure is equal to the sum of the atmospheric pressure and the pressure of the water column of height h and hence the initial pressure of the air in the bubble is

$$P_1 = P_0 + h r g = 1.013 \times 10^5 + 15 \times 10^3 \times 9.8 = 2.483 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$$

Where r is the density of water = 10^3 kg/m^3

Hence initial pressure $P_1 = 1.013 \times 10^5 + 15 \times 10^3 \times 9.8 = 2.483 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$

The initial volume $V_1 = 2.0 \text{ cm}^3 = 2.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3$

Initial temperature $T_1 = 273 + 7 = 280 \text{ K}$

And

Final pressure $P_2 = 1.013 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$

Final volume $V_2 = ?$

Final $T_2 = 273 + 20 = 293 \text{ K}$

As the air can be considered as ideal gas, we can write using ideal gas equation

$$\frac{P_1 V_1}{T_1} = \frac{P_2 V_2}{T_2}$$

Or $V_2 = \frac{P_1 V_1 T_2}{P_2 T_1}$

Substituting the values, we get

$$V_2 = \frac{2.483 \times 10^5 \times 2.0 \times 10^{-6} \times 293}{1.013 \times 10^5 \times 280} = 5.13 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3$$

Hence the volume of the bubble near the surface will be $5.13 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3 = 5.13 \text{ cm}^3$