

**Specific Humidity ( $q_v$ ):** is the ratio of the densities of vapor and moist air.

$$q_v = \frac{\rho_v}{\rho_a} \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

Dalton's law states that the pressure exerted by a gas (its vapor pressure) is independent on the pressure of other gas, the vapor pressure of the water vapor is given by ideal gas law as:

$$e = \rho_v * R_v * T \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

$T$  = Absolute Temp. ( $K^0$ )

$R_v$  = Gas constant for water vapor.

$\rho_v$  = The density of water vapor.

If the total pressure exerted by the moist air ( $P$ )

$P - e$  is the partial pressure due to dry air.

$$P - e = \rho_d * R_d * T \dots\dots\dots(3)$$

$\rho_d$  = the density of dry air.

$R_d$  = Gas constant of dry air =  $287 (J/Kg.K^0)$ .

$T$  = absolute Temp. ( $K^0$ ).

The density of moist air is  $(\rho_a) = \rho_d + \rho_v$

The gas constant of water vapor :

$$R_v = R_d / 0.622 \dots\dots\dots(4)$$

Where (0.622) is the ratio of molecular weight of water vapor to the average molecular weight of dry air.

Combining eqs.(2) and (3):

$$P = \left[ \rho_d + \left( \frac{\rho_v}{0.622} \right) \right] R_d * T \dots\dots\dots(5)$$

The specific humidity  $q_v$  is approximated by :

$$q_v = 0.622 \frac{e}{P} \dots\dots\dots(6)$$

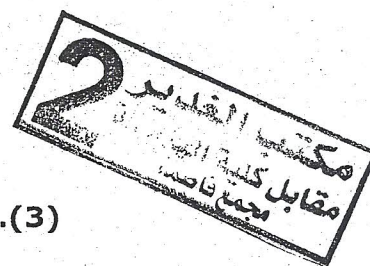
Also eq. (5) can be rewritten in terms of the gas constant for the moist air ( $R_a$ ) as:

$$P = \rho_a * R_a * T \dots\dots\dots(7) \quad (T \text{ in kalvins.})$$

The relation ship between the gas constants for moist and dry air is given by:

$$R_a = R_d (1 + 0.608 q_v)$$

$$R_a = 287 (1 + 0.608 q_v) \dots\dots\dots(8)$$



For a given air temperature there is maximum moisture content the air can hold, the vapor pressure is called the saturation vapor pressure at this vapor pressure. The rates of evaporation and condensation are equal:

$$e_s = 611 \exp \left[ \frac{17.27T}{237.3 + T} \right] \quad \text{.....(9)}$$

$e_s$  is in Pascal. (N/m<sup>2</sup>)

$T$  is degree Celsius.

The gradient  $\Delta = (de_s/dT)$  of the saturated vapor pressure curve is found by differentiating eq.(9):

$$\Delta = \frac{4097 e_s}{(237.3 + T)^2} \quad \text{.....(10)}$$

Where  $\Delta$  is the gradient in pascal per degree Celsius.

$$\text{Relative humidity } R_h = \frac{e}{e_s} \quad \text{.....(11)}$$

Ex. At a climate station, air pressure is measured as 100Kpa, air temp. was 20C<sup>0</sup>, and the wet bulb temp as 16C<sup>0</sup>. Calculate the corresponding vapor pressure, relative humidity, specific humidity and air density.

Solution:

$$e_s = 611 \exp \left[ \frac{17.27T}{237.3 + T} \right]$$

$$= 611 \left[ \frac{17.27 * 20}{237.3 + 20} \right]$$

$$= 2339 \text{ Pa.}$$

$$e = 611 \exp \left[ \frac{17.27T}{237.3 + T} \right]$$

$$= 611 \left[ \frac{17.27 * 16}{237.3 + 16} \right] = 1819 \text{ Pa.}$$

$$R_h = \frac{e_w}{e_s} = \left[ \frac{1819}{2339} \right] = 0.78 = 78\%$$

$$q_v = 0.622 \frac{e}{P} = 0.622 \frac{1819}{100 * 1000} = 0.0113 \text{ kg}_w / \text{kg}_{moist}$$

$$R_a = R_d(1 + 0.608 q_v) \\ = 287(1 + 0.608 * 0.113)$$

$$P = \rho_a * R_a * T \\ 100 * 10^3 = \rho_a * 289 * (20 + 273)$$

$$\rho_a = 1.18 \text{ kg/m}^3$$



**Example [2]**

Calculate the relative humidity  $h_r$ , specific humidity  $q_v$ , air density  $\rho_a$  and dry air density  $\rho_d$ , in a climate station where the air pressure is 100 kpa (standard pressure=760 mmHg equivalent to 101.3 kpa), air temperature is 20 C°, temperature of wet-bulb is 16 C°, Also set your comment about  $\rho_a$  and  $\rho_d$ ?  $R_d = 287 \text{ J/(Kg.K}^\circ\text{)}$ .

$$e_s = 4.584 e^{\left(\frac{17.27T}{237.3+T}\right)}$$

$$e_{s|20C} = 4.584 e^{\left(\frac{17.27(20)}{237.3+20}\right)} = 17.55 \text{ mmHg}$$

$$e_{w|16C} = e_{s|16C} = 4.584 e^{\left(\frac{17.27(16)}{237.3+16}\right)} = 13.65 \text{ mmHg}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{e_w - e}{t - t_w} ; \quad 0.49 = \frac{13.65 - e}{20 - 16} ; \quad e = 11.69 \text{ mmHg} ; \quad h_r = \frac{e}{e_s} = \frac{11.69}{17.55} = 66.61\%$$

$$P = 100 \text{ kpa} = 760 * \frac{100}{101.3} = 750.25 \text{ mmHg}$$

$$q_v = 0.622 \frac{e}{p} = 0.622 \frac{11.69}{750.25} = 0.0097 \text{ kg of water/kg of moist}$$

$$T = 20 + 273 = 293 \text{ K}^\circ$$

$$R_a = 287[1 + 0.608(0.0097)] = 288.7 \text{ J/(Kg.K}^\circ\text{)}$$

$$\rho_a = \frac{P}{R_a T} = \frac{100000}{288.7(293)} = 1.182 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\rho_d = \frac{P}{R_d T} = \frac{100000}{287(293)} = 1.189 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

Thus;  $\rho_a < \rho_d$ , then the moist air is floating over dry air layer due to buoyancy.

لفرض حساب  $e_a$  باستخدام المقياس الحراري الرطب (psychrometer) حيث يقيس الجهاز درجة الحرارة  $t_w$  (Wet bulb Temp) وهي الدرجة التي يتساوى عندها تبريد الهواء بواسطة تبخر الماء، باستخدام المعادلة أدناه:

$$\frac{e_w - e_a}{t_w - t_a} = \gamma$$

$e_w$ : Saturated vapor press. corresponding to wet-bulb temp.

$t_w$ : wet-bulb temp.

$t_a$ : dry-bulb temp.

$e_a$ : corresponding air vapor press to  $t_a$

$\gamma$ : Psychrometer constant ثابت المقياس

وحدات قياس الضغط

$$\gamma = 6.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ Pa/C}^\circ$$

$$\gamma = 0.49 \text{ mm Hg/C}^\circ$$

$$\gamma = 0.066 \text{ kpa/C}^\circ$$

$$\gamma = 0.66 \text{ mb/C}^\circ$$

$P_a$  = atmospheric press.

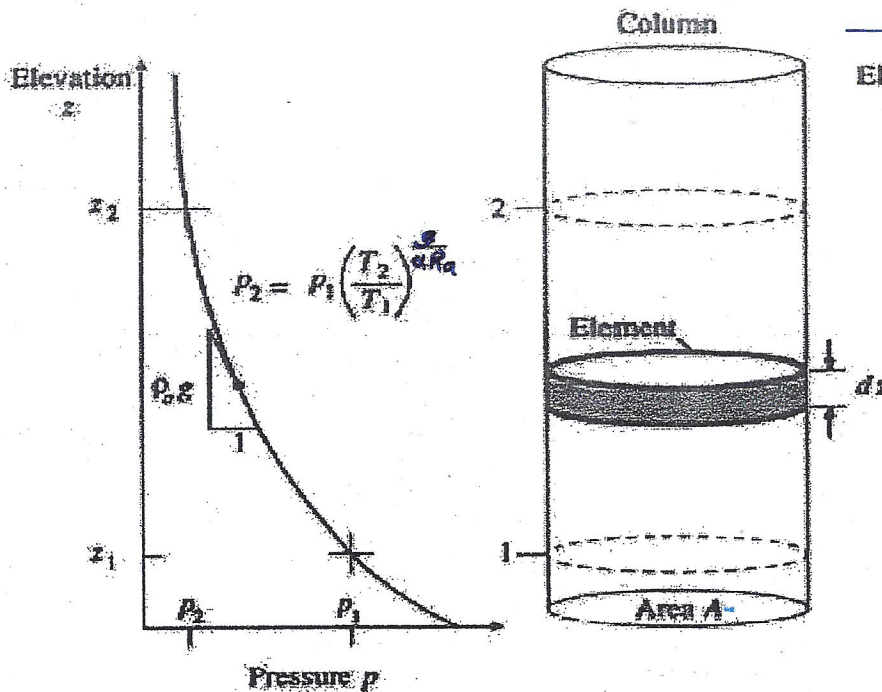
$$mb = \frac{1}{10} \text{ kpa} \Rightarrow mb = 100 \text{ Pa}$$

$$mb = \frac{3}{4} \text{ mm Hg}$$

$$\text{mm Hg} = \frac{2}{15} \text{ kpa}$$

## Water Vapor in a Static Atmospheric Column

يتغير الضغط  
مع الارتفاع  
حيث يقل كلما  
ابتعدنا عن سطح  
الأرض



$\alpha = -0.0065^\circ\text{C/m}$  for  
for lower portion of atmosphere  
(0m - 11019m) (Troposphere)  
 $\frac{dT}{dz} = -0.0065$

for (11019m - 20000m)  
stratosphere  
 $\frac{dT}{dz} = 0$

Two laws govern the properties of water vapor in a static column:

1- The ideal gas law:  $P = \rho_a \cdot R_a \cdot T$  .....(12)

2- The hydrostatic pressure law:  $\frac{dp}{dz} = -\rho_a g$  .....(13)

The variation of air temp, with altitude is described by:

$$\frac{dT}{dz} = -\alpha \quad \text{.....(14)}$$

Where  $\alpha$  is the lapse rate.

From eq.(12)  $\rho_a = \frac{P}{R_a T}$

Substitute in eq.(13)



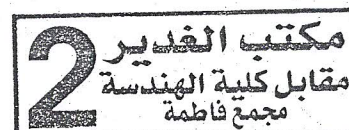
$$\frac{dp}{dz} = \frac{-\rho g}{R_a T}$$

$$\frac{dp}{P} = \left( \frac{-g}{R_a T} \right) dz$$

Substitute eq.(14), we can get:-

$$\therefore \frac{dP}{P} = \left( \frac{-g}{R_a T} \right) \left( \frac{-dT}{\alpha} \right)$$

$$\therefore \frac{dP}{P} = \left( \frac{-g}{R_a \alpha} \right) \left( \frac{dT}{T} \right)$$



And integrating both sides between levels (1) and (2) In the atmosphere gives:

$$\ln \frac{P_2}{P_1} = \left( \frac{g}{\alpha R_a} \right) \ln \frac{T_2}{T_1}$$

Or

$$P_2 = P_1 \left( \frac{T_2}{T_1} \right)^{g/\alpha R_a} \dots \dots \dots (15) \quad T: K^\circ$$

From eq.(14) the temp. variation between altitude Z1 and Z2:

$$T_2 = T_1 - \alpha (Z_2 - Z_1) \dots \dots \dots (16)$$

### Perceptible Water

The amount of moisture in an atmospheric column is called (perceptible water). Consider an element of height dz in a column of horizontal cross-sectional area A. The mass of air in the element is  $\rho_a A dz$

The mass of water contained in the air is  $q_v \rho_a A dz$

The total mass of perceptible water in the column between elevation  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  is:

$$m_p = \int_{z_1}^{z_2} q_v \rho_a A dz \dots \dots \dots 17$$

The integral eq.17 is calculated using incremental mass of perceptible water:

$$\Delta m_p = q_v' \rho_a' A \Delta z \dots \dots \dots 18$$

Where:

$$q_v = \frac{S_v}{S_a} \Rightarrow S_a = q_v \cdot S_v$$

$qv'$  and  $\rho a'$  are the average values of specific humidity and air density over the interval.

The mass increments are summed over the column to give the total perceptible water.

*Example. Calculate the precipitable water in a saturated air column 10 km high above 1 m<sup>2</sup> of ground surface. The surface pressure is 101.3 kPa, the surface air temperature is 300C, and the lapse rate is 6.5°C/km.*

*Solution:*

The increment in elevation is taken as  $\Delta z = 2 \text{ km} = 2000 \text{ m}$ . For the first increment, at  $z_1 = 0 \text{ m}$ ,  $T_1 = 300\text{C} = (30 + 273) \text{ K} = 303 \text{ K}$ ; at  $z_2 = 2000 \text{ m}$ , using  $\alpha = 6.5^\circ\text{C/km} = 0.0065^\circ\text{C/m}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} T_2 &= T_1 - \alpha(z_2 - z_1) \\ &= 30 - 0.0065(2000 - 0) \\ &= 17^\circ\text{C} \\ &= (17 + 273) \text{ K} \\ &= 290 \text{ K} \end{aligned}$$

The gas constant  $R_a$  can be taken as 287 J/kg-K in this example because its variation with specific humidity is small [see Eq. (.8)]. The air pressure at 2000 m is then given by eq. (.15) with

$$g/aR_a = 9.81/(0.0065 \times 287) = 5.26$$

$$\begin{aligned} p_2 &= p_1 \left( \frac{T_2}{T_1} \right)^{g/aR_a} \\ &= 101.3 \left( \frac{290}{303} \right)^{5.26} \\ &= 80.4 \text{ kPa} \end{aligned}$$

The air density at the ground is then calculated:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_a &= \frac{p}{R_a T} \\ &= \frac{101.3 \times 10^3}{(287 \times 303)} \\ &= 1.16 \text{ kg/m}^3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_a &= \frac{80.4 \times 10^3}{287 \times 290} \\ &= 0.966 \approx 0.97 \text{ kg/m}^3 \end{aligned}$$

and a similar calculation yields the air density of 0.97 kg/m<sup>3</sup> at 2000 m. The average density over the 2 km increment is therefore  $\bar{\rho}_a = (1.16 + 0.97)/2 = 1.07 \text{ kg/m}^3$  (see columns 5 and 9).

The saturated vapor pressure at the ground is determined as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 e &= 611 \exp \left( \frac{17.27T}{237.3 + T} \right) \\
 &= 611 \exp \left( \frac{17.27 \times 30}{237.3 + 30} \right) \\
 &= 4244 \text{ Pa} \\
 &= 4.24 \text{ kPa}
 \end{aligned}$$

The corresponding value at 2000 m where  $T = 17^\circ\text{C}$ , is  $e = 1.94 \text{ kPa}$  (column 6).

The specific humidity at the ground surface is calculated

$$\begin{aligned}
 q_v &= 0.622 \frac{e}{p} \\
 &= 0.622 \times \frac{4.24}{101.3} \\
 &= 0.026 \text{ kg/kg}
 \end{aligned}$$

At 2000 m  $q_v = 0.015 \text{ kg/kg}$ . The average value of specific humidity over the 2-km increment is therefore  $\bar{q}_v = (0.026 + 0.015)/2 = 0.0205 \text{ kg/kg}$  (column 8).

The mass of precipitable water in the first 2-km increment is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta m_p &= \bar{q}_v \bar{p}_a A \Delta z \\
 &= 0.0205 \times 1.07 \times 1 \times 2000 \\
 &= 43.7 \text{ kg}
 \end{aligned}$$

The equivalent depth of liquid water is:

$$m_p / \rho_w A = 77 / (1000 \times 1) = 0.077 \text{ m} = 77 \text{ mm}.$$



| Column | 1<br>Elevation<br>$z$<br>(km)                 | 2<br>Temperature<br>(°C)                                 | 3<br>Temperature<br>(°K)                                                 | 4<br>Air<br>pressure<br>$p$<br>(kPa)            | 5<br>Density<br>$\rho_a$<br>(kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | 6<br>Vapor<br>pressure<br>$e$<br>(kPa) |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
|        | 0                                             | 30                                                       | 303                                                                      | 101.3                                           | 1.16                                             | 4.24                                   |
|        | 2                                             | 17                                                       | 290                                                                      | 80.4                                            | 0.97                                             | 1.94                                   |
|        | 4                                             | 4                                                        | 277                                                                      | 63.2                                            | 0.79                                             | 0.81                                   |
|        | 6                                             | -9                                                       | 264                                                                      | 49.1                                            | 0.65                                             | 0.31                                   |
|        | 8                                             | -22                                                      | 251                                                                      | 37.6                                            | 0.52                                             | 0.10                                   |
|        | 10                                            | -35                                                      | 238                                                                      | 28.5                                            | 0.42                                             | 0.03                                   |
| Column | 7<br>Specific<br>humidity<br>$q_v$<br>(kg/kg) | 8<br>Average over<br>increment<br>$\bar{q}_v$<br>(kg/kg) | 9<br>Average over<br>increment<br>$\bar{\rho}_a$<br>(kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | 10<br>Incremental<br>mass<br>$\Delta m$<br>(kg) | 11<br>% of<br>total<br>mass                      |                                        |
|        | 0.0261                                        |                                                          |                                                                          |                                                 |                                                  |                                        |
|        | 0.0150                                        | 0.0205                                                   | 1.07                                                                     | 43.7                                            | 57                                               |                                        |
|        | 0.0080                                        | 0.0115                                                   | 0.88                                                                     | 20.2                                            | 26                                               |                                        |
|        | 0.0039                                        | 0.0060                                                   | 0.72                                                                     | 8.6                                             | 11                                               |                                        |
|        | 0.0017                                        | 0.0028                                                   | 0.59                                                                     | 3.3                                             | 4                                                |                                        |
|        | 0.0007                                        | 0.0012                                                   | 0.47                                                                     | 1.1                                             | 2                                                |                                        |

$$\Sigma = 77.0$$