

Analysis of Superpressure Balloon using the ideal gas law.

$$P_{super} = P_{gas} - P_{air} \quad (1)$$

We can write the ideal gas equation for the gas inside the balloon:

$$P_{gas}V = \frac{m_{gas}}{M_{gas}}RT_{gas} \quad (2)$$

Since the system is floating, we know the mass of the air displaced is m_{system} . So we can also write the idea gas equation for the air displaced by the balloon.

$$P_{air}V = \frac{m_{system}}{M_{air}}RT_{air} \quad (3)$$

We assume the volumes are equal, so we can subsitiute one into the other.

$$P_{gas} = P_{air} \left[\frac{\frac{m_{gas}}{M_{gas}}RT_{gas}}{\frac{m_{system}}{M_{air}}RT_{air}} \right] \quad (4)$$

Re-arrange and cancel R :

$$P_{gas} = P_{air} \left[\frac{m_{gas}T_{gas}M_{air}}{M_{gas}T_{air}m_{system}} \right] \quad (5)$$

Now we can use the definition of superpressure (1):

$$P_{super} = P_{gas} - P_{air} \quad (1)$$

$$P_{super} = P_{air} \left[\frac{m_{gas}T_{gas}M_{air}}{M_{gas}T_{air}m_{system}} - 1 \right] \quad (6)$$

Substituting in our expression for P_{air} :

$$P_{air} = \frac{m_{system}RT_{air}}{M_{air}V} \quad (3)$$

$$P_{super} = \frac{m_{system}RT_{air}}{M_{air}V} \left[\frac{m_{gas}T_{gas}M_{air}}{M_{gas}T_{air}m_{system}} - 1 \right] \quad (7)$$

$$P_{super} = \frac{R}{V} \left[\frac{m_{gas}}{M_{gas}}T_{gas} - \frac{m_{system}}{M_{system}}T_{air} \right] \quad (8)$$

We define supertemperature in the same way as superpressure:

$$T_{super} = T_{gas} - T_{air} \quad (9)$$

$$P_{super} = \frac{R}{V} \left[\left(\frac{m_{gas}}{M_{gas}} - \frac{m_{system}}{M_{air}} \right) T_{air} + \frac{m_{gas}}{M_{gas}} T_{super} \right] \quad (10)$$

We can reasonably say the superpressure due to the temperature dominates, so

$$\frac{P_{super}}{T_{super}} \approx \frac{m_{gas}}{M_{gas}} \frac{R}{V} \quad (11)$$