

Slopes of Adiabatic and Isothermals:-

∴ for an isothermal process

$$pV = \text{a constant} \quad \text{--- (i)}$$

where

Curve (i) is a graph between p & V under isothermal conditions.

Differentiating eqnⁿ (i) we have

$$p dV + V dp = 0$$

$$\text{or, } \frac{dp}{dV} = -\frac{p}{V}$$

∴ slope of the isothermal = $-\frac{p}{V}$

& since for an adiabatic process

$$pV^\gamma = \text{a constant.} \quad \text{--- (ii)}$$

where ~~curve~~ curve (ii) is a graph between p & V under adiabatic conditions

After differentiating eqnⁿ (ii) we have

$$p\gamma V^{\gamma-1} dV + V^\gamma dp = 0$$

$$\text{or } \frac{dp}{dV} = -\gamma \frac{p}{V}$$

∴ slope of the adiabatic curve = $-\gamma \frac{p}{V}$

Thus the slope of an adiabatic is γ times $\left(\frac{C_p}{C_v}\right)$ times the slope of isothermal i.e. the adiabatic curve is steeper than the isothermal curve at a point where the two curves intersect each other.

