

49. One part of path A represents a constant pressure process. The volume changes from 1.0 m^3 to 4.0 m^3 while the pressure remains at 40 Pa . The work done is

$$W_A = p \Delta V = (40 \text{ Pa}) (4.0 \text{ m}^3 - 1.0 \text{ m}^3) = 120 \text{ J} .$$

The other part of the path represents a constant volume process. No work is done during this process. The total work done over the entire path is 120 J . To find the work done over path B we need to know the pressure as a function of volume. Then, we can evaluate the integral $W = \int p dV$. According to the graph, the pressure is a linear function of the volume, so we may write $p = a + bV$, where a and b are constants. In order for the pressure to be 40 Pa when the volume is 1.0 m^3 and 10 Pa when the volume is 4.00 m^3 the values of the constants must be $a = 50 \text{ Pa}$ and $b = -10 \text{ Pa/m}^3$. Thus $p = 50 \text{ Pa} - (10 \text{ Pa/m}^3)V$ and

$$\begin{aligned} W_B &= \int_1^4 p dV = \int_1^4 (50 - 10V) dV = (50V - 5V^2) \Big|_1^4 \\ &= 200 \text{ J} - 50 \text{ J} - 80 \text{ J} + 5 \text{ J} = 75 \text{ J} . \end{aligned}$$

One part of path C represents a constant pressure process in which the volume changes from 1.0 m^3 to 4.0 m^3 while p remains at 10 Pa . The work done is

$$W_C = p \Delta V = (10 \text{ Pa})(4.0 \text{ m}^3 - 1.0 \text{ m}^3) = 30 \text{ J} .$$

The other part of the process is at constant volume and no work is done. The total work is 30 J . We note that the work is different for different paths.