

Phase Diagrams

Physics

Reading a pressure-temperature diagram, and the special points.

Features of a typical phase diagram.

Feature	Is
Fusion curve	Solid-liquid boundary
Vaporisation curve	Liquid-gas boundary
Sublimation curve	Solid-gas boundary
Triple point	All three phases coexist
Critical point	Beyond it, liquid and gas are indistinguishable
Supercritical fluid	Above both critical T and p

Water's fusion curve slopes backward, which is unusual: increasing pressure melts ice. That is why ice floats.