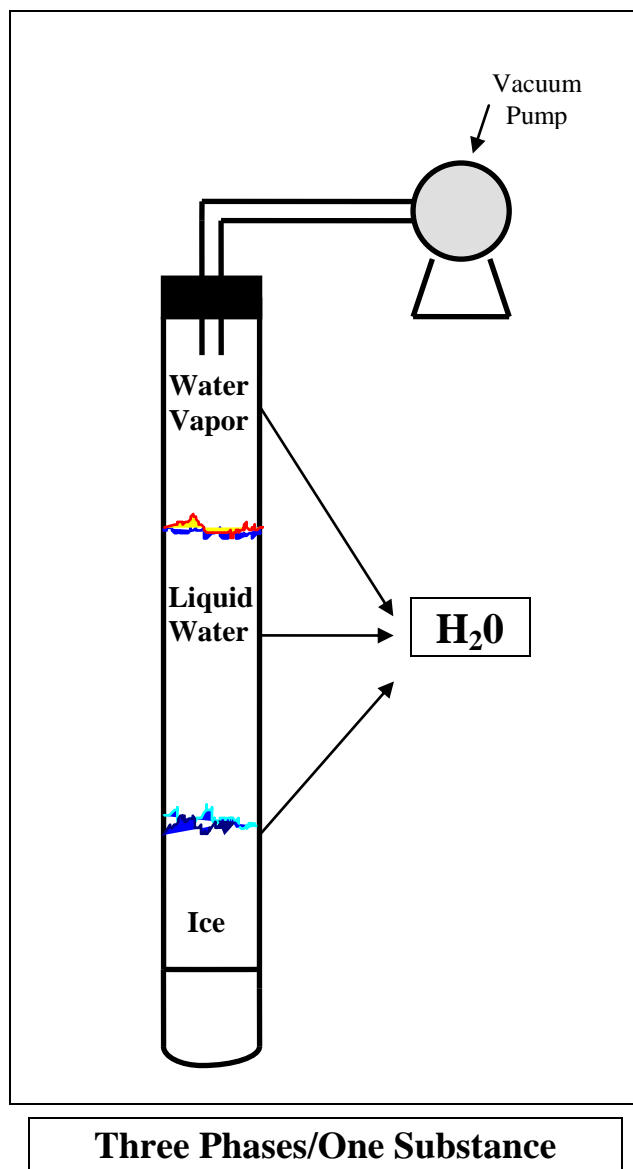


The Holy Trinity

An Analogy of the Holy Trinity

Water at its Triple Point

The triple point of any substance is that temperature and pressure at which all phases (solid, liquid, and vapor) exist at the same time in equilibrium with one another. The triple point of water occurs at 230 mm Hg pressure and at a temperature of 0° Centigrade. This corresponds to 4.45 psi and a temperature of 32° F. In a typical setup, when H₂O is at its Triple Point, one observes the following:



Pressure = 230 mm Hg
Temperature = 0° C.

All three phases (solid, liquid, and gas) occur at these conditions at the same time. There are three phases--distinct from each other--and yet all three phases are the same substance, namely, H₂O.

Here we see that water at its triple point is but one substance, H₂O. Yet it exists simultaneously in each of its three phases, i.e., as solid, liquid, and vapor. Similarly, there is but one God who exists in three distinct and indivisible persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This, however, is an imperfect analogy, for the doctrine of the Trinity is the greatest mystery of the Christian faith.