

Lec #9: Thermal Energy II. (Chaps. 4 & 5)

LAST TIME: Thermal Energy I.

- Internal Kinetic and Potential Energy
- Temperature and Heat
- Laws of Thermodynamics
- Specific Heat

TODAY: Thermal Energy. II.

- Phase Transitions
- Conduction, Convection, Radiation
- Thermodynamic Efficiency & Heat Engines

NEXT WEEK: Electricity and Magnetism

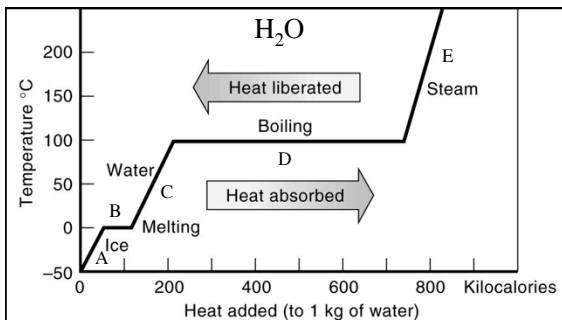
- skip to Chapters 10 & 11 (Electromagnetism)

Phase Transitions

T increasing -----> <----- P increasing  
 SOLID LIQUID GAS PLASMA

*melt-> vaporize-> ionize->*  
*<-fuse <-condense <-recombine*

- generally,  $Q = mc\Delta T$ 
  - $c_s$  = "specific heat" ; m=mass
  - can be different for same material in different phases (e.g. H<sub>2</sub>O solid 0.5, liquid 1.0, gas 0.48)
- *during* phase transition,  $Q = mL$ 
  - L = "latent heat"
  - no change in temperature! (where does energy go?)



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 A)  $c = 2090 \text{ J/(kg K)}$  C)  $c = 4190 \text{ J/(kg K)}$  E)  $c = 2010 \text{ J/(kg K)}$   
 B)  $L_f = 333000 \text{ J/kg}$  D)  $L_v = 2260000 \text{ J/kg}$

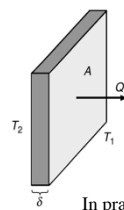
Ideal Gas Law

- Pressure = **Force** / Area (not a vector)
- "ideal gas": energy exchange dominated by elastic collisions  
*equation of state:*  
 Pressure \* Volume = k \* Temperature
  - k= Boltzman's constant
  - or  $P = nkT$  where n = gas density (#/volume)
- solids and liquids (and some gasses) have different equations of state; related to potential energy of bonds, elasticity of collisions, etc.

How is Thermal Energy Transferred?

- *Net transfer* of thermal energy (i.e. "Heat") only when there is a *temperature difference*, and always in direction of higher to lower T.
- There are really only 2 fundamental ways. Both are electromagnetic phenomena (collisions and radiation).
- We'll talk about 3 ways:
  - "conduction" (physical contact)
  - "convection" (motion of material)
  - "radiation" (action at distance; photon exchange)

Conduction



$$\frac{Q_c}{t} = \frac{k \times A \times (T_2 - T_1)}{\delta}$$

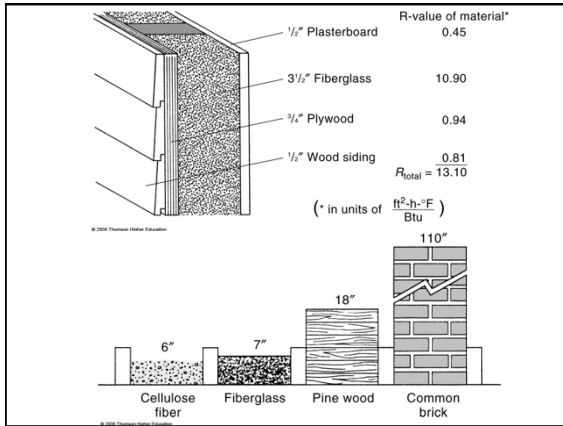
- k = thermal conductivity (depends on material)
- A = area
- $\delta$  = thickness
- $Q/t$  = energy / time = H

In practice, instead of k, we use "R values"

$$H = A (T_2 - T_1) / \Sigma R_i$$

units of R: (ft<sup>2</sup> °F h)/BTU

except for air (which depends on wind speed, etc.), we can look these up in a table (e.g. Table 5.2 in your text) ...



## Convection

- transport of warm material to region of colder material
- usually a cyclic process
- e.g. boiling water
- e.g. our atmosphere

*stratosphere*      T increases w/ height  
(ozone layer)

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*troposphere*      T decreases w/ height

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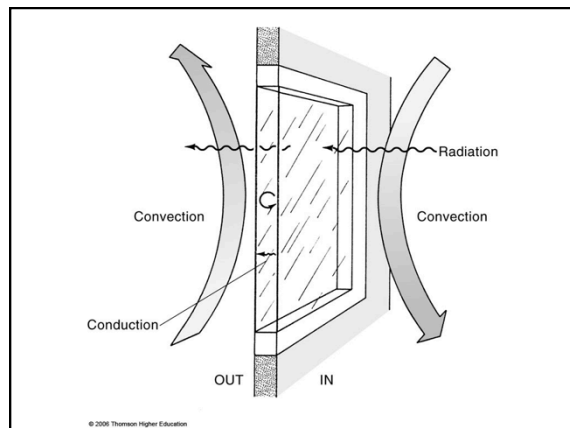
(ground)

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stratosphere: stable; troposphere: turbulence, thunderstorms, etc.

## “Electromagnetic” Radiation

- no medium is required (goes through vacuum!)
- action at a distance
- emission  $\propto T^4$  (2x temp = 16 times the energy flow)
- emission and absorption balanced in thermal equilibrium (and balanced with collisions)
- radio, infrared, visual, ultraviolet, x-ray,  $\gamma$ -ray are all forms of emr
- what we perceive as “heat” is often infrared



## How Do We Minimize Heat Transfer?

- **Conduction**       $Q/t = k A \Delta T / \delta = A \Delta T / \Sigma R_i$ 
  - minimize conductivity (insulating materials)
  - lower surface area
  - thicker wall
  - lower  $\Delta T$
- **Convection**       $Q/t \sim \text{velocity and } \Delta T$ 
  - stop air currents (or use them to advantage)
  - vacuum works great; still air pretty good, too
- **Radiation**       $Q/t = A \sigma T^4$ 
  - reflect infrared with shiny materials
  - e.g. “Dewar flask”

## Thermodynamic Efficiency

Efficiency = 100% x (useful energy out) / (available energy)

- What is “useful” energy (or work) out?
- What is “available” energy in?
- For a heat engine, useful work out is always *less than* the available energy input

Maximum (“Carnot”) efficiency:

Maximum Efficiency = 100% x  $(T_H - T_C) / T_H$

- caution: must use absolute temperature scale!
- $T_H > T_C$  so ratio is always <1

Hot source  $T_H$

Engine

Cold sink  $T_C$

Work out =  $Q_H - Q_C$

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Examples:

$T_H$	$T_C$	$\eta$
1000	373	63%
813	293	64%
4000	300	93%

OTEC...25 C 5 C 6%

but what happens at 4000 degrees?  
how low can  $T_C$  go?  
how high can  $T_H$  go?

## Energy Conversion Efficiency

Table 3.1 EFFICIENCIES OF SOME ENERGY CONVERSION DEVICES AND SYSTEMS

Device	Efficiency
Electric generators (mechanical $\rightarrow$ electrical)	70-99%
Electric motor (electrical $\rightarrow$ mechanical)	50-90%
Gas furnace (chemical $\rightarrow$ thermal)	70-95%
Wind turbine (mechanical $\rightarrow$ electrical)	35-50%
Fossil fuel power plant (chemical $\rightarrow$ thermal $\rightarrow$ mechanical $\rightarrow$ electrical)	30-40%
Nuclear power plant (nuclear $\rightarrow$ thermal $\rightarrow$ mechanical $\rightarrow$ electrical)	30-35%
Automobile engine (chemical $\rightarrow$ thermal $\rightarrow$ mechanical)	20-30%
Fluorescent lamp (electrical $\rightarrow$ light)	20%
Incandescent lamp (electrical $\rightarrow$ light)	5%
Solar cell (light $\rightarrow$ electrical)	5-28%
Fuel cell (chemical $\rightarrow$ electrical)	40-60%

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- Efficiency = 100% x (useful energy out) / (available energy in)
- seldom, if ever, 100%
- Net efficiency = **product** of individual efficiencies
- Chain that is weaker than its weakest link!

Table 4.3 EXAMPLES OF HEAT ENGINES

**Vapor or Rankine cycle**  
Steam engine (electrical power plant, old train locomotive)  
Refrigerator, heat pump (using Freon)

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**Gas cycle**  
Internal combustion: Otto, Diesel cycles (automobiles, trucks)  
External combustion: gas turbine (airplanes, electrical power plant),  
Stirling cycle

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[howstuffworks.com](http://howstuffworks.com)

(heat $\rightarrow$ work)	(work $\rightarrow$ heat)
steam engine	air conditioners
gasoline engine	dehumidifiers
diesel engine	heat pumps
gas turbine	refrigerators

$W_{net} = F \times d = \Delta TE$

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