Module P7.3 Internal energy, heat and energy transfer

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1 Opening items

1.1 Module introduction

Consider the following observations which you might make if you went on a cycle tour starting at sea level and heading into the mountains.

- 1 At the start of your tour, after pumping up your bike tyres, you notice that the end of the pump has become quite warm.
- 2 You set off; as you cycle higher and higher, you observe that the air is getting cooler even though the Sun is still out.
- 3 The Sun goes behind a cloud and you immediately feel colder.
- 4 You put on a jacket and feel warmer.

All of these observations are commonplace and you would not be surprised by any of them but can you explain the physics of what is happening? By the end of this module you should be able to do so, but first you will need to spend some time learning about *heat*, *work* and *internal energy*.

The study of these concepts forms the basis of *thermodynamics* (from the Greek *thermos*: warm and *dynamis*: power). Although it is apparently concerned with simple ideas, thermodynamics is an area of physics which requires precise thinking. For this reason the terminology needs to be carefully defined. Some of the more important definitions are introduced in Section 2.

The relationship between heat, work and internal energy is expressed in the *first law of thermodynamics* which is described in Section 3. It is this law which can be used to explain observations (1) and (2) above. Section 4 deals with the transfer of heat by *conduction*, *convection* and *radiation*. An understanding of these processes helps to explain observations (3) and (4).

Study comment Having read the introduction you may feel that you are already familiar with the material covered by this module and that you do not need to study it. If so, try the *Fast track questions* given in Subsection 1.2. If not, proceed directly to *Ready to study?* in Subsection 1.3.

1.2 Fast track questions

Study comment Can you answer the following *Fast track questions*?. If you answer the questions successfully you need only glance through the module before looking at the *Module summary* (Subsection 5.1) and the *Achievements* listed in Subsection 5.2. If you are sure that you can meet each of these achievements, try the *Exit test* in Subsection 5.3. If you have difficulty with only one or two of the questions you should follow the guidance given in the answers and read the relevant parts of the module. However, *if you have difficulty with more than two of the Exit questions you are strongly advised to study the whole module*.

Question F1

The volume V and pressure P of n moles of an ideal gas of point particles (effectively a *monatomic* ideal gas) are gradually adjusted so that the gas goes through the cyclic process A–B–C–D shown in Figure 1. For each of the steps A–B, B–C, C–D, and D–A, calculate $\Delta T/T_0$, $\Delta U/nRT_0$, W/nRT_0 , and Q/nRT_0 , where R is the molar gas constant, T is the temperature of the gas, U its internal energy, W the work done by the gas, Q the heat supplied to the gas and T_0 the temperature at A. Calculate the work done on the gas in one complete cycle. Show that the difference between the heat supplied to the gas, and the work done by the gas in one complete cycle is zero. Explain how you might arrive at this result without any calculation.

(You may assume that for an ideal monatomic gas, the internal energy is given by $U = \frac{3}{2} nRT$.)



Figure 1 See Question F1.

Question F2

A wall, maintained at a constant temperature T_W , is coated with a layer of insulating material of thickness x and of thermal conductivity κ . The outside of the insulation is in contact with the air at temperature T_A . Heat is transferred by conduction through the insulation, and by natural convection through the air with convection coefficient h. Show that the rate of heat transfer per unit area is given by

$$\frac{1}{A}\frac{dQ}{dt} = -\frac{kh}{(hx+k)}(T_{\rm W} - T_{\rm A})$$

Question F3

The tungsten filament of an electric lamp has a length 0.5 m and a diameter 6.0×10^{-5} m. The power rating of the lamp is 60 W. Assuming the radiation from the filament is equivalent to 80% that of a perfect black body radiator at the same temperature, estimate the steady temperature of the filament.

(Stefan's constant is $\sigma = 5.7 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-4}$ and you may assume that the emissivity of the environment is 1.)



Study comment Having seen the *Fast track questions* you may feel that it would be wiser to follow the normal route through the module and to proceed directly to <u>*Ready to study?*</u> in Subsection 1.3.

Alternatively, you may still be sufficiently comfortable with the material covered by the module to proceed directly to the *Closing items*.

1.3 Ready to study?

Study comment To begin the study of this module you will need to understand the following terms: <u>acceleration</u>, <u>conservation of energy</u>, <u>density</u>, <u>force</u>, <u>ideal gas</u>, <u>kinetic energy</u>, <u>mass</u>, <u>mole</u>, <u>momentum</u>, <u>potential energy</u>, <u>power</u>, <u>pressure</u>, <u>relative molecular mass</u>, <u>temperature</u> (including the concept of <u>absolute temperature</u>), <u>volume</u> and <u>work</u> (in the mechanical sense, as the product of force and displacement in the direction of the force).

If you are uncertain about any of these definitions then you can review them now by reference to the *Glossary*, which will also indicate which *FLAP* modules to go to for further explanation. You should also be familiar with the <u>equation of state for</u> <u>an ideal gas</u> PV = nRT, and be able to carry out simple calculations based on this equation, though it will be introduced at the appropriate point in the text. The mathematics used in this module requires you to be able to manipulate simple algebraic equations and to use the notation (though not the techniques) of differentiation. The concept of a <u>definite integral</u> is also introduced, though you will not be required to perform any integrations and do not need to be familiar with the techniques of integration in order to study this module. The following questions will let you see whether you need to review some of these topics before embarking on this module.

Question R1

A 1500 kg car accelerates uniformly from rest to a speed of 10 m s^{-1} in 3 seconds. Find (a) the <u>work done</u> on the car in this time, (b) the average <u>power</u> delivered by the engine in the first 3 seconds.



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Question R2

Calculate the number of <u>moles</u> of oxygen molecules in a 2.00 kg sample of oxygen at <u>atmospheric pressure</u> and room temperature. (Take the <u>relative molecular mass</u> of oxygen to be 32.)

Question R3

Explain what is meant by absolute temperature.

Question R4

Working to the nearest whole number, what is the equivalent absolute temperature to 27 °C?







2 Some basic ideas of thermodynamics

2.1 Systems, states and equilibrium

<u>Thermodynamics</u> is the branch of science that deals with the macroscopic (i.e. large scale) aspects of temperature, energy and the transfer of energy. It is not concerned with microscopic (atomic scale) behaviour, and the whole subject can be developed logically without mentioning atoms or molecules, though we shall not adopt any such puritanical stance in this module.

The subject of any particular thermodynamic investigation is generally referred to as the **system**. The rest of the universe is then referred to as its **environment**. A system may be almost anything, a car engine, the air in a bicycle pump, the Earth's atmosphere or a human being. The environment sounds rather grand, but in practice we usually need only take account of that portion of the universe which has a significant effect on the system, particularly with regard to energy transfer. In the case of a car engine, this 'effective' environment might be the petrol tank, the drive shaft and the surrounding air; in the case of the air in a bicycle pump it might be the pump itself and the air in the tyre to which the pump is attached.

The systems that are studied in thermodynamics are generally ones that can exist in several different <u>states</u>, each of which is specified by the values of various macroscopic properties of the system. For example, a fixed quantity of air trapped in a bicycle pump might be at a high temperature or a low one, its volume might be relatively large or relatively small, and its pressure might be quite high or quite low. By quoting values for these macroscopic properties (temperature, volume and pressure), or at least for as many of them as are independent, we can specify uniquely the state of the air in the pump and thereby enable any other investigator to reproduce the conditions we are describing. Macroscopic properties that can play this role have to be carefully chosen, and are sometimes referred to as <u>thermodynamic coordinates</u>.

In this module we will be concerned mainly with systems in, or close to, <u>thermodynamic equilibrium</u>. When a system is in thermodynamic equilibrium neither its macroscopic properties, nor the state they define, change with time; any such unchanging state is called an <u>equilibrium state</u>. By saying that a system is 'close' to equilibrium we imply that its bulk properties (and hence its state) may change with time, but only so slowly that the instantaneous state of the system can be approximated by an equilibrium state. A process in which the state of a system changes but is always very close to an equilibrium state is said to be a <u>quasistatic process</u>. Clearly, not all processes are quasistatic but a surprisingly large number are, and we can learn a lot about the real world even if we restrict our considerations to equilibrium states and quasistatic processes.

2.2 The ideal gas — an illustrative example

Thermodynamics is a powerful discipline, based on laws and concepts of wide applicability. However, when meeting thermodynamic concepts for the first time it is usually a good idea to keep a particular example in mind; otherwise the generality of the concepts can make them seem abstract and remote. The simple system traditionally used to introduce thermodynamic ideas is one consisting of a fixed quantity of **ideal gas**, at pressure *P* and temperature *T*, enclosed in a cylinder of variable volume *V* (see Figure 2a). If the cylinder contains *n* moles of gas, then, provided the system is in equilibrium, the pressure, volume and temperature of the gas will be related by the **equation of state of an ideal gas**:

$$PV = nRT \tag{1}$$

where $R = 8.314 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ is the <u>molar gas constant</u>. Note that the temperature in Equation 1 *must be expressed in kelvin* (K) for the equation to be valid. The behaviour of many real gases can be investigated, at least approximately, by treating them as ideal gases.



Figure 2a A system consisting of a fixed quantity (i.e. a fixed number of moles n) of ideal gas at pressure P and temperature T contained in a cylinder of variable volume V.

The relationship between P, V and T given by Equation 1

PV = nRT (Eqn 1)

can be shown graphically by using a three-dimensional graph of the sort shown in Figure 2b. For a given value of n (i.e. for a fixed quantity of gas) each set of values for P, V and T that satisfies Equation 1 specifies a single point on the graph and corresponds to a unique equilibrium state of the system. The set of all such points (i.e. the set of all equilibrium states of the fixed quantity of gas) constitutes a continuous t wo-dimensional surface in the three-dimensional PVT space of the graph. Such a surface is called the PVT surface or equilibrium surface of the gas. The surface shown in Figure 2b has been truncated for ease of display, but ignoring that, every possible equilibrium state of the system is represented by a point on the equilibrium surface and, conversely, any point not on the equilibrium surface does not represent a possible equilibrium state of the system.



Figure 2b The (truncated) equilibrium surface of the system, representing its possible equilibrium states. The lines drawn on the surface correspond to constant values of *P*, *V* or *T*.

◆ Suppose that the fixed quantity of ideal gas whose equilibrium surface is shown in Figure 2b undergoes a particular quasistatic process that takes it from some initial equilibrium state to some other equilibrium state. In general terms, how could you indicate that process on the *PVT* graph? What property of the graphical representation would show that the process was quasistatic?

Looking at Figure 2b, or at the equation of state it represents, it is easy to see that for a given value of n (i.e. for a given equilibrium surface) a unique equilibrium state can be specified by assigning values to any two of the thermodynamic coordinates P, V and T. Once two of the coordinates have been fixed the other is automatically determined by the equation of state (Equation 1).

$$PV = nRT$$



Figure 2b The (truncated) equilibrium surface of the system, representing its possible equilibrium states. The lines drawn on the surface correspond to constant values of *P*, *V* or *T*.

Question T1

Calculate the volume occupied by 62.5 mol of oxygen at a pressure of 1.00×10^5 Pa and a temperature of 27 °C. If the temperature of the gas is reduced to -10 °C but its volume is held constant, what will be the new pressure? (Treat the oxygen as an ideal gas and take the universal molar gas constant to be 8.31 J K⁻¹ mol⁻¹. Remember also that in <u>Question R2</u> you showed that 62.5 moles of oxygen has a mass of 2.00 kg.)

Question T2 💇

3.00 moles of helium occupy a volume of 0.200 m^3 at a pressure of $2.00 \times 10^5 \text{ N m}^{-2}$. Calculate the temperature and density of the gas assuming that it can be treated as an ideal gas. (The relative molecular mass of He is 4.)

Question T2 shows that once the equilibrium state of a system is specified, certain other quantities (density and temperature in that particular case) are automatically determined by that state. Such quantities are said to be <u>functions of state</u>. In Question T2 the temperature and density were evaluated without worrying about how the gas came to be in the particular equilibrium state that it occupied. This is always possible for functions of state; their values depend only on the equilibrium state and not the manner in which the system reached that state.

2.3 Other thermodynamic systems

Although we shall pay a good deal of attention to ideal gases in this module, it must be remembered that there are countless other thermodynamic systems that can be studied in much the same way. Most obviously, there are the **real gases**, such as hydrogen and helium. Real gases at low pressure behave like ideal gases, but the behaviour of real gases is invariably more complicated when the pressure increases.

If you compress a sample of ideal gas all you get is a denser sample of ideal gas. However if you compress a real gas, particularly one that has been cooled to a relatively low temperature, it may well turn into a liquid, and if you continue the compression it may even become a solid. These different forms of matter — gas, liquid and solid — are said to be different **phases of matter**, and the processes that allow one phase to become another — such as the *condensation* of a gas, or the *freezing* of a liquid — are said to be **changes of phase** or **phase transitions**. The fact that a typical substance can exist as a solid, a liquid or a gas inevitably makes its equilibrium (*PVT*) surface more complicated than that of an ideal gas.

The equilibrium surface of a fixed quantity of a typical substance is shown in Figure 3. As you can see, when the temperature and volume are large the substance is a gas, but when they are low it is a solid. The liquid phase occurs under intermediate conditions and is distinctly separated from the solid phase, but not from the gas phase, so the distinction between a gas and a liquid is not always clear. Changes of phase, such as freezing and condensation, occur when the temperature, pressure and/or volume of the system are altered in such a way that the state of the system crosses one of the regions in which two different phases coexist.

Even the wide variety of real substances, typical or atypical, does not exhaust the range of systems that can be studied using thermodynamics. Working physicists are almost as likely to use it to study the behaviour of a cavity filled with light (as you will see in Section 4.3) as that of a cylinder filled with gas.



Figure 3 The equilibrium (*PVT*) surface of a typical substance that contracts on freezing. (Water is an 'atypical' substance in this sense because it expands upon freezing.) Notice that there are some very specific conditions, indicated by points on the triple point line, under which the gas, liquid and solid phases of the substance can coexist in equilibrium.

Question T3

Imagine that you have a sturdy transparent cylinder filled with the sort of typical substance whose PVT surface is shown in Figure 3. Initially, half the cylinder is occupied by liquid and the other half by gas and the whole system is in equilibrium. Now suppose you gradually reduce the volume of the cylinder (possibly by operating a piston) while taking steps to ensure that the temperature is held constant (possibly by immersing the cylinder in a bath of water at the appropriate fixed temperature). Describe the path on the PVT surface that corresponds to this process, and describe what you would expect to observe as the volume of the cylinder became smaller and smaller.



Figure 3 The equilibrium (*PVT*) surface of a typical substance that contracts on freezing. (Water is an 'atypical' substance in this sense because it expands upon freezing.) Notice that there are some very specific conditions, indicated by points on the triple point line, under which the gas, liquid and solid phases of the substance can coexist in equilibrium.

3 Heat, work and internal energy

In this section we will define and explore the relationship between *heat*, *work* and *internal energy*. This will enable us to write down the *first law of thermodynamics*.

3.1 An elementary problem

Imagine using a bicycle pump to pump up a tyre. After pumping for a few minutes, the end of the pump where gas is being compressed will become quite warm. The temperature of the air in that part of the pump is raised each time the pump is operated and the <u>thermal contact</u> that exists between the warm gas and the metal of the pump allows the pump itself to become warm as a result of the pumping action.

• How could you achieve the same temperature rise in the pump without pumping?



No prizes for getting the answer right — it was a very straightforward question. Here is something equally easy, but with wide ranging implications.

• If you were handed a bicycle pump and the compression end was slightly warm, would you be able to tell if the temperature rise was due to immersion in hot water or due to pumping up a tyre?

This point being made here is really the same point that was made at the end of <u>Subsection 2.2</u>. Temperature is a *function of state*, so its value depends only on the equilibrium state of the system, and not on how that state was attained. The system has no 'memory' of how it arrived at any particular equilibrium state. It may appear that a lot of fuss is being made over a rather simple point, but the equivalence (in the above sense) of directly heating a system or doing mechanical work on a system lies at the heart of the first law of thermodynamics.



Figure 4 There is no difference between a temperature rise caused by doing mechanical work on a system and one caused by directly heating it.

3.2 Internal energy

We can gain more insight into the 'curious' behaviour of the bicycle pump by thinking in terms of energy rather than temperature.

The pump as a whole can have *potential energy* by virtue of its gravitational interaction with the Earth, and *kinetic energy* by virtue of its motion. However, in addition to these two contributions, its total energy will also contain a contribution arising from the atoms of which the pump is composed. Even when the pump as a whole is stationary, these atoms have their own microscopic motions which give the pump an *internal* kinetic energy that is quite distinct from the kinetic energy of its overall motion. Similarly, the electrical interactions between the atoms of the pump also give it an *internal* potential energy that can be distinguished from the gravitational potential energy associated with its overall position. The sum of these internal kinetic and potential energies, and any other internal energies that might exist, comprises the total **internal energy** of the pump.

Internal energy plays an important part in thermodynamics and is related to <u>temperature</u> in an interesting way. As you might expect, when the temperature of a system is raised its internal energy increases. In the case of a fixed quantity of ideal gas confined in a cylinder this relationship is easy to understand; from a microscopic point of view the gas consists of tiny randomly moving particles that are incessantly colliding with one another and with the walls of their container. Raising the temperature of the gas simply corresponds to increasing the average kinetic energy of the particles.

So in this case, the temperature of the gas is a measure of the average internal kinetic energy associated with the random motion of the molecules that make up the gas. In fact, it can be shown that for an ideal gas of simple point like particles the internal energy U is related to the absolute temperature T by the equation

$$U = \frac{3}{2}nRT \qquad \qquad \blacksquare$$

For other systems, such as real gases or the metal of the pump, the situation is broadly similar, but the precise relationship between temperature and internal energy is more complicated. Although it remains true that an increase in temperature corresponds to an increase in internal energy, it is not necessarily the case that an increase in internal energy corresponds to an increase in temperature. For instance, if you take a bucket of ice at a temperature of -10 °C (≈ 263 K) and directly heat it on a stove, you will raise its temperature and increase its internal energy. At least, that is what you will do until the temperature reaches 0 °C and the ice starts to melt. Once melting commences, continued heating will still increase the internal energy of the contents of the bucket, but it won't raise the temperature — it will just cause more of the ice to melt. Eventually, when all of the ice has changed its phase to become water (at 0 °C) further increases of internal energy due to heating will once again cause the temperature to rise.

The complicated relationship between temperature and internal energy for a fixed quantity of a typical substance is shown in Figure 5.

The important point about internal energy is that it too is a function of state. In other words, whenever the system is in an equilibrium state, its internal energy is determined by that equilibrium state and not by the processes that produced it. This explains why the cause of the raised temperature of the pump is bound to be ambiguous, unless we happen to know the detailed history of the pump. The raised pump temperature we observe simply reflects the raised internal energy of the pump. The fact that the internal energy is a function of state means that, in the absence of any additional information, there is no way of telling whether the internal energy was raised by direct heating (e.g. by immersing the pump in hot water) or by doing work (e.g. by pumping up a tyre).



Figure 5 The variation with temperature and pressure of the internal energy U of a fixed quantity of a typical substance. Note that there are vertical regions on the UVT surface (corresponding to changes of phase) in which a change in internal energy is not necessarily accompanied by a change in temperature.

3.3 Heat and work

In the preceding discussion, the terms 'direct heating' and 'doing work' were used in their everyday sense to indicate two different ways of increasing the internal energy of a system. In this subsection we shall give general definitions of heat and work, both of which are important concepts in thermodynamics. Let's deal with heat first.

If two bodies at different temperatures are brought into thermal contact, the warmer one will be cooled and the cooler one warmed. If the two bodies are thermally isolated from the rest of the universe, they will end up at the same temperature. Everyone would agree that this process involves the flow of heat from one body to the other, but what exactly is heat, and how does it influence temperature?

Two hundred years ago, some scientists would have said that heat was a substance, sometimes called *caloric*. They would have explained the behaviour of bodies in thermal contact like this:

'All bodies contain a fluid called caloric. Caloric flows from high temperature to low temperature and if you increase the caloric in a body its temperature will rise.'

Not all would have agreed. Experiments performed by Benjamin Thompson (1753–1814) (who later became Count Rumford of Bavaria) indicated that the caloric theory was incorrect. While working in Bavaria, Rumford studied the production of cannons (Figure 6) which were cooled by water while they were being bored. Rumford observed that more water was boiled away when the boring tool was blunt - a fact which could not be explained by caloric being squeezed out of the cannon into the water. Rumford's alternative explanation was that the heating effect was caused by the motion of the borer itself. Later, the British scientist James Prescott Joule (1818–1889) refined these experiments and showed that there was an equivalence between heating and mechanical work. A given amount of work, performed in the course of stirring a liquid or rubbing a body or in some other appropriate way, had a fixed heating effect. This discovery paved the way for the eventual realization, by William Thomson (1824-1907) (who later became Lord Kelvin) and others, that direct heating and the performance of mechanical work were alternative methods of transferring energy to a system.





Armed with this insight into the importance of energy we would now describe the flow of heat in the following way;

'All bodies contain internal energy. When two bodies with different temperatures are placed in thermal contact, energy is transferred from the body with the higher temperature to the body with the lower temperature. This net transfer of energy continues, altering the internal energies of the two bodies, until they attain the same temperature.'

What exactly is heat itself? It is notoriously difficult to clear away the clutter of history that surrounds this topic, but the conventional modern answer to the question is the following:

<u>Heat</u> is energy which is transferred between a system and its environment as a direct result of temperature differences between them. The direction of heat flow is from high temperature to low temperature.

There are several points that should be noted about this highly restrictive definition of heat. First, you should notice that heating is not necessarily due to heat. We often say that a body has been 'heated' whenever we find that its temperature has been raised; but as you have seen, this might be due to energy that has been transferred from a hotter body (i.e. heat), or it might be the result of work being done e.g. stirring, rubbing etc.

Second, notice that the energy which is transferred as heat is not identified as some particular form of energy, it is simply energy. This means that once some heat has been absorbed into the internal energy of a body there is no way of distinguishing it from any of the other energy that makes up the total internal energy of the body. It is therefore not generally meaningful to speak about the 'heat content' of a body. Although physicists are well aware of this, it is still common practice to refer to the internal kinetic energy of a body as its 'heat energy.' Even more confusingly, when bodies collide it is not uncommon for them to do work on each other, with the consequence that the internal energy of each is increased and its temperature rises. In such circumstances it is quite normal to hear a physicist say that some of the kinetic energy involved in the collision has been dissipated as heat, even though the bodies may not have been at different temperatures throughout the process. These departures from modern terminology are not usually of much concern, but if you want to know whether heat (in the modern sense) has really been transferred in any particular process, just ask yourself if bodies with different temperatures were in thermal contact during the process.

If the only transfer of energy between a system and its environment is that due to temperature difference, then the increase in internal energy of the system ΔU must be equal to the heat Q transferred to it so,

$$\Delta U = Q \tag{2}$$

The sign convention adopted in Equation 2 implies that heat flowing *to* a system is positive. Heat flowing *from* a system will therefore be negative and will decrease the internal energy of the system.

Having defined heat, we can now lump together all other forms of energy transfer and give them the name of 'work'.

Work is energy transferred between a system and its environment by any process in which a temperature difference is not directly involved.

Note that this definition of work is much more general than the definition of work used in mechanics, where it is essentially the (scalar) product of a force and a displacement in the direction of the force. However, the mechanical definition of work is fully consistent with the thermodynamic definition, and can be used to quantify the work done in certain situations as we shall now show.

Consider the system shown in Figure 7; a cylinder of internal length x and cross-sectional area A, containing a fixed quantity of ideal gas at pressure P and temperature T. One of the end walls of the cylinder is a piston which will be subject to a force $F_x = PA$ due to the pressure of the gas.

Initially we will assume the system is in equilibrium with pressure P_a and volume V_a . This means that there must be some external agency (some part of the environment) that is balancing the force F_x exerted by the gas and preventing the piston from moving. We shall not be concerned with the details of that external force, but it should be kept it in mind since it is vital for the equilibrium of the system. Since the quantity of gas is fixed, the pressure and volume are sufficient to specify the equilibrium state of the gas as described in <u>Section 2</u>. The temperature, density and other bulk properties can be easily calculated.



Figure 7 A thermally insulating cylinder of cross-sectional area *A* containing a fixed quantity of gas which exerts a force F_x on the piston.

Now suppose that the external force preventing the piston from moving is relaxed a little, so that the gas expands quasistatically until it arrives at another equilibrium state with pressure P_b and volume V_b . The force that the gas exerts on the piston will have done some mechanical work during this expansion and will have transferred some energy to the environment; we call this the work done *by* the gas *on* the environment. How much work will be done by the gas in the given expansion?

A constant force F_x acting in the x-direction and moving an object (such as the piston) through a small distance Δx does a small amount of work given by

 $\Delta W = F_x \Delta x$

In the case of the gas filled cylinder we know that $F_x = PA$, so we can write $\Delta W = PA \Delta x$, but we also know that the product $A \Delta x$ is equal to the change in volume of the gas ΔV so

 $\Delta W = PA \,\Delta x = P \,\Delta V$

As the gas expands its pressure may fall, so the force $F_x = PA$ that concerns us may not be constant. Nonetheless, we can still use the expression $\Delta W = P \Delta V$ to find the *approximate* amount of work done over a sufficiently small expansion. This means we can find an approximate expression for the total work done by the gas as its volume increases from V_a to V_b by dividing the total change of volume into many small volume increments and summing up the work done in each of those small increments (See Figure 8). Adopting this approach we see that the total work done by the thermally isolated gas is approximately

$$W \approx P(V_1) \Delta V_1 + P(V_2) \Delta V_2 + P(V_3) \Delta V_3 + \dots + P(V_n) \Delta V_n$$

i.e.
$$W \approx \sum_{i=1}^n P(V_i) \Delta V_i$$

where $V_1 = V_a$, $V_{n+1} = V_b$, and $P(V_i)$ represents the pressure in the gas at the start of the *i*th small volume increase.



Figure 8 A visualization of Equations 3 and 4.

We can get a more accurate expression for the work done by reducing the size of the largest step, and letting the number of steps correspondingly increase. In fact, in the limit as the largest step becomes vanishingly small this sum yields the exact value of *W*, so we may write

$$W = \lim_{\Delta V \to 0} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} P(V_i) \, \Delta V_i \right) \tag{3}$$

A limit of a sum of this kind is generally referred to as a *definite integral*, and is written as follows:

$$W = \int_{V_{\rm a}}^{V_{\rm b}} P(V) \, dV \tag{4}$$

where P(V) now represents the pressure of the gas when its volume is V. The steps leading to Equation 4 are explained Figure 8 A visualization of Equations 3 and 4. in greater detail in the block of modules devoted to integration in the maths strand of *FLAP*, but if you are not already familiar with the techniques of integration you will probably find it easier to think of the process in graphical terms. In this case the smooth curve of Figure 8 shows the variation of the pressure P with the volume V for the process we are considering.



The work done in any small part of the expansion from V_i to V_{i+1} is approximately represented by the area of the corresponding rectangular strip, $P(V_i)\Delta V_i$. The total amount of work done in expanding from V_a to V_b is approximately represented by the sum of the areas of all the rectangles. As the number of rectangles increases and they become narrower, their total area approaches the area under the smooth curve between V_a and V_b . The area under the curve between V_a and V_b , measured in the scale units appropriate to the graph, may therefore be said to equal the definite integral of P(V) from V_a to V_b .

In order to use Equation 4,

$$W = \int_{V_{a}}^{V_{b}} P(V) \, dV \tag{4}$$



Figure 8 A visualization of Equations 3 and 4.

or the equivalent graph, to evaluate the work done in any particular process we need to know the precise relationship between P and V at every stage of that process. Remember, any quasistatic process corresponds to a particular pathway on the *PVT* surface and therefore implies a particular relationship between P and V.

For the sake of definiteness, let us suppose that the cylinder in Figure 7 is thermally isolated from its environment so that no heat can flow in or out of the cylinder during the process. A process of this kind is called an **adiabatic process**. We shall not pause to prove it here, but it can be shown that during an adiabatic process a fixed quantity of ideal gas satisfies an equation of the form

 $P=BV^{-\gamma}$

where γ is a constant determined by the nature of the gas, and *B* is a constant that characterizes the isothermal process. PV It should be noted that the gas satisfies this adiabatic condition *as well as* the ideal gas equation of state (PV = nRT). Given a value for γ , the initial state of the process will determine the value of *B*, and the adiabatic condition will then determine those equilibrium states which can be reached by an adiabatic process starting from the given initial state.



Figure 7 A thermally insulating cylinder of cross-sectional area *A* containing a fixed quantity of gas which exerts a force F_x on the piston.

Using the adiabatic relation between P and V, we see from Equation 4

$$W = \int_{V_a}^{V_b} P(V) \, dV \tag{Eqn 4}$$

that the work done in an adiabatic process in which the volume changes from $V_{\rm a}$ to $V_{\rm b}$ is

$$W = \int_{V_{a}}^{V_{b}} BV^{-\gamma} \, dV = \left[\frac{BV^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma}\right]_{V_{a}}^{V_{b}} = \frac{B\left(V_{b}^{1-\gamma} - V_{a}^{1-\gamma}\right)}{1-\gamma}$$

• For an ideal gas of structureless point particles, *B* is positive and $\gamma = 5/3$. Under these circumstances what can you say about the relative sizes of V_a and V_b if *W* is to be negative? Does your answer make physical sense?


Question T4

Fifty moles of an ideal gas, for which $\gamma = 5/3$, have volume $V_a = 1.00 \text{ m}^3$ and pressure $P_a = 1.00 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$. After an adiabatic process its volume has increased to $V_b = 2.00 \text{ m}^3$. What is the final pressure of the gas? What was the initial temperature of the gas, and what is its final temperature? Show that this particular adiabatic process is characterized by $B = 1.00 \times 10^5 \text{ N m}^3$, and hence determine how much work is done by the expanding gas. \Box

Since no heat is exchanged between a system and its environment during an adiabatic process any change in the internal energy of the system must be entirely due to work done by or on the gas. If, as above, we use W to represent the work done by the system during a process, it follows that the change in the internal energy of the system ΔU during an adiabatic process is given by

 $\Delta U = -W$

The sign convention adopted in Equation 5 implies that work done by a system is positive. Work done on a system will therefore be negative and will increase the internal energy of the system. Note that Equation 5 is true of *any* adiabatic process, not just those involving ideal gases.



(5) 🗇

Question T5 🖉

An expression for the internal energy of an ideal gas of point particles was given in Subsection 3.2.

 $U = \frac{3}{2}nRT$

Use that expression, together with the temperature values you obtained in answering <u>Question T4</u> to evaluate the work done in the adiabatic expansion described in Question T4. \Box

The example we have been discussing involved mechanical work—but it is worth remembering that our definition of work includes all processes of energy transfer that do not directly involve a temperature difference. For example connecting a wire (the system) between the terminals of a battery (part of the environment) will cause the wire's temperature (and hence its internal energy) to rise. If the wire is thermally insulated then Equation 5

 $\Delta U = -W$

(Eqn 5)

still applies but this time W is the (negative) chemical work done on the wire by the battery.



3.4 The first law of thermodynamics

Subsection 3.3 described two methods of increasing the internal energy of a system: transferring heat to it and doing work on it. We deliberately considered processes in which either one method of energy transfer occurred or the other. However, many processes involve both methods.

In the presence of both methods of energy transfer we might expect to find that $\Delta U = Q - W$. As we shall shortly demonstrate, the values of Q and W involved in any particular process depend on the details of that process, but U is a function of state, so the value of ΔU will depend only on the initial and final equilibrium states that mark the beginning and end of the process.

The formal statement that this is so is known as the **first law of thermodynamics**.

If a system undergoes a change from one equilibrium state to another, the difference between the heat supplied to the system and the work done by the system will depend only on the initial and final equilibrium states and not on the process by which the change is brought about.

 $\Delta U = Q - W$

(6)

Since heat and work have been defined in such a way that they include all possible methods of transferring energy between a system and its environment, the first law amounts to the assertion that energy is conserved.

The internal energy of a system is only changed when energy is transferred to or from that system. In the context of the nineteenth century, the first law highlighted the general importance of energy, an importance that was only beginning to be appreciated around 1850. It also plays an important part in the logical structure of thermodynamics since it implies the existence of a function of state U without any recourse to microscopic arguments about the energies of individual atoms or molecules of the sort we permitted ourselves in Subsection 3.1.

Let's now use the first law to show that Q is generally not a function of state, thereby demonstrating that the idea that bodies have an identifiable 'heat content' must be wrong. Once again we wish to consider a cylinder containing a fixed quantity of ideal gas, and a process in which the equilibrium state of the gas changes from one in which $P = P_a$ and $V = V_a$ to one in which $P = P_b$ and $V = V_{\rm h}$. However, this time, instead of thermally isolating the





cylinder, we will allow heat exchange with the environment by arranging for part of the cylinder to be in contact with a thermal reservoir (that is a large body to or from which heat can be transferred without changing its temperature $T_{\rm res}$, see Figure 9).

We needn't worry about how a thermal reservoir might be constructed, but we will suppose that we can adjust its temperature T_{res} to be any value we desire. That means we can control the flow of heat into or out of the system by setting T_{res} to be greater or less than the temperature of the gas.

Using this apparatus we can investigate a number of different processes leading from state 1 (defined by P_a and V_a) to state 4 (defined by P_b , V_b). Two of these processes are shown in Figure 10, each is a two-step process; the first will be called 1–2–4 and leads from the initial state to the final state via state $2(P_b, V_a)$; the second will be called 1–3–4 and goes from the initial state to the final state $3(P_a, V_b)$. These processes are described in more detail below; neither of them is adiabatic.

| | | n | 1 | <u> </u> | | |
|---|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---|
| Process 1–2–4 | Process 1–3–4 | $P_{\rm a}$ - | | | | |
| Step 1 Holding the piston fixed, so that V remains constant at V_a , decrease the value of T_{res} so that heat flows out of the system, its temperature falls and its | Step 1 By suitable adjustments of T_{res} and movement of the piston, increase the volume while keeping the pressure constant at P_b until the gas reaches state 3. | $P_{\rm b}^{-}$ | 2 | > | Ļ | |
| pressure decreases until it reaches state 2. Step 2 By suitable adjustments of T_{res} and | Step 2 Holding the piston fixed, so that V remains constant at $V_{\rm b}$, decrease the value | | V _a | Vb | , | ľ |
| movement of the piston, increase the volume while keeping the pressure at $P_{\rm b}$ constant until the gas reaches state 4. | of $T_{\rm res}$ so that heat flows out of the system, its temperature falls and its pressure decreases until it reaches state 4. | Fig two | ure 10 PV d different path | iagram sh is between | owin the | g |
| | | | | | | |

| Table 1 Description of the processes shown in Figure | 10. |
|---|-----|
|---|-----|

Question T6

If $P_a = 2.00 \times 10^5 \text{ N m}^{-2}$, $P_b = 1.00 \times 10^5 \text{ N m}^{-2}$, $V_a = 1.00 \text{ m}^3$ and $V_b = 2.00 \text{ m}^3$, calculate the work done by the gas in the processes 1–2–4 and 1–3–4 described above.

The answer to Question T6 shows that the work done by the system in moving between the initial and final equilibrium states depends on the path taken.

Question T7

Can the work done by a system generally be described as a function of state? Can the heat transferred to a system generally be a function of state? Explain your answers, making clear the role of the first law of thermodynamics.

As noted earlier, the fact that internal energy and temperature are functions of state while work and heat are not is the reason why it is impossible to tell whether a temperature rise in a bike pump has been caused by direct heating or by work done on the gas or by a combination of the two.



Figure 10 *PV* diagram showing two different paths between the same initial and final states.



In <u>Subsection 3.3</u> we considered an <u>adiabatic process</u> in which no heat flowed in or out of the system, and we saw that in such a process a fixed quantity of ideal gas obeys the condition PV^{γ} = constant. In this subsection we have considered *constant volume processes* (such as *Step 1* of process 1–2–4) and *constant pressure processes* (such as *Step 1* of process 1–3–4).



Figure 10 *PV* diagram showing two different paths between the same initial and final states.

An example of each of these processes is shown in Figure 11, along with their projections onto the PV plane. Also shown is another kind of process, an isothermal process, in which the temperature remains constant.

Figure 11 Some simple processes involving an ideal gas, together with their projections on to the *PV* plane. Note that in each case the initial state of the process determines which other states are accessible by the process concerned. It is *not* the case that any two states may be directly linked by every kind of process. Remember that *isothermal* means 'at constant temperature' and *adiabatic* means that there is no transfer of heat.



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All these simple processes play important roles in thermodynamics.

For a fixed quantity of ideal gas, it follows from the equation of state (PV = nRT) that in an isothermal process the gas must obey the condition

$$PV = D \tag{7}$$

where *D* is a constant that characterizes the isothermal process. It should be noted that the gas satisfies this isothermal condition *as well as* the ideal gas equation of state (PV = nRT). The initial state of the process will determine the value of *D*, and the isothermal condition will then determine those equilibrium states that are accessible in an isothermal process that starts from the given initial state.

The work done by a fixed sample of ideal gas during an isothermal expansion from V_a to V_b is given by

$$W = \int_{V_{a}}^{V_{b}} P \, dV = \int_{V_{a}}^{V_{b}} \frac{D}{V} \, dV = D \log_{e} \left(\frac{V_{b}}{V_{a}} \right)$$

Ŧ

• Referring to the states used in Question T6,

 $[P_{\rm a} = 2.00 \times 10^5 \,\mathrm{N\,m^{-2}}, P_{\rm b} = 1.00 \times 10^5 \,\mathrm{N\,m^{-2}}, V_{\rm a} = 1.00 \,\mathrm{m^3}$ and $V_{\rm b} = 2.00 \,\mathrm{m}$]

confirm that an isothermal process starting from state 1 may pass through state 4.

Question T8

If the gas discussed in Question T6 moves from state 1 to state 4 isothermally, then 1.39×10^5 J of work are done by the gas. Will heat flow into or out of the gas during the process? What will be the quantity of heat involved?

Question T9

A liquid is irregularly stirred in a well-insulated container and thereby undergoes a rise in temperature. Think of the liquid as the system. (a) Has heat been transferred? (b) Has work been done? (c) What is the sign of ΔU ?



Figure 10 *PV* diagram showing two different paths between the same initial and final states.



3.5 The first law and the Earth's atmosphere

Subsection 1.1 mentioned the commonplace observation that atmospheric temperature decreases with height. In fact this holds good up to heights of about 10 km and the average reduction of temperature with height is about 6 K km^{-1} . This phenomenon can at least in part be explained by the first law of thermodynamics. First consider atmospheric pressure.

- ♦ How and why does atmospheric pressure change with height?
- In the light of the preceding statement, how would you expect the density to change with height?

Now consider what happens if a body of air is forced to rise because of a mountain. As it rises it expands because of the reduced pressure from the surrounding air acting on it. In thermodynamic terms, it is doing a positive amount of work W on its environment. As air is a poor conductor of heat (see Section 4), we may assume that there is negligible heat exchange with the surrounding air, so the expansion is adiabatic. Consequently Q = 0 and, from the first law of thermodynamics,

 $\Delta U = -W$

Since W is positive, ΔU is negative and thus the internal energy will decrease and the temperature will fall.





We have described the decrease in temperature with height for a single, imaginary block of air. In reality most of the air in the bottom 10 km of the atmosphere is continually rising and falling mainly due to <u>convection</u> (see Section 4) and the effects of mountain ranges. If the air was dry this would result in an overall temperature variation with height exactly corresponding to that of a rising, adiabatically expanding, block of air (about 10 K km⁻¹). In fact the actual value is about $6 K \text{ km}^{-1}$ due mainly to the effect of the condensation of water vapour. This is the kind of cooling which you might expect to observe on the cycle tour described in <u>Subsection 1.1</u>.

3.6 Summary of Section 3

- 1 Internal energy U is the sum of the potential and kinetic energies associated with the constituent molecules of a system.
- 2 Heat is energy transferred between a system and its environment as a result of the temperature difference between them. Heat always flows from high temperature to low temperature.
- 3 Work is the energy transferred between a system and its environment by any process in which a temperature difference is not directly involved.
- 4 Internal energy is a function of state. Heat and work are not functions of state.
- 5 The first law of thermodynamics states that, if a system undergoes a change from one equilibrium state to another, the difference between the heat Q supplied *to* the system and the work W done *by* the system will depend only on the initial and final states and not on the process by which this change is brought about. This provides a thermodynamic justification for introducing the internal energy as a function of state U such that

 $\Delta U = Q - W$

- 6 An adiabatic process is one in which there is no heat exchange between the system concerned and its environment. An isothermal process is one in which there is no change of temperature.
- 7 The reduction of temperature with height in the bottom few kilometres of the atmosphere can be at least partially explained as the result of adiabatic expansion.

4 Methods of heat transfer

In Section 3 heat was defined as energy transferred because of temperature difference. In this section we will explore three different mechanisms by which the transfer of heat is effected. They are *conduction*, *convection* and *radiation*.

4.1 Conduction

Perhaps the simplest mode of heat transfer is **conduction**. It can occur in all three phases of matter: solids, liquids and gases. To fix our ideas we think first of a thin slab of solid shown in Figure 13 with thickness Δl , cross-sectional area *A* and a temperature difference between its flat faces of ΔT . We can assume that Δl is so small that heat transfer out of the slab through the sides is negligible. If we imagine a quantity of heat ΔQ flows through the slab in the small time interval Δt , then therate of flow of heat



Figure 13 A slab of solid with crosssectional area *A* and thickness Δl .

can be written as $\frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t}$. It is found experimentally that $\frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t}$ is proportional to the <u>temperature gradient</u> $\frac{\Delta T}{\Delta l}$ and the cross-sectional area *A*.

Thus
$$\frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t} \propto A \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta l}$$

so $\frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t} = -\kappa A \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta l}$

where κ (the Greek letter *kappa*) is a constant called the <u>thermal conductivity coefficient</u> $\leq r$ that is characteristic of the material of the slab. The negative sign indicates that the direction of heat flow is in the opposite direction to the temperature gradient. That is, it flows from hot to cold. In the limit as Δl and Δt approach zero, the equation can be written using derivatives, as

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -\kappa A \frac{dT}{dl} \tag{8}$$

Such a situation is shown in Figure 14.

If in addition a steady state has been reached so that there is no change of temperature with time at any point in the bar, a simplified form of Equation 8

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -\kappa A \frac{dT}{dl}$$
 (Eqn 8)

can be used

$$\frac{Q}{t} = -\kappa A \frac{\left(T_2 - T_1\right)}{l} \tag{9}$$

where l is the length of the bar, and Q is the heat that flows in time t.



Figure 14 (a) Heat flow along a bar between temperatures T_2 and T_1 where $T_2 > T_1$. The bar is not insulated and some of the heat flow is through the sides of the bar into the environment. (b) The same situation but with a well-lagged bar. Heat flow lines are parallel along the bar so the flow can be said to be one-dimensional.

Question T10

If a copper kettle has a base of thickness of 2.0 mm and area $3.0 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2$, estimate the steady difference in temperature between inner and outer surfaces of the base which must be maintained to enable enough heat to pass through so that the temperature of 1.00 kg of water rises at the rate 0.25 K s^{-1} .

Note that κ (copper) = 390 W m⁻¹ K⁻¹ and the amount of heat required to increase the temperature of 1 kg of water by 1 K is 4.19×10^3 J.

Question T11

A windowless room 3.0 m high and with a $6.0 \text{ m} \times 6.0 \text{ m}$ floor area is insulated with a 10 cm layer of glass-wool. The inside walls and ceiling are to be maintained at 20 °C when the outside surface temperature is 0 °C. What rate of heating must be supplied to the room in order to maintain the desired temperature?

(You should assume that the glass wool with thermal conductivity $0.038 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ is entirely responsible for the insulation and that there is no heat loss through the floor.)





An ice-box is built of wood 1.75 cm thick, lined with cork 3.00 cm thick. If the temperature of the inner surface of the cork is 0 °C and that of the outer surface of the wood 12 °C, what is the temperature at the interface? (The thermal conductivity of wood is 0.25 W m⁻¹ K⁻¹; the thermal conductivity of cork is 0.05 W m⁻¹ K⁻¹.)



4.2 Convection

Consider a fluid initially in mechanical equilibrium so that is there is no bulk movement. Now imagine that a small source of heat is placed somewhere in the fluid. The temperature of the fluid next to the heat source will increase causing expansion and resulting in a decrease in density.

The weight of fluid occupying a given volume is now less but the force due to pressure difference which balanced the original weight of fluid (see Figure 12a) has not changed. Thus there is a net upward force on the less dense fluid. As it rises its place is taken by cooler, denser fluid which will in turn warm, expand and rise. If a mechanism exists whereby the warm, rising fluid transfers heat to some cooler body (a heat sink) then a cyclical process is established so that the fluid circulates and heat is continually transferred from heat source to heat sink. This method of heat transfer is called <u>convection</u>.

Question T13 💇

Can convection occur in the absence of a gravitational force? \Box



Figure 12a The magnitudes and directions of the forces acting on a block of air in equilibrium with its surroundings.

The force due to the pressure difference between the top and bottom surfaces just balances its weight.



In general convection is a complicated phenomenon, depending sensitively on

- o the shape of the containing vessel,
- whether the convection is *forced* or *free*. <u>Free convection</u> implies that the fluid movement is purely in response to the change of density described above. <u>Forced convection</u> implies that the fluid movement is mechanically assisted. Examples of forced convection include the use of a fan in an oven, stirring a cup of tea or a cool breeze across your cheek.
- o the directions and magnitudes of the temperature gradient and the gravitational force,
- \circ the viscosity (loosely the 'stickiness') of the fluid.

There exist a few simple cases which can be analysed in detail. We will briefly mention one.

Consider natural convection between two horizontal plane surfaces of large area A and small separation ($l \ll \sqrt{A}$) as shown in Figure 15a.

The surfaces above and below the fluid layer are held at temperatures T_a and T_b respectively. If $T_a > T_b$ then no convection can occur and heat transfer will be entirely by conduction. We can thus measure the thermal conductivity κ if we know the rate of heat flow and the dimensions of the fluid.

Figure 15 (a) An experiment to investigate convective motion and heat transfer in fluids. The upper and lower surfaces have a common cross-sectional area *A*. (b) In the absence of convection, heat flow measurements reveal the almost constant value of the coefficient of thermal conductivity with changing values of ΔT . In the presence of convection such measurements reveal a new phenomenon not directly connected with thermal conduction. This is the transfer of heat by convection, and typically results in a rise in the rate of heat transfer with temperature difference above a critical temperature difference ΔT_c . The label κ on the axis is not appropriate in this second case.



This is given by Equation 9

$$\kappa = -\frac{Q}{t} \times \frac{1}{A} \times \frac{l}{\Delta T} \qquad \text{(in the absence of convection)} \quad \text{(Eqn 9)}$$

where $\Delta T = T_{0} - T_{b}$.

Plotting κ against different values of ΔT should show only small variations as in Figure 15b. If the experiment is repeated with $T_b > T_a$, so that the heat flow is upwards, something more complicated happens. For small ΔT , the value of $-Ql/(tA\Delta T)$ is the same as before, but as ΔT increases beyond a certain critical value ΔT_c , the value of this quantity begins to increase (Figure 15b). The changing value of this quantity with ΔT shows that the flow of heat is no longer simply proportional to ΔT .

Figure 15 (a) An experiment to investigate convective motion and heat transfer in fluids. The upper and lower surfaces have a common cross-sectional area *A*. (b) In the absence of convection, heat flow measurements reveal the almost constant value of the coefficient of thermal conductivity with changing values of ΔT .



 $\Delta T_{\rm c}$

 ΛT

(b)

0

In the presence of convection such measurements reveal a new phenomenon not directly connected with thermal conduction. This is the transfer of heat by convection, and typically results in a rise in the rate of heat transfer with temperature difference above a critical temperature difference ΔT_c . The label κ on the axis is not appropriate in this second case.

The critical temperature difference ΔT_c represents the temperature difference at which convection switches on and the results are then roughly consistent with $\frac{dQ}{dt}$ proportional to $(\Delta T)^{5/4}$ (rather than ΔT) for $\Delta T > \Delta T_c$.

The flow pattern in the fluid is also of interest; for this geometry the fluid organizes itself into a regular array of hexagonal cells with fluid moving in one direction along the axis of the hexagons and in the opposite direction along their boundaries. All this complexity from natural convection in a simple geometry! Just imagine how much more complicated it can get. Do not despair! Although it is very difficult to model the intricate details of convection in all but the most simple situations, useful results can often be obtained using a simple empirical formula:

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -hA\Delta T \tag{10}$$

where h is called the <u>convective heat transfer coefficient</u>. As you can see, this formula is a little like Fourier's law in Equation 8 but it does not contain a length l.

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -\kappa A \frac{dT}{dl}$$

(Eqn 8)

The convective heat transfer coefficient is something which can be looked up in tables or calculated from standard formulae. It depends on shape and orientation, and may also depend on ΔT as in the example shown in Figure 15. From a practical point of view we cannot afford to overlook convection. Empirical equations such as Equation 10

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -hA\Delta T \tag{Eqn 10}$$

are useful in appropriate situations, but one should retain a sense of caution about depending too heavily on such calculations in view of the complexity of the phenomenon.

Figure 15 (a) An experiment to investigate convective motion and heat transfer in fluids. The upper and lower surfaces have a common cross-sectional area *A*. (b) In the absence of convection, heat flow measurements reveal the almost constant value of the coefficient of thermal conductivity with changing values of ΔT . In the presence of convection such measurements reveal a new phenomenon not directly connected with thermal conduction. This is the transfer of heat by



convection, and typically results in a rise in the rate of heat transfer with temperature difference above a critical temperature difference ΔT_c . The label κ on the axis is not appropriate in this second case.

• What are the units of h?

Question T14

For natural convection over a flat horizontal plate which is warmer than the surrounding air, the convection coefficient can be calculated from the following empirical formula

$$h = \frac{\kappa}{d} \times 0.50 \times (1.58 \times 10^8 \times d^3 \times \Delta T)^{0.25} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$$

where κ is the conductivity of the air in W m⁻¹ K⁻¹, *d* is the length of the plate in metres and ΔT is the temperature difference in K between plate and air. For d = 5 m, calculate *h* for $\Delta T = 5$ K, 10 K, 15 K. Take κ to be 0.025 W m⁻¹ K⁻¹.

Question T15 🖉

Estimate the heat loss by free convection from a flat roof of dimensions $5 \text{ m} \times 5 \text{ m}$ when the temperature difference between the roof and the surrounding air is (a) 5 °C, (b) 10 °C, (c) 15 °C. *Hint*: use the values of *h* calculated in Question T14.







4.3 Electromagnetic radiation and the black-body spectrum

The third process of heat transfer we wish to discuss is commonly called <u>radiation</u>. In the context of heat transfer, this is taken to mean the emission and absorption of <u>electromagnetic radiation</u>.

Electromagnetic radiation is a wave phenomenon, consisting of oscillating electric and magnetic fields and it is something you are in contact with every second of your life. Electromagnetic radiation, ultraviolet radiation, gamma rays and X-rays are all forms of electromagnetic radiation differing only in their wavelength (the distance between successive wave peaks).

These different kinds of radiation collectively form the <u>electromagnetic</u> <u>spectrum</u>, as illustrated in Figure 16.

As far as this module is concerned, the important thing about electromagnetic radiation is that it carries energy. All objects emit energy in the form of electromagnetic radiation. Tou yourself are radiating energy at about the same rate as a domestic light bulb as you read this module!



Figure 16 The electromagnetic spectrum.

The power emitted per unit area of emitting surface is usually carried away by electromagnetic radiation of various wavelengths, so it makes sense to describe the emission in terms of the power radiated per unit area *per unit wavelength range*. This quantity is called the <u>spectral brightness</u> $R_{\lambda} \leq r$ of a surface and generally depends on the temperature and nature of the emitting surface, as well as the wavelength being observed. The spectral brightness of your own body would be greatest at infra-red wavelengths, whereas that of the Sun is greatest at visible wavelengths.

Thermodynamic arguments beyond the scope of this module imply that at a given temperature there is an upper limit to the spectral brightness of a surface at any given wavelength. Any body which produces this maximum spectral brightness at a given wavelength would constitute a perfect emitter at that wavelength and should, according to thermodynamics, also be a perfect absorber of radiation at that wavelength. Consequently, any object which is a perfect emitter at *all* wavelengths will also be a perfect absorber at *all* wavelengths. For this reason a perfect emitter of radiation is rather surprisingly known as a <u>black body</u>, though the alternative term *full radiator* is sometimes used. Question T16 💇

What are the SI units of spectral brightness? \Box



If an object appears black, does that mean it is a black body? Does a black body always look black?



Exactly how much radiation is emitted by a black body at a given temperature? If we had such an object it would be easy to make measurements. Unfortunately, no real surface emits perfectly at all wavelengths. However a very good approximation can be achieved by forming a cavity with a small aperture in a solid object as shown in Figure 17.

Almost all radiation entering through the aperture will eventually be absorbed somewhere inside the cavity, so the cavity constitutes an (almost) perfect absorber and is therefore a good approximation to a black body. Some of the radiation emitted by the walls of the cavity will inevitably escape through the aperture, and this may be used to study black-body radiation. By adjusting the (uniform) temperature of the cavity's walls we can investigate how the spectral brightness of a black body varies with temperature as well as wavelength. Such a device is called a *cavity radiator*. In this situation the hole will always appear brighter than the entire body. This is a direct result of the hole being nearer to a true black body than is the surface of the body. A similar effect is sometimes seen from a cavity within an open fire.



Figure 17 A cavity radiator is a good approximation of a black body because electromagnetic radiation which enters the aperture is absorbed during a series of collisions with the cavity walls.

The variation of spectral brightness with wavelength for a black body at a given temperature defines the <u>black-body spectrum</u> at that temperature. A sequence of black-body spectra at different temperatures is shown graphically in Figure 18. As you can see, the shape of the spectrum is the same for all temperatures. As the temperature rises, the peak in the curve moves to shorter wavelengths and the total emitted power (represented by the area under the curve) increases. This is in line with everyday observation. A heated object will start to glow dull red as its brightness peak enters the visible region of the spectrum. As its temperature continues to rise it turns orange, yellow and then white as the peak moves to shorter and shorter wavelengths. A very hot star appears blue since its peak emission is in the ultraviolet and it is seen mainly by the light emitted in the blue end of the spectrum.

• Show that the total power per unit area emitted by a black body at a particular temperature T is represented by the area under the corresponding black-body spectrum.





Figure 18 Black-body spectra at various temperatures, shown as plots of spectral brightness against wavelength. The dashed line shows the variation of the spectrum peak with temperature.

The theory of black-body radiation is now well understood. The relationship between R_{λ} , λ and T for a black body was formulated by Max Planck (1858–1947) in 1900 and is known as **Planck's function**. It takes the form

$$R_{\lambda} = \frac{c_1}{\lambda^5} \frac{1}{\left(e^{c_2/\lambda T} - 1\right)} \tag{11a}$$

where c_1 and c_2 are constants.

Integrating the Planck function of Equation 11a to find the total power emitted per unit area by a black body across all wavelengths, looks a bit formidable but fortunately the final result can be expressed simply. If R is the total emitted power per unit area, then

$$R = \sigma T^4 \tag{12a}$$

Equation (12a) is known as Stefan's law and σ is Stefan's constant. In SI units $\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-4}$

Question T18

Calculate the power emitted by a hole of area 10 cm^2 in the side of a large furnace at a temperature of 3000 K.



For real objects, the power emitted at a given wavelength is usually less than the black-body spectral brightness. Figure 19 compares the spectrum for tungsten at 2000 K with the black body curve.

Equations 11a and 12a

$$R_{\lambda} = \frac{c_1}{\lambda^5} \frac{1}{\left(e^{c_2/\lambda T} - 1\right)}$$
(Eqn 11a)
$$R = \sigma T^4$$
(Eqn 12a)

can be adjusted to account for the behaviour of real objects by incorporating a factor known as the <u>emissivity</u> ε (the Greek letter *epsilon*). Thus Equation 11a becomes

$$R_{\lambda} = \frac{c_1}{\lambda^5} \varepsilon_{\lambda} \frac{1}{\left(e^{c_2/\lambda T} - 1\right)}$$
(11b)

The subscript λ emphasizes the fact that the emissivity may vary with wavelength. ε_{λ} is always between 0 and 1.



Figure 19 The spectra of tungsten and of a black body at 2000 K. You will sometimes see a black body referred to as a *full radiator*.

| Equation 12a | $R = \sigma T^4$ | (Eqn 12a) |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| becomes: | $R = \varepsilon \sigma T^4$ | (12b) |

where ε is now a representative value of ε_{λ} over the whole spectrum and therefore may vary with temperature.

Question T19 💇

What is the emissivity of a cavity radiator? \Box

Question T20 🖉

If an object has an emissivity of 0.3 at all wavelengths, what fraction of incoming radiation will be absorbed? \Box

Question T21

The total energy emitted by the Sun in one second is 3.7×10^{26} J. Estimate the average surface temperature of the Sun, assuming it to be a spherical black body with a radius of 6.96×10^8 m.







4.4 Heat transfer by radiation

It is now just a small step to see the link between electromagnetic radiation and heat transfer. Any object is continually radiating energy into its environment and absorbing energy from its environment. If for the moment we ignore all other forms of energy transfer, then from the first law of thermodynamics any difference between the incoming and outgoing radiation must lead to a change in internal energy of the object

$$\Delta U = E_{\rm in} - E_{\rm out} \tag{13}$$

where E_{in} is the incoming radiation in a given time, and E_{out} is the outgoing radiation in the same time. For an object in thermal equilibrium with its environment, $E_{in} = E_{out}$ so there is no change in ΔU and thus no change in temperature.

Question T22

Two parallel plates which are black bodies are separated by a distance small compared to their length and width. If the temperatures of the plates are T_1 and T_2 ($T_1 > T_2$) show that the net rate of energy loss per unit area of plate 1 is $\sigma(T_1^4 - T_2^4)$ and this is equal to the net rate of energy gain of plate 2.



Question T22 proves that for this special case, the net rate of energy transfer by radiation between the two bodies is proportional to the difference between the fourth powers of their absolute temperatures. Fortunately, this result is also true whether or not the objects are black bodies and whatever their shape and separation. This is not difficult to prove but there is not room to do so in this module.

In general then, the net rate of heat transfer by electromagnetic radiation to a body at temperature T_1 from a body at temperature T_2 satisfies the relation

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} \propto -\left(T_1^4 - T_2^4\right)$$

For a body of area A with temperature T_1 and emissivity ε_1 surrounded by an environment with emissivity ε_2 and temperature T_2

The minus sign is for consistency with the previous convention that energy flow to the body is positive.
• We have used the same symbol $\frac{dQ}{dt}$ here as for heat transfer by conduction and convection in Equations 8 and 10.

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -\kappa A \frac{dT}{dl}$$
(Eqn 8)
$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -hA\Delta T$$
(Eqn 10)

Is this strictly correct given the definition of heat used in <u>Section 3.3</u>?

$$\kappa = -\frac{Q}{t} \times \frac{1}{A} \times \frac{l}{\Delta T}$$
 (in the absence of convection) (Eqn 9)

There is one more point to be made. Equations 9 and 10 show that the rate of heat flow in both conduction and convection is proportional to the temperature difference. It would be very useful if Equation 14

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -A\varepsilon_1\varepsilon_2\sigma(T_1^4 - T_2^4)$$
 (Eqn 14)

could be written in the same form.

Fortunately it can, provided $T_1 - T_2$ is small compared with T_1 and T_2 . Under these circumstances it can be shown (using the *binomial expansion*) that $(T_1^n - T_2^n) \approx nT_1^{(n-1)}(T_1 - T_2)$. Thus, for small temperature differences, heat transfer by conduction, convection and radiation are all proportional to the temperature difference. This makes life a lot easier in complex situations where all three processes are involved and explains the basis of an empirical result known as <u>Newton's law of cooling</u> which says that the rate of heat transfer from a hot body to its environment is proportional to the difference in temperature between them.

Question T23 🖉

If plates 1 and 2 in Question T22 are at temperatures of 300 K and 200 K respectively, calculate the rate of heat transfer between the plates per unit area of surface. \Box

Question T24

The Earth absorbs energy from the Sun at an average rate of 1.2×10^{17} W. Calculate what its average surface temperature would be assuming it emits as a black body. Take the Earth's radius to be 6400 km.



4.5 Human beings and heat transfer

We are now in a position to look back at the rest of the observations made in the introductory example in Section 1.1 with regard to an imaginary cycling tour.

The third observation was that *you feel colder when the sun goes behind a cloud*. Of course you do; you are no longer in a position to absorb the direct electromagnetic radiation. Having got this far in the module, we can perhaps be a little more quantitative.

Question T25

Estimate the rate of heat loss per unit area of your body surface by electromagnetic radiation. \Box



The solar radiation received at the Earth's surface with the Sun directly overhead in a clear sky is of the order of 1 kW m^{-2} . Obviously this will decrease if the atmosphere is not clear and the sun is not overhead. The power per unit area your skin receives will also depend on the orientation relative to the Sun's rays but the point we wish to make is that the incoming solar radiation is of the same order of magnitude as the radiant energy loss for each unit area of exposed skin. Therefore it is not surprising that you notice whether or not you are receiving it.

The final observation was that *you put on a jacket and feel warmer*. Again we know this to be true — but is it consistent with the theory we have of heat transfer? As the Sun has gone behind a cloud, the solar radiation component is not so important. Radiative heat transfer between the jacket and the body is probably the same as between the rest of the environment and the body and so is unchanged. Your skin surface temperature is typically $32 \,^\circ\text{C}-35 \,^\circ\text{C}$. This is warmer than the atmosphere in most circumstances and thus free convection will be initiated as the layer of air next to the skin is warmed, expands and rises. The efficiency of the convection depends very much on the clothing (or lack of it). Tight-fitting clothing or clothing designed to trap pockets of air next to the skin effectively prevents convection. The only way in which energy can now be transferred from the body is by conduction — but the air is a very poor conductor, so you feel warm. Loose-fitting clothing allows the air to circulate and feels cooler.

5 Closing items

5.1 Module summary

- 1 <u>Thermodynamics</u> is concerned with the macroscopic aspects of temperature, energy and the transfer of energy between a <u>system</u> and its <u>environment</u>. Amongst other things it deals with a system's <u>equilibrium</u> <u>states</u>, which can usually be completely specified by the values of a small number of macroscopic properties, and <u>quasistatic processes</u> in which the changing state of a system is always very close to an equilibrium state.
- 2 A typical example of a thermodynamic system is *n* moles of <u>ideal gas</u>, confined in a cylinder of volume V at temperature T and pressure P. Such a gas obeys the <u>equation of state of an ideal gas</u> PV = nRT, where R is the molar gas constant, and has a set of equilibrium states that can be represented by a continuous two-dimensional <u>PVT surface</u>.
- 3 <u>*Heat*</u> is energy which is transferred between a system and its environment as a direct result of temperature differences. The direction of heat flow is from high temperature to low temperature. <u>*Work*</u> is energy transferred between a system and its environment by any other means.

4 An <u>adiabatic process</u> is one in which no heat enters or leaves a system. When a fixed quantity of ideal gas undergoes an adiabatic expansion from V_a to V_b , $P = BV^{-\gamma}$ and the work done by the gas is

$$W = \int_{V_{a}}^{V_{b}} P \, dV = \frac{B(V_{b}^{1-\gamma} - V_{a}^{1-\gamma})}{1-\gamma}$$

where B is a constant that characterizes the process.

An <u>isothermal process</u> is one in which the temperature of the system does not change. When a fixed quantity of ideal gas undergoes an isothermal expansion from V_a to V_b , P = D/V and the work done by the gas is

$$W = \int_{V_{a}}^{V_{b}} P \, dV = D \log_{e} \left(\frac{V_{b}}{V_{a}} \right)$$

where D is a constant that characterizes the process.

In a constant pressure process the work done by the gas is $W = P(V_b - V_a)$, and in a constant volume process the gas does no work.

5 The *first law of thermodynamics* asserts that if a system undergoes a change from one equilibrium state to another, the difference between the heat *Q* supplied *to* the system and the work *W* done *by* the system will depend only on the initial and final equilibrium states and not on the process by which the change is brought about. This justifies the introduction of a *function of state* known as the *internal energy U* which changes by an amount

$$\Delta U = Q - W \tag{Eqn 6}$$

in any quasistatic process. For many common systems U may be interpreted as the sum of the disordered microscopic energies of the atoms and molecules that make up the system, and may be related to the temperature of a system. Because Q and W are not functions of state their respective contributions to U cannot be disentangled, and it does not generally make sense to speak of the 'heat content' of a system.

6 The rate at which heat is transferred along a uniform bar of cross-sectional area *A* by <u>conduction</u> is related to the <u>temperature gradient</u> along the bar by <u>Fourier's law</u>

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -\kappa A \frac{dT}{dl} \tag{Eqn 8}$$

where κ is the *thermal conductivity coefficient*, a characteristic of the material of the bar. Conduction does not involve any bulk motion of the conducting material.

7 <u>Convection</u> is a complex heat transfer process that can occur in a gravitational field when part of a fluid is heated, expands, and rises above denser parts. In some simple situations, the rate of heat transfer by convection between two parallel planes of area A that differ in temperature by an amount ΔT can be approximated by the equation

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -hA\Delta T$$

where *h* is the *convective heat transfer coefficient*.

- 8 All objects emit and absorb <u>electromagnetic radiation</u>. The power emitted per unit area per unit wavelength is known as the <u>spectral brightness</u>. The spectral brightness of a surface varies with wavelength and generally depends on the temperature and nature of the emitting surface.
- 9 Surfaces which are strong/weak emitters at a given wavelength are also strong/weak absorbers at that wavelength. A <u>black body</u> or <u>full radiator</u> is a body which absorbs all incident radiation at all wavelengths. Such a body is also a perfect emitter at all wavelengths. The variation of spectral brightness with temperature T and wavelength λ for a black body is described by <u>Planck's function</u>

$$R_{\lambda} = \frac{c_1}{\lambda^5} \frac{1}{\left(e^{c_2/\lambda T} - 1\right)}$$
(Eqn 11a)

10 The total power emitted per unit area of surface can be calculated from <u>Stefan's law</u>

$$R = \varepsilon \sigma T^4 \tag{Eqn 12b}$$

Where ε is the (average) <u>emissivity</u> of the surface at the relevant temperature. For a black body $\varepsilon = 1$.

11 For a body of surface area A and emissivity ε_1 at temperature T_1 surrounded by an environment of emissivity ε_2 at temperature T_2 , the rate of heat transfer to the body by <u>radiation</u> is

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -A\varepsilon_1\varepsilon_2\sigma(T_1^4 - T_2^4)$$
(Eqn 14)
If $(T_1 - T_2)$ is small, then $\frac{dQ}{dt} \propto -(T_1 - T_2)$ is a good approximation.

5.2 Achievements

Having completed this module, you should be able to:

- A1 Define the terms that are emboldened and flagged in the margins of the module.
- A2 Distinguish between internal energy, heat and work, and evaluate those quantities in various circumstances. (Particularly in the case of an ideal gas undergoing various simple processes.)
- A3 State the first law of thermodynamics, explain its significance, and use it in simple calculations.
- A4 Write down an equation relating heat flow by conduction to temperature gradient and do simple problems based on this equation.
- A5 Describe the process of heat transfer by convection, and write down an empirical equation that may be used to estimate the rate of heat transfer by convection in simple situations.
- A6 Explain what is meant by a black body, sketch a graph showing the variation of the spectral brightness of a black body with wavelength (*Planck's function*), and describe how the main features of the graph vary with the temperature of the black body.
- A7 Write down, interpret and use Stefan's law for the total power emitted per unit area of a black body at temperature T.
- A8 Describe the way in which absorption and emission of electromagnetic radiation give rise to heat transfer.

Study comment You may now wish to take the <u>Exit test</u> for this module which tests these Achievements. If you prefer to study the module further before taking this test then return to the <u>Module contents</u> to review some of the topics.

5.3 Exit test

Study comment Having completed this module, you should be able to answer the following questions each of which tests one or more of the Achievements.

Question E1

(A1 and A2) Explain why the internal energy of a system is regarded as a function of state but heat supplied to the system and work done on it are not.



Question E2

(A1, A2 and A3) A cylinder of adjustable volume such as that shown in Figure 7 contains 1 mole of gas at a temperature of 27 °C. The cylinder can be brought into thermal contact with a thermal reservoir of adjustable temperature or it can be insulated from its environment. Initially the gas occupies a volume of 0.50 m^3 . It can then be brought into a state where the pressure is doubled and the volume halved by one of the following methods:

- (i) The gas is cooled so as to halve the volume while keeping the pressure constant. It is then heated so as to double the pressure while keeping the volume constant.
- (ii) The gas is heated so as to double the pressure while keeping the volume constant. It is then compressed so as to halve the volume while keeping the pressure constant.

If the change in internal energy ΔU is related to the change in



Figure 7 A thermally insulating cylinder of cross-sectional area *A* containing a fixed quantity of gas which exerts a force F_x on the piston.

absolute temperature ΔT by the equation $\Delta U = \frac{3}{2} nR\Delta T$, calculate the work done on the gas using each method and the heat supplied to it.



Question E3

(A4) A skier with a body surface area of 1.5 m^2 wears clothing with an average thickness of 1.0 cm and thermal conductivity $0.050 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$. If the skier's skin temperature is 35 °C and the air temperature is 2 °C, estimate the rate of heat transfer from the body to the air by conduction. Describe the effect of the skier's clothing becoming soaked with water given that the thermal conductivity of water is $0.6 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$.

Question E4

(A6 and A7) Estimate the net rate of energy loss by radiation for an animal with a skin temperature of $33 \,^{\circ}$ C and a surface area of 0.4 m² in an environment with an equivalent black body temperature of 20 °C. Assume the emissivities of the animal's skin and the environment are both 1 for the relevant wavelength ranges.

Question E5

(A5) Estimate the rate of heat flow by convection to the atmosphere from the surface of a 25 m² pond that is 6.0 °C warmer than the surrounding air when there is no wind. How will the situation change if the pond is 6 °C cooler than the air? Take κ for air to be 0.025 W m⁻¹ K⁻¹.

Hint: use the equation for h given in Question T14.

$$h = \frac{\kappa}{d} \times 0.50 \times \left(1.58 \times 10^8 \times d^3 \times \Delta T\right)^{0.25} \mathrm{W} \mathrm{m}^{-2} \mathrm{K}^{-1}$$

Question E6

(A8) Explain why the net transfer of electromagnetic energy to a system from its environment is described as heat and not work.



Study comment This is the final *Exit test* question. When you have completed the *Exit test* go back to Subsection 1.2 and try the *Fast track questions* if you have not already done so.

If you have completed **both** the *Fast track questions* and the *Exit test*, then you have finished the module and may leave it here.

