

CONCEPT: THE CARNOT CYCLE

- Remember: The Second Law says no heat engine can EVER have an efficiency of 100%.

- The **Carnot Cycle** is an ideal “reversible” cycle that has the _____ possible efficiency:

$$e_{\text{Carnot}} = 1 - \frac{T_C}{T_H}$$

- An engine is “reversible” if processes happen infinitely slowly and without frictional forces dissipating energy.

- The Carnot Cycle has 4 steps:

(1) **(a→b) Isothermal Expansion** at T_H , absorbing heat (Q_H)

(2) **(b→c) Adiabatic Expansion** from T_H to T_C ($Q = 0$)

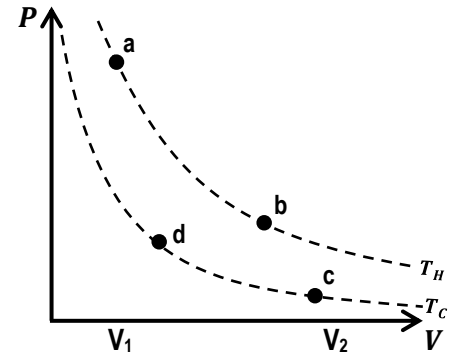
(3) **(c→d) Isothermal Compression** at T_C , releasing heat (Q_C)

(4) **(d→a) Adiabatic Compression** from T_C to T_H ($Q = 0$)

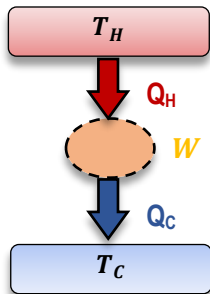
- Because () & () are adiabatic, heat transfer only happens during () & ()

- The heat released & absorbed depends on temperatures of the Cold & Hot reservoirs:

$$\frac{Q_C}{Q_H} = \frac{T_C}{T_H}$$



EXAMPLE: You build a Carnot engine operating between 520K and 300K. The engine takes in 6.45 kJ of heat from the hot reservoir. **a)** Calculate the maximum theoretical efficiency between these two reservoirs. **b)** How much waste heat does the engine expel each cycle? **c)** How much mechanical work does the engine produce?



HEAT ENGINES
$\Delta E_{\text{int}} = 0$
$ W = Q_H - Q_C $
$e = \frac{W}{Q_H} = 1 - \frac{Q_C}{Q_H}$

PROBLEM: A theoretical heat engine in space could operate between the Sun's 5500°C surface and the −270.3°C temperature of intergalactic space. What would be its maximum theoretical efficiency?

- A) 99.98%
- B) 95.1%
- C) 99.95%

HEAT ENGINES
$\Delta E_{int} = 0$ $ W = Q_H - Q_C $ $e = \frac{W}{Q_H} = 1 - \frac{Q_C}{Q_H}$ $e_{Carnot} = 1 - \frac{T_C}{T_H}$

PROBLEM: A Carnot engine with an efficiency of 70% is cooled by water at 10°C. What temperature must the hot reservoir be maintained at?

- A) 33.3 K
- B) 404.3 K
- C) 943.3 K
- D) 14.3 K

HEAT ENGINES
$\Delta E_{int} = 0$ $ W = Q_H - Q_C $ $e = \frac{W}{Q_H} = 1 - \frac{Q_C}{Q_H}$ $e_{Carnot} = 1 - \frac{T_C}{T_H}$

PROBLEM: A Carnot engine operates between reservoirs at 182°C and 0°C. If the engine extracts 25J of energy from the hot reservoir, how many cycles will it take to lift a 10kg mass a height of 8m?

HEAT ENGINES

$$\Delta E_{int} = 0$$

$$|W| = |Q_H| - |Q_C|$$

$$e = \frac{W}{Q_H} = 1 - \frac{Q_C}{Q_H}$$

$$e_{Carnot} = 1 - \frac{T_C}{T_H}$$

$$\left| \frac{Q_C}{Q_H} \right| = \left| \frac{T_C}{T_H} \right| \text{ (Carnot only)}$$

PROBLEM: Your friend claims they have a design for a reversible heat engine that can operate between the freezing and boiling temperatures of water that has an efficiency of 30%. Is this possible?

- A) No
- B) Yes
- C) Not enough information

HEAT ENGINES

$$\Delta E_{int} = 0$$

$$|W| = |Q_H| - |Q_C|$$

$$e = \frac{W}{Q_H} = 1 - \frac{Q_C}{Q_H}$$

$$e_{Carnot} = 1 - \frac{T_C}{T_H}$$