

# Second Law of Thermodynamics

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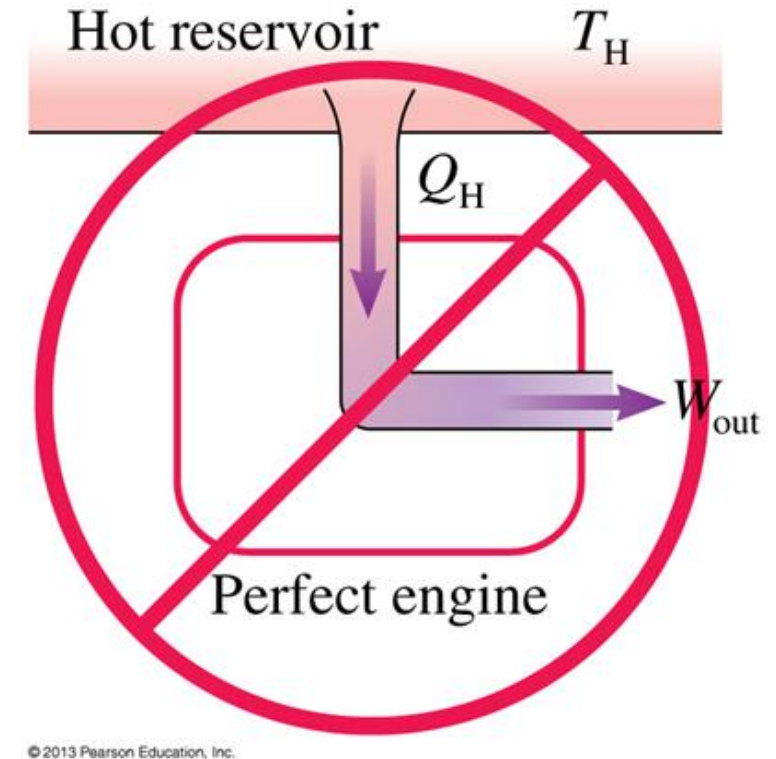
# Outline

1. Second law of thermodynamics
2. Carnot cycle and maximum efficiency
3. Course review

# 1. Second law of thermodynamics

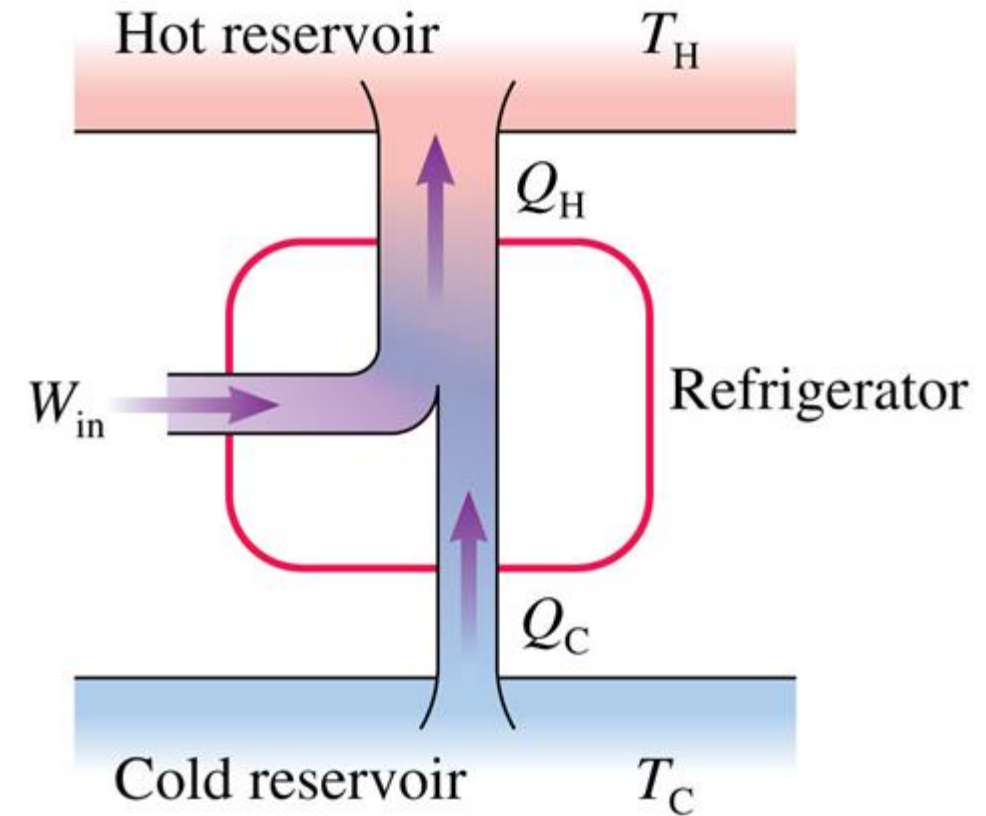
# Maximum efficiency and inequivalence of heat and work

- We have *asserted* that a heat engine needs a **cold reservoir** to operate, which implies  $Q_C > 0$  and thus  $\eta < 1$ . But why?



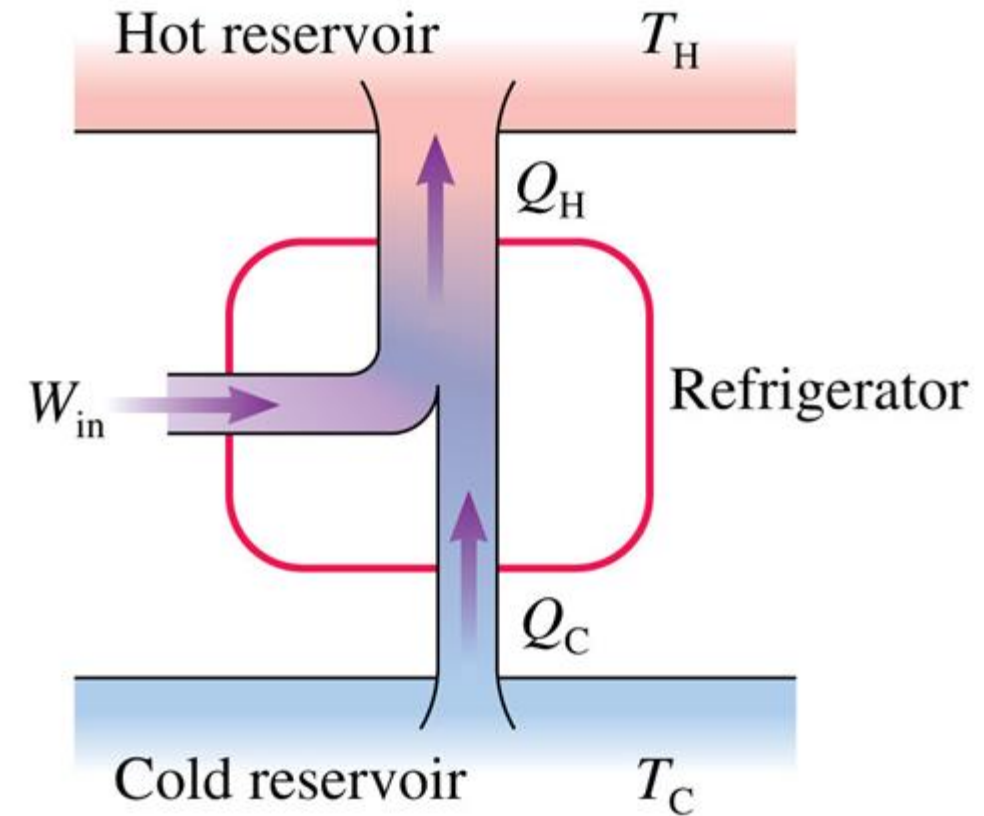
# Interlude: refrigerator and heat pump

- **Refrigerators** and **heat pumps** transfer energy from a cold object to a warm object



# Second law of thermodynamics

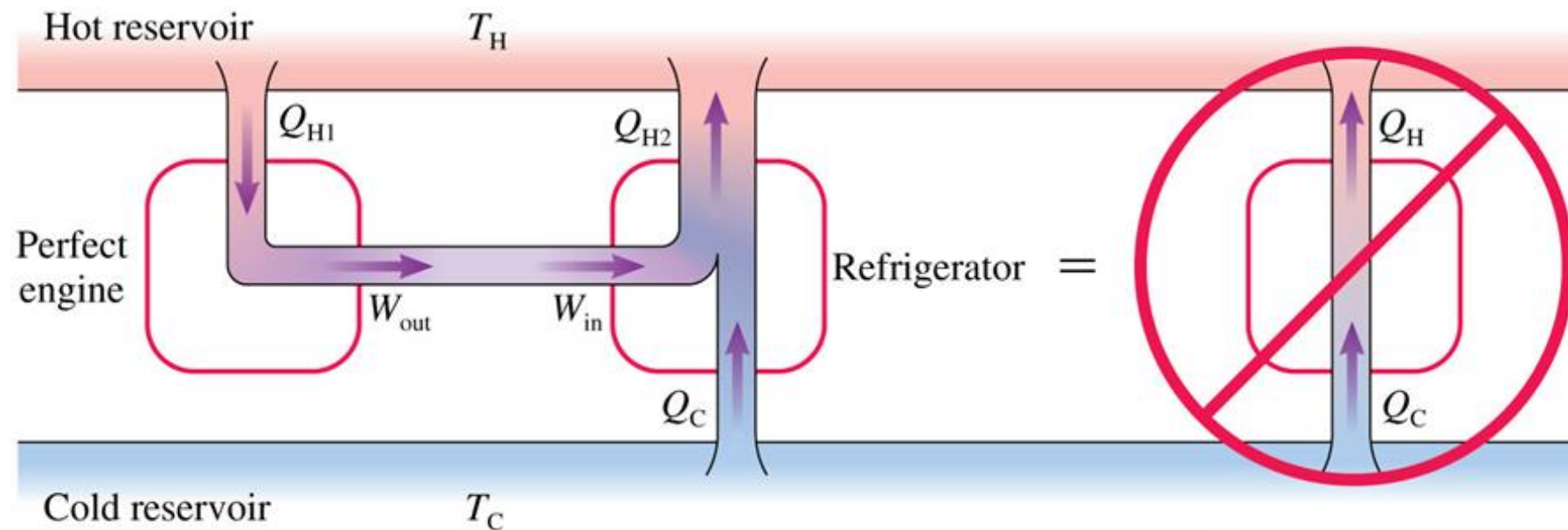
- One classic\* formulation of the **second law of thermodynamics** is that heat cannot spontaneously flow from a cold object to a warm object
- This implies external work is needed for refrigerator and heat pumps to operate



\* Read Knight §18.6 for more details and other formulations of the second law

# Second law and maximum efficiency

- If heat engine with  $\eta = 1$  exists, connecting it to a refrigerator will lead to spontaneous heat flow from cold to hot!
- Thus, the second law of thermodynamics implies  $\eta_{\max} < 1$  (!)

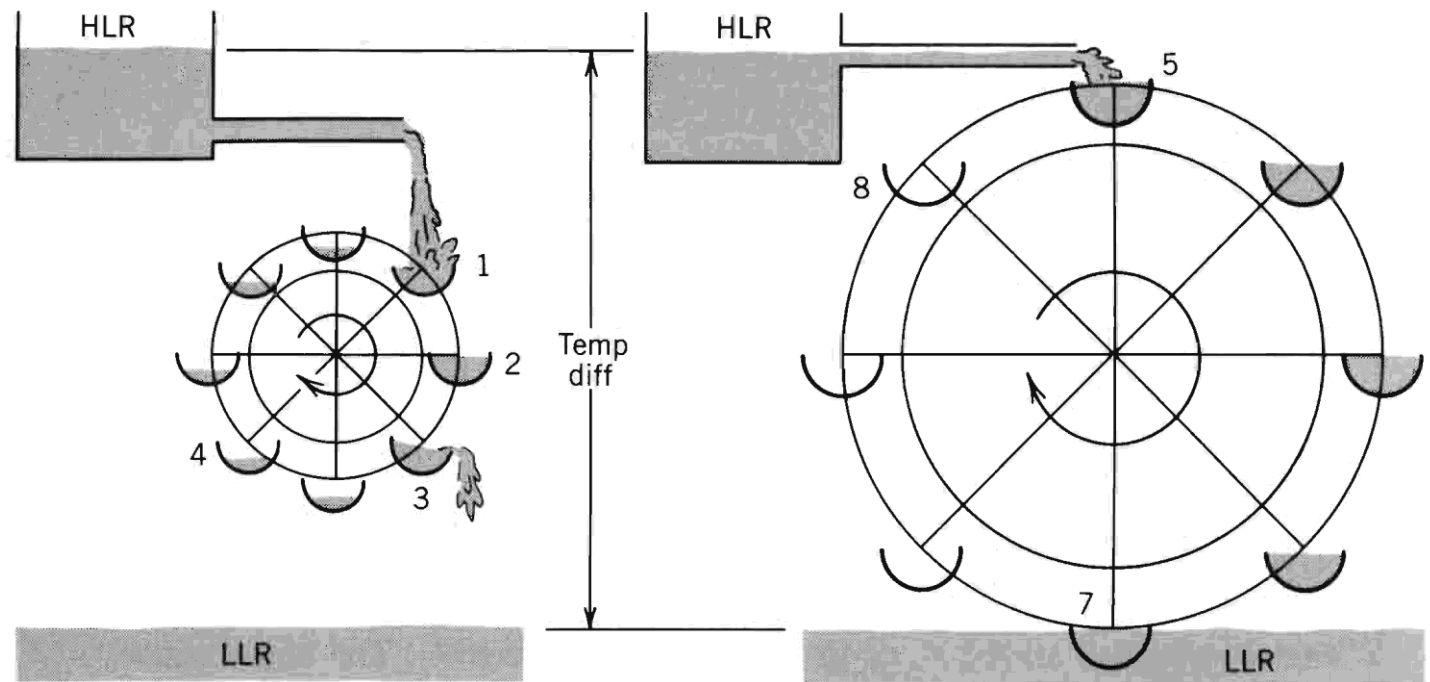


## 2. Carnot cycle and maximum efficiency



# Optimal heat engine: the ideas

- Want: (1) minimal temperature difference while transferring heat  
(2) no “spilling” of heat in-between

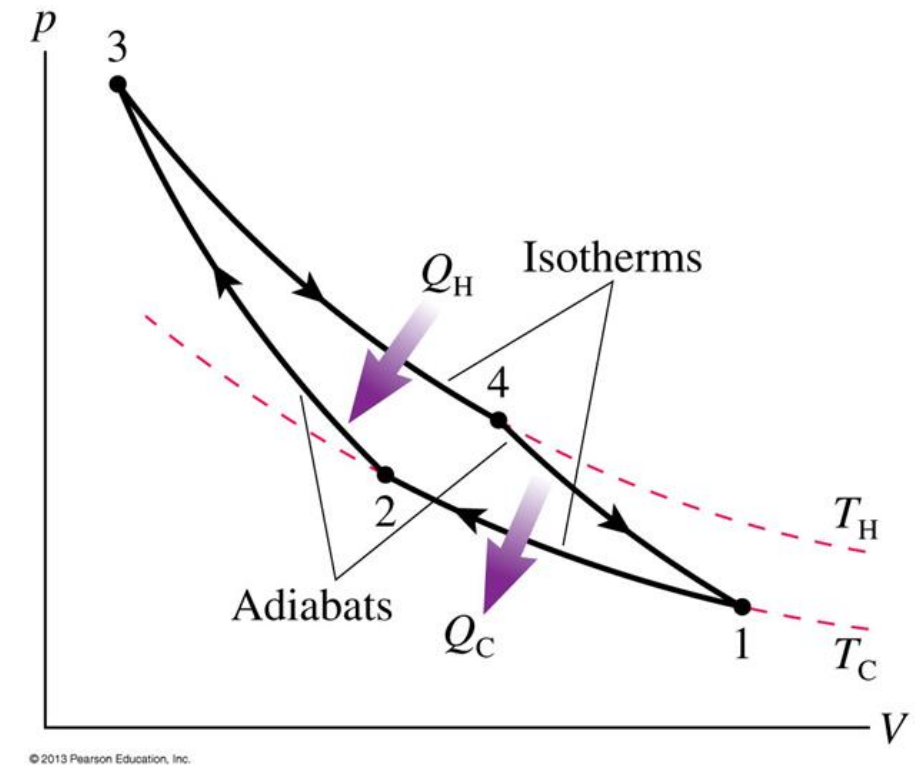


\* Figure and argument from Spielberg and Anderson, *Seven Ideas That Shook The Universe*

# Optimal heat engine: the Carnot cycle

- Want: (1) minimal temperature difference while transferring heat  
(2) no “spilling” of heat in-between
- (1)  $\Rightarrow$  transfer heat via isothermal processes
- (2)  $\Rightarrow$  connect between the two temperatures via adiabatic processes

\* See Knight §19.5 for a slightly different argument



# Analyzing the Carnot cycle (1/2)

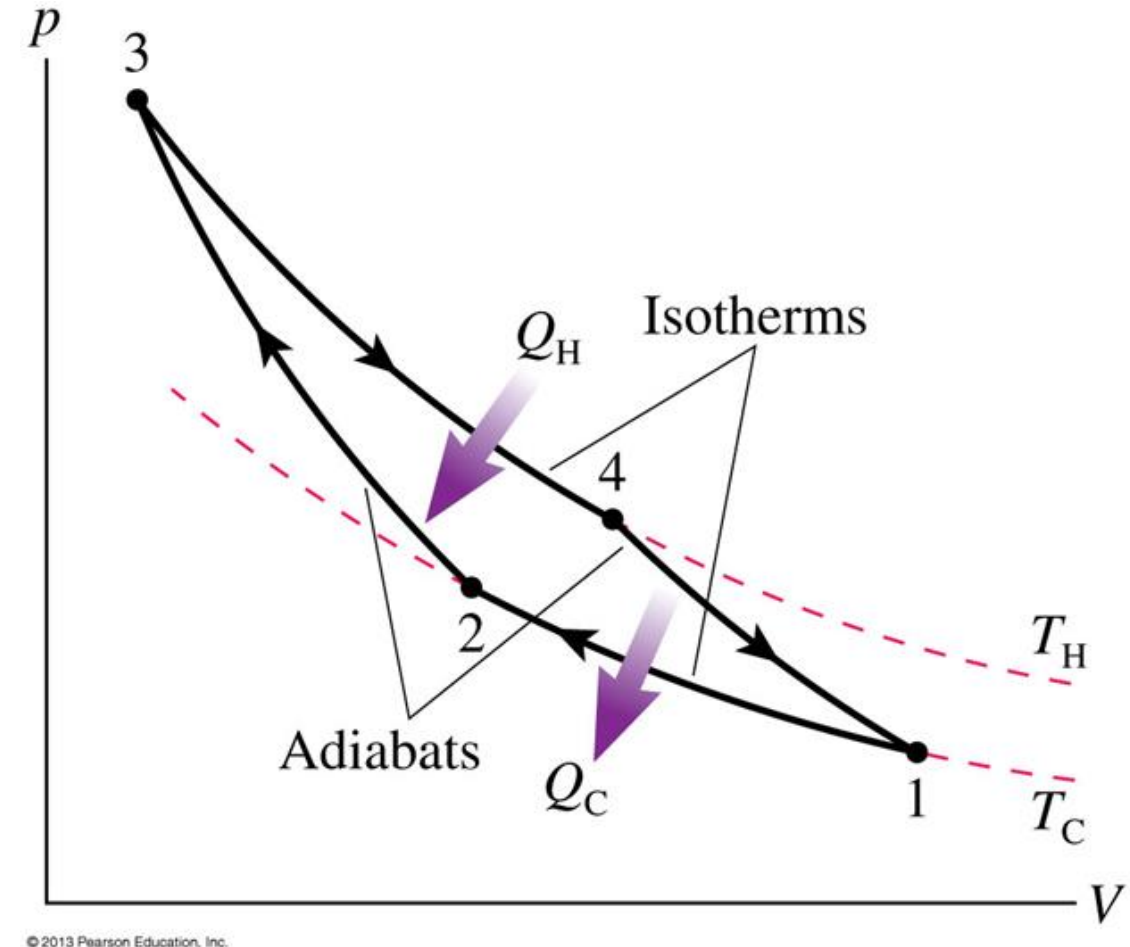
- From our knowledge of isothermal processes:

$$Q_H = nRT_H \ln(V_4/V_3)$$

$$Q_C = nRT_C \ln(V_1/V_2)$$

Hence,

$$\eta_{\text{Carnot}} = 1 - \frac{T_C \ln(V_1/V_2)}{T_H \ln(V_4/V_3)}$$



# Analyzing the Carnot cycle (2/2)

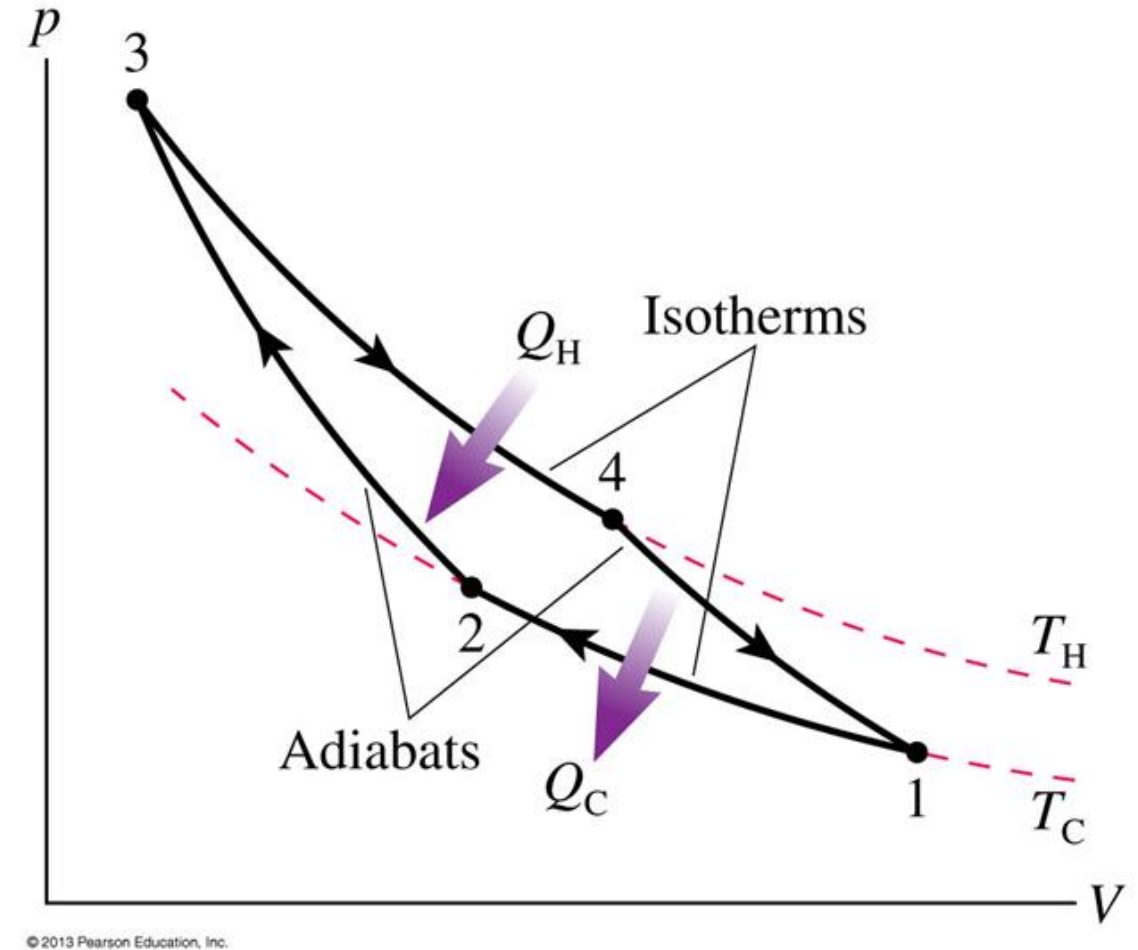
- Meanwhile, from what we know about adiabats:

$$T_H V_4^{\gamma-1} = T_C V_1^{\gamma-1}$$

$$T_H V_3^{\gamma-1} = T_C V_2^{\gamma-1}$$

Taking ratio,

$$\left(\frac{V_4}{V_3}\right)^{\gamma-1} = \left(\frac{V_1}{V_2}\right)^{\gamma-1}$$



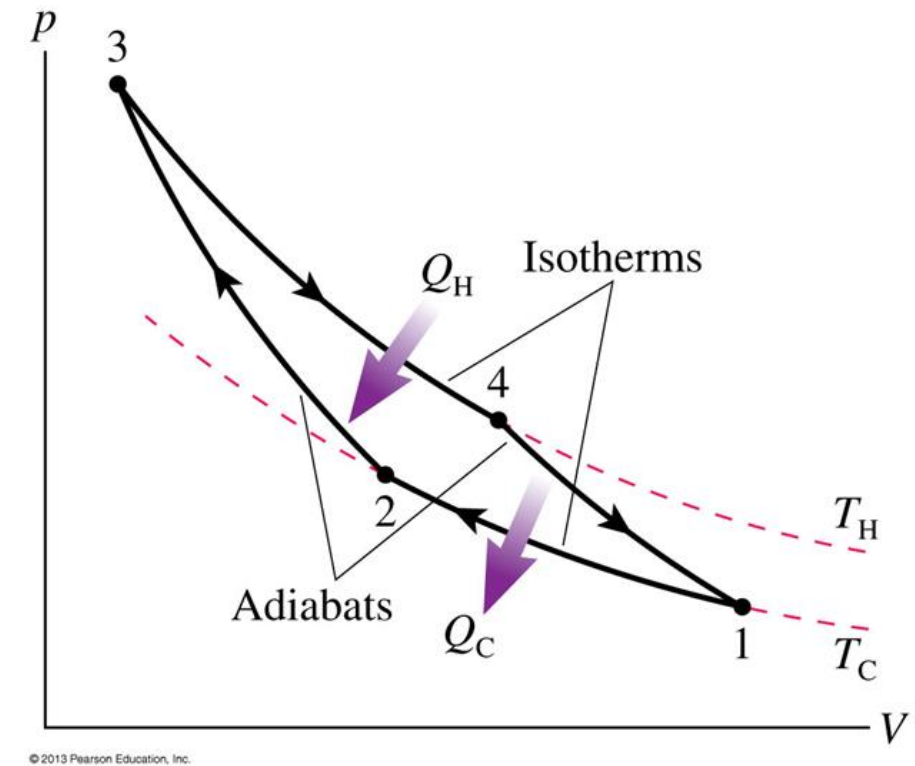
# Optimal (Carnot) thermal efficiency

- Putting all together....

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

- Put differently, for an optimal engine,

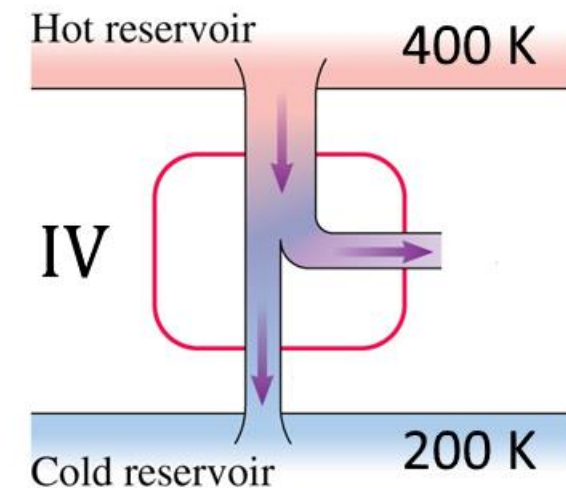
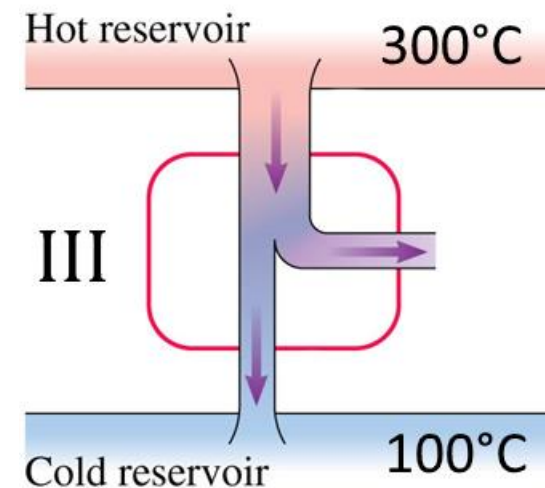
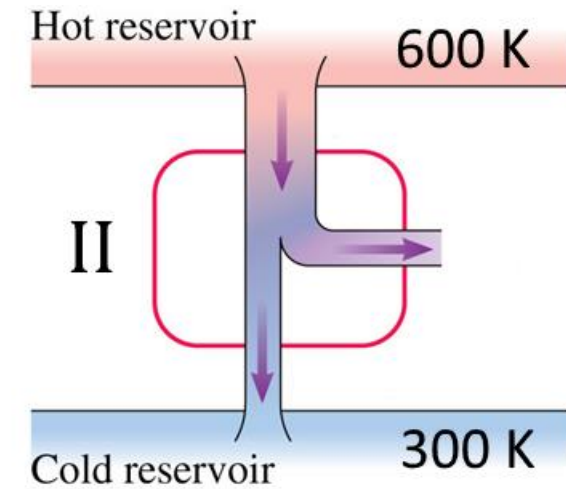
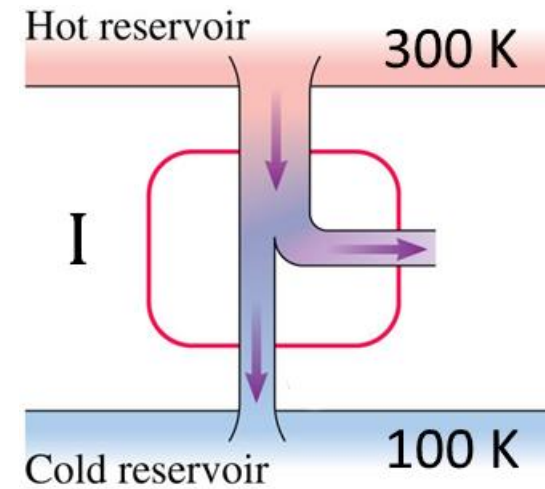
$$\frac{Q_C}{Q_H} = \frac{T_C}{T_H}$$



# Your turn: Carnot efficiency

Rank the following 4 situations by the corresponding Carnot efficiency:

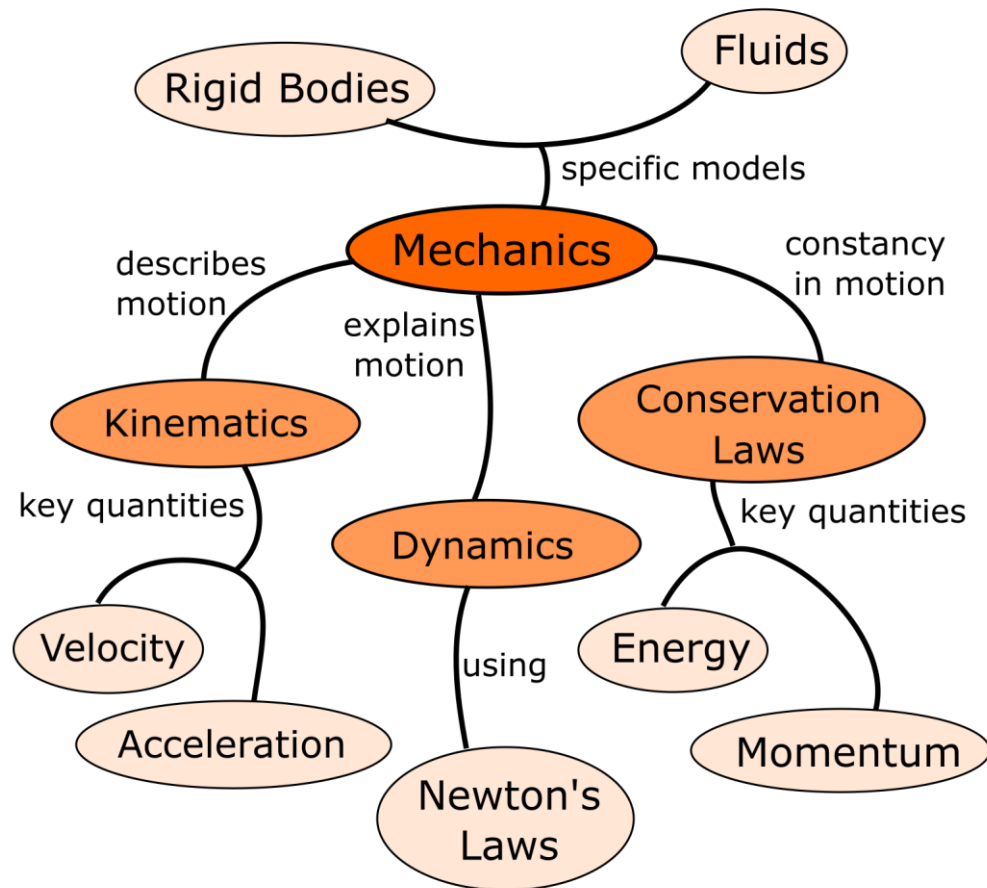
- A.  $(I) > (II) = (IV) > (III)$
- B.  $(I) = (III) > (II) = (IV)$
- C.  $(II) > (III) = (IV) > (I)$
- D.  $(II) > (I) = (III) = (IV)$



# 3. Course review

# Reminder: bird eye's view of the course

## • Mechanics (~3/4)



## • Thermodynamics (~1/4)

