

Second Law of Thermodynamics

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End of semester surveys/practices (1/3)

- Final exam formula sheet
 - You will be given a copy during the final exam
 - Let me know if you spot any typos!
- Mock final exam
 - Follow the final exam format
 - Solutions is posted in a separate document
- **Also:** textbook alignment document updated

End of semester surveys/practices (2/3)

- End-of-semester course evaluation
 - **Open until:** Dec 15 (Sun) 8 PM
 - Participation is optional and responses are anonymous
 - I will not read your responses until I have finalized grades

End of semester surveys/practices (3/3)

- Practice problem for feedback
 - **Due date:** Dec 12 (Thu) 10:30 AM (for feedback + credit)
Dec 15 (Sun) 8:00 PM (for credit)
 - Two homework-like questions (resp. on fluids and thermodynamics)
 - Opportunity to practice written solutions
 - Completion grant you extra 1% course credit
 - My faculty colleagues will provide individualized feedback
 - You are advised to study before attempting the problems

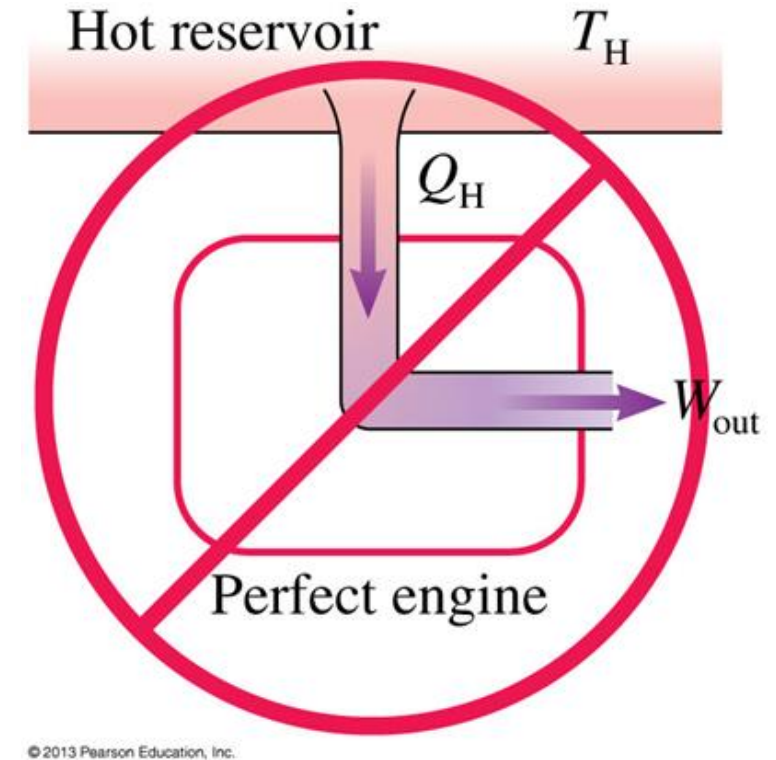
Outline

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

1. Second law of thermodynamics

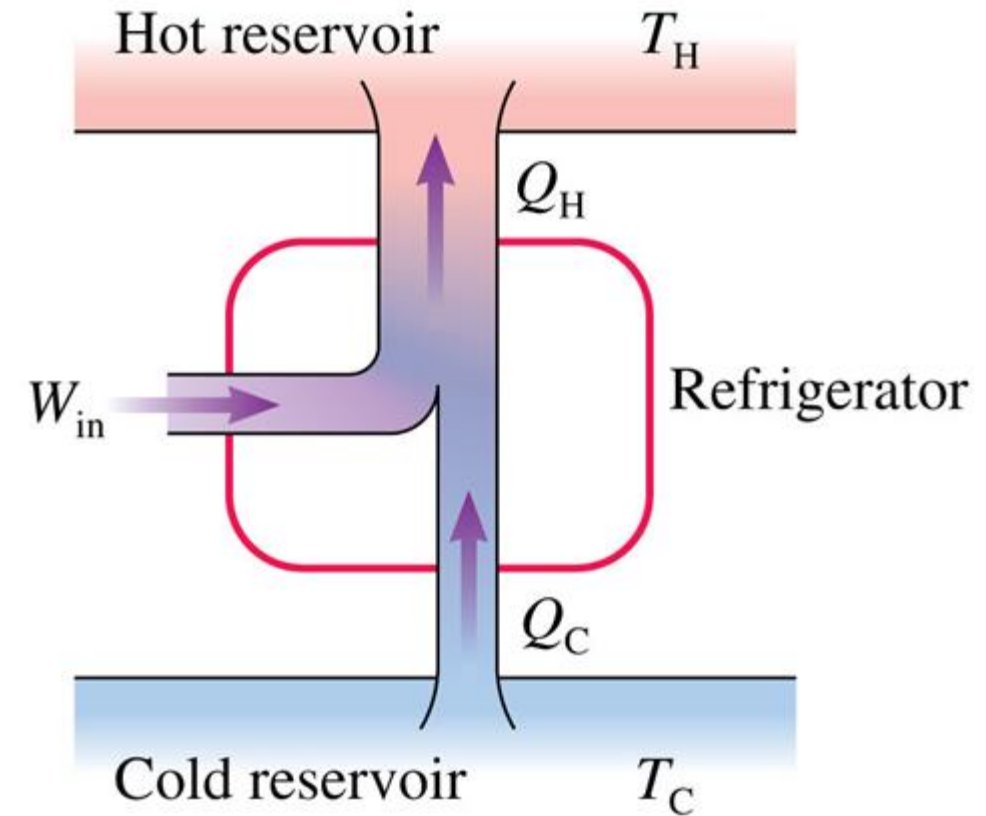
Maximum efficiency and inequivalence of heat and work

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



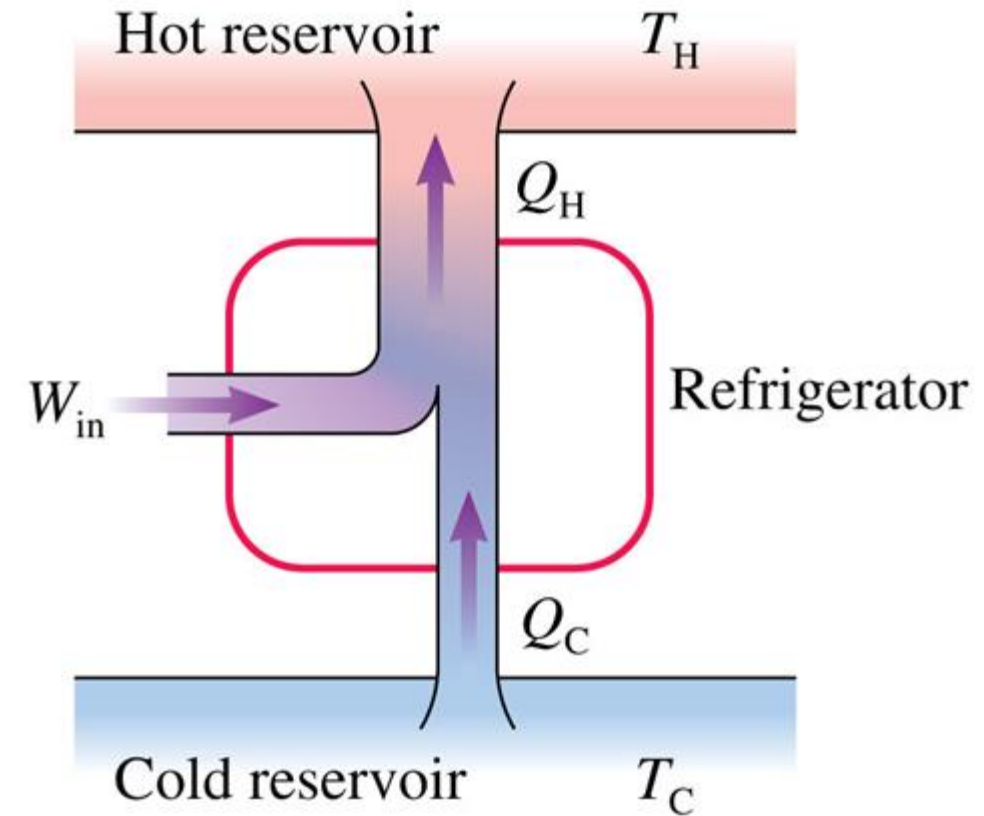
Interlude: refrigerator and heat pump

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



Second law of thermodynamics

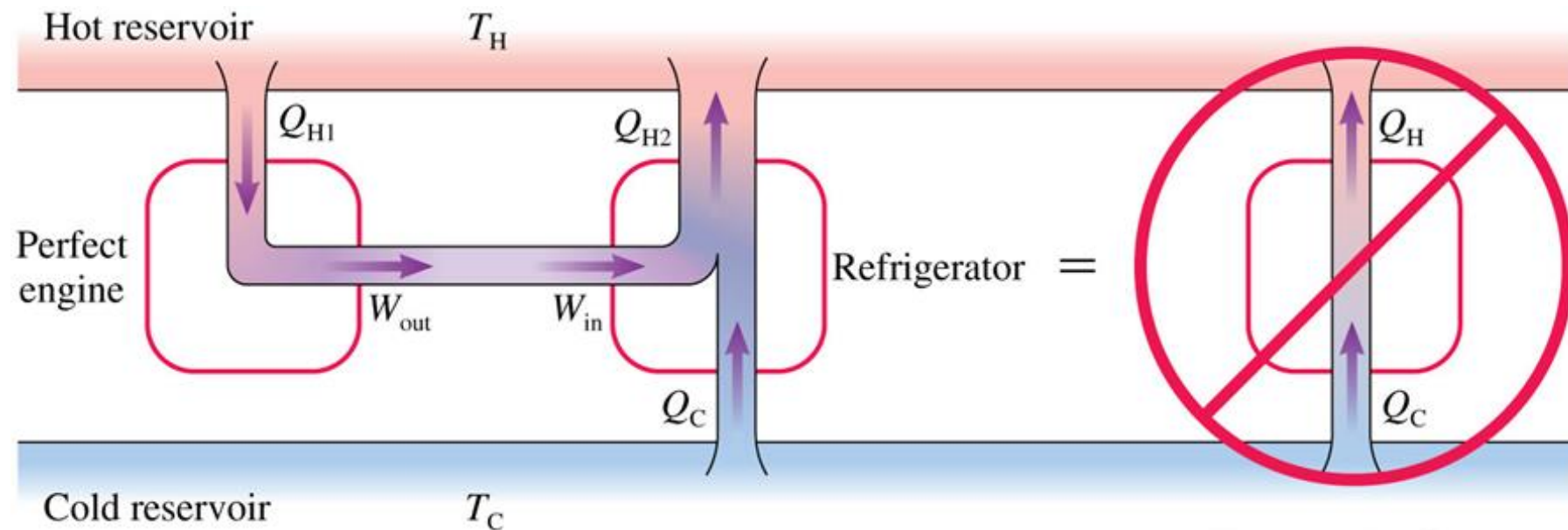
- One classic* formulation of the **second law of thermodynamics** is that heat cannot spontaneously flow from a cold object to a warm object
- This implies external work is needed for refrigerator and heat pumps to operate



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

Second law and maximum efficiency

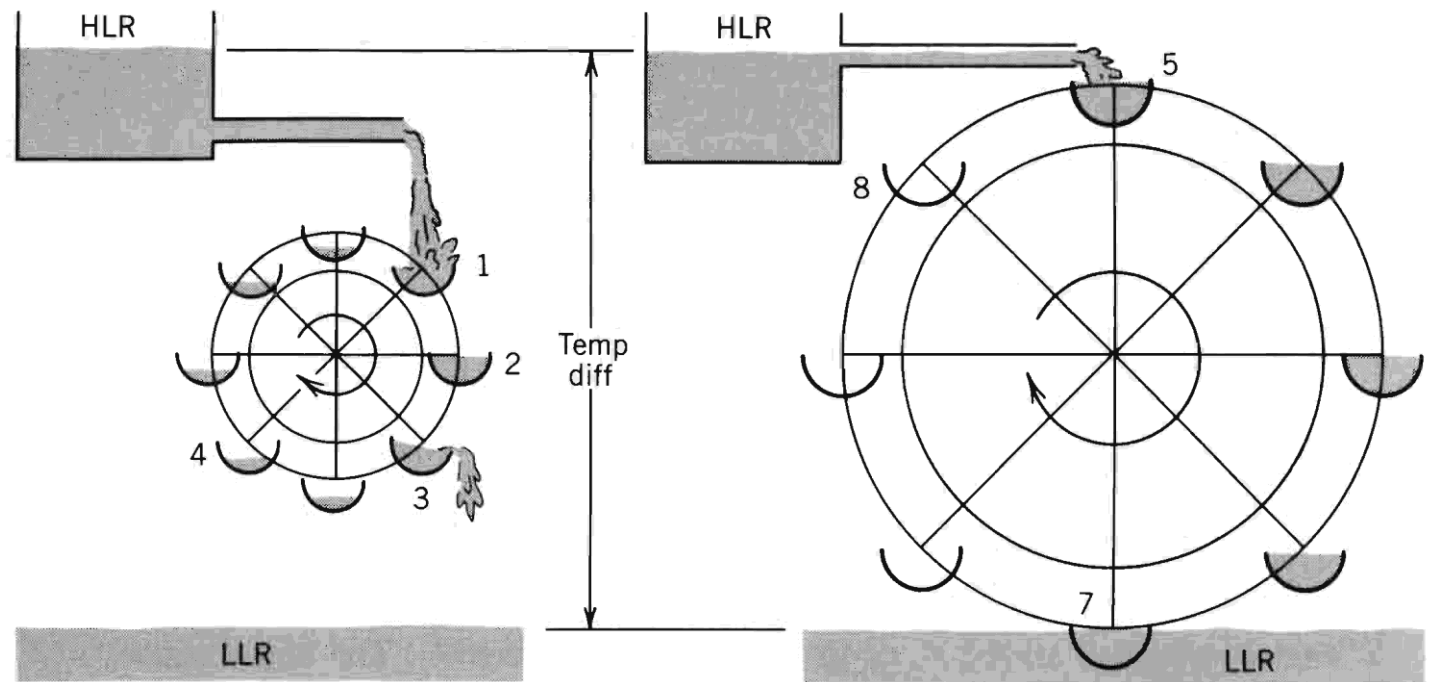
- If heat engine with $\eta = 1$ exists, connecting it to a refrigerator will lead to spontaneous heat flow from cold to hot!
- Thus, the second law of thermodynamics implies $\eta_{\max} < 1$ (!)



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

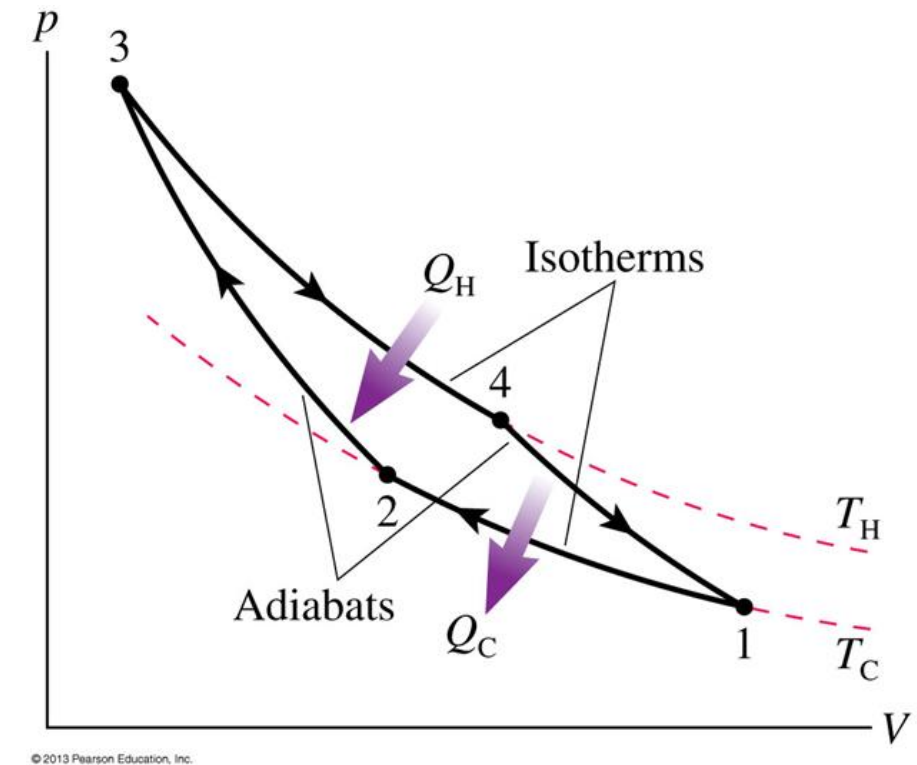


* Figure and argument from Spielberg and Anderson, *Seven Ideas That Shook The Universe*

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)

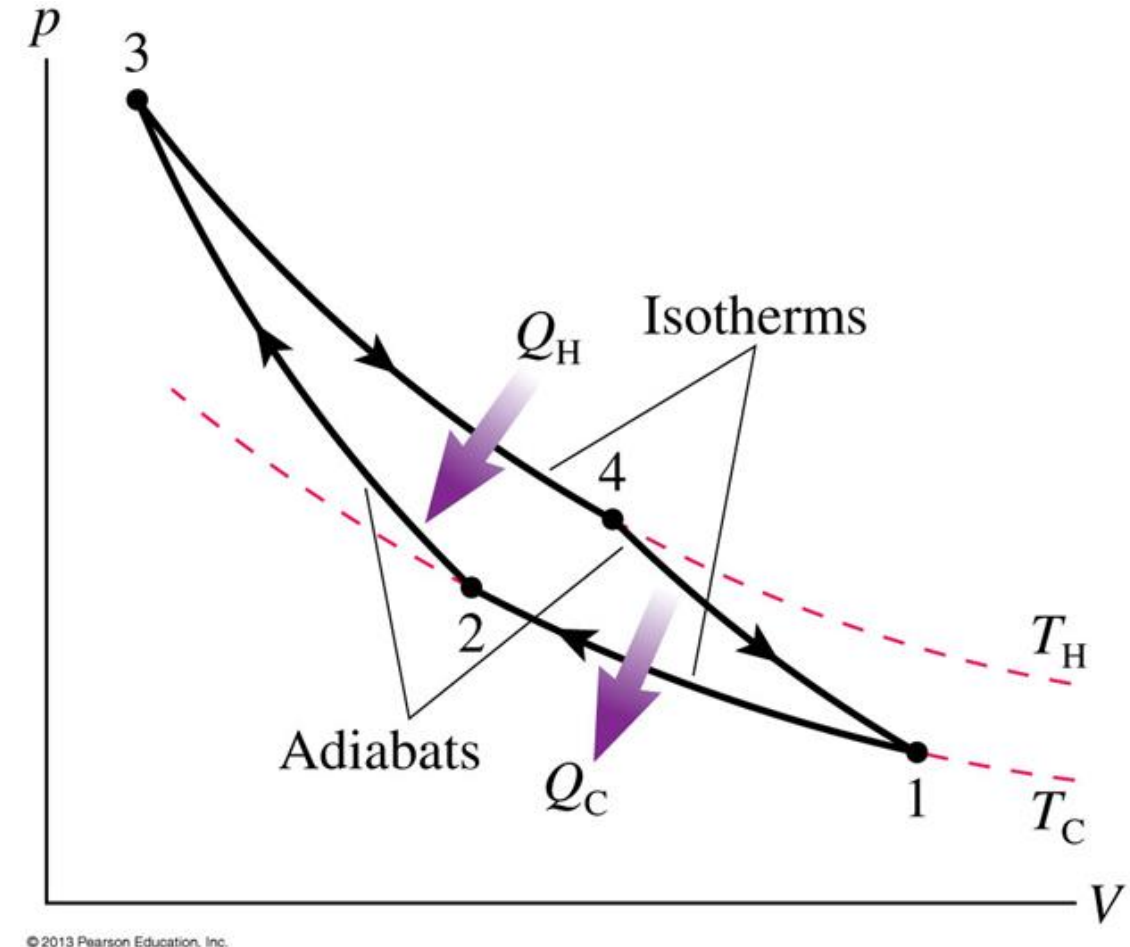
- From our knowledge of isothermal processes:

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

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

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)

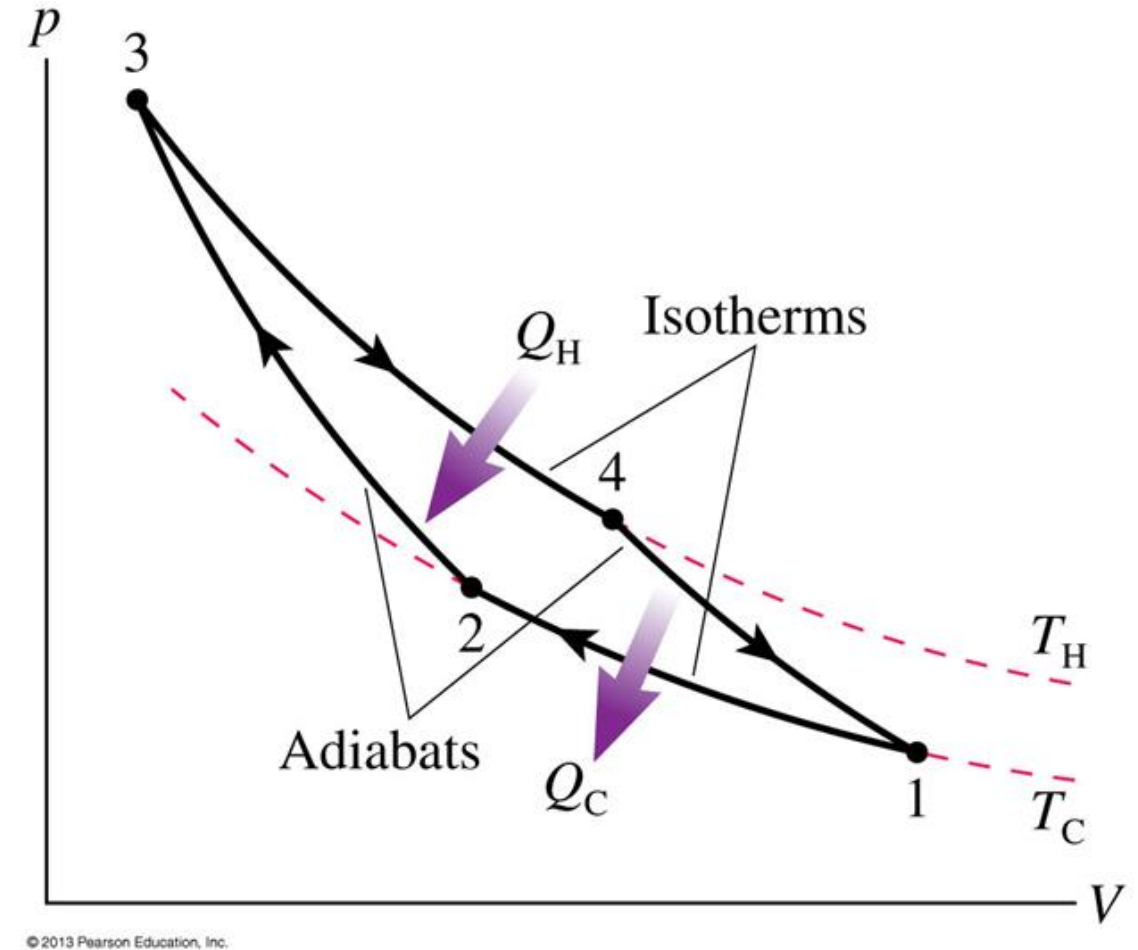
- Meanwhile, from what we know about adiabats:

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

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

Taking ratio,

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



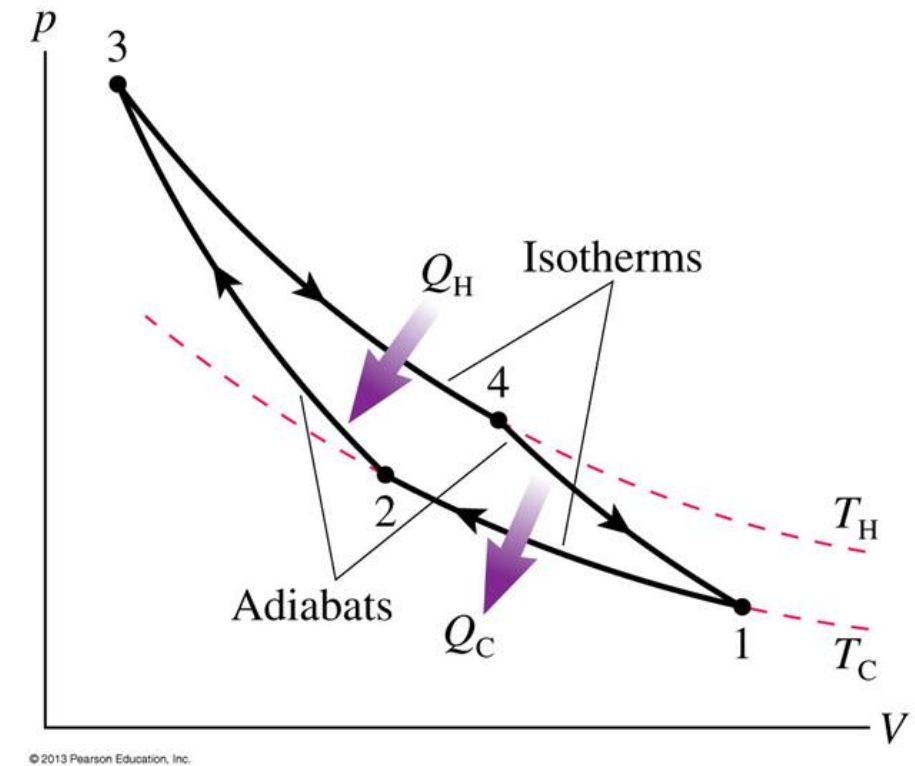
Optimal (Carnot) thermal efficiency

- 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

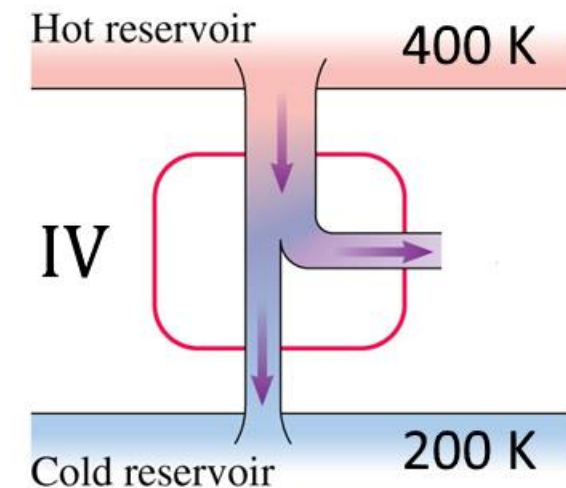
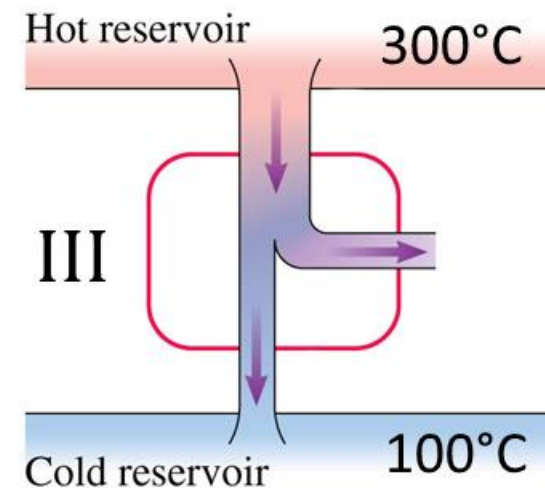
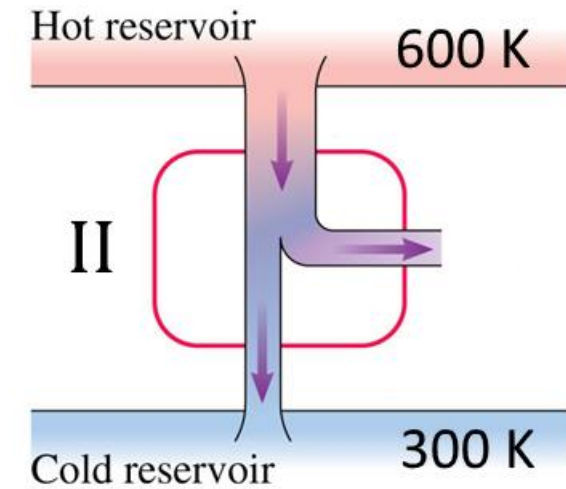
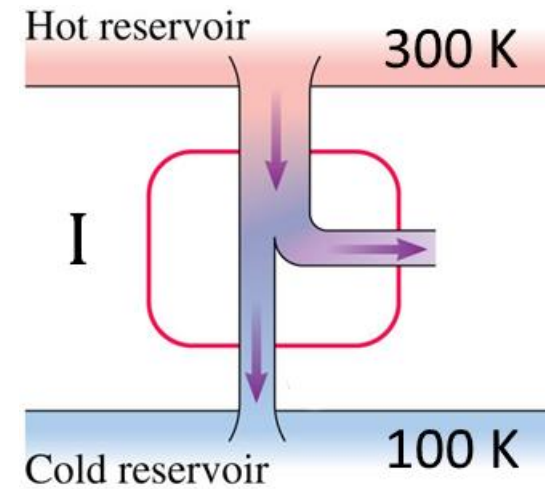
Rank the following 4 situations by the corresponding Carnot efficiency:

A. $(I) > (II) = (IV) > (III)$

B. $(I) = (III) > (II) = (IV)$

C. $(II) > (III) = (IV) > (I)$

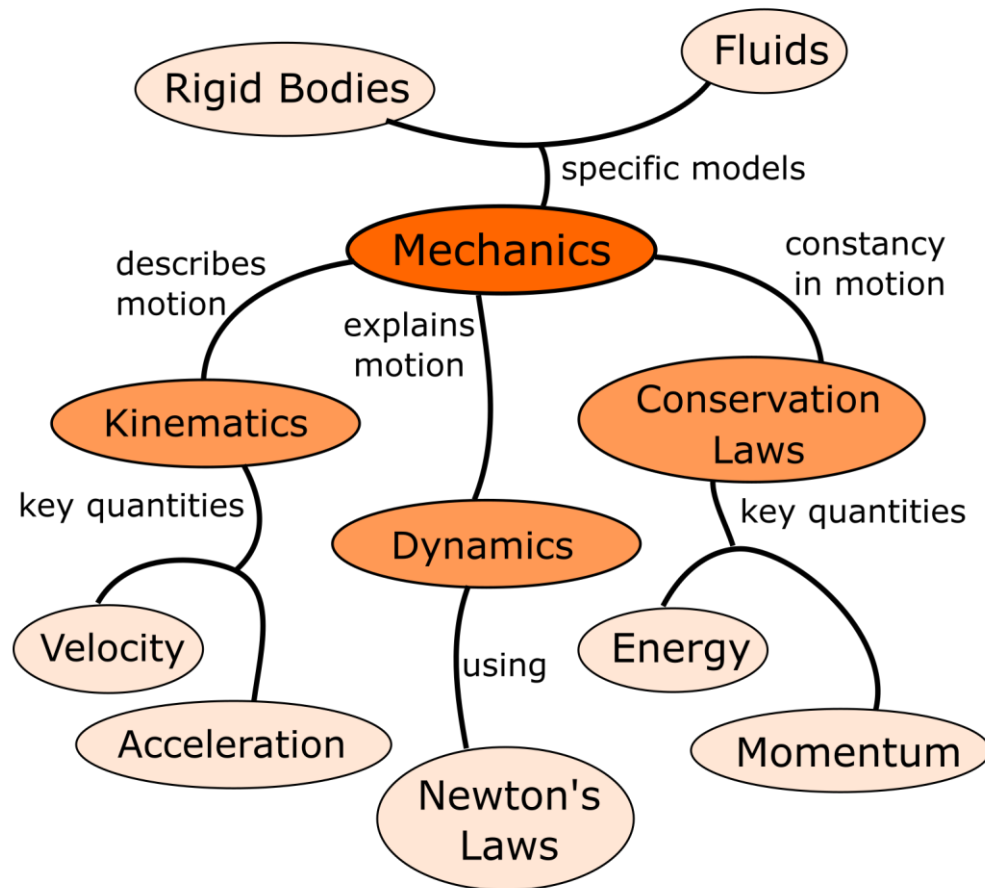
D. $(II) > (I) = (III) = (IV)$



3. Course review

Reminder: bird eye's view of the course

• Mechanics (~3/4)



• Thermodynamics (~1/4)

