First Law of Thermodynamics

Reading: Chapter 18, Sections 18-7 to 18-11

Heat and Work



FIG. 18-13 A gas is confined to a cylinder with a movable piston. Heat Q can be added to or withdrawn from the gas by regulating the temperature T of the adjustable thermal reservoir. Work W can be done by the gas by raising or lowering the piston.

When the piston is displaced by $d\bar{s}$, force exerted by the gas = F = pA, work done by the gas:

$$dW = \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s} = (pA)(ds) = p(A \, ds) = p \, dV.$$

When the volume of the gas changes from V_i to V_f , total work done:

$$W=\int dW = \int_{V_i}^{V_f} p \, dV$$
 .

This work done is represented by the area under the p-V curve in the p-V diagram between points i and f.

When the work is done in a thermodynamic cycle, the net work done by the system is equal to the area of the cycle enclosed by the cycle.



(a) The work W done by a system as it goes from an initial state i to a final state f. Work W is positive when the system's volume increases.

(b) *W* is still positive, but now greater.

(c) *W* is still positive, but now smaller.

(d) *W* can be even smaller (path *icdf*) or larger (path *ighf*).

(e) The system goes from state f to state i as the gas is compressed to less volume by an external force.

(f) The net work W_{net} done by the system during a complete cycle is represented by the enclosed area.

The First Law of Thermodynamics

$$\Delta E_{\rm int} = Q - W,$$

where ΔE_{int} = change in internal energy of the system, Q = heat absorbed by the system, W = work done by the system.

For a differential change,

$$dE_{\rm int} = dQ - dW.$$

The first law of thermodynamics is an extension of the conservation of energy.

See Youtube "Rubber Band Heat Engine"

Special Cases

Adiabatic processes: No transfer of heat e.g. the process occurs too rapidly, the system is thermally insulated. Then Q = 0, leading to



If the gas is allowed to expand, its internal energy decreases.

If the gas is compressed, its internal energy increases.

Constant-volume processes: No work is done. Then W = 0, leading to

$$\Delta E_{\rm int} = Q.$$

If heat is added to the system, its internal energy increases.

If heat is removed, its internal energy decreases.

Cyclical Processes: When a cycle is complete, it forms a closed loop in the *p*-*V* diagram. Since the internal energy is an intrinsic property of the system, it returns to the initial state. Then $\Delta E_{int} = 0$, leading to

$$Q = W.$$

Free Expansion: Since the system is insulated, Q = 0. Since the gas expands freely into vacuum, no work is done, W = 0. This leads to

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



Examples

18-5 Let 1.00 kg of liquid water at 100°C be converted to steam at 100°C by boiling at standard atmospheric pressure (1.00 atm or 1.01×10^5 Pa). The volume changes from an initial value of 1.00×10^{-3} m³ as a liquid to 1.671 m³ as steam.

- (a) How much work is done by the system during this process?
- (b) How much heat must be added to the system during the process?
- (c) What is the change in the internal energy of the system during the boiling process?

(The latent heat of vaporization of water is 2256 kJkg⁻¹.)

(a)
$$W = \int_{V_i}^{V_f} p \, dV = p \int_{V_i}^{V_f} dV$$

 $= p(V_f - V_i)$
 $= (1.01 \times 10^5)(1.671 - 1 \times 10^{-3})$
 $= 1.69 \times 10^5 \text{ J} = 169 \text{ kJ}$ (ans)
(b) $Q = L_V m$
 $= (2256 \text{ kJkg}^{-1})(1 \text{ kg})$
 $= 2256 \text{ kJ} \approx 2260 \text{ kJ}$ (ans)
(c) Using the first law of thermodynamics,
 $\Delta E_{\text{int}} = Q - W$

Lead shot

$$= 2256 - 169 = 2090 \, \text{kJ}$$
 (ans)

Problem 82. A cylinder contains gas and is closed by a movable piston. The cylinder is kept submerged in an ice-water mixture. The piston is *quickly* pushed down from position 1 to position 2 and then held at position 2 until the gas is again at the temperature of the ice-water mixture; it then is *slowly* raised back to position 1. If 100 g of ice is melted during the cycle, how much work has been done *on* the gas? ($L_F = 333 \text{ kJ kg}^{-1}$)