Energy-efficient use of Entropy

Problem: to minimize energy *E* spent to lift a weight using a stretched rubber band.



Example of a heat engine: isothermal rubber band



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$$\Delta U = cL_0(T_2 - T_1)$$

Work done by the rubber band

$$\Delta W_{RWS} = Mgh = \frac{M^2 g^2 L_0 (T_2 - T_1)}{cBT_1 T_2} > 0$$

Heat transferred from the rubber band

$$\Delta Q_{RHS} = -\Delta U - \Delta W_{RWS} = -cL_0(T_2 - T_1) - Mgh = -cL_0(T_2 - T_1) \left(1 + \frac{M^2 g^2}{c^2 B T_1 T_2} \right) < 0$$

Heat transferred to the rubber band

$$E_{\Gamma=const} = Q = \left| \Delta Q_{RHS} \right| = cL_0(T_2 - T_1) + Mgh > Mgh$$

$$S = cL_0 \ln(U) - \frac{cB}{2} \frac{(L - L_0)^2}{L_0} + const$$

Change of entropy of the band:

$$\Delta S = cL_0 \ln\left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right) - \frac{cB}{2L_0} \left(\left(L_2 - L_0\right)^2 - \left(L_1 - L_0\right)^2\right) =$$
$$= cL_0 \ln\left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right) + \frac{cB}{2L_0} \left(\frac{MgL_0}{cB}\right)^2 \frac{(T_2 - T_1)(T_2 + T_1)}{T_1^2 T_2^2}$$
$$\Delta S = cL_0 \ln\left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right) + \frac{cB}{2L_0 T_2^2} \left(\frac{MgL_0}{cB}\right)^2 \left(\frac{T_2^2}{T_1^2} - 1\right)$$

Change of entropy of the heat source:

$$\Delta S_{RHS} = \frac{\Delta Q_{RHS}}{T_2} = -cL_0 \left(\frac{T_2 - T_1}{T_2}\right) \left(1 + \frac{M^2 g^2}{c^2 B T_1 T_2}\right)$$

Total entropy change of the system: $\Delta S_{total} = \Delta S_{RHS} + \Delta S$

$$\Delta S_{total} = -cL_0 \frac{(T_2 - T_1)}{T_2} \left(1 + \frac{M^2 g^2}{c^2 B T_1 T_2} \right) + cL_0 \ln \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1} \right) + \frac{cB}{2L_0 T_2^2} \left(\frac{MgL_0}{cB} \right)^2 \left(\frac{T_2^2}{T_1^2} - 1 \right)$$
$$\Delta S_{total} = cL_0 \ln \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1} \right) - cL_0 \left(1 - \frac{T_1}{T_2} \right) + \frac{M^2 g^2 L_0}{2cBT_2^2} \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1} - 1 \right)^2$$



Harvesting Low Entropy to do work: rubber band

Case 1 – low entropy wasted



Harvesting Low Entropy to do work: rubber band

 $\Delta Q = \Delta W = \Delta U = 0$

Initial entropy

$$S_{i} = cL_{0} \ln(U) - \frac{cB}{2} \frac{(L - L_{0})^{2}}{L_{0}} + const$$

$$S_{f} = cL_{0} \ln(U) + const$$

$$\Delta S_{total} = \Delta S = S_{f} - S_{i} = \frac{cB}{2} \frac{(L - L_{0})^{2}}{L_{0}} > 0$$
No work done, total entropy increased

Summary



We model the environment of the system as two objects:

- reversible work source (sink) RWS
- reversible heat source (sink) RHS

Heat engine model



<u>Maximum work theorem</u>: for a given ΔU , $-\delta W$ is maximum for a reversible process

System goes from state A to state B. Which process delivers maximum work to the reversible work source?



The change of internal energy ΔU is the same for all A \rightarrow B processes

 ΔU is distributed between work done on RWS, ΔW , and heat flow to the RHS, ΔQ

Therefore, maximum work delivered to RWS implies minimum heat flow to RHS.

<u>Maximum work theorem</u>: for a given ΔU , $-\delta W$ is maximum for a reversible process



The change of entropy of the working body ΔS is the same for all A \rightarrow B processes

The change of entropy of the RHS is proportional to ΔQ , therefore maximum work corresponds to the minimum entropy change of the RHS and (since ΔS is independent on the process A \rightarrow B) of the entire composite system (engine).

The absolute minimum entropy increase is zero and achieved in a reversible process.

Therefore, maximum work done by a heat engine is achieved in a reversible process.

<u>Maximum work theorem</u>: for a given ΔU , $-\delta W$ is maximum for a reversible process

Proof:

$$dS_{total} = dS + dS_{RHS} = dS + \frac{\delta Q_{RHS}}{T_{RHS}} \ge 0 \implies \delta Q_{RHS} \ge -T_{RHS} dS$$

$$dU = -\delta W_{RWS} - \delta Q_{RHS}$$

$$dU \le -\delta W_{RWS} + T_{RHS} dS$$
Functions of states A and B

$$\delta W_{RWS} \le T_{RHS} dS - dU$$
Functions of the process A ->B

$$\delta W_{RWS} \le T_{RHS} dS - dU$$

The work is maximum when $\leq \rightarrow =$

 $\partial W_{RWS}^{\max} = T_{RHS} dS - dU$

The origin of the \leq sign is traced back to $dS_{total} \geq 0$. Therefore, for maximum work we have $dS_{total} = 0$, hence reversible process maximizes work.

Summary of heat engines so far

- A thermodynamic system in a process connecting state A to state B

- In this process, the system can do work and emit/absorb heat

- What processes maximize work done by the system?

- We have proven that reversible processes (processes that do not change the total entropy of the system and its environment) maximize work done by the system in the process $A \rightarrow B$



Cyclic Engine

-To continuously generate work, a heat engine should go through a cyclic process.

- Such an engine needs to have a heat source and a heat sink at different temperatures.

- The net result of each cycle is to extract heat from the heat source and distribute it between the heat transferred to the sink and useful work.

