

Thomson, "On a dynamical theory of heat..."
1852

"Carnot's function" (Eqn 3, 4, pp 19-20)

$$\left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial t}\right)_v$$

$$= \mu \quad \mu$$

Heat added per unit
volume during an
isothermal expansion

p pressure
t temperature
v volume

Thomson shows by
means of an infinitely
small Carnot cycle
that μ is the same
for all substances

I think this proof
works for both
- conversion theory
- Carnot's caloric theory
of heat

Determine μ for
an ideal gas

since μ is the
same for all
substances, this
fixes μ
universally

$$p = \frac{nRt}{v}$$

$$\therefore \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial t}\right)_v = \frac{nR}{v}$$

During an isothermal expansion by dv

$$\text{work done} = \text{heat gained} = dq = pdv = nRt \frac{dv}{v}$$

$$M = \left(\frac{dq}{dv}\right)_{\text{this process}} = \frac{nRt}{v}$$

This step
assumes heat &
work are
interconvertible
Hence the μ
recovered will
not be suitable
for the Carnot
caloric
version

combine

$$\mu = \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial t}\right)_v / M = 1/T$$

NB Thomson leaves μ undetermined until very late

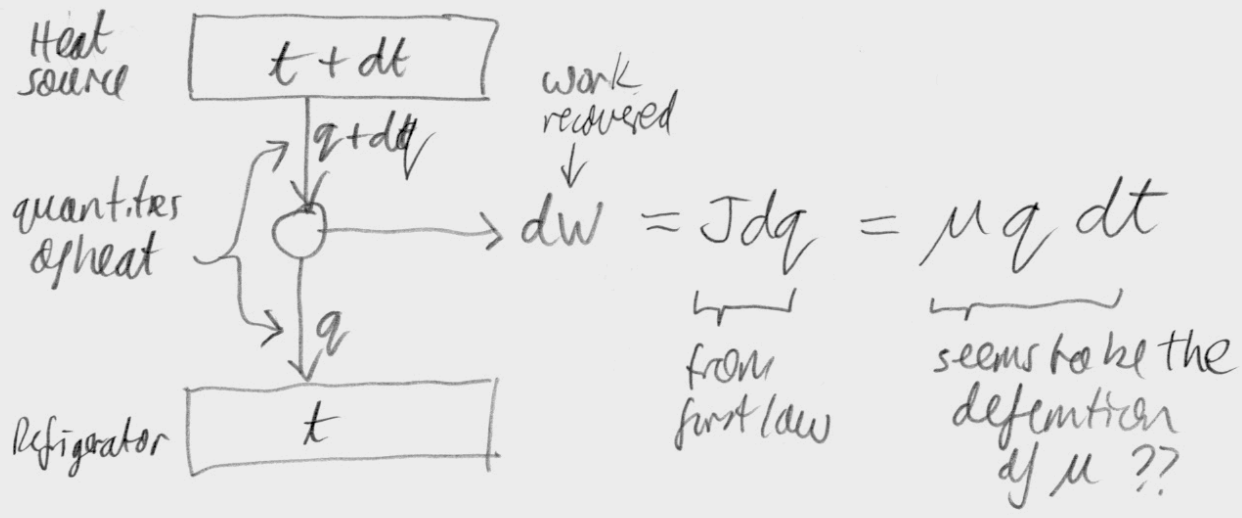
$$P.172 \quad \mu = J \frac{E}{1 + EE} = J \frac{1}{\frac{1}{E} + t}$$

mechanical equivalent
of heat

= 1 in my calculation

converts t to
absolute temperature
scale

Relation of μ to mechanical effect recoverable from reversible heat engines



Modern identification

$$\frac{q + dq}{q} = \frac{t + dt}{t}$$

$$1 + \frac{dq}{q} = 1 + \frac{dt}{t}$$

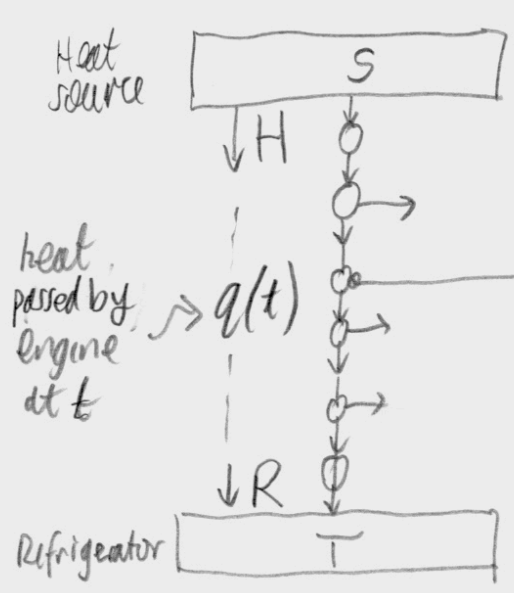
$$dq = q \left(\frac{1}{t} \right) dt$$

$$\therefore dw = Jdq = q \left(\frac{J}{t} \right) dt$$

$$\mu = \frac{J}{t} \leftarrow \text{absolute temp}$$

$= \frac{1}{t}$ if we set $J=1$ by using same units for heat & work

Integration of μ for finite temperature differences



work recovered from engine at t

$$dW = \int dq = \mu q dt$$

solve for relation between H, R

$$\frac{dq}{dt} = \frac{1}{J} \mu q$$

$$\therefore \int_R^H \frac{dq}{q} = \frac{1}{J} \int_T^S \mu dt$$

many infinitely small temperature difference heat engines

$$\ln \frac{H}{R} = \frac{1}{J} \int_T^S \mu dt$$

compose modern result. $\mu = \frac{J}{T}$

$$\ln \frac{H}{R} = \frac{1}{J} \int_T^S \frac{J}{T} dT = \ln \frac{S}{T}$$

$$\frac{H}{R} = \frac{S}{T}$$

$$\frac{H}{S} = \frac{R}{T}$$

Why does Thomson leave μ an undetermined function?

① He repeatedly insists that it must be found experimentally

② He can compare his results with those from Carnot's calorimetric theory.



Work recovered from heat H in moving from heat source at S to heat source at T in Carnot's theory

$$dW = \mu H dt$$

since heat is not consumed, H is a constant

Integrating:

$$W = H \int_T^S \mu dt$$

Thomson & Carnot agree when S is very close to T .
"J" drops out of Thomson's formulae

Compare with Thomson:

$$\ln \frac{H_R}{H} = \frac{1}{J} \int_T^S \mu dt$$

$$\therefore \frac{R}{H} = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{J} \int_T^S \mu dt\right)$$

$$\therefore W = J(H - R) = JH \left[1 - \exp\left(-\frac{1}{J} \int_T^S \mu dt\right)\right]$$

When $S \approx T$, $\int_T^S \mu dt$ is small. Express as power series

$$W = JH \left[1 - \left(1 + \frac{1}{J} \int_T^S \mu dt + \frac{1}{2!} \dots\right)\right] \approx H \int_T^S \mu dt$$

