

# Heat in Motion

Ian McClenathan

January 2026

## Abstract

### Heat as Fundamental Motion

Heat is the first and most primitive function of motion. It represents magnitude without direction, encoding the presence and quantity of motion prior to differentiation, structure, or persistence. In this framework, heat is not identified with temperature, energy, or thermodynamic state, but with the raw quantity of coherent motion itself. Heat may be quantified by the number of coherent motion units it contains. A heat index of one corresponds to a single coherent motion. A heat index of two corresponds to two units of heat, which may consist of two distinct and distinguishable motions. This scalar characterization establishes heat as the foundational substrate upon which all higher motion functions operate.

## Introduction — Why Motion Requires Magnitude

Any account of motion must first answer a deceptively simple question: how much motion exists? Before motion can be directed, opposed, constrained, or persisted, it must first be present in some quantity. Motion without magnitude is indistinguishable from no motion at all. For this reason, magnitude is not a secondary attribute of motion, but its most primitive requirement.

In many physical frameworks, magnitude is introduced implicitly through energy, temperature, or force. However, these quantities already presuppose additional structure: energy presumes a system and a mode of storage, temperature presumes equilibrium and statistical interpretation, and force presumes direction and causal influence. Each of these concepts therefore operates at a higher descriptive level than motion itself.

The Motion Calendar separates these layers explicitly. It treats Heat as the foundational expression of motion magnitude, prior to any notion of direction, opposition, causation, or persistence. Heat answers only one question: how much coherent motion is present? It does not encode where motion is going, what it acts upon, or whether it endures. Those capacities emerge only with subsequent motion functions.

This separation is essential. If direction or causation were introduced before magnitude, motion would be defined relationally without first being defined quantitatively. Conversely, if persistence were assumed before magnitude, motion would be granted temporal structure without first establishing its presence. Heat therefore occupies a necessary first position in the motion framework.

By treating heat as magnitude without direction, the Motion Calendar avoids conflating scalar quantity with vector behavior. Heat is inherently non-causal: it does not flow, push, pull, or bias outcomes. It may be grouped into coherent units and decomposed into distinguishable motions, but it does not yet distinguish between increase and decrease, source and sink, or before and after. These distinctions arise only when polarity is introduced.

This paper formalizes heat as a primitive scalar function of motion. The sections that follow define coherent motion units, establish the algebraic properties of heat, and clarify the limits of

what heat alone can describe. In doing so, this work provides the quantitative foundation upon which all higher motion functions are constructed.

# 1 Heat as Primitive Motion

Heat is defined in the Motion Calendar as the most primitive expression of motion: pure magnitude without direction, opposition, or persistence. It is not derived from any other motion function, nor can it be decomposed into more fundamental constituents. All subsequent motion functions presuppose the existence of heat, but heat presupposes none of them.

At this foundational level, motion is not yet understood as displacement, flow, or change between states. It is understood only as presence. Heat answers the minimal ontological question: that motion exists, and in what quantity. Any attempt to define motion in relational or directional terms without first establishing its magnitude introduces implicit structure and therefore operates at a higher descriptive layer.

## 1.1 Coherent Motion Units

To formalize heat quantitatively, the Motion Calendar introduces the notion of a coherent motion unit. A coherent motion unit represents a minimal, indivisible contribution to motion magnitude under the Heat function. Coherence, in this context, does not imply coordination, synchronization, or causal interaction. It denotes only that a collection of motion-events may be treated as a single unit for the purpose of measuring magnitude.

Formally, coherence defines an equivalence relation on motion-events with respect to Heat. Motion-events that contribute equally and inseparably to magnitude are said to belong to the same coherent unit. Motion-events that may be distinguished without altering total magnitude constitute separate coherent units.

Let each coherent motion unit contribute exactly one unit of heat, denoted by  $\kappa$ .

A system containing  $n$  coherent motion units has heat magnitude

$$\kappa = n k$$

where  $k$  is the heat constant, representing the minimal indivisible unit of motion magnitude, and  $n$  is the heat index.

No further structure is implied.

## 1.2 Definition of Heat

Heat is defined as a non-negative scalar measure of coherent motion units. Let  $M$  denote a finite collection of coherent motion units. The heat magnitude associated with  $M$  is given by

$$\kappa(M) = \sum_{i \in M} k_i.$$

In its simplest normalized form, each coherent motion unit contributes equally, yielding

$$\kappa(M) = |M| k,$$

where  $|M|$  denotes the cardinality of the motion substrate. The integer  $|M|$  is the heat index.

A heat index of one corresponds to a single coherent motion unit. A heat index of two corresponds to two units of heat, which may consist of two distinct and distinguishable motions. Heat magnitude depends only on the number of coherent units present, not on their internal structure.

More generally, coherent motion units may be assigned positive scalar weights, allowing heat magnitude to be represented as

$$\kappa(M) = \sum_i w_i, \quad w_i > 0.$$

Here, the index  $i$  is purely formal and serves only to enumerate coherent motion units; it carries no informational content.

### 1.3 Primitive Properties of Heat

From its definition, heat satisfies several fundamental properties:

- **Non-negativity:**  $\kappa(M) \geq 0$ .
- **Null motion:**  $\kappa(\emptyset) = 0$ .
- **Additivity:** For disjoint collections  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ ,

$$\kappa(M_1 \cup M_2) = \kappa(M_1) + \kappa(M_2).$$

These properties establish heat as a measure-like quantity, but without any implication of direction, flow, or conservation across time. Additivity expresses only that magnitudes combine; it does not imply interaction, transfer, or causation.

### 1.4 Non-Causality of Heat

It is critical to emphasize that heat, as defined here, is non-causal. Although heat may be decomposed, grouped, or counted, it does not encode preference, bias, or influence. There is no distinction between increase and decrease, source and sink, or before and after. Heat does not flow; it accumulates. Flow, bias, and causal asymmetry arise only with the introduction of polarity.

This restriction is not a limitation but a necessity. By preventing causation from entering at the level of heat, the Motion Calendar ensures that directional and relational structure emerges explicitly and only where it is formally introduced.

### 1.5 Heat as the Foundation of Higher Motion Functions

All higher motion functions—Polarity, Existence, Righteousness, Order, and Movement—require heat as their substrate. Without magnitude, there can be no opposition, no persistence, no constraint, no regulation, and no direction. Heat provides the quantitative foundation upon which all structured motion is constructed.

### 1.6 Algebra of Heat

Heat magnitude takes values in the non-negative reals,

$$\kappa \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0},$$

and in normalized unit-count form,

$$\kappa = nk.$$

Let  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  be disjoint motion substrates. Composition is given by union,

$$M_1 \oplus M_2 = M_1 \cup M_2,$$

and heat is additive,

$$\kappa(M_1 \oplus M_2) = \kappa(M_1) + \kappa(M_2).$$

Define the heat-magnitude carrier

$$(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}, +, 0),$$

which forms a commutative monoid. No inverses exist; subtraction is not defined at the level of heat.

Scaling by non-negative scalars is permitted:

$$\kappa \mapsto \alpha \kappa, \quad \alpha \geq 0.$$

This scaling is representational only and does not imply redistribution or flow.

## Conclusion — Heat as the Ground of Motion

This paper has formalized heat as the most primitive function of motion: pure magnitude without direction, causation, or persistence. Heat may be counted, aggregated, and compared, but it cannot flow, bias outcomes, encode preference, or persist across time. These restrictions are structural necessities.

Heat therefore serves as the quantitative substrate of all motion, but it is not yet motion in relation. The transition from magnitude to structure requires the introduction of polarity as the first relational motion function.