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TREATISE  
ON  
THERMODYNAMICS

BY

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# Translator's Notice

The modern developments of Thermodynamics, and the applications to physical and chemical problems, have become so important, that I have ventured to translate Professor Planck's book, which presents the whole subject from a uniform point of view.

A few noes have been added to the present English edition by Professor Planck. He has not found it necessary to change the original text in any way.

To bring the notation into conformity with the usual English notation, several symbols have been changed. This has been done with the author's sanction. Here I have followed J. J. van Laar and taken  $\Psi$  to signify what he calls the *Planck'sches Potential*, *i.e.* the thermodynamic potential of Gibbs and Duhem divided by  $-\theta$ .

Professor Planck's recent paper, "Über die Grundlage der Lösungstheorie" (Ann. d. Phys. **10**, p. 436, 1903), ought to be read in connection with his thermodynamical theory of solution.

I am indebted to Herren Veit & Co., Leipzig, for kindly supplying the blocks of the five figures in the text.

A. O.

DEVONPORT,

*June*, 1903

# Preface

The oft-repeated requests either to publish my collected papers on Thermodynamics, or to work them up into a comprehensive treatise, first suggested the writing of this book. Although the first plan would have been the simpler, especially as I found no occasion to make any important changes in the line of thought of my original papers, yet I decided to rewrite the whole subject-matter, with the intention of giving at greater length, and with more detail, certain general considerations and demonstrations too concisely expressed in these papers. My chief reason, however, was that an opportunity was thus offered of presenting the entire field of Thermodynamics from a uniform point of view. This, to be sure, deprives the work of the character of an original contribution to science, and stamps it rather as an introductory text-book on Thermodynamics for students who have taken elementary courses in Physics and Chemistry, and are familiar with the elements of the Differential and Integral Calculus.

Still, I do not think that this book will entirely supersede my former publications on the same subject. Apart from the fact that these contain, in a sense, a more original presentation, there may be found in them a number of details expended at greater length than seemed advisable in the more comprehensive treatment here required. To enable the reader to revert in particular cases to the original form for comparison, a list of my publications on Thermodynamics has been appended, with a reference in each case to the section of the book which deals with the same point.

The numerical values in the examples, which have been worked, as applications of the theory, have, almost all of them, been taken from the original papers; only a few, that have been determined by frequent measurement, have been taken from the tables in Kohlrausch's "Leitfaden der praktischen Physik." It should be emphasized, however, that the numbers used, notwithstanding the care taken, have not undergone the same amount of critical sifting as the more general propositions and deductions.

Three distinct methods of investigations may be clearly recognized in the previous devel-

opment of Thermodynamics. The first penetrates deepest into the nature of the processes considered, and, were it possible to carry it out exactly, would be designated as the most perfect. Heat, according to it, is due to the definite motions of the chemical molecules and atoms considered as distinct masses, which in the case of gases possess comparatively simple properties, but in the case of solids and liquids can be only very roughly sketched. This kinetic theory, founded by Joule, Waterston, Krönig and Clausius, has been greatly extended mainly by Maxwell and Boltzmann. Obstacles, at present unsurmountable, however, seem to stand in the way of its further progress. These are due not only to the highly complicated mathematical treatment, but principally to essential difficulties, not to be discusses here, in the mechanical interpretation of the fundamental principles of Thermodynamics.

Such difficulties are avoided by the second method, developed by Helmholtz. It confines itself to the most important hypothesis of the mechanical theory of heat, that heat is due to motion, but refuses on principle to specialize as to the character of this motion. This is a safer point of view than the first, and philosophically quite as satisfactory as the mechanical interpretation of nature in general, but it does not as yet offer a foundation of sufficient breadth upon which to build a detailed theory. Starting from this point of view, all that can be obtained is the verification of some general laws which have already been deduced in other ways direct from experience.

A third treatment of Thermodynamics has hitherto proved the most fruitful. This method is distinct from the other two, in that it does not advance the mechanical theory of heat, but, keeping aloof from definite assumptions as to its nature, starts direct from a few very general empirical facts, mainly the two fundamental principles of Thermodynamics. From these, by pure logical reasoning, a large number of new physical and chemical laws are deduced, which are capable of extensive application, and have hitherto stood the test without exception.

This last, more inductive, treatment, which is used exclusively in this book, corresponds best to the present state of the science. It cannot be considered as final, however, but may have in time to yield to a mechanical, or perhaps an electromagnetic theory. Although it may be of advantage for a time to consider the activities of nature—Heat, Motion, Electricity, etc.—as different in quality, and to suppress the question as to their common nature, still our aspiration after a uniform theory of nature, on a mechanical basis or otherwise, which has derived such powerful encouragement from the discovery of the principle of the conservation of energy, can never be permanently repressed. Even at the present day, a recession from the assumption that all physical phenomena are of a common nature would be tantamount to renouncing the comprehension of a number of recognized laws of interaction between different spheres of natural phenomena. Of course, even then, the results we have deduced from the

two laws of Thermodynamics would not be invalidated, but these two laws would not be introduced as independent, but would be deduced from other more general propositions. At present, however, no probable limit can be set to the time which it will take to reach this goal.

THE AUTHOR.

BERLIN,

*April*, 1897

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# **Part I**

## **Fundamental Facts and Definitions**



# Chapter 1. Temperature

§1. The conception of “heat” arises from that particular sensation of warmth or coldness which is immediately experienced on touching a body. This direct sensation, however, furnishes no quantitative scientific measure of a body’s state with regard to heat; it yields only qualitative results, which vary according to external circumstances. For quantitative purposes we utilize the change of volume which takes place in all bodies when heated under constant pressure, for this admits of exact measurement. Heating produces in most substances an increase of volume, and thus we can tell whether a body gets hotter or colder, not merely by the sense of touch, but also by a purely mechanical observation affording a much greater degree of accuracy. We can also tell accurately when a body assumes a former state of heat.

§2. If two bodies, one of which feels warmer than the other, be brought together (for example, a piece of heated metal and cold water), it is invariably found that the hotter body is cooled, and the colder one is heated up to a certain point, and then all change ceases. The two bodies are then said to be in *thermal equilibrium*. Experience shows that such a state of equilibrium finally sets in, not only when two, but also when any number of differently heated bodies are brought into mutual contact. From this follows the important proposition: *If a body, A, be in thermal equilibrium with two other bodies, B and C, then B and C are in thermal equilibrium with one another.\** For, if we bring A, B, and C together so that each touches the other two, then, according to our supposition, there will be equilibrium at the points of contact AB and AC, and, therefore, also at the contact BC. If it were not so, no general thermal equilibrium would be possible, which is contrary to experience.

§3. These facts enable us to compare the degree of heat of two bodies, B and C, without bringing them into contact with one another; namely, by bringing each body into contact with an arbitrarily selected standard body, A (for example, a mass of mercury enclosed in

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\*As is well known, there exists no corresponding proposition for electrical equilibrium. For if we join together the substances  $\text{Cu}|\text{CuSO}_4\text{aq.}|\text{ZnSO}_4\text{aq.}|\text{Zn}$  to form a conducting ring, no electrical equilibrium is possible.

a vessel terminating in a fine capillary tube). By observing the volume of  $A$  in each case, it is possible to tell whether  $B$  and  $C$  are in thermal equilibrium or not. If they are not in thermal equilibrium, we can tell which of the two is the hotter. The degree of heat of  $A$ , or of any body in thermal equilibrium with  $A$ , can thus be very simply defined by the volume of  $A$ , or, as is usual, by the difference between the volume of  $A$  and its volume when in thermal equilibrium with melting ice under atmospheric pressure. This volumetric difference, which, by an appropriate choice of unit, is made to read 100 when  $A$  is in contact with steam under atmospheric pressure, is called the *temperature* in degrees Centigrade with regard to  $A$  as thermometric substance. Two bodies of equal temperature are, therefore, in thermal equilibrium, and *vice versâ*.

§4. The temperature readings of no two thermometric substances agree, in general, except at  $0^\circ$  and  $100^\circ$ . The definition of temperature is therefore somewhat arbitrary. This we may remedy to a certain extent by taking gases, in particular those hard to condense, such as hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon monoxide, as thermometric substances. They agree almost completely within a considerable range of temperature, and their readings are sufficiently in accordance for most purposes. Besides, the coefficient of expansion of these different gases is the same, inasmuch as equal volumes of them expand under constant pressure by the same amount—about  $\frac{1}{273}$  of their volume—when heated from  $0^\circ\text{C.}$  to  $1^\circ\text{C.}$  Since, also, the influence of the external pressure on the volume of these gases can be represented by a very simple law, we are led to the conclusion that these regularities are based on a remarkable simplicity in their constitution, and that, therefore, it is reasonable to define the common temperature given by them simply as temperature. We must consequently reduce the readings of other thermometers to those of the gas thermometer, and preferably to those of the hydrogen thermometer.

§5. The definition of temperature remains arbitrary in cases where the requirements of accuracy cannot be satisfied by the agreement between the readings of the different gas thermometers, for there is no sufficient reason for the preference of any one of these gases. A definition of temperature completely independent of the properties of any individual substance, and applicable to all stages of heat and cold, becomes first possible on the basis of the *second law of thermodynamics* (§160, etc.). In the mean time, only such temperature will be considered as are defined with sufficient accuracy by the gas thermometer.

§6. In the following we shall deal chiefly with homogeneous, isotropic bodies of any form, possessing throughout their substance the same temperature and density, and subject to a uniform pressure acting everywhere perpendicular to the surface. They, therefore, also exert the same pressure outwards. Surface phenomena are thereby disregarded. The condition

of such a body is determined by its chemical nature; its mass,  $M$ ; its volume,  $V$ ; and its temperature,  $t$ . On these must depend, in a definite manner, all other properties of the particular state of the body, especially the pressure, which is uniform throughout, internally and externally. The pressure,  $p$ , is measured by the force acting on the unit of area—in the C.G.S. system, in dynes per square centimeter, a *dyne* being the force which imparts to a mass of one gramme in one second a velocity of one centimeter per second.

§7. As the pressure is generally given in atmospheres, the value of an atmosphere in absolute C.G.S. units is here calculated. The pressure of an atmosphere is the weight of a column of mercury at  $0^{\circ}\text{C.}$ , 76 cm. high, and 1 sq. cm. in cross-section, when placed in mean geographical latitude. This latter condition must be added, because of the weight, *i.e.* the force of the earth's attraction, varies with the locality. The volume of the column of mercury is  $76\text{cm.}^3$ ; and since the density of mercury at  $0^{\circ}\text{C.}$  is 13.596, the mass is  $76 \times 13.596$ . Multiplying the mass by the acceleration of gravity in mean latitude, we find the pressure of one atmosphere in absolute units to be

$$76 \times 13.596 \times 981 = 1,013,650 \quad \frac{\text{dynes}}{\text{cm.}^2} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\text{gr.}}{\text{cm. -sec.}^2}.$$

This, then, is the factor for converting atmospheres into absolute units. If, as was formerly the custom in mechanics, we use as the unit of force the weight of a gramme in mean geographical latitude instead of the dyne, the pressure of an atmosphere would be  $76 \times 13.596 = 1033.3$  grms. per square centimeter.

§8. Since the pressure in a given substance is evidently controlled by its internal physical condition only, and not by its form or mass, it follows that  $p$  depends only on the temperature and the ratio of the mass  $M$  to the volume  $V$  (*i.e.* the density), or on the reciprocal of the density, the volume of unit mass—which is called the specific volume of the substance. For every substance, then, there exists a characteristic relation—

$$p = f(v, t),$$

which is called the *characteristic equation* of the substance. For gases, the function  $f$  is invariably positive; for liquids and solids, however, it may have also negative values under certain circumstances.