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Title:	Optimal performance of heat engines with a finite source or sink and inequalities between means
Authors:	Johal, R.S. (/jspui/browse?type=author&value=Johal%2C+R.S.)
Keywords:	Extraction Finite heat capacity Optimal work
Issue Date:	2016
Publisher:	American Physical Society
Citation:	Physical Review E,94(1).
Abstract:	Given a system with a finite heat capacity and a heat reservoir, and two values of initial temperatures, T_+ and T_- ($T_- < T_+$), we inquire, in which case is the optimal work extraction larger: when the reservoir is an infinite source at T_+ and the system is a sink at T_- , or, when the reservoir is an infinite sink at T_- and the system acts as a source at T_+ ? It is found that in order to compare the total extracted work, and the corresponding efficiency in the two cases, we need to consider three regimes as suggested by an inequality, the so-called arithmetic mean-geometric mean inequality, involving the arithmetic and the geometric means of the two temperature values T_+ and T_- . In each of these regimes, the efficiency at total work obeys certain universal bounds, given only in terms of the ratio of initial temperatures. The general theoretical results are exemplified for thermodynamic systems for which internal energy and temperature are power laws of the entropy. The conclusions may serve as benchmarks in the design of heat engines, where we can choose the nature of the finite system, so as to tune the total extractable work and/or the corresponding efficiency.
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