

PS 16: Problem 2.23

(a) To show that

$$W = C_A (T_A - T) + C_B (T_B - T) \quad (1)$$

given

$$T = T_A^{\frac{C_A}{C_A+C_B}} T_B^{\frac{C_B}{C_A+C_B}} \quad (2)$$

The work done by an engine on bath A for the entire process is

$$W = -P dV \quad (3)$$

From the ideal gas law,

$$P dV = Nk_B dT \quad (4)$$

the temperature of bath A, from T_A , approaches the equilibrium temperature T . Express dV as

$$dV = \frac{Nk_B dT}{P} \quad (5)$$

Plugging this into (??),

$$\begin{aligned} W &= -P \frac{Nk_B dT}{P} \\ &= -Nk_B dT \\ &= -Nk_B (T - T_A) \\ &= Nk_B (T_A - T) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Define $C_A = N_A k_B$ as a constant inherent to bath A. The work done on bath A is

$$W_A = C_A (T_A - T) \quad (7)$$

Since the engine also does work on bath B, we can similarly define a constant inherent to bath B as $C_B = N_B k_B$. Consequently,

$$W_B = C_B (T_B - T) \quad (8)$$

Thus, the total work done by the engine is

$$W = W_A + W_B \quad (9)$$

$$W = C_A (T_A - T) + C_B (T_B - T) \quad (10)$$

(b) If we let $C_A = C_B = C$ independent of temperature, (??) becomes,

$$\begin{aligned} T &= T_A^{\frac{C}{2C}} T_B^{\frac{C}{2C}} \\ &= T_A^{\frac{1}{2}} T_B^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ T &= (T_A T_B)^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Thus, the final temperature for heat engine is the square root of the product of the two initial temperatures. For GT(2.94),

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \frac{CT_A + CT_B}{2C} \\ T &= \frac{T_A + T_B}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

The final temperature for thermal contact is the mean of the initial temperatures.

(c) We have $T_A = 256$ K and $T_B = 144$ K. For the heat engine, the final temperature using (??) is

$$T = 192\text{K} \quad (13)$$

while for thermal contact, using (??),

$$T = 200\text{K} \quad (14)$$

The final temperature for thermal contact is higher because energy from both systems contributed directly to the final temperature. The final temperature with an engine is lower because it converts some of the energy into work.