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A primary source is one that has not been transformed or converted before use by the consumer. Example: coal burnt in a furnace to convert chemical PE into internal energy of the surrounding. A secondary source is energy that results from the transformation of a primary source. Example: electricity. Renewable energy source Non-renewable energy source Can be replenished in a relatively short time (human lifetime), or continually generated Can be replaced only over very long geological times Biomass, solar, wind, hydro (water), geothermal Coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear Our world in data - energy use Specific energy and energy density Specific energy is the number of joules that can be released by each kilogram of the fuel. Energy density is the number of joules that can be released from 1m3 of fuel. Energy density and specific energy table Sankey diagram The Sankey diagram is a visual representation of the flow of energy in a device or a process. Each energy source is represented by an arrow. The width of the arrow is proportional to how much energy it represents. Power stations Nuclear power plants A nuclear reactor is driven by the splitting of atoms, a process called fission, where a particle (a neutron) is fired at an atom, which then fissions into two smaller atoms and some additional neutrons. Some of the neutrons that are released then hit other atoms, causing them to fission too and release more neutrons. This is called a chain reaction.The fissioning of atoms in the chain reaction also releases a large amount of energy as heat. The generated heat is removed from the reactor by a circulating fluid, typically water. This heat can then be used to generate steam, which drives turbines for electricity production. In order to ensure the nuclear reaction takes place at the right speed, reactors have systems that accelerate, slow or shut down the nuclear reaction, and the heat it produces. This is normally done with control rods, which typically are made out of neutron-absorbing materials such as silver and boron. (World Nuclear Association) Safety issues The reactor vessel is made of thick steel to withstand the high temperature and pressure. This also absorbs alpha and beta radiation. The vessel is encased in layers of concrete that absorbs neutrons and gamma rays. Nuclear reactor simulator Why Chernobyl exploded? (optional) Inside The Tunnels That Will Store Nuclear Waste For 100,000 Years (optional) Wind generators Kinetic energy of the air arriving at the turbine in one second: \begin{gather} P = \frac{1}{2} \rho A v^3 \end{gather} \rho = density of air, A = blade area, v = speed of the wind \end{gather} The maximum theoretical power: \begin{gather} P = \frac{1}{2} \rho v^3 \pi r^2 \end{gather} \rho = density of air, A = blade area, v = speed of the wind, r = blade radius \end{gather} Advantages Disadvantages No energy cost Variable output on a daily or seasonal basis No chemical pollution Site availability can be limited in some countries Cost can be high but reduce with economies of scale Noise pollution Easy to maintain on land Visual pollution How do Wind Turbines work? Pumped storage sources use gravitational potential energy of water held at a level above a reservoir is converted to electrical energy, as the water falls to the lower level. Maximum power from water: \begin{gather} P = \frac{m}{t} g \Delta h = \left(\frac{V}{t} \rho \right) g \Delta h \end{gather} m = mass, t = time taken, g = gravitational constant, h = height, V = volume of the water, \rho = density of the liquid \end{gather} World's Largest Batteries - (Pumped Storage) In a solar heating system, a collector (made up of flat-plate PV panels) collects solar energy from the sun. The air or water (or antifreeze) inside a pipe gets warmed up by the heat transferred by the collector. This heat is either carried directly to the interior space by a pump or a venting mechanism, or is stored in a storage system. Solar water heating history (optional) Solar photovoltaic panels The photovoltaic materials in the panel convert electromagnetic energy from the Sun into electrical energy. Some materials exhibit a property known as the photoelectric effect that causes them to absorb photons of light and release electrons. When these free electrons are captured, an electric current results that can be used as electricity. (NASA) Power converted by the panel: \begin{gather} P = \eta A I \end{gather} \eta = efficiency, I = intensity of radiation, A = area \end{gather} How do Solar cells work? Written explanation from NASA Thermal conduction is the diffusion of thermal energy (heat) within one material or between materials in contact. The higher temperature object has molecules with more kinetic energy: collisions between molecules distributions this kinetic energy until an object has the same thermal energy throughout. Convection is heat transfer by mass motion of a fluid such as air or water when the heated fluid is caused to move away from the source of heat, carrying energy with it. Convection above a hot surface occurs because hot air expands, becomes less dense, and rises (see Ideal Gas Law). Hot water is likewise less dense than cold water and rises, causing convection currents which transport energy. Thermal radiation is the transfer of energy by means of electromagnetic radiation. Radiation does not need a medium to propagate. It can travel through a vacuum, as it is a wave. Heat transfer video explanation Solving the heat equation (optional) Black-body radiation Intensity: \begin{gather} I = \frac{P}{A} \end{gather} I = intensity, P = power, A = area \end{gather} All objects with a temperature above absolute zero (0 K, -273.15 °C) emit energy in the form of electromagnetic radiation. A blackbody is a theoretical or model body which absorbs all radiation falling on it, reflecting or transmitting none. It is a hypothetical object which is a perfect absorber and a perfect emitter of radiation over all wavelengths. Wien's displacement law: \begin{gather} \lambda_{\text{max}} = \frac{b}{T} \end{gather} \lambda_{\text{max}} = the wavelength at which the intensity is maximum, T = absolute temperature \end{gather} b = Wien's constant \left(2.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mK} \right) \end{gather} Stefan-Boltzmann law: \begin{gather} P = \epsilon \sigma A \left(T^4 - T_c^4 \right) \end{gather} P = radiated power, A = radiating area, T = temperature of radiator \end{gather} T_c = temperature of surroundings, \epsilon = Stefan's constant \left(5.6703 \times 10^{-8} \right) \end{gather} e = emissivity of the object (e = 1 for ideal radiator) \end{gather} In practice objects can be close to a black-body in behaviour, but not quite 100% perfect. These are called grey bodies. Emissivity: \begin{equation} \epsilon = \frac{\text{power emitted by a radiating object}}{\text{power emitted by a black-body with the same proportions at the same temperature}} \end{equation} Blackbody Radiation and the Ultraviolet Catastrophe The amount of energy that arrives at the top of the atmosphere is the solar constant. The solar constant is approximately 1366 Wm-2. Albedo When the energy from the sun arrives at ground level, some of it will get reflected by the Earth's surface, as the planet is not a black-body. The extent to which a surface can reflect is albedo (a). \begin{equation} a = \frac{\text{energy reflected by the surface}}{\text{total energy incident on the surface}} \end{equation} The average annual albedo for the Earth's surface is 0.35, thus 35% of the Sun ray's are reflected back into the atmosphere. The greenhouse effect and temperature balance The greenhouse effect is a process that occurs when gases in Earth's atmosphere trap the Sun's heat. This process makes Earth much warmer than it would be without an atmosphere. The "natural" greenhouse effect is due to the naturally occurring levels of gases. The enhanced greenhouse effect, in which increased concentration of gases, a result of human industrial processes, increases the Earth's average temperature. The energies of infra-red photons are much smaller than those of UV, and are not sufficient to break a molecule apart. When the frequency of a photon matches a vibrational state of a greenhouse gas molecule, then resonance occurs. Each vibrational mode of the CO2 has a characteristic frequency. If the frequency of the radiation matches this, then the molecule will vibrate. Global warming chain reaction: Ice and snow covers at the poles melt with increased temperature, which decreases albedo, which increases the rate at which heat is absorbed by the surface. A higher water temperature, reduces the extent to which CO2 is dissolved in seawater, which increases its presence in the atmosphere and therefore increases the heat absorbed by it. Global Warming 101 13 Misconceptions About Global Warming (recommended) The energy balance of the Earth Interactive energy balance (oversimplification) Number of correct answers: One or more of the following disciplines may be involved in solving a particular thermal engineering problem: ThermodynamicsA knowledge of thermodynamics is essential for nuclear engineers, who deal with nuclear power reactors. Thermodynamics is the science that deals with energy production, storage, transfer and conversion. It studies the effects of work, heat and energy on a system. Thermodynamics is both a branch of physics and an engineering science. The physicists are normally interested in gaining a fundamental understanding of the physical and chemical behavior of fixed quantities of matter at rest and uses the laws of thermodynamics to relate the properties of matter. Engineers are generally interested in studying energy systems and how they interact with their surroundings. Our goal here will be to introduce thermodynamics as the energy conversion science, to introduce some of the fundamental concepts and definitions that are used in the study of engineering thermodynamics. These fundamental concepts and definitions will be further applied to energy systems and finally to thermal nuclear power plants. Fluid MechanicsCFD numerical simulation Source: CFD development group h2r.de Fluid mechanics is the branch of thermal engineering concerned with the mechanics of fluids (liquids, gases, and plasmas) and the forces on them. It can be divided into fluid statics, the study of fluids at rest; and fluid dynamics. Fluid dynamics is a subdiscipline of fluid mechanics that deals with fluid flow. Fluid dynamics is one of the most important of all areas of physics. Life as we know it would not exist without fluids, and without the behavior that fluids exhibit. The air we breathe and the water we drink (and which makes up most of our body mass) are fluids. Fluid dynamics has a wide range of applications, including calculating forces and moments on aircraft (aerodynamics), determining the mass flow rate of water through pipelines (hydrodynamics). Fluid dynamics is an important part of most industrial processes; especially those involving the transfer of heat. In nuclear reactors, the heat removal from the reactor cores is accomplished by passing a liquid or gaseous coolant through the core and through other regions where heat is generated. The nature and operation of the coolant system is one of the most important considerations in the design of a nuclear reactor. Heat Transfer and Mass Transfer Heat transfer is an engineering discipline that concerns the generation, use, conversion, and exchange of heat (thermal energy) between physical systems. In power engineering it determines key parameters and materials of heat exchangers. Heat transfer is usually classified into various mechanisms, such as: Heat Conduction Heat conduction, also called diffusion, occurs within a body or between two bodies in contact. It is the direct microscopic exchange of kinetic energy of particles through the boundary between two systems. When an object is at a different temperature from another body or its surroundings Heat Convection Heat convection depends on motion of mass from one region of space to another. Heat convection occurs when bulk flow of a fluid (gas or liquid) carries heat along with the flow of matter in the fluid. Thermal Radiation Radiation is heat transfer by electromagnetic radiation, such as sunshine, with no need for matter to be present in the space between bodies. In engineering, the term convective heat transfer is used to describe the combined effects of conduction and fluid flow. At this point, we have to add a new mechanism, which is known as advection (the transport of a substance by bulk motion). From the thermodynamic point of view, heat flows into a fluid by diffusion to increase its energy, the fluid then transfers (advects) this increased internal energy (not heat) from one location to another, and this is then followed by a second thermal interaction which transfers heat to a second body or system, again by diffusion. See the guide for this topic. 1.1 Measurements in physics Fundamental SI units Quantity SI unit Symbol Mass Kilogram kg Distance Metre m Time Second s Electric current Ampere A Amount of substance Mole mol Temperature Kelvin K Derived units are combinations of fundamental units. Some examples are: m/s (Unit for velocity) N (kg⋅m/s^2) (Unit for force) J (kg⋅m^2/s^2) (Unit for energy) In scientific notation, values are written in the form a*10^n, where a is a number within 1 and 10 and n is any integer. Some examples are: The speed of light is 300000000 m/s). In scientific notation, this is expressed as 3*10^8 A centimetre (cm) is 1/100 of a metre (m). In scientific notation, one cm is expressed as 1*10^-2 m. Metric multipliers Prefix Abbreviation Value peta P 10^15 tera T 10^12 giga G 10^9 mega M 10^6 kilo k 10^3 hecto h 10^2 deca da 10^1 deci d 10^-1 centi c 10^-2 milli m 10^-3 micro μ 10^-6 nano n 10^-9 pico p 10^-12 femto f 10^-15 For a certain value, all figures are significant, except: Leading zeros Trailing zeros if this value does not have a decimal point, for example: 12300 has 3 significant figures. The two trailing zeros are not significant. 012300 has 5 significant figures. The two leading zeros are not significant. When multiplying or dividing numbers, the number of significant figures of the result value should not exceed the least precise value of the calculation. The number of significant figures in any answer should be consistent with the number of significant figures of the given data in the question. FYI In multiplication/division, give the answer to the lowest significant figure (S.F.). In addition/subtraction, give the answer to the lowest decimal place (D.P.). Orders of magnitude are given in powers of 10, likewise those given in the scientific notation section previously. Orders of magnitude are used to compare the size of physical data. Distance Magnitude (m) Order of magnitude Diameter of the observable universe 10^26 Diameter of the Milky Way galaxy 10^21 Diameter of the Solar System 10^13 Distance to the Sun 10^11 Radius of the Earth 10^7 Diameter of a hydrogen atom 10^-10 Diameter of a nucleus 10^-15 Mass Magnitude (kg) Order of magnitude The universe 10^53 The Milky Way galaxy 10^41 The Sun 10^30 The Earth 10^24 A hydrogen atom 10^-27 An electron 10^-30 Time Magnitude (s) Order of magnitude Age of the universe 10^17 10 years 10^7 1 day 10^5 55 An hour 10^3 Period of heartbeats 10^-00 Estimations are usually made to the nearest power of 10. Some examples are given in the tables in the orders of magnitude section. 1.2 Uncertainties and errors Random error Systematic error Caused by fluctuations in measurements centered around the true value (spread). Can be reduced by averaging over repeated measurements. Not caused by bias. Caused by fixed shifts in measurements away from the true value. Cannot be reduced by averaging over repeated measurements. Caused by bias. Examples: Fluctuations in room temperature The noise in circuits Human error Examples: Equipment calibration error such as the zero offset error Incorrect method of measurement Physical measurements are sometimes expressed in the form xx. For example, 101 would mean a range from 9 to 11 for the measurement. Absolute uncertainty x Fractional uncertainty x Percentage uncertainty x*100% Calculating with uncertainties Addition/Subtraction y = a + b (sum of absolute uncertainties) Multiplication/Division y = a*b or y = a/b y = a/a + b/b (sum of fractional uncertainties) Power y = a^n y = ln(a)/a (ln times fractional uncertainty) Error bars are bars on graphs which indicate uncertainties. They can be horizontal or vertical with the total length of two absolute uncertainties. Line of best fit: The straight line drawn on a graph so that the average distance between the data points and the line is minimized. Maximum/Minimum line: The two lines with maximum possible slope and minimum possible slope given that they both pass through all the error bars. The uncertainty in the intercepts of a straight line graph: The difference between the intercepts of the line of best fit and the maximum/minimum line. 1.3 Vectors and scalars Scalar Vector A quantity which is defined by its magnitude only. A quantity which is defined by both its magnitude and direction. Examples: Distance Speed Time Energy Examples: Displacement Velocity Acceleration Force Vector addition and subtraction can be done by the parallelogram method or the head to tail method. Vectors that form a closed polygon (cycle) add up to zero. When resolving vectors in two directions, vectors can be resolved into a pair of perpendicular components. FYI The relationship between two sets of data can be determined graphically. Relationship Type of Graph Slope intercept y = mx + cy against x y = kx^n log y against log x n c with n given against x^n k The study of thermal physics covers macroscopic (whole systems) and microscopic (particles) processes. After studying this topic, you should be able to: Discuss evidence for the atomic nature of materials Distinguish between temperature and heat Describe the relationship between heat added and temperature increase Understand why the temperature of water doesn't change when it boils Recall the gas laws and their associated experiments Explain the uses of a pV diagram Suggest where energy goes when work is done against friction Key questions What are the main points in kinetic theory? Atoms and molecules are types of particle and are the smallest parts of matter. In this topic we will usually assume that the atoms or molecules are uncharged and do not interact, like a large number of very small perfectly elastic balls. Find out more. What is the relationship between temperature and heat? If two thermodynamic systems are each in thermal equilibrium with a third, then they are in thermal equilibrium with each other. In practical terms, temperature is the concentration of heat energy in a body. It dictates the overall direction in which heat energy will transfer (from hot to cold). Find out more. What is latent heat? The specific latent heat is the amount of heat required to change the state of one kilogram of substance. Find out more. What are the gas laws? Boyle's law states that the pressure of a fixed mass of gas at constant temperature is inversely proportional to its volume. The Pressure law states that the pressure of a fixed mass of gas with constant volume is directly proportional to its absolute temperature (in Kelvin). Charles' law states that the volume of a fixed mass of gas at a constant pressure is directly proportional to its temperature in Kelvin. Find out more. How do you draw a pV diagram? P and V can be plotted on a 3-D graph. In practice, however, we draw just p and V with the different temperatures represented by isotherms. Find out more. To understand what happens to the energy we transfer to a body when we do work against friction we need to look inside the body. Because there are no forces between gas molecules, the gaseous state is the simplest to model. Internal Energy: The sum of the kinetic energy and potential energy of the molecules in a body. Temperature: The average kinetic energy of all particles. Heat: The transfer of internal energy Specific heat capacity (c): The heat required to raise 1 kg of a substance by one degree (K). Specific latent heat (L): The amount of heat required to change the state of 1kg of a substance without change in temperature. There are two types: fusion and vaporization Laws The pressure of a fixed mass of a gas at constant temperature is inversely proportional to its value. V = P Pressure law The pressure of a fixed mass of a gas with constant volume is directly proportional to its temperature. Heat transfer Name What it is What medium Examples Conduction When the molecules at one end of a solid object are given energy, they vibrate more. This disturbs the neighbouring molecules and passing the energy along. Conduction transfers energy through solid or liquid materials. Metals are usually the best conductor and plastics the best insulators. Heat will travel slowly through a pot on a stove. Convection The transfer of heat energy via liquid or gas. When heated a fluid expands marking it less dense, causing it to rise in the surrounding denser cooler fluid. Convection transfers energy through fluids such as gases and liquids. This is seen most often in air or water. Radiator heats room by heating up the air. Radiation Direct transfer from one body to another via infrared radiation. Bodies of darker color both radiate and absorb the best. Radiation does not require any medium, unlike conduction and convection. Due to this, it is the only way to transfer heat in a vacuum such as space. The sun emits radiation which heats up our planet. Specific heat capacity Acronym: SHC Definition: Amount of energy (joules) required to raise 1kg of a substance by one degree (Kelvin or Celsius) Symbol: c SI Unit: J/kgK or J/kg°C Calculating thermal energy changes Formula: E = mcΔT The change in thermal energy is equal to mass times specific heat capacity times by change in temperature. Example question and answer Jacob has 1500g of water which is at 17°C. How much heat must be added in kJ, for the water to begin to boil. The specific heat capacity of water is 4.2 kJ/kg°C. Answer: First pull out the values needed from the question: Change temperature = 100-17 = 83°C Mass = 1500g = 1.5kg SHC = 4.2 kJ/g°C. (The question asks for kJ, so no need to convert to J) Then put into formula: E = 4.2*1.5*83 E = 522.9kJ What does the SHC tell us about the material? Specific heat capacity Meaning Insulator/conductor Examples