



Nicolas Léonard Sadi Carnot (1796-1832) in the dress uniform of a student of the [École Polytechnique](#).

Born 1 June 1796(1796-06-01)  
[Palais du Petit-Luxembourg, Paris, France](#)

Died 24 August 1832 (aged 36)  
[Paris, France](#)

Residence [France](#)

Nationality [French](#)

Fields [Physicist](#) and [engineer](#)

Institutions [French army](#)

[Alma mater](#) [École Polytechnique](#)  
[École Royale du Génie](#)  
[Sorbonne](#)  
[Collège de France](#)

Academic advisors [Siméon Denis Poisson](#)  
[André Marie Ampère](#)  
[Dominique François Jean Arago](#)

Known for [Carnot cycle](#)  
[Carnot efficiency](#)  
[Carnot theorem](#)  
[Carnot heat engine](#)

Influenced [Benoît Paul Émile Clapeyron](#)  
[Rudolf Julius Emmanuel Clausius](#)

## Nicholas Leonard Sadi Carnot (1796-1832)

### Notes

He was the brother of [Hippolyte Carnot](#), his father was the mathematician [Lazare Carnot](#), and his nephews were [Marie François Sadi Carnot](#) and [Marie Adolphe Carnot](#).

# Excerpts from “*The Second Law*” by P. W. Atkins

“War and the steam engine joined forces and forged what was to become one of the most delicate of concepts [**the Second Law**]”

Sadie Carnot was an engineer, and the son of a famous mathematician who was also a minister of war under Napoleon. Carnot fought against England in 1814.

After France lost that war, Carnot perceived that if France could develop a more efficient steam engine, it would rule the world.

From Wikipedia:

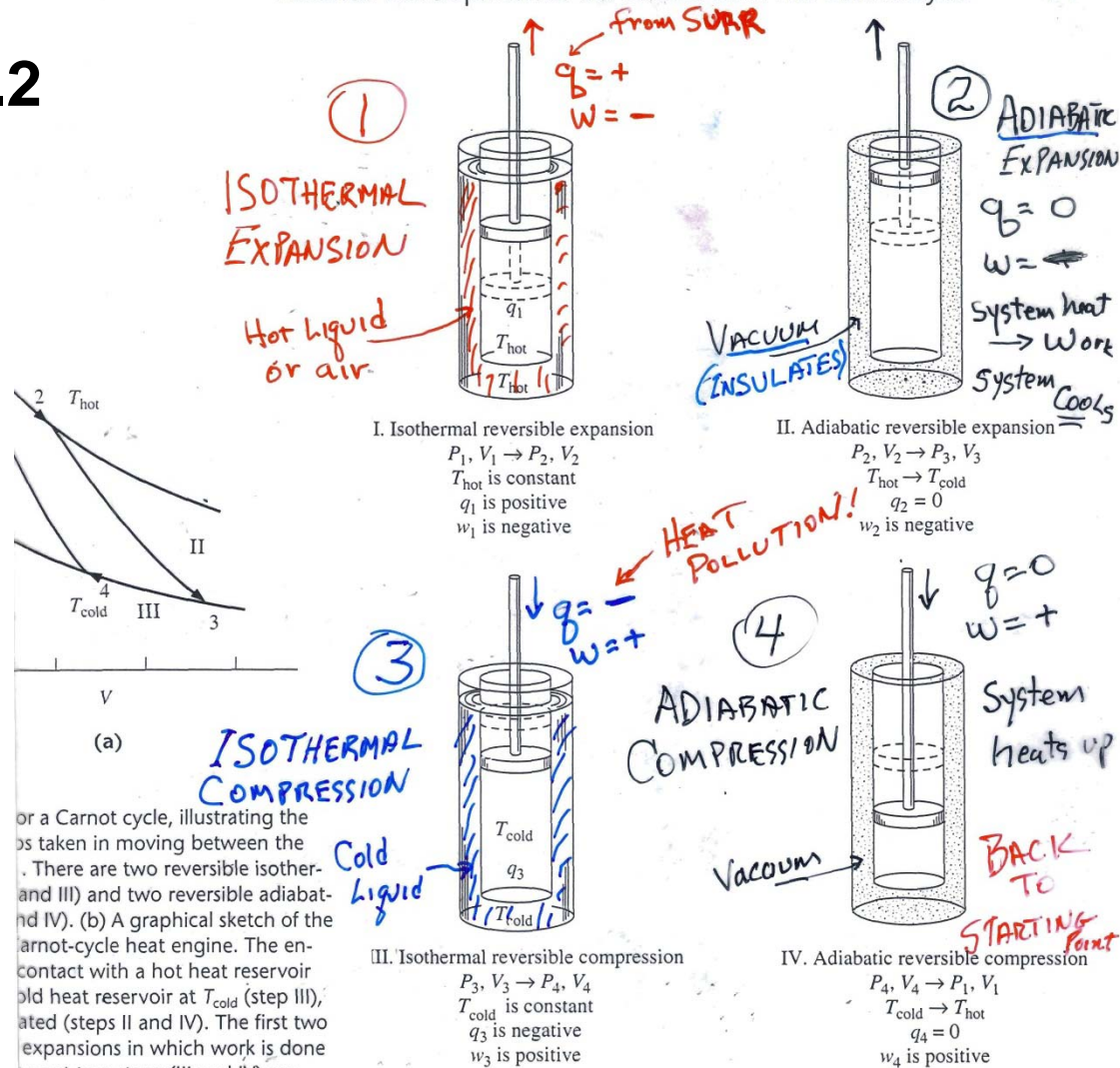
“Carnot sought to answer two questions about the operation of heat engines: “**Is the work available from a heat source potentially unbounded?**” and “**Can heat engines in principle be improved by replacing the steam with some other working fluid or gas?**” He attempted to answer these in a memoir, published as a popular work in 1824 when he was only 28 years old. It was entitled *Réflexions sur la puissance motrice du feu* (“Reflections on the Motive Power of Fire”). “

Published in 1824, this work was largely overlooked until Clausius recognized it as containing the key message of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Law in 1850.

The entire concept evolved from a simple hypothetical heat engine now known as the Carnot Cycle. From its simple **reversible isothermal and adiabatic expansions and compressions of an ideal gas**, Carnot elegantly proved that the **theoretical maximum efficiency of any heat engine** is given only by the **fractional difference of the temperatures involved in the heat flow**:

$$\frac{\text{Net work out}}{\text{Heat from hot reservoir}} = \frac{T_{\text{hc}} - T_{\text{cl}}}{T_{\text{hot}}}$$

Fig. 3.2



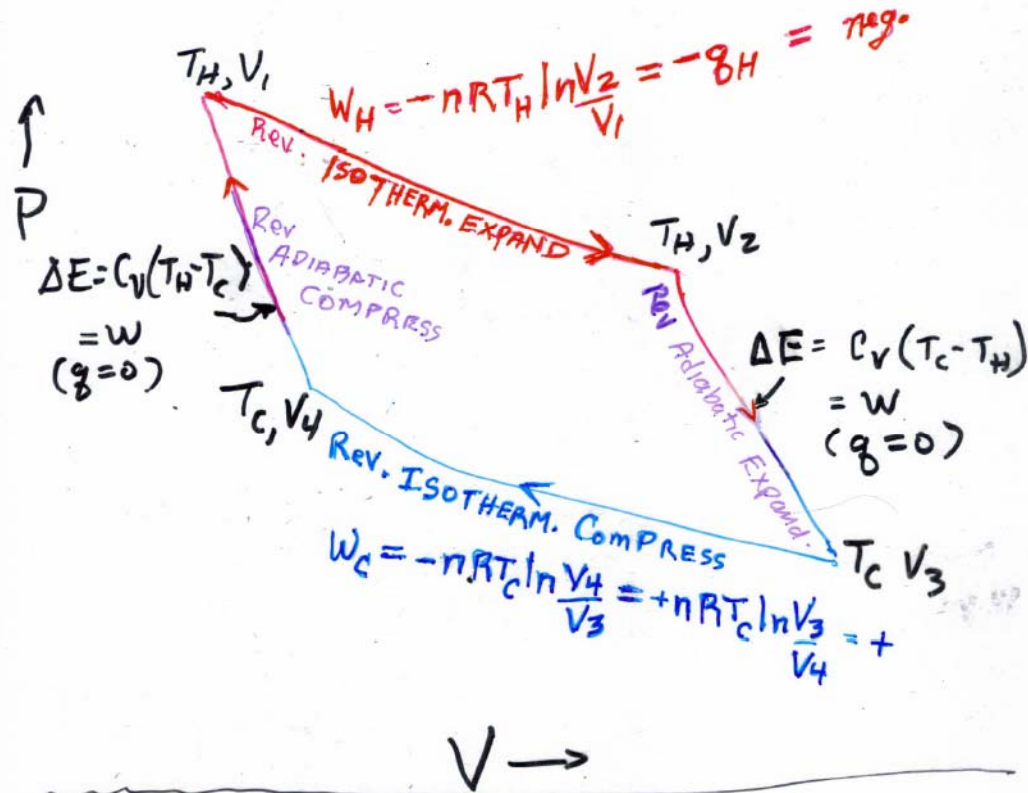
or a Carnot cycle, illustrating the steps taken in moving between the states. There are two reversible isothermal (steps I and III) and two reversible adiabatic (steps II and IV). (b) A graphical sketch of the Carnot-cycle heat engine. The engine is in contact with a hot heat reservoir at  $T_{hot}$  (step I), and a cold heat reservoir at  $T_{cold}$  (step III), and insulated (steps II and IV). The first two steps (I and II) are expansions in which work is done by the system. The next two steps (III and IV) are compressions in which work is done on the system.

The relation between the temperature and volume changes for a reversible expansion (or compression) of an ideal gas. The third and fourth steps are similar to the first and second, respectively:

$$P_3 V_3 = nRT_{cold} = P_4 V_4 \quad (\text{isothermal})$$

# CARNOT CYCLE

08: 8-5



① THE TWO ADIABATIC PARTS CANCEL

② net  $W = W_H + W_C = \text{neg.}$  because  
 $T_C < T_H$

③  $\sum_{\text{cycle}} \frac{q_i^{\text{rev}}}{T_i} = 0$  IF  $\frac{V_3}{V_4} = \frac{V_2}{V_1}$

## MAX EFFICIENCY OF REVERSIBLE HEAT ENGINE

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Eff.} &= \frac{\text{NET WORK BY SYSTEM}}{\text{Heat absorbed from}} = \frac{-(W_H + W_C)}{Q_H} \\ &= \frac{nRT_H \ln \frac{V_2}{V_1} - nRT_C \ln \frac{V_3}{V_4}}{nRT_H \ln \frac{V_2}{V_1}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{EFFICIENCY} = \frac{T_H - T_C}{T_H}$$

TRUE for ALL Heat engines  
regardless of design & materials

REASON: A MORE EFFICIENT ENGINE COULD  
DRIVE THE REVERSIBLE ONE IN  
REVERSE, i.e., HEAT WOULD  
SPONTANEOUSLY FLOW FROM

COLD  $\rightarrow$  HOT !

THIS HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN TO HAPPEN

06:11-1

ENTROPY  $\equiv S =$  state variable

$$dS = \frac{dq_{rev}}{T} \quad \frac{J}{K} \text{ units} \quad \text{or } \frac{cal}{K}$$

"Entropy unit"

$$\Delta S = \int \frac{dq_{rev}}{T}$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{q_{rev}}{T} \quad \text{if } T \text{ constant}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Efficiency of Heat Engine} &= \frac{W_{HOT} + W_{COLD}}{q_{HOT}} \\
 &= \frac{T_{HOT} - T_{COLD}}{T_{HOT}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Our Best Steam Turbines

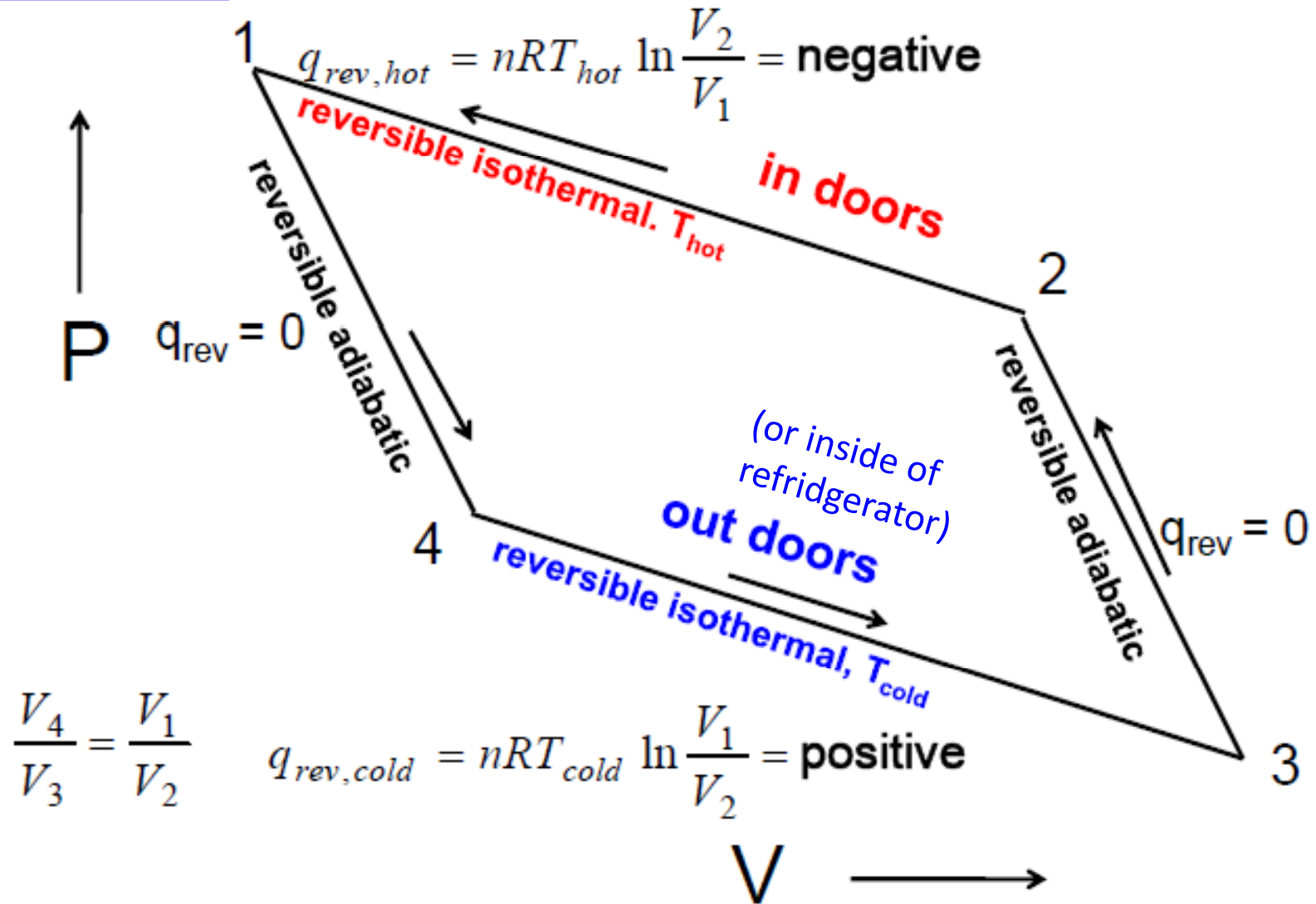
$$T_{HOT} = 1000 \text{ K}, \quad T_{COLD} = 400 \text{ K}$$

$$\text{Eff.} = \frac{1000 - 400}{1000} = 60\%$$

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WHAT ABOUT USING SUN & SPACE?

# Reversed Carnot's Cycle is a **HEAT PUMP**





As for the heat engine, for the heat pump what is valuable is  $q_{\text{hot}}$ , but now it is positive. Heat and work trade places. The efficiency is simply turned upside down.

$$\frac{\text{Heat } \textit{into} \text{ warm house}}{\text{Net work from NW Energy}} = \frac{nR T_{\text{hot}} \ln \frac{V_1}{V_2}}{nR T_{\text{hot}} \ln \frac{V_2}{V_1} - nR T_{\text{cold}} \ln \frac{V_3}{V_4}}$$

$$= \frac{T_{\text{hot}}}{T_{\text{hot}} - T_{\text{cold}}} = \frac{300}{300 - 270} = \frac{10 \text{ J of heat}}{1 \text{ J of electricity}}$$