

thermodynamics Academic PDF

Thermodynamics is a fundamental branch of physics that explores the relationships between heat, work, temperature, and energy. It provides essential principles that govern the behavior of systems in both natural and engineered environments. Understanding thermodynamics is crucial for a wide array of scientific and engineering disciplines, from designing efficient engines to understanding atmospheric phenomena. This article delves into the core concepts of thermodynamics, its laws, applications, and significance in our daily lives.

What Is Thermodynamics?

Thermodynamics is the scientific study of energy transformations and the properties of matter. It examines how energy moves and changes form within physical systems, dictating how processes occur and how systems reach equilibrium.

Key Definitions in Thermodynamics

- **System:** The part of the universe being studied, which can be a gas in a container, a engine, or even the entire universe.
- **Surroundings:** Everything outside the system that can interact with it.
- **Energy:** The capacity to do work or produce heat, existing in various forms such as kinetic, potential, thermal, or chemical.
- **State variables:** Properties like pressure, volume, temperature, and internal energy that describe the state of a system.

The Laws of Thermodynamics

The foundation of thermodynamics rests on four fundamental laws, each describing different aspects of energy and matter interactions.

Zero Law of Thermodynamics

This law states that if two systems are each in thermal equilibrium with a third system, they are in thermal equilibrium with each other. It establishes the concept of temperature and allows for the measurement of temperature using thermometers.

First Law of Thermodynamics

Often summarized as the law of conservation of energy, it states that energy cannot be created or destroyed within an isolated system. Mathematically, it is expressed as:

$$\Delta U = Q - W$$

where ΔU is the change in internal energy, Q is the heat added to the system, and W is the work done by the system. This law explains how energy transfer as heat and work affects the internal energy of a system.

Second Law of Thermodynamics

This law introduces the concept of entropy, a measure of disorder or randomness in a system. It states that natural processes tend to increase the total entropy of an isolated system, implying that energy conversions are not 100% efficient and that some energy is always dispersed as unusable heat. It also explains why certain processes are irreversible.

Third Law of Thermodynamics

The third law states that as the temperature of a perfect crystal approaches absolute zero (0 Kelvin), its entropy approaches zero. This provides a basis for the absolute measurement of entropy and has implications for low-temperature physics.

Core Concepts in Thermodynamics

Understanding thermodynamics involves grasping several key concepts that describe how energy behaves in different systems.

Thermodynamic Processes

These are the various ways a system can change from one state to another:

- **Isothermal process:** Occurs at constant temperature.
- **Adiabatic process:** No heat exchange with surroundings.
- **Isobaric process:** Occurs at constant pressure.
- **Isochoric process:** Occurs at constant volume.

Thermodynamic Cycles

A series of processes that return a system to its initial state, often used in engines and refrigerators:

- **Carnot cycle:** An idealized cycle that defines the maximum efficiency possible for a heat engine.
- **Otto cycle:** The cycle used in gasoline engines.
- **Rankine cycle:** Used in steam power plants.

Applications of Thermodynamics

Thermodynamics plays a vital role across multiple industries and scientific fields.

Engineering and Power Generation

Engineers utilize thermodynamic principles to design more efficient engines, turbines, and refrigeration systems. For example:

- Optimizing fuel combustion processes to maximize energy output.
- Developing renewable energy systems like solar thermal collectors.
- Improving heat exchanger designs for better thermal transfer.

Climate and Atmospheric Science

Understanding the Earth's climate involves thermodynamics to analyze:

- Heat transfer in the atmosphere and oceans.
- Energy balance of the planet.
- Effects of greenhouse gases on thermal radiation.

Material Science and Chemistry

Thermodynamics helps predict phase changes, chemical reactions, and material stability:

- Determining melting and boiling points.
- Calculating reaction spontaneity through Gibbs free energy.
- Designing materials with specific thermal properties.

Importance of Thermodynamics in Daily Life

The principles of thermodynamics are not confined to laboratories; they influence many everyday activities.

Heating and Cooling Systems

Air conditioners, refrigerators, and heating systems rely on thermodynamic cycles to transfer heat efficiently, ensuring comfort and food preservation.

Automobiles and Transportation

Internal combustion engines convert chemical energy into mechanical work, following thermodynamic principles to maximize efficiency and reduce emissions.

Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

Understanding how to minimize energy losses and optimize energy use is essential for developing sustainable technologies and reducing environmental impact.

Future Trends in Thermodynamics

Advancements in thermodynamics are ongoing, driven by emerging technologies and scientific discoveries.

Nanothermodynamics

This field studies energy and entropy at nanoscale levels, essential for developing nanotechnology and quantum devices.

Thermodynamics of Open Systems

Focusing on systems that exchange matter and energy with their surroundings, crucial for ecological and biological systems.

Renewable Energy Technologies

Innovations in thermodynamics aim to improve solar, wind, and geothermal energy conversion efficiencies.

Conclusion

Thermodynamics remains a cornerstone of modern science and engineering, providing vital insights into how energy behaves and interacts within physical systems. From powering our homes and vehicles to understanding climate change, its principles are deeply embedded in our daily lives. As technology advances, further exploration of thermodynamic phenomena promises to unlock new

solutions for energy challenges and environmental sustainability. Whether in designing more efficient engines, developing sustainable energy sources, or exploring the universe's fundamental laws, thermodynamics continues to be an essential field of study with far-reaching implications.

Thermodynamics: The Study of Energy, Heat, and Work

Introduction to Thermodynamics

Thermodynamics is a fundamental branch of physics that deals with the relationships between heat, work, energy, and matter. It explores how energy is transferred and transformed within physical systems, laying the foundation for numerous scientific and engineering disciplines, from mechanical engineering and chemical processes to astrophysics and biology.

At its core, thermodynamics seeks to answer critical questions such as:

- How does energy transfer occur?
- What are the limits of energy conversion?
- How do physical properties change when energy is added or removed?

Understanding these principles enables us to optimize engines, refrigerators, power plants, and even biological systems.

Historical Background and Development

The development of thermodynamics spans over a century, originating from the study of steam engines in the 18th century. Early pioneers like Sadi Carnot, James Prescott Joule, Rudolf Clausius, and William Thomson (Lord Kelvin) contributed foundational principles that shaped the field.

Key milestones include:

- Carnot's theory of the ideal heat engine (1824)
- Joule's experiments establishing the mechanical equivalent of heat (1840s)
- The formulation of the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics in the mid-19th century

These milestones transformed thermodynamics from empirical observations into a rigorous scientific framework.

Fundamental Concepts and Laws

First Law of Thermodynamics

The First Law, often summarized as the conservation of energy, states:

Energy cannot be created or destroyed; it can only be transferred or converted from one form to another.

Mathematically:

\[

$$\Delta U = Q - W$$

\]

Where:

- ΔU = change in internal energy of the system
- Q = heat added to the system
- W = work done by the system

This law emphasizes the quantitative aspect of energy transfer and is applicable across all scales and systems.

Second Law of Thermodynamics

The Second Law introduces the concept of entropy, asserting:

In any natural process, the total entropy of an isolated system tends to increase or remain constant; it never decreases.

This law explains the irreversibility of real processes and the directionality of thermal phenomena. It implies:

- Heat spontaneously flows from hot to cold objects.
- No engine can be 100% efficient because some energy is always dispersed as entropy.

A common formulation is the Kelvin-Planck statement:

- It is impossible to convert all heat energy from a hot reservoir into work without any other effect.

Third Law of Thermodynamics

The Third Law states:

- As temperature approaches absolute zero (0 K), the entropy of a perfect crystal approaches a constant minimum (often taken as zero).

This law has profound implications for cryogenics and reaching ultra-low temperatures, as it sets a fundamental limit on the entropy reduction.

Additional Principles and Concepts

- Zeroth Law of Thermodynamics: If two systems are each in thermal equilibrium with a third system, they are in thermal equilibrium with each other. This underpins the concept of temperature.
- State Functions: Properties like internal energy, entropy, pressure, volume, and temperature depend only on the current state of the system, not on how it arrived there.
- Path Functions: Properties such as work and heat depend on the process path taken.

Thermodynamic Systems and Properties

Types of Systems

- Open System: Can exchange both energy and matter with surroundings (e.g., a boiling pot).
- Closed System: Can exchange energy but not matter (e.g., a sealed container).
- Isolated System: Cannot exchange energy or matter (e.g., an insulated thermos).

State Properties

Key properties describing a system:

- Temperature (T)

- Pressure (P)
- Volume (V)
- Internal energy (U)
- Entropy (S)
- Enthalpy (H)

These properties help characterize the system's condition and are essential for analyzing thermodynamic processes.

Thermodynamic Processes and Cycles

Types of Processes

- Isothermal: Occurs at constant temperature ($T = \text{constant}$)
- Adiabatic: No heat transfer ($Q=0$)
- Isobaric: Occurs at constant pressure ($P = \text{constant}$)
- Isochoric: Occurs at constant volume ($V = \text{constant}$)
- Polytropic: Follows a specific relation between P and V

Thermodynamic Cycles

A cycle involves a series of processes returning the system to its initial state, allowing continuous operation of engines and refrigerators. Key cycles include:

- Carnot Cycle: Theoretical maximum efficiency, operating between two temperature reservoirs.
- Otto Cycle: Idealized cycle for gasoline engines.
- Diesel Cycle: Used in diesel engines.
- Rankine Cycle: Power cycle for steam turbines and power plants.
- Brayton Cycle: Gas turbines and jet engines.

Each cycle is characterized by its work output, heat transfer, and efficiency.

Thermodynamic Potentials and Equations

Enthalpy (H)

H

$$H = U + PV$$

ΔH

Useful for processes at constant pressure, such as heating or boiling.

Gibbs Free Energy (G)

ΔG

$$G = H - TS$$

ΔG

Determines spontaneity at constant temperature and pressure; a negative ΔG indicates a spontaneous process.

Helmholtz Free Energy (A)

ΔA

$$A = U - TS$$

ΔA

Relevant for systems at constant volume.

These potentials help predict the direction of processes and equilibrium conditions.

Applications of Thermodynamics

Engineering and Industry

- Design of engines, turbines, and refrigerators
- Power plant efficiency optimization
- HVAC systems and thermal management

Chemical Processes

- Reaction spontaneity and equilibrium
- Phase changes and material properties

- Combustion and energy release

Environmental and Biological Systems

- Climate modeling
- Metabolic energy transformations
- Ecosystem thermodynamics

Aerospace and Space Science

- Rocket propulsion
- Spacecraft thermal regulation
- Stellar and planetary thermal dynamics

Modern Developments and Emerging Topics

- Quantum Thermodynamics: Extends classical principles into the quantum realm, exploring energy transfer at microscopic scales.
- Non-Equilibrium Thermodynamics: Studies systems far from equilibrium, crucial for understanding biological processes and complex systems.
- Thermoelectric Devices: Convert temperature gradients directly into electricity, with applications in power generation and cooling.
- Nanothermodynamics: Investigates thermodynamic behavior at nanoscale, where surface effects dominate.

Conclusion

Thermodynamics remains a cornerstone of physical science and engineering, offering a profound understanding of how energy interacts within the universe. Its principles govern everything from the engines that power our vehicles and industries to the biological processes that sustain life. As technology advances and new frontiers emerge, the study of thermodynamics continues to evolve, providing essential insights into energy efficiency, sustainability, and the fundamental workings of nature.

A deep grasp of thermodynamic principles enables scientists and engineers to innovate and optimize systems, ensuring progress towards a more sustainable and efficient future. Whether applied to designing better engines, understanding climate change, or exploring space, thermodynamics is an indispensable tool in understanding the energetic fabric of our universe.

Question What is the first law of thermodynamics? The first law of thermodynamics states that energy cannot be created or destroyed in an isolated system; it can only be transformed from one form to another, often expressed as the conservation of energy. How does the second law of thermodynamics relate to entropy? The second law of thermodynamics states that the total entropy of an isolated system always tends to increase over time, indicating that natural processes are irreversible and systems evolve toward disorder. What is a thermodynamic cycle? A thermodynamic cycle is a series of processes that involve the transfer of heat and work, returning a system to its initial state, commonly used in engines like the Carnot cycle or Otto cycle. How is temperature related to thermodynamics? Temperature is a measure of the average kinetic energy of particles in a system and plays a central role in thermodynamics, influencing the direction of heat transfer and the state of a system. What is enthalpy and why is it important? Enthalpy is a thermodynamic property representing the total heat content of a system at constant pressure; it is important in analyzing heat transfer in processes like boiling, condensation, and chemical reactions. What are the practical applications of thermodynamics? Thermodynamics principles are applied in designing engines, refrigerators, air conditioners, power plants, and in understanding biological systems and chemical reactions. What is the difference between heat and work in thermodynamics? Heat is the transfer of thermal energy due to temperature difference, while work is the energy transfer resulting from force applied over a distance; both are ways a system exchanges energy. How does the concept of a heat engine relate to thermodynamics? A heat engine converts heat energy into mechanical work by operating between two thermal reservoirs, and its efficiency is governed by the second law of thermodynamics. What is the significance of the Carnot cycle? The Carnot cycle represents an idealized reversible engine that sets the maximum possible efficiency for converting heat into work, serving as a standard for real engine performance.

Related keywords: heat transfer, entropy, enthalpy, laws of thermodynamics, Carnot cycle, thermodynamic systems, Gibbs free energy, thermodynamic processes, temperature, internal energy

understanding thermodynamics dover books on physic

Understanding thermodynamics Dover books on physic is an essential step for students, educators, and enthusiasts seeking a comprehensive grasp of the fundamental principles governing energy, heat, and work in physical systems. Dover Publications is renowned for its extensive collection of classic and accessible scientific texts, including their specialized offerings on thermodynamics. These books are highly valued for their clarity, depth, and affordability, making them ideal resources for anyone aiming to deepen their understanding of thermodynamics within the realm of physics. Whether you're starting your journey or looking to refine your knowledge, Dover's

thermodynamics titles serve as reliable guides through complex concepts and theories.

Why Choose Dover Books for Learning Thermodynamics?

Affordable and Accessible

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Comprehensive and Well-Structured Content

These books typically cover fundamental principles, mathematical formulations, and practical applications, often presented in a clear, logical progression that benefits learners at various levels.

Authoritative and Reputable Sources

Many Dover thermodynamics titles are authored by renowned scientists and educators whose expertise lends credibility and depth to the material, ensuring readers get accurate and reliable information.

Key Titles in Dover's Thermodynamics Collection

Classic Texts and Foundational Works

Dover offers reprints of seminal works that have shaped the understanding of thermodynamics, such as:

- *Thermodynamics: An Introductory Treatment* by Richard C. Tolman
- *Introduction to Thermodynamics* by Richard E. Sonntag, Claus Borgnakke, and Gordon J. Van Wylen

These texts provide historical context and foundational theories that remain relevant today.

Modern and Specialized Publications

In addition to classics, Dover publishes contemporary texts that explore specialized topics like statistical mechanics, non-equilibrium thermodynamics, and applications in engineering and physics.

Understanding Thermodynamics Through Dover Books

The Core Principles Explained

Dover's thermodynamics books excel at breaking down complex concepts into manageable explanations, making them ideal for students new to the subject.

- **First Law of Thermodynamics:** Conservation of energy principle, relating heat added to a system to work done and change in internal energy.
- **Second Law of Thermodynamics:** Introduction to entropy, irreversibility, and the concept that energy spontaneously disperses.
- **Third Law of Thermodynamics:** Behavior of entropy as temperature approaches absolute zero.

Mathematical Foundations

Most Dover thermodynamics books include mathematical derivations and problem-solving strategies, which are essential for mastering the quantitative aspects of the field.

- Use of calculus to describe thermodynamic processes
- Formulation of state functions and equations of state
- Application of differential equations in thermodynamic cycles

Practical Applications and Examples

To bridge theory and practice, Dover's titles often feature real-world applications, such as engines, refrigerators, and atmospheric processes, demonstrating the relevance of thermodynamics principles.

How to Use Dover Books for Effective Learning

Start with Introductory Texts

If you're new to thermodynamics, begin with Dover's introductory titles that lay out fundamental concepts clearly and systematically.

Work Through Examples and Exercises

Active engagement enhances understanding. Dover books frequently include problems and solutions that help reinforce learning.

Supplement with Modern Resources

While Dover books are excellent foundational texts, supplement your study with online lectures, research papers, or interactive simulations to deepen understanding.

Additional Resources and Study Tips

Join Study Groups or Forums

Collaborative learning can clarify difficult topics and provide diverse perspectives.

Utilize Visual Aids

Diagrams, charts, and graphs included in Dover texts help visualize complex processes and relationships.

Practice Regularly

Consistent problem-solving builds proficiency and confidence in applying thermodynamic principles.

Conclusion: Embracing Thermodynamics with Dover Books

Understanding thermodynamics through Dover books on physics offers a solid foundation and a pathway to mastery in this vital scientific discipline. Their combination of clarity, affordability, and authoritative content makes them ideal for learners at all levels. By carefully studying these texts, engaging with exercises, and exploring practical applications, students and enthusiasts can develop a comprehensive understanding of how energy operates within physical systems. Whether you're embarking on your academic journey or seeking to refine your knowledge, Dover's thermodynamics titles are invaluable resources that can guide you through the fascinating world of heat, work, and energy transformations in physics.

Thermodynamics Dover Books on Physics: An In-Depth Exploration

When delving into the expansive world of physics, few subjects are as foundational and as universally applicable as thermodynamics. Its principles underpin everything from engines and refrigerators to the behaviors of stars and the evolution of the universe. For students, educators, and enthusiasts eager to master this essential field, Dover Publications has long been a trusted source of comprehensive, accessible, and affordable texts. Their series of Thermodynamics Dover Books on Physics stands out as an invaluable collection, blending rigorous academic content with clarity and pedagogical insight.

In this article, we will explore the significance of these works, analyze their content, evaluate their strengths and limitations, and provide guidance on how best to leverage them for mastering thermodynamics.

Overview of Dover's Contribution to Physics Literature

Dover Publications has established a reputation for curating a diverse catalog of scientific texts that are both affordable and authoritative. Their physics series includes classic texts, problem compilations, and introductory guides. Specifically, in the realm of thermodynamics, Dover offers a variety of titles that cater to different levels of expertise, from beginners to advanced researchers.

What makes Dover books particularly appealing is their commitment to quality content presented with clarity, often including historical context, illustrative figures, and comprehensive problem sets. This approach makes complex topics more digestible and encourages active learning.

Core Titles in the Thermodynamics Dover Series

The series encompasses several key titles, each providing a unique perspective or focus area within thermodynamics:

- "Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics" by Walter Greiner
- "Introduction to Thermodynamics" by Richard E. Sonntag and Gordon J. Van Wylen
- "Heat and Thermodynamics" by Mark W. Zemansky and Richard D. Drake
- "Statistical Thermodynamics" by K. Huang
- "Classical Thermodynamics" by Herbert B. Callen

While all these titles are valuable, this review will primarily focus on the foundational texts, especially those that serve as excellent starting points for students.

Key Features and Content Analysis

Comprehensiveness and Pedagogical Approach

Dover's thermodynamics books are renowned for their comprehensive coverage. They typically begin with fundamental principles?definitions of temperature, heat, work, and the laws of thermodynamics?and gradually build towards more complex topics like entropy, free energies, and thermodynamic cycles.

Most titles employ a step-by-step pedagogical approach:

- Clear explanations of concepts with historical notes to contextualize their development.
- Mathematical derivations that explain the underlying principles without overwhelming the reader.
- Worked examples demonstrating problem-solving techniques.
- Problem sets at the end of chapters to reinforce understanding and practice application.

This structure ensures that learners can follow the logical progression of ideas while actively engaging with the material.

Mathematical Rigor and Accessibility

Dover books strike a fine balance between mathematical rigor and accessibility:

- For beginners: They introduce concepts with minimal mathematical prerequisites, focusing on intuitive understanding.
- For advanced readers: They delve into detailed derivations, statistical mechanics foundations, and thermodynamic potentials, suitable for graduate-level study or research.

The clarity of mathematical presentation allows readers to grasp complex derivations and apply the principles confidently.

Historical Context and Evolution of Ideas

Many titles include historical notes that trace the evolution of thermodynamic concepts, from Carnot's heat engine to modern statistical mechanics. This enriches the reading experience, providing insight into how ideas developed and their relevance today.

Visual Aids and Illustrations

Illustrations play a key role in Dover thermodynamics books:

- Diagrams of thermodynamic cycles, such as Carnot, Otto, and Rankine engines.
- Graphs depicting state functions and phase diagrams.
- Conceptual sketches that clarify abstract ideas.

These visual elements are crucial for understanding complex processes and are typically well-integrated into the text.

Strengths of Dover Thermodynamics Books

- **Affordability:** Dover's pricing makes high-quality scientific texts accessible to a broad audience, including students and independent learners.
- **Authoritativeness:** Many titles are written by renowned physicists, offering reliable and academically rigorous content.
- **Historical and Theoretical Depth:** Their inclusion of historical context and derivations enriches comprehension.
- **Comprehensive Problem Sets:** End-of-chapter questions range from straightforward applications to challenging problems, fostering mastery.
- **Durability and Quality:** Printed on quality paper with durable covers, these books are built to last.

Limitations and Considerations

While Dover books are exceptional resources, potential limitations include:

- **Lack of Modern Pedagogical Features:** Unlike contemporary textbooks, some titles may lack online supplement materials, interactive content, or multimedia aids.
- **Density of Material:** The comprehensive nature may be daunting for absolute beginners without supplementary instruction.
- **Variable Depth:** Some titles lean heavily on classical thermodynamics and may not cover the latest developments in non-equilibrium thermodynamics or quantum thermodynamics.
- **Formatting and Layout:** Older editions may have less reader-friendly formatting compared to modern textbooks.

How to Maximize Learning with Dover Thermodynamics Books

To optimize your understanding of thermodynamics using Dover publications, consider the following strategies:

Start with Introductory Titles

Begin with foundational texts that prioritize clarity and basic principles, such as "Introduction to Thermodynamics" by Sonntag and Van Wylen, before progressing to more advanced or specialized books.

Engage Actively with Problems

Work through the exercises provided. Attempt all problems, verify solutions, and revisit challenging questions to deepen understanding.

Complement Reading with Practical Application

Apply concepts to real-world problems or experiments. If possible, perform simple experiments or simulations to see thermodynamics in action.

Supplement with Modern Resources

While Dover books are comprehensive, supplement your study with online lectures, software simulations, or recent journal articles for contemporary developments.

Review Historical Context

Understanding the evolution of ideas can enhance conceptual clarity and appreciation for the subject's depth.

Conclusion: An Essential Asset for Thermodynamics Study

The Thermodynamics Dover Books on Physics series offers a treasure trove of knowledge for anyone serious about understanding this central branch of physics. Their combination of rigorous content, pedagogical clarity, historical richness, and affordability makes them stand out among scientific literature.

Whether you're a student embarking on your first thermodynamics course, an educator seeking reliable teaching materials, or an enthusiast eager to deepen your understanding, these books serve as invaluable companions. While they may not replace interactive or multimedia resources, their depth and clarity provide a solid foundation upon which to build a comprehensive understanding of thermodynamics.

In embracing Dover's thermodynamics titles, you gain access to some of the most respected classical texts in the field, ensuring your journey into the energetic and entropic intricacies of the universe is both enlightening and enduring.

Question What are the key topics covered in Dover's 'Thermodynamics' books on physics? Dover's 'Thermodynamics' books typically cover fundamental concepts such as the laws of thermodynamics, entropy, thermodynamic cycles, statistical mechanics, and applications to real-world systems, providing a comprehensive understanding suitable for students and enthusiasts. **Answer** Are Dover's thermodynamics books suitable for beginners or advanced students? Dover's thermodynamics books are generally designed to cater to both beginners and intermediate students, offering clear explanations and detailed derivations, making complex topics accessible while also providing depth for those with foundational knowledge. How do Dover's thermodynamics books compare to other standard texts in the field? Dover's thermodynamics books are known for their affordability, clarity, and thorough coverage, often serving as excellent supplementary texts alongside more comprehensive or advanced titles, making them popular among students and

educators. Can Dover's 'Thermodynamics' books help in preparing for physics exams or research? Yes, Dover's thermodynamics books provide fundamental principles, practice problems, and detailed explanations that can aid in exam preparation and offer a solid foundation for further research in physics. Are there specific Dover books on thermodynamics that focus on statistical mechanics or classical thermodynamics? Yes, Dover offers separate titles focusing on classical thermodynamics and statistical mechanics, allowing readers to choose books that align with their specific interests or academic needs within the field.

Related keywords: thermodynamics, physics books, Dover publications, heat transfer, entropy, thermodynamic cycles, statistical mechanics, classical thermodynamics, physical chemistry, energy conservation

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