

## 1 Photon carnot engine

In our week on radiation, we saw that the Helmholtz free energy of a box of radiation at temperature  $T$  is

$$F = -8\pi \frac{V(kT)^4}{h^3 c^3} \frac{\pi^4}{45} \quad (1)$$

From this we also found the internal energy and entropy

$$U = 24\pi \frac{(kT)^4}{h^3 c^3} \frac{\pi^4}{45} V \quad (2)$$

$$S = 32\pi kV \left( \frac{kT}{hc} \right)^3 \frac{\pi^4}{45} \quad (3)$$

Given these results, let us consider a Carnot engine that uses an empty metallic piston (i.e. a photon gas).

- (a) Given  $T_H$  and  $T_C$ , as well as  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  (the two volumes at  $T_H$ ), determine  $V_3$  and  $V_4$  (the two volumes at  $T_C$ ).
- (b) What is the heat  $Q_H$  taken up and the work done by the gas during the first isothermal expansion? Are they equal to each other, as for the ideal gas?
- (c) Does the work done on the two isentropic stages cancel each other, as for the ideal gas?
- (d) Calculate the total work done by the gas during one cycle. Compare it with the heat taken up at  $T_H$  and show that the energy conversion efficiency is the Carnot efficiency.