



# Cryogenic Platforms for Quantum Computing

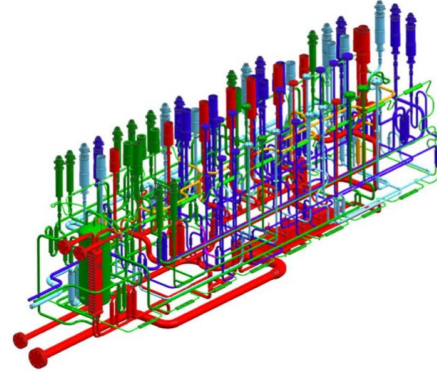
Greg Tatkowski, Matt Dubiel, Chris James

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# Introductions

## Greg Tatkowski

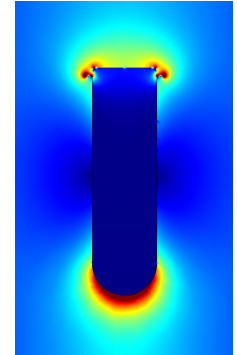
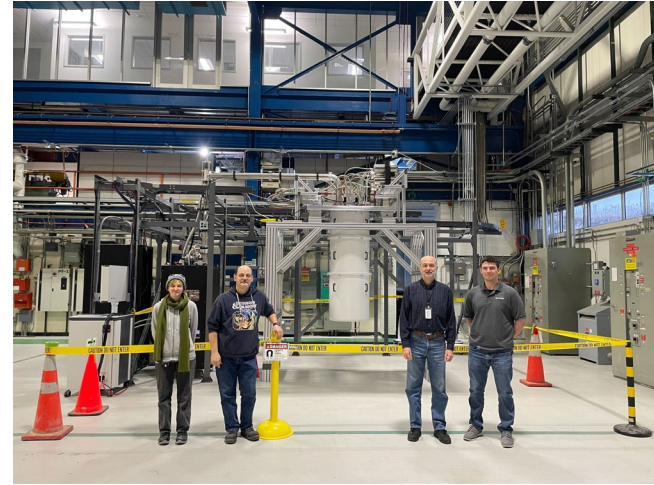
- Senior cryogenics engineer
  - Over 11 years experience at Fermilab working on:
    - Low temperature quantum systems at SQMS.
    - Liquid nitrogen and liquid helium systems for Mu2e.
    - A dark matter search one mile underground called SuperCDMS.
    - Cryogenic system review for a large liquid argon system called SBN-ND.
    - Miscellaneous cryogenics-related safety panels.
  - Education:
    - Illinois Institute of Technology: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
    - Illinois Institute of Technology: Master of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Hobbies
  - Ice hockey



# Introductions, cont.

## Matt Dubiel

- Experience
  - Mechanical Engineer at Fermilab for 3+ years
  - Operation of SQMS Dilution Refrigerators
  - Design of Mechanical Hardware
  - Magnetic Shielding Design
- Education
  - Illinois Institute of Technology: Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering
  - Lewis University: Bachelor of Science degree in Physics
- Hobbies
  - Ice Hockey



# Introductions, cont.

## Chris James

- Staff engineer at Fermilab:
  - 6 years at Fermilab
    - Short-Baseline Neutrino Far Detector (**SBN – FD**)
    - Short-Baseline Neutrino Near Detector (**SBN – ND**)
    - Gravity from Quantum Entanglement of Space Time (**GQuEST**)
    - Quantum Underground Instrumentation Experimental Testbed (**QUIET**)
    - Laboratory for Overground and Underground Devices (**LOUD**)
    - Cryogenic safety panels
    - Engineering Advisory Council
  - Education:
    - BS in Mechanical engineering from UIC
    - MS in Engineering Management from NIU



# Ice Hockey: Additional Details

- Does anybody recognize this place?
- How does it work?



# We Know That:



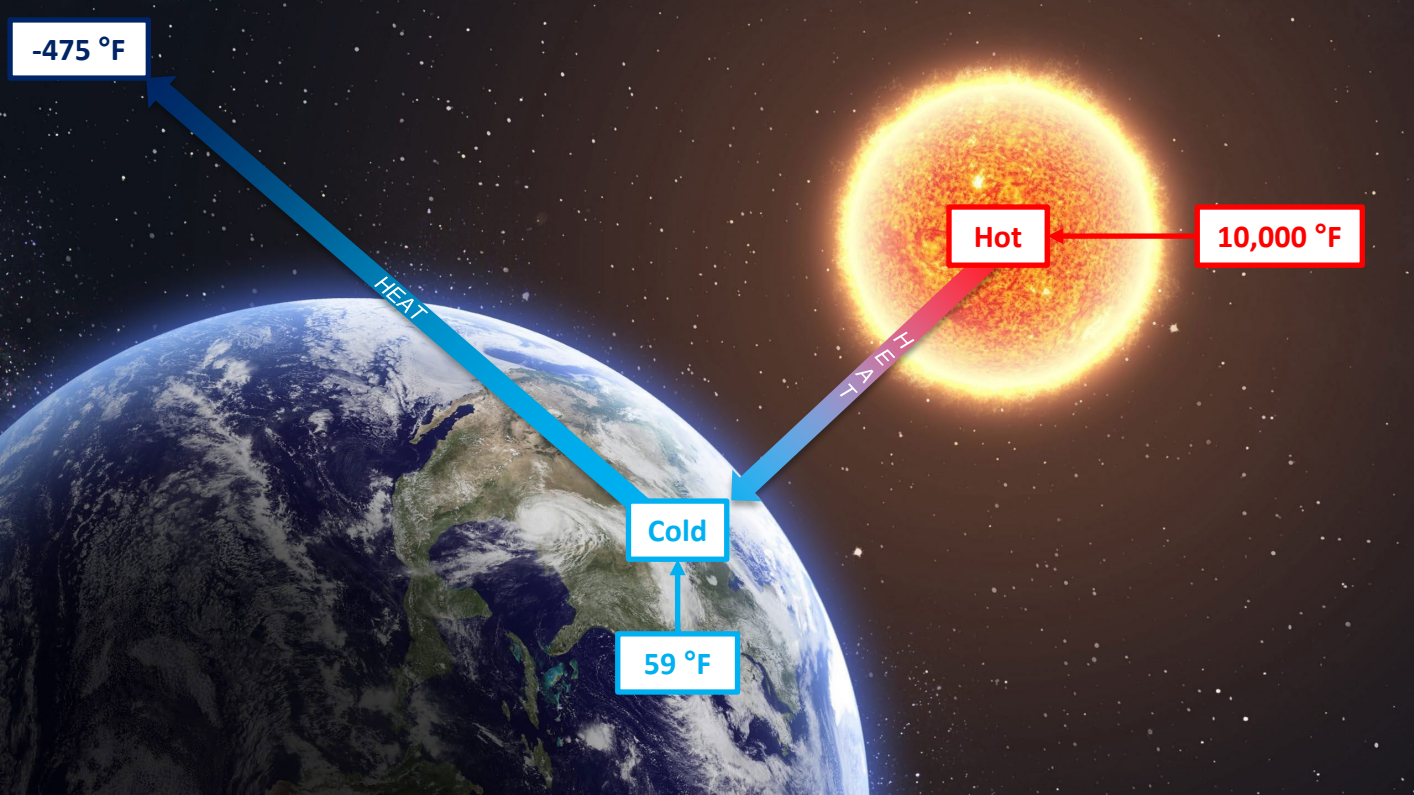
# We Also Know That:



≠

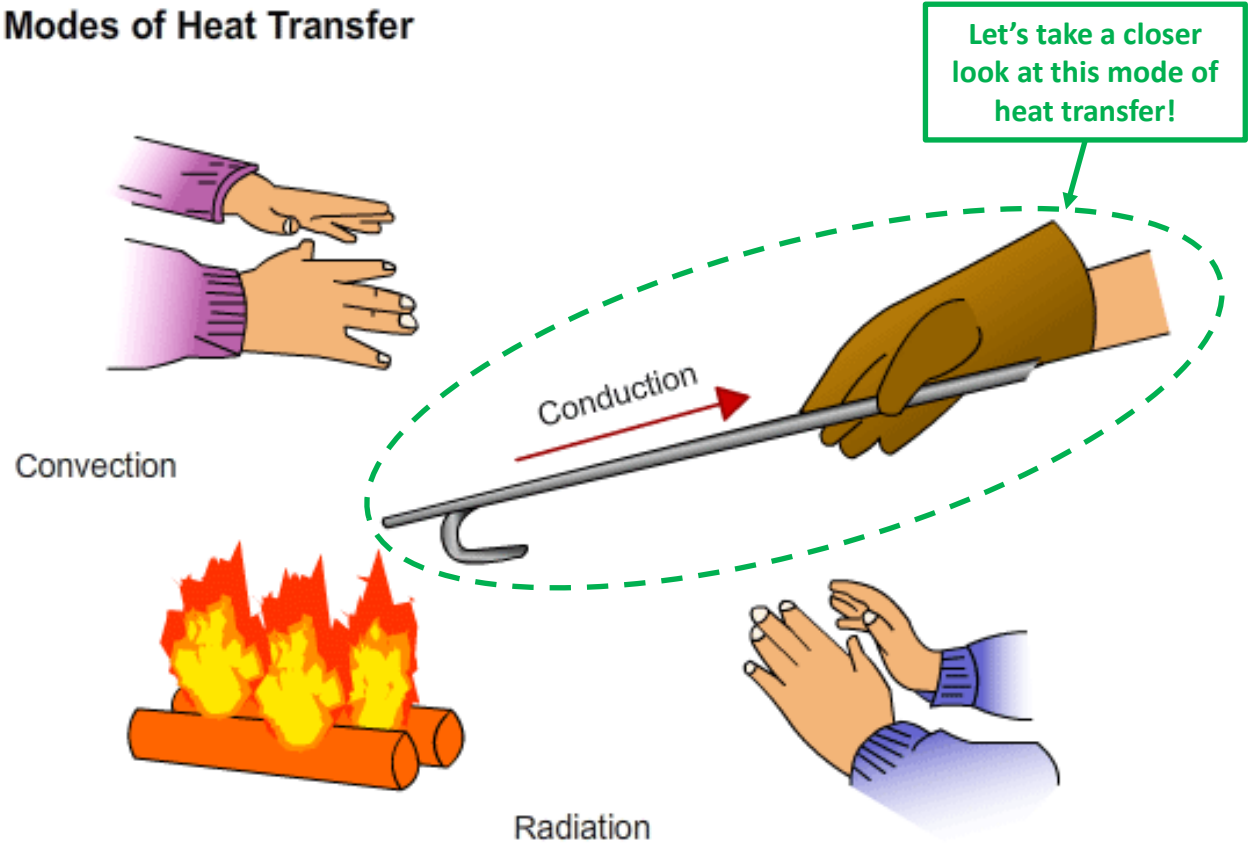


# Some Things we Might Not Know... Yet!



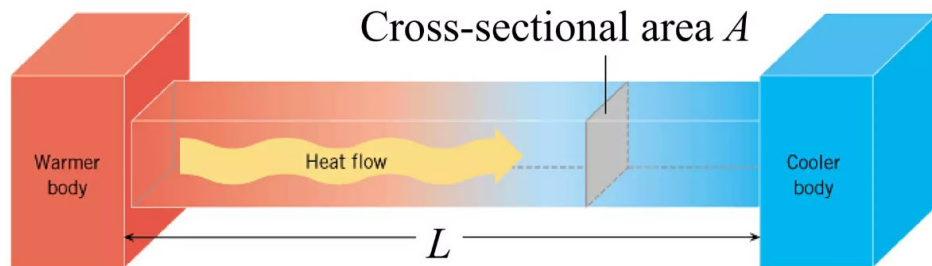
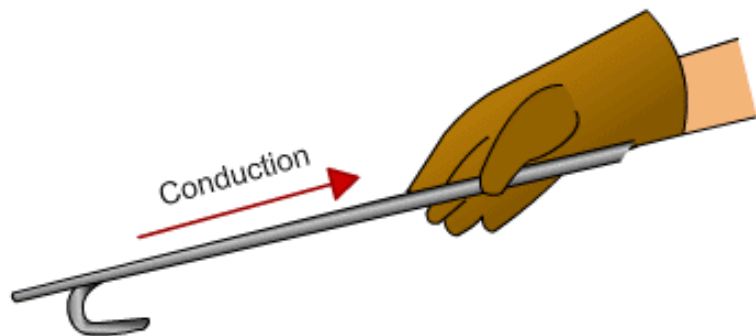
# Some Things we Might Not Know... Yet (cont.)!

## Modes of Heat Transfer



# Some Things we Might Not Know... Yet (cont.)!

## Conduction: Fourier's Law



$$Q = k A \left( \frac{\Delta T}{L} \right)$$

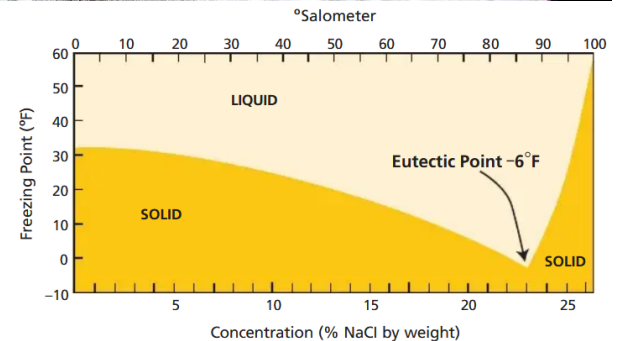
Q = heat transfer  
k = thermal conductivity  
A = cross sectional area  
 $\Delta T$  = temperature difference  
between two ends  
L = length

# So How Do They Keep the Ice Cold at an Ice Rink?

- First, let's note that different substances have different freezing points.
  - For example, this is why salt is used on sidewalks in the winter.
    - Turns ice into liquid!
- Therefore, hypothetically speaking, you should be able to use 22% concentration salt water to freeze regular water.



**FREEZING POINT  
OF SALT BRINE  
MIXTURES**

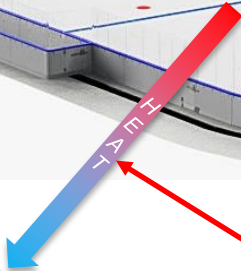


Graph reproduced by permission of Oregon Sea Grant.  
Additional information:  
<http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgpubs/onlinepubs/h99002.pdf>

# Basic Thermodynamics of Hockey Rinks



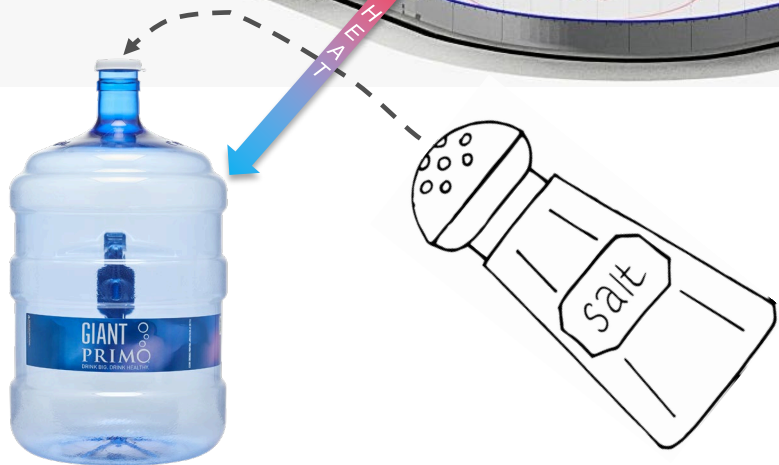
Water



**Wait! This doesn't work!**

**Why not?**

# Basic Thermodynamics of Hockey Rinks, cont.



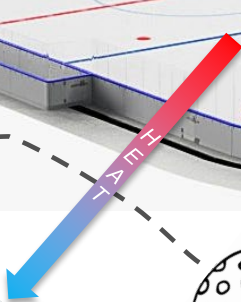
Water

Need to add salt to the water to lower its freezing point!

# Basic Thermodynamics of Hockey Rinks, cont.



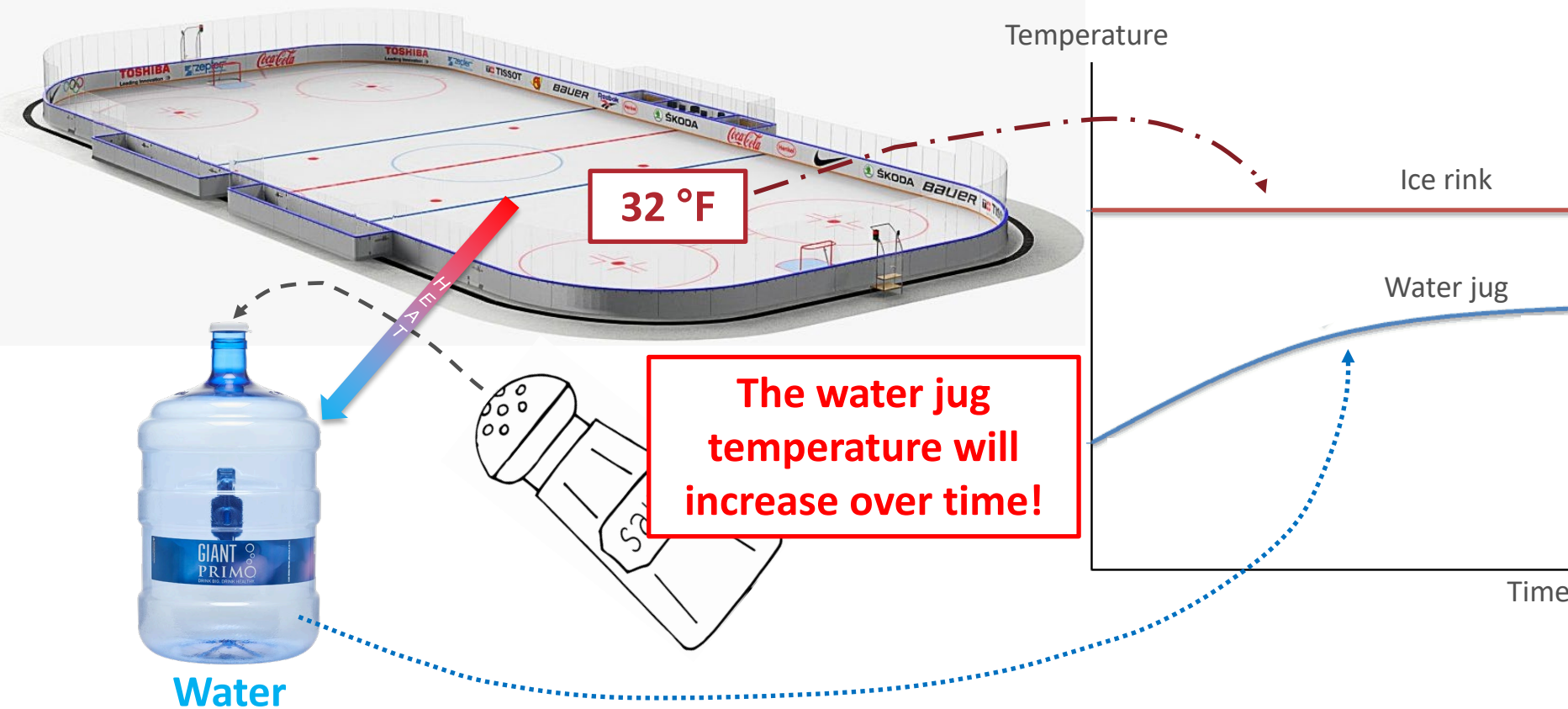
Water



Wait! This also doesn't work!

Why not?

# Basic Thermodynamics of Hockey Rinks, cont.



# Solution: The Refrigeration Unit

- A machine which uses energy to create a cooling effect, often utilizing special fluids called “refrigerants.”
  - In essence, it moves energy from one area to another.
- This unit needs a high temperature heat sink – why?
  - Let’s find out in the next slides!



# High Temperature Heat Sink in a “Refrigeration Unit”



Image source: “The Preliminary Exploration about the Design of the Top Interface of the Gymnasium of Ice Sport based on the Dynamic Optimization of Natural Light Environment,” Y. Liu, et. al. International Conference on Economy, Management and Education Technology. 2015.

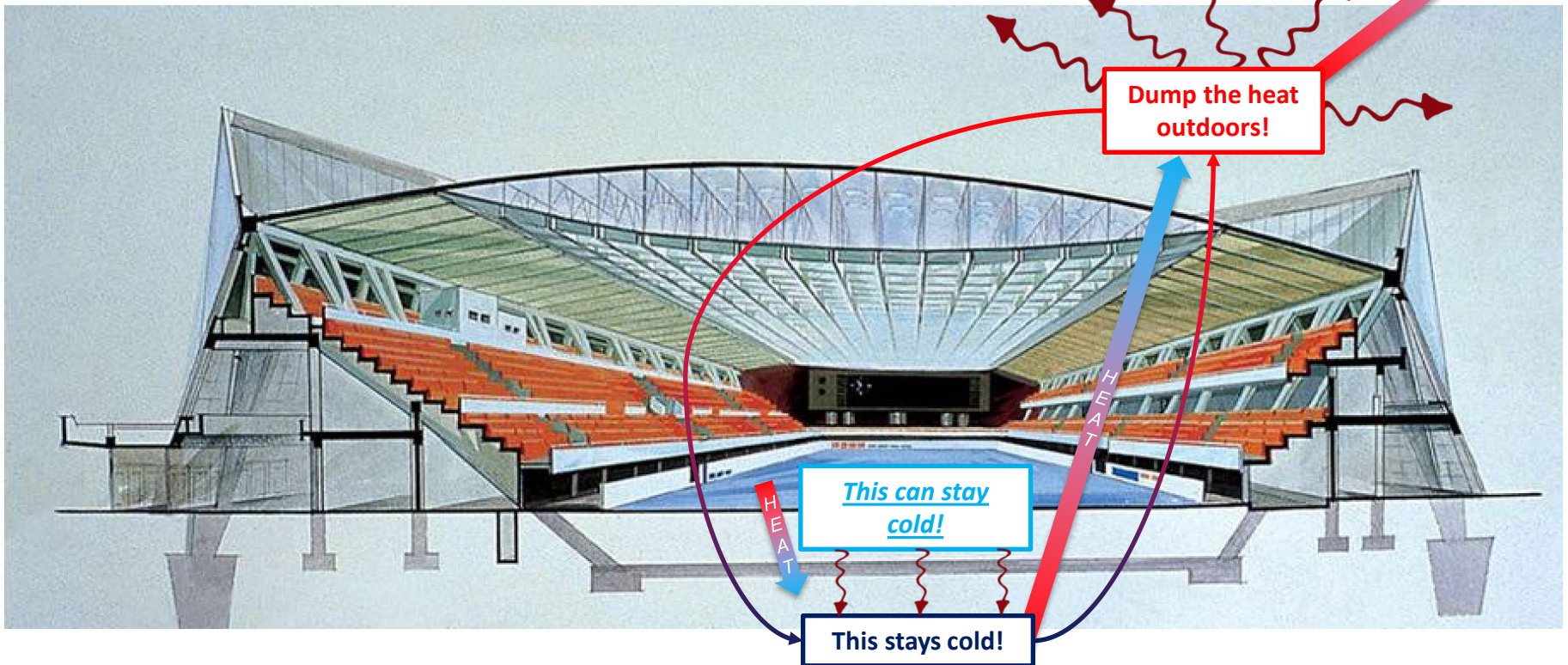
# High Temperature Heat Sink in a “Refrigeration Unit” (cont.)



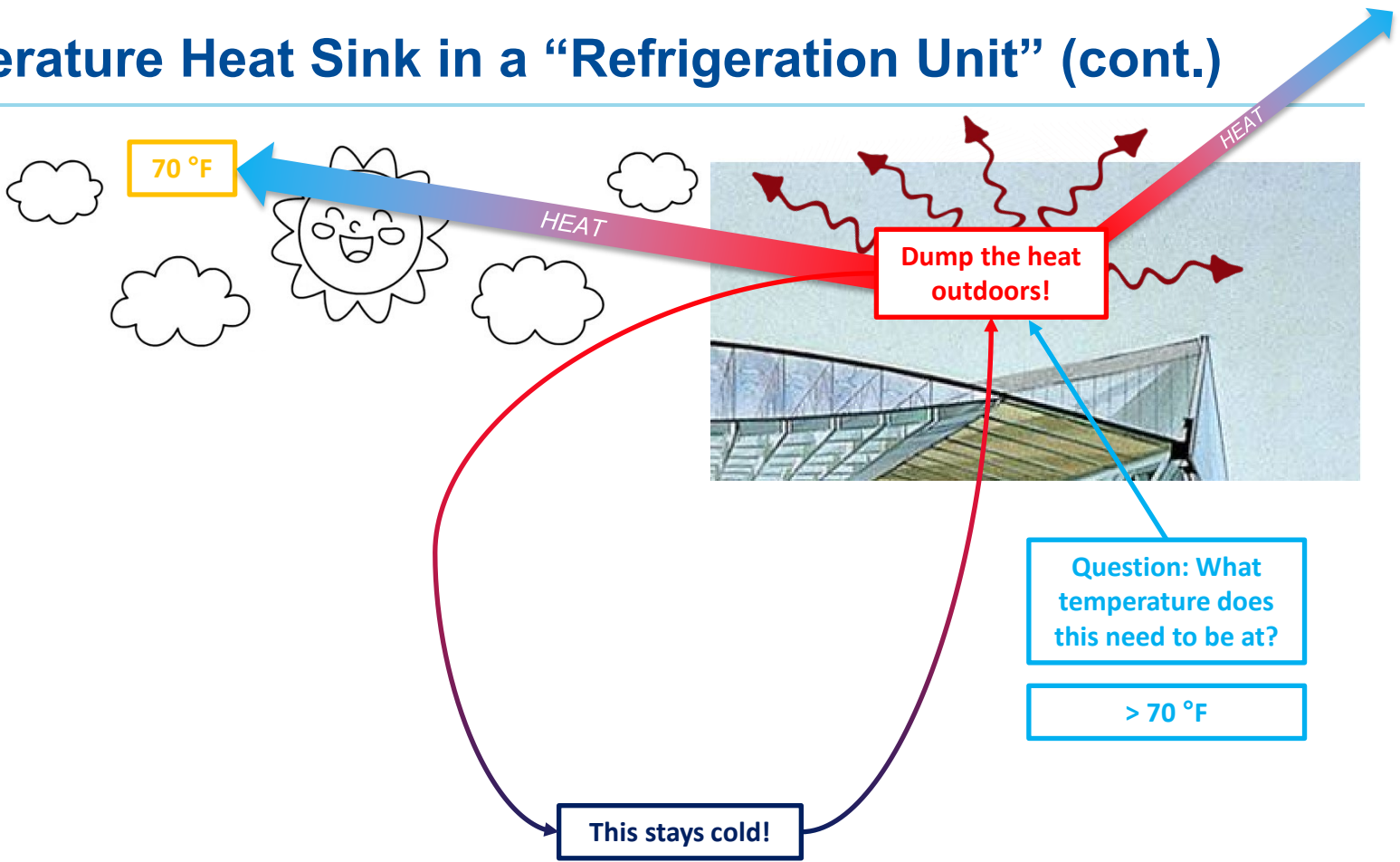
# High Temperature Heat Sink in a “Refrigeration Unit” (cont.)



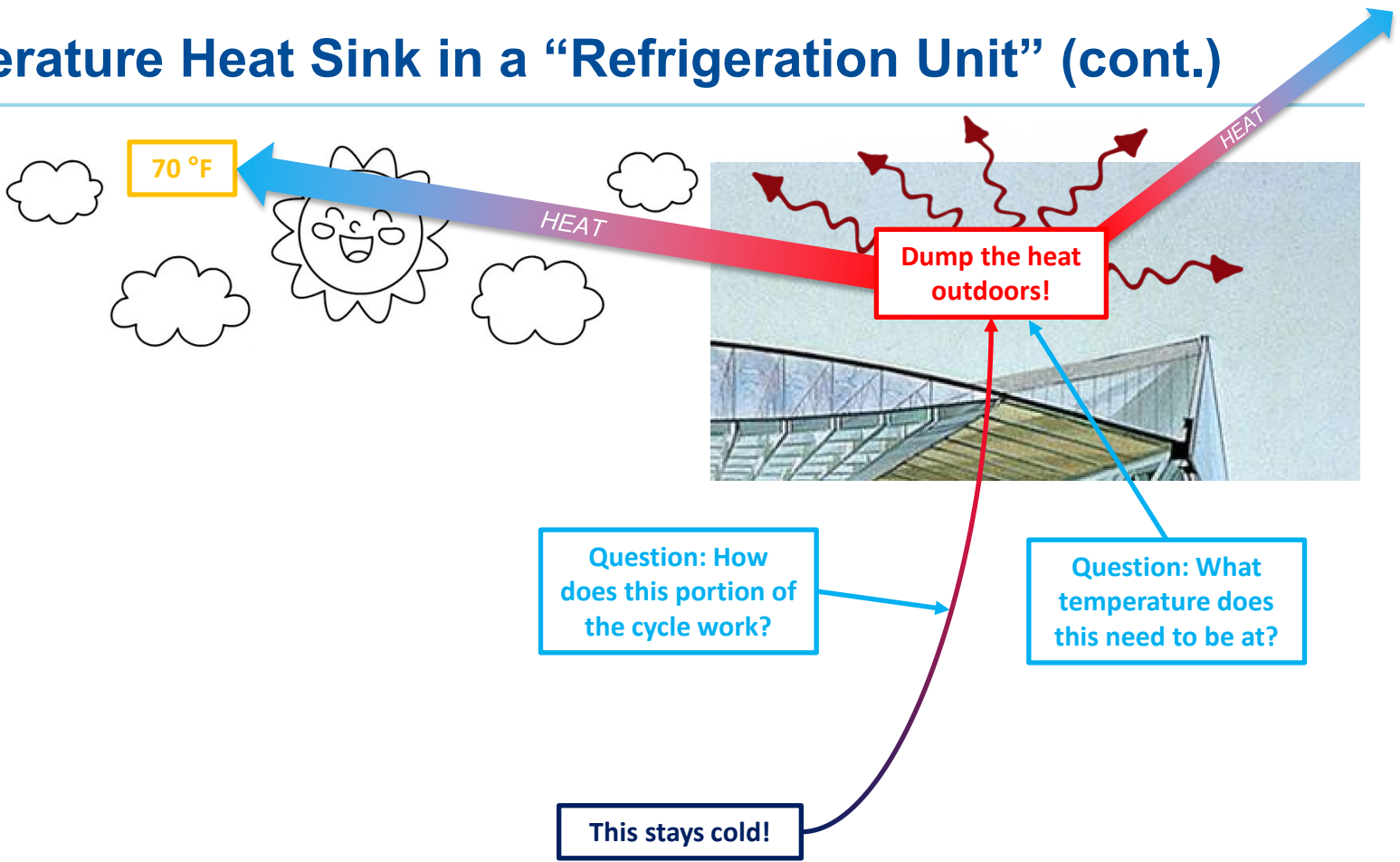
# High Temperature Heat Sink in a “Refrigeration Unit” (cont.)



# High Temperature Heat Sink in a “Refrigeration Unit” (cont.)



# High Temperature Heat Sink in a “Refrigeration Unit” (cont.)



# Gas Compression



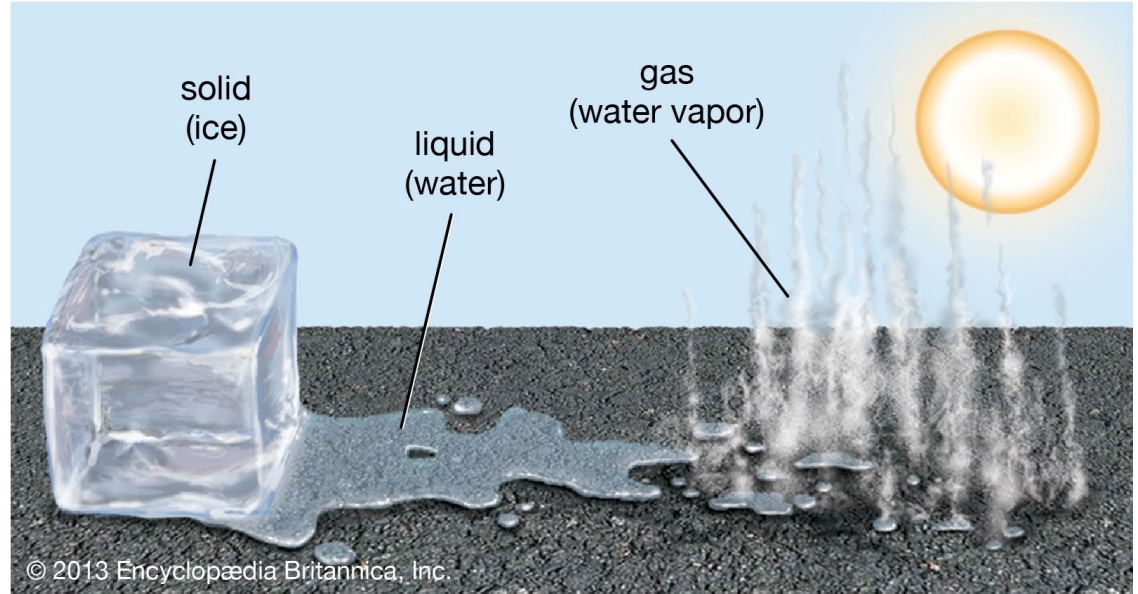
We will discuss this further in a little bit...

Cold temperature gas

Warm temperature gas

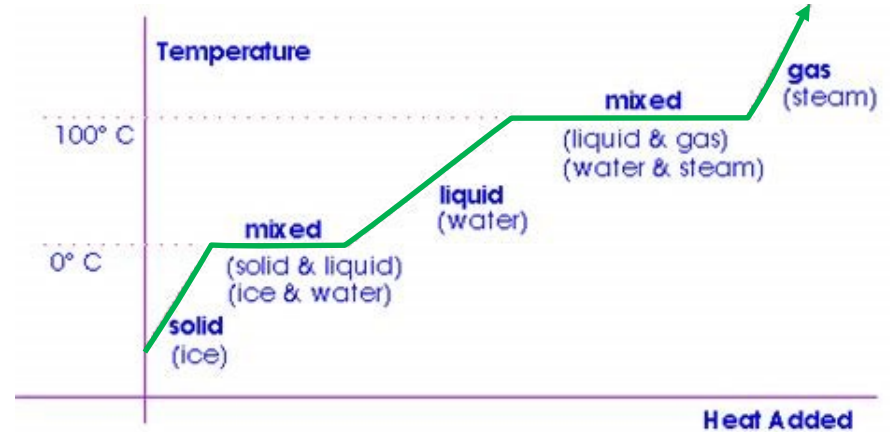
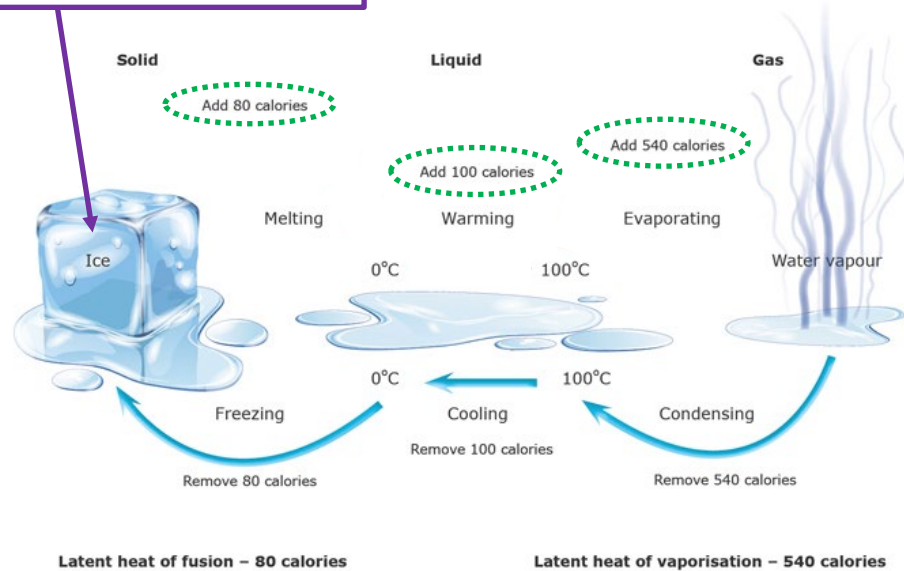
# How Much Energy is Required to Freeze Ice?

- We first observe three states of water:
  - Solid
  - Liquid
  - Gas
- The energy required to convert between these states is well studied.



# Changing States of Water and How Much Energy is Required

Assume weight = 1 gram



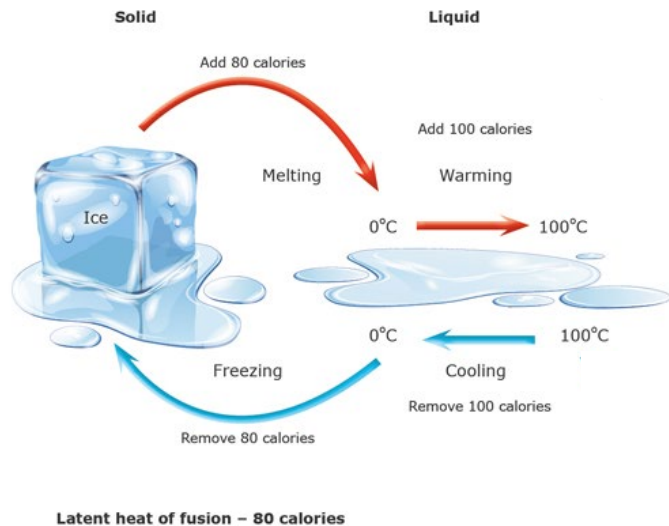
Source: <https://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~cfadd/1360/20Heat/Latent.html>

# What is a Calorie?



Nutrition Facts		Amount/serving	% Daily Value*	Amount/serving	% Daily Value*
<b>Total Fat</b>		4g	5%	<b>Total Carbohydrate</b>	10g 4%
Saturated Fat		1.5g	8%	Dietary Fiber	0g 0%
Trans Fat		0g		Total Sugars	9g
<b>Cholesterol</b>		0mg	0%	Includes 8g Added Sugars 16%	
<b>Sodium</b>		40mg	2%	<b>Protein</b>	1g
<b>Calories per serving</b>		<b>80</b>			
6 servings per container		Vitamin D 0mcg 0% • Calcium 0mg 0% • Iron 0mg 0% • Potassium 0mg 0%			
Serving size 1 bar (17g)		*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.			

1 Calorie = 1 kcal

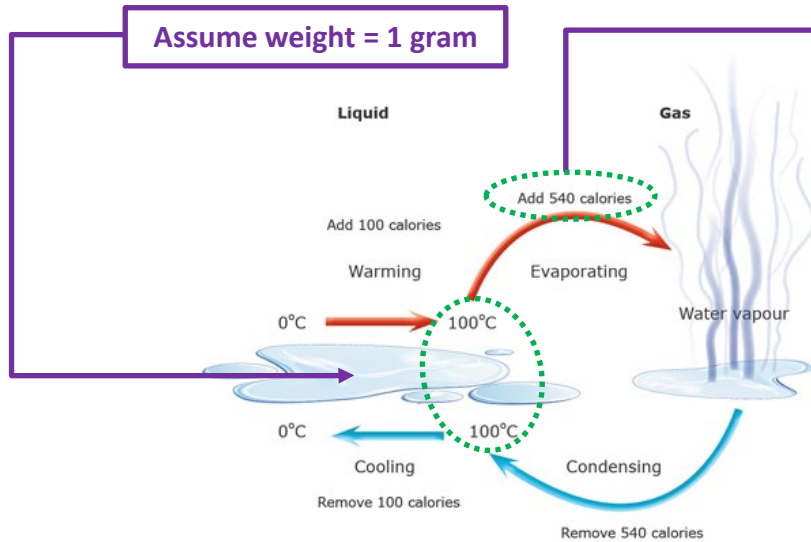


## Conversion of KiloCalories into Other Units

From Kilocalories (kcal)	To Unit	Conversion Factor
1 kcal	calories (cal)	1 kcal = 1,000 cal
1 kcal	Kilojoules (kJ)	1 kcal ≈ 4.184 kJ
1 kcal	Watt-hours (Wh)	1 kcal ≈ 0.001162 Wh
1 kcal	British Thermal Units (BTU)	1 kcal ≈ 3.965 BTU
1 kcal	Electronvolts (eV)	1 kcal ≈ 2.613 x 10 <sup>22</sup> eV

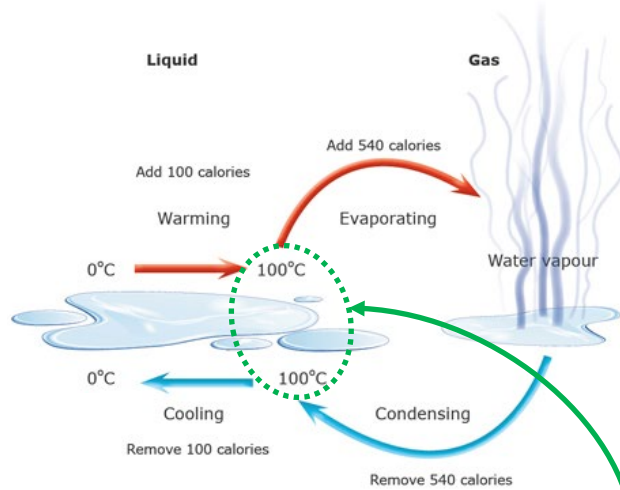
Ex Examples.com

# What is a Calorie (cont.)?

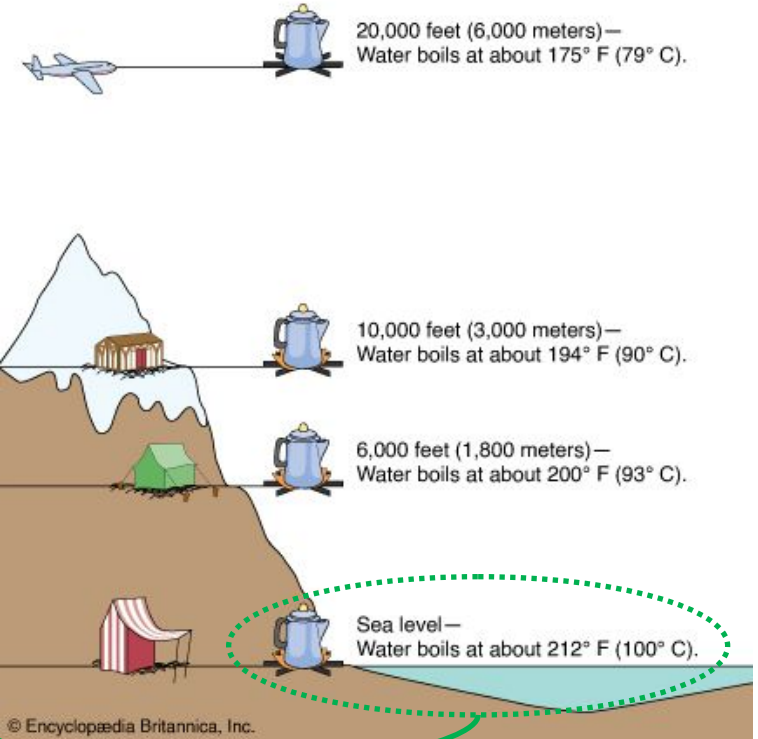


540 cal to boil one gram of water is roughly the same amount of energy change which happens when you walk up one flight of stairs!

# The Boiling Temperature of Water

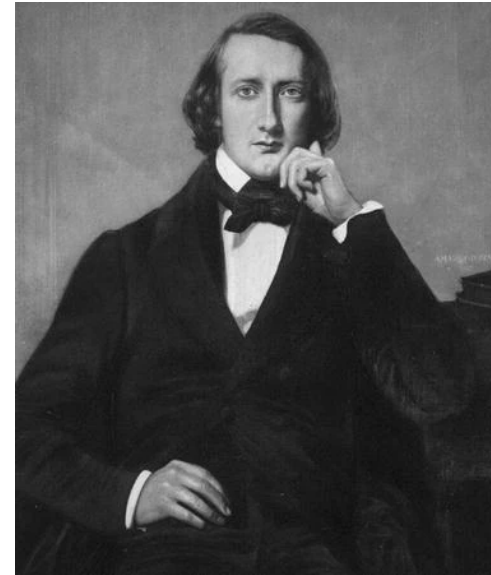
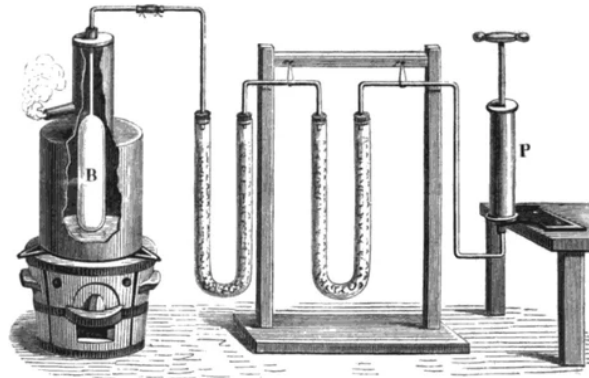
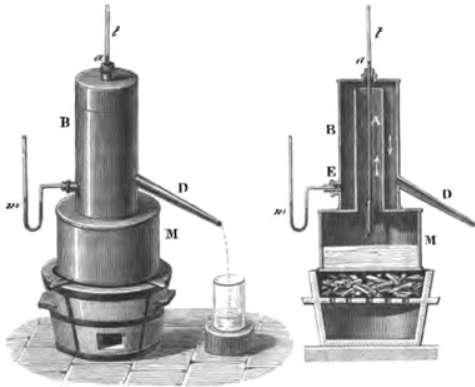
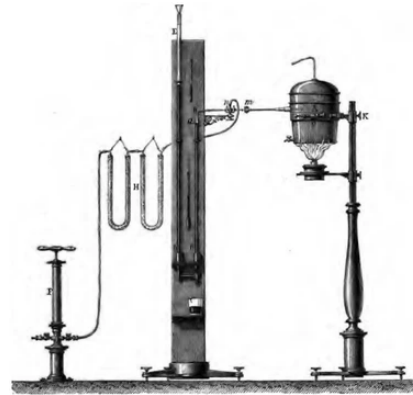


## Atmospheric pressure alters the boiling point of water



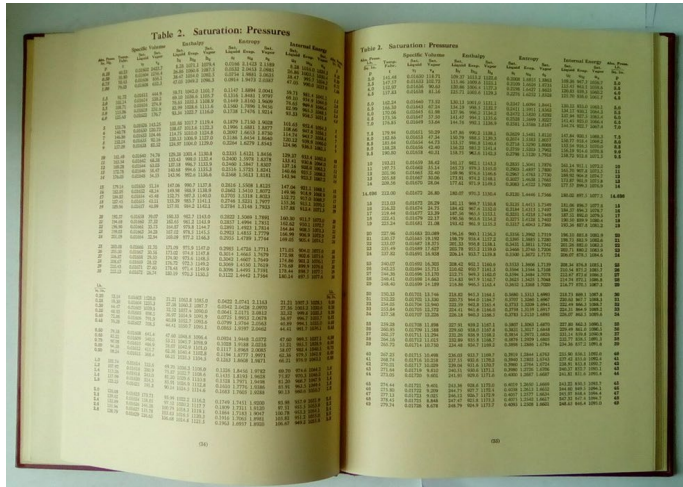
# Critical Figures in Thermodynamics

- Scientists such as Henri Victor Regnault (1810-1878) spent their lifetime studying the properties of water, amongst other things.



# Critical Figures in Thermodynamics, cont.

- Others such as Joseph H. Keenan and Frederick G. Keyes compiled this data into books known as “steam tables.”

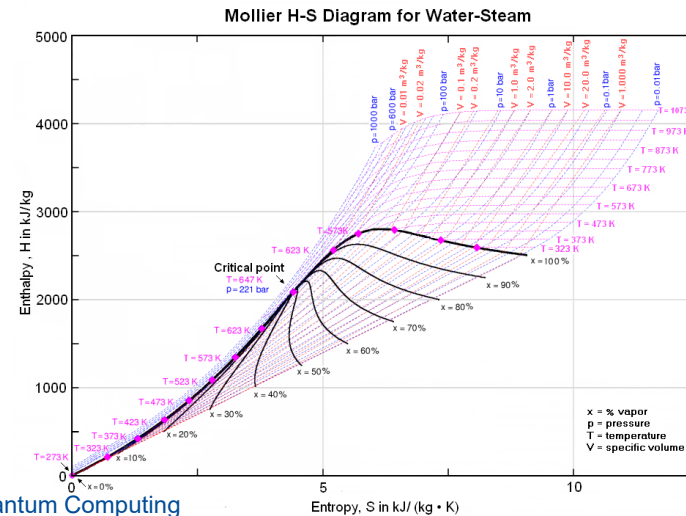


# Critical Figures in Thermodynamics, cont.

- Others such as Joseph H. Keenan and Frederick G. Keyes compiled this data into books known as “steam tables.”
- The data of these “steam tables” is also available graphically thanks to the work of people such as Richard Mollier (1863-1935).

Table 2. Saturation: Pressures

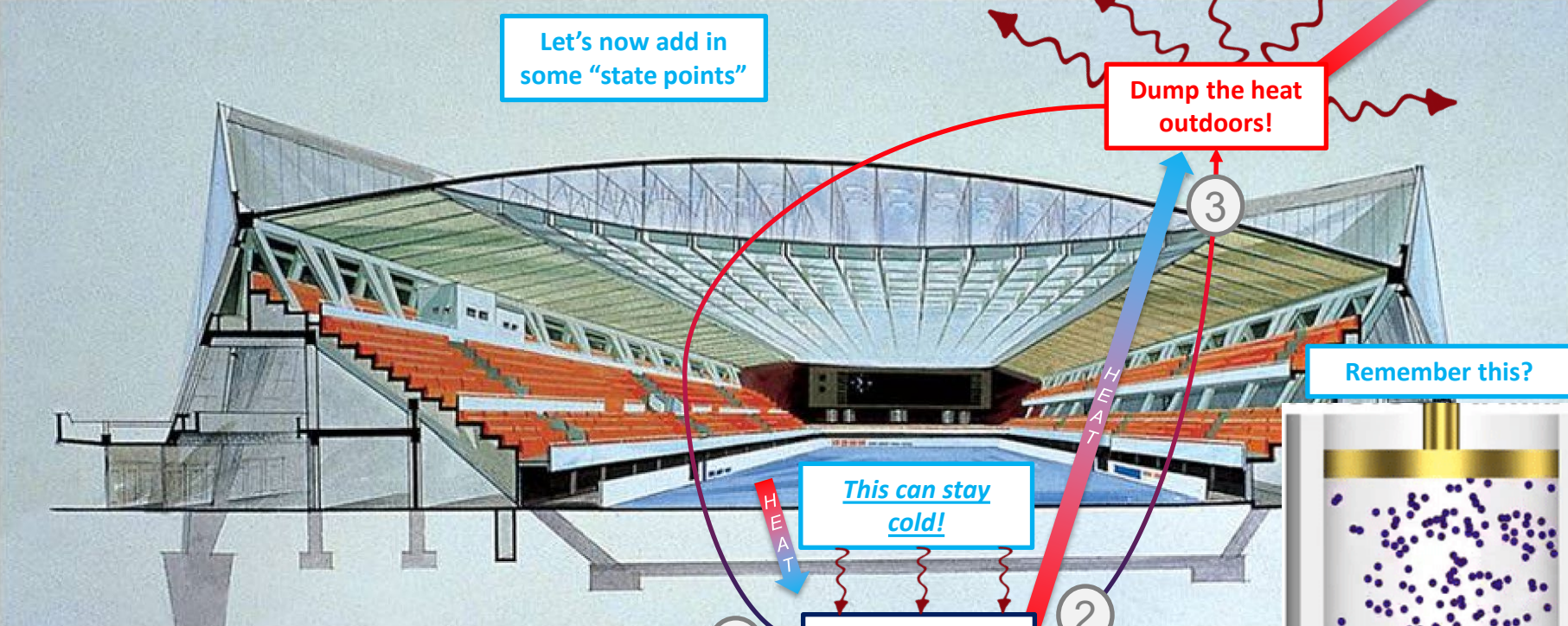
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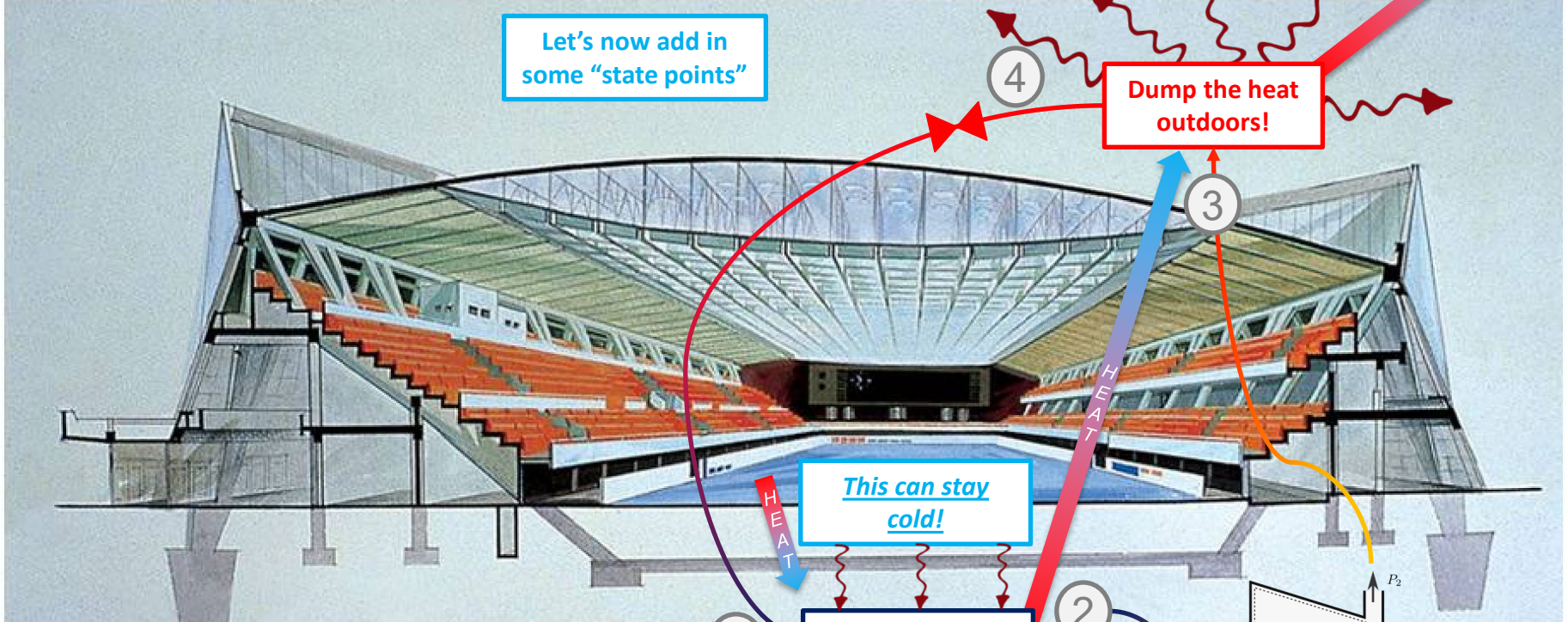
# Ice Rink Revisited



# Ice Rink Revisited, cont.

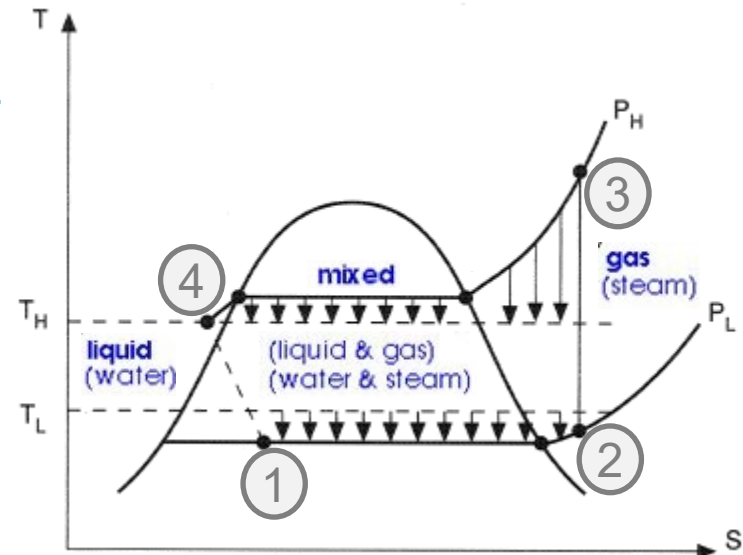
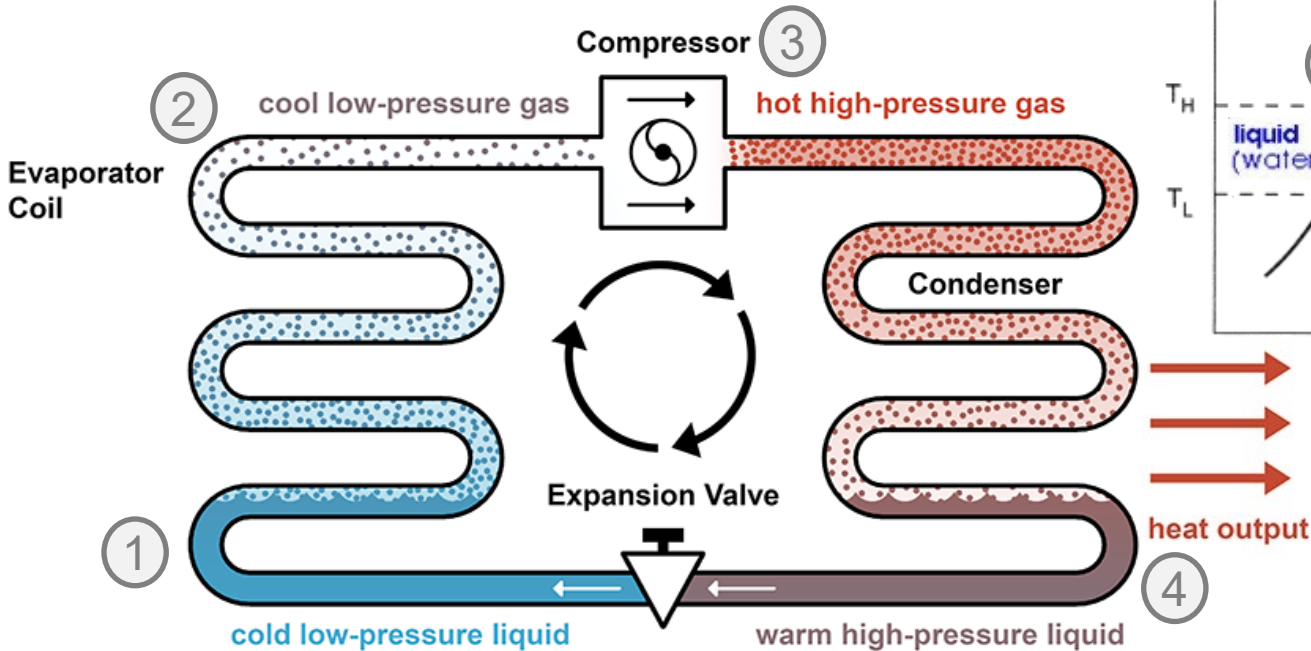


# Ice Rink Revisited, cont.



# Ice Rink Revisited, cont.

## The Vapor-Compression Refrigeration Cycle



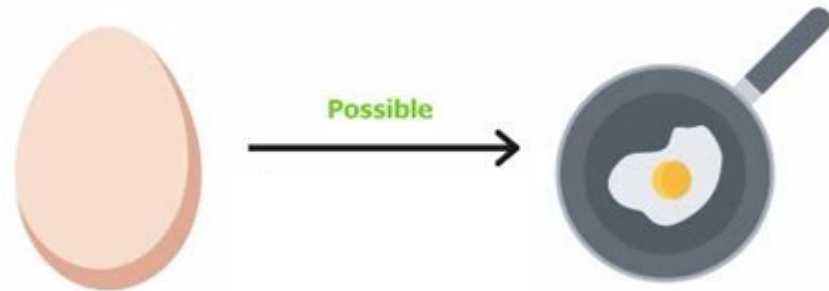
# Other Key Concepts in Thermodynamics

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- Reversibility and irreversibility
- Open and closed systems

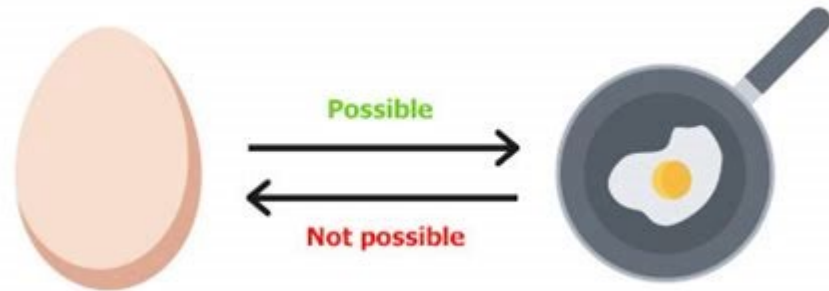
# Reversibility and Irreversibility

- Reversibility: A theoretical process in which the state of a system is changed in a series of infinitesimally small steps while the system maintains equilibrium with its surroundings during every step.
  - At every step, the changes can be “undone” to restore the system to its prior state.
- In other words, a reversible process is one where a system’s final state can be reversed to its initial state without leaving any trace on the surroundings.
- In the context of refrigeration/cryogenics, a reversible process
  - consumes the least amount of mechanical power (work) for compression
  - produces maximum mechanical power (work) during expansion



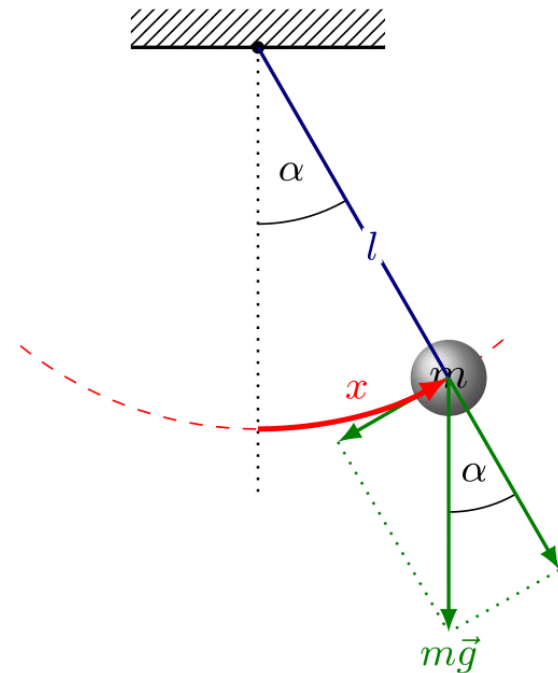
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# Reversibility and Irreversibility

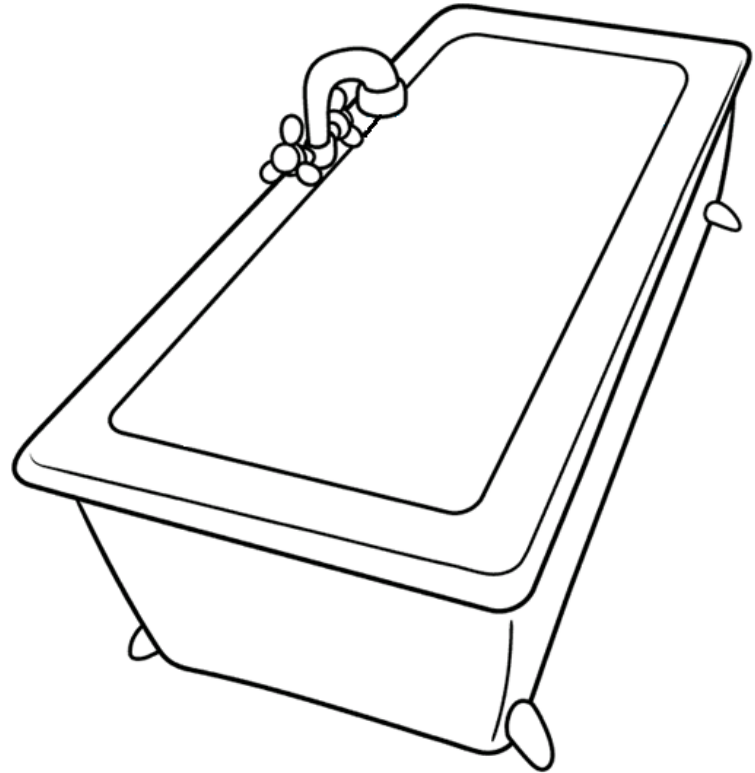
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# Open System vs. Closed System

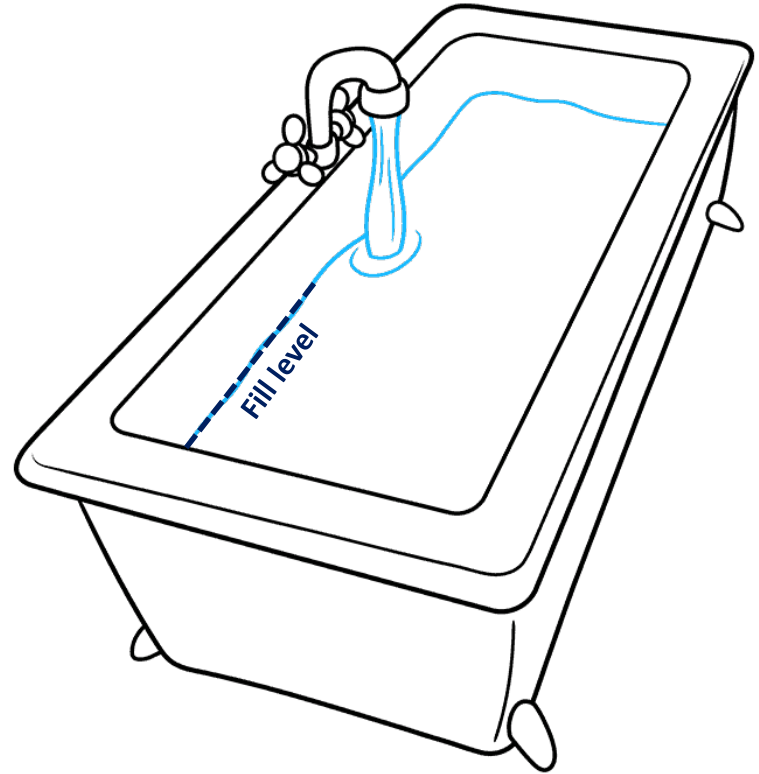
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- Let's pretend we have an empty bathtub.



# Open System vs. Closed System (cont.)

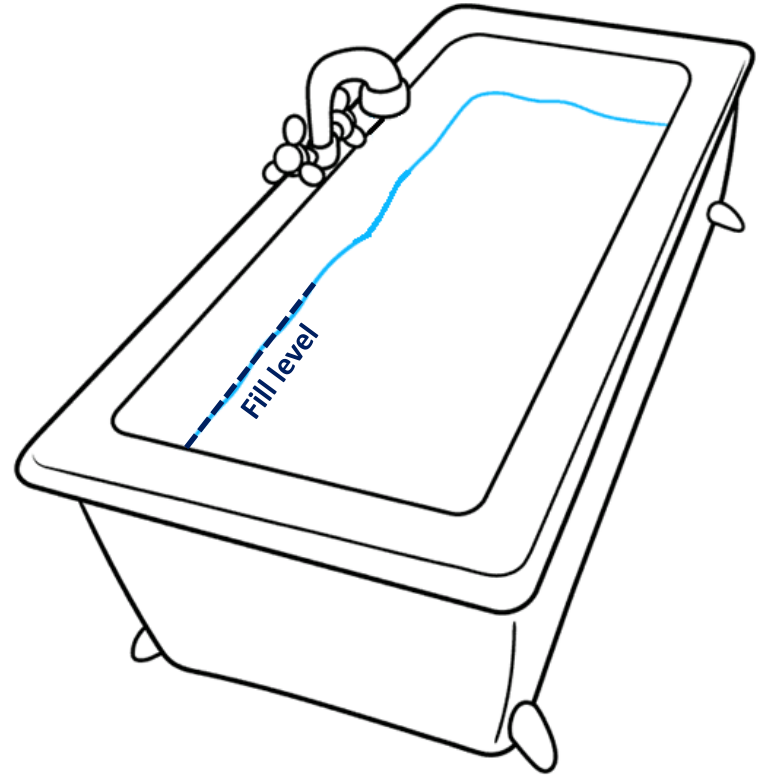
- We're now going to fill it up to some predetermined level.



# Closed System

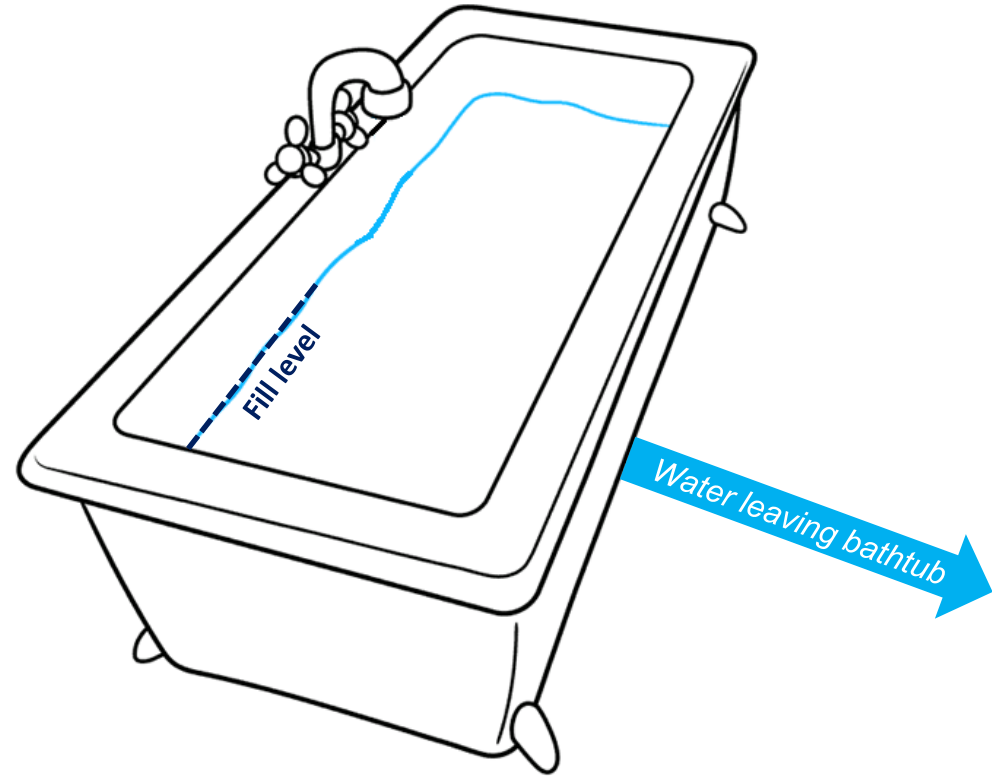
- We now shut off the water.

**Closed system:  
Water level stays the  
same because no  
water enters or exits  
bathtub!**



# Open System

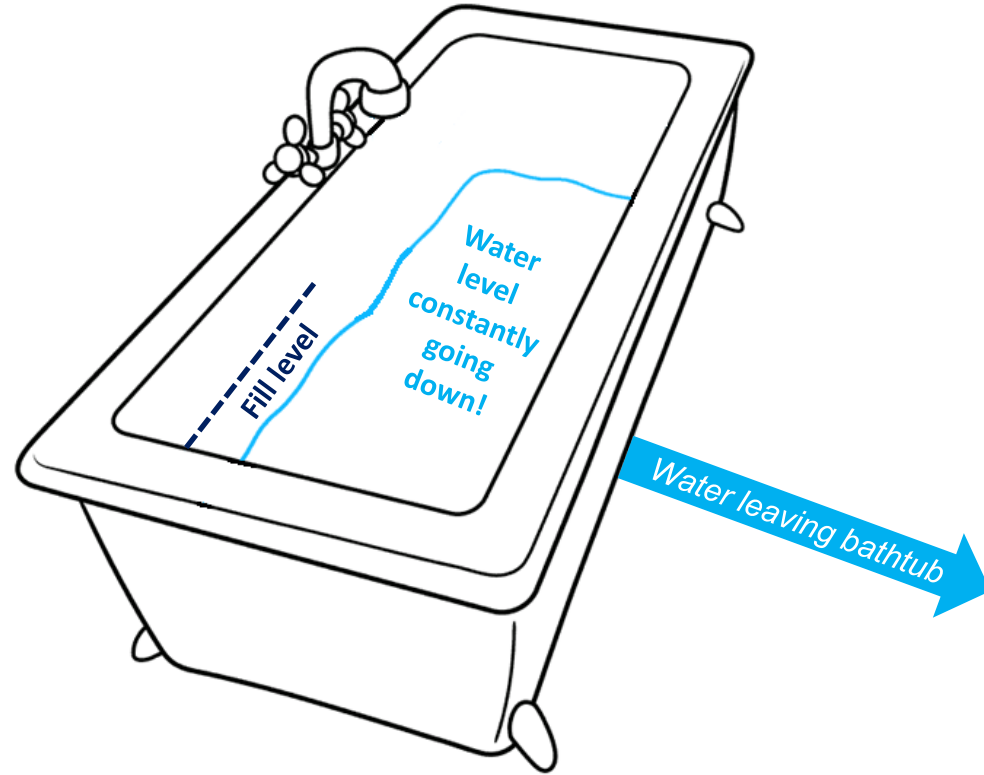
- Let's open the drain valve.



# Open System (cont.)

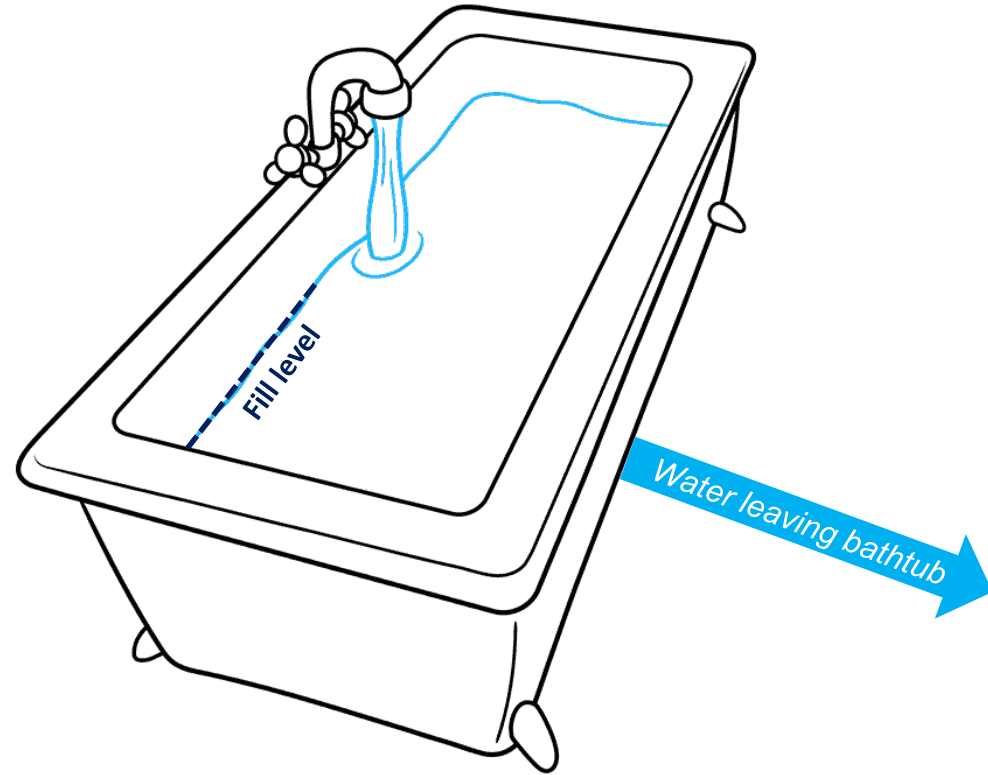
- Drain valve open.

**Open system:  
Water always  
leaving bathtub!**



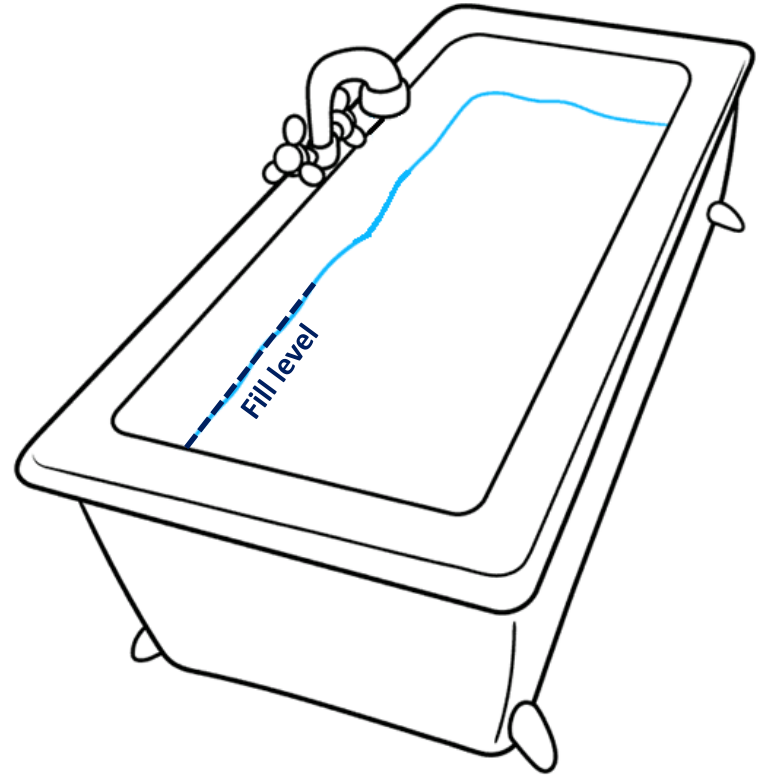
# Open System vs. Closed System (cont.)

- Let's fill the bathtub back to the previous level!



# Open System vs. Closed System (cont.)

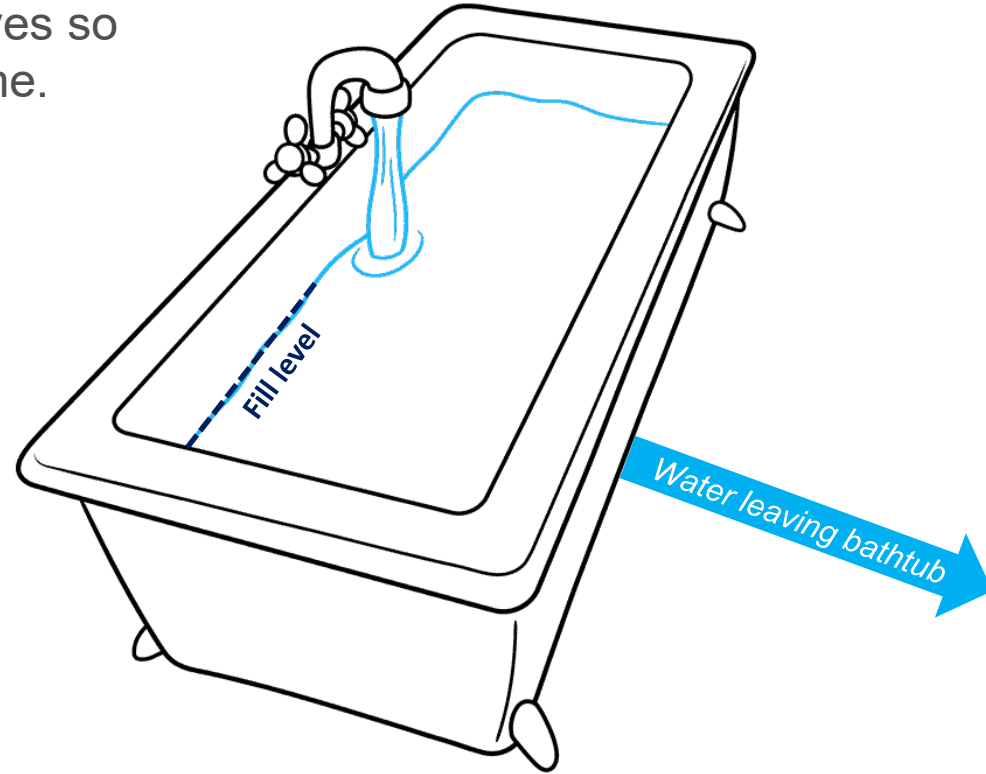
- Once at the fill level, let's shut off the water supply.



# Open System vs. Closed System (cont.)

- Now, let's open both fill and drain valves so that the flow rates are exactly the same.
- What kind of system is this?

**Open system:  
Water always  
entering and leaving  
bathtub!**



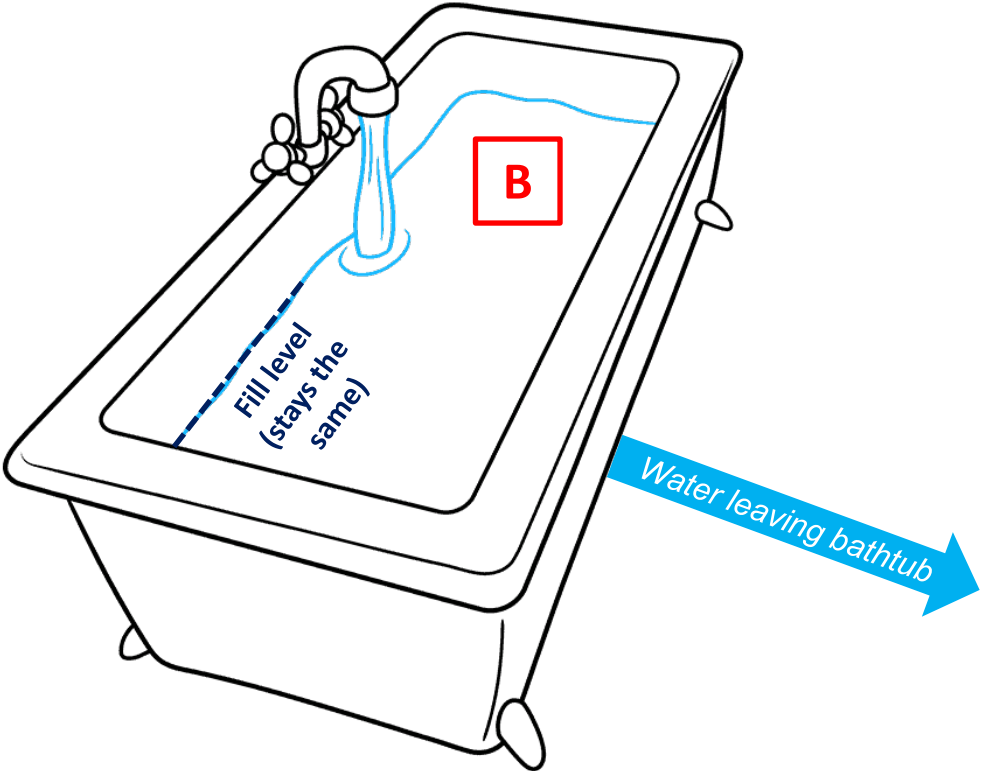
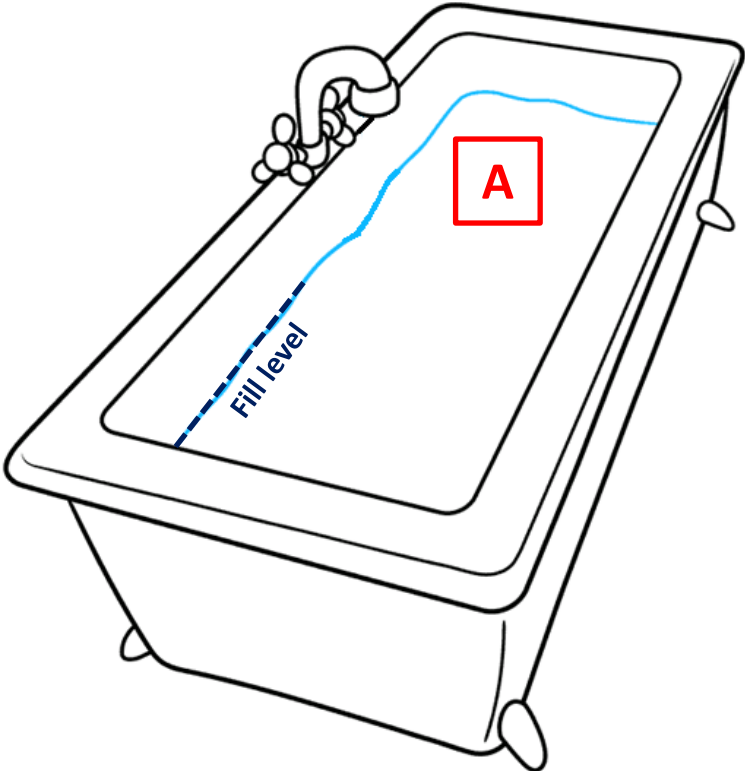
# Open System vs. Closed System (cont.)

- Another example: Let's say we installed a fountain in the bathtub.
  - All of the water stays within the bathtub; no splashing
- What kind of system is this?

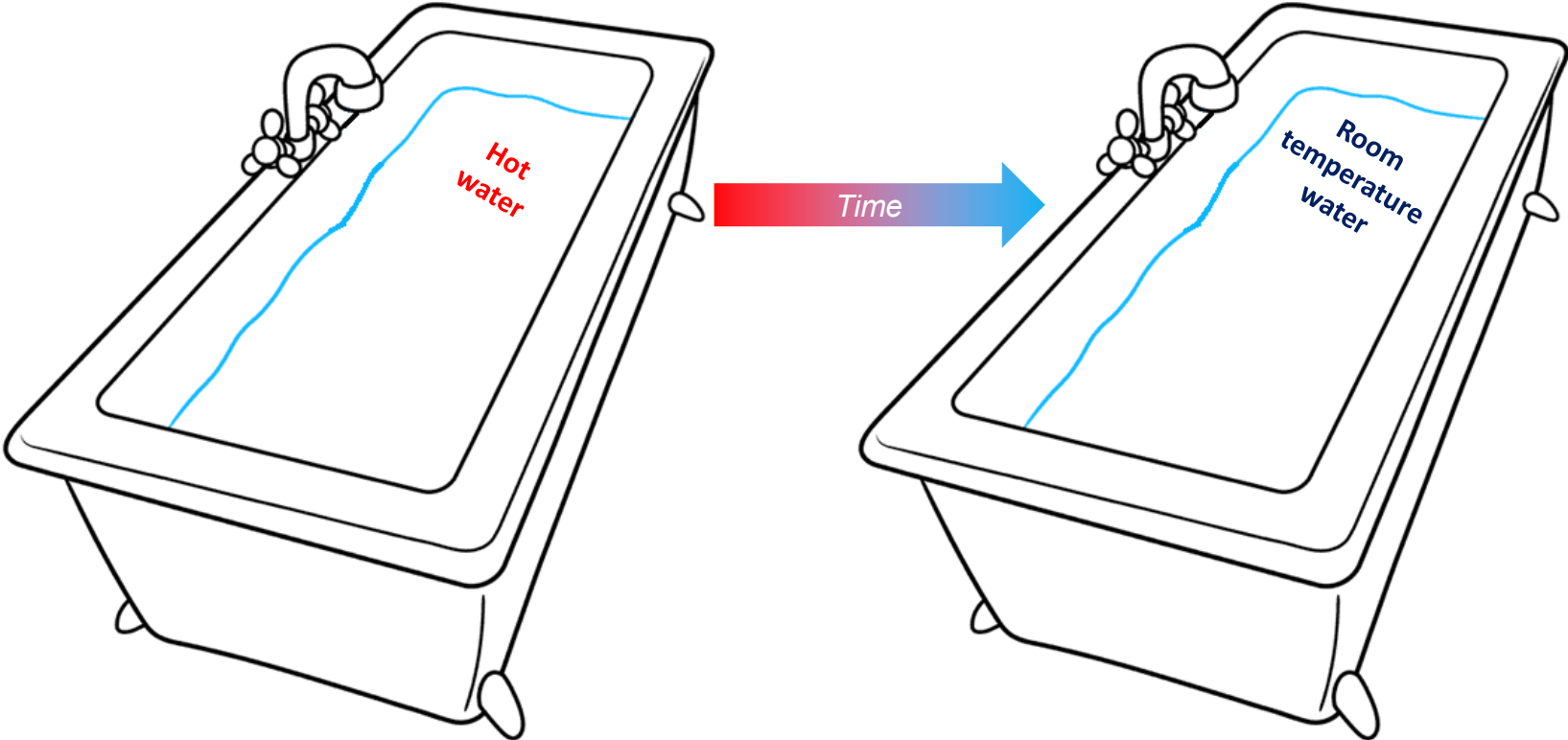
**Closed system:  
Water does not ever  
leave the bathtub!**



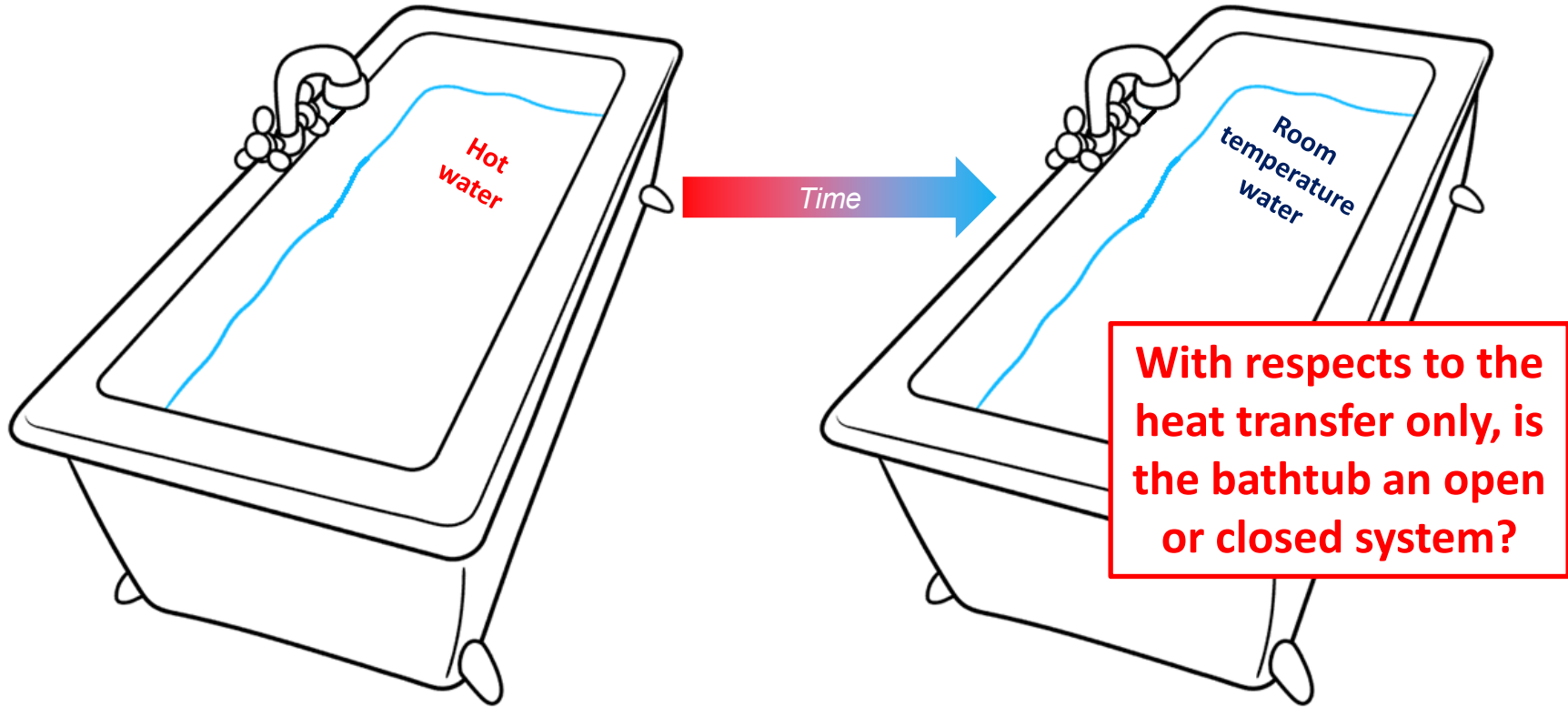
# Which System is Better at Conserving Water?



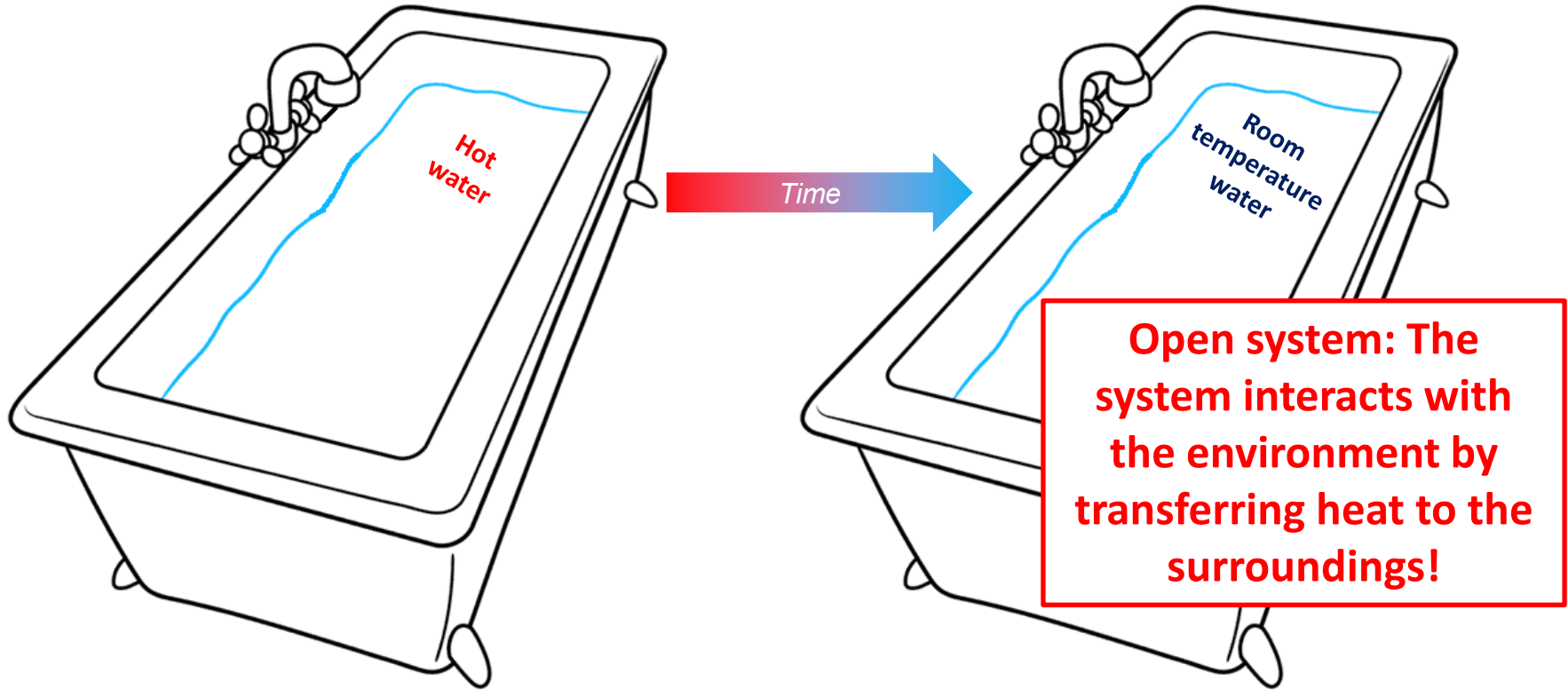
# Heat is Being Transferred Too!



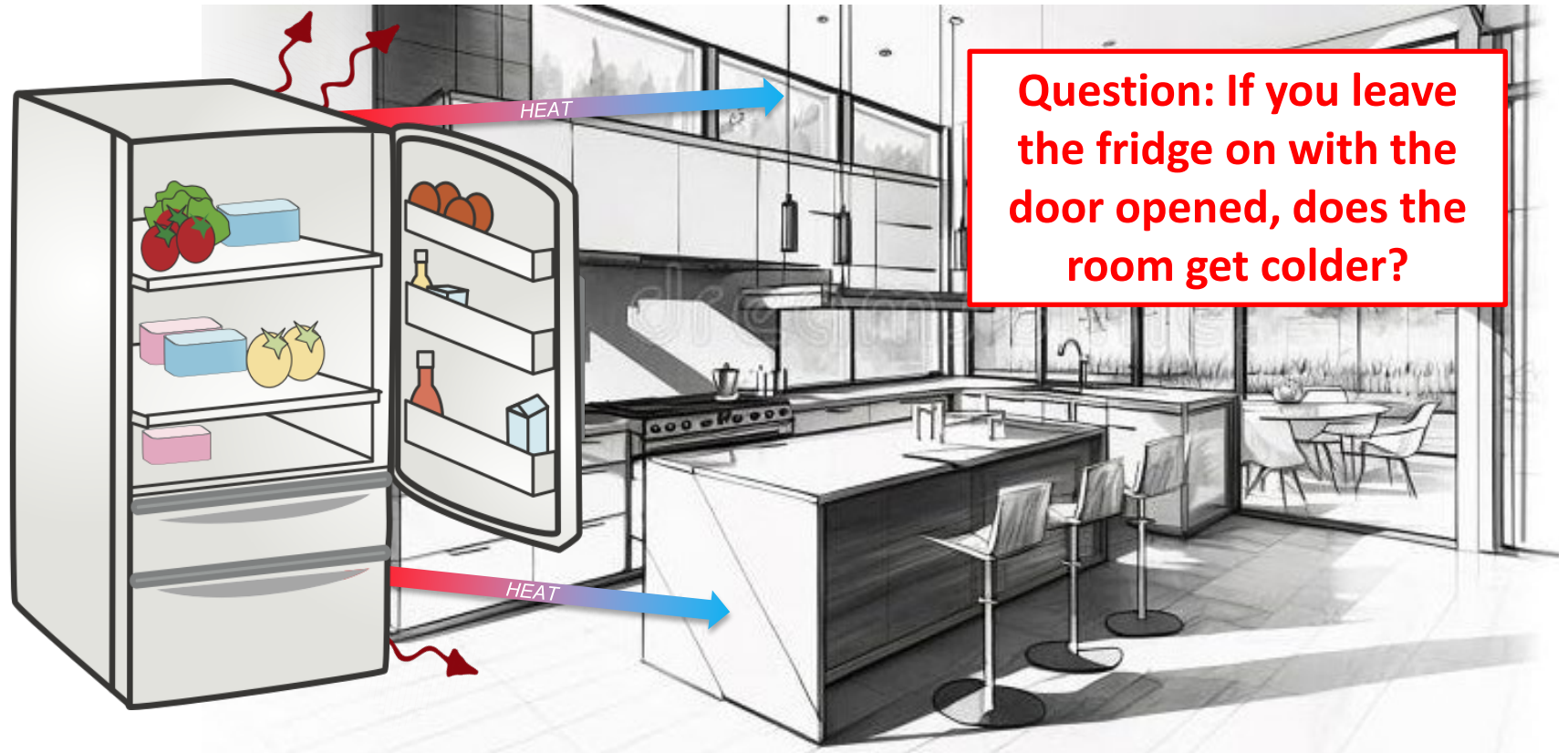
# Heat is Being Transferred Too (cont.)!



# Heat is Being Transferred Too (cont.)!

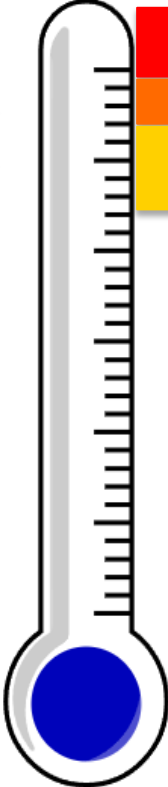


# Trick Question



# What Is Cryogenics?

At atmospheric pressure



Boiling water

Room temperature

Water becomes solid (freezing)



Boiling water: 212 °F



Room temperature: 68 °F

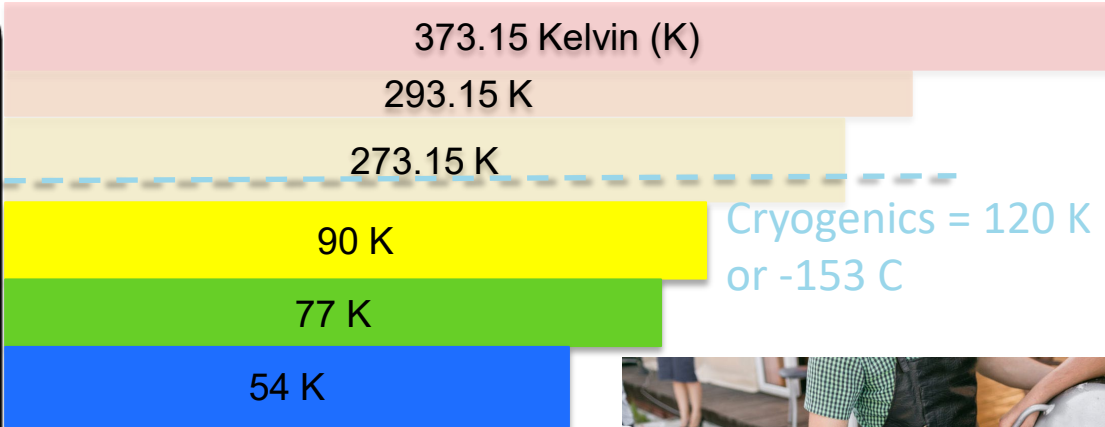


Water becomes solid (freezing): 32 °F

# What Is Cryogenics?

At atmospheric pressure

- Boiling water
- Room temperature
- Water becomes solid (freezing)
- Oxygen becomes liquid
- Nitrogen becomes liquid
- Oxygen becomes Solid



Oxygen becomes liquid: -297.33 °F



Oxygen becomes solid: -361.82 °F

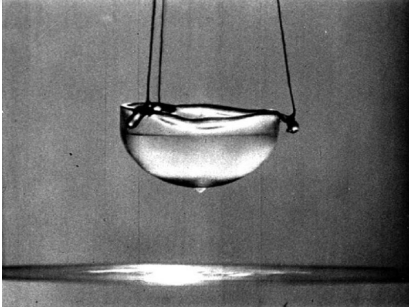
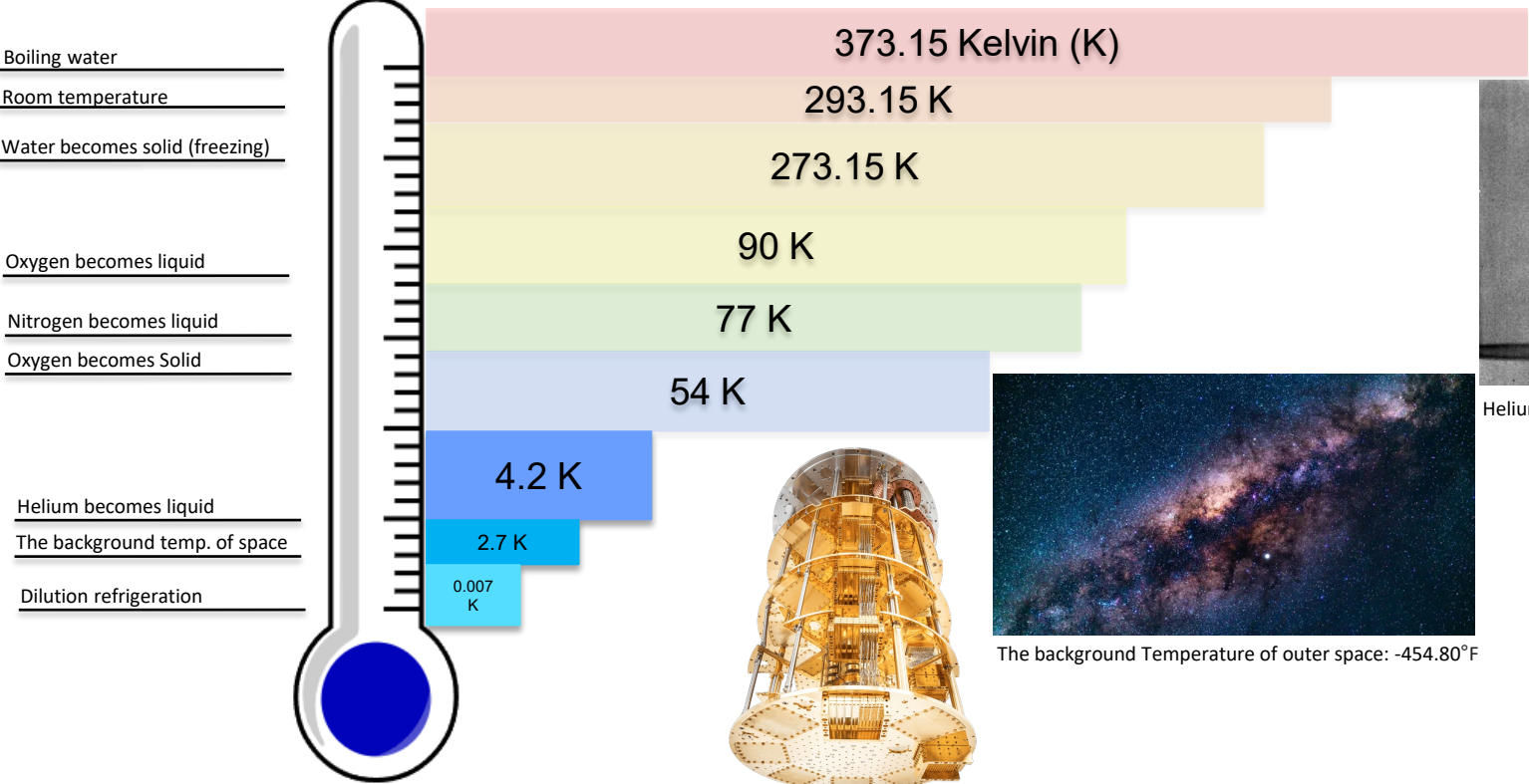


Nitrogen becomes liquid: -320 °F

Image sources: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liquid\_oxygen, food-contact-surfaces.com/2018/09/perils-of-liquid-nitrogen-in-food/, assignmentpoint.com/solid-oxygen

# What Is Cryogenics?

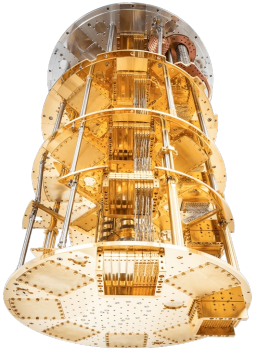
At atmospheric pressure



Helium becomes liquid:  $-452.20^{\circ}\text{F}$



The background Temperature of outer space:  $-454.80^{\circ}\text{F}$

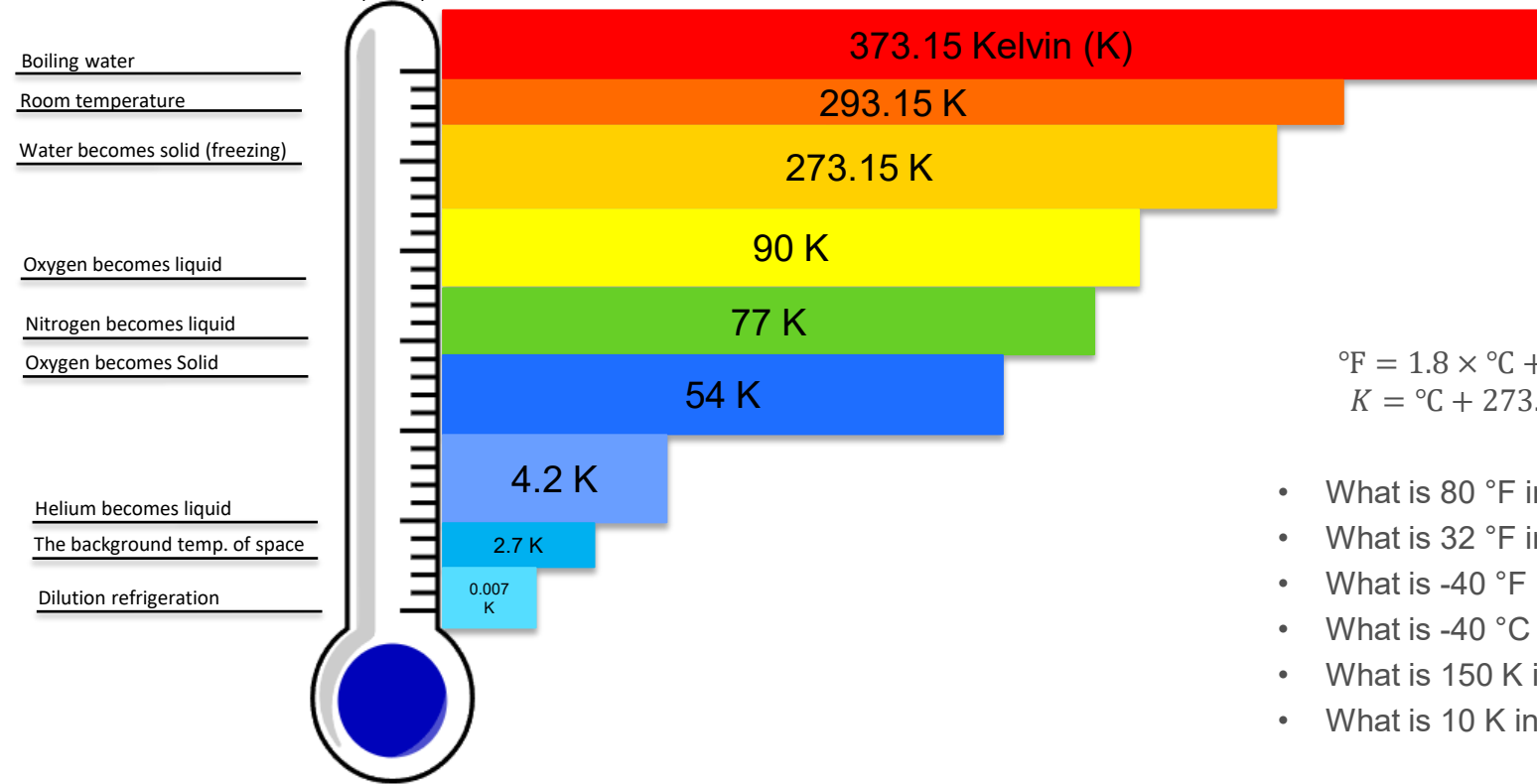


Dilution refrigeration:  $< -459.658^{\circ}\text{F}$



# What Is Cryogenics?

At atmospheric pressure



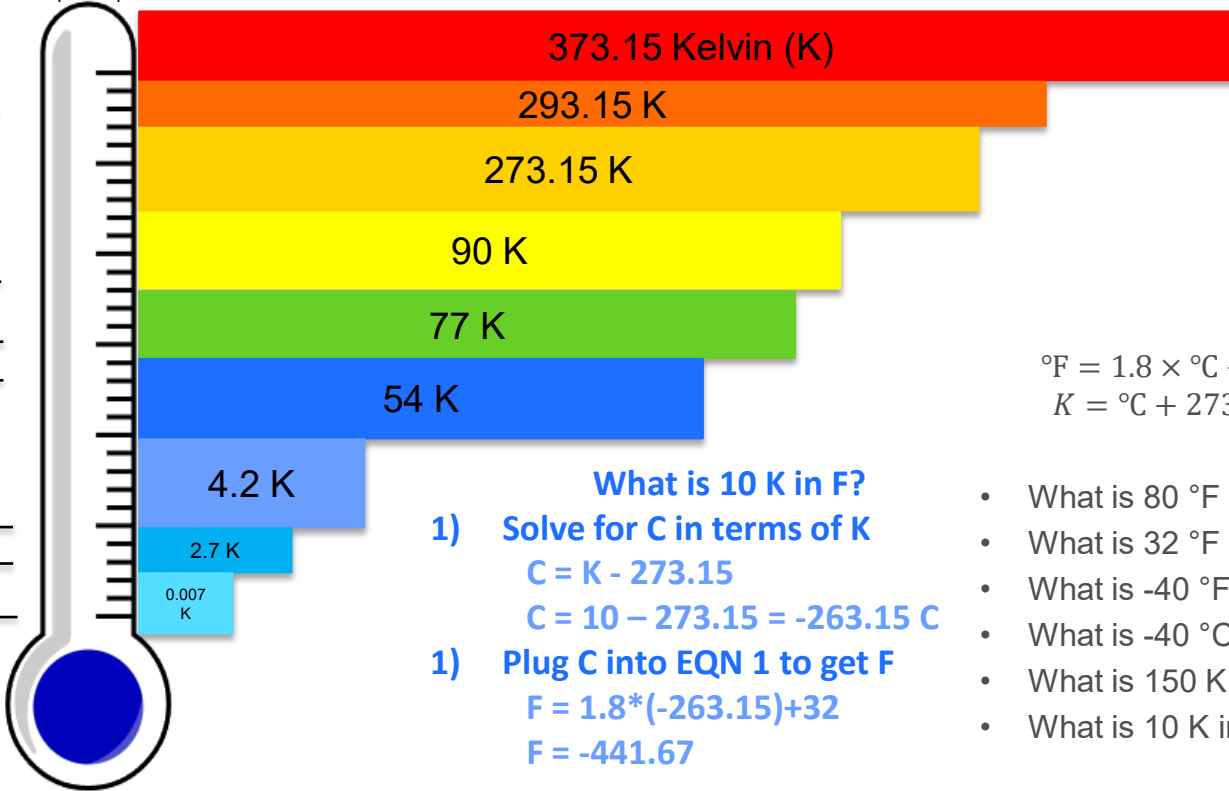
$$^{\circ}\text{F} = 1.8 \times ^{\circ}\text{C} + 32$$
$$\text{K} = ^{\circ}\text{C} + 273.15$$

- What is 80 °F in °C?
- What is 32 °F in °C?
- What is -40 °F in °C?
- What is -40 °C in K?
- What is 150 K in °F?
- What is 10 K in °F?

# What Is Cryogenics?

At atmospheric pressure

Boiling water  
Room temperature  
Water becomes solid (freezing)  
Oxygen becomes liquid  
Nitrogen becomes liquid  
Oxygen becomes Solid  
Helium becomes liquid  
The background temp. of space  
Dilution refrigeration



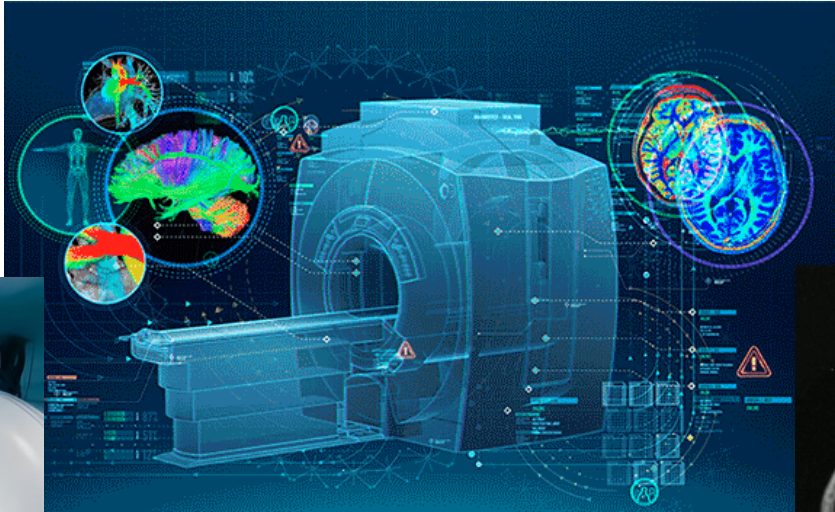
$$^{\circ}\text{F} = 1.8 \times ^{\circ}\text{C} + 32$$
$$\text{K} = ^{\circ}\text{C} + 273.15$$

What is 10 K in F?

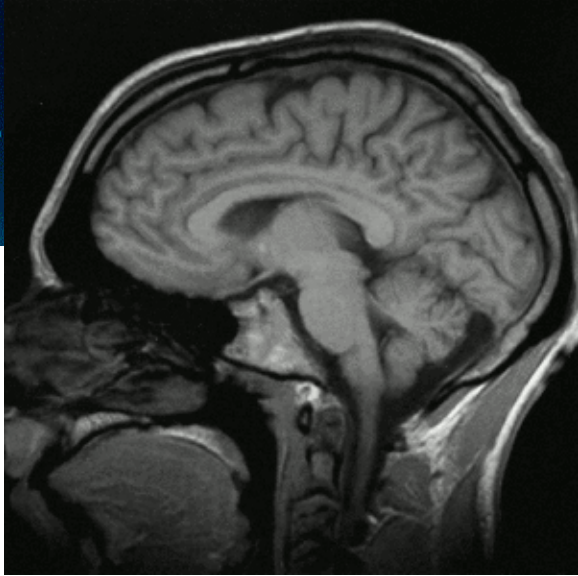
- 1) Solve for C in terms of K  
 $C = K - 273.15$   
 $C = 10 - 273.15 = -263.15 \text{ C}$
- 1) Plug C into EQN 1 to get F  
 $F = 1.8 * (-263.15) + 32$   
 $F = -441.67$

- What is 80 °F in °C? **Ans: 26.67 C**
- What is 32 °F in °C? **Ans: 0 C**
- What is -40 °F in °C? **Ans: -40 C**
- What is -40 °C in K? **Ans: 233.15 K**
- What is 150 K in °F? **Ans: -189.67 F**
- What is 10 K in °F? **Ans: -441.67 F**

# Why is Cryogenics Important?



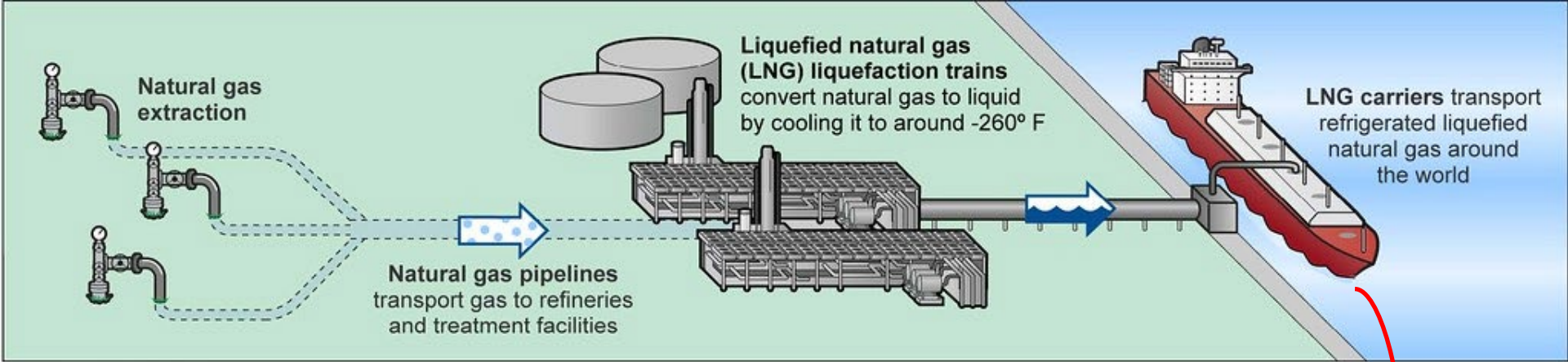
**MRI machines**



# Why is Cryogenics Important (cont.)?



# Why is Cryogenics Important (cont.)?

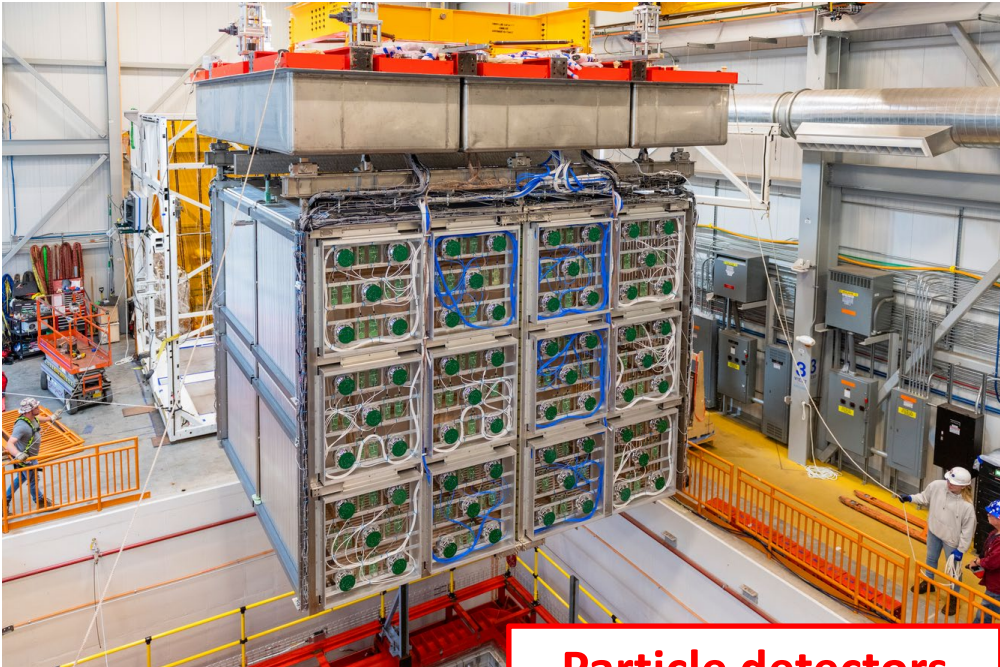


Source: GAO. | GAO-16-104



**Liquefied Natural Gas: Can be shipped all over the world!**

# Why is Cryogenics Important (cont.)?



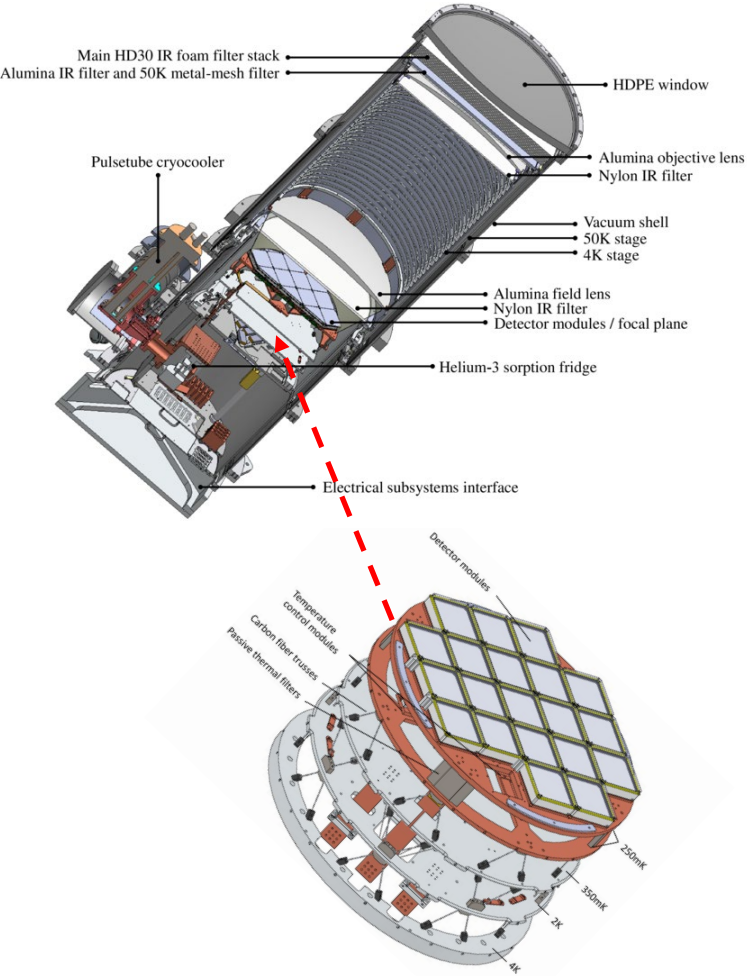
**Particle detectors**



**Particle accelerators**

# Why is Cryogenics Important (cont.)?

Telescopes



# 5-minute break

# Cold History of Chicago, cont.

- In the 1800's, if something needed to be cold:
  1. Workers would spend winters cutting out ice from frozen rivers and lakes in Illinois and Wisconsin, for example.
  2. Ice would be transported in big blocks to “storehouses” to be sold throughout the year.
    - Shown to the right is such a storehouse in Blue Island, Illinois.



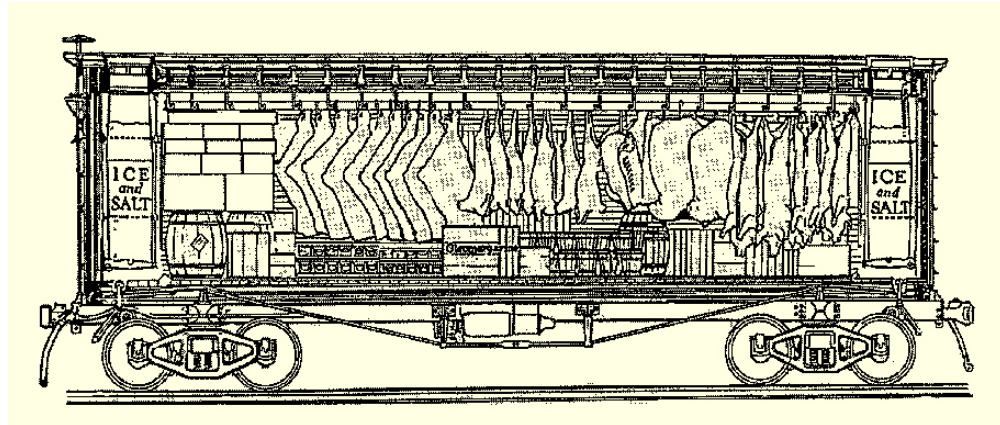
# Cold History of Chicago, cont.

- In the 1800's, if something needed to be cold:
  1. Workers would spend winters cutting out ice from frozen rivers and lakes in Illinois and Wisconsin, for example.
  2. Ice would be transported in big blocks to “storehouses” to be sold throughout the year.
    - Here's a storehouse in Yorkville, Illinois right on the Fox River.



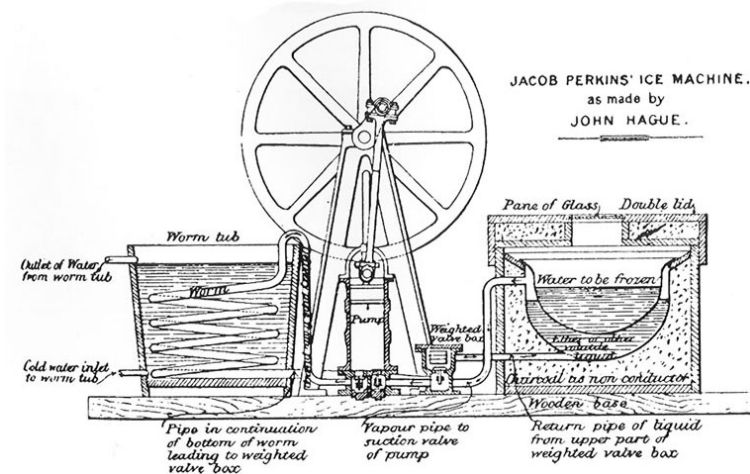
# Cold History of Chicago, cont.

- In the 1800's, if something needed to be cold:
  1. Workers would spend winters cutting out ice from frozen rivers and lakes in Illinois and Wisconsin, for example.
  2. Ice would be transported in big blocks to “storehouses” to be sold throughout the year.
  3. Ice was critical to the success of Chicago’s Union Stockyards, as inventions such as ice-cooled “reefer” railroad cars allowed for already processed meats to be shipped all over the country.



# History of Cryogenics – Early Thermodynamics

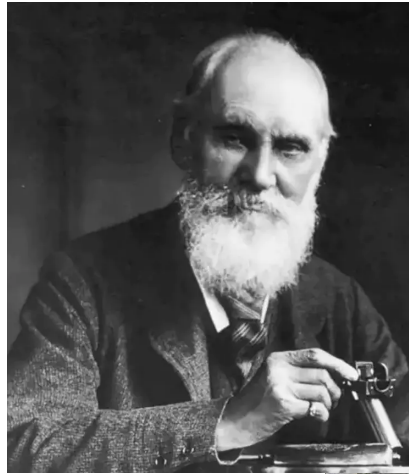
- **1755:** Ice is artificially produced in a lab for the first time by William Cullen
  - Cullen evaporated diethyl ether by creating a partial vacuum around the liquid which absorbed heat
- **1807:** Thomas Young first uses the word ‘energy’ in a scientific context
- **1823:** **Michael Faraday** begins liquefying various non cryogenic gasses using a single shot process
- **1824:** **Sadi Carnot** publishes *Reflections on the Motive Power of Fire*
  - Laid the foundation for modern thermodynamics despite being based on an incorrect theory (caloric theory)



First practical ice making machine from 1834

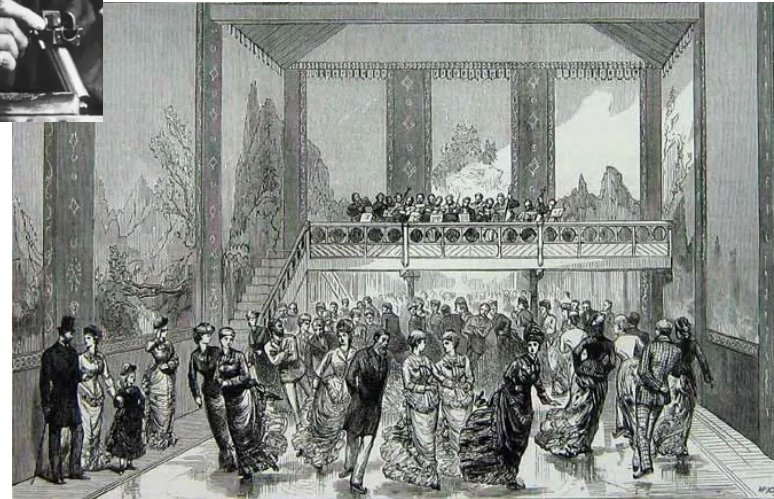
# History of Cryogenics – Early Thermodynamics

- **1829:** Coriolis defines ‘work’ in a scientific context and proposes the kinetic energy formula
- **1840s:** Development of the 1st and 2nd Laws of Thermodynamics
- **1848-1852: Lord Kelvin** recognizes there is an absolute zero and an absolute temperature scale is proposed (Kelvin)
- **1870:** First ice rink by William Newton using ammonia gas and carbonic acid
- **1897:** Rudolf Diesel, a student of **Carl von Linde**, demonstrates his diesel engine.
- **1913:** Introduction of first electric appliance style household refrigerators



William Thomson  
aka Lord Kelvin

1876, Glaciarium in London



# History of Cryogenics – Dawn of Cryogenics

- **1873: James Dewar** invents the use of a vacuum for thermal insulation
  - Namesake for ‘Dewars’, vacuum insulated vessels for storage of cryogenic liquids
- **1877:** Oxygen is first liquified as a mist (90K or -181.5°F) separately by Pictet and Cailletet
- **1883:** Wroblewski and Olszewski are the first to study properties of liquid O<sub>2</sub> and liquid N<sub>2</sub> (dry ice, 77K or -321°F)
- **1898:** Dewar liquifies Hydrogen (20K or -423°F)
- **1894: Kamerlingh Onnes** (University of Leiden) coins the term ‘cryogenic’ in a paper
- **1908:** Onnes liquifies Helium (4.2K or -452°F)
- **1911:** Onnes discovers superconductivity



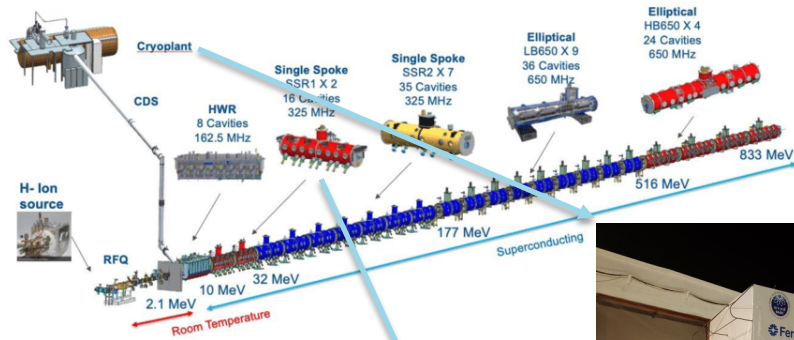
Fig. 1.—CAILLETET'S APPARATUS FOR LIQUEFYING GASES.

Source: *Scientific American*

# History of Cryogenics – Modern Cryogenics

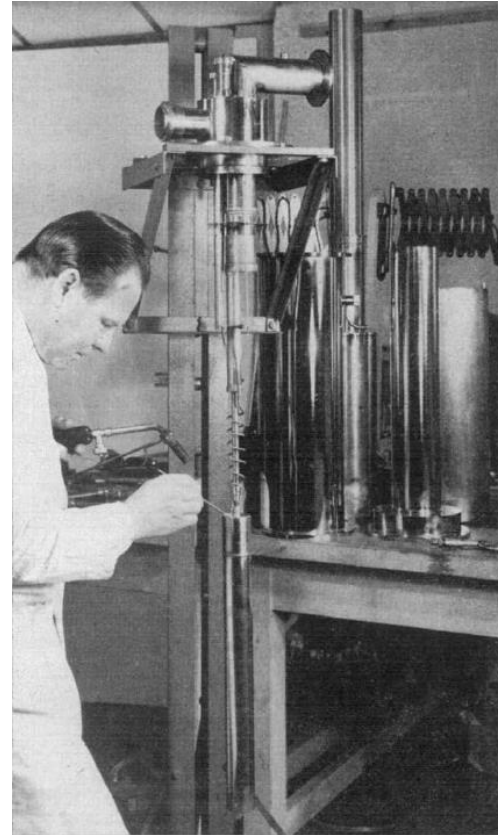
- Large scale cryogenics achieved via cryogenic plants and flooding devices with cryogenic liquids
- Below 1K we must use more obscure methods:
  - **He-3/He-4 mixing (Dilution Refrigerators, popular in Quantum Computing) (~7mK)**
  - Laser Cooling (<1mK, no practical cooling power)
  - Adiabatic Demagnetization Refrigerators (~30mK)
  - Nuclear Demagnetization Refrigerators (<1 $\mu$ K, pK range)
- Coldest temperature ever achieved is 38pK (0.000000000038 K).

**These are temperatures well below that of outer space! (2.7K)**



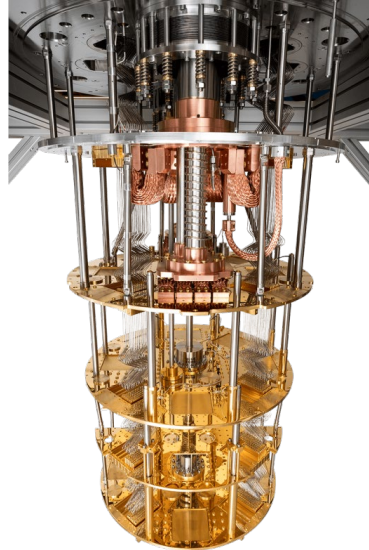
# History of Cryogenics – Dilution Refrigerators

- **1951:** Cooling mechanism for Dilution Refrigerators first proposed by Heinz London (Oxford University)
- **1965:** First DR is built at University of Leiden and reaches 220mK (Das, de Bruyn & Taconis)
- **1966:** DRs reach 80mK (Hall, Ford and Thompson) and 25mK (Neganov, Borisov & Liburg)
- Today DRs can routinely reach below 10mK



# History of Cryogenics – Dilution Refrigerators cont.

- Oxford Instruments (UK) first commercialized DRs in the 1960s
- Other industry players now include Leiden Cryogenics (Netherlands) and Bluefors (Finland)
  - SQMS currently has 8 Bluefors DRs
  - Fermilab also has Leiden, Oxford and CryoConcept DR's
- Growing industry with new startups:
  - Zero Point Cryogenics (Canada)
  - Maybell Quantum (US, new SQMS partner)
- Variety of DRs now available in different sizes and various cooling powers



Bluefors  
XLD1000



Zero Point Cryogenics  
Model I



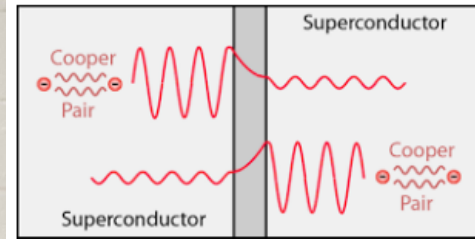
Maybell Quantum  
Big Fridge

# Why Do We Need Cryogenics in Quantum?

- Superconductivity
  - Different materials superconduct at various cryogenic temperatures
  - No electrical resistance
  - Creates phenomena applicable to quantum research (Meissner Effect, Cooper Pairs)
- Reduced thermal noise allows for 'cleaner' electrical signals
  - Quantum computing devices generally operate at low powers
  - Devices are very sensitive to external disturbances
- Due in large part to the reliance on cryogenics, large scale quantum computing may rely on data centers



1.3 GHz SRF Cavity



Josephson Junction

# Quantum Data Centers - What is a Conventional Data Center?

- Room(s) or building(s) used to house a large volume of computing components
- Provide external users additional resources (computing power, data storage) beyond their local device
- Typically optimized for:
  - Condensed footprint
  - Energy efficiency
  - Modularity/ease of maintenance
- How do we utilize data centers?
  - Cloud storage (OneDrive, iCloud)
  - AI software (ChatGPT)
  - Server farms (website hosting, online games)
- Due to their complexity, the wider adoption of Quantum Computing will likely rely on data centers



*Google Data Center in Iowa*

# Quantum Data Centers – New Challenges for Cryogenics

- How do we integrate large cryogenic systems into familiar data center layouts?
- Requires a different approach from research
  - Reliable long term cryogenic temperatures
  - Move from individual isolated systems to interconnected
  - Integration into cryogenic plants, leverage greater cooling power at 4K and above of cryo plants
  - ‘Condensed’ cryogenic footprint



QCL3 (“The Quantum Garage”) is a **small** step towards what a quantum data center could look like

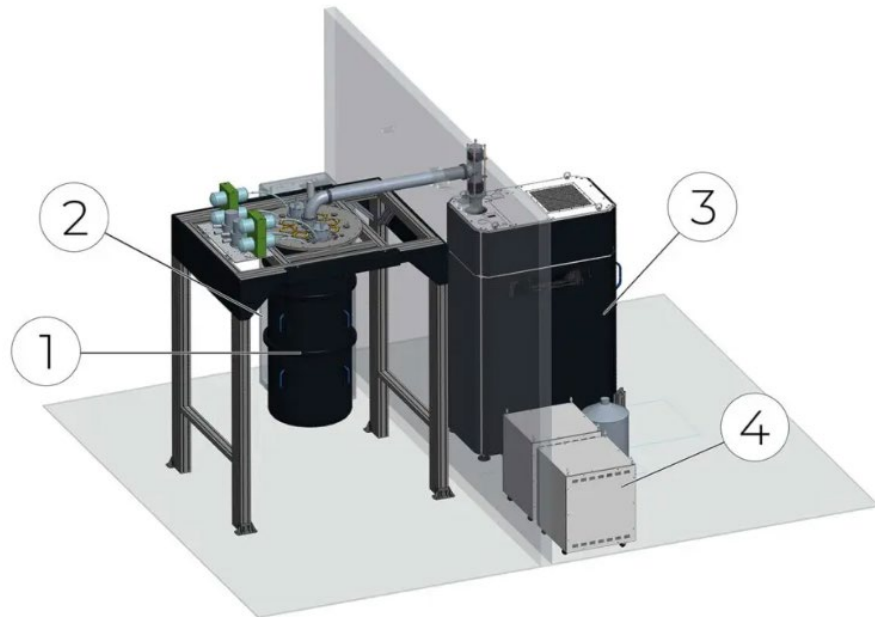
# Quantum Data Centers – New Challenges for Cryogenics, cont.

## Pros:

- Nearly 'Plug and Play' Setup
- Relatively compact footprint for individual units

## Cons:

- Isolated systems
- Pulse Tubes require supply of cooling water
- Become space consuming when installing multiple units
- Electrical efficiency concerns when scaling to 10s and 100s of units
- Limited cooling power available



1. Cryostat and its support frame, 2. Thermometry Unit, 3. Gas Handling System, 4. Pulse Tube Cryocooler compressors.

Common Layout for Bluefors and other DRs

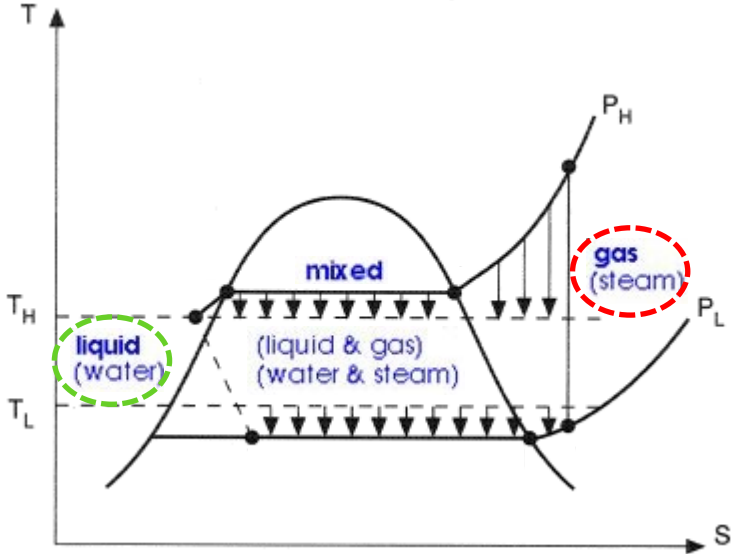
# Cryogenics Plants

- Remember our old friend, the “refrigeration unit?”
- Can we change its design so that it produces even colder temperatures?



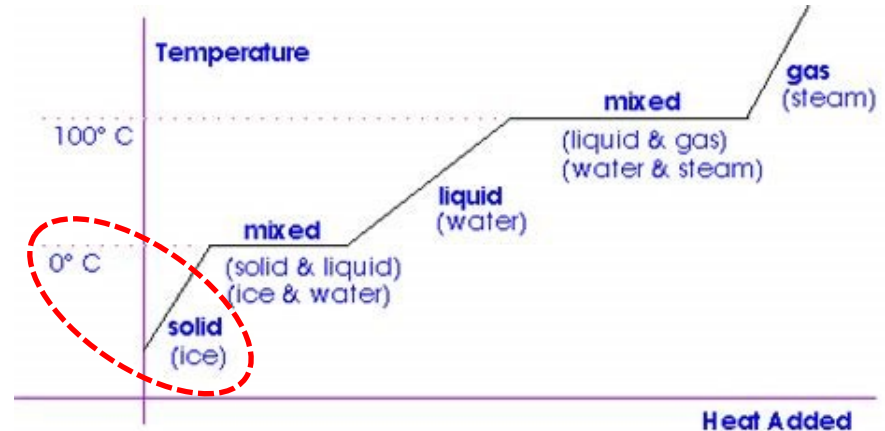
# Cryogenics Plants, cont.

- First, let's remind ourselves of the thermodynamic cycle of the "refrigeration unit."



# Cryogenics Plants, cont.

**Question: Why can't we use water to get to very low temperatures?**



Source: <https://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~cfadd/1360/20Heat/Latent.html>

# Cryogenics Plants, cont.

- How do we get around this problem?

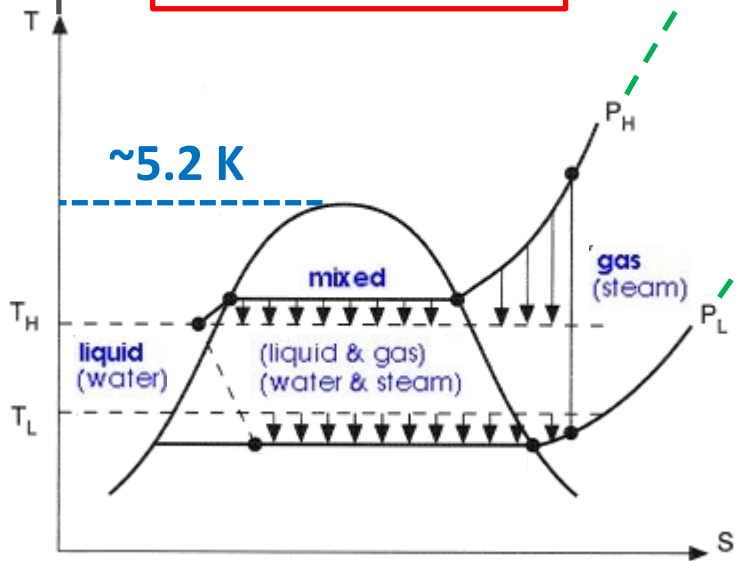
Let's use this

Fluid	Boiling point (K)	Boiling point (°C)
Helium-3	3.19	-269.96
Helium-4	4.214	-268.936
Hydrogen	20.27	-252.88
Neon	27.09	-246.06
Nitrogen	77.09	-196.06
Air	78.8	-194.35
Fluorine	85.24	-187.91
Argon	87.24	-185.91
Oxygen	90.18	-182.97
Methane	111.7	-161.45
Krypton	119.93	-153.415

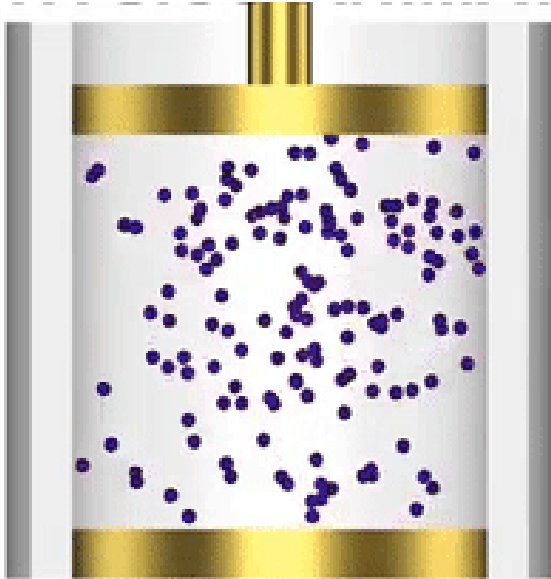
# Thermodynamic properties of helium

Room temperature (300 K)

Where is room temperature?



# Thermodynamic properties of helium



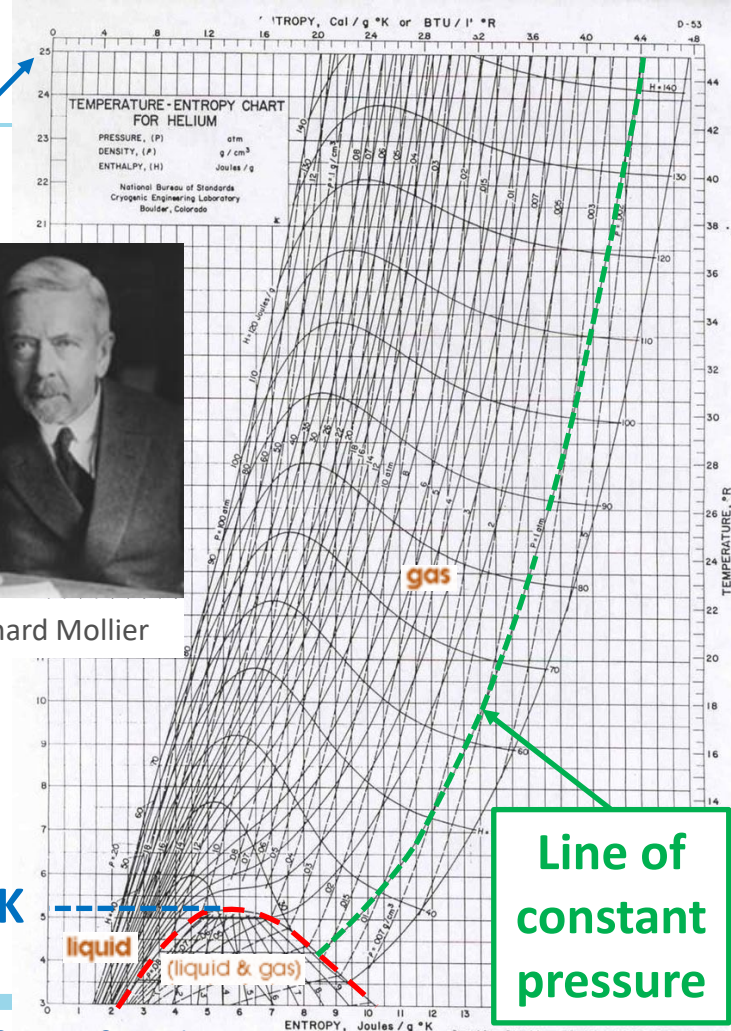
Compression heats the gas

Expansion cools the gas

25 K !



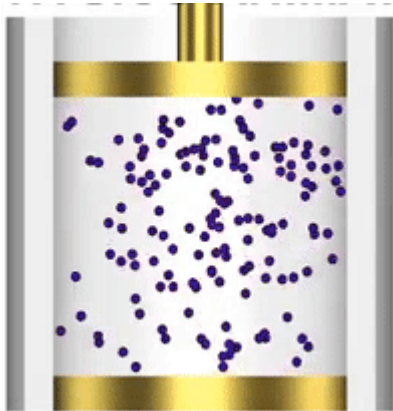
Richard Mollier



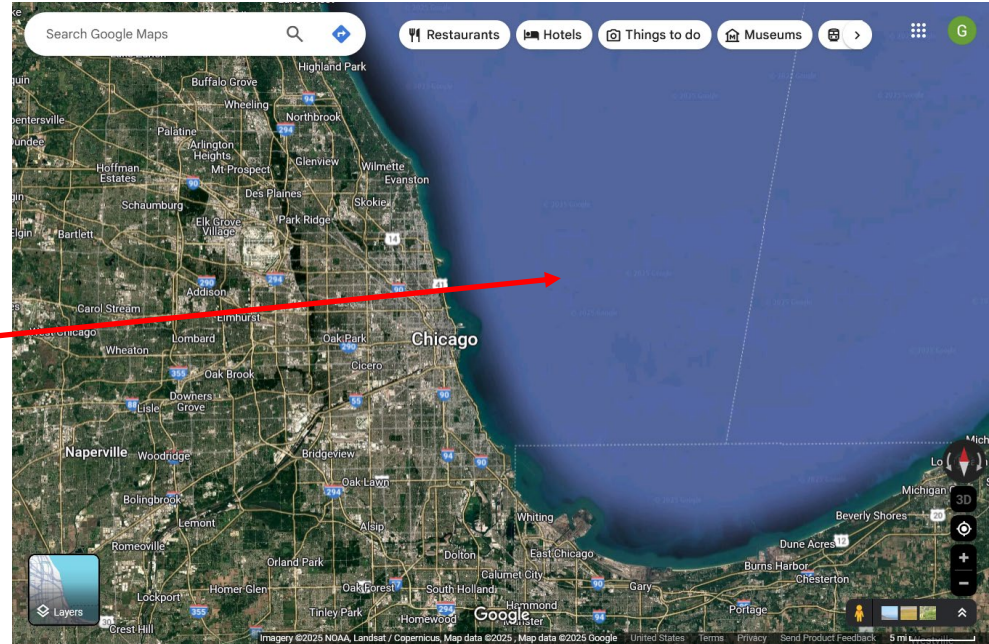
Line of constant pressure

~5.2 K

# Cryogenic Cycle Basics



**Where to dump  
the heat of  
compression?**

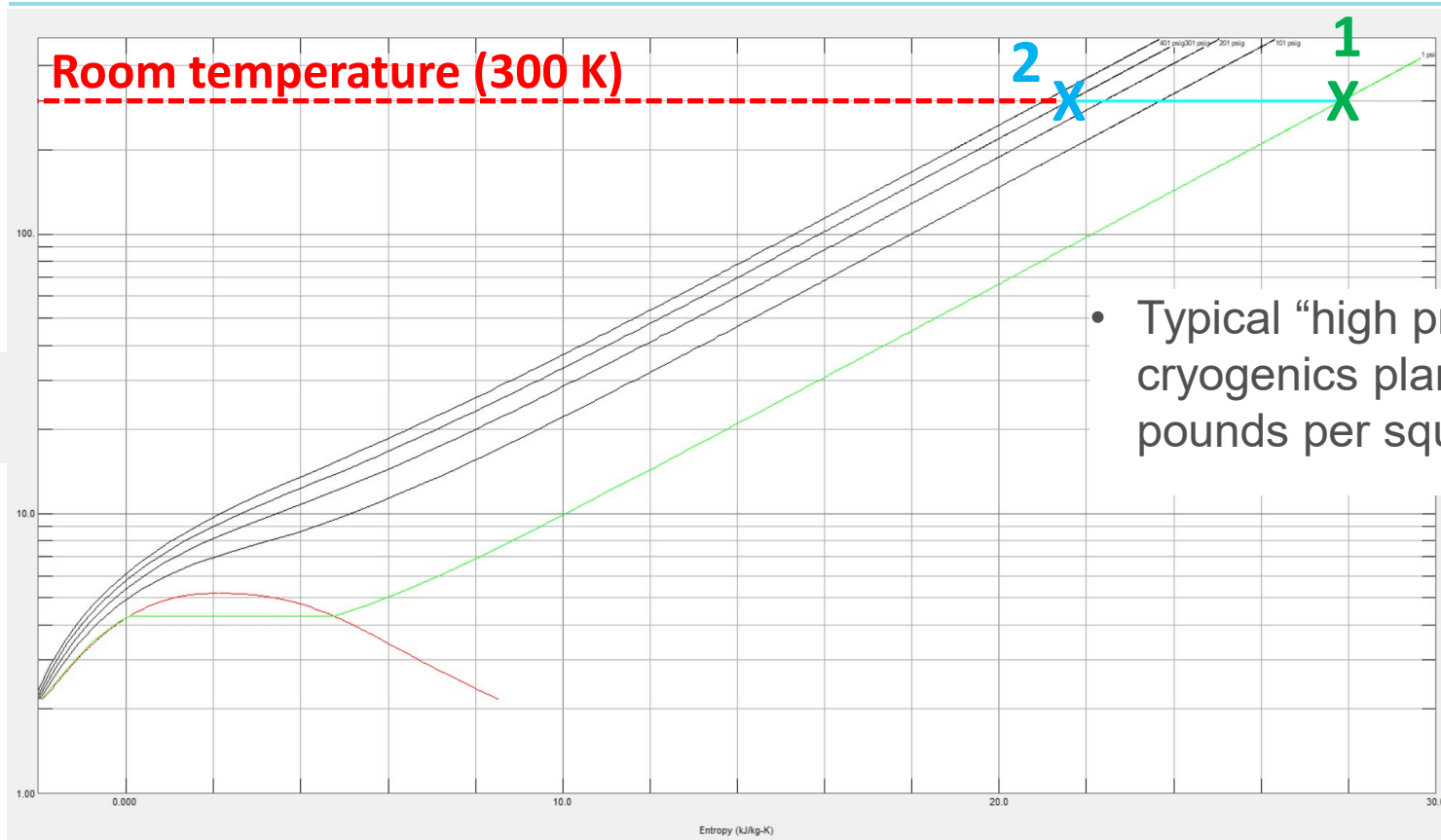


# Cryogenic Cycle Basics

---

- State 1: Room temperature, atmospheric pressure
- State 1a: Increased the pressure (with a compressor) – so, temperature goes up ↑
- State 2: Removed the heat of compression ([Lake Michigan](#)), so now you have state 1 temperature but much higher pressure!

# Cryogenic Cycle Basics, cont.



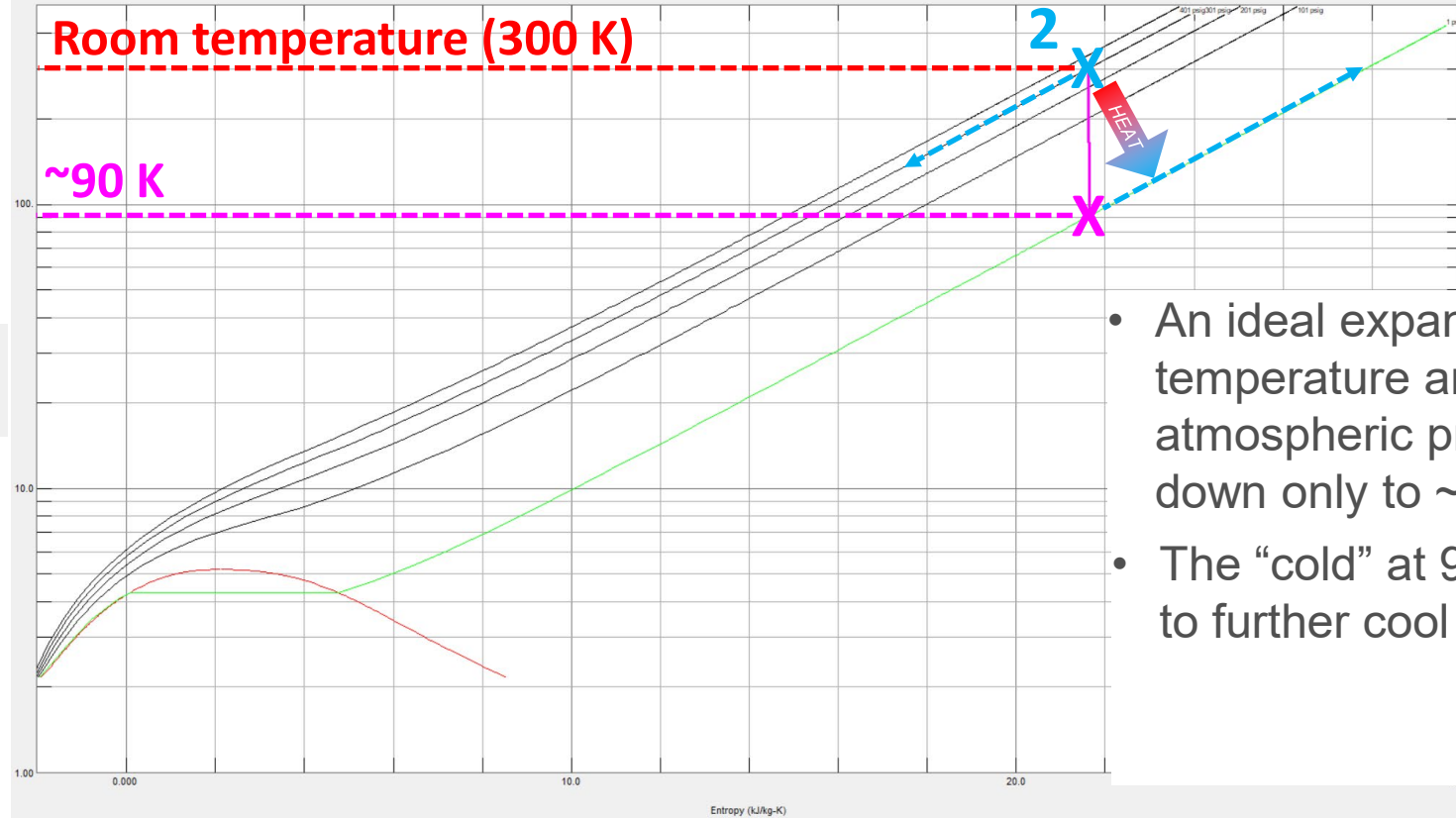
- Typical “high pressures” in cryogenics plants are ~300 pounds per square inch (psi).

# Cryogenic Cycle Basics

- State 1: Room temperature, atmospheric pressure
- State 1a: Increased the pressure (with a compressor) – so, temperature goes up ↑
- State 2: Removed the heat of compression ([Lake Michigan](#)), so now you have state 1 temperature but much higher pressure!
- State 3: Need to lower the temperature.

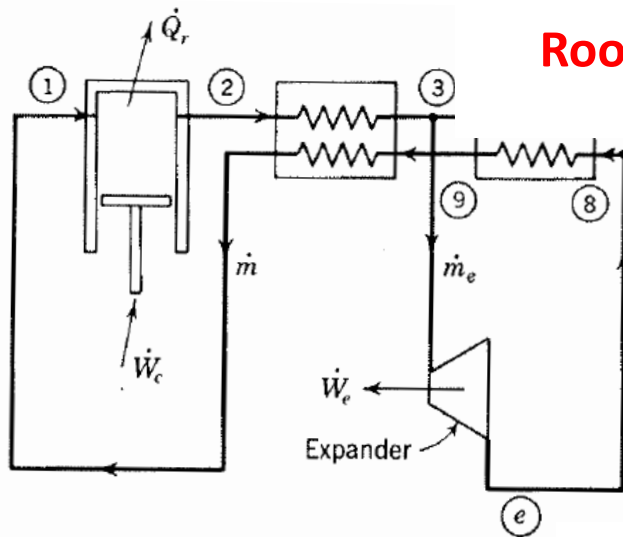
**How do we do this?**

# Cryogenic Cycle Basics, cont.



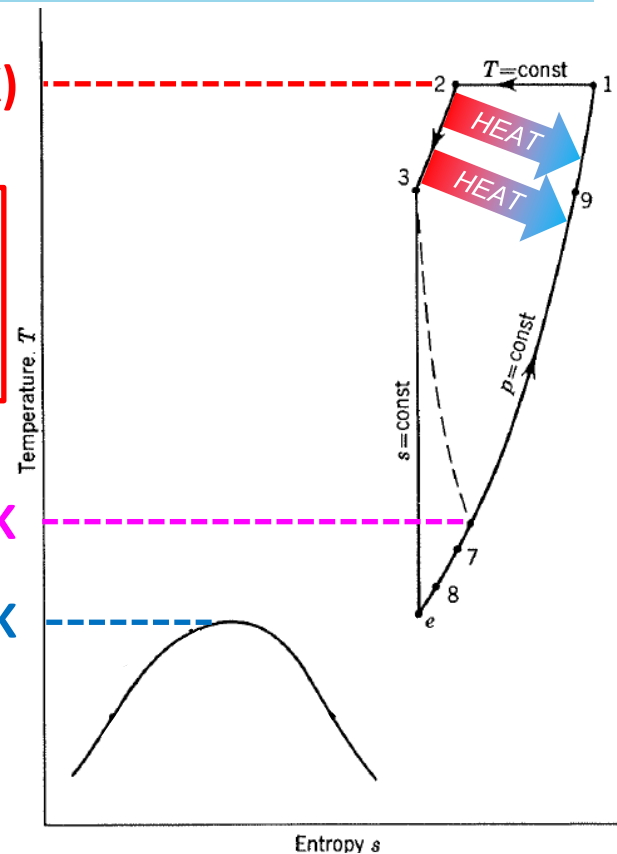
- An ideal expansion from room temperature and 300 psi to atmospheric pressure gets you down only to ~90 K.
- The “cold” at 90 K can be used to further cool the gas at **2**.

# Cryogenic Cycle Basics, cont.

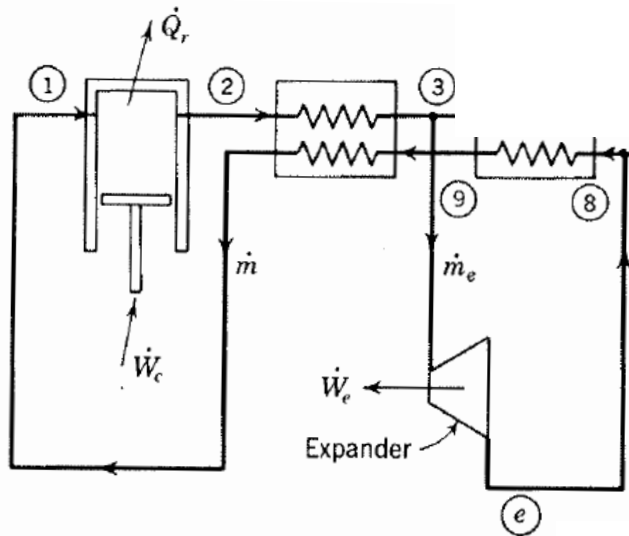


Room temperature (300 K)

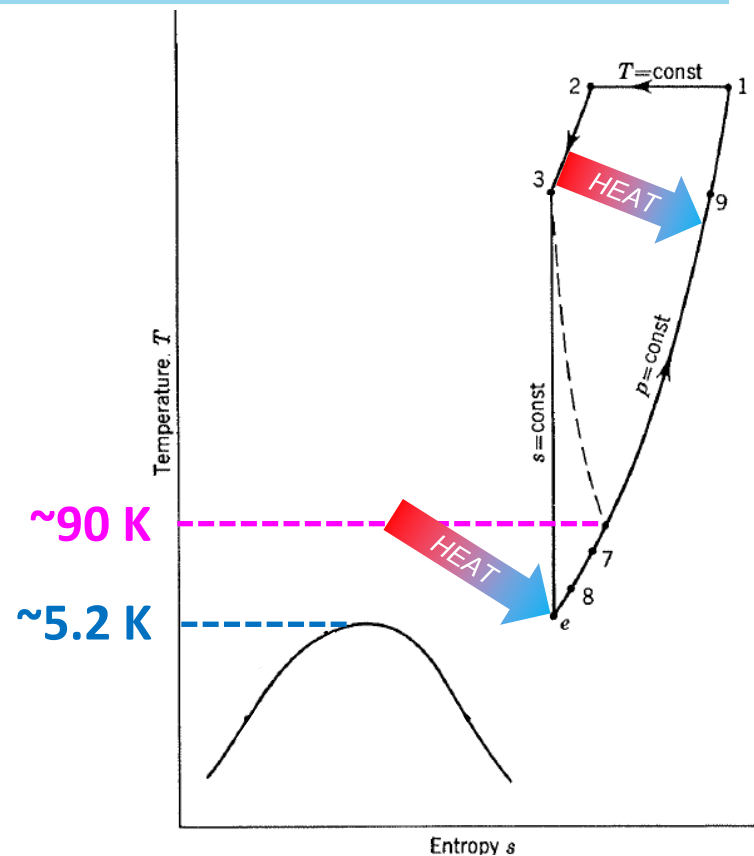
How do we complete the cycle from 90 K to 4 K?



# Cryogenic Cycle Basics, cont.



**Repeat the same expansion and heat exchanging process as we did at 90 K**



# What Does a Real Cryogenics Plant Look Like?



This is just one part of it!



# What Does a Real Cryogenics Plant Look Like (cont.)?



Cryoplant cold boxes at the European Spallation Source Accelerator and Target Moderator Cryoplants in Lund, Sweden



Cryo Module Test Facility coldbox at Fermilab

# What Does a Real Cryogenics Plant Look Like (cont.)?



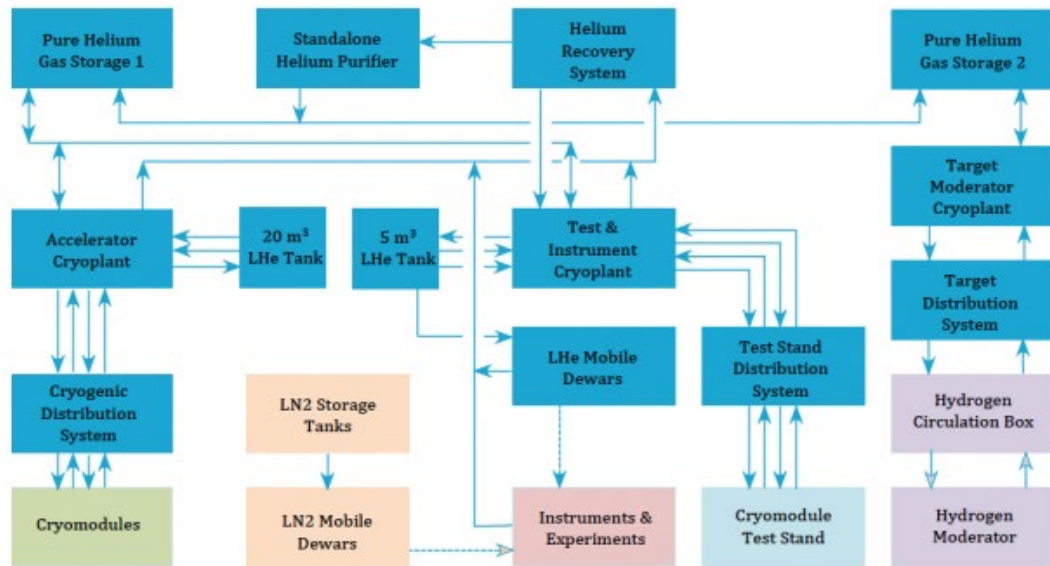
Compressor system at the European Spallation Source Accelerator Cryoplant in Lund, Sweden



Compressor system and oil removal skids at the European Spallation Source Target Moderator Cryoplant in Lund, Sweden

# What Does a Real Cryogenics Plant Look Like (cont.)?

- Major components of a helium cryogenics plant:
  - Distribution Box:
    - Connects refrigeration plant with distribution lines.
  - Storage vessels:
    - Liquid Nitrogen
    - Liquid Helium
    - Gaseous Helium
  - Purifier: Removes impurities from the helium.
    - Contamination control is very important to reliable operation!
  - Control System



# What Does a Real Cryogenics Plant Look Like (cont.)?

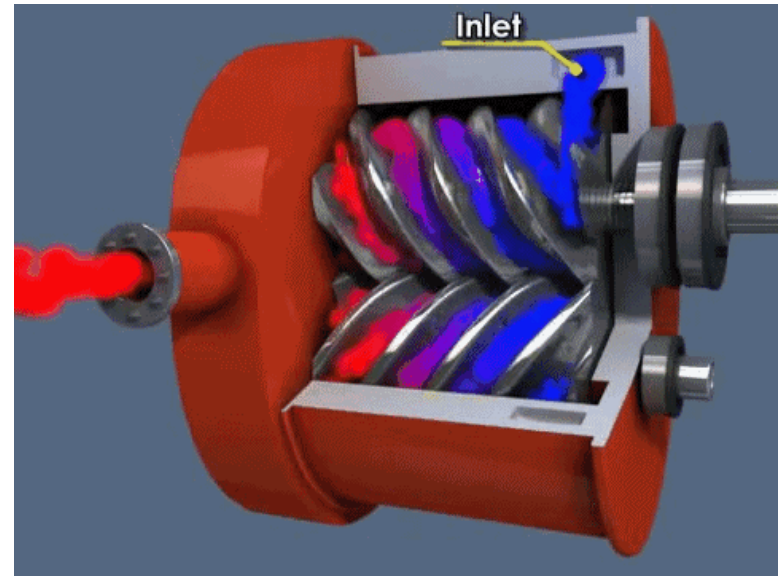
- More about storage vessels:
  - When warmed, cryogenic liquids expand to approximately 700 times their liquid volume.
  - Even small quantities of liquid helium require large storage tanks so that the system remains a “closed system.”



Warm storage vessels at Taiwan's National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center

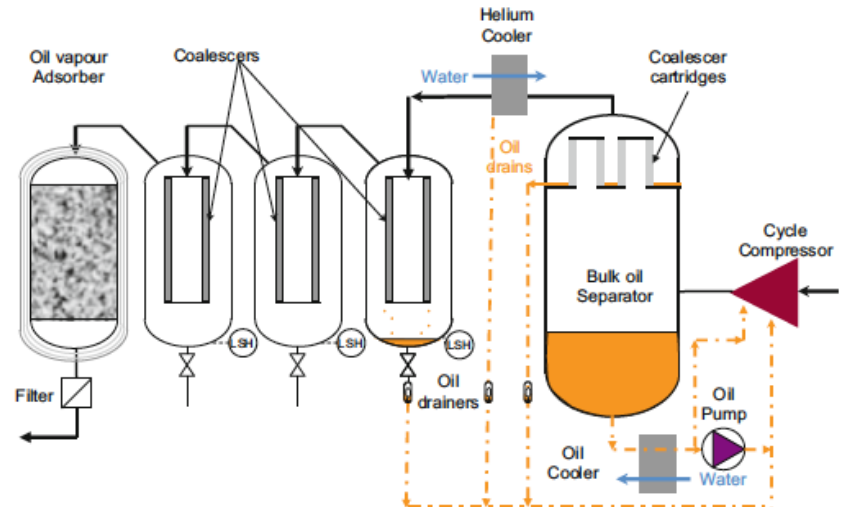
# What Does a Real Cryogenics Plant Look Like (cont.)?

- Helium Screw Compressors
  - Operate at room temperature.
  - Are oil flooded.
    - They simultaneously compress a mixture of He gas and oil.
  - Require water cooling to remove heat due to compression.
  - The vast majority of the electrical power used in cryogenics plants is used by these compressors.
    - These motors can be over 300 horsepower per motor!

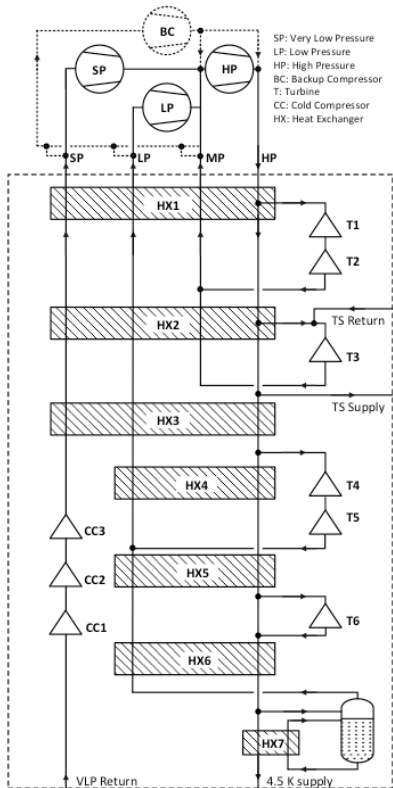


# What Does a Real Cryogenics Plant Look Like (cont.)?

- Oil Removal Systems:
  - Remove oil down to the parts per billion level!
    - Critical for proper operation of the cryogenics plant.
  - Important to build in redundancy.
  - Ideally, filtration media can be “regenerated.”



# What Does a Real Cryogenics Plant Look Like (cont.)?



**Real-life cryogenics plant diagrams!**

**Note: Some plants connect to a vacuum pump to lower temperature below 2 K!**

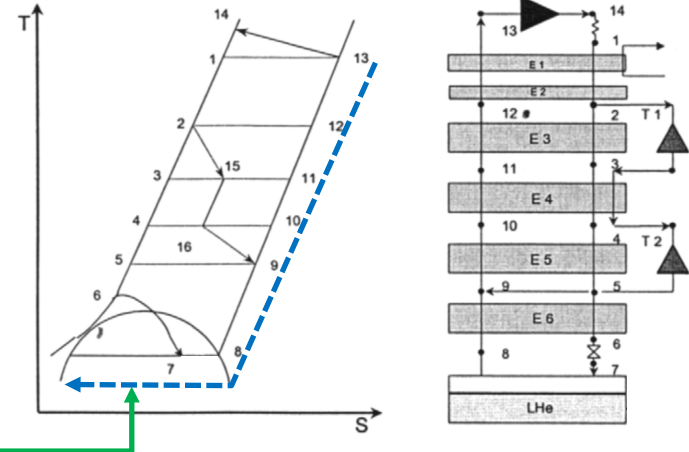
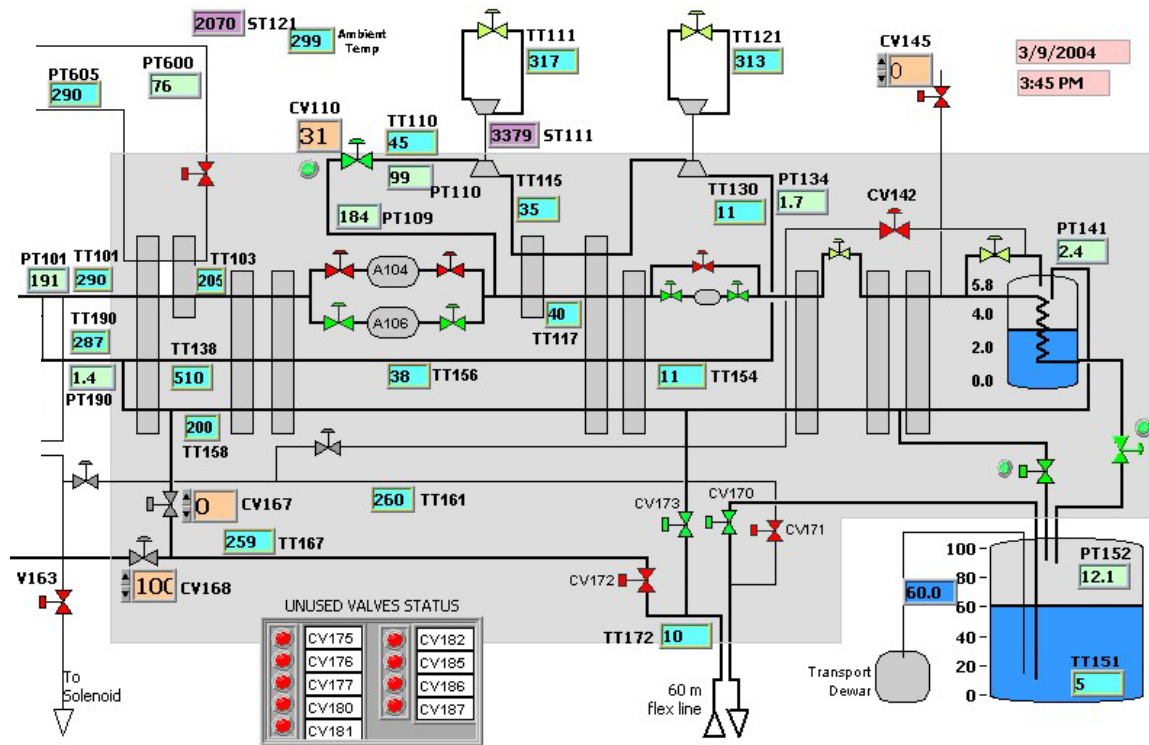


Figure 2 HELIAL T-S diagram and cycle design

Source: "Evolution of the standard helium liquefier and refrigerator range designed by Air Liquide DTA, France," A. Caillaud et. al. Proceedings of EPAC08, Genoa, Italy.

# What Does a Real Cryogenics Plant Look Like (cont.)?



## LIQUEFIER

- Start C1
- Start C2
- Start C3
- Connect CBX
- Connect Dewar
- Warmup Coldbox
- LN2 Precooling
- Babar Cooldown
- Babar Normal Op
- Babar Warm-up
- Babar Ext. Fill
- CLEANUP

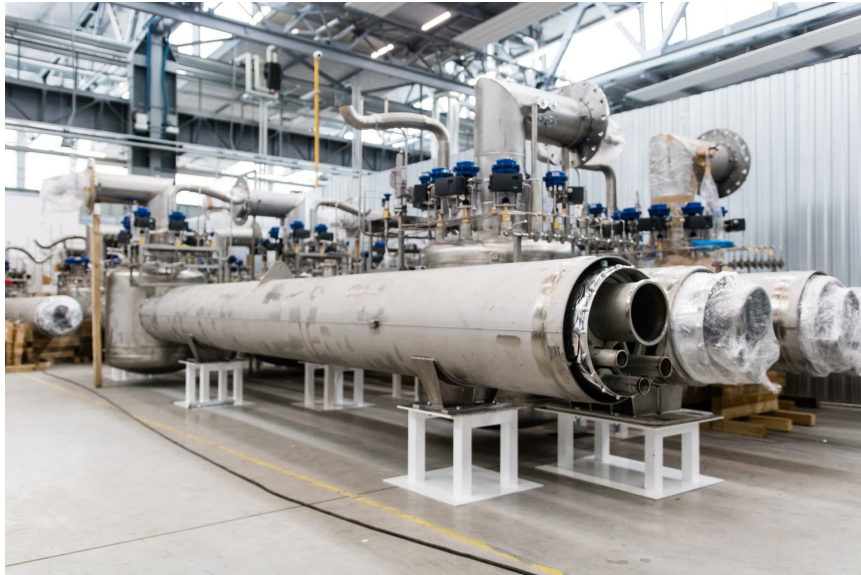
CV's: 145, 130, 140, 142, 151

# How Much Does a Cryogenics Plant Cost?

- The Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park is expected to pay **\$77 million dollars for two cryogenic plants**, “*cryoplant resources, equipment and facilities necessary to support the quantum computing facilities*” to be built at IQMP per its November 14, 2024 board meeting notes.
- Other cryogenic plants, such as at ITER cost **83 million Euros for three cryogenic plants.**



# Cryogenic Distribution Systems



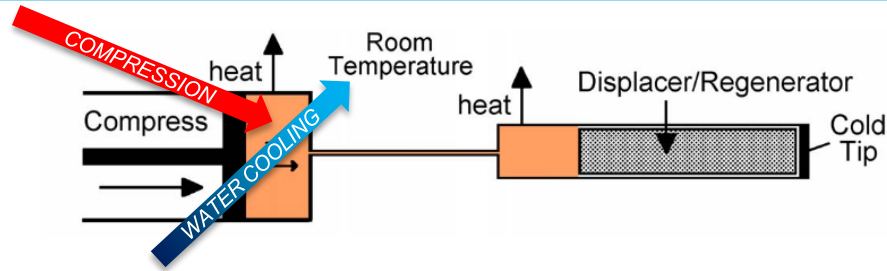
**These systems can add significant costs to the installation of a cryogenics plant!**

# 5-minute break



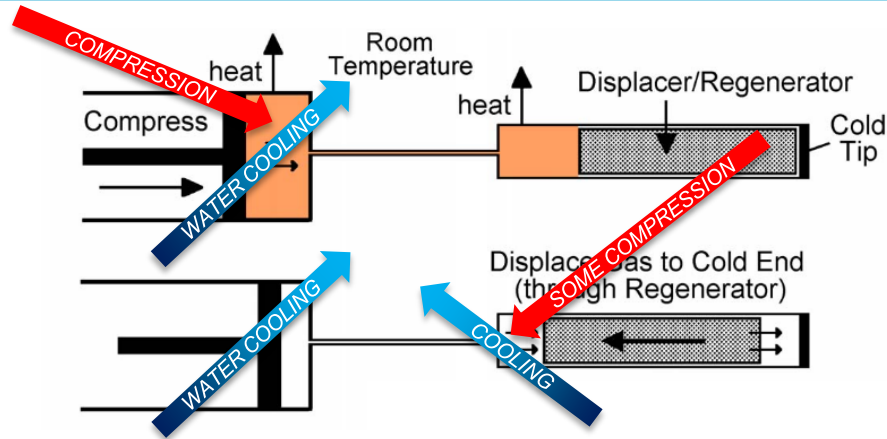
- Small closed cycle stand-alone refrigerators with cooling capacities ranging between 1 and 100 W at cryogenic temperatures.
  - Definition obtained from S. W. Van Sciver, “Helium Cryogenics,” 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.
- These are generally simple to use, typically only require electricity and cooling water inputs.
  - After that, you basically just “turn on” the switch (after a good vacuum is reached first)!
- The simplest cryocooler to explain is the Stirling-cycle cooler, so we will start with that!
  - Note: This won’t be easy!

# Cryocoolers, cont.



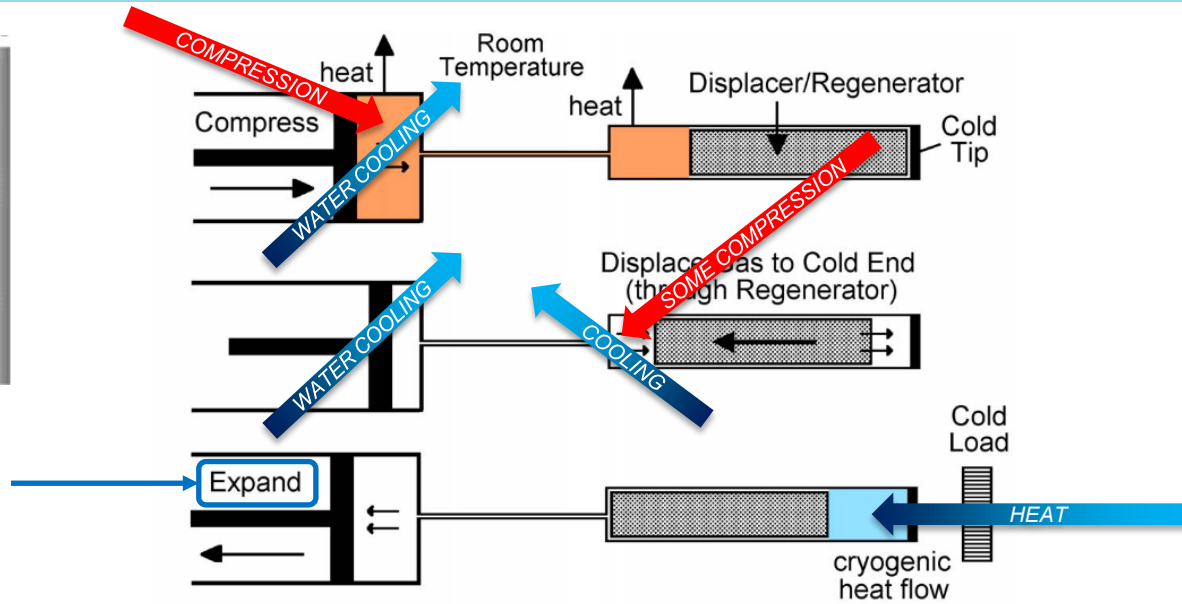
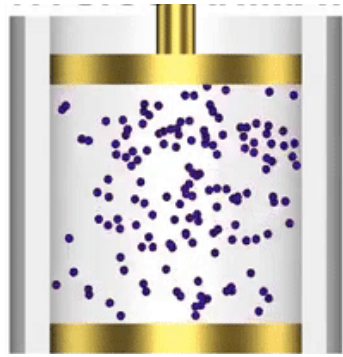
Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

# Cryocoolers, cont.



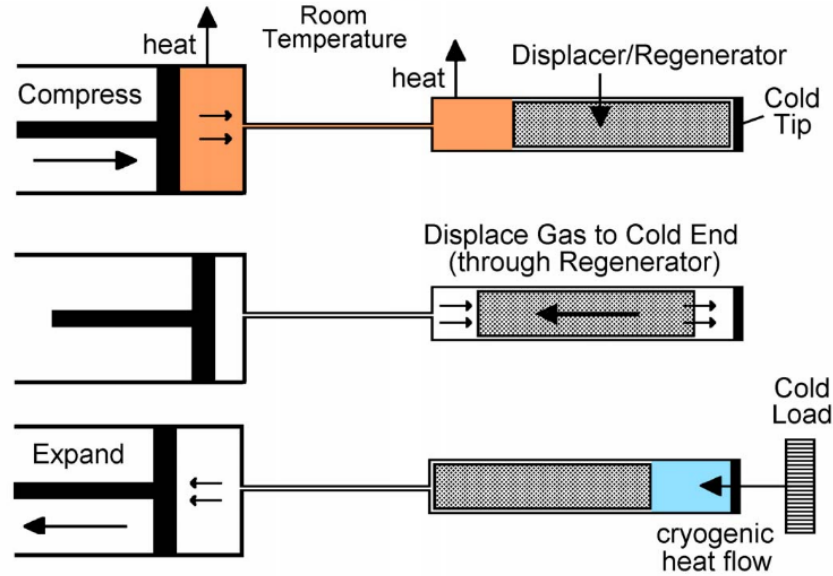
Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

# Cryocoolers, cont.



Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

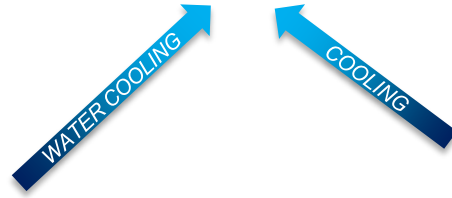
# Cryocoolers, cont.



Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

# Let's Take a Ride with the Displacer

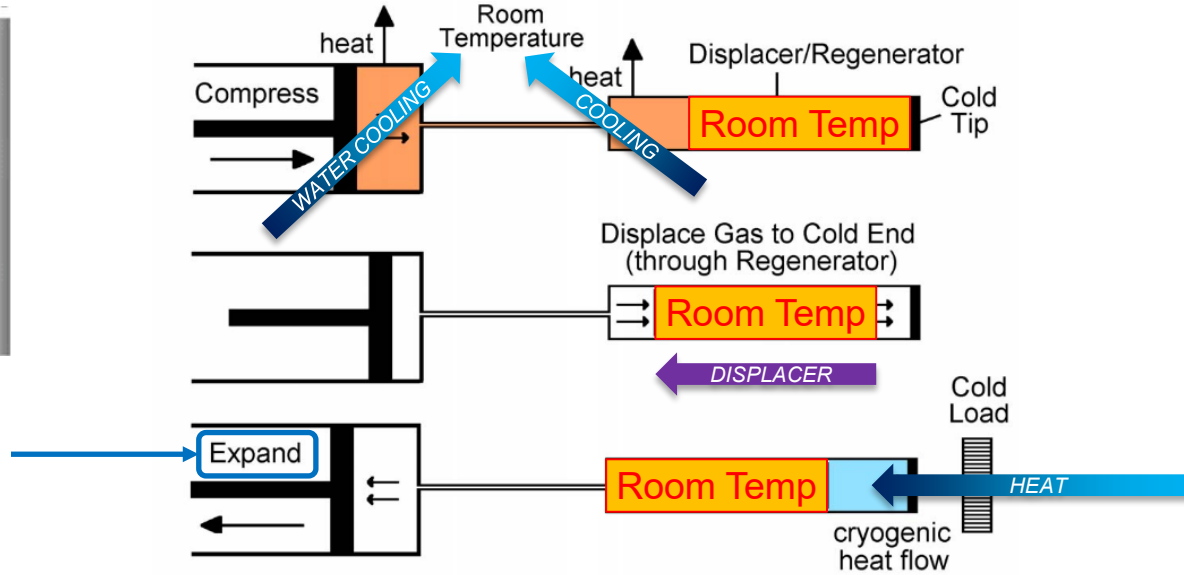
Important point: We are starting the cycle from the beginning here (just like we did in the last slide)



Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

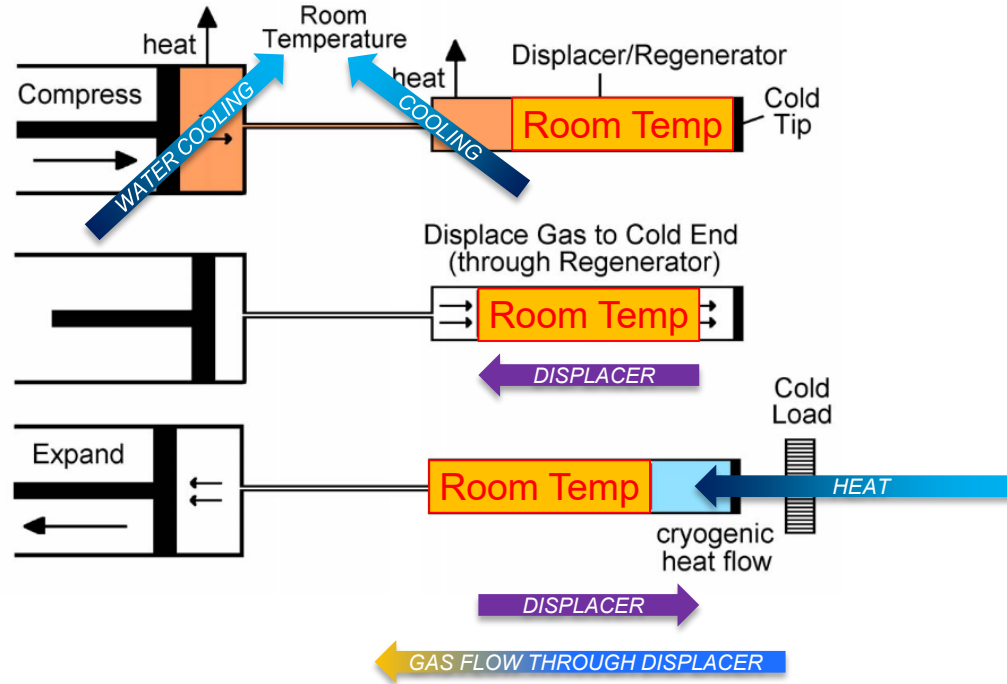


# Let's Take a Ride with the Displacer, cont.



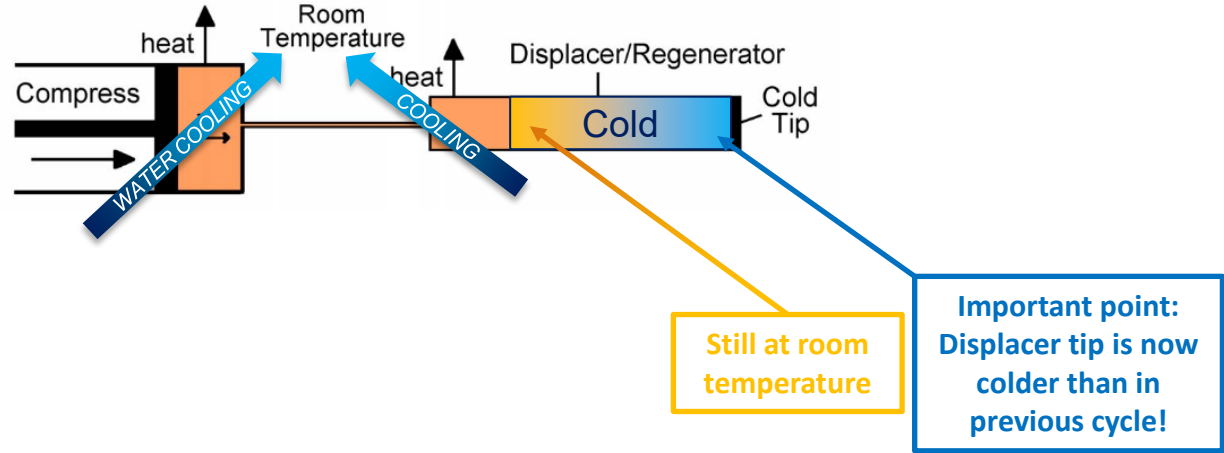
Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

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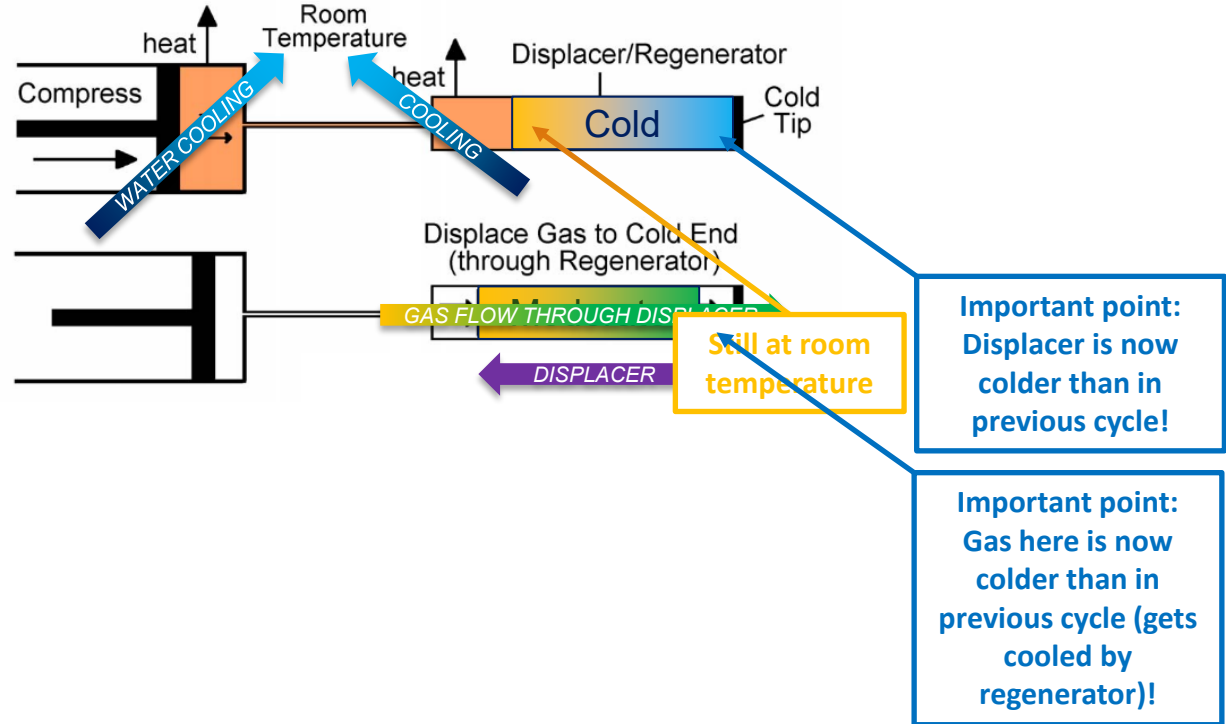
Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

# Let's Take a Ride with the Displacer, cont.



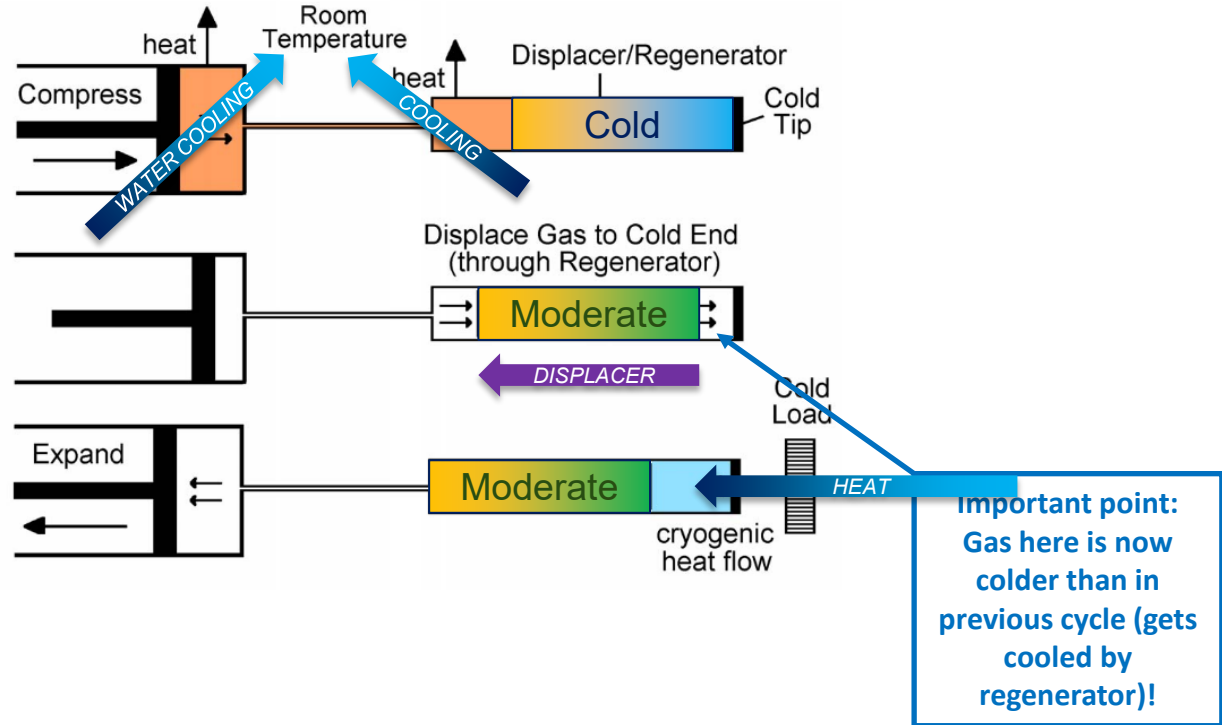
Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

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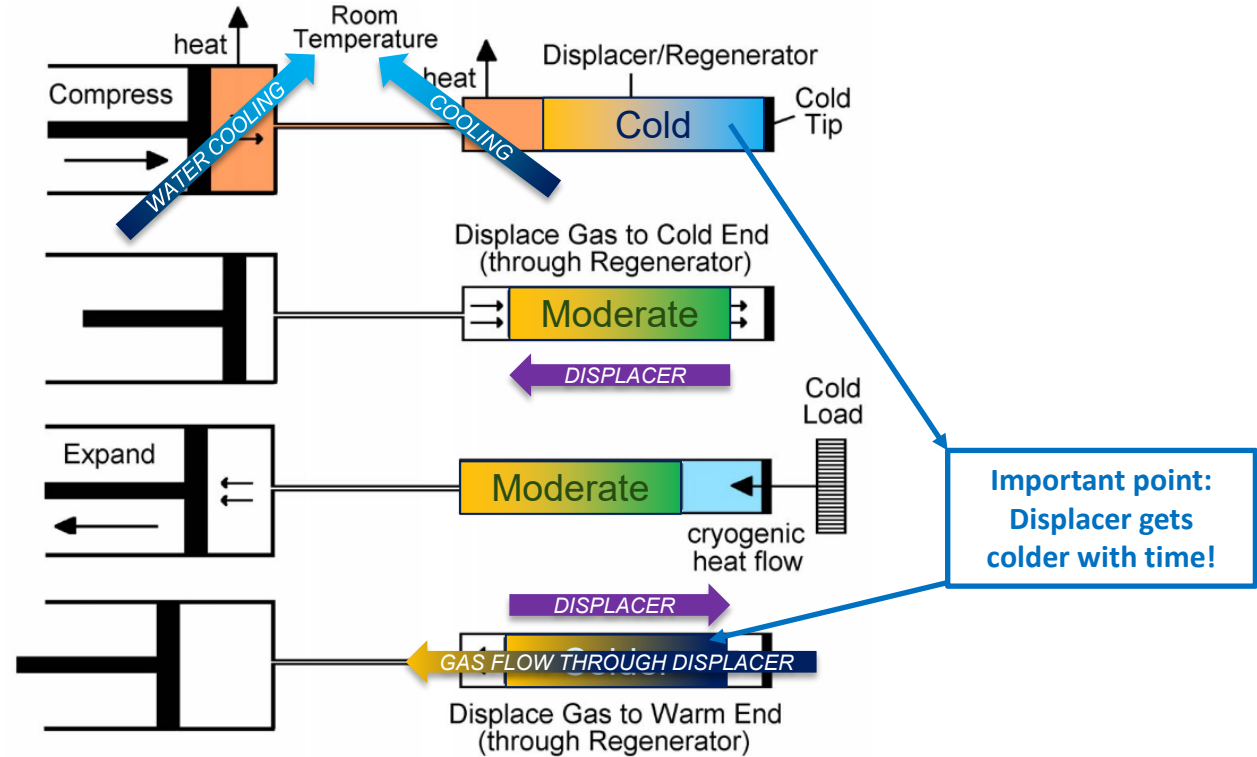
Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

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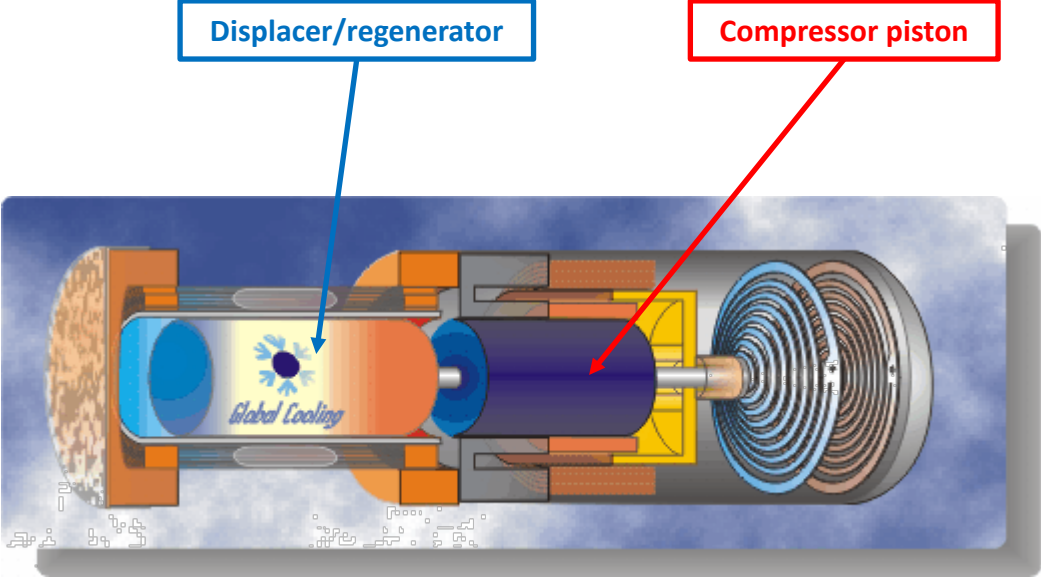
Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

# Let's Take a Ride with the Displacer, cont.



Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

# Stirling Cryocooler in Reality



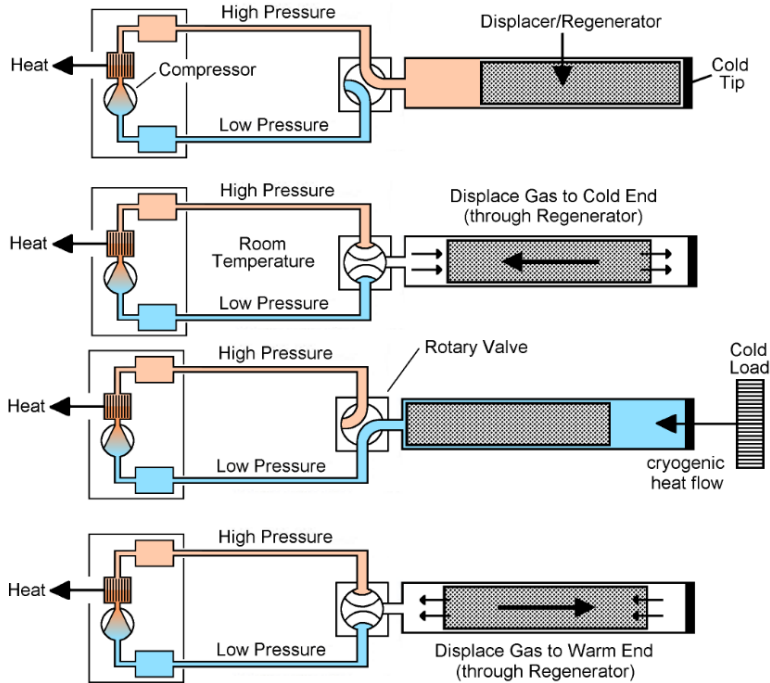


Figure 17. Schematic of Gifford McMahon refrigeration cycle.

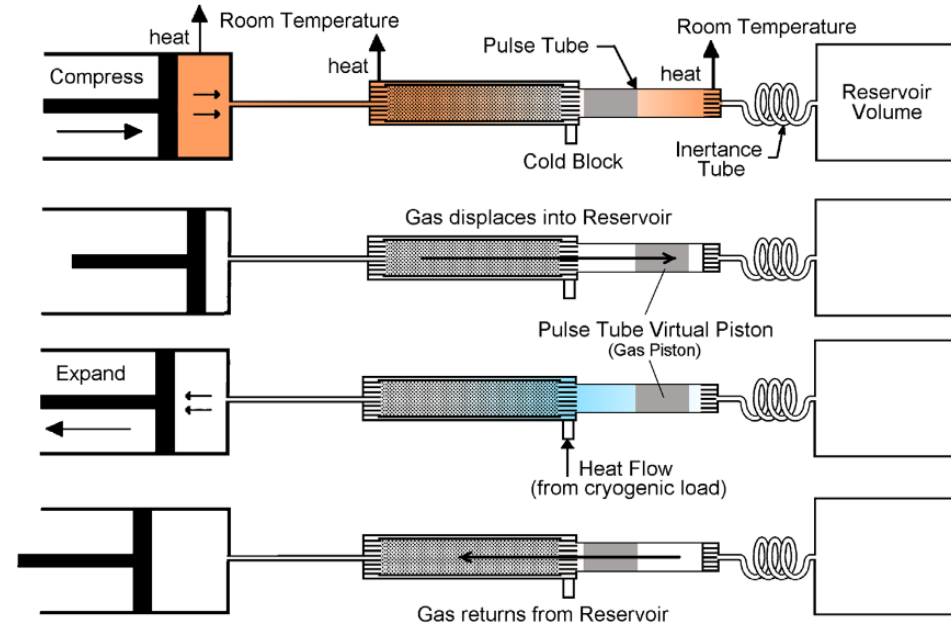
Source: "Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures," R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

- Gifford McMahon:

- Similar cold end to Stirling cryocooler with moving displacer/regenerator.
- Main differences from Stirling cryocooler:
  - Compressor changed from piston-type to continuous type.
  - Oscillating flow comes from constantly revolving valve between compressor and cold end.

# Other Cryocooler Cycles, cont.

- Pulse tube:
  - Can have Gifford McMahon compressor style.
  - Cold block is in between regenerator and pulse tube.
  - Displacer is a “virtual gas piston”
    - Virtual gas piston is “timed” by a careful selection of inertance tube diameter and reservoir volume dimensions.



**Figure 10.** Schematic of pulse tube cooler refrigeration cycle.

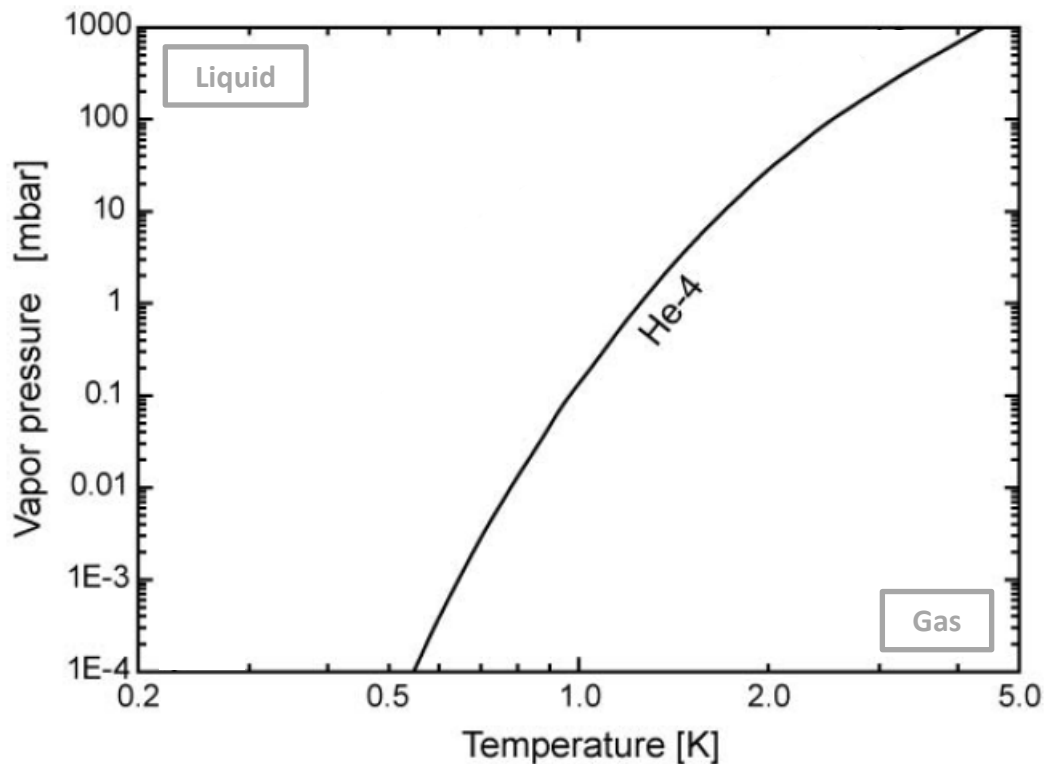
Source: “Chapter 6 Refrigeration Systems for Achieving Cryogenic Temperatures,” R. Ross. In book: Low Temperature Materials and Mechanisms (pp.109-182)

# Cooling Methods Below 1 Kelvin

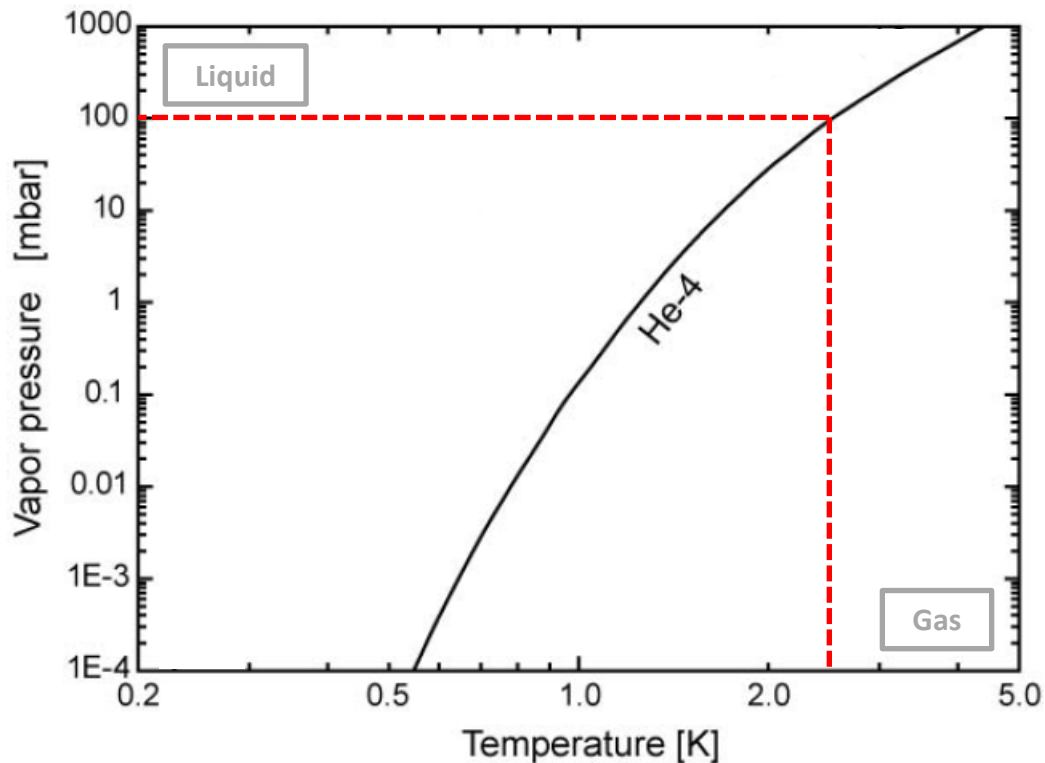
---

- Sub-atmospheric  $^4\text{He}$
- Sub-atmospheric  $^3\text{He}$
- Dilution Refrigerators
- Adiabatic Demagnetization Refrigerators (ADR)
- Nuclear Demagnetization Refrigerators
- Laser cooling

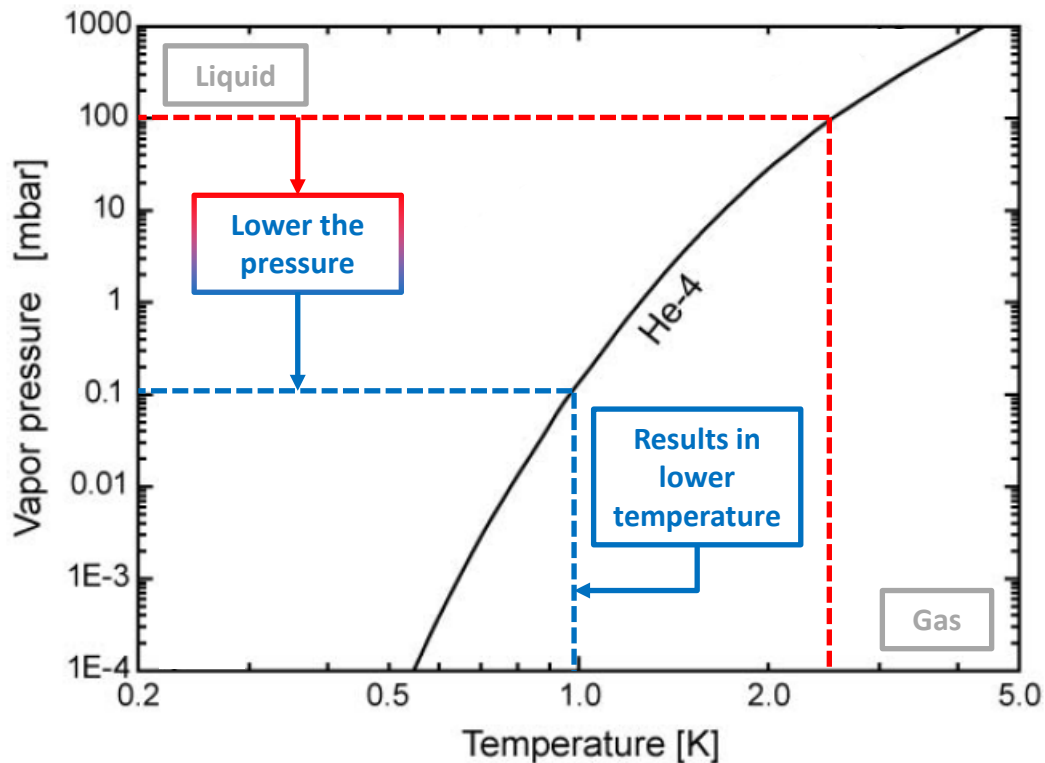
# Helium Vapor Pressure Chart



# Helium Vapor Pressure Chart, cont.

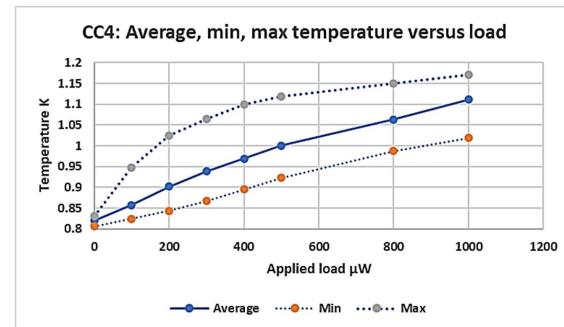
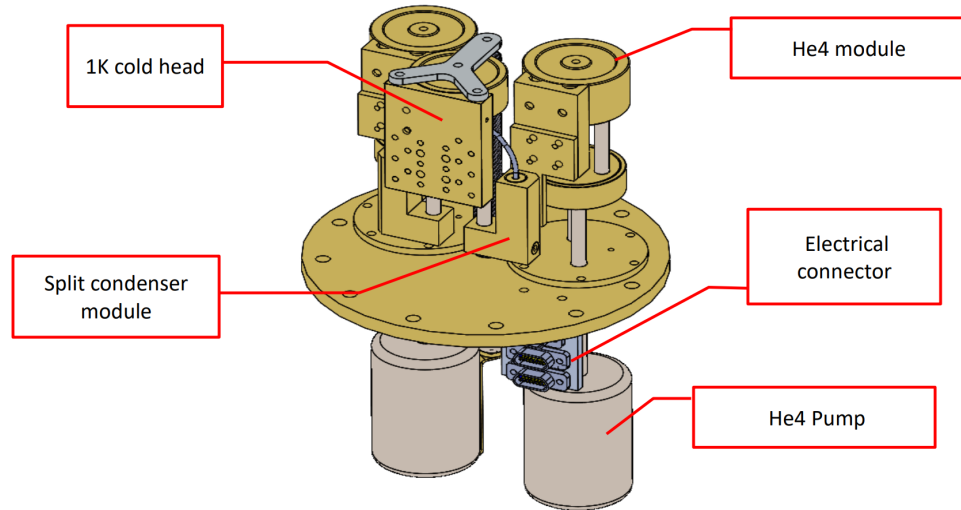


# Helium Vapor Pressure Chart, cont.

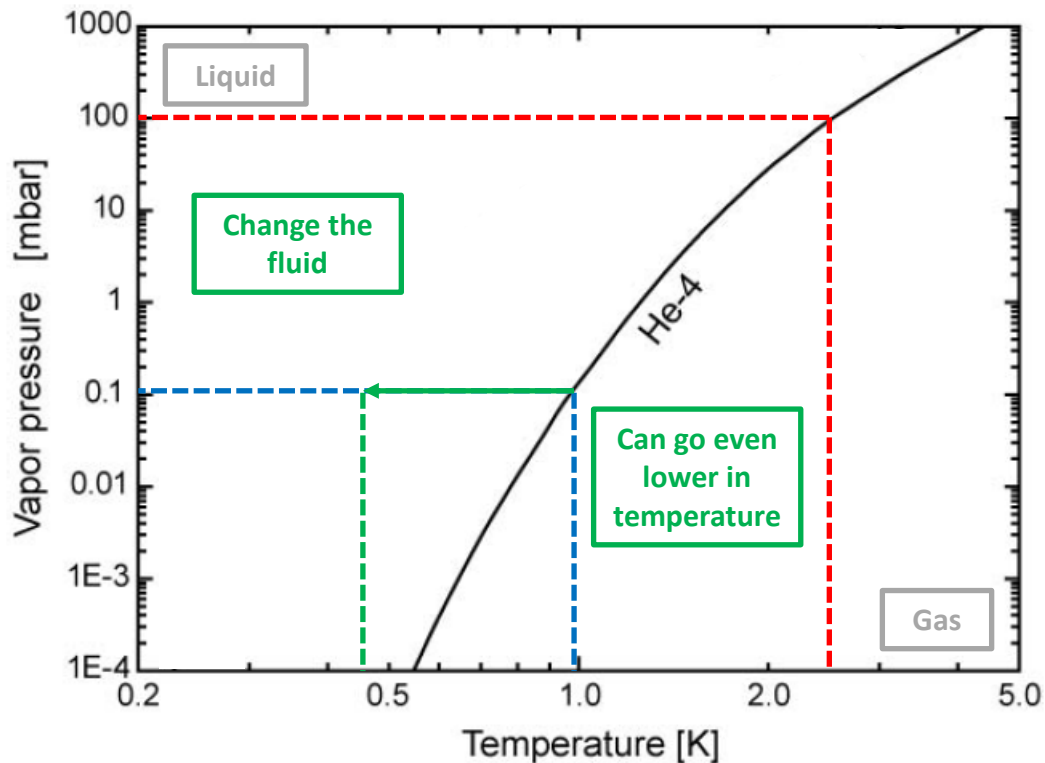


# Limits to Pumping on $^4\text{He}$

- We can reduce the temperature of liquid helium by reducing its pressure.
  - But there is a limit!
- The vapor pressure of  $^4\text{He}$  becomes very small below 1.2 K, so cooling below this temperature using this technique is not practical.
- To the right is an example of a continuous  $^4\text{He}$  sorption cooler from Chase Research.
  - 100  $\mu\text{W}$  cooling power around 850 mK.

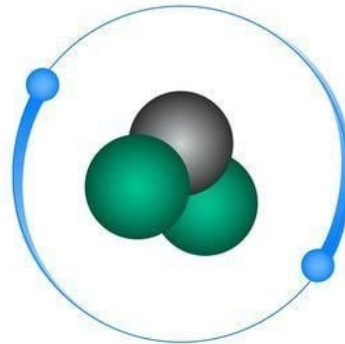


# Helium Vapor Pressure Chart, cont.

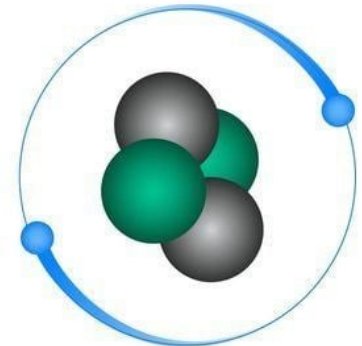


# $^3\text{He}$ Details

- Helium has two stable isotopes,  $^3\text{He}$  and  $^4\text{He}$ .
- $^3\text{He}$  is extremely rare – only 0.000137% of all naturally occurring helium is  $^3\text{He}$ .
  - Note:  $^3\text{He}$  can be produced in certain nuclear reactors.
  - Because of this,  $^3\text{He}$  is very expensive (> \$1,000 per STP Liter).



Helium-3  
2 protons, 1 neutron



Helium-4  
2 protons, 2 neutrons

- Pumped  $^3\text{He}$  systems can provide cooling down to 200 to 300 mK.
- To the right is an example of a continuous  $^3\text{He}$  cryostat from ICEOxford.
  - 100  $\mu\text{W}$  cooling power around 360 mK.
    - Same cooling power as  $^4\text{He}$  sorption cooler from Chase Research but at a lower temperature!

## DRY ICE $^{300\text{mK}}$ Continuous

The DRY ICE  $^{300\text{mK}}$  Continuous Cryostat is designed to run continuously at  $\text{He}^3$  temperatures (below 500mK). The system offers some of the highest cooling powers on the market, achieving up to 500 $\mu\text{W}$  at 400mK, making it highly suitable for large heat load experiments.

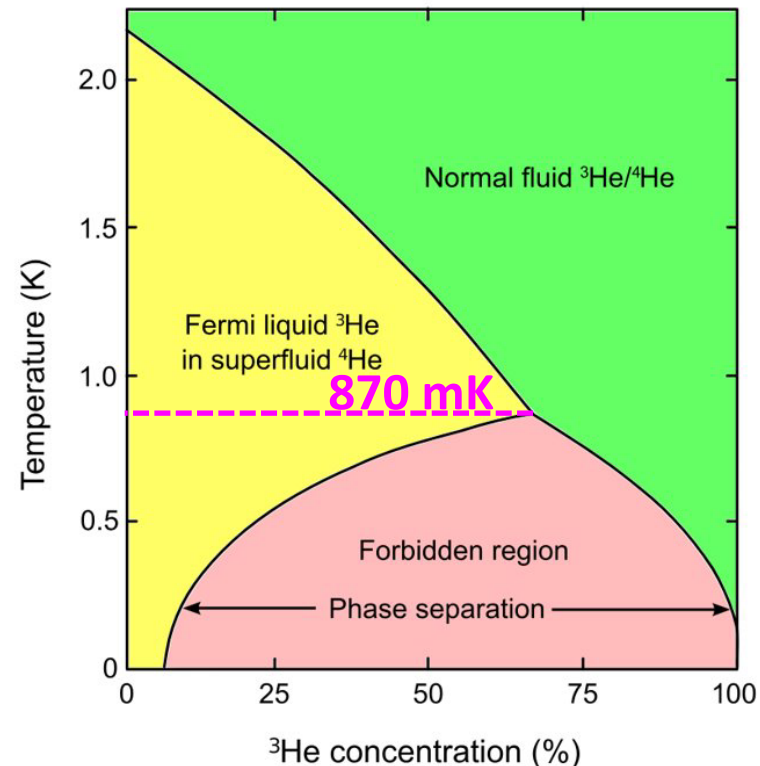
### KEY FEATURES

- Base temperature: 330mK
- 100 $\mu\text{W}$  of cooling power @ 360mK
- 500 $\mu\text{W}$  of cooling power @ 350mK
- Continuous operation
- $\varnothing$  300mm sample space



# Dilution Refrigerators

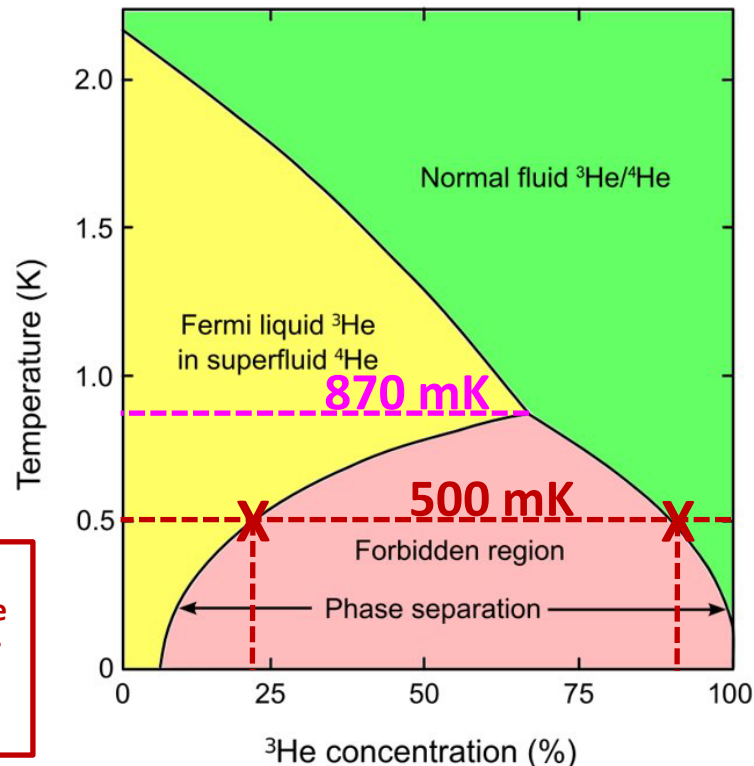
- These use a mixture of  $^3\text{He}$  and  $^4\text{He}$  and take advantage of three physical effects:
  1. Below 870 mK a  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  mixture will separate into a  $^3\text{He}$  rich zone sitting atop a denser  $^4\text{He}$  rich zone.



Source: <File:Helium phase diagram.svg - Wikimedia Commons>

# Dilution Refrigerators

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  1. Below 870 mK a  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  mixture will separate into a  $^3\text{He}$  rich zone sitting atop a denser  $^4\text{He}$  rich zone.
  2. It requires energy to move a  $^3\text{He}$  atom from the  $^3\text{He}$  rich zone to the  $^4\text{He}$  rich zone.

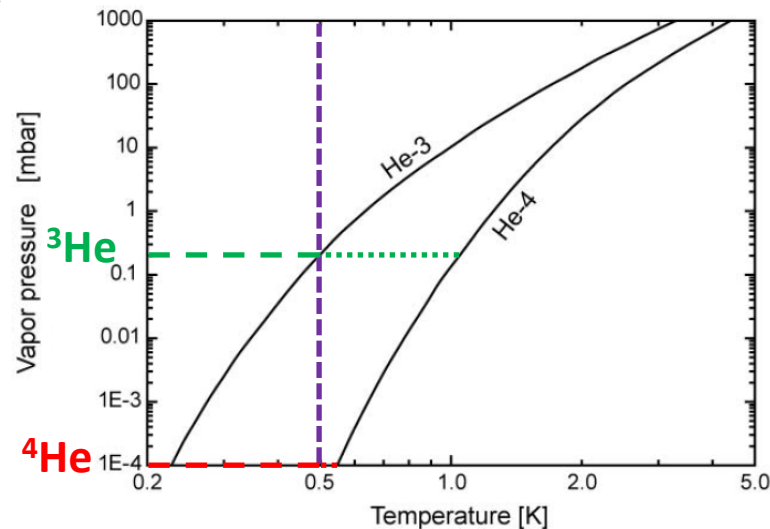


Two “phases” will exist at 500 mK, one with ~23%  $^3\text{He}$  concentration and another one with ~90%  $^3\text{He}$  concentration

Source: <File:Helium phase diagram.svg - Wikimedia Commons>


# Dilution Refrigerators, cont.


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  2. It requires energy to move a  $^3\text{He}$  atom from the  $^3\text{He}$  rich zone to the  $^4\text{He}$  rich zone.
    - This energy reduces the temperature of the  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  mixture.
  3. Below 1 K, the vapor pressure of  $^3\text{He}$  is higher than that of  $^4\text{He}$ .
    - Thus, pumping on a  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  mixture below 1 K has the result of  $^3\text{He}$  atoms leaving the mixture first.

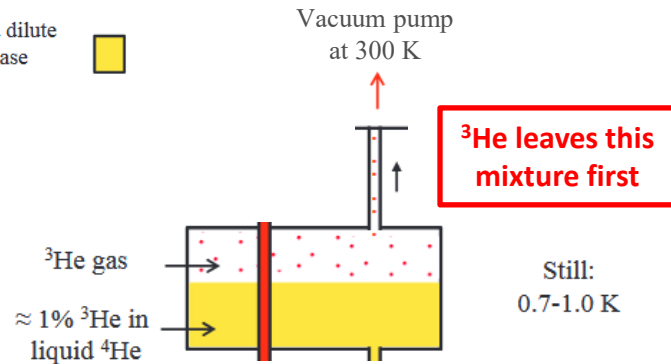


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    - This energy reduces the temperature of the  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  mixture.
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    - Thus, pumping on a  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  mixture below 1 K has the result of  $^3\text{He}$  atoms leaving the mixture first.

Liquid concentrate phase (pure  $^3\text{He}$ ) 

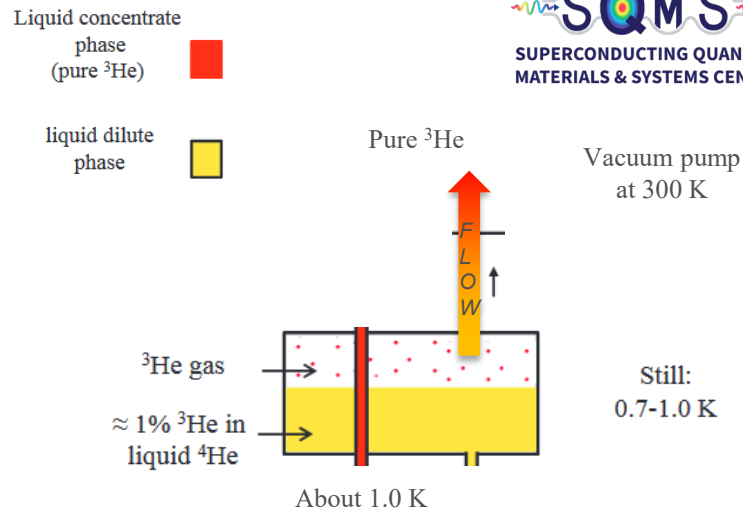
liquid dilute phase 



Source: "Development of a closed cycle dilution refrigerator for astrophysical experiments in space," A. Volpe. Instrumentation and Detectors, Université Joseph-Fourier – Grenoble I, 2014. NNT: . Tel-00993970v1

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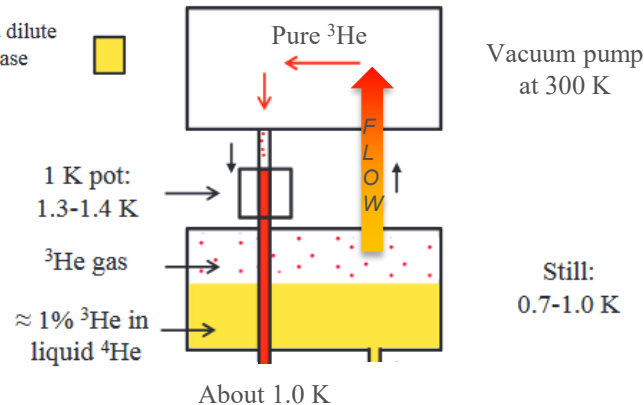
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    - In order to maintain equilibrium in the still,  $^3\text{He}$  atoms need to move from the  $^3\text{He}$  rich zone to the  $^4\text{He}$  rich zone.

HOW?

Liquid concentrate phase (pure  $^3\text{He}$ )



liquid dilute phase



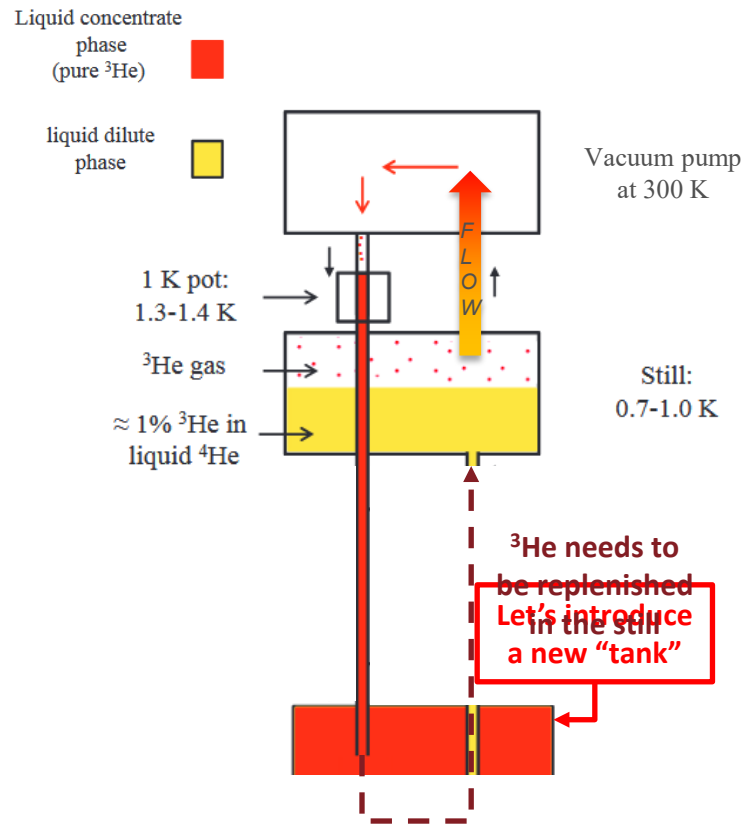
Let's introduce a new "tank"

Source: "Development of a closed cycle dilution refrigerator for astrophysical experiments in space," A. Volpe. Instrumentation and Detectors, Université Joseph-Fourier – Grenoble I, 2014. NNT: . Tel-00993970v1

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HOW?



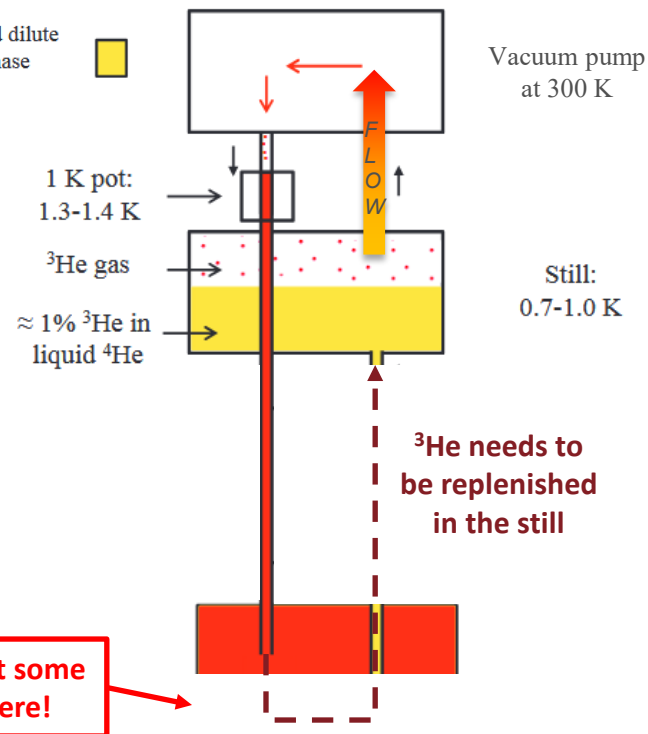
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Liquid concentrate phase (pure  $^3\text{He}$ ) ■

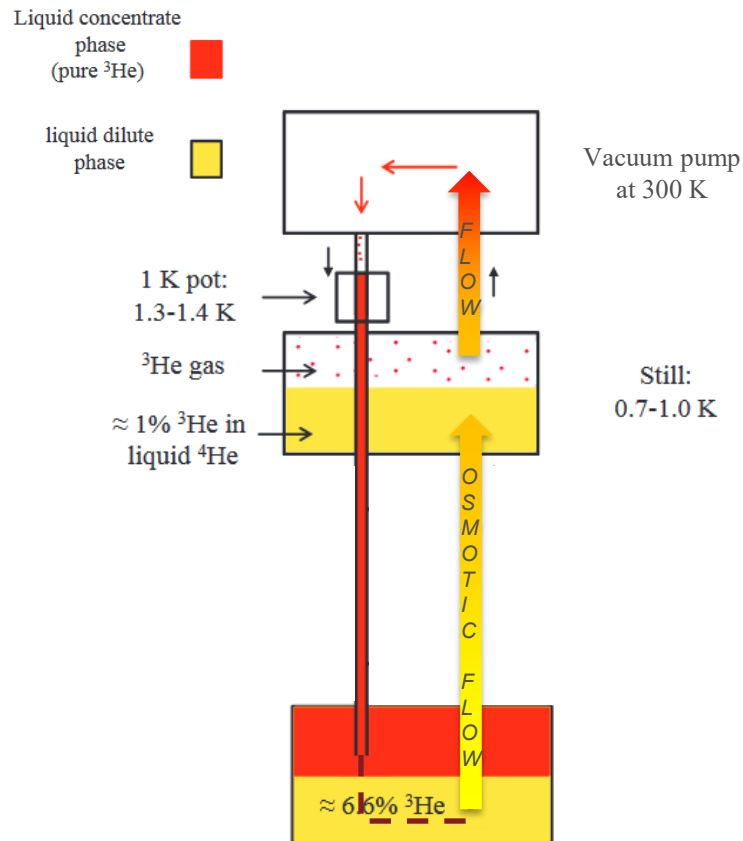
liquid dilute phase ■



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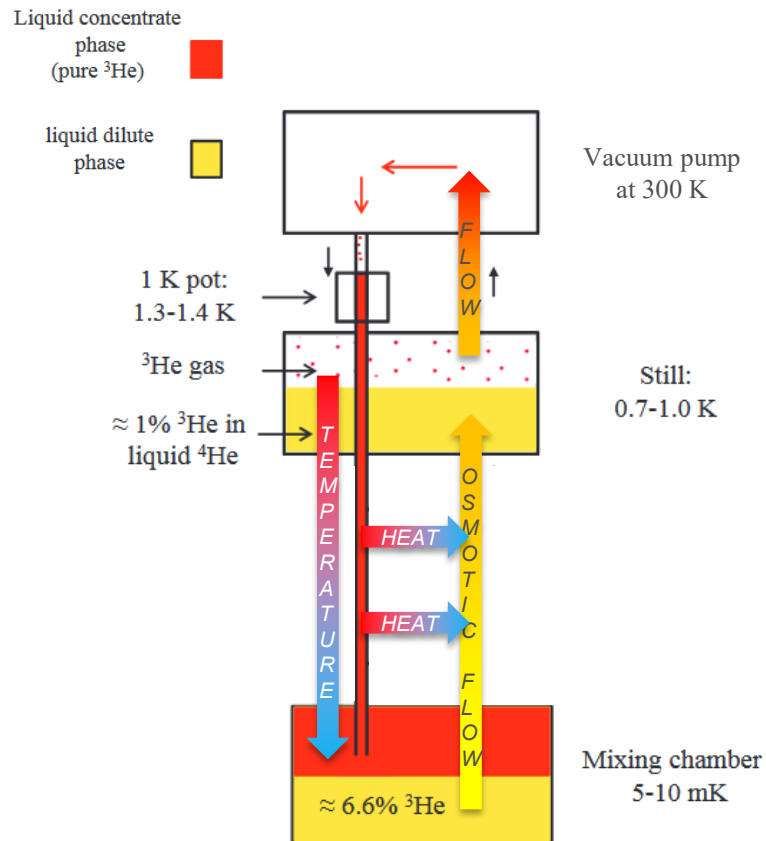
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Source: "Development of a closed cycle dilution refrigerator for astrophysical experiments in space," A. Volpe. Instrumentation and Detectors, Université Joseph-Fourier – Grenoble I, 2014. NNT: . Tel-00993970v1

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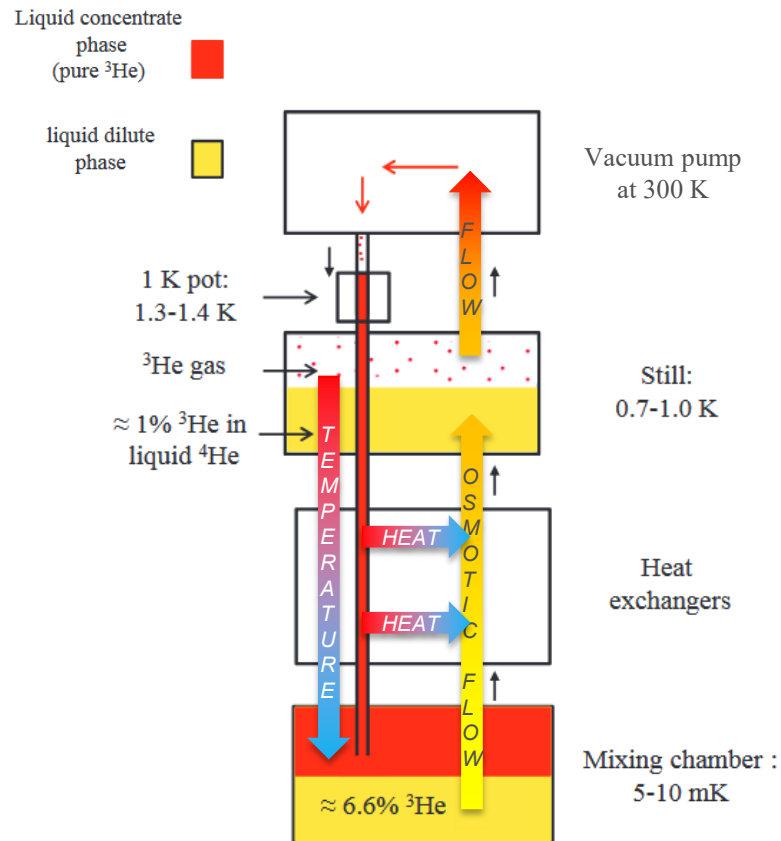
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      - This results in net cooling effect at the mixing chamber.
    - To keep pressures in the still high enough allow a turbomolecular pump to pump out  $^3\text{He}$ , the still is heated to approximately 700 mK.



Source: "Development of a closed cycle dilution refrigerator for astrophysical experiments in space," A. Volpe. Instrumentation and Detectors, Université Joseph-Fourier – Grenoble I, 2014. NNT: . Tel-00993970v1

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      - This results in net cooling effect at the mixing chamber.
    - To keep pressures in the still high enough allow a turbomolecular pump to pump out  $^3\text{He}$ , the still is heated to approximately 700 mK.
- Practical limit to dilution refrigerator base temperature is 2 mK.
- As of today, the only commercially-available technology to provide continuous cooling below 200 mK.



Source: "Development of a closed cycle dilution refrigerator for astrophysical experiments in space," A. Volpe. Instrumentation and Detectors, Université Joseph-Fourier – Grenoble I, 2014. NNT: . Tel-00993970v1

# Dilution Refrigerators, cont.

Typical cooling power specifications for a "large" dilution refrigerator, such as Bluefors' XLD1000sl:

XLD1000sl	Guaranteed
Base temperature	10 mK
Cooling power at 20 mK	>30 $\mu$ W
Cooling power at 100 mK	>1000 $\mu$ W
Cooling power at 120 mK	>1400 $\mu$ W
MXC Flange Diameter	500 mm

FEB. 13 / FEB. 20, 2023

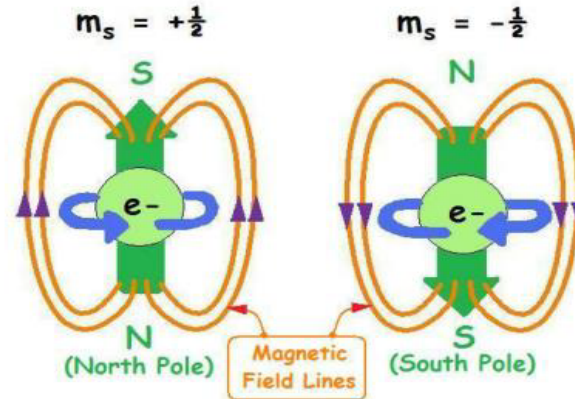


# Adiabatic Demagnetization Refrigerators

- A cooling technique involving:
  - Magnets
  - Entropy
  - Paramagnetic materials
- Generally mostly practical below 4 K.
- An Adiabatic Demagnetization Refrigerator (ADR) typically has:
  - A “salt pill”
  - A magnet
  - A heat sink
  - Thermal switches
  - Finally, the item to be cooled

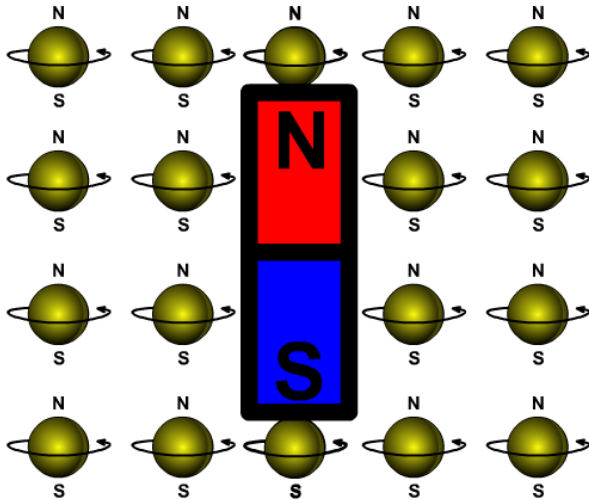
## The Atom – Electron Spin

- A spinning electron produces a magnetic field that makes the electron behave like a tiny magnet in an atom.
- Opposite spins produce opposite magnetic fields that cancel. Therefore, most atoms have weak magnetic properties.
- But some atoms contain electrons that are not paired. These atoms tend to have strong magnetic properties.



Source: <https://www.slideserve.com/abedi/magnetism-2043617-powerpoint-presentation>

# Adiabatic Demagnetization Refrigerators, cont.



**Opposite Poles Attract**



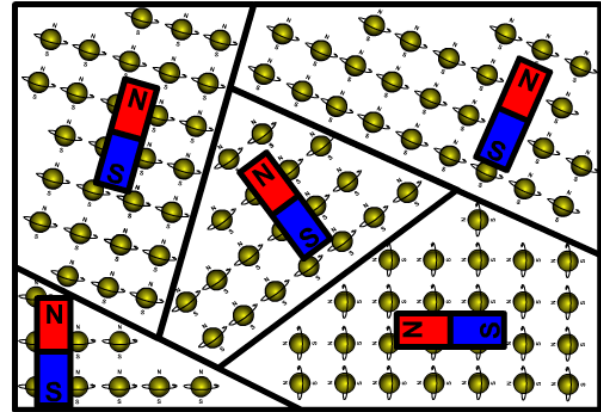
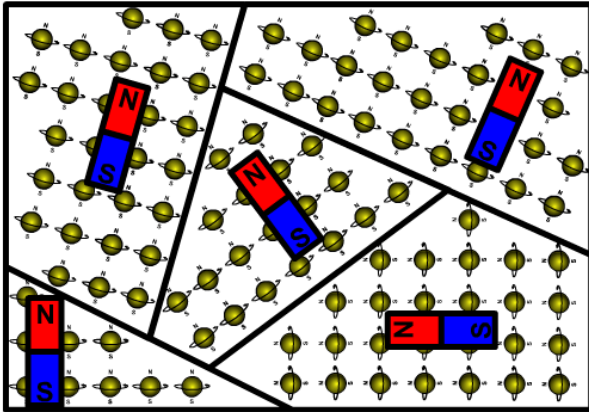
**Same Poles Repel**



Ferromagnetic material: A type of material where almost every electron spins in the same direction, therefore the material as a whole exhibits strong magnetic properties

Magnet basics

# Adiabatic Demagnetization Refrigerators, cont.



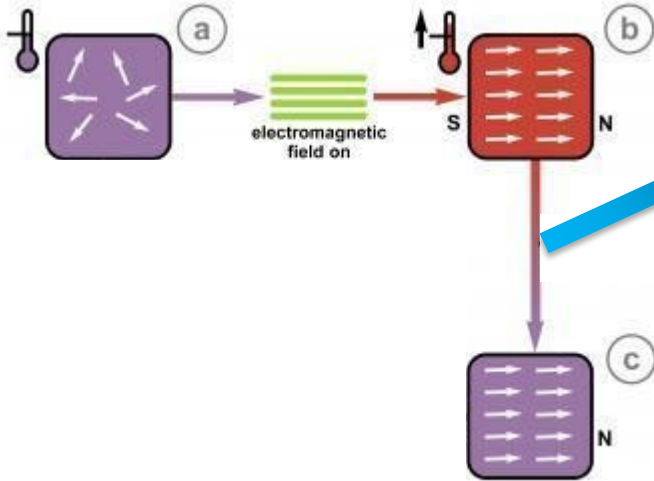
Materials which have mediocre magnetic properties really look like the above animation

However, a special class of materials called paramagnetic materials can become “aligned” when an external magnetic field is applied. This “alignment” is temporary and disappears when the external magnetic field is removed.

# Adiabatic Demagnetization Refrigerators, cont.



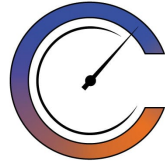
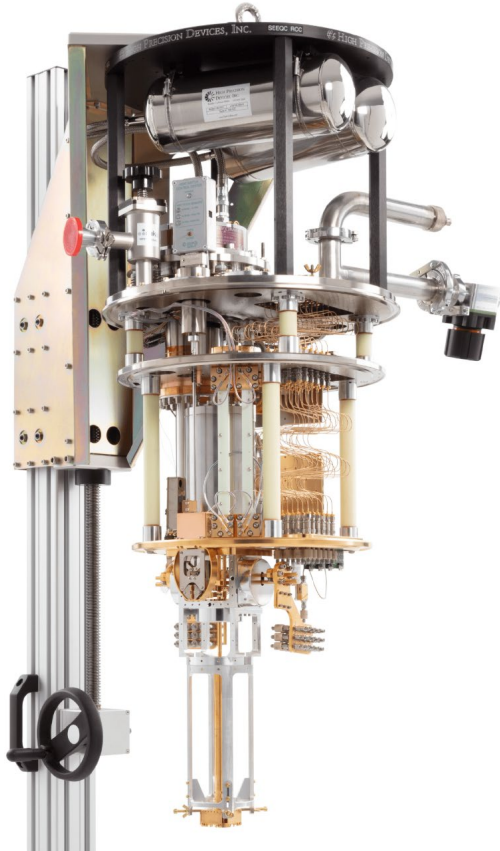
Magnetocaloric effect



Adiabatic Demagnetization Refrigerator cycle

# Adiabatic Demagnetization Refrigerators, cont.

- The previous slide, expressed in words:
  - Step 1: The thermal switch is disconnected and the magnet is on.
    - As the magnetic field is increased, the magnetic regions in the solid align and the entropy of these regions decreases.
    - In order to keep the overall entropy constant, the entropy in the thermal vibrations increases (and thus the temperature increases).
  - Step 2: Next the thermal switch is connected and heat is transferred from the paramagnetic material to the heat sink while the magnetic field is held constant.
    - This reduces the temperature of the paramagnetic material back to its starting point.
  - Step 3: The thermal switch is now disconnected, isolating the paramagnetic material.
  - Step 4: The magnetic field is reduced.
    - The paramagnetic regions become disordered and absorb entropy from the thermal vibrations.
      - This results in the cooling of the paramagnetic material and of the object being cooled.



**Danaher Cryo**  
*Pursue the near impossible*

## ***System Specs***

120 mJ at 100 mK cooling  
capacity

ADR base temperature of 30  
mK

250 hour no-load regulation at  
100 mK

FAA salt pill ~40 cc capacity

# Fermilab Cryogenics Capabilities - mK Cryostats



- 8x Bluefors XLD1000 dilution refrigerators
  - One of these refrigerators has integral 9 T solenoid magnet
- Bluefors LD400 dilution refrigerator
- Oxford Instruments Triton XL dilution refrigerator with 14 T solenoid magnet
- HPD Model 103 Rainier ADR
- HPD Model 104 Olympus ADR
- Oxford Instruments Proteox MX dilution refrigerator
- 300 feet underground at the MINOS experimental hall:
  - CryoConcept HEXADRY UQT-B200 dilution refrigerator
  - Another Oxford Instruments Proteox MX dilution refrigerator (identical to above-ground example)
- 5,000 feet underground at SNOLAB (Canada)
  - Leiden Cryogenics LC-CF2500-Maglev-2PT dilution refrigerator
- Leiden Cryogenics CF-CS110-500 Maglev-1PT

# Fermilab Cryogenics Capabilities - mK Cryostats, cont.





ONLY AROUND 200 YEARS!!!

# The End!

