

# Temperature

Edgar Méndez Lango  
[emendez@cenam.mx](mailto:emendez@cenam.mx)  
Termometría, CENAM  
México

# Content

Concept of Temperature

Zero-th Law

References; ITS-90

Thermometers

Traceability

Heat conduction

Experimental

Open problems

# Subjective scale

## **Temperature:**

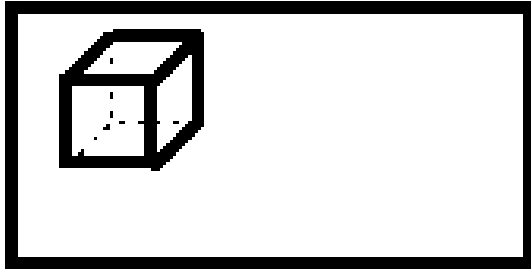
Property of a body that determines if it is hot or cold

## **Subjective Scale:**

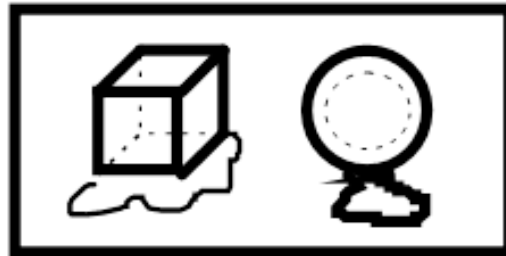
Set of bodies that can be arranged from coldest to hottest

## **Uncertainty** of the subjective scale

# Experiment



Ice cube in an adiabatic container; balloon at room temperature



Both of them in the adiabatic container

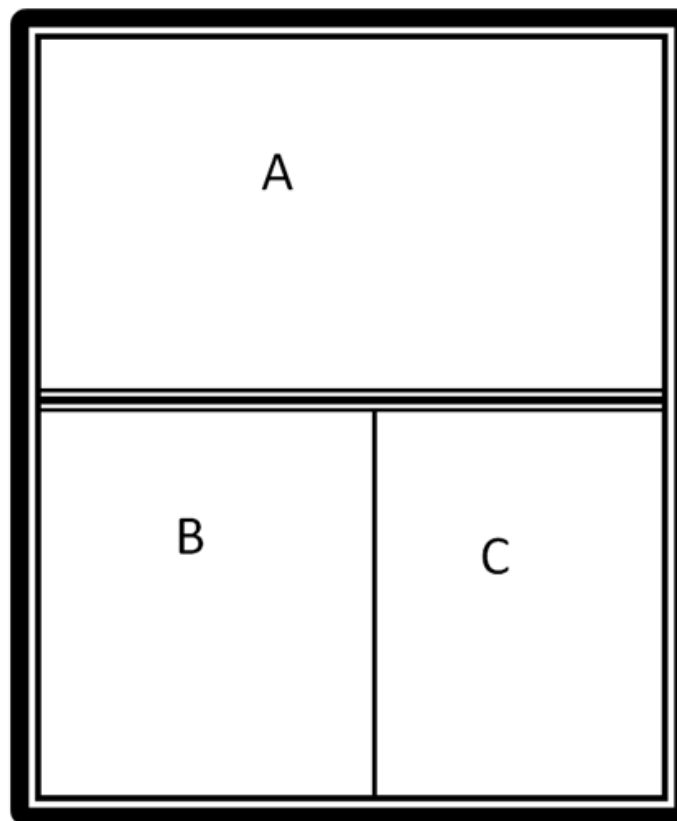
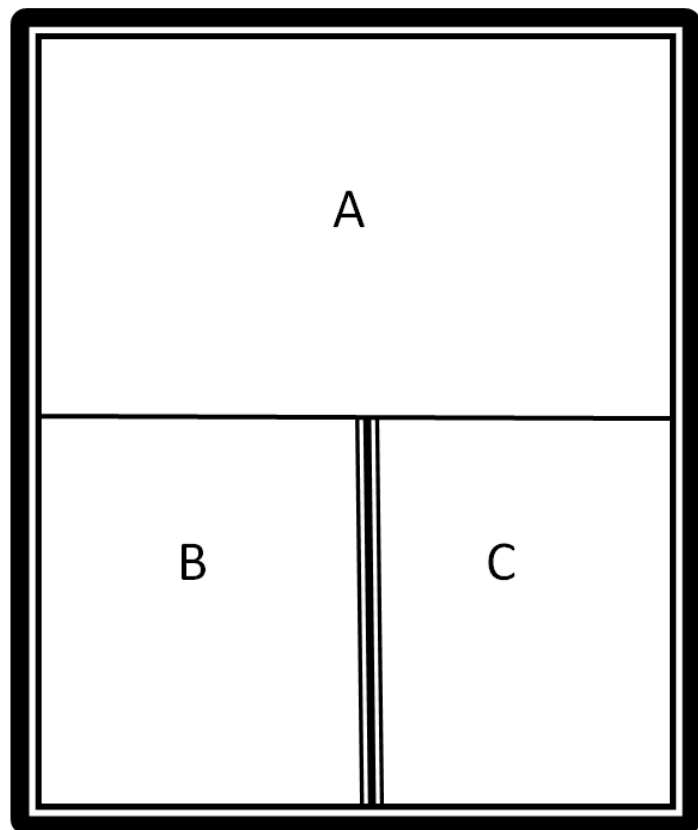
# Equilibrium

A system is said to be in equilibrium when its contents cannot change their condition of their own accord.

Such a change can only be brought about through some action in the surroundings.

Ref. E. E. Anderson *Thermodynamics* PWS Publishing Co. 1994, p. 15

# Zero-th law



# Temperature

Physical property that describes  
if thermal equilibrium holds.

Two objects are in thermal equilibrium,  
if and only if,  
they are at the same temperature



## References

Clinical thermometer:

0.1 °C

Industrial laboratory:

0.01 °C

Calibration laboratory:

0.001 °C

And so on...

# Equilibrium

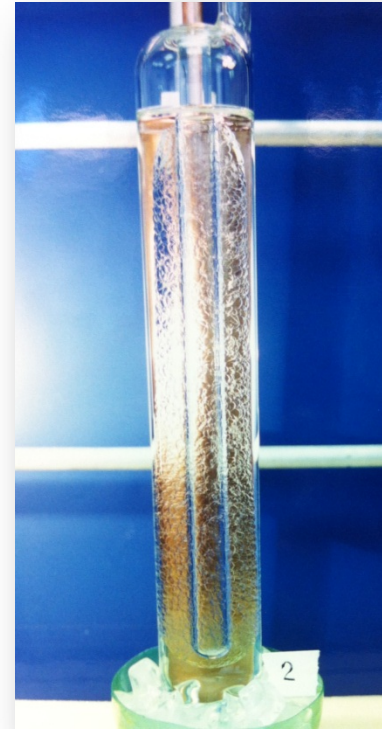
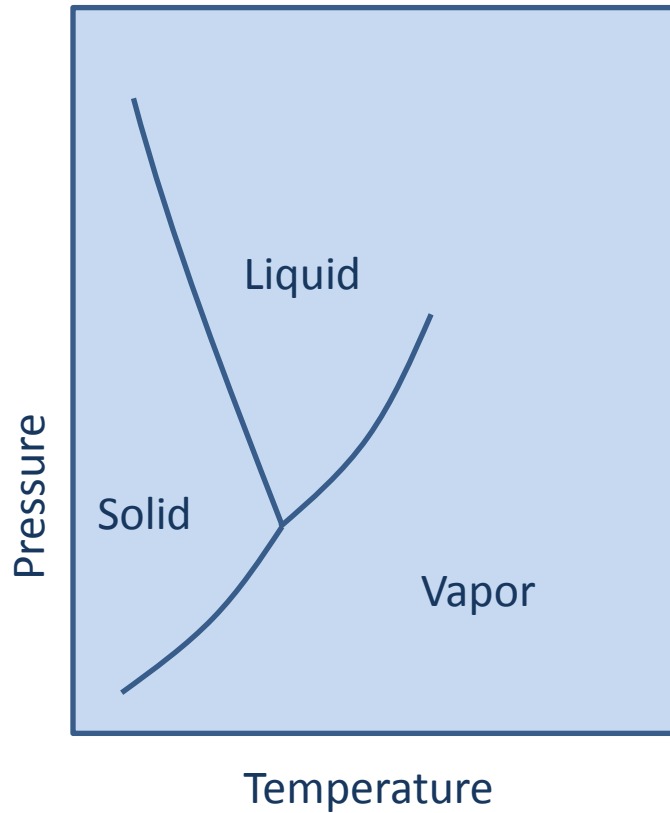
Mechanical: 2 points

Mechanical: 1 point

Thermal: 1<sup>st</sup> control

Thermal: 2<sup>nd</sup> control

# Fixed points



# ITS-90 fixed points

**Table 1.** Defining fixed points of the ITS-90

| Num-<br>ber | Temperature       |                           | Sub-<br>stance <sup>a</sup> | State <sup>b</sup> | $W_r(T_{90})$ |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
|             | $T_{90}/\text{K}$ | $t_{90}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ |                             |                    |               |
| 1           | 3 to 5            | −270,15 to<br>−268,15     | He                          | V                  |               |
| 2           | 13,8033           | −259,3467                 | e-H <sub>2</sub>            | T                  | 0,001 190 07  |
| 3           | ≈17               | ≈ −256,15                 | e-H <sub>2</sub><br>(or He) | V<br>(or G)        |               |
| 4           | ≈20,3             | ≈ −252,85                 | e-H <sub>2</sub><br>(or He) | V<br>(or G)        |               |
| 5           | 24,5561           | −248,5939                 | Ne                          | T                  | 0,008 449 74  |
| 6           | 54,3584           | −218,7916                 | O <sub>2</sub>              | T                  | 0,091 718 04  |
| 7           | 83,8058           | −189,3442                 | Ar                          | T                  | 0,215 859 75  |
| 8           | 234,3156          | −38,8344                  | Hg                          | T                  | 0,844 142 11  |
| 9           | 273,16            | 0,01                      | H <sub>2</sub> O            | T                  | 1,000 000 00  |
| 10          | 302,9146          | 29,7646                   | Ga                          | M                  | 1,118 138 89  |
| 11          | 429,7485          | 156,5985                  | In                          | F                  | 1,609 801 85  |
| 12          | 505,078           | 231,928                   | Sn                          | F                  | 1,892 797 68  |
| 13          | 692,677           | 419,527                   | Zn                          | F                  | 2,568 917 30  |
| 14          | 933,473           | 660,323                   | Al                          | F                  | 3,376 008 60  |
| 15          | 1234,93           | 961,78                    | Ag                          | F                  | 4,286 420 53  |
| 16          | 1337,33           | 1064,18                   | Au                          | F                  |               |
| 17          | 1357,77           | 1084,62                   | Cu                          | F                  |               |

# Thermometer

To measure temperature

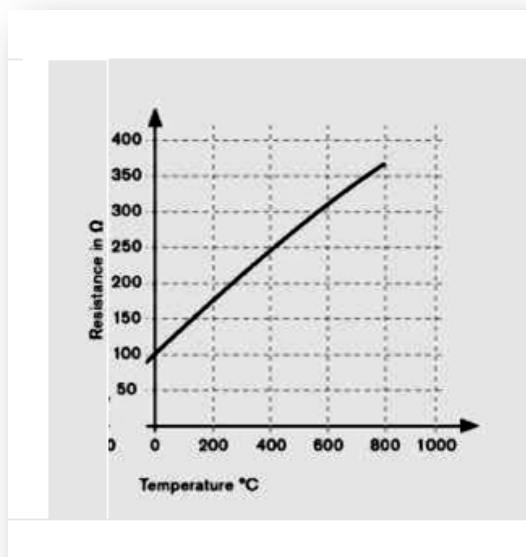
Three parts are needed:  
a sensor,



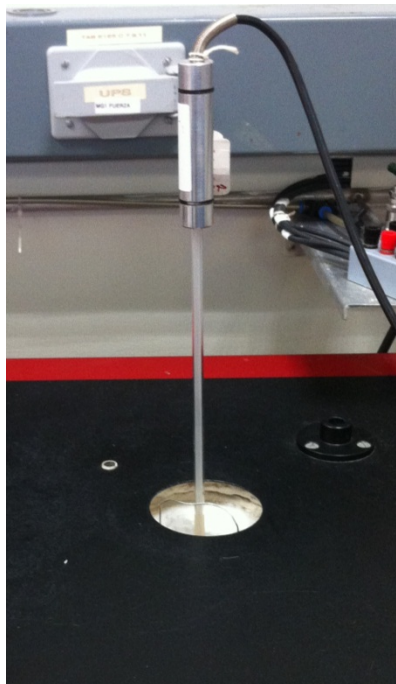
a readout and



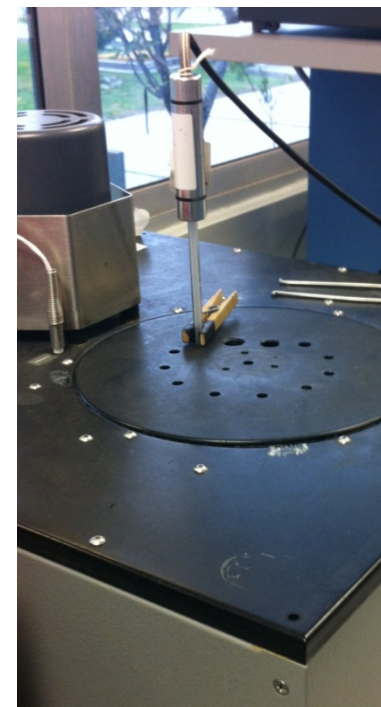
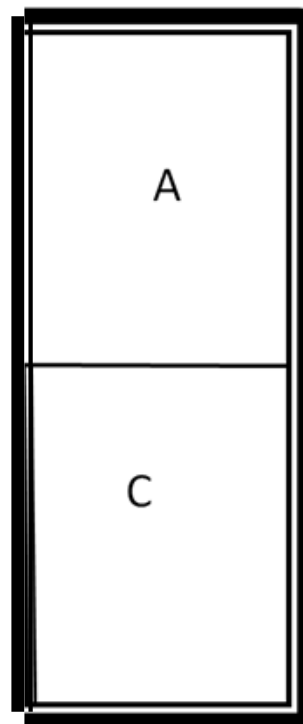
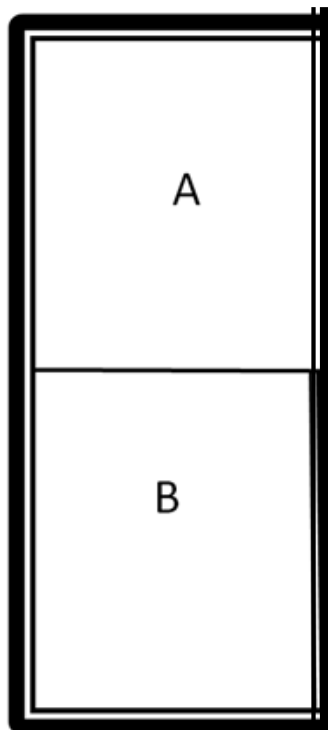
a table.



# Traceability



PRT under calibration



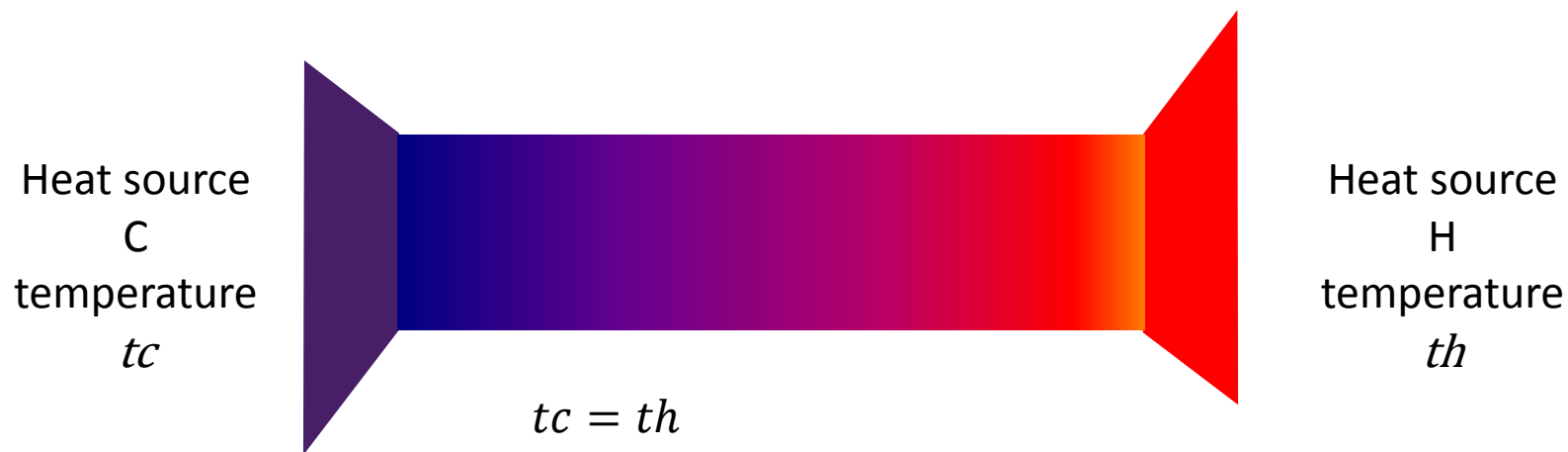
PRT in use



# Heat conduction



# Heat conduction



$$t_c = t_h$$

$$\nabla t = t_h - t_c$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \dot{q} \propto \nabla t \\ \dot{q} \propto A \\ \dot{q} \propto \frac{1}{L} \end{array} \right\} \longrightarrow \dot{q} = \lambda \frac{A \nabla t}{L}$$

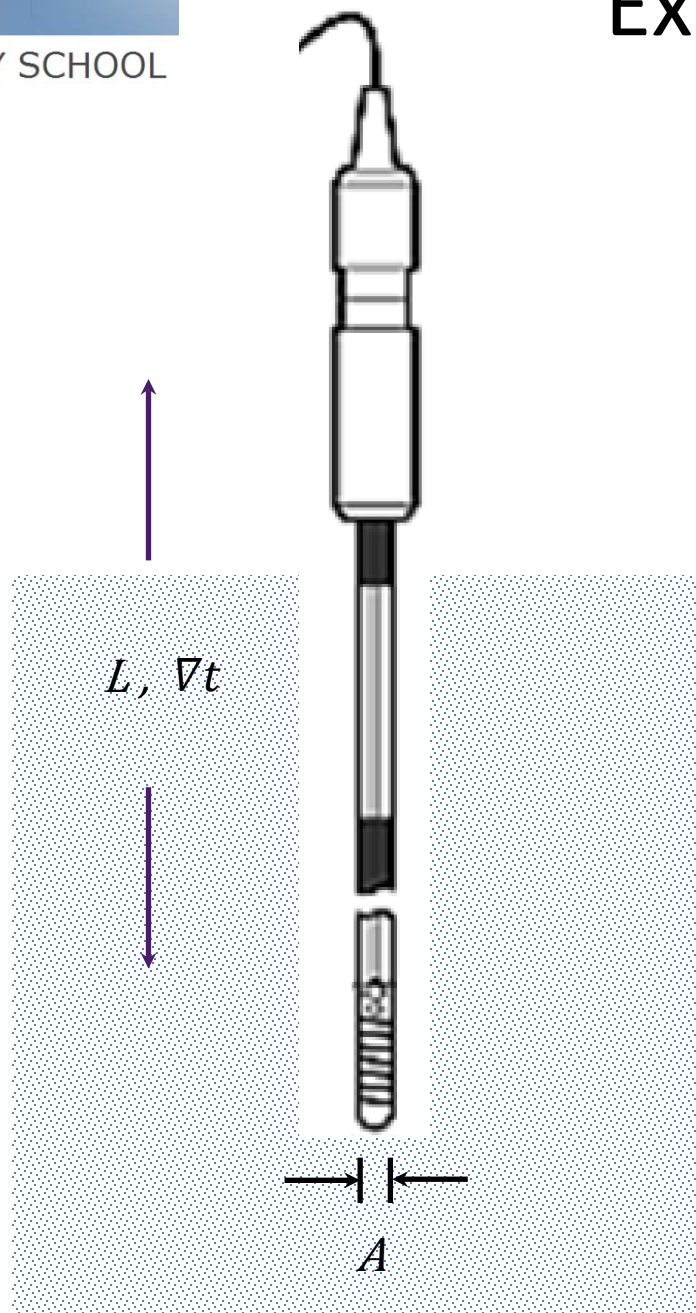
# Experimental

## **A thermometer measures its own temperature**

It is the duty of a metrologist to design the experimental setup to ensure that the thermometer is in thermal equilibrium with the object or media under study.

# Experimental case I immersion

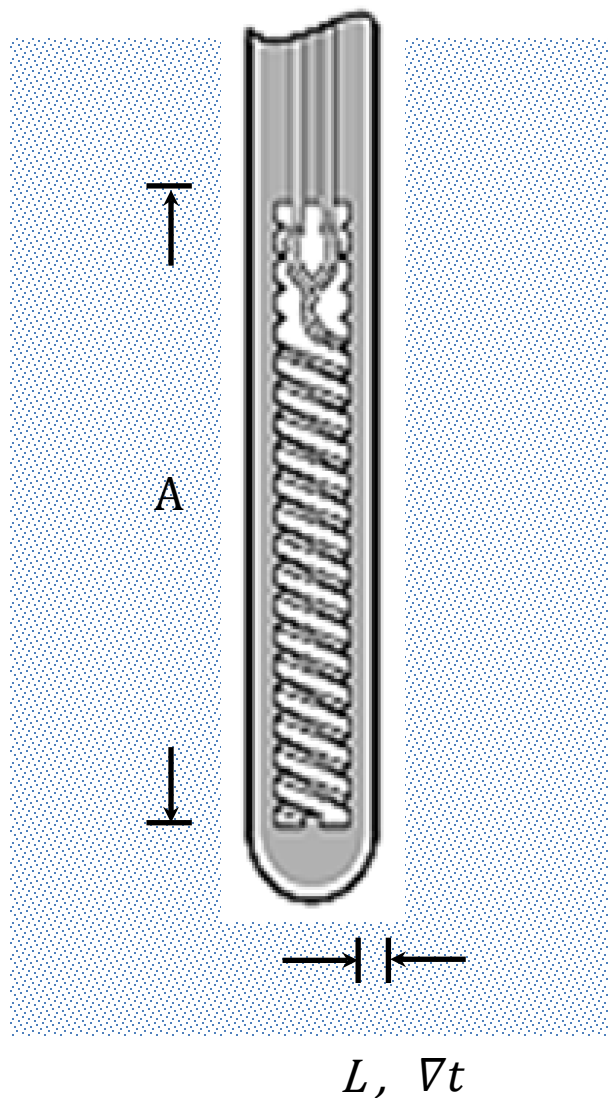
$$\dot{q} \rightarrow \min$$



$$\dot{q} = \lambda \frac{A \nabla t}{L}$$

# Experimental case II

## Thermal contact



$$\dot{q} \rightarrow \max$$

$$\dot{q} = \lambda \frac{A \nabla t}{L}$$

## “Open problems”

Since temperature is an equilibrium concept there is not such a term for systems with thermal gradients.

Several experiments require the knowledge of surface temperature, but contact thermometers work better when they are imbedded thus, this situation requires special attention.