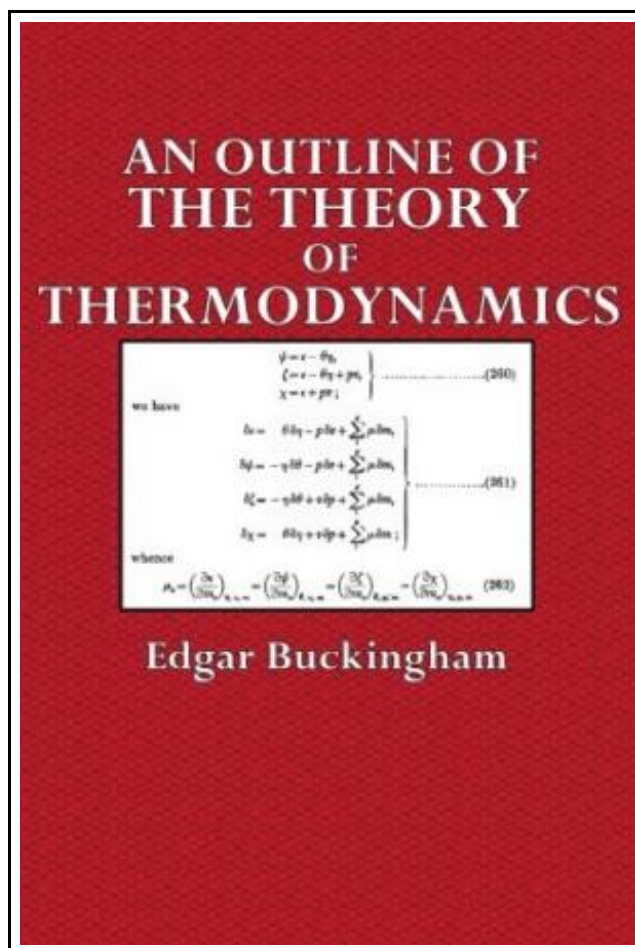


# An Outline of the Theory of Thermodynamics



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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.THE study of thermodynamics is customarily approached, in treatises and text-books, from a point of view to a great extent the reverse of that which is adopted in opening up the subject of dynamics. In dynamics, the usual treatment is essentially theoretical, as opposed to experimental. Newton's laws of motion are regarded as axiomatic; the second and third laws are employed to afford quantitative definitions of force and mass respectively, the parallelogram of forces is practically assumed, and all which follows is mere mathematics. It is only quite recently that the possibility of teaching dynamics from a more experimental standpoint has been seriously considered. In thermodynamics it is usual to go to the other extreme. Temperature is defined in the first place by a common thermometer, calorimetry is treated largely in its experimental aspect, and the first law of thermodynamics thus becomes more closely associated in the reader's mind with joule's experiments on the mechanical equivalent of heat than with its interpretation as affording a definition of quantity of heat. The ordinary treatment of the mechanical equivalent of heat would, in fact, have an analogue in dynamics if we were to start with the pound weight as unit of force, and to define the constant  $g$  as the kinetical equivalent of force. Of recent years a great impetus has been given to the study of higher thermodynamics by the development of physical chemistry based on the theories first enunciated by Willard Gibbs. The experimental study of what at first was a purely mathematical investigation plays a part in the history of science closely analogous with the experimental verifications of Maxwell's theory by Hertz's...



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