Variational Formulations for Resting Irreversible Fluids with Heat Flow

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Abstract: - Nonequilibrium statistical mechanics helps to estimate corrections to the entropy and energy of the fluid with heat flux in terms of the nonequilibrium distribution function, \( f \). This leads to the coefficients of wave model of heat: relaxation time, propagation speed and thermal inertia. With these data a quadratic Lagrangian and a variational principle of Hamilton’s type follows for the fluid in the field representation of fluid’s motion. We analyze canonical conservation laws and show the satisfaction of the second law under the constraint of these conservation laws.

Key-Words: - Grad solution, variational calculus, wave equations, conservation laws, entropy.

1 Introduction

Extended thermodynamics of fluids can be applied to set variational principles for the irreversible energy transfer. Significant help can be obtained from nonequilibrium statistical theories when evaluating kinetic or flux-dependent terms in energies and macroscopic Lagrangians. Especially, we can treat statistical aspects of nonequilibrium fluids with heat flow by applying an analysis that uses Grad’s results [1] to determine nonequilibrium corrections \( \Delta s \) or \( \Delta e \) to the energy \( e \) or entropy \( s \) in terms of the nonequilibrium density distribution function \( f \). To find the required corrections to the energy \( e \) and kinetic potential \( L \) we exploit corrections \( \Delta s \) and a relationship that links energy and entropy representations of thermodynamics. We may also evaluate coefficients of wave model of heat, such as: relaxation time, propagation speed and thermal inertia factors, \( g \) and \( \theta \). With these data we can formulate a variational principle of Hamilton’s or least action type for fluids with heat flux in the field or Eulerian representation of fluid motion.

To find a variational formulation we apply here an approach that adjoints a given set of constraints to a kinetic potential \( L \) and transfers the original variational formulation to the space of the Lagrange multipliers (also called state adjoints). Considering limiting reversible process we evaluate canonical components of energy-momentum tensor and associated conservation laws. The approach works efficiently; it leads to exact imbedding of constraints in the potential space of Lagrange multipliers, implying that the appropriateness of the constraining set should be verified by physical rather than mathematical criteria. An analysis shows that the approach is particularly useful in the field (Eulerian) description of transport phenomena, where equations of thermal field follow from variational principles based on the state adjoints rather than on the original physical variables. Exemplifying process is hyperbolic heat transfer, but the approach can also be applied to coupled parabolic transfer of heat, mass and electric charge. With various gradient or non-gradient representations of physical fields in terms of state adjoints useful action-type criteria emerge. Symmetry principles are effective, and components of the formal energy-momentum tensor can be found. Focusing on heat flow, our work represents, in fact, an approach that shows the advantage of approaches borrowed from the optimal control theory in the variational setting of irreversible transport. The limiting reversible process provides a suitable reference frame for more involved irreversible evolutions.

2 Optimization Type Approach

Statistical theories are useful [1] to evaluate nonequilibrium corrections to the energy and other thermodynamic potentials in situations when a continuum is inhomogeneous because of the presence of irreversible fluxes. To illustrate benefits resulting from nonequilibrium statistical thermodynamics, heat transfer in locally non-equilibrium fluids is analyzed [2]. Quite essential therein is the connection between various representations of thermodynamics and a relationship (resembling the Gouy-Stodola law) that links energy and entropy pictures. With this relationship nonequilibrium corrections to the energy can be found from those known for the entropy. These energy corrections can next be used to find a suitable kinetic potentials \( L \).

The present approach is optimization-type; it differs from the conventional variational ones in that the action
functional is systematically constructed rather than assumed from the beginning. Equations of constraints (reversible or not) follow in the form of their counterparts in the space of Lagrange multipliers; they are extremum conditions for the action based on a composite (constraint involving) Lagrangian $A$ or its gauge counterpart. As long as the representations of physical variables are explicit in terms of Lagrange multipliers, the whole variational formalism can be transferred to the adjoint space of multipliers, i.e. a variational principle can be formulated in the adjoint space. The Lagrangian can also be used to obtain the matter tensor and associated conservation laws.

Finally we show that the use of the canonical conservation laws constructed for the reversible process and variational extremum conditions assures the satisfaction of the second law of thermodynamics, the property that renders the variational theory considered a candidate to be the physical one.

3 Energy and Entropy Representations

Now our task is to recall some basic knowledge on the thermodynamics of heat flow without local equilibrium. This will help us to construct Lagrangians, variational principles and conservation laws. We work in the framework of extended thermodynamics of fluids [3] and restrict to incompressible, one-component fluid with heat flow.

Consider a nonequilibrium state, say $A$, off but near the Gibbs surface, when the local equilibrium assumption is inapplicable, Fig. 1. The energy at the state $A$ is the nonequilibrium internal energy. This internal energy depends not only on the usual state variables, but also on some nonequilibrium variables such as heat flux or diffusive entropy flux. Here we select the heat flux, $\mathbf{q}$, as the nonequilibrium variable of choice. It is treated as an internal variable which may relax to an equilibrium. Nonequilibrium energy density of a continuum, $\rho e$, or its specific energy $e$, is a function of density $\rho$, specific entropy $s$ and diffusive entropy flux $j_s$ or heat flux $\mathbf{q}$. For a continuum as a stable macrosystem, its equilibrium internal energy density $\rho e^\text{eq}$ is the minimum of $\rho e$ with respect to unconstrained $j_s$ or $\mathbf{q}$, at constant $\rho$ and $s$. As $\rho = \nu^{-1}$, the reciprocal of specific volume, the minimum of $\rho e$ (or $e$ itself) with respect to $j_s$ or $\mathbf{q}$ occurs at the constant entropy $s$ and volume $\nu$ which are proper variables at which the energy attains minimum at equilibrium. This is in agreement with basic thermodynamics [4]. Since $j_s$ or $\mathbf{q}$ are a diffusive fluxes, the minimum occurs for $j_s=0$ or $\mathbf{q}=0$.

For a given nonequilibrium state at a point $A$ in Fig.1, two equilibrium reference states, at points $B$ and $C$, say, correspond, respectively, to the energy and entropy representation. A researcher knowing entropy $s$ (e. g., from distribution function $f$ corresponding to $A$) formulates his description of state $A$ in terms of equilibrium parameters at $B$, for a set of variables, here the entropy flux $j_s$. Yet, one who knows energy $e$ can base his view on the heat flux $\mathbf{q}$ and equilibrium at $C$. When point $A$ moves the equilibrium states ($B$ and $C$) vary. The conventional picture of motion in terms of Hamilton’s principle corresponds to following the behavior of $B$ and the kinetic energy of entropy flux, whereas the kinetic theory view corresponds to tracking of $C$ and the deviation of entropy from equilibrium. The transition from one view to the other is possible [2].

It is important to realize that for a single nonequilibrium state the use of the entropy representation and energy representation establishes two different equilibrium states located on the Gibbs surface. This, of course, is because of the difference in what is held constant. The distance between two discussed equilibrium states ($B$ and $C$) increases with the distance of the state $A$ from the Gibbs surface. This distance can also be measured in terms of the modulus of the flux $j_s$ or in terms of the differences $\Delta e = AB$ or $\Delta s = AC$. When the curvature of the Gibb’s surface can be neglected, corresponding to the near-equilibrium situation, the two disequilibrium excesses are linked by an equality resembling the Gouy-Stodola law

$$ (e-e^\text{eq})_{s,\rho} = -T(s-s^\text{eq})_{e,\rho} \quad (1) $$

This formula states that the energy released during the isentropic relaxation equals the product of the absolute temperature and the entropy deficiency in the system caused by the presence of the heat flux $\mathbf{q}$ or the entropy flux, $j_s$.

![Fig. 1. Diverse reference equilibrium states (B, D, C, etc.) for a given nonequilibrium state A.](image-url)
4 Nonequilibrium Corrections to Energy and Entropy

It is essential that the entropy representation is assumed in the Grad's formalism of the kinetic theory [1]. Hence the specific energy of an ideal gas or fluid with heat at the point A is equal to the specific energy at equilibrium C in Fig. 1. The reference temperatures and pressures that appear in the expressions of kinetic theory are T(C) and P(C). From the formalism one finds disequilibrium corrections $\Delta s$ or $\Delta e$ in terms of the non-equilibrium density distribution function $f$. Here we recapitulate the results of several different works [3]-[6] all using Grad's [1] solution of the Boltzmann equation in macroscopic predictions for dilute gas of rigid spheres.

The molecular velocity distribution function, $f$, out of equilibrium but close to it is given as

$$ f(C) = f^{eq}(C)(1 + \phi_1) $$

where $f^{eq}$ is the local equilibrium (Maxwell-Boltzmann) distribution pertaining to the entropy representation equilibrium (point C, Fig. 1). $f$ and $f^{eq}$ are scalars, but functions of the peculiar velocity $C = c - u$, and $\phi_1$ is a function of the deviation from equilibrium. This deviation is expressed in terms of the gradT in the Chapman-Enskog method and in terms of the heat flux $q$ in the Grad's method. Using Eq. (2) in the entropy definition, one integrates the expression $f \ln f$ over all of the space of the molecular velocity $c$,

$$ \rho_s = - k_B \int c \ln f \, dc $$

Proceeding with development of $\rho_s$ up to second order in $\phi_1$, one obtains $\rho_s = \rho_s^{eq} + \rho_s^{(1)} + \rho_s^{(2)} ...$ with the local equilibrium entropy

$$ \rho_s^{eq} = - k_B \int f^{eq} \ln f^{eq} \, dc $$

and the nonequilibrium correction

$$ \rho_s^{(1)} = - k_B \int f^{eq} \phi_1 \ln f^{eq} \, dc = 0 $$

Again, this proves that one deals with the entropy representation where the entropy is maximum at equilibrium. A counterpart of the above equation in the energy representation

$$ \rho_s^{(1)} = - \int f^{eq} \phi_1 m c^2 \, dc = 0, $$

would correspond to the minimum energy. The second order correction to the entropy density (in entropy representation) is

$$ \rho_s^{(2)} = \rho \Delta s = - \frac{1}{2} k_B \int \epsilon^{eq} \phi_1^2 \, dc $$

Hence, in view of the relation between $\Delta e$ and $\Delta s$ implied by Fig. 1 or Eq. (1)

$$ \Delta e = - \frac{1}{2} k_B T \rho^{-1} \int \epsilon^{eq} \phi_1^2 \, dc $$

Since the state A is close to the equilibrium surface, the multiplicative coefficients involving usual thermostatic variables can always be evaluated at arbitrary equilibrium points (B or C in Fig. 1). However, in Eqs. (1), (9) and (10), they are evaluated (in the kinetic theory) for the case of the isoenergetic equilibrium (point C, Fig. 1). The function $\phi_1$, obtained in Grad's method when the system's disequilibrium is maintained by a heat flux $q$ is

$$ \phi_1 = \frac{2}{5} (m / \rho P k_B T^2) \frac{1}{2} m c^2 - \frac{5}{2} \frac{k_B T}{m} C q $$

where $m$ is the mass of a molecule ([1], [3]). From Eqs. (7), (8) and (9) one obtains for the entropy deviation

$$ \Delta s = - \frac{1}{5} (m / \rho P k_B T^2) q^2 $$

and for the energy deviation, Eq. (1), with entropy flux $j_s = q T^{-1}$

$$ \Delta e = \frac{1}{5} (m^2 / k_B T^2) q^2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{m^2}{k_B T^2} j_s^2 $$

Equations (10) and (11) hold to the accuracy of the thirteenth moment of the velocity [1]. When passing from Eq. (10) to (11) state equation $P = \rho k_B T m^{-1}$ is used and a constant $g$ is defined as

$$ g = \frac{2 m T}{5 P k_B} = \frac{2 m^2}{5 k_B} $$

Here we abandoned the entropy representation. Pressure in Eqs. (9) and (12) is that of an ideal gas, given by the definition used in the kinetic theory (Grad 1958 [1]). Eq. (11) with constant $g$ defined by Eq. (12) is the characteristic feature of the ideal monoatomic gas (dilute Boltzmann gas composed of hard spheres). For arbitrary fluids (polyatomic gases, dense monoatomic gases and liquids) one can retain the form of the last expression in Eq. (11) by using a general formula for by noting that

$$ g(\rho, s) = \rho_2 s^2 (\partial^2 s / \partial j_s^2)_{eq} $$

In the ideal gas case the derivative $\partial^2 s / \partial j_s^2 = (2/5)(m^2/k_B^2 \rho^2)$ from Eq. (11) and the definition (12) is recovered form definition (13), equation (13) is consistent with a hypothesis about the equality of the kinetic and static nonequilibrium energy corrections in a thermal shock-wave front [5]. The hypothesis can be used to compute $(\partial^2 s / \partial j_s^2)_{eq}$ for arbitrary fluids as $T/(\rho s G)$ and hence $g$ as $T \rho(s(G))$, where $G$ is the shear modulus. Equilibrium values of thermodynamic parameters can be applied in such expressions. For an ideal gas the shear
modulus is just the pressure $P$ (the result of Maxwell) and $c_p = 5k_B/(2m)$. These results allow one to recover definition (12) from the expression $g = T\rho (c_\rho G)$; they support the hypothesis mentioned above. Yet, for the purpose of general considerations the use of the implicit dependence of $g$ on the basic variables $(\rho, s)$ is often enough, i.e., function $g(\rho, s)$ will be used when passing to arbitrary fluids. Some entropy flux adjoints, $a$, and $i_s$, are useful. They are defined, respectively, by equations

$$a_i (s, \rho, j_s) = \partial \Delta e(s, \rho, j_s)_{\rho, s} / \partial j_s = \rho g^2 j_i$$

(14) and

$$i_s (s, \rho, j_s) = \rho g^2 j_s = g s \mathbf{v}_s = g s (\mathbf{u}_s - \mathbf{u})$$

(15)

The entropy diffusion velocity $\mathbf{v}_s = \mathbf{u}_s - \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{j}_i / \rho_s$ appears in Eq. (15). One may also introduce the product $k_B g s$ which has the dimension of mass. For the ideal gas this product yields $m_s = 2/5(m^2 s k_B)$, a measure of heat inertia.

In the model of a constant $g$, nonequilibrium temperature $T(B)$ is equal to the equilibrium temperature $T(\rho, s)$ which is both the measure of mean kinetic energy of an equilibrium and the derivative of energy with respect to the entropy. This equality emerges because, above, we have chosen the entropy flux $j_s$, not the heat flux $\mathbf{q}$, as the nonequilibrium variable in energy $e$. If one differentiates the nonequilibrium entropy $s$ with respect to the energy holding $\mathbf{q}$ constant, then a quantity $T(C)$ of Jou et al ([3]) follows, which differs from the reciprocal of the related temperature $T_B$ by a term quadratic in $\mathbf{q}$. In general, "nonequilibrium temperatures" (understood as the fifth moment of the nonequilibrium density functions) are not the measures of mean kinetic energy.

The knowledge of inertial coefficients, such as $g$, from statistical considerations helps to calculate two basic quantities in the model of heat transfer with finite wave speed. They are: thermal relaxation time $\tau$ and the propagation speed $c_0$. Of several formulae available that link $\tau$ and $g$, probably the following expression

$$\tau = k g (\rho T)^{-1}$$

(16)

is most useful ([6], p. 199). It links thermal relaxation time $\tau$ with thermal conductivity $k$, inertia $g$ and state parameters of the system. As, by definition, the propagation speed of the thermal wave $c_0 = (a/\tau)^{1/2}$, where $a = k / (\rho c_p)$ is thermal diffusivity, the quantity $c_0$ may be determined from the useful formula

$$c_0 = (a/\tau)^{1/2} = \left( \frac{T}{c_p g} \right)^{1/2}$$

(17)

Substituting to this formula the ideal gas data, i.e. $g$ of Eq. (12) and $c_0 = 5k_B/(2m)$, yields propagation speed in the ideal gas

$$c_0 = \left( \frac{T}{c_p g} \right)^{1/2} = \left( \frac{k_B T}{m} \right)^{1/2}$$

(18)

(thermal speed). Thus the results of nonequilibrium statistical mechanics help to estimate coefficients of the heat transfer model. Data of $\tau$ and $c_0$ are used below in a variational principle for heat transfer. One more coefficient that is quite useful in the wave theory of heat is that describing a thermal mass per unit of entropy

$$\theta = T c_0^{-2}$$

(19)

[6]. For an ideal gas, Eq. (18) yields $\theta$ as

$$\theta = m k_B^{-1}$$

(20)

We can now set a variational model of the heat problem.

5 Approaches Ajoining Constraints to a Kinetic Potential

For a heat conduction described in an Eulerian frame by the Cattaneo equation and conservation law for the internal energy, the constraints are

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{q}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{q} + \nabla \rho_e = 0$$

(21) and

$$\frac{\partial \rho_e}{\partial t} + \nabla \mathbf{v}_e = 0$$

(22)

where the density of the thermal energy $\rho_e$ satisfies $d\rho_e = \rho_e c v dT$, $c_0$ is propagation speed for the thermal wave, $\tau$ is thermal relaxation time, and $D = c_0^2 \tau$ is the thermal diffusivity. Equation (22) assumes the conservation of thermal energy (rigid medium and neglect of the viscous dissipation). For simplicity we assume constant values of involved fields at the boundary. We ignore the vorticity properties of the heat flux.

The energy-representation of the Cattaneo equation,

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{j}_e}{\partial t} + \mathbf{j}_e + \nabla T = 0$$

(23)

uses diffusive entropy flux $\mathbf{j}_e$ instead of heat flux $\mathbf{q}$. The coefficient $c_0$ is defined as

$$c_0 = (\rho_e \theta^{-1})^{1/2}$$

(24)

where $\theta = T c_0^{-2}$, and thermal diffusivity $k = \rho_e c_v \tau$. Equation (23) is Kaliski’s equation [6]. For an
incompressible medium one may apply this equation in the form
\[
\frac{\partial q}{\partial \tau} + \frac{1}{\tau} \frac{\partial \rho_\phi}{\partial \tau} + \nabla \rho_\phi = 0 \tag{25}
\]
which uses the entropy density $\rho_\phi$ as a field variable. Yet, we focus here on the action and extremum conditions in the entropy representation (Eqs. (21) and (22) in variables $q$ and $\rho_\phi$). For Eqs. (23) - (25) another approach will be developed in a complementary paper.

Action approaches should be distinguished from entropy-production approaches [6], [7]. Here an action $A$ is defined which uses the entropy density $\rho_\phi$ and the vector $q$ and the scalar $\phi$

\[
A = \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tau} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tau} + \rho_\phi \psi \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tau} + \rho_\phi \psi \right)^2 \right] dV dt
\]

As kinetic potentials can be diverse, the conservation laws for energy and momentum substantiate the form (26). In Eq. (26), $\varepsilon$ is the energy density at an equilibrium reference state, the constant which ensures action dimension for $A$, but otherwise is unimportant. Yet we assume that the actual energy density $\rho_\phi$ is close to $\varepsilon$, so that the variable $\rho_\phi$ can be identified with the constant $\varepsilon$ in suitable approximations.

We call the multiplier-free term of the integrand of Eq. (26)

\[
L = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{-1} \left( \frac{\partial q}{\partial \tau} - \rho_\phi^2 - \varepsilon^2 \right) \tag{27}
\]
the kinetic potential of Hamilton type for heat transfer. It is based on the quadratic form of an indefinite sign, and it has usual units of the energy density. Not far from equilibrium, where $\rho_\phi$ is close to $\varepsilon$, two static terms of $L$ yield altogether the density of thermal energy, $\rho_\phi$. Indeed, in view of admissibility of the approximation $\rho_\phi \approx \varepsilon$ in Eqs. (27), the kinetic potential (27) represents - in the framework of the linear heat theory - the Hamiltonian structure of a difference between “kinetic energy of heat”, and the nonequilibrium internal energy, $\rho_\phi$. To secure proper conservation laws, no better form of $L$ was found in the entropy representation. The theory obtained in the present case is a linear one.

Vanishing variations of action $A$ with respect to multipliers $\psi$ and $\phi$ recover constraints, whereas those with respect to state variables $q$ and $\rho_\phi$ yield representations of state variables in terms of $\psi$ and $\phi$. For the accepted Hamilton-like structure of $L$,

\[
q = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tau} - \frac{\rho_\phi^2}{\varepsilon} + \varepsilon \nabla \phi \tag{28}
\]
and

\[
\rho_\phi = -\nabla \psi \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \tau} \tag{29}
\]

These equations enable one to transfer variational formulation to the space of Lagrange multipliers.

For the accepted structure of $L$, the action $A$, Eq. (26), in terms of the adjoints $\psi$ and $\phi$ is

\[
A = \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tau} - \frac{\rho_\phi}{\tau} \varepsilon + \rho_\phi \varepsilon \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tau} + \rho_\phi \varepsilon \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 \right] dV dt
\]

Its Euler equations with respect to $\psi$ and $\phi$ are

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \left( \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tau} + \rho_\phi \varepsilon \right)^2 \right) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tau} + \rho_\phi \varepsilon \right)^2 - \varepsilon \left( \varepsilon \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tau} + \rho_\phi \varepsilon \right) = 0 \tag{31}
\]
and

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \tau} \right) + \varepsilon \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \tau} \right)^2 = 0 \tag{32}
\]

It is easy to see that (31) and (32) are the original equations of the thermal field, eqs. (21) and (22), in terms of potentials $\psi$ and $\phi$. Their equivalent form below shows the damped wave nature of the transfer process. In fact, Lagrange multipliers $\psi$ and $\phi$ of this problem satisfy certain inhomogeneous wave equations. In terms of the modified quantities $\Psi$ and $\Phi$ satisfying $\Psi = \psi \varepsilon_0$ and $\Phi = -\phi \tau c_0^2$ these equations are

\[
\nabla^2 \Psi - \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\varepsilon_0 c_0^2 \tau^2} + \frac{\partial \Psi}{\varepsilon_0 \tau^2} = q. \tag{33}
\]

and

\[
\nabla^2 \Phi - \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\varepsilon_0 c_0^2 \tau^2} + \frac{\partial \Phi}{\varepsilon_0 \tau^2} = \rho_\phi. \tag{34}
\]

As both state variables ($q$, $\rho_\phi$) and adjoints ($\psi$, $\phi$) appear herein, they represent mixed formulations of the theory.

6 Conservation Laws

The energy-momentum tensor is defined as

\[
G^{jk} = \sum_\chi \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x^\chi} \left[ \frac{\partial \Lambda}{\partial \psi / \partial x^\chi} \right] - \delta^{jk} \Lambda \tag{35}
\]

where $\delta^{jk}$ is the Kronecker delta and $\chi = (x, t)$ comprises the spatial coordinates and time. Our approach here follows those in [8] and [9], where components of $G^{jk}$ are calculated for a reversible $\Lambda$ whose gauged form is obtained from the reversible limit of Eq. (26) at $\psi = 0$ by use of the divergence theorem and the differentiation by
The optimizing approach overcomes familiar difficulties in physical variables. The momentum density of heat is
\[ \Gamma^\alpha = -G^a{}^{\alpha} = c_0^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\rho_e}{\varepsilon} q^\alpha \cong c_0^2 q^\alpha \]  
(37)
Clearly, \( \Gamma \) vanishes in the Fourier's case \( (c_0 \to \infty) \).

The stress tensor \( T^{ab} \) has the form
\[ T^{ab} = -\varepsilon^{-1} c_0^2 q^a q^b - \delta^{ab} \Lambda \]  
(38)
whence (after substituting the stationary Lagrangian)
\[ T^{ab} = -\varepsilon^{-1} c_0^2 q^a q^b - \delta^{ab} \Lambda \]  
(39)
The energy density follows as the Legendre transform of the Lagrangian \( \Lambda \) with respect to rate change of \( \phi \)
\[ E = G^{\alpha} = \varepsilon^{-1} \frac{1}{2} \rho_e^2 + \frac{1}{2} \rho_e^2 + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 \cong \frac{1}{2} \frac{q^2}{\varepsilon^2} + \rho_e \]  
(40)
Finally, density of energy flux follows as
\[ G^{\beta} = \varepsilon^{-1} \rho_e q^\beta \cong q^\beta . \]  
(41)

The associated conservation laws for the energy and momentum show the role of thermal inertia effects
\[ \partial E = -\varepsilon^{-1} c_0^2 q^a \partial \rho_e q^a \]  
(42)
\[ \frac{\partial (\varepsilon^{-1} c_0^2 q^a \rho_e)}{\partial a} = -\varepsilon^{-1} (c_0^2 q^a q^a + \delta^{ab}(q^b c_0^2 c_0^2 q^c - q^b q^c)) . \]  
(43)

7 Satisfaction of Second Law
Calculating the four-divergence of the entropy flow \( (\nabla, \partial / \partial t) \) and using the global conservation law for the total energy \( E \) we obtain the entropy balance
\[ \frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (q^a T^{-1} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{q}{\rho_e}) = -q \frac{\partial k_T}{\partial t} \left(-kTV - \frac{q}{\rho_e} \right) . \]  
(44)

Applying Cattaneo equation we arrive at the second law
\[ \frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (q^a T^{-1} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{q}{\rho_e}) = \frac{q^2}{\varepsilon^2 k_T^2} = \frac{q^2}{k_T^2} = a T^2 , \]  
(45)
where \( a = k^l \) is the thermal resistance.

8 Conclusions
The optimizing approach overcomes familiar difficulties resulting from the presence of both odd and even derivatives with respect to time in the differential equations of heat, and, consequently, sets a variational formulation for the irreversible heat conduction. Extremum conditions, Eqs. (33) and (34), show that for given \( q \) and \( \rho_e \) heat transfer can be broken down to potentials. This is similar to the case of electromagnetic field theory or gravitation theory, where the knowledge of sources defines the field potentials. An important case is a “ballistic” transfer with \( \tau \to \infty \), when undamped thermal waves propagate with speed \( c_0 \) and satisfy d'Alembert's equation. As shown by Eq. (45) the results are consistent with the second law in an identically satisfied form; this holds in both classical irreversible theory (CIT) and extended irreversible thermodynamics (EIT; [3]). Associated approaches with Lagrange multipliers and Dirac brackets are available [10,11,12].

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