MISCONCEPTIONS CONCERNING NEGATIVE ABSOLUTE TEMPERATURES

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Abstract. The issue of negative absolute temperatures is addressed anew in the light of fairly recent publications in the scientific literature which have totally misrepresented the position of such temperatures on the accepted absolute temperature scale. In particular, claims have been advanced that such temperatures are in fact lower than positive absolute temperature in violation of the Third Law of Thermodynamics and incidentally in violation of all the work – both theoretical and experimental – of the original investigators of the phenomenon.