

Transient heat flow in a semi-infinite solid

Consider a semi-infinite solid, the initial temperature T_i .

We seek an expression for the temperature distribution

in the solid, As a function of the time and x .

$$q_{in} - q_{out} = \text{accumulation}$$

$$q(x) - q(x+dx) = \rho C_p v \frac{dT}{dt}$$

$$q(x+dx) = q(x) + dx \frac{dq_x}{dx}$$

Assume length in direction y and $z = 1$

$$V = dx * dy * dz = 1 * 1 * dx = dx$$

$$q(x) - q(x) - dx \frac{dq_x}{dx} = \rho C_p dx \frac{dT}{dt}$$

Divide by $dx \longrightarrow$

$$- \frac{dq_x}{dx} = \rho C_p \frac{dT}{dt}$$

$$q(x) = -k \frac{dT}{dx} \quad [\text{Fourier law}]$$

$$- \frac{d}{dx} \left[-k \frac{dT}{dx} \right] = \rho C_p \frac{dT}{dt}$$

$$K \frac{d^2T}{dx^2} = \rho C_p \frac{dT}{dt}$$

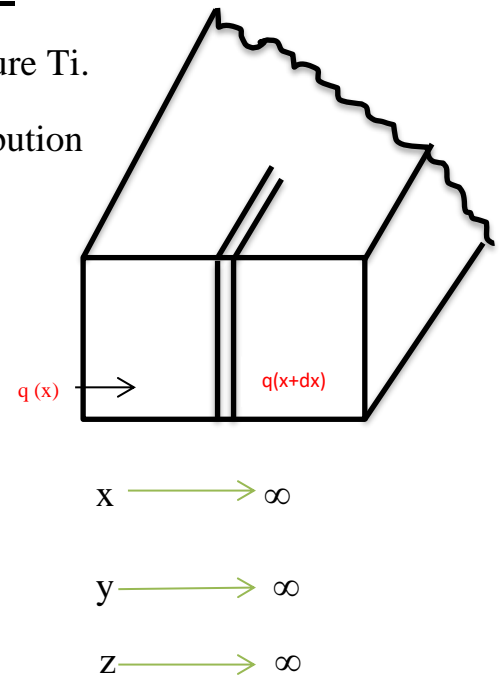
$$\frac{d^2T}{dx^2} = \frac{\rho C_p}{k} \frac{dT}{dt}$$

$$\frac{\rho C_p}{k} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \quad , \text{ where } \alpha \text{ is thermal diffusivity} = \frac{k}{\rho C_p}$$

$$\frac{d^2T}{dx^2} = \frac{1}{\alpha} * \frac{dT}{dt} \quad \text{-----} \quad 1$$

The initial condition: $t = 0$ at $T = T_i \longrightarrow T(x, 0) = T_i$

It is three cases to find temperature distribution:



Case 1 Constant surface temperature

B.C: $T(0, t) = T_s$

Equation 1 is solved by lablace transformation method, the solution is:

$$\frac{T-T_s}{T_i-T_s} = \text{erf} \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\alpha t}} \text{-----} 2$$

T_s = Surface temperature.

T_i = Initial temperature.

erf = Error function.

To find the heat rate

$$q = \frac{k A (T_s - T_i)}{\sqrt{\pi \alpha t}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{4 \alpha t}\right) \text{-----} 3$$

Equation 3 is applied to find q at any part of the body (any value of x).

But at the surface (x =0)

$$q = \frac{k A (T_s - T_i)}{\sqrt{\pi \alpha t}} \text{-----} 4$$

Case 2 Constant heat flux

B.C: $\frac{q}{A} = -k \frac{dT}{dx} \Big|_{x=0}$ The temperature distribution

$$T - T_i = \frac{2q_0\sqrt{\alpha\tau/\pi}}{kA} \exp\left(\frac{-x^2}{4\alpha\tau}\right) - \frac{q_0x}{kA} \left(1 - \text{erf} \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\alpha\tau}}\right) \text{-----} 5$$

Case 3 Convection heat transfer.

B.C: heat convection to the surface = heat conduction to the surface.

$h A(T - T_\infty) \Big|_{x=0} = -k A \frac{dT}{dx} \Big|_{x=0}$ The solution is \longrightarrow

$$\frac{T - T_i}{T_\infty - T_i} = 1 - \text{erf} \bar{X} - \left[\exp\left(\frac{hx}{k} + \frac{h^2\alpha\tau}{k^2}\right) \right] \times \left[1 - \text{erf} \left(\bar{X} + \frac{h\sqrt{\alpha\tau}}{k}\right) \right] \text{-----} 6$$

Where

$$\bar{X} = x / (2\sqrt{\alpha\tau})$$

Example:

A very large slab of copper is initially at temperature of 300 °C, the surface temperature is suddenly lowered at 35 °C .What temperature at depth of 7.5 cm and 4 min. $\alpha=11.23 * 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2/\text{sec}$

T (0.075 m , 240 sec) = ?

Solution

$$\frac{T-T_s}{T_i-T_s} = \text{erf} \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\alpha t}}$$

$$\frac{x}{2\sqrt{\alpha t}} = \frac{0.075}{2\sqrt{11.23 * 10^{-5} * 240}} = 0.2284$$

From table A -1 appendix A (Holman) and using interpolation

$$\text{erf } 0.2284 = 0.2533$$

$$\frac{T-T_s}{T_i-T_s} = 0.2533$$

$$T = 0.2533 (300 - 35) + 35 = 102.1 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$$

Example:

A semi-infinite slab of copper is exposed to a constant heat flux at the surface of $0.5 * 10^6 \text{ W/m}^2$, so that there is not convection at the surface

a- What is the surface temperature after 5 min if the initial temperature of slab is 20 °C.

b- What is the temperature at the distance of 15 cm from the surface after 5 min and same initial temperature.

Take the $\alpha = 11.23 * 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2/\text{sec}$, $k = 386 \text{ W/m} \cdot ^\circ\text{C}$

Solution

$$a- T - T_i = \frac{2q_0\sqrt{\alpha\tau/\pi}}{kA} \exp\left(\frac{-x^2}{4\alpha\tau}\right) - \frac{q_0x}{kA} \left(1 - \text{erf} \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\alpha\tau}}\right)$$

not value of x \longrightarrow x = 0 the general equation \longrightarrow

$$T - T_i = \frac{2q_0\sqrt{\alpha\tau/\pi}}{kA}$$

$$T - 20 = \frac{2 * 0.5 * 10^6 * (\sqrt{11.23 * 10^{-5} * 300}) / \pi}{386} \longrightarrow$$

$$T = 20 + 268.3 = 288.3 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$$

$$\text{b- } T - T_i = \frac{2q_0\sqrt{\alpha\tau/\pi}}{kA} \exp\left(\frac{-x^2}{4\alpha\tau}\right) - \frac{q_0x}{kA} \left(1 - \operatorname{erf} \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\alpha\tau}}\right)$$

$$\frac{x}{2\sqrt{\alpha t}} = \frac{0.15}{2\sqrt{11.23 * 10^{-5} * 300}} = 0.4086$$

erf 0.4086 from table A-1 and using interpolation = 0.4336

$$\frac{x^2}{4\alpha t} = \frac{(0.15)^2}{4 * 11.23 * 10^{-5} * 300} = (0.4086)^2 = 0.167$$

$$\sqrt{\alpha t / \pi} = \sqrt{11.23 * 10^{-5} * 300 / \pi} = 0.104$$

$$T - 20 = \frac{2 * 0.5 * 10^6 * (\sqrt{11.23 * 10^{-5} * 300}) / \pi}{386} * \exp^{-0.167} -$$

$$\frac{0.5 * 10^6 * 0.15}{386} * [1 - 0.4336] \longrightarrow$$

$$T - 20 = 228 - 109.5 = 138.5 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$$

Example:

A thick concrete stone wall having a uniform temperature of 54 °C is suddenly subjected to an air stream at 10 °C. The heat transfer coefficient is 10 W/m².°C. Calculate the temperature in the concrete slab at depth of 7 cm after 30 min.

$$\alpha = 7 * 10^{-7} \text{ m}^2/\text{sec} \text{ , } k = 1.37 \text{ W/m } .^\circ\text{C}$$

$$T(0.07 \text{ m} , 1800 \text{ sec}) = ?$$

Solution

Case 3

$$\frac{T - T_i}{T_\infty - T_i} = 1 - \operatorname{erf} \bar{X} - \left[\exp\left(\frac{hx}{k} + \frac{h^2\alpha\tau}{k^2}\right) \right] \times \left[1 - \operatorname{erf}\left(\bar{X} + \frac{h\sqrt{\alpha\tau}}{k}\right) \right]$$

$$\bar{X} = \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\alpha t}} = \frac{0.07}{2\sqrt{7 * 10^{-7} * 1800}} = 0.987$$

$$\text{erf}(\bar{X}) = \text{erf } 0.987 = 0.83719$$

$$\frac{h \sqrt{\alpha t}}{k} = \frac{10 * \sqrt{7 * 10^{-7} * 1800}}{1.37} = 0.259$$

$$\text{erf} \left(\bar{X} + \frac{h \sqrt{\alpha t}}{k} \right) = \text{erf} (0.987 + 0.259) =$$

$$\text{erf} (1.246) = 0.920971$$

$$\frac{h x}{k} = \frac{10 * 0.07}{1.37} = 0.511$$

$$\frac{h^2 * \alpha t}{k^2} = \frac{10^2 * 7 * 10^{-7} * 1800}{1.37^2} = 0.067$$

$$\frac{T-54}{10-54} = 1 - 0.83719 - \exp^{(0.511+0.067)} [1 - 0.920971]$$

$$T - 54 = 0.022 * [10 - 54] \longrightarrow$$

$$T = 53.03 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$$