

34.1 Thermal transport, calorimetry and expansion

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks**KEY WORDS** thermal resistance • latent heat

Objective

Combine conductive thermal resistances and distinguish heat rate from heat flux; Balance sensible and latent heat with stated isolation and heat-capacity conditions; Calculate free thermal expansion and constrained thermal stress with their limits. Original public practice; not an ETS paper.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Fourier flux is $-\kappa \, dT/dx$; steady slab rate $\kappa A \Delta T/L$. $R_{\text{th}} = L/(\kappa A)$ in K/W; add series R or parallel $1/R$. Rate is W; flux is W/m².

With constant specific heat, $Q = mc\Delta T$. Sum all energy changes for isolated calorimetry. A phase change needs $Q = m\ell$ at the transition temperature; sensible and latent energy are distinct.

Free isotropic small expansion: $\Delta L/L \approx \alpha \Delta T$, $\Delta A/A \approx 2\alpha \Delta T$, $\Delta V/V \approx 3\alpha \Delta T$. Prevented elastic expansion gives tensile-signed $\sigma \approx -Y\alpha \Delta T$ on heating. State constraints and elastic limits.

Convection moves matter; net radiation is $\varepsilon \sigma_{\text{SB}} A(T^4 - T_{\text{env}}^4)$ using kelvin. Lumped Newton cooling gives excess temperature decay $\exp(-t/\tau)$, $\tau = C/(hA)$, only when internal gradients are negligible.

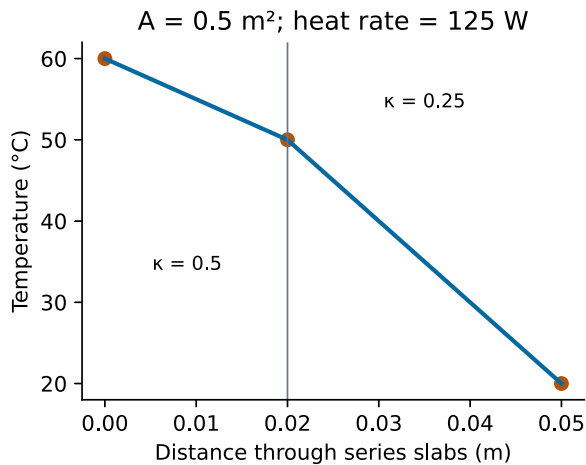
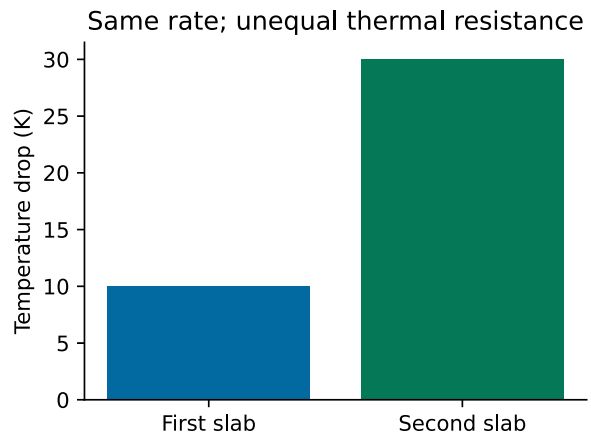
■ Worked method

Two slabs in series carry the same steady heat rate. Let resistances be 0.08 and 0.24 K/W. Boundary temperatures are 60 and 20 degrees Celsius.

$$\dot{Q} = \Delta T / (R_1 + R_2) = (40 \text{ K}) / (0.32 \text{ K/W}) = 125 \text{ W}.$$

$$\Delta T_1 = \dot{Q} R_1 = (125 \text{ W})(0.08 \text{ K/W}) = 10 \text{ K}.$$

The interface is 50 degrees Celsius when slab 1 touches the hot side. Heat rate has watt units; flux divides it by area.



2 Practice

2.1 Choose one answer. Two slabs in series without sources have thermal resistances R and $3R$. The steady temperature-drop ratio is: [1]

- A 1:1
- B 3:1
- C 1:3
- D 1:9
- E Zero in both

2.2 Choose one answer. An isotropic unconstrained plate with a circular hole is warmed under small uniform expansion. Its hole radius: [1]

- A Shrinks
- B Stays fixed
- C Increases by fractional $\alpha\Delta T$
- D Increases by fractional $3\alpha\Delta T$
- E Must close

2.3 A body has $C=200 \text{ J/K}$ and $hA=10 \text{ W/K}$ under lumped Newton cooling. Its time constant is _____ s. Show your relation and units. [2]
