

**Department of Energy
Fundamentals Handbook**

**THERMODYNAMICS, HEAT TRANSFER,
AND FLUID FLOW,
Module 2
Heat Transfer**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES	iii
LIST OF TABLES	iv
REFERENCES	v
OBJECTIVES	vii
HEAT TRANSFER TERMINOLOGY	1
Heat and Temperature	1
Heat and Work	2
Modes of Transferring Heat	2
Heat Flux	3
Thermal Conductivity	3
Log Mean Temperature Difference	3
Convective Heat Transfer Coefficient	4
Overall Heat Transfer Coefficient	4
Bulk Temperature	4
Summary	5
CONDUCTION HEAT TRANSFER	6
Conduction	6
Conduction-Rectangular Coordinates	7
Equivalent Resistance Method	9
Electrical Analogy	10
Conduction-Cylindrical Coordinates	11
Summary	17
CONVECTION HEAT TRANSFER	18
Convection	18
Overall Heat Transfer Coefficient	20
Convection Heat Transfer	23
Summary	25
RADIANT HEAT TRANSFER	26
Thermal Radiation	26
Black Body Radiation	26
Emissivity	27

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Cont.)

Radiation Configuration Factor	27
Summary	29
HEAT EXCHANGERS	30
Heat Exchangers	30
Parallel and Counter-Flow Designs	31
Non-Regenerative Heat Exchanger	34
Regenerative Heat Exchanger	34
Cooling Towers	35
Log Mean Temperature Difference Application to Heat Exchangers	36
Overall Heat Transfer Coefficient	37
Summary	39
BOILING HEAT TRANSFER	40
Boiling	40
Nucleate Boiling	40
Bulk Boiling	41
Film Boiling	41
Departure from Nucleate Boiling and Critical Heat Flux	42
Summary	43
HEAT GENERATION	44
Heat Generation	44
Flux Profiles	46
Thermal Limits	47
Average Linear Power Density	47
Maximum Local Linear Power Density	48
Temperature Profiles	48
Volumetric Thermal Source Strength	50
Fuel Changes During Reactor Operation	50
Summary	51
DECAY HEAT	52
Reactor Decay Heat Production	52
Calculation of Decay heat	53
Decay Heat Limits	55
Decay Heat Removal	56
Summary	57

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Conduction Through a Slab	7
Figure 2	Equivalent Resistance	10
Figure 3	Cross-sectional Surface Area of a Cylindrical Pipe	11
Figure 4	Composite Cylindrical Layers	15
Figure 5	Pipe Insulation Problem	16
Figure 6	Overall Heat Transfer Coefficient	20
Figure 7	Combined Heat Transfer	21
Figure 8	Typical Tube and Shell Heat Exchanger	31
Figure 9	Fluid Flow Direction	32
Figure 10	Heat Exchanger Temperature Profiles	33
Figure 11	Non-Regenerative Heat Exchanger	34
Figure 12	Regenerative Heat Exchanger	35
Figure 13	Boiling Heat Transfer Curve	42
Figure 14	Axial Flux Profile	46
Figure 15	Radial Flux Profile	46
Figure 16	Axial Temperature Profile	48
Figure 17	Radial Temperature Profile Across a Fuel Rod and Coolant Channel	49

LIST OF TABLES

NONE

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TERMINAL OBJECTIVE

- 1.0 Given the operating conditions of a thermodynamic system and the necessary formulas, **EVALUATE** the heat transfer processes which are occurring.

ENABLING OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 **DESCRIBE** the difference between heat and temperature.
- 1.2 **DESCRIBE** the difference between heat and work.
- 1.3 **DESCRIBE** the Second Law of Thermodynamics and how it relates to heat transfer.
- 1.4 **DESCRIBE** the three modes of heat transfer.
- 1.5 **DEFINE** the following terms as they relate to heat transfer:
- Heat flux
 - Thermal conductivity
 - Log mean temperature difference
 - Convective heat transfer coefficient
 - Overall heat transfer coefficient
 - Bulk temperature
- 1.6 Given Fourier's Law of Conduction, **CALCULATE** the conduction heat flux in a rectangular coordinate system.
- 1.7 Given the formula and the necessary values, **CALCULATE** the equivalent thermal resistance.
- 1.8 Given Fourier's Law of Conduction, **CALCULATE** the conduction heat flux in a cylindrical coordinate system.
- 1.9 Given the formula for heat transfer and the operating conditions of the system, **CALCULATE** the rate of heat transfer by convection.
- 1.10 **DESCRIBE** how the following terms relate to radiant heat transfer:
- Black body radiation
 - Emissivity
 - Radiation configuration factor

ENABLING OBJECTIVES (Cont.)

- 1.11 **DESCRIBE** the difference in the temperature profiles for counter-flow and parallel flow heat exchangers.
- 1.12 **DESCRIBE** the differences between regenerative and non-regenerative heat exchangers.
- 1.13 Given the temperature changes across a heat exchanger, **CALCULATE** the log mean temperature difference for the heat exchanger.
- 1.14 Given the formulas for calculating the conduction and convection heat transfer coefficients, **CALCULATE** the overall heat transfer coefficient of a system.
- 1.15 **DESCRIBE** the process that occurs in the following regions of the boiling heat transfer curve:
- a. Nucleate boiling
 - b. Partial film boiling
 - c. Film boiling
 - d. Departure from nucleate boiling (DNB)
 - e. Critical heat flux

TERMINAL OBJECTIVE

- 2.0 Given the operating conditions of a typical nuclear reactor, **DESCRIBE** the heat transfer processes which are occurring.

ENABLING OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 **DESCRIBE** the power generation process in a nuclear reactor core and the factors that affect the power generation.
- 2.2 **DESCRIBE** the relationship between temperature, flow, and power during operation of a nuclear reactor.
- 2.3 **DEFINE** the following terms:
- a. Nuclear enthalpy rise hot channel factor
 - b. Average linear power density
 - c. Nuclear heat flux hot channel factor
 - d. Heat generation rate of a core
 - e. Volumetric thermal source strength
- 2.4 **CALCULATE** the average linear power density for an average reactor core fuel rod.
- 2.5 **DESCRIBE** a typical reactor core axial and radial flux profile.
- 2.6 **DESCRIBE** a typical reactor core fuel rod axial and radial temperature profile.
- 2.7 **DEFINE** the term decay heat.
- 2.8 Given the operating conditions of a reactor core and the necessary formulas, **CALCULATE** the core decay heat generation.
- 2.9 **DESCRIBE** two categories of methods for removing decay heat from a reactor core.

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HEAT TRANSFER TERMINOLOGY

To understand and communicate in the thermal science field, certain terms and expressions must be learned in heat transfer.

- EO 1.1** **DESCRIBE the difference between heat and temperature.**
- EO 1.2** **DESCRIBE the difference between heat and work.**
- EO 1.3** **DESCRIBE the Second Law of Thermodynamics and how it relates to heat transfer.**
- EO 1.4** **DESCRIBE the three modes of heat transfer.**
- EO 1.5** **DEFINE the following terms as they relate to heat transfer:**
- a.** **Heat flux**
 - b.** **Thermal conductivity**
 - c.** **Log mean temperature difference**
 - d.** **Convective heat transfer coefficient**
 - e.** **Overall heat transfer coefficient**
 - f.** **Bulk temperature**

Heat and Temperature

In describing heat transfer problems, students often make the mistake of interchangeably using the terms heat and temperature. Actually, there is a distinct difference between the two. *Temperature* is a measure of the amount of energy possessed by the molecules of a substance. It is a relative measure of how hot or cold a substance is and can be used to predict the direction of heat transfer. The symbol for temperature is T. The common scales for measuring temperature are the Fahrenheit, Rankine, Celsius, and Kelvin temperature scales.

Heat is energy in transit. The transfer of energy as heat occurs at the molecular level as a result of a temperature difference. Heat is capable of being transmitted through solids and fluids by conduction, through fluids by convection, and through empty space by radiation. The symbol for heat is Q. Common units for measuring heat are the British Thermal Unit (Btu) in the English system of units and the calorie in the SI system (International System of Units).

Heat and Work

Distinction should also be made between the energy terms *heat* and *work*. Both represent energy in transition. Work is the transfer of energy resulting from a force acting through a distance. Heat is energy transferred as the result of a temperature difference. Neither heat nor work are thermodynamic properties of a system. Heat can be transferred into or out of a system and work can be done on or by a system, but a system cannot contain or store either heat or work. Heat into a system and work out of a system are considered positive quantities.

When a temperature difference exists across a boundary, the Second Law of Thermodynamics indicates the natural flow of energy is from the hotter body to the colder body. The Second Law of Thermodynamics denies the possibility of ever completely converting into work all the heat supplied to a system operating in a cycle. The Second Law of Thermodynamics, described by Max Planck in 1903, states that:

It is impossible to construct an engine that will work in a complete cycle and produce no other effect except the raising of a weight and the cooling of a reservoir.

The second law says that if you draw heat from a reservoir to raise a weight, lowering the weight will not generate enough heat to return the reservoir to its original temperature, and eventually the cycle will stop. If two blocks of metal at different temperatures are thermally insulated from their surroundings and are brought into contact with each other the heat will flow from the hotter to the colder. Eventually the two blocks will reach the same temperature, and heat transfer will cease. Energy has not been lost, but instead some energy has been transferred from one block to another.

Modes of Transferring Heat

Heat is always transferred when a temperature difference exists between two bodies. There are three basic modes of heat transfer:

Conduction involves the transfer of heat by the interactions of atoms or molecules of a material through which the heat is being transferred.

Convection involves the transfer of heat by the mixing and motion of macroscopic portions of a fluid.

Radiation, or radiant heat transfer, involves the transfer of heat by electromagnetic radiation that arises due to the temperature of a body.

The three modes of heat transfer will be discussed in greater detail in the subsequent chapters of this module.

Heat Flux

The rate at which heat is transferred is represented by the symbol \dot{Q} . Common units for heat transfer rate is Btu/hr. Sometimes it is important to determine the heat transfer rate per unit area,

or h . The heat flux can be determined by dividing the heat transfer rate by the area over which the heat is being transferred.

Equation (2-1) defines heat flux as:

$$q = \frac{\dot{Q}}{A} \quad (2-1)$$

where q is the heat flux, Btu/hr-ft².

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In heat exchangers, the overall heat transfer coefficient is usually specified based on the heat transfer area of the heat exchanger from which the heat is being transferred.

Equation (2-2) defines the overall heat transfer coefficient as:

where U is the overall heat transfer coefficient, Btu/hr-ft²-°F, and ΔT_{lm} is the log mean temperature difference (LMTD or ΔT_{lm}), °F.

(2-2)

where:

ΔT_2 = the larger temperature difference between the two fluid streams at either the entrance or the exit to the heat exchanger

ΔT_1 = the smaller temperature difference between the two fluid streams at either the entrance or the exit to the heat exchanger