

The Heat Equation, generalized:

$$-k\nabla^2 T = \rho C \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} \quad (1)$$

The exact solution to the heat equation with an infinite line source with constant heat flux:

$$T(r, t) = -\frac{q}{4\pi k} \text{Ei}\left(-\frac{r^2}{4kt}\right) \quad (2)$$

Note that q is the heat flux per linear distance.

The “long-time” solution to the same problem:

$$T(r, t) = \frac{q}{4\pi k} \ln\left(\frac{4kt}{r^2} - \frac{\gamma q}{4\pi k}\right) \quad (3)$$

Note that γ is the “Euler-Masceroni constant.”

Using this solution to solve for k :

$$k = \frac{q}{4\pi} \left(\frac{dT}{d(\ln(t))} \right)^{-1} \quad (4)$$

$\frac{dT}{d(\ln(t))}$ may be found using a linear curve fit.

An Analogous Approach applied to the Cooling Curve:

$$k = -\frac{q}{4\pi} \left(\frac{dT}{d(\ln(t_{\text{cool}}))} \right)^{-1} \quad (5)$$

$t_{\text{cool}} = t - t_{\text{heated}}$, where t_{heated} is the length of time the sample was heated. In other words, for the cooling curve, reset t_0 .

Calculating q , heat flux per linear distance (W/m) from the given voltage:

$$\left(\frac{V^2}{R} \right) / l \quad (6)$$

The “voltage” column is given in millivolts. $R = 0.7902\Omega$, and $l = 0.120\text{m}$. V should be averaged over the heating curve portion of the experiment.