Subject: PDE

Date: October 15, 2025

1 Theory

Here is the equation, representing the heat conduction forward model for a one-dimensional frozen soil temperature field, accounting for ice-water phase change:

$$C(T, x, t) \frac{\partial T(x, t)}{\partial t} + L \frac{\partial \theta(T, x)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\lambda \frac{\partial T(x, t)}{\partial x} \right]$$

Boundary and initial conditions:

1. Initial condition:

$$T(x,0) = T_0(x), \quad x \in [0,l]$$

2. Upper boundary condition:

$$\lambda \frac{\partial T}{\partial x}\Big|_{x=0} = q_1(t), \quad T(0,t) = T_s(t)$$

3. Lower boundary condition:

$$\lambda \frac{\partial T}{\partial x}\Big|_{x=l} = q_2(t), \quad T(l,t) = T_g(t)$$

Where: C: Volumetric heat capacity of the soil ($J/(m^3 \cdot K)$);

 λ : Thermal conductivity of frozen soil (W/(m · K));

L: Latent heat of phase change per unit volume $(3.34 \times 10^5 \,\text{KJ/m}^3)$;

 $\theta(T,x)$: Unfrozen water content, depending on temperature and spatial position;

 $T_0(x)$: Initial temperature distribution;

 $q_1(t)$, $q_2(t)$: Heat flux at the boundaries;

 $T_s(t)$, $T_q(t)$: Temperatures at the boundaries.

The unfrozen water content $\theta(T, x)$ is expressed as:

$$\theta(T, x) = \eta(x)\phi(T, x)$$

Where: $\eta(x)$: Porosity of the soil; $\phi(T,x)$: Fraction of pore water content.

The fraction of pore water content $\phi(T, x)$ is defined as:

$$\phi(T,x) = \begin{cases} 1, & T \ge T_{\nabla} \\ |T_{\nabla}|^b |T(x,t)|^{-b}, & T < T_{\nabla} \end{cases}$$

Where:

b: Coefficients related to the unfrozen water content;

 $T_{\nabla}(x)$: Freezing temperature of the soil at position x;

T(x,t): Temperature.

The volumetric heat capacity C and thermal conductivity λ are expressed as a weighted combination of frozen and thawed states:

$$C = \phi C_t + (1 - \phi)C_f, \quad \lambda = \lambda_t^{\phi} \lambda_f^{1 - \phi}$$

Where: ϕ : Fraction of unfrozen water in the soil; C_f , C_t : Volumetric heat capacities of frozen and thawed states, respectively; λ_f , λ_t : Thermal conductivities of frozen and thawed states, respectively.

The effective thermal properties of saturated soil, including C_f , C_t , λ_f , and λ_t , are calculated as weighted averages of the components (soil particles, ice, and water):

$$C_f = (1 - \eta)C_s + \eta C_i, \quad C_t = (1 - \eta)C_s + \eta C_l$$

$$\lambda_f = \lambda_s^{1-\eta}\lambda_i^{\eta}, \quad \lambda_t = \lambda_s^{1-\eta}\lambda_l^{\eta}$$

Where: η : Porosity of the soil;

 C_s , λ_s : Volumetric heat capacity and thermal conductivity of soil particles;

 C_i , λ_i : Volumetric heat capacity and thermal conductivity of ice;

 C_l, λ_l : Volumetric heat capacity and thermal conductivity of water.

The relationship between the thermal properties in the thawed and frozen states is expressed as:

$$C_t = C_f + \eta (C_l - C_i), \quad \lambda_t = \lambda_f (\frac{\lambda_l}{\lambda_i})^{\eta}$$

Where:

 C_t , λ_t : Volumetric heat capacity and thermal conductivity in the thawed state;

 C_f , λ_f : Volumetric heat capacity and thermal conductivity in the frozen state;

 ϕ : Fraction of unfrozen water in the soil;

 C_l, λ_l : Volumetric heat capacity and thermal conductivity of water;

 C_i , λ_i : Volumetric heat capacity and thermal conductivity of ice.

Parameter	Value Range or Specific Value	Unit
C_i (Heat capacity of ice)	1.672	$KJ/(m^3 \cdot K)$
C_l (Heat capacity of water)	4.18	$KJ/(m^3 \cdot K)$
λ_i (Thermal conductivity of ice)	$2.210 \sim 2.326$	$W/(m \cdot K)$
λ_l (Thermal conductivity of water)	$0.465 \sim 0.582$	$W/(m \cdot K)$
L (Latent heat of phase change per unit volume)	3.34×10^{5}	KJ/m ³

Table 1: Values of thermal properties of ice and water.

There are 5 soil thermal properties: $(\lambda_f, C_f, \eta, b, T_{\nabla})$

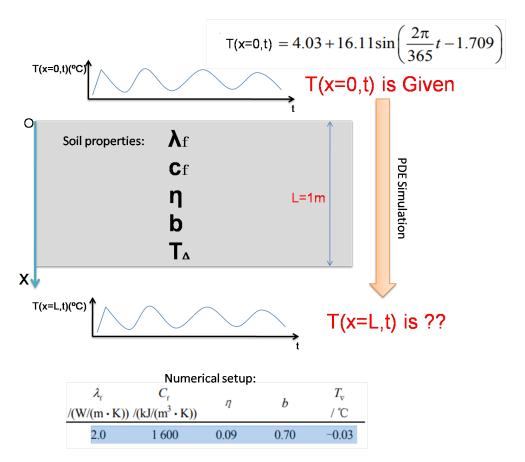


Figure 1: Schematic diagram