

> Summary about the conductive heat transfer.

Conduction is the transfer of energy from the more energetic particles of a substance to the adjacent less energetic ones as result of interactions between the particles. In this case, conductivity is the willingness of a material to transfer heat. The unit of conductivity is $W/m K$.

Consider steady conduction through a large plane wall of thickness $\Delta x = L$ and surface area A . The temperature difference across the wall is $\Delta T = T_2 - T_1$.

Note that heat transfer is the only energy interaction; the energy balance for the wall can be expressed:

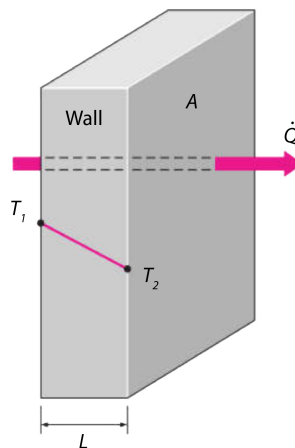
$$\dot{Q}_{in} = \dot{Q}_{out} = \frac{dE_{wall}}{dt}$$

$$\dot{Q} = \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

It has been *experimentally* observed that the rate of heat conduction through a layer is proportional to the temperature difference across the layer and the heat transfer area, but it is inversely proportional to the thickness of the layer.

$$\text{rate of heat transfer} \propto \frac{(\text{surface area})(\text{temperature difference})}{\text{thickness}}$$

$$\dot{Q}_{cond} = kA \frac{\Delta T}{L} \quad (W)$$



The constant proportionality k is the *thermal conductivity* of the material. In the limiting case where $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$, the equation above reduces to the differential form:

$$\dot{Q}_{cond} = -kA \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta x} \quad (W)$$

which is called Fourier's law of heat conduction.

Thermal conductivity $k [W/mK]$ is a measure of a material's ability to conduct heat. The thermal conductivity is defined as the rate of heat transfer through a unit thickness of material per unit area per unit temperature difference.

The Thermal Resistance Concept

The Fourier equation, for steady conduction through a constant area plane wall, can be written:

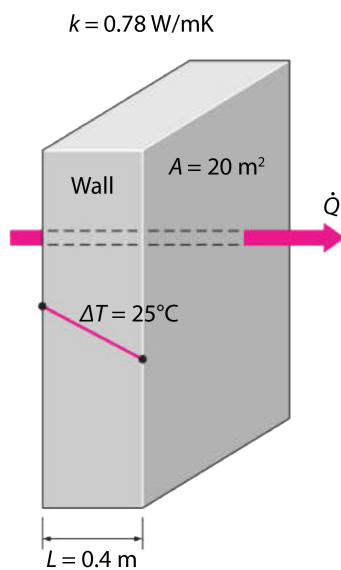
$$\dot{Q}_{cond} = -kA \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta x} = kA \frac{T_1 - T_2}{L}$$

This can be re-arranged as:

$$\dot{Q}_{cond} = \frac{T_2 - T_1}{R_{wall}} \quad (W)$$

$$R_{wall} = \frac{L}{kA} \quad (^\circ C/W)$$

> Solving the same exercise with $L = 0,4 \text{ m}$, $A = 20 \text{ m}^2$, $\Delta T = 25$ and $k = 0,78 \frac{W}{mK}$ using both simple method and using resistance concept.



SIMPLE METHOD

$$\dot{Q} = kA \frac{\Delta T}{L} = 0,78 * 20 * \frac{25}{0,4} = 975 \text{ W}$$

RESISTANCE CONCEPT

$$R_{wall} = \frac{L}{kA} = \frac{0,4}{0,78 * 20} = 0,02564 \frac{K}{W}$$

$$\dot{Q} = \frac{\Delta T}{R_{wall}} = \frac{25}{0,02564} = 975,03 \text{ W}$$