

The heat equation including effects of convection can be written as

$$c_P \rho \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla T \right) - \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T) = s, \quad (0.1)$$

where c_P is the specific heat, ρ the density, \mathbf{v} the velocity, and k the thermal conductivity of the carrier medium, respectively. The heat exchange with the ambient medium can roughly be described by

$$-\mathbf{n} \cdot (k \nabla T) = h(T - T_a) \quad (0.2)$$

with \mathbf{n} the outer normal at the contact with ambient medium, h the heat transfer coefficient between carrier body and ambient medium and T_a the ambient temperature. The boundary conditions (0.2) are of Robin type

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{A} \nabla T) + \alpha T = g_R \quad (0.3)$$

with $\mathbf{A} = k\mathbf{I}$, $\alpha = h$ and $g_R = hT_a$. The general form of an elliptic Operator reads

$$-\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A} \nabla u) + \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla u + cu = f \quad (0.4)$$

with a positive definite matrix-valued function \mathbf{A} , a vector-valued function \mathbf{b} and scalar-valued functions a, f . In its weak form (0.4) rewrites to

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla \varphi_i \cdot (\mathbf{A} \nabla u) dV + \int_{\Omega} \varphi_i \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla u dV + \oint_{\partial\Omega} \varphi_i (\alpha u) dS = \int_{\Omega} \varphi_i f dV + \oint_{\partial\Omega} \varphi_i g_R dS, \quad (0.5)$$

where Robin boundary conditions (0.3) has been imposed on the whole boundary, $\partial\Omega$. Thus the FEM formulation for the time-dependent spatial temperature distribution \mathbf{T} at DOFs of (0.1) is

$$\mathbf{M}(c_P \rho) \frac{d\mathbf{T}}{dt} + (\mathbf{D}(c_P \rho \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{S}(k) + \mathbf{M}_b(h)) \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{b}(f) + \mathbf{b}_b(hT_a), \quad (0.6)$$

with stiffness matrix \mathbf{S} , damping matrix \mathbf{D} , mass matrix \mathbf{M} , right-hand side vector \mathbf{b} and their boundary analogues indicated by a subscript b .