# Inverse problems

* <http://www-eng.lbl.gov/~shuman/NEXT/MATERIALS&COMPONENTS/Xe_damage/INVERSE-HEAT-TRANSFER-OZISIK.pdf> - the main source of information below
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inverse_problem> - also a very nice source of info, mainly about the various applications
* In the majority of science fields, the classical (direct) problems mean the cause of some action (boundary condition) is given, and our goal is to determine the effect that this action will have on the object.
* Inverse problems are being solved when we know the final results of an action, but we are searching for the (boundary) conditions that led to this result. In the context of heat transfer it could be translated into knowing the temperature distribution in the object after heating it up but being interested in the heat flux applied on the object. Temperature distribution inside the object is usually determined by measuring the temperature below the object’s surface with an appropriate method.
* *“In the direct problem the causes are given, the effect is determined; whereas in the inverse problem the effect is given, the cause (or causes) is estimated.”*
* The difference between classical and inverse problems is also in the precision and correctness of the result. It can be said that the result of the classical problem can be unambiguously determined. The solution of the inverse problem, on the other hand, can be only estimated, and there will always be some uncertainty.
  + From a mathematical perspective they differ in the aspect called posedness. Classical problems are described as “well-posed”, in contrast to inverse problems, which are “ill-possed”.
  + Well-possedness is defined as a mathematical model of a physical process that has three main characteristics – solution exists, it is unique, and its behaviour changes continuously with the initial conditions (is stable). Examples of this include heat equation with clearly defined initial and boundary conditions.
  + Ill-possed problems’ main difference lies in the stability of the result – the third point. Solution of an ill-posed problem can be highly unstable and sensitive to small changes in the input data (random errors). It means that even small errors encountered in measurements can have big impact on the result.
    - It is also almost impossible to prove the uniqueness of the solution resulting from the inverse problem.
    - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Well-posed_problem>
  + There is also a terminology difference in describing the way the results are created between classical and inverse problems. In the case of classical problem, the results are *determined*, and in case of inverse problem the results are *estimated*. This is because while solving the inverse problem, errors in the measurements can influence the final result much more than while solving the classical problem.
* This discipline has numerous practical usages, as usually the measurement of boundary conditions applied on an object is harder than measuring the temperature distribution inside the body.
* What is always necessary, however, is the known solution for a forward problem.
* Applications of inverse problems
  + One of the most widespread usages comes from manufacturing system. Temperature cycle for a component to gain desired characteristics is usually well described. The boundary conditions like heat flux or pressure are to be determined, either by a trial and error, or by solving an inverse problem.
    - <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325221371_SOLUTION_OF_AN_INVERSE_PROBLEM_TO_DETERMINE_HEAT_SOURCE_STRENGTH_AND_LOCATION>
  + Solution of a heat transfer problems contributed to the space exploration programs in 1950’s and 1960’s – as engineers were unable to measure the temperature at the outside of the spaceships during their re-entry from the space in the atmosphere, because the heat flux there was enormously high. Therefore, temperature measurements were taken not on the very outside, but below the surface, where the temperature could be measured more easily. With this knowledge the temperature at the surface of the spaceship could be estimated.
  + Modern materials have their thermophysical properties dependent on the temperature and the position in the object, and therefore it is harder to determine their actual properties at the exact moment. With the use of inverse problems, they can be estimated at almost any given point.
  + With the use of inverse problems, industrial device and its properties can be more easily evaluated during real operating conditions, not having to depend only on simulation or other estimates.
  + “*The principal advantage of the IHTP is that it enables to conduct experiments as close to the real conditions as possible”*
* *“An inverse solution is developed to determine source strength and location from downstream data.”*
  + <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0017931017344617?via%3Dihub#ab010>
* Research and advancements in inverse problems are tightly connected with the advancements in computer science, as more powerful computers allowed for better usage of numerical methods and computing, which is broadly used in this area.
* Inverse Heat Transfer Problems (IHTP) does not limit themselves to estimating heat flux on the boundary from the temperature distribution, they can also be used for estimating object material properties like specific heat capacity (cp) or thermal conductivity (lambda).
* IHTP are usually connected with conduction, however, they are also applicable in other heat transfer mechanisms – convection and radiation, and even in mixes problems. One-dimensional problems are also the most usual ones, in recent years however, even multi-dimensional problems are being solved in inverse manner.
* Temperature response for applied heat flux is delayed, and this delay is higher in points further from the source. Therefore, if we want to estimate current heat flux, we need to measure the temperatures not only in the current moment, but also in the near future.
* The measurements errors are also magnified more with the increasing distance from the source of heat flux.

# Heat Transfer

* **BERGMAN, T. a Frank P. INCROPERA. Fundamentals of heat and mass transfer.** – The main source of further information
* In our physical world energy can be transferred from one system to another either by work or by heat.
* In contrast to thermodynamics, which is only concerned with the initial and final state of these systems, the field of heat transfer also determines detailed information about the way this transfer of energy is occurring, like time or rate.
* *“Heat transfer (or heat) is thermal energy in transit due to a spatial temperature difference.”*
* *“Whenever a temperature difference exists in a medium or between media, heat transfer must occur.”*
* There are three main types of heat transfer, so called modes. They include conduction, convection and radiation.
  + Pure conduction happens inside stationary solid or fluid objects when there is a temperature gradient inside that object.
    - *“Conduction may be viewed as the transfer of energy from the more energetic to the less energetic particles of a substance due to interactions between the particles.”*
    - Particles with higher temperature (higher energy) are randomly colliding with less energetic particles. During the collisions, energy in the form of heat is transferred from the more energetic particles to the less ones. Therefore, the heat goes from the warmer region of object to the colder region, and this is also the direction of the heat transfer.
    - Random molecular motion, which is contributing to the heat transfer by conduction, is also called diffusion.
    - When comparing the conduction in gas, liquid and solid objects, the mechanism is almost exactly the same. However, there is a difference in the particle density (distance between particles in the object) between these three states – in case of gas, particles are much more far away from each other than in case of solid. This contributes to the fact that conduction in solid materials (metals) is much more intensive and quicker compared to gases.
    - The rate equation for conduction, which is used to calculate the transferred energy, is called Fourier’s law.
  + Convection is described as a heat transfer between a surface and moving fluid, when these have different temperatures.
    - One mechanism of convection is already known from conduction – the heat transfer due to random movements and collisions between particles which are of different temperatures (diffusion).
    - The other mechanism causing convection is the bulk motion of the fluid, which is represented by a large number of molecules moving collectively. This bulk movement is also known as advection.
    - The final heat transfer by convection is then determined as an aggregation of these two mechanisms – because even in the large bulk of fluid, which is flowing “as one piece”, there exists a random movement of molecules in the bulk.
    - Rate equation for convection is known as Newton’s law of cooling.
  + Radiation means emission of heat by all objects that have a non-zero temperature (in Kelvins).
    - Emission of energy by radiation happens thanks to electromagnetic waves.
    - Opposed to conduction and convection, where there needs to be a material medium for the heat transfer to happen, radiation does not require that. On the contrary, heat transfer by radiation happens most efficiently in vacuum, when there is no medium at all.
    - Rate equation for radiation is called Stefan-Boltzmann law.

# Possible solutions for heat transfer problems

* Partial differential equation (PDE) for heat transfer
  + [*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heat\_equation*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heat_equation)
  + [*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partial\_differential\_equation*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partial_differential_equation)
  + *“heat equation is a partial differential equation that describes how the distribution of some quantity (such as heat) evolves over time in a solid medium, as it spontaneously flows from places where it is higher towards places where it is lower”*
  + It was first described by Joseph Fourier, after whom the rate of conduction is being calculated by a Fourier’s law.