

Analysis of Chip Heat Sink Design

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Description of the problem and objectives

In this project a chip that has an aluminum heat sink soldered onto itself is being analyzed using various heat transfer analysis methods. The first method being 1D heat approximation by making certain assumptions, equations that were arrived to empirically can be applied to this case. The Second method being Finite Difference Method to approximate the temperature gradient across the profile of the fin and from that being able to calculate the heat transfer. A coarse FDM with a smaller node/element grid is used and a fine FDM with a much larger node/element grid is used and they are contrasted with one another.

1D approximation method for an array of fins

For the 1-dimensional approximation of heat behavior across the fin, certain conditions were assumed to be present. One of them being, an adiabatic tip condition and a uniform cross-sectional area from base through to the tip. The adiabatic tip condition assumes that there is no heat transfer from the top surface of the fin, if the heat sink is seen from the bottom side, hence there is insulation at the tip. There are many different tip conditions, which will yield the heat transfer equation to have different boundary conditions and in effect change the overall equation. The general form of the energy equation for extended surfaces can be seen below. We will modify it according the boundary conditions that apply to our case.

$$\frac{d^2T}{dx^2} + \left(\frac{1}{A_c} \frac{dA_c}{dx} \right) \frac{dT}{dx} - \left(\frac{1}{A_c} \frac{h}{k} \frac{dA_s}{dx} \right) (T - T_s) = 0$$

The surface area exposed to the fluid is denoted as A_s and can be calculated by taking the perimeter of the fin and multiplying it by the depth of the fin.

$$A_s = P x$$

$$\frac{dA_s}{dx} = P$$

Since we assume the cross-section of the fin to be uniform the change across the profile of the x axis will equal zero.

$$\frac{dA_c}{dx} = 0$$

Taking these values into consideration and plugging them into the general energy equation for extended surfaces, the following relationship is attained.

$$\frac{d^2T}{dx^2} - \left(\frac{hP}{kA_c} \right) (T - T_\infty) = 0$$

In order to simplify the solving of this differential equation, the change in temperature will be replaced with θ yielding the following expression.

$$\theta(x) \equiv (T(x) - T_\infty)$$

And because the Temperature of the fluid T_{∞} is constant, the following derivatives of θ and $T(x) - T_{\infty}$ with respect to x are equal.

$$\frac{d\theta}{dx} = \frac{d(T(x) - T_{\infty})}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{dx} = \frac{dT(x)}{dx} - \frac{dT_{\infty}}{dx}$$

$$\frac{dT_{\infty}}{dx} = 0$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{dx} = \frac{dT(x)}{dx}$$

Adjusting the general energy equation for extended surfaces, with this expression, the following relationship is derived.

$$\frac{d^2\theta}{dx^2} - \left(\frac{hP}{kA_c} \right) \theta = 0$$

In order to solve this equation using the general solution for a linear, second order, homogenous the following m term must be introduced.

$$m^2 = \left(\frac{hP}{kA_c} \right)$$

Now that the equation meets the form required for the general solution, it can be solved using the boundary conditions that pertain to our project.

$$\frac{d^2\theta}{dx^2} - m^2\theta = 0$$

The general solution for this second order differential equation can be seen below.

$$\theta(x) = C_1 e^{mx} + C_2 e^{-mx}$$

To solve for C_1 and C_2 the boundary conditions that apply to our project must be applied. Since we assume there is no significant convective heat loss from the tip of the fin, the condition below is valid.

$$\left. \frac{d\theta}{dx} \right|_{x=L} = 0$$

The result of plugging this condition into the general solution yields the following.

$$\frac{d\theta(x)}{dx} = mC_1 e^{mL} + -mC_2 e^{-mL}$$

$$0 = m(C_1 e^{mL} - C_2 e^{-mL})$$

$$0 = C_1 e^{mL} - C_2 e^{-mL}$$

After solving these constants, the expression below is attained.

$$\frac{\theta}{\theta_b} = \frac{\cosh(m(L-x))}{\cosh(mL)}$$

We also know that the Temperature at $x=0$ is the Temperature at the base.

$$\theta(0) = T_b - T_\infty$$

$$\theta_b = T_b - T_\infty$$

Since the θ represents the change in temperature at any location along the x direction of the fin and the temperature of the flow, the ratio above can then be solved to calculate any temperature across the profile of the fin.

$$\theta(x) = T_x - T_\infty$$

$$\frac{T_x - T_\infty}{T_b - T_\infty} = \frac{\cosh(m(L-x))}{\cosh(mL)}$$

$$T_x = T_\infty + (T_b - T_\infty) \frac{\cosh(m(L-x))}{\cosh(mL)}$$

The heat transfer for the fin under the same boundary conditions can be calculated using the expressions below.

$$M = \sqrt{hPkA_c} \theta_b$$

$$q_f = M \tanh(mL)$$

Using the 1D heat transfer approximation method described previously, the following relationships were attained. The results from plotting the number of fins versus the heat transfer from the chip can be seen below in figure 1. The heat transfer removed from the chip seems to taper off at 9 fins, so any additional fins added above 9 would be unnecessary.

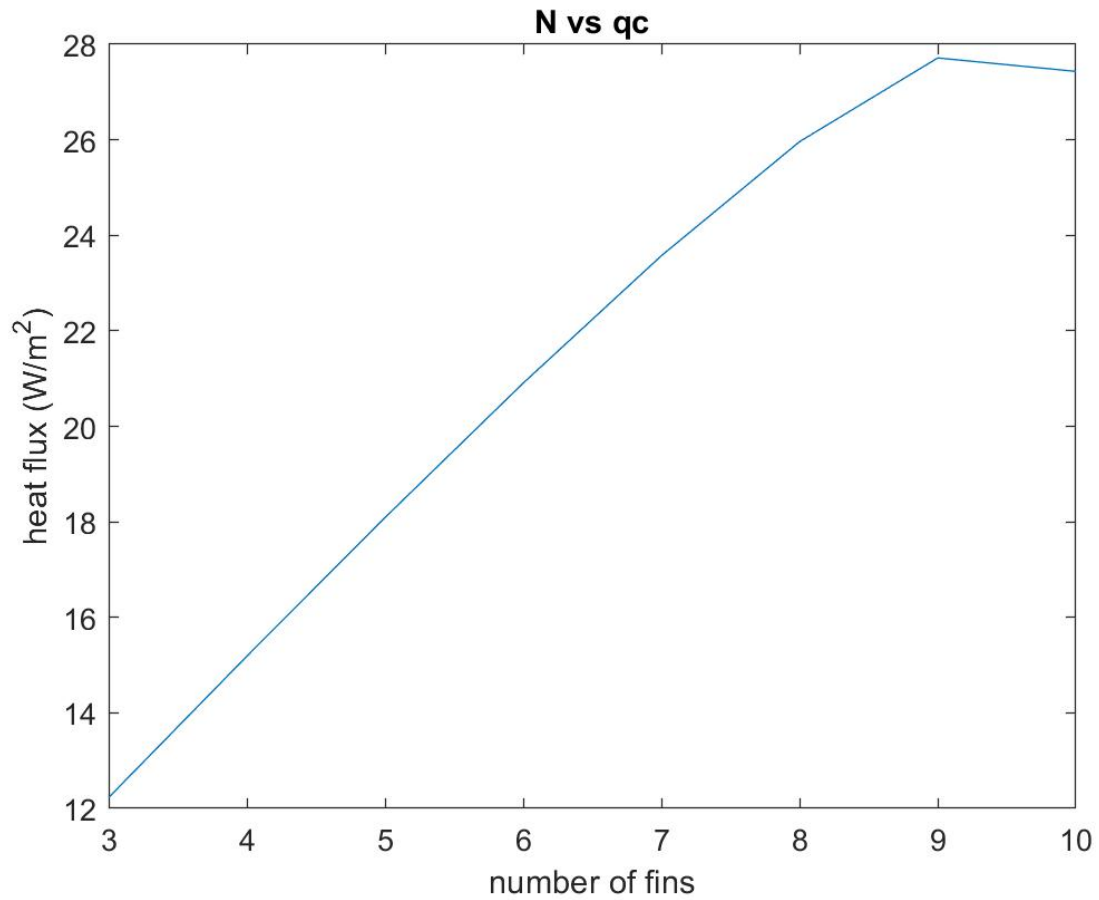


Figure 1 - Number of Fins vs. chip Heat Flux

Figure 2 shows how the temperature at the base of the fins stays relatively constant throughout adding more fins. This is mainly because the being supplied is not changing, nor is the geometry supplying the heat, so the base temperature remains the same even though more fins are added to the heat sink.

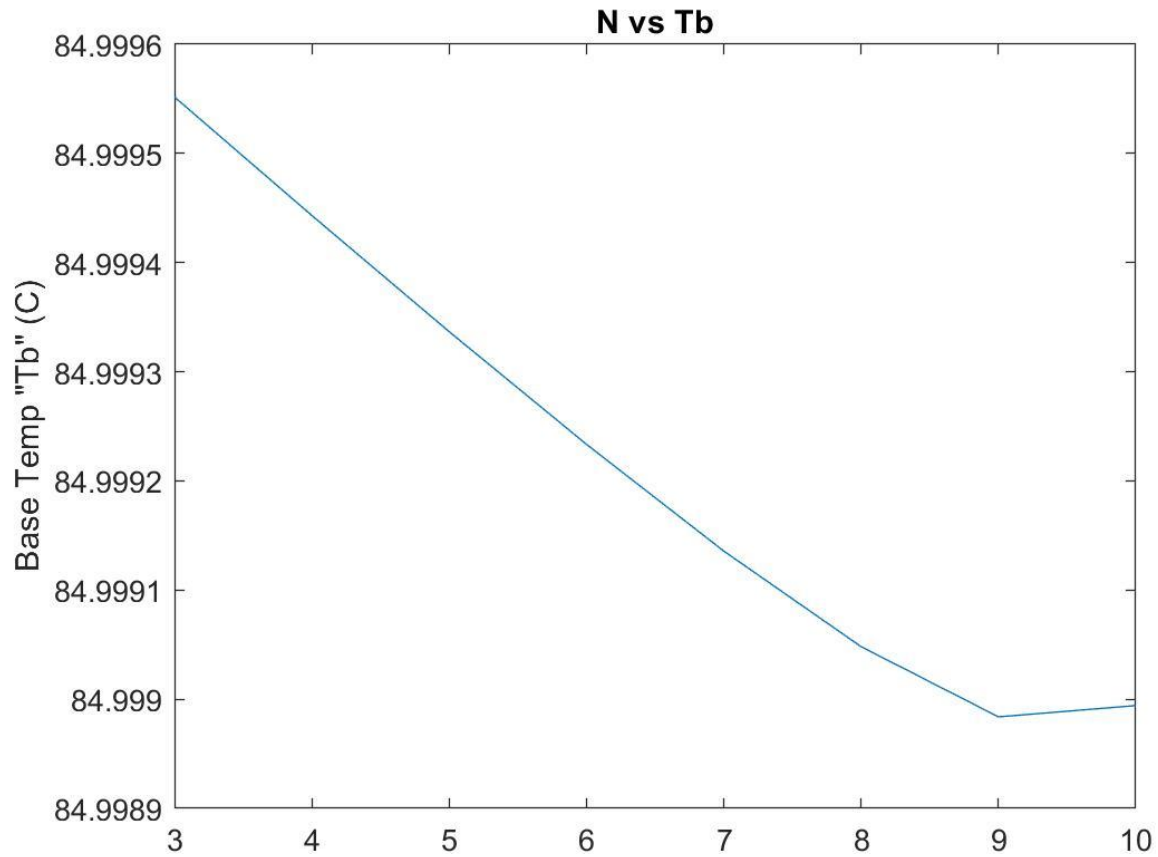


Figure 2 - Number of Fins vs. Temperature at Base of Heat Sink

The temperature at the tip of the fin however does not stay constant as more fins are added. As can be clearly seen in Figure 3 the tip temperature drastically decreases as more fins are added. When there are 3 fins in the heat sink the tip temperature is close to 84°C and when the fins are increased to 10 the tip temperature is decreased to approximately 65°C. This can be attributed to more fins dispersing the load of heat produced by the chip, therefore decreasing the temperature at the tips of the heat sink.

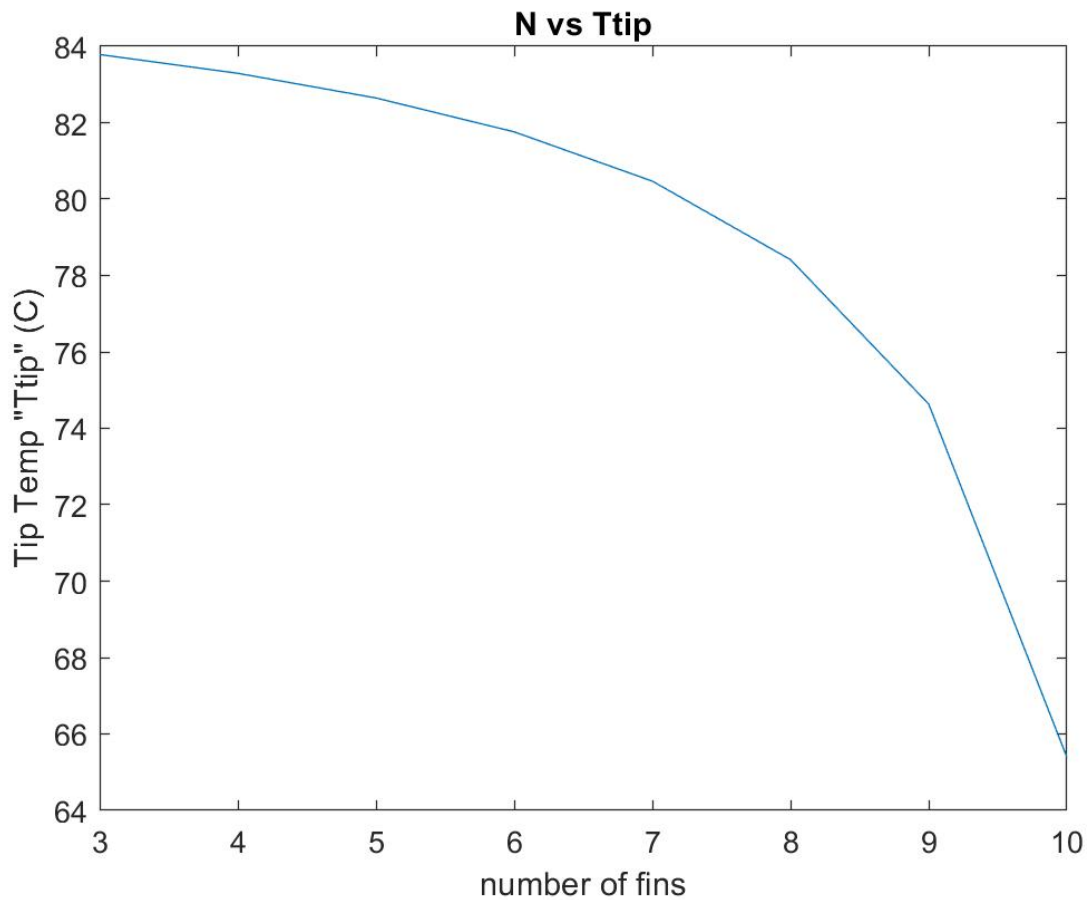


Figure 3 - Number of Fins vs. Tip Temperature of the Fins

In Figure 4 the heat transfer from the fins can be seen to decrease as number of fins are added to the heat sink. This can be attributed to the overall surface area of the fins increasing, therefore decreasing the amount of heat released per fin. Even the thought the net heat transfer across the entire heat sink is increasing as more fins are added, as we saw in Figure 1.

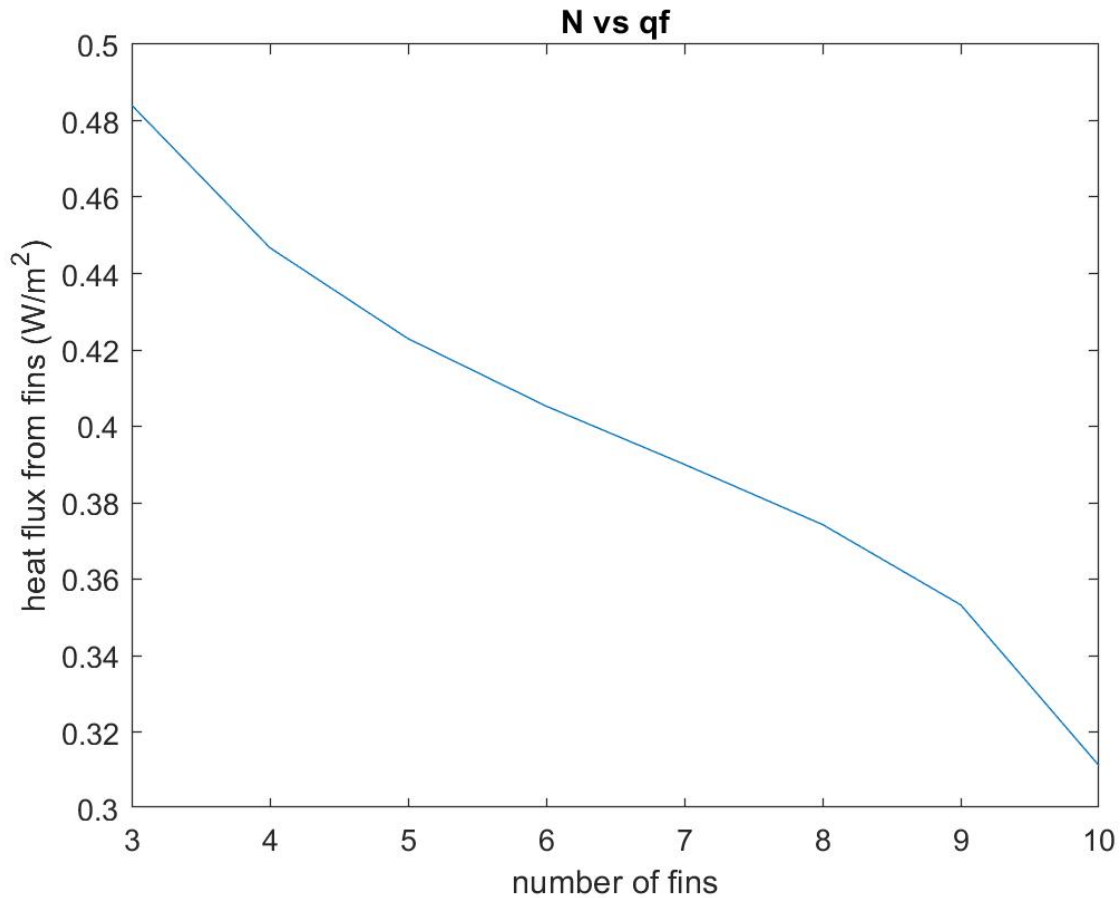


Figure 4 - Number of Fins vs Heat Transfer from Fins

Figure 5 shows how the total weight of the heat sink decreases as more fins are added. Since the number of fins affects the thickness of the fins, the total mass of the heat sink decreases as more fins are added. Thus, the total weight of the heat sink decreases as more fins are added.

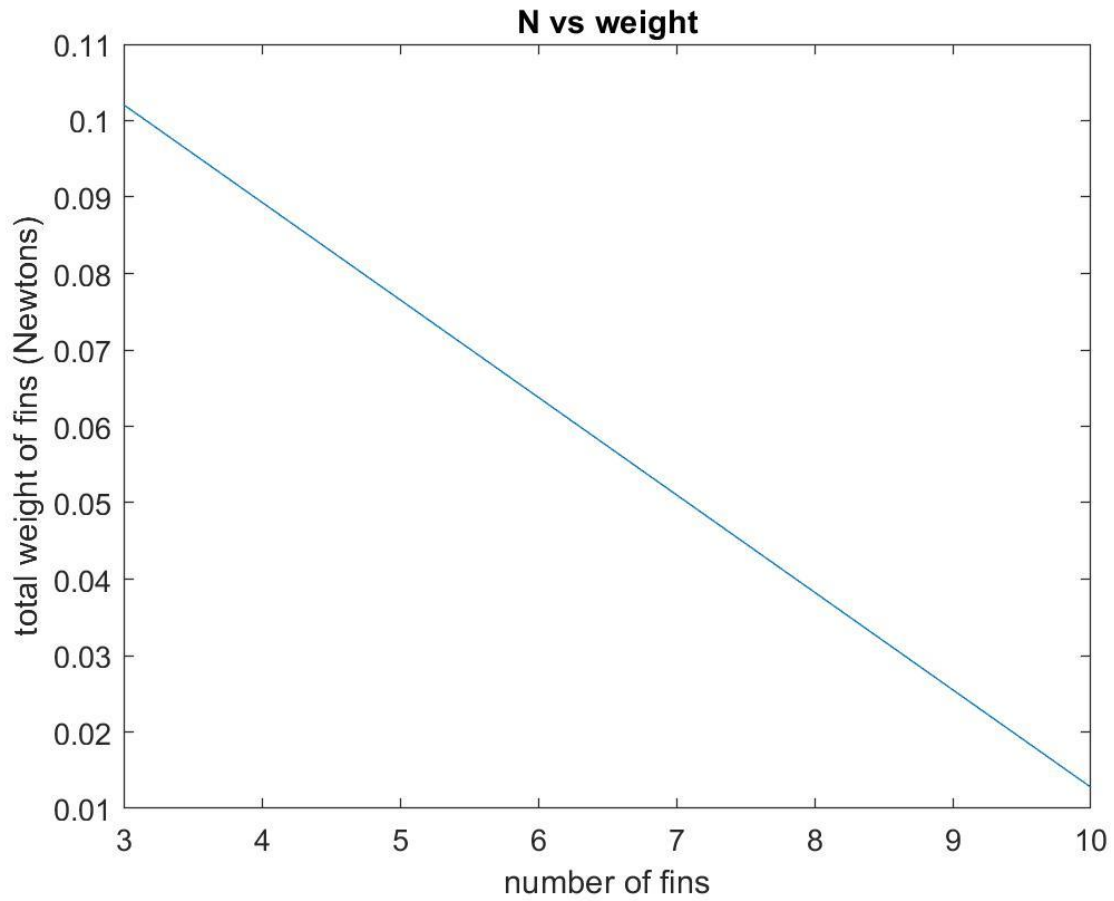


Figure 5 - Number of Fins vs Total Weight of Heat Sink

2D Finite difference method for a single fin.

For the 2D Finite Difference method, a single fin's behavior is being analyzed. A grid of nodes and elements is set up across the fin. Relationships at the left side, top side, bottom side, right top corner, right bottom corner and the right side are inputted into excel in order to define the temperatures at each node. The boundary condition in this case is the base temperature, which is given in the problem statement as 85°C. Once the relationships are set the base temperature then feeds into the relationships mentioned and a temperature gradient across the fin is developed. The fin requires a large amount of iterations in order to stabilize, this was done by recalculating the temperatures until the temperatures stopped fluctuating across the fin. A coarse and fine FEM mesh were used to analyze the behavior of the fin. The results from both meshes were analyzed and contrasted with one another along with the 1D method as well.

Assuming that there is no internal heat generation and uniform thermal conductivity across the section being analyzed a 2D grid can be used to determine the temperature across the grid to a very high level of precision, depending on how far apart the nodes are in the mesh.

The following equations were used to establish the relationships between the nodes:

Top boundary,

$$T_{i,j} = \frac{[(T_{i-1,j}) + (T_{i+1,j}) + (2 * T_{i,j-1}) + \frac{2h\Delta x}{kT_{\infty}}]}{4 + \frac{2h\Delta x}{k}}$$

Bottom boundary,

$$T_{i,j} = \frac{[(T_{i-1,j}) + (T_{i+1,j}) + (2 * T_{i,j+1}) + \frac{2h\Delta x}{kT_{\infty}}]}{4 + \frac{2h\Delta x}{k}}$$

Right bottom corner,

$$T_{i,j} = \frac{[(2 * T_{i-1,j}) + (2 * T_{i,j+1}) + \frac{2h\Delta x}{kT_{\infty}}]}{4 + \frac{2h\Delta x}{k}}$$

Right top corner,

$$T_{i,j} = \frac{[(2 * T_{i-1,j}) + (2 * T_{i,j-1}) + \frac{2h\Delta x}{kT_{\infty}}]}{4 + \frac{2h\Delta x}{k}}$$

Internal nodes,

$$T_{i,j} = \frac{[(T_{i-1,j}) + (T_{i+1,j}) + (T_{i,j-1}) + (T_{i,j+1})]}{4}$$

Right boundary,

$$T_{i,j} = \frac{[(2 * T_{i-1,j}) + (T_{i,j-1}) + (T_{i,j+1})]}{4}$$

In figure 6 the conduction heat transfer across the fin is compared when analyzed using the 1D, FDM coarse and FDM fine. The FDM coarse used a 13 x 5 grid of nodes across the fin and the fine grid used a 17 x 49 node grid. Since it is known that the fine is much more accurate, from the figure below we can see that in this case the 1D approximation is closer the fine FDM.

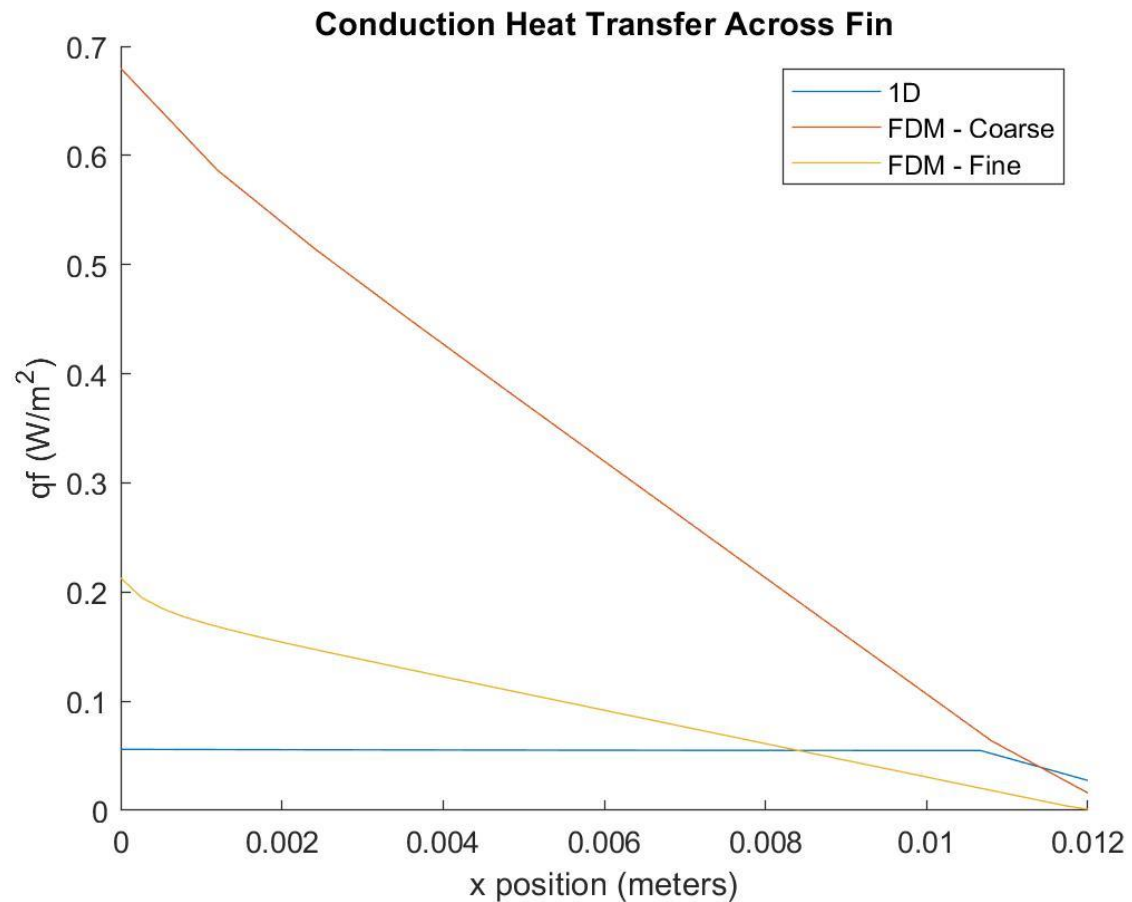


Figure 6 - Conduction Heat Transfer Across Fin

The fin temperature gradient across the fin when using all three methods exhibit the same trend. However, the 1D and fine FDM are closer to each other. The temperature at the base decreases and tapers off at the tip, the range for all three models is between 84 and 83.5°C.

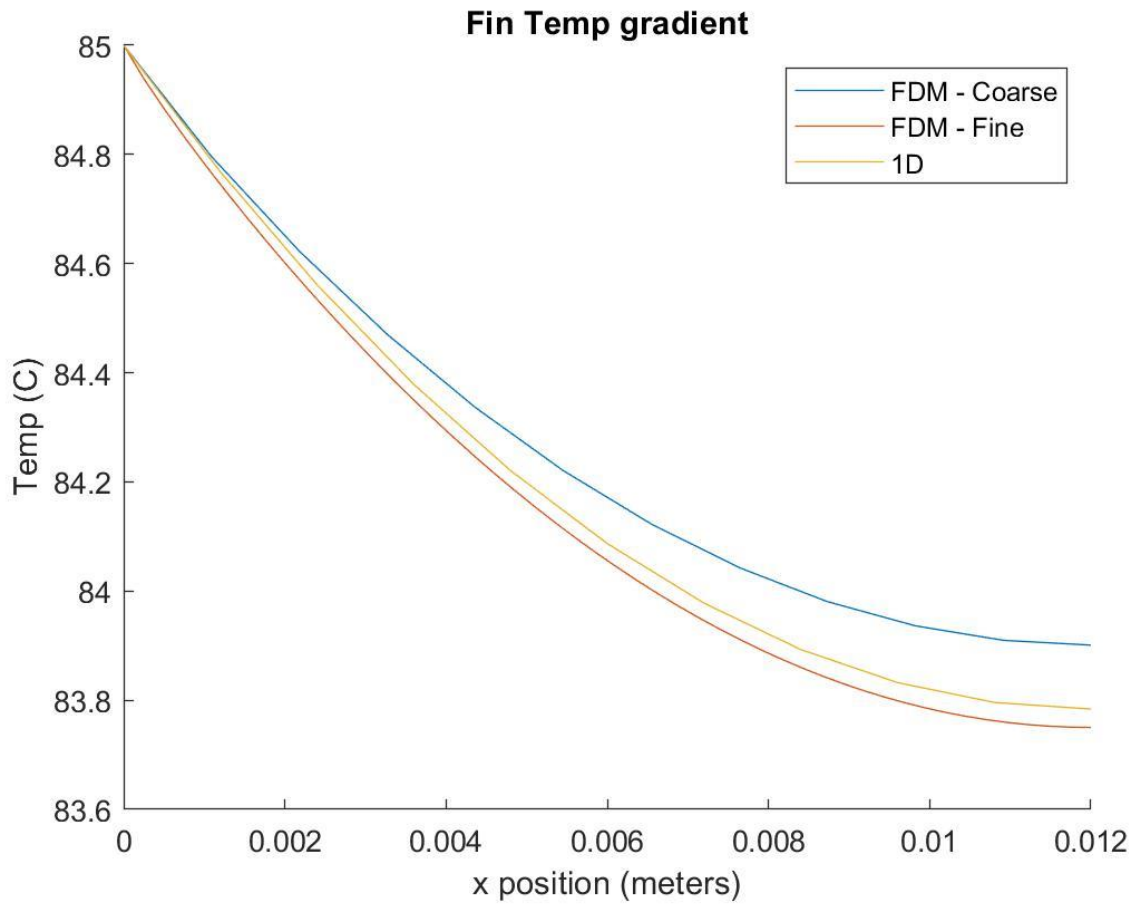


Figure 7 - Fin Temp Gradient

The fin heat transfer measured at the base of the fin can be seen in figure 8. The two FDM methods used display the same trend and the 1D displays a similar trend.

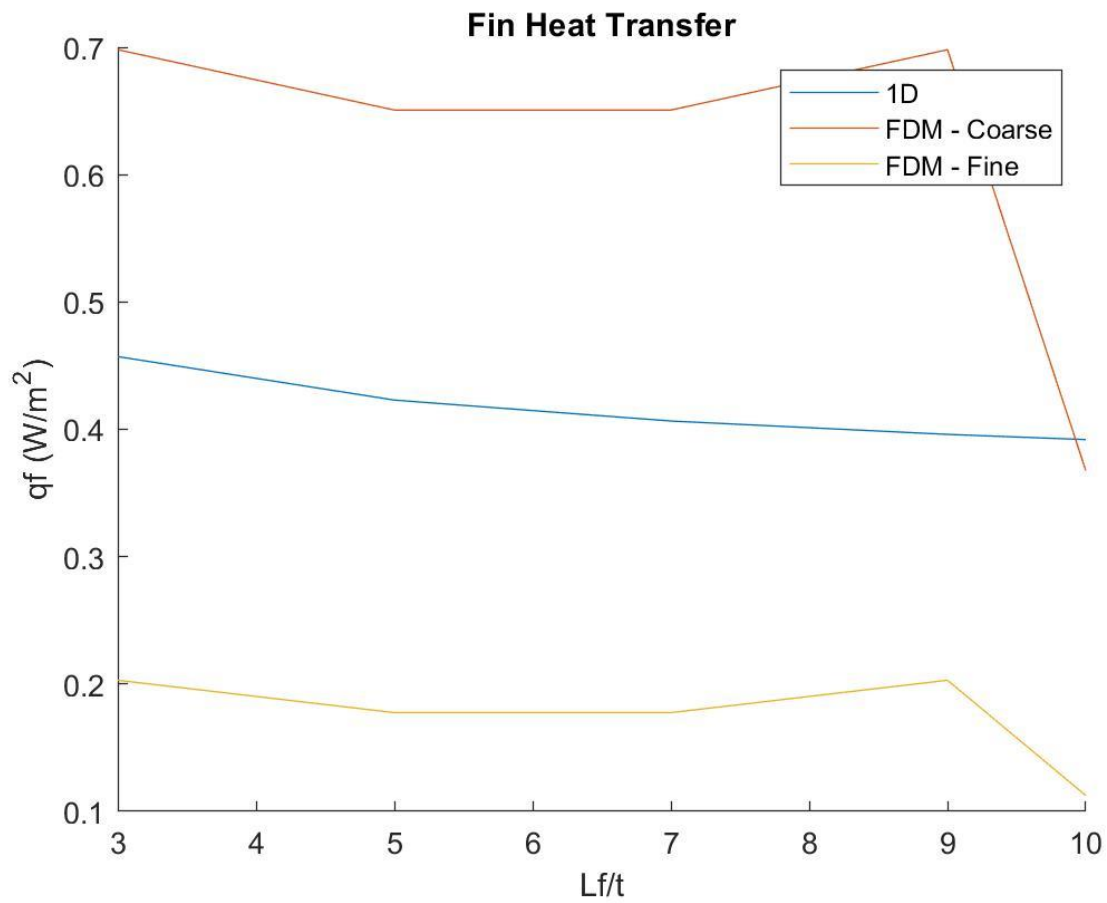


Figure 8 - Fin Heat Transfer

Conclusions

In conclusion when using the finite difference method to analyze the heat transfer and temperature behavior of a specimen, using a fine grid will yield more accurate values since the spacing between nodes is far less. This allows for the temperature at more points to be accounted, this in turn gives a more accurate and precise view of what is occurring through out the specimen's profile. The 1D and the coarse FDM method give accurate information, but to a certain degree. When using these two methods, it must be kept in mind that these do carry uncertainty along with them. Depending on how accurate the readings need to be, is what determines which method should be used. If a preliminary calculation needs to be done in order to quickly gauge the behavior of a specimen and accuracy/precision is not of high importance, then the 1D approximation is a viable option. However, as the importance of accuracy/precision in these measurements increases then the FDM coarse and then fine should be used.

Appendix

MatLab Code:

```
%% Inputs
clear
clc

Tc = 85; %Celsius

Tinf = 20; %Celsius

h = 100; %W/m^2 K
k = 180; %W/m K

Lf = .012; % meter
Lb = .003; % meter

L = Lf;

W = 20;%in millimeters
N=3:1:10;
t = ((W - 2.*N + 2)./N)./1000;

%re-assigning W value
W = 0.02;%in meters

P = 2.*(W+t);
Ac = t*W;
Af = 2.*((Lf.*W)+(Lf.*t));
At = W.^2 - N.*(W.*t) + N.*Af;
%% N vs qc

figure(1)
m = sqrt((h.*P)./(k.*Ac));

nf = (tanh(m.*L))./(m.*L);
no = 1-((N.*(Af./At)).*(1-nf));

Rs = (2*10^-5);
Rc = Lb/k;
Rf = 1./(no.*h.*At);

qc = (Tc-Tinf)./(Rs+Rc+Rf);
plot(N,qc)
xlabel('number of fins')
ylabel('heat flux (W/m^2)')
title('N vs qc')
%% N,Tb
figure(2)
Tb = qc.*Rf + Tinf;
plot(N,Tb)
```

```

xlabel('number of fins')
ylabel('Base Temp "Tb" (C)')
title('N vs Tb')
%% N,qf
figure(3)

theta_b = Tb - Tinf;
M = sqrt(h.*P.*k.*Ac.*theta_b);
qf = M.*tanh(m.*L);
%qf = nf.*h.*Af.*(Tb-Tinf);
plot(N,qf)
xlabel('number of fins')
ylabel('heat flux from fins (W/m^2)')
title('N vs qf')
%% N,Ttip
figure(4)
L = Lf;
x = Lf;
Ttip = Tinf + (Tb-Tinf).*(cosh(m.*(L-x))./(cosh(m.*L)));
plot(N,Ttip)
xlabel('number of fins')
ylabel('Tip Temp "Ttip" (C)')
title('N vs Ttip')
%% wt,N
figure(5)
d = 2710;%kg/m^3 density of alluminum
Vf = N.*t.*(Lf*W); %m^3Volume of fins
mf = d.*Vf; %kg mass of fins
wt = mf.*9.81;%Newtons weight of fins

plot(N,wt)
xlabel('number of fins')
ylabel('total weight of fins (Newtons)')
title('N vs weight')
%% Adiabatic Tip Condition

%theta = T - T_inf;
%theta_b = Tb - T_inf;
%m = sqrt(h*P/k*Ac);
%M = sqrt(h*P*k*Ac*theta_b);

% Temperature Distribution
%theta_L = cosh(m*(L-x))/cosh(m*L)

%Fin Heat Transfer Rate
%qf = M*tanh(m*L)
%% Plotting temps for fdm c/f and 1D

% T1 = Tc - qc(1,1)*Rs;
% Ttip = Ttip(1,1);

fdmCt = xlsread('fdmc.xlsx','B5:M5');

```



```

fdmFt = xlsread('fdmf.xlsx','B5:AW5');

figure(6)
hold on
%FDM Coarse temp gradient
xC = linspace(0,Lf,12);
plot(xC,fdmCt)

%FDM Fine temp gradient
xF = linspace(0,Lf,48);
plot(xF,fdmFt)

%1D temp gradient
m = m(1,1);
L = Lf;
x1D = linspace(0,Lf,11);
x = x1D;
Tb = Tb(1,1);
Tx = Tinf + (Tb-Tinf).*cosh(m.*(L-x))./cosh(m.*L);

plot(x,Tx)

title('Fin Temp gradient')
ylabel('Temp (C)')
xlabel('x position (meters)')

legend('FDM - Coarse','FDM - Fine','1D')

% -----
% q_conduction heat Transfer plots
figure(7)
hold on

% 1D heat Transfer
% qc1d = ones(1,10);
% n=0;
% for i = 1:length(Tx)-1
%     n = n+1;
%     qc1d(n) = (k/.001).*(Tx(1,n) - Tx(1,n+1));
% end
%
% qc1 = ones(1,10);
% a = 0;
% for i = 1:length(qc1d)
%     a = a +1;
%     qc1(a) = (0.5*.02*.001).*(qc1d(1,a) - qc1d(1,a+1));
% end
%
onedq = xlsread('1d.xlsx','C22:L22');
xd = linspace(0,Lf,10);

```

```

plot(xd,onedq)

%FDM Coarse heat transfer
fdmCq = xlsread('fdmc.xlsx','B11:L11');
xC = linspace(0,Lf,11);
plot(xC,fdmCq)

%FDM Fine heat transfer
fdmFq = xlsread('fdmf.xlsx','B11:AV11');
xF = linspace(0,Lf,47);
plot(xF,fdmFq)

title('Conduction Heat Transfer Across Fin')
ylabel('qc (W/m^2)')
xlabel('x position (meters)')

legend('1D','FDM - Coarse','FDM - Fine')

%% Plotting qf,Ttip and nf along Lf/t
% 1D qf for plot along L/t
Tinf = 20; %Celsius
Tb = 85;%Celsius

h = 100; %W/m^2 K
k = 180; %W/m K

Lf = .012; % meter
L = Lf;
Lb = .003; % meter
W = 0.02;%in meters

N = 1;

t = Lf./[3 5 7 9 10];

P = 2.*(W+t);
Ac = t*W;
Af = 2.*((Lf.*W)+(Lf.*t));
At = W.^2 - N.*(W.*t) + N.*Af;

m = sqrt((h.*P)./(k.*Ac));

theta_b = Tb - Tinf;
M = sqrt(h.*P.*k.*Ac.*theta_b);
qf = M.*tanh(m.*L);

figure(8)
hold on

plot(Lf./t,qf)

```

```
% FDM coarse qf for plot along L/t
fdmCqf = xlsread('fdmc.xlsx','B18:F18');
plot(Lf./t,fdmCqf)
```

```
% FDM Fine qf for plot along L/t
fdmFqf = xlsread('fdmf.xlsx','B16:F16');
plot(Lf./t,fdmFqf)
```

```
title('Fin Heat Transfer')
ylabel('qf (W/m^2)')
xlabel('Lf/t')
```

```
legend('1D','FDM - Coarse','FDM - Fine')
hold off
```

```
%Ttip-----
figure(9)
```

```
hold on
```

```
% FDM coarse qf for plot along L/t
fdmCTtip = xlsread('fdmc.xlsx','B23:F23');
plot(Lf./t,fdmCTtip)
```

```
% FDM Fine qf for plot along L/t
fdmFqTtip = xlsread('fdmf.xlsx','B21:F21');
plot(Lf./t,fdmFqTtip)
```

```
%nf-----
figure(10)
```

fdm - coarse												
	temp											
	85	84.79578	84.62233	84.46994	84.33624	84.22061	84.12286	84.04293	83.98079	83.93642	83.9098	83.90093
	heat transfer											
	0.679812	0.586513	0.514954	0.448796	0.384082	0.319814	0.255722	0.191724	0.127785	0.063883	0.01597	
	qf'''avg											
	0.698083	0.650694	0.650694	0.698083	0.367595							
	Ttip											
	83.90093	83.92756	83.93644	83.92756	83.90093							

[illegible]

fdm - fine																								
temp																								
85	84.93753	84.88169	84.82925	84.77908	84.73067	84.68379	84.63828	84.59405	84.55105	84.50925	84.46861	84.42912	84.39077	84.35356	84.31747	84.28251	84.24866	84.21593	84.18432	84.15383	84.12445	84.09618	84.06801	
heat transfer																								
0.212955	0.194899	0.184705	0.17744	0.171519	0.166314	0.161529	0.157004	0.152647	0.1484	0.144226	0.140102	0.136012	0.131946	0.127896	0.123859	0.11983	0.115807	0.111179	0.107776	0.103766	0.099759	0.095754	0.09175	
q''avg																								
0.202965	0.177533	0.177533	0.202965	0.112447																				
Tip																								
83.75012	83.77669	83.78554	83.77669	83.75012																				

[illegible]

References

Incropera, Frank P., and David P. DeWitt. *Introduction to Heat Transfer*. Wiley, 2009.