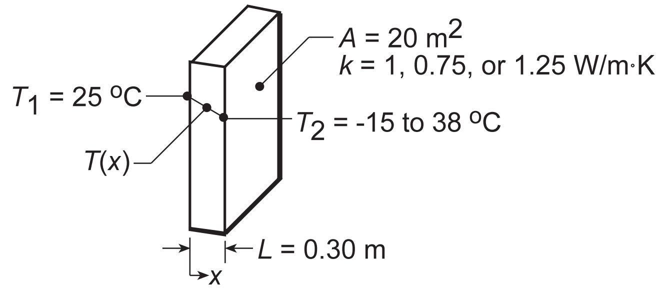
PROBLEM 1.2

KNOWN: Inner surface temperature and thermal conductivity of a concrete wall.

FIND: Heat loss by conduction through the wall as a function of ambient air temperatures ranging from -15 to 38°C.

SCHEMATIC:



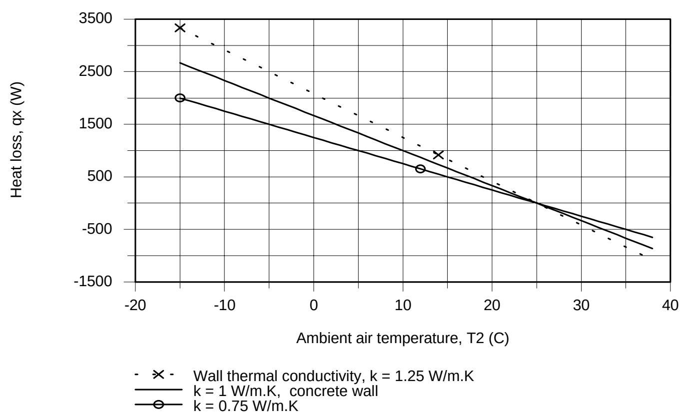
ASSUMPTIONS: (1) One-dimensional conduction in the x-direction, (2) Steady-state conditions, (3) Constant properties, (4) Outside wall temperature is that of the ambient air.

ANALYSIS: From Fourier's law, it is evident that the gradient, $dT/dx = -q''_x/k$, is a constant, and hence the temperature distribution is linear, if q''_x and k are each constant. The heat flux must be constant under one-dimensional, steady-state conditions; and k is approximately constant if it depends only weakly on temperature. The heat flux and heat rate when the outside wall temperature is T_2 = -15°C are

$$q''_x = -k\frac{dT}{dx} = k\frac{T_1 - T_2}{L} = 1\,W/m\cdot K\frac{25^\circ C - \left(-15^\circ C\right)}{0.30\,m} = 133.3\,W/m^2 . \tag{1}$$

$$q_x = q''_x \times A = 133.3\,W/m^2 \times 20\,m^2 = 2667\,W . \tag{2}$$ <

Combining Eqs. (1) and (2), the heat rate q_x can be determined for the range of ambient temperature, $-15 \le T_2 \le 38$°C, with different wall thermal conductivities, k.



For the concrete wall, k = 1 W/m·K, the heat loss varies linearily from +2667 W to -867 W and is zero when the inside and ambient temperatures are the same. The magnitude of the heat rate increases with increasing thermal conductivity.

COMMENTS: Without steady-state conditions and constant k, the temperature distribution in a plane wall would not be linear.