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# Stochastic inversion of fire test data for the T-dependant thermal diffusivity of SA pine

by

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Project(Civil Engineering)458

*Project Proposal*

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August 2021

# Nomenclature

## Constants

$$g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$$

## Variables

$\kappa$	Thermal conductivity . . . . .	[ W/m·K ]
$\alpha$	Thermal diffusivity . . . . .	[ m <sup>2</sup> /s ]

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background and Motivation

Traditionally the thermal diffusivity, otherwise referred to as the  $\alpha$ -value, of timber is based simply off the EN 1995:1-1-2004 or similar standards. This research project will aim to obtain the thermal diffusivity of cross laminated SA-Pine timber by further analysing data obtained by S van der Westhuisen for his study of the samples' charring rate.

The thermal diffusivity of timber is a unobservable quantity that cannot be measured by itself, instead it is related to measurements of temperature and time through differential models. When heat diffusion is calculated using Finite Element methods the process is usually simplified to a linear problem(Fish). Due to the changes in thermal diffusivity of timber with temperature, as can be seen in EN 1995:1-1-2004(pg number), the diffusivity cannot be linearly modelled. Therefore problem lends itself to being analysed by inversion techniques. The aforementioned approach will allow us to obtain information about the diffusivity based on the combination of the information assumed prior to measuring, further referred to as the prior, and the measured data. Using statistical inversion leads to a probability distribution that provides us with a collection of diffusivity estimates and their corresponding probabilities.?

### 1.2 Aim and objectives

During the course of the project the student will aim to meet the following objectives:

1. Modify a Finite Element Model into an accurate and effective function.
2. Compare the model data to the actual acquired data.

3. Solve for the thermal diffusivity using Bayes' theorem of inverse problems
4. Evaluate and explore the posterior probability distribution using the following methods:
  - (a) Maximum a Posteriori
  - (b) Markov-Chain Monte Carlo

## 1.3 Literature Review

### 1.3.1 K- value

### 1.3.2 Bayes' theorem of inverse problems

The method of statistical inversion is dependant on a fundamental understanding of the Bayes' theorem of inverse problems. The student obtained this understanding through studying Chapter 3 of Statistical and Computational Inverse problems by Kaipio and Somersalo ?, further referred to merely as Kaipio. There are four principles of Statistical inversion that is essential to the thorough understanding of these models. Firstly it is the principle that any variable in the model needs to be modelled as a random variable. This randomness is based on the extent of information that is available. To ensure that the extent of knowledge is accurately portrayed in the model the extent of knowledge will be coded into the probability distributions assigned to the different variables. Finally it needs to be understood that the solution of a statistical inversion is a posterior probability distribution. A generalized equation of Bayes' theorem can be seen in 1.3.1 taken from Kaipio.

$$\pi_{\text{post}}(x) = \pi(x|y_{\text{observed}}) = \frac{\pi_{\text{pr}}(x)\pi(y_{\text{observed}}|x)}{\pi(y_{\text{observed}})} \quad (1.3.1)$$

### 1.3.3 Heat diffusion equation

$$q = -k \frac{dT}{dx} \quad (1.3.2)$$

## 1.4 Proposed methodology

### 1.4.1 Finite Element Model

A one-dimensional finite element model that simulates what we expect to obtain from the fire tests based on the simplified K-values provided in EN 1995:1-1-2004

will be modified into a function. This function should provide the temperature of the modelled element based on a specified location and thermal conductivity.

### **1.4.2 Optimization**

### **1.4.3 Markov Chain Monte Carlo**

## **1.5 Program**

# Chapter 2

## Finite Element Modelling

### 2.1 Existing Model

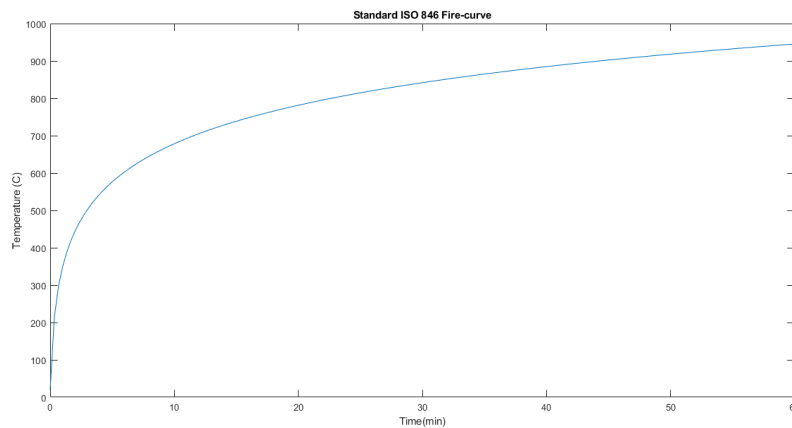
For this project a existing finite element model of heat diffusion by Dr. N de Koker will be modified for usage in the Bayes' theorem 1.3.1.

# Chapter 3

## Measured Data

### 3.1 Summary of test

The data used was acquired by S. van der Westhuizen for his article assessing the charring rate of both SA-Pine and Eucalyptus. For the purpose of this project only the data obtained from the SA-Pine test was considered. The test sample was a 100 mm by 0.9m x 0.9m panel of cross-laminated SA-pine, this sample was then divided into nine cubes of 100 mm x 100 mm x 100 mm. Each cube was fitted with seven Type K-thermocouples placed at consecutive 16.5 mm drilled holes. The test panel was tested in a furnace and was exposed to the standard ISO 834 Fire curve 3.1 on one side and room temperature on the other. The panel was exposed to the fire curve for 50 minutes at which stage near complete delamination was observed and the test ended.



## 3.2 Potential inaccuracies

As with most test everything is not always perfect. In the data it was observed that two of the thermocouples broke during testing, this resulted in temperature with a magnitude of  $10^{13}$ . That temperature is not possible as the highest ever recorded temperature reached was  $4 \times 10^{12}$  and that only occurred in a atomic explosion This malfunction required that two of the depth measurements were no longer the average between nine samples but instead the average between eight.

Another inaccuracy that could potentially influence the accuracy of the final result is the accuracy of the depth of the holes in which the thermocouples were placed. As this was done by hand in the laboratory.

There is also debate about the significance of the contribution of the timber burning to the temperature inside the furnace. For the purposes of this project it will be assumed that the timber burning does not contribute to the temperature inside the furnace.

The assumption that the panel is constantly at room temperature on the outside is also inaccurate as there is heat radiating from the panel that increases the temperature surrounding the panel.

## 3.3 Results



