The Mimas Leading Edge Anomaly: Thermal conductivity and grain cementation radius estimation

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1 Review of measured Parameters

1.1 Thermal Inertia (I) - Howett et al. (2011)

$$I = \sqrt{kc\rho} \left[\frac{J}{m^2 K^1 s^{1/2}} \right] \tag{1}$$

Where

- k = thermal conductivity $\left[\frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K}\right]$
- c = specific heat $\left[\frac{J}{g \cdot K}\right]$
- $\rho = \text{density } \left[\frac{g}{m^3}\right]$

The thermal inertial measured by Cassini CIRS was reported by Howett et al. (2011)

- Within anomaly: $66 \pm 23 \left[\frac{J}{m^2 K^1 s^{1/2}}\right]$
- \bullet Outside anomaly: $\boxed{<16[\frac{J}{m^2\underline{K}^1s^{1/2}}]}$

Depth of penetration for CIRS wavelength light?

1.2 Temperature ranges - Howett et al. (2011)

Estimated Mimas daytime temperatures: 40-95 K

1.3 Particle Size - Hendrix et al (2012)

Average particle diameter $[\mu m]$

- \bullet Leading hemisphere: 20-80 $\mu\mathrm{m}$
- Trailing hemisphere: 10-50 μm
- Herschel crater: 50-100 μm

1.4 Porosity

$$\rho_{\phi} = \rho_0 * (1 - \phi)$$

- For Tethy's Caravano et al. (2007): > 90%
- Model parameter (ansatz) Leliwa-Kopystynski (2000): 50%

2 Tabulated Literature Parameters

2.1 Thermal Conductivity

Low temperature thermal conductivity

- Water Ice
 - Ellsworty and Schubert (1983): $k_{ice} = \frac{488.12}{T} + 0.4685 \left[\frac{J}{msK}\right]$
 - Haruyama et al (1993) via. Sirono and Yamamoto (1997):
 - * Amorphous: $k_{H_2O,a} = k_{ao} \times T$ where $k_{ao} = 7.1x10^{-3} \left[\frac{erg}{cmsK}\right]$
 - * Crystalline: $k_{H_2O,c} = k_{co}/T$ where $k_{co} = 5.67x10^7 \left[\frac{erg}{cmsK}\right]$
 - Kossacki et al. (1994): $k = \frac{567}{T} \left[\frac{J}{msK} \right]$
 - Klinger (1975): $k_{100K} = 0.04 \frac{J}{msK}$

2.2 Specific and Latent Heat

Low temperature specific heat:

- NBS Monograph 21 (): $c_{100K} = 0.82 \left[\frac{J}{gK} \right]$

Latent heat of sublimation:

3 Introduction

The lens feature present on Mimas and Tethy's, seen in the visible [Shenketal2011] and thermal IR wavelenghts [Howettetal2011, has been tentatively explained by high energy (¿1MeV) electrons traveling with the net guiding center of motion opposit the rotation direction of the moons, thereby depositing energy preferentially on the leading edge of those bodies [Paranicasetal2012]. The energy deposition due to these electrons was hypothesized to be responsible for an increased sintering volume between the ice grains that make up the regoliths, and the purpose of this note is to quantitatively estimate the expected grain sintering radius based on the measured parameters of thermal inertia and grain size. The estimate assumes that both the ice grains and the cementation volume is entirely crystalline, although amorphous ice could be present. The structure of the ice will be discussed in more detail later in this note.

3.1 Skin Depth (δ) - Howett et al. (2011)

Using the CIRS instrument aboard Cassini, the thermal emission from the surface was measured during the day and night cycle. It was seen that the temperature variation within a lens shaped feature centered on the leading hemisphere (0deg lat) was greater than the outside region. The spatial extent closely matched a UV/IR anomalous region described by Shenketal2011. In the known emission differences (equation?), the thermal inertia $I = \sqrt{(kc\rho)}$ was $16Jm^{-2}s^{1/2}K^{-1}$ ouside the anomalous region and $66 \pm 23 \ Jm^{-2}s^{1/2}K^{-1}$ within. Using these values Howett et al. gave a skin depth value of

$$\delta = \frac{I_{out}}{\rho_{regolith}c\sqrt{\omega}}$$

$$= \frac{I_{out}}{(1-\phi)\rho_{ice}c\sqrt{\omega}}$$

$$= \frac{16Jm^{-2}s^{1/2}K^{-1}}{(1-0.5)0.934[\frac{g}{m^3}]0.8[\frac{J}{g\cdot K}]7.7^{-5}[\frac{rad}{s}]} = 0.49 \ [cm]$$
(2)

Where c= specific heat, $\rho_{ice}=$ density of bulk ice, and $\omega=$ angular velocity of rotation. Inside the thermal anomaly the skin depth was given as 1.31-2.71 [cm], which is proximately the same depth of penetration as the high energy electrons, thus leading to the hypothesis that the electrons could be responsible for the thermal anomaly. The porosity of the regolith ϕ is represented as a reduction in the density of the soil by the equation $\rho_{regolith}=(1-\phi)\rho_{ice}$.

One possible explanation for the physical mechanisms could be sintering in an intergrain contact region driven by thermal or electronic excitations of the ice grains. Water molecules could migrate across the grain surface, or be sputched from the surface are preferentially redeposit in the intergrain region. There should be a pressure minimum in the pendular region. Need equation to explain. Another argument in the minimization of surface energy. Need to look more into that too.

3.2 Thermal Conductivity

The relationship between thermal conductivity and thermal inertia is given by $k = \frac{f^2}{c \cdot \rho_{\phi}}$. Using the measured values of thermal inertia from the previous section 1.1, and assuming a porosity of 90% so that the density is that calculated in ??, the thermal conductivity inside and outside the anomaly is found to be:

•
$$k_{inside} = 5.77 \pm (0.7) \times 10^{-2} \left[\frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K} \right]$$

•
$$k_{outside} < 0.3 \times 10^{-2} \left[\frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K} \right]$$

4 Determination of grain cementation: Comparison of theoretical methods

4.1 Basic Theory of Thermal Conductivity

From Watson (1964) [via. Piqueux and Christensen, 2009a]: The thermal conductivity of a granular, uncemented sample under vacuum is given by $k_{gran} = AT^3 + B$, and $AT^3 \propto k_r$ $4\psi D\sigma T^3$, where $\psi =$ heat transport coefficient (or emmissivity?), D = particle diameter, $\sigma =$ Stefan Boltzmann constant. Additionally, A should be a function of not only in size but also porosity was given as $B = \frac{3000}{D} \times 10^{-5}$. Note that this equation for B does not hold for very small grains ($D < 20\mu m$) and B can be interpreted as an indirect quantification of the resistivity of the intergrain region.

A and B can be measured empirically for a given material, or modeled as hard spheres and calculated computationally, though variations in porosity, vacuum conditions and grain size can be difficult to study in the lab and using solid sphere computational models may miss important effects from the regolith microstructure. However, much work has been done to constrain the various parameters that affect the thermal conductivity, and those important on Mimas will be outlined and their contributions to the overall effective thermal conductivity reported by Howett et al, (2011) estimated below.

5 Contributions to the effective thermal conductivity of an icy porous regolith

5.1 Radiative contribution

The contribution to thermal conductivity from radiative heat emission from the grain/pore surfaces can be estimated from the analysis of Karparek and Vortmeyer (1976) [via. PandQ2009a] where

$$k_{rad} = 4\psi D\sigma T^{3}$$
and
$$\psi = \frac{2F + \epsilon'(1 - F)}{2(1 - F) - \epsilon'(1 - F)}$$
(3)

F is a 'radiative constant' equal to ≈ 0.08 (Kasparek and Vortmeyer, 1976) and ϵ' is related to the emissivity ϵ of the material by $\epsilon' = \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon + 0.5(1 - \epsilon)}$. Taking $D = 50 \mu m$, $\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8} \frac{J}{m.s.K}$, $\epsilon = 1$, and F = 0.08 [Kasparek and Vortmeyer (via PandQ2009a)], then:

$$\Rightarrow \epsilon' = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \psi = \frac{1+F}{1-F} \approx 1.087$$

$$\Rightarrow k_{rad} = 4(1.087)(5 \times 10^{-5}m)(5.67 \times 10^{-8} \frac{J}{m^2 s K^4} (80K)^3)$$

$$\Rightarrow k_{rad} = 6.3 \times 10^{-6} \frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K}$$
(4)

Thus we see that the radiative contribution at appoximate Mimas temperatures can account for only $\approx 1/3000$ of the total thermal conductivity as measured, meaning that the conductive component through the porous regolith must dominate.

5.1.1 Thermal conductivity of the void space in a porous icy regolith

The thermal conductivity of the void space depends not only on the radiative heat transfer across the void space, but also convective heat transfer due to gas pressure in the pores and

sublimation of H_2O into the vacuum. The latter process can be described by the Hertz-Knudsen formula, and, including radiative effects while neglecting convective heat transfer due to low pressures, we can write the thermal conductivity of the void space as:

$$k_{void} = 4\epsilon' \sigma S T^3 + \left(\frac{m}{2\pi kT}\right)^{1/2} (LS) \frac{dP}{dT}$$
(5)

where ϵ' is the IR emissivity corrected for multiple reflections, σ is the Stefan-Boltzman constant, m is the mass of the gas molecule, k_b is the Boltzmann constant, L is the latent heat of sublimation per unit mass and $S = \phi d$ is the average pore size dimension where ϕ is the porosity and d the average particle diameter. P is the vapor pressure of the gas of interest and is given by the Clausius-Clapeyron equation:

$$P = ae^{(-b/T)} (6)$$

where a and b are experimentally determined parameters given for water vapor over ice by Fanale et al. (1986) as $a=3.56\times 10^{12}Nm^{-2}$ and b=6141.667K. Note that both convective and advective contributions to the heat flux are negligible compared to the latent heat effect at the presures expected for Mimas. Separating the void thermal conductivity into radiative and latent heat contributions, we find for $\epsilon'=1.0$, $\phi=0.9$, $d=50\mu m$ and taking a temperature T=80K, the radiative contribution is found to be:

$$k_{rad} = 4(1.0)(5.67 \times 10^{-8})(0.9 * 50\mu m)(80K)^3$$

 $\Rightarrow k_{rad} = 5.2 \times 10^{-6} \frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K}$
(7)

This value is very similar to the value for radiative heat transfer obtained above using the analysis of Karparek and Vortmeyer (1976) [via. PandQ2009a].

Taking the latent heat of sublimation to be $L = 48600 \left[\frac{J}{mol} \right]$ and again using a temperature of 80 K, the contribution to thermal conductivity from the latent heat is given as:

$$k_{lat} = \left[\frac{18g/mol \times N_A}{2\pi k_b(80K)}\right]^{1/2} (48600J/mol \times N_A)(0.9 \cdot 50 \times 10^{-6}m) \left[\frac{(3.56 \times 10^{12}N/m^2)(6141.7K)}{(80K)^2} exp(\frac{-6141.7}{80})\right]$$

$$\Rightarrow k_{lat} = 1.15 \times 10^{-26} \frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K}$$
(8)

At 80K, the thermal conductivity due to latent heat of sublimation is completely negligible, and thus the total void thermal conductivity can be taken as

$$k_{void} = k_{rad} + k_{lat} \approx 5.2 \times 10^{-6} \frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K} \tag{9}$$

5.2 Analytical models of conductive heat transport mechanisms in a porous icy regolith

5.2.1 From Wood (2011): Problem of 'Solid Continuity Factor'

There are several methods in the literature for determining the thermal conductivity of a grainy regolith that take into account grain size, porosity, and a cementation region between adjacent grains that increases the thermal conductivity from a point contact. It is the area at the point of contact between adjacent grains that limits the thermal conductivity, and the larger intergrain contact region the greater the thermal conductivity. Wood (2011) based his analysis on parallel heat transfer due to conduction through grains, through gas filled pores, and radiation from grain surfaces across pores, $k_{eff} = k_c + k_r$, where k_c and k_r represent the conductive and radiative

components of the effective thermal conductivity, respectively. Taking k_r to be negligible, we are left with:

$$k_c = k_{c,min} + f_{sc}(k_{c,max} - k_{c,min}) \tag{10}$$

where $k_{c,min}$ is the minimum conductive thermal conductivity which for the low pressure environment of Mimas can be taken to be zero, and $k_{c,max}$ is determined by the thermal conductivity of the grain material, k_s , the porosity ϕ , and the percent volume and thermal conductivity of cementation region: χ and k_{cem} , respectively. f_{sc} is the fractional tinuity of the solid phase, and represents the effect of interparticle contact and/or cementation. Wood (2001) stated that this is an empirically determined parameter calculated as a function of the relative number and size of the interparticle bonds w/ two adjustable parameters, and based his analysis off of values based on work by Piqueux and Christensen, 2009b. Taking the equations of Wood (2011) at low pressure, then:

$$k_{c,max} = \frac{k_{cem}\chi + k_s \nu_s \frac{3k_{cem}}{2k_{cem} + k_s}}{\chi + \nu_s \frac{3k_{cem}}{2k_{cem} + k_s} + \phi \frac{3k_{cem}}{2k_{cem}}}$$

$$\text{where} \phi = (1 - \nu_s)$$
(11)

For $k_s = k_{cem} = kice$, this equation can be simplified and we can write the effective thermal conductivity as:

$$k_{c,max} = k_{ice} \frac{\chi + \varphi}{\chi + 1 + \frac{\phi}{2}}$$

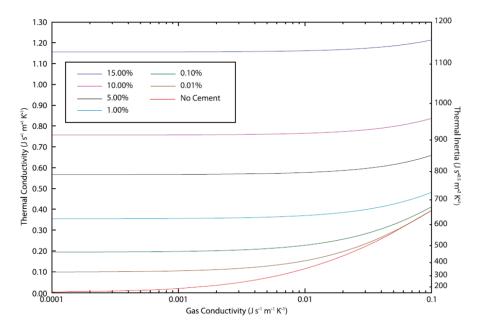
$$\Rightarrow k_c = k_{eff} = f_{sc}k_{c,max} = f_{sc}k_{ice} \frac{\chi + 1}{\chi + 1} + \frac{\phi}{2}$$

$$(12)$$

We see that in this final expression there are two unknown terms: f_{sc} , the solid continuity factor, and the cement volume fraction χ . The problem of the Wood model is a lack of discussion on the solid continuity factor and how it is estimated, what parameters it depends on, how it can be determined independently of the cement volume fraction. It was mentioned that f_{sc} is an empirical factor determined by analysis of the Piqueux and Christensen (2009b) data, but there is no discussion of how it was derived. The lack of an accurate method of determining f_{sc} , combinined with a need to calculate the cement volume fraction (χ) make the Wood model less useful for analysis of the thermal anomaly on Mimas.

5.2.2 From Piqueuz and Christensen (2009b): Problem of applicability

P and reprimarily concerned with the effect of gas pressure in the voids between grains, but their results also considered low gas conductivities ($<1x10^{-5}$) which approach the thermal conductivity of vacuum. Based on Figure 8 from that paper, the percent volume fraction of cementation is below the lowest value they studied, not including their results for zero cementation.



The image shows that the measured thermal conductivity inside the anomaly $(k_{in} = 0.058J/(m \cdot s \cdot K))$ falls approximately midway between 0.01% and 0.0% volume fraction cement. Thus, i was estimated that inside and outside the anomaly the volume fraction of cement was:

- $\chi_{in} \approx 0.001\%$
- $\chi_{out} \approx 0.0001\%$

However, it is stated in the paper that 'for extremely small volumes of bonds (< 0.01% - 0.001%) the bulk thermal conductivity remains mostly unchanged and is a function of ... temperature and grain size'. We see that the determined values for cement volume fraction are below these limits, and thus the model of P and Q is not adequate to estimate the cementation between grains.

5.3 Steiner and Kömle (1991): Determination of grain sinter radius by Hertz factor analysis

A third method of determining the effective thermal conductivity of a porous water ice regolith at low pressure (high Knudsen numbers) was outlined in Steiner and Kömle (1991) who used expressions given in Tsostas and Martin (1987) to derive:

$$k_{eff} = (1 - \sqrt{1 - \phi})\phi \cdot k_{void} + \sqrt{1 - \phi}[hk_{ice} + (1 - \phi)\frac{B + 1}{B}\frac{k_{ice}k_{void}}{k_{ice} + k_{void}}]$$
(13)

where ϕ is the regolith porosity, k_{void} is the thermal condictivity across the void region due to a combination of radiative heat transfer and the latent heat of sublimation, k_{ice} is the thermal conductivity of bulk ice, h is the 'Hertz-factor' used to describe the amount of intergrain contact, and B is a deformer on factor related to porosity by:

$$B = 1.25\left(\frac{1-\phi}{\phi}\right)^{1} \tag{14}$$

The Hertz-factor is a parameter that describes the intergranular contact area, where a larger Hertz-factor corresponds to greater interparticle contact, thereby allowing a greater heat flux and a higher thermal conductivity. That is, for otherwise identical regoliths, the Hertz factor is a parameter that can be used to describe the relative(?) amount of granular cementation. Using the greater value of $k_{void} = 6.3 \times 10^{-6} \frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K}$ from the analysis above and a thermal conductivity for ice at 80 K of $k_{ice} = 567/T = 7.09 \frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K}$, we can analyze the effective thermal conductivity

to obtain a comparison of the Hertz factor inside and outside the thermal anomally feature. Noting that for a porosity of $\phi = 0.9$, the deformation factor B = 0.11, and thus the effective thermal conductivity can be reduced to:

$$k_{eff} = (1 - \sqrt{1 - 0.9})(0.9)(6.3 \times 10^{-6}) + \sqrt{1 - 0.9}[h7.09 + (1 - 0.9)\frac{0.11 + 1}{0.11}\frac{(7.09)(6.3 \times 10^{-6})}{7.09 + (6.3 \times 10^{-6})}]$$

$$\Rightarrow k_{eff} = (4.9 \times 10^{-6} + 2.24h)\frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K}$$
or $k_{eff} \approx \sqrt{1 - \phi} \cdot h \cdot k_{ice}(T)$

$$(15)$$

Thus, taking the effective thermal conductivities obtained above for the regolith inside and outside the anomaly, we find a Hertz-factor of:

•
$$k_{in} = 5.77 \times 10^{-2} \frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K} \Rightarrow h_{in} = 0.0258$$

•
$$k_{in} = 0.3 \times 10^{-2} \frac{J}{m \cdot s \cdot K} \Rightarrow h_{out} = 0.0013$$

Here it is worthwhile to note that Hertz-factors used previously in the literature to describe a porous icy cometary nucleus are on the order of $h \approx (1-4) \times 10^{-3}$, which compares favorably with the values obtained for the Mimas regoli

5.4 Gundlach and Blun, 2012: What is the Hertz-factor?

In modeling of thermal conductivity of grainy, porous materials, a common approximate technique is to consider a mono- or polydisperse 'bed' lastic spheres. The requirement for the spheres to be elastic and not a perfect hard sphere stems from physical considerations, since the contact point of hard spheres is infinitesimal, through with heat can flow. Therefore, the spheres must deform slightly at the contact point so there is some finite area across which heat can flow. At the atomic scale, the heat transfer through disimilar spheres with no adhesive bonding is due predominantly to the van der Waals intereactions which mediate the phonon transfer, while for cemented grains where there is adhesive material connecting the grains which tranfer heat directly through lattice vibrations reperimentally, the thermal conductivity is seen to depend exponentially on the volume filling factor $V_F = 1 - \phi$ as [Krause et al, 2011 (via Gundlach and Blum (2012))]:

$$k(V_F) = c_1 exp[c_2 V_F] \tag{16}$$

where c_1 and c_2 are derived by fitting the measured data. The volume filling factor is experimentally determined by taking the mass of a given volume of grainy material and comparing to the volume of an equivalent mass of solid material. Theoretically, the thermal conductivity of elastic spheres can be determined using the Hertzian theory of contact [Hertz, 18] of describe the deformation of the interface between spheres. For packed spheres under vacuum ($k_{cond} = 0$), the heat conductivity can be calculated by:

$$k_{eff}(r, T, V_F) = k_{ice}(T) \left[\frac{3}{4} \frac{1 - (r)}{E(T)} T(r) r \right]^{1/3} \xi(r, V_F)$$
(17)

where r is the particle radius, k_{ice} is the thermal conductivity of bulk (solid) ice, μ and E(T) are Poisson's radial Young's magnitude of the material, respectively, and F(r) is an externally applied for which acts on the spheres and determines the contact area between adjacent particles. The packing structure of the material and the number of interparticle contacts is taken into account by $\xi(r, V_F)$ where:

$$\xi(r, V_F) = \frac{1}{0.531S(V_F)} \frac{N_A(r)}{N_L(r)}$$
(18)

Here, $s(V_F)$ is a 'model parameter' that depends on the packing structure, and $N_A(r)$ and $N_L(r)$ are the number of particles per unit area and unit length respectivenly. When no external force is applied, the weight of the particles can be used to determines the force and thus the contact area, but van der Waals bonding can provide orders of magnitude greater adhesive forces and it can be calculated by the theory of Johnson et al (1971) as:

$$F_{vdW}(r,T) = 3\pi\gamma(T)r\tag{19}$$

where $\gamma(T)$ is the specific surface energy of the material and a measure of the adhesive bonding streng. Substituting this expression into the conductivity equation, we can define the Hertz-factor as the ratio of the effective (regolith) thermal conductivity and the bulk conductivity:

$$\frac{1}{H(r,T,V_F)} = \frac{k_{eff}(r,T,V_F)}{k_{ice}(T)} = \left[\frac{9}{4} \frac{1-\mu^2}{E(T)} \pi \gamma(T) r^2\right]^{1/3} \xi(r,V_F)$$
(20)

This equation can be modified to describe a porous regolith layer composed not simply of spherical grains, but of grain aggregates which themsleves are composed of ice grains and which have their own unique materials parameters such as volume filling factor, Poisson's ratio, Young's modulus, and specific surface energy. Taking the volume filling factor of the layer to be the product of the volume filling factors of the aggregates themselves $(V_{F\ agg})$ and the volume filling factor of the aggregate structure $V_{F\ struc}$, i.e. $(V_{F,layer} = V_{F,agg}V_{F,struc})$, we can write the effective thermal conductivity of the layer as:

$$k_{layer}(r_0, R, T, V_{F,struc}, V_{F,agg}) = k_{agg}(r_0, T, V_{F,agg}) [\frac{9}{4} \frac{1 - \mu_{agg}^2}{E_{agg}(T)} \pi \gamma_{agg}(T) r^2]^{1/3} \xi(R, V_{F,struc})$$
(21)

where R, E_{agg} , and μ_{agg} are the radius, Young's modulus, and Poisson's ratio of the aggregates, respectively. Taking r_0 to be the grain radius (the size of the grains that make up the aggregate), the specific surface energy of the aggregates can be calculated by:

$$\gamma_{agg}(T) = V_{F,agg} \gamma_{ice}^{5/3}(T) \left[\frac{9\pi (1 - \mu_{agg}^2)}{r_0 E_{ice}(T)} \right] (2/3)$$
(22)

The thermal conductivity of the aggregates can be calculated as before:

$$k_{eff}(r_0, T, V_{F,agg} = k_{ice}(T) \left[\frac{9(1 - \mu_{ice}^2)}{4E_{ice}(T)} \pi \gamma_{ice}(T) r_0^2 \right]^{1/3} \xi(r_0, V_{F,agg})$$
(23)

In this expression, the unknown parameters are the volume filling factors, assuming that materials parameters can be found for both the bulk material and the aggregates.

5.5 Using the Hertz-factor to compare cementation radius

This needs to be determined more rigorously. The following equation is given in Kossacki et al (1994) without proof, where r_n is the cementation (pendular ring) neck volume, and H_0 is the initial Hertz factor. If we take the 'initial' value to represent the regolith outside of the anomalous region, we have:

$$H = H_0 \left(\frac{r_n}{r_{n,0}}\right)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{r_{in}}{r_{out}} = \left(\frac{H_{in}}{H_{out}}\right)^{1/2} = 4.4$$
(24)

However, if we compare the Hertz-factor as defined by the ratio of the effective and bulk thermal conductivities as shown above, and assuming that the materials parameters (μ, E, γ) as well as the packing structure are the same inside and outside the anomaly, the ratio reduces to:

$$\frac{H_{in}}{H_{out}} = \left(\frac{r_{out}}{r_{in}}\right)^{1/3} = 0.37\tag{25}$$

Clearly, if the increased thermal conductivity inside the anomaly is due to a larger grain radius, this fact is not captured by the latter ratio of Herts-factors. However, there seems to be other expressions for the effective thermal conductivity that follow along very similar lines with slightly different expressions for various parameters (i.e. the aggregate values above and further discussion in Sirono and Yamamoto (1997)), so the issue is not closed here.