

Heat Transfer: Convection

**Forced Convection in Internal Flow
and the LMTD**

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Learning goals

Forced convection in internal flows:

- ▶ Knowledge of meaning of the **logarithmic mean temperature difference (LMTD)**
- ▶ Ability to apply and calculate the LMTD



Change of mean temperature in pipe flow with constant temperature b.c.

How to determine axial temperature profile in the pipe and outlet temperature?

Development of energy balance:

- Develop local energy balance for the temperature profile

→ **Energy balance:** $0 = \dot{H}_{\text{in}} - \dot{H}_{\text{out}} + \dot{Q}_{\text{in}}$

$$\dot{H}_{\text{in}} = \dot{m}c_p T_m(x)$$

$$\dot{H}_{\text{out}} = \dot{m}c_p T_m(x + dx)$$

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{in}} = \alpha A(T_w - T_m) = \alpha \pi D dx (T_w - T_m(x))$$

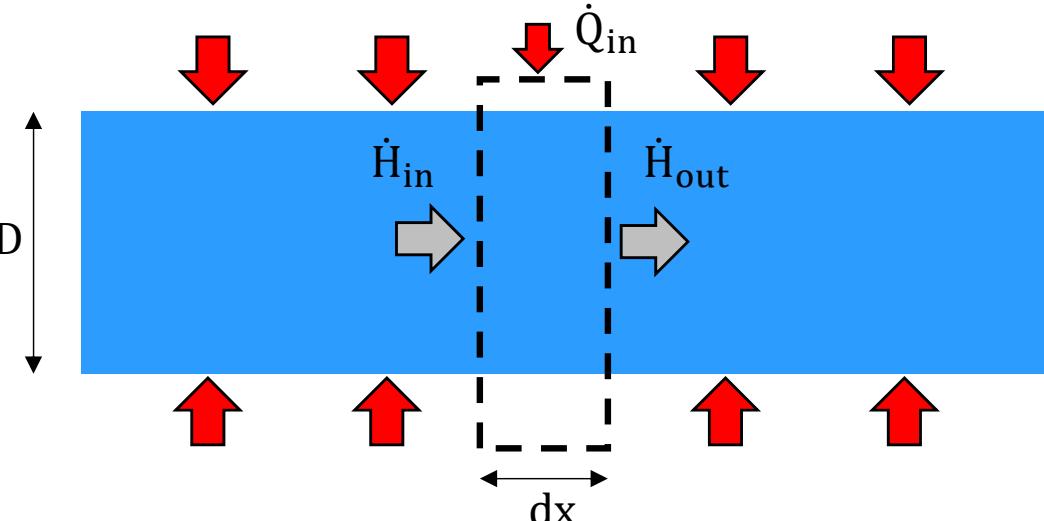
Differential equation:

$$0 = -\dot{m}c_p \frac{\partial T_m(x)}{\partial x} + \alpha \pi D (T_w - T_m(x))$$

$$\frac{\partial T_m(x)}{\partial x} = \frac{\alpha \pi D (T_w - T_m(x))}{\dot{m}c_p}$$

depends on $T_m(x)$

Inhomogeneous differential equation



Change of mean temperature in pipe flow with constant temperature b.c.

Homogenization of partial differential equation:

$$\frac{\partial T_m(x)}{\partial x} = \frac{\alpha\pi D(T_w - T_m(x))}{\dot{m}c_p}$$

$$\Theta = T_m(x) - T_w$$

Solution for Θ :

$$\frac{\partial\Theta}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial T_m(x)}{\partial x} = -\frac{\Theta\alpha\pi D}{\dot{m}c_p}$$

$$\frac{\partial\Theta}{\Theta} = -\frac{\alpha\pi D}{\dot{m}c_p} \partial x$$

$$\text{Integration: } \ln(\Theta) = -\frac{\alpha\pi D}{\dot{m}c_p} x + C$$

$$\Theta = e^{-\frac{\alpha\pi D}{\dot{m}c_p}x+C} = C^* \cdot e^{-\frac{\alpha\pi D}{\dot{m}c_p}x}$$

Solution for the temperature T :

- ▶ Back transformation:

$$T_m(x) = C^* \cdot e^{-\frac{\alpha\pi D}{\dot{m}c_p}x} + T_w$$

- ▶ Temperature profile:

$$T_m(x) = (T_{in} - T_w)e^{-\frac{\alpha\pi D}{\dot{m}c_p}x} + T_w$$

- ▶ Boundary condition

$$T_m(0) = T_{in}$$

Logarithmic mean temperature difference

Outlet temperature:

$$T_{\text{out}} = (T_{\text{in}} - T_w)e^{-\frac{\alpha\pi D}{\dot{m}c_p}L} + T_w$$

$$\frac{T_{\text{out}} - T_w}{T_{\text{in}} - T_w} = e^{-\frac{\alpha\pi D}{\dot{m}c_p}L} \rightarrow \ln\left(\frac{T_{\text{out}} - T_w}{T_{\text{in}} - T_w}\right) = -\frac{\alpha A}{\dot{m}c_p}$$

$$\frac{1}{\ln\left(\frac{T_{\text{out}} - T_w}{T_{\text{in}} - T_w}\right)} = -\frac{\dot{m}c_p}{\alpha A}$$

Total heat flux from fluid to wall:

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{tot}} = \alpha A \Delta T = \dot{H}_{\text{in}} - \dot{H}_{\text{out}}$$

What is the driving potential that describes the heat flux \dot{Q}_{tot} adequately?

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{H}_{\text{out}} &= \dot{m}c_p T_{\text{out}} & \dot{H}_{\text{in}} &= \dot{m}c_p T_{\text{in}} \\ &\rightarrow \Delta T = \frac{\dot{m}c_p}{\alpha A} (T_{\text{in}} - T_{\text{out}}) \end{aligned}$$

Logarithmic mean temperature difference

Outlet temperature:

$$T_{\text{out}} = (T_{\text{in}} - T_w)e^{-\frac{\alpha \pi D}{\dot{m} c_p} L} + T_w$$

$$\frac{T_{\text{out}} - T_w}{T_{\text{in}} - T_w} = e^{-\frac{\alpha \pi D}{\dot{m} c_p} L} \rightarrow \ln\left(\frac{T_{\text{out}} - T_w}{T_{\text{in}} - T_w}\right) = -\frac{\alpha A}{\dot{m} c_p}$$

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Solution:

$$\frac{1}{\ln\left(\frac{T_{\text{in}} - T_w}{T_{\text{out}} - T_w}\right)} = \frac{\dot{m} c_p}{\alpha A}$$



$$\frac{\Delta T}{T_{\text{in}} - T_{\text{out}}} = \frac{\dot{m} c_p}{\alpha A}$$

► Logarithmic mean temperature difference (LMTD):

$$\Delta T = \frac{(T_{\text{in}} - T_{\text{out}})}{\ln\left(\frac{T_{\text{in}} - T_w}{T_{\text{out}} - T_w}\right)} = \frac{(\Delta T_{\text{in}} - \Delta T_{\text{out}})}{\ln\left(\frac{\Delta T_{\text{in}}}{\Delta T_{\text{out}}}\right)} = \Delta T_{\text{ln}}$$

What is the purpose of the LMTD?

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{tot}} = \alpha A \frac{(\Delta T_{\text{in}} - \Delta T_{\text{out}})}{\ln\left(\frac{\Delta T_{\text{in}}}{\Delta T_{\text{out}}}\right)}$$

Logarithmic mean temperature difference

Outlet temperature:

- ▶ Logarithmic mean temperature difference (LMTD):

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{tot}} = \alpha A \frac{(\Delta T_{\text{in}} - \Delta T_{\text{out}})}{\ln\left(\frac{\Delta T_{\text{in}}}{\Delta T_{\text{out}}}\right)}$$

- ▶ Applicable to calculate the heat flux transferred from fluid to wall in a heat exchanger if :
 - the heat transfer coefficient α is constant
 - the specific heat of the fluid is constant (non-temperature dependent)
 - the wall temperature is constant
 - the mean fluid temperature changes spatially
 - the problem is stationary

Often this equation has to be used iteratively because the outlet temperature as well as the heat flux are unknown.

Comprehension questions

What is the meaning of the logarithmic mean temperature difference, and when do we need to apply this?