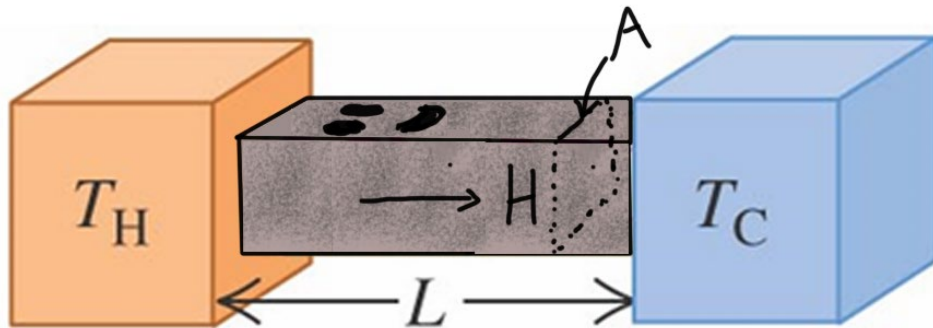
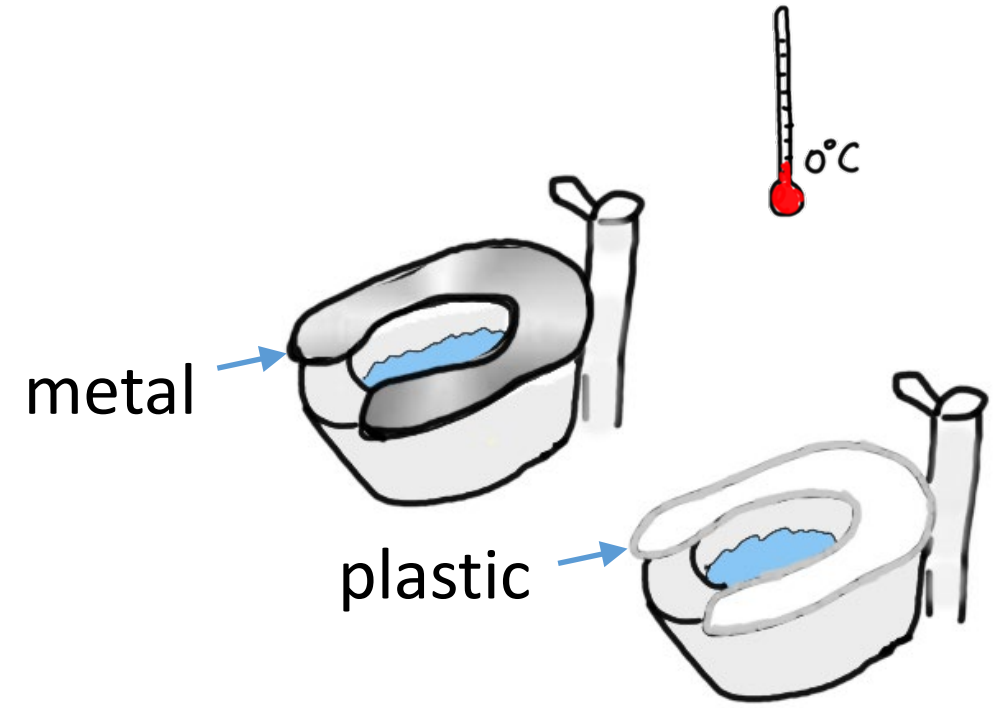


Lecture 10.  
Thermal conductivity.  
Heat current.





Q: During a break from skiing, you enter an unheated washroom building ( $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). You notice there are two toilets, one with a metal seat ( $c \sim 200\text{ J/kg}\cdot\text{K}$ ) and one with a plastic seat ( $c \sim 1600\text{ J/kg}\cdot\text{K}$ ). Assuming that you need to sit down, and that both seats are clean, which do you choose?

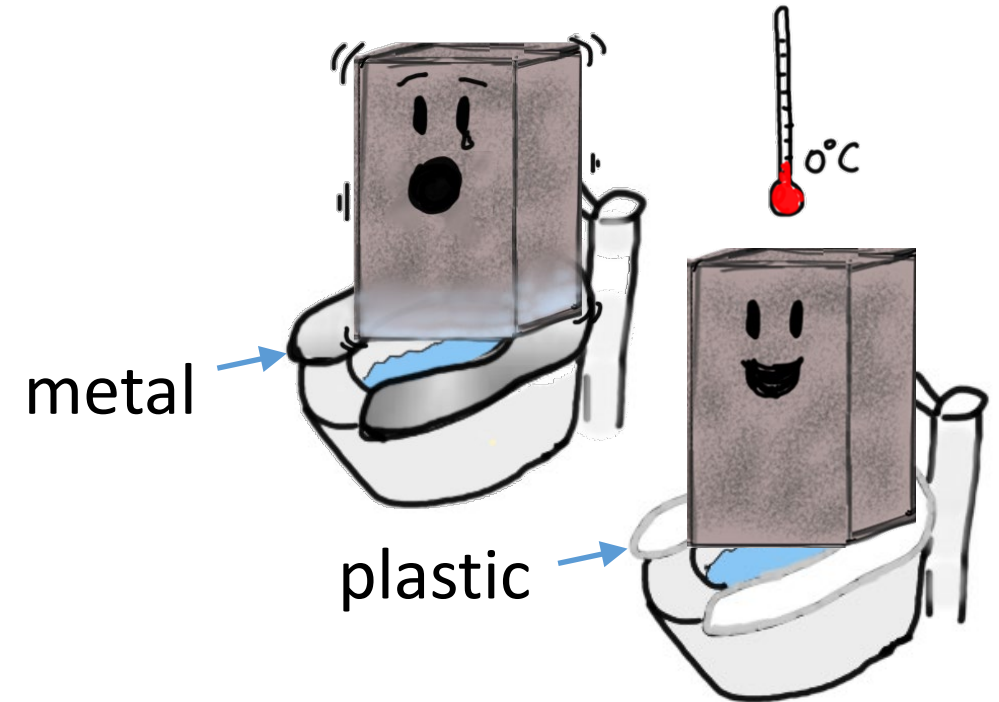


- A. The metal seat
- B. The plastic seat
- C. It doesn't matter: they are the same temperature
- D. My head says A) but my heart says B)



Q: During a break from skiing, you enter an unheated washroom building ( $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). You notice there are two toilets, one with a metal seat ( $c \sim 200\text{ J/kg}\cdot\text{K}$ ) and one with a plastic seat ( $c \sim 1600\text{ J/kg}\cdot\text{K}$ ). Assuming that you need to sit down, and that both seats are clean, which do you choose?

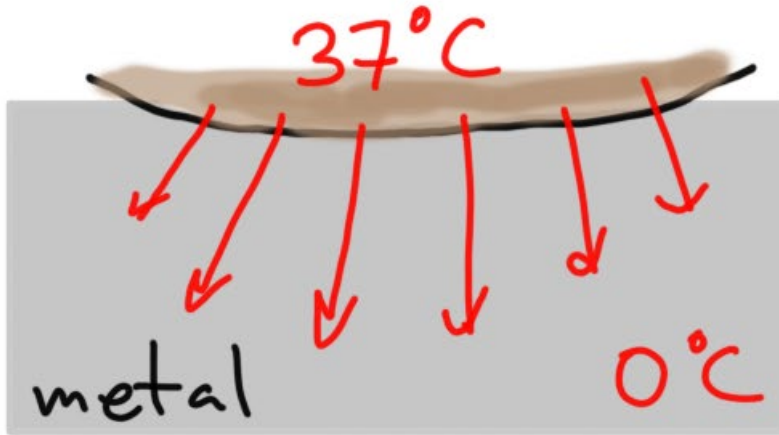
The choice is of course yours, but one decision is better than the other.



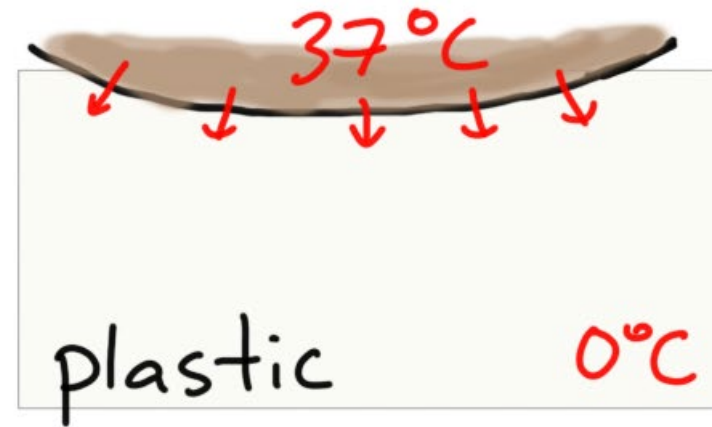
- A. The metal seat
- B. The plastic seat ✓
- C. It doesn't matter: they are the same temperature
- D. My head says A) but my heart says B)

# Thermal conductivity

- Heat moves more quickly through some materials than others in response to a **temperature gradient**



Good thermal conductor

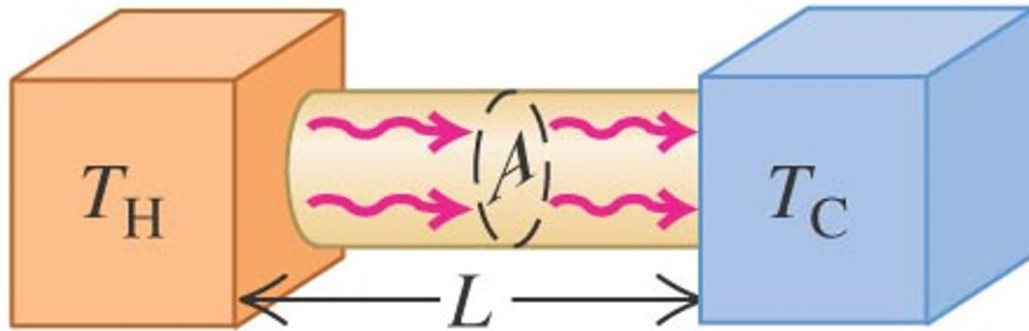


Poor thermal conductor (insulator)

The metal feels colder since it cools our skin quicker

# Thermal conductivity

- Determines heat flow in response to a temperature gradient



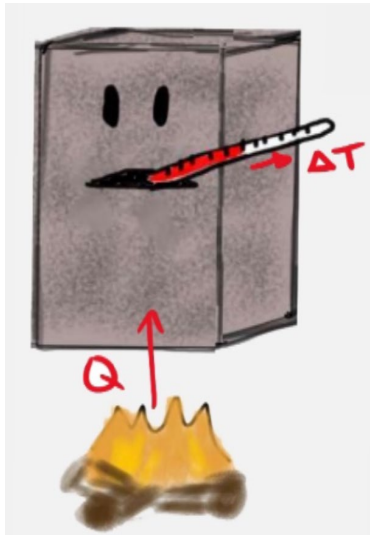
$$H = \frac{Q}{\Delta t} = \underline{k} A \frac{T_H - T_C}{L}$$

- $H$  = **Heat current**, or **heat flow** (Joules/second)
- $k$  = **Thermal conductivity**, a basic property of a material (material constant)
- $A$  = cross sectional area through which heat flows
- $\frac{T_H - T_C}{L}$  = temperature gradient (calculus version:  $dT/dx$ )

## Our toolkit

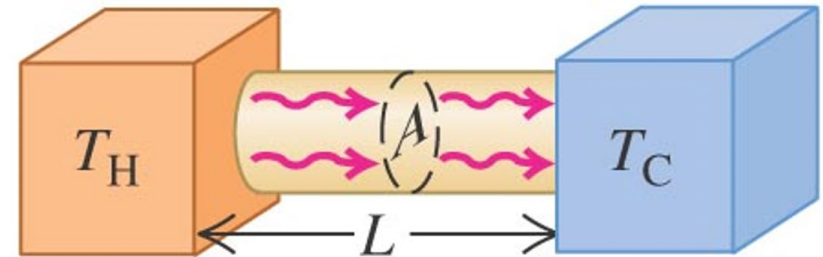
- What do these two equations mean?
- What exactly do they describe?
- When to use which?

$$Q = mc\Delta T$$



- Heating / cooling an object by  $\Delta T$ .

$$H = \frac{Q}{\Delta t} = k A \frac{T_H - T_C}{L}$$



- Transfer of heat from something at  $T = T_H$  to something with  $T = T_C$ .

Q: Objects A and B have the same size and same mass and both are at room temperature. We have specific heat  $c_A < c_B$  and thermal conductivity  $k_A > k_B$ . If each is dropped into an equivalent volume of 80 °C water (insulated from the environment), we can say that:



$$H = \frac{Q}{\Delta t} = \frac{k A (T_H - T_c)}{L} : \textcircled{A} : k_A \uparrow \rightarrow \text{faster reaches eq.}$$

$$Q = mc \Delta T \quad \textcircled{A} : c_A \downarrow \rightarrow \Delta T \uparrow$$

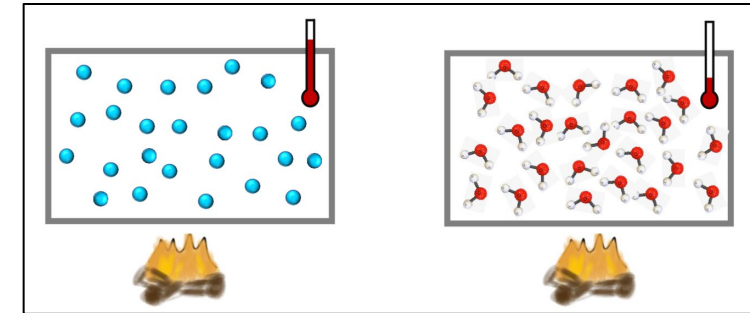
↳ measure of waisting heat for vibrations / rotations

- A. Object A will reach equilibrium faster and end up at a higher temperature.
- B. Object A will reach equilibrium faster and end up at a lower temperature.
- C. Object A will reach equilibrium slower and end up at a higher temperature.
- D. Object A will reach equilibrium slower and end up at a lower temperature.
- E. Both objects A and B will end up at the same temperature.

Q: Objects A and B have the same size and same mass and both are at room temperature. We have specific heat  $c_A < c_B$  and thermal conductivity  $k_A > k_B$ . If each is dropped into an equivalent volume of 80 °C water (insulated from the environment), we can say that:



Larger  $k_A$  means heat flows in faster (better thermal conductor), and smaller  $c_A$  takes less energy for a given temperature change (less energy is “wasted” for rotations/vibrations). So heat from water will increase the temp of A more than that of B and it will reach equilibrium faster.



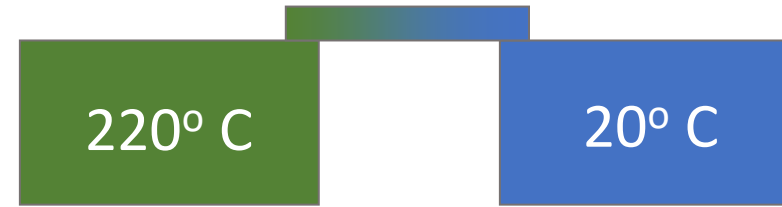
Week 3 Lecture 3

- A. Object A will reach equilibrium faster and end up at a higher temperature.
- B. Object A will reach equilibrium faster and end up at a lower temperature.
- C. Object A will reach equilibrium slower and end up at a higher temperature.
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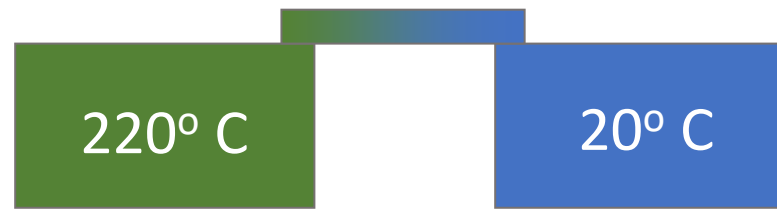
## Thermal Conduction Problem



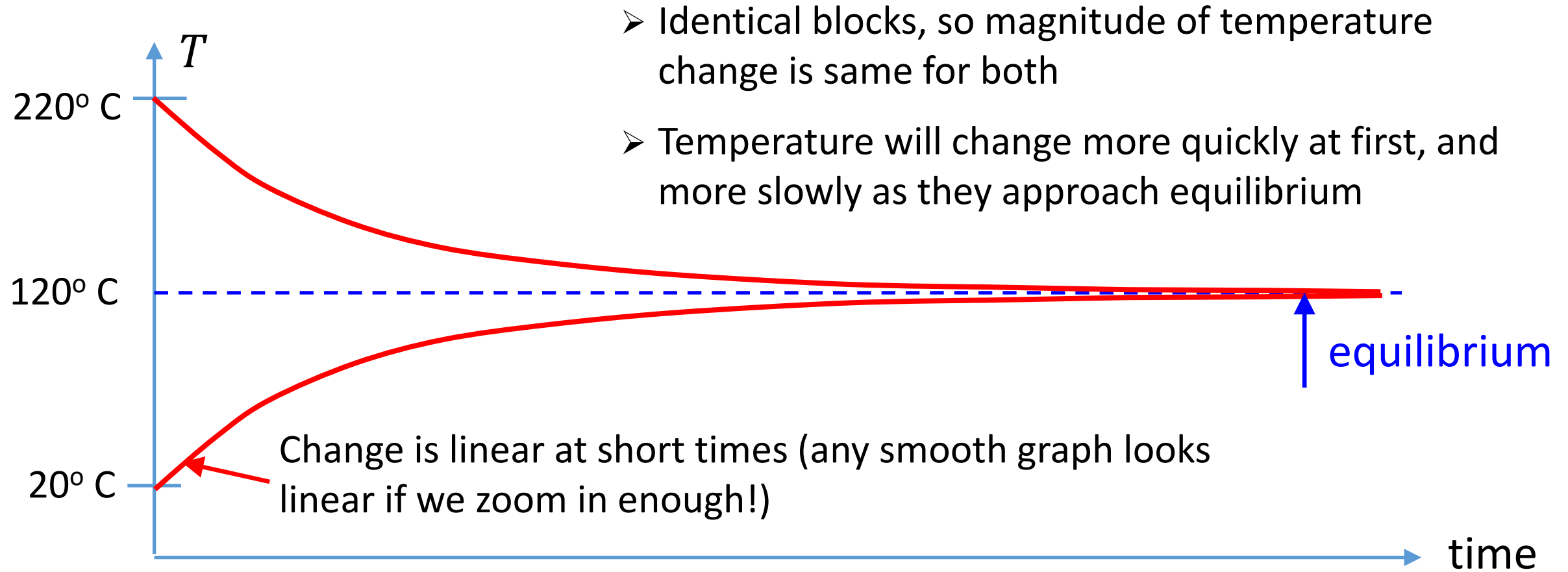
A block of aluminum is at room temperature ( $T_1 = 20^\circ\text{C}$ ) and another equivalent block of aluminum is at  $T_2 = 220^\circ\text{C}$ . They are then connected together by another strip of aluminum.

How would you expect the temperatures of the two blocks to behave as a function of time?

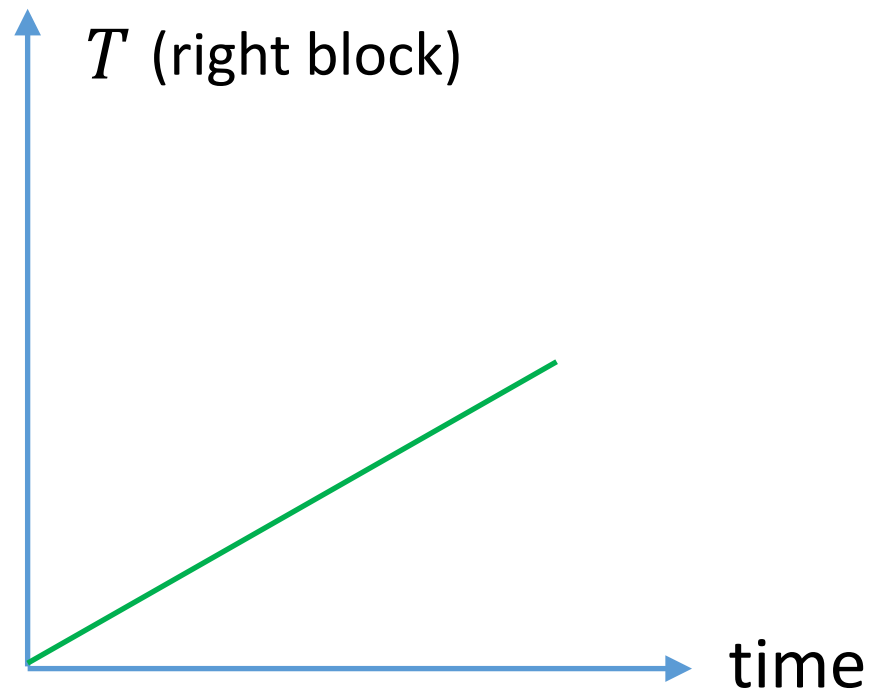
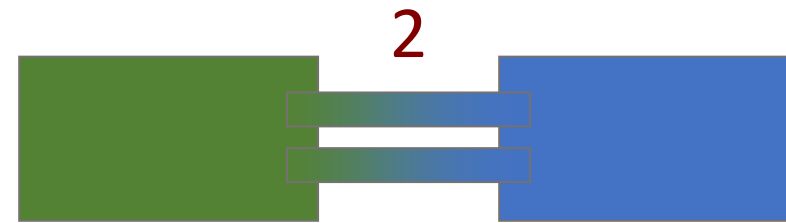
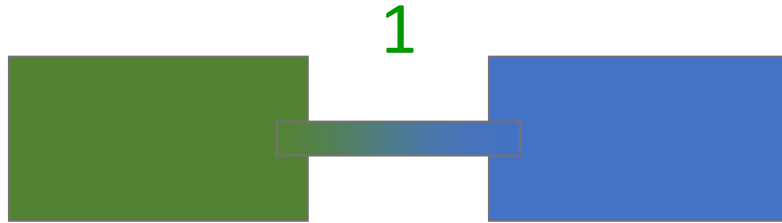
- Identical blocks, so the magnitude of temperature change is same for both (by symmetry)  $T_f = 20^\circ\text{C} + (220^\circ - 20^\circ)/2 = 120^\circ\text{C}$
- Temperature will change more quickly at first, and more slowly as they approach equilibrium (since the closer they are to the equilibrium, the smaller is the temperature gradient, which drives the heat flow)  $H = \frac{k A \Delta T}{L}$



Graph showing how the temperature of the two blocks changes as a function of time:



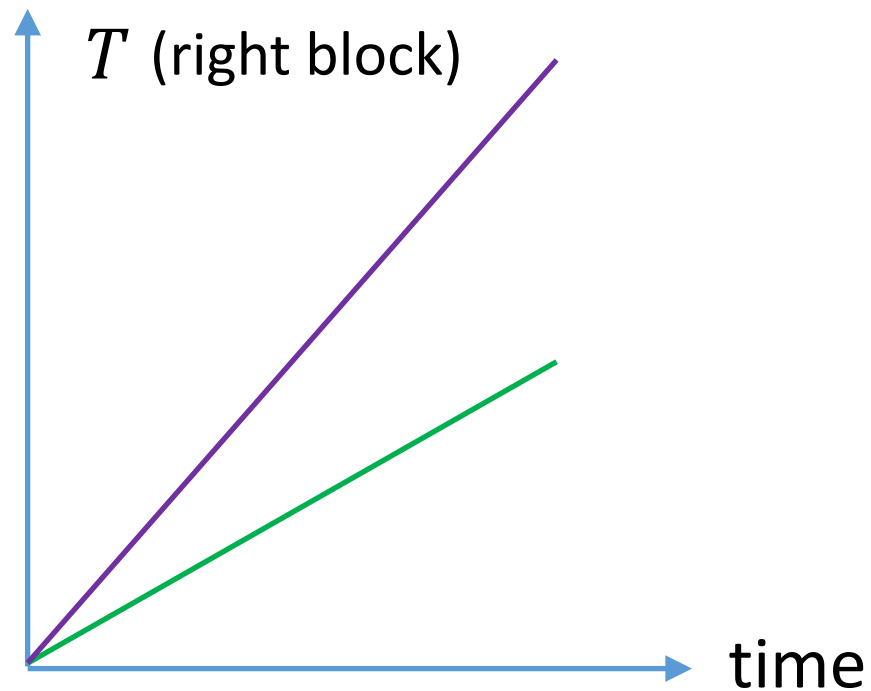
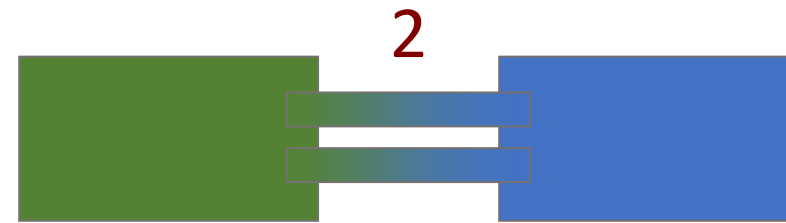
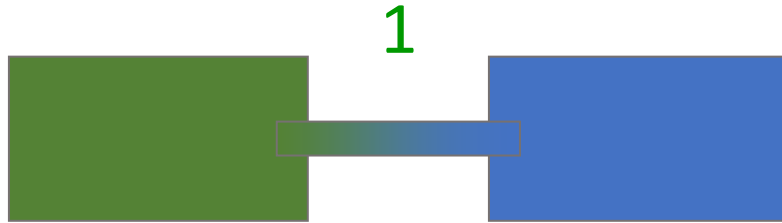
Q: What happens if we have double the number of connecting strips?



$$H = k A \frac{T_H - T_C}{L}$$

A graph of how the temperature behaves as a function of time at early times.

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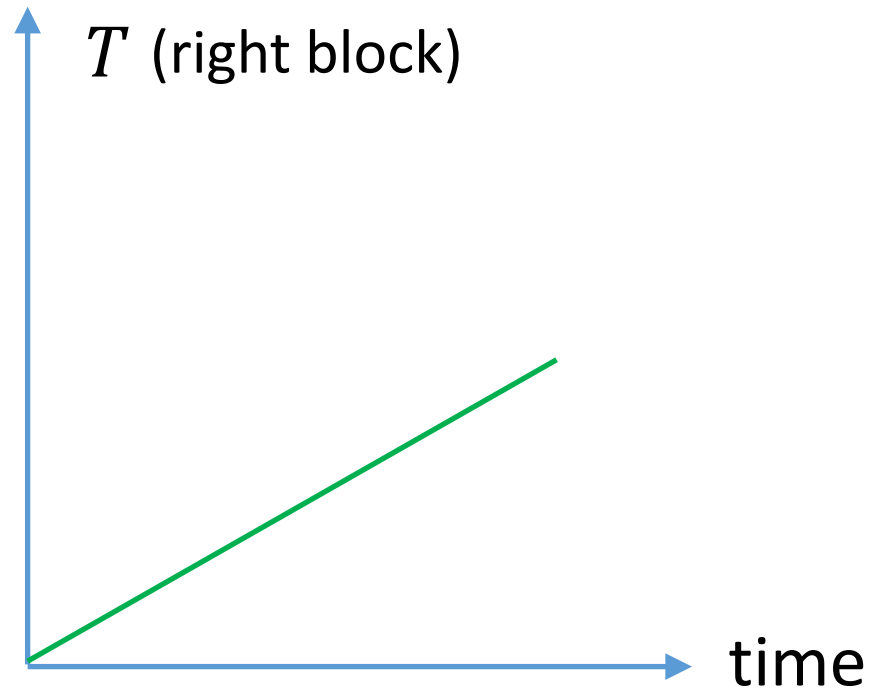
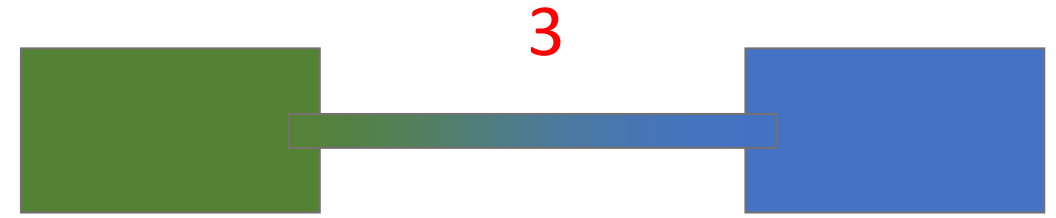
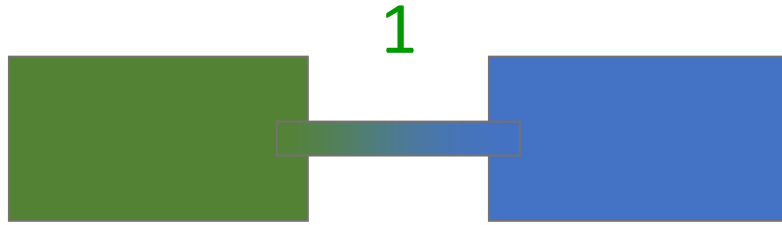


$$H = k A \frac{T_H - T_C}{L}$$

- $A$  is doubled, so larger heat current and faster heating/cooling

A graph of how the temperature behaves as a function of time at early times.

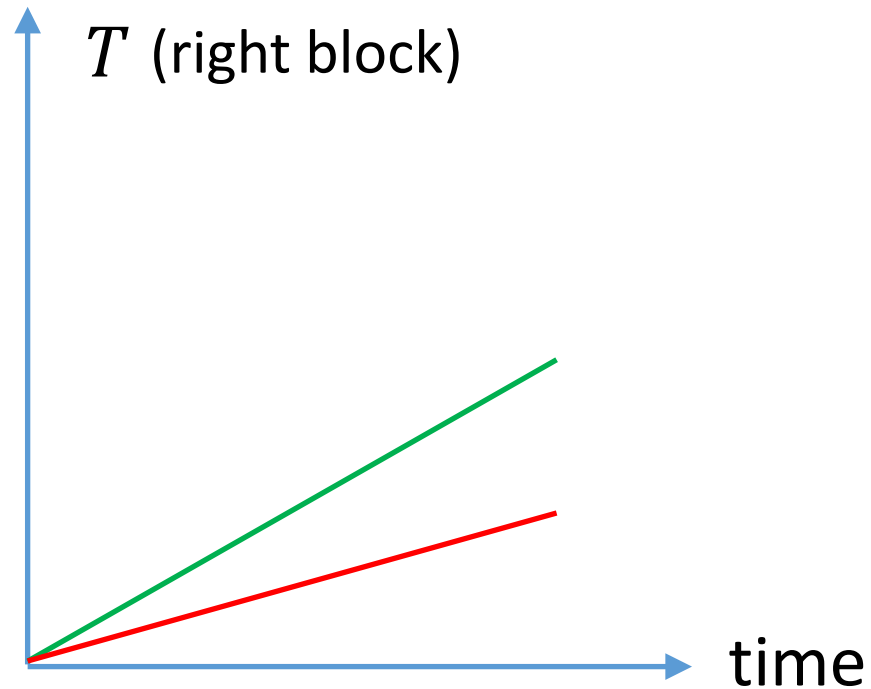
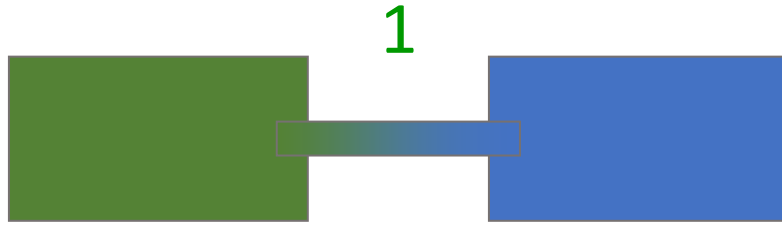
Q: What happens if we have double the length of connecting strips?



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A graph of how the temperature behaves as a function of time at early times.

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$$H = k A \frac{T_H - T_C}{L}$$

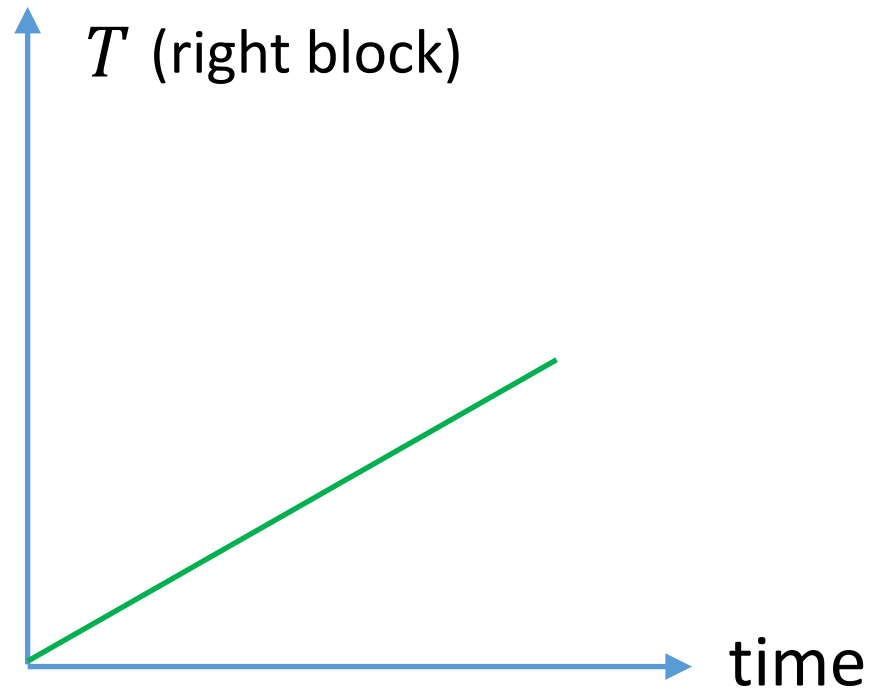
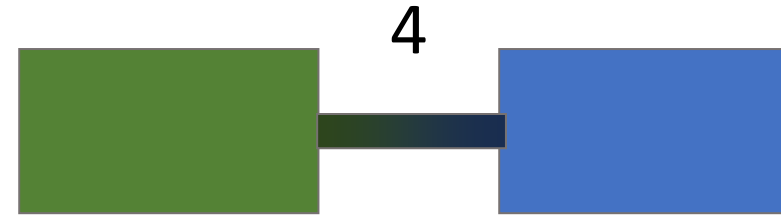
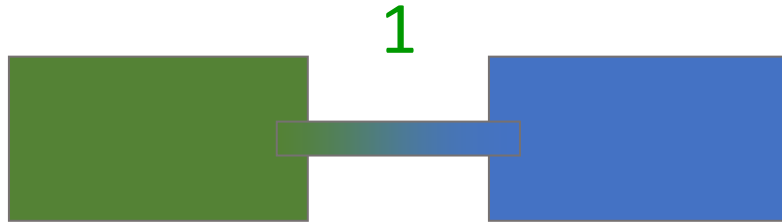
- $L$  is doubled, so smaller heat current and smaller heating/cooling

A graph of how the temperature behaves as a function of time at early times.

Q: What happens if the connecting strip is steel instead of aluminum?

$$k_{Al} \sim 200 \frac{W}{mK}$$

$$k_{steel} \sim 50 \frac{W}{mK}$$



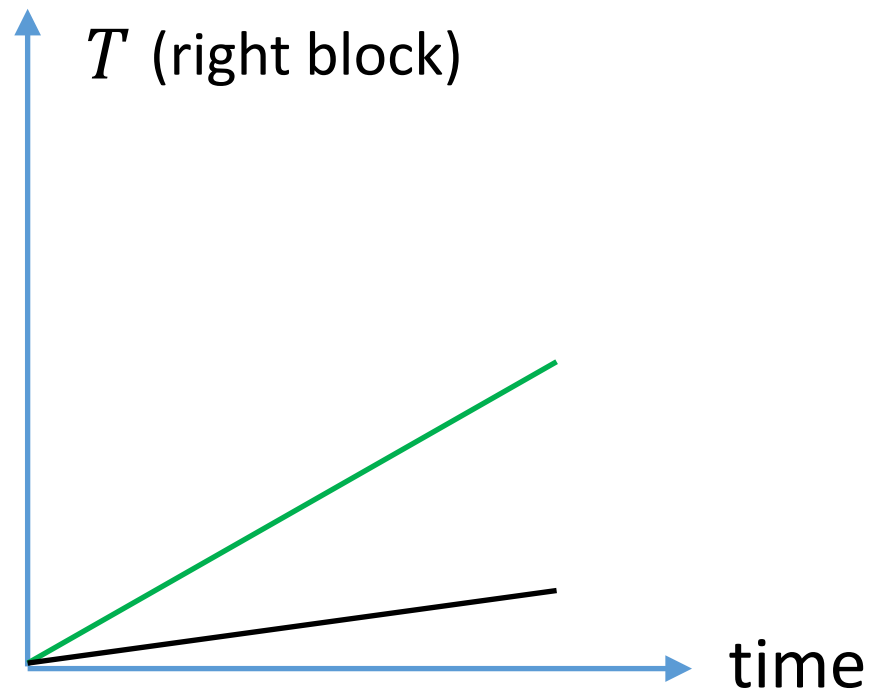
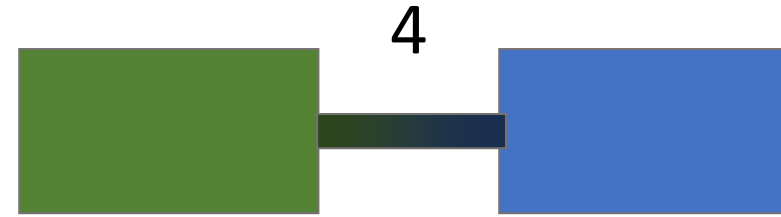
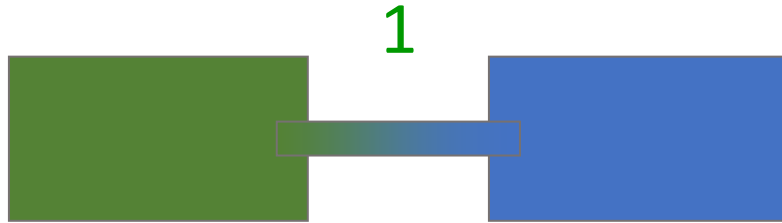
$$H = k A \frac{T_H - T_C}{L}$$

A graph of how the temperature behaves as a function of time at early times.

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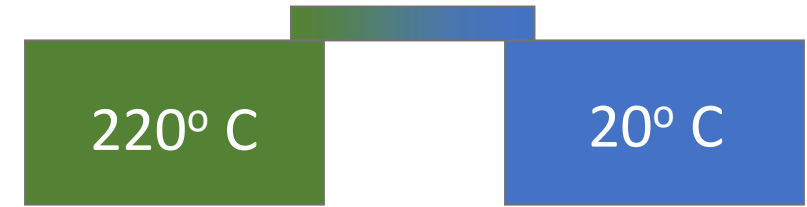
$$H = k A \frac{T_H - T_C}{L}$$

- $k$  is 4x smaller for steel than for aluminum, so smaller heat current and slower heating/cooling

A graph of how the temperature behaves as a function of time at early times.

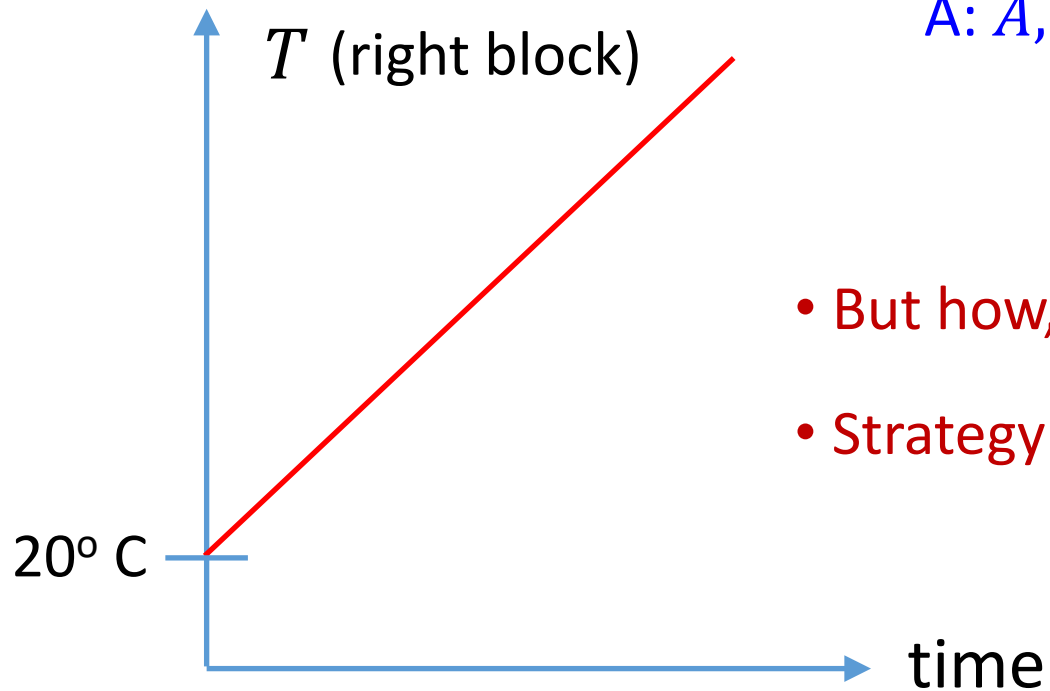


This is a graph of how the temperature of the right block behaves as a function of time at early times.



Q: What determines the initial slope of the temperature vs time?

A:  $A, L, k$



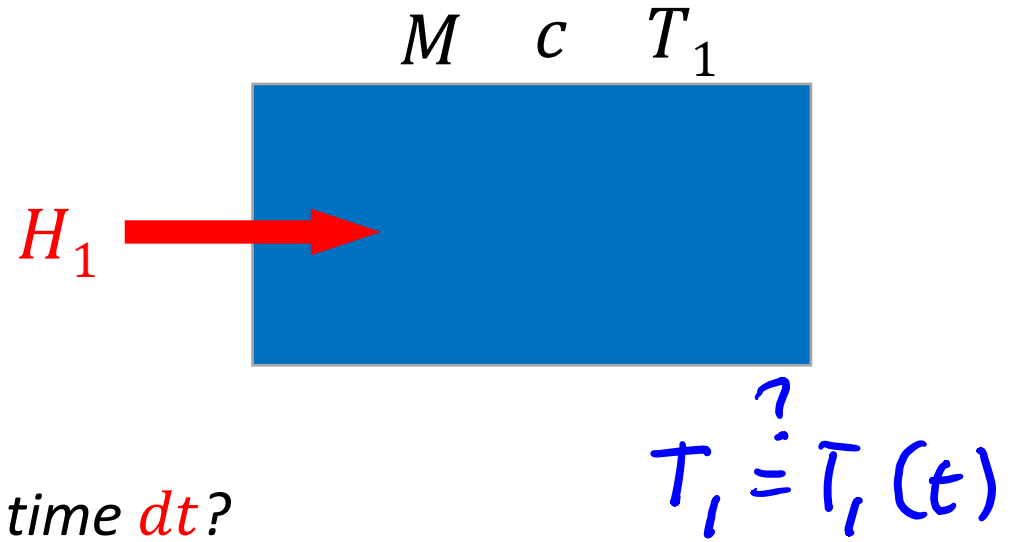
- But how, exactly, does it depend? Any other parameters?
- Strategy: First consider the parts separately...

$$Q = m c \Delta T$$

$$H = k A \frac{T_H - T_C}{L}$$

A heat current  $H_1$  flows into the cooler block.

In a time  $dt$ , what is the change  $dT$  in the temperature of the cooler block (in terms of  $dt$  and the quantities shown)?



➤ *First:* how much heat,  $dQ$ , enters the block during the time  $dt$ ?

$$H = \frac{dQ}{dt} \rightarrow dQ = H_1 \cdot dt \quad (*)$$

➤ *Second:* How much does the temperature change,  $dT$ , from heat  $dQ$ ?

$$dQ = Mc dT \rightarrow dT = \frac{dQ}{Mc} \quad \left\{ dT_1 = \frac{H_1}{Mc} dt \right\}$$

➤ *Third:* How fast does the temperature change?

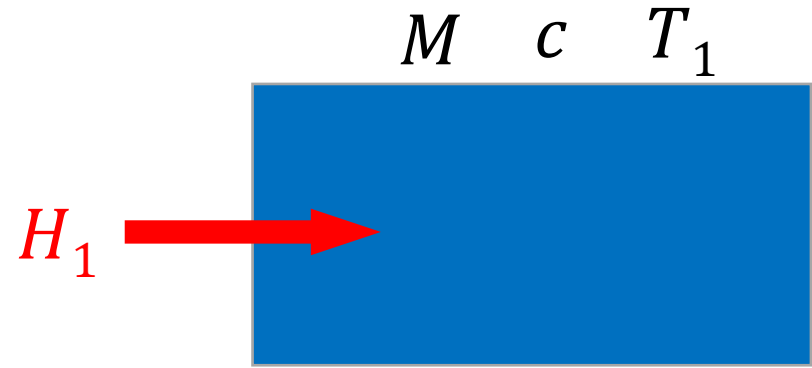
$$dT = \frac{dQ}{Mc} \stackrel{(*)}{=} \frac{H_1}{Mc} dt$$

$$Q = m c \Delta T$$

$$H = k A \frac{T_H - T_C}{L}$$

A heat current  $H_1$  flows into the cooler block.

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➤ *First:* how much heat,  $dQ$ , enters the block during the time  $dt$ ?

$H_1$  is heat per unit time, and  $dt$  is time, so heat added is  $dQ = H_1 dt$

➤ *Second:* How much does the temperature change,  $dT$ , from heat  $dQ$ ?

We have  $dT_1 = \frac{dQ}{Mc}$  so  $dT_1 = \frac{H_1}{Mc} dt$

➤ *Third:* How fast does the temperature change?

Divide by  $dt$ :  $\frac{dT_1}{dt} = \frac{H_1}{Mc}$

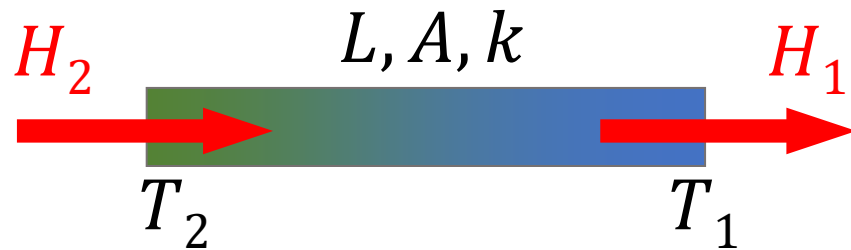
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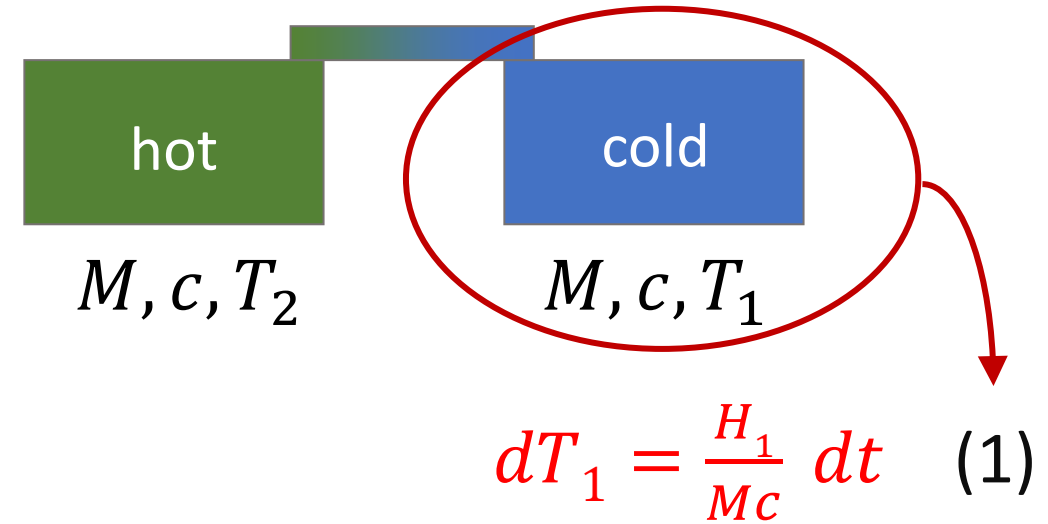
➤ Now, consider the strip:



Q: Are all  $H$ 's the same? If so, why?

A: Yes! All  $H$ 's are the same by energy conservation:

$$H_1 = H_2 = H = k A \frac{T_2 - T_1}{L} \quad (2)$$



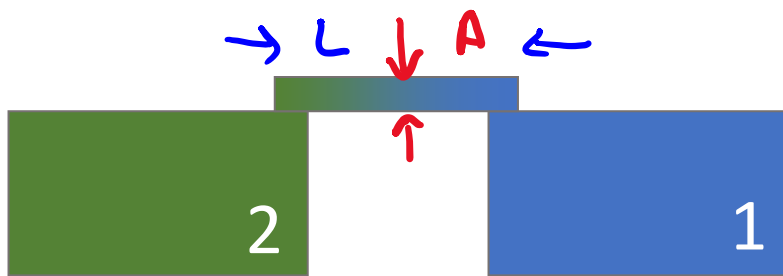
➤ Finally, combining (1) and (2) we get:

$$dT_1 = \frac{kA}{McL} (T_2 - T_1) dt$$

Slope!

$$Q = m c \Delta T$$

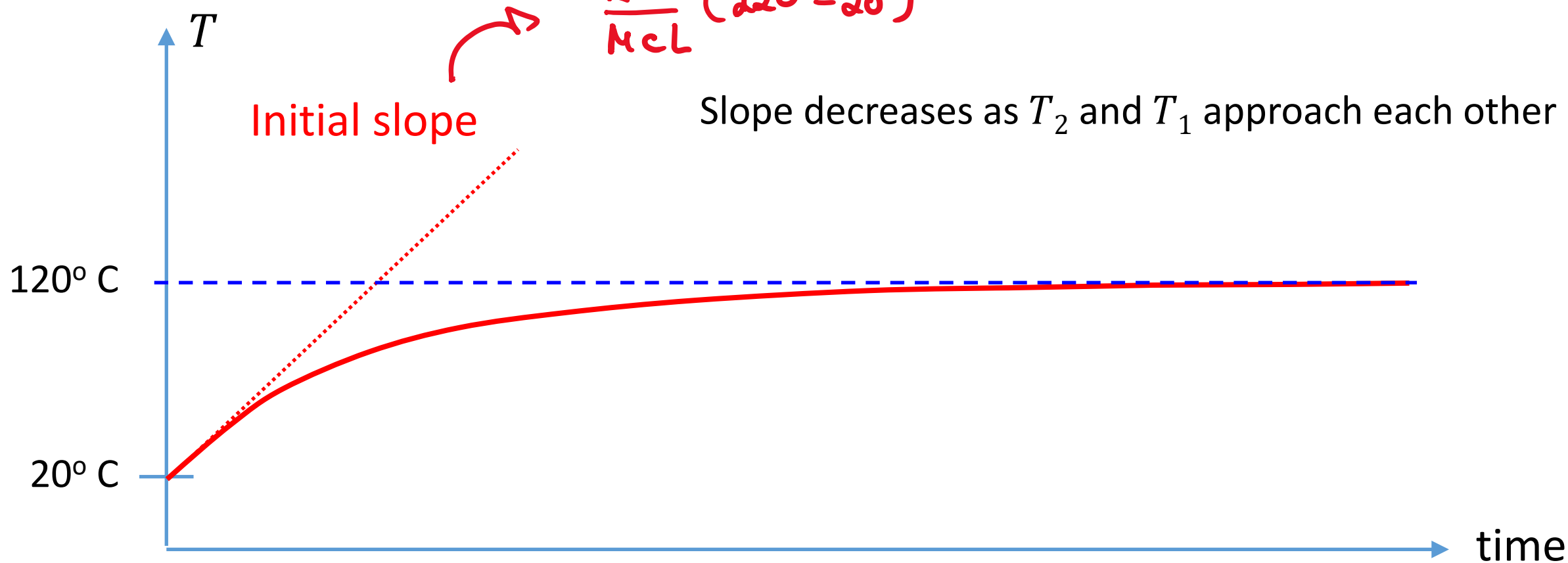
$$H = k A \frac{T_H - T_C}{L}$$



$$dT_1 = \frac{kA}{McL} (T_2 - T_1) dt$$

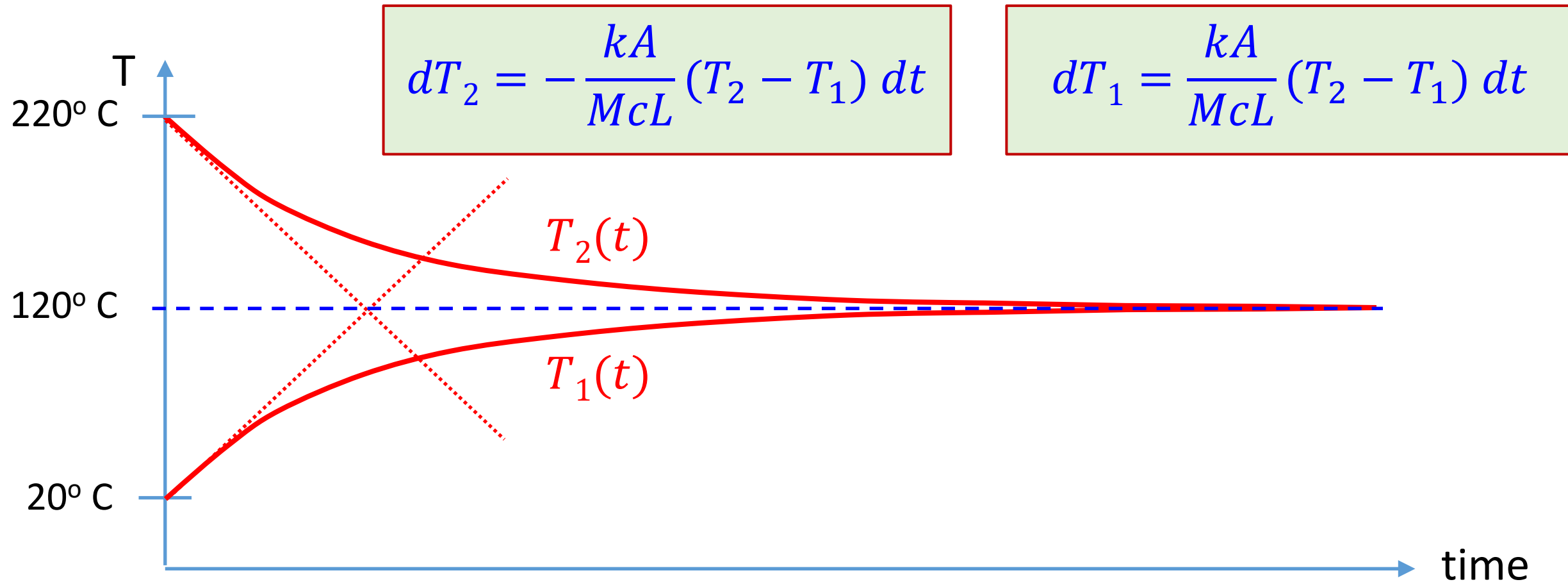
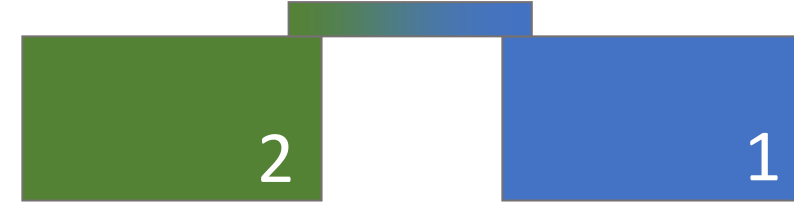
$T_{2,i}$   $T_{1,i}$

$$\frac{kA}{McL} (220^\circ - 20^\circ)$$



*Q: How fast does the temperature of the hot block ( $T_2$ ) change?*

- $M$  and  $c$  are the same for both blocks, but  $H$  is negative for block 2 (**heat is leaving**):



## Full time dependence

- The gap between the two curves  $\Delta = T_2 - T_1$  decreases twice as fast as  $T_1$  increases:

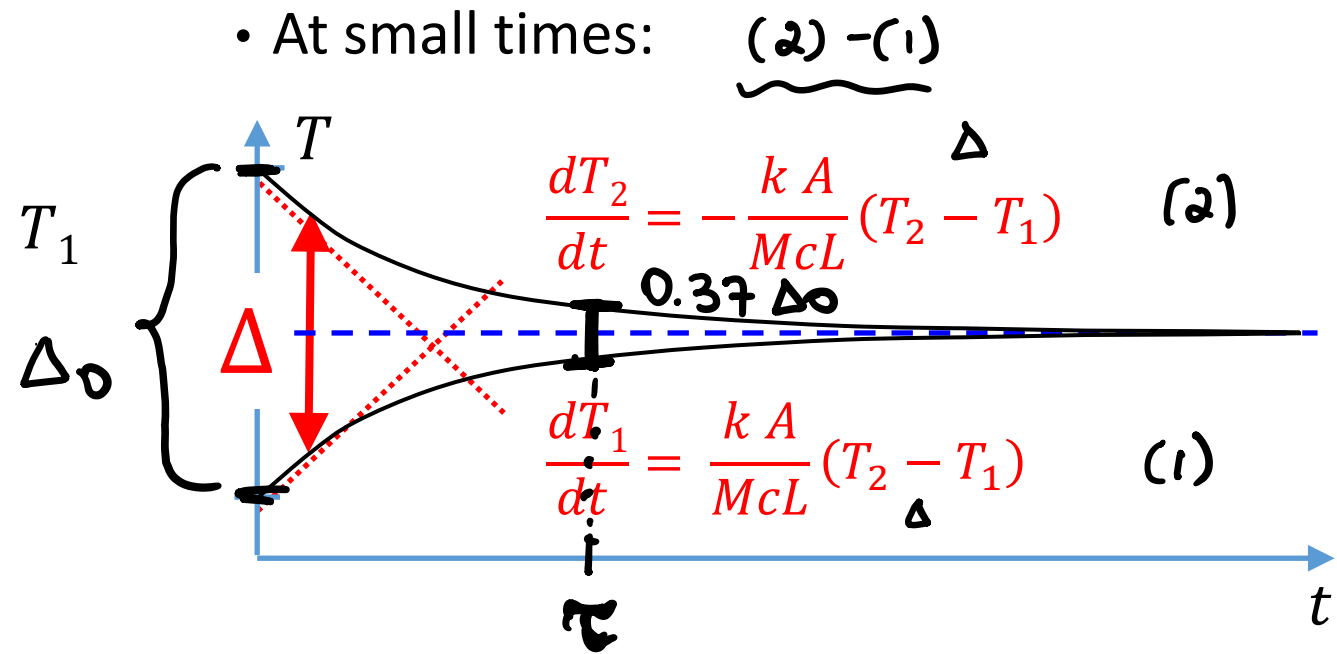
$$\frac{d(T_2 - T_1)}{dt} = \frac{d\Delta}{dt} = -\frac{2kA}{McL} \Delta$$

- Rate of decrease of  $\Delta$  is proportional to  $\Delta$
- Math: This means  $\Delta(t)$  is an **EXPONENTIAL**
- The solution of this equation is:

- Here  $\tau = \frac{McL}{2kA}$  is called the time constant

- Physical meaning:  $\Delta$  drops to  $\sim 37\%$  of its original value in time  $\tau$

- At small times,  $\Delta(t) \approx -\Delta_{t=0} \cdot \left(\frac{t}{\tau}\right)$  is linear in  $t$  – as we got in the beginning!



$$\Delta(t) = \Delta_{t=0} \cdot e^{-\left(\frac{2kA}{McL}\right)t} = \Delta_{t=0} \cdot e^{-t/\tau}$$

$$\Delta(t=\tau) = \Delta_0 e^{-\frac{\tau}{\tau}} = \Delta_0 e^{-1} = \frac{\Delta_0}{e} = \frac{\Delta_0}{2.71} = 0.37 \Delta_0$$

origin of 37%