

Tree Power Notes

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ABSTRACT.

Key words:

Introduction

Thermoelectric devices has been used in several projects [1], [add Orlando's ref.](#) Such devices convert energy from temperature difference to electricity, and power up small hardwares. In Washington state, we harvest energy from tree trunks, and power up devices that collect information of pollution in the nearby area.

In this work, we consider the numerical modeling of temperature distribution in tree trunks in the Washington area. Our result should provide reference for pollution device design.

[Literature review:](#)

1 Assumptions

1. We assume all trees we consider are roughly the same. That means same height, same radius
2. With the previous assumption, we place all devices at the same height (therefore eliminating the z variable in the heat equation), and same depth

2 To do (Summer)

1. run experiments in Python3, see similar results from Potter and Andersen.
 - study source terms
 - improve 2D heat code with CN-method, and ADT method.
2. find appropriate parameters for testing (ask hardware group)
3. ways to validate computation (numerical analysis methods)
4. fill in documentation with theory, data, numerical methodology, and numerical experiments.

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3 PDE model of temperature within a tree trunk

Heat transfers within the tree trunk vertically, radially, and might differ at different azimuth angle. To fully model the temperature distribution within a tree trunk, we need to study the heat equation in three dimensions.

$$\rho c \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T) = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(k r \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left(\frac{k}{r} \frac{\partial T}{\partial \phi} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(k \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right) + \text{source term} \quad \text{heat3d} \quad (1)$$

However, for our application, we can greatly simplify the equation with reasonable assumptions. As our devices would be installed in forests with trees of similar age and growth, it is reasonable to assume that we install all devices at the same height- this eliminates the dependence on the height (z - variable). We therefore obtain the following standard heat equation for temperature distribution in two dimensional cylindrical coordinates:

$$\rho c \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T) = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(k r \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left(\frac{k}{r} \frac{\partial T}{\partial \phi} \right) \quad \text{heat2d} \quad (2)$$

We add source terms for the diffusion equation to obtain

$$\rho c \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T) - \frac{1}{\Delta r} [H + (1 - \alpha)(S_{dir} + S_{dif}) + (IR_{in} - IR_{out})] \quad (3)$$

In the following, we explain the source terms:

1. Free convective heat loss/gain happens when the tree surface temp is different from the ambient temp. Forced convection happens when there is wind. We denote the heat loss/gain by H , and

$$H = h(T_{sfc} - T_{air}), \quad (4)$$

with h ($\text{W}/(\text{m}^2\text{K})$) being the convective heat transfer coefficient. Here

$$h = h_{free} - h_{forced}, \quad (5)$$

more details in 3.

2. $S_{dir} + S_{dif}$ represents direct solar radiation, plus diffusion solar radiation.
3. $IR_{in} - IR_{out}$ represents wave radiation from and to the tree. More details see [3].

We modify above source terms to fit the parameters for trees in Washington state.

3.1 Parameters to collect and verify. Hardware group

Notations:

1. T : temperature (K)
2. ρ : density (kg/m^3)
3. c : specific heat ($\text{J}/(\text{kgK})$)
4. t : time (s)

5. k : thermal conductivity (W/(mK))
6. r : distance from center of the tree (m)
7. ϕ : azimuth angle, measured clockwise with south being $\phi = 0$ (radian/degree), [3] assumes $\partial k / \partial \phi = 0$
8. α : albedo of the surface

3.2 Furthur simplification to one dimensional equation

Although we will be working mostly with the above two dimensional heat equation,

3.3 FD scheme for the heat equation

We solve the above equation numerically with the Finite-Difference (FD) method, as the FD method is simple to implement, and robust.

A detailed discussion on axi-symmetric heat equation is in [7]. We model the heat equation to depend on the azimuth angle ϕ , as trees in Washington state experience different sunlight and therefore growth in different direction. [pg.251, section 3.5.6](#)

For simplicity of discussion, we assume ρ , c , k are all constants. This is a reasonable assumption, as the trees should not have parameters that change drastically within the trunk. Then the constant coefficient equation (2) simplifies to

$$\frac{\rho c}{k} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial \phi^2} \quad \text{simple_heat} \quad (6)$$

With centered FD discretization in space, and forward in time for example, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet \quad \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} &\approx \frac{T_{i,j}^1 - T_{i,j}^0}{\Delta t} & \bullet \quad \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial r^2} &\approx \frac{T_{i-1,j}^0 + T_{i+1,j}^0 - 2T_{i,j}^0}{(\Delta r)^2} \\ \bullet \quad \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} &\approx \frac{T_{i+1,j}^0 - T_{i-1,j}^0}{2\Delta r} & \bullet \quad \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial \phi^2} &\approx \frac{T_{i,j-1}^0 + T_{i,j+1}^0 - 2T_{i,j}^0}{(\Delta \phi)^2} \end{aligned}$$

Here $T_{i,j}^n \approx T(r_i, \phi_j, t_n)$ denotes the numerical solution at the point (r_i, ϕ_j, t_n) . In general, we compute the heat equation iteratively in time with the general time forwarding scheme:

$$\frac{T_{i,j}^1 - T_{i,j}^0}{\Delta t} = D T_{i,j}, \quad (7)$$

where the right hand side is a discretization in space, with D being the difference operator. Depending on D , the above *continuous differential equation* can be discretized in the following two ways:

3.3.1 Forward in time, centered difference Method (FTCD)

The FTCD is the most straightforward method, where we directly apply the above listed discretization to the heat equation.

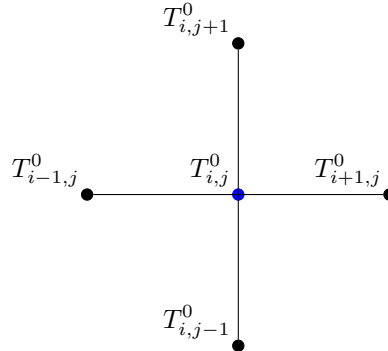
$$T_{i,j}^1 = \frac{k\Delta t}{\rho c} \left[\underbrace{\frac{1}{(\Delta r)^2} (T_{i-1,j}^0 + T_{i+1,j}^0 - 2T_{i,j}^0)}_{\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial r^2}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2r_i\Delta r} (T_{i+1,j}^0 - T_{i-1,j}^0)}_{\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T}{\partial r}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{r_i^2(\Delta\phi)^2} (T_{i,j-1}^0 + T_{i,j+1}^0 - 2T_{i,j}^0)}_{\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial \phi^2}} \right] + T_{i,j}^0, \quad (8)$$

with $k_1 = \frac{k\Delta t}{\rho c(\Delta r)^2}$, $k_2 = \frac{k\Delta t}{2\rho c r_i \Delta r}$, and $k_3 = \frac{k\Delta t}{\rho c r_i^2 (\Delta\phi)^2}$, above equation can be implemented as

$$T_{i,j}^1 = k_1 (T_{i-1,j}^0 + T_{i+1,j}^0 - 2T_{i,j}^0) + k_2 (T_{i+1,j}^0 - T_{i-1,j}^0) + k_3 (T_{i,j-1}^0 + T_{i,j+1}^0 - 2T_{i,j}^0) + T_{i,j}^0, \quad (9)$$

where we obtain $T_{i,j}^1$ each time step with T values in several locations from previous step. This system of equations can be solved directly. See implementation (that needs modification) in `heatPolar.py`. Here we can denote the general scheme to be

$$\frac{T_{i,j}^1 - T_{i,j}^0}{\Delta t} = D T_{i,j}^0. \quad (10)$$



Space information at each time step.

Imagine one more axis normal to the paper, pointing outwards above the blue dot. That would be $T_{i,j}^1$.

3.3.2 Crank-Nicolson Method (CNM)

We also solve the heat equation with the Crank-Nicolson method, as it is easy to modify given the FTCD method. To put simply, the general scheme is modified by averaging the space information of the current step and the next step:

$$\frac{T_{i,j}^1 - T_{i,j}^0}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{2} D T_{i,j}^0 + \frac{1}{2} D T_{i,j}^1. \quad (11)$$

The specific scheme is

$$\begin{aligned}
& T_{i,j}^1 - 0.5k_1 \left(T_{i-1,j}^1 + T_{i+1,j}^1 - 2T_{i,j}^1 \right) - 0.5k_2 \left(T_{i+1,j}^1 - T_{i-1,j}^1 \right) - 0.5k_3 \left(T_{i,j-1}^1 + T_{i,j+1}^1 - 2T_{i,j}^1 \right) \\
& = 0.5k_1 \left(T_{i-1,j}^0 + T_{i+1,j}^0 - 2T_{i,j}^0 \right) + 0.5k_2 \left(T_{i+1,j}^0 - T_{i-1,j}^0 \right) + 0.5k_3 \left(T_{i,j-1}^0 + T_{i,j+1}^0 - 2T_{i,j}^0 \right) + T_{i,j}^0,
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

here k_1, k_2, k_3 are previously defined.

3.4 Implementation in Python and numerical results

With the FTCD method, we need to worry about numerical stability. By the von Neumann stability analysis, we write $T(r, \phi, t_n) = e^{ikr+il\phi}$, and $T(r, \phi, t_{n+1}) = Ge^{ikr+il\phi}$. We force $G \leq 1$. Plug $T(r, \phi, t_n) = T_{i,j}^0$ and $T(r, \phi, t_{n+1}) = T_{i,j}^1$ into the Finite Difference equation, we get (we will temporarily denote $c = \frac{k}{\rho c}$)

$$G = c\Delta t \left[\frac{1}{(\Delta r)^2} (e^{-ik\Delta r} + e^{ik\Delta r} - 2) + \frac{1}{2r_i\Delta r} (e^{ik\Delta r} - e^{-ik\Delta r}) + \frac{1}{(r_i\Delta\phi)^2} (e^{-il\Delta\phi} + e^{il\Delta\phi} - 2) \right] + 1 \tag{13}$$

As $r_i \geq \Delta r$, we replace all r_i with Δr , and we get

$$G \leq c\Delta t \left[\frac{1}{(\Delta r)^2} (2\cos(k\Delta r) - 2) + \frac{1}{2(\Delta r)^2} 2i\sin(k\Delta r) + \frac{1}{(\Delta r\Delta\phi)^2} (2\cos(l\Delta\phi) - 2) \right] + 1 \tag{14}$$

We request $|G| \leq 1$, and it comes down to the following inequality:

$$\left[1 - \frac{c\Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2} 4\sin^2(k\Delta r/2) - \frac{c\Delta t}{(\Delta r\Delta\phi)^2} 4\sin^2(l\Delta\phi/2) \right]^2 + \left[\frac{c\Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2} \sin(k\Delta r) \right]^2 \leq 1 \tag{15}$$

Worst case is when $k\Delta r = l\Delta\phi = \pi$, and we get the stability requirement:

$$\left(1 - \frac{c\Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2} 4 - \frac{c\Delta t}{(\Delta r\Delta\phi)^2} 4 \right)^2 \leq 1 \tag{16}$$

For vectorization, we rewrite the above equation as

$$T_{i,j}^1 = (k_1 - k_2)T_{i-1,j}^0 + (k_1 + k_2)T_{i+1,j}^0 + (1 - 2k_1 - 2k_3)T_{i,j}^0 + k_3T_{i,j-1}^0 + k_3T_{i,j+1}^0 \tag{17}$$

Read Chapter 9 of Randy LeVeque.

Reference **BAD FORMAT. FOR convience only**

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