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INVESTIGATION OF HEAT TRANSFER BY CONDUCTION

INTRODUCTION

These Notes describe the simulation, on a PACE<sup>®</sup> TR-20 General Purpose Analog Computer, of a system involving heat transfer by conduction. It is a system where the temperature-versus-time-and-thickness relationship is required.

Specifically, heat energy in the form of an open flame is stored in a brass block which acts as a heat sink. This heat energy is transferred by conduction to and through a metal rod connected to it. The rod itself is insulated from ambient air and heat losses from the rod to such possible cooling effects during heating are negligible. In this system, shown schematically in Figure 1, it was assumed that heat transfer in the rod is limited to one direction only, that of rod length.

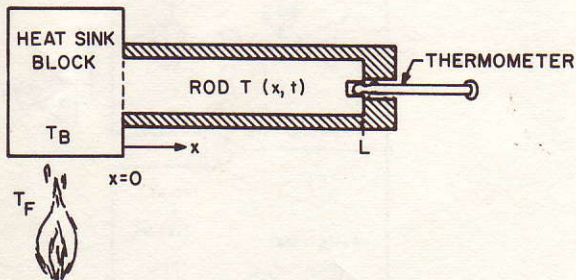


Figure 1: Simplified Diagram of Heat Transfer System

The successful analog computer solution of many engineering problems depends upon the ability of the computer to simulate such systems whose behavior is described by partial differential equations.

SYSTEM EQUATIONS

The basic equations describing this system, based on a fundamental energy balance, are

$$\frac{dT_B}{dt} = \frac{1}{\tau_B} [T_F - T_B] \tag{1}$$

for heat transfer in the sink block

and

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = a \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} \tag{2}$$

for heat transfer in the metal rod

The initial and boundary conditions to be satisfied are

$$\begin{aligned} T_B(0) &= T_A \\ T(0,x) &= T_A \end{aligned} \left. \vphantom{\begin{aligned} T_B(0) \\ T(0,x) \end{aligned}} \right\} \text{ambient temperature}$$

$$T(t,0) = T_B = \text{sink temperature}$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right)_{x=L} = 0 = \text{insulated rod end}$$

The following variable definitions were used to obtain the final, normalized system equations (listed below) which were used in the simulation:

$$U_B = \frac{T_B - T_A}{T_F - T_A}$$

$$U = \frac{T - T_A}{T_F - T_A}$$

$$Z = \frac{x}{L}$$

$$\theta = \frac{aT}{L^2}$$

Heat Transfer in Sink Block

$$\frac{dU_B}{d\theta} = \left( \frac{L^2}{a\tau_B} \right) \left\{ 1 - U_B \right\} \tag{3}$$

$$U_B(0) = 0$$

Diffusion Equation for Heat Conduction in Rod

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial Z^2} \tag{4}$$

The boundary and initial conditions to be satisfied are

$$\begin{aligned} U(Z,0) &= 0 && \text{Initial Temperature} \\ U(\theta,0) &= U_B && \text{Surface Temperature} \\ \left( \frac{\partial U}{\partial Z} \right)_{Z=1} &= 0 && \text{Due to Rod Insulation} \end{aligned}$$

METHOD OF SOLUTION

Using a second-order central difference approximation for  $\partial^2 U / \partial z^2$ , viz:

$$\frac{\partial^2 U(z,t)}{\partial z^2} = \frac{U(z + \Delta z, t) - 2U(z, t) + U(z - \Delta z, t)}{(\Delta z)^2} \tag{5}$$



the temperature distribution in the rod is obtained as a function of time for  $a/L^2$  equal to 3/2, 1, and 1/2 seconds  $^{-1}$ .

The rod is divided into five equally-spaced segments, as shown in Figure 2, in order to derive the scaled equations.

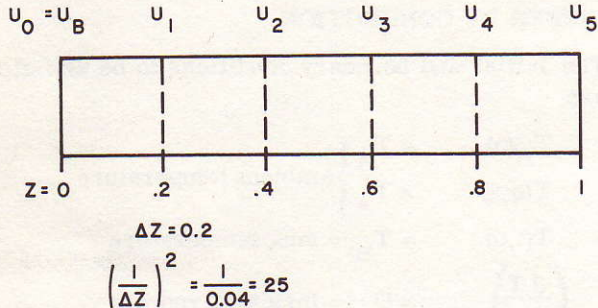


Figure 2: Division of Bar into Equally Spaced Segments

**Scaled Equations:** Using equation (3), the following scaled equations were obtained:

$$\frac{d [10 U_B]}{d \tau} = \left( \frac{L^2}{a \tau_B \beta} \right) [10 (1 - U_B)] \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{d [10 U_1]}{d \tau} = \left( \frac{25}{\beta} \right) [10 (U_B - U_1) - 10 (U_1 - U_2)] \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{d [10 U_2]}{d \tau} = \left( \frac{25}{\beta} \right) [10 (U_3 - U_2) - 10 (U_2 - U_1)] \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{d [10 U_3]}{d \tau} = \left( \frac{25}{\beta} \right) [10 (U_4 - U_3) - 10 (U_3 - U_2)] \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{d [10 U_4]}{d \tau} = \left( \frac{25}{\beta} \right) [10 (U_5 - U_4) - 10 (U_4 - U_3)] \quad (10)$$

$$\frac{d [10 U_5]}{d \tau} = \left( \frac{50}{\beta} \right) [10 (U_5 - U_4)] \quad (11)$$

TR-20 POTENTIOMETER ASSIGNMENT SHEET  
PROBLEM: Heat Transfer by Conduction

NO.	PARAMETER DESCRIPTION	SETTING VALUE	SCALE	UNIT	NOTES	NO.
1	$L^2/a \tau_B \beta$	0.500			$\beta = 50$	1
2	$L^2/a \tau_B \beta$	0.500				2
3	$L^2/a \tau_B \beta$	0.500				3
4	$L^2/a \tau_B \beta$	0.500				4
5	$25/\beta$	0.500				5
6	$25/\beta$	0.500				6
7	$25/\beta$	0.500				7
8	$25/\beta$	0.500				8
9	$25/\beta$	0.500				9
10	$25/\beta$	0.500				10
11	$50/\beta$	0.500				11
12	$50/\beta$	0.500				12
13	CONSTANT	0.020				13
14						14
15						15
16						16
17						17
18						18
19						19
20						20
21						21
22						22

Figure 4: Potentiometer Assignment Sheet

COMPUTER DIAGRAM

Figure 3 shows the computer diagram for this simulation.

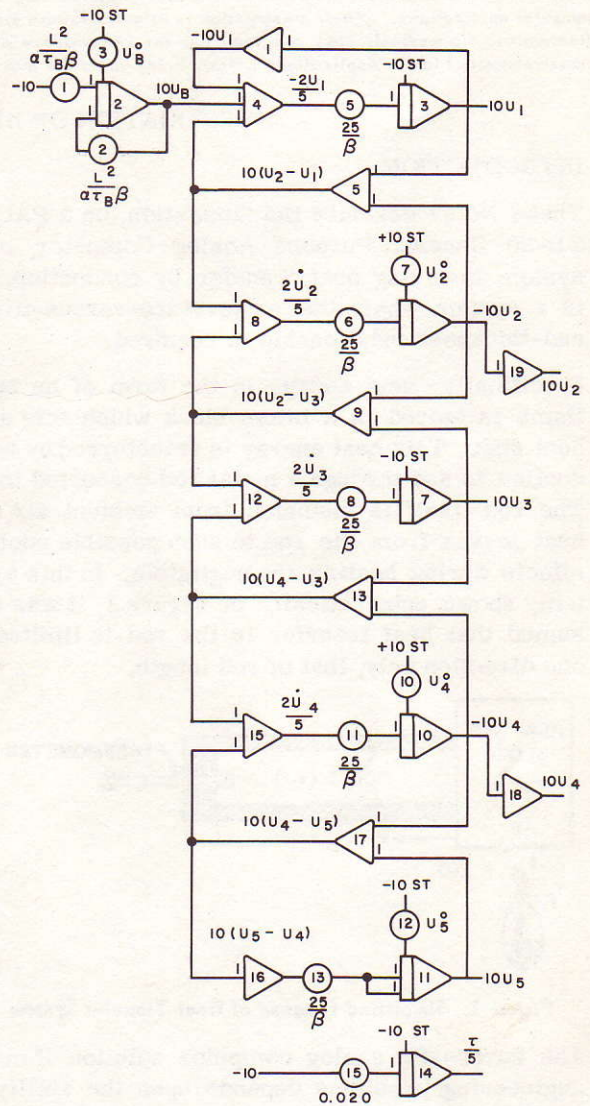


Figure 3: Computer Diagram

TR-20 AMPLIFIER ASSIGNMENT SHEET  
PROBLEM: Heat Transfer by Conduction

NO.	INPUT SIGNAL	FUNCTION	OUTPUT SIGNAL	NOTES
1	-10	INVERT	-10	
2	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
3	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
4	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
5	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
6	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
7	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
8	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
9	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
10	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
11	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
12	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
13	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
14	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
15	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
16	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
17	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
18	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
19	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
20	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
21	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	
22	10UB	INVERT	-10UB	

Figure 5: Amplifier Assignment Sheet



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