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3. Physics of Microfluidic Systems

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3.5 Basic Modes

- Radiation

- Transport of heat through
 - Vacuum
 - Transparent medium

- Convection

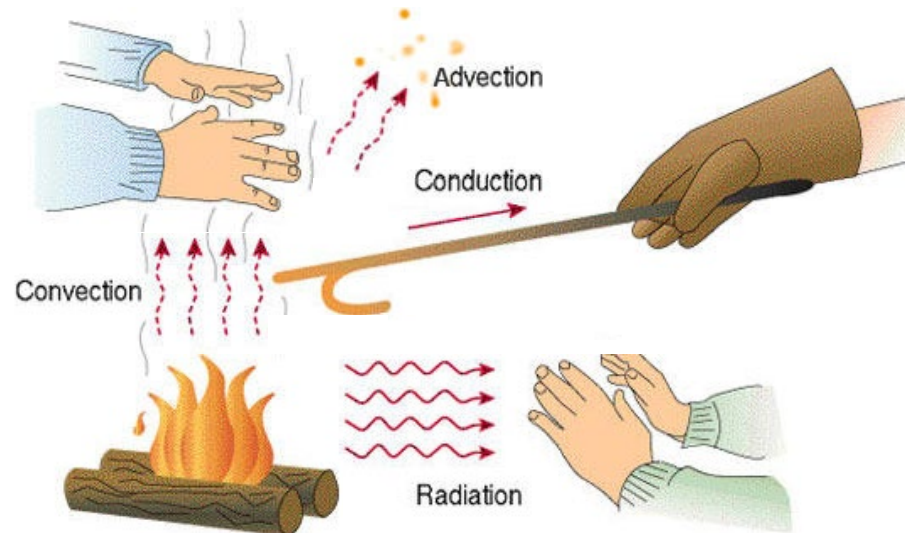
- Bulk flow carries heat
- Modes
 - Forced (“pumping”)
 - Free (“buoyancy”)

- Conduction (also: heat diffusion)

- Objects that are in physical contact
- Direct microscopic exchange of kinetic energy of particles

- Advection

- Transport mechanism of a [fluid](#)
- Depending on [motion](#) and [momentum](#) of fluid



3.5. Heat Transport

- 1. Dynamics of Heat Transport**
2. Boussinesq Approximation
3. Thermal Boundary Conditions
4. Heat Transfer
5. Newton's Law of Cooling
6. Dimensionless Parameters
7. Forced-Convection Heat Transfer
8. Heat Transfer in Microchannels

3.5.1. Dynamics of Heat Transport

- Velocity field $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r}, t)$: Conservation of

- **Mass**

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$$

- **Momentum**
(Navier Stokes)

$$\rho_{\infty} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} \right] = -\nabla p + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} + \rho_{\infty} \mathbf{g}$$

- Temperature distribution $T(\mathbf{r}, t)$:
Conservation of (thermal) energy

- **Convection** (directed)

- **Diffusion** (isotropic)

- **Heat source / drain** (e.g., boundary)

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla T = \lambda_D \Delta T + Q'''$$

- Convection-diffusion equation

- Set of three DEs coupling $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ and $T(\mathbf{r}, t)$

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3.5.2. Boussinesq Approximation

- Very complex system of DEs

- Simplification needed

- Model

- Principal impact of temperature through ΔT

- Density profile $\rho(T)$

- Combination with NS

- Density ρ varies in **buoyancy-related term** only

$$\rho_\infty \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} \right] = -\nabla p + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} + \rho(T) \mathbf{g}$$

- Linear relation for mass expansion

$$\rho(T) = \rho_0 (1 - \alpha_V [T(\mathbf{x}, t) - T_0])$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$$

$$\rho_\infty \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} \right] = -\nabla p + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} + \rho_\infty \mathbf{g}$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla T = \lambda_D \Delta T + Q'''$$

3.5.2. Boussinesq Approximation

$$\rho_\infty \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} \right] = -\nabla p + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} + \rho_0 (1 - \alpha_V [T(\mathbf{x}, t) - T_0]) \mathbf{g}$$

- Simplified coupling between momentum and energy equations
- Estimate for thermal buoyancy force
 - Isothermal fluid at $T = T_0$
 - Wall kept at $T = T_{\text{heat}}$

$$|\mathbf{f}_g| = \rho \|\mathbf{g}\| \alpha_V (T_{\text{heat}} - T_0)$$

- Example
 - $\alpha_V = 10^{-3} \text{ K}^{-1}$
 - $\Delta T = 10 \text{ K}$
 - $f_g = 10^2 \text{ N m}^{-3}$

Comparison: Buoyancy of gas bubbles in water

$$f_{\Delta\rho} = \Delta\rho g \approx 10^4 \text{ N m}^{-3}$$

“Bubbles rise faster than warm liquid.”

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3.5.3. Thermal Boundary Conditions

- Two disjoint volume regions Ω_1 and Ω_2
- Overall boundary $\partial\Omega = \partial\Omega_1 \cup \partial\Omega_2$
- Dirichlet
 - Temperature specified on boundary region
 - Walls thermalized by reservoir at $T = \text{const.}$

$$T|_{\partial\Omega_1} = T_1$$

- von Neumann
 - Heat flux j_Q induced by T -gradient

$$-\lambda \frac{\partial T}{\partial n} |_{\partial\Omega_2} = j_Q$$

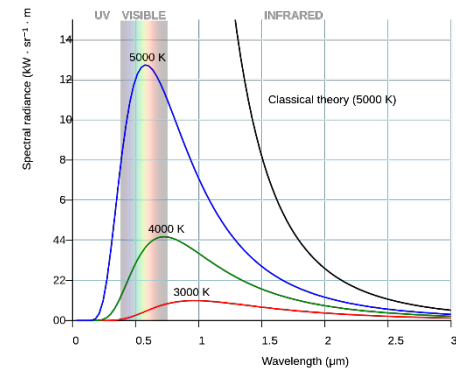
- $j_Q = 0$
 - No exchange of energy with environment
 - Adiabatic

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3.5.4. Radiative Transfer

- Mode of heat transfer
 - No heat diffusion (thermal conduction) between solid and fluid
 - No convective heat transfer
- Mechanism: Radiation
 - [QM: black body radiation](#)
 - [Stefan-Boltzmann's law](#)
 - Linear approximation for small ΔT
- Power of heat transport
 - Heat transmission coefficient α
 - Typical value $6 \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$
 - Scaling
 - Surface area A
 - Temperature difference ΔT



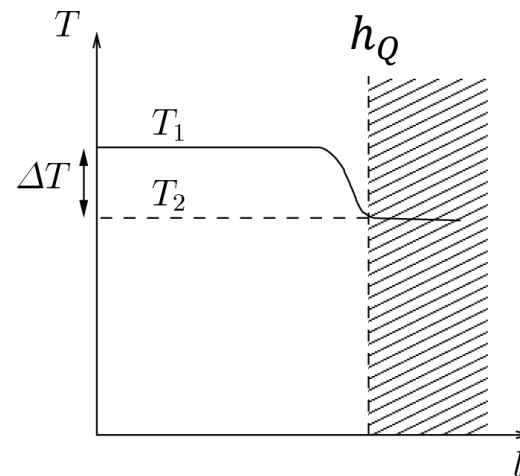
$$P = \alpha A \Delta T$$

3.5.4. Heat Transfer

- Interfaces
 - Solid
 - Fluid
- T -gradient: ΔT
- Flow density of heat transfer

$$j_Q = h_Q \Delta T$$

Fig. 3.32. Typical temperature curve for heat transmission between temperatures T_1 and T_2



- Heat transfer coefficient h_Q

3.5.4. Heat Transition

- Heat transition
 - Two fluid reservoirs
 - Intermediate wall
 - Power

$$P = k_Q A \Delta T$$

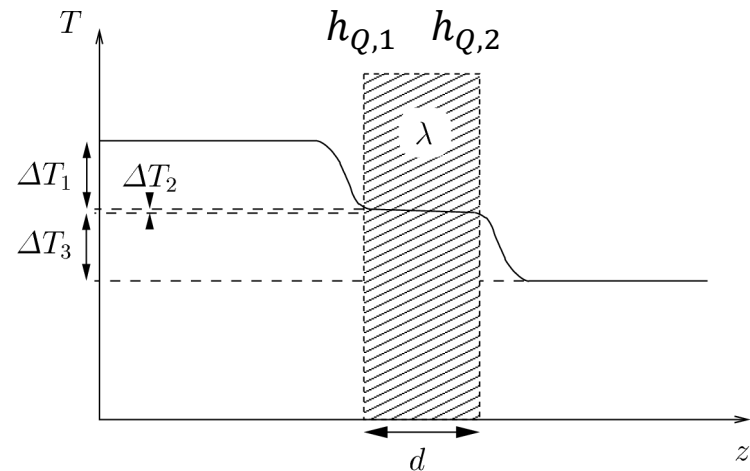


Fig. 3.33. Transition of heat between two vessels at T_1 and T_3 separated by a wall

➤ Heat transition coefficient

- „Parallel circuit“ style equation
- Thermal conductivity λ
- Heat transmission coefficient $h_{Q,i}$
- Thickness of wall d
 - Efficient transition in microsystems

$$\frac{1}{k_Q} = \frac{1}{h_{Q,1}} + \frac{d}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{h_{Q,2}}$$

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3.5.5. Newton's Law of Cooling

- Thermally undisturbed system
- Non-uniform temperature distribution T

- **Thermal relaxation**

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = \frac{h_Q A}{C_m m} \Delta T$$

- **Newton's law of cooling**

- Time scale for thermal relaxation

- Exponential decay

$$\Delta T = \Delta T_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

- **Characteristic decay time**

- **Mass** (\sim volume)

- **Surface area**

- **Fast relaxation in μ fluidics**

$$\tau = \frac{C_m m}{h_Q A}$$

3.5. Heat Transport

optional

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3.5.6. Dimensionless Parameters

optional

$$Sc = \frac{\eta}{\rho D} = \frac{v}{D} \stackrel{\text{id. gas}}{=} 1$$

$$Pe_D = ReSc = \frac{vl}{D} = 4 \left(\frac{l}{l_D} \right)^2$$

- Peclet number

- Convective particle transport
vs
- Diffusive particle transport

$$4 \left(\frac{l}{l_D} \right)^2 = \frac{4l^2}{4Dt} = \frac{l^2}{Dl/v} = Pe$$

- For heat diffusion

$$Pe_T = RePr = \frac{vl}{\lambda_D}$$

3.5.6. Dimensionless Parameters

optional

- Grashof number
 - Thermal buoyancy vs
 - Viscous forces

$$Gr = \frac{|g|\alpha_V(T_1 - T_2)l^3}{\nu^2}$$

- Richardson number
 - Buoyancy vs
 - Inertia
 - Transition
 - Free buoyancy-driven flow ($Ri \ll 1$)
 - Forced convection flow ($Ri \gg 1$)

$$Ri = \frac{g\alpha_V\Delta Tl}{\nu^2}$$

- Rayleigh number
 - Thermal buoyancy vs
 - Heat diffusion

$$Ra = PrGr$$

$$Pr = \frac{C_m\eta}{\lambda} = \frac{\nu}{\lambda_D}$$

3.5.6. Nusselt Number

- Convective mass transport
 - E.g., turbulences
 - Accelerated heat transport
- Mere laminar flow
 - Transversal **temperature profile**
 - Large T -gradient

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla T = \lambda_D \Delta T + Q'''$$

energy / temperature equation

- **Turbulences / convection** induced in boundary layer

- Nusselt number
 - Heat transfer in boundary layer
 - Convection
 - Diffusion
 - Heat transmission
 - From wall to fluid
 - Characteristic length l
 - Theoretical film thickness $\delta_Q = \lambda / h_Q$

$$Nu = \frac{Q_{\text{conv}}}{Q_{\text{diff}}}$$

$$Nu = \frac{h_Q l}{\lambda} = \frac{l}{\delta_Q}$$

3.5. Heat Transport

optional

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3.5.7. Forced-Convection Heat Transfer

optional

- Functional relationship

- Nusselt number Nu
- Reynolds number Re
- Prandtl number Pr

$$Nu = \frac{Q_{\text{conv}}}{Q_{\text{diff}}}$$

$$Re = \frac{\rho_{\infty} \tilde{v} l}{\eta} = \frac{\tilde{v} l}{\nu}$$

$$Pr = \frac{C_m \eta}{\lambda} = \frac{\nu}{\lambda_D}$$

- Heat transfer characteristics

- Boundary conditions
 - Shape
 - Surface roughness
 - Enhanced heat transfer
- Boundary layer
 - Flow regime
 - Temperature profile
 - Velocity profile

3.5.7. Forced-Convection Heat Transfer

optional

- Thin films
 - Model for critical boundary layer
 - Decisive for heat transfer from wall
 - $Nu = Nu(Re, Pr)$
 - Turbulent regime

- Fluid film spreading on solid at rest

- Shear stress τ
 - Friction

$$\tau = \eta \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial y} \simeq \eta \frac{v}{\delta}$$

- Friction coefficient

$$f_\epsilon = f_\epsilon(Re, \frac{\epsilon}{d}, A) = \frac{\tau_{\text{wall}}}{\frac{1}{2} \rho v^2}$$

- Relative layer thickness

$$\frac{\delta}{d} = \frac{2\eta}{f_\epsilon \rho v d} = \frac{2}{f_\epsilon Re}$$

3.5.7. Turbulent Flow of Thin Films

optional

$$\frac{\delta}{d} = \frac{2\eta}{f_{\epsilon} \rho v d} = \frac{2}{f_{\epsilon} Re}$$

- Rewriting Nu

$$Nu = \frac{h_Q d}{\lambda} = \frac{d}{\delta} \frac{\delta}{\delta_Q} = \frac{1}{2} f_{\epsilon} Re \frac{\delta}{\delta_Q}$$

- Using (derivation not shown) $Pr^{1/3} = \delta / \delta_Q$

$$Nu = \frac{1}{2} f_{\epsilon} Re Pr^{1/3}$$

3.5.7. Turbulent Flow of Thin Films

optional

$$Nu = \frac{1}{2} f_\epsilon Re Pr^{1/3}$$

- Chilton-Colburn analogy

$$j_H = \frac{f_\epsilon}{2} \quad \leftarrow \quad j_H = \frac{Nu}{Re Pr^{1/3}}$$

Dimensionless j - factor

- From thin film theory

$$Nu \simeq 0.04 Re^{3/4} Pr^{1/3}$$

$$Re = \frac{\rho_\infty \tilde{v} l}{\eta} = \frac{\tilde{v} l}{\nu}$$

$$Pr = \frac{C_m \eta}{\lambda} = \frac{\nu}{\lambda_D}$$

3.5.7. Laminar Flow in a Tube

optional

- Fully developed flow
 - Nu function of axial coordinate z
 - Averaged value
- Thermal boundary conditions
 - Uniform wall temperature

$$Nu(z) = 1.077Gz(z)^{1/3} \text{ for } Gz > 100$$
$$Nu = 1.61Gz^{1/3} \text{ for } Gz > 1000$$

- Uniform heat flux

$$Nu(z) = 1.302Gz(z)^{1/3} \text{ for } Gz > 10^4$$
$$Nu = 1.953Gz^{1/3} \text{ for } Gz > 10^4$$

3.5.7. Laminar Flow in a Tube

optional

- Sieder-Tate relationship
 - Simultaneously developing profiles
 - Temperature
 - Velocity
 - Viscosity on wall region η_{wall}

$$Nu = 1.86Gz^{1/3} \left(\frac{\eta}{\eta_{\text{wall}}} \right)^{0.14} \quad \text{for } Gz \left(\frac{\eta}{\eta_{\text{wall}}} \right)^{0.14} \geq 2$$

- Fully developed profiles
 - Constant wall temperature

$$Nu = 3.66$$

- Constant heat flux

$$Nu = 4.36$$

3.5.7. Turbulent Flow through a Tube

optional

- Fully developed flow
- Re : 10,000
- Nusselt number
 - Colburn equation

$$Nu = 0.023 Re^{0.8} Pr^{0.4}$$

- Dittus-Boelter relation
 - More refined

$$Nu = 0.0225 Re^{0.795} Pr^{0.495} e^{-0.0225(\ln Pr)^2}$$

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3.5.8. Heat Transfer in Microchannels

optional

- Convective cooling by microchannels
 - Important technical topic over last decades
 - Electronic devices
 - Refrigerators

- Microchannels
 - Deviation from straight-forward macro-theory
 - Reduced critical Reynolds number
 - Premature transition to turbulent regime
 - Example: artificially roughened surfaces
 - Turbulent mixing in boundary layers
 - Improved heat transfer characteristics

3.5.8. Heat Transfer in Microchannels

optional

- Fully developed laminar flow

- Empirical formula

$$Nu = 9.72 \times 10^{-4} Re^{1.17} Pr^{1/3}$$

Compare macro:

$$Nu(z) = 1.077 Gz(z)^{1/3} \text{ for } Gz > 100$$
$$Nu = 1.61 Gz^{1/3} \text{ for } Gz > 1000$$

- Turbulent regime

$$Nu = 3.82 \times 10^{-6} Re^{1.96} Pr^{1/3}$$
$$Nu = 0.00805 Re^{4/5} Pr^{1/3}$$

Compare macro:

$$Nu = 0.023 Re^{0.8} Pr^{0.4}$$

3.5.8. Heat Transfer in Microchannels

optional

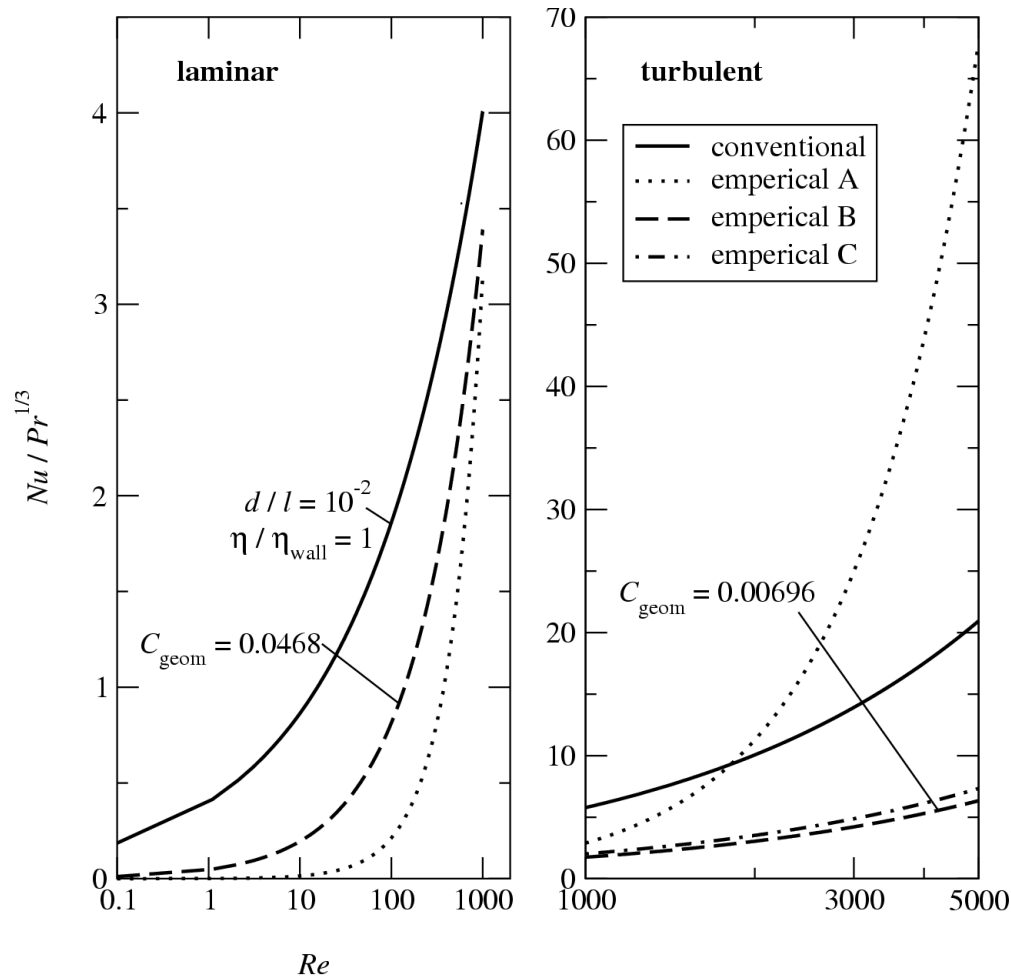


Fig. 3.34. Recalibrated Nusselt number $Nu/Pr^{1/3}$ as a function of the Reynolds number Re in the laminar (left) and turbulent (right) flow regime. The empirical formulas A, B and C have been adopted from [10], (with C_{geom} calculated for an aspect ratio of 1 and $d_{\text{hd}} = 200 \mu\text{m}$) and [11], respectively

Summary

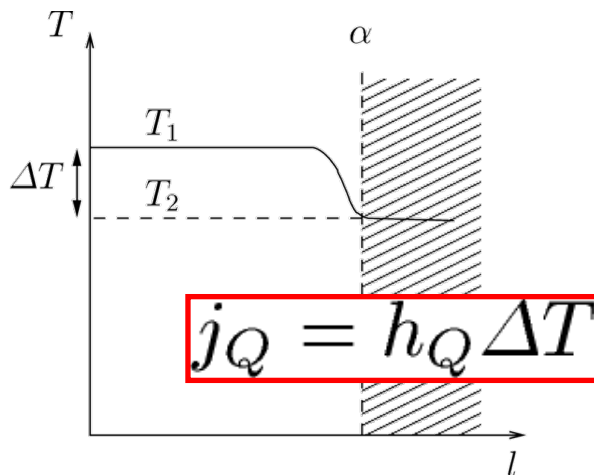
Coupling of T -distribution and flow field v with heat source Q'''

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla T = \lambda_D \Delta T + Q'''$$

Boussinesq (only density \rightarrow buoyancy in Navier-Stokes)

$$\rho(T) = \rho_0 (1 - \alpha_V [T(\mathbf{x}, t) - T_0])$$

Heat transfer



Heat transition

