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VALIDATION OF THE SINDA/FLUINT CODE USING SEVERAL ANALYTICAL SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

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The Systems Improved Numerical Differencing Analyzer and Fluid Integrator (SINDA/FLUINT) code has often bean used to determine the transient and steady-state response of various thermal and **fluidflow networks. While this code** is an **often used design and analysis tool, the validation of this program has been limitedto a few simple studies.**

For the current study, the SINDA/FLUINT code was compared to four different analytical solutions. The thermal analyzer **portionof the code (conduction and radiative heat transfer, SINDA** portion) **was first compared to two separate** solutions. **The firstcomparison examined a semi-infinite slab with a periodic surface temperature boundary condition. Next, a small, uniform temperature object (lumped capacitance) was allowed to radiate to** a **fixed temperature sink. The fluid** portion **of the code (FLUINT) was** also compared **to two different** analytical **solutions. The first** study **examined a tank filling process by** an **ideal gas in which there is both** control **volume work and heat transfer. The final** comparison considered **the flow in** a **pipe joining two infinite reservoirs of pressure.** The **results of all these studies showed that for the situations examined here, the SINDA/FLUINT code was able to** match **the results of the analytical** solutions.

INTRODUCTION

The Systems Improved Numerical Differencing Analyzer and **Fluid Integrator (SINDA/FLUINT) program has often been used to determine the transient hydrodynamic and thermal response of various thermal** and **fluid networks. For example, the Space Station Freedom's (SSF) Active Thermal Control System (ATCS) [1]** and **aidock [2],** the **Space Shuttle's ATCS [3], and the SSF's Lunar Transport Vehicle Hangar [4] have all bean** analyzed using **this code. While this code has provided important results in the design and** analysis **of these and other space related hardware, the validation** of this **program has been limited.**

The **validation of any numerical code is important, since once a code has been verified for several test cases,** a **user will** have **¢onfidance that the code** can accurately **predict the physical processes of other, more complex problems. In general, there** are **three** main **verification methods. The first method** compares the **predicted results with those of a previously validated code [5]. The second method uses experimental data to verify the model's predictions [6]. Finally, the predicted results can be** compared **to those of a closed form analytical solution [7].**

To date, the SINDNFLUINT code has been validated with three simple closed form solutions **[8,9,10]** and **one relatively complex experimental comparison [11]. The three closed form solutions considered were the transient** conduction **in** a **semi-infinite slab [8], the filling and decompression of** a **rigid, adiabatic** tank **with an ideal gas [9], and the transient heat transfer associated with** a single **phase fluid flowing in** a **duct [10]. The experimental** comparison **examined the combined radiative, conductive,** and convective **heat rejection process associated with the operation of the Space Shuttle's ATCS during orbital conditions [11]. For all the tests cases** considered, **the predictions** of **the SINDA/FLUINT code were able to** match **the results of either the closed form** solutions **or the experimental data; however, the program** has **yet to be validated for more complex situations** such as **transient radiation, conduction or fluid flow phenomenon.**

This paper **details** a **validation** study **of the SINDA/FLUINT program for several simple situations. The code was validated** by comparing its **results with those of several closed form analytical** solutions. The **SINDA** portion **of the code** was **compared to two different analytical solutions,** while **the FLUINT portion of the code** was also **validated with** two **separate analytical solutions. The results of these** studies **showed that for the situations examined here, the code was able to accurately predict the heat transfer and fluid flow processes.**

HEAT TRANSFER IN A SEMI-INFINITE SOLID

The SINDA portionof the code was first validated usingthe classical dosed form solution for conduction heat transfer in a **semi-infinite** solid. **For this test case, a periodic surface temperature boundary condition was considered. A schematic of this system and** its **associated** boundary condition is shown in Figure 1.

Figure I Schematic of a **Semi-lnfinite Solid.**

The heat conduction in a semi-infinite solid, **with no internal generation** and **constant therrnophysical properties, is governed by the following differential equation,**

$$
\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}
$$
 (1)

 $x^2 + y^2 = 0$ **in a** $x^2 + y^2 = 0$ **in a** $x^2 + y^2 = 0$ **in a** $x^2 + y^2 = 0$ **istance**, thermal diffusivity, and time, **respectively. To reduoe the** complexity **of the solution process, the temperature** is **replaced by a new variable,** e, **which is defined as**

$$
\Theta = T - T_i \tag{2}
$$

where **the subscript i denotes** the **initial condition. The new governing equation** and **the** boundary conditions **for** this **problem** am

$$
\frac{\partial^2 \Theta}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial t}
$$
 (3)

$$
\Theta(x,0)=0
$$
 (4)

$$
\Theta(\infty,\tau)=0\tag{5}
$$

$$
\Theta(0,\tau) = \Theta_0 \cos \omega \tau \tag{6}
$$

where **eo and (o are the amplitude and frequency, respectively. To obtain a solution for** equation **(3), the separation of variables** method must **be used and for brevity** will **not be presented here. A detailed discussion** of **this** solution **procedure can be found in Reference 12. The** solution **to** equation **(3) with the appropriate** boundary conditions **is**

$$
\frac{\Theta(x,t)}{\Theta_0} = e^{-(\omega/2\alpha)^{1/2}x} \cos[\omega \tau - (\frac{\omega}{2\alpha})^{1/2}x]
$$
 (7)

It is important to note that equation (7) is only valid for large values of time since there is a discontinuity at the initial conditions. In other words, equation (7) cannot accurately predict transient effects during the first increase of the solid's outer surface.

Once the analytical solution had been obtained for conduction in a semi-infinite solid, a SINDA model was built for the comparison study. A schematic of this SINDA model is shown in Figure 2. Here, a series of nodes with a height and depth of unity are placed together. The **lengthwise spacing and thermophysical properties are input parameters and chosen in such a way 2. here instead computational process is simplified.**

Figure 2 Schematic of the SINDA model.

Figure 3 shows the comparison between the results of the SINDA model and those of the
analytical solution at different depths into the semi-infinite slab. As anticipated, the predictions show an exponential decay in the oscillating temperature as the depth into the solid increases. In addition, the predictions also show a phase shift in the oscillating temperatures and is associated with the time it takes the heat to be conducted into the solid. As is evident, for the parameters **examined here, the predictions are nearly identical to those of the analytical solution. The greatest temperature difference between the results of the two solutions is less than 1.25 °F. Other here, conditions** were also examined and a similar error was noted.

cooling by RADIATIVE HEAT TRANSFER

The SINDA portion of the code was next validated using a closed form solution of a simple radiative cooling process in which a warm object cools by thermal radiation to a cold sink. To simplify the analysis, the lumped capacitance method was employed and the object radiated to one source. In other words, the entire solid was at a uniform temperature, one cold sink was available and there there is the analysis of **lumped** under the simplify the analysis, the radiating source was taken to be **diffusive.** Applying these assumptions, the heat loss, Q, at an instant in time is given by

was no reflected radiation. To further simplify the analysis, **the radiating** source **was taken to be**

$$
Q = e A \sigma [T^4 \cdot T^4 \sin k]
$$

 (8)

where ε is the emissivity, A is the surface area, σ is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant, T is the object's lumped temperature, and T_{sink} is the radiative sink temperature. Rewriting equation (8) for where **s is the emissivity, A is the surface area, o is the Stefan-Boltzmann** constant, **T** is **the object's**

$$
- \rho V C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial \tau} = Q = \varepsilon A \sigma [T^4 - T^4 \sin k]
$$
 (9)

Figure 3 Temperature Response for Predicted (geometric shapes) and Analytical Solutions (solid lines).

where the new variables p, V, Cp, and _ **represent the density, volume, the specific heat and time, respectively. Rearranging and integrating equation (9) yields,**

$$
T = T_f
$$

$$
\int_{T = T_i} \frac{\partial T}{T^4 - T^4 \sin k} = \frac{\varepsilon A \sigma}{\rho V C_p} \int_{0}^{T} \partial \tau
$$
 (10)

where **Ti and Tf are the initial** and **final temperatures, respectively. Carrying out the integration on** equation **(10), yields equation (11)**

$$
\tau = \frac{\rho V C_D}{\epsilon A \sigma} \left[\frac{1}{4T^3 \sin k} \left[\frac{(T_f + T_{\text{sink}})/(T_f - T_{\text{sink}})}{(T_i + T_{\text{sink}})/(T_i - T_{\text{sink}})} \right] + \frac{1}{2T^3 \sin k} \left(\tan^{-1} \frac{T_f}{T_{\text{sink}}} \cdot \tan^{-1} \frac{T_i}{T_{\text{sink}}} \right) \right] (11)
$$

Equation (11) reveals that for a **given initialtemperature, the** final **temperature is govemed by the time,** _, **the sink temperature, Tsink, and the term, pVCp/zAo, (capacitance divided by radiative conductance). These terms were varied during the verification process. For** the **present** study, the sink temperature was held at either -100 °F, -200 °F or -400 °F, while the capacitanceconductance **ratio was set** at **0.25, 0.5, 1.0** and **4.0. For** each **simulation,the initialtemperature was held** at **70 °F** and **the object was** allowed to **coolfor 10** hours.

The results from both the SINDA model and **the** analytical **solution for all the above conditions are shown in Rgure 4. As expected, the cooling process follows a typical exponential decay, and the higher capacitance (or lower radiative conductance) objects cool more slowly. As is evident, the SINDA generated results** are **in good** agreement **with those of the** analytical solution, **since the predicted results** are **nearly identical to those of the** analytical **solution. The greatest temperature difference between the results of the two** solutions **is less than 1.5 °F, which** corresponds **to an error based on absolute temperature of less than 0.5%.**

FLOW BETWEEN TWO **INFINITE RESERVIORS OF PRESSURE**

When two infinite reservoirs of different pressure are connected **by a circular duct, such as** those **shown in Rgure 5, the flow rate between the two, neglecting any entrance effects,** is **related by the following expression,**

$$
\Delta P = \rho f \frac{L}{D} \frac{V^2}{2}
$$
 (12)

where P is the pressure, ρ is the density of the working fluid, f is the friction factor, L is the length of **the duct, D is the diameter of the duct,** and **V** is **the velocity of the fluid.**

Rgure 5 Schematic of the **System.**

Figure 4 Predicted Temperature Response for Various Capacitance-Conductance Ratios for a) T=nk = **-1O0 °F, b) T=nk - -20O °F, and** c) **T=nk - 400 °F.**

The velocity of the fluid is related to the mass flow rate by

$$
V = m/\rho A \tag{13}
$$

where m is the mass flow rate and A is the cross sectional area of the duct. The area of the duct is **given by**

$$
A = \pi D^2 / 4 \tag{14}
$$

Substituting equations (13) and **(14) into** equation **(12)** and **rearranging yields**

$$
\Delta P = \frac{8 \text{fm}^2 L}{\rho \pi^2 D^5}
$$
 (15)

Solving for **the friction factor gives**

$$
f = \frac{\Delta P \rho \pi^2 D^5}{8m^2 L} \tag{16}
$$

For laminar flow the friction factor is given by

$$
f = 64/Re
$$
 (17)

where Re is the Reynolds number which is given by

$$
Re = \frac{VD}{V}
$$
 (18)

where v is the kinematic viscosity. For turbulent flow the friction factor is a **function of the Reynolds number** and **the wall roughness ratio (e/D).** The **value of turbulent friction factors must be determined experimentally and can be found on the Moody chart [13]. Reviewing** equations **(12) through (16) shows that for** a **given fluid if the pressure difference, pipe diameter and length are fixed, the velocity can be determined, directly for** laminar **flow and itemtively for turbulent flow. As such, any numerical code that** is **developed correctly should** be able **to accurately predict fluid velocities when the other parameters** are **fixed.**

For the system shown in Figure 5, a **simple FLUINT model was developed.** The **duct was represented by the TUBE option so that internal pipe friction would** be **included in the model.** The **pressure source and sink were represented by plenums (PLEN in FLUINT) which maintained a constant pressure at the ends of the TUBE. A scherru_c of** this **FLUINT model** is **shown in Figure 6.**

For the current study, the **pressures of the PLENs,** and the **pipe** length **and diameter of the TUBE** are **fixed. The model is then run in** a steady-state **mode until** a converged **solution is obtained. Using this flow rate, the friction factor and Reynolds number were** calculated **(Equation (16) and (18)) and** compared **to** the analytical **solutions. If the FLUINT code** is **properly developed, the predictions should match the analytical** solution **or the Moody chart values.**

Figure 6 Schematic of the FLUINT Model.

Figure 7 Predicted and Actual (Solid Line ——) Reynolds Number in the Laminar Region for Various Wall Roughness Ratios.

Figure 8 Predicted and Actual (Solid Line --) Reynolds Number in the Turbulent Region for Various Wall Roughness Ratios.

The model was run over Reynolds numbers ranging from 1 to 106 for four **different values of e/D and the predicted** friction factors **can be** found **in Figures 7 and 8. When laminar flow was considered (Figure 7), the** friction factor **was** found **to be independent of the wall roughness and a linear** function **of the Reynolds number. For this situation, the predicted FLUINT results are nearly identical** (< 0.1%) to those of the analytical solution.

When the flow **is turbulent (Re > 2300), the** friction **in the pipe** is **a** function **of the both the Reynolds number and the wall roughness. The greater the wall roughness, the great the** friction factor. **The predicted** friction factors **in the turbulent regime** for **various** wall **roughness ratios can** be found **in Figure 8. As** is **evident, the predicted** friction factors **agree with those taken from the Moody chart and also shows the dependence of the** friction factor **upon wall roughness after the** laminar **regime.**

TANK FILLING WITH HEAT TRANSFER AND CONTROL VOLUME WORK

Development of the Analytical Solution

Many thermodynamic processes involve unsteady flow and are difficult to analyze; however, **several processes, such** as **the** filling **of a closed** container, **can** be **approximated by a simplified model.** These **types of problems are known** as **uniform-state, uniform-flow (USUF) processes. The basic assumptions for** this **flow** condition **are** as **follows:**

- **1)** The **thermodynamic state of the mass within the control volume may change with time, but at any instant of time the state** is **uniform throughout the entire** control **volume.**
- **2) The thermodynamic state of the** mass **entedng the control volume is** constant **with time.**

Figure 9 Schematic of the System.

Using these assumptions and **Figure 9 as** a **guide, the first law [14]** can be **simplified for a tank filling scenario with heat transfer** and **control volume work. W'dhno velocity or gravity** potential **terms, the first law for thistank fillingprocess** is,

$$
m_{in}h_{in} = m_2u_2 - m_1u_1 + W_{cv} + Q_{cv}
$$
 (19)

where m is **the mass, h is** the **enthalpy, u is the internal energy, Wcv is the total** control **volume work,** and Q_{CV} is the total heat transfer. The subscripts in, 2, and 1 denote the inlet, final and initial states, **respectively. From the** continuity **equation, the** following **relationship** can **also** be **developed.**

$$
m_{\rm in} = m_2 - m_1 \tag{20}
$$

Substituting equation (20) into equation (19), replacing the enthalpy with CpT and the internal energy **with CvT (the assumption of constant specific heats) yields**

$$
(m_2 - m_1)C_p T_{in} = m_2 C_v T_2 - m_1 C_v T_1 + W_{cv} + Q_{cv}
$$
 (21)

where Cp, Cv and **T are the** constant pressure **specific heat, the** constant **volume specific heat and temperature, respectively. Incorporating the ideal gas law (PV=RT) into** equation **(21) gives**

$$
\left(\frac{P_2V_2}{RT_2} - \frac{P_1V_1}{RT_1}\right)C_pT_{in} = \frac{P_2V_2}{RT_2}C_vT_2 - \frac{P_1V_1}{RT}C_vT_1 + W_{cv} + Q_{cv}
$$
(22)

where **P is the pressure, V is the volume, and R** is **the specific gas** constant. **Rearranging** equation **(22) produces**

$$
\left(\frac{P_2}{T_2} - \frac{P_1 V_1}{T_1 V_2}\right) C_p T_{in} = \left(P_2 - \frac{P_1 V_1}{V_2}\right) C_v + \frac{W_{CV} R}{V_2} + \frac{Q_{CV} R}{V_2}
$$
 (23)

Dividing by the constant volume specific heat, Cv, and **defining a new variable**

$$
\frac{V_1}{V_2} = \frac{1}{V_r} \tag{24}
$$

equation **(5) becomes,**

$$
\left(\frac{P_2}{T_2} - \frac{P_1}{T_1 V_r}\right) kT_{in} = \left(P_2 - \frac{P_1}{V_r}\right) + \frac{W_{cv} R}{C_V V_2} + \frac{Q_{cv} R}{C_V V_2}
$$
\n(25)

where **k** is **the ratio of the specific heats. Rearranging equation (7) gives**

$$
\frac{P_2}{T_2} = \frac{P_2 V_r \cdot P_1}{kT_{in}V_r} + \frac{P_1}{T_1V_r} + \frac{W_{cv} R}{kT_{in}C_vV_2} + \frac{Q_{cv} R}{kT_{in}C_vV_2}
$$
(26)

Solving for the final temperature gives,

$$
T_2 = \frac{P_2}{\left(\frac{P_2 V_f - P_1}{kT_{in}V_f} + \frac{P_1}{T_1V_f} + \frac{W_{cv}R}{kT_{in}C_VV_2} + \frac{Q_{cv}R}{kT_{in}C_VV_2}\right)}
$$
(27)

Further simplification yields,

$$
T_2 = \frac{kP_2T_1T_{in}V_r}{((P_2V_r - P_1)T_1 + kP_1T_{in} + \frac{W_{cv}RT_1}{C_VV_1} + \frac{Q_{cv}RT_1}{C_VV_2})}
$$
(28)

Reviewing equation **(28) shows that when work or heat leaves the** control **volume, the** final **temperature will be reduced** compared **to** a **system in** which **these quantities are** absent. **It is also important to note that in the absence of work and heat transfer,** equation **(28) reduces to a** common **equation that is used to estimate final temperatures in rigid adiabatic** containers **[14].**

In writing equation **(28) it is assumed that the total work, Wcv, that occurs between the initial (1) and final (2) states is known or can be determined. In general, the** work **term** is **not** constant **and redes with both system pressure** and **volume. From thermodynamic relationships [14], the total** control **volume work** is **defined as**

$$
W_{CV} = \int_{1}^{2} P dV
$$
 (29)

Typically, volume is related to the pressure by an arbitrary function.

$$
V = f(P) \tag{30}
$$

Similarly **the pressure is** related **to the volume by the inverse function**

$$
P = f^{1}(V) \tag{31}
$$

Replacing the pressure term in equation (29) with equation **(31) gives**

$$
W_{\text{cv}} = \int_{1}^{2} f^{-1}(V) dV
$$
 (32)

For the present study, the function, f(P), was chosen so that the integral could easily be evaluated. The manipulation of the SINDA/FLUINT code to include control volume work will be discussed shortly in an upcoming section.

Development of the SINDA Model

Figure 10 shows a **schematic of the FLUINT model that was used to validate the code. Here,** a **TANK is** connected **to** a **PLEN (PLENum) by an MFRSET (Mass Flow Rate SET). By using the TANK option, the first assumption for USUF processes (uniform state within the control volume) is met. The use of the PLEN ensures that the second USUF assumption of constant inlet properties is** also maintained. **To ensure that the** working **fluid is an** ideal **gas,** an **8000** series **fluid, using nitrogen** as **the woddng fluid, was developed** and **employed.**

Figure 10 Schematic of the FLUINT Model.

While the SINDA/FLUINT program does not directly calculate (include) work terms for expending (or contracting) control **volumes, the code does** calculate **the thermal** and **hydraulic response** of **compliant(soft)TANKs. In the code, the compliance** is **defined as**

$$
COMP = \frac{1}{V} \frac{dV}{dP}
$$
 (33)

Therefore, if **there** is a **function relating pressure** and **volume, an expanding control volume** can **be included in the FLUINT model,** and by **using equations (29) through (32), the** control **volume work** can **then be determined for the analytical solution.**

Before the results are **examined, it is important to first review the** analytical **solution. Equation (28) has been derived from a basic** thermodynamic equation **which was integrated over time. While the FLUINT code uses** a **rate based thermodynamic** equation, **the code integrates** this equation **over** small **discretized time intervals and the starting** conditions **at one time** step **are taken from the final conditions of the previous time step. This procedure employed by the R.UINT is the numerical** equivalent **of an integration. Since FLUINT has been developed using rate based**

equationsand **the** analytical **solution uses overall heat transfer, one of the** solution **methods must be modified. To modify the heat transfer terms so that they can** be **included** in **the** analytical solution, **all that is required is that the FLUINT heat transfer term (QDOT in FLUINT) be mufliplied by the total run time (TIMEN) and thus total heat transfer.**

Results

The comparison study was conducted in several steps. First, the model considered situations where only heat transfer or the volume changed. The model was then run for situations in which there was both simultaneous heat transfer and control volume work. For all the cases examined, the initial pressure and temperature within the storage container **was** set **to 100 psia and 70 °F, respectively,** while **the inlet temperature was held to 70 °F.** The **final pressure of the tank was** limited to 1000 psia. The volume of the TANK was initially set to 0.5 ft³. The results from these **studies are summarized in Tables I through 4.**

Figure 11 shows the predicted control volume temperature as **a function of pressure for a variety of cooling rates with** a **fixed volume. As expected, the greater the heat loss, the lower the predicted temperature. In other words, a portionof the heat of** compression is **removed, resulting in lower predicted temperatures. More importantly, however,** is **to note that regardless of the heat transfer rate, the predictions** are **nearly identicalto those of the** analytical solution.

Figure 12 presents the analytical **and predicted** control **volume temperature as a function of pressure for various heating rates. For these cases, the higher the heat addition, the higher the final volume temperature. Again, the predicted results** are **nearly identicalto those of the** analytical **solution.**

Figure 13 shows the predicted and **analytical solution temperatures for the situation of an expandable** control **volume in which there is no heat transfer. Since** a portion **of the working fluid's energy** must **be used to produce work, the temperatures are lower then for the case in which the volume is fixed. For this situation too, the code was able to predict results** nearly **identical to** those **of the analytical** solution.

Figure 14 presents the analytical **and predicted temperatures for the conditions which include both** control **volume work** and **heat transfer. The volume** is equal **to the pressure** multiplied **by a** constant. **Depending on the situation examined, the** predicted **tempemtura was either greater** (heating) or less (cooling) than the base case. As is evident, the code was able to match the results **of the analytical solution.**

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This **paper details** a **validation** study **of the SINDA/FLUINT program for several simple situations and focused on** the **major building blocks of the SINDA and FLUINT portions of the code.** The **code was validated** by comparing **its results with those of four closed form** solutions. **The thermal** analyzer **portion of the code (conduction and radiative heat transfer, SINDA** portion) **was first** compared **to two separate** solutions. **The first comparison examined** a **semi-infinite slab with a** periodic **surface temperature boundary condition. Next, a small, uniform temperature object (lumped** capacitance) **was** allowed **to radiate to** a **fixed temperature sink. The fluid portion of the code (FLUINT) was** also compared **to two different** analytical solutions. **The first study examined a** tank **filling process** by **an** ideal **gas in** which **there is both control volume work and heat transfer. The final** comparison considered **the flow in** a **pipe joining two infinite** reservoim **of pressure. The results of** all **these studies showed that for the situations examined here, the SINDNFLUINT code was** able **to** match **the results** of **the analytical** solutions.

To date only one large scale SINDNFLUINT model has been built and **used to validate the FLUINT code [11]** and **the interaction between SINDA/FLUINT modeling components has yet to be examined.** Therefore, **future studies should** be **devoted to building large sized models** which can **be verified by either analytical** solutions **or experimental data.**

Rgum 11 Predicted and **Analytical (Solid** Une--) **Temperature Response for Various Heat Losses** and **no Control Volume Work.**

Rgure 12 Predicted and Analytical (Solid Une _) **Temperature Response for Various Heating Rates and no Control Volume Work.**

 $\,$ $\,$

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Figure 13 Predicted and Analytical (Solid Line ----) Temperature Response for Various Pressure-Volume Relationships and no Heat Transfer.

Figure 14 Predicted and Analytical (Solid Line ----) Temperature Response for Various Pressure-
Volume Relationships and Heat Transfer.

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