

MECH 3460 Heat Transfer: Fin Equation Summary

Fins of Uniform Cross-Sectional Area

Case	Tip Condition	Temperature Distribution $\frac{\theta(x)}{\theta_b}$	Fin Heat Rate, q_f [W]
A	Convection	$\frac{\cosh(m(L-x)) + \left(\frac{h}{mk}\right) \sinh(m(L-x))}{\cosh(mL) + \left(\frac{h}{mk}\right) \sinh(mL)}$	$M \frac{\sinh(mL) + \left(\frac{h}{mk}\right) \cosh(mL)}{\cosh(mL) + \left(\frac{h}{mk}\right) \sinh(mL)}$
B	Adiabatic	$\frac{\cosh(m(L-x))}{\cosh(mL)}$	$M \tanh(mL)$
C	Temperature Specified	$\frac{\left[\left(\frac{\theta_L}{\theta_b}\right) \sinh(mx) + \sinh(m(L-x))\right]}{\sinh(mL)}$	$M \frac{\cosh(mL) - \left(\frac{\theta_L}{\theta_b}\right)}{\sinh(mL)}$
D	Infinite Length	e^{-mx}	M

$\theta(x) = (T(x) - T_\infty)$
$\theta_b = (T_b - T_\infty) = (T(0) - T_\infty)$
$\theta_L = (T_L - T_\infty) = (T(L) - T_\infty)$
$m = \left[\frac{hP}{kA_c}\right]^{1/2}$
$M = \theta_b [hPkA_c]^{1/2}$

$P \equiv$ perimeter
$A_C \equiv$ cross-sectional area
$k \equiv$ thermal conductivity
$h \equiv$ convection heat transfer coefficient
$T_b \equiv$ fin base temperature
$T_\infty \equiv$ ambient fluid temperature
$L \equiv$ fin length

$\sinh(x) = \frac{1}{2} (e^x - e^{-x})$
$\cosh(x) = \frac{1}{2} (e^x + e^{-x})$
$\tanh(x) = \frac{\sinh(x)}{\cosh(x)}$

