Heat Conductometer - Handel w/ Metal Spokes!

date

Reference & background reading: Transferring Thermal Energy Conduction p164 & Specific Heat p161

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## **Materials:**

- 1 Conductometer
- Wax chips
- Candles
- Goggles
- Stop watches
- Match heads optional



# Reading:

There are several methods of determining the diverse conductivity of metals using the spoke type conductometer. In each method, heat is applied to the central hub. The heat flows out along the spokes of each metal to the ends. Some heat is consumed in raising the temperature the metal of the spokes, some heat is lost to the air through convection and some simply radiates away as radiation. The heating of the spokes leading to the wax melting involves more than just thermal conductivity of the metal alone. It involves three factors; *atomic mass* of the metal, *specific heat* and *conductivity* of the individual metals.

To demonstrate the conduction of heat from the aluminum central hub to the ends of the spokes, we will place a chip of wax in the curvatures near the end of each spoke. You will want to make sure that each little curvature or dimple gets a tiny chip or ball of wax. The spokes which conduct heat the best, will melt their wax chips first. Another method is to place match heads in the curvature at the end of each spoke. The matches should ignite in order of the metal with the lowest specific heat, to the metal with the highest. The property of metals' ability to conduct heat is demonstrated with this simple experiment during our lab.

As a matter of student interest, you may like to note the position in the periodic table of the *good* heat conductors of lower specific heats verses the poorer ones with higher specific heats. In metals, thermal conductivity is highest in the metals having a large number of free electrons such as the group 1 elements. Alloys of these metals with a member of group 6, 7 or 8 are usually very poor conductors and even lower than the group 6, 7, or 8 metals in their pure form alone. Source (Morris and Lee Co.)

# Prelab /PREP QUESTIONS:

- 1. A range of **conductivities** exist for various substances. <u>True or False</u>
- 2. The heat energy required to raise the temperature of 1 unit of a substance 1 degree Celsius is referred to as **specific heat**. <u>True or False</u>
- 3. Another way to think about **specific heat** is the amount of thermal energy a substance can retain and hold onto for a period of time. <u>True or False</u>
- 4. In your own words what is **specific heat.**

5. What are 3 factors that could affect the amount of heat energy that is transferred along each metal spoke? (read cover of lab)

6. Define the term **alloy** from the glossary in your Physical Science Textbook or use Google, your text or other resource. Which metals from were alloys?

7. Which metals from were alloys?

## **Reference Table:**

Metal	Hub Marking	<b>Conductivity</b>	Specific Heat	mass of the spoke
			J/ g deg. C	grams
Copper	CU	1.00	0.39	3.23 g
Brass – Cu & Zn	BS	0.26	0.38	3.08 g
Nickel	NI	0.14	0.44	3.21 g
Iron	FE	0.11	0.45	2.84 g
Stainless Steel	SS	0.04	0.46 - 0.502	2.8 g
Aluminum	Al	0.50	0.90	0.98 g

Stainless Steel - Fe, Cr, Ni

Consider the reference data above. Debate, discuss and create a hypothesis by labeling the spokes in the order you think the wax will melt.



## **PROCEDURE:**

- □ 1. Setup lab table groups & load wax into conductometer
- □ 2. Safety check: all loose clothing tucked in and hair tied up, goggles on etc.
- 3. Assign group leader, safety boss, stop watch boss, wax loader, data quality assurance controller, data recorder

## DATA:

- 1. Be sure and verify the various metal elements or alloys that **your conductometer** has.
- 2. The label the metal spokes as they appear on the central hub below on diagram.
- 3. Place lit candle under the central hub.
- 4. With careful observation record the order 1,2,3,4,5 in which the wax melts.
- 5. Simply write on this page 1-2-3-4-5 next to each spoke in the proper order with label.
- 6. Extend stop watch timer data



Label each metal or alloy **5pts** Record the order by numbering each spoke clearly 1-5, when wax starts to melt **5pts** 

### **Reference Table:**

Metal	Hub Marking	<b>Conductivity</b>	Specific Heat	mass of the spoke
			J/ g deg. C	grams
Copper	CU	1.00	0.39	3.23 g
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#### Lab write up Q's

Calculate the thermal energy required to melt each of the wax balls at the ends of each of the spokes in your group's conductometer. Assume the class room is 20°C and that the wax melts at 37°C. Check classroom thermometer for more accurate room temperature data. Use the reference table above for specific heat and mass data regarding each of the metals and the spokes.

- 1. Clearly list the proper formula
- 2. Substitute in the proper numbers

#### 3. Box answer w/ proper units & label the METAL

1. List formula	substitute values	answer w/ units	metal label
2. List formula	substitute values	answer w/ units	metal label
3. List formula	substitute values	answer w/ units	metal label

4. List formula	substitute values	answer w/ units	metal label
5. List formula	substitute values	answer w/ units	metal label
Just in case:			

# Written thought questions Post lab Qs

### DATA TABLE (A):

	Hub	Thermal Energy		
Metal	Marking		Specific Heat	<u>Conductivity</u>
		Joules (J)	J/ g deg. C	
Copper	CU		0.39	1.00
Aluminum	AI		0.38	0.50
Brass	BS		0.44	0.26
Nickel	NI		0.45	0.14
Iron	FE		0.46 - 0.502	0.11
Stainless Steel	SS		0.90	0.04

Write down the thermal energy needed to melt the wax for each metal.

1. Does there appear to be any relationship between the thermal energy calculated in DATA

**TABLE (A):** between thermal energy and specific heat or between thermal energy and

conductivity. Describe this relationship between these properties.

# Written thought questions Post lab Qs

### DATA TABLE (B):

Metal	Hub Marking	Order they melted	<b>Conductivity</b>
Copper	CU		1.00
Aluminum	Al		0.50
Brass	BS		0.26
Nickel	NI		0.14
Iron	FE		0.11
Stainless Steel	SS		0.04

Write the number for the order in which the wax melted for each metal.

4. What kind of relationship do you observe from your DATA TABLE (A): between, Conductivity

& the order in which the wax melts? Does the wax melt faster or slower based on conductivity?

### <mark>DATA TABLE (C):</mark>

Metal	Hub Marking	Atomic Mass	<b>Conductivity</b>	Write the atomic mass for each metal.
				See attached Periodic Table
Copper	CU		1.00	
Aluminum	Al		0.50	
Nickel	NI		0.14	

#### 5. What relationship might you infer from your Conductivity & Atomic Mass DATA TABLE (B)?

# MAKING SCIENCE LAB RELEVANT:

Directions: watch <u>Brilliant Newfoundlander Invents the Solution!</u> https://youtu.be/bRZvAAqzXIw

A. What does the invention do?

B. Discuss a type of heat energy it uses and **explain how**?

C. Why are aluminum cans such a great idea for this invention? Use the words **specific heat and conductivity** 





Actinide	Lanthanide
Series	Series
89 Actinium 227.028	57 La Lanthanum 138.906
90	58
Th	Ce
Thoman	Oerium
232.038	140.115
91	59
Pa	Pr
Protactinium	Praseodymiun
231.036	140.908
92 Uranium 238.029	Neodymium 144.24
93 Np Neptunium 237.048	Promethium 144.913
94	62
Pu	Sm
Plutonium	Samatium
244.064	150.36
Americium	Europium
243.061	151.966
96 <b>Cm</b> Cutium 247.070	64 Gadolinium 157.25
97	E5
BK	Tb
Berkelium	Terblum
247.070	158.925
98	66
Cf	Dy
Californium	Dysprosium
251.080	162.50
99 Einsteinium [254]	67 Ho Holmum 164.930
Fermium 257.095	68 Erbium 167/26
101	69
Md	Tm
Mendelevium	Tnulum
258.1	168.934
102	70
No	Yb
Notelium	Ytterbium
259.101	173.04
103	71
Lr	Lu
Lawrencium	Lutettum
[262]	174.967

