

Heat Conductometer - Handel w/ Metal Spokes!

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

Materials:

- 1 Conductometer
- Wax chips
- Bunsen burner
- Goggles
- Graph Paper
- Stop watches
- Match heads – optional



Label: central hub & spoke (2pts)

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 heat is lost by radiation. The heating of the spokes involves more than thermal conductivity of the metal alone. It involves three factors; *atomic weight (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.

Source (Morris and Lee Co.)

Prelab QUESTIONS:

1. A substance's ability to transfer heat energy is called **conductivity**. True or False **1pt**
2. The heat energy required to raise the temperature of 1 unit of a substance 1 degree Celsius is referred to as **specific heat**. True or False **1pt**
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. True or False **1pt**
4. Which type of heat energy will likely be most responsible for making the wax melt?
a. convection b. conduction
c. radiant d. atomic **2pt**
5. In your own words what is **specific heat**. **2pt**

6. What are three factors that could affect the amount of heat energy that is transferred along each metal spoke? **2pt**

7. Look up and record the term **alloy** from the glossary in your Physical Science Textbook. **2pt**

Prelab QUESTIONS cont:

Recall that group 1 from the periodic table are good conductor, while 6,7,8 are poorer heat conductors.

Look up and write down group number from periodic table of each metal element.

Reference DATA:

| <u>Metal</u> | <u>Periodic Table Symbol</u> | <u>Hub Marking</u> | <u>Conductivity</u> | <u>Atomic Mass</u> | <u>Group Number</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Copper | | CU | 1.00 | | |
| Aluminum | | AL | 0.50 | | |
| Brass | Cu/Zn | BS | 0.26 | / | |
| Nickel | | NI | 0.14 | | |
| Iron | | FE | 0.11 | | |
| Stainless Steel | Fe/Cr/Ni | SS | 0.04 | / / | |

Record **periodic table symbol**

Record **atomic mass** for each of the metals above
See attached periodic table or use one in textbook.

6pts

NOTE: To obtain best performance from the conductometer apparatus, do not heat it excessively. Your Bunsen burner flame should be turned down to a 1.5" flame.

PROCEDURE :

- 1. Choose partner to ignite Bunsen burner & one partner to hold conductometer
- 2. Setup Bunsen burner & load wax into conductometer
- 3. Safety check: all loose clothing tucked in and hair tied up, goggles on wait approval to ignite BB.
- 4. SAFTEY – conductometer is going to get **HOT!** Be aware of your surroundings. Where will you set it down when done? How will YOU assure no one gets burned?

_____ **3pt**

- 5. Ignite burner and then make careful observations. Record which spokes' wax melts first, second, third, etc. (Record on your diagram below)
- 6. Make sure your conductometer diagram is drawn and ready to be labeled before you start. Have fun and be safe.

DIAGRAM :

Draw conductometer **1pt**

Label each metal or alloy **5pt**

Record the order by numbering each spoke clearly 1-5, when wax starts to melt **5pt**

DATA TABLE:

| <u>Metal</u> | <u>Hub Marking</u> | <u>Conductivity</u> | <u>Order in which the wax melts</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Copper | CU | 1.00 | |
| Brass | BS | 0.26 | |
| Nickel | NI | 0.14 | |
| Iron | FE | 0.11 | |
| Stainless Steel | SS | 0.04 | |

Record the number from the diagram above here for each of the spokes in the order wax melted.

5pt

CONCLUSIONS:

1. What relationship do you observe from your **Reference DATA** table between, Conductivity & Atomic Mass?

4pt

2. What are three ways heat is transferred while heating your conductometer?

3pt

4. Explain why the metal rods themselves did not melt when placed in the Bunsen burner flame.

2pt

5. Explain why the wooden handle of the conductometer did not get hot during the experiment.

2pt

6. What kind of relationship do you observe from your **DATA TABLE:** between, Conductivity & the order in which the wax melts? Does the wax melt faster or slower based on conductivity?

4pt

MAKING SCIENCE LAB RELEVANT:

Directions: watch *Brilliant Newfoundlander Invents the Solution!*

<https://youtu.be/bRZvAAqzXlw>

a. Which metal is the central hub in our conductometer made of again?

Hint see **Additional Background** pg1

1pt

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

3pt

c. What does the invention do?

2pt

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

3pt

Periodic Table of the Elements

| Periodic Table of the Elements | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 IA 11A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 18 VIIIA 8A | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 H Hydrogen 1.008 | | 2 IIA 2A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 He Helium 4.003 | | | | | | | |
| 3 Li Lithium 6.941 | | 4 Be Beryllium 9.012 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 B Boron 10.811 | | | | | | | |
| 11 Na Sodium 22.990 | | 12 Mg Magnesium 24.305 | | 3 IIIB 3B | | 4 IVB 4B | | 5 VB 5B | | 6 VIB 6B | | 7 VIIB 7B | | 8 VIII 8 | | 9 VIII 8 | | 10 VIII 8 | | 11 IB 1B | | 12 IIB 2B | | 13 Al Aluminum 26.982 | |
| 19 K Potassium 39.098 | | 20 Ca Calcium 40.078 | | 21 Sc Scandium 44.956 | | 22 Ti Titanium 47.88 | | 23 V Vanadium 50.942 | | 24 Cr Chromium 51.996 | | 25 Mn Manganese 54.938 | | 26 Fe Iron 55.933 | | 27 Co Cobalt 58.933 | | 28 Ni Nickel 58.693 | | 29 Cu Copper 63.546 | | 30 Zn Zinc 65.39 | | 31 Ga Gallium 69.732 | |
| 37 Rb Rubidium 84.468 | | 38 Sr Strontium 87.62 | | 39 Y Yttrium 88.906 | | 40 Zr Zirconium 91.224 | | 41 Nb Niobium 92.906 | | 42 Mo Molybdenum 95.94 | | 43 Tc Technetium 98.907 | | 44 Ru Ruthenium 101.07 | | 45 Rh Rhodium 102.906 | | 46 Pd Palladium 106.42 | | 47 Ag Silver 107.868 | | 48 Cd Cadmium 112.411 | | 49 In Indium 114.818 | |
| 55 Cs Cesium 132.905 | | 56 Ba Barium 137.327 | | 57-71 | | 72 Hf Hafnium 178.49 | | 73 Ta Tantalum 180.948 | | 74 W Tungsten 183.85 | | 75 Re Rhenium 186.207 | | 76 Os Osmium 190.23 | | 77 Ir Iridium 192.22 | | 78 Pt Platinum 195.08 | | 79 Au Gold 196.967 | | 80 Hg Mercury 200.59 | | 81 Tl Thallium 204.383 | |
| 87 Fr Francium 223.020 | | 88 Ra Radium 226.025 | | 89-103 | | 104 Rf Rutherfordium [261] | | 105 Db Dubnium [262] | | 106 Sg Seaborgium [266] | | 107 Bh Bohrium [264] | | 108 Hs Hassium [265] | | 109 Mt Meitnerium [268] | | 110 Ds Darmstadtium [269] | | 111 Rg Roentgenium [272] | | 112 Cn Copernicium [277] | | 113 Uut Ununtrium unknown | |
| | | | | Lanthanide Series | | 57 La Lanthanum 138.906 | | 58 Ce Cerium 140.115 | | 59 Pr Praseodymium 140.908 | | 60 Nd Neodymium 144.24 | | 61 Pm Promethium [144, 91.3] | | 62 Sm Samarium 150.36 | | 63 Eu Europium 151.966 | | 64 Gd Gadolinium 157.25 | | 65 Tb Terbium 158.925 | | 66 Dy Dysprosium 162.50 | |
| | | | | Actinide Series | | 89 Ac Actinium 227.028 | | 90 Th Thorium 232.038 | | 91 Pa Protactinium 231.036 | | 92 U Uranium 238.029 | | 93 Np Neptunium 237.048 | | 94 Pu Plutonium 244.064 | | 95 Am Americium 243.061 | | 96 Cm Curium 247.070 | | 97 Bk Berkelium 247.070 | | 98 Cf Californium 251.080 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 67 Ho Holmium 164.930 | | 68 Er Erbium 167.26 | | 69 Tm Thulium 168.934 | | 70 Yb Ytterbium 173.04 | | 71 Lu Lutetium 174.967 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 100 Fm Fermium 257.095 | | 101 Md Mendelevium 258.1 | | 102 No Nobelium 259.101 | | 103 Lr Lawrencium [262] | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|---------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Alkali Metal | Alkaline Earth | Transition Metal | Semimetal | Nonmetal | Basic Metal | Halogen | Noble Gas | Lanthanide | Actinide |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|---------|-----------|------------|----------|