



Model created in COMSOL Multiphysics 6.4

# Axisymmetric Transient Heat Transfer

## *Introduction*

---

This example shows an axisymmetric transient thermal analysis with a step change to 1000°C at time 0. The example is taken from a NAFEMS benchmark collection ([Ref. 1](#)).

## *Model Definition*

---

This example considers the 0.3 m-by-0.4 m domain. For the boundary conditions, assume the following:

- The left boundary is the symmetry axis.
- The other boundaries have a temperature of 1000°C. The entire domain is at 0°C at the start, which represents a step change in temperature at the boundaries.

In the domain use the following material properties:

- The density,  $\rho$ , is 7850 kg/m<sup>3</sup>
- The heat capacity is 460 J/(kg·°C)
- The thermal conductivity is 52 W/(m·°C).

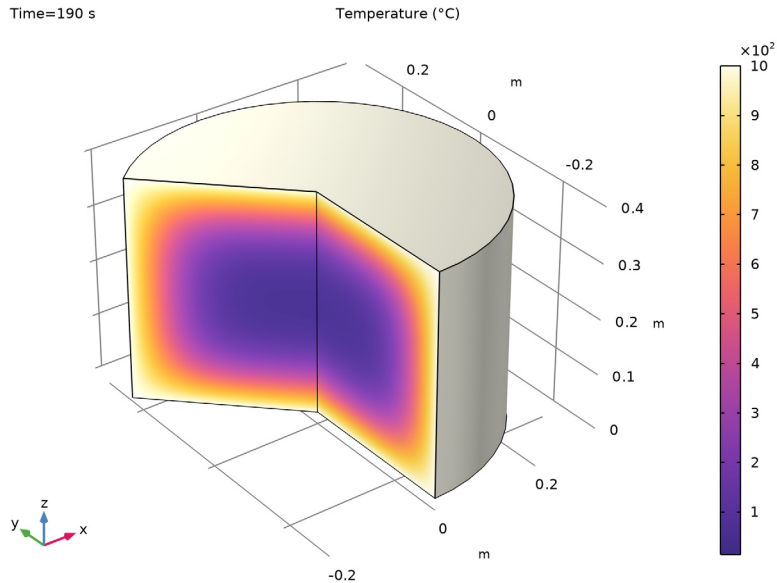
The benchmark case is described with a simulation time of 190 s.

This models doubles the simulation with two scenarios:

- 1 the temperature condition of 1000°C is maintained during all the simulation.
- 2 at  $t = 190$  s, the temperature condition is replaced by a thermal insulation condition.

## Results

The following revolved surface plot shows the temperature distribution inside the cylinder after 190 seconds:



*Figure 1: Temperature distribution after 190 seconds.*

The benchmark result for the target location ( $t = 190$  s,  $r = 0.1$  m and  $z = 0.3$  m) is a temperature of  $186.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The COMSOL Multiphysics model, using a default mesh with about 430 elements, gives a temperature close to  $186.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The line graph below shows the temperature variation during 380 s at the target location ( $r = 0.1$  m and  $z = 0.3$  m) for the two scenarios.

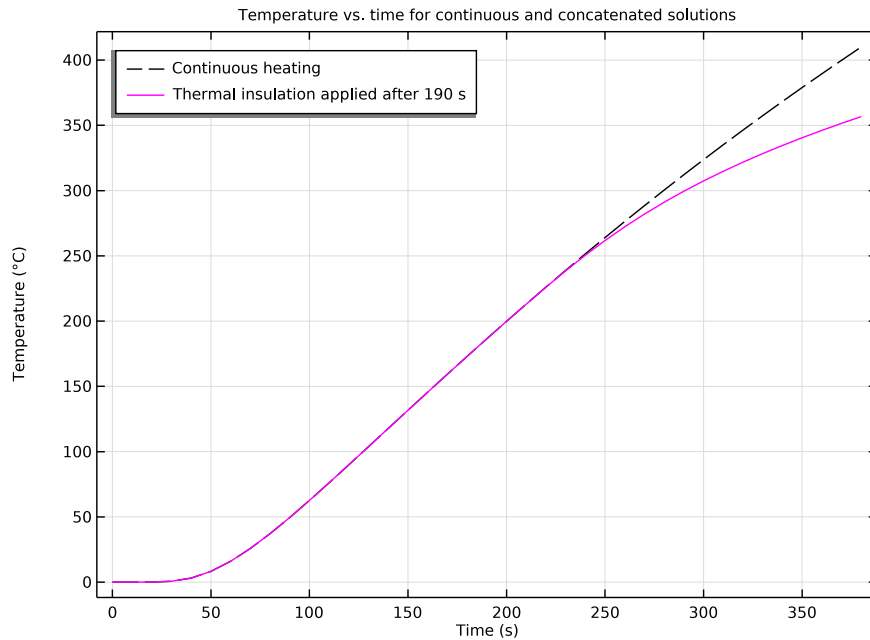


Figure 2: Temperature variation at  $r = 0.1$  m and  $z = 0.3$  m for continuous heating and for thermal insulation after 190 s.

---

### Reference

1. A.D. Cameron, J.A. Casey, and G.B. Simpson, *NAFEMS Benchmark Tests for Thermal Analysis (Summary)*, NAFEMS, Glasgow, 1986.

---


**Application Library path:** COMSOL\_Multiphysics/Heat\_Transfer/  
heat\_transient\_axi

---




### Modeling Instructions

From the **File** menu, choose **New**.

## NEW



In the **New** window, click  **Model Wizard**.

## MODEL WIZARD

- 1 In the **Model Wizard** window, click  **2D Axisymmetric**.
- 2 In the **Select Physics** tree, select **Heat Transfer > Heat Transfer in Solids (ht)**.
- 3 Click **Add**.
- 4 Click  **Study**.
- 5 In the **Select Study** tree, select **General Studies > Time Dependent**.
- 6 Click  **Done**.


## GEOMETRY I

### *Rectangle 1 (r1)*

- 1 In the **Geometry** toolbar, click  **Rectangle**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Rectangle**, locate the **Size and Shape** section.
- 3 In the **Width** text field, type 0.3.
- 4 In the **Height** text field, type 0.4.
- 5 Click  **Build All Objects**.

## HEAT TRANSFER IN SOLIDS (HT)

### *Temperature 1*

- 1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click  **Boundaries** and choose **Temperature**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Temperature**, locate the **Boundary Selection** section.
- 3 From the **Selection** list, choose **All boundaries**.
- 4 Locate the **Temperature** section. In the  $T_0$  text field, type 1000[degC].

### *Solid 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Solid 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Solid**, locate the **Heat Conduction, Solid** section.
- 3 From the  $k$  list, choose **User defined**. In the associated text field, type 52.
- 4 Locate the **Thermodynamics, Solid** section. From the  $\rho$  list, choose **User defined**. In the associated text field, type 7850.
- 5 From the  $C_p$  list, choose **User defined**. In the associated text field, type 460.

### Initial Values I


- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Initial Values I**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Initial Values**, locate the **Initial Values** section.
- 3 In the  $T$  text field, type 0[degC].

### STUDY I

#### Time Dependent - Continuous Simulation (with Heating)

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Study I** click **Step 1: Time Dependent**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Time Dependent**, type Time Dependent - Continuous Simulation (with Heating) in the **Label** text field.
- 3 Locate the **Study Settings** section. In the **Output times** text field, type range (0, 10, 380).



To improve time accuracy, lower the default solver tolerance:

- 4 From the **Tolerance** list, choose **User controlled**.
- 5 In the **Relative tolerance** text field, type 1e-5.
- 6 In the **Study** toolbar, click  **Compute**.

Change the unit of the temperature results to degrees Celsius.

### RESULTS

#### Preferred Units I

- 1 In the **Results** toolbar, click  **Configurations** and choose **Preferred Units**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Preferred Units**, locate the **Units** section.
- 3 Click  **Add Physical Quantity**.
- 4 In the **Physical Quantity** dialog, select **General > Temperature (K)** in the tree.
- 5 Click **OK**.
- 6 In the **Settings** window for **Preferred Units**, locate the **Units** section.
- 7 In the table, enter the following settings:

Quantity	Unit	Preferred unit
Temperature	K	°C

- 8 Click  **Apply**.


#### Temperature (ht)

The default plot shows the 2D distribution of temperature.

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** click **Temperature (ht)**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **2D Plot Group**, locate the **Data** section.
- 3 From the **Time (s)** list, choose **190**.

To get the plot shown in [Figure 1](#), add a result template for 3D Temperature distribution:

#### **RESULT TEMPLATES**

- 1 In the **Results** toolbar, click  **Result Templates** to open the **Result Templates** window.
- 2 Go to the **Result Templates** window.
- 3 In the tree, select **Study 1/Solution 1 (sol1) > Heat Transfer in Solids > Temperature (ht)**.
- 4 Click the **Add Result Template** button in the window toolbar.

#### **RESULTS**

##### *Temperature 3D*

- 1 In the **Settings** window for **3D Plot Group**, type **Temperature 3D** in the **Label** text field.
- 2 Locate the **Data** section. From the **Time (s)** list, choose **190**.

##### *Volume 1*

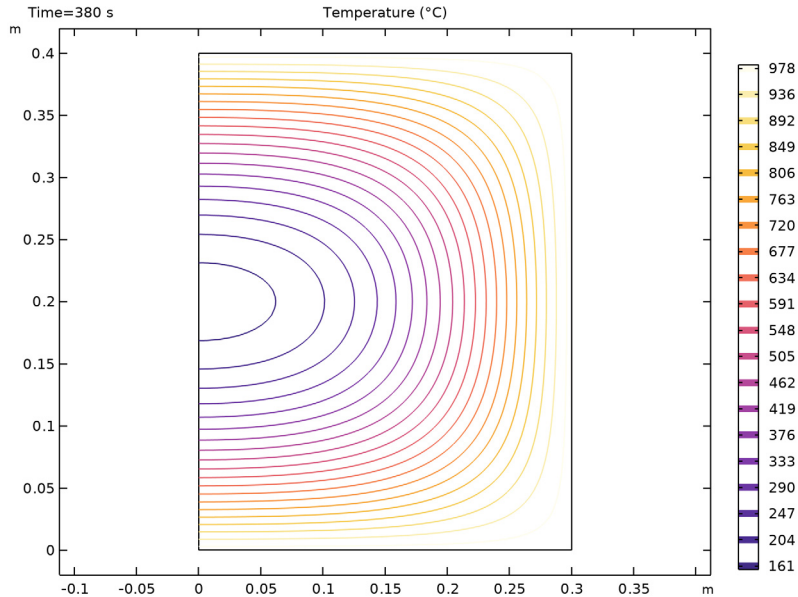
Add another result template to visualize the temperature field using a contour plot.

#### **RESULT TEMPLATES**

- 1 Go to the **Result Templates** window.
- 2 In the tree, select **Study 1/Solution 1 (sol1) > Heat Transfer in Solids > Isothermal Contours (ht)**.
- 3 Click the **Add Result Template** button in the window toolbar.
- 4 From the **Results** menu, choose **Result Templates**.

## RESULTS

### *Isothermal Contours (ht)*



The benchmark value for the temperature at  $t = 190$  s,  $r = 0.1$  m and  $z = 0.3$  m is  $186.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . To compare the value from the simulation, evaluate the temperature at this position.

#### *Cut Point 2D 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Temperature 3D** node.
- 2 Right-click **Results > Datasets** and choose **Cut Point 2D**.
- 3 In the **Settings** window for **Cut Point 2D**, locate the **Point Data** section.
- 4 In the **R** text field, type 0.1.
- 5 In the **Z** text field, type 0.3.



#### *Point Evaluation 1*

- 1 In the **Results** toolbar, click  $8.85 \times 10^{-12}$  **Point Evaluation**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Point Evaluation**, locate the **Data** section.
- 3 From the **Dataset** list, choose **Cut Point 2D 1**.
- 4 From the **Time selection** list, choose **From list**.
- 5 In the **Times (s)** list box, select **190**.

- 6 Click  **Evaluate**.

As an optional extension of the model, you can add a study sequence where, starting from 190 s, the boundaries are thermally insulated.

#### ADD STUDY



- 1 In the **Home** toolbar, click  **Add Study** to open the **Add Study** window.
- 2 Go to the **Add Study** window.
- 3 Find the **Studies** subsection. In the **Select Study** tree, select **General Studies** > **Time Dependent**.
- 4 Click the **Add Study** button in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the **Home** toolbar, click  **Add Study** to close the **Add Study** window.

#### STUDY 2


*Time Dependent - First Part (with Heating)*

- 1 In the **Settings** window for **Time Dependent**, type Time Dependent - First Part (with Heating) in the **Label** text field.
- 2 Locate the **Study Settings** section. In the **Output times** text field, type range (0, 10, 190).
- 3 From the **Tolerance** list, choose **User controlled**.
- 4 In the **Relative tolerance** text field, type 1e-5.

*Time Dependent - Second Part (with Insulation)*


- 1 In the **Study** toolbar, click  **Time Dependent**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Time Dependent**, type Time Dependent - Second Part (with Insulation) in the **Label** text field.
- 3 Locate the **Study Settings** section. In the **Output times** text field, type range (190, 10, 380).
- 4 From the **Tolerance** list, choose **User controlled**.
- 5 In the **Relative tolerance** text field, type 1e-5.
- 6 Locate the **Physics and Variables Selection** section. Select the **Modify model configuration for study step** checkbox.
- 7 In the tree, select **Component 1 (comp1)** > **Heat Transfer in Solids (ht)** > **Temperature 1**.
- 8 Click  **Disable**.

*Temperature (ht) 1*

In the **Study** toolbar, click  **Compute**.

To combine the two time-dependent simulations, add a **Combine Solutions** study step. This concatenates the two solutions and makes it possible to treat the output as a single continuous time-dependent solution.

*Step 3: Combine Solutions*

1 In the **Study** toolbar, click  **More Study Extensions** and choose **Combine Solutions**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Combine Solutions**, locate the **Combine Solutions Settings** section.

3 From the **First solution** list, choose **Study 2/Solution Store 1 (sol3)**.

4 In the **Study** toolbar, click  **Compute**.


## RESULTS

*Cut Point 2D - Continuous Heating*

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** > **Datasets** click **Cut Point 2D 1**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Cut Point 2D**, type Cut Point 2D - Continuous Heating in the **Label** text field.

*Cut Point 2D - Combined Solutions*

1 In the **Results** toolbar, click  **Cut Point 2D**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Cut Point 2D**, type Cut Point 2D - Combined Solutions in the **Label** text field.

3 Locate the **Data** section. From the **Dataset** list, choose **Study 2/Solution 2 (sol2)**.

4 Locate the **Point Data** section. In the **R** text field, type 0.1.

5 In the **Z** text field, type 0.3.

*Join - Temperature Difference*


1 In the **Results** toolbar, click  **More Datasets** and choose **Join**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Join**, type Join - Temperature Difference in the **Label** text field.

3 Locate the **Data 1** section. From the **Data** list, choose **Cut Point 2D - Continuous Heating**.

4 Locate the **Data 2** section. From the **Data** list, choose **Cut Point 2D - Combined Solutions**.

*Temperature, ID*

1 In the **Results** toolbar, click  **ID Plot Group**.

- 2 In the **Settings** window for **ID Plot Group**, type **Temperature**, **1D** in the **Label** text field.
- 3 Locate the **Data** section. From the **Dataset** list, choose **None**.
- 4 Click to expand the **Title** section. From the **Title type** list, choose **Manual**.
- 5 In the **Title** text area, type **Temperature vs. time for continuous and concatenated solutions**.

*Point Graph 1*

- 1 Right-click **Temperature, 1D** and choose **Point Graph**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Point Graph**, locate the **Data** section.
- 3 From the **Dataset** list, choose **Cut Point 2D - Continuous Heating**.
- 4 Click to expand the **Coloring and Style** section. Find the **Line style** subsection. From the **Line** list, choose **Dashed**.
- 5 From the **Color** list, choose **From theme**.

*Point Graph 2*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, right-click **Temperature, 1D** and choose **Point Graph**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Point Graph**, locate the **Data** section.
- 3 From the **Dataset** list, choose **Cut Point 2D - Combined Solutions**.
- 4 Locate the **Coloring and Style** section. From the **Color** list, choose **Magenta**.

*Point Graph 1*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Point Graph 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Point Graph**, click to expand the **Legends** section.
- 3 Select the **Show legends** checkbox.
- 4 From the **Legends** list, choose **Manual**.
- 5 In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends
Continuous heating

*Point Graph 2*

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Point Graph 2**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Point Graph**, locate the **Legends** section.
- 3 Select the **Show legends** checkbox.
- 4 From the **Legends** list, choose **Manual**.

5 In the table, enter the following settings:

---


**Legends**

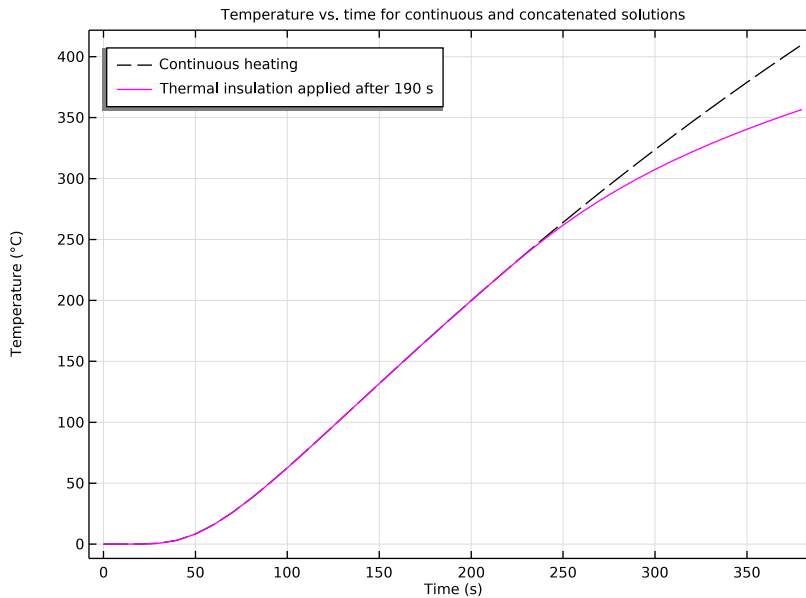
---

Thermal insulation applied after 190 s


---

*Temperature, ID*


- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Temperature, ID**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **ID Plot Group**, locate the **Legend** section.
- 3 From the **Position** list, choose **Upper left**.
- 4 In the **Temperature, ID** toolbar, click  **Plot**.



*Temperature Difference, ID*

- 1 In the **Results** toolbar, click  **ID Plot Group**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **ID Plot Group**, type Temperature Difference, ID in the **Label** text field.
- 3 Locate the **Data** section. From the **Dataset** list, choose **Join - Temperature Difference**.
- 4 Locate the **Title** section. From the **Title type** list, choose **Manual**.
- 5 In the **Title** text area, type Temperature difference.

*Point Graph 1*

- 1 Right-click **Temperature Difference, ID** and choose **Point Graph**.
- 2 In the **Temperature Difference, ID** toolbar, click  **Plot**.
- 3 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Point Graph 1**.

