

Thermal Decomposition

Introduction

In this tutorial, the heat and mass transport equations are coupled to laminar flow in order to model exothermic reactions in a parallel plate reactor. It exemplifies how you can use COMSOL Multiphysics to systematically set up and solve increasingly sophisticated models using predefined physics interfaces.

Model Definition

In this model you investigate the unimolecular decomposition of a chemical passing through a parallel plate reactor. A heat–sensitive compound is present in a water solution. After entering the reactor, the liquid first experiences expansion – due to a step in the bottom plate. Before exiting, the fluid also passes a heated cylinder.

The full 3D representation of the reactor geometry is given in Figure 1.



Figure 1: 3D geometry of a parallel plate reactor. The reacting fluid is heated as it passes the cylinder.

The short inlet section of the reactor is considerably wider than it is high. With such a geometry, it is reasonable to assume that the laminar flow develops a parabolic velocity profile between the top and bottom plate. At the same time, the velocity between the side walls is expected to be close to constant (Ref. 1). As a consequence, you can reduce the

modeling domain to 2D without dramatically reducing the validity of the simulation (see Figure 2).



Figure 2: Neglecting edge effects, the modeling geometry can be reduced to 2D.

CHEMISTRY

A heat–sensitive chemical (A) undergoes thermal decomposition into fragments (F) according to the following unimolecular reaction in water:

A
$$\xrightarrow{k}$$
 F

The reaction rate (SI unit: $mol/(m^3 \cdot s)$) is given by:

rate = kc_A

where rate constant k (SI unit: s⁻¹) is temperature–dependent according to the Arrhenius equation:

$$k = A \exp\left(-\frac{E}{R_{\rm g}T}\right) \tag{1}$$

In Equation 1, *A* is the frequency factor $(1 \times 10^{10} \text{ 1/s})$, *E* the activation energy $(72 \times 10^3 \text{ J/mol})$, $R_{\rm g}$ the gas constant (8.314 J/(mol·K)), and *T* the temperature (SI unit: K).

In addition, the decomposition reaction is exothermic, and the rate of energy expelled is given by:

$$Q = -\text{rate} \cdot H$$

where *H* is the heat of reaction (-100 kJ/mol).

The reaction kinetics are set up with the Chemistry interface. The fragments' concentration is for simplicity set as constant in the model, thus only the decomposing species is modeled.

The conversion of species A in the reactor is a function of the residence time; that is, it depends on the detailed fluid flow. Furthermore, the decomposition is influenced by the temperature distribution.

MOMENTUM TRANSPORT

The Navier–Stokes equations, which are solved by the single-phase flow interface, consist of the continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) = 0 \tag{2}$$

and the momentum equations

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\nabla p + \nabla \cdot \left(\mu (\nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^T) - \frac{2}{3} \mu (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{I} \right) + \mathbf{F}$$
(3)

Here, μ denotes the dynamic viscosity (SI unit: Ns/m²), **u** the velocity (SI unit: m/s), ρ the density of the fluid (SI unit: kg/m³), *p* the pressure (SI unit: Pa), and **F** a body force term (SI unit: N/m³). This particular model contains the solution to a steady-state problem, so the first term in each of the equations above disappears.

Apart from the domain equations you also need to select proper boundary conditions. At the inlet you specify a velocity vector normal to the boundary:

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} = u_0 \tag{4}$$

At the outlet boundary you specify a pressure $p = p_0$. Finally, at the surfaces of the reactor plates and the heating cylinder you set the velocity to zero, that is, a no slip boundary condition:

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0} \tag{5}$$

By selecting the Laminar Flow interface you can easily associate the momentum balance (Equation 2) and boundary conditions (Equation 4, Equation 5, and Equation 5) with your modeling geometry.

ENERGY TRANSPORT

The energy balance equation applied to the reactor domain considers heat transfer through convection and conduction:

$$\nabla \cdot (-k\nabla T) + \rho C_p (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) T = Q \tag{6}$$

4 | THERMAL DECOMPOSITION

In Equation 6, C_p denotes the specific heat capacity (SI unit: J/(kg·K)), k is the thermal conductivity (SI unit: W/(m·K)), and Q is a sink or source term (SI unit: W/m³).

At the inlet and at the surface of the heating cylinder you set a Temperature boundary condition:

$$T = T_0 \tag{7}$$

$$T = T_{\rm cvl} \tag{8}$$

At the outlet you set an Outflow boundary condition. This prescribes that all energy passing through this boundary does so by means of convective transport. Equivalently, this means that the heat flux due to conduction across the boundary is zero:

$$\mathbf{q}_{\text{cond}} \cdot \mathbf{n} = -k\nabla T \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \tag{9}$$

so that the resulting equation for the total heat flux becomes:

$$\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \rho C_p T \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \tag{10}$$

This is a useful boundary condition, particularly in convection-dominated energy balances where the outlet temperature is unknown.

Finally, assume that no energy is transported across the reactor plates, that is, apply a Thermal Insulation boundary condition:

$$\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \tag{11}$$

Using the Heat Transfer in Fluids interface, you can associate the energy balance (Equation 6) and boundary conditions (Equation 7 to Equation 11) with the modeling geometry.

MASS TRANSPORT

The mass transfer in the reactor domain is given by the stationary convection and diffusion equation:

$$\nabla \cdot (-D_i \nabla c_i) + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla c_i = R_i \tag{12}$$

where D_i denotes its diffusion coefficient (SI unit: m²/s), and R_i denotes the reaction term (SI unit: mol/(m³·s)).

Equation 12 assumes that the species i is diluted in a solvent. The mass transport of the fragments are neglected, due to the constant concentration setting of these in the Chemistry interface.

For the boundary conditions, specify the concentration of compound A at the inlet:

$$c_i = c_{i,0} \tag{13}$$

At the outlet, specify that the mass flow through the boundary is dominated by convection. This assumes that any mass flux due to diffusion across this boundary is zero:

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot (-D_i \nabla c_i) = 0 \tag{14}$$

and that:

$$\mathbf{N}_i \cdot \mathbf{n} = c_i \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \tag{15}$$

Finally, at the surfaces of the reactor plates and the heating cylinder, assume that no mass is transported across the boundaries — that is, an insulation boundary condition:

$$\mathbf{N}_i \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \tag{16}$$

By selecting the Transport in Diluted Species interface you can easily associate the mass balance (Equation 12) and boundary conditions (Equation 13 to Equation 16) with the modeling geometry.

PREPARING FOR MODELING

Before you can start modeling you need to gather the physical data that characterize your reacting flow. For instance, flow modeling requires you to supply the fluid density and viscosity. Mass transport requires knowledge of diffusivities and the reaction kinetics.

Another part of the preparations involves selecting the appropriate physics interfaces and investigating the couplings between different transport equations.

Transport Properties

The term *transport properties* refers to the physical properties occurring in the transport equations (see the previous section). The momentum and heat transfer equations (Equation 3 and Equation 6) require the following *fluid-specific* transport properties:

- Viscosity (µ)
- Density (ρ)
- Thermal conductivity (k)
- Heat capacity (C_p)

The mass transport equation (Equation 12) requires the following *species-specific* property:

• Diffusivities (*D_i*)

You need to supply appropriate values of the transport properties to the physics interfaces in order to ensure accurate simulation results. In the present example, water with the dissolved compound A enters the reactor at 300 K. Because water is the solvent, you can assume that its physical properties are representative for the entire fluid. The warmest part of the reactor is held at 325 K. Table 1 lists the transport properties of water as well as the diffusivity of A in water at 300 K and 325 K.

PROPERTY	AT 300 K	AT 325 K
Density (kg/m ³)	997	987
Viscosity (Ns/m ²)	8.5·10 ⁻⁴	5.3·10 ⁻⁴
Thermal conductivity (W/(m·K))	0.62	0.66
Heat capacity (J/(kg·K))	4180	4182
Diffusivity (m ² /s)	2.0·10 ⁻⁹	2.0·10 ⁻⁹

TABLE I: PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF LIQUID WATER.

When you build this model you make use of the built-in material databases of COMSOL Multiphysics, which automatically provides temperature-dependent properties.

The Flow Regime

The Reynolds number indicates whether a flow is in the laminar or turbulent regime:

Re =
$$\frac{\rho u d}{\eta}$$

As a rule of thumb, a Reynolds number between of 2000 and 2500 marks the transition from stable streamlines to stable turbulent flow. It is always good practice to evaluate the Reynolds number related to the specific flow conditions of the model, because its magnitude guides you to choose the appropriate flow model and corresponding physics interface.

In the present example, you can evaluate the Reynolds number using values from Table 1 and setting the velocity to 5×10^{-4} m/s and the characteristic length to 0.007 m:

$$\operatorname{Re} = \frac{997 \cdot 5 \cdot 10^{-4} \cdot 0.007}{8.5 \cdot 10^{-4}} = 4$$

Calculating the Reynolds number at 325 K produces a nearly identical result.

The Reynolds numbers are well within the limits of the laminar flow regime.

Dilute or Concentrated Mixtures

When modeling mass transport, it is advisable to discriminate between dilute and concentrated mixtures. For dilute mixtures, Fick's Law is adequate to describe the diffusional transport. Furthermore, you can assume that the transport properties of the fluid are those of the solvent. For concentrated mixtures, on the other hand, other diffusion models, such as the Maxwell-Stefan model, may be required. The transport properties of the fluid then depend on the mixture composition.

In COMSOL Multiphysics, the Transport of Diluted Species interface is appropriate for dilute mixtures, while the Transport of Concentrated Species interface is recommended for concentrated mixtures.

As a rule of thumb, you can consider concentrations of up to 10 mol% of a solute in a solvent as a dilute mixture.

In the example at hand, the compound A is dissolved in water at a concentration of 1000 mol/m^3 . As the concentration of pure water is 55,500 mol/m³, the molar fraction of A is approximately 2%. Because the mixture is dilute, it is appropriate to select the Transport of Diluted Species interface for mass transport and to select the transport properties of water as representative values for the mixture.

Solving Coupled Models

As noted previously, the chemistry occurring in the reactor depends both on the fluid flow and the temperature distribution in the reactor. More explicitly, the mass transport equation

$$\frac{\partial c_i}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (-D_i \nabla c_i + c_i \mathbf{u}) = R_i$$
(17)

depends on the velocity vector, \mathbf{u} , which is solved for in the momentum transfer equation (Equation 3).

Furthermore, the source term R_i in Equation 17 is a function of the temperature, which in turn is the dependent variable of the energy transport equation

$$\rho C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (-k \nabla T) + \rho C_p \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla T = Q$$

When attempting to solve a coupled system of equations such as the one illustrated above, it is often a good idea to analyze the couplings involved and then approach the solution in a stepwise fashion.

8 | THERMAL DECOMPOSITION

In the current model, you first neglect the heat of reaction, Q. This leads to a loose bidirectional coupling between the transport equations:

- The momentum transport is weakly dependent on the energy and mass transport through the material properties.
- The energy transport depends only on the momentum transport.
- The mass transport depends on both the momentum transport and the energy transport.

This structure suggests that it is possible to solve the problem sequentially in the following order: First solve the momentum transport and energy transport problem. Then add the mass transport and investigate the difference.

The last step leads to a fully coupled problem:

- The momentum transport depends on the energy transport.
- The energy transport depends on both momentum and mass transport (added heat of reaction).
- The mass transport depends on both the momentum transport and the energy transport.

In this case you must solve the equations describing all transport phenomena simultaneously.

Results and Discussion

Figure 3 shows the velocity field in the reactor domain along with arrows indicating the velocity magnitude.



Figure 3: Velocity field (m/s) in the reactor.

The cross-sectional area of the fluid increases at the step and decreases at the cylinder, leading to a corresponding local reduction and then increase in the fluid velocity. Recirculation zones appear after the step and the cylinder.

The water solution enters the reactor at a temperature of 300 K and is heated as it passes the cylinder (325 K). Figure 4 shows the temperature distribution in the reactor domain at steady state.



Figure 4: A water solution enters the reactor at 300 K and is heated by a cylinder kept at 325 K.



At the reactor inlet, the concentration of A is 1000 mol/m^3 . Figure 5 shows the concentration of A as the compound undergoes decomposition.

Figure 5: Concentration of the heat sensitive chemical (A) (mol/m^3) as function of position in the reactor.

These plots make it possible to identify some general trends. It is clear that decomposition occurs mainly after the liquid has been heated by the cylinder. In the first half of the reactor, where the temperature is relatively low, decomposition is still fairly advanced near the wall and after the step. This is due to the longer residence times in these areas. In the second part of the reactor, where heating takes place, regions with relatively high concentrations of compound A are visible. This also makes physical sense because the water velocity is relatively high.

The temperature distribution in the entire reactor is affected by the heat of reaction. As shown in Figure 6, the maximum fluid temperature now exceeds the temperature of the



0

0.02

-0.01

-0.02

-0.04

-0.05

0

0.02

0.04

heating cylinder. Furthermore, the water temperature is higher than 300 K in the region between the inlet and the cylinder.

Figure 6: Reactor temperature (K) when the heat of reaction is taken into account.

0.08

0.1

0.06

315

310

305

300

0.12 m



Figure 7 plots the rate of reaction as a function of the position in the reactor. Clearly, significant reaction now occurs in the first part of the reactor, before the heating cylinder.

Figure 7: Significant decomposition of compound A occurs in the first half of the reactor.

Reference

1. H. Schlichting, Boundary Layer Theory, 4th ed., McGraw Hill, p. 168, 1960.

Application Library path: Chemical_Reaction_Engineering_Module/ Reactors_with_Mass_and_Heat_Transfer/thermal_decomposition

Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

NEW

In the New window, click 🔗 Model Wizard.

MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click **2D**.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Fluid Flow>Single-Phase Flow>Laminar Flow (spf).
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click 🔿 Study.
- 5 In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Stationary.
- 6 Click M Done.

GLOBAL DEFINITIONS

Import some model parameters from a text file.

Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parameters, locate the Parameters section.
- **3** Click **b** Load from File.
- **4** Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file thermal_decomposition_parameters.txt.

GEOMETRY I

Rectangle 1 (r1)

- I 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 W1.
- 4 In the **Height** text field, type H1.

Rectangle 2 (r2)

- I 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 W2.
- **4** In the **Height** text field, type H2.

Circle I (c1)

- I In the **Geometry** toolbar, click 🕑 **Circle**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Circle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Radius text field, type R1.

- **4** Locate the **Position** section. In the **x** text field, type **xpos**.
- **5** In the **y** text field, type **ypos**.

Add a line segment extending from the back of the cylinder. This will be used to refine the mesh in the wake region.

Line Segment I (Is I)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 🚧 More Primitives and choose Line Segment.
- 2 On the object cl, select Point 3 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Line Segment, locate the Endpoint section.
- 4 From the Specify list, choose Coordinates.
- 5 In the x text field, type xpos+10*R1.
- **6** In the **y** text field, type **ypos**.
- 7 Click 틤 Build Selected.

Difference I (dif1)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 📃 Booleans and Partitions and choose Difference.
- 2 Select the object rl only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Difference, locate the Difference section.
- **4** Find the **Objects to subtract** subsection. Click to select the **Delta Activate Selection** toggle button.
- 5 Select the objects cl and r2 only.
- 6 Click 🔚 Build Selected.

Mesh Control Edges 1 (mcel)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 🏠 Virtual Operations and choose Mesh Control Edges.
- **2** On the object **fin**, select Boundary 6 only.
- 3 In the Geometry toolbar, click 🟢 Build All.

ADD MATERIAL

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Material to open the Add Material window.
- 2 Go to the Add Material window.
- 3 In the tree, select Liquids and Gases>Liquids>Water.
- 4 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Material to close the Add Material window.

MATERIALS

Water (mat1)

By default, the first material you add applies on all domains.

DEFINITIONS

In preparation for defining boundary conditions, it is practical to define some named selections.

Inlet

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **here Explicit**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Inlet in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Input Entities section. From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 4 Select Boundary 1 only.

Outlet

- I In the Definitions toolbar, click 🐂 Explicit.
- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Outlet in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Input Entities section. From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 4 Select Boundary 6 only.

Heater

- I In the Definitions toolbar, click 🗞 Explicit.
- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Heater in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Input Entities section. From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- **4** Select Boundaries 7–9 only.

LAMINAR FLOW (SPF)

Follow the instructions below to set up the **Laminar Flow** interface. The fluid properties are automatically taken from the material assigned to the reactor domain, so all you need to do is to define inlet and outlet boundary conditions.

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Laminar Flow (spf).
- 2 In the Settings window for Laminar Flow, locate the Physical Model section.
- 3 From the Compressibility list, choose Weakly compressible flow.

Inlet 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Inlet.
- 2 In the Settings window for Inlet, locate the Boundary Selection section.

- 3 From the Selection list, choose Inlet.
- 4 Locate the Boundary Condition section. From the list, choose Fully developed flow.
- 5 Locate the Fully Developed Flow section. In the $U_{\rm av}$ text field, type v_inlet.

Outlet I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Outlet.
- 2 In the Settings window for Outlet, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- **3** From the **Selection** list, choose **Outlet**.
- 4 Locate the Pressure Conditions section. Select the Normal flow check box.

For a more accurate simulation, edit the default mesh by refining it in the region around and behind the heater.

MESH I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Mesh I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Mesh, locate the Sequence Type section.
- 3 From the list, choose User-controlled mesh.

Size

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Mesh I click Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size section.
- 3 Click the **Custom** button.
- 4 Locate the **Element Size Parameters** section. In the **Maximum element growth rate** text field, type 1.1.

Size 1

The **Size I** node provides mesh refinement on wall boundaries. Include the internal boundary behind the cylinder as well. When done all boundaries except the inlet and outlet should be selected.

- I In the Model Builder window, click Size I.
- **2** Select Boundaries 2–5 and 7–11 only.

Boundary Layers 1

Due to the heating, the reaction will be promoted in vicinity of the cylinder. Improve the resolution by increasing the number of boundary layer elements on the cylinder surface.

Boundary Layer Properties 2

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Component I (compl)>Mesh I> Boundary Layers I node.
- 2 Right-click Component I (comp1)>Mesh I>Boundary Layers I> Boundary Layer Properties I and choose Duplicate.
- **3** In the **Settings** window for **Boundary Layer Properties**, locate the **Boundary Selection** section.
- 4 From the Selection list, choose Heater.
- 5 Locate the Layers section. In the Number of layers text field, type 4.
- 6 In the Thickness adjustment factor text field, type 3.
- 7 Click 📗 Build All.

This concludes the setup of the **Laminar Flow** interface. In the next step you will compute the solution.

STUDY I - ISOTHERMAL FLOW

- I In the Model Builder window, click Study I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Study, type Study 1 Isothermal Flow in the Label text field.
- **3** In the **Home** toolbar, click **= Compute**.

RESULTS

Flow Field

In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, type Flow Field in the Label text field.

Arrow Surface 1

- I Right-click Flow Field and choose Arrow Surface.
- 2 In the Flow Field toolbar, click 💿 Plot.
- **3** Click the 4 **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

At this point, move on to include a **Heat Transfer in Fluids** interface and extend the model to account for a nonisothermal flow situation.

ADD PHYSICS

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🎉 Add Physics to open the Add Physics window.
- 2 Go to the Add Physics window.
- 3 In the tree, select Heat Transfer>Heat Transfer in Fluids (ht).

- 4 Find the Physics interfaces in study subsection. In the table, clear the Solve check box for Study I Isothermal Flow.
- 5 Click Add to Component I in the window toolbar.
- 6 In the Home toolbar, click 🖄 Add Physics to close the Add Physics window.

HEAT TRANSFER IN FLUIDS (STUDY 2)

In the **Settings** window for **Heat Transfer in Fluids**, type Heat Transfer in Fluids (Study 2) in the **Label** text field.

Temperature I

- I Right-click Component I (compl)>Heat Transfer in Fluids (Study 2) and choose Temperature.
- 2 In the Settings window for Temperature, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Inlet.
- **4** Locate the **Temperature** section. In the T_0 text field, type **T_inlet**.

Temperature 2

- I 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 Heater.
- **4** Locate the **Temperature** section. In the T_0 text field, type T_cyl.

Outflow I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Outflow.
- 2 In the Settings window for Outflow, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Outlet.

Add a **Nonisothermal flow** multiphysics node to set up the velocity in heat transfer and to account for the multiphysics stabilization.

MULTIPHYSICS

Nonisothermal Flow (Study 2)

- I In the Physics toolbar, click A Multiphysics Couplings and choose Domain> Nonisothermal Flow.
- 2 In the Settings window for Nonisothermal Flow, type Nonisothermal Flow (Study 2) in the Label text field.

ADD STUDY

- I In the Home toolbar, click $\sim\sim$ 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>Stationary.
- 4 Click Add Study in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click Add Study to close the Add Study window.

STUDY 2

Step 1: Stationary

To take the solution of the isothermal flow case as starting guess for the flow field and pressure variables, apply the following study selection, then set an additional **Initial Values** feature in the **Laminar Flow** interface.

- I In the Settings window for Stationary, click to expand the Values of Dependent Variables section.
- 2 Find the Initial values of variables solved for subsection. From the Settings list, choose User controlled.
- 3 From the Study list, choose Study I Isothermal Flow, Stationary.

LAMINAR FLOW (SPF)

In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Laminar Flow (spf).

Initial Values 2

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Domains** and choose Initial Values.
- 2 In the Settings window for Initial Values, locate the Domain Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose All domains.
- 4 Locate the Initial Values section. Specify the u vector as

u x

v y

5 In the *p* text field, type p.

NONISOTHERMAL FLOW

- I In the Model Builder window, click Study 2.
- 2 In the Settings window for Study, type Nonisothermal Flow in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Study Settings section. Clear the Generate default plots check box.

4 In the **Home** toolbar, click **= Compute**.

RESULTS

2D Plot Group 3

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🚛 Add Plot Group and choose 2D Plot Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Nonisothermal Flow/Solution 2 (sol2).

Surface 1

- I Right-click 2D Plot Group 3 and choose Surface.
- In the Settings window for Surface, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)>
 Heat Transfer in Fluids (Study 2)>Temperature>T Temperature K.
- 3 In the 2D Plot Group 3 toolbar, click 💿 Plot.

Temperature

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click 2D Plot Group 3.
- 2 In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, type Temperature in the Label text field.
- **3** Click the **- Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

Now move on to extend the model to include mass transport and the chemical reaction.

ADD PHYSICS

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Physics to open the Add Physics window.
- 2 Go to the Add Physics window.
- 3 In the tree, select Chemical Species Transport>Chemistry (chem).
- 4 Find the Physics interfaces in study subsection. In the table, clear the Solve check boxes for Study 1 Isothermal Flow and Nonisothermal Flow.
- 5 Click Add to Component I in the window toolbar.
- 6 In the tree, select Chemical Species Transport>Transport of Diluted Species (tds).
- 7 Click to expand the Dependent Variables section. In the table, clear the Solve check boxes for Study I Isothermal Flow and Nonisothermal Flow.
- 8 Locate the **Dependent Variables** section. In the **Concentrations** table, enter the following settings:

сА

9 Click Add to Component I in the window toolbar.

10 In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Physics to close the Add Physics window.

CHEMISTRY (CHEM)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Chemistry (chem).
- 2 In the Settings window for Chemistry, locate the Model Input section.
- **3** From the *T* list, choose **Temperature (ht)**.
- 4 Locate the Mixture Properties section. From the Phase list, choose Liquid.

Reaction I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Domains** and choose **Reaction**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Reaction, locate the Reaction Formula section.
- **3** In the **Formula** text field, type A=>F.
- 4 Click Apply.
- 5 Locate the Rate Constants section. Select the Use Arrhenius expressions check box.
- **6** In the A^{f} text field, type A.
- **7** In the E^{f} text field, type E.
- 8 Locate the Reaction Thermodynamic Properties section. From the Enthalpy of reaction list, choose User defined.
- **9** In the *H* text field, type H.

Species: A

- I In the Model Builder window, click Species: A.
- 2 In the Settings window for Species, locate the Chemical Formula section.
- **3** In the *M* text field, type Mn_A.

Species: F

- I In the Model Builder window, click Species: F.
- 2 In the Settings window for Species, locate the Chemical Formula section.
- **3** In the *M* text field, type Mn_F.
- **4** Click to expand the **Constant Concentration/Activity** section. Select the **Keep concentration/activity constant** check box.

Species 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔵 Domains and choose Species.
- 2 In the Settings window for Species, locate the Name section.

- **3** In the text field, type H20.
- 4 Locate the Type section. From the list, choose Solvent.
- **5** Locate the **Chemical Formula** section. In the M text field, type Mn_solv.
- 6 In the Model Builder window, click Chemistry (chem).
- 7 In the Settings window for Chemistry, locate the Species Matching section.
- 8 From the Species solved for list, choose Transport of Diluted Species.
- 9 Find the **Bulk species** subsection. In the table, enter the following settings:

Species	Туре	Molar concentration	Value (mol/m^3)
А	Variable	cA	Solved for
H2O	Solvent	User defined	c_solv

TRANSPORT OF DILUTED SPECIES (TDS)

Transport Properties 1

I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>

Transport of Diluted Species (tds) click Transport Properties I.

- 2 In the Settings window for Transport Properties, locate the Diffusion section.
- **3** In the D_{cA} text field, type DA.

Inflow I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Inflow.
- 2 In the Settings window for Inflow, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Inlet.
- 4 Locate the **Concentration** section. In the $c_{0,cA}$ text field, type cA_inlet.

Outflow I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Outflow.
- 2 In the Settings window for Outflow, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Outlet.

Reactions I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Domains** and choose **Reactions**.
- **2** Select Domain 1 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Reactions, locate the Reaction Rates section.
- **4** From the R_{cA} list, choose **Reaction rate for species A (chem)**.

HEAT TRANSFER IN FLUIDS (STUDY 2) (HT)

The chemical reaction generates heat. Take this into account by adding a **Heat Source** node to the **Heat Transfer in Fluids** interface.

I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (comp1) click Heat Transfer in Fluids (Study 2) (ht).

Heat Source 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Domains** and choose **Heat Source**.
- 2 Select Domain 1 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Heat Source, locate the Heat Source section.
- **4** From the Q_0 list, choose Heat source of reactions (chem).

MULTIPHYSICS

Add a **Reacting Flow, Diluted Species** coupling feature. This applies the velocity from the **Laminar Flow** interface in the **Transport of Diluted Species** interface.

Reacting Flow, Diluted Species 1 (rfd1)

In the Physics toolbar, click An Multiphysics Couplings and choose Domain>Reacting Flow, Diluted Species.

ADD STUDY

- I In the Home toolbar, click $\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}$ 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>Stationary.
- 4 Click Add Study in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click $\stackrel{\sim}{\longrightarrow}$ Add Study to close the Add Study window.

STUDY 3

Step 1: Stationary

- I In the Settings window for Stationary, locate the Values of Dependent Variables section.
- 2 Find the **Initial values of variables solved for** subsection. From the **Settings** list, choose **User controlled**.
- 3 From the Method list, choose Solution.
- 4 From the Study list, choose Nonisothermal Flow, Stationary.
- 5 In the Model Builder window, click Study 3.
- 6 In the Settings window for Study, type Fully Coupled in the Label text field.

7 Locate the Study Settings section. Clear the Generate default plots check box.

8 In the **Home** toolbar, click **= Compute**.

RESULTS

Temperature

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Temperature.
- 2 In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Fully Coupled/Solution 3 (sol3).
- **4** Click the \longleftrightarrow **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

5 In the **Temperature** toolbar, click **I** Plot.

Create new plot groups and generate surface plots for the concentration and the reaction rate.

2D Plot Group 4

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🚛 Add Plot Group and choose 2D Plot Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Fully Coupled/Solution 3 (sol3).

Surface 1

- I Right-click 2D Plot Group 4 and choose Surface.
- In the Settings window for Surface, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)>
 Transport of Diluted Species>Species cA>cA Concentration mol/m³.
- **3** In the **2D Plot Group 4** toolbar, click **I** Plot.
- **4** Click the **i Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

Concentration

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click 2D Plot Group 4.
- 2 In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, type Concentration in the Label text field.

2D Plot Group 5

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🚛 Add Plot Group and choose 2D Plot Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Fully Coupled/Solution 3 (sol3).

Surface 1

I Right-click 2D Plot Group 5 and choose Surface.

- In the Settings window for Surface, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component I (comp1)>
 Transport of Diluted Species>Species cA>tds.R_cA Total rate expression mol/(m³·s).
- 3 In the 2D Plot Group 5 toolbar, click 💽 Plot.
- **4** Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

Reaction Rate

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click 2D Plot Group 5 and choose Rename.
- 2 In the Rename 2D Plot Group dialog box, type Reaction Rate in the New label text field.

3 Click OK.

28 | THERMAL DECOMPOSITION