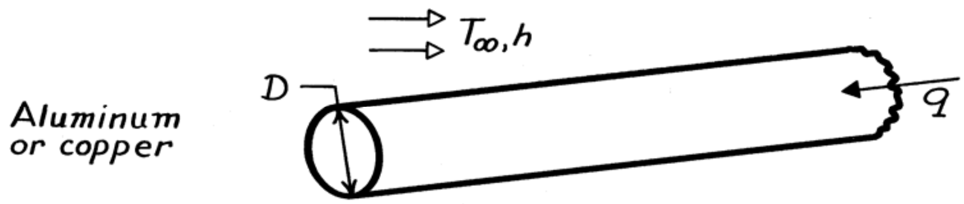
PROBLEM 3.129

KNOWN: Long, aluminum cylinder acts as an extended surface.

FIND: (a) Increase in heat transfer if diameter is doubled and (b) Increase in heat transfer if copper is used in place of aluminum.

SCHEMATIC:



ASSUMPTIONS: (1) Steady-state conditions, (2) One-dimensional conduction, (3) Constant properties, (4) Uniform convection coefficient, (5) Rod is infinitely long.

PROPERTIES: *Table A-1,* Aluminum (pure): k = 240 W/m·K; *Table A-1,* Copper (pure): k = 400 W/m·K.

ANALYSIS: (a) For an infinitely long fin, the fin heat rate from Table 3.4 is

$$q_f = M = \left(hPkA_c\right)^{1/2}\theta_b$$

$$q_f = \left(h\,\pi\,D\,k\,\pi\,D^2/4\right)^{1/2}\theta_b = \frac{\pi}{2}\left(hk\right)^{1/2}D^{3/2}\;\theta_b.$$

where $P = \pi D$ and $A_c = \pi D^2/4$ for the circular cross-section. Note that $q_f \propto D^{3/2}$. Hence, if the diameter is doubled,

$$\frac{q_{f(3D)}}{q_{f(D)}} = 2^{3/2} = 2.8$$

and there is a 180% increase in heat transfer. <

(b) In changing from aluminum to copper, since $q_f \propto k^{1/2}$, it follows that

$$\frac{q_f\,(Cu)}{q_f\,(A1)} = \left[\frac{k_{Cu}}{k_{A1}}\right]^{1/2} = \left[\frac{400}{240}\right]^{1/2} = 1.29$$

and there is a 29% increase in the heat transfer rate. <

COMMENTS: (1) Because fin effectiveness is enhanced by maximizing $P/A_c = 4/D$, the use of a larger number of small diameter fins is preferred to a single large diameter fin.

(2) From the standpoint of cost, weight and machinability, aluminum is preferred over copper.