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Thermophysical Properties of BKC 44306 and BKC 44307 PMDI Urethane Solid and Foams

Stephen J. Bauer, Greg Flint, Alex Urquhart, and Lisa Mondy

Prepared by
Sandia National Laboratories
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185 and Livermore, California 94550

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Sandia National Laboratories
P.O. Box 5800
Albuquerque, NM 87185-0751

Abstract

Accurate knowledge of thermophysical properties of urethane foam is considered extremely important for meaningful models and analyses to be developed of scenarios wherein the foam is heated. Its performance at temperature requires a solid understanding of the foam material properties at temperature. Also, foam properties vary with density/porosity. An experimental program to determine the thermal properties of the two foams and their parent solid urethane was developed in order to support development of a predictive model relating density and thermal properties from first principles.

Thermal properties (thermal conductivity, diffusivity, and specific heat) of the foam were found to vary with temperatures from 26°C to 90°C. Thermal conductivity generally increases with increasing temperature for a given initial density and ranges from .0433 W/mK at 26°C to .0811 W/mK at 90°C; thermal diffusivity generally decreases with increasing temperature for a given initial density and ranges from .4101 mm²/s at 26°C to .1263 mm²/s at 90°C; and specific heat generally increases with increasing temperature for a given initial density and ranges from .1078 MJ/m³K at 26°C to .6323 MJ/m³K at 90°C.

Thermal properties of the solid urethane were also found to vary with temperatures from 26°C to 90°C. Average thermal conductivity generally increases with increasing temperature for a given initial density and ranges from 0.126 to 0.131 W/mK at 26°C to 0.153 to 0.157 W/mK at 90°C; average thermal diffusivity generally decreases with increasing temperature for a given initial density and ranges from 0.142 to 0.147 mm²/s at 26°C to 0.124 to 0.125 mm²/s at 90°C; and average specific heat generally increases with increasing temperature for a given initial density and ranges from 0.889 to 0.899 MJ/m³K to 1.229 to 1.274 MJ/m³K at 90°C.

The density of both foam and solid urethane decreased with increasing temperature.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Accurate knowledge of thermophysical properties of PMDI (urethane) foam is considered extremely important for meaningful models and analyses to be developed of scenarios wherein the foam is heated. Its performance at temperature requires a solid understanding the foam material properties at temperature. Also, foam properties vary with density/porosity. An experimental program to determine the thermal properties of the two foams and their parent “solid” urethanes was developed in order to support development of a predictive model relating density and thermal properties from first principles.

Thermal conductivity, the property of a material to conduct heat, thermal diffusivity, the measure of thermal inertia, and the specific heat, the amount of heat per unit mass required to raise the temperature by one °C, were each determined in this study. The operative mechanisms resulting in the observed changes of these thermal properties is beyond the scope of this study; minor aberrations in “smooth curves” obtained for most samples could be the result of experimental error and sample changes (perhaps chemical in nature) induced by heating the samples.

2. SAMPLE HANDLING AND MEASUREMENTS

Thermal property measurements (thermal conductivity, diffusivity, and specific heat) were completed on a series of foam and urethane samples supplied by the sponsor and consisted of foams in the series PMDI BKC44306 and BKC44307. The foam samples were made to vary in density by changing the water content (the blowing agent) and the amount of over-packing in a cylindrical mold that produced an initial sample approximately 5 cm in diameter and 11 cm in height. In addition, foam samples were made of each of the two materials that had been dried to remove the blowing agent. These samples, which called “solid urethane” did contain some bubbles resulting from reaction with either absorbed or residual moisture or entrained air from the mixing process. Therefore, these urethane samples are less dense than a true solid urethane.

Thermal measurements were made at ambient pressure and moisture conditions using a transient method based on the theory of the transient plane source technique. All property determinations were made with each measurement using the same apparatus, a Hot Disk Thermal Constants Analyzer (TCA). The apparatus employs a transient plane source device which is used to measure material thermal transport properties—thermal conductivity, thermal diffusivity and specific heat. The transient plane source method uses a plane sensor to function simultaneously as a heat source and resistance thermometer able to detect temperature changes as slight as 0.1 mK. The sensor is sandwiched between two samples of the material to be tested. Passing a current through the sensor increases its temperature by as much as a few degrees and causes

a pulse of heat to enter the sample material. The ability of the sample material to conduct heat away from the sensor affects the temperature increase of the sensor. By monitoring the change in sensor temperature over time, therefore, the TCA system can deduce the thermal conductivity of the sample.

Using a nickel sensor embedded in a Kapton or mica coating, the TCA device used in this work (the ThermTest TPS1500 model) can make measurements from cryogenic temperatures to 1000K. The range of measurable thermal conductivities is 0.01–20 W/mK; the maximum measurable specific heat capacity is 5 MJ/m³K. Samples can be as small as 3 mm in height by 13 mm in diameter, with no maximum limit. In addition to solids, measurements can be made in porous materials, powders and pastes.

The Hot Disk® sensors used for these measurements serve as a heat source to increase sample temperature and as resistance thermometers for recording temperature increase over time. The apparatus includes a programmable oven to house the sample and sensor portion of the test system, and a computer for data acquisition, data analysis, and program control (Figure 1).

Samples are heated from one temperature to the next at 1-2 degrees C per minute; at each temperature the sample equilibrated for a few hours before a measurement was made. Measurements were made at room temperature and at specified temperature intervals up to 90°C.

The foam samples were supplied as paired discs of similar density. The solid urethane samples were supplied as cylinders, with a small amount of bubbles present, less at bottom, and a greater amount at the top. Solid urethane samples were carefully cut from cylinders of material supplied using a wire saw followed by abrasive paper, 2.0" diameter and 1" in length. The thermal measurement was made across a matched interface in each sample. A flat uniform surface to seat the sensor is important to obtaining reproducible measurements.

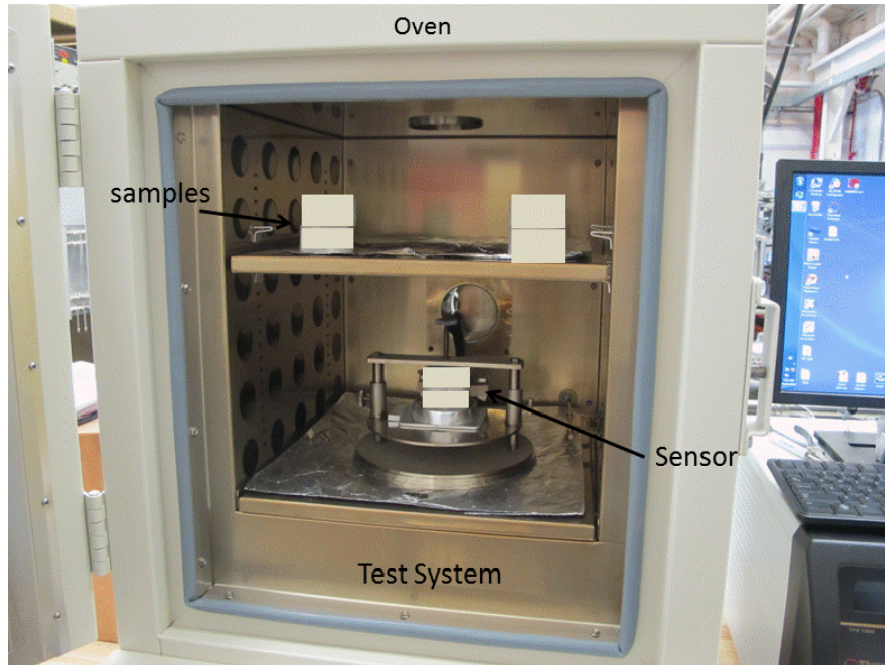


Figure 1 Thermal Measurements Test System.

2.1 Porous Urethane Foam Sample and Thermophysical Property Measurements

The foam samples have lower density once the contact ring was removed from the flat surface; this post-grinding value is that used in subsequent presentations in this report (Table 1). Density of the foam samples ranges from 5.51 pcf to 25.94 pcf.

Thermal conductivity, thermal diffusivity and specific heat measurements are presented in Table 2. Each line of data represents that from a matched pair sample.

For a given sample (density) over the temperature range up to 90°C, thermal conductivity tends to increase, thermal diffusivity tends to decrease, and specific heat tends to increase with increasing temperature, Figures 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

For a given measurement temperature, thermal conductivity tends to increase, thermal diffusivity tends to decrease, and specific heat tends to increase with increasing density, Figures 5, 6, and 7, respectively.

ID	Initial						Post-grinding			
	Weight (g)	Diameter (in)	Height (in)	Volume (in ³)	Calc. density (pcf)	Noted density (pcf)	Weight (g)	Height (in)	Volume (in ³)	Calc. density (pcf)
44306-10	21.28	1.98	1.00	3.08	26.27	26.16	19.54	0.93	2.86	25.94
44306-10	21.13	1.99	1.02	3.17	25.32	25.21	19.15	0.94	2.92	24.90
44306-10	15.55	1.98	1.00	3.08	19.20	19.19	14.15	0.93	2.86	18.79
44306-10	15.69	1.99	1.02	3.17	18.80	18.83	14.04	0.93	2.89	18.45
44307-4	12.74	1.99	1.02	3.17	15.27	15.10	11.36	0.94	2.92	14.77
44307-4	10.63	1.99	1.00	3.11	12.99	12.90	9.26	0.89	2.77	12.72
44306-10	10.57	1.98	1.00	3.08	13.05	13.04	9.26	0.90	2.77	12.70
44306-10	10.32	1.99	1.02	3.17	12.37	12.41	9.10	0.93	2.89	11.96
44307-4	8.87	1.99	1.02	3.17	10.63	10.58	7.79	0.91	2.83	10.46
44307-4	7.40	1.99	1.00	3.11	9.04	9.08	5.94	0.83	2.58	8.75
44307-4	4.92	1.99	1.00	3.11	6.01	6.04	4.06	0.87	2.71	5.70
44307-4	4.91	1.99	1.02	3.17	5.88	5.85	3.88	0.86	2.67	5.51

Table 1 Sample dimensions and density determinations, porous foam.

ID	Calc. density (pcf)	Thermal conductivity (W/mK)			Thermal diffusivity (mm ² /s)			Specific heat (MJ/m ³ K)		
		26°C	60°C	90°C	26°C	60°C	90°C	26°C	60°C	90°C
44306-10	25.94	0.0743	0.0788	0.0799	0.1473	0.1396	0.1263	0.5046	0.5646	0.6323
44306-10	24.90	0.0741	0.0788	0.0811	0.1439	0.1385	0.1312	0.5147	0.5692	0.6180
44306-10	18.79	0.0656	0.0721	0.0735	0.1544	0.1661	0.1426	0.4250	0.4342	0.5153
44306-10	18.45	0.0658	0.0703	0.0734	0.1487	0.1503	0.1433	0.4422	0.4677	0.5121
44307-4	14.77	0.0518	0.0569	0.0606	0.1830	0.1816	0.1804	0.2830	0.3133	0.3361
44307-4	12.72	0.0534	0.0569	0.0603	0.1968	0.1796	0.1773	0.2713	0.3170	0.3398
44306-10	12.70	0.0541	0.0568	0.0615	0.1829	0.1793	0.1683	0.2958	0.3165	0.3654
44306-10	11.96	0.0541	0.0576	0.0614	0.1815	0.1723	0.1663	0.2983	0.3343	0.3694
44307-4	10.46	0.0479	0.0515	0.0552	0.2598	0.2443	0.2458	0.1844	0.2109	0.2244
44307-4	8.75	0.0481	0.0524	0.0549	0.2623	0.2548	0.2430	0.1833	0.2056	0.2258
44307-4	5.70	0.0442	0.0472	0.0507	0.4101	0.3742	0.3834	0.1078	0.1262	0.1323
44307-4	5.51	0.0433	0.0476	0.0506	0.3954	0.3791	0.3819	0.1095	0.1255	0.1325

Table 2 Thermal conductivity, thermal diffusivity, specific heat determinations, porous foam.

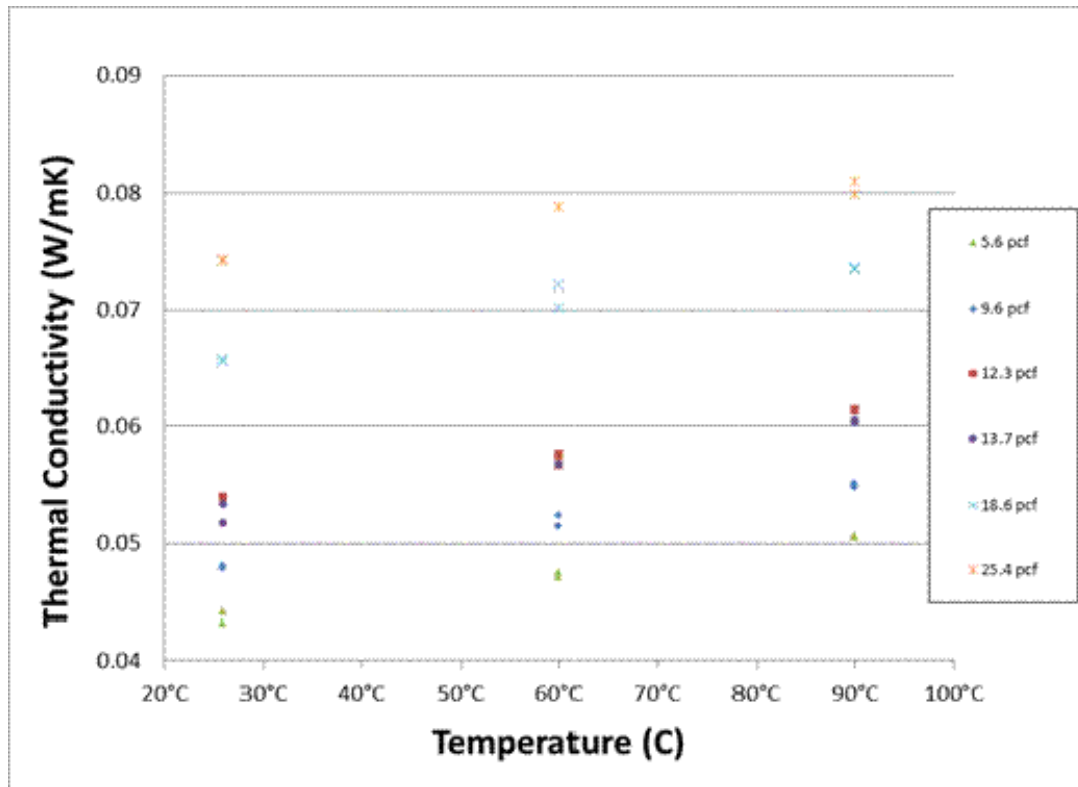


Figure 2 Thermal Conductivity vs temperature, porous urethane foam.

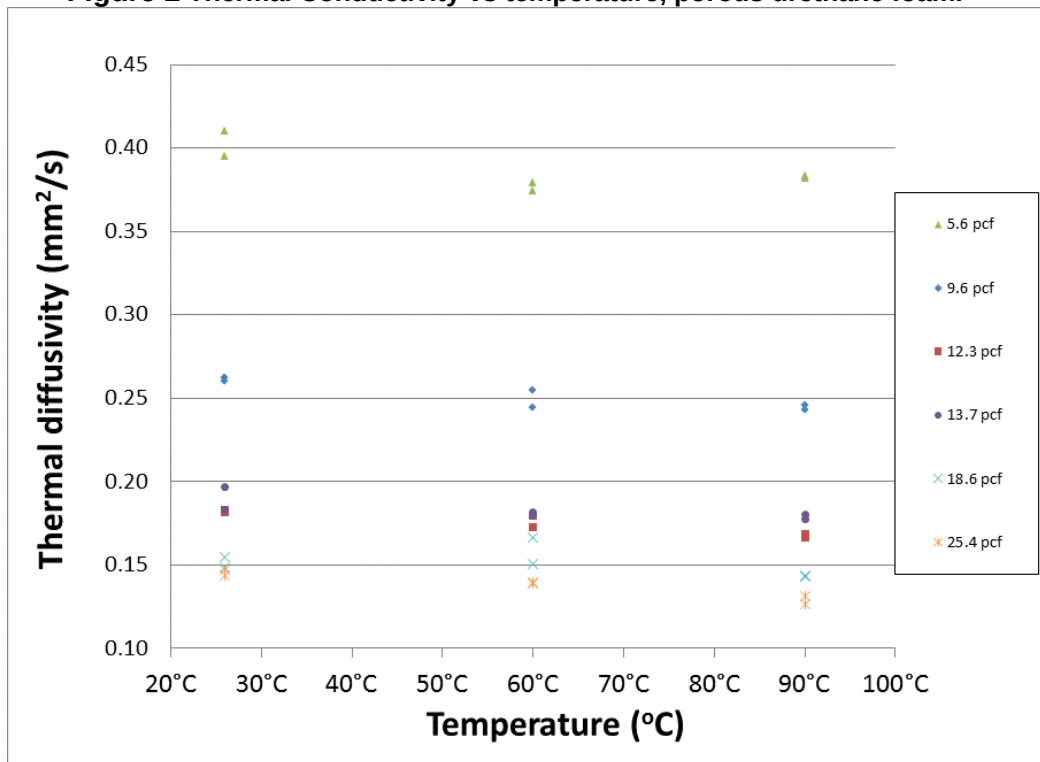


Figure 3 Thermal diffusivity vs temperature, porous urethane foam.

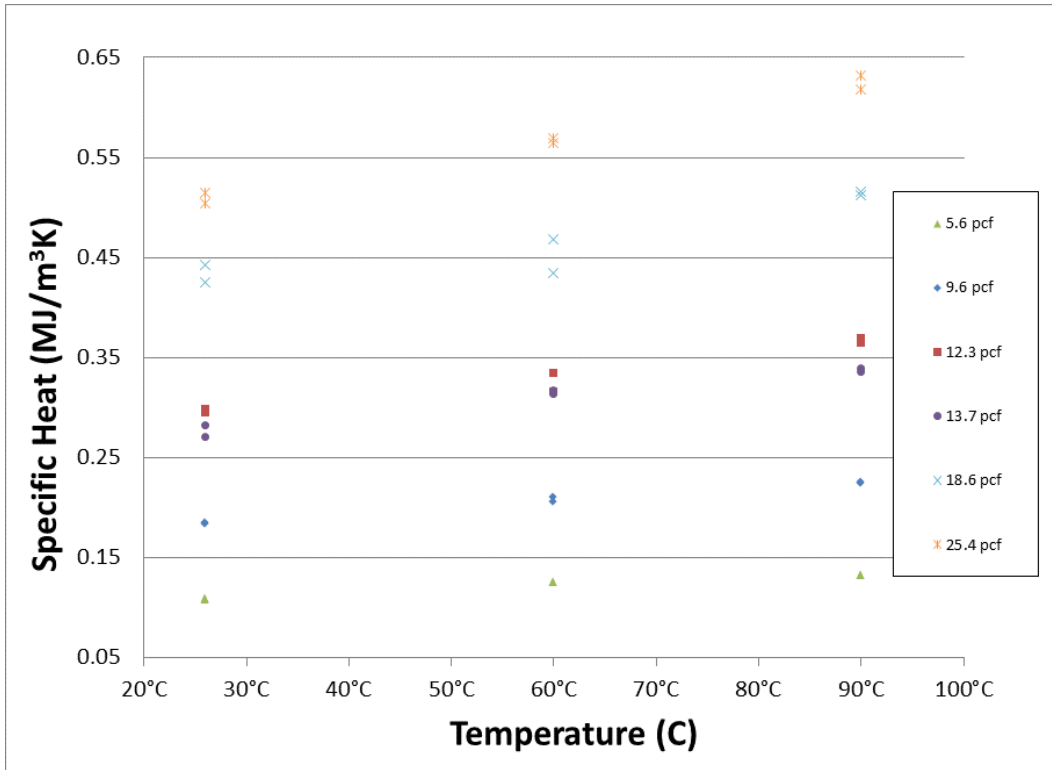


Figure 4 Specific heat vs temperature, porous urethane foam.

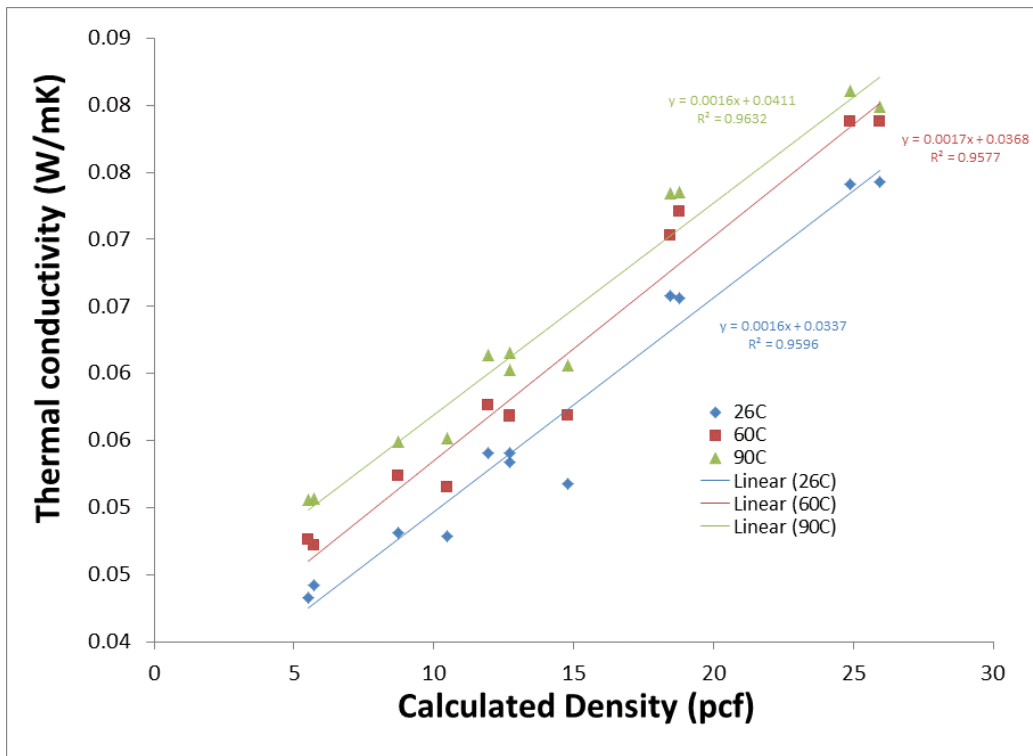


Figure 5 Thermal conductivity versus density, porous urethane foam.

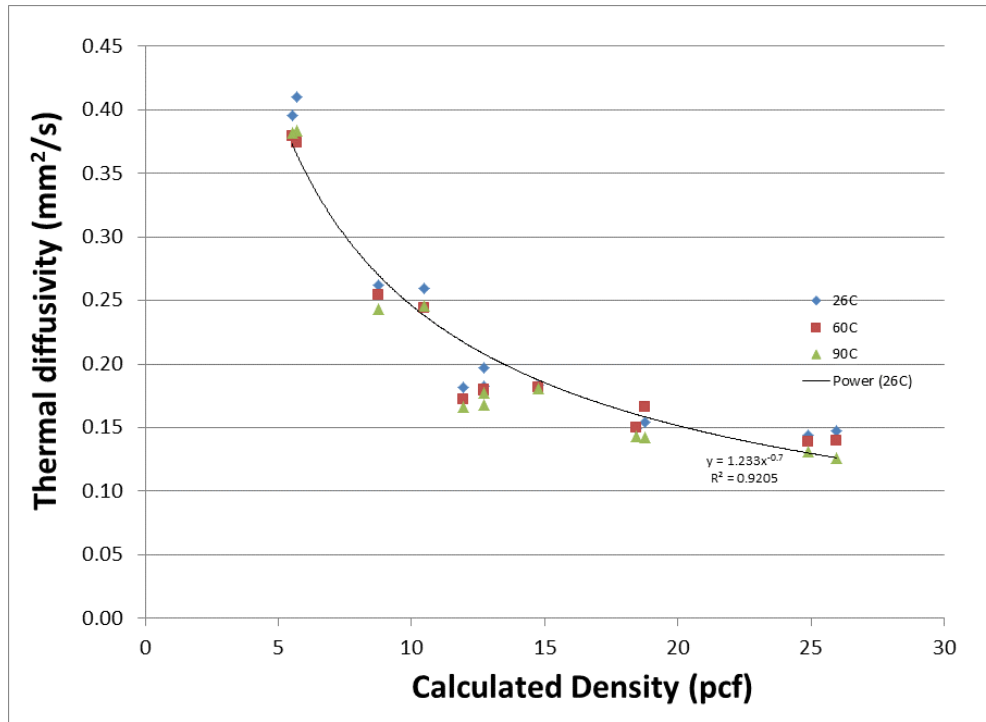


Figure 6 Thermal diffusivity versus density, porous urethane foam.

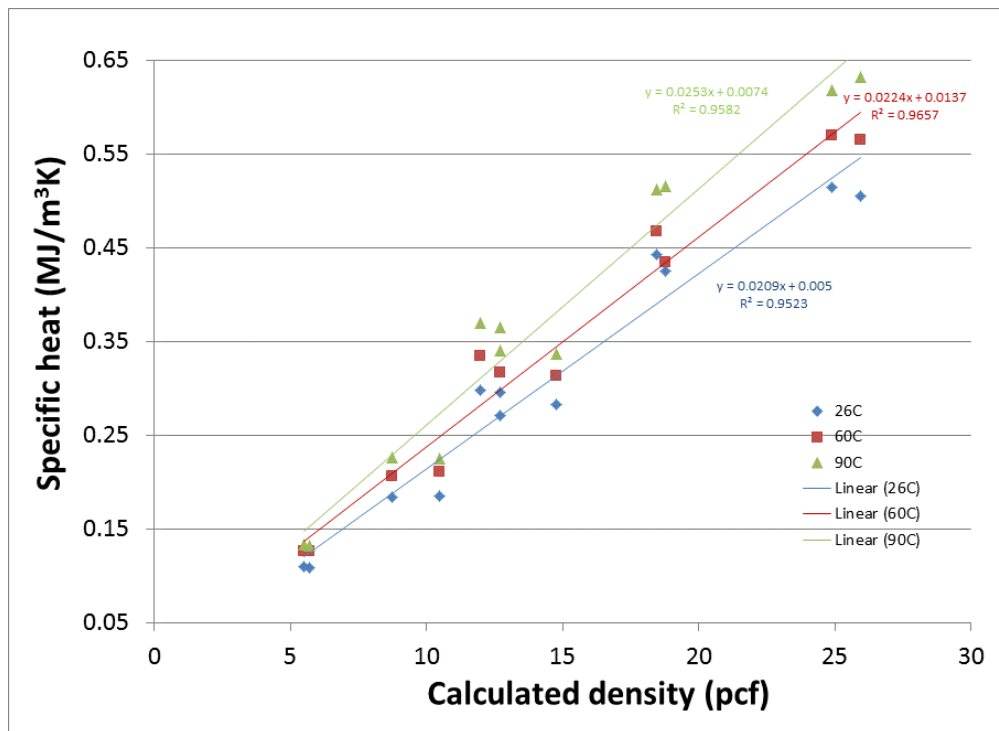


Figure 7 Specific Heat versus density, porous urethane foam.

2.2 Solid Urethane Sample and Thermophysical Property Measurements

Results and Comments

Solid urethane sample discs are labeled for thermal analysis in Figure 8. For most sample/temperature combinations, four sets of thermal property measurements were taken and results are given in Tables 3, 4, and 5.

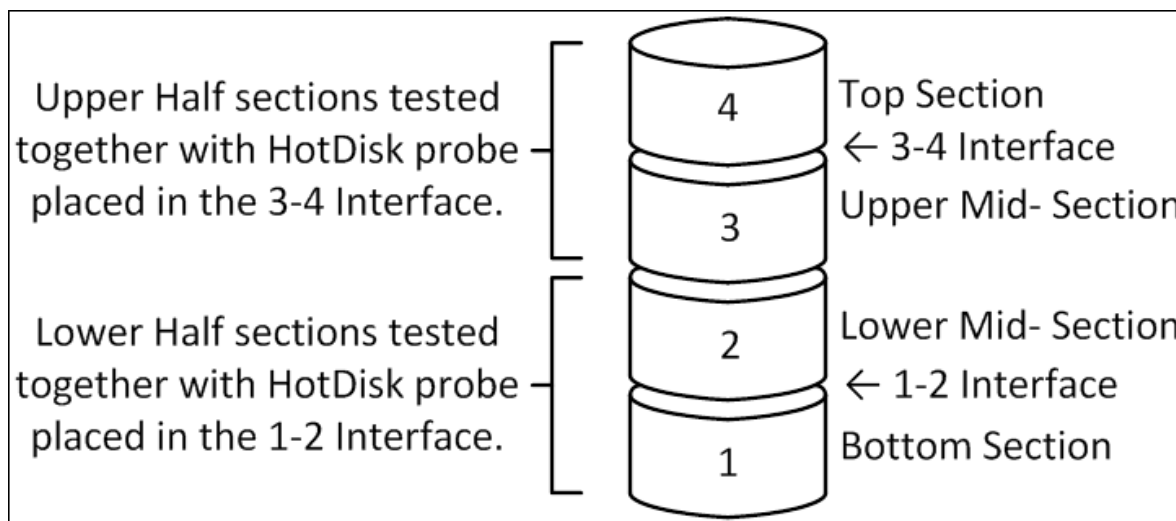


Figure 8 Schematic of sample layout

For a given sample set for both solid urethanes, (with similar initial density) over the temperature range up to 90°C, thermal conductivity tends to increase, thermal diffusivity tends to decrease, and specific heat tends to increase with increasing temperature, Figures 9, 10, and 11, respectively. There is perhaps a plateau in the thermal diffusivity and specific heat data between 80°C and 90°C.

Thermal conductivity decreases with increasing density for both 44306 and 44307 urethanes, (Figure 12), thermal diffusivity increases with increasing density (Figure 13) and specific heat decreases with increasing density (Figure 14). Linear fits to the data are presented and appear reasonable approximations to the data set.

The measurement sets on 44306 urethane are more widely spaced than for the 44307 urethane. This may be rooted in the density variation versus temperature observed (Figure 15). The density of both urethanes tends to decrease with increasing temperature. The larger density variation in 44307 versus 44306 from top to bottom is noted and perhaps relates to the amount of bubbles in it.

3 CONCLUDING COMMENTS

In this study, thermophysical properties of two samples each of two solid urethanes 44306 and 44307, and their foam product were measured with increasing temperature. Measurements on solid urethane may provide a data set for development of models to predict thermal properties for foam equivalents as a function of temperature; Measurements on foamed urethane may provide a data set for validation of models to predict thermal properties for urethane foams as a function of temperature. The change in density of these materials as a function of temperature may also need to be considered in analyses performed. Time dependence, cycling versus single path increase, reproducibility for multiple samples is not considered in this study.

Table 3 44306 and 44307 Solid Urethane Epoxy Sample Dimensions, Density
44306 Lower Half Data

Sample: 44306-1, Bottom section

Temp, °C	Diameter, in.	Thickness, in.	Mass, g	Density, pcf
25	1.988	1.013	54.288	65.64
40	1.992	1.014	54.297	65.32
50	1.992	1.013	54.279	65.36
60	1.993	1.015	54.256	65.14
70	1.994	1.016	54.269	65.03
80	1.995	1.016	54.222	64.90
90	1.995	1.016	54.178	64.85

Sample: 44306-2, Lower Mid-section

Diameter, in.	Thickness, in.	Mass, g	Density, pcf
1.984	1.051	55.058	64.42
1.992	1.058	55.071	63.49
1.989	1.054	55.051	63.90
1.989	1.054	55.031	63.88
1.990	1.056	55.044	63.71
1.990	1.056	54.995	63.65
1.991	1.055	54.952	63.60

44306 Upper Half

Sample: 44306-3, Upper Mid-section

Temp, °C	Diameter, in.	Thickness, in.	Mass, g	Density, pcf
25	1.987	1.056	54.994	63.85
40	1.990	1.059	55.006	63.49
50	1.989	1.059	54.984	63.53
60	1.990	1.059	54.963	63.44
70	1.992	1.060	54.976	63.27
80	1.992	1.061	54.926	63.15
90	1.993	1.059	54.879	63.15

Sample: 44306-4, Top Section

Diameter, in.	Thickness, in.	Mass, g	Density, pcf
1.987	1.024	53.232	63.73
1.991	1.026	53.244	63.37
1.990	1.025	53.222	63.47
1.991	1.026	53.203	63.32
1.993	1.028	53.214	63.08
1.993	1.028	53.164	63.02
1.994	1.028	53.12	62.91

44307 Lower Half Data

Sample: 44307-1, Bottom section

Temp, °C	Diameter, in.	Thickness, in.	Mass, g	Density, pcf
25	1.996	0.962	53.315	67.33
40	1.999	0.966	53.325	66.87
50	1.999	0.967	53.312	66.78
60	2.000	0.969	53.299	66.56
70	2.001	0.967	53.315	66.65
80	2.004	0.968	53.275	66.33
90	2.005	0.968	53.244	66.23

Sample: 44307-2, Lower Mid-section

Diameter, in.	Thickness, in.	Mass, g	Density, pcf
1.996	1.013	53.670	64.37
2.000	1.013	53.682	64.13
1.998	1.014	53.668	64.17
1.999	1.015	53.653	64.03
2.001	1.017	53.669	63.79
2.004	1.018	53.629	63.49
2.004	1.017	53.598	63.52

Sample: 44307-3, Upper Mid-section

Temp, °C	Diameter, in.	Thickness, in.	Mass, g	Density, pcf
25	1.996	1.033	54.148	63.69
40	1.999	1.037	54.161	63.26
50	1.999	1.035	54.144	63.37
60	2.000	1.036	54.130	63.23
70	2.001	1.038	54.150	63.06
80	2.004	1.039	54.105	62.76
90	2.005	1.039	54.072	62.66

Sample: 44307-4, Top Section

Diameter, in.	Thickness, in.	Mass, g	Density, pcf
1.995	1.033	51.643	60.80
2.000	1.037	51.656	60.28
1.999	1.038	51.638	60.26
2.000	1.040	51.624	60.07
2.000	1.038	51.642	60.20
2.004	1.040	51.595	59.79
2.005	1.040	51.561	59.69

Table 4 44306 Solid Urethane Thermal Property Determinations

Data Set 1				Data Set 2			Data Set 3			Data Set 4					
Interface Characteristics: 1-2															
Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm²/s	SH, MJ/m³K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm²/s	SH, MJ/m³K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm²/s	SH, MJ/m³K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm²/s	SH, MJ/m³K
25	0.1351	0.1570	0.8604	25	0.1221	0.1254	0.9738	25	0.1299	0.1403	0.9262	25	0.1330	0.1484	0.8959
40	0.1170	0.1026	1.141	40	0.1379	0.1419	0.9722	40	0.1374	0.1402	0.9800	40	0.1377	0.1397	0.9854
50	0.1329	0.1200	1.108	50	0.1379	0.1298	1.062	50	0.1408	0.1363	1.033	50	0.1409	0.1362	1.035
60	0.1399	0.1235	1.133	60	0.1442	0.1312	1.100	60	0.1453	0.1327	1.095	60	0.1456	0.1338	1.088
70	0.1433	0.1205	1.190	70	0.1494	0.1301	1.148	70	0.1488	0.1298	1.146	70	0.1496	0.1310	1.143
80	0.1474	0.1173	1.256	80	0.1524	0.1255	1.214	80	0.1536	0.1271	1.208	80	0.1526	0.1265	1.206
90	0.1515	0.1156	1.310	90	0.1608	0.1336	1.203	90	0.1618	0.1374	1.177	90	0.1616	0.1363	1.186

Data Set 1				Data Set 2			Data Set 3			Data Set 4					
Interface Characteristics: 3-4															
Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K
25	0.1255	0.1364	0.92	25	0.1373	0.1601	0.8581	25	0.1383	0.1636	0.8453	25	0.1382	0.1634	0.8457
40	0.1295	0.1261	1.027	40	0.1452	0.1590	0.913	40	0.1387	0.1429	0.9711	40	0.1368	0.1377	0.9939
50	0.1396	0.1360	1.027	50	0.1415	0.1345	1.052	50	0.1407	0.1351	1.041	50	0.1411	0.1327	1.063
60	0.1379	0.1192	1.156	60	0.1432	0.1296	1.105	60	0.1450	0.1314	1.103	60	0.1451	0.1326	1.095
70	0.1365	0.1072	1.273	70	0.1461	0.1247	1.172	70	0.1490	0.1290	1.155	70	0.1493	0.1297	1.151
80	0.1471	0.1146	1.273	80	0.1480	0.1170	1.265	80	0.1528	0.1252	1.220	80	0.1537	0.1271	1.210
90	0.1525	0.1167	1.307	90	0.1564	0.1216	1.286	90	0.1606	0.1330	1.208	90	0.1616	0.1344	1.203

Average of measurements

Average:	Density, pcf		Thermal Conductivity, W/mK		Thermal Diffusivity, mm ² /s		Specific Heat, MJ/m ³ K	
	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
Temp, °C								
25	65.03	63.79	0.130	0.135	0.143	0.156	0.914	0.867
40	64.41	63.43	0.133	0.138	0.131	0.141	1.020	0.976
50	64.63	63.50	0.138	0.141	0.131	0.135	1.060	1.046
60	64.51	63.38	0.144	0.143	0.130	0.128	1.104	1.115
70	64.37	63.17	0.148	0.145	0.128	0.123	1.157	1.188
80	64.28	63.09	0.152	0.150	0.124	0.121	1.221	1.242
90	64.23	63.03	0.159	0.158	0.131	0.126	1.219	1.251

Table 5 44307 Solid Urethane Thermal Property Determinations

Data Set 1 Interface Characteristics: 1-2				Data Set 2				Data Set 3				Data Set 4			
Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K
25	0.1321	0.1698	0.7782	25	0.1323	0.1441	0.9183	25	0.1257	0.1256	1.001	25	0.1334	0.1488	0.8965
40	0.1370	0.1408	0.9731	40	0.1470	0.1579	0.9308	40	0.1407	0.1423	0.9887	40	0.1397	0.1402	0.9966
50	0.1415	0.1374	1.030	50	0.1448	0.1400	1.034	50	0.1436	0.1368	1.050	50	0.1431	0.1364	1.049
60	0.1404	0.1207	1.163	60	0.1461	0.1318	1.108	60	0.1471	0.1339	1.099	60	0.1365	0.1104	1.237
70	0.1412	0.1125	1.255	70	0.1495	0.1274	1.174	70	0.1517	0.1320	1.149	70	0.1526	0.1328	1.149
80	0.1397	0.0963	1.450	80	0.1495	0.1181	1.266	80	0.1550	0.1278	1.213	80	0.1558	0.1289	1.209
90	0.1523	0.1136	1.341	90	0.1532	0.1165	1.316	90	0.1613	0.1316	1.225	90	0.1624	0.1338	1.213

Data Set 1 Interface Characteristics: 3-4				Data Set 2				Data Set 3				Data Set 4			
Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K	Temp, °C	TC, W/mK	TD, mm ² /s	SH, MJ/m ³ K
25	0.1230	0.1347	0.9133	25	0.1264	0.1425	0.8867	25	0.1270	0.1441	0.8813	25	0.1280	0.1464	0.8738
40	0.1263	0.1229	1.028	40	0.1314	0.1321	0.9947	40	0.1330	0.1363	0.9753	40	0.1337	0.1366	0.9786
50	0.1362	0.1352	1.007	50	0.1390	0.1383	1.005	50	0.1376	0.1356	1.015	50	0.1377	0.1349	1.021
60	0.1363	0.1223	1.114	60	0.1403	0.1302	1.078	60	0.1417	0.1335	1.062	60	0.1421	0.1330	1.068
70	0.1505	0.1398	1.076	70	0.1457	0.1304	1.117	70	0.1450	0.1292	1.122	70	0.1448	0.1280	1.132
80	0.1369	0.1049	1.306	80	0.1449	0.1198	1.210	80	0.1483	0.1269	1.169	80	0.1495	0.1292	1.157
90	0.1501	0.1188	1.264	90	0.1504	0.1188	1.265	90	0.1549	0.1286	1.205	90	0.1567	0.1328	1.180

Average of measurements

Average:	Density, pcf		Thermal Conductivity, W/mK		Thermal Diffusivity, mm ² /s		Specific Heat, MJ/m ³ K	
	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
Temp, °C								
25	65.85	62.24	0.131	0.126	0.147	0.142	0.899	0.889
40	65.50	61.77	0.141	0.131	0.145	0.132	0.972	0.994
50	65.48	61.81	0.143	0.138	0.138	0.136	1.041	1.012
60	65.29	61.65	0.143	0.140	0.124	0.130	1.152	1.081
70	65.22	61.63	0.149	0.147	0.126	0.132	1.182	1.112
80	64.91	61.28	0.150	0.145	0.118	0.120	1.285	1.211
90	64.87	61.18	0.157	0.153	0.124	0.125	1.274	1.229

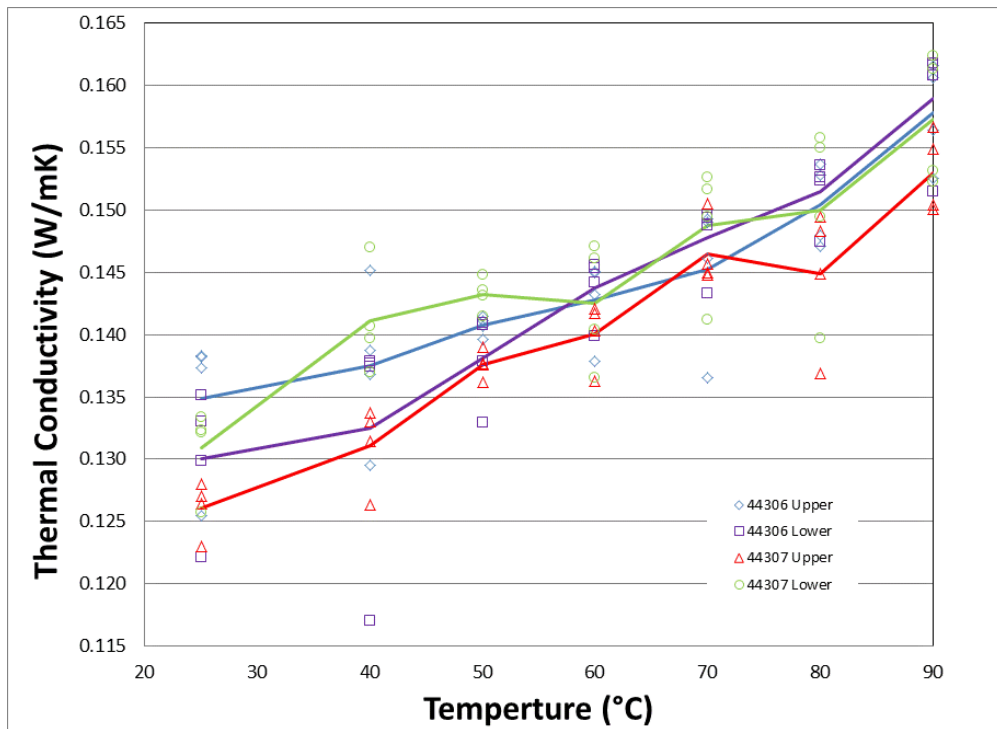


Figure 9 Thermal conductivity vs temperature, solid urethane

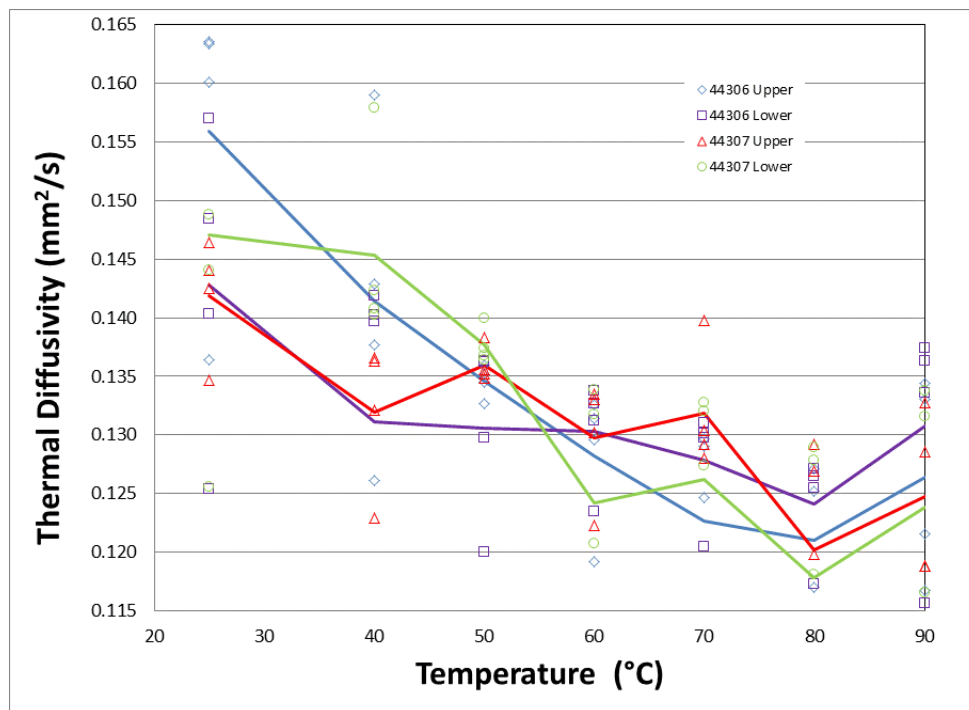


Figure 10 Thermal diffusivity vs temperature, solid urethane

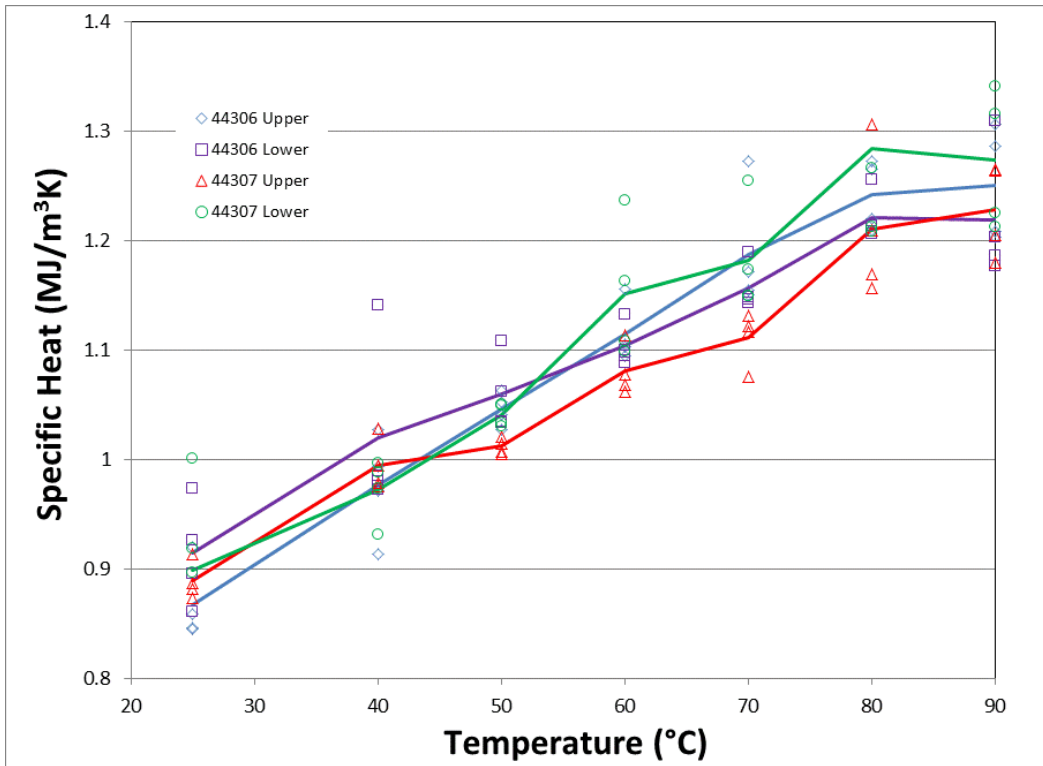


Figure 11 Specific heat vs temperature, solid urethane

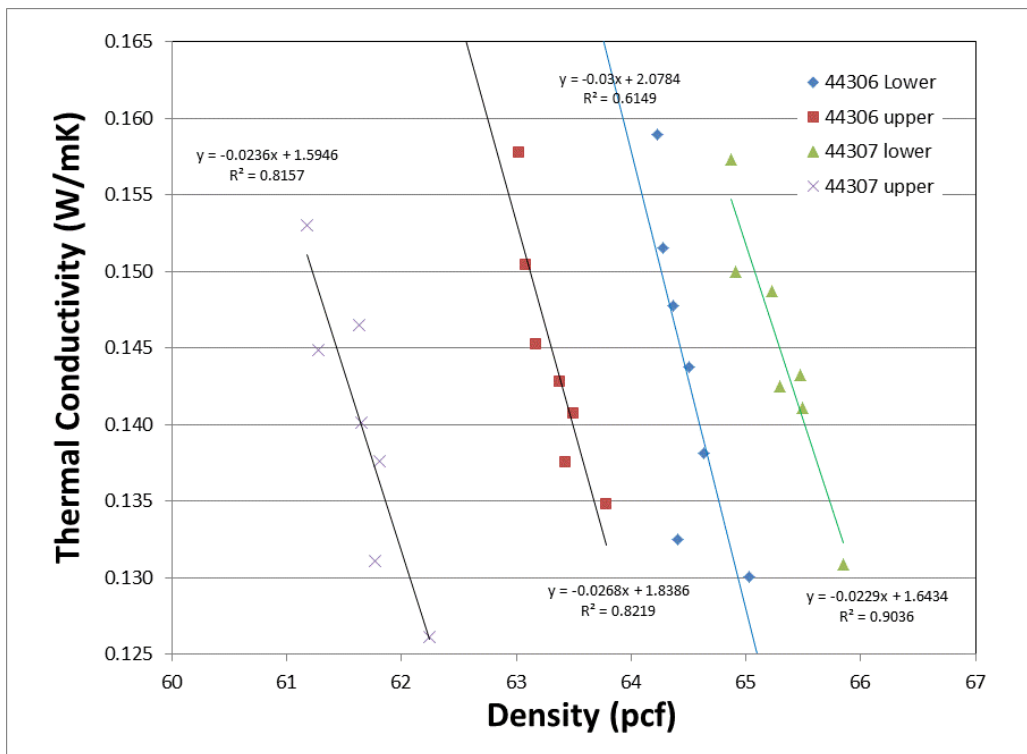


Figure 12 Thermal conductivity versus density, solid urethane

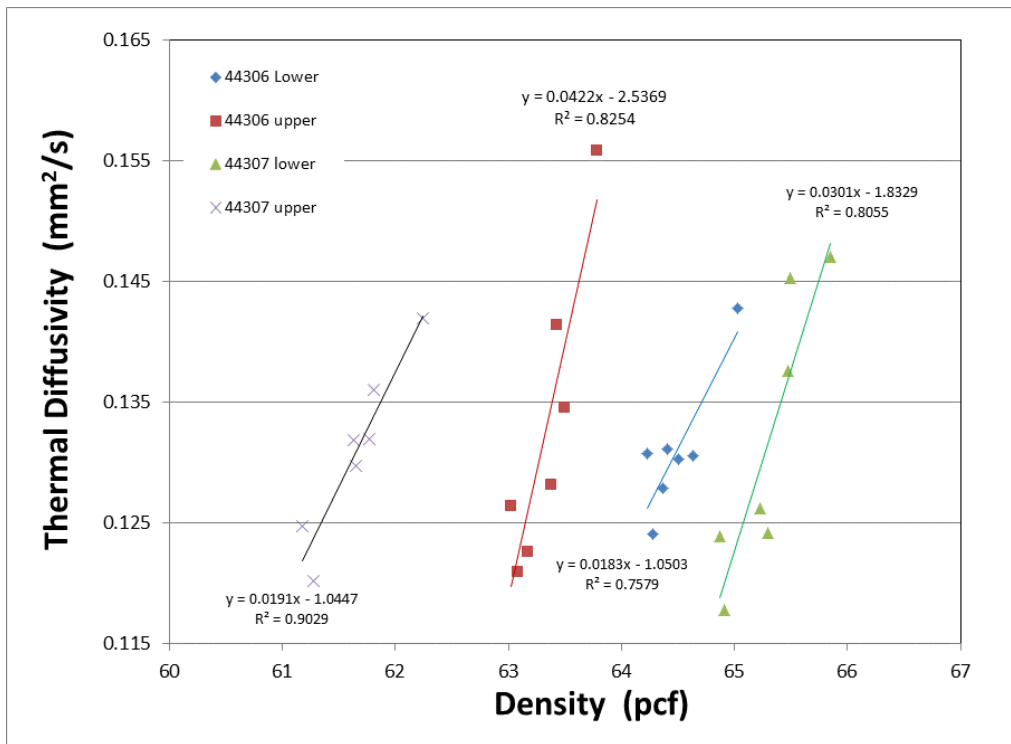


Figure 13 Thermal diffusivity versus density, solid urethane

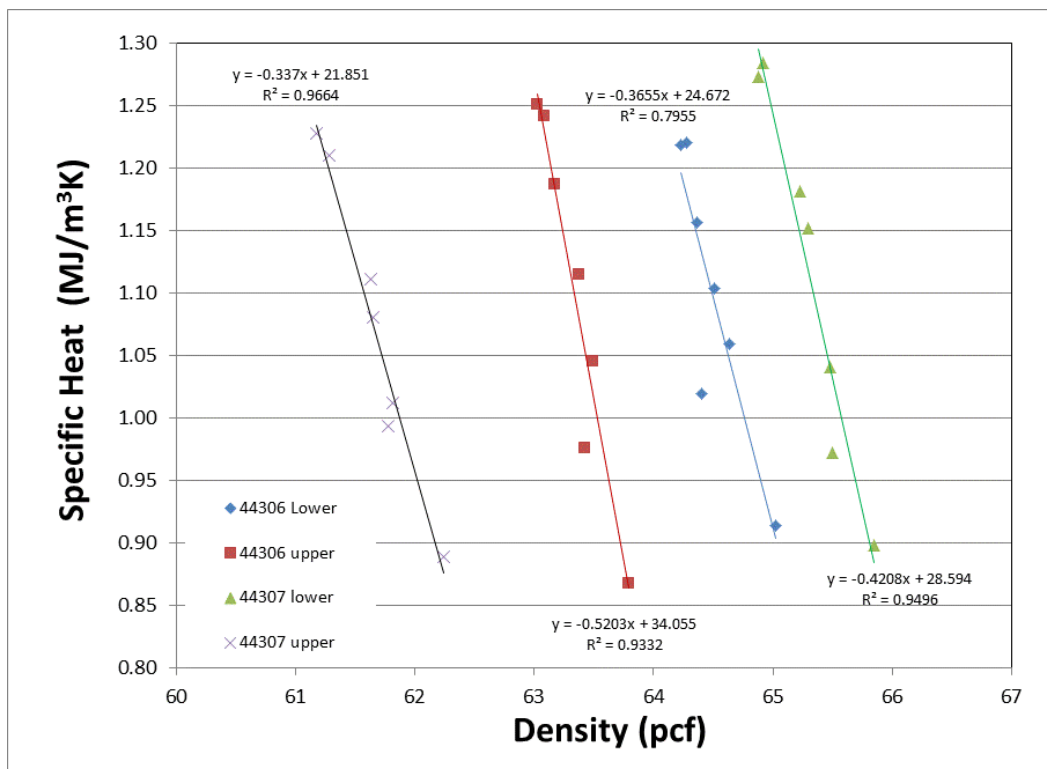


Figure 14 Specific Heat versus density, solid urethane

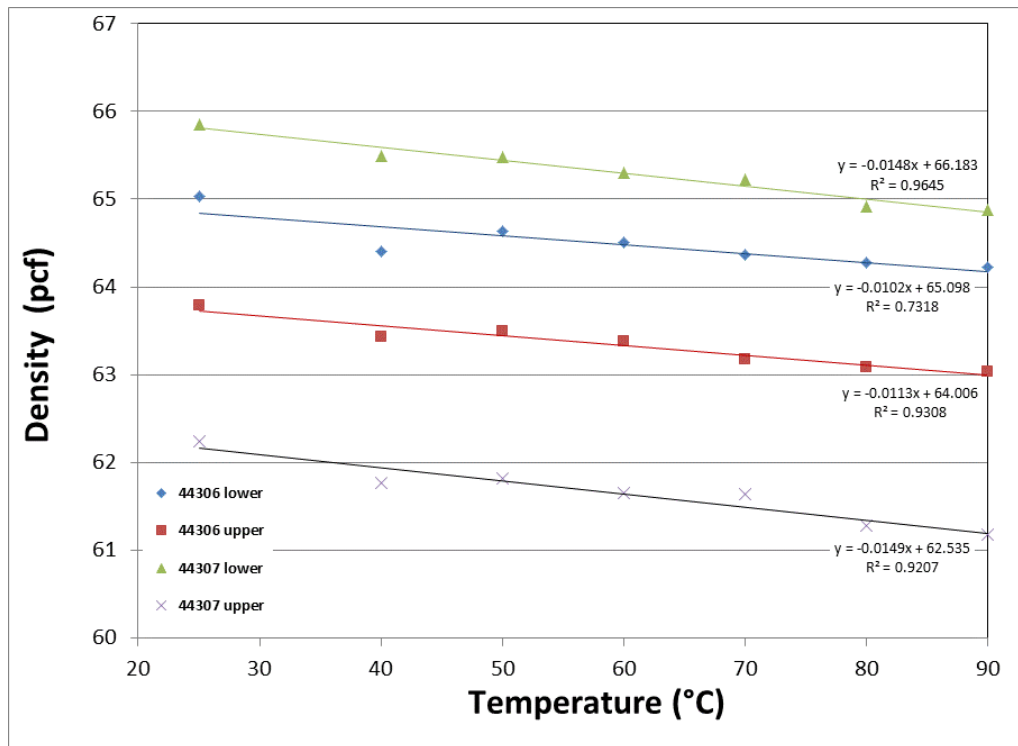


Figure 15 Density versus temperature, solid urethane

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