

**36.35** A variable frequency drive producing 100W of waste heat during continuous operation is housed in an insulated sheet metal enclosure mounted in a machine room. The insulation is  $\frac{1}{8}$  in thick with a thermal conductivity of  $0.2 \frac{Btu}{hr \cdot ft \cdot ^\circ F}$ . The thermal resistance of the sheet metal is negligible. The surface area of the enclosure is  $8 ft^2$ . The machine room is maintained at  $76^\circ F$ . The film coefficients both inside and outside the enclosure are  $4 \frac{Btu}{hr \cdot ft^2 \cdot ^\circ F}$ . What is the steady state temperature inside the enclosure?

- A.  $52^\circ F$
- B.  $88^\circ F$
- C.  $100^\circ F$
- D.  $112^\circ F$

Model the enclosure as a **Composite Wall** with 3 layers: 2 films and the insulation. Negligible thermal resistance is provided by the sheet metal. The total heat transfer through the composite wall may be described by the equation  $\dot{Q} = UA\Delta T$ , where the overall coefficient of heat transfer,  $U = \frac{1}{R_T}$ , and where  $R_T$  is the total thermal resistance. Determine the total thermal resistance by adding the individual thermal resistances in series.

$$R_T = \frac{1}{h_i} + \frac{L_{ins}}{k_{ins}} + \frac{1}{h_o}$$

$$R_T = \frac{1}{\left(4 \frac{Btu}{hr \cdot ft^2 \cdot ^\circ F}\right)} + \frac{\left(\frac{1}{8} in\right) \left(\frac{1 ft}{12 in}\right)}{0.2 \frac{Btu}{hr \cdot ft \cdot ^\circ F}} + \frac{1}{\left(4 \frac{Btu}{hr \cdot ft^2 \cdot ^\circ F}\right)} = 0.55 \frac{hr \cdot ft^2 \cdot ^\circ F}{Btu}$$

Calculate the overall heat transfer coefficient from the total thermal resistance.

$$U = \frac{1}{R_T} = \frac{1}{0.55 \frac{hr \cdot ft^2 \cdot ^\circ F}{Btu}} = 1.8 \frac{Btu}{hr \cdot ft^2 \cdot ^\circ F}$$

Calculate the temperature differential using the total heat transfer, the overall heat transfer coefficient, and the surface area.

$$\Delta T = \frac{\dot{Q}}{UA} = \frac{(100W) \left(3.412 \frac{Btu}{hr \cdot W}\right)}{\left(1.8 \frac{Btu}{hr \cdot ft^2 \cdot ^\circ F}\right) (8 ft^2)} = 23.7^\circ F$$

Use the temperature differential to calculate the temperature inside the enclosure based on the room temperature.

$$\Delta T = T_{enclosure} - T_{room}$$

$$T_{enclosure} = \Delta T + T_{room} = 23.7^\circ F + 76^\circ F = 99.7^\circ F$$

**Answer C**