Development of a Droplet Entrainment Model for Vertical Annular-Mist Flows

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1. Introduction

Droplets play an important role during the reflooding phase of a large-break loss of coolant accident (LBLOCA). When a LBLOCA occurs, primary pressure and coolant inventory reduce very quickly. If the primary pressure falls below a certain level, coolant is injected to the lower plenum by the emergency core cooling system (ECCS). Then the coolant enters the reactor core, which is filled with superheated steam, and the reflooding phase begins. In the reflooding phase, inverted annular-mist or annular-mist flow is often formed in the fuel rod assembly. In the annular-mist flow, the liquid phase consists of liquid films and droplets. The droplets have excellent heat transfer characteristics since these have a wide surface area per unit volume compared to continuous liquid. For this reason, the droplets has a dramatic effect on the cooling of the fuel rods.

Droplet behaviors are divided into two mechanisms: entrainment and deposition. The droplet entrainment is a phenomenon in which a part of a liquid film is separated by the turbulent gas flow. The detached liquid is entrained into the turbulent gas flow and becomes the droplet. The droplet deposition is a phenomenon where droplets flowing along with the gas deposited into liquid films by turbulence in the gas flow or diffusion.

In this paper, an entrainment rate model for vertical annular-mist flow under low-pressure conditions was developed. Then, the entrained fraction calculated from the new model are compared with that of the existing models, using the component-scale thermal-hydraulic analysis code, CUPID [1].

2. Droplet entrainment rate correlation

2.1 Model set-up

Ishii and Groiles [2] proposed several possible mechanisms of droplet entrainment by high-velocity gas flow and offered the shearing-off of roll wave is the significant entrainment mechanism when the liquid film Reynolds number is higher than a specified value (Re_f ≥ 160) [2]. Shearing-off of roll wave is a mechanism in which part of roll wave crests is broken up into the droplets by interfacial friction. Therefore, shearing-off of roll wave is heavily influenced by drag force and surface tension [2].

Hewitt and Govan [3] and Dallman [4] developed an entrainment correlation based on shearing-off of roll wave and the onset of entrainment. They used (G_{lf} - G_{ifc}) as their main parameter for the entrainment correlation, where G_{ifc} is critical film mass flux for the onset of entrainment. Therefore (G_{lf} - G_{ifc}) is the maximum droplet mass flux that can be generated, and the entrainment has a relationship proportional to (G_{lf} - G_{ifc}) [4]. Also, Hewitt and Govan [3] used gas mass flux (G_{G}) as the major parameter. The effect of gas mass flux on the droplet entrainment can be seen through several experiments. Based on these results, we would like to express the entrainment rate in the form of the following correlations.

\[ \dot{m}_G = a \left( G_{lf} - G_{ifc} \right) G_{G} \left[ \frac{\omega}{\rho_{G}} \right]^{0.5} \]

where Re_{G} considers the turbulent gas flow, and We_{if} is used to consider the surface tension. They are defined as follows:

\[ \text{Re}_G = \frac{\rho_G U D}{\nu} \]

\[ \text{We}_{if} = \frac{\sigma}{\rho G D^2} \]

and G_{ifc} is given by the following relationship [5]:

\[ G_{ifc} = \frac{\rho_1}{D} [7.3 \omega^3 + 44.2 \omega^2 - 263 \omega + 439] \]

\[ \omega = \log_{10} \left( \frac{\rho_1}{\rho G} \sqrt{\frac{\mu_1}{\mu G}} \right) \]

2.2 New entrainment rate correlation

The deposition rate is relatively easy to measure, but the entrainment rate is difficult to measure. For this reason, Hewitt and Govan [3] and Okawa [6] developed the entrainment rate model by obtaining the entrainment rate data using the assumption that the entrainment rate same as the deposition rate in an equilibrium state. In contrast, Ueda [7] developed a correlation of the entrainment rate, using the mass conservation equation of film that obtains the entrainment rate model by obtaining the entrainment rate data using the assumption that the entrainment rate is difficult to measure. For this reason, Hewitt and Govan [3] and Okawa [6] developed the entrainment correlation base d on shearing-off of roll wave force and surface tension [2].
Whalley(1973) and Barbosa(2001) experiments provide the entrained fraction measured at the exit of a very long pipe, so it can be assumed that the entrainment rate is the same as the deposition rate.

Table I: The experimental data used for the new model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exp.</th>
<th>D [mm]</th>
<th>P [bar]</th>
<th>T [°C]</th>
<th>No. of data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gill(1963)</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinkle(1967)</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ueda(1979)</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf(2001)</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whalley(1973)</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>1.2–3.4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbosa(2001)</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>2.0–5.2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on droplet entrainment rate calculated from Eq. (6), the appropriate coefficient and exponents for Eq. (1) were determined. The new correlation is

\[
\dot{m}_E = k_E \sqrt{(G_{lf} - G_{lf,c}) G_{lf} \dot{W}_{lf}^{0.072} R_{Eg}^{0.292} (\rho_s/\rho_p)^{0.5}} \tag{8}
\]

where, \(R_{Eg}\), \(\dot{W}_{lf}\), \(G_{lf,c}\) are defined as Eqs. (2) to (5), \(k_E = 3.196 \times 10^{-6}\) based on the experimental data in Table I.

Fig. 1 show the comparison of the droplet entrainment rate calculated from Eq. (6) and Eq. (8). The measured entrainment rate was estimated from Eq. (6) and calculated entrainment rate was calculated from Eq. (8). A new correlation shows distributed results, but in most cases, it is included within 50% error.

### Fig. 1. Comparison of entrainment rate

#### 3. Model assessment

Assessment of new model and existing models was performed with CUPID code using entrained fraction data. The nodalization is done by dividing the test section of each experiment into the same length one-dimensionally. And the inlet mass flow rate and the outlet pressure conditions are applied as boundary conditions.

8 air-water experiments and 2 steam-water experiments performed in the reflow condition were used for the model assessment. The air-water experiments were performed at 1.0–7.6 bar, room temperature, and steam-water experiments were performed at 1.8–3.6 bar, saturated temperature. Selected models and experiments selected are summarized in Tables II and III, respectively.

Table II: The empirical correlations of entrainment rate and deposition rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Empirical correlations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Model</td>
<td>(\dot{m}<em>E = 3.196 \times 10^{-6} \times \sqrt{(G</em>{lf} - G_{lf,c}) G_{lf} \dot{W}<em>{lf}^{0.072} R</em>{Eg}^{0.292} (\rho_s/\rho_p)^{0.5}})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hewitt &amp; Govan [3]</td>
<td>(\dot{m}_E = 0.0632 \sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{\rho_p}} \max \left(0.3, \frac{\rho_s}{\rho_p}\right)^{-0.65})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okawa[6]</td>
<td>(\dot{m}_E = 4.79 \times 10^{-4} \frac{\rho_s}{\rho_p} \left(1 + 300 \frac{\rho_s}{\rho_p}\right)^{0.111})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kataoka &amp; Ishii [8]</td>
<td>(\dot{m}_E = \frac{1.200 {Re}_f^{0.05} {Re}_f^{0.25} \dot{W}_f e^{-1.5 \ln \omega(0.0, {Re}_f - {Re}_f,\infty)} + 6.6 \times 10^{-7} {Re}_f^{0.74} {Re}_f^{0.185} \dot{W}<em>f e^{0.925} (\frac{\rho_s}{\rho_p})^{0.26}}{Re}</em>{f,\infty}^{1/3})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table III: Sources of entrained fraction data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exp.</th>
<th>D [mm]</th>
<th>P [bar]</th>
<th>T [°C]</th>
<th>Fluids</th>
<th>No. data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jagota</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>2.8–4.2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>air-water</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whalley</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>1.2–3.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>air-water</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asali</td>
<td>32.42</td>
<td>1.0–2.0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>air-water</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okawa</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>1.4–7.6</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>air-water</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawant</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>1.2–4.0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>air-water</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbosa</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>2.0–5.2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>air-water</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fore</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>air-water</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hewitt</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>1.8–3.6</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>steam-water</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yanai</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>steam-water</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The entrained fraction calculated from the new correlation and that of the existing correlation were compared with the entrained fraction measured in experiments in Table III to evaluate each correlation. In Fig. 2 ~ 5, the open symbol is the air-water condition and the solid symbol is the steam-water condition. Fig. 2 shows the evaluation results of the new model. The new...
model has good predictive performance, with most data included within 30% of deviation. Fig. 3 illustrates that Hewitt-Govan [3] correlation more overpredicts in steam-water data (solid symbol) than air-water data (open symbol). Also, these data are considerable scattering in low entrained fraction region. Fig 4 shows the results calculated from the Okawa [6] correlation is mostly included within 30% compared to air-water data. However, the results underpredict compared to steam-water data. In Fig 5, Kataoka-Ishii correlation clearly shows a considerable under-predict of air-water data and poor prediction of steam-water data.

The root mean square error (RMSE) and the mean absolute percentage error (MAPE) was used to evaluate each droplet model quantitatively, and the assessments are summarized in Table IV. They are defined as follows:

\[
\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (x_i - \hat{x}_i)^2},
\]

\[
\text{MAPE} = \frac{100}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left| \frac{x_i - \hat{x}_i}{x_i} \right|,
\]

where \(x_i\) is the experimental data and \(\hat{x}_i\) is the predicted value. Table IV shows that the new model has the best results. It also shows that Hewitt and Govan [3] and Okawa [6] model have different results in RMSE and MAPE. This is because the Okawa [6] model predicts well in the low entrained fraction region and not in the high entrained fraction region compared to the Hewitt and Govan [3] model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>RMSE</th>
<th>MAPE (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New model</td>
<td>0.078</td>
<td>26.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hewitt-Govan [3]</td>
<td>0.139</td>
<td>61.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okawa [6]</td>
<td>0.172</td>
<td>40.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kataoka-Ishii [8]</td>
<td>0.243</td>
<td>75.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Conclusions

A new correlation of the droplet entrainment rate is proposed using the Ueda’s assumption [7] and the air-water experimental data in Table I. The new model was compared to the existing model based on the air-water and steam-water experimental data in Table III. The result of the assessment shows that the new model best predicted the experimental data.

Nomenclature

- \(C\): droplet concentration (kg/m\(^3\))
- \(D\): hydraulic diameter (m)
- \(E\): entrained fraction
- \(f_i\): interfacial friction factor
G  mass flux \( (\text{kg/m}^2\text{s}) \)

\( j \)  superficial velocity \( (\text{m/s}) \)

\( m_E \)  droplet entrainment rate \( (\text{kg/m}^2\text{s}) \)

\( m_D \)  droplet deposition rate \( (\text{kg/m}^2\text{s}) \)

\( \text{Re} \)  Reynolds number

\( w \)  mass flow rate \( (\text{kg/s}) \)

\( \text{We} \)  Weber number

Greek letters

\( \delta \)  film thickness \( (\text{m}) \)

\( \rho \)  density \( (\text{kg/m}^3) \)

\( \sigma \)  surface tension \( (\text{N/m}) \)

\( \mu \)  dynamic viscosity \( (\text{N s/m}^2) \)

Subscripts

\( \text{d} \)  droplet

\( \text{D} \)  deposition

\( \text{E} \)  entrainment

\( \text{g} \)  gas

\( \text{i} \)  interface

\( \text{l} \)  liquid

\( \text{lf} \)  liquid film

REFERENCES


