Transactions of the Korean Nuclear Society Autumn Meeting – Online, Korea, December 16-18, 2020

Proposal of a New Convective Heat Transfer Correlation For Sodium-to-Sodium Heat Exchanger

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Motivation

- Numerous studies were conducted on the convective heat transfer of various kinds of liquid metals to present the Nusselt number (Nu) correlations with respect to the Péclet number (Pe). However, those correlations still deviated from each other considerably. Accordingly, it is difficult for a design code developer to choose a proper heat transfer coefficient correlation for the sodium-to-sodium heat exchanger.
- Recently, heat transfer performance tests of sodium-to-sodium heat exchangers for PGSFR were successfully accomplished at the STELLA-1 facility in KAERI. Two consecutive tests with a model DHX were conducted at the Korean indigenous large-scale sodium experimental facility. In the first test, steady-state tests were performed under low Pe range conditions that accommodate the operating range of the DHX in the PGSFR. In the second test, experimental results under high Pe range conditions for the IHX in the PGSFR were obtained by increasing the pump capacity.

Objective

- In this work, a new combination of convective heat transfer correlations is proposed for the tube- and shell-sides of the sodium-to-sodium heat exchanger, based on the experimental results of STELLA-1.
- The newly proposed correlation is implemented on the SHXSA design code developed by KAERI for designing a sodium-to-sodium heat exchanger.
- The adequacy of the suggested correlations is assessed by comparing the calculated results of the SHXSA code with the test results of STELLA-1.

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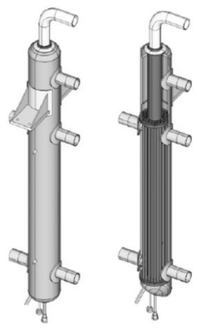
STELLA-1 experiment

- Sixteen conditions were composed as combinations of the mass flow rates and inlet temperatures of the shell- and tube-sides of the model DHX, considering the design condition, normal operating condition, and refueling mode condition of the PGSFR.
- Re in the shell- and tube-sides ranged from 6,122 to 91,900 and from 7,116 to 72,165, respectively, which indicates that all test cases were under the turbulent flow condition.
- Pe in the shell- and tube-sides varied from 45.4 to 524.4 and from 50.3 to 437.1, respectively.

< Design specification of model DHX >

Parameters	Design value
Heat exchanger type	Shell-and-tube, straight-tube
Tube arrangement	Triangular lattice
No. of tubes	42
Tube outer diameter (mm)	21.7
Tube thickness (mm)	1.65
Tube pitch (mm)	32.6
Effective tube length (m)	1.73
Material	Mod.9Cr-1Mo



< Model DHX of STELLA-1 >

A new convective heat transfer correlation

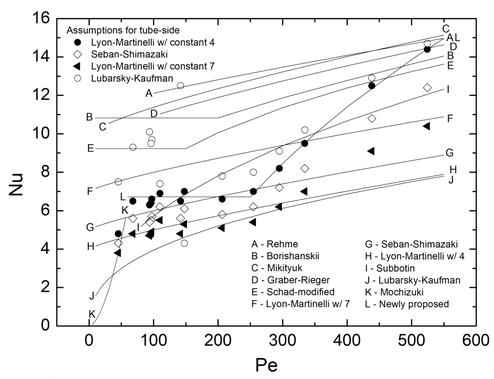
- Four sets of Nu data with respect to Pe, varying according to four kinds of tube-side assumptions, were acquired from the experimental results of STELLA-1.
- It is evidently shown that the previous heat transfer correlations do not agree well with each other, and all the Nu data sets obtained from STELLA-1 also deviated from them over a wide range of Pe.
- A new Nu correlation for the shell-side convective heat transfer in the sodium-to-sodium heat exchanger was derived from the selected shell-side Nu data set (the solid circles)
- The following equations obtained through curve fitting are proposed based on the data of the Pe ranging from 67.8 to 524.4.

$$Nu = -24.2 + 5.9Pe^{0.3}$$

for $P/D = 1.5$ and $Pe \geq 250$

$$Nu = 6.72$$

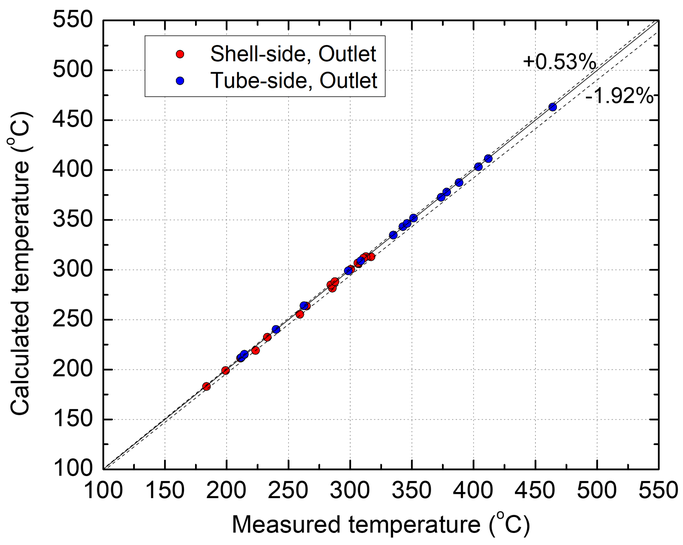
for $70 \leq Pe \leq 250$



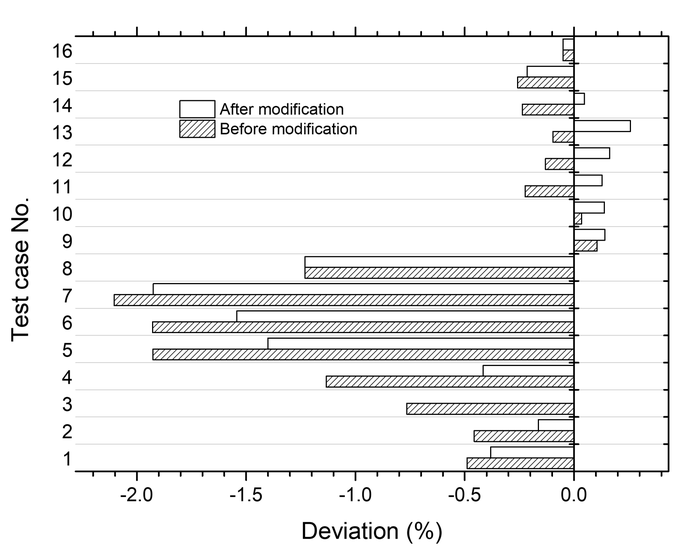
< Shell-side convective heat transfer of model DHX>

Validation of SHXSA Computer Design Code with the New Correlation

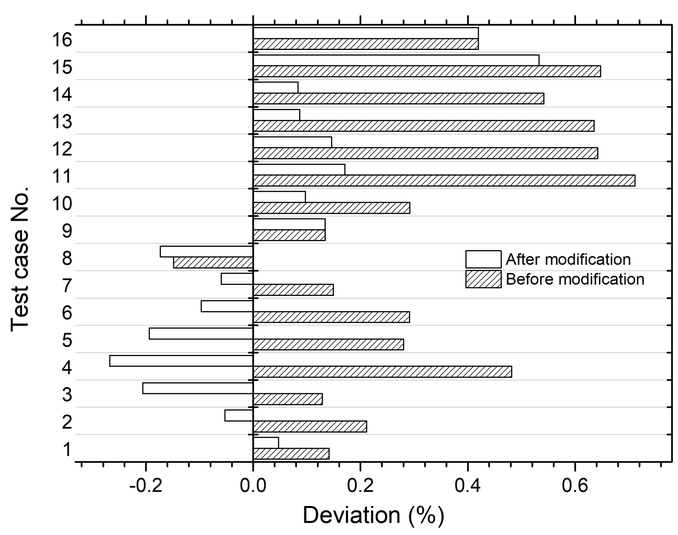
- The SHXSA code developed by KAERI is a one-dimensional thermal sizing computer code for the shell-and-tube type sodium-to-sodium heat exchanger.
- In the modified SHXSA, the convective heat transfer correlation for the tube-side was unchanged as the Lyon-Martinelli correlation ($Nu=4+0.025Pe^{0.8}$), and the Schad and Graber-Rieger correlations were replaced by the newly-proposed correlation for the shell-side.
- In the SHXSA validation using the proposed correlation, the measured outlet temperatures of the model DHX shell- and tube-sides were compared with the corresponding calculated results.
- The discrepancies in the outlet temperatures did not exceed a deviation band from -1.92% to 0.53%.
- In most cases, the deviations of the shell- and tube-sides outlet temperatures were reduced owing to the use of the new correlation.
- The average absolute deviations of the shell-side outlet temperature and tube-side outlet temperature decreased from 0.70% to 0.51%, and from 0.37% to 0.17%, respectively.
- Therefore, it was revealed that the SHXSA calculated results using the proposed correlation have a better agreement with the STELLA-1 experimental results.



< Comparison of outlet sodium temperatures in STELLA-1 DHX experiment and SHXSA calculation>



< Change in deviations of shell-side outlet temperature by use of proposed heat transfer correlation>



< Change in deviations of tube-side outlet temperature by use of proposed heat transfer correlation>

Conclusion

- A new convective heat transfer correlation for the sodium-to-sodium heat exchanger was suggested by analyzing the STELLA-1 experimental data. The Lyon-Martinelli and the newly proposed correlations were employed for the tube- and shell-sides of the in-house SHXSA design code, respectively. It was concluded that the deviations between the SHXSA calculated results and the STELLA-1 experimental results were considerably reduced owing to the use of the new correlation. The average absolute deviations of the shell- and tube-sides outlet temperature were 0.51% and 0.17% in the assessment with STELLA-1 data, respectively. The newly proposed correlation is expected to be practically used for the thermal sizing and performance evaluation of the sodium-to-sodium heat exchanger.