The local resistance of gas-liquid two**phase flow through an orifice**

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The calculation of local resistance of gas-liquid two-phase flow through an orifice is a problem yet to be solved in engineering design. A new model allowing the calculation was developed. The calculation on which the model is based was verified by tests carried out on an air-water two-phase flow test bed and proved to be in good agreement with the experimental results. By comparing the results of the calculation with data from experiments on steam-water systems, the authors also found that, on the whole, this model fits the system of steam-water mixture, thus giving it a rather wide range of application. Moreover, the accuracy of the calculation can also meet the general requirements of engineering design.

Keywords: *gas-liquid two-phase flow, orifice, local resistance*

The orifice is one of the most commonly used elements in flow rate measuring and regulating. Because of its simple structure and reliable performance, the orifice is increasingly adopted in gas-liquid two-phase flow. Today, the technology of measuring flow rate of gasliquid two-phase flow by orifice is becoming increasingly useful. In the straight pipes of two-phase flow with an orifice, the calculation of orifice resistance must inevitably be encountered while the accuracy of the calculation is an important factor in determining the economy and reliability of the design. There have been some investigations made on the theory and experiment of resistance characteristics of orifices^{$1 - 7$} and some useful correlations have been obtained. However, some of them cover only a limited range, and the errors of some are far beyond the margin of tolerance, so they are not widely used in engineering design. The new model presented in this paper was developed to predict the local resistance during the two-phase flow through an orifice, and then corrected by measured data to ensure its wider application and accurate calculation.

Theoretical analysis

As shown in Fig 1, the loss of local resistance, $\Delta p_{1,4}$ in fluid through an orifice can be divided into two parts: loss $\Delta p_{1,3}$ occurs through the section of abrupt contraction, 1-3, and loss $\Delta p_{3,4}$ occurs through the section of uncontrolled expansion, 3-4. Hence,

$$
\Delta p_{1,4} = \Delta p_{1,3} + \Delta p_{3,4} \tag{1}
$$

For gas-liquid two-phase flow through an orifice, it is assumed that the liquid is incompressible fluid and the specific volume of mixture for any one cross-section between sections 1 and 4 is equal to the mean specific volume between the same sections. We define local

resistance as follows:

$$
\Delta p_{1,4} = (\xi_{1,4})_2 \frac{G_2^2 v}{2g} \tag{2}
$$

$$
\Delta p_{1,3} = (\xi_{1,3})_3 \frac{G_3^2 \bar{v}}{2g} \tag{3}
$$

$$
\Delta p_{3,4} = (\xi_{3,4})_3 \frac{G_3^2 \bar{v}}{2g} \tag{4}
$$

where $(\xi_{1,4})_2$ is the loss coefficient from section 1 to 4 based on the mass flux at the orifice plane 2; $(\xi_{1,3})_3$ and $(\xi_{3,4})_3$ are the loss coefficient of the sections of abrupt contraction and uncontrolled expansion, respectively; \bar{v} is the mean specific volume of gas-liquid mixture, that is:

$$
\bar{v} = x\bar{v}_g + (1+x)v_1
$$

Substituting Eqs (2) to (4) into (1) , we have

$$
(\xi_{1,4})_2 = \{(\xi_{1,3})_3 + (\xi_{3,4})_3\} \left(\frac{A_2}{A_3}\right)^2 \tag{5}
$$

which implies that the loss coefficient of an orifice can also be divided into two parts: the loss coefficient of the section

Fig 1 Sketch of gas-liquid two-phase flow passing through an orifice

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Received 24 January 1985 and accepted for publication in final form on 17 February 1986

of abrupt contraction, $(\xi_{1,3})_3$, and the loss coefficient of the section of uncontrolled expansion, $(\xi_{3,4})_3$. Next, the two loss coefficients are discussed by means of the conservation of mass, energy and momentum. Before doing that we must define the two basic parameters: discharge coefficient μ and contraction coefficient ε .

The discharge coefficient μ is defined as

$$
\mu = \frac{M}{M_{\rm r}}\tag{6}
$$

where M is the flow rate; M_r is the ideal frictionless mass flow rate through an orifice, based on the same maximum static pressure drop $p_1 - p_3$ and with no presence of vena contracta.

The contraction coefficient ε is defined as

$$
\varepsilon = \frac{A_3}{A_2} \tag{7}
$$

On the assumption of steady flow with gravitation being ignored, the one-dimensional energy equation based on separated two-phase flow model can be written as

$$
-\bar{v}\frac{dp}{dz} = \frac{dF}{dz} + \frac{d}{dz} \left[G^2 \left\{ \frac{v_1^2 (1-x)^3}{(1-\Phi)^2} + \frac{v_g^3 x^3}{\Phi^2} \right\} \right] \frac{1}{2g}
$$
(8)

Integrating Eq (8) from section 1 to section 3, we have

$$
p_1\bar{v} + \frac{KG_1^2}{2g} = p_3\bar{v} + \frac{KG_3^2}{2g} + (\xi_{1,3})_3\frac{\bar{v}^2G_3^2}{2g}
$$
(9)

where

$$
K = \frac{\tilde{v}_g^2 x^3}{\bar{\Phi}^2} + \frac{v_1^2 (1 - x)^3}{(1 - \bar{\Phi})^2}
$$
(10)

Under the ideal condition, integrating Eq (8) again from cross-section 1 to cross-section 3 and noting $G_3r =$ $G_2 r$ we have

$$
p_1\bar{v} + \frac{KG_1^2r}{2g} = p_3\bar{v} + \frac{KG_2^2r}{2g}
$$

Notation

- A Channel cross-sectional area, $m²$
- D Tube diameter, m
- d Diameter of the hole of an orifice, m
- F Mechanical energy converted to internal energy
- G Mass flux, $kg/(m^2s)$
- m Ratio of cross-sectional area of an orifice to that of the tube
- M Mass rate, kg/s
- n Index
- p Pressure, $kg/cm²$
- Q Volumetric flow rate, m^3/s
- s Velocity ratio
- v Specific volume, m^3/kg
- x Mass quality
- Δp_{14} Local resistance
- ε Contraction coefficient
- μ Discharge coefficient
- ζ Coefficient of local resistance
- Φ Void fraction

From Eqs (6), (7), (9) and (10), we get the coefficient of local resistance for the abrupt contraction section:

$$
(\xi_{1,3})_3 = \frac{\varepsilon^2 K (1 - m^2)}{\bar{v} \mu^2} + \frac{K (\varepsilon^2 m^2 - 1)}{\bar{v}} \tag{11}
$$

where

 $m = \frac{A_2}{4}$ A_{1}

To find the coefficient of local resistance for the uncontrolled expansion, we first integrate Eq (8) from section 3 to section 4, to obtain:

$$
p_3\bar{v} + \frac{KG_3^2}{2g} = p_4\bar{v} + \frac{KG_4^2}{2g} + (\xi_{3,4})_2 \frac{G_3^2\bar{v}^2}{2g}
$$
(12)

Then, on the assumptions of steady flow with negligible friction between fluid and wall and negligible gravitation, the one-dimensional momentum equation based on the separated two-phase flow model can be written⁸

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}z}\left[\left\{\frac{v_1(1-x)^2}{1-\Phi}+\frac{v_gx^2}{\Phi}\right\}G^2A\right]\frac{1}{g}+\frac{\mathrm{d}p}{\mathrm{d}z}A=0
$$

Integrating the above equation from section 3 to section 4, we obtain

$$
p_3 A_1 + \frac{G_3^2 A_3 H}{g} = p_4 A_1 + \frac{G_4^2 A_4 H}{g}
$$
 (13)

where

$$
H = \frac{v_1(1-x)^2}{1-\bar{\Phi}} + \frac{\bar{v}_g x^2}{\bar{\Phi}}
$$

From Eqs (7), (12) and (13), we get

$$
(\xi_{3,4})_3 = \frac{2\epsilon m H(\epsilon m - 1)}{\bar{v}} + \frac{K(1 - \epsilon^2 m^2)}{\bar{v}^2}
$$
 (14)

Substituting Eqs (7), (11) and (14) into Eq (5), the

 $\Phi_{\rm lo}^2$ Two-phase multiplier, which is defined as ratio of two-phase fractional pressure gradient to that of single-phase flow at the same total mass velocity and with the physical properties of the liquid phase

Superscripts

- Mean value between sections 1 and 4

Subscripts

- Steady section upstream of an orifice $\mathbf{1}$ $\overline{2}$ Section of an orifice
- $\overline{\mathbf{3}}$ Section of vena contracta
- $\overline{4}$ Steady section downstream of an orifice
- Inlet of an orifice 6
- $\overline{7}$ Outlet of an orifice
- Gas phase g
- Ī Liquid phase
- \mathbf{r} Ideal condition

coefficient of local resistance for an orifice becomes

$$
(\xi_{1,4})_2 = \frac{K(1-m^2)}{\mu^2 \bar{v}^2} + \frac{2mH(\varepsilon m-1)}{\varepsilon \bar{v}} \tag{15}
$$

which is mainly related to pressure p , mass quality x , mean void fraction Φ and parameter m.

The discharge coefficient μ and the contraction coefficient ε can be calculated according to the correlations given by Benedict⁹. The mean specific volume \bar{v} is defined as the arithmetical mean of the specific volume of the mixture at the inlet and outlet of an orifice, and is given by

$$
\bar{v} = \frac{v_6 + v_7}{2}
$$

The mean void fraction $\overline{\Phi}$ is given by

$$
\bar{\Phi} = \frac{1}{1 + \bar{s} \left(\frac{v_1}{\bar{v}_g} \right) \left(\frac{1 - x}{x} \right)}
$$

The mean velocity ratio \bar{s} in the above correlation is calculated by

 $\bar{s} = \left(\frac{\bar{v}_g}{v_1}\right)'$

in which the index n is to be determined by experiment.

Experimental details

Fig 2 is a sketch of the experimental apparatus. Tests were performed by using air and water.

Fig 2 Air-water loop: (1) water tank, (2) feed-water, (3) pump, (4) filter, (5) turbine meter for water, (6) mixer, (7) seoreoator, (8) sensor of differential pressure, (9) orifice, (10) sensor of pressure, (11) turbine meter for air, (12) compressed air

The water pumped from the steady region of the water tank (1) flowed across the filter (4) to the region of single-phase measurement, then across the mixer (6) to the test section. The compressed air flowed across the region of single-phase measurement into the mixer (6), and, after mixing, the air and water flowed into the test section. The air-water mixture formed in the mixer flowed across the orifice (9), and, in turn, across the adjusting valve for back pressure, into the separated region of the water tank (1). The air was released to the atmosphere while the water was discharged into the steady region. The total length of the test section was 14 m, the length from the mixer to the orifice was 6 m, and the length from the orifice to the water tank 8 m.

The five different orifices in this experiment were measured, and their sizes are shown in Table 1. A total of 298 two-phase runs were performed at values of mass quality x between 0.002 14 and 0.836. The water rate Q' in the test varied between 2.72×10^{-5} and 5.59×10^{-3} m³/s, and the air rate Q" between 1.02×10^{-5} and $4.4 \times$ 10^{-2} m³/s. The orifice inlet pressure p_6 was maintained at 1 and 2 kgf/cm^2 .

Results and analysis

The index n was determined by experiment. For each value of parameter m and pressure p the authors calculated the correlation, Eq (15), between $n = 0$ and 1, at step 0.05. For every step the authors compared calculated $(\xi_{1,4})_2$ with measured $(\xi_{1,4})_2$, and calculated their mean square error σ . The calculated results are drawn in Fig 3 for six of the curves. When $n = 0.55$, as illustrated in Fig 3, the mean square error σ is smallest; that is to say, the calculated value and measured value are the closest. This result has also been obtained by $Cao¹⁰$ using a different approach. Fig 3 also indicates that parameter m and pressure p have no effect on index n .

Using $n=0.55$, curves of $(\xi_{1,4})_2$ versus x for the different orifices at different pressures were calculated from the correlation, Eq (15). Fig 4 shows only two of the curves and the corresponding experimental data. It can be seen that the calculated values agree basically with the measured values, and the coefficient of local resistance $(\xi_{1,4})_2$ of an orifice depends mainly on mass quality x, parameter m and pressure p . The higher the pressure, the larger is the coefficient of the local resistance. It is expected that the curve becomes a straight line parallel with the X -axis at the critical pressure.

The mean square errors of calculated curves are between 5.96% and 13.3%, and the average value of mean square error is about 10%. This is permissible in engineering.

Using $n = 0.55$, the authors calculated the curves of $\bar{\Phi}_{10}^2$ versus x for the different sizes of orifices at different pressures. Fig 5 shows only two of the curves and corresponding experimental data.

The calculated values, as shown in Fig 5, are in good agreement with the measured value. It is also known

Fig 3 Index n versus mean square error

Fig 4 Coefficient of local resistance $(\xi_{1,4})_2$ *versus mass quality x*

from the calculation that the two-phase pressure drop multiplier $\Phi_{\rm lo}^2$ is almost unaffected by parameter *m* and only slightly affected by the mass flux. That means, the higher the pressure, the less steep is the curve. The curves will be parallel with the X -axis at the critical pressure.

As shown in Fig 5, the agreement between the results of experiment and the prediction of Simpson's correlation is fairly good. It implies that Simpson's correlation is not only applicable to an orifice inserted into a large diameter pipe but also to one in erted into a small diameter pipe. However, in the range of low mass quality x , the prediction of Simpson's correlation is on the high side (Fig 6). This point has also been made in Ref 7.

The model proposed was only tested in an air water two-phase flow system; but what is of greater interest is whether the model can be used for steam-water two-phase flow systems. From a comparison made by the authors between the calculated value (on which the model was based) and the experimental data given by Kofaezen² and by Janssen¹ (Figs 7 and 8), it was found that they are in good agreement. That is to say, the model covers a rather wide range of application and can be used either for air-water two-phase flow systems or for steam-water two-phase flow systems.

Conclusion

From numerous experiments undertaken during the research, it was found that the calculated results based on the basic model of local resistance of an orifice proposed by the authors are in good agreement with the

Fig 5 Two-phase multiplier Φ_{lo}^2 versus mass quality **x**

Fig 6 Two-phase multiplier $\Phi_{l_0}^2$ versus mass quality **x**

Fig 7 Comparison of values predicted by model and experimental data given by Kofaezen 2

Fig 8 Comparison of values predicted by model and experimental data given by Janssen 1

experimental results. Further, by comparing the calculated results with data obtained from experiments on steam-water systems by Kofaezen and Janssen, it was also found that, on the whole, this model fits the system of steam-water mixture.

Based on the experiments, the authors recommend index $n = 0.55$, which proved to be steady and unaffected by parameter m and pressure p. Through experiments and calculation, it was also found that the coefficient of local resistance depends mainly on mass quality x, pressure p , and parameter *m*, while pressure drop multiplier Φ_{lo}^2 depends mainly on mass quality x and pressure p .

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APPENDIX: Experimental data

