



A study on the lift-off diameter of bubbles generated on horizontal tube



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ABSTRACT

In this study, experiments and a theoretical analysis on the lift-off diameter of bubbles generated on a horizontal tube were conducted. A force balance analysis in the direction normal to the heated surface at the moment of the bubble lift-off was performed to develop the model. According to the developed model, the bubble lift-off diameter strongly depends on the azimuthal position of the horizontal tube, the relative velocity between a bubble and the surrounding liquid, and the properties of the bubble and liquid. To validate the prediction performance of the proposed model, the dynamics of the bubble growth and sliding process was visualized using a high-speed digital video camera. The proposed model agrees well with the experimental data within an averaged relative deviation of 19.6%.

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1. Introduction

The boiling phenomena on the outside a horizontal tube is widely seen in many applications. PAFS (passive auxiliary feedwater system) adopted in the APR+ (Advanced Power Reactor Plus) of Korea is one of such applications. When PAFS is activated with an actuation signal, steam from the steam generator passes through heat exchanger tubes submerged in a water tank of the PAFS. (Song, 2010; Cheon, 2010; Kim et al., 2013) Outside these heat exchanger tubes, bubble growth and lift-off phenomena appeared. According to the previous studies for the PAFS performance evaluation, the model for the bubble size plays a significant role on the overall behavior or the thermal mixing and heat transfer rate in the heat exchanger.

The heat transfer model for pool boiling on curved surfaces, such as a horizontal tube, is different from the model on horizontal flat surfaces because the sliding bubble mechanism plays an important role. According to Sateesh et al. (2005), the model for boiling on non-horizontal surfaces should consider microlayer evaporation and transient conduction owing to the sliding of the bubbles, as shown in Eq. (1).

$$q_{tot} = (q_{me} + q_{tc})x_{st} + (q_{mes} + q_{tcs})x_s + q_{nc}, \quad (1)$$

where q_{tot} is the total heat flux, q_{me} and q_{tc} are the microlayer evaporation and transient conduction heat flux from a stationary bubble,

q_{mes} and q_{tcs} are the microlayer evaporation and transient conduction heat flux owing to the sliding bubbles, q_{nc} is the natural convection heat flux, and x_{st} and x_s are constants determined by the area ratio parameter R defined as the ratio of area available per nucleation site to the projected area of the bubble at departure.

In a model of wall heat flux partitioning, the microlayer evaporation from sliding bubbles q_{mes} can be defined by four sub-models, i.e., the bubble departure diameter d_d , bubble lift-off diameter d_l , bubble departure frequency f , and active nucleation site density n_b , as shown in Eq. (2)

$$q_{mes} = \frac{1}{6} \pi (d_l^3 - d_d^3) \rho_g h_{fg} n_b f, \quad (2)$$

where ρ_g is the density of the vapor, and h_{fg} is the specific latent heat.

Among these sub-models, this paper focuses on the bubble lift-off diameter. Situ et al. (2005) stated that the bubble lift-off diameter, which is the bubble size when a bubble detaches from the heater surface, can be different from the bubble departure size, which is the bubble size when a bubble detaches from the nucleation site.

There have been a number of works performed on the departure and lift-off diameters of the bubbles generated on non-horizontal surfaces: Schömann et al. (1994), Luke and Gorenflo (2000), Luke (2004) (study on a horizontal tube) Unal (1976), Sateesh et al. (2005), Prodanovic et al. (2002), Situ et al. (2005), Cho et al. (2011) and Chu et al. (2011) (study on a vertical surface). Table 1

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Nomenclature

Symbols		V_b	Bubble Volume (m ³)
b_l	Constant in Eq. (18)	x	Constants Decided by Area Ratio Parameter
C_{sl}	Shear Lift Coefficient		
C_r	Relative Velocity Coefficient		
C_s	Empirical Coefficient in Eq. (17)	Greek symbols	
c_p	Specific Heat (J/kg K)	α	Thermal Diffusivity (m ² /s)
D_{lo}^*	Dimensionless Bubble Lift-off Diameter in Eq. (10)	ν	Kinematic Viscosity (m ² /s)
d	Diameter of Bubble (m)	ρ	Density (kg/m ³)
F	Force (N)	σ	Surface Tension (N/m)
f	Frequency of Bubble Departure (s ⁻¹)	$\theta_a, \theta_r, \theta_m$	Advancing, Receding, and Mean Contact Angles
G_{bl}	Bubble Growth Constant	φ	Azimuthal Angle (°)
G_s	Dimensionless Fluid Velocity Gradient		
g	Acceleration due to Gravity (m/s ²)	Subscript	
h_{fg}	Specific Latent Heat of Vaporization (J/kg)	B	Buoyancy
Ja	Jacob Number	b	Bubble
k	Conductivity (W/m K)	D	Drag
Lo	Lift-off Number in Eq. (12)	du	Unsteady Drag
n_b	Nucleation Site Density (1/m ²)	e	Effective
p^*	Reduced Pressure (p_s/p_c)	f	Fluid
p_c	Critical Pressure (Pa)	g	Vapor
p_s	Saturation Pressure (Pa)	l	Lift-off
Pr	Prandtl Number	m	Mean
q	Heat Flux (W/m ²)	me	Microlayer evaporation (due to stationary bubble)
r	Radius (m)	mes	Microlayer evaporation due to sliding bubble
\dot{r}_b	Derivative of Bubble Radius with Respect to Time (m/s)	min	Minimum
\ddot{r}_b	Second Derivative of Bubble Radius with Respect to Time (m/s ²)	nc	Natural Convection
r^*	Non-Dimensional Radius	s	Sliding
t	Time (s)	sl	Sheer lift
u_f	Liquid Velocity (m/s)	st	Stationary
u_r	Relative Velocity between Bubble Center of Mass and the Liquid Phase	tc	Transient Conduction (due to Stationary Bubble)
		tot	Total
		tcs	Transient Conduction due to Sliding Bubble

Table 1

Previous studies on the bubble departure and lift-off diameter models in non-horizontal surfaces.

Reference	Correlation
<i>Bubble departure diameter models in horizontal tube</i>	
Schömann et al. (1994)	$d_d = -2.38 \cdot 10^{-5} + 4.51 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot p^{*-1} - 2.52 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot p^* - 2$ (3)
	$d_d = -8.05 \cdot 10^{-6} + 6.67 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot p^{*-1} - 5.53 \cdot 10^{-7} \cdot p^{*-2}$ (4)
Luke and Gorenflo (2000)	$d_d = d_{d, \min}(P^*) + a_2(P^*) \cdot \varphi^2$ (5)
	where $d_{d, \min}(P^*) = a \cdot P^{*b}$ and $a_2(P^*) = c \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot P^{*d}$
Luke (2004)	$d_d = Z \cdot P^{*-b} \sqrt{\frac{2\sigma}{g(\rho_l - \rho_g)(1 + C \cos\varphi)}}$ (6)
<i>Bubble departure and lift-off diameter models in vertical surface</i>	
Unal (1976)	$D_{\max} = 2.42 \times 10^{-3} p^{0.709} \frac{a}{\sqrt{bZ}}$ (7)
	where $a = \frac{\Delta T_{\text{sat}} k_f \gamma}{2\rho_g h_{fg} (\pi \alpha_f)^{1/2}}$, $b = \frac{\Delta T_{\text{sub}}}{2(1 - \frac{\rho_g}{\rho_l})}$, $\gamma = \left(\frac{k_s \rho_s c_s}{k_f \rho_f c_{p,f}}\right)^{1/2}$, $\alpha = \max\left(\frac{U_{\text{bulk}}}{0.61}, 1\right)^{0.47}$
Sateesh et al. (2005)	$d_d = \sqrt{\frac{12N}{Mg(\rho_l - \rho_g)}}$ (8)
	where $M = \frac{(1 + \cos\theta_m)^2 (2 - \cos\theta_m)}{\pi - \theta_m + \sin\theta_m \cos\theta_m}$, $N = \frac{\sin\theta_m (1 - \cos\theta_m)}{\pi - \theta_m + \sin\theta_m \cos\theta_m}$
Prodanovic et al. (2002)	$D_{lo}^+ = 440.98 Ja^{-0.708} \vartheta^{-1.112} \left(\frac{\rho_l}{\rho_g}\right)^{1.747} Bo^{0.124}$ (9)
	where $D_{lo}^+ = \frac{D_{lo} \sigma}{\rho_l \nu^2}$, $\vartheta = \frac{T_w - T_{\text{bulk}}}{\Delta T_{\text{sat}}}$, $Bo = \frac{q''}{gh_g}$
Situ et al. (2005)	$D_{lo}^+ = \frac{4\sqrt{22/3} b^2}{\pi} Ja^2 Pr_f^{-1}$ (10)
Cho et al. (2011)	$d_d = 2 \left(\frac{3(2\sin\theta_m) \sigma \frac{\rho_l}{\rho_g} (\sin\theta_a + \sin\theta_r)}{g \Delta \rho} \right)^{0.5}$ (11)
	$d_l = d_l (1 + 2.073 Lo^{-0.505})$, (12)
	where $Lo = C_{sl} \left(\frac{r_{bl}}{G_{bl}} \right)^2$
Chu et al. (2011)	$D_{lo}^+ = 12788.5 Ja^{-0.28} \vartheta^{-1.07} \left(\frac{\rho_l}{\rho_g}\right)^{1.36} Bo^{0.35}$ (13)

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