Onset of Flow Instability in a Rectangular Channel Under Transversely Uniform and Non-uniform Heating

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1 Introduction

2 Experimental setup













1. INTRODUCTION (1/2)



1. INTRODUCTION (2/2)

- > ONB is local phenomena depending on the local heat flux and wall temperature.
- > OFI depends on the total thermal power deposited in the flow channel
- In the plate type fuel research reactors, the power distribution is non-uniform along the axial direction as well as the transverse direction



Transverse heat flux distribution in the plate type fuel research reactor

Study Objective:

- Investigate the effect of transverse power distribution on the ONB and OFI incipience.
- Compare the thermal hydraulic behavior of ONB and OFI between uniform and non-uniform heat flux distribution.

*Jo, D., Seo, C.G., 2015. Effects of transverse power distribution on thermal hydraulic analysis. Progress in Nuclear Energy 81, 16-21.

2. EXPERIMENT SETUP (1/4)



Non-Uniform test section



2. EXPERIMENT SETUP (2/4)



Schematic diagram for the experimental facility

2. EXPERIMENT SETUP (3/4)



(a) Condensing Tank (b) Water Reservoir (c) Pressure Transducer (d) Thermocouple (e) High Speed Camera (f) Test Section (g) Pressure Transmitter (h) Pump (i) PreHeater (j) Flowmeter (k) Heat Exchanger





2. EXPERIMENT SETUP (4/4)

Experimental procedure



Test conditions

| Parameter | Value |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Flow rate [kg/s] | 0.030-0.130 |
| Heat flux [kW/m ²] | 100-800 |
| Power distribution | Uniform/Non-uniform |
| Inlet temperature [C] | 35-65 |
| Pressure | atm~ |
| Hydraulic diameter [m] | 0.004504 |

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3. Data reduction

By comparing the applied electric power Q_e with the imposed thermal power Q_{th} , the energy losses is approximately 7 % and 10 % for uniform and non-uniform test section, respectively.



4. Results and Discussion (1/7)

- The local heat flux for the uniform test section is similar at any location on the heated surface.
- the local heat flux near the edges is much higher than the middle part of the non-uniform heated section.



– 20mm Centerline

(b)





ONB incipience on the heated surface; (a) Non-uniformly heated surface, (b) Uniformly heated surface.



4. Results and Discussion (2/7)

- The ONB incipience is local phenomenon that is highly depends on the local conditions such as the local heat flux rather than the total power deposited in the channel.
- The ONB in the case of nonuniformly heater occurs at power lower than the one for the case of uniformly heated surface due to high heat flux near the edges.



The ONB incipience for uniform and non-uniform heat flux, (Mass flow rate is 0.08 kg/s, Inlet temperature is 50 °C)

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4. Results and Discussion (3/7)

The local heat flux at the ONB is similar for the case of uniform and non-uniform heated test section, as well as the local wall temperature.



The ONB heat flux for the uniform and non-uniform test section (*Mass flow rate is 0.08 kg/s, Inlet temperature is 50 °C*).

4. Results and Discussion (4/7)

> Pressure drop is different, the inlet pressure fluctuation conditions are same



Non-Uniform test section



Thermal hydraulic parameters under **constant power** (Power 3.57 kW, inlet Temperature 50°C)



4. Results and Discussion (5/7)



Change of flow pattern under non-uniform heating

- In the case of non-uniform heating, the pressure drop after OIPF is not increased due to low void fraction in the middle.
- When the flow pattern changes to churn slug flow near the edge, the pressure drop suddenly increases.



Comparison of void fraction under constant power (Power 3.00 kW, Inlet temperature 65 °C)

4. Results and Discussion (6/7)

> Pressure drop is different, the inlet pressure fluctuation conditions are same



Non-Uniform test section



Thermal hydraulic parameters under **constant mass flow rate** (Mass flow rate 0.03 kg/s, inlet Temperature 50°C)

4. Results and Discussion (7/7)



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5. Conclusion

- (a) Effects of transversely heat flux distribution on the ONB and OFI are experimentally investigated through a narrow rectangular channel heated form one-side.
- (b) At the same total power, the local heat flux of the non-uniformly heated surface is much higher than the one in the uniform case.
- (c) ONB is local phenomena, it occurs at the same heat fluxes and wall temperature, even though the thermal power in the case of non-uniform heat flux is around 25 % less than the one in uniform case.
- (d) OFI is global phenomena. OFI occurs at similar thermal power and mass fluxes for the same operation conditions.
- (e) The differences in the heat flux distribution lead to different bubble behavior: the pressure drop behavior and void generation are different between uniform and non-uniform heat fluxes.

Thank you for your attention



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