Development of Generalized ANFIS Model for Flow Boiling of Refrigerants on Plain Tube Bundles

Abhilas Swain, and Mihir Kumar Das

Abstract—The present article concentrates on the development of a generalized ANFIS model to determine the flow boiling heat transfer coefficient on tube bundles specifically for refrigerants. The data being gathered for the present work comprises of the flow boiling experimental data for five refrigerants named R113, R123, R134, R507a and R236fa. Two widely used semi-empirical correlations proposed by Cornwell and Houston and Shah are tested with these refrigerant data for comparison with ANFIS model. These correlations fail to predict the data in all the regimes within a tolerable error of ±20%. The separate ANFIS models developed by training and validation through the experimental data for each liquid are able to predict the same liquid data within ± 5%. Then a generalized model is developed for all the five refrigerants. The non-dimensional terms such as Boiling number, Reynolds Number and reduced pressure and the molecular mass are taken as input and the heat transfer coefficients are predicted as output. The structure of the network is optimized to get the best model. The final model is able to predict all the five refrigerant data within ±20 % irrespective of regimes of flow boiling heat transfer.

Index Terms—Boiling heat transfer, ANFIS, Tube Bundle, Shell and Tube heat exchanger, General correlation.

I. INTRODUCTION

The cross flow across tube bundle with boiling heat transfer as applied in the two phase shell and tube heat exchangers is an interesting and challenging area for researchers because of its wide application in the process and chemical industries. The determination of heat transfer coefficient is the vital part in the designing of efficient and compact two phase shell and tube heat exchanger with shell side boiling. Literatures reveal that different researchers have studied the boiling over tube bundles to analyze different aspects to augment the heat transfer process keeping in view the industrial applications and the review of recent research works can be found in Swain and Das [1]. The process of flow boiling outside tube bundles is very much complicated because of various influencing factors like bundle geometry, tube spacing, mass flux, pressure, heat flux, surface conditions and thermo-physical properties of the fluid. The different researchers investigate the effect of these different factors and still there are unveiled theories in boiling and nucleation process. The boiling heat transfer over tube bundle is so much complicated that, in spite of many correlations available, any one correlation fails to predict the other liquid-surface data within a tolerable range of ± 20 %.

Latest literatures reveal that ANFIS is establishing itself as a strong tool to model complex problems replacing the conventional process of development of empirical correlations. Following investigations are carried out in the last two years in the area of application of ANFIS in modeling different heat transfer and thermal engineering problems. Razi et al. [2] applied the ANFIS technique to model the free convection in a partitioned air cavity in which the average Nusselt number over the heater wall is predicted as output taking the Rayleigh number and partition angle taking input. Beigzadeh and Rahimi [3] modeled the hydrostatics and fluid flow characteristics in helically coiled tubes to predict the Nusselt number and friction factor. Tahseen et al. [4] applied ANFIS to predict the Nusselt number and pressure drop in convection over in-line flattened tube bundles. The ANFIS model is able to predict the Nusselt Number and Dimensionless Pressure drop within ±5%. Hosoz et al. [5] applied the ANFIS to model the performance and emission criteria of a diesel engine running with diesel fuel and biodiesel blends.

The ANFIS is implemented in the boiling area such as for prediction of critical heat flux by Gyun n[6] and Zaferanlouei et al. [7] and for prediction of heat transfer coefficient in pool boiling by Das and Kishore [8]. Therefore, use of ANFIS seems to be a promising method in prediction of flow boiling heat transfer coefficient which in turn is essential for compact and effective design of two phase shell and tube heat exchanger.

The present work is an attempt to create a generalized model using artificial intelligence technique. The required input parameters for generalized model, such as liquid Reynolds number, Reduced Pressure, molecular mass and boiling number are determined from the raw data taking the other properties of the fluid at the saturation temperature. The ANFIS model is trained with these input variables and boiling heat transfer coefficient as output. The structure or the numbers of fuzzy rules are optimized to get the best performing model. The correlation coefficients, mean relative error, mean square error and R² values show characteristics of a good model.

II. DATA GATHERING FOR TRAINING AND VALIDATION

The first step in the modelling process is to gather the data or system characteristics from the experimental setup. To form a generalized ANFIS model for boiling of saturated refrigerants over tube bundles, five liquids are selected. The refrigerants considered for present investigation are R113, R123, R134, R507a and R236fa. The details of the literatures from which data are collected are presented in Table 1.
TABLE I: LITERATURES CONSIDERED FOR THE DATA OF SATURATED BOILING OF LIQUIDS OVER TUBE BUNDLES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Liquids</th>
<th>Tube Bundle pitch and arrangement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Burnside and Sire [9]</td>
<td>R113</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gregory and Eckles [10]</td>
<td>R123</td>
<td>1.167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Robinson and Thome [11]</td>
<td>R134a, R507a</td>
<td>1.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rooyen and Thome [12]</td>
<td>R236fa</td>
<td>1.167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The variables are modified from the raw data to the stated input variables according to the following equations. For generalization of the model it is necessary to the non-dimensionalise the data.

The pressure is converted to non-dimensional form reduced pressure

\[ P_r = \frac{P}{P_{crit}} \]  

(1)

Boiling Number is given by following equation

\[ Bo = \frac{q}{m h_{ft}} \]  

(2)

Then 75% of the data are considered for training and the rest are taken up for validation. The ANFIS built-in commands and options available in MATLAB software are used to create and train the network.

III. VERIFICATION OF OTHER CORRELATIONS

To establish the ANFIS model it is necessary to compare the performance of the ANFIS with the other widely used conventional correlations. The data collected from the literature are first subjected to prediction by these conventional correlations. The Shah [13] model is a very recent model, developed considering data of various refrigerants, some hydrocarbons and water. The Shah [13] correlation prescribes different method of determination of HTC for different regimes distinguished by boiling intensity parameter defined as follows.

\[ Y_{IB} = F_{pb} Bo Fr^{0.3} \]  

(3)

TABLE II: HEAT TRANSFER REGIMES ACCORDING TO BOILING INTENSITY PARAMETER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regime</th>
<th>Range of parameter</th>
<th>Mode of heat transfer</th>
<th>Dominating effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intense boiling</td>
<td>(Y_{IB} &gt; 0.0008)</td>
<td>Nucleate boiling</td>
<td>Heat flux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convective boiling</td>
<td>(0.00021 \leq Y_{IB} \leq 0.08)</td>
<td>Nucleate boiling and convection</td>
<td>Heat flux and mass velocity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convective regime</td>
<td>(0.00021 \leq Y_{IB})</td>
<td>Convection Process</td>
<td>Mass velocity and vapor quality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regime I : Intense boiling regime

\[ h_{cb} = F_{pb} h_{cooper} \]  

(4)

Regime II: Convective boiling regime

\[ \varphi = \varphi_c \varphi = h_{cb} / h_f \]  

(5)

Regime III: Convective regime

\[ \varphi = 2.3 \frac{Pr^{0.22}}{Re} \]  

(6)

Fig. 1. Comparison of experimental value of HTC with those predicted from equations (2, 3, and 4) for flow boiling of R507a, R113, R123 and R134a on tube bundles.

The Shah model [13] prescribes to use the Cooper's correlation for predicting the boiling heat transfer coefficient in for some range of values of boiling intensity parameter which corresponds to nucleate boiling regime. However, the cooper correlation has no term related to mass flux in the correlation. Therefore, for a particular value of heat flux, we have one heat transfer coefficient value for any mass flux range. The Shah [13] correlation is able to predict most of the data within ±20% of the experimental value. However, the constant for material needs to be changed for different liquid surface combination to predict it within acceptable limit.

The Shah correlation is able to predict most of the data within an error of ±20%. Figure shows the experimental data of R123 of Gregory and Eckles [10] are predicted with the shah correlation. In the reported data the results are represented for average vapour quality 50-60%. Thus for the calculation the vapour quality is taken to be 0.55. Thus some of the data may be deviating from the actual data due to this reason. Otherwise, most of the predicted data lies within the ±20% of the experimental data. The constant for the material is upgraded to a value of 6.2 for this purpose. The tubes were enhanced tubes for which the constant for the material is required to taken a higher value.

The data of Gregory and Eckles [10] include the boiling of R123 on enhanced Trubo-II tube bundles. The Cornwell and Houston correlation [14] was formed from the data of boiling of liquids mostly refrigerants on plain tube bundle. However, in case of Gregory and Eckles [10] due to the enhanced surface the magnitude of heat transfer coefficient is higher and it is not at all predictable form the original correlation as there is no term accounting for type of surface.

The Cornwell and Houston [14] correlation is basically for the nucleate boiling regime. The nucleate boiling heat transfer coefficient is magnified by the liquid Reynolds number to determine the flow boiling heat transfer coefficient. The Cornwell and Houston [14] expression is given by the following expression.

\[ \text{Nu}_{cb} = \text{Nu}_{nb} \text{Re}_l \]  

(6)

Where \(\text{Nu}_{nb} = 9.7 P_{crit}^{0.5} F(P) \text{Re}_{b}^{0.67} Pr^{0.4}\) and \(\text{Re}_b = qD / \mu h_f\)  

(7)

Some of the predicted data are inside and some are outside of the ±20% of the experimental value. As the correlation is
primarily meant for the nucleate boiling regime, it is going to deviate largely from the experimental data in the convective boiling regime. Also there is no term to account for the surface quality for which the predicting capability is hampered.

IV. ANFIS MODELLING OF INDIVIDUAL MODELS

The data taken for the modeling work are all experimental data. The boiling heat transfer coefficients at various heat flux, mass flux and pressure values are taken from the open literature. The heat flux and mass flux data are converted to Boiling number and the pressure values are converted to the reduced pressure value for reducing the number of inputs. The output is same the heat transfer coefficients. The general architecture of the ANFIS model taken is shown in Figure 3.

The different ANFIS model created for the different refrigerant data taking the boiling number and the reduced pressure as input and predicting the heat transfer coefficient as output. The individual models for the respective refrigerant are able to predict the heat transfer coefficient within an error of ± 5%.

Figure 4 shows the comparison of the predicted and experimental heat transfer coefficient in flow boiling for

![Fig. 4. Comparison of the HTC predicted from ANFIS with experimental for (a) R507a (b)R134a (c) R123 (d)R236fa](http://dx.doi.org/10.15242/IAE.IAE1214202)
different refrigerants. As the data set belongs to the same liquid in a particular range of parameters the model formed is accurate in predicting the heat transfer coefficients.

To find out the best final ANFIS model, the models are tested varying the same kind and number of membership function. Figure 5 shows the variation of the RMSE with the number of membership functions for various types of membership functions. The RMSE for the three number of membership function is the lowest and as generalised Bell type membership functions are considered for for its property [8]. Therefore, for the final model the Bell type membership function is taken with three numbers.

V. DEVELOPMENT OF GENERALIZED ANFIS MODEL

The individual ANFIS models created for each refrigerant are capable of predicting the experimental data with a good accuracy because they belong to the same pattern and the same liquid. However, a lot difficulty arises in making a single model capable of predicting the experimental data of all five refrigerants with reasonable accuracy. The predicted data from this model deviate largely from the experimental data in the higher heat transfer coefficient range.

Then to make the model better the architecture of the network has to be changed suiting to the data set. The number and combinations of the antecedents or the links between the first layer and the second layer are changed by applying different combinations. Different sets of combinations of numbers 1-16 are created and the corresponding links are disabled. The different combinations are the set of numbers having number of elements 8, 10 and 12) ranging from 1-16 positive integers. Each combination is then tested to determine the $R^2$ value. Then the combination having the highest $R^2$ value is chosen as the best model. Figure 7 shows the prediction of the best model among the models tested for removing the connecting links as per the combinations produced. The statistical performance parameters for the different models are presented in Table 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Models</th>
<th>R Square</th>
<th>RMSE</th>
<th>MSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Model without optimisation</td>
<td>0.9235</td>
<td>189.41</td>
<td>28636.683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Model with optimisation</td>
<td>0.9563</td>
<td>186.73</td>
<td>28422.549</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After taking all these parameters (Boiling Number, Reduced Pressure, Molecular mass and Liquid, Reynolds) as input variables the model created and trained is not able to predict the heat transfer coefficient. The predicted data from this model deviate largely from the experimental data in the higher heat transfer coefficient range.

Fig. 5. variation of root mean square error with number of membership functions for various types of membership functions

Fig. 6. Comparison of HTC predicted (ANFIS optimised) with experimental for all the five refrigerants (R507a,R123,R113,R134a and R236fa)
VI. CONCLUSIONS

VII. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Bo  Boiling Number

\( F_{pb} \)  Factor for Pool boiling

Fr  Froude Number

HTC  Heat Transfer coefficient (W/m\(^2\)K)

\( h_{lv} \)  Latent heat of Vaporization (KJ/Kg)

\( h_{cb} \)  Convective boiling HTC (W/m\(^2\)K)

m  Mass Flux

Nu  Nusselt Number

\( Nu_{ab} \)  Nusselt Number in Nucleate boiling

Re  Reynolds Number

\( Re_{b} \)  Bubble Reynolds Number

P  Pressure (Bar)

q  Heat Flux (KJ)

\( P_r \)  Reduced Pressure

\( \nu \)  fourth variable

\( \phi \)  Ratio of HTC of flow boiling and convection

\( \mu_1 \)  Liquid Viscosity (m\(^2\)/s)

REFERENCES


**Abhilas Swain** is a PhD student in Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar. His research interests are two phase flow boiling, artificial intelligence techniques and heat exchangers.

**Mihir Kumar Das** is an Assistant Professor in the School of Mechanical Sciences at Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, India. He received his M. Tech and Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology,Roorkee, India, in 2006. His research areas include enhanced boiling heat transfer and PCM based electronic cooling. He has published his research work in reputed international referred journals.

http://dx.doi.org/10.15242/IAE.IAE1214202