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- Fluid dynamic and thermodynamic processes for choking are approximated by quasi-steady state flow relations
- Provides boundary conditions for transient solutions
- Eliminates the need for fine nodalization
- In LOCA events, the critical flow is initiated and sustained by the large pressure gradient at the break
 - Friction and heat addition mechanisms are important for gas dynamics, but do not play any role in LOCA

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Two-Phase HEM Critical Flow Implementation (Continued)

> The steady state mixture (sum) momentum equation is [Equation (5.28) plus friction and gravity terms]

$$\frac{1}{2}\alpha_{g}\rho_{g}\frac{\partial v_{g}^{2}}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_{f}\rho_{f}\frac{\partial v_{f}^{2}}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \rho B_{x} - \alpha_{f}\rho_{f}F_{f}v_{f} - \alpha_{g}\rho_{g}F_{g}v_{g}$$

The vapor generation term is not present due to the assumption of equal velocity

In the integration from the volume center to the the throat, the "αp" factors for the friction and gravity terms are approximated by the volume center values since their contributions are negligible for short lengths

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Two-Phase HEM Critical Flow Implementation (Continued)

- > The "αρ" factors associated with the momentum flux terms are approximated by average quantities that are adjusted to produce HEM critical flow rate
- If the calculated velocity from the momentum equations is higher than the two-phase equilibrium sound speed, the velocity solution becomes:

v_g=v_f=a_{HE}

> A transition region from subcooled choking to two-phase choking is implemented to smooth the critical mass flow rate





Conclusion

- > The presentation provides description of subcooled choking and two-phase HEM critical flow model used in assessment and plant application calculations
- > The model uncertainty is obtained from assessment of nine Marviken critical flow tests

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Statistical Resolution

- > Resolution:
 - Regulatory Guide 1.157 indicates:

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"The revised paragraph 50.46(a)(1)(i) requires that it be shown with a high probability that none of the criteria of paragraph 50.46(b) will be exceeded, and is not limited to the peak cladding temperature criterion. However, since the other criteria are strongly dependent on peak cladding temperature, explicit consideration of the probability of exceeding the other criteria may not be required if it can be demonstrated that meeting the temperature criterion at the 95% probability level ensures with an equal or greater probability that the other criteria will not be exceeded."

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Transient Discharge of Mass and Energy

Please describe how the discharge mass flow rate is obtained for the postulated instantaneous rupture of a long pipe before the quasi-steady blowdown rate is reached. The pipe is attached to a pressure vessel

Concern:

The earliest RELAP calculations for this case sometimes resulted in flow rates exceeding critical flows. Too much mass lost

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Transient Discharge of Mass and Energy

Background

- > Numerical Considerations
 - Using fine nodalization and small time-steps, RELAP5 codes have demonstrated the ability to mechanistically capture the choke flow phenomenon
 - This approach is computationally intensive and undesirable
 - To achieve fast execution speed, implicit evaluation is used for those terms responsible for the sonic wave propagation time step. This allows a maximum stable time step to approach the Courant limit





Propagative Flows

Please describe how moving pressure or velocity disturbances can be tracked by the code as they propagate through a subsystem either as sonic (waterhammer) or shock waves

Concern:

Volume/time-averaged properties may distort spatial gradients that drive the propagation of pressure waves



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Forces on Piping and Structures

Please describe how transient properties from S-RELAP5 calculations are employed to predict forces on stationary solid surfaces, such as pipes, containing walls, and submerged structures

Concern:

Miscalculations of forces

Forces on Piping and Structures

> Realistic LBLOCA has not been developed to address this type of calculation

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Selection of Node Size

Please describe how various node sizes are selected in a given system, providing assurance that the dominant phenomena are predicted, representative of the actual system response being analyzed

Concern:

Coarse nodalization may mask important phenomena

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Node Size

Quotes from "Quantifying Reactor Safety Margins"

"The plant model must be nodalized finely enough to represent both the important phenomena and design characteristics of the NPP but coarsely enough to remain economical."

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- "Thus, the preferred path is to establish a standard NPP nodalization for the subsequent analysis." This minimizes or removes nodalization, and the freedom to manipulate noding, as a contributor to uncertainty."
- > "Therefore, a nodalization selection procedure defines the minimum noding needed to capture the important phenomena."
- "This procedure starts with analyst experience in previous code assessment and application studies and any documented nodalization studies. Next, nodalization studies are performed during the simulation of separate- and integral-effects code data comparisons. Finally, an iterative process using the NPP model is employed to determine sufficiency of the NPP model nodalization."



Node Size

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> Conclusions

teeting er 13-14, 2002

- Initial nodalization based on experience
- Revised based on plant studies and assessment results
- Final nodalization validated through the performance of final assessments





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Agenda - November 14

Morning

- > Summary of RLBLOCA Methodology (O'Dell)
 - Requirements and capabilities
 - Changes to RELAP5 to create S-RELAP5

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- Assessment and ranging of parameters
- Sensitivity and uncertainty analyses