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# International Agreement Report

# An Assessment of TRAC-PF1/MOD1 Using Strathclyde 1/10 Scale Model Refill Tests 2nd Report

Prepared by W. M. Dempster, A. M. Bradford, T. M. S. Callander, H. C. Simpson

University of Strathclyde/Central Electricity Research Laboratories Kelvin Avenue Leatherhead, Surrey United Kingdom

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

March 1992

Prepared as part of The Agreement on Research Participation and Technical Exchange under the International Thermal-Hydraulic Code Assessment and Application Program (ICAP)

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#### SUMMARY

TRAC PF1/MOD1 predictions of LOCA refill experiments carried out on a 1/10 scale model are presented and compared against experimental measurements and video observations. Sensitivity studies have been carried out to determine the effect of hydraulic diameter and nodalisation. It has been shown that a 4 segment mesh is insufficient to represent the geometry and phenomena in the downcomer during the refill process. It is suggested that improper modelling of the vessel/pipe connections causes the incorrect prediction of the distribution of injected liquid. Therefore, the liquid fraction at and below the injection positions is over-predicted with the consequences of the incorrect calculation of interfacial momentum and energy transfer terms.

A simplified analysis of total penetration conditions reveals that the liquid heat transfer coefficient during condensation is substantially greater than suggested by the reduction of the experimental measurements.

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## NOMENCLATURE

A	Surface Area (m <sup>*</sup> )
В	Interfacial area per unit length (m)
α	Void Fraction
Cp	Specific heat capacity (J/kgK)
D	Diameter (m)
E	Entrainment Fraction
g	Gravitational acceleration (m/s <sup>2</sup> )
hrg	Enthalpy of evaporation (J/kgK)
h	Heat transfer coefficient (Watts/m <sup>2</sup> K)
Ja	Jakob number.
k	Equilibrium Factor
М	Mass Flow (kg/s)
р	pressure (N/m <sup>2</sup> )
$\Delta T_{\text{sub}}$	.nlet subcooling (saturation temp - inlet water temp) $(K)$
v	Velocity (m/s)
W	Circumference (m)
y	Fraction of inlet water penetrating to lower plenum.
μ	Dynamic viscosity (Ns/m <sup>2</sup> )
٢	Surface tension (N/m)
ρ	density (kg/m³)
Δρ	$\rho_i - \rho_g  (kg/m^3)$
AX	cell length (m)

## Subscripts

d	droplet
de	downcomer
'n	hydraulic
ì	interfacial
in	inle!
1	liquid
LP	Lower plenum
r	relative
S	steam
sat	saturated
v	vapour

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes the second and final phase of an investigation to assess the capabilities of the thermal hydraulic code TRAC PF1/MOD1 to simulate the refill phase of a double ended cold leg break LOCA. An initial investigation (Ref.1) established the codes poor predictive performance when applied to steady state refill experiments carried out at Strathclyde University on a 1/10 scale model of a PWR downcomer. However, an improvement in the TRAC predictions was obtained when the convective terms in the momentum equations were reformulated in a more conservative form. The calculations reported in this document continue from the previous work and attempt to address some of the questions that arose over TRAC'S sensitivity to nodalisation and the appropriate hydraulic diameter for the downcomer flow paths. In addition a limited assessment of the interfacial heat transfer modelling has been carried out against the Strathclyde experimental data.

The experimental facility was previously reported (Ref.1). However, for completeness a line diagram of the facility is shown in Fig. 1.1 and details of the 1/10 scale vessel are shown in Fig. 1.2. The TRAC nodalisation of the test facility is shown in Fig. 1.3 and is used in all TRAC calculations.

#### 2. SENSITIVITY STUDY: Downcomer Hydraulic Diameter

#### 2.1 Background

During the previous study (Ref.1) various questions arose concerning the difficulty of modelling the particular design of downcomer simulated in the 1/10 scale model. A thermal shield is incorporated into the downcomer annulus and this divides the downcomer into two separate flow paths; an inner gap of 6 mm and an outer gap of 13 mm (Fig.1.2). The flow conditions could only be fully resolved by using at least 2 rings in the numerical solution grid to represent the downcomer. However, this would introduce a substantial increase in cpu time and still not remove the uncertainty in the prediction since TRAC would then have difficulty in predicting the correct division of flows between the channels. To overcome some of these difficulties the downcomer was modelled with one ring in the numerical grid and the flow areas of the two channels were combined into a single flow path. A difficulty then arises when specifying an appropriate hydraulic diameter for the downcomer which through the TRAC constitutive relations affects the calculation of wall shear stress, wall to fluid heat transfer and interfacial shear stress and heat transfer.

Two sets of calculations were performed to quantify the effect of this parameter on the solution. The first, which was discussed in detail in the previous report (Ref.1) was performed with a hydraulic diameter of twice the combined gap size (0.038m). This effectively ignored the presence of the thermal shield. To determine the effect of this modelling assumption a series of calculations were repeated with the thermal shield surface area taken into account. This produced a hydraulic diameter of half the original (0.019m).

The refill experiments used for this sensitivity test are identified in Table 2.1. The original tests with a hydraulic diameter of 0.038 m are identified as B. C and D, the repeated tests with a hydraulic diameter of 0.019 m as B2, C2 and D2, respectively. Figs. 2.1 - 2.6 compare the differences in the TRAC results for each of the tests and are discussed separately below.

#### 2.2 TRAC Calculations

#### Steam/Water Partial Penetration Tests B/B2

It can be seen from Fig. 2.1 that reducing the hydraulic diameter has produced a much improved prediction of the bypass flow rate. However the the flow conditions in the downcomer are still incorrectly predicted as can be deduced from the reduction in the calculated overall stearn condensation rate when compared with the experimental measurement. (Fig.2.2). In addition, the wall heat transfer has decreased, as shown in Fig. 2.3 which is likely to be associated with the reduction in liquid in the downcorner.

#### Air/Water Partial Penetration Tests C/C2

Fig. 2.4 shows that changing the hydraulic diameter had very little effect on the results of this test, the prediction remaining a very poor simulation of the actual test.

#### Steam/Water Total Bypass Tests D/D2

Fig. 2.5 shows that from 12 seconds onwards the overall result changed from a partial bypass situation to a total penetration condition. Also the path chosen by TRAC for liquid to flow to the lower plenum switched from sector 7 to sector 8 for no apparent reason. (rig. 2.6).

#### 2.3 Discussion

It is apparent from the above tests that using a more appropriate value of the hydraulic diameter did not produce any improvements in the predictions of the experimental tests.

However, it did indicate how TRAC can be sensitive to parameters such as the hydraulic diameter. Also, the results of test B/B2 show that the prediction depends on the interaction of many effects which all have to be adequately modelled to correctly predict the refill conditions. In TRAC the hydraulic diameter influences, to varying degrees interfacial heat transfer, interfacial friction, wall to fluid heat transfer and wall friction (Ref. 2). Identifying how each of these model dependencies affect the results is an almost impossible task at the level of analysis that is currently being carried out. This would require a much more detailed analysis and a more flexible code to assess TRAC's difficulties in simulating the phenomena observed during refill conditions. An example of such enhancements would be the capability to output the individual terms of the graphics dump. This ability to control the output of calculated parameters would allow a more detailed analysis to be carried out.

## 3. ASSESSMENT OF TRAC INTERFACIAL HEAT TRANSFER CORRELATIONS

#### 3.1 Overview

In any TRAC assessment using separate effects tests such as the Strathclyde refill tests, a difficulty arises in identifying deficiencies with individual physical models used in the code due to the interdependency of other effects. For Steam/Water tests with substantial liquid subcooling the TRAC predictions are the result of the effects produced by the interfacial heat transfer, interfacial friction, wall friction and wall to fluid heat transfer models. These tests involve too many effects for code deficiencies to be easily identified.

This section attempts to overcome this difficulty by restricting the comparison to total penetration conditions where the flow regimes are known with some confidence, and the experimental measurements can be reduced to give interfacial heat transfer coefficients. The appropriate TRAC interfacial heat transfer models for these conditions can be extracted from the TRAC code and assessed separately.

#### 3.2 Analysis

The Strathclyde experiments covered a range from complete bypass to complete penetration of the inlet liquid flow. It was apparent from the video recordings that for most bypass conditions, particularly with any substantial liquid subcooling, highly chaotic flow regimes existed in the downcomer. However, for total penetration conditions the flow regime was less disturbed and existed as a downward flowing liquid film attached to the downcorner wall with a counter current flowing vapour. Under these conditions it is possible to approximate the interfacial area within the following limits:

$$A_{dc} \leq A_i \leq 2 A_{dc}$$
.

i.e. the film will either exist on one wall or both walls, therefore doubling the interfacial area for the liquid film.

Therefore, since the flow regime interfacial area can be quantified for these conditions it is possible to compare the TRAC condensation models for the total penetration flow regime. The particular TRAC models being compared here are described in (Ref.2) and only relate to the film condensation models. This comparison does not include the models associated with droplet heat transfer nor the special models implemented to account for the jet flow regimes at the cold leg/vessel injection points (Ref.3). The TRAC models being assessed are described below and will be compared in the following form.

$$hA_{rac} = h_{il} film A_{i} film$$

where

$$= 0.02 \rho_1 C p_1 V_1$$

$$A_{i \text{ film}} = MAX \left( \left[ \pi D_{h} \Delta X \frac{1-\alpha}{1-DUK} \right], SLABAREA \right) 2$$

$$DUK = 1 - \frac{10^{-3}}{D_{h}}$$

hu rilm

To carry out the assessment, the interfacial area has been identified as double the inside downcomer wall area (i.e. 2 x SLAB Area) and the entrainment set to zero. However it should be noted that if TRAC was being used to model downcomer conditions in which the slab area was not included (i.e. SLAB AREA = 0.0) in the input deck then the interfacial film area would be wrongly evaluated and represented by a cylinder of diameter  $D_{s}$  and length  $\Delta X$  instead of the considerably larger downcomer wall surface area.

Also V, has been calculated from

$$V_{i} = \min\left(\frac{M_{i}}{A_{de}\rho_{i}(1-\alpha)}, 3.0\right)$$

The method used to reduce the experimental measurements of condensation rates to interfacial heat transfer coefficients has been discussed by Lieu et al (Ref.4) and extended more recently by Megahed (Ref. 5, 6). The following expression relates the heat transfer coefficient and interfacial area product to the experimental conditions. An outline of the derivation for this expression can be found in Appendix 1.

$$\mathbf{h}_{i} \mathbf{A}_{i} = -\ln\left(\mathbf{l} - \mathbf{k}\right) \mathbf{M}_{i} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{p}_{i}$$

ere 
$$k = \text{equilibrium factor} = 1 \cdot \exp\left(-0.24\left(Jaj_{l}^{*}\left(\frac{p_{l}}{p_{r}}\right)^{1/2}y^{-1/2}\right)^{-0.6}\right)$$

$$j_{l}^{*} = \frac{M_{l}}{A\rho_{l}} \sqrt{\frac{\rho_{l}}{g W (\rho_{l} - \rho_{v})}}$$
$$Ja = \frac{C_{pl}\Delta T}{h_{fg}}$$

The above expressions were used to calculate the heat transfer coefficient area product for the range of inlet liquid flowratt's covered by the Strathclyde experimental tests i.e. 0 - 8 kg/s. It should be noted that the Strathclyde expression for the equilibrium factor was found to be dependent on the degree of inlet subcooling while the TRAC models are not. Therefore to indicate the range of possible values for the experimental hA, subcoolings of 20 K and 60 K have been used to produce the two curves shown in Fig.3.1 which are compared with the TRAC computed values of hA.

It is quite apparent from Fig.3.1 that the TRAC condensation heat transfer rates can be an order of magnitude higher than the experimentally derived values.

#### 3.3 Condensation Models Characteristic

An exercise was carried out to examine the general characteristics of the condensation models incorporated in the TRAC code. The correlations used were those corresponding to the annular mist condensation models and are described in Appendix A2. Fig. 3.2 shows the variation of the individual film and mist components of equation A.2.1 and the total heat transfer coefficient area product (hA) with vapour velocity. It can clearly be seen that already high values associated with the liquid film coefficient increase rapidly for an increase in the vapour velocity. This increase is due to the increased entrainment over this velocity range and is similar to the increase in interfacial drag discussed in the previous report (Ref.1). In addition Fig. 3.3 shows how the heat transfer rate will decrease as void fraction is increased mainly due to the decrease in interfactal surface area between the liquid and the vapour.

#### 4. NODALISATION STUDY

#### 4.1 Background

Previous TRAC assessments (Ref. 8, 9) had attempted to investigate the effect of nodalisation changes but no conclusion could be made to support any particular degree of nodalisation. Cappiello (Ref.8) had conducted a limited study by increasing the number of circumferential sectors from four to eight and reported that this had no effect on the results. However, Slovik (Ref.9) had carried out nodalisation sensitivity studies by concentrating on the effect of the flow area blockages associated with the hot leg penetrations and found TRAC to be very sensitive to how the blockages are modelled but with no clear trend emerging on how the blockages affect the overall results.

The current exercise investigates the effect of nodalisation on the TRAC calculations using a limited number of numerical grid changes. Only the total bypass test, (test D of the previous tests, Ref.1) was used to investigate grid changes so to minimise on cost but to maximise on grid variations. The choice of nodalisation was primarily based on an analytis of the TRAC calculations carried out in the previous Phase I study (Ref.1). In these calculations it was observed that variables such as the vapour velocity could increase from values of 15 m/s at the downcomer entrance to over 30 m/s at the cold leg break cell position [Sect 5, Level 11]. However, the vapour velocity in the cold leg break pipe was usually in the region of 60-70 m/s which suggested that much greater velocities were present in the downcomer than the calculated 30 m/s. Steep gradients also existed in the circumferential direction but with a much coarser circumferential grid than the axial direction. In addition, the liquid in the downcomer tended (in total bypass conditions) to be concentrated at the top of the downcomer where the existing grid was very coarse. It should also be noted that it is impossible to fully resolve the cold and hot leg vessel geometry in the downcomer of a 4 loop PWR with a 4 sector model, due to the difficulty of correctly positioning the cold leg positions relative to the broken cold and hot leg penetration.

As has been pointed out in the previous study (Ref.1) and in section 2 of this report, the interfacial heat transfer and shear stress are very sensitive to the magnitude of the vapour velocities. In fact for large relative velocities the heat transfer is proportional to the square of the vapour velocity while the shear stress is proportional to the fourth power of the vapour velocity. In addition these two important parameters are also dependent on the void fraction in the determination of interfacial areas and flow regimes. The overall effect is likely to produce a calculation that is very sensitive to the vapour velocities and flow regimes

This exercise has two basic objectives:

(1) to determine the effect of refining the numerical grid circumferentially and axially. This would investigate the effect on numerical approximations, i.e. whether the solution had converged and to investigate the circumferential positioning of the cold leg injection points relative to the break;

(2) to investigate the effect of including hot leg penetrations which are modelled as flow area blockages in TRAC.

#### 4.2 TRAC CODE

The TRAC code used in this exercise was a version of the Winfrith TRAC,  $B \oslash 3$ , modified by Turner (Ref.10) to include a more conservative formulation of the finite difference equations. However, ambiguity arose over the extent of the modifications to the convection terms in the TRAC momentum equations for the liquid and vapour phases. Therefore, the equations are outlined below for clarity.

The original formulation of the TRAC momentum equations for the vapour Z-direction equation are:

$$\frac{\partial u_z}{\partial t} + u_r \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial r} + \frac{u_{\theta}}{r} \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial \theta} + u_z \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} = [\text{TERMS}]$$

Turner modified the equations by reformulating the main convection term  $\begin{pmatrix} e_g & u_z \\ -\frac{\partial u_z}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix}$  in

each direction of the vapour and liquid momentum equations. Thus the above equation became:

$$\frac{\partial \mu_{Z}}{\partial t} + \mu_{z} \frac{\partial \mu_{Z}}{\partial r} + \frac{\mu_{s}}{r} \frac{\partial \mu_{Z}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{\alpha \rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\alpha \rho \mu_{Z}^{2}) + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial z} = [\text{TERMS}]$$

An attempt was made by Turner to reformulate other convection terms | eg 👘 👘

However, coding difficulties excluded this work from being completed in time to be used in this study.

#### 4.3 Vessel Nodalisation

The numerical grids chosen for the vessel nodalisation reflected our understanding that the steepest gradients of the dependent variables, velocity, temperature, void fraction etc. were concentrated in the upper downcomer region for a total bypass test. Table 4.1 shows the range of tests carried out. In Tests S1, S2 and S3 the circumferential sectors were increased from 4 to 8 to 16 respectively for a 13 level grid, while in Tests S2, S5, and S6 the effect of an increase in axial levels was investigated for an 8 sector grid. The effect of flow area blockages was investigated in a 15 level grid for Tests S7, S8 and S9 while the consequence of moving cold leg positions was shown in Test S10 for a 4 sector nodalisation.

Figs. 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 show the axial levels for Tests S1, S2 and S3. Fig. 4.2 and Table 4.1 also show the position of the blockages used in Tests S7, S8 and S9. Figs. 4.4a, 4.4b, 4.4c and 4.5 show the circumferential positions of the cold legs in each test.

#### 4.4. Steady State Vapour Only Condition

One of the most difficult problems in analysing the source of differences between tests is the number of and variation in the dependent variables of the problem. To minimise these difficulties it was thought judicious to study the effect of the vapour velocity during the initial single phase period (0 - 5 secs.) of the calculation prior to water injection. This would highlight the effect of the nodalisation changes and give some indication of the appropriateness of the chosen numerical grid. However, even though the single phase vapour velocity distribution will be similar to that during the transient, the existence of liquid and localised condensation will further introduce transient redistribution of the vapour velocity and necessitate the need for a finer numerical grid than that appropriate for the steady state single phase condition.

An examination of the effects of increasing the number of circumferential sectors from 4 to 1 to 16 (Tests S1, S2 and S3) show that the solution has clearly not converged. Figs. 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8 show the vapour velocity components for the axial and circumferential directions of each top and right hand face respectively, for each cell. The velocity components, in particular geometrical planes, have been taken from the values shown in Figs. 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8 to produce the curves in Figs. 4.9, 4.10 and 4.11.

Fig. 4.9 shows the axial velocity components directly below the break cell (ie levels 4 - 10, Fig. 4.1) for each of the grid changes. It can be seen that an increase in the number of circumferential sectors produces greater velocities in regions close to the break cell. Fig. 4.10 shows the axial velocity components up the downcomer in the circumferential sector furthest from the break. T a decrease in the axial component of velocity is indicated quite clearly in the upper downcomer regions as the grid is refined in the circumferential direction.

Fig. 4.11 shows the effect of the circumferential grid changes on the circumferential velocity component and plots the theta velocity components around the downcomer from the break cell position, at the break cell level. It can be seen that higher velocity magnitudes are predicted close to the break and is similar to the effects on the axial velocity component. Better predictions of the circumferential velocity component associated with the line of symmetry in the flow field at 180 degrees are being produced. However, the calculation using the 13:16:2 grid shows a slightly skewed velocity distribution with the line of a symmetry appearing at 126 degrees from the break instead of 180 degrees. The asymmetry in the flow is believed to be caused by the way the steam was introduced into the vessel. The steam mass flow entered into the core via a hot leg and since this pipe/vessel connection used only one core sector, an asymmetry in the flow could be produced as the grid was refined in the circumferential direction. The asymmetry in the core flow could then easily propegate into the downcomer.

Similar trends in the velocity distribution can be seen by increasing the axial levels from 13 to 15 for an 8 sector grid and concentrating the increase in the levels to the cold and hot leg region (see Fig. 4.2 for nodalisation). Fig. 4.12 shows the vapour velocity components in the axial and circumferential directions with the spatial effects plotted in Figs. 4.9, 4.10 and 4.11.

Comparing Tests 55 and S9 which show the effects of introducing flow area blockage, as indic sted in Fig. 4.2 it can be seen that the main differences were localised to the break area. Fig. 4.13 shows the redistribution of the vapour flow as it leaves the blockage regions.

Therefore, it can be seen from the above assessment of the single phase vapour flow distribution that as the numerical grid is refined, particularly in the circumferential direction and axially local to the break, the vapour velocities reduce in the regions furthest from the break and increase local to the break.

However, refining the numerical grid in the circumferential direction improves the ability to model the correct position of the cold leg, vessel connections. The consequences of this are that the ECC injection flow enters into regions of lower vapour velocities, in particular circumferential velocity components, when compared to the four sector course grid. The ability to bypass the liquid would then be expected to diminish.

#### 4.5 Transient Steam-Water Flows

The transient cases tend to be more difficult to analyse since the change in the numerical solution grid affects each of the dependent variables. The combined effect may result in a widely different solution depending on the sensitivity of the calculation to the dependent variables.

Figs. 4.14 to 4.18 show the break mass flow rates for the cases chosen to investigate an increase in the number of cells in the solution grid but with the exclusion of any hot leg blockage modelling; Tests S1, S2, S4, S5 and S6. Changing from a 13:4:2 to 15:4:2 grid did not change the overall result, i.e. total bypass was predicted in both cases as can be seen from Figs. 4.14 and 4.18. Though the liquid is being held up in the upper downcomer for both cases, (Fig. 4.20, 4.21) it is more uniformly distributed as would be expected with the greater number of axial levels in this area.

Changing from a four sector to an eight sector grid resulted in a reduction in the break mass flow, as can be seen in Fig. 4.15 which shows the calculation for Test S2, a 13:8:2 grid. Changing the axial levels for an 8 sector grid produced similar break flowrates, as is shown in Figs. 4.15, 4.16 and 4.17.

However, an interesting result is indicated in Fig. 4.22 which shows the lower plenum filling characteristics for calculations using an 8 sector grid, Tests S2, S5 and S6. As the axial levels were increased from 13 to 18, the time for liquid to penetrate the downcomer was reduced by just over 4 seconds.

It should be noted that by changing from the 4 sector grid to the 8 sector grid the cold leg connections are repositioned further from the break. Different flow conditions in the downcomer can therefore be produced. An example of this can be seen in Fig. 4.23 which shows the steam condensation rates in the downcomer averaged between the injection points and the bottom of the downcomer. (i.e. levels at 1.067 m and 0.173 m) for 15:4:2 and 15:8:2 grids. It can be seen that the changes have increased the condensation rates for the 15:8:2 grid and is therefore a contributing factor to the over prediction of the lower plenum flows for this total bypass test.

The affect of introducing flow area blockages to model the hot leg penetrations was investigated by performing Test S7, for a 15:4:2 grid and Tests S8 and S9 for 15:8:2 grids, (Table 4.1). Fig. 4.19 shows the results of the 15:4:2 grid calculation. When compared to Fig. 4.18, which shows the results of a similar calculation but without hot leg blockages, it can be seen that total liquid bypass was correctly predicted in both cases. Figs. 4.18 and 4.19 also indicate that steady flow conditions were produced after 16 secs for Test S4 while no such trend was repeated when the hot leg blockages were modelled, (Test S7).

However, similar calculations using a 15:8:2 grid showed that significant differences in the results could occur. By comparing Figs. 4.15, 4.24 and 4.25, which show the break mass flow rates for Tests S2, S8 and S9 respectively, it can be seen that liquid bypass is sustained for much longer periods as the degree of flow area blockage is increased for the 15:8:2 grid.

The above blockage tests (S8 and S9) provided interesting results when the downcomer flow pattern was analysed in some detail. By using the graphical animation software developed at Strathclyde the results were by far the most realistic of all the calculations yet performed when compared with the experimental observations of the downcomer flows using the flow visualisation video recordings obtained during the original tests.

It can be seen how the TRAC predictions of oscillatory flow can be related to the multi-dimensional flow distribution in the downcomer. As an example, the break flow cycle shown in Fig. 4.25 over the time period 9 - 12 seconds can be related to a build up of liquid in downcomer region furthest from the break which collapses and flows towards the lower plenum. The liquid is then swept circumferentially and upwards, towards and out of the break. This appears as a two second cycle in which the break mass flow rate reduces as the majority of the liquid flows towards the lower plenum and increases as the liquid is swept back up the downcomer and out of the break. This sequence of events is shown in Figs. 4.26 to 4.29.

The question arose as to the reasons why the 4 sector grid predicted total liquid bypass and whether the position of the cold legs were important. Therefore a calculation was performed (Lest S.10) with the cold legs repositioned as in Fig.4.5 (which is more geometrically correct for a 4 sector nodalisation than shown in Fig.4.4a) Fig. 4.30 shows the break mass flow for Tests S1 and S10 and it can be seen that TRAC overpredicts the amount of liquid penetrating the downcomer, again indicating the importance of correctly modelling the position of the cold leg connection.

#### 4.6 TRAC Computational Efficiency

The CPU time of each calculation can be used as an overall gauge of the computational efficiency with which TRAC predicts the particular phenomenon under study. Fig. 4.31 shows the CPU time versus real time for four typical calculations during the sensitivity study. It can be seen that increasing the numerical grid from a 13:4:2 grid to a 15:8:2 grid has produced an almost nine fold increase in the CPU time to a magnitude of 9000 seconds for Test S9. This is obviously an undesirable level of performance implying high costs which impose limits on the number of studies that can be carried out. Fig. 4.32 shows the time steps used during the calculations and it can be seen that for most of the calculations the time step varied between 1.5 to 3 x  $10^{-3}$  secs. This was identified as the CFL (Courant Freidricks Lewy) stability limit for the calculations.

#### 5. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

From the previous three sections it is apparent that a number of physical models have to be simultaneously correct to adequately model the refill problem. Here the flow regime in the downcomer is determined by the main forces acting on the phases and the geometry of the downcomer. Since the momentum and energy transfer rates are closely related to the vapour velocities it is necessary to adequately resolve the velocity distribution in the downcomer. The importance of modelling the transient flow regime cannot be overstated since it determines not only the interfacial area but also the residence time of the liquid and therefore the liquid/steam contact time. This is then likely to have a bearing on the rate of liquid penetrating the downcomer. To simulate these conditions it is apparent from this study that the geometry of the downcomer has to be adequately represented. That is, the break has to be properly positioned relative to the other cold legs and the hot leg blockages modelled in some detail.

However, an examination of the flow distributions in the downcomer reveals that when the liquid flows towards the lower plenum it flows as a single liquid water column in a one-dimensional manner down through downcomer levels. Fig. 4 27 is a good example of this. Even as the number of sectors increase the liquid continues to flow to the lower plenum in a single column (a 16 sector calculation of liquid entering via one cold leg was repeated with no steam flow to emphasise this characteristic and the single column flow trend was repeated). These results show that TRAC does not predict the 2-dimensional redistribution of the liquid as it flows downwards and therefore over predicts the liquid fraction in the injection region.

An examination of the TRAC momentum equation reveals that the circumferential forces acting on the liquid, to produce circumferential redistribution, are the shear forces produced by the circumferential vapour flows. However, the circumferential vapour flows are lower in the downcomer region furthest from the break and are likely to be insufficient to redistribute the liquid flow.

An examination of the Strathelyde air-water video indicates that for small air flows the water entering into the downcomer flows both circumferentially and downwards to meet the liquid flow distribution from the opposite cold leg. The redistribution of the liquid is associated with the deflection of the radially flowing liquid by the inside wall of the downcomer causing it to flow cownwards under gravity and circumferentially due to the radial component of momentum of the cold leg flow. An example of this can be seen in Fig. 4.33 and 4.34 which show photographs of the incoming liquid redistributing around the 1/10 scale model downcomer.

However, the current formulation of the TRAC momentum equations is not capable of modelling this type of flow redistribution since no momentum convection terms are associated with a radial vessel/pipe connection (Ref.11). A limited study has been carried out by Turner (Ref.10) to implement momentum terms to account for this effect but with limited success. Unfortunately the study was only carried out with a 4 sector grid and there is therefore insufficient information on which to base any conclusion as to the appropriateness of Turner's proposed scheme.

It is suggested that this is possibly one reason why TRAC at times approaches the correct overall result though the flow regime is incorrect. Very high drag coefficients are produced for the bubbly flow regime ( $\alpha < 0.3$ ), as shown in Fig. 4.35 (Ref.2) which could effectively redirect the flow upwards.

#### 6. CONCLUSIONS

- The use of the Strathclyde Refill experiments to assess TRAC's ability to stimulate the refill conditions has limitations due to geometical complications associated with the 1/10 scale model downcomer thermal shield.
- A parametric study using two different downcomer hydraulic diameters to account for the thermal shield did not produce better results overall but did show that the TRAC predictions provide for complex interaction between wall heat transfer and interfacial shear and heat transfer.
- 3. A simplified analysis of the Strathclyde total penetration tests has shown that the TRAC liquid side heat transfer coefficient for the condensation process is an order of magnitude too great when compared with the experimentally derived values.
- A nodalisation study has shown the effects of increasing the numerical solution grid. A 4 sector nodalisation does not provide a converged solution for the dependent variables.
- For bypass conditions it is important to model the geometry of the break positions relative to the intact cold legs; hot leg penetrations make a significant contribution to the bypass process.
- TRAC's inability to predict the circumferential redistribution of liquid injected into the downcomer due to the lack of appropriate terms in the momentum equations is a major deficiency in TRAC modelling.
- TRAC's excessive computer run times is an important limitation in the progress to a possible solution of the downcomer flows during the refill phase.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Continue Turners work on the reformulation of the momentum equations to include the cross derivative terms for vessel/pipe connections.
- 2. Pursue improvements in TRAC's computational performance.
- 3. Improve interfacial modelling of shear stress and heat transfer.

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#### APPENDIX A.I

Figure A-1 shows a simplified model of a liquid film flowing down a wall adjacent to a counter-current flow of vapour. It is assumed that a one dimensional model is appropriate for these conditions and the effect of wall heat transfer to the liquid film is neglected. By applying the conservation laws for mass and energy across the differential section in conjuction with an energy balance across the liquid-vapour interface can lead to the expression for the amount of steam condensed at a position X along the wall, i.e.

$$M_{e_{100}} = M_{1_{10}} \frac{C_{pl}(T_{BAT} - T_{1_{10}})}{h_{lg}} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{i\theta_{1}s}{GM_{10}} \\ 1 - e \end{pmatrix}$$
 A.1.1

This analysis has been carried out by Lieu (4) and extended to include wall heat transfer by Megahed (5).

 $\frac{Cp(T_{MT}-T_{i_M})}{h_{i_M}} = J_{i_M}$ 

Since

$$M_{e_{con}} = M_{t_{ab}} \cdot Ja \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-iAa}{c_{pan_{ab}}} \\ 1 - e \end{pmatrix}$$

then

This can be reduced to

$$\kappa = \frac{M_{s_{con}}}{M_{in} Ja} = \left( \frac{M_{a}}{1 - e} \right) \qquad A.1.2$$

where k is referred to as an equilibrium factor and represents the degree of thermal equilibrium as a fraction of the steam condensed to what would be required to reach thermal equilibrium.

A previous analysis of the Strathclyde experimental data (7) had already determined a correlation for the equilibrium factor as,

$$k = 1 - \exp\left(-0.24 \left[J_{aj} * \left[\frac{\rho_1}{\rho_v}\right]^{1/2} y^{-1/2}\right]^{-0.6}\right)$$
 A.1.3

Since Bx in equation A.1.2 represents the interfacial area  $A_i$  and if introduced into A.1.2 then equation A.1.2 and A.1.3 can be equated to provide a relationship for the heat transfer coefficient h or in our case the heat transfer coefficient interfacial area product, i.e.

$$hA_i = 0.24 \cdot Cp_i \cdot M_{t_{in}} [Jaj_i^* (\frac{p_i}{p_v})^{1/2} y^{-1/2}]^{-0.6}$$
 A.1.4

It should be noted that equation A.1.4 is restricted by the assumptions made in the derivation of equation A.1.2. In the integration from the differential equations to equation A.1.1 the assumption of constant interfacial area was made. This therefore restricts the above equation to total penetration conditions where y = 1, i.e.

$$hA_i = 0.24 \cdot Cp_i \cdot M_{i_{in}} \quad [Ja \cdot j_i^* \quad (\frac{p_i}{p_v})^{1/2} \quad J^{-0.6} \qquad A.1.5$$

This expression can then be used to compare the TRAC values for the interfacial heat transfer coefficients against the experimentally determined values.

#### APPENDIX A.2

#### TRAC INTERFACIAL CONDENSATION MODELS FOR THE ANNULAR-MIST REGIME

The following equations describe the heat transfer correlations associated with the TRAC annular mist flow regime. The equations are restricted to the methods used to obtain the interfacial heat transfer coefficient and the interfacial area during condensation.

$$h_i A_i_{annular mint} = E(h_i A_i)_{mur} + (1 - E)(h_i A_i)_{rilan}$$
 A.2.1

 $E = entrainment \ factor = MAX(7.75 \times 10^{-7} \times W_{el}^{1.25} \times Re_\ell^{0.25}, 1 - exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(1 - \frac{V_v}{V_{oLF}}\right)\right)$ 

$$W_{s} = \frac{\rho_{v} j_{v}^{2} D_{b}}{\sigma} \left(\frac{\Delta \rho}{\rho_{v}}\right)^{U_{3}}$$
$$Re_{i} = \frac{\rho_{i} j_{i} D_{b}}{U_{3}}$$

$$V_{OLP} = 2.33 \frac{(\Delta \rho \sigma W e_d)^{1/4}}{\sqrt{\rho_v}}$$
$$j_v = \frac{M_v}{\rho_v A} \left(\frac{\rho_v}{g W (\rho_1 - \rho_v)}\right)^{1/2}$$
$$W e_d = \frac{\rho V_v D_d}{\sigma}$$

 $(h_i A_i)_{\rm film}$  is the contribution of the film heat transfer where

$$h_i = 0.02 \rho_i C p_i V_i$$

$$A_{i} = MAX \left( D_{\star} \pi \cdot \Delta \times \cdot \frac{1 - \alpha}{1 - DUK}, \text{ SLAB AREA} \right) \cdot 2$$

$$DUK = 1 - \frac{10^{-3}}{D_k} \quad 0 \le DUK < \alpha$$

 $(h_i A_i)_{\max}$  is the contribution of droplet heat transfer where

 $V_{\rm D}$ 

$$h_{i} = 0.02 \quad \rho_{1} C_{p_{i}} V_{D}$$

$$V_{D} = 1/2 \left( \frac{\mu_{v}}{\mu_{v} + \mu_{i}} \right) V_{v}$$

$$\leq \min \left( 0.5, 1.4 \left( \frac{\rho_{s}}{\rho_{1} W e_{q}} \right)^{1/2} V_{v} \right)$$

$$VOL$$

with the restriction that

$$A_{mist} = 6 (1-\alpha) \frac{VOL}{D_d}$$

$$D_{d} = \frac{We_{d}\sigma}{\rho_{x}V_{r}^{2}}$$

EST	EXP.ID	FLUID	M <sub>i</sub> (kg/s)	M/M_(kg/s)	M <sub>LP</sub> (kg/s)	$\Delta T(K)$	D <sub>it</sub> (m)	TYPE	TRAC VERSION
В	01048023	Steam/Water	2.516	0.214	1.372	12.6	0.038	Partial Pen.	Winfrith B¢5
BC				*		10	0.019		*
С	15068168	Air/Water	7.65	0.266	1.984	0.0	0.038	Partial Pen.	Winfrith B¢5
C2				*	-		0.019		
D	26038046	Stean/Water	4.888	0.403	0.0	37.6	0.038	Partial Pen.	Winfrith B¢5
D2	-		4			*	0.019	-	-10

TABLE 2.1 TEST IDENTIFICATION FOR VARIATION IN HYDRAULIC DIAMETER

5.3

STRATHCLYDE TEST	FLUID	M <sub>t</sub> (kg/s)	$M_{\rm s}({\rm kg/s})$	M <sub>LP</sub> (kg/s)	$\Delta T(K)$	TRAC VERSION	TEST TYPE
26038046	Steam/Water	4.888	0.403	0.0	37.6	Tumer's: Bø3	Total By-Pass

TEST	GRID Z:0:R	HOT LEG MODELLING	Blockage Position
S 1	13:4:2	No Blockage	
S 2	13:8:2	No Blockage	
\$ 3	13 :16 : 2	No Blockage	
S 4	15:4:2	No Blockage	
S 5	15:8:2	No Blockage	
S 6	18:8:2	No Blockage	
S 7	15:4:2	FA Blockage, 0	100% Flow Area Blockage at level 12 edge 5/6 and 7/8 Fig 4.4a
S 8	15:8:2	FA Blockage, 0	100% Flow Area Blockage at level 12 edge 10/11, 11/12, 13/14, 14/15 Fig 4.2
\$ 9	15:8:2	FA Blockage 0, Z	100% Flow Area Blockage as Test S8 and 51% axial blockage Fig 4.2
S10	13:4:2	Injection Points Changed	

TABLE 4.1 NODALISATION SENSITIVITY TEST SERIES FOR TEST 26038046







FIG. 1.3 NODALISATION SCHEME FOR REFILL RIG



FIE. 2.1 BREAK MASS FLOWRATES FOR TEST B (DH=0.038 M) AND TEST B2 (DH=0.019 M)



FIG. 2.2 STEAM CONDENSATION RAYES FOR TEST B (DH=0.038 M) AND TEST B2 (DH=0.019 M)



FIG. 2.3 TOTAL WALL HEAT TRANSFER FOR TEST B (DH=0.030 M) AND TEST B2 (DH=0.019 M)



FIG. 2.4 BREAK MASS FLOWRATES FOR TEST C (DH=C.038 M) AND TEST C2 (DH=0.018 M)



FIG. 2.5 BREAK MAGS FLOWRATES FOR TEST D (DH=0.030 M) AND TEST D2 (DH=0.019M)



FILE : TEST CIZ TIME 19.06 secs



FIG. 2.6 VELOCITY VECTOR PLOT AND LIQUID FRACTION DISTRIBUTION FOR TEST D (DH=0.038 M) AND TEST D2 (DH=0.019 M)



FIG. 3.1 INTERFACIAL HEAT TRANSFER RATES: COMPARISON BETWEEN TRAC AND EXPERIMENTALLY DERIVED VALUES



FIG. 3.2 INTERFACIAL HEAT TRANSFER RATES FOR TRAC FILM AND DROP MODELS



FIG. 3.3 ANNULAR-MIST INTERFACIAL HEAT TRANSFER RATES FOR VARIATION IN VOID FRACTION











FIG. 4.3 DOWNCOMER NODALISATION FOR 18×8+2 GRID

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FIG. 4.4A ECC INJECTION POINTS AND COLD LEG BREAK POSITIONS FOR FOUR SEGMENT GRID CALCULATIONS



COLD LEG BREAK

COLD LEG BREAK

FIG. 4.48 ECC INJECTION POINTS AND COLD LEE BREAK PUSITIONS FOR EIGHT SEGMENT GRID CALCULATIONS



FIG. 4.4C ECC INJECTION POINTS AND COLD LEE BREAK POSITIONS FOR SIXTEEN SEGMENT GRID CALCULATIONS

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FIG. 4.5 EEC IN FCTION POINTS AND COLD LEG BREAK POSITIONS FOR

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FIG. 4.8 CELL EDGE AXIAL (V\*) AND LIRCUMFERENTIAL (V\*) VAPOUR VELOCITY COMPONENTS FOR TEST S3 (13\*16\*2 GRID)

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		-3.5	8.0	14.1	+-0-	14.6	-1.2	20.1	-1.5	20-7	-2.4	21.5	13	22.8	E.7-	34.4	1°52'-	-13.2	-17.0	8.8	4-61-	1.3	6.16-	0.0
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FIG. 4.14 BREAK MASSFLOW FOR TEST S1 (13:4:2 GRID)



FIG. 4.15 BREAK MASSFLOW FOR TEST 52 (13:8:2 GRID)



FIG. 4.15 BREAK MASSFLOW FOR TEST S5 (15:8:2 GRID)



FIG. 4.17 BREAK MASSFLOW FOR TEST S6 (18:8:2 GRID)



FIG. 4.18 BREAK MASSFLOW FOR TEST S4 (15:4:2 GRID)



FIG. 4.19 BREAK MASSFLOW FOR TEST ST (13:4:2 GRID WITH BLOCKAGE)



FIG. 4,20 VELOCITY VECTOR AND LIQUID FRACTION DISTRIBUTION FOR TEST S1 (13:4:2 GRID)



FIG. 4.21 VELOCITY VECTOR AND LIQUID FRACTION DISTRIBUTION FOR TEST 54 (15:4:2 GRID)



FIG. 4.22 MASS FLOWRATES FROM LOWER PLENUM FOR TESTS S2 (13:0:2 GRID) S5 (15:0:2 GRID) AND S5 (10:0:2 GRID)



FIG. 4.23 DOWNCOMER STEAM CONDENSATION RATES FOR TEST S4 (15:4:2 GRID) AND S5 (15:8:2 GRID)

1.1



FIG. 4.24 BREAK MASS FLOWRATE FOR TEST SO (15:0:2 GRID WITH CIRCUMFERENTIAL HOT LEG BLOCKAGE)



FIG. 4.25 BREAK MASS FLOWRATE FOR TES" 59 (15:0:2 GRID WITH CIRCUMFERENTIAL AND AXIAL HOT LEG BLOCKAGE)



FIS. 4.26 PHASIC LIQUID MASS FLOW AND LIQUID FRACTION DISTRIBUTION AT T=9.83 SECS FOR TEST S9 ( 15:8:2 GRID WITH AXIAL AND CIRCUMFERENTIAL BLOCKAGE)

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FIG. 4.27 PHASIC LIQUID MASS FLOW AND LIQUID FRACTION DISTRIBUTION AT T=10.44 SECS FOR TEST SB ( 15:8:2 GRID WITH AXIAL AND CIRCUMFERENTIAL BLOCKAGE)

FILE : TEST S9 TIME 10.99 secs



FIG. 4.28 PHASIC LIQUID MASS FLOW AND LIQUID FRACTION DISTPIBUTION AT T=10.84 SECS FOR TEST S9 ( 15:8:2 GRID WITH AXIAL AND CIRCUMFERENTIAL BLOCKAGE)

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FILE : TEST SS TIME 11.24 secs

FIG. 4.29 PHASIC LIQUID MASS FLOW AND LIQUID FRACTION DISTRIBUTION AT T+11.24 SECS FOR TEST 39 ( 15:8:2 GRID WITH AXIAL AND CIRCUMPERENTIAL BLOCKAGE)



FIG. 4.30 BREAK MASS FLOWRATES FOR TEST SI AND SID (13:4:2 GRID)



FIG. 4.31 COMPARISON OF TYPICAL CALCULATION CPU TIMES



FIG. 4.32 TYPICAL CALCULATION TIME STEPS

57 COLD LEC PIPE + FLANCE FIG. 4.33 LIQUID INJECTION IN 1/10 SCALE MODEL LIQUID-AIR INTERFACE DOWNWARD FLOWING LIQUID HOT LES PIPE . FLANGE





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FIG. 4.35 TRAC INTERFACIAL DRAG CHARACTERISTICS OVER FLOW REGIME RANGE

 $W = 0 \cdot U_{n+1}^{-1}$ 

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FIG. A.1 SCHEMATIC OF CONDENSATION MODEL

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Model Refill Tests	2 DATE REPORT PUBLICAD VONTA SEAS
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TRAC-PF1/MOD1 predictions of LOCA Refill Experiments carried o model are compared against experimental measurements and video ivity studies have been carried out to determine the effect of and nodalisation	ut on a 1/10 scale observations. Sensit Hydraulic Diameter
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AN ASSESSMENT OF TRAC-PF1/MOD1 USING STRATHCLYDE 1/10 SCALE MODEL REFILL TESTS 2ND REPORT

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MARCH 1992