

**Simultaneous Heat and Mass Transfer
in Absorption of Gases in
Turbulent Liquid Films**

Gershon Grossman
Michael T. Heath

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Energy Division

SIMULTANEOUS HEAT AND MASS TRANSFER IN
ABSORPTION OF GASES IN TURBULENT LIQUID FILMS

Gershon Grossman

Michael T. Heath

(Computer Sciences Division)

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CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES v

NOMENCLATURE. vii

ABSTRACT. 1

1. INTRODUCTION. 1

2. MODEL AND EQUATIONS 3

3. SOLUTION. 11

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. 15

5. CONCLUSIONS 29

REFERENCES. 51

LIST OF FIGURES

1. Description of falling film of absorbent in contact with . . . 4
absorbate
2. Hydrodynamics of the falling film with $W = 0.1$ 12
3. Dimensionless wall, liquid bulk, and interface temperatures. . 16
as functions of the normalized length ζ
4. Dimensionless wall, liquid bulk, and interface concentrations. 17
as functions of the normalized length ζ
5. Typical profiles of dimensionless temperature and concentra- . 20
tion across the film at different values of ζ
6. Dimensionless bulk concentration as a function of the. 21
normalized length ζ
7. Dimensionless bulk concentration as a function of the. 22
normalized length ζ
8. Dimensionless interface temperature and concentration as . . . 24
functions of the normalized length ζ
9. Dimensionless interface temperature and concentration as . . . 25
functions of the normalized length ζ
10. Local Sherwood number as a function of the normalized. 27
length ζ
11. Local Nusselt number as a function of the normalized 28
length ζ

NOMENCLATURE

C	-	concentration of absorbate in solution [moles/(m ³ solution)]
C_e	-	equilibrium concentration of solution at temperature T_o with vapor at pressure P_v [moles/(m ³ solution)]
C_o	-	initial concentration of absorbate in solution [moles/(m ³ solution)]
C_1, C_2	-	constants, Eq. (6c)
c_p	-	specific heat of liquid solution (J/kg·°C)
\hat{c}	-	numerical "heat capacity," Eq. (17) (dimensionless)
D	-	diffusion coefficient of absorbate (substance II) in solution (m ² /s)
D^*	-	generalized diffusion coefficient of absorbate, including turbulent effects (m ² /s)
Fr	-	Froud number, $\bar{u}^2/\Delta g \sin \phi$ (dimensionless)
g	-	gravity (m/s ²)
\bar{H}_a	-	heat of absorption of substance II in solution (J/mole)
h_M	-	mass transfer coefficient from interface to bulk (m/s)
h_T	-	heat transfer coefficient from interface to bulk (W/m ² ·°C)
h_T'	-	heat transfer coefficient from bulk to wall (W/m ² ·°C)

- K, K' — constants, Eqs. (13a) and (13b) (dimensionless)
- k — thermal conductivity of liquid solution ($W/m \cdot ^\circ C$)
- k^* — generalized thermal conductivity, including turbulent effects ($W/m \cdot ^\circ C$)
- i — enthalpy of liquid solution (J/kg)
- Le — Lewis number (D/α) (dimensionless)
- Nu, Nu' — Nusselt number, $h_T \Delta/k$ and $h_T' \Delta/k$ (dimensionless)
- Pr — Prandtl number, ν/α (dimensionless)
- P_v — vapor pressure of absorbate (substance II) in the gas phase (Pa)
- Re — Reynolds number, $4\bar{u}\Delta/\nu$ (dimensionless)
- r_o, r_o^*, r — pipe radius, normalized pipe radius, and radial coordinate in Eq. (13a)
- Sc — Schmidt number, ν/D (dimensionless)
- Sh — Sherwood number, $h_M \Delta/D$ (dimensionless)
- T — temperature of solution ($^\circ C$)
- T_e — equilibrium temperature of solution at concentration C_o with vapor at pressure P_v ($^\circ C$)
- T_o — initial temperature of solution ($^\circ C$)

- U - numerical variable representing either θ or γ , Eq. (17) (dimensionless)
- u - flow velocity (m/s)
- \bar{u} - average flow velocity (m/s)
- v - normalized velocity, Eq. (7b) (dimensionless)
- v_1 - normalized velocity at the interface (dimensionless)
- W - surface tension parameter, $\rho \Delta^2 g \sin \phi / \sigma$ (dimensionless)
- x - coordinate in direction of flow (m)
- Y - numerical variable replacing h, Eq. (17) (dimensionless)
- y - coordinate in direction perpendicular to flow (m)
- y^* - normalized coordinate, $y \sqrt{\tau_w / \rho \nu}$ (dimensionless)
- z - similarity variable, Eq. (19b) $\sqrt{\frac{y \tau_w / \rho}{\nu}}$ (dimensionless)

Greek Symbols

- α - thermal diffusivity of liquid solution (m^2/s)
- α^* - generalized thermal diffusivity, including turbulent effects (m^2/s)
- γ - normalized concentration, Eq. (7c) (dimensionless)
- $\gamma_i, \gamma_w, \bar{\gamma}$ - normalized concentration at interface, wall, and bulk, respectively (dimensionless)

- Δ — film thickness (m)
- ϵ — eddy diffusivity (m^2/s)
- ζ — normalized coordinate in direction of flow, Eq. (7a) (dimensionless)
- η — normalized coordinate perpendicular to flow, Eq. (7a) (dimensionless)
- η_1 — $(1 - \eta)$, Eq. (18) (dimensionless)
- θ — normalized temperature, Eq. (7c) (dimensionless)
- $\theta_i, \theta_w, \bar{\theta}$ — normalized temperature at interface, wall, and bulk, respectively (dimensionless)
- λ — normalized heat of absorption, Eq. (7d) (dimensionless)
- ν — kinematic viscosity of liquid (m^2/s)
- ρ — density of liquid (kg/m^3)
- σ — surface tension of liquid film (N/m)
- τ — shear stress (Pa)
- τ_w — shear stress at the wall, $\rho\Delta g \sin \phi$ (Pa)
- ϕ — inclination angle of film (rad)

SIMULTANEOUS HEAT AND MASS TRANSFER IN
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ABSTRACT

This report describes a theoretical analysis of the combined heat and mass transfer process taking place in the absorption of a gas or vapor into a turbulent liquid film. Eddy diffusivity correlations have been used to describe the transport near the wall and the interface and in the bulk of the film. The energy and diffusion equations are solved simultaneously to give the temperature and concentration variations in the film. Two cases of interest are considered: a constant-temperature and an adiabatic wall. The Nusselt and Sherwood numbers are expressed in terms of the operating parameters, from which heat and mass transfer coefficients are determined.

1. INTRODUCTION

The absorption of gases and vapors in falling liquid films has received a great deal of attention because of the frequent occurrence of this process in different types of gas-liquid contactors. Absorption generally involves simultaneous heat and mass transfer, but in many cases of importance, the mass transfer is dominant and the effect of heat transfer is negligible. For this reason, most studies of the absorption process to date have considered only an isothermal exchange of mass.¹⁻⁹ In some important cases, however, the heat transfer accompanying the mass transfer is significant and cannot be neglected. One typical example, from which the present study originated, is in absorption heat pumps where absorbate vapor and absorbent liquid interact and mass is transferred specifically to produce a heat effect. Little work has been done to date in modeling the process in which the two transfer phenomena are strongly coupled.¹⁰⁻¹³

In an earlier study, a model was developed to describe the simultaneous heat and mass transfer occurring in laminar falling films.¹⁴ The model, which followed other, less elaborate ones, was based on the generally accepted assumptions of constant film properties, negligible changes in film thickness due to absorption, and thermodynamic equilibrium at the vapor-liquid interface.¹¹⁻¹³ By solving the energy and diffusion equations simultaneously, the analysis yielded the temperature and concentration distributions in the film from which the heat and mass transfer coefficients could be calculated. The system variables, expressed in a normalized form and including the Sherwood and Nusselt numbers, were found to depend on the system's Peclet and Lewis numbers and on the dimensionless heat of absorption. Two cases of practical interest were considered. In one, the wall upon which the film flows was at a constant temperature; in the other, the wall was adiabatic.

The results have demonstrated as well as quantified the effects of heat and mass transfer on one another. Vapor absorbed at the liquid-gas interface releases its heat of absorption, which raises the local temperature and, as a result, the solution vapor pressure. This reduces the film's capability to absorb more vapor, which in turn reduces further generation of heat. As heat is transferred away from the surface, the film becomes capable of absorbing additional vapor; as absorbate diffuses away from the surface, more heat can be generated.

In the present work, the model in ref. 14 has been extended to turbulent films, which are more common in practical applications. As in the case of the laminar films, earlier models of absorption under turbulent flow have been restricted to pure mass transfer at isothermal conditions. Important studies on this subject include those of Sandall and his co-workers, Yih and Seagrave, and Mills and Chung.^{7-9,15-18} The purpose of the present study has been to model turbulent film absorption under the conditions of combined heat and mass transfer, to investigate the mutual effects of the two phenomena, and to find the dependence of the transfer coefficients on the system's operating parameters.

2. MODEL AND EQUATIONS

The system being analyzed is described schematically in Fig. 1. A film of liquid solution, composed of substances I (absorbent) and II (absorbate), flows down over an inclined plane. The film is in contact with stagnant vapor of substance II at constant pressure P_v . Substance I is contained only in the liquid phase; substance II is transferred between the vapor and the liquid. At $x = 0$, the liquid film is at a uniform temperature T_0 and composition C_0 (moles of substance II per unit volume of solution) corresponding to an equilibrium vapor pressure lower than P_v . This results in absorption of substance II taking place at the liquid-vapor interface. The substance absorbed at the interface diffuses into the film, and the heat generated in the absorption produces a simultaneous heat transfer process. Two cases are considered: in one, the wall is kept at a constant temperature, T_0 ; in the other, the wall is adiabatic.

In formulating the model, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The physical properties of the liquid solution are constant and independent of temperature and concentration.
2. The mass of vapor absorbed per unit time is small compared to the mass flow rate of the liquid. Therefore, it is assumed that the latter, the film thickness, and the average flow velocity are constant.
3. Heat transfer in the vapor phase is negligible compared to that in the liquid phase.
4. No shear forces are exerted on the liquid by the vapor.
5. The flow is turbulent, with no thermally-induced or diffusion-induced momentum transfer.
6. Vapor pressure equilibrium exists between the vapor and liquid at the interface.

Under these assumptions, the simultaneous heat and mass transfer in the system at steady state is described by the diffusion and energy equations:

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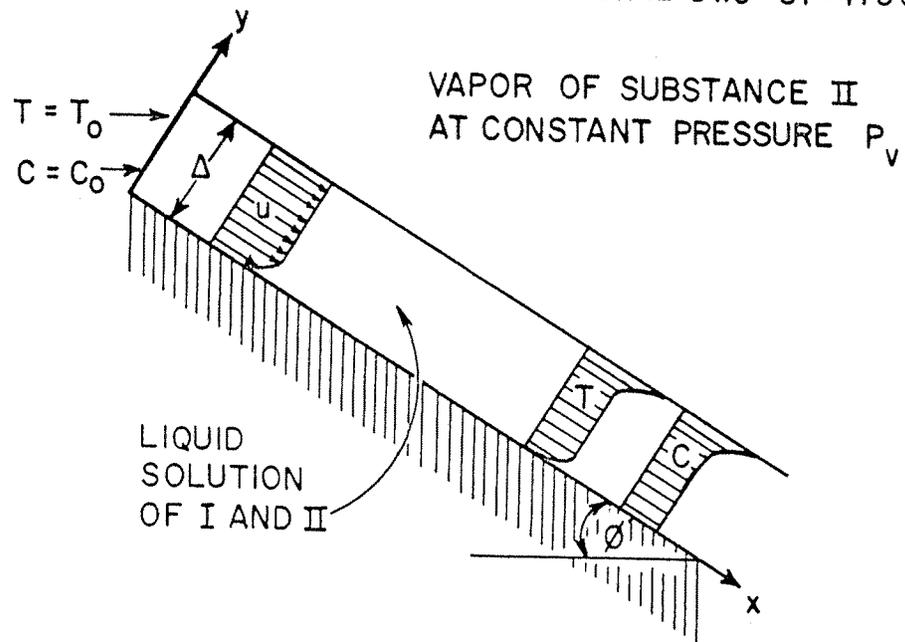


Fig. 1. Description of falling film of absorbent in contact with absorbate. Typical profiles of velocity, temperature, and concentration are shown.

$$u \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(D^* \frac{\partial C}{\partial y} \right), \quad (1)$$

$$u \frac{\partial(\rho i)}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(k^* \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[D^* \frac{\partial C}{\partial y} \frac{\partial(\rho i)}{\partial C} \right], \quad (2)$$

where diffusion and heat conduction in the x-direction have been neglected with respect to those in the y-direction. Here u is the steady-state component of the turbulent flow velocity, i is the enthalpy of the solution, and D^* and k^* are the generalized mass diffusivity and thermal conductivity, respectively, including the effect of turbulent eddies. The second term on the right-hand side of the energy equation, which does not exist in cases of pure heat transfer, expresses the flux of energy brought about by mass transfer.

A simplified form of Eq. (2) may be obtained by combining it with Eq. (1). Recognizing that $i = i(T, C)$, Eq. (2) may be rewritten as follows:

$$\rho u \left(\frac{\partial i}{\partial T} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial i}{\partial C} \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(k^* \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right) + \rho \frac{\partial i}{\partial C} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(D^* \frac{\partial C}{\partial y} \right) + D^* \frac{\partial C}{\partial y} \rho \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial i}{\partial C} \right);$$

multiplying Eq. (1) by $\rho(\partial i/\partial C)$ and subtracting, we find that

$$\rho u \left(\frac{\partial i}{\partial T} \right) \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(k^* \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right) + D^* \frac{\partial C}{\partial y} \rho \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial i}{\partial C} \right). \quad (3a)$$

The terms $\partial i/\partial T$ and $\partial i/\partial C$ express properties of the material in the liquid film. The former is the specific heat of the solution, c_p ; the latter, multiplied by the density, ρ , is the partial molal enthalpy. Both quantities are reasonably constant for moderate changes of concentration and temperature. By virtue of assumption (1), the second term on the right-hand side of Eq. (3a) vanishes and the equation becomes

$$u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\alpha^* \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right), \quad (3b)$$

where $\alpha^* = k^*/\rho c_p$ is the generalized thermal diffusivity. Both α^* and D^* may be expressed as sums of the corresponding molecular and turbulent

(eddy) diffusivities; the latter is dominant throughout most of the film, but vanishes at the wall at the interface. Thus, Eqs. (1) and (3b) become

$$u \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[(D + \epsilon) \frac{\partial C}{\partial y} \right], \quad (4)$$

$$u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[(\alpha + \epsilon) \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right], \quad (5)$$

where ϵ is the eddy diffusivity (a function of y), assumed to be the same for heat and for mass transfer.

The boundary conditions applying to Eqs. (4) and (5) follow. At the entrance plane, the initial temperatures and concentrations are given:

$$T = T_0 \quad \text{and} \quad C = C_0 \quad \text{at} \quad x = 0. \quad (6a)$$

The wall is impermeable and, under the two cases considered, is either adiabatic or at a constant temperature equal to that of the entering solution. Hence,

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial C}{\partial y} = 0; \\ \text{or} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} T = T_0 & \text{for constant-temperature wall,} \\ \partial T / \partial y = 0 & \text{for adiabatic wall,} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right\} \text{at } y = 0. \quad (6b)$$

The conditions at the interface require vapor pressure equilibrium between the vapor and liquid phases and a match between the heat and the mass fluxes. These conditions depend on the thermodynamic property relations of the particular fluid at hand. For a linear absorbent having a linear temperature-concentration characteristic and a constant heat of absorption,^{14,19} this condition becomes

$$\left. \begin{aligned} C &= C_1 T + C_2, \\ k (\partial T / \partial y) &= D (\partial C / \partial y) \bar{H}_a, \end{aligned} \right\} \text{at } y = \Delta, \quad (6c)$$

where \bar{H}_a is the heat of absorption, per mole of the vapor, in the liquid.

Typical shapes of velocity, temperature, and concentration profiles in the film are shown in Fig. 1. Before proceeding with the solution, it is convenient to rewrite the equations in a dimensionless form. The new variables are

$$\zeta = \frac{4}{\text{Re}} \frac{x}{\Delta}, \quad \eta = \frac{y}{\Delta}; \quad (7a)$$

$$v = u / \bar{u}; \quad (7b)$$

$$\theta = \frac{T - T_o}{T_e - T_o}, \quad \gamma = \frac{C - C_o}{C_e - C_o}; \quad (7c)$$

$$\lambda = \frac{D(C_e - C_o)\bar{H}_a}{k(T_e - T_o)}; \quad (7d)$$

where T_e is the equilibrium temperature of the solution at concentration C_o with the vapor, and C_e is the concentration of the solution at temperature T_o in equilibrium with the vapor, both limiting values to those actually obtained in the simultaneous heat and mass transfer process;¹⁴ \bar{u} is the average flow velocity, equal to the mass flow rate per unit breadth, divided by the density and film thickness; and Re is the flow Reynolds number, defined on the basis of the hydraulic diameter of the film as

$$\text{Re} = \frac{4\bar{u}\Delta}{\nu}. \quad (8)$$

Using the new dimensionless variables, Eqs. (4) and (5) become:

$$v \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial \zeta} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \left[\left(\frac{1}{\text{Sc}} + \frac{\epsilon}{\nu} \right) \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial \eta} \right], \quad (9)$$

$$v \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \zeta} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \left[\left(\frac{1}{Pr} + \frac{\epsilon}{v} \right) \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \eta} \right], \quad (10)$$

where Pr and Sc are the Prandtl and Schmidt numbers, respectively.

The boundary conditions now have the dimensionless form

$$\theta = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma = 0 \quad \text{at} \quad \zeta = 0; \quad (11a)$$

$$\frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial \eta} = 0;$$

$$\text{or} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \theta = 0 & \text{for constant-temperature wall,} \\ \partial \theta / \partial \eta = 0 & \text{for adiabatic wall,} \end{array} \right\} \text{at } \eta = 0; \quad (11b)$$

$$\theta + \gamma = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \eta} = \lambda \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial \eta} \quad \text{at} \quad \eta = 1. \quad (11c)$$

At this point, the problem is completely defined in terms of the two second-order differential equations, (9) and (10), and the boundary conditions (11a-c) for the unknown distributions of θ and γ with ζ and η . It remains only to specify the eddy diffusivity, ϵ , in terms of the system's operating parameters and the coordinate η .

It is not easy to use a single expression for describing the eddy diffusivity over the entire film thickness. Different behaviors are exhibited in the laminar and buffer sublayers near the wall, in the turbulent core, and near the vapor-liquid interface.²⁰ The wall and the interface both have a dampening effect on the eddies, the former because it is a solid boundary and the latter because of its surface tension. In the turbulent core, the eddies produce considerable mixing which provides for low resistance to heat and mass transfer. Sandall, in his work on isothermal gas absorption in turbulent films, used a single expression which is normally valid only near the interface to model the eddy diffusivity in the entire film.¹⁶ Since his study was concerned with non-fully developed concentration profiles, the error incurred in using this single expression was small. Mills and Chung, in a study of

pure heat transfer across a turbulent film, used two different expressions for the eddy diffusivity: one is valid near the wall and the other near the interface.¹⁸ In doing so, the authors were able to predict successfully experimental results by Chun and Seban.²¹ Because of the low thermal resistance in the middle region of the film, they did not find it necessary to specify accurately the eddy diffusivity there.

In this study three different formulas were used to specify the eddy diffusivity in the three important regions of the film. It was felt that the added accuracy thus obtained was well worth the small amount of extra numerical work. The eddy diffusivity is assumed to be the same for heat, mass, and momentum transfer. Near the wall, we chose the expression suggested by Van Driest:²²

$$\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu} = \frac{1}{2} \left(-1 + \left\{ 1 + 0.64y^{*2} [1 - \exp(-y^*/26)]^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right), \quad (12a)$$

where $y^* = y \sqrt{\tau_w / \rho \nu}$, and $\tau_w = \rho \Delta g \sin \phi$ is the shear stress at the wall. Equation (12a) may be rewritten in terms of the dimensionless variables used in our equations as

$$\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu} = \frac{1}{2} \left(-1 + \left\{ 1 + 0.04 \left(\frac{Re \eta}{104 \sqrt{Fr}} \right)^2 [1 - \exp(-Re \eta / 104 \sqrt{Fr})]^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right), \quad (12b)$$

where Fr is the Froud number. Equation (12b) was used in the sublayers region, $0 \leq y^* < 30$ or $0 \leq \eta < 120 \sqrt{Fr/Re}$. In the middle region of the film we used Reichardt's formula,²³ proposed for the turbulent core in a pipe of radius r_o :

$$\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu} = \frac{K}{6} r_o^* \left[1 - \left(\frac{r}{r_o} \right)^2 \right] \left[1 + 2 \left(\frac{r}{r_o} \right)^2 \right]. \quad (13a)$$

$0 \leq y^* \leq 30 \Rightarrow 0 \leq \eta \leq 120 \frac{\sqrt{Fr}}{Re}$

Equation (13a) may be adapted for the present problem by replacing r_o with Δ and r with $(\Delta - y)$:

$$\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu} = K' \frac{Re}{\sqrt{Fr}} (2\eta - \eta^2)(3 - 4\eta + 2\eta^2), \quad (13b)$$

where K' is determined so as to intersect (13b) with (12b) at $\eta = 120\sqrt{\text{Fr}/\text{Re}}$. Finally, in the interface region we used the expression proposed by Mills and Chung:¹⁸

$$\frac{\epsilon}{\nu} = 6.47 \times 10^{-4} \left(\frac{\rho g \sin \phi}{\sigma} \right) \text{Re}^{1.678} (\Delta - y)^2. \quad (14a)$$

This expression was developed based on measurements by Lamourelle and Sandall, generalized to include the scaling with surface tension following Levich, and confirmed by the experimental data of Chun and Seban.^{7,21,24} In the present notation,

$$\frac{\epsilon}{\nu} = 6.47 \times 10^{-4} W \text{Re}^{1.678} (1 - \eta)^2, \quad (14b)$$

where W is a dimensionless surface tension parameter, equal to the ratio of the Weber and Froud numbers. Equation (14b) was used between $\eta = 1$ and the point of intersection with (13b).

The expressions for the eddy diffusivity may be used to calculate the velocity profile. Noting that the shear stress varies linearly with y and is zero at the interface, we can write

$$\tau = \tau_w (1 - \eta) = \frac{\epsilon}{\Delta} (\nu + \epsilon) \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta}, \quad (15)$$

and hence,

$$v = u/\bar{u} = \frac{\text{Re}}{4\text{Fr}} \int_0^\eta \frac{(1 - \eta)}{(1 + \epsilon/\nu)} d\eta, \quad (16)$$

which satisfies $v = 0$ at $\eta = 0$.

The three dimensionless parameters of a given film, W , Re , and Fr , are not independent. To find the relation between them, a numerical algorithm was set up in which a value of the Froud number is guessed for a given W and Reynolds number and used to calculate v by substituting (12b), (13b), and (14b) into Eq. (16). The resulting v must conform to the condition

$$\int_0^1 v d\eta = 1 ,$$

and the guessed value of Fr is adjusted accordingly until this requirement is satisfied.

Figure 2a describes velocity profiles for several turbulent Reynolds numbers having a typical value of $W = 0.10$. The corresponding Froude numbers are listed in parentheses. As expected, the velocity profiles become more flat as the Reynolds number increases, and higher Froude numbers are required to produce them. Figure 2b shows a typical profile of eddy diffusivity describing the three different regions.

3. SOLUTION

The numerical technique used to solve the partial differential Eqs. (9) and (10) was similar to the one described in ref. 14 and based on the so-called "method of lines" or "semi-discretization."²⁵ The $\zeta - \eta$ plane of the film was divided into thin strips by means of lines parallel to the ζ axis. This discretization of the η -coordinate made it possible to express the derivatives with respect to η in each of the equations in a finite-difference form. Thus, a first-order ordinary differential equation, in ζ alone, was obtained along each line. Such an equation could be readily solved by means of an available ordinary differential equation integrator using the boundary condition (11a). The integrator selects automatically the required step in ζ and varies it as necessary as the integration proceeds.

Instead of carrying out a simultaneous solution of the two equations for θ and γ , it was found more convenient to define a single variable, V , to be solved from one equation:

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial \zeta} = \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial Y} \left(\hat{k} \frac{\partial U}{\partial Y} \right), \quad (17)$$

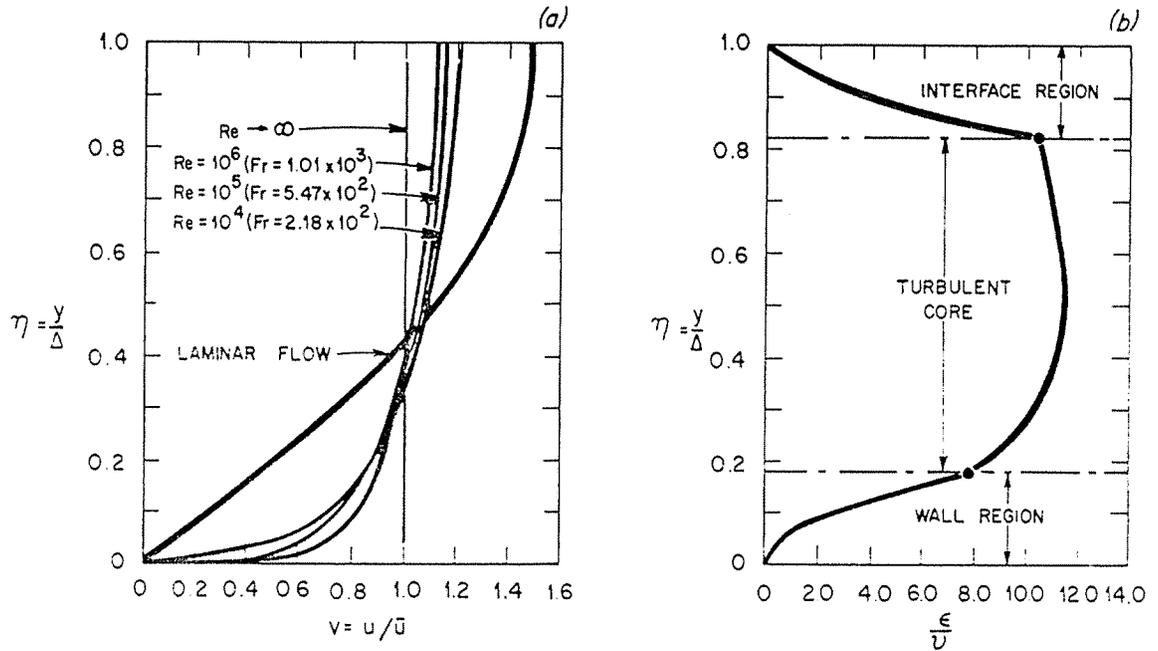


Fig. 2. Hydrodynamics of the falling film with $W = 0.1$.
 (a) Velocity profiles for different values of the Reynolds number (and, corresponding Froude number). (b) Eddy diffusivity profile for $Re = 10^4$, showing the three different regions, as described by Eqs. (12b), (13b), and (14b).

in the domain $0 \leq \zeta < \infty$, $-1 \leq Y \leq +1$. In the half-domain $-1 \leq Y < 0$, Eq. (17) replaces Eq. (10) with $Y \equiv \eta - 1$, $U \equiv \theta$, $\hat{c} \equiv vPr$, and $\hat{k} \equiv (1 + Pr \epsilon/v)$. In the half-domain $0 < Y \leq 1$, Eq. (17) replaces Eq. (9) with $Y \equiv 1 - \eta$, $U \equiv 1 - \gamma$, $\hat{c} \equiv \lambda v Sc$, and $\hat{k} \equiv \lambda(1 + Sc \epsilon/v)$. We recognize Eq. (17) as the heat conduction equation with a variable "thermal conductivity" \hat{k} and "heat capacity" \hat{c} . In the new formulation, the boundary condition (11a) transforms into $U = 0$ for $-1 \leq Y < 0$ and $U = 1$ for $0 < Y \leq 1$ at $\zeta = 0$; the boundary condition (11b) transforms into $U = 0$ or $\partial U/\partial Y = 0$ at $Y = -1$, and $\partial U/\partial Y = 0$ at $Y = +1$; the boundary condition (11c) is satisfied automatically. We have thus converted our problem, which involved the simultaneous solution of two coupled equations, into one in which we seek a solution to a single equation with the above boundary conditions in a domain twice as wide as the film.

Due to the boundary layer nature of the problem, it was necessary to begin the solution with a very fine mesh at small ζ , where very strong gradients exist, particularly near the interface. In the interest of saving computer time and storage, the mesh points were initially concentrated in the boundary layer region, and the mesh size was gradually expanded as the integration proceeded with ζ . Even with the very fine mesh, some difficulty was encountered in trying to apply the method very close to the point $\zeta = 0$, $\eta = 1$ because of the discontinuity in the temperature and concentration between the interface and the entrance plane at this point. To overcome this problem, an analytical solution applicable close to the singular point was developed, which made it possible to calculate the values of the variables at some finite distance away from the point and to begin the numerical solution from there.

The analytical solution is similar to the one used in ref. 14 and earlier in ref. 13 for laminar flow. By defining a new variable,

$$\eta_1 = 1 - \eta, \quad (18)$$

and recognizing that for $\eta_1 \ll 1$, the velocity, v , is practically constant with η_1 , and ϵ/v is much smaller than $1/Pr$ and $1/Sc$, we can rewrite Eqs. (9) and (10) near the singular point as

$$v_1 \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial \zeta} = \frac{1}{Sc} \frac{\partial^2 \gamma}{\partial \eta_1^2}, \quad (19a)$$

$$v_1 \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \zeta} = \frac{1}{Pr} \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial \eta_1^2}, \quad (20a)$$

where v_1 is the value of v at $\eta = 1$. The boundary conditions (11b) and (11c) now apply at $\eta_1 \rightarrow \infty$ and $\eta_1 = 0$, respectively. It is then possible to find a similarity variable, combining both ζ and η_1 , for each of the equations and to convert them from partial to ordinary ones. Using the common similarity technique, Eq. (19a) becomes

$$\frac{d^2 \gamma}{dz^2} = -2z \frac{d\gamma}{dz}, \quad (19b)$$

where

$$z = \eta_1 \sqrt{\frac{v_1 Sc}{4\zeta}}.$$

Equation (19b) may be integrated twice to give

$$\lambda = k_1 \operatorname{erf}(z) + k_2 = k_1 \operatorname{erf}\left(\eta_1 \sqrt{\frac{v_1 Sc}{4\zeta}}\right) + k_2. \quad (19c)$$

In a similar manner we find from Eq. (20a) that

$$\theta = k_3 \operatorname{erf}\left(\eta_1 \sqrt{\frac{v_1 Pr}{4\zeta}}\right) + k_4, \quad (20b)$$

where k_1 , k_2 , k_3 , and k_4 are constants of integration. Applying the boundary condition (11a) yields $k_1 = -k_2$ and $k_3 = -k_4$ since $\operatorname{erf}(\infty) = 1$. The boundary condition (11b) is satisfied automatically for both the adiabatic and constant-temperature walls. The boundary condition (11c) then yields $k_1 + k_3 = -1$ and $\lambda k_1 \sqrt{Sc} = k_3 \sqrt{Pr}$ from which all the constants of integration can finally be determined. Thus, we obtain the

following expressions for the dimensionless temperature and concentrations, in terms of the original variables:

$$\theta = \frac{\lambda}{\lambda + \sqrt{Le}} \left(1 - \operatorname{erf} \sqrt{\frac{v_1 \operatorname{Pr} (1 - \eta)^2}{4\zeta}} \right), \quad (21)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{\sqrt{Le}}{\lambda + \sqrt{Le}} \left(1 - \operatorname{erf} \sqrt{\frac{v_1 \operatorname{Sc} (1 - \eta)^2}{4\zeta}} \right), \quad (22)$$

where $Le = \operatorname{Pr}/\operatorname{Sc}$ is the Lewis number. Note that Eqs. (21) and (22) are valid for small ζ , for both the adiabatic and constant-temperature wall cases. This is to be expected since the effect of the wall cannot be felt until the boundary layer developing from the interface has had enough distance to fill the entire film thickness.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figures 3 and 4 describe the general behavior of the temperature and concentration in the system as they vary with the normalized length ζ for a typical set of values of the parameters Re , W , Pr , Sc , and λ . Plots are shown for θ and γ at the wall (θ_w , γ_w), in the liquid bulk ($\bar{\theta}$, $\bar{\gamma}$), and at the liquid-vapor interface (θ_i , γ_i). The solid lines describe the results for the constant-temperature wall and the broken lines for the adiabatic wall. This notation will be maintained throughout this section.

The behavior exhibited here is similar, qualitatively, to that observed in the combined heat and mass transfer process in laminar films.¹⁴ The changes with ζ in the present case are, however, considerably more rapid due to the improved transport in turbulent flow. Initially, for very small ζ , the behavior is the same for the adiabatic and constant-temperature wall cases. The liquid at the interface reaches thermodynamic equilibrium with the vapor upon contact at $\zeta = 0$, but some distance is required for the effect to diffuse into the film and be noticed at the wall. Consequently, θ_w and γ_w remain essentially zero

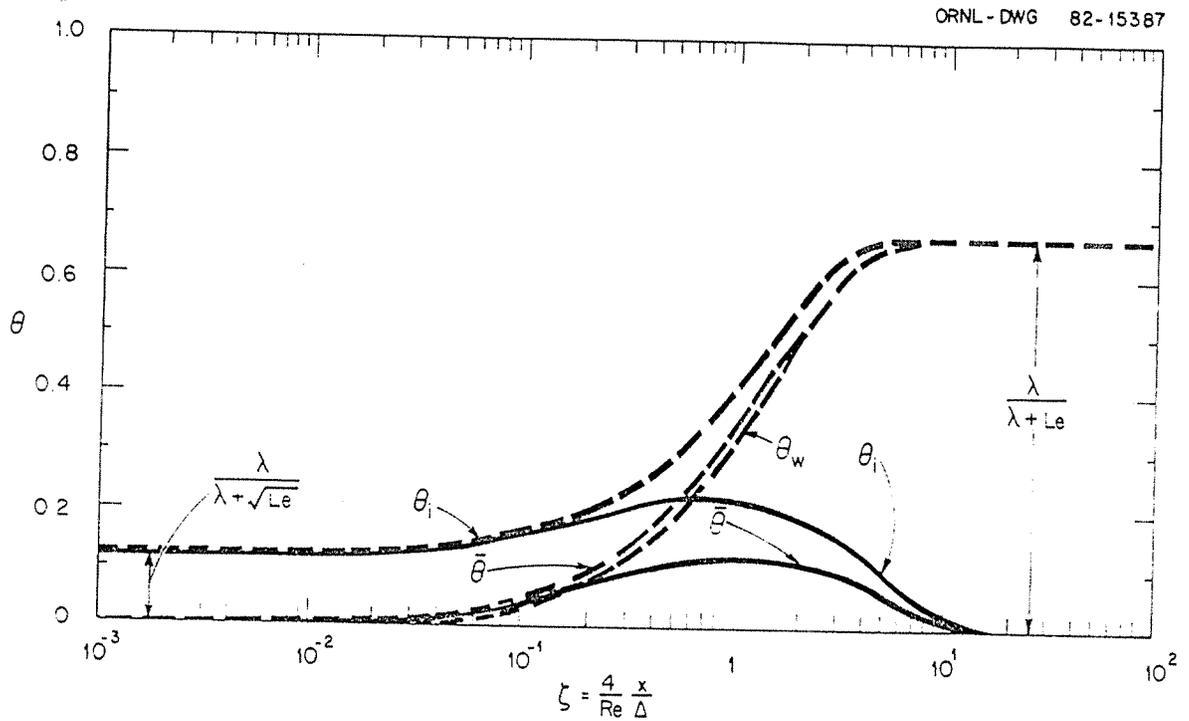


Fig. 5. Dimensionless wall, liquid bulk, and interface temperatures as functions of the normalized length ζ for $Re = 10^4$, $W = 0.1$, $Pr = 10.0$, $Sc = 2000.0$, and $\lambda = 0.01$. Broken lines describe adiabatic wall; solid lines describe constant-temperature wall.

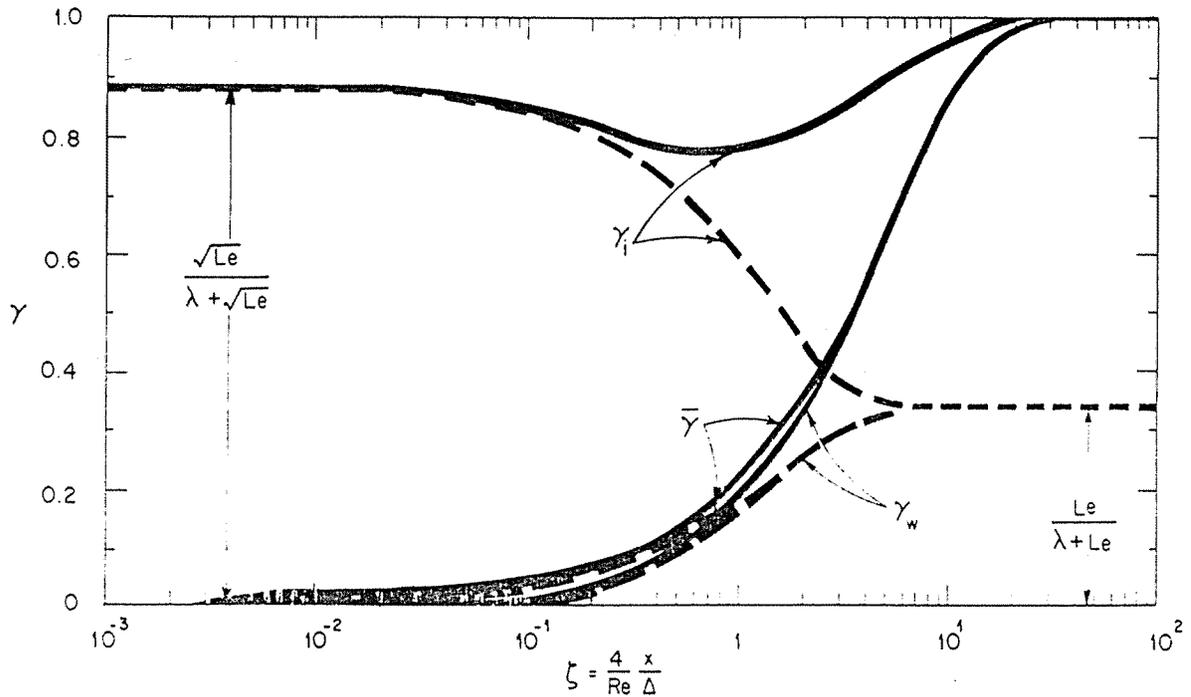


Fig. 4. Dimensionless wall, liquid bulk, and interface concentrations as functions of the normalized length ζ for $Re = 10^4$, $W = 0.1$, $Pr = 10.0$, $Sc = 2000.0$, and $\lambda = 0.01$. Broken lines describe adiabatic wall; solid lines describe constant-temperature wall.

for small ζ while θ_i and γ_i remain almost constant at their initial values reached at $\zeta = 0$. These values are $\lambda/(\lambda + \sqrt{Le})$ and $Le/(\lambda + \sqrt{Le})$, respectively, as found from the similarity solution for small ζ , Eqs. (21) and (22).

As ζ increases, a thermal and a concentration boundary layer develop and grow in thickness until they fill the entire depth of the film. For the adiabatic wall case, the wall, bulk, and interface temperatures increase monotonically toward a common final value. This steady increase occurs because the heat of absorption is not removed from the system. For the constant-temperature wall, the interface temperature increases somewhat, following the trend of the adiabatic case, and is followed by an increase in the bulk temperature as heat is transferred from the interface into the film. Then, both temperatures decrease toward zero as heat is taken out of the system through the wall. The interfacial concentration in both cases follows a trend opposite to that of the interfacial temperature, since $\gamma_i = 1 - \theta_i$ [Eq. (11c)]. The bulk concentration increases in both cases toward a final value equal to that of γ_i . It is interesting to note that in the adiabatic wall case $\bar{\gamma}$ increases with ζ while γ_i decreases.

The asymptotic values of the dimensionless temperature and concentration in the constant-temperature wall case are 0 and 1, respectively. In the adiabatic wall case, these values may be found from the diffusion and energy equations, Eqs. (9) and (10). Integrating over the film thickness and using the boundary conditions in Eq. (11b) yields

$$\frac{d}{d\zeta} \int_0^1 v\gamma \, d\eta = \frac{1}{Sc} \left. \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial \eta} \right|_{\eta=1}, \quad (23a)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\zeta} \int_0^1 v\theta \, d\eta = \frac{1}{Pr} \left. \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \eta} \right|_{\eta=1}; \quad (23b)$$

with the aid of Eq. (11c), these two equations may be combined and the result integrated with respect to ζ to give

$$\int_0^1 v\theta \, d\eta = \frac{\lambda}{Le} \int_0^1 v\lambda \, d\eta . \quad (24)$$

The integrals on the left- and right-hand sides of Eq. (24) represent the bulk temperature and concentration, $\bar{\theta}$ and $\bar{\gamma}$, respectively. Since at $\zeta \rightarrow \infty$ the bulk, wall, and interface quantities are all equal, Eq. (24) expresses the ratio between the asymptotic temperature and concentration as λ/Le . This ratio, combined with the condition $\theta + \gamma = 1$, yields $\theta = \lambda/(Le + \lambda)$ and $\gamma = Le/(\lambda + Le)$ at $\zeta \rightarrow \infty$.

Figure 5 describes typical temperature and concentration profiles across the film for increasing values of ζ , which illustrate the gradual penetration of the interface effects into the film. The profiles differ markedly from those in the laminar case in ref. 14 in that they are flat throughout the middle region of the film, owing to the turbulent mixing there. Sharp temperature and concentration gradients are observed in the interface region, which is where most of the resistance to heat and mass transfer lies. In the constant-temperature wall case, additional resistance to heat transfer in the wall region is manifested by a temperature gradient there.

Figure 6 describes the bulk concentration, $\bar{\gamma}$, as a function of the dimensionless distance ζ for laminar flow and for three typical values of the Reynolds number in the turbulent range. The other characteristic parameters of the system are fixed, and, hence, the asymptotic concentration is the same in all cases. As expected, the enhanced transport associated with higher Reynolds numbers makes it possible for the concentration (and temperature) to reach the asymptotic value at a smaller ζ . Increasing the parameter W (which is equivalent to reducing the surface tension) has a similar influence, as illustrated in Fig. 7. This is so because with larger W , less dampening is exerted by the interface on the turbulent eddies.

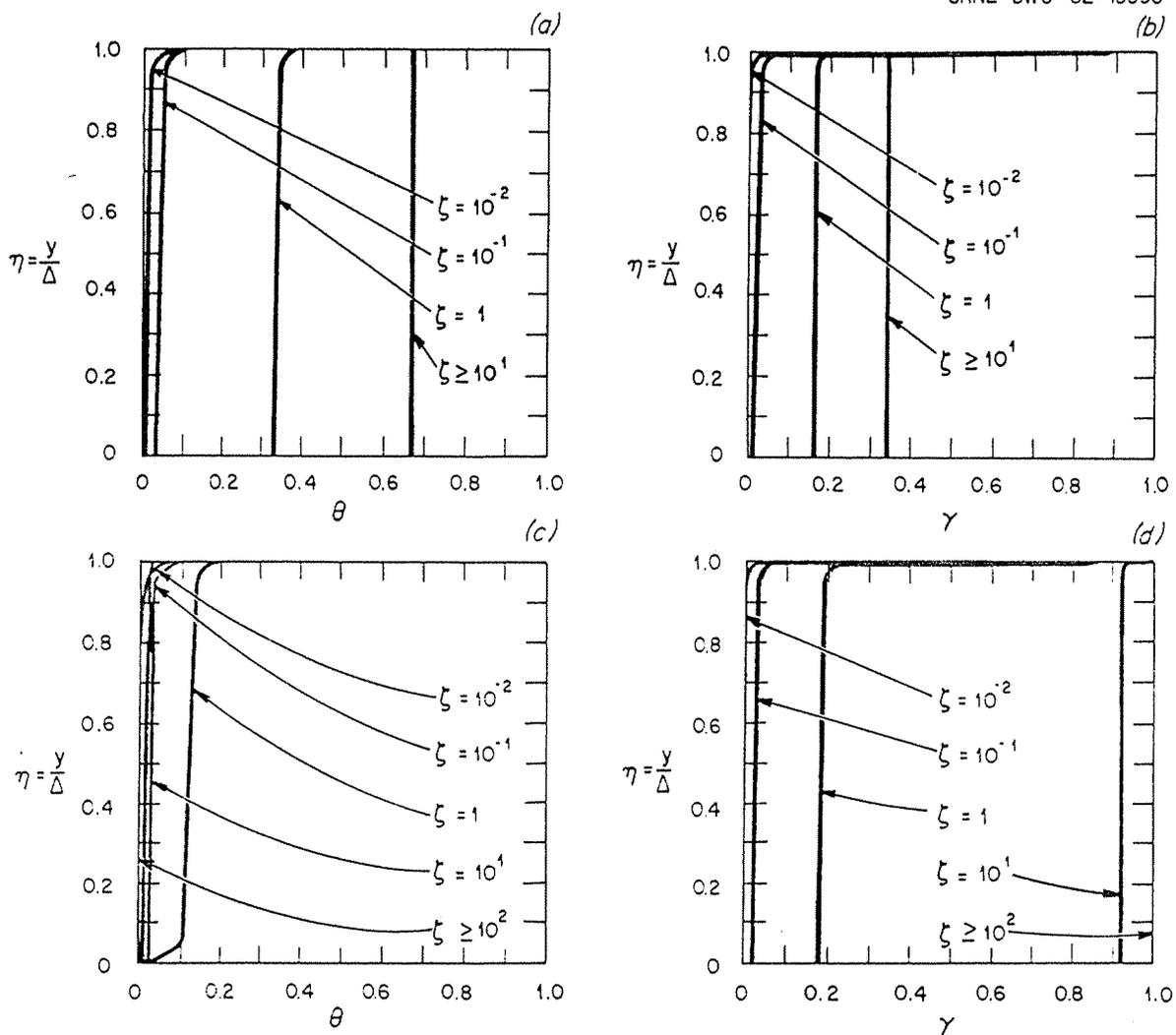


Fig. 5. Typical profiles of dimensionless temperature and concentration across the film at different values of ζ for $Re = 10^4$, $W = 0.1$, $Pr = 10.0$, $Sc = 2000.0$, and $\lambda = 0.01$. Views (a) and (b) are for adiabatic wall, (c) and (d) are for constant-temperature wall.

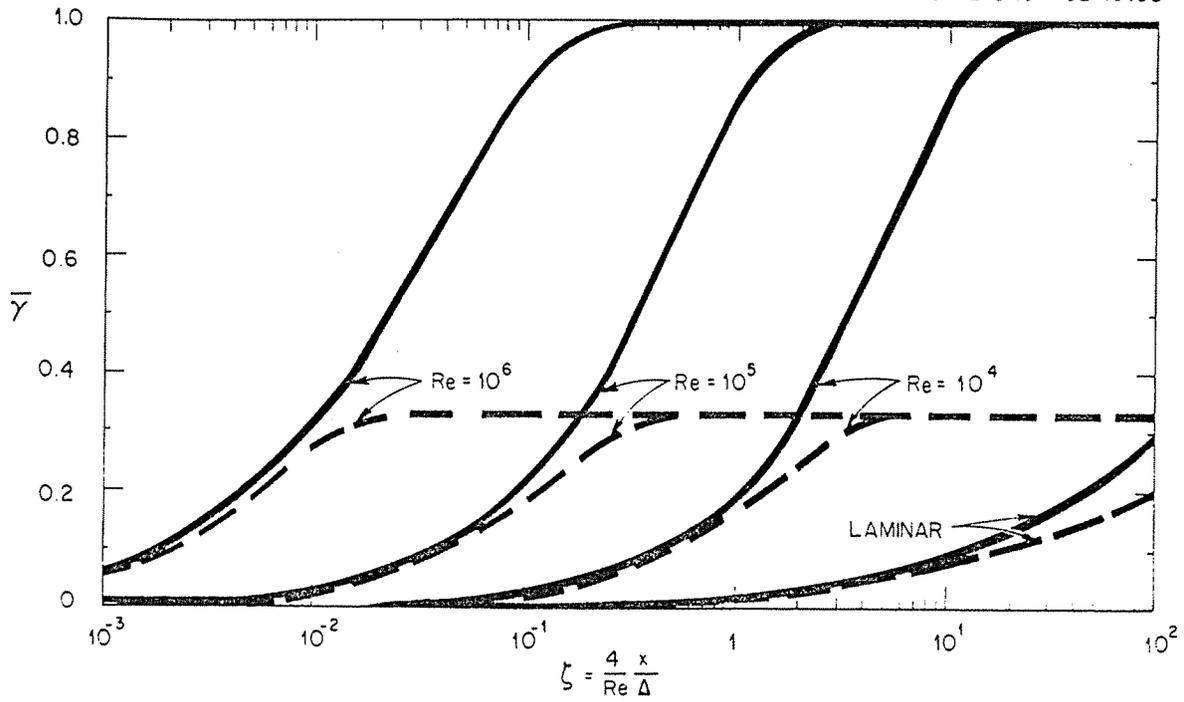


Fig. 6. Dimensionless bulk concentration as a function of the normalized length ζ for $W = 0.1$, $\lambda = 0.01$, $Pr = 10.0$, $Sc = 2000.0$, and different values of Re . Broken lines describe adiabatic wall; solid lines describe constant-temperature wall.

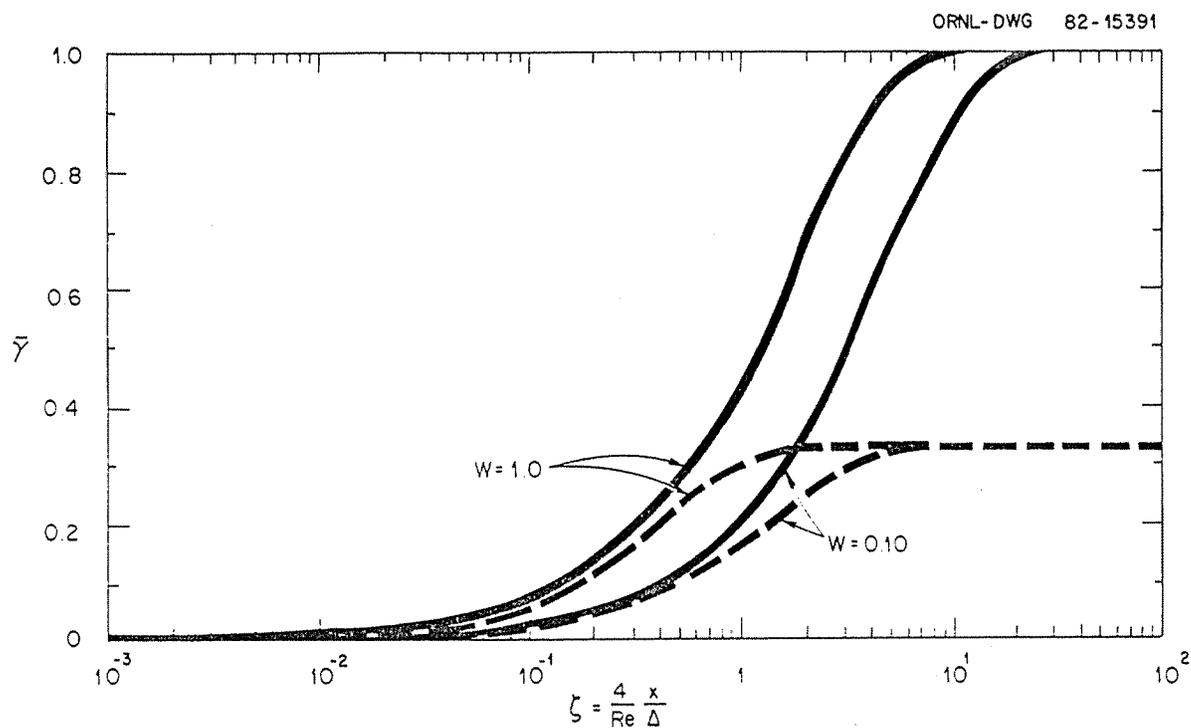


Fig. 7. Dimensionless bulk concentration as a function of the normalized length ζ for $W = 0.1$, $\lambda = 0.01$, $Pr = 10.0$, $Sc = 2000.0$, and different values of W . Broken lines describe adiabatic wall; solid lines describe constant-temperature wall.

The effect of the heat of absorption, λ , is illustrated in Fig. 8, describing the temperature and concentration at the interface as functions of ζ . Each curve represents either θ_i or γ_i , when read on the corresponding scale, since $\theta_i + \gamma_i = 1$. We observe that the initial ($\zeta = 0$) value of the interface temperature increases with λ , and that of the interface concentration decreases, according to the similarity solution formulas shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The same is true for the asymptotic values. At the limit of $\lambda = 0$ (negligible heat of absorption), $\theta_i = 0$ and $\lambda_i = 0$ for all ζ . Under this condition, there is no difference between the adiabatic and constant-temperature wall cases.

The effect of the Prandtl and Schmidt numbers is described in Fig. 9, which shows the interface temperature and concentration in a manner similar to that of Fig. 8. The main influence of Pr and Sc is on the initial and asymptotic values of θ and γ , where only the ratio Pr/Sc appears in the form of the Lewis number.

The literature uses several different definitions of the transfer coefficients in processes where heat and mass transfer are coupled. It seems best to use a definition based on the quantity difference which constitutes the driving force for the transfer phenomena. The coefficient of local mass transfer from the interface to the bulk of the liquid is defined through the Sherwood number as

$$\text{Sh} = \frac{h_M \Delta}{D} = \frac{(\partial \gamma / \partial \eta)_{\eta=1}}{(\gamma_i - \bar{\gamma})} \quad (25)$$

The coefficient of local heat transfer from the interface to the bulk of the liquid is defined through the Nusselt number as

$$\text{Nu} = \frac{h_T \Delta}{k} = \frac{(\partial \theta / \partial \eta)_{\eta=1}}{(\theta_i - \bar{\theta})} \quad (26)$$

In the constant-temperature wall case there is also a need to consider the heat transfer coefficient from the bulk of the fluid to the wall. Hence,

$$\text{Nu}' = \frac{h_T' \Delta}{k} = \frac{(\partial \theta / \partial \eta)_{\eta=0}}{\bar{\theta}} \quad (27)$$

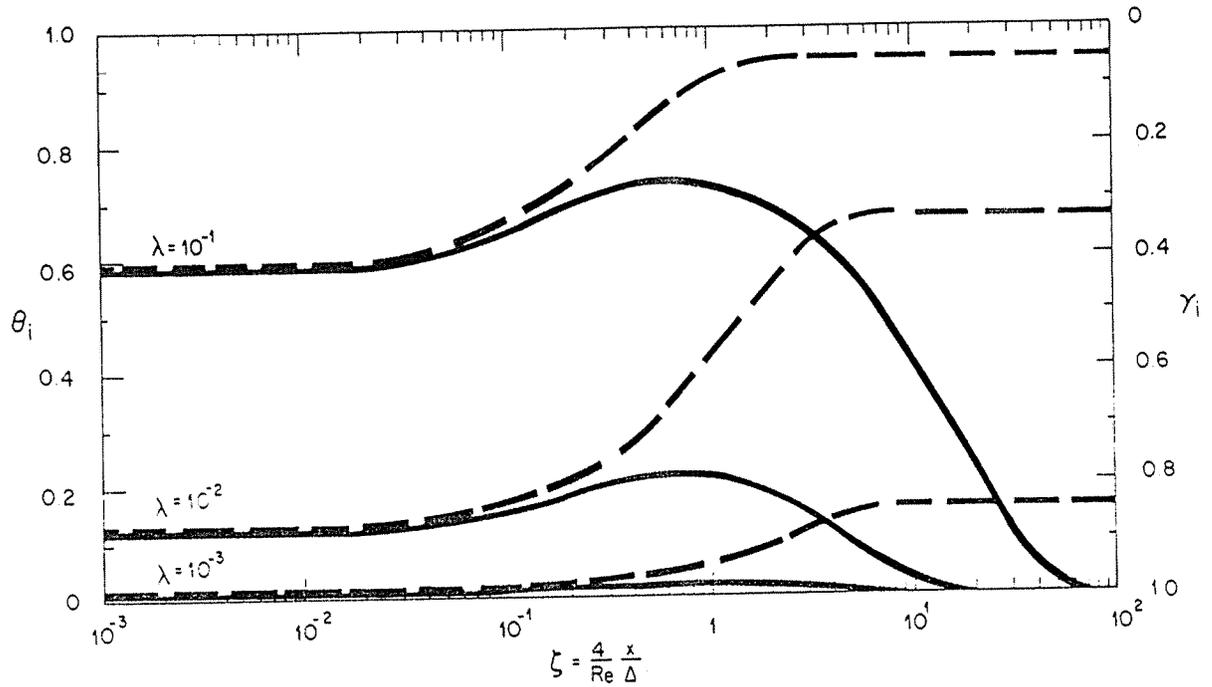


Fig. 8. Dimensionless interface temperature and concentration as functions of the normalized length ζ for $Re = 10^4$, $Pr = 10.0$, $Sc = 2000.0$, and different values of λ . Broken lines describe adiabatic wall; solid lines describe constant-temperature wall.

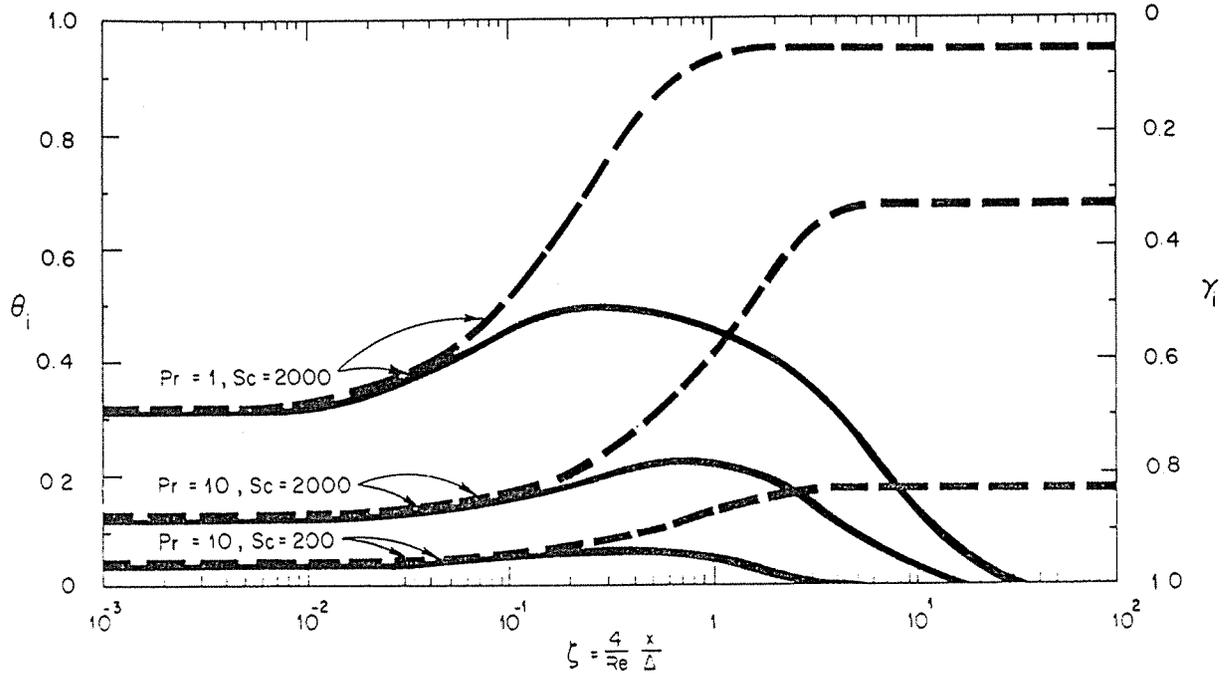


Fig. 9. Dimensionless interface temperature and concentration as functions of the normalized length ζ for $Re = 10^4$, $W = 0.1$, $\lambda = 0.01$, and different values of Pr and Sc . Broken lines describe adiabatic wall; solid lines describe constant-temperature wall.

Figure 10 describes the Sherwood number as a function of the normalized length ζ for different values of the system's parameters. Under the investigated range, there is no noticeable difference between the adiabatic and constant-temperature wall cases. The value of Sh is very large for small ζ and decreases toward an asymptotic value as ζ increases. We note, first, that for fixed λ , Pr , and Sc , the Sherwood number increases with Re and W , both of which provide for better transport, especially in the critical interface zone. The decrease from the initial toward the asymptotic value is also more rapid with larger values of these two parameters. For fixed Re and W , Sh increases with the Schmidt number, but is not sensitive to the Prandtl number. The effect of λ is small and limited to the region of small ζ , before the asymptotic value has been reached.

Figure 11 describes a plot similar to that of Fig. 10 for the Nusselt number. The Nu exhibits a behavior very similar to that of Sh , with the exception that the former is sensitive to Pr and insensitive to Sc . It is also observed that the asymptotic values reached with an adiabatic wall and with a constant-temperature wall are somewhat different, with the former always higher than the latter. This had also been observed in laminar films.¹⁴ Nu' , relating to the heat transfer at the wall, was found to be affected mainly by Re and Pr , and to be insensitive to W , λ , and Sc .

An important difference between the laminar and turbulent films is the relative sensitivity in the former and insensitivity in the latter of the Sherwood number to the heat of absorption, λ . This indicates that the mass transfer coefficient in the combined heat and mass transfer process is essentially the same as in isothermal mass transfer. The coupling between the two transfer phenomena is manifested primarily through the driving forces, the temperature and concentration differences between the film interface and bulk.

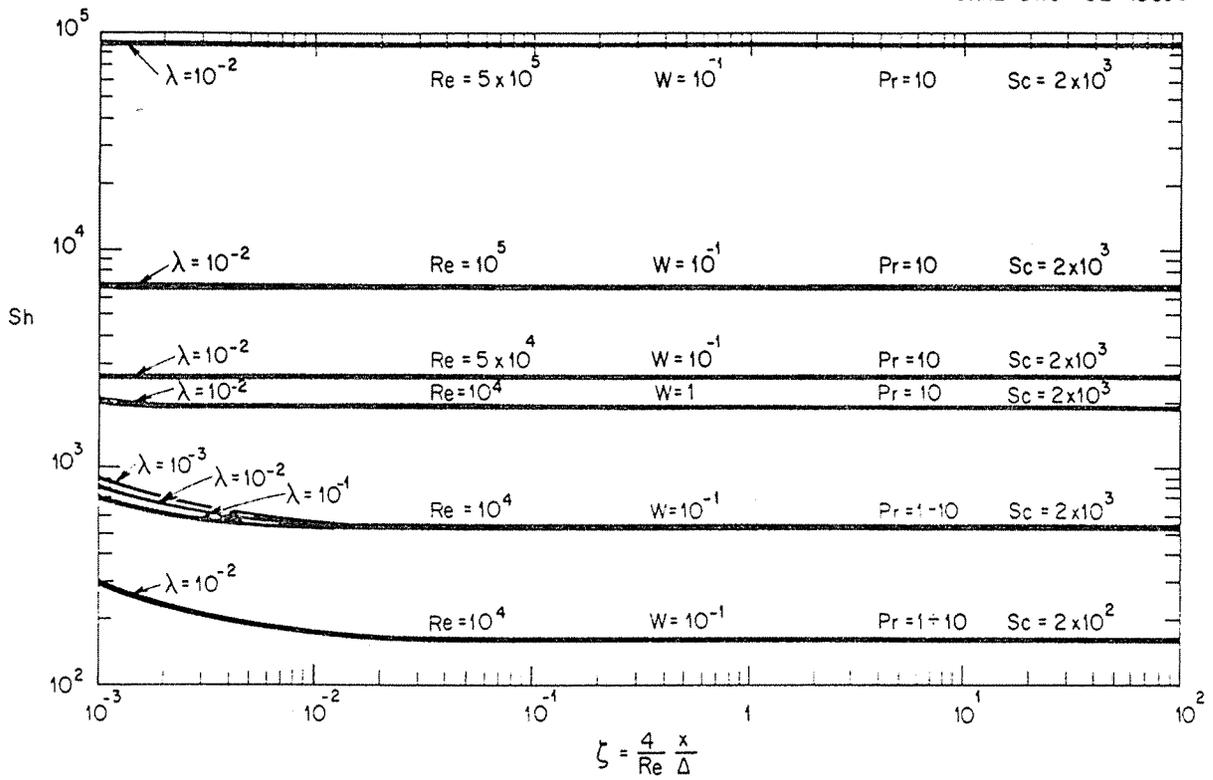


Fig. 10. Local Sherwood number as a function of the normalized length ζ for different values of the system's parameters.

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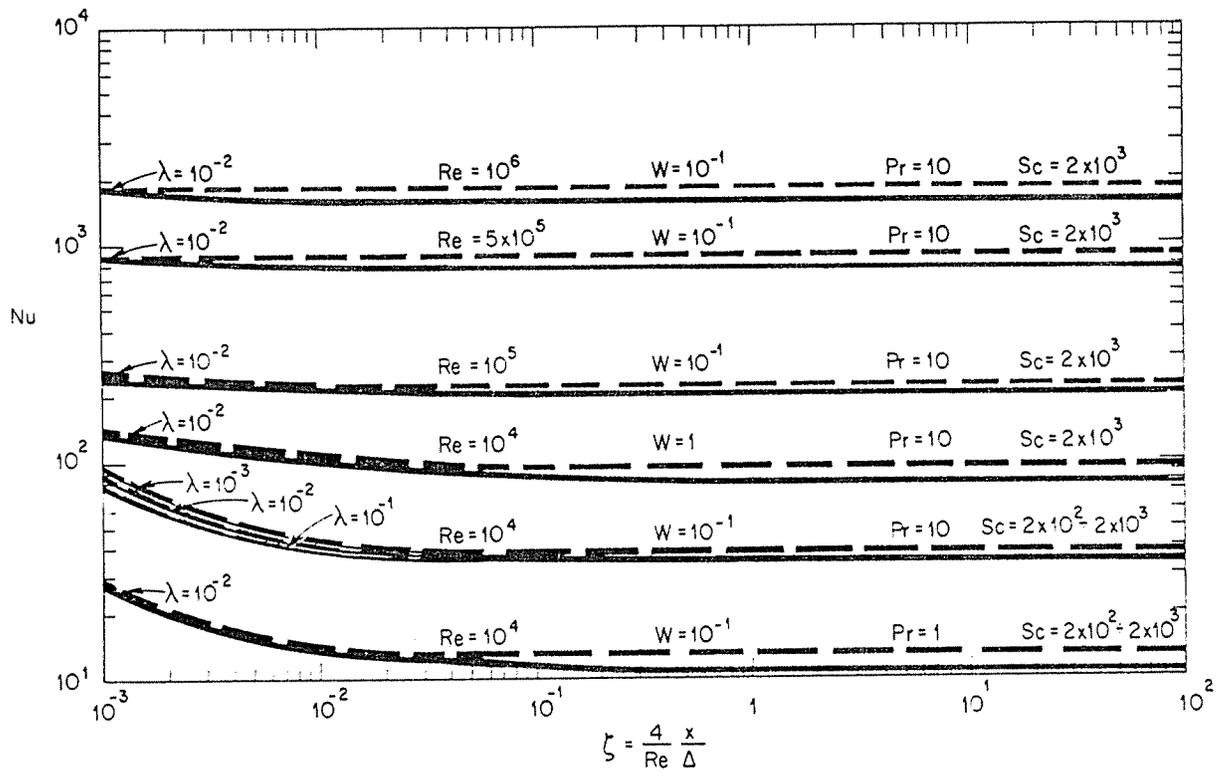


Fig. 11. Local Nusselt number as a function of the normalized length ζ . Broken lines describe adiabatic wall; solid lines describe constant-temperature wall.

5. CONCLUSIONS

397

A model was developed for analysis of the combined heat and mass transfer processes in absorption of vapor in turbulent liquid films. Eddy diffusivity correlations were used to describe the transport in the wall, bulk, and interface regions of the film. The energy and diffusion equations were solved simultaneously with an equilibrium boundary condition at the vapor-liquid interface. Two cases of practical importance were considered: a constant-temperature wall and an adiabatic wall.

The results of the solution describe the variation of the temperatures and concentrations within the film. These quantities in their normalized, dimensionless form depend on five characteristic parameters of the system: the Reynolds, Prandtl, and Schmidt numbers; the surface tension parameter, W ; and the dimensionless heat of absorption, λ . In the constant-temperature wall case, the dimensionless temperature and concentration reach asymptotic values of 0 and 1, respectively. In the adiabatic wall case the asymptotic temperature and concentration are $\lambda/(\lambda + Le)$ and $Le/(\lambda + Le)$, respectively.

10²

Heat and mass transfer coefficients for the system were calculated. The Sherwood number for mass transfer from the vapor-liquid interface to the bulk of the film increases with Re , W , and Sc and is insensitive to Pr . The Nusselt number for heat transfer from the interface to the bulk increases with Re , W , and Pr and is insensitive to Sc . Both Sh and Nu reach asymptotic values after a fairly short distance in the direction of flow and are little influenced by the heat of absorption, λ . The coupling between the heat and mass transfer processes is mainly through the interdependent driving forces — the temperature and concentration differences.

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117. Prof. Gary C. Vliet, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712
118. Dr. Michael Wahlig, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94720
119. Prof. Ralph T. Webb, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802
120. M. Westermark, Scandiaconsult AB, Box 4560, S-10265, Stockholm, Sweden
121. Prof. G. Wettermark, Royal Institute of Technology, Division of Physical Chemistry, S-10044 Stockholm 70, Sweden
122. Eugene P. Whitlow, 1851 N. Valley View Drive, St. Joseph, MI 49085
123. W. Wilkinson, Energy and Thermal Engineering Section, Battelle Columbus Laboratories, 505 King Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201
124. T. Zawacki, Institute of Gas Technology, 4201 West 36th Street, Chicago, IL 60632
125. Office of the Assistant Manager for Energy Research and Development, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
- 126-152. Technical Information Center, Department of Energy, P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, TN 37830