A Study of Single-Phase Flow Through Irregular Miniature Channel Cross-Sectional Geometry and Porous Media

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Project Overview

- Designed, built, and calibrated an experimental setup to support a wide variety of geometries and fluid experiments.
- Current study focused primarily on single-phase flow through rectangular miniature channels with Newtonian distilled water.
- Studying effects of flow through sudden cross-sectional area expansion and contraction in miniature channels and comparing results to flow through porous media.

Possible Applications of Research

- Porous media heat exchangers (high surface area to volume ratio)
- Pathological blood flow when accumulations of fatty plaques of cholesterol and blood clots increase in the cavity of the coronary artery [1]
- Optimizing pumping efficiency and thermal processes in space applications





Experimental Setup

- Major Equipment:
- 1) Syringe pump
- 2) Test section
- 3) 10 pressure transducers
- 4) 2 thermocouples
- 5) Data acquisition device
- 6) Microscope with high speed digital camera



Syringe Pump

- Allows testing of complex fluids such as nanofluids
- Flow rates ranging from < 1 nanoliter/min to 300 ml/min
- Push-pull setup with one way valves allow constant flow



Syringe Pump Calibration

- 7 independent flow rates measured each repeated 5 times
- Mean and standard deviation were compiled for all 7 flow rates
- Using a t-distribution table and $\Delta = \sigma t_{95} / N^{0.5}$
- Volumetric flow rate = mean $\pm \Delta$ = 200 \pm 1.47 ml/min
- Including graduated cylinder and syringe pump uncertainties of \pm 0.5 and \pm 0.0035 ml/min respectively yields a total error of \pm 1.70 ml/min using total error = $(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{0.5}$
- The maximum volumetric flow rate total uncertainty will be ± 1.17% with a 95% confidence level. [2]

Syringe Pump Calibration



Expansion/Contraction Test Section

- Total length of 88.9 mm
- Cross-sectional area of 1.59 x 1.59 mm over first 31.75 mm
- Cross-sectional area of 1.59 x 6.35 mm over last 57.15 mm
- Area ratio of 4 / 1
- 10 pressure taps connected to pressure transducers
- Thermocouples at entrance and exit monitor temperature



Expansion/Contraction Test Section





Porous Media Test Section

- Allows test material to be changed
- 10 pressure transducers
- Thermocouple at inlet and outlet
- Reservoirs located before and after channel
- Channel size can be customized
- 101.6 mm long
- 1.59 x 3.175 mm cross-sectional area











Pressure Transducers

- 10 Honeywell pressure transducers
- Six Sigma manufacturing process
- Minimum life span of 10 million cycles
- 10 local static pressure measurements on both test sections
- Calibrated with a Fluke pressure calibrator





Keysight Data Acquisition Device

- 2 data points per second collected from pressure transducers and thermocouples
- Over 400 independent test runs
- Data from each run collected and averaged
- Over 260,000 total data points collected



Amscope Microscope

- 225X magnification
- Allows digital pictures of porous samples
- Will be utilized to analyze two-phase flow in future experiments



Porous Media

• Titanium oxide porous ceramics synthesized by Dr. Surojit Gupta



SEM micrographs of (a) fractured surface of the cross section of the green body of Composition C (Table 1), (b) fractured surface of the cross section of Composition C, (c) fractured surface of the cross section of Composition E (Table 1), and (d) top surface of the composition E after heat treatment at 1450 $^{\circ}$ C for 4 hours (Gupta & Riyad, 2014).

Data Acquisition Methodology

- Steady-state flow measured for 30 seconds at set volumetric flow rate
- Average taken of all 60 pressure measurements
- Procedure repeated at many flow rates



Porous Media Equations

- Darcy's Law: $\Delta P/L = (\mu/K) U$
- Works well for viscous drag dominated flow [3]
- Hazen-Dupuit-Darcy (HDD) model: $\Delta P/L = (\mu/K)^*U + C^*\rho^*U^2$
- Works well for viscous and form drag dominated flow [3]
- K = permeability (m^2)
- C = form-coefficient (1/m)

Permeability (K) and Form (C) Values

- Using 2 independent runs and the HDD model allow K and C to be solved.
- Higher K value is more permeable and less resistive to flow [3]
- Higher C value correlates to higher form drag and more resistive to flow
- K = 5.28 x 10⁻⁹ m²
- C = 236 m⁻¹

Viscous Versus Form Drag in Porous Material Internal Flow

Viscous Drag

- Linear increase with average velocity
- Permeability (K) dictates flow

Form Drag

- Parabolic increase with average velocity
- Increased or decreased depending on the physical shape of the object impeding the flow
- Form coefficient (C) dictates flow

Determining a Reynolds Number for Flow Through Porous Materials

- Reynolds number (λ) based on Permeability and Form Coefficients
- $\lambda = (\rho^* C_0^* K_0 / \mu_0)^* U$



Determining the Dominate Drag

- Using: $\lambda = (\rho^* C_0^* K_0 / \mu_0)^* U$ [3]
- When $\lambda > 1$, flow has departed from Darcy flow and is form dominated [3]
- When $\lambda < 1$, flow is viscous dominated [3]
- When $\lambda = 1$, flow is affected equally by form and viscous drag.



...Continued



Power Required for Flow Through Porous Media

• Power (W) = ΔP * Volumetric flow rate [4]



Fluid Volume Pumped vs. Flow Rate



Expansion Test Section

- Expansion area ratio of 1 to 4
- Borda–Carnot equation
- Energy loss per unit volume: $\Delta E_{e \log} = 0.5*\rho*(1-(A_1/A_2))*U_1^2$
- Theoretical measurable : $\Delta P_{e \text{ measured}} = (A_1/A_2)^*(1-(A_1/A_2))^*\rho^*U_1^2$
- Total needed to move liquid: $\Delta P_{e \text{ measured}} + \Delta E_{e \text{ loss}} = 0.5*\rho^*(U_1^2 U_2^2)$



Expansion Differential Pressure vs. Flow Rate



Expansion Power Required vs. Flow Rate



Expansion Total Volume Moved With 1000 Joules



Contraction Test Section

- Contraction area ratio of 4 to 1
- Theoretical measured ΔP calculated with:
- $\Delta P = (0.5\rho V^2)[(1-\sigma^2)+K_c], [5]$ where: $\sigma = 0.25$
- $\Delta E_c = 0.5*\rho^*[(1/a)-1]^{2*}U^2$ where: $a = 0.63 = 0.37^*(A_2/A_1)^3$





Contraction DP Using U = 1.98 m/s and Laminar Assumptions K_c =0.78 Including Losses



Contraction Required Power Using U = 1.98 m/s and Laminar Assumptions K_c =0.78 Including Losses



Contraction Volume Pumped with 1000 Joules



Contraction Conclusions

- Using the higher velocity (1.98 m/s) and laminar (K_c = 0.78) aligned best with the empirical data.
- To achieve a fully turbulent environment (Re = 10,000), a velocity of 5.7 m/s is needed, which is 288% higher than the maximum rate available with the current syringe pump and test section.

Simplified Differential Pressure Equations

- $\Delta P_{\text{porous}} = (L)^* [(1.9^*10^8 \text{ m}^{-2})^* \mu^* \text{U} + 236 \text{ m}^{-1*} \rho^* \text{U}^2]$
- ΔP_e = (0.47)*ρ* U²
- $\Delta P_c = (1.02)^* \rho^* U^2$

Simplified Required Energy Equations

- $E_{porous} = (L)*\Lambda*[(1.9*10^8 \text{ m}^{-2})*\mu*U + 236 \text{ m}^{-1}*\rho*U^2]$
- E_e = Λ*(0.47)*ρ* U²
- $E_c = \Lambda^* (1.02)^* \rho^* U^2$

Simplified Required Power Equations

- $\delta E/\delta t_{porous} = (L)^* [961^* \mu^* U^2 + 0.0012 \text{ m}^* \rho^* U^3]$
- $\delta E/\delta t_e = (1.2*10^{-6} \text{ m}^2)* (\rho)* \text{ U}^3$
- $\delta E/\delta t_c = (2.6*10^{-6} \text{ m}^2)* (\rho) * U^3$

Final Conclusions

- A system was designed, built, and calibrated to test a wide variety of fluids and conditions.
- 2.2 times more power, energy, and ΔP are required to flow through the contraction than the expansion.
- Minimizing flow rate minimized ΔP, energy and power needed to flow the liquid.
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- ΔP_{porous} is a function of (U + U²). ΔP_{e} and ΔP_{c} are functions of U².
- $\delta E/\delta t_{porous}$ is a function of (U² + U³). $\delta E/\delta t_e$ and $\delta E/\delta t_c$ are functions of U³.

Thank You!

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- Dr. Clement Tang
- Dr. Surojit Gupta
- Dr. Nanak Grewal

References

- [1] Khaled and Vafai, 2003
- [2] Tang, 2014
- [3] Narasimhan, 2013
- [4] Bergman et al, 2011
- [5] Kays and London, 1998

Any Questions??