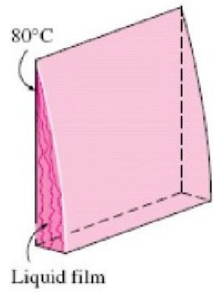
Topic - Types of condensation-film wise and drop wise condensation

Condensation: Physical Mechanisms

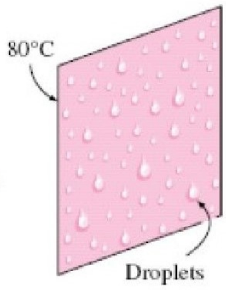
Film condensation

- The condensate wets the surface and forms a liquid film.
- The surface is blanketed by a liquid film which serves as a *resistance* to heat transfer.



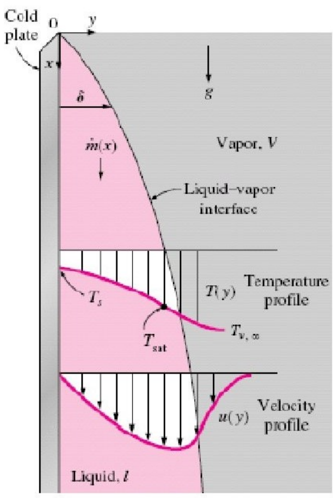
Dropwise condensation

- The condensed vapor forms droplets on the surface.
- The droplets slide down when they reach a certain size.
- No liquid film to resist heat transfer.
- As a result, heat transfer rates that are more than 10 times larger than with film condensation can be achieved.



Film Condensation on a Vertical Plate

- liquid film starts forming at the top of the plate and flows downward under the influence of gravity.
- d *increases* in the flow direction x
- Heat in the amount h_{fg} is released during condensation and is *transferred* through the film to the plate surface.
- T_s must be below the saturation temperature for condensation.
- The *temperature* of the condensate is T_{sat} at the interface and decreases gradually to T_s at the wall.



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PHASE CHANGE HEAT TRANSFER AND HEAT EXCHANGERS

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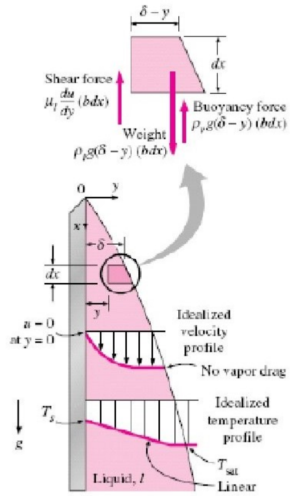
Heat Transfer Correlations for Film Condensation – Vertical wall

Assumptions:

1. Both the plate and the vapor are maintained at *constant temperatures* of T_s and T_{sat}, respectively, and the temperature across the liquid film varies *linearly*.
2. Heat transfer across the liquid film is by pure *conduction*.
3. The velocity of the vapor is low (or zero) so that it exerts *no drag* on the condensate (no viscous shear on the liquid–vapor interface).
4. The flow of the condensate is *laminar* (Re<30) and the properties of the liquid are constant.
5. The acceleration of the condensate layer is negligible.



Height L and width b

Dropwise Condensation

- One of the most effective mechanisms of heat transfer, and extremely large heat transfer coefficients can be achieved.
- Small droplets grow as a result of continued condensation, coalesce into large droplets, and slide down when they reach a certain size.
- Large heat transfer coefficients enable designers to achieve a specified heat transfer rate with a smaller surface area.

Dropwise Condensation

- The challenge in dropwise condensation is not to achieve it, but rather, to *sustain* it for prolonged periods of time.
- Dropwise condensation has been studied experimentally for a number of surface–fluid combinations.
- Griffith (1983) recommends these simple correlations for dropwise condensation of *steam* on *copper surfaces:*

$$hdropwise = \begin{cases} 51,104 + 2044T_{sat} & 22^0C < T_{sat} < 100\ ^0C \\ 255,310 & T_{sat} > 100^0C \end{cases}$$

References:

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3. MIT open courseware – https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/mechanical-engineering

Other web sources