Parametric Evaluation of Dimensionless Jet Reynolds Number on Temperature-Time Cooling History of Cooled Hot-Rolled Steel Plates

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Abstract Experimental studies by controlled accelerated impingement water jet cooling on the run-out table were carried out in MMLE ESUT, Nigeria through impingement water jets on the top of the hot steel plates which leads to heat transfer extractions. It aimed at to develop a predictive tool in order to control the temperature principle on the run-out table towards improving the mechanical and metallurgical properties of the steel product relatively achieved by alloying. The methodology undertaken for this research involved design and construction of experiments using a pilot scale run-out table with stationary plates. Both initial hot plate and water temperatures, control cooling time, controlled temperature ranges of 160 °C to 200 °C, and 260 °C to 300 °C, pressure, volumetric flow rates, impingement water jet 0.8 mm of 30 number holes, nozzles to surface spacing of 40 mm 50 mm, 60 mm and 70 mm, and pipe diameters of 20 mm, 25 mm, 32 mm and 45 mm were parameters investigated. Experimentally, three k-type thermocouples were instrumented and installed 9mm from the bottom surface of the plate of 230 mm length and 120 mm by width. Temperature measurements were taken at impingement target on where convectional and evaporation cooling occurred. Conduction heat transfer modelling allowed the calculation of zero temperature. Transient state temperature across the workpiece was done by Visual Basic Heat Transfer (VBHT) model and MATLAB was employed to analyzed jet flow rates of Reynolds number. From transient cooling data obtained, effects of jet Reynolds number were analyzed .The flow rates were found to be at peak cooling of Re= 2758.596 in the turbulent regime, followed by others at transition states and the least at Re= 860.901 laminar regime. This depicts that the higher the Reynolds number, the higher the flow rate.

Keywords Run–out table pilot scale plant, Reynolds number, turbulent, transition, laminar pipe diameters, temperatures, Transient heat transfer

1. Introduction

Steel companies that aim to produce steel plates of various qualities and thicknesses invariably start by reheating steel slabs from the continuous –casting plant to rolling temperatures of about 900 °C. This is then followed by passing the re-heated slabs through a number of rolling-stands. Subsequently, the rolled plates are cooled, on lines, on the run-out table.

Controlled accelerated cooling on the run-out table of a hot rolling mill is a key technology to achieve the microstructure and properties of advanced steels. The increased demands for hot rolled products for severe service conditions have led to high interest in advanced steel grades. Accelerated but controlled cooling in the run-out table enables phase transformation of the product and enhanced metallurgical properties hitherto achieved by expensive alloying.
Thus, it is crucial to develop accurate heat transfer models in order to predict the temperature history of the steel plates on run-out tables. This study describes a strategy to develop a controlled accelerated cooling model to stimulate the temperature of the plate cooled by top water jet nozzle on a run-out table. Systematic experiments were carried out on a pilot scale run-out table facility using planar (water curtain) nozzle. Proposed experimental results for cooling of stationary plate, showed that the heat transfer rate depends strongly on the distance from the jet especially in the temperature range where the transition boiling regime occurs. With the experimental results, a boiling curve model is proposed that would take into account boiling heat transfer mechanism and maps local boiling curve for cooling of stationary steel plates. The effects of heat by boiling, heat by conventional cooling and heat by conduction during water flow rate and water temperature on the heat extraction from the plates were used to form the model. The effect of jet Reynolds number on the temperature-time variations were the studied. Also, transient heat conduction within the plate were analyzed and surface heat flux, convective heat transfer, boiling heat transfer. The validity of the cooling model will be examined with multiple nozzles experimental data from the literature.

1.1. Heat transfer mechanism on the run-out table
Since the temperature of the steel on the run-out table is higher than the boiling temperature of the water impinging on the surface, the dominant mode of heat transfer is jet impingement boiling. The latent heat of evaporation and high specific heat capacity of water allow high rates of heat extraction from the hot steel during cooling. The boiling curve is the most descriptive representation of surface heat transfer changes during cooling of a hot solid by a liquid. The boiling curve presents heat flux changes with respect to the surface temperature of the solid. This curve is shown qualitatively in fig.1 for pool boiling. Pool boiling occurs when a hot surface is submerged in a pool of liquid, whereas forced flow boiling refers to the condition in which liquid flows over the surface [1-2]. Although the boiling heat transfer observed during run-out table cooling is categorized as forced flow boiling [3], a pool boiling curve offers the fundamental groundwork for understanding boiling heat transfer in general. Four main regimes occur during pool boiling: single-phase convection (natural convection), nucleate boiling, transition boiling, and film boiling [1-3].

![Figure 1: Schematic drawing of a typical pool boiling curve](image-url)

At low temperatures (below saturation temperature), the water is heated by natural convection. This regime is single-phase convection since no vapor forms and no boiling occurs. At a temperature slightly above the saturation temperature, isolated vapor bubbles begin to form on the surface. This temperature is shown as ONB (onset of nucleate boiling) in fig. 1 and this boiling regime is called partial nucleate boiling. Partial nucleate boiling is characterized by a dynamic formation, growth and collapse of isolated vapor bubbles on the surface. The latent heat of evaporation and also the induced agitation due to the dynamics of bubbles increase the surface heat flux. With a further increase in temperature the bubble population increases leading to the transition from partial nucleate boiling to fully developed nucleate boiling. It has been observed that in this mode, isolated bubbles begin to merge in the vertical direction and the vapor leaves the surface in the form of jets. Bubbles also merge in the horizontal direction forming occasional vapor patches. However, as the population of the bubbles further increases, the more frequent vapor patches obstruct the path of incoming liquid to the surface thereby
decreasing the heat transfer rate. Due to this fact, a maximum in the heat flux curve appears, termed the critical heat flux (CHF). The maximum or CHF represents the upper limit of nucleate boiling heat flux and the termination of efficient cooling conditions on the surface [1].

After the CHF point, the surface is covered alternately either by a vapor blanket or a liquid layer. In this regime, called transition boiling, vapor begins to cover larger portions of the surface due to the high evaporation rate. Since the thermal conductivity of the vapor is much lower than that of the water, the vapor acts as an insulating layer and decreases the heat transfer rate from the surface. Hence, in this regime the heat flux decreases with increasing surface temperature until the entire affected surface is covered by a blanket of vapor. At this point, liquid no longer wets the surface of the solid and a minimum heat flux (MHF) is reached in transition boiling region, which is the “Leidenfrost” point. The condition after the stable vapor blanket has formed is referred to as film boiling. In film boiling, heat must be conducted mainly through the vapor blanket before it reaches the liquid, until radiation becomes the dominant mechanism at higher surface temperatures. Despite significant effort to simulate accelerated cooling, it is challenging to accurately incorporate fundamental boiling mechanisms into the transient heat transfer models for the run-out table. This is due to the fact that different boiling regimes are simultaneously occurring at different locations on the surface of the steel during jet impingement cooling. The cooling process is further complicated by the dependency of heat transfer regimes on process parameters such as nozzle geometry, water flow rate and water temperature. Moreover, on the run-out table, jet impingement cooling involves surface motion and interaction between neighboring water jets [4].

2. Materials and Methodology

2.1. Experimental Set–Up For Pilot Scale Plant Run Out Table

In this research, a pilot scale run out table (ROT) facility was designed and constructed in Mechanical and Metallurgical Engineering Foundry Laboratory (MMEFL), ESUT. A schematic diagram of the run-out table and picture of the set-up in fig.2

![Figure 2: Schematic diagram of pilot plant for this research in MMEFL](image)


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The facility has been designed to simulate industrial cooling condition for run-out table cooling of stationary plates in hot strip and plate mills [5]. It enables heat transfer to be studied during cooling of stationary plates. In this study heating was provided by an electric furnace where a steel plate was heated up to a temperature of 920 °C in Metallurgical and Material Laboratory ESUT Enugu, Nigeria. Fusing a motorized ASYNCHRONOUS Rotor gear powered conveyor drive system of 0.75kw of 1500rpm to operate a gear of 1:24 by ratio with 50HZ under an ac. of 240volts, the steel plates were transported from the furnace to the cooling tower for the stationary experiments.

The cooling system features a closed water loop where 0.945m$^3$ (945 liters) of water was circulated throughout the experiment through the cooling jet nozzles. Surface temperatures, water temperatures, impingement heights or nozzle–to- surface spacing (impingement height) and flow rates were controlled. An ATLAS (ATP 60) water pump that provided total water flow rates of 60L/min was employed. It pumped water to the impingement plate from the water tank below to the target plate through the flow meter, nozzle header via impingement jet nozzle to the hot plate. An electric heater of 9kw of 330volts was situated in the tank and was used to adjust the temperature of water between 10-70ºC . The water temperatures readings were taken by mercury in bulb thermometer.

In this study, one type of nozzle was used; planar (water or curtain) nozzle. The cross section is 12x 12 mm of 30 × 90mm with 0.8 mm with 30 number holes of jet diameter. A control panel mounted on a stand was used to read the surface temperatures of steel before and after the impingement. It has a red icons buttons that controls and records the temperature variations with digital read out on a steel cased panel.

2.2. Experimental procedure

After the required temperature of 920 °C was reached in the electric furnace, the workpiece was removed and kept on the motorized screwed conveyor that transported the plate towards the cooling jet impingement target. For the experiment, the center of the plate was positioned under the jet nozzle, and the water flow from tank was started. The water header was positioned for different flow of water using different water pipe diameters and heights. The pressure gauge and flow meter were also opened to read the values of pressure and flow rate with stop watch. However, the initial surface temperatures of the plate (Ti) at the onset of water impingement cooling varied from 450 to 550 ºC. Temperature data of various thermocouple locations were collected when the surface temperature drops below 3 ºC of the three thermocouples and average initial or surface temperature was recorded. When the controlled impingement cooling reached 200 ºC, 180 ºC, 160 ºC and 300 ºC, 280 ºC and 260 ºC respectively, the flow was stopped using stop watch. The evaporated water was gotten, by subtracting volume of water collected from volume of water used, using flow meter and measuring cylinder.

3. Heat transfer model

Evaluating the transient state temperature development across the workpiece width of 120mm.

![Figure 3: Sketch of energy balance](image)

3.1. Boundary condition

The boundary conditions are to be applied at the top (surface of water jet impingement) and the bottom surfaces. At the top surface; the boundary condition is solved using the energy balance of heat by conduction to be equals heat by convection and that by boiling:

\[ q_k = q_c + q_b \]  

where \( q_k = -k \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \mid _{x=0} = \) conductive heat transfer, KJ

\[ q_c = h(T_0 - T_{\infty}) = \) convective heat transfer KJ and

\[ q_b = mh_f = \) heat out flow due to evaporation of cooling water KJ.

Thus, \( -k \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \mid _{x=0} = q_k = q_c = h(T_0 - T_{\infty}) + \) m$h_f$
where \( k \) = thermal conductivity of the fluid (water) in w/m.k
\( \partial T \) = change in temperature °C
\( \partial x \) = division across the width of the workpiece in mm
\( h \) = coefficient of convective heat transfer in w/m²k
\( T_o - T_\infty \) = change in zero temperature and temperature of the immediate environment of the test plate °C
\( m \) = mass of water in Kg
\( h_{lv} \) = latent heat of vaporization of saturated water in KJ/kg

3.2. Discretization of temperature development

Using the transient – state discretization of temperature across the workpiece for 1 –D heat treatment on the workpiece. At the bottom surface, the heat is assumed to be constant. Thus, the temperature at all points are the same.

**Figure 4: Discretization of transient state temperature development across the workpiece from 0 to n+1**

The B.C at the bottom face:
- The condition is approximated to an adiabatic bottom face (i.e. no heat lost to the workpiece supporting structure).

Using Taylor series expansion alouds \( T_o \):

\[
T_1 = T_0 + \frac{T_1 - T_0}{\Delta x} \Delta x + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} \frac{\Delta x^2}{2!} + \frac{\partial^3 T}{\partial x^3} \frac{\Delta x^3}{3!} + \cdots
\]

\( \cdot \frac{T_0}{\Delta x} \Delta x = \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} \frac{\Delta x^2}{2!} \)

Or \( \frac{T_0}{\Delta x} \Delta x = T_1 - T_0 \)

Substituting equations (5) into (1), using equation 1.

Thus \( q_k = -k(T_1 - T_0)/\Delta x \)

For \( q_k = q_c + q_b \)

\[ T_1 - T_0 = \frac{h}{k} \Delta x (T_0 - T_\infty) - \frac{h}{k} q_b \]

Solving for real \( T_o \), i.e.

\[ T_o = T_1 \frac{h}{k} \Delta x + \frac{h}{k} q_b \]

\[ T_0 = \frac{h}{k} \Delta x T_0 \]

\[ T_o = \frac{k}{k-h \Delta x} \left( T_1 - \frac{h}{k-h \Delta x} \right) + \frac{k}{k-h \Delta x} \left( \frac{\Delta x q_b}{k} \right) \]

\[ T_w = 45 ^\circ C \] is the temperature of the immediate environment of the test plate which could be as high as the superheated temperature of the evaporated steam.

But \( q_b = m h_{lv} \) from equation 2, where \( m \) = mass of water lost due to evaporation.

\( m = \rho V \), where \( \rho \) = density of water = 1000kg/m³, \( V \) = volume of evaporated water, from experimental values, \( h_{lv} \) = latent heat of vaporization of saturated water at 1 atm = 2257KJ/Kg.

It is proposed to estimate the volume of evaporated water by subtracting unevaporated water from volume of water used.
Thus for,
\[ T_0 = \frac{T_i K^{-\Delta x} (b T_m - \rho V b f_b)}{K^{-\Delta x}} \]  
(10)

For \( q_b = m h g \). Thus, \( q_{\text{in}} = 1000 \times V \times 2257 = 2257000 \text{VKJ/m}^3 \) 
(11)

### 3.3. Convection model calculations

The value of \( h \) is to be estimated from

\[ Nu = \frac{k D}{k} = \sqrt{2} Re \frac{1}{\nu} Pr \frac{1}{\nu} \left( \frac{k_v}{k_l} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{\Delta T_{\text{Sub}}}{\Delta T_{\text{Sat}}} \right)^{1/2} \]  
(12)
difference, and an average over time computed and used to calculate the quantity of mass transfer during the pool boiling or evaporation.

### 3.4. Calculation for the ratio of thermal conductivities of vapour and liquid

The thermal conductivity ratio of vapour and liquid is calculated from equation below,

\[ \left( \frac{k_v}{k_l} \right)^{1/2} \]  
(13)

Where \( K_v \) and \( K_l \) are thermal conductivities of vapour and liquid at various temperatures respectively

\[ \left( \frac{k_v}{k_l} \right)^{1/2} \text{ at } 200 \degree \text{C} = \left( \frac{0.0401}{0.663} \right)^{1/2} = 0.0605 \]  
(14)

Thus
\[ \left( \frac{k_v}{k_l} \right)^{1/2} \text{ at } 200 \degree \text{C} = (0.0605)^{1/2} \]  
(15)

### 3.5. Calculation for Prandtl Number (Pr)

The Prandlt Number \( Pr \) is calculated from the equation below as;

\[ Pr = \frac{C_p}{k} \]  
(16)

Thus, \( Pr = \frac{4500 \times 0.1221 \times 10^{-3}}{0.663} = 0.910 \text{ at } 200 \degree \text{C} \)  
(17)

### 3.6. Calculation for Reynolds Number (Re)

The values of Reynolds Numbers are obtained from equation (21) below,

\[ Re = \frac{\rho V D}{\mu} = \frac{\nu_{\text{jet}} D}{\nu} \]  
(18)

Thus
\[ Re = \frac{4Q}{0.00006037} \times 0.0008 \times 0.0573 \times 10^{-6} = 53.042 Q \times 10^6 \]  
(19)

Where \( Q \) is calculated flow rates from experimental run.

### 3.7. Calculation for Nusselt Number (Nu)

The values of Nusselt Numbers is calculated from,

\[ Nu = \sqrt{2} Re \frac{1}{\nu} Pr \frac{1}{\nu} \left( \frac{k_v}{k_l} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{\Delta T_{\text{Sub}}}{\Delta T_{\text{Sat}}} \right)^{1/2} \]  
(20)

\[ Nu = 31.702 \times Q \times 10^6 \left( \frac{\Delta T_{\text{Sub}}}{\Delta T_{\text{Sat}}} \right)^{1/2} \]  
(21)

### 3.8 Calculation for Convective Heat Transfer Coefficient \( h \)

From \( Nu = \frac{h D_{\text{jet}}}{K} \)  
(22)

Where \( h \) = convective heat transfer coefficient (w/m\(^2\).k)  
\( D_{\text{jet}} \) = diameter of impingement nozzle (m)  
\( K \) = thermal conductivity of steel = 0.5 w/m.k [6-7]

\[ h = \frac{60.530.717 + Q \cdot 10^6 \cdot (\frac{\Delta T_{sub}}{\Delta T_{sat}})^2}{D_{jet}} = \frac{0.060530.717 + Q \cdot 10^6 \cdot (\frac{\Delta T_{sub}}{\Delta T_{sat}})^2}{0.00088} \]

\[ h = 2322.97 * Q * 10^6 * (\frac{\Delta T_{sub}}{\Delta T_{sat}})^2 \]

Table 1: Numerical values for Prandtl Nu, Nusselt Nu, Reynolds Nu, and Coefficient of Convective Heat Transfer and To for D=20mm, H=40mm and \( d_{sat} = 0.0008\)mm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prandtl Nu ( Pr = \frac{C_p \mu}{k} )</th>
<th>Reynolds Nu. ( Re = 92.57Q * 10^6 )</th>
<th>Nusselt Nu. ( Nu = \frac{\Delta T_{sub}}{\Delta T_{sat}} )</th>
<th>Con. heat coef. W/m².k</th>
<th>( Q * 10^6 ) m³/sec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.2459</td>
<td>0.533312</td>
<td>801.8562</td>
<td>173.369</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.947</td>
<td>0.239</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>0.902</td>
<td>0.3561</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.832</td>
<td>0.2865</td>
<td>0.740656</td>
<td>1459.181</td>
<td>370.1156</td>
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</table>

Table 2: Numerical values for Prandtl Nu, Nusselt Nu, Reynolds Nu, and Coefficient of Convective Heat Transfer and To for D=45mm, H=40mm and \( d_{sat} = 0.0008\)mm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prandtl Nu ( Pr = \frac{C_p \mu}{k} )</th>
<th>Reynolds Nu. ( Re = 92.57Q * 10^6 )</th>
<th>Nusselt Nu. ( Nu = \frac{\Delta T_{sub}}{\Delta T_{sat}} )</th>
<th>Con. heat coef. W/m².k</th>
<th>( Q * 10^6 ) m³/sec</th>
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<tr>
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<td>660.9498</td>
<td>167.6492</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.9. Finite difference treatment

For 1 dimensional treatment of FD

The steps employed are:

Calculating $T_0$ for the each time period, Calculating for $T_1$ to $T_5$ using the FD

Calculating for $A = \lambda B + \lambda C + \lambda d$. The stencil for the explicit finite difference method for the heat equation of step 3 is given in fig.5

\[
(A) = i, n+1
\]

\[
(D) = i-1, n
\]

\[
(C) = i, n
\]

\[
(B) = i+1, n
\]

Figure 5: Stencil for explicit D.F. method of heat equation

From the stencil for the explicit finite method above, using the nodal point at (A) =i, n+1, would yield the expression

\[
A = \lambda B + \lambda C + \lambda d
\]  

(25)

By substituting the values of $A$, $B$, $C$, and $D$ in equation 33, yields

\[
T_{i,n+1} = \lambda T_{i+1,n} + (1 - 2\lambda) T_{i,n} + \lambda T_{i-1,n}
\]  

(26)

Where $\lambda = \frac{\alpha \Delta t}{\Delta x^2}$

for steel of $\text{Mn} < 0.1 \leq 0.8\%$ and $\text{Si} < 0.1\%$;

$\alpha = \text{thermal diffusivity of steel} = 1.775 \times 10^{-6} \text{m}^2/\text{s}$ [6-8].

3.10. Discretization of temperature development across the width

For the 1–D"EXPLICIT F.D" to converge to a good solution; the stability is based on the conditions that

\[
0 < \lambda \leq \frac{1}{2}
\]

If $\alpha = \text{thermal diffusivity of steel} = 1.775 \times 10^{-6} \text{m}^2/\text{s}$. For $\Delta x = 24/1000$, and $\Delta t = 30 \text{ sec}$ for the interval of each time used, Solving for $\lambda$ in the equation 34 of

\[
T_{i,n+1} = \lambda T_{i+1,n} + (1 - 2\lambda) T_{i,n} + \lambda T_{i-1,n}
\]

\[
\lambda = \frac{\alpha \Delta t}{\Delta x^2} = \frac{1.775 \times 10^{-6} \times \Delta t}{0.024^2} = 0.092
\]

\[
\lambda = 0.092 \times 30 = 0.000576 = 0.092
\]

The condition for good convergent therefore becomes \(0 < 0.092 \leq \frac{1}{2}\)

Thus, equation 34 becomes

\[
T_{i,n+1} = 0.092 T_{i+1,n} + 0.816 T_{i,n} + 0.092 T_{i-1,n}
\]  

(27)

Equation 35 was then simulated using visual basic heat transfer model programme to determine the temperature distributions across the workpiece. The data obtained were used to plot and analyze the temperature history and parametric studied on the impingement heights.
3.11 Effect of Reynolds Number on Temperature Time Cooling Curve.

The polynomial equation of \( y = ax^2 + c \)  
\[ y = \text{temperature } ^\circ\text{C,} \]
\[ x = \text{time (s),} \]

were used to generate a controlled cooling model for variation of Reynolds number effects on temperature time cooling curve using matlab programme. The programmes interface and graphs for the effect of Reynolds number on temperature time cooling are shown in fig. 7, and plates: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

![Figure 7: Programme of D=20mm for H =40mm @ various Reynolds numbers](image)

![Plate 1: Effect of Reynolds number variation on temperature -time graph @ D=20mm and H =40mm](image)

![Plate 2: Effect of Reynolds number variation on temperature -time graph @ D=20mm and H =70mm](image)
Results Discussion and Conclusion

The Reynolds numbers (Re) is an important dimensionless quantity in fluid flow systems used to help predict flow pattern in different fluid flow situations. It is used to predict the transition from laminar to turbulent flow. For flow in a pipe of diameter D, experimental observations show that for fully developed flow, laminar flow occurs when ReD < 1000 and turbulent flow occurs when ReD > 2000 [9]. The transition Reynolds number called critical Reynolds numbers, were studied by Osborne Reynolds, at the range ReD of 1000 ≤ 2000. Fig. 7, and plates:1,2,3, 4 and 5 were used to study the effect of Reynolds number of 20mm,32mm and 45mm diameters at constant impingement height of 40 mm and 70mm.
The study showed that the flow rate was at peak cooling of Re= 2758.596 suggesting turbulent regime, followed by others at transition range and the least flow rates occurred at when Re= 860.901 suggesting laminar regime which agreed with literature on the flow characteristics in the pipes. It therefore follows that the higher the pipe diameter with shorter impingement height the faster flow rate with higher Reynolds number at turbulent regime.

References