

Extended Abstract

Finite-Rate Ablation Boundary Conditions for Carbon-Phenolic Heat-Shield

by

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Abstract

A formulation of finite-rate ablation surface boundary conditions, including oxidation, nitridation, and sublimation of carbonaceous material with pyrolysis gas injection, has been developed based on surface species mass conservation. These surface boundary conditions are discretized and integrated with a Navier-Stokes solver. This numerical procedure can predict aerothermal heating, chemical species concentration, and carbonaceous material ablation rate over the heatshield surface of re-entry space vehicles. In this study, the gas-gas and gas-surface interactions are established for air flow over a carbon-phenolic heatshield. Two finite-rate gas-surface interaction models are considered in the present study. The first model is based on the work of Park, and the second model includes the kinetics suggested by Zhluktoy and Abe. Nineteen gas phase chemical reactions and four gas-surface interactions are considered in the present model. There is a total of fourteen gas phase chemical species, including five species for air and nine species for ablation products. Three test cases are studied in this paper. The first case is a graphite test model in the arc-jet stream; the second is a light weight Phenolic Impregnated Carbon Ablator at the Stardust re-entry peak heating conditions, and the third is a fully dense carbon-phenolic heatshield at the peak heating point of a proposed Mars Sample Return Earth Entry Vehicle. Predictions based on both finite-rate gas-surface interaction models are compared with those obtained using B' tables, which were created based on the chemical equilibrium assumption. Stagnation point convective heat fluxes predicted using Park's finite-rate model are far below those obtained from chemical equilibrium B' tables and Zhluktoy's model. Recession predictions from Zhluktoy's model are generally lower than those obtained from Park's model and chemical equilibrium B' tables. The effect of species mass diffusion on predicted ablation rate is also examined.

Nomenclature

$B' = \dot{m} / \rho_e u_e C_m$, dimensionless mass blowing rate

C_i = mass fraction for species i

(C-i) = adatom i , O or N

C_m = Stanton number for mass transfer

\bar{D} = bifurcation diffusion coefficient, m^2/s

D_i = diffusion coefficient for species i , m^2/s

E = total energy per unit volume, J/m^3

F = nonlinear equation defined in Eq (24), or $P_0 / \sqrt{2\pi m_i kT}$

f_i = diffusion factor of species i

h = Plank's constant, J-s, or enthalpy, J/kg
 J = mass diffusion flux, kg/m²-s
 K_i = equilibrium constant
 K_t = thermal conductivity of translation temperature, W/m-K
 K_v = thermal conductivity of vibration temperature, W/m-K
 k = Boltzmann constant, J/K
 k_f = forward reaction rate, defined in Eq (18)
 k_r = backward reaction rate, defined in Eq (18)
 m_i = mass of species i, kg
 \dot{m} = mass flux, kg/m²-s
 M = molecular weight, kg/mole
 N_i = defined in Eq (12)
 p = pressure, N/m²
 p_E = saturated vapor pressure, N/m²
 q_{conv} = convective heat flux, W/m²
 q_v = heat flux due to species diffusion, W/m²
 R = universal gas constant, J/kmol-K
 R_b = base radius, m
 R_c = corner radius, m
 R_n = nose radius, m
 r_i = reaction rate, defined in Eq (14)
 \dot{S} = recession rate, m/s
 T = temperature, K
 t = time, s
 u = fluid velocity, m/s
 v_w = mass injection velocity, m/s
 x = Cartesian coordinate system, m
 Z_i = bifurcation diffusion quantity of species i, defined in Eq. (4)
 α = surface absorptance
 β = efficiency of gas-surface interaction
 ε = surface emissivity
 ε_i = factor in i^{th} heterogeneous reaction
 Θ^0 = free surface concentration
 Θ_i = surface coverage concentration of species i
 λ = blowing reduction parameter in Eq.(12)
 ρ = density, kg/m³
 σ = Stefan-Boltzmann constant, W/m²-K⁴
 τ = shear stress N/m²
 $\hat{\mu}_i$ = defined in Eq. (4)
 η = general body fitted coordinate system normal to surface, m
 v = species diffusion flux, m/s
 $\bar{v}_i = \sqrt{kT_w/2\pi m_i}$, m/s
 w = species source term in Eq.(8), kg/m³-s
 x = mole fraction

∇ = gradient, m^{-1}
subscripts
c = char
E = chemical equilibrium
e = boundary-layer edge
g = pyrolysis gas
i = species or direction component
j = surface species, or direction component
s = gas species or stagnation point
v = virgin
w = wall

Navier-Stokes Solver

The Navier-Stokes solver, GIANTS, is used to estimate the hypersonic aerothermal heating distribution over a blunt body. The governing equations used in the code, as developed by Lee,¹ may be characterized as representing a flowfield in thermochemical nonequilibrium. The GIANTS code solves the time-dependent conservation equations of mass, momentum, and energy for the chemical and thermal non-equilibrium flowfield. The species mass conservation equation is given by²

$$\frac{\partial \rho_s}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\rho_s u_j) = - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\rho_s v_{sj}) + w_s. \quad (1)$$

the total momentum conservation is written as:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho u_i) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\rho u_i u_j) = - \frac{\partial \tau_{ij}}{\partial x_j}, \quad (2)$$

and the total energy conservation is written as:

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} ((E + p)u_j) = - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (q'_j + q_{vj}) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (u_i \tau_{ij}) - \sum_{s=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} v_{sj} h_s. \quad (3)$$

These equations are discretized using the implicit flux-split finite-volume method. The discretized equations may be solved by a block-tridiagonal matrix inversion using Gauss-Seidel line relaxation with alternating sweeps in the backward and forward directions.²⁻⁴ This technique has been shown to yield steady-state results efficiently. There is a total of fourteen gas phase species: CO₂, CO, N₂, O₂, NO, C₂, C₃, CN, H₂, HCN, C, N, O and H. Five of the species are for air, and the rest are for ablation products. The gas phase chemical reactions implemented in the GIANTS code are from the work of Park.⁵ The total number of reactions is nineteen, including nine dissociation reactions and ten exchange reactions, as follows:

Dissociation reactions

- (1) $\text{CO}_2 + \text{M} \leftrightarrow \text{CO} + \text{O} + \text{M}$
- (2) $\text{CO} + \text{M} \leftrightarrow \text{C} + \text{O} + \text{M}$
- (3) $\text{N}_2 + \text{M} \leftrightarrow \text{N} + \text{N} + \text{M}$
- (4) $\text{O}_2 + \text{M} \leftrightarrow \text{O} + \text{O} + \text{M}$
- (5) $\text{NO} + \text{M} \leftrightarrow \text{N} + \text{O} + \text{M}$
- (6) $\text{C}_2 + \text{M} \leftrightarrow \text{C} + \text{C} + \text{M}$
- (7) $\text{C}_3 + \text{M} \leftrightarrow \text{C}_2 + \text{C} + \text{M}$
- (8) $\text{CN} + \text{M} \leftrightarrow \text{C} + \text{N} + \text{M}$
- (9) $\text{H}_2 + \text{M} \leftrightarrow \text{H} + \text{H} + \text{M}$

Exchange reactions

- (10) $\text{NO} + \text{O} \leftrightarrow \text{N} + \text{O}_2$
- (11) $\text{N}_2 + \text{O} \leftrightarrow \text{NO} + \text{N}$
- (12) $\text{CO} + \text{O} \leftrightarrow \text{O}_2 + \text{C}$
- (13) $\text{CO}_2 + \text{O} \leftrightarrow \text{O}_2 + \text{CO}$
- (14) $\text{CO} + \text{C} \leftrightarrow \text{C}_2 + \text{O}$
- (15) $\text{CO} + \text{N} \leftrightarrow \text{CN} + \text{O}$
- (16) $\text{N}_2 + \text{C} \leftrightarrow \text{CN} + \text{N}$
- (17) $\text{CN} + \text{O} \leftrightarrow \text{NO} + \text{C}$
- (18) $\text{CN} + \text{C} \leftrightarrow \text{C}_2 + \text{N}$
- (19) $\text{HCN} + \text{H} \leftrightarrow \text{CN} + \text{H}_2$

The mass diffusion models implemented in the GIANTS code include the constant Lewis number (Le), the constant Schmidt number (Sc), and the Bifurcation approximation. For the bifurcation model, the species mass diffusion rate is defined as⁶:

$$J_i = -\rho \bar{D} \frac{\hat{\mu}_1}{\hat{\mu}_2} \nabla Z_i \quad (4)$$

where

$$Z_i = \frac{C_i}{f_i \hat{\mu}_1}, \quad \hat{\mu}_1 = \sum \frac{C_i}{f_i}, \quad \hat{\mu}_2 = M \sum \frac{C_i f_i}{M_i}.$$

The total convective heat flux to the surface is given as:

$$q_{conv} = K_t \nabla T_t + K_v \nabla T_v + \sum h_i \rho D_i \nabla \chi_i. \quad (5)$$

Gas-Surface Interactions

Two finite-rate, gas-surface interaction models are considered in the present study.

Park Model

Three kinds of gas-surface interactions for the carbonaceous ablating surface are considered. The gas-solid reactions include oxidation, Eqs.(6)-(7), and nitridation, Eq.(8). Following the assumption made in Park's work,⁷⁻⁹ the surface catalysis reactions are assumed to be negligibly small for both oxygen atom and nitrogen atom

recombination at the ablating surface. The sublimation of carbon produces primarily C_3 by Eq.(9). The species C_5 and C_7 are not included, because the entry conditions studied in this work have a stagnation point pressure of less than 1 atm. Thus, the carbon mass blowing rates due to gas-surface interaction are:

$$\dot{m}_1 = \rho C_O \bar{v}_O \beta_O \frac{M_C}{M_O} \quad (O + C_{(s)} \rightarrow CO) \quad (6)$$

$$\dot{m}_2 = 2 \rho C_{O_2} \bar{v}_{O_2} \beta_{O_2} \frac{M_C}{M_{O_2}} \quad (O_2 + 2C_{(s)} \rightarrow 2CO) \quad (7)$$

$$\dot{m}_3 = \rho C_N \bar{v}_N \beta_N \frac{M_C}{M_N} \quad (N + C_{(s)} \rightarrow CN) \quad (8)$$

$$\dot{m}_4 = \rho (C_{C_3,E} - C_{C_3}) \bar{v}_{C_3} \beta_{C_3} \quad (3C_{(s)} \rightarrow C_3) \quad (9)$$

$$\dot{m}_c = \dot{m}_1 + \dot{m}_2 + \dot{m}_3 + \dot{m}_4 = \rho_{(s)} \dot{S} \quad (10)$$

Here, \bar{v}_i is defined as $\sqrt{kT_w/2\pi m_i}$. The total carbon mass blowing rate, \dot{m}_c , and the carbon surface recession rate, \dot{S} , can be computed from the total carbon mass loss. β is the efficiency of each surface reaction.⁹ β_O is given as $0.63 \exp(-1160/T_w)$. β_N and β_{O_2} are assumed to be 0.3 and 0.5, respectively, and β_{C_3} is set to 1. The saturated carbon vapor pressure (P_E) for carbon-phenolic is expressed as⁹:

$$P_E = 6.27 \times 10^{15} e^{\left(-\frac{90908}{T_w}\right)}$$

and for carbon as:

$$P_E = 5.19 \times 10^{15} e^{\left(-\frac{90845}{T_w}\right)}$$

Species mass conservation at the surface is written as:

$$-\rho D_i \nabla \chi_i + \rho v_w C_i = \hat{N}_i + \dot{m}_g C_{i,g} \quad (11)$$

The first term on the left-hand side is mass transfer through diffusion, and the second term is mass transfer due to convection. On the right-hand side are the source terms due to gas-surface interaction and pyrolysis gas injection. For graphite or pure carbon heat-shield materials, the pyrolysis gas injection rate, \dot{m}_g , is zero. Here the source term, \hat{N}_i , is defined as:

$$\hat{N}_{CO} = \dot{m}_1 \frac{M_{CO}}{M_C} + \dot{m}_2 \frac{M_{CO}}{M_C}, \quad \hat{N}_{CN} = \dot{m}_3 \frac{M_{CN}}{M_C}, \quad \hat{N}_{C_3} = \dot{m}_4, \quad (12)$$

$$\hat{N}_N = -\dot{m}_3 \frac{M_N}{M_C}, \quad \hat{N}_O = -\dot{m}_1 \frac{M_O}{M_C}, \quad \hat{N}_{O_2} = -\dot{m}_2 \frac{M_{O_2}}{2M_C},$$

and $\hat{N}_i = 0$ for $i = \text{CO}_2, \text{N}_2, \text{NO}, \text{C}_2$, and C .

Based on global mass balance, the following equation for total mass blowing is expressed:

$$\rho v_w = \dot{m}_c + \dot{m}_g \quad (13)$$

Zhluktov Model

The following surface-kinetic model is suggested in the work of Zhluktov and Abe¹⁰:

1. $\text{O} + (\text{C}) \rightleftharpoons (\text{C-O})$
2. $\text{O}_2 + 2(\text{C}) \rightleftharpoons 2(\text{C-O})$
3. $\text{O}_2 + (\text{C}) \rightleftharpoons (\text{C-O}) + \text{O}$
4. $\text{CO}_2 + (\text{C}) \rightleftharpoons (\text{C-O}) + \text{CO}$
5. $(\text{C-O}) \rightleftharpoons \text{CO} + (\text{C})$
6. $\text{O} + (\text{C-O}) \rightleftharpoons \text{CO}_2 + (\text{C})$
7. $2(\text{C-O}) \rightleftharpoons \text{CO}_2 + 2(\text{C})$
8. $(\text{C}) \rightleftharpoons \text{C} + (\text{C})$
9. $2(\text{C}) \rightleftharpoons \text{C}_2 + 2(\text{C})$
10. $3(\text{C}) \rightleftharpoons \text{C}_3 + 3(\text{C})$
11. $\text{N} + (\text{C}) \rightleftharpoons (\text{C-N})$
12. $(\text{C-N}) + \text{N} \rightleftharpoons \text{N}_2 + (\text{C})$

The corresponding reaction rates are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} r_1 &= k_{f1}(p\chi_O\Theta^0 - \Theta_O / K_1) \\ r_2 &= k_{r2}(K_2 p\chi_{O_2}(\Theta^0)^2 - (\Theta_O)^2) \\ r_3 &= k_{f3}(p\chi_{O_2}\Theta^0 - p\chi_O\Theta_O / K_3) \\ r_4 &= k_{f4}(p\chi_{CO_2}\Theta^0 - p\chi_{CO}\Theta_O / K_4) \\ r_5 &= k_{f5}(\Theta_O - p\chi_{CO}\Theta^0 / K_5) \\ r_6 &= k_{f6}(p\chi_O\Theta_O - p\chi_{CO_2}\Theta^0 / K_6) \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

$$r_7 = k_{f7}((\Theta_O)^2 - p\chi_{CO_2}(\Theta^0)^2 / K_7)$$

$$r_8 = k_{r8}\Theta^0(K_8 - p\chi_C)$$

$$r_9 = k_{r9}(\Theta^0)^2(K_9 - p\chi_{C_2})$$

$$r_{10} = k_{r10}(\Theta^0)^3(K_{10} - p\chi_{C_3})$$

$$r_{11} = k_{f11}(p\chi_N\Theta^0 - \Theta_N / K_{11})$$

$$r_{12} = k_{r12}(K_{12}p\chi_N\Theta_N - p\chi_{N_2}\Theta^0)$$

It is assumed that two possibilities exist for K_1 and K_{11} . The first is mobile adsorption:

$$\frac{1}{K_i} = B \frac{kT}{P_0} \left(\frac{2\pi m_i kT}{h^2} \right)^{1/2} e^{-T_{d_i}/T}, atm \quad (15)$$

and the second is immobile adsorption:

$$\frac{1}{K_i} = \frac{kT}{P_0} \left(\frac{2\pi m_i kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} e^{-T_{d_i}/T}, atm \quad (16)$$

where $i = 1$ or 11 , $P_0 = 1.01325 \times 10^5$ Pa, and $B = 3.5 \times 10^{19} \text{ m}^{-2}$.

The equilibrium constants K_1 to K_{12} are not independent. They are related via gas phase equilibrium constants of corresponding dissociation processes:

$$\begin{aligned} K_2 &= (K_1)^2 K_{O_2} \\ K_3 &= K_1 K_{O_2} \\ K_4 &= K_1 K_{CO_2} \\ K_5 &= K_8 / (K_1 K_{CO}) \\ K_6 &= K_8 / (K_1 K_{CO} K_{CO_2}) \\ K_7 &= K_8 / ((K_1)^2 K_{CO} K_{CO_2}) \\ K_9 &= (K_8)^2 / K_{C_2} \\ K_{10} &= (K_8)^3 / (K_{C_2} K_{C_3}) \\ K_{12} &= 1 / (K_{11} K_{N_2}) \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

The recommended expressions for necessary forward or backward reaction rate constants as follows:

$$k_{f1} = \varepsilon_1 F_O$$

$$k_{r2} = \varepsilon_2 B \left(\frac{kT}{h} \right) e^{-T_{a2}/T}$$

$$k_{f3} = \varepsilon_3 F_{O_2} e^{-T_{a3}/T}$$

$$k_{f4} = \varepsilon_4 F_{CO_2} \quad (18)$$

$$k_{f5} = \varepsilon_5 B \left(\frac{kT}{h} \right) e^{-T_{a5}/T}$$

$$k_{f6} = \varepsilon_6 F_O e^{-T_{a6}/T}$$

$$k_{f7} = \varepsilon_7 B \left(\frac{kT}{h} \right) e^{-T_{a7}/T}$$

$$k_{r8} = \varepsilon_8 F_C$$

$$k_{r9} = \varepsilon_9 F_{C_2}$$

$$k_{r10} = \varepsilon_{10} F_{C_3}$$

$$k_{f11} = \varepsilon_{11} F_N$$

$$k_{r12} = \varepsilon_{12} F_{N_2} e^{-T_{a12}/T}$$

where

$$F_i = P_0 / \sqrt{2\pi m_i kT}$$

$$\varepsilon_1 = 1, \varepsilon_2 = 0.0008, \varepsilon_3 = 1, \varepsilon_4 = 0.9,$$

$$\varepsilon_5 = 0.1, \varepsilon_6 = 0.8, \varepsilon_7 = 1, \varepsilon_8 = 0.24,$$

$$\varepsilon_9 = 0.5, \varepsilon_{10} = 0.023, \varepsilon_{11} = 1, \varepsilon_{12} = 1,$$

$$T_{d1} = 45,000,$$

$$T_{d11} = 36,600$$

$$T_{a2} = 2T_{d1} - T_{DO_2}$$

$$T_{a3} = T_{DO_2} - T_{d1}$$

$$T_{a12} = T_{DN_2} - T_{d11}$$

$$T_{a5} = 40,000, 34,000, \text{ or } 27,000;$$

$$T_{a6} = 2000 \text{ or } 1000$$

$$T_{a7} = 40,000, 34,000, \text{ or } 13,700.$$

The rates of species production on the surface are:

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{m}_O &= (-r_1 + r_3 - r_6)M_O \\
\dot{m}_{CO} &= (r_4 + r_5)M_{CO} \\
\dot{m}_{CO_2} &= (-r_4 + r_6 + r_7)M_{CO_2} \\
\dot{m}_C &= r_8M_C \\
\dot{m}_{C_2} &= r_9M_{C_2} \\
\dot{m}_{C_3} &= r_{10}M_{C_3} \\
\dot{m}_{NO} &= 0 \\
\dot{m}_{CN} &= 0 \\
\dot{m}_N &= (-r_{11} - r_{12})M_N \\
\dot{m}_{O_2} &= (-r_2 - r_3)M_{O_2} \\
\dot{m}_{N_2} &= r_{12}M_{N_2}
\end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

For a stationary regime we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{m}_{(C-O)} &= (r_1 + 2r_2 + r_3 + r_4 - r_5 - r_6 - 2r_7)M_O = 0 \\
\dot{m}_{(C-N)} &= (r_{11} - r_{12})M_N = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

Using these expressions, the total surface mass blowing rate is,

$$\dot{m} = \sum \dot{m}_i = M_C(r_5 + r_6 + r_7 + r_8 + 2r_9 + 3r_{10}). \tag{21}$$

The sum of surface coverage concentrations is equal to 1; that is,

$$\Theta_O + \Theta_N + \Theta^0 = 1 \tag{22}$$

Species conservation at the surface is written as:

$$-\rho D_i \nabla \chi_i + \rho v_w C_i = \dot{m}_i + \dot{m}_g C_{i,g} \tag{23}$$

The total number of unknowns is 13, including:

$$[\chi_O, \chi_{O_2}, \chi_N, \chi_{N_2}, \chi_C, \chi_{C_2}, \chi_{C_3}, \chi_{CN}, \chi_{CO}, \chi_{CO_2}, \Theta_O, \Theta_N, \Theta^0]$$

The nonlinear equations can be solved through iterations by the following equation,

$$\Delta Z_j = - \left(\frac{\partial F_i}{\partial Z_j} \right)^{-1} F_i \tag{24}$$

The surface temperature (T_w), pyrolysis gas injection rate (\dot{m}_g), and species concentrations of pyrolysis gas ($C_{i,g}$) must be specified. The pyrolysis gas is assumed to be at chemical equilibrium before being injected into the main stream. The surface temperature and pyrolysis gas injection rate are obtained from the material response code through iterations. Species concentrations, $C_{i,w}$, and velocity, v_w , at each surface grid point are updated in each sweep (both backward and forward) until a steady-state flow solution is reached. Thus, the carbon mass injection and surface recession rates can be obtained as part of the flow solution.

Results and Discussion

The general carbon-phenolic ablation model without pyrolysis gas injection can be used to simulate graphite ablation. In the first test case, the interaction between a graphite model and a typical arc-jet stream conducted in the Interactive Heating Facilities at NASA Ames Research Center is studied. The stream total enthalpy is estimated to be approximately 27 MJ/Kg, and the measured stagnation point pressure is 0.75 atm. The free stream velocity is 5354 m/s, the density is 0.003 kg/m^3 , and the temperature is 1428 K. The free stream species mass concentrations are $C_{O_2} = 0.0$, $C_{N_2} = 0.6169$, $C_{NO} = 0.0046$, $C_N = 0.1212$, and $C_O = 0.2573$. In this arc-jet stream, oxygen is fully dissociated and nitrogen is partially dissociated. The graphite model is a 10° half angle sphere-cone with nose radius (R_n) of 1.905 cm. The geometry and computational grid for this test model are shown in Fig. 1. The surface temperature obtained from a solid-fluid coupled chemical equilibrium ablating surface computation is used as the temperature boundary condition in the finite-rate ablation surface calculation (Fig. 2). This is to study the surface reaction rates of Park and Zhukov under the same given surface conditions without a fully coupled computation. Additionally, the predictions based on the steady-state ablation surface conditions will also be presented and compared in the final paper. The predicted carbon mass blowing rate distributions over the model surface are shown in Fig. 3. The comparison of predicted surface heat fluxes is presented in Fig. 4.

The second test case simulates the flow over a Phenolic Impregnated Carbon Ablator (PICA) heatshield at estimated Stardust re-entry peak heating conditions. PICA has density of about 240 kg/m^3 , which is much lower than fully dense carbon-phenolic, which has a density of 1440 kg/m^3 . The aeroshell of the Stardust re-entry vehicle is a 60° half angle spherical cone with the nose radius (R_n) of 0.2286 m, base radius (R_b) of 0.4064 m, and corner radius (R_c) of 0.02 m. The free stream velocity is 11137 m/s, the density is 0.000234 kg/m^3 , and the temperature is 238 K. The geometry and computational grid for the Stardust aeroshell are shown in Fig. 5. The surface temperature and pyrolysis gas injection rate distributions¹¹ used as part of the boundary conditions are shown in Fig. 6. The predicted total mass blowing rates, including char and pyrolysis gas, are presented in Fig. 7. Figure 8 shows the comparison of predicted convective heat fluxes. The stagnation streamline solution computed in Park's study⁸ is approximately 5 % higher than the current finite-rate prediction.

The third test case predicts the flow over a fully dense carbon-phenolic heatshield at peak heating point of the proposed MSR EEV trajectory. The forebody heatshield is a

60° half angle spherical cone with a nose radius (R_n) of 0.352 m, a base radius (R_b) of 0.45 m, and a corner radius (R_c) of 0.02 m. The free stream velocity is 10100 m/s, the density is 0.0006634 kg/m³, and the temperature is 255 K. The peak heating stream velocity and the geometry of the MSR EEV aeroshell are similar to those of Stardust. MSR EEV has a larger R_b and R_n , and the stream density is almost 3 times as high as Stardust. The geometry and computational grid for this test case are shown in Fig. 9. The temperature and pyrolysis gas injection rate distributions used in this test case are shown in Fig. 10. The predicted total mass blowing rates (char and pyrolysis gas) are presented in Fig. 11. In this test case, a large portion of surface mass blowing comes from the pyrolysis gas injection, which is approximately 0.09 kg/m²-s. The carbon char mass blowing rate is smaller than the pyrolysis gas injection rate over the entire heat-shield surface. Figure 12 shows the predicted surface heat fluxes. The calculated heating distribution using chemical equilibrium surface is quite different from using finite-rate surface.

Further details of the predicted flow fields and the effect of the mass diffusion model on the ablation rate will be included in the final paper.

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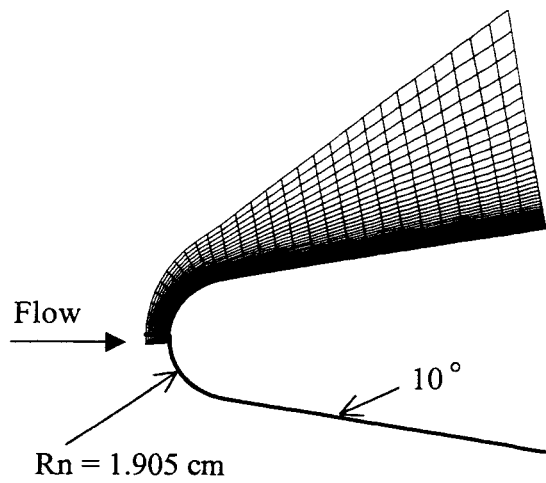


Figure 1: Geometry and computational grid for case 1

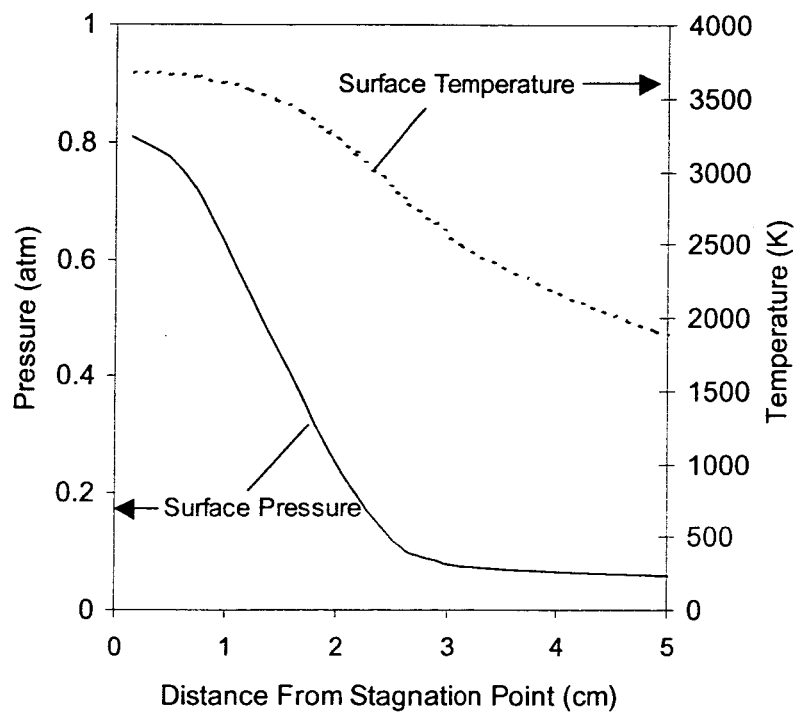


Figure 2: Surface temperature and pressure boundary conditions used for case 1 simulation

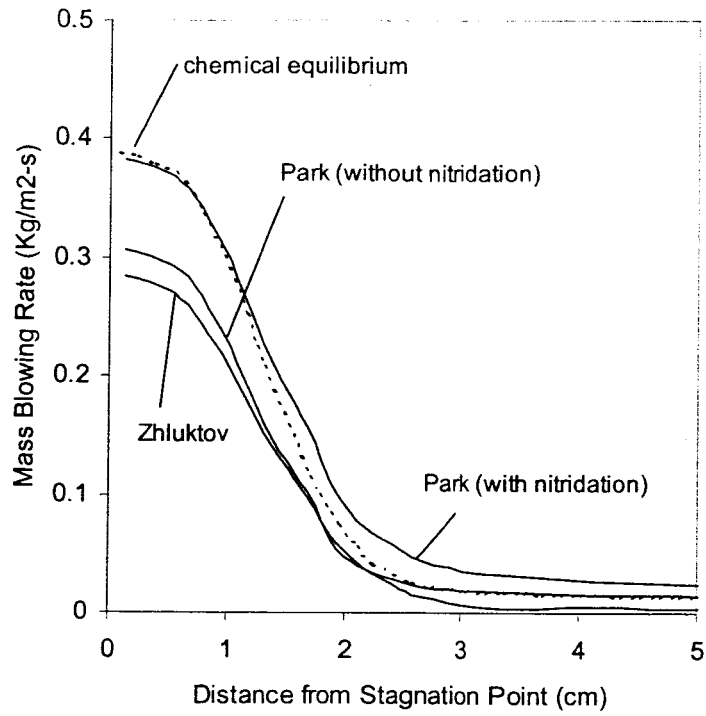


Figure 3: Predicted carbon mass blowing rate distributions for case 1

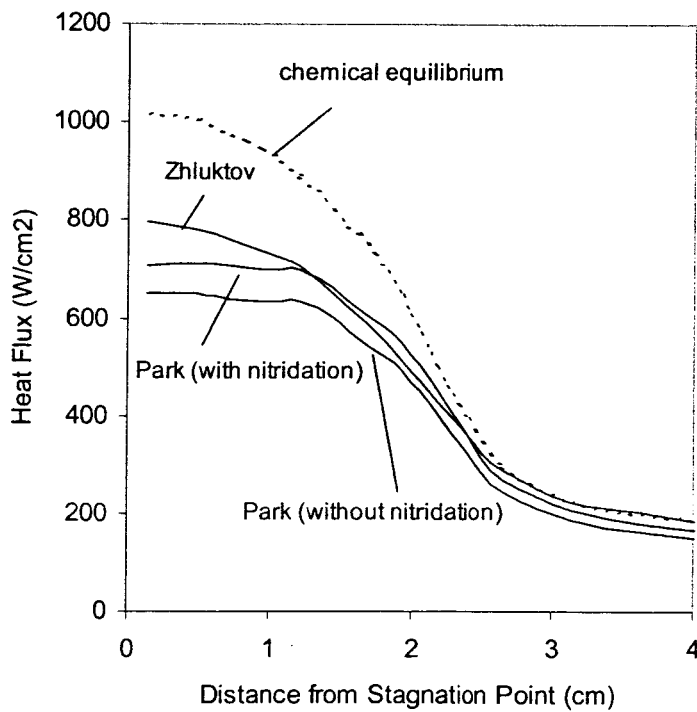


Figure 4: Comparison of surface convective heat flux predictions for case 1

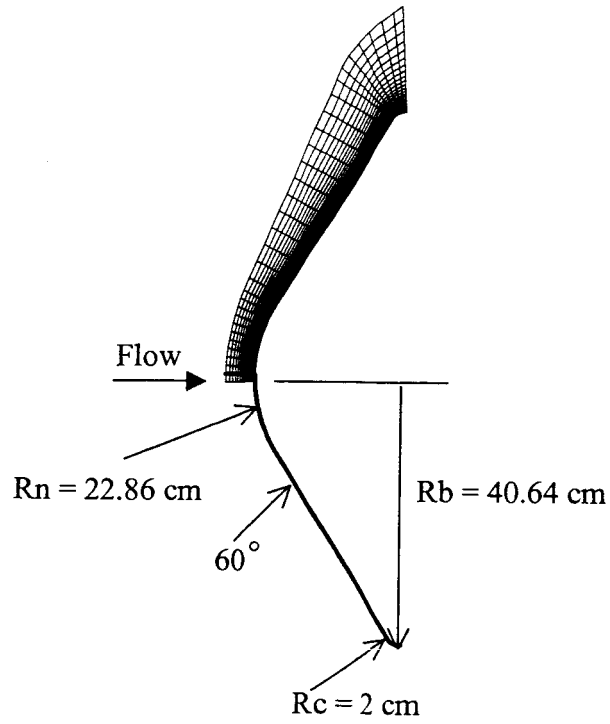


Figure 5: Geometry and computational grid for case 2

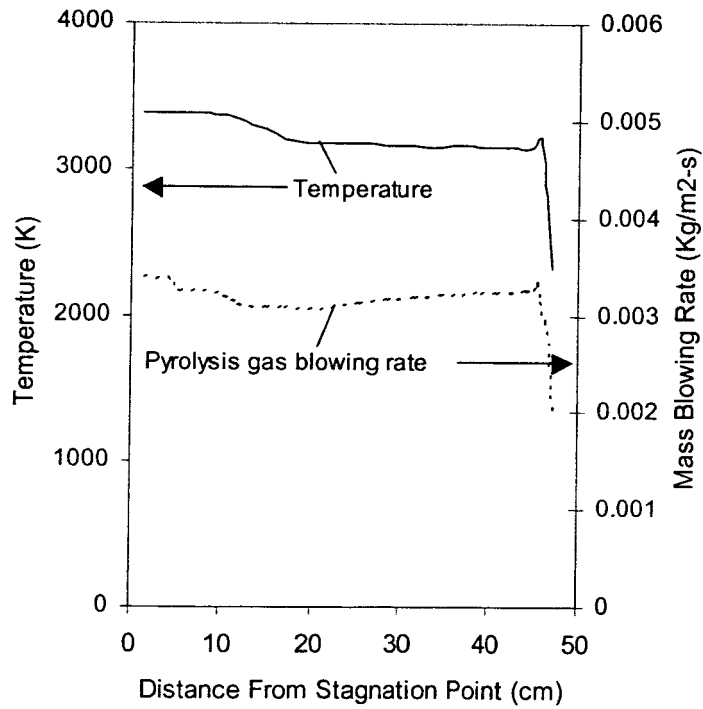


Figure 6: Surface temperature and pyrolysis gas blowing rate distributions used in case 2 simulation

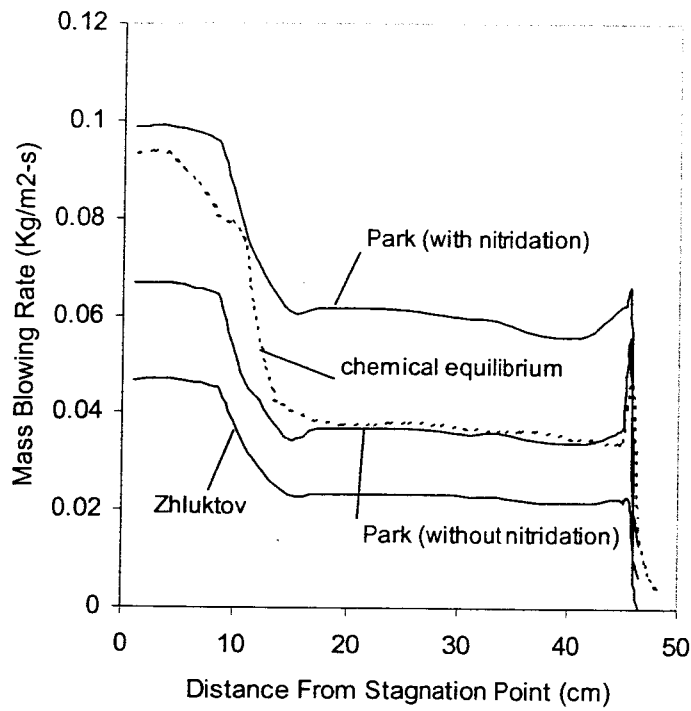


Figure 7: Predicted total mass blowing rate distributions for case 2

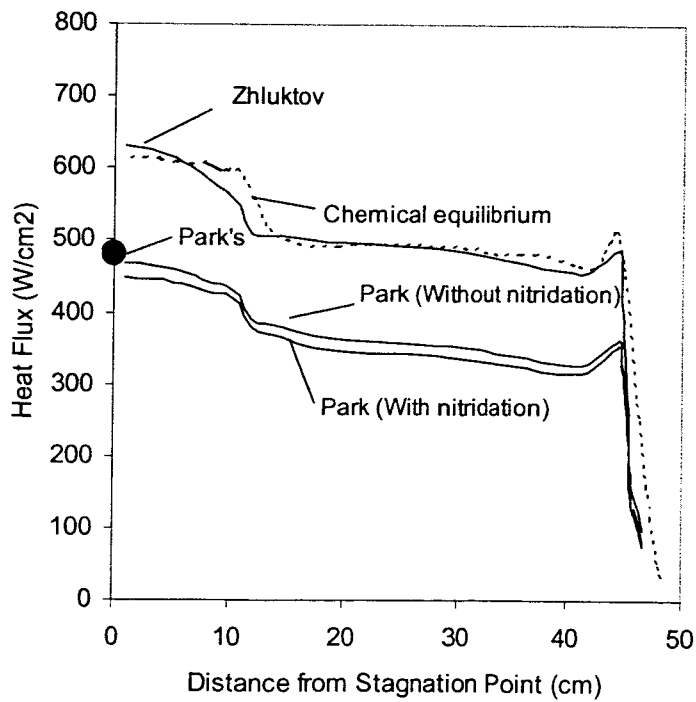


Figure 8: Comparison of convective heat flux predictions for case 2

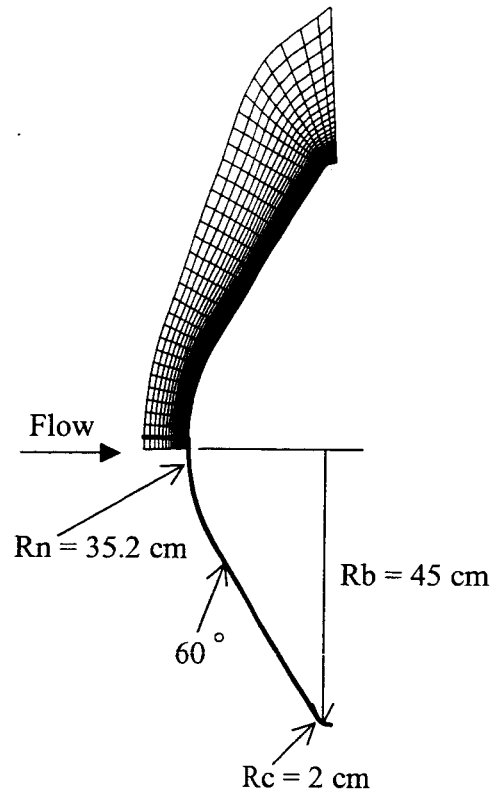


Figure 9: Geometry and computational grid for case 3

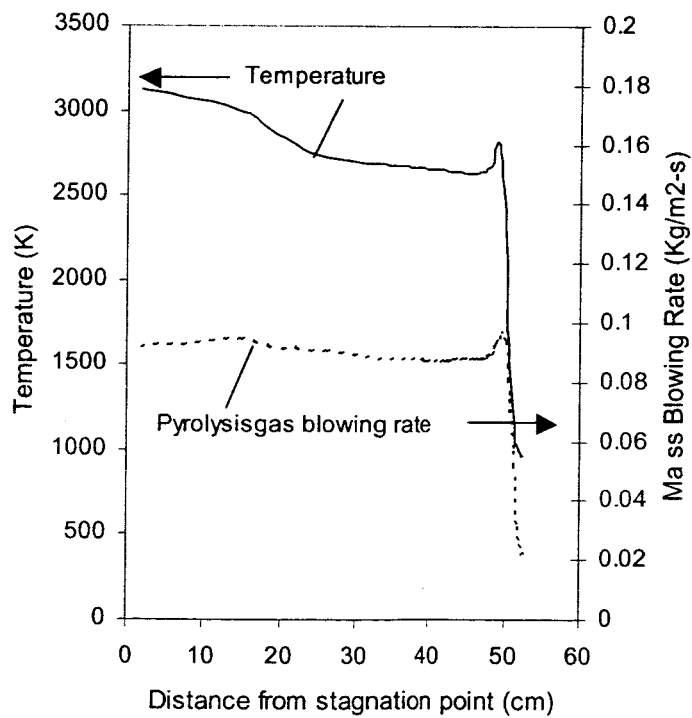


Figure 10: Surface temperature and pyrolysis gas injection rate distributions used in case 3 simulation.

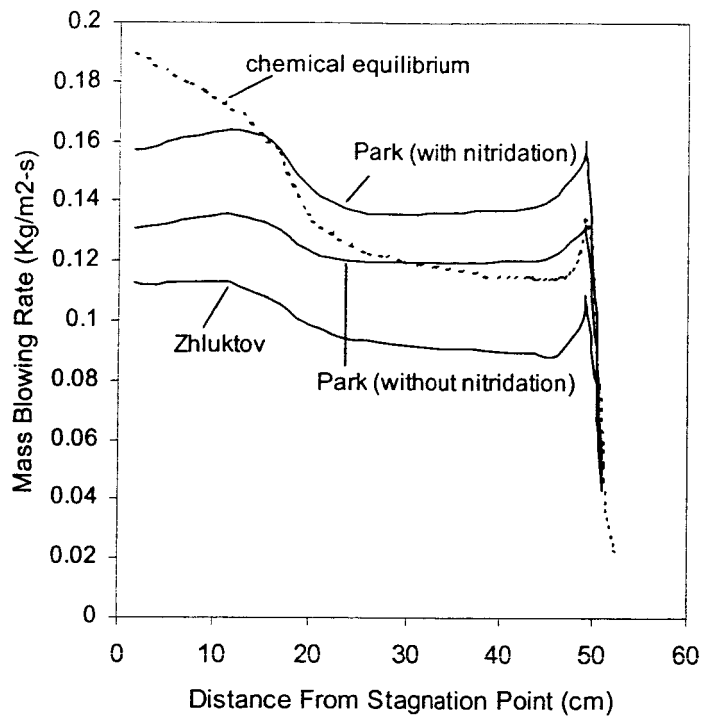


Figure 11: Predicted total mass blowing rate distributions for case 3

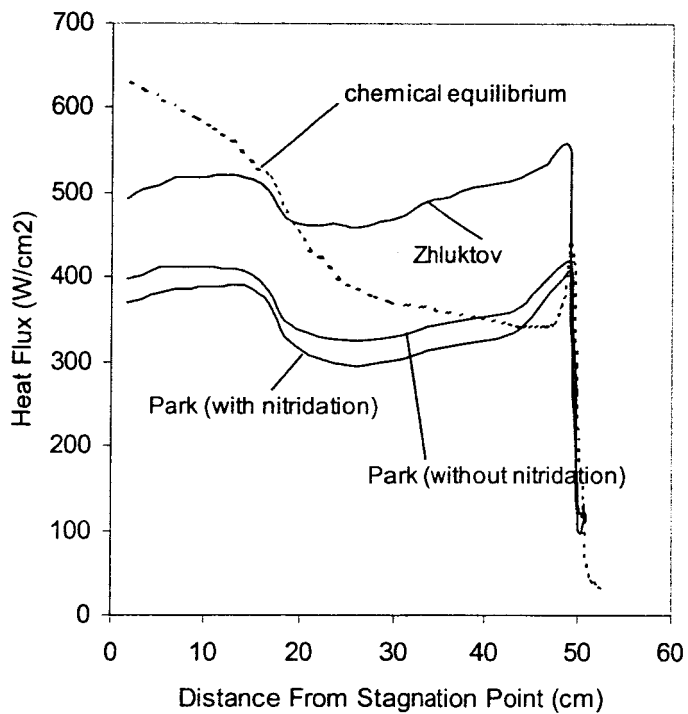


Figure 12: Comparison of convective heat flux predictions for case 3.