

Технічні науки

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**DYNAMIC VISCOSITY OF SUPERCRITICAL WATER FLOWING IN
HEATED CHANNELS
ДИНАМІЧНА В'ЯЗКОСТЬ НАДКРИТИЧНОЇ ВОДИ ПРИ ТЕЧІЇ
НАГРІВАНИХ КАНАЛАХ**

***Summary.** The data of the CFD analysis of the fields of dynamic viscosity of supercritical water in round channels for different values of the heat fluxq supplied to the wall are presented.*

Key words: *supercritical water, dynamic viscosity, CFD modeling, temperature fields, heat flux supplied.*

Анотація. *Представлені дані комп'ютерного моделювання полів динамічної в'язкості надкритичної води в круглих каналах при різних значеннях теплового потоку q , що підводиться до стінки.*

Ключові слова: *надкритична вода, динамічна в'язкість, CFD-моделювання, температурні поля, тепловий потік, що підводиться.*

Introduction. Further development of nuclear power plants is associated, as is known, with the use of power plants with new highly efficient nuclear reactors of the fourth generation [1]. Promising types of such reactors include, in particular, water-cooled supercritical pressure reactors. According to the international program Generation-IV (SCWR), industrial prototypes of these reactors are being developed.

One of the important features of supercritical water as a coolant in such reactors is that its thermophysical properties can change sharply and non-monotonically with temperature. Moreover, such a change is most significant in the region corresponding to the pseudo-critical transition "pseudo-fluid-pseudo-gas". The above predetermines the need to analyze the features of changes in the thermophysical properties of supercritical water in the working channels of the core of reactors with supercritical parameters. An effective method of such analysis is computer simulation, which is becoming more and more widely used for solving a number of problems in reactor thermal physics [2-14].

This work is devoted to the study, based on CFD modeling, of the regularities of change in the dynamic viscosity of supercritical water during its flow in vertical channels.

The purpose of the work and the formulation of research objectives. The purpose of this work is to perform a comparative analysis of the spatial distribution of the viscosity of supercritical water at different values of the

density of the heat flux supplied to the channel wall during the upward flow. At the physical formulation of the problem under consideration, we solved the axisymmetric problem of mixed convection, which corresponds to the presence of forced and free motion of supercritical water (Fig. 1).

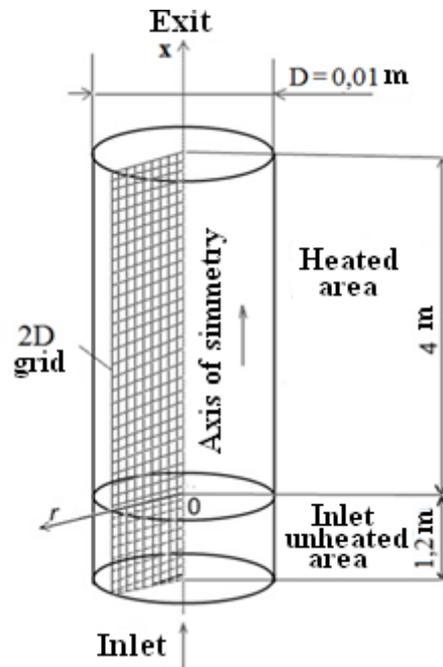


Fig. 1. To the problem statement

The spatial distributions of the viscosity of supercritical water in the channel were determined from the results of solving the nonlinear symmetric problem of mixed convection at flow in vertical smooth pipes.

For the purpose of hydrodynamic stabilization of the flow before entering the channel, the computational area was increased upstream due to the unheated initial part with a length $l_{in}=1.2 \text{ m}$.

At the channel inlet, mass velocity G , temperature T_{in} , pressure P_{in} and the turbulence intensity Tu was taken unchanged. At the exit from the channel, "soft" boundary conditions were set. On the pipe wall, the values of the heat flux density q were assumed to be constant along its length.

In the course of the research, the features of the spatial distribution of the dynamic viscosity μ of supercritical water were considered.

Research methodology. Computer simulation using the FLUENT code was used as a research method. The physical properties of water, which appear in the mathematical model of the process under study, were determined using the NIST REFPROP program [15]. The performed studies on the verification of turbulent transfer models substantiated the expediency of using the SST turbulence model.

The solution of the problem was carried out with non-uniform discretization of the computational domain containing 62400 cells. The size of the smallest step at the pipe wall was $1.5 \cdot 10^{-3}$ m. The value of y^+ did not exceed 0.7. Numerical experiments were performed with the following initial data: $d = 0.01$ m; $l_{in} = 1,2$ m; $L = 4,0$ m; $T_{in}=323^{\circ}\text{C}$; $P_{in} =24,0$ MPa; $Tu =3\%$; $G = 500\text{kg}/(\text{m}^2\text{s})$; $q = 239$ kW/m² and 310 kW/m². The temperature dependence of the dynamic μ viscosity of supercritical water at $P_{in} = 24,0$ MPa is shown in fig. 2.

As can be seen, in the temperature range under study, the dynamic viscosity of supercritical water decreases with an increase of temperature by about a factor of three. In this case, the most significant decrease in the value of μ is observed in the area of the pseudocritical transition pseudoliquid - pseudogas (381.4 °C).

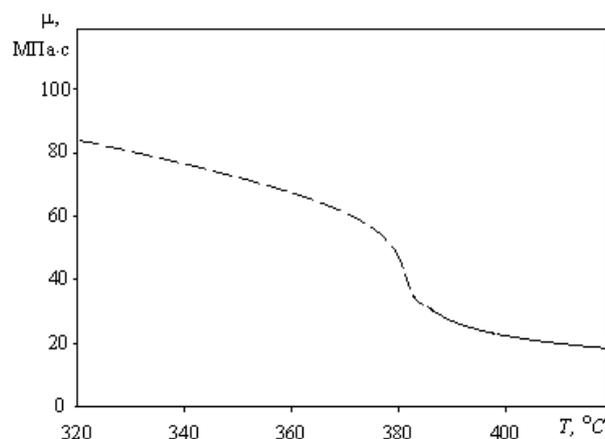


Fig. 2. Temperature dependence of dynamic viscosity μ of supercritical water at $P_{in} = 24,0$ MPa

Research results and their analysis. The construction of the spatial distribution of the dynamic viscosity of supercritical water was carried out by temperature fields. The temperature fields are obtained as a result of solving the corresponding problem of mixed convection.

Figure 3 shows the temperature field in the channel for two values of the heat flux q supplied to the wall. (Here, for convenience of perception, the radial coordinate is increased by a factor of 400. The isotherms corresponding to the pseudocritical temperature T_{pc} are indicated in the figures by a thick line). As can be seen from fig. 3, the temperature fields of supercritical water in the channel are qualitatively similar to different values of the heat flux q . However, there are significant quantitative differences as well. For example, the T_{pc} isotherm of the pseudocritical transition, which separates the pseudofluid and pseudogas regions, is located noticeably closer to the channel exit section at $q = 239 \text{ kW/m}^2$ (see the thick lines in the graph). The value of the x_{pc} coordinate corresponding to the intersection of the T_{pc} isotherm with the pipe axis is 3.08 m and 3.73 m for the heat flux supplied to the pipe wall $q = 310 \text{ kW/m}^2$ and 239 kW/m^2 . As for the temperature of supercritical water at the outlet of the channel, it is noticeably lower at $q = 239 \text{ kW/m}^2$. It is also noteworthy that for both values of the heat flux q , a rather sharp increase in temperature is observed at the initial section of the pipe. Further downstream, this growth slows down (Fig. 3).

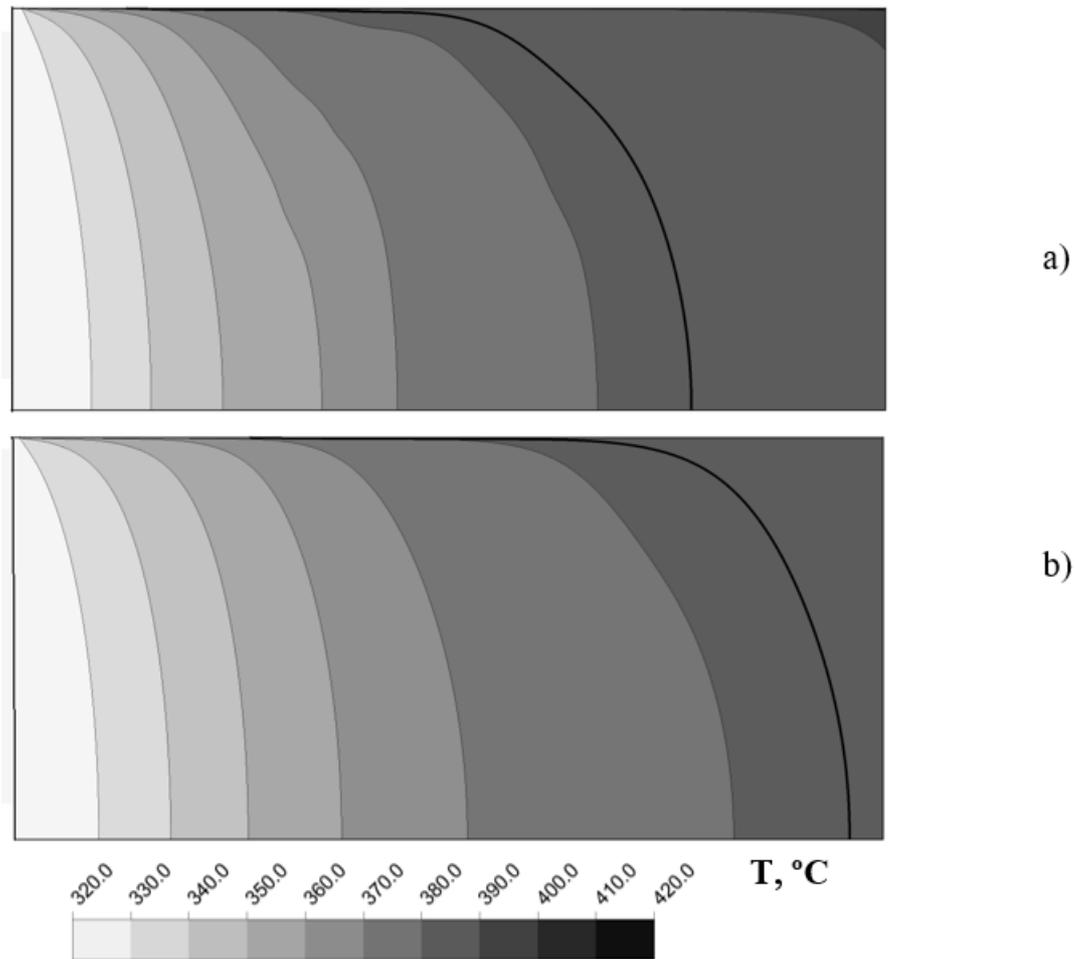


Fig. 3. Fields of dynamic viscosity μ of supercritical water in a channel for different values of the heat flux q supplied to the wall: a) $q = 310 \text{ kW/m}^2$; b) $q = 239 \text{ kW/m}^2$

The distribution of dynamic viscosity μ along the radial coordinate r at different values of the coordinate x along the length of the pipe for two values of the heat flux q supplied to the wall is illustrated in Fig. 4

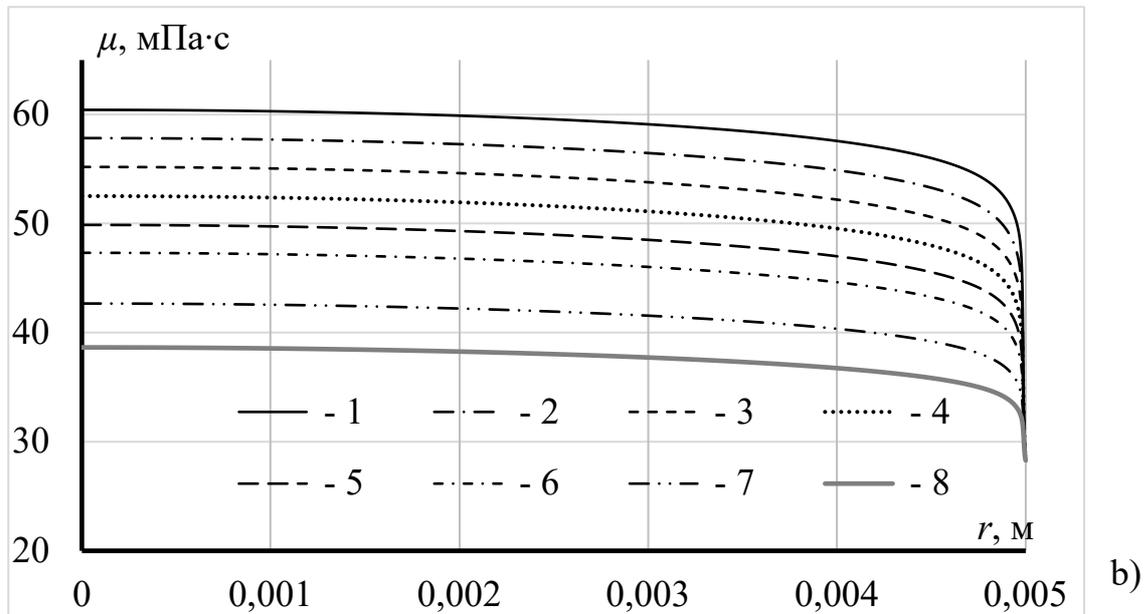
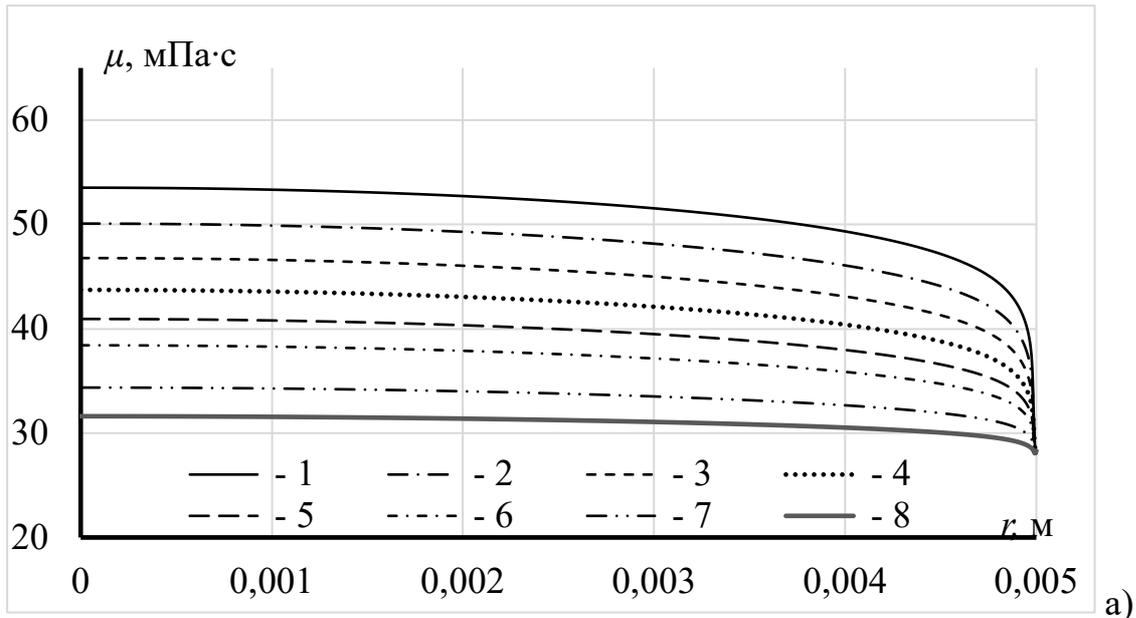


Fig. 4. Distribution of dynamic viscosity μ of supercritical water along the radial coordinate r at different values of the coordinate x along the length of the pipe for two values of the heat flux q supplied to the wall: a) $q=310 \text{ kW/m}^2$; b) $q=239 \text{ kW/m}^2$; 1 - $x = 2.0 \text{ m}$; 2 - $x = 2.2 \text{ m}$; 3 - $x = 2.4 \text{ m}$; 4 - $x = 2.6 \text{ m}$; 5 - $x = 2.8 \text{ m}$; 6 - $x = 3.0 \text{ m}$; 7 - $x = 3.4 \text{ m}$; 8 - $x = 3.8 \text{ m}$

The data presented indicate that in fixed pipe cross sections, large values of μ occur on the pipe axis and decrease as one approaches its wall. This regularity is most clearly manifested in the central part of the pipe along the

length. The described pattern of change along the pipe radius is typical for different values of the supplied heat flux q . In this case, a larger value of q ($q = 310 \text{ kW/m}^2$) corresponds to noticeably larger differences in μ along the pipe radius in its initial and central part and somewhat smaller differences in the outlet part of the pipe.

Conclusions.

1. Studies have been carried out on a comparative analysis of the spatial distributions of the dynamic viscosity of supercritical water in channels for various values of the heat flux q supplied to the wall ($q = 310 \text{ kW/m}^2$ and 239 kW/m^2).

2. The features of the temperature fields of supercritical water in the heated part of the channel, which determine the patterns of distribution of water viscosity for different values of q , have been established. It is shown that large values of q correspond to smaller sizes of the initial section of the channel, where supercritical water is in a pseudo-liquid state.

3. It is revealed that the dynamic viscosity μ of supercritical water decreases significantly with the flow. This decrease is the more significant for greater the value of the supplied heat flux q . It is shown that noticeably large differences in μ along the pipe radius in its initial and central part correspond to a higher value of q ($q = 310 \text{ kW/m}^2$).

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