

Mathematical Modeling of Heat Transfer in Counter-Current Fluid Flow in Well-Drilling Systems

Liqun Shan¹ and Boyun Guo^{2*}

¹Information Center, Dagang Oilfield Company, Dagang, Tianjin 300280, China

²P O Box 44690, Lafayette, LA 70504, U.S.A

*Corresponding author

Abstract—The performance of gas-drilling (drilling oil and gas wells with air, nitrogen, or natural gas) is very unpredictable in many areas due to lacking of proper design of drilling parameters because of limited understanding of gas-rock interaction which requires knowledge of heat transfer in the well system. Complete analysis of rock failure requires an accurate mathematical model to predict gas temperature at bottom hole. The currently available mathematical models are found not suitable to use for the purpose because they do not consider the effects of formation fluid influx, Joule-Thomson cooling, and entrained drill cuttings. A new analytical solution for predicting gas temperature profiles inside drill strings and in the annulus was derived in this study for gas-drilling, considering all of these three effects. The temperature profiles given by the new analytical solution are found significantly higher than that given by a previous analytical model. Results of sensitivity analyses show that formation fluid influx can significantly increase the temperature profiles in both the drill string and the annulus. The Joule-Thomson cooling effect lowers the temperature in the annulus only at the bottom hole. The drill cuttings entrained at the bottom hole can slightly increase the temperature profile in the annulus.

Keywords—temperature; gas-drilling; prediction; reservoirs; unconventional

I. INTRODUCTION

Gas (air, nitrogen, or natural gas) has been widely used as the working fluid in drilling mining boreholes, geothermal fluid wells, and oil and natural gas recovery wells (Lyons et al., 2009). The rate of penetration (ROP) is usually more than 10 times higher in gas-drilling than in liquid-drilling (drilling with water, mud, or oil). However, the performance of gas-drilling is highly inconsistent in many areas. This is generally attributed to rock failure mechanism involving thermal effect (Li et al., 2014).

The primary rock failure mechanism was identified as the mechanical action of drill bit teeth that causes wedging, scraping and grinding, and crushing of rock (Moore, 1958). The secondary rock failure mechanism was believed to be the erosion by fluid jet action (Bourgoyne et al., 1986). These mechanisms do not explain why the rate of penetration increases as the bottom hole pressure decreases. A number of technical documents have addressed the effects of confining stress and fluid pressure on rock failure (Murray and Cunningham, 1955; Cunningham and Fenink, 1959; Black and Green, 1978) in liquid-drilling. It has been commonly recognized that reducing bottom hole pressure can significantly increase ROP. This is because the low-level

bottom hole pressure causes high-level unbalance of stress in the rock, making the rock softer and easier to break down under the mechanical action of drill bit teeth. The effect of bottom hole pressure on rock failure seems to explain the extremely high rate of penetration in gas-drilling (Sheffield and Sitzman, 1985; Li et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2008).

Zhang et al. (2012) presented their results of analytical and numerical modeling which reveal that gas-cooling to the bottom hole rock is another mechanism of rock failure in gas-drilling. It indicates that a rock layer of about 1.2 cm thick is under failure condition due to the cooling effect. Li et al.'s (2012a) experimental data demonstrates that this thermal effect drops when gas flow rate increases. This was interpreted as the gas "penetration" effect that pushes the temperature gradient inside the rock body. The mechanism of cooling failure of rock was verified by Zhang et al.'s (2014) experimental work that shows that the cooling effect can increase rate of penetration by 30%. Field observations also support the hypothesis of thermal failure of rock during gas-drilling. It has been found that drill cuttings collected from gas-drilling are much smaller than those from liquid-drilling. A comparison of drill cuttings collected from gas-drilling and liquid-drilling at similar depths in the same region showed a very significant difference (Li et al., 2013a). The drill cuttings collected from gas drilling are dust-like and are at least thousand-times smaller than the drill cuttings from liquid-drilling. The explanation to this fact is still controversial. Some researchers believe it due to the re-grinding of large cuttings at the bottom hole in the gas-drilled wells (Guo and Ghalambor, 2002). However, re-grinding would significantly reduce the rate of penetration, which does not seem to occur in gas-drilling. Another explanation is the theory of cuttings-crashing by drill string and other cuttings during their flowing up the borehole annulus (Li et al., 2013a). This is possible owing to pipe vibration when the drill string rotates at high speed. Crashing can occur between drill pipe and borehole wall, turbulent flow of fluids, uneven borehole gauge, doglegs, etc. The significance of the cuttings-crashing has not been thoroughly investigated. Li et al.'s (2013b) work indicates that the energy required to crash cuttings from 6 mm to 1 mm is nearly equal to the energy required to transport the cuttings from bottom hole to surface, which is considered to be not realistic. A reasonable explanation is that the cuttings created by the drill bit are much smaller than 6 mm. A portion of the dust-like cuttings are created at the bottom hole due to the frictional heating effect, or thermal failure of rock. This effect is similar to the weathering effect where the temperature at the

surface of rock alters rapidly, causing the fast failure of rock surface, generating small sands. If this is the case, the cuttings size should depend on the level of frictional heat generated at bit teeth. High level of frictional heat should promote generation of fine cuttings. According to the theory of frictional heat generation (Kulehytsky-Zhihailo and Evtushenko, 1999; Evtushenko and Pauk, 2002), the heat flux is proportional to the contact pressure (stress). The contact pressure between drill bit and rock is higher at deep depth than that at shallow depth in gas-drilling. This is because low weight on bit is used to drill soft rocks at the shallow depth with high-rate of penetration and high weight on bit is used to drill hard rocks at the deep depth to maintain high-rate of penetration. As the weight on bit increases with depth, the contact stress (weight on bit divided by bit tooth contact area) increases, and thus the frictional heat increases. It is therefore expected that the size of drill cuttings decreases with depth. Li et al. (2012b) demonstrate the trend of change of cuttings size with depth. As the well deepens, the proportion of large-size cuttings drops and that of small cuttings increases. This trend of cuttings size change may be explained by three principles: 1) rock drillability drops with depth, 2) more cuttings-collision in deep holes, and 3) more thermal failure of rock in friction-heated deep/hard formations. The fact that cuttings are much finer in gas-drilling than in liquid-drilling at the same depth tends to support the principle of thermal failure more than the other two principles. Li et al. (2014) provides a comprehensive analysis of the thermal effect in gas-drilling. They concluded that the thermal failure process is complicated by the interference between the frictional heating and Joule-Thomson cooling to the rock surface. The Joule-Thomson cooling can promote or inhibit the thermal failure of rock at the bottom hole, depending on its degree of influence on the frictional heating. Increasing weight on bit and rotary speed will promote thermal failure of rock, but may damage drill bit due to over-heating. Adding water to the gas stream to protect the drill bit will cool down the rock, reduce the thermal failure of rock, and thus lower the rate of penetration. The thermal failure should be more pronounced in drilling shale gas formations because shale has lower tensile strength than sandstones. Obviously, in order to optimize gas-drilling parameters using the thermal effect, it is very essential to be able to predict the gas temperature at the bottom hole.

A number of researchers have investigated the methods for predicting fluid temperature profiles in drilling circulation systems. Among them are Zhang et al. (2011), Hasan and Kabir (2012), are Kutasov and Eppelbaum (2015). Unfortunately, all these methods were developed for liquid-drilling, not for gas-drilling. Two methods are found applicable to gas-drilling. They are the numerical simulator developed by Wang et al. (2007) and the analytical method presented by Li et al. (2015). The former was published in a Chinese journal and the simulator is not accessible to the authors. The latter model treats the annular fluid as a non-flowing layer of insulation and uses equivalent thermal conductivity of the flowing fluid in the annulus. Also it does not consider the effects of formation fluid influx and drill cuttings and it does not predict annular temperature profile. Application of the model requires input data for the equivalent

thermal conductivity of the fluid mixture in the annular space. This data is difficult to obtain, if not impossible.

A new analytical solution was derived in this study to improve Li et al.'s (2015) model for temperature prediction, considering the flowing gas, formation fluid influx, Joule-Thomson cooling, and entrained cuttings in the annular space. It corrects the result given by Li et al.'s (2015) model by 14%.

II. MATHEMATICAL MODEL

The temperature profiles inside drill string and in the annular space are mainly controlled by the following six factors:

- Gas injection rate that brings heat to the inside of drill string;
- Lateral heat transfer through drill string;
- Joule-Thomson cooling effect at bit orifices;
- Heat brought to the bottom hole by drill cuttings;
- Heat brought to the bottom annulus by the formation fluid influx; and
- Lateral heat transfer through casing and cement sheath.

The friction pressure loss also generates heat in the system. In the practical ranges of pressure (5 to 15 MPa) and temperature (0 to 100oC), gas density varies from 1 to 100 kg/m³ and its viscosity changes from 13.3x10⁻⁶ m²/s to 22.1x10⁻⁶ m²/s (Kadoya et al., 1985). For this dilute gas, the friction pressure loss is less than 5 MPa in the typical gas-drilling systems. Therefore the heat generation due to friction is negligible.

The thermal conductivities of steel drill string and gas at 50oC are 43 W/m- oC and 0.0127 W/m-oC, respectively. The high contrast (>1500 times) in thermal conductivity makes the fluid in the annulus the dominating material (limiting step) for the heat conduction in the radial direction. Therefore, the resistance to heat conduction in drill string is negligible. The thermal conductivity of gas can be used to calculate heat flow across the drill string. The thermal conductivities of steel casing and cement concrete at 50oC are 43 W/m-oC and 1.7 W/m-oC, respectively. The high contrast (>25 times) in thermal conductivity makes the cement sheath the dominating material (limiting step) for the heat conduction in the radial direction. Therefore, the resistance to heat conduction in casing is negligible.

When gas is injected into a drill string, the heat brought to the inside of string is proportional to the product of fluid heat capacity C_p and mass flow rate \dot{m}_p where

$$\dot{m}_p = \rho_p Q_p \quad (1)$$

where ρ_p and Q_p are gas density and volumetric flow rate inside drill string. As the gas flows down the drill string, the rate of heat transfer through drill string is proportional to the

thermal conductivity of string K_p . When the drilling fluid expands below the bit orifices, its temperature drops due to Joule-Thomson cooling effect. The downstream temperature can be expressed as (Guo and Liu, 2011):

$$T_{dn} = T_{up} \left(\frac{P_{dn}}{P_{up}} \right)^{\frac{k-1}{k}} \quad (2)$$

where T_{dn} and T_{up} are the absolute temperatures in the downstream and upstream of bit orifices, respectively, P_{dn} and P_{up} are the absolute pressures in the downstream and upstream of bit orifices, respectively, and k is the specific heat ratio of gas ($k = 1.3$ for gas). The temperature drop at the bit is expressed as:

$$\Delta T_J = T_{up} - T_{dn} \quad (3)$$

The gas receives heat from the entrained drill cuttings and formation oil influx. Assuming all formation fluid influx occurs at bottom hole, the fluid temperature should change at bottom hole in the annulus by

$$\Delta T_b = -\Delta T_J + \Delta T_c + \Delta T_f \quad (4)$$

where ΔT_c and ΔT_f are temperature changes due to added drill cutting and fluid influx, respectively. It can be shown that in the practical drilling conditions where the rate of penetration is less than 50 m/hour, the term ΔT_c is negligible. The annular temperature at the bottom hole T_{bh} can be expressed as:

$$T_{bh} = \frac{C_p \dot{m}_p (T_p - \Delta T_J) + C_f \dot{m}_f T_{max}}{C_p \dot{m}_p + C_f \dot{m}_f} \quad (5)$$

where T_p is the temperature of fluid inside the drill string, C_f is the heat capacity of the fluid influx, \dot{m}_f is the mass flow rate of fluid influx, and T_{max} is the geo-temperature at the bottom hole depth. Therefore the temperature change at the bottom hole can be expressed as:

$$\Delta T_b = T_{bh} - T_p = \frac{C_p \dot{m}_p (T_p - \Delta T_J) + C_f \dot{m}_f T_{max}}{C_p \dot{m}_p + C_f \dot{m}_f} - T_p \quad (6)$$

The heat transfer in the annulus depends on the product of mixture heat capacity C_a and mixture mass flow rate \dot{m}_a where

$$C_a \dot{m}_a = C_p \dot{m}_p + C_s \dot{m}_s + C_f \dot{m}_f \quad (7)$$

where the product of heat capacity and mass flow rate of solid cuttings $C_s \dot{m}_s$ is further expressed in two terms:

$$C_s \dot{m}_s = C_h \dot{m}_h + C_r \dot{m}_r \quad (8)$$

where C_h and C_r are the heat capacities of hydrocarbon and dry rock in the cuttings, respectively. The mass flow rates of the hydrocarbon and rock in the cuttings are respectively expressed as:

$$\dot{m}_h = \frac{\pi}{4} D_b^2 R_p \phi \rho_h \quad (9)$$

and

$$\dot{m}_r = \frac{\pi}{4} D_b^2 R_p (1 - \phi) \rho_r \quad (10)$$

where D_b , R_p , ϕ , ρ_h , and ρ_r are drill bit diameter, rate of penetration, rock porosity, density of hydrocarbon, and density of rock, respectively. The C_f in (4) is heat capacity of formation influx fluid (usually oil) and mass flow rate of formation fluid influx is expressed as

$$\dot{m}_f = \rho_f Q_f \quad (11)$$

where ρ_f and Q_f are density of fluid influx and flow rate of fluid influx, respectively. As the fluid mixture flows up the annulus, the rates of heat transfer through drill string and cement sheath are proportional to the thermal conductivities of drill string K_p and cement sheath K_c , respectively (the thermal conductivity of casing is assumed to be infinity compared to that of cement sheath).

The gas temperatures inside the drill string T_p and in the annulus T_a take the following forms respectively (derivation of solution is given in Appendix):

$$T_p = C_1 A e^{\eta_1 L} + C_2 A e^{\eta_2 L} + GL + \frac{AG + AB T_{g0} - G(B + E)}{AB} \quad (12)$$

and

$$T_a = C_1 (A + r_1) e^{\eta_1 L} + C_2 (A + r_2) e^{\eta_2 L} + GL + \frac{AG + AB T_{g0} - EG}{AB} \quad (13)$$

where

$$C_1 = \frac{AB(A\Delta T_b - G) - [AB T_{p0} - AB T_{g0} - AG + G(B + E)] r_2 e^{\eta_2 L_{max}}}{A^2 B (r_1 e^{\eta_1 L_{max}} - r_2 e^{\eta_2 L_{max}})} \quad (14)$$

$$C_2 = \frac{-AB(A\Delta T_p - G) + [ABT_{p0} - ABT_{g0} - AG + G(B+E)]r_1 e^{r_1 t_{\max}}}{A^2 B(r_1 e^{r_1 t_{\max}} - r_2 e^{r_2 t_{\max}})} \quad (15)$$

$$r_1 = \frac{B + E - A + \sqrt{(B + E - A)^2 + 4AB}}{2} \quad (16)$$

$$r_2 = \frac{B + E - A - \sqrt{(B + E - A)^2 + 4AB}}{2} \quad (17)$$

where

$$A = \frac{\pi d_p K_p}{C_p \dot{m}_p t_p} \quad (18)$$

$$B = \frac{\pi d_c K_c}{C_a \dot{m}_a t_c} \quad (19)$$

$$E = \frac{\pi d_p K_p}{C_a \dot{m}_a t_p} \quad (20)$$

where all symbols are defined in the Nomenclature section.

Because (6) involves the in-string temperature T_p at bottom depth, it is necessary to solve (6) and (12) simultaneously with a numerical method such as Newton-Raphson iteration. These equations were solved in a spreadsheet program using the Goal Seek tool in MS Excel.

III. MODEL COMPARISON

The newly derived analytical solution was coded in an MS Excel spreadsheet to compare with other models. A number of numerical models have been presented for fluid temperature prediction, including Keller et al. (1973), Wooley (1980), Marshall and Bentsen (1982), Kabir et al. (1996) and Hasan and Kabir (2012). Unfortunately all these models were developed for liquid or multi-phase flow. They are not applicable to gas flow in gas-drilling. The analytical model for gas-drilling presented by Li et al. (2015) was used for comparison. The data used in the models are provided in Table 1.

Gas is the major component of air (>78%). Heat capacity of gas is a function of temperature and pressure (Abbott and van Ness, 1989). In the temperature range between 0oC and 100 oC at atmospheric pressure, the heat capacity of air varies between 1,005 J/kg-C and 1,009 J/kg-C, or within 0.40%. In gas-drilling operations the gas pressure in the drill string is in a narrow range between 7 MPa and 10 MPa. The heat capacity of gas varies between 1,016.2 J/kg-C and 1,021.6 J/kg-C, or within 0.53%, in this pressure range (Kadoya et al., 1985). Considering the extreme condition of 0oC and 10MPa, the heat capacity of gas varies between 1,005 J/kg-C and 1,021.6 J/kg-C, or within 1.65%. Therefore, the heat capacity of gas was assumed to be constant in this study.

TABLE I. DATA USED IN COMPARISON OF ANALYTICAL SOLUTIONS

Factor	Value	Unit
Depth (L)	2000	m
Bit diameter (D_b)	0.201	m
Inner diameter of cement (d_c)	0.245	m
Outer diameter of cement (D_c)	0.311	m
Outer diameter of drill string (D_p)	0.114	m
Inner diameter of drill string (d_p)	0.098	m
Geothermal temp at surface (T_{g0})	20	°C
Geothermal gradient (G)	0.0245	C/m
Thermal conductivity of cement (K_c)	1.7	W/m-°C
Thermal conductivity of annulus (K_p)	0.0271	W/m-°C
Injection rate (Q_p)	1.08	m ³ /s
Temperature of injected fluid (T_{p0})	40	°C
Heat capacity of fluid inside pipe (C_p)	1005	J/kg-°C
Heat capacity of rock (C_r)	920	J/kg-°C
Heat capacity of formation fluid (C_f)	1880	J/kg-°C
Porosity (ϕ)	0.3	
Rate of penetration (R_p)	0	m/h
Temperature drop at bit (ΔT_b)	0	°C
Density of rock (ρ_r)	2650	kg/m ³
Density of formation fluid (ρ_f)	1000	kg/m ³
Density of injected fluid (ρ_p)	1.127	kg/m ³
Formation fluid influx rate (Q_f)	0	m ³ /s

Figure 1 indicates that the injected gas is cooled down in the upper section of drill string by the geothermal gradient. Gas is then heated up by the geothermal gradient in the lower section of drill string. After arrival in the annulus, the gas is quickly heated up by the geothermal gradient in the lower section of the annulus. Eventually the gas is cooled down in the upper section of the annulus by the geothermal gradient.

Also presented in Figure 1 is the gas temperature profile inside the drill string given by Li et al.'s (2015) analytical model. It is seen that the bottom hole temperature given by the new analytical model is 7oC higher than that given by Li et al.'s (2015) model. If the new model is considered to be accurate, Li et al.'s (2015) model is expected to underestimate bottom hole temperature by 14%.

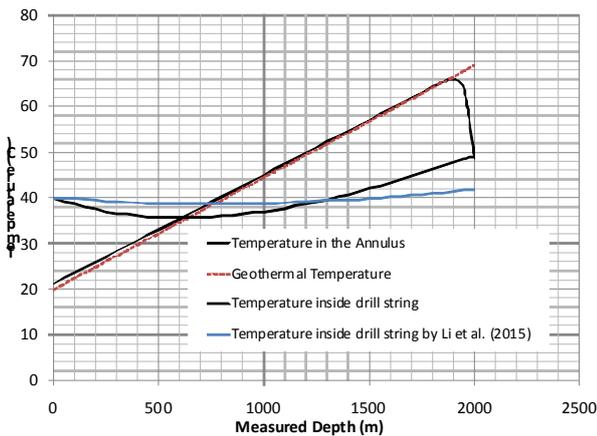


FIGURE I. A COMPARISON OF TEMPERATURE PROFILES GIVEN BY DIFFERENT ANALYTICAL MODELS

IV. SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

Previous models do not consider the effects of formation fluid influx, Joule-Thomson cooling, and entrained drill cuttings at bottom hole on the temperature profiles inside drill string and in the annulus. These effects were analyzed with the new model in this study. Figure 2 demonstrates the effect of formation fluid influx on the temperature profiles. It shows that the formation fluid influx can significantly increase the temperature profiles in both the drill string and the annulus. Figure 3 illustrates the effect of Joule-Thomson cooling on the temperature profiles. It is seen that the Joule-Thomson cooling effect lowers the temperature in the annulus only at the bottom hole. It diminishes quickly in a very short interval when the drilling fluid moves up the annulus. Figure 4 shows the effect of entrained drill cuttings on the temperature profiles. It indicates that the drill cuttings can slightly increase the temperature profile in the annulus even at very high rate of penetration up to 60 m/hour.

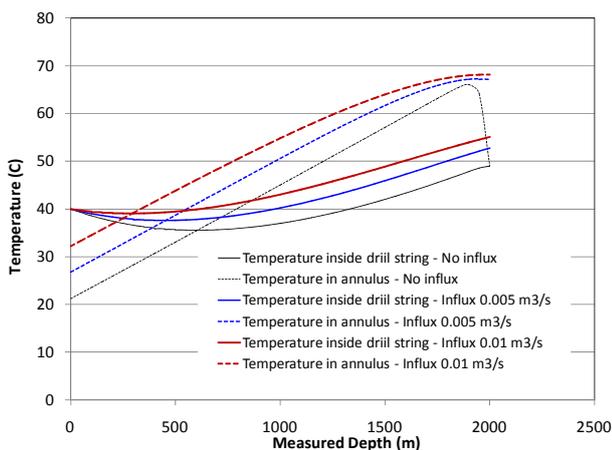


FIGURE II. EFFECT OF FORMATION FLUID INFLUX ON THE TEMPERATURE PROFILES

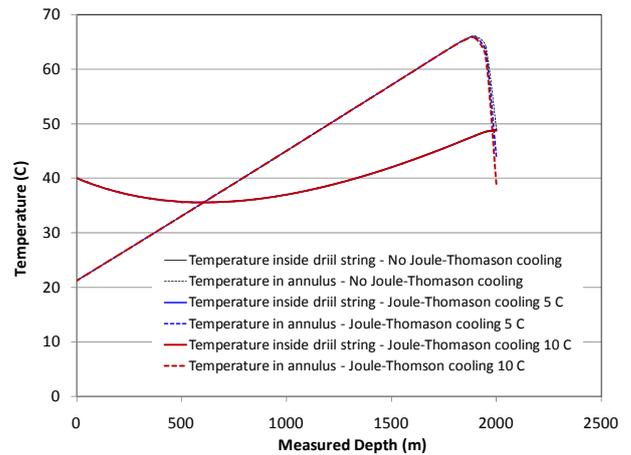


FIGURE III. EFFECT OF JOULE-THOMSON COOLING ON THE TEMPERATURE PROFILES

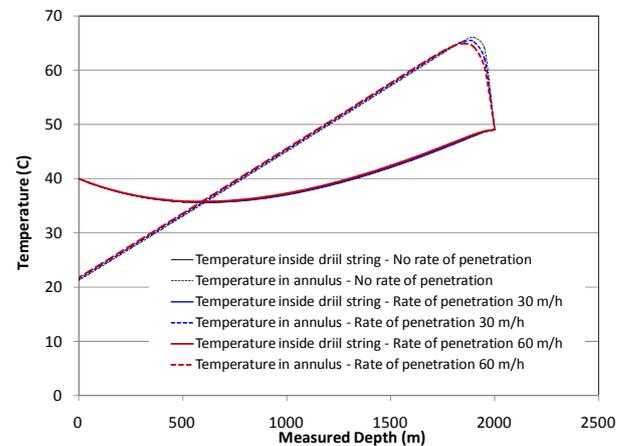


FIGURE IV. EFFECT OF ENTRAINED DRILL CUTTINGS ON THE TEMPERATURE PROFILES

V. CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions are drawn from this study:

A new closed form analytical solution for predicting gas temperature profiles inside drill strings and in the annulus was derived in this study for gas-drilling. The new solution has advantages over existing solution in that it can handle formation fluid influx, Joule-Thomson cooling effect, and entrained drill cuttings.

An example calculation shows that the injected hot gas is cooled down in the upper section of drill string by the geothermal gradient. Gas is then heated up by the geothermal gradient in the lower section of drill string. After arrival in the annulus, the gas is quickly heated up by the geothermal gradient in the lower section of the annulus. Eventually the gas is cooled down in the upper section of the annulus by the geothermal gradient.

The temperature profiles given by the new analytical solution are significantly different from that given by Li et

al.'s analytical model. If the new model is considered to be accurate, Li et al.'s (2015) model is expected to underestimate bottom hole temperature by 14%.

Results of sensitivity analyses show that formation fluid influx can significantly increase the temperature profiles in both the drill string and the annulus. The Joule-Thomson cooling effect lowers the temperature in the annulus only at the bottom hole. The drill cuttings entrained at the bottom hole can slightly increase the temperature profile in the annulus.

The new analytical solution has some limitations including steady gas flow. Also it may give erroneous result if the equivalent thermal conductivity of annular fluid is not correctly estimated. Thermal conductivity values should be adjusted based on temperature measurements in critical applications.

Direct measurement of temperature profiles are required to further validate the new analytical solution. Once validated the new solution can replace numerical simulators that are not readily available to field engineers in general.

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NOMENCLATURE

- Aa = cross-sectional area of annulus (m²)
- Ap = cross-sectional area of drill pipe (m²)
- Ca = heat capacity of fluid in the annulus (J/kg-oC)
- Cf = heat capacity of formation fluid influx (J/kg-oC)
- Ch = heat capacity of hydrocarbons in cuttings (J/kg-oC)
- Cp = heat capacity of fluid inside drill pipe (J/kg-oC)
- Cr = heat capacity of rock (J/kg-oC)
- Cs = heat capacity of solid in the annulus (J/kg-oC)
- Db = bit-diameter (m)
- dc = inner-diameter of cement sheath (m)
- Dc = outer-diameter of cement sheath (m)
- dp = inner-diameter of drill pipe (m)
- Dp = outer-diameter of drill pipe (m)
- G = geothermal gradient (oC/m)
- k = specific heat ratio of gas (dimensionless)
- Kc = thermal conductivity of cement (W/m- oC)
- Kp = thermal conductivity of drill pipe (W/m- oC)
- L = wellbore depth along the drill string (m)
- Lmax = the maximum hole depth (m)
- \dot{m}_a = mass flow rate in the annulus (kg/s)

- \dot{m}_f = mass flow rate of formation fluid influx (kg/s)
- \dot{m}_h = mass flow rate of hydrocarbons in cuttings (kg/s)
- \dot{m}_p = mass flow rate inside the drill pipe (kg/s)
- \dot{m}_s = mass flow rate of solid cuttings in the annulus (kg/s)
- \dot{m}_r = mass flow rate of rock (kg/s)
- Pdown = absolute pressure in the downstream (psi)
- Pup = absolute pressure in the upstream (psi)
- Q_f = formation fluid influx rate (m³/s)
- Q_p = fluid injection flow rate (m³/s)
- RP = rate of penetration (m/s)
- tc = thickness of cement sheath (m)
- tp = wall thickness of drill pipe (m)
- Ta = temperature of annular fluid (oC)
- Tb = temperature change at drill bit (oC)
- Tdn = absolute temperature in the downstream (oC)
- Tg = geothermal temperature at depth (oC)
- Tg0 = geothermal temperature at surface (oC)
- Tp = temperature of fluid inside drill pipe at depth (oC)
- Tp0 = temperature of fluid inside drill pipe at surface (oC)
- Tup = absolute temperature in the upstream (oC)
- Greeks
 - = porosity of rock (dimensionless)
 - a = fluid mixture density in the annulus (kg/m³)
 - f = density of formation fluid (kg/m³)
 - h = density of hydrocarbons in cuttings (kg/m³)
 - p = fluid density inside drill pipe (kg/m³)
 - r = density of dry rock (kg/m³)
 - s = solid density in the annulus (kg/m³)

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APPENDIX A: MATHEMATICAL MODELING OF HEAT TRANSFER IN GAS-DRILLING

A. Assumptions

The following assumptions are made in model formulation:

- The thermal conductivities of casing are assumed to be infinitive.
- The geothermal gradient behind the annulus is not affected by borehole fluid.
- Heat capacity of fluid is constant.
- Friction-induced heat is negligible.

B. Governing Equation

Figure A.1 depicts a small element of a borehole section with a drill string at center.

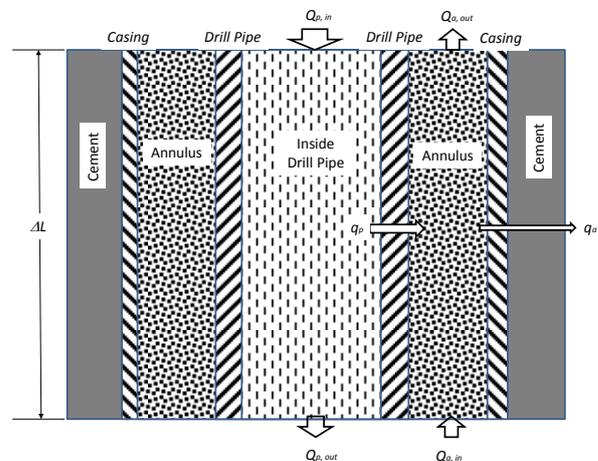


FIGURE A.1. SKETCH ILLUSTRATING HEAT TRANSFER IN A BOREHOLE SECTION

Consider the heat flow inside the drill pipe during a time period of t . Heat balance is given by

$$Q_{p,in} - Q_{p,out} - q_p = Q_{p,chg} \quad (A.1)$$

where

$Q_{p,in}$ = heat energy brought into the drill pipe element by fluid due to convection, J
 $Q_{p,out}$ = heat energy carried away the drill pipe element by fluid due to convection, J
 q_p = heat transfer through the drill pipe due to conduction, J

Qp,chg = change of heat energy in the fluid, J.
These terms can be further formulated as

$$Q_{p,in} = C_p \dot{m}_p T_{p,L} \Delta t \quad (\text{A.2})$$

$$Q_{p,out} = C_p \dot{m}_p T_{p,L+\Delta L} \Delta t \quad (\text{A.3})$$

$$q_p = \pi d_p K_p \Delta L \left(-\frac{\partial T_p}{\partial r} \right) \Delta t \quad (\text{A.4})$$

$$Q_{p,chg} = C_p \rho_p A_p \Delta L \Delta T_p \quad (\text{A.5})$$

Substituting (A.2) through (A.5) into (A.1) gives

$$C_p \dot{m}_p \Delta t (T_{p,L} - T_{p,L+\Delta L}) + \pi d_p K_p \Delta L \left(\frac{\partial T_p}{\partial r} \right) \Delta t = \rho_p C_p A_p \Delta L \Delta T_p \quad (\text{A.6})$$

Dividing all the terms of this equation by $L \Delta t$ yields

$$C_p \dot{m}_p \frac{(T_{p,L} - T_{p,L+\Delta L})}{\Delta L} + \pi d_p K_p \frac{\partial T_p}{\partial r} = \rho_p C_p A_p \frac{\Delta T_p}{\Delta t} \quad (\text{A.7})$$

For infinitesimal of L and Δt , this equation becomes

$$\frac{\partial T_p}{\partial L} + \frac{\rho_p A_p}{\dot{m}_p} \frac{\partial T_p}{\partial t} = \frac{\pi d_p K_p}{C_p \dot{m}_p} \frac{\partial T_p}{\partial r} \quad (\text{A.8})$$

The radial-temperature gradient in the insulation layer can be formulated as

$$\frac{\partial T_p}{\partial r} = \frac{T_a - T_p}{t_p} \quad (\text{A.9})$$

Substituting Eq. (A.9) into Eq. (A.8) yields

$$\frac{\partial T_p}{\partial L} + \lambda_p \frac{\partial T_p}{\partial t} + \alpha_p (T_p - T_a) = 0 \quad (\text{A.10})$$

where

$$\lambda_p = \frac{\rho_p A_p}{\dot{m}_p} \quad (\text{A.12})$$

$$\alpha_p = \frac{\pi d_p K_p}{C_p \dot{m}_p t_p} \quad (\text{A.13})$$

Consider the heat flow in the annulus during a time period of Δt . Heat balance is given by

$$Q_{a,in} - Q_{a,out} + q_p - q_a = Q_{a,chg} \quad (\text{A.14})$$

where

Qa,in = heat energy brought into the drill pipe element by fluid due to convection, J
Qa,out = heat energy carried away by the drill pipe element by fluid due to convection, J
qa = heat transfer through casing and cement due to conduction, J
Qa,chg = change of heat energy in the fluid, J. These terms can be further formulated as

$$Q_{a,in} = C_a \dot{m}_a T_{a,L+\Delta L} \Delta t \quad (\text{A.15})$$

$$Q_{a,out} = C_a \dot{m}_a T_{a,L} \Delta t \quad (\text{A.16})$$

$$q_a = \pi d_c K_c \Delta L \left(-\frac{\partial T_a}{\partial r} \right) \Delta t \quad (\text{A.17})$$

$$Q_{a,chg} = C_a \rho_a A_a \Delta L \Delta T_a \quad (\text{A.18})$$

Substituting (A.15) through (A.18) into (A.14) gives

$$C_a \dot{m}_a \Delta t (T_{a,L+\Delta L} - T_{a,L}) - \pi d_c K_c \Delta L \left(\frac{\partial T_p}{\partial r} \right) \Delta t + \pi d_c K_c \Delta L \left(\frac{\partial T_a}{\partial r} \right) \Delta t = \rho_a C_a A_a \Delta L \Delta T_a \quad (\text{A.19})$$

Dividing all the terms of this equation by $L \Delta t$ yields

$$C_a \dot{m}_a \frac{(T_{a,L+\Delta L} - T_{a,L})}{\Delta L} - \pi d_c K_c \left(\frac{\partial T_p}{\partial r} \right) + \pi d_c K_c \left(\frac{\partial T_a}{\partial r} \right) = \rho_a C_a A_a \frac{\Delta T_a}{\Delta t} \quad (\text{A.20})$$

For infinitesimal of L and Δt , this equation becomes

$$C_a \dot{m}_a \frac{\partial T_a}{\partial L} - \rho_a C_a A_a \frac{\partial T_a}{\partial t} - \pi d_p K_p \left(\frac{\partial T_p}{\partial r} \right) + \pi d_c K_c \left(\frac{\partial T_a}{\partial r} \right) = 0 \quad (\text{A.21})$$

The radial-temperature gradient in the insulation layer can be formulated as

$$\frac{\partial T_p}{\partial r} = \frac{T_a - T_p}{t_p} \quad (\text{A.22})$$

and

$$\frac{\partial T_a}{\partial r} = \frac{T_g - T_a}{t_c} \quad (\text{A.23})$$

Substituting (A.22) and (A.23) into (A.21) yields

$$\frac{\partial T_a}{\partial L} - \lambda_a \frac{\partial T_a}{\partial t} + \beta_a (T_p - T_a) - \alpha_a (T_a - T_g) = 0 \quad (\text{A.24})$$

where

$$\lambda_a = \frac{\rho_a A_a}{\dot{m}_a} \quad (\text{A.25})$$

$$\beta_a = \frac{\pi d_p K_p}{C_a \dot{m}_a t_p} \quad (\text{A.26})$$

$$\alpha_a = \frac{\pi d_c K_c}{C_a \dot{m}_a t_c} \quad (\text{A.27})$$

The temperatures T_p and T_a at any given depth can be solved numerically from (A.10) and (A.24).

For steady heat flow, (A.10) and (A.24) can be written as:

$$\frac{\partial T_p}{\partial L} + \alpha_p (T_p - T_a) = 0 \quad (\text{A.28})$$

$$\frac{\partial T_a}{\partial L} + \beta_a (T_p - T_a) - \alpha_a (T_a - T_g) = 0 \quad (\text{A.29})$$

where the geo-temperature can be expressed as:

$$T_g = T_{g0} + GL \quad (\text{A.30})$$

C. Boundary Conditions

The boundary conditions for solving (A.28) and (A.29) are expressed as

$$T_p = T_{p0} \quad \text{at} \quad L = 0 \quad (\text{A.31})$$

$$T_a = T_p + \Delta T_b \quad \text{at} \quad L = L_{\max} \quad (\text{A.32})$$

D. Solution

The governing (A.28) and (A.29) subjected to the boundary conditions (A.31) and (A.32) were solved with the

method of characteristics. The solutions take the following form:

$$T_p = C_1 A e^{r_1 L} + C_2 A e^{r_2 L} + aL + \frac{Aa + ABb - a(B + E)}{AB} \quad (\text{A.33})$$

$$T_a = C_1 (A + r_1) e^{r_1 L} + C_2 (A + r_2) e^{r_2 L} + aL + \frac{Aa + ABb - aE}{AB} \quad (\text{A.34})$$

where

$$C_1 = \frac{AB(AD - a) - [ABC - ABb - Aa + a(B + E)]r_2 e^{r_2 L_{\max}}}{A^2 B(r_1 e^{r_1 L_{\max}} - r_2 e^{r_2 L_{\max}})} \quad (\text{A.35})$$

$$C_2 = \frac{-AB(AD - a) + [ABC - ABb - Aa + a(B + E)]r_1 e^{r_1 L_{\max}}}{A^2 B(r_1 e^{r_1 L_{\max}} - r_2 e^{r_2 L_{\max}})} \quad (\text{A.36})$$

$$r_1 = \frac{B + E - A + \sqrt{(B + E - A)^2 + 4AB}}{2} \quad (\text{A.37})$$

$$r_2 = \frac{B + E - A - \sqrt{(B + E - A)^2 + 4AB}}{2} \quad (\text{A.38})$$

where $A = \alpha_p$, $B = \alpha_a$, $C = T_{p0}$, $D = \Delta T_b$, $E = \beta_a$,
 $a = G$, and $b = T_{g0}$.