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POWER BALANCE EQUATION IN ELECTRON BEAM EVAPORATION PROCESS

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1- INTRODUCTION

In the electron beam evaporation process (SCHILLER et al.) the total power P of the gun is used, for a part P_{vap} to generate the vapor stream and for the rest to cover three main power losses P_{conv} , P_{ebs} and P_{rad} due respectively to three parasite phenomena : turbulent thermal convection in the molten pool, electron back scattering and heat radiation from the vapor emitting surface. It results in a four component power balance equation :

$$P = P_{vap} + P_{conv} + P_{ebs} + P_{rad} \quad (1)$$

The aim of the paper is to solve Eq(1) . We start by making the list of the scaling laws governing each of the four terms in the rhs of the Eq (1) . The scaling law for the power loss P_{conv} due to the turbulent thermal convection in the molten pool has been derived empirically by Blumenfeld and Soubbaramayer from experiments carried out in the French CEA (Antoni et al.) by evaporating cerium with a 5 KW axisymmetric electron gun. The formulas for the three other terms P_{vap} , P_{ebs} and P_{rad} are drawn from the current literature. Eq (1) is then solved by the standard iteration method. The input data are the physico chemical constants of the evaporant and the two characteristics of the electron beam (i.e the total power(KW) and the power density(KW/cm²)). The iteration variable is the peak temperature on the melt surface. The output of our calculations yields four important informations on the process: Temperature on the melt surface, vapor flow rate (g/h), power balance chart and cratering of the melt surface. To illustrate the method, we compute the evaporation of Aluminium with a 5 KW axisymmetric gun working in steady state mode. The results are presented in Figures 1 and 2 and Table 1 .

2- SCALING LAWS

The scaling laws for the four power components in the RHS of Eq(1) and for the depth of the crater on melt surface are summarized herebelow:

$$P_{\text{vap}} = \Delta H \int_0^{r_T} D 2\pi r dr \quad D = 0.09 (M/T)^{1/2} P_{\text{sat}}$$

$$D, \text{ g/s/cm}^2 \quad M, \text{ g} \quad T, \text{ K} \quad P_{\text{sat}}, \text{ mm Hg}$$

$$\log_{10} P_{\text{sat}} = A T^{-1} + B \log_{10} T + C T + D T^2 + E$$

The coefficients A, B, C, D and E are drawn from:

Honig, R.E. & Kramer, D.A. 1970, Vapor pressure data for the solid and liquid elements, in the book "Physicochemical measurements in metal research, ed. Rapp, R.A., vol IV Part 1, pp505-531, Interscience.

The component P_{conv} is introduced through 3 nondimensional numbers

$$Ra = (2 g \alpha r_q^2 P_{\text{conv}} / \pi \lambda \nu \kappa) \quad Ma = (2 Y_T P_{\text{conv}} / \pi \lambda \mu \kappa)$$

$$Nu = (2 P_{\text{conv}} / \pi \lambda r_q \Delta T_m)$$

$$Nu = 0.15 Ra^{0.3} + 0.00015 Ma Ra^{-0.3} \exp \left[0.075 p_0 / (\rho \gamma g)^{1/2} \right] - \Delta Nu$$

$$p_0 = P_{\text{sat}} (T_F + \Delta T_m)$$

$$\Delta Nu = (0.15 Ra^{0.3} - 1) \left[1 + 5.854 (Ra^{2/3} Ha^{-2})^{1.36} \right]^{-0.695}$$

$$Ha = (\sigma_{el} / \mu)^{1/2} B r_q$$

$$P_{\text{ebs}} = P R \quad P_{\text{rad}} = \int_0^{r_T} \epsilon \sigma T^4 2\pi r dr$$

$$h_c = p_0 r_T^2 / (\rho g r_T^2 + 16 Y)$$

Comments

1- The last equation was derived from measurements of melt surface distortion made in CEA-experiments of cerium evaporation with a 5 KW gun. The equation works until the cratering has a regular shape, but does not account for more complex phenomena like the Key-hole formation and spattering, which occur for high power density.

2- The validity of the scaling law for P_{conv} is restricted to liquid metals having a Prandtl number close to 0.02.

3- The preceding set of scaling laws is pertinent to electron beam working in steady state mode, but does not cover the SWEEP MODE. This latter mode with a proper frequency yields (according to Schiller's experimental results on Aluminium evaporation) an efficiency higher by a factor 10 to 35.

3- RESULTS

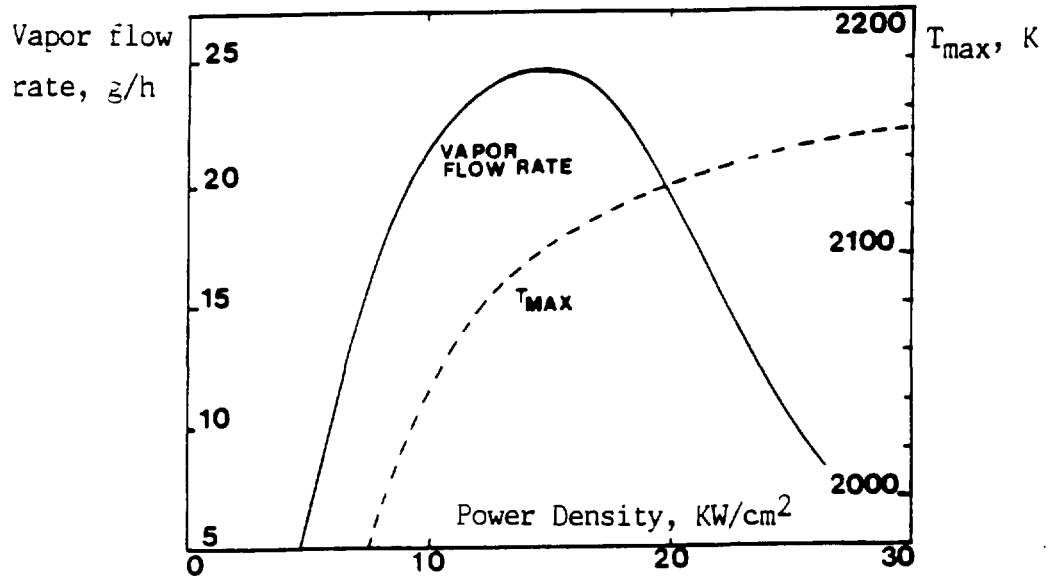


Fig 1 : Evaporation of Aluminium with a 5KW electron beam.
 ----- Peak temperature on the melt surface : with increasing power density, the temperature reaches a plateau.
 ——— Vapor flow rate: it passes by a maximum and the maximum calculated (24.5 g/h) is in very good agreement with the experimental result (24 g/h) of SCHILLER et al.

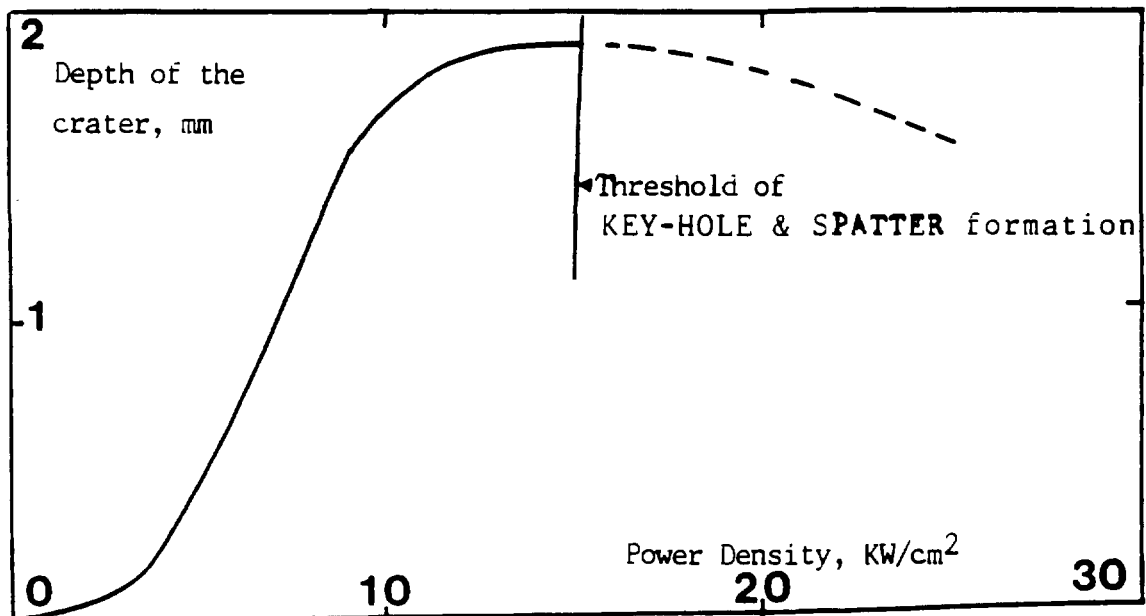


Fig 2 : Evaporation of Aluminium with a 5KW electron beam.
 Depth of the crater on the melt surface.

TABLE 1 : Power balance chart at the maximum of Fig 1

Power used for evaporation	1.7 %
Power lost in :	
* Radiation	0.3 %
* Back scattering of e^-	15. %
* Heat conduction	12. %
* Heat convection	71. %

4- EFFECT OF A MAGNETIC FIELD

The last section is devoted to the influence of an applied magnetic field on the evaporation rate. In Charlottesville Workshop (1992) , Couairon and Soubbaramayer have shown that an applied magnetic field decelerates the convective motion of the melt, very significantly in the volume of the pool, but much less on the upper free surface. As a consequence, a magnetic field reduces the power loss P_{conv} due to the thermal convection (more precisely the part of P_{conv} due to buyoancy). We give an approximate scaling law for this reduction, based on experiments with molten Gallium published by OKADO and OZOE. The resulting increase in the evaporation rate depends upon the evaporant, the electron beam and the intensity of the magnetic field. For illustration, an example of computation is presented in the case of a small gun of 5 KW evaporating cerium. A magnetic field of 0.5 to 1. Tesla increases the rate of evaporation by a factor 2 to 3 (Fig3)

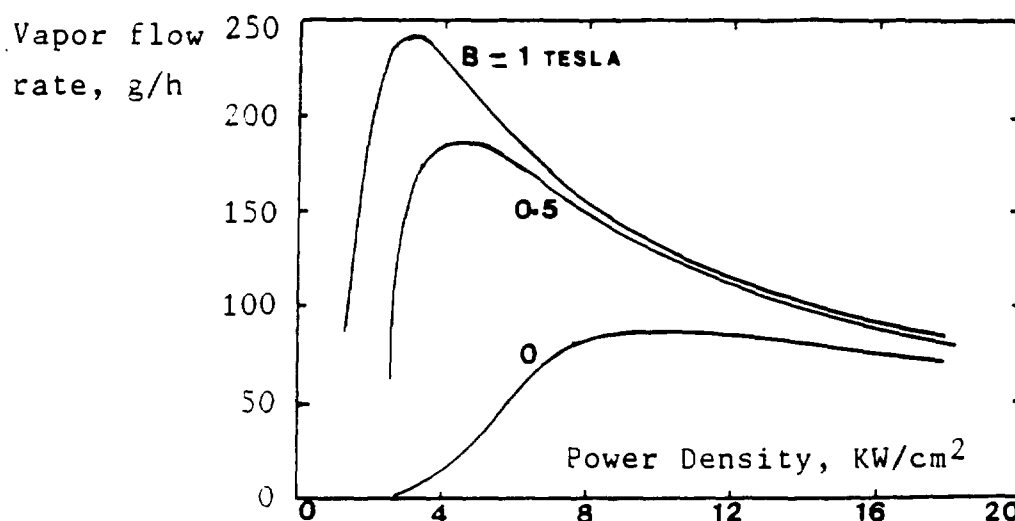


Fig 3 : Evaporation of Cerium with a 5 KW electron beam. Influence of a magnetic field on the vapor flow rate.

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Nomenclature

- B Magnetic field
 D Vapor flow rate per unit area
 g gravitational acceleration
 Ha Hartmann number
 h_c Depth of the crater on melt surface
 M Molar mass of the metal
 Ma Marangoni number
 Nu Nusselt number
 p_{sat} Vapor saturation pressure
 r Radial coordinate
 r_q Beam spot radius
 r_T Melt radius ($r_T = 4/3 r_q$)
 R Electron backscattering coefficient
 Ra Rayleigh number
 T Temperature on the melt surface ($T = T_F + \Delta T_m (1 - r^2/r_T^2)$)
 T_F Melting temperature

 α coefficient of the cubic expansion
 γ Surface tension
 γ_T Temperature coefficient of the surface tension
 ΔH Enthalpy of evaporation
 ΔNu Variation of the Nusselt number due to magnetic field
 ΔT_m Peak value of ($T - T_F$)
 ϵ Emissivity in heat radiation law
 κ Thermal diffusivity
 λ Thermal conductivity
 μ Dynamic viscosity
 ν Kinematic viscosity
 ρ Liquid mass density
 σ Stefan constant
 σ_{el} Electrical conductivity