EFFECT OF PIPE INCLINATION ANGLE ON GAS–LIQUID FLOW USING ELECTRICAL CAPACITANCE TOMOGRAPHY (ECT) DATA

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ABSTRACT

Pipes that make up oil and gas wells are not vertical but could be inclined at any angle between vertical and the horizontal which is a significant technology of modern drilling-Experimental data on time varying liquid holdup for θ ^{α} and 30° pipe inclination angles were analyzed and interpreted. Parameters such as void fraction, slug frequency, lengths of liquid slug, Taylor bubble and slug unit, structure velocity and pressure drop were calculated from the experimental data. It was observed that an increase in pipe inclination from 0° to 30° brings about a corresponding reduction in average void fraction. Moreover, there is no particular correlation that gave better results in the two inclination angles based on the drift -flux model considered. The results of the comparison between the pressure gradient concerned with the 0° and 30° pipe inclination angles considered in this study using the Beggs and Brill (1973) correlation showed that the total pressure gradient increases with an increase in pipe inclination as a consequence of an increase in both gravitational and frictional pressure gradient. This study has provided useful information of the effect of pipe inclination on void fraction distribution using electrical capacitance tomography (ECT) data.

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To my God who has been my glory and lifter-up of my head, I cannot thank you enough on this page, unto you be all the glory and honor forever more for bringing me this far. I could not simply have made it without you. My sincere gratitude goes to my supervisor Dr. Mukhtar Abdulkadir whose relentless effort has made this work a success, thank you sir for making it be. My next appreciation goes to my committee members Professor Wumi Iledera and Dr. Alpheus Igbokoyi; I appreciate your supports so much. To my parents and siblings especially my senior brother, Emmanuel Oteng, whose resources have made me come this far, may God reward you bountifully. I would not forget all the numerous friends and loved ones whose encouragements and supports saw me through my stay in AUST especially Deborah Boadu, when it looked impossible, you reminded me of the God under whose care there is nothing impossible; God richly bless you. Then to the Petroleum Engineering class of 2013/14, I say your support has been great. My gratitude goes to the multiphase flow in pipe group members for their unfailing support.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my parents and siblings, whose love, support and encouragement I can never forget.

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Chapter 1

1.1 Introduction

The simultaneous flow of several phases which may be a gas, liquid or a solid both in pipes and porous medium is referred to as multiphase flow. Brennen - (2005) defined multiphase flow as any fluid flow consisting of more than one phase or component. Multiphase flow has received both academic and industrial interest over the years because of its importance in nature and engineering applications.

Liquids transported in containers are subjected to splattering and unpredictable transient loads, which may affect the integrity of thin-shell containers, or make the transporting vehicle unstable Aydelott and Devol (1987). Typical practical situations where two-phase gas-liquid flow exists are in the nuclear, power, chemical and petroleum industries Brennen- (2005). For example, the calculation of pressure drop is reliant on the two - phase flow dynamics.

Multiphase flow in pipelines is a common occurrence in the petroleum industry Abduvayt (2003). According to Abduvayt (2003), multiphase flow in pipes which is known to be a common occurrence in the petroleum industry is usually conveyed through a single pipeline to storage facility since it is very expensive to separate the produced mixture of oil before transporting it. Multiphase flow exhibit several flow regimes in conduit depending on the gas and liquid flow rates and pipe inclination angle. Different inclinations will cause changes in the flow regime transitions and flow characteristics Kang et al. (1996).Measurement and prediction of liquid-gas multiphase flow regimes that occur in processing pipelines and wellbores are crucial to the petroleum industry. The understanding of the flow regimes is vital for engineers to

improve the configuration of pipelines and downstream processes to attain economic and safe design. Hence the ability to predict the multiphase fluid flow behavior of these processes is central to the efficiency and effectiveness of those processes Beggs (1973).

In the oil production systems, one component which has received much attention is the effect of pipe inclination on fluid flow, however there has not been enough experimental investigation using industry related fluids under various process conditions. The prediction of two-phase flow regimes in greater details with precision requires instrumentation that can measure and describe the flow within the pipes coupled with the use of more related industrial fluids. . This study seeks to investigate the effect of changing pipe inclination angle from 0° to 30° on gas-liquid flow using electrical capacitance tomography (ECT) data. The interest of this work is towards oil and gas industry applications.

1.2 Gas-liquid flow in inclined pipes

The multiphase mixture is transported through a single pipeline to a central gathering station. It is very expensive to separate the produced mixture of oil and gas. During this transport, several flow regimes occur depending on the gas and liquid flow rates. The distances the multiphase mixture must be transported are often long and the deviations from horizontal flow are always present. These changes in inclination cause changes in the flow regime transitions and flow characteristics, which have a definite effect on the corrosion rate experienced by these pipelines Kang and Jepson (2002). In offshore operations very long pipelines are used to reach separation facilities sited at nearby platform or onshore. Separators, piping components or slug-catchers are used to control flow and processing during production and transportation of oil and gas, Shoham (2006). The application of multiphase flows in the transportation of oil and gas through flow lines may be cost-effective for reservoir development. But, the hurdle to overcome is how to develop multiphase technology to transport oil and gas from subsea production units to processing facilities at nearby plat forms or onshore separating facilities Zoeteweij (2007).

The transportation of gas and liquid in conduits can lead to several topological configurations called flow patterns or flow regimes. This flow regime is usually observed when gas and liquid flow rates are sufficiently high. The simultaneous presence of gas and liquid in a pipe requires a more complex method of analysis than that applied to single phase flow problems. The composition variation of fluids inside this subsea flow line network can cause operational problems, such as non-continuous production or shut-down to damage equipment Beggs (1973).

Simultaneous production of gas-water and or oil-water mixtures may result in multiphase flow conditions in the flow line systems which connect the source to the production platform. As the production of the field progresses, the water content of the produced multiphase mixture increases to cause different mixture compositions, which affect the flow pattern and flow behavior Hernandez-Perez (2008).

As oil and gas reserves are being depleted in developed areas, activity is shifting to harsher and less accessible environments. This requires simultaneous transport of produced fluids to a landbased separation facility, with only minimal treatment offshore for such undesirable effects as corrosion, wax and hydrates Zheng et al. (1992).

Both the onshore and offshore cases can result in the simultaneous transport of oil and gas over long distances which require pipes which may be deviated from the horizontal Zheng et al., (1992). The accurate prediction of multiphase flow characteristics in these flow lines is required for the design, as well as the economical and safe operation of these transportation systems. Flow patterns are also dependent on the elevation profile of the pipeline Scott et al., (1990).For instance, flow patterns encountered in steeply inclined pipelines are different from those found in horizontal and near horizontal pipelines. The proper design of multiphase pipelines, together with downstream processing facilities, requires a thorough understanding of the behavior of multiphase flow in pipelines. As part of the scope of this study, this work seeks to evaluate the effects of pipe inclination and characterizing slug in pipes.

1.3 Problem statement

Pipes that make up oil and gas wells are not vertical but could be inclined at any angle between the horizontal and the vertical which is a significant technology of modern drilling Zheng et al., (1992). Although extensive research in two-phase flow has been conducted during the last decades but most of this research has concentrated on either horizontal or vertical flow. Several good correlations exist for predicting pressure drop and liquid holdup in either horizontal or vertical flow, but these correlations have not been successful when applied to inclined flow.

Moreover many gathering lines and long-distance pipelines in the petroleum industry passthrough areas of hilly terrain therefore, in order to predict pressure drop, the liquid holdup must be accurately predicted Singh et al. (1970).

The ability to predict liquid holdup also is essential for designing field processing equipment, such as gas liquid separators. Hence, in order to accomplish a reliable design of gas-liquid systems such as pipe lines, boilers and condensers, a prior knowledge of the flow pattern is needed.

1.4 Aim and Objectives

The aim of this research is to investigate the effect of pipe inclination on void fraction distribution. In order to achieve the aim the following objectives will be met

- 1.) To analyze raw experimental ECT data obtained from an experimental investigation carried out by Abdulkadir, (2011) using air-silicone oil mixture in a 67 mm diameter pipe inclined at 0° and 30 $^{\circ}$ from the horizontal.
- 2.) To characterize the hydrodynamics of slug flow both in the 0^{\degree} and 30^{\degree} pipe inclination via the determination of the following: the translational velocity, void fraction in the liquid slug, void fraction in Taylor bubble, length of liquid slug and Taylor bubble, the frequency of slugging and the pressure drop.

1.5 Structure of the thesis

The layout of this thesis is summarized as follows;

Chapter 1-Introduction- This Chapter provides an introduction to the thesis, defining the problem, aim and objectives of the study, methodology and the structure of the thesis.

Chapter 2-Literature Review - This chapter is concerned with review of published work on void fraction distribution in pipes. Flow pattern transition, maps and identification in vertical, horizontal and inclined pipes for two-phase flow was reviewed followed by void fraction

concept and correlations for inclined pipes. A pressure drop correlation for upward inclined twophase flows was also reviewed.

Chapter 3-Data Acquisition Setup - This chapter describes the experimental facility that was used to measure the time varying liquid holdup for this work.

Chapter 4-Results and Discussion- This chapter looks at the results obtained from the experimental flow facility and critical analysis of the results to achieve the objectives stated.

Chapter 5 - Conclusions and recommendations - This chapter brings together all the key conclusions from this work and provides some recommendations.

Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

Two-phase gas-liquid flow is a common phenomenon in nuclear reactors, chemical reactors, power generation, process industries and petroleum industries Abduvayt (2003). In multi-phase flow studies, gas-liquid flows are the most studied compared to other types of flow. The behavior of two-phase gas-liquid flow compared to a single phase flow of either a gas or liquid is significantly different. In order to predict and control two-phase flow behavior and its corresponding pressure drop, heat transfer and mass transfer characteristics, a good understanding of the hydrodynamics of the system is required. This chapter deals with the fundamentals of two-phase gas-liquid flows with emphasis on pipe inclination. It will also discuss flow pattern maps and the methods of their identification

2.1 Gas-liquid flow in inclined pipes

The study of two-phase gas- liquid flow in inclined pipes for the last few decades are summarized below, it outlines the experiment conducted and the parameters involved. Twophase gas–liquid flow was investigated in theoretical and experimental studies. Most data reported on flow pattern transitions have dealt with either horizontal or vertical tubes with only limited results reported for inclined pipes.

Sevigny (1962) conducted a comprehensive study of two-phase flow in inclined pipes. Air and water were the test fluids in 20 mm ID pipe with varying pipe inclinations. He found that pressure gradients are greatly affected by inclination angles.

Zukoski (1966) studied the effect of pipe inclination angle on bubble rise velocity in a stagnant liquid. He concluded that, depending on the pipe diameter, surface tension and viscosity of fluids

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may appreciably affect the bubble rise velocity. His findings also showed that for some conditions an inclination angle as small as 1° from the horizontal can cause the bubble rise velocity to be more than 1.5 times the value obtained for horizontal pipes.

A study of slug flow in inclined pipes was reported by Singh and Griffith (1970). They measured pressure drop and liquid holdup in pipe with diameters of 0.626, 0.822, 1.063, 1.368, and 1.600 in. (16-40 -mm), at inclination angles of plus and minus 10° and 5° from horizontal, and at 0° . Liquid holdup was found to be independent of inclination angle.

Bonnecaze et al. (1971) developed a model for two phase flow in inclined pipeline and claimed that pressure drop was a strong function of the liquid holdup in the slug unit.

Later, Beggs (1972) used a 50.8 and 62.9 mm ID pipe and carried out a study of inclination effects. He experimentally showed that liquid holdup was strongly affected by pipe inclination angle.

Mattar and Gregory (1974) conducted experiments to find the effect of inclination on slug velocity, holdup and pressure gradient. They found that for uphill pipe sections, slug flow was the predominant flow pattern, and for downhill pipe sections stratified flow dominated. They also observed that hydrostatic head for slug flow dictated pressure gradient in uphill sections.

Gould et al. (1974) published flow pattern maps for horizontal and vertical flow and for up-flow at 45[°] inclinations.

Later, Spedding and Chen (1981) experimentally studied pressure drop in two phase flow in inclined pipe corroborating the relationship between flow pattern and pressure drop.

In 1985, Barnea et al examined the effect of the inclination angle on the flow pattern transition boundaries by varying the inclination angle in small steps in the range of 0° to 90° . They found that small changes in the angle of inclination from the horizontal can have profound effects on

the flow patterns that exist. At very small inclination angles, the force of gravity acting in the flow direction can be of the order of the wall shear stress. On the other hand, small deviations from the vertical have little effect on flow patterns.

Kokal and Stanislav (1989) showed that the uphill-flow regimes were found to be similar to the horizontal-flow regimes except that very limited stratified flow was observed for uphill flows. The downhill-flow regimes on the other hand were found to be very different and more complex.

Xiao et al. (1990) developed a comprehensive mechanistic model for gas-liquid two-phase flow in horizontal and near-horizontal pipelines. The comprehensive mechanistic model incorporated flow pattern prediction capabilities. Separate models could then be used to calculate different flow characteristics like liquid holdup and pressure gradients. The model was validated with a comprehensive databank.

Roumazeilles et al. (1994) performed an experiment on downward simultaneous flow of gas and liquid in hilly terrain pipelines and injection wells. They developed most of the methods for predicting pressure drop in gas-liquid two phase flow in pipes for either upward vertical or upward inclined pipe. They investigated experimentally downward concurrent slug flow in inclined pipe via obtaining liquid holdup and pressure drop measurements for downward inclination angles from 0° to -30° at different flow condition.

Cook and Behnia (2000) presented a comprehensive treatment of all sources of pressure drop within intermittent gas-liquid flows. Calculated pressure loss associate with the viscous dissipation within a slug, and the presence of dispersed bubbles in a slug were accounted for, without recourse to the widely used assumption of homogenous flow. The results show that existing intermittent flow models predict pressure gradients considerably lower than were observed.

Colmenares et al. (2001) studied pressure drop models for horizontal slug flow for viscous oils. Their experimental results suggested that the slug flow region in the flow pattern map was enlarged when the oil viscosity increased. Experimental results from a 0.48 Pas viscous liquidgas two-phase flow also concluded that as liquid viscosity increased, slug frequency and liquid film holdup increased while the slug length decreased.

Lewis, et al. (2002) discussed utility of the hot-film anemometry technique in describing the internal flow structure of a horizontal slug flow pattern within the scope of intermittent nature of slug flow. It was shown that a single probe can be used for identifying the gas and liquid phases and for differentiating the large elongated bubble group from the small bubbles present in the liquid slug.

Zhang et al.(2003) developed a unified hydrodynamic model to predict flow pattern transitions, pressure gradient, liquid holdup and slug characteristics in gas-liquid pipe flows for all inclination angles (from -90° to 90° from horizontal).

Gokcal (2005) experimentally studied the effects of high viscosity liquids on two-phase oil-gas flow. He observed a marked difference between the experimental results and the model predictions. Intermittent slug and elongated bubble flow were the dominant flow pattern.

Later, Ribeiro, et al. (2006) compared new data on pressure drop and liquid hold-up obtained in a horizontal square cross-section channel against several existing correlations and models for gas liquid flow. The hold-up data were taken for conditions of wavy stratified and pseudo-slug flow. Pressure drop results were only obtained for wavy stratified flow.

Wongwises and Pipathattakul (2006) studied experimentally two phase flow pattern, pressure drop and void fraction in horizontal and inclined upward air–water two-phase flow in a mini-gap annular channel. They observed and recorded the flow phenomena, which are plug flow, slug flow, annular flow, annular/slug flow, bubbly/plug flow, bubbly/slug–plug flow, churn flow, dispersed bubbly flow and slug/bubbly flow by high-speed camera. Also a slug flow pattern was found only in the horizontal channel while slug/bubbly flow patterns are only in inclined channels. When the inclination angle was increased the onset of transition from the plug flow region to the slug flow region (for the horizontal channel) and from the plug flow region to slug/bubbly flow region (for inclined channels) shift to a lower value of superficial air velocity.

Gokcal (2008) later conducted an experimental study to develop closure relationships for twophase slug flow characteristics for high viscosity oils. The parameters that he considered include pressure gradient, drift velocity, translational velocity, slug length and slug frequency. All tests were conducted for horizontal flow and oil viscosities range from 0.181 Pas to 0.585 Pas.

Hernandez-Perez et al. (2010) studied the effect of pipe inclination on the internal structure of a liquid slug body at different pipe inclination angle from the horizontal to vertical. The working fluid employed in the experiment was air and water with a pipe diameter of 67 mm using WMS to take measurements. The superficial gas and liquid velocity are $0.2ms^{-1}$ and 0.7ms^{-1} , respectively. However, it was revealed in their work that void fraction distribution was strongly affected by pipe inclination, but does not strongly affect the bubble size distribution and they finally concluded that there exist a relationship between void fraction and bubble size distribution in a liquid slug body.

Arvoh et al.(2012) used a combination of gamma measurements and multivariate calibration to estimate multiphase flow mixture density and to identify flow regime. The experiments were conducted using recombined hydrocarbon. These were conducted at a temperature of 0° C and a 75-bar pressure. Two angles of inclination $(1^{\circ}$ and $5^{\circ})$ and two water cuts (15% and 85%) were investigated. The estimated mixture densities were accurate as compared with those from the single-energy gamma densitometer with a root mean square error of prediction of 13.6 and 9.7 $\frac{k}{m}$ $\frac{k_g}{m^3}$ for 1^o angle of inclination and 17 and 26.6 $\frac{k}{m}$ $\frac{k_g}{m^3}$ for 5^o pipe inclination. Flow patterns observed in upward inclined flow are quite similar to those observed in vertical upward flow, especially for near-vertical systems. They include bubbly and dispersed bubbly, slug, churn and annular flow in inclined systems.

Esam and Riydh (2013) studied flow pattern and pressure drop of gas–liquid flow in inclined pipe experimentally. The diameter of test section is 50 mm, and overall length of 4 m. The inclination angle of the test section is 30° . Air and water are used as working fluids. The experimental results showed that the inclination angle has a significant effect on the flow pattern transition and pressure drop. It was noted that the pressure decreases with distance along pipe when gas superficial velocity increased and also increased liquid superficial velocity. And the slug liquid appears when the fluctuation in pressure accrues. The liquid holdup decreased when increased gas superficial velocity and depends on the flow pattern.

2.2 Flow regime classification

The variation in physical distribution of fluid phases during multiphase flow through conduits or pipes is called flow regime (flow pattern). Numerous investigations have been carried out in identifying flow regimes and the transitions between them. Detailed reviews of earlier work which focuses on two phase flow patterns and pattern transition have been published by Govier and Aziz (1972), Hewitt (1982**)** and Delhaye et al. (1981). Recent experimental and semi theoretical studies reviews have been provided by Thomas and Collier (1994). In the simultaneous flow of two-phases in pipes, the fluids tend to exhibit a number of different flow regimes. The flow regime exhibited is dependent on the relative magnitude of flow rate, pipe diameter, pipe inclination angle and fluid properties (density and viscosity). In wellbores several different flow regime can exist due to the large pressure and temperature changes encountered during upward flow of fluids Mukherjee et al. (1999). Knowledge of the flow pattern is vital to define fluid mechanics in multiphase flow and also for successful operation in oil production from older subsea oil wells. Usually flow regimes are grouped under horizontal, vertical, and inclined pipes orientation. According to Legius (1997), multiphase flow in vertical pipes, exhibits; bubbly, slug, churn or annular flow patterns and in horizontal and in - inclined pipes, these flow patterns are extended to include smooth stratified, stratified wavy and plug flows.

2.2.1 Vertical flow regimes

In two-phase gas-liquid flow in pipes or channels, an interface exists between the phases. The phase boundary can take a variety of configurations, known as the flow pattern. The existing flow pattern in a given two-phase flow system depends on the operational parameters (gas and liquid flow rates), the geometrical variables (pipe diameter and pipe inclination angle), and the physical properties of both phases (gas and liquid densities, viscosities and surface tension) Elekwachi (2008). According to Beggs and Brill (1994), they described the four flow observed in gas-liquid flow in vertical pipe as bubble flow, slug flow, transition (annular-slug transition) flow and mist (annular-mist) flow. For upward multiphase flow of gas and liquid, the most described by Taitel et al. (1980) are namely- bubble flows, slug flow, churn flow and annular flow. These flow patterns, shown in Figure 2.1, are described in order of increasing gas flow rate.

Figure 2.1 -Upward vertical flow pattern- Taitel et al. (1980)

2.2.1.1 Bubble flow pattern- In the bubble flow pattern, the liquid phase almost completely fills the pipe and the gas is present in the liquid as small bubbles and is randomly distributed. The diameters of the bubbles vary randomly. At high gas flow rate, the number of bubbles in solution increases resulting in frequent collisions between the bubbles. This causes more bubbles to coalesce. Griffith and Wallis (1961) noted that the bubble/slug transition occurs at a void fraction of about 0.25 - 0.30.

2.2.1.2 Slug flow pattern- The gas phase is more dominant in the slug flow although liquid phase is still continuous. The gas bubbles merge with each other to form stable bubbles of almost equal shape and size which are approximately the same diameter of the pipe. These bubbles formed are called Taylor bubbles. Slug flow consists of successive Taylor bubbles and liquid slug which link the entire pipe cross section. In between the Taylor bubbles and the pipe wall there exist a thin liquid film, these film enters into the following liquid slug and produce a mixing zone aerated by small gas bubbles Taylor et al. (1950)-According to Jayanti and Hewitt (1992), four major theories have been proposed to explain the transition from slug flow to churn flow in vertical pipes. These mechanisms are entrance effect, flooding, wake effect and bubble coalescence mechanisms.

2.2.1.3 Churn flow pattern- Churn flow is chaotic flow of gas and liquid also referred to as froth flow and semi-annular flow is a highly disturbed flow of gas and liquid in which both the shape of the Taylor bubble and liquid slug are distorted by increase in the gas velocity which causes the liquid slug to become unstable, leading to its break-up and fall. This liquid merges with the approaching slug, which then resumes its upward motion until it becomes unstable and falls again. The alternating direction of motion in the liquid phase in irregular manner is typical of churn flow, Brill and Mukherjee (1999).

2.2.1.4 Annular flow pattern- Annular flow is also referred to as mist or annular-mist flow Duns and Ros (1963) and Aziz and Govier (1972). It is characterized by a central core of fast flowing gas and a slower moving liquid film that travels around the pipe wall. The shearing action of the gas at the gas-liquid interface generates small amplitude waves (ripples) on the liquid surface. By increasing the flow conditions beyond critical gas and liquid flow rates, large amplitude surges or disturbance waves occur.

Figure 2.2 Vertical flow patterns Abbas (2010)

2.2.2 Horizontal flow regimes

Two phase flow patterns in horizontal tubes are similar to those in vertical flows but the distribution of the liquid is influenced by gravity that acts to ensure the liquid is confined at the bottom of the tube and the gas at the top. Flow patterns for co-current flow of gas and liquid in a horizontal pipe are characterized as follows Taitel (2000)

2.2.2.1 Bubbly flow- The gas bubbles are dispersed in the liquid with a high concentration of bubbles in the upper half of the pipe due to their buoyancy. When shear forces are dominant, the bubbles tend to disperse uniformly in the pipe. In horizontal flows, the regime typically only occurs at high mass flow rates Loilier (2006).

2.2.2.2 Stratified flow- At low liquid and gas velocities, complete separation of the two phases occurs. The gas goes to the top and the liquid to the bottom of the tube, separated by an undisturbed horizontal interface. Hence, the liquid and gas are fully stratified in this regime Loilier (2006).

2.2.2.3 Stratified-wavy flow- Further increasing the gas velocity, these interfacial waves become large enough to wash the top of the tube. This regime is characterized by large amplitude waves intermittently washing the top of the tube with smaller amplitude waves in between. Large amplitude waves often contain entrained bubbles. The top wall is nearly continuously wetted by the large amplitude waves and the thin liquid films left behind Loilier (2006).

2.2.2.4 Plug flow- This flow regime has liquid plugs that are separated by elongated gas bubbles. The diameters of the elongated gas bubbles are smaller than the tube, such that, the liquid phase is continuous along the bottom of the tube below the elongated bubbles. Plug flow is also sometimes referred to as elongated bubble flow Taitel (2000).

2.2.2.5 Slug flow- At higher gas velocities, the diameters of elongated bubbles become similar in size to the channel height. The liquid slug separating such elongated bubbles can also be described as large amplitude waves Taitel (2000).

2.2.2.6 Annular flow- At even larger gas rates, the liquid forms a continuous annular film around the perimeter of the tube, similar to that in vertical flow but the liquid film is thicker at the bottom than the top. The interface between the liquid annulus and the vapor core is distributed by small amplitude waves and droplets may be dispersed in the gas core. At high gas fractions, the top of the tube with its thinner film becomes dry first, so that the annular film covers only part of the tube perimeter and thus this is then classified as stratified-wavy flow Taitel (2000).

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2.2.2.7 Mist flow- Similar to vertical flow, at very high gas velocities, all the liquid may be stripped from the wall and entrained as small droplets in the continuous gas phase (Thome, 2007). Taitel (2000) represents the different co-current flow regimes of gas and liquid that can be encountered in a horizontal pipeline

Figure 2.3 Flow- patterns- in- horizontal- gas-liquid -flows- Taitel (2000)

2.2.3 Flow pattern maps

A flow pattern map is a representation of the existence of flow patterns in a two dimensional domain in terms of system variables. They consist of flow regimes separated by transition lines and are gotten from the description and classification of the various flow patterns Omebere-Iyari (2006). The flow pattern that can be observed is dependent on- the fluid properties, flow rates, pipe diameter, pipe inclination angle, and operating conditions at ends of the pipe. The accurate prediction of the flow pattern existing under a given conditions is required, since every flow pattern has a unique hydrodynamic characteristics.

2.2.3.1 Baker flow pattern map

The first to recognize the importance of the flow pattern as a starting point for the calculation of pressure drop, void fraction, and heat and mass transfer was Baker (1954). He published the earliest flow pattern map for horizontal flow, presented below. To utilize this map, first the mass velocities of the liquid G_L -and vapor G_G -must be determined. Then the gas-phase parameter λ and the liquid-phase parameter *ψ* are calculated as follows:

 () () [() ()]

Figure 2.4 Baker (1954) flow pattern map for horizontal flow in a tube

Where ρ_G , ρ_L , μ_L and σ are the properties of the fluid and ρ_{Water} , ρ_{air} , μ_{Water} and σ_{Water} are the reference properties of air and water at standard atmospheric pressure and room temperature. The map shown in Figure 2.4 was developed based on air - water data. λ and ψ are standard dimensionless parameters that should take into account the variation in the properties of the fluid.

2.2.4 Flow pattern identification

Gas-liquid flow pattern can be identified by observing visually the flow in transparent pipes. But this has its own limitations and cannot be done all the time because; high gas and liquid flow rates will make visual observation impossible. Hence high speed photography is often used. The above two methods are not applicable in the industries because, actual industrial pipes are not

transparent, Hernandez-Perez (2008). Hubbard and Dukler (1966) also developed a method for flow regime determination, which employs spectral analysis to study the observed pressure fluctuations. The technique is based on the idea that, the gas-liquid flow patterns are characterized by fluctuations in wall pressure. The power spectral density (PSD) of digitized time response, gotten from a pressure transducer located flush to the wall of the flow pipe was calculated from autocorrelation method. Three types of power spectral distributions were obtained and used to group the various flow regimes measured for horizontal air-water pipe flows. These are shown in Figure 2.5, namely- (a) separated flows; containing a peak at zero frequency; this type of response is obtained from stratified and wavy flows, (b) dispersed flows; possessing a flat and relatively uniform spectrum and (c) intermittent flows; with a characteristic peak; this is obtained for plug and slug flows.

Figure 2.5 a, b, c Flow identification by power spectrum density of pressure gradient Hubbard and Dukler (1966). Adapted from Hewitt (1978)

This was the first effort to categorize flow patterns centered on proofs and was monitored by the studies carried out by Nishikawa et al. (1969) and Kutataledze (1972). Investigations by Tutu (1982) and Matsui (1984), analyzed the time variation of pressure gradient and pressure fluctuations, respectively. Tutu (1982) used the probability density distribution to identify the flow patterns observed in vertical flow systems. But, Keska and Williams (1999) established that the pressure system Tutu investigated did not offer a better flow pattern recognition method relative to capacitive and resistive systems. Vince and Lahey (1982) obtained a series of chordalaveraged void fraction measurements using a dual beam x-ray system for low pressure air-water flow in a vertical pipe. Their results were used to generate corresponding PDF and PSD functions of the recorded signals. They observed that the calculated moments were responsive to the velocity of the liquid phase. Jones and Zuber (1975) advocated the use of the photon attenuation technique, to measure the time-varying, cross-sectional averaged void fraction. This system used a dual x-ray beam device for a two-phase mixture of air and water, flowing vertically. It was observed that the probability density function (PDF) of the void fraction fluctuations shown in Figure 2.6 could be used as an objective and measurable flow pattern discriminator.

Figure 2.6 Flow pattern identification by probability distribution function of void fraction Jones and Zuber (1975)

Costigan and Whalley (1997) upgraded the PDF methodology of Jones and Zuber using segmented impedance electrodes and successfully grouped flow patterns into six: discrete bubble, spherical cap bubble, stable slug, unstable slug, churn and annular. Figure 2.6(a) to 2.6(f)

shows the Void fraction traces and corresponding PDFs of the six flow patterns respectively, from Costigan and Whalley (1997):

Figure 2.6 (a) a single peak at low void fraction is indicative of discrete bubble flow

Figure 2.6 (b) a single peak at low void fraction accompanied by a long tail is indicative spherical cap bubble.

Figure 2.6 (c) a double peak feature with the higher peak at low void fraction and the lower peak at a higher void fraction signifies stable slug flow

Figure 2.6 (d) a double peak feature with the lower peak at low void fraction and the higher peak at a higher void fraction signifies unstable slug flow

Figure 2.6 (e) a single peak at a high void fraction with a broadening tail is indicative of churn flow

Figure 2.6 (f) a single high peak at high void fraction is defined as annular flow

2.3 Tomographic techniques

Tomography is a non-invasive imaging technique allowing for visualization of the internal structure by the use of any kind of penetrating wave. Alternatively, the term tomography usually refers to a- technique that enables the determination of the density distributions in a cross-section of an object. A tomograph is a device used in tomography, while the-image produced is a tomogram. The two types of tomographic techniques are intrusive and non-intrusive. Shemer et al. (2006) describes the later method as it uses either a set of radiation attenuation measurements such as x-ray, γ-ray, sound waves or impedance measurements among various pairs of electrodes glued flush to the pipe surface. Kumar et al.(1995) used a computed tomographic scanner using γ-ray for measuring void fraction distribution in two phase flow system such as fluidized beds and bubble columns. Creutz and Mewes (1998) also employed an electro-resistance tomography to measure the concentration distribution inside a gas-liquid centrifugal pump. In addition, an x-ray tube and scintillating detectors were used by Kendoush and Sarkis (2002) for void fraction measurements.

In this thesis work, liquid hold up data obtained by Abdulkadir (2011) using an advanced nonintrusive tomographic measuring instrument called electrical capacitance tomography (ECT) was employed.

2.4 Void fraction

The fraction of the channel volume that is occupied by the gas phase is described as void fraction. The void fraction (ϵ) is one of the most important parameters used to characterize twophase flows. Void fraction could be measured by many methods such as quick-close valve, γ rays, x-rays, microwave, etc. ECT technology is prospectively useful because it is accurate, economical, non-intrusive, safe and fast. ECT is a kind of tomography process technology and provides a new way to solve the problems of void fraction measurement Li (2001).

However, it is a significant physical value for determining other numerous parameters such as two-phase flow viscosity and density. Void fraction data is also used for obtaining the relative average velocity of two-phases and also employed in models for predicting flow pattern transitions, heat transfer, interfacial area calculation and determination of pressure drop. In addition, literature reported various correlations for predicting void fraction and classified them in terms of their method and physics involved in deriving these correlations as flow dependent or flow independent.

2.4.1 Concept of void fraction

Void fraction is defined as the volume of space the gas phase occupies in a given two phase flow in a pipe- It is a key parameter which is used in estimating other parameters such as pressure drop, liquid holdup and heat transfer. In facilitating better understanding of void fraction, it is worthwhile to highlight some of the most common terminologies and definitions of parameters that would be encountered throughout this work. For a total pipe cross sectional area A ; the void fraction is given by

Liquid holdup is the complement of the void fraction in the pipe; it is the remaining volume of space occupied by the liquid phase. Thus, liquid holdup is

The quality of the mixture, X , in the isothermal flow case we are considering here is taken as the input mass of the gaseous phase to that of the total mixture mass of m, hence

$$
X = \frac{M_G}{M_M}
$$
... (2.5)

The slip ratio, S , is defined as the ratio of the actual velocities between the phases. A slip ratio of unity for a mixture being the homogeneous case where it is assumed that both phases travel at the same velocity. The slip ratio is defined as

The superficial gas U_{SG} , and liquid U_{SL} , velocities are defined as the velocities of the gas or liquid phase in the pipe assuming the flow is a single phase in either gas or liquid respectively. From the definitions given above and writing conservation of mass for each phase and total flow, we can define the relationships,

 () ()

2.4.2 Classification of void fraction

At a given point in the flow, the local fluid is either gas or one of the other phases. The probability of finding gas at a given point may be determined using local probes and is referred to as the local void fraction ε_{Local} - [Hewitt](http://www.thermopedia.com/authors/1/) et.al (1982). Thus $\varepsilon_{Local} = 0$ means when liquid is present and $\varepsilon_{Local} = 1$ when gas is present. Typically, the local time averaged void fraction cited, or measured using a miniature probe, which represents the fraction of time gas, was present at that location in the two-phase flow. If $PK_{(r,t)}$ represents the local instantaneous presence of gas or not at some radius r from the channel at time t, then $PK_{(r,t)} = 1$ when gas is present and $PK_{(r,t)} = 0$ when liquid is present. Thus, the local time-averaged void fraction is defined as

 ∫

The chordal void fraction $\epsilon_{chordal}$ is typically measured by shinning a narrow radioactive beam through a channel with a two phase flow inside, calibrating its different absorptions by the vapor and liquid phases, and then measuring the intensity of the beam on the opposite side, from which the fractional length of the path through the channel occupied by the vapor phase can be determined. The chordal void fraction is defined as

Where L_G is the length of the line through the gas phase and L_L is the length through the liquid phase" Thome (2004).

The cross- sectional void fraction ε_{C-S} is typically measured using either an optical means or by an indirect approach, such as the electrical capacitance of a conducting liquid phase. Also, it is the most widely used void fraction definition known as cross-sectional average void fraction which is based on the relative cross-sectional areas occupied by the respective phases. The cross-sectional void fraction is defined as

Where A_G is the area of the cross-section occupied by the vapor phase and A_L -is that of the liquid -Thome (2004).

Another measure is the volume-averaged void fraction. This can be interpreted as the fraction of volume of the reference volume occupied by the gas phase at time (t). The volumetric void fraction ε_{vol} - is typically measured using a pair of quick-closing valves installed along a channel to trap the two-phase fluid, whose respective gas and liquid volumes are then determined. The volumetric void fraction can be represented as

Quality (x) of a two-phase flow is defined as the ratio of the gas mass flow rate to the total mass flow rate but sometimes confused with void fraction definition. The quality is expressed in terms of mass and is a function of the phase density and void fraction. The quality (x) is given by

"However, another important definition in two -phase flow also confused with void fraction is the gas volumetric flow fraction denoted as β. It refers to the ratio of the gas volumetric flow rate over the mixture volumetric flow rate given by

Where Q_G - and Q_L – are the volumetric flow rates of liquid and gas respectively.

The major difference between void fraction and gas volumetric flow fraction is that, in void fraction, there is slippage in two- phase flow due to density difference whiles the later assumes that both phases move with the same velocity and hence known as void fraction in the homogeneous flow" Thome (2004).

2.4.3 The measurement principle

Void fraction can be measured by measuring the changes of material properties owing to the presence or absence of the gas. Some of the properties that can be used for checking the presence of gas and the corresponding sensors are as follows:

- Electrical impedance
- Impedance probe
- Refractive index
- Optical probes
- Density-(absorption coefficient)
- X-rays or gamma ray densitometers

2.5 Void fraction correlations for inclined pipes

The majority of the correlations developed for void fraction are for horizontal with very few for other inclination angles, the common one being upward. Categorizing the correlations along their applicability with regard to angle of inclination would not serve any purpose as most of them would fall under the horizontal case. Most of the data from which the correlations have been developed were from small pipe diameters, short length pipes in a laboratory setting with controlled, and relatively small mass flow rates while mixtures of air-water dominate with regard to the fluids considered Woldesemayat et al. (2007).

The correlation of Guzhov et al. (1967) which can handle the plug and stratified flow regimes in pipes with small inclination angles to the horizontal $(\pm 9^{\circ})$ is also considered here. The correlation is a function of the homogeneous void fraction and the mixture Froude number.

(())

Greskovich and Cooper (1975) developed a correlation from air- water data for inclined flows. It was noted that the data showed little diameter dependency above 2.54-cm but was considerably dependent on inclination angles.

 [()]

A general type of correlation given in a plot format by Flanigan-(1958) put into equation form by the AGA (American Gas Association) is considered. The correlation assumes that pipe inclination has no effect on void fraction and that it is only a function of gas superficial velocity. Gomez et al.(2000) developed a correlation for predicting liquid holdup for slug flow for horizontal, inclined and vertical orientations. The data covers pipe diameters between $5.1 - 20.3$ inches and the fluids considered were air, nitrogen, freon, water and kerosene. The liquid slug is seen to be dependent on the inclination angle, mixture velocity and viscosity of the liquid phase. They claimed surface tension has no significant effect on the holdup in comparison to the viscosity of the liquid. The equation is of the form

 ()

2.6 Drift flux correlations

This type of correlations are based on the work of Zuber and Findlay (1965) where the void fraction can be predicted taking into consideration the non-uniformity in flows and the difference in velocity between the two phases. This model is good for any flow regime. It has the general expression given by

)

Where- C_o is the distribution parameter and $U_{GM} = U_G - U_M$ is the drift velocity.

Kokal and Stanislav-(1989) correlated their air-oil experimental data in horizontal and near horizontal $(\pm 9^{\circ})$ pipe using the drift flux relation and recommended their correlation for all flow regimes. It is given as

 []

2.7 Pressure drop in two-phase inclined pipes

The ultimate goal in two-phase flow models is to calculate the total pressure drop that occurs in a two-phase flow system. The knowledge of pressure drop in a two-phase flow system is important for its design. It enables the designer to size the pump required for the operation of the flow system. The total pressure drop calculations along horizontal pipe consist of two componentsthe acceleration pressure drop in the mixing zone and the frictional pressure drop in the slug body.

In this work, the modified Beggs and Brill correlation stated below is used to calculate the pressure drop along the entire 6 meters pipe using experimental data - The general pressure drop equation is given as

$$
-\frac{dp}{dz} = \frac{g \sin \theta}{g_c} \left(\rho_L H_L + \rho_G (1 - H_L) \right) + \frac{f_m U_m^2 \rho_m}{2g_c d} + \frac{f_{mU_m} dU_m}{g_c dZ} \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \tag{2.21}
$$

Where g_c is a conversion factor to oil field unit

Whilst the new definition of the two-phase friction factor by Beggs and Brill (1957) is given by the following expression

$$
\frac{1}{\sqrt{f_m}} = -2\log\left[\frac{\varepsilon}{3.7065d} - \frac{5.0452}{R_{em}}\log\left(\frac{1}{2.8257}\left(\frac{\varepsilon}{d}\right)^{1.1098} \frac{5.8506}{(R_{em})^{0.8981}}\right)\right] \dots \dots (2.22)
$$

Where " ε " is the surface roughness, R_{em} is the mixture Reynolds number which can be calculated using the following relation.

As mostly stated in literature, mixture density and mixture viscosity are

 $\rho_m = \rho_L H_L + (1 - H_L)$

 $\mu_m = \mu_L H_L + (1 - H_L)$

After the calculation of the necessary parameters, the gravitational, frictional and accelerational pressure drops are calculated from which representative results in the form of graphs are presented in chapter four.

Chapter 3

DATA ACQUISITION SETUP

This chapter presents a summary of the data obtained from a series two-phase air-silicone oil flow experiment carried out on an inclinable rig by Abdulkadir (2011) at the L3 Laboratories of the department of chemical and environmental engineering at the University of Nottingham. An overview of the experimental facility, test fluids and capability of the flow facility presented.

3.1 Overview of the experimental facility

The experimental work was carried out on an inclinable pipe flow rig as shown in figure 3.1 and 3.2. The details of the experiment can be found in Abdulkadir (2011). Data collected from the experiments was done at laboratory temperature of 200° C and 1 bar of atmospheric pressure with the physical properties of the working fluids shown in table 3.1.

Figure 3. 1 The components of the rig (a) liquid pump (b) liquid tank (c) air-silicone oil mixing section (d) rotameters and (e) cyclone separator Abdulkadir (2011)

Figure 3.2 Experimental flow facility Abdulkadir (2011b)

3.2 System (test fluid)

The air-silicone oil system was selected for the reasons listed below (**Abdulkadir, 2011b**)

- It is not toxic, hence environmentally friendly, and reasonably less expensive.
- It has thermal stability and transfer qualities at both hot and cold extremes
- It is fire resistant
- It has good electrical insulation property
- It has no; odour, taste or chemical transference
- It is easily detected in acrylic pipe
- There are several proven techniques for its use and advanced instrumentation for liquid holdup or void fraction measurements.

Fluid	Viscosity	Density	Surface Tension	Thermal Conductivity
	$(kgm^{-1}s^{-1})$	(Kgm^{-3})	$(Nm-1)$	$(Wm^{-1}K^{-1})$
Air	0.000018	1.18		
Silicone Oil	0.00525	900	0.02	0.1

Table 3.1 Physical properties of air/silicon

Abdulkadir (2011b)

3.3 Parameters determined for this present study

In this present work the method of determination of characterization parameters presented by Abdulkadir *et a*l. (2014) is adopted. With the ECT data the following parameters were calculated

- Lengths of Taylor bubbles and liquid slugs
- Slug frequencies,
- The velocities of Taylor bubbles and liquid slugs
- Void fractions within the Taylor bubbles and liquid slugs

3.3.1 Translational or rise velocity of Taylor bubble (structure velocity)

Fundamentally translational velocity is given by

Where ΔL = the distance between the two ECT planes and Δt = time taken for the individual slugs to travel between the two planes.

3.3.2 Determination of the distance (∆L) between the two ECT planes

The planes are located at 4.4 m and 4.489 m above the mixer section at the base of the riser.

3.3.3 Determination of time delay

As the individual slugs pass between the two ECT planes as shown in figure 3.3, the time taken to reach the planes are recorded in the form of time series wave output signals. Cross correlating between these two signals gives the time delay a slug travels between the planes. Cross correlation for two linearly dependent time series, a and b is the average product of, $a - \mu_a$ and $b - \mu_b$. Where μ_a and μ_b are the mean of time series a, and b respectively. This average product is the co-variance of a and b in the limit as the sample approaches infinity. Hence for any time delay τ , the co-variance function between a (t) and b(t) is : $C_{ab} = E[{a(t) - \mu_a}]}b$ μ _b}]

 ∫[{ }{ }]

Where

 ∫

The correlation co-efficient is defined as follows

 √ √

These equations have been pogrammed as computational macro programme to determine the structure velocity of the liquid slug body, (Abdul-kadir *et al*. 2014).

Figure 3.3 Void fraction time series from the two ECT probes

3.3.4 Slug frequency

This is the number of slugs passing through a defined pipe cross-section in a given time period. The power spectral density approach (PSD) defined by Bendat and Piersol (1980) was used. PSD basically measures how the power in a signal changes over frequency. It is defined mathematically as the Fourier transform of an auto-correlation sequence. The PSD function is defined as follows

 ∫

3.3.5 Lengths of the slug unit, the Taylor bubble and the liquid slug

From the relation $U_N = \frac{L}{L}$ $\frac{su}{\theta}$ where L_{SU} is the length of slug unit, θ is the time for a particular slug to pass the probe. But frequency $\theta = \frac{1}{c}$ $\frac{1}{f}$...

Therefore $L_{SU} = \frac{U}{A}$ $\frac{r_N}{f}$...

The length of slug unit is therefore calculated from equation (3.8)

Again for an individual slug unit, assuming steady state so that the front and back of the slug have the same velocity

 $L_{SUi}=Kt_{SUi}\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ ...\ (3.9)$

Dividing equation (3.10) by equation (3.11) results in the following expression

But

Finally, substituting equation (3.13) into equation (3.14) and re-arranging results in the following expressions

The lengths of the liquid slug and Taylor bubble are estimated from equation (3.15) and equation (3.16) respectively.

3.4 Summary

This chapter has presented both the experimental facility and instrumentation used for measurements. It also includes the parameters that were needed in the analysis and discussion. The ensuing chapter deals with the processing of new raw data into required parameters and analysis of the results.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Analysis of length; liquid slug, Taylor bubble and slug unit

The measured velocities and slug frequencies, the mean length of each Taylor bubble, liquid slug and slug unit are presented here. The lengths of liquid slug and slug unit can be observed to increase as the gas superficial velocity increases, for a constant liquid superficial velocity for both the 0° and 30° pipe inclination angles. However, at lower constant liquid superficial velocities of 0.05 and 0.09-m/s the increment is not high in both the length of liquid slug and slug unit as shown in figures 4.1 and 4.2. It is interesting to notice that as gas superficial velocity increases to 2.14- m/s at both liquid superficial velocities of 0.28- m/s and 0.38- m/s both the 0° and 30° has the same- lengths of liquid slug and slug unit. But on the other hand, the length of the Taylor bubble did not depict the same trend as gas superficial velocity increases as shown in figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1 a plot of length of liquid slug against gas superficial velocity for various liquid superficial velocities

Figure 4.2 a plot of length of slug unit against gas superficial velocity for various liquid superficial velocities

Figure 4.3 a plot of length of Taylor bubble against gas superficial velocity for various liquid superficial velocities

It can be concluded therefore that at a given liquid flow rate, a strong relationship exist between the plot of lengths of liquid slug and slug unit against the gas superficial velocity for 0° pipe inclination angle but the relationship is not as strong as in 30° pipe inclination at lower liquid flow rate. However, when the gas superficial velocity increases, there is a corresponding proportional increase in lengths of liquid slug and slug unit at both higher liquid flow rate of 0.38-m/s and this may be attributed to an increase in bubble coalescence as a result of increasing gas flow rate. The length of the Taylor bubble was observed to reduce with an increase in gas superficial velocity for the 0° pipe inclination at all liquid flow rate considered not the same in the case of 30° pipe inclination angle. The above observation can be explained by the fact that, the frequency of the slugging upsurges with increasing gas superficial velocity. Also for a given flow condition, the slug length keeps fluctuating as a result of continuous interaction between the phases at the tail of the Taylor bubble. The above conclusions are similar to observation reported by Hernandez-Perez (2008) and Abdulkadir (2011).

4.2 Time and space average analysis

The ECT used in the experiment provides data that is resolved in time and about a cross-section with several levels of averaging in time and space. The mean void fraction is obtained from the liquid hold up and then by averaging the time series data from the ECT. The time and space averaged information results in a liquid holdup which is widely used in many engineering estimation of pressure drop, void fraction, interfacial area calculation and heat transfer. Figure 4.4 shows a plot of mean void fraction against gas superficial velocity for air/silicone at an angle of inclination of 0^{\degree} and 30^{\degree} for various liquid and gas superficial velocities. The figure shows that, at liquid superficial velocity of 0.05-m/s, the mean void fraction begins from 0.37 at a gas superficial velocity of 0.047-m/s extending to a maximum

value of 0.734 at gas superficial velocity of 4.727-m/s for an inclination of 0^{\degree} . On the other hand, for the 30^{\degree} pipe inclination, the average void fraction begins at 0.074 extending to a maximum value of 0.818 at gas superficial velocity of 4.727-m/s. It can be concluded therefore that an increase in pipe inclination from 0^{\degree} to 30^{\degree} brings about a corresponding reduction in average void fraction. However, the observed trend changes as the gas superficial velocity increases from 2.886 m/s thereby causing the 0^{\degree} inclination to have a lower average void fraction-In addition, for liquid superficial velocities of 0.09, 0.28 and 0.38-m/s, the initial average void fractions begins at - 0.08, 0.669 and 0.062, respectively for the 0^{\degree} inclination whereas it starts at 0.0576, 0.423, and 0.0404, respectively for the 30° pipe inclination. This observed trend is similar to what is obtainable for the 0^{\degree} pipe inclination at a liquid superficial velocity of 0.05- m/s where a decrease in average void fraction at the higher gas superficial velocity is seen. It can be concluded from the plots that, the trend of mean void fractions is the same for all the inclinations considered for this work. This may be due to the fact that an increase in the gas superficial velocity may increase bubble population there by bringing about an increase in average void fraction. The statement above confirms the conclusions of Hernandez-Perez et al. (2010) that the average void fraction distribution is strongly affected by pipe inclination, but does not strongly affect the bubble size distribution.

Figure 4.4 Effect of gas superficial velocity and angle of inclination on average void fraction at different liquid superficial velocity

4.2.1 Mean void fraction from empirical correlations

This section deals with estimation of average void fraction using empirical correlations which are mostly employed in the industry. Figure 4.5(a) and (b) shows a comparison of experimental ECT data with empirical models reported in literature. The empirical models considered are as follows- Guzhov et al.(2000), Greskovich & Cooper (1975), Flanigan (1958) , Gomez et al (2000), Kokal & Stanislav (1989), Zuber and Findlay (1965), Flanigan (1958) , Bonnecaze et al.(1971) and Clark &Flemmer (1985) .

Figure 4.5 (a) Experimental void fraction against empirical models for the inclination

Figure 4. 5 (b) Experimental void fraction against empirical models for the inclination

The mathematical relation used to estimate Average Root Mean Square (ARMS) is given by

 √ ∑

ARMS measure the data dispersion around zero deviation, in which; e is the difference between experimental and estimated data.

[]

Table 4.1 Average root mean square (ARMS) of empirical correlation for the 0^o and 30^o pipe inclination angles

Figure 4.6 RMS of empirical correlation

The correlations used are based on the drift-flux model explained in detail in Chapter two. It is interesting to know that there is no particular correlation that gave better results in the two inclination angles considered in this work. It is worth mentioning that a general type correlation given by Flanigan-(1958) assumes that pipe inclination has no effect on average void fraction.- However, as can be noticed from Table 4.1 the RMS values are 5.02-% and 6.09-%, respectively for the inclination angles considered. Most of the correlations that are used in the industry does not take into consideration pipe inclination. The very few that take into consideration angle of inclination are Greskovich and Cooper (1975) and Gomez et al. (2000). It is however interesting to know that for the Greskovich and Cooper (1975) correlation the RMS is lower for 0^{\degree} inclination and then increases to 13.95-% for the 30° inclination angle. These deductions can be attributed to the conditions under which the researcher's experiments were performed. However, the general correlation given by Zuber and Findlay (1965), Kokal and Stanislav (1989) gave a good results for the 0° inclination.-This can be likened to the various conditions under which each of the researchers conducted their experiment. Though these correlations- did not take into consideration angle of inclination but rather drift flux.

4.3 Void fraction analysis

Void fraction (ε) is an important parameter to characterize two phase flow. It is used to determine parameters such as two-phase density, two-phase viscosity, and average velocity among others. It can be seen from figure 4.7 that the void fraction in the liquid slug is directly proportional to the gas superficial velocity for a constant liquid superficial velocity for both 0^{\degree} and 30 \degree pipe inclination angles. However at 2.4-m/s, gas superficial velocity both \degree and pipe inclination angles have the same average void fraction in the liquid slug. This may be due to the fact that any increase in the gas flow rate may increase bubble formation, hence causing an

increase in the average void fraction. This is a confirmation made by researchers like Nicklin et al. (1962) and Mao and Dukler (1991). On the other hand, the liquid flow rate has a minimal influence on the void fraction in the liquid slug. In the case of the void fraction in the Taylor bubble it can be seen from figure 4.8 that the void fraction in the Taylor bubble increases as the gas velocity increases for both 0^{\degree} and 30^{\degree} pipe inclination angles. It was noted that, the void fraction in the Taylor bubble fluctuates in both 0^{\degree} and 30^{\degree} pipe inclination for all the liquid superficial velocities considered. It was also observed that, increasing gas flow rate resulted in more bubbles formation in the liquid slug, which may eventually coalesce with the Taylor bubble hence increases its void fraction. It is worthy of mention that a decrease in void fraction may occur when there is a collapse of Taylor bubble signifying a transition to a spherical cap bubble.

Figure 4.7 a plot of void fractions in the Taylor bubbles against gas superficial velocity for various liquid superficial velocities

Figure 4.8 a plot of void fractions in the liquid slug against gas superficial velocity for various liquid superficial velocities

4.4 Pressure drop

Pressure drop is an important parameter in pipeline design. It is an essential variable for the determination of the pumping energy for a given flow. The diversity of techniques used by different authors to present two-phase flow pressure drop indicates, that pressure drop in twophase flow can depend on a significant number of variables such as gravity. The effect of gravity on pressure drop is intuitive. Figure 4.9 and 4.10 shows a plot of frictional, accelerational and gravitational pressure gradients for 0^{\degree} and 30^{\degree} pipe inclination angles determined using the Beggs and Brill (1973) correlation.

Figure 4.9 Influence of gas superficial velocity on gravitational and frictional pressure gradient

Figure 4.10 Influence of gas superficial velocities on the accelerational and total pressure gradient

Figures 4.9 and 4.10 clearly indicates that for the 0^{\degree} inclination angle, the main contributor to the total pressure gradient is the frictional shear stress and acceleration component, which is dependent on the mixture density, which in turn is a function of the in-situ volume fraction or liquid holdup. However, there is an increase in total pressure gradient when the inclination angle increases from 0^{\degree} to 30^{\degree} as depicted from the above Figure 4.9 and 4.10.

It is interesting to note that for a given liquid superficial velocity, there is no great effect in both the frictional and acceleration pressure gradient as gas superficial velocity increases in the two inclination angles considered. However, in the case of the gravitational component there exist increase in pressure gradient as both gas and mixture superficial velocities increases. This contributes to the overall total pressure gradient predicted in the angles considered in this experiment. Mattar and Gregory (1974), Spedding and Chen (1981), Barnea et al (1985), Roumazeilles et al. (1994) concluded in their work that larger bubbles are formed due to coalescence, which causes a decrease in the liquid velocity due to higher level of liquid holdup, hence increasing the frictional pressure gradient.

4.5 Structure velocity

A cross-correlation was performed between the time varying void fraction data measured by the twin ECT-planes positioned at 4.400 m and 4.489 m above the mixing chamber at the bottom of the riser. The evaluation of the time delay for individual slug to travel from ECT-plane-1 to ECT-plane-2 facilitated the computation of the translational velocity. A plot of structure velocity is plotted against mixture superficial velocity (where $U_m = U_{SL} + U_{SG}$) as shown in Figure 4.12. A comparison between the structure velocities obtained

from experiment and two major correlations is also presented here . The two correlations Bediksen (1984) and Nicklin et al. (1962) are $UN = 1.2Um + 0.54\sqrt{gD}$ and $UN = 1.2Um +$
$0.35\sqrt{g}D$, respectively- Where, U_m is the mixture velocity, g is the acceleration due to gravity and D is the pipe diameter.

Figure 4.11 shows that both the Nicklin et al. (1962) and Bendiksen (1984) correlations predict well for both the 0° and 30° inclination angles, even though the correlation of Nicklin et al. (1962) as reported in the literature to be applicable to vertical pipes. Interestingly, in this study this correlation has been able to predict structure velocity close to the general Bendiksen correlation for predicting structure velocity-for all pipe orientations.

4.6 Flow pattern map

Flow pattern map determines the transition boundaries between the different flow pattern regions as a function of the gas and liquid superficial velocities. In predicting the flow pattern map using Shoham (2006) computer codes, the fluid properties consisting of density, viscosity and surface tension were specified in the input data interface. The pipe geometry was also specified by diameter, angle and absolute roughness with the interface also specified as smooth. The calculated boundaries are then plotted in the form of a flow pattern map using U_{sg} and U_{sl} as coordinate system. The operating point will be overlaid on the general flow pattern map and the existing flow pattern can be observed on the map. Figure 4.12 (a) and (b) show the flow pattern map generated for 0^{\degree} and 30^{\degree} pipe inclination angle. The model adopted here was based on Taitel *et al.* (1980) for bubbly/slug transition. Moreover, slug flow was the most dominant flow pattern as observed in both inclination angles, characterized with occurrence of Taylor bubbles. The other models that could be adopted for other flow regimes are Jayanti and Hewitt (1992) or Watson and Hewitt (1999) model based on slug and churn flow transition. The flow rates at which the experiment was carried out by Abdulkadir (2011a) for liquid and gas superficial velocity were in the range of $0.05 \text{m/s} \leq U_{\text{SL}} \leq 0.38 \text{m/s}$ and $0.047 \text{m/s} \leq U_{\text{SG}} \leq 4.727 \text{m/s}$ respectively

Figure 4.12 (a) and (b)Shoham (2006) flow pattern map for 0° and 30° air/silicone **mixture**

From the flow pattern map shown in figures $4.12(a)$ and (b) at 0° inclination most of the data points were between stratified smooth flow and slug flow regions at liquid velocity between 0.05 to 0.38- m/s. The data points that fell in the slug region can be attributed to the increase in liquid velocity from 0.28 to 0.38 -m/s. However, for the pipe inclined at 30 \degree to the horizontal all the data points fell in the region of slug flow as seen in figure 4.12 (b) at the same conditions. This confirms at very small inclination angles, the force of gravity acting in the flow direction can be of the order of the wall shear stress. This interesting observation is in agreement with the conclusions made by Barnea et al (1985) in their work. This also confirms the conclusions made by Mattar and Gregory (1974) that for uphill pipe sections, slug flow was the predominant flow pattern.

4.7 Probability density function (PDF)

PDF reveals information about the frequency of occurrence of each void fraction through amplitude and time variation. Figure 4.13 shows a series of curves at different gas superficial velocities with a constant liquid superficial velocity of 0.38 m/s. Discrete random variables can be plotted in a histogram which shows the frequency (on the ordinate) as a function of some measured parameter (on the abscissa for a given class width). The frequency distribution is then a collection of classes which are of equal size and cover the entire range of data without over lapping. The PDF with a high and a low peak indicate slug flow. However, they are not clear as those of Costigan and Whalley (1997) and Omebere-Iyari and Azzopardi (2006) who worked with pipes of smaller internal diameter than the present work. Khatib and Richardson (1984) and Costigan and Whalley (1997) proposed that twin peaked probability density function (PDFs) of recorded void fractions represented slug flow. The low void fraction peak corresponds to liquid slug while the high void fraction peak is for the corresponding Taylor bubble.

Figure 4.13 PDF for 0° and 30° pipe inclination

4.8 Frequency

Gregory and Scott (1969) developed a much used correlation for slug frequency prediction based on the data by Hubbard (1965). The methodology of power spectral density (PSD) was used to determine the dominant frequency. Details of PSD can be found in Hubbard and Duckler (1966). The outputs from the measuring instruments were analyzed and their plots were compared for various inclination considered in this work as shown in figure 4.14 for various liquid superficial velocities using ECT.

Figure 4.14 Effect of gas superficial velocity and angle of inclination on frequency for various liquid superficial velocity

Figure 4.14 shows that at constant liquid superficial velocity of 0.05 -m/s and 0° inclination there is a constant frequency of 0.0166-Hz for the range of U_{sa} considered. However, in the case of 30[°] inclination angle there is a decrease in frequency from 1.9 - 0.86- Hz at the same constant liquid superficial velocity. Increasing the liquid superficial velocity from 0.05-0.38 m/s brings about an increase in frequency for the 0° and 30° inclination angles.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this work an extensive study of effect of pipe inclination has been presented. Liquid holdup, pressure drop, structure velocity and frequency for different inclination angles and flow rates were estimated using experimental data. These data were then analyzed. The analysis was carried out by varying liquid and gas velocities and inclination. This has given a good insight into the phenomena that occur in inclined pipes. The summarized points below in this chapter give the final conclusions drawn from this study. Further work is also proposed, in order to improve and expand the knowledge of multiphase flow in inclined pipes.

5.1 Conclusions

- Pipe inclination effect has been successfully investigated using ECT instrument. From the analysis made in chapter four it can be concluded- that pipe- inclination has some effects on the gas-liquid flows. The lengths of the Taylor bubbles, and the slug units were found to increase with increasing gas superficial velocity. Though, the length of the liquid slug was found to be varying due to a coalescence of the dispersed bubbles from the wake of a Taylor bubble.
- The slug frequency was found to generally decrease with increasing gas superficial velocity at lower liquid superficial velocity. However, at higher liquid superficial velocities, the slug frequency increases with increasing gas superficial velocity.
- Beggs and Brill (1973) correlation for pressure gradient prediction was used to calculate the pressure gradient in this study. The correlation predicts that as the pipe inclination increases

from 0° to 30 $^{\circ}$ there is a general increase in gravitational, frictional and acceleration pressure drop, hence an increase in the overall total pressure drop.

- In this work none of the void fraction correlation predicted perfectly for both the 0° and 30° pipe inclination. However,-Guzhov et al. (1967) and Flanigan (1958) are the best performing correlation based on the drift flux model for both inclination.
- A linear relationship was obtained between structure velocity and mixture superficial velocity. A comparison of this data with the empirical relationships proposed the Nicklin et al. (1962) and Bendiksen (1984) correlations predict well for both the 0° and 30° inclination angles. Even though the correlation of Nicklin et al. (1962) as reported in the literature to be applicable to vertical pipes.

5.2 Recommendations

- A similar comparative analysis should be carried out on the effect of pipe inclination onvoid fraction distributions for inclinations higher than 30° .
- Investigating the effect of fluid properties (density, viscosity, and surface tension) would be of particular interest in the oil and gas industry applications where liquids and gases have different properties.
- Finally, computational fluid dynamics should be employed to validate the void fraction distribution in pipe inclination.

NOMENCLATURE

Greek Letters

S Superficial

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A DATA TEST MATRIX FOR 67mm 0^o PIPE INCLINATION

APPENDIX B DATA TEST MATRIX FOR 67mm 30^oPIPE INCLINATION

PRESSURE GRADIENT

CORRELATION PREDICTION FOR mm 0° PIPE INCLINATION

APPENDIX D BEGGS AND BRILL (1973) CORRELATION FOR

PRESSURE GRADIENT

CORRELATION PREDICTION FOR 67mm 30o PIPE INCLINATION

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