NOVEL THERMAL CONTROL CONCEPTS USING MICRO HEAT PIPES - SPACECRAFT THERMAL CONTROL

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? MICRO HEAT PIPE CONCEPTS ? Wire Bonded Micro Heat Pipe ? Polymer Micro Heat Pipe ? EXPERIMENT FACILITY

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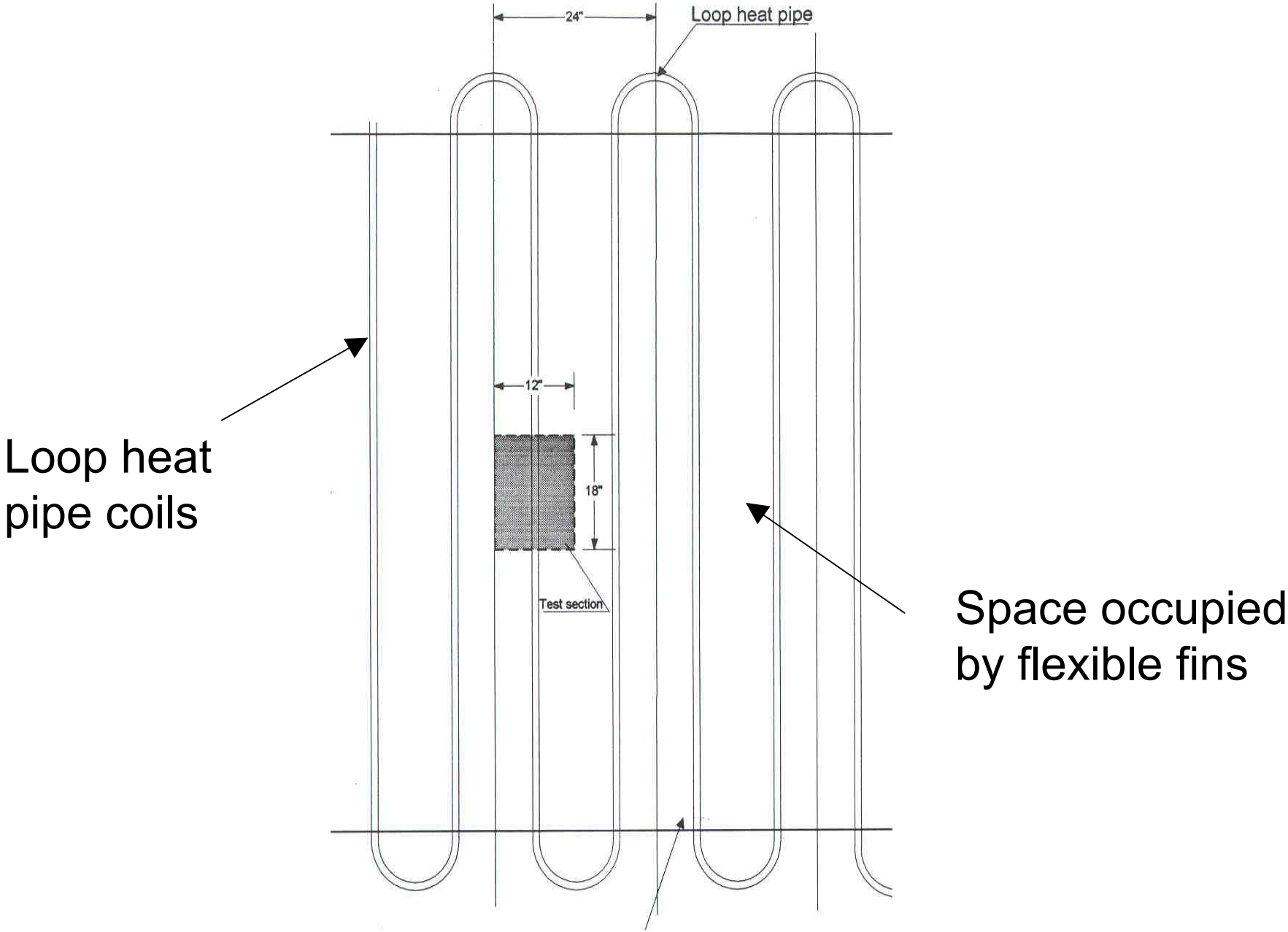
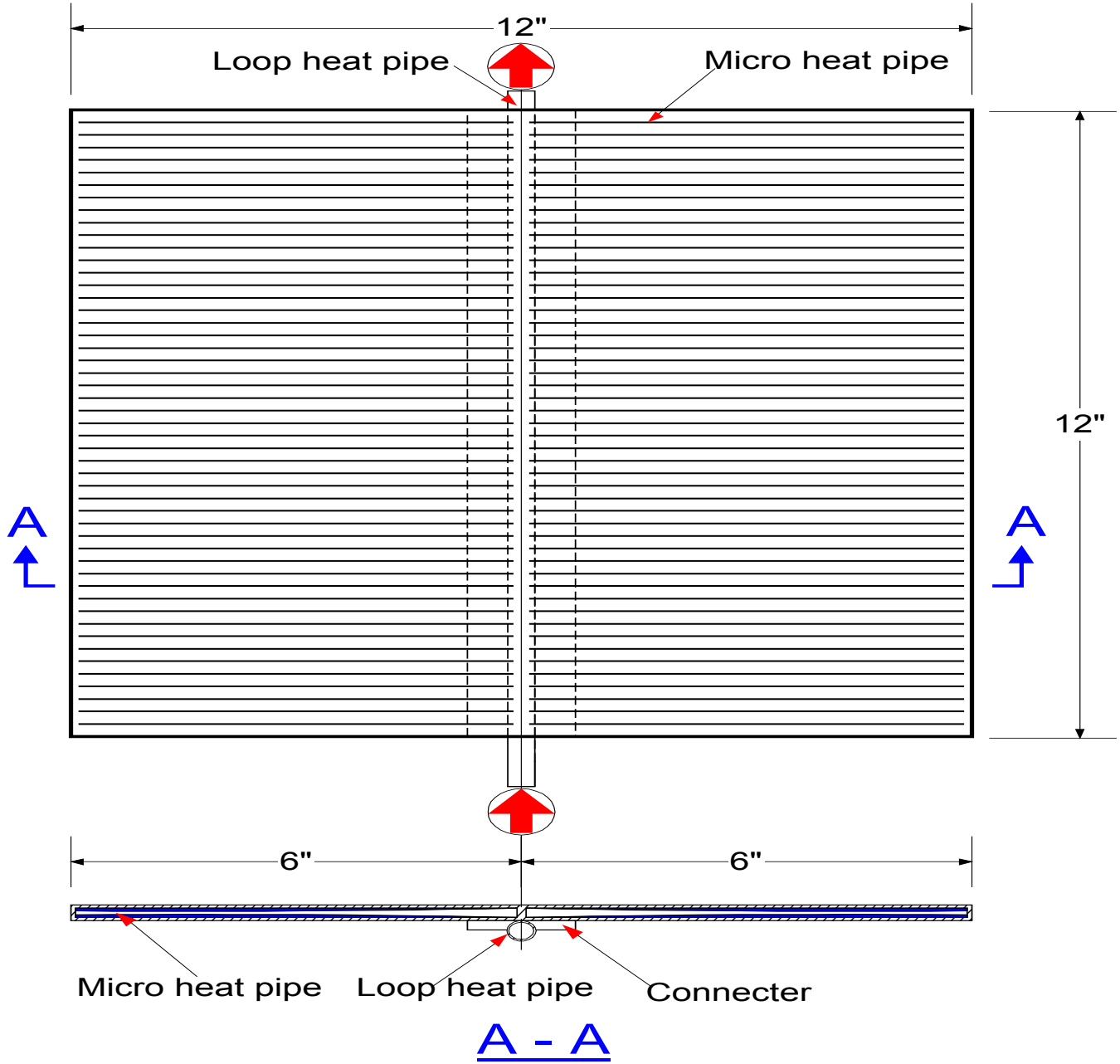
Introduction

- **BACKGROUND**
- **MICRO HEAT PIPE CONCEPTS**
  - **Wire Bonded Micro Heat Pipe**
  - **Polymer Micro Heat Pipe**
- **EXPERIMENT FACILITY**
- **RESULTS & DISCUSSION**
- **CONCLUSIONS**


24"
Loop heat pipe
12"
18"
Test section
Loop heat pipe coils
Space occupied by flexible fins

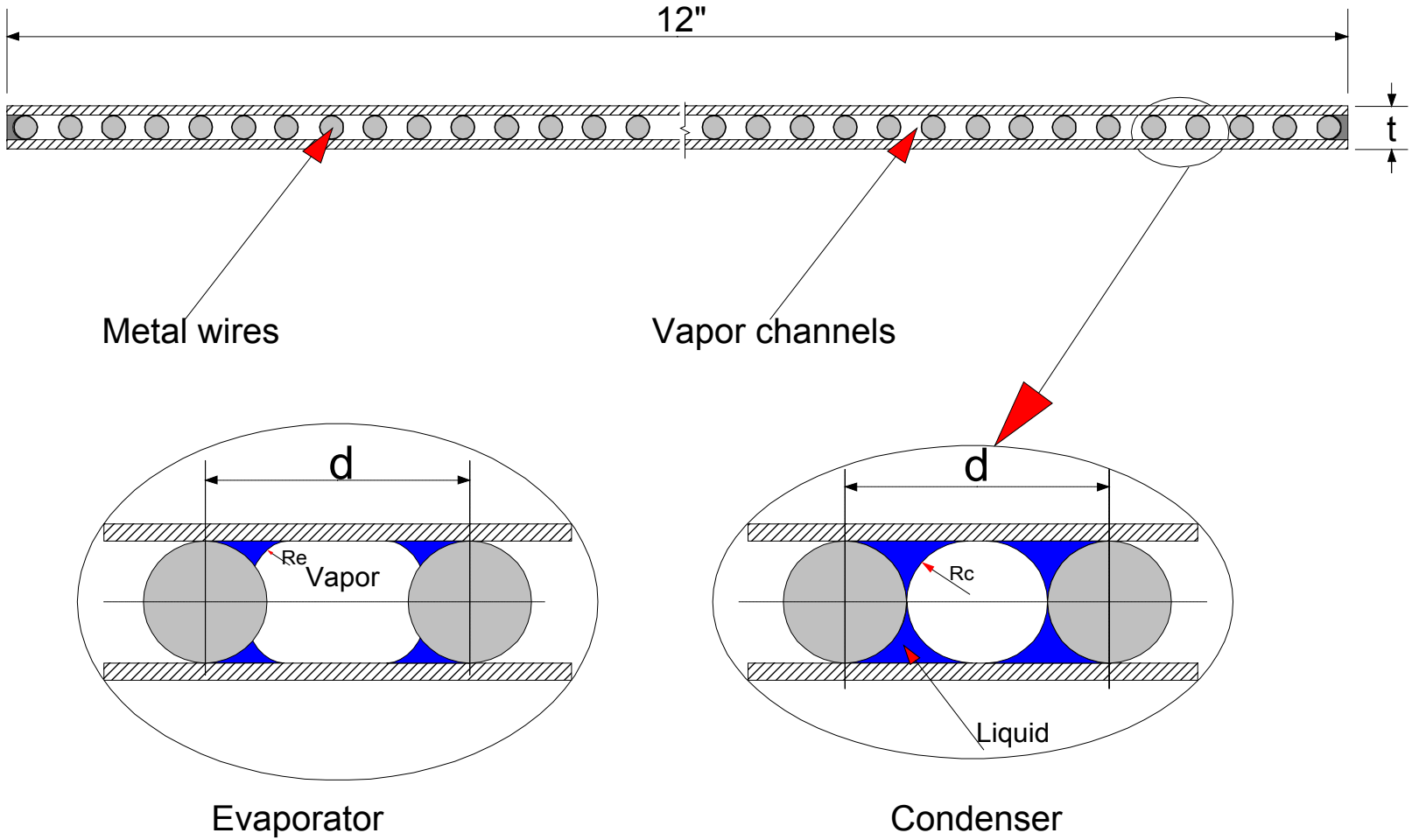

12"
Loop heat pipe
Micro heat pipe
12"
A
A
6"
6"
Micro heat pipe
Loop heat pipe
Connecter
A - A

Initial Concepts

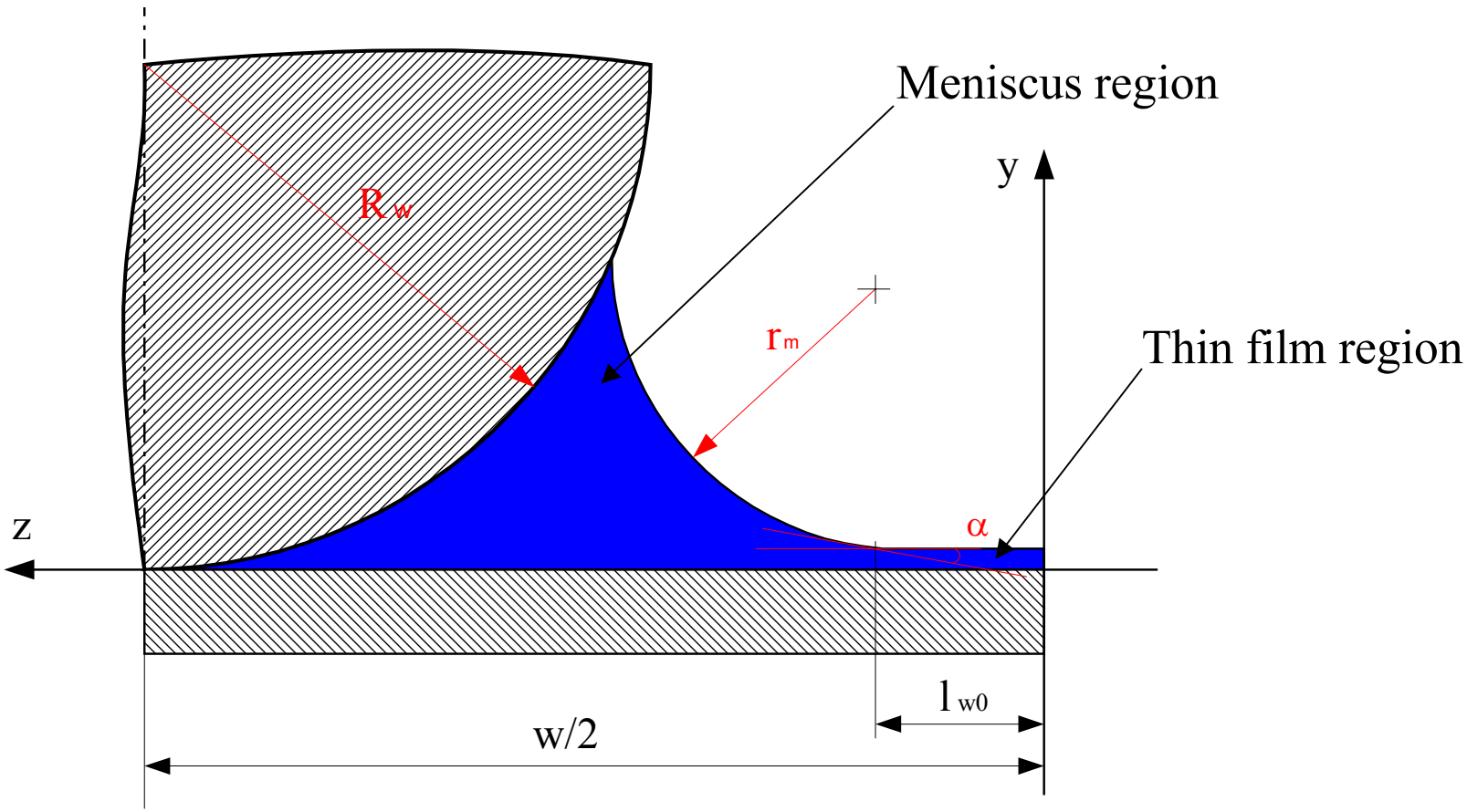
From an initial group of six concepts, the following were selected for further study

- **Wire bonded heat pipe array**
- **Flexible Polymer Heat Pipe**

Flexible Wire Bonded Micro Heat Pipe



Liquid Distribution



Geometric Parameters

$$\beta_1 + \beta_2 + \alpha = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$R_w \sin^2 \beta_1 = r_m \cos \beta_1 \sin \beta_2$$

$$\beta_1 = a \tan\left[\frac{1}{2R_w}\left(-r_m \sin\alpha + \left((r_m \sin a)^2 + 4R_w r_m \cos\alpha\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)\right]$$

$$A_{c,l} = 2R_w r_m \sin\beta_1 \sin\beta_2 - R_w{}^2(\beta_1 - \sin\beta_1 \cos\beta_2) - r_m{}^2(\beta_2 - \sin\beta_2 \cos\beta_2)$$

$$A_{c,v} = R_w(2w - \pi R_w) - 4A_{c,l}$$

$$l_{ac} = 2R_w \beta_1$$

$$l_{ab} = \left[(r_m \sin\alpha)^2 + 4R_w r_m \cos\alpha\right]^{\frac{1}{2}} - r_m \sin\alpha$$

$$l_{cb} = 2r_m \beta_2$$

Fluid Flow Model

Continuity Equations

$$\frac{d(u_l A_{c,l})}{dx} - v_{l,i} p_i = 0 \qquad \frac{d(u_v A_{c,v})}{dx} - v_{v,i} p_i = 0$$

Momentum Equations

$$-\rho_l (2A_{c,l} u_l \frac{du_l}{dx} + u_l^{\ 2} \frac{dA_{c,l}}{dx}) - A_{c,l} \frac{dP_l}{dx} + p_{l,i}\tau_{l,i} + p_{l,w}\tau_{l,w} - g\rho_l A_{c,l} \sin\theta = 0$$

$$\rho_v (2A_{c,v} u_v \frac{du_v}{dx} + u_v^{\ 2} \frac{dA_{c,v}}{dx}) + A_{c,v} \frac{dP_v}{dx} + p_{v,i}\tau_{v,i} + p_{v,w}\tau_{v,w} + g\rho_v A_{c,v} \sin\theta = 0$$

Energy Equations

$$v_{l,i} = \frac{q''w}{2\rho_l p_{l,i} h'_{fg}} \qquad v_{v,i} = \frac{2wq''}{\rho_v p_{v,i} h'_{fg}}$$

Fluid Flow Model

The condenser exposed in radiation:

$$q_c'' = h_{c,o}(T_v - T_{\sin k})(1 + \frac{h_{c,o}}{\overline{h_c}})^{-1}$$

$$h_{c,o} = \varepsilon\sigma_0(T_{w,o} + T_{\sin k})(T_{w,o}{}^2 + T_{\sin k}{}^2)$$

$$v_{v,i} = \frac{2wh_{c,o}(T_v - T_{\sin k})\left(1 + \frac{h_{c,o}}{\overline{h_c}}\right)^{-1}}{\rho_v p_{v,i} h_{fg}}$$

In the adiabatic section:

$$q_a'' = 0$$

In the evaporator section:

$$q_e'' = cons\tan t$$

$$v_{l,i} = \frac{wh_{c,o}(T_v - T_{\sin k})\left(1 + \frac{h_{c,o}}{\overline{h_c}}\right)^{-1}}{2\rho_l p_{l,i} h_{fg}}$$

Heat Transfer in the Evaporator

Heat transfer in evaporating film:

$\Delta Q_1 = 0$

$$\Delta Q_{2+3} = \int_0^{z_2'} \frac{T_{w,i} - T_v}{\dfrac{1}{h_{ph}} + \dfrac{\delta(z')}{k_l}} dz'$$

$$\Delta Q_{2+3} = \int_0^{z_2'} \frac{T_{w,i} - T_v}{\dfrac{1}{3.2\rho_v h_{fg}} \left(\dfrac{T_v}{R_g}\right)^{0.5} + \dfrac{\left(\delta_0 - r_m + \left(r_m^{\ 2} + z'^2\right)^{0.5}\right)}{k_l}} dz'$$

$$\Delta Q_4 = \int_{z_2'}^{2r_m \sin\beta_1 \sin\beta_2} \frac{(T_{w,i} - T_v)}{\left(1/h_{ph} + z'^2/2r_m k_l\right)} dz'$$

$$\bar{h}_{ph} = 3.2\rho_v h_{fg} \sqrt{\frac{R_g}{T_v}}$$

$$= 1.41(T_{w,i} - T_v)(h_{pc} k_l r_m)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[\frac{\pi}{2} - a\tan\left(\frac{h_{ph}\delta_2}{k_l}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right]$$

$$h_{e,men} = \frac{\Delta Q_{2+3} + \Delta Q_4}{\left(T_{w,i} - T_v\right) l_{ab}}$$

$$\bar{h}_e = \left\{\left[\frac{2l_{ab}}{w} h_{e,men}\right]^{-1} + \frac{t_w}{k_w}\right\}^{-1}$$

$$T_{w,o} = T_{\sin k} + \frac{T_v - T_{\sin k}}{h_{o,e}} \left(\frac{1}{h_{o,e}} + \frac{1}{\bar{h}_{i,e}}\right)^{-1}$$

Heat Transfer in the Condenser

The thickness of the condensed liquid film:

$$-\frac{\sigma\delta^3}{3\nu_l}\frac{d^3\delta}{dz^3} = \frac{k_l\,(T_{sat}-T_w)}{h_{fg}}\int_0^z \frac{1}{\delta}dz$$

B.C: $\left.\frac{d\delta}{dz}\right|_{z=0} = 0$ $\quad \left.\frac{d^3\delta}{dz^3}\right|_{z=0} = 0$

$\left.\frac{d^2\delta}{dz^2}\right|_{z=l_{w0}} = \frac{1}{r_m}$ $\quad \left.\frac{d\delta}{dz}\right|_{z=lw0} = \tan\alpha$

Assuming the thickness of liquid film:

$$\frac{\delta}{w} = C_0 + C_1\frac{z}{w} + C_2\frac{z^2}{w^2} + C_3\frac{z^3}{w^3} + C_4\frac{z^4}{w^4}$$

$$\bar{h}_{c,f} = \frac{k_l}{\bar{\delta}}$$

$$\bar{h}_{c,f} = \frac{k_l}{wC_0} = \left[\frac{h_{fg}\rho_l\sigma k_l^{\,3}(l_{w0}/r_m - \tan\alpha)}{\mu_l l_{w0}^{\,3}(T_v - T_w)}\right]^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

Heat Transfer in the Condenser

Film thickness of the liquid meniscus:

$$\delta = \delta\big|_{s=l_{w0}} + r_m \cos\alpha - \left[(r_m \cos\alpha)^2 - (z - l_{w0})^2 - 2r_m (z - l_{w0}) \sin\alpha\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Heat transfer coefficient in meniscus:

$$\bar{h}_{c,men} = \int_{l_{w0}}^{2r_m \sin\beta_1 \sin\beta_2} \frac{k_l}{l_{ab}\left\{\delta\big|_{s=l_{w0}} + r_m \cos\alpha - \left[(r_m \cos\alpha)^2 - (z - l_{w0})^2 - 2r_m (z - l_{w0}) \sin\alpha\right]^{0.5}\right\}} dz$$

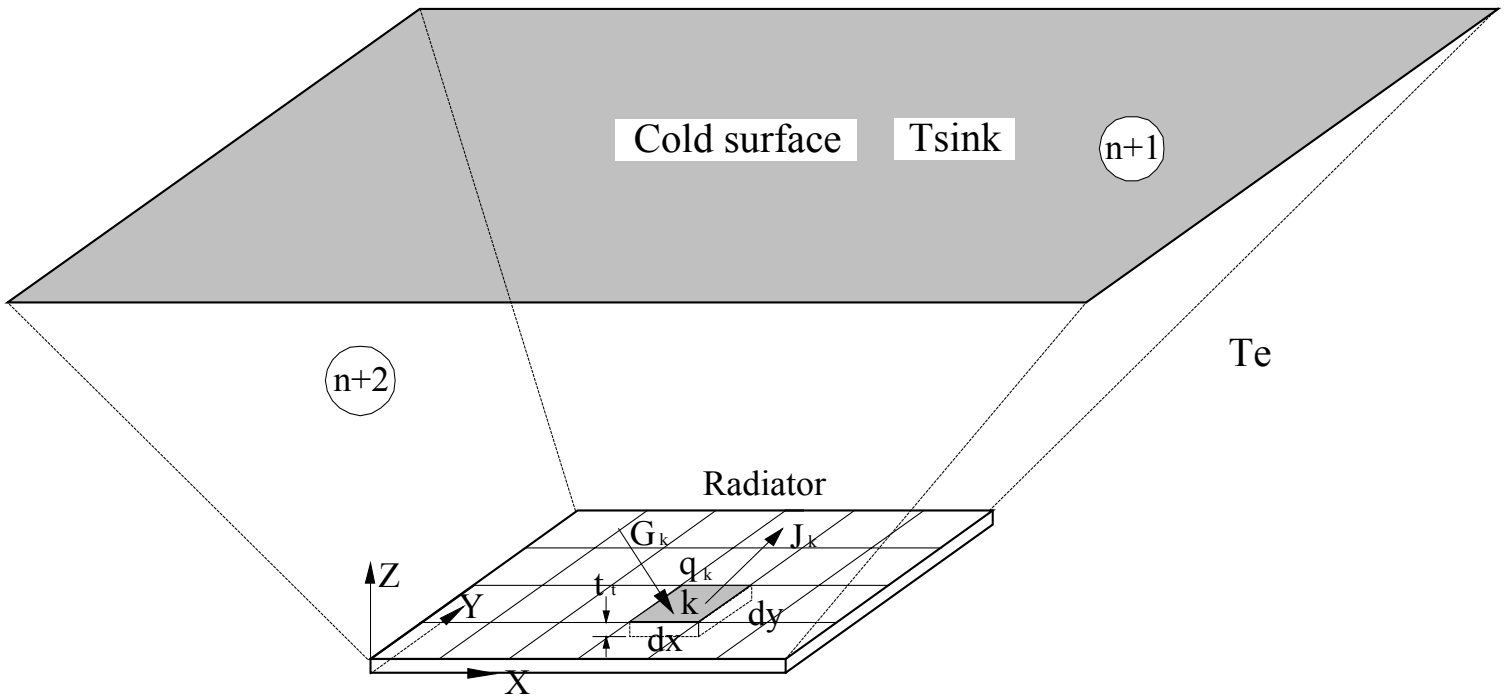
Heat transfer coefficient in the condenser

$$\bar{h}_c = \left\{\left[\frac{2l_{w0}}{w}\bar{h}_{c,f} + (1 - \frac{2l_{w0}}{w})\bar{h}_{c,men}\right]^{-1} + \frac{t_w}{k_w}\right\}^{-1}$$

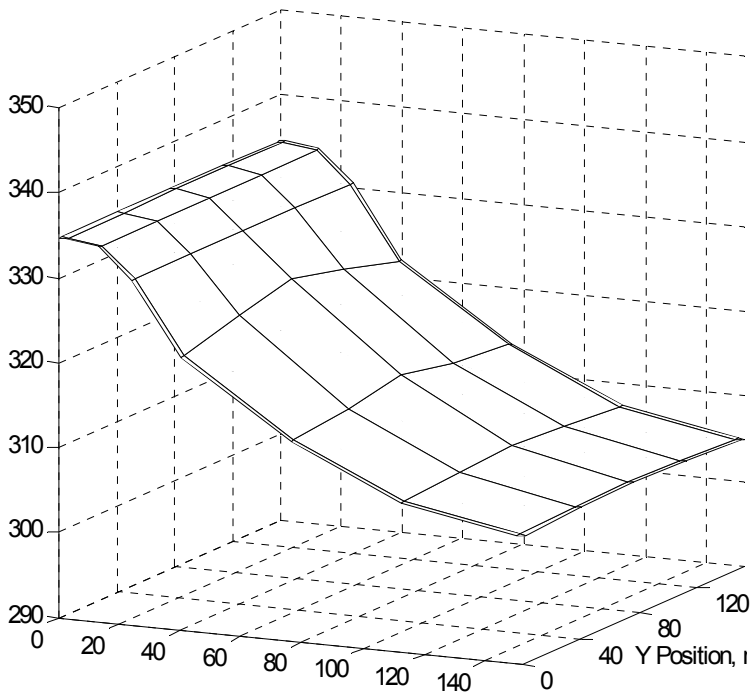
$$T_{w,o} = T_{c,o} + (T_v - T_{c,o})\frac{1}{h_{c,o}}\left(\frac{1}{h_{c,o}} + \frac{1}{\bar{h}_c}\right)^{-1}$$

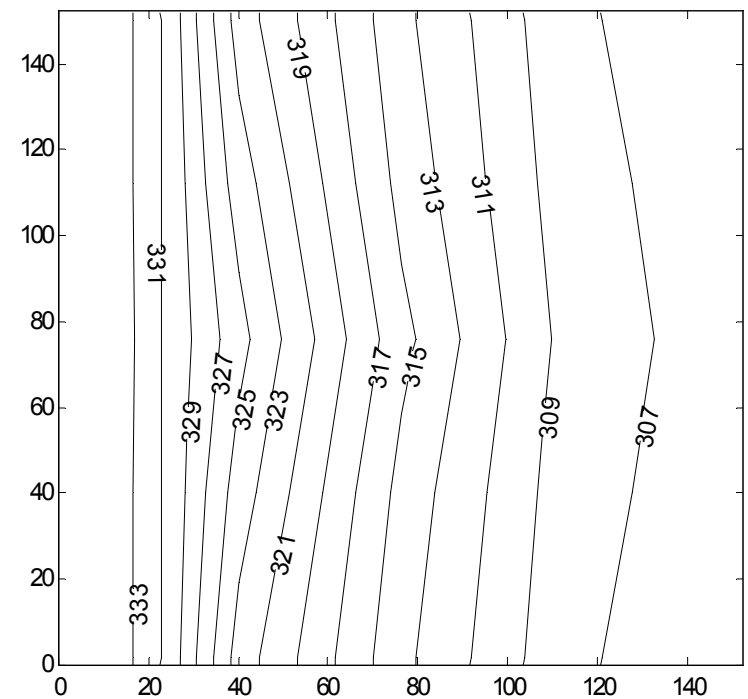
$$h_{c,o} = \varepsilon\sigma_0 (T_{w,o} + T_{\sin k})(T_{w,o}{}^2 + T_{\sin k}{}^2)$$

Radiation Heat Transfer



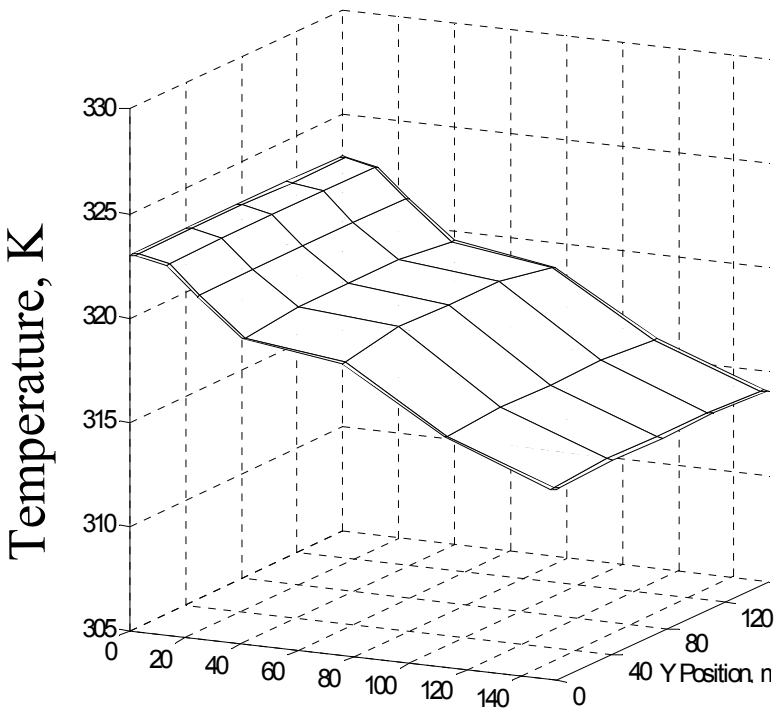
Temperature Distributions on the Wire Bonded Micro Heat Pipe Radiator

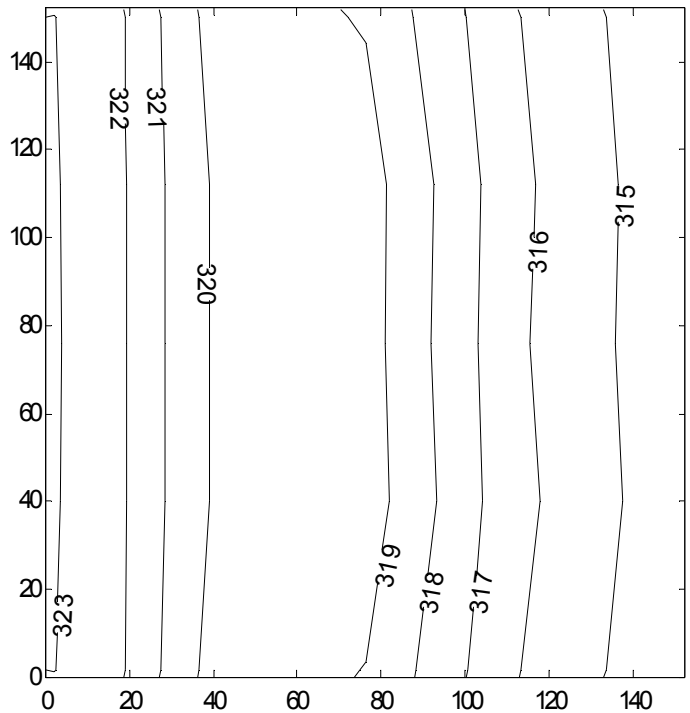




No fluid charge, dw=0.813 mm

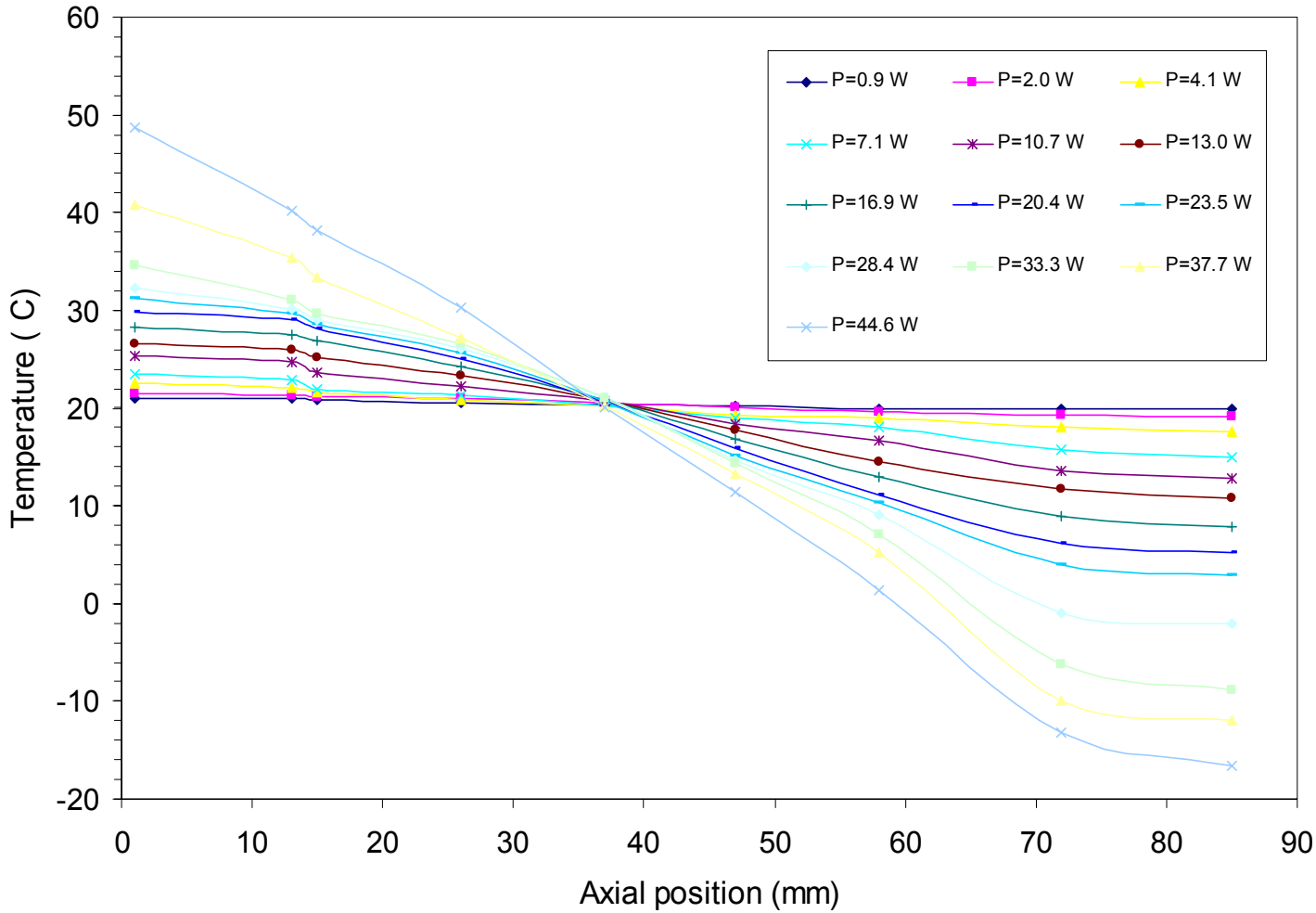
Temperature Distributions on the Wire Bonded Micro Heat Pipe Radiator



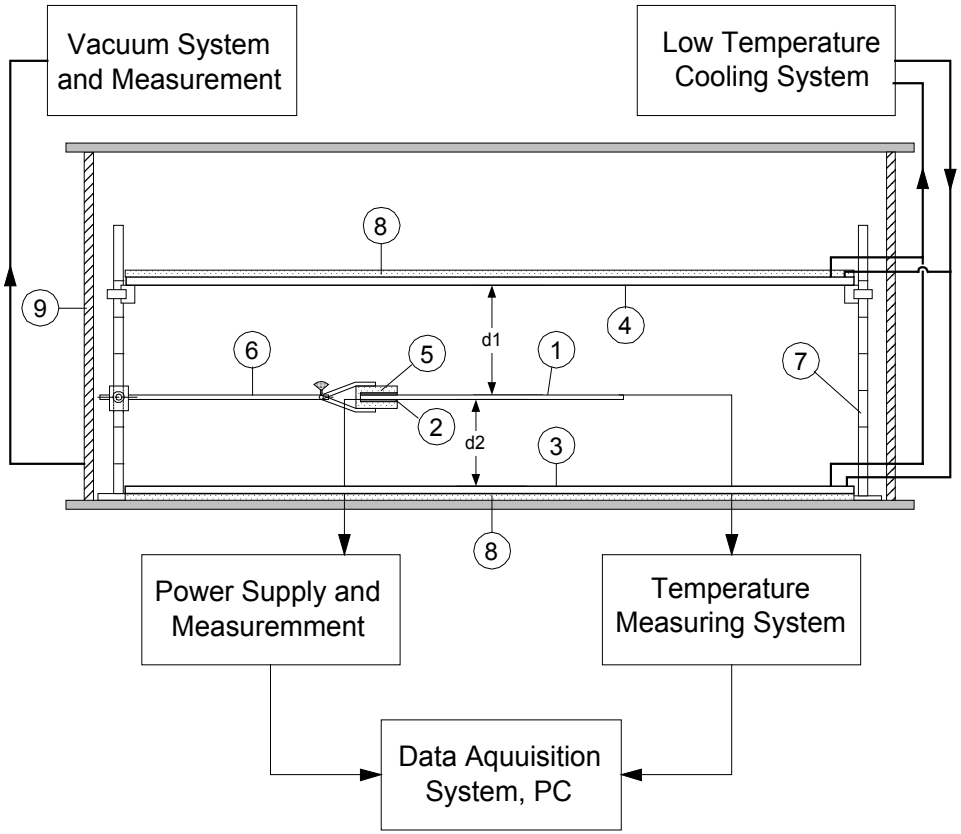


Charged with optimum charge, dw=0.813 mm

Axial Temperature Distribution



Test Facility for Radiation Environment



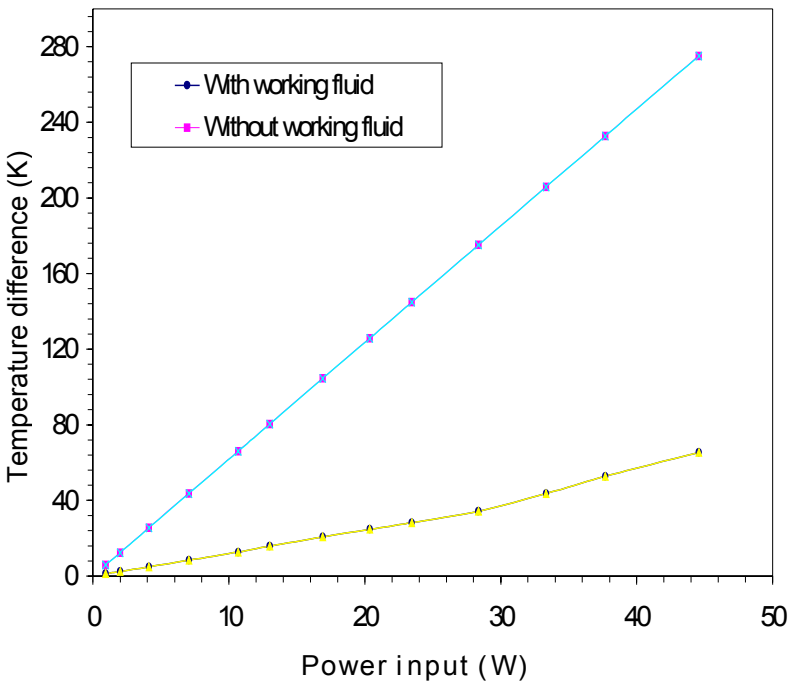
1. Micro heat pipe radiator
2. Electric heater
3. Bottom cold plate
4. Top cold plate
5. Electric heater insulation
6. Adjustable support level
7. Adjustable support feet
8. Insulation material
9. Vacuum chamber

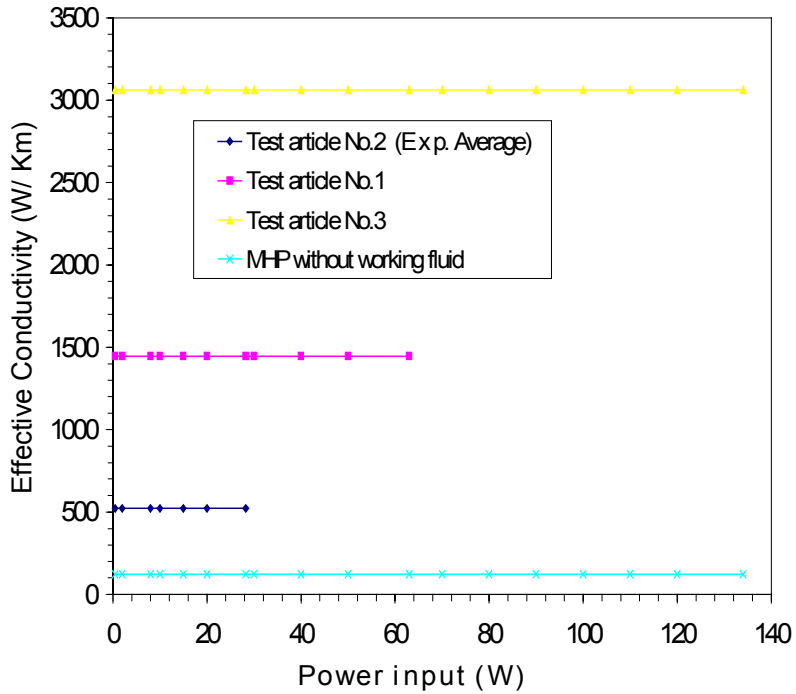
Test Articles

Prototype	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
Material	Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum
Working fluid	Acetone	Acetone	Acetone
Total Dimension (mm)	152×152.4	152×152.4	152×152.4
Thickness of sheet (mm)	0.40	0.40	0.40
Diameter of wire (mm)	0.50	0.80	0.50
Number of wires	43	43	95

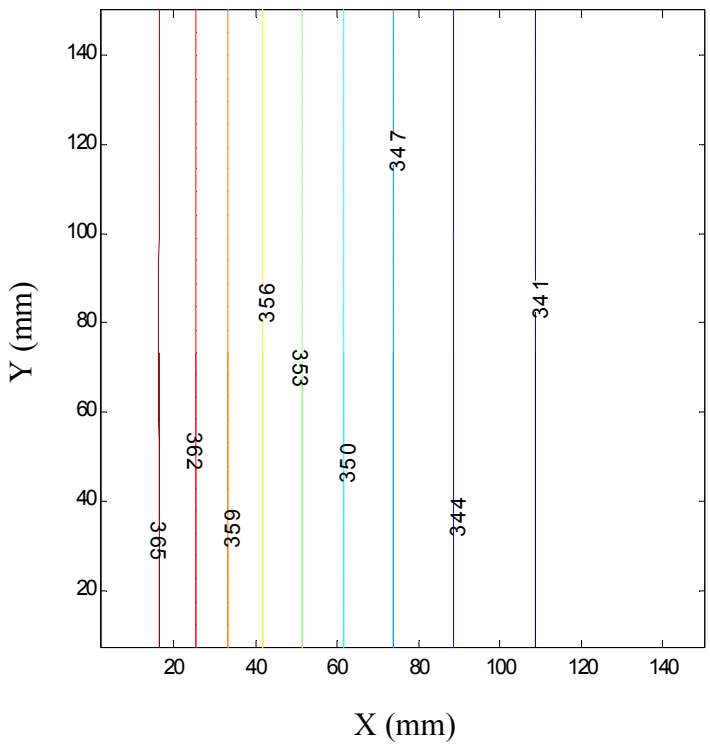
Experimental Results

- **Effective Thermal Conductivity**

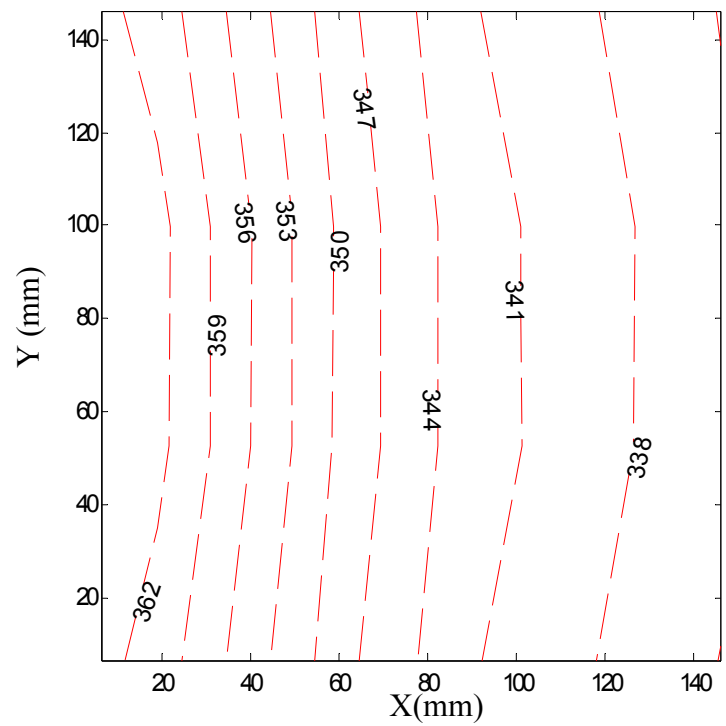




Comparison of Experimental and Predicted Results

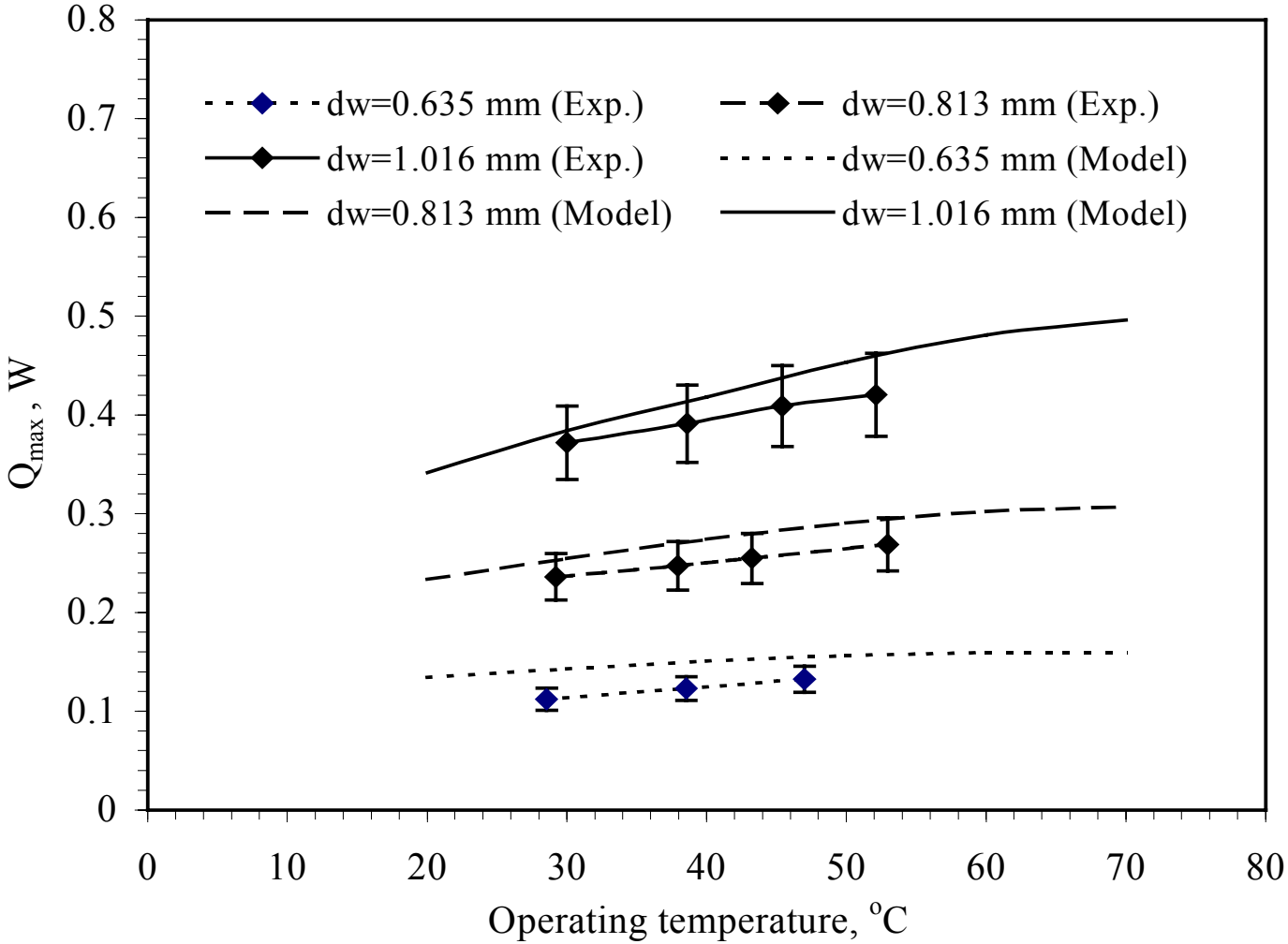


Modeled Temperature Distribution

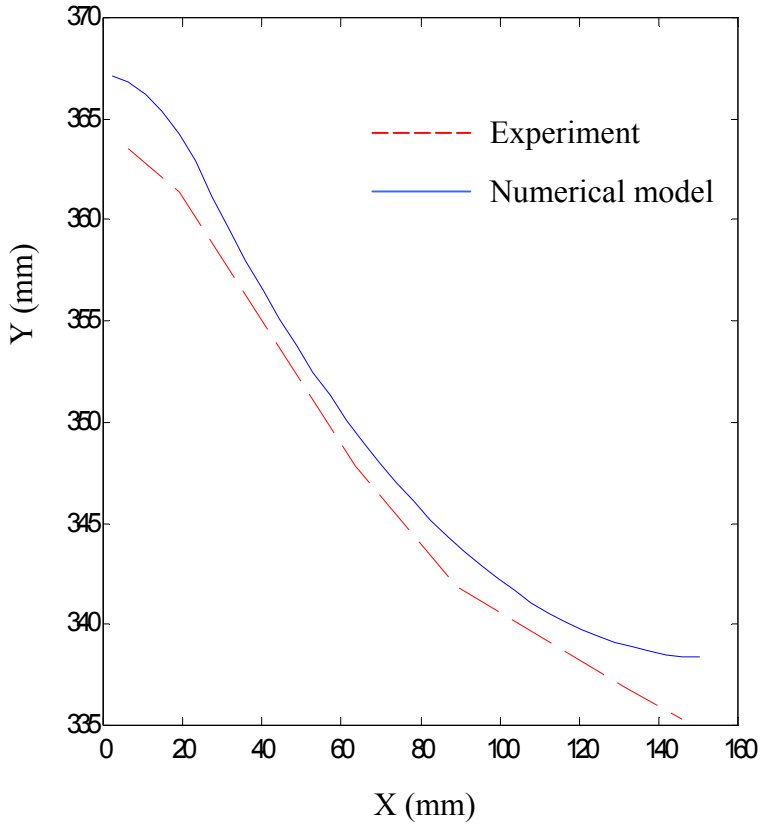


Measured Temperature Distribution

Comparison of the Predicted Experimental Results

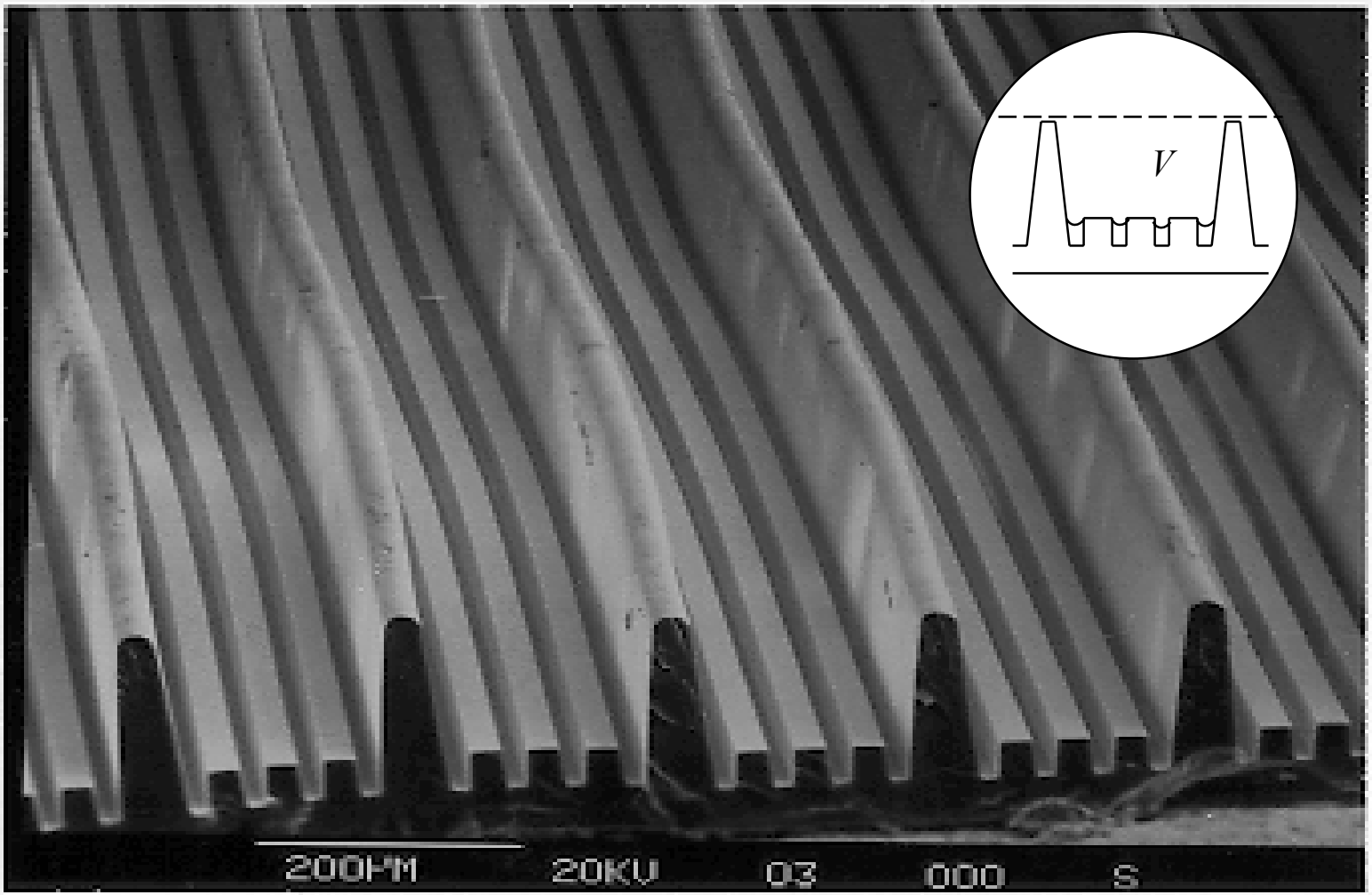


Comparison of Experimental and Predicted Results

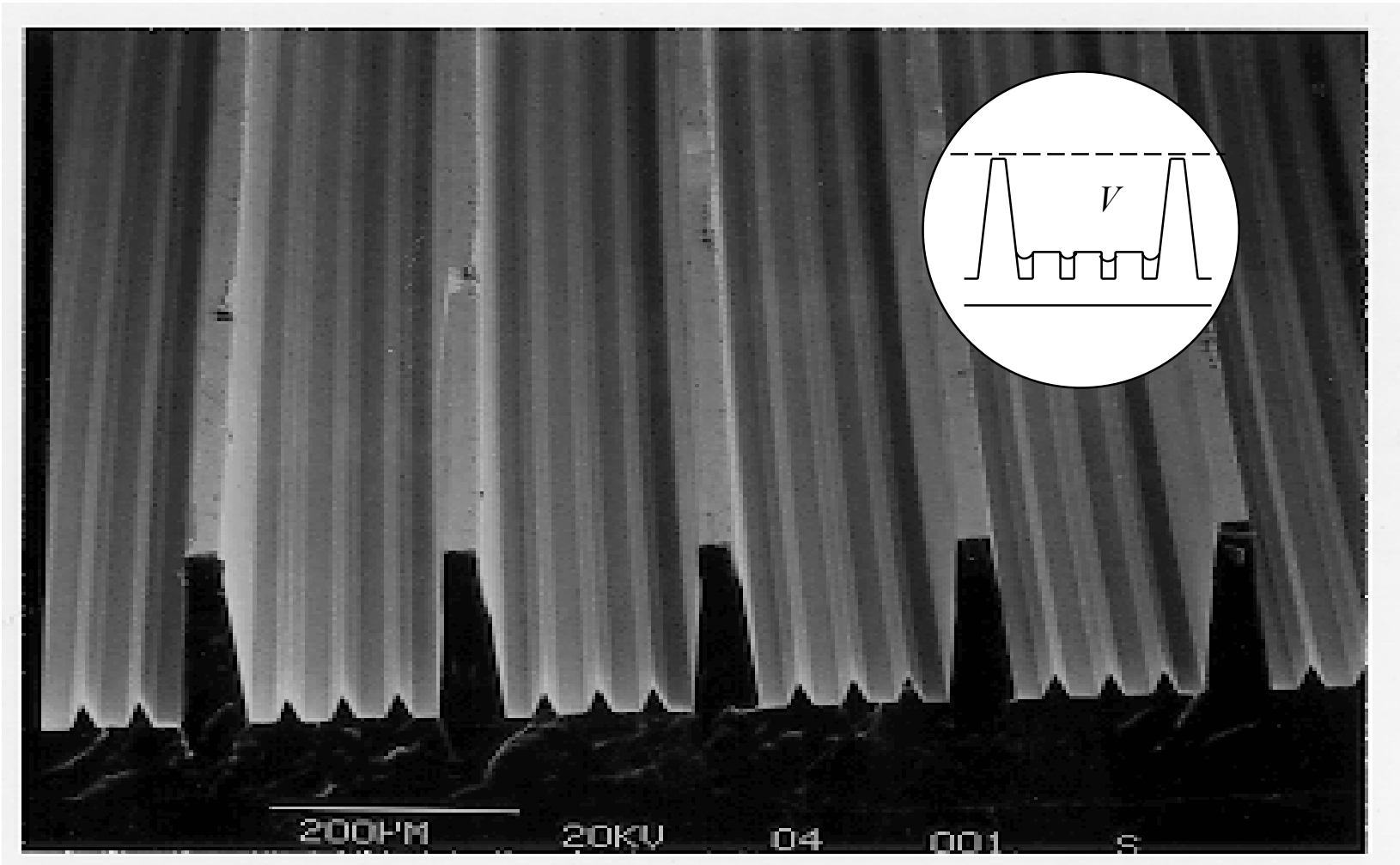


- Temperature distribution obtained from the experiment was slightly lower than from the model.
- Heat loss may result from conduction through the support and insulation and edge radiation
- Total difference is less than 6.8%

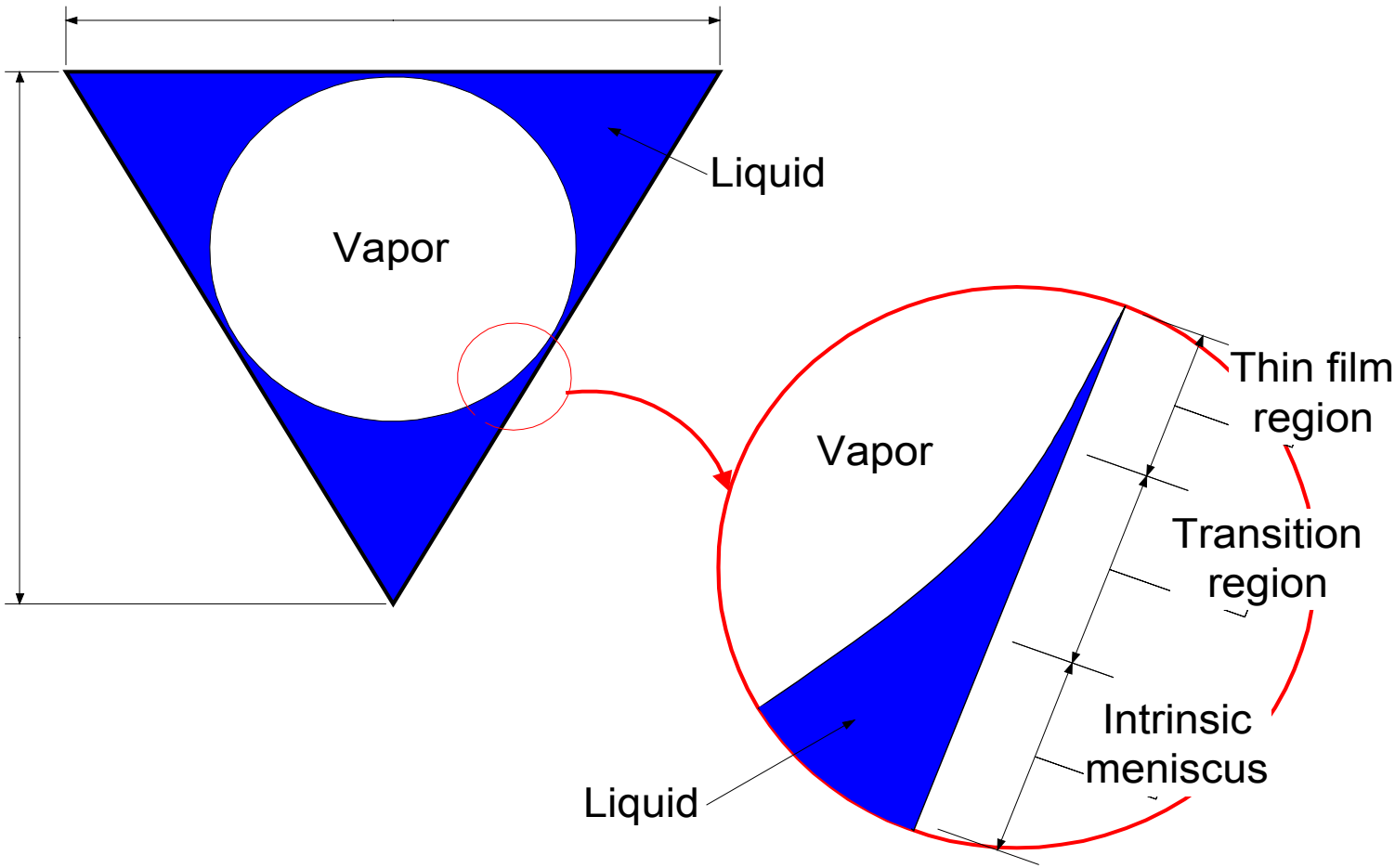
Rectangular Polymer Heat Pipe



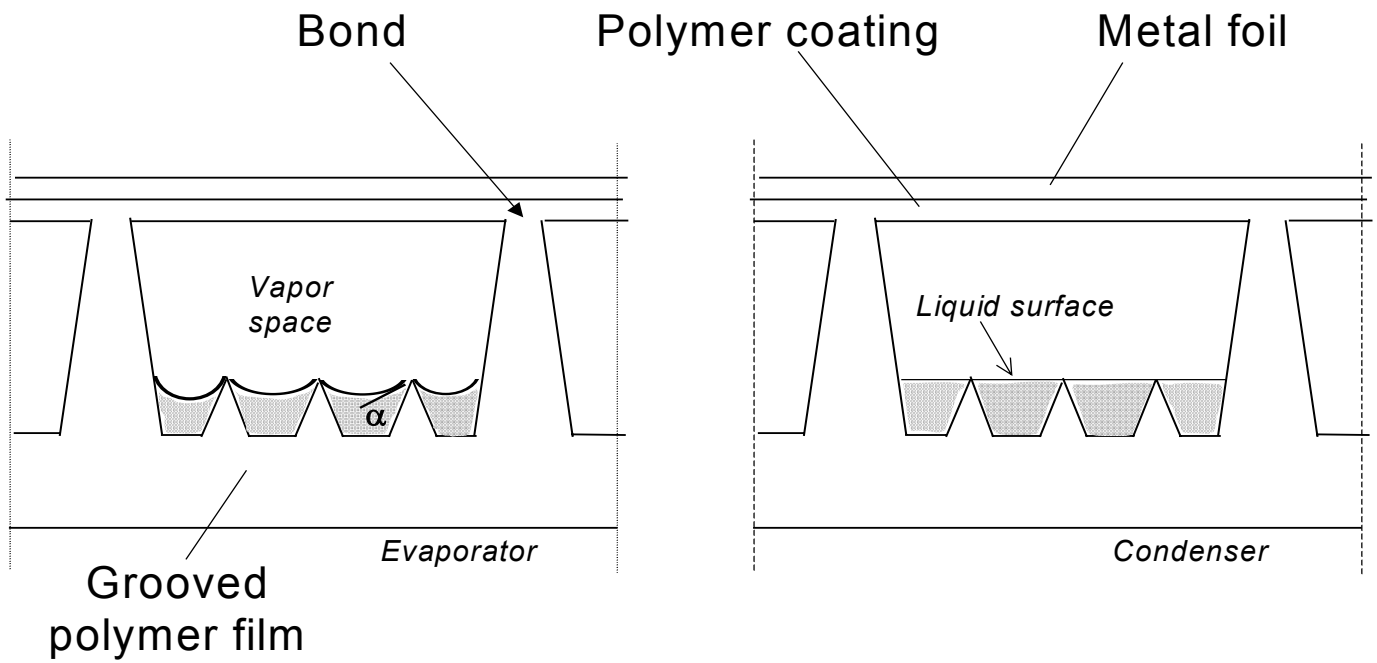
Triangular Polymer Heat Pipe



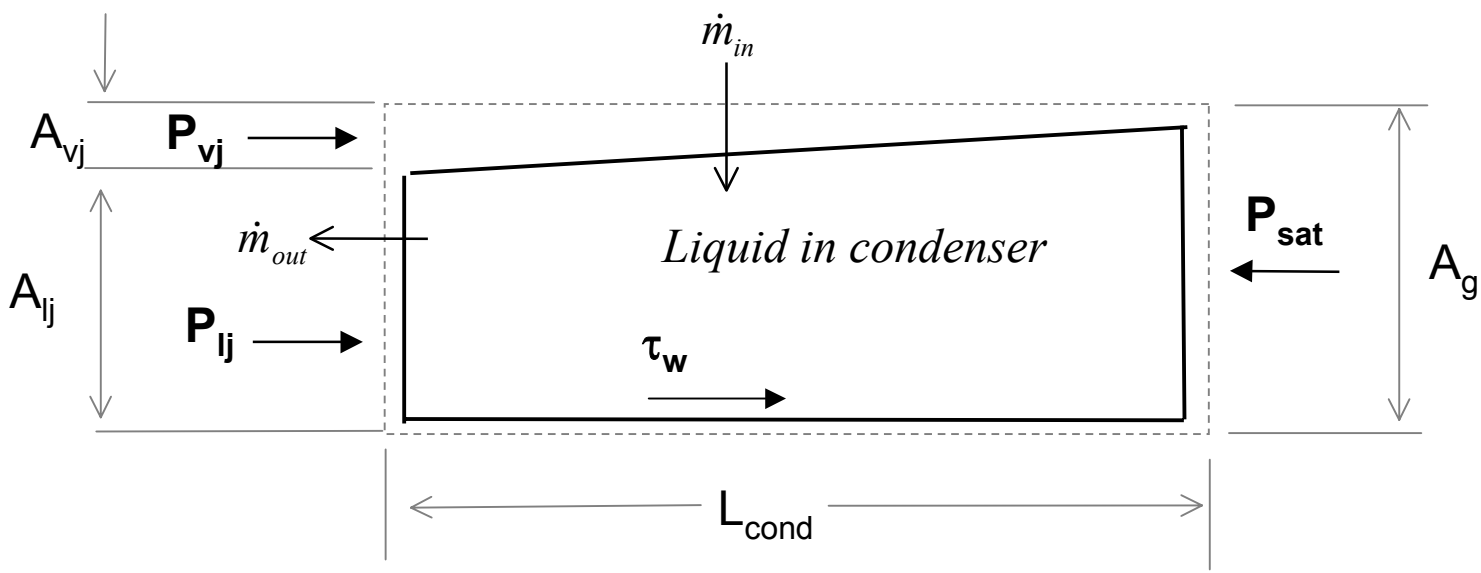
Interfacial Region



Polymer Micro Heat Pipe



Momentum Balance



(Fig. 13)

Numerical Model

The governing equation for two-dimensional plate conduction combined with a radiation boundary condition can be expressed as,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(ttk_{eff,x}\frac{\partial T}{\partial x})+\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(ttk_{eff,y}\frac{\partial T}{\partial y})-q_k+q_0=0 \qquad (1)$$

if q_k is the net radiation transfer through the control volume k, this equation can be expressed as,

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n+2}(\frac{\delta_{kj}}{\varepsilon_j}-F_{k-j}\frac{1-\varepsilon_j}{\varepsilon_j})q_j=\sum_{j=1}^{n+2}(\delta_{kj}-F_{k-j})\sigma T_j^4 \qquad (2)$$

where δ_{kj} is the Kronecker delta defined as,

$$\delta_{kj}=\begin{cases}1 & when \quad k=j \\ 0 & when \quad k\neq j\end{cases}$$

Numerical Model

For the case of constant thermal effective conductivity for the micro heat pipe array, Eq. (1) becomes,

$$K_{eff,x}\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2}+K_{eff,y}\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2}-q_k+q_0=0 \qquad (3)$$

where $K_{eff,x}$= t $k_{eff,x}$, and $K_{eff,y}$= t $k_{eff,y}$

The discretization equation is,

$$a_1 T_{i-1,j}^{\ n}-a_2 T_{i,j}^{\ n}+a_1 T_{i+1,j}^{\ n}=c_1-c_2(T_{i,j}^{\ n-1}+T_{i,j-1}^{\ n-1}) \qquad (4)$$

where

$$a_1=\frac{K_{eff,x}}{\Delta x^2}, \qquad a_2=2\left(\frac{K_{eff,x}}{\Delta x^2}+\frac{K_{eff,y}}{\Delta y^2}\right)$$

$$c_1=(q_k-q_0), \qquad c_2=\frac{K_{eff,y}}{\Delta y^2}$$

Numerical Model

Adiabatic boundary condition on the edges are assumed , i.e.,

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = 0 \qquad \begin{cases} at\ x = 0, & 0 \le y \le 152.4\,mm \\ at\ x = 152\,mm, & 0 \le y \le 152.4\,mm \end{cases}$$

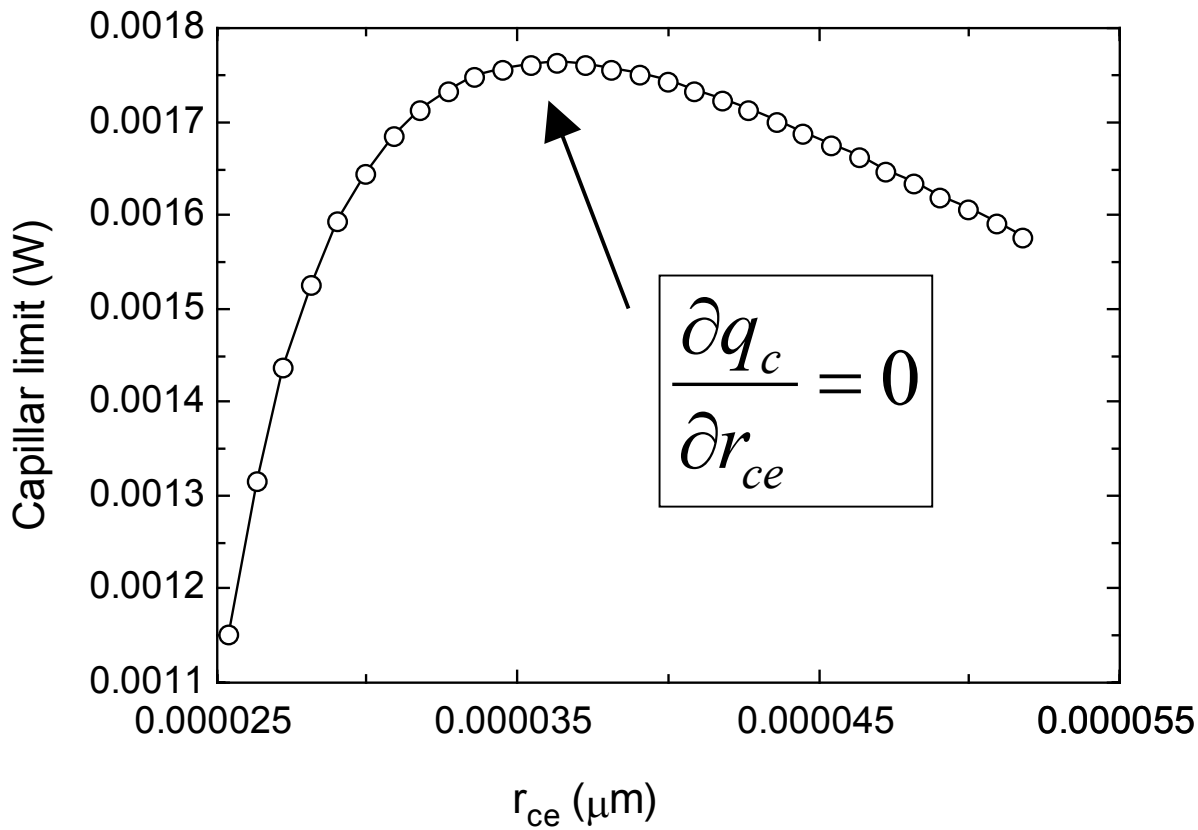
$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = 0 \qquad \begin{cases} at\ y = 0, & 0 \le x \le 152\,mm \\ at\ y = 152.4\,mm, & 0 \le x \le 152\,mm \end{cases}$$

and

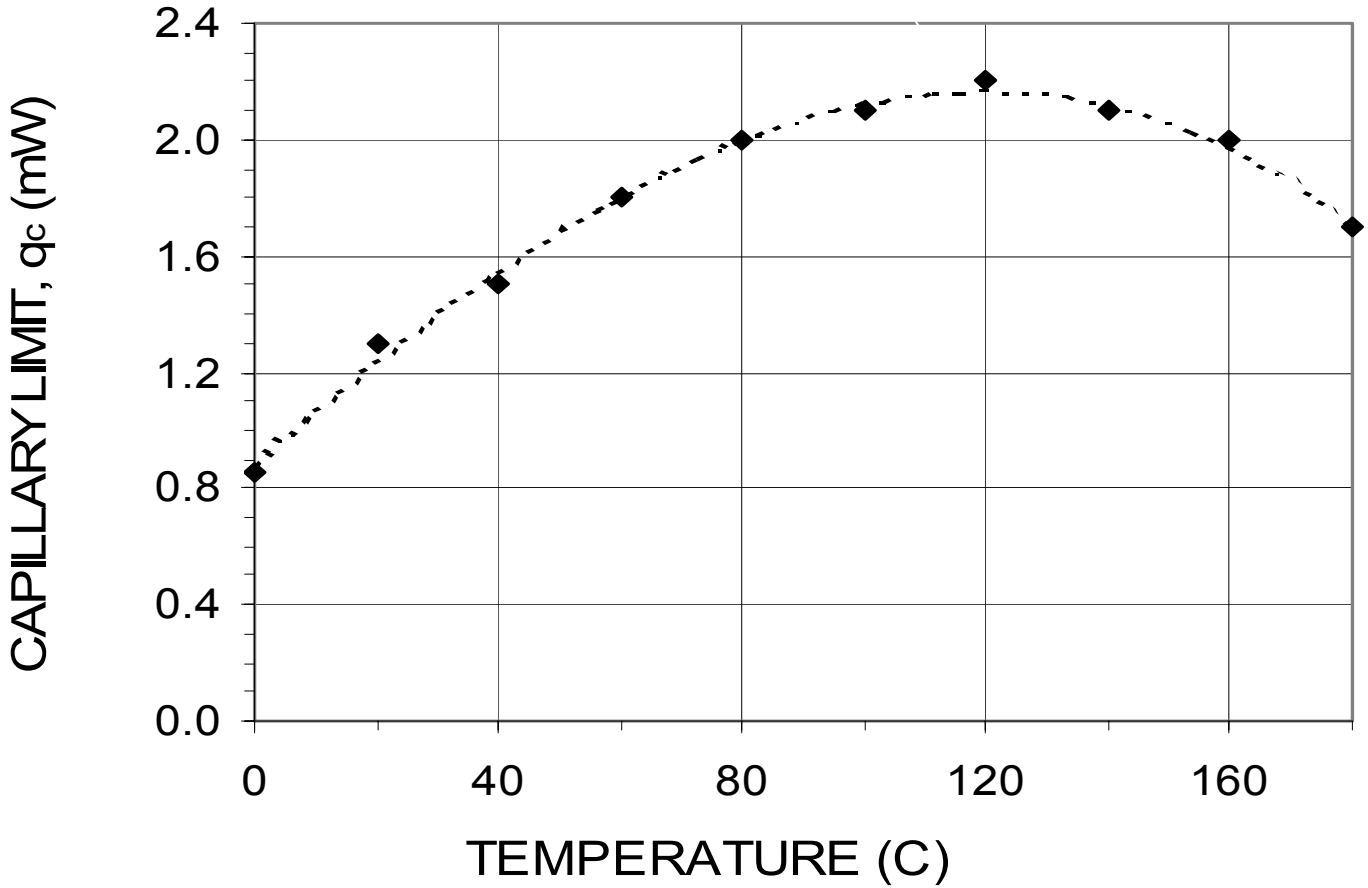
$q_0 = q_{input}$, 0 x ≤25.4 mm, 0 ≤ y ≤ 152.4 mm

$q_0 = 0$, x > 25.4 mm, 0 ≤ y ≤ 152.4 mm

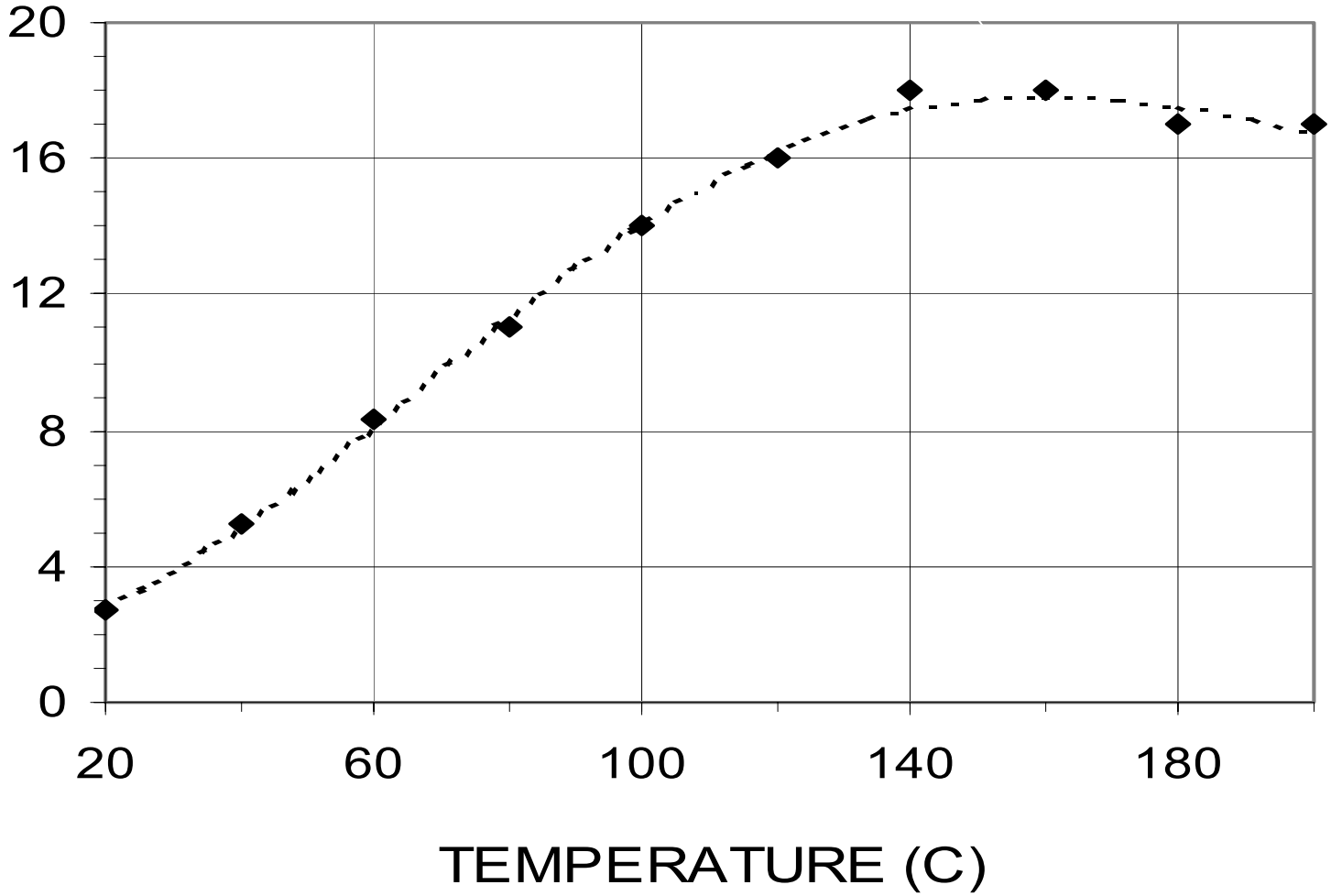
Optimum Capillary Radius



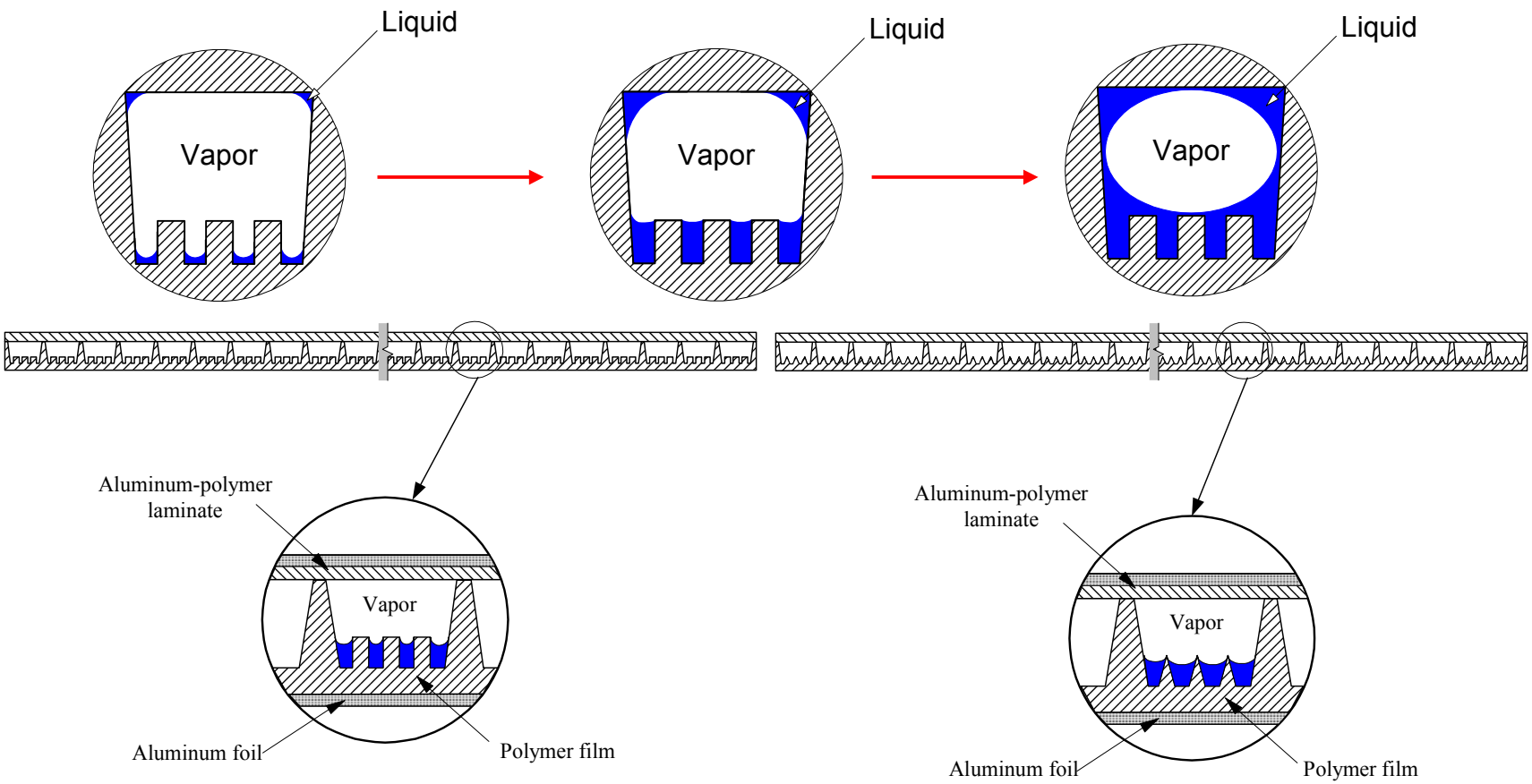
Capillary Limit - Methanol



Capillary Limit Water



Stable Liquid Configurations



Summary and Conclusions

- Two new micro heat pipe concepts have been developed
- Wire Bonded heat pipe arrays with an effective conductivity of 30 times that of solid aluminum have been developed and tested.
- Flexible polymer heat pipes have been fabricated and modeled.
- These polymer heat pipes offer a greater degree of flexibility and a potentially higher effective thermal conductivity than any previously developed.
- Applications of the these two concepts have a wide range of applications that extends well beyond spacecraft radiators.