



CCC Annual Report

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PREDICTION OF MOLD HEAT FLUX FROM CASTING PARAMETERS

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Background

- Heat transfer in the continuous casting mold has a critical influence on strand surface quality, casting productivity and operating safety^[1]
- Previous studies by Cicuitti et al ^[2] have shown that mold heat transfer is mainly influenced by casting speed, steel carbon content and the properties of mold powder

$$Q_{G} = 4.63 * 10^{6} * \mu^{-0.09} * T_{melt}^{-1.19} * V_{c}^{0.47} * \left\{ 1-0.152 * exp \left[-\left(\frac{0.107 - \% C}{0.027}\right)^{2} \right] \right\}$$

where μ is the mold slag viscosity (Pa-s), T_{melt} is the melting temperature of the powder (°C), V_c is the casting speed (m/min) and %*C* is the weight percent of carbon



Objectives

Based on statistical analysis of extensive plant measurements,

- 1. Investigate the effect of various casting parameters on the thermal behavior of mold
- 2. Develop an expression to predict total heat flux in the mold as a function of casting parameters



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Outline

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Procurement of data from the plant database

- Use SQL query to collect data from 2.5 years of measurements
- Apply "primary filters" to remove unreliable heats

Effect of individual casting parameters on heat flux

- Apply "secondary filters" to isolate the effect of individual parameters
- Evaluate trends

Non-linear Multiple Regression

- Validate: test method on a known relationship
- Apply to determine mold heat flux equation
 - Choose form of nonlinear equation
 - Optimize parameters based on "primary filtered" data
 - Analyze results

3

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Measured mold heat flux data: **Nucor Steel Decatur, AL**

- Nucor Decatur has two 1 casters (North and South)
 - Thin (90mm) CSP slab casters
 - Parallel mold with working length 850 mm
- 2. Nucor Decatur keeps a wide data base of measurements recorded at 10 sec intervals
- 3. Special thanks to Ron O'Malley, Bob Williams, and others at Nucor Steel Decatur for providing access and valuable guidance for this project



Nucor Decatur caster

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Nucor Decatur SQL database query: Sample interval sting Onsortium

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TA: Caster		Period	No. of Heats		
	North Caster	01/01/2011 to 06/20/2013	16,197		
	South Caster	01/01/2011 to 06/20/2013	16,348		

- From each heat, (typically 50 minutes), select 10 min of data, starting 20 min after the ladle is opened
- Extract average, maximum and minimum values of each parameter



Nucor Decatur SQL database query: Location of measured parameters

Database	Variables		Units
prod_live	ladle_open_dt	Date	Yr day
caster_heat_data	ladle_close_dt		Hr,m,s
	caster_id		
	heat_no		
	actual_cast_speed		mm/s
	mold_water_flow_1 mold_water_flow_2	Water flow rate (1-Fixed face, 2-Loose face)	lpm
	delta_t1, delta_t2	Raise in water temperature	°C
measured_values	mold_width_hot		cm
caster_niv	inlet_temperature		°C
	tundish_temperature1_cont		°C
	superheat_cont		°C
	mold_level_dev,mold_level		cm
	st.dev from mold_level_dev	formal standard deviation of mold level calculated from 60 points (10 min of data at 10 s intervals)	cm
prod_live	C_amount		wt %
heat_chemistry	C_{Fq}, C_A, C_B	Calculated from the composition of steel	%
	mold_no		
	main powder	Viscosity & Melting temperature of the mold powder are taken from the summary sheet supplied by Nucor	
prod_live.		Decatur metallurgists	
caster_report_cast_inf	o heats on mold	C C	
	fixed_value	Mold plate thickness of fixed face	mm
	loose_value	Mold plate thickness of loose face	mm
* Parameters in bo University of Illinois at Urba	old are possible independen na-Champaign M	t variables for finding correlations etals Processing Simulation Lab • Prathiba Duvvuri	•



Database query: Calculated parameters

• (Total) Mold heat flux^[2] was calculated as

$$Q = \frac{0.00006794 * G * \Delta T}{W * Z}$$

where Q = heat flux (MW/m²)

G = mold water flow rate (l/min)

 ΔT = temperature rise of mold water (°C)

W = width of the slab (m)

Z = working length of the mold (m)

• Equivalent Carbon^[1] (for predicting peritectic grades) is calculated as

$$\begin{split} C_{Eq} &= C + 0.02 * Mn - 0.037 * Si + 0.023 * Ni - 0.0189 * Mo - 0.7 * S \\ &+ 0.0414 * P + 0.003 * Cu - 0.0254 * Cr - 0.0276 * Ti + 0.7 * N \end{split}$$



Database query: Calculated parameters

• Grade of the steel^[3] can also be determined as peritectic based on whether %C is within the interval $[C_A, C_B]$:

$$\begin{split} C_A &= 0.0896 + 0.0458 * Al - 0.0205 * Mn - 0.0077 * Si + 0.0223 * Al \\ &* Al - 0.0239 * Ni + 0.0106 * Mo + 0.0134 * V - 0.0032 * Cr \\ &+ 0.00059 * Cr * Cr + 0.0197 * W \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} C_B &= 0.1967 + 0.0036 * Al - 0.0316 * Mn - 0.0103 * Si + 0.1411 * Al \\ &* Al + 0.05 * Al * Si - 0.0401 * Ni + 0.03255 * Mo + 0.0603 * V \\ &+ 0.0024 * Cr + 0.00142 * Cr * Cr - 0.00059 * Cr * Ni + 0.0266 * W \end{split}$$

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where *C*, *Mn* etc., represent the element concentration in mass-%.

*Tungsten not recorded in database

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Filtering of raw data

• **Primary Filters**: used to select "reliable" heats with only realistic and reasonable variations of the casting parameters in the 10 min time interval

ets
23
92
22
99
76
2 9 7

- Secondary Filters: to isolate effect of each parameter by keeping other parameters constant. Filters change for each parameter. Common secondary filters:
 - Low carbon content (%C < C_A)
 - Super heat (25 to 40°C)
 - Mold width (125-130 cm)
 - Particular mold powder

9

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Effect of mold face on heat flux







Secondary filters	Remaining heats
After primary filters	2276
Low Carbon (%C < C_A)	1651
Mold powder BC-9U	1532
Mold width between 125 and 130 cm	313

Heat flux increases with casting speed



Effect of carbon content



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Cicuitti et al ^[2] use a nonlinear formula to account for the drop in heat flux for peritectic steels:

$$Q = A_1 \left\{ 1 - \left(\frac{A_2}{A_1}\right) exp\left[- \left(\frac{A_4 - \%C}{A_3}\right)^2 \right] \right\}$$

- A₁: average heat flux far away from peritectic
- A₂: maximum drop in heat flux in peritectics
- A₃: parameter describing the width of the heat flux drop
- A₄: "critical" steel composition where heat flux is smallest

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13



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Adapting Cicuitti et al^[2] formula to account for heat flux with peritectic steels:

$$Q = A_1 \left\{ 1 - \left(\frac{A_2}{A_1} \right) exp \left[- \left(\frac{A_4 - \%C}{A_3} \right)^2 \right] \right\}$$

 $A_1 \approx 2.2 \text{ M} \frac{W}{m^2}$ (changed from ^[2] to reflect average heat flux at Nucor Decatur)

 $\frac{A_2}{A_1}$ = 0.152; A_3 = 0.027; A_4 = 0.107; (all the same as ^[2])

 Nucor Decatur does not
^{0.35}cast peritectics, so there is no data on the heat flux drop





Effect of mold powder

Calculated								
Powder Name	Basicity	SiO ₂	CaO	F	Viscosity dPa-s @ 1300 °C	Break Point / Crystallization Temp, °C	Heat flux (MW/m²)	No. of heats
715	1.09	29.2	31.8	9.1	0.70	1108	2.375	367
BC-9U	1.00	31.3	31.3	7.7	0.80	1129	2.249	1677
BC-9W	1.05	30.9	32.5	7.7	0.80	1147	2.235	4
B1-C3	1.33	26.4	35.2	10.3	0.20	1158	2.194	195
AHG-40X	1.25	30.7	38.4	9.0	0.5	1100	2.122	34

Of 2276 heats after primary filtering						
	Low	Peritectic	High			
715	65	33	269			
BC-9U	1662	5	10			
BC-9W	4					
B1-C3	95	4	95			
AHG-40X	1	3	30			

- Carbon grade and mold powder are related.
- BC- 9U is the common mold powder for low carbon steels

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Effect of mold powder



Effect of superheat



	Remainin
Secondary filters	g
	heats
After primary filters	2276
Low Carbon (%C < C _A)	1651
Mold powder BC-9U	1532
Casting speed 3-3.1m/min	681

There is little correlation between super heat and heat flux

Effect of mold width



Effect of mold plate thickness



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Secondary filters	Remaining heats
After primary filters	2276
Low Carbon (%C < C_A)	1651
Mold powder BC-9U	1532
Casting speed 3-3.1m/min	681
Super heat 25-30°C	246

Little correlation between mold plate thickness and heat flux



Higher mold level fluctuations make deeper oscillation marks and lower heat flux. but effect is small.

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0.2

Effect of Heats on mold



0

0.1

Mold level st. dev. (cm)

0.05

1.6

1.4 0 y = -0.97x + 2.2213

R² = 0.0131

0.15

Filters	Remaining heats
One mold "campaign"	845*
After primary filtering	845
Low Carbon (%C < C _A)	619
Mold powder BC-9U	607
Casting speed 3-3.1m/min	292

As the thickness of the mold plate decreases (with increase in the number of heats on a mold), heat flux might drop due to thicker slag layer and deeper oscillation marks

But large scatter with low R² value indicates little correlation

* Not all heats from the campaign are in the database

Cross correlation: Water flow rate increases with casting speed



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There are three clearly separate "patterns" that are used in the data

For all three patterns, as casting speed increases, water flow rate is also increased.

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23

Cross correlation: Water temp. rise decreases with increased flow rates

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Rise in water temperature is lower at higher water flow rates

(because heat flux – multiple of the two – is generally constant with water flow rate)

Due to previous result, temperature rise also decreases with increasing casting speed



Regression: Introduction

• Coefficient of determination (R²): $R^2 = 1 - \frac{SS_{res}}{SS_{tot}}$

where Sum of squares of residuals: $SS_{res} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - f_i)^2$ Total sum of squares: $SS_{tot} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \bar{y})^2$

• Adjusted R²: Adj. $R^2 = 1 - \left(\frac{Total \, df}{Residual \, df}\right) \frac{SS_{res}}{SS_{tot}}$

Total df = n - 1 and Residual df = n - p - 1

n is number of observed data points; p is the number of independent variables

- **fminsearch**^[4] function in MATLAB is employed to find the minimum of the scalar function: Residual equation = $\sum (Q_{Act} Q_{Pred})^2$
 - It is an unconstrained nonlinear optimization tool based on Nelder-Mead simplex algorithm which evaluates the local minimum of a scalar function of several variables, starting at an initial estimate.
- Coefficients obtained in regression analysis of Excel are given as initial guess*





Validation: Matlab Code

- clc; clear all; close all; %Reading measured input x and y data from Excel sheet Northcaster=xlsread('Sanity check Nucor North.xlsx','Input'); len=length(Northcaster); data=Northcaster(1:len,2:6); G=data(:,1);dT=data(:,2);W=data(:,3);Z=data(:,4); %Independent variables on the Right hand side ActQ=data(:,5); 0 = @(x data)(:)t(C ar(a)) t(dT a (a)); x(T a (a)); Q = @(x, data)x(1)*(G.^x(2)).*(dT.^x(3)).*(W.^x(4)).*(Z.^x(5)); %Structure of the proposed

- Q = @(X,data)x(1)^(G. X(2)).*(ut. X(3)).*(u. X(1)). (u. X(1)) function
- PredQ=x(1)*G.^xx(2).*dT.^xx(3).*W.^xx(4).*Z.^xx(5); %Calculating Regression parameters
- state =0;ssres=0; n=len;p=length(x); for i=1:len
- sstot=sstot+(ActQ(i)-mean(ActQ))^2; ssres=ssres+(PredQ(i)-ActQ(i))^2;
- end

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- R2=1-(ssres/sstot) aR2=1-(1-R2)*(n-1)/(n-p-1) %Plotting

- %Plotting X=1.5;Y=3;xp =X:0.1:Y;yp=xp; set(gca,'FontSize',18,'FontWeight','bold'); plot(ActQ,PredQ,'b*'),xlim([X Y]),ylim([X Y]),xlabel('Actual heat flux (MW/m²)','FontSize',15,'FontWeight','bold'),ylabel('Predicted heat flux (MW/m²)','FontSize',15,'FontWeight','bold'), title(sprintf('Predicted Vs Actual heatflux Adj. R² %0.2f ',aR2),'FontSize',18,'FontWeight','bold') hold on;plot(xp,yp,'k-');set(gca,'XMinorTick','on','YMinorTick','on');axis square

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Validation: Results for individual parameters



Weak overall correlation between water flow rate and heat flux

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There is a clear positive relationship when limited to a single mold water pattern, but this is likely due to the crosscorrelation with casting speed.



Validation: Results for individual parameters



A constant working mold length of 850 mm is assumed for calculating heat flux from the database measurements.

However, for the validation case, random noise was added because the optimization function failed to converge if a constant is treated as a variable.

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Where Q = heat flux (MW/m²)

 V_c = casting speed (m/min)

 μ = mold slag viscosity (Pa-s)

 T_{melt} = melting temperature of the powder (°C)

W = width of the slab (mm)

s = superheat (°C)

t = thickness of the mold plate (mm)

l = mold level standard deviation (mm)



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Comparison of developed equation with Cicuitti Equation

 $Q = 0.949 * 10^5 * V_c^{0.691} * \mu^{-0.015} * T_{melt}^{-1.728} * W^{0.090}$



- New equation based on Nucor steel database predicts better than the Cicuitti equation
- Owing to lack of data on peritectics, heat flux can be predicted with a simpler function of only speed, viscosity, melting temperature and width, for the Nucor Decatur data base





Conclusions

 Starting with 16,000 heat database from Nucor Steel Decatur, nonlinear multiple regression analysis with MATLAB "fminsearch" produced an empirical equation to predict mold heat flux (MW/m²) with R² of 0.44 :

 $Q = 0.949 * 10^5 * V_c^{0.691} * \mu^{-0.015} * T_{melt}^{-1.728} * W^{0.090}$

- Higher casting speed strongly correlates to increasing heat flux.
- When looking at parameters with cross-correlations individually, the trends are very weak.
- Owing to insufficient data, strong cross-correlations, and weak effect on heat flux, there is little effect of steel grade, powder properties, super heat, mold width, thickness of the mold plate or mold level standard deviation
- Fits better than original Cicuitti equation, but there is still room for improvement



- Regression analysis can be performed with different structures of the equation to try to better predict the heat flux
- Advanced non-linear optimization tools, like genetic algorithm or simulated annealing, might be employed
- The performance of the predicting equation can be studied with other casters in different mills
 - Especially needed is information on peritectic grades and additional mold powders

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39

40

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[1] G. Xia et al, "Investigation of mould thermal behaviour by means of mould instrumentation", Iron making and steelmaking, 2004, Vol.31, No.5

[2] C. Cicutti et al, "Mould Thermal Evaluation in a slab continuous casting machine", Steelmaking Conf. Proc., 2002, P.97-107

[3] Blazek, Kenneth E., et al. "Calculation of the peritectic range for steel alloys." Iron & steel technology 5.7 (2008): 80-85

[4]MATLAB Help file

http://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/fminsearch.html

http://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/math/optimizing-nonlinear-functions.html#bsgpq6p-11



- Continuous Casting Consortium Members (ABB, ArcelorMittal, Baosteel, Magnesita Refractories, Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Corp, Nucor Steel, Postech/ Posco, Severstal, SSAB, Tata Steel, ANSYS/ Fluent)
- Nucor Steel Decatur (Ron O'Malley, Bob Williams, and others)
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