

1 **Prediction of steady-state two-phase flow of nitrogen + extinguishant in the**  
2 **pipeline and a correlation for mass flow rate**

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15 **Prediction of steady-state two-phase flow of nitrogen + extinguishant in the**  
16 **pipeline and a correlation for mass flow rate**

17 **Abstract**

18 Nitrogen used for pressurization of a fire extinguisher could be partially dissolved in the fire  
19 extinguishing agent, forming a binary mixture accompanied by a phase change while flowing  
20 inside the pipeline. Notwithstanding the widespread use of fire extinguishing system, an effective  
21 method has never been considered to predict two-phase flow performance of nitrogen +  
22 extinguishant in the pipeline. This paper presents investigation of the steady-state two-phase flow  
23 of extinguishant in the pipeline, including C<sub>3</sub>HF<sub>7</sub> (HFC227ea), CF<sub>3</sub>I, and C<sub>2</sub>HF<sub>5</sub> (HFC125). The  
24 average viscosity of mixture was calculated using six quoted methods (VM-1 to VM-6).  
25 Subsequently, inspired by one-dimensional adiabatic isenthalpic flow of refrigerant in a capillary  
26 tube, the corresponding prediction models (STFM-1 to STFM-6) for large mass flux nitrogen +  
27 extinguishant in a fire extinguishing pipeline were developed based on the VM-1 to VM-6. In  
28 comparison with previous experimental and theoretical data, the applicability and accuracy of the  
29 proposed mathematical models was examined from two different aspects, mass flow rate and  
30 pressure drop. The results indicated that both models, STFM-2 and STFM-3, predicted accurately  
31 for mass flow rate, and STFM-2 model predicted accurately for pressure drop. Finally, new  
32 correlations for mass flow rate and pressure drop have been established accurately based on  
33 summarizing the relevant predicted data, respectively. This work contributes to a good theoretical  
34 approach on the analysis of two-phase flow of nitrogen + extinguishant.

35 **Keywords:** steady-state two-phase flow; adiabatic isenthalpic expansion; average viscosity; mass  
36 flow rate; pressure drop

37 **Nomenclature**

38  $T'$  presumptive temperature  
39  $r'$  parameter of the PR $\mu$  model defined in Eq. (5)  
40  $p$  pressure, Pa  
41  $\mu$  dynamic viscosity, 10<sup>-7</sup> Pa·s

42	$a$	cohesive energy parameter of the PR EOS; parameter of the PR $\mu$ model, Pa m <sup>6</sup> mol <sup>-2</sup>
43	$b$	volumetric parameter of the PR EOS; parameter of the PR $\mu$ model, m <sup>3</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup>
44	$T_d$	a specific temperature for correction of the calculated viscosities in Eq. (2), K
45	$r_c$	parameter of the PR $\mu$ model in Eq. (8)
46	$M_w$	molar mass, g·mol <sup>-1</sup>
47	$Z_c$	critical compressibility factor
48	$c_0, c$	correction terms of viscosity defined in Eq. (9)
49	$\rho$	density, kg·m <sup>-3</sup>
50	$x$	gas quality
51	$G$	mass velocity, kg m <sup>-2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup>
52	$u$	velocity of gas-liquid two-phase flow, m·s <sup>-1</sup>
53	$h$	specific enthalpy, J·kg <sup>-1</sup>
54	$f$	friction factor
55	$d$	inner diameter of pipeline, m
56	$L$	length of the pipeline, m
57	$Re$	Reynolds number
58	$h$	specific enthalpy, kJ·kg <sup>-1</sup>
59	$h_0$	stagnation enthalpy, kJ·kg <sup>-1</sup>
60	$\dot{m}$	mass flow rate, kg·s <sup>-1</sup>
61	$m$	mass, kg
62	$z$	coordinate along the pipe wall in the fluid mainstream direction
63	$V_b$	volume of fire extinguishing bottle, m <sup>3</sup>
64	<b>Greek letters</b>	
65	$\beta$	pressure dependent function
66	<b>Superscripts</b>	
67	VTPR	calculated by VTPR model
68	PR	calculated by PR $\mu$ model
69	N	nitrogen

70	E	fire extinguishing agent
71	<b><i>Subscripts</i></b>	
72	r	reduced property
73	v, l	gas or vapor phase, liquid phase
74	vo, lo	gas or vapour phase with total flow, liquid phase with total flow
75	c	critical point
76	m	mixture
77	<i>i, j</i>	component identification
78	tp	two-phase mixture
79	b	fire extinguishing bottle
80	p	pipeline
81	max, min	maximum, minimum
82	0	initial state
83	1, 2	inlet, outlet
84	f, a, g	friction, acceleration, gravity

## 85 **1 Introduction**

86 A fire extinguishing system is an important aspect of fire safety design of a helicopter. In the  
87 1990s, Halon 1301 was widely used as the fire extinguishing agent; however, green halon  
88 alternatives are being produced and used for protecting the environment in recent years [1], such  
89 as HFC227ea, CF<sub>3</sub>I, FC218 and HFC125. In order to release the extinguishant rapidly and put out  
90 the fire efficiently, fire extinguishing bottle is usually pre-filled with nitrogen, which provides the  
91 driving force during release [2]. As the extinguishing agent is released, the nitrogen in the bottle  
92 may escape and cause the extinguishant to change from a single phase to gas-liquid phase. Due to  
93 the existence of frictional and local resistance, the temperature and pressure of nitrogen +  
94 extinguishant vary rapidly along the pipeline before the mixture reaches a new equilibrium phase.

95 In halogenated hydrocarbon fire-extinguishing systems, the spraying time of extinguishant is  
96 required to be very short. Therefore, as the two-phase nitrogen + extinguishant flows in the  
97 pipeline, the heat transferred to the two-phase flow through the pipe wall is principally ignored

98 and thus regarded as adiabatic flow. Two typical filling pressures of 2.5 MPa and 4.2 MPa are  
99 always applied [2]. After the extinguisher valve is opened, the pressurised nitrogen and fire  
100 extinguishing agent vapor drive the liquid extinguishant to promptly fill the fire extinguishing  
101 pipeline, which leads to the "front end" (the part in contact with the outside) of the liquid  
102 extinguishant reaching the critical two-phase state [3, 4]. Due to the high saturated vapor pressure,  
103 it is common for liquid fire extinguishing agent to change phase as its pressure gradually decreases  
104 along the pipeline, thus becoming the main source of gas in the pipeline. Consequently, it is of  
105 great significance to study the two-phase flow for nitrogen + extinguishant to accurately calculate  
106 two-phase flow pressure drop.

107 The pressure drop in the two-phase flow is directly affected by viscosity. The calculation of  
108 viscosity based on  $p\mu T$  equation is suitable for both gas and liquid components, with a good  
109 thermodynamic consistency. For example, Wang et al. [5] proposed a unified viscosity and density  
110 calculation model for hydrocarbon fluid by modifying the Peng-Robinson (PR) EOS; Fan et al.  
111 [6] introduced volume translation method to improve the prediction accuracy of liquid viscosity,  
112 and summarised it into volume-translated Peng-Robinson viscosity (VTPR $\mu$ ) equation.

113 During the last few decades, some scholars have carried out experimental research on the two-  
114 phase flow of fire extinguishing agent in pipeline. Pitts and Yang et al. [3, 4] carried out the  
115 experimental research on the gas-liquid two-phase flow of four types of agents (Halon 1301,  
116 HFC125, HFC227ea, CF<sub>3</sub>I) dissolved nitrogen with six types of pipeline layout, and , and obtained  
117 a large amount of credible two-phase flowing data. Kemal et al. [7] built a one-dimensional flow  
118 experiment platform for fire extinguishing agent, including HFC227ea, HFC125, water, and CO<sub>2</sub>,  
119 and finally developed a one-dimensional flow calculation module (FSP) for fire extinguishing  
120 agent by using RELAP5 software. In addition, Vacek and Vins [8] measured mass data of adiabatic  
121 throttling experiments on pure FC218 and N<sub>2</sub> + FC218 in horizontal pipes, based on which, a two-  
122 phase critical mass flow rate prediction model was established including the unstable region of  
123 superheated liquid and two-phase flow. Moreover, Vacek et al. [9] carried out more in-depth  
124 adiabatic throttling experiments on the FC218 dissolved nitrogen, and found that the existence of  
125 nitrogen made the starting position of the two-phase flow significantly earlier than that of pure  
126 FC218, leading to the decrease of the mass flow rate through the capillary.

127 What's more, the two-phase flow of refrigerant in a capillary tube has been studied extensively  
128 [10-16]. The throttling process of the refrigerant in a capillary tube is commonly approximated to  
129 adiabatic isenthalpic expansion [15, 16], which is very similar to that of the fire extinguishing  
130 agent filling up a pipeline. It must be noted that the homogeneous flow model was selected in  
131 most of the studies listed above, which have shown that the refrigerant and its mixture in a  
132 capillary tube could reach critical flow state predominantly at the end of a horizontal or spiral tube  
133 due to pressure loss [17]. The critical mass flow rate was affected by multiple factors such as tube  
134 length, inner diameter, fluid sub-cooling degree, condensation pressure and refrigerant type [13,  
135 14]. Furthermore, compared with the mass flow rate in the release process of extinguishing agent,  
136 that of all working fluids in the open literature is one or more order of magnitude smaller.  
137 Therefore, it is essential to complete more calculations and conduct further analysis of the above  
138 models to validate if they are suitable for large mass flux two-phase flow of nitrogen +  
139 extinguishant mixture in a pipeline.

140 In terms of pressure drop of a two-phase flow in pipelines, many researchers have presented  
141 two-phase pressure drop prediction models based on considerable amount of experimental data of  
142 refrigerants [18-24]. However, various prediction models have different accuracy for specific fluid  
143 media, and actually there is not a general model well suited for all two-phase pressure drop  
144 calculations, especially for that of extinguishant at so high pressure.

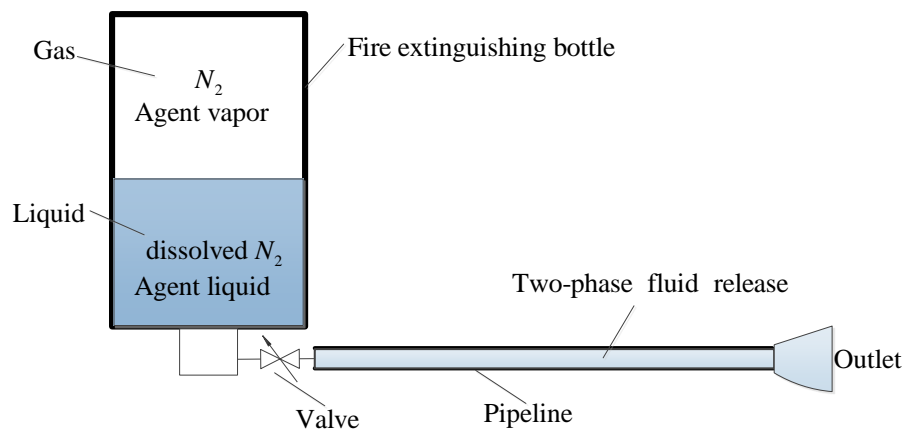
145 To the best of authors' knowledge, there are few detailed theoretical studies available regarding  
146 the two-phase flow of nitrogen + extinguishant in a pipeline, making the development of two-  
147 phase flow of the fire extinguishing system more unfavourable. Therefore, the aim of the current  
148 work is to propose an effective method to predicting the two-phase flow performance of the binary  
149 mixture of nitrogen + extinguishant in a pipeline. The fire extinguishing agents comprise  
150 HFC227ea,  $CF_3I$ , and HFC125. Combining with VTPR $\mu$  EOS and improved mixing rule, the  
151 methods for two-phase mixture viscosity are offered based on the six collected average viscosity  
152 formulae. Moreover, assumed one-dimensional adiabatic isenthalpic expansion process, the six  
153 corresponding models for steady-state two-phase flow of nitrogen + extinguishant are established.  
154 Additionally, the solution of the models is implemented by the finite volume method. Compared  
155 with previous experimental and calculated data, the mass flow rate and pressure drop based on

156 different models are calculated and their accuracy is analysed. Furthermore, the mass flow rate  
157 and pressure drop in the pipeline are correlated, respectively, so that it can be applied to predict  
158 the two-phase flow performance of nitrogen + extinguishant conveniently.

## 159 2 Theory

### 160 2.1 Average viscosity

161 Fig. 1 presents the diagram of nitrogen-extinguishant binary mixture release process in the  
162 pipeline. At the stable state, the upper part of the fire extinguishing bottle contains nitrogen and  
163 agent vapor, while agent and dissolved nitrogen is in the lower part. After opening the valve, the  
164 two-phase flow will enter the pipeline assuming that the initial pressure is constant. The existing  
165 experiments show that the mixture of nitrogen and fire extinguishing agent may occur phase  
166 change flowing along the fire-extinguishing pipeline [3, 4].



167

168

**Fig. 1 The schematic diagram of release process**

169 Viscosity as a significant physical property is frequently used in the calculation of two-phase  
170 flow in a pipeline, especially frictional pressure drop. Therefore, a prediction method suitable for  
171 viscosity of gas-liquid two-phase mixture must be proposed. As the initial filling pressure  $p_0$  and  
172 temperature  $T_0$  of the two-phase equilibrium system are given, the thermodynamic state of  
173 nitrogen and fire extinguishing agent can be ascertained based on the Gibbs phase rule [25-27].  
174 Then, the thermodynamic path of adiabatic isenthalpic expansion can also be obtained, where the  
175 appropriate EOS and mixing rule must be specified.

176 In terms of the former, the Peng-Robinson (PR) EOS [28] is one of the most common equations  
177 during engineering phase equilibrium calculation. Due to the similarity between  $pvT$  and  $p\mu T$

178 relationships, Fan and Wang [6] proposed the corresponding viscosity model named PR $\mu$  model  
 179 based on PR EOS, which can be written as:

$$180 \quad T' = \frac{r'p}{\mu - b} - \frac{a}{\mu^2 + 2b\mu - b^2} \quad (1)$$

181 where:  $\mu$  is the dynamic viscosity,  $10^{-7}$  Pa·s;  $T'$  denotes the presumptive temperature calculated  
 182 based on the following:

$$183 \quad T' = T - T_d, \quad T_d = 0.45T_c \quad (2)$$

184 The subscript c refers to critical state.

185 With the definition of Eq. (1):

$$186 \quad a = \frac{0.45724r_c^2 p_c^2}{0.55T_c} \quad (3)$$

$$187 \quad b = \frac{0.07780r_c p_c}{0.55T_c} \quad (4)$$

$$188 \quad r' = \beta r_c \quad (5)$$

189 where the variables in Eqs. (3), (4) and (5) can be obtained from the following expressions:

$$190 \quad \beta = e_0(1 - p_r^{-1}) - 0.02715p_r^{-1}[(p_r + 0.25)^{-1} - 0.8] + p_r^{-1} \quad (6)$$

$$191 \quad e_0 = 0.03192 - 3.3125 \times 10^{-4} \omega M_w \quad (7)$$

$$192 \quad r_c = \frac{0.55\mu_c T_c}{p_c Z_c} \quad (8)$$

193 where  $p_r = \frac{p}{p_c}$  is the reduced pressure;  $Z_c$  is the critical compressibility factor equal to 0.3074

194 commonly ;  $\mu_c = 7.7T_c^{-1/6}M_w^{0.5}p_c^{2/3}$  indicate the critical viscosity.

195 Xia et al. [29] proved that, by replacing the constant 0.3074 with the real critical compressibility  
 196 factor to solve  $r_c$  in Eq. (8), a more accurate viscosity value of each component could be  
 197 obtained. Meanwhile, they found that the binary interaction coefficient had little effect on the  
 198 viscosities of gas and liquid phase.

199 To improve the accuracy of EOS, imitating the volume-translated Peng-Robinson (VTPR) EOS,



200 Fan and Wang [6] defined a correction of viscosity as volume-translated Peng-Robinson viscosity  
 201 (VTPR $\mu$ ) equation, which is given as:

$$202 \quad \mu^{\text{VTPR}} = \mu^{\text{PR}} + c_0 + c \quad (9)$$

203 where  $\mu^{\text{VTPR}}$  and  $\mu^{\text{PR}}$  are the viscosity corrected by volume translation and calculated by Eq. (1),  
 204 respectively,  $10^{-7}$  Pa·s;  $c_0$  and  $c$  denote correction terms, and the detailed solution method can be  
 205 found in Ref [6].

206 In order to extend the VTPR $\mu$  EOS to prediction of mixture viscosity precisely, an improved  
 207 one parameter van der Waals mixing rule proposed by Khosharay [30] is adopted. That is:

$$208 \quad z_m = \sum_i \sum_j x_i x_j z_{ij} \quad , \quad z = a, b, r_c, T_d \quad \text{and} \quad \beta \quad (10)$$

$$209 \quad c_m = \sum_i x_i c_i \quad (11)$$

210 where

$$211 \quad z_{ij} = \sqrt{z_i z_j} \quad (12)$$

212 In this study, the corresponding relationship among the fluid temperature, pressure and the ratio  
 213 of each component in the flow process, can be derived by the phase equilibrium calculation [2]  
 214 based on VTPR EOS [31] with classical one parameter van der Waals mixing rule [32]. The  
 215 method on pure component properties used to calculate the parameters of VTPR EOS and the  
 216 binary interaction parameters could be found from Ref. [33]. Then, for an improvement of  
 217 calculation results, the average viscosity  $\mu_{\text{tp}}$  of two-phase mixture under different pressures can  
 218 be obtained using the above VTPR $\mu$  EOS associated with improved mixing rule. There are six  
 219 common formulae for calculating viscosity of mixture in the opening literature, as shown in Table  
 220 1, and thus six corresponding methods (VM-1 to VM-6) can be established for calculating the  
 221 average viscosity.

222 **Table 1 Common calculation methods of average viscosity of fluid mixture**

Abbreviation	Formula	Literature
VM-1	$\mu_{\text{tp}} = \left( \frac{x}{\mu_v} + \frac{1-x}{\mu_l} \right)^{-1}$	McAdams et al. [34]
VM-2	$\mu_{\text{tp}} = x\mu_v + (1-x)\mu_l$	Cicchitti et al. [35]

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VM-3	$\mu_{tp} = \rho_{tp} \left[ \frac{x\mu_v}{\rho_v} + (1-x) \frac{\mu_l}{\rho_l} \right]$	Dukler et al. [36]
VM-4	$\mu_{tp} = \mu_l - 2.5\mu_l \left[ \frac{x\rho_l}{x\rho_l + (1-x)\rho_v} \right]^2 + \left[ \frac{x\rho_l(1.5\mu_l + \mu_v)}{x\rho_l + (1-x)\rho_v} \right]$	Beattie-Whalley [37]
VM-5	$\mu_{tp} = \frac{\mu_v\mu_l}{\mu_g + x^{1.4}(\mu_l - \mu_v)}$	Lin et al. [38]
VM-6	$\mu_{tp} = \mu_v \frac{2\mu_v + \mu_l - 2(\mu_v - \mu_l)(1-x)}{2\mu_v + \mu_l + (\mu_v - \mu_l)(1-x)}$	Awad-Muzychka [39]

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223 **2.2 Steady-state two-phase flow model**

224 **2.2.1 Steady-state two-phase flow equations**

225 As mentioned earlier, few detailed available studies on the steady-state two-phase flow of  
 226 nitrogen + extinguishant in a pipeline have been discussed, while the gas-liquid two-phase flow  
 227 of refrigerant in a capillary tube has been sufficiently studied. As the refrigerant enters the  
 228 capillary tube, it is generally assumed that the two-phase flow is stable in straight pipe. This  
 229 provides a reference for the large mass flux two-phase flow of nitrogen + extinguishant in the  
 230 pipeline.

231 Next, the control equations of two-phase flow in the pipe are established based on the  
 232 homogeneous flow model.

233 (1) Continuous equation

234 For the mixture of nitrogen and fire extinguishing agent, at a constant pipeline diameter  $d$ , the  
 235 steady-state flow continuous equation is as follows:

236 
$$G = \rho_m u = const \quad (13)$$

237 where:  $u$  denotes the velocity of two-phase flow,  $m \cdot s^{-1}$ ;  $\rho_m$  is the average density of mixture,  
 238 represented by the following formula:

239 
$$\rho_m = \left( \frac{x}{\rho_v} + \frac{1-x}{\rho_l} \right)^{-1} \quad (14)$$

240 where:  $\rho_v$  is the average density of nitrogen and agent vapor in vapor phase, while  $\rho_l$  is the average

241 density of nitrogen and agent in liquid phase, and they could be calculated based on the VTPR  
 242 equation and one parameter van der Waals mixing rule.

243 (2) Momentum equation

244 The momentum equation [40] in the homogeneous flow model can be written as the sum of  
 245 three pressure drop gradients, as follows:

$$246 \quad -\frac{dp}{dL} = \frac{dp_f}{dL} + \frac{dp_a}{dL} + \frac{dp_g}{dL} \quad (15)$$

247 where:  $\frac{dp_f}{dL}$  is the pressure gradient due to friction;  $\frac{dp_a}{dL}$  is the pressure gradient due to  
 248 acceleration;  $\frac{dp_g}{dL}$  is the pressure gradient due to gravity, which is generally ignored because of  
 249 horizontal straight pipe.

250  $\frac{dp_f}{dL}$  in Eq. (15) can be acquired through analogy with the calculation method on a single-  
 251 phase flow:

$$252 \quad \frac{dp_f}{dL} = \lambda \frac{1}{d} \times \frac{1}{2} \rho_m u^2 = \frac{2f \rho_m u^2}{d} = \frac{2fG^2}{d \rho_m} \quad (16)$$

253 where:  $f$  denotes friction factor, and is calculated as follows [41]:

$$254 \quad f = 0.25 \left[ \log \left( \frac{150.39}{Re^{0.98865}} - \frac{152.66}{Re} \right) \right]^2 \quad (17)$$

255 The definition of Reynolds number  $Re$  is as follows:

$$256 \quad Re = \frac{\rho_m u d}{\mu_{tp}} = \frac{Gd}{\mu_{tp}} \quad (18)$$

257 where:  $\mu_{tp}$  is the average viscosity of binary mixture, calculated by methods (VM-1 to VM-6)  
 258 given in Table 1, Pa·s.

259  $\frac{dp_a}{dL}$  in Eq. (15) expresses the acceleration pressure drop gradient, defined as:

$$260 \quad \frac{dp_a}{dL} = G^2 \frac{d}{dL} \left[ \frac{x^2}{\rho_v \beta} + \frac{(1-x)^2}{\rho_l (1-\beta)} \right] = G^2 \frac{d(1/\rho_m)}{dL} \quad (19)$$

261 Combining Eqs. (15), (16), and (19), yields a differential equation of momentum as follows:

$$262 \quad u du + \frac{dp}{\rho_m} + \frac{2fu^2}{d} dL = 0 \quad (20)$$

263 Adding a multiplier  $\rho_m^2$  to both sides of Eq. (20), introducing the formula of continuous Eq.  
 264 (13), and integrating the pipeline with length  $L$  and diameter  $d$ , the following equation is obtained:

$$265 \int_{p_1}^{p_2} \rho_m dp + G^2 \ln\left(\frac{\rho_1}{\rho_2}\right) + \frac{2fG^2L}{d} = 0 \quad (21)$$

266 where  $p_1$ ,  $\rho_1$ ,  $p_2$ , and  $\rho_2$  are the inlet pressure, inlet density, outlet pressure and outlet density  
 267 of mixture along the pipe section, respectively.

### 268 (3) Energy equation

269 The heat exchange between the wall and the fluid can be ignored due to the very short flowing  
 270 time through the pipeline. Consequently, it could be assumed that the two-phase fluid undergoes  
 271 the adiabatic isenthalpic expansion process in the pipeline. Finally, the energy equation can be  
 272 described as follows:

$$273 \frac{dh_0}{dL} = 0 \quad (22)$$

274 where:  $h_0$  is stagnation enthalpy, calculated as follows:

$$275 h_0 = h + u^2/2 = x_v^N h_v^N + x_v^E h_v^E + x_1^N h_1^N + x_1^E h_1^E + u^2/2 \quad (23)$$

276 where: the superscripts N and E are divided into nitrogen and fire extinguishing agent, and  $x$  is  
 277 the quality of the corresponding component.

278 Since VM-1 to VM-6 are used to calculate Reynolds number, the six corresponding steady-  
 279 state two-phase flow models are proposed, named STFM-1 to STFM-6.

### 280 2.2.2 Solution of mathematical model

281 The continuity and momentum equations describing the steady-state two-phase flow of nitrogen  
 282 + extinguishant in the pipeline are both concentrated in Eq. (21). In this study, the nitrogen +  
 283 extinguishant undergoes adiabatic isenthalpic expansion with two degrees of freedom. Specific  
 284 enthalpy  $h$  and total pressure  $p$  are selected as two independent variables. Considering VTPR EOS  
 285 with one parameter van der Waals mixing rule and constant specific enthalpy, the state parameters  
 286 of mixture and each component are calculated iteratively. Furthermore, the density of mixture is  
 287 explicitly indicated by the pressure along the pipeline, and the relationship between mass velocity  
 288  $G$  and total pressure  $p$  can be obtained through direct integration of Eq. (21).

289 As mentioned earlier, it is usually believed that the "front end" (the part in contact with the  
290 outside) of the extinguishing agent filling the pipeline will reach the critical flow state of two-  
291 phase if the fire extinguishing system is opened [3, 4]. At this moment, the mass velocity  $G$  in the  
292 pipeline reaches the maximum value in spite of the decrease of the outlet pressure. Referring to  
293 the typical calculation method of the gas-liquid two-phase critical flow in a capillary [16], the  
294 procedure to solve the continuity equation, momentum equation and energy equation of the  
295 steady-state two-phase flow is shown below:

296 (1) According to the given initial filling pressure ( $p_0$ ) and temperature ( $T_0$ ), mass of the fire  
297 extinguishing agent ( $m^E$ ), volume of the fire extinguishing bottle ( $V_b$ ), and diameter ( $d$ ) and length  
298 ( $L$ ) of pipeline, the values for mass of dissolved nitrogen ( $m^N$ ) can be acquired by solving initial  
299 state.

300 (2) Obtain  $\rho_m = \rho_m(p)$  in adiabatic isenthalpic expansion process based on foregoing method  
301 mentioned.

302 (3) Assume initial mass velocity  $G_0$ .

303 (4) Provide pressure drop of control body  $dp$ .

304 (5) Calculate the pressure outside the pipeline  $p_2$  by Eq. (21).

305 (6) Compare the calculated mass flow rate  $G$  and stop the calculation when the condition  
306  $G = G_{\max}$  is met, otherwise recalculate  $G$  by using the second method and go to step 4 for iterative  
307 calculation.

### 308 **3 Results and discussion**

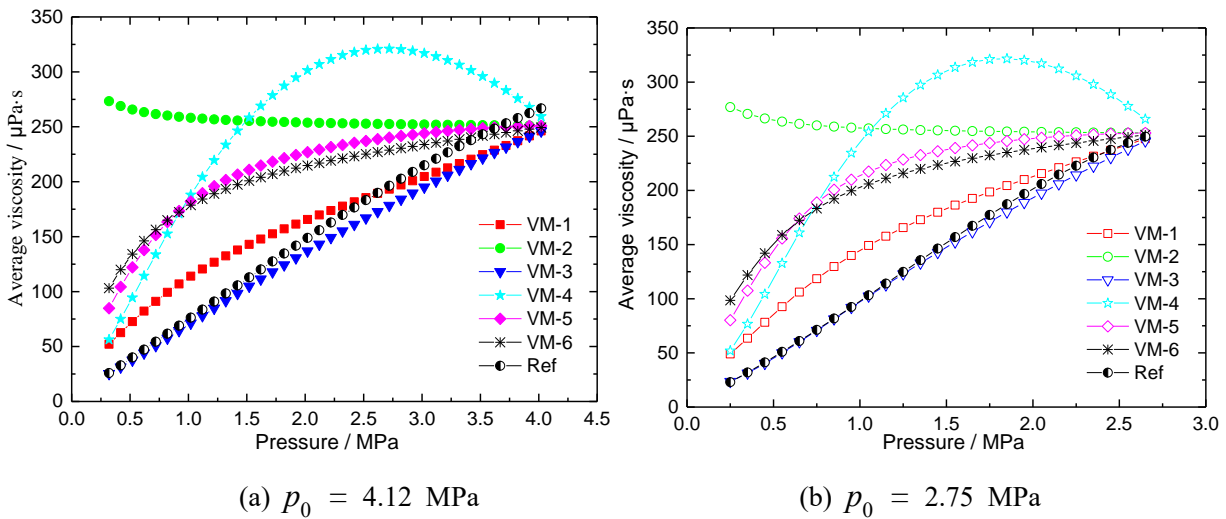
309 In this section, the representative physical parameters (average viscosity and density) and key  
310 flowing properties (mass flow rate and pressure drop) are calculated and predicted. Following that,  
311 the accuracy of six viscosity methods (VM-1 to VM-6) and corresponding steady-state two-phase  
312 flow models (STFM-1 to STFM-6) for nitrogen + extinguishant are evaluated against the data  
313 from the published literature.

314 **3.1 Physical parameters**

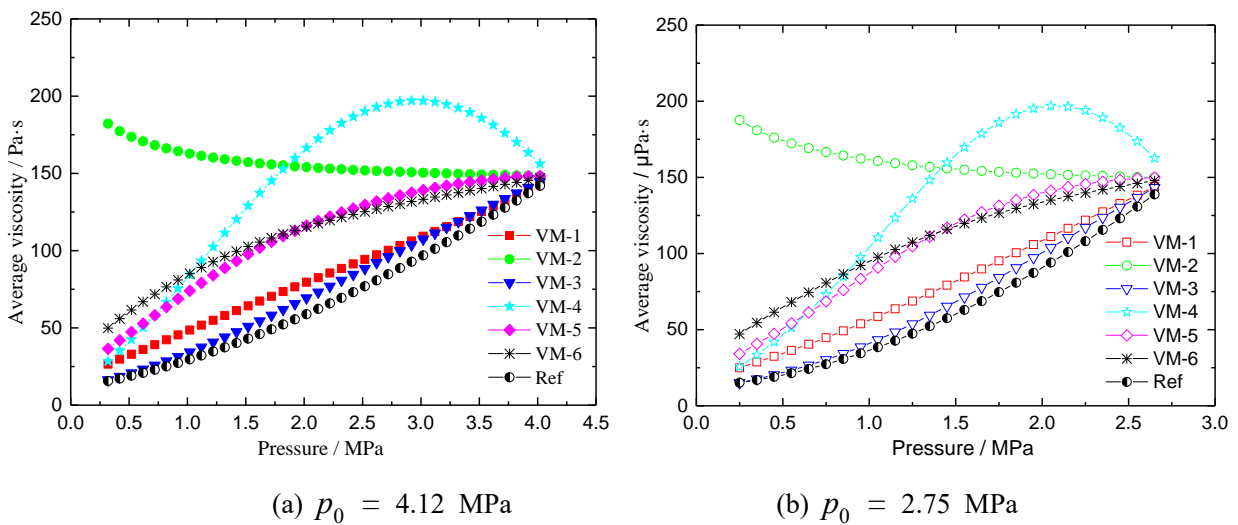
315 **3.1.1 Average viscosity**

316 The results of the average viscosity for different mixtures calculated by VM-1 to VM-6 are  
 317 compared with that from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) [4] at a different  
 318 filling pressure  $p_0$ , as presented in Figs. 2-3. The fire extinguishing agents are HFC227ea and  
 319 HFC125.

320 Among all mixtures, there is a similar upward trend for average viscosity of the two-phase flow  
 321 through adiabatic isenthalpic expansion calculated by the above methods except VM-2 and VM-  
 322 4. Taken together, the average viscosities calculated by VM-1 and VM-3 are close to that from  
 323 Ref. [4], while quite different from results of VM-2 and VM-4.



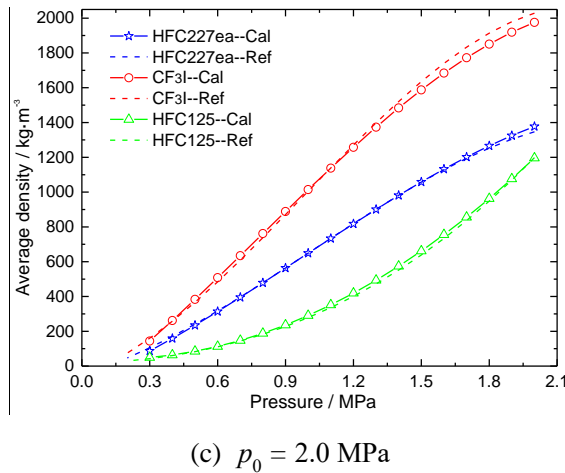
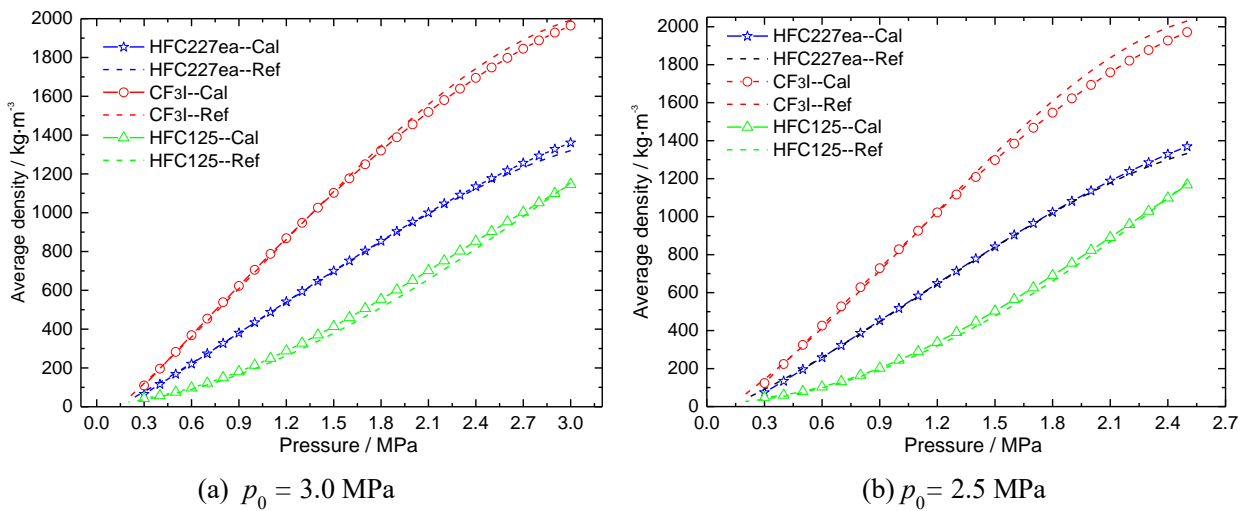
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326 **Fig. 2 Comparison of  $N_2 + HFC227ea$  average viscosities at different  $p_0$**



327  
328  
329 **Fig. 3 Comparison of  $N_2 + HFC125$  average viscosities at different  $p_0$**

330 However, it is difficult to directly determine which calculation formula is more suitable for  
 331 calculating the Reynolds number of a gas-liquid two-phase flow only by the trend of average  
 332 viscosity calculation for nitrogen + extinguishant. Furthermore, it has been reported in literature  
 333 [42, 43] that VM-2 could obtain the best description value of pressure drop in homogeneous flow  
 334 model, while in Ref. [44] VM-3 could relatively reasonably predict the experimental data.  
 335 Therefore, the mass flow rate and pressure drop of a steady-state two-phase flow are further  
 336 studied in the following section.

### 337 3.1.2 Average density



342 **Fig. 4 Curves of the average densities of two-phase mixtures with pressure**

343 As another key parameter in the steady-state two-phase models, the densities of three types of  
 344 mixtures are determined based on VTPR EOS with one parameter van der Waals mixing rule.  
 345 Fig. 4 shows that the average densities vary with the pressure through adiabatic isenthalpic  
 346 expansion. The mixtures are  $N_2 + HFC227ea$ ,  $N_2 + CF_3I$ , and  $N_2 + HFC125$ , respectively. The

347 initial filling temperature  $T_0$  in the fire extinguisher is 23 °C and the initial filling pressures  $p_0$  are  
 348 3.0 MPa, 2.5 MPa, and 2.0 MPa, respectively.

349 At  $p_0 = 3.0$  MPa, the average relative deviations (ARDs) of densities of the three binary  
 350 mixtures calculated in this study against the Ref. [4] are 1.75%, 2.13%, 6.92%, and 5.12%, while  
 351 1.88%, 3.20%, 5.38%, and 4.20% at 2.5 MPa, and 1.97%, 3.08%, 3.88%, and 3.47% at 2.0 MPa,  
 352 respectively. It can be found that all the average densities of mixtures decrease as the fluid pressure  
 353 declines at different initial filling pressures, and the predicted values are markedly consistent with  
 354 the quoted values. Therefore, the calculated average densities are adopted to predict the two-phase  
 355 mass flow rate and pressure drop of nitrogen + extinguishant.

356 In order to simplify the solution of steady-state two-phase flow equations, the average density  
 357 of each two-phase mixture is fitted to a univariate cubic polynomial with pressure, as shown in  
 358 Eq. (24).

$$359 \quad \rho_m = A_0 + A_1 \cdot p_m + A_2 \cdot p_m^2 + A_3 \cdot p_m^3 \quad (24)$$

360 where:  $\rho_m$  is the average density of mixture,  $\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$ ;  $p_m$  is the pressure of mixture, MPa;  $A_0 -$   
 361  $A_3$  are the polynomial coefficients of the pressure.

362 The fitted polynomial coefficients for three binary mixtures under three initial filling pressures  
 363 are reported in Table 2.

364 **Table 2 The polynomial coefficients under different initial filling pressures**

Agent	$p_0$ /MPa	$A_0$	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$
HFC227ea	3.0	-83.181	479.941	55.936	-18.502
	2.5	-93.304	523.914	129.194	-41.882
	2.0	-98.020	525.882	335.768	-114.915
CF <sub>3</sub> I	3.0	-150.586	864.999	13.490	-22.280
	2.5	-168.524	948.824	104.015	-56.462
	2.0	-176.917	965.843	395.573	-170.137
HFC125	3.0	21.596	7.400	216.577	-31.370
	2.5	42.062	-75.301	322.822	-45.017



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2.0	46.242	-90.322	337.099	-2.241
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365

### 366 3.2 Calculation and comparison of steady-state two-phase flow

367 The mass flow rate and pressure drop, as the key flowing properties of steady-state two-phase  
 368 nitrogen + extinguishant, are predicted and then compared with calculated and experimental data  
 369 from the opening literature.

#### 370 3.2.1 Mass flow rate

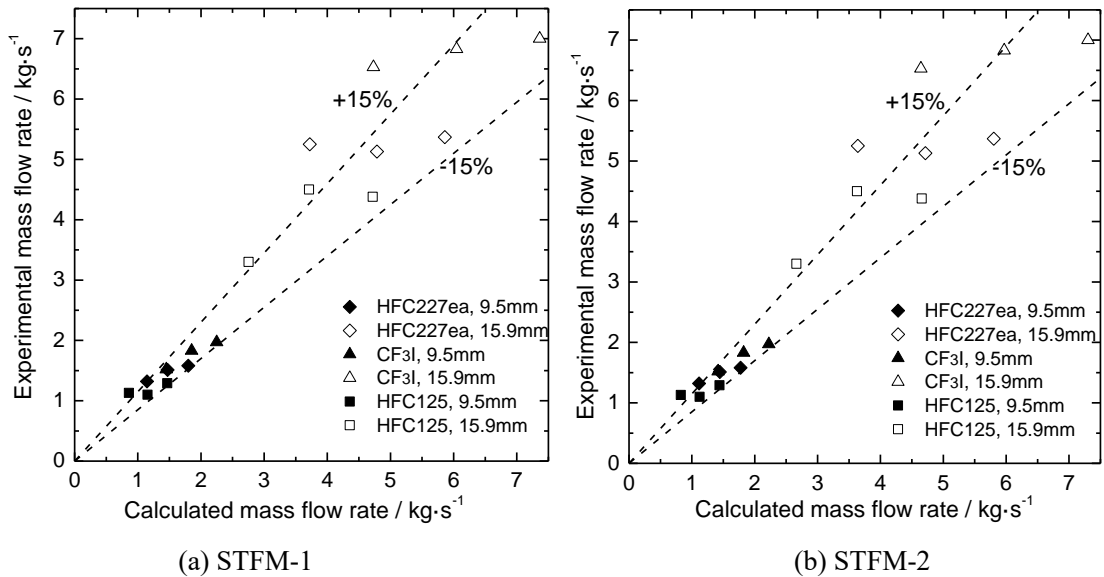
371 Table 3 compares the steady-state mass flow rates of nitrogen + extinguishant predicted by  
 372 STFM-1 to STFM-6 and measured by Yang et al. [4]. For the three types of mixtures, the  
 373 STFM-3 and STFM-4 always show the largest and smallest mass flow rate respectively, at the  
 374 same filling pressure and pipeline diameter. However, there is not much obvious difference among  
 375 the results of the six models.

376 **Table 3 Steady-state mass flow rate of two-phase mixture**

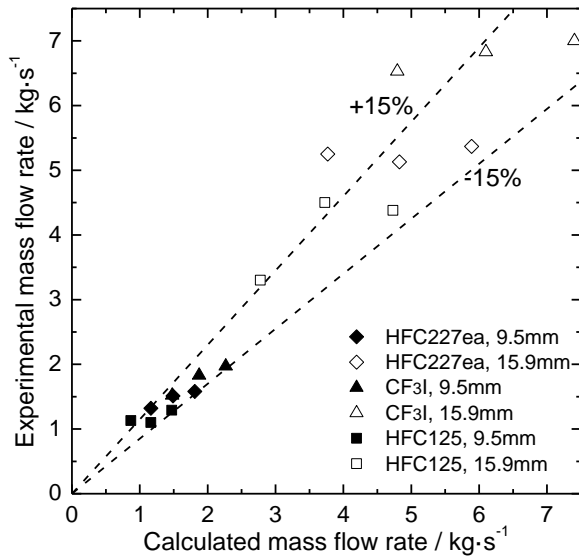
Agent	$p_0$ /MPa	$T_0$ /°C	$d$ /mm	Mass flow rate [4] / kg·s <sup>-1</sup>	Calculated mass flow rate / kg·s <sup>-1</sup>					
					STFM-1	STFM-2	STFM-3	STFM-4	STFM-5	STFM-6
HFC227ea	3.0	23	9.5	1.58±0.02	1.7981	1.7744	1.8104	1.7556	1.7793	1.7834
	2.5	23	9.5	1.51±0.02	1.4723	1.4436	1.4879	1.4284	1.4506	1.4548
	2.0	23	9.5	1.32±0.01	1.1461	1.1145	1.1642	1.1083	1.1239	1.1274
	3.0	23	15.9	5.37±0.21	5.8599	5.8019	5.8888	5.7466	5.8128	5.8238
	2.5	23	15.9	5.13±0.18	4.7868	4.7142	4.8255	4.6661	4.7304	4.7422
	2.0	23	15.9	5.25±0.19	3.7223	3.6407	3.7688	3.6169	3.6633	3.6733
CF <sub>3</sub> I	3.0	23	9.5	1.97±0.02	2.2495	2.2246	2.2665	2.2012	2.2289	2.2339
	2.5	23	9.5	1.83±0.02	1.8530	1.8231	1.8744	1.8028	1.8290	1.8344
	2.0	23	9.5	1.52±0.01	1.4522	1.4189	1.4770	1.4082	1.4270	1.4319
	3.0	23	15.9	7.00±0.29	7.3633	7.3021	7.4039	7.2334	7.3119	7.3248

	2.5	23	15.9	6.83±0.29	6.0459	5.9699	6.0992	5.9073	5.9839	5.9984
	2.0	23	15.9	6.53±0.27	4.7304	4.6442	4.7941	4.6071	4.6637	4.6775
	3.0	23	9.5	1.29±0.02	1.4667	1.4403	1.4716	1.4257	1.4488	1.4511
	2.5	23	9.5	1.10±0.01	1.1554	1.1223	1.1624	1.1139	1.1355	1.1367
HFC125	2.0	23	9.5	1.13±0.01	0.8591	0.8233	0.8676	0.8264	0.8411	0.8402
	3.0	23	15.9	4.38±0.18	4.7203	4.6575	4.7310	4.6132	4.6754	4.6825
	2.5	23	15.9	4.50±0.16	3.7101	3.6275	3.7269	3.5976	3.6579	3.6625
	2.0	23	15.9	3.30±0.11	2.7547	2.6629	2.7761	2.6645	2.7065	2.7054

377 The comparison between the predicted and the experimental values is completed and presented  
378 in Fig. 5. When  $d$  is 9.5 mm, the results predicted by six models correspond to the experimental  
379 values within a percent deviation smaller than 15% under all operational conditions. For  
380 STFM-1 to STFM-6, the average absolute relative deviation (AARD) between predicted and  
381 experimental data is 8.94%, 8.93%, 8.86%, 8.74%, 8.82%, and 8.87%, respectively. Nevertheless,  
382 the deviations exceed  $\pm 15\%$  as  $d$  increases to 15.9 mm under some conditions, and the  
383 corresponding AARD is 14.1%, 14.92%, 13.77%, 14.93%, 14.58% and 14.56%, respectively.



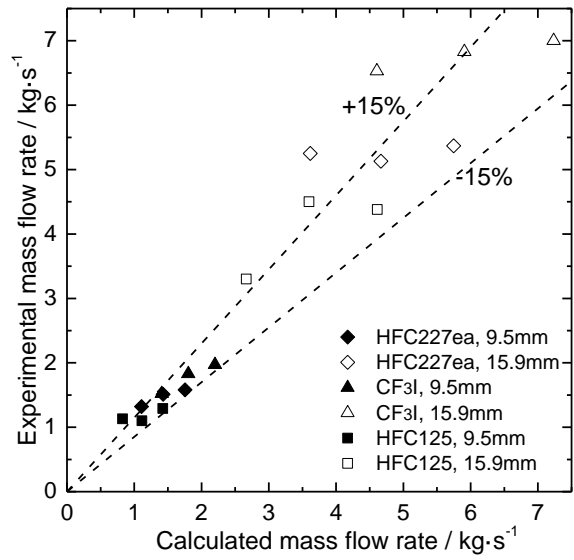
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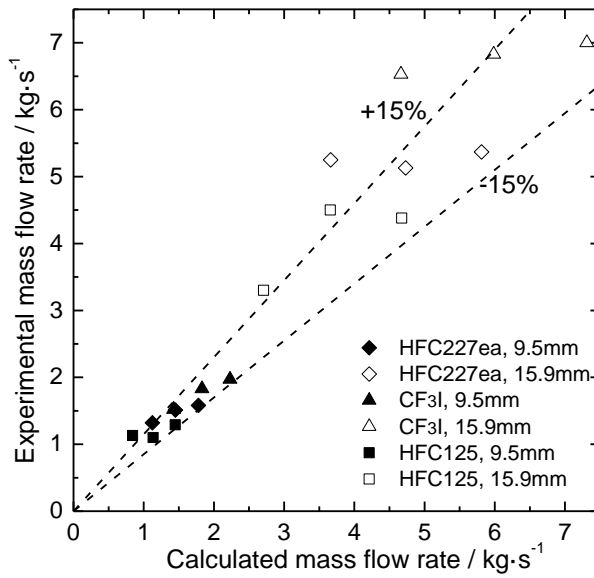
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(c) STF3



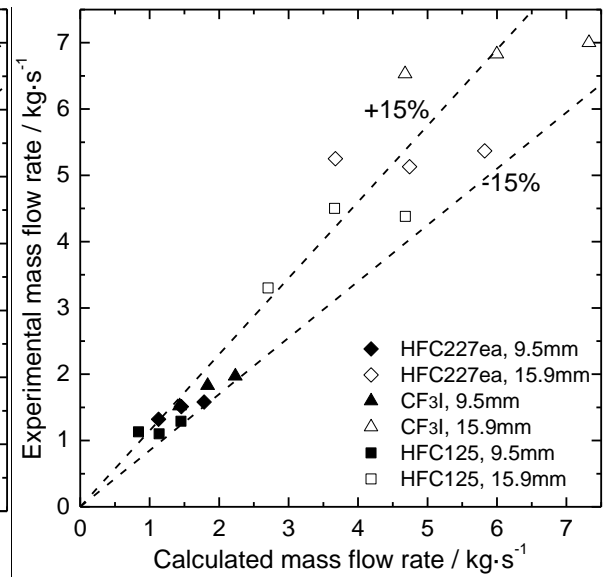
(d) STF4



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(e) STF5



(f) STF6

390 **Fig. 5 Comparison between the predicted and experimental value [4] of steady-state mass**  
 391 **flow rate**

392 In comparison with the experimental data, different models have various calculation accuracy  
 393 for each mixture. For HFC227ea, CF<sub>3</sub>I, and HFC125, the appropriate prediction models are  
 394 STF3, STF2, and STF2, respectively. However, the predicted mass flow rate results  
 395 based on different models are mainly desirable, especially with a small pipeline diameter, and they  
 396 all can calculate viscosity in homogeneous flow model.

397 For predicting the mass flow rate through the fire extinguishing pipeline conveniently, a  
 398 dimensionless criterion correlation is proposed. Referring to Buckingham's  $\pi$  theorem [13, 14]

399 and the selection of variables from Ref. [13], the specific forms are as follows:

$$400 \quad \pi_1 = \phi(\pi_2, \pi_3, \pi_4, \pi_5, \pi_6) \quad (25)$$

$$401 \quad \frac{\dot{m}}{d^2 \sqrt{\rho_1 p_0}} = \phi\left(\frac{p_0}{p_c}, \frac{T_0}{T_c}, \frac{L}{d}, \frac{\rho_v}{\rho_l}, \frac{\mu_l - \mu_v}{\mu_g}\right) \quad (26)$$

402 where:  $\dot{m}$  is the mass flow rate,  $\text{kg}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ;  $\mu_v$  and  $\mu_l$  are the dynamic viscosity of gas mixture  
403 and liquid fire extinguishing agent of dissolved nitrogen respectively,  $\text{Pa}\cdot\text{s}$ .

404 The function form of power law is suitable for this study [13], and the coefficients in Eq. (26)  
405 are optimised by the 'Nlinfit' function from MATLAB software [45]. Finally, the best mass flow  
406 rate correlation can be expressed as follows:

$$407 \quad \frac{\dot{m}}{d^2 \sqrt{\rho_1 p_0}} = 2.3645 \times 10^{-5} \left(\frac{p_0}{p_c}\right)^{0.3859} \left(\frac{T_0}{T_c}\right)^{-10.6972} \left(\frac{L}{d}\right)^{2.2925} \left(\frac{\rho_v}{\rho_l}\right)^{-0.0310} \left(\frac{\mu_l - \mu_v}{\mu_g}\right)^{-2.2675} \quad (27)$$

408 The developed correlation for mass flow rate shows good agreement with the experimental data  
409 with an overall ARD of 1.43%, covering HFC227ea,  $\text{CF}_3\text{I}$ , and HFC125.

410  $\text{N}_2 + \text{FC218}$  is selected as a new two-phase mixture to further evaluate the applicability of  
411 correlation. The mass flow rate of a steady-state two-phase flow is calculated by the correlation  
412 and STFM-2, and the comparison result is shown in Table 4. The value calculated by Eq. (27) is  
413 lower than that by selected prediction model as a whole, with all deviations of no more than 10%  
414 at different  $p_0$  and  $d$ , indicating that the correlation has a satisfying applicability and accuracy.

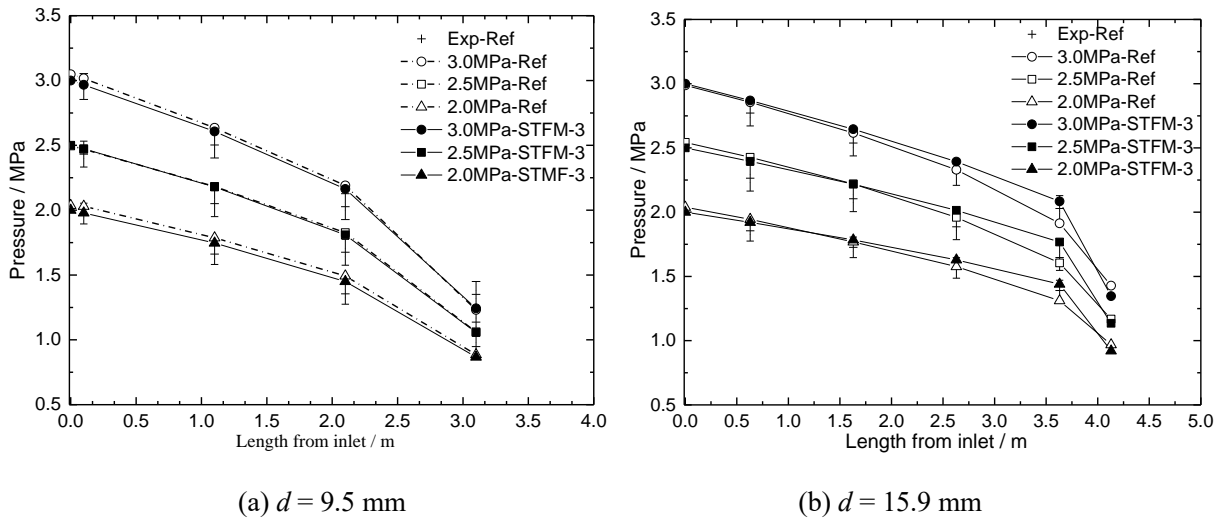
415 **Table 4 Comparison of mass flow rate of  $\text{N}_2 + \text{FC218}$**

	$p_0$ /MPa	$d$ /mm	STFM-2 / $\text{kg}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$	Correlation / $\text{kg}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$	Deviation
1	3.0	9.5	1.639	1.537	-6.22%
2	2.5	9.5	1.307	1.199	-8.26%
3	2.0	9.5	0.984	0.886	-9.96%
4	3.0	15.9	5.340	5.004	-6.29%
5	2.5	15.9	4.245	3.904	-8.03%
6	2.0	15.9	3.194	2.886	-9.64%

416 **3.2.2 Pressure drop**

417 In this section, the pressure drops of two-phase nitrogen + extinguishant mixtures flowing along  
 418 the pipeline are predicted and discussed, including HFC227ea, CF<sub>3</sub>I, and HFC125, and further  
 419 compared with the experimental and calculated values in Ref. [4].

420 Fig. 6 (a) and (b) illustrate the predicted and experimental pressure change of the two-phase N<sub>2</sub>  
 421 + HFC227ea at several measuring points along the pipeline, where the downward pressure  
 422 tendency is similar for the other mixtures. Here, STFM-3 is adopted to predict pressure which  
 423 decreases as the fluid gradually flows forward. At  $d = 9.5$  mm, the pressure drops predicted in this  
 424 article are all quite consistent with the previous data at three initial filling pressures. As  $d$  increases  
 425 to 15.9 mm, the predicted value corresponds to the calculated value within 2.6 m from the pipeline  
 426 inlet, while differs from that beyond 3.6 m. The predicted result is evidently closer to the  
 427 experimental data than the calculation, which indicates better prediction ability of STFM-3.



431 **Fig. 6 Comparison between predicted and experimental data of two-phase N<sub>2</sub> + HFC227ea pressure drop**

432 Tables 5-7 present pressure drop with high value predicted by six models and quoted from Ref.  
 433 [4] at different  $p_0$  and  $d$ , for N<sub>2</sub> + HFC227ea, N<sub>2</sub> + CF<sub>3</sub>I, and N<sub>2</sub> + HFC125, respectively.  
 434 Compared with the experimental data for the types of mixtures, most ARDs calculated by STFM-  
 435 1 to STFM-6 are approximately 10%, versus about 20% given by literature, which reveals that  
 436 these models are more appropriate for the two-phase pressure drop.

437 Specifically, the calculation values for pressure drop of Ref. [4] are close to that of the six

438 models at small pipe diameter of 9.5 mm, while the deviations of quoted data are significantly  
 439 higher than that of prediction models as diameter increases to 15.9 mm. Considering the predicted  
 440 accuracy of STFM-1 to STFM-6 synthetically, STFM-2 is the most accurate prediction model for  
 441 pressure drop, which corresponds to the views of literature [42, 46], followed by STFM-4.

442 **Table 5 Steady-state flow pressure drop of two-phase N<sub>2</sub> + HFC227ea**

	$p_0$ /MPa	$d$ /mm	Pressure drop / MPa							
			Exp [4]	Cal [4]	STFM-1	STFM-2	STFM-3	STFM-4	STFM-5	STFM-6
1	3.0	9.5	1.603	1.786	1.713	1.699	1.724	1.725	1.707	1.706
2	2.5	9.5	1.296	1.409	1.411	1.405	1.416	1.438	1.412	1.409
3	2.0	9.5	1.025	1.145	1.113	1.111	1.112	1.143	1.119	1.115
4	3.0	15.9	0.743	0.943	0.818	0.785	0.836	0.758	0.791	0.797
5	2.5	15.9	0.617	0.822	0.670	0.629	0.695	0.607	0.638	0.644
6	2.0	15.9	0.465	0.633	0.526	0.480	0.557	0.470	0.493	0.498
		ARD %		21.35	9.35	5.60	11.71	5.80	6.75	7.11

443 Note: pressure drop refers to the pressure difference between measuring points 1 and 4 [4], similarly hereinafter.

444 **Table 6 Steady-state flow pressure drop of two-phase N<sub>2</sub> + CF<sub>3</sub>I**

	$p_0$ /MPa	$d$ /mm	Pressure drop / MPa							
			Exp [4]	Cal [4]	STFM-1	STFM-2	STFM-3	STFM-4	STFM-5	STFM-6
1	3.0	9.5	1.574	1.749	1.755	1.743	1.767	1.764	1.748	1.748
2	2.5	9.5	1.468	1.419	1.441	1.434	1.448	1.464	1.440	1.438
3	2.0	9.5	1.089	1.026	1.132	1.130	1.133	1.158	1.135	1.133
4	3.0	15.9	0.761	0.988	0.849	0.821	0.869	0.794	0.825	0.831
5	2.5	15.9	0.545	0.808	0.693	0.658	0.719	0.634	0.664	0.671
6	2.0	15.9	0.434	0.624	0.541	0.502	0.574	0.489	0.511	0.517
		ARD %		23.68	13.44	10.18	16.01	8.67	10.86	11.43

445 **Table 7 Steady-state flow pressure drop of two-phase N<sub>2</sub> + HFC125**

	$p_0$	$d$	Pressure drop / MPa							
--	-------	-----	---------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	/MPa	/mm	Exp [4]	Cal [4]	STFM-1	STFM-2	STFM-3	STFM-4	STFM-5	STFM-6
1	3.0	9.5	1.351	1.364	1.453	1.434	1.459	1.467	1.451	1.445
2	2.5	9.5	1.012	1.062	1.203	1.199	1.207	1.242	1.214	1.206
3	2.0	9.5	0.887	0.792	0.967	0.975	0.966	1.011	0.984	0.977
4	3.0	15.9	0.608	0.753	0.666	0.626	0.674	0.604	0.638	0.642
5	2.5	15.9	0.382	0.602	0.546	0.494	0.559	0.479	0.513	0.515
6	2.0	15.9	0.351	0.483	0.435	0.374	0.452	0.377	0.401	0.400
		ARD %		22.61	18.64	12.23	20.36	13.13	15.30	15.11

446 Even though many studies have proposed correlations of frictional pressure drop based on the  
447 data of an adiabatic two-phase flow [18, 47-50], there have been few studies on the nitrogen +  
448 extinguishant in pipeline with large mass flow rate. Therefore, in this paper, the frictional pressure  
449 drop correlation is proposed for extinguishant consulting previous models according to predicted  
450 data using the two-phase multiplier  $\phi_{vo}^2$  and frictional pressure drop for a vapor phase with total

451 flow  $\left(\frac{dp}{dz}\right)_{vo}$ . The proposed correlation is given as:

$$452 \left(\frac{dp}{dz}\right)_{tp} = \left(\frac{dp}{dz}\right)_{vo} \phi_{vo}^2 \quad (28)$$

$$453 \left(\frac{dp}{dz}\right)_{vo} = \frac{2f_{vo}G^2}{d\rho_v} \quad (29)$$

$$454 \phi_{vo}^2 = x^{1.8} + (1-x)^{1.8} \frac{\rho_v f_{lo}}{\rho_l f_{vo}} + 0.68x^{0.71} (1-x)^{0.50} \left(\frac{\mu_l}{\mu_v}\right)^{1.76} \left(\frac{\rho_l}{\rho_v}\right)^{0.62} \quad (30)$$

455 where Jige [49] suggested a correlated method with friction factor  $f$  using the vapor Reynolds  
456 number.

457 The comparison suggests that the developed correlation is able to work for the mass flow rates  
458 of nitrogen + extinguishant accurately with an overall ARD of 1.43%, covering HFC227ea, CF<sub>3</sub>I,  
459 and HFC125.

## 460 **4 Conclusions**

461 The purpose of the current research is to analyse and study the steady-state two-phase flow  
462 performance of nitrogen + extinguishant in a pipeline accurately, including  $N_2 + HFC227ea$ ,  $N_2 +$   
463  $CF_3I$ , and  $N_2 + HFC125$ . Based on the  $VTPR_{\mu}$  EOS associated with improved mixing rule in the  
464 opening literature, the flow process viewed as one-dimensional adiabatic isenthalpic expansion is  
465 studied. The average viscosities and densities are calculated and discussed as significant physical  
466 parameters. The novel steady-state two-phase flow models (STFM-1 to STFM-6) with large mass  
467 flux for the mass flow rate and pressure drop are proposed and evaluated, which correspond to the  
468 six collected mixture viscosity formulae (VM-1 to VM-6). The major conclusions are summarized  
469 as follows:

470 Among all mixtures in the paper, there is a similar rising trend for average viscosity except  
471 VM-2 and VM-4. Moreover, the average density of each two-phase mixture decreases with the  
472 pressure loss at different initial filling pressure, which is further fitted to a univariate cubic  
473 polynomial.

474 For mass flow rate, the results calculated by STFM-1 to STFM-6 are generally satisfactory  
475 compared with the previous experimental values, especially for a small pipeline diameter, thus  
476 they all can be utilised to predict mass flow rate of nitrogen + extinguishant. The most appropriate  
477 models are STFM-3, STFM-2, and STFM-2, respectively, corresponding to  $HFC227ea$ ,  $CF_3I$ , and  
478  $HFC125$ . A dimensionless correlation for mass flow rate is established and yields an overall ARD  
479 of 1.43%, which can also be extended to accurately predict that of  $N_2 + FC218$ .

480 For pressure drop, STFM-2 has the most adequate calculation accuracy under different initial  
481 filling pressure and pipeline diameter for each nitrogen + extinguishant above, followed by  
482 STFM-4. In addition, for all flow conditions a correlation is newly developed and works  
483 satisfactorily for frictional pressure drop with an ARD of 6.15%.

484 In general, the insights gained from this study will be invaluable for large mass flux steady-  
485 state two-phase flow process analysis.

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