

Advancements in numerical modeling of the continuous casting mold

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Abstract: This paper presents a critical review of numerical modeling and methods applied in the continuous casting mold. With the recent advancement in metallurgical methods, the continuous casting process now becomes the main method for steel production. To achieve efficient and effective production, the manufacturers of steel keep on searching for new methods which increase productivity. The continuous casting process comprises many complicated phenomena in terms of fluid flow, heat transfer, and structural deformation. The important numerical modeling method of the continuous casting process has been discussed in reference in this work. The present work describes molten steel flow, heat transfer, solidification, electromagnetic applications, formation of the shell by solidification and coupling, etc. Further, the distortion of strand by thermo-mechanical forces, bulging, bending, and crack prediction has been discussed briefly. Numerical simulations have led to the path where greater information can be unleashed to understand the metallurgical process of strand solidification.

Keywords: steelmaking, mold, mathematical modeling, continuous casting, CFD

1. Introduction

More than 96 % of steel products in the world are coming through a continuous casting process [1]. Scientific advancement has been carried out in ironmaking & steelmaking for many decades. Hence, steelmaking is now a well-established technology driven by plant, experimental and computational analysis. With the recent advancement in metallurgical methods, the continuous casting process now becomes the main method for steel production[2], [3]. Nowadays, the old ingot route process has been replaced by the continuous casting process[4] for producing steel in most industries. The reason behind this is the advantages that come with the continuous casting process which includes cost-saving, high productivity, and better quality[5]-[8].

To achieve efficient and effective production, the manufacturers of steel keep on searching for new methods which increase productivity. One such kind of method has become more popular to use optimizing using numerical modeling[9]. The

optimized solutions of the temperature distribution that is obtained using a numerical model before the casting process will help avoid the surface defects such as cracks and other unfavorable phenomena[10], [11]. The continuous casting process comprises many complicated phenomena in terms of fluid flow, heat transfer and structural deformation. In a common practice depending on the area of interest for study, researchers simplify the model by focusing on a few phenomenon and ignore the rest [9], [12], [13][14]-[19].

The important part and process of continuous casting have been modeled in-depth and discussed in reference [20]. It describes molten steel flow, formation of the shell by solidification. Further, the distortion of strand by thermo-mechanical forces, bulging, bending and crack prediction has been also given in detail. Numerical simulations have led to the path where greater information can be unleashed to understand the metallurgical process of strand

solidification. Apart from manual coding of these problems, various commercial software is available in the market. Till now, many powerful pre-coded solvers are available in the market. The numerical simulation of the thermo-mechanical behavior of the continuous casting process is important in terms of achieving a quality product[21]-[28]. This part of simulation comes with many obstacles such as dealing with the highly non-linear constitutive laws of structure, incorporation of latent heat, involvement of three different states of material: liquid, mushy and solid, temperature-dependent material properties, irregular contact between the mold surface and solidified strand, and coupling the heat transfer and structure model with proper continuum mechanism and boundary condition [29]. Reynold's Averaged Navier- Stokes (RANS) method has been widely adopted for turbulence modeling. It has been reported that the RANS model is highly accurate in predicting steady-state flow patterns [25]. The most adopted technique for simulating the solidification of continuous casting is the enthalpy-porosity approach. This technique is based on a quantity known as a liquid fraction. Many researchers have studied this approach but most of them are limited to 2D modeling. Though modes of heat transfer in the mold are complex phenomena and are studied where modes of heat transfer are conduction, convection & radiation, their effect on the final product and the possibility of controlling the detrimental effect has to be studied.

The research work done in the last three decades has made continuous casting an advanced and sophisticated technology[20], [30]-[32]. Physical water models can simulate the molten steel flow in the mold region of the continuous casting process considering the viscosity of water equivalent to steel [33] [34]. To overcome the inaccuracies of the water model, researchers have developed numerical models based on finite-volume methods to get the solution of Navier-Stokes's equations. The characteristic of molten steel flow, heat transfer, and solidification in the mold have been studied in previous research [35]-[37]. Several research works have been done on molten steel flow, heat transfer and solidification in mold[38]-[40]. The characteristic of molten steel flow, heat transfer and solidification in the mold have been studied in previous research [35]-[37]. These studies have been established and validated with industrial trials[9], [30], [41]. Moreover, experimental and numerical investigations have been dedicated to solidification and thermo-mechanical deformation in strands. Research has been done on temperature distribution and thermo-mechanical deformation of the strand in the continuous casting process[42]-[44]. From all previous

studies, it is well established that numerical models efficiently and accurately predict the fluid flow and mechanical behavior of mold and strand, respectively [33] [34]. Recently, much effort is given to studies on numerical modeling of thermo-mechanical deformation in continuous casting strands.

In this present work, we have reviewed the literature to provide current information on the mathematical modeling of steelmaking tundish. This review work embraces various aspects of mathematical modeling of continuous casting molds such as melt flow, turbulence modeling, heat transfer, solidification, electromagnetic applications, thermo-mechanical deformation and coupled models, etc.

2. Melt flow modeling

The molten steel flow in continuous casting mold is usually assumed to have some characteristics. These flow characteristics are classified based on some assumptions such as compressible and incompressible. The molten steel flow is governed by the continuity equation and momentum equation, supplemented by heat transfer boundary conditions[45]-[47]. The governing equations related to mass flow and momentum transfer are as follows [48];

$$\nabla \cdot u = 0 \quad 1$$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + (u \cdot \nabla)u \right) = f - \nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 u \quad 2$$

In 2005, Zhao et al. [49] studied the transient molten steel flow and superheat transport in a continuous casting mold. In the proposed model, momentum equations and the energy equation were coupled. The coupling was done by buoyancy term in the z momentum equation, using the Boussinesq approximation. The equation for momentum calculation was used as follows.

$$\rho_0 \left(\frac{\partial \bar{u}_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial (\bar{u}_i \bar{u}_j)}{\partial x_j} \right) = -\frac{\partial \bar{p}}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\mu \frac{\partial \bar{u}_i}{\partial x_j} \right) + \delta_{i3} \rho_0 \beta (\bar{T} - T_0) g \quad 3$$

where \bar{u}_i represents "grid-filtered" velocities in the x, y , and z directions (represented by $i, j = 1, 2, 3$), \bar{p} is the pressure, \bar{T} is the temperature, μ is the dynamic viscosity, ρ_0 is the density at the reference temperature (T_0), β is thermal-expansion coefficient, g is the gravitational acceleration, k is the thermal conductivity, C_p is the heat capacity, and δ_{i3} is the Kronecker.

Thermal expansion coefficient expressed by β , thermal conductivity by k , Kronrcker term by δ_s , and heat capacity by C_p . The used finite-volume method was used to solve equations along with central differencing with second-order accuracy. They did time integration of the equations by using a semi-implicit, fractional-step method. Further, diffusion terms were used implicitly by the Crank-Nicolson method. Further momentum equation was modified by using a sub-grid momentum flux term Q_c .

where,

$$Q_{ij} = \rho_0(\bar{u}_i\bar{u}_j - \bar{u}_i\bar{u}_j) \quad 4$$

3. Turbulence models

Most of the previous work on continuous casting mold has been modeled using the RANS equation [49]. Therefore, turbulent viscosity was predicted for the Large Eddy Simulation (LES) model from the following equation.

$$\mu_T = C_v\rho_0K_G^{1/2}\Delta \quad 5$$

where the constant C_v is 0.05, and Δ is the grid-length scale, given by $\Delta = (\Delta_x\Delta_y\Delta_z)^{1/3}$ (Δ_x , Δ_y , and Δ_z are grid sizes in the x , y , and z directions, respectively).

To understand the complex flow profile in mold, Li and Tsukihashi [50] have developed a numerical model to investigate the vortexing flow in SEN of continuous casting of steel. Further, it was reported that the vortex flow came into existence from 3d molten steel flow in the mold. To describe the behavior of vortices in the flow field, definitions of the vorticity ω_z was expressed as follows,

$$\omega_z = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial u_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial y}\right) \quad 6$$

The superheated steels remain in the liquid state. At this state, liquid steel is considered Newtonian. In 2011, Sowa and Bokota [51] have assumed viscous incompressible and laminar flow to describes flow patterns in mold. They proposed the following equation for mass and momentum calculation.

$$\nabla \cdot v = 0 \quad 7$$

$$\rho \frac{dv}{dt} = \rho g - \nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 v \quad 8$$

Here, in the above equation flow was assumed incompressible and laminar. In a similar work in 2013, Zare et al.[52] investigated the molten steel flow filed in the mold under various conditions of submerged entry nozzle. In their work, the following momentum equation was solved;

$$\frac{\partial(\rho v_i v_j)}{\partial x_i} = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[\mu_{eff} \left(\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_j} \right) \right] + \rho g_j + F_j \quad 9$$

In the above equation, Zare et al. (2013)[52] used the effective viscosity term in the momentum equation. The terms k and ε for turbulent viscosity were predicted from two equations of the standard k - ε model. It was expressed as follows.

$$\mu_{eff} = \mu + \mu_t \quad 10$$

μ_t can be calculated using $k - \varepsilon$ parameters:

$$\mu_t = C_\mu \rho \frac{k^2}{\varepsilon} \quad 11$$

In 2015, Ren et al. [46] used a mushy zone parameter (A_{mush}) in the momentum equation to incorporate the mushy zone in the calculation. The modified equation for momentum was given as follows [46];

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho u) + \nabla \cdot (\rho u u) = -\nabla p + \nabla \cdot [(\mu_\ell + \mu_t)\nabla u] + \rho g + \rho g \beta(T - T_0) + \frac{(1-f_{liq})^2}{f_{liq}^3 + 0.001} A_{mush} (u - u_s) + F_{ave} \quad 12$$

In the above equation, f_{liq} the liquid fraction. The lever rule of solidification was utilized to calculate the mushy zone as follows.

$$f_{liq} = 1 - \frac{1}{1 - k_0} \frac{T - T_{liq}}{T - T_{melt}} \quad 13$$

In 2019, Chen et al. [53] investigated a coupled three-dimensional model of the mold and the numerical model was based on Large Eddy Simulation (LES). One such popular model that works on the above-mentioned method is the k - ε model Further, more details on the mathematical modeling of multi-phase fluid flow can be read elsewhere [22], [54], [55].

Numerical solution of these equations is virtually not possible by Direct Numerical Simulation (DNS) due to its requisite of extremely high computational memory, time, and power. For this reason, turbulence modeling is carried out to imitate the effects of turbulent fluid flow patterns. Comparative studies have

been carried out by many researchers to investigate the influence of various turbulence models on the estimation of results [56]–[61]. Siddiqui *et al.*, [62] compared different turbulence models and predicted results revealed that the RNG k - ε model has a good approximation of F-curves as well as the interface between the two phases. Predictions made by all models except the SST k - ω model have shown a satisfactory approximation with the experimental values. In 2013, Liu *et al.* investigated the Large Eddy Simulation model to investigate the slab caster mold flow. They reported that simulation results were satisfactorily matched with experimental results. The equations of motion for k phase in an Euler-Euler simulation are generally given as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial(\alpha_k \rho_k)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\alpha_k \rho_k \mathbf{u}_k) &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial(\alpha_k \rho_k \mathbf{u}_k)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\alpha_k \rho_k \mathbf{u}_k \mathbf{u}_k) \\ &= -\nabla \cdot (\alpha_k \boldsymbol{\tau}_k) - \alpha_k \nabla P + \alpha_k \rho_k \mathbf{g}' + M_{l,k} \end{aligned} \quad 14$$

The stress terminology of k phase can be written as:

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_k = -\mu_{eff,k} \left(\nabla \mathbf{u}_k + (\nabla \mathbf{u}_k)^T - \frac{2}{3} \mathbf{I}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_k) \right) \quad 15$$

In the above equation, effective viscosity is defined as μ_{eff} . This term can be explained in form of different viscosity, namely molecular and turbulent viscosity along with some arbitrary terms due to turbulence formation by bubbles.

$$\mu_{eff} = \mu_{L,l} + \mu_{T,1} + \mu_{Bl,1} \quad 16$$

Empirically the calculation of effective viscosity of gas was calculated from effective liquid velocity.

$$\mu_{ef,g} = \frac{\rho_g}{\rho_l} \mu_{eff,l} \quad 17$$

The model proposed by Sato & Sekiguchi [22] has been used to take account of the turbulence induced by the movement of the bubbles. The expression is:

$$\mu_{Bl,l} = \rho_i C_{\mu,Bl} \alpha_g d_g |u_g - u_i| \quad 18$$

with a model constant $C_{\mu,Bu}$, which is equal to 0.6. Turbulent flows are characterized by eddies with a wide range of length and time scales. The largest eddies are typically comparable in size to the characteristic length of the mean flow. The smallest scales are responsible for the dissipation of turbulence kinetic energy. The velocities in Eqs. (1) and (2) are defined as follows:

$$\mathbf{u}_k = \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_k - \mathbf{u}'_k \quad 19$$

A numerical model has been developed to analyze the transient three-dimensional and three-phase flow in a bottom stirring ladle with a centered porous plug, which takes into account the steel, gas, and slag phases; it enables us to predict the fluid flow and heat transfer in the very important steel/slag region. They applied k - ε turbulence model [63];

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial(\rho k)}{\partial t} + \rho u_j \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_j} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\frac{\mu_{eff}}{\sigma_k} \cdot \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_j} \right) + G_k + \\ G_b - \rho \varepsilon \end{aligned} \quad 20$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial(\rho \varepsilon)}{\partial t} + \rho u_j \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial x_j} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\frac{\mu_{eff}}{\sigma_\varepsilon} \cdot \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial x_j} \right) + \\ \frac{(c_1 G_k \varepsilon + c_2 G_b - c_3 \rho \varepsilon^2)}{k} \end{aligned} \quad 21$$

In the above relationship, G_k is the turbulent kinetic energy generated by mean flow velocity gradients. This can be written as follows;

$$G_k = \mu_t \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \quad 22$$

$$G_b = \mu_t \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \quad 23$$

Further, G_b shows the turbulent kinetic energy generated by buoyancy and it can be expressed as;

$$G_b = -g \frac{\mu_t}{\rho Pr_t} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x_i} \quad 24$$

The effective viscosity can be written as the addition of laminar and turbulent viscosities, as follows.

$$\mu_{eff} = \mu + \mu_t = \mu + \rho c_\mu \frac{k^2}{\varepsilon} \quad 25$$

The values for the constants in this k - ε model c_1 , c_2 , c_3 , c_w , σ_k , and σ_ε are 1.43, 1.92, 0.09, 1.00, and 1.30, respectively [15].

In 2014, Li *et al.* [64] developed a mathematical model to study the vortex formation in ladles. It is formed during liquid steel teeming from the ladle. They studied vortex formation during ladle teeming using new technology. The results obtained help to verify the validity of the numerical computations. [64]

Turbulent kinetic energy equation (k):

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho k) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(\rho k u_i) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\alpha_k \mu_{eff} \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_j} \right) + G_k + G_b - \rho \varepsilon - Y_M + S_k \quad 26$$

Turbulent dissipation rate equation (ε)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho \varepsilon) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(\rho \varepsilon u_i) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\alpha_\varepsilon \mu_{eff} \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial x_j} \right) + C_{1\varepsilon} \frac{\varepsilon}{k} (G_k + C_{3\varepsilon} G_b) - C_{2\varepsilon} \rho \frac{\varepsilon^2}{k} - R_\varepsilon + S_\varepsilon \quad 27$$

In the past, various viscosity models have been used by the researchers to take care of the turbulence flow in the continuous casting process such as effective viscosity models[65] which are useful for cylindrical mold and lined nozzle, one equation turbulence models which are based on turbulent energy spread over a given length-scale [66], two-equation turbulence models such as K- ε model, K- ω model,[67][68], Large Eddy Simulation (LES) [69] model and Direct Numerical Simulation (DNS) [70]. While selecting the turbulence model for the simulation, one needs to take care of the computational requirement as well and the easiness of modeling. Few authors have also used a large eddy simulation (LES) model for transient analysis[69]. LES turbulent model is effective in producing transient flow [71]-[73]. In 2019, Chen et al. [53] investigated a coupled three-dimensional model of the mold and the numerical model was based on Large Eddy Simulation (LES) [74] [16], [59], [74]-[80].

4. Heat Transfer and Solidification

The fundamental requirement of the continuous casting process is to solidify the strand to achieve plant set quality standards [20], [81], [82]. Specifically, the solidification process is heat removal from high-temperature liquid metal and semi-liquid metal to produce solid strands. Alizadeh et al. (2006) [83] developed a finite volume-based numerical model to investigate heat transfer and solidification mechanisms in real plant slab casters. The most adopted technique for simulating the solidification of continuous casting is enthalpy-porosity[84]-[86]. This technique is based on a quantity known as a liquid fraction. Several researchers used industrial plant data to accurately model molten steel flow and heat transfer phenomenon [32], [87], [88]. They studied mass and energy balance, the temperature difference of cooling-water, mold temperature, steel shell thickness, etc.[87], [89]. Alizadeh et al. (2006) [83] developed a finite volume-based numerical model to investigate heat transfer and solidification mechanisms in real plant slab casters. The numerical model solved the two-dimensional transient heat transfer equation. They applied proper boundary conditions for mold, water

jet spray cooling region and ambient cooling for strand. The numerical model results were compared with plant data and it predicted temperature distribution and solidified shell thickness. Generalized heat transfer equation (3-dimension) can be written in the most suitable format from the above equations in the following manner[48];

$$\rho C \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + V_x \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + V_y \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} + V_z \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right) = \dot{q} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(K_x \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(K_y \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(K_z \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right) \quad 28$$

In 2005, Louhenkilpi et al. [90] proposed a three-dimensional transient formulation for temperature distribution over the mold wall. They developed a three-dimensional DYN3D finite-difference model for heat transfer calculation in continuous casting. They considered the gap heat transfer coefficient as a function of the strand surface temperature was used to couple mold and strand model. The heat transfer equation was expressed as follows;

$$\rho \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} + v \frac{\partial H}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(k_{eff} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(k_{eff} \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(k_{eff} \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right) \quad 29$$

In a similar work, Zhao et al. (2005) [49] modeled energy equation along with the Navier-Stokes equation. The energy equation was modified with the derivative of the subgrid heat flux term. However, it was found that using the static subgrid-scale model into the 3d finite-volume code had minimal impact. The QT_i represents the SGS heat fluxes in the following equation for heat transfer;

$$\frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial (\bar{u}_i \bar{T})}{\partial x_i} = \frac{k}{\rho_0 C_p} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial x_i} \right) + \frac{\partial Q_{Ti}}{\partial x_i} \quad 30$$

$$Q_{Ti} = \bar{T} \bar{u}_i - \overline{T u_i} \quad 31$$

where, T is temperature and u represents velocities in x, y, and z-direction. The heat flux (Q_{Ti}) was considered as an extra diffusion term. It was calculated from the eddy-viscosity value μ_t from the momentum equation and the turbulent Prandtl number (Pr_T= 0.9):

$$\frac{\partial Q_{Ti}}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\mu_t}{Pr_T} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial x_i} \quad 32$$

In 2011, Sowa and Bokota [51] proposed a heat flow model based on the Fourier-Kirchhoff system of equations with the convection term along with the volumetric efficiency of the internal heat source (Q). In the mathematical model, they considered temperature-dependent thermophysical parameters.

Further, they also considered the solid/liquid phase volume fractions in the mushy zone. They called this formulation complex because the model incorporated the solid, liquid and mushy phases in the calculation of mass and momentum transfer. The advancing solidification boundary was considered as mushy, i.e. the molten steel is being solid within the range of solidus and liquidus temperature. The heat flow equation described the heat flow in liquid and solid-state of steel;

$$\rho c \left(\frac{\partial T(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla T \cdot \mathbf{v} \right) = \nabla \cdot (\lambda \nabla T) + \dot{Q} \quad 33$$

Where internal heat source volumetric efficiency is defined as Q [W/m³],

Hence, the heat generation term is not valid in the case of thermal conductivity calculation in the solid phase. Moreover, temperature-dependent properties have been not considered in the above equation. Therefore, Sowa and Bakota et al. [51] modified the above equation which includes effective specific heat (C_{eff}) term which is a function of the temperature of the material.

$$\nabla \cdot (\lambda \nabla T) - C_{ef} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - C_{ef} \nabla T \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \quad 34$$

$$C_{ef}(T) = \rho_{LS} c_{LS} + \rho_S L / (T_L - T_S) \quad 35$$

Where C_{ef} the effective heat capacity of the mushy zone in mold and secondary cooling zone.

L - the latent heat of solidification,

c_{LS} - the specific heat of the mushy zone,

$\rho_s, \rho_l, \rho_{ls}$ - the density of solid phase, liquid phase, and mushy zone, respectively

In 2011, Hadata et al., [39] proposed a steady Fourier-Kirchhoff model for heat flow with some assumptions. They calculated mold temperature from the 3d transient simulation model. In this work, the volumetric heat generation term (q) was expressed as follows;

$$q_v = Q_s \frac{dV_s}{d\tau} \quad 36$$

where: Q_s heat of solidification, for steel $Q_s = 1.9 \cdot 10^9$ J/m³; V_s - solid phase volume fraction, time is expressed as τ .

In a study in 1993 S.E.Chidiac et al., [64] used enthalpy approach for heat transfer in multi-dimensional problem with following equation.

$$\rho \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (K \nabla T) + Q \quad 37$$

where ρ indicates density, H indicates enthalpy, K indicates Thermal conductivity, Q indicates heat generation rate for unit volume, T indicates temperature and t time. Enthalpy is nothing but the summation of sensible & latent heat and can be expressed as:

$$H = \int_{T_r}^T c dT + f(T) \cdot L \quad 38$$

where c , $f(T)$ and L are specific heat liquid fraction and latent heat. For phase change study two methods are clubbed together with the above-stated formulation for accuracy and efficiency. Dirichlet & Cauchy boundary conditions are used to solve above equations. The study carried in 2003, B. wiwanapataphee et al., [63] for simulating phase change cause of heat transfer single domain enthalpy method is adopted. Where enthalpy is the summation of latent heat (H) & sensible heat (h).

$$H = h + \Delta H \quad 39$$

Latent heat h can be given by

$$H = f(T) L \quad 40$$

Where L denoted Latent Heat of Steel L and $f(T)$ indicates localized liquid fraction where value one represents complete Liquids state and zero represents the complete solid-state. The liquid fraction is nonlinear for simplification of the model it is assumed linear.

$$f(T) = \begin{cases} 0, & T \leq T_s \\ \frac{T - T_s}{T_L - T_s}, & T_s < T < T_L \\ 1, & T \geq T_L \end{cases} \quad (XX) \quad 41$$

wherein T_i indicates melting temperature and T_s Solidification temperature

For region where phase change occurs conservation of energy principle. Combining this equation with enthalpy gives,

$$\rho c \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + u_j T_j \right) = (k_0 T_j)_j - S_T \quad 42$$

where u indicates velocity in x direction, ρ indicates density, k thermal conductivity of steel, S_r represents rate change in volumetric latent heat. If S_r is in between zero and one, indicates region where change in phase occurs. Using the above approach in modeling eliminates consideration of solidified and liquid regions without considering phase change boundary. Thus making equation generalized and can be used to numerically model all three domains which are solid, liquid and mushy region. With assumptions of a linear liquid fraction, a single model is proposed to model all three phases of solidification.

Ivanova (2013) [91] formulated extensive mathematical modeling on predicting phase-dependent boundary conditions. The boundary position between liquid and solid phase was given by the temperature equality condition and the Stefan condition for the two-dimensional case. They proposed a method based on the finite differences using explicit schemes and on the iteration method of solving non-linear system equations. The heat transfer from the ingot was expressed as follows;

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial r} + v(t) \cdot \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{c(T)\rho(T)} \times \quad 43$$

$$\times \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\lambda(T) \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right] + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[\lambda(T) \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right] \right\}$$

where t is a time, x, z are space variables (Fig 1), $v(t)$ is the casting speed. $T = T(\tau, x, z)$ is the temperature of ingot metal. $c(T)$ is its specific heat, $\rho(T)$ is its density, and $\lambda(T)$ is its thermal conductivity.

The position of the unknown phase boundary is specified by the equality condition of the temperatures and the Stefan condition for the two-dimensional case:

$$T = \quad 44$$

$$T(\tau, x, z)|_{x=\xi_-(\tau, z)} = T(\tau, x, z)|_{x=\xi_+(\tau, z)} = T_{cr}$$

$$\lambda(T) \frac{\partial T}{\partial \bar{n}} \Big|_{\xi_+} - \lambda(T) \frac{\partial T}{\partial \bar{n}} \Big|_{\xi_-} = \quad 45$$

$$\mu \rho (T_{kp}) \left(\frac{d\xi}{d\tau} + v(\tau) \frac{d\xi}{dz} \right)$$

where ξ is the phase boundary $x = \xi(\tau, z)$, \bar{n} is a normal to the phase boundary, $\frac{\partial T}{\partial \bar{n}} \Big|_{\xi_{+/-}}$ is the left-right limit of the temperature derivative in the normal direction. μ is the latent the heat of crystallization. T_{cr} is the crystallization temperature (the average temperature from the liquidus-solidus interval).

To solve phase-change boundary conditions, they replaced derivatives in the differential equations

using the corresponding difference relations, i.e. linear combinations of the values of the grid function in several nodes. Additionally, they considered the set of nodes to determine the phase-change boundary position. In 2014, Zhang et al [92] investigated a steady-state two-dimensional numerical model based on the assumption of heat transfer in casting direction is negligible or small and melt surface has a uniform temperature of pouring. The stated model significantly differed from previous models in terms of considering material properties. They applied a temperature-dependent steel density and conductivity as following. However, the density, conductivity and equivalent specific heat are dependent on a range of temperature i.e., phase-dependent.

$$\rho = (1 - f_s)\rho_L + f_s(f_\delta\rho_\delta + f_\gamma\rho_\gamma) \quad 46$$

$$\lambda = (1 - f_s)\lambda_L + f_s(f_\delta\lambda_\delta + f_\gamma\lambda_\gamma) \quad 47$$

$$c_{\text{eff}} = f_s \cdot c_s + (1 - f_s) \cdot c_L - L \frac{\partial f_s}{\partial T} \quad 48$$

In a similar work, Maurya and Jha (2014) [93] investigated the effect of casting speed in the continuous casting process. Their study was based on the investigation of heat transfer and solidification behavior of steel within mold and Secondary Cooling Zone (SCZ). A source term Q_L was introduced in the energy conservation equation which has two parts namely explicit latent heat term and convective term. They used an energy conservation approach for studying solidification.

$$\rho \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} + \rho \nabla \cdot (uH) = \nabla (k_{\text{eff}} \nabla T) + Q_L \quad 49$$

Where ρ is density, H is enthalpy, ΔH is sensible heat, Q_L is source term. Q_L can be expressed as a single solidification model and given as;

$$Q_L = \rho L \frac{\partial f_s}{\partial t} + \rho L \bar{u}_{\text{pull}} \cdot \nabla f_s \quad 50$$

Latent heat is released from the mushy zone. One indicates the solid-state and will go down with casting speed. The total sum of solid fraction & liquid fraction is always equal to one. Further continuity equation can be given as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (\rho u_i) = 0 \quad 51$$

Navier-Stokes equation for transient momentum conservation is given by

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho u) + \rho \nabla (uu) = -\nabla P + \nabla \{ \mu_{\text{eff}} (\nabla \cdot u) \} + \rho + S \quad (\text{xx}) \quad 52$$

where,

$$\mu_{eff} = \mu_l + \mu_t$$

μ_{eff} is corrected viscosity because of turbulence, μ_l is dynamic viscosity, μ_t is turbulent viscosity. In porosity-enthalpy formulation mushy zone is made porous and the same porosity is assigned to each cell which is the same as the liquid fraction for that cell. Hence porosity equal to one indicates a complete solid-state and equals to zero indicates a complete liquid state.

They added one more term S in the Navier-Stokes equation called the momentum shrink term. This helps to add movement of solidified material to the bottom of casting with a velocity equal to molten metal and treated constantly. Maurya and Jha (2014) [93] and Hitanen *et al.* (2017) [94] used the enthalpy-porosity technique for solidification. In their model, the porous medium was considered as mushy zone and the liquid fraction was represented by porosity fraction. In solid-phase porosity equals to zero, which diminishes the velocity in that zone. Therefore, momentum sink term “ S ” was used in Navier-Stokes equation as follows;

$$S = \frac{(1-\beta)^2}{(\beta^3-\xi)} A_{mush} (\bar{u} - \bar{u}_{pull}) \quad 53$$

where, liquid fraction is expressed as β , $\xi = 0.001$, mushy zone constant is given as A_{mush} .

Pilvi *et al.*, (2017) [65] Used turbulent flow modelling at inlet in which they considered hydraulic diameter at inlet. With RNG κ - ϵ approximate turbulence intensity calculated is 4.3%. They adjusted mass flow rate to match the casting speed. Further found that flow changes from turbulent to laminar as it changes very fast, hence use of RNG κ - ϵ model justified. T.Telejko *et al.*, (2009) [66] they studied three heat transfer model for CC process. First model considered is convection in which the solidified metal goes down with velocity of casting velocity. In second model convection is considered by arbitrarily increasing thermal conductivity of steel in such way that following relation satisfies.

$$\lambda_e = \lambda_l L(1 + 6(1 - f_s)^2) \quad 54$$

where λ_e equivalent thermal conductivity of non-solidified steel, λ_l thermal conductivity of liquid steel, L fraction of solidified steel. In third model they keep thermal conductivity same like first model. Velocity profiles are calculated using Navier-Stokes equation. First & third model gives approximate same cooling effect. Beginning of steel shell meniscus

formation and its completion is nearly same. In second model delayed formation of steel shell meniscus and completion observed. Effective thermal coefficient that is model second is not accurate.

In 2016, Hibbeler *et al.* [95] proposed an innovative reduced-order model (ROM) for heat transfer from mold in the continuous casting of steel. The numerical formulation was attached with the solidification model. Further, it also considered mold-metal interfacial phenomena. It was able to accurately and efficiently produce heat transfer and solidification in the continuous casting process. The scaled heat transfer equation was given as;

$$0 = \frac{\partial^2 \theta_{mould}}{\partial x^{*2}} + \left(\frac{d_{mould}}{w_{mould}}\right)^2 \frac{\partial^2 \theta_{mould}}{\partial y^{*2}} + \left(\frac{d_{mould}}{\ell_{mould}}\right)^2 \frac{\partial^2 \theta_{mould}}{\partial z^{*2}} \quad 55$$

The proposed ROM was a novel numerical formulation that has minimized the complication of mathematical models. At the same time, it retains the most important behaviors of the numerical model. Further, that model was able to maintain the relationship between inputs and outputs. Vmnyscy and Saleem (2017) [96] formulated a mathematical formulation for explicitly calculating the geometrical range of the mushy zone. It is considered a sharp-interface formulation to predict a dual moving boundary problem to locate the solidus and liquidus isotherms. Heat transfer in the solid, liquid and mush regions is expressed as follows;

$$\rho c_p V_{cast} \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(k \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(k \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right) - \rho V_{cast} \Delta H_f \frac{\partial \chi}{\partial z} \quad 56$$

where

$$k = \chi k_1 + (1 - \chi) k_s$$

$$c_p = \chi c_{pl} + (1 - \chi) c_{ps}$$

A decoupled three-dimensional mathematic model of fluid flow and heat transfer in continuous casting billet mould was developed by An *et al.*, (2018) [97]. They modified the energy balance equation for continuous casting mould. They introduced ratio of turbulent viscosity (μ) and turbulent Prandtl number (σ) along with enthalpy term H in equation. However, the viscosity, the specific heat, and the thermal conductivity were assumed to be constant over temperature. In this model, value of σt was assumed to unity, however, Zhao *et al.*, used $\sigma t = 0.9$ in their model.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho H) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}(\rho \mu_j H) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[\left(\lambda + C_p \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_t} \right) \frac{\partial H}{\partial x_j} \right] \quad 57$$

Ole Richter *et al.* (2017) [98] studied the development of free surface flow for the liquid and/or solid phase change. They considered enthalpy-porosity and volume-of-fluid (VOF) method. These methods were coupled in numerical formulation. In proposed model, they introduced free surface of liquid metal along with phase change material (PCM). The volume of fluid (VOF) model was introduced in finite volume model. They studied three phases of material namely, air in gasous phase and steel in solid and liquid phase. [98].

$$\alpha_1 = \begin{cases} 0 & = \text{gas} \\ 0 < \alpha_1 < 1 & = \text{cell contains the interface} \\ 1 & = \text{solid or liquid PCM} \end{cases} \quad 58$$

The molten steel fraction was completely dependent on the thermal condition (T) of liquid metal. TS and TL indicates same respectively. This can be expressed as follows[98];

$$\gamma_{1,l} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } T < T_S \\ \frac{T - T_S}{T_L - T_S} & \text{if } T_S \leq T \leq T_L \\ 1 & \text{if } T > T_L \end{cases} \quad 59$$

Where one indicates complete liquid state and zero indicates complete solid state. In between values of solid fraction indicates mushy zone.

In the given formulation the density ρ , the heat capacity c_p , the heat conduction λ and the viscosity μ can be expressed as follows;

$$\rho = \alpha_1(\gamma_{1,l}\rho_{1,l} + \gamma_{1,s}\rho_{1,s}) + \alpha_2\rho_2 \quad 60$$

$$c_p = \alpha_1(\gamma_{1,l}c_{p1,l} + \gamma_{1,s}c_{p1,s}) + \alpha_2c_{p2} \quad 61$$

$$\lambda = \alpha_1(\gamma_{1,l}\lambda_{1,l} + \gamma_{1,s}\lambda_{1,s}) + \alpha_2\lambda_2 \quad 62$$

$$\mu = \alpha_1\mu_{1,l} + \alpha_2\mu_2 \quad 63$$

In above equations, the subscripts []_{1,l}, []_{1,s} and []₂ illustrate the property of the bulk liquid, solid and gas phase, respectively. In order to consider natural convection in proposed numerical formulation, the Boussinesq approach was used. Further, the buoyancy modified density ρ_b can be defined as;

$$\rho_b = \alpha_1(\gamma_{1,l}\rho_{1,l}(1 - \beta(T - T_L)) + \gamma_{1,s}\rho_{1,s}) + \alpha_2\rho_2 \quad 64$$

5. Thermo-mechanical Deformation

The behavior of metal especially steel at high temperature becomes sensitive to strain rate and temperature. Therefore, process design of hot metal working of steel is significantly affected by non-linear behavior of steel. Structural distortion arises in mold and strand due to thermal distribution, which causes thermal stress, cracks and ultimately affects quality strand [37], [99]. Many research has been done on mould thermal distortion in mould and strand [9], [10], [100]–[102]. In 2006, To measure surface temperature and shell thickness, finite point method was used by Alizadeh *et al.* [3]. It has been also reported heat transfer rate is affected by mold distortion[100], [103]. Many research has been done on mould thermal distortion in mould and strand [100], [101]. Generally, the heat transfer equation is solved with interfacial heat flux data and it is quantified from plant data. Subsequently, equations related to thermo-mechanical distortion in mold and strand is calculated.

In some of the early work, Samarasekera *et al.* (1983) [100] summarizes the deformation in strand due to elastic-plastic behavior. It was characterized in two fundamental relationships. In first yield criteria, it was determined that whether the applied stress could cause yield from an elastic to a plastic condition of solid strand. Secondly, (from the flow law), it correlates advancing stresses and strains in the yielded condition. Thus, elasto-plastic deformation are composed of two components during material undergoing in strain;

$$d\varepsilon_{ij} = d\varepsilon_{ij}^e + d\varepsilon_{ij}^p \quad 65$$

where $d\varepsilon_{ij}^e$ and $d\varepsilon_{ij}^p$ are the incremental elastic and plastic components of the total strain vector $d\varepsilon_{ij}$

In this work they proposed incremental stresses and strains during plastic flow;

$$d\varepsilon_{ij}^p = d\lambda \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial \sigma_{ij}} \quad 66$$

where $d\lambda$ is a scalar multiplying factor, $d\gamma$ is derivative of yield stress and σ_{ij} is the deviatoric stress vector.

In 2000, Lee *et al.* [104] proposed a modified model of thermo-mechanical deformation in strand. They developed a mathematical model for the coupled analysis. The coupled analysis consisted of various mathematical models. The coupled model considered molten steel flow characteristics in mould. Further, it coupled the and heat transfer, thermo-

mechanical deformation behavior of a solidifying strand in the continuous casting process. Moreover, Von-mises yield function and associated flow were assumed for increment of stress. The stress in thermo-elasto-plastic material can related as;

$$\sigma_{ij} = C_{ijkl}(\varepsilon_{kl} - \varepsilon_{kl}^p - \varepsilon_{kl}^{Th}) \quad 67$$

where C_{ijkl} , ε_{kl} , ε_{kl}^p , and ε_{kl}^{Th} are the elastic constitutive matrix, total infinitesimal strain, plastic strain, and thermal strain, respectively.

In a similar work, Ha et al., (2000) [81] carried a mathematical modeling for heat transfer study in secondary cooling zone of continuous casting strand. It was reported that creep was dominant factor in bulging defect. The elastic-plastic creep model for the strand is given by:

$$\dot{\varepsilon} = \alpha \sigma^m \quad 68$$

where $\sigma(\text{kg/cm}^2)$ and $\dot{\varepsilon}(\text{1/s})$ denote the equivalent stress and the creep strain rate, respectively, and m is a constant of 3.15. Also

$$\alpha = 0.0806 \exp \left\{ -\frac{28392}{T+273} \right\} \quad 69$$

In 2004, Bellet et al. [10] introduced a global non-steady state (GNS) method for liquid-solid constitutive model which considered mushy zone during solidification. They reported the following relationship for total strain calculation in liquid and mushy zone;

$$\dot{E} = \dot{\varepsilon}^{vp} + \dot{\varepsilon}^{th} \quad 70$$

where $\dot{\varepsilon}^{vp}$ is a strain in visco-plastic condition and $\dot{\varepsilon}^{th}$ strain due to thermal expansion. In addition to this, a thermo-elastic-viscoplastic model was used to represent the behavior in the solid state. It was described by the following equations[10];

$$\dot{\varepsilon} = \dot{\varepsilon}^{el} + \dot{\varepsilon}^{vp} + \dot{\varepsilon}^{th} \quad 71$$

In a similar work, Liu and Zhu (2006) [105] assumed mould copper plate should exhibit thermoelastic behavior and thermoelastic-plastic behaviour for strand. The isotropic linear elastic stress-strain relation was expressed by the constitutive equation as follows:

$$\sigma_{ij} = 2G \varepsilon_{ij} + [\lambda \varepsilon_{kk} - (3\lambda + 2G)\alpha \Delta T] \delta_{ij} \quad 72$$

It was reported that the total strain can be expressed as the sum of an elastic strain, a thermal strain, and a plastic strain as follows;

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \varepsilon_{ij}^e + \varepsilon_{ij}^p + \varepsilon_{ij}^T \quad 73$$

where, temperature change ΔT may induce a thermal strain of a magnitude

$$\varepsilon_{ij}^T = \alpha \Delta T \delta_{ij} \quad 74$$

In a recent work, Li et al. (2017) [106] reported that in the mushy zone, the stress in solid steel is supposed to increase linearly with the rise in solid fraction between zero strength temperature (T_{zst}) at $f_s=0.75$ and zero Xdeformation temperature (T_{zdt}) and it can be given as follows;

$$\sigma_s * \frac{(f_s - f_{zst})}{1 - f_{zst}} \quad 75$$

where f is solid fraction stress, f_{zst} is stress at zero strength temperature.

Several authors have predicted the probability of crack formation in solid strand by crack susceptibility coefficient SC as follows [104][104], [107], [108];

$$\begin{aligned} S_C &= \frac{Y_M}{Y_C} \text{ for } T f_s \leq f_s < 1 \\ &= 0 \text{ for } 0 \leq f_s < T_S \\ &= 0 \text{ for } Y_M \leq 0 \end{aligned} \quad 75$$

Fengming Du et., al., (2018) [68]. They studied full model to study complex behavior in vertical slab casting in continuous casting process. They applied inverse algorithm to calculate heat flux and combined with temperature which were measured from thermocouple which placed in casting at different locations to get temperature profile. For evaluating heat flux between mold and slab inverse algorithm used in which heat flux adjusted to match actual temperature taken from thermocouple so that both temperature are within acceptable limit of accuracy. The total strain is sum of elastic strain, plastic and thermal strain.

$$\Delta\{\varepsilon\} = \Delta\{\varepsilon\}_e + \Delta\{\varepsilon\}_p + \Delta\{\varepsilon\}_T \text{(XX)} \quad 76$$

where ε_e elastics strain, ε_p Plastic Strain, ε_T Thermal strain. Thermal strain is given by

$$\Delta\{\varepsilon\}_T = \left(\{\alpha\} + d \left[\frac{D[\sigma]}{dT} \right] \right) dT \quad 77$$

where α indicates coefficient of thermal expansion. Further in elastic region stress given by

(XX)

$$\Delta\{\sigma\} = [D]_e(\Delta\{\varepsilon\} - \Delta\{\varepsilon\}_T) \quad 78$$

where D . Indicates Elastic-Plastic matrix. σ Indicates stress. Further in the plastic region the stress is given by

$$\Delta\{\sigma\} = [D]_{ep} (\Delta\{\varepsilon\} - \Delta\{\varepsilon\}_T) + \Delta\{\sigma\}_T \quad 79$$

Hence the thermal stress is

$$\Delta\{\sigma\}_T = \frac{[D]_e((\partial\bar{\sigma}/\partial H)/(\partial\{\sigma\}/\partial T))dT}{H' + \{\sigma\bar{\sigma}/\partial\{\sigma\}\}^T [D]_{ec}(\partial\bar{\sigma}/\partial\{\sigma\})} \quad 80$$

where $\bar{\sigma}$ indicates equivalent stress at node.

They noted that near the meniscus liquid fraction is more compared to bottom slab. It shows that solidification is start early at bottom side. Because of uneven temperature in slab leads to thermal strain which creates thermal stress.

Hadata et al., [11] studied surface crack defect evaluation four criteria used namely plastic work criteria, Rice and Tracy Criteria, modified Rice and Tracy criteria and Latham criteria. Plastic work criteria can be given by following equation

$$C_{EP} = \int_0^1 \bar{\varepsilon}\bar{\sigma}dt \text{ for } \sigma_m > 0 \quad 81$$

where ε indicates strain rate, σ indicates stress. This criteria based on assumption that crack will get generated if strain energy is more than critical value C_{cr} . Plastic strain is evaluated only in region where mean stress is positive.

Following is the criteria given by Rice & Tracy

$$C_{RT} = \bar{\varepsilon}\exp\left(-\frac{3}{2}\frac{\sigma_m}{\bar{\sigma}}\right) \quad 82$$

where σ_m is mean stress & ε indicates strain. This criteria assumes that crack will appear if strain increases beyond C_{cr} .

Following is the criteria given by modified which uses only positive values of strain for calculation of critical parameter C_{RM} . The

$$C_{RM} = \sum \Delta\bar{\varepsilon}\exp\left(-\frac{3}{2}\frac{\sigma_m}{\bar{\sigma}}\right) \text{ for } \sigma_m > 0 \quad 83$$

For Latham Criteria equation is as follows

$$C_{LO} = \int_0^t \sigma_{\max}\dot{\varepsilon} dt \text{ for } \sigma_m > 0 \quad 84$$

This criterion uses only positive values of maximum stress σ_{\max} . it states that crack will form once strain work done by maximum given tensile stress exceeds critical value. Fachinotti et al. (2006) [102] to study the macro-segregation defects in strand caused by thermal stress. Because of cooling at surface when

metal is solidified metal goes under compression at the same time at solidification front tension is generated.

Study Carried by Alizadeh et al. [3]. They compared FPM results with FVM results. It was concluded that heat transfer, surface temperature, and shell thickness can be successfully modeled by FPM method also known as Quadratic Upwind Interpolation (QUICK). For solidification enthalpy porosity model they used along with transient energy equation and solved using finite volume method. This model is capable to predict interfacial gap between shell and mold. They observed that casting speed is most critical parameter in controlling solidified shell thickness which indicates stability of dimension after cooling and its accuracy.

Many literatures have reported about strand bulging between rolls which have caused transverse cracks, radial streaks and centerline macrosegregation [9], [10], [102]. Risso et al. [109] evaluated the thermal stress and strain in the solidifying shell of the strand by using the analytical method. Recently, Chen et al. (2019) [110] investigated the mold level fluctuations. These fluctuations are caused by transient bulging of the solidifying shell. Consequently, transient bulging phenomenon affects the quality of the steel. They developed a 1D and 2D model for strand simulation. They reported that mold level fluctuations are highly caused by dynamic bulging. Several constitutive models have been adopted for simulating the solidification stresses using the simple elastic-plastic models [111][112]. Researchers added a separate creep model for transient modeling [113]. The integration of these transient constitutive laws and further, mathematical modeling is a challenging task. From all the above discussion it is observed that the temperature and stress-strain distribution in the strand region of the continuous casting process plays an important role in defining the quality of the final solidified product[29], [114]-[116]. In 2006, Liu and Zhu [105] developed a three-dimensional finite-element heat-transfer and thermal stress models to study the thermo-mechanical distortion on the slab during operation. They reported that operating parameters i.e., casting affected the strand distortion in copper walls of the mould. Pascon and coworkers (2006) [117] studied the generation of transverse crack during bending and straightening of strands. The numerical model was applied and validated with industrial data. The transverse cracks were found at the upper face of the strand. A numerical model was presented by Fachinotti et al. (2006) [102]to study the macro-segregation defects in strand caused by thermal stress. They made a hypothesis about the transient effect of alternate rolling and bulging. To measure

surface temperature and shell thickness, finite point method was used by Alizadeh et al. [3]. They compared FPM results with FVM results. It was concluded that heat transfer, surface temperature, and shell thickness can be successfully modeled by FPM method.

6. Electromagnetic Stirring in Mould

The application of magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) techniques in the continuous casting process started to improve steel quality and increase the process capability. The use of MHD technology in metallurgical processes is rapidly advancing [118]. The application of electromagnetic forces in metallurgical processes is for melt stirring, electromagnetic braking, flow control of melt, meniscus stabilization and enhancing the solidification properties as well as for quality improvement. Many researchers have studied the melt flow behavior in the ladle. The swirl motion and vortex generation in ladle have a significant impact on the quality of steel. In a recent application, the ladle is stirred by the use of MHD forces. The impact of heat generation is studied when MHD is used in the ladle. The MHD has found wide application in the area of continuous casting molds. The mold has a complex molten metal flow structure. The flow in continuous casting mold is unstable and transient. The incoming jet from submerged entry nozzle interacts with the free surface of melt in mold consequently it creates instability in melt and chaotic behavior flow. Further, molten steel flow behavior becomes highly turbulent causing large meniscus level fluctuations. Subsequently, high fluctuation of meniscus level causes entrapment of inclusions in the solidified shell [119]. The application of MHD force is an attractive method to control the molten steel flow in the mold, where physical interference is not possible due to high temperature.[120]

Magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) refers to the study of the magnetic properties of electrically conducting fluids. The Lorentz force is generated to stir the molten metal in the EMS system. The induction equations can be written as follows [86]:

$$\frac{\partial \vec{b}}{\partial t} + (\vec{U} \cdot \nabla) \vec{b} = \frac{1}{\mu\sigma} \nabla^2 \vec{b} + (\vec{B} \cdot \nabla) \vec{U} \quad 85$$

The magnetic field \vec{B}_0 was applied externally. The external magnetic field develops magnetic field \vec{b} in liquid metal steel in mould. Therefore, only induced magnetic field \vec{b} is solved through numerical solution. The solution gives the total value of magnetic field. required to be solved to get the total magnetic field \vec{B}_0 and \vec{b} . The magnetic field generation is expressed as [86]:

$$\frac{\partial \vec{b}}{\partial t} + (\vec{U} \cdot \nabla) \vec{b} = \frac{1}{\mu\sigma} \nabla^2 \vec{b} + [(\vec{B} + \vec{b}) \cdot \nabla] \vec{U} - (\vec{U} \cdot \nabla) \vec{B} \quad 86$$

Further, the Lorentz force \vec{F} generated in the liquid metal fluid can be explained as below. The Lorentz force is complimented to the momentum equation as follows;

$$\vec{F} = \vec{j} \times \vec{B} = \vec{j} \times (\vec{B} + \vec{b}) \quad 87$$

Heat transfer and solidification equations can be written as follows. For solidification process, the energy conservation equation is given as[86]:

$$\rho \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} + \rho \nabla \cdot (\vec{U} H) = \nabla \cdot (k_{eff} \nabla T) + Q_L \quad 88$$

where, k_{eff} is effective thermal conductivity.

The solidified shell formed is pulled out at a constant casting velocity, \vec{U}_{pull} . Hence, the region having liquid fraction (f_l) equal to zero will move along the casting direction with the casting speed. The liquid fraction can be calculated as follows[86]:

$$f_l = \begin{cases} 0 & T < T_{solidus} \\ 1 & T > T_{liquidus} \\ \frac{T - T_{solidus}}{T_{liquidus} - T_{solidus}} & T_{solidus} < T < T_{liquidus} \end{cases} \quad 89$$

Mass conservation of melt in the metallurgical process can be given as[121]:

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = S_{shell, mass} \quad 90$$

where \vec{u} is velocity in the three coordinate directions, and $S_{shell, mass}$ is a mass sink term to account for solidification of the molten steel. Time dependent momentum balance equation can be written as follows:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho u_i) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\rho u_i u_j) = - \frac{\partial p^*}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[(u + u_t) \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \right] + \vec{F} \quad 91$$

p^* is modified pressure $p^* + \frac{2}{3} \rho k_r$, p is the gauge pressure, k is residual kinetic energy.

Some assumptions were made by researchers to reduce the complexity during the numerical modeling of electromagnetic processing of materials. The molten steel is assumed as homogeneous. Also, molten steel is considered as Newtonian incompressible fluid with constant thermo-mechanical

properties. Moreover, the boundary condition for the induced magnetic field can be assumed to be tangential to the wall. Further, it was reported that electromagnetic stirring generates a magnetic field which can be assumed as homogenous magnetic mold.[122][123] Apart from the finite volume method, many researchers have solved the electromagnetic equation by finite element method.

Electromagnetic stirring (EMS) of molten metal has become an important part of the continuous casting operation.[124], [125] EMS improves the quality of semi-finished sections by electromagnetically stirring the crystallizing molten steel during solidification. The EMS has lots of advantages, it affects the heat and mass transfer of molten steel during the solidification. In 2004, Chang, Hull, and Beitelmann [126] performed a numerical simulation a novel electromagnetic stirring system that employs two rotating magnetic fields in a continuous casting mold. The model included two magnetic field zone. The upper part controlled the stirring flow in the meniscus region and the remaining part was under the influence of an electromagnetic stirring (M-EMS) system.

In 2004, Cramer et al. [127] conducted a laboratory investigation using liquid metals having low melting temperature than 300°C. They examined an aluminum alloy investment casting process. The high flow velocities were controlled by the application of a static magnetic field. The local velocity measurements, as well as integrated flow rate, were calculated by using eutectic InGaSn ($T_{\text{melt}} = 10^\circ\text{C}$).

In 2007, Eckert et al. [128] investigated electromagnetic stirring of molten metal in mould. The liquid metal was used as fluid medium to mimic the molten steel. The liquid metal has low melting temperature, thus a good option for experimental work. The experiment was carried by UDV instruments. In this investigation, they developed some instruments to investigate the flow measurements. Further, they used alternate stirring method by using a rotating magnetic field (RMF).

One of the purposes of M-EMS is to enhance to break the coarse columnar dendritic solidification structure. This would lead to yield a finer dendritic structure. These structure may be like equiaxed grains in larger area. In another approach, Javurek et al. (2008) [123] modeled an in-mold electromagnetic stirring (M-EMS) for the study. They used the physical setup for PIV measurements and further studied the turbulent flow. They also investigated the other parameters like steel temperature, solidification of liquid metal, inclusion movement in liquid and electromagnetic

force influence using numerical formulation. In this simulation they considered the affect of the magnetic field on the liquid metal. The resulting radial, respective tangential force densities are;

$$\bar{F}_r = -\frac{1}{8}B_0^2 \left(\omega - \frac{u_t}{r}\right)^2 \sigma^2 \mu_M r^3 \quad 92$$

$$\bar{F}_t = \frac{1}{2}B_0^2 \left(\omega - \frac{u_t}{r}\right) \sigma r \quad 93$$

In above equation, B_0 is the magnitude of magnetic field and omega is angular velocity. The EM properties of liquid metal are expressed as σ .

The electromagnetic stirring (EMS) of liquid metal in the continuous-casting mold becomes an essential process. The magnetic devices are installed in the mold, at different zones depending on the requirements. In 2009, Sivak et al. [124] have investigated the effect of electromagnetic stirring of the liquid phase of the crystallizing ingot in the mold. Subsequently, the quality of semifinished sections and rounds cast on semi-continuous casting machines were studied. It was reported that EMS units were developed for the use in molds for the efficient stirring of the liquid phase. Further investigations on wavy meniscus profile in billet continuous casting mold have been studied by M. Cho, Park, and Kim (2010) [129]. They developed an electromagnetic shield to improve the transient unstable meniscus profile with in-mold electromagnetic stirring (M-EMS).

Vogl et al. (2013) [130] developed a numerical model to simulate the gas bubbles behavior under the presence of magnetic fields. They studied the argon bubble entrapment phenomenon and further it was observed that the stirring can intensify the instabilities in melt flow. The low centered macrosegregation in high carbon steel is highly desirable. In 2015, Zeng et al. [131] studied the final permanent magnet stirring (FPMS) method to produce steel with low macro segregation. They developed a three-dimensional unsteady numerical model to analyze the magnetic flux density, the electromagnetic force, and the molten steel flow. The numerical model was based on electromagnetic field analysis software Opera-3D and the flow field software Fluent. It was found that magnetic flux density is nearly invariable. It was recommended that stirring frequency should be increased to obtain uniform core elements. Further, it was claimed that FPMS is an effective technology to improve center segregation. It was concluded that FPMS improved the solidification microstructure and reduced the wire rod segregation.

The quality of steel billet can be sufficiently improved by the use of mold electromagnetic stirrers

(M-EMS). Recent research of An et al. (2017) [132] focuses on the finite element based numerical modeling of the electromagnetic field, flow field, and temperature distribution in the mold. It was found that an increase in current develops an unstable flow field. In contrast, the effect of the frequency of the flow field has a greater impact. Further, decreasing the frequency affects the electromagnetic field, flow field, temperature distribution and solidification of molten steel in the mold.

In 2017, Maurya and Jha [86] numerically investigated the effect of stirrer position on melt flow and further, solidification in a continuous casting billet mold under the influence of MHD forces. It was reported that recirculation loops were observed above and below the stirrer position when the magnetic field was applied. Moreover, the size of the recirculation loop was seen decreased when solidification equations were solved for the entire domain. Zhang et al. (2019) [133] studied the electromagnetic stirring in the mold to evaluate the macroscopic transport phenomenon.

In 2019, Schurmann et al. [134] studied the electromagnetic stirring of mold and further, the effect of swirling nozzle by using liquid GaInSn at Mini-LIMMCAST facility. The investigation was focused on the interaction between the flow driven by the GYRONOZZLE and electromagnetic stirring in the mold. Recently, Zhang et al. (2019) [133] reported that magnetic field produced the horizontal swirling flow of melt in a continuous casting mold.

7. Coupled FVM and FEM approach

To understand the complete phenomenon in continuous casting systems, molten steel flow, and thermal models are coupled with thermal distortion model (structural deformation) models. Several authors reported transient modeling of molten steel flow and heat transfer in the mold using various tool and techniques [135], [136][137]. Very few literatures are available till date on coupled analysis. In previous cases of coupled study [44], [106], [138], the different numerical methodology was used to couple melt flow, solidification, and deformation in strand. Hwan et al. (1999) [101] carried a detailed study on coupled analysis of molten steel flow, heat transfer, and deformation in strand. The numerical model was able to predict the crack formation area and significant parameters affecting the strain propagation. Lee et al., (2000) [104] investigated crack formation in a continuously cast steel beam. They developed a coupled numerical model (FEM and FVM) to analyse the molten steel flow, heat transfer and deformation in a solidifying strand.

In 2007, Shamsi and Ajmani [40] carried a numerical investigation on a strand which had a length of 30 m. Further, Seyedein and Hasan [139][140] investigated a slab casted strand up to three meters. Generally, in this type of numerical modeling several assumptions are made for example as geometry simplification, boundary conditions, thermo-mechanical properties of mold and steel, etc. Most of the researchers have considered constant values of thermo-mechanical properties and boundary conditions. Seyedein and Hasan [139][140] used a constant value of strand cooling as $750 \text{ Wm}^{-3}\text{K}^{-1}$. Moreover, using symmetrical boundary conditions are also not suitable with some turbulence model due to asymmetrical flows in the mold region [94].

In 2003, Ho-Mun et al. [141] proposed a hybrid model of finite element and finite difference to calculate thermal strain. Recently, Svensson et al. [45] (2015) developed a coupled model of CFD-CC model with structural Finite Element Analysis (FEA) to predict stress-strains as a function of irregular lubrication conditions in the mold. The solidified shell structure and mesh was exported to the FE model. It was reported that the temperature distribution within the shell causes shrinkage and thermal deformation; which are in turn, the main source of stress. The temperature dependent material properties, transient modeling of has been not reported by any author using FVM and FVM coupled approach. Furthermore, the quality of the solidified strand depends upon operating parameters of the continuous casting process. None has reported the parametric analysis of operating parameters such as liquid temperature, cooling rate, and casting speed on the structural deformation using a coupled model approach.

In previous cases of coupled study, the different numerical methodology was used to couple melt flow, solidification, and deformation in strand. Some authors report only limited coupled investigations using heat molten steel flow and heat transfer study. In some cases, FDM and FEM approach was used. While very few authors investigated using coupling FVM and FEM approach. The coupled analysis has added advantage over other conditions. It gives a better understanding of investigations because of the continuous use of data in numerical modeling of fluid flow, heat transfer, solidification, and thermo-mechanical deformation. Moreover, thermo-mechanical properties of steel are varied with respect to temperature. Especially thermo-mechanical properties change significantly during solidification and phase transformation. Strictly speaking, temperature dependent material properties, compressible transient modeling of has been not

reported by any author using FVM and FVM coupled approach. Furthermore, the quality of the solidified strand depends upon operating parameters of the continuous casting process. Any alteration in standard optimized operation parameters will have an adverse effect because of the rapid cooling nature of strand.

8. Summary

Numerical modeling of continuous casting mold and strand has been done by several researchers since the last three decades[36], [38], [142]-[144]. Previous research work can be classified in three broad categories namely, numerical work on melt flow[133], [145]-[147] and heat transfer in mold [114], [148], [149], modeling of cooling and thermo-mechanical study of strand[39], [43], [150] and coupled numerical modeling of melt flow[45], [106]. The early work started with numerical modeling of molten steel flow and heat transfer in mold later thermo-mechanical studies prevailed. The numerical models have been validated from analytical, experimental or industrial plant data[151]. Till date, the basic heat transfer model is used for online control and operation in the industry[151]. However, these validations of the numerical model are available for limited cases and conditions. Most of the earlier investigations on mold were based on steady-state modeling. However, several authors reported transient modeling of molten steel flow and heat transfer in the mold using various tool and techniques[152], [153]. However, very few literatures are available till date on coupled analysis[115][154]. The coupled analysis gives a complete insight of melt flow in mold, temperature distribution and thermo-mechanical deformation in continuous casting strand. In previous cases of coupled study, the different numerical methodology was used to couple melt flow, solidification, and deformation in strand. Some authors report only limited coupled investigations using heat molten steel flow and heat transfer study[98], [106]. In some cases, FDM and FEM approach was used[115], [141]. While very few authors investigated using coupling FVM and FEM approach. The coupled analysis has added advantage over other conditions. It gives a better understanding of investigations because of the continuous use of data in numerical modeling of fluid flow, heat transfer, solidification, and thermo-mechanical deformation.

Moreover, thermo-mechanical properties of steel are varied with respect to temperature. Especially thermo-mechanical properties change significantly during solidification and phase transformation. It is mentioned in the assumptions of many researchers that linear thermo-mechanical properties are used so as to reduce complexity in mathematical

modelling[49][83][155][156]. Some thermo-mechanical properties vary with respect to temperature by considerable amount such as thermal conductivity, viscosity etc. As molten metal is at high temperature its thermal conductivity will increase as it undergoes cooling process. An equivalent thermal conductivity is considered for simulating the convection heat flow of liquid and mushy zones[157]. Heat transfer through convection will decrease as the cooling air surrounding casting will heat and which will decrease thermal gradient, hence rate of heat transfer. Researchers used effective thermal conductivity to consider this effect. Heat transfer models based on the effective thermal conductivity method are unable to reliably investigate mold heat transfer even though they can be used to determine the end of the liquid pool[33][51][81][94]. This necessitates consideration of nonlinear thermo-mechanical properties with due consideration in heat transfer during solidification process. A research carried out using nonlinear thermo-mechanical properties and had used 2D model, in which thermal deformation in third dimension is not taken in account such as bulging effect in CC process[136]. Those issues can be captured with consideration of 3D model.

Most of researchers used enthalpy porosity approach for numerical modeling and which were unable to find accurate prediction of surface temperature[158][94]. During solidification heat transfer is nonlinear in nature and complex phenomena. The solidified layer has a thickness non-uniform in the length of continuous cast slab, which is caused by fluid movement[52]. Using the simplified model of heat transfer does not notice this phenomenon because of error in accurately predicting surface temperature in casting. There are other effects such as cracks on casting surface, bulging, non-uniform thickness which are arising because of inaccurate prediction of surface temperature in casting[102]. Using nonlinear material properties for heat transfer and cooling will help to accurately predict surface temp in solidification process.

It can be concluded that the model with turbulence gives much larger variation of the meniscus geometry and higher temperature in the top part of the strand region[53]. Researches used effective viscosity instead of non-linear nature to avoid complications in mathematical modelling[50][151][105]. Turbulence model is accurate as the turbulent viscosity plays significant role in casting process, using nonlinear properties further improvement is expected. The developed numerical model of the continuous casting uses experimentally measured values of the material properties[98]. In that case, the simulations based on the model allow to determine the stress and strain

distribution with a higher accuracy. It can help to predict the optimal conditions for the continuous casting of steel. Thus, use of nonlinear material properties can be used to improve CC Process and to find optimum CC process parameters, which lead to accurate modelling of thermal distortion and residual stresses in casting.

In addition to this, composition of steel has significant impact on thermo-mechanical properties. An investigation related to different compositions could bring more information on structural deformation. These considerations have been discretely taken by authors in numerical modeling. However, temperature dependent material properties, transient modeling of has been not reported by any author using FVM and FVM coupled approach. Furthermore, the quality of the solidified strand depends upon operating parameters of the continuous casting process. Any alteration in standard optimized operation parameters will have an adverse effect because of the rapid cooling nature of strand. None has reported the parametric analysis of operating parameters such as liquid temperature, cooling rate, and casting speed on the structural deformation using a coupled model approach. The structural deformation and defect occurring in a strand is a complex phenomenon based on heat transfer and metallurgical properties of steel. Apart from it, surface defects are very frequent in solidified strands. Surface defects arises from several mechanical forces working on strand such as ferro-static pressure, roller misplacement and design[151]. Till date, numerical modeling considering metallurgical approach for surface defect, segregation defect and crack formation remains a big challenge.

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