



# STERG

SOLAR THERMAL ENERGY  
RESEARCH GROUP



# One-Dimensional Transient Cold Filling Simulation of a Molten Salt Central Receiver Pipe

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# Molten Salt as a Heat Transfer Fluid



- Efficiency with central receivers
- High freezing temperatures
- Preheating costs
- Cold filling

# Cold Filling



*Cold filling is the filling of a receiver panel which is initially at a temperature below the molten salt freezing temperature*

# Previous Work



Delameter & Bergan (1986)

Pacheco et al. (1995)

Pacheco & Dunkin (1996)

Lu et al. (2010)

Lu et al. (2013)

Liao et al. (2014)

Liao et al. (2015)

Xu et al. (2016)

- Numerical model used to simulate cold filling a vertical pipe with a ternary salt
- Filling Modes

# Previous Work



Delameter & Bergan (1986)

Pacheco et al. (1995)

Pacheco & Dunkin (1996)

Lu et al. (2010)

Lu et al. (2013)

Liao et al. (2014)

Liao et al. (2015)

Xu et al. (2016)

- Numerical model used to simulate cold filling a vertical pipe with Solar Salt
- Found the critical inlet velocities and temperatures for various initial tube temperatures

# Modelling Framework and Methodology

- Numerical model used to simulate cold filling a vertical pipe with Solar Salt
- MATLAB
- One-Dimensional



# Numerical and Mathematical Modelling

- Property functions
- Coupled pressure and velocity
- Track three temperatures
  - 1) Molten salt
  - 2) Frozen salt
  - 3) Receiver tube

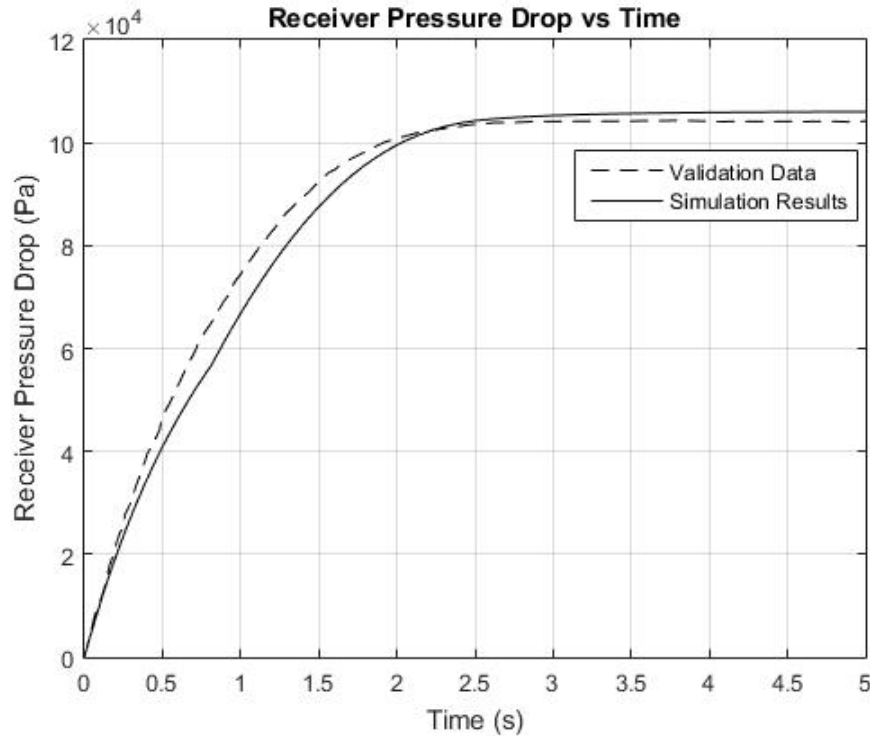
# Validation

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- 1) Liao et al. (2015)
- 2) Xu et al. (2016)

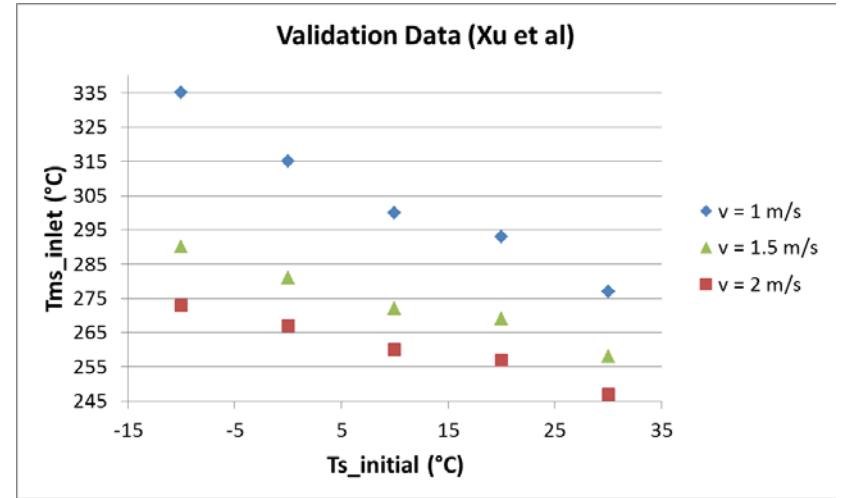
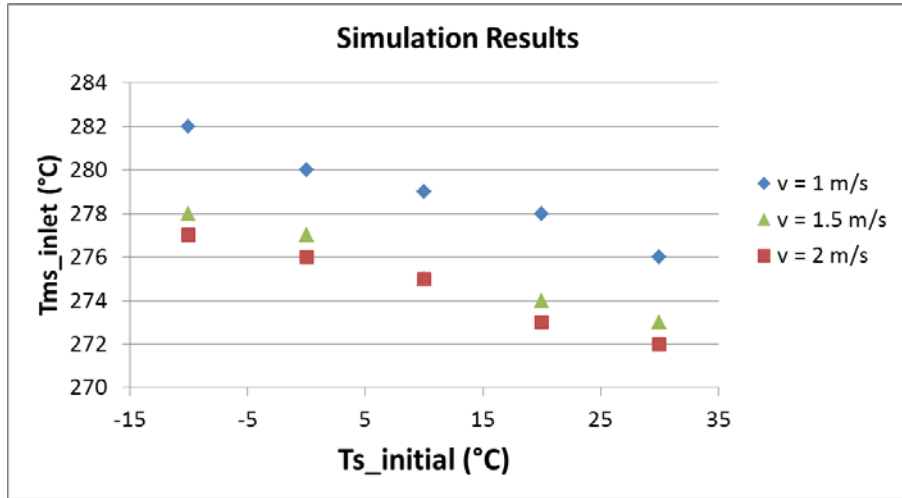
# Validation



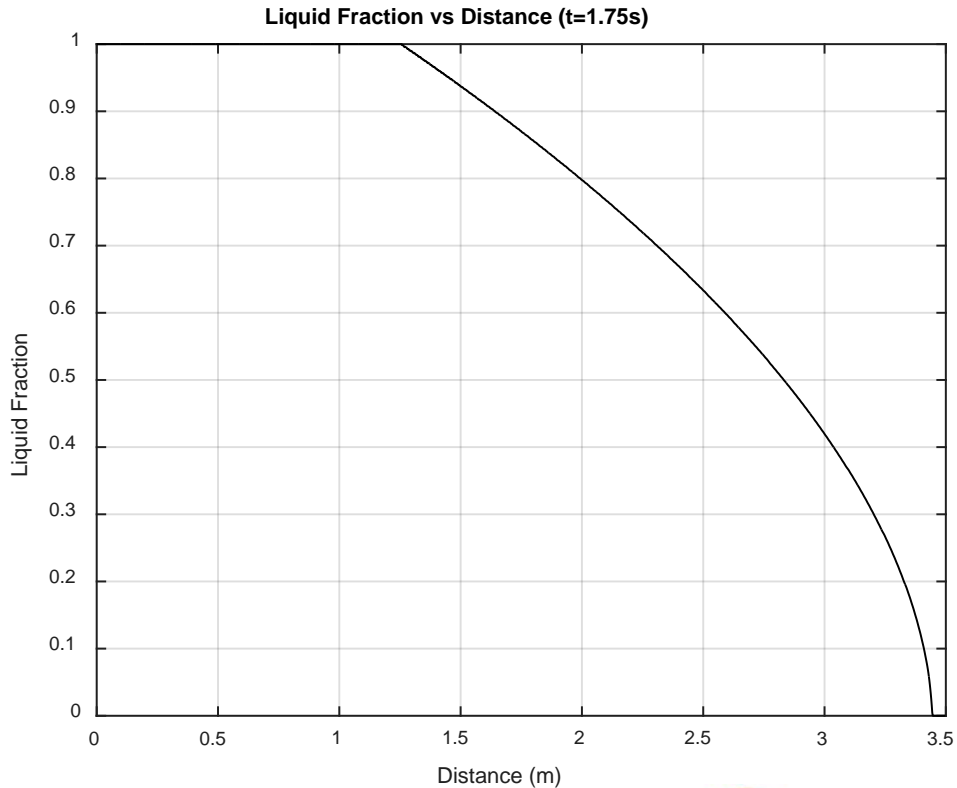
## Inputs:

- $T_{ms\_inlet} = 575$  K
- $L_r = 3.5$  m
- $T_{s\_initial} = 345$  K
- $t_{max} = 5$  s

# Validation



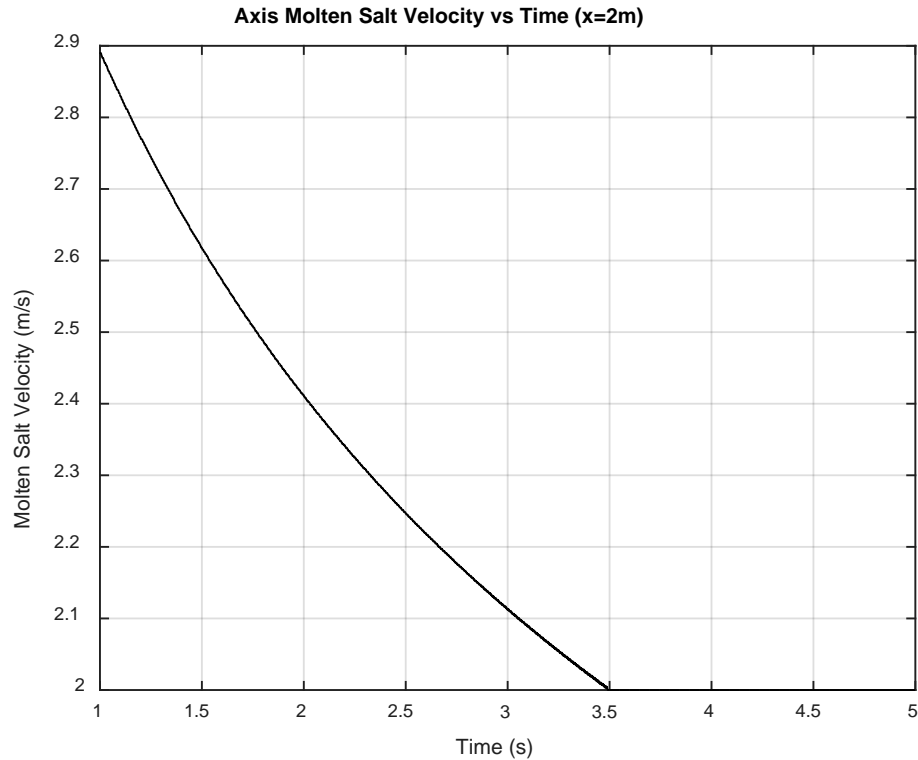
# Preliminary Results



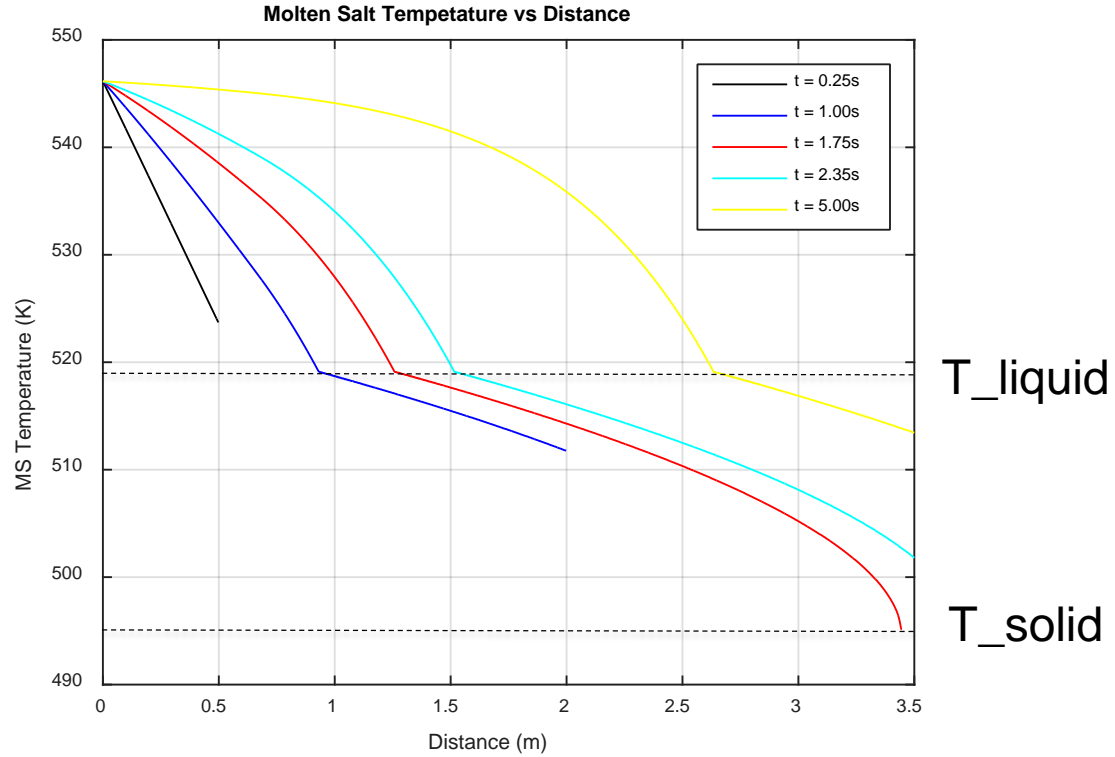
## Inputs:

- $T_{ms\_inlet} = 546 \text{ K}$
- $L_r = 3.5 \text{ m}$
- $T_s\_initial = 295 \text{ K}$
- $t\_max = 5 \text{ s}$
- $v\_inlet = 2 \text{ m/s}$

# Preliminary Results



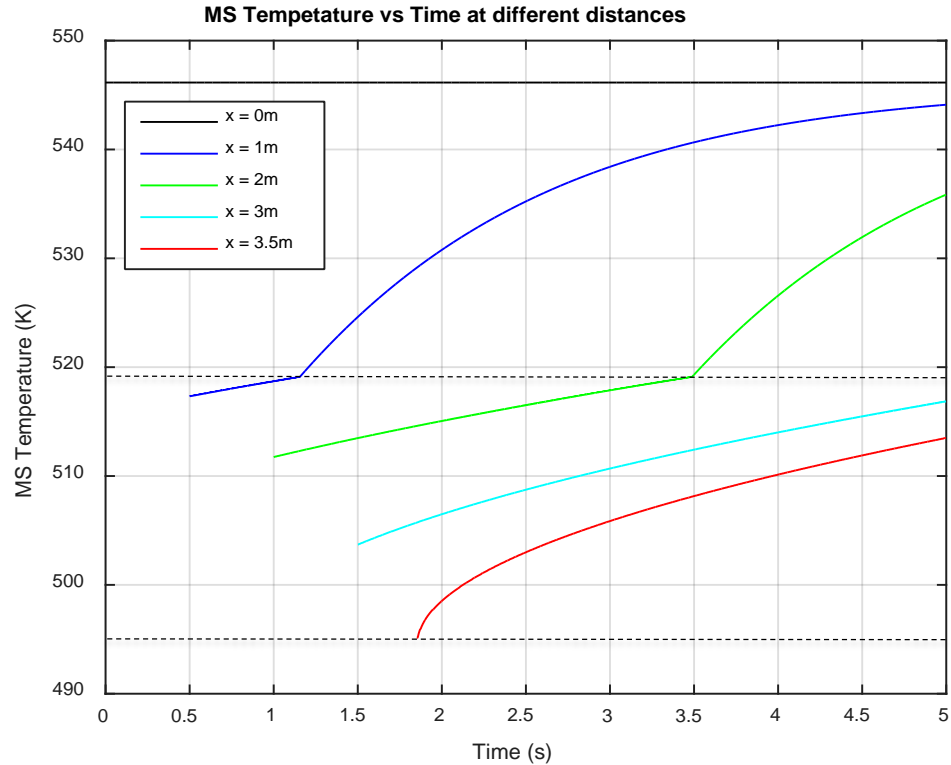
# Preliminary Results



T<sub>liquid</sub>

T<sub>solid</sub>

# Preliminary Results



T<sub>liquid</sub>

T<sub>solid</sub>



# Conclusion

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- The cold filling solution
- Promising research
- Working model
- Future work

# THANK YOU!

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