

# Upper Stage Tank Thermodynamic Modeling Using SINDA/FLUINT





## Outline

- Purpose/Overview
- Introduction
- Approach
- Fluid Sub-model Integration
- Required Inputs
- Stratification Modeling
- Rotation Modeling
- Slosh Modeling
- Conclusion



#### **Purpose/Overview**

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The purpose of this work is:

 Provide an independent modeling capability within NASA's Launch Services Program for cryogenic upper stages

In this briefing, the following will be presented

- Describe the modeling approach employed
- Generic results to date



#### Introduction

- The NASA Launch Services Program's Thermal/ Fluids team was tasked with developing a tool for future EELV mission IV&V activities
- This tool would allow for both thermal structural modeling as well as tank thermodynamics
- The desire to have a fully coupled thermal and fluids/thermodynamic modeling capability lead to the use of a commercially available software platform: SINDA/FLUINT
- The presentation specifically describes the fluids/thermodynamic modeling portion of the tool





## Approach

- Fluids/Thermodynamics Modeling FLUINT
  - Fluid Conduction
    - Stratification
  - Convection
    - B/L development
  - Mass Transfer
    - Diffusion, vaporization & condensation
  - Boiling
  - Pressurization & Venting
  - Liquid Vapor Interface Area/Liquid Wall Interface Area during Rotation



## **Fluid Sub-model Integration**

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#### Fluid to Structure Integration

- TIEs are used to couple the thermal and fluid models
  - Analogous to SINDA conductors
  - Fluint lump to SINDA node energy interchange
  - Heat transfer coefficient can be inputted manually or automatically calculated by the program
- Transient Integration
  - Utilized S/F build commands to engage and disengage individual fluid submodels to simulate discrete "events" along a continuous timeline
    - Stratification
    - Rotation
    - Slosh
  - Sequencing of "events" is controlled in OPERATIONS block and is dependent upon
    - Knowledge of mission being simulated
    - Identification of environments that signify the "event"
    - Use of multiple definitions of simulation completion times
    - Identification of variables necessary to maintain continuity between "events"
  - Thermo model may be run independently from the thermal model



## **Required Inputs**

- Requires the input of various external data files
  - Mission Variables
    - Gravity
    - Rate of rotation (Passive Thermal Control Roll)
    - Vent schedule
    - CFD data relevant to fluid location within tank
  - Sub-routine files
    - Fluid depth
    - Liquid/vapor interface area and liquid/tank interface area
    - Boundary layer development
    - Natural convection
    - Boiling



## **Basic Overview of S/F**

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- SINDA
  - Nodes •
- Thermal mass
  - Conductors Structural conduction path

#### FLUINT

- •
- Paths
- Lumps/tanks Homogeneous fluid @ P & T
  - Twinned tank Non-homogeneous tank
    - Momentum and energy balance
- Uncommon use of FLUINT (network code) to model fluid volume



#### **Boiling Subroutine**

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• All regimes of boiling and reduced gravity effects accounted for

10



## **Stratification – Event 1**

- Development of a temperature stratum within a fluid largely due to buoyancy driven forces
- Model needs to account for
  - Energy and mass transport
  - Exhibit sufficient resolution to capture stratification
  - [Number of axial layers left to the discretion of the modeler]
- Model designed to accept
  - A direct heat flux input into the thermal nodes
  - A temperature difference between the wall and fluid
  - TIE's coupling the fluid/thermo model directly with the thermal model
- Boundary layer subroutine provides
  - Local boundary layer thickness
  - Mass flow rates



- SUPER PATH
- CTLVLV

Disclaimer: This package is part of an oral presentation of the following paper: AIAA-2006-5051. Information contained herein is only to be used in conjunction with the aforementioned oral presentation.

- handles mass transfer at liquid vapor interface

Used to control tank pressurization and depressurization



#### **Stratification Results**

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Percent of Bulk Fluid Thermal Stratification vs. Time For Various Values of Gravity (Liquid: Hydrogen, Oxygen and Nitrogen)



- · Stratification was successfully modeled for various values of g
- Compared well to published data



#### **Rotation – Event 2**

- Development of the rotation model was motivated by the common occurrence of PTC roll in space/launch vehicles
- Model needs to account for
  - Proper liquid/wall interface area
  - Proper liquid/vapor interface area
  - Development of "warm layer" or stratum
  - Proper mixing within fluid and ullage lumps
- PUTTIE routine
  - Dynamically moves TIEs as fluid comes in contact with hot wall areas
- Boiling subroutine
  - Accounts for any occurrence of boiling as the fluid comes into contact with hot walls that were previously adjacent to the ullage
- Data arrays provide a data base to determine liquid height and liquid/vapor interface area
  - Fill %
  - Rate of rotation (deg/s)
  - Gravity ratio (g/g<sub>c</sub>)
  - Data conforms to inputs provided by CFD simulations



PUTIE routine dynamically moves the tie to the appropriate adjacent fluid or vapor lump ٠ as the fluid moves up the wall during a rotation event



#### **Rotation Results (Cont.)**

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#### Slosh – Event 3

- Development of the slosh model was motivated by the interest in potential effect on tank pressure (ullage collapse) and liquid boil-off
- Slosh fluid network is very similar to the rotation event
- The chaotic nature of the event precludes a high fidelity model
- Slosh also utilizes the PUTTIE routine
- Boiling subroutine
- Two levels of fidelity available to user
  - Zone (clusters of SINDA nodes) wetting
  - Individual SINDA node wetting
- CFD analysis provides intelligent input for conjugate modeling



#### **Slosh (Continued)**

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#### 8 radial, 56 vertical segments



 Tank Nodal breakdown can also be clustered into zones (white/green) for the slosh routine



#### **Slosh Results – Zone Slosh**

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 TIES stay connected to thermal node. They switch from liquid to ullage and vise versa



#### **Slosh Results – Node Slosh**

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#### Conclusion

- Tool has been successfully developed for use in predicting upper stage propellant thermodynamics
- Achieved full thermal-fluids coupling using commercially available SINDA/FLUINT
- Event models can run concurrently
- The tool set will form a foundation for future NASA LSP analysis efforts
- The suite can be easily adapted for
  - EELVS fleet
  - CLV, CaLV and CEV
  - Commercial applications (any fluid, any tank)



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# Questions?



#### **Boundary Layer Development Results**

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B/L Thickness Vs. Fluid Height



Mass Flow Rate Vs. Fluid Depth

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#### **Rotation Results (Cont.)**

