

- Point of injection - WWall and Center:

There are differences in D_L obtained for a given process rate, from a wall injection and a center injection response. For example, considering the injection at nozzle N1; N1 - wwall yields higher dispersion coefficients than N1 - center. This occurs because the tracer injected at the wall is carried down sooner by the downflowing liquid at the wall, while for the center injection of the tracer, the liquid tracer is transported down predominantly by the turbulent motion, and its arrival by convection is retarded as it first has to reach the top of the reactor. When the tracer arrives earlier, the apparent dispersion coefficient is larger. Similarly for the injection at nozzle N2, which is at the bottom of the reactor, D_L obtained from the center injection response is higher since the tracer is carried up to the detector faster by upward convection of the liquid in the core region of the column.

The effects discussed are most prominent for the lowest superficial gas velocity, i.e., run 14.7, and are found to decrease with increasing gas velocity. This is to be expected as turbulent mixing starts to dominate convective effects at high gas velocity.

In order to quantitatively assess the differences in the various D_L values obtained for a given process rate, a statistical analysis is carried out using the ANalysis Of VARIances (ANOVA). Details of the analysis are presented in Appendix IV. The D_L values from a particular injection response are considered to belong to a group or treatment. The differences in the D_L 's from within the treatment (the values obtained at different detector levels) are considered to arise due to random error within the treatment. For each run there are four such treatments due to the measurements from four injection points (top - center and wall, and bottom - center and wall). The purpose of the analysis is to determine if there are any significant differences in the averages of the different treatments. This is done by comparing the variances in the treatment means with the variance within each treatment. The results of this analysis (Appendix IV, Table A.4.11) suggest that for runs 14.6 and 14.7 the four treatment means (three for run 14.6) are significantly different so that they belong to different classes, whereas for run 14.8 they all belong to the same category. The results from ANOVA thus confirm our earlier assertion that the differences in the D_L obtained from the top and bottom injection and the center and side injections are real. This means that the liquid flow and mixing phenomena cannot be captured adequately by the axial dispersion model (ADM), except perhaps at the highest gas velocity. The results for the mean $\overline{D_L}$ for all treatments in each run are reported in Table 3, along

Table 2: Parameters for Liquid Phase Tracer Experiments

Run No.	U_{dG} cm/s	P MPa	Gas Holdup	Injection	Det. Lev.	D_L cm ² /s
14.6	25.5.3	5.2	0.39	N1 - CEN	1	2879
					2	2751
					3	2717
				N1 - WAL	1	3563
					2	5433
					3	5776
				N2 - CEN	5	7081
					6	4313
					7	4696
				N2 - WAL	5	not
					6	avai-
					7	lable
14.7	14.1.3	5.2	0.33	N1 - CEN	1	1828
					2	2045
					3	1962
				N1 - WAL	1	2466
					2	3183
					3	3377
				N2 - CEN	5	4171
					6	2831
					7	3051
				N2 - WAL	5	2911
					6	2465
					7	2270
14.8	36.3.0	3.6	0.37	N1 - CEN	1	4432
					2	5117
					3	4742
				N1 - WAL	1	4924
					2	5331
					3	5403
				N2 - CEN	5	5501
					6	5163
					7	5925
				N2 - WAL	5	4741
					6	4441
					7	5991

with the standard deviations $\overline{\sigma}_L$ ¹.

In order to study the effect of superficial gas velocity on the dispersion coefficient, and assess whether any statistically significant variation exists, given that the values vary so widely in a given run, a similar analysis (ANOVA) is performed. In this case, the D_L from all injection responses of a given run were considered to belong to a single group or treatment. The results in Table A.4.2 of Appendix IV suggest that the three treatments (runs 14.6, 14.7 and 14.8) have different means and therefore fall into different categories. The overall mean \overline{D}_L and standard deviations are also reported in Table 3. This demonstrates that there is a distinct increase in the mean liquid dispersion coefficient, D_L , with superficial gas velocity. However, it is clear that the error, or standard deviations, are relatively high, indicating a wide spread in the model parameter D_L . We ascribe this to the inability of the ADM to describe accurately the measured tracer response.

In general, the overall magnitudes of the liquid phase axial dispersion coefficients suggest a reasonable degree of liquid (slurry) mixing in the column under the existing process rates. The characteristic liquid mixing time based on the entire dispersion height L is in the range LL^2/D_L : 350 - 650 seconds. The effect of this extent of mixing on reactor performance naturally depends on the characteristic reaction time and level of conversion.

The liquid dispersion coefficients obtained in this study were compared with correlations from the literature (Kato et al., 1972; Baird and Rice, 1975; Deckwer et al., 1974). The correlations are listed in Table 4. These are the few correlations that apply for the column diameters and superficial gas velocities of interest to us. The liquid dispersion coefficients predicted by these correlations are in the range D_L : 1300 (U_G 14 cm/s) to 20000 (U_G 36 cm/s) cm^2/s . All the above correlations were obtained at atmospheric pressure. Therefore a direct comparison cannot be made with the present experimental results, which were performed at elevated pressures. Clearly the correlations based on atmospheric pressure data underpredict the observed liquid axial dispersion coefficients at all gas velocities.

There is evidence that gas holdup in a bubble column increases at higher pressure due to an increase in the number of small bubbles. The increase in gas density with pressure affects bubble formation sizes, and bubble coalescence and breakup rates, all of which lead to smaller bubble sizes (Wilkinson, 1991). This, in effect, delays transition from bubbly flow to churn - turbulent flow (Krishna et al., 1991). At

$$^1\sigma = \sqrt{\sum(y - \bar{y})^2 / (n - 1)}$$

Table 3: Results of F ANOVA - Average D_L and Standard Deviations

Run	Injection	$\overline{D_L}$ cm^2/s	$\overline{\sigma_L^2}$ cm^2/s	$\overline{\overline{D_L}}$ cm^2/s	$\overline{\overline{\sigma_L}}$ cm^2/s
14.6	N1 - CEEN	2782	85	4355	1532
	N1 - WWAL	4924	1191		
	N2 - CEEN	5300	1499		
14.7	N1 - CEEN	1945	109	2713	678
	N1 - WWAL	3008	479		
	N2 - CEEN	3351	718		
	N2 - WWAL	2550	328		
14.8	N1 - CEEN	4764	343	5143	516
	N1 - WWAL	5219	258		
	N2 - CEEN	5529	381		
	N2 - WWAL	5057	822		

sufficiently high gas velocities, as in the runs studied in this report, a bubble column operating under high pressure (3-5 MPa) is already in the churn turbulent regime, and the presence of a bimodal bubble size distribution with large and small bubbles is usually seen (Krishna, 1999). It has been reported by Krishna et al. (1991) that beyond transition, in the churn turbulent regime, the gas holdup due to small bubbles is independent of gas velocity. It is the holdup of the large bubbles that increases with increase in gas velocity. However, the effect of pressure, and thereby gas density, on the holdup of these large bubbles in the churn turbulent regime is negligible. As a result, at high pressures and high gas velocities, the overall gas holdup is higher than in a reactor operating at atmospheric pressure and the same gas velocity due to the excess of small bubbles in the system caused by delayed transition, while the holdup of large bubbles is comparable to the holdup of large bubbles for similar gas velocities at atmospheric pressure (Krishna et al., 1994). There is, hence, an additional interaction between the gas and liquid at high pressure. The axial dispersion coefficient is due to liquid recirculation and turbulent (radial and axial) mixing. Therefore, the liquid dispersion coefficient is expected to increase with pressure at such high gas velocities.

Table 4: Correlations for Liquid Dispersion Coefficient in Bubble Columns

Investigator	Equation (in SI)	Range of Variables
Kato and Nishiwaki (gas-liquid-solid)	$D_L = \frac{U_G D_c}{\frac{13Fr^{0.5}}{1+8Fr^{0.425}}}$ $Fr = \frac{U_G^2}{g D_c}$	$0.066 \leq D_c \leq 0.214 \text{ m}$ $0.02 \leq U_G \leq 0.3 \text{ m/s}$
Baird and Rice (gas - liquid)	$D_L = 0.35 D_C^{4/3} (g U_G)^{1/3}$	$0.003 \leq U_G \leq 0.45 \text{ m/s}$ $0.082 \leq D_C \leq 1.53 \text{ m}$
Deckwer et al. (gas - liquid)	$D_L = 0.678 D_C^{1.4} U_G^{0.3}$	—

The relatively low increase in D_L from U_G of 25 cm/s (Run 14.6 at 5.3MPa) to U_G of 36 cm/s (Run 14.8 at 3.6.6 MPa) may be accounted for by the decrease in pressure between the two runs, which to some extent masks the effect of U_G on the D_L obtained by fitting the tracer curve.

5.1.2 Conclusions and Future Work

The ADM, which has presently been fitted only to the tracer data that do not exhibit overshoots, appears to provide satisfactory fits. However, there is a large variation in the axial dispersion coefficient obtained at different detector levels, which is seen in standard deviations reported in Table 3. Our analysis clearly established the asymmetry of the actual response, contrary to the ADM predictions, and the effect of injection point on the calculated liquid axial dispersion coefficient. All this indicates that while ADM may match a particular response well, it does not represent liquid mixing well.

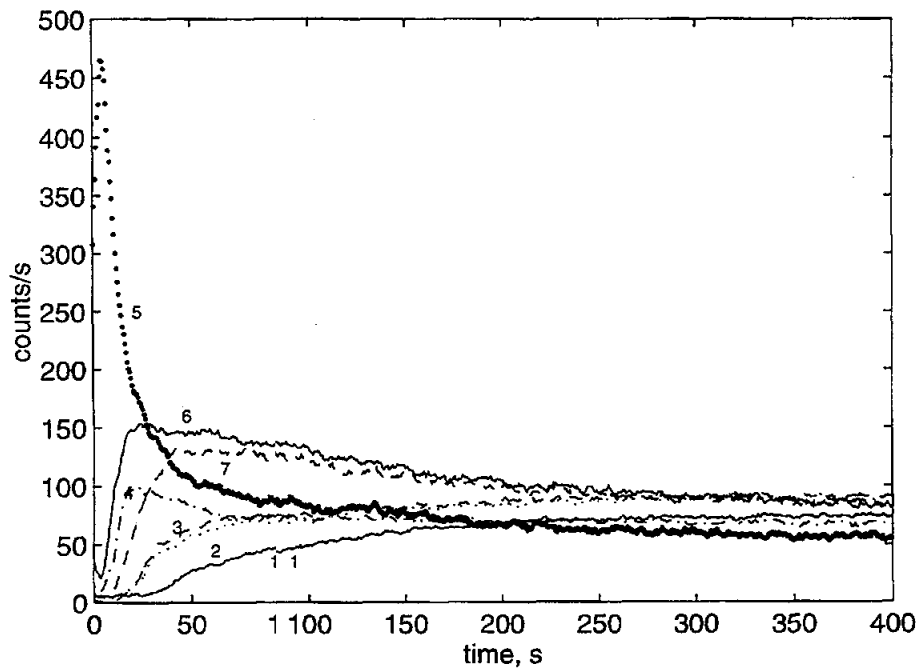


Figure 5: (a) Experimental EDetector Responses for Wall Injection at N 1 (Run 14.7)

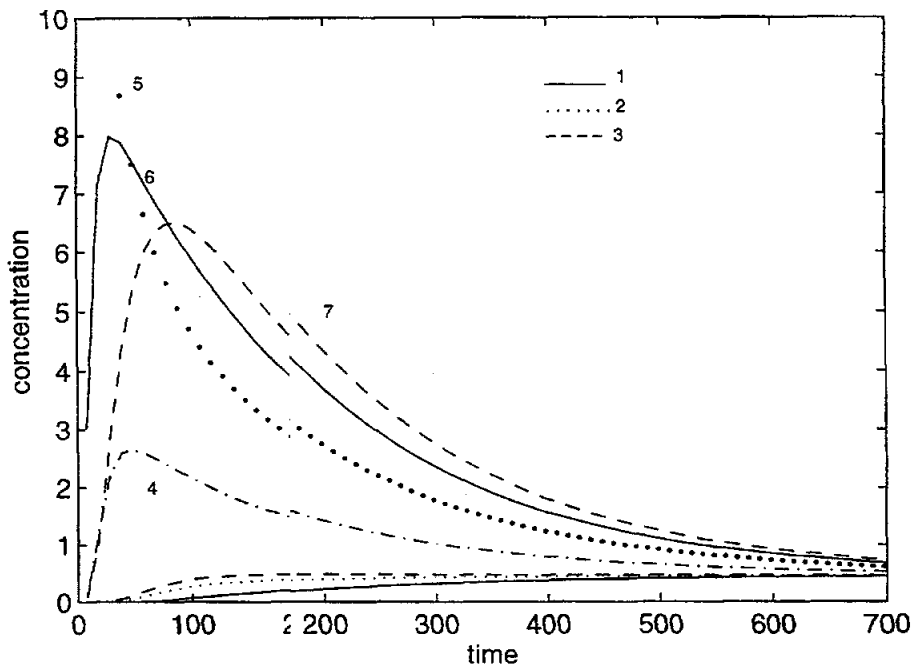


Figure 5: (b) Model Calculated Responses at Detector Levels (similar to experiment), for Qualitative Comparison with Fig 5(a) (time scale is arbitrary)

To match the data better, a phenomenological model that captures the essence of the fluid dynamic behavior of the system should be used. The Recycle with Cross Flow and Dispersion Model (RCFDM) recently suggested by us (Degaleesan et al., 1996) provides an attractive alternative in the description of liquid mixing. Preliminary analysis indicates that such a model, with a consistent set of parameters, is able to capture qualitatively all the features of the experimentally observed tracer responses at various detector levels. Figure 5 exhibits the actual tracer responses and simulations based on the RRCFDM. The similarities between model and experiments are evident, as well as the ability of the RCFDM for predicting a variety of responses at different column locations. Quantitative evaluation of parameters based on the RCFDM is part of the future planned work.

5.2 Gas Tracer

Two experiments were carried out at each process rate, with the gas tracer being injected at the inlet of the reactor. The axial dispersion model is used to fit the data measured at all detector levels. Six types of parameter estimations were conducted with different sets of floating parameters. For all cases, the liquid phase dispersion coefficient was fixed to the value obtained from the liquid tracer experiments. The value of D_L used for each process rate was that obtained for the bottom center injection (N2 - center) with the response measurement made at detector level 7. It was found that moderate changes in D_L do not affect the results of the model fits to data and the model parameters for the gas tracer experiments significantly.

The ADM that describes the spatial and temporal history of an injected soluble tracer is given by Equations 13, 14 and 15. The two coupled partial differential equations have to be solved for the gas concentration, C_G , and liquid concentration, C_L . The temporal history at a given position z , of the combined response presented by Equation 7 has to be matched to the average detector response at the same axial location.

Parameter estimation is again accomplished by minimizing the sum of the square of errors

$$\min_P \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \left(\frac{R(t_i, z)}{R_{max}} - \frac{C_t(t_i, z)}{C_{tmax}} \right)^2 \quad (20)$$

where $R(t_i, z)$ is the average detector response at location z at time t_i , R_{max} is the maximum detector response at z . $C_t(t_i, z)$ is the total argon concentration defined by

Equation 7, evaluated at the axial position z and time t_i , and $C_{t_{max}}$ is its maximum value at z . \underline{P} is the vector of parameters that is used to minimize the sum of square errors, and N_p is the number of data (sample) points, which is approximately 1000.

The model contains seven parameters, D_L , D_G , ϵ_G , ϵ_L , H , $K_L a$ and U_G . Due to our consideration of the slurry as pseudohomogeneous, $\epsilon_L = 1 - \epsilon_G$ so that the number of free parameters is reduced to six. As already mentioned we take the liquid dispersion coefficient to be given by the liquid phase tracer experiments. The five parameters D_G , ϵ_G , H , $K_L a$ and U_G have to be determined either by fitting the tracer data, or, from independent observations or calculations. Thermodynamics can provide us with an estimate for the Henry's constant, H . Holdup measurements can be used for estimation of the average holdup, ϵ_G . Superficial gas velocity at the entrance and exit is known. With the exception of the gas superficial velocity, which is known to drop by 18% from the inlet value, and the Henry's constant H , which can be calculated reasonably accurately, none of the other parameters can be assessed 'a priori' with certainty. We examined the ability of the model to match the observed tracer responses based on several approaches using a different number of floating parameters as shown in Table 5.

The following is a comparison of the results obtained by each of the approaches represented as Case 1 - Case 6 in Table 5 and provides the rationale for each approach.

5.2.1 Case 1: Model with Three Floating Parameters, D_G , H and $K_L a$

In this case, ϵ_G (from DP measurements) is used as input to the model, by considering the axial average holdup up to the measurement level ($\overline{\epsilon_{G,z}} = \int_0^L \epsilon_G dz / L$). This average at each level, z , is found to vary only slightly from the overall average holdup reported in Table 1. Results for the model parameters obtained by fitting the model to the various experimental runs and detector levels are provided in Table 6. Figure 6 shows the results of fitting the model responses to the experimental measurements at all the detector levels for run 14.8-1. As in the case of liquid measurements, the fits of the model to the experimental data are in general very good. The fits for the remaining experiments are shown in Appendix VI. In all the figures, there is an offset in the time axis, which is due to the differences in the zero time of recording the measurement (detectors) and the starting time of the tracer experiment. This is properly accounted for in the model.

Table 5: Different Attempts of Matching Model Predictions and Data at Various Detector Levels

Case No.	Fixed Parameters	Floating Parameters	Interpretation of Detector Response
1	$U U_G = U_{G,in}$ $D_L = D_L(\text{liquid})$ $\epsilon_G = \overline{\epsilon_{G,z}}$ (DP)	$D_G, K_L a, H$	Eqn 7
2a	$U U_G = U_{G,in}$ $D_L = D_L(\text{liquid})$ $\epsilon_G = \overline{\epsilon_{G,z}}$ (DP) $H = H(\text{thermo})$	$D_G, K_L a$	Eqn 7
2b	$U U_G = U_{G,in}$ $D_L = D_L(\text{liquid})$ $\epsilon_G = \overline{\epsilon_{G,z}}$ (NDG) $H = H(\text{thermo})$	$D_G, K_L a$	Eqn 7
3	$U U_G = U_{G,in}$ $D_L = D_L(\text{liquid})$ $H = H(\text{thermo})$	$D_G, K_L a, \epsilon_G$	Eqn 7
4	$U U_G = U_{G,in}$ $D_L = D_L(\text{liquid})$ $\epsilon_G = \overline{\epsilon_{G,z}}$ (DP)	$D_G, K_L a, \alpha$	$\alpha \epsilon_G C_G + \epsilon_L C_L$
5	$U U_G = U_{G,z}$ $D_L = D_L(\text{liquid})$ $\epsilon_G = \overline{\epsilon_{G,z}}$ (DP) $H = H(\text{thermo})$	$D_G, K_L a$	Eqn 7
6	$D_L = D_L(\text{liquid})$ $\epsilon_G = \overline{\epsilon_{G,z}}$ (DP) $H = H(\text{thermo})$	$D_G, K_L a, U_G$	Eqn 7

Table 6: Case 1: Parameters for Gas Phase Tracer Experiments

Run No.	U_G cm/s	Gas Holdup	D_L cm^2/s	Det. Lev.	Model Parameters		
					D_G cm^2/s	H	K_{La} s^{-1}
14.6-1	25.3 }	0.39	4696	1	9800	10.0	0.10
		0.39		2	6839	4.41	2.95
		0.38		3	7864	5.82	1.80
		0.37		4	5412	4.47	0.58
		0.38		5	7131	5.33	1.12
		0.39		6	5729	3.87	0.66
		0.40		7	6204	3.32	1.19
14.6-2		0.39		1	9396	10.0	0.10
		0.39		2	4446	4.28	1.16
		0.38		3	6229	5.82	2.50
		0.37		4	3337	3.70	0.56
		0.38		5	5455	4.65	0.79
		0.39		6	4649	3.78	0.49
		0.40		7	4356	3.41	0.65
14.7-3	14.3 }	0.34	3052	1	6987	10.0	0.10
		0.33		2	4219	4.35	1.69
		0.32		3	4663	5.11	1.58
		0.32		4	3402	4.75	0.43
		0.32		5	2466	3.76	0.56
		0.33		6	1681	3.98	0.56
		0.33		7	1816	3.17	0.63
14.7-4		0.34		1	6274	10.0	0.10
		0.33		2	3048	5.30	0.32
		0.32		3	4313	6.89	3.45
		0.32		4	2379	4.42	0.31
		0.32		5	1903	3.81	0.41
		0.33		6	1861	3.31	0.46
		0.33		7	1865	3.14	0.47
14.8-5	36.0)	0.38	5925	1	9800	10.0	0.30
		0.37		2	5229	3.82	2.73
		0.37		3	6567	4.70	1.66
		0.37		4	4253	3.41	0.51
		0.37		5	4771	3.42	0.65
		0.38		6	4059	3.19	0.61
		0.38		7	3546	3.11	0.59
14.8-6		0.38		1	9800	10.0	0.20
		0.37		2	8531	6.80	2.47
		0.37		3	6505	6.85	3.01
		0.37		4	5070	3.61	0.36
		0.37		5	3793	3.41	0.51
		0.38		6	3106	3.21	0.54
		0.38		7	3985	3.00	0.60

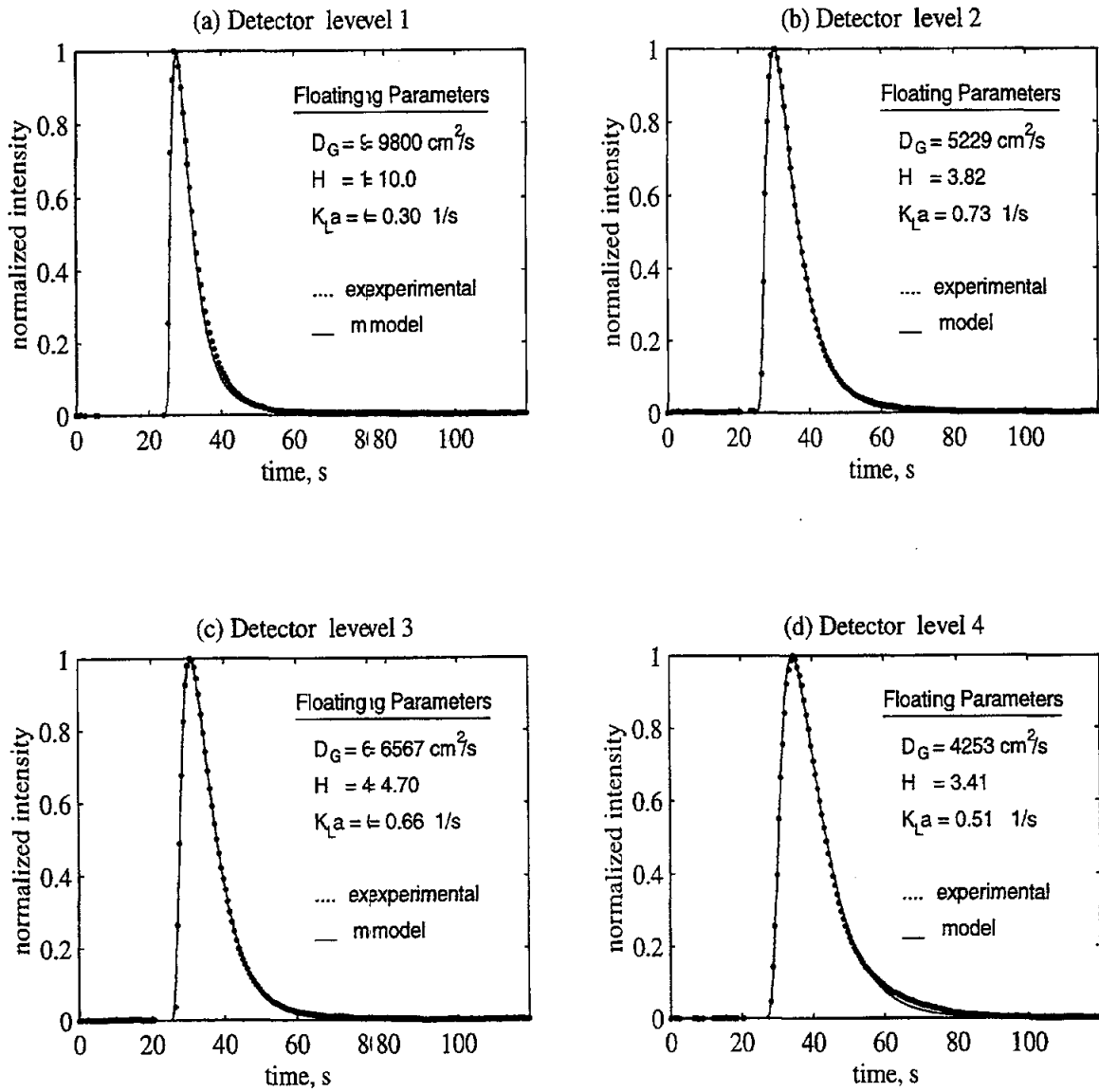


Figure 6: Gas Phase Impulse Response for Case 1, Run 14.8-5, Injection Time 24.6s

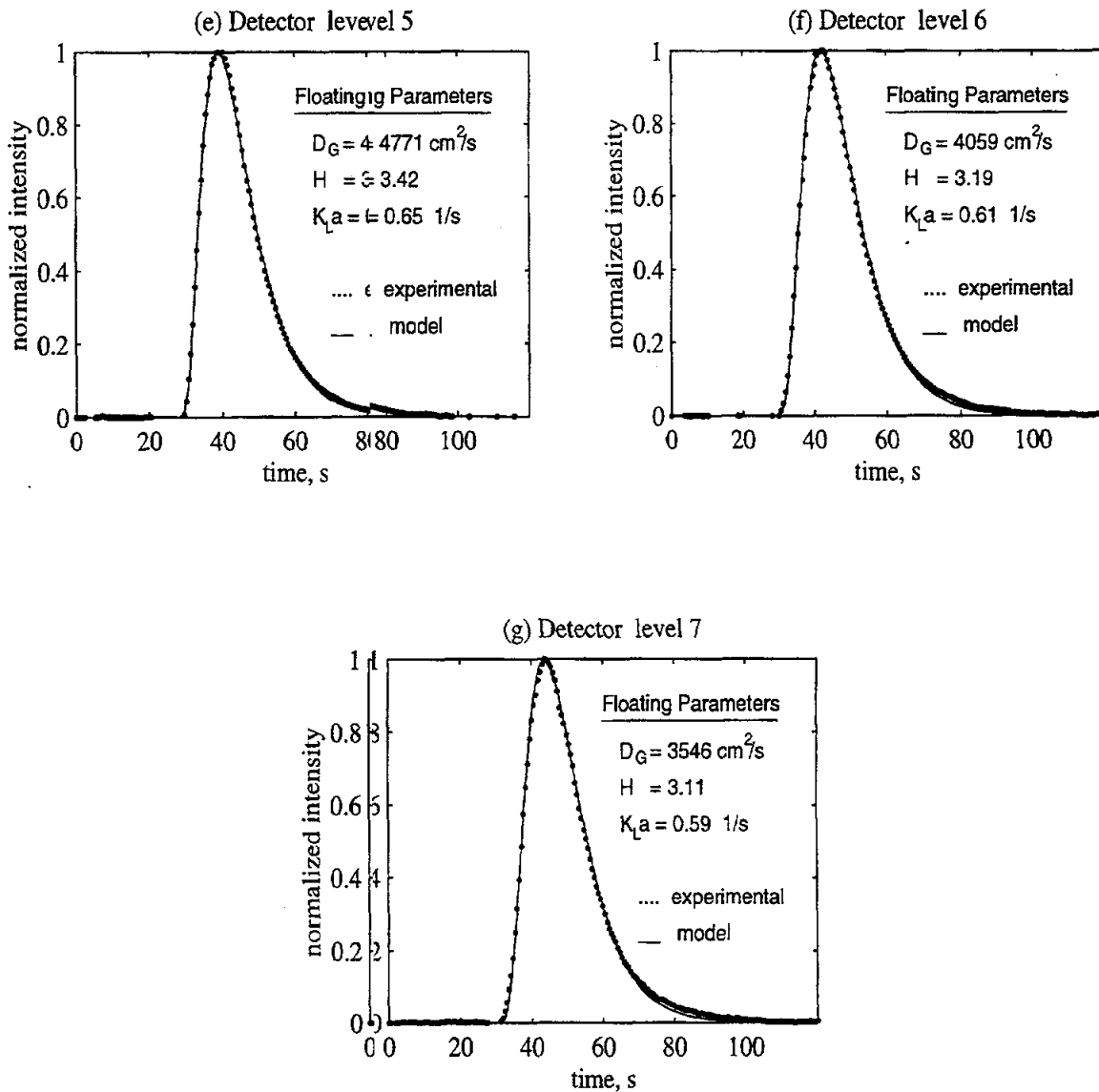


Figure 6 (contd.): Gas Phase Impulse Response for Case 1, Run 14.8-5, Injection Time 24.6s

Discussion

For pipe flows, the ADDM is known to apply when the radial dispersion is significant enough to overcome the effects of convection. This criterion is expressed as $L/D_C \gg 0.08 Pe_r$, where Pe_r is the radial dispersion Peclet number based on the radius of the tube. When applied to gas flow in bubble columns, $Pe_r = U_G R_c / \epsilon_G D_{rr}$, where D_{rr} is the radial turbulent diffusivity for the gas phase. This requires an independent evaluation of D_{rr} . Experimental measurements of D'_{rr} , the radial turbulent eddy diffusivity for the liquid are available using the CARPT (Computer Automated Radioactive Particle Tracking) technique in our laboratory, in smaller size columns (Degaleesan and Duduković, 1995). When extrapolated to larger diameter columns and higher superficial gas velocities (as in the present study), this yields estimated values of D_{rr} ($D_{rr} = D'_{rr}$) in the range 100 - 150 cm^2/s based on the assumption that liquid and gas radial diffusivities are equal. This yields estimates of Pe_r in the range of 10 to 15, and indicates that the above criterion is well established for all higher detector levels. Even for the lowest detector (DET 1 in Figure 1), $L/D_c = 3.3$ is larger than $0.08 Pe_r$, but not sufficiently large to fully justify the use of the ADM.

Using the gas phase axial dispersion coefficients obtained from parameter estimation calculations reported in Table 6, the dispersion Peclet numbers were calculated. For detectors at the farthest level, $Pe \sim 25$, while for the the lowermost detector level, $Pe \sim 1$. Such a range of Peclet numbers suggests that the ADM is more suited at the highest detector levels, where the flow can be considered to have small deviations from plug flow. It is the least suited at the lowermost levels. This may explain why the values of the parameters are quite consistent for the upper three to four levels of detectors, while for the lower levels, although the fits are good, there is a definite variation in parameter values. The parameters at the lowermost level ($L/D = 3.3$) were found to be very different from the other values.

A parametric sensitivity analysis was performed to study the sensitivity of the model to the various floating parameters. This analysis is performed by fixing two parameters at their fitted values and varying the third. The parameters were varied from -30% to +30% of their fitted values. Results for Run 14.8 - 1 at detector level 5 are shown in Figure 7. It is seen that the model is most sensitive to the Henry's constant H when compared with D_G and K_{La} , and least sensitive to K_{La} .

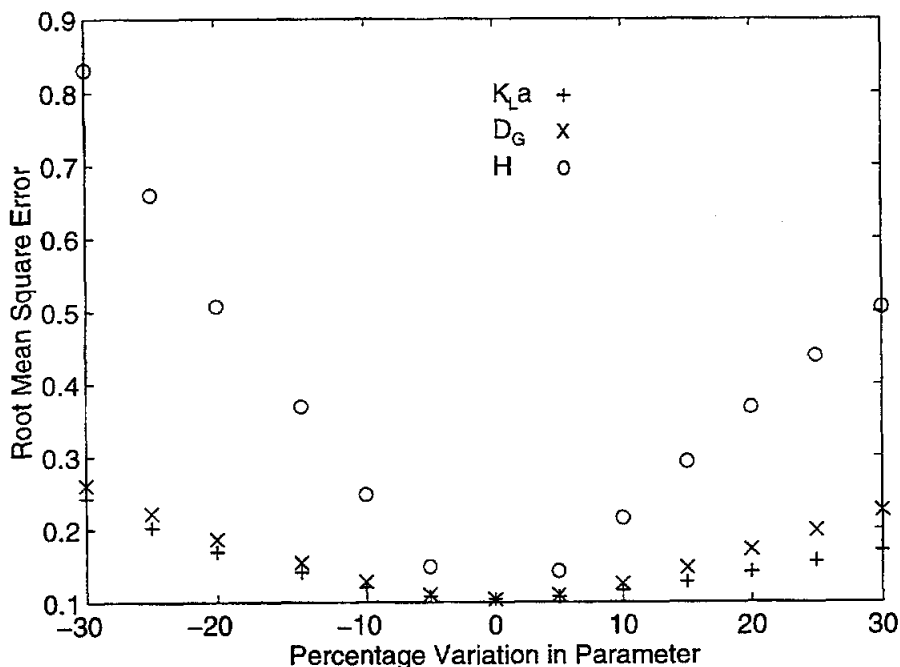


Figure 7: Results for Parametric Sensitivity Analysis for Run 14.8 - 5, Level 5

The mass transfer coefficients and Henry's law constants obtained from the above described parameter estimation (Table 6) are almost constant for all gas velocities at all the highest detector levels. Evaluation of the Henry's law constant from thermodynamic calculations yields values of 5.9 at 52 MPa, 250°C (run 14.6 and 14.7) and 8.1 at 36 MPa, 250°C ((run 14.8). The details of this calculation are shown in Appendix V. These values are much higher than the model fitted values shown in Table 6. Thus, the results obtained are suspect in spite of the excellent fits to the data. The constant "drift" of H with detector position indicates problems in reconciling the model with the data. Examination of Table 6 at each gas flowrate clearly indicates a trend in H and KK_{La} with detector position. For most of the runs there is also a trend in D_G .

Repeated runs at identical conditions yielded variation in parameters. As with the liquid experiments, the results for all the three parameters are analyzed using ANOVA. It was found that there is good repeatability for K_{La} and H for all the three runs (Table A.4.3). For D_G the repeatability for Runs 14.7 and 14.8 are good, but Run 14.6 is not satisfactory. The analysis shows that the mean D_G from Runs 14.6-1 and 14.6-2 belongs to two different groups. This can be observed from Table 6, in which the dispersion coefficients for Run 14.6-1 are generally higher than those for 14.6-2. In order to analyze the effect of superficial gas velocity on each of the

parameters, the data from the two runs at each process rate is considered to belong to a group (same as for the liquid runs), and an ANOVA was performed for each parameter. The results in Table A.4.3 indicate that D_G varies with U_G . However, no dependence of $K_L a$ and HI on superficial gas velocity is seen.

5.2.2 Case 2: Model with Two Floating Parameters: $D_G, K_L a$

Since the value of the Henry's constant, H , can be reliably obtained from thermodynamics, by fixing ϵ_G (from DP measurements) and H as model inputs, the model was fitted to the experimental data to estimate the remaining two unknown parameters, D_G and $K_L a$. The parameters obtained by the fitting procedure are reported in Table 7.

Figure 8 (Appendix VII contains the figures for all the remaining runs) shows the model fit to the experimental results for Run 14.6-1 at all the detector levels. Clearly the fit of the model to the experimental data is the poorest at the detector level farthest from the point of injection, that is, close to the liquid-free surface, and gradually improves as one approaches the lower levels. Similar trends are seen for the other experimental runs as well. This behavior is counter intuitive, since it is expected that the farther the point of measurement is from the point of injection, the more applicable the axial dispersion model is.

If the gas holdup values for the upper levels are increased as input model parameters, the fits are considerably improved. A possible explanation for this behavior was sought as follows. When ϵ_G is taken to be erroneously low (ϵ'_G) for the case of the dispersion model, this implies that the front moves at a faster velocity (U_G/ϵ'_G) than it should. Using the three-parameter model of Case 1, there is more freedom for the model to predict a response similar to the experimental measurements. As shown earlier, the model is particularly sensitive to H . In Case 1, when the model predicts the pulse moving at a faster value of U_G/ϵ'_G than it should, H is made lower such that more tracer is in the liquid phase, which is in batch mode and has a high degree of mixing. Thus, the model is then capable of matching a broader spread in the tracer distribution with a larger mean residence time, as indicated by the experiment. However, when H is fixed (as is the situation in the present Case 2), the model loses this degree of freedom, and therefore the fits are not good.

Table 7: Case 2a: Parameters with Fixed H for Gas Phase Tracer Experiments

Run No.	U_{jG} cmn/s	Gas Holdup	D_L cm^2/s	Det. Lev.	H	Parameters	
						D_G cm^2/s	$K_L a$ s^{-1}
14.6-1	25.5.3	0.39	4696	1	5.86	9900	0.006
		0.39		2		7641	2.87
		0.38		3		7888	1.88
		0.37		4		7312	2.58
		0.38		5		7720	1.64
		0.39		6		6850	1.23
		0.40		7		5678	0.99
14.6-2		0.39		1	5.86	9006	0.006
		0.39		2		6040	7.32
		0.38		3		6285	2.75
		0.37		4		5750	7.32
		0.38		5		6772	2.28
		0.39		6		6421	1.52
		0.40		7		4868	1.11
14.7-3	14.4.3	0.34	3052	1	5.86	3345	3.22
		0.33		2		3228	0.70
		0.32		3		5540	0.94
		0.32		4		3114	0.65
		0.32		5		3241	1.17
		0.33		6		2977	1.41
		0.33		7		2987	1.58
14.7-4		0.33		1	5.86	2400	3.52
		0.33		2		2473	3.40
		0.32		3		2419	2.99
		0.32		4		2385	3.45
		0.32		5		2459	1.93
		0.33		6		2552	0.65
		0.33		7		2437	1.11
14.8-5	36.6.0	0.38	5925	1	8.11	16828	0.032
		0.37		2		11700	8.92
		0.37		3		11848	13.87
		0.37		4		10640	4.29
		0.37		5		10700	2.64
		0.38		6		7889	1.62
		0.38		7		6859	1.95
14.8-6		0.38		1	8.11	19832	0.0032
		0.37		2		10146	0.60
		0.37		3		10373	0.50
		0.37		4		11754	7.78
		0.37		5		9960	3.32
		0.38		6		8522	2.92
		0.38		7		7167	1.70

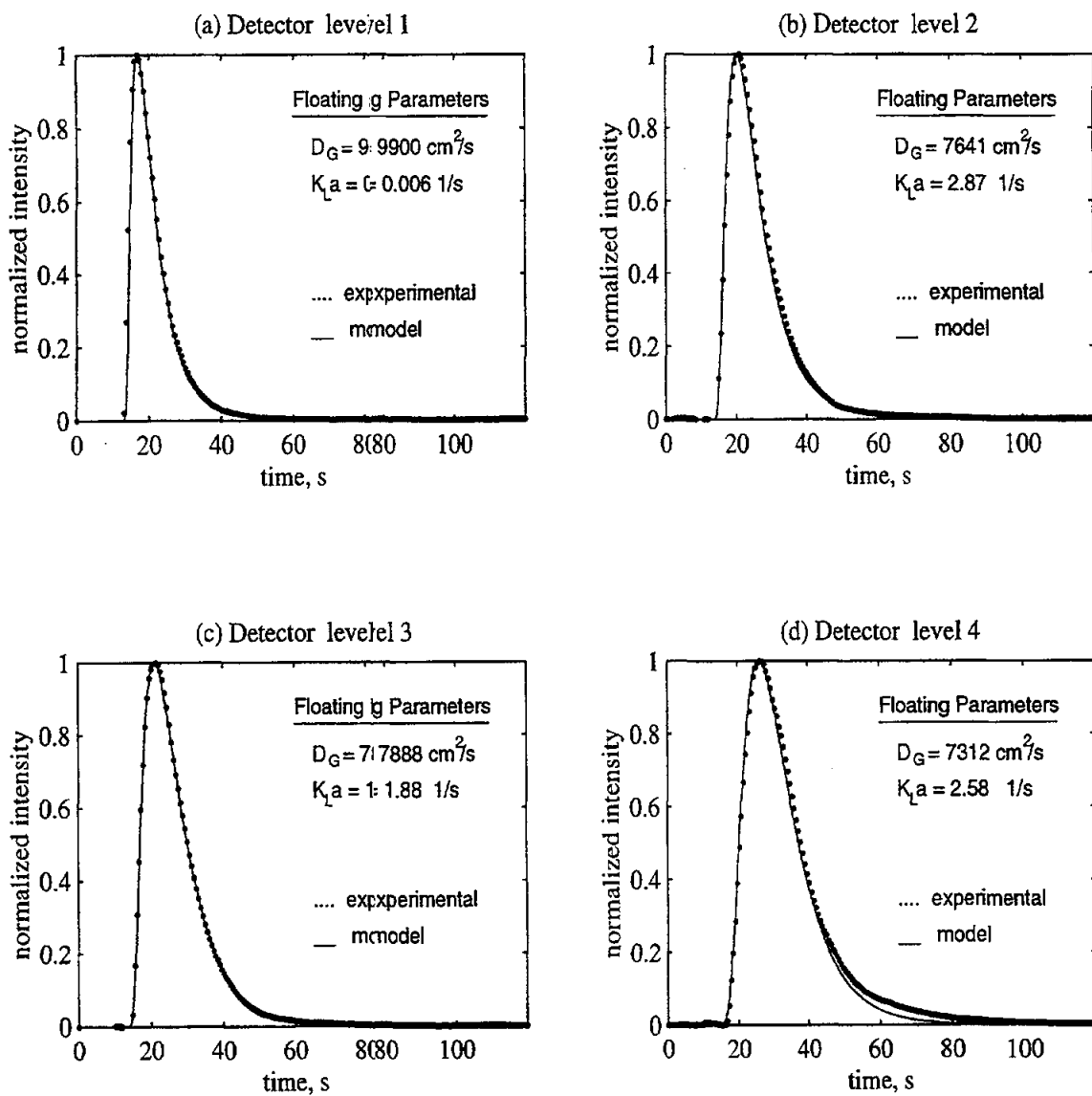


Figure 8: Gas Phase Impulse Response for Case 2, Run 14.6-1, Injection Time 12.6s

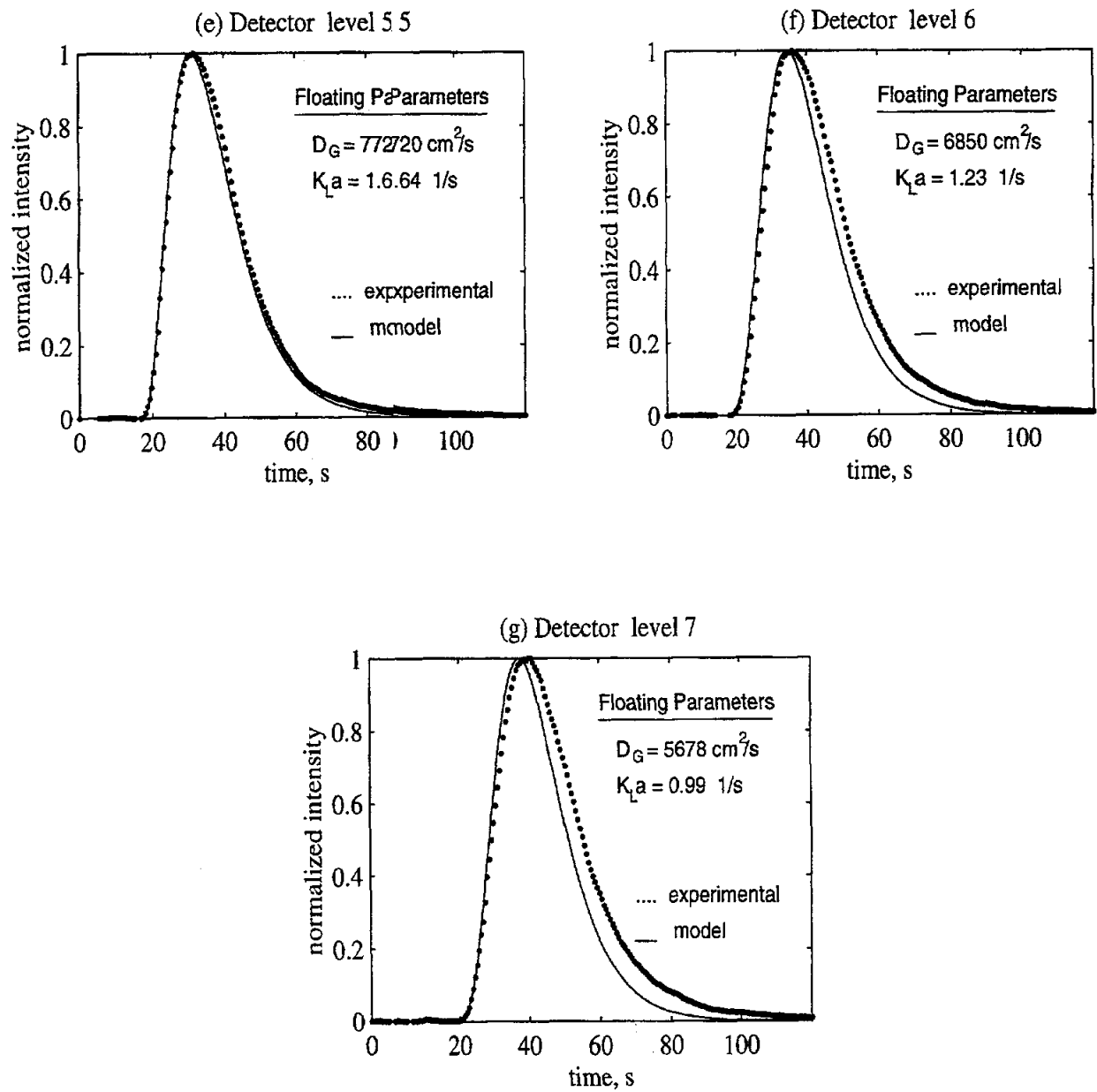


Figure 8 (contd.): Gas Phase Impulse Response for Case 2, Run 14.6-1, Injection Time 12.6s

The increased holdup for which good fits are obtained, even in Case 2, are slightly higher than those reported by DP, but are similar to the NDG measurements. Based on the DP measurements, the gas holdup starts increasing from detector level 4, which is expected to be due to foaming. When the system is foaming, the radial holdup distribution tends to become more uniform, in which case the average holdup obtained from the NDG measurements becomes more reliable. When the following radial gas holdup profile is used (Kumar et al., 1994)

$$\epsilon_G(\xi) = \tilde{\epsilon}_G \frac{m+2}{m} (1 - c\xi^m) \quad (21)$$

with the exponent $m \geq 100$, the average holdup from NDG measurements becomes quite accurate. This is illustrated in Figure A.1.2 in Appendix I, in which a comparison is shown of the NDG-based average and a true cross-sectional average.

In order to accept the NDG measurements as a better indication of the average holdup, one would have to show that the DP measurements are inaccurate in a foaming system with solids (since there is such a large discrepancy between the holdups from the two measurements). We do not have such evidence at present. However, it is clear that better fits can be obtained for the data with fixed H values using the measurements from NDG for the average holdup estimates at the higher detector levels. The parameters estimated under such conditions are provided in Table 8. Figure 9 shows the results for Run 14.6-1 (compare with Figure 8 (e) - (f)). Hence, based on the premise that NDG-based holdup measurements in the foaming region are more accurate than their DP counterpart, reasonable fits are obtained. However, there is no independent experimental verification for the existence of the flat radial holdup profiles in the upper part of the reactor. Therefore, the above approach cannot be completely justified at present.

The above analysis shows that the model is very sensitive to H as well as ϵ_G . It is unable to match the tracer data well when only two unknown parameters are assigned if one or both of the chosen parameters may be in error.