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Abstract	<p>Many emergency situations that arise in chemical, processing and transport industries are resulted from the emergency spill and ignition of flammable liquid. In this case, the spread of fire to neighboring objects represents a particular danger. Therefore, the elaboration of the fire-fighting measures requires taking into account the heat flow of the fire and as a result the information is needed on the shape and area of the spill. The model was constructed to determine the liquid spread dynamics and this model represents the system of differential equations. The first equation is of a parabolic type and it describes the liquid spread taking into consideration its consumption for infiltration, filling surface asperities and the burnout. Surface asperities are taken into consideration by the term equation that includes an average depth of asperities. To define the spill area we need to take into account the amount of the liquid required for the filling of those asperities during the liquid spill. The second equation is an ordinary differential equation and it describes the infiltration of liquid into the depth of the ground. Consideration was given to the instantaneous and continuous types of spill. The first type of spill occurs in the case of the catastrophic collapse of the liquid-containing tank and the second type is peculiar for the tank or pipeline damages. The finite difference method was used for the equation system solution. The developed algorithm enables the definition of the spill area, dynamics of its change and the liquid layer thickness.</p>	
Keywords (separated by '-')	Oil spill - Liquid infiltration - Spill fire	

An Algorithm for Determining the Parameters of Oil Spill Fire



Oliinik Volodymyr

Abstract Many emergency situations that arise in chemical, processing and transport industries are resulted from the emergency spill and ignition of flammable liquid. In this case, the spread of fire to neighboring objects represents a particular danger. Therefore, the elaboration of the fire-fighting measures requires taking into account the heat flow of the fire and as a result the information is needed on the shape and area of the spill. The model was constructed to determine the liquid spread dynamics and this model represents the system of differential equations. The first equation is of a parabolic type and it describes the liquid spread taking into consideration its consumption for infiltration, filling surface asperities and the burnout. Surface asperities are taken into consideration by the term equation that includes an average depth of asperities. To define the spill area we need to take into account the amount of the liquid required for the filling of those asperities during the liquid spill. The second equation is an ordinary differential equation and it describes the infiltration of liquid into the depth of the ground. Consideration was given to the instantaneous and continuous types of spill. The first type of spill occurs in the case of the catastrophic collapse of the liquid-containing tank and the second type is peculiar for the tank or pipeline damages. The finite difference method was used for the equation system solution. The developed algorithm enables the definition of the spill area, dynamics of its change and the liquid layer thickness.

Keywords Oil spill · Liquid infiltration · Spill fire

1 Background

A considerable amount of extraordinary situations that arise during the storage and transportation of oil and petroleum products is originated from the emergency spill of liquid [1]. On the one hand, the infiltration of liquid into the ground reduces

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25 the liquid layer thickness on the ground surface, i.e. the spread area. On the other
26 hand, it results in the pollution of soil, the underground [2] and ground waters [3].
27 However, the ignition of liquid is the main danger and it threatens with the spread of
28 fire to neighboring technological objects and natural landscapes [4]. For example,
29 the fire at the oil terminal in Havana (Cuba, 2022) was caused by the hit of lightning
30 right to the tank and it resulted in the collapse and ignition of the three oil tanks
31 with the capacity of 50,000 m³ each. In Texas (the USA, 2021) a train with oil
32 products derailed and collided with the truck. Three tanks ignited and the flame
33 height attained several tens of meters. Such large-scale fires result in the emission of
34 harmful substances into atmosphere [5]. Spreading to large distances, these have an
35 undesirable effect on the state of air and create certain risks for the population [6].

36 To develop the emergency situation liquidation and localization plans due to the
37 emergency spill of the flammable liquid and to select appropriate extinguishing agents
38 [7] the firemen need the information on the size of spill and the shape of it and on the
39 dynamics of its change. Paper [8] studies a large-scale fire caused by the liquid spill
40 in the railway tunnel. A specific feature of the approach is the division of the tunnel
41 space into individual zones and the derivation of the temperature distribution therein.
42 In this case, the oil spill area is considered to be a constant value and it is preset a priori.
43 Paper [9] describes the construction of the model of ascending flows formed over
44 the flammable liquid spill; however no consideration is given to the spill formation
45 dynamics. Paper [10] gives consideration to the thermal effect of the fire onto steel
46 structures, but no consideration is given to the fire area change dynamics. Ecological
47 characteristics of the extinguishing agents used for the fighting of the fires caused
48 by spilled oil products were analyzed in [11]. However, it gives no consideration to
49 the spill formation process and the effect of the liquid infiltration into the ground on
50 the fire parameters.

51 Paper [12] describes the construction of the model of the thermal effect of the
52 fire caused by the spilled flammable liquid on the petroleum tank, but the spill shape
53 and area are assumed to be constant. Paper [13] is devoted to experimental investi-
54 gations of the spread of n-butanol with a simultaneous fire spread. The drawback
55 of this approach is the dependence of the obtained data on experimental conditions
56 and impossibility of their generalization. Paper [14] studies the spread and burnout
57 of flammable liquids on the fire-resistant glass surface. However, this model fails
58 to take into account the surface asperities that are inherent to the real ground and
59 the infiltration of the liquid into the ground. One of the approaches to the simula-
60 tion of the liquid spread on the horizontal surface is based on the principle of the
61 gravitational spread of the cylindrical layer of liquid [15]. It consists in the analysis
62 of gravitation forces, the surface tension and friction that are specific for the spread
63 process. However, the spread surface hydrodynamics is out of focus in this case.
64 Paper [16] analyzes the models of the liquid spread on the solid surface. It suggests
65 the model updating based on the comparison of the calculation data obtained using
66 the model [17] and experimental data. The drawback of this approach is that the
67 calculated correction is defined by the conditions of the carried out experimental
68 investigations and as a consequence it is impossible to generalize the obtained data.
69 The model of the liquid infiltration into the ground was constructed in [18]. In [19],

the authors suggest the method for the determination of the parameters of the liquid infiltration into the ground, in particular hydraulic conductivity coefficient, ground porosity factor and the suction head. The method is based on the solution of the problem of the minimization of the difference in calculated and experimental data.

The analysis of the models constructed for the spread of flammable liquids showed that these fail to take into account the surface asperities. In its turn, it results in the spill size estimation errors and also in the errors of the estimation of the dynamics of its formation.

The purpose of this research was to construct the algorithm for the determination of the spread parameters of the flammable liquid on the ground.

2 Determining the Parameters of Oil Spill Fire

2.1 Mathematical Model

The spread of the liquid on the sloped surface with the simultaneous infiltration of it into the ground is described by the system of differential equations [16]

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = R \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[h^3 \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \right) \right] + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[h^3 \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial y} \right) \right] - \gamma \frac{\partial}{\partial x} h^3 \right] - \varphi K \frac{h + z + h_f}{z}; \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = K \frac{h + z + h_f}{z}, \quad (2)$$

where R is an effective diffusion coefficient:

$$R = \frac{\rho g}{3\mu} \cos \theta = \frac{g}{3\nu} \cos \theta;$$

$\gamma = \text{tg}\theta$; θ is the surface inclination angle; $h(x, y)$ is the liquid head at the point (x, y) ; μ, ν are dynamic and kinematic liquid viscosities; ρ is the liquid density; g is the free fall acceleration; $z(x, y)$ is the depth of infiltration at the spill point (x, y) ; K is the hydraulic conductivity of the soil; ϕ is the soil porosity; h_f is the suction head.

In addition to the porosity the real surface has the asperities caused by the cracks, hollows, etc. Therefore, the liquid spread is accompanied by the filling of such surface irregularities. It means that a certain volume of the liquid is spent for the filling of available hollows or recesses

$$V_{dp}(t) = S(t)h_{dp},$$

102 where $V_{dp}(t)$ is the volume of liquid that filled the recesses at the moment of time
 103 t ; $S(t)$ is the spill area at the moment of time t ; h_{dp} is the average depth of surface
 104 asperities. The liquid burnout results in a decrease of the thickness of its layer by the
 105 value of

$$106 \quad \Delta_{burn} = \frac{\eta}{\rho} 1_{\Omega_b}(x, y),$$

108 where η is the specific rate of the liquid burnout; ρ is its density; $\Omega_b(t)$ is the burning
 109 liquid area at the moment of time t ;

$$110 \quad 1_{\Omega_b}(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1, & (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \Omega_b, \\ 0, & (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \notin \Omega_b. \end{cases}$$

112 Hence, taking into consideration the amount of liquid spent to fill surface asperities
 113 and for the burnout, the liquid spread equation system will be expressed as

$$114 \quad \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = R \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\tilde{h}^3 \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{h}}{\partial x} \right) \right] + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[\tilde{h}^3 \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{h}}{\partial y} \right) \right] - \gamma \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \tilde{h}^3 \right] \\ 116 \quad - \varphi K \frac{h+z+h_f}{z} - \frac{\eta}{\rho} 1_{\Omega_b}(t); \quad (3)$$

$$118 \quad \tilde{h} = \begin{cases} h - h_{dp}, & h - h_{dp} > 0; \\ 0, & h - h_{dp} \leq 0; \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

$$120 \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = K \frac{h+z+h_f}{z}. \quad (5)$$

121 In the case of the instantaneous spill of a volume V at the moment of time $t = 0$
 122 at the point $(0,0)$, the system (3)–(5) is supplemented by the initial condition

$$128 \quad h(x, y, 0) = V \delta(x) \delta(y); \quad z(x, y, 0) = 0, \quad (6)$$

125 where $\delta(x)$ is the delta-function. For the continuous flow of liquid the system of
 126 equations for the liquid spread and infiltration is expressed as

$$127 \quad \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = R \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\tilde{h}^3 \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{h}}{\partial x} \right) \right] + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[\tilde{h}^3 \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{h}}{\partial y} \right) \right] - \gamma \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \tilde{h}^3 \right] - \varphi K \frac{h+z+h_f}{z} \\ 128 \quad + \frac{\eta}{\rho} 1_{\Omega_b}(t) + v(t) \delta(x - x_0) \delta(y - y_0); \quad (7)$$

$$130 \quad \tilde{h} = \begin{cases} h - h_{dp}, & h - h_{dp} > 0; \\ 0, & h - h_{dp} \leq 0; \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = K \frac{h + z + h_f}{z}; \quad (9)$$

with a zero initial condition

$$h(x, y, 0) = 0, \quad z(x, y, 0) = 0, \quad (10)$$

where $v(t)$ is the volumetric velocity of the liquid flow (m^3/s); (x_0, y_0) is the coordinate of the point of the liquid outflow.

If the liquid outflow faces certain obstacles that prevent the liquid spread (for example railway embankments), then the spread occurs in some domain of Φ (finite or infinite). In this case, at the boundary of $\partial\Phi$ of the Φ domain the edge condition of

$$\left. \frac{\partial h}{\partial n} \right|_{\partial\Phi} = 0 \quad (11)$$

will be specified. $\partial/\partial n$ is a derivative in the direction of the normal up to the domain boundary.

2.2 Numerical Simulation

For the hands-on use of the obtained models we need to solve equation systems (3)–(5) and (7)–(9) with appropriate initial and edge conditions. The derivation of the analytical solution is impossible due to the nonlinearity of equations for liquid layer thickness and the infiltration depth. Let's construct a regular 2D mesh with the pitch Δx in the directions of X and Y in the plane of the spill. The time axis pitch will be Δt .

For the transition to the regular mesh we will approximate the δ -function using the finite function in the form of the pyramid of a height H . The pyramid height H is chosen so that its volume is equal to

$$V = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x - x_0) \delta(y - y_0) dx dy = 1. \quad (12)$$

Then

$$H = \frac{3}{\Delta x^2}.$$

For the mesh nodes (x_i, y_j) derivatives can be expressed as

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{h}}{\partial t} \approx \frac{\tilde{h}(x_i, y_j, t_{m+1}) - \tilde{h}(x_i, y_j, t_m)}{\Delta t}. \quad (13)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x_i, y_j) \approx \frac{1}{\Delta x} (f_{i+\frac{1}{2}j} - f_{i-\frac{1}{2}j}); \quad (14)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} f(x_i, y_j) \approx \frac{1}{\Delta x} (f_{i j+\frac{1}{2}} - f_{i j-\frac{1}{2}}), \quad (15)$$

where

$$f_{i+\frac{1}{2}j} = \frac{f(x_i, y_j) + f(x_{i+1}, y_j)}{2}; \quad f_{i-\frac{1}{2}j} = \frac{f(x_{i-1}, y_j) + f(x_i, y_j)}{2};$$

$$f_{i j+\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{f(x_i, y_j) + f(x_i, y_{j+1})}{2}; \quad f_{i j-\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{f(x_i, y_{j-1}) + f(x_i, y_j)}{2}.$$

Then the derivatives in (3) or (7) can be substituted by approximated expressions

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\tilde{h}^3 \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{h}}{\partial x} \right) \right] &\approx \Delta_{ij}^{xx} = \frac{1}{\Delta x} \left[\tilde{h}_{i+\frac{1}{2}j}^3 \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{h}}{\partial x} \right)_{i+\frac{1}{2}j} - \tilde{h}_{i-\frac{1}{2}j}^3 \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{h}}{\partial x} \right)_{i-\frac{1}{2}j} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{(\Delta x)^2} \left[\left(\frac{\tilde{h}_{ij} + \tilde{h}_{i+1j}}{2} \right)^3 (\tilde{h}_{i+1j} - \tilde{h}_{ij}) - \left(\frac{\tilde{h}_{ij} + \tilde{h}_{i-1j}}{2} \right)^3 (\tilde{h}_{ij} - \tilde{h}_{i-1j}) \right]; \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[\tilde{h}^3 \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{h}}{\partial y} \right) \right] &\approx \Delta_{ij}^{yy} = \frac{1}{\Delta x} \left[\tilde{h}_{i j+\frac{1}{2}}^3 \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{h}}{\partial y} \right)_{i j+\frac{1}{2}} - \tilde{h}_{i j-\frac{1}{2}}^3 \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{h}}{\partial y} \right)_{i j-\frac{1}{2}} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{(\Delta x)^2} \left[\left(\frac{\tilde{h}_{ij} + \tilde{h}_{i j+1}}{2} \right)^3 (\tilde{h}_{i j+1} - \tilde{h}_{ij}) - \left(\frac{\tilde{h}_{ij} + \tilde{h}_{i j-1}}{2} \right)^3 (\tilde{h}_{ij} - \tilde{h}_{i j-1}) \right]; \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\tilde{h}^3) &\approx \Delta_{ij}^x = \frac{1}{\Delta x} \left[\tilde{h}_{i+\frac{1}{2}j}^3 - \tilde{h}_{i-\frac{1}{2}j}^3 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\Delta x} \left[\left(\frac{\tilde{h}_{ij} + \tilde{h}_{i+1j}}{2} \right)^3 - \left(\frac{\tilde{h}_{ij} + \tilde{h}_{i-1j}}{2} \right)^3 \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

The right side of the infiltration Eq. (9) acquires infinite values at $z = 0$. Therefore, we will use the implicit scheme for it for this equation and after the transformation we get

$$z_{ij}(t_{k+1}) = \frac{1}{2} \left[z_{ij}(t_k) + K \Delta t + \sqrt{(z_{ij}(t_k) + K \Delta t)^2 + 4(h_{ij} + h_f)K \Delta t} \right]. \quad (19)$$

Taking into consideration the expressions (13)–(19), the differential equations for the liquid spread, burnout and infiltration (3)–(5) in the case of the instantaneous spill will be expressed as

$$h_{ij}^{k+1} = h_{ij}^k + R \left[\Delta_{ij}^{xx} + \Delta_{ij}^{yy} - \gamma \Delta_{ij}^x \right] \Delta t - \varphi K \frac{h_{ij}^k + z_{ij}^{k+1} + h_f}{z_{ij}^{k+1}} \Delta t - \frac{\eta}{\rho} 1_{\Omega_b}(t_k) \Delta t \quad (20)$$

$$\tilde{h}_{ij}^k = \begin{cases} h_{ij}^k - h_{dp}, & h_{ij}^k - h_{dp} > 0; \\ 0, & h_{ij}^k - h_{dp} \leq 0; \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

$$z_{ij}^{k+1} = \frac{1}{2} \left[z_{ij}^k + K \Delta t + \sqrt{(z_{ij}^k + K \Delta t)^2 + 4(h_{ij}^k + h_f)K \Delta t} \right]; \quad (22)$$

$$h_{ij}^k = h(x_i, y_j, t_k); \quad \tilde{h}_{ij}^k = \tilde{h}(x_i, y_j, t_k); \quad z_{ij}^k = z(x_i, y_j, t_k).$$

In the case of the continuous flow of liquid the Eq. (20) should be replaced by

$$h_{ij}^{k+1} = h_{ij}^k + R \left[\Delta_{ij}^{xx} + \Delta_{ij}^{yy} - \gamma \Delta_{ij}^x \right] \Delta t - \varphi K \frac{h_{ij}^k + z_{ij}^{k+1} + h_f}{z_{ij}^{k+1}} \Delta t - \frac{\eta}{\rho} 1_{\Omega_b}(t_k) \Delta t + \frac{3v(t_k)}{\Delta x^2} 1_{ij} \Delta t \quad (23)$$

where

$$1_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & (x_i, y_j) = (0, 0); \\ 0, & (x_i, y_j) \neq (0, 0). \end{cases}$$

In the case of the instantaneous spill initial conditions (6) will be expressed as

$$h_{ij}^0 = \frac{3V}{\Delta x^2} 1_{ij}; \quad z_{ij}^0 = 0. \quad (24)$$

For the continuous liquid outflow process initial conditions (10) are transformed to

$$h_{ij}^0 = 0; \quad z_{ij}^0 = 0. \quad (25)$$

When switching over to finite differences the impermeability condition (11) is transformed in the following way. If an obstacle is available at a point A neighboring with the point (x_i, y_j) , then to calculate the $\Delta_x, \Delta_{xx}, \Delta_y, \Delta_{yy}$ values using the formulas (14)–(17) we will assume that

$$\tilde{h}_A^k = \tilde{h}_{ij}^k. \quad (26)$$

The condition (26) ensures that the derivative in the direction of an obstacle is equal to zero.

3 Results

Figure 1 gives as an example the simulation data obtained for the spilled diesel fuel on the ground surface with the angle of inclination $\theta = 3^\circ$ and the fuel outflow intensity of $v(t) = 2$ l/s. Kinematic viscosity $\nu = 4.5$ mm²/s; density $\rho = 830$ kg/m³; specific mass burnout rate of $\eta = 0.055$ kg/(m²s). Ground infiltration parameters are: $K = 1.68 \cdot 10^{-7}$ m/s; $h_f = 0.95$ m; $\phi = 0.31$. An average depth of the ground asperities is $h_{dp} = 1.7$ cm. The coordinate system was selected so that its origin coincides with the liquid outflow point and the X-axis coincides with the downward surface inclination direction. The simulation of the liquid spread, infiltration and burnout was carried out with the spatial coordinate pitch of $\Delta x = 0.2$ m and the time axis pitch of $\Delta t = 0.01$ s.

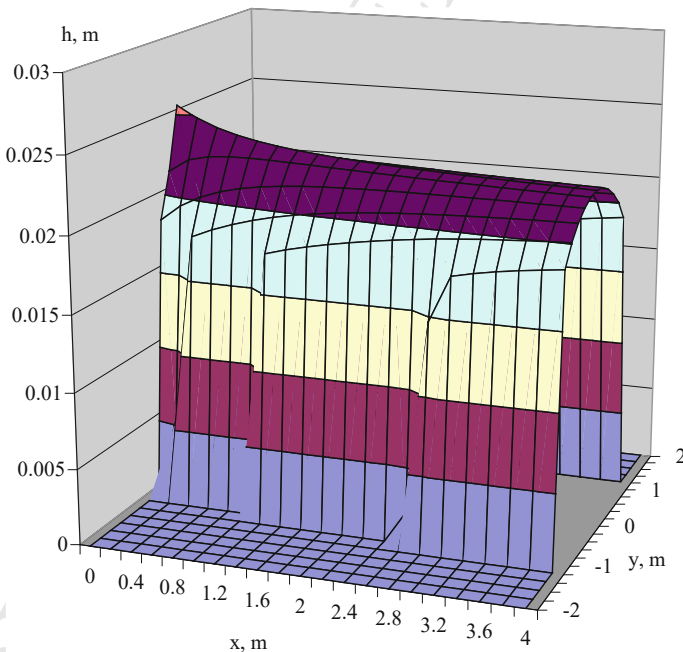


Fig. 1 The layer thickness for the liquid spilled on the sloped surface

232 The simulation shows that the liquid layer thickness distribution over time is
233 heading towards a stable distribution. It should be noted that the stable distribution
234 for specified conditions (see Fig. 1) was established after 120 s.

235 4 Discussion

236 The liquid spread and burnout model (3)–(5) relies on the liquid spread model for
237 the sloped surface (1) and the Green-Ampt model that describes the infiltration of
238 liquid into the ground (2). The amount of liquid spent to fill surface asperities and
239 for the burnout was taken into account additionally.

240 Initial conditions are defined by the liquid spread type, i.e. instantaneous or contin-
241 uous. The instantaneous spill occurs in the case of the catastrophic collapse of the
242 tank. In this case, initial conditions are expressed as (6). The continuous spread
243 occurs in the case of the tank or pipeline damage and it results in the gradual increase
244 of the volume of the spilled liquid. In this case, the differential equation of the liquid
245 spread (7) is added with the term that includes the δ -function. Liquid spread obstacles
246 are described by the edge conditions that correspond to the impermeability of liquid
247 through the spread domain boundary (11).

248 For solving the Eqs. (3)–(5) and (7)–(9) the method of finite differences is used.
249 A regular mesh with the pitch of Δx was constructed on the liquid spread plane. The
250 approximation of the derivative by the expressions (13)–(18) enables the transition
251 to the equation of finite differences (20) or to the Eq. (23) that describes the liquid
252 spread, infiltration and burnout for instantaneous and continuous outflows. The use
253 of implicit difference scheme for the infiltration equation gives the expression for
254 finite differences (22).

255 The algorithm used for determining the parameters of the spilled liquid is executed
256 in the rectangular domain in which the simulation is done with the preset spatial
257 axes pitch and time axis pitch. Afterwards, cyclic calculations were done using the
258 formulas (20)–(23). The execution of the algorithm is terminated as soon as the
259 liquid layer thickness reaches a stable distribution. The use of the algorithm enables
260 the definition of the spread area, the dynamics of its change and the liquid layer
261 thickness.

262 The enlargement of the average depth of surface asperities results in the reduction
263 of the spill area due to the need for the filling of those asperities by the liquid. The
264 liquid spread area is defined not only by the volume of the spilled liquid but also by
265 the volumetric rate of its outflow. As the outflow is decelerated the portion of liquid
266 that infiltrates into the depth of ground is increased.

267 The obtained data can be used for the calculation of the thermal effect of fire on
268 neighboring technological objects. The results can also be used for the designing of
269 the fire alarm systems [20].

5 Conclusions

The system of differential equations that describe the liquid spread on the sloped surface, the depth infiltration and the liquid burnout has been constructed. In addition, the availability of the surface asperities that should be filled by the spilled liquid was also taken into account. The spread type, i.e. instantaneous or continuous was taken into account in initial conditions. The method of finite elements was used for the solution of the equation system.

The developed algorithm enables the definition of the spread area, the dynamics of its change and the liquid layer thickness.

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Chapter 43

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