



X. Tan, H. Xian*, Y. Chen

North China Electric Power University, School of Energy, Power and Mechanical Engineering, Beijing 102206, China

Presenter: Xiangwen Tan Keywords: UTVC, vapor–liquid coplanar structure, closure-boundary parameter, liquid-film management

**Central message: wick width is a coupled hydraulic–thermal–interfacial–closure matching problem;
1.4–1.5 mm is the preferred window and 1.5 mm is the center solution.**

1. Introduction

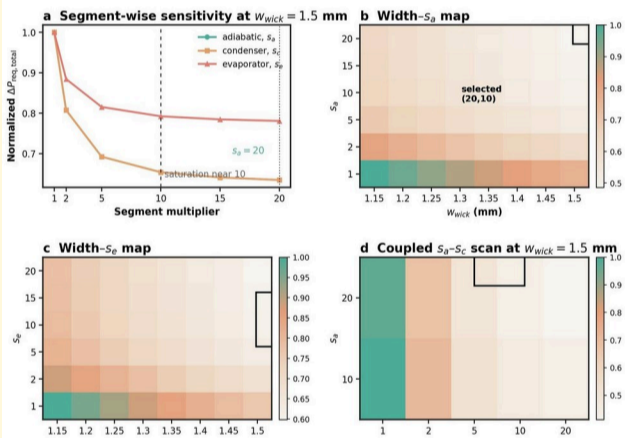
In ultrathin vapor chambers, wick width cannot be selected from thermal performance alone. Hydraulic demand, macro-interface morphology and closure accessibility evolve together; therefore the preferred width is identified by coupling device-scale demand, macro-interface response and closure-boundary metrics.

4. Main settings used for comparison

Setting	Value
$L_e/L_a/L_c$ (mm)	3 / 2 / 5
W_{total}/H (mm)	4 / 0.4
$K_e/K_a/K_c$ (m ²)	5e-12 / 4e-12 / 1e-11
$\phi_e/\phi_a/\phi_c$	0.65 / 0.60 / 0.65
Width scan w_{wick} (mm)	1.2 – 1.6
q (normalized)	0.5 – 1.2
Final tuning	$s_a = 20, s_c = s_e = 10$

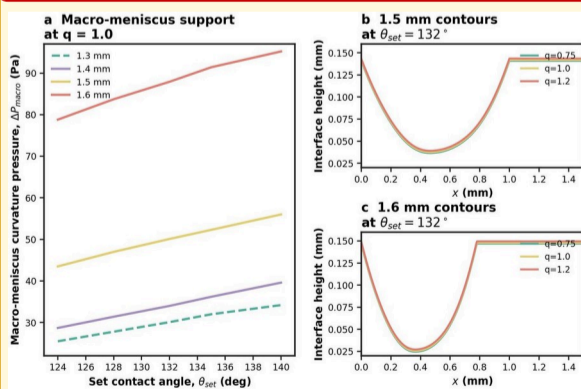
5. Permeability tuning evidence

Permeability tuning before the width comparison



Segment-wise permeability enhancement reduces demand with diminishing returns; selected setting: $s_a = 20, s_c = s_e = 10$.

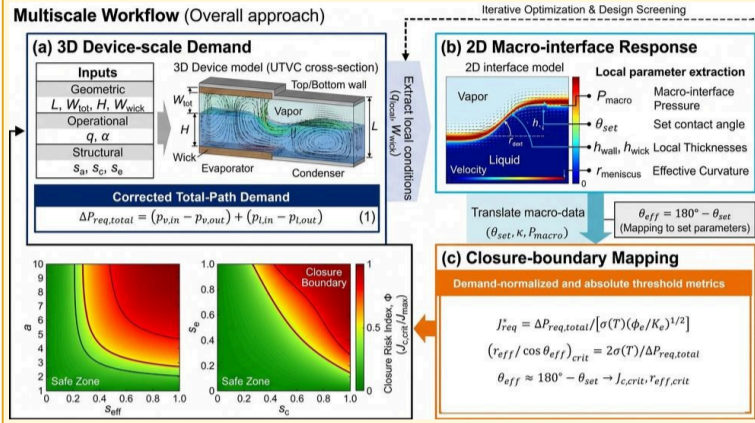
8. Macro-meniscus & liquid-film management



The 2D phase-field results are treated as macro-interface evidence. Wider wick layouts improve meniscus support and liquid-film accommodation, but this advantage must be interpreted together with the corrected total-path hydraulic demand.

Macro-interface support improves with width, but does not by itself define the optimum.

2. Multiscale framework



Corrected multiscale workflow: 3D total-path demand → 2D macro-interface response → closure-boundary mapping.

3. Corrected demand & closure variables

Corrected total-path pressure demand:

$$\Delta P_{req, total} = (p_{v, in} - p_{v, out}) + (p_{l, in} - p_{l, out})$$

Demand-normalized capillary requirement:

$$J^*_{req} = \Delta P_{req, total} / [\sigma(T)(\phi_e/K_e)^{1/2}]$$

Effective contact-angle approximation:

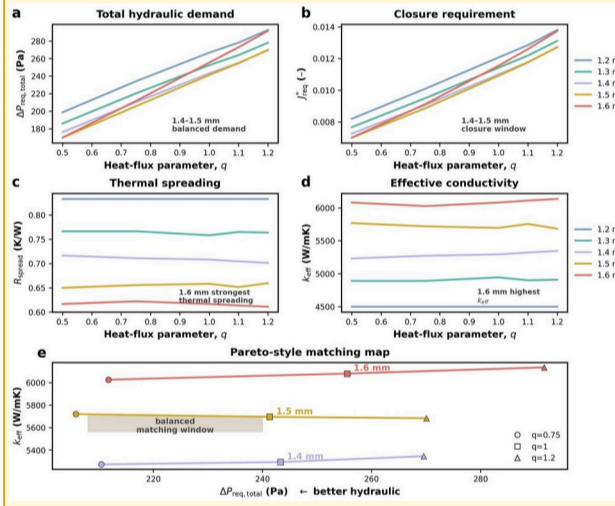
$$\theta_{eff} \approx 180^\circ - \theta_{set}$$

Derived thresholds:

$$J_{c, crit} \text{ (critical capillary coefficient)}$$

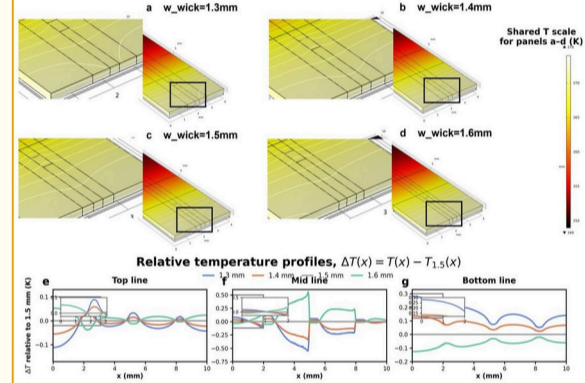
$$r_{eff, crit} \text{ (critical effective pore radius)}$$

6. Hydraulic–thermal matching across widths ($q = 1.0$)



1.6 mm is thermally strongest; 1.4–1.5 mm are hydraulically preferable; 1.5 mm offers the best overall match.

7. Representative thermal evidence ($q = 1.0$)



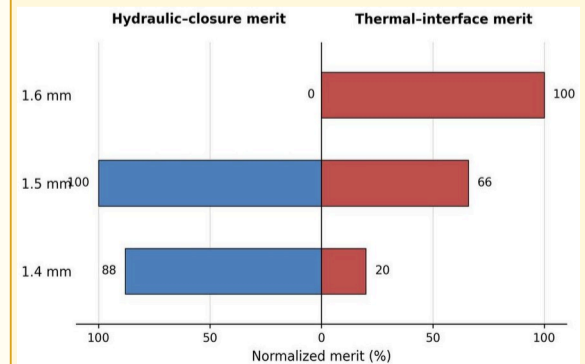
Thermal fields and $\Delta T(x)$ profiles consistently show the 1.6 mm layout as thermally favorable. However, the difference relative to 1.5 mm remains modest, so the final width selection should be governed by coupled hydraulic–closure matching rather than thermal spreading alone.

Relative $\Delta T(x)$ confirms limited thermal gain beyond 1.5 mm.

10. Conclusions

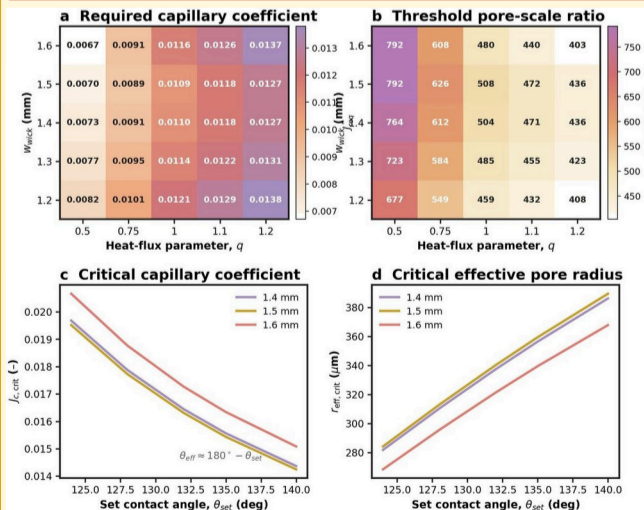
- Corrected total-path demand retains the adiabatic contribution.
- Permeability tuning supports $s_a = 20$ and $s_c = s_e = 10$.
- Thermal and hydraulic optima do not coincide.
- 1.6 mm is thermally strongest, but it also raises closure burden.
- 1.4–1.5 mm better preserve hydraulic and closure margins.
- 1.5 mm is the center solution of the preferred matching window.

12. Integrated summary



1.4 mm leans hydraulic–closure; 1.6 mm leans thermal–interface; 1.5 mm is the most balanced solution.

9. Stronger closure-boundary parameterization



After applying the effective-angle approximation, the wider 1.6 mm case shifts toward stricter $J_{c, crit}$ and $r_{eff, crit}$ requirements. This indicates reduced closure accessibility despite its stronger thermal and interfacial response.

1.6 mm imposes the strongest closure burden.

11. References

- [1] Huang et al., Int. J. Heat Mass Transfer 148, 119101 (2020). [2] Huang et al., Case Stud. Therm. Eng. 28, 101035 (2021). [3] Li et al., Appl. Therm. Eng. 191, 116871 (2021). [4] Yan et al., Int. J. Heat Mass Transfer 220, 124040 (2024). [5] Zhang et al., Micromachines 15, 627 (2024). [6] Zhang et al., Appl. Therm. Eng. 245, 123210 (2024). [7] Xie et al., Int. Commun. Heat Mass Transfer 158, 108093 (2024). [8] Yang et al., Int. J. Heat Mass Transfer 228, 126273 (2025). [9] Cheng et al., Appl. Therm. Eng. 188, 116611 (2021). [10] Chen et al., Appl. Therm. Eng. 201, 117734 (2022).
The selected references cover UTVC confinement, vapor-core/wick optimization, wettability patterning, heterogeneous vapor–liquid channels and recent ultrathin chamber fabrication strategies.