

THE IMPACT OF COST AND FOULING ON HEAT EXCHANGER العنوان:

INVENTORY IN POWER AND REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS

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### **ABSTRACT**

Name:

Bilal Ahmed Qureshi

Title of Study:

The Impact of Cost and Fouling on Heat Exchanger Inventory in

Power and Refrigeration Systems

Major Field:

Mechanical Engineering

Date of Degree:

March, 2014

The first part of this study focuses on predicting the effect of variation in inventory (overall conductance) allocated on power and refrigeration systems wherein fouling, which results in decrease of this inventory, is considered as a main application. Experimental work was performed on a 1.5 ton vapor compression system which showed that system parameters and properties varied logarithmically when overall conductance was reduced. Then specific examples of power and refrigeration systems were simulated beginning with endoreversible single-stage cycles and then the Rankine and simple vapor compression cycles. Based upon these simulations and the experimental work, an equation was proposed to predict effect of reduction in overall conductance on all system properties and performance parameters using non-dimensional quantities. Agreement was found to be within 1.15% of simulated and predicted values. Such an equation helps to reduce the number of experiments and/or numerical simulations.

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The second part of this study focused on thermoeconomic optimization of different power and refrigeration systems for endoreversible and irreversible cases using the allocated heat exchanger inventories. The systems investigated include a thermodynamic model of a vapor compression cycle with dedicated mechanical subcooling as well as endoreversible cases of the dedicated and integrated mechanical subcooling cycles along with an endoreversible power cycle with one feedwater heater. It was found that a practical minimum with respect to the dimensionless cost equations for the fluid to ambient high-side absolute temperature ratio existed for all cost equations. The connection between endoreversible and irreversible cycles for this ratio was shown to establish viability of the endoreversible results. Furthermore, it was found that the cost functions for simpler cycles can be derived from those of more complex systems. Also, if the only difference between a power and refrigeration cycle is that the cycle is flowing in the opposite direction, then multiplying a minus sign on one side of the cost equations of a system would provide the cost equations for the other system. Finally, a holistic view of cost optimization in power and refrigeration systems is presented, which constitutes a step forward in thermoeconomic optimization theory as it resulted in generalized cost equations.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
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### ملخص بحث

### درجة الدكتوراة في الفلسفة

الاسم: بلال أحمد قريشي

العنوان: أثر التكلفة والإفساد في مبادل حراري المخزون في الطاقة وأنظمة التبريد

التخصص: الهندسة الميكانيكية

تاریخ التخرج: مارس ۲۰۱۶

يركز الجزء الأول من هذه الدراسة على تأثير الكمية (UA) والتي تعبر عن المخزون الحراري على الاتساخ في المبادلات الحرارية في محطات القوي الكهربائية وأنظمة التبريد و التي يؤدي تزايد الاتساخ فيها إلى تناقص المخزون الحراري. وقد تم اجراء دراسة معملية على وحدة تبريد سعة طن ونصف تبريد تعمل بضغط البخار حيث أوضحت الدراسة أن متغيرات التشغيل والخصائص تتغير بشكل لوغاريثمي مع تغير المخزون الحراري. وبناء على ذلك تمت محاكاة دائرة تبريد ذات أطراف مرتجعة أحادية المرحلة بالإضافة إلى دائرة مبسطة تعمل بضغط البخار. وقد تم استنباط معادلة التنبؤ بالانخفاض في المخزون الحراري وذلك من الدراسة المعملية ونتائج المحاكاة. وتقوم المعادلة المستنبطة بحساب التغير المتوقع في المخزون الحراري حسب ظروف التشغيل وخواص المواد المستخدمة بنمط لا يعتمد على نظام الوحدات المستخدم وقد تم حساب التغير في نتائج المعادلة بالمقارنة بالنتائج المعملية وكانت متوافقة حيث لا يتعدى الخطأ فيها ١٠١٥%. ومن المتوقع أن تسهم هذه المعادلة في توفير الكثير من التجارب المعملية والمحاكاة في المستقبل.

وتم في الجزء الثاني من الدراسة التركيز على الوضع الأمثل على أساس مباديء كل من الديناميكا الحرارية والاقتصاد لمختلف النظم التي تمت دراستها. واشتملت الدراسة على نموذج مبني على الديناميكا الحرارية لوحدة

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تبريد تعمل بضغط البخار مزودة بنظام تبريد ميكانيكي دوني بالإضافة لمنظومة قوى حرارية مع نظام سخان المياه المغذي. وقد تبين وجود حد ادنى عملي فيما يتعلق بمعادلات التكلفة ذات نمط لا يعتمد على نظام الوحدات المستخدم لنسبة درجة حرارة السوائل المستخدمة مقسومة على درجة الحرارة المطلقة وذلك لكل المعادلات كما تبينت الصلة بين الدورات مرتجعة النهايات والأخرى الغير مرتجعة وعلاوة على ذلك، فقد وجد أن وظائف التكلفة للدورات والانظمة المعقدة يمكن استخلاصها من الانظمة البسيطة أيضا، إذ كان الفرق الوحيد بين دورات توليد القدرة ودورات التبريد هو ان اتجاه التدفق يكون معاكسا لبعضهم البعض وبالتالي فإن ضرب علامة السالب في جانب واحد من معادلات التكلفة من شأنه أن يوفر معادلات التكاليف للنظام الأخر. أخيرا، تم تقديم نظرة شمولية لتحسين التكلفة في أنظمة الطاقة والتبريد، الأمر الذي يشكل خطوة إلى الأمام في أيجاد ظروف التشغيل الأمثل حراريا واقتصاديا كما بينت الدراسة أنه يمكن تعميم معادلات التكلفة على لعديد من المنظومات.

درجة الدكتوراة في الفلسفة في الهندسة الميكانيكية جامعة الملك فهد للبترول والمعادن الظهران المملكة العربية السعودية



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# THE IMPACT OF COST AND FOULING ON HEAT EXCHANGER INVENTORY IN POWER AND REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS

BY

#### **BILAL AHMED QURESHI**

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DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA

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#### **DEANSHIP OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

This dissertation, written by Bilal Ahmed Qureshi under the direction of his dissertation advisor and approved by his dissertation committee, has been presented to and accepted by the Dean of Graduate Studies, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in Mechanical Engineering.

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2014

This work is dedicated to my wife and children.

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### **ABSTRACT**

Name:

Bilal Ahmed Qureshi

Title of Study:

The Impact of Cost and Fouling on Heat Exchanger Inventory in

Power and Refrigeration Systems

Major Field:

Mechanical Engineering

Date of Degree:

March, 2014

The first part of this study focuses on predicting the effect of variation in inventory (overall conductance) allocated on power and refrigeration systems wherein fouling, which results in decrease of this inventory, is considered as a main application. Experimental work was performed on a 1.5 ton vapor compression system which showed that system parameters and properties varied logarithmically when overall conductance was reduced. Then specific examples of power and refrigeration systems were simulated beginning with endoreversible single-stage cycles and then the Rankine and simple vapor compression cycles. Based upon these simulations and the experimental work, an equation was proposed to predict effect of reduction in overall conductance on all system properties and performance parameters using non-dimensional quantities. Agreement was found to be within 1.15% of simulated and predicted values. Such an equation helps to reduce the number of experiments and/or numerical simulations.

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The second part of this study focused on thermoeconomic optimization of different power and refrigeration systems for endoreversible and irreversible cases using the allocated heat exchanger inventories. The systems investigated include a thermodynamic model of a vapor compression cycle with dedicated mechanical subcooling as well as endoreversible cases of the dedicated and integrated mechanical subcooling cycles along with an endoreversible power cycle with one feedwater heater. It was found that a practical minimum with respect to the dimensionless cost equations for the fluid to ambient high-side absolute temperature ratio existed for all cost equations. The connection between endoreversible and irreversible cycles for this ratio was shown to establish viability of the endoreversible results. Furthermore, it was found that the cost functions for simpler cycles can be derived from those of more complex systems. Also, if the only difference between a power and refrigeration cycle is that the cycle is flowing in the opposite direction, then multiplying a minus sign on one side of the cost equations of a system would provide the cost equations for the other system. Finally, a holistic view of cost optimization in power and refrigeration systems is presented, which constitutes a step forward in thermoeconomic optimization theory as it resulted in generalized cost equations.

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### ملخص بحث

### درجة الدكتوراة في الفلسفة

الاسم: بلال أحمد قريشي

العنوان: أثر التكلفة والإفساد في مبادل حراري المخزون في الطاقة وأنظمة التبريد

التخصص: الهندسة الميكانيكية

تاریخ التخرج: مارس ۲۰۱۶

يركز الجزء الأول من هذه الدراسة على تأثير الكمية (UA) والتي تعبر عن المخزون الحراري على الاتساخ في المبادلات الحرارية في محطات القوي الكهربائية وأنظمة التبريد و التي يؤدي تزايد الاتساخ فيها إلى تناقص المخزون الحراري. وقد تم اجراء دراسة معملية على وحدة تبريد سعة طن ونصف تبريد تعمل بضغط البخار حيث أوضحت الدراسة أن متغيرات التشغيل والخصائص تتغير بشكل لوغاريثمي مع تغير المخزون الحراري. وبناء على ذلك تمت محاكاة دائرة تبريد ذات أطراف مرتجعة أحادية المرحلة بالإضافة إلى دائرة مبسطة تعمل بضغط البخار. وقد تم استنباط معادلة التنبؤ بالانخفاض في المخزون الحراري وذلك من الدراسة المعملية ونتائج المحاكاة. وتقوم المعادلة المستنبطة بحساب التغير المتوقع في المخزون الحراري حسب ظروف التشغيل وخواص المواد المستخدمة بنمط لا يعتمد على نظام الوحدات المستخدم وقد تم حساب التغير في نتائج المعادلة بالمقارنة بالنتائج المعملية وكانت متوافقة حيث لا يتعدى الخطأ فيها ١٠١٥%. ومن المتوقع أن تسهم هذه المعادلة في توفير الكثير من التجارب المعملية والمحاكاة في المستقبل.

وتم في الجزء الثاني من الدراسة التركيز على الوضع الأمثل على أساس مباديء كل من الديناميكا الحرارية والاقتصاد لمختلف النظم التي تمت دراستها. واشتملت الدراسة على نموذج مبني على الديناميكا الحرارية لوحدة

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تبريد تعمل بضغط البخار مزودة بنظام تبريد ميكانيكي دوني بالإضافة لمنظومة قوى حرارية مع نظام سخان المياه المغذي. وقد تبين وجود حد ادنى عملي فيما يتعلق بمعادلات التكلفة ذات نمط لا يعتمد على نظام الوحدات المستخدم لنسبة درجة حرارة السوائل المستخدمة مقسومة على درجة الحرارة المطلقة وذلك لكل المعادلات كما تبينت الصلة بين الدورات مرتجعة النهايات والأخرى الغير مرتجعة وعلاوة على ذلك، فقد وجد أن وظائف التكلفة للدورات والانظمة المعقدة يمكن استخلاصها من الانظمة البسيطة أيضا، إذ كان الفرق الوحيد بين دورات توليد القدرة ودورات التبريد هو ان اتجاه التدفق يكون معاكسا لبعضهم البعض وبالتالي فإن ضرب علامة السالب في جانب واحد من معادلات التكلفة من شأنه أن يوفر معادلات التكاليف للنظام الأخر. أخيرا، تم تقديم نظرة شمولية لتحسين التكلفة في أنظمة الطاقة والتبريد، الأمر الذي يشكل خطوة إلى الأمام في أيجاد ظروف التشغيل الأمثل حراريا واقتصاديا كما بينت الدراسة أنه يمكن تعميم معادلات التكلفة على لعديد من المنظومات.

درجة الدكتوراة في الفلسفة في الهندسة الميكانيكية جامعة الملك فهد للبترول والمعادن الظهران المملكة العربية السعودية

#### CHAPTER 1

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the main points of discussion will be the motivation, objectives and method of solution of this research work.

#### 1.1 Motivation

Heat exchanger inventory is an expensive commodity. The effects of its allocation, reduction during operation (due to fouling) as well as optimizing the heat exchanger inventory of these cycles has been a subject of much discussion. Conductances are not unlimited in availability and thus have a certain dollar value attached to them that must be distributed wisely. This entails not only distribution with consideration of best performance but also of lowest cost. Thermoeconomics is a known method for this type of optimization. Furthermore, experimental and numerical work related to fouling consumes time and money. If a mathematical model can be presented that can help to

predict necessary parameters of the system, this can help to reduce the number of experiments and numerical simulations.

### 1.2 General Background

The heat exchanger inventory is defined as the sum of the conductances of the condenser and evaporator in a power or refrigeration cycle. One of the cornerstones of sustainable development is the cost-effective fuel saving of systems that use or produce useful energy. This, in turn, calls for more intensive and extensive system analysis while the system is still in its design phase. Such analysis has to be multi-disciplinary. Accessing the analysis from the discipline of thermodynamics is the advantage of thermoeconomics. Thermoeconomics was first developed during the sixties. The name was coined by professor M. Tribus [1]. Development of thermoeconomics to handle energy-intensive systems in general was initiated by R. Gaggioli [2-3]. In the last 25 years, the development of thermoeconomics has been impressive. Works related to endoreversible thermoeconomics by De Vos [4-5] constitutes one approach.

Where there are heat exchangers, fouling will often inevitably follow. Fouling studies are performed to ascertain the effect on performance parameters so that contingency plans can be adopted for times of failure or clean up schedules drawn up to avoid the former. Heat exchangers are one of the main components of these systems. Therefore, even a small performance degradation, due to fouling, has the potential to cause further energy consumption and/or decrease cooling capacity along with the

efficiency. This results in higher costs of running the equipment. Foulants vary in nature from mold compounds, human hair and textile fibers to airborne particulate matter and dust [6] but they all result in an overall decrease in the ability of the heat exchanger to transfer heat. Heat exchanger design is based on best practice values and experience related to fouling resistance. Experimental and numerical studies on fouling, when done correctly, often take a great amount of time and incur high costs. Reducing the number of experiments, thus, becomes a matter of great interest as this will result in saving of both time and money.

#### 1.3 Thesis Objectives

The overall objective of this thesis dissertation is to examine the impact of fouling and cost-based optimization on both power and refrigeration systems. In this regard, the following specific objectives are proposed:

- To investigate a model, applicable to both power and refrigeration systems, that can predict the effect of reduction in conductance (UA), due to fouling, on these systems.
- Application of the proposed performance degradation model on vapor compression and power cycles using thermodynamic models.
- Experimental evaluation of the performance characteristics of a vapor compression cycle, under fouled conditions.

- Thermoeconomic optimization using a thermodynamic model for a vapor compression refrigeration system.
- Thermoeconomic optimization for a Carnot representation of a mechanical subcooling system.
- Thermoeconomic optimization of a vapor compression cycle with mechanical subcooling using a thermodynamic model.

### 1.4 Inventory Reduction due to Fouling: Research Approach

The first objective mentioned is to develop a model to predict effect of fouling resulting in UA-degradation on all system (properties and performance) parameters. A model will be presented that is to be used to connect three types of cases: 1) Fouling in the HX on high temperature-side only, 2) Fouling in the HX on low temperature-side only, and 3) Fouling (equally) in the HX on both high and low-temperature-side. The UA-value, which represents the conductance affected due to fouling, will be decreased from 0 to 50% to simulate the three cases mentioned. Using these simulations, an attempt will be made to develop a relationship between these three types of cases. Once this is achieved, thermodynamic models of both power and refrigeration cycles will be simulated to ascertain practical applicability of the proposed model.

Experimental evaluation of the performance characteristics of a vapor compression cycle, under fouled conditions, will also be done. For this purpose, a 1.5 ton