TARGETING FOR TOTAL WATER NETWORK BASED ON PINCH ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The current drive towards environmental sustainability and the rising costs of fresh water and effluent treatment have encouraged the process industry to find new ways to reduce fresh water consumption and wastewater generation. Process plants are now taking more serious measurement towards the minimisation of fresh water consumption via in-plant water reuse/recycle. This corresponds to reduced effluent generation as a mean to reduce production cost and to ensure sustainable growth in the business activities. The advent of process integration tools for the synthesis of optimal water network has seen extensive progress over the last decade, especially in the area of water reuse/recycle (Wang and Smith, 1994; Dhole *et al.*, 1996; Polley and Polley, 2000; Hallale, 2002; El-Halwagi *et al.*, 2003; Manan *et al.*, 2004; Prakash and Shenoy, 2005, Foo *et al.*, 2006).

To date, flowrate targeting for water reuse/recycle based on pinch analysis techniques has been rather established. In this work, a novel and non-interactive numerical technique for flowrate targeting in a total water network is presented. A total water network consists of water reuse/recycle, regeneration as well as wastewater treatment networks (Bagajewicz, 2000; Gunaratnam *et al.*, 2005). Apart from fresh water and wastewater flowrate targets, this newly proposed method allows the simultaneous targeting of regeneration and wastewater flowrates for final treatment. A revised cascade analysis technique known as Regeneration Water Cascade Analysis (RWCA) based on the work of Manan et al. (2004) is used to locate the various total water network targets. Two literature examples involving fixed-load and fixed flowrate problems are solved to illustrate the applicability of the newly developed technique.

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