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Feasible Working Domains – Decision Support for Heat Pump Projects

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Motivation

Potential for energy and economic optimisation in industrial plants and district heating systems by using large scale heat pumps.

- Complex systems: economic optimum depends on both heat pump performance, investment, expected operation hours, taxation and fuel cost.
- Pinch- or plant optimisation specialists are not necessarily experts on best available heat pump technology, and may thus be assisted by decision support tools.
Introduction

Motivation

Potential for energy and economic optimisation in industrial plants and district heating systems by using large scale heat pumps.

- Complex systems: economic optimum depends on both heat pump performance, investment, expected operation hours, taxation and fuel cost.
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Working domains

- Introduced in "Comparison of the working domains of some compression heat pumps and a compression-absorption heat pump" by Brunin et al. (1997)
  - Economic feasibility integrated by including two physical constraints
  - Technical constraints are similar to operating envelope for individual components

- Technical and economical working domains for single stage industrial heat pumps.
  - R134a, R290, R600a, R717-LP, R717-HP and R744 in Ommen et al. (2015a)
  - Ammonia-water hybrid absorption compression HP in Jensen et al. (2015)
  - R600a and R717-HP in series in Ommen et al. (2015b)
Working domains in literature

(a) Example of working domain with VHC and COP to represent economic feasibility (Brunin et al., 1997)

(b) Example of working domain with economic and technical constraints (Ommen et al., 2015a).
Outline for Presentation

- **Introduction**
  - Motivation
  - Working domains in literature

- **Method**
  - Vapour compression heat pump
  - Economic assumptions
  - Heat exchanger design and calculation
  - Influence of key economic assumptions on NPV

- **Examples of working domains**
  - Single stage vapour compression HP
  - Ammonia-Water Hybrid Compression-Absorption HP

- **Vapour compression HPs in series**
  - Vapour compression HPs in series
  - COP and NPV
  - Comparison with working domain for single stage VCHP

- **Further steps**
  - A second economic case
  - Two stage VCHP configurations

- **Discussion**
Vapour compression heat pump

(a) Principle sketch of VCHP

(b) Temperature - heat load diagram of VCHP
Vapour compression heat pump in finite reservoirs

Typically used operational parameters for heat pump performance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of data</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>Compressor isentropic efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>Compressor volumetric efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>Electric motor efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Evaporator superheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Minimum pinch point in heat exchangers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic assumptions

- Heat pump load: 1000 (kW)
- Operating time 3500 (h/year)
- Lifetime 15 (years)
- Natural gas burner efficiency 0.9 (-)
- Interest rate of 7 (%) 
- Inflation rate of 2 (%) 
- NPV and PBT based on gas boiler replacement
- Component investment cost based on Danish prices
- Danish electricity and gas prices were used
- Natural gas burner investment and O&M not considered

Correlations for component cost of the type: 

\[ \text{PEC}_Y = \text{PEC}_W \left( \frac{X_Y}{X_W} \right)^\alpha \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>type</th>
<th>PEC(_W) (€)</th>
<th>(X_W)</th>
<th>(\alpha) (-)</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compressor</td>
<td>R600a</td>
<td>19850</td>
<td>279.8 (m(^3) h(^{-1}))</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>trade business (^1) (^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R717-HP</td>
<td>NDA</td>
<td>NDA</td>
<td>NDA</td>
<td>manufacturer (^4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical motor</td>
<td>R600a</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>incl. in compressor (^1) (^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R717-HP</td>
<td>10710</td>
<td>250 (kW)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>trade business (^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiver</td>
<td>R600a</td>
<td>1444</td>
<td>0.089 (m(^3))</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>trade business (^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R717-HP</td>
<td>1934</td>
<td>0.089 (m(^3))</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>trade business (^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plate heat exchanger</td>
<td>R600a</td>
<td>15526</td>
<td>42 (m(^2))</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>trade business (^1) (^2) (^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R717-HP</td>
<td>NDA</td>
<td>NDA</td>
<td>NDA</td>
<td>manufacturer (^5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Method

Heat exchanger design and calculation

- All HEX are plate type with chevron corrugation
- Commercial plate sizes were applied
- Mass and liquid/vapour maldistribution was neglected
- Counter flow arrangement
- Heat transfer and pressure drop correlations from literature was applied

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Media</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Heat transfer</th>
<th>Pressure drop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>two-phase:</td>
<td>Yan et al. (1999)</td>
<td>Yan et al. (1999)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Influence of key economic assumptions on NPV

(a) NPV of HP system with variations in size and yearly operation hours

(b) NPV of HP system with variations in fuel cost

Figure: R717-HP heat pump operating at $T_{\text{sink,out}} = 60^\circ\text{C}$, $T_{\text{lift}} = 20^\circ\text{C}$, $\Delta T_{\text{sink}}=20$ K, $\Delta T_{\text{source}}=10$ K
Examples of working domains

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Examples of working domains for single stage vapour compression HP

Four different sink and source temperature glides investigated

\[ \Delta T_{\text{sink}} / \Delta T_{\text{source}} \]

- 10K/10K
- 20K/10K
- 20K/20K
- 40K/10K
Examples of working domains

Examples of working domains for single stage vapour compression HP

Four different sink and source temperature glides investigated

$$\Delta T_{\text{sink}} / \Delta T_{\text{source}}$$

10K/10K
20K/10K
20K/20K
40K/10K
Examples of working domains

Ammonia-Water Hybrid Compression-Absorption HP

(a) Principle sketch of the HACHP

(b) Temperature - heat load diagram of the HACHP
Examples of working domains for Ammonia-Water Hybrid Compression-Absorption HP

Four different sink and source temperature glides investigated

\[ \Delta T_{\text{sink}} / \Delta T_{\text{source}} \]

10K/10K
20K/10K
20K/20K
40K/10K
Examples of working domains

Differences in investment cost for VCHP and HACHP

Figure: Investment cost for VCHP and HACHP at $\Delta T_{\text{sink}}=10$ K / $\Delta T_{\text{source}}=10$ K.
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Vapour compression HPs in series

- Refrigerant
- Sink media
- Source media

Counter-Current Configuration

Temperature variation of sink stream

Temperature variation of source stream

Co-Current Configuration

Parallel Evaporator

Parallel Condenser
COP and NPV of VCHPs in series

Figure: Changes to COP and NPV for four serial connected HP schemes with even heat load for serial connected units. COP and NPV are calculated for R717-HP units in series.

(a) $\Delta T_{\text{sink}} / \Delta T_{\text{source}} = 20K/20K$

(b) $\Delta T_{\text{sink}} / \Delta T_{\text{source}} = 40K/10K$
Load sharing for two vapour compression HPs in series

Figure: COP and NPV variations with variation of the heat load fraction and temperature lift. Results are calculated for $T_{\text{sink}} = 70 \, (^\circ \text{C})$ and $\Delta T_{\text{sink}}/\Delta T_{\text{source}} = 20\, \text{K}/20\, \text{K}$. 
Vapour compression HPs in series

Comparison with working domain for single stage VCHP

Two different serial connected VCHP investigated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HP_1</th>
<th>HP_2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>R717-HP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>R600a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c}
\hline
\text{T}_{\text{sink}, \text{in}} & < T_{\text{source}, \text{in}} \leq 0^\circ \text{C} & 0^\circ \text{C} - 10^\circ \text{C} & 10^\circ \text{C} - 20^\circ \text{C} & 20^\circ \text{C} - 30^\circ \text{C} & 30^\circ \text{C} - 40^\circ \text{C} & \geq 40^\circ \text{C} \\
\hline
\text{T}_{\text{sink}, \text{out}} & \text{in} & \text{out} & \text{in} & \text{out} & \text{in} & \text{out} \\
\text{sink, out} & (^\circ \text{C}) & (^\circ \text{C}) & (^\circ \text{C}) & (^\circ \text{C}) & (^\circ \text{C}) & (^\circ \text{C}) \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]
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- **Discussion**
Further steps

Two economic cases (industrial and DH)

\[(a) \quad \frac{\Delta T_{\text{sink}}}{\Delta T_{\text{source}}} = \frac{20 \, \text{K}}{20 \, \text{K}}\]

\[(b) \quad \frac{\Delta T_{\text{sink}}}{\Delta T_{\text{source}}} = \frac{40 \, \text{K}}{10 \, \text{K}}\]
Further steps

Two stage HP configurations

- Individual models for each component
  - A high amount of configurations possible.
  - Generic solutions to optimal configurations are needed.
  - High amount of free variables, eg. oil integration only constrained to intervals.

(a) Heat exchangers not fixed connection to heat sink
Further steps

HP configurations in series

(a) Possibilities for creating various two stage HP cycle layouts
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Important findings from analysis

The analysis of working domains shows, that sink temperatures of up to 120 - 140 °C and temperature lifts 40 - 60 K may be obtained using VCHP and HACHP technologies.

- The NPV is favourable for the technologies utilising R717, but a technical constraint (the discharge temperature) limited the applicability in terms of temperature lift.
- Serial connection of VCHP increases the COP, but at decreased NPV. If more than one heat pump is needed due to capacity constraints, the increase in COP from serial connection of the considered units should be included.
- VCHP in series increases the working domain of current technical and economic constraints. Either due to reduction in resulting discharge temperature of compressor or mixed working fluids selection to obtain combination of certain characteristics.

Further work and analysis is required to obtain generic tool, as a high amount of configurations are possible.

- Input are welcome for other HP configurations, changed temperature sets or economic cases.
Thank you for your attention

- If questions, new ideas or interest in new projects: tsom@mek.dtu.dk

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References II
