



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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Cairo University

A SIMULATION STUDY OF MIXED REFRIGERANT ABSORPTION REFRIGERATION SYSTEM USING DIFFERENT ABSORBENTS

By

Noha Mahmoud Ahmed Mohamed

A Thesis Submitted to the
Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University
in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
in
Chemical Engineering

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, CAIRO UNIVERSITY
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Title of Thesis:

A SIMULATION STUDY OF MIXED REFRIGERANT ABSORPTION
REFRIGERATION SYSTEM USING DIFFERENT ABSORBENTS.

Key Words:

Absorption Refrigeration; Hydrocarbons Refrigerants; Mixed Refrigerants;
Simulation; Optimization.

Summary:

The performance of a mixed refrigerant absorption refrigeration cycle was studied to explore the feasibility to achieve an ultra-low range of chiller temperatures. The use of ethane-propene refrigerant mixtures with different compositions in combination with a wide range of hydrocarbon solvents were simulated using ASPEN HYSYS software. A parametric study was conducted for identifying the optimal operating conditions for each targeted evaporator temperature. The results revealed that the performance of the studied mixed refrigerant is generally enhanced at conditions of low absorption temperature and/or low condenser temperature. Chiller temperature in the range of -60 to -90 °C was revealed to be achievable using a cascade refrigeration system with a COP in the range of (0.18 to 0.32). The optimal absorbent for most of the studied mixture compositions, regarding maximal COP, and minimal (PP/Q_E), was found to be MCC5. However, commercial solvents in the same carbon atom range were proved to offer about the same performance at the optimal disclosed operating conditions. The proposed system was found to achieve electrical power savings in the range of 15-53% of that would be consumed by a VCRS for the same chiller duty and temperature as operating under the same conditions, depending on %ethane in the refrigerant mixture.

Disclaimer

I hereby declare that this thesis is my own original work and that no part of it has been submitted for a degree qualification at any other university or institute.

I further declare that I have appropriately acknowledged all sources used and have cited them in the references section.

Name: Noha Mahmoud Ahmed Mohamed

Date: / /2022

Signature:

Dedication

My humble effort I dedicate to my sweet and loving Father and Mother, whose affection, love, encouragement and prayers of day and night make me able to get such success and honor, along with all hard working and respected teachers.

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Table of Contents

DISCLAIMER.....	I
DEDICATION.....	II
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	III
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	IV
LIST OF TABLES	VI
LIST OF FIGURES	VII
NOMENCLATURE	IX
ABSTRACT	XI
CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 2 : LITERATURE REVIEW	3
2.1. REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS	3
2.1.1. Refrigerants Historical Progression.....	3
2.1.1.1. Historical Refrigerants.....	3
2.1.1.2. Fluorinated Refrigerants	4
2.1.1.3. Inorganic Refrigerants	5
2.1.1.4. Hydrocarbon Refrigerants	7
2.1.1.5. Nanorefrigerants	7
2.1.1.6. Mixed Refrigerants.....	7
2.1.2. Classification of Refrigeration Systems	10
2.1.2.1. Conventional Vapor Compression Refrigeration System	11
2.1.2.2. Ejector Enhanced Vapor Compression Refrigeration System	13
2.1.2.3. Sub-Cooled Vapor Compression Refrigeration System.....	15
I. Liquid Suction Heat Exchanger Subcooling (LSHX).....	15
II. Dedicated Mechanical Subcooling (DMS).....	16
III. Integrated Mechanical Subcooling (IMS)	17
2.1.2.4. Mixed Refrigerant Vapor Compression Systems.....	18
I. Single Mixed Refrigerant (SMR) VCRC	18
➤ Conventional Single Mixed Refrigerant (SMR).....	18
➤ SMR with phase Separator (SMSR).....	19
➤ Multistage SMR-VCRC	19
II. The propane precooled mixed refrigerant process (C3MR /PPMR).....	21
III. The dual mixed refrigerant process (DMR)	21
IV. The mixed Refrigerant Cascade process (MFC)	23
2.1.2.5. Conventional Absorption Refrigeration Systems (C-ARC).....	24
2.1.2.6. Ejector Enhanced Absorption Refrigeration System	27
2.1.2.7. Half Effect Vapor Absorption Refrigeration System.....	28
2.1.2.8. Multi Effect Vapor Absorption Refrigeration System	29
I. Double Effect Absorption Refrigeration System.....	30
➤ Series Flow Double-effect Absorption Refrigeration Cycle.....	30
➤ Parallel flow Double-effect Absorption Refrigeration Cycle	31
II. Triple effect Absorption Refrigeration System	33
2.1.2.9. Combined/Hybrid (Absorption-Compression) Refrigeration Systems	34
2.1.2.10. Solar Derived Refrigeration Systems	35
2.1.3. Refrigerant Selection Criteria	37

I.	The Requirements of Working Fluid in Vapor Compression System	38
II.	The Requirements of Working Fluid in Absorption Refrigeration System	38
2.2.	PREVIOUS RESEARCH WORK RELATED TO USING MR IN ARSS.....	39
2.2.1.	Mixed Hydrocarbons Refrigerant Related Work.....	39
2.2.2.	Hydrocarbons Absorption Refrigeration Related Work	41
CHAPTER 3 : METHODOLOGY.....		44
3.1.	SIMULATION METHODOLOGY	44
3.2.	WORKING FLUIDS	45
3.3.	ABSORPTION REFRIGERATION SYSTEM CONFIGURATIONS.....	46
3.3.1.	Process Design.....	46
3.3.2.	System Specifications.....	47
➤	Absorber.....	47
➤	Strong Solution Pump	47
➤	Solution Heat Exchanger.....	47
➤	Separation Tower	47
➤	Refrigerant PRV.....	47
➤	Chiller	47
➤	Solvent PRV.....	48
➤	Solvent Pre-Cooler.....	48
3.4.	VAPOR COMPRESSION REFRIGERATION SYSTEM CONFIGURATION	48
CHAPTER 4 : RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....		49
4.1.	SOLVENT OPTIMIZATION FOR FAVORED MOLECULAR WEIGHT RANGE	49
4.1.1.	Optimal Solvent Regarding Maximum COP	49
4.1.2.	Optimal Solvent Regarding Minimum (PP/Q _E).....	51
4.1.3.	Optimal Solvent Regarding COP and (PP/Q _E)	54
4.2.	OPERATING CONDITIONS OPTIMIZATION	61
4.2.1.	Optimal Absorption Temperature (T _b).....	61
4.2.1.1.	Effect of T _b on Solvent Flow Rate	61
4.2.1.2.	Effect of T _b on Pump Power and the Ratio (PP/ Q _E).....	61
4.2.1.3.	Effect of T _b on the Regenerator Duty (Q _G) and COP value	63
4.2.1.4.	Effect of T _b on Pre-Cooler Duty	65
4.2.1.5.	Effect of T _b on Absorber Duty (Q _A).....	65
4.2.1.6.	Effect of T _b on Condenser Duty (Q _C).....	66
4.2.2.	Optimal Condenser Temperature.....	67
4.2.2.1.	Effect of Condenser Temperature on Chiller Duty	67
4.2.2.2.	Effect of Condenser Temperature on the Regenerator Pressure Profile.....	68
4.2.2.3.	Effect of Condenser Temperature on Regenerator Temperature (T _g), and Regenerator Duty (Q _G)	69
4.2.2.4.	Effect of Condenser Temperature on COP and Ratio (PP/ Q _E)	71
4.2.2.5.	Effect of Condenser Temperature on the Ratio (PP/ Q _E).....	71
4.2.2.6.	Effect of T _c on Pre-Cooler Duty	72
4.2.2.7.	Effect of T _c on Reflux Ratio and Condenser Duty	72
4.3.	COMMERCIAL SOLVENT UTILIZATION FEASIBILITY	76
4.4.	COMPARING PROPOSED ARS WITH VCRS.....	77
CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....		78
REFERENCES		79

List of Tables

Table 2.1: Early refrigerants [21]	4
Table 2.2: Refrigerants from different chemical groups [27, 30].....	6
Table 2.3: Thermodynamic properties of R-12 and hydrocarbons [104]	41
Table 3.4: Thermodynamic properties of employed Refrigerants.....	45
Table 3.5: Thermodynamic properties of employed Solvents.....	45
Table 4.1: Cooling Performance of each studied refrigerant regarding the minimum applicable Condenser Temperature (T _c)	50
Table 4.2: The Five Ref. mix. Compositions Related to each studied T _e	61
Table 4.3: Optimal Condenser Pressure and Temperature Range for Different MR Compositions Regarding Minimum Reflux Ratio at T _b of 30 ⁰ C.....	74
Table 4.4: Minimal Achievable COP, at Optimal Operation Conditions for Different MR Compositions.....	75
Table 4.5: The Performance of MCC5 Vs n-Hexane for Different MR Compositions at the Optimal Conditions.....	76
Table 4.6: Power Savings of the Proposed Cascade ARS over VCRS	77

List of Figures

Figure 2.1: Phase Change Process of Binary Zeotropic Mixture [37]	8
Figure 2.2: Heat Exchange Composite Curves for Different NGL Processes [40].....	9
Figure 2.3: The simple VCRC [44]	11
Figure 2.4: The: T-S diagram for VCRC [44].....	12
Figure 2.5: P-h diagram for VCRC [20].....	12
Figure 2.6: Schematic diagram of Ejector [45].	13
Figure 2.7: Schematic diagram of Ejector Enhanced VCRC [48].....	14
Figure 2.8: Schematic diagram VCRC LSHX subcooling [20].	15
Figure 2.9: Schematic diagram of DMS type subcooled VCRC [51].	16
Figure 2.10: Schematic diagram of IMS type subcooled VCRC [52].....	17
Figure 2.1: Single Stage Compression SMR without Phase Separator [55].	18
Figure 2.2: SMSR Schematic Diagram [39].....	19
Figure 2.3: Multi Compression SMR with Phase Separator [39].....	20
Figure 2.4: The PPMR process Schematic Diagram [39].	21
Figure 2.5: DMR (Dual Mixed Refrigerant) process Schematic Diagram [61].	22
Figure 2.6: MFC Process Schematic Diagram [63].....	23
Figure 2.7: C-ARC Schematic Diagram [64].	24
Figure 2.8: Ammonia-Water ARC Schematic Diagram [67].....	26
Figure 2.19: Ejector Enhanced LPC-ARC Schematic Diagram [64].	28
Figure 2.9: Half Effect Absorption Refrigerant Cycle Schematic Diagram [65].....	29
Figure 2.10: Series Flow Double Effect DE-ARC Schematic Diagram [87].....	30
Figure 2.11: Parallel Flow DE-ARC Schematic Diagram [88].....	32
Figure 2.12: Parallel Flow Triple Effect Absorption Refrigerant Cycle (TESFVARC) Schematic Diagram [91].....	33
Figure 2.13: Series Flow Triple Effect Absorption Refrigerant Cycle (TEPFVARC) Schematic Diagram [91].....	33
Figure 2.14: Cascade Hybrid Refrigerant Cycle Schematic Diagram [95]	34
Figure 2.15: (SCR) Schematic Diagram [97]	35
Figure 2.16: Solar Absorption Refrigerant System (SAR) Schematic Diagram [97] ...	36
Figure 2.28: Progression of Refrigerants Selection Criteria [32].....	37
Figure 3.17: Absorption Refrigerant System Model Schematic Diagram	46
Figure 3.18: Vapor Compression Refrigerant System Model	48
Figure 4.1: Solvent M.wt range Optimization for the Maximum COP	49
Figure 4.2: C6 Range Solvent Optimization for the Maximum COP.	51
Figure 4.3: Solvent M.wt range Optimization for the Minimum (PP/Q _E)	52
Figure 4.4: C6 Solvent Optimization for the Minimum (PP/Q _E)	53
Figure 4.5: C7 Solvent Optimization for the Minimum (PP/Q _E)	53
Figure 4.6: Effect of Absorption Temperature on (PP/Q _E), T _e -50 ⁰ C	55
Figure 4.7: Effect of Absorption Temperature on COP, T _e -50 ⁰ C	55
Figure 4.8: Effect of Condenser Temperature on (Pump Power/Ciller Duty), For Evaporation Temperature of -50 ⁰ C	56
Figure 4.9: Effect of Condenser Temperature on COP, T _e -50 ⁰ C	56
.....	57
Figure 4.10: Effect of Absorption Temperature on (PP/Q _E), T _e -70 ⁰ C	57
Figure 4.11: Effect of Absorption Temperature on COP, T _e -70 ⁰ C	57

Figure 4.12: Effect of Condenser Temperature on (Pump Power/Ciller Duty), For Evaporation Temperature of -70°C	58
Figure 4.13: Effect of Condenser Temperature on COP, $T_e -70^{\circ}\text{C}$	58
Figure 4.14: Effect of Absorption Temperature on (PP/Q_E) , $T_e -90^{\circ}\text{C}$	59
Figure 4.15 Effect of Absorption Temperature on COP, $T_e -90^{\circ}\text{C}$	59
Figure 4.16: Effect of Condenser Temperature on (Pump Power/Ciller Duty), For Evaporation Temperature of -90°C	60
Figure 4.17: Effect of Condenser Temperature on COP, $T_e -90^{\circ}\text{C}$	60
Figure 4.18: Effect of Absorption Temperature on Solvent flow Rate (Kg/h)	62
Figure 4.19: Effect of Absorption Temperature on Pump Power (KJ/h)	62
Figure 4.20: Effect of Absorption Temperature on (Pump Power/Chiller Duty).....	63
Figure 4.21: Effect of Absorption Temperature on Reboiler Duty	64
Figure 4.22: Effect of Absorption Temperature on COP value.....	64
Figure 4.23: Effect of Absorption Temperature on Pre-Cooler Duty	65
Figure 4.24: Effect of Absorption Temperature on Absorber Duty at fixed Pre-Cooler Temperature.....	66
Figure 4.25: Effect of Absorption Temperature on Condenser Duty	67
Figure 4.26: Effect of Condenser Temperature on Chiller Duty at fixed Absorber Temperature.....	68
Figure 4.27: Effect of Condenser Temperature on Distillation Column Overhead Pressure at fixed Absorber Temperature.	69
Figure 4. 28: Effect of Condenser Temperature on Reboiler Temperature at fixed Absorber Temperature.....	70
Figure 4.29: Effect of Condenser Temperature on Reboiler Duty at fixed Absorber Temperature.....	70
Figure 4.30: Effect of T_c on COP at fixed Absorber Temperature	71
Figure 4.31: Effect of Condenser Temperature on the Ratio (PP/ Q_E)	71
Figure 4. 32: Effect of Condenser Temperature on the Pre-Cooler Duty	72
Figure 4.33: Effect of Condenser Temperature on Reflux Ratio	73
Figure 4.34: Relation between Reflux Ratio the Regenerator Overhead Pressure.....	73
Figure 4.35: Effect of Condenser Temperature on Condenser Duty.....	74
Figure 4.36: COP by n-Hexane Vs MCC5 at Optimum Conditions	76
Figure 4.37: PP/Q_E by n-Hexane Vs MCC5 at Optimum Conditions.....	77

Nomenclature

ΔT	Temperature Gradient
ANN	Artificial Neural Network
ARC	Absorption Refrigeration Cycle
ARS	Absorption Refrigeration System
CC	Cooling Capacity
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons
CMR	Cold Mixed Refrigerant
COP	Coefficient of Performance
CR	Circulation Ratio
CWHE	Coil Wounded Heat Exchanger
DMR	Dual Mixed Refrigerant
ECC5	Ethylcyclopentane
GWP	Global Warming Potential
HCFCs	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
HCMR	Hydrocarbon Mixed Refrigerant
HCs	Hydrocarbons
HFCs	Hydrofluorocarbons
HG	High Generator
HPA	High Pressure Absorber
HPG	High Pressure Generator
HPMR	High Pressure Mixed Refrigerant
HTG	High Temperature Generator
HX	Heat Exchanger
J-T valve	Joule-Thomson Valve
LG	Low Generator
LHP	Loop Heat Pipe
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LPA	Low Pressure Absorber
LPG	Low Pressure Generator
LPMR	Low Pressure Mixed Refrigerant
LTG	Low Temperature Generator
MCC5	Methylcyclopentane
MR	Mixed Refrigerant
MRC	Mixed Refrigerant Cycle
MMR	Main Mixed Refrigerant
MTG	Medium Temperature Generator
M.wt.	Molecular Weight
NBP	Normal Boiling Point
NG	Natural Gas
NGL	Natural Gas Liquefaction
ODP	Ozone Depletion Potential
Patm	Atmospheric Pressure
PMR	Pre-cooling Mixed Refrigerant
PP	Pump Power
PPMR	Propane Precooled Mixed Refrigerant
PP/Q _E	Pump Power/ Chiller Duty

PRV	Pressure Reducing Valve
Q_A	Absorber Duty
Q_C	Condenser Duty
Q_E	Evaporator Duty
Q_G	Regenerator Duty
R-170	Ethane
R-1270	Propylene
R-11	Trichlorodifluoromethane
R-12	Dichlorodifluoromethane
R-134a	1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane
R22	Chlorodifluoromethane
R600	Butane
R600a	Iso-butane
R-290	Propane
RR	Reflux Ratio
SDR	Solution Distribution Ratio
SMR	Single Mixed Refrigerant
SS	Strong Solution
T_b	Absorber Temperature
T_c	Condenser Temperature
T_e	Evaporator Temperature
T_g	Regenerator Temperature
VCRC	Vapor Compression Refrigeration Cycle
VCRS	Vapor Compression Refrigeration System
WFs	Working Fluids
WMR	Warm Mixed Refrigerant
WS	Weak Solution