

Assignment 2
Double-Pipe Heat Exchanger - special case Analysis

To compute:- ΔT_{LMTD} for a counter-flow heat exchanger

soln:- $\Delta T_{LMTD} \rightarrow$ Log mean temperature difference

given:- $c_o = c_h$ (equal heat capacity rates)

→ The ~~rate of heat lost by the hot fluid~~ must equal the rate of heat gained by the cold fluid:

$$\dot{Q} = \dot{c}_h (T_h^{in} - T_h^{out}) = \dot{c}_o (T_c^{out} - T_c^{in})$$

$$\text{Since, } \dot{c}_h = \dot{c}_o \Rightarrow T_h^{in} - T_h^{out} = T_c^{out} - T_c^{in}$$

$$\Rightarrow T_h^{in} - T_c^{out} = T_h^{out} - T_c^{in} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

now, For a counter-flow heat exchanger, the temperature difference at the two ends are defined as:

$$\Delta T_I = T_h^{in} - T_c^{out}$$

$$\Delta T_{II} = T_h^{out} - T_c^{in}$$

→ from (1) $\Delta T_I = \Delta T_{II}$ (The temperature difference at the ~~two ends are defined~~ between the hot and cold streams is constant along the entire length of the heat exchanger)

$$\text{Hence, } \Delta T_o = \Delta T_I = \Delta T_{II}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta T_{LMTD}^2 = \frac{\Delta T_I - \Delta T_{II}}{\ln \left(\frac{\Delta T_I}{\Delta T_{II}} \right)}$$

$$\rightarrow \text{putting } \Delta T_I = \Delta T_{II} = \Delta T_o$$

$$\Delta T_{LMTD} = \frac{\Delta T_o - \Delta T_i}{\ln\left(\frac{\Delta T_o}{\Delta T_i}\right)} = \frac{0}{\ln(1)} = \frac{0}{0} \text{ (indeterminate form)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Let, } \gamma = \frac{\Delta T_I}{\Delta T_{II}}$$

$$\text{now, } \lim_{\Delta T_I \rightarrow \Delta T_{II}} \Delta T_{LMTD} = \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1} \left[\Delta T_{II} \cdot \frac{\gamma-1}{\ln \gamma} \right]$$

$$\rightarrow \text{L'Hopital rule, } \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1} \Delta T_{II} \frac{\frac{d}{d\gamma}(\gamma-1)}{\frac{d}{d\gamma} \ln \gamma} = \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1} \Delta T_{II} \frac{1}{1/\gamma} = \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1} \Delta T_{II} \gamma = \Delta T_{II}$$

$$\therefore \text{The limit, } \lim_{\dot{c}_c \rightarrow \dot{c}_h} \Delta T_{LMTD} = \Delta T_{II} \cdot (1) = \Delta T_o$$

$$\therefore \boxed{\lim_{\dot{c}_c \rightarrow \dot{c}_h} \Delta T_{LMTD} = \Delta T_o = T_h^{in} - T_c^{out} = T_h^{out} - T_c^{in}}$$

\rightarrow We know that for a counter-flow heat exchanger:

$$\frac{\Delta(T_h - T_c)}{T_h - T_c} = -UA \left(\frac{1}{\dot{c}_c} - \frac{1}{\dot{c}_h} \right) \text{ where } A = 2\pi r D x$$

\Rightarrow in differential form

$$\frac{d(\Delta T)}{dx} = -UA' \left(\frac{1}{\dot{c}_c} - \frac{1}{\dot{c}_h} \right) \Delta T$$

\rightarrow applying the condition $\dot{c}_c = \dot{c}_h$ we get,

$$\frac{d(\Delta T)}{dx} = -UA'(0) \Delta T \Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{d(\Delta T)}{dx} = 0}$$

\rightarrow The exponential behavior fails because the term that governs the exponential change becomes zero for this special counter-flow case, leading to linear temperature profile instead of an exponential one.