

Heat Exchangers

Practice problems

1. Water at the rate of 68 kg/min is heated from 35 °C to 75 °C by oil having $C_p=1.9$ kJ/kg-K. The fluids are used in a counter-flow concentric tube HX where the oil enters at 110 °C and leaves at 75 °C. Assume $U=320$ W/m² and C_p of water = 4.18 kJ/kg-K. Calculate heat exchanger area. [Ans: 15.8 m²]

2. If the HX in Problem 1 is replaced by a shell and tube HX with the water making one shell pass and the oil making two tube passes, calculate HX area. Assume same values as in Problem 1. [Ans: 19.53 m²]

3. A heat exchanger is used to heat an oil flowing through tubes ($C_p=1.9$ kJ/kg-K) from 15 °C to 85 °C. Blowing across the outer surface of the tubes to steam at 5.2 kg/s with inlet and exit temperature of 130 °C and 110 °C respectively. The overall heat transfer coefficient is 275 W/m²-K and C_p for steam is 1.86 kJ/kg-K. Calculate surface area of HX. What happens if oil flow rate is reduced by a factor of 2? [Ans: 10.8 m²]

4. A hot water stream of flow rate 1 kg/s is to be cooled from 90 °C to 60 °C in a heat exchanger, by contact with a large stream of cold water flowing at 2 kg/s and inlet temperature of 40 °C. Calculate HX area needed for this configuration for counter-flow arrangement and for cross-flow arrangement with both fluids mixed. Compare the areas. Assume $U = 1000$ W/m²-K. [Ans: $A_{CF}=4.69$ m², $A_{XF}=5.30$ m²]

5. A counter-flow HX has heat transfer area $A=10$ m² and overall heat transfer coefficient $U=500$ W/m²-K. It is used to cool 1.5 kg/s of hot oil initially at 110 °C by 0.5 kg/s stream of cold water with inlet temperature of 15 °C. C_p values for oil and water are 2.25 kJ/kg-K and 4.18 kJ/kg-K respectively. Calculate the outlet temperature of the two streams and total heat transfer rate. [Ans: $T_{h,out}=63^\circ\text{C}$, $T_{c,out}=90.5^\circ\text{C}$, $q=158$ kW]

6. Water at the rate of 4 kg/s is heated from 40 °C to 55 °C in a shell and tube heat exchanger. On the shell side, one pass is used with water as the heating fluid ($\dot{m}_h=2$ kg/s) entering the HX at 95 °C. The overall heat transfer coefficient is 1500 W/m²-K and the average water velocity in the 2-cm diameter tubes is 0.5 m/s. Due to space limitations, the tube length

cannot exceed 3 m. Calculate the number of tube passes, number of tubes per pass and the length of the tubes considering the above constraint. [Ans: 2, 25, 1.55 m]

7. In a tube pass, one-shell pass HX, hot fluid enters at 425 °C and leaves at 260 °C, while the cold fluid enters at 40 °C and leaves at 150 °C. Find LMTD for (a) parallel flow, (b) counter flow. Which arrangement will transfer more heat and by what factor? Assume same U and heat transfer area. [Ans: (a) 219.5°C, (b) 246.5°C, 1.12]

8. A one-shell, two-tube pass HX has total surface area of 5 m² and its overall heat transfer coefficient based on this surface area is 1400 W/m²-K. If 4500 kg/hr of water enters the shell side at 315 °C while 9000 kg/hr of water enters the tube side at 40 °C, find the outlet temperature. Assume $C_p=4.18$ kJ/kg-K for both sides. [Ans: $T_{he}=146.5^\circ\text{C}$, $T_{ce}=124^\circ\text{C}$]

9. Water is heated in a building from 20°C at a rate of 70 kg/min by using hot water from a boiler at 110°C in a single pass counterflow heat exchanger. Find the heat transfer rate if hot water flow rate is 90 kg/min. Also find the exit temperatures of both streams. Assume $U=320$ W/m²-K, $A = 20\text{m}^2$. [Ans : 263.4 kW, 68°C, 74°C]

10. Hot exhaust gases are used in a finned tube cross flow heat exchanger to heat 2.5 kg/s of water [$C_p = 4.18\text{kJ/kg}\cdot\text{K}$] from 35°C to 85°C. The gases [$C_p = 1.09\text{kJ/kg}\cdot\text{K}$] enter at 200°C and leave at 93°C. Overall heat transfer coefficient is 180 W/m²·K. Calculate the area of the heat exchanger using $\varepsilon - NTU$ method. [Ans : 37.9 m²]

11. It is desired to heat 230 kg/hr of water ($C_p = 4.18\text{kJ/kg}\cdot\text{K}$) from 35°C to 93°C with oil ($C_p = 2.1\text{kJ/kg}\cdot\text{K}$) having an initial temperature of 175°C. The mass flow of oil is also 230 kg/hr. Two concentric tube heat exchangers are available:

heat exchanger 1 - $U = 570\text{W/m}^2\cdot\text{K}$, $A = 0.47\text{ m}^2$

heat exchanger 2 - $U = 370\text{W/m}^2\cdot\text{K}$, $A = 0.94\text{ m}^2$

Which exchanger should be used? Assume counter flow arrangement.

12. Design a counter-flow heat exchanger to use water for cooling hot engine oil from an industrial power station. The mass flow rate of oil is given as 0.2 kg/sec and its inlet temperature is 90°C. Water is available at 20°C but its temperature rise is restricted to 12.5°C. The outer tube diameter must be less than 5 cm, and inner tube diameter must be greater than 1.5 cm. Engine oil should be cooled to below 50°C. The maximum length of heat exchanger can be 200 m. Assume thickness of inner tube to be small. C_p , μ and k for oil and water are $[2100 \text{ J/kg} \cdot \text{K}, 0.03 \text{ kg/m} \cdot \text{s}, 0.015 \text{ W/m} \cdot \text{K}]$ and $[4179 \text{ J/kg} \cdot \text{K}, 8.55 \times 10^{-4} \text{ kg/m} \cdot \text{s}, 0.613 \text{ W/m} \cdot \text{K}]$ respectively.

13. A finned-tube heat exchanger is used to heat 2.35 m³/s of air at 1 atm from 15°C to 29°C. Hot water enters the tubes at 82°C and air flows across the tubes producing an average overall heat transfer coefficient of 225 W/m²·K. The total surface area of the heat exchanger is 9.3 m². Calculate the exit temperature and heat transfer rate. Assume $\rho_{\text{air}} = 1.22 \text{ kg/m}^3$, $C_{p,\text{air}} = 1006 \text{ J/kg} \cdot \text{K}$. $[Ans: 19.7^\circ\text{C}, 40.34 \text{ kW}]$

14. The specified job of a heat exchanger is to lower the temperature of a 1 kg/s stream of hot water from 80°C to 40°C. The available coolant is a 1 kg/s stream of cold water with an inlet temperature of 20°C. The overall heat transfer coefficient is given as $U = 800 \text{ W/m}^2 \cdot \text{K}$. Calculate the required heat transfer area A assuming the two streams are in (i) parallel flow, (ii) counter flow.

15. Hot water at 90°C flows inside a 2.5-cm ID tube of steel $[k = 15 \text{ W/m} \cdot \text{K}]$ with 0.8-mm wall thickness at a velocity of 4 m/s. The outer pipe of this concentric tube heat exchanger has ID of 3.75-cm and has an engine oil flow through the annular space at 7 m/s. Calculate the overall heat transfer coefficient of this arrangement assuming a tube length of 6 m. Repeat your calculations assuming fouling factor of 0.001 m²·K/W and 0.0002 m²·K/W for oil and water side respectively.

16. A finned tube heat exchanger employs condensing steam at 100°C inside the tubes to heat air from 10°C to 50°C as it flows across the fins. A total heat transfer of 44 kW is to be accomplished and $U = 25 \text{ W/m}^2 \cdot \text{K}$. Calculate the heat transfer area of the heat exchanger.