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# Study and Comparison of Performance of Shell and Tube Heat Exchanger with Two Numerical Methods

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**Abstract:** The single phase shell and tube heat exchangers are widely used in process industries. The thermal design of shell and tube heat exchanger (STHE) is most important as it affects the principal cost and operating cost of the heat exchanger. In the present paper, a comparison of distilled water to raw water STHE is done using Kern method and Udayet al. method. This paper purely aims at studying and comparing the shell side heat transfer coefficients of the two numerical methods of STHE.

**Keywords:** STHE, Heat transfer coefficient, shell and tube heat exchanger, design method for STHE, kern method

## I. INTRODUCTION

A shell and tube heat exchanger is a type of heat exchanger. Shell and tube heat type exchanger is most used and wide spread type of the heat exchanger. It is used mostly in various fields such as oil refineries, thermal power plants, chemical industries and many more. These are mostly used because of its large ratio of heat transfer area to volume and weight, easily replaceable parts, easy cleaning methods etc. It consists of some tubes through which one fluid flows. The other fluid flows through the shell which consists of the tubes and other supporting items like baffles, tube header sheets, seal strips, tie rods etc. A compact design can be achieved by minimizing the principal cost of heat exchanger [1]. The shell side heat transfer coefficient plays an important role in deciding the overall size of the heat exchanger.

### A. Udayet al. Method for Finding Shell Side Heat Transfer Coefficient

This method was based on actual flow pattern and heat exchanger geometry. This method consists of three sections[1]. Correction factors like baffle leakage, unequal baffle spacing, bypass correction factor, fanning friction factor shell side, a fraction of tubes in one baffle window, bypass streams and leakage streams are considered while modeling the shell side heat transfer coefficient.

Determination of heat transfer coefficient for interior cross-flow zones considering actual flow

Determination of heat transfer coefficient for window zones.

Determination of heat transfer coefficient for end cross-flow zones.

After determining the above values for different zones of the shell of heat exchanger the total shell side heat transfer coefficient,  $h_s$  is calculated by using the below equation.

$$h_s = \frac{h_c S_c (N_b - 1) + 2N_b h_w S_w + 2h_e S_e}{S_c (N_b - 1) + 2N_b S_w + 2S_e} J_\mu \quad (1)$$

### B. Determination Of Interior Cross Flow Zone Heat Transfer Coefficient, $h_c$

To calculate the interior cross flow zone heat transfer coefficient, the following equation may be used.

$$h_c = h_{ic} J_1 J_b \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Where } h_{ic} = \frac{j_{ic} \text{Re}_c \text{Pr}_s^{0.33} k_s}{d_o} \quad (3)$$

According to the Bell(3), the flow is normal to tube bundle for the interior cross flow. To calculate Reynolds number  $\text{Re}_c$ , the velocity considered is normal to the tube bundle which is taken as  $u_{sc}$ . Where as in the Udayet al. method, the flow is considered

inclined to tube bundle as shown in fig 1. To calculate  $Re_c$  the inclined affect is incorporated by replacing  $u_{sc}$  with  $u_{sci}$  as given in equation 4.

$$Re_c = \frac{\rho_s u_{sci} d_o}{\mu_s} \quad (4)$$

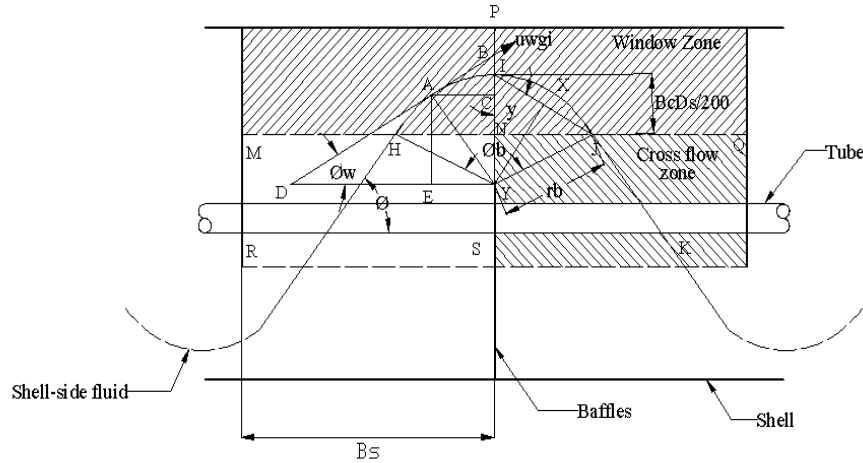


Fig 1. Actual Flow Pattern in shell side [1]

The leakage factor  $J_l$  and bundle by-pass factor  $J_b$  using the following equation (5) and equation (6) respectively

$$J_l = 0.44(1 - R_M) + [1 - 0.44(1 - R_M)] \exp(-2.2 R_L) \quad (5)$$

$$J_b = \exp \left[ -\beta_b R_b (1 - \sqrt[3]{2 R_s}) \right] \quad (6)$$

$\beta_b$  = a constant = 1.25 for turbulent and transition flow,  $Re_c > 100$

And  $\beta_b = 1.35$  for laminar flow,  $Re_c < 100$

### C. Determination Of Window Zone Heat transfer Coefficient, $h_w$

To compute the Reynolds number for window zone, the velocity is taken as the geometrical mean of cross-flow  $u_{sc}$  and window zone velocity,  $u_w$ . The geometrical mean of these two velocities is given by Eq. (7).

$$u_{wg} = \sqrt{u_w \times u_{sc}} \quad (7)$$

The equation for Reynolds number in window zone is given by Eq. (8)

$$Re_w = \frac{\rho_s u_{wg} d_o}{\mu_s \sin \theta_w} \quad (8)$$

$$\text{Where } \theta_w = \frac{\theta_b}{4},$$

To calculate the heat transfer coefficient in window zone, we use Eq.(9)

$$h_w = h_{iw} J_1 \frac{B_c D_s}{100 B_s} \quad (10)$$

Determination of heat transfer coefficient in inlet and outlet compartment,  $h_e$  To compute the heat transfer coefficient in inlet and outlet compartment cross flow zone the equation (11) given below is used.

$$h_e = h_{ie} J_b J_s \quad (11)$$

$$\text{Where } h_{ie} = \frac{k_s J_{ie} \text{Re}_e \text{Pr}_s^{0.33}}{d_o}$$

$k_s$  = thermal conductivity of shell side fluid

$\text{Re}_e$  = Reynolds number of inlet and outlet cross flow zone

$\text{Pr}_s$  = Prandtl number of shell side fluid

$d_o$  = tube inside diameter in m

The unequal baffle spacing correction factor  $J_s$  was calculated by using the Eq. (12)

$$J_s = \frac{(N_b - 1) + \left(\frac{B_{si}}{B_s}\right)^{1-r} + \left(\frac{B_{so}}{B_s}\right)^{1-r}}{(N_b - 1) + \left(\frac{B_{si}}{B_s}\right) + \left(\frac{B_{so}}{B_s}\right)} \quad (12)$$

Where  $r = 0.6$  for turbulent flow

$= 1/3$  for laminar flow

#### D. Determination Of Various Terms Used In Eq. (1)

The Surface area of the tubes  $S_c$  in the interior cross flow zone is given by Eq.(13)

$$s_c = \Pi d_o N_{tc} B_s \quad (13)$$

$N_{tc}$  = The number of tubes in cross-flow zone

$B_s$  = Baffle spacing in m

The Surface area of tubes lying in window zone is given by Eq. (14)

$$s_w = \Pi d_o N_{wt} B_s \quad (14)$$

Where  $N_{wt}$  = the number of tubes lying in window zone

The Surface area of tubes lying in the end compartment cross flow zone is given by Eq.(15)

$$s_e = \Pi d_o (N_t - N_{wt}) B_s \quad (15)$$

2. Kern method: It was based on experimental work on commercial exchangers with usual tolerances and will give a reasonably satisfactory prediction of the heat-transfer coefficient for preliminary designs[2]. The shell-side heat transfer and friction factors are correlated similarly to those for tube-side flow by using a hypothetical shell velocity and shell diameter. This method cannot adequately account the baffle to shell and tube to baffle leakage. The calculation of pressure drop is less satisfactory, as pressure drop is more affected by leakage and bypassing than heat transfer. The shell equivalent diameter is calculated using the flow area between the tubes taken in the axial direction (parallel to the tubes) and the wetted perimeter of the tubes. The method used by Kern is simple and more explanative. All the parameter related to the heat exchanger is obtained in well manner and brief without any complication as compared to another method, the calculation process is rather simple and detailed. Amongst all the methods, the Kern method is a simple method for calculating shell side pressure drop and heat transfer coefficient.

## II. FLUID PROPERTIES CONSIDERED

Shell side fluid properties: Hot fluid

$$\rho_s = 990 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\mu_s = 0.000774 \text{ N-s/ m}^2$$

$$C_{ph} = 4.187 \text{ kJ/kg K}$$

$$K_s = 0.6182 \text{ W/m K}$$

Tube side fluid properties: Cold fluid

$$\rho_c = 990 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\mu_c = 0.0009040 \text{ N-s/ m}^2$$

$$C_{pc} = 4.187 \text{ kJ/kg K}$$

$$K_c = 0.60812 \text{ W/m K}$$

## III. HEAT EXCHANGER SPECIFICATIONS:

The specifications of the heat exchanger are as follows

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Shell ID                  | 0.387 m      |
| Tube OD                   | 0.01905 m    |
| Tube ID                   | 0.01656 m    |
| Baffle spacing            | 0.3048 m     |
| Number of Tubes           | 160          |
| Tube pitch                | 0.0238 m     |
| Number of shell passes    | 1            |
| Number of tube passes     | 2            |
| Tube pattern              | Triangular   |
| Mass flow rate shell side | 22.02 kg/sec |
| Mass flow rate tube side  | 33.45 Kg/sec |

## IV. CALCULATION OF SHELL SIDE HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT USING UDAY ET AL. METHOD

### A. Step 1

calculation of heat transfer coefficient in interior cross flow zone

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area of cross-flow section at centre line } A_{sc} &= \left[ (D_s - D_o) + \frac{(D_o - d_o)(p - d_o)}{p_t} \right] \\ &= 0.3048 \left[ (0.387 - 0.356) + \frac{(0.356 - 0.01905)(0.0238 - 0.01905)}{0.0238} \right] \\ &= 0.0299 \text{ m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cross-flow velocity at end and interior cross flow sections at shell centre line } u_{sc} &= \frac{v_s}{A_{sc}} \\ &= 0.022/0.0299 = 0.7357 \text{ m/sec} \end{aligned}$$



$$\text{Inclined flow velocity } u_{sci} = \frac{u_{sc}}{\sin \theta} = 0.7357 / \sin 62.29$$

$$= 0.831 \text{ m/sec}$$

$$\text{Reynolds number } Re_c = \frac{\rho_s u_{sci} d_o}{\mu_s}$$

$$= \frac{990 \times 0.831 \times 0.01905}{0.000774}$$

$$= 20248.524$$

$$\text{Nusselt number for interior cross flow zone } Nu_{ic} = J_{ic} Re_c Pr_s^{0.33}$$

$$= 0.011 \times 20248.524 \times 5.2^{0.33}$$

$$= 385.669$$

$$\text{Heat transfer coefficient for ideal tube tank in interior cross flow zone } h_{ic} = Nu_{ic} K_s / d_o$$

$$= \frac{385.669 \times 0.6182}{0.01905}$$

$$= 12515.528 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$$

$$\text{Actual heat transfer coefficient in interior cross flow zone } h_c = h_{ic} J_1 J_b$$

$$= 12515.52 \times 0.504 \times 0.767$$

$$= 4838.102 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$$

### B. Step 2

Determination of heat transfer coefficient in inlet and outlet compartment cross flow zone:

$$\text{Reynolds number in inlet and outlet compartment cross flow zone } Re_e = \frac{\rho_s u_{sc} d_o}{\mu_s}$$

$$= \frac{990 \times 0.7357 \times 0.01905}{0.000774}$$

$$= 17926.2715$$

$$\text{Nusselt number for inlet and outlet compartment cross flow zone } Nu_{ie} = j_{ie} Re_e Pr_s^{0.33}$$

$$= 0.007180 \times 17926.2715 \times 5.2^{0.33}$$

$$= 221.779$$

$$\text{Ideal tube tank heat transfer coefficient in inlet and outlet compartment } h_{ie} = Nu_{ie} \times k_s / d_o$$

$$= 221.779 \times 0.6182 / 0.01905$$

$$= 7197.0721 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$$

$$\text{Actual heat transfer coefficient of inlet and outlet compartment } h_e = h_{ie} \times J_b \times J_s$$

$$= 7197.0721 \times 0.76 \times 0.9$$

$$= 5469.7748 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$$

### C. Step 3

Determination of heat transfer coefficient in window zone

$$\text{Reynolds number in window zone } Re_w = \frac{\rho_s u_{wg} d_o}{\mu_s \times \sin \theta_w}$$

$$= \frac{990 \times 0.447012 \times 0.01905}{0.000774 \times \sin 25.50}$$

$$= 25300.205$$

Whereas the inclined flow window velocity  $u_{wg}$  is

$$u_{wg} = \sqrt{u_{sc} \times u_w}$$

$$= \sqrt{0.7357 \times 0.2712} = 0.447012 \text{ m/sec}$$

To calculate Colburn heat transfer factor for fluids flow in window zone  $j_{iw}$

$$J_{iw} = a_1 \left( \frac{1.33}{P/d_o} \right)^{a_e} \text{Re}_w^{a_2} \text{Pr}_s^{a_4} \text{ whereas the values of constants for a layout } 30^\circ \text{ is as given below}$$

$$a_1=0.593, a_2=-0.477, a_3=1.450, a_4=0.519$$

Substituting the above values we get  $J_{iw}=0.008$

$$\text{Nusselt number in window zone } N_{iw} = J_{iw} \times \text{Re}_w \times \text{Pr}_s^{0.33}$$

$$= 0.008 \times 25300.205 \times 5.2^{0.33}$$

$$= 348.734$$

$$\text{Heat transfer coefficient for ideal tank lying in window zone } h_{iw} = \frac{Nu_{iw} \times K_s}{d_o}$$

$$= \frac{348.734 \times 0.6182}{0.01905}$$

$$= 11316.943 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$$

$$\text{Actual heat transfer coefficient window zone } h_w = h_{iw} J_1 \frac{B_c D_s}{100 B_s}$$

$$= 11316.943 \times 0.504 \times \frac{25 \times 0.387}{100 \times 0.3048}$$

$$= 1810.488 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$$

#### D. Step 4

Determination of various terms

$$\text{Surface area of tubes lying in interior cross flow section } S_c = \pi d_o N_{tc} B_s$$

$$= \pi \times d_o \times 110 \times 0.3048$$

$$= 2 \text{ m}^2$$

$$\text{Surface area of tubes lying in end cross flow section } S_e = \pi d_o (N_t - N_{wt}) B_s$$

$$= \pi \times 0.019 \times (160 - 24.96) \times 0.3048$$

$$= 2.45 \text{ m}^2$$

$$\text{Surface area of tubes lying in window flow zone } S_w = \pi d_o N_{wt} B_s$$

$$= \pi \times 0.01905 \times 24.96 \times 0.3048$$

$$= 0.454 \text{ m}^2$$

#### E. Step 5

Determination of total heat transfer coefficient,  $h_s$

$$h_s = \frac{h_c S_c (N_b - 1) + 2N_b h_w S_w + 2h_e S_e}{S_c (N_b - 1) + 2N_b S_w + 2S_e} J_\mu$$

Considering  $J_\mu = 1$ , and substituting the values we get  $h_s = 4004.277 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$

## V. CALCULATION OF SHELL SIDE HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT BY KERN METHOD:

A. Step 1: Area of shell side

$$\begin{aligned} a_s &= \frac{D_s \times C' \times B}{P} \\ &= \frac{0.387 \times 0.00476 \times 0.3048}{0.02381} \\ &= 0.0179 \text{ m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

B. Step 2: Mass velocity shell side

$$\begin{aligned} G_s &= w / a_s \\ &= 22.02 / 0.0179 \\ &= 933.03 \text{ kg/m}^2 \text{ sec} \end{aligned}$$

C. Step 3: Equivalent diameter

$$D_e = \frac{4 \times (1/2P \times 0.86P - 1/2\pi d_o^2 / 4)}{1/2\pi d_o} = 0.0135 \text{ m}$$

D. Step 4: Reynolds number shell side

$$\text{Re} = \frac{D_e G_s}{\mu_h} = \frac{0.0135 \times 933.03}{0.000774} = 16267.47$$

E. Step 5: Nusselt number shell side

$$\begin{aligned} Nu &= 0.027 \text{Re}^{0.8} \text{Pr}^{0.33} \\ &= 0.027(16267.47)^{0.8} (5.2)^{0.33} \\ &= 109 \end{aligned}$$

F. Step 6: Heat transfer coefficient shell side,  $h_s = \frac{Nu \times K_s}{D_e}$

$$= \frac{109 \times 0.618}{0.0135} = 4989.77 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$$

## VI. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Shell side calculations of heat transfer coefficient for a shell and tube heat exchanger

| Methods used for calculation | Shell side heat transfer coefficient, $h_s$ |
|------------------------------|---|
| Uday et al. method           | 4004.277 W/m <sup>2</sup> K                 |
| Kern method                  | 4989.77 W/m <sup>2</sup> K                  |



## VII. CONCLUSION

The shell side design calculation of shell and tube heat exchanger is studied and compared between Uday et al. and Kern method. It is evident that the leakage factors and bypass factors affect the heat transfer of shell side in the shell and tube heat exchanger. Kern method which does not consider the leakage and bypass factors and provides higher values of shell side heat transfer coefficient. Thus kern method can give satisfactory prediction of heat transfer coefficient for standard design whereas the other method gives realistic value of heat transfer coefficient. Kern method is only accurate enough when the uncertainty in other design parameter is such that the use of the more elaborate method is not justified.

## VIII. NOMENCLATURE

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| $A_{sc}$ | Cross flow section area at shell centerline, $m^2$   |
| $B_c$    | Baffle cut as percentage of inside shell diameter  |
| $B_s$    | Interior section baffle spacing, m   |
| $C_{ph}$ | Specific heat of hot fluid at average temperature, J/kg K                                  |
| $C_{pc}$ | Specific heat of cold fluid at average temperature, J/kg K                                 |
| $C_{ps}$ | Specific heat of shell side fluid at average temperature, J/kg K                           |
| $C_{pt}$ | Specific heat of tube side fluid at average temperature, J/kg K                            |
| $C$      | Diametral clearance between tube hole in baffle and tube outside diameter, m               |
| $D_b$    | Baffle diameter, m   |
| $D_e$    | Equivalent diameter, m   |
| $D_o$    | Tube bundle diameter, m  |
| $D_s$    | Shell inside diameter at first tube lane from shell centre line for multi tube passes, m   |
| $d_h$    | Tube hole diameter in baffle, m  |
| $d_i$    | Tube inside diameter, m  |
| $d_o$    | Tube outside diameter, m   |
| $f_b$    | correction factor for bundle bypass stream for pressure drop                               |
| $f_s$    | Fanning friction coefficient for shell side flow   |
| $h_c$    | Heat transfer coefficient for the interior cross flow section, $W/m^2K$                    |
| $h_e$    | Heat transfer coefficient for end cross flow section, $W/m^2K$                             |
| $h_{ic}$ | Heat transfer coefficient for ideal tube bank in the interior cross flow section, $W/m^2K$ |
| $h_{ie}$ | Heat transfer coefficient for ideal tube bank in the end cross flow section, $W/m^2K$      |
| $h_{iw}$ | Heat transfer coefficient for ideal tube bank lying in window zone, $W/m^2K$               |
| $h_s$    | Heat transfer coefficient of shell side fluid, $W/m^2K$                                    |
| $h_w$    | Heat transfer coefficient for the window zone flow, $W/m^2K$                               |
| $J_b$    | Bundle bypass correction factor for heat transfer  |
| $J_l$    | Baffle leakage correction factor for heat transfer   |
| $J_\mu$  | Viscosity correction factor  |
| $J_s$    | Heat transfer correction factor for unequal end baffle spacings                            |
| $J_{ic}$ | Colburn's heat transfer for ideal tube bank in interior cross flow section                 |
| $J_{ie}$ | Colburn's heat transfer for ideal tube bank in end cross flow section                      |
| $J_{iw}$ | Colburn's heat transfer factor for fluid flow in window zone                               |
| $k_s$    | Shell side fluid thermal conductivity at average temperature, $W/m^2K$                     |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| $m_s$     | Mass flow rate of shell side fluid, kg/sec   |
| $N_b$     | Number of baffles  |
| $N_t$     | Total number of tubes in the shell   |
| $N_{tb}$  | Number of tube holes in a baffle   |
| $N_{tc}$  | Number of tubes in cross flow section  |
| $Nu_c$    | Interior cross flow section fluid Nusselt number   |
| $Nu_e$    | End cross flow section fluid Nusselt number  |
| $Nu_w$    | Window zone fluid Nusselt number   |
| $N_w$     | Number of tubes in window zone   |
| $P$       | Tube pitch, m  |
| $P_t$     | Transverse tube pitch, m   |
| $Pr_s$    | Prandtl number for shell side fluid  |
| $Re_c$    | shell side interior cross flow section fluid Reynolds number                             |
| $Re_e$    | Shell side end cross flow section fluid Reynolds number                                  |
| $Re_w$    | Shell side window zone fluid Reynolds number   |
| $S_c$     | Surface area of tubes lying in the interior cross flow section, $m^2$                    |
| $S_e$     | Surface area of tubes lying in the end cross flow section, $m^2$                         |
| $S_w$     | Surface area of tubes lying in the window zone flow section, $m^2$                       |
| $u_{sc}$  | Cross flow velocity at the end and interior cross flow section at shell centre line, m/s |
| $u_{sci}$ | Inclined flow velocity of fluid at shell centre line, m/s                                |
| $u_w$     | Fluid velocity in baffle window opening, m/s   |
| $u_{wg}$  | Geometric mean velocity of fluid in window zone, m/s                                     |

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