

COMPARISON OF ACCURACY IN PINCH  
TECHNOLOGY METHOD

DASIMA BT NEN @ SHAHINAN



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Alamat Tetap: 2032, Jalan Tunku  
Kampung Tunku,  
93050 Petra Jaya,  
Kuching, Sarawak

Nama Penelia: Nazeri Abdul Rahman


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Nazeri B Abd Rahman  
(Supervisor)

4 April 2020

Date

# COMPARISON OF ACCURACY IN PINCH TECHNOLOGY METHOD

**DASIMA BT NEN @ SHAHINAN**

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## ABSTRAK

Teknologi 'Pinch' adalah satu penemuan yang baru yang di perkenalkan oleh Profesor Bodo Linnhof. Teknologi ini amat berguna di aplikasikan di dalam sistem penukaran tenaga haba. Teknologi ini digunakan untuk mengurangkan penggunaan tenaga di dalam sesuatu sistem. Apabila penggunaan tenaga dapat dikurangkan maka kos boleh di jimatkan. Terdapat dua kaedah yang penting dalam Teknologi 'Pinch' iaitu kaedah graf (Graphical Method) dan kaedah berjadual (Tabular Method). Tesis ini dibuat untuk melakukan analisa dan kajian tentang ketepatan setiap kaedah dalam menghasilkan sesuatu keputusan, dan membuat perbandingan di antara kaedah tersebut. Hasil kajian telah membuktikan bahawa kaedah berjadual (Tabular Method) telah menghasilkan jajan dan keputusan yang tepat.

## **ABSTRACT**

Pinch Technology is the new recovery which introduced by Professor Bodo Linnhoff. This technology is useful in the application of heat exchanger system. The technology is to minimize the energy usage in the system. When the energy usage is reduced, thus the operating cost is also reduced. There are two important methods in Pinch Technology; Graphical Method and Tabular Method. This thesis will be carried out a research and analysis of the comparison of accuracy between both methods. The result of the study indicated that Tabular Method give the higher accuracy in producing result.

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## NOMENCLATURE

|                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| A                 | : | Area of the wall normal to heat flow [ $m^2$ ]                      |
| C                 | : | Thermal capacity rate   |
| DT <sub>min</sub> | : | Minimum temperature difference                                      |
| eb                | : | Emissive power of blackbody [Energy per unit surface area and time] |
| h                 | : | Heat transfer coefficient [ $W/m^2.K$ ]                             |
| L                 | : | The thickness of the wall [m]                                       |
| Q                 | : | Heat flow rate [kW]   |
| T                 | : | Temperature [ $^{\circ}C$ ]   |
| T <sub>in</sub>   | : | Temperature inside the surface [ $^{\circ}C$ ]                      |
| T <sub>out</sub>  | : | Temperature outside the surface [ $^{\circ}C$ ]                     |
| T <sub>s</sub>    | : | Temperature of the Surface [ $^{\circ}C$ ]                          |
| T <sub>∞</sub>    | : | Temperature of the surrounding [ $^{\circ}C$ ]                      |

### Greek symbols

|            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
| $\sigma$   | : | Stefan-Boltzman constant [ $5.668 \times 10^{-8} W/m^2.K^4$ ] |
| $\epsilon$ | : | The emissivity  |

# *Chapter 1*

## *Introduction*

Pinch Technology is the technology that relates with the system of heat exchanger. Thus, it is an advance study about heat transfer of stream flow in the heat exchanger.

### **1.1 Introduction to Heat Transfer**

According to Bhalchandra and Robert [1989], heat is energy in transit due to a temperature difference. Heat transfer is the area of engineering that deals with the mechanisms responsible for transferring energy from one place to another when a temperature difference exists.

Transfer of heat between systems or phases occurs as a result of a difference in temperature. There are three different mechanisms in which the heat can be transferred; conduction, convection and radiation.

#### **1.1.1 Conduction**

Conduction occurs when the heat is transmitted from hot to cold region until the temperature is equalized. According to Fourier's Law of Heat Conduction:



$$Q = \frac{kA(T_{in} - T_{out})}{L} \quad \text{-----} \quad (1.1)$$

Where,

$Q$  = Heat flow rate [W]

$A$  = Area of the wall normal to heat flow [ $m^2$ ]

$L$  = The thickness of the wall [m]

$T_{in}$  = Temperature inside the surface [ $^{\circ}C$ ]

$T_{out}$  = Temperature outside the surface [ $^{\circ}C$ ]

For example, an oven is hot on the inside and cool on the outside. The rate of heat transferred,  $Q$  from the inside of the oven to the outside of the oven, is directly proportional to the surface area of the wall,  $A$ . The area is normal to the direction of heat flow, and inversely to the wall thickness,  $L$ , which is also depends on type of the material. [Bhalchandra et al, 1949]

### 1.1.2 Convection

Convection occurs whenever a surface is in contact with a fluid at a temperature that is different from its own. According to Bhalchandra and Robert [1989], when a hot vertical wall is heated by conduction, caused the fluid to become less dense. Due to the different in density, a buoyancy force is resulted and caused the lighter fluid to rise and replaced the cooler fluid. This process is being repeated continually. In practice, the following equation is used to determine convection heat transfers rates:

$$Q = hA(T_s - T_{\infty}) \quad \text{-----} \quad (1.2)$$

Where,

$Q$  = Heat transferred from surface to the surrounding fluid [W]

$A$  = Area of the surface [ $m^2$ ]

$T_s$  = Temperature of the surface [ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ]

$T_{\infty}$  = Temperature of the surrounding fluid [ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ]

$h$  = Heat transfer coefficient [ $\text{W}/\text{m}^2\text{K}$ ]

### 1.1.3 Radiation

This phenomenon is identical to the emission of light. It is a function of the absolute body temperature and nature of the emitting surface. According to John [1992], radiation is the transfer of heat from one body to another body not in contact with it by means of electromagnetic wave motion through space, even when a vacuum exists between them.

Liquid, solids and some gasses (especially water vapor and hydrocarbons) emit thermal radiation as a result of their high temperatures. An ideal emitter, called a blackbody, emits thermal radiation according to the Stefan-Boltzman equation [Bhalchandra et al, 1989]:

$$e_b = \sigma T^4 \quad \text{-----} \quad (1.3)$$

Where,

$e_b$  = Emissive power of the blackbody [Energy per unit surface area and time]

$\sigma$  = Stefan-Boltzman constant [ $5.668 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W}/\text{m}^2\text{K}^4$ ]

$T$  = Temperature in Kelvin

For non-black surface radiate according to the equation below:

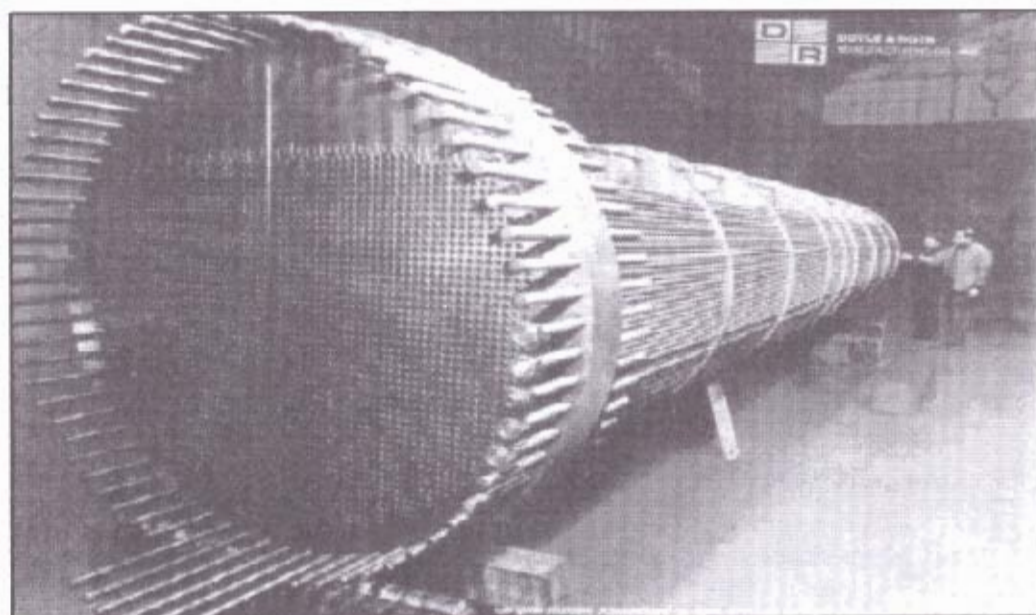
$$e = \epsilon e_b \quad \text{-----} \quad (1.4)$$

Where  $\epsilon$ , the emissivity, is a property of the surface and range from 0 for an ideal reflector to 1.0 for a blackbody.

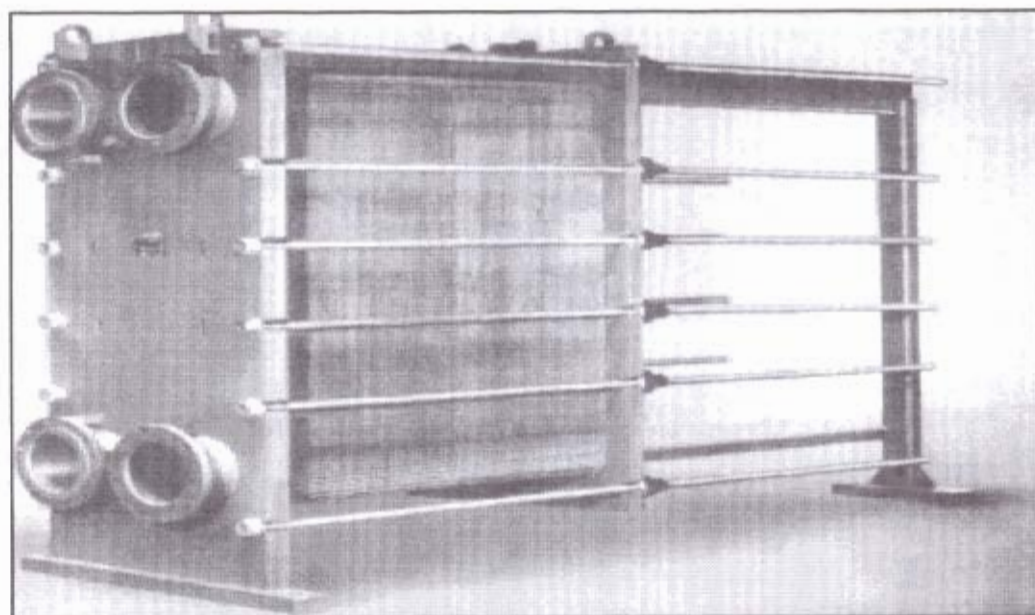
## 1.2 Heat Exchanger

A heat exchanger is a device or equipment that can transfer thermal energy from a high temperature to a low temperature of moving fluid. Some examples of common heat exchangers are the baseboard heater, the automobile radiator and the domestic hot water heater.

Heat exchangers are widely used in chemical industries and power plant. Usually heat exchangers are specifically designed and fabricated for each service. There are two common types of heat exchangers; shell and tube exchanger as shown in **Figure 1.1**, and plate heat exchanger as shown in **Figure 1.2**.



**Figure 1.1:** Shell and Tube Heat Exchanger [Nicholos et al, 1993]



**Figure 1.2:** Plate Heat Exchanger [Nicholos et al, 1993]

### 1.2.1 Classification and Terminology of Heat Exchangers

Heat exchangers can be classified in many different ways. First is based on the relative directions of the flow of the hot and cold streams that are:

#### i) **Parallel flow**

The parallel flow occurs when both fluids move in the same direction. This arrangement is less efficient compared to counter and cross flow. For a given set of temperatures and heat transfer rate, this arrangement requires the largest heat transfer area. This arrangement is used when the heat exchanger performance is to be maintained constantly over a wide range of flow rates.

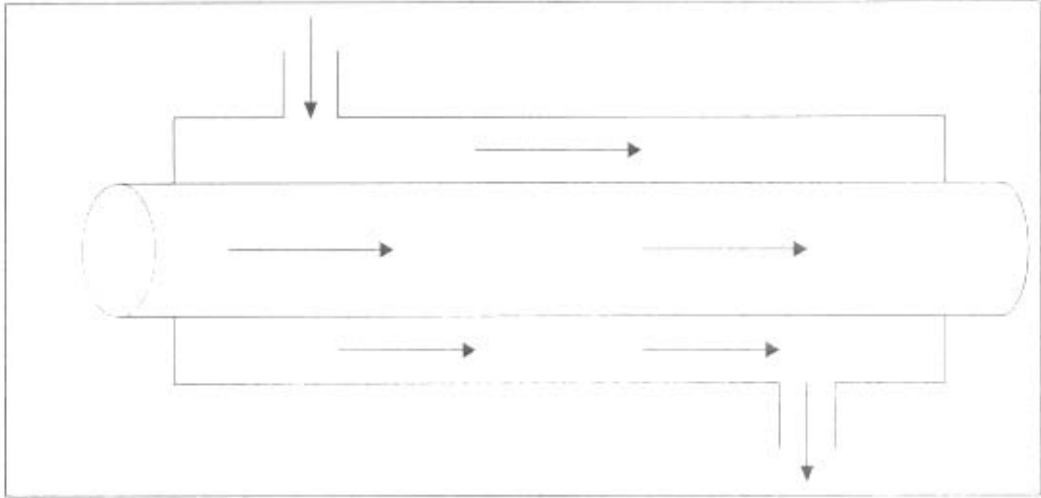
#### ii) **Counter flow**

Counter flow occurs when the fluids move in parallel but in opposite directions. Thermodynamically, the counter flow arrangement is one of the most efficient arrangements. However, the problems associated with the headers for the two fluids can become rather complex, especially if the heat exchanger is to be physically compact.

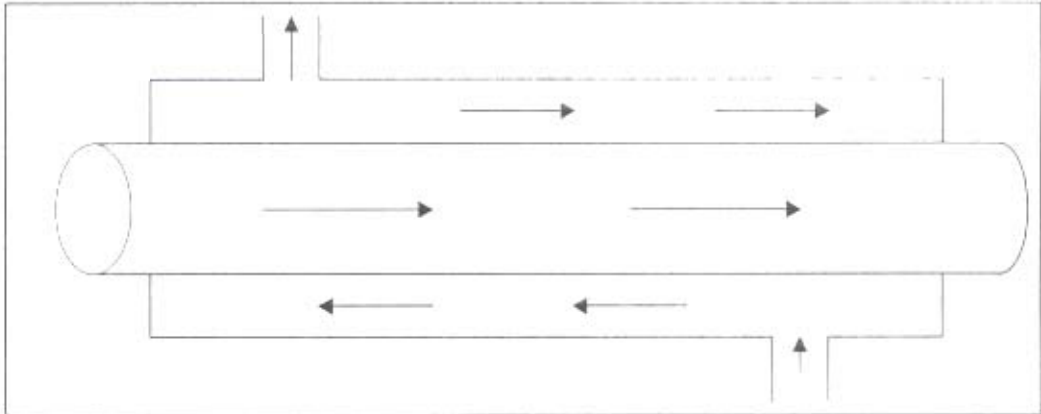
#### iii) **Cross flow**

The cross flow arrangement occurs when the direction of flow is mutually perpendicular. The thermodynamic performance of a cross flow arrangement falls between parallel flow and counter flow. This arrangement can be very compact and it readily permits the use of extended surfaces. Consequently, in general, whenever one of the fluids is gas, the cross flow arrangement is used.

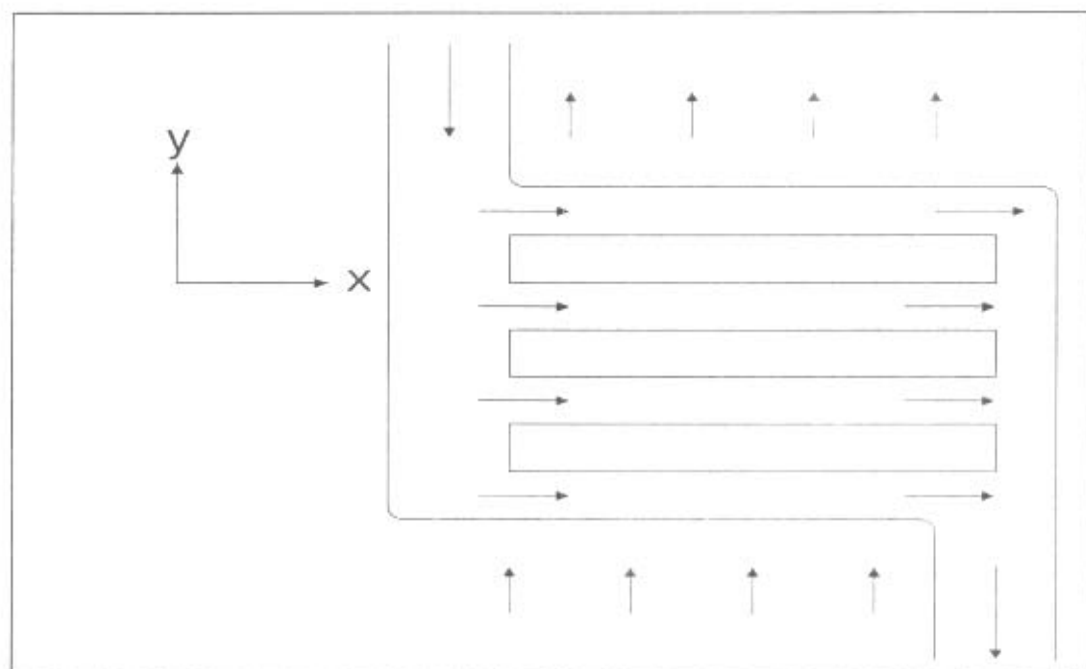
All these configurations are shown in **Figure 1.3** to **Figure 1.5**. According to the figures shown below, parallel flow and counter flow arrangements are applied in shell or tube heat exchangers, whereas cross flow arrangement is applied in plate heat exchangers.



**Figure 1.3:** Parallel Flow Heat Exchanger [Bhalchandra et al, 1989]



**Figure 1.4:** Counter Flow Heat Exchanger [Bhalchandra et al, 1989]



**Figure 1.5:** Cross Flow Heat Exchanger [Bhalchandra et al, 1989]

The parallel and the counter flow modes usually involve two concentric tubes with one fluid flowing in the central and the other flowing in the annulus. This configuration is shown in **Figure 1.3** and **Figure 1.4** and it is often called as double pipe heat exchanger since it involves two concentric pipes.

In **Figure 1.5**, there are a number of parallel paths for the fluid flowing in the x-direction (in the tubes), and each path is physically separated from its neighboring paths.



### 1.3 History and Terminology of Pinch Technology

Pinch Technology or Process Integration has been developed by Professor Bodo Linhoff and his co-workers of ETH Zurich, Leeds University, ICI and now University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) in 1981 [Eastop, 1990]. The main purpose of designing this technology is to minimize the energy requirements for the heat exchanger of the process plants. Some of industries that are using process plant are oil refineries company, chemical, papers, food and drink manufacturing and many others.

Basically in the process plant require heating and cooling of the feed stock as the process occur.

The advantage of this advanced technology is, it's using the energy from a stream which requires cooling to heat another which requires heating. Therefore, the energy that has to be supplied from a high temperature source is reduced, and the energy that has to be rejected to a low temperature sink is also minimized. Both of these external transfers will also reduce the cost in running the plant.

Thus, Pinch Technology is an approach that provides a mechanism for automating the design process of heat exchangers and saving the energy for heat transfer with lower running cost.

### 1.4 Objectives of This Study

In Malaysia, the industrial area is still growing and many manufacturing companies have been developed by the government, private or even foreigners from other countries. According to Eastop [1990], many