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DIRECT EXPANSION (DX) OR FLOODED OPERATION OF R-717 AIR COOLER AND THEIR ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVANTAGES

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AGENDA

- Introduction Motivation
- Test chamber
- Measurement campaigns (K1 K4)
- Results
- Conclusion





Motivation - Actual Industry Standard

- Established products
- Horizontal/vertical header; big core tubes
- Robust and great for high load fluctuations
- Low rr (< 2.0)
 - mostly lack in capacity
 - # of passes ↑: positive

Not every evaporator is applicable for low rr (pay attention with optimization by e.g. gasquality-control at existing systems)



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NH3: TRANSITION FROM SUPERHEATED TO FLOODED OPERATION

Introduction –Optimum rr





Test chamber

Test Chamber



Machinery room: NH₃-rack



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NH3: TRANSITION FROM SUPERHEATED TO FLOODED OPERATION

Measurement Campaigns

4 measurement campaigns: (based on SC2; DIN EN 328)

Standard	t _{A1}	t _{DP}	t _e	SHR	t _{R1}
	[°C]	[°C]	[°C]	[-]	[°C]
SC2	0	<-10	-8	0,65	30

SHR = Superheat ratio
SHR =
$$\frac{\Delta t_{sup}}{Dt_1} = \frac{t_{sup} - t_e}{t_{A1} - t_e}$$
5,2 K

- 1. K1 (DX) Variation of SHR
- 2. K2 (DX) Variation of t_{R1}
- 3. K3 (DX) Variation of SHR at tR1 \approx te
- t_{A1} = air inlet temperature (dry bulb)
- t_{DP} = air dew point temperature within the room
- t_e = evaporating temperature
- t_{R1} = refrigerant temp. at the inlet of the exp. valve
- Dt₁ = inlet temperature difference
- t_{sup} = superheating temperature
- Δt_{sup} = superheating



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NH3: TRANSITION FROM SUPERHEATED TO FLOODED OPERATION

Measurement Campaigns

4 measurement campaigns: (based on SC2; DIN EN 328)

Standard	t _{A1}	t _{DP}	t _e	rr	t _{R1}
	[°C]	[°C]	[°C]	[-]	[°C]
SC2	0	<-10	-8	2	30

rr = recirculation rate

$$\operatorname{rr} = \frac{\Delta h_0}{\Delta h_e} = \frac{1}{x}$$

- 1. K1 (DX) Variation of SHR
- 2. K2 (DX) Variation of t_{R1}
- 3. K3 (DX) Variation of SHR at $t_{\rm R1}\,{\color{red} \approx}\,t_{\rm e}$

4. K4 (Pump)

- rr ≈ 1 und SHR
- rr > 1

 Δh_e = ref. spec. enthalpy change in the unit at p_e Δh_0 = specific vaporization enthalpy p_e

x = vapor quality in kg_{vapor} / kg_{total}



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NH3: TRANSITION FROM SUPERHEATED TO FLOODED OPERATION

Results K1 (Variation of SHR)





Results K2 (Variation of t_{R1})

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Results K2 (Variation of t_{R1})

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K3 (Variation of SHR at tR1 ≈ te)

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K3 (DX; $t_{R1} \approx t_e$) VS. K4 (Pump; SHR)

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K1 (DX) VS. K3 (DX; $t_{R1} \approx t_e$) VS. K4 (Pump; SHR)



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K4 (Pump)





NH3: TRANSITION FROM SUPERHEATED TO FLOODED OPERATION

K4 (Pump) VS. K4 (Pump; SHR)



NH3: TRANSITION FROM SUPERHEATED TO FLOODED OPERATION

K4 (Pump) VS. K4 (Pump; SHR) VS. K1



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Conclusion

Standard evaporator, pump rr ~ 3:

- Established products in industrial standard
- Great for high load fluctuations
- Low rr (< 2.0)
 - \rightarrow mostly lack in capacity





Conclusion

Optimized evaporator, small core tube, balanced Δp_{Coil} :

- Tube volume -60 %
- Reduced charge (NH₃-volume)
- DX
 - Lowest charge (NH₃-flow)
 - No big separator needed
 - Low pressure drop within rising suction pipes
- low rr
 - $\dot{Q}_{o,max}$ at rr ≈ 1.2
 - − Capacity +20 % (DX \rightarrow Pump)





Conclusion

Optimized evaporator, small core tube, balanced Δp_{Coil} :

- Tube volume -60 %
- Reduced charge (NH₃-volume)
- DX
 - Lowest charge (NH₃-flow)
 - No big separator needed
 - Low pressure drop within rising suction pipes
- low rr
 - $\dot{Q}_{o,max}$ at rr ≈ 1.2
 - Capacity +20 % (DX → Pump)
 - Very efficient and cost effective
 - Competitive to standard design





THANK YOU

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