



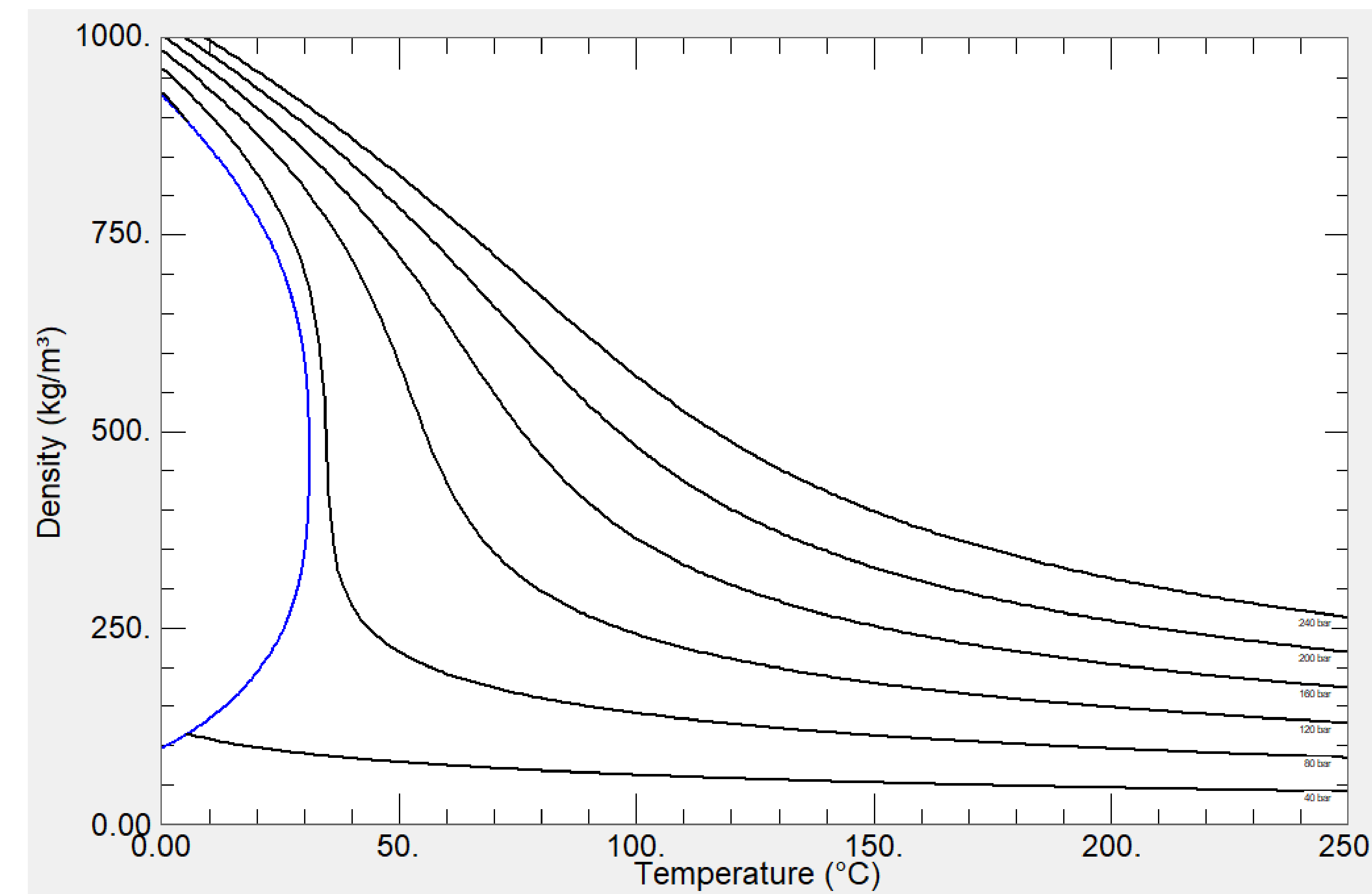
Heat Exchangers for Supercritical CO₂ Power Cycle Applications

Cole Replogle (SwRI)
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Marc Portnoff (Thar Energy)

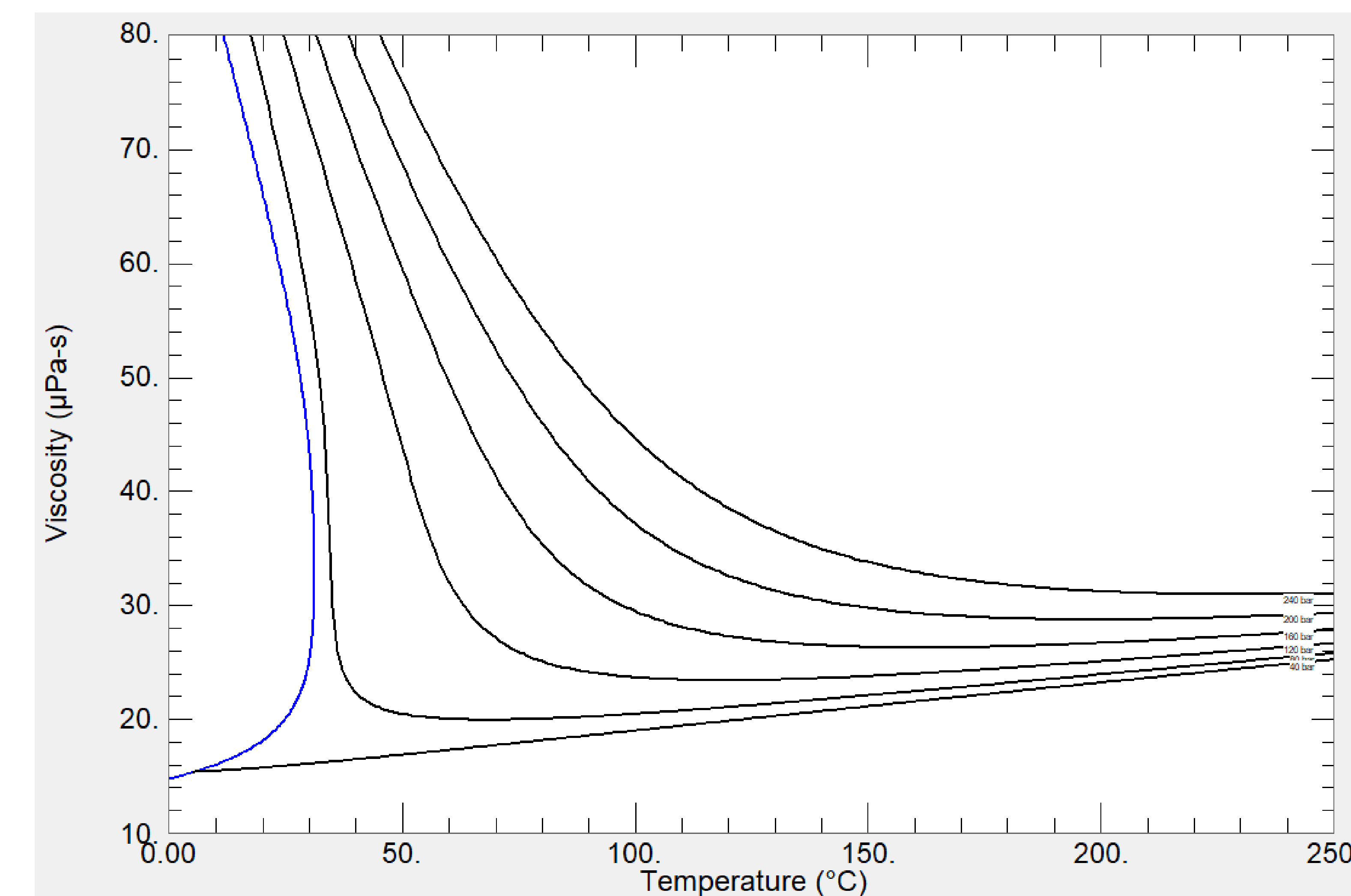
Supercritical CO₂ allows for effective heat transfer in a compact package

- High density in supercritical phase allows for low volume flow through heat exchangers.
- Low viscosity allows for increased heat transfer coefficients, reduced dP.

$$RE = \frac{\rho V D_h}{\mu}$$



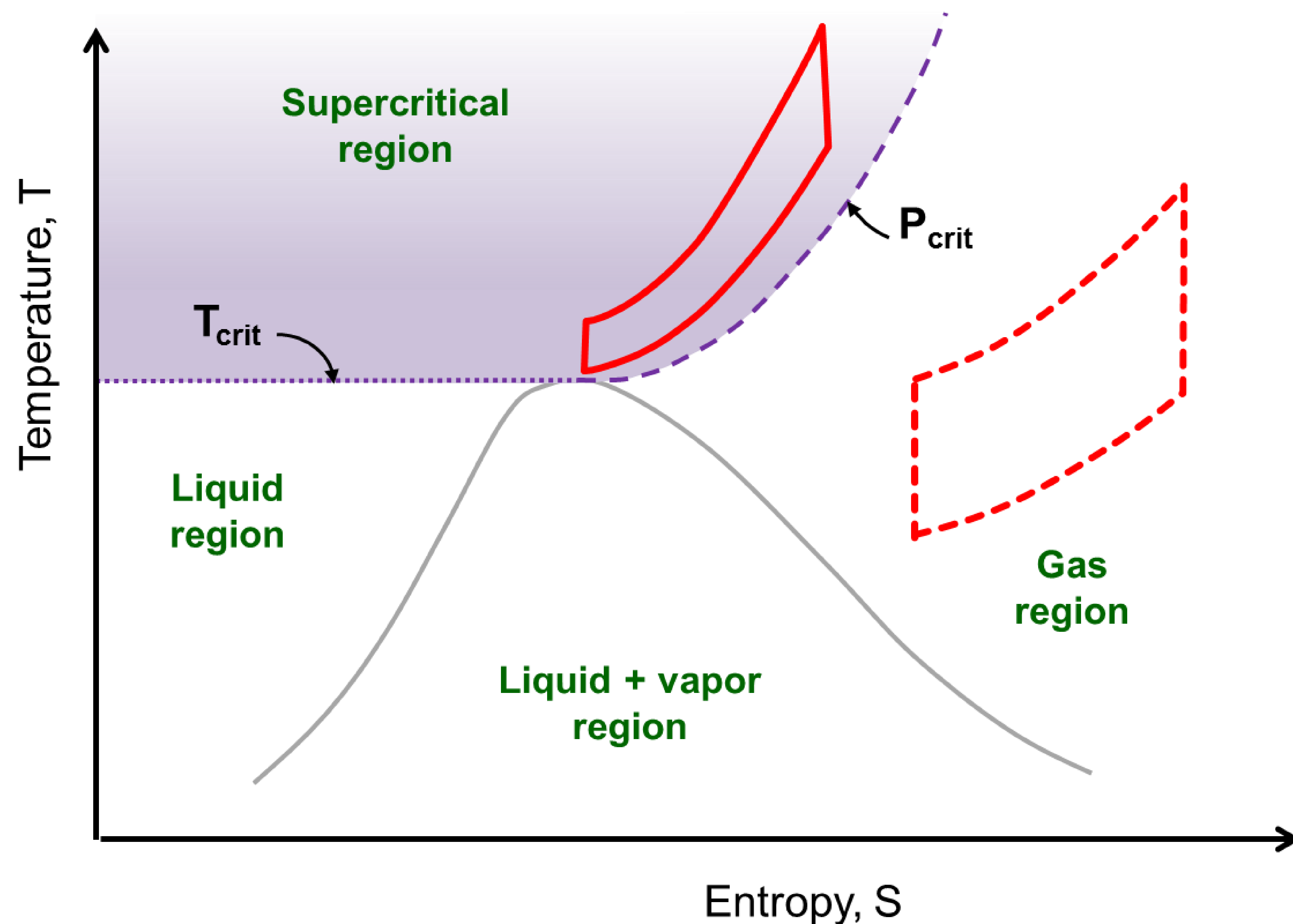
Isobars (bara):
240
200
160
120
80
40



Isobars (bara):
240
200
160
120
80
40

Source: NIST REFPROP, v9.1

Supercritical power cycles are unique in their operating region, and have flexible heat addition and rejection sources



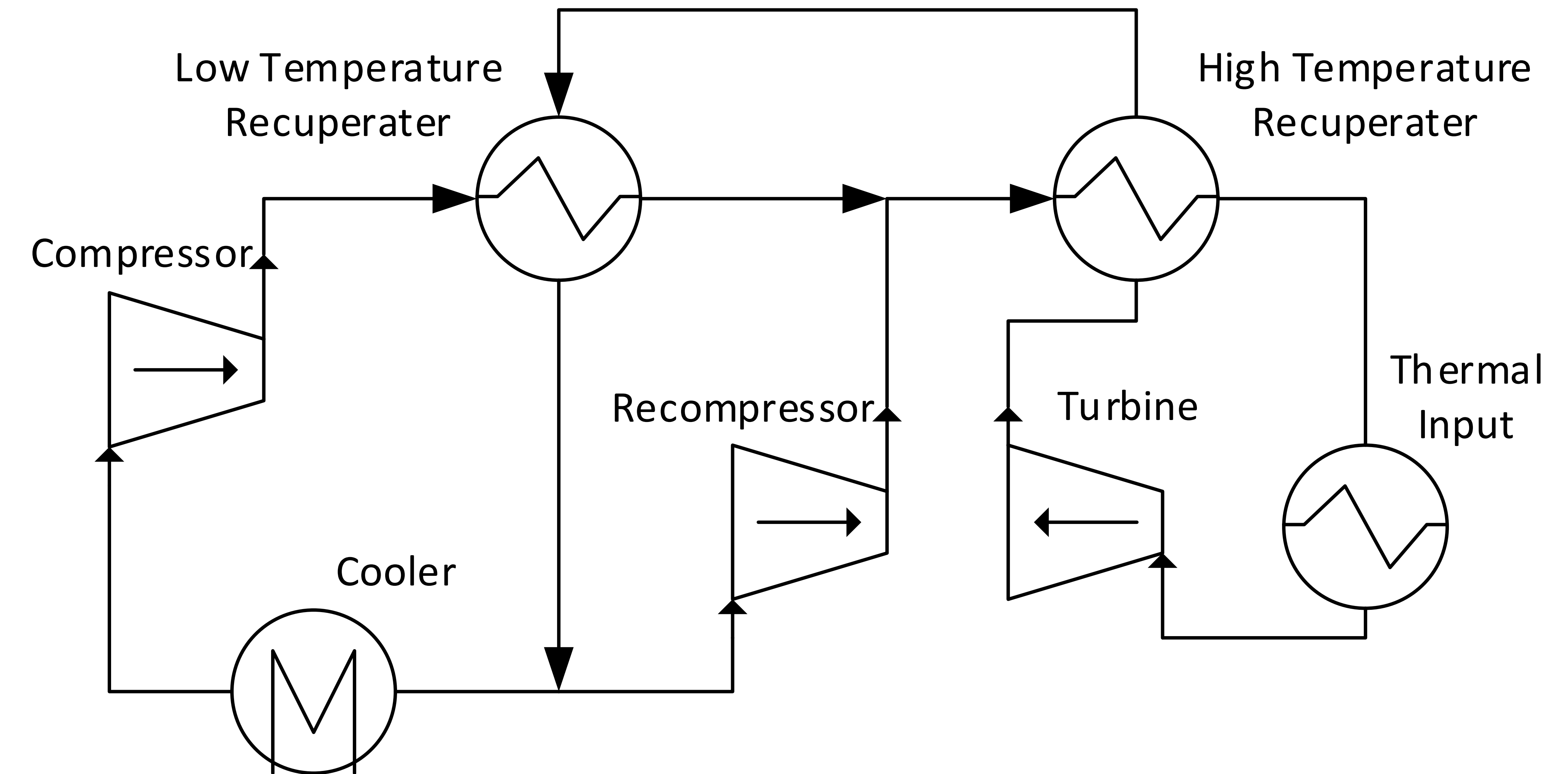
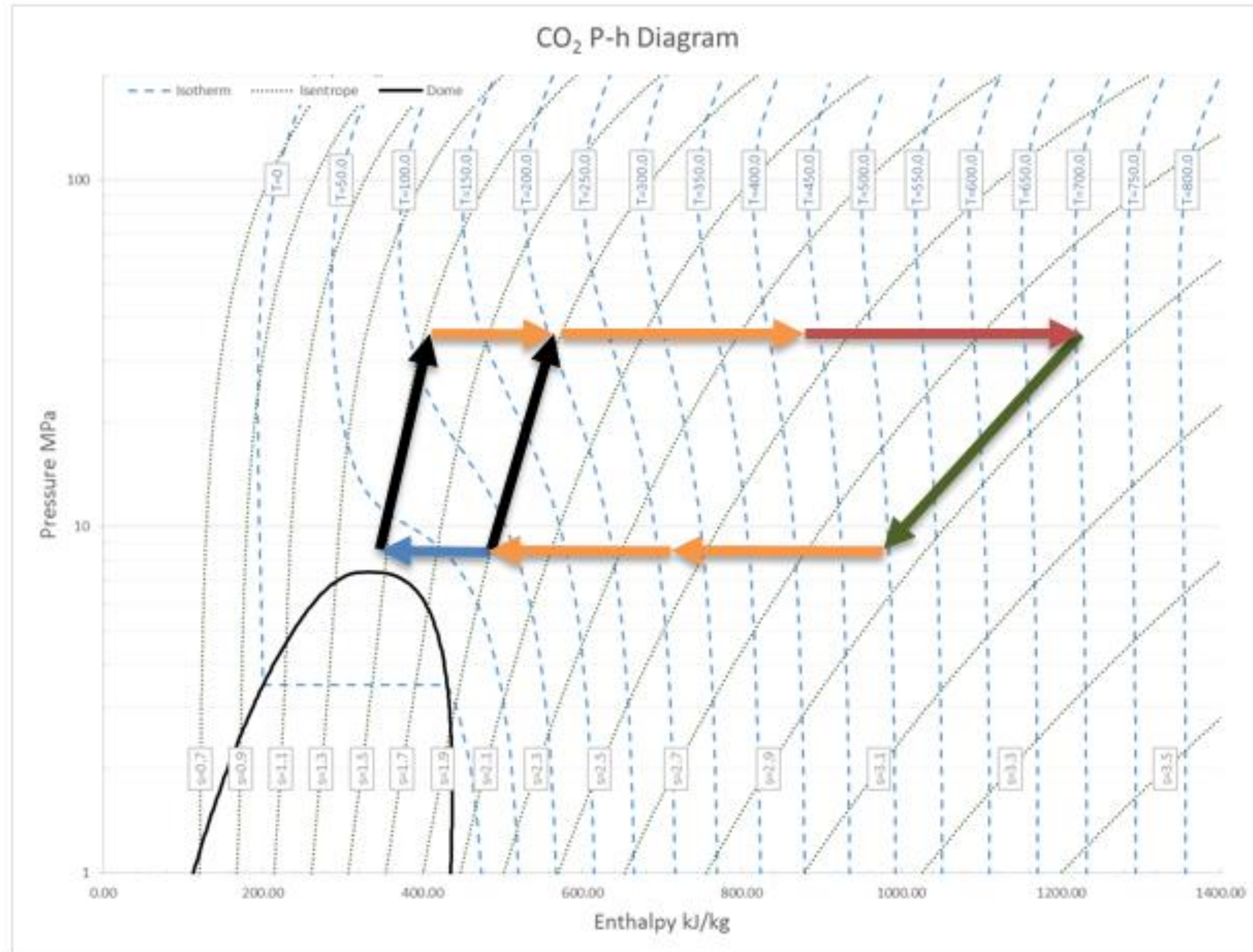
Heat Input:

- Direct-fired (oxy-combustion)
- Indirect-fired (main heat exchanger, secondary fluid from variety of sources)

Heat Rejection:

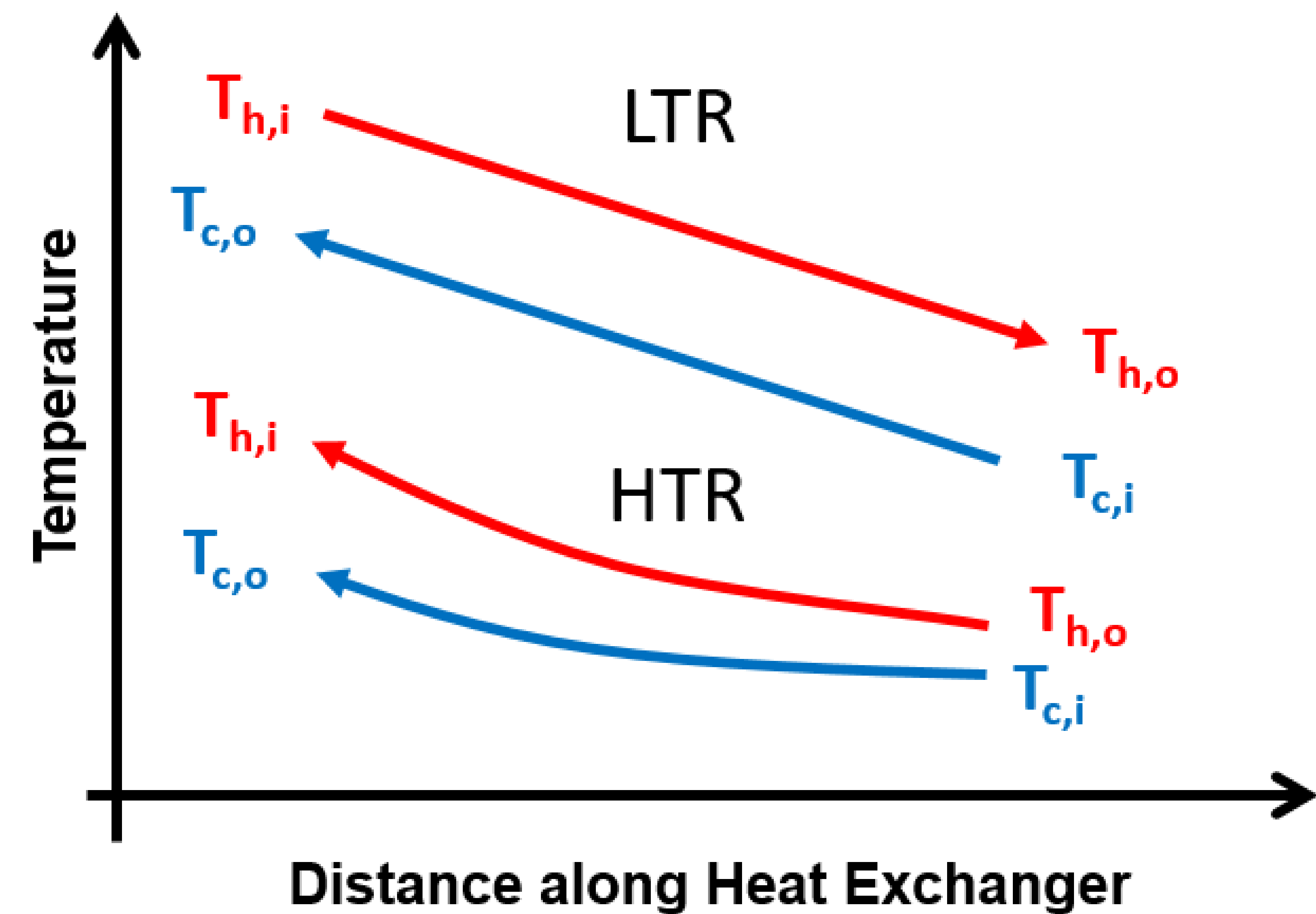
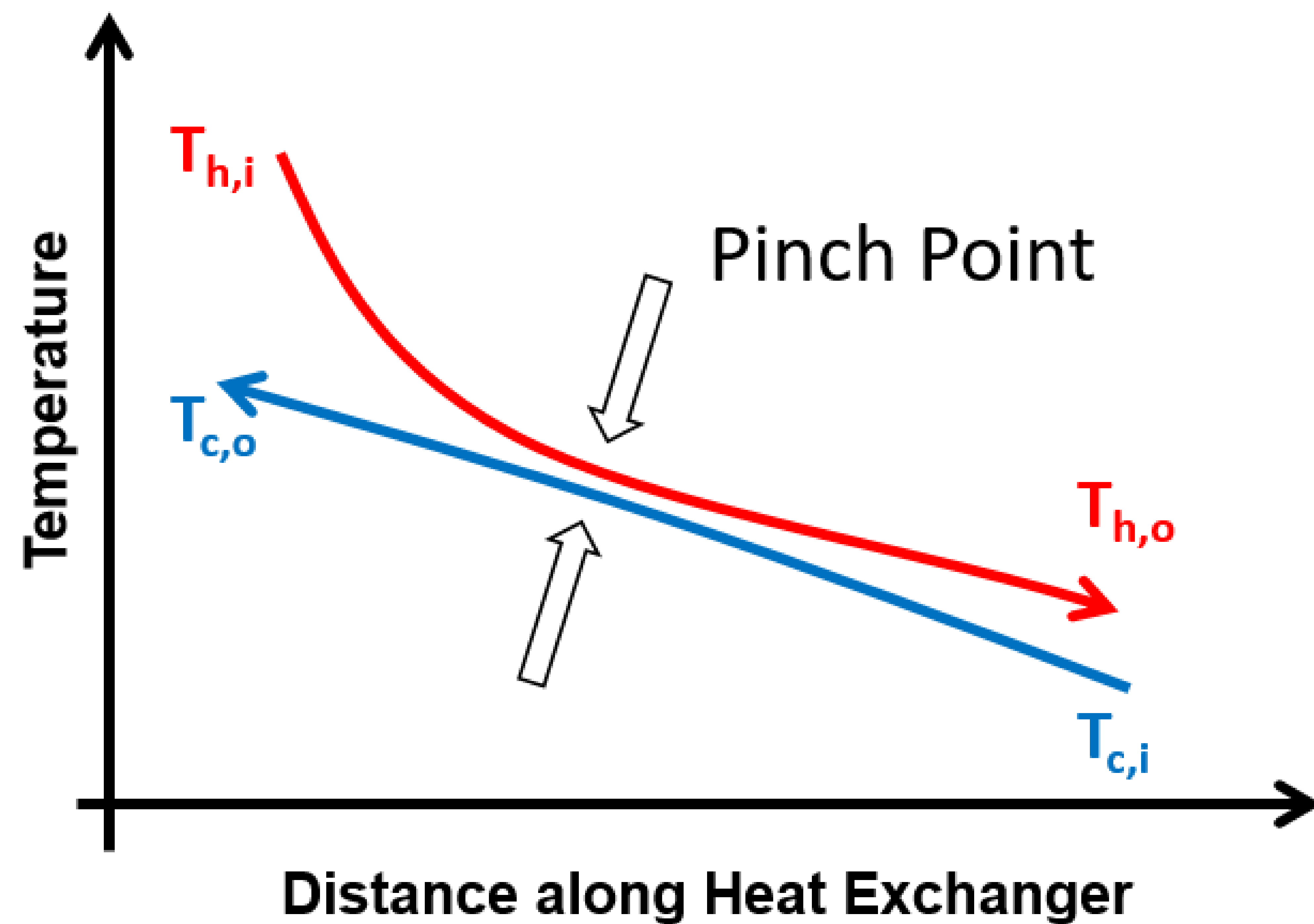
- Non-condensing: Dry (air) or water cooling.
- Condensing: Typically water cooling.

Recompression cycle is benchmark for indirect fired cycles



Main HX (Thermal Input) and Cooler can take on several forms, highly recuperated nature of cycle helps to drive up thermal efficiency.

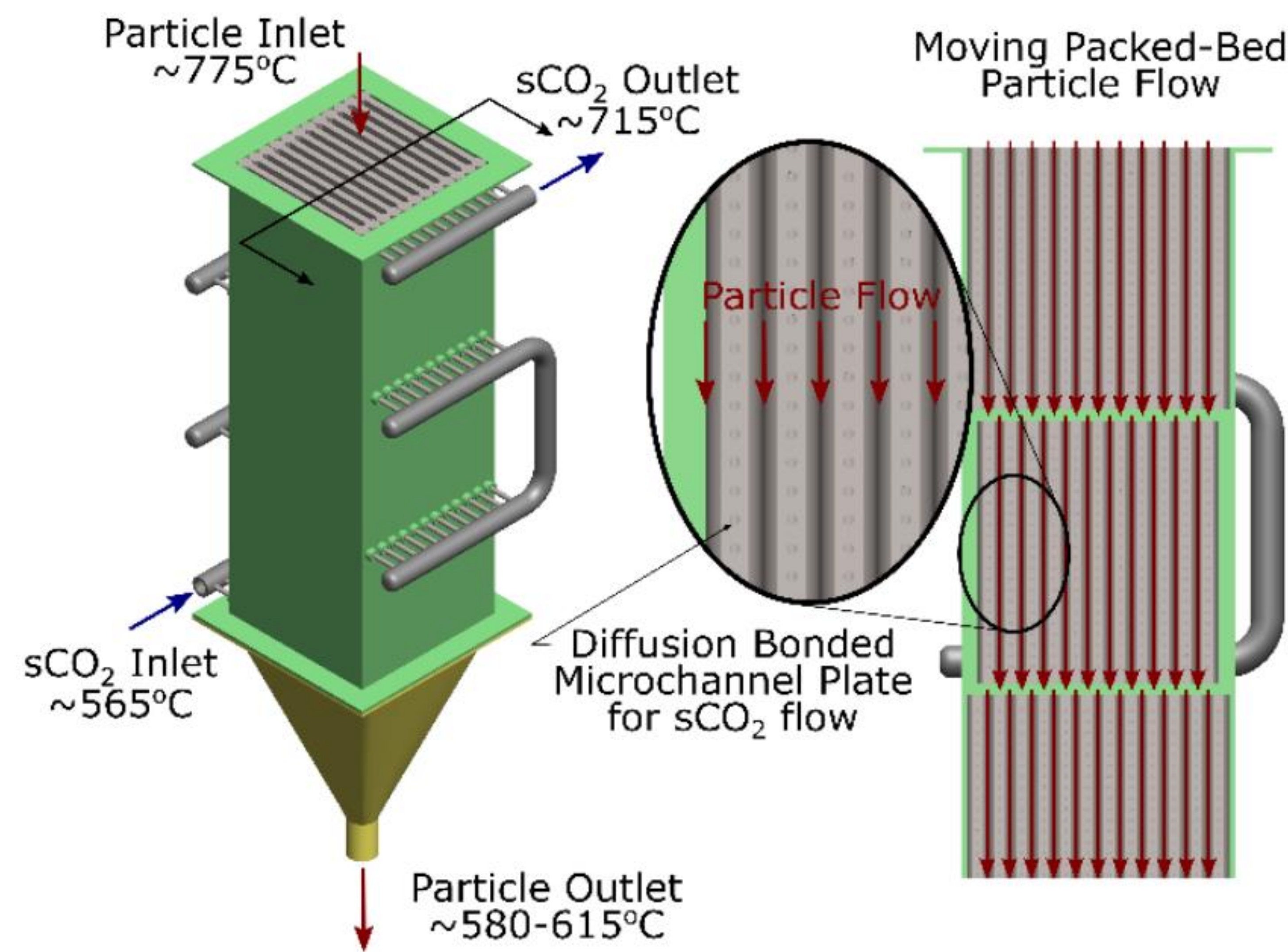
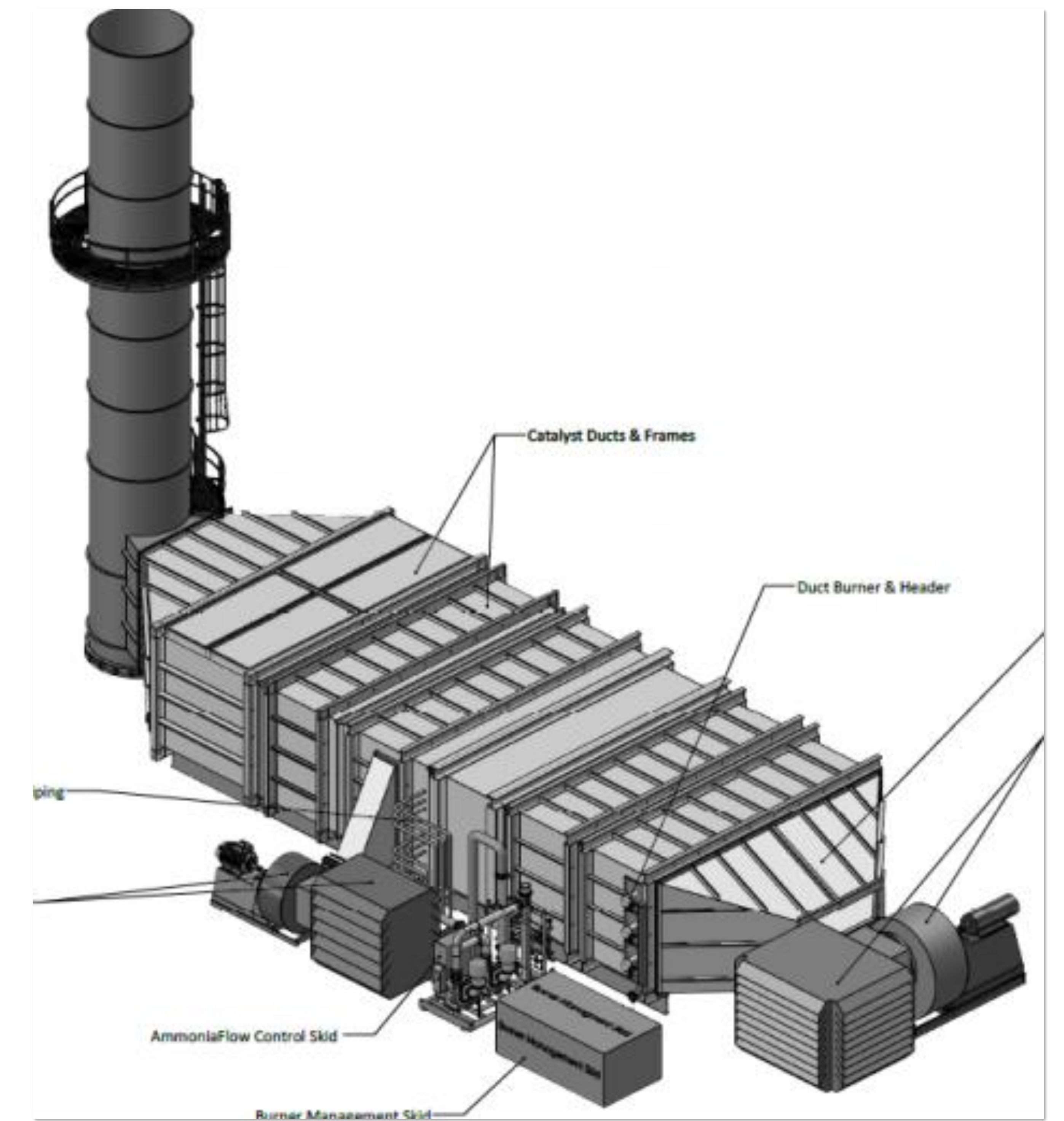
Real gas properties or phase change can create 'pinch' points in the temperature profile



Splitting recuperator into Low Temperature (LTR) and High Temperature (HTR) units and employing cycle flow splits can get around pinch point issue.

Cycle Heat Exchangers – Main Heater

- Main heater design is dependent on heat source.
- Flue gas heat exchanger designs commonly take on the form of nickel superalloy tube bundle, similar in design to HRSG.
- Other applications including CSP may use particle-to-sCO₂ heat exchanger design; nuclear applications could use conventional shell-and-tube heat exchangers.



CSP particle-to-sCO₂ HX (Albrecht, Ho, 2019)



(Figure: Southwest Thermal Technology, Inc.)

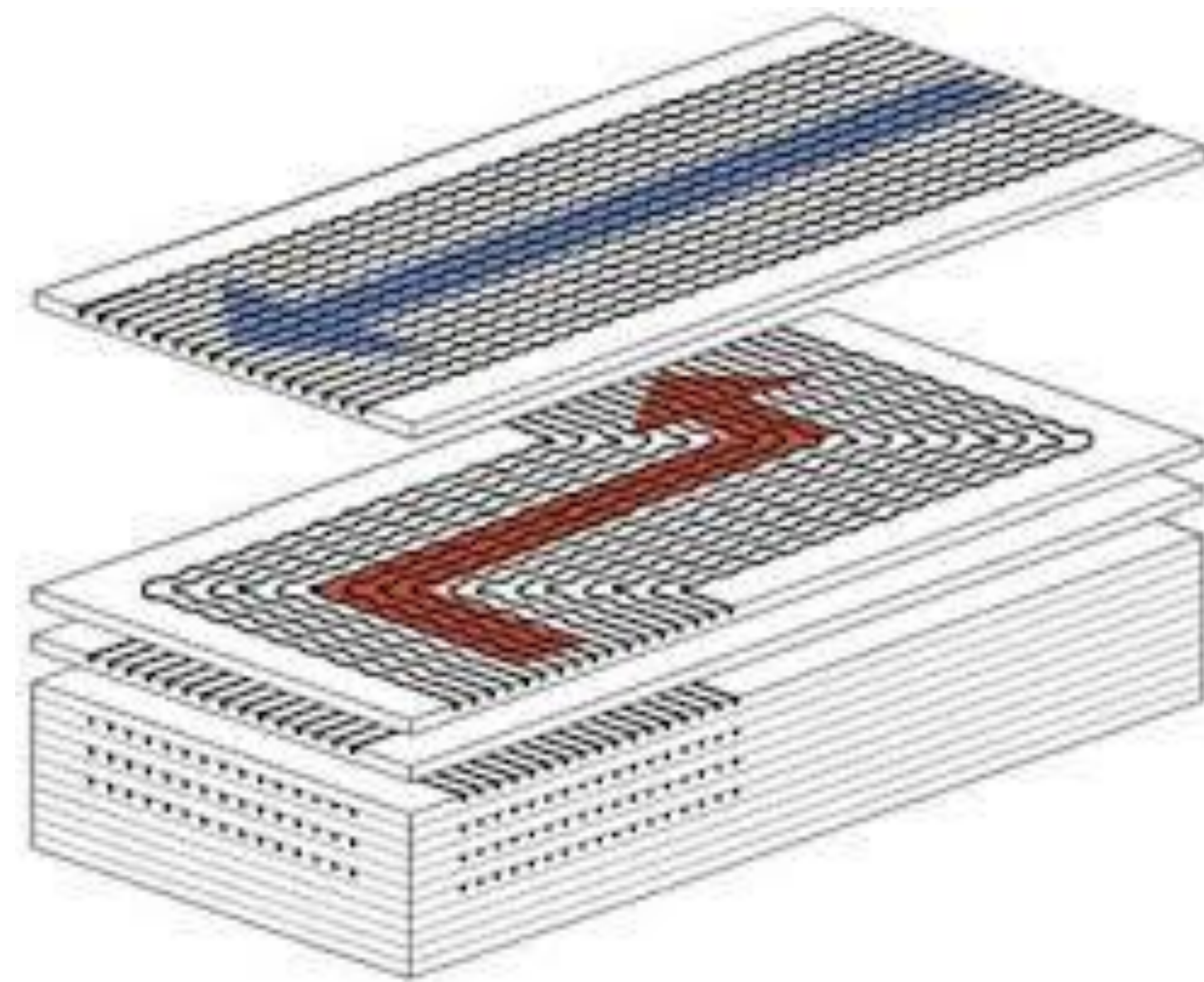


STEP 10 MWe Facility Natural Gas Fired Heater

Cycle Heat Exchangers – Recuperators

- Recuperator design seeks to maximize heat transfer surface area density for HP and LP streams.
- Printed Circuit Heat Exchangers (PCHE) use etched plates that are diffusion bonded in counterflow heat transfer.
- Proven technology for design pressures exceeding 250 bar and temperatures above 500°C.

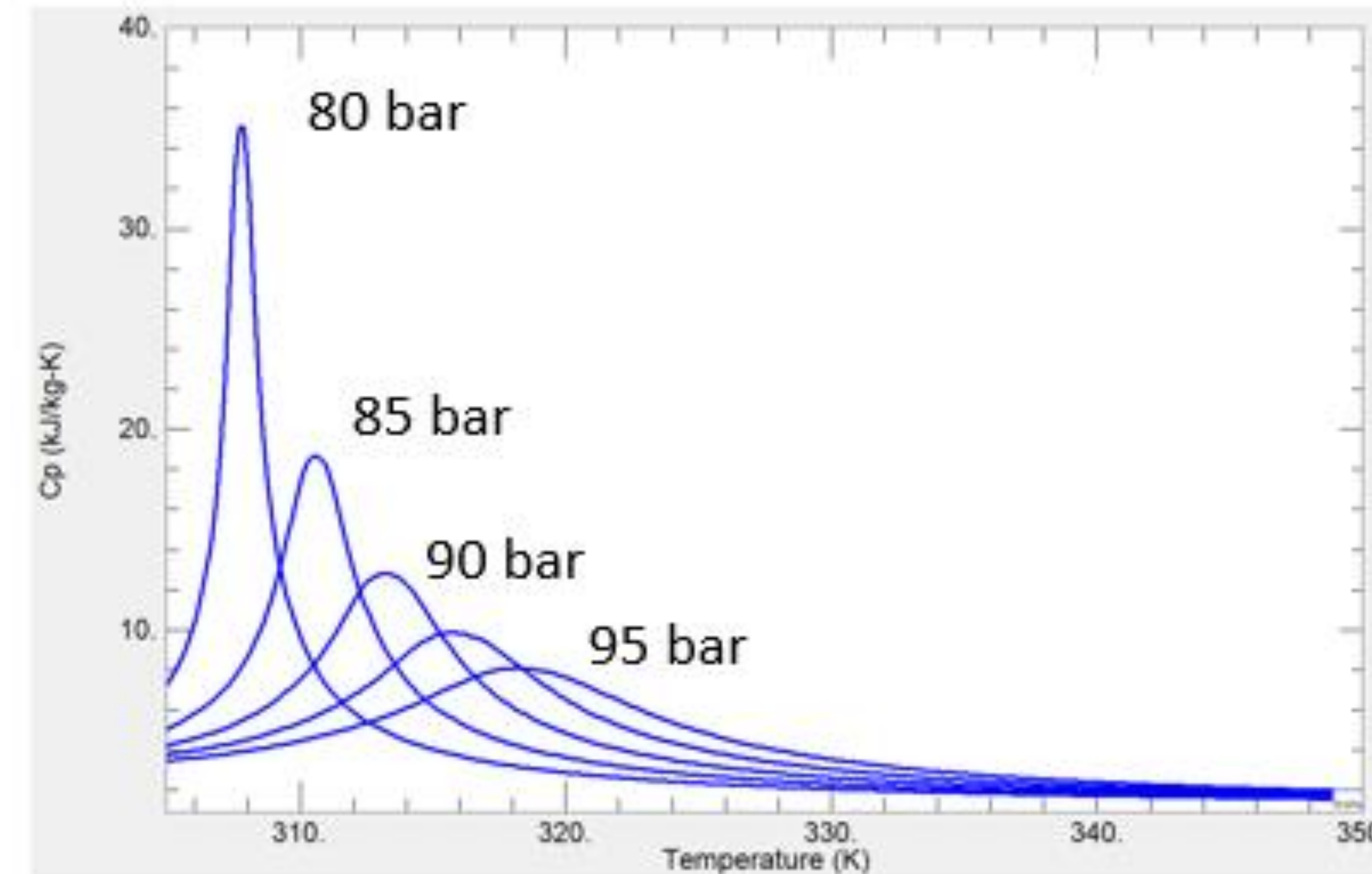
PCHE flow schematic
(Figure: Heatric)



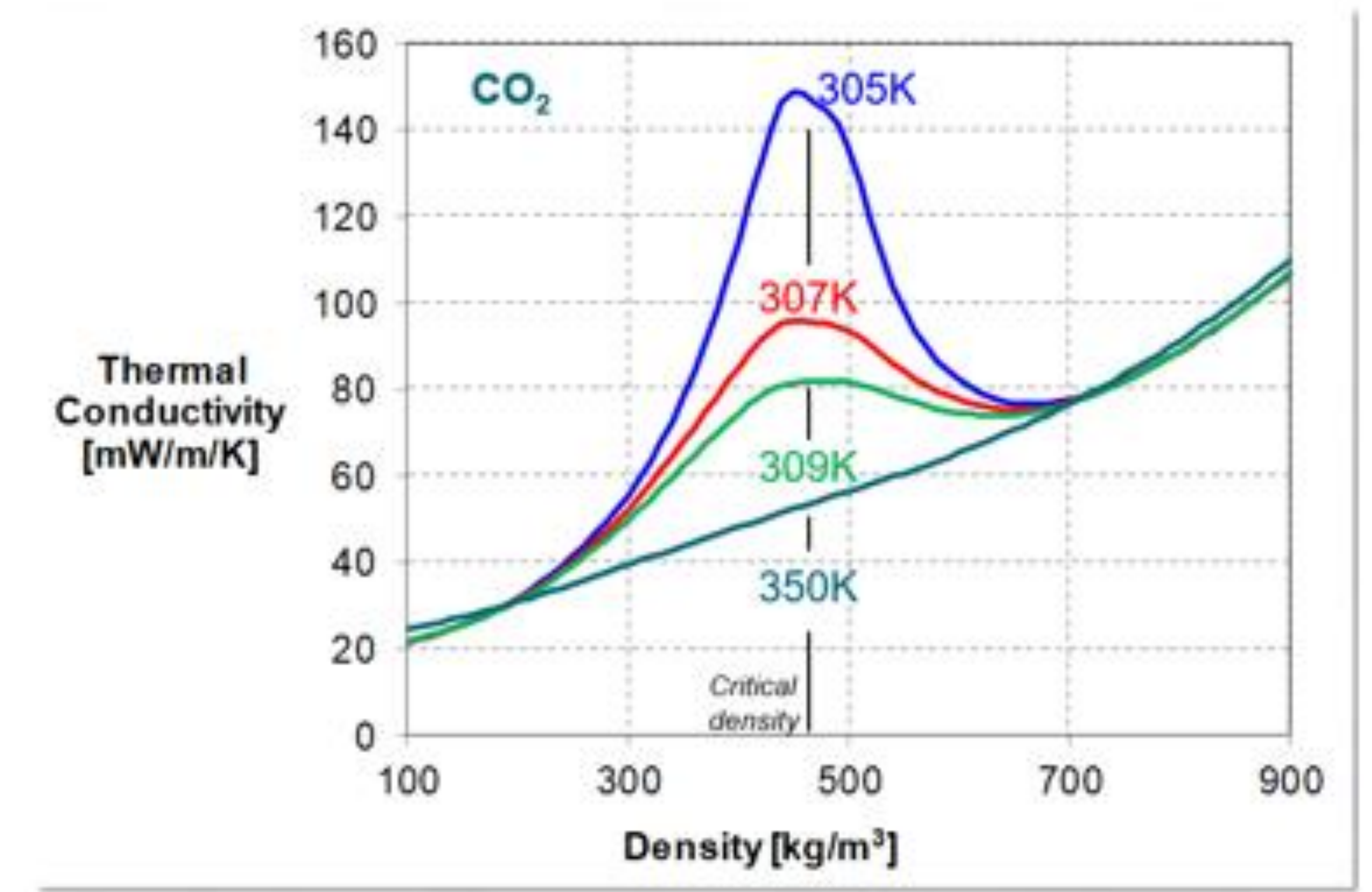
PCHE Recuperator for DOE SunShot program (VPE)

Cycle Heat Exchangers – Coolers

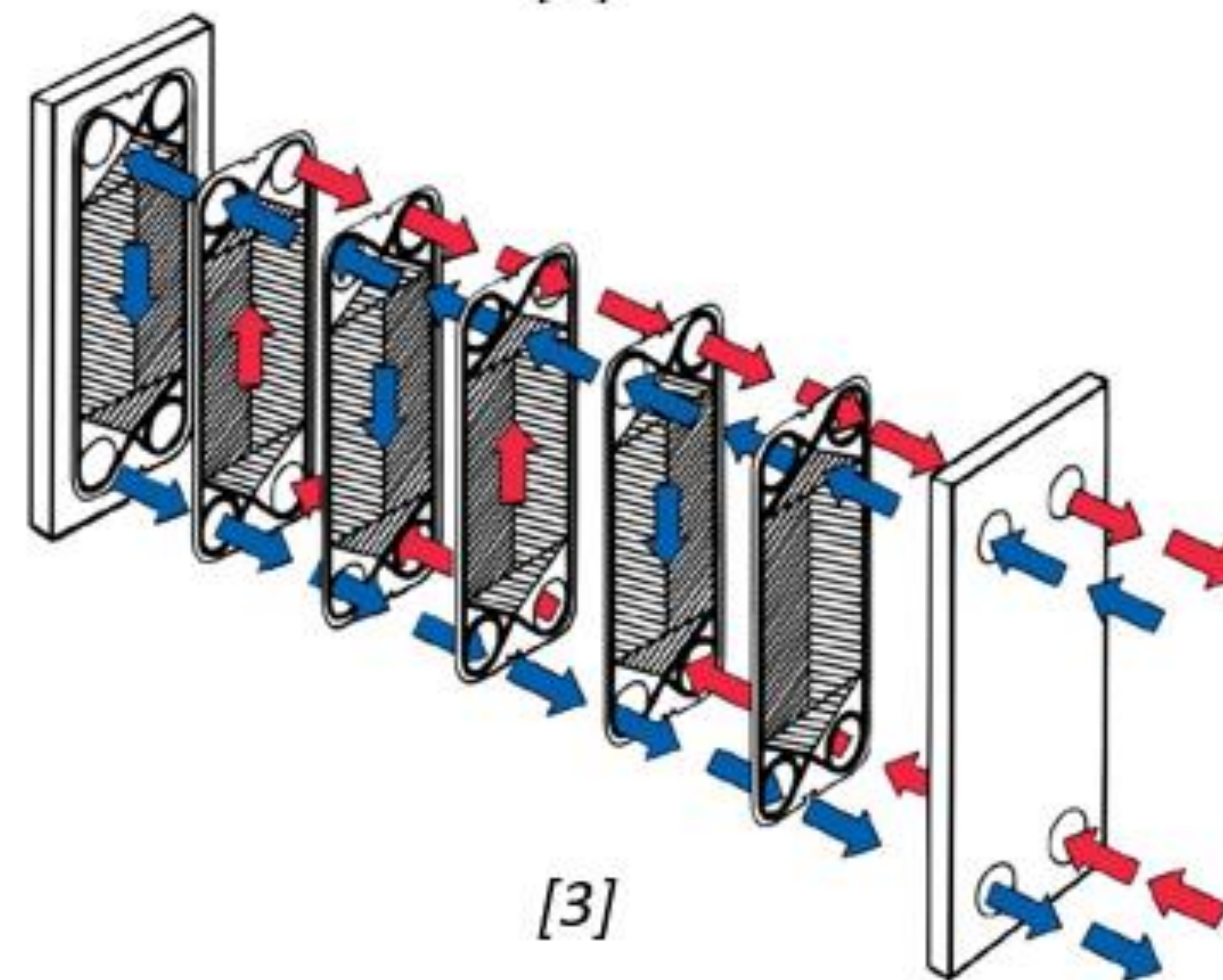
- With a critical temperature around 88°F, sCO₂ power cycles are conducive to the use of air coolers.
- Near the critical point, variation in thermal conductivity and specific heat are significant.
- Air coolers use forced convection from fans, and multiple bays can be implemented based off of duty requirements.
- Water coolers could take on a semi-welded plate heat exchanger configuration, PCHE, or shell & tube.



[1]



[2]



[3]



[4]

[1] NIST REFPROP, v9.1 [2] NIST REFPROP, v9.1
[3] Bell & Gossett ; [4] Goodway Technologies

Cycle Heat Exchangers – Additive Manufacturing

- Additive manufacturing is a prospective option for sCO₂ recuperators and coolers (water). Typically have limited build volume (kW vs. MW commercial scale).
- Two leading processes are directed energy deposition (DED) and powder bed fusion (PBF).
- DED can achieve faster build rates and specializes in building off of existing material. PBF specializes in intricate channel geometry and steep overhang angle capability.

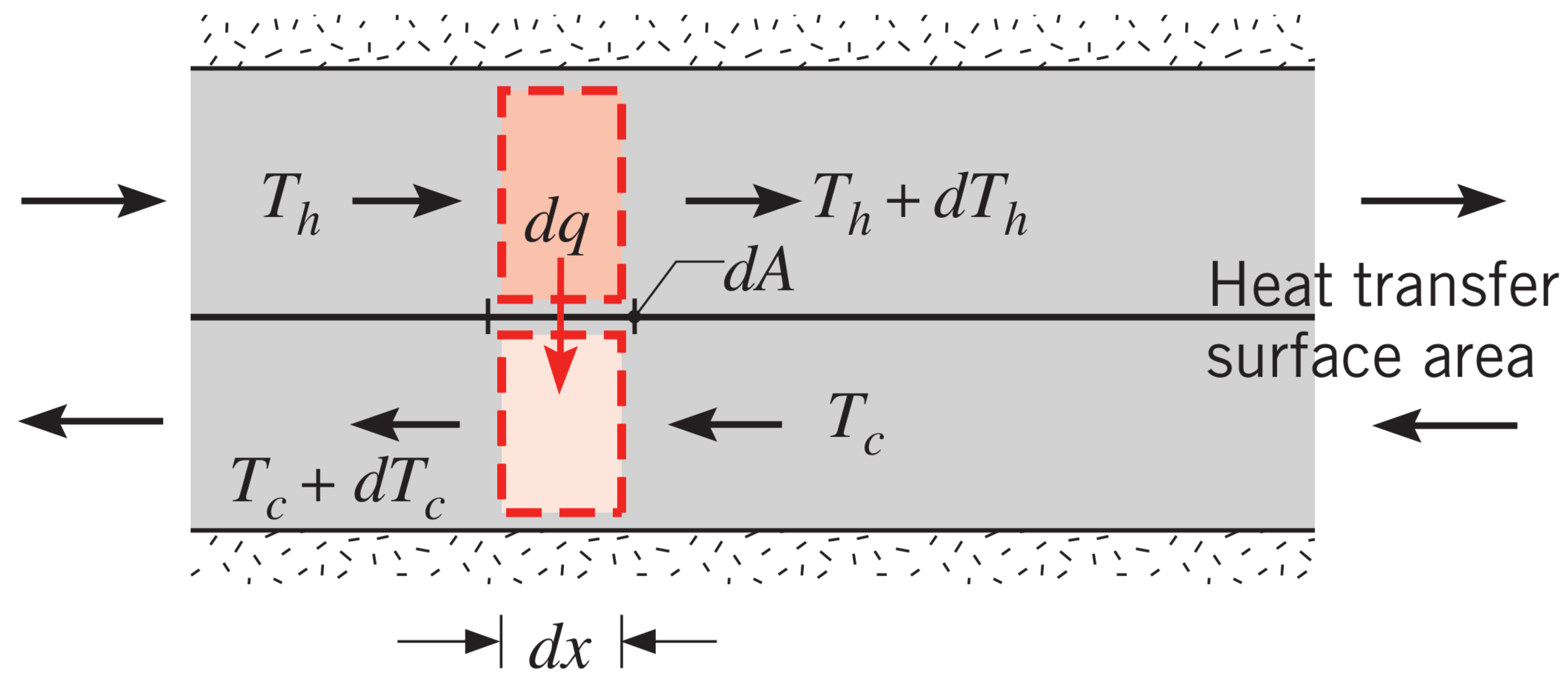


Figure: Velo3D



Figure: Trumpf

Heat Exchanger Thermal Design Overview



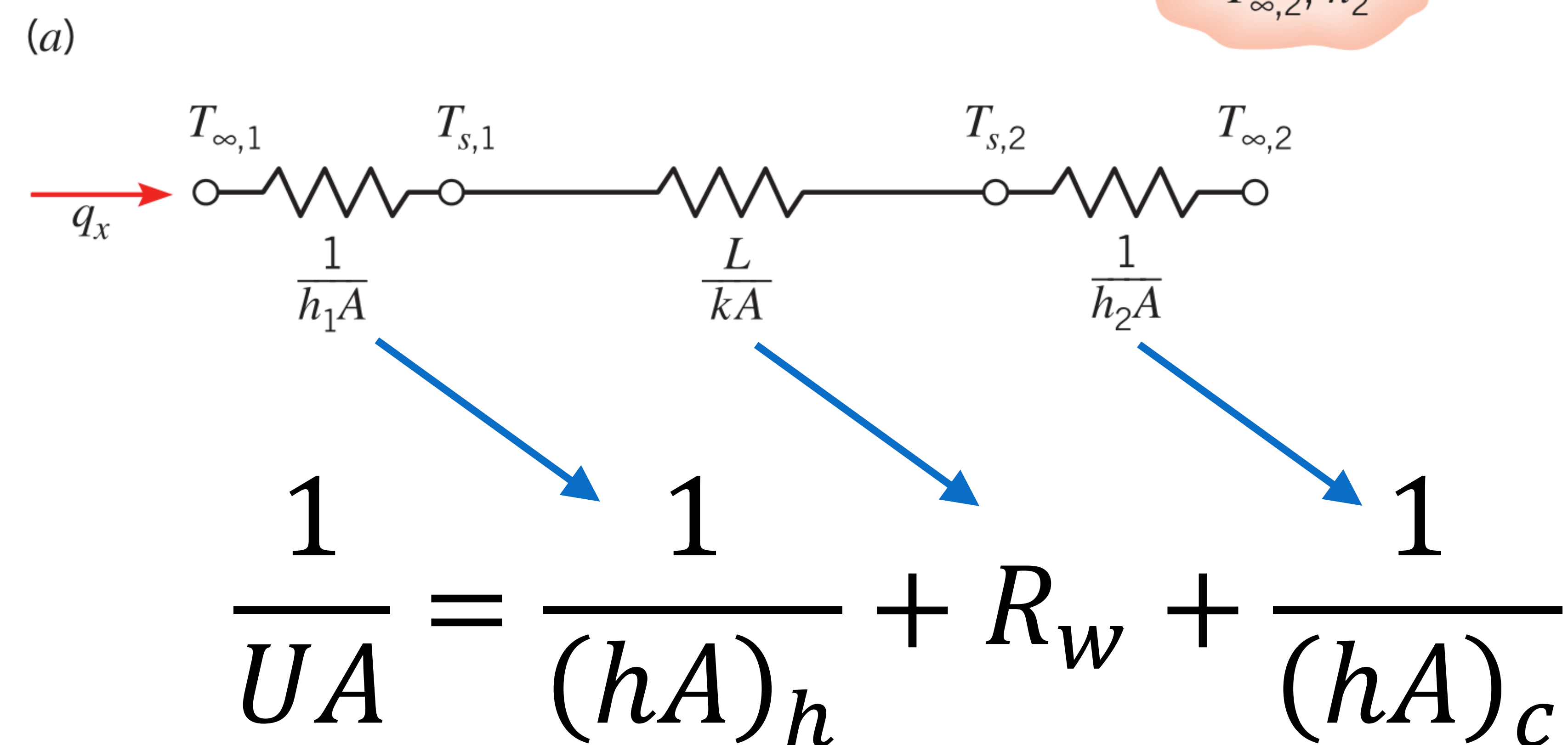
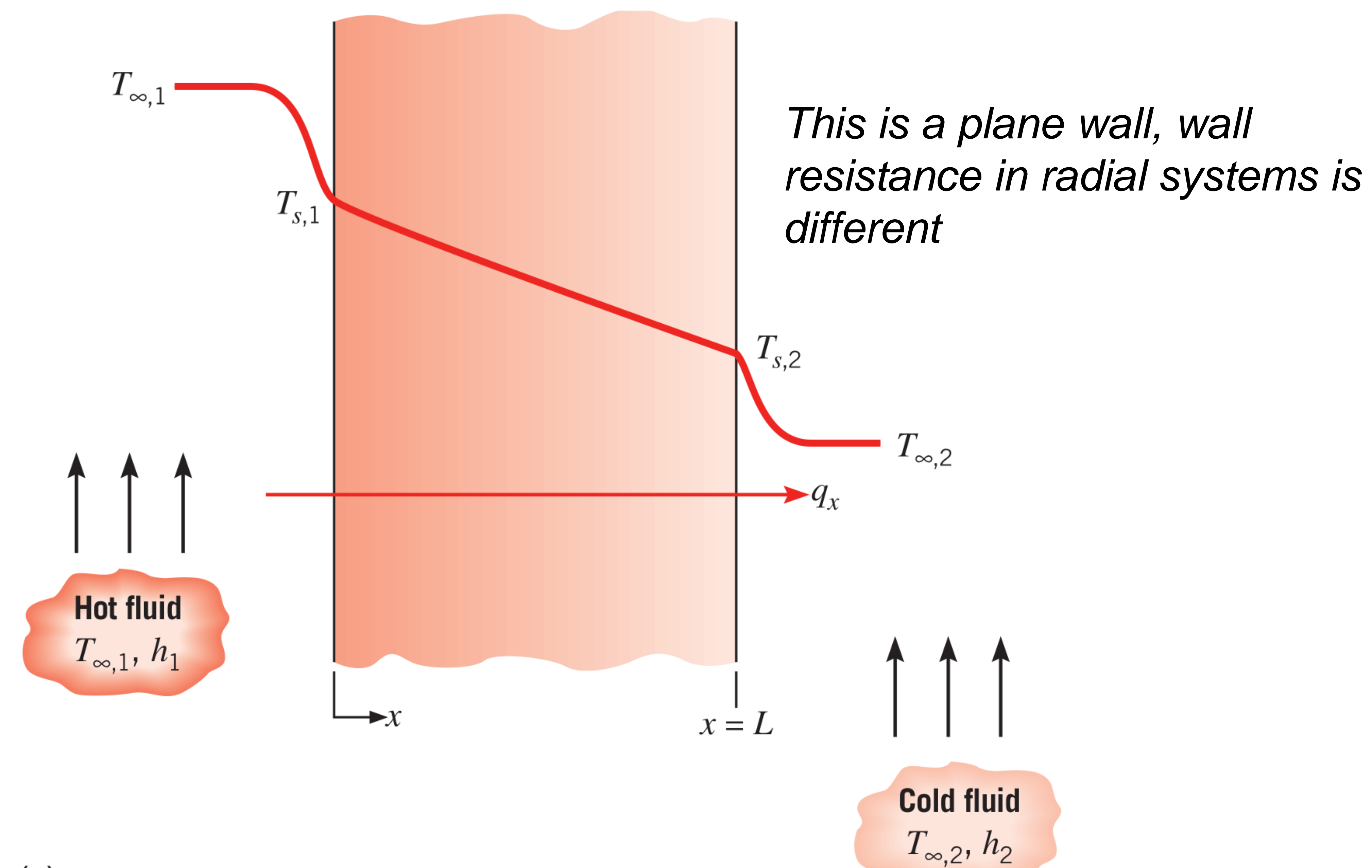
Once the cycle has established heat exchanger design conditions, detailed design can begin.

The overall approach is to determine the heat exchanger Unit Cell and correlations for HTC, DP and conduction resistance.

These data are then used in a discretized model to find the resulting heat exchanger performance using energy conservation.

Discretization is required for non-linear fluid properties. This means that overall approaches like LMTD and $\epsilon - NTU$ are not appropriate.

Overall Heat Transfer



Heat Transfer

Heat transferred from or to each fluid can be expressed as:

$$Q = UA * \Delta T$$

In this equation ΔT is the driving temperature difference between the hot and cold sides of the exchanger.


UA comes from a 1D heat resistance network connecting the hot and cold sides.

Figure: Incropera, Dewitt, *Fundamentals of Heat and Mass Transfer*.

Fluid Heat Transfer

$$Nu_D = \frac{(f/8)(Re_D - 1000) Pr}{1 + 12.7(f/8)^{1/2} (Pr^{2/3} - 1)}$$

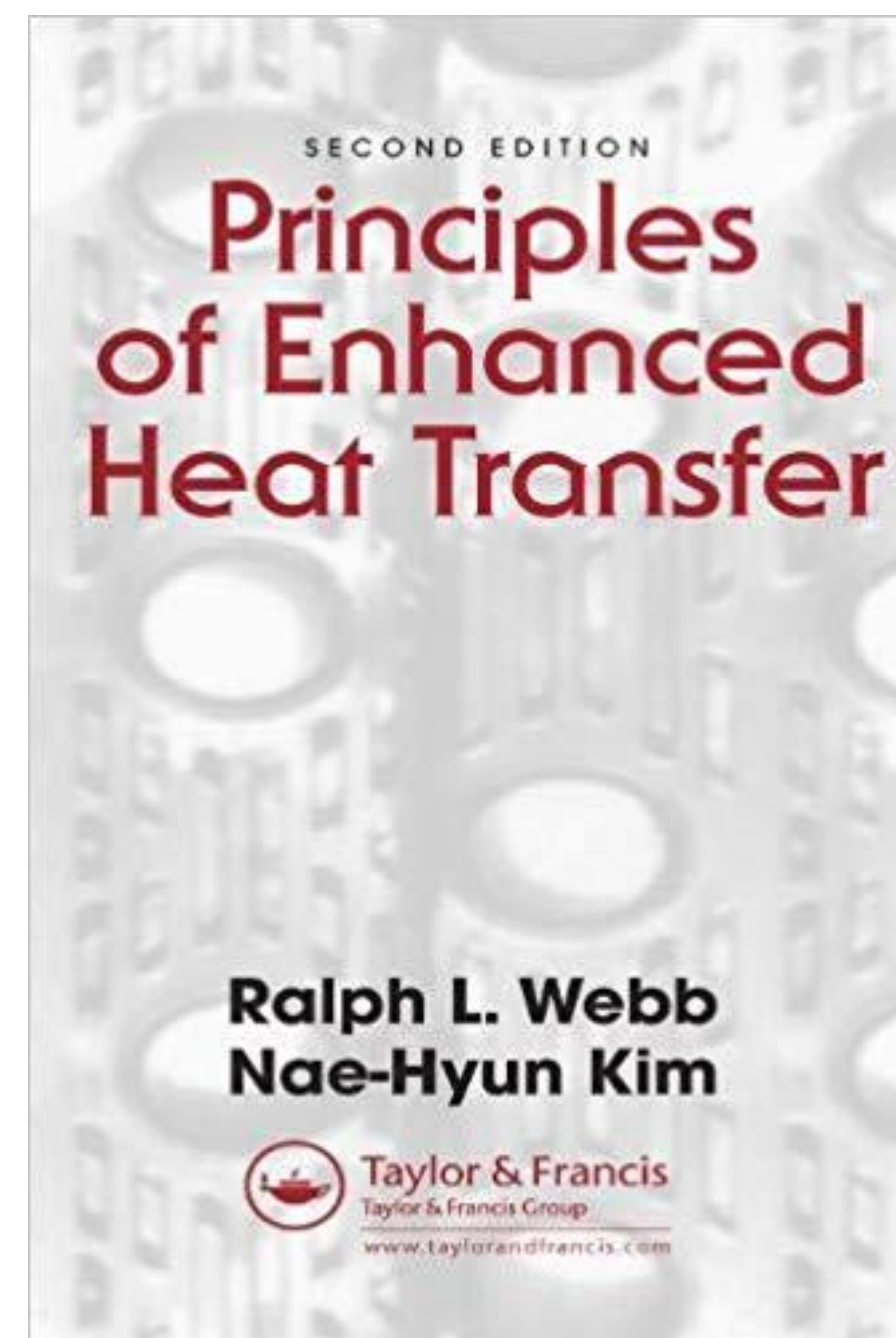
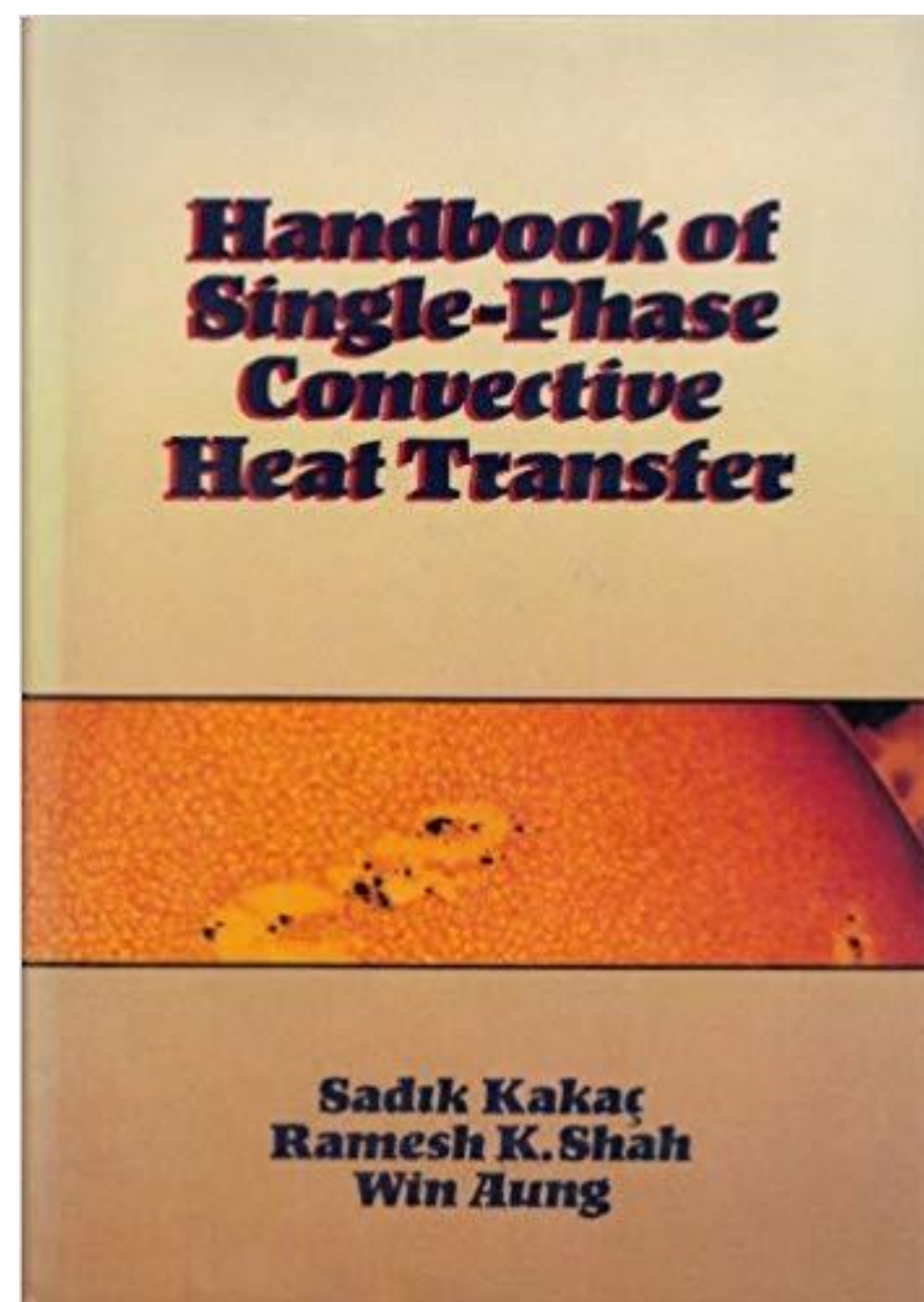
Gnielinski correlation for smooth wall, fully developed turbulent flow in a pipe ($0.5 < Pr < 2000$ and $3000 < Re < 5e6$)

$$\frac{1}{UA} = \frac{1}{(hA)_h} + R_w + \frac{1}{(hA)_c}$$


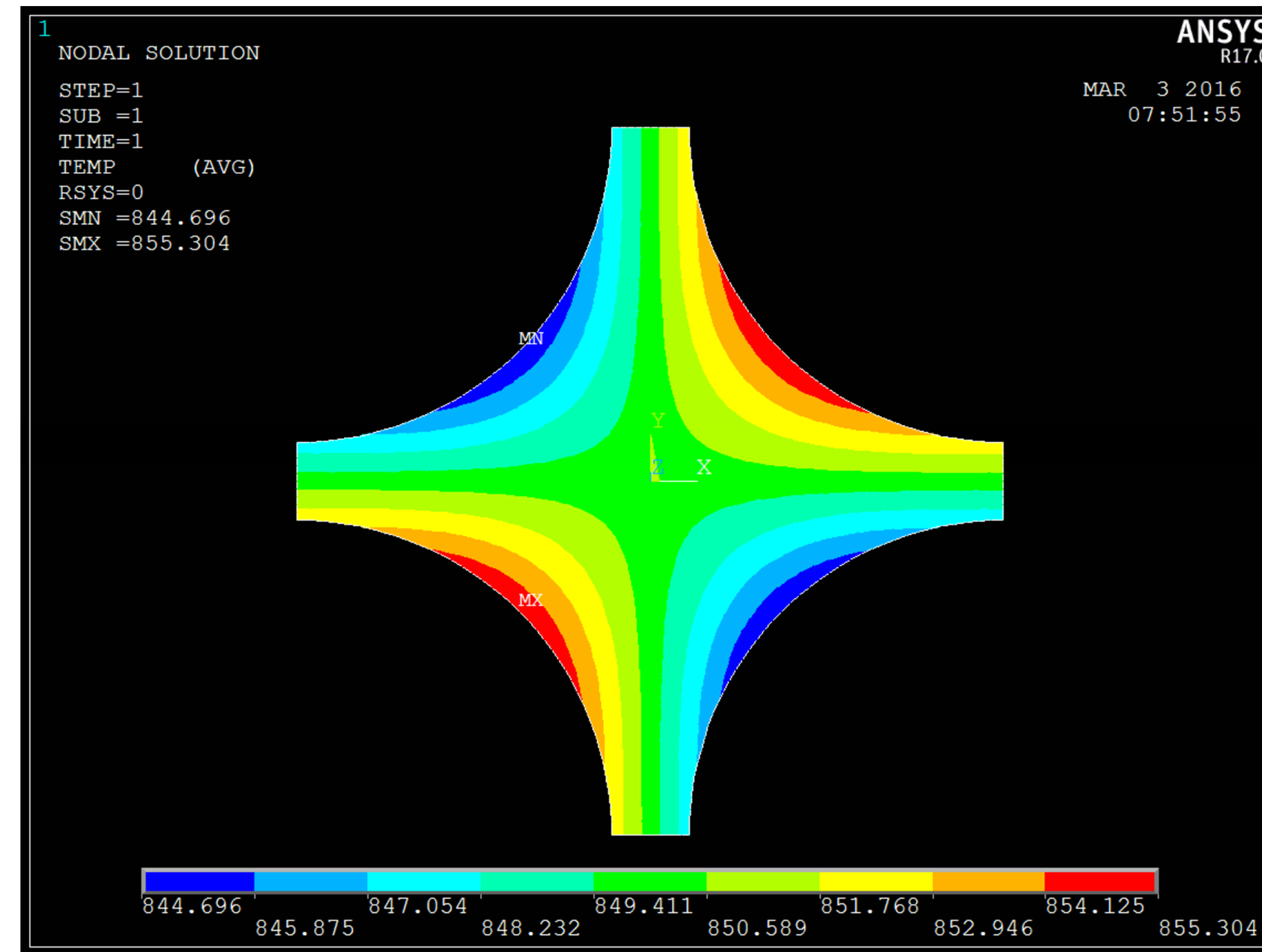
To calculate the required UA term we need the hot and cold side heat transfer coefficients. These can be derived from experiments, CFD, or from correlations.

Experiments or experimentally derived correlations are most accurate but are geometry dependent.

- Channel shape?
- Channel surface roughness?
- Entry lengths?
- Phase?
- Fin area?
- Close enough?
- Hydraulic diameter?



Wall Resistance

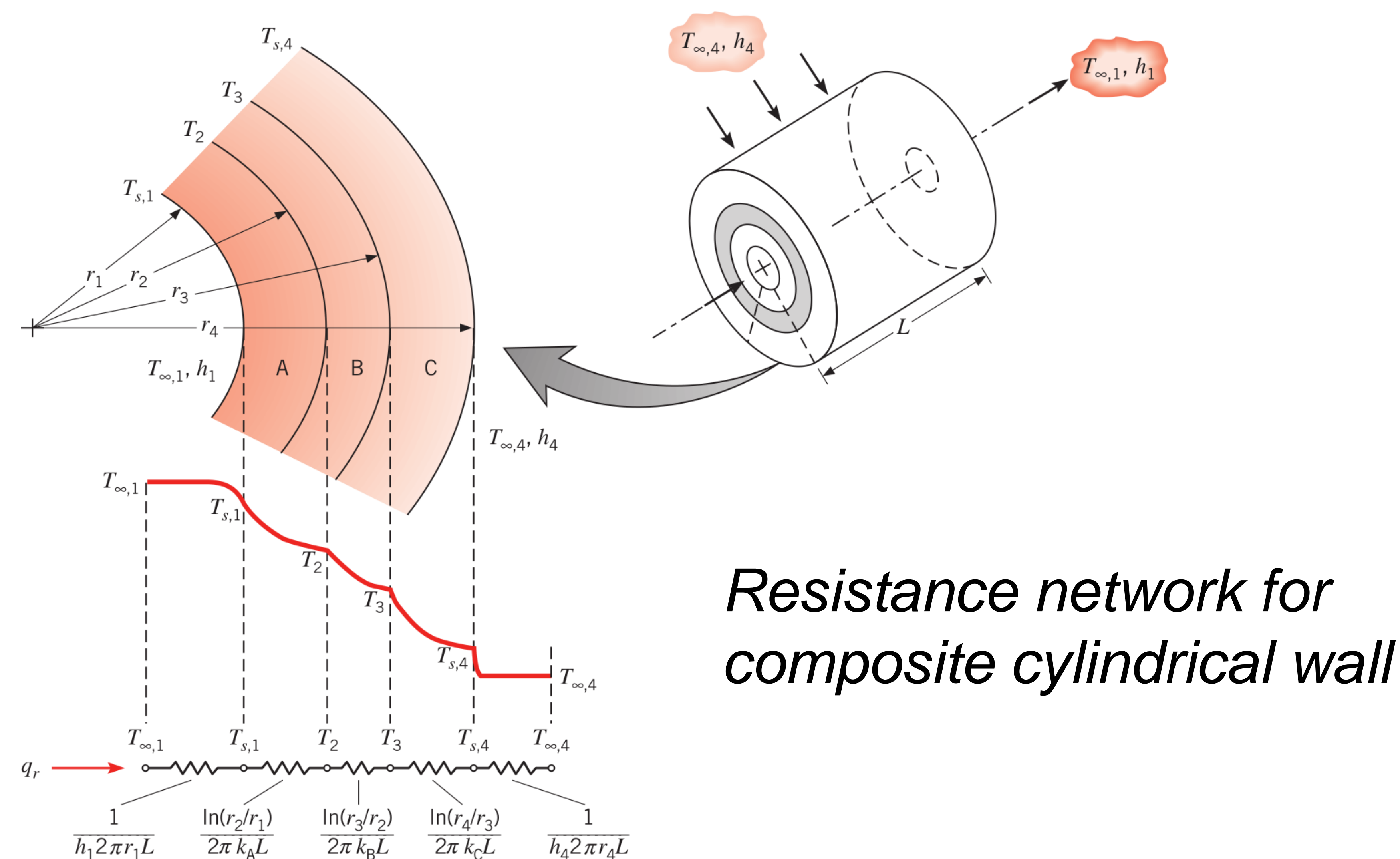


$$\frac{1}{UA} = \frac{1}{(hA)_h} + R_w + \frac{1}{(hA)_c}$$

Wall resistance inhibits heat flow between the fluids. The value of R_w can be obtained from FEA, analytically, or from experiment.

Experiments or experimentally derived correlations are most accurate but are geometry dependent.

FEA used to calculate equivalent wall resistance for checkerboard circular channels



Configuration	UA per m	Percent
No wall resistance	26.632	100.0
Equivalent Plane Wall	25.381	95.30
Checkerboard	24.57	92.25
Staggered	21.90	82.23

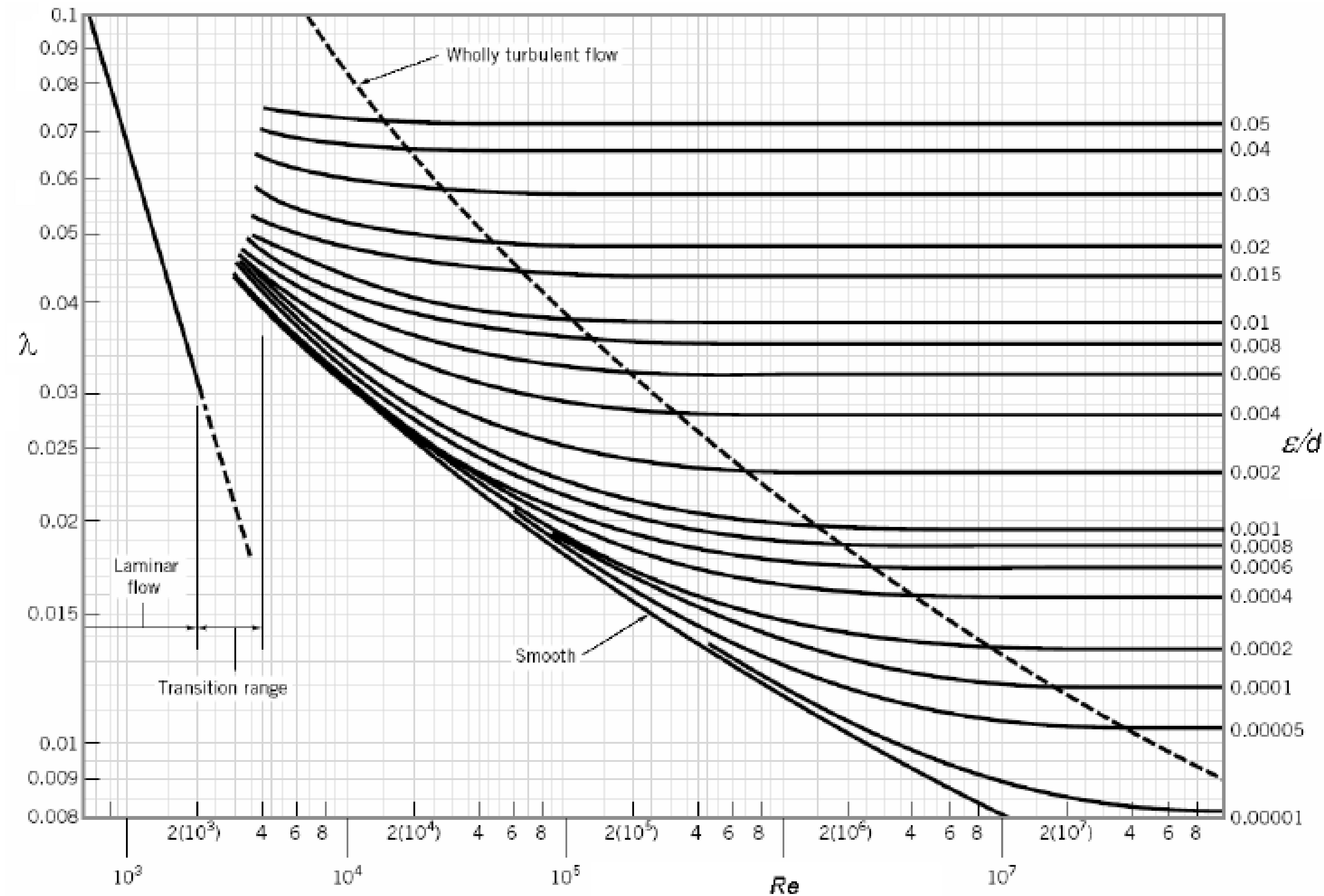
Pressure drop

Pressure drop changes fluid properties and also affects cycle. Relationships for pressure drop can be derived experimentally or from correlations.

For flow through a tube:

$$DP = f\left(\frac{l}{D}\right)\left(\frac{\rho V^2}{2}\right)$$

f is a function of surface roughness, diameter, and RE through the Moody chart (Colebrook equation)



Moody Chart

Source: Munson, et. al. *Fundamentals of Fluid Mechanics*.

Energy Conservation

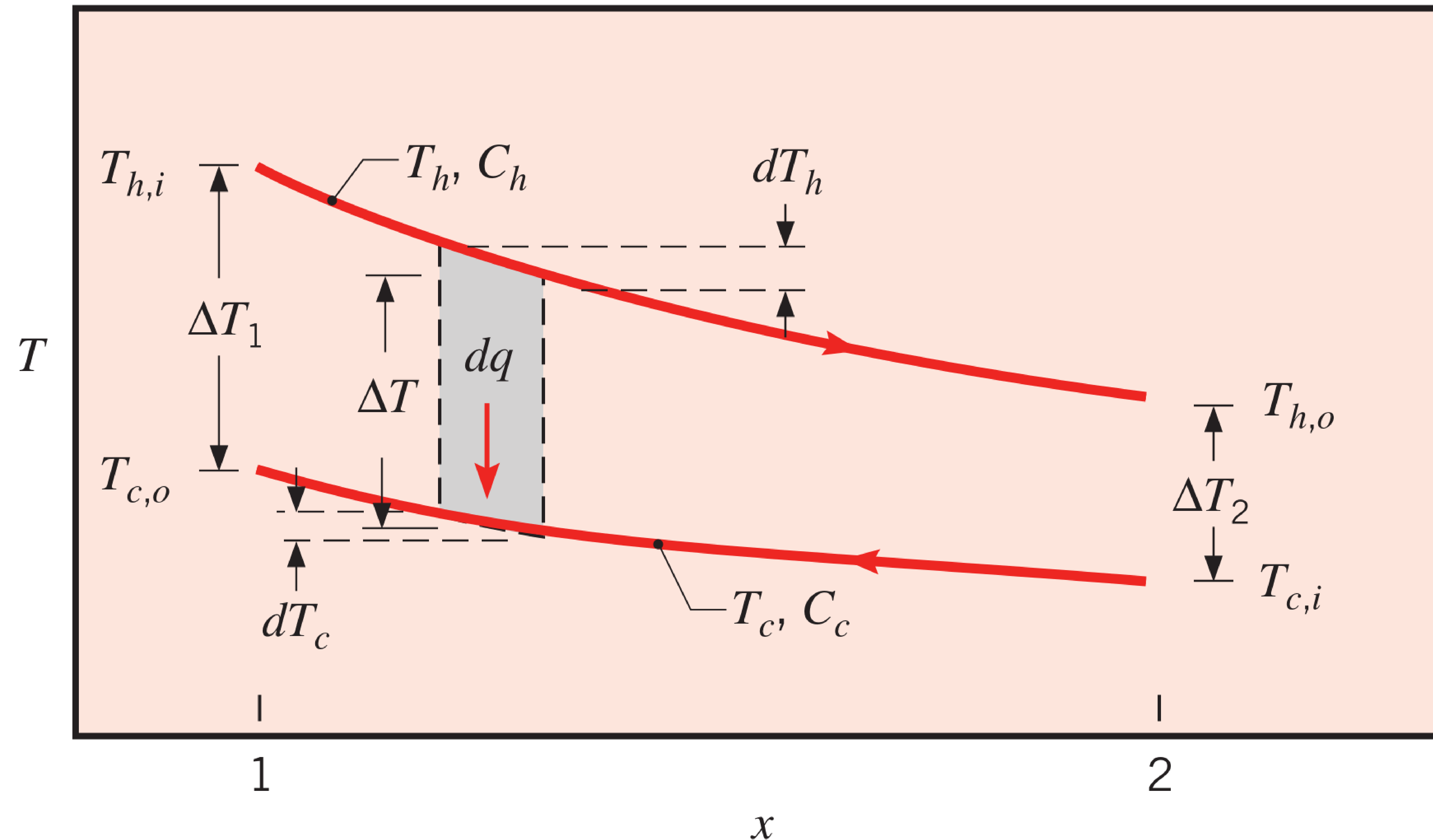


Figure: Incropera, Dewitt, *Fundamentals of Heat and Mass Transfer*.

Energy conservation

Heat transferred from or to each fluid is equal to the enthalpy change of the respective fluid.

$$Q = UA * \Delta T = \dot{m} * \Delta h$$

Using a robust fluid property package means you don't need to rely on linearizing assumptions (Specific heat).

Solver

Combine all equations and solve. The problem?

Heat transfer changes fluid properties which changes heat transfer which changes fluid properties and pressure drop. *Solution is iterative.*

Strategy:

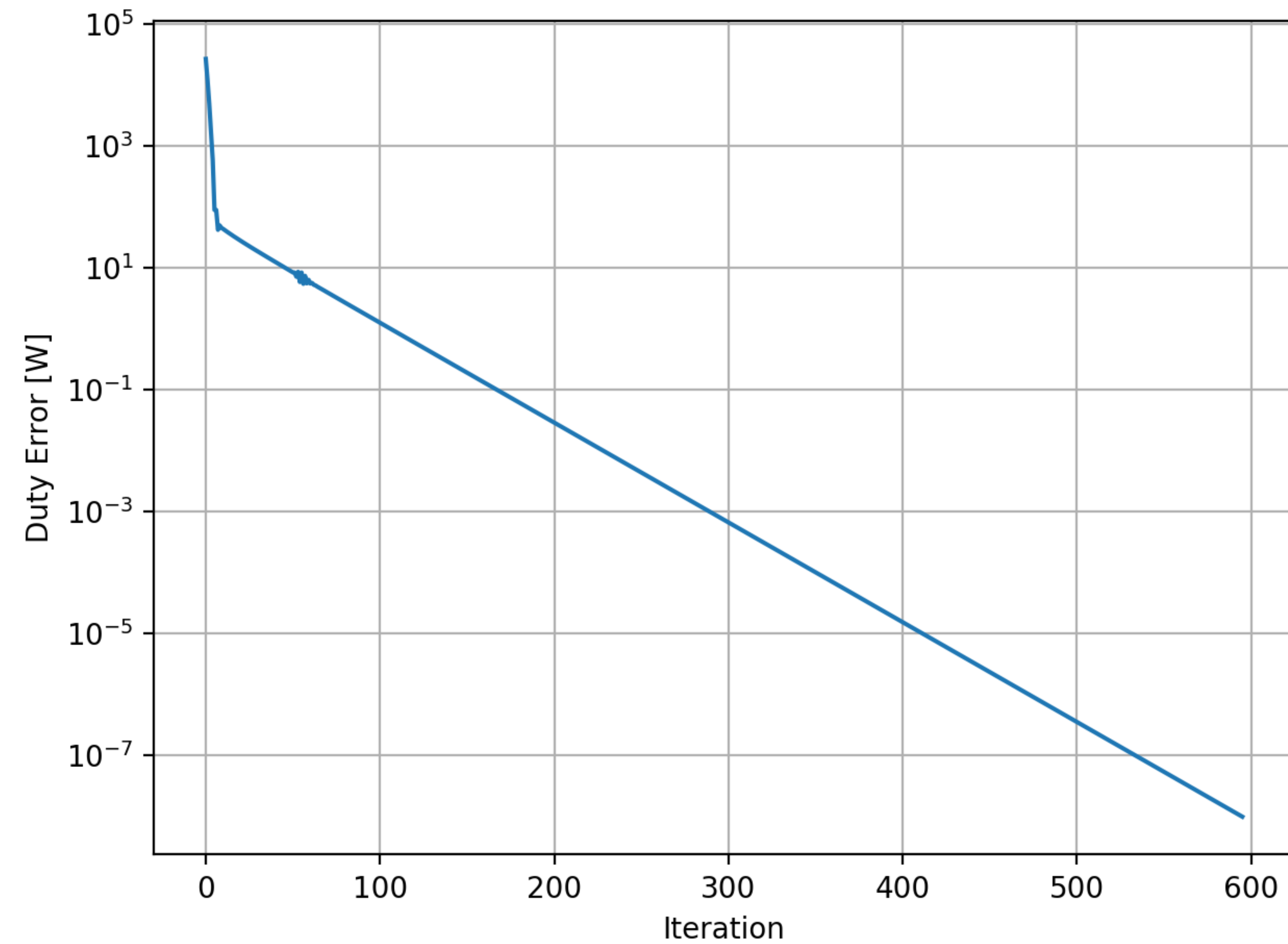
- Divide heat exchanger into divisions
- Guess initial temperature distribution

In each division

- Calculate heat transfer and pressure drop on both hot and cold sides
- Calculate overall UA
- Calculate exit enthalpy (enforce conservation)
- Update fluid properties
- Go through each division and repeat until converged.

Most of computational effort is spent calculating fluid properties and solving Colebrook equation. Tabulation and approximations can help.

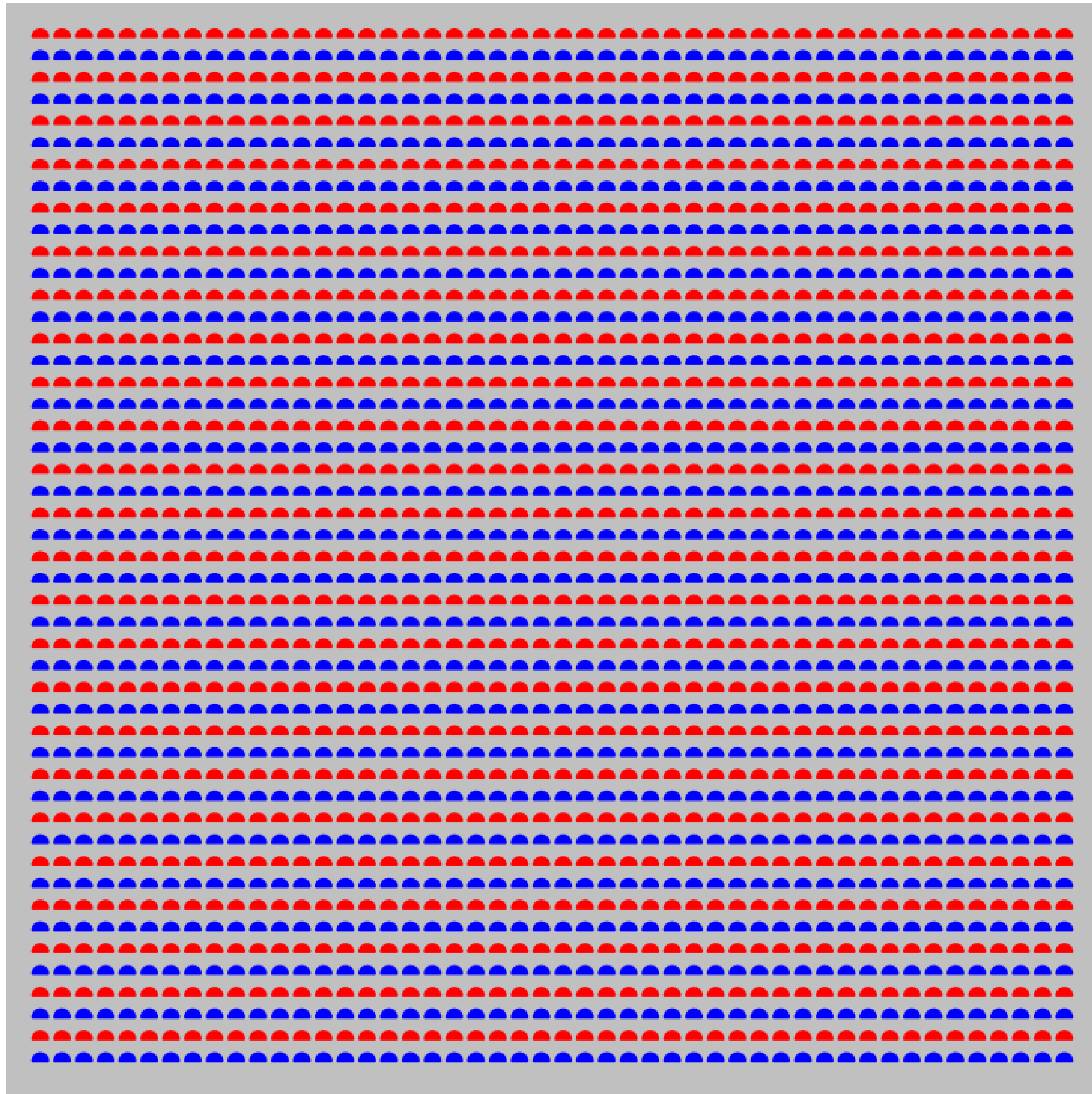
Parallelflow, Counterflow, Crossflow? Change which fluid element talks to which fluid element.



Duty Error as a function of iteration count

Divisions	Direct EOS	Tabulated EOS
5	0.251s	0.022s
15	0.933s	0.081s
50	10.3s	0.871s
250	256s	22.2s

Optimization Example



HP – Blue, LP - Red

Set Boundary Conditions

- Low Pressure CO₂ Stream: 500 [C], 80 [bar]
- High Pressure CO₂ Stream: 150 [C], 250 [bar]
- Flowrate: 20 kg/s

Establish Basic Geometry and Material

- Circular passages in counterflow arrangement, SS316

Set Independent Variables

- Length of HX core
- Number of passages
- Diameter of HP passages
- Diameter of LP passages

Set Objectives

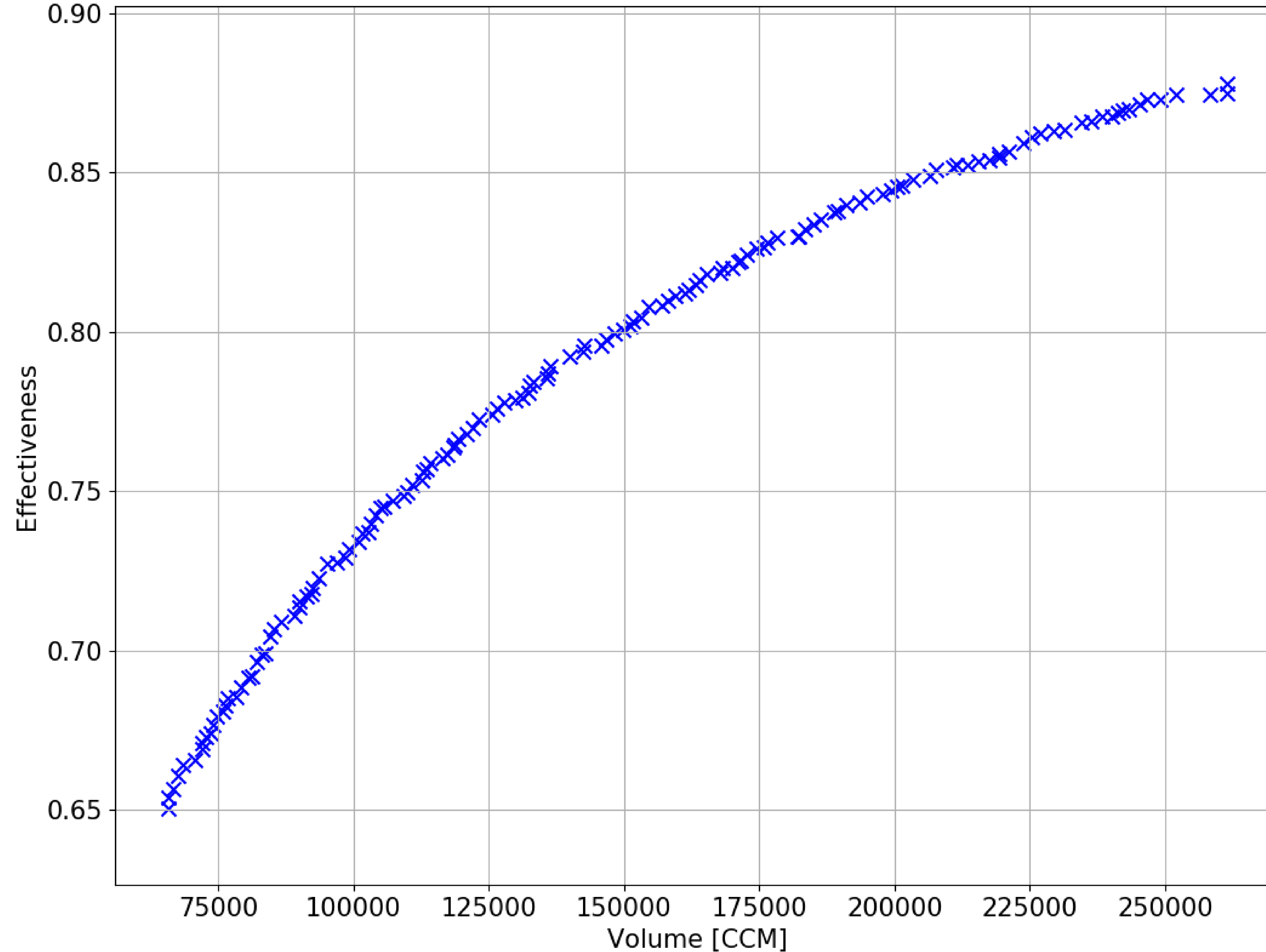
- Maximize effectiveness
- Minimize volume

Set Constraints

- HP pressure loss < 2%
- LP pressure loss < 2%

Optimization Results

HX Effectiveness vs. Volume



Optimization algorithm

- Select type of algorithm
- Set generation count, population size

Optimization evaluator

- Select fluid property package
- Set equations for solid and fluid thermal resistance
- Set equations for pressure drop
- Use 1-D code for energy conservation

Results

- Tradeoffs between performance and size/cost of heat exchanger becomes evident.
- Numerous factors complicate the design of HX's, optimization of core geometry is only one component of a worthy design.

HX TEST DATA

Turbo-expander testing at SwRI

- A MW-scale sCO₂ test loop was constructed by SwRI to test a turbo-expander to a TIT of 715 °C and pressures exceeding 240 bar.
- Loop implemented MW-scale PCHE recuperators and primary heater.
- In addition to initial 37.5 hours of testing for SunShot program, heat exchangers have continued for multiple DOE programs.

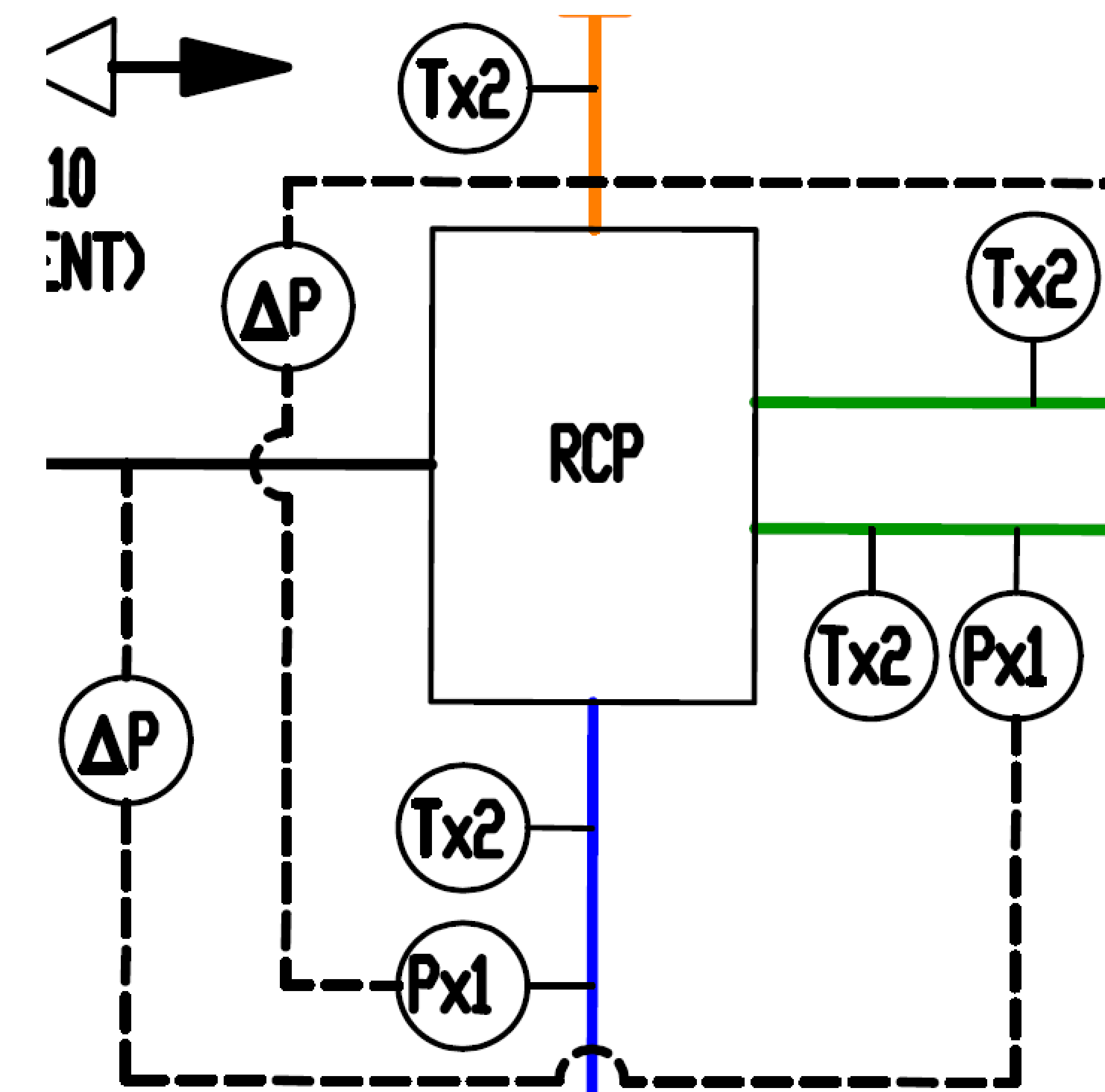


3 MWth recuperator (VPE)

1 MWth Primary HX (Thar/SwRI)

Recuperator Operating Data

- HP flow originates from pump outlet in loop.
- LP flow originates from turbine exhaust.
- Recuperator includes dP measurement and multiple temperature readings on each connection.



HP flow (kg/s)	HP flow (kg/s)	HP Pressure (bar)	HP Temp (C)	LP Pressure (bar)	LP Temp (C)	Duty (MW)	Effect. (%)	HP % dP	LP % dP
4.97	4.79	200	30.0	85.1	447	2.76	79.2	0.513	1.38
5.78	5.54	239	40.5	83.0	533	3.21	90.3	0.565	2.78

Primary Heat Exchanger Data

- Heat exchanger made up of 740 H tube bundle with multiple passes, allowing for thermal growth.
- At a higher cost, finned tubing can increase performance by reducing air-side thermal resistance.



CO ₂ Flow (kg/s)	CO ₂ Pressure (bar)	CO ₂ Inlet T (°C)	CO ₂ Outlet T (°C)	Air Inlet T (°C)	Air Flow (m ³ /s)	Duty (MWth)
5.05	220	398	577	804	3.45	1.12
5.56	238	406	597	896	4.31	1.32



8th International Supercritical CO₂ Power Cycles Symposium
San Antonio, TX U.S.A.
February 26 - 29, 2024

Heat Exchangers for Supercritical CO₂ Power Application

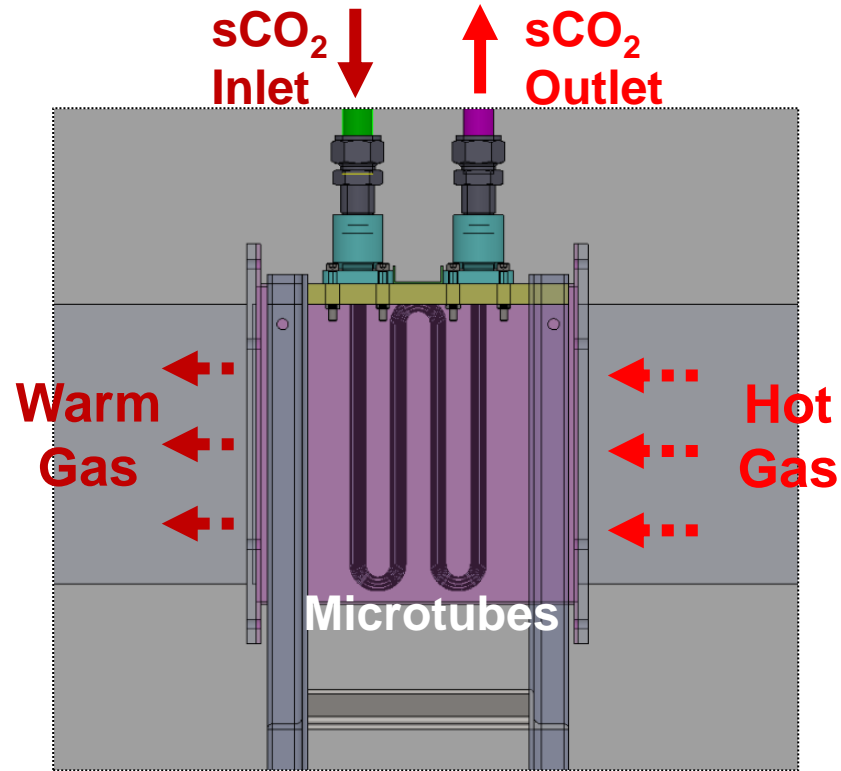
Compact Heat Exchangers Design & Additive Manufacturing Addendum: Operations & Testing

Lalit Chordia, PhD, Vahid Vahdat, PhD, Marc Portnoff

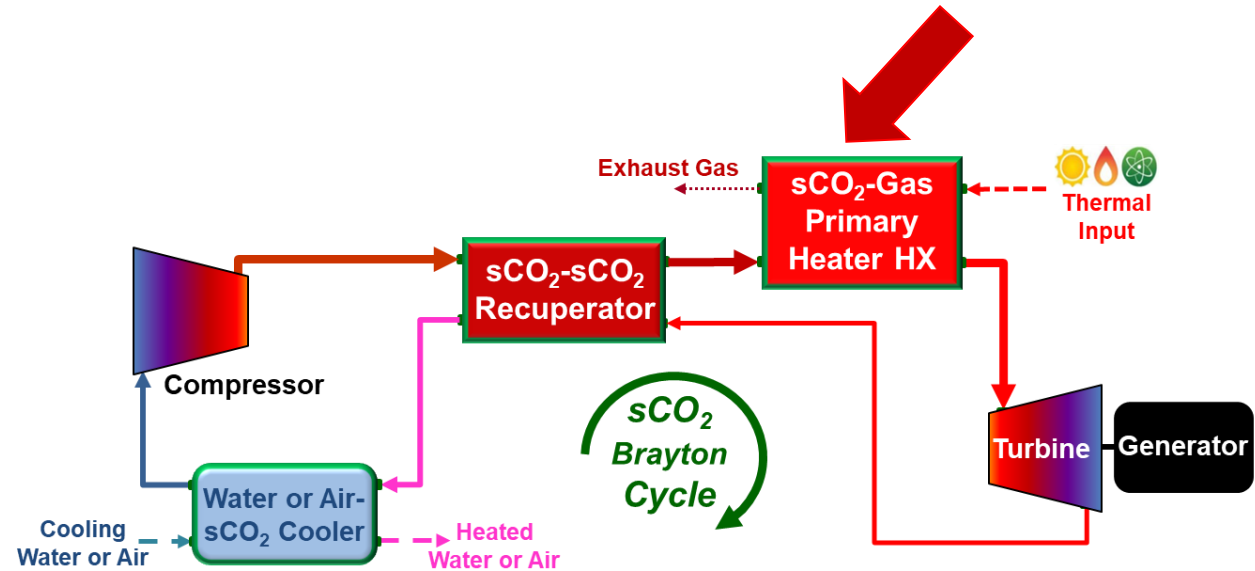
TharEnergy

Primary Heater Heat Exchanger

Hot gas to sCO₂



Cross Flow, Counter-current
Microtube Heater

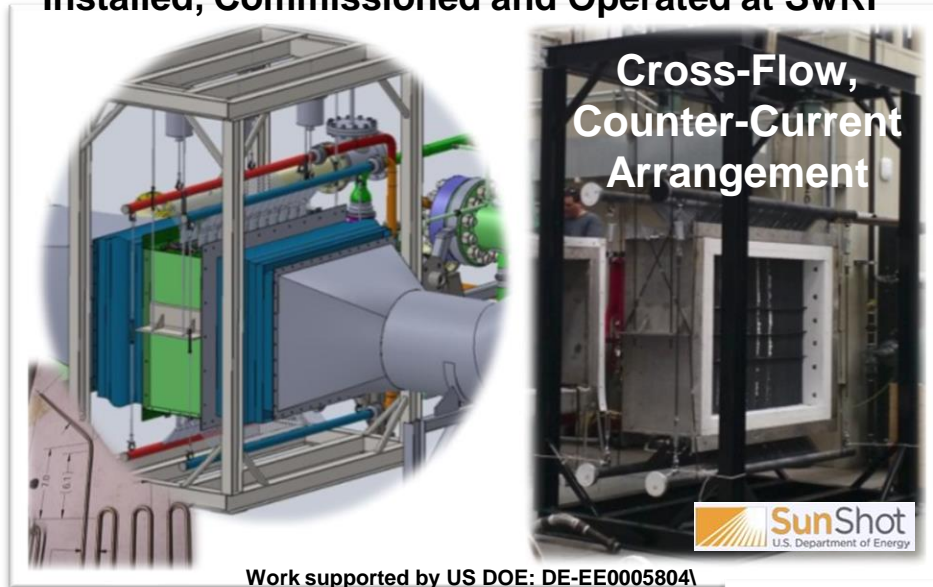


- Heats up the pressurized sCO₂ to high temperature prior to entering the turbine

Primary Heater– Design Considerations

Thar Energy's sCO₂ Primary Heater

Installed, Commissioned and Operated at SwRI



Design Conditions:

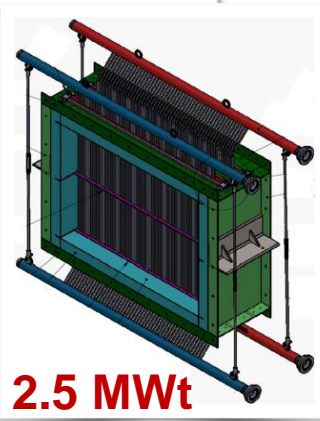
Gas Fired Burner/Blower Outlet

Combustion Gas Temp: 870°C

sCO₂ HX Outlet:

Max Temperature: 715°C @ 255 bar

Design Pressure: 280 bar



Thermal Capacity

1

Material Selection

- High strength at high temperature (**Inconel 740H**)
- ASME, Section 8, Div. I approved, 800°C / 300 bar
- Design to creep rupture strength rather than allowable stress

2

Corrosion

- Select materials that are stable in sCO₂ and combustion gas corrosion

3

Thermal Expansion

- Design the structure to allow free thermal expansion under high temperature

4

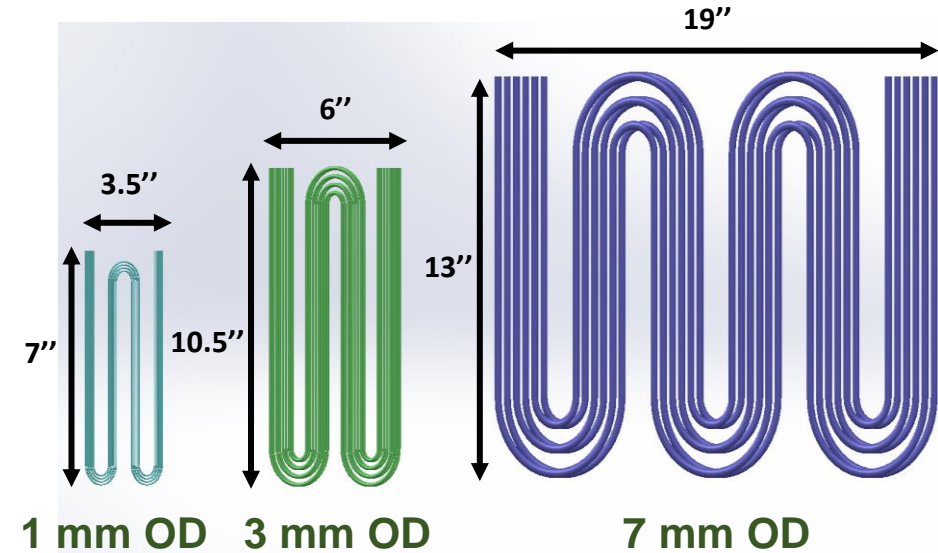
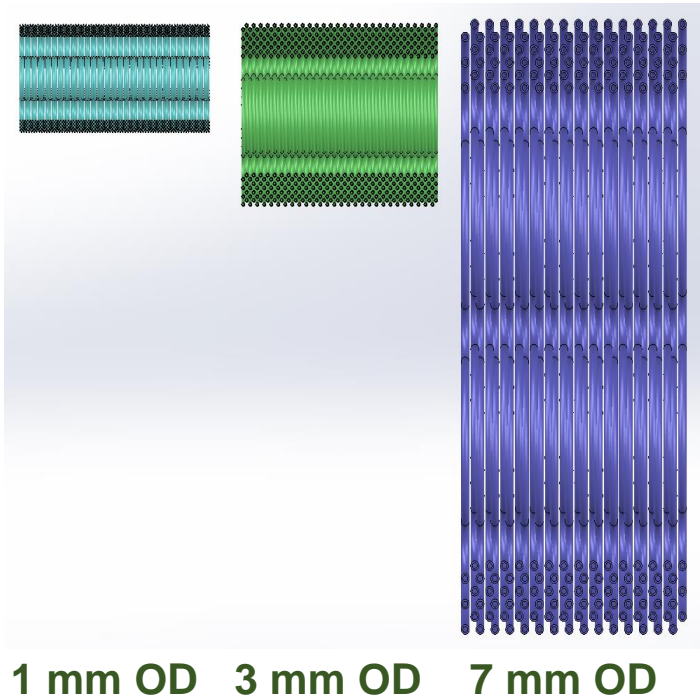
Sizing

- Air side pressure drop sized to be under limit to ensure overall efficiency
- Particle contaminants are a concern – size for periodic cleaning

Primary Heater Cross flow, Counter-current Microtube Heat Exchanger

Overall Size Comparison

- Microtube vs. conventional tube, air to CO₂ cross flow, counter-current heat exchangers
- Different tube sizes with the same thermal capacity, effectiveness and air side pressure drop



Tube OD	1 mm	3 mm	7 mm
Total Tube Length	16,800"	9,240"	7,020"
Tube Number	600	220	90
Bundle Weight	4.5 lb	20 lb	90 lb
Surface Density	46 in ² /in ³	17 in ² /in ³	7 in ² /in ³

Air Cooler: Air to sCO₂ Water Cooler: Water to sCO₂

Air Cooled

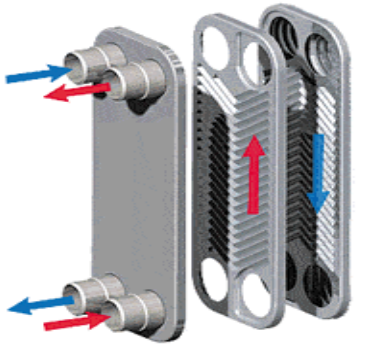


Finned-Tubes

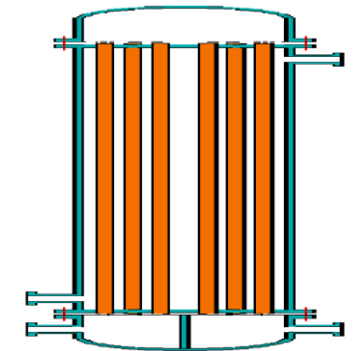


Micro-channel

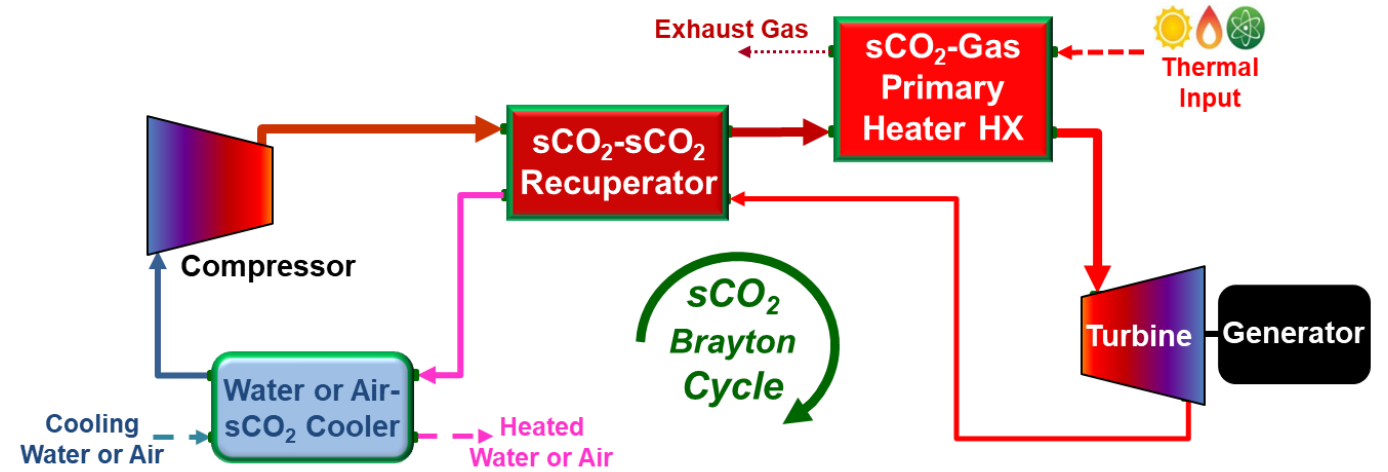
Water Cooled



Brazed-Plate



Tube/ Microtube



- Cool sCO₂ to increase density and reduce compressor energy

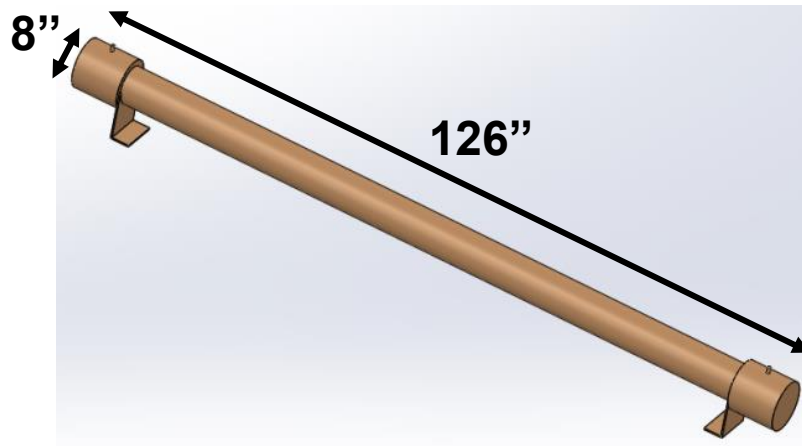
Trade off between water vs. air cooling

- Water – more compact, counter-flow, pumping water uses less energy, water treatment
- Air – Cross-flow, sized to minimize fan energy and to accommodate contaminant removal

sCO₂ Water Cooler – Design Considerations

Design Conditions:

- Max Temperature: up to 100°C
- Pressure: 100 bar



Counter-Flow Shell & Tube Water Cooler

Material: Stainless Steel 304

1

Material Selection

- More flexible due to low temperature
- Tradeoffs in cost vs. reliability depends on the water quality

2

Corrosion and Erosion

- Apart from corrosion issue, erosion should also be taken into account

3

Maintenance

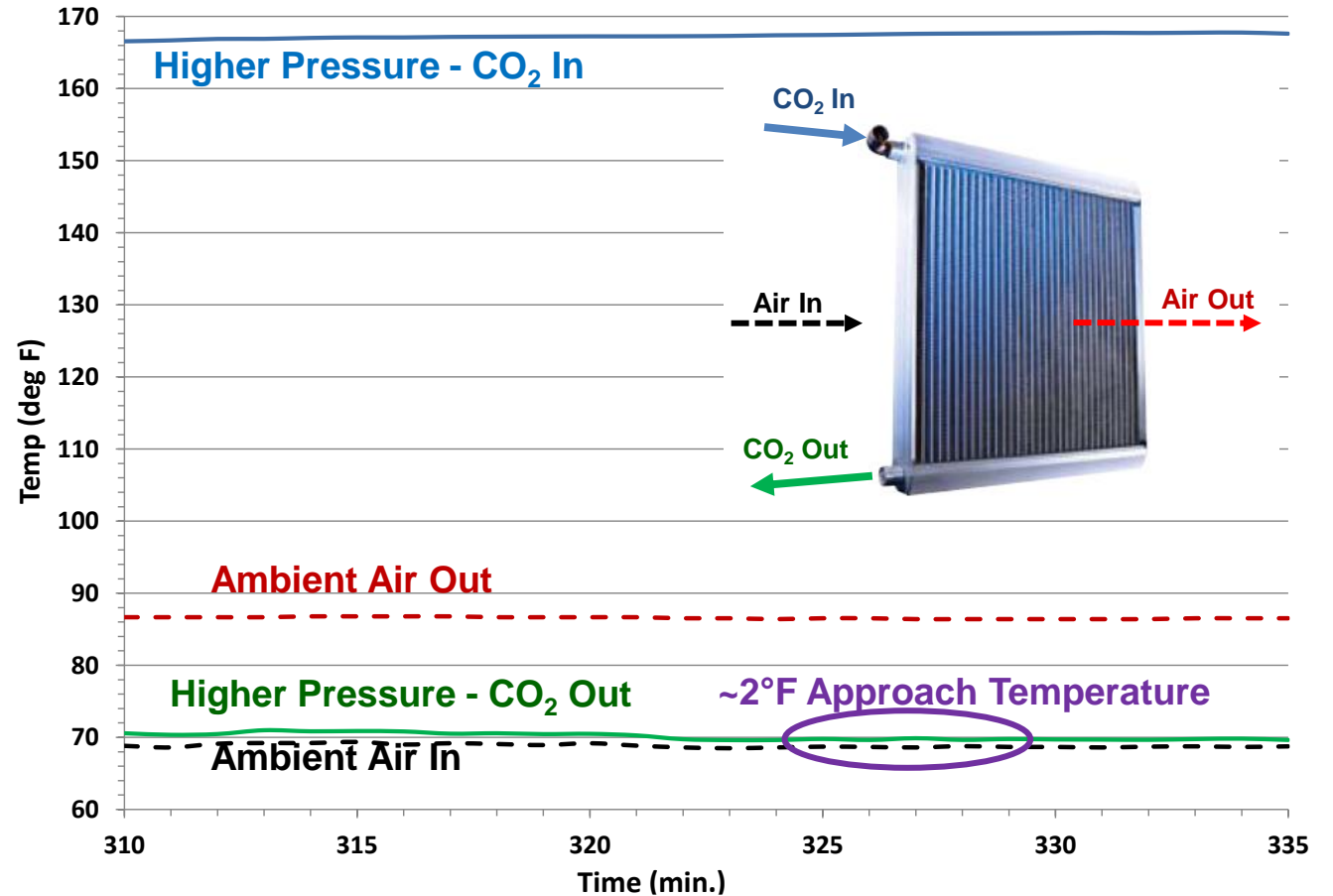
- Water-cooled heat exchanger requires occasional maintenance

sCO₂ Air Cooler – Micro-Channel Coils

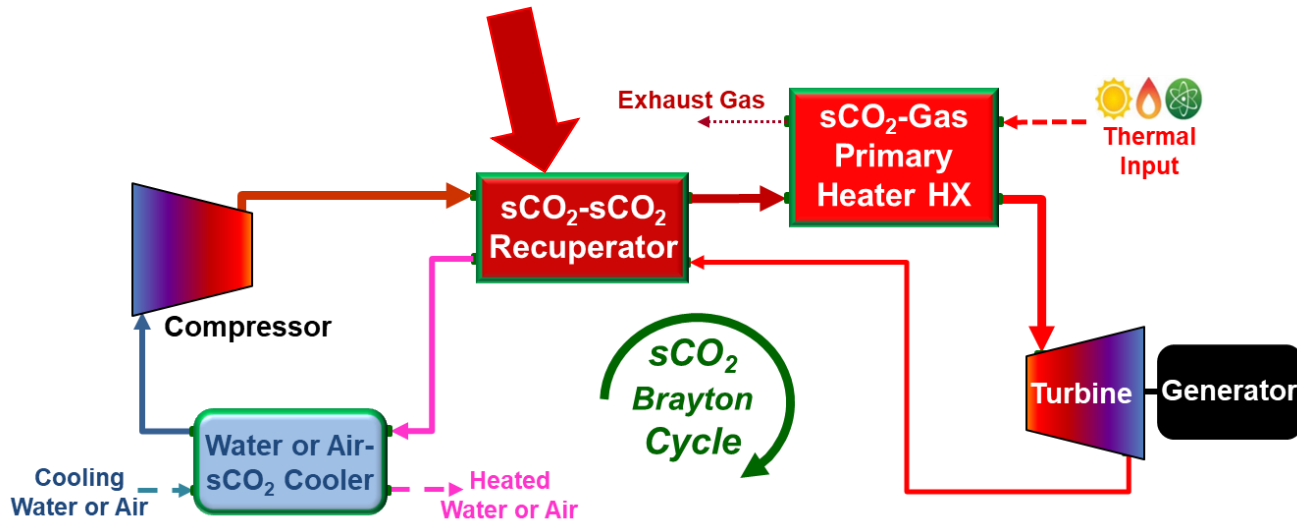
- Micro-channel coils are
 - 40% more efficient
 - 40% smaller
 - 50% less refrigerant
 - Lower air side ΔP
 than standard tube & fin coils

At Thar's test facility, air and CO₂ approaching temperature as low as 2°F was achieved using micro-channel coil.

Commercial availability is improving with use of CO₂ (R744) as a refrigerant



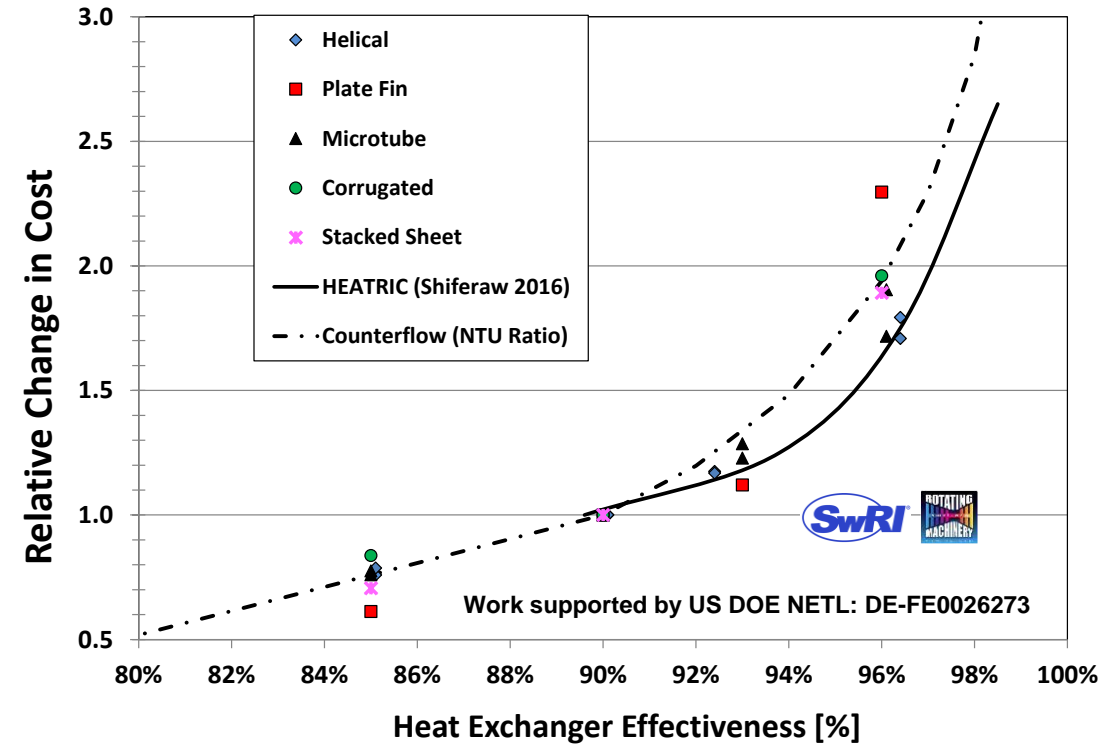
Recuperator - sCO₂ to sCO₂ Counter-current



- Increases the system efficiency by reusing turbine exhaust sCO₂ energy

Recuperator specifications influencing the cost:

- Approach Temperature / Effectiveness
- Pressure Drop

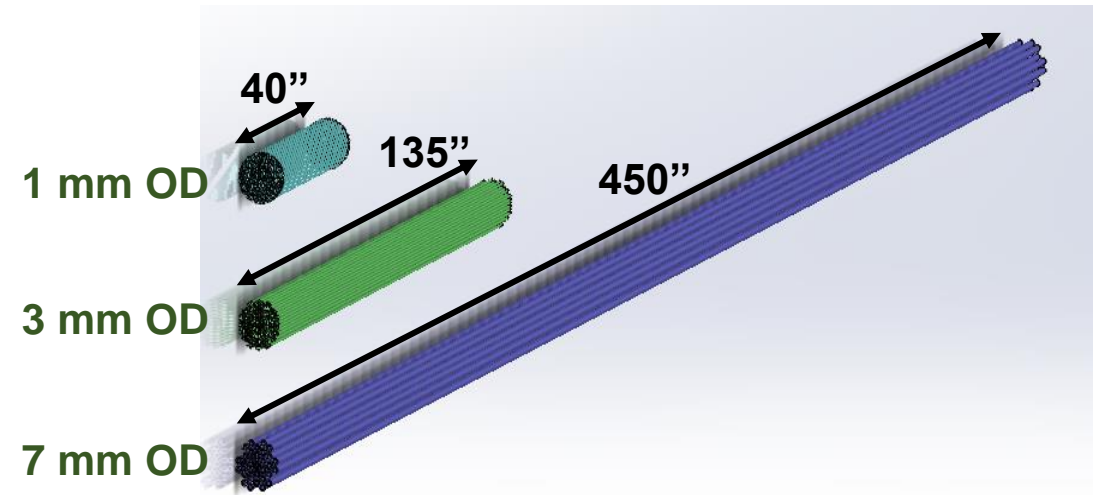
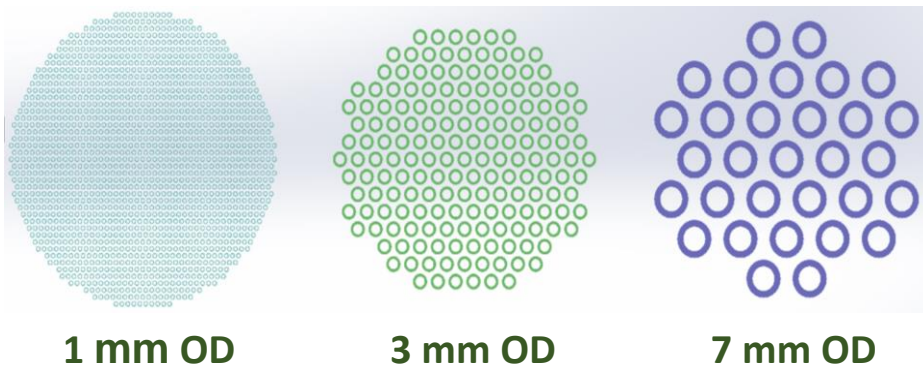


Relatively independent of the heat exchanger concepts evaluated

Microtube Recuperator Counter-current

Overall Size Comparison

- Microtube vs. conventional tube, counter-current heat exchangers
- Different tube sizes with the same thermal capacity, effectiveness and pressure drop

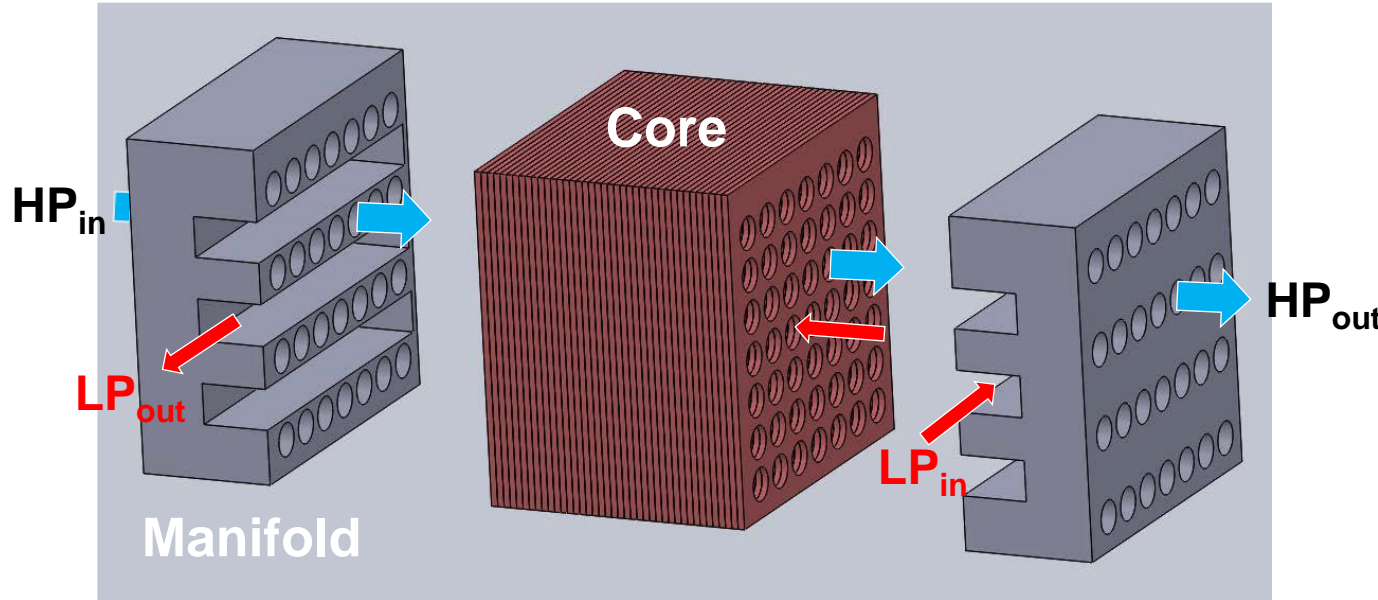


Tube OD	1 mm	3 mm	7 mm
Tube Length	40''	135''	450''
Tube Number	1500	175	30
Bundle Weight	17 lb	59 lb	244 lb
Surface Density	76 in ² /in ³	30 in ² /in ³	12 in ² /in ³

Thar Energy and SwRI conducted a multi-year study focused on building cost effective recuperators, at the MWt scale.

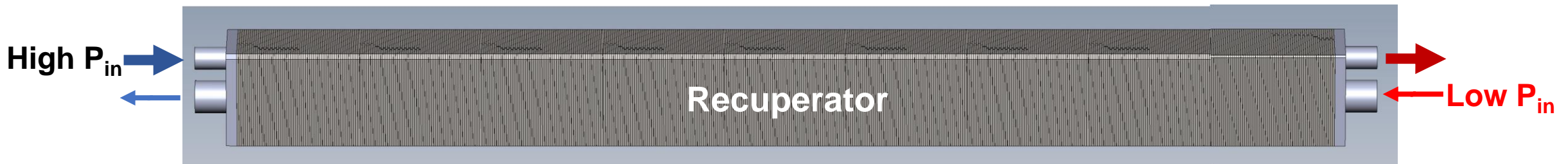
- **Identified a recuperator concept – Stacked-Sheet Heat Exchanger (SSHX)**
 - ❖ **High thermal and hydraulic performance (counter-current)**
 - ❖ **Improve structural integrity and thermal compliance**
 - ❖ **Compact and light weight**
 - ❖ **Optimized material usage**
- **Successfully designed, fabricated, and tested prototype SSHX recuperators using several advanced manufacturing processes, such as:**
 - ❖ **Additive manufacturing (3D printing)**
 - ❖ **High power laser cutting**
 - ❖ **Diffusion brazing**
 - ❖ **Advanced CMM QA/QC methods**

Stacked-sheet Recuperator Concept (SSHX)



- Patterns cut, punched or etched into individual sheets
- Sheets are aligned, stacked, and joined (brazed, diffusion bonded)
- Manifolds/headers are added to separate flow streams and ensure uniform flow distribution

*The bond between the sheets is parallel to the mechanical stresses & perpendicular to the thermal stresses (temperature across the bond is almost constant)
Improves structural integrity and thermal compliance*



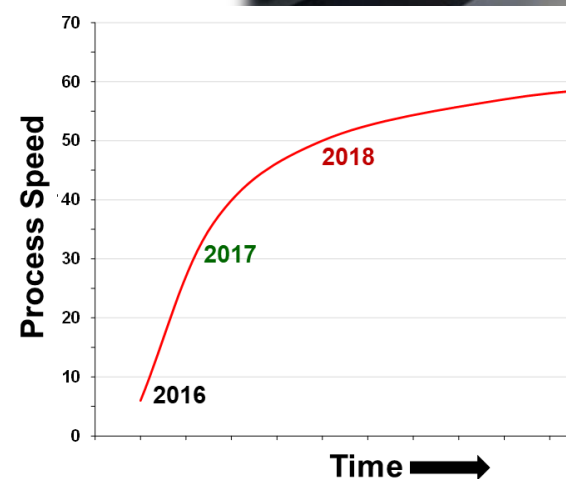
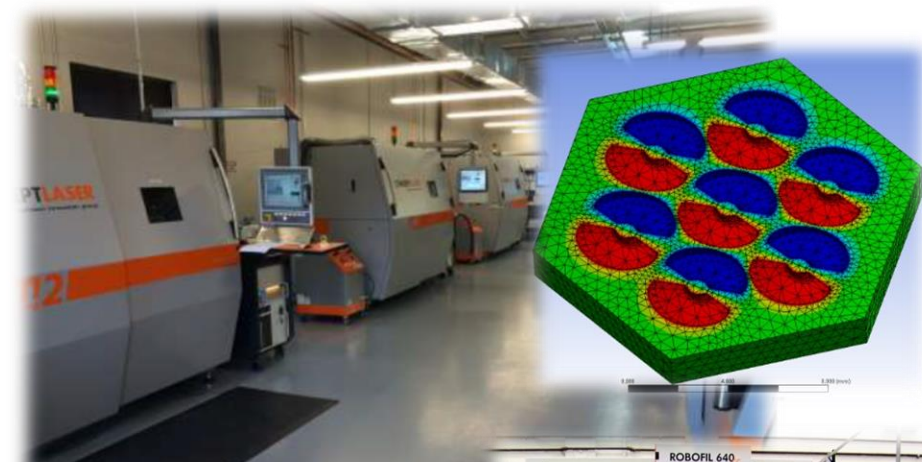
Prototype SSHX Recuperators

Criteria	3D-SSHX Prototype	Laser-SSHX Prototype
Manufacturing Method	3D Printed	Laser Cut Sheets
Materials	Inconel 625	Stainless 347H
Channel Pattern	Circle-Star	Circle-Circle
Manifold Design	3D Printed	Laser Cut Sheets
Joining Method	Diffusion Braze	Diffusion Braze
Opacity	~46%	~73%

Manufacturing technologies are advancing as a rapid pace

Subtractive Manufacturing
Additive Manufacturing
QA/QC Methods

- Laser cutting
- Laser welding
- Water jet cutting
- 3D metals printing
- Electrochemical etching
- Electrochemical machining (ECM)
- Electro discharge machining (EDM)
- EDM wire cutting
- Sheet bending/forming
- Metal plating
- Stamping
- Brazing
- Welding
- Diffusion bonding



Additive Manufacturing

- 1. Need to balance resolution with tolerance repeatability**
- 2. Balance resolution and design with powder removal**
- 3. Prototyping vs. Production**
- 4. Need real time QA/QC to minimize production losses**
- 5. Watch for new innovations like the blue LED lasers**
 - Improved energy absorption**
 - Qualitative and quantitative advantages**



https://www.photonics.com/Article.aspx?AID=63941&refer=IPL&utm_source=IPL_2018_11_27&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=IPL&PID=20

Rapid quality inspection is key to advancing metal additive manufacturing.

Industry requires metal parts to be fabricated according to stringent metallic material properties and specifications.



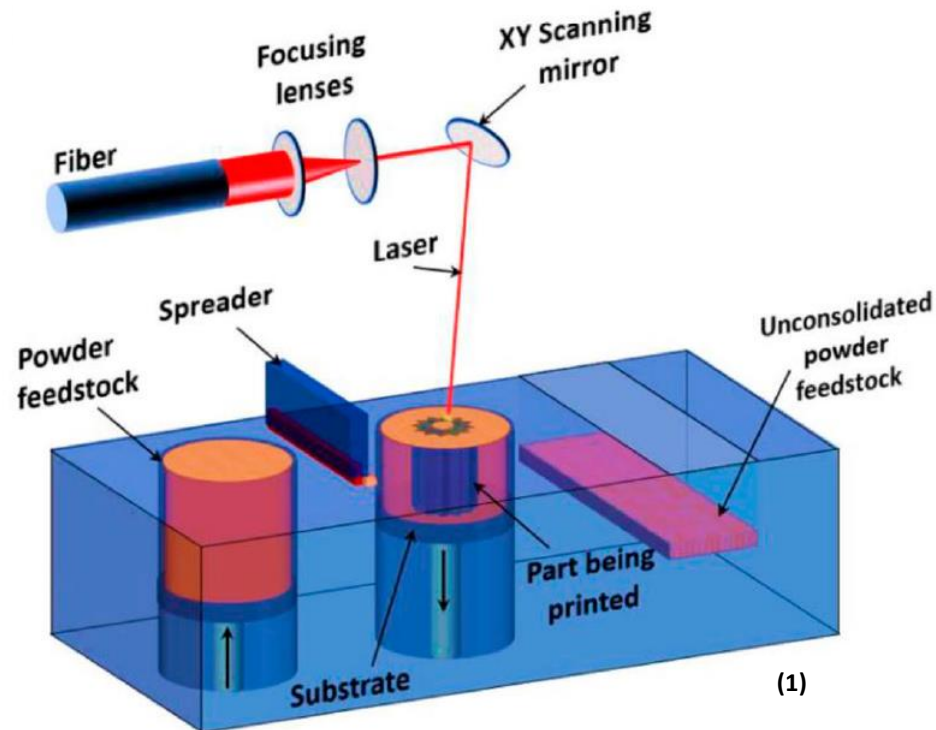
Costs increase the longer it takes to identify a problem

Additive Manufacturing Overview

- **Direct Metal Laser Sintering (DMLS)**
 - Best resolution and part density
 - Highest cost
 - Oxide free metal powders are expensive and complicated to work with
 - **Now with real time QA/QC**



sCO₂-sCO₂
Recuperator



DLMS – H282 3D-SSHX Recuperator

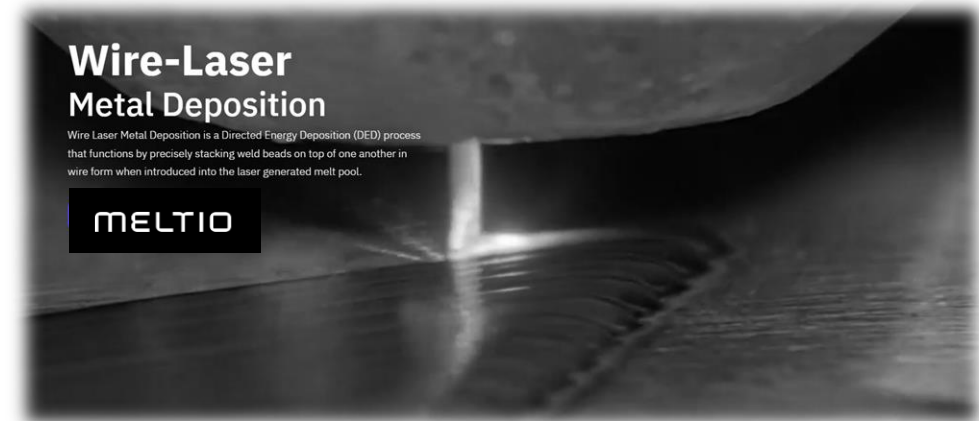


1) Sharma, S., et.al., Multiphysics multi-scale computational framework for linking process–structure–property relationships in metal additive manufacturing: a critical review, International Materials Reviews, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09506608.2023.2169501>

Additive Manufacturing Overview

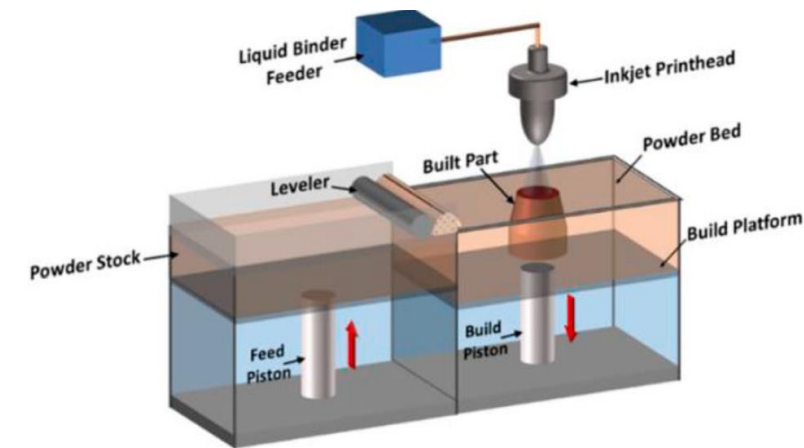
• Wire melting (arc discharge or laser)

- **No special facility requirements**
- Lower resolution but with high part density
- Simpler operation
- Faster build rate
- **More cost effective than DMLS**
- **Larger part builds**
- **More alloy compositions available in wire form**



• Metal Binder Jet

- Lower resolution and part density
- **Lowest cost material – metal injection molding powders**
- Needs to accommodate part shrinkage when firing oxide metal powders
 - ❖ Sinter software now simulates part shrinkage



1) Sharma, S., et.al., Multiphysics multi-scale computational framework for linking process–structure–property relationships in metal additive manufacturing: a critical review, International Materials Reviews, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09506608.2023.2169501>

Additive Manufacturing Overview

Xact Metal – DLMS / Metal Powder-Bed Fusion

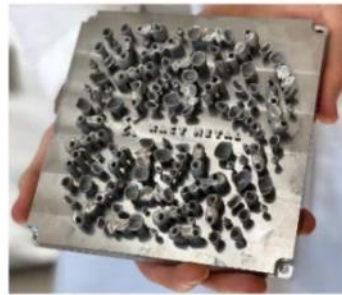
<https://xactmetal.com/>



Chip Removal Tool



Curved Manifold



Dental Crowns



Injection Mold Insert



Impeller



Copper Parts

Meltio – Laser Metal Deposition

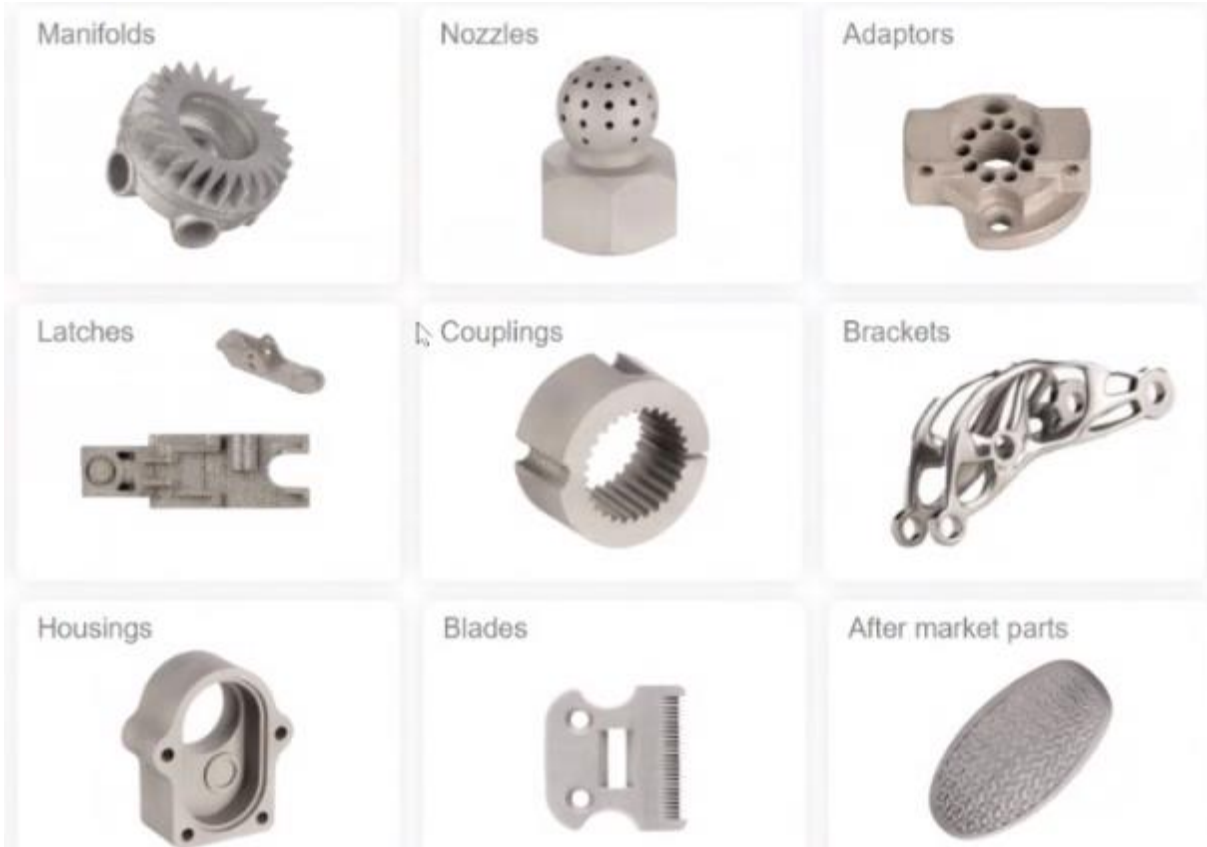
<https://meltio3d.com/>



Additive Manufacturing Overview

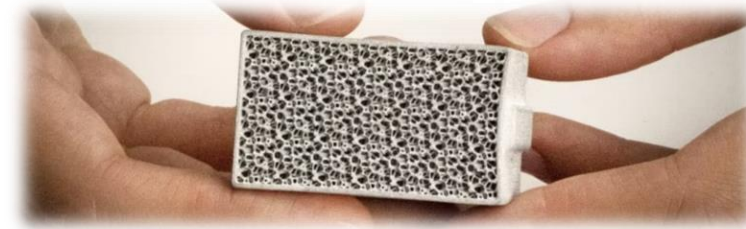
Desktop Metals – Binder jet

<https://www.desktopmetal.com/>



HP Metal Jet – Binder jet

<https://www.hp.com/us-en/printers/3d-printers/products/metal-jet.html>

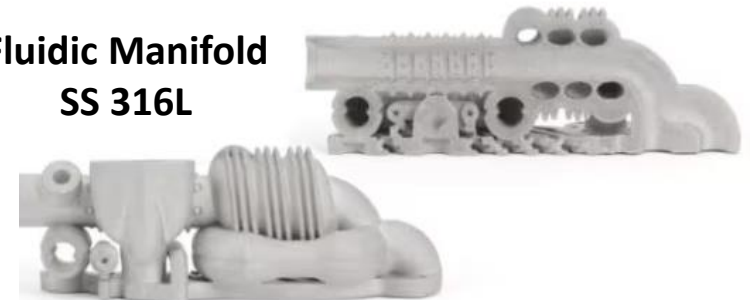


**Air Filter - 690V
Circuit breaker
SS 316L**

**Engine Component
SS 17-4PH**



**Fluidic Manifold
SS 316L**



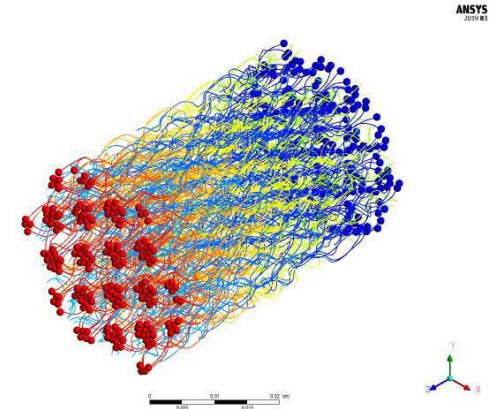
GE DMLS Additive - ex. AM303 Heat Exchanger

HX Design Basis:

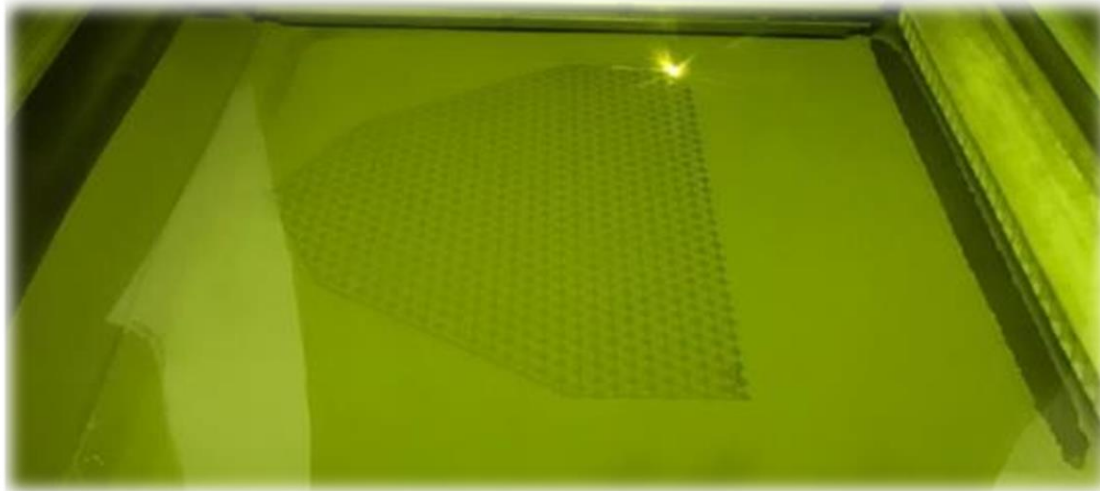
Trifurcating unit cell enables up to 7X mass-based power density at $\Delta P/P_{in}$ of 2%

New Alloy:

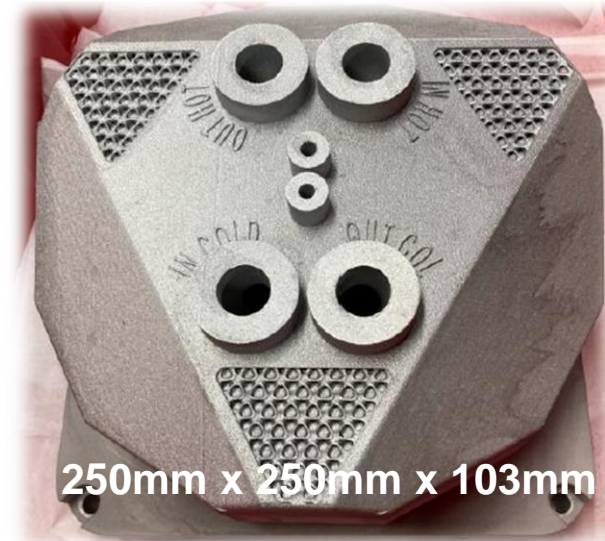
GE's AM303 Ni-based superalloy enables 900°C / 250 bar operation



DMLS - GE Research



Full Scale Prototype



Wall Thickness: 0.75 mm

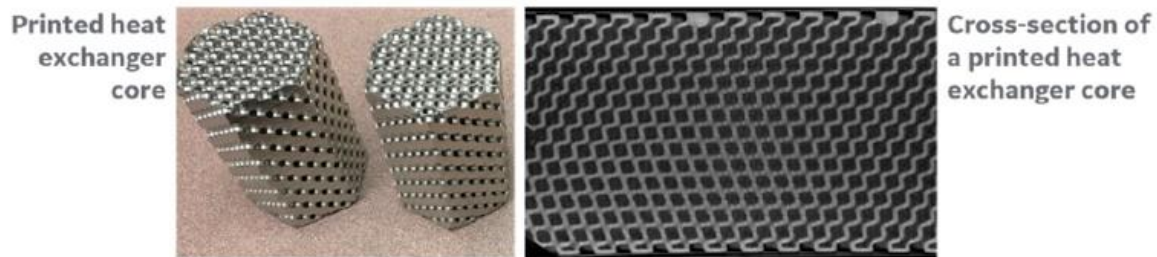
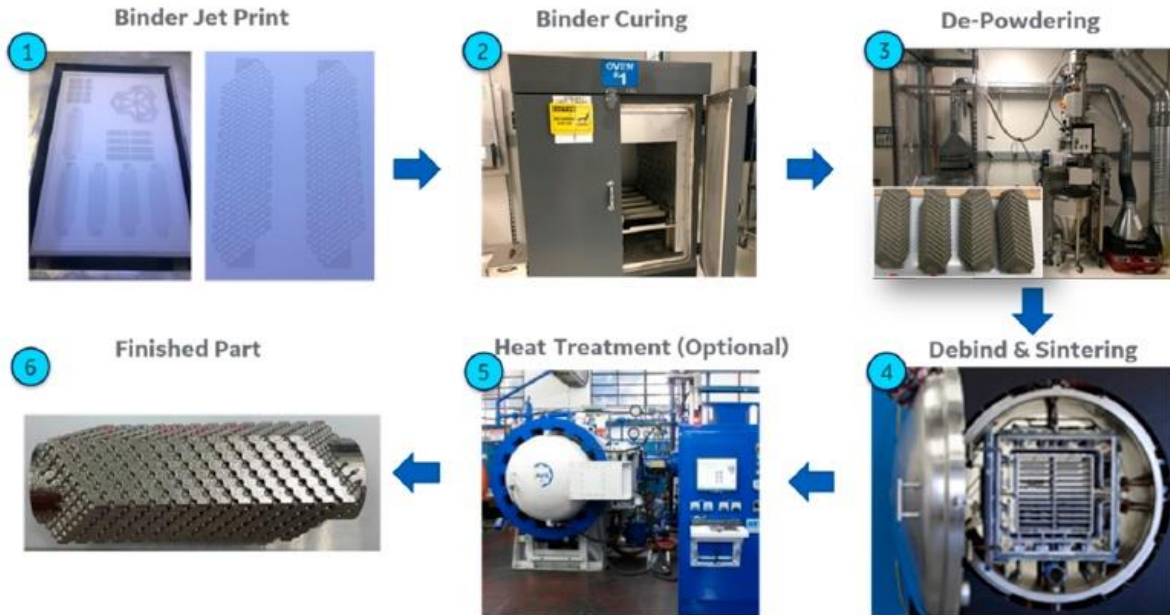
Hole Diameter: 2 mm

Osusky, L., Ultra Performance Heat Exchanger enabled by Additive Manufacturing, GE Research, ARPAe - High Intensity Thermal Exchange through Materials and Manufacturing Processes (HITEMMP) Annual Program Review Meeting, February 15, 2023, Atlanta, GA

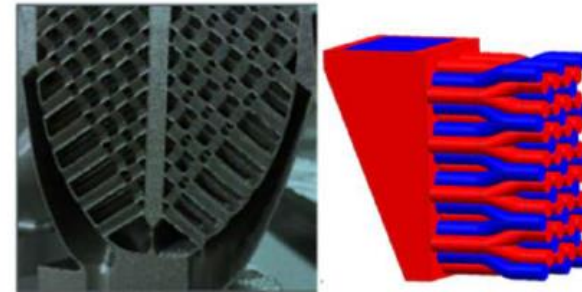
Binder Jet Additive - ex. SS316L Heat Exchanger *Trifurcating Flow Path Design*



Process Steps



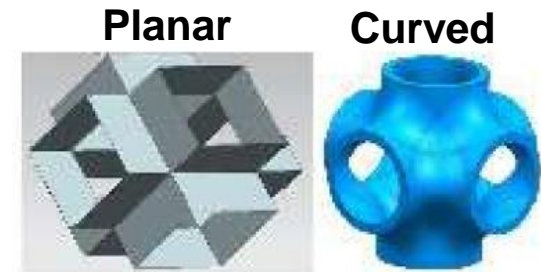
Planar Trifurcating HX core geometry



Trifurcating flow channels
Boundary layer resets at every 1-3 D_h
3x HTC laminar flow
1.2-1.3x HTC turbulent flow

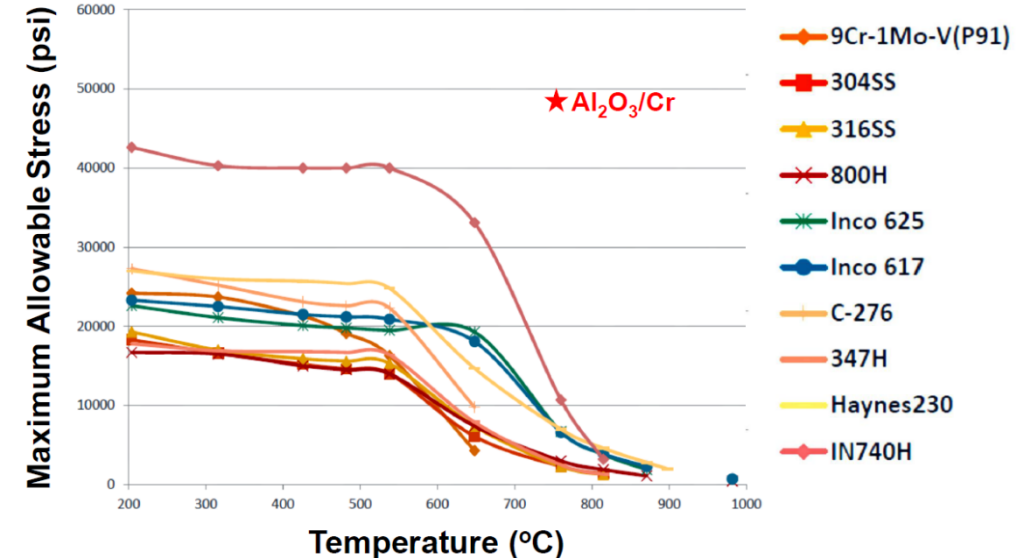
Developed process to remove powder from multiple small internal passages

Curved Unit Cell Design reduced stress >50%

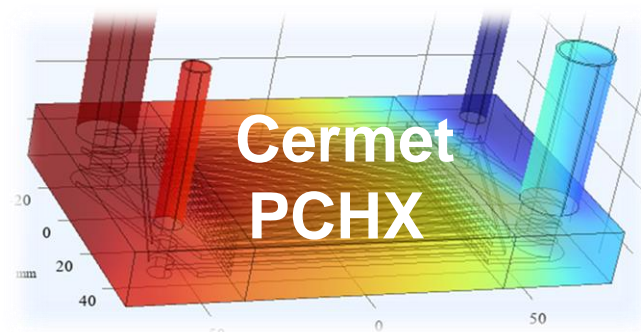


Ceramic Heat Exchanger ex. $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Cr}$ Composite *Superalloy Performance at Stainless Steel prices*

- **Improved thermal stability**
 - High melting: $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 = 2054^\circ\text{C}$ and $\text{Cr} = 1863^\circ\text{C}$ vs. Haynes 230 (Ni-Cr-W alloy) = 1290°C
- **Improved creep resistance**
 - Predicted $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Cr}$ creep rupture life at $750^\circ\text{C} > 30$ years at 447,000 psi vs. H230 creep life < 1.2 years at 13,200 psi
- **Stiffer and higher strength**
 - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Cr}$ strength (no yield, in flexure) at $750^\circ\text{C} = 50,000$ psi vs. Haynes 230 strength (tensile yield) at $750^\circ\text{C} = 41,000$ psi
- **Excellent oxidation resistance**
 - Projected Cr recession < 0.0003 inches over 1 year at 750°C in CO_2 and in air
- **Similar thermal conductivity**
 - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Cr} = 14.7\text{-}24.7$ W/m-K from $150^\circ\text{C}\text{-}800^\circ\text{C}$ vs. $11.4\text{-}24.4$ W/m-K from $150^\circ\text{C}\text{-}800^\circ\text{C}$ for Haynes 230



2010 ASME Boiler Pressure Vessel Code, Sec. II, from Tables 1A and 1B, July 1, 2010, New York, NY (compiled by Mark Anderson)



Sandhage, K., et.al., Oxidation Resistant, Robust, Reaction Formed $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Cr}$ Composites for High Temperature Heat Exchangers for Concentrated Solar Power, SolarPACES 2022, Purdue University W Lafayette, IN, USA. US DOE - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy - Solar Energy Technology Office, DE-EE-0008998.

COMPACT Heat Exchangers

Higher Performance Smaller Footprint Lighter Weight

Recuperators Primary Heater Gas/Air Coolers Water Coolers



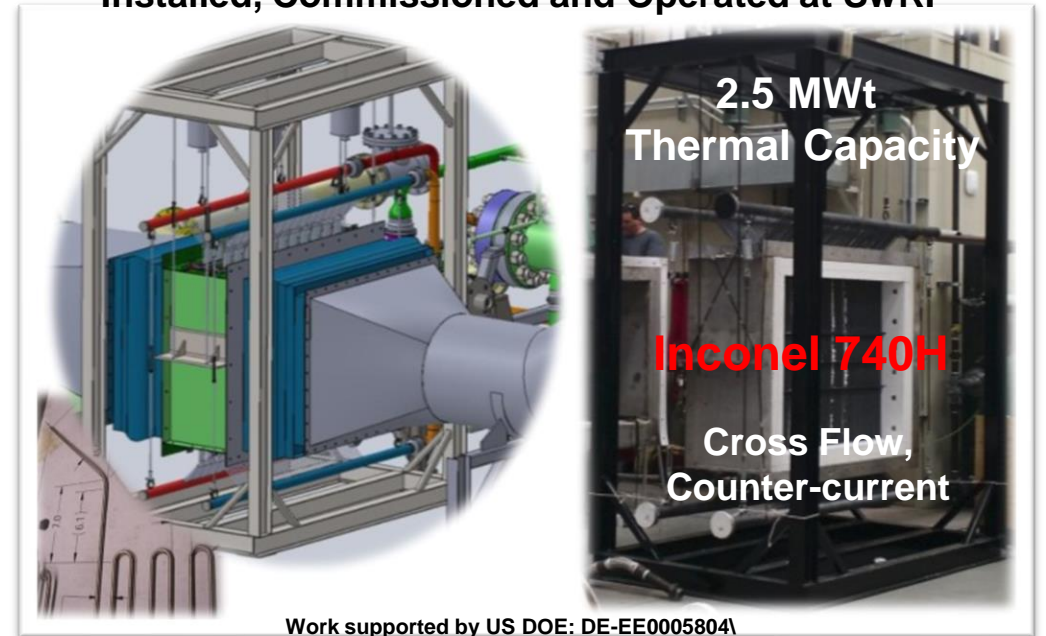
- Advanced Manufacturing Methods
- Optimized material use
 - Aluminum
 - Stainless Steels
 - Nickel Super Alloys
- Modular Design & Factory Fabricated
- Demonstrated at extreme T & P
- Thermal capacity from kWt to MWt

Gas Cooler

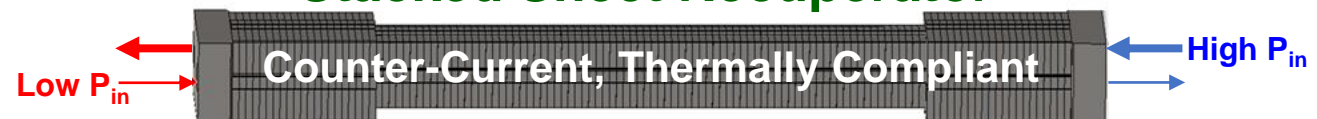


sCO₂ Primary Heater

Installed, Commissioned and Operated at SwRI



Stacked Sheet Recuperator



Thank you for your kind attention!

Contact: Marc Portnoff
Manager, New Technology
150 Gamma Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412-251-4615
mportnoff@tharenergy.com
tharenergy.com

Delivering clean energy solutions - rooted in nature's design

Addendum

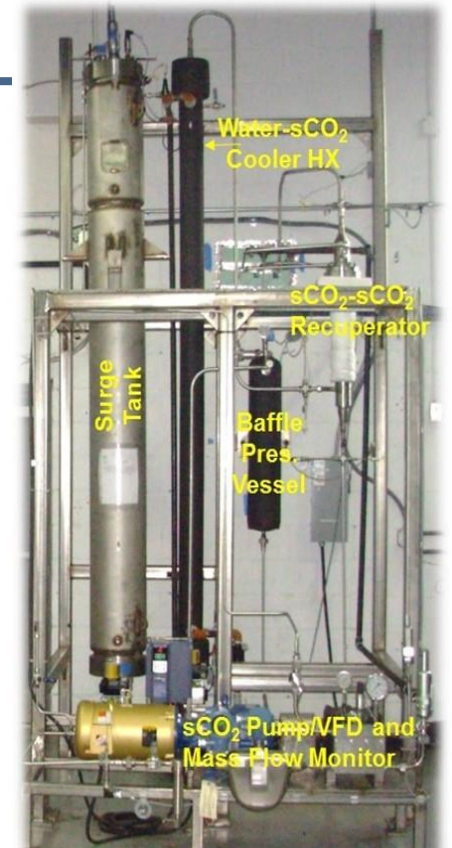
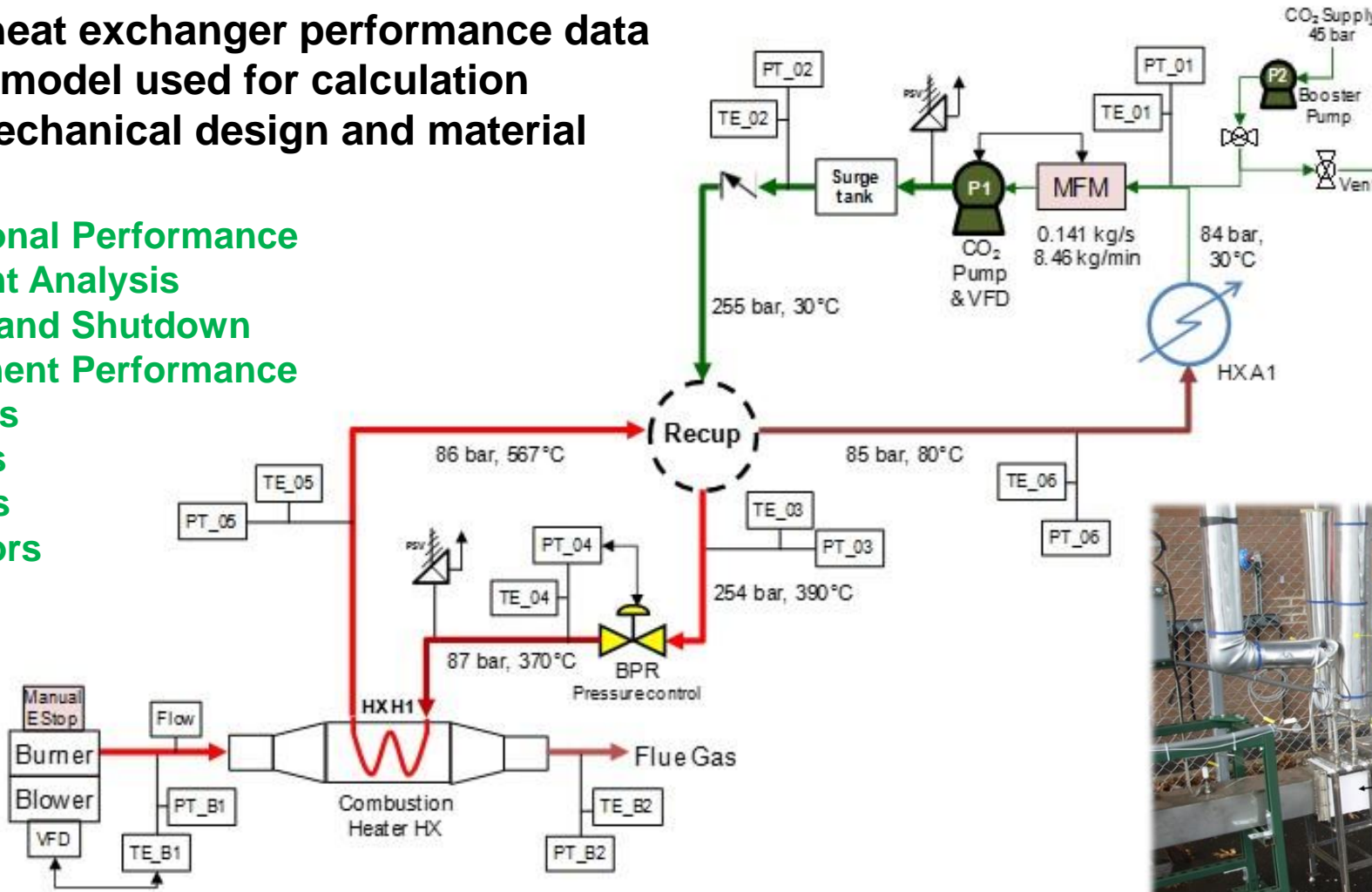
Prototype SSHX Recuperators Operations and Testing

Thar sCO₂ HX Test Loop

Purpose of Test Loop

1. Collect heat exchanger performance data
2. Validate model used for calculation
3. Verify mechanical design and material strength

- Operational Performance
- Transient Analysis
- Startup and Shutdown
- Component Performance
 - ❖ Pumps
 - ❖ Filters
 - ❖ Valves
 - ❖ Sensors



Thar sCO₂ HX Test Loop vs. a standard sCO₂ Brayton Cycle Loop

■ Different from Standard Loop

- Reciprocal piston pump used in place of a compressor
- Turbine is replaced by back pressure regulator (BPR)

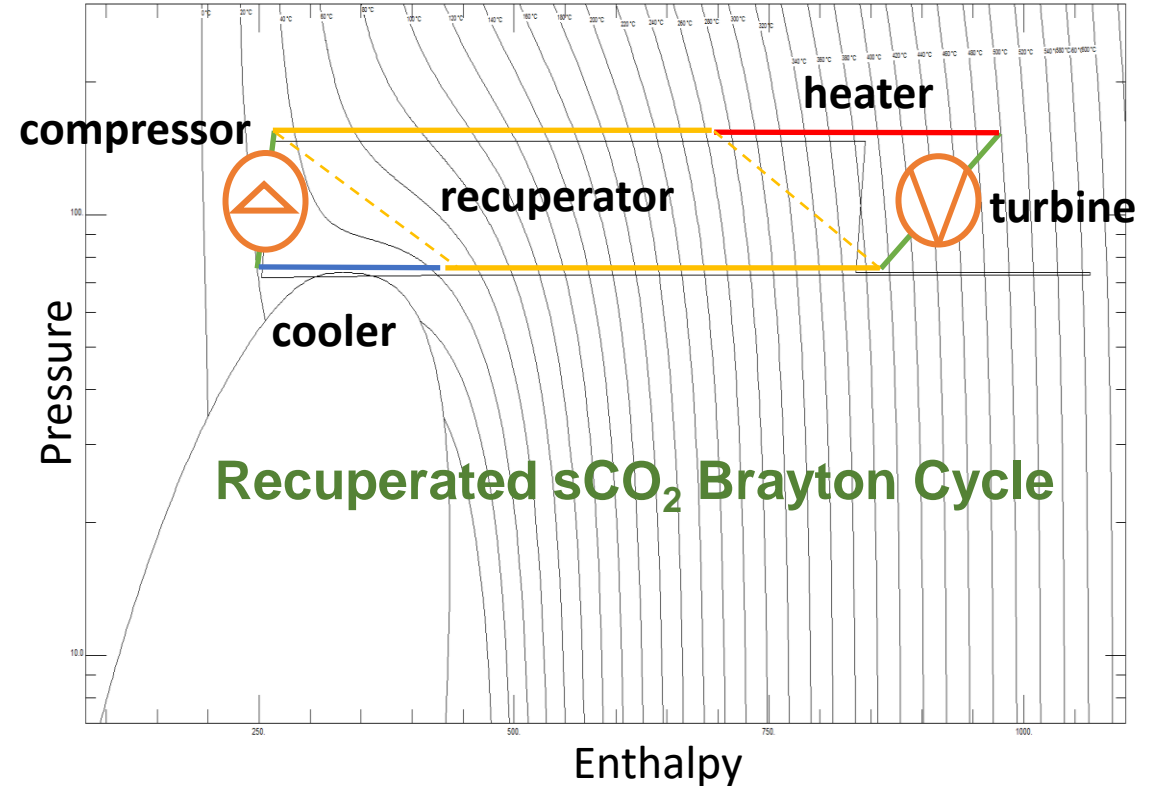
■ Test Condition

Supercritical Carbon Dioxide

- Operating Pressure: **255bar / 87bar**
- Operating Temperature: **570°C**

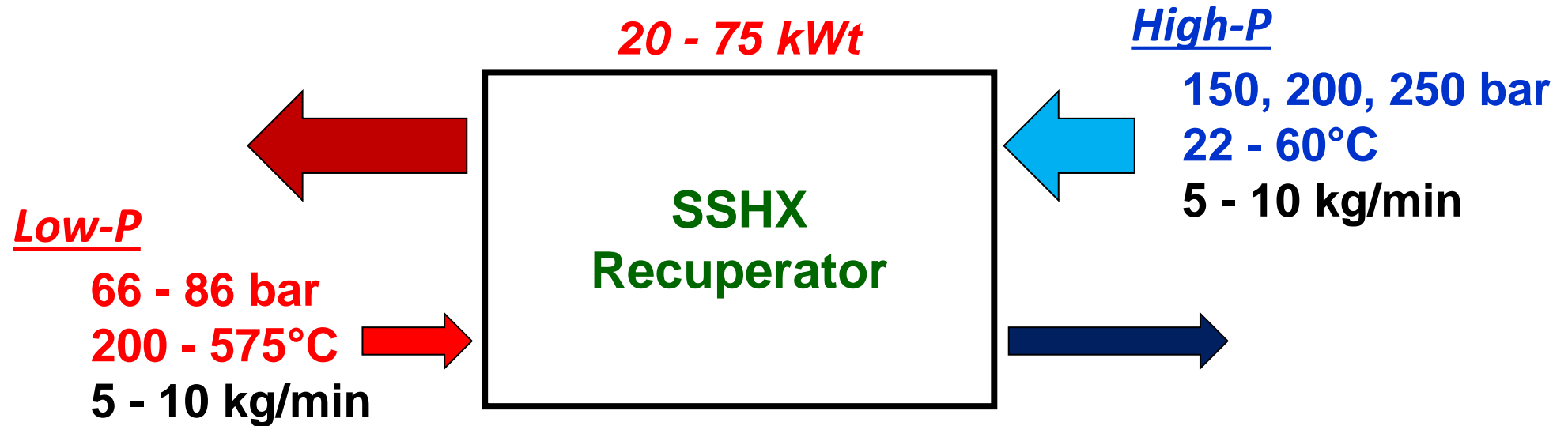
Combustion Gas

- Maximum Temperature: **750°C**
- Maximum Flow: **250 scfm @ 750°C**



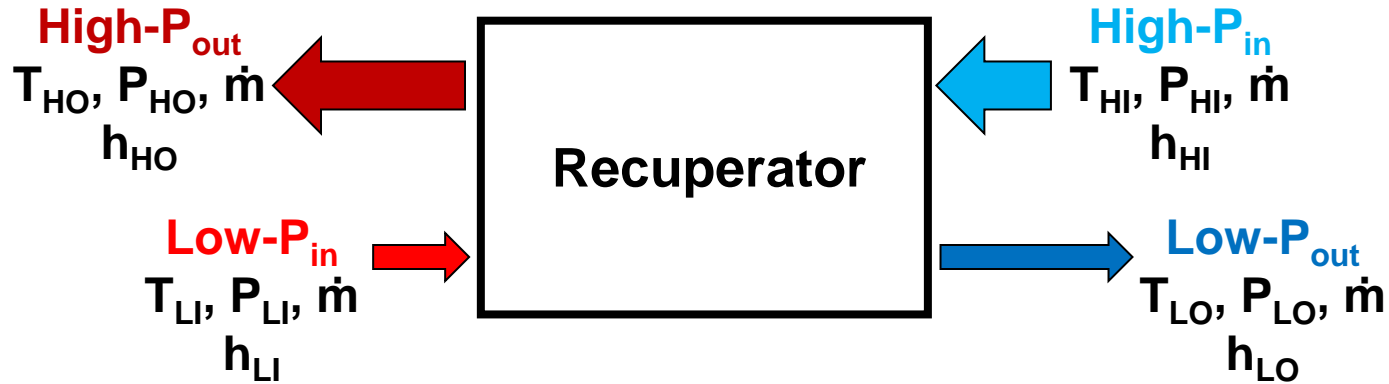
Thar Loop Compared to Standard Brayton Cycle

Test Conditions - SSHX Recuperator Prototypes



- Test thermal/hydraulic performance over a range of operating conditions
- Compare actual to predicted performance

HX Performance Heat Transfer Equations



Effectiveness: $\epsilon = Q_{act} / Q_{max}$

Overall Thermal Conductance: $UA = Q_{act} / \Delta T_{Ln}$

$$Q_{act} = \min(Q_{HI-HO}, Q_{LI-LO})$$

$$Q_{HI-HO} = \dot{m} \times (h_{HO} - h_{HI})$$

$$Q_{LI-LO} = \dot{m} \times (h_{LI} - h_{LO})$$

$$Q_{max} = \min(Q_{h\ max}, Q_{c\ max})$$

$$Q_{h\ max} = \dot{m} \times (h_{LI} - h(T_{HI}, P_{LO}))$$

$$Q_{c\ max} = \dot{m} \times (h(T_{LI}, P_{HO}) - h_{HI})$$

$$\Delta T_{Ln} = \frac{\Delta T_i - \Delta T_{ii}}{\ln(\Delta T_i / \Delta T_{ii})}$$

$$\Delta T_i = T_{LI} - T_{HO}$$

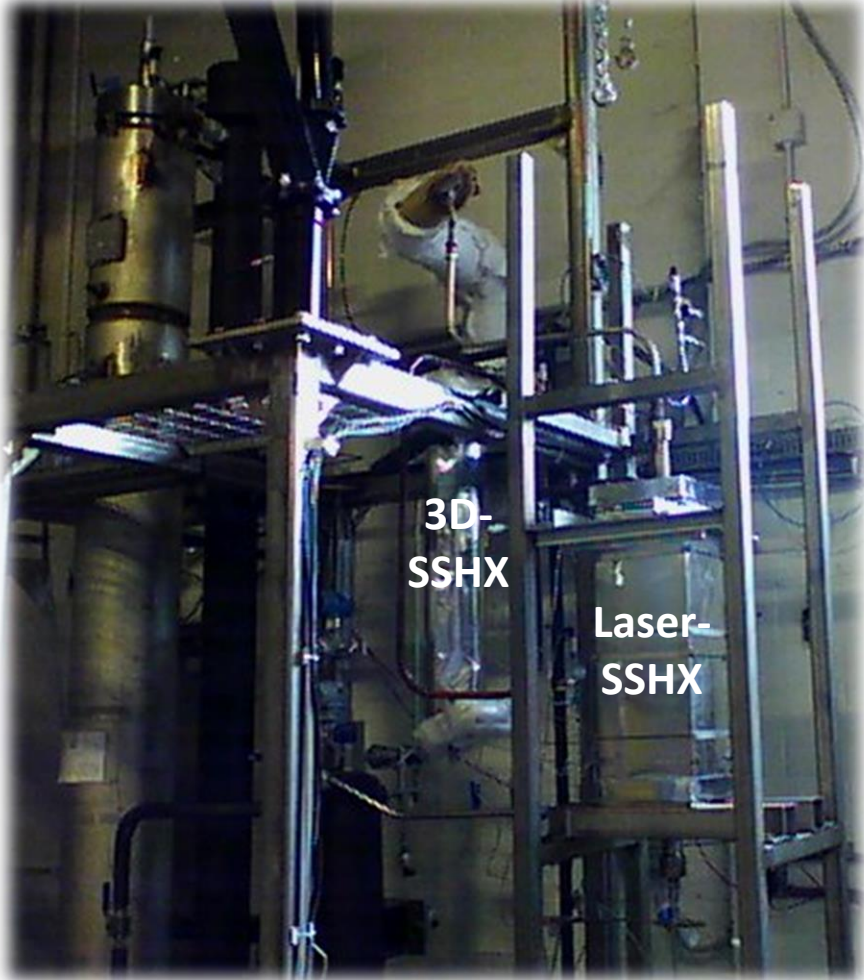
$$\Delta T_{ii} = T_{LO} - T_{HI}$$

Approach Temperature: $\Delta T_{app} = T_{LO} - T_{HI}$

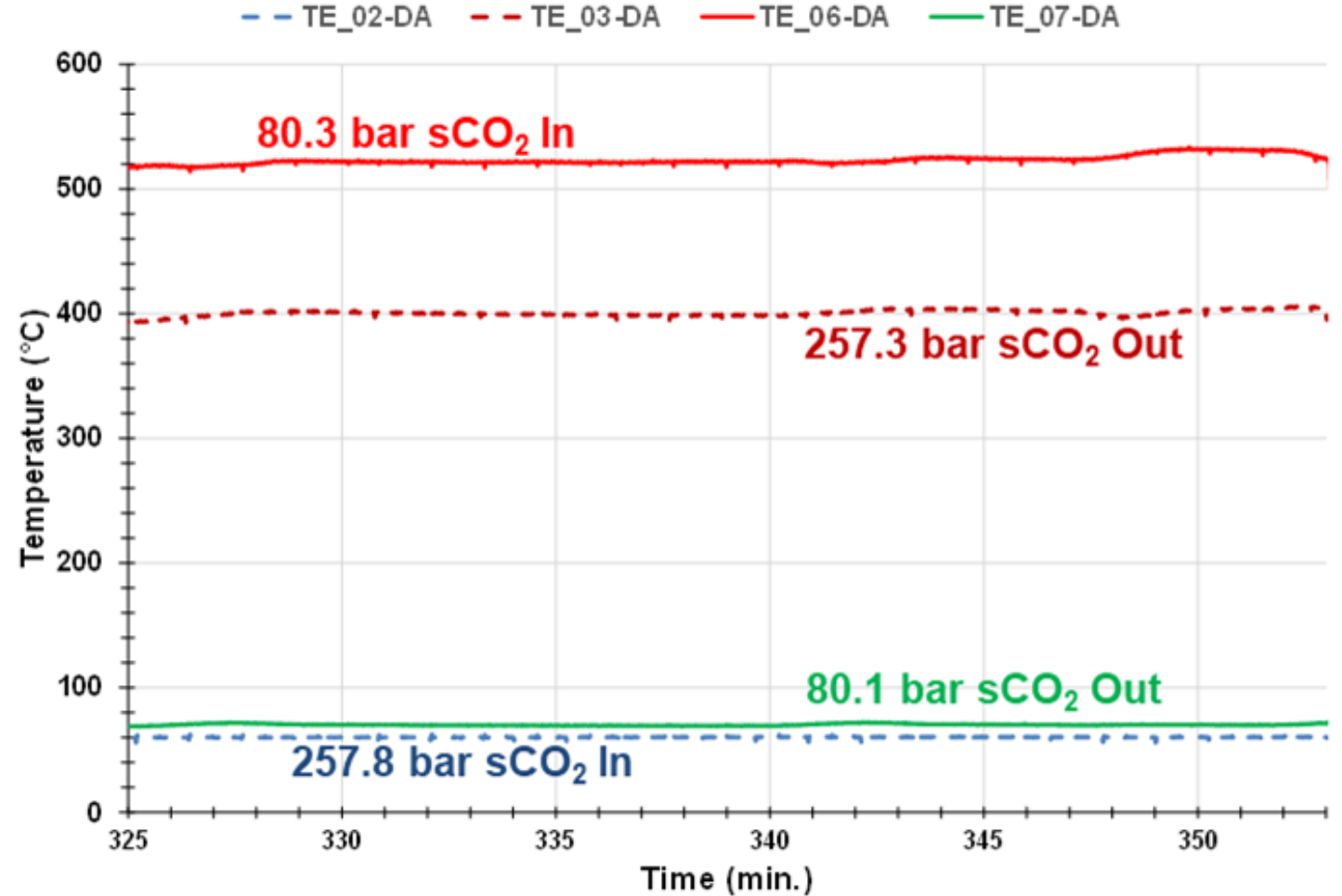
% Pressure Drop: $\% \Delta P = (P_{in} - P_{out}) / P_{in}$

Steady State Temperature Plot

Prototype SSHX Recuperators

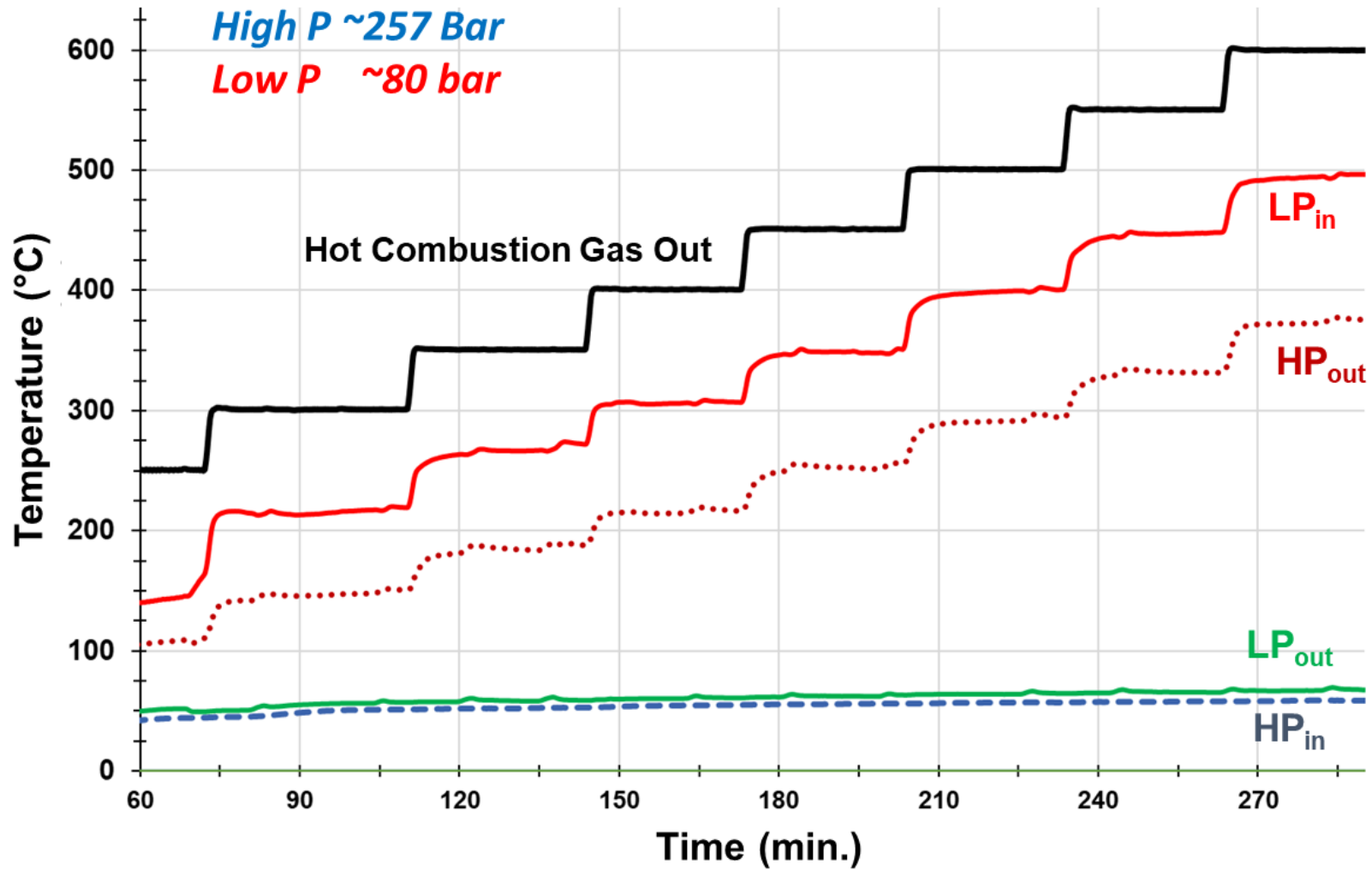


3D-SSHX – Steady State Plot



Temperature Plot

Good Energy Balance, < 2% error



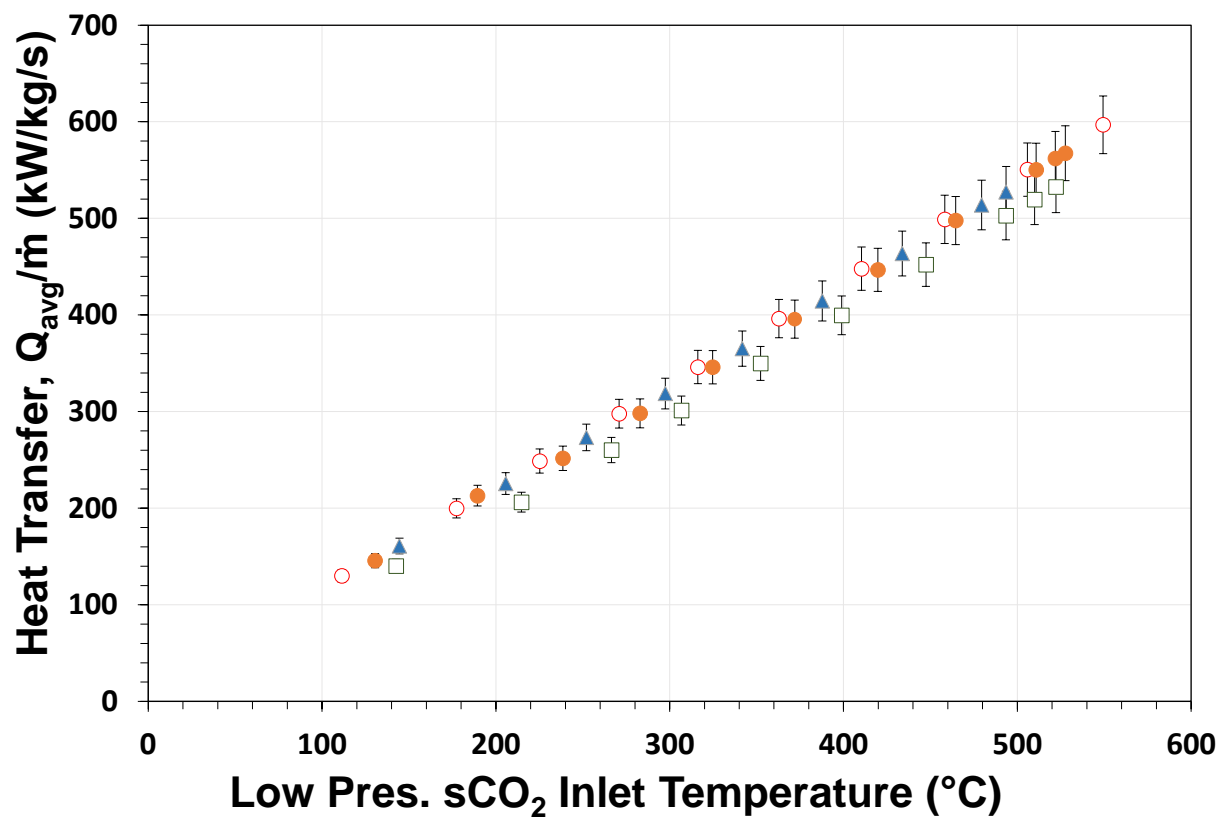
Approach T < 10°C

Energy Transfer Plots SSHX Recuperator Prototypes

3D-SSHX

Inconel 625

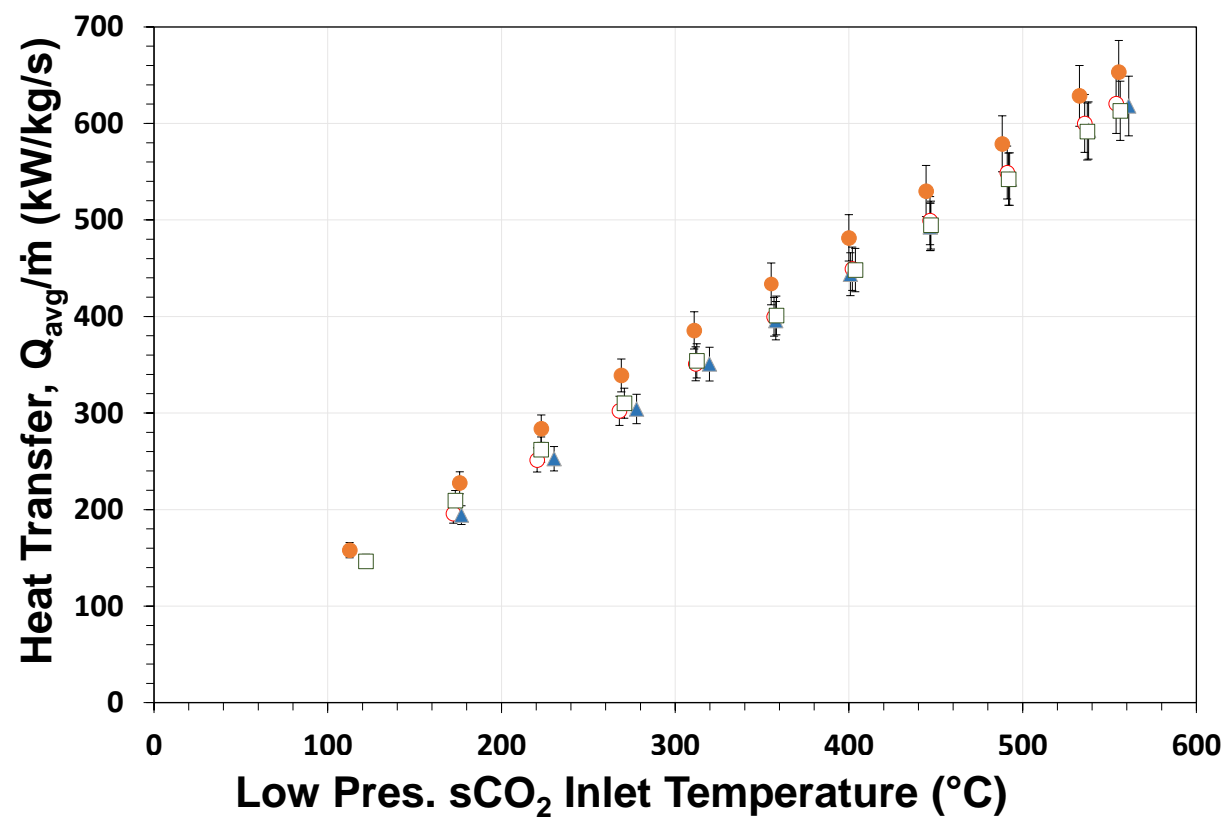
○ 152 bar #1 ● 152 bar #2 ▲ 202 bar □ 256 bar



Laser-SSHX

347H Stainless Steel

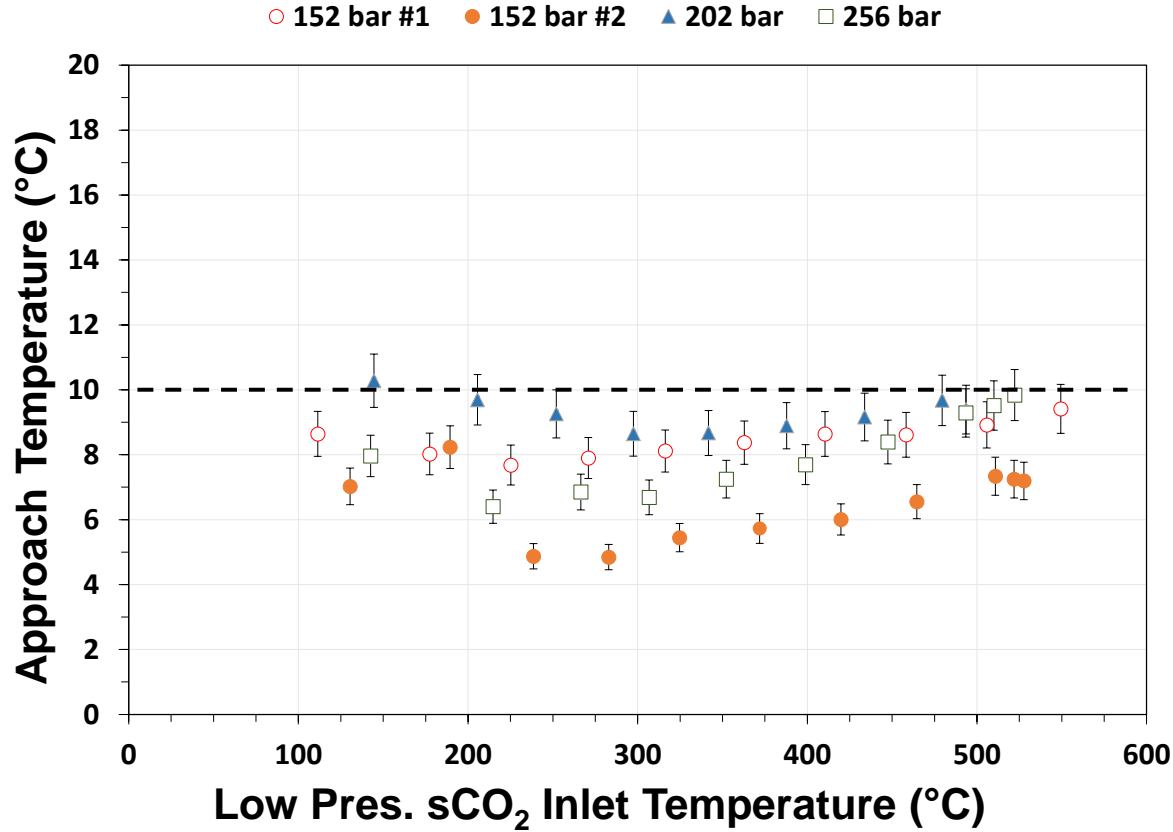
○ 152 bar #1 ● 151 bar #2 ▲ 202 bar □ 252 bar



Linear Response

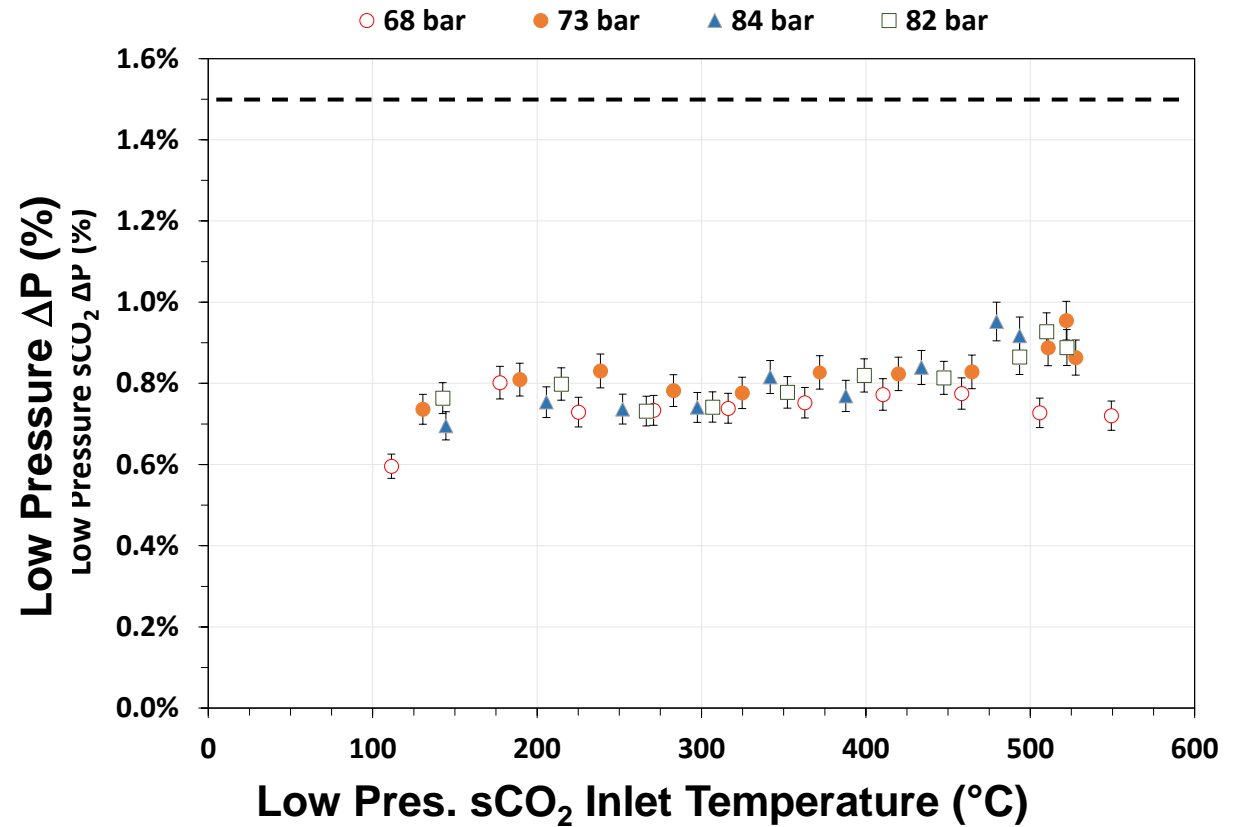
3D-SSHX Prototype Recuperator

Approach Temperature Plot



Approach $T < 10^{\circ}\text{C}$

Pressure Drop Plot



$\Delta P_h < 1.5\%$

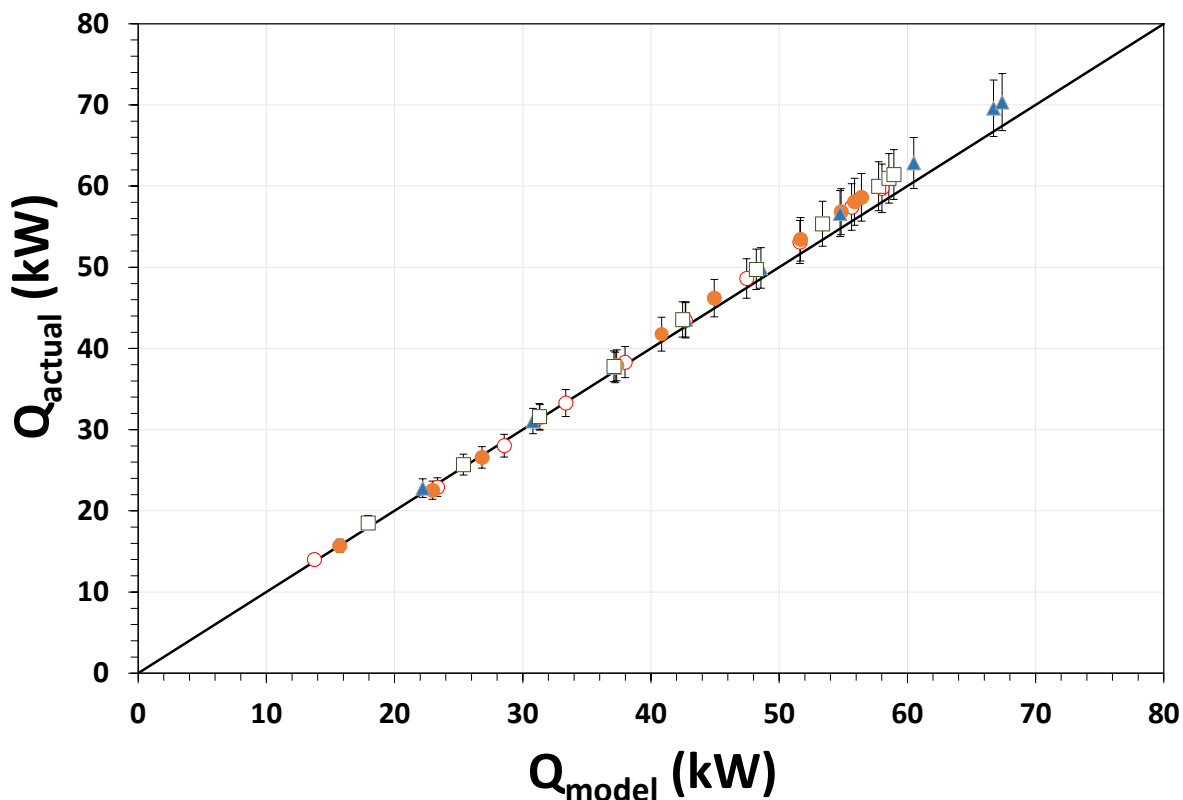
Meets design specifications

3D-SSHX Prototype Recuperator

Good correlation between Design & Actual HX performance data

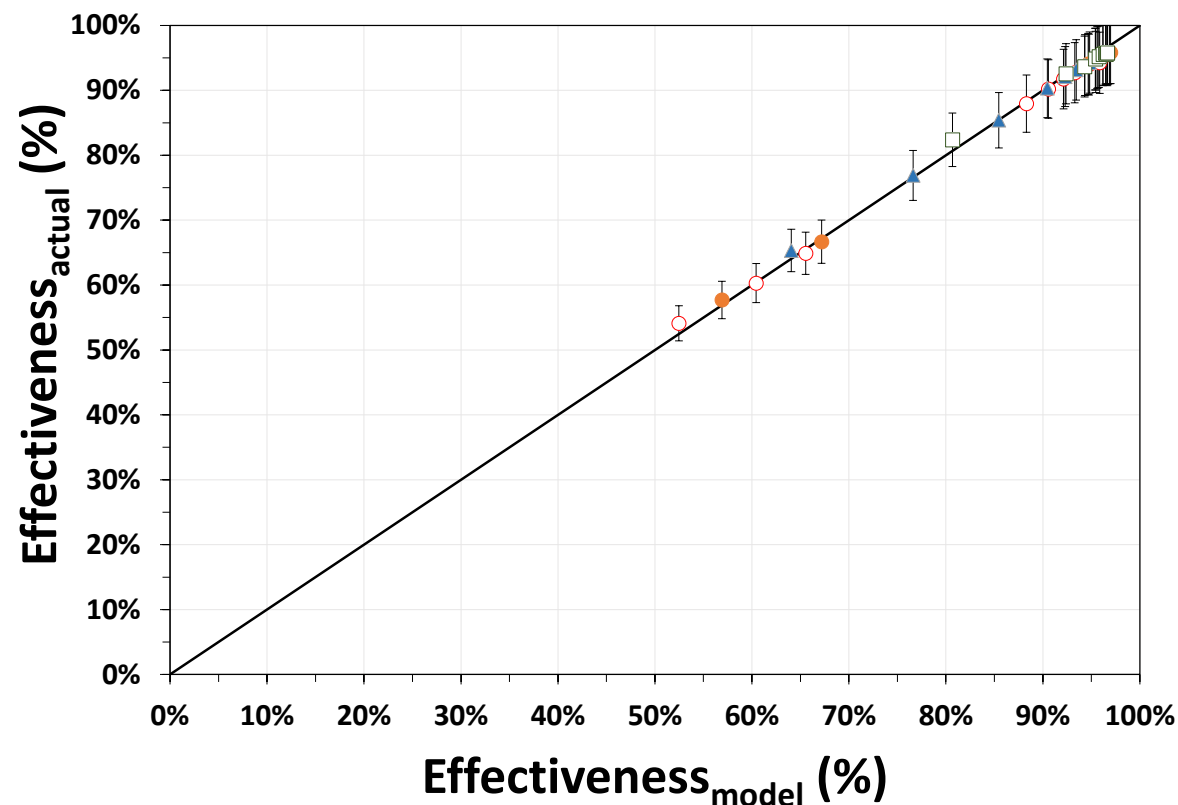
Heat Transfer, Q

○ 152 bar #1 ● 152 bar #2 ▲ 202 bar □ 256 bar



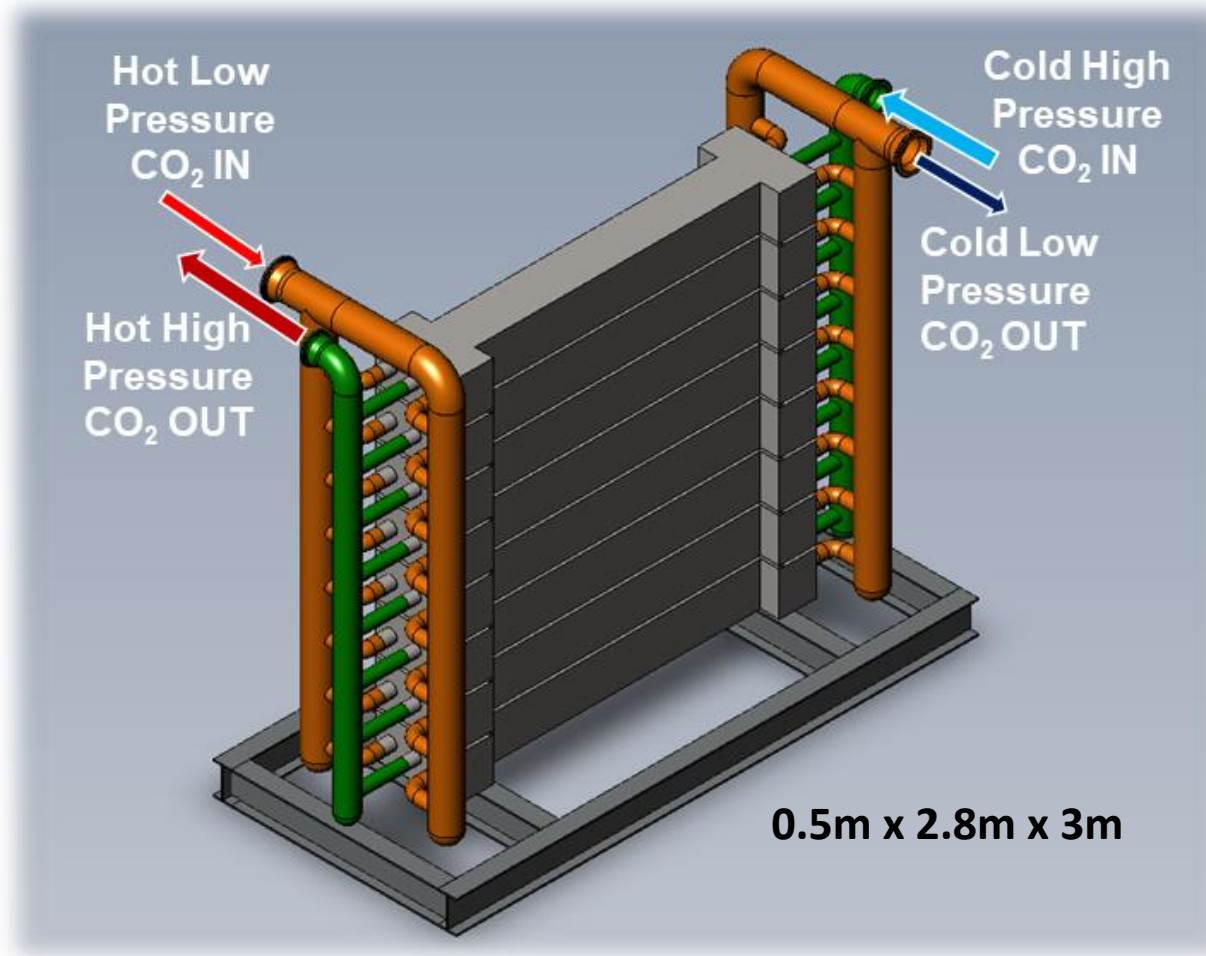
Effectiveness, ε

○ 152 bar #1 ● 152 bar #2 ▲ 202 bar □ 256 bar



46 MWt Laser-SSHX Recuperator

Parallel Modular Design, Factory Fabricated



3D-SSHX
57% volume decrease

Example: Eight stacked Laser-SSHX sub-modules

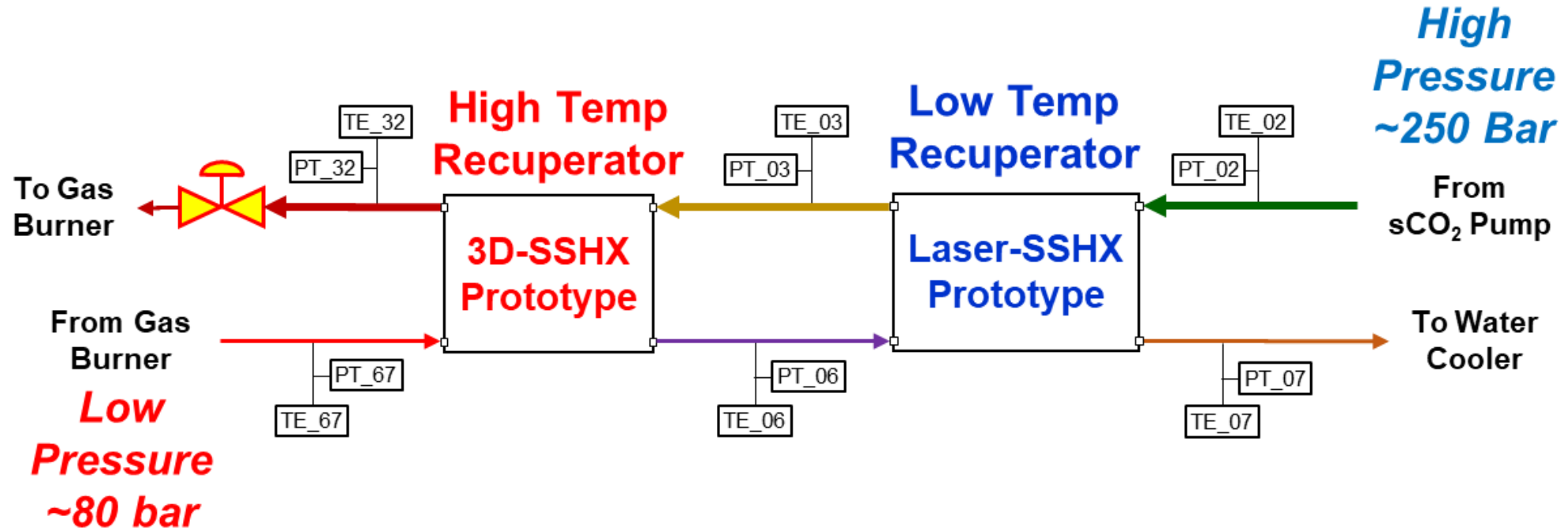
Data confirms SSHX Recuperator Performance

***SSHX Recuperator
 meets or exceeds program requirements***

Criteria	S.T.E.P. Target (Aug 2016)	SSHX Prototype
Thermal Capacity	45.9 MWt	✓
Thermal Effectiveness	97%	✓
Pressure Loss	$\Delta P_h < 1.5\%$ (1.3 bar)	✓
	$\Delta P_c < 0.6\%$ (1.3 bar)	✓
Temperature Limit	577°C	✓
Differential Pressure	152 bar	✓
Life	30,000 hr	TBD
Cost	< \$100 / kWt	✓
Package Dimensions	8.8 x 3.6 x 2.6 m	✓

Transient Tests

COMBO-SSHX: Laser-SSHX & 3D-SSHX piped in series

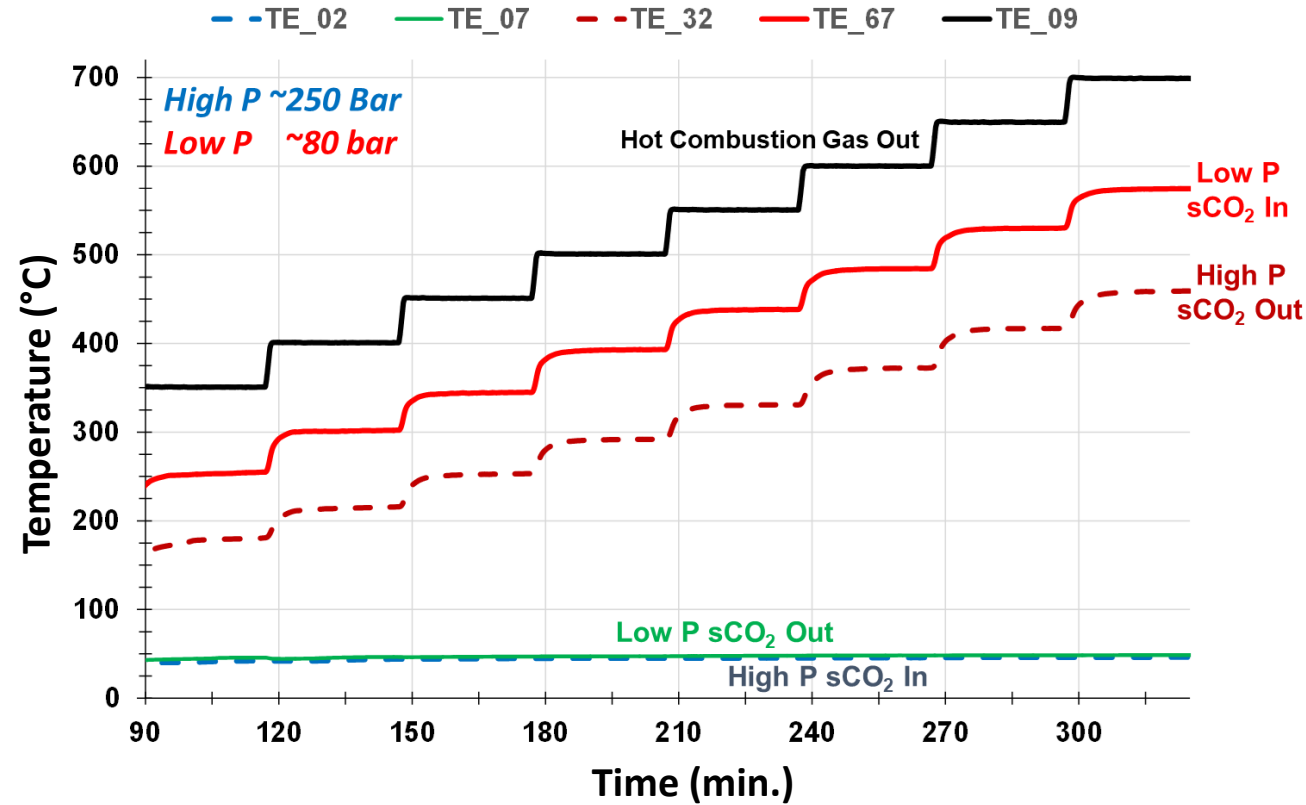


Test & Energy Balance Plots

COMBO-SSHX Recuperator

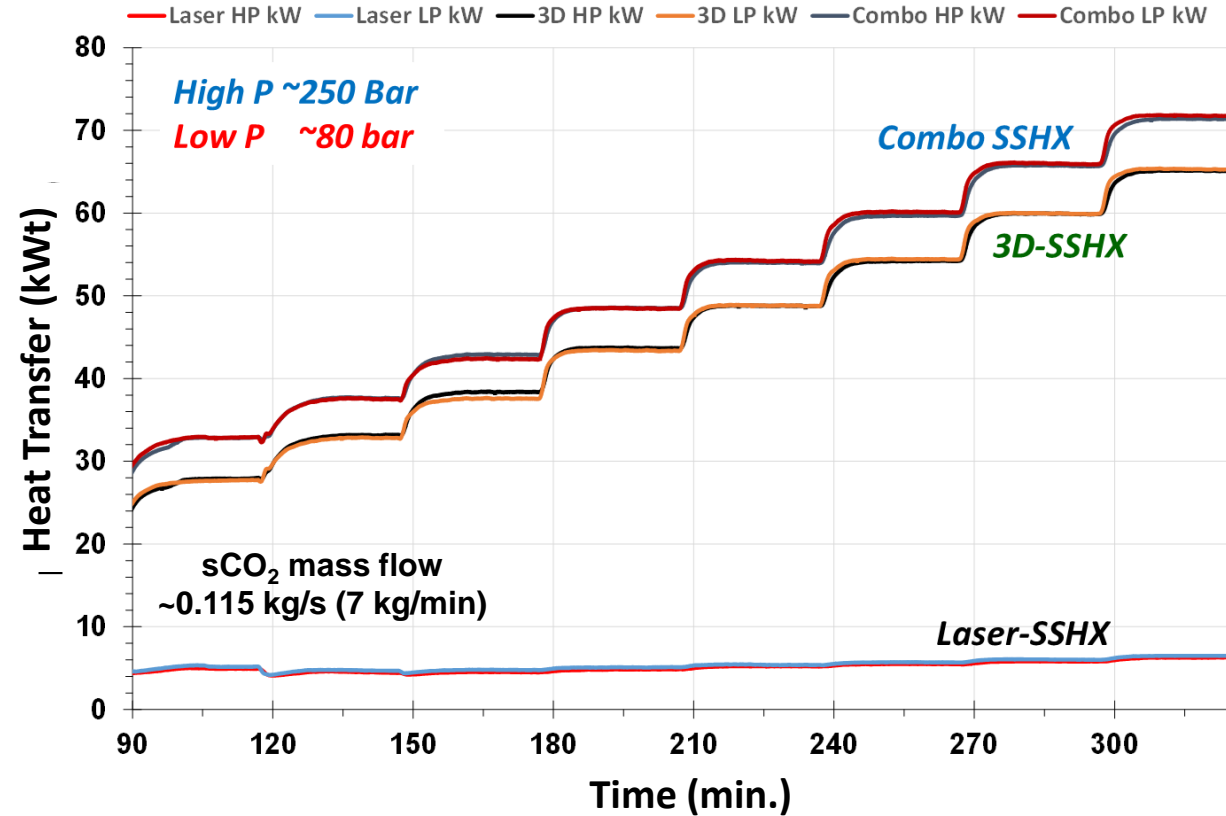
(Laser-SSHX & 3D-SSHX connected in series)

Temperature Plot



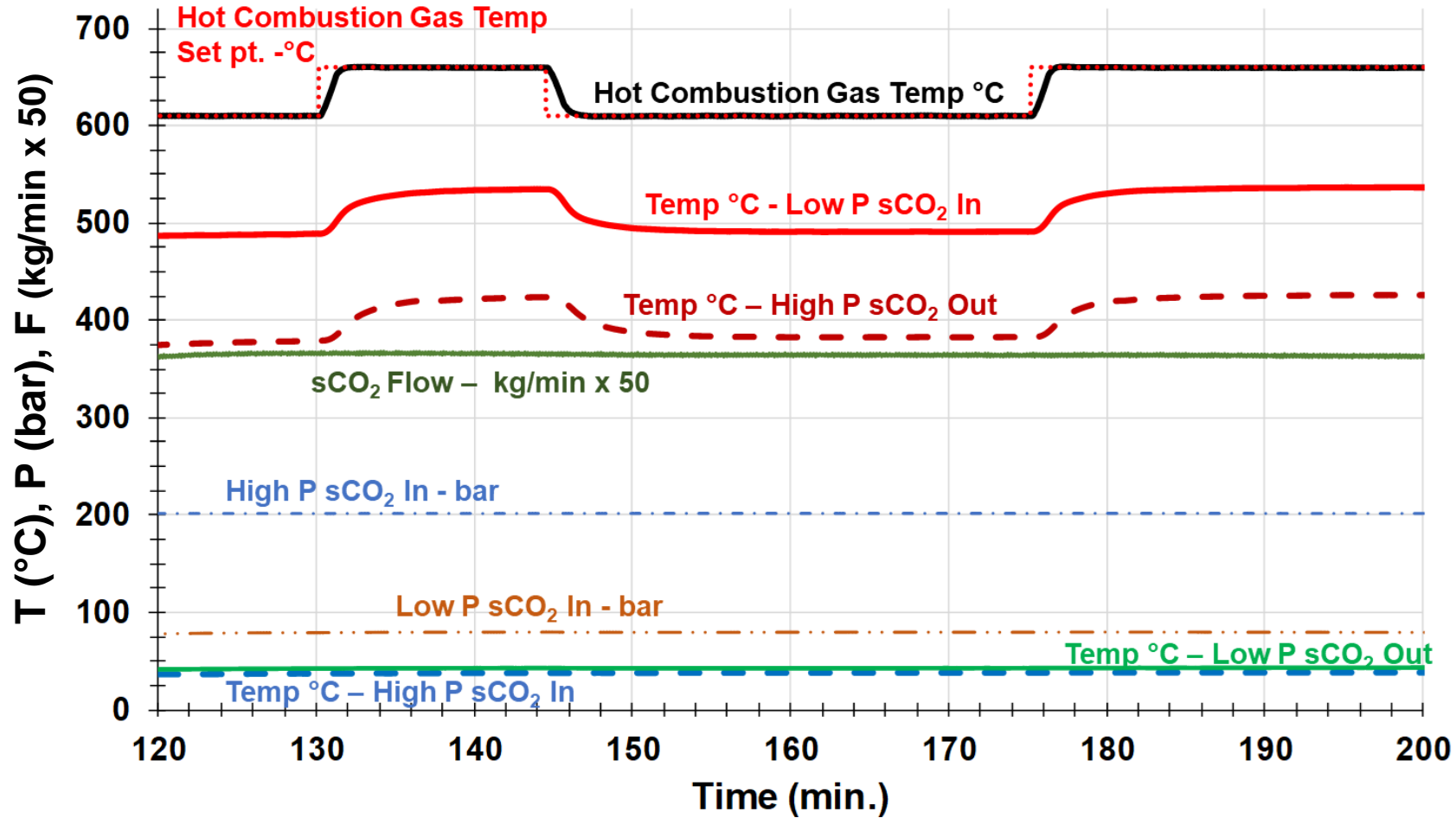
Approach T: < 5°C
Effectiveness: > 98%

Energy Balance Plot



Good Energy Balance, < 2% error

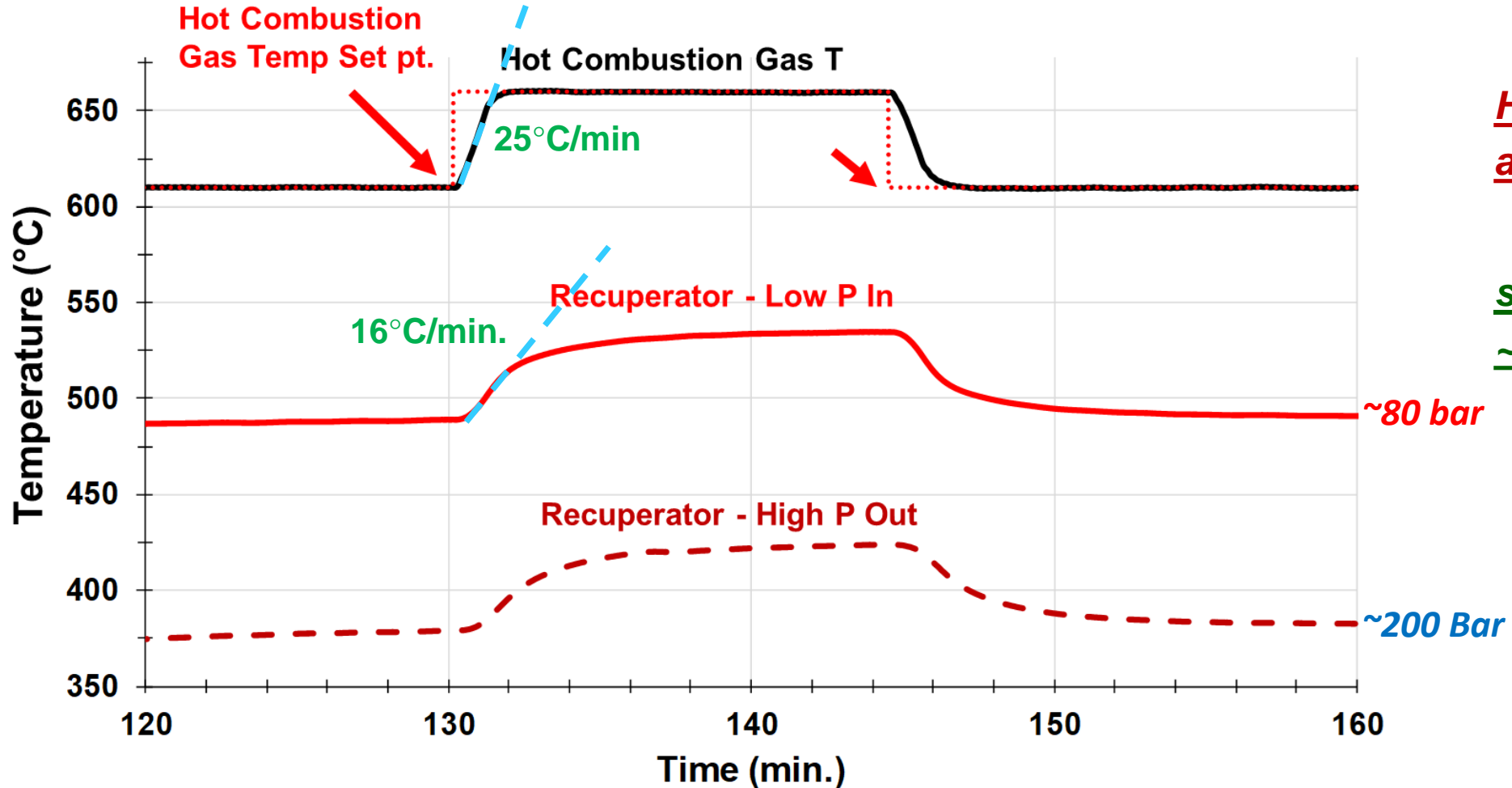
COMBO-SSHX Temperature Transient Plot



Pressure and flow remain stable

COMBO-SSHX

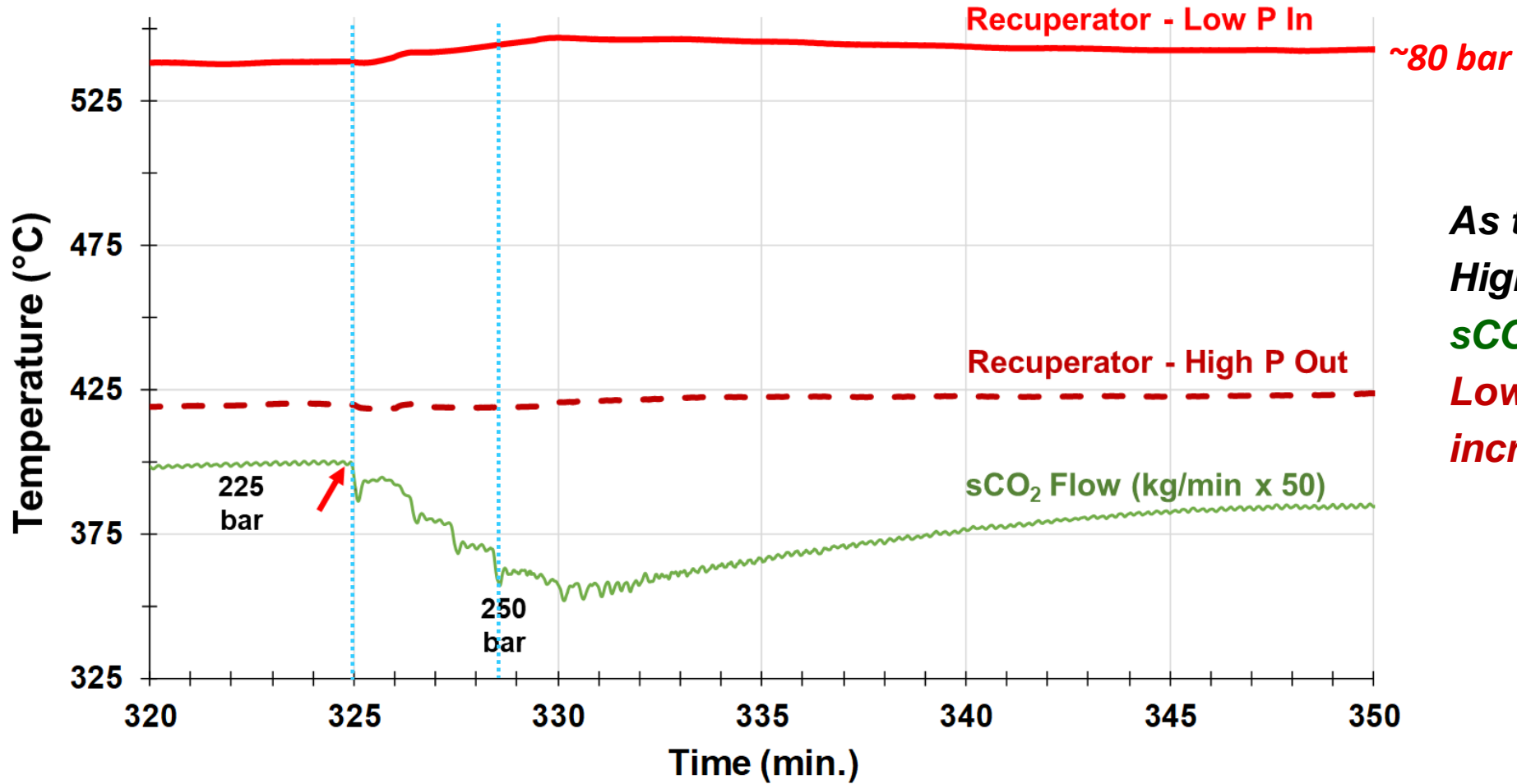
Temperature Transient Plot - expanded



Hot combustion gas adjusts in ~2 min

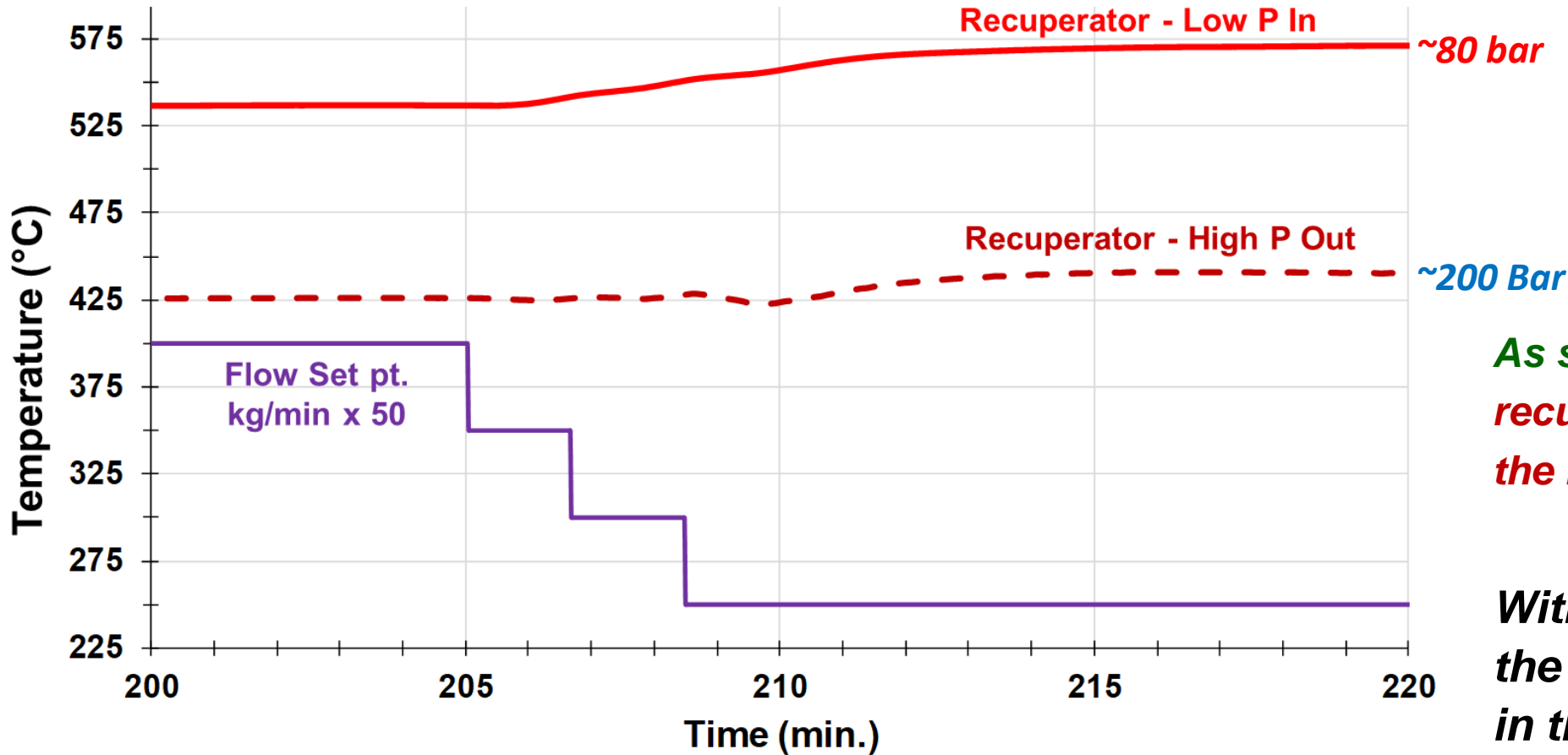
sCO₂ streams take ~10-15 min.

COMBO-SSHX Change of Pressure



As the pressure on the High-P side is increased, sCO₂ flow decreases, & Low-P side temperature increases.

COMBO-SSHX Change of Flow Rate



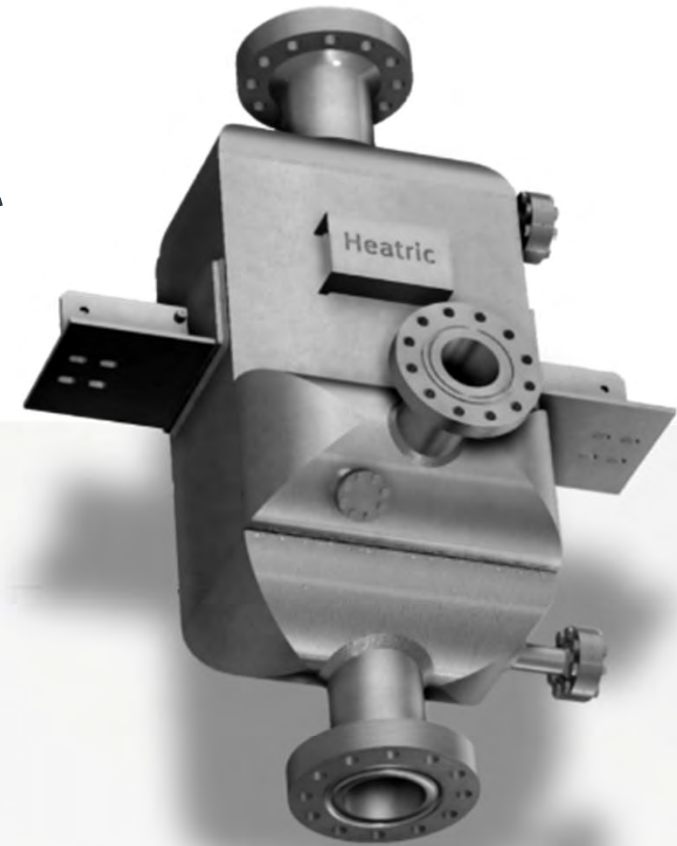
As sCO₂ flow rate decreased, recuperator temperature on the heater side increases.

With the lower flow rate, the sCO₂ residence time in the heater increases.

INTRODUCTION TO HEATRIC PCHEs*

- (Printed Circuit Heat Exchangers)

Presented by:
Renaud Le Pierres – Business Development Engineer
February 2024



1 | Why Heatric PCHEs?

Experts in Heat Transfer

Experience

- Over **3500** heat exchangers units supplied worldwide, most still in operation
- Nearly **40 years** dedicated heat transfer experience and engineering excellence

Manufacturing Capabilities

- Heatric have the **largest** PCHE dedicated chemical-etching facility in the world, by volume of material removed
- All of our manufacturing takes place in the **UK**, to ensure the highest level of product quality
- **Largest** radiographic cells in the south UK with 50 tonne capacity

Lifecycle Support

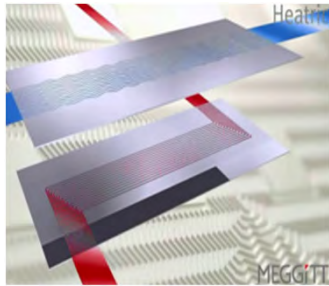
- Heatric Services offer **full lifecycle support** for your project; from engineering support and process development, to product maintenance by means of cleaning to extend the life of existing units

Customer Driven

- As a Parker Hannifin company, our aim is to provide exceptional-quality heat transfer solutions through the application of our values; teamwork, integrity, and excellence
- Heatric work with customers to develop best heat transfer solutions and maximise up-time

2 | PCHEs design and construction

Construction process

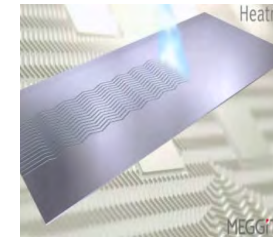


- Design:

PCHE is designed in-house by specialised engineering team to customer requirements

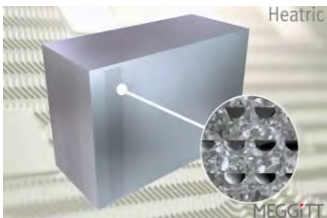
- Etching:

PCHEs are constructed of stainless steel plates, which are chemically etched to create the channels. Chemical etching the channels does not create stress-points which can cause channel failure.



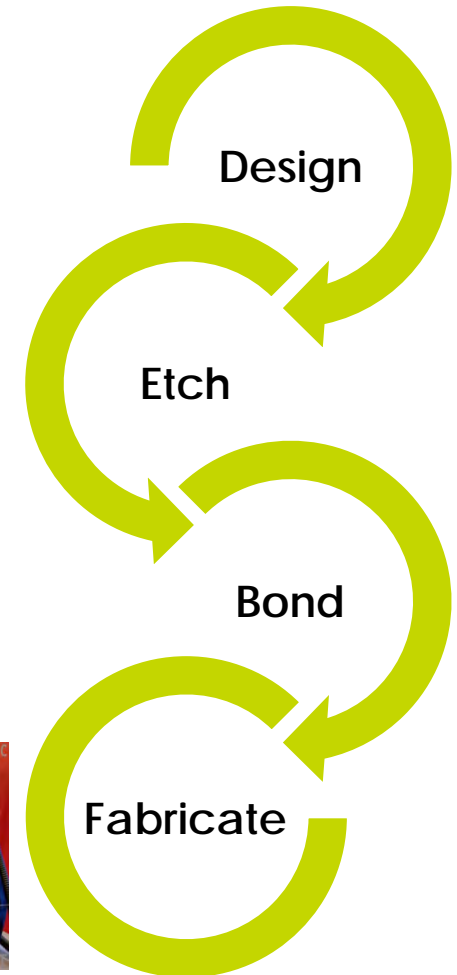
- Bonding:

Etched plates are stacked and diffusion-bonded together; to produce a core with the same integrity as a block of steel



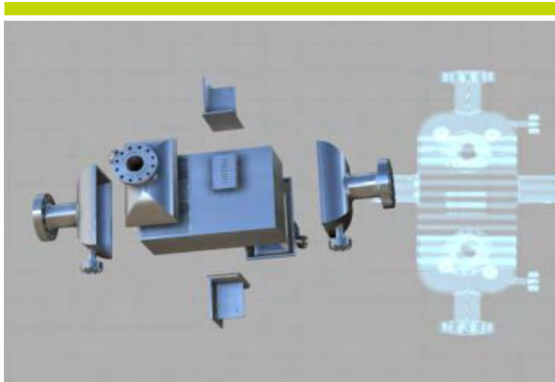
- Fabrication:

The cores are then welded together, with headers and flanges attached as required to produce the completed exchanger



3 | Benefits of PCHEs Printed Circuit Heat Exchangers

Superior Performance

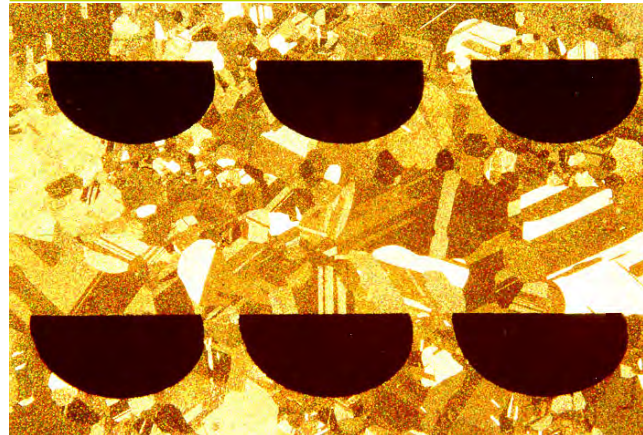


OPEX saving across wide range of processes

PCHEs are bespoke diffusion bonded compact heat exchangers providing:

- close temperature approaches ($>2^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- very high thermal performance (i.e. $13.6\text{MWth}/\text{m}^3$ sCO₂ recuperator)
- high pressure capability ($>1,000$ Bar)
- widest range of temperatures (-196°C to 900°C)

Inherently Safe



Reduced operational risks

Using diffusion bonding with a fully welded construction, PCHEs:

- can operate at full differential pressure between streams
- are immune to flow induced vibrations and pressure fluctuations
- do not suffer from catastrophic failure mode
- have 30 years track record of safe operation

Compact



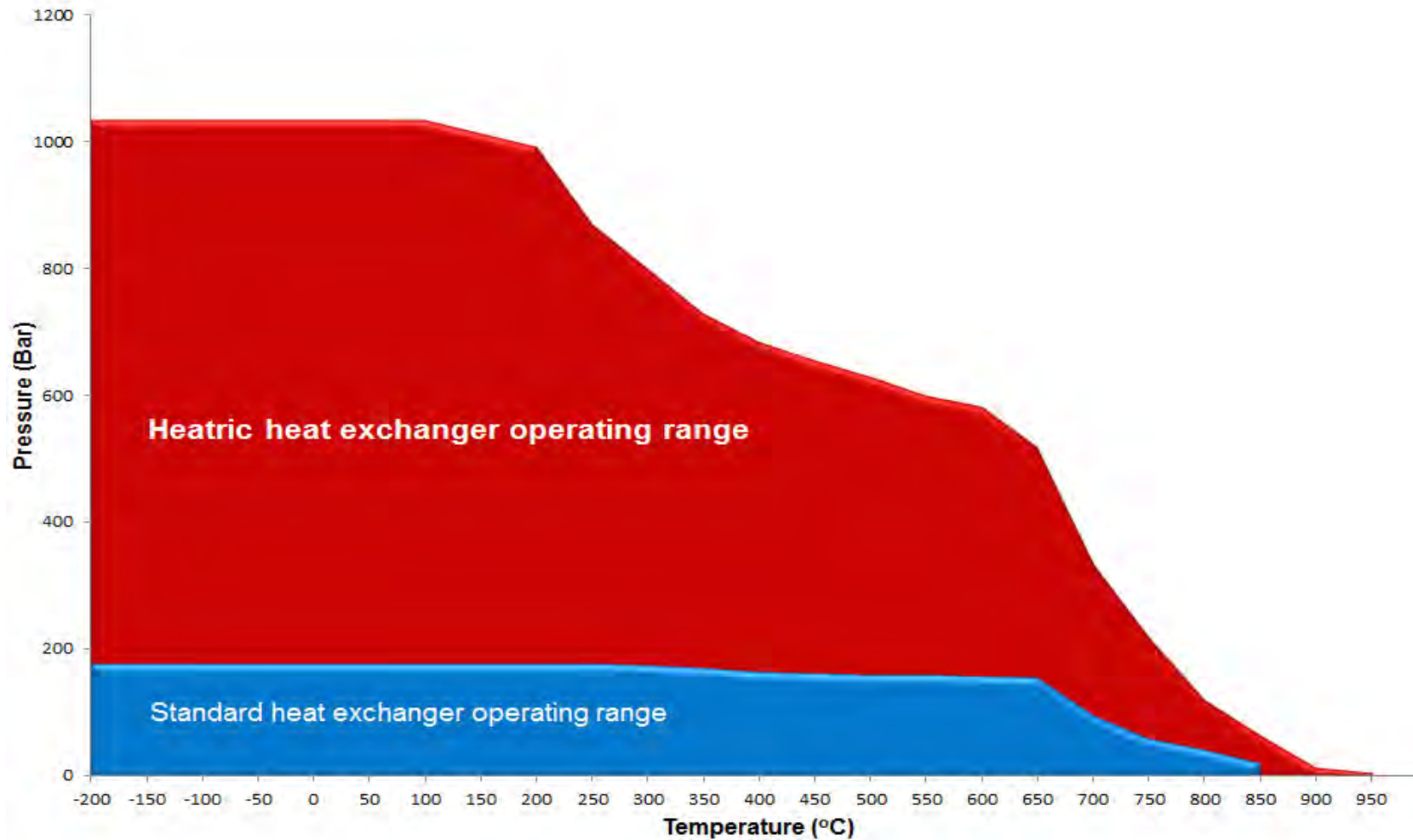
Overall Project CAPEX saving

PCHEs are up to 85% smaller than Shell and Tube exchangers, offering:

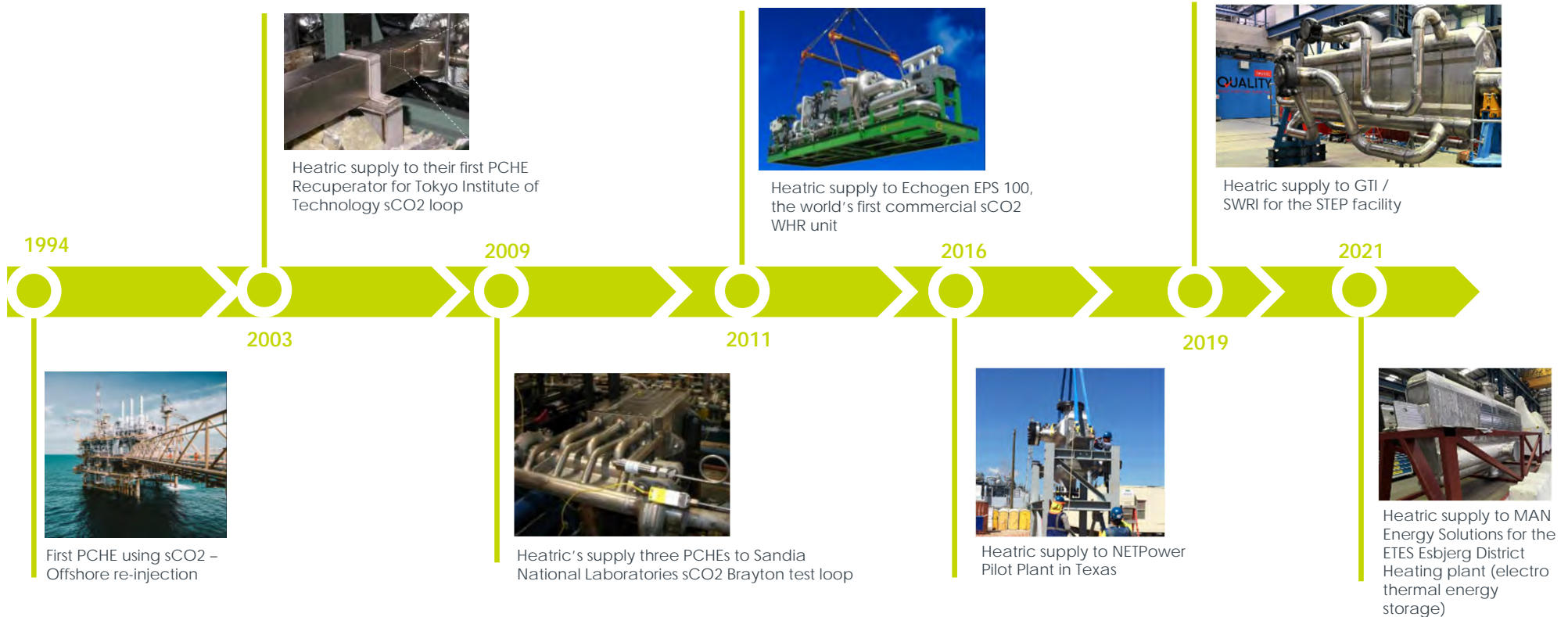
- modularisation for ease of transport, on-site installation
- reduced foundation structure
- reduced pipework and safety valves
- retrofit capability in-lieu of S&T
- PCHE is made from 100% fire resistant materials

3 | Benefits of PCHEs

Mechanical capability



4 | Heatric sCO₂ Key Delivered Project Timeline Since 1994

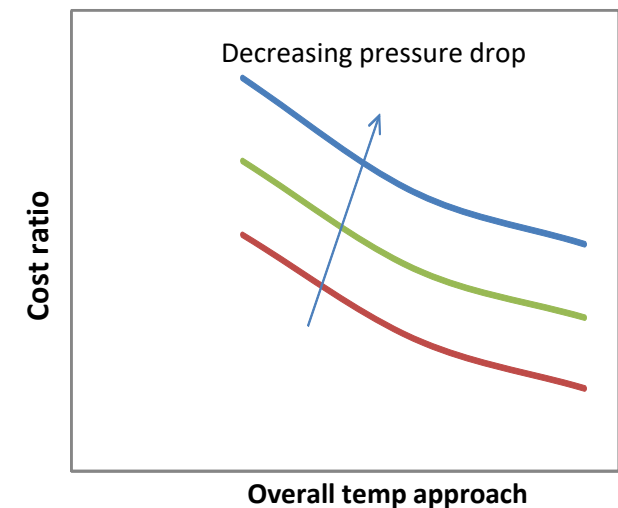
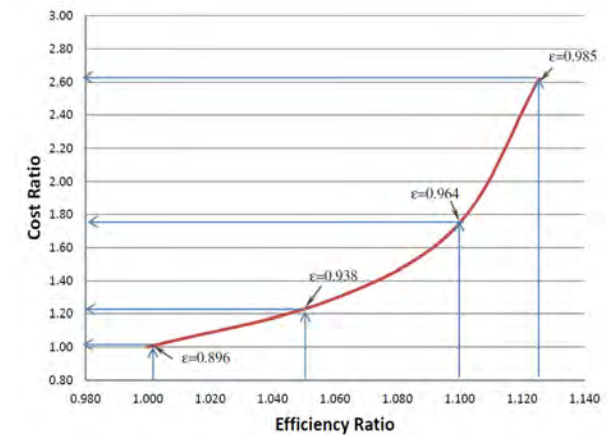


	USA	Australia	U.K.	Germany	Canada	China	Denmark	Japan	Korea
N° Project	10	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
N° Units	24	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1

* 42 sCO₂ exchangers delivered, 27 sCO₂ projects quoted, >1000 exchangers bespoke designs

5 | Economic feasibility of PCHEs for sCO₂ power cycles

- **Increasing design temperature:**
Change conventional material to high grade alloys (10x – 20x more expensive and potentially limited supply)
- **Increasing design Pressure:**
Thicker walls with non standard product forms for some components (i.e. hubs, special forgings, pipes)
- **Temperature approaches:**
Diminish efficiency returns versus exchanger potentially doubling in size for minimum gains ($Q=U.A.LMTD$)
- **Allowable pressure drop:**
Very high free flow area required (increase size of HE) potentially beyond compressor / pump cost savings
 - Hence sCO₂ process design must be balanced between equipment cost and efficiency gain

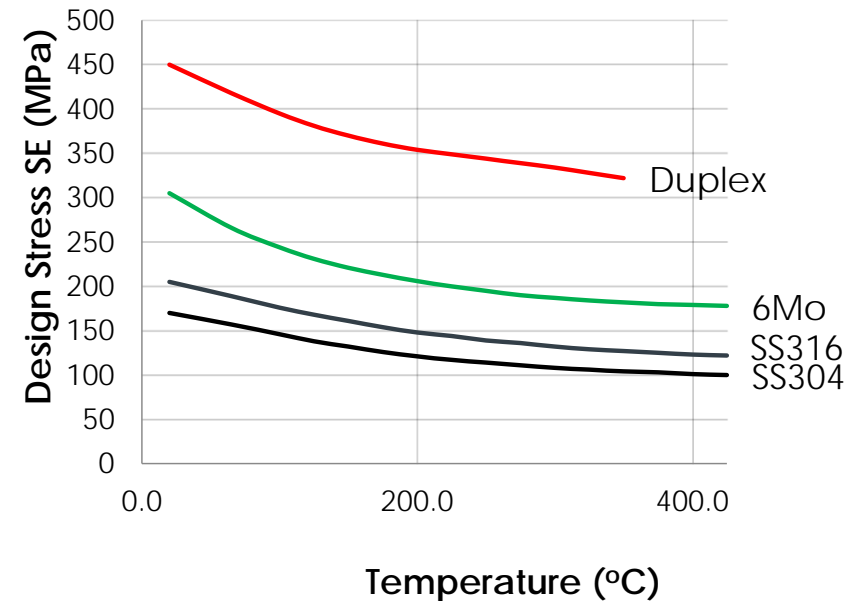


6 | PCHes design and construction

Material process

Qualified:

- Austenitic Stainless steels 304/304L (S30400, S30403)
- Austenitic Stainless steels 316/316L (S31600, S31603)
- Duplex 2205 (S31803)
- Superduplex (S32750)
- Titanium Grade 2 (R50400)
- 6 Moly (N08367)
- Alloy 617 (N06617)



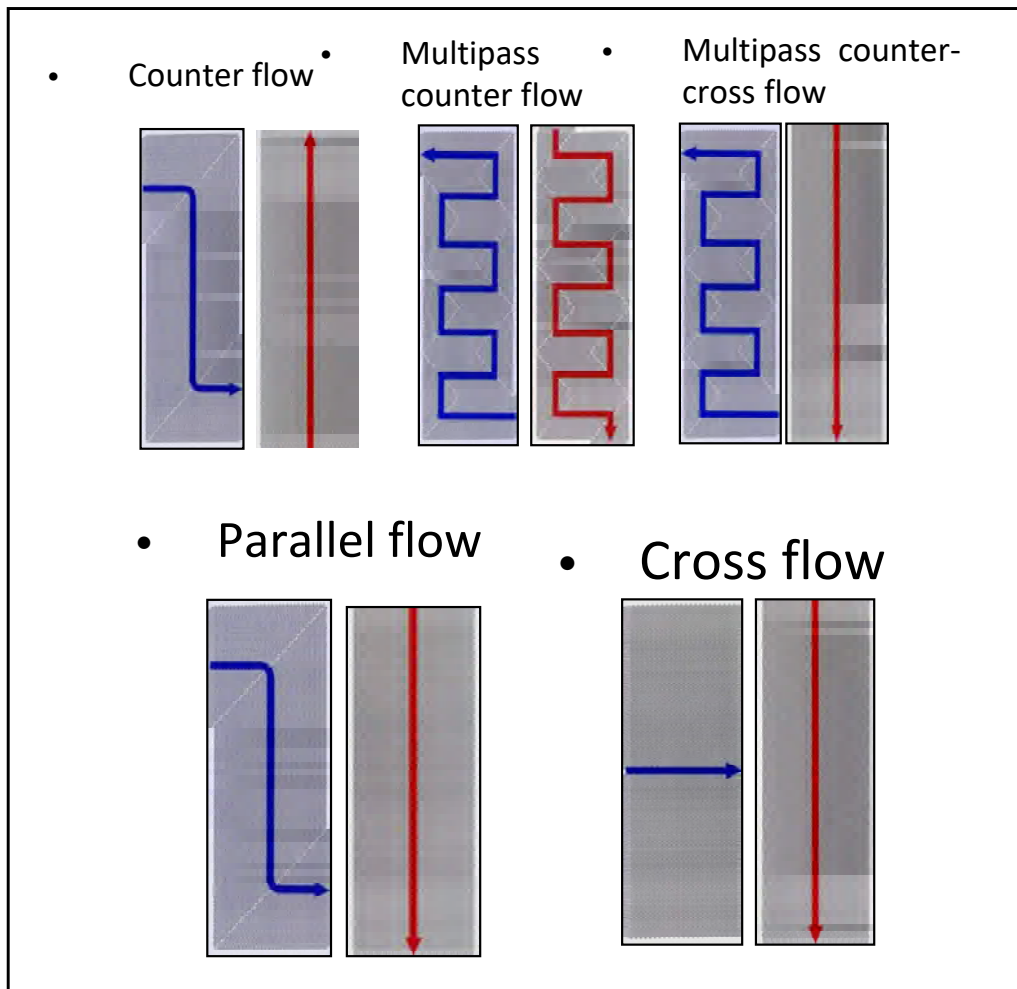
Material Allowable Stress:

- SS304 @ 425°C = 100MPa ASME II Part D
- Duplex @ 150°C = 370MPa ASME II Part D
- 6Moly @ 275°C = 190MPa ASME II Part D

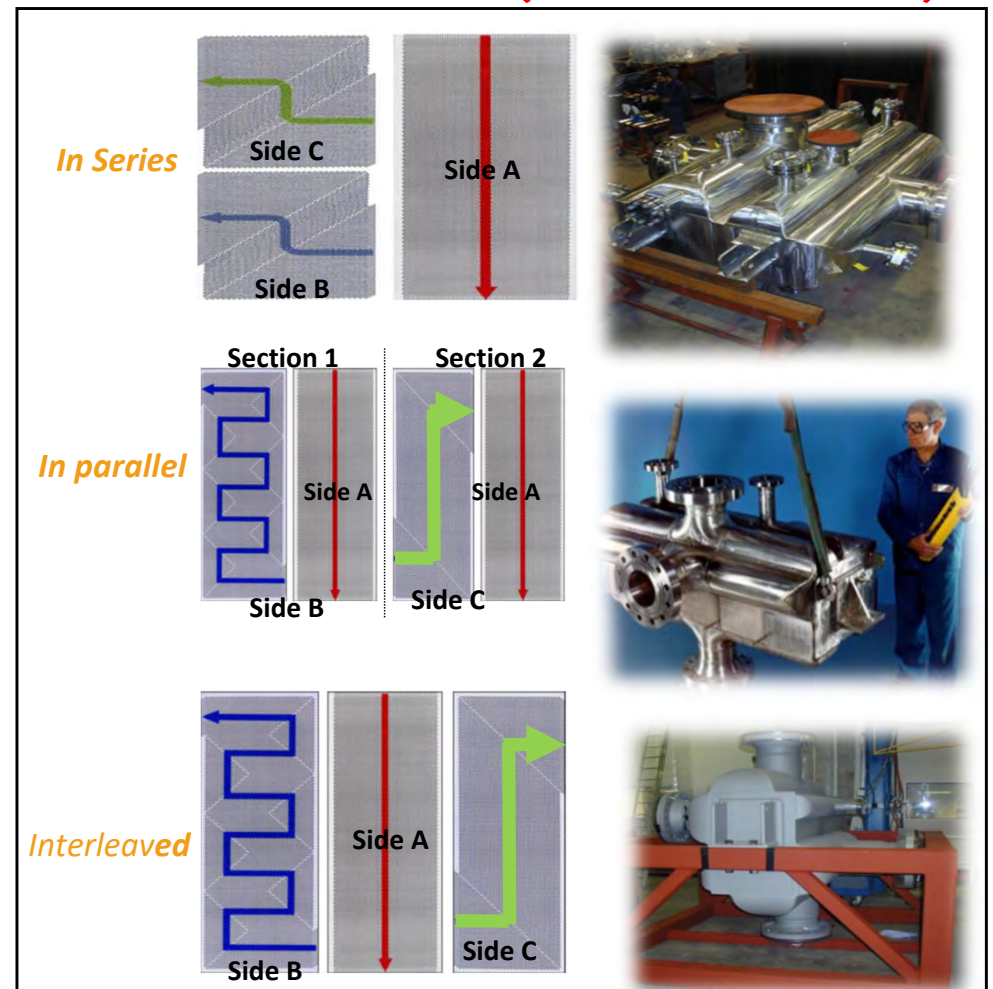
6 | PCHEs design and construction

Thermal design considerations

Thermal contact arrangement (2 streamers)



Thermal Contact (multi-streamers)



6 | PCHE design and construction

Hydraulic design consideration

- ΔP distribution through PCHEs
 - **Active Core** → min. 50% of the total calculated ΔP_{TOTAL} .
 - **Header - Nozzles** → dynamic head losses enforced, **check for maldistribution**

- Due to friction:

- Pressure drop through the core
- Treated similarly to losses in pipes
- PCHE experimental studies on fanning friction factor (f) and Re.

$$\Delta P = \frac{\rho V^2 f L}{2D}$$

- Due to fittings:

- Pressure drop through standard core attachments
- Also for additional fittings (elbows, manifolds, etc)
- Apply the resistance coefficient (K) method
- Most commonly used → expansion and contraction

$$\Delta P = K V_{head}^2$$

6 | PCHE design and construction

Mechanical design Code & Certifications

- Direct Stress (primary, secondary or both)

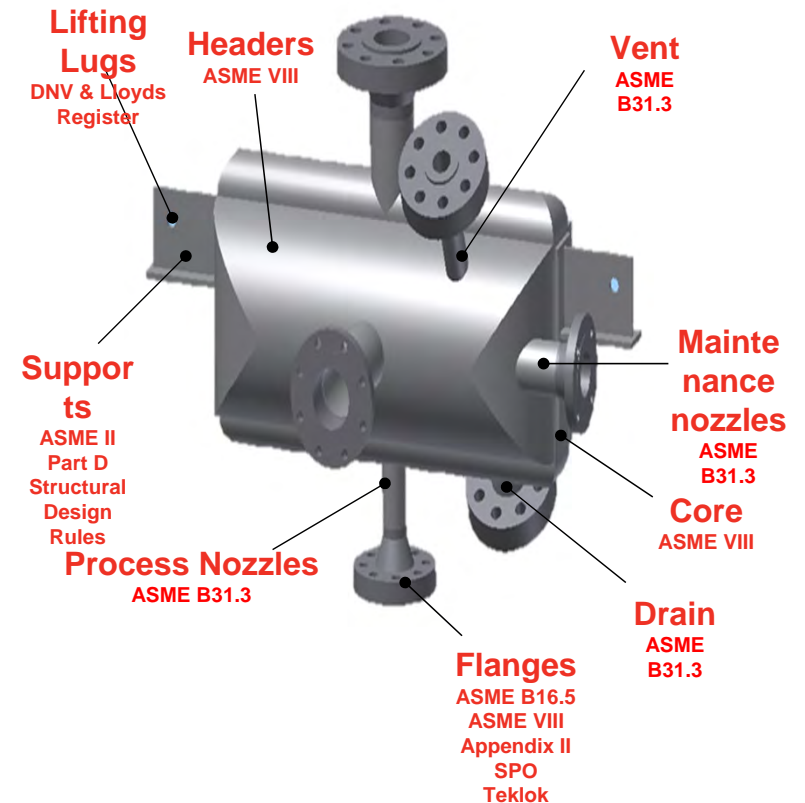
$$\text{Direct Stress } (\sigma_d) = \frac{\text{Force } (F)}{\text{Area } (A)}$$

- Bending Stress (secondary stress)

$$\text{Bending Stress } (\sigma_b) = \frac{\text{Moment } (M) \times \text{Distance to neutral plane } (y)}{\text{Second Moment of Area } (I)}$$

- Hoop Stress (primary stress)

$$\text{Hoop Stress } (\sigma_h) = \frac{\text{Pressure } (P) \times \text{radius } (r)}{\text{thickness } (t)}$$



7 | Operation challenges in heat exchangers

Structural, Performance and Metallurgical challenges of HEs

Structural Challenges

- Failures caused by flow induced vibration
- Leakage from bolted

Performance Challenges

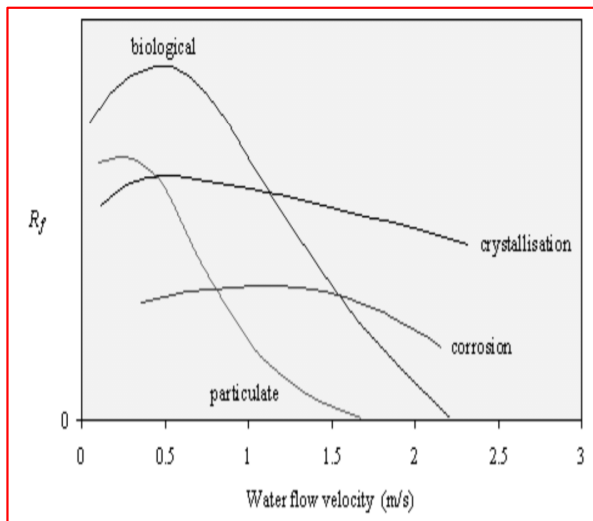
- The excessive tube fouling
- Thermal stresses in the internal of the heat exchanger

Metallurgical Challenges

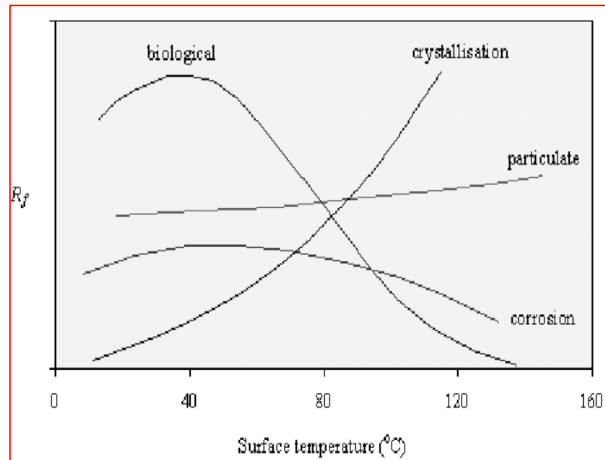
- Stress corrosion
- Galvanic corrosion
- Erosion corrosion
- Pitting corrosion

7 | Operation problem in heat exchangers PCHes Fouling Consideration

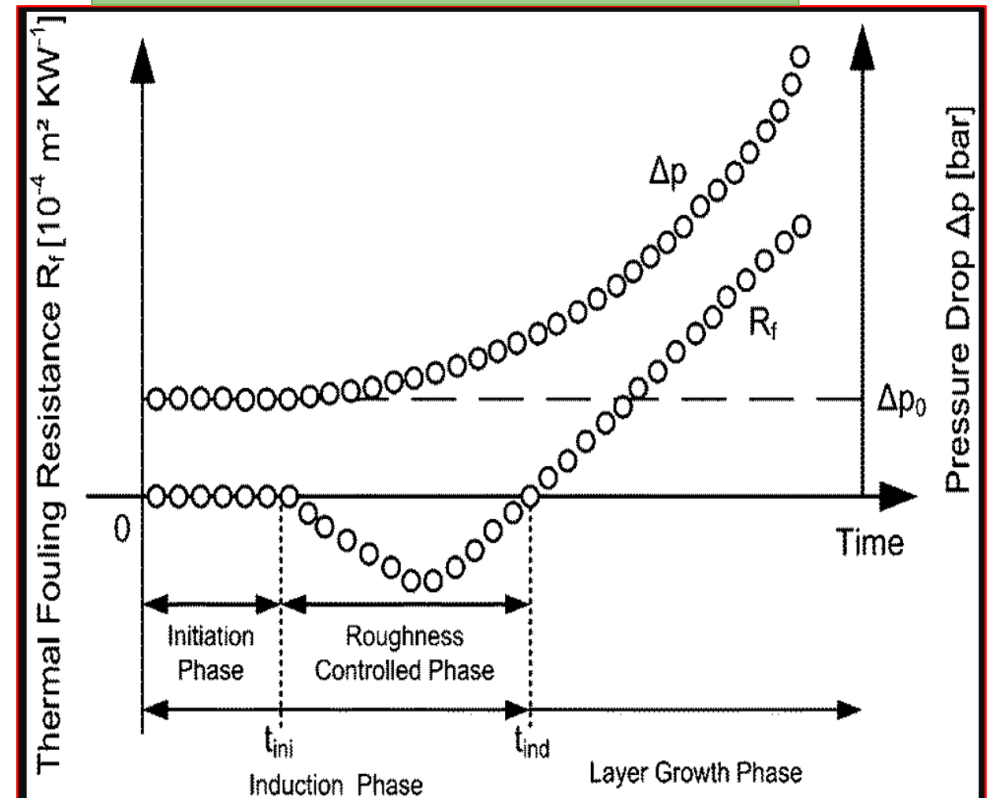
Effect of velocity at constant temperature



Effect of temperature at constant velocity



Graphical definition and schematic development of the thermal fouling resistance and the pressure drop over process time.



7 | Operation considerations for heat exchangers

Corrosion



- » Corrosion of a PCHE is uncommon due to the materials from which they are constructed. Typically stainless steel 316 / 316L
- » However, in some extreme cases corrosion has occurred. The two types of corrosion that need to be considered are:
 - **Pitting Corrosion**
 - **Chloride Stress Corrosion Cracking (CSCC)**

8 | Preventative Measures & Maintenance

Complete lifecycle support

1. Field Service Support

- Operator Training
- PCHE Inspection
- Commissioning
- Site Survey
- Performance Review

3. Service Support

- Weld repair
- Re-core
- Failure investigation
- Maintenance nozzle retrofit

2. Cleaning

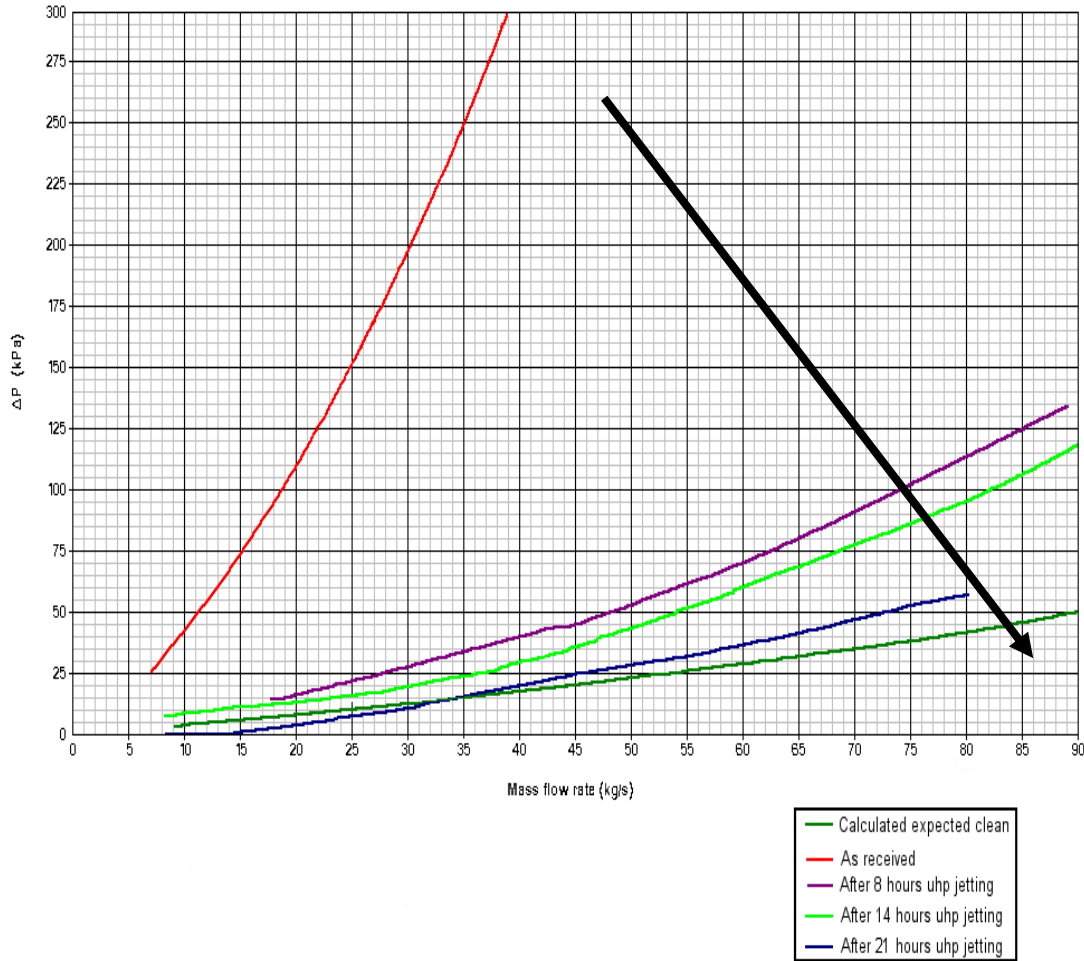
- Chemical circulation
- UHP water jetting
- Back puffing
- Sample analysis

4. Additional Offerings

- Nitrogen preservation
- Helium leak testing
- Hydrostatic testing
- New or replacement strainers



8 | Preventative Measures & Maintenance UHP cleaning example



Before

After



Find out more

heatric.com

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Corporate
Brochure



Servicing &
Maintenance