

A Simulation Model and Parametric Study of Triple-Effect Desalination Plant

Authors : Maha BenHamad, Ali Snoussi, Ammar Ben Brahim

Abstract : A steady-state analysis of triple-effect thermal vapor compressor desalination unit was performed. A mathematical model based on mass, salinity and energy balances is developed. The purpose of this paper is to develop a connection between process simulator and process optimizer in order to study the influence of several operating variables on the performance and the produced water cost of the unit. A MATLAB program is used to solve the model equations, and Aspen HYSYS is used to model the plant. The model validity is examined against a commercial plant and showed a good agreement between industrial data and simulations results. Results show that the pressures of the last effect and the compressed vapor have an important influence on the produced cost, and the increase of the difference temperature in the condenser decreases the specific heat area about 22%.

Keywords : steady-state, triple effect, thermal vapor compressor, Matlab, Aspen Hysys

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