

## USE OF SWIRLERS IN HEAT EXCHANGERS

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### Annotation

Shell and tube heat exchangers are one of the most common types of equipment in the chemical and oil refining industries and account for a quarter of all process equipment. Therefore, at present, shell-and-tube heat exchangers of increased thermal efficiency are of great interest on the part of the industry. This is due to the desire to increase the output of manufactured products, reduce the number of heat exchangers for transferring the same amount of heat, and reduce the cost of maintenance and repair of equipment. One of the structural elements that increase the thermal efficiency of shell-and-tube heat exchangers are ring swirlers.

**Keywords:** chemical and oil refining industries, heat exchangers, design efficiency.

### Introduction

The effectiveness of application to shell-and-tube heat exchangers with annular swirlers is explained by the fact that with a slight change in the design of the device. This structural element improves heat transfer conditions, reduces the risk of sedimentation, eliminates stagnant zones and increases the design efficiency factor by about 1.5 times [1-7]. Thus, we can conclude that ring swirlers are a promising element for increasing the efficiency of heat transfer for shell-and-tube heat exchangers.

## Research Object and Method

The currently used methods for manufacturing and installing annular swirlers have significant drawbacks. As a result, the annular swirlers manufactured by such methods have a high metal consumption, high manufacturing cost and do not provide the required reliability. Before us there was a need to review existing manufacturing technologies and offer new ones. At the same time, the goal is to simplify the manufacturing technology, reduce the metal consumption, and also increase the manufacturability of the design [8-13].

The designs of the annular swirlers used in the manufacture of heat exchangers have different designs and geometric features. From the whole variety of swirler designs, it is necessary to choose the most effective design. This goal is achieved by introducing new design geometric parameters that ensure the operability of the structure, in accordance with the technological features of production.

The main signs of low manufacturability of swirlers are the unreasonable design accuracy of functional parameters, low accuracy due to imperfect manufacturing technology. Therefore, the task of further increasing the efficiency of the production of shell-and-tube heat exchange equipment by improving the information design and technological support for the production of basic parts, in particular swirlers, is an urgent task [14-22].

Experimental studies of the intensity of heat transfer in the vortex apparatus have been carried out. Hot water with a temperature of 40–60°C and atmospheric air, the temperature of which at the inlet to the apparatus was about 15–25°C, were used as working media. The experiments covered the area of change of Reynolds numbers from 1100 to 4050 in the gas phase, calculated from the average air velocity (per the total cross section of the apparatus). The studies were carried out on an experimental setup, the scheme of which is shown in fig. 1.

The main element of the plant is a direct-flow vortex contact heat exchanger. The heat exchanger is a cylindrical vessel with a diameter of 100 mm and a working area height of 1000 mm. In the upper part of it there are tangential branch pipes for supplying air and hot water. The air supplied from above by a high-pressure fan 5 through tangential pipes 2 enters the working chamber 1, acquires a rotational-translational motion and then goes down along its inner surface. Hot water is also supplied from above tangentially through the swirler 3 and moves downward in the form of a liquid film on the inner surface of the apparatus. As a result of such a supply of phases, a swirling highly turbulent gas-liquid flow is formed in the working chamber of the apparatus [23-31].

Next, the rotating gas-liquid flow enters the lower separation part of the apparatus. The gas flow is discharged from the apparatus through the lower axial fitting 10, and the liquid is removed through the side fitting 11 of the hopper-capacity 4.



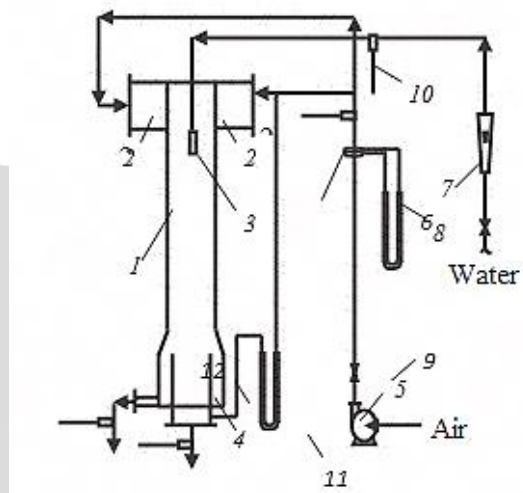


Figure 1. Scheme of the experimental setup:

1 – working chamber of the vortex apparatus; 2 – tangential gas swirlers; 3 – fluid swirler; 4 – hopper-liquid capacity; 5 – fan; 6 – air flow meter; 7 – water flow meter; 8, 9 – differential pressure gauges; 10 – thermocouples; 11 – fitting for gas outlet; 12 – fitting for draining liquid.

During the experiments, the following were measured: air flow rate using a standard diaphragm 6 and a U-shaped differential pressure gauge 8; hot water consumption by rotameter 7; pressure drop in the vortex apparatus with a U-shaped differential pressure gauge 9; the temperature of the working media at the inlet to the apparatus and at the outlet of it by thermocouples of the TXK 10 type, connected to the KSP-4 potentiometer. The measurement of hot water and air temperatures was duplicated by glass thermometers, with a division value of 0.1°C.

The experiments were carried out at fictitious (average flow) air velocities  $w = 6\text{--}30$  m/s and the mass flow ratios of liquid and gas  $L/G = 0.5\text{--}3$ . To obtain reliable data, taking into account the probability of a breakthrough of a certain part of the gas with poor contact with the liquid, the experiments for each mode were repeated 4–6 times. In this case, the rms relative error in determining the heat transfer coefficient did not exceed 6–9% [32–38].

The heat load (W) was determined by the heat balance both from the side of the liquid (hot water)  $Q_l$  and gas (cold air)  $Q_g$ :

$$Q_l = Lc_j(t_{ln} - t_{gn}) \quad (1)$$

$$Q_g = Gc_l(t_{gk} - t_{gn}) \quad (2)$$

where  $L$  is the mass flow rate of hot water, kg/s;  $c_l$  – specific heat capacity of hot water, J/(kg K);  $t_l$  and  $t_{ln}$  – hot water temperatures at the inlet to the apparatus and at the outlet of it, °C;  $G$  is the mass flow rate of cold air, kg/s;  $c_g$  is the specific heat capacity of cold air, J/(kg K);  $t_{gn}$  and  $t_{gk}$  are the temperatures of cold air at the inlet to the apparatus and at the outlet of it, °C.

The results of experiments in which the values of  $Q_l$  and  $Q_g$  differed from each other by more than 5% were not subject to processing. (The difference between  $Q_l$  and  $Q_g$  by more than 5% is very rare and most likely it is due to measurement errors, and partly to heat losses, although the apparatus was thermally insulated).

The average driving force of heat transfer  $\Delta t_{av}$ , °C, was calculated by the equation:

$$\Delta t_{cp} = \frac{(t_{жн} - t_{гн}) - (t_{жк} - t_{гк})}{\ln \left( \frac{t_{жн} - t_{гн}}{t_{жк} - t_{гк}} \right)} \quad (3)$$

The results of one of the series of experiments are shown in fig. 2 as a dependence of the surface heat transfer coefficient  $KF$  on the fictitious air velocity  $w$  at various water flow rates. Water consumption was estimated by the linear irrigation density  $G$ , (kg/(m×h)).

An analysis of the obtained experimental data showed that with an increase in the gas flow rate and irrigation density, the intensity of heat transfer increases [39-43]. This nature of the change in the heat transfer coefficient is explained by the growth of flow turbulence, the appearance of the relative velocity of liquid and gas, which contributes to the rapid renewal of the surface of the water film [41-47]. However, with an increase in loads both for liquid and gas, the pressure drop in the apparatus increases strongly and, at high values of irrigation density, liquid entrainment appears.

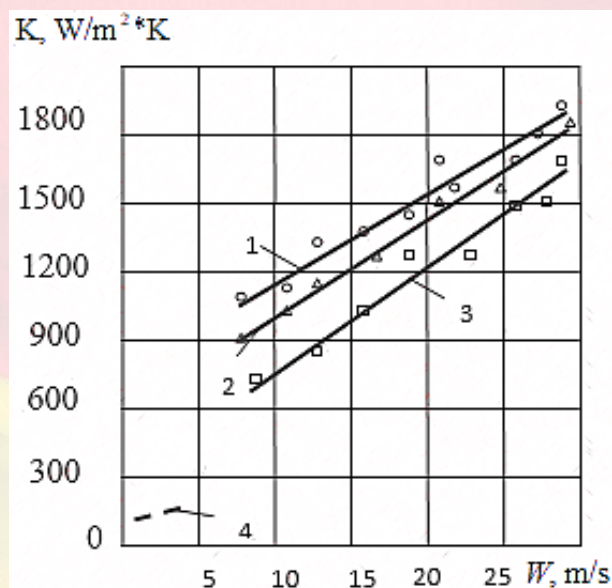


Figure 2. Dependence of the heat transfer coefficient  $KF$  on the gas velocity  $w$  and irrigation density  $\Gamma$ : 1–3 – in the vortex apparatus at  $\Gamma$ , kg/(m h): 1 – 2830; 2 - 1380; 3 - 570; 4 – in a packed column at  $G = 620$  kg/(m h)

The obtained values of the heat transfer coefficients in the packed and in the vortex apparatus are compared. As can be seen from fig. 2, the intensity of heat transfer in the vortex apparatus is significantly higher than in the packing apparatus. In addition, the packed heat exchanger operated stably in a narrow range of air velocities, i.e. at 1.5–3.0 m/s. The vortex apparatus



operated intensively at much higher gas velocities of 7–30 m/s. In this regard, it was not possible to determine the degree of heat transfer intensification in the form of ratios of heat transfer coefficients in the studied devices.

The processing of experimental data in the form of the dependence of the heat transfer coefficient  $K_F$  on the ratio of the mass flow rates of liquid and gas  $L/G$  confirmed the increase in the intensity of heat transfer with an increase in gas velocity and irrigation density (Fig. 3).

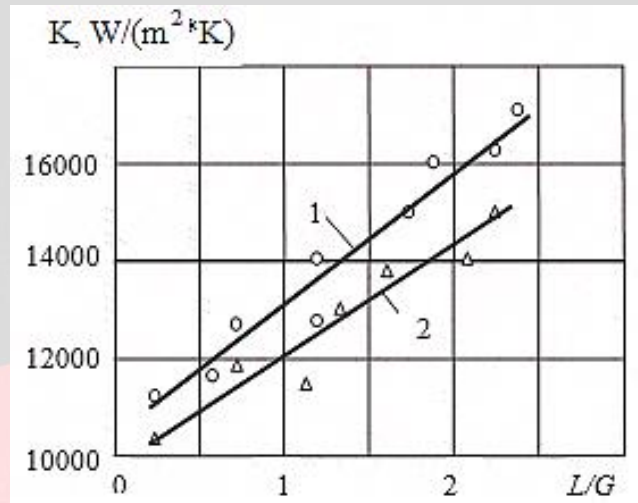


Figure 3. Dependence of the heat transfer coefficient  $K_F$  on the ratio of mass flow rates of liquid and gas  $L/G$  at gas velocity  $w$ , m/s: 1 – 22; 2 - 17.

It follows from the analysis of the experimental material that when using highly swirling flows, it is possible to achieve a significant intensification of heat transfer. At the same time, with an increase in the Reynolds number  $Re$ , the intensification effect decreases, since at high  $Re$  numbers the flow becomes so turbulent that the hydrodynamic effect on heat transfer of disturbances introduced by the swirling flow affects less than the turbulent heat transfer.

The intensity of heat transfer was estimated by surface  $K_F$ ,  $W/(m^2 \times K)$ , and volumetric  $K_V$ ,  $W/(m^3 \times K)$ , heat transfer coefficients, which were determined using the basic heat transfer equation:

$$K_F = \frac{Q}{F \cdot \Delta t_{cp}} \quad (4)$$

$$K_V = \frac{Q}{V \cdot \Delta t_{cp}} \quad (5)$$

where  $Q$  is the amount of heat transferred from water to air,  $W$ ;  $F$  is the heat exchange surface equal to the area of the inner surface of the working area of the apparatus,  $m^2$ ;  $V$  is the volume of the working area of the device,  $m^3$ ;  $\Delta t_{av}$  is the average temperature difference of heat carriers in the apparatus,  $^{\circ}C$ .

### Research results

We have developed a design and manufacturing technology for the swirlers of shell-and-tube heat exchangers, which make it possible to increase the thermal efficiency and manufacturability. In solving this problem, we considered the following main questions:

1. Analysis of methods and structural elements that increase the thermal efficiency of heat exchangers.
2. Study of the influence of design parameters on the functional and technological characteristics of swirlers.
3. Evaluation of the Stressed State of Shells of Heat Exchangers with Swirlers Under the Action of Internal Pressure.
4. Synthesis of swirler designs based on functional and technological analysis of geometric parameters.

#### Summary

When solving this problem, we:

1. Regularities have been established for the change in the stress state of swirlers under the action of internal pressure, depending on the design parameters, which make it possible to optimize the dimensions of the swirlers, taking into account operating conditions.
2. Based on the hydrodynamic analysis of flows, it is proposed to distribute the flow in the cross section of the heat exchanger and exclude the formation of stagnant zones.
3. Implementation of functional-technological synthesis proposed a new design of the swirler, which allows to increase heat transfer at the entrance to the annular space and reduce hydraulic resistance.

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