INTRODUCTION TO PROCESS INTENSIFICATION:

PHILOSOPHY AND BASIC PRINCIPLES

Giorgos Stefanidis / Andrzej Stankiewicz



THE OMNIPRESENT CHEMISTRY: FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE ...AND BEYOND!



Consumption of chemical products is rapidly increasing

- new types of chemical and biochemical products brought to the market
- new markets open in different parts of the world for already existing products

Main reasons

- rapid growth in world's population
- growth in consumers' wealth
- growth in consumers' needs









OIL PRODUCTION FORECAST

(U.S. Energy Information Administration)

1 generation ahead

3 generations ahead

THE NON-SUSTAINABLE MANKIND

SOME FORECASTS:

- WE WILL ESSENTIALLY USE UP ALL THE WORLD'S OIL RESOURCES BY 2050 (S. A. Nelson)
- WE WILL ESSENTIALLY USE UP ALL THE WORLD'S GAS RESOURCES BY 2070 (P.-R. Baquis)
- WE WILL ESSENTIALLY USE UP ALL THE WORLD'S COAL RESOURCES BY 2500 (S. A. Nelson)





How to solve the resources problem?

OPTION 1:

start exploitation of extraterrestrial resources

- still in the S-F stage and may remain so

OPTION 2:

 develop technically and economically feasible processes based on the renewable feedstocks ("green", biomass-based processes)



ow to solve the resources problem?

Some open questions to **OPTION 2**:

- do we have enough arable land to feed mankind AND to provide energy AND to supply raw materials simultaneously?
- what will we do with by-products, such as CO₂?
- how will this "new farming" influence environment?
- what will be repercussions of genetic manipulations?
- what about inorganic chemical products?
- when will this all be feasible?



How to solve the resources problem?

OPTION 3:

 develop innovative methods and technologies that would DRASTICALLY increase the EFFICIENCY of chemical and biochemical processes

- FACTOR 4 (Von Weizsacker, 1998)
- FACTOR 10 (Schmidt-Bleek, 1993)
- FACTOR 20? (AllChemE Alliance for Chemical Sciences and Technologies in Europe, 2001)





G. Agricola, De Re Metallica, 1556



Chemical Process Industry, 2012

- THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO BOOST EFFICIENCY
- PROCESS INNOVATION
 IS CLEARLY NEEDED



Innovation = Unproven Solutions

("Plant manager never wants to be the first")



"Don't bother me with new ideas, i've got a battle to fight!"



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Process industry is facing numerous challenges



Source: Roland Berger



ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY:

MATERIAL EFFICIENCY OF MANUFACTURING

Goods and **Natural** Services Resources Only 25 wt% of what goes into the pipe comes out as goods and services (Source: World Resource Institute)





ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: ENVIRONMENT

Industry Sector	Product tonnage	Tons by-product/ton product
Oil refining	$10^6 - 10^8$	< 0.1
Bulk chemicals	$10^4 - 10^6$	1 - 5
Fine chemicals	$10^2 - 10^4$	5 – 50+
Pharmaceuticals	10 – 10 ³	25 – 100+



Laws and Regulations

TUDelft



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Laws and regulations





ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: SAFETY





TERRORISM – THE PLAGUE OF THE 21ST CENTURY: IS CHEMICAL INDUSTRY SAFE ENOUGH?



License to Operate



ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: PUBLIC IMAGE





ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: COST



- sooner or later a critical limit will be reached
- competitors will follow
- the only way to go beyond that limit and gain significant long-term advantage over the competitors is via innovative technological development



Process Intensification

...vative ...ugm shift") in process ...upment design, which can be provided by the provided ESS = investment, space, time, raw materials, energy, inventory etc. NUCH = factors, orders of magnitude!!! LE33 = IIIVESUMENU, SPALE, UNIE, IAVIEI NUCH = factors, orders of magnitude!!!



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PI - fundamental benefits



- Energy savings (20 80%)
- CapEx and OpEx savings (20 80%)
- Selectivity and yield increase (up to >10 times)
- Significant process safety increase (reactor volume & inventory of chemicals decreased 10-1000 times + better reaction control)

(2006 study by SenterNovem, Dutch Energy and Environmental Agency)



Lower costs due to PI

 land costs (much higher production capacity and/or number of products (plants) per unit of manufacturing area);

- other investment costs (cheaper, compact equipment, reduced piping etc.);
- costs of raw materials (higher yields/selectivities);
- costs of utilities (energy in particular);
- costs of waste-stream processing (less waste in general).



Lower costs due to PI



Shorter time to the market = lower cost

Example: How to shorten time to the market in pharmaceutical technologies?

Possible solution: a continuous lab-scale plant as a commercial-scale production unit

Advantages:

- FDA approval procedures of drug technology <u>take place only once</u>: the lab-scale is the commercialscale.
- Process development <u>takes place</u> <u>only once</u>, with no scale-up via a pilot plant to the industrial scale.

Result:

- Start of the commercial production speeded up, in some cases even by several years.
- Time to the market shortened - patent time better utilized.

Do not forget: in continuous operation 1 ml/s = 30 t/year!



PI AND SAFETY



LESSON LEARNED:

Process could have been intensified to contain a total inventory of less than 10 kg of MIC, instead of 41 tons!

Intensified means: SAFER!

SHORT HISTORY OF PI



Origins of Process Intensification



FROM NASA's SPACE PROGRAM TO INNOVATIVE CHEMICAL PLANTS



History of process intensification

- Term "Process Intensification" appeared in early 1960's
 - Mostly East-European publications on METALLURGY
 - "Process Intensification" = "Process Improvement"
- Comes to chemical engineering literature in 1970's

(Leszczynski, 1973, Romankov, 1977, Kleemann and Hartmann, 1978)

- still East-European domain
- still "Process Intensification" = "Process Improvement"



History of process intensification

- 1983 Colin Ramshaw from ICI New Science Group describes studies on application of centrifugal fields (so-called "HiGee") in distillation processes
 - PI = "devising exceedingly compact plant which reduces both the "main plant item" and the installations costs"
- 1983 Annual Research Meeting of IChemE entitled Process Intensification held at UMIST, Manchester
 - first paper presented at that meeting concerned PROCESSING OF GOLD ORE using intensive methods
 - PI = "order-of-magnitude reductions in process plant and equipment" (Heggs)



History of process intensification

1980's and early 1990's – mainly British discipline

- primarily focused on four areas: the use of centrifugal forces, compact heat transfer, intensive mixing and combined technologies
- 1995 1st Conference on Process Intensification
- Process Intensification Network PIN-UK
- late 1990's growing interest and activities in different parts of the world
 - research centers in US (PNNL, MIT), France (Greth CEN), Germany (IMM), UK (BHR), China (HighGravitec) and many more...
 - industry enters the scene first applications at Eastman, Dow, DSM, Sulzer and many more...



Awareness of the importance of PI has grown strongly in last 10 years

- PI placed clearly in sustainability context
- First university courses, books, international conferences, journal
- National networks in UK, NL and DE
- Numerous industrial initiatives
- EFCE establishes of the Working Party on Process Intensification
- PI in FP7
- European Roadmap for PI



Manchester Conference Centre, UK

POSITION OF PI



PI versus Process Systems Engineering






Process Intensification versus Process Systems Engineering and Process Optimization

	Process Optimization	Process Systems Engineering	Process Intensification
Aim	Performance improvement of existing concepts	Multi-scale integration of existing and new concepts	Development of new concepts of process steps and equipment
Focus	Model, numerical method	Model, software	Experiment, phenomenon, interphase
Interdisciplinarity	Weak (interface with applied mathematics)	Modest (mostly applied mathematics and informatics, chemistry)	Strong (chemistry & catalysis, applied physics, mechanical engineering, materials science, electronics, etc.)



PI as a technology toolbox





PI technologies on maturity S-curve

Different stages of technical development





FUNDAMENTALS OF PROCESS INTENSIFICATION

Ind. Eng. Chem. Res. 2009, 48, 2465-2474

2465



Structure, Energy, Synergy, Time-The Fundamentals of Process Intensification

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maximizing the effectiveness of intra- and intermolecular events

ch molecule processing erience optimizing the driving forces and maximizing the specific surface areas to which these forces apply

maximizing synergistic effects from partial processes

What's wrong with current reactors? - Limited control upon molecules







effective collision

Energizing molecules via conductive heating, or turning snooker into pinball

- non-selective
- amplifies random motions and collisions
- produces temperature gradients



ineffective collision

A snooker game with molecules: how to hit the right one, with right energy, at right orientation?



TUDelft

Where are the limits of reaction rate?

...or is our thinking about reactions and reactors not limited by the traditional, macroscopic temperaturebased approach to reaction kinetics?





(Simpson et al. 1996; Kandel & Zare, 1998; Hoffman, 2000)

Laser-induced vibration: C-H bond stretching, making the target molecule "bigger" for collisions + introducing stripping collisions: reaction rate increase >100x



Control of spatial orientation of molecules and geometry of collisions







Control of spatial orientation of molecules and geometry of collisions





(A)- Orientation of a molecular beam of carbonyl sulphide molecules moving along the z-axis by a hexapole electric field (left) followed by their dissociation by a laser beam acting along the x-axis (from Rakitzis, et al, 2004); (B) - Probability plot of the molecular orientation of the OCS molecule; dotted arrows are proportional to the orientation probability of the OCS dipole moment along each direction.



Control of spatial orientation of molecules and geometry of collisions



A "multitubular reactor" of the future?





Multi-beam hexapole honeycomb device for orienting molecules in static electric field

(Shimizu, 2003)



PRINCIPLES (GOALS)

maximizing the effectiveness o intra- and intermolecular events

giving each molecule the same processing experience izing the driving and maximizing specific surface to which these orces apply

maximizing synergistic effects from partial processes

What's wrong with current reactors? - Limited control upon molecules



. Illustration of the energy distribution problem in molecules, in relation to the yield of simple parallel reactions. A stirred-tank reactor with conductive heating generates energy distribution due to temperature gradients, which translate to both material and energy losses.

Giving each molecule the same processing history



Stirred-tank reactor with a heating jacket (a) contradicts the 2nd principle of Process Intensification. The residence time of molecules is widely distributed and both concentration and temperature non-uniformities are present. On the other hand, a plug-flow reactor with a gradientless, volumetric (e.g. microwave) heating (b) enables a close realization of that principle.



optimizing the driving forces and maximizing the specific surface areas to which these

forces apply

giving each mole the same proces experience

maximizing the effectiveness of intra- and intermolecular events



Optimizing the driving forces and maximizing the specific surface areas to which those force apply

Surface to volume ratio depends on diameter

$$\frac{A}{V} = \frac{\pi \cdot D \cdot L}{\left(\frac{\pi \cdot D^2 \cdot L}{4}\right)} = \frac{4}{D}$$

Enhance mass and heat transfer by increasing the transfer area





Optimizing the driving forces and maximizing the specific surface areas to which those force apply

How to catch up with the Nature and generate ultra-high-interface systems?





Capillary blood vessels		
D (m)	0.00001	
A/V (m²/m³)	400,000	



PRINCIPLES (GOALS)

maximizing the

effectiveness of

intra- and

intermolecular

events

giving each molecule the same processing experience optimizing t forces and n the specific areas to wh forces a

maximizing synergistic effects from partial processes

Maximizing synergistic effects from partial processes

Example: catalytic function + separation function



Agar, 1999



PRINCIPLES (GOALS)	maximizing the effectiveness of intra- and intermolecular events	giving each molecule the same processing experience	optimizing the driving forces and maximizing the specific surface areas to which these forces apply	maximizing synergistic effects from partial processes







Example: Microreactor for manufacturing of a specialty product (DSM)



Traditional technology

Stirred Tank Reactor: the reactants are mixed in a large vessel, and the heat is removed through the jacket or a heat transfer coil.

PI technology

Microreactor: the reactants are mixed, and the heat is removed through thousands of micro channels, fabricated by micromachining or lithography

Benefits

- Equipment content 3 litres vs 10 m³
- 20% higher selectivity →
 20% higher material yield
- Process more reliable because continuous instead of batch
- Same capacity (1700 kg/h)

Photos courtesy of DSM and Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe





maximizing the effectiveness of intra- and intermolecular events

giving each molecule the same processing experience optimizing the driving forces and maximizing the specific surface areas to which these forces apply

maximizing synergistic effects from partial processes



ENERGY: examples







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Example: High-Gravity Rotating Packed Bed for the production of hypochlorous acid (Dow Chemical)

Traditional technology

PI technology

A system of absorptionstripping columns: the main product (HCIO) has to be removed as quickly as possible from the reaction environment to prevent its decomposition.

Reactive stripping in High-Gravity (HiGee) Rotating Packed Beds:

the reactants are subjected to intensive contact and the product is immediately removed via stripping using high-gravity forces in a rotating apparatus with a specially designed packing



Benefits

 Equipment size decreased by a factor of ca. 40

ENERGY

- Ca. 15% higher product yield
- 50% reduction of the stripping gas
- 1/3 reduction in waste water & chlorinated byproducts
- Same processing capacity

Photos courtesy of Dow Chemical Company;

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ž%

maximizing the effectiveness of intra- and intermolecular events

giving each molecule the same processing experience optimizing the driving forces and maximizing the specific surface areas to which these forces apply

maximizing synergistic effects from partial processes



SYNERGY: examples





Conventional Process

Membrane Process















Example: Methyl acetate in multifunctional reactor (Eastman Chemical)



Traditional technology

28 pieces of equipment: separation problem - two azeotropes



PI technology

Multifunctional reactor column including reactive and extractive distillation steps



Benefits

- Equipment from 28 reduced to 3
- reduced energy consumption by ca. 85%
- reduced investment by ca. 80%

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maximizing the effectiveness of intra- and intermolecular events

giving each molecule the same processing experience optimizing the driving forces and maximizing the specific surface areas to which these forces apply

maximizing synergistic effects from partial processes



TIME: examples



Catalytic (Pt) Alumina Monolith



Upstroke

Downstroke





Example: Oscillatory Baffle Flow Reactor



TIME

James Bond at James Robinson, or SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED...



Reduction in: Space (20x) Process time (20x) Capital cost (2x) Energy and waste (many times) Quality defects

maximizing the effectiveness of intra- and intermolecular events giving each molecule the same processing experience

optimizing the driving forces and maximizing the specific surface areas to which these forces apply

maximizing synergistic effects from partial processes



PRINCIPLES (GOALS)

SUMMARIZING...

Fundamental principles and approaches of Process Intensification are applicable to any chemical process or operation. Intensification needs simultaneous addressing the four domains, as given below:



Domain	Main focus	Process Intensification concepts applied	Motivation
Spatial	Structured environment	Milli- and microchannels; structured (catalyst) surfaces	 well-defined geometry creating maximum specific surface area at minimum energy expenses creating high mass and heat transfer rates precise mathematical description easy understanding, simple scale-up
Thermodynamic	Alternative forms and transfer mechanisms of energy	Electric and electromagnetic fields	 manipulation of molecular orientation excitation of targeted molecules selective, gradientless and local energy supply
Functional	Integration of functions/steps	Combination of alternative energy forms (e.g. electric and laser fields), combination of catalyst and energy source or energy-absorbing material.	 synergistic effects better heat management increase of overall efficiency more compact equipment
Temporal	Timing of the events, introducing dynamics	Dynamic (pulsed) energy supply, millisecond contacting	 controlled energy input utilizing resonance increased energy efficiency side reactions minimized

SUMMARIZING: about multidisciplinarity

Multidisciplinarity of R&D approach is essential to Process Intensification. Collaboration between chemical engineering and other disciplines such as chemistry & catalysis, material science, applied physics or electronics is of crucial importance.



(O. Levenspiel: Chemical Reactor Omnibook)



Date	Block	Subject	Lecturer
Mon 5 Nov 13.45–15.45	Fundamentals	Genesis of Process Intensification. Issues of concern for Chemical Process Industry. Definitions of Process Intensification. Position of PI in Chemical Engineering science, its boundaries and interrelations with other ChemEng disciplines. Generic principles of Process Intensification, its scales and fundamental approaches (TIME- STRUCTURE-ENERGY-SYNERGY).	Stefanidis/ Stankiewicz
Thurs 8 Nov 08.45 -10.45		Designing a Sustainable Chemical Plant (including elements of Inherently Safer Process Design) – presentation of PI project assignments	Stefanidis/ Sturm
Mon 12 Nov 13.45–15.45	PI in Temporal Domain	TIME	Stefanidis
Thurs 15 Nov 08.45-10.45	PI in Spatial Domain	STRUCTURE	Stankiewicz
Mon 19 Nov 13.45–15.45	PI in Thermodynamic	ENERGY – Part 1	Stefanidis
Thurs 22 Nov 08.45 -10.45	Domain	ENERGY – Part 2	Stefanidis
Mon 26 Nov 13.45–15.45	PI in Functional	SYNERGY – Part 1	Stankiewicz
Thurs 29 Nov 08.45 -10.45	Domain	SYNERGY – Part 2	Stankiewicz
Mon 3 Dec 13.45–15.45		Reactive Distillation and Heat Integrated Distillation	Kiss (Akzo Nobel)
Thurs 6 Dec 08.45 -10.45	"FOCUS ON" lectures by guest experts:	Photocatalytic and Ultrasonic Reactors	Van Gerven (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Mon 10 Dec 13.45–15.45	oxporte.	Rotating Fluidized Beds	De Wilde (Université Catholique de Leuven)
Thurs 13 Dec 08.45 -10.45		PI project assignments – mid-term reporting/discussion	Students
Mon 17 Dec 13.45–15.45		PI project assignments – mid-term reporting/discussion	Students
Wed 23 Jan 14.00-17.00		EXAMINATION	
		EXTRA EXAMINATION	

Course program

Present course

- 22 hours of lectures
- case study project (inc. 4 hrs mid-term review)
- 6 credit points:
 - written examination (50%)
 - case study project (50%)

Required minimum: grade 6 on written examination AND grade 6 in total

• Daily help-desk/project supervision:

Guido Sturm, George Krintiras, Maryam Khodadadian


Present course - materials

Lecture notes

(Auxiliary) Re-Engineering the Chemical Processing Plant

Process Intensification

Edited by: <u>Andrzej</u> <u>Stankiewicz</u> Jacob A. Moulijn

Free on-line reading via TUD Library

Book Hard Cover | Illustrated Print ISBN: 0-8247-4302-4 www.dekker.com

(Auxiliary) Process Intensification Info Sheets (aid for the case study project)





QUESTIONS?

