

MATHEMATICAL MODELS OF THE SUGAR END

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One of the methods to improve and optimize technology and equipment is to use mathematical simulation for a process (called engineering models). Two mathematical simulation models will be presented today. These models are a vacuum pan model and sugar end model.

Part I

Vacuum Pan Model

A dynamic engineering model for the vacuum pan was developed utilizing non-linear differential equations and equations for material and energy balances.

The computer program is able to calculate over 50 output parameters (including crystal size and pct of the fillmass) for a specified period of time. It utilizes input parameters of the process (including the crystals, absolute pressure, mass of the charge and apparent purity of the syrup).

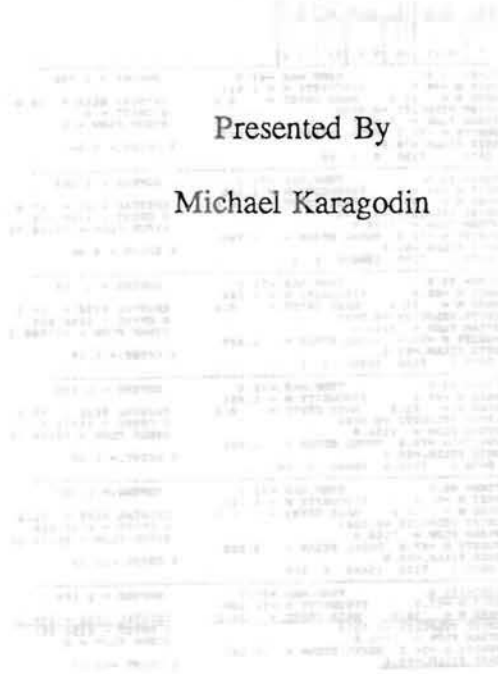
MATHEMATICAL MODELS OF THE SUGAR END

Figure 1 shows an example of a vacuum pan boiling. The apparent purity is 73.5%, and the DS = 77.8. In 2 hours and 12 minutes, we can boil 62.1 tons of fillmass with 131 micron.

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Presented By

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Figure

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One of the methods to improve and optimize technology and equipment is to use mathematical simulation for a process (called engineering models). Two mathematical simulation models will be presented today. These models are a vacuum pan model and a sugar end model.

Part I

Vacuum Pan Model

1. A dynamic engineering model for the vacuum pan was developed utilizing non-linear differential equations and equations for material and energy balances.

The computer program is able to calculate over 20 output parameters (including crystal size and brix of the fillmass) for a specified period of time. It utilizes input parameters of the process (brix of the syrup, number of crystals, initial size of the crystals, absolute pressure, mass of the charge and apparent purity of the syrup).

2. Figure 1 shows an example simulating low raw pan boiling. The apparent purity = 73.5%, and the DS = 77%. In 5 hours and 15 minutes, we can boil 65.1 tons of fillmass with the brix = 95.6, and the average crystal size = 131 micron.

5:00 PM 10/15/80

DS	Ncr	d ₀	ABS	M ₀	A.P.
77	3E+13	10	0.5	22	73.5

TIME=	1.0	TEMP.MAS.=	67.7	SUPERS.=	0.796
BRIX M =	78.9	VISCOACITY M =	1.411	CRYSTAL SIZE =	10.0
MASS M =	21.5	MASS CRYST.=	0.0	G CRYST.=	0
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0000	SYRUP FLOW =	0		
STEAM FLOW =	7158.6				
PURITY M =	73.5	TOTAL STEAM =	0.060		
BRIX FILLM.=	78.9			CRYST.=	0.00
DATA :	7158	0	9	90	

TIME=	31.0	TEMP.MAS.=	71.3	SUPERS.=	1.262
BRIX M =	85.8	VISCOACITY M =	1.485	CRYSTAL SIZE =	17.6
MASS M =	20.3	MASS CRYST.=	0.0	G CRYST.=	1390.728
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0741	SYRUP FLOW =	74116.79		
STEAM FLOW =	7158.6				
PURITY M =	73.5	TOTAL STEAM =	1.790		
BRIX FILLM.=	85.8			CRYST.=	0.06
DATA :	7158	150000	1	1	

TIME=	32.0	TEMP.MAS.=	71.2	SUPERS.=	1.255
BRIX M =	85.5	VISCOACITY M =	1.486	CRYSTAL SIZE =	24.7
MASS M =	21.5	MASS CRYST.=	0.1	G CRYST.=	6158.459
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0699	SYRUP FLOW =	157269.3		
STEAM FLOW =	7158.6				
PURITY M =	73.5	TOTAL STEAM =	1.849		
BRIX FILLM.=	85.5			CRYST.=	0.29
DATA :	7158	50000	1	1	

TIME=	33.0	TEMP.MAS.=	71.0	SUPERS.=	1.220
BRIX M =	85.4	VISCOACITY M =	1.491	CRYSTAL SIZE =	30.1
MASS M =	21.8	MASS CRYST.=	0.2	G CRYST.=	13471.5
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0524	SYRUP FLOW =	52646.19		
STEAM FLOW =	7158.6				
PURITY M =	73.4	TOTAL STEAM =	1.909		
BRIX FILLM.=	85.6			CRYST.=	0.80
DATA :	7158.6	50000	9	60	

TIME=	60.0	TEMP.MAS.=	72.3	SUPERS.=	1.187
BRIX M =	87.4	VISCOACITY M =	9.714	CRYSTAL SIZE =	71.1
MASS M =	20.9	MASS CRYST.=	4.1	G CRYST.=	9167.819
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0043	SYRUP FLOW =	58425.26		
STEAM FLOW =	7158.6				
PURITY M =	67.6	TOTAL STEAM =	3.520		
BRIX FILLM.=	89.5			CRYST.=	16.32
DATA :	7156	43490	9	315	

TIME=	315.0	TEMP.MAS.=	77.9	SUPERS.=	1.196
BRIX M =	92.7	VISCOACITY M =	16.000	CRYSTAL SIZE =	131.3
MASS M =	38.9	MASS CRYST.=	26.2	G CRYST.=	8554.688
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0012	SYRUP FLOW =	0		
STEAM FLOW =	1966.8				
PURITY M =	54.3	TOTAL STEAM =	15.147		
BRIX FILLM.=	95.6			CRYST.=	40.23

Figure 1.

The results from this model are very close to the results of the actual process. The model can be used as an engineering verification of different process strategies. This is done by changing input parameters. For example, by changing the number of crystals, we can see how the crystal size and batch time will change.

As an example, we wanted to determine the effect on crystal size and boiling time resulting from addition of a vacuum pan. With the help of the model, we realized we needed to increase the number of crystals from 3×10^{12} to 6×10^{12} and decrease the steam flow by 50%. As a result of this, we would receive approximately the same amount of fillmass (63.2 T) with the same brix (95.7), Figure 2. The average crystal size increased to 221 microns (by 90 microns), and the process time increased by 4 hours from 5 hours 15 minutes to 9 hours 15 minutes.

DS	NCR	d ₀	ABS	M ₀	AP
77	6E+12	10	5.5	22	73.5
TIME=	1.0	TEMP.MAS.=	67.7	SUPERS.=	0.796
BRIX M =	78.9	VISCOSITY M =	1.411	CRYSTAL SIZE =	10.0
MASS M =	21.5	MASS CRYST.=	0.0	G CRYST.=	0
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0000	STEAM FLOW =	7158.6	SYRUP FLOW =	0
PURITY M =	73.5	TOTAL STEAM =	0.060	CRYST.=	0.00
BRIX FILLM.=	78.9	DATA :	2386.2 0 9 90		
TIME=	32.0	TEMP.MAS.=	71.3	SUPERS.=	1.270
BRIX M =	85.8	VISCOSITY M =	1.486	CRYSTAL SIZE =	18.0
MASS M =	20.4	MASS CRYST.=	0.0	G CRYST.=	278.1457
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0783	STEAM FLOW =	3181.6	SYRUP FLOW =	83040.05
PURITY M =	73.5	TOTAL STEAM =	1.816	CRYST.=	0.01
BRIX FILLM.=	85.9	DATA :	3181 100000 1 1		
TIME=	33.0	TEMP.MAS.=	71.3	SUPERS.=	1.260
BRIX M =	85.6	VISCOSITY M =	1.485	CRYSTAL SIZE =	35.4
MASS M =	21.2	MASS CRYST.=	0.0	G CRYST.=	1246.073
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0727	STEAM FLOW =	3181.6	SYRUP FLOW =	107921.5
PURITY M =	73.5	TOTAL STEAM =	1.843	CRYST.=	0.06
BRIX FILLM.=	85.6	DATA :	3181 10000 1 1		
TIME=	34.0	TEMP.MAS.=	71.1	SUPERS.=	1.233
BRIX M =	85.6	VISCOSITY M =	1.484	CRYSTAL SIZE =	31.5
MASS M =	21.3	MASS CRYST.=	0.0	G CRYST.=	2958.015
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0587	STEAM FLOW =	3181.6	SYRUP FLOW =	14329.86
PURITY M =	73.5	TOTAL STEAM =	1.859	CRYST.=	0.18
BRIX FILLM.=	85.6	DATA :	3181 40000 1 1		
TIME=	35.0	TEMP.MAS.=	71.2	SUPERS.=	1.240
BRIX M =	85.5	VISCOSITY M =	1.490	CRYSTAL SIZE =	37.8
MASS M =	21.6	MASS CRYST.=	0.1	G CRYST.=	4071.814
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0620	STEAM FLOW =	3181.6	SYRUP FLOW =	45305.05
PURITY M =	73.4	TOTAL STEAM =	1.896	CRYST.=	0.33
BRIX FILLM.=	85.6	DATA :	3181 30000 9 60		
TIME=	60.0	TEMP.MAS.=	71.3	SUPERS.=	1.120
BRIX M =	85.6	VISCOSITY M =	1.916	CRYSTAL SIZE =	102.9
MASS M =	21.0	MASS CRYST.=	2.4	G CRYST.=	11172.85
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0123	STEAM FLOW =	3181.6	SYRUP FLOW =	0
PURITY M =	70.1	TOTAL STEAM =	2.559	CRYST.=	10.40
BRIX FILLM.=	87.1	DATA :	3181 0 9 555		
TIME=	555.0	TEMP.MAS.=	80.2	SUPERS.=	1.200
BRIX M =	92.8	VISCOSITY M =	16.000	CRYSTAL SIZE =	221.4
MASS M =	38.1	MASS CRYST.=	25.1	G CRYST.=	5321.813
CRYST.VELLOCITY =	0.0013	STEAM FLOW =	1641.5	SYRUP FLOW =	3151.276
PURITY M =	54.7	TOTAL STEAM =	14.806	CRYST.=	39.72
BRIX FILLM.=	95.7				

Figure 2.

In developing the conductivity curves for the low raw pan system, we had to determine the super-saturation on the intermediate green with different purities at the same temperatures. Calculations using the following model gave the needed results. These results permitted determination of the proper seeding point conductivity for different intermediate green (syrup) purities.

Many other examples have been evaluated with good results. This engineering model of vacuum pan boiling can be helpful in evaluating process improvement.

Part II

Sugar End Model

1. This model can be used for analyzing different technological schemes and capacity changes in the sugar end.

The model is based on the sugar end material balance and includes all process flows and sugar end equipment (Figure 3).

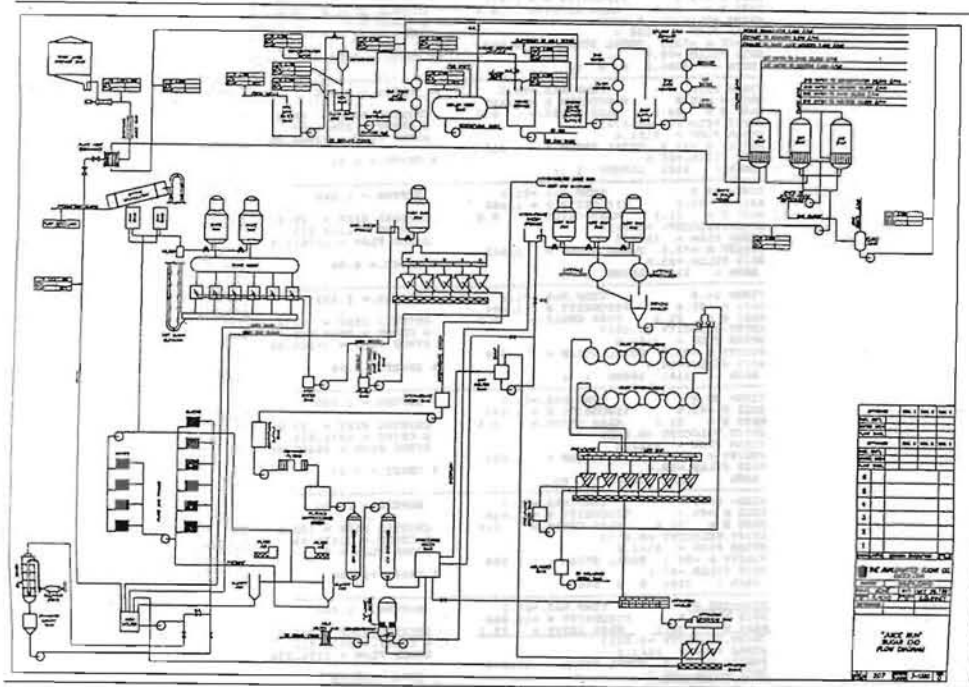


Figure 3

Figure 3.

The following input parameters are needed to perform the necessary calculations: Thick juice flow to the sugar end, purity and RDS of thin and thick juice, RDS and % crystals for the fillmasses, Quentin process sugar losses and non-sugar removal as well as beet slice rate.

As a result of calculations, you will receive all the output data for the sugar end parameters, starting from the thin juice and finishing with the molasses and low raw sugar. This includes the mass, amount of sugar and non-sugars in the products (in tons/100 tons beets), sugar content, dry solids and apparent purity (Figure 4).

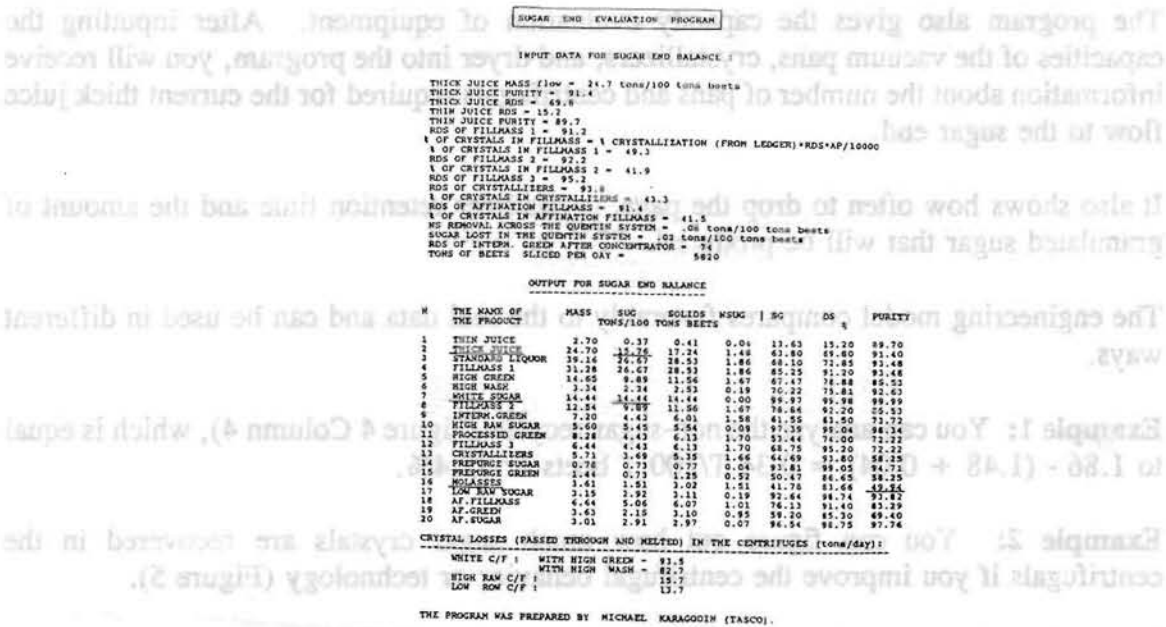


Figure 4.

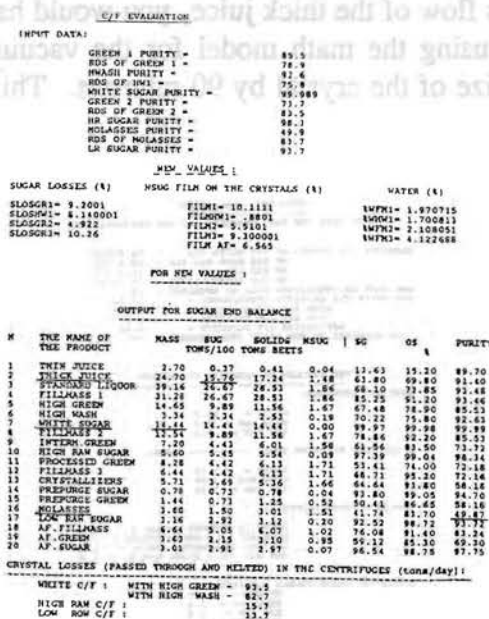


Figure 5.

This calculation will also give the amount of crystallized sugar losses in the centrifugal.

To evaluate centrifugal behavior, additional input parameters must be provided, including purity and RDS of the greens after the centrifugation. Crystal loss through centrifugation can then be determined (crystals coming through the screen and melting) as well as non-sugars left on the crystal surface and water used in the centrifugals (Figure 5). From these values the new output data is calculated.

The program also gives the capacity evaluation of equipment. After inputting the capacities of the vacuum pans, crystallizers, and dryer into the program, you will receive information about the number of pans and centrifugals required for the current thick juice flow to the sugar end.

It also shows how often to drop the pans, crystallizer retention time and the amount of granulated sugar that will be produced.

The engineering model compares favorably to the real data and can be used in different ways.

Example 1: You can analyze the non-sugar recycle (Figure 4 Column 4), which is equal to $1.86 - (1.48 + 0.04) = 0.34$ T/100 T beets or 22.4%.

Example 2: You can figure out how much sugar crystals are recovered in the centrifugals if you improve the centrifugal behavior or technology (Figure 5).

Example 3: You would be able to analyze the result of changing the number of vacuum pans or centrifugals (Figure 6- for Plant C). Let's say, we are going to increase the number of low raw pans from 2 to 3. The program would show that if you did not increase the total mass flow of the thick juice, you would have to increase the batch time by four hours. And using the math model for the vacuum pans, you will see it will increase the average size of the crystal by 90 microns. This will lead to lower molasses purity.

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CAPACITY EVALUATION
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INPUT DATA FOR PAN, CENTRIFUGALS AND CRYSTALLIZERS :

CAPACITY (IN TONS): OF THE WHITE PAN = 56.86291
                   OF THE HIGH RAW PAN = 50.63702
                   OF THE LOW RAW PAN = 50.74355
HOW MANY CRYSTALLIZERS WILL BE OPERATED = 29.28364
THE WHITE C/F CAPACITY (TONS/HOUR) = 12.64
HIGH RAW C/F CAPACITY = 6.082
LOW RAW C/F CAPACITY = 2.6
AFFINATION C/F CAPACITY = 4.05
THE CAPACITY OF THE DRYER (TONS/HOUR) = 35

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THE RESULTS OF CAPACITY EVALUATION :
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PANS/DAY REQUIRED:
WHITE = 32.0
HIGH RAW = 32.0
LOW RAW = 7.4

A PAN DROP OCCURRING EVERY ----- HOURS
WHITE = 0.75
HIGH RAW = 1.99
LOW RAW = 3.25

NUMBER OF PANS REQUIRED:
WHITE (1.5 HOUR BATCH) = 2.0
HIGH RAW (4.0 HOUR BATCH) = 2.0
LOW RAW (6.5 HOUR BATCH) = 2.0
LOW RAW (10.0 HOUR BATCH) = 3.0

NUMBER OF CENTRIFUGALS REQUIRED:
WHITE = 4.0
HIGH RAW = 5.0
LOW RAW = 6.0
AFFINATION = 2.0

CRYSTALLIZER AVERAGE RETENTION TIME
ASSUMES 2 HOURS REQUIRED FOR CLEANING ETC.
AVERAGE RETENTION TIME (HOURS) =10.5
TOTAL HOURS IN CRYSTALLIZERS = 26.0
NUMBER OF DRYERS REQUIRED = 1.0
SUGAR RECOVERY ACROSS THE SUGAR END = 91.6
GRANULATED SUGAR PRODUCED (cwt/day) =14810.4

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Figure 6.

Example 4: If you increase the slicing capacity of the plant by 30% (Plant A) and use the low raw pans with the same batch time (8.3 hours). Then, you would need to increase accordingly by 1 the number of white, high raw and low raw pans, and the number of centrifuges should be changed by 3 for the low raw and white, by 1.5 for high raw and by 1 for affination. Number of holding tanks will be increased by 4 (Figure 7 & 8).

CAPACITY EVALUATION

INPUT DATA FOR PAN, CENTRIFUGALS AND CRYSTALLIZERS :

CAPACITY (IN TONS) : OF THE WHITE PAN = 86.97298 (1800 cub feet)
OF THE HIGH RAW PAN = 95.02124 (1870 cub feet)
OF THE LOW RAW PAN = 88.24082 (1740 cub feet)
OF THE HOLDING TANK = 36.88811 (875 cub feet)
HOW MANY HOLDING TANKS WILL BE OPERATED = 4
THE WHITE C/F CAPACITY (TONS/HOUR) = 13.707
HIGH RAW C/F CAPACITY = 6.104
LOW RAW C/F CAPACITY = 3.543
AFFINATION C/F CAPACITY = 5.706
THE CAPACITY OF THE DRYER (TONS/HOUR) = 53.61

THE RESULTS OF CAPACITY EVALUATION :

PANS/DAY REQUIRED:
WHITE = 14.0
HIGH RAW = 12.3
LOW RAW = 9.7

A PAN DROP OCCURRING EVERY ----- HOURS
WHITE = 0.71
HIGH RAW = 1.95
LOW RAW = 2.75

NUMBER OF PANS REQUIRED:
WHITE (1.2 HOURS BATCH) = 3.0
HIGH RAW (4.0 HOURS BATCH) = 2.0
LOW RAW (8.3 HOURS BATCH) = 2.0
LOW RAW (11.0 HOURS BATCH) = 4.0
BEET SLICED = 8765 t/day (100t)

NUMBER OF CENTRIFUGALS REQUIRED:
WHITE = 8.0
HIGH RAW = 8.0
LOW RAW = 9.0
AFFINATION = 4.0

AVERAGE HOLDING TANKS
RETENTION TIME (HOURS) = 6.9
TOTAL HOURS WITH CRYSTALLIZERS = 12.4
NUMBER OF DRYERS REQUIRED = 1.0
SUGAR RECOVERY ACROSS THE SUGAR END = 86.1
GRANULATED SUGAR PRODUCED (cwt/day) = 25725.7

Figure 7.

CAPACITY EVALUATION

INPUT DATA FOR PAN, CENTRIFUGALS AND CRYSTALLIZERS :

CAPACITY (IN TONS) : OF THE WHITE PAN = 86.97298 (1800 cub feet)
OF THE HIGH RAW PAN = 95.02124 (1870 cub feet)
OF THE LOW RAW PAN = 88.24082 (1740 cub feet)
OF THE HOLDING TANK = 36.88811 (875 cub feet)
HOW MANY HOLDING TANKS WILL BE OPERATED = 10
THE WHITE C/F CAPACITY (TONS/HOUR) = 13.707
HIGH RAW C/F CAPACITY = 6.104
LOW RAW C/F CAPACITY = 3.543
AFFINATION C/F CAPACITY = 5.706
THE CAPACITY OF THE DRYER (TONS/HOUR) = 53.61

THE RESULTS OF CAPACITY EVALUATION :

PANS/DAY REQUIRED:
WHITE = 43.8
HIGH RAW = 25.9
LOW RAW = 11.2

A PAN DROP OCCURRING EVERY ----- HOURS
WHITE = 0.55
HIGH RAW = 1.51
LOW RAW = 2.13

NUMBER OF PANS REQUIRED:
WHITE (1.2 HOURS BATCH) = 4.0
HIGH RAW (4.0 HOURS BATCH) = 2.7
LOW RAW (8.3 HOURS BATCH) = 2.9
LOW RAW (11.0 HOURS BATCH) = 5.2
BEET SLICED = 11300 t/day (100t)

NUMBER OF CENTRIFUGALS REQUIRED:
WHITE = 11.6
HIGH RAW = 10.3
LOW RAW = 11.6
AFFINATION = 5.2

AVERAGE HOLDING TANKS
RETENTION TIME (HOURS) = 8.9
TOTAL HOURS WITH CRYSTALLIZERS = 16.3
NUMBER OF DRYERS REQUIRED = 1.1
SUGAR RECOVERY ACROSS THE SUGAR END = 86.1
GRANULATED SUGAR PRODUCED (cwt/day) = 23146.0

Figure 8.

Example 5: These mathematical models could be used for cane sugar production as well. If a raw sugar plant has a three boiling system on "magma" and we want it to be converted to white sugar production. In this case, the model will help to evaluate how to do it, using the same number of vacuum pans and increasing the number of centrifugals (Figure 9 & 10).

CAPACITY EVALUATION

INPUT DATA FOR PAN, CENTRIFUGALS AND CRYSTALLIZERS :

CAPACITY (IN TONS) : OF THE A - PAN = 96.63655 (2000 cub feet)
OF THE B - PAN = 101.827 (2000 cub feet)
OF THE C - PAN = 101.826 (2000 cub feet)
OF THE CRYSTALLIZER = 238.1098 (4971 cub feet)
HOW MANY CRYSTALLIZERS WILL BE OPERATED = 2
THE A - C/F CAPACITY (TONS/HOUR) = 7.76
B - C/F CAPACITY = 5.19
C - C/F CAPACITY = 2.11
AFFINATION C/F CAPACITY = 0
THE CAPACITY OF THE DRYER (TONS/HOUR) = 35

THE RESULTS OF CAPACITY EVALUATION :

PANS/DAY REQUIRED:
A - PAN = 9.6
B - PAN = 4.8
C - PAN = 4.7

A PAN DROP OCCURRING EVERY ----- HOURS
A - PAN = 2.49
B - PAN = 4.98
C - PAN = 5.12

NUMBER OF PANS REQUIRED:
A - PAN (5.0 HOURS BATCH) = 2.0
B - PAN (9.9 HOURS BATCH) = 2.0
C - PAN (10.2 HOURS BATCH) = 2.0

NUMBER OF CENTRIFUGALS REQUIRED:
A - C/F = 5.0
B - C/F = 5.0
C - C/F = 5.4

VERTICAL CRYSTALLIZERS
AVERAGE RETENTION TIME (HOURS) = 24.0
TOTAL HOURS WITH HOLDING TANKS = 31.2
NUMBER OF DRYERS REQUIRED = 1.0
SUGAR RECOVERY ACROSS THE SUGAR END = 81.3
GRANULATED SUGAR PRODUCED (cwt/day) = 13349.0

Figure 9.

CAPACITY EVALUATION

INPUT DATA FOR PAN, CENTRIFUGALS AND CRYSTALLIZERS :

CAPACITY (IN TONS) : OF THE A - PAN = 96.63655 (2000 cub feet)
OF THE C - PAN = 101.826 (2000 cub feet)
OF THE 4 - PAN = 86.53224 (2000 cub feet)
OF THE 5 - PAN = 86.63655 (2000 cub feet)
OF THE CRYSTALLIZER = 238.1098 (4971 cub feet)
HOW MANY CRYSTALLIZERS WILL BE OPERATED = 2
THE WHITE C/F CAPACITY (TONS/HOUR) = 7.76
C - C/F CAPACITY = 2.11
AFFINATION C/F CAPACITY = 0
4 - C/F CAPACITY = 7.76
5 - C/F CAPACITY = 7.76
THE CAPACITY OF THE DRYER (TONS/HOUR) = 35

THE RESULTS OF CAPACITY EVALUATION :

PANS/DAY REQUIRED:
A - PAN = 11.1
C - PAN = 5.2
4 - PAN = 5.9
5 - PAN = 3.2

A PAN DROP OCCURRING EVERY ----- HOURS
A - PAN = 2.17
C - PAN = 4.62
4 - PAN = 2.70
5 - PAN = 7.39

NUMBER OF PANS REQUIRED:
A - PAN (5.0 HOURS BATCH) = 2.3 (4.3 HOURS BATCH) = 2.0
C - PAN (10.2 HOURS BATCH) = 2.2 (9.2 HOURS BATCH) = 2.0
4 - PAN (2.8 HOURS BATCH) = 0.9 (2.7 HOURS BATCH) = 1.0
5 - PAN (5.0 HOURS BATCH) = 0.7 (7.4 HOURS BATCH) = 1.0

NUMBER OF CENTRIFUGALS REQUIRED:
A - C/F = 5.7
C - C/F = 10.4
AFFINATION = 3.3
4 - C/F = 1.6
5 - C/F = 1.7

VERTICAL CRYSTALLIZERS
AVERAGE RETENTION TIME (HOURS) = 21.7
TOTAL HOURS WITH HOLDING TANKS = 28.3
NUMBER OF DRYERS REQUIRED = 1.0
SUGAR RECOVERY ACROSS THE SUGAR END = 93.1
GRANULATED SUGAR PRODUCED (cwt/day) = 13081.7

Figure 10.

As you can see from these examples, the engineering models presented are powerful tools used to analyze and improve beet and cane sugar factories and refineries.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Example 4: If you increase the slicing capacity of the plant by 30% (Plant A) and use the low raw pans with the same batch time (8.3 hours). Then, you would need to and the raw and by 1 for attainment. Number of holding tanks will be increased by 4 (Figure 7)

I would like to thank Ed Bulgin, Joe Huff, George Knapp and Carl Hahn of The Amalgamated Sugar Company for their kind assistance during the 1991-1993 campaigns.

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Figure 7: These mathematical models could be used for cane sugar production as well. If a raw sugar plant has a three boiling system or "magma" and we want it to be converted to white sugar production. In this case, the model will help to evaluate how to do it, using the same number of vacuum pans and increasing the number of centrifugals (Figure 9 & 10).

Figure 9: As you can see from these examples, the engineering models presented are powerful tools used to analyze and improve beet and cane sugar factories and refineries.