



# *Aspen Plus<sup>®</sup> Videos for Chemical Engineering Undergraduates*

**Michael Shao and Mark B. Shiflett**

Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering  
University of Kansas

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Paper 263b





# *What & Why Aspen Plus<sup>®</sup>?*

- Chemical process simulator
- Solve complex systems
  - Efficiently
  - User friendly
- Industry
  - Process engineering
  - Design



[www.aspentech.com](http://www.aspentech.com)




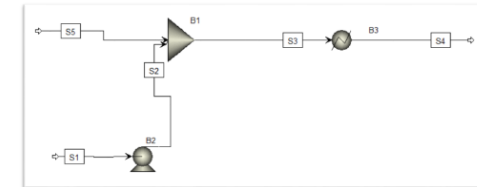
# Introducing Aspen Plus®

- Aspen Plus® in the C&PE curriculum
  - Lecture, design, laboratory courses
- Educational methods developed
  - Written handouts
  - Video modules
- How we apply them:
  - In-class lecture
  - Post video & handouts on **Blackboard®**



9.) To add an inlet stream for the "Mixer" block, click once onto an empty portion of the "Main Flowsheet". Then, drag the cursor to the blue inlet arrow of the "Mixer" block, and then click once on that blue arrow, similarly to step 7.

10.) Add material streams to the remaining blocks. After, the visual simulation should look similar to the one below. To stop inserting streams, select the small cursor button  above the "Material" option of the "Model Palette".



#### Naming components/streams:

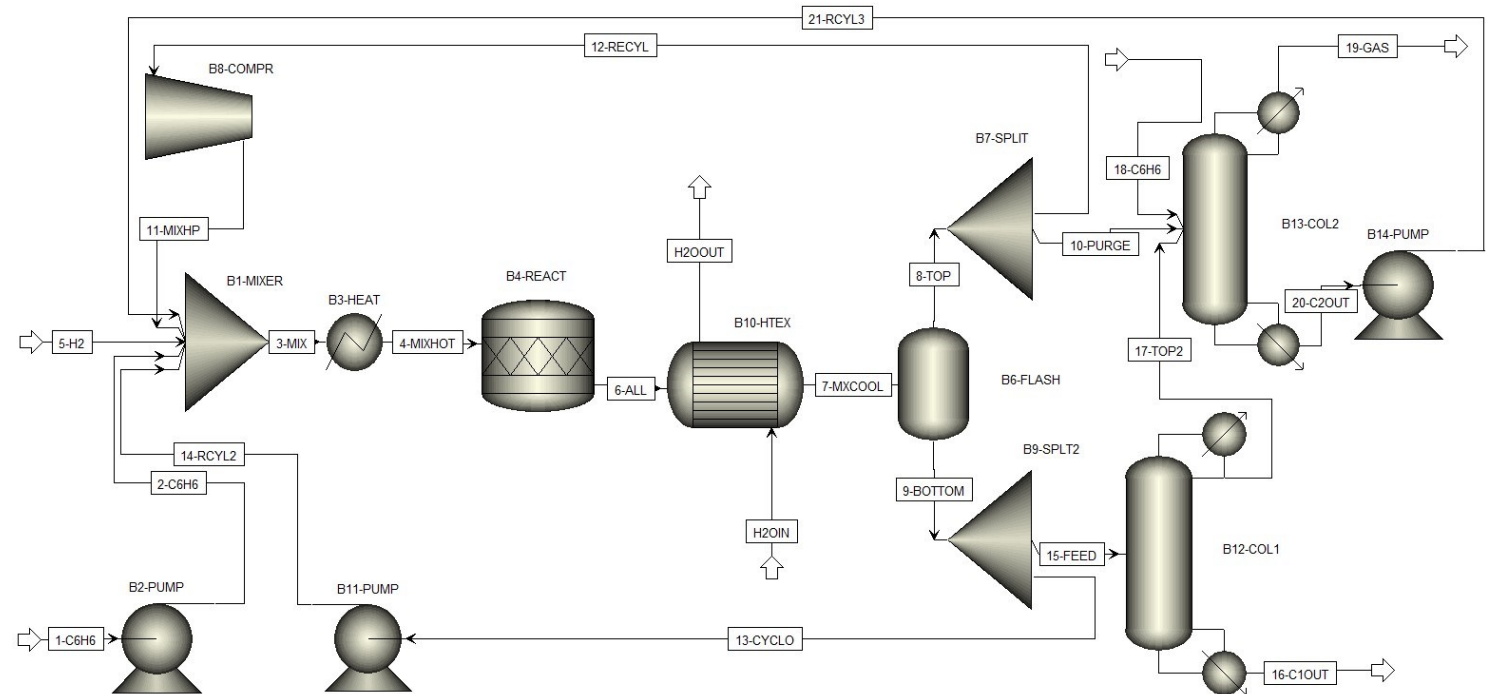
The default naming system in Aspen Plus assigns a number to each stream and block in the flowsheet area depending on the order it was added. To change the name of the stream/block, right click on the stream/block and select "Rename Stream"/"Rename Block". An alternative is to double click on the respective stream/block box with its name, and then type the new name. With the first portion of streams and blocks added to the flowsheet, they will be renamed as stated below. The order which you added your streams/blocks might be different, so the default name for the streams/blocks might be different. But, rename the streams/blocks in accordance to the diagram above from what is stated below:

- Stream 1 (S1) = 1-C6H6
- Stream 2 (S2) = 2-C6H6
- Stream 3 (S3) = 3-MIX
- Stream 4 (S4) = 4-MIXHOT
- Stream 5 (S5) = 5-H2
- Block 1 (B1) = B1-MIXER
- Block 2 (B2) = B2-PUMP
- Block 3 (B3) = B3-HEAT



# To Start: Material & Energy Balances

- MEB calculations
  - Control volume, temperature, pressure, enthalpy
- Unit operations
  - Reactors
  - Flash distillation
- **Hydrogenation of Benzene to Cyclohexane**





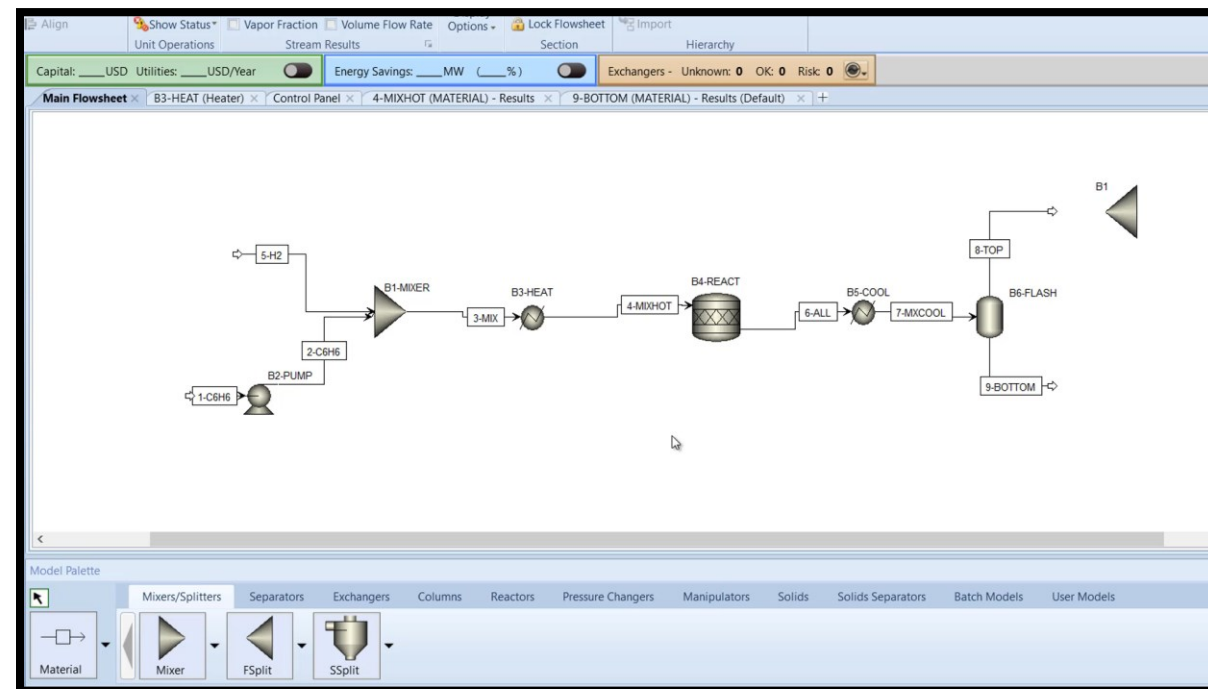
# Videos

## The Hydrogenation of Benzene to Cyclohexane

Aspen Plus V10.0  
Chapter 1: Video 1

The University of Kansas

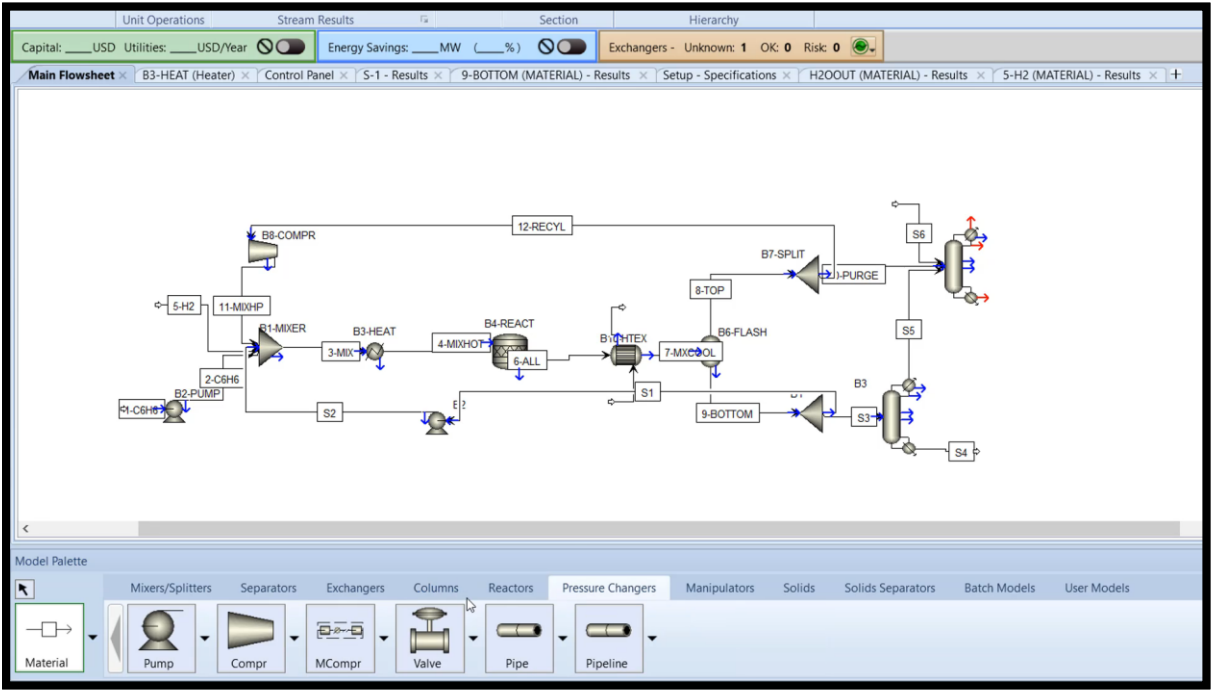
School of Engineering





# Videos

Row/Case	Status	VARY 1 5-H2 MIXED TOTAL MO LEFLOW KMOL/HR	H2MOLFLO /BZMOLFL O KMOL/HR
1	OK	280	3.06942
2	OK	285	3.70245
3	OK	290	4.36009
4	OK	295	5.02292
5	OK	300	5.68795
6	OK	305	6.35414
7	OK	308	6.75424

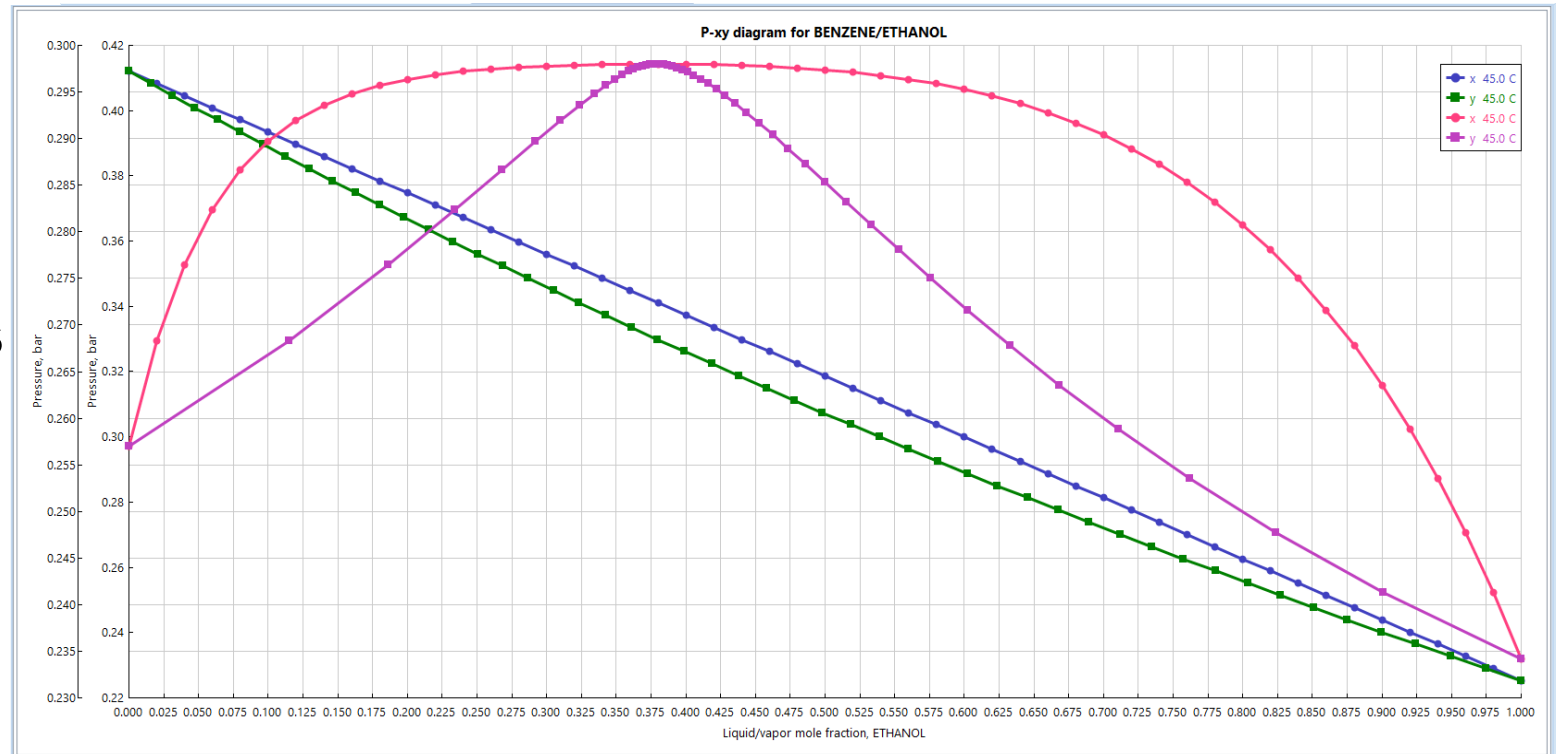


# 9-part video series



# Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics II

- Multi-component interactions
- Fugacity expressions
- Equilibrium
  - Criteria
  - VLE
  - Activity coefficients & different models

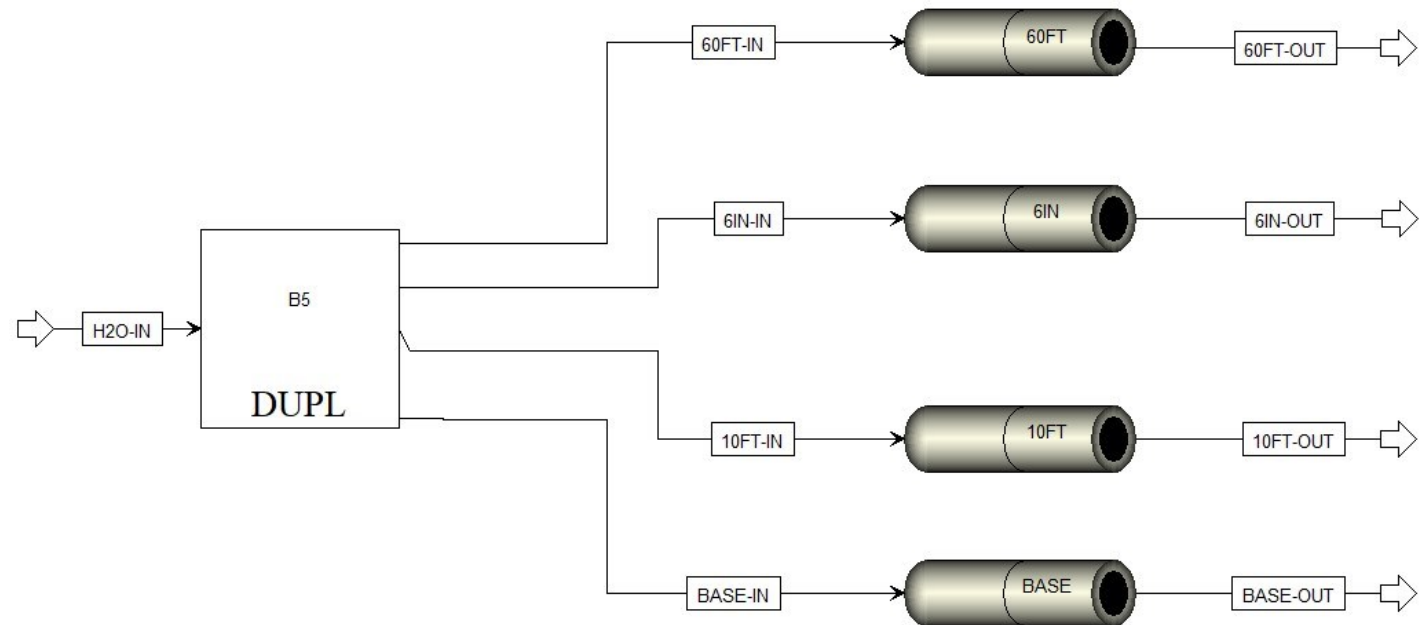






# Momentum Transfer

- Navier-Stokes
- Bernoulli's Equation
  - Pipes
    - Reynolds number
    - Friction Factor
    - **Pressure drop**
  - Future: **Pumps**

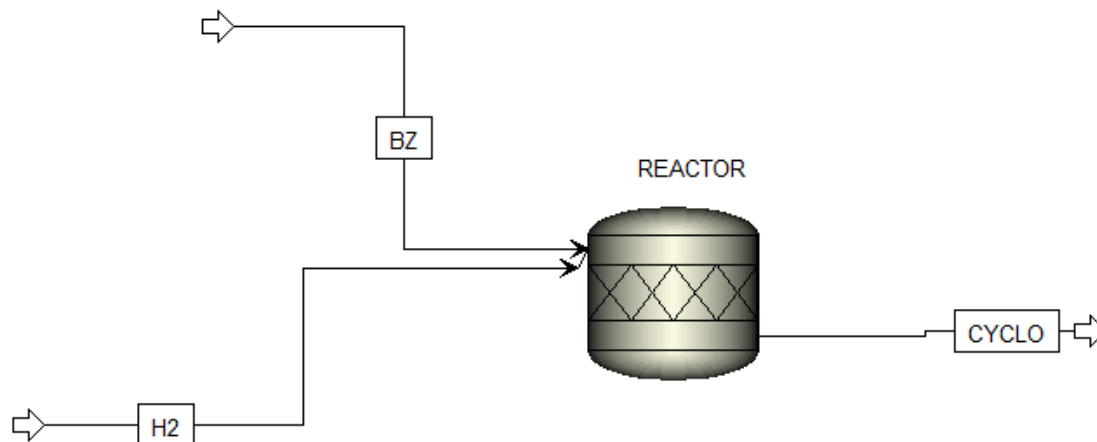






# Economic Appraisal

- Present worth of a project (Benzene to Cyclohexane) over time
  - **Build simulation** with input to determine output (sales)
  - Loan, interest, taxable income, depreciation
  - **Aspen Plus Economic Analyzer (APEA):**  
Capital, operating, utility costs
  - Is this project worth it?



Enabled by Aspen Process Economic Analyzer (APEA)

Template: <Default> Save Save as new Reset Paste Send to Excel/ASW

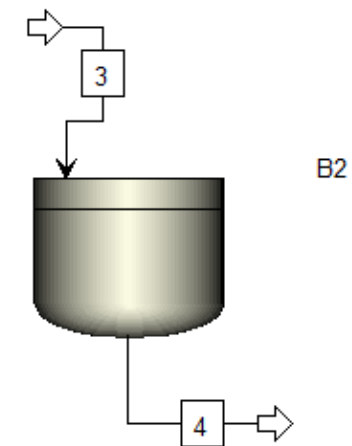
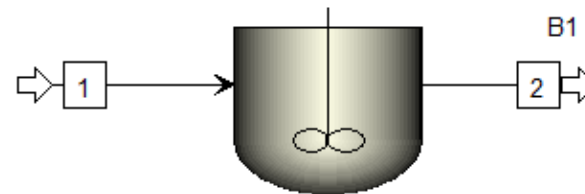
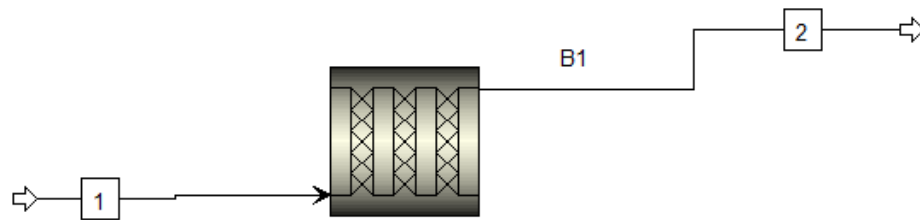
Summary Utilities Unit operation Equipment Agitated reactor

Total Capital Cost [USD]	1,958,570
Total Operating Cost [USD/Year]	1,303,330
Total Raw Materials Cost [USD/Year]	0
Total Product Sales [USD/Year]	0
Total Utilities Cost [USD/Year]	43,146.5
Desired Rate of Return [Percent/Year]	20
P.O. Period [Year]	0
Equipment Cost [USD]	75,100
Total Installed Cost [USD]	215,400



# Kinetics & Reactor Design

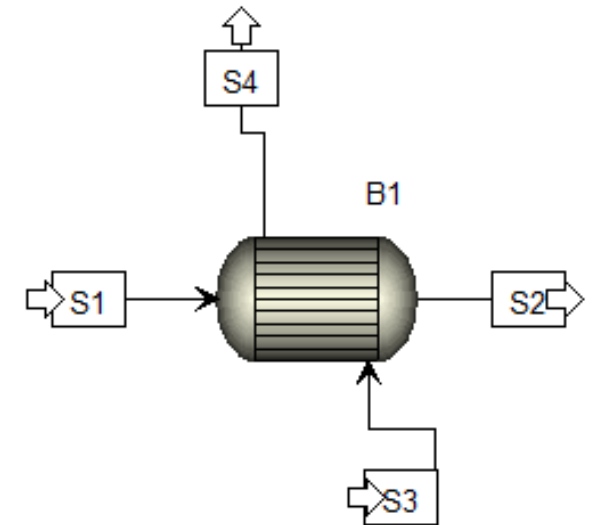
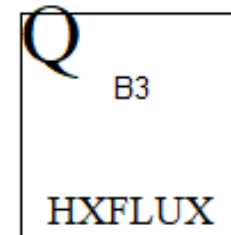
- Kinetic calculations
  - Rates, mechanisms, series/parallel reactions
- Reactors
  - **PFR, CSTR, Batch**
    - Sizing, concentration & temperature profile





# Heat & Mass Transfer

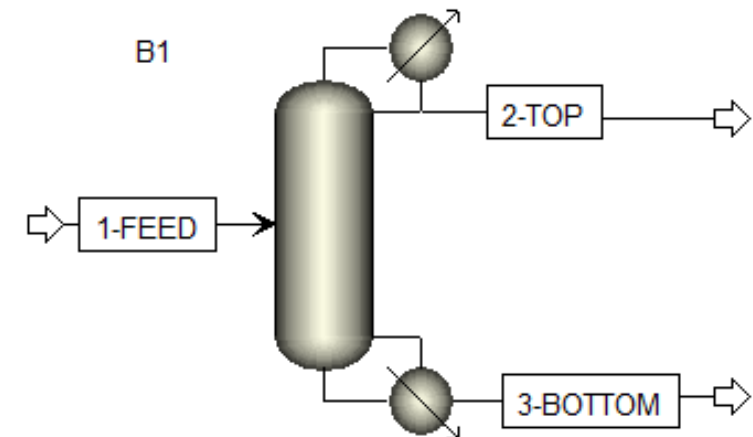
- Modes of heat & mass transfer
  - Fick's & Fourier's Law
- Unit operations
  - **Counter-current heat exchanger**
    - $Q = U \cdot A \cdot (\text{Log mean temp. difference})$
  - Future: **Packed column separation**





# Introduction to Chemical Engineering

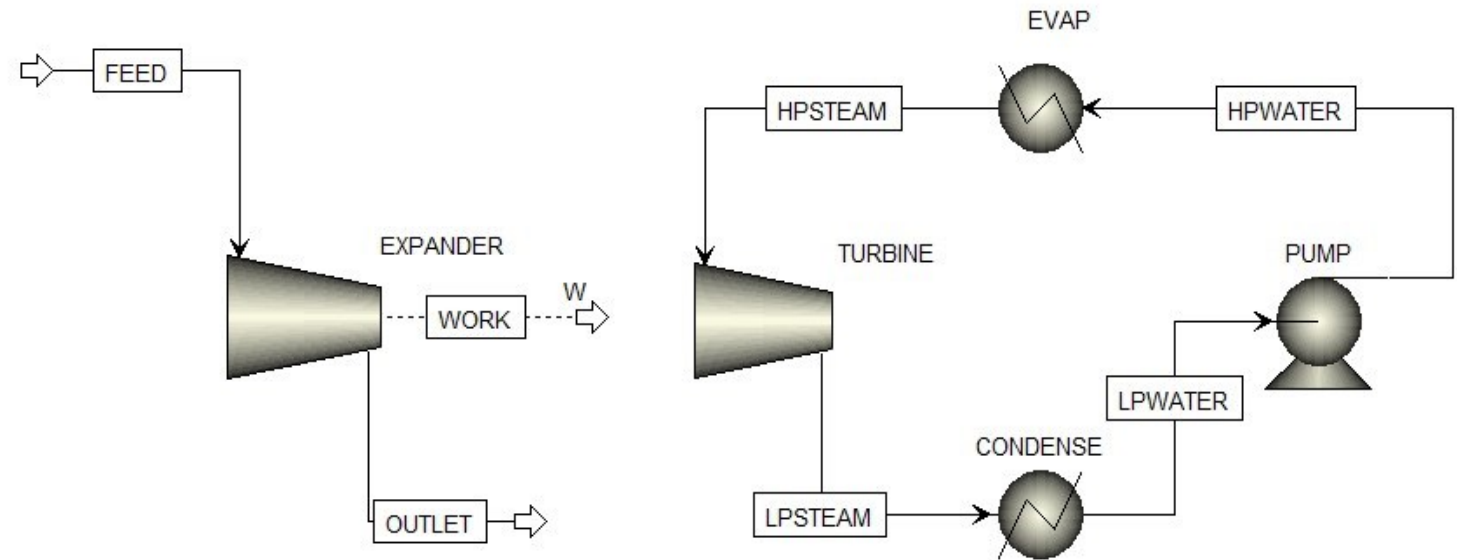
- New Freshman course
  - Biodiesel reaction – Lab section
    - Oil +  $\text{CH}_3\text{ONa}$  + MeOH  $\rightarrow$   $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8\text{O}_3$  + Biodiesel
    - Run a distillation ( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , MeOH)
    - Recovery of MeOH
  - In-class lecture: ASPEN
    - Simulate a distillation (MeOH,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ )
    - Students given handouts to follow & fill in
    - Video posted on Blackboard®
  - Post-lab
    - Simulate distillation ( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , MeOH)
    - Do product streams match with lab results?
    - Survey





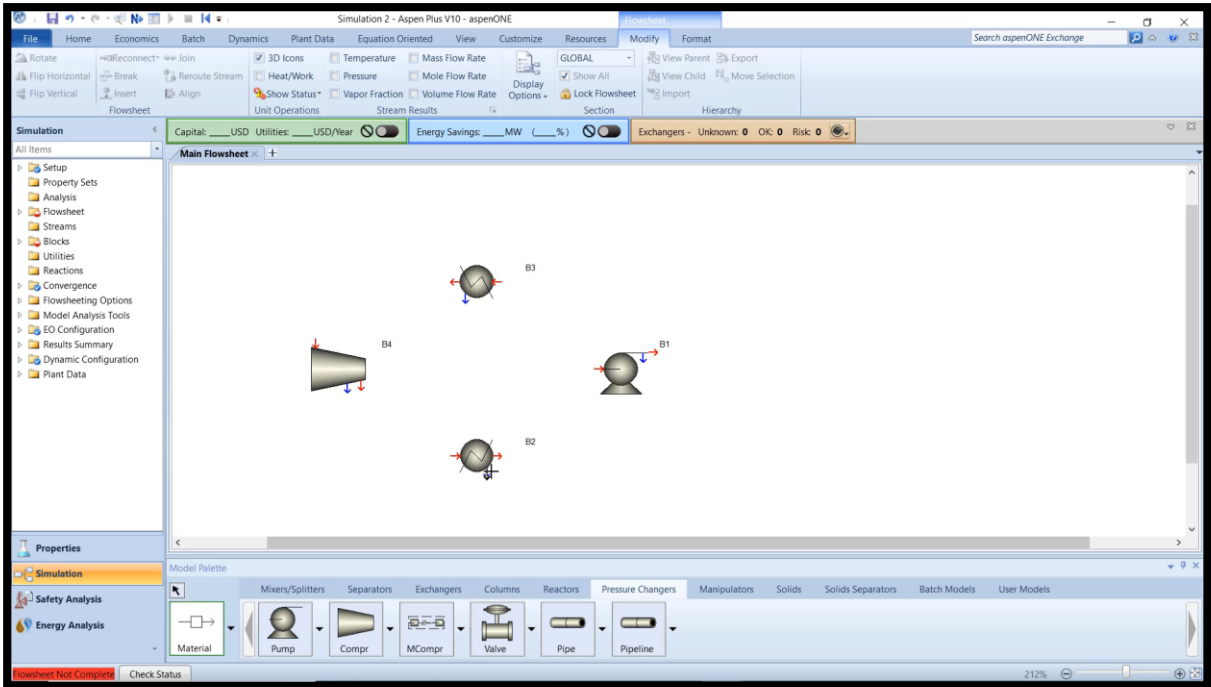
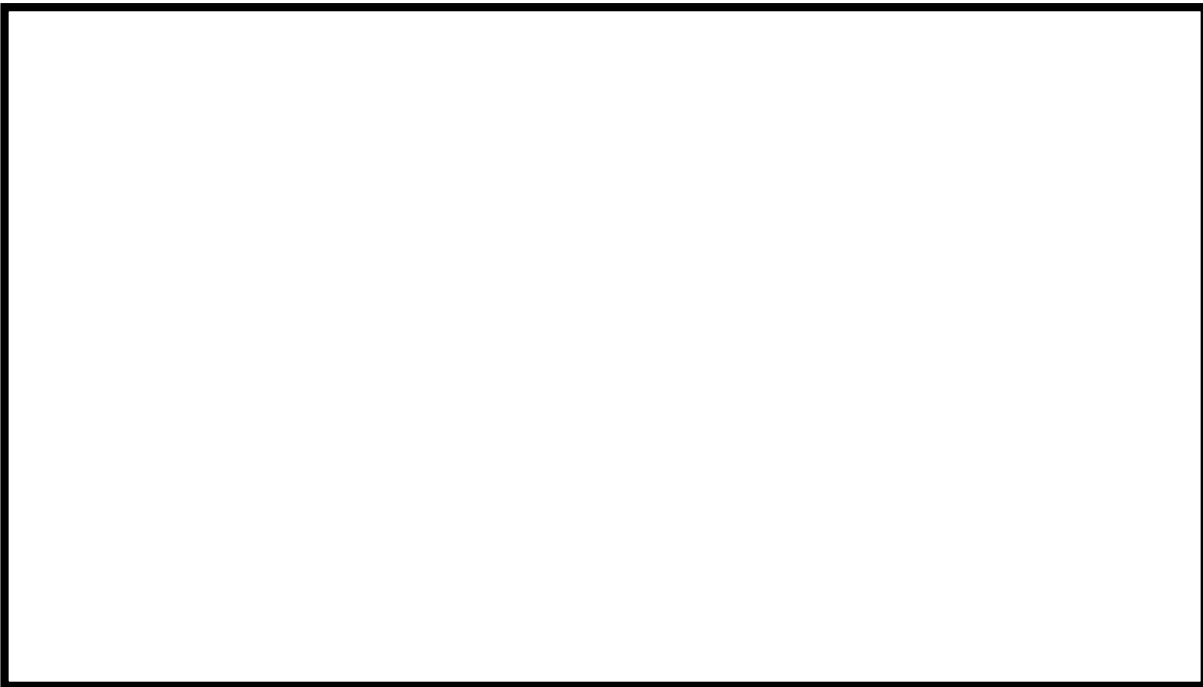
# Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics I

- Conservation of energy
  - Entropy, heat, work
- Unit operations
  - Heat exchangers
  - **Compressors/Turbines**
- Cycles
  - Rankine Refrigeration and **Power Cycle**





# Videos





# *Thermodynamics I: Class Introduction*

- Structure

- Adiabatic Turbine: Feb. 22 – March 1.

1. In-class lecture (by hand & in Aspen)
2. Assignment (by hand & in Aspen)
3. Survey

- Rankine Power Generation Cycle: March 29 – April 5.

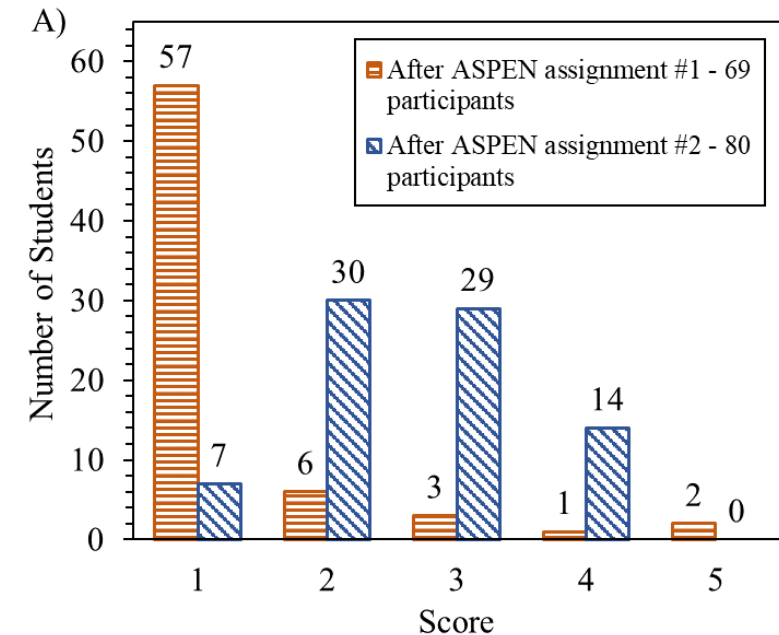
1. In-class lecture (graphically & in Aspen)
2. Assignment (graphically & in Aspen)
3. Survey





# Student Feedback

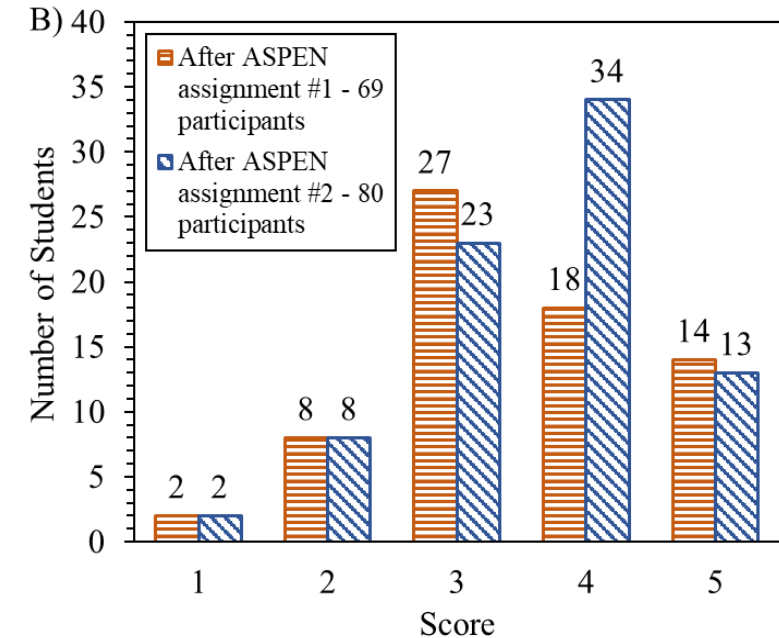
- Thermo I class: 89 total students
- Assignment 1: Adiabatic Turbine
  - “How experienced were you in Aspen Plus® before C&PE 211?”
  - 1 (Not experienced) to 5 (experienced)
- Assignment 2: Rankine Power Cycle
  - “What do you believe your skill level in using Aspen Plus® is?”
  - 1 (Not skilled) to 5 (skilled)





# Student Feedback

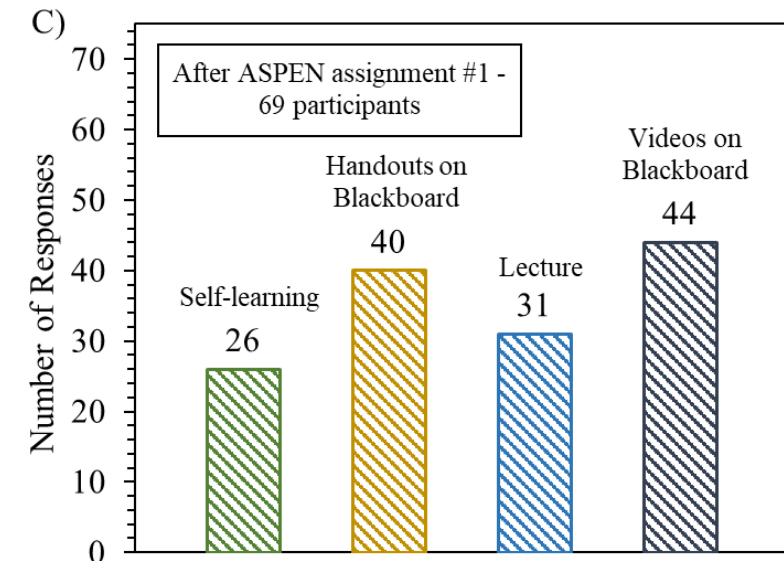
- Thermo I class: 89 total students
- Assignment 1: Adiabatic Turbine
  - “How effective do you think the utilization of Aspen Plus® enhances classroom learning?”
  - 1 (Not effective) to 5 (effective)
- Assignment 2: Rankine Power Cycle
  - “How effective do you think the utilization of Aspen Plus® enhances classroom learning?”
  - 1 (Not effective) to 5 (effective)





# Student Feedback

- Thermo I class: 89 total students
- Assignment 1: Adiabatic Turbine
  - “Which format(s) were best to learn how to create Aspen Plus<sup>®</sup> simulations for Thermo 1? (You may select all that apply)?”





# Video Library [www.shiflettresearch.com](http://www.shiflettresearch.com)

**Shiflett Lab Group**  
195 subscribers

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<p>Aspen Plus V10.0 Series - Chapter 3: Heat Exchanger... 677 views • 1 year ago</p>	<p>Aspen Plus V10.0 Series - Chapter 2: Sensitivity... 2.4K views • 1 year ago</p>	<p>Aspen Plus V10.0 Series - Chapter 1: The... 3.4K views • 1 year ago</p>	<p>Aspen Plus V10.0 Series - Chapter 6: The RadFrac... 2.9K views • 1 year ago</p>	<p>Aspen Plus V10.0 Series - Chapter 7: Finalization of th... 463 views • 1 year ago</p>



# Future Work

## • C&PE Courses

- C&PE 111 Intro to Chemical Engineering ✓
- C&PE 211 Material & Energy Balances ✓
- C&PE 221 Chemical Engineering Thermo I ✓
- C&PE 511 Momentum Transfer ✓
- C&PE 512 Chemical Engineering Thermo II ✓
- C&PE 522 Economic Appraisal ✓
- C&PE 524 Kinetics & Reactor Design ✓
- C&PE 525 Heat & Mass Transfer ✓
- C&PE 611 Unit Operations ⤴
- C&PE 616 Chemical Engineering Lab I ⤴
- C&PE 615 Process Dynamics & Control ⤴
- C&PE 613 Design I
- C&PE 626 Chemical Engineering Lab II



## *Concluding Remarks*

- Students are interested in applying class content in Aspen Plus<sup>®</sup> and would like to see more in future courses
- Aspen Plus<sup>®</sup> videos are effective at teaching how to use the program
- Current YouTube channel has over 200 subscribers with over 16,000 total views and positive feedback
- Goal is to provide in-class lectures, handouts, and videos on Blackboard<sup>®</sup> & YouTube for all undergraduate chemical engineering classes at KU
- Plan to submit manuscript



# Acknowledgments



Dr. Mark B. Shiflett



Alejandra Doresky



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# *Acknowledgments*



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Dr. Susan Williams



Dr. Aaron Scurto



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