

The grid diagram as guidance for synthesizing the heat exchanger network

Example from Castillo et al.

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Case 9 Example from Castillo

Case 9 is an example from Castillo et al. (1998), also treated by Ravagnani et al. (2008). The data set is given in Table 9.1. For easy assessment, a temperature scale in °C was used.

Table 9.1

Tsupply °C	Ttarget °C	Heat kW	U*f kW/K,m ²	Descript. -	mcp kW/K
840	40	3991.52	1.5	H1	4.9894
76	45	145.20	1.5	H2	4.6840
50	40	7.72	1.5	H3	0.7720
180	77	62.80	1.5	H4	0.6097
180	179	292.70	0.8	H5	292.70
90	45	137.97	1.5	H6	3.0660
24	25	329.80	0.8	C1	329.80
25	70	24.22	1.5	C2	0.5383
35	122	324.25	1.5	C3	3.7270
90	180	54.87	1.5	C4	0.6097
180	181	2581.10	0.8	C5	2581.1
20	40	1323.64	0.8	Cooling	
50	230	250.80	1.0	BFW 30.0 bar	
230	240	591.06	1.5	Steam 30.0 bar	

$$\text{Area Cost} = 9094 + 485 A^{0.81}$$

$$\text{Hot utility cost (230°C)} = 110 / \text{kW,year}$$

$$\text{Cold utility cost} = 15 / \text{kW,year}$$

$$\text{Steam credit} = 110 / \text{kW,year (enthalpy above 230°C)}$$

The example is a threshold problem requiring cooling only, as illustrated by Composite Curves and Grand Composite in Fig. 9.1 and Fig. 9.2,

The impact of the differences in heat transfer values is negligible. Target cost is 141 859 with an area of 63.13 m².

The shape of the composite curves would suggest to looking into the hot and cold streams at the 180°C temperature level. If adjustment of the levels in view of direct integration is not possible, then a heat pump would be conceivable. Another measure would be to generate MP steam to valorize the

high temperature waste heat (Grand Composite Fig. 9.3). Even with the apparently small heat loads, more than 1.0 t/h of steam could be generated; this will be analyzed in a second step.

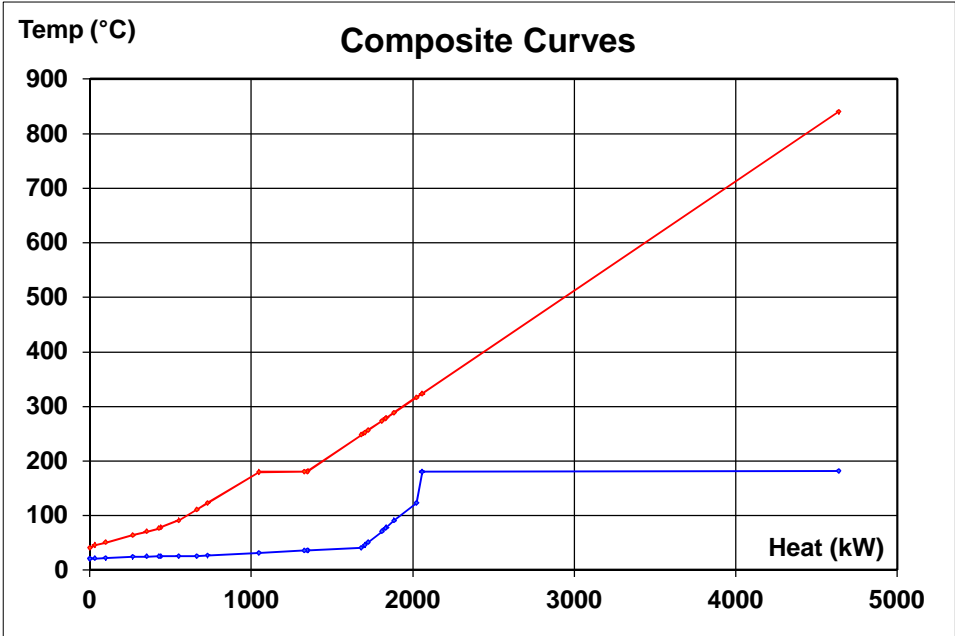


Fig. 9.1

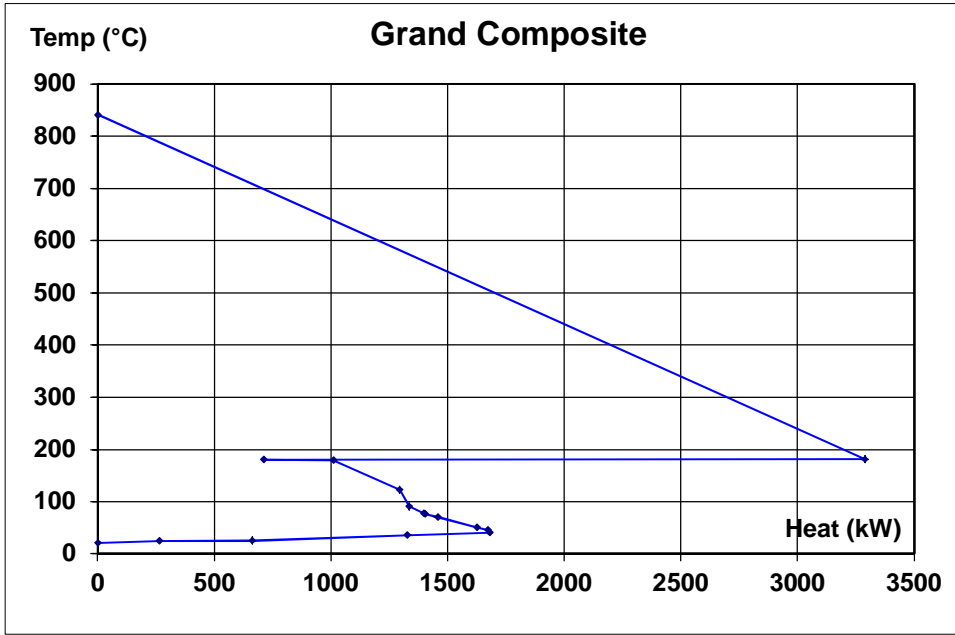


Fig. 9.2

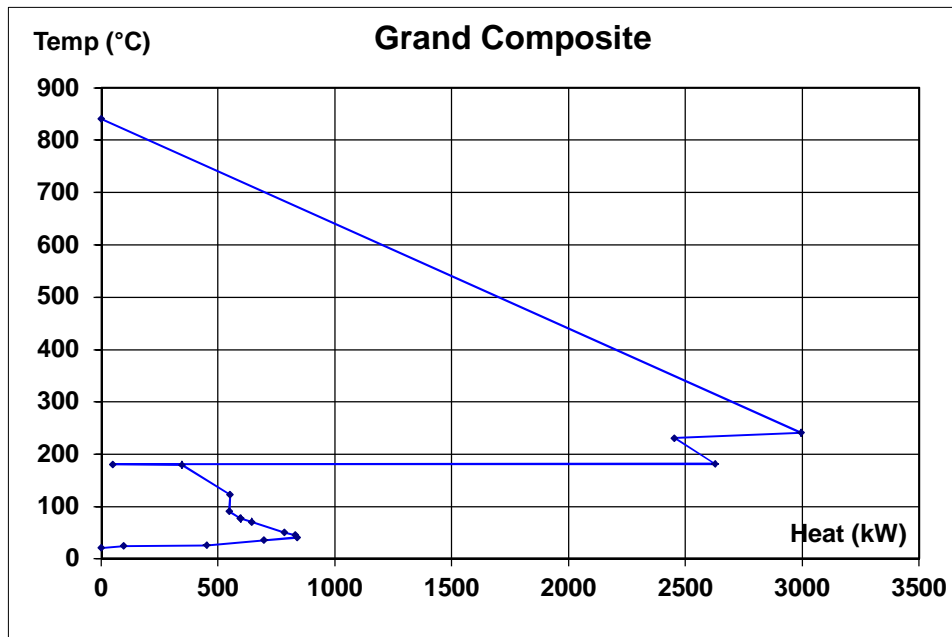


Fig. 9.3

For solving the problem, Ravagnani used a technique called Particle Swarm Optimization and produced a network that was marginally better than the network of Castillo, albeit with two stream splits. With the techniques applied here, further marginal improvements were obtained with networks with and without stream splits.

Base Case \bar{E} tick-off procedure

In view of the large driving forces and the small heat loads with an overweight of fixed cost, expectedly only a network with the minimum number of units would qualify as a valuable candidate.

On the basis of the heat balance, a cooler on hot stream H1 is mandatory with a minimum load of 677.27 kW; if that cooler is imposed then all other hot streams shall be fully cooled down with coolers as shown in Fig.9.4, a network with a cost of 140 775.

Since the average temperature of cold stream C1 is lower than the average temperature of the cold utility, it will be advantageous to pick up the heat of utility cooled hot streams and to put it into cold stream C1; area and cost will drop. The sequence is determined by the position of the streams in the grid diagram. Once cold stream C1 is satisfied, this synthesis can be continued for the other cold streams in a sequence taking the (section of the) cold stream with the coldest supply temperature first; the resulting network is shown in Fig. 9.5 (cost 139 410).

An alternative would be to put all cooling on hot stream H1 right from the start and to integrate the other hot streams with the cold streams starting from the cold end pinch and applying the same sequence as before. The resulting network is identical with that obtained before.

In any case, the position of the streams in the grid diagram generated by the pinch analysis is determining the sequence of integration and is guiding the tick-off procedure successfully.

Base Case – automated design procedure

The grid diagram can also be used as input for an initial design. If all cooling is concentrated on hot stream H1, the grid would be composed of 14 vertical integration bands (Table 9.3) which, using a simple LP program would result into a network with 25 exchangers plus 1 cooler (Fig.9.6). With incremental evolution, this network will automatically evolve into the network shown in Fig. 9.7 (cost 139 407). Merging bands in the grid diagram would lead to more stream splits which may further reduce the cost marginally. Removing the stream split on cold stream C1 in Fig. 9.7 would increase the cost to 139 419; consequently, the network of Fig. 9.5 is better, the only difference being the position of exchanger A4.

Base Case – fine tuning

The network in Fig. 9.5 without steam splits is considered as the best network so far; further improvements by fine tuning and acceptance of stream splits as shown in the final networks in Fig.9.8 through Fig. 9.10 remain marginal.

Heat recovery case

Also the case with heat recovery by steam generation has been analyzed. It is possible to generate 1.16 t/h of 30 bar steam and to reduce the annual cost with more than 35 %. Application of the same procedures as in the base case leads to the networks as shown in Fig. 9.11 through Fig. 9.13. It should be noted, however, that the heat recovery will create a process pinch that will have to be taken into account when defining the sequences.

The results for the different cases can be compared in Table 9.2.

Only networks with one single cooler on hot stream H1 were retained. However, additional coolers can be accepted on various hot streams with only a very small cost penalty. A (very) large number of networks can be developed with a cost below target; this is the consequence of the degression exponent in the area cost function that works out favorably for very unequal heat exchanger areas.

Table 9.2

		Castillo	Ravagnani	This research			
# of Stream splits	-	(?)	2	2	1	0	target
Area	m ²	(?)	66.18	64.78	64.80	64.59	63.13
TotalCost	'000/y	141.55	140.14	139.40	139.40	139.41	141.86
With steam recovery							
Area	m ²			93.47	93.50	95.73	93.06
Cost	'000/y			152.88	152.88	153.41	156.94
Steam credit	'000/y			65.02	65.02	65.02	65.02
Net cost	'000/y			87.86	87.87	88.39	91.92

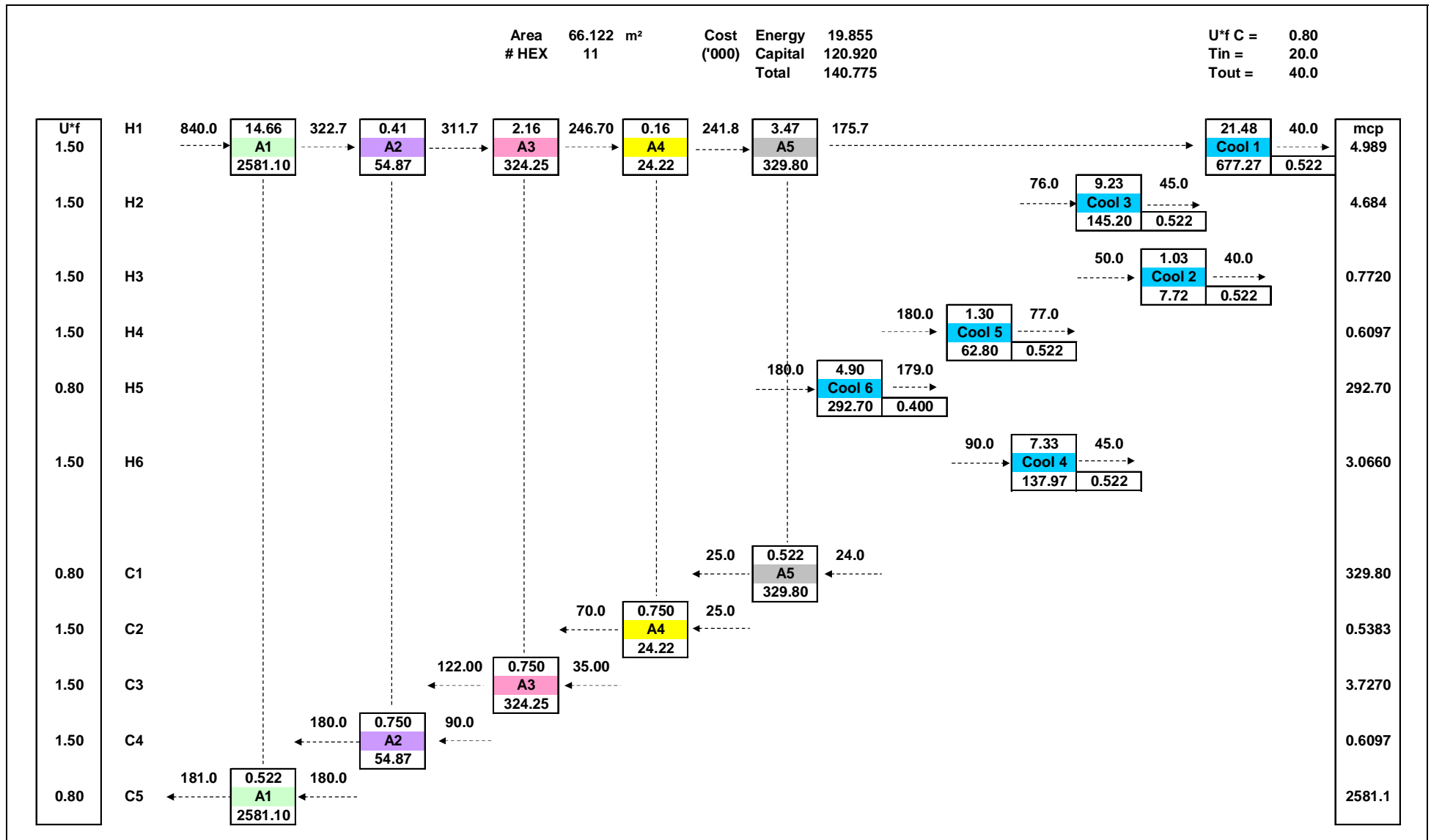


Fig. 9.4

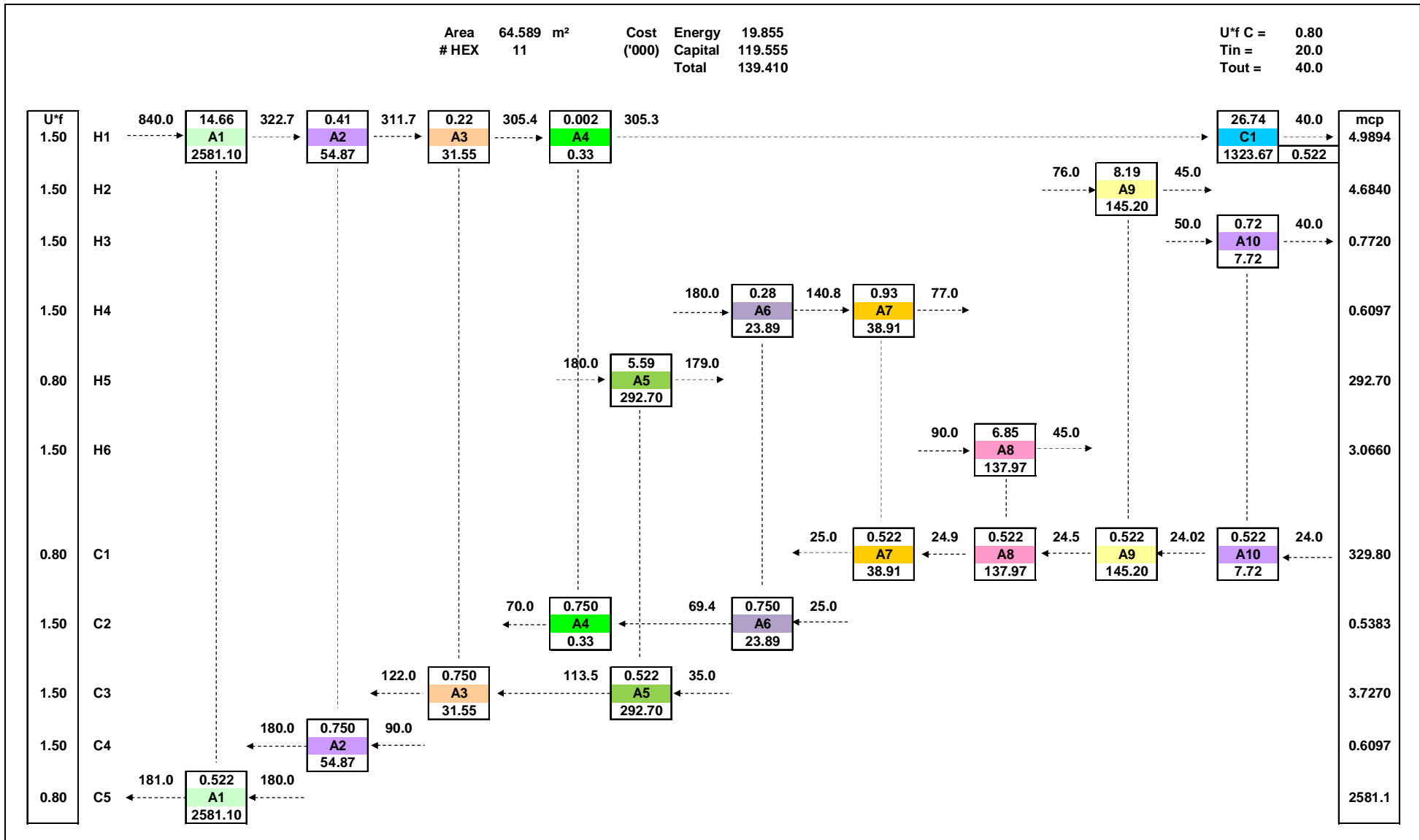


Fig. 9.5

Table 9.3

Descript.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	mcp kW/K	
H1	840.0	322.7	315.6	305.3											4.9894	
H2												76.0	50.0	45.0	4.6840	
H3													50.0	45.0	40.0	0.7720
H4				180.0	179.7	179.4	179.0	149.6	140.8	90.0	77.0				0.6097	
H5				180.0	179.7	179.4	179.0								292.70	
H6										90.0	77.0	76.0	50.0	45.0	3.0660	
C1									25.0	24.9	24.8	24.8	24.1	24.01	24.0	329.80
C2						70.0	39.2	35.0	25.0						0.5383	
C3			122.0	110.2	90.0	70.0	39.2	35.0							3.7270	
C4		180.0	122.0	110.2	90.0										0.6097	
C5	181.0	180.0													2581.10	

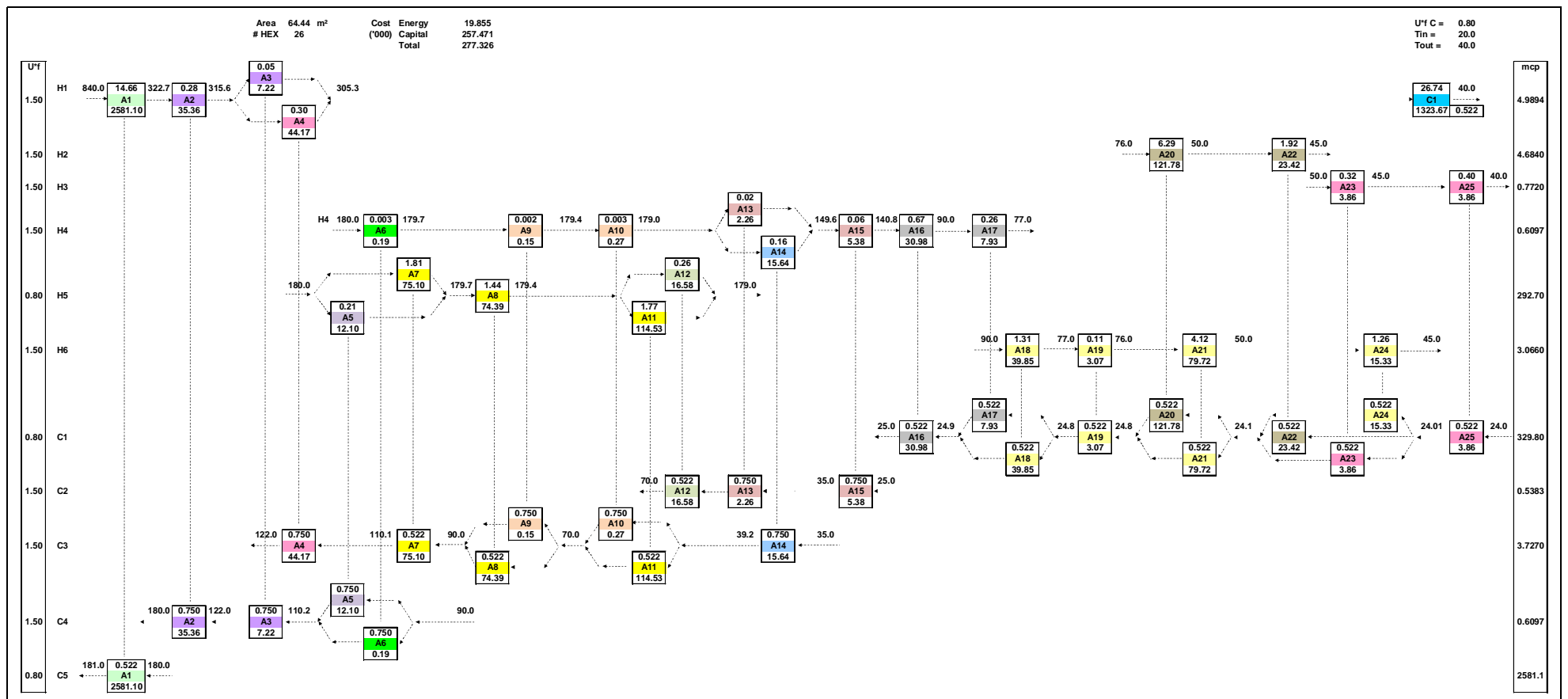


Fig. 9.6

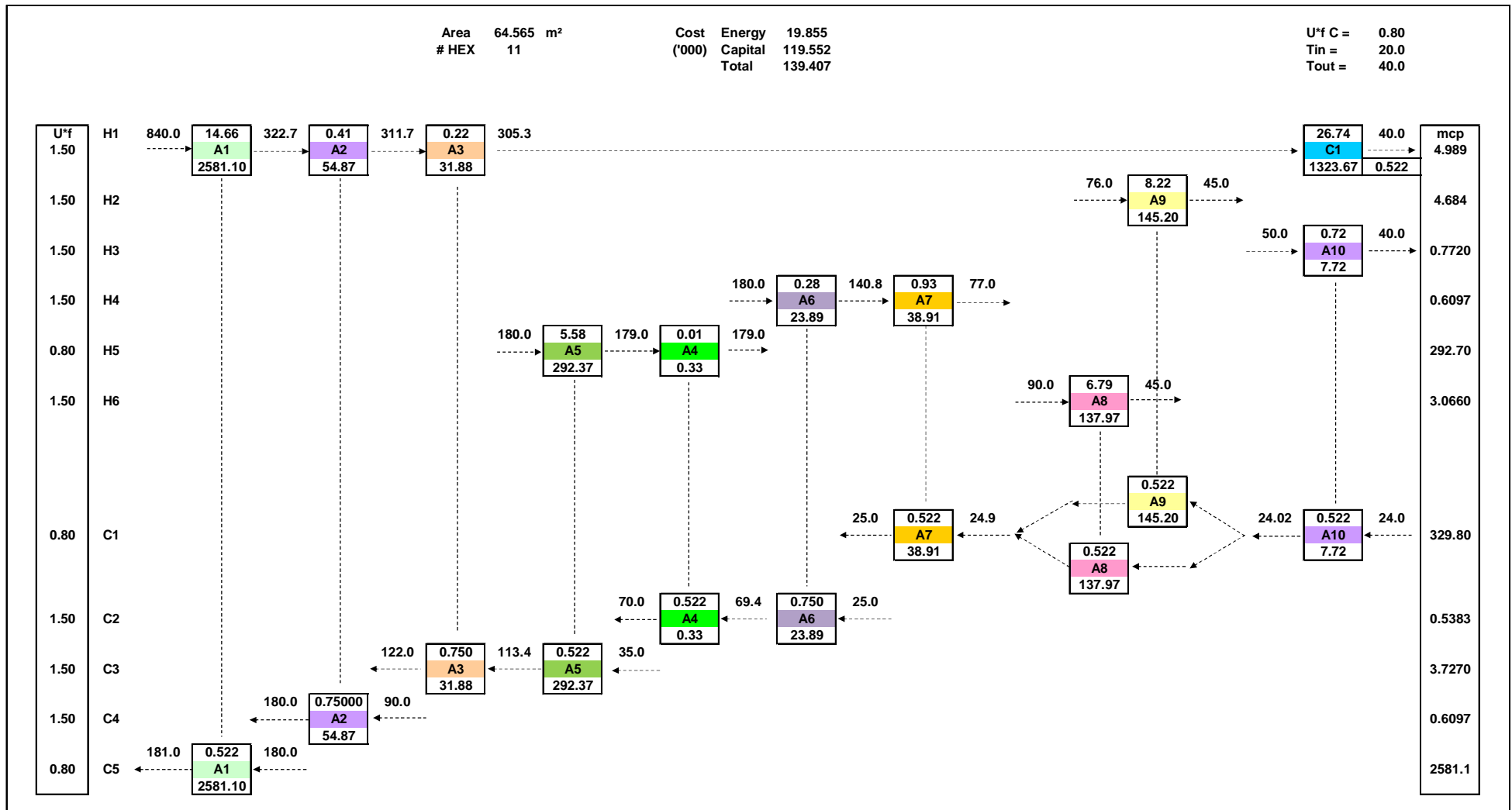


Fig. 9.7

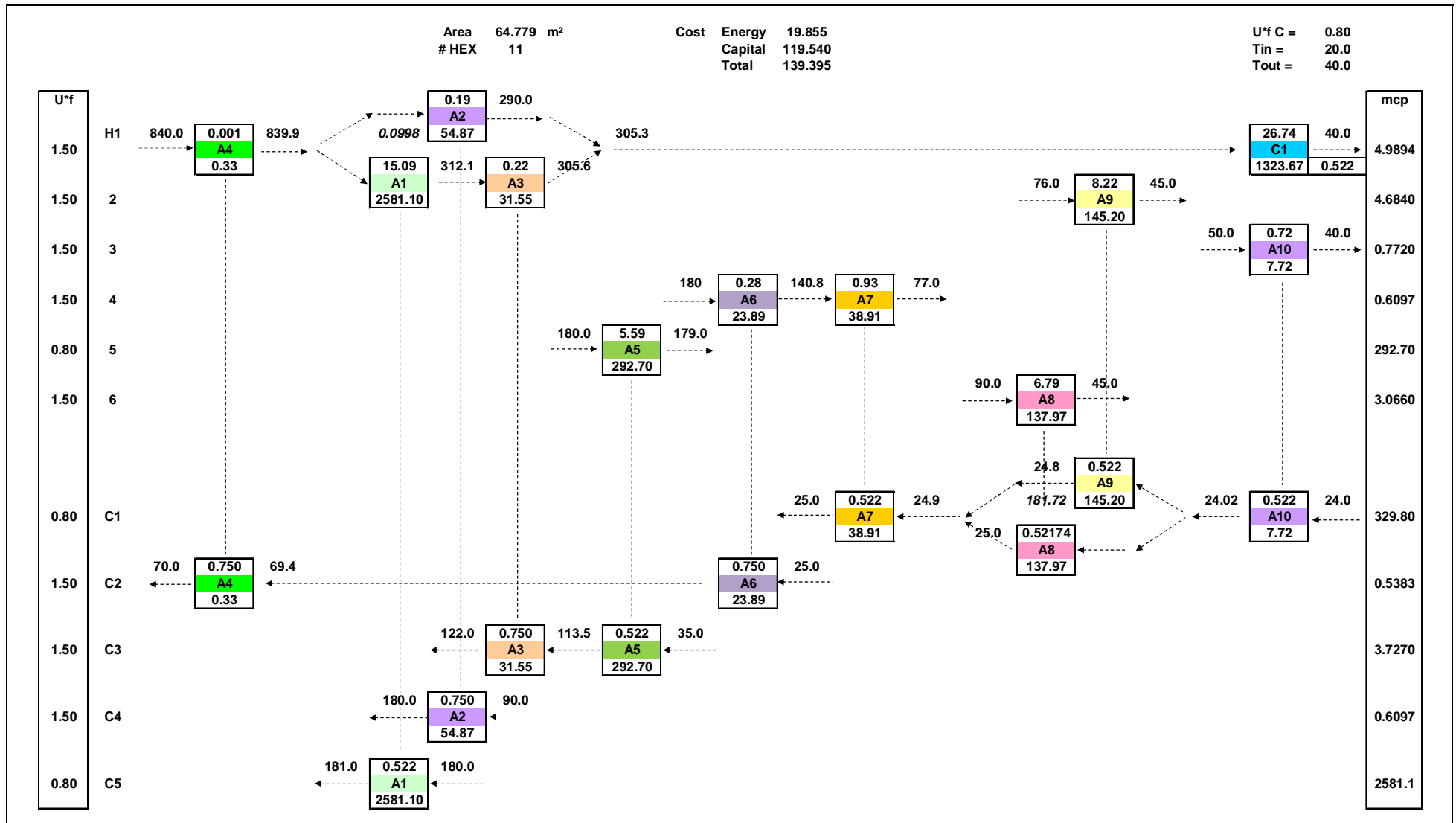


Fig. 9.8

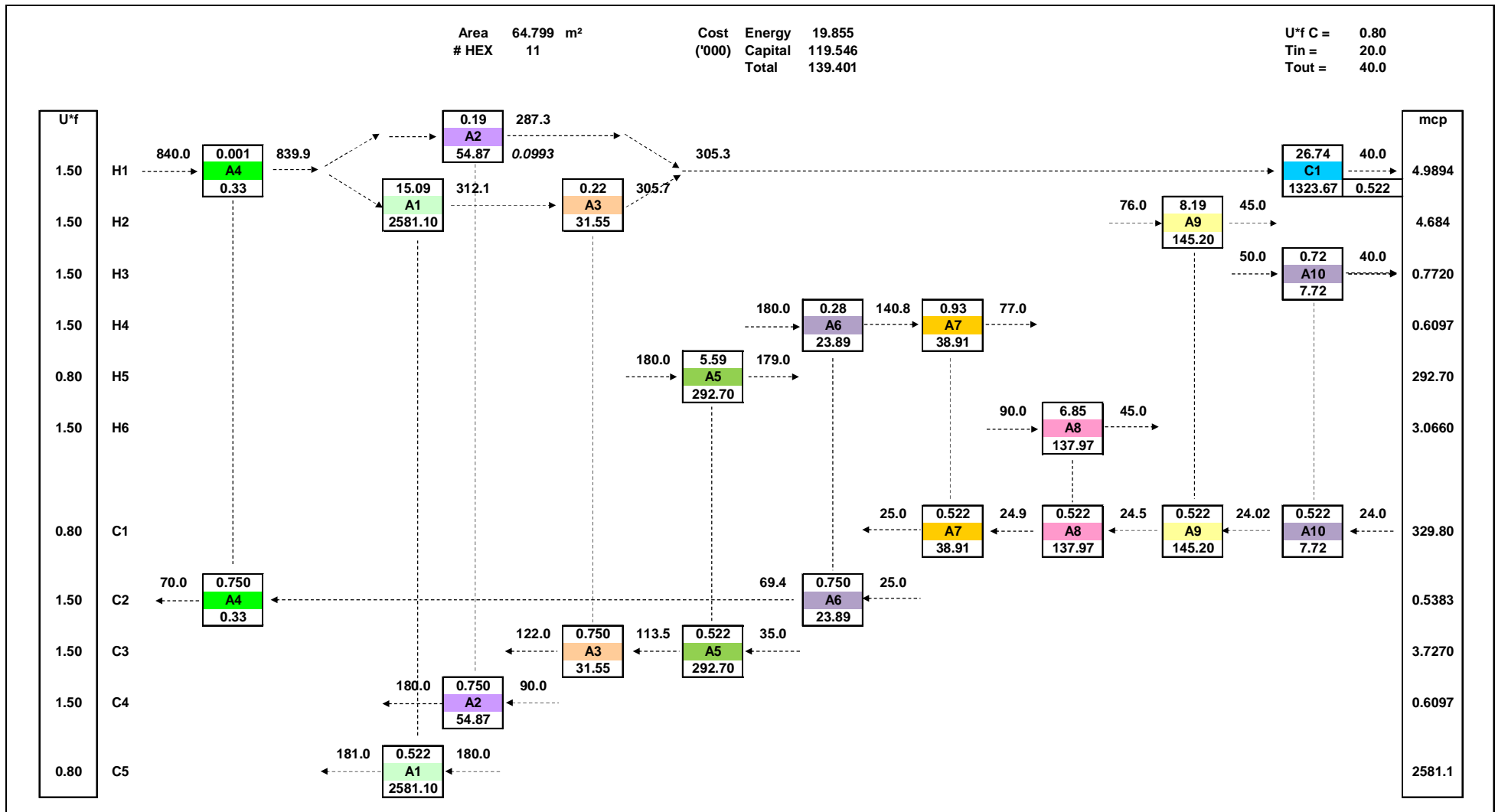


Fig. 9.9

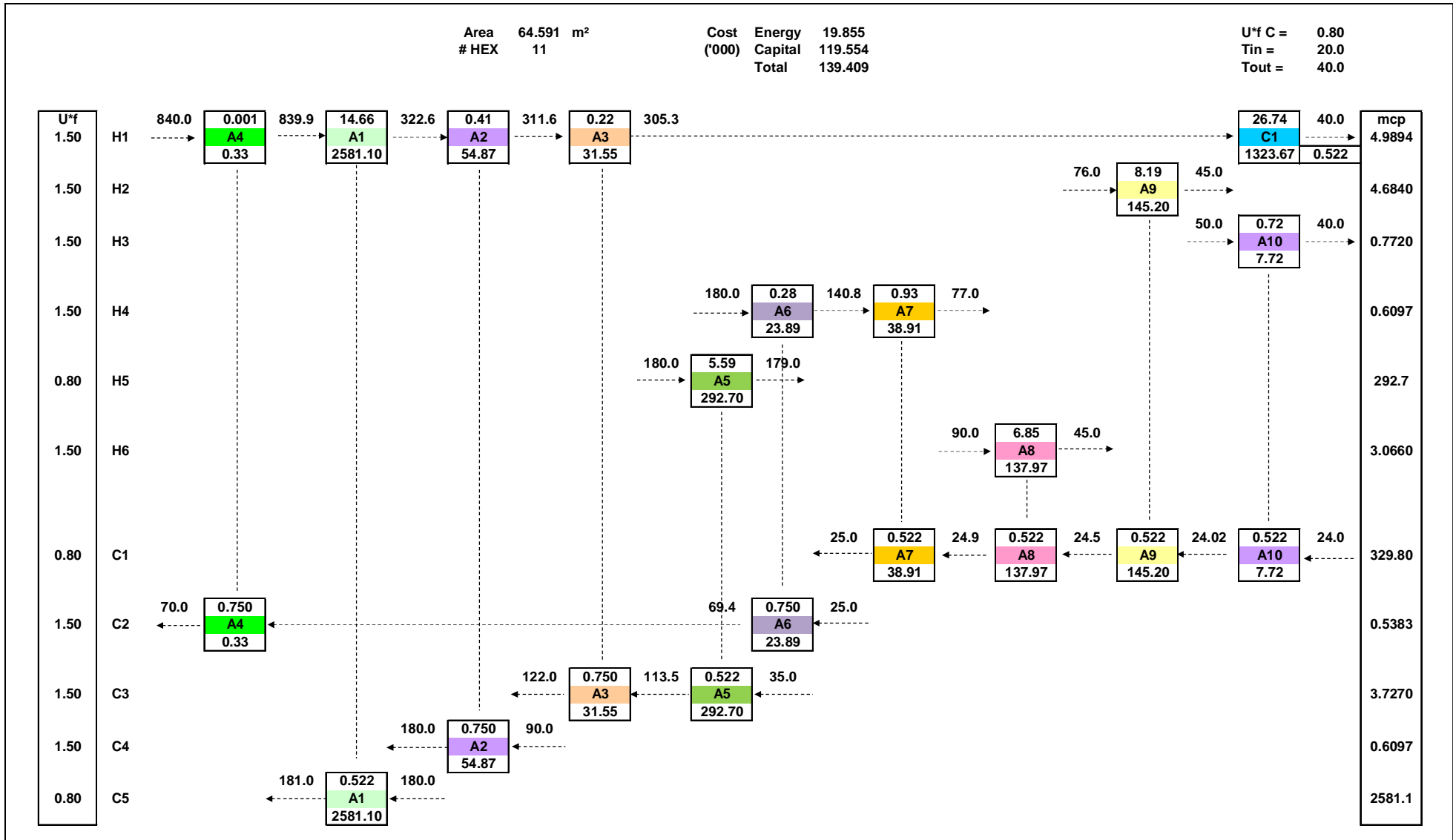


Fig. 9.10

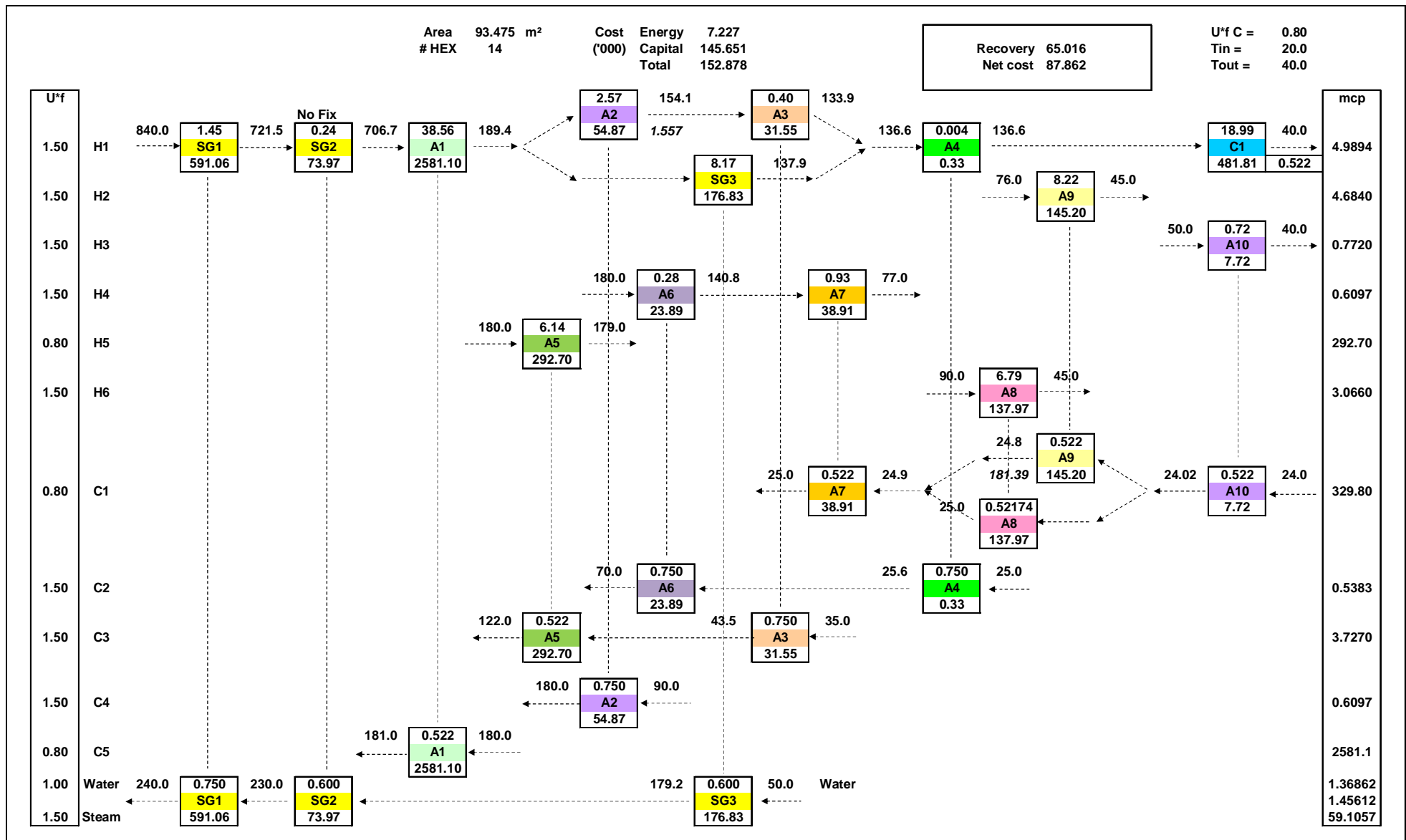


Fig. 9.11

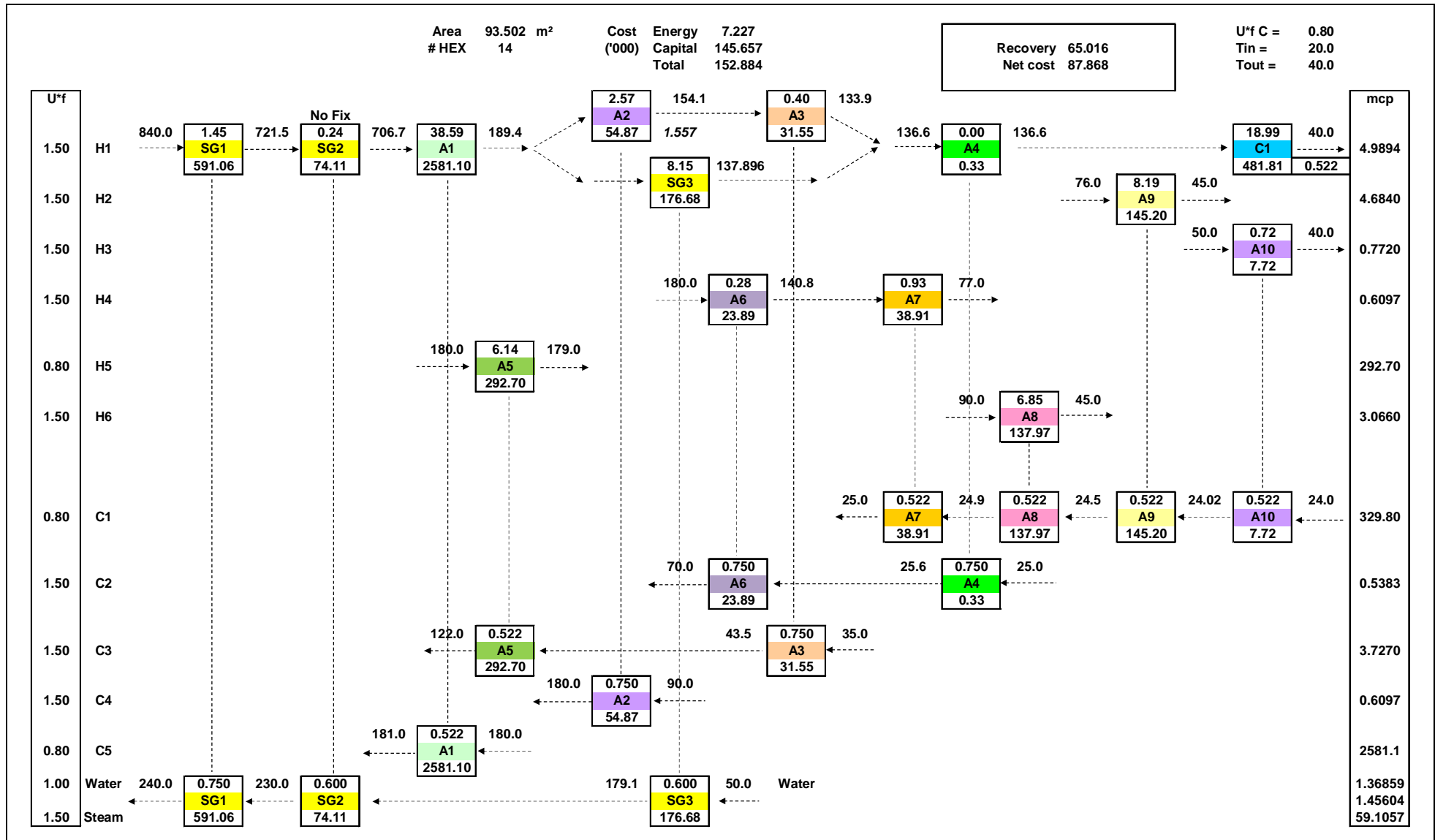


Fig. 9.12

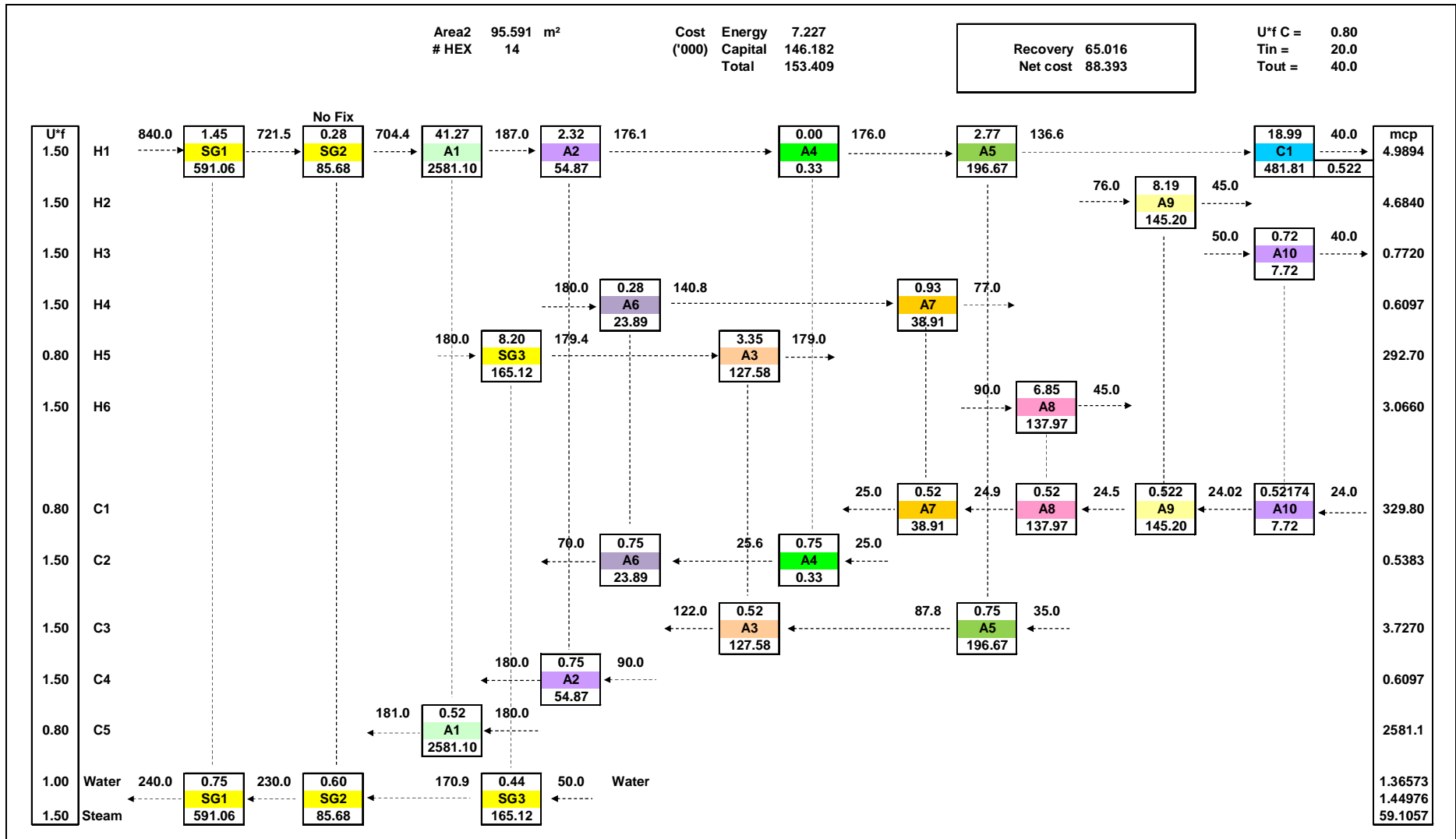


Fig. 9.13