Comprehensive Application of VMGSim in Refinery

Speaker: Ma Jianmin
Beijing Sunbridge Information Technology Co., Ltd
Sunbridge at a Glance

**Brief Introduction**

- Beijing Sunbridge Infotech Co., Ltd, a high-tech company in Haidian District Beijing, is invested by Daqing Petrochemical Complex of CNPC
- Business covers process simulation and optimization, OTS development, analysis and optimization for Water System of petrochemical enterprise, steam energy saving, etc.
- Customers include PetroChina, Sinopec, CNOOC and overseas refineries
- More than 20 years’ experience in simulation applications
- Capable of building simulation models of chemical plants by using simulation software, such as VMGSim, Aspen Hysys, Aspen Plus, PRO/II, PetroSim etc.
- Built more than one hundred simulation models for plants such as Ethylene, Ammonia, Atmospheric and vacuum distillation, fluid catalytic cracking, delayed coking, etcetera, for troubleshooting, operation improvement and process optimization
Sunbridge and VMG

In the face of the technical challenges encountered, Sunbridge fully understands the technical advantages of VMG, understands what it can do, and how it works.

EXCHANGE

DEMONSTRATION MODELING
Commissioned VMG to establish urea model, butadiene extraction model, aromatics extraction model, and achieved economic benefits.

From 2013

Starting in 2016

At the same time

Continued until now

TRAINING

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF APPLICATIONS
The VMGSim software fully used by engineers to solve various production problems encountered, which brings economic benefits to the enterprise.

DEMONSTRATION

EXTENSIVE TRAINING
VMG has conducted various trainings for technicians, researchers and project team members to ensure that VMGSim is mastered.

APPLICATIONS

TECHNICAL EXCHANGE
In the face of the technical challenges encountered, Sunbridge fully understands the technical advantages of VMG, understands what it can do, and how it works.
02 Comprehensive Applications
Comprehensive Applications of VMGSim

**Online**
Deploy the online model, the system links with MES and LIMS data in the background, performs real-time calculation, and realizes the "soft measurement" function.

**Focus**
Employees can focus on using VMGSim to solve production problems, not just learning software. Be as fast and accurate as possible.

**Support**
Professional process simulation technical support team, 7x24 technical Q&A. Create online instructional videos that give employees access to online and offline technical assistance.

**Convenience**
Deploy complete plant models where employees can directly use their own models for learning, analysis and process optimization.

**Platform**
Establish a process simulation platform, cloud deployment VMGSim, employees can use process simulation software anytime, anywhere.
Typical Application on Sulfur Recovery Unit

Business Challenge & Objective

• The inlet temperatures of the primary and secondary reactors are too high
• The amount of amine solution in the absorption tower is too large
• Energy consumption is greater than design specifications
• Analyze the operating conditions

Solution Overview

• The sulfur recovery unit (SRU) is simulated by VMGSim
• The effects of five operating parameters on the total recovery of SRU and the recovery of H2S are analyzed, including inlet temperatures of the primary and secondary reactors, operating temperature of the condenser, amount of the lean amine circulation

Results & Benefits

• The reasons for the large energy consumption of the unit and the low recovery rate were found, and corresponding optimization measures were proposed and implemented
• Bringing $650,000/year economic benefits to the unit by retrofitting equipment and adjusting key operating parameters
Typical Application on Aromatics Extraction Unit

Business Challenge & Objective

• Unit operation cannot meet design specifications
• Actual energy consumption is higher than design energy consumption
• The stripper is not operating properly
• Understand the impact of changing the amount of first solvent cycle and the amount of second solvent cycle on plant production

Solution Overview

• Modeling with design data
• Modeling with calibration data
• Analysis of the differences between the two models: composition, flow, temperature, pressure, etc.
• Use case study to analyze the effect of solvent circulation on production

Results & Benefits

• The biggest difference between the design model and the calibration model is the difference in non-aromatic content in the solvent. After the analysis, the design value is incorrect
• According to the calibration model calculation, the current operating conditions are normal and should not be matched to the design requirements
• The stripper needs to be modified to solve the design errors
Typical Application on Butadiene Extraction Unit

Business Challenge & Objective

- How is the current operating level? Need improvement?
- Is the range of key process indicators reasonable when the feed composition changes?
- Can I change the operating conditions of the first distillation column?

Solution Overview

- Establish model according to the calibration data
- Compare the results of the model calculation with the data from MES and LIMS to confirm whether the current operating state is optimal
- Confirm whether the operation of the first distillation column needs adjustment by changing the feed composition, feed position and reflux flow rate, etc.

Results & Benefits

- The unit is operating very well and does not require additional adjustments
- The range of process parameters are reasonable and should be maintained
- The feed position and reflux ratio of the first distillation column do not need to be changed, and it is currently the best
Typical Application on Sour Water Stripper Unit

Business Challenge & Objective

- The new chemical plant is put into production, and it is necessary to analyze the current operational level
- Where is the optimized operational boundary?
- How much energy can be saved?

Solution Overview

- Analysis of the ammonia draw amount of the stripper varies from 13,000 to 20,000 t/h, which affects the amount of steam and the quality of the purified water at the bottom of the tower
- Analysis of the effect of hot and cold feed ratio on energy consumption and water quality

Results & Benefits

- The current plant has a large energy saving space and needs to optimize operating conditions
- Determine the minimum amount of steam at the bottom of the tower and the optimum ratio of hot and cold feed
- Because its steam price is more expensive, the final annual income can increase by 820,000 USD
Typical Application on Amine Regeneration Unit

Business Challenge & Objective

• The plant capacity is very large, and it is necessary to analyze the operation of the regenerator
• Is it possible to change some operating conditions to achieve energy saving goals, where are the boundaries of change?

Solution Overview

• Analysis of the feed temperature of the regenerator
• Analysis of the reflux flow of the regenerator
• Analysis of the control indicators of lean amine solution

Results & Benefits

• The goal of optimizing process parameters is achieved
• Achieve annual economic benefits of approximately $2.55 million
Application Result

**Wide Range of Applications**
In the process simulation platform, a total of 77 VMGSim plant models have been deployed so far.

**Considerable Economic Benefits**
The project team and the VMG technical team have optimized the production processes of some refineries with a total economic benefit of approximately $10.66 million per year.

**Great Technical Service**
Always maintain technical communication with VMG, keep abreast of the latest developments, and get timely and effective professional support and services.

**Improve Skills**
Further improve the ability of employees to use process simulation technology to better increase the profitability of plant operations.
Next Project Phase

Application of CDU

Carry out the modeling and application of CDU, and apply the molecular characterization (PIONA) function of VMG.

Refining Reactor Application

Modeling and application of core equipment for refinery such as fluid catalytic cracking, hydrocracking, reforming and delayed coking.

Refinery-Wide Optimization

Using VMG’s molecular simulation technology to “track” and manage the molecules of the whole refinery, and optimize to the entire refinery.
Thanks
Welcome to Beijing Sunbridge