

## Določitev optimalne debeline izolacije cevnih sistemov za transport hladilnega sredstva

### The Determination of the Optimum Insulation Thickness of Pipe Systems for Transporting Cooling Media

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*V prispevku je opisan postopek določitve optimalne debeline izolacije cevovodov za transport hladilnega sredstva. Izračunana optimalna (ekonomska) debelina cevne izolacije je odvisna od izbrane ekonomske metode ter tehnično-ekonomskih podatkov. Na podlagi znanih postopkov za izračun ustaljenega toplotnega toka skozi izolacijo cevnih sistemov za transport hladilnega sredstva in v prispevku opisanega ekonomskega izračuna je bila izdelana računalniška aplikacija. Numerični algoritem, ki je bil izdelan v ta namen, omogoča izbiro med statično in dinamično ekonomsko metodo. Izračun optimalne (ekonomske) debeline toplotne izolacije hladilnih cevnih sistemov se je z izdelavo uporabniško prijaznega računalniškega postopka poenostavil, vendar se od uporabnika kljub temu zahteva osnovno znanje prenosa toplote in ekonomike.*

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**(Ključne besede: mediji hladilni, izolacije cevovodov, prevodnost toplotna, debeline izolacije)**

*In this paper we present a procedure for determining the economic pipeline-insulation thickness for the transport of a cooling medium. The calculated economic (optimum) pipe-insulation thickness depends on the chosen economic method and the technical-economic data. A computer software application has been developed using the known procedures for the calculation of stationary heat flow through the insulation of pipe systems for cooling medium transportation together with the economic calculations described in the paper. The numerical algorithm developed for this application enables a choice between static and dynamic economic methods. The calculation of the economic heat-insulation thickness of cooling pipe systems has been simplified with the development of a user-friendly computer application, but in spite of this, the user of this application must have a basic knowledge in the field of heat transfer and economics.*

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**(Keywords: cooling media, pipelines insulation, heat conductivity, insulation thickness)**

#### 1 IZRAČUN TOPLOTNIH IZGUB SKOZI TOPLOTNO IZOLACIJO

Med trdnimi telesi, tekočinami in plini poteka prenos toplote, če so različnih temperatur. Smer prenosa toplote poteka vedno s področja z višjo temperaturo na področje z nižjo temperaturo, dokler se temperature ne izenačijo. Ustaljeni prenos toplote skozi izoliran cevovod lahko poteka na tri načine:

- s prevajanjem,
- s konvekcijo,
- s sevanjem.

Pri izračunu toplotnega toka skozi izolacijo je treba upoštevati tudi vpliv toplotnih mostov nosilnih elementov izolacije, cevovoda in armatur na povečanje toplotnega toka skozi izolacijo izoliranega cevovoda za transport hladnega ali vročega sredstva. Pri določevanju optimalne debeline izolacije se

#### 1 CALCULATION OF HEAT LOSSES THROUGH HEAT INSULATION

Heat transfer occurs between solids, liquids and gases whilst they are at different temperatures. The direction of the heat transfer is always from the higher temperature region to the lower temperature region until the temperatures become equal. Steady heat transfer through an insulated pipeline can run in three ways:

- by conduction,
- by convection,
- by radiation.

When calculating heat flow through insulation we have to consider the influence of the heat bridges (heat conductors which support the elements of insulation, pipeline and armatures) on the increase of heat transfer through the insulation of an insulated pipeline for the transport of a cooling or heating medium. When determining the optimal insula-

upoštevajo samo toplotni mostovi nosilnih elementov izolacije. Za določitev toplotnega toka skozi cevno izolacijo pri naravni ali prisilni konvekciji so v izdelanem numeričnem postopku uporabljene enačbe, ki so podane v [1] in [2] in drugi podobni literaturi.

### 1.1 Določitev toplotne prevodnosti

V praksi se določa naslednje toplotne prevodnosti izolacijskega materiala:

- laboratorijska toplotna prevodnost
- nominalna toplotna prevodnost
- praktična toplotna prevodnost
- operativna toplotna prevodnost.

Te štiri definicije [1] predstavljajo vse stopnje določitve toplotne prevodnosti od laboratorijskih izračunov pa vse do določitve operativne toplotne prevodnosti, ta skupaj s korekcijskimi faktorji upošteva vse določljive fizikalne zakonitosti, ki vplivajo na prenos toplote v praksi.

Pri izračunih toplotnega toka skozi izolacijo uporabljamo praktično toplotno prevodnost takrat (operativna toplotna prevodnost je v tem primeru enaka praktični), kadar ni toplotnih mostov. Toplotne mostove, ki jih povzročajo enakomerno razporejeni pritrdilni elementi izolacije, je treba upoštevati pri določitvi operativne toplotne prevodnosti izolacije.

## 2 IZRAČUN EKONOMSKE DEBELINE IZOLACIJE

Določitev ekonomske (optimalne) debeline izolacije ([1] in [3]) temelji na iskanju čim nižjih investicijskih stroškov in stroškov izgubljene toplote, ki jo izgubimo zaradi toplotnega toka skozi izolacijo. Ekonomsko debelino izolacije lahko določimo z določitvijo:

- ekonomske debeline izolacije s statično ekonomsko metodo ali
- ekonomske debeline izolacije z dinamično ekonomsko metodo.

Z naraščajočo debelino toplotne izolacije se zmanjšujejo toplotne izgube in s tem stroški izgubljene toplote, naraščajo pa stroški investicije v izolacijo, amortizacija, obresti in vzdrževalni stroški. Vsota vseh stroškovnih postavk doseže minimum pri določeni debelini izolacije. To debelino imenujemo ekonomska (optimalna) debelina izolacije.

Specifične stroške za izračun optimalne debeline cevne izolacije podajamo v USD/m

$$C_S = 3,6 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot \Phi \cdot C_T \cdot t + b \cdot C_M \quad (1)$$

Da bi bil prehod med statično in dinamično ekonomsko računsko metodo čim lažji, se lahko za poenostavitev izračuna uvede faktor f:

tion thickness only the heat bridges of the supporting elements of the insulation are considered. When determining the heat flow through the pipeline insulation by natural or forced convection the equations in references [1] and [2] and other similar literature are used in developing the numerical algorithm.

### 1.1 Determination of heat conductivity

The following heat conductivities of the insulation material are determined in practice:

- laboratory heat conductivity,
- nominal heat conductivity,
- practical heat conductivity,
- operative heat conductivity.

These four definitions [1] represent all stages of heat-conductivity determination from laboratory calculations to the determination of the operative heat conductivity. When these four, together with the correction factors are considered, this determines the physical lawfulness which influences heat transfer in practice.

When calculating the heat flow through insulation, practical heat conductivity is used when there are no heat bridges (operative heat conductivity is in this case equal to practical heat conductivity). Heat bridges, which are the cause of uniformly disposed fixable elements of insulation, have to be considered by a determination of the heat conductivity of insulation.

## 2 CALCULATION OF ECONOMIC INSULATION THICKNESS

Determination of the economic insulation thickness ([1] and [3]) is based on a search for the lowest investment costs and the lowest cost of heat losses due to heat flow through the insulation. The economic insulation thickness can be determined by:

- dynamic economic method,
- static economic method.

Heat losses decrease with growing heat insulation thickness and therefore so does the cost of heat, lost by heat transfer through the insulation. The investment costs of insulation, amortization, interest and maintenance costs rise with greater insulation thickness. The total cost reaches a minimum at a certain insulation thickness. This thickness is called the economic (optimum) insulation thickness.

The specific costs for the calculation of the optimal pipeline insulation thickness are given in USD/m

In order to clearly distinguish between static and dynamic economic methods, the factor f is introduced to simplify the calculation:

$$f = \frac{S_1}{S_2} \quad (2)$$

$$S_1 = \frac{1 - \left(\frac{1+p/100}{1+z/100}\right)^n}{1 - \frac{1+p/100}{1+z/100}} \quad (3)$$

in

and

$$S_2 = \frac{1 - \left(\frac{1}{1+z/100}\right)^n}{1 - \frac{1}{1+z/100}} \quad (4)$$

Pri uporabi dinamične ekonomske metode za določitev minimuma stroškov  $C_S$ , ter s tem optimalno debelino izolacije, se v enačbo (1) uvede faktor  $f$ :

Using the minimum  $C_S$  of the dynamic economic method for the determination of costs the optimum insulation-thickness factor  $f$  is introduced into equation (1):

$$C_S = 3,6 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot f \cdot \Phi \cdot C_T \cdot t + b \cdot C_M \quad (5)$$

## 2.1 Statična ekonomska metoda

Statična ekonomska metoda izračuna se pogosto uporablja za določitev minimuma stroškovnih funkcij. Stroški toplotnih izgub, ki nastajajo letno, se prištevajo k letnim stroškom vzdrževanja in investicije v toplotno izolacijo. Ekonomsko debelino izolacije določimo z iskanjem minimuma stroškovne funkcije z uporabo statične ekonomske metode, ob predpostavki, da so stroški in obrestna mera konstantni čez vso dobo trajanja. Izračunan minimum stroškovne funkcije po statični metodi je sprejemljiv samo, če so v izračunu predpostavljenem časovnem obdobju ekonomski pogoji stabilni in ostajajo konstantni ves čas uporabe izolacije.

## 2.2 Dinamična ekonomska metoda

Pri določevanju minimuma stroškovne funkcije z dinamično ekonomsko metodo se upošteva večanje letnih stroškov izgubljene toplote (zaradi vpliva inflacije) kljub temu, da so toplotne izgube skozi izolacijo konstantne.

Za določitev minimuma stroškovne funkcije po dinamični ekonomski metodi se uporablja metoda sedanje vrednosti, ki temelji na predpostavljenih stroških, ki nastajajo med dobo trajanja izolacije.

Pri dinamični ekonomski metodi se upošteva tudi inflacija (letno povečevanje cene) različnih vrst stroškov, npr. cena proizvedene toplote, vzdrževanje itn. Ker se stroški toplotnih izgub vsako leto povečujejo, je minimum stroškovne funkcije, izračunan z dinamično ekonomsko metodo pri večji debelini toplotne izolacije kot minimum stroškovne funkcije, določen s statično ekonomsko metodo (sl. 1). Z enačbo (5) izračunana optimalna debelina izolacije je glede na enačbo (1) večja približno za  $\sqrt{f}$ -krat.

## 2.1 Static economic method

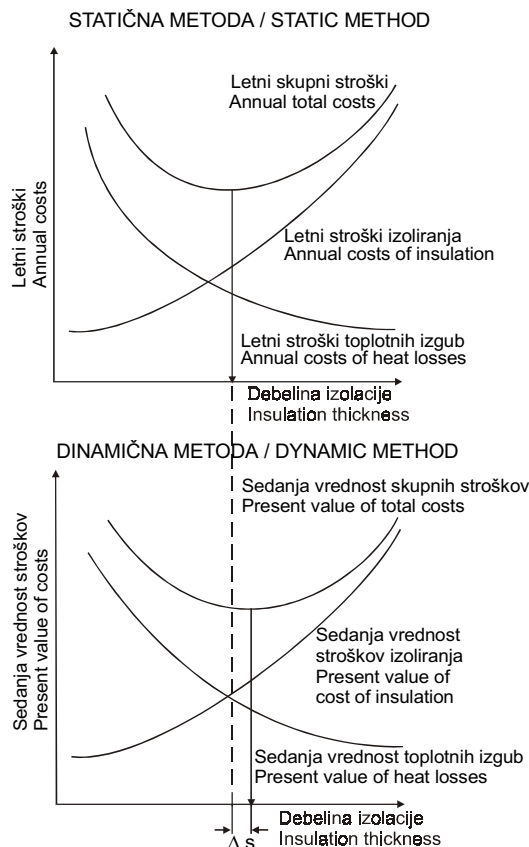
The static economic method is often used for the determination of minimum cost functions. Annual costs of heat losses are added to annual costs of maintenance and investment in heat insulation. The economic insulation thickness is determined by searching for the minimum cost function using the static economic method, and a supposition that the costs and interest rates remain constant during the service life of the insulation. The static method for calculating the minimum cost function is acceptable only when the economic conditions are favorable during the presumed calculation time period and remain constant during the use of the heat insulation.

## 2.2 Dynamic economic method

When determining the minimum cost function using the dynamic method, the rise in the annual costs of heat losses (due to inflation) is considered in spite of the constancy of heat losses through the insulation.

When determining the minimum of the cost function using the dynamic method the present value method is used. This method is based on supposed costs which may appear during the service life of the insulation.

The effect of inflation on different kinds of costs such as the price of produced heat, maintenance, etc., is considered when using this economic method. Because the costs of heat losses rise every year the minimum cost function, as calculated using the dynamic method, is placed at a greater-heat insulation thickness than determined by the static economic method (Figure 1). Using equation (5) the calculated optimal insulation thickness when compared to equation (1) is greater by about  $\sqrt{f}$ -times.



Sl. 1. Razlika pri določitvi ekonomske debeline toplotne izolacije cevnih sistemov z uporabo statične ali dinamične ekonomske metode ([1] in [3])  
 Fig. 1. The differences between the economic heat-insulation thickness of pipe systems using the static and dynamic economic methods ([1] and [3])

**2.3 Določitev diskontnega faktorja**

Diskontni faktor “b” upošteva dobo trajanja izolacije, obresti, stopnjo povečevanja stroškov vzdrževanja in drugih stroškov.

Odvisno od metode izračuna se uporabljajo različni diskontni faktorji, ki pa v vsakem primeru upoštevajo obrestno stopnjo, inflacijo, stopnjo amortizacije itn.

V praksi se uporabljajo naslednji diskontni faktorji:

a) osnovni diskontni faktor:

$$b_1 = \frac{1}{n} + \frac{z+r+g}{100} \tag{6}$$

b) enako kakor a) in z upoštevanjem amortizacije med dobo trajanja izolacije:

$$b_2 = \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{100} \cdot \left( \frac{z+1}{2} + r + g \right) \tag{7}$$

c) diskontni faktor, ki je anuitetno - dinamično ovrednotena funkcija:

$$b_3 = \frac{\frac{z}{100}}{1 - \left( \frac{1}{1+z/100} \right)^n} + \frac{r+g}{100} \tag{8}$$

**2.3 Determination of discount factor**

The discount factor “b” considers the service life of the insulation, interest, maintenance costs and other cost rises.

Depending on the calculation method, different discount factors are used but in all cases they consider interest rates, inflation, amortization rate, etc.

The following discount factors are used in practice:

a) basic discount factor:

b) same as a) and with consideration of amortization during the service life of the insulation:

c) discount factor which is an annuity-dynamic valued function:

## 3 DOLOČITEV INVESTICIJSKIH STROŠKOV

Investicijski stroški v toplotno izolacijo [1] vsebujejo stroške nakupa izolacijskega materiala, stroške izoliranja in indirektno stroške izoliranja.

Enačbo nelinearne stroškovne funkcije poenostavimo tako, da jo zapišemo v linearni - zvezni obliki:

$$C = C_0 + C' \cdot s \quad (9)$$

Dejanska stroškovna funkcija ni linearna zaradi prehodov k naslednji debelini izolacije, ki se proizvaja ali v primeru dodatnih stroškov montaže.

Indirektni stroški izoliranja so stroški, ki npr. nastajajo zaradi: zavzetja prostora, zmanjšanje uporabnega prostora, cevnih povezav, kanalov itn.

Stroškovno funkcijo  $C_M$  investicije v cevno izolacijo lahko zapišemo z enačbo:

$$C_M = (C_0 + C' \cdot s) \cdot \pi \cdot \left( d_i + 2 \cdot \frac{s}{100} \right) + \Delta C_R(s) \quad (10)$$

V nekaterih primerih proizvajalec izolacije podaja ceno izolacije  $C_0$  v USD/m, takrat enačbo (10) spremenimo tako, da dobi investicijska stroškovna funkcija  $C_M$  naslednjo obliko:

$$C_M = C_0 + C' \cdot s \cdot \pi \cdot \left( d_i + 2 \cdot \frac{s}{100} \right) + \Delta C_R(s) \quad (11)$$

## 4 PRIMER

Določiti je treba ekonomsko debelino cevne izolacije za pretok hladilnega medija po cevi zunanega premera 89 mm. Podatki, potrebni za izračun, so podani v preglednici 1 in 2. Rezultat izračuna z določitvijo ekonomske debeline cevne izolacije je podan v preglednici 3.

Preglednica 1. *Komercialno razpoložljiva debelina in cena izolacije*  
Table 1. *Commercially available thickness and price of heat insulation*

|   |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| debelina izolacije v mm<br>insulation thickness (mm)  | 20   | 30   | 40   | 50   | 60   | 70   | 80    |
| cena izolacije v USD/m<br>price of insulation (USD/m) | 2,89 | 3,42 | 4,43 | 5,54 | 6,16 | 8,54 | 10,42 |

## 5 SKLEP

Izračun ekonomske debeline izolacije je odvisen od velikega števila tehničnih in ekonomskih parametrov. Prav tako je za običajnega uporabnika izolacije ali projektanta postopek izračuna ekonomske debeline izolacije zamuden in zahteven. Zaradi tega smo na Univerzi v Mariboru, razvili programsko opremo za izračun toplotnih izgub skozi izolacijo in ekonomsko debelino izolacije. Osnovni podatki proizvajalca izolacije (komercialno razpoložljive debeline izolacije, cena izolacije, toplotna prevodnost izolacije itn.), ki so potrebni za izračun, so zapisani v bazi podatkov.

## 3 DETERMINATION OF INVESTMENT COSTS

The investment costs of heat insulation [1] include the costs of the insulation material, costs of insulation work and indirect insulating costs.

The equation of the nonlinear cost function can be simplified and written in linear form:

$$C = C_0 + C' \cdot s \quad (9)$$

The real cost function is not linear when moving to the next available insulation thickness or in the case of additional assembly costs.

Indirect costs of insulating are costs which rise with e.g. occupation of place, reduction of available space, intersections of pipe segments, channels etc.

The cost function of the investment in heat insulation  $C_M$  is written as in equation:

$$C_M = (C_0 + C' \cdot s) \cdot \pi \cdot \left( d_i + 2 \cdot \frac{s}{100} \right) + \Delta C_R(s) \quad (10)$$

In some cases when the producer of the heat insulation gives the price of the insulation  $C_0$  in USD/m equation (10) has to be modified and the investment-cost function  $C_M$  is written in the form:

$$C_M = C_0 + C' \cdot s \cdot \pi \cdot \left( d_i + 2 \cdot \frac{s}{100} \right) + \Delta C_R(s) \quad (11)$$

## 4 EXAMPLE

In this example the determination of economic heat-insulation thickness for a flow of cooling medium through a pipeline with an outside diameter of 89 mm is presented. The technical and economic data are shown in tables 1 and 2. The results of the calculation are shown in table 3.

## 5 CONCLUSION

The calculation of an economic insulation thickness depends on several technical and economic parameters. The procedure for the optimal insulation-thickness calculation is difficult and exacting for the normal user of insulation or a project engineer. Because of this our team at the University of Maribor has developed a computer software application for the calculation of heat losses through heat insulation and an economic insulation thickness. Basic data on heat-insulation material (commercially available insulation thickness, price of insulation, heat conductivity of insulation, etc.) which are required for the calculation are written and stored in our data base.

Preglednica 2. *Drugi tehnično-ekonomski podatki*Table 2. *Other technical and economic data*

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| temperatura hladnega sredstva<br>temperature of cooling medium  | -20,0°C                       |
| temperatura zunanjega zraka<br>temperature of outside air   | 25,0°C                        |
| zunANJI premer cevi<br>outside diameter of pipe   | 0,089 m                       |
| hitrost toka zraka (prisilna konvekcija)<br>velocity of air flow (forced convection)                        | 1,00 m/s                      |
| koeficient emisije<br>coefficient of emission   | 0.44                          |
| korekcija $\lambda$ (zaradi toplotnih mostov)<br>correction of $\lambda$ (due to heat bridges - conductors) | 0,0 W/mK                      |
| ekonomski izračun statični/dinamični<br>economic calculation static/dynamic                                 | dinamični<br>dynamic          |
| diskontni faktor - enačba (7)<br>discount factor - equation (7)   | $b_2$                         |
| doBA trajanja izolacije<br>service life of insulation   | 30 let<br>30 years            |
| diskontna stopnja<br>discount rate  | 8,00 %                        |
| letno povečanje stroškov hlajenja<br>annual rise of cooling costs   | 5,00 %                        |
| letno povečanje stroškov vzdrževanja (r + g)<br>annual rise of maintenance costs (r + g)                    | 2,00 %                        |
| cena hlajenja<br>price of cooling   | 12,22 USD/GJ                  |
| letno število obratovalnih ur<br>number of operating hours per year   | 3000 h/leto<br>3000 h/year    |
| stroški izoliranja<br>costs of insulating   | 1,94 USD/(m <sup>2</sup> .cm) |
| posredni stroški izoliranja<br>indirect cost of insulating  | 0,0 USD/m                     |

Preglednica 3. *Rezultat izračuna ekonomske debeline izolacije*Table 3. *Results of economic insulation-thickness calculation*

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| ekonomska debelina izolacije<br>economic insulation thickness                        | 70,0 mm                  |
| srednja temperatura izolacije<br>middle temperature of insulation                    | 1,3°C                    |
| temperatura zunanje površine izolacije<br>temperature of exterior insulation surface | 22,6°C                   |
| toplotna prestopnost<br>heat transfer coefficient                                    | 10,18 W/m <sup>2</sup> K |
| toplotna prevodnost izolacije<br>thermal conductivity of insulation                  | 0,0342 W/mK              |
| toplotna prehodnost izolacije<br>overall heat transfer coefficient of insulation     | 0,221 W/m <sup>2</sup> K |
| toplotni tok na meter cevi<br>heat flow per meter of pipe                            | 9,9 W/m                  |
| gostota toplotnega toka<br>heat flux   | 13,8 W/m <sup>2</sup>    |
| cena izolacije<br>price of insulation  | 8,54 USD/m               |
| stroški izoliranja<br>costs of insulating  | 9,78 USD/m               |
| indirektni stroški izoliranja<br>indirect costs of insulating                        | 0,0 USD/m                |
| zunANJI obseg izolacije<br>size of insulation  | 0,719 m                  |



6 OZNAKE  
6 NOMENCLATURE

|  |        |                       |   |
|--|--------|-----------------------|---|
| diskontni faktor   | $b$    |                       | discount factor                                     |
| skupni stroški investicije izolacijskega sistema           | $C_M$  | USD/m                 | total costs of investment in insulation system      |
| skupni stroški toplotnih izgub in cevne toplotne izolacije | $C$    | USD/m                 | total costs of heat losses and pipe heat insulation |
| minimum stroškov po statični ali dinamični metodi          | $C_S$  | USD/m                 | minimum of costs by static or dynamic method        |
| cena toplotne izolacije                                    | $C_o$  | USD/m                 | price of heat insulation                            |
| stroški izoliranja   | $C'$   | USD/m <sup>2</sup> cm | costs of insulating                                 |
| posredni stroški izoliranja                                | $C_R$  | USD/m                 | indirect costs of insulating                        |
| cena toplote   | $C_T$  | USD/GJ                | price of heat                                       |
| zunanj premer izolacije                                    | $d$    | m                     | outside diameter of insulation                      |
| faktor za uvedbo dinamične metode                          | $f$    |                       | factor for the dynamic method introduction          |
| letno povečanje preostalih stroškov                        | $g$    | %                     | annual rise of other costs                          |
| doba trajanja izolacije                                    | $n$    |                       | service life of insulation                          |
| letno povečevanje stroškov hlajenja                        | $p$    | %                     | annual rise of cooling costs                        |
| letno povečevanje stroškov vzdrževanja                     | $r$    | %                     | annual rise of maintenance costs                    |
| debelina izolacije   | $s$    | m                     | insulation thickness                                |
| število obratovalnih ur na leto                            | $t$    | h                     | number of operating hours per year                  |
| obrestna mera  | $z$    | %                     | interest rate                                       |
| toplotni tok   | $\Phi$ | W                     | heat flow   |

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