

VR-INTEGRATED FLARE SYSTEM DESIGN FOR SAFE MANAGEMENT IN SOUR GAS RECOVERY UNITS

Jumanah Rifadah, Afnan Alqubaysi, Njood Aldughaimi, Remaz Altamimi- Sadeem Alotaibi- Renad Alqahatani
Coach: Dr. Hani Al-Mohair



Background

- Sour gas streams contain toxic H₂S, posing serious safety risks
- Flare systems are required for safe gas disposal during abnormal conditions
- Lack of integration between systems leads to inefficient gas handling
- Limited visualization reduces operator understanding of system behavior

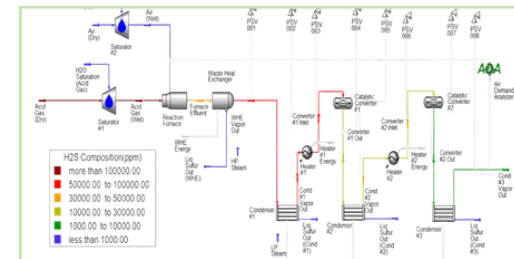
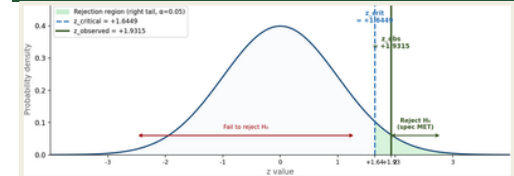
Novelty

A unified, real-time digital twin that couples VR immersion with predictive process simulation to proactively guide operator decisions before hazardous flare events escalate.

Prototype Development



Validation & Verification



| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Decision Eff. 96.43% ≥92% · p=0.027 | VR Accuracy 99.77% ≥98% | KPI Eval. 3 KPIs RT-Util Margin |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|

Objectives

- Develop a VR-integrated flare management system for safer training and operation.
- Present Aspen HYSYS results and simulate abnormal scenarios
- Enhance learning to flare system and response actions through visualization.

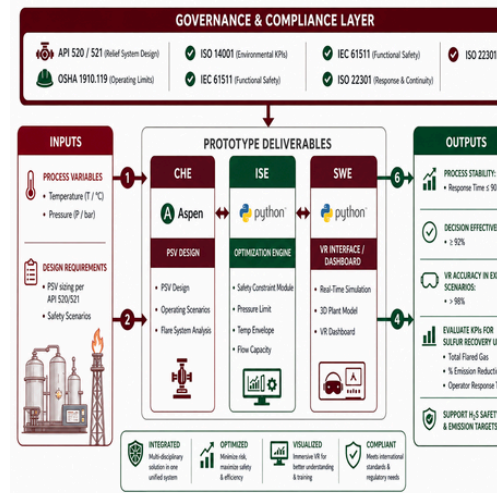
Constraints

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| PSV Max relieving pressure ≤ 110% set pressure (non-fire) 121% (fire) | VR VR camera motion limited No flashing > 3 Hz for user comfort | Operator Operator response time ≤ 120 sec alarm |
|---|--|---|

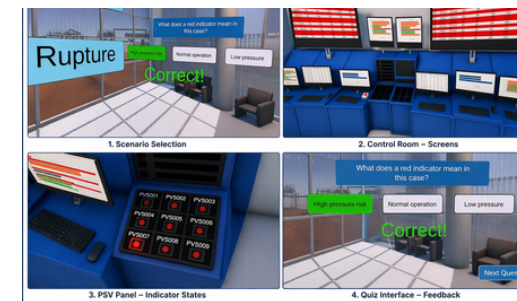
Specifications

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Removes liquid droplets diameter ≥ 300 µm | Flare stack ≥ 98% combustion efficiency, stable | Thermal radiation limited to ≤ 6.3 kW/m ² |
| Flared gas emissions reduced by ≥ 5% vs baseline | System latency ≤ 20 ms | Optimization validated at 95% confidence level |
| VR data visualization accuracy ≥ 98% | User decision effectiveness ≥ 92% | VR system operates at ≥ 72 FPS |
| System evaluates ≥ 3 KPIs for SRU-flare routing decision | | |

System Design



Results & Conclusion



An integrated SRU-flare system with optimization and VR visualization was developed to enhance safety, reduce emissions, and improve decision-making. The multidisciplinary approach ensures efficient gas routing, reliable operation, and compliance with performance targets.

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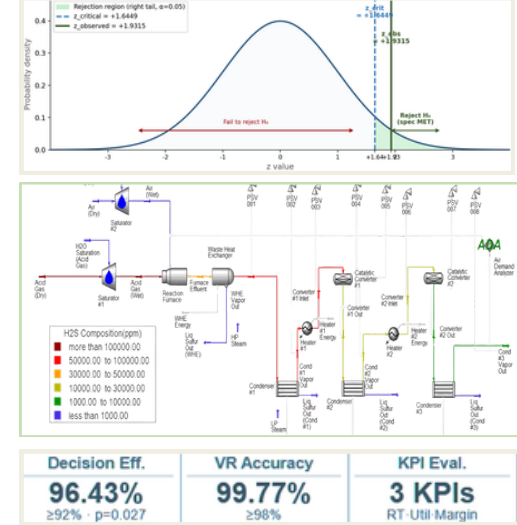
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Novelty

Prototype Development



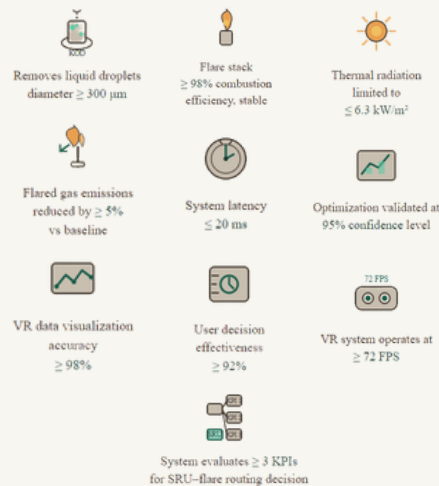
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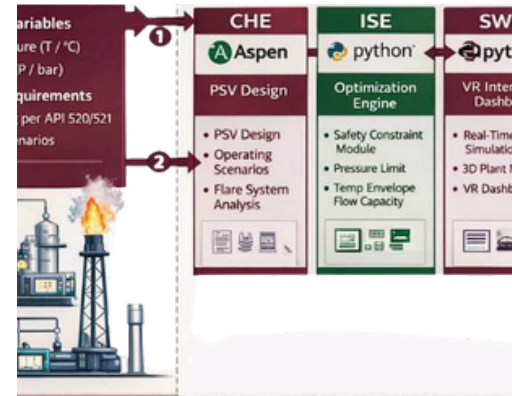
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Specifications



System Design



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Constraints



Background

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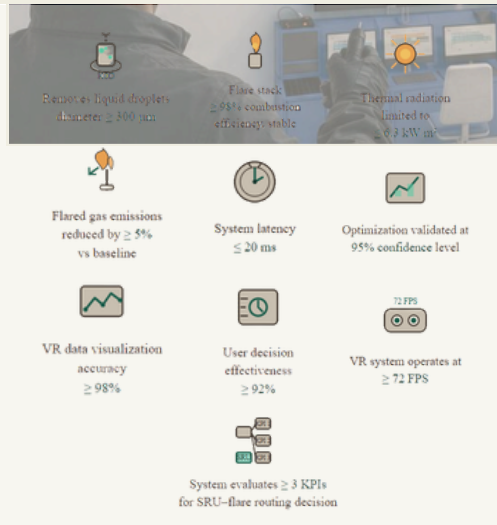
Constraints

- Max relieving pressure $\leq 110\%$ set pressure (non-fire) | 121% (fire)
- VR camera motion limited
No flashing > 3 Hz for user comfort
- Operator response time ≤ 120 sec alarm

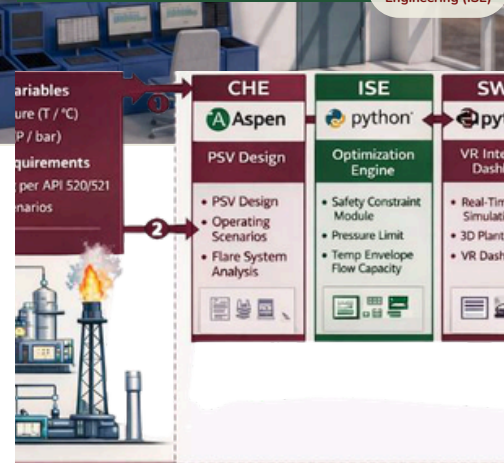
Prototype Development



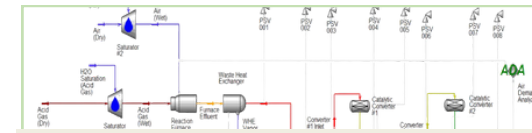
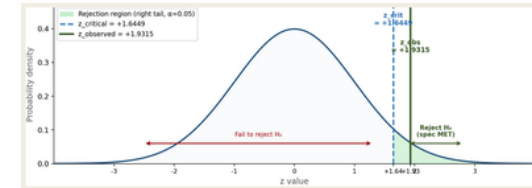
Specifications



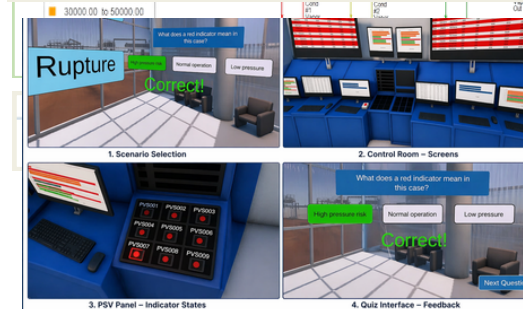
System Design



Validation & Verification



Results & Conclusion



An integrated SRU-flare system with optimization and VR visualization was developed to enhance safety, reduce emissions, and improve decision-making. The multidisciplinary approach ensures efficient gas routing, reliable operation, and compliance with performance targets

VR-INTEGRATED FLARE SYSTEM DESIGN FOR SAFE MANAGEMENT IN SOUR GAS RECOVERY UNITS



Objectives

- Develop a VR-integrated flare management system for safer training and operation.
- Present Aspen HYSYS results and simulate abnormal scenarios (e.g., blocked outlet, rupture) in an interactive environment
- Support faster and better operator decision during emergency and upset conditions.
- Enhance learning to flare system and response actions through real time visualization.

Background & Problem Statement

- Sour gas streams contain toxic H₂S, posing serious safety risks
- Flare systems are required for safe gas disposal during abnormal conditions
- Lack of integration between systems leads to inefficient gas handling
- Limited visualization reduces operator understanding of system behavior
- This results in poor decision-making and increased safety risks during emergencies

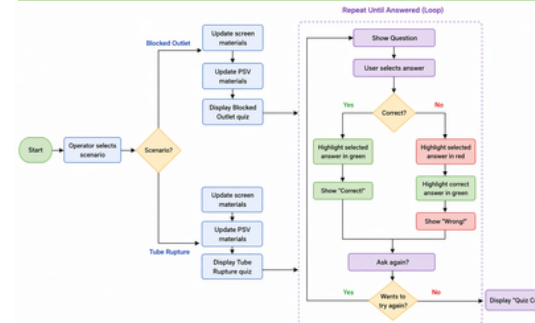
Constrains

- PSVs are sized such that the maximum relieving pressure does not exceed 110% of the set pressure for non-fire contingencies and 121% for fire contingencies
- Operator Response Time Alarm sec.
- VR scenes are designed for user comfort by limiting camera motion and avoiding high-contrast flashing above 3 Hz.

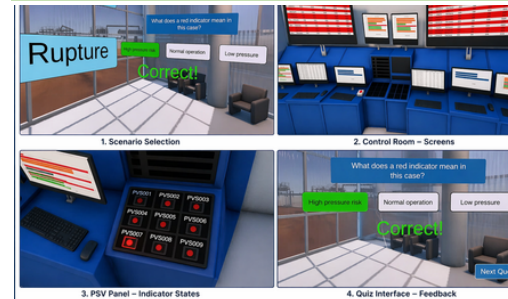
Specifications

- The KOD removes liquid droplets with diameter ≥ 300 microns
- Thermal radiation is limited to ≤ 6.3 kW/m²
- Flare stack achieves $\geq 98\%$ combustion efficiency with stable operation
- Optimization results are validated at 95% confidence level
- Flared gas emissions are reduced by $\geq 5\%$ compared to baseline
- VR system operates at ≥ 72 FPS
- System latency ≤ 20 ms
- User decision effectiveness $\geq 92\%$
- VR data visualization accuracy $\geq 98\%$
- The system evaluates ≥ 3 KPIs for SRU-flare routing decisions

System Design



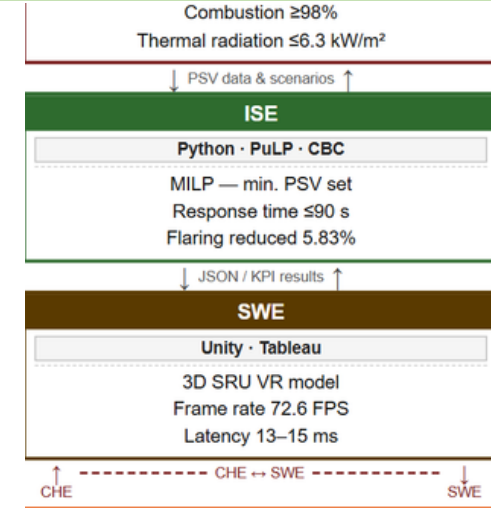
Prototype Development



Validation & Verification

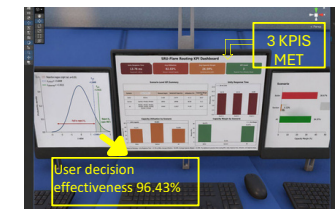
- Constraints fully validated, including PSV relieving pressure limits, response time, and VR motion.
- Specifications met, including combustion efficiency $\geq 98\%$, thermal radiation ≤ 6.3 kW/m², liquid removal $\geq 90\%$, emissions reduced to 5.74% with 95% CI validated, VR 72.6 FPS, and latency 13–15 ms.

System Architecture



Results & Conclusion

- User decision effectiveness 96.43%, VR accuracy 99.77%, and 3 KPIs (VR response time 13.78 ms, utilization 82.03%, and capacity 24.59%)



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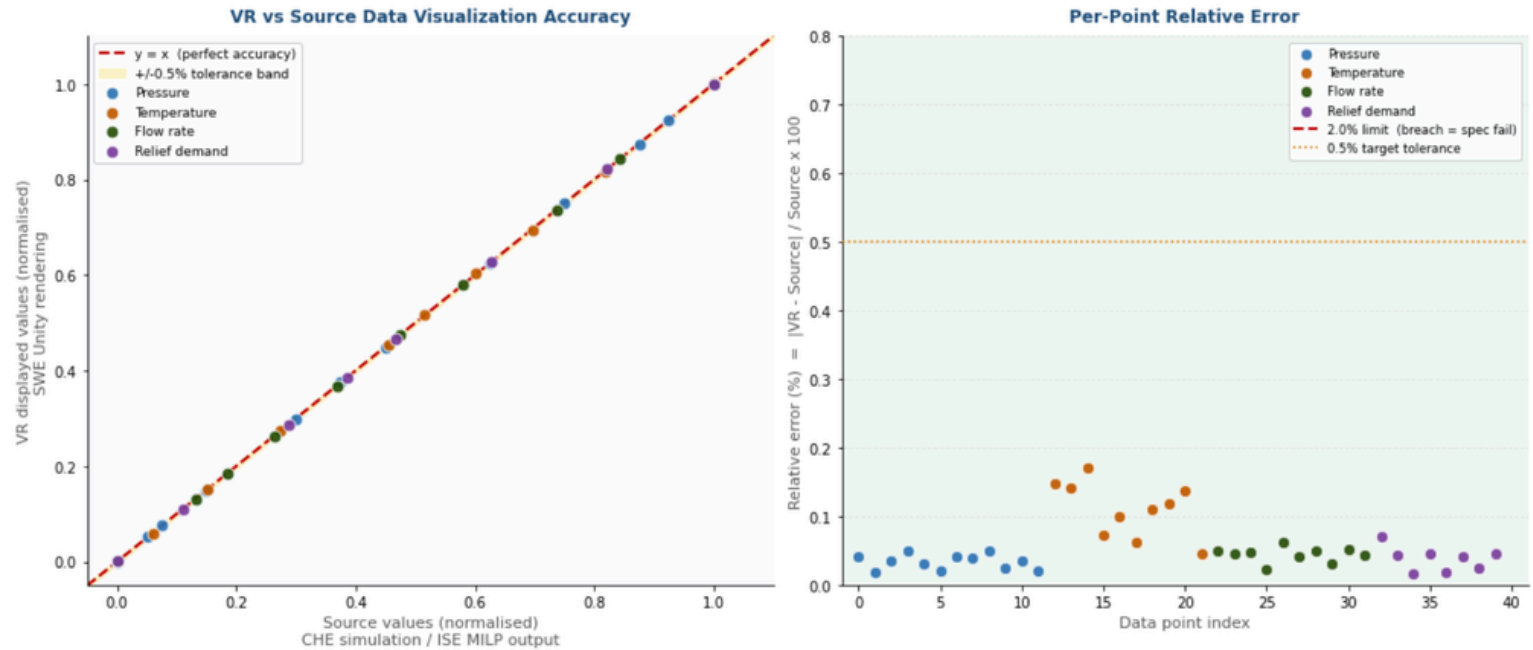
all_below = bool(rel_err.max() < 2.0)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig("vr_accuracy_scatter.png", dpi=180,
           bbox_inches="tight", facecolor="white")
plt.show()
print("Plot saved as: vr_accuracy_scatter.png")

```

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 VR ACCURACY SUMMARY
 =====

Total data points : 40
 Mean accuracy : 99.943%
 Max relative error : 0.171%
 Within +/-0.5% : 100.0% of points
 Within +/-1.0% : 100.0% of points
 Specification (>=98%): PASS
 =====

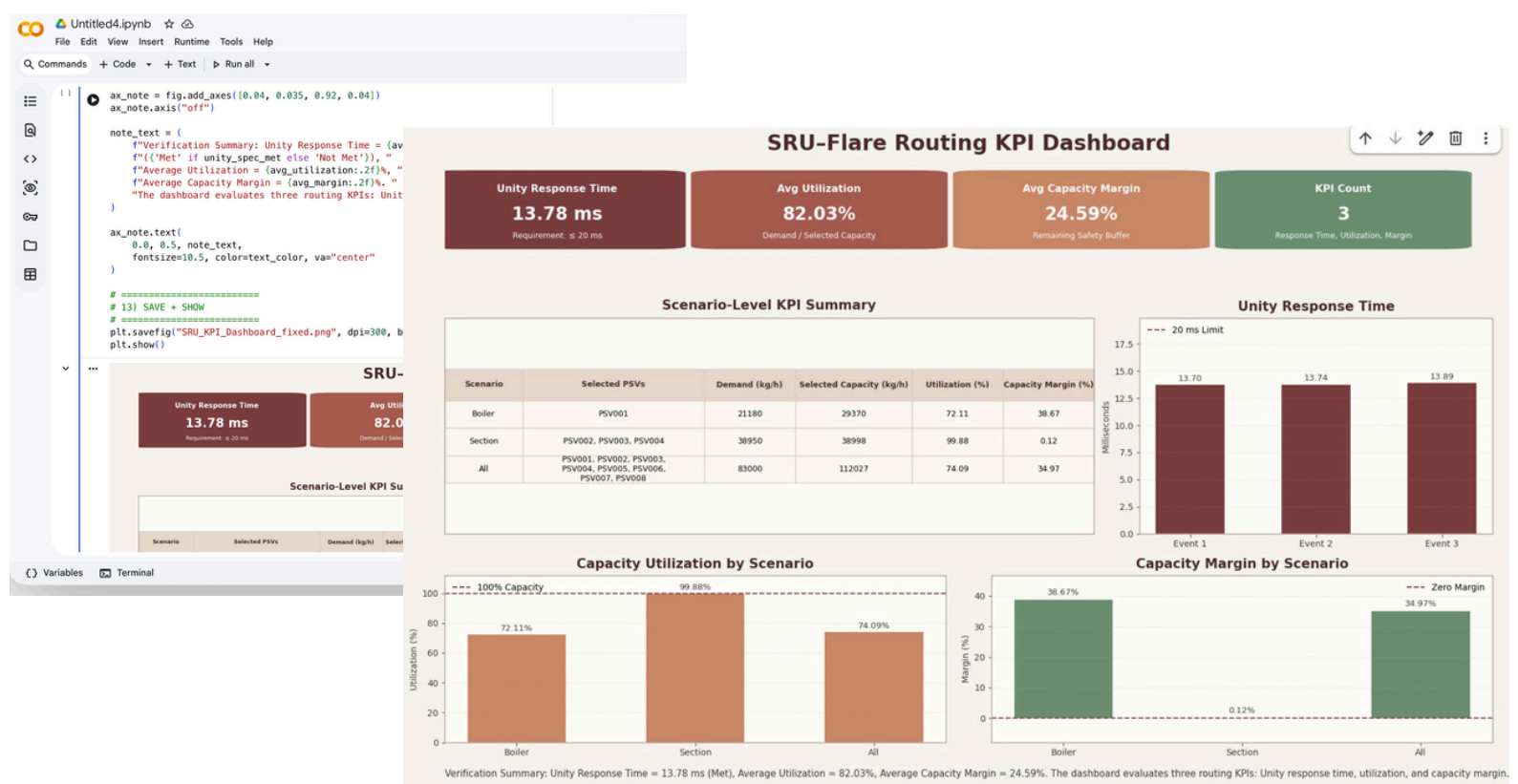
INTEGRATED SPEC #2



Data visualization accuracy for VR ≥ 98 %

Met

INTEGRATED SPEC #3



What the Dashboard Shows

Evaluates routing performance using 3 main KPIs:

- Unity Response Time (software performance)
- Capacity Utilization (efficiency)
- Capacity Margin (safety buffer)

Covers 3 scenarios: Boiler, Section, All

KPI Equations

1. Unity Response Time

$$\overline{RT} = \frac{1}{n} \sum RT_i$$

- Measures system responsiveness (VR/software)
- Independent from process scenarios

2. Selected Capacity

$$C_s = \sum Q_i$$

- Total capacity of selected PSVs
- Depends on routing decision

3. Utilization

$$U_s = \frac{D_s}{C_s} \times 100$$

- Measures how much capacity is used
- Close to 100% → near limit

4. Capacity Margin

$$M_s = \frac{C_s - D_s}{D_s} \times 100$$

- Measures remaining safety buffer
- Higher = safer

p-value Calculation

$$p\text{-value} = P(Z > 1.9315) = 1 - \Phi(1.9315) = 0.0267$$

Confidence Interval

The 95% confidence interval for the true proportion is:

$$CI = \hat{p} \pm 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1 - \hat{p})}{n}}$$
$$= 0.9643 \pm 1.96 \times 0.01566 = (0.9336, 0.9950)$$

Final Decision

Since:

$$z = 1.9315 > 1.6449 \text{ and } p\text{-value} = 0.0267 < 0.05$$

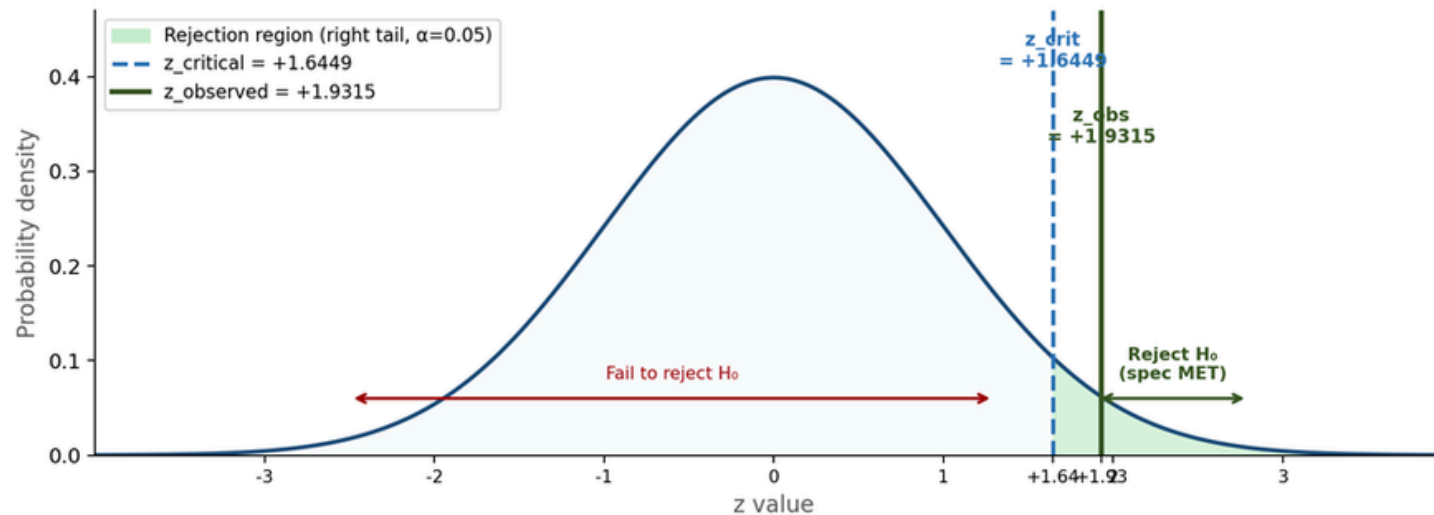
We reject the null hypothesis H_0 .

There is sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the user decision effectiveness exceeds 92%.

Therefore, the system successfully satisfies the required specification:

$$\text{User Decision Effectiveness} \geq 92\%$$

INTEGRATED SPEC #1



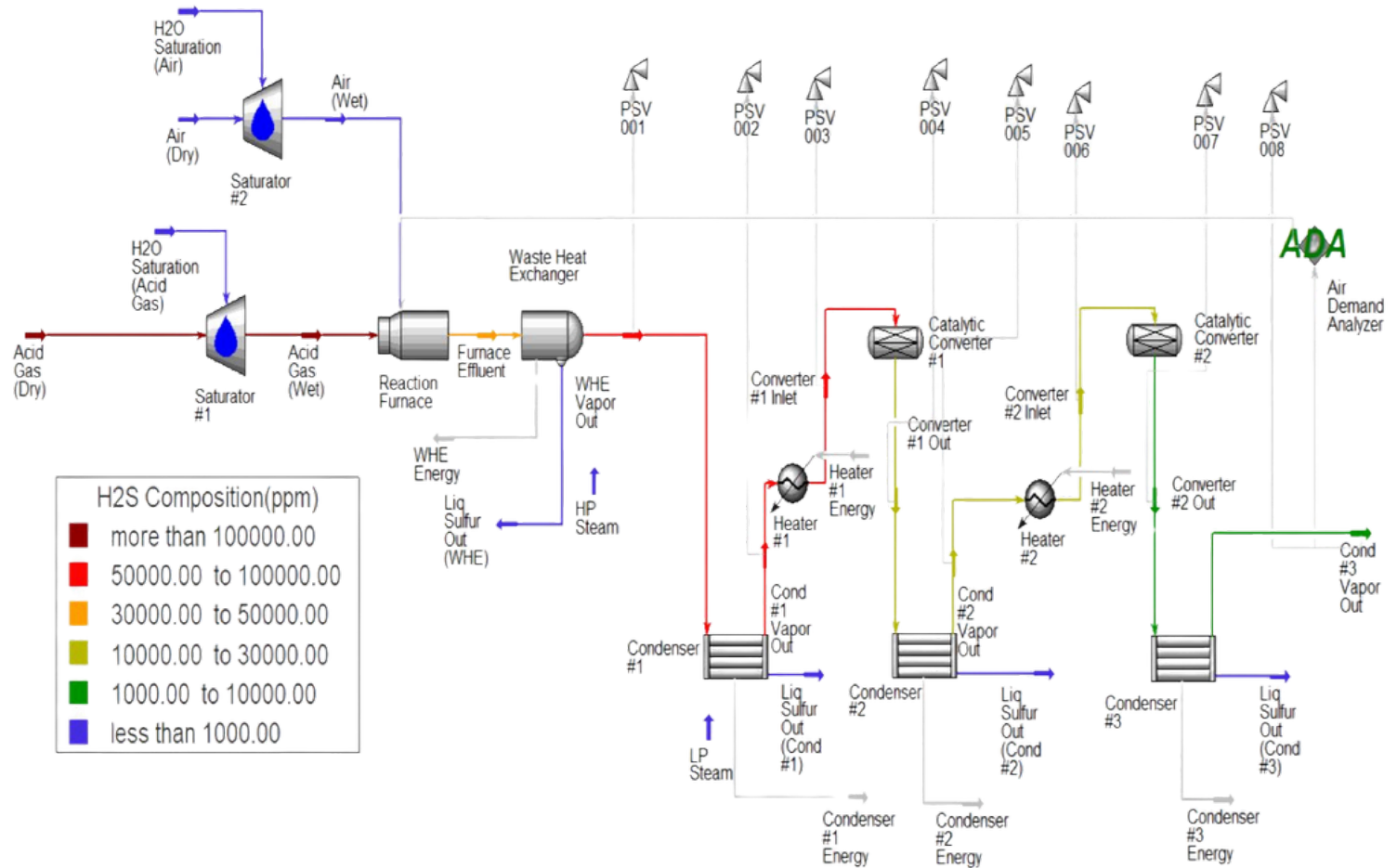
User decision effectiveness $\geq 92\%$

Met

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT: CHE

RESPONSIBLE STUDENT: JUMANAH RIFADAH & AFNAN ALQUBAYSI

PSV



$$A = \frac{Q_m}{\chi C_o K_o K_p P} \sqrt{\frac{Tz}{M}}$$

$$A = \frac{20723.45}{(346.64)(0.975)(0.0909)(1)(11)(1301.87)} \sqrt{\frac{(2545.47)(1)}{31.48}}$$

$$A \approx 2.009 \text{ in}^2$$

$$A = 2.009 \times 6.4516 = 12.964 \text{ cm}^2 \approx 12.97 \text{ cm}^2$$

Accurate PSV area sizing is essential for safe pressure relief and equipment protection.