

## Insight in heat exchanger network synthesis

### The ten streams literature case from Ahmad (1985) - Case 18

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This ten streams example was first presented by Ahmad in 1985. It was also studied by Ravagnani et al, Yerramsetty & Murty, Khorasany & Fesanghary, Gorji-Bandpy et al., Huo et al., He & Cui, Peng & Cui, Myankoooh & Shafiei, Huang & Karimi and Wang et al. It comprises six hot streams and four cold streams, one hot utility and one cold utility. In many studies different data have been used; most of them, however, used the data as reported by Khorasany et al. which are given in Table 18.1. These data will be used for further analysis.

**Table 18.1**

Tsupply °C	Ttarget °C	Heat kW	U*f kW/K,m <sup>2</sup>	mcp kW/K	Descript. -
85	45	6252	0.05	156.3	H1
120	40	4000	0.05	50.0	H2
125	35	2151	0.05	23.9	H3
56	46	12500	0.05	1250.0	H4
90	86	6000	0.05	1500.0	H5
225	75	7500	0.05	50.0	H6
40	55	7000.5	0.05	466.7	C1
55	65	6000	0.05	600.0	C2
65	165	18000	0.05	180.0	C3
10	170	13008	0.05	81.3	C4
200	198		0.05		Heating
15	20		0.05		Cooling

Hot utility : 100 /kW,y  
 Cold utility : 15 /kW,y  
 HEX cost : 60 x Area (m<sup>2</sup>)/y

It is appropriate to mention the important differences between the original data used by Ahmad and those in the other studies: in the latter, hot stream H5 can be combined with cold stream C2, creating an independent system; in the former hot stream H5 has a load of 7500 kW which excludes such independent system; in the former, cold stream C3 has a load of 19500 kW, in the latter that load is only 18000 kW; in the former, utility temperatures have to be estimated and best estimates differ from the data used in the latter. Consequently, no valid comparison can be made between the results of the two data sets.

Cost will be expressed in k (thousand units).

Composite curves are shown in Figure 18.1.

The heating load has been chosen on the basis of the trade-off curve (Fig.18.2) which shows an overall cost minimum of 5578.317 k for a heating load of 20255.5 kW (cooling 14650 kW).

All heat transfer coefficients are the same; consequently, minimum area is achieved with vertical heat exchange in the Composite Curves diagram. With the given heat exchanger cost function, minimum cost also corresponds with minimum area. Said minimum area is 55550.28 m<sup>2</sup>.

Targeting procedures indicate that, with the given cost function, the match H5-C2 forming an independent system does not lead to lower total cost and, consequently, said match will not be imposed a priori.

Further, with the given cost function, the number of units is irrelevant. The targets of heating and area for minimum cost can be achieved with a network of 64 heat exchanger units, spread over 19 vertical bands. There are a huge number of initial networks satisfying the criterion of minimum cost.

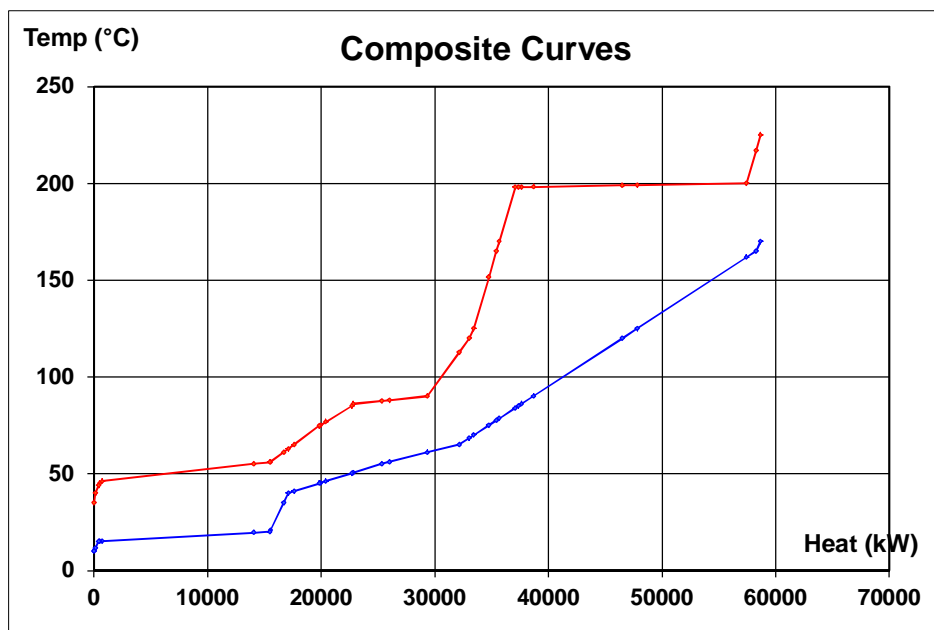


Figure 18.1

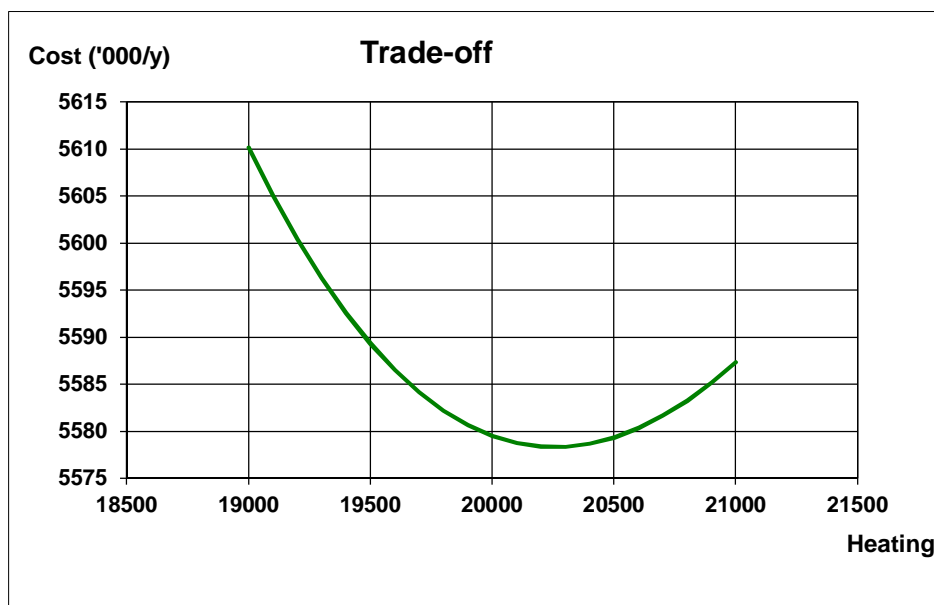


Figure 18.2

The number of bands can be reduced from 19 to 13 without fundamentally changing the character of the grid by merging bands 1 & 2, 10 & 11, 14 through 17 and 18 & 19; with this grid, still a huge number of initial designs (roughly estimated at between 10 and 40 million!) can be developed with 47 units for a cost of 5578.520 k. These networks have a large number of stream splits which because of the complexity is undesirable and, therefore, the objective of this study will be to develop networks without stream splits.

On the basis of the reduced grid, a limited number of initial networks were set up using a synthesising LP program. The number of heat exchanger units was then further reduced by applying specific procedures to eliminate the smallest heat exchangers. This process was continued until the number of units was reduced to about 23. At that stage, the few remaining splits were unwound in order to obtain networks without stream splits and these networks were then further developed.

A network was also developed based on pinch design rules and applying the tick-off procedure. The pinch caused by cold stream C1 was considered as well as the utility pinch caused by the hot utility. This network was fine-tuned resulting into the network shown in Figure 18.4; it was further developed into the best network with 13 units as shown in Figure 18.15.

The best results are summarized in Table 18.2 and compared with those of published studies. The results are further illustrated in Figure 18.3.

Several published networks were revised either to correct some errors, for fine-tuning or for further evolution in order to get a better result. The networks without stream split mentioned in Table 18.2 are shown in Figure 18.5 through Figure 18.19.

The Composite Curves diagram and the grid resulting from the pinch analysis suggest an intermediate heater on both cold streams C3 and C4. All networks with 23 through 20 units show such heater on C3; all networks with 23 through 12 units show such heater on C4.

Similarly, the Composite Curves diagram and the grid also suggest an intermediate cooler on both hot streams H2 and H3. For the initial networks studied, said cooler on H2 is eliminated during the evolution process when going down from 64 units to 47; the intermediate cooler on H3 is maintained in the networks with 23 through 21 units. There might be other initial networks that keep the cooler on H2 also intermediate after evolution.

All networks have cost very close to the theoretical minimum - the network with 23 units is within 0.1%; the network with 12 units is still within 1%. The match H5. C2 creating an independent system appears in the networks with 13 units and less. The networks with 10 and 9 units are composed of 3 independent systems.

As an alternative calculation, a fix cost of 8000/year was added to the cost function for all networks shown below; the results are included in Figure 18.3. All networks with a number of units from 20 down to 11 have a cost that is within 0.5% of the minimum. The result for the best network is also reported in Table 18.2; it is better than that of published networks with stream splits.

Only a very limited number of initial networks have been analysed and many more networks may exist with cost very close to that of reported networks or even marginally better. Specifically, networks with a better trade-off between area and heating would be expected for networks with 13, 16 and 19 units.

Using the grid from pinch analysis in combination with simple but appropriate tools enables the development of networks which in terms of simplicity and cost can be seen as benchmarks.

**Table 18.2**

	QHot(MW)	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Cost ('000)	# HEX
<b>Published Optimum Heat Exchanger Networks</b>				
1 Wang et al. (2015)	20387.0	55416	5585.39	22
2 He & Cui (2013)	20267.4	56043	5609.27	18
3 Peng & Cui (2015)	20339.0	55686	5596.08	18
4 Gorji-Bandpy et al. (2011) revised	19549.1	58196	5655.82	15
5 Myankoooh & Shafiei (2015 - based on 4)	19992.3	57118	5642.11	15
6 Peng & Cui (2015)	20038.0	56655	5619.59	15
7 Ravagnani et al. (2005) revised	20529.1	56260	5652.38	13
8 Yerramsetty & Murty (2008)	20745.4	56085	5666.76	13
9 Huo et al. (2013)	20007.5	57094	5642.44	13
10 Myankoooh & Shafiei (2015 - based on 7)	19991.9	57096	5640.72	13
11 Khorasany & Fesanghany (2009) revised	19605.5	57953	5647.77	12
12 Huang et al. (fix cost 8000/y; 1 split - revised)	20207.0	56778	5734.43	11
13 Huang et al. (fix cost 8000/y; 3 splits - revised)	20359.0	56187	5724.40	12
<b>This research</b>				
<b>Initial networks with stream splits</b>	20255.5	55550	5578.32	64
	20257.0	55551	5578.52	47
<b>Networks without stream splits</b>	20370.0	55419	5583.62	23
	20380.0	55411	5584.25	22
	20369.0	55436	5584.54	21
	20389.0	55406	5585.01	20
	20271.0	55656	5586.47	19
	20422.0	55380	5587.23	18
	20426.0	55425	5590.40	17
	20356.0	55712	5599.55	16
	20498.0	55469	5601.30	15
	20480.0	55725	5614.65	14
	19815.0	57161	5624.28	13
	20294.0	56421	5635.00	12
	20289.0	56742	5653.66	11
	20256.5	61075	5909.91	10
	20256.5	65844	6196.05	9
<b>Best network inclusive fix cost</b>	20498.0	55469	5721.30	15

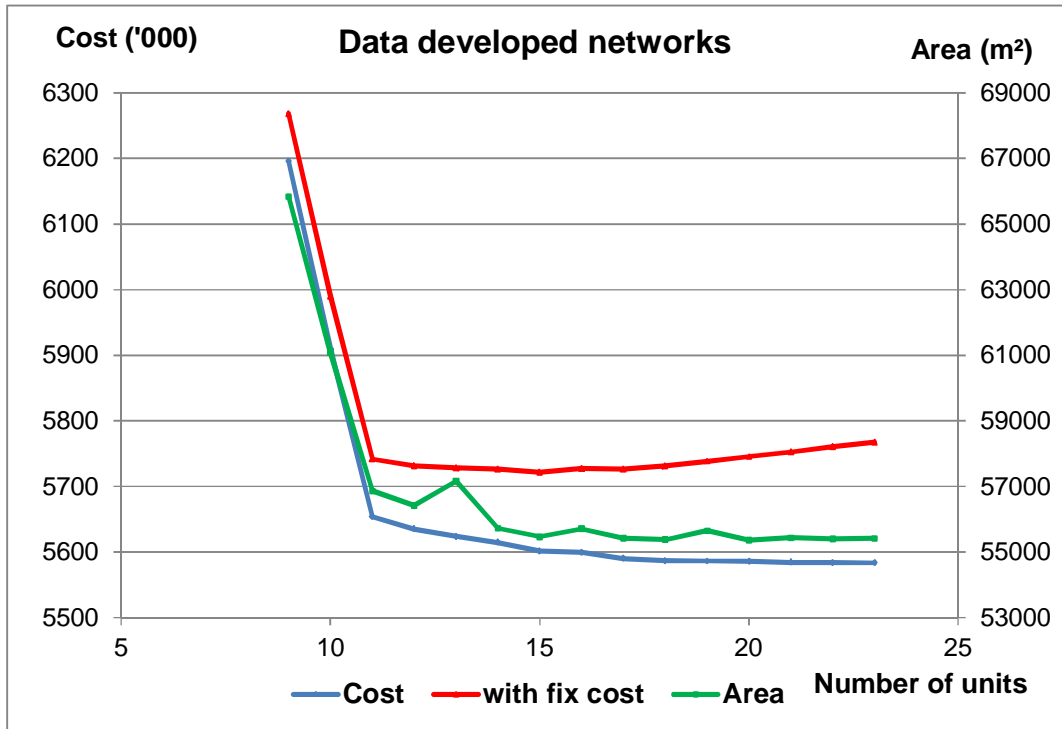


Figure 18.3

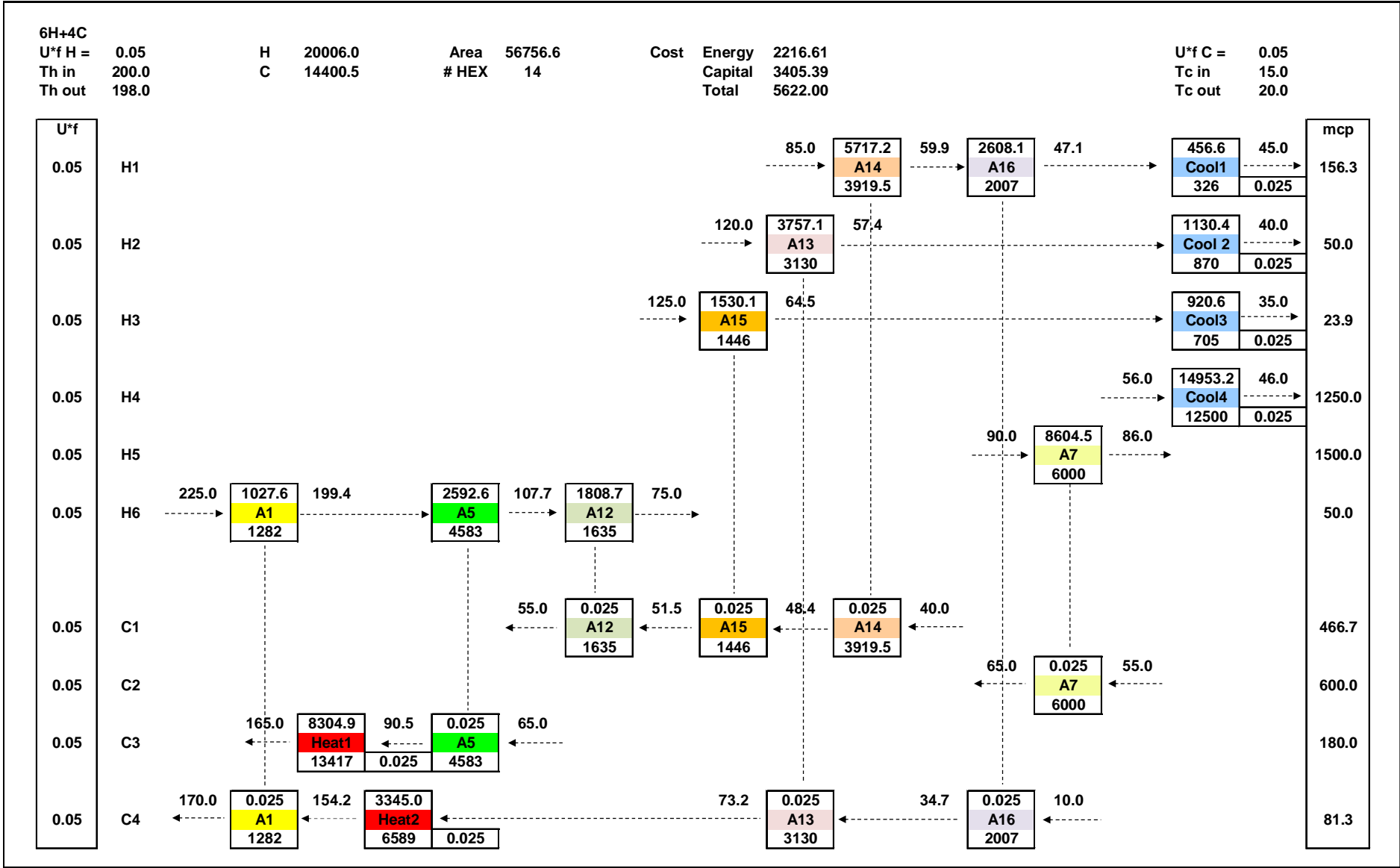


Figure 18.4

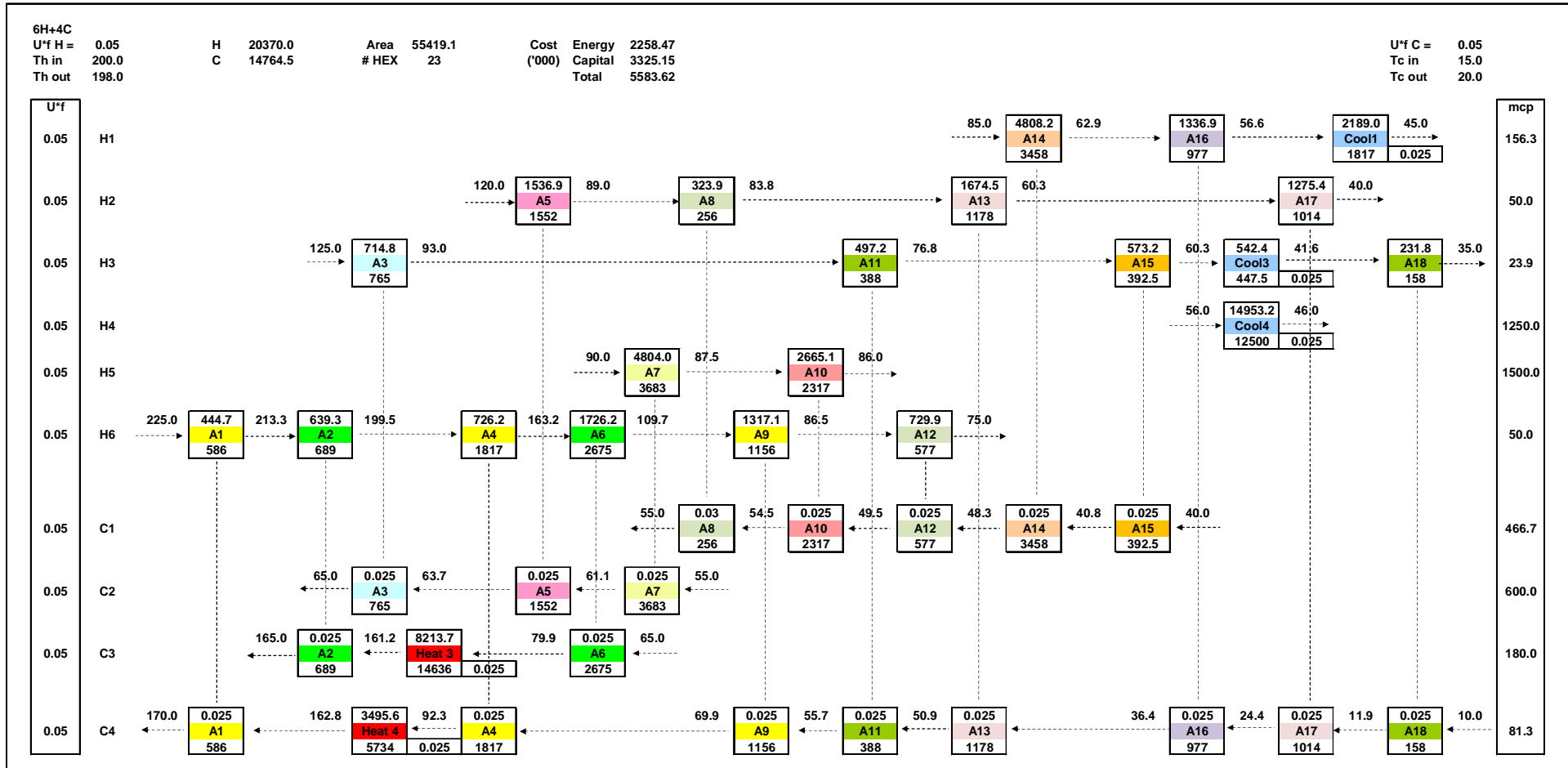


Figure 18.5

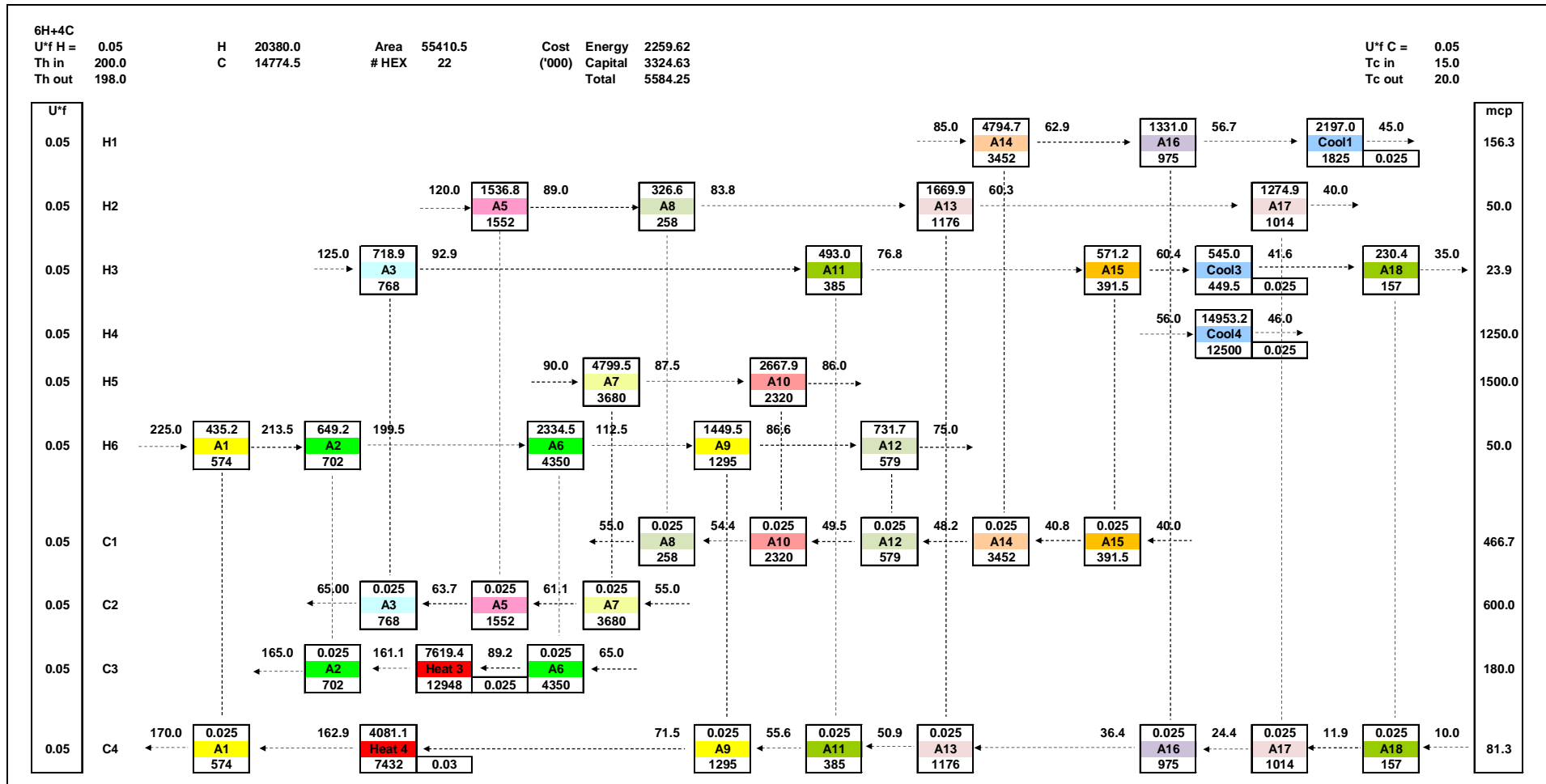


Figure 18.6



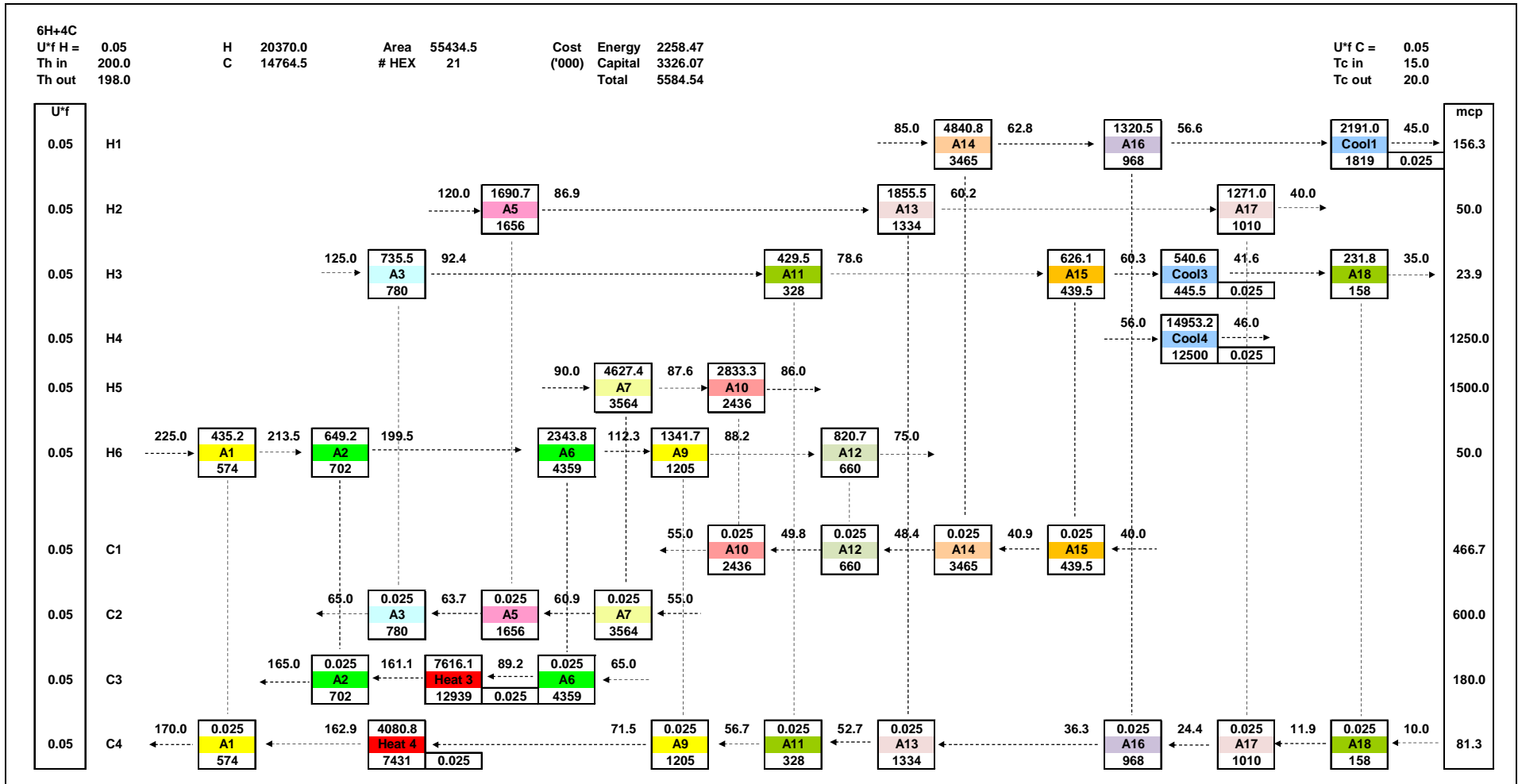


Figure 18.7

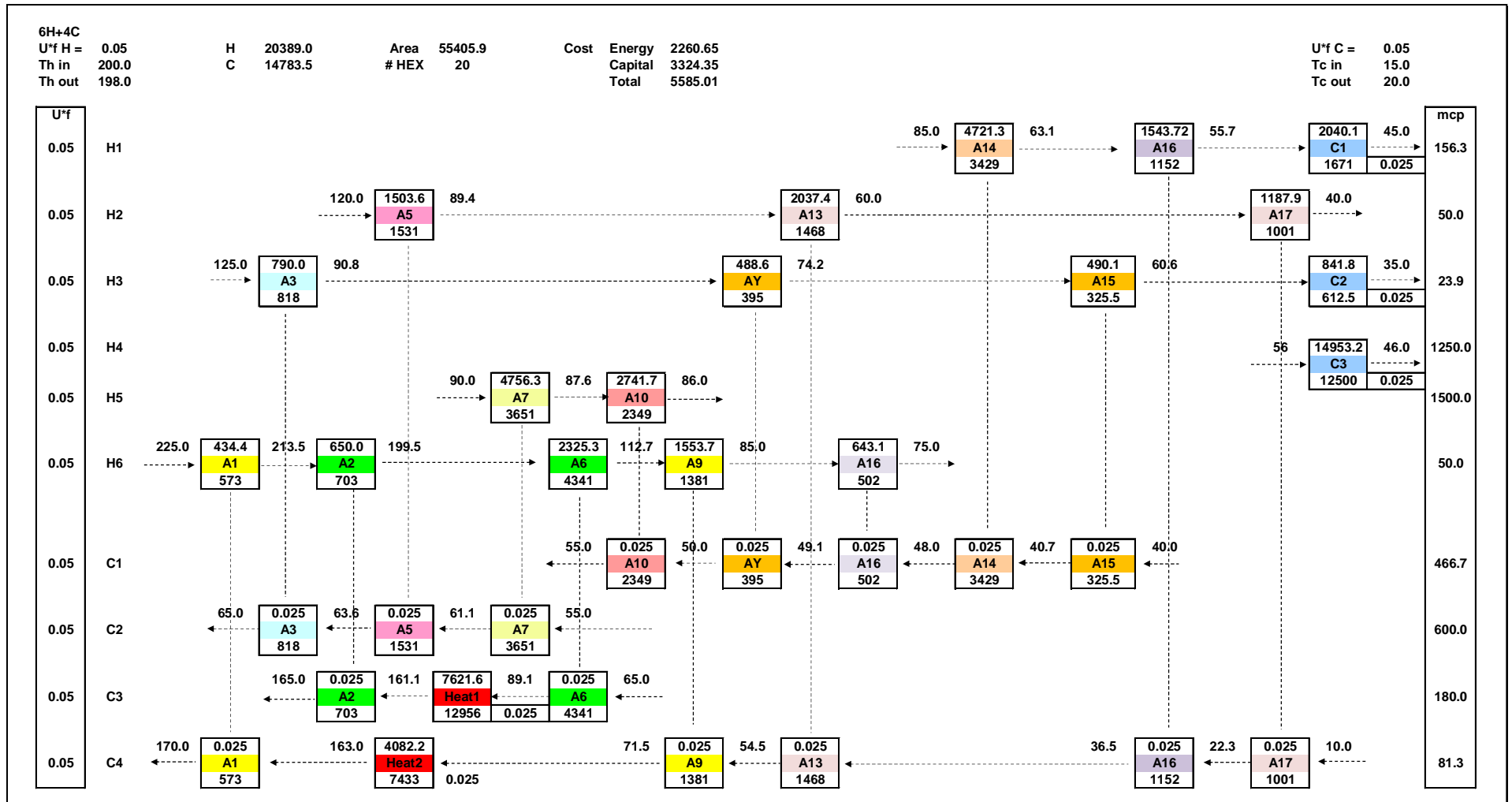


Figure 18.8

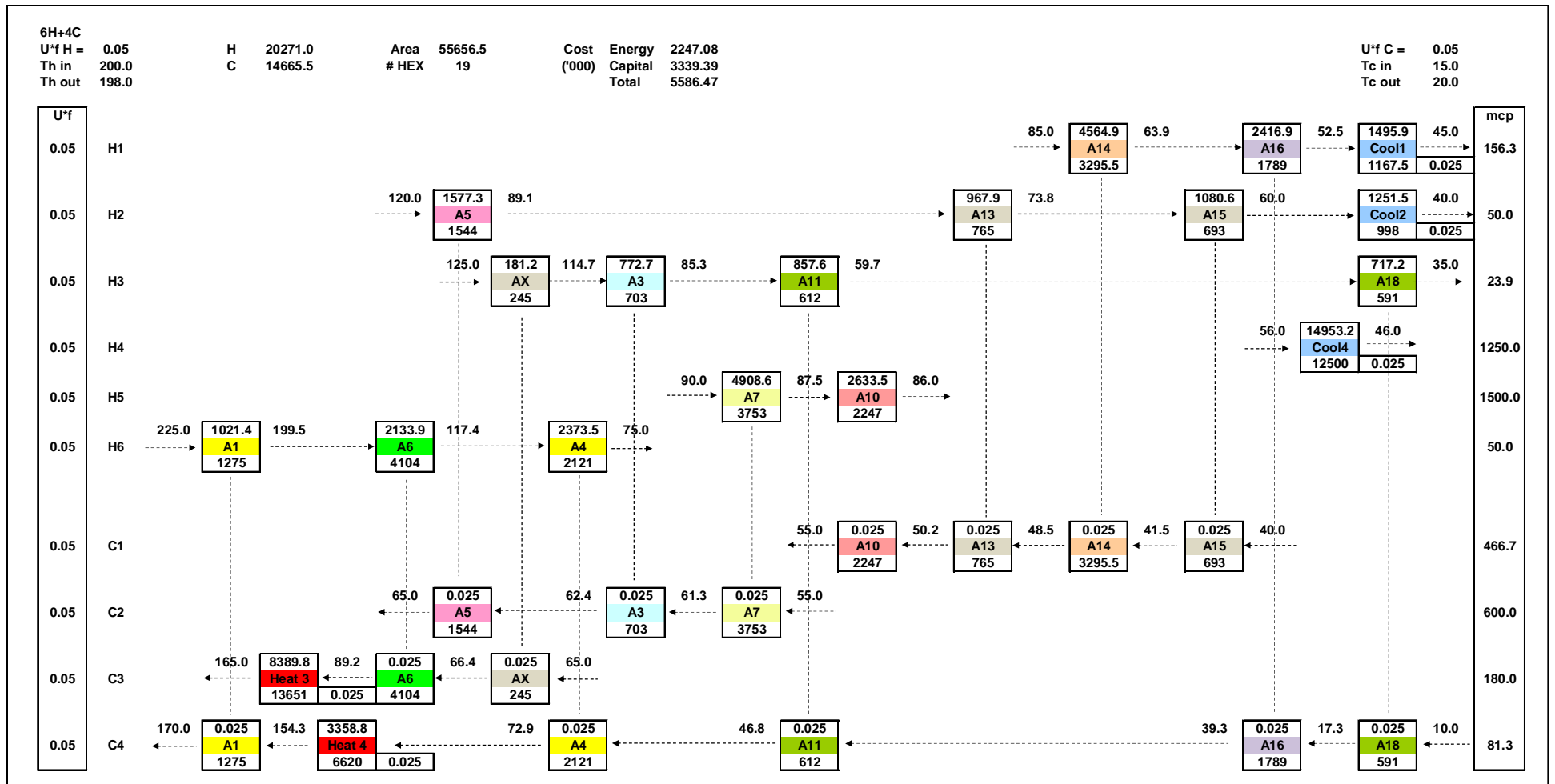


Figure 18.9



6H+4C  
 U\*f H = 0.05  
 Th in 200.0  
 Th out 198.0

H 20426.0  
 C 14820.5

Area 55424.8  
 # HEX 17

Cost Energy 2264.91  
 ('000) Capital 3325.49  
 Total 5590.40

U\*f C = 0.05  
 Tc in 15.0  
 Tc out 20.0

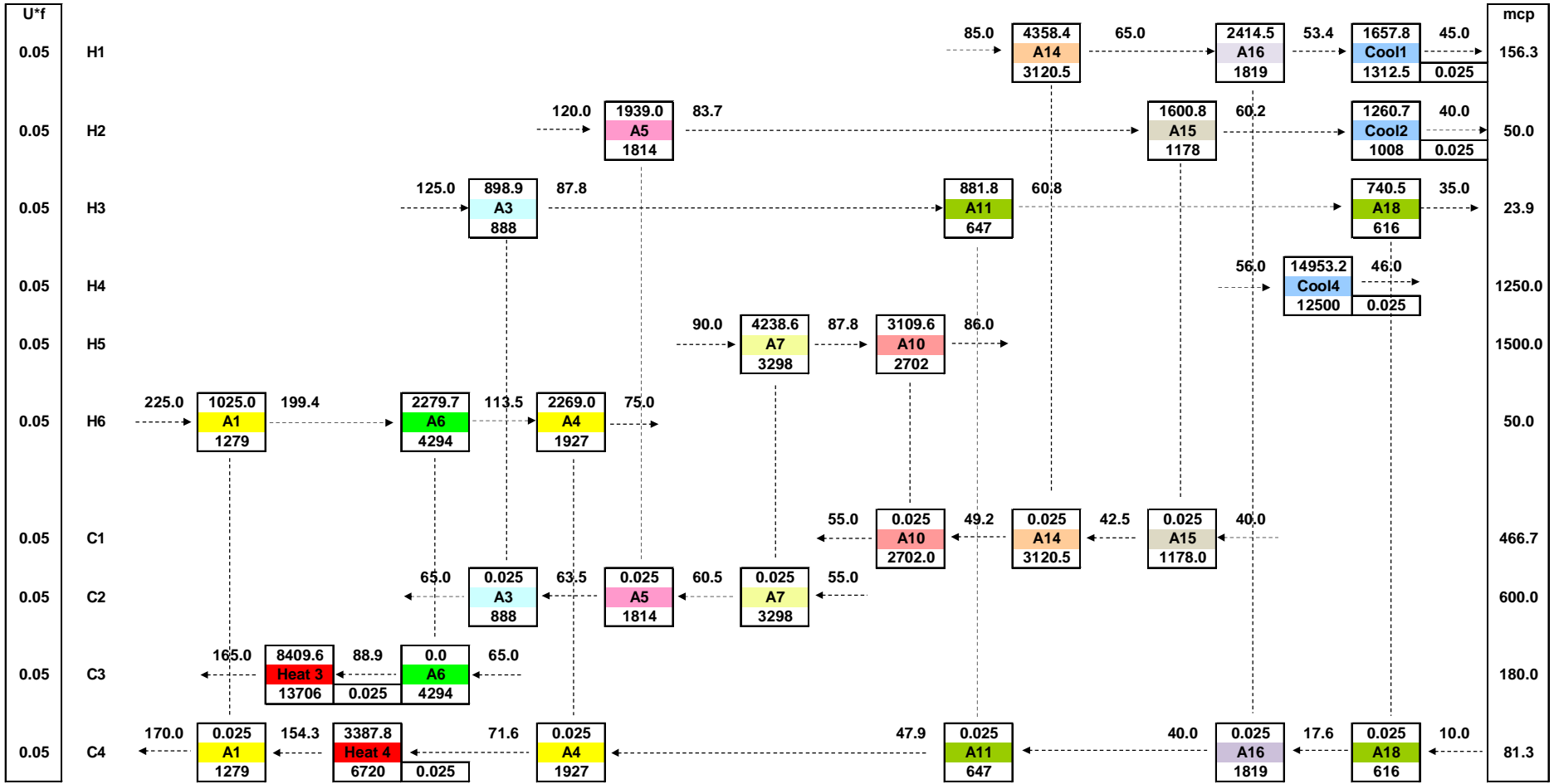


Figure 18.11

6H+4C  
 U\*f H = 0.05  
 Th in 200.0  
 Th out 198.0

H 20356.0  
 C 14750.5

Area 55711.6  
 # HEX 16

Cost Energy 2256.86  
 ('000) Capital 3342.69  
 Total 5599.55

U\*f C = 0.05  
 Tc in 15.0  
 Tc out 20.0

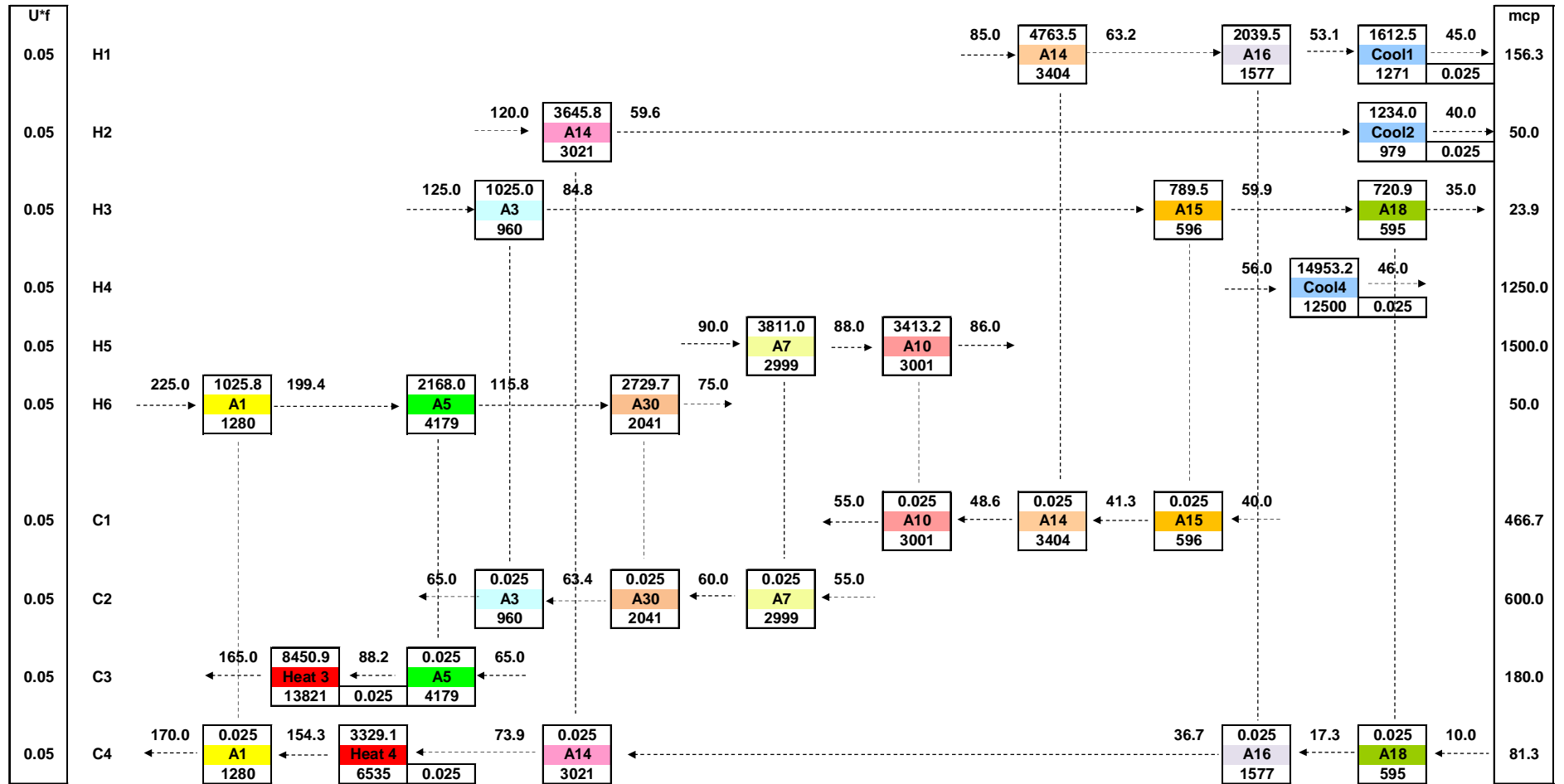


Figure 18.12

6H+4C

U\*f H = 0.05  
 Th in 200.0  
 Th out 198.0

H 20498.0  
 C 14892.5

Area 55468.5  
 # HEX 15

Cost Energy 2273.19  
 ('000) Capital 3328.11  
 Total 5601.30

U\*f C = 0.05  
 Tc in 15.0  
 Tc out 20.0

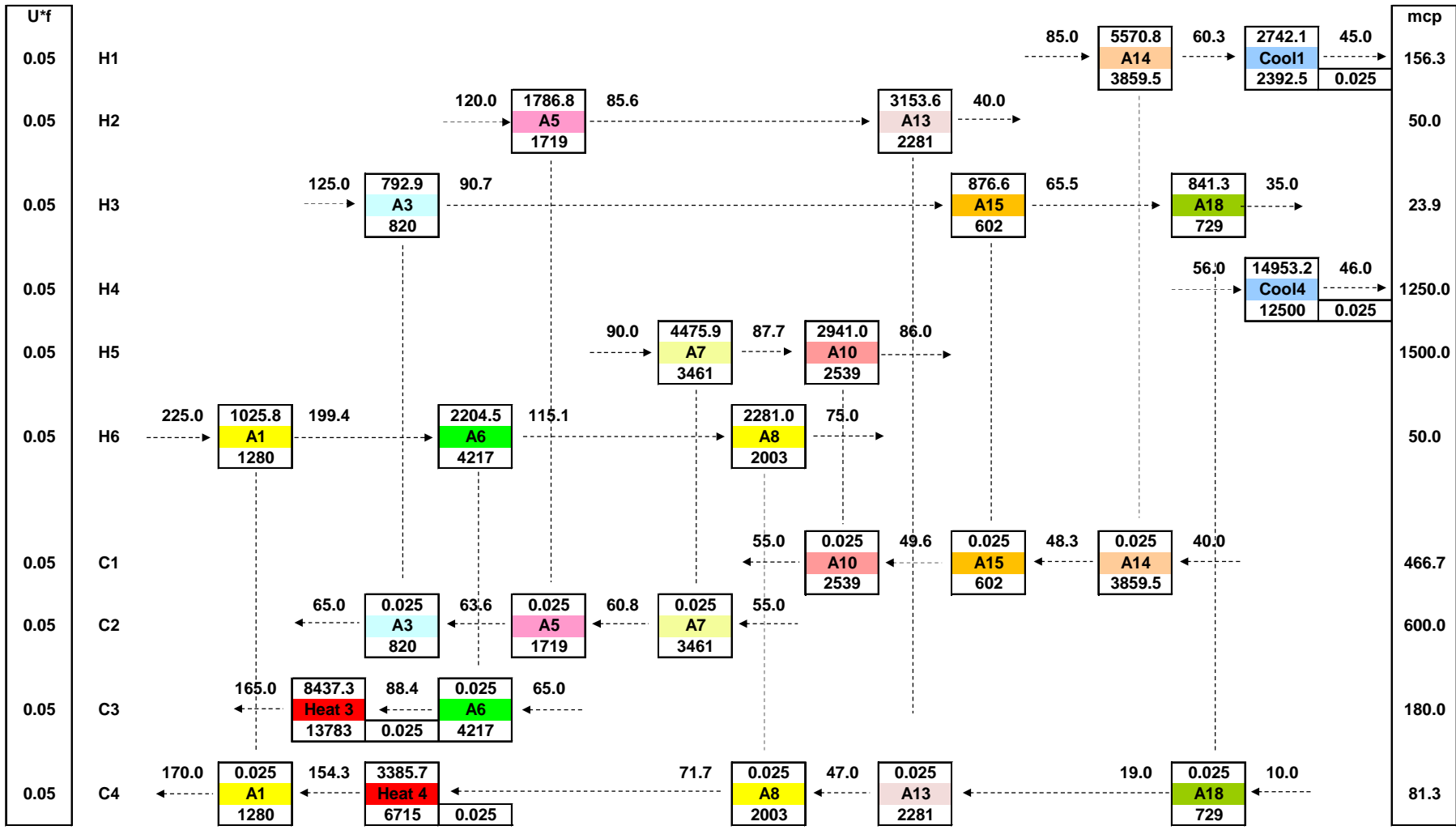


Figure 18.13

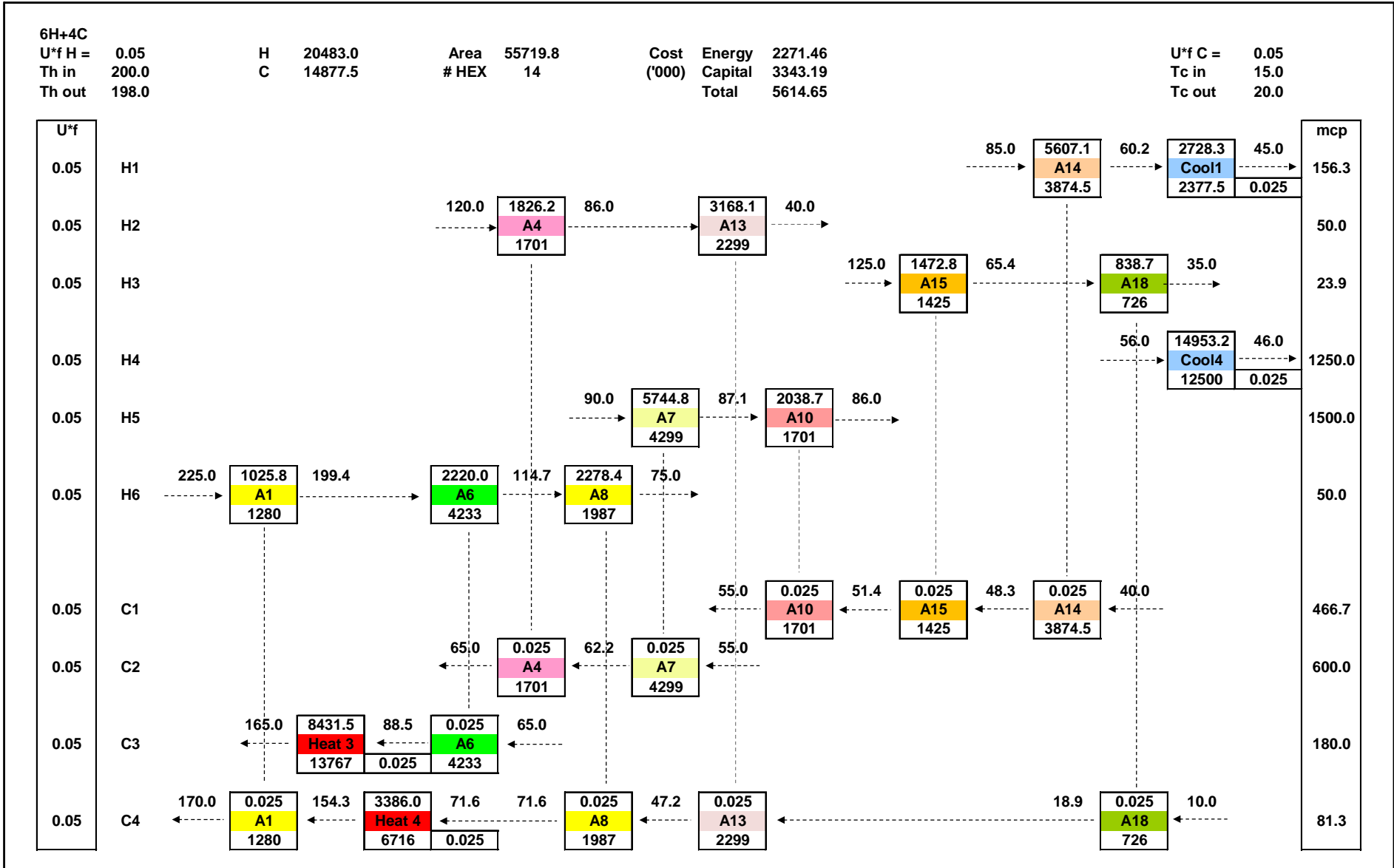


Figure 18.14



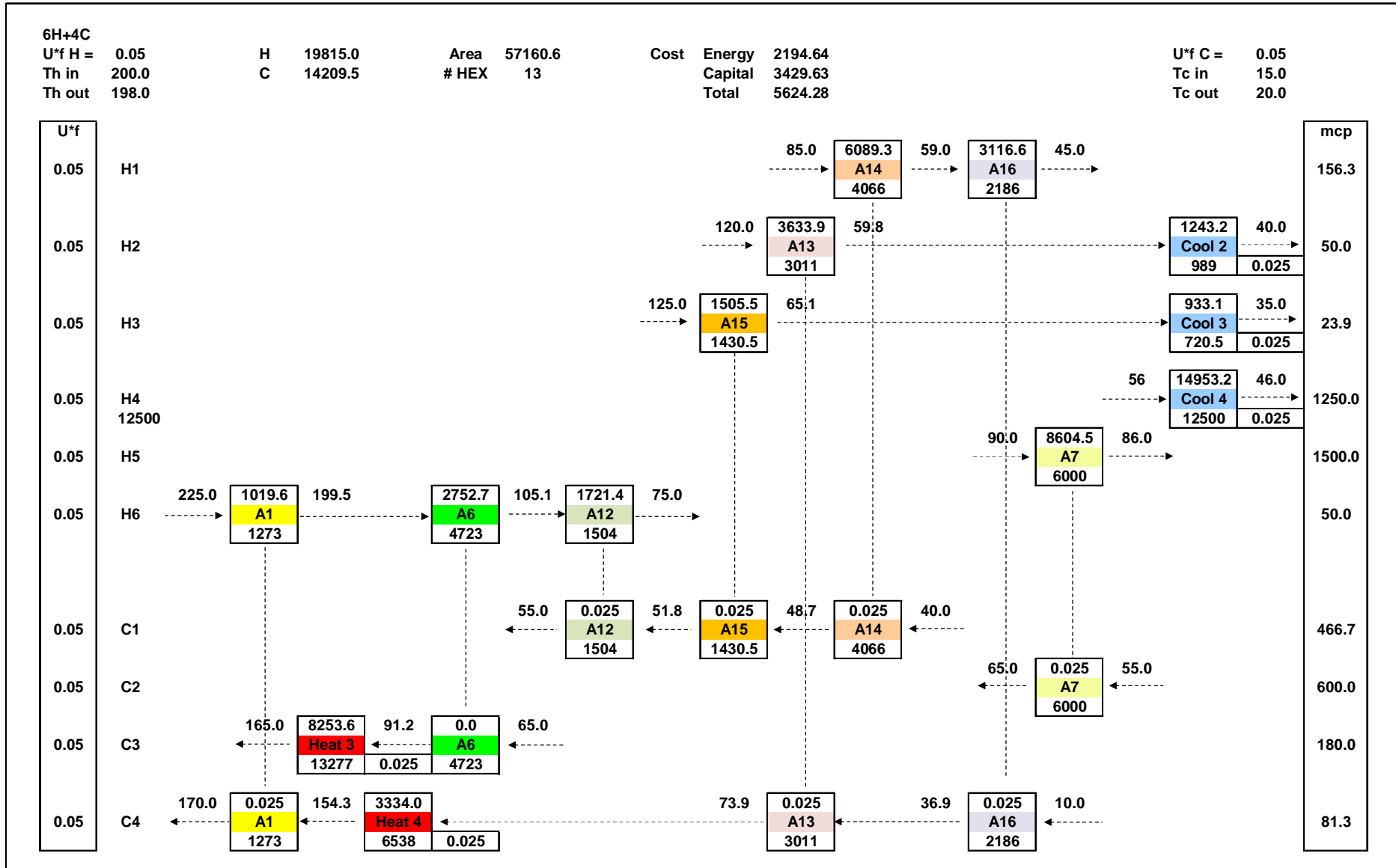


Figure 18.15

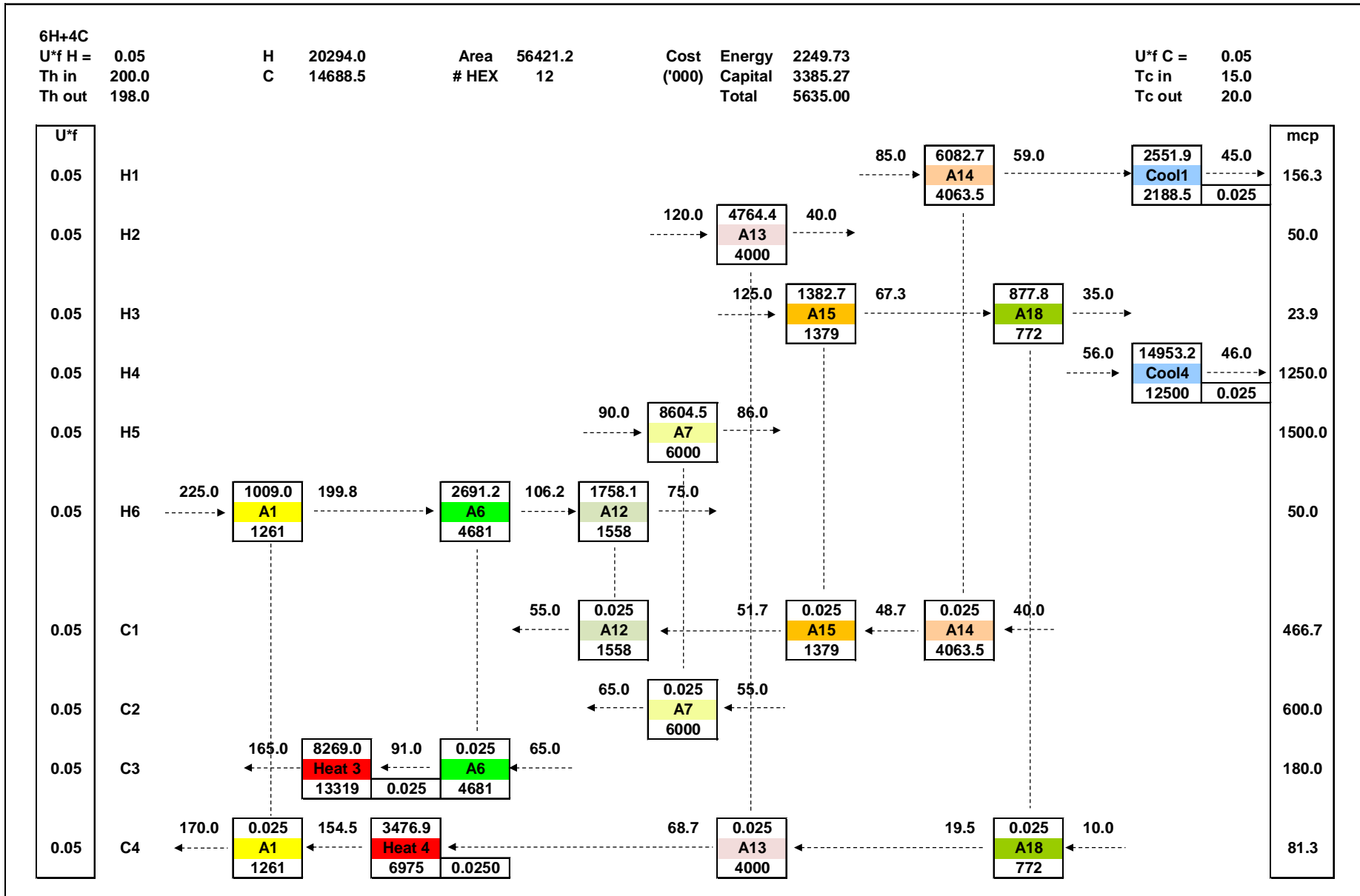


Figure 18.16

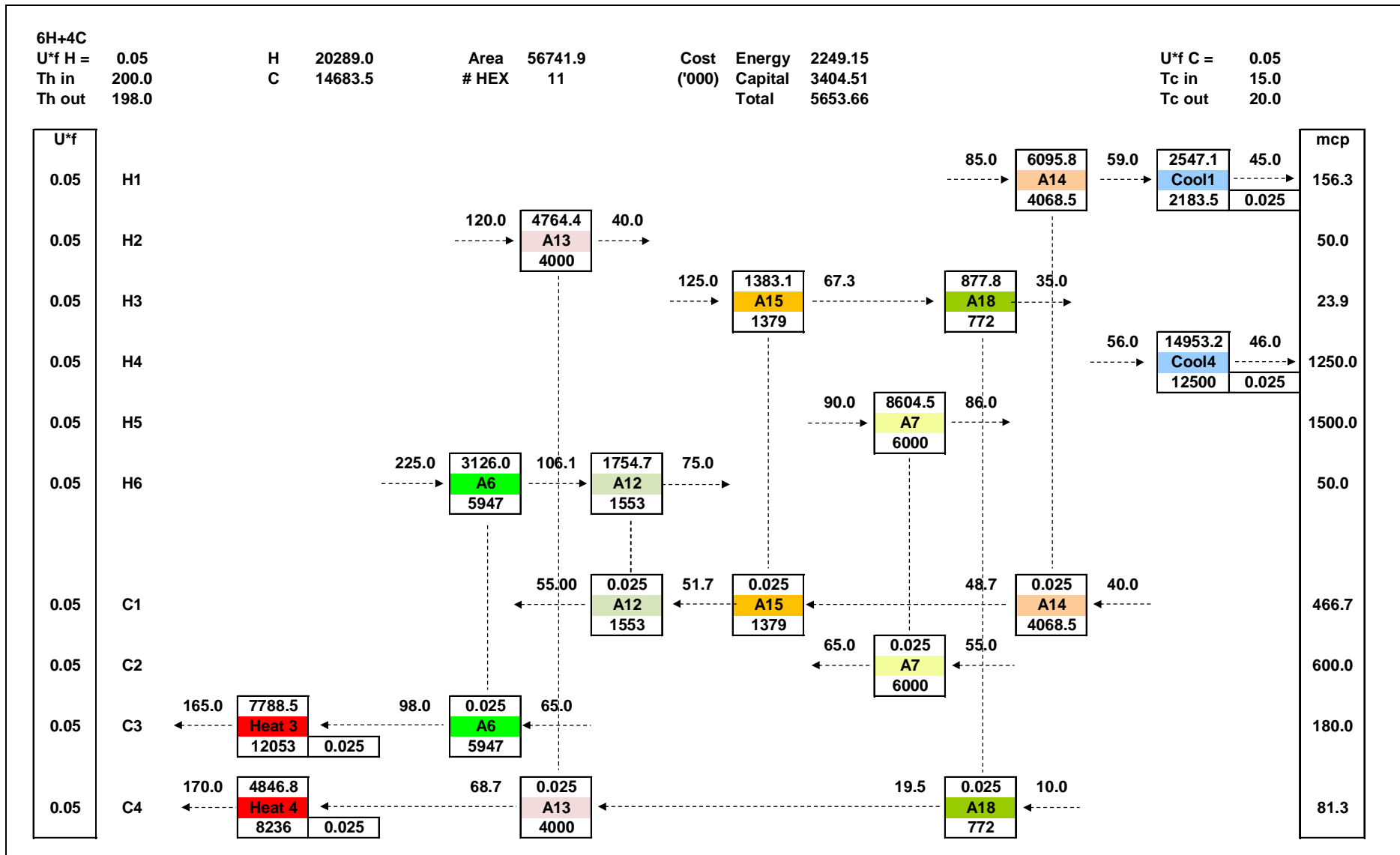


Figure 18.17

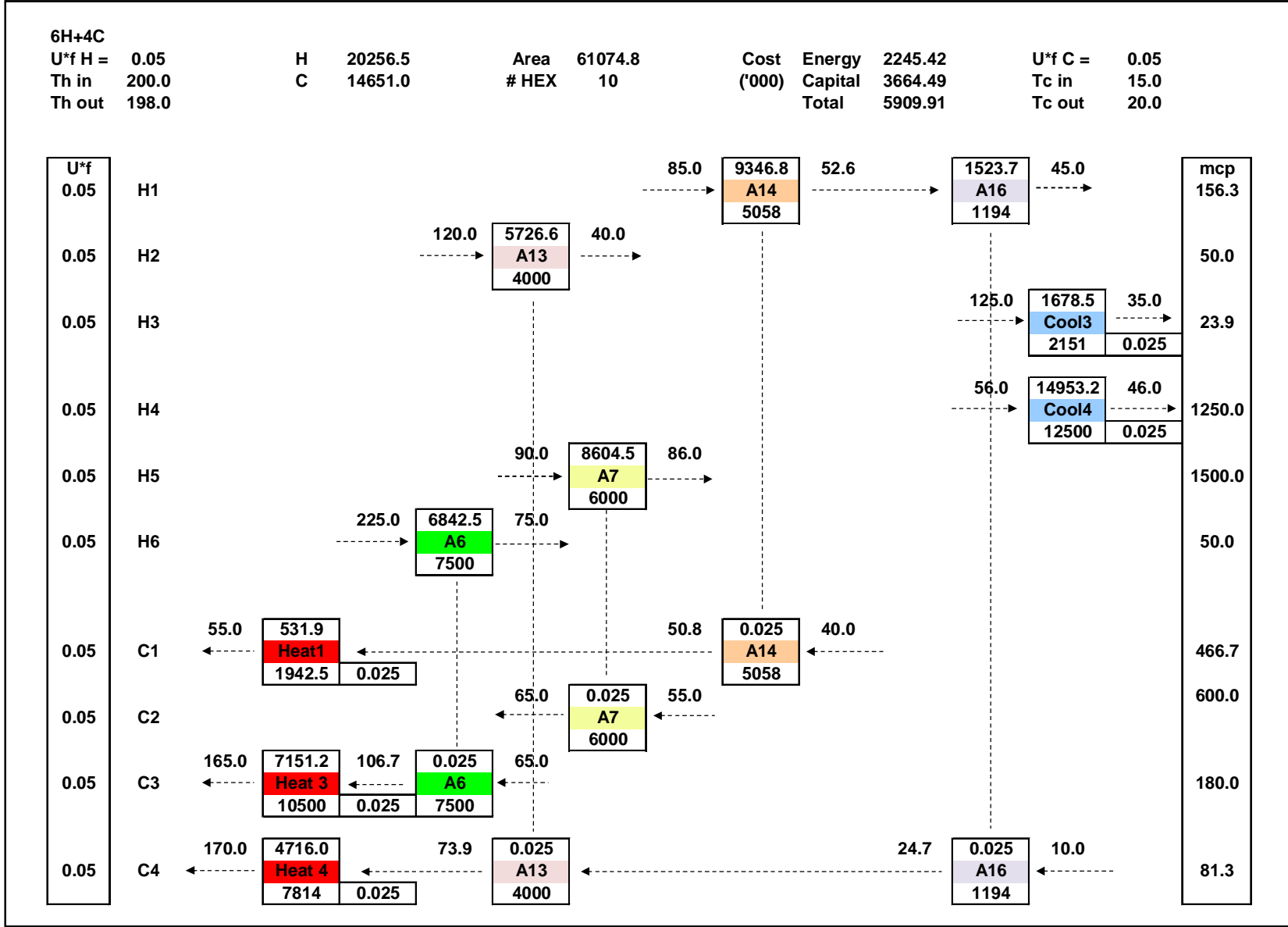


Figure 18.18

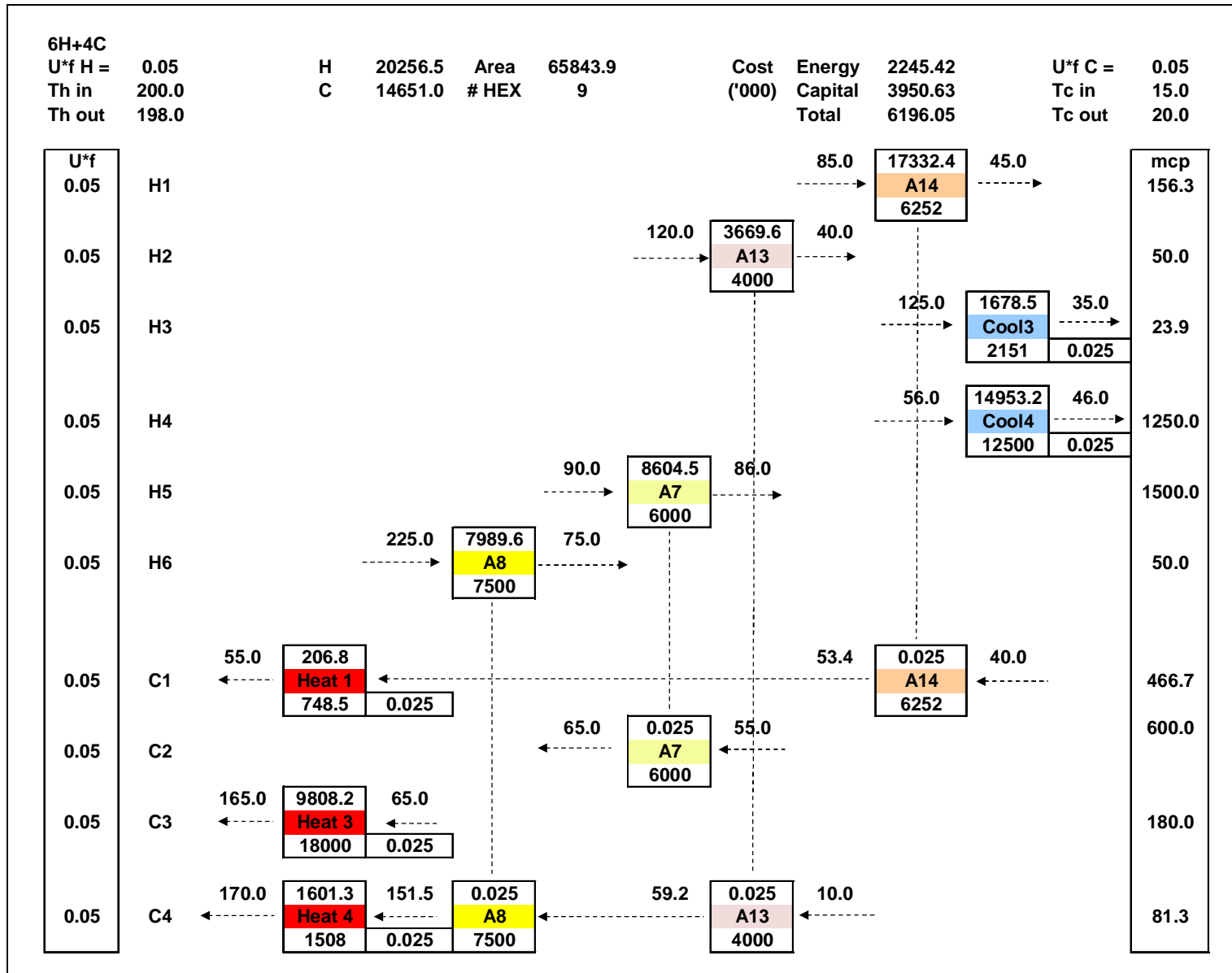


Figure 18.19