

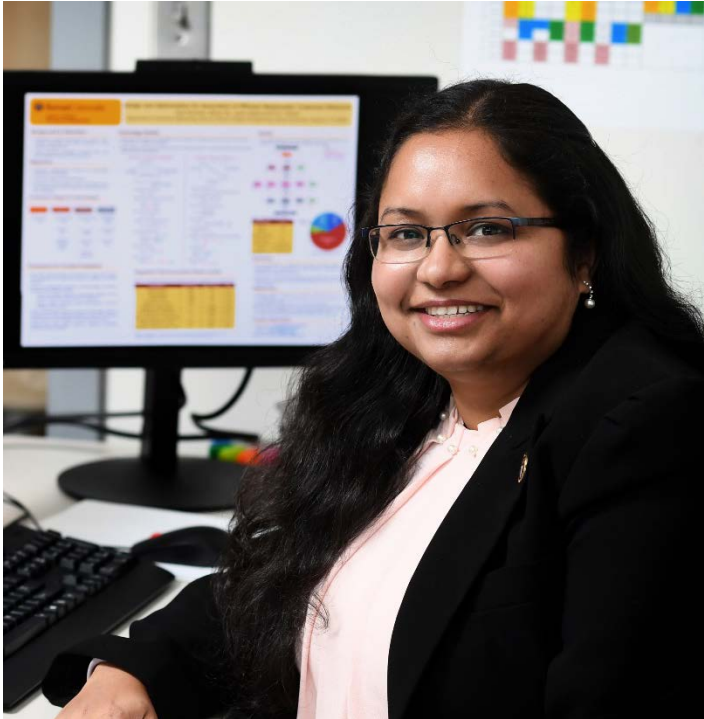
Synthesis and Systematic Evaluation of Solvent Recovery Pathways

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Speaker



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Education & Experience:

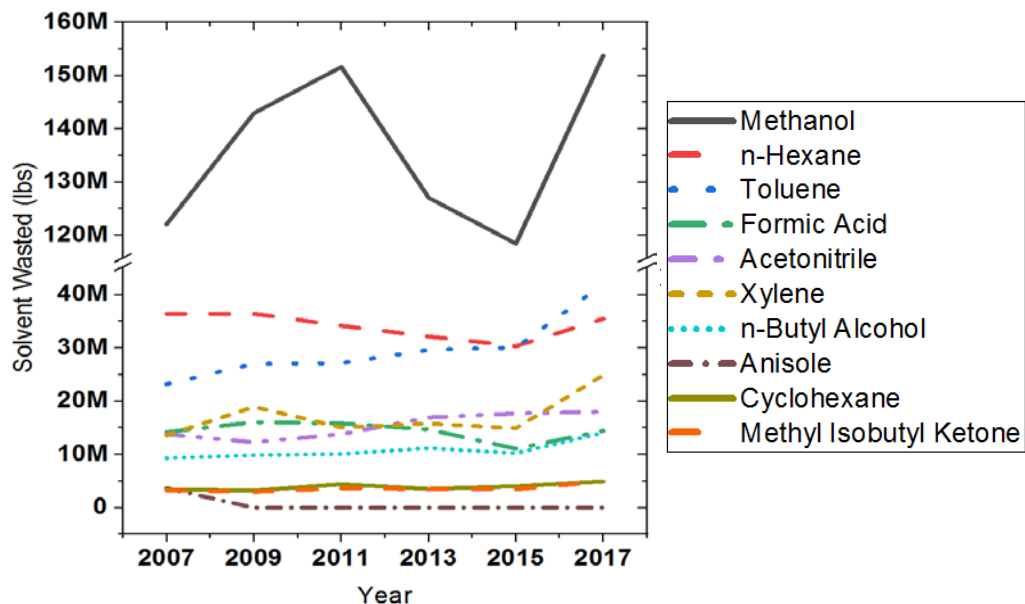
- Postdoc, University of Delaware (03/2017 to 08/2017)
- Postdoc, University of Wisconsin-Madison (01/2015-03/2017)
- Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), USA, 2014
- M.Tech. Chemical Engineering., IIT Bombay, India, 2010
- B.Tech. Chemical Engineering, LIT, Nagpur, India, 2008

Dr. Yenkie's research focuses on leveraging Process Systems Engineering (PSE) principles in the areas of environmental sustainability and healthcare. She is a PI on the US EPA funded project on 'Roadmap for Solvent Recovery in Industrial Manufacturing' (2018-2020). This project aims to develop a universal framework for optimal solvent recovery and a computational tool that can be used by pharmaceutical and other manufacturing facilities.

At Rowan University, she teaches Process Dynamics and Control, Thermodynamics and Applied Optimization. Her teaching methodology to incorporate computational tools for explaining theoretical concepts led to her selection as one of the 20 Outstanding Young Chemical Engineering Educators by the CACHE (Computer Aids for Chemical Engineering) Committee (2019).

Expanding Chemical Market

- Global chemical industry is projected to double in production, capacity, and sales between 2017 – 2030¹
- Harmful chemical emission from process inefficiencies
- Ineffective mitigation plan to reduce solvent waste



The Chemical Waste Trend for Top Ten Wasted Substances Between 2007 and 2017 from the US EPA's Toxic Release Inventory¹

1. United Nations Environment Programme, "Global Chemicals Outlook II - From Legacies to Innovative Solutions - Synthesis Report (2019),"
2. O. US EPA, "TRI Data and Tools," US EPA, 03-Mar-2013.

Current State of Waste Handling

- Primary Methods¹
 - On-site solvent disposal – Direct release into air, water, or injection well
 - Off-site solvent disposal – Third party, sold to other industries
 - Incineration – Decomposes organic materials with high efficiency
 - Cost up to 1/3 of original price of purchased solvent
 - Releases up to 6.7 kg CO₂ / kg organic compounds

Chemical Waste



<https://www.hazardouswasteexperts.com/is-your-business-a-hazardous-waste-generator-epa-watching/>

Incineration



<https://www.torontoenvironment.org/tags/incineration>

- Solvent recovery – improves greenness and sustainability of chemical processes²

1. C. S. Slater, M. J. Savelski, W. A. Carole and D. J. Constable, "Solvent Use and Waste Issues," in Green Chemistry in the Pharmaceutical Industry, Wiley, 2010, 49-82
2. C. S. Slater, M. Savelski, G. Hounsell, D. Pilipauskas, and F. Urbanski, "Green design alternatives for isopropanol recovery in the celecoxib process," Clean Technol. Environ. Policy, vol. 14, no. 4, pp. 687–698, Aug. 2012

Optimizing Solvent Recovery

How do we make the design of solvent recovery process more efficient?

**Solvent and
Technology
Database**

**All-Inclusive
Solvent Recovery
Framework**

**Economic and
Environmental
Impacts Analysis**



Optimizing Solvent Recovery

Solvent and
Technology
Database

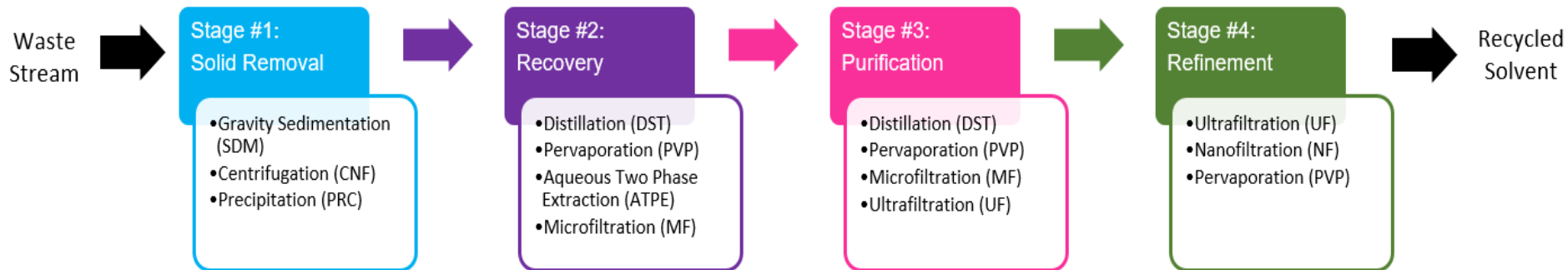
All-Inclusive
Solvent Recovery
Framework

Economic and
Environmental
Impacts Analysis



Designing a Recovery Process

- Create a database of information
 - Many possible chemicals involved in a solvent waste stream
 - Multiple separation processes to consider
- Number of possible pathways dependent on waste stream composition
- Additional stages of separation added as required to meet purity requirements

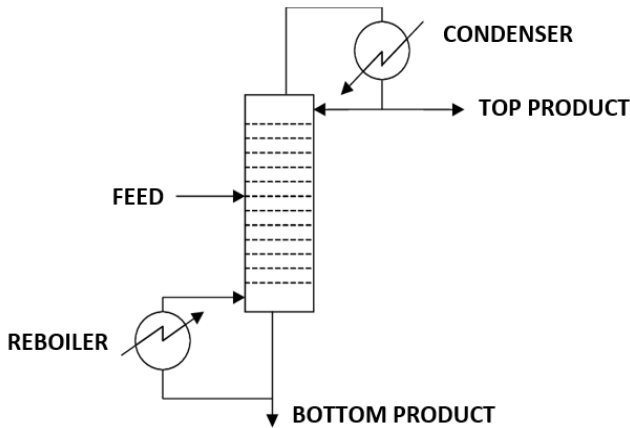


Building a Database

Solvent	MW (g/mol)	Density (kg/m³)	Physical State	MP (°C)	BP (°C)	Solubility in water (g/100g)	Toxicity (potential side effects)
Methanol	32.042	792	Liquid	-97.6	64.7	Miscible	Dizziness, nausea, blurred vision, vomiting, GI bleeding
Acetone	58.08	784	Liquid	-94.8	56	Miscible	Skin/eye irritant; dizziness, blurred vision, headaches
Benzene	78.114	876	Liquid	5.5	80.1	0.18	Carcinogen

Technology	Principle/ Driving Force	Specifications and Important Conditions
Membrane Processes		
Membranes	Particle/molecular size Sorption/Diffusion Pressure	Pore size, Mol. wt. cut-off, average flux, Pressure gradient, type of membranes – MF, UF, NF and RO
Pervaporation	Sorption/Diffusion Partial pressure	Heat of vaporization, pressure gradient, average flux, membrane selectivity

Example Model: Distillation



Molar flow rates:

$$F_{j,k} = \frac{M_{j,k}}{MW_k}$$

Component balance:

$$\sum_{j \in J_{ini}} F_{j,k} = \sum_{j \in J_{outi}} F_{j,k}$$

Minimum number of stages with Fenske's equation:

$$N_{min} \log(\alpha_B) = \log\left[\left(\frac{Xm_{2,B}}{Xm_{2,A}}\right)\left(\frac{Xm_{3,A}}{Xm_{3,B}}\right)\right]$$

Underwood's variable:

$$(1 - q) = \sum_{k \in K^{dst}} \frac{\alpha_k Xm_{1,k}}{\alpha_k - U_v}$$

Assume feed is a saturated liquid ($q=1$):

$$\sum_{k \in K^{dst}} \frac{\alpha_k Xm_{1,k}}{\alpha_k - U_v} = 0$$

Minimum reflux ratio:

$$R_{min} = \sum_{k \in K^{dst}} \frac{\alpha_k Xm_{2,k}}{\alpha_k - U_v} - 1$$

Reflux ratio:

$$R = 1.3R_{min}$$

Number of stages:

$$0.6N = N_{min}$$

Number of actual stages:

$$N_{act} = \frac{N}{\eta_{stage}}$$

Costing variable of column;

$$QS_{dst} = \frac{\pi}{4} D^2 H$$

Optimizing Solvent Recovery

Solvent and
Technology
Database

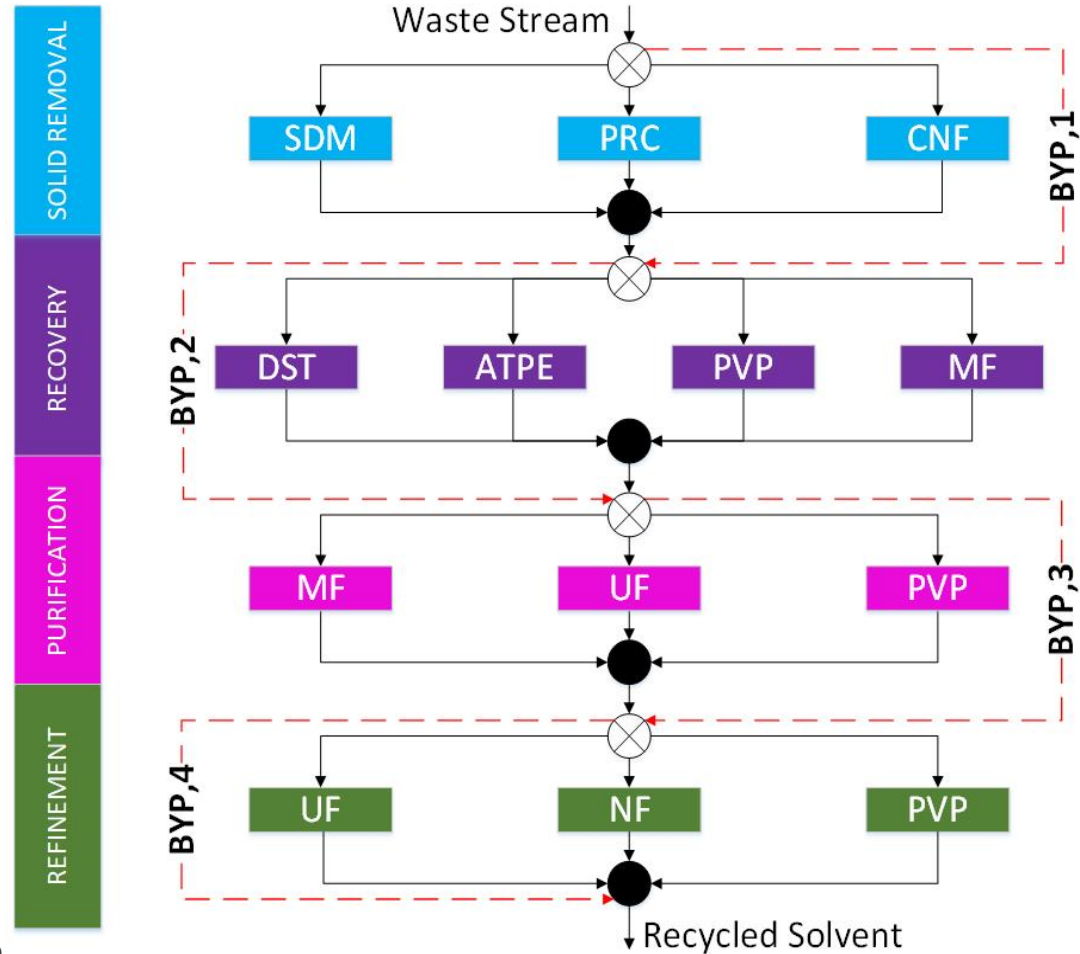
All-Inclusive
Solvent Recovery
Framework

Economic and
Environmental
Impacts Analysis



Generalized Solvent Recovery Framework

- Superstructure-based
 - Considers multiple options to reach a desired goal
 - Advantage over one-by-one approach
- Stages
 - Solid Removal
 - SDM: Sedimentation
 - PRC: Precipitation
 - CNF: Centrifugation
 - Recovery, Purification, and Refinement
 - DST: Distillation
 - ATPE: Aqueous Two-Phase Extraction
 - PVP: Pervaporation
 - MF: Microfiltration
 - UF: Ultrafiltration
 - NF: Nanofiltration
 - Additional steps to each stage can be added for multicomponent separation



Optimizing Solvent Recovery

Solvent and
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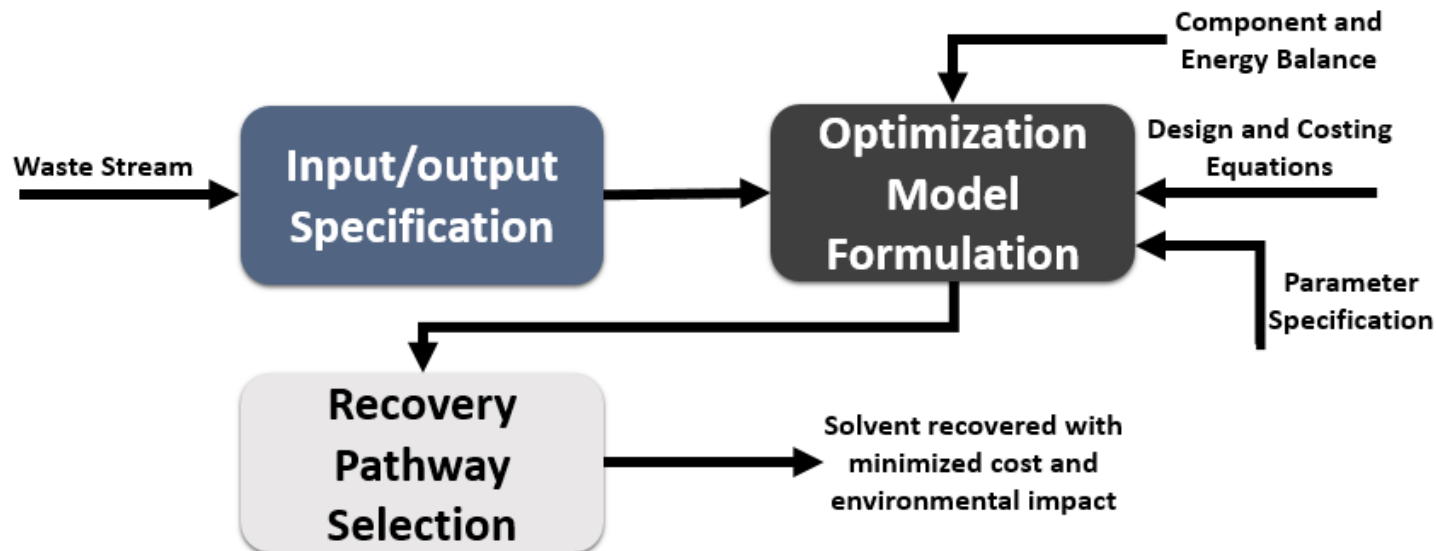
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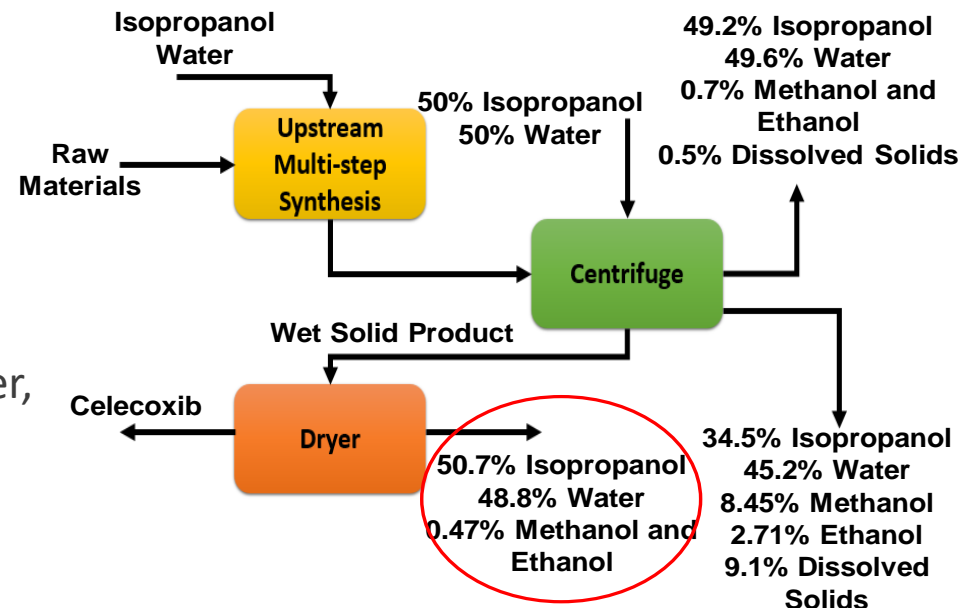
Evaluation Framework

- Mathematical models for process technology help to minimize cost and maximize process efficiency while still reaching target values for safe reuse of solvents
- Programming tools: General Algebraic Modeling Systems (GAMS)
- Solver: Branch-And-Reduce Optimization Navigator (BARON)
- Life Cycle Analysis tool: SimaPro



IPA Recovery Case Study

- Recovery of Isopropanol from a Celecoxib waste stream
 - Celecoxib – arthritic pain medication active pharmaceutical ingredient (API)
 - 510 kg/hr IPA waste
- Incineration
 - 14.51 kg steam / kg IPA
 - 0.83 kWh electricity / kg IPA
- Life Cycle Analysis
 - 2.19 kg total emissions (land, water, air)/ kg IPA waste



1. C. S. Slater, M. Savelski, D. Pilipauskas, F. Urbanski and G. Housell, "Green design alternatives for isopropanol recovery in the celecoxib process," *Clean Technologies and Environmental Policy*, vol. 14, pp. 687-698, 2012.

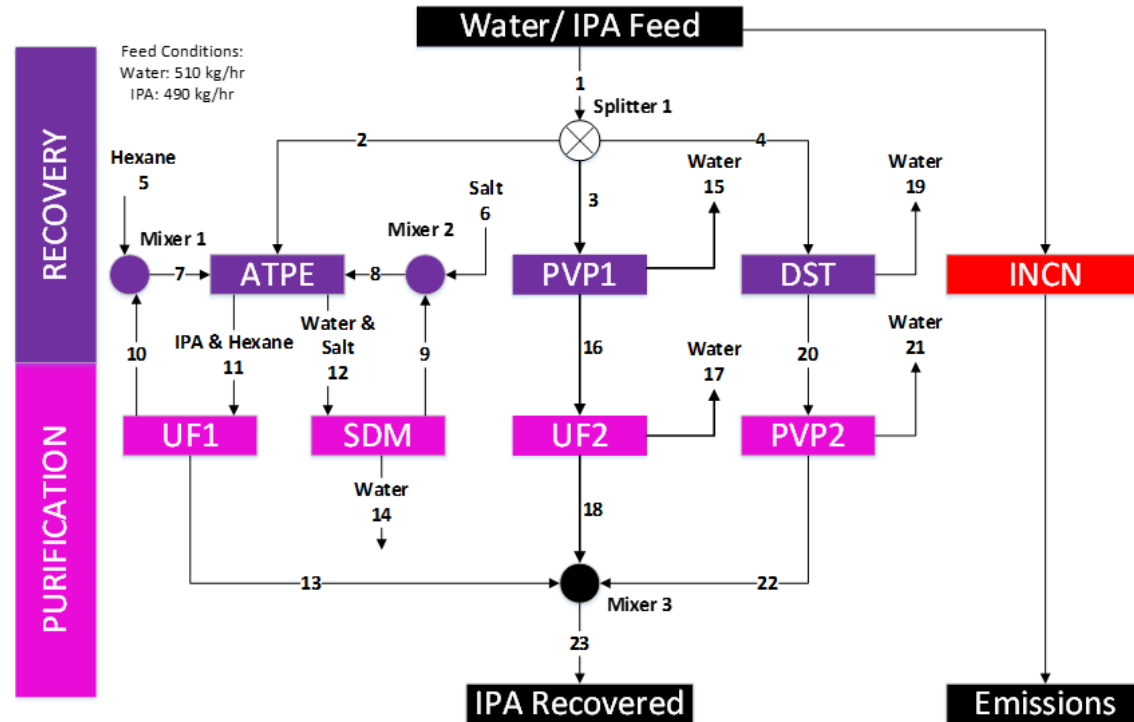
Specifications for Model Testing

- Assume trace solvents are negligible for model simplification
- Azeotrope at 80.37°C and 87.7 wt% IPA
- Solvent recovery results compared to incineration

Feed Condition	Feed Rates (kg/hr)	Output Requirements
Isopropanol (51%)	510	Recovery: 99.5%
Water (49%)	490	Purity: 99%

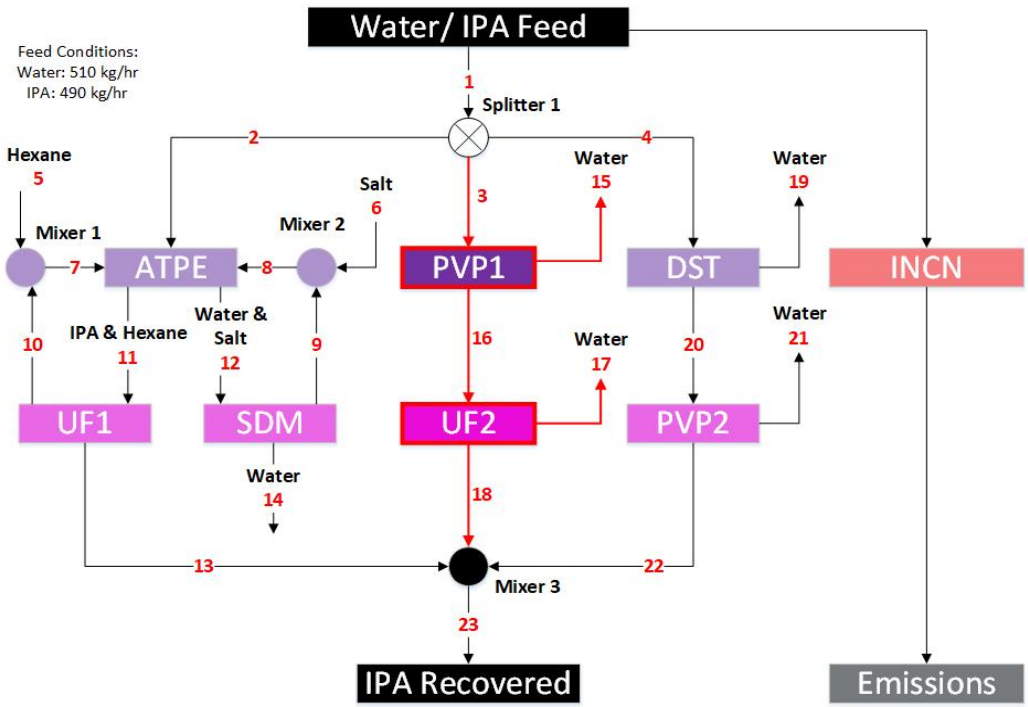
IPA Recovery Superstructure

- 3 major pathways, 6 technologies, 23 streams
- Technologies
 - ATPE: Aqueous Two-Phase Extraction
 - PVP: Pervaporation
 - DST: Distillation
 - UF: Ultrafiltration
 - SDM: Sedimentation
 - INCN: Incineration



Optimal Recovery Path

RECOVERY
PURIFICATION



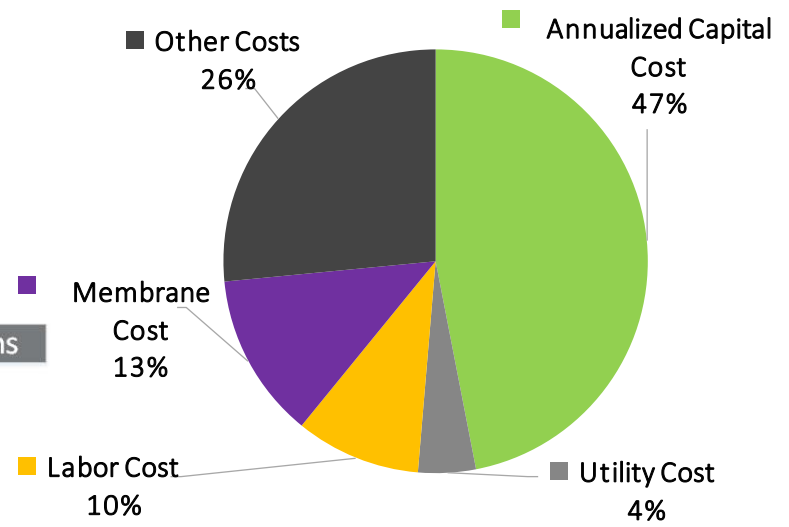
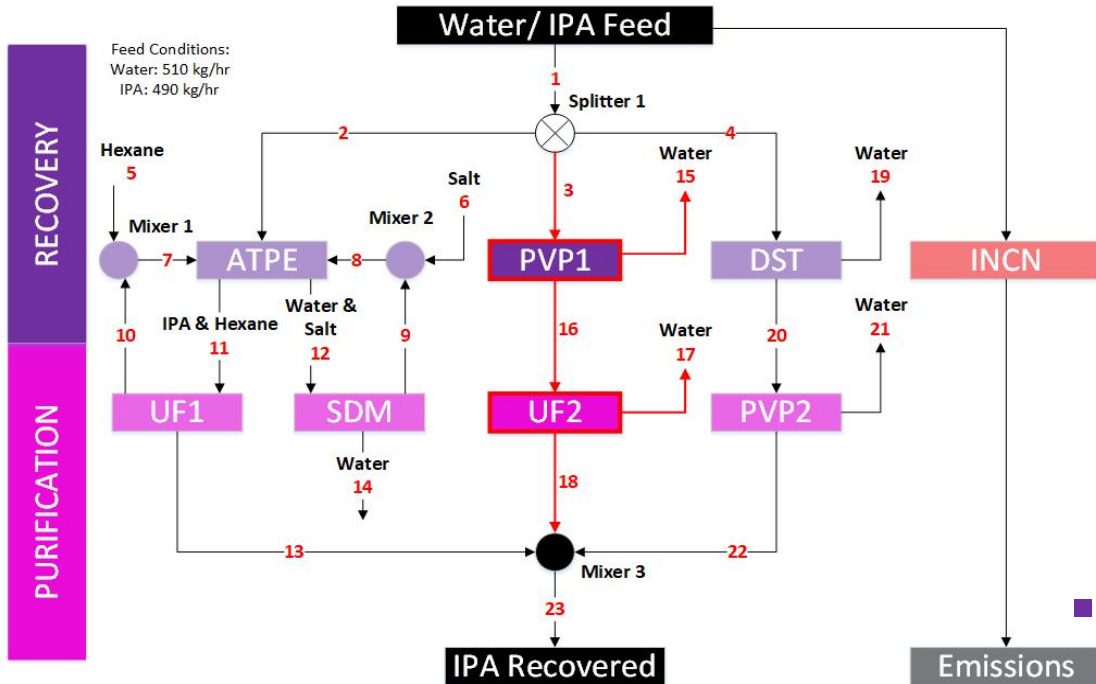
GAMS Model & Solution Statistics

Model Statistics	Values
Equations	258
Variables	238
Discrete Variables	4
Solution Time	2.48 s

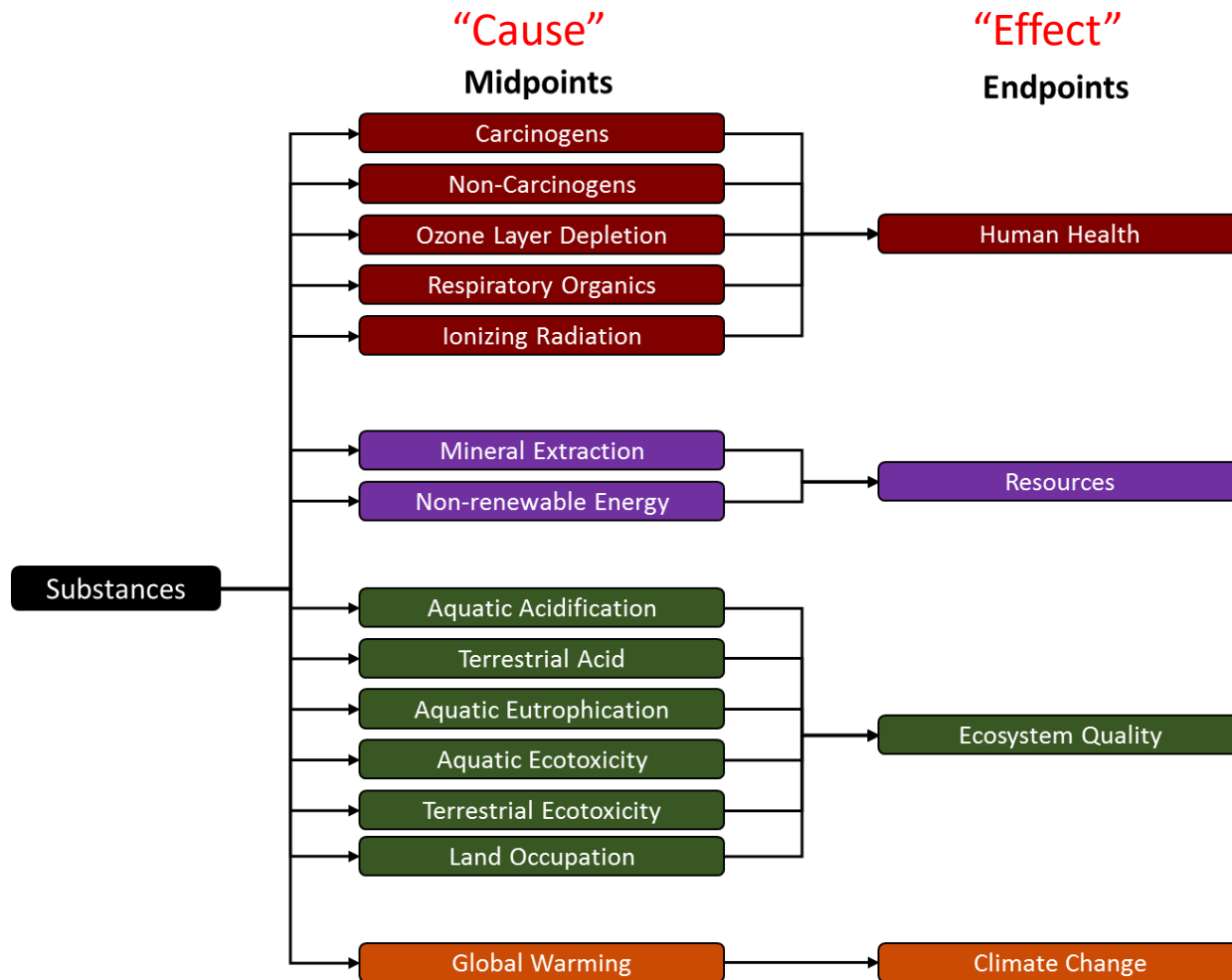
Pathways	Annualized Cost (\$ million/yr)	Prices (\$/kg processed)
ATPE-UF1-SDM	Infeasible	Infeasible
PVP1-UF2	0.524	0.14
DST-PVP2	0.862	0.25
Incineration	8.1	2.01

- Pervaporation followed by ultrafiltration is the best path
- Aqueous Two-Phase Extraction – infeasible at specified condition
- Incineration: not economically viable and no material recovery

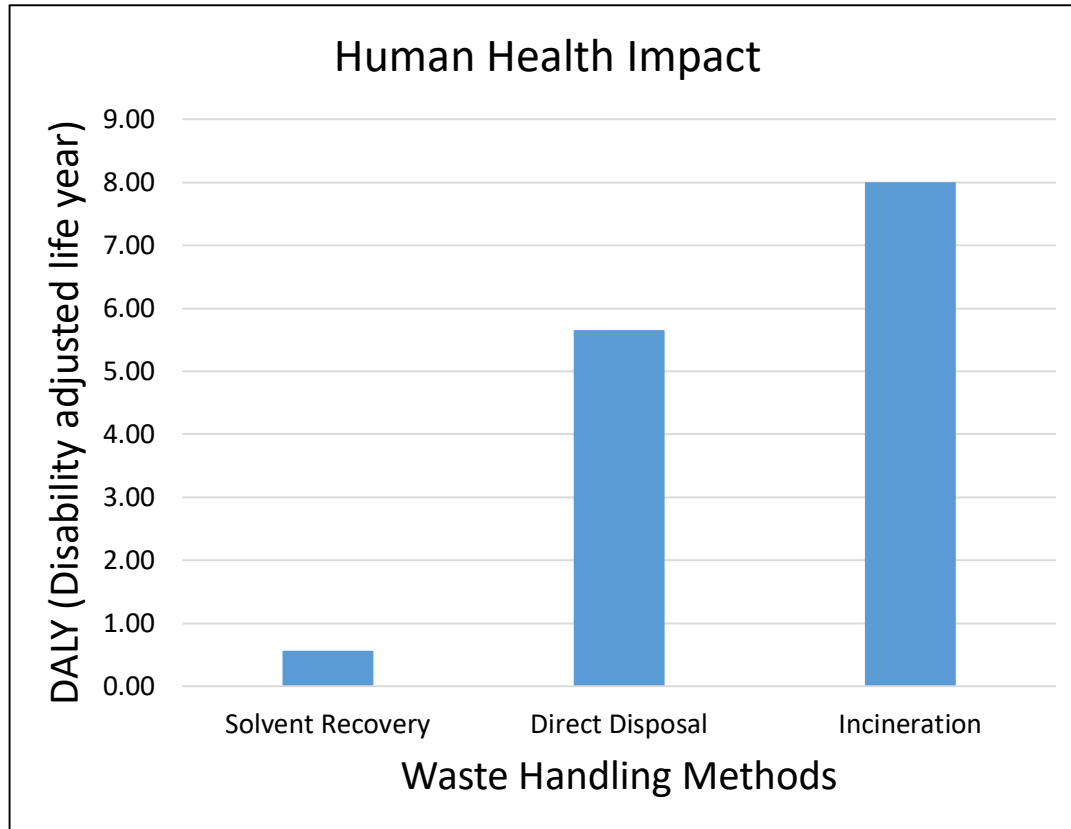
Cost Breakdown of PVP-UF



Environmental Impacts Analysis

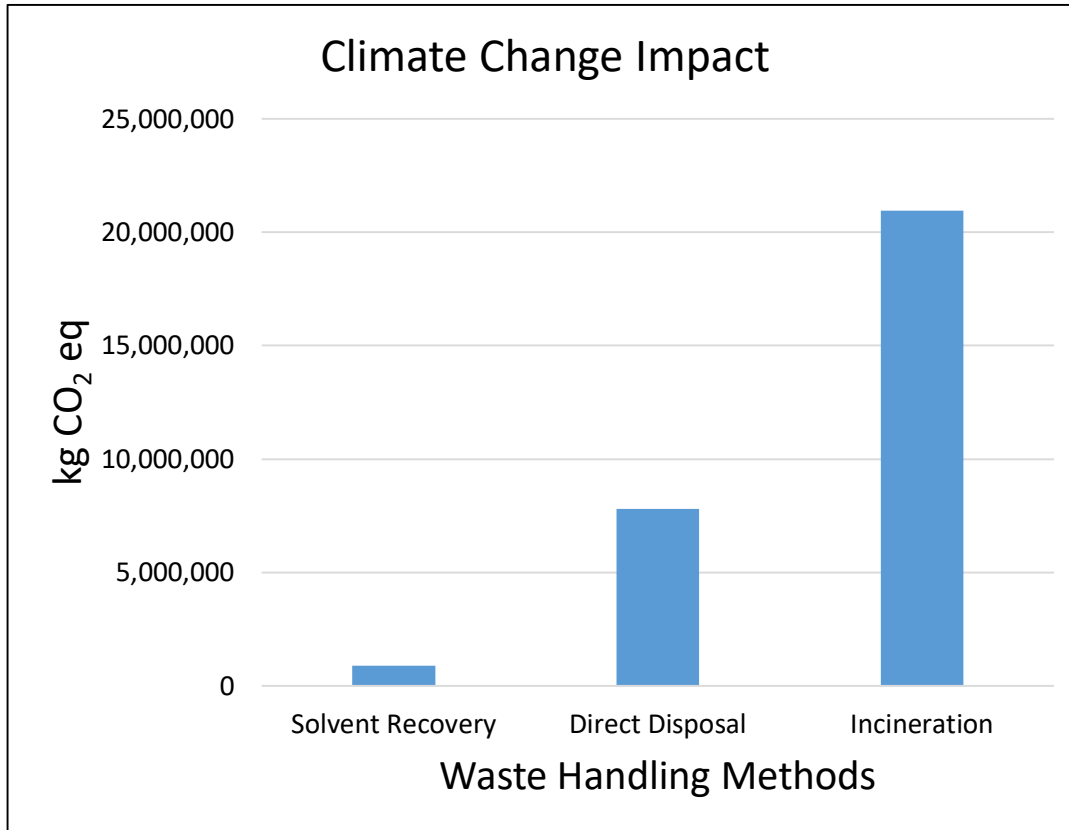


Human Health (DALY)



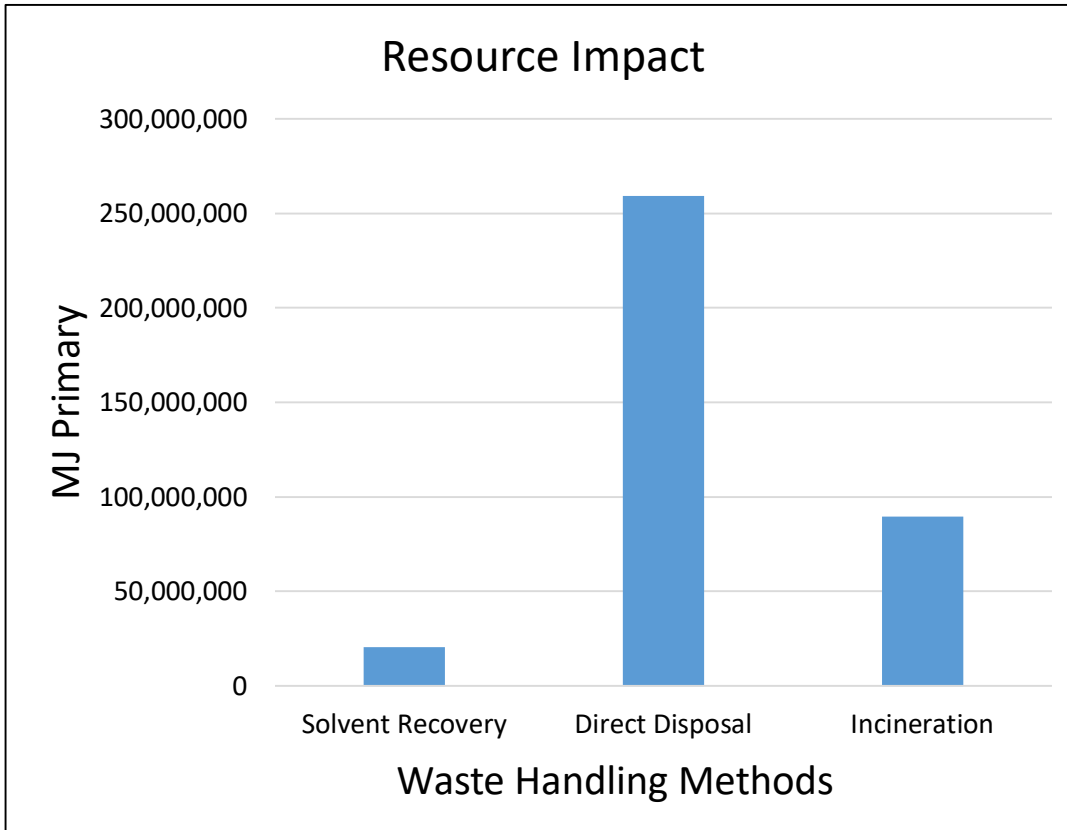
Waste Handling Method	% Difference
Direct Disposal (Base Case)	0
Solvent Recovery	164
Incineration	34

Climate Change (kg CO₂ eq.)



Waste Handling Method	% Difference
Direct Disposal (Base Case)	0
Solvent Recovery	158
Incineration	91

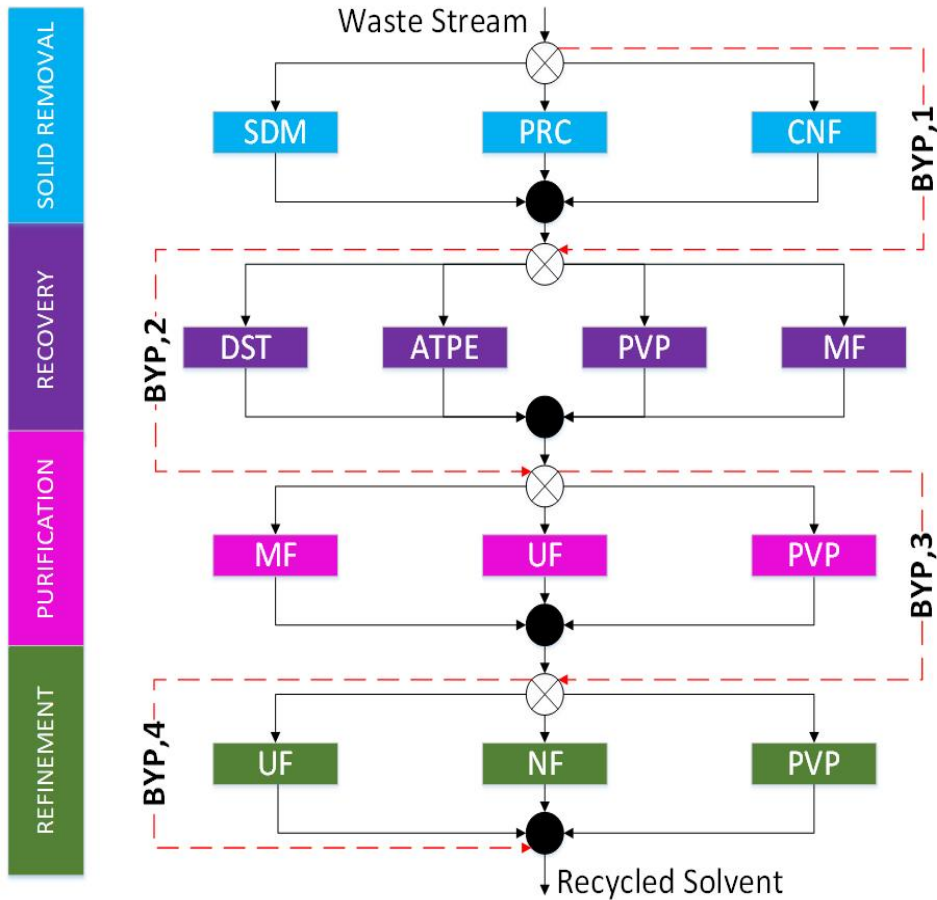
Resource



Waste Handling Method	% Difference
Direct Disposal (Base Case)	0
Solvent Recovery	171
Incineration	97

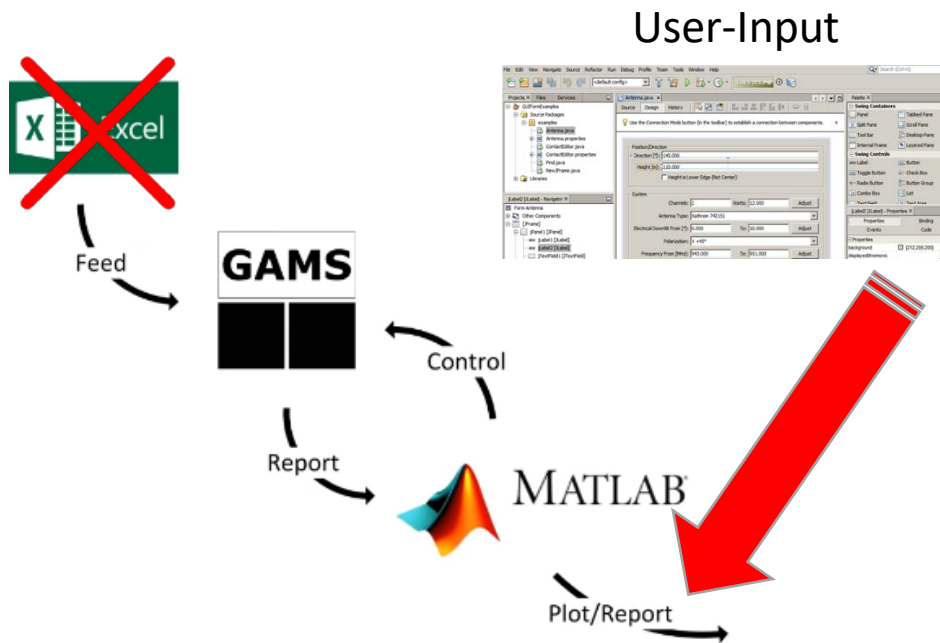
Summary

- Developed a systematic framework for comparing solvent recovery options
 - Simultaneous assessments of economic and environmental impacts
 - Additional case studies from other industries are being analyzed
- Powerful tool to enhance solvent recovery practices in industry
 - Improve process optimization
 - Reduce global solvent consumption/waste (industrial collaboration required)



Future Work

- A user-friendly solvent recovery tool
 - Considers the optimization of solvent recovery pathways from economics and environmental impacts perspectives
 - Use the developed solvent recovery framework as a backbone
 - Does not require the user to know coding or Chemical Engineering



Current Project Team

John D. Chea



Graduate Student

Emmanuel Aboagye



Graduate Student

Vanessa Pierce



Undergraduate Student

Austin Lehr



Undergraduate Student

Jake Stengel



Undergraduate Student

Kirti M. Yenkie, PhD



Principal Investigator

C. Stewart Slater, PhD



Co-Investigator

Mariano J. Savelski, PhD



Co-Investigator

Sustainable Design and Systems Medicine Lab
Research Group Website: <https://yenkiekm.com/>
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Student Achievements

- Austin Lehr and Jake Stengel earned the 3rd place in Computing and Process Control (Undergraduate Poster Session) at 2019 AIChE Annual Student Conference, Orlando, FL
- They were ranked in top 5 among 149 participants in the Computing and Systems Technology (CAST) poster session at 2019 AIChE Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL
- A peer-reviewed journal paper published in Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research
Chea, J.D., Lehr, A., Stengel, J., Savelski, M.J., Slater, C.S., Yenkie, K.M., 2020. Evaluation of Solvent Recovery Options for Economic Feasibility through a Superstructure-Based Optimization Framework. Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research.
<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.iecr.9b06725>
- A peer-reviewed conference paper published in 2019 FOCAPD (Foundations of Computer-Aided Process Design) Conference, Copper Mountain, CO Proceedings.

Acknowledgements

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Pollution Prevention (P2) Program (NP96259218-0)
- Sustainable Design and Systems Medicine Lab
Undergraduate Student Alumni (2018-19):
Amanda Christon, Maxim Russ, and Julia Reilly
- Rowan University Department of Chemical Engineering

