



# MASS INTEGRATION AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

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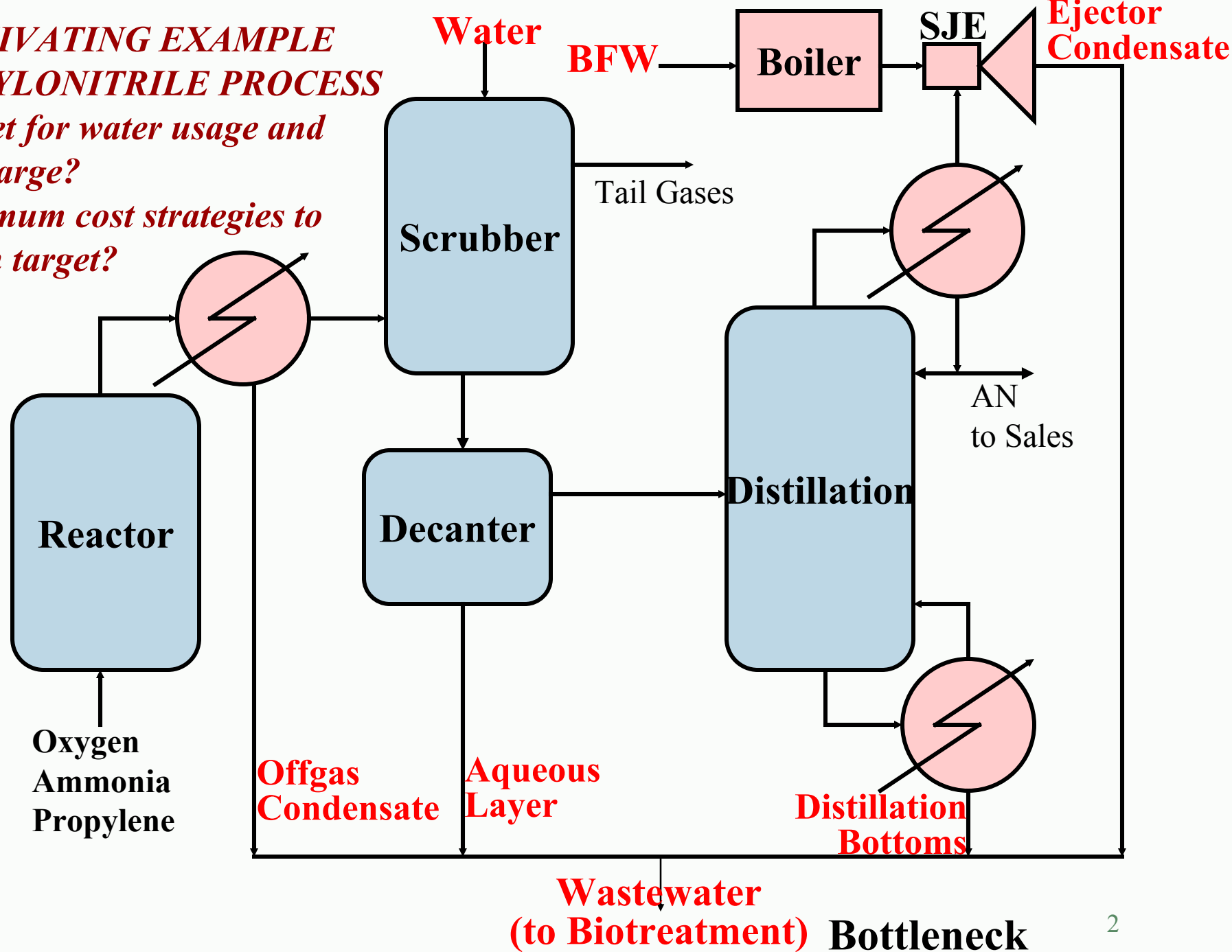
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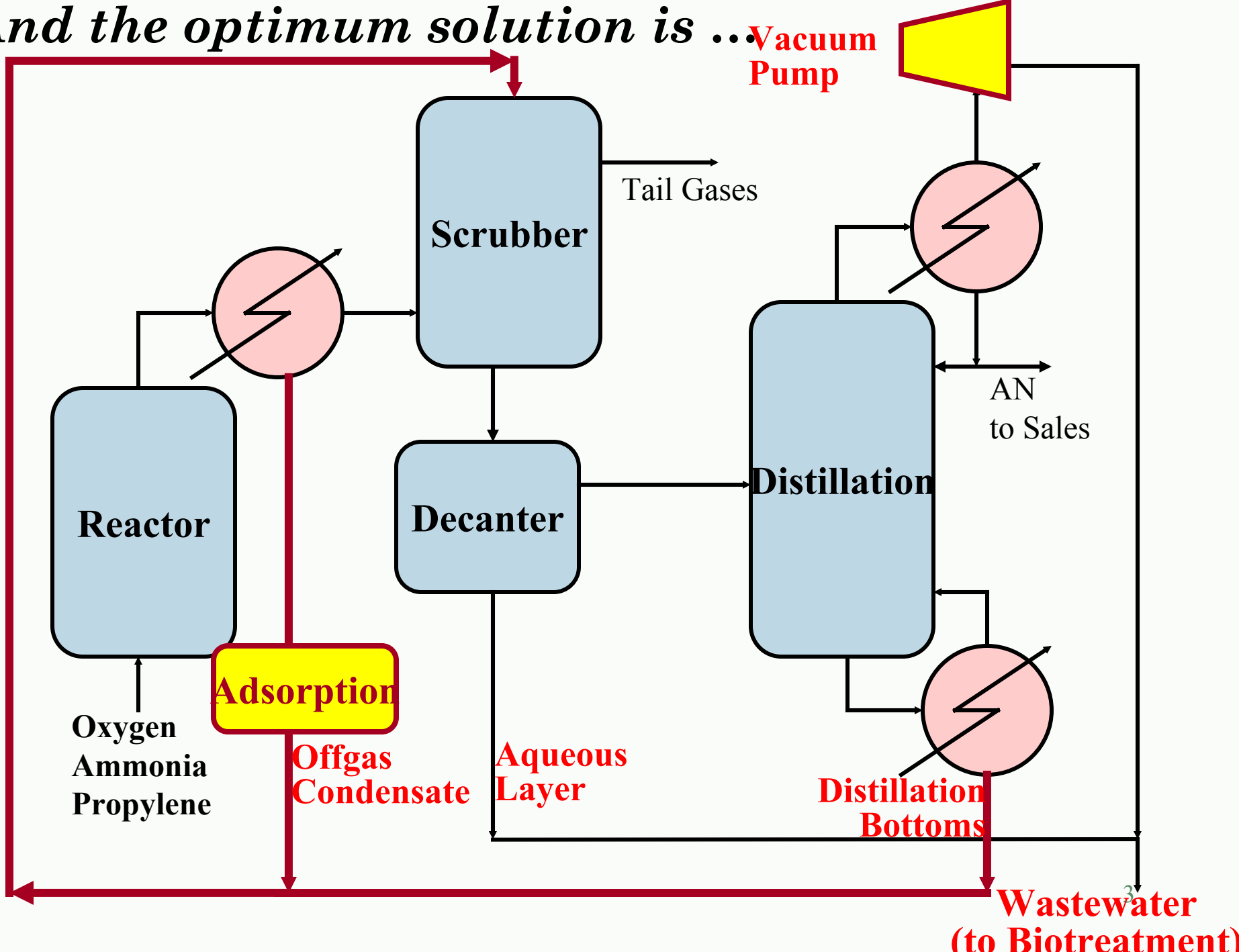
**MOTIVATING EXAMPLE**  
**ACRYLONITRILE PROCESS**

*Target for water usage and discharge?*

*Minimum cost strategies to attain target?*



*And the optimum solution is ...*



# OBSERVATIONS

- **Numerous alternatives**
- **Intuitively non-obvious solutions**
- **Focus on root causes not symptoms, must go to heart of process**
- **Need a systematic methodology to extract optimum solution**
- **Process must be treated as an integrated system**

# Conventional Engineering Approaches

- **Brainstorming among experienced engineers**
- **Evolutionary techniques: copy (or adapt) the last design we or someone else did**
- **Heuristics based on experience-based rules**

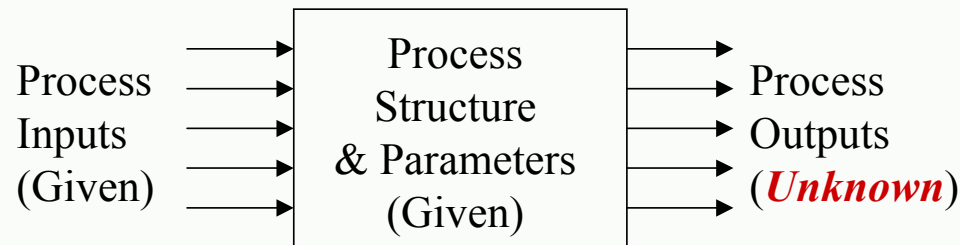
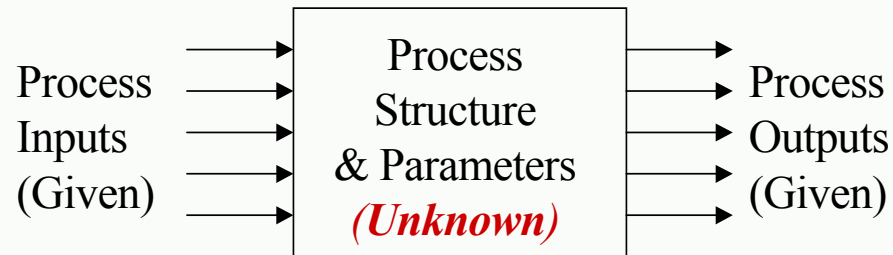
## State of the art:

Systematic, fundamental, and generally applicable techniques can be learned and applied to synthesize optimal designs for improving process performance.

This is possible via *Process Synthesis and Integration + Optimization*:

*You will learn the fundamentals  
and applications of process synthesis, integration,  
and optimization*

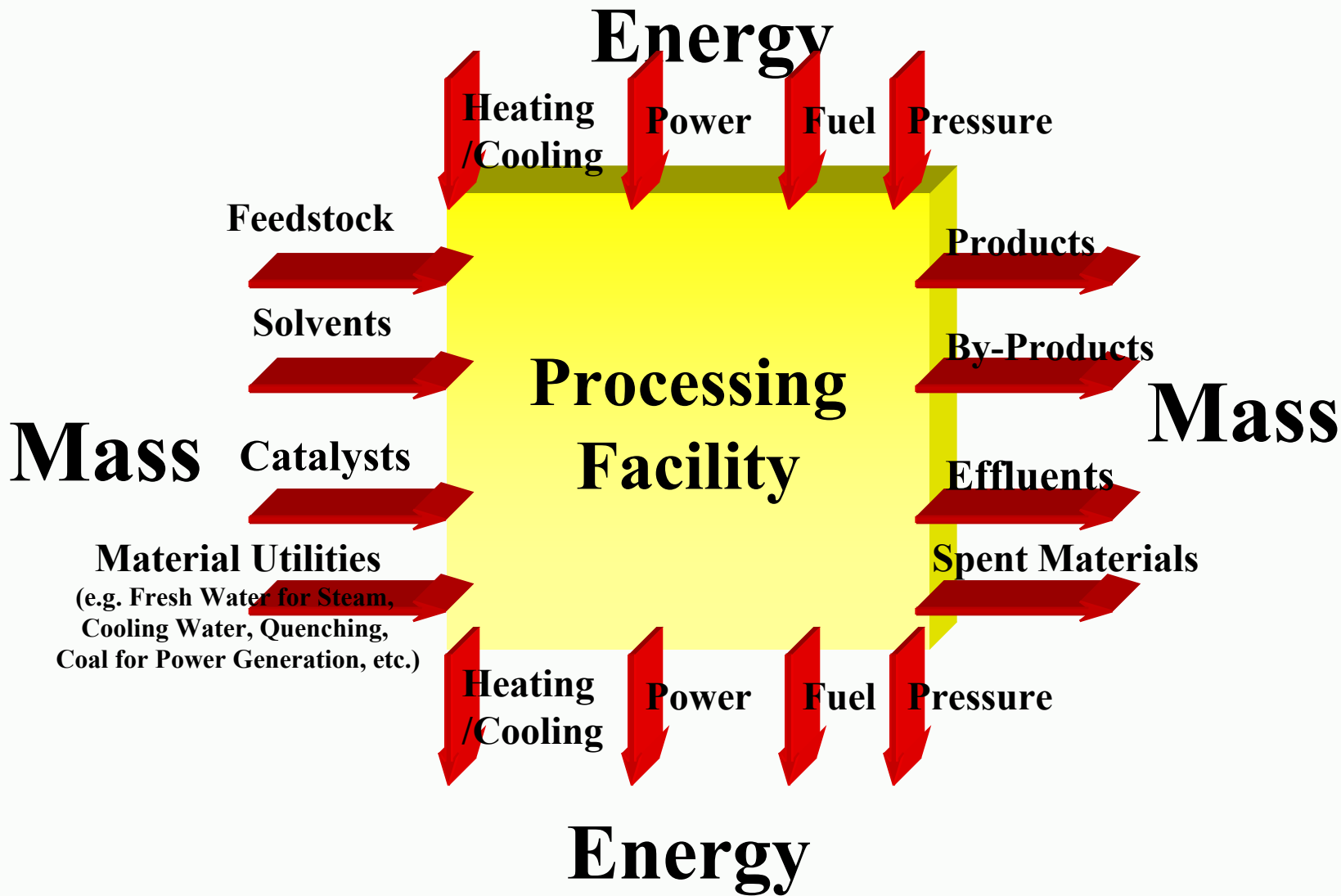
# Process Design = Process Synthesis + Process Analysis



# PROCESS INTEGRATION

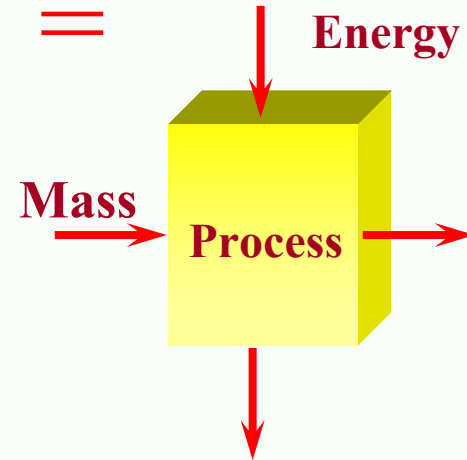
A holistic approach to process design and operation that emphasizes the unity of the process and optimizes its design and operation





*Mass-Energy Matrix of a Process*

**PROCESS INTEGRATION =**  
**MASS INTEGRATION +**  
**ENERGY INTEGRATION**



### **Mass Integration**

A systematic methodology that provides fundamental understanding of the global flow of mass within a process and employs this understanding in identifying performance targets and optimizing the generation and routing of species throughout the process.

# Overall Philosophy

## BIG PICTURE FIRST, DETAILS LATER

**FIRST**, understand  
the global picture  
of the process and  
develop system insights



**LATER**, think equipment,  
detailed simulation, and  
process details.

# TARGETING APPROACH OF PROCESS INTEGRATION

Identification of performance targets  
for the whole process AHEAD of  
detailed design!!!

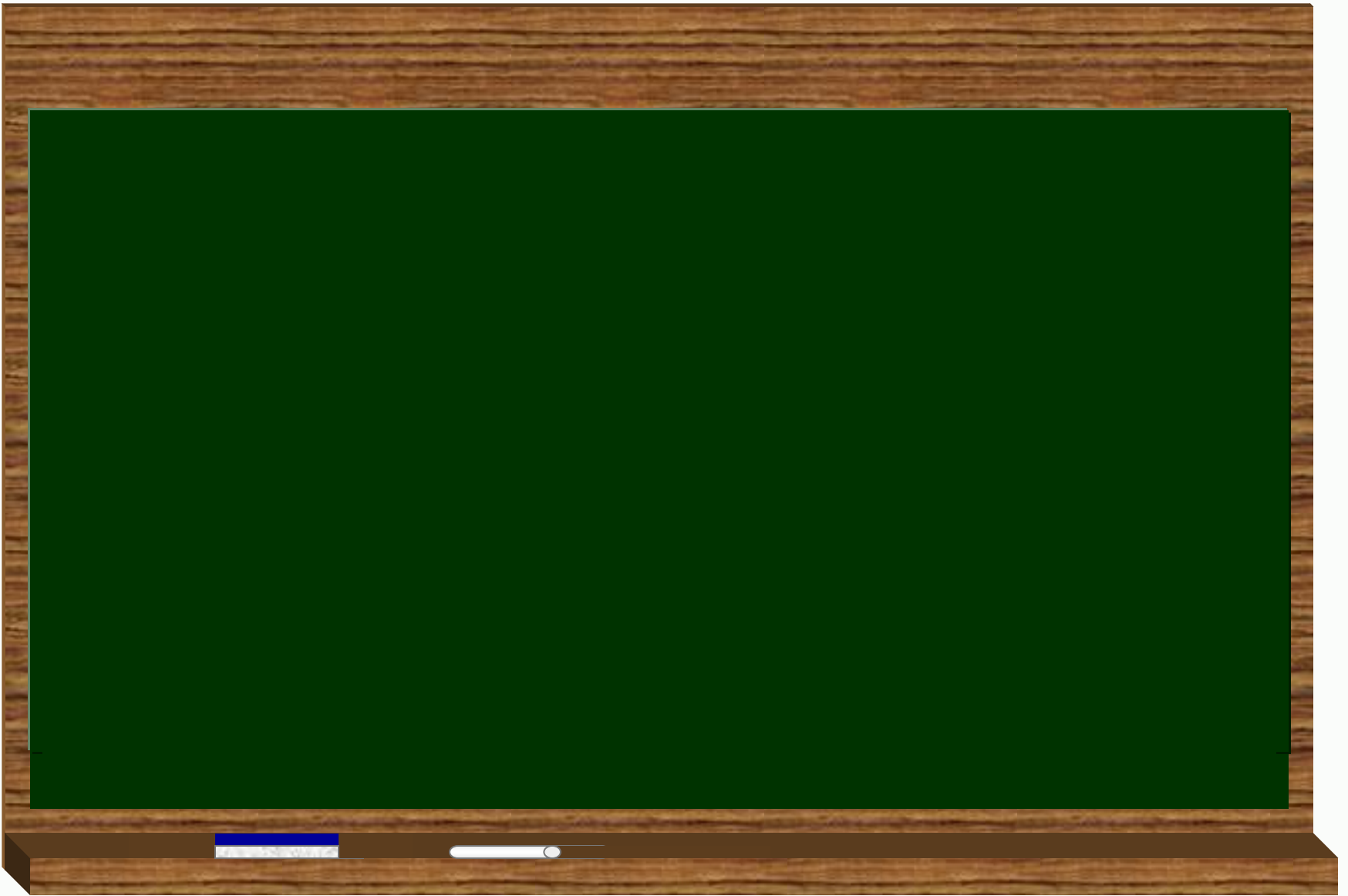
## Specific Performance Objectives

- Profitability improvement
- Yield enhancement
- Resource (mass and energy) conservation
- Pollution prevention/waste minimization
- Safety improvement

**How?**

# ELEMENTS OF PROCESS INTEGRATION

- **Task Identification:** Explicitly express the goal as an **actionable** task  
Examples: - Pollution prevention = decrease flowrate of wastewater, pollutant loading, etc.  
- Debottlenecking = reduction in wastewater flowrate
- **Targeting:** Benchmark performance ahead of detailed design
- **Generation and selection of alternatives (synthesis)**
- **Evaluation of selected alternatives (analysis)**

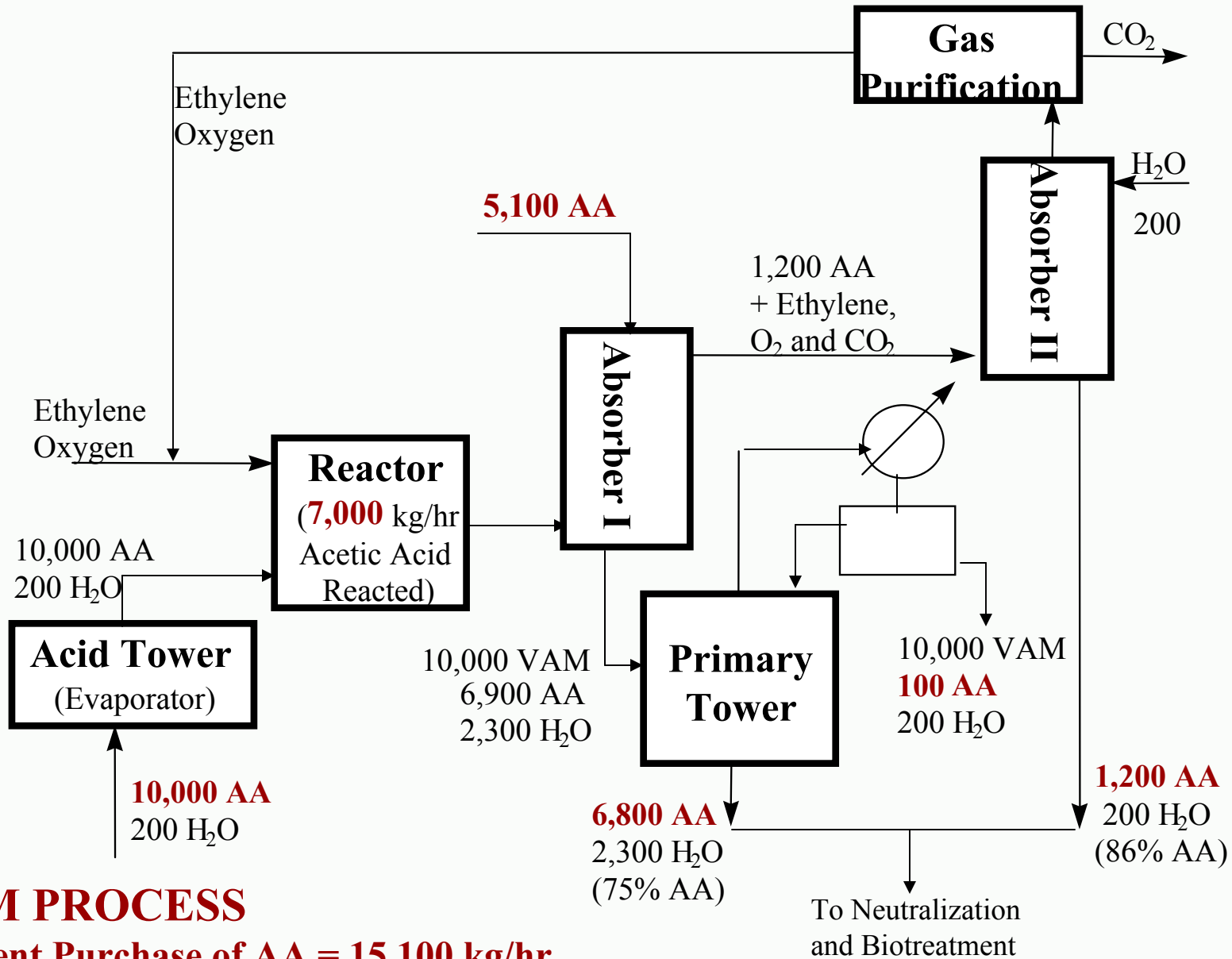


## **We will learn:**

- ⇒ How to identify best achievable pollution-prevention targets for a process **WITHOUT** detailed calculations.
- ⇒ How to **systematically** reach the target at minimum cost?
- ⇒ How to determine optimal stream rerouting?
- ⇒ How to place additional units and determine their performance?
- ⇒ How to understand the **BIG** picture of a process and use it to reduce waste from **any** plant?

# OVERALL MASS TARGETING

WHAT IS TARGET FOR MINIMUM AA FRESH PURCHASE?

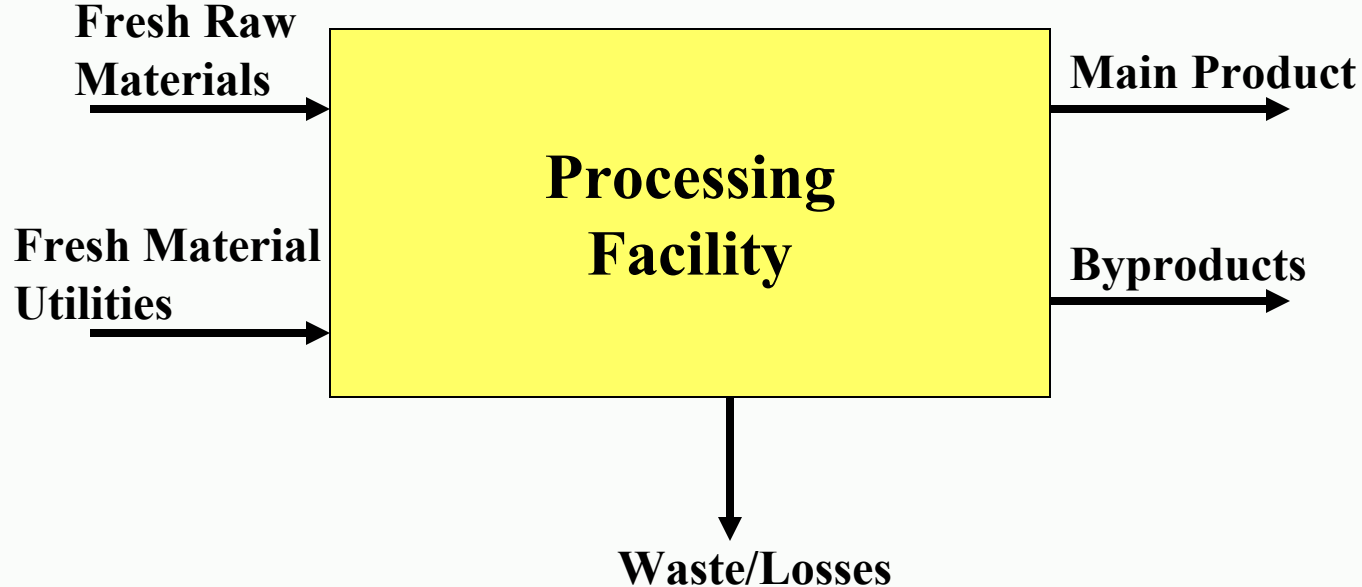


## VAM PROCESS

Current Purchase of AA = 15,100 kg/hr



# OVERALL MASS TARGETING



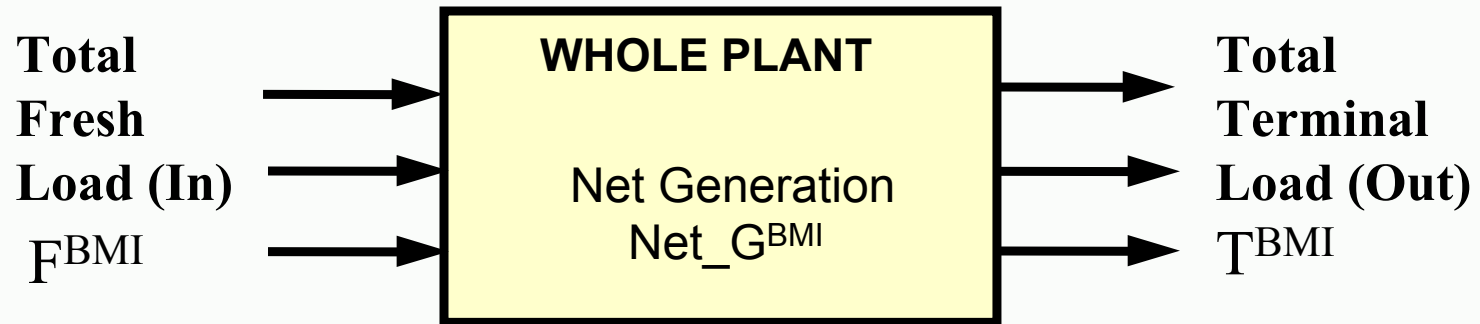
How to benchmark performance for mass objectives of the whole process ahead of detailed design?

- **Minimization of waste discharge/losses**
- **Minimization of purchase of fresh resources (raw materials, material utilities)**
- **Maximization of desired products/byproducts**

Need a holistic and generally applicable procedure

## Example 1: Reduction of Terminal Losses or Discharge of Waste

- **Terminal Load (out) = Fresh Load (in) + Net Generation**



Overall Mass Balance Before Mass Integration (BMI)

$$T^{BMI} = F^{BMI} + Net\_G^{BMI}$$

For fixed generation:

Minimum terminal (out) corresponds to minimum fresh (in)

To minimize fresh:

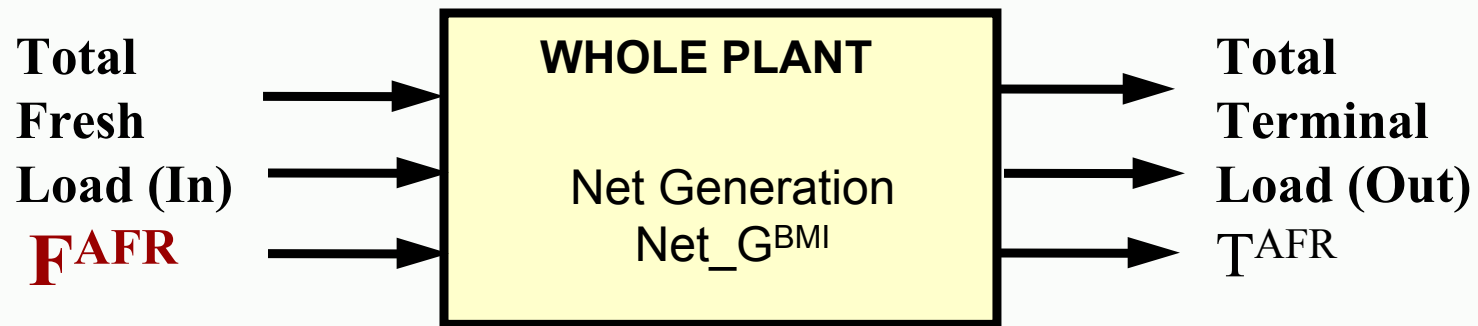
1. Adjust design and operating variables
2. Maximize recycle to replace fresh usage

## 1. Adjust Design and Operating Variables to Reduce Fresh

- What are the design and operating variables in the process that influence fresh consumption?
- Which ones are allowed to be changed (manipulated variables)?
- How is fresh usage related to these design and operating variables?

Fresh Usage =  $f$  (manipulated design variables, manipulated operating variables)

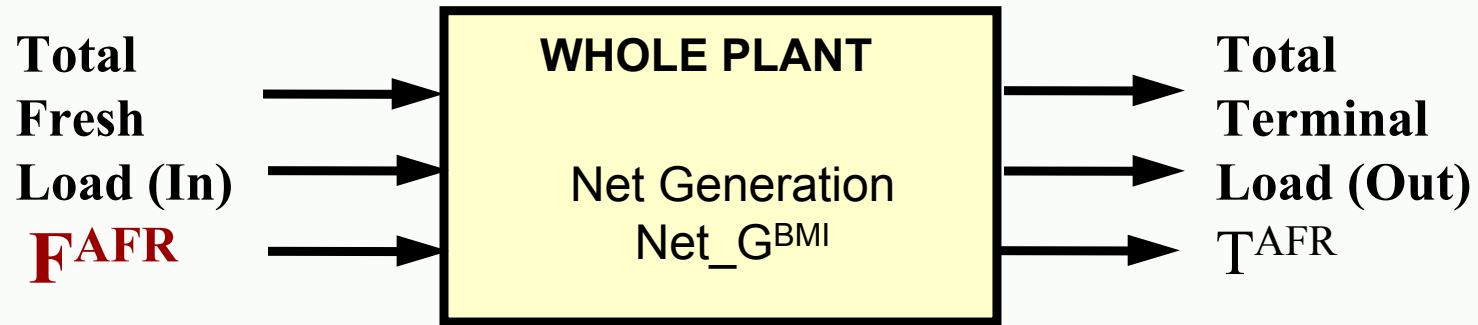
$F^{AFR}$  = minimize  $f$  (manipulated design variables, manipulated operating variables)



Overall Mass Balance after Fresh Reduction

$$T^{AFR} = F^{AFR} + \text{Net\_G}^{BMI}$$

## 2. Maximize Recycle to Reduce Fresh Usage



Overall Mass Balance after Fresh Reduction

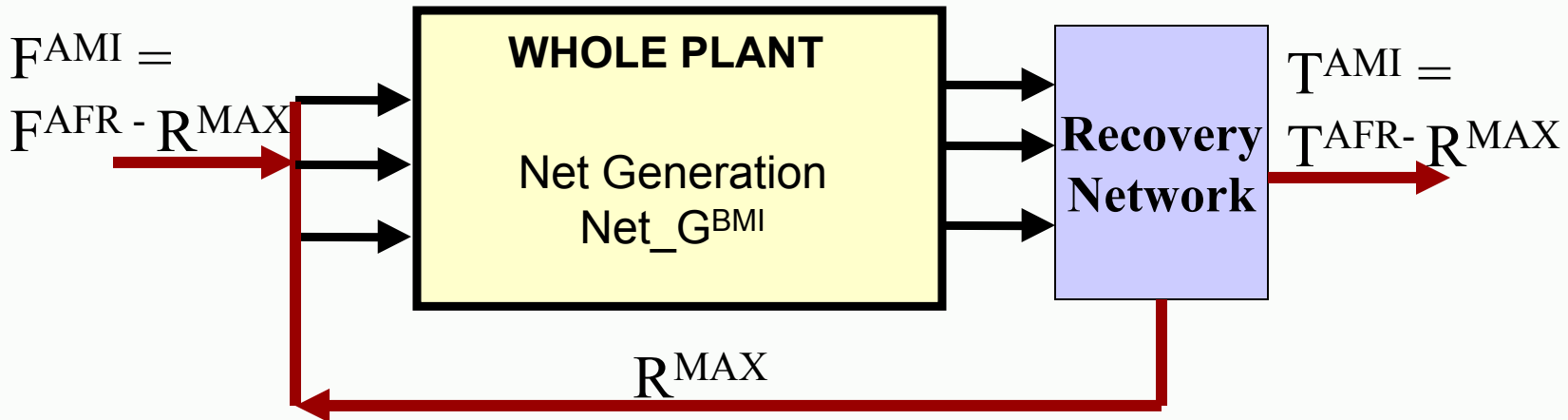
$$T^{AFR} = F^{AFR} + \text{Net\_G}^{BMI}$$

Need to replace maximum load of fresh load with recycled terminal load

### What is maximum recyclable load?

## Recycle Rules to Reduce Terminal Load (continued):

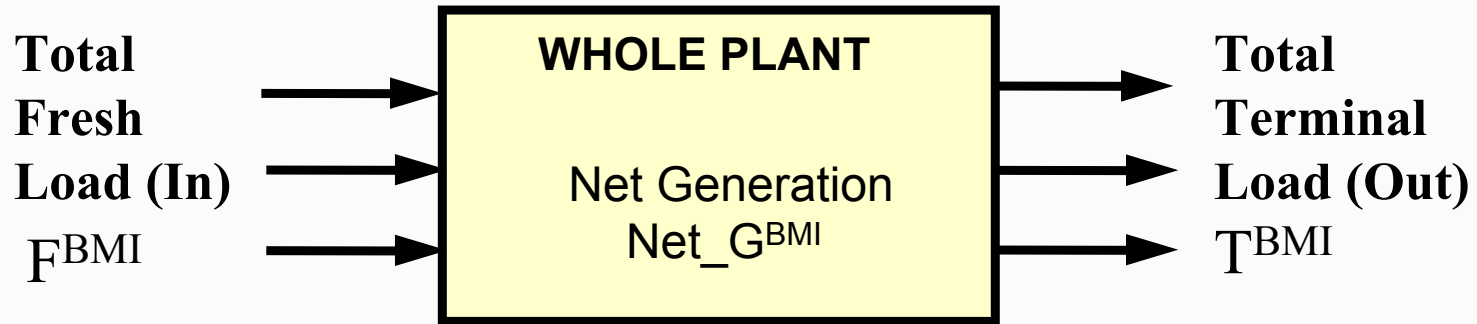
- Recovery devices can recover (almost) all terminal load and render acceptable quality to replace fresh feed. During targeting, cost and details of recovery are not relevant (yet)
- Maximize recycle from outlet path to fresh inlets (can recycle the smaller of the two loads: total recovered terminal vs. total needed fresh).  $R^{\max} = \operatorname{argmin} \{F^{\text{AFR}}, T^{\text{AFR}}\}$



Target After Mass Integration (AMI)

## Example 2: Reduction of Terminal Losses or Discharge of Waste for Variable Generation

- **Terminal Load (out) = Fresh Load (in) + Net Generation**



Overall Mass Balance Before Mass Integration (BMI)

$$T_{BMI} = F_{BMI} + Net\_G^{BMI}$$

Minimize generation of waste  
(or targeted species)

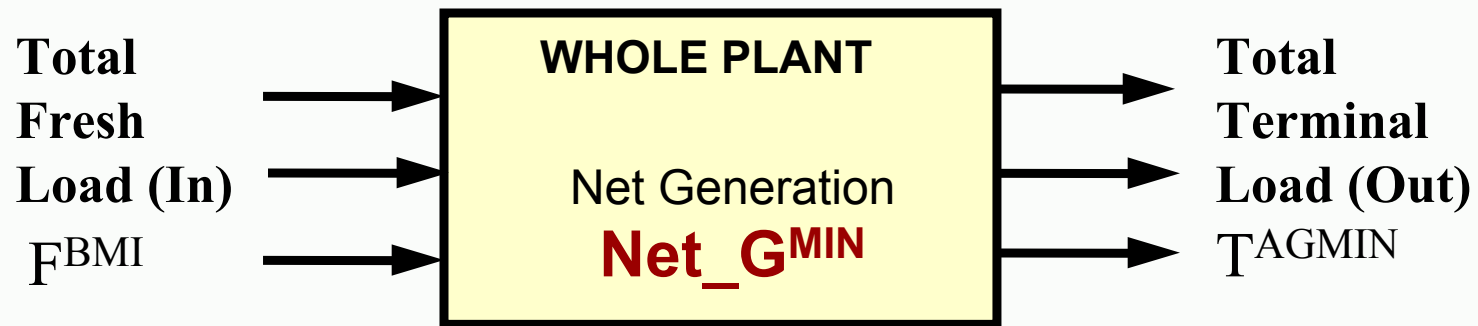
Minimize fresh:

1. Adjust design and operating variables
2. Maximize recycle to replace fresh usage

## Minimizing Generation of Waste

Minimize generation (or maximize depletion) of targeted species (e.g., Describe generation quantitatively then identify values of design and operating conditions of reactors to minimize generation)

**Terminal Load (out) = Fresh Load (in) + Generation (- Depletion)**

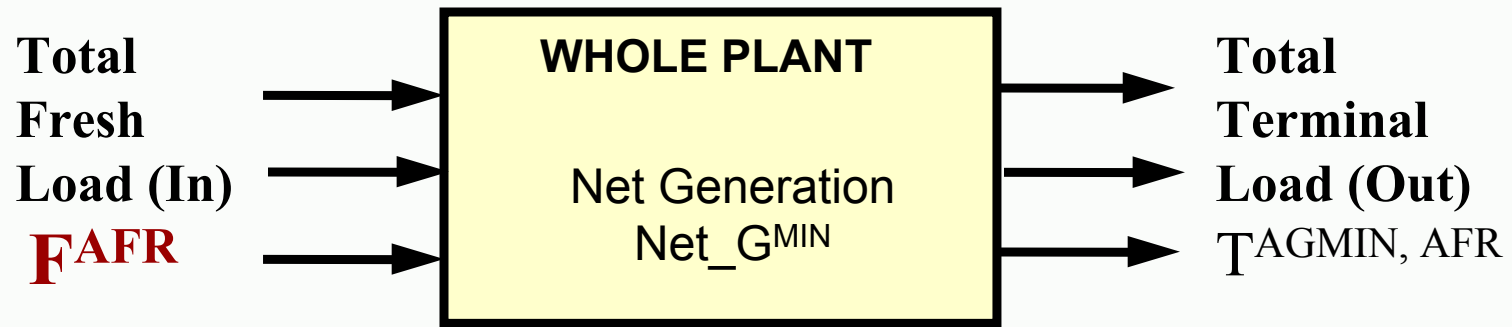


Overall Mass Balance after Minimization of Generation

$$T^{AGMIN} = F^{BMI} + \text{Net\_G}^{MIN}$$

## Adjust Design and Operating Variables to Reduce Fresh

**Terminal Load (out) = Fresh Load (in) + Generation (- Depletion)**



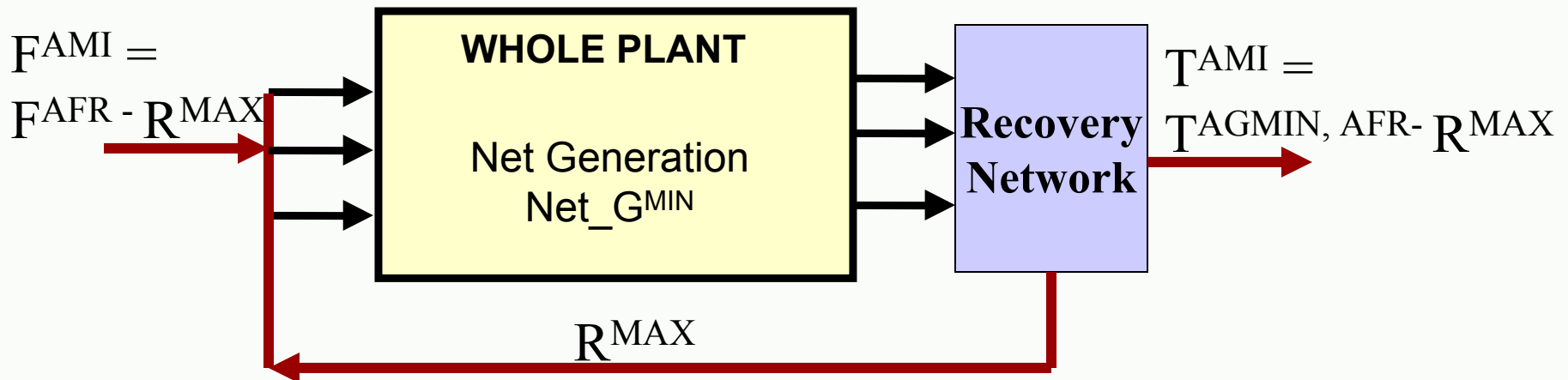
Overall Mass Balance after Fresh Reduction and Minimization of Generation

$$TAGMIN, AFR = F^{AFR} + Net\_G^{MIN}$$



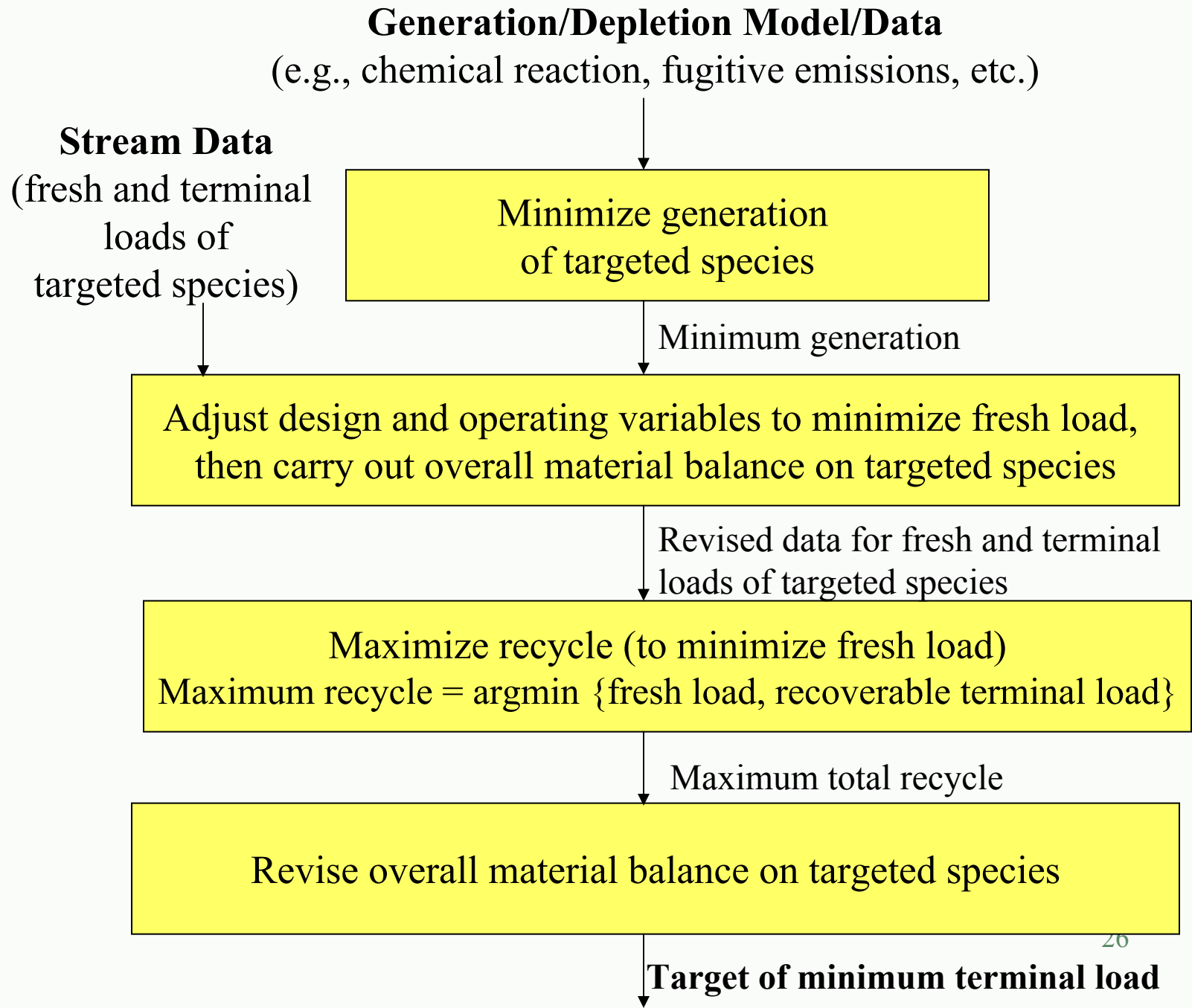
## **Recycle Rules to Reduce Terminal Load (continued):**

- **Recovery devices can recover (almost) all terminal load and render acceptable quality to replace fresh feed. During targeting, cost and details of recovery are not relevant (yet)**
- **Maximize recycle from outlet path to fresh inlets (can recycle the smaller of the two loads: total recovered terminal vs. total needed fresh).  $R^{\max} = \operatorname{argmin} \{F^{\text{AFR}}, T^{\text{AGMIN}}, A^{\text{FR}}\}$**

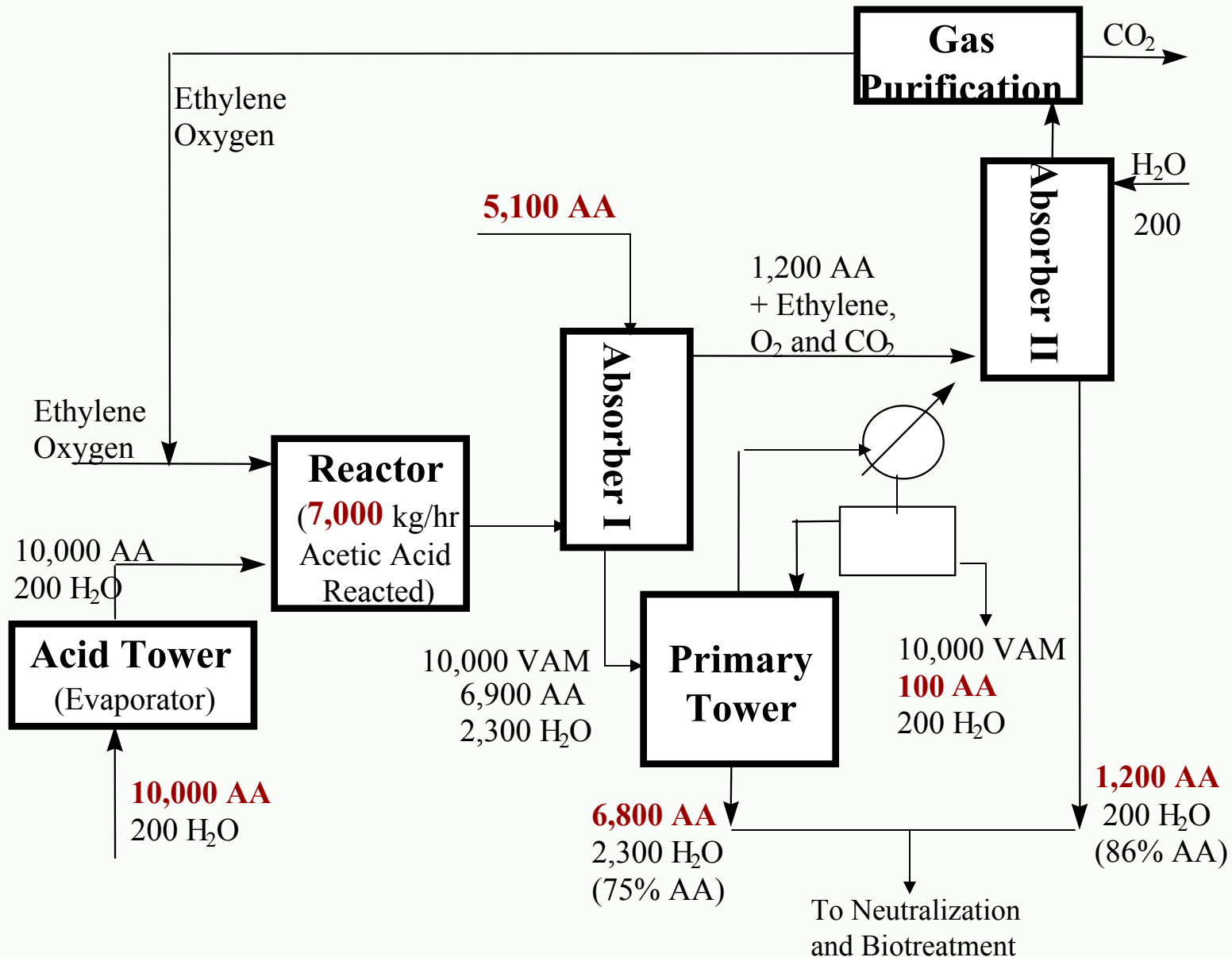


Target After Mass Integration (AMI)

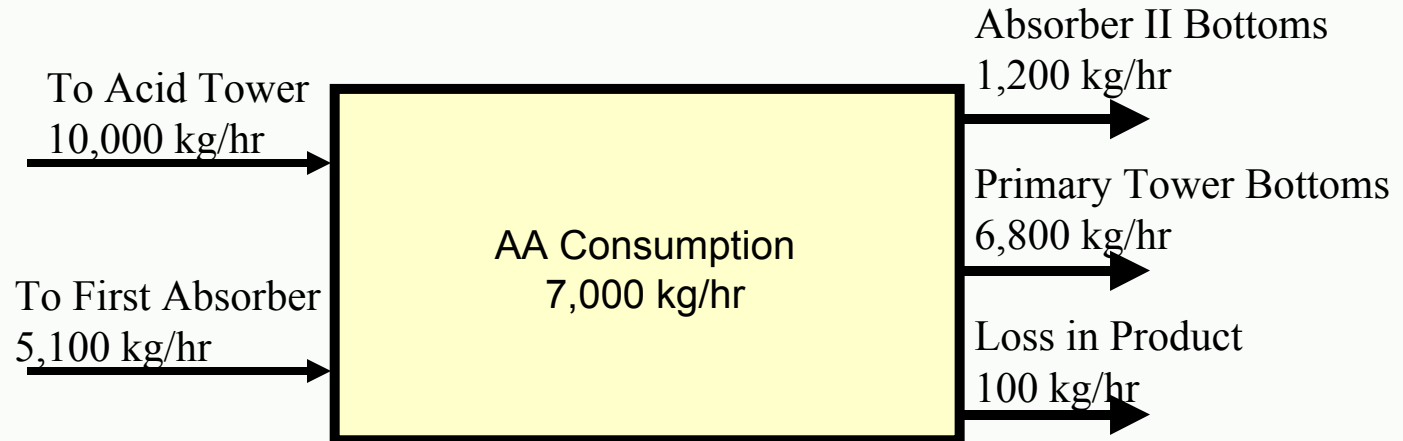
# TARGETING PROCEDURE TO MINIMIZE TERMINAL LOSS OR WASTE DISCHARGE



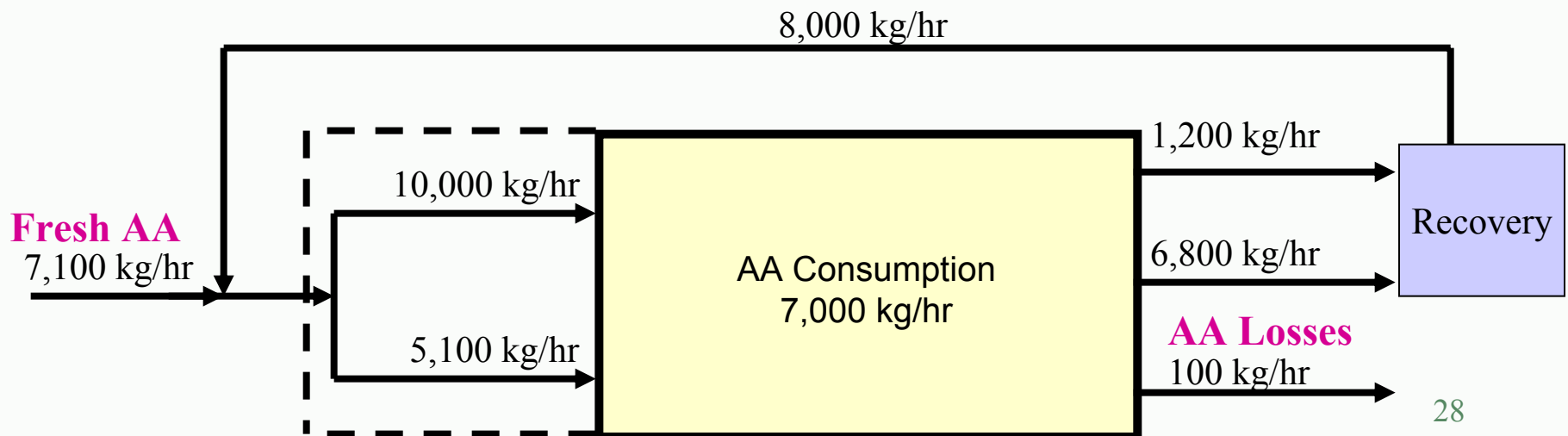
# CASE STUDY I: MINIMIZE AA FRESH PURCHASE IN VAM PROCESS



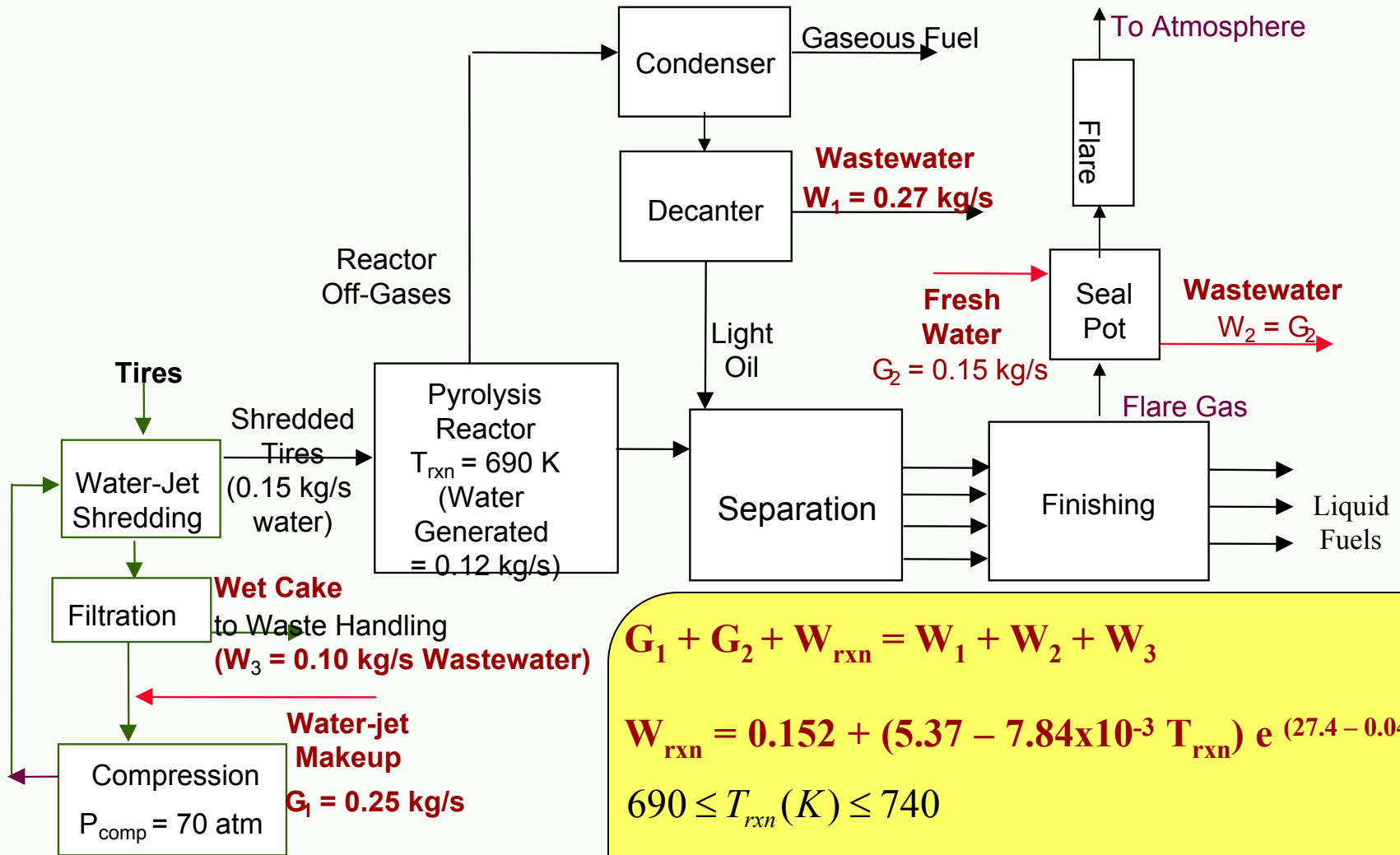
## Overall AA Balance Before Mass Integration



## Targeting for Minimum Purchase of Fresh AA



# EXAMPLE II: MINIMIZE WATER DISCHARGE IN TIRE-TO-FUEL PROCESS



$$G_1 + G_2 + W_{rxn} = W_1 + W_2 + W_3$$

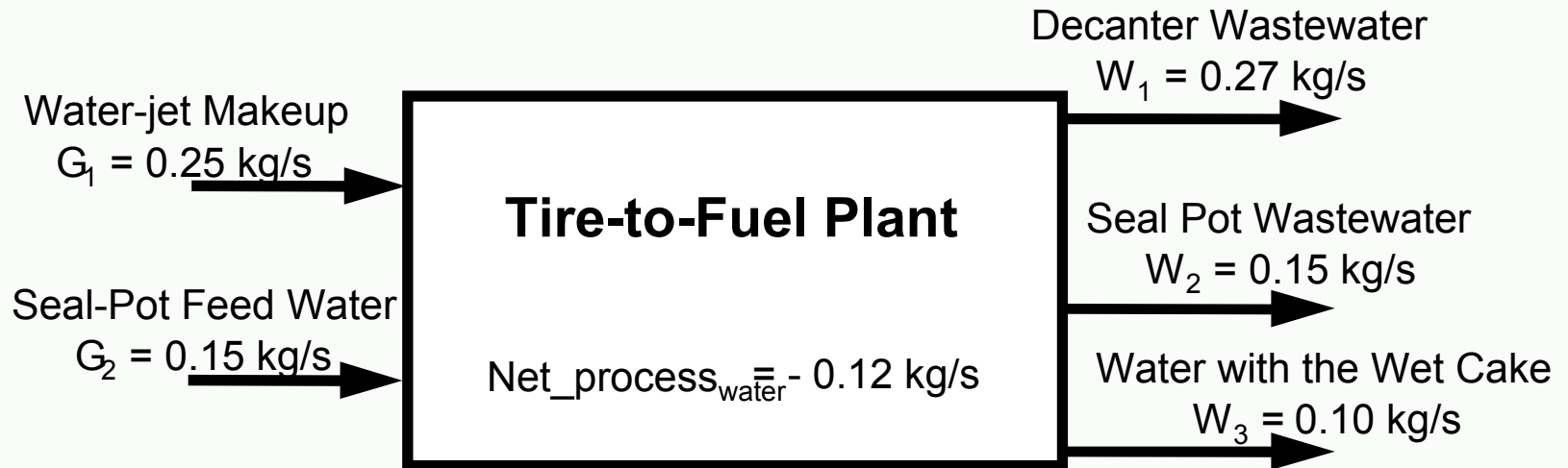
$$W_{rxn} = 0.152 + (5.37 - 7.84 \times 10^{-3} T_{rxn}) e^{(27.4 - 0.04 T_{rxn})}$$

$$690 \leq T_{rxn} (K) \leq 740$$

$$G_1 = 0.47 e^{-0.009 P_{comp}} \quad 70 \leq P_{comp} (atm) \leq 90$$

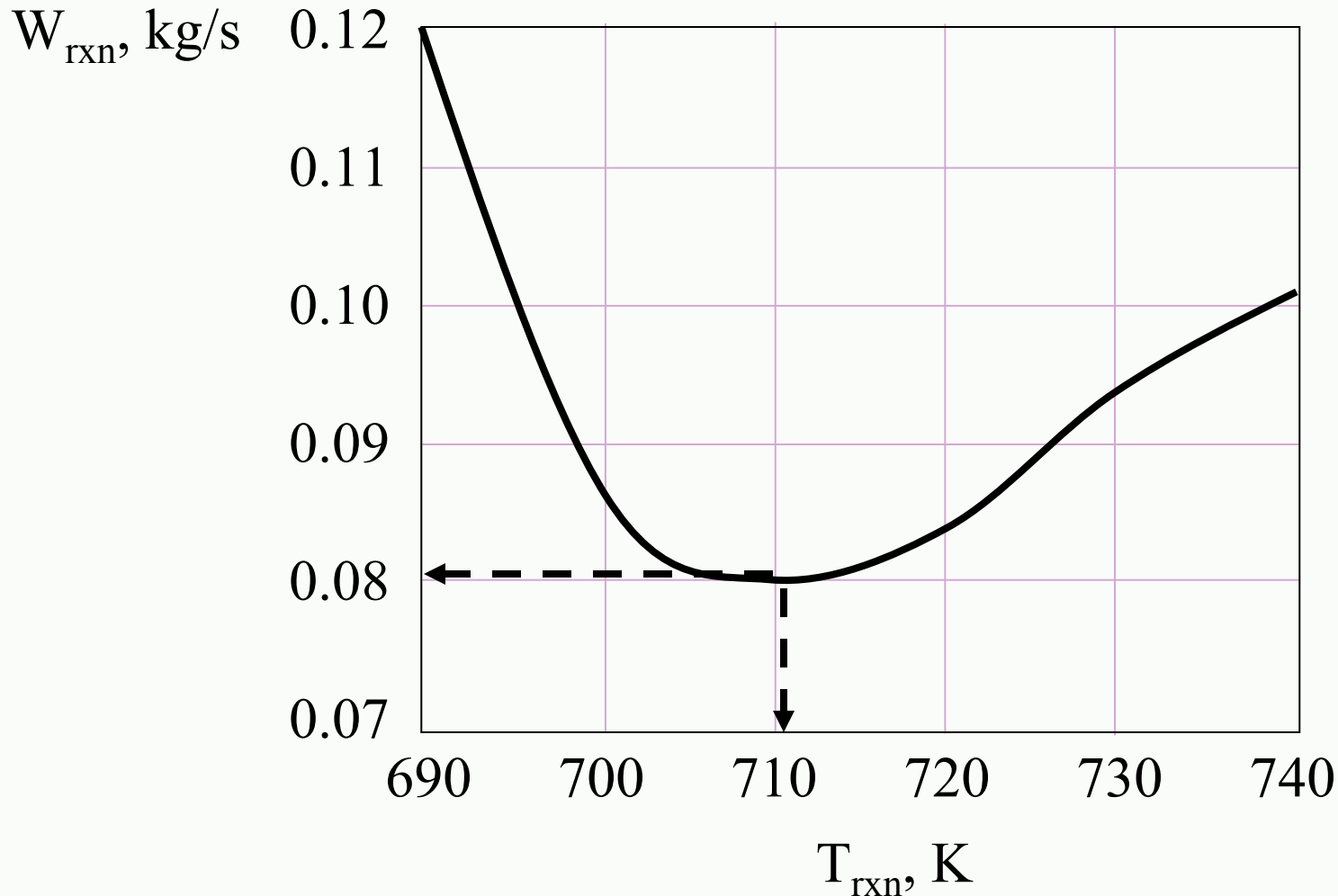
$$G_2 = 0.15 \quad W_2 = G_2 \quad W_3 = 0.4 G_1$$

# OVERALL WATER BALANCE BEFORE MASS INTEGRATION



## Minimize generation of targeted species

$$W_{\text{rxn}} = 0.152 + (5.37 - 7.84 \times 10^{-3} T_{\text{rxn}}) e^{(27.4 - 0.04 T_{\text{rxn}})}$$



**Adjust design and operating variables to minimize fresh load, then carry out overall material balance on targeted species**

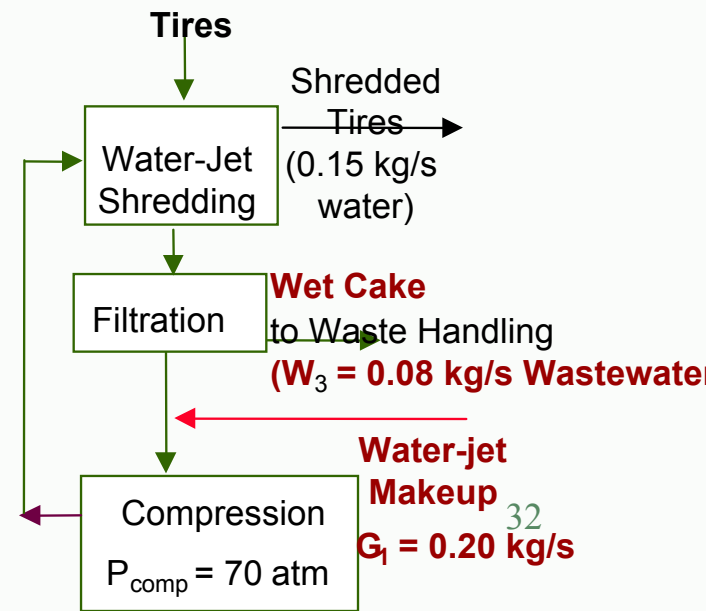
$$G_1 = 0.47 e^{-0.009 P_{comp}}$$

$$70 \leq P_{comp} (atm) \leq 90$$

**→ Set  $P_{comp} = 90 \text{ atm}$        $G_1 = 0.47 e^{-0.009 \cdot 90} = 0.2$**

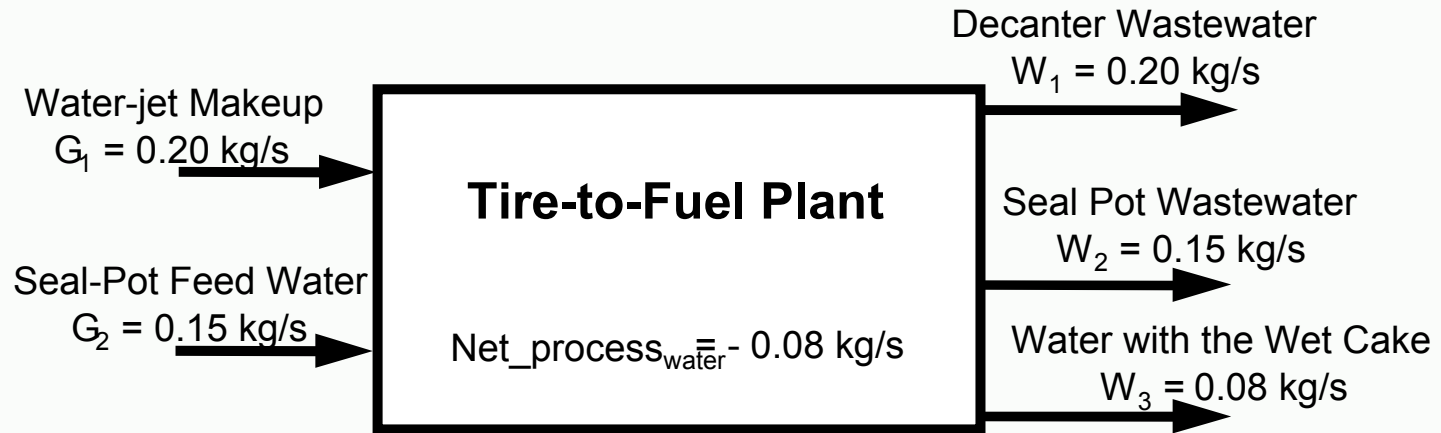
**→ Minimum water for shredding  $G_1 = 0.2 \text{ kg/s}$**

$$W_3 = 0.4 G_1 = 0.08 \text{ kg/s}$$



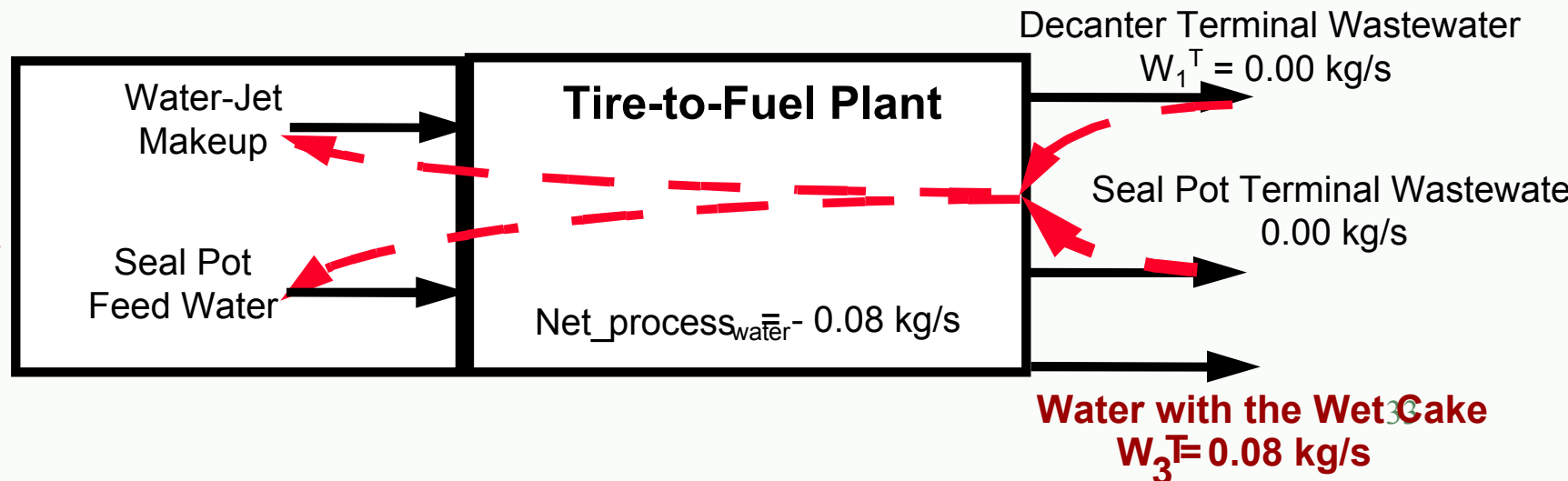


# OVERALL WATER BALANCE AFTER MASS INTEGRATION



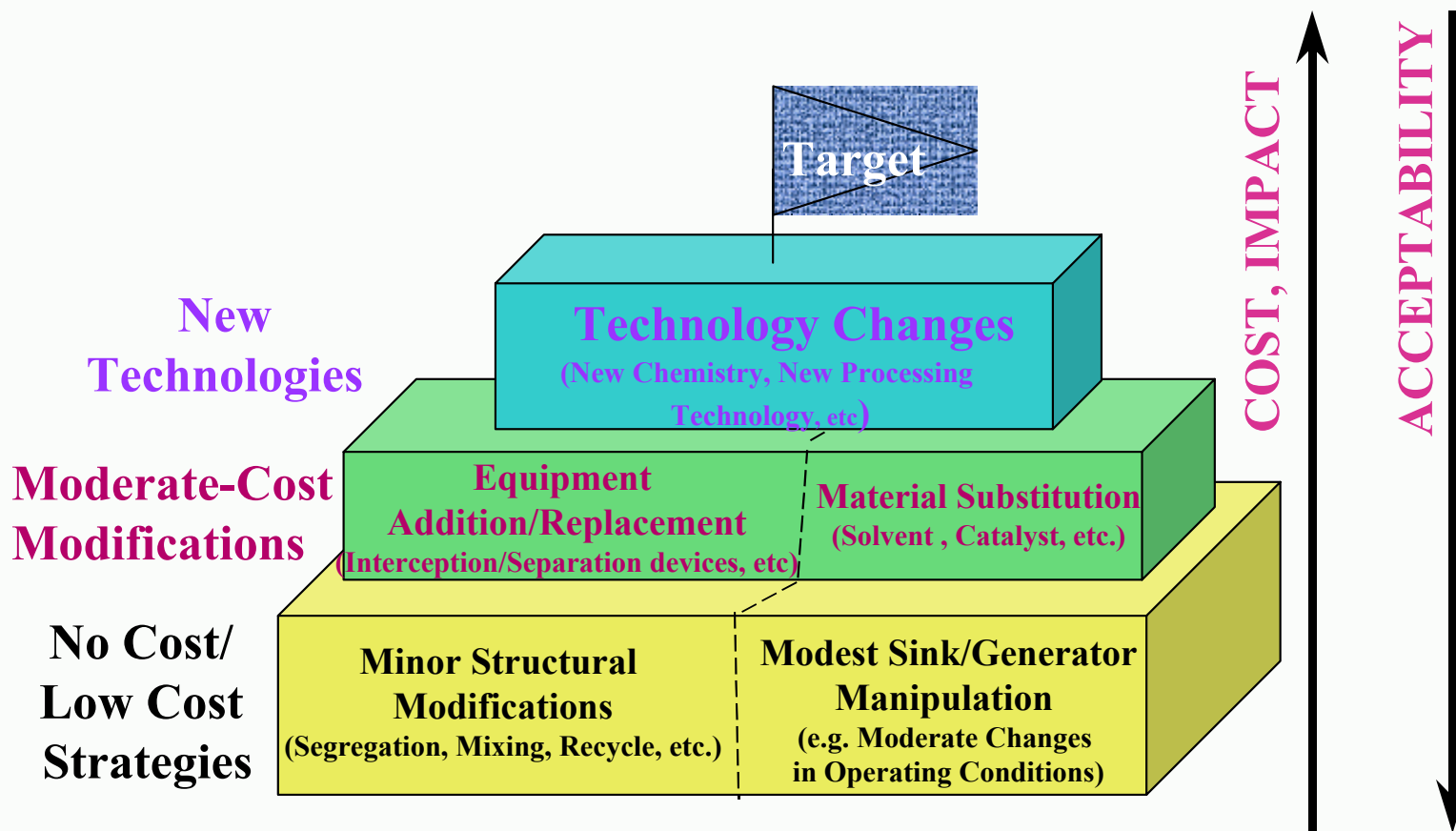
## WATER TARGETING

**No  
Fresh  
Water**



# ACHIEVING THE TARGET

## Mass Integration Strategies



## PRACTICE EXERCISE

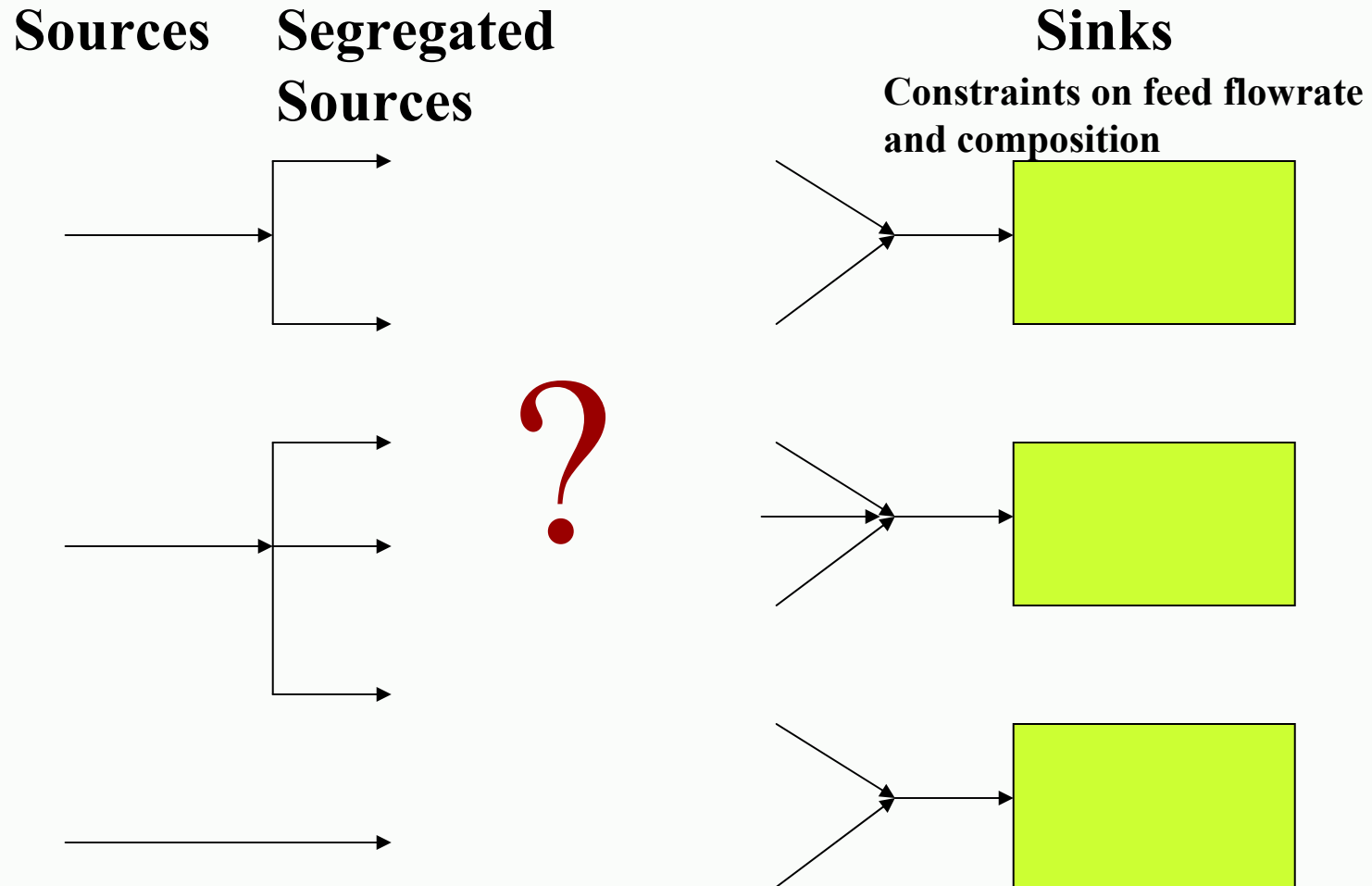
Consider the VAM process described earlier. A new reaction pathway has been developed and will to be used for the production of VAM. This new reaction does not involve acetic acid. The rest of the process remains virtually unchanged and the AA losses with the product are 100 kh/hr. What are the targets for minimum fresh usage and discharge/losses of AA?

# **DIRECT RECYCLE STRATEGIES**

**Objective: to develop a graphical procedure that determines the target and implementation for minimum usage of the fresh resource, maximum material reuse, and minimum discharge to waste as a result of direct recycle.**

**Direct Recycle: rerouting of streams without the addition of new units. It involves segregation, mixing, and allocation.**

# DIRECT RECYCLE REPRESENTATION



**Source:** A stream which contains the targeted species

**Sink:** An existing process unit/equipment that can accept a source

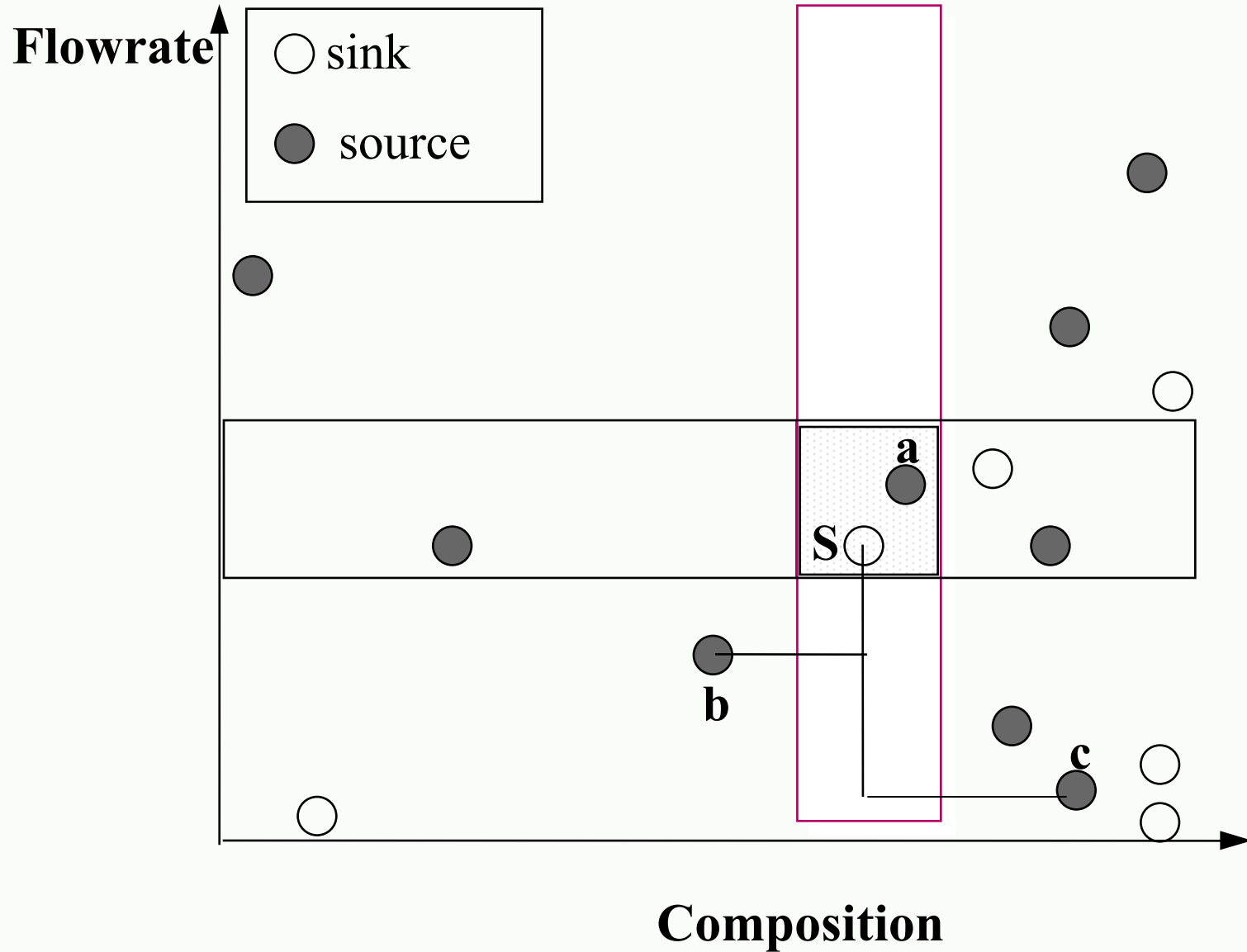
## PROBLEM STATEMENT

Consider a process with a number of process sources (e.g., process streams, wastes) that can be considered for possible recycle and replacement of the fresh material and/or reduction of waste discharge. Each source,  $i$ , has a given flow rate,  $W_i$ , and a given composition of a targeted species,  $y_i$ . Available for service is a fresh (external) resource that can be purchased to supplement the use of process sources in sinks. The sinks are process units such as reactors, separators, etc. Each sink,  $j$ , requires a feed whose flow rate,  $G_j$ , and an inlet composition of a targeted species,  $z_j$ , must satisfy certain bounds on their values.

## DESIGN CHALLENGES

- Should a stream (source) be segregated and split? To how many fractions? What should be the flowrate of each split?
- Should streams or splits of streams be mixed? To what extent?
- What should be the optimum feed entering each sink? What should be its composition?
- What is the minimum amount of fresh resource to be used?
- What is the minimum discharge of unused process sources?

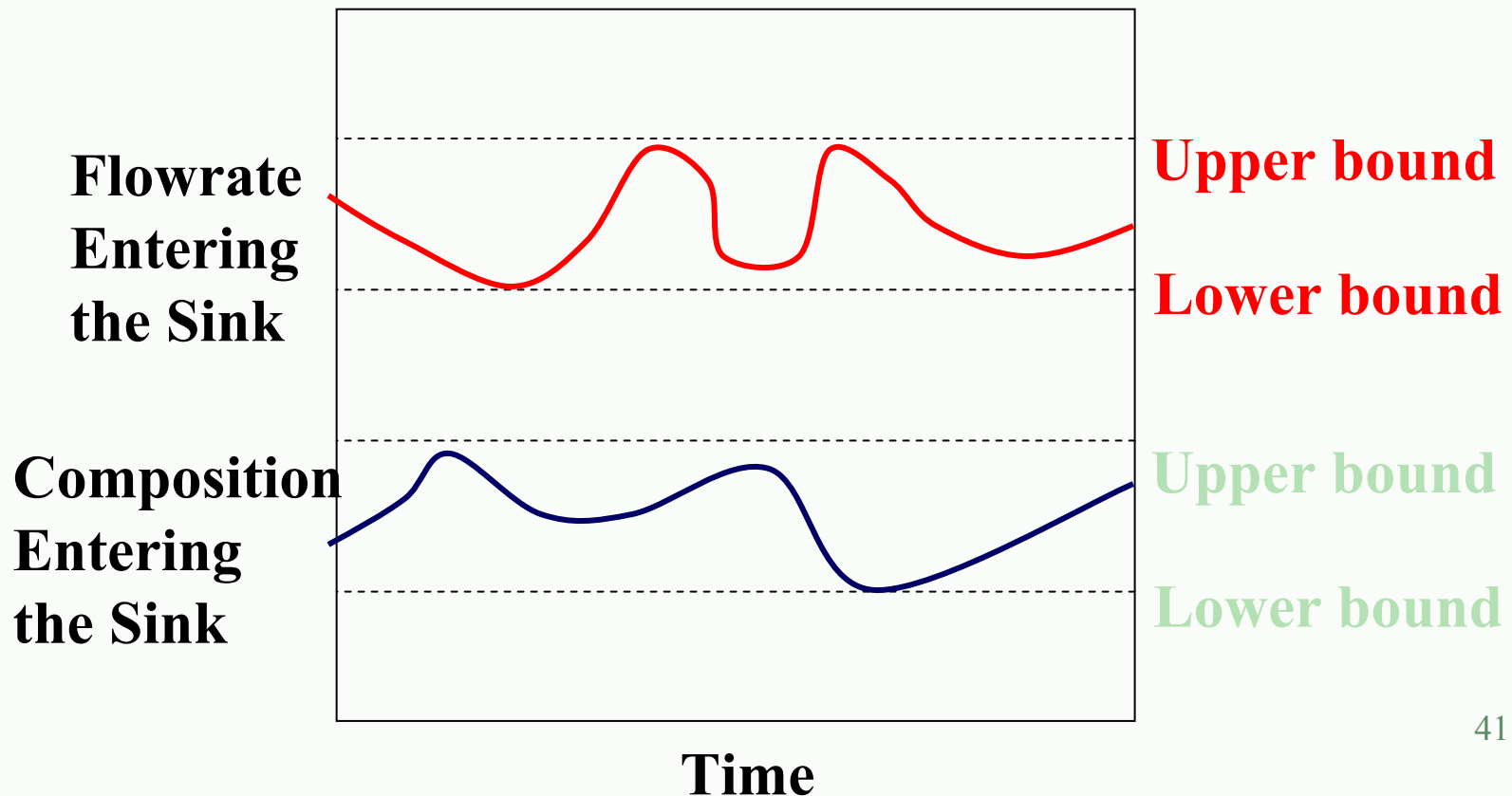
# SOURCE-SINK MAPPING DIAGRAM





## How to Identify Bounds on Sinks?

1. From physical limitations (e.g., flooding flowrate, weeping flowrate, channeling flowrate, saturation composition)
2. From manufacturer's design data
3. From technical constraints (e.g., to avoid scaling, corrosion, explosion, buildup, etc.)
4. From historical data

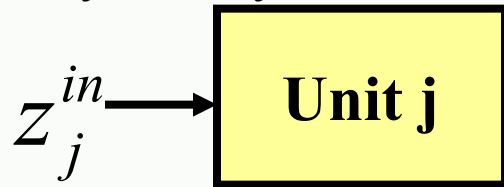


## 5. By constraint propagation

How to identify bounds on sinks? (continued)

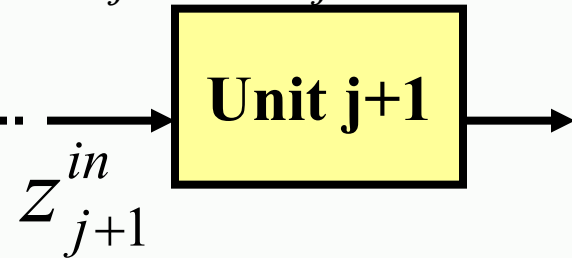
*Unknown Constraints*

$$z_j^{\min} \leq z_j^{\text{in}} \leq z_j^{\max}$$



*Known Constraints*

$$z_{j+1}^{\min} \leq z_{j+1}^{\text{in}} \leq z_{j+1}^{\max}$$



From process model:  $z_{j+1}^{\text{in}} = 2z_j^{\text{in}}$

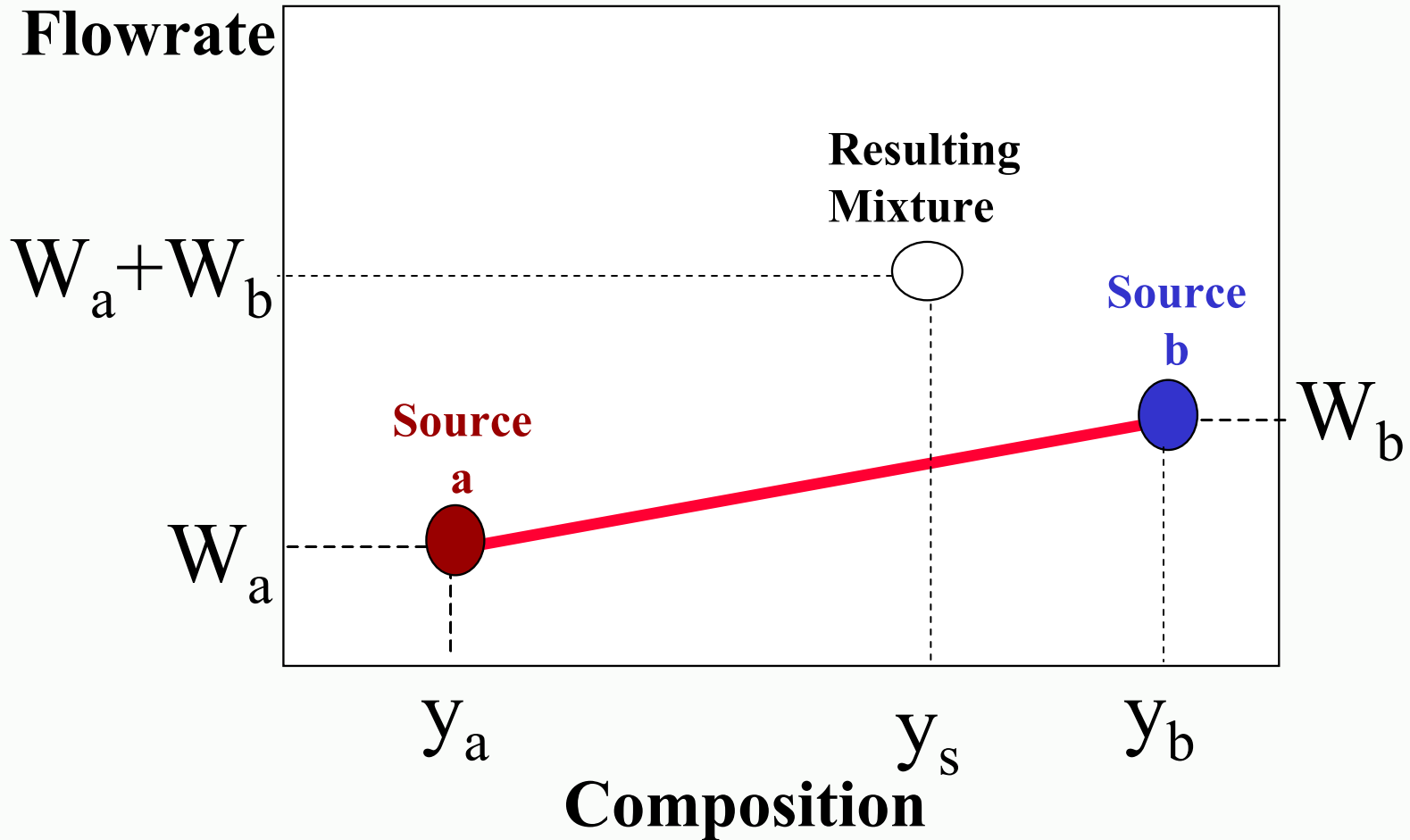
$$0.03 \leq z_j^{\text{in}} \leq 0.04$$



$$0.06 \leq z_{j+1}^{\text{in}} \leq 0.08$$

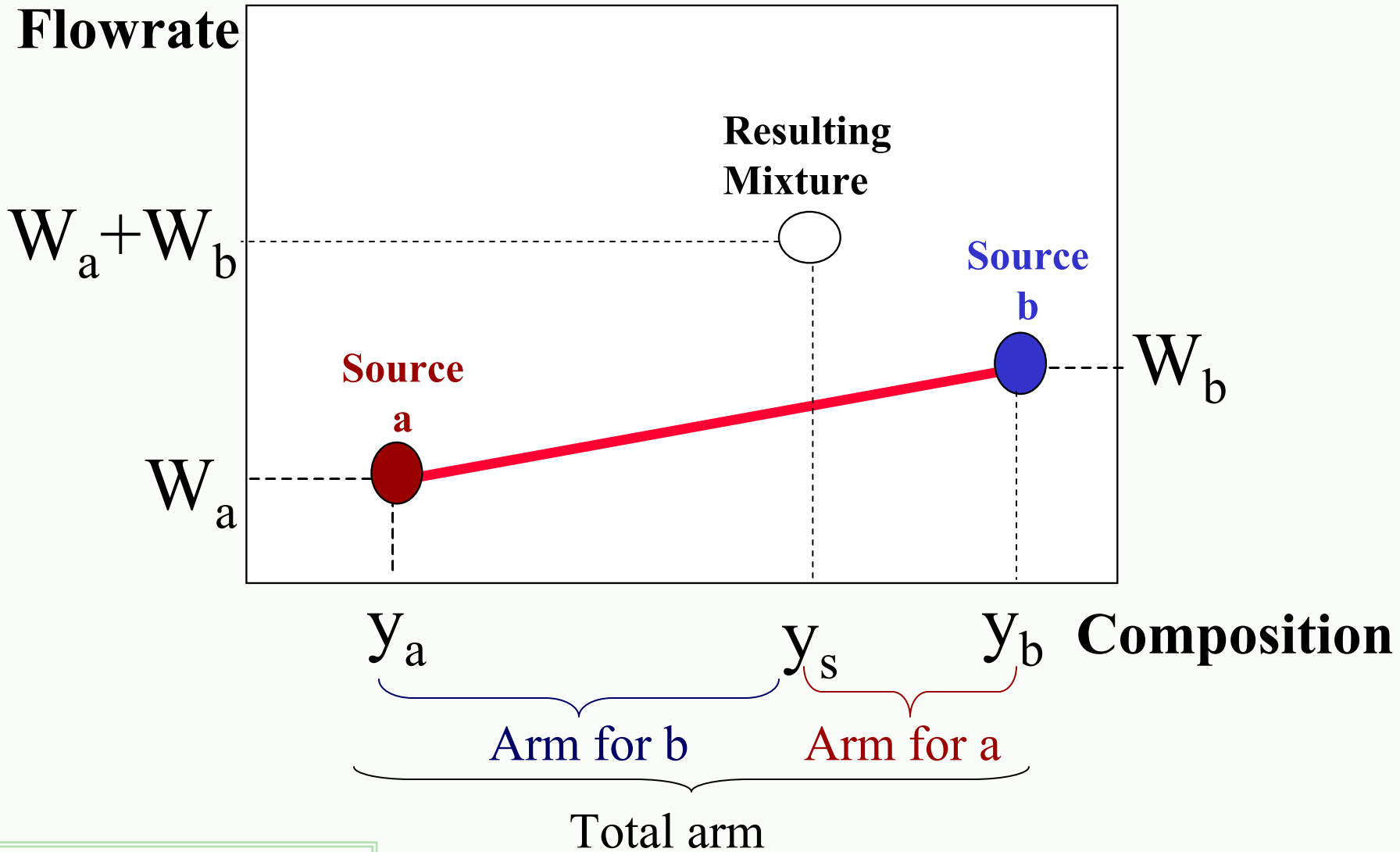
6. Tolerate a certain deviation from nominal case (e.g., allow +/- certain %ages from nominal flowrate and compositions)

# LEVER-ARM RULES



$$y_s (W_a + W_b) = y_a W_a + y_b W_b \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{W_a}{W_b} = \frac{y_b - y_s}{y_s - y_a}$$

# LEVER-ARM RULES

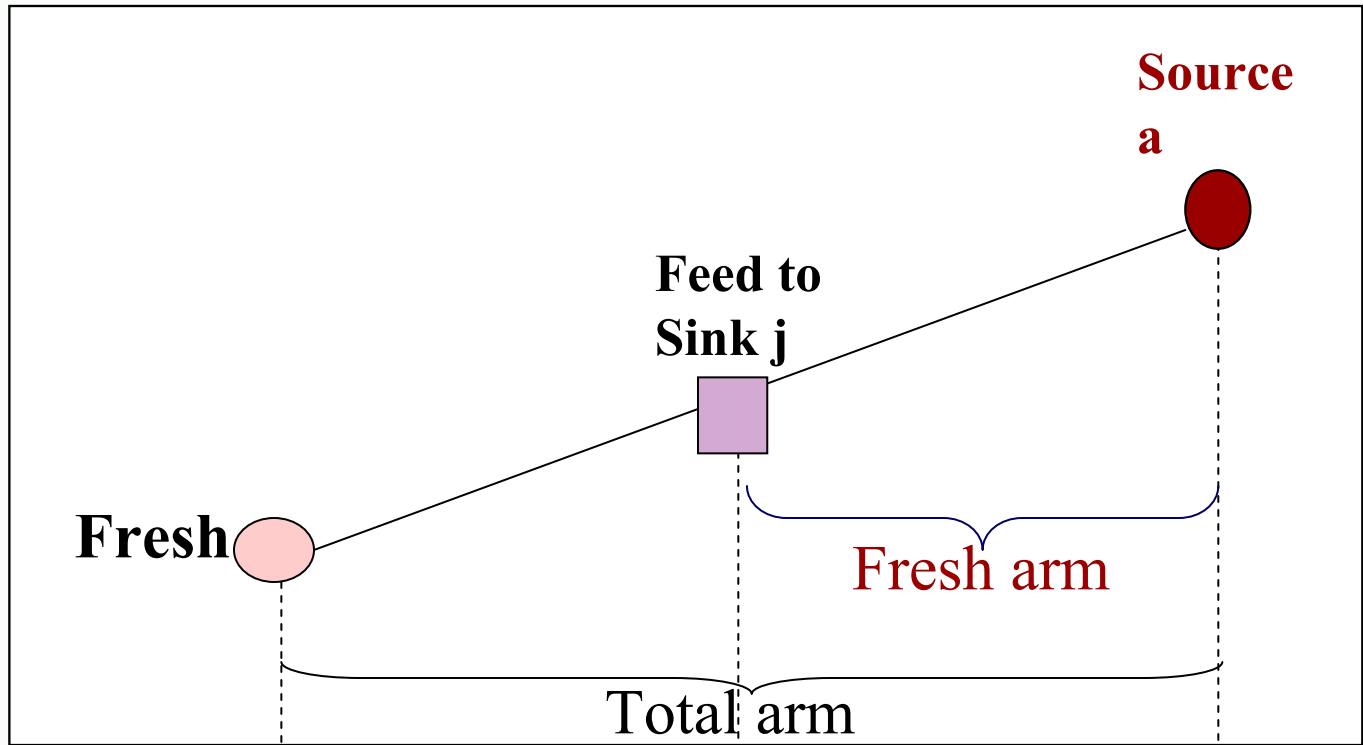


$$\frac{W_a}{W_b} = \frac{\text{Arm for a}}{\text{Arm for b}}$$

$$\frac{W_a}{W_a + W_b} = \frac{\text{Arm for a}}{\text{Total arm}^{45}}$$

# LEVER-ARM RULES FOR FRESH USAGE

Flowrate



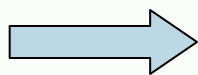
$y_F$

$z_{\text{Feed to sink}}$

$y_a$

$$\frac{\text{Fresh flowrate used in sink}}{\text{Total flowrate fed to sink}} = \frac{\text{Fresh arm}}{\text{Total arm}}$$

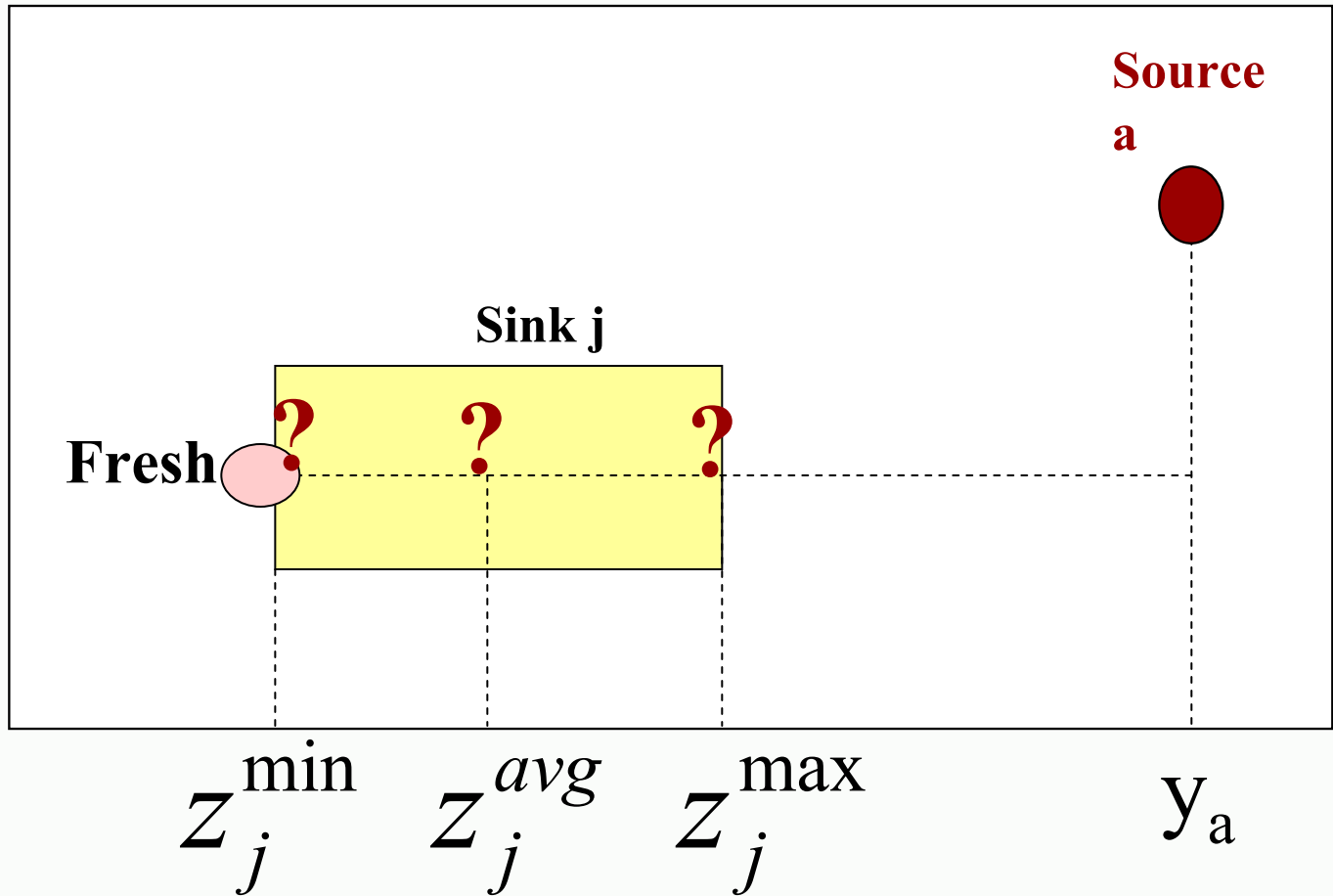
Composition



$$\frac{\text{Fresh flowrate used in sink}}{\text{Total flowrate fed to sink}} = \frac{y_a - z_{\text{Feed to sink}}}{y_a - y_F}$$

# SINK COMPOSITION RULE

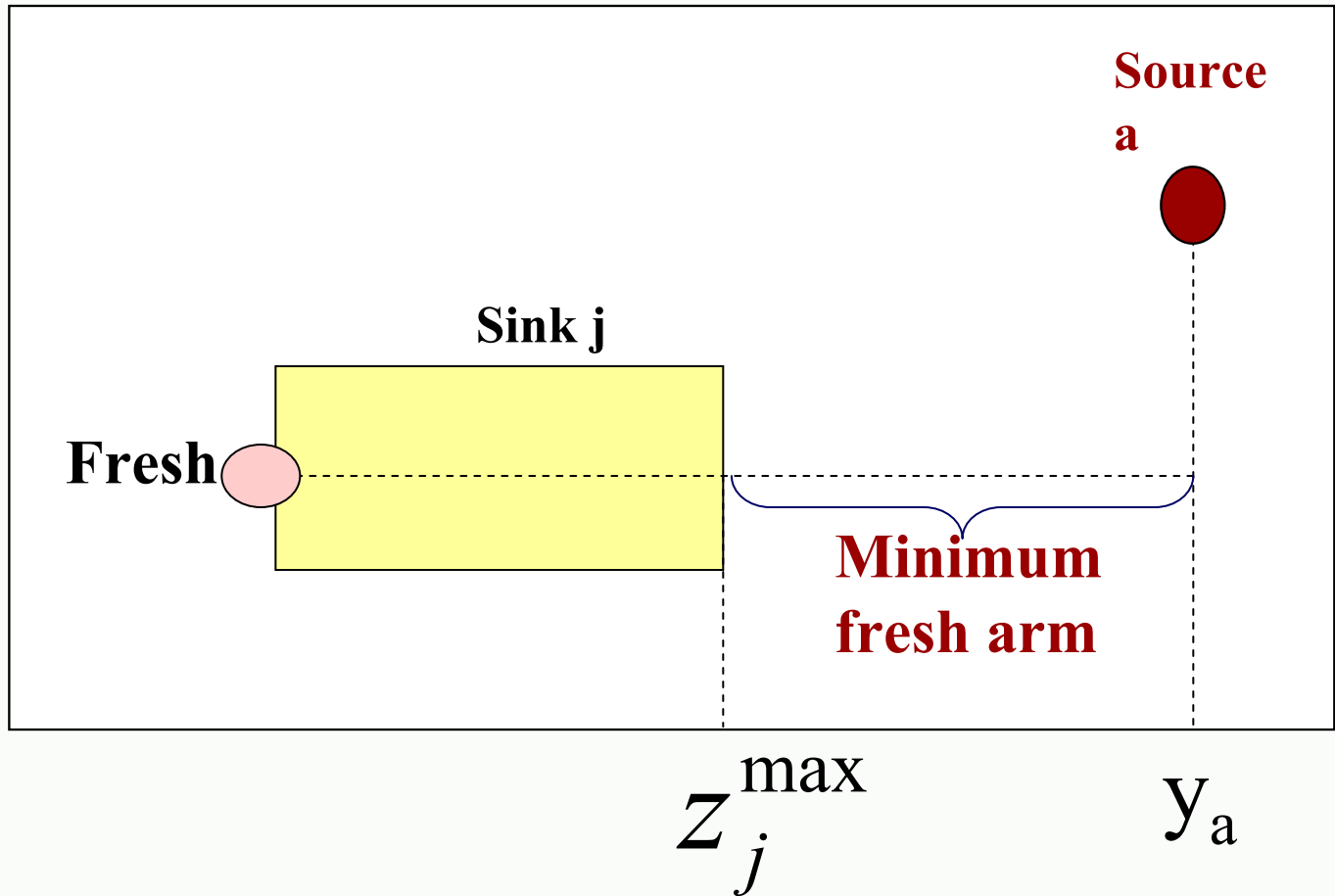
Flowrate



**What should be feed composition to sink to minimize fresh usage?**

# SINK COMPOSITION RULE

Flowrate

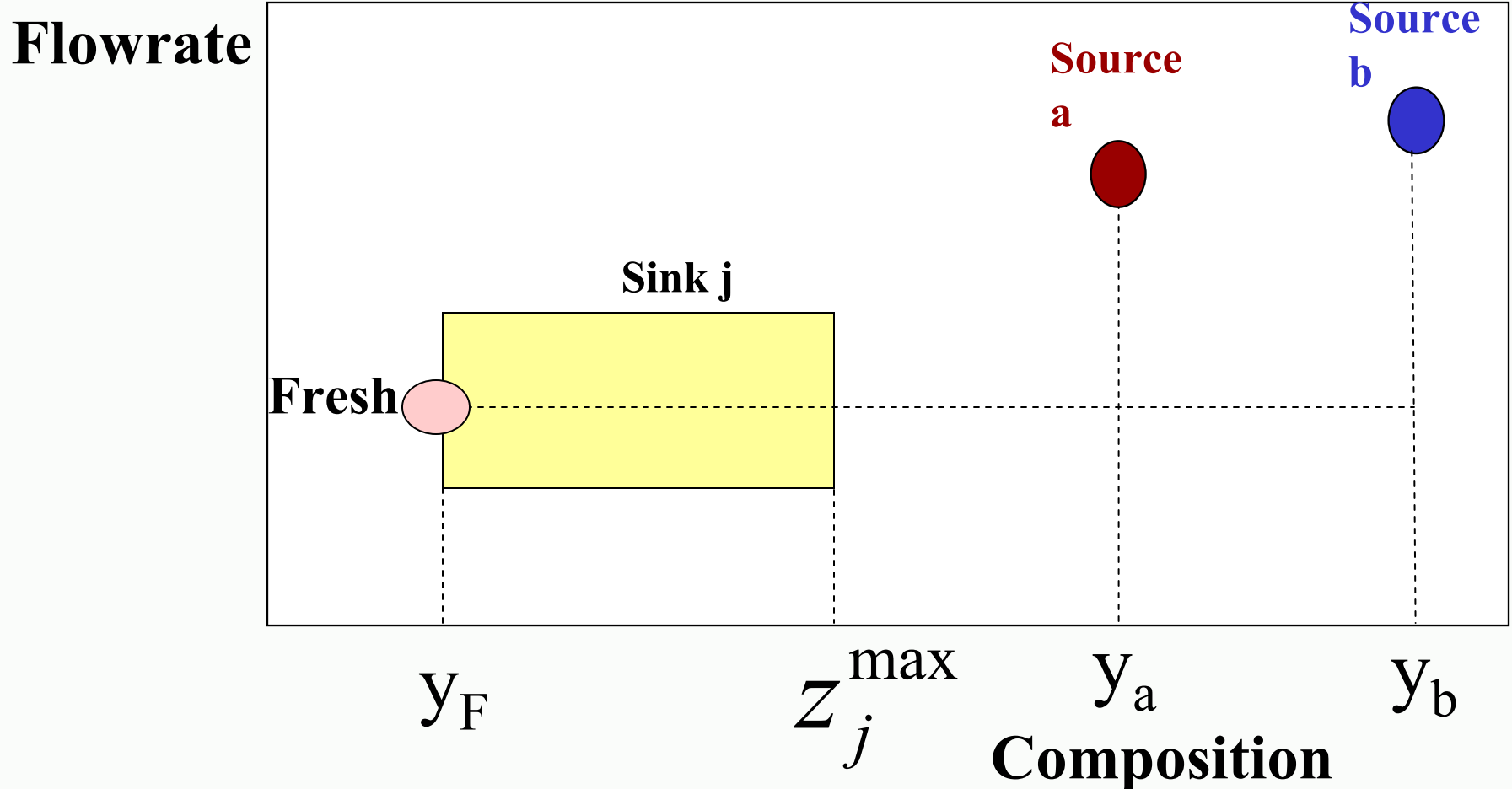


**What should be feed composition to sink to minimize fresh usage?**

**Sink Composition Rule:** When a fresh resource is mixed with process source(s), the composition of the mixture entering the sink should be set to a value that minimizes the fresh arm. For instance, when the pure fresh, the composition of the mixture should be set to the maximum admissible value.



# SOURCE PRIORITIZATION RULE

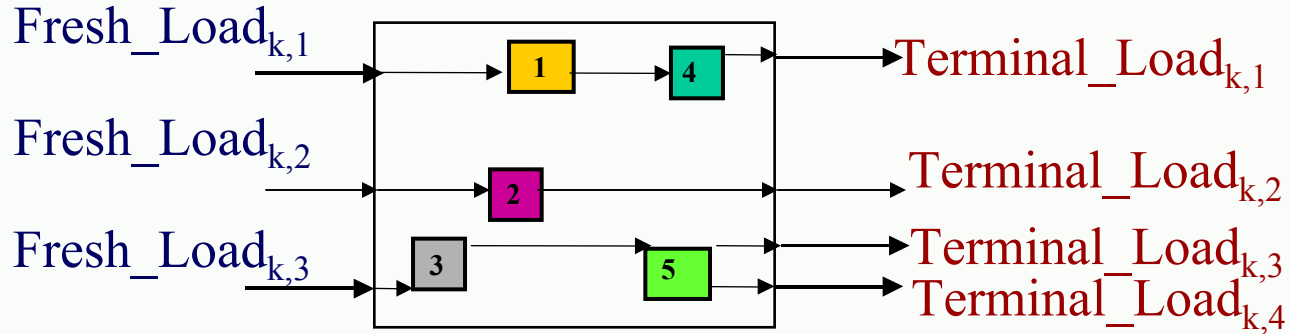


**Which source (a or b) should be used to minimize fresh usage?**

**Source Prioritization Rule:** To minimize the usage of the fresh resource, recycle of the process sources should be prioritized in order of their fresh arms starting with the source having the shortest fresh arm.

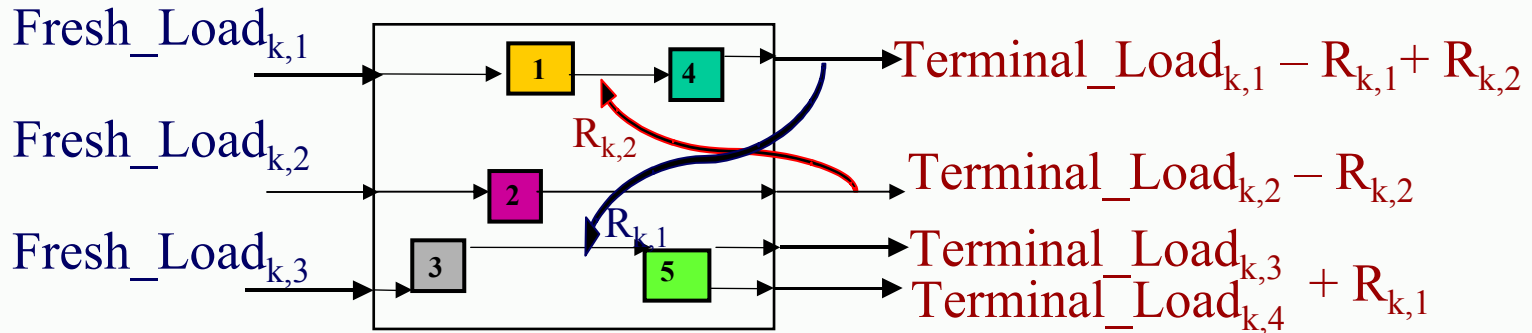
# Targeting Rules

## Recycle Strategies



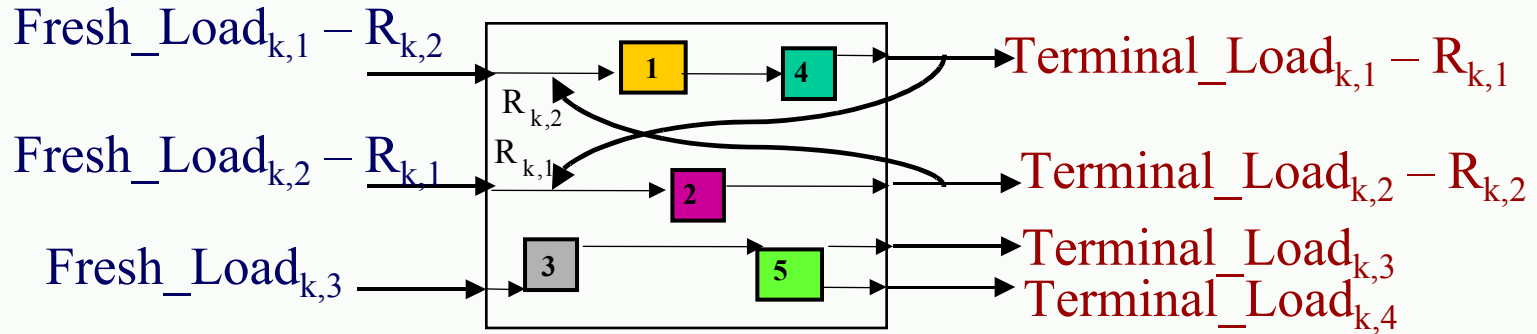
Process Before Recycle

## Recycle Alternatives to Reduce Terminal Load

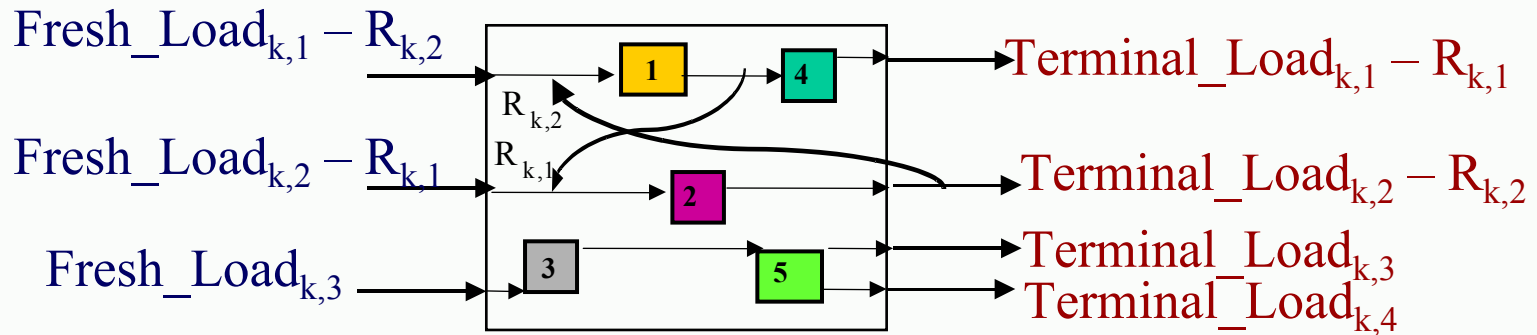


Poor Recycle

Net terminal load unchanged

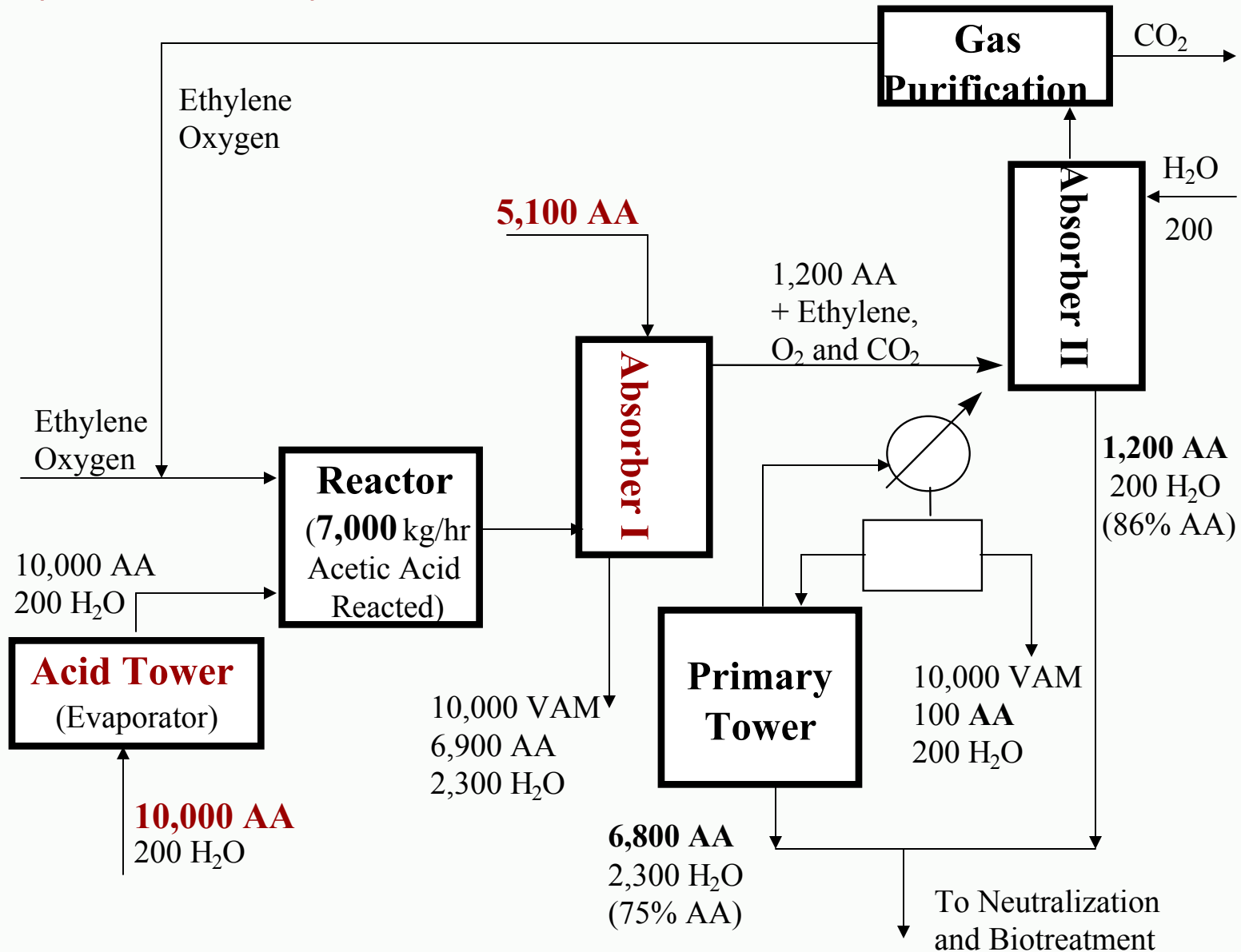


### Effective Recycle From Terminal



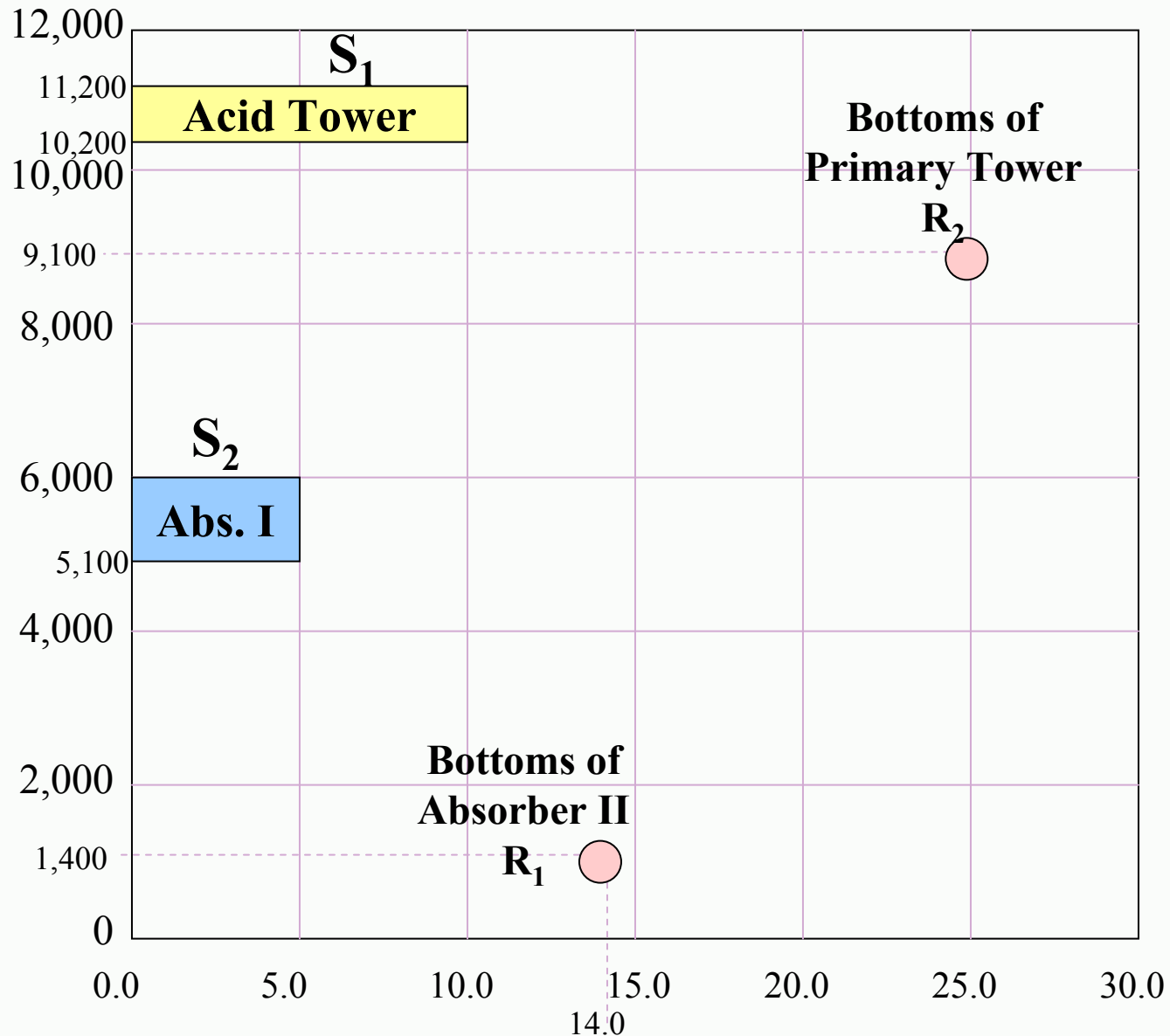
### Effective Recycle From Terminal and Intermediate

# Example: Minimization of AA Usage in VAM Process by Direct Recycle



# Source-Sink Mapping Diagram for AA Example

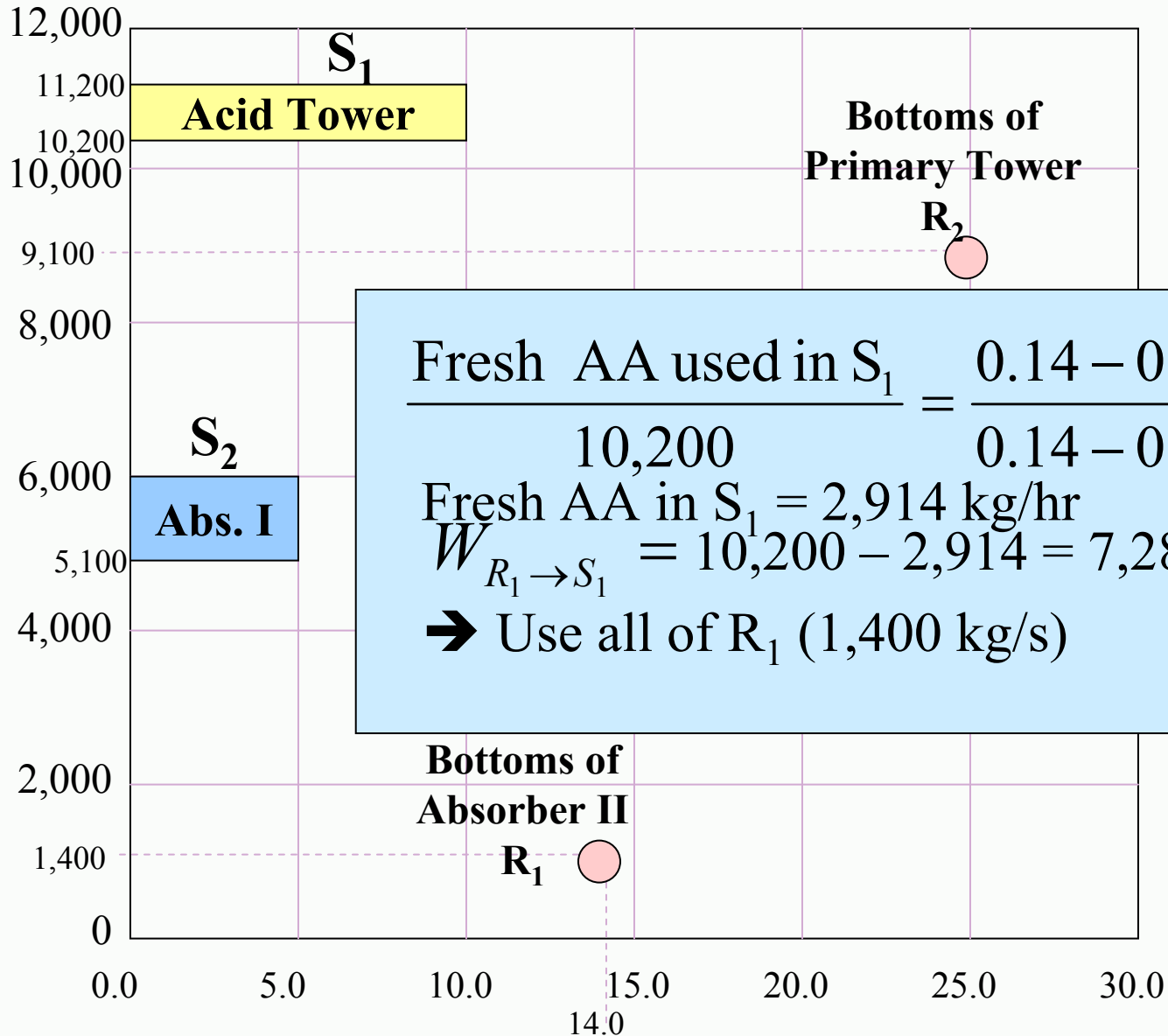
Flowrate,  
kg/hr



Water content, wt.%

## For $S_1$ , $R_1$ has shortest AA arm

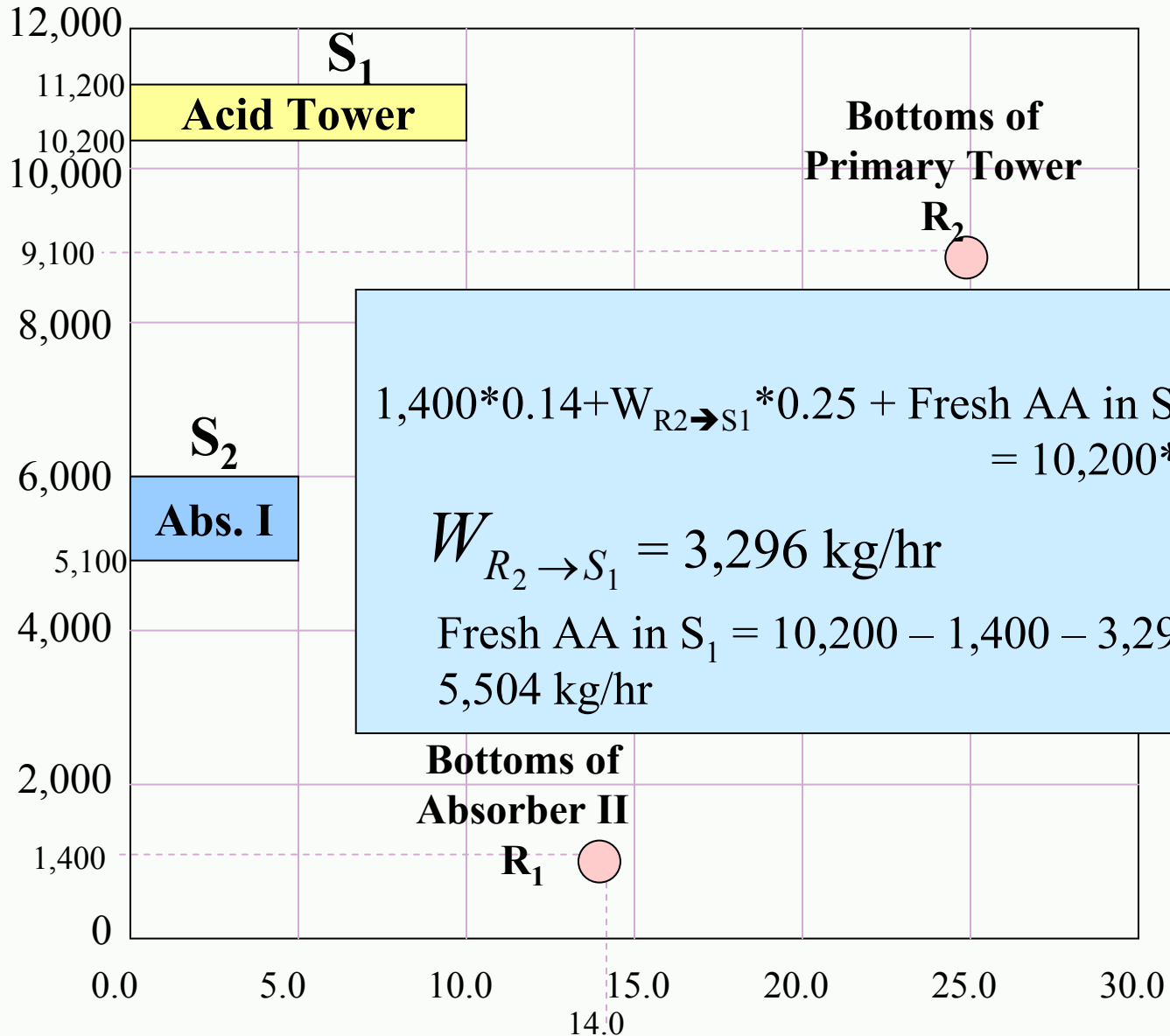
Flowrate,  
kg/hr



Water content, wt.%

# Acid Tower Continued

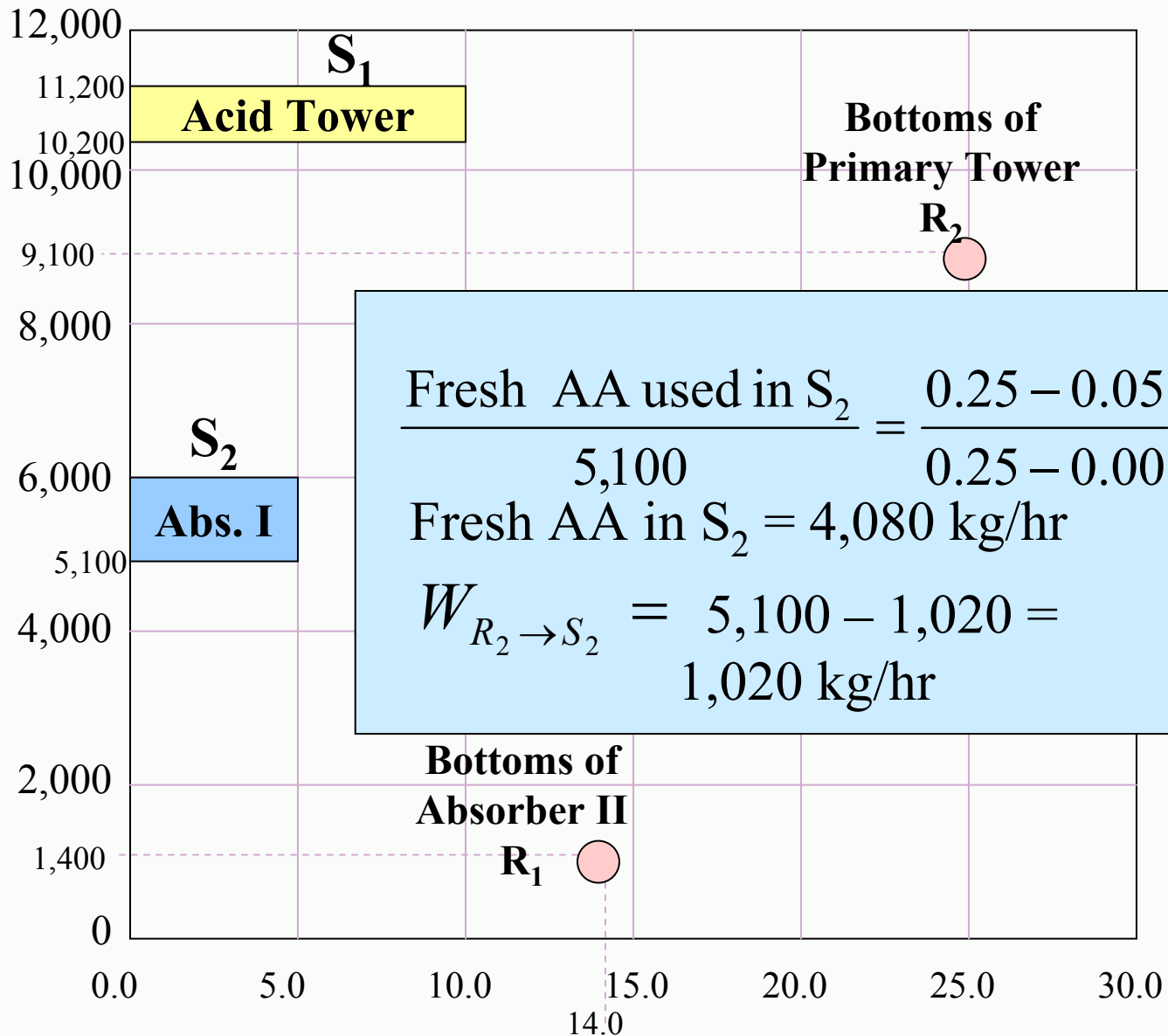
Flowrate,  
kg/hr



Water content, wt.%

# Absorber I Calculations

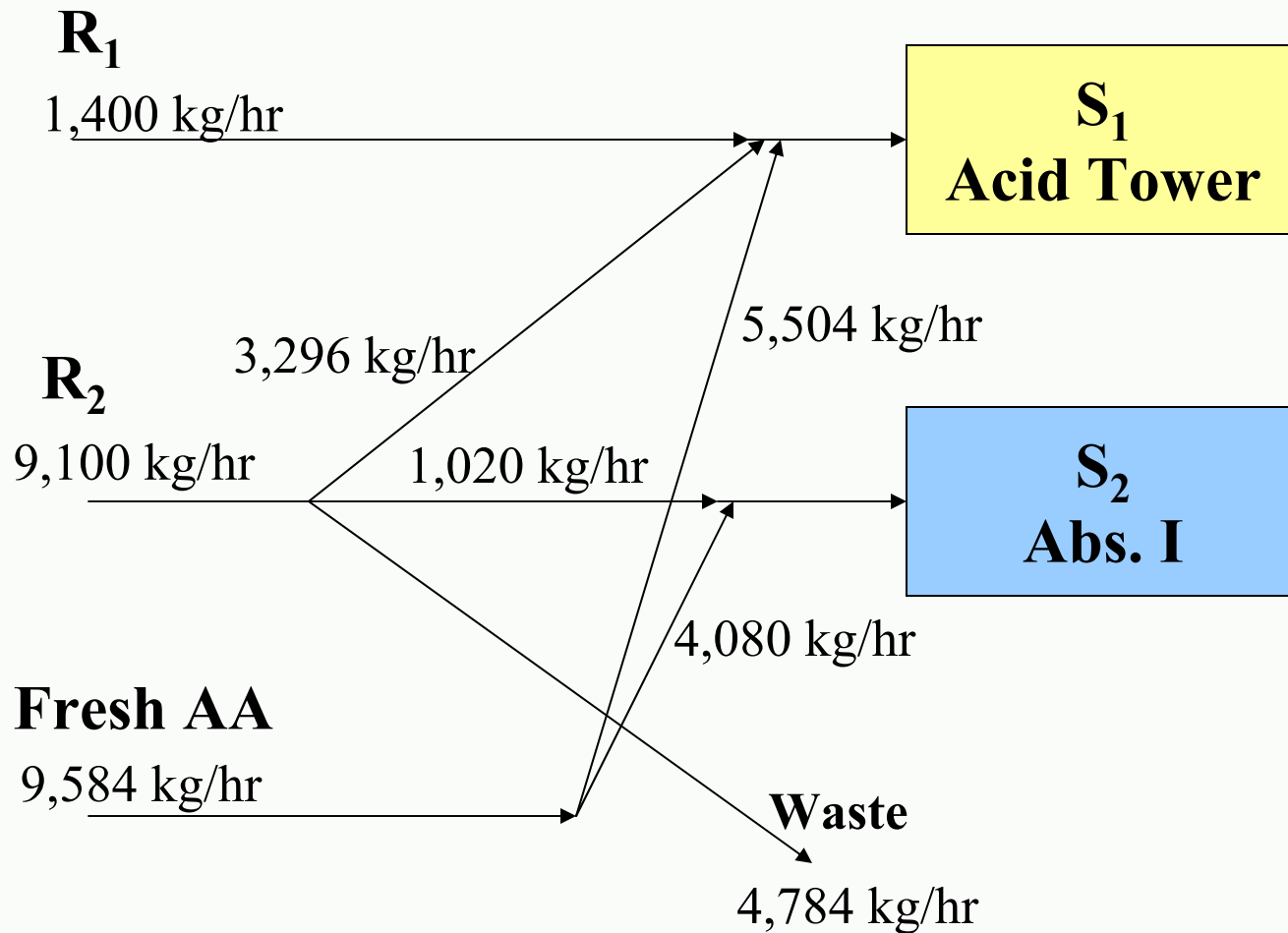
Flowrate,  
kg/hr



Water content, wt.%

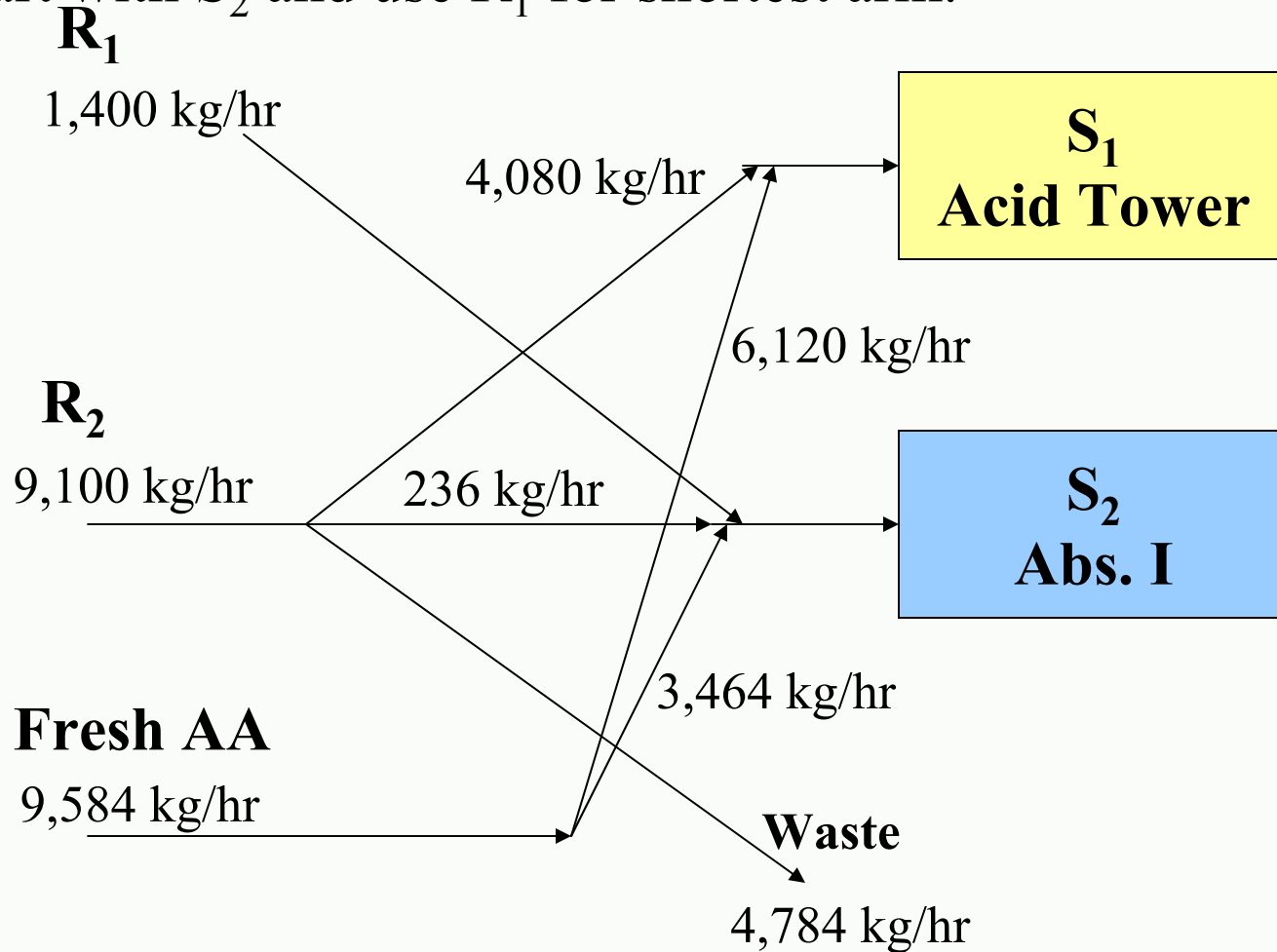


# SOLUTION TO AA MINIMIZATION PROBLEM



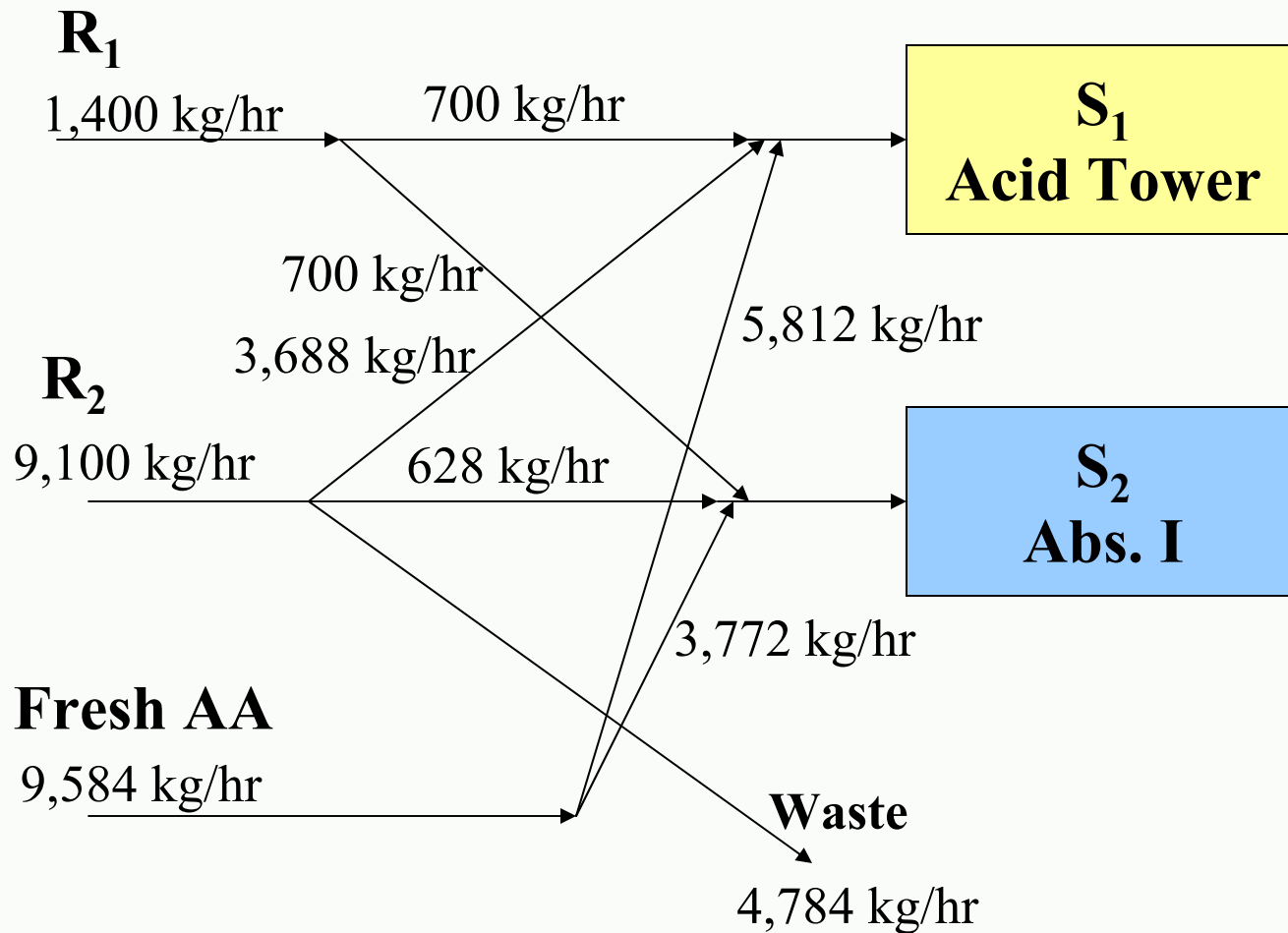
# ALTERNATE SOLUTION TO AA MINIMIZATION PROBLEM

Start with  $S_2$  and use  $R_1$  for shortest arm.



# ALTERNATE SOLUTION TO AA MINIMIZATION PROBLEM

Split  $R_1$  between two sinks.

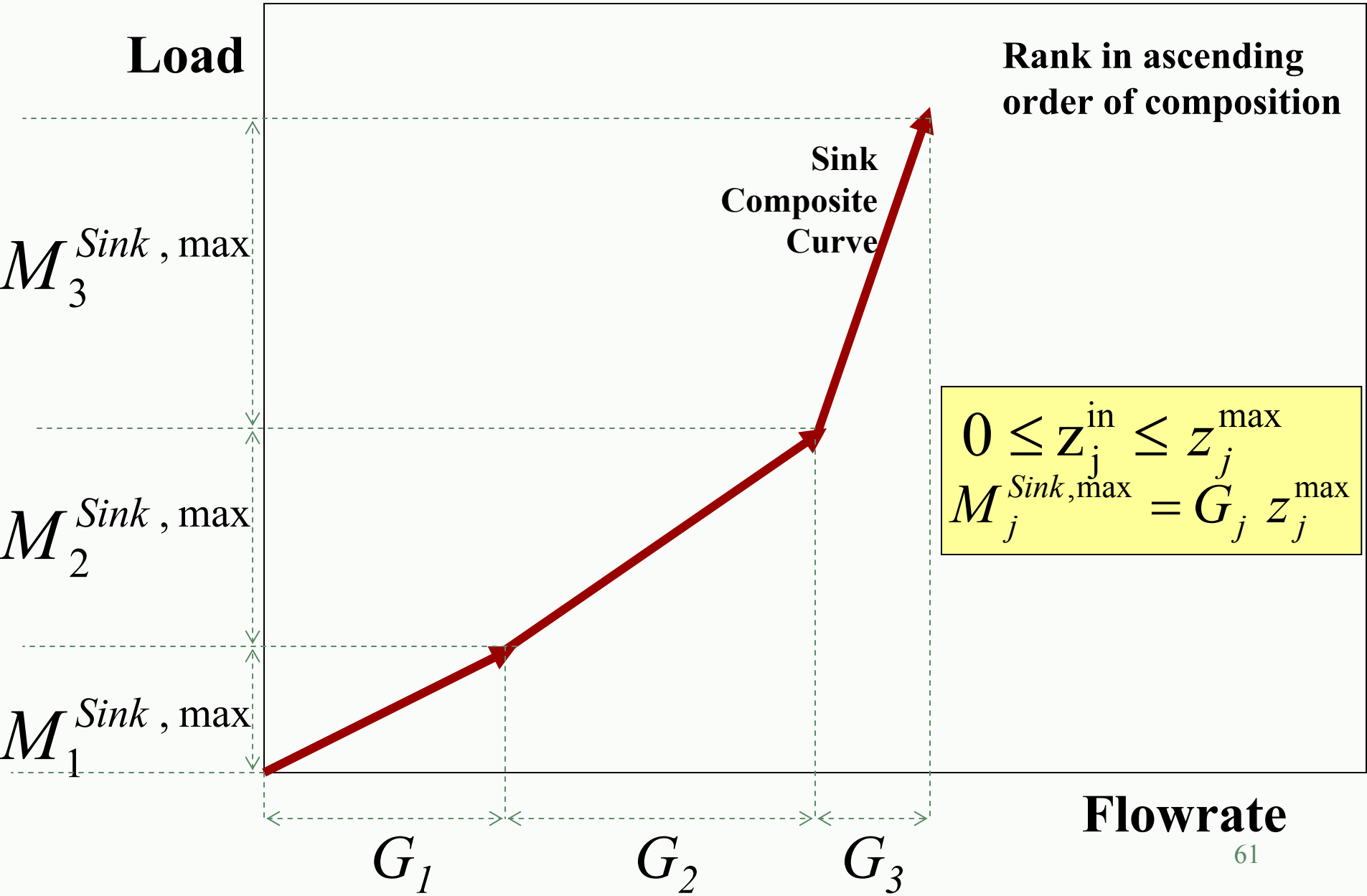


Same target, infinite implementations.

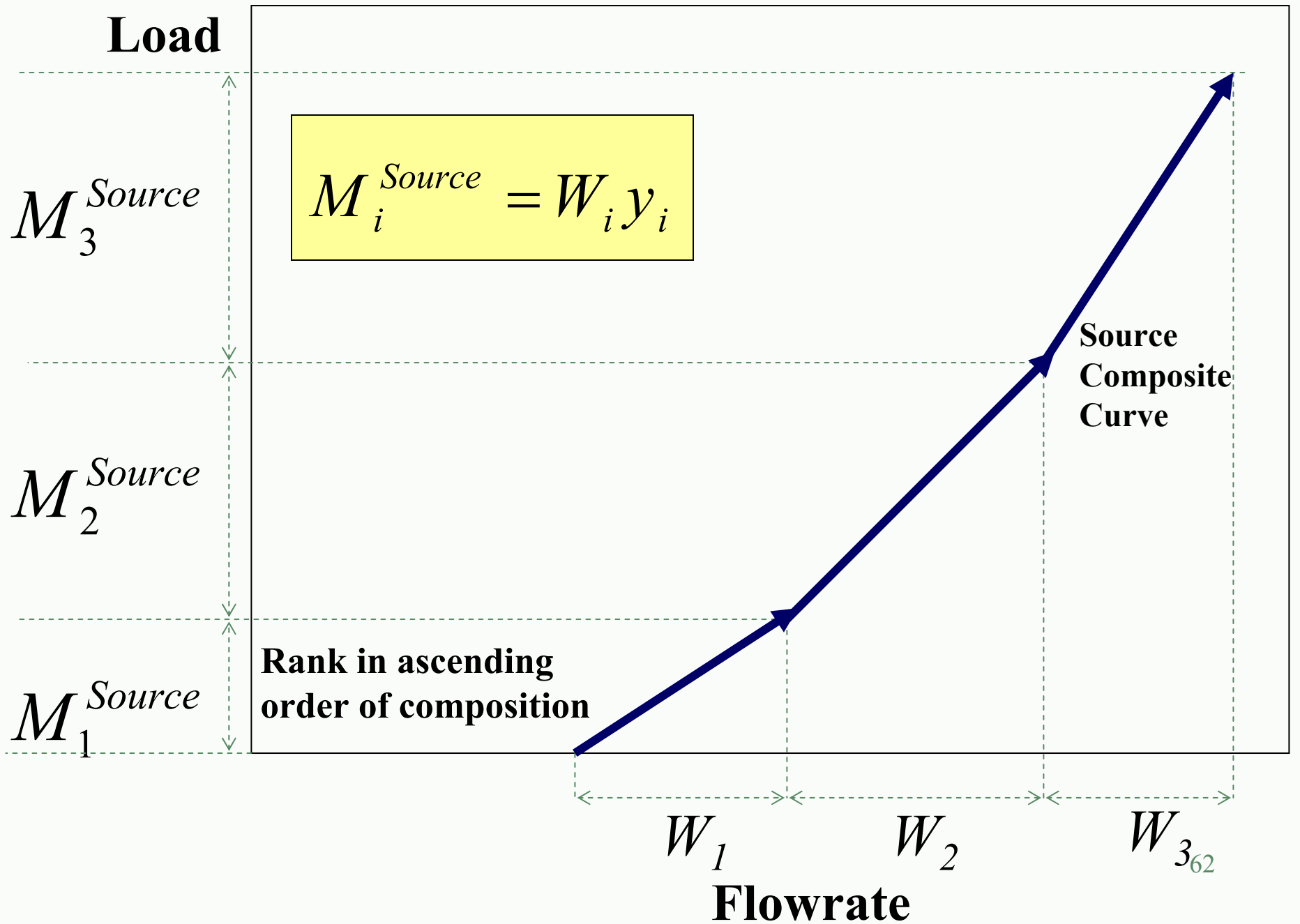
Need a targeting procedure before detailed implementation

# **MATERIAL RECYCLE PINCH DIAGRAM**

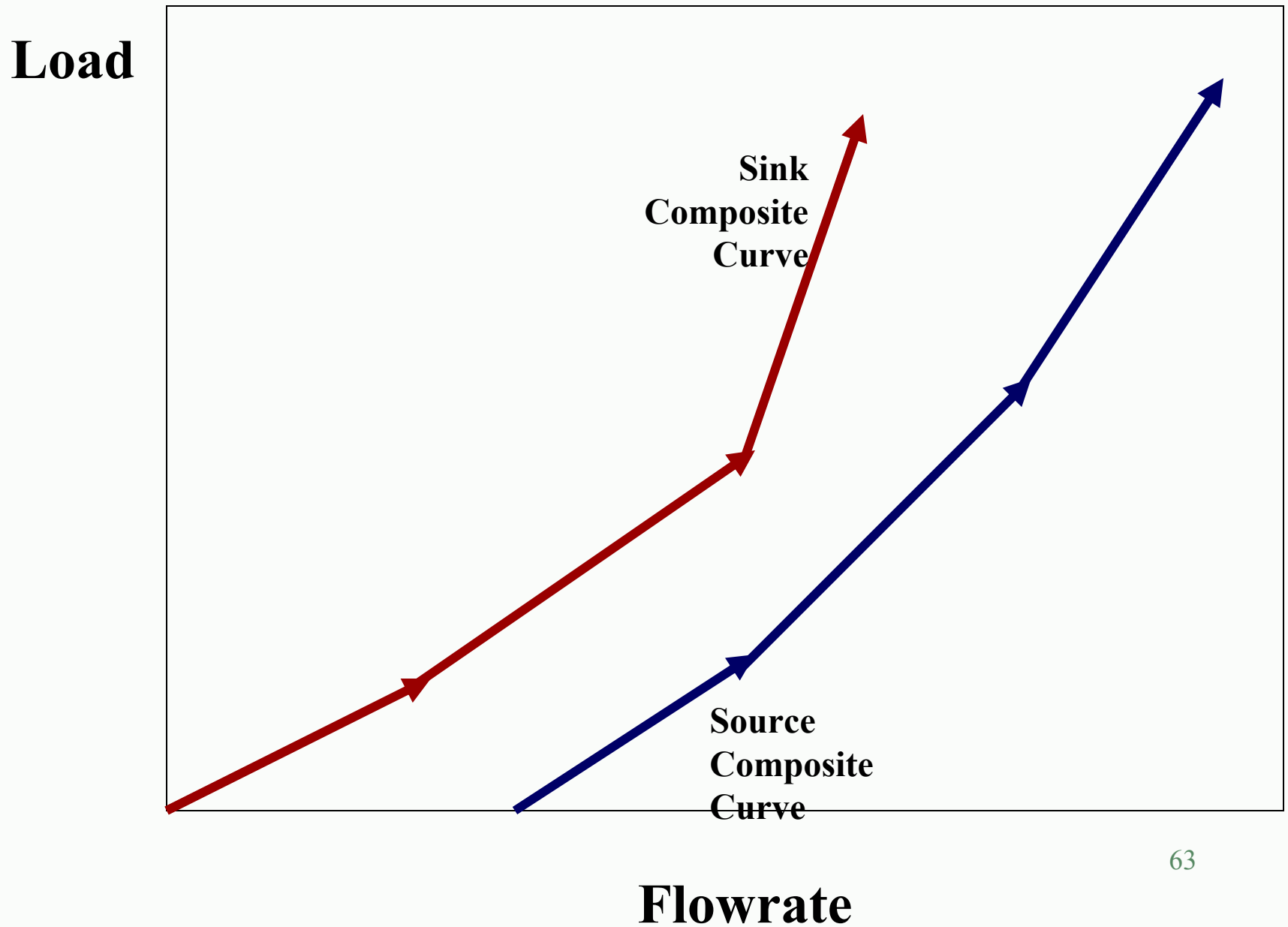
# Sink Composite Diagram



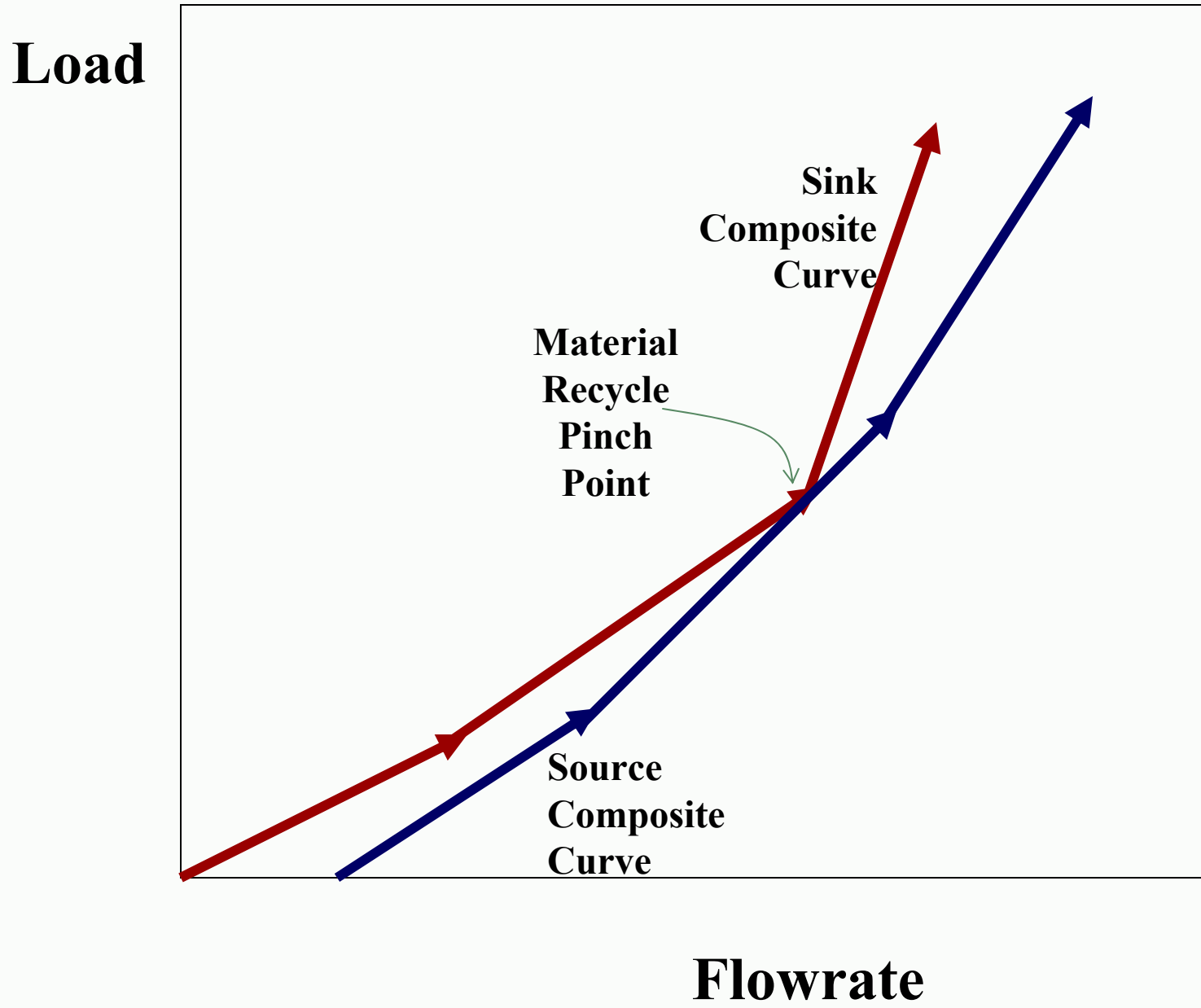
# Source Composite Diagram



# Sink Composite Must Lie Above Source Composite



# Integrating Source and Sink Composites

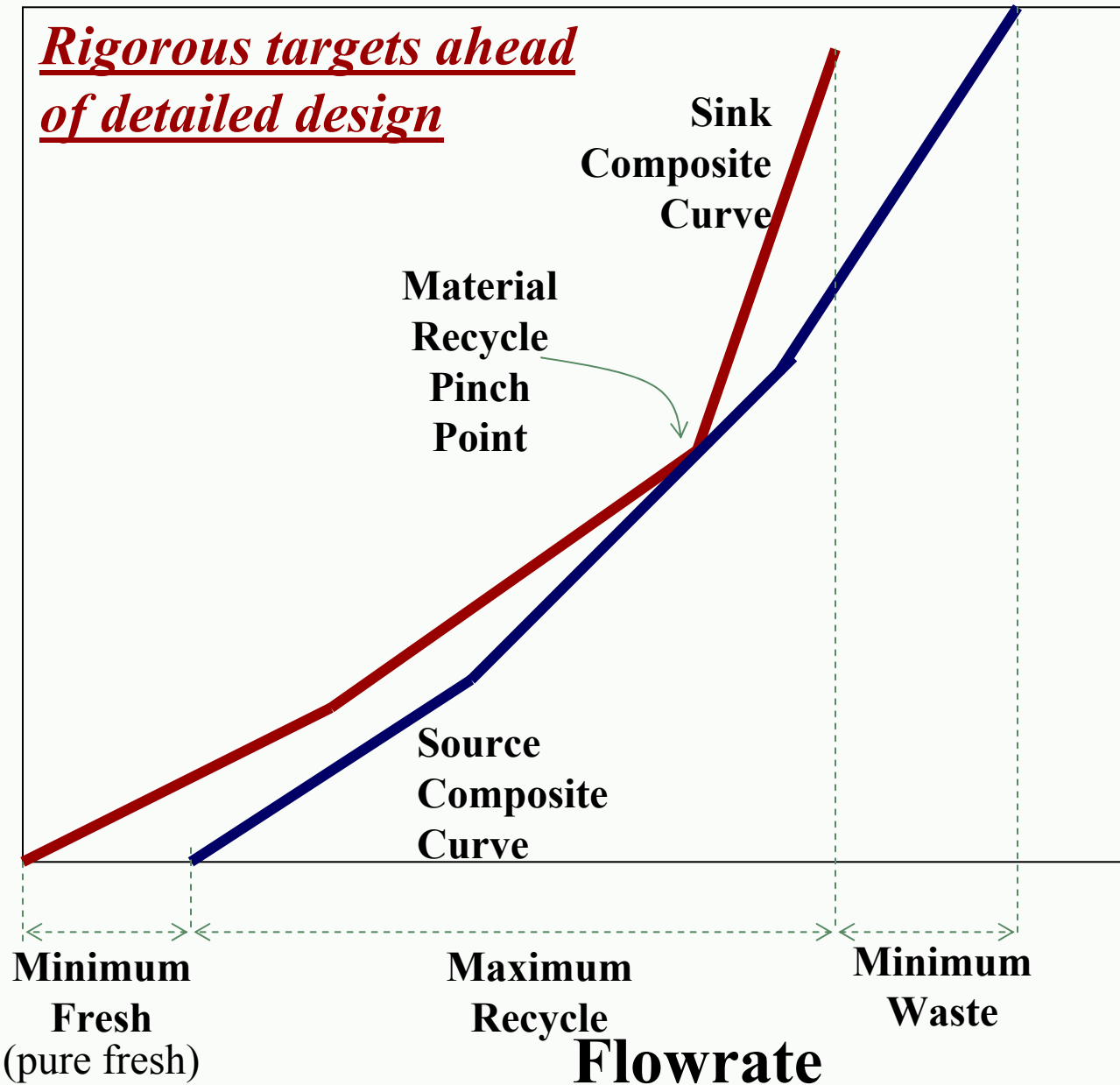




# Material Recycle Pinch Diagram

**Load**

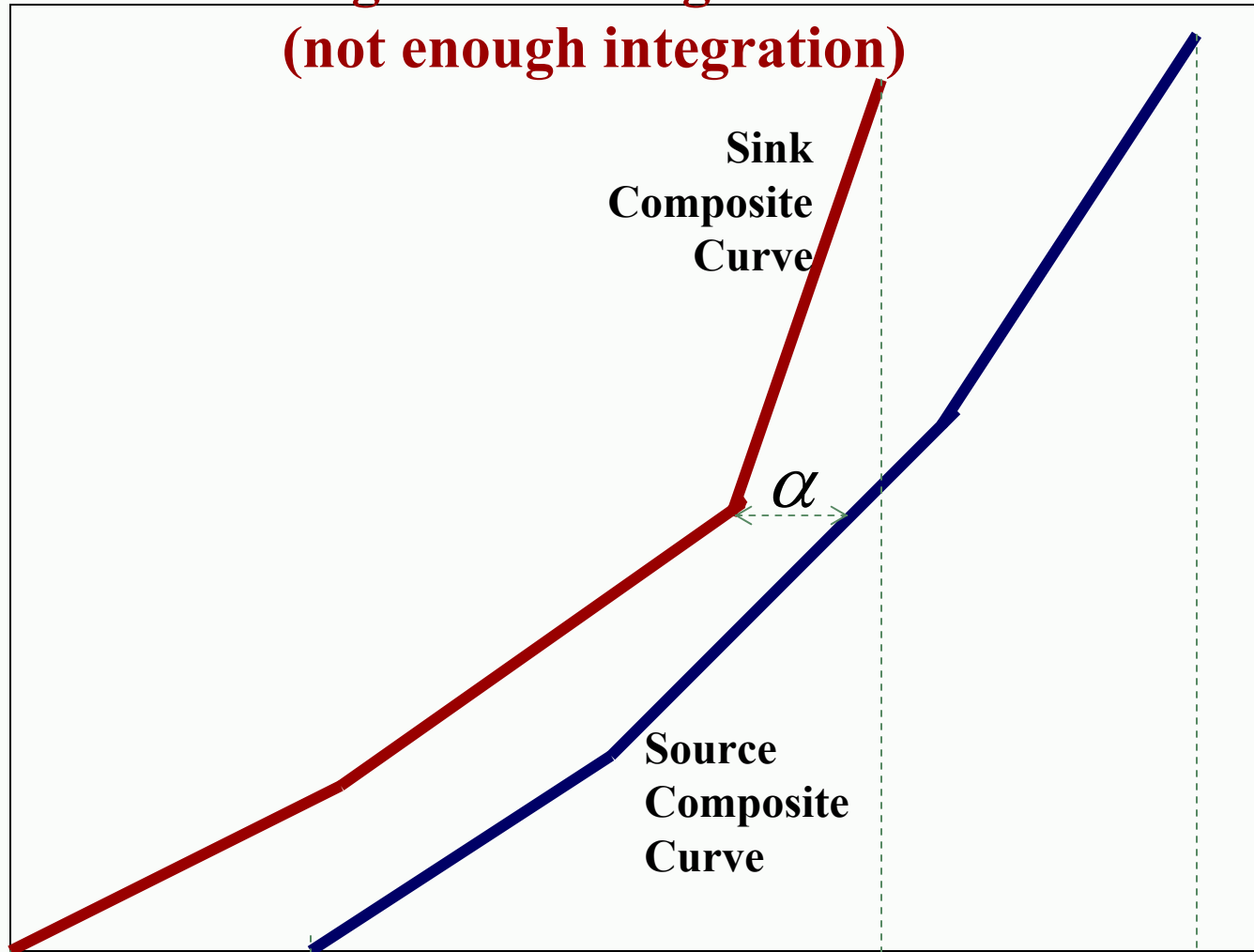
*Rigorous targets ahead  
of detailed design*



# Passing Flow through the Pinch

(not enough integration)

Load



Sink  
Composite  
Curve

Source  
Composite  
Curve

$\alpha$

Fresh

Recycle

Waste

$\alpha$

$\alpha$

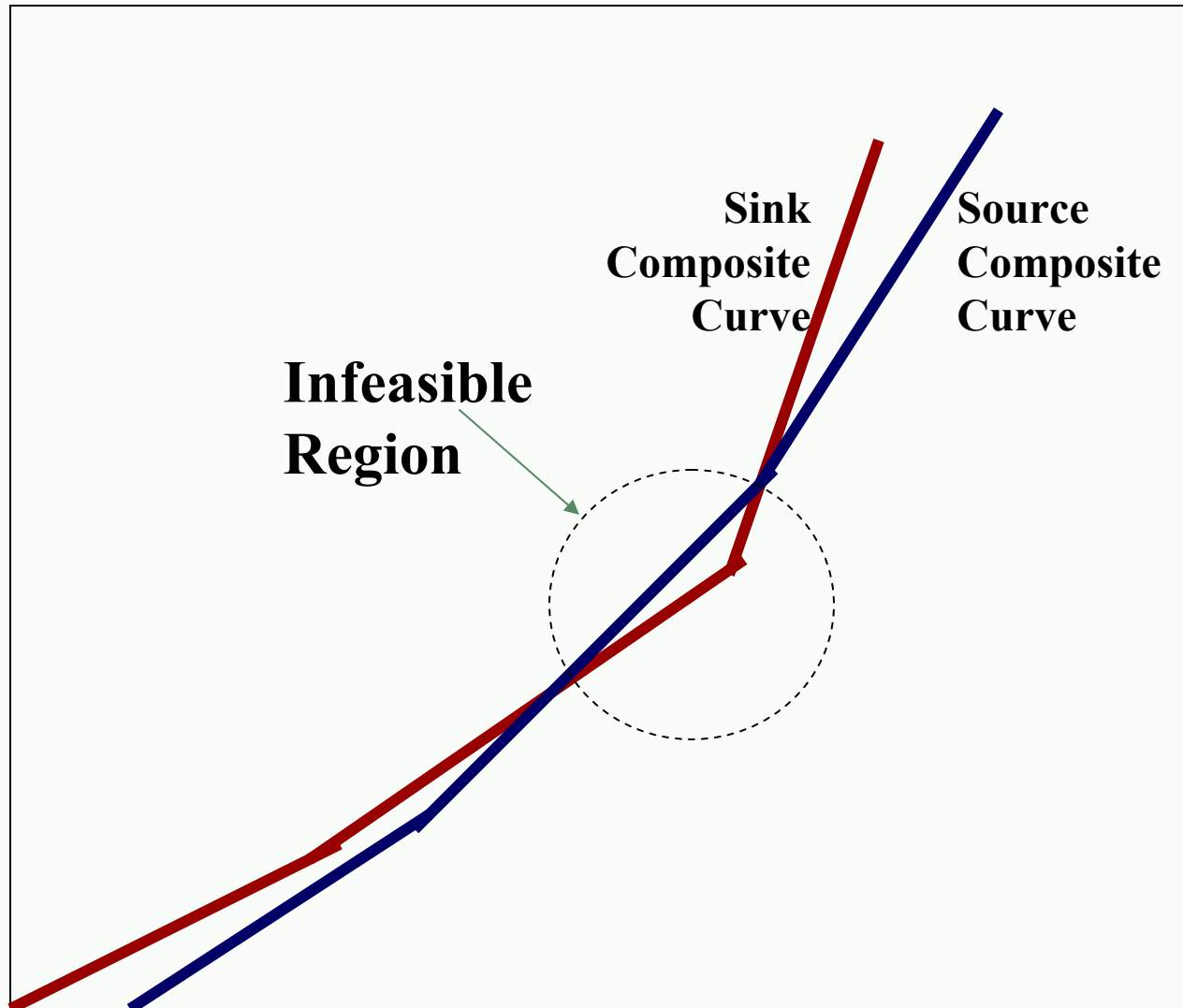
Minimum  
Fresh

Minimum  
Waste

Flowrate

# Infeasible Recycle (too much integration)

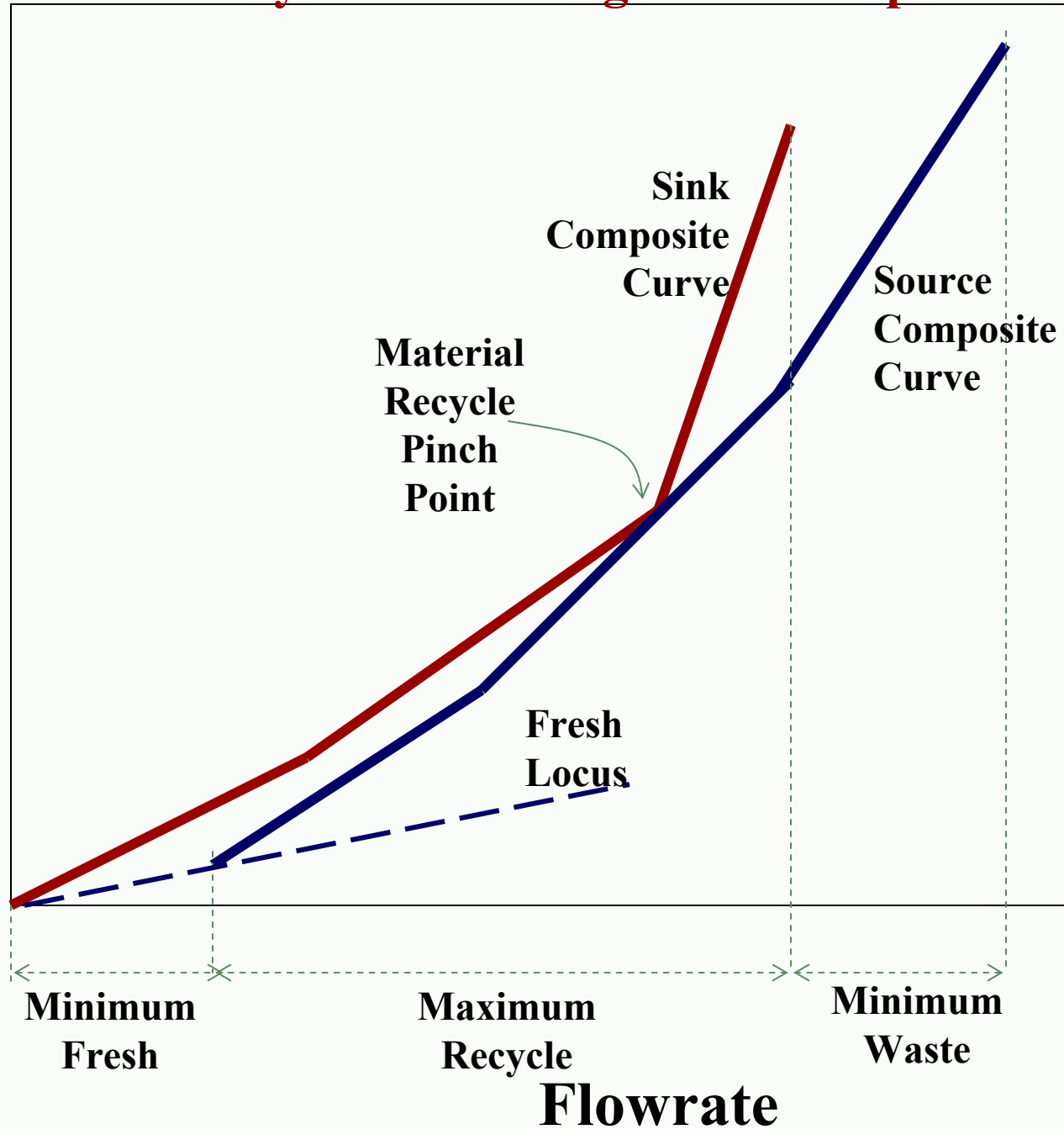
**Load**



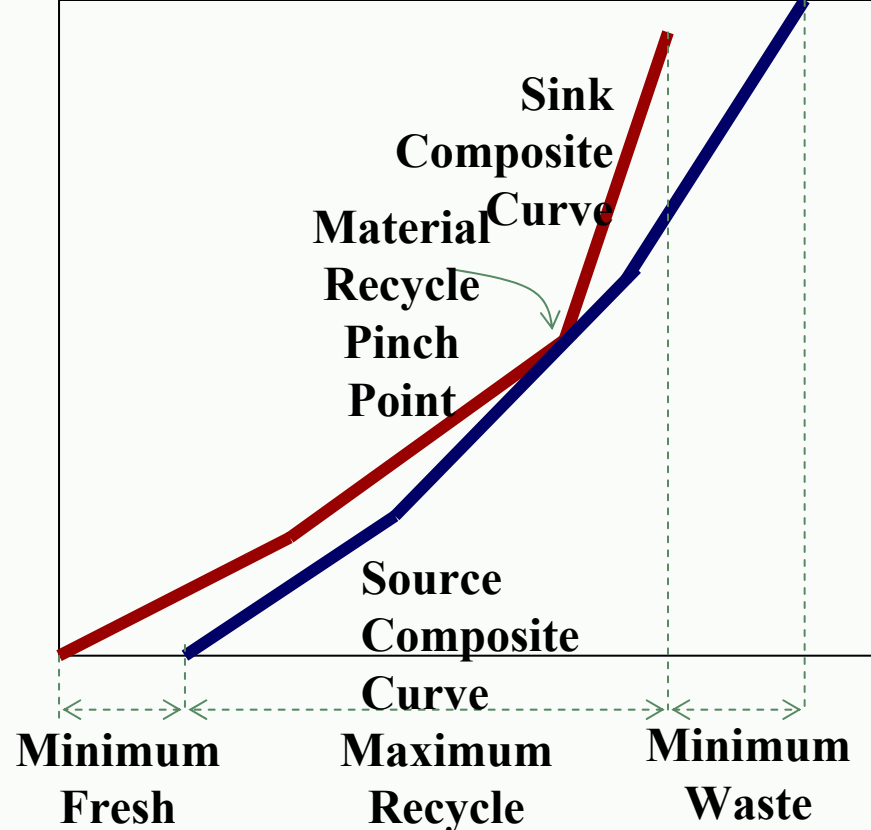
**Flowrate**

# Material Recycle Pinch Diagram for Impure Fresh

**Load**

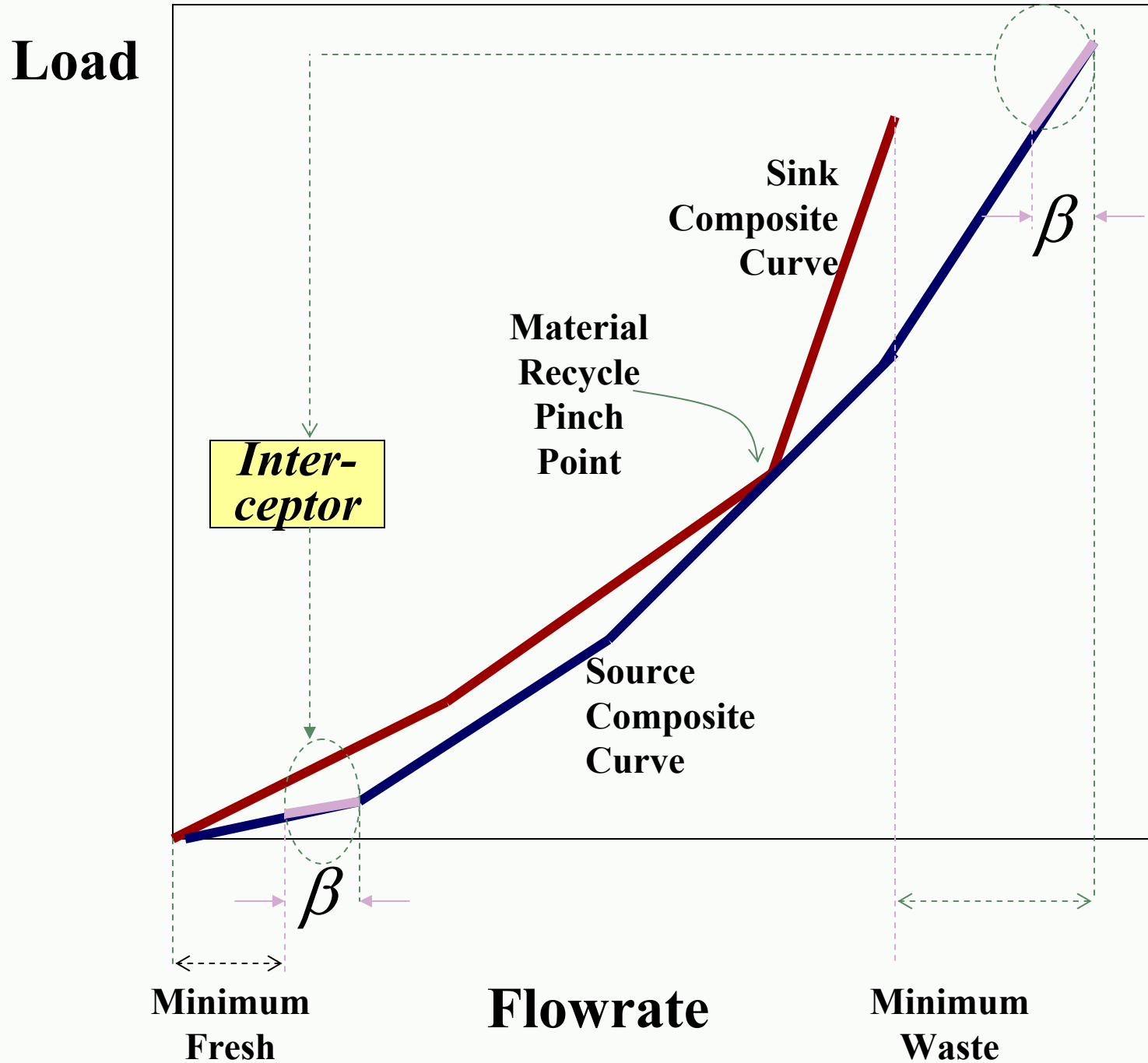


## Useful Design Rules For Material Recycle Pinch Diagram



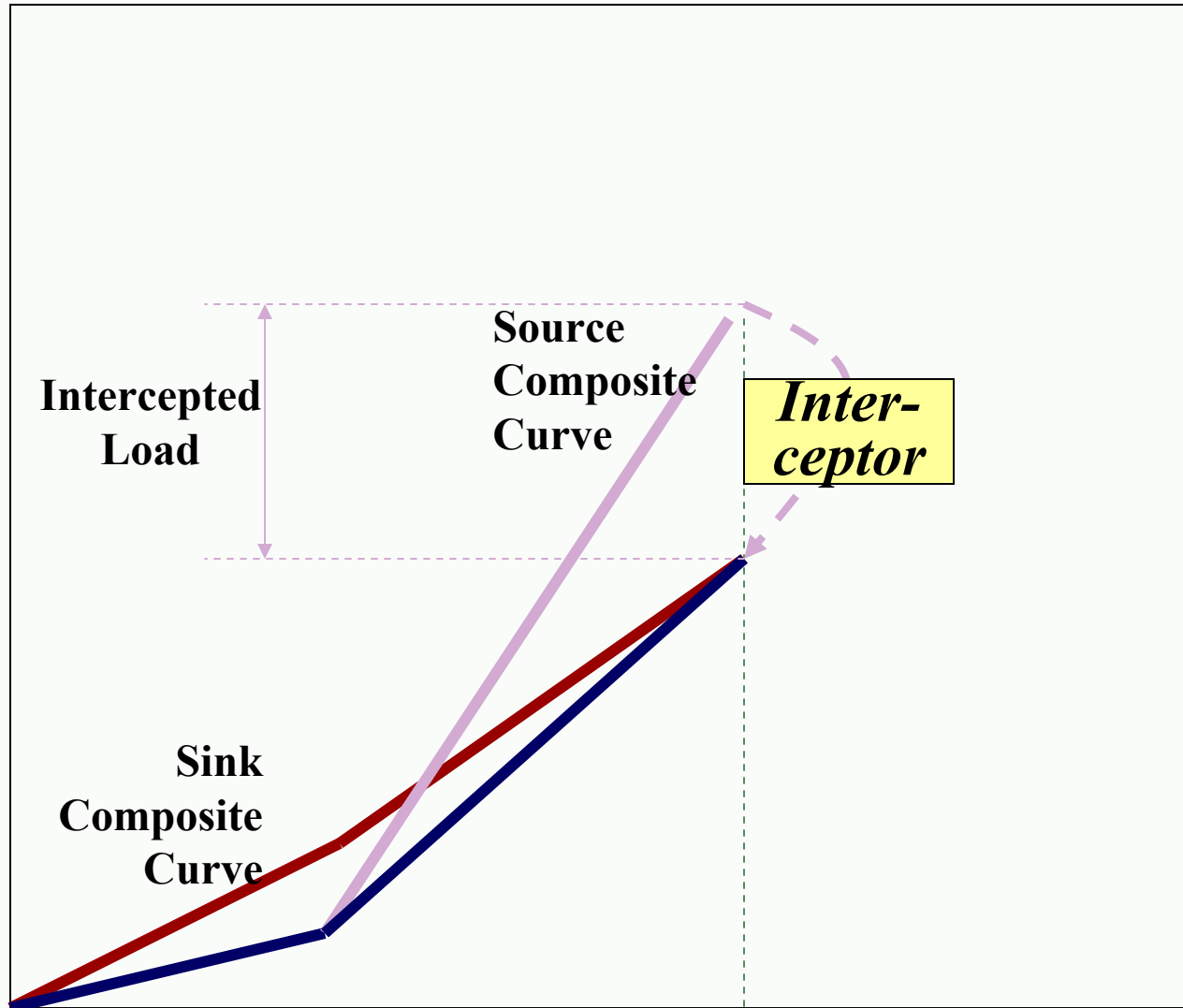
- *No flowrate should be passed through the pinch (i.e. the two composites must touch)*
- *No waste should be discharged from sources below the pinch*
- *No fresh should be used in any sink above the pinch*

# Effect of Interception



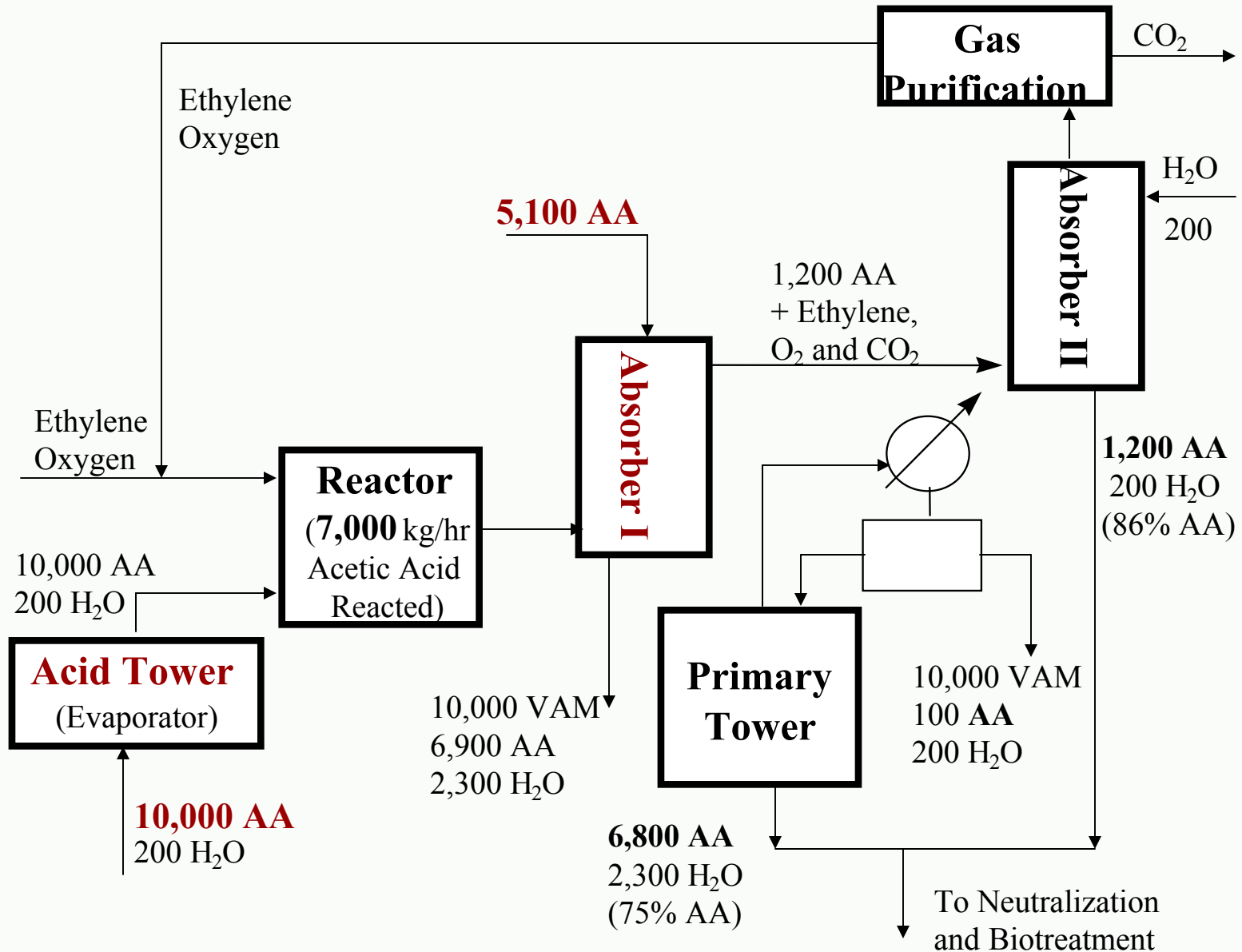
# Effect of Interception

Load



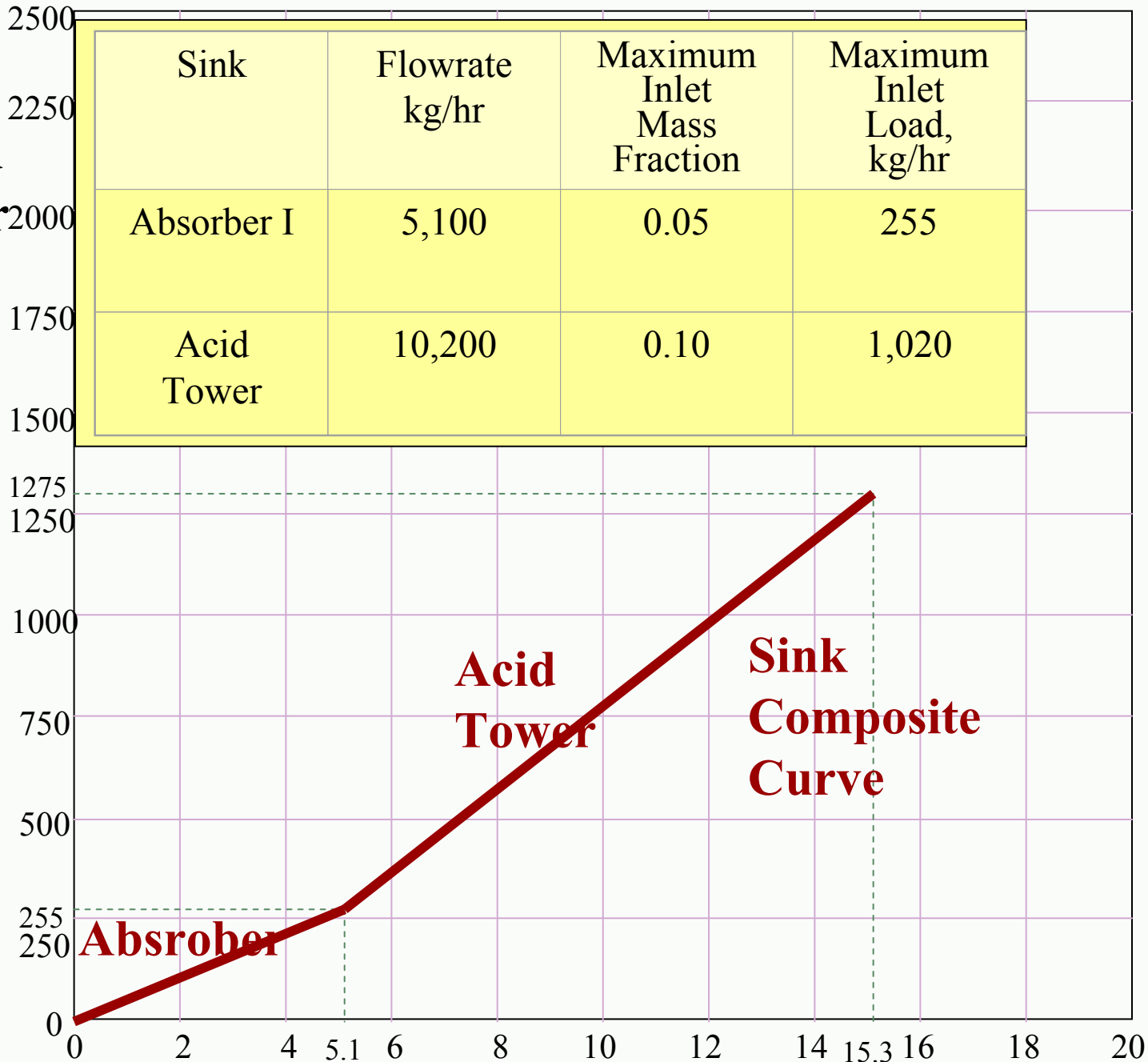
Flowrate

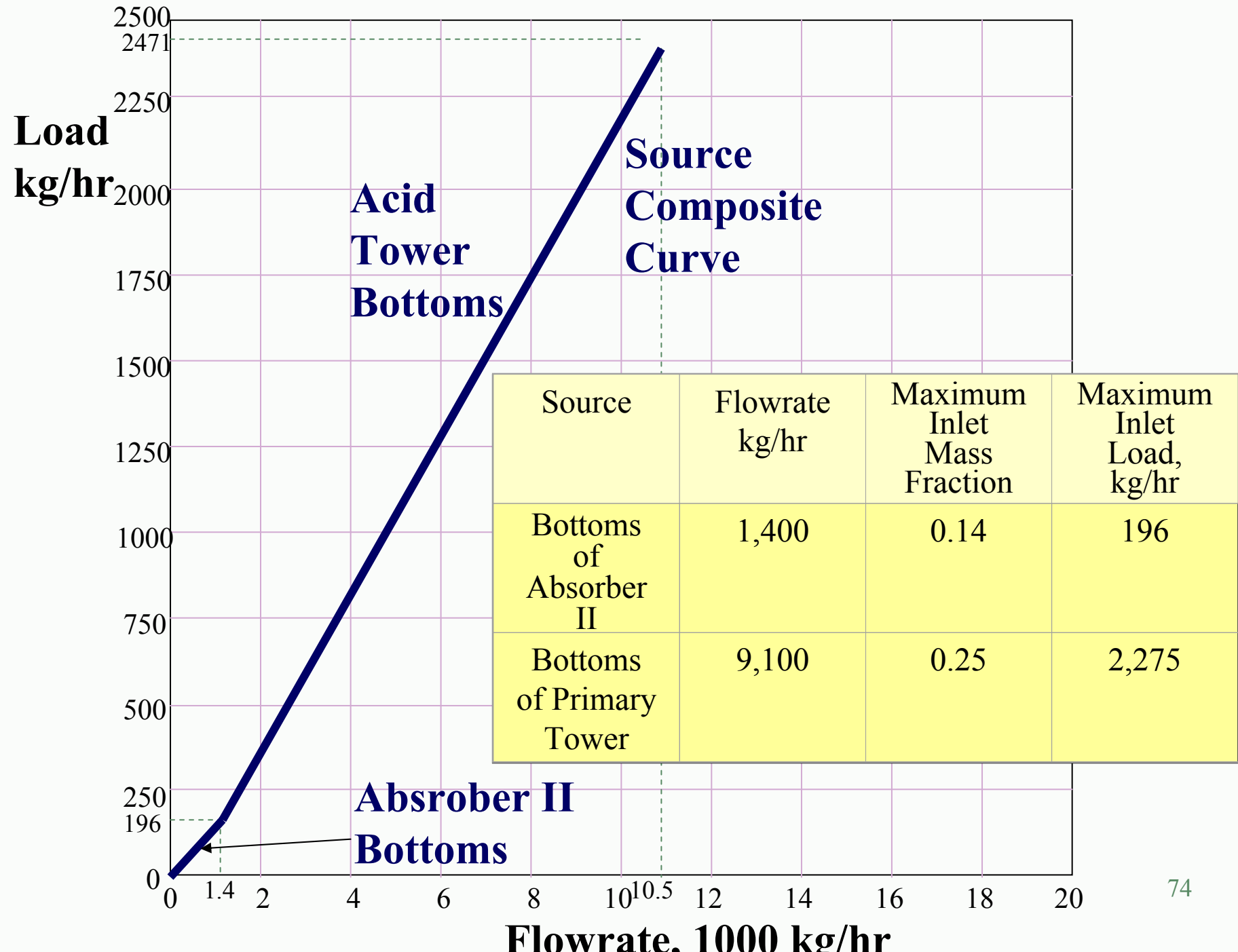
# Example Revisited: Minimization of AA Usage in VAM Process

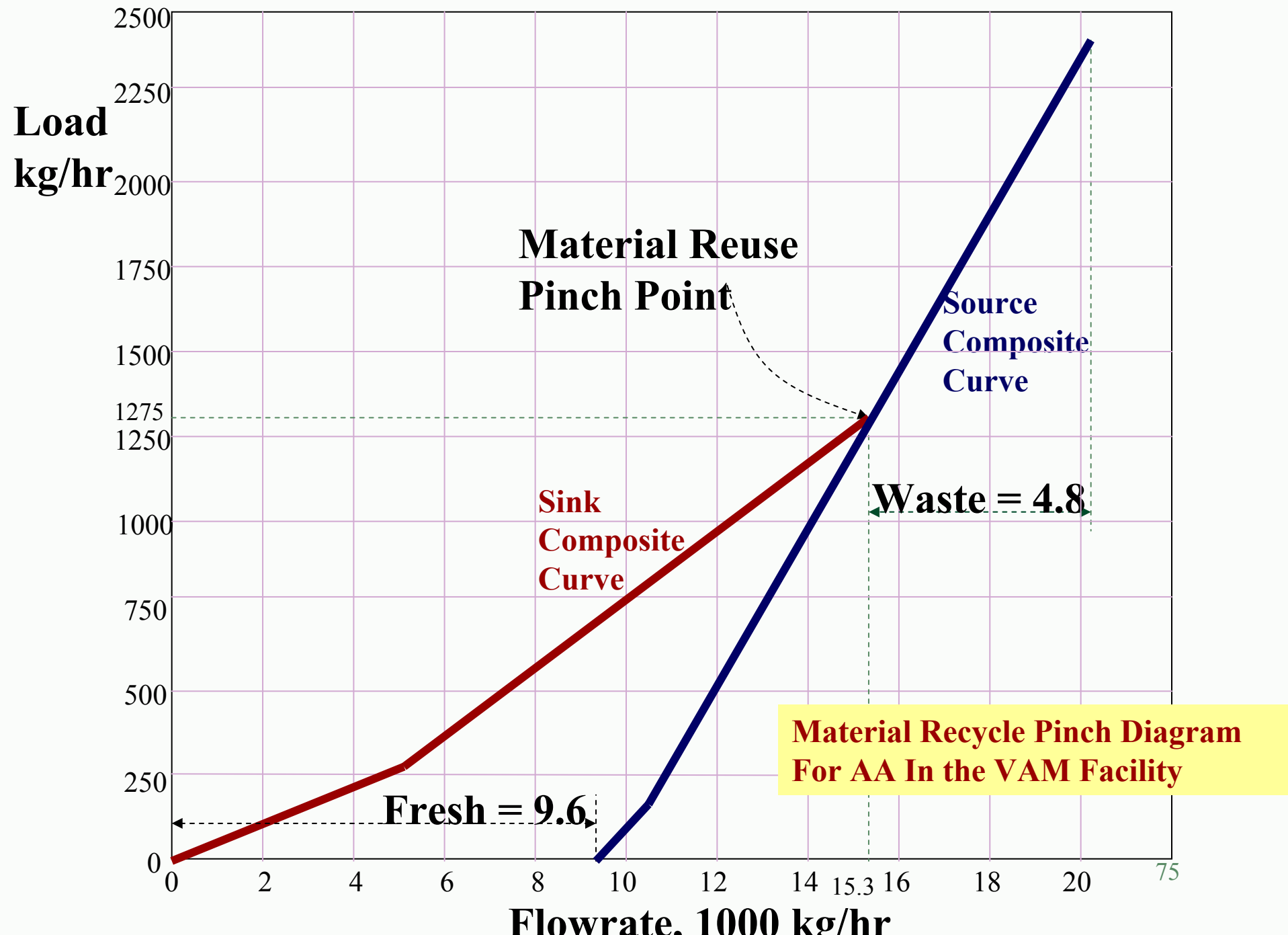




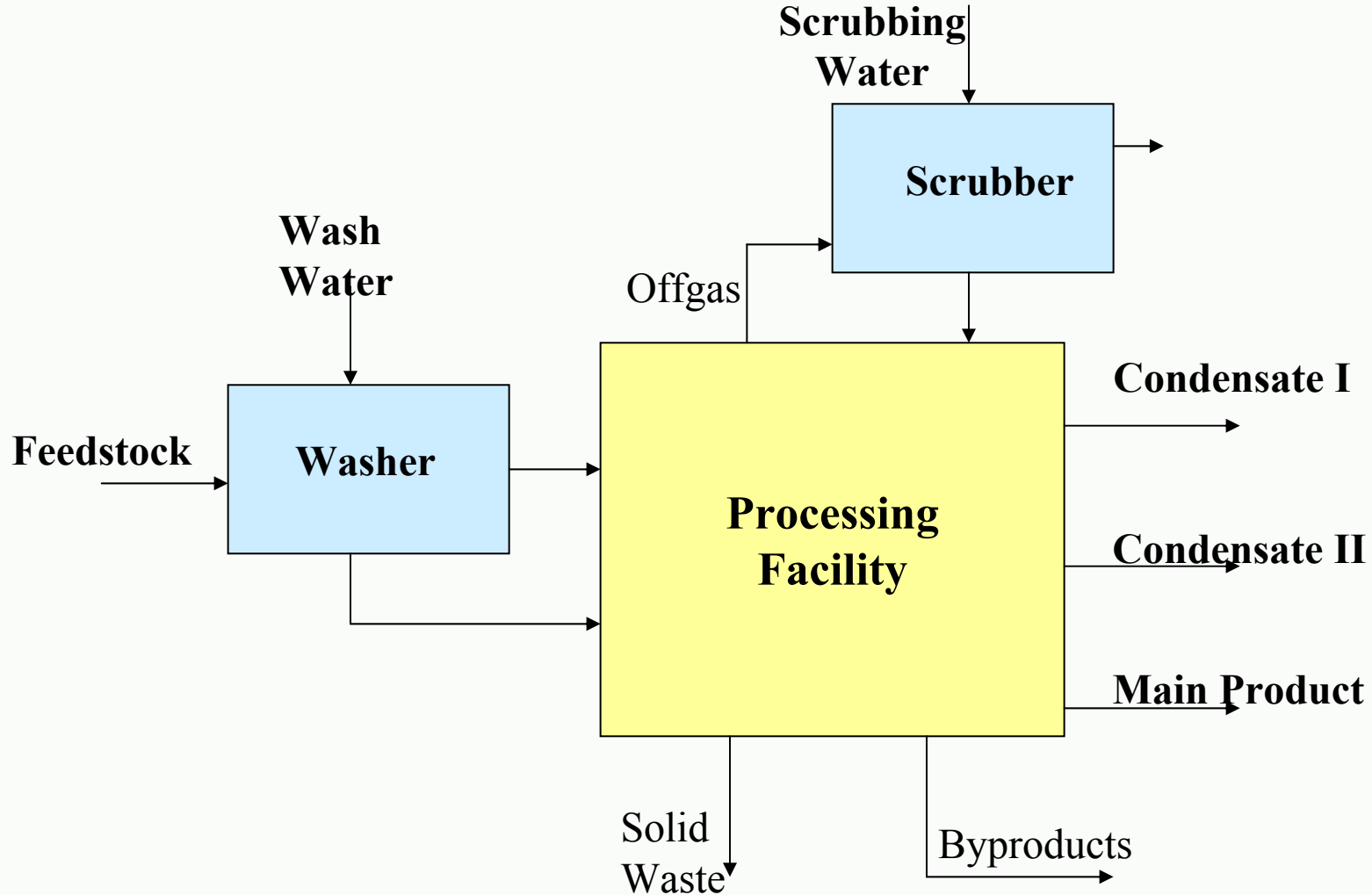
**Load  
kg/hr**







# PRACTICE EXERCISE II: FOOD PROCESSING FACILITY



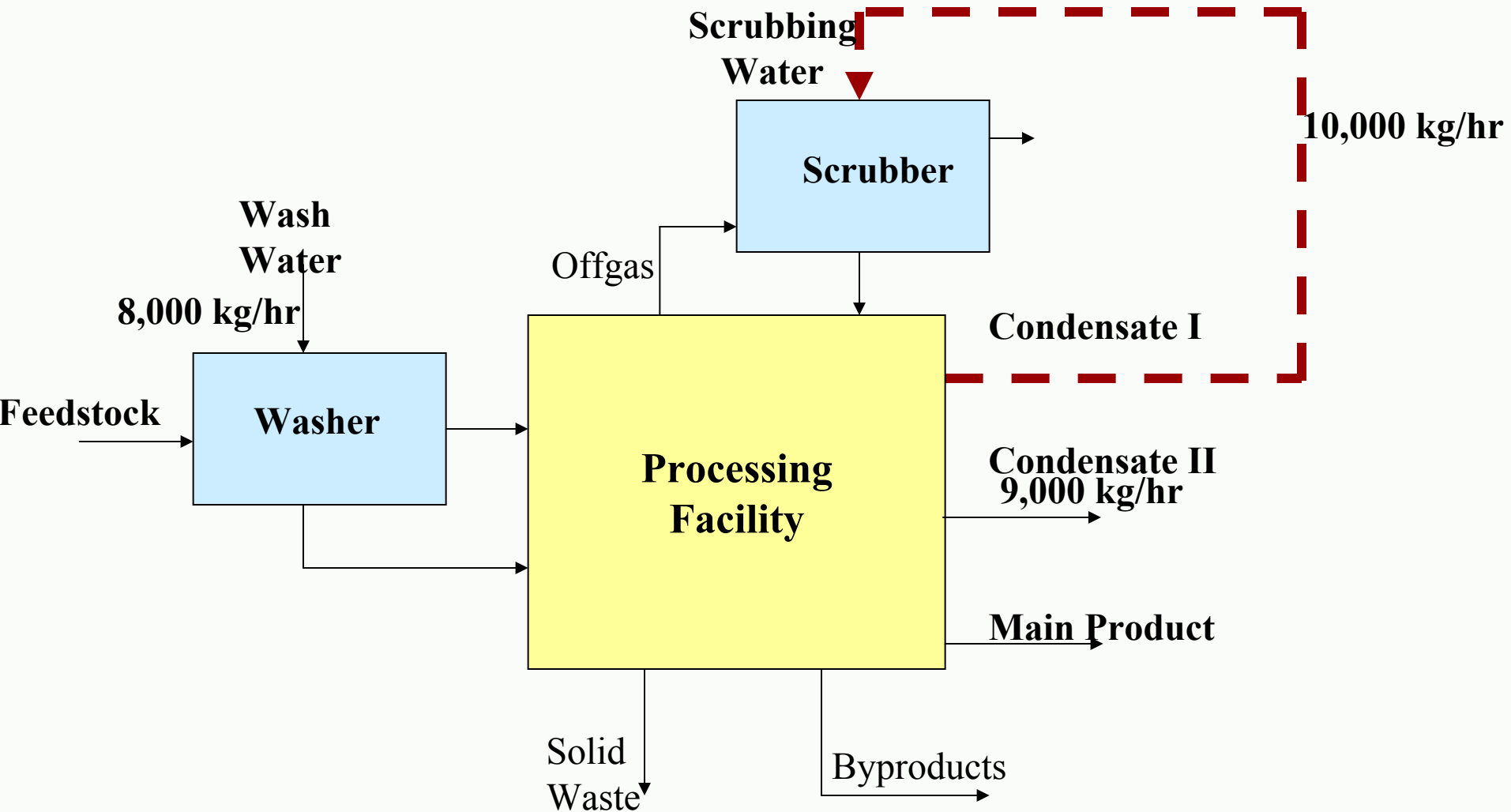
Two source (Condensate I and II), Two Sinks (Washer and Scrubber)

## Sink Data for the Food Processing Example

Sink	Flowrate kg/hr	Maximum Inlet Mass Fraction	Maximum Inlet Load, kg/hr
Washer	8,000	0.03	240
Scrubber	10,000	0.05	500

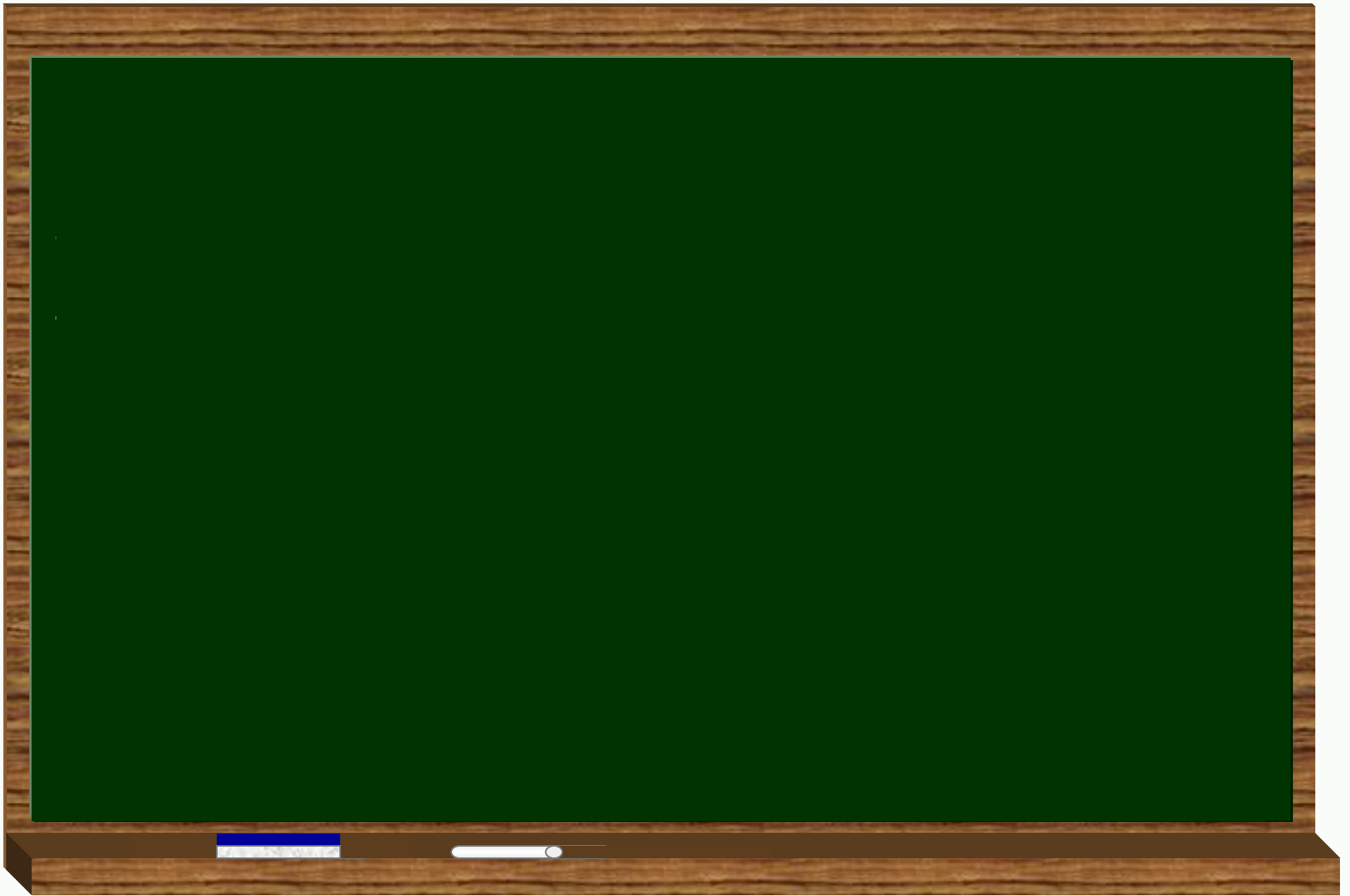
## Source Data for the Food Processing Example

Source	Flowrate kg/hr	Maximum Inlet Mass Fraction	Maximum Inlet Load, kg/hr
Condensate I	10,000	0.02	200
Condensate II	9,000	0.09	810



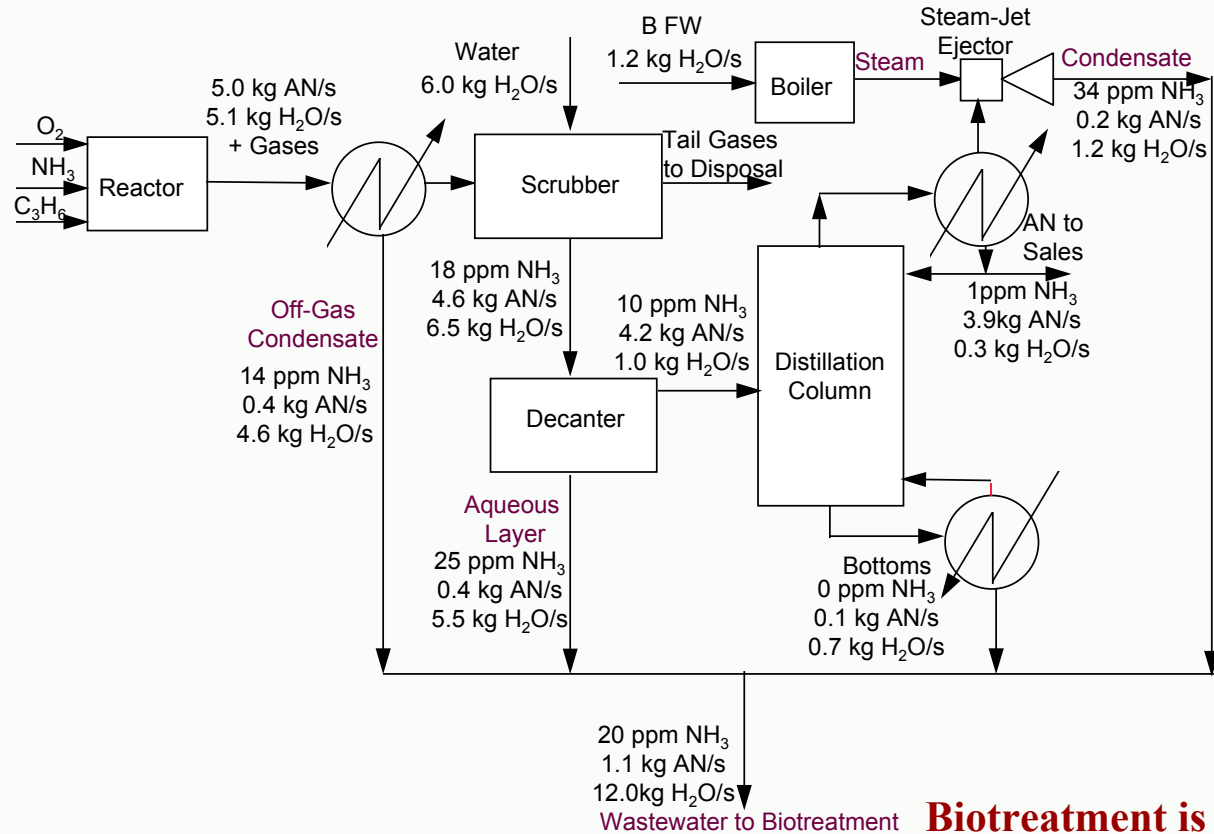
**Critique project proposed by engineer:  
Recycle Condensate I to Scrubber**

**→ Reduce fresh water to 8,000 kg/hr (down from 18,000 kg/hr)**



# GRAPHICAL TECHNIQUES FOR MASS INTEGRATION

## Motivating Example: Debottleneck Acrylonitrile Process and Minimize Fresh Water Usage



*Insights from flowsheet?*

*Target for water usage and discharge?*

*Minimum cost strategies to attain target*



## Critical Need:

A systematic methodology that provides fundamental understanding of the global flow of mass within a process and employs this understanding in identifying performance targets and optimizing the generation and routing of species throughout the process.

 **Mass integration**

To:

- Determine performance **targets** ahead of detailed design (e.g., minimum raw material consumption, maximum process yield, minimum waste discharge, maximum recovery, etc.)
- Identify optimum:
  1. Allocation (routing) of streams and species
  2. Changes in generation/depletion of species
  3. New units to be added to the process
  4. New materials/streams to be added to the processIdentify optimum revisions in flowsheet to reach target

*Big picture first, details later*

# Design Tasks:

**Can we determine:**

⇒ **Target for minimum wastewater discharge?**

⇒ **Recycle opportunities?**

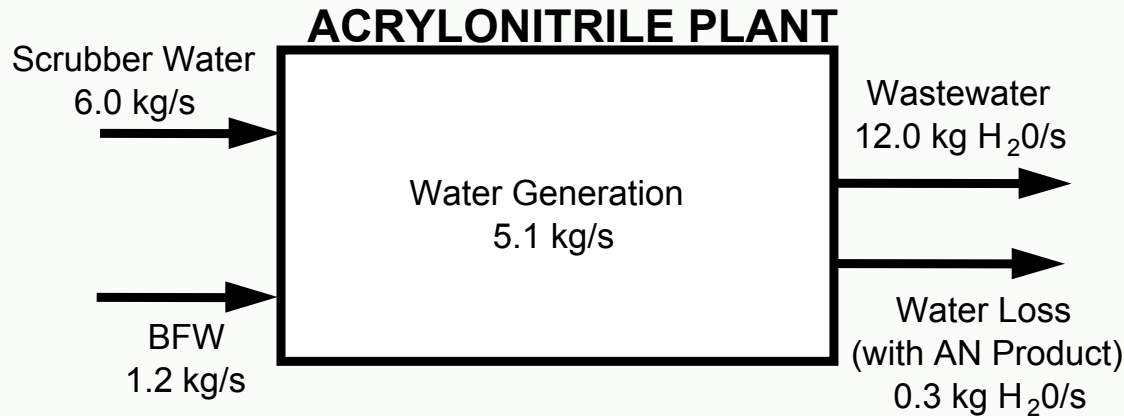
⇒ **Separation needed?**

⇒ **Unit replacement?**

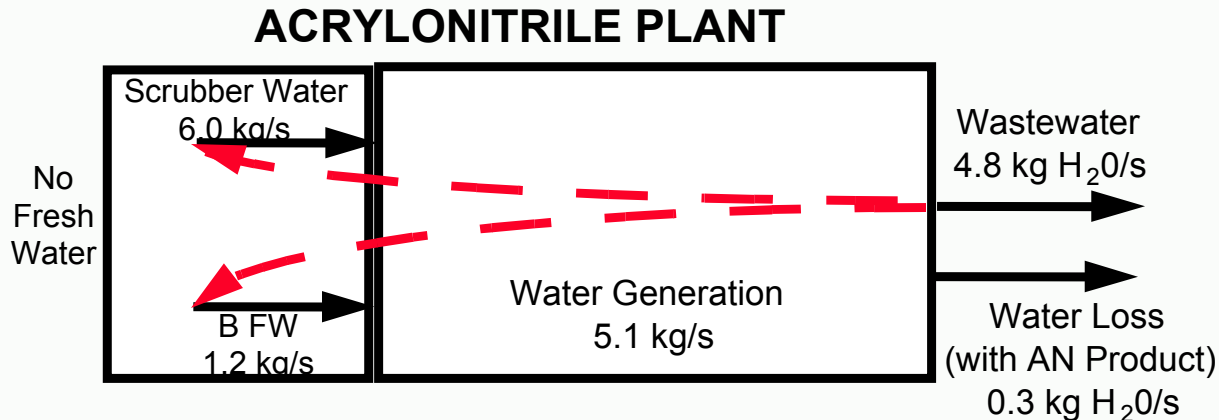
**We will learn how to do all of that systematically using mass integration techniques.**

# Targeting

- Water generation is fixed by AN production & stoichiometry (= 5.1 kg/s)
- Get overall data on fresh and terminal water from flowsheet

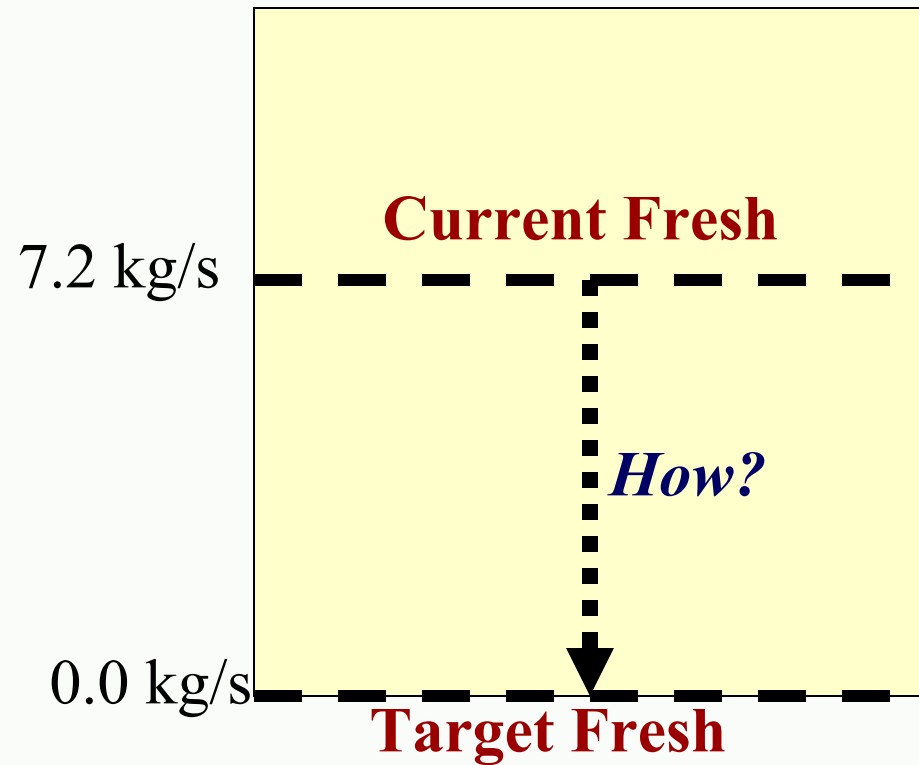
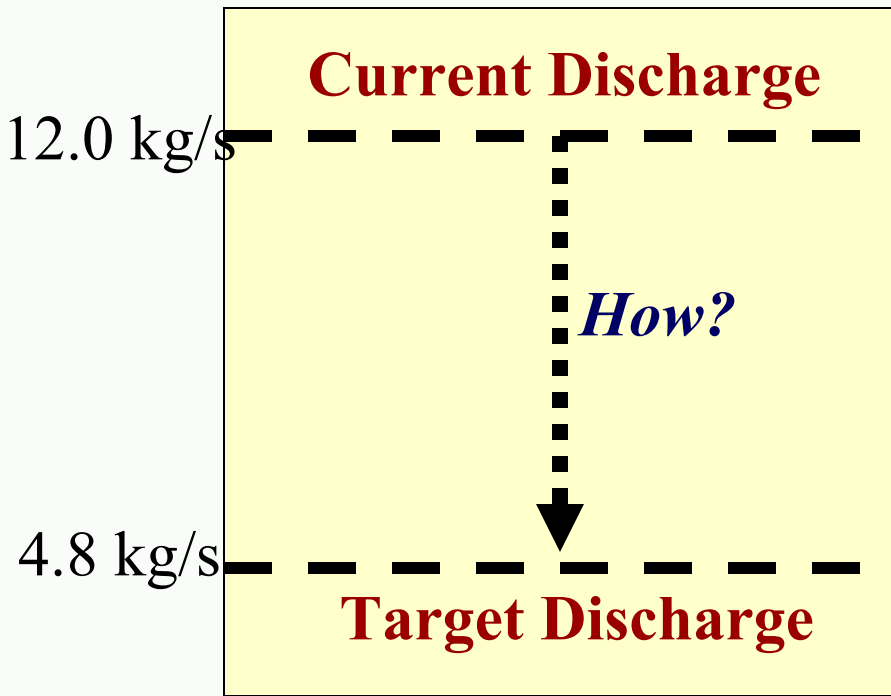


(a) Overall Water Balance Before Mass Integration



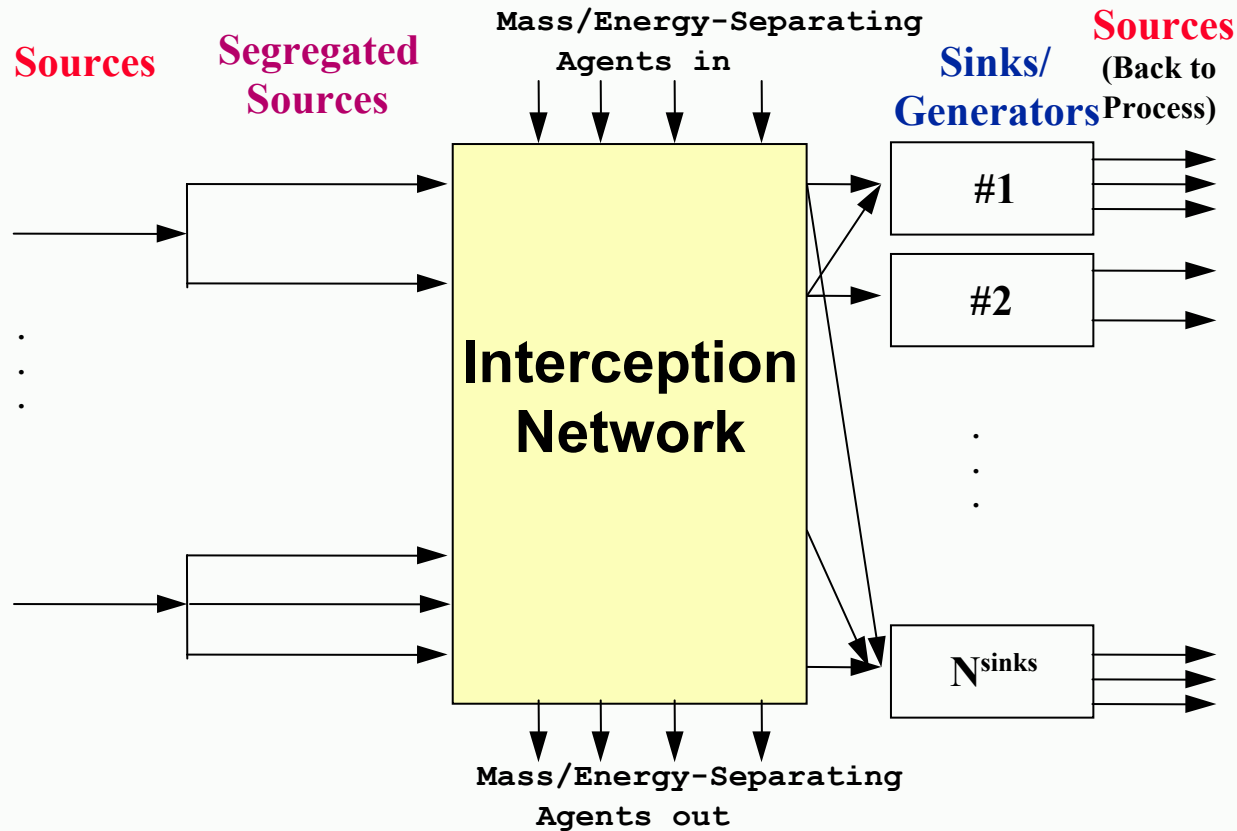
(b) Overall Water Balance After Mass Integration

Target for minimum wastewater discharge =  $12.0 - 7.2 = 4.8 \text{ kg/s}$   
Target for minimum water usage =  $0.0 \text{ kg/s}$



# **DEVELOPMENT OF MASS INTEGRATION STRATEGIES TO REACH THE TARGET**

# Process from a Species Perspective

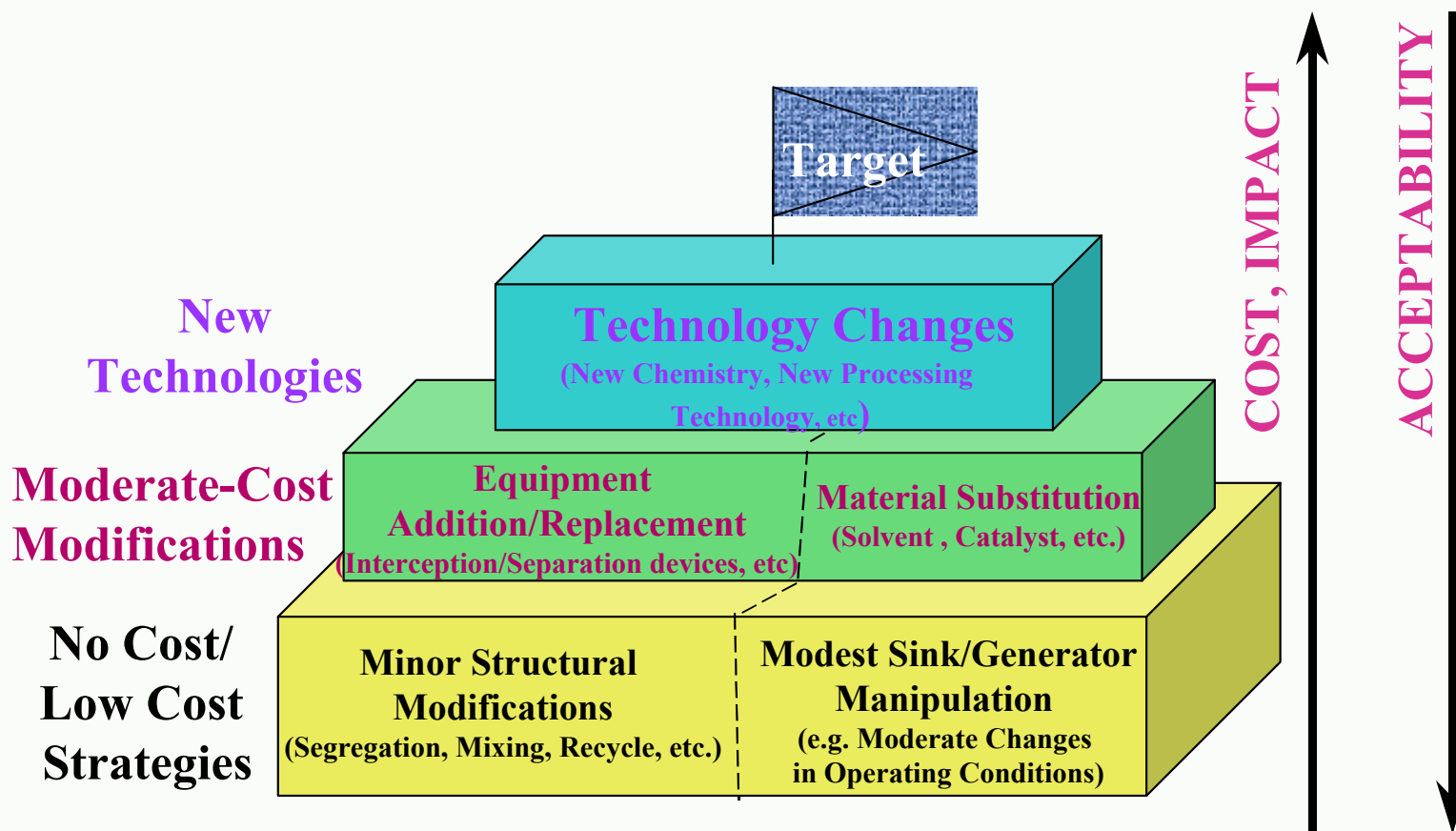


**Source:** A stream which contains the targeted species

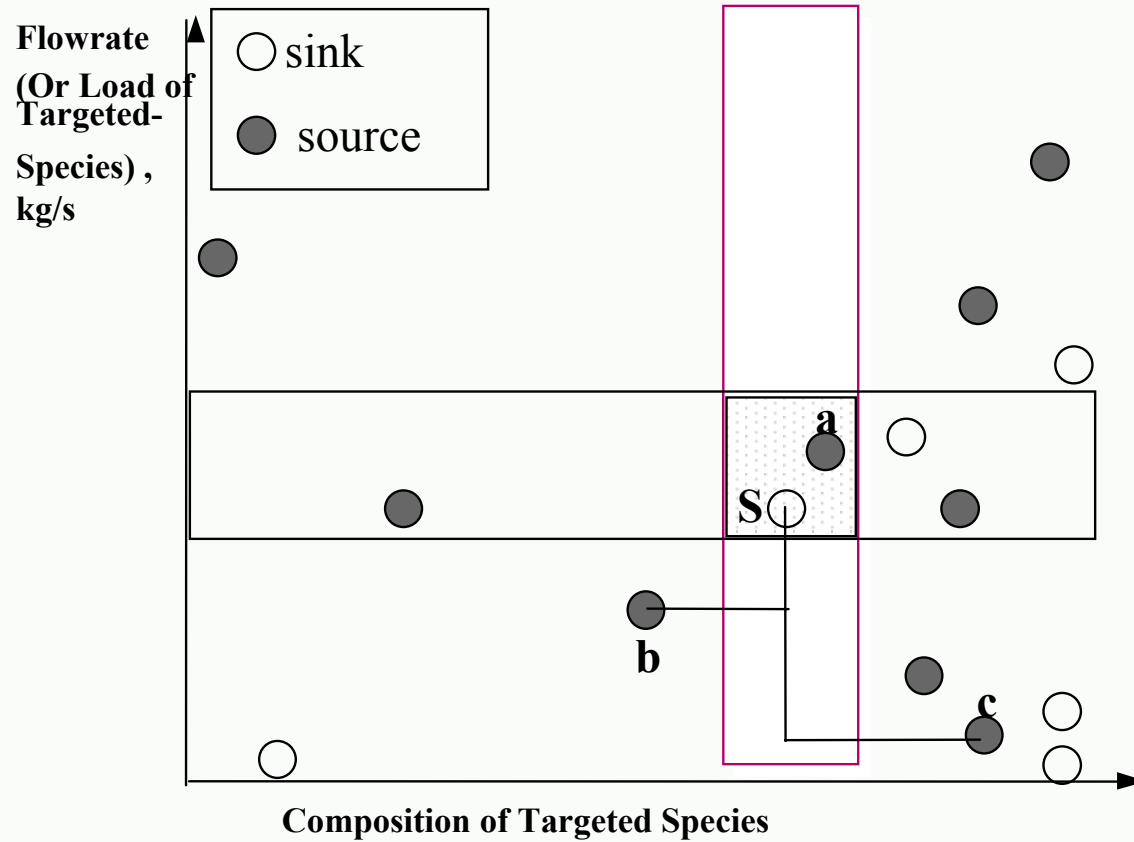
**Sink:** An existing process unit/equipment that can accept a source

**Interceptor:** A new unit/equipment that can process a source

# Mass Integration Strategies

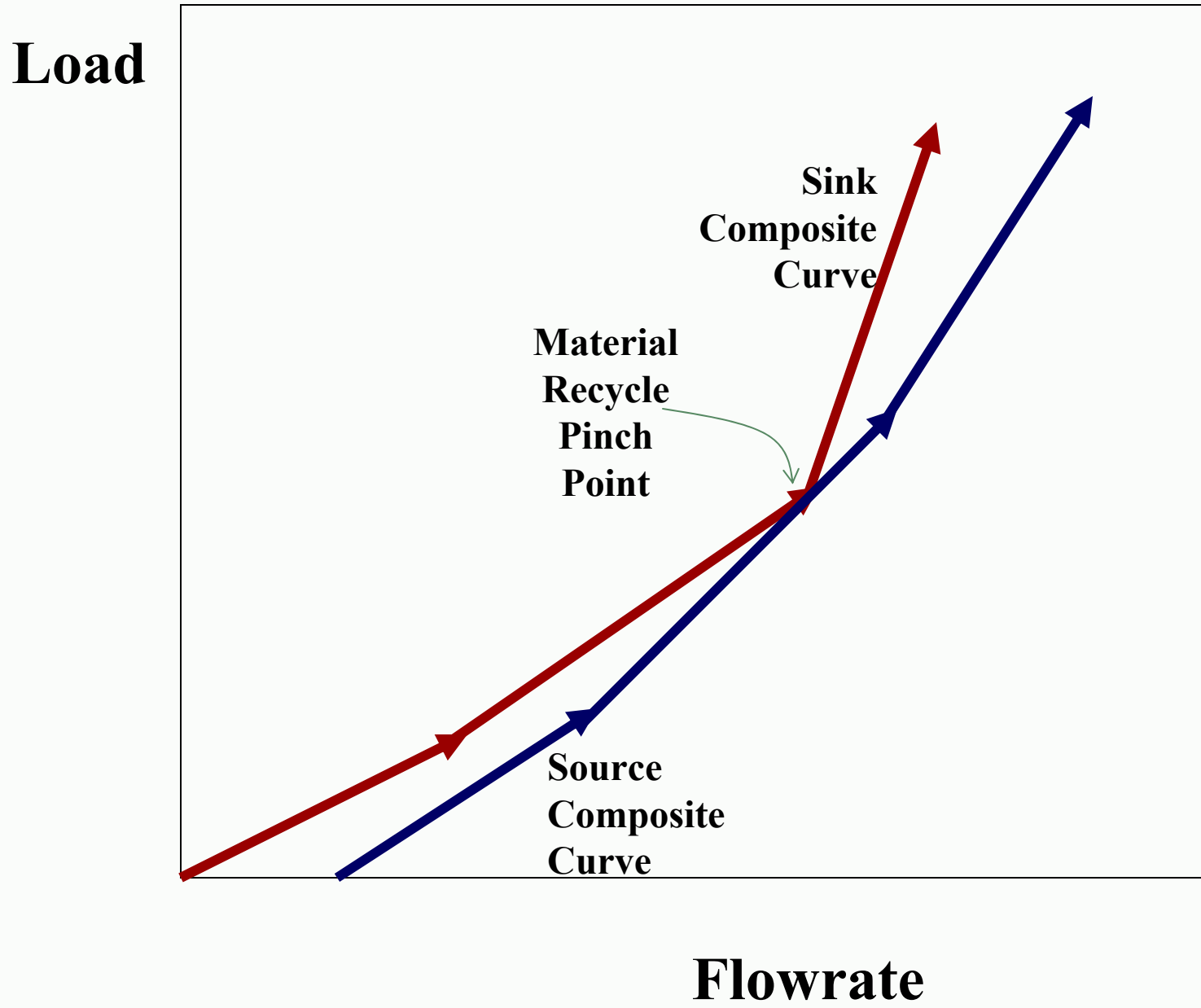


# Source-Sink Mapping Diagram for Direct Recycle

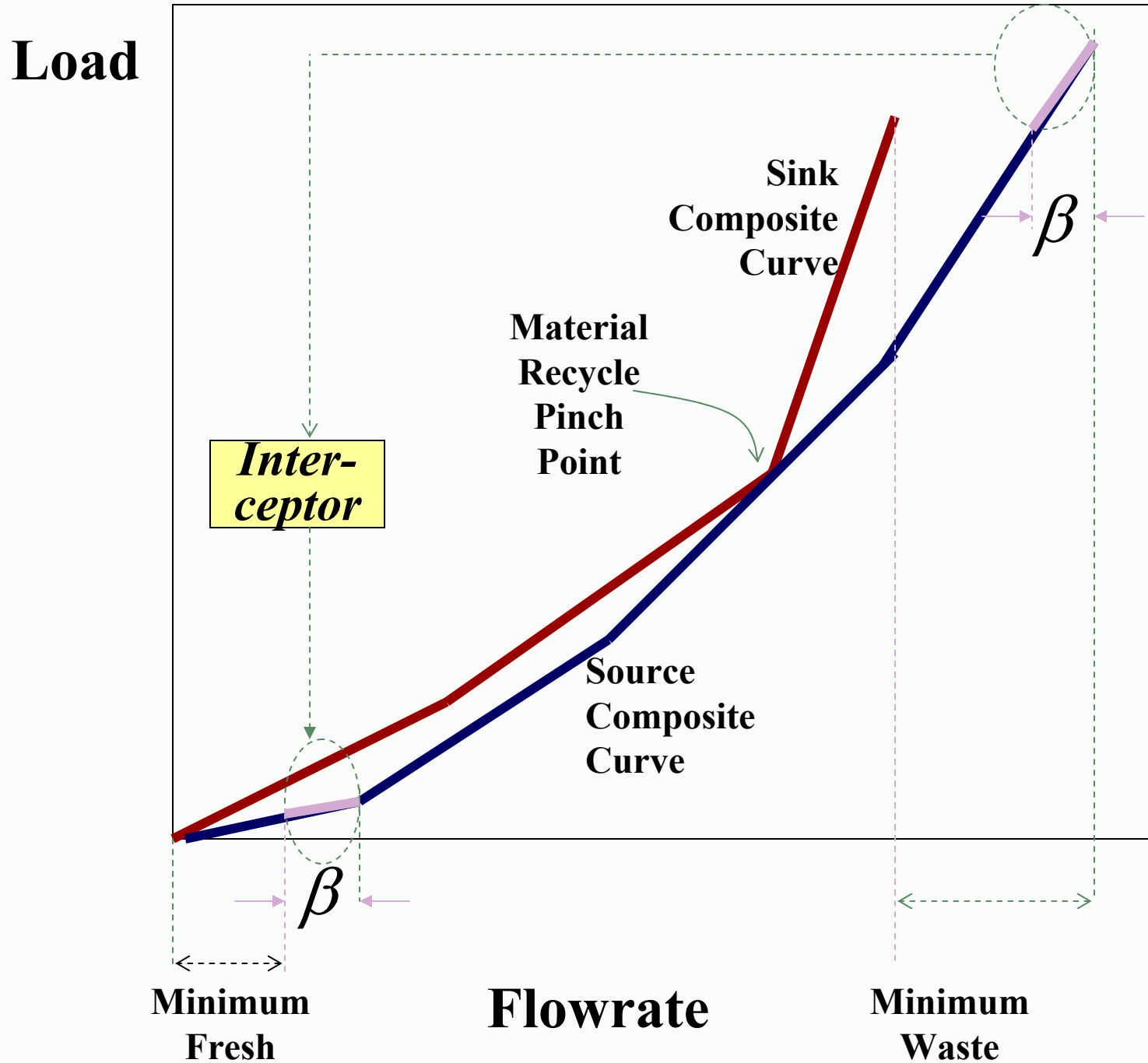




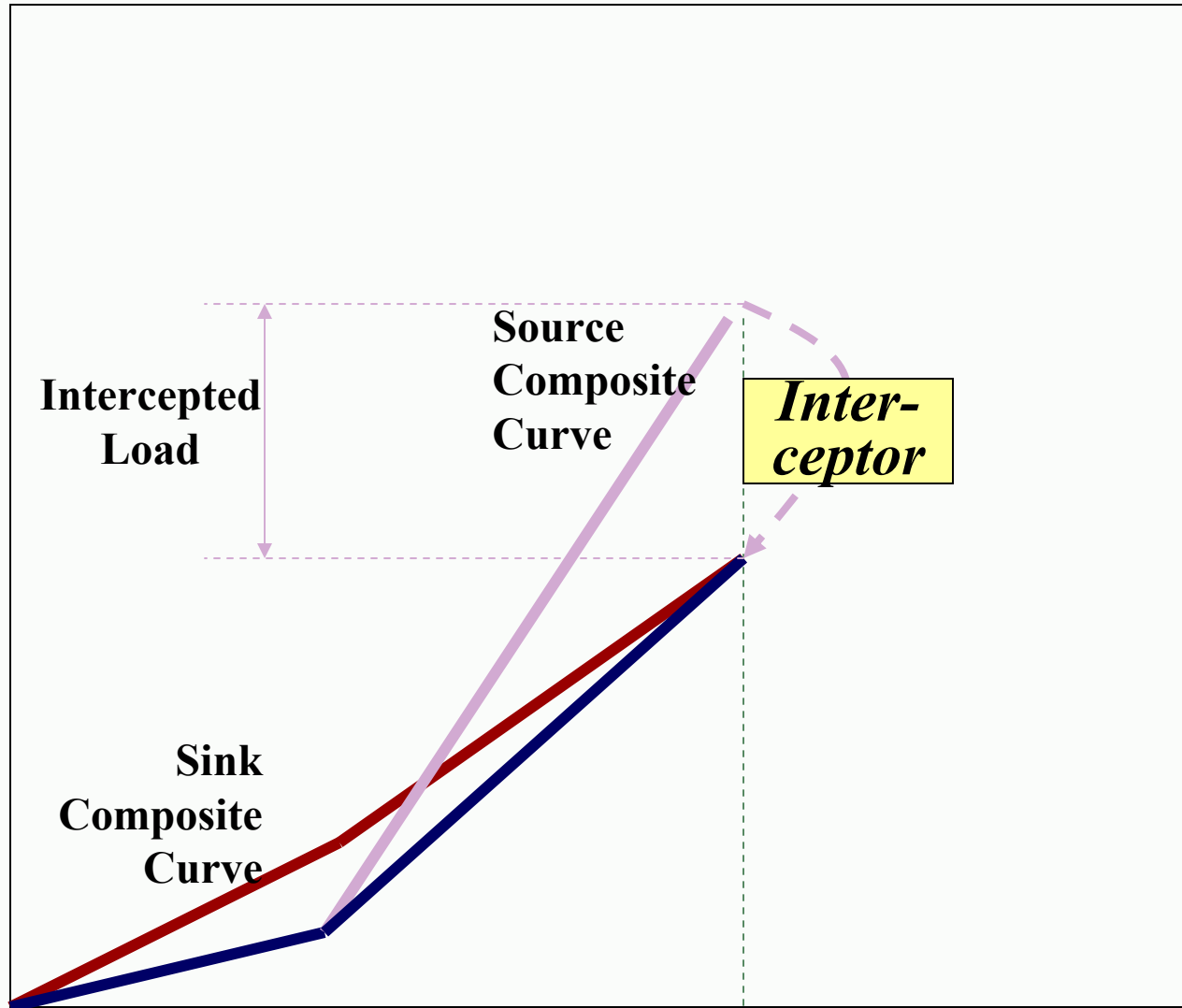
# Integrating Source and Sink Composites



# Effect of Interception



**Load**

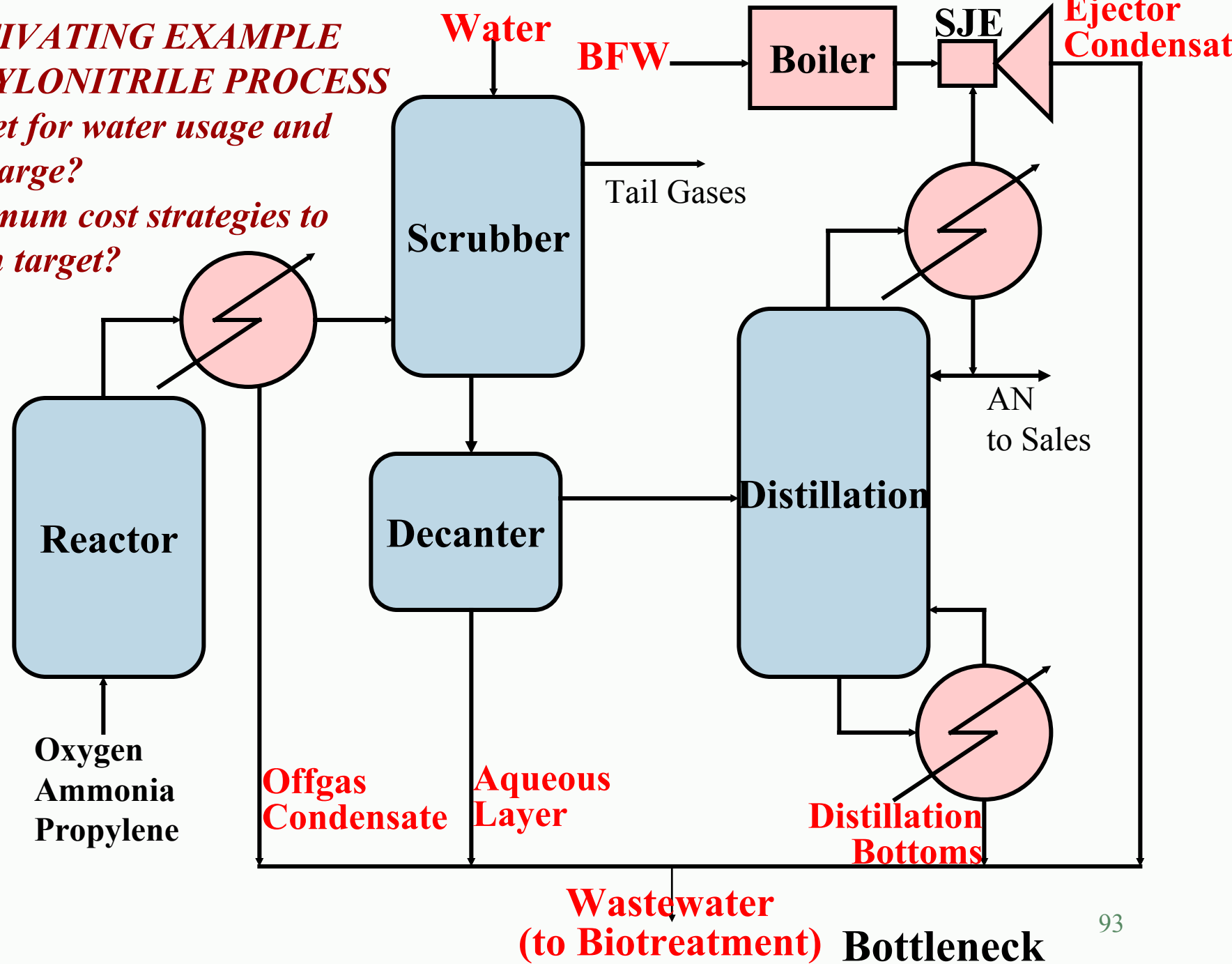


**Flowrate**

# **DETAILING MASS INTEGRATION STRATEGIES**

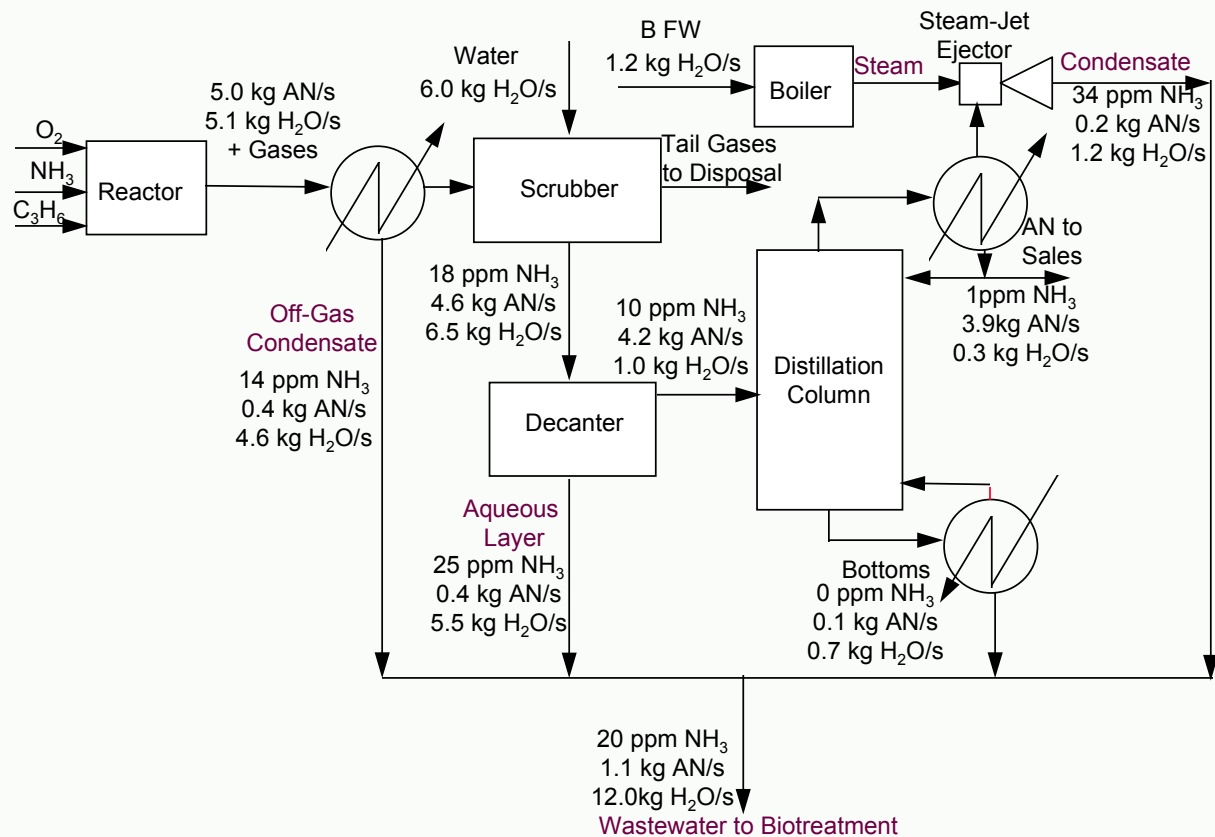
**MOTIVATING EXAMPLE**  
**ACRYLONITRILE PROCESS**

*Target for water usage and discharge?*  
*Minimum cost strategies to attain target?*



Ref. El-Halwagi, M. M., "Pollution Prevention through Process Integration: Systematic Design Tools", Academic Press (1997)

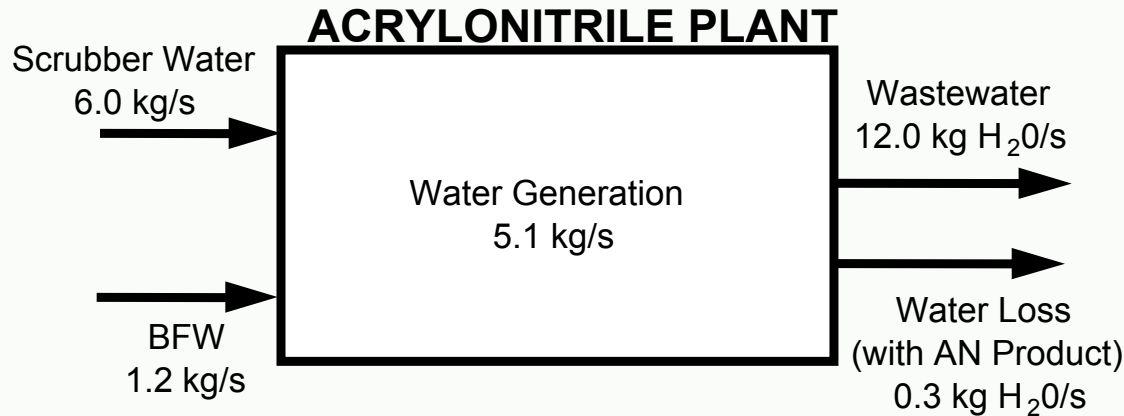
# Motivating Example: Debottleneck an Acrylonitrile Process



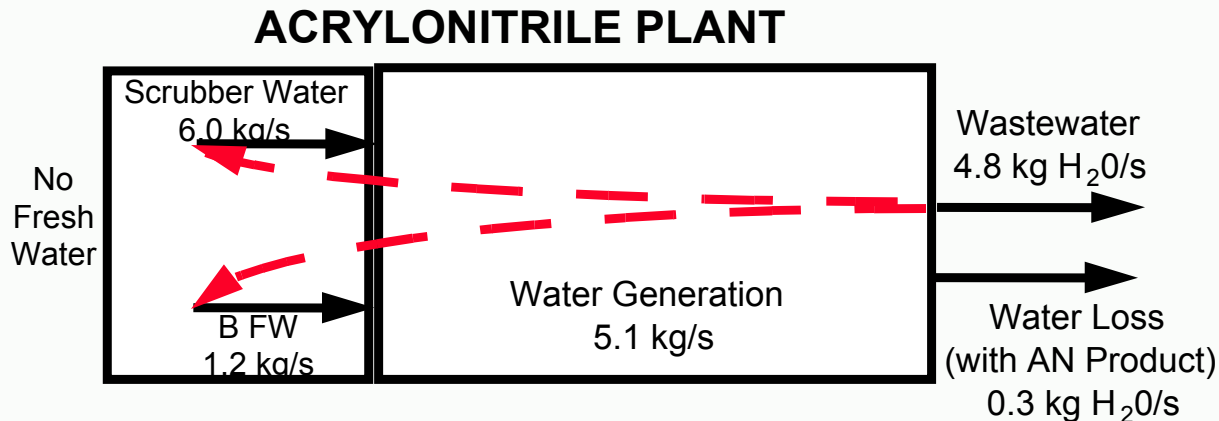
- Sold-out product, need to expand. Biotreatment is bottleneck.
- Intuitive solution: install an additional biotreatment facility (\$4 million in capital investment and \$360,000/year in annual operating cost)! Should we????
- Can we use mass integration techniques to devise cost-effective strategies to debottleneck the process?

# Targeting

- Water generation is fixed by AN production & stoichiometry (= 5.1 kg/s)
- Get overall data on fresh and terminal water from flowsheet



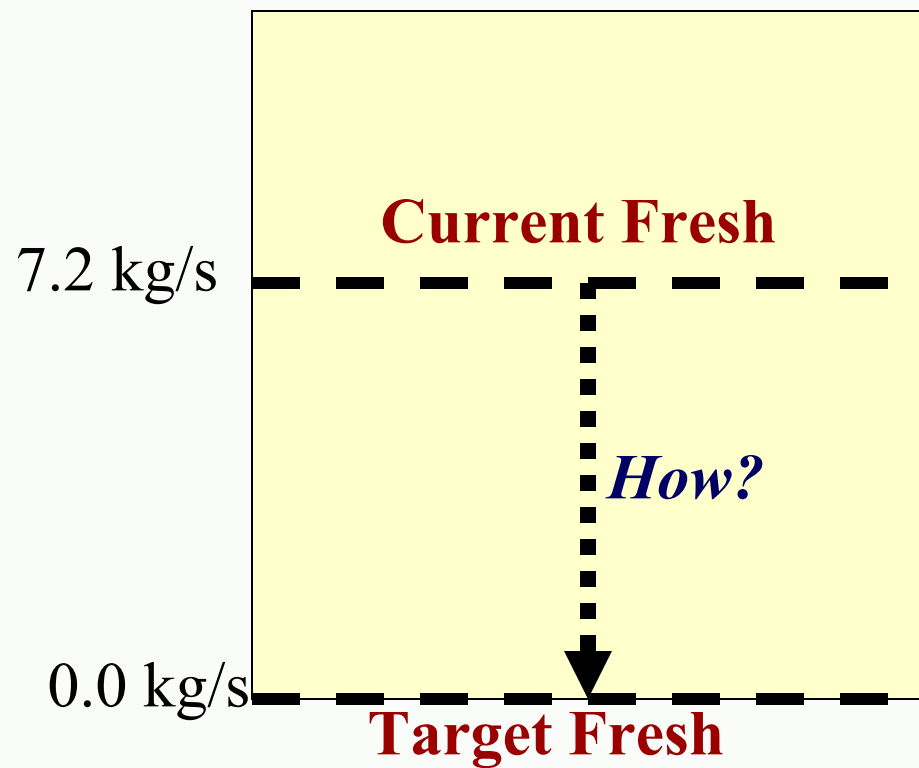
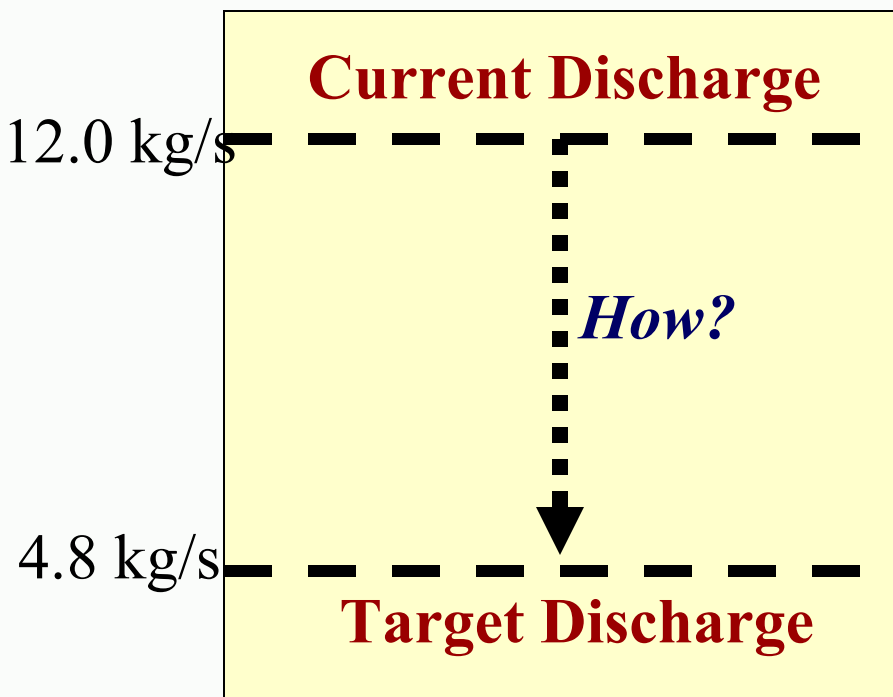
(a) Overall Water Balance Before Mass Integration



(b) Overall Water Balance After Mass Integration

Target for minimum wastewater discharge =  $12.0 - 7.2 = 4.8 \text{ kg/s}$

Target for minimum water usage =  $0.0 \text{ kg/s}$





## Constraints and Data

### Scrubber:

- $5.8 < \text{Feed flowrate of scrubbing agent (kg/s)} < 6.2$
- $0.0 < \text{ammonia composition in scrubbing agent (ppm)} < 10$

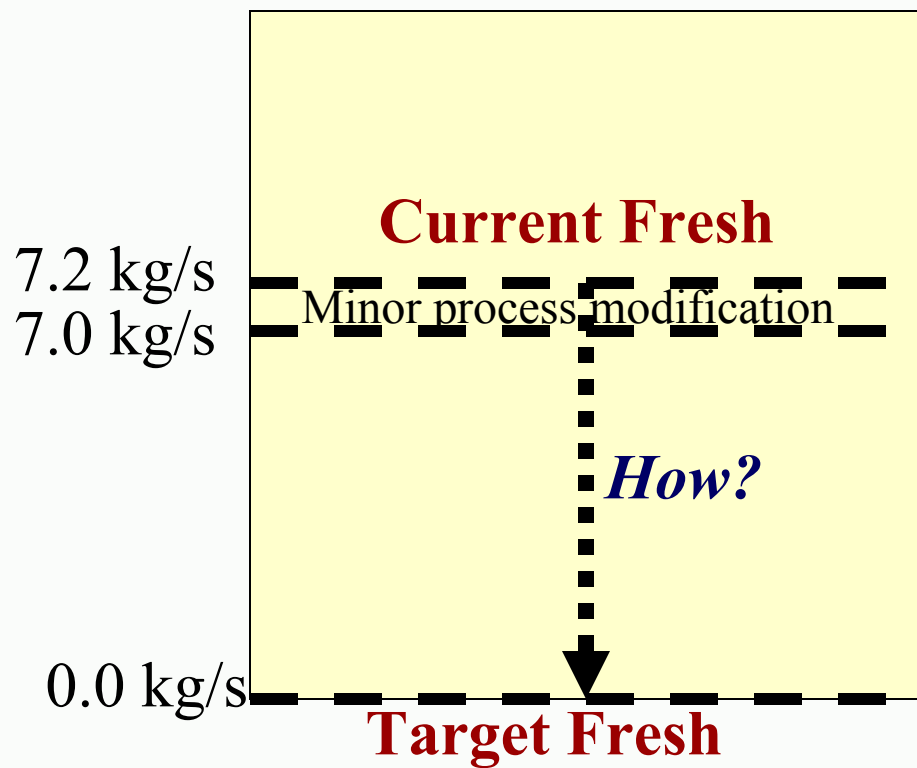
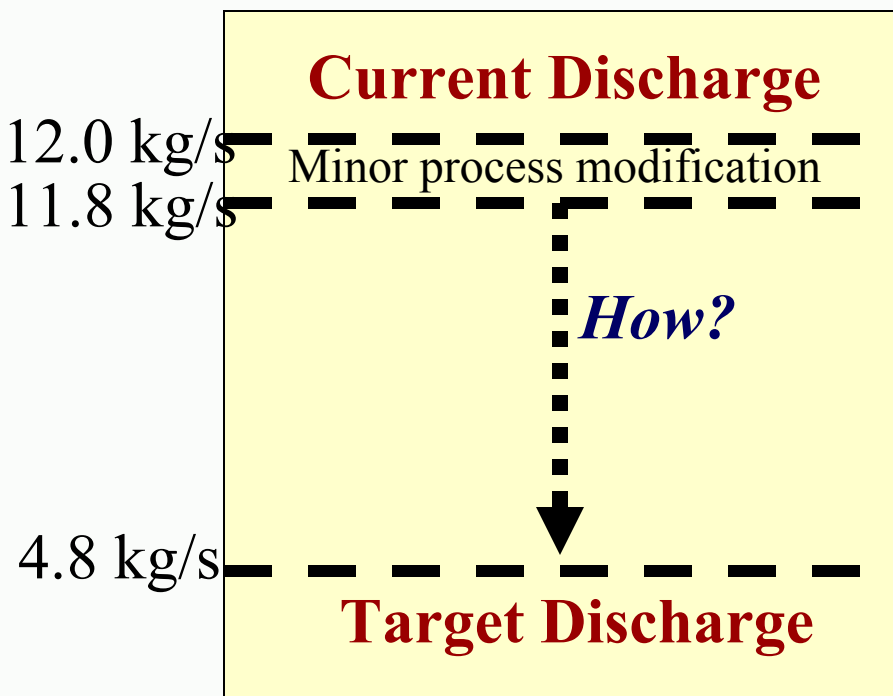
### Boiler Feed Water “BFW”:

- Flowrate of BFW = 1.2 kg/s
- Ammonia content in BFW (ppm) = 0.00
- AN content in BFW (ppm) = 0.00

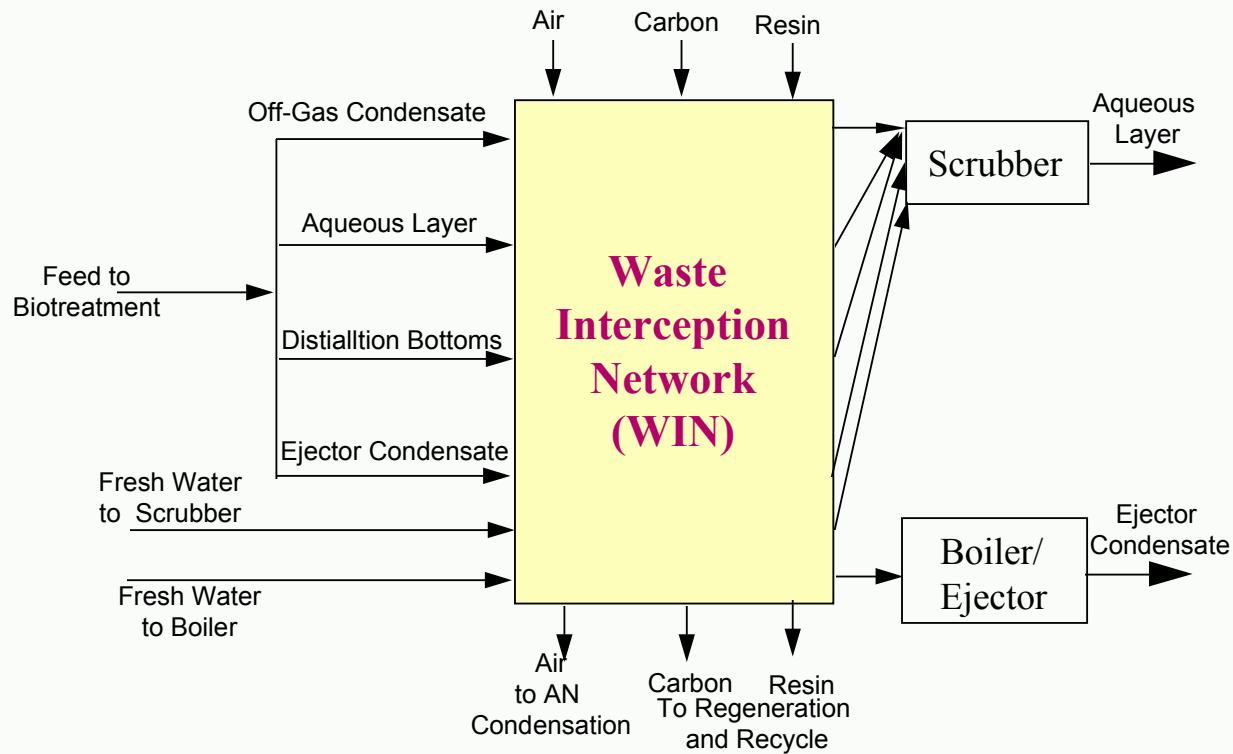
For separation of ammonia, use adsorption.

Minor Process Modification:

Constraint on scrubber feed flowrate allows reduction of  
Fresh water from 6.0 kg/s to 5.8 kg/s

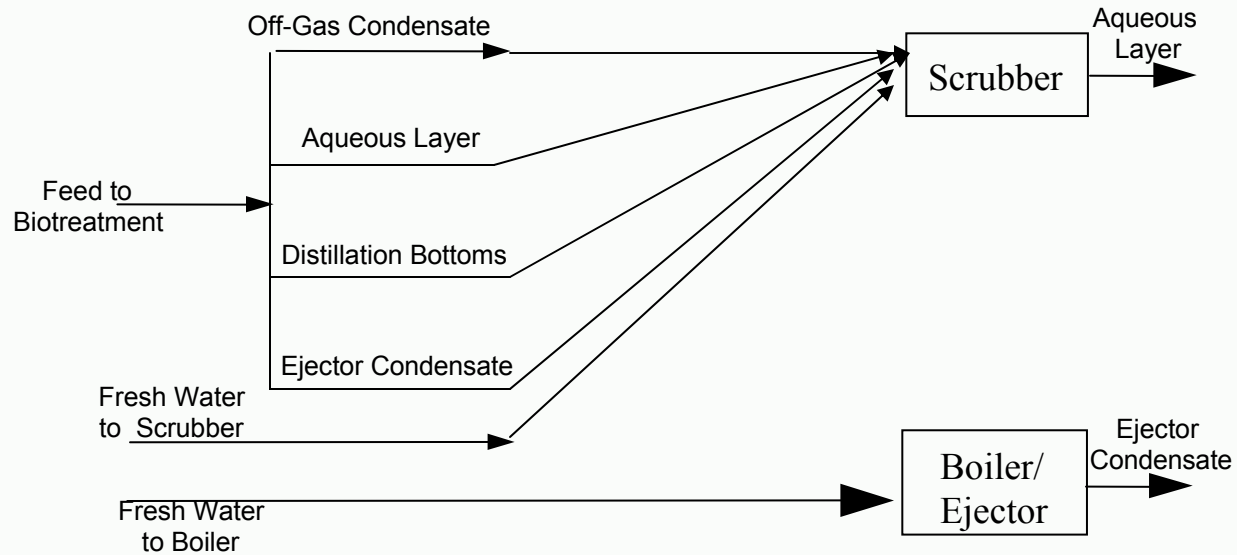


# Source-Interception-Sink Representation

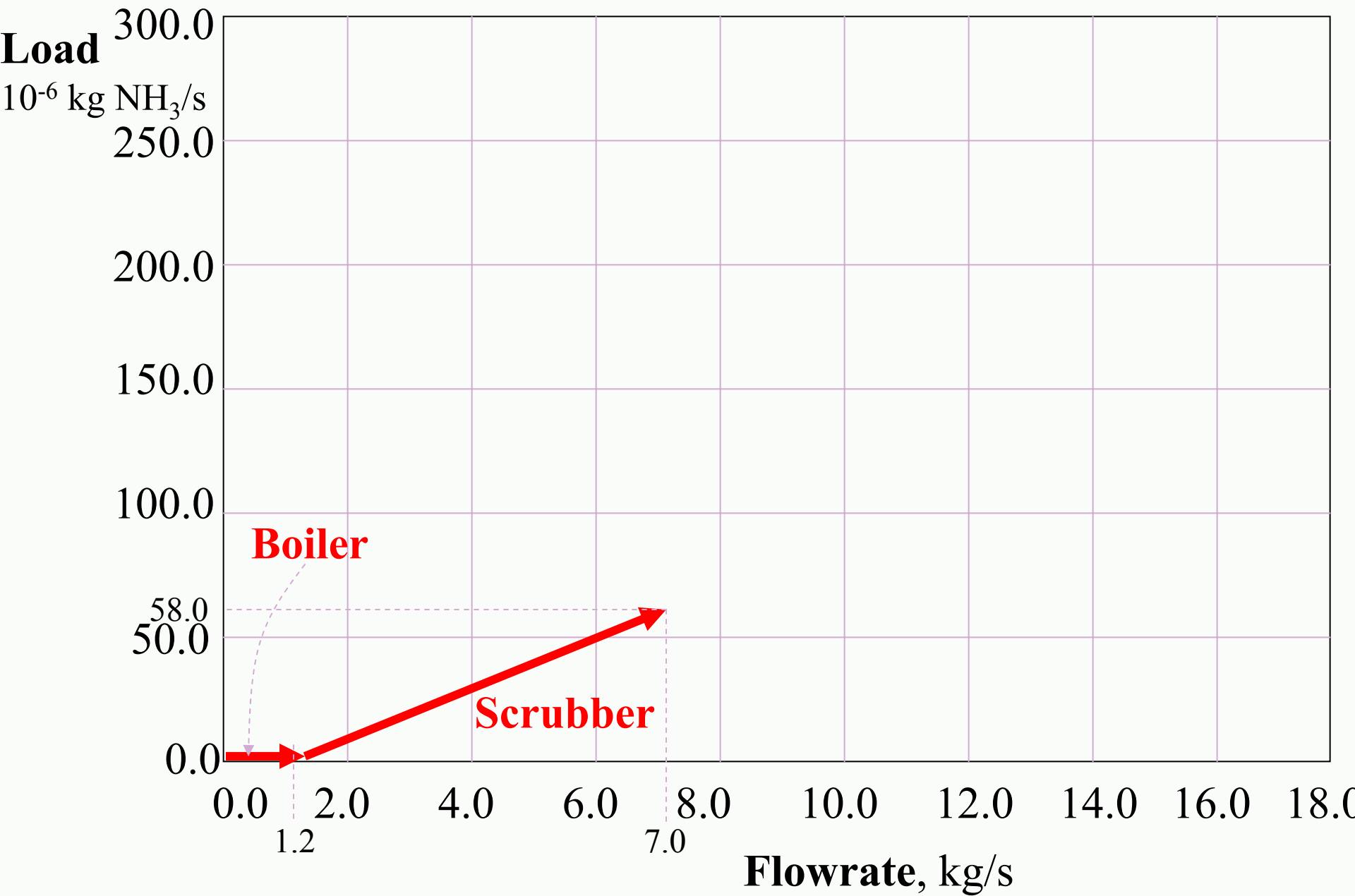


Note: Recycle to sinks that employ a fresh resource (scrubber and boiler)

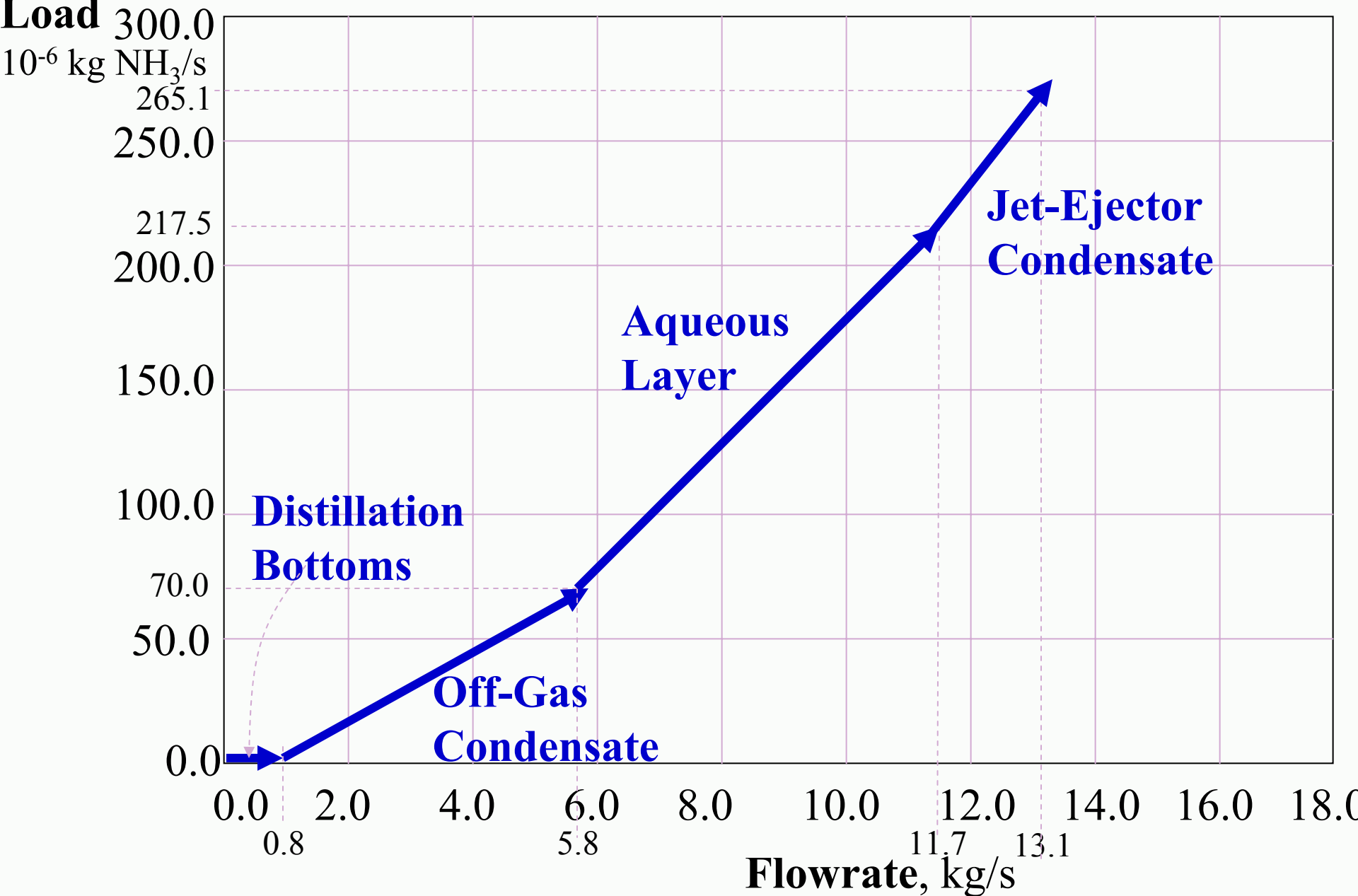
# Direct-Recycle Alternatives



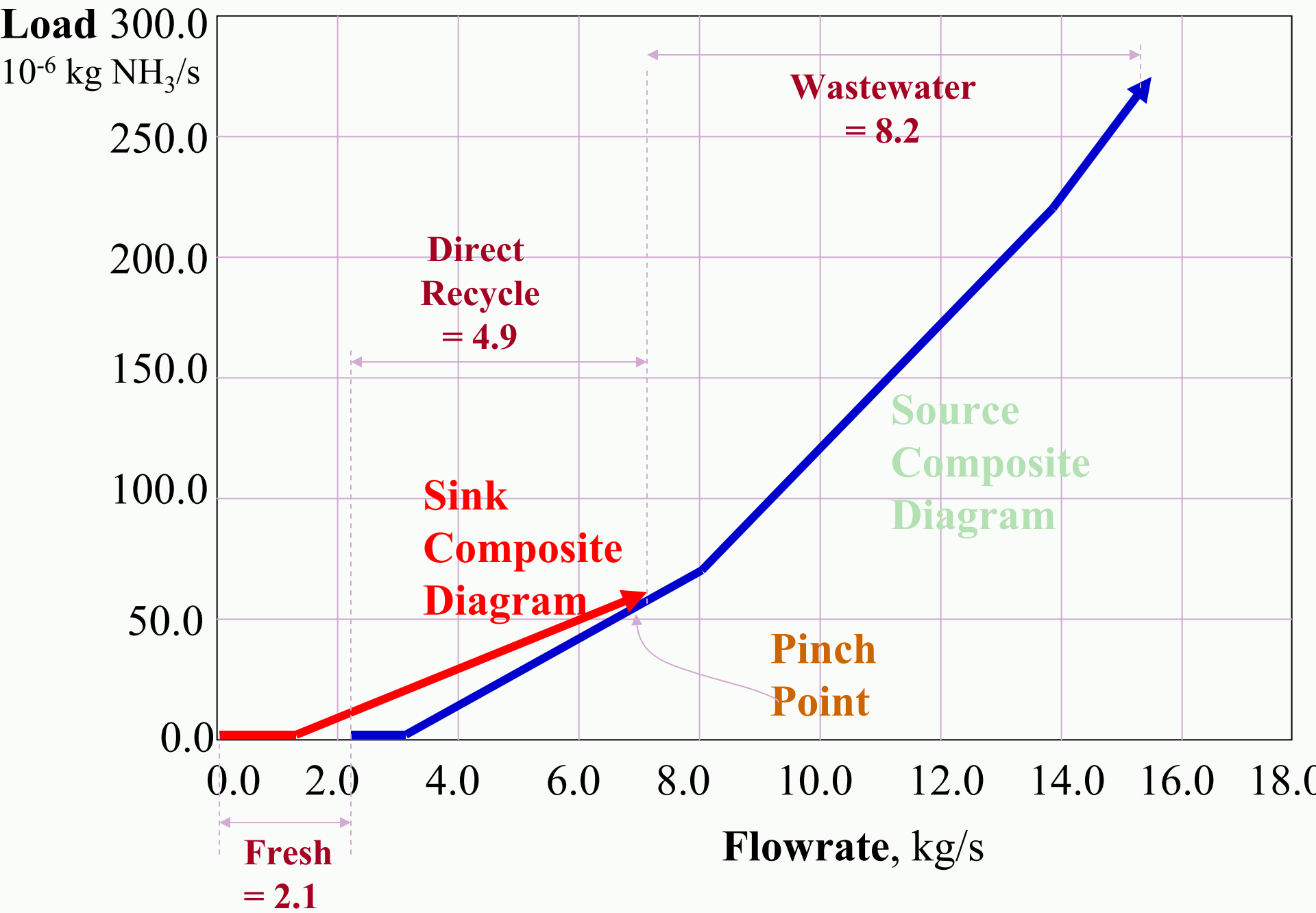
Note: No recycle to boiler because of 0.0 ppm constraints



**Sink Composite Diagram for the AN Example**

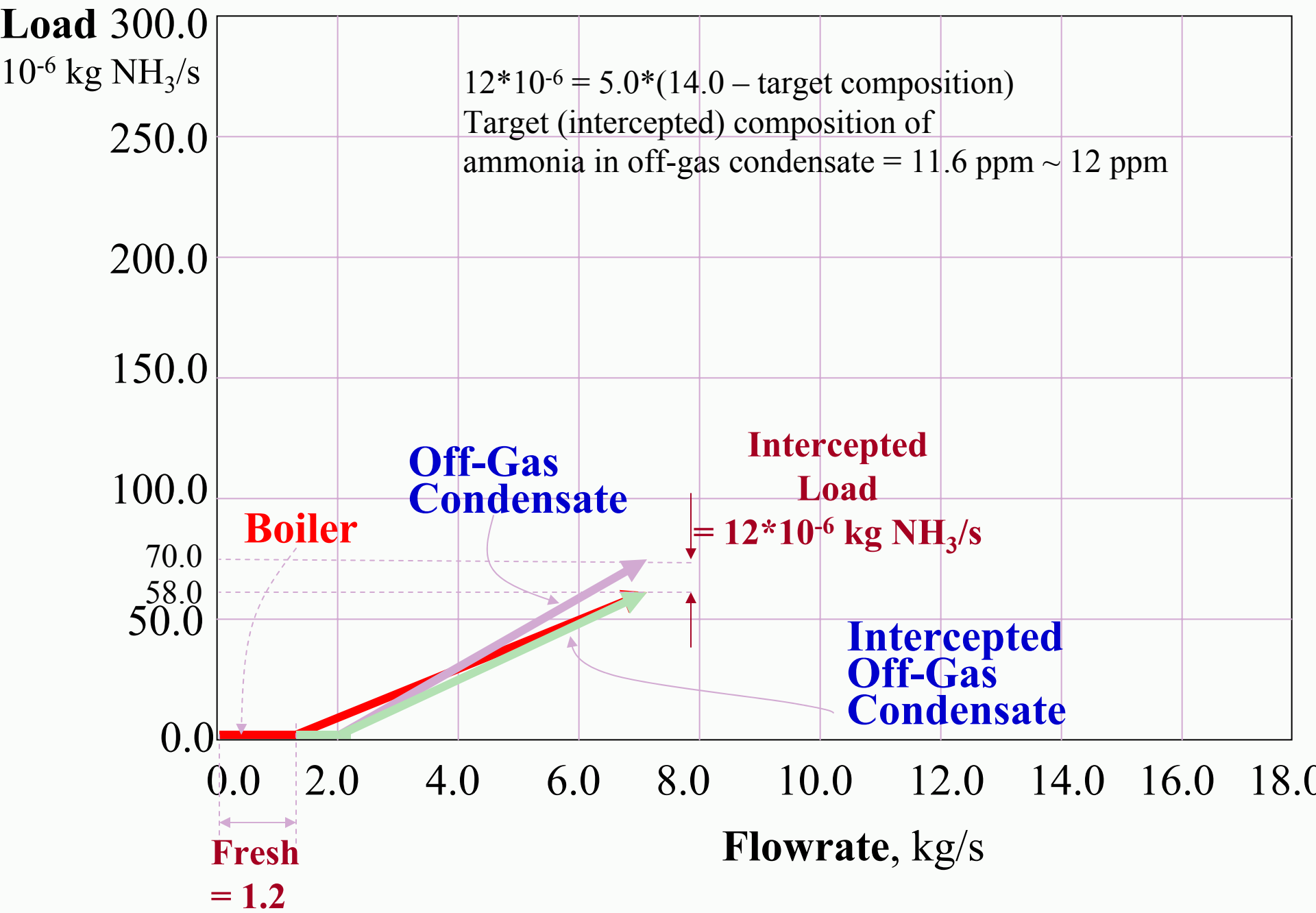


**Source Composite Diagram for the AN Example**



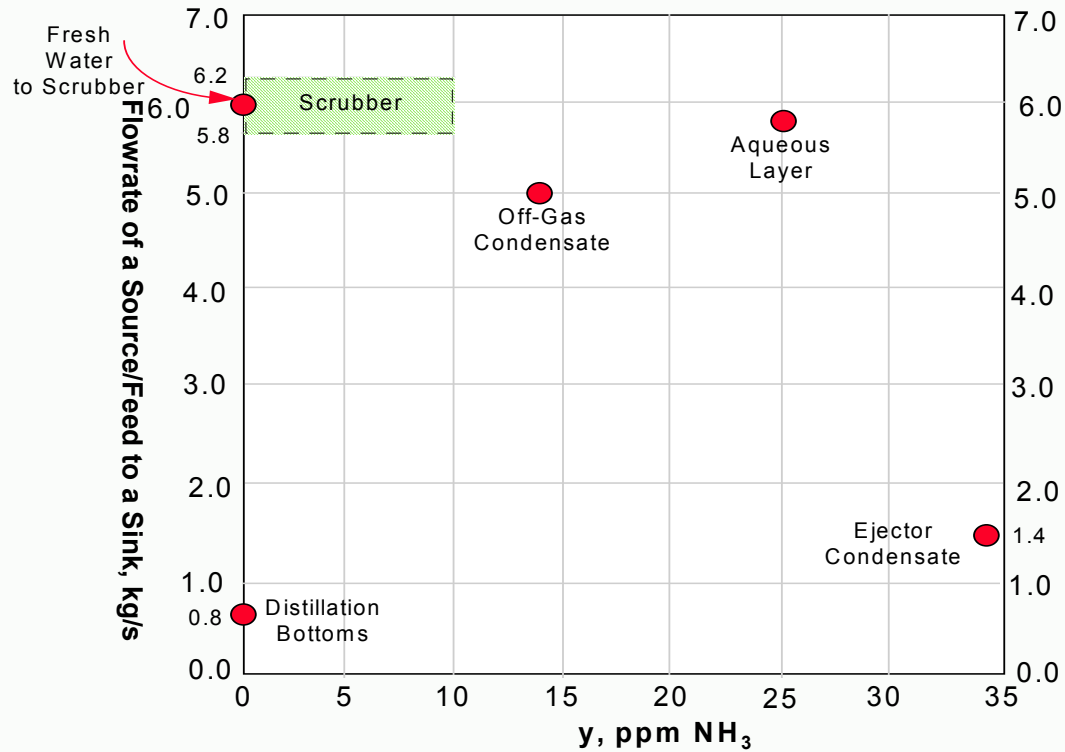
**Material Recycle Pinch Diagram for the AN Example**



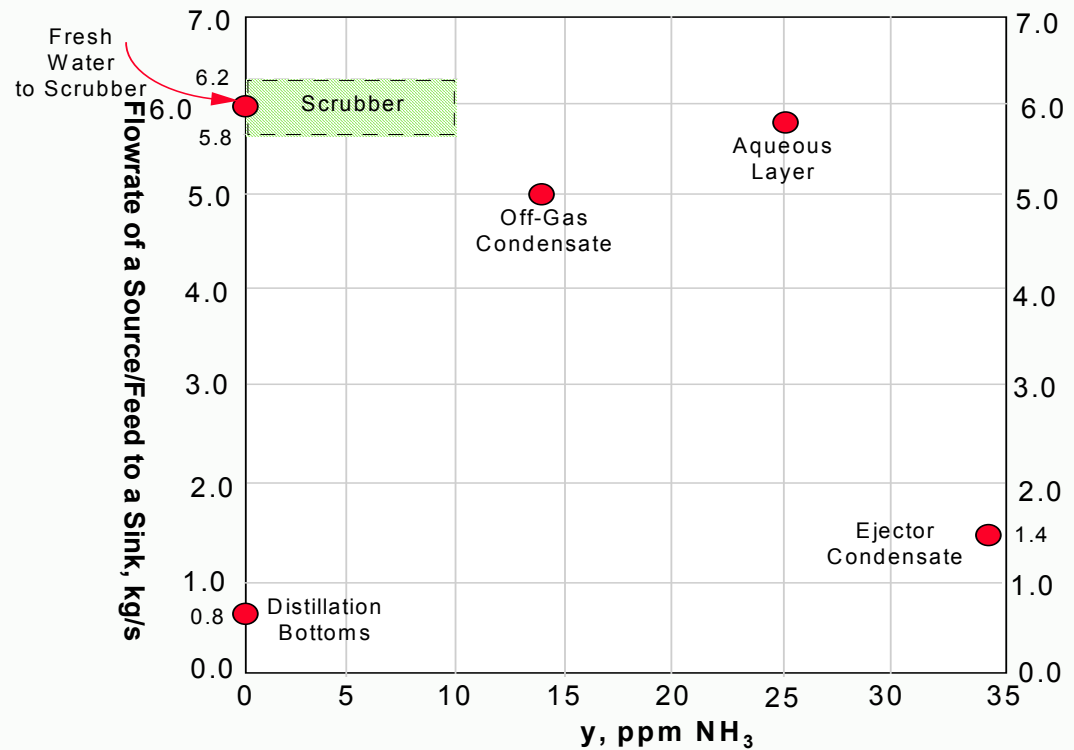


**Material Recycle Pinch Diagram for the AN Example**

# Source-Sink Mapping Diagram



To use minimum fresh water, start with sources closest to the sink.  
First distillation bottoms.  
Then off-gas condensate.



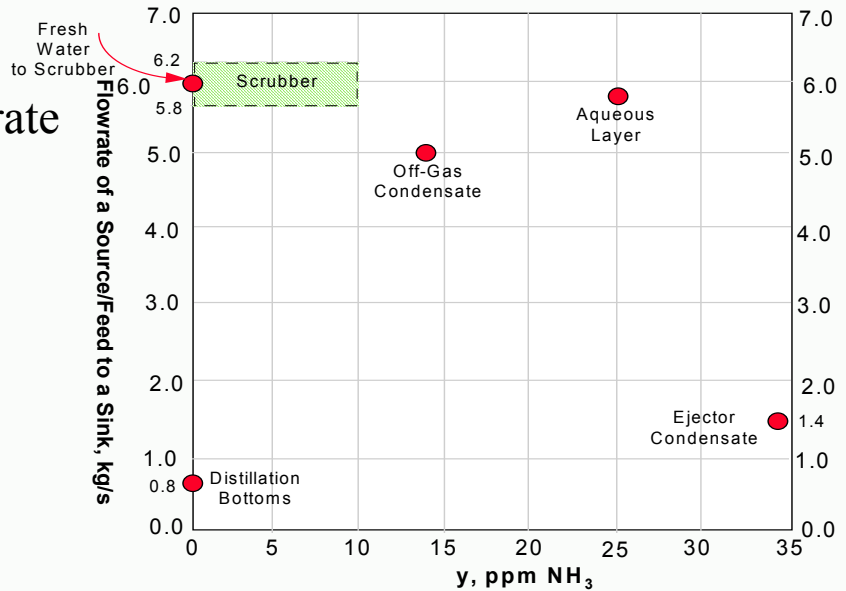
The flowrate resulting from combining these two sources (5.8 kg/s) is sufficient to run the scrubber. However, its ammonia composition as determined by the lever-arm principle  $\frac{(5.0 \text{ kg / s}) \cdot 14 \text{ ppm NH}_3 + 0}{5.8 \text{ kg / s}} = 12 \text{ ppm NH}_3$

which lies outside the zone of permissible recycle to the scrubber!!!!  
 Can't recycle all off-gas condensate.

What is maximum recycle from off-gas condensate?

Constraint allows reduction of scrubber feed flowrate from 6.0 to 5.8 kg/s

Recycled flowrate of offgas condensate\*14  
 + 0.8\*0.0 + Fresh\*0.0 = 5.8\*10

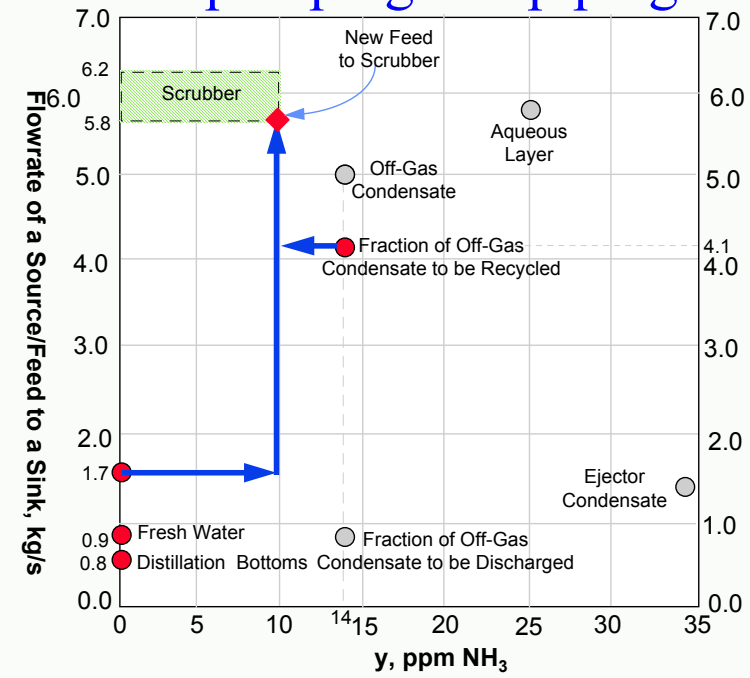


➔ maximum flowrate of the off-gas condensate to be recycled to the scrubber is 4.1 kg/s

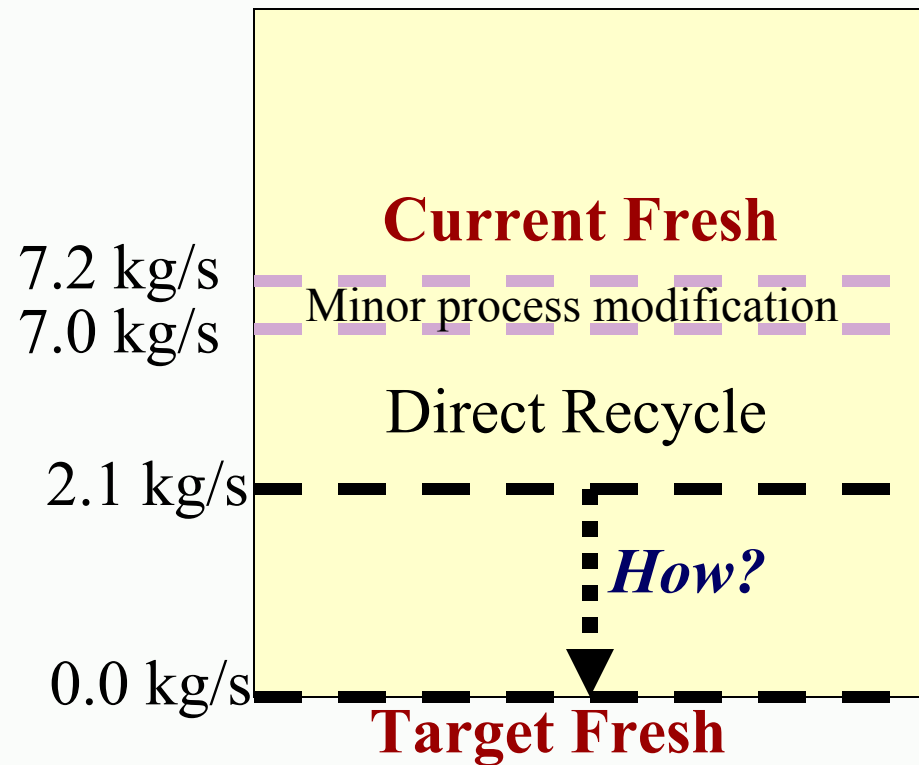
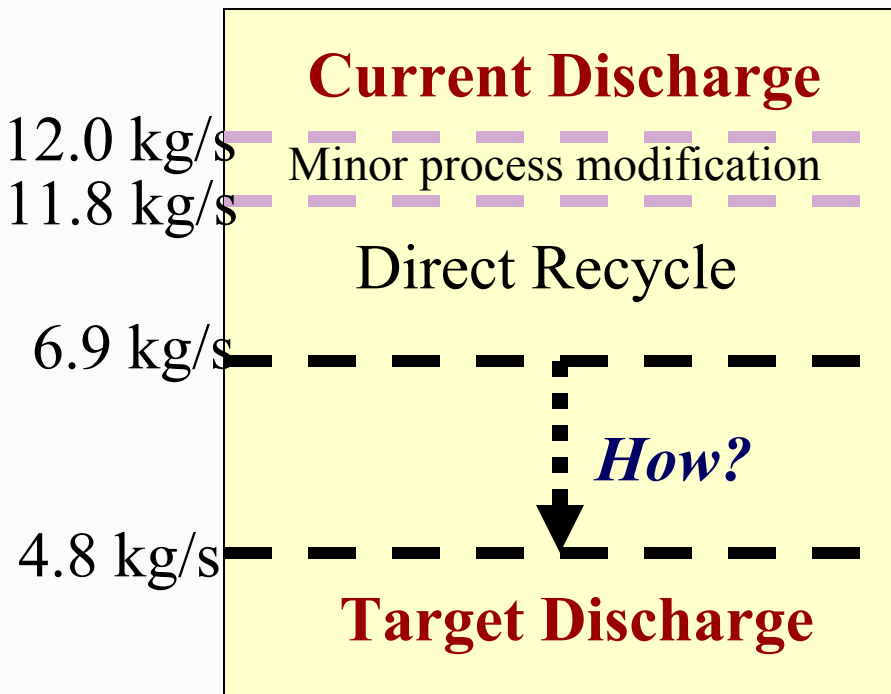
and the flowrate of fresh water is 0.9 kg/s (5.8 - 0.8 - 4.1).

Therefore, direct recycle can reduce the fresh water consumption (and consequently the influent to biotreatment) by 5.8 - 0.9 = 4.9 kg/s.

The primary cost of direct recycling is pumping and piping. Assuming that the TAC for pumping and piping is \$80/(m.yr) and assuming that the total length of piping is 600 m, the TAC for pumping and piping is \$48,000/year.



After Direct Recycle:  
 Fresh water reduction =  $6.0 - 0.9 = 5.1$  kg/s  
 Still,  $7.2 - 5.1 = 2.1$  kg/s to go



Next, need to spend capital cost

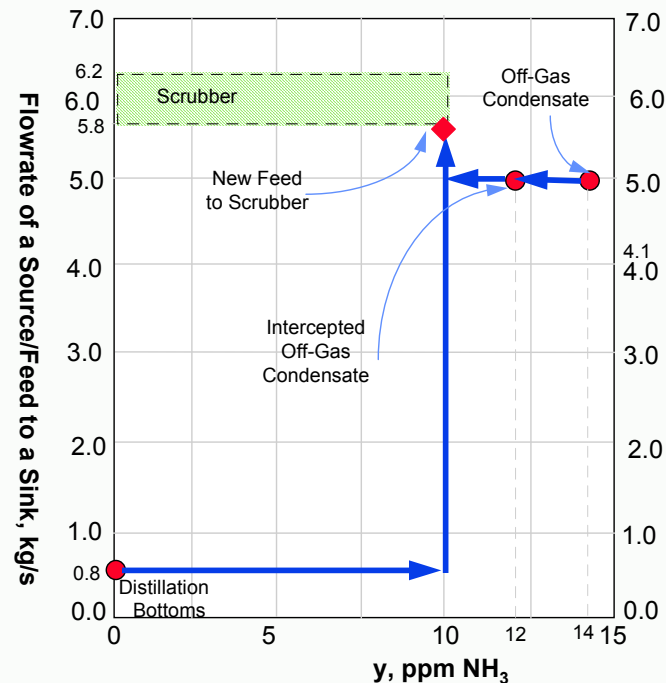
Next, we include **interception**

In order to eliminate fresh water from the scrubber, what should be the composition of ammonia in the off-gas condensate?

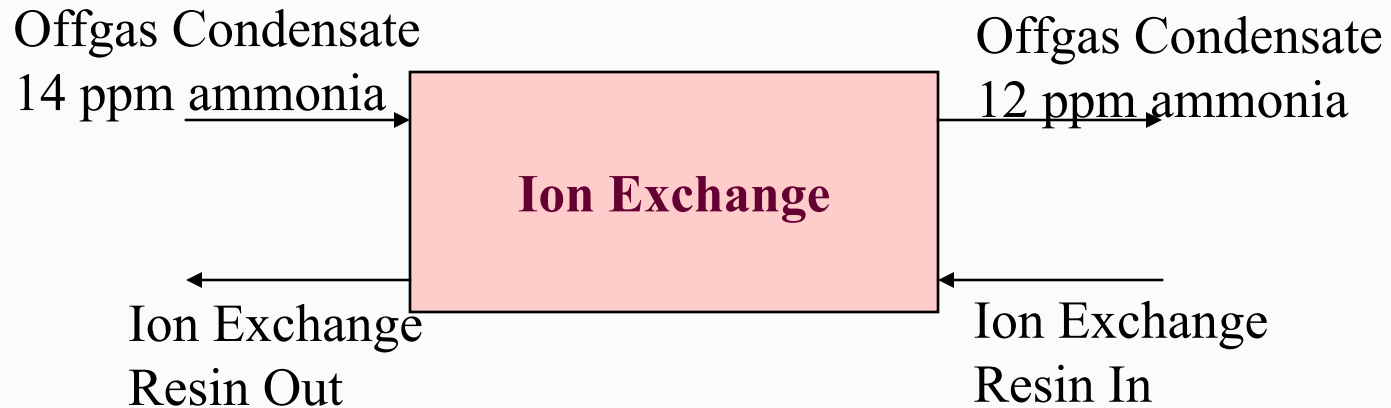
$$\frac{(5.0 \text{ kg / s}) \cdot y^t \text{ ppm NH}_3 + 0}{5.8 \text{ kg / s}} = 10 \text{ ppm NH}_3$$

i.e.  $y^t = 12 \text{ ppm}$ .

→ need to intercept off-gas condensate to reduce ammonia content from  $y^s=14$  ppm to  $y^t=12$  ppm

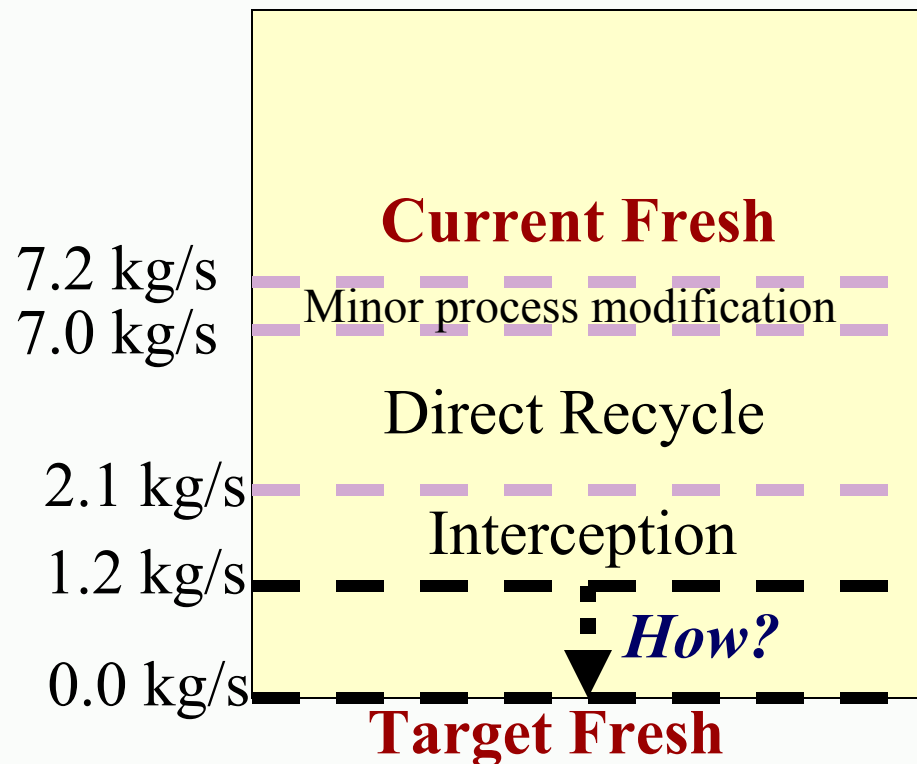
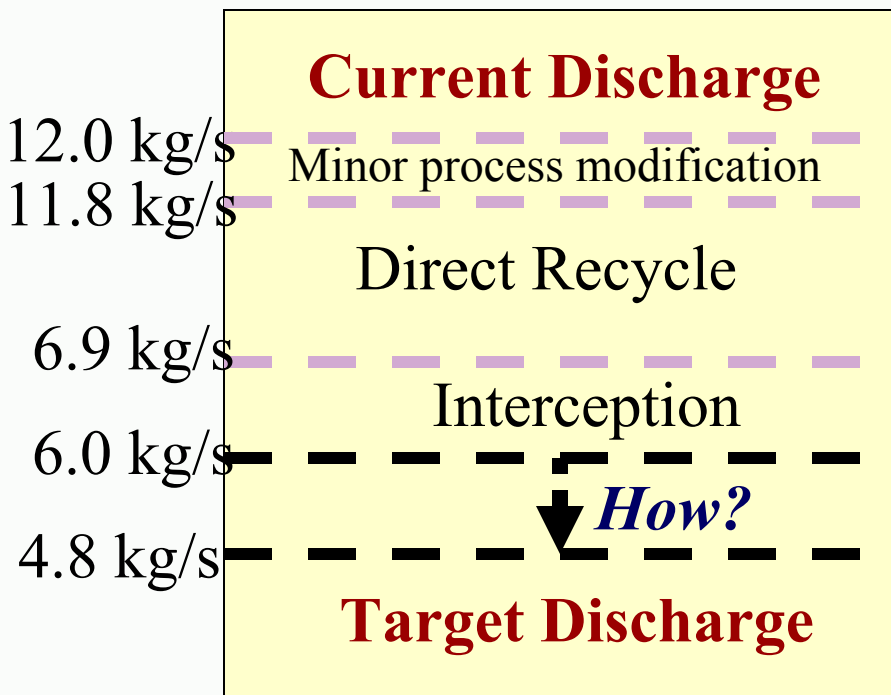


## Separation Unit:



TAC for the separation system is \$119,000/yr.





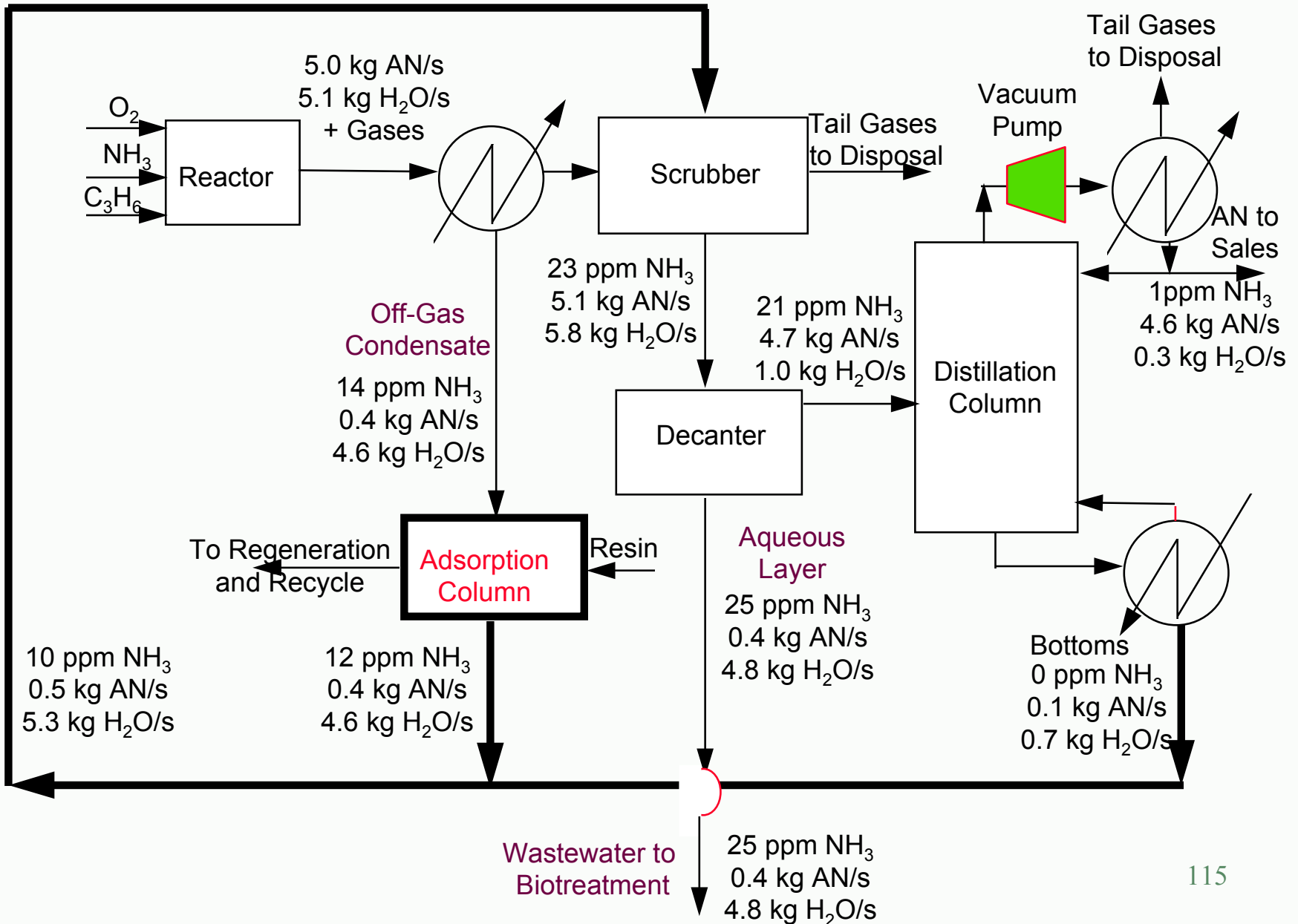
As a result of minor process changes, segregation, interception and recycle, we have eliminated the use of fresh water in the scrubber leading to a reduction of fresh water consumption (and influent to biotreatment) by 6.0 kg/s.

We still have  $7.2 - 6.0 = 1.2$  to go (related to steam jet ejector)

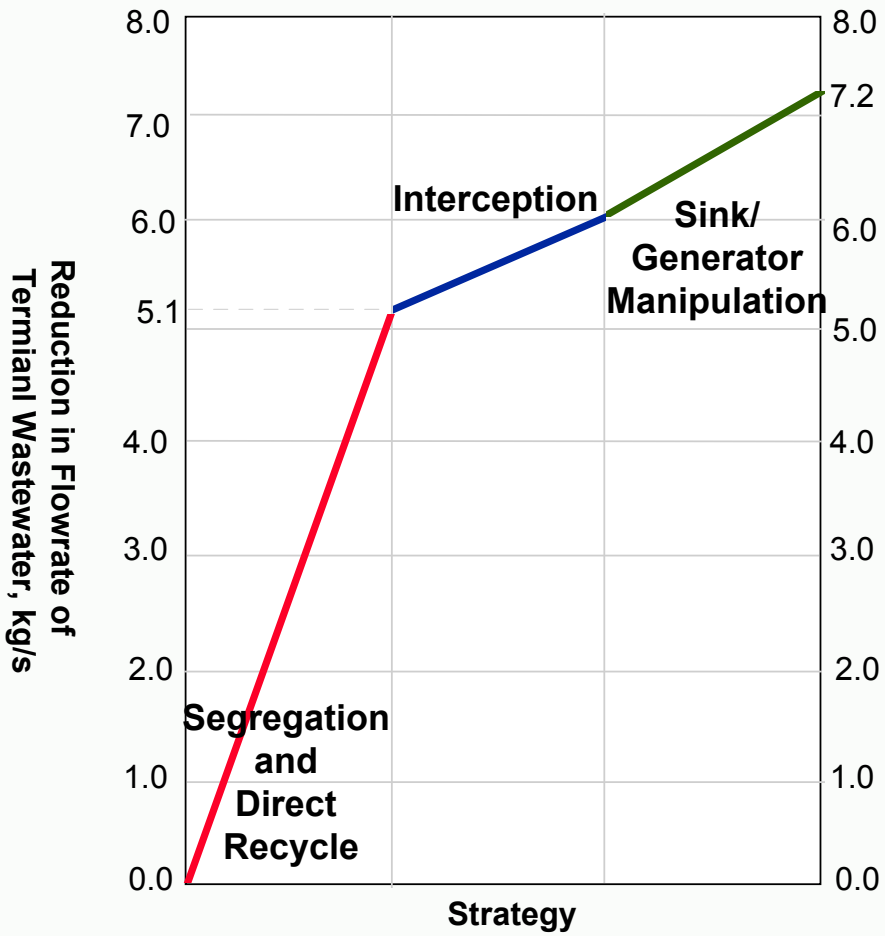
## ALTERNATIVES TO STEAM JET EJECTOR

- Replacement of the steam-jet ejector with a **vacuum pump**. The operating cost of the ejector and the vacuum pump are comparable. Annualized fixed cost of the pump is **\$15,000/year**.
- Operating the column under **atmospheric pressure** → No steam. A simulation study is needed to examine the effect of pressure change.
- **Relaxing the requirement on BFW quality** to few ppm's of ammonia and AN.

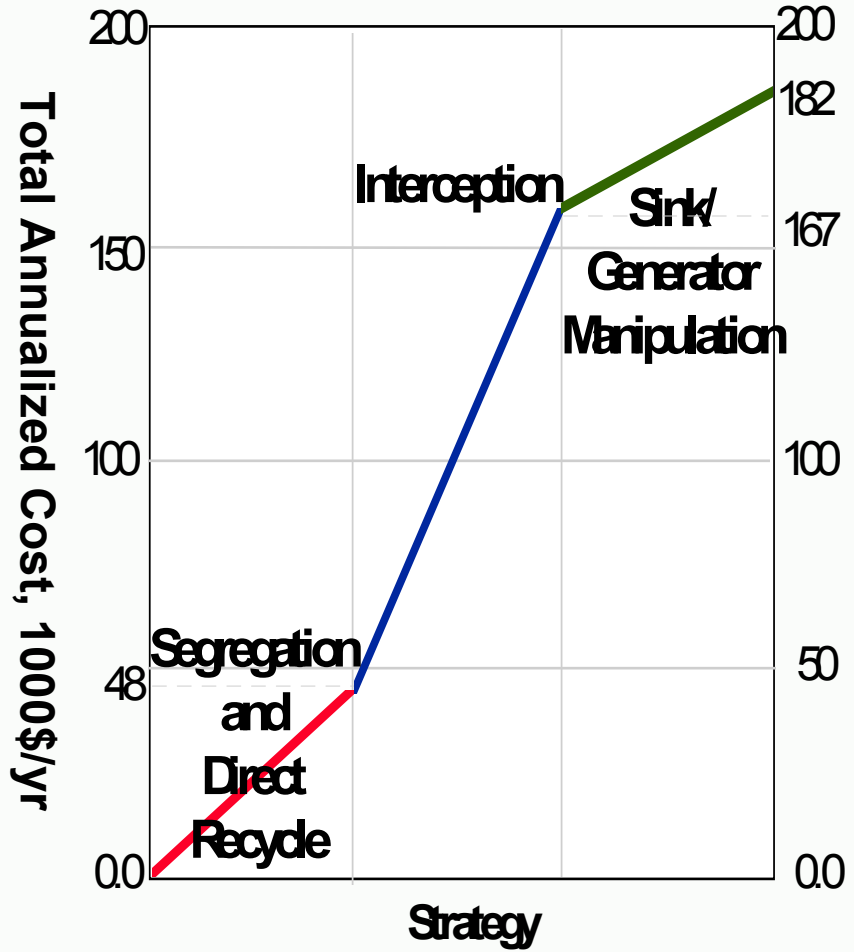
# Optimum Solution



# Impact diagrams (Pareto charts) for the reduction in wastewater and the associated TAC



Impact



Cost

## **MERITS OF IDENTIFIED SOLUTION**

- Acrylonitrile production has increased from 3.9 kg/s to 4.6 kg/s which corresponds to an **18% yield enhancement for the plant**. For a selling value of \$0.6/kg of AN, the additional production of 0.7 kg AN/s can provide an annual revenue of **\$13.3 million/yr!**
- **Fresh-water usage** and influent to biotreatment facility are **decreased by 7.2 kg/s**. The value of fresh water and the avoidance of treatment cost are additional benefits.
- **40% Debottlenecking**: Influent to biotreatment is reduced to 40% of current level. Therefore, the **plant production can be expanded 2.5 times** the current capacity before the biotreatment facility is debottlenecked again.

**Superior solution to the installation of an additional biotreatment facility!**

## OBSERVATIONS

- **Target** for debottlenecking the biotreatment facility was determined **ahead** of design.
- Then, systematic tools were used to generate optimal solutions that **realize the target**.
- Next, an **analysis** study is needed to refine the results “ **big picture first, details later**”.
- **Unique and fundamentally different approach** than using the designer’s subjective decisions to alter the process and check the consequences using detailed analysis.
- It is also different from using simple **end-of-pipe** treatment solutions. Instead, the various species are optimally allocated throughout the process.
- Objectives such as **yield enhancement, pollution prevention and cost savings** can be simultaneously addressed.

**AND YOU CAN (AND SHOULD) TRY IT!**

