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1	Control of milk pasteurization process using
2	model predictive approach
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8 Abstract

*

9 A milk pasteurization process, a nonlinear process and multivariable interacting system, is difficult to control by the conventional on-off controllers since the on-off 10 11 controller can handled the temperature profiles for milk and water oscillating over the plant requirements. The multi-variable control approach with model predictive control (MPC) is 12 proposed in this study. The proposed algorithm was tested for control of a milk pasteurization 13 14 process in three cases of simulation such as set point tracking, model mismatch, difference control and prediction horizons, and time sample. The results for the proposed algorithm 15 16 show the well performance in keeping both the milk and water temperatures at the desired set points without any oscillation and overshoot and giving less drastic control action compared 17 to the cascade generic model control (GMC) strategy. 18

19 Keyword: Model predictive control, Generic model control, Milk pasteurization process

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20 1. Introduction

Pasteurized milk, a dairy product, has a shelf life of 8 to 10 days in an unopened package. Food safety is a concren in milk temperature at every stage of the pasteurized milk process, especailly at the heat treatment process. It is clearly defined as above 72°C heating temperature at the outlet of the holding tube and below 4°C cooling temperature at the cooling stage of the plate pasteurizer (PP). Consequently, the control system has been designed to ensure the safety of pasteruized milk.

The control system in Thailand pasteurized milk plant, which was visited, has been 27 used individually automaic control approaches at process equipment involved including utilities 28 (Niamsuwan et al., 2011). The conventional on-off controllers have been applied to keep the 29 water temperature in the boiler and the ripple plate, respectively. The simulation study 30 31 validated by the real observation is illustrated in Fig. 1. In spite of the acceptable control performance achieved by the on-off controller, the fluctuated dynamic profiles of the water and 32 milk temperature around the desired set points and the sudden movement control action are 33 frequently presented. It has caused the pasteurized milk plant to insufficiently consume the 34 energy. 35

The milk pasteurization process presents many challenging control problem, 36 including: nonlinear dynamic behavior: multivariable interaction between manipulated and 37 controlled variables and contraints on manipulated and state variables. A number of control 38 approaches and algorithm that are able to handle some of the above problem have been 39 presented in the acdamic literature. The single and multivariable controls with cascade standard 40 PID (propotional-integral-derivative) controllers were proposed to eliminate the fluctuation of 41 the milk temperature which was caused by disturbances such as inlet milk temperature, milk 42 43 flowrate, hot water temperature, hot water flowrate etc (Negiz et al., 1996; Morison, 2005).

Both control algorithms gave good disturbance rejection at the PP. Practically, not only the 44 temperature control but also the level control was required for several process equipments, such 45 as storage tanks. A programmable logic controller known as PLC, programmed in ladder logic, 46 can only be applied for both level and temperature control at a diary plant (Bylund, 1955). One 47 literature has been reported the multivariable control system of milk pasteurization process by 48 Negiz et al., 1998. They described the implementation of lethality-based control system for 49 50 high temperature-short time (HTST) pasteurizer. It performed the significant improvement in control performance over single loop control. 51

The model predictive control (MPC), one of model-based control approachs, was 52 developed by Culer at Shell Oil Company in 1979. The first approach called as the dynamic 53 matrix control (DMC) based on linear models at that time. Recently, there are many 54 frameworks developed under the predictive control strategy. Nonlinear MPC, a development of 55 conventional MPC, used a nonlinear model (the first-principles mathematical models or semi-56 empirical models) to deal with nonlinearities in process dynamics and in objective functions 57 (Manenti, 2011; Dones et al., 2010). Almost conventional MPCs compute the manipulated 58 input values by minimizing the cost function based on optimal steady-state values. For a time-59 varying process operation, economic model predictive approaches have been developed by a 60 reformulation of the quadratic cost functions in which the economics-based (not necessarily 61 62 quadratic) cost function e.g. an estimator-based economic MPC, a Lyapunov-based economic MPC. (Heidarinejad et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2012). The MPC performed many potential 63 applications in the process industry (Qin and Badgwell, 2003; Bauer and Craig, 2008), but only 64 65 report of the DMC for HTST pasteurization process has been found (Ibarrola et al., 2002).

66 The MPC technique for multi-input multi-output (MIMO) system are studied in this 67 paper for application to the milk pasteurization process which is commonly found in the dairy 68 industries of Thailand. The highly nonlinear dynamic behavior, multivariable in nature, and 69 interaction between unit processes cause this process to be difficult to control by conventional 70 controllers. Therefore, the aim and contribution of this work is at showing the applicability of 71 the nonlinear MPC on a multivariable process referring to a real industrial plant. To 72 demonstrate the robustness of the predictive control strategy, tests involving set point tracking 73 based on the real operation including model mismatch are performed in this study. Comparison 74 is also made for the GMC approach.

75 **2. Process Description**

The milk pasteurization process can be briefly introduced. It consists of the unit process involved including utilities: PP, holding tube, boiler, cooling tower, ripple plate, and three water tanks as shown in Fig. 2. The mathematical models of milk pasteurization process have been studied here (Niamsuwan et al., 2013). The meaning of letters and symbols are given in nomenclature. The physical properties, geometry characteritics, and process data are summarized in Table 1.

82
$$\frac{dT_{mo}}{dt} = \frac{F_m (T_{mi} - T_{mo})}{V_{pp,i}} \pm \frac{U_{pp,i} A_{pp,i} \Delta T_i}{\rho_m C_{pm} V_{pp,i}}$$
(1)

83 $\frac{dT_{hi,1}}{dt} = \frac{(1-u_1)F_h(T_{ho} - T_{hi,1})}{V_{pp,2}} - \frac{U_{pp,2}A_{pp,2}\Delta T_2}{\rho_h C_{ph}V_{pp,2}}$ (2)

84
$$\frac{dT_{ii}}{dt} = \frac{F_t \left(T_{io} - T_{ii}\right)}{V_{pp,3}} + \frac{U_{pp,3} A_{pp,3} \Delta T_3}{\rho_t C_{pt} V_{pp,3}}$$
(3)

85
$$\frac{dT_{ii}}{dt} = \frac{u_2 F_i \left(T_{io} - T_{ii}\right)}{V_{pp,4}} + \frac{U_{pp,4} A_{pp,4} \Delta T_4}{\rho_i C_{pi} V_{pp,4}}$$
(4)

86
$$T_{mo} = T_{mi} + \frac{4U_{p} \left(T_{mo} - T_{a}\right)}{\rho_{m} C_{pm} d_{p}}$$
(5)

(12)

87
$$\frac{dT_{to}}{dt} = \frac{F_t \left(T_{ti} - T_{to}\right)}{V_{ct}} - \frac{h_v E}{C_{pt} V_{ct}} + \frac{\rho_w C_{pw} F_w T_w}{\rho_t C_{pt} V_{ct}} - \frac{L_d F_c T_{ti} + h_A \left(T_{to} - T_a\right)}{\rho_t C_{pt} V_{ct}}$$
(6)

88
$$\frac{dT_{io}}{dt} = \frac{u_2 F_i \left(T_{ii} - T_{io}\right)}{V_{rp}} + \frac{\pi \left(u_4 n_s\right) d_f h_{fg} A_f}{60 \rho_i C_{pi} V_{rp} v} - \frac{U_{rp} A_{rp} \left(T_{io} - T_a\right)}{\rho_i C_{pi} V_{rp}}$$
(7)

89
$$\frac{dT_{ho}}{dt} = \frac{F_h \left(T_{hi} - T_{ho} \right)}{V_b} + \frac{u_3 m_f H_f - U_b A_b \left(T_{ho} - T_a \right)}{\rho_h C_{ph} V_b}$$
(8)

90
$$\frac{dT_{hi,2}}{dt} = \frac{u_1 F_h \left(T_{ho} - T_{hi,2} \right)}{V_h} - \frac{U_h A_h \Delta T}{\rho_h C_{ph} V_h}$$
(9)

91 **3. Design of Controllers**

The basis concept of the MPC is that it calculates future controls based on current measurements via the solution of predictive control strategy, but only the first element of controls is applied to the process (Kittisupakorn and Hussain, 2000). Therefore, the objective function of the predictive control strategy has been formed as follows:

96
$$\min_{u_n(k+1),\dots,u_n(k+M)} \sum_{n=1}^{4} \sum_{l=1}^{P} \left[W_1 \left[Y_p(k+l) - Y_{sp}(k+1) \right]^2 + W_2 \left[\Delta u_n \right]^2 \right]$$
(10)

97 Subject to process models (1) to (9)

98
$$u_{n,\min} < u_n(k+l) < u_{n,\max}$$
 for $l = 1, 2, ..., M$ (11)

99
$$Y_{p,\min} < Y(k+l) < Y_{p,\max}$$
 for $l = 1, 2, ..., P$

$$100 Y(k+p) = Y_{sp} (13)$$

101 The objective function of the MPC (Eq. 10) is to minimize the sum of squares of the 102 errors between the predicted outputs and the set point values and also the control movements 103 evaluated over the prediction horizon. Bounded controls and controlled variable constraints are represented by Eqs. 11 and 12. Moreover, Eq. 13 is included to ensure that the controlled variables are forced to desired set points at the terminal time. The optimization problem is classified as multi-variables constraint optimization and solved by the sequential quadratic programming (SQP) in MATLAB software.

Fig. 3 shows the information flowchart of the MPC algorithm. A control trajectory u(k) 108 referring to set point (k) for an entire horizon is computed on-line based on current state. The 109 initial value of controls is implemented to the system. This means that the control action at time 110 111 (k+1) is the control u(1) referring to set point (1) of future controls calculate at time k. Some feedback control is provided by measurements of the state at the next interval and repeating the 112 calculation. Otherwise, measurements are compared to a set point or predicted value. The error 113 between the measurements and set points can be utilized within the MPC algorithm. The MPC 114 produces the future controls, which minimizes this error. 115

116 **4. Control Implementation**

117 **4.1 Case Study**

The main purpose of this simulation study is to evaluate the control performance of the 118 MPC compared to the GMC approach. Here, the MPC algorithm has been studied to keep the 119 milk temperature at the PP (T_{mo}) to the plant's requirements, as well as the hot and iced water 120 temperature (T_{ho} and T_{io}) to the desired set points. These are controlled by adjusting the hot and 121 iced water flowrate at the PP (u_1 and u_2), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) feeding rate at the 122 boiler (u_3) , and electrical current at the ripple plate (u_4) , respectively. The simulations are made 123 corresponding to the daily plant production capacity of 10 tons based on the real operation. 124 After the production time over 33 minutes, the raw milk is delivered from the silo tank to the 125 PP unit it is empty. It has caused the milk temperature at inlet of the PP to disturb as displayed 126 in Fig. 4. 127

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128 **4.2 Simulation Result**

The MPC strategy is initially applied to control the milk temperature, the hot water temperature, and the iced water temperature to desired values by adjusting the manipulated variables of u_1 , u_2 , u_3 , and u_4 , respectively. The simulation presents several cases of control study, which are set point tracking case and model mismatch case.

As for the set point tracking case, the MPC is designed to bring the milk temperature as 133 well as the hot and iced water temperature to desired set points from initial values. The desired 134 set points of the temperature are also set at 76°C for the holding tube, 3°C for the cooling stage, 135 92°C for the boiler, and 2°C for the ripple plate, respectively. The control of the temperature 136 using the conventional MPC (M = 6 and P = 12) can be seen in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6. It can be seen 137 that the MPC has been found to drive the process responses to the following set points without 138 overshoot and oscillations and with less drastic control actions. The satisfactory performance 139 obtained is due to the accurate representation of the process models and the anti-ringing term of 140 the predictive control strategy corresponding to the selection of the MPC tuning parameters: 141 control and prediction horizon ($M \le P$) and weighting factors ($W_1 > W_2$). 142

For comparison, the GMC controller is considered. Four GMC controllers including cascade control strategy have been designed into two cascade-GMC loops (the detail as given in appendix). The GMC controllers are designed using the method presented by Lee and Sullivan (1988) and with subsequent fine tuning. The control of temperature using the GMC shows performance as displayed in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8. It can be found that the GMC provided slow response of controlled variables with a bit overshoot and also gradually adjustment control action, similar to the MPC.

For the model mismatch case, the overall heat transfer coefficient at each stage of the PP is taken into account as the model mismatch in parameter. The model mismatch is introduced

by randomly increasing and decreasing the overall heat transfer coefficient from its nominal 152 value by 10%. Fig. 9 and 10 show the results of the MPC and GMC control in this case. Fig. 9 153 illustrates that the MPC still brought the milk temperature at the holding tube and the cooling 154 stage to the desired set points with smooth and without overshoot control response by the 155 gradually adjustment flow rate of hot and iced water at the PP. As illustrated in Fig. 10, it 156 clearly shows that the GMC including cascade control strategy brought the milk temperature to 157 158 the desired set points by rigorous adjustment of LPG feeding rate causing slow and overshoot in the process response, especially at the holding tube of the PP. Table 2 shows the IAE values 159 of MPC and GMC for holding tube of PP, and cooling stage of PP. They indicate that the MPC 160 161 gives less error and better performances than the GMC, when the disturbances are introduced into the system. These results also show the robustness of the mathematical models in dealing 162 with disturbances. 163

For the difference control horizon (*M*) and prediction horizons (*P*), the simulation study of the MPC has been made based on set points tracking under nominal disturbances. It can be seen in Fig. 11 that increasing both control horizon and prediction horizon will slightly smoothen the control action compared with Fig. 12 for the boiler, the ripple plate, the holding tube of PP, and the cooling stage of PP. Nevertheless, the MPC with M = 12 and P = 24performed more computation time per cycle of 8-10 times than the conventional MPC (M = 6and P = 12).

171 Comparison is also made for the MPC using the difference sampling time. The sampling 172 time of the conventional MPC (M = 6 and P = 12) increased at about twice is considered for set 173 points tracking under nominal disturbances. The results in Fig. 13 show that the smooth control 174 action for the boiler, the ripple plate, the holding tube of PP, and the cooling stage of PP will be 175 given, similar to the case of the difference control horizons and prediction horizons.

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176 **5.** Conclusions

One of model based-control strategy namely MPC is discussed and explained, since the 177 milk pasteurization process is multivariable interacting system, which make it difficultly to 178 control by the conventional control system. A proposed controller performed well in keeping 179 the milk temperature and water temperature at the desired set points without any oscillation and 180 overshoot. This is becasue of the accurated process model in this controller. On account of a 181 predictive control strategy, control response for MPC was less dratic control action compared 182 to that by the GMC. Comparison of performance with the GMC indicates that the MPC was 183 more robust than the GMC and gave the better results in case involving model mismatches. 184 These results can be convincingly used to propose the applicability of the studied nonlinear 185 MPC to stakeholders relevant to pasteurization process. 186

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191 Appendix

192 Appendix A: Generic control model

Generic model control (GMC), one of model-based control approach, is developed by Lee and Sullivan (1988). The GMC uses non-linear process model to determine the control action and two tuning parameters to obtain the desired response. Advantages of the GMC making a good framework are that the process model appears directly in the control algorithm and does not need to be linearized before use (Aziz, Hussain and Mujtaba, 2000).

198 The GMC control algorithm can be written as.

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199
$$\frac{dY}{dt} = K_1 (Y_{sp} - Y) + K_2 \int_0^{t_f} (Y_{sp} - Y) dt$$
(A-1)

The first term in the algorithm is to bring the process response back to steady state owing to change in dY/dt. The second term is introduced to make the process response with zero offset. Detail of the GMC method can be found in Lee and Sullivan (1988).

203 Appendix B: Cascade Control

The conventional feedback control can be compensated the disturbance. Sometimes, the response of controlled variable is slow because the controlled variable is disturbed before the feedback controller can respond. A cascade control algorithm, one of the most successful methods for enhancing single-loop control performance, is introduced to improve the control performance, reducing both the maximum deviation and the integral error of disturbance response.

In this work, the cascade GMC approach is applied to control the milk temperature at the 210 outlet of holding tube and cooling stage of PP. Fig. B-1 shows the control algorithm of cascade 211 GMC. The first cascade loop GMC is designed to the primary GMC keeping the milk 212 temperature at the outlet of holding tube by computing the manipulated variable. It becomes the 213 set point for the secondary GMC that maintains the hot water temperature at the boiler. For the 214 second cascade loop GMC, the primary GMC is used to maintain the milk temperature at the 215 outlet of cooling stage by calculating the set point for the secondary GMC, which is also 216 217 designed to control the iced water temperature at the ripple plate.

218 Nomenclature

- 219 $A_{pp1}, A_{pp2}, A_{pp3}, A_{pp4}$ Transferred area at each stage of PP
- 220 A_b, A_{rp} Surface area at boiler and ripple plate

221	A_{h}	Transferred area for heating coil at water storage tank
222	$A_{_f}$	Peripheral flow area of ripple plate's compressor
223	$C_{\scriptscriptstyle pm}, C_{\scriptscriptstyle ph}, C_{\scriptscriptstyle pi}, C_{\scriptscriptstyle pt}$	Heat capacity for milk, hot water, iced water, and tap water
224	$d_{_f}$	Impeller's diameter for compressor at ripple plate
225	d_{p}	Diameter of holding tube
226	Ε	Evaporation rate for cooling tower
227	F_m	Volumetric flowrate of milk
228	F_h, F_{h1}	Volumetric flowrate of hot water
229	F_i	Volumetric flowrate for iced water
230	F_t, F_c, F_w	Volumetric flowrate for tap water, circulation water, and makeup water
231		at cooling tower
232	$h_{_A}$	Heat transfer coefficient at water surface
233	$h_{_{fg}}$	Latent heat vaporization of refrigerant at ripple plate
234	$h_{_{v}}$	Latent heat vaporization of water
235	K_{1}, K_{2}	Tuning constants for GMC
236	$L_{_d}$	Mechanical drift loss at cooling tower
237	$H_{_f}$	Heating value of fuel
238	m_{f}	Fueling rate at boiler
239	M, P	Control and prediction horizon for MPC
240	n	Sample the process outputs
241	n _s	Impeller's rotation speed for compressor at ripple plate

242	$T_{\scriptscriptstyle mi}, T_{\scriptscriptstyle mo}$	Temperature of milk at inlet and outlet
243	$T_{_{hi}},T_{_{ho}}$	Temperature of hot water at inlet and outlet
244	$T_{_{ii}},T_{_{io}}$	Temperature of iced water at inlet and outlet
245	$T_{_{ti}},T_{_{to}}$	Temperature of tap water at inlet and outlet
246	$T_{_{W}}$	Temperature of makeup water at cooling tower
247	t	Time
248	t_{f}	Terminal time of horizon
249	u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4	Manipulated variable
250	$U_{pp1}, U_{pp2}, U_{pp3}, U_{pp4}$	Overall heat transfer coefficient between both sides at each stage of PP
251	U_p	Overall heat transfer coefficient at surface of holding tube
252	U_b, U_{rp}	Overall heat transfer coefficient at surface for boiler and ripple plate
253	${U}_h$	Overall heat transfer coefficient at surface for heating coil at water
254		storage tank
255	V_b, V_{rp}, V_{ct}	Water volume for boiler, ripple plate, and cooling tower
256	$V_{pp1}, V_{pp2}, V_{pp3}, V_{pp4}$	Fluid volume for each side at each stage of PP
257	V_h	Water volume inside heating coil at water storage tank
258	W_1, W_2	Weighting factors for MPC
259	Y	Measured variables
260	Y_{sp}	Desired set points
261	Greek Letter	
262	$ ho_m, ho_h, ho_i, ho_t$	Density for milk, hot water, iced water, and tap water
263	V	Specific volume of refrigerant at the exit

 $264 \quad \Delta T$

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Heat transfer area (m ²)		Overall heat transfer coefficient $(W/m^2 \cdot K)$	
- Regenerative stage of PP; A _{pp1}	1.89	- Regenerative stage of PP; U_{pp1}	940
- Heating stage of PP; A _{pp2}	1.89	- Heating stage of PP; U _{pp2}	940
- Pre-cooling stage of PP; A _{pp3}	1.89	- Pre-cooling stage of PP; U _{pp3}	950
- Cooling stage of PP; A _{pp4}	3.99	- Cooling stage of PP; U _{pp4}	1,000
- Heating coil in water tank; A _h	0.5067	- Heating coil in water tank; U _h	490
Water volume (m ³)		Characteristic for cooling tower	
- Boiler; A _b	1.20	- Convective heat transfer coefficient (W/K) ; h_A	2,000
- Ripple plate; A _{tp}	0.50	- Latent heat of vaporization (kJ/kg) ; h_v	2,410
- Cooling tower; A _{ct}	0.05	- Circulation water (m^3/s) ; F_c	4.80×10 ⁻³
Diameter of holding tube (m) ; d _p	3.81×10 ⁻²	- Drift loss (%) ; L _d	2
Length of holding tube (m) ; L_p	12	Water make up temperature (°C) ; T_w	27
Flowrate (m ³ /s)		Ambient air temperature (°C) ; T _a	30
- Milk at PP; F _m	4×10 ⁻⁴	Specification for ripple plate compressor	
- Hot water at PP; F _h	1.60×10 ⁻³	- Rotating speed (rpm) ; n _s	5,000
- Tap water at PP; F _t	4.80×10 ⁻³	- Diameter of impeller (m) ; d _f	0.40
- Iced water at PP; F _i	1.92×10 ⁻³	- Periphereal flow area (m^2) ; A_f	0.002
- Hot water (returned to boiler) ; F_{hl}	3.20×10 ⁻³	Specification for refrigerant	
Characteristic for boiler		- Heat vaporization (kJ/kg) ; h _f	217
- LPG consumption (kg/s) ; m _f	1.80×10 ⁻³	- Specific volume at the exit; v	0.50
- LPG heating value (kJ/kg) ; H _f	49,888		

Table 1. The physical properties and process data for the simulation study.

Table 2. Performance comparison between MPC and GMC under the model mismatch case.

Unit	IAE values			
Onit	MPC	GMC		
Holding tube of PP	3.267×10 ³	9.571×10^{3}		
Cooling stage of PP	6.160×10 ³	7.204×10^{3}		



















