

Subsurface Ventilation Engineering.

Dedication: This work has been undertaken in fulfillment of a long-standing promise to my former teacher, mentor and dear friend,

Professor Frederick Baden Hinsley

The book is dedicated to his memory.

Subsurface Ventilation Engineering

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Foreword to the Web version of the book.

In preparing this updated version of the textbook originally published in 1993 and under the title of Subsurface Ventilation and Environmental Engineering, the opportunity has been taken to update material that has seen significant change since the first version was written. The word 'Environmental' has been removed from the title as this term has increasingly come to refer to the surface environment. Several of the major changes are particularly applicable to developments in software that have taken place for planning the ventilation and condition of the underground environment.

The book remains a reference and text for professional engineers, researchers and teachers as well as for undergraduate and graduate students who have an interest in the planning and control of the environment in underground mines or other subsurface openings. Accordingly, the theoretical underpinnings of the subject are dealt with in some detail.

While the practical techniques of topics such as ventilation surveys or the use of computer software are included, this text is not intended specifically to be a ventilation officer's handbook. Such handbooks are best prepared within individual countries or institutions to reflect local methodologies, conditions and legislation.

In addition to printed copies, this updated text is available at no cost for downloading from the Internet address of Mine Ventilation Services, Inc. at: <http://www.mvsengineering.com/>

Contents

Preface

Acknowledgments

Unit conversion table

Chapter 1. BACKGROUND TO SUBSURFACE VENTILATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

1.1. Introduction

1.2. A brief history of mine ventilation

1.3. The relationships between ventilation and other subsurface systems

PART 1. Basic principles of fluid mechanics and physical thermodynamics

Chapter 2. INTRODUCTION TO FLUID MECHANICS

2.1. Introduction

2.2. Fluid pressure

2.3. Fluids in motion

Chapter 3. FUNDAMENTALS OF STEADY FLOW THERMODYNAMICS

3.1. Introduction

3.2. Properties of state, work and heat

3.3. Some basic relationships

3.4. Frictional flow

3.5. Thermodynamic diagrams

PART 2. Subsurface ventilation engineering

Chapter 4. SUBSURFACE VENTILATION SYSTEMS

4.1. Introduction

4.2. Mine systems

4.3. District systems

4.4. Auxiliary systems

4.5. Controlled partial recirculation

4.6. Underground repositories

Chapter 5. INCOMPRESSIBLE FLOW RELATIONSHIPS

5.1. Introduction

5.2. Atkinson's equation, the Square Law

5.3. Determination of friction factor

5.4. Airway resistance

5.5. Airpower

A5 Shock loss factors.

Chapter 6. VENTILATION SURVEYS

6.1. Purpose and scope of surveys

6.2. Air quantity surveys

6.3. Pressure surveys

6.4. Organization of pressure-volume surveys

6.5. Air quality surveys

Chapter 7. VENTILATION NETWORK ANALYSIS

- 7.1. Introduction
- 7.2. Fundamentals of ventilation network analysis
- 7.3. Methods of solving ventilation networks
- 7.4. Ventilation network simulation packages

Chapter 8. MINE VENTILATION THERMODYNAMICS

- 8.1. Introduction
- 8.2. Components of the mine cycle
- 8.3. The complete mine cycle

Chapter 9. VENTILATION PLANNING

- 9.1. Systems analysis of the planning procedure
- 9.2. Establishment of the basic network
- 9.3. Airflow requirements and velocity limits
- 9.4. Planning exercises and time phases
- 9.5. Ventilation economics and airway sizing
- 9.6. Traditional method of ventilation planning

Chapter 10. FANS

- 10.1. Introduction
- 10.2. Fan pressures
- 10.3. Impeller theory and fan characteristic curves
- 10.4. Fan laws
- 10.5. Fans in combination
- 10.6. Fan performance
- 10.7. Booster fans

PART 3. Gases in the subsurface

Chapter 11. GASES IN SUBSURFACE OPENINGS

- 11.1. Introduction
- 11.2. Classification of subsurface gases
- 11.3. Gas mixtures
- 11.4. Gas detection and monitoring

Chapter 12. METHANE

- 12.1. Overview and additional properties of methane
- 12.2. The retention and release of methane in coal
- 12.3. Migration of methane
- 12.4. Emission patterns into mine workings
- 12.5. Methane drainage

Chapter 13. RADIATION AND RADON GAS

- 13.1. Introduction
- 13.2. The uranium series and radioactive decay
- 13.3. Radon and its daughters
- 13.4. Prediction of levels of radiation
- 13.5. Methods of monitoring for radiation
- 13.6. Control of radiation in subsurface openings

PART 4. Heat and humidity

Chapter 14. PSYCHROMETRY: THE STUDY OF MOISTURE IN AIR

- 14.1. Introduction
- 14.2. Basic relationships
- 14.3. The measurement of water vapour in air
- 14.4. Theory of the wet bulb thermometer
- 14.5. Further psychrometric relationships
- 14.6. Summary of psychrometric relationships
- 14.7. Deviations from classical theory
- 14.8. Psychrometric Charts
- A14 Derivation of the Clausius-Clapeyron equation

Chapter 15. HEAT FLOW INTO SUBSURFACE OPENINGS

- 15.1 Introduction
- 15.2. Strata heat
- 15.3. Other sources of heat
- A15.1 Carslaw and Jaeger solution to the heat conduction equation
- A15.2 Gibson's algorithm
- A15.3 Background theory of the heat transfer coefficient
- A15.4 Derivation of latent heat of evaporation at a wet surface

Chapter 16. SIMULATION OF CLIMATIC CONDITIONS IN THE SUBSURFACE

- 16.1. Background
- 16.2. Elements of mine climate simulation programs
- 16.3. Using a mine climate simulator.

Chapter 17. PHYSIOLOGICAL REACTIONS TO CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

- 17.1. Introduction
- 17.2. Thermoregulation of the human body
- 17.3. Physiological heat transfer
- 17.4. Indices of heat stress
- 17.5. Heat illnesses
- 17.6. Cold environments
- 17.7. Heat tolerance and
- 17.8. Effect of mine climate on productivity.
- A17 Listing of a thermoregulation computer model

Chapter 18. REFRIGERATION PLANT AND MINE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

- 18.1. Introduction
- 18.2. The vapour compression cycle
- 18.3. Components and design of mine cooling systems
- 18.4. Air heating

PART 5. Dust

Chapter 19. THE HAZARDOUS NATURE OF DUSTS

- 19.1. Introduction
- 19.2. Classifications of dust
- 19.3. Dust in the human body
- 19.4. The assessment of airborne dust concentrations

Chapter 20. THE AERODYNAMICS, SOURCES AND CONTROL OF AIRBORNE DUST

- 20.1. Introduction
- 20.2. The aerodynamic behaviour of dust particles
- 20.3. The production of dust in underground openings

20.4. Control of dust in mines

PART 6. Fires and explosions

Chapter 21. SUBSURFACE FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS

21.1. Introduction

21.2. Causes of ignitions

21.3. Open fires

21.4. Spontaneous combustion

21.5. Stoppings, seals and section pressure balances

21.6. The use of inert gases

21.7. Fire gases and their interpretation.

21.8. Explosions

21.9. Protection of personnel

21.10. Emergency procedures and disaster management.

PREFACE TO THE ORIGINAL TEXT

This book has been written as a reference and text for engineers, researchers, teachers and students who have an interest in the planning and control of the environment in underground openings. While directed primarily toward underground mining operations, the design procedures are also applicable to other complex developments of subsurface space such as nuclear waste repositories, commercial accommodation or vehicular networks. The book will, therefore, be useful for mining, civil, mechanical, and heating, ventilating and air-conditioning engineers involved in such enterprises. The chapters on airborne pollutants highlight means of measurement and control as well as physiological reaction. These topics will be of particular interest to industrial hygienists and students of industrial medicine.

One of the first technical applications of digital computers in the world's mining industries was for ventilation network analysis. This occurred during the early nineteen sixties. However, it was not until low-cost but powerful personal computers proliferated in engineering offices during the 'eighties that the full impact of the computer revolution was realized in the day-to-day work of most mine ventilation engineers. This book reflects the changes in approach and design procedures that have been brought about by that revolution.

While the book is organized into six parts, it encompasses three broad areas. Following an introductory background to the subject, chapters 2 and 3 provide the fundamentals of fluid mechanics and thermodynamics that are necessary for a complete understanding of large three-dimensional ventilation systems. Chapters 4 to 10, inclusive, offer a comprehensive treatment of subsurface airflow systems while chapters 11 to 21 deal with the airborne hazards that are encountered in underground openings.

Each chapter is self-contained as far as is practicable. The inter-related features of the topics are maintained by means of copious cross-references. These are included in order that practicing engineers may progress through a design project and be reminded of the wider repercussions of decisions that might be made. However, numerous cross-references can be a little distracting. The student is advised to ignore them during an initial reading and unless additional information is sought.

Many of the chapters are subdivided into theoretical and descriptive sections. Again, these can be read separately although a full understanding of the purpose and range of application of design procedures can be gained only through a knowledge of both. When used as a refresher or text by practicing engineers, it is suggested that the relevant descriptive section be consulted first and reference made back to the corresponding analysis or derivation when necessary.

The use of the book as an aid to teaching and learning can be moulded to suit any given curriculum. For the full education of a subsurface ventilation engineer, chapters 1 to 10 may be employed during a course on ventilation, i.e. airflow processes, leaving the chapters on gases, heat, dust, and fires and explosions for further courses. Alternatively, undergraduate courses may concentrate on the practical aspects of the subject, leaving the more theoretical analyses to graduate school. In any event the teacher may compile his or her own syllabus at any given level by choosing relevant sections from selected chapters.

In most countries, mining activities are regulated by specific state or national legislation. This book has been written for an international audience and reflects the author's experience of teaching and practice in a number of countries. While guideline threshold limit values are given, the reader is frequently reminded to consult the relevant local regulations for specific mandatory requirements and limitations on practical procedures. To reflect the international readership, Système Internationale (SI) units are employed and a comprehensive list of conversion factors is provided.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There are many people without whose contributions the original edition of this book could not have been written. First, I thank Shirley, my wife, for her patience and understanding not only through the long hours of midnight oil burning that took place during the writing but, more particularly, for the extended periods, stretching over many years, when she was left alone to look after the home and family while I was deep under the surface of some faraway country.

I am grateful to former colleagues in the Department of Mining Engineering, University of Nottingham, England, for sowing seeds of ideas that later produced practical designs and procedures, many of which are reflected in this book; especially Ian Longson with whom I rediscovered the fascinations of thermodynamic logic, Leslie H. Morris, Dr. Jim R. Brown and, most of all, Professor F. Baden Hinsley to whom the book is dedicated. I am also privileged in having worked with excellent students from whom I learned a great deal, at Nottingham, the University of California, Berkeley, and at Virginia Tech.

Despite having been involved in numerous research investigations, my knowledge of subsurface ventilation and environmental engineering has been advanced primarily by working on feasibility studies and practical projects with mining engineers in many countries. Most of the case studies and examples in the book originated in such work. In particular, I am truly grateful for having had the opportunity of interacting with dedicated professional engineers in the United Kingdom, the countries of East and West Europe, South Africa, Australasia, India, South America, the United States of America and Canada.

I am indebted to the two ladies who shared typing the original manuscript. First, my daughter Alison D. McPherson who took great delight in correcting some of my mathematics, and Lucy Musante, my Secretarial assistant at Mine Ventilation Services, Inc. the most skilled and dedicated secretary with whom I have ever worked. Most of the initial reviews of chapters were undertaken by staff of Mine Ventilation Services, namely Daniel J. Brunner, Justus Deen, Martha O'Leary and, most particularly, Keith G. Wallace who willingly volunteered far more than his fair share of the work. Several chapters were reviewed by Dr. Felipe Calizaya, formerly at Berkeley and now at the University of Utah.

Some of the analyses described in the book arose directly out of funded research. The physiological model in chapter 17 was developed for the U.S. Department of Energy via Sandia National Laboratories as part of an investigation into climatic conditions in a deep geological repository for nuclear waste. Some of the heat transfer and climatic simulation studies in chapters 15 and 16, and investigations into the installation of booster fans outlined in chapter 9 were assisted by funding from the Generic Mineral Technology Center in Mine Systems Design and Ground Control, Office of Mineral Institutes, U.S. Bureau of Mines under Grant No. G1125151. I am indebted to those organizations for financing the work.

Finally, but also foremost, I thank the Good Lord for guiding my career to a point when I could prepare this book.

TABLE OF CONVERSION FACTORS BETWEEN IMPERIAL AND SI UNITS

| Quantity | Imperial to SI | | | SI to Imperial | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Length | 1 ft | = 0.304 8 | m | 1 m | = 3.280 8 | ft |
| | 1 yd | = 0.914 4 | m | | = 1.093 6 | yd |
| | 1 in | = 0.025 4 | m | | = 39.370 1 | in |
| Area | 1 ft ² | = 0.092 9 | m ² | 1 m ² | = 10.763 9 | ft ² |
| | 1 in ² | = 0.000 645 | m ² | | = 1550.003 | in ² |
| Acceleration | 1 ft/s ² | = 0.304 8 | m/s ² | 1 m/s ² | = 3.280 8 | ft/s ² |
| Force | 1 lbf | = 4.448 2 | N | 1 N | = 0.2248 | lbf |
| | 1 imp.ton f | = 9964.02 | N | | | |
| Velocity | 1 ft/s | = 0.304 8 | m/s | 1 m/s | = 3.2808 | ft/s |
| | 1 ft/min | = 0.005 08 | m/s | | = 196.85 | ft/min |
| Volume | 1 ft ³ | = 0.028 32 | m ³ | 1 m ³ | = 35.315 | ft ³ |
| | 1 yd ³ | = 0.764 56 | m ³ | | = 1.308 | yd ³ |
| | 1 imp. gal | = 4.545 | litre | 1 litre | = 0.2200 | imp. gal |
| | 1 U.S. gal | = 3.785 | litre | (0.001 m ³) | = 0.2642 | U.S. gal |
| Volume Flow | 1 ft ³ /s | = 0.028 32 | m ³ /s | 1 m ³ /s | = 35.315 | ft ³ /s |
| | 1 ft ³ /min | = 0.000 472 | m ³ /s | | = 2118.9 | ft ³ /min |
| | 1 imp gal/h | = 0.004 55 | m ³ /h | 1 m ³ /h | = 220.0 | imp. gal/h |
| | 1 imp gal/min | = 0.004 55 | m ³ /min | 1 m ³ /min | = 220.0 | imp. gal/min |
| | | = 4.545 | litre/min | 1 litre/min | = 0.220 | imp. gal/min |
| | | = 0.075 75 | litre/s | 1 litre/s | = 13.20 | imp. gal/min |
| | 1 U.S. gal/min | = 0.06313 | litre/s | | = 15.84 | U.S. gal/min |
| Mass | 1 lb | = 0.453 592 | kg | 1 kg | = 2.204 62 | lb |
| | 1 imp. ton (2240 lb) | = 1.016 05 | t | 1 t = 1000 kg | = 0.984 20 | imp. ton |
| | 1 short ton (2000 lb) | = 0.907 18 | t | | = 1.1023 | short ton |

| Quantity | Imperial to SI | | | SI to Imperial | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | |
| Pressure, stress | 1 lbf/ft ² | = 47.880 | N/m ² = Pa | 1 N/m ² = Pa | = 0.020 88 | lbf/ft ² |
| | 1 lbf/in ² | = 6894.76 | N/m ² | | 0.000 145 | lbf/in ² |
| | 1 in w.g. | = 249.089 | N/m ² | | = 0.004 015 | in w.g. |
| | 1 ft w.g. | = 2989.07 | N/m ² | | = 0.000 3346 | ft w.g. |
| | 1 mm w.g. | = 9.807 | N/m ² | | = 0.101 97 | mm w.g. |
| | 1 in Hg | = 3386.39 | N/m ² | | = 0.000 2953 | in Hg |
| | 1 mm Hg | = 133.32 | N/m ² | | = 0.007 501 | mm Hg |
| | | = 1.333 2 | mb | | = 0.01 | mb |
| | Note: The millibar (1 mb = 100 N/m ²) is included here as it is a familiar metric unit of pressure. It is not, however, an SI unit. | | | | | |
| Airway resistance | 1 Atk | = 0.059 71 | Ns ² /m ⁸ | 1 Ns ² /m ⁸ | = 16.747 | Atk |
| | 1 PU | = 1.118 3 | Ns ² /m ⁸ | | = 0.894 2 | PU |
| Airway specific resistance | 1 in w.g. per 10 000 ft ³ /min | = 22.366 | Ns ² /m ⁸ | | = 0.044 7 | in w.g. per 10 000 ft ³ /min |
| Friction Factor | 1 lbf min ² /ft ⁴ | = 1.8554 x 10 ⁶ | kg/m ³ | 1 kg/m ³ | = 539.0 x 10 ⁻⁹ | lbf min ² /ft ⁴ |
| Density | 1 lb/ft ³ | = 16.018 5 | kg/m ³ | 1 kg/m ³ | = 0.062 43 | lb/ft ³ |
| | 1 imp. ton/yd ³ | = 1328.94 | kg/m ³ | | = 0.000 753 | imp. ton/yd ³ |
| | 1 short ton/yd ³ | = 1186.55 | kg/m ³ | | = 0.000843 | short ton/yd ³ |
| Energy, work, heat | 1 ft lbf | = 1.355 82 | J | 1 J | = 0.737 56 | ft/lbf |
| | 1Btu | = 1055.06 | J | | = 0.000 948 | Btu |
| | 1 cal | = 4.186 8 | J | | = 0.238 89 | cal |
| | 1 therm | = 105.506 | MJ | | = 0.009 478 | μtherm |
| | 1 kWh | = 3.6 | MJ | | = 0.000 278 | Wh |
| Power | 1 hp | = 745.700 | W | 1 W | = 0.001 341 | hp |
| Heatflow | 1 ft lbf/min | = 0.0226 | W | 1 W | = 44.254 | ft lbf/min |
| | 1 Btu/min | = 17.584 | W | | = 0.056 87 | Btu/min |
| | 1 RT Refrigeration (imp.) ton | = 3517 | W | | = 0.000 2843 | RT |

| Quantity | Imperial to SI | | | SI to Imperial | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | Imperial | = | SI | SI | = | Imperial |
| Specific energy | 1 ft lbf/lb | = 2.989 | J/kg | 1 J/kg | = 0.3345 | ft lbf/lb |
| Calorific value | 1 Btu/lb | = 2326 | J/kg | 1 J/kg | = 0.000 430 | Btu/lb |
| | 1 therm/imp. ton | = 0.103 8 | MJ/kg | | = 9.634 | μtherm/imp. ton |
| | 1 therm/short ton | = 0.116 3 | MJ/kg | | = 8.602 | μtherm/short ton |
| Gas constants | 1 ft lbf/lb °R | = 5.380 3 | J/kg K | 1 J/kg K | = 0.185 9 | ft lbf/lb °R |
| Specific heat | 1 Btu/lb °R | = 4186.8 | J/kg K | 1 J/kg K | = 0.000 2388 | Btu/lb °R |
| Specific entropy | | | | | | |
| Specific volume | 1 ft ³ /lb | = 0.062 43 | m ³ /kg | 1 m ³ /kg | = 16.018 | ft ³ /lb |
| | 1 ft ³ /imp. ton | = 0.027 87 | m ³ /t | | = 35.881 | ft ³ /imp. ton |
| | 1 ft ³ /short ton | = 0.031 21 | m ³ /t | | = 32.037 | ft ³ /short ton |
| | Note: 1 metric tonne (t) = 1 000 kg | | | | | |
| Dynamic viscosity | 1 lb/ft s | = 1.488 16 | Ns/m ² | 1 Ns/m ² | = 0.671 97 | lb/ft s |
| | 1 poise | = 0.1 | Ns/m ² | | = 10 | poise |
| Kinematic viscosity | 1 ft ² /s | = 0.092 903 | m ² /s | 1 m ² /s | = 10.763 9 | ft ² /s |
| | 1 stokes | = 0.000 1 | m ² /s | | = 10 000 | stokes |
| Permeability | 1 Darcy | = 0.98693x10 ⁻¹² | m ² | | = 1.01324-12 | Darcy |
| | 1 md | = 0.98693x10 ⁻¹⁵ | m ² | | = 1.01324-15 | md |
| Thermal conductivity | 1 Btu ft/ft ² h °R | = 1.730 73 | W/m K | 1 W/mK | = 0.577 79 | Btu ft/ft ² h °R |
| Thermal diffusivity | 1 ft ² /s | = 0.092 303 | m ² /s | 1 m ² /s | = 10.764 | ft ² /s |
| | 1 ft ² /h | = 2.5806x10 ⁻⁵ | m ² /s | 1 m ² /s | = 38 750 | ft ² /h |

| Quantity | Imperial to SI | | | SI to Imperial | | |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------|------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| | | | | | | |
| Thermal gradient | 1 °F/ft | = 1.822 7 | °C/m | 1 °C/m | = 0.548 6 | °F/ft |
| Moisture content | 1 lb/lb | = 1 | kg/kg | 1 kg/kg | = 1 | lb/lb |
| | 1 gr/lb | = 0.000 1429 | kg/kg | | = 7000 | gr/lb |
| Radiation | 1 rad | = 0.01 | Gray | 1 Gray | = 100 | rad |
| | 1 Curie | = 37 x 10 ⁹ | Bq | 1 Bq | = 27 x 10 ⁻¹² | Curie |
| | 1 rem | = 0.01 | Sv | 1 Sv | = 100 | rem |
| | 1 Roentgen | = 2.58 x 10 ⁻⁴ | C/kg | 1 C/kg | = 3876 | Roentgen |
| Notes: | 1 Gray | = 1 J/kg | | 1 Becquerel (Bq) | = 1 disintegration/s | |
| | 1 Sievert (Sv) | = 1 J/kg | | 1 Coulomb (C) | = 1 amp.s | |
| Temperature | K | = °C + 273.15 | | | | |
| | °R | = °F + 459.67 | | | | |
| | For differential temperatures, 1 Centigrade degree = 1.8 Fahrenheit degrees. | | | | | |
| | For actual temperature, 1.8 x t(°C) + 32 = °F | | | | | |
| and | $\frac{t(^{\circ}\text{F}) - 32}{1.8}$ | = °C | | | | |