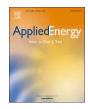


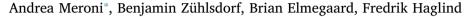
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# Design of centrifugal compressors for heat pump systems



Department of Mechanical Engineering, Technical University of Denmark, Nils Koppels Allé, Building 403, 2800 Kongens Lyngby, Denmark

## HIGHLIGHTS

- A mean-line model for design and analysis of centrifugal compressors is presented.
- The model is validated against five test cases including three different fluids.
- The model is coupled to that of a high-temperature heat pump and optimized.
- The optimization method accounts for trade-offs in cycle and compressor designs.
- A two-stage steam compressor yields the best cycle performance.

#### ARTICLE INFO

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### ABSTRACT

This work presents a mean-line model of a centrifugal compressor and a method for a coupled optimization with a heat pump system. The compressor model was validated with five test cases from the open literature including the working fluids: air, refrigerant R-134a and carbon dioxide. Afterwards, the compressor model was coupled and optimized with that of a heat pump cycle supplying steam at 150 °C. Two cycle configurations were considered: an open-loop system using steam, and a closed-loop system with five other working fluid candidates. The compressor was designed using a multi-objective optimization algorithm, which seeks to maximize simultaneously the cycle coefficient of performance and the supplied heat flow rate. The method employed in this work considers the possible trade-offs regarding cycle and compressor design criteria, and can be used to identify cost-effective solutions for the next generation of heat pumps. The obtained results suggest that a two-stage compressor using steam yields the highest values of coefficient of performance and heat supply, and at the same time requires a more challenging compressor design.

## 1. Introduction

Heat pump systems are regarded as a viable and attractive solution to recover excess heat from low-to-medium temperature heat sources of many industrial processes [1–3].

Chua et al. [4] and Arpagaus et al. [2] reviewed the most important advances in the field. The application of heat pump systems is currently extending to the generation of high-temperature heat (with heat sink temperatures above approximately 100 °C). The International Energy Agency (IEA) [5] produced a report on industrial heat pumps, indicating the markets, level of technological maturity, applications and barriers of heat pumps. The report highlights that the theoretical potential for application of industrial heat pumps increases significantly for heat sink temperatures up to and higher than 100 °C. Nellisen and Wolf [6] investigated the heat demand across different industries in the European market and indicated that about 626 PJ (174 TWh) of heat is reachable by industrial heat pumps, of which about 113 PJ (19%) is in the temperature range 100–150 °C. Recently, Arpagaus et al. [3] presented a comprehensive review on high-temperature heat pump (HTHP) systems, concluding that industrial HTHPs can potentially supply the industrial European demand of 113 PJ.However, the literature highlights that the development of mass-produced units is hindered by many factors, such as low awareness of the heat consumption in companies and the possible technical solutions [5,3]; lack of knowledge of comprehensive heat pump integration methods [3,5,7]; lack of available refrigerants with low global warming potential in the high-temperature range [3,8]; lack of cost-efficient solutions and long payback periods [5,8,9]; and the technical challenges related to the compressor operation at high temperatures [10].

In this respect, the centrifugal compressor (CC) technology is seen as an attractive option compared with positive displacement compressors, since it bears key advantages such as the potential for high efficiency,

\* Corresponding author.

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E-mail addresses: andmer@mek.dtu.dk (A. Meroni), bezuhls@mek.dtu.dk (B. Zühlsdorf), be@mek.dtu.dk (B. Elmegaard), frh@mek.dtu.dk (F. Haglind).

<b>Nomenclature</b> $\varepsilon$ clearance gap, m			
Nomenciatare		$\varepsilon_{ m w}$	wake fraction at impeller exit, –
Symbols		η	compressor isentropic efficiency, –
oyntoota		σ	impeller slip factor, –
Α	cross-sectional area, m <sup>2</sup>	$\phi$	flow coefficient, –
AR	vaned diffuser area ratio, –		secondary flow mass fraction, –
AS	vaned diffuser aspect ratio, –	$\chi_{\psi}$	stage loading coefficient, –
b	blade width, m	Ψ	stage loading coefficient, -
C	absolute velocity, m/s	Subscri	nts
$C_f$	diffuser friction factor, –	Bubberr	μω
COP	coefficient of performance, –	0	total, impeller inlet
CP	diffuser pressure recovery coefficient, –	1	impeller throat static conditions
$d_{\rm hb}$	hydraulic diameter, m	01	impeller throat total conditions
$D_f$	blade diffusion factor, –	2	impeller exit static conditions
$D_f$ DR	degree of reaction, –	02	impeller exit total conditions
DК m	mass flow rate, –	3	diffuser inlet static conditions
h h	specific enthalpy, J/kg	03	diffuser inlet total conditions
	blade surface roughness, m	4	diffuser throat static conditions
k <sub>s</sub> K	total pressure loss coefficient, –	4 04	diffuser throat total conditions
	rotor axial length, m	5	diffuser exit static conditions
L <sub>z</sub>	blade hydraulic length, m	05	diffuser exit total conditions
$L_{\rm b}$ LWR	vaned diffuser length over width, –	a	axial direction
	Mach number, –	a b,bl	blade, back face
N	rotational speed, rpm	ch	choking
	throat, m	cl	clearance
0 n	static pressure, Pa	h	hub
p PR	pressure ratio, –	vs	interspace
Ņ	heat flow rate, W	vd	vaned diffuser
r	radius, m	tt	total-to-total
, Re	Reynolds number, –	ts	total-to-total
s	specific entropy, J/(kgK)	th	throat
t	trailing edge thickness, m	t	trailing edge, tangential direction
T	temperature, K	sf	skin friction
U	peripheral velocity, m/s	s	shroud
$\dot{V}_{comp,in}$	compressor inlet volume flow rate, m <sup>3</sup> /s	rms	root-mean-square
W Comp,in	relative velocity m/s	rel	relative
Z	number of blades –	rc	recirculation
-		r	radial direction, rotor
Abbreviation and acronyms		pp	pinch point
		opt	optimal
CC	Centrifugal Compressor	mix	mixing
HP	Heat Pump	m	meridional direction
HTHP	High-Temperature Heat Pump	lim	limit value
VD	Vaned Diffuser	is	isentropic
		ind	inducer
Greek letters		Inc.	incidence
		imp	impeller
α	absolute flow angle, °	id	ideal
β	relative flow angle, °		
, ρ	density, kg/m <sup>3</sup>		

the possibility to operate at high pressure ratios, a compact design, and oil-free operation [11,12]. The progress of the technology in the last decades, and, foremost, the introduction of high-speed generators, have made it possible to apply CCs even to smaller units in the refrigeration and heat pump fields. Hastbacka et al. [13] claimed that small centrifugal compressors are expected to replace reciprocating and screw compressors for chilled-water systems in the range 88–281 kW as their high initial cost is offset by improved energy efficiency. Süß [14] developed a centrifugal compressor for refrigeration applications with a nominal power of 7 kW, operating up to 90 krpm and achieving an overall efficiency of 70% (including the motor). Bertsch et al. [15] conducted a study on the use of micro turbo-compressors in HTHPs, concluding that such compressors are a viable alternative to traditional

technology. The working fluid can range from natural to synthetic refrigerants, and the compressor can experience considerably different flow phenomena according to the selected medium. The combination of high rotational speed, the variety of possible working fluids, and the compact size often result in highly loaded compressors whose design requires the adoption of suitable numerical tools and modeling strategies.

The first step in the design of a centrifugal compressor is performed using one-dimensional preliminary design models. One-dimensional numerical methods, also called *mean-line models*, provide the design and performance estimation of the centrifugal compressor through the solution of the governing equations at the mean streamline and at the main stations of the compressor components. Compared to more Download English Version:

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