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Dense gas-particle suspension upward flow used as heat transfer fluid in solar receiver: PEPT experiments and 3D numerical simulations

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Abstract

A dense particle suspension, also called an upflow bubbling fluidized bed, is an innovative alternative to the heat transfer fluids commonly used in concentrated solar power plants. An additional advantage of this technology is that it allows for direct thermal storage due to the large heat capacity and maximum temperature of the particle suspension. The key to the proposed process is the effective heat transfer from the solar heated surfaces to the heat transfer fluid, i.e. the circulating solid suspension. In order to better understand the process and to optimise the design of the solar receiver, it is of paramount importance to know how particles behave inside the bundle of small tubes. To access to the particle motion in the solar receiver, two different techniques are carried out: experimental using Positron Emission

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