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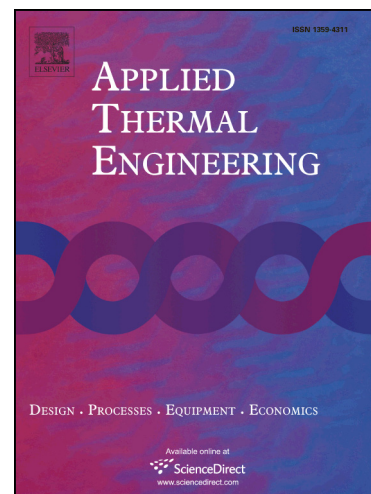
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Lu Li, Jie Sun, Yinshi Li

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Prospective fully-coupled multi-level analytical methodology for concentrated solar power plants: General modelling

Lu LI¹, Jie SUN^{2*}, Yinshi LI^{1*}

¹Key Laboratory of Thermo-Fluid Science and Engineering of MOE, School of Energy and Power Engineering, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710049, China

²Institute of Engineering Thermophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China

Abstract

The complexity of the cascading solar-thermal-mechanical-electrical energy conversion in concentrated solar power (CSP) plants urges to develop an accurate and fast analytical methodology for on-site use. Herein, we propose a novel fully-coupled multi-level analytical methodology, where multi-dimensional model (0-1-2-3 Model) is developed to address the optical-hydraulic-thermal-elastic synergistic issue in CSP plants: i) At system-level, the 0 Sub-Model reveals the heat-work transformation in power block in the view of thermodynamics; ii) At loop-level, the 1 Sub-Model uncovers the collection, concentration and transformation of solar energy into the working fluid in the loop on account of 1D thermo-hydraulics; iii) The 2 Sub-Model, employing 2D finite volume method (FVM), figures out the detailed circumferential temperature profile of receiver tubes in terms of composite heat transfer; iv) At component-level, the 3 Sub-Model, using 3D finite element method (FEM), brings insight into the nonuniform-temperature-induced deformation of receiver tubes focusing on the thermo-elastics. The 0-1-2-3 Model enables both system-level performance prediction and component-level targeting insight in a remarkably high-efficient way with guaranteed accuracy. In comparison, the computational

*Authors to whom correspondence should be addressed. Electronic mails: sunjie@mail.etp.ac.cn (JS), ysl@mail.xjtu.edu.cn (YSL)

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