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Three-dimensional transient numerical model for the thermal performance of the solar receiver

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1	Three-dimensional transient numerical model for the
2	thermal performance of the solar receiver
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8 Abstract:

9 For solar thermal power plants, no steady-state operation occurs in view of inherently transient natures of their initial and boundary conditions. So this study 10 proposes a mathematical model to perform the analysis on the transient behaviors of 11 the external solar receiver in the tower power technology. This 3D transient model was 12 established by dividing the receiver tube into discrete control volumes and then 13 applying the conservation of thermal energy to every single differential control volume. 14 In addition, this model was validated by simulating the HTF temperature distributions 15 and then comparing them with the reference results. By calculating the time-dependent 16 17 and non-uniform temperature fields of the receiver tube, this paper focuses attention on the evolution of transient processes in several common scenarios involving the mass 18 flowrate variation, the start-up process and the occurrence of the heavy clouds above 19 20 the heliostat field. Particularly, the analysis of the transient thermal performance highlights some noteworthy characteristics including serious problems such as the 21 corrosion, the thermal stress and the fatigue in the typical transitions, which might 22 require the control system to correspondingly adjust in time. 23

24 Keywords: External solar receiver; Tower technology; Molten salt; Thermal

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