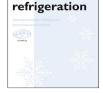




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A numerical study on the unsteady heat transfer in active regenerator with multi-layer refrigerants of rotary magnetic refrigerator near room temperature



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 31 October 2015 Received in revised form 13 January 2016 Accepted 4 February 2016 Available online 15 February 2016

Keywords: Numerical simulation Unsteady heat transfer Refrigeration performances Active multi-layer regenerator Rotary magnetic refrigerator Near room temperature

ABSTRACT

As the temperature span(ΔT) of a refrigerator with an active magnetic regenerator(AMR) of single magneto-caloric material is limited, in the current investigation, the multi-layer AMR consisting of Gd and Gd_{0.73}Tb_{0.27} is studied to improve the refrigeration performance at a larger ΔT with the numerical method, where the experimental magneto-caloric properties are adopted for a better precision. Effects of Gd_{0.73}Tb_{0.27} content (ϕ) and fluid flowrate (q_v) on refrigeration capacity ($q_{ref,V}$) and coefficient of performance (COP), together with those of hot and cold reservoir temperatures (T_c and T_h), are investigated. Besides, temperature contours of fluid and solid matrix are presented for discussions. The present study demonstrates that compared with AMR of pure Gd, the multi-layer AMR improves the $q_{ref,V}$ and COP by \sim 167% and 57% at ΔT = 28K, respectively. Moreover, it is observed that $q_{ref,V}$ of multi-layer AMR has a convex variation tendency with ϕ , and the maximum at T_c of 268K equals 874.7 kW/m³. As a contrast, COP has two peaks, and the optimal ϕ is almost independent of T_c , while it decreases with a rising T_h . In addition, current investigation indicates that q_{ref,V} takes a lager value at a larger q_v, while a smaller q_V facilitates a good COP.

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http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijrefrig.2016.02.002

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Une étude numérique du transfert de chaleur transitoire dans un régénérateur actif avec des frigorigènes multi-couches d'un réfrigérateur magnétique rotatif proche de la température ambiante

Mots clés : Simulation numérique ; Transfert de chaleur transitoire ; Performances frigorifiques ; Régénérateur actif multi-couches ; Réfrigérateur magnétique rotatif ; Proche de la température ambiante

1. Introduction

Magnetic refrigeration (MR), based on the significant magnetocaloric effects (MCE) of magneto-caloric materials (MCMs), represents an attractive alternative to the vapor compression one near room temperature. However, the lattice entropy variations of MCMs are significant near room temperature, which consume some cooling capacities and decrease the adiabatic temperature drops of demagnetization, resulting in finite temperature spans (Yu et al., 2003). To crack the nut, various MR cycles were proposed and investigated (Aprea et al., 2011a; Gomez et al., 2013; Kitanovski et al., 2014; Plaznik et al., 2013), and the active magnetic regenerator (AMR), where MCMs also act as the regenerative medium and each part runs with an individual MR cycle, behaves the best except the Carnot cycle. For the past two decades, dozens of MR prototypes near room temperature have been built and experimented all over the world, and most of them adopted the designs with AMR (Aprea et al., 2014; Gschneidner and Pecharsky, 2008; Kitanovski et al., 2015; Lozano et al., 2014; Rowe and Tura, 2006; Yu et al., 2006; Zimm et al., 2006).

As the key parts of magnetic refrigerators, AMRs were extensively investigated with the experimental method (Tušek et al., 2013; 2014; Richard et al., 2004; Yu et al., 2006); meanwhile, the complicated convection heat transfer in AMRs, coupled with the non-linear MCEs of solid refrigerants, was numerically studied widely. Compared with steady models, the unsteady ones could capture the physical mechanisms in AMRs more accurately and thus have higher precisions. Besides, the spatially one-dimensional AMR models behave well in the balance between computation load and prediction precision,

		U	specific internal energy [J kg ⁻¹]
Variables		W _r W _p	volumetric revolution work [W m ⁻³] volumetric pump power [W m ⁻³]
As	specific surface area $[m^2 m^{-3})$	x	longitudinal position [m]
C	specific heat capacity [J kg ⁻¹ K ⁻¹]	α	convection heat transfer coefficient [W m ⁻² K]
COP d	coefficient of performance particle diameter of regenerator [mm]	3	regenerator porosity; allowable relative error
u k _f	fluid molecular thermal conductivity [W m ^{-1} K ^{-1}]	ρ	density [kg m ⁻³]
k _{eff}	effective static thermal conductivity of	τ	cycle duration [s]
	regenerator with particles and fluid [W m ⁻¹ K ⁻¹]	φ	content of Gd alloy in multi-layer regenerator
D _d	thermal dispersion coefficient		$\phi = L_{\text{alloy}} / L_{\text{reg}}$
Н	magnetic field [Tesla]	Superscript	
L	length [m]	i	temporal index
М	magnetization intensity [A m ⁻¹]	J	
MCM	magneto-caloric material	Subscripts	
MCE Nt	magneto-caloric effect amount of time step in a cycle	Alloy	occupied by Gd alloy
Nx	amount of longitudinal computation cell	С	cold reservoir
dp/dx	longitudinal pressure gradient [Pa m^{-1}]	f	fluid
q _v	volumetric flowrate [L min ⁻¹]	h	hot reservoir
Q _{ref}	refrigeration capacity[W]	H	constant magnetic field
q _{ref}	volumetric refrigeration capacity [W m-3]	i	spatial index
q _{rej}	volumetric heat rejection [W m ⁻³]	S	magneto-caloric material
S	specific entropy [J kg ⁻¹ K ⁻¹]	V Gd	per unit volume of refrigerant occupied by Gd particles
t	time [s]	reg	occupied by Ga particles occupied by whole regenerator
Т	temperature [K]	TER	occupied by whole regenerator

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