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1	Experimental performance of 300 $\rm kW_{th}$ prototype of parabolic trough collector with
2	rotatable axis and irreversibility analysis
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7	Abstract
8	Parabolic trough collector (PTC) is the most mature concentrating solar thermal technology. Limited by
9	the cosine effect, annual thermal efficiency of PTC is only 50 %. To show the limitations of performance of
10	PTC and find corresponding solutions, an irreversibility analysis of PTC is experimentally conducted. Global
11	exergy destruction is divided into exergy destructions in concentrator and receiver according to process
12	analysis. Experimental results shows that the exergy destruction in concentrator accounts for the largest share.
13	It indicates the process that sunlight being concentrated onto receiver is the key limitation of the performance
14	of PTC. Experiments of the PTC with rotatable axis tracking show that rotatable axis tracking could decrease
15	the exergy destruction in concentrator obviously. The annual exergy efficiency would be expected to be
16	improved by 3 percent points according to the experimental results. This indicates that rotatable axis tracking
17	is a practical method to improve the performance of PTCs. The influences of azimuth angle of PTC and heat
18	transfer fluid temperature on exergy destruction are also analysed based on experimental data. In this study,
19	the key limitation of the performance of the PTC is revealed and practical methods to decrease the exergy
20	destruction of the PTC are provided.
21	
22	Keywords: Parabolic trough collector; Experimental test; Rotatable axis tracking; Irreversibility analysis
23	
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