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Thermodynamic analysis and optimization of single and combined power cycles for concentrated solar power applications

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Thermodynamic analysis and optimization of single and combined power cycles for concentrated

2 solar power applications

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3 Highlights

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- Analyzing thermodynamic performance of single and combined power cycles.
- Evaluating the thermodynamic performance over a range of operating conditions.
- Combined Brayton/ORC cycle has the highest thermal efficiency.
 - ORC is the best power cycle for low temperature applications.
 - Working fluids were selected based on a systematic multi-step method.

9 Keywords

- 10 Combined Brayton/ORC cycle- Organic Rankine cycle- Steam Rankine cycle- Brayton- Combined
- 11 Rankine/ORC cycle- CSP

12 Abstract

Thermodynamic analysis and optimization of the power block of concentrated solar power (CSP) plants 13 were performed in this study. Single and combined power cycles such as regenerative steam Rankine cycle 14 with reheat (RSRC), organic Rankine cycle (ORC), combined Rankine/ORC cycle, regenerative Brayton 15 cycle (RBC), regenerative Brayton cycle with recompression (RBCR), and combined Brayton/ORC cycle 16 were compared. Thermodynamic performance of the power cycles was evaluated by performing parametric 17 18 calculations over a range of operating conditions (maximum temperature, minimum temperature, maximum 19 pressure). Selection of the best power cycle(s) is the main focus of this study. Performance maps which 20 present performance information on the best power cycles in a graphical and straightforward manner were 21 constructed. Results show that for the maximum cycle temperatures lower than 300°C, the ORC has the highest thermal efficiency. For the medium maximum cycle temperatures (between 300 °C to 650°C), the 22 combined Rankine/ORC and RBCR are the best choices. For the maximum cycle temperature higher than 23 650°C, depending on the maximum pressure, the combined Brayton/ORC cycle and RBCR give the highest 24 thermal efficiency. Also, for low and medium maximum temperatures, RSRC produces the highest specific 25 26 net work output, followed by the combined Helium Brayton/ORC cycle.

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