A Thermodynamic Perspective on Energy Efficiency

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Nicolas Léonard Sadi Carnot. 1796-1832





The question has often been raised whether the motive power of heat* is unbounded, whether the possible improvements in steam-engines have an assignable limit,—a limit which the nature of things will not allow to be passed by any means whatever; or whether, on the contrary, these improvements may be carried on indefinitely.

It is natural to ask here this curious and important question : Is the motive power of heat invariable in quantity, or does it vary with the agent employed to realize it as the intermediary substance, selected as the subject of action of the heat ?







 T_H



Thermal engine



 T_c











Plant	$T_h(K)$	$T_c(K)$	η_C	${m \eta}_{ m obs}$
Doel 4 (Nuclear, Belgium) [6]	566	283	0.5	0.35
Almaraz II (Nuclear, Spain) [6]	600	290	0.52	0.34
Sizewell B (Nuclear, UK) [6]	581	288	0.5	0.36
Cofrentes (Nuclear, Spain) [6]	562	289	0.49	0.34
Heysham (Nuclear, UK) [6]	727	288	0.60	0.40
West Thurrock (Coal, UK) [1]	838	298	0.64	0.36
CANDU (Nuclear, Canada) [1]	573	298	0.48	0.30
Larderello (Geothermal, Italy)[1]	523	353	0.32	0.16
Calder Hall (Nuclear, UK) [6]	583	298	0.49	0.19
(Steam/Mercury,USA) [6]	783	298	0.62	0.34
(Steam, UK) [6]	698	298	0.57	0.28
(Gas Turbine, Switzerland) [6]	963	298	0.69	0.32
(Gas Turbine, France) [6]	953	298	0.69	0.34

TABLE I. Theoretical bounds and observed efficiency η_{obs} of thermal plants.

Sources: Bejan (AET); and H.B. Callen (T)









Observed efficiency

 T_H













Endoreversible model

Chambadal (1957) Novikov (1958) Curzon & Alhborn (1975)

$$\dot{W}_{\max} = \sigma_h T_h \frac{\left(1 - \sqrt{\tau}\right)^2}{1 + \sigma_{hc}}$$

 $\tau = \frac{T_c}{T_h} \quad \sigma_{hc} = \frac{\sigma_h}{\sigma_c}$

$$\eta_{CNCA} = 1 - \sqrt{\frac{T_c}{T_h}}$$









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It is natural to ask here this curious and important question : Is the motive power of heat invariable in quantity, or does it vary with the agent employed to realize it as the intermediary substance, selected as the subject of action of the heat ?

What is the maximum power that can be extracted from a hot stream? What are realistic limits for this power?





1. Power extraction:



If the stream interacts only with the atmospheric temperature reservoir (T_0) , the maximum power that can be extracted is the *flow exergy*:

$$\dot{W}_{rev} = \dot{m}c_{p}T_{0}\left(\frac{T_{H}}{T_{0}} - 1 - \ln\frac{T_{H}}{T_{0}}\right)$$

(ideal gas)

The actual power will always be lower than \dot{W}_{rev} because of the irreversibilities of the heat transfer between the hot stream and the rest of the power plant.





The heat transfer irreversibility is due to:









We use a second stream to collect the power from the hot stream. This second stream is the working fluid of the power producing device

The case where the collecting stream is <u>single phase</u> was studied by <u>Bejan and Errera</u>, 1998.



Power extraction from a hot stream







Entropy generation analysis



Now for the heat exchanger, and external cooling alone: $\dot{m}(h_H - h_0) - \dot{m}_w(h_2 - h_1) - \dot{Q}_e = 0$ $\dot{S}_{gen} = \dot{m}(s_0 - s_H) + \dot{m}_w(s_2 - s_1) + \frac{\dot{Q}_e}{T_0} \ge 0$ $To\dot{S}_{gen} = \dot{m}e_{x,H} - \dot{m}_w(e_{x,2} - e_{x,1})$



We can maximize the power output using:

$$\dot{\mathbf{W}} = \dot{\mathbf{m}}\mathbf{e}_{\mathrm{x,H}} - \mathbf{T}_{0} \underbrace{\dot{\mathbf{S}}_{\mathrm{gen}}}_{\mathrm{minimize}}$$

or directly using

$$\dot{\mathbf{W}} = \dot{\mathbf{m}} \left(\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{x},2} - \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{x},1} \right)$$

In <u>dimensionless form</u>:

$$\eta_{II} = \frac{\dot{W}}{\dot{m}e_{x,H}} = \frac{\dot{m}_{w}(e_{x,2} - e_{x,1})}{\dot{m}e_{x,H}}$$







Maximization of the second law efficiency by selecting the mass flow rate of the water stream







Effect of the mass flow rate on the allocation of area among the sections of the heat exchanger







Effect of the mass flow rate on the allocation of area among the sections of the heat exchanger





Concluding remarks

- Sadi Carnot, laid out the foundations of thermodynamics exploring limits of operation of thermal engines that lead to maximum power.
- An interesting question that can be asked is why do we observe a pattern in efficiency at maximum power?
 - This maybe linked to symmetry in physical laws





Concluding remarks

- Chambadal, Novikov, Curzon and Ahlborn derived efficiency expression that predicts well performance of thermal plants.
- The Novikov–Chambadal-Curzon-Ahlborn expression has been derived in different context:
 - Classical thermodynamics
 - Endoreversible thermodynamics (finite times, finite sizes)
 - Linear Irreversible Thermodynamics





Concluding remarks:

• The extraction of power and refrigeration from a hot stream can be maximized by properly matching the stream with a receiving stream of cold fluid, across a finite-size heat transfer area

counterflow 0.72ideal-gas model for steam 0.7tabulated steam properties $\eta_{_{\rm II}}$ N=10 0.68- $\tau_{_{\rm H}}=4$ $\tau_{h} = 1.98$ $\tau = 1.8$ 0.66-0.42 0.44 0.32 0.34 0.36 0.4 0.38 М

Optimal mass flow rate ratio





There is an associated optimal allocation of heat exchanger inventory:



Concluding remarks

- System structure appears as a result of optimization -> maximization of flow access
- Constructal Design: "Generation of architecture under global constraints"





Thank you!





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- Center for Advanced Power Systems at Florida State University.







Constructal Design: "Generation of architecture under global contraints"









Concluding remarks:

How does the optimal area allocation appears in practice?

- a) One counterflow heat exchanger, three sections: The three sections rearrange themselves
- b) Three sections, boiling in contact with hottest gases:

Here a 'morphing' heat exchanger is needed









System structure appears as a result of optimization (Constructal theory)

Concluding remarks:

Optimal HT area allocation





5



Maximization of the second law efficiency using Toluene as working fluid



Maximum power from a hot stream

 In engineering thermodynamics it is usually assumed that the heat that drives a power plant is already available from a hot temperature reservoir.



•In most applications a fuel is burn, and a hot stream becomes the input to the power plant.



- What is the maximum power that can be extracted from a hot stream?





Thermodynamic optimization methodology:

• Power and refrigeration systems are assemblies of streams and hardware (components).






Each stream carries exergy (useful work content), which is the life blood of the power system. Exergy is destroyed (or entropy is generated) whenever streams interact with each other and with components. <u>Our objective</u> is to optimize the streams and components, so that they generate minimum entropy subject to the constraints.



THE METHOD OF THERMODYNAMIC OPTIMIZATION



-Thermodynamics provides the basic equations

-Flows, flow resistances, losses (irreversibility, "dissipation") and interactions are integrated from related disciplines





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$$\dot{W}_{rev} = -\frac{d}{dt} \left(E - T_0 S \right) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(1 - \frac{T_0}{T_i} \right) \dot{Q}_i + \sum_{in} \dot{m} \left(h^0 - T_0 S \right) - \sum_{out} \dot{m} \left(h^0 - T_0 S \right)$$

Work in the reversible limit

 $\dot{W} < \dot{W}_{rev}$



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> Sustracting them we get the **Gouy-Stodola theorem**: The destroyed power is proportional to the rate of entropy generation.

$$\dot{W}_{lost} = \dot{W}_{rev} - \dot{W} = T_0 \dot{S}_{gen} \qquad (E.3)$$

EGM starts from (E.3). We want to be as close as possible to the reversible limit (\dot{W}_{rev}), then we should work in the minimization of the entropy generation (\dot{S}_{gen}).



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CONSTRAINED OPTIMIZATION function, constraints and degrees of freedom

The FUNCTION to be optimized, is related to PURPOSE e.g:

Max. power extraction
Min. power requirement
Max. of exergy collection
Min. ratio destroyed
exergy/ supplied exergy

CONSTRAINTS. e.g: Total volume, area, material amount, operation temperatures.

DEGREES OF FREEDOM

- -Operation temperatures
- -Charging/discharging times
- -Dimensions, thickness
- -Spacing among components
- -Material properties





The total surface constraint (c1), can be written as,

$$N = \mu N_{s} + \frac{U_{s}}{U_{b}} N_{b} + \mu' \frac{U_{s}}{U_{w}} N_{w} \qquad N = \frac{U_{s} A}{\dot{m} c_{p}} \text{ constant}$$

In the numerical computations, we defined the following area fractions



temperature distribution. We need the work output.





The total area constraint, can be written as,

$$N = \mu N_s + \frac{U_s}{U_b} N_b + \mu' \frac{U_s}{U_w} N_w \qquad \qquad N = \frac{U_s A}{\dot{m}c_p} \text{ constant}$$

In the numerical computations, we defined the following area fractions



1

 $x = \frac{A_s}{\Delta}$

superheater (steam)

boiling

$$-x-y = \frac{A_w}{A}$$
 Preheater (liq. water)

The equations we have until now allow us to compute the temperature distribution. We need the work output.



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Concluding remarks (1/3):

• The **extraction of power** from a hot stream **can be maximized** by properly **matching** the stream with a receiving stream of cold fluid, across a finite-size heat transfer area



Optimal mass flow rate ratio







There is an associated optimal allocation of heat exchanger inventory:



We want to search for an optimal matching between the streams.



Thermodynamic optimization



-Thermodynamics provides the basic equations

-Flows, flow resistances, losses (irreversibility, "dissipation") and interactions are integrated from related disciplines





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MODEL OPTIMIZED SYSTEM CONSTRAINED OPTIMIZATION Class	Heat transfer analysis ical effectiveness Ntu anal	ysis
	$\mu < 1, \mu' < 1$	
Superheater	Boiling	Preheating
$\varepsilon_{s} = \frac{1 - \exp[-N_{s}(1-\mu)]}{1 - \mu \exp[-N_{s}(1-\mu)]}$	$\varepsilon_{b} = 1 - \exp(-N_{b})$	$\varepsilon_{w} = \frac{1 - \exp\left[-N_{w}\left(1 - \mu'\right)\right]}{1 - \mu \exp\left[-N_{w}\left(1 - \mu'\right)\right]}$
$\varepsilon_{s} = \frac{T_{H} - T_{3}}{\mu (T_{H} - T_{b})}$	$\varepsilon_{\rm b} = \frac{T_{\rm H} - T_{\rm 3}}{T_{\rm H} - T_{\rm b}}$	$\epsilon_{\rm w} = \frac{T_{\rm b} - T_{\rm l}}{T_{\rm 4} - T_{\rm l}}$
$\varepsilon_{\rm s} = \frac{T_2 - T_{\rm b}}{T_3 - T_{\rm b}}$	$T_{\rm H} - T_3 = \mu \frac{h_{\rm fg}}{c_{\rm s}}$	$\varepsilon_{w} = \frac{T_{out} - T_4}{\mu' (T_1 - T_4)}$
$\mu = \frac{\dot{m}_w c_s}{\dot{m} c_p}$	$N_b = \frac{U_b A_b}{m}$	$\mu' = \frac{\dot{m}_{w}c_{w}}{\dot{m}c_{p}}$
$\mathbf{N}_{s} = \frac{\mathbf{U}_{s}\mathbf{A}_{s}}{\dot{\mathbf{m}}_{w}\mathbf{c}_{s}}$	mc _p	$\mathbf{N}_{w} = \frac{\mathbf{U}_{w}\mathbf{A}_{w}}{\dot{\mathbf{m}}_{w}\mathbf{c}_{w}}$





MODEL



OPTIMIZED SYSTEM

CONSTRAINED OPTIMIZATION





Heat transfer analysis classical effectiveness Ntu analysis

		-
	$\mu < 1, \mu' < 1$	
Superheater	Boiling	Preheating
$\varepsilon_{s} = \frac{1 - \exp[-N_{s}(1-\mu)]}{1 - \mu \exp[-N_{s}(1-\mu)]}$	$\varepsilon_{b} = 1 - \exp(-N_{b})$	$\varepsilon_{w} = \frac{1 - \exp\left[-N_{w}\left(1 - \mu'\right)\right]}{1 - \mu \exp\left[-N_{w}\left(1 - \mu'\right)\right]}$
$\varepsilon_{\rm s} = \frac{T_{\rm H} - T_{\rm 3}}{\mu (T_{\rm H} - T_{\rm b})}$	$\varepsilon_{\rm b} = \frac{T_4 - T_3}{T_3 - T_{\rm b}}$	$\epsilon_{\rm w} = \frac{T_{\rm b} - T_{\rm l}}{T_{\rm 4} - T_{\rm l}}$
$\epsilon_{s} = \frac{T_2 - T_b}{\mu (T_H - T_b)}$	$\dot{m}h_{fg} = \dot{m}c_p(T_3 - T_b)$	$\varepsilon_{w} = \frac{T_{out} - T_4}{\mu' (T_1 - T_4)}$
$\mu = \frac{\dot{m}_w c_s}{\dot{m}c_p}$		$\mu = \frac{\dot{m}_{w}cw}{\dot{m}c_{p}}$
$N_{s} = \frac{U_{s}A_{s}}{\dot{m}_{w}c_{s}}$	$N_{b} = \frac{U_{b}A_{b}}{\dot{m}c_{p}}$	$\mathbf{N}_{w} = \frac{\mathbf{U}_{w} \mathbf{A}_{w}}{\dot{\mathbf{m}}_{w} \mathbf{c}_{w}}$





Maximization of the second law efficiency by selecting the mass flow rate of the water stream





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Effect of the mass flow rate on the allocation of area among the sections of the heat exchanger







Effect of the heat transfer area size on the "match" between the temperature distributions of the two streams



Effect of heat exchanger size on the second law efficiency and on the allocation of heat transfer area





Effects of varying the working-fluid inlet temperature and boiling temperature











Effect of heat exchanger size on the second law efficiency and on the allocation of heat transfer area





Effect of the heat transfer area size on the "match" between the temperature distributions of the two streams







Effect of varying the working-fluid inlet temperature

Effect of varying the boiling temperature







Effect of overall heat transfer coefficients on the second law efficiency





Concluding remarks :

Optimal matching among the hot and collecting stream

(counterflow configuration, optimal mass flow rate ratio, optimal allocation of heat exchanger inventory)







TABLE I. Comparison among observed efficiencies η_{exp} , with the theoretical η_C and Curzon-Ahlborn, η_{CA} , values. Data taken from [20].							
Power Plant	$T_{c}(\mathbf{K})$	$T_{\rm h}({\rm K})$	au	η_{exp}	$\eta_{\rm C}$	η _{CA}	
Doel 4 (Nuclear, Belgium)	566	283	0.50	0.35	0.50	0.31	
Almaraz II (Nuclear, Spain)	600	290	0.48	0.34	0.52	0.31	
Sizewell B (Nuclear, UK)	581	288	0.50	0.36	0.50	0.30	
Cofrentes (Nuclear, Spain)	562	289	0.51	0.34	0.49	0.29	
Heysham (Nuclear, UK)	727	288	0.40	0.40	0.60	0.37	
West Thurrock (Coal, UK)	838	298	0.36	0.36	0.64	0.40	
CANDU (Nuclear, Canada)	573	298	0.52	0.30	0.48	0.28	
Larderello (Geothermal, Italy)	523	353	0.68	0.16	0.32	0.18	
Calder Hall (Nuclear, UK)	583	298	0.51	0.19	0.49	0.29	
(Steam/Mercury, USA)	783	298	0.38	0.34	0.62	0.38	
(Steam, UK)	698	298	0.43	0.28	0.57	0.35	
(Gas Turbine, Switzerland)	963	298	0.31	0.32	0.69	0.44	
(Gas Turbine, France)	953	298	0.31	0.34	0.69	0.44	







3. Optimal Matching for Refrigeration:



Refrigeration system driven by a hot stream through a counterflow heat exchanger





Thermodynamics





Dimensionless groups:









Illustration of the existence of an optimal capacity rate ratio







THE EFFECT OF THE HOT-STREAM INLET TEMPERATURE ON THE OPTIMAL ALLOCATION OF HEAT EXCHANGER INVENTORY







Here the heat exchanger area allocation has been optimized

Maximized refrigeration rate and optimal capacity rate ratio of the countreflow system







Effects of refrigeration temperature







Effects of the matching stream inlet temperature







EFFECT OF HOT SIDE OVERALL HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT ON THE REFRIGERATION RATE AND THE EXISTENCE OF AN OPTIMAL CAPACITY RATE RATIO.




2. Phase change under limiting collecting temperatures



Placing the boiling section in contact with the hottest gases will prevent pipe overheating (materials constraints).









A, heat transfer surface

Temperature distribution along the three sections of the heat exchanger





Entropy generation analysis



OPTIMIZED SYSTEM

$$\dot{W} = \dot{m}(h_{H} - h_{0}) - \dot{Q}_{0} - \dot{Q}_{e}$$
$$\dot{S}_{gen} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{0} + \dot{Q}_{e}}{T_{0}} + \dot{m}(s_{0} - s_{H}) \ge 0$$
$$\dot{W} = \dot{m}e_{x,H} - T_{0}\dot{S}_{gen} \qquad \longleftarrow$$
$$e_{x,H} = (h_{H} - T_{0}s_{H}) - (h_{0} - T_{0}s_{0})$$

Now for the heat exchanger, and external cooling alone: $\dot{m}(h_H - h_0) - \dot{m}_w(h_2 - h_1) - \dot{Q}_e = 0$ $\dot{S}_{gen} = \dot{m}(s_0 - s_H) + \dot{m}_w(s_2 - s_1) + \frac{\dot{Q}_e}{T_0} \ge 0$ $T_0 \dot{S}_{gen} = \dot{m}e_{x,H} - \dot{m}_w(e_{x,2} - e_{x,1})$



MODEL

CONSTRAINED





We can maximize the power output using:

$$\dot{W} = \dot{m}e_{x,H} - T_0 \dot{S}_{gen}$$

minimize

or directly using

$$\dot{\mathbf{W}} = \dot{\mathbf{m}} \left(\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{x},2} - \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{x},1} \right)$$

In <u>dimensionless form</u>:

$$\eta_{II} = \frac{\dot{W}}{\dot{m}e_{x,H}} = \frac{\dot{m}_{w}(e_{x,2} - e_{x,1})}{\dot{m}e_{x,H}}$$







Maximization of the second law efficiency by selecting the mass flow rate of the water stream



Concluding remarks:



Optimal ratio is robust with respect to total surface area



Optimal area allocation is robust with respect to refrigeration temperature



