

Numerical investigation of a reverse osmosis desalination system with cogeneration and renewable energy integration

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Abstract: At first we will present a numerical simulation of sea water desalination and brackish water reverse osmosis plants with cogeneration in which we will establish the governing equations and solve analytically to validate numerical modeling with different systems based on the mass conservation laws of momentum, energy and the second law of thermodynamics, then we will show the positive impact of renewable energy as a free source to power reverse osmosis.

Keywords:

Desalination, Reverse Osmosis, Cogeneration, Renewable Energy.

Introduction

Water and energy are two inseparable products that govern the life of humanity and civilization develops. The history of mankind shows that water and civilization are two inseparable entities. This is proved by the fact that all great civilizations were developed and thrived near major water sources.

In this context of climatic uncertainties, droughts and water shortages, desalination appears to be one of the most promising solutions to overcome this situation [1].

From seawater or brackish water through special techniques.

So Water is vital for human life. For this reason and to support the human development needs this source increased in a phased manner, particularly in the area of use. In this perspective and to meet these increased water needs, it has become essential research other innovative alternative[2]., such as the invention and construction of units capable of producing safe drinking water from the resources of saline water. This process of salt water treatment, desalination called, involves removing salt brine

Indeed, the largest water reserve of our planet is salt water of the seas and oceans. In this perspective, our project has focused on the study of a power cogeneration system and

drinking water by the desalination process based on the Rankin cycle.

This project consists of a performance analysis of three systems described below, combining a reverse osmosis unit (RO) for the production of drinking water and a Rankin cycle which produces mechanical work[3].

RO subsystem incorporates an energy recovery unit with hydraulic turbine in the second system; while in the third, it incorporates an energy recovery unit based on an exchange.

-First case (system 1): Study simple without cogeneration Rankin.

-Second case (System 2): RO subsystem incorporating a water turbine, coupled with the Rankin cycle.

-Third case (system 3): Sub-RO system, incorporating an energy recovery unit based on an exchange, coupled with the Rankin cycle.

-Fourth case (system 4): gas-steam combined cycle for desalination and electricity generation

-Fifth case (system 5): integration of renewable energy for desalination water sea and producing electricity.

I. RO DESALINATION SYSTEM

The membrane desalting systems include reverse osmosis (RO), where seawater is pressurized against a semipermeable membrane that allows almost pure water to permeate[4]., and not salt. It is mechanically driven by pumping energy. The main problem of the SWRO is the membrane's fouling that required extensive pretreatment to avoid or decrease that fouling. The feed water pressure (Pf) to the membranes is in the range of 60–80 bar (depending on the feed water salinity, and membranes characteristics). The brine leaving the membranes is at about 2 or 3 bar only less than Pf. The energy of this brine can be recovered by energy recovery device (ERD), (e.g. reversed centrifugal pump working as a turbine, Pelton wheel, and pressure exchanger). The specific consumed

energy is in the range of 4–6 kW h/m³ depending on the feed water salinity and the type of ERD. The share of RO membrane process is rapidly increasing with the time compared to distillation processes as it consumes much less energy, and thus less cost, see Fig. 1.

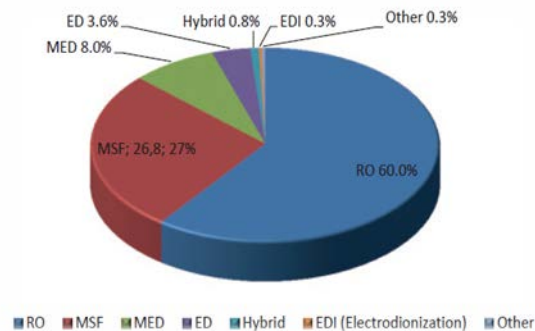


Fig. 1: The trend of increasing use of RO compared to distillation processes.

II. GEOMETRIC AND MATHEMATICAL FORMULATION

Desalination technology can be regarded as a system whose input is the saline water. This water requires an amount of energy to separate it into brine (often called the concentrate) and in pure water. This amount of energy depends on the characteristics of the saline water and on the technology used.



Fig. 2: desalination system modeling

A. OPERATING PRINCIPLE OF REVERSE OSMOSIS

To produce drinking water from sea water, we resorted to desalination system based on reverse osmosis. The latter consists of a water purification system containing materials in solution through a filtering system very end that lets only the water molecules[6].

This system mainly consists of a semi-permeable membrane filter, placed between two compartments containing different salinity solutions (see diagram below).

On the other hand, osmosis is a natural phenomenon which involves the migration of water from the less concentrated solution to more concentrated solution, ie osmotic flow. It should be emphasized that this flow through the membrane will stop naturally as the system reaches equilibrium. It is said that equilibrium is reached when the difference in height is equivalent to the osmotic pressure, which corresponds to equal concentrations on both sides of the membrane[5].

Moreover, when applying a pressure higher than the osmotic pressure to the more concentrated solution, the water flow goes in the opposite direction of the osmotic flow, that is to say in the most concentrated solution to the least solution concentrated: the reverse osmosis phenomenon.

On its part, the feed solution is injected into the membrane by means of pumps. For powering the system is coupled with the Rankin cycle which provides the simultaneous production of thermal energy and mechanical energy; This is called cogeneration.

On the one hand, the mechanical energy generated by a turbine or a motor is converted into electrical energy and second, the thermal energy from the heat recovery condenser (through exchangers) is used to heat seawater.

Cogeneration has many attractions other than the mere provision of electricity and heat. This is indeed one of the most effective ways of generating electricity with a smaller volume of emissions and waste.

B. COGENERATION SYSTEM

On the other hand, thermal power generation is not very effective if we cannot recover the waste heat from the power plant. Thus, for the recovery of these, it increases the overall plant efficiency by getting more useful energy per unit of fuel burned. To this end, it fills more needs rejecting less heat, fewer greenhouse gases and fewer pollutants[7].

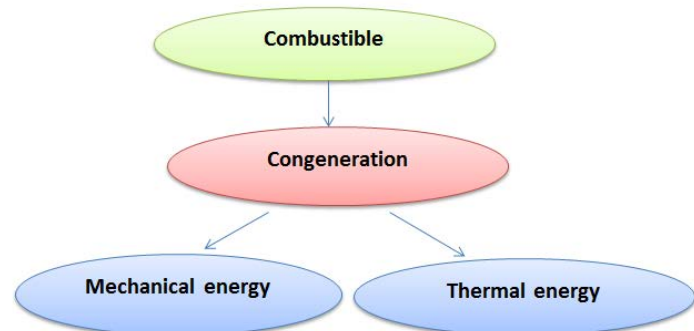


Fig.3: Diagram of a cogeneration system.

C. HYPOTHESES:

During this study will be considered the following assumptions:

Steady;

-For lack of data at the output of the reverse osmosis system, they were considered the following values: $T_9 = T_{10} = 20^\circ \text{C}$ and $T_{11} = 15^\circ \text{C}$.

We performed the calculated three first case based on the Rankin cycle :

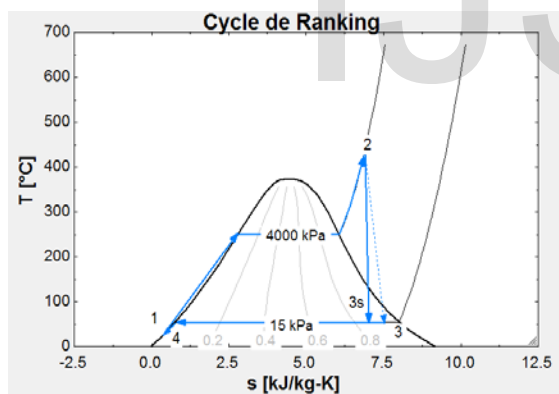
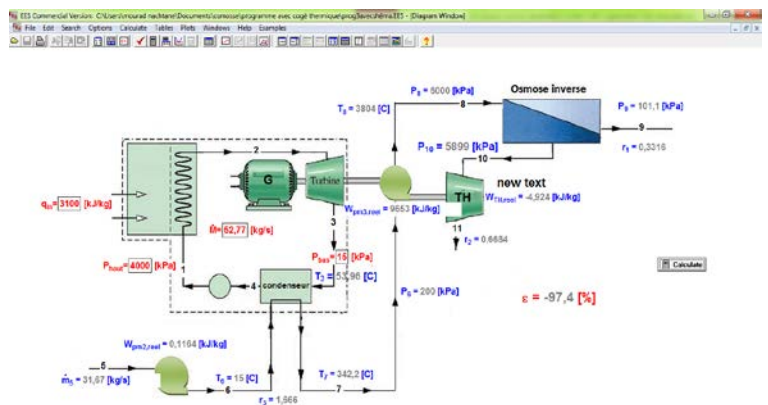


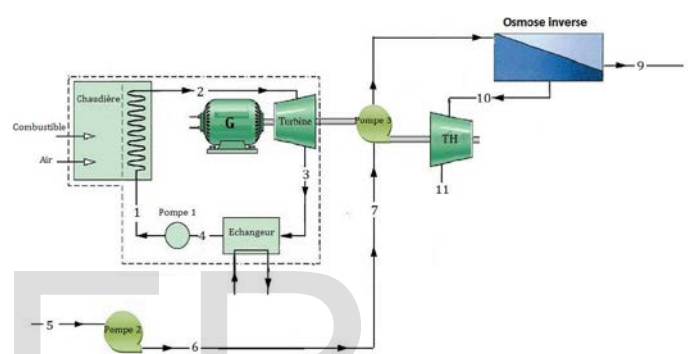
Fig. 4: T-S diagram of the Rankin cycle

III. SIMULATION OF SYSTEM



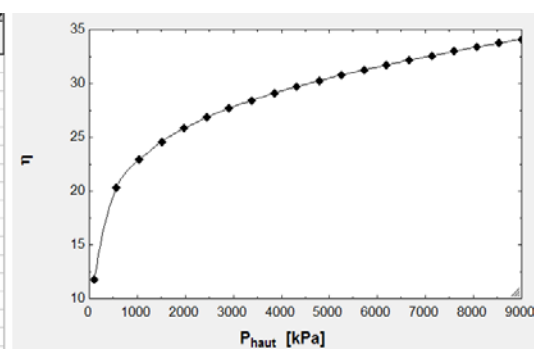
IV. RESULTS:

A. First Case : Rankin cycle without cogeneration

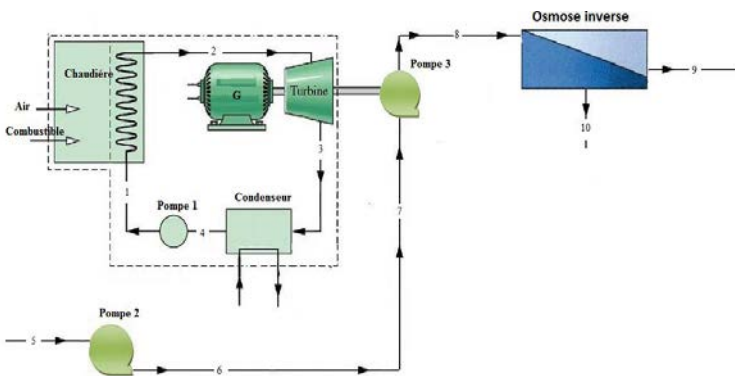


It is observed with increasing high pressure; augment the efficiency to a value equal to 34%. It is therefore deduced that one must have a high pressure at the steam generator.

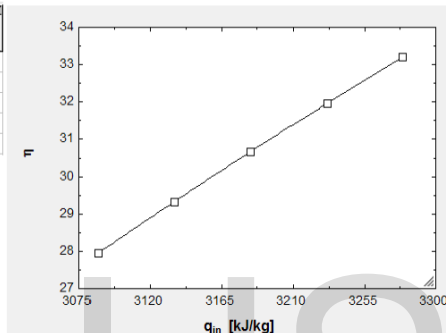
	1	2	P_{head} [kPa]
Run 1	11.73	103	
Run 2	20.3	568	
Run 3	22.9	1037	
Run 4	24.57	1505	
Run 5	25.81	1974	
Run 6	26.82	2443	
Run 7	27.67	2911	
Run 8	28.42	3379	
Run 9	29.08	3847	
Run 10	29.69	4316	
Run 11	30.24	4784	
Run 12	30.76	5252	
Run 13	31.25	5720	
Run 14	31.71	6189	
Run 15	32.15	6657	
Run 16	32.57	7126	
Run 17	32.98	7594	
Run 18	33.37	8062	
Run 19	33.74	8530	
Run 20	34.11	9000	



B. Second Case : Rankin with cogeneration without thermal coupling:

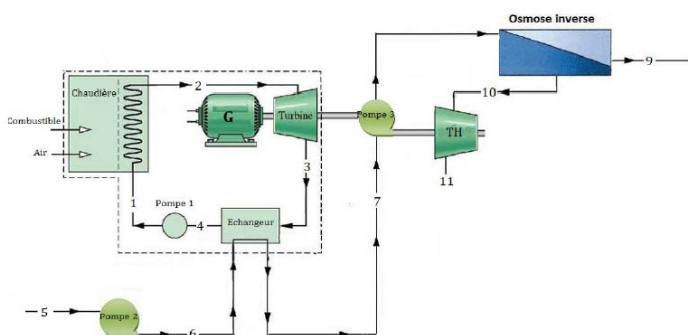


Run	q_{in} [kJ/kg]	η
Run 1	3087	27.95
Run 2	3135	29.33
Run 3	3183	30.66
Run 4	3231	31.95
Run 5	3279	33.21

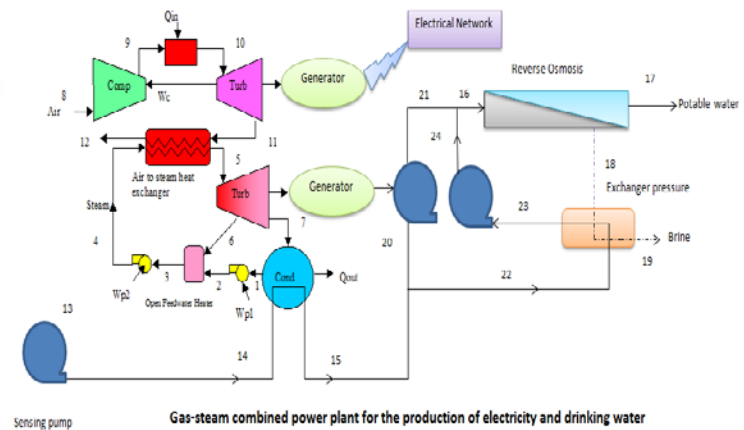


The yield increases with increasing the q in energy, to have a decent return; we must choose the value of the energy entering in the combustion chamber.

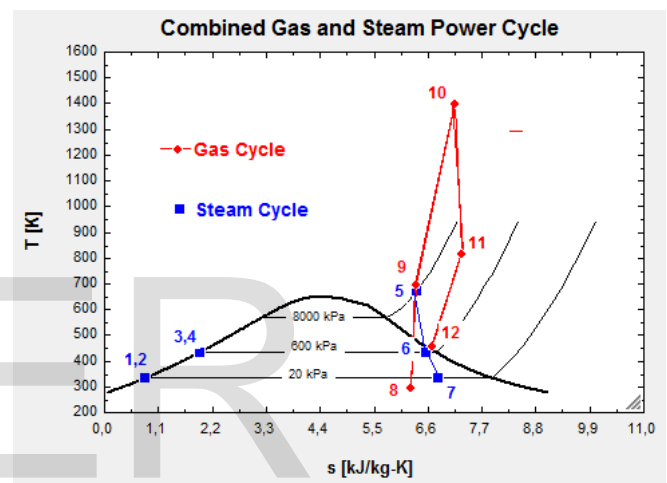
C. Third Case : Rankin with cogeneration and thermal coupling:



D. fourth case : gas-steam combined cycle for desalination and electricity generation :

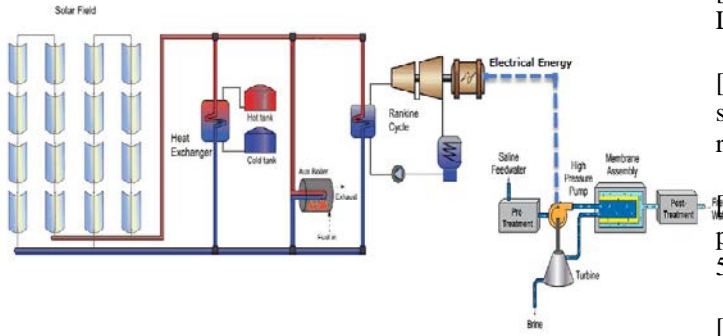


Gas-steam combined power plant for the production of electricity and drinking water



E. Fifth case (system 5): integration of renewable energy for desalination water sea and producing electricity.

In this part analyzed different kinds of desalination systems combined with renewable energy sources such as solar energy. In order to select the best solar desalination-integrated system, it is important to understand its minimum energy requirements, energy recovery and major exergy destruction processes. thermodynamic analysis and modeling of the desalination system is the key to understanding the integration of a desalination system with renewable energy sources.



[8]. S. Saleem, A. ul Asar, Analysis & Design of Parabolic Trough Solar Thermal Power Plant for Typical Sites of