Component Technology Maturity & Cost Of Electricity For $\text{SCO}_2$ Brayton Power Cycles In Nuclear, Solar & Fossil Heat Sources: Development Challenges And Mitigation Approaches

Tony Eastland, Chandrashekar Sonwane, Megan Huang

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Indirectly heated and directly heated sCO$_2$ based Brayton cycles are predicted to offer the potential of lower LCOE than current technologies.

Thermodynamic cycle efficiencies increase with peak cycle temperature, but these are limited by material capabilities.

Various cycle and component design approaches can be used to overcome these limitations.

These approaches decrease the potential efficiency gain of increasing turbine inlet temperature and/or increase the capital cost and complexity.

This paper presents predictions of the allowable increase in capital costs to maintain a reduction in LCOE as turbine inlet temperature is increased.
Cycles Evaluated

Indirectly Heated Fully Closed Recompression Brayton Cycle

Directly Heated Brayton Cycle
LCOE Predictions for Indirectly Heated Cycle

- DOE target for plants with CO₂ capture (1.35)
- Capital increase possible while still achieving LCOE target (37% of baseline (case 11) capital)
Temperature Limits for SCO₂ Brayton Cycles

- Indirect Heating
- Direct Heating (Boiler Tube Limit)
- Turbine Blade Cooling
- Film Cooled Blades
- Recuperator Inlet Temp
- Carnot

Efficiency, %

Turbine Inlet Temperature, F

Steam Rankine

Brayton Cycles

F & J Class NGCC w CO₂ capture*

IGCC*

*Power Plant Efficiency (HHV)
Options to Mitigate Material Constraints

- **Turbine Blade Cooling Allows Increased Turbine Temperature**
  - Regenerative cooling provides for heat recovery elsewhere in the cycle
  - Film Cooling extends temperature range

- **Cycle adjustments reduce recuperator inlet temperature**
  - Compression load increases
Efficiency Penalty for the Approaches that Allow Increased Turbine Inlet temperature

**Blade Cooling Penalties**
- Providing the coolant flow, Heat extracted from the turbine not converted to shaft power
- Film cooling – turbine aerodynamic efficiency decreased

**Cycle Penalty**
- Compression load increased as cycle minimum pressure dropped below critical
LCOE Predictions for Direct Heated Cycles

Idealized LCOE predictions – no accounting made for efficiency penalties resulting from approaches incorporated to allow increased turbine inlet temperature

Allowable increase in capital to achieve target LCOE reductions – accounting for efficiency penalties
Conclusions

- Brayton cycles are predicted to offer lower LCOE than current technology, especially when CO$_2$ capture is a consideration.
- There is also an incentive to develop technologies that allow higher turbine inlet temperatures than those currently targeted for indirectly heated cycles.
  - LCOE reductions are still viable after taking into account the efficiency penalties and associated capital increase of providing methods to keep component metal temperatures within acceptable limits.
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Questions ?
Tony Eastland 818 586 0345
Anthony.eastland@rocket.com