

Solar Combined Cycle with high-temperature Thermochemical Energy Storage

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Abstract

The present work proposes integrating a high-temperature thermochemical energy storage cycle to boost the solar contribution in solar combined cycles. The main feature of the plant is the possibility of storing solar energy at a very high temperature and releasing it on demand to drive the combined cycle in the absence of solar radiation. Based on the reversible calcination-carbonation of CaCO₃/CaO, the Calcium-looping process is proposed since it allows power production above 900°C by using cheap, non-toxic and widely available raw materials (i.e. limestone or dolomite). Based on an air-open and a CO₂-closed combined cycle, two potential configurations are modelled and analysed, including designing a 360° solar field with a 200-meter tower. The novel solar combined cycle analyzed in the present work enhances the annual solar share above 50%, whilst the current state-of-the-art technology is below 15%. From actual solar irradiation data and clustering analysis, results show overall plant efficiencies over 45% (considering off-design performance) with a very high dispatchability, which justifies the interest in further developing this novel cycle.

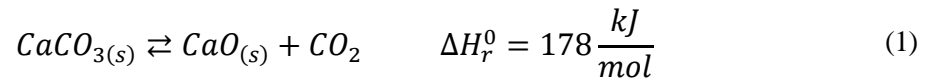
Keywords

Combined cycle, Solar, Thermochemical Energy Storage, Limestone, CSP, Calcium-Looping, Solar Share, Dispatchability

1. Introduction

Increasing the energy storage capacity of the electric grid is a crucial issue to be solved in the short term [1]. Efficient, cost-effective and scalable energy storage systems stand as one of the main technological challenges for the massive deployment of renewable energies [2]. Among energy storage solutions, Thermal Energy Storage (TES) costs are one order of magnitude lower than Batteries Electrochemical Energy Storage [3,4]. This has aroused great interest in developing Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) plants coupled to TES systems capable of providing dispatchable power at a large scale. Commercial TES systems used in CSP plants are based on molten NaNO₃/KNO₃ salts [5]. However, molten salts-based systems suffer from several limitations that penalise the CSP plant performance, such as salts corrosiveness [6], limitation on the maximum temperature in the power cycle (~560°C) to avoid salts degradation [7] and significant electric energy

47 consumption to keep salts at temperatures higher than ~220°C to avoid salts solidification
48 [8]. Alternatively, research in Thermochemical Energy Storage (TCES) systems is
49 increasing in recent years. TCES systems integrated into CSP plants use solar energy to
50 provoke an endothermic reaction. Under demand, the separately stored reaction products
51 are brought together, and the opposite exothermic reaction takes place to release the
52 stored energy. The cyclic calcination/carbonation of CaCO₃/CaO (Eq.1) presents
53 excellent characteristics as an energy storage system for CSP plants [9,10]. Calcium
54 Looping (CaL) TCES is characterised by a very high energy release temperature, high
55 energy density and a low price of the raw materials (limestone or dolomite) [11,12].
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57
58 Currently, the most efficient CSP plants are based on superheated steam cycles with a
59 maximum temperature of around 560°C to allow integration with the molten salts system
60 and state-of-the-art solar metallic receivers. Under these conditions, the current CSP
61 technology presents power block efficiencies around 38% [13] with an annual solar-to-
62 electricity conversion efficiency lower than 20% [5]. An interesting option is to integrate
63 the CSP system with a Combined Cycle (CC). However, the current Integrated Solar
64 Combined Cycles (ISCC) just cover a small share (typically lower than 15%) of the total
65 thermal energy due to the impossibility of operating at high temperatures (>1000°C
66 required at gas turbine inlet) without solar radiation. Besides, there are no ISCC plants in
67 current operation with energy storage, which makes them highly dependent on the use of
68 fossil fuels [14]. Thus, the solar share, defined as the ratio between the solar thermal
69 energy to the total energy, in large scale ISCC plants is only around 3-7% (i.e. Waad Al
70 Shamal or Ain Beni Mathar plants), whilst at small scale, the maximum solar share
71 reaches 13-14% (i.e. Hassi R'mel and Kuraymat plants) [13].
72

73 Many process schemes have been proposed to improve the CSP thermal integration in
74 combined cycles [15]. Zhang et al. [16] developed a dynamic model to analyse the
75 performance of two different ISCC schemes under selected days (~15% solar share).
76 Even for extreme weather conditions, several operation strategies demonstrated a stable
77 performance of the plant along the day. A dynamic model of the Hassi R'mel ISCC plant
78 (~12% solar share) was developed in [17]. Results of the model predict in detail the actual
79 results obtained in the operation of the plant. Montes et al. [18] considered a 50MWth
80 hybridisation size in a 220MWe natural gas combined cycle (~23% solar share) with the
81 preheating and boiling processes accomplished in the parabolic trough collectors. In [19],
82 a CO₂-based combined cycle, with supercritical and transcritical cycles as the topping
83 and bottoming cycles, was proposed. On-design efficiencies of around 44% (excluding
84 solar-side losses) were obtained for a turbine inlet temperature of 650°C in the topping
85 cycle (turbine inlet pressure of 160 bar). Ortiz et al. [20] proposed a CSP-CC integration
86 through the CaL process by coupling an indirect power block integration with the
87 carbonator where energy is released. Conlon [21] presented a dispatchable solar
88 combined cycle from integrating a medium-temperature TES. A small scale SCC with
89 sensible energy storage based on a fluidised particle solar receiver was proposed in [22].
90 The solar share was highly enhanced (theoretically up to 100%) since high-temperature
91 energy storage was proposed, while solar-to-electric efficiency was found in the range of
92 20-25% for turbine inlet temperature up to 850°C.

93 Direct integration of the CaL process in Solar Combined Cycles (SCC-TCES) has been
94 recently proposed [14]. In a first conceptual approach, the proposed integration schemes
95 reached overall efficiencies higher than 44% (excluding solar side losses). This novel
96 concept allows operating a high-temperature gas turbine (as typical in CC) in a 24h
97 pattern providing the necessary thermal power either from the solar receiver or the storage
98 system. This is only possible from TCES able to work efficiently at high turning
99 temperature ($>900^{\circ}\text{C}$) as is the case of the CaL process. In contrast, tower-based CSP
100 plants that use molten salts for TES cannot be used to operate the combined solar cycle
101 at night without significant fuel consumption. Despite the still low Technology Readiness
102 Level (TRL) of TCES systems (TRL 4-5), the proposed SCC-TCES presents lower
103 technical risks than previous studies of integrating these systems in solar plants. The main
104 challenge in developing gas-solid TCES systems for solar applications is related to the
105 solid particles receiver since the receiver has to provide energy for the exothermic
106 reaction development within a certain residence time. Thus, the solar calciner represents
107 higher cost uncertainty, and its performance highly conditions the overall efficiency [23].
108 As an improvement, the solar receiver in the SCC-TCES is a pressurized gas cavity,
109 which has been tested at high temperatures at MW-scale [24] instead of a particle receiver.

110

111 The present work develops a deep analysis of the novel SCC-TCES plant. It extends the
112 concept presented in [14], introducing advances and analysis for a better understanding
113 of concept application. Two different integrations are considered and compared, one
114 based on an air-open combined cycle and the other based on a CO_2 closed power cycle.
115 Besides, the analyses are extended from a rated point to complete system modelling from
116 representative days throughout the year, while the annual performance of the plant is
117 estimated from a dedicated solar radiation clustering analysis. These advances in the
118 model imply power plant sizing and optimisation for better integration with the solar field
119 and receiver. Based on these new designs and conditions, characteristic off-design
120 simulation and performance are developed. It allows the evaluation of the system
121 performance under realistic operation conditions. In general, an attempt has been made
122 in the present work to reduce the risk of the plant by using technology with a higher
123 Technology Readiness Level than in [14]. Thus, a natural gas backup is incorporated into
124 the cycle to guarantee the gas turbine operation during solar transients. It allows
125 evaluating the hybridisation performance through the daily operation. Finally, new
126 analyses have been carried out to analyse hybridisation scenarios based on the combustor
127 chamber temperature, CO_2 emissions and optimum pressure ratio for a potential range of
128 topping cycle turbine inlet temperature.

129

130 The results show an annual solar share in the combined cycles above 50%, which notably
131 reduces CO_2 emissions of existing ISCC plants. Besides, the overall efficiency (excluding
132 the solar side losses) expected is over 45%, which suggests the potential interest of further
133 developing this process scheme.

134

135 **2. A novel Calcium-Looping Solar Combined Cycle (SCC-TCES)**

136

137 This work analyses the novel SCC-TCES plant, with the potential to notably improve the
138 performance of CSP plants. The plant fully integrates CSP at high temperature (1200°C)
139 into a typical natural gas combined cycle from a high-temperature TCES system based
140 on CaCO_3/CaO . It enhances solar contribution in combined cycles since the power block
141 can operate at sunset without fossil fuel. Although the SCC-TCES concept has the

171 Later, the hot HTF stream transfers heat indirectly through a coiled heat exchanger
172 connected to an Entrained Flow (EF) reactor [26], where energy storage starts from the
173 calcination of CaCO_3 at 950°C under pure CO_2 at atmospheric pressure, yielding CaO and
174 CO_2 . Under these conditions, the equilibrium temperature is $\sim 896^\circ\text{C}$ [27], but calcination
175 temperatures above 930°C are necessary for a high development of decarbonation in short
176 residence times [28]. As design criteria, if solar radiation is low (i.e. net thermal power
177 provided is less than 40MWth), the HTF directly passes from the receiver to the Main
178 Turbine (through a by-pass of the calciner). Under these conditions, there is no energy
179 storage. EF reactors, which are well-known in the cracking industry, are emerging as a
180 feasible technology to carry out the calcination of CaCO_3 as they allow using fine
181 particles ($d_p < \sim 50\mu\text{m}$), which promotes calcination kinetics and mitigates the progressive
182 loss of multicyclic CaO conversion [29,30]. Due to the high-volume flow of HTF, several
183 parallel coils could be allocated along the reactor length. CaO is directly sent to a high-
184 temperature silo by pneumatic conveying while the CO_2 must be cooled and compressed
185 to minimise the storage tank volume [9]. Given the high temperatures, it is essential to
186 efficiently use the sensible heat of the gases [31]. In the CO_2 storage process, the gas
187 passes through a packed-bed tank filled with steel slag to charge a high-temperature
188 energy storage system [14,32]. After that, the CO_2 pass in series through an intercooled
189 compressor and a cooler to guarantee liquid storage conditions [9].

190

191 At the EF reactor exit (stream '8'), the HTF at around 1000°C (after heat transfer for
192 calcination) is split and expanded in two parallel turbines (T and MT in Figure 1) up to
193 atmospheric pressure. A cooled stage turbine (blade-cooling) is considered in the main
194 turbine (MT), using 5% of air extracted from the compressor to flow across the blades,
195 cooling them by convection. At the auxiliary turbine (T) exit, the HTF is used to preheat
196 the HTF entering the receiver in a regenerator (HEX). This increases the SM (and
197 therefore, the plant's energy storage) (Ortiz et al., 2021) and reduces the thermal stresses
198 in the receiver. A direct natural gas combustor is placed before the MT to heat the HTF
199 up to 1150°C , thus ensuring a constant temperature in the power cycle independently of
200 solar radiation. At MT exit, the HTF (stream '12') passes through a Heat Recovery Steam
201 Generator (HRSG). A single-pressure steam cycle with live steam conditions of 50 bar
202 and 500°C is proposed [13]. A higher efficiency (but implying also higher complexity)
203 can be achieved by using a triple-pressure HRSG as proposed in [14].

204

205 Without solar radiation, the thermal energy starts to be transferred from the exothermic
206 carbonation (Eq. 1) of the stored CaO under pure CO_2 in the EF reactor, from which the
207 compressed HTF is heated in the absence of solar input (V_2 open; V_1 completely closed).
208 While intercooling compression improves the performance under 'sun' mode, intercooling
209 compression is not beneficial under 'night' operation mode since a better performance is
210 obtained when HTF reaches the EF reactor at a higher temperature. Thus, turbine cooling
211 should be able to be activated-deactivated depending on the operation strategy. This
212 different behaviour under 'day' and 'night' modes involve a change in the optimum
213 Pressure Ratio (PR) for each operation mode. As design criteria, a fixed PR that optimises
214 at the same time the net power production under both operation modes has been selected.
215 Carbonation is designed under pure CO_2 at 1000°C and 8 bar to allow the same maximum
216 temperature exit at EF reactor than in the sunshine hours (1000°C) [14]. Under pressurised
217 carbonation at 8 bar, the reaction equilibrium temperature is $\sim 1070^\circ\text{C}$, allowing
218 carbonation at a fast rate [33]. Thus, the difference between the temperatures of
219 calcination (950°C) and carbonation (1000°C) is small, which notably simplify the heat
220 integration of the process, reducing the gas-solid heat exchangers and avoiding non-

221 mature solid-solid heat exchangers regarding previous process schemes [10]. Non-
222 complete carbonation occurs in the CaL process. After several cycles, the CaO conversion
223 decays to reach a certain residual value (Valverde et al., 2017), which depends on the
224 calcination/carbonation conditions and the CaO precursor used [10]. A conservative value
225 of $X_r=0.15$ for the residual CaO conversion after many cycles is assumed in the present
226 work [34].

227 **3. Modelling**

229
230 A model of the proposed SCC-TCES concept has been developed using the commercial
231 software Thermoflex[®] and Aspen Plus[®]. The Solar field has been sized using SolTrace
232 [35] through a discrete Monte Carlo ray-tracing model, while the annual scaling up has
233 been developed by a statistical model developed from Python.

234
235 As a first approach, to evaluate the plant performance under design conditions, two daily
236 steady-state operation strategies are considered: 12h of constant solar input ('sun' mode)
237 and 12h without solar input ('night' mode) [14]. Plant overall efficiency is determined as
238 an average of the combined performance in both modes [34]. Later, a quasi-stationary
239 hourly off-design model is simulated (see section 3.5) considering real solar patterns.

240 **3.1. Solar field and receiver**

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242
243 A 360° heliostat solar field with three cavity receivers on top of a 200 m tower has been
244 designed. The cavities are evenly spaced 120°, with one of them pointing straight at the
245 geographic north. For simplicity and resources optimisation, only one subfield and the
246 receiver have been implemented in the ray-tracing algorithm, which is computed three
247 times with the appropriate solar azimuth offsets to account for the three cavities subfields.
248 The layout of the heliostats has been derived from a biomimetic algorithm, which
249 resembles a spiral (Figure 11 in the annexes section). Several parameters need to be
250 adjusted for this layout to reduce the blocking effects among heliostats and the distance
251 between adjacent heliostats, making a compromise for land use and solar efficiency. A
252 spreadsheet has been used for the fine-tuning of parameters and coordinates generation.

253
254 Once the basic layout has been settled, one restriction will discard several heliostats to
255 optimise the cost-benefit ratio: the aiming error of the heliostat (see in annexes section).
256 From the CESA-I project at PSA, a value of 3 mrad in the reflected ray has been
257 considered. This includes optical errors as well as tracking errors. The following
258 algorithm is applied with these parameters: all the heliostats of a subfield whose reflected
259 beam falls outside the receiver window are discarded. This imposes a penalty for
260 heliostats that are farther and with a smaller view angle of the cavity, or which are too
261 close to the tower and therefore the view angle again is small. The resulting subfield is
262 shown in Figure 2.

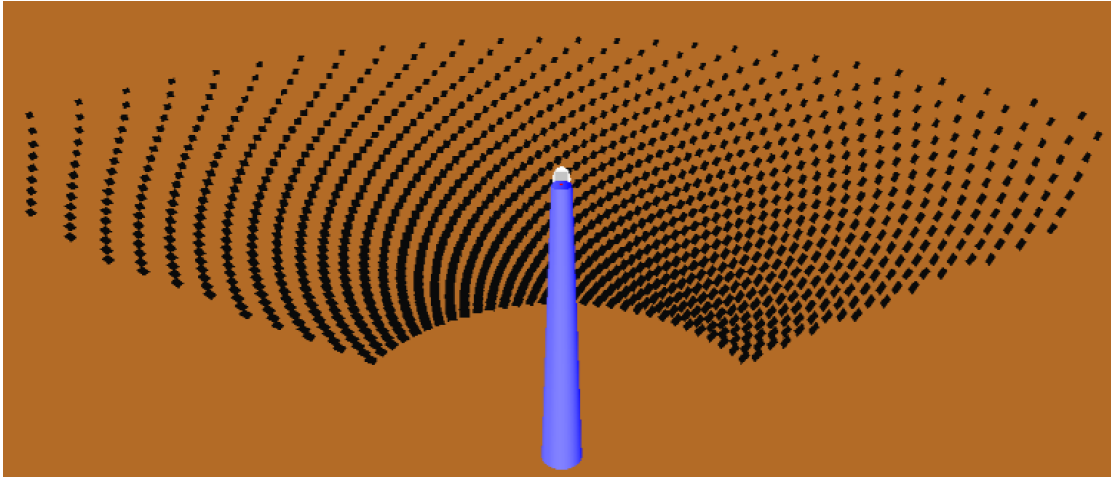


Figure 2: Resulting heliostats subfield (1/3 of the total)

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A total of 1268 heliostats in each of the three subfields are simulated in the Soltrace ray-tracing software. Each heliostat is a 12 m x12 m mirror array, with a paraboloid of revolution shape, 1 km focal length, and specular reflectivity of 93%. Atmospheric attenuation losses have been simulated by adjusting the reflectivity of each heliostat as a function of the distance to the receiver due to the lack of such a model in Soltrace. This is an important factor in large tower plants because the atmospheric losses at 1,5 km are about 15% of the reflected power from the heliostat. For the ray-tracing, a script has been generated that calculates the solar vector at different hours of the day (using NOAA simplified model) and positions each heliostat in elevation and azimuth accordingly the reflected ray impacts at the centre of the receiver. Different strategies can be adopted here to avoid high flux gradients in the receiver without losing significant incident power.

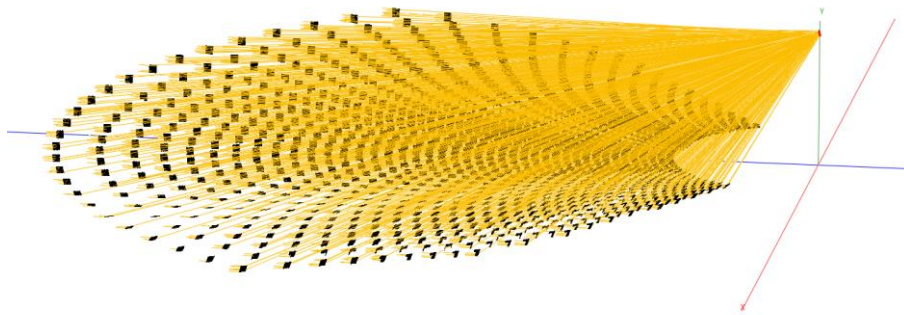


Figure 3: Ray-tracing simulation for the designed heliostats subfield

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Once the solar field is set up for a given day of the year and time of day, up to 100 million rays are traced for that scene (Figure 3), and the solar flux at the receiver is obtained, from which the total incident power is calculated considering a 1000 W/m² solar Direct Normal Irradiation (DNI). Later, the incident power is scaled with the actual DNI of a Typical Meteorological Year (TMY) data for the simulation (Seville, Spain), yielding the receiver's final incident power.

Importantly, flux density at the receiver (Figure 13 in Annex section) is in the same order of magnitude as existing gas receivers (e.g. SOLUGAS), and therefore technically feasible to build and operate. Due to the high temperature, SiC-based materials are

291 proposed for receiver pipes. SiC has a very high maximum allowable temperature beyond
292 1350°C as well as very good mechanical properties up to this allowable temperature. The
293 proposed pressure (less than 20 bar) is not a problem for the SiC-based pipes. A
294 characteristic thickness that can handle up to 20 bar with the other more important
295 thermo-mechanical loads also included would be 6.35 mm, for an external radius of
296 1.5875 cm (inner radius = 0.9525 cm). Regarding reliability of the concept, commercial
297 systems as Siemens ETES (Electric Thermal Energy Storage) use air-based storage that
298 can be coupled to CSP air-based receivers giving rise to a renewed interest in this type of
299 technology in the context of hybrid CSP-PV plants [36]. On the other hand, there is also
300 commercial technology available that use air-based receivers as those from the 247Solar
301 company [37]. Therefore, the technology readiness level is high although some adaptation
302 to the present context is required.

303
304 Each receiver is a flat panel of 12 m width and 8.4 m height, composed of a bundle of
305 vertical pipes with a separation among them and a back reflective surface so that the pipes
306 are irradiated more homogeneously from all angles. This assembly has not been modelled
307 in this simulation, which is simplified as a continuous flat surface. Receiver losses should
308 be modelled through a CFD, along with the incident solar flux and the ambient conditions
309 (air temperature and speed, and sky temperature). The resulting calculation will account
310 for convection and radiation losses, being the later great importance of the extremely high
311 temperatures of 1200°C achieved. Lacking this CFD simulation, a conservative value of
312 55% is supposed for thermal losses [6,25]. A quartz window is to be considered to limit
313 the convection losses when performing more detailed simulations.

314 **3.1.1. Annual plant performance through solar radiation data clustering**

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316 A data clustering technique is implemented to estimate the power plant's annual
317 performance under different conditions. Data clustering aims to find groups in data [38]
318 with similar features. Hence, the objective is to find a suitable number of clusters
319 representing the entire data set, the centroid's position, and the data points that belong to
320 each group.
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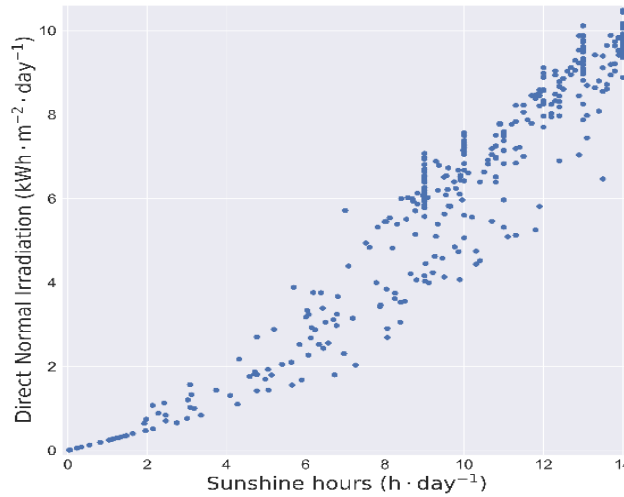
322
323 Figure 4 shows solar data of a typical meteorological day for Seville, 37.4°N, 6.3°W,
324 extracted from the "Photovoltaic Geographical information system" (PVGIS project)
325 (European Commission, n.d.). The x-axis represents the number of sunshine hours, and
326 the y-axis shows the daily solar irradiation (direct normal irradiation). The diagram
327 displays the high difference between summer and winter seasons in Seville, where
328 summer days have high solar irradiation and sunshine hours. In contrast, winter days have
329 low solar irradiation and for just a few hours. In the data clustering process, the variables
330 need to be scaled and converted to the same units. Then, both DNI and sunshine hours
331 are scaled to dimensionless quantities in the interval [0,1]. As an approximation, it is
332 considered each daily profile into two modes: a day mode with constant irradiance and a
333 certain duration (sunshine hours); and a night mode with zero irradiance for the rest of
334 the day [40] (see Figure 4b).

335
336 The silhouette analysis introduced by (Rousseeuw, 1987) will be used to select a suitable
337 number of clusters. The annexe section details the procedure followed. The results
338 confirm that 2, 3 or 4 clusters as representative days are suitable to estimate the
339 performance of solar power technologies in Seville. Then, from a practical and
340 perspective, four days, two of them representing winter and summer days, and two

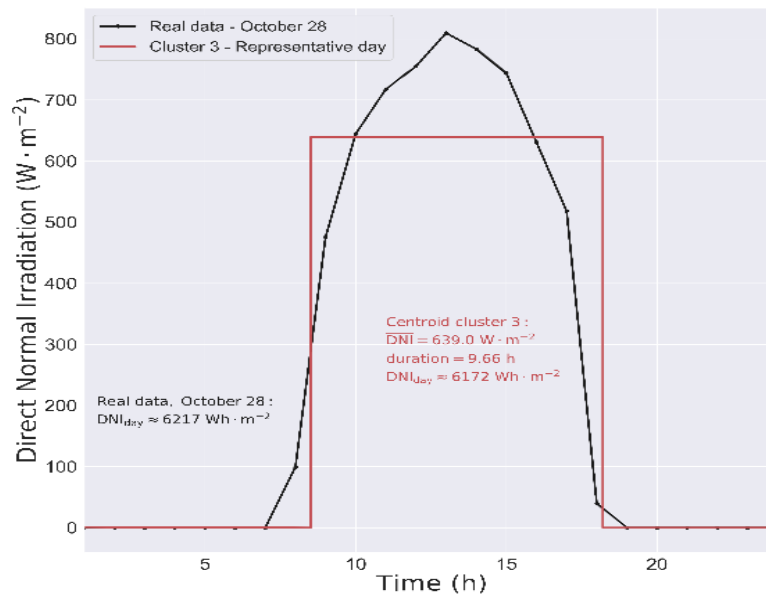
341 representative clusters of the transition between winter and summer will be selected.
 342 Moreover, since the analysis of the performance for different scenarios is crucial to
 343 understanding the power plant's behaviour, optimum system configuration, and operation
 344 design, this clustering technique provides a reasonable annual estimation approach.

345
 346 Once the number of clusters is defined, the next step is to optimise each centroid's location
 347 and the number of data points that belong to each cluster. Here, the k-means algorithm
 348 will be employed. The k-means algorithm, proposed by [41], starts by selecting a random
 349 position of one centroid for each cluster. Then it assigns every data point to the closest
 350 cluster by minimising the sum of the squared distance between each point and a centroid.
 351 Next, the algorithm iterates by re-locating the centroids in the centre of mass, i.e., the
 352 location where the weighted relative position of all points in the cluster sums up to zero.
 353 All data points are then assigned to the new centroids, and a new re-location of the
 354 centroids is performed. This algorithm is iterated until the location of the centroids does
 355 not move.

(a)



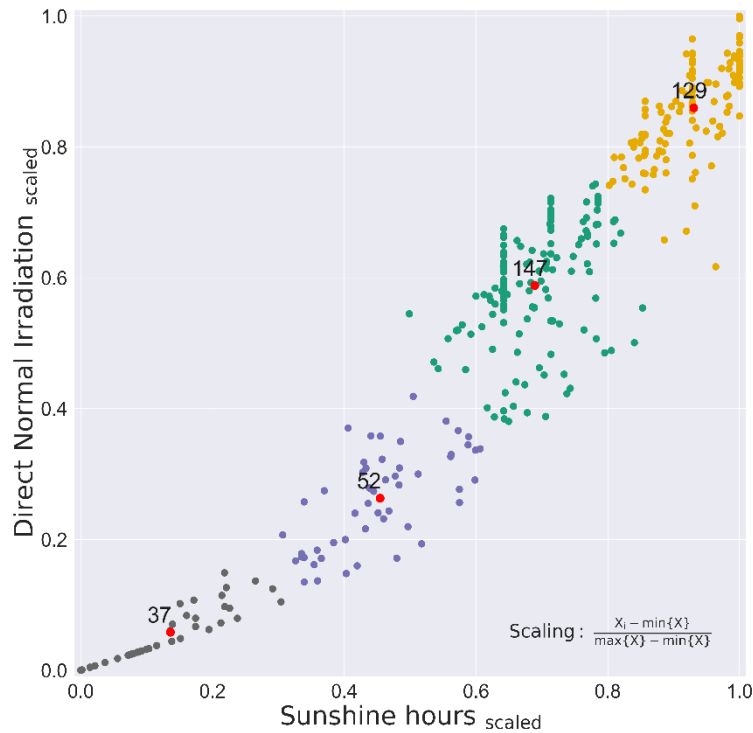
(b)



356 Figure 4: a) Typical meteorological year in Seville; b) Example of daily profiles using piecewise
 357 constant approximation.

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Figure 5 and Table 1 show the data clustering results considering four representative days. The results illustrate four different scenarios representing practical weather conditions to evaluate the seasonal and annual performance of the solar power plant. As shown in the results, 35% of the data (129 days) is in the cluster with higher irradiation, represented by an average of $692.1 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$. Then, 147 days are represented by a $\text{DNI} = 639 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$, 52 days by a $\text{DNI} = 433.3 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$, and finally, the group with the lowest solar irradiation is composed of 37 days (10%) represented by a day with $\text{DNI}=319.9 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$.



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Figure 5: Data Clustering

The values of the DNI average ($\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$) presented in Table 1 will be used in the next sections to simulate the performance of the power plant for each one of the four scenarios. The plant's annual performance estimation will then be assessed using the occurrence (%) of each scenario in a weighted average calculation.

Table 1: Data clustering results

Representative day	DNI ($\text{Wh}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$)	Sunshine hours ($\text{h}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$)	DNI average ($\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$)	n (days)	Occurrence (%)
1	618.6	1.93	319.9	37	10.1
2	2763.3	6.38	433.3	52	14.2
3	6171.2	9.66	639.0	147	40.3
4	9017.7	13.03	692.1	129	35.4

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The difference between the total annual solar irradiation using the complete data set throughout the year and the total amount according to the clustering process is less than 0.01 kWh/m^2 . This minimal difference in the total annual irradiation, together with the use of daily profiles, supports the use of the data clustering process to simulate the solar power plant's operation, taking into account the daily and seasonal variability of the solar resource. The proposed simplification affects the average yearly value, but it does not

382 affect the hourly performance developed in section 4.1, which takes real hourly data to
 383 evaluate the performance (under off-design conditions) along the selected representative
 384 days. Thus, the off-design performance of the plant is evaluated hourly for each
 385 representative days, with a logical reduction of efficiency in the conditions furthest from
 386 the nominal situation (i.e. the first hours of the day). Once the average daily efficiency
 387 (affected by real solar radiation-dependent behaviour) has been obtained, the value is
 388 scaled annually depending on the occurrence of that characteristic day throughout the
 389 year.

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391 3.2. TCES and power cycle

392

393 The main assumptions taken during the modelling are indicated in Table 2. The
 394 performance of the EF reactor is simplified by assuming a thermal efficiency of 95% for
 395 both calcination and carbonation stages. Under the H2020 SOCRATCES project
 396 (SOCRATCES project, 2018-2021), several works have developed EF reactor models to
 397 demonstrate the viability of this reactor under the proposed high-temperature conditions
 398 [43,44]. Results obtained in a recent work [26] show an HTF-to-solids overall heat
 399 transfer coefficient around 200 W/m²K, which suggests that complete calcination could
 400 be reached less than 100s in a 50 m-length EF reactor under the same conditions that
 401 those presented in the present work.

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Table 2: Main assumptions in the SCC-TCES model (see Figure 1)

Group	Parameter	Component	Value
Air-CO ₂ turbomachinery	Isentropic efficiency	Turbines/compressors	92%
	Mechanical efficiency	Turbines/compressors	99%
	Intercooling/reheating	Main Compressor (MC)	2 stages (20°C)
		CO ₂ compressor (C)	4 stages (40°C)
Pumps	Isentropic efficiency	CO ₂ turbine (T)	3 stages (100°C)
		All	85%
		All	99%
Steam turbine Generator	Efficiency	-	90%
	Efficiency	Gas turbine	99%
Reactors	HTF pressure losses conversion	Steam turbine	99%
		Carbonator/calciner	2%
	HTF thermal effectiveness	calciner	100%
		carbonator	15%
Storage Vessels Heat exchangers	Thermal losses	Carbonator/calciner	95%
	Pressure drop	CO ₂ storage, CFBs	0%
HEX		1%	
Eco, Eva, Sup		2%	
Combustor		3.5%	
Combustor		2%	
Eva		1%	
Eva		10°C	
All steam cycle		3	
HEX		95%	
TES		95%	
All		1%	
Receiver	Normalised heat losses	-	55%
	Thermal efficiency	-	2%
	Pressure drop	-	2%

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405 All heat exchangers are assumed with a thermal efficiency of 95%. Thermal losses at the
 406 storage are dismissed in this work, although. With proper insulation, the hourly energy
 407 losses in the tanks could be around 0.18% per hour, even at such high temperatures
 408 [45,46]. Turbines are modelled to provide an adiabatic expansion with the same isentropic

409 efficiency in each stage. CO₂ properties are taken from REFPROP (NIST) database,
410 whilst IFC-67 is used for steam properties formulation [14]. It is assumed in the model
411 that turbines blades-cooling requires 5% of the total HTF flow. A condensing, single
412 pressure steam turbine cycle is considered, with economiser, evaporator and superheater
413 heat exchangers. A subcooling of 5°C was defined at the economiser exit temperature.

415 **3.3. Off-design modelling**

416
417 This section describes the modelling considerations carried out to evaluate the plant
418 performance under off-design conditions. As presented in section 3.1, the solar field
419 performance is evaluated depending on the sun position through the model developed in
420 SolTrace software. The steam turbine inlet temperature (500°C) and pressure (50 bar) are
421 kept constant through an attemperator and a nozzle control, respectively [47]. Steam
422 turbine efficiency calculation under off-design mode is calculated by assuming
423 Thermoflex internal code [48]. The evaporator operation is controlled, keeping a
424 minimum subcooling of 6°C by introducing a recirculation stream.

425
426 Overall heat transfer coefficient (U) in all heat exchangers is scaling potentially with the
427 mass flow with an exponent of 0.8 [47,49]. Design point overall heat exchange capability
428 of the heat exchanger (UA) is kept constant. Pressure drops are calculated as a percentage
429 of mass flows by introducing a flow resistance coefficient [47]. Thermal losses are
430 considered as 1% of the heat transferred by the HTF.

431
432 A multistage centrifugal pump with fixed RPM and variable valve delta pressure is
433 considered, whilst the isentropic efficiency of condenser pumps and fans is assumed
434 constant [47]. For the HTF turbomachinery, mechanical efficiency is kept constant, while
435 the isentropic efficiency degradation is automatically computed using the design
436 software. For the intercooling compressor, the coolant flow is kept as 100% nominal.
437 Turbines off-design efficiencies are calculated, assuming nozzle control. For simplicity,
438 TCES and TES side turbomachinery and heat exchangers efficiencies are kept constants.
439 EF and TES heat losses ratio are kept constant in off-design to 5% as in the design case.

440 **4. Results and discussion**

441 The proposed SCC-TCES plant was first evaluated at design conditions for each case:
442 air-open and CO₂ closed combined cycles. Table 3 shows the main input for the
443 simulations. In the design case, the total amount of energy stored during the 'day' mode
444 is used under the 'night' mode. As design criteria, a constant mass flow of HTF through
445 the power cycle at 'night' mode has been considered. In case that a certain power
446 production pattern at 'night' would be required, this mass flow value would depend on the
447 amount of energy to be produced. If the total energy released from the storage is not
448 enough to heat the HTF mass flow at 'night' mode up to 1000°C, the natural gas combustor
449 will cover this difference. Pressure ratio has been chosen at the base case to provide
450 efficient behaviour between considering jointly 'day' and 'night' operation modes. Later
451 on, this PR value is optimised.

458

Table 3: Main parameters used for simulating the SCC-TCES plant at the design point

Group	Parameter	Value
Receiver	Net solar power	100 MWth
	Sunlight hours	12 h
Power block	TIT	1150°C
	PR	12 (Air-open CC) 25 (CO ₂ -closed CC)
	Solar Multiple	1.35
	'Night' mode HTF mass flow	45 kg/s
	Live steam conditions	500°C, 50 bar
	Average daily temperature	15°C
	Relative humidity	60%
	Average CaO conversion (X)	0.15
TCES	Carbonator conditions	1000°C, 8 bar
	Calcination conditions	950°C, 1 bar
	CO ₂ storage conditions	75 bar, 25°C

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The calculated energy balance is shown in Table 4. Most of the thermal power required for the power cycle is covered by the CSP at sunshine hours, reaching a solar share value as high as 94%. Without solar radiation, the previously stored energy provides around 50-55% of the total thermal requirements to cover a constant mass flow rate of 45 kg/s of HTF. This is a design criterion to keep almost constants power production at the main turbine; under other scenarios, a higher solar share would be provided from the storage if a lower amount of power production would be demanded and vice versa. Under this scenario, the overall daily solar share is above 72%, demonstrating the potential to boost the solar contribution in combined cycled, which currently presents solar shares below 15% [14]. A direct consequence of increasing the solar share is the reduction of the fossil fuel consumption compared with a Natural Gas Combined Cycle (NGCC) (or even current ISCC), which leads to a notable reduction in CO₂ emissions. Thus, CO₂ emissions would be around 110 kg/net MWhe, less than 1/3 of typical NGCC [50,51].

Table 4: SCC-TCES plant energy balance

	Parameter	Open-air CC		Closed-CO ₂ CC	
		sun mode	night mode	sun mode	night mode
	Solar thermal power (MW _{th})	100	0	100	0
	Fuel consumption (LHV) (MW _{th})	6.20	21.08	8.92	19.86
Heat exchangers Thermal Power (MW _{th})	HXE	22.65	-	22.11	-
	CALCINER HE	22.83	-	22.83	-
	TES (net)	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56
	CO ₂ COOLER	2.25	-	2.25	-
	CO ₂ HEATER	-	1.64	-	1.64
	CARBONATOR HE	-	21.41	-	21.41
	HP-COMP (intercooler)	1.81	-	1.81	-
	TURB1 (interheater)	-	1.12	-	1.12
	MC (intercooler)	17.98	-	23.68	-
	HRSRG	14.16	19.6	26.54	26.95
CONDENSER	8.96	12.4	16.80	17.06	
Power production (MWe)	Main HTF turbine (MT)	22.85	31.44	27.06	27.83
	HTF turbine (T)	41.51	-	26.84	-
	Steam turbine	4.99	6.91	9.36	9.51
	CO ₂ storage turbine (HPT)	-	0.78	-	0.78
Power consumptions (MWe)	Main HTF Compressor (MC)	-26.78	-15.37	-21.04	-15.64
	CO ₂ storage compressor (HPC)	-2.0	-	-2.0	-
	Steam cycle pumps	-0.04	-0.05	-0.07	-0.07
	Cooling pumps/fans	-0.23	-0.11	-0.35	-0.15
	Miscellaneous auxiliaries	-0.69	-0.23	-0.63	-0.21
	Generators losses	-0.71	-0.24	-0.65	-0.22
Summary	\dot{W}_{net} (MWe)	38.92	23.14	38.54	21.82
	Solar share	94.16%	50.39%	93.81%	55.3%
	Average CO₂ emissions (kg/net MWhe)	107.87		109.60	
	Overall plant efficiency (excluding solar side losses)	48.76%		46.87%	

495

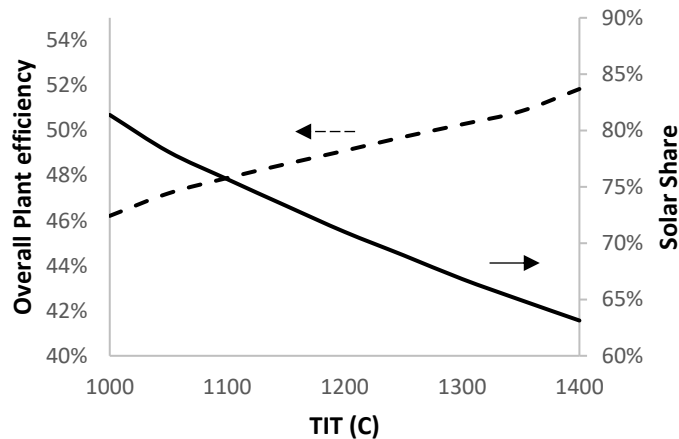
496 A key point on the design of dispatchable CSP systems is selecting the Solar Multiple (SM),
497 defined as the ratio of the receiver design thermal output to the power block design thermal
498 input. To enhance the energy storage capacity is proposed an HTF recirculation (stream 9a
499 in Figure 1). A higher inlet temperature reduces the ratio of solar thermal to calciner thermal
500 energy [14]. The amount of HTF recirculated is controlled through a split valve and the
501 receiver inlet HTF temperature. The SM value proposed in this work is relatively low, which
502 implies intra-week energy storage instead of seasonal energy storage as could be achieved
503 by larger thermochemical systems. Note that in the case of seasonal storage, the stored
504 materials should be kept at low temperature as proposed in [9]. However, higher SM values
505 involve larger solar side components, which would compromise the profitability of the plant
506 [52]. In addition, the higher the SM, the lower overall plant efficiency since the materials a
507 larger amount of CO₂ is compressed [34].

508

509 Expansion of the recirculated HTF provides an extra amount of electricity during sunshine
510 hours. Markedly higher power consumption and production occur in the sun availability
511 period because of the higher HTF flow for power production and charge the storage system.
512 At night, without HTF recirculation due to energy stored requirements, a smaller mass flow
513 of HTF must be compressed than at 'day' mode. Despite that the plant produces much more
514 power under 'sun' mode operation, the power block efficiency is penalised because part of
515 the power produced (2 MWe) is consumed to compress CO₂ up to the storage conditions.

516

517 As shown in Table 4, an overall plant efficiency (excluding solar side losses) above 48% is
518 reached. Note that overall efficiency is calculated as an average of the 'sun' mode and 'night'
519 modes [34]. This efficiency is higher than that shown in previous CSP-CaL integrations
520 [10]. On the other hand, the efficiency reached is not an extraordinary result considering
521 the power cycle used (combined cycle). However, the increase in efficiency with respect to
522 existing solar plants and the increase in the solar share regarding typical ISCC is noteworthy.
523 It should be underlined that there is a trade-off between the solar share and the ISCC
524 efficiency because of the TIT. For a certain solar field size reaching a design temperature
525 at the receiver, the higher the TIT, the higher plant efficiency and the lower the solar share
526 since more natural gas must be burned to reach the TIT. This effect was also shown in
527 previous works [53,54]. Figure 6 shows the daily solar share and the overall plant
528 efficiency as a function of the TIT for the air-open case. The pressure ratio is selected, as
529 indicated in Figure 7.



530

531 Figure 6: Overall plant efficiency and solar share as a function of the TIT. Note that PR is optimised
532 for each TIT considered.

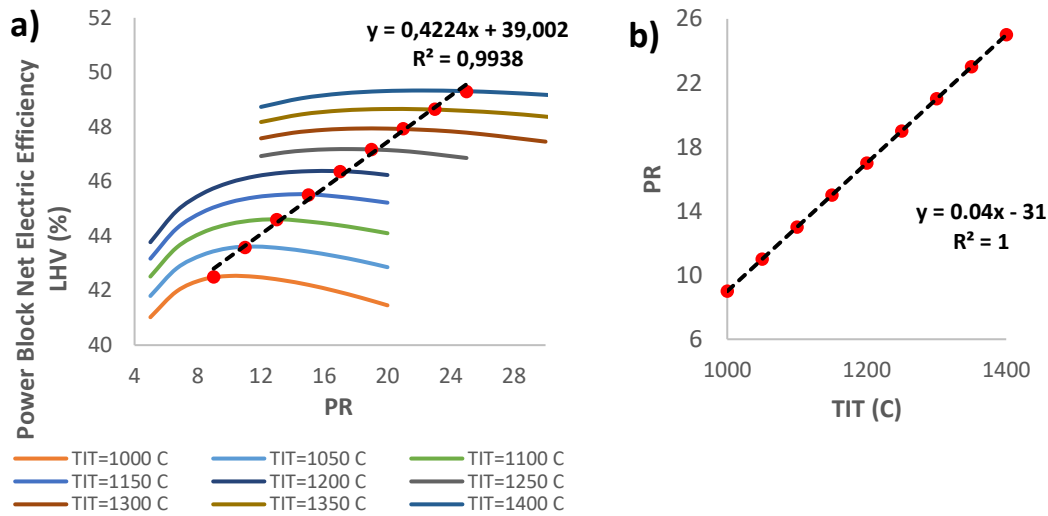
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534 Overall efficiency values around 52% are reached if the TIT increases to 1400°C (typical
535 values in gas turbines), which would reduce the solar share of 20% points. Nevertheless,
536 this solar share continues to be much higher than those obtained in typical ISCC plants
537 (lower than 15%), because of integrating the TCES system. A similar SCC-TCES was
538 proposed in [14] with a 100% solar share and a TIT of 1000°C, reaching an overall plant
539 efficiency of 45%.

540

541 Remarkably, as the TIT increases, the optimum PR also varies. To properly compare the
542 scenarios in Figure 6, a sensitivity analysis on the PR for several values of TIT was carried
543 out to maximize the power block efficiency (Figure 7a). The maximum values are
544 approximate to integer values of PR. Note that the power block net electric efficiency
545 considers the average value between 'day' and 'night' operation modes since the optimum

546 PR ratio is not the same for both modes. Optimum PR values for each TIT are illustrated
 547 in Figure 7b.
 548



549
 550 Figure 7: a) Power block net efficiency as a function of the PR for several values of TIT (air-open
 551 case); b) Optimum PR as a function of the TIT (air-open case).

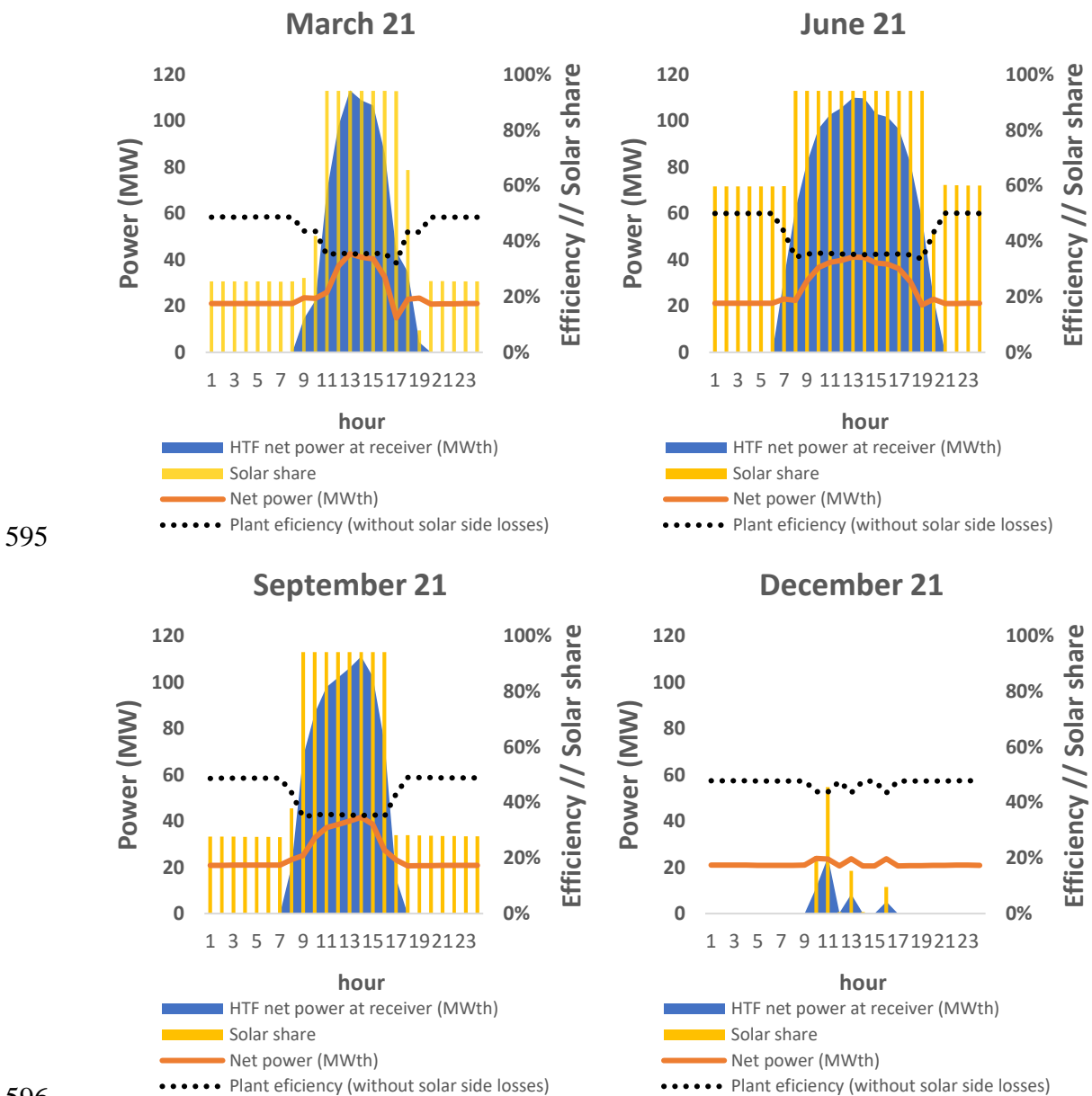
552
 553 By comparing both air-closed and CO₂-closed combined cycles, higher efficiency is reached
 554 in the former. The main difference is regarding the configuration of the HRSG, due to the
 555 CO₂ stream leaves the main gas turbine at a notably higher temperature (648.7°C) than in
 556 the air case (549.8°C). This involves a less efficient heat integration in small-sized steam
 557 turbines as in the present work (live steam conditions of 500°C and 50 bar). The higher heat
 558 transferred into the HRSG involves almost duplicate the power produced in the steam
 559 turbine for the CO₂ closed-cycle but penalises the power production in the auxiliary turbine
 560 (T). Since the recirculated CO₂ (stream 15 in Figure 1) has a higher temperature than
 561 atmospheric (as in the air-open case), a lower amount of HFT to be recirculated is needed
 562 to achieve a certain SM than in the air case. Besides, a high compression work is required
 563 because of the higher HTF temperature at the compressor inlet. Despite these small
 564 differences, both cycles present a similar potential from the point of view of efficiency and
 565 CO₂ emissions. The higher density of the CO₂ allows a more compact solar receiver (also
 566 with lower thermal losses) and heat exchangers. On the other hand, closed combined cycles
 567 and specifically CO₂-based gas turbines are notably a less mature technology than open-air
 568 combined cycles.

569 4.1. Hourly behaviour

570
 571 The SCC-TCES cycle (air-open case) has been simulated for representative days in
 572 Seville, taking real radiation patterns from a TMY. The main parameters used for the
 573 simulations are those shown in Table 3. Solar radiation and climatic data have been taken
 574 from PVGIS (European Commission, n.d.) whilst receiver thermal power and power
 575 block efficiency have been computed as described in section 3. As in the design case, it
 576 is assumed that all the energy stored in the sunshine hours is consumed at a constant rate
 577 during the rest of the day, and therefore there is a net balance equal to zero regarding the
 578 storage tanks. Figure 8 shows the disparity between these representative days' climatic
 579 conditions, which leads to extreme performances of the system. While the average solar
 580 share reaches 76% for a typical summer day (June 21), with milder solar radiation

581 conditions, the value is around 50%, which continues to be a very high value compared
 582 to existing ISCC plants [14]. For a better understanding of energy flows throughout the
 583 day, Figure 9 shows an hourly analysis of the amount of solar energy stored and the
 584 amount taken from the storage at sunset or the amount provided by the natural gas
 585 combustor as the backup system.

586
 587 As showed in Table 4, a remarkably higher net power production is obtained at sunshine
 588 hours due to the contribution of the auxiliary turbine (T), with maximum values around 40
 589 MWe, except for days with slight solar radiation (December 21), in which no energy would
 590 be stored. Therefore, the auxiliary turbine would be out of service. Note that this is an effect
 591 of the proposed configuration. Other operation strategies could be considered to adjust the
 592 net power production to a quasi-constant value throughout the day or to follow a certain
 593 dispatch pattern. In this sense, the TCES system as well as the natural gas combustor at the
 594 turbine inlet, give the system great flexibility.



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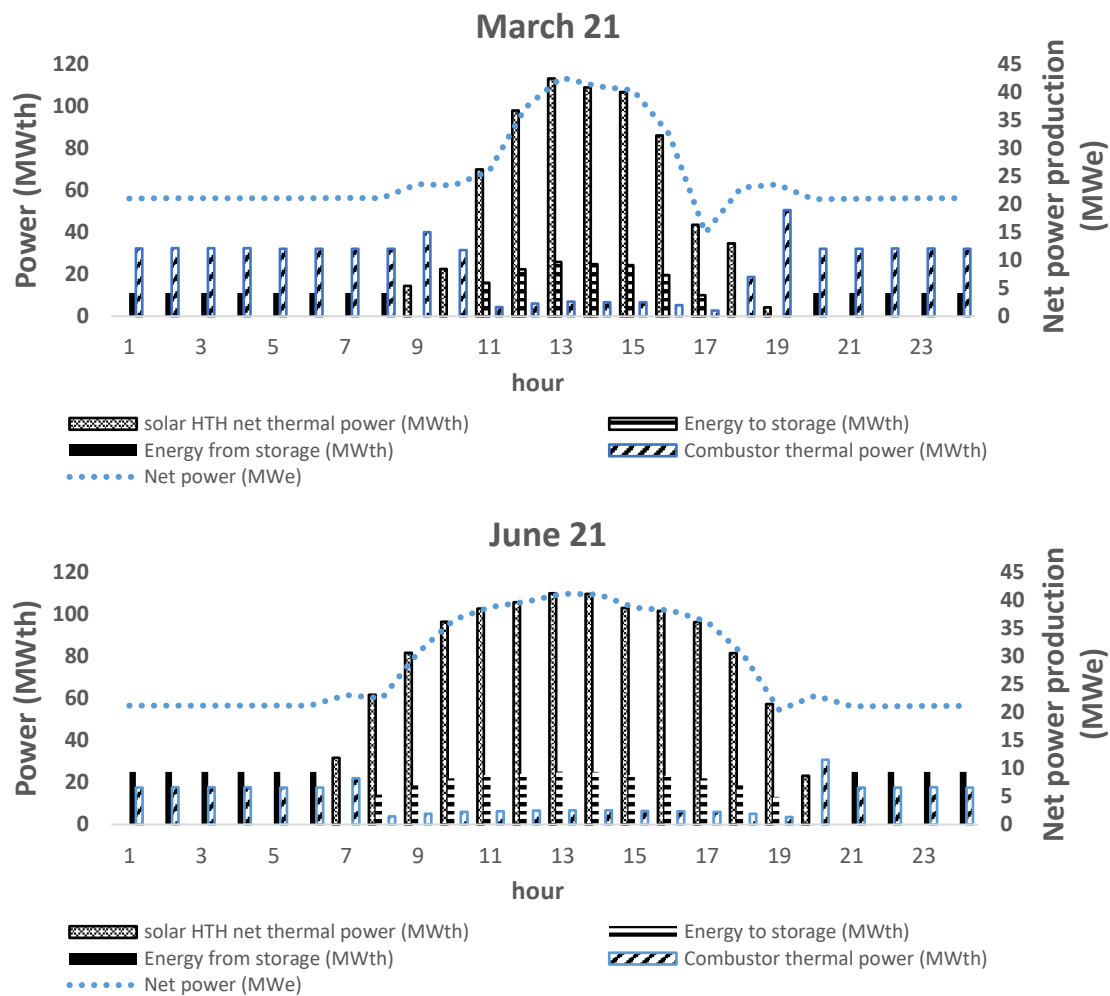
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Figure 8: Hourly performance for selected days throughout the year.

599 The hourly plant efficiency follows a special pattern compared with commercial CSP
 600 plants since an important performance penalty occurs due to the power consumption of
 601 the turbomachines linked to the storage system. This is typical of solid-gas TCES systems
 602 [34]. Thus, hourly efficiency varies between 35-50%. Remarkably, the hourly efficiency
 603 is not computed as in Table 4, which was presented the overall plant efficiency. While
 604 the former (Figure 8) is calculated as the ratio between net electric power to the thermal
 605 power provided, even including the carbonator power, which is not a fuel or solar input
 606 since it comes from the storage, the overall (daily) plant efficiency computes the typical
 607 net electric power to the thermal (solar + fuel) input ratio. The influence of the off-design
 608 loss of efficiency is illustrated in Figure 15 (annexes section).
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Figure 9: Hourly power production for selected days

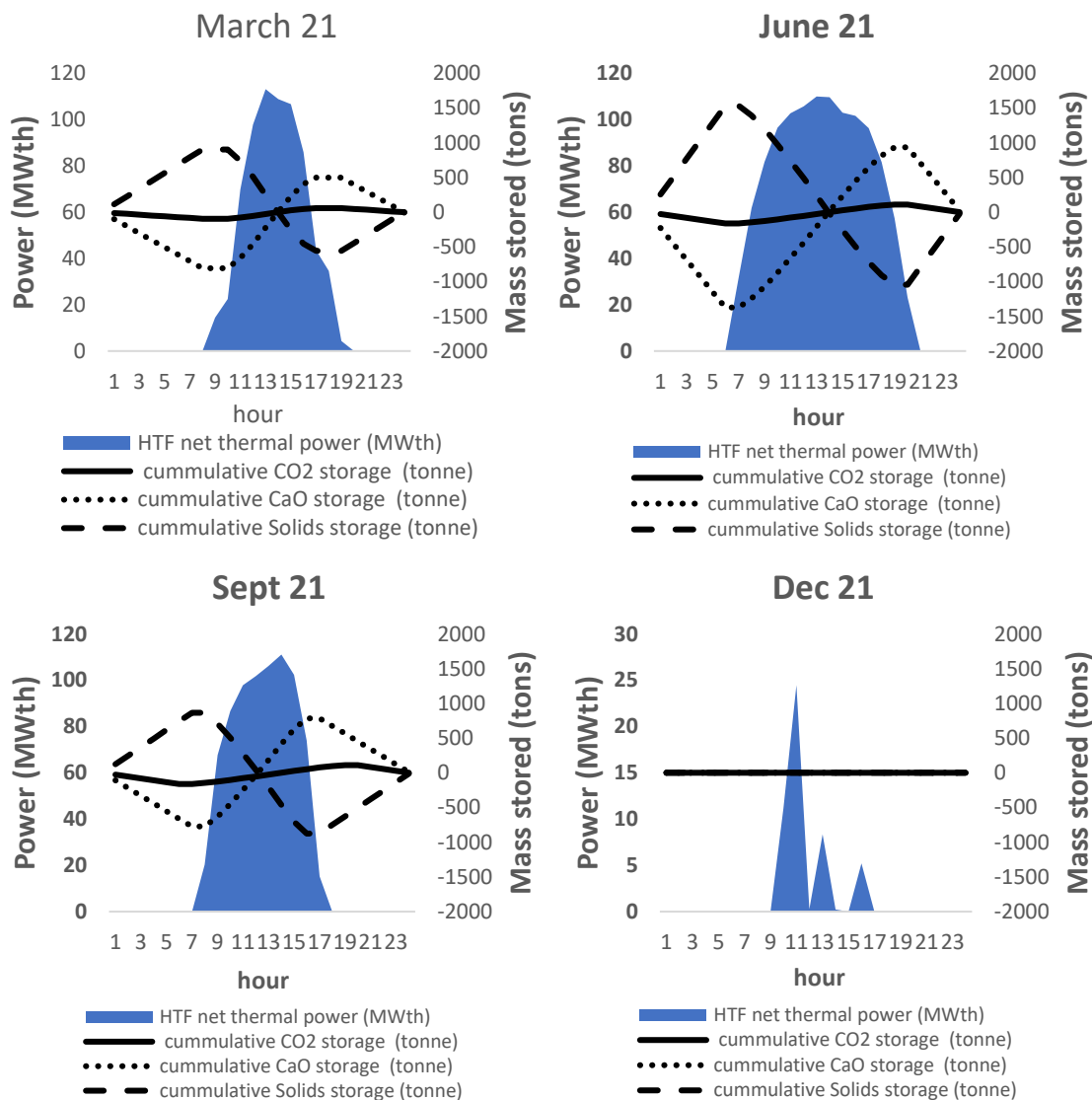
613

614 As shown in Figure 9, on June 21, most of the power production throughout the night
 615 (60%) is obtained thanks to previously-stored solar energy, while the combustor
 616 contribution in sun hours is as low as 6%. On March 21, the constant power of 11MWth
 617 from the storage is produced from 8 pm to 8 am, representing a solar share of 26% in this
 618 interval.

619

620 Regarding storage tanks capacity, an analysis of the hourly variations of material flows
 621 makes it possible to estimate maximum and minimum amounts of material stored in the
 622 selected representative days (Figure 10). As may be seen, maximum and minimum

623 storage levels would occur in the highest solar radiation days. Considering June 21, in the
 624 first 6 hours of the day, CO₂ and CaO vessels are emptied as they are sent to the carbonator
 625 for power production while the solids (CaO/CaCO₃) storage is filled with solids from
 626 carbonation. After these hours, the solids tank has increased the material stored by 1535
 627 tons while the amount of CaO and CO₂ in the storage tanks has been reduced in 1373 tons
 628 and 162 tons. Once solar energy harvesting begins, solids are sent to the calciner and CO₂
 629 and CaO are produced and stored. Material stored in the solids tank is reduced up to -
 630 1045 tons compared to the beginning of the day. As a numerical example, if the day
 631 begins with 2000 tons of solids stored (CaO /CaCO₃), along the day, the stored material
 632 will reach maximum (at 6 am) and minimum (at 17h) levels of 3535 tons and 955 tons
 633 respectively.
 634



635

636

637 Figure 10: Analysis of the hourly flow of materials to and from the storage tanks. Note that the
 638 negative sign refers to the difference in the amount of material stored with respect to the beginning
 639 of the day.

640

641 The required amount of stored material depends fundamentally on the energy to be stored
 642 (which in turn is a function of the SM) as well as on the process conditions (mainly CO₂
 643 pressure, CO₂ temperature and CaO conversion) [34]. The values represented in Figure

644 10 are in line with previous works found in the literature [47,55,56]. It is important to
645 note that the optimal storage volume depends on the plant's strategies operation strategies,
646 of high interest but which is beyond the scope of this work. Further optimisation of the
647 operating strategy is required from a techno-economic perspective to reduce the energy
648 storage cost (\$/kWh) throughout the year.

649 4.2. Annual performance estimation

650 The annual performance of the plant has been estimated from the clustering process and
651 taking real radiation and climatic data in Seville. The fourth representative days (used for
652 clusters definition) are simulated from data collected in Table 1, assuming constant solar
653 radiation (DNI) throughout the indicated solar hours and zero radiation the rest of the day.
654 Note that constant DNI is assumed, but thermal power at the receiver varies depending
655 on the solar position (azimuth, zenith). The cluster has been selected as follows: for the
656 representative day 1, with slight solar hours, it is considered the solar position like
657 December-21 (see Figure 8), while for the representative day 4 (Table 1), with up to 13
658 sunshine hours, it is considered the solar position as in June-21. Representative days 2
659 and 3 consider the solar position as March-21 and September-21, respectively. The
660 analysis considers power production in the number of hours indicated in Table 1 around
661 midday. The main results of the analysis for both air-open and CO₂ closed combined
662 cycles are presented in Table 5.

663 Table 5: Annual performance estimation from solar radiation clustering

Parameter	Air-open CC					CO ₂ -closed CC				
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Annual estimation	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Annual estimation
Receiver energy (GWh)	0.62	1.93	1.37	0.13	488.89	0.58	1.93	1.37	0.13	485.36
Solar net energy (GWh)	0.34	1.06	0.75	0.07	268.89	0.32	1.06	0.75	0.07	266.95
Combustor energy LHV (GWh)	0.72	0.29	0.47	0.99	181.03	0.71	0.30	0.48	0.97	181.13
Solar energy stored (GWh)	0.07	0.24	0.17	0.00	60.92	0.07	0.24	0.17	0.00	60.51
Electricity production (GWh)	0.89	1.15	1.04	0.90	381.48	0.83	1.08	0.98	0.84	356.51
Electricity consumption (GWh)	-0.40	-0.52	-0.47	-0.39	-171.92	-0.38	-0.45	-0.42	-0.38	-153.82
Electricity net (GWh)	0.49	0.63	0.57	0.50	209.60	0.45	0.62	0.56	0.45	202.69
Overall (daily) efficiency (%) (*)	46.29	46.39	46.70	47.35	46.60%	44.27	45.92	45.21	43.56	45.16%
Average emissions (kg/net MWh _e)	288.25	108.59	185.28	398.83	192.35	302.08	110.22	190.28	411.06	198.09
Average solar share (%)	32.28	74.57	56.08	5.77	54.16	30.27	74.62	55.62	5.28	53.66

664 (*) (without solar side losses). Computed as the ratio between net electric power to the total thermal input (solar + fuel).

665

666 The estimated annual performance results confirm the competitive results obtained for the
667 SCC-TCES plant. Annual solar share is around 54% for both cases (air-open and CO₂ closed
668 cycles), leading to a remarkable reduction in CO₂ emissions than existing NGCC plants. The
669 annual net thermal-to-electric efficiency is above 45%. For an optimised solar receiver
670 design, which minimises thermal losses by radiation and convection, the overall thermal-
671 to-electric efficiency can be several %points higher than current CSP plants. Note that
672 there is a relation between solar share and overall efficiency. The lower the solar share,
673 the higher overall efficiency since the plant tends to appear more and more at an NGCC,
674 without solar contribution. Remarkably, the higher solar share reached in the SCC-TCES
675 is notably high than in previous works due to integrating a high-temperature energy
676 storage system, which allows providing a relevant amount of solar power at sunset.
677

678 **5. Conclusions**

679
680 A novel Solar Combined Cycle – Thermochemical Energy Storage system (SCC-TCES)
681 has been modelled and simulated, taking actual radiation data in Seville (Spain). Due to
682 integrating an efficient TCES system, the combined cycle can operate at night from solar
683 energy previously-stored at high temperature. This is only possible from TCES that work
684 efficiently at high turning temperature (>900°C), as is the calcium-looping (CaCO₃/CaO)
685 process. Thus, considering actual solar data, the annual solar share is highly enhanced
686 compared to current integrated solar combined cycle power plants (above 50% instead of
687 4-15%). This reduces the typical CO₂ emissions of the natural gas combined cycle by
688 more than half, reaching values of around 100-200 kg/net MWhe, which would be
689 equivalent to a CO₂ capture of around 75-85% in coal-fired power plants.
690

691 Four clusters (representative days) were selected from the solar radiation clustering
692 analysis to evaluate the annual performance. Daily and annual average results confirm a
693 high thermal-to-electric efficiency (45-50%) for both air-open and CO₂- closed cycles.
694 As TIT increases, the overall plant efficiency is enhanced while the solar share is
695 penalized. For a TIT of 1400°C, overall plant efficiency would reach 52% with a solar
696 share above 60%. Slightly higher efficiency is reached by the air-open configuration,
697 although the CO₂-closed cycle offers the possibility of a more compact and efficient solar
698 receiver design but also with a notably less mature level of technology. This offers the
699 potential to boost the plant capacity regarding the state-of-the-art of CSP plants due to
700 integrating efficient TCES and high-efficiency power blocks (combined cycle).
701

702 Remarkably, an optimum receiver design that minimizes solar radiation losses is crucial
703 for the viability of this concept. This requires a more detailed study than presented in this
704 work, followed by a suitable prototyping and scaling process. Efficiencies below 50%
705 could compromise the technical viability of the plant. Besides, regarding previous CSP-
706 TCES integrations, this novel concept here presented minimizes the gas-solids heat
707 exchangers, and it avoids solid-solid heat exchangers, which are not yet commercial, and
708 therefore gaining in plant reliability. Finally, the integration of a natural gas combustor at
709 the inlet of the gas turbine provides the system with greater flexibility and reduces the
710 risk of a shutdown of the plant in the event of a failure of the TCES system.
711

712 All these relevant features justify the potential interest in the SCC-TCES plant.
713

714 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

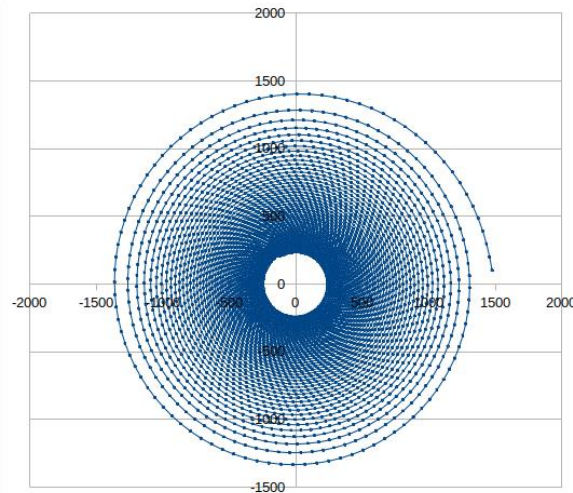
715 The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Union's
 716 Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727348,
 717 project SOCRATCES, and by the Spanish Government Agency Ministerio de Economía
 718 y Competitividad (MINECO-FEDER funds) under contracts CTQ2017- 83602-C2 (-1-R
 719 and -2-R).
 720

721 **ABBREVIATIONS**

CaL	Calcium-Looping
CC	Combined Cycle
CFB	Circulated Fluidised Bed
CSP	Concentrating Solar Power
DNI	Direct Normal Irradiation
DSG	Direct Steam Generation
EF	Entrained Flow
HTF	Heat Transfer Fluid
HRSG	Heat Recovery Steam Generator
ISCC	Integrated Solar Combined Cycles
PR	Pressure Ratio
SCC	Solar Combined Cycle
SM	Solar Multiple
TCES	Thermochemical Energy Storage
TES	Thermal Energy Storage
TIT	Turbine Inlet Temperature
TMY	Typical Meteorological Year

722 **ANNEXES**

723 **A1. Solar field modelling**



724 Figure 11: Heliostats field pre-design (distances to the origin in meters).
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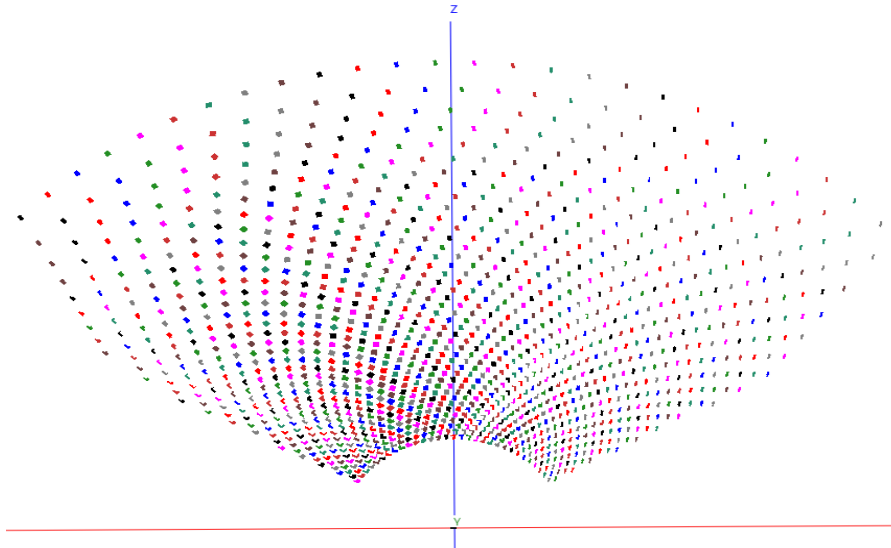


Figure 12: Heliostats field improved design.

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A2. Solar flux at the receiver (W/m²)

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This figure represents the geometry of the solar receiver panel, being the x-axis the horizontal direction and the y-axis in the vertical direction. The scale is in meters, being the origin (0,0) in the centre of the panel (that is why there are negative values in the x and y axes). Therefore the colour indicates the intensity of the solar flux in each position of the receiver panel. This simulation's location is Sevilla (Spain), already mentioned in the text, and the apparent solar position is 45° elevation and 135° azimuth, which corresponds to March 25th, at 11:30 local time.

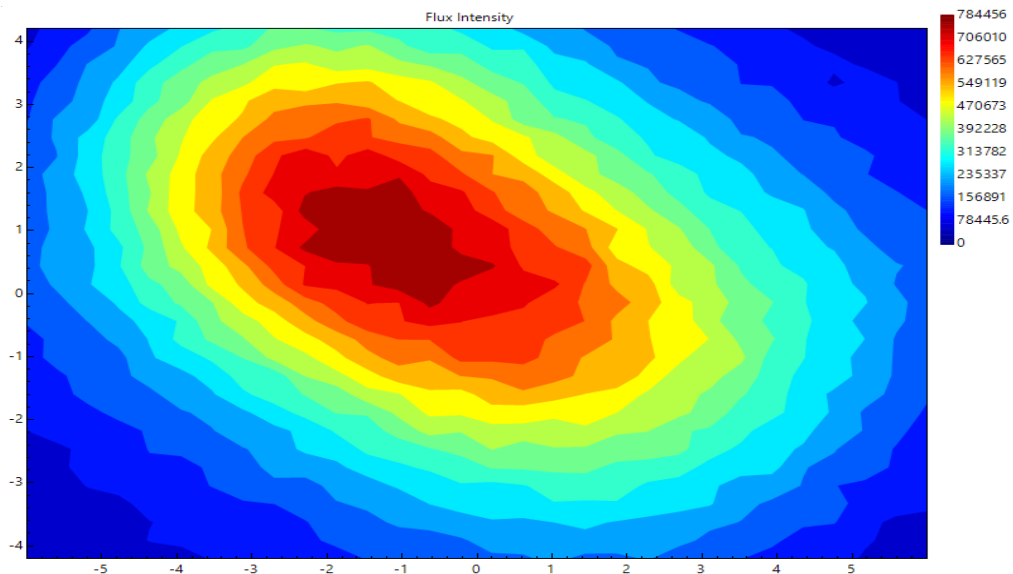


Figure 13: Solar flux at the receiver (W/m²).

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A3. Clustering

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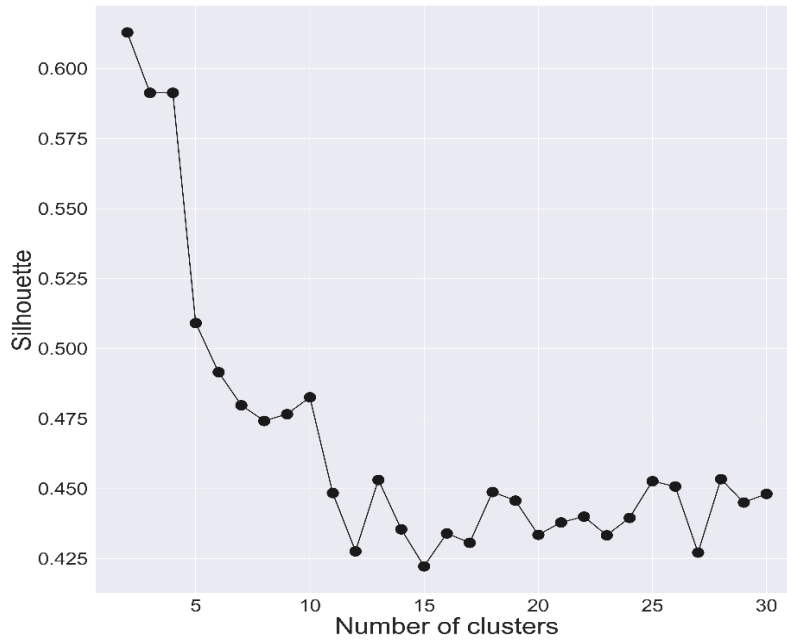
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The silhouette analysis measures the distance between each data point with the neighbouring clusters and computes a numerical value in the range [-1, 1]. A value close to 1 denotes that the point is distant from the neighbouring clusters; therefore, the observations are well clustered. A value close to 0 indicates that the point lies at the boundary between two clusters. Finally, a negative value shows that the data point is probably assigned to the wrong cluster.

Figure 14 displays the result of the silhouette analysis from 2 to 30 clusters.



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Figure 14: Silhouette Analysis

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A4. Stream data

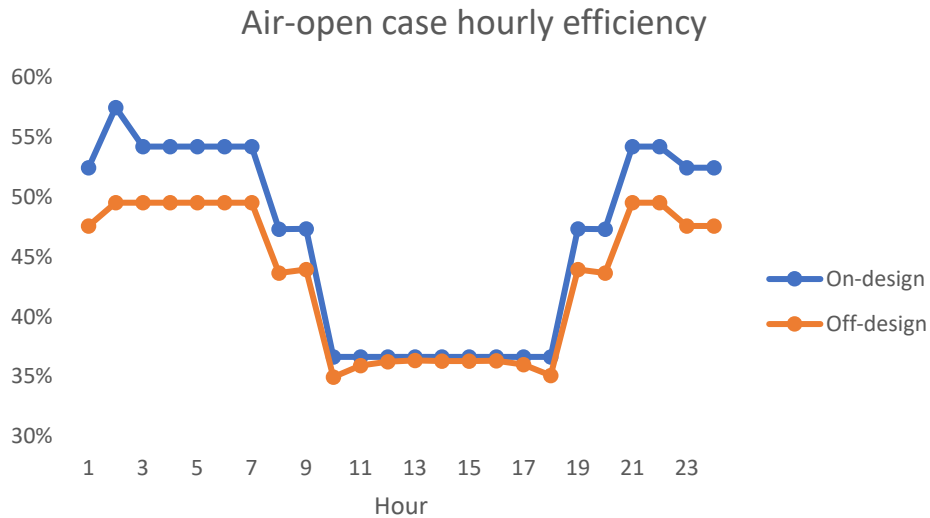
Table 6: Stream data for the air-open CC at design conditions (see Figure 1 and Table 4)

stream id	'sun' mode				'night' mode		
	materials	P (bar)	T(°C)	m (kg/s)	P (bar)	T(°C)	m (kg/s)
1	Air	1.01	15	100.3	1.01	15	45
2	Air	12.78	108.5	100.3	12.4	344.7	45
3A	Air	12.78	108.5	100.3	12.4	344.7	0
3B	Air	12.78	108.5	0	12.4	344.7	45
4	Air	12.78	108.5	100.3	-	-	-
5	Air	12.65	327.0	100.3	-	-	-
6	Air	12.4	1200.0	100.3	-	-	-
7	Air	12.4	1200.0	100.3	12.4	344.7	45
8	Air	12.16	1000	100.3	12.16	772	45
9A	Air	12.16	1000	67.31	-	-	-
9B	Air	12.16	1000	32.99	12.16	772	45
10A	Air	1.01	452.2	67.31	-	-	-
10B1	Air	11.75	1000	0.82	11.75	772	1.12
10B2	Air	11.75	1146.2	32.3	11.75	1140.9	44.33
11A	Air	1.00	126.2	67.31	-	-	-
11B	Air	5.34	923.1	33.13	5.34	915.8	45.46
12	Air	1.02	549.8	33.13	1.02	548	45.46
13	Air	1.02	474.9	33.13	1.02	473.6	45.46
14	Air	1.01	275.2	33.13	1.01	275.2	45.46
15	Air	1.01	150.5	33.13	1.01	151.2	45.46
16	Water	52.02	33.57	4.29	52.02	33.57	5.94
17	Water	51	260.2	4.29	51	260.2	5.94
18	Steam	51	265.2	4.25	51	265.2	5.88
19	Steam	50	500	4.25	50	500	5.88
20	Steam	0.05	32.88	4.25	0.05	32.88	5.88
21	Water	0.05	32.9	4.25	0.05	32.9	5.88
22	Water	52.02	33.57	4.29	52.02	33.57	5.94
23	CaCO3/CaO	1.00	1000	64.61	-	-	-
24	CaO	1.00	950	57.81	-	-	-
25	CO ₂	1.00	950	6.81	-	-	-
26	CO ₂	1.00	110	6.81	-	-	-
27	CO ₂	75.00	25	6.81	-	-	-
28	CO ₂	-	-	-	75.00	25	6.81
29	CO ₂	-	-	-	8.05	100	6.81
30	CO ₂	-	-	-	8.04	937.7	6.81
31	CaO	-	-	-	1.00	925	57.81
32	CaCO3/CaO	-	-	-	1.00	1000	64.61

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A5. Design and off-design performance comparison for a selected day



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Figure 15: Design and Off- design performance comparison

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