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Natural Resources

GEOTHERM

Methodology for the identification of optimal exploitation schemes of geothermal systems

Léda Gerber, François Maréchal, Indsutrial Energy Systems Laboratory, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Contact:
Léda Gerber, Industrial Energy Systems Laboratory, EPFL, LENI-IGM-STI Station 9 1015 Lausanne, +41 (21) 693 3521, leda.gerber@epfl.ch
http://leni.epfl.ch/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=398&Itemid=33

1. Context

Shallow and deep geothermal resources can be used to produce different energy services, such as district heating, electricity and cooling. Some of these services vary throughout the year. To provide them, different conversion technologies can be used. In order to identify the **most efficient and economical possibilities for geothermal system exploitation**, all the different system components have to be modeled and their interactions considered.

2. Objectives

Main objective of the research is to establish a **systematic methodology** to help decisions makers in **identifying the optimal exploitation schemes**. Typical questions to be answered are:

- Which type of geothermal resources have to be exploited and how?
- What is the potential for heat seasonal storage in aquifers?
- How do we target simultaneously economical profitability, thermodynamic efficiency and minimal environmental impacts?

3. Methodology

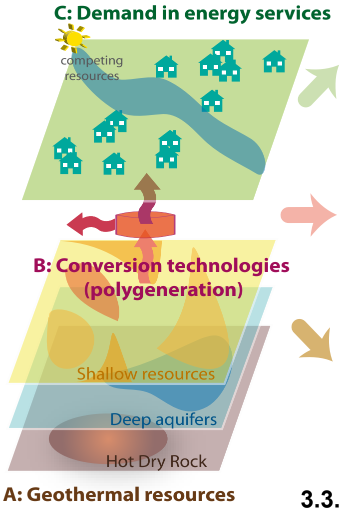
Overall system is considered, divided in 3 subsystems:

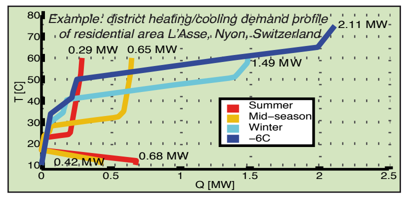
1. potential **resources** that have been identified as exploitable by geologists at a given location
2. potential **technologies** to convert geothermal energy in useful energy services
3. varying **demand** in multiple energy services at the location

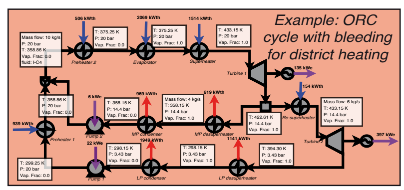
3.1. System modeling

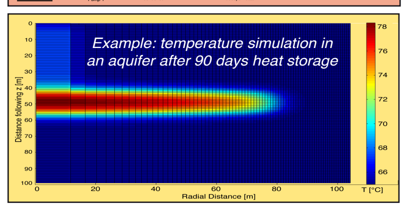
Each subsystem is first modeled and simulated separately:

1. exploitation conditions of different geothermal resources
2. superstructure of conversion technologies with given operating conditions
3. demand profiles for given periods









GIS-based software for identification of energy needs in urban areas

Multi-period profiles:
- Fixed district heating
- Fixed district cooling
- Variable electricity

Superstructure:
- Flash systems
- Binary cycles
- Heat pumps

Flowsheeting software:
- Operating conditions
- Thermodynamic states
- Heat loads

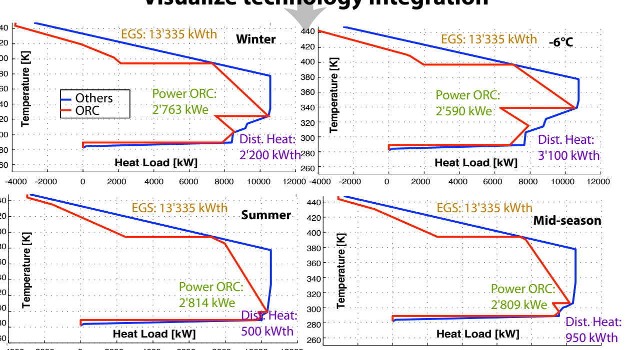
Exploitation modes:
- Heat injection
- Heat extraction
- Heat storage

Computed parameters:
- Temperature level
- Heat available

3.2. Process integration

Overall system is integrated using process integration techniques:
- based on **pinch analysis** (hot and cold heat streams identification)
- allows for **heat exchange synthesis** and optimal selection of:
  1. geothermal resources to be exploited
  2. technologies to be used and their optimal size

Visualize technology integration



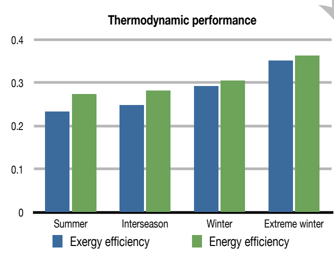
3.3. Performance indicators calculation

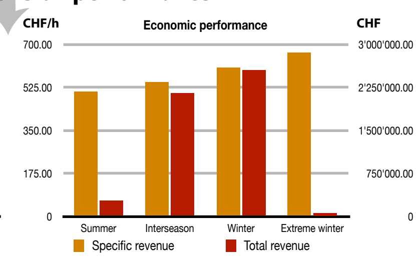
Performance of the configuration obtained by simulation and integration is calculated, for each period and on an average basis:

1. **economic** indicators.: investment and operating costs, annual profit
2. **thermodynamic** indicators: energy, exergy and electrical efficiencies

» *can be further used as objective functions in optimization problem*

Seasonal and overall performance





Overall exergy efficiency: 27%
Overall energy efficiency: 29%

Net profit, accounting for all costs : 390'000 CHF/yr

5. Perspectives

Though first results suggest that the methodology is promising, some developments are still necessary to improve it. A first one is the integration of summer **residual heat storage** in the process integration part, using the multi-period approach to use it in winter. This would increase the efficiency, which is quite low in summer. A second one is the extension of the performance calculation to the environmental impacts by the integration of **Life Cycle Assessment**. Moreover, the methodology has to be applied to **case studies** for validation.