



# Thermal Resistance Model for CSP Central Receivers

by Oelof de Meyer

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# Introduction

**Presenter** Oelof de Meyer

**Qualifications** 2010, B.Eng. (Mechatronics), Stellenbosch University  
2012, M.Sc. (Electrical Eng.), University of Cape Town

**Work Experience** 2011, Eskom : Control & Instrumentation

- Matimba C&I Refurbishment,  
2011/11 - 2012/06
- Lead Discipline Engineer for:
  - Eskom 100MW CSP Plant  
2011/11 - present
  - Solar Augmentation  
2013/10 - present
  - SERE Wind 100MW  
2014/03 – present

**Further Studies** 2014, Eskom Power Plant Engineering Institute (EPPEI)

- PhD Program – Stellenbosch University



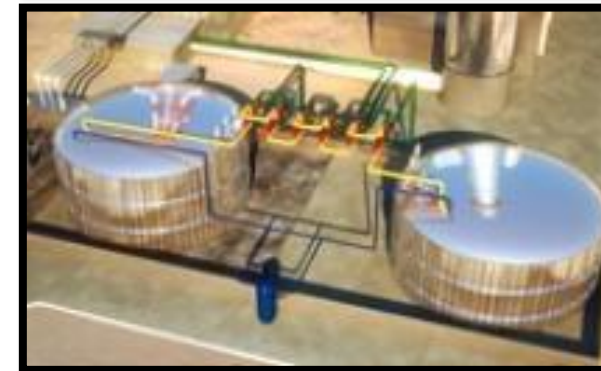
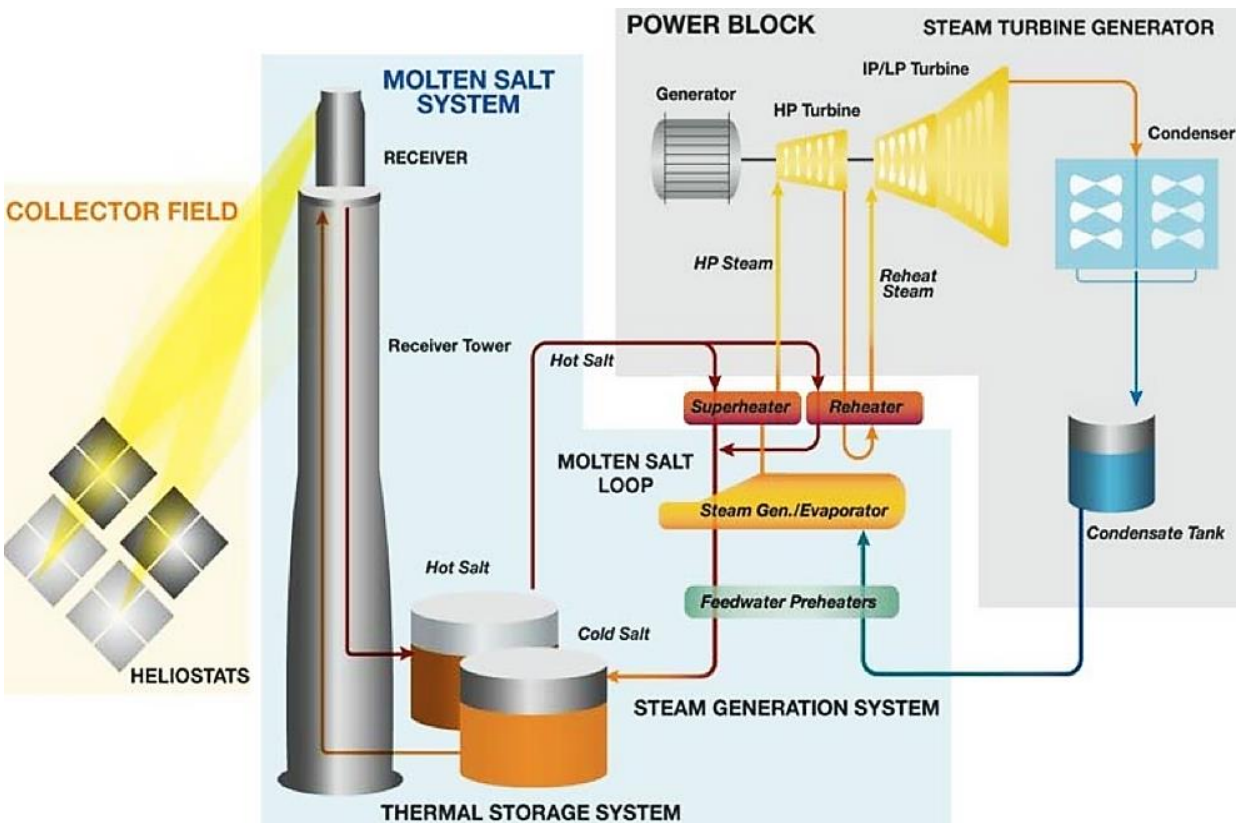
# Concentrated Solar Power

An aerial photograph of the Ivanpah Concentrated Solar Power plant. The image shows three large, roughly square-shaped fields of heliostats (mirrors) arranged in a diagonal line across a desert landscape. Each field is centered around a tall, dark tower. The heliostats are densely packed and reflect sunlight, creating a shimmering effect. The surrounding terrain is arid and brown, with some distant mountains visible under a clear sky.

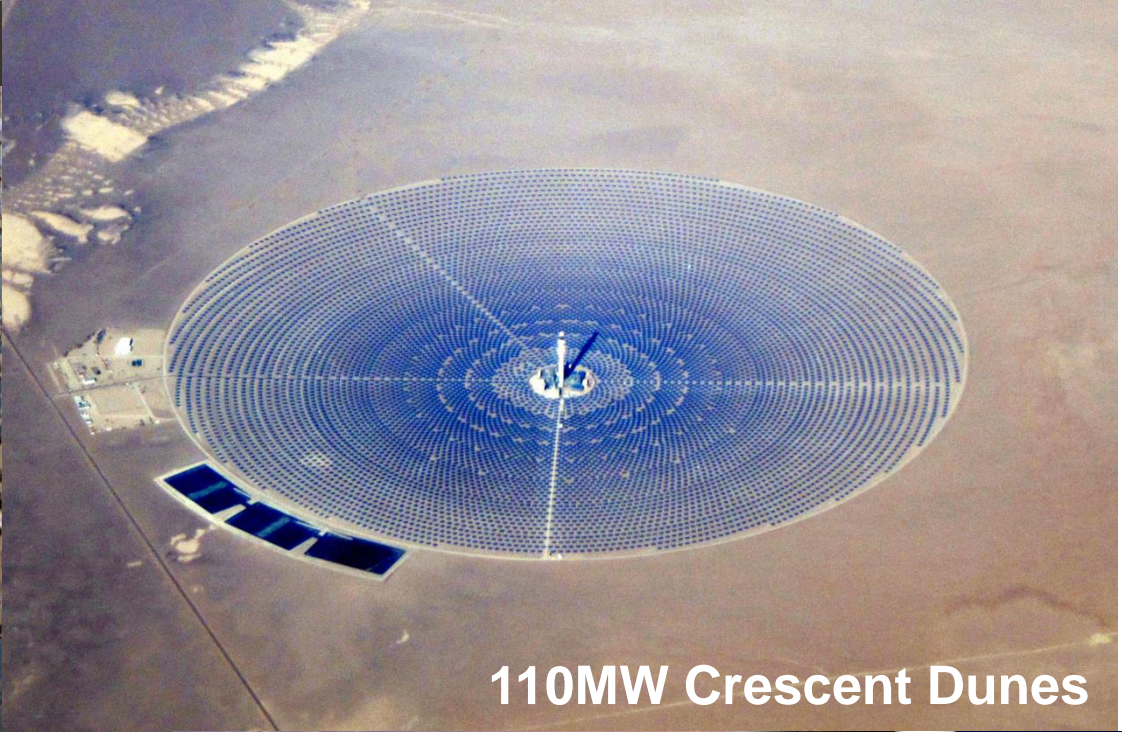
**173 500 heliostats**  
**140m tower**

**Ivanpah, 337 MW**

# Introduction : Molten Salt Central Receiver



**10MW Solar Two**



**110MW Crescent Dunes**

**Molten Salt Central Receivers**



**20MW Gemasolar**



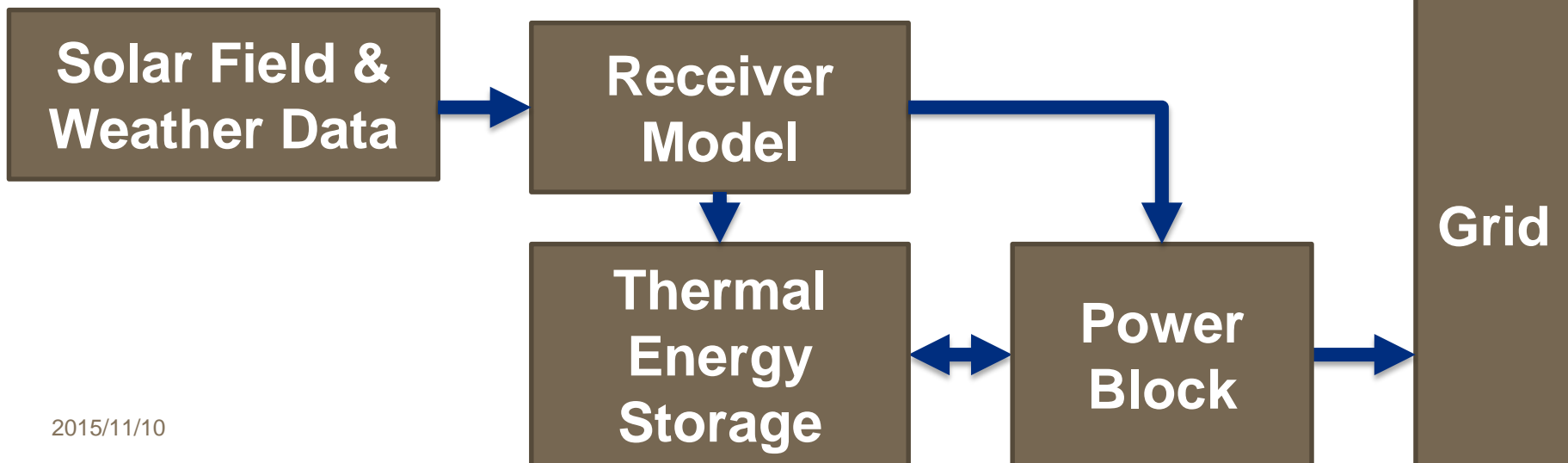
# Operating Strategy and Philosophy optimisation for a 100 MW CSP Plant

## Operating Philosophy (Process Plant)

Plant Model

## Operating Strategy (SA Grid)

System Operator



- Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) initials “Operating Strategy”
  - Agreement between Independent Power Producer (IPP) and Utility / System Operator
- IPP design, build and optimise plant to adhere to PPA
- IPP business is money,
  - thus maximise power production
  - Minimise energy losses
  - Minimise O&M costs
  - = Max Revenue



**Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)**

For Example:  
PPA = 75 MW between 4-10 pm

Thus storage of about 6 hours  
Start/Stop turbine each day  
Etc...  
“Design Plant accordingly”

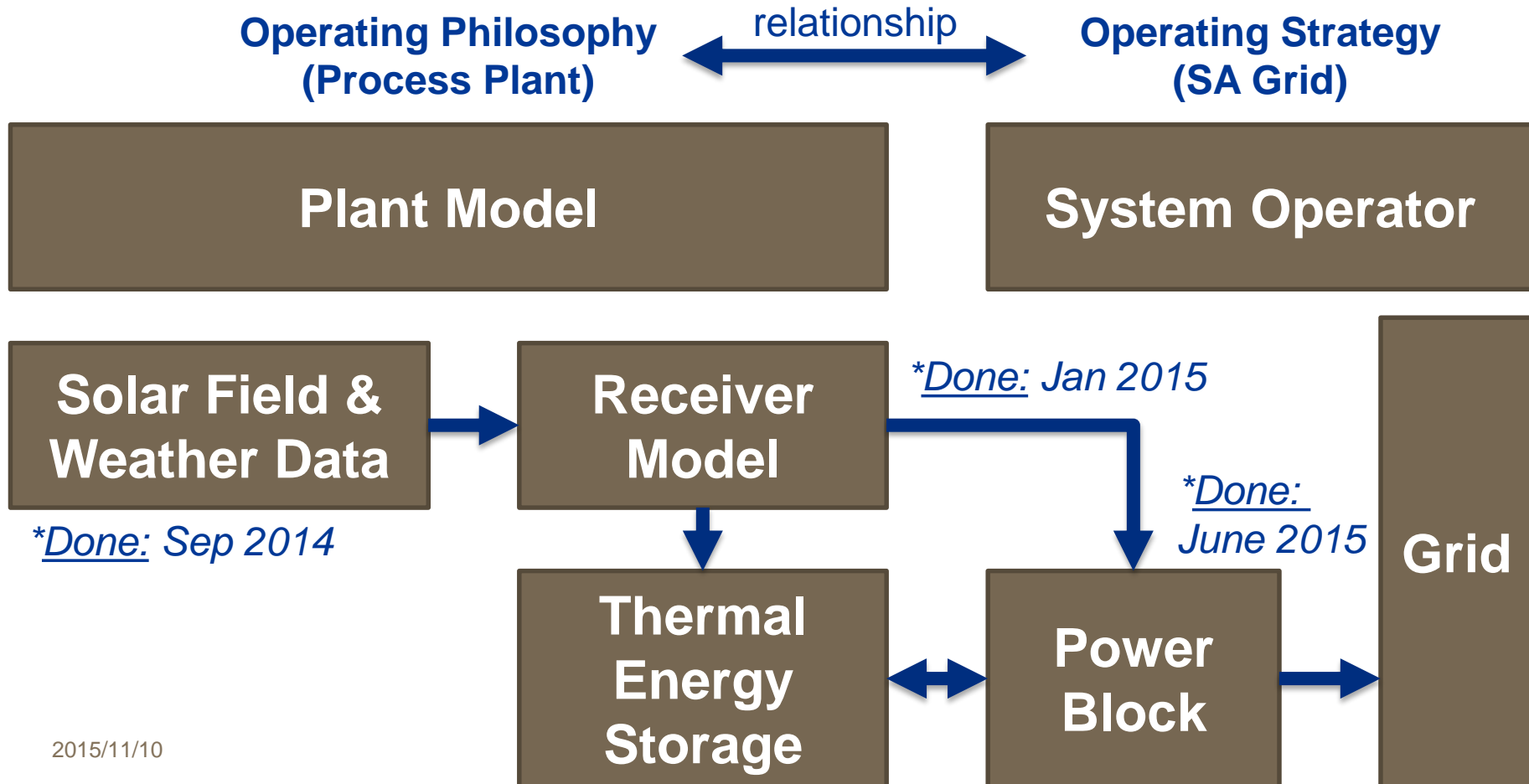
- What happens if you have a varying operating strategy?
  - “Flexible Plant required”
  - Optimisation of plant operation



**Eskom is  
not an IPP**

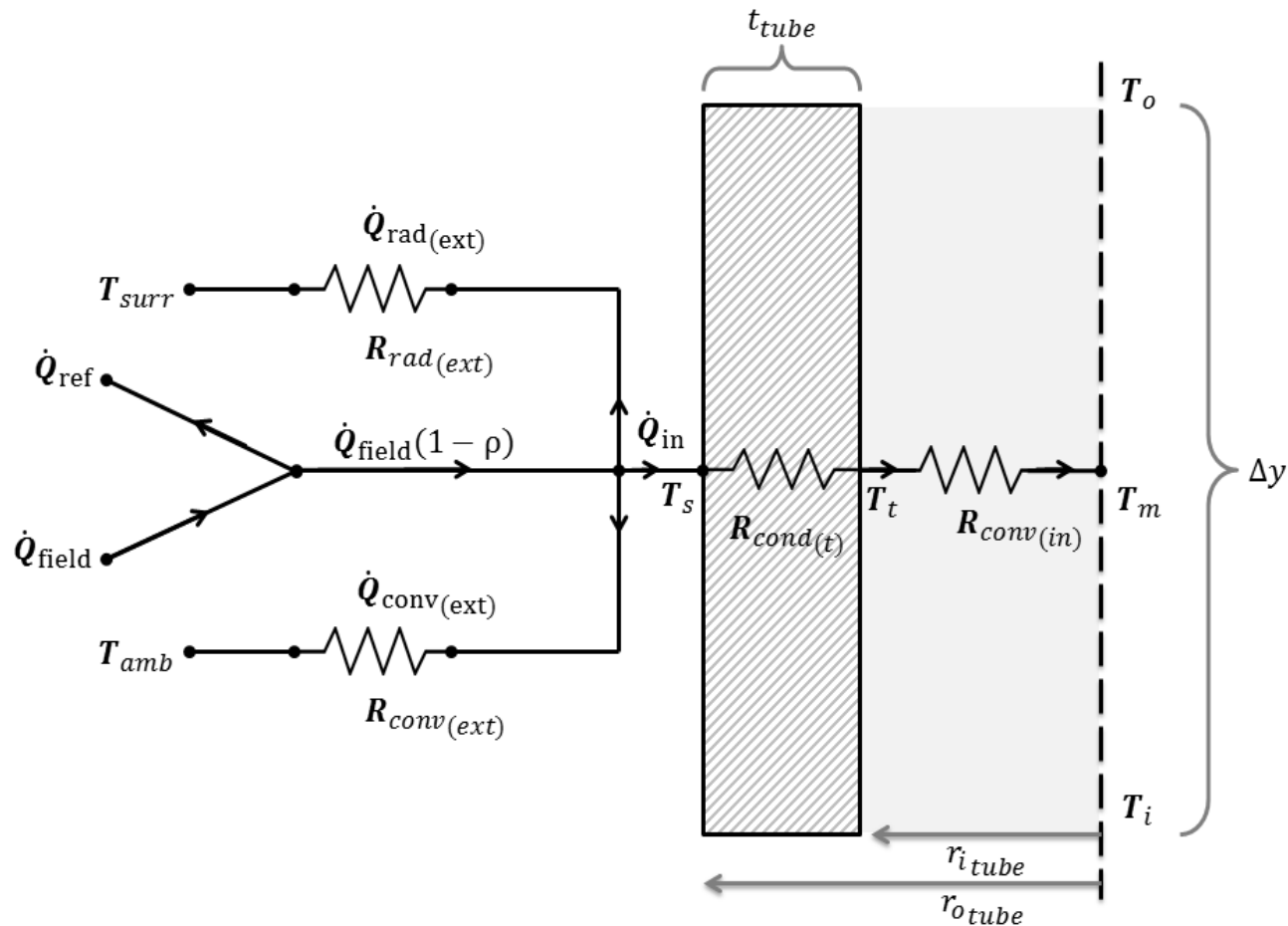


## Operating Strategy and Philosophy optimisation for a 100 MW CSP Plant





# Receiver Thermal Resistance Model



model

Solar Field & Weather Data

DELSOL3

12x10 Receiver Flux Map

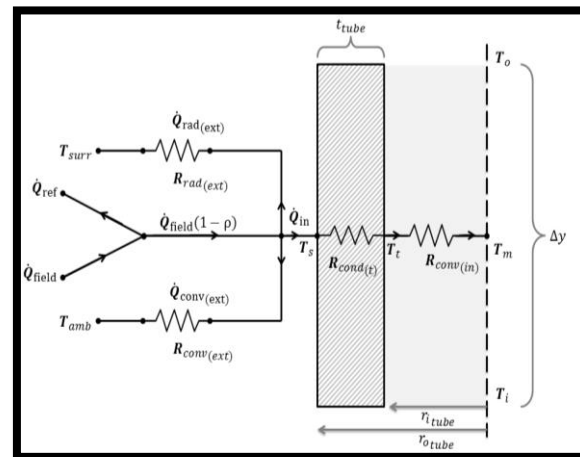
TMY Data

- Ambient Temperature
- Wind speed
- DNI etc.



*Evaluate:*

- Aiming Strategy used
- Receiver design/materials
- Tube strain per panel, O&M



*Evaluate:*

- Receiver design/materials
- Pressure drop across receiver



**Temperatures:**

- Inner tube
- Receiver surface
- HTF outlet temperature

**Receiver Efficiency**

- Receiver heat losses
- HTF thermal energy gained
- HTF mass flow rate



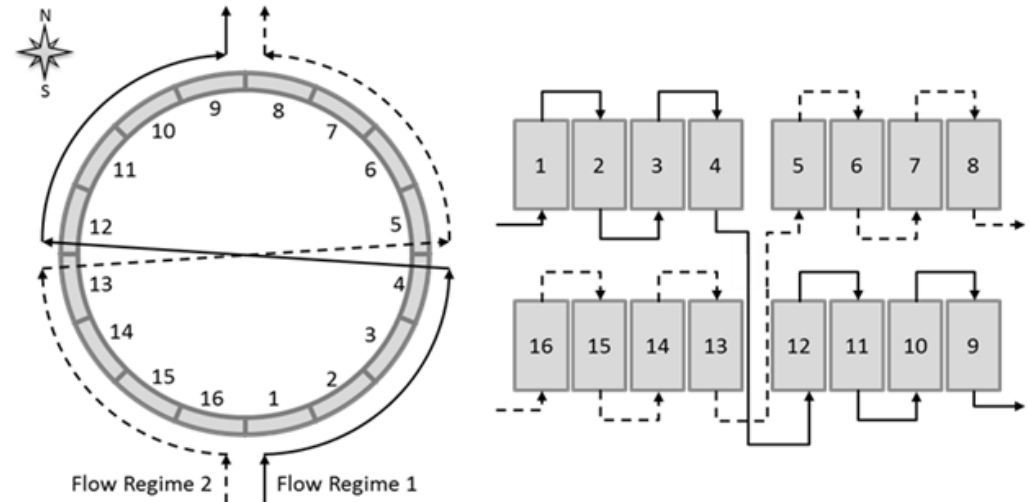
# How does the model work?

## Receiver design & configuration:

Height 19.24 m  
 Diameter 16.32 m  
 Panels 16  
 Tube diameter 50 mm  
 Tube thickness 1.5 mm

## Flow regime:

- 2x flows with cross over halfway
- HTF enters from South panel
- HTF exit through North panel

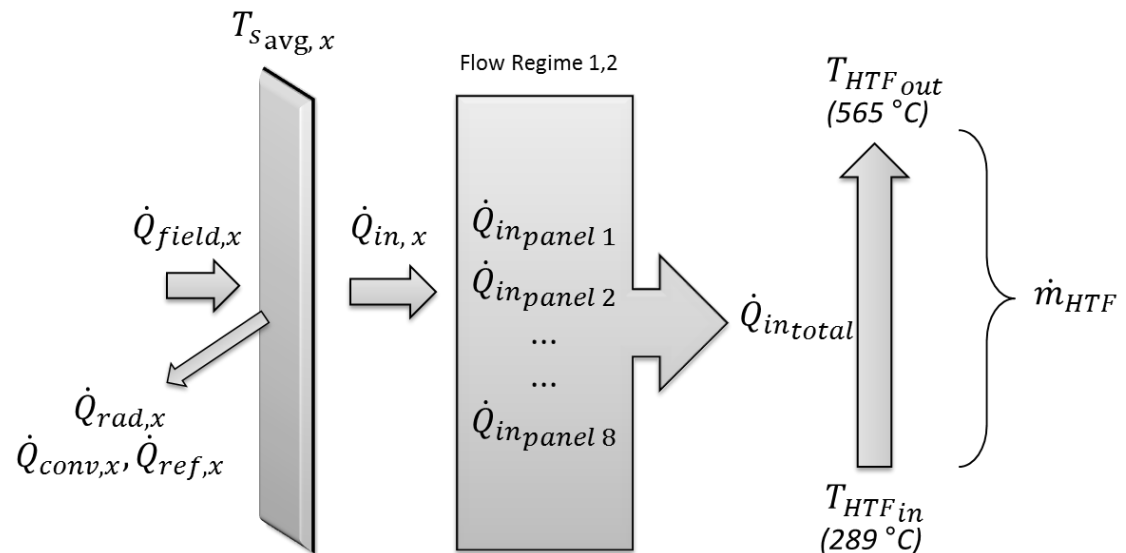


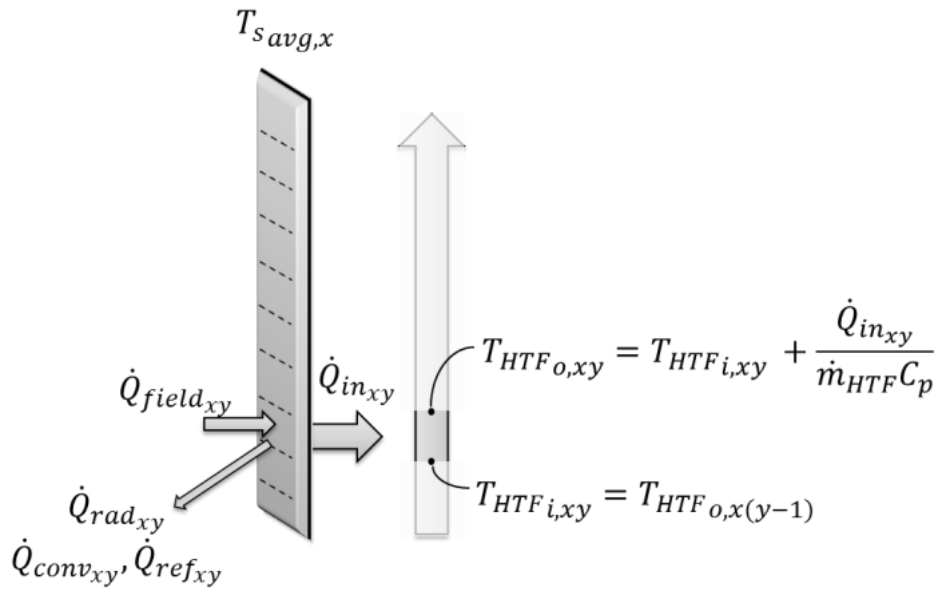
## Step 1:

Determine HTF mass flow rate in flow regimes by determining:

- Heat loss per panel
- Heat gained per panel

*\*Initial surface temperature guess values required*





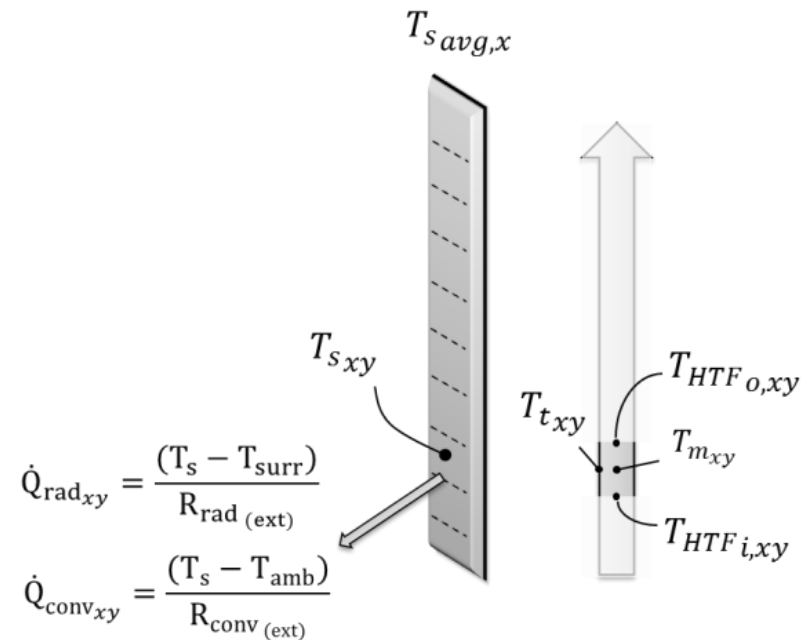
## Step 2:

Use HTF mass flow rate to determine temperature rise in HTF

## Step 3:

Use bulk fluid temperature to determine:

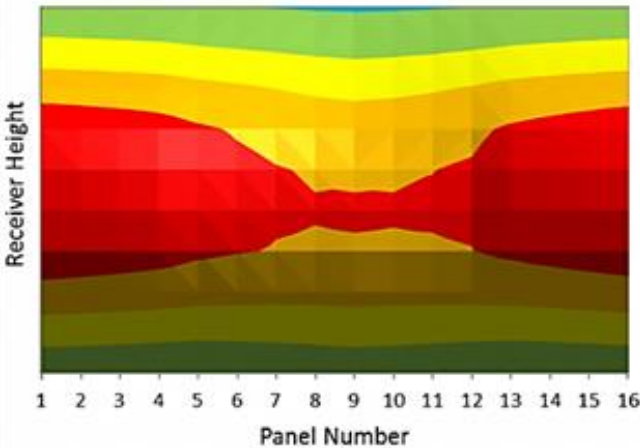
- Inner tube temperature
- Outer tube temperature (surface)
- Corresponding heat loss
  - Radiation, convection



*\*Steady state model requires iterations due to initial surface temperature guess values*

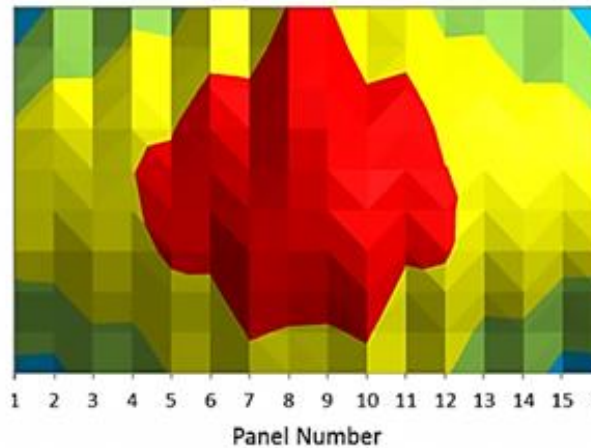
Flux Map kW/m<sup>2</sup>: DAY 81 HOUR 12

0-200 200-400 400-600 600-800 800-1000



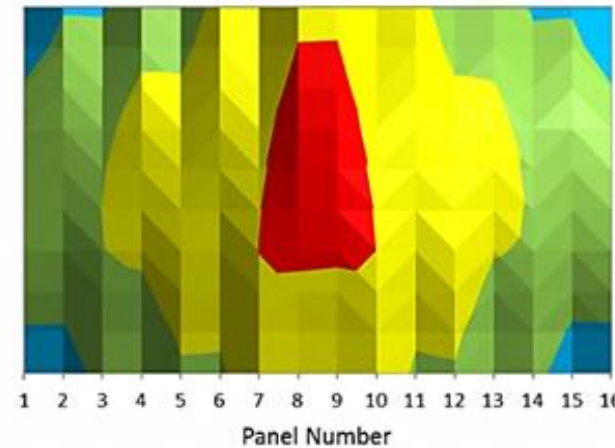
Surface Temperature °C: DAY 81 HOUR 12

300-400 400-500 500-600 600-700

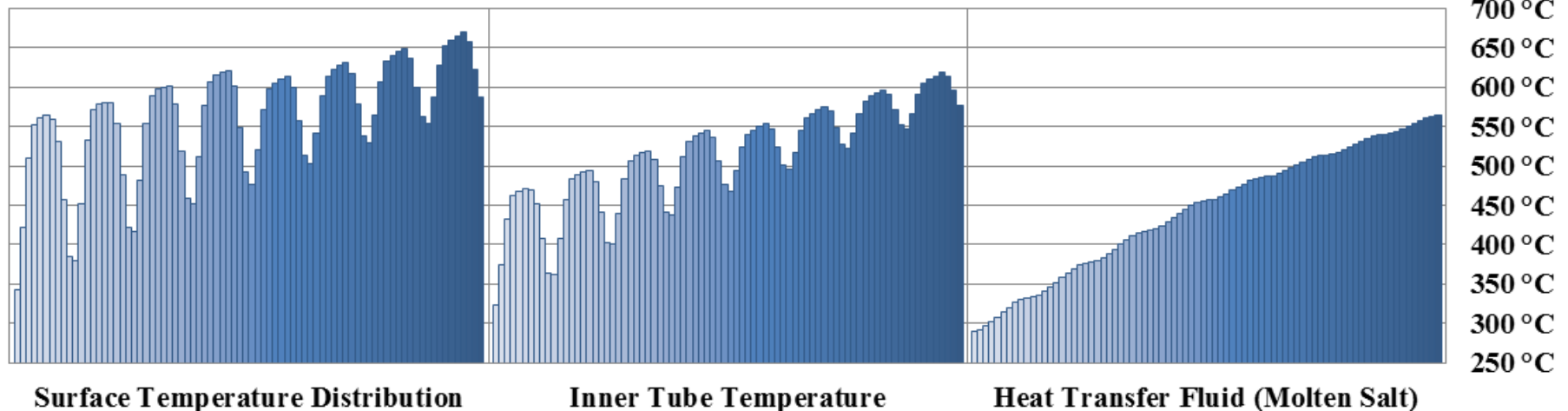


Tube temperature °C: DAY 81 HOUR 12

300-400 400-500 500-600 600-700



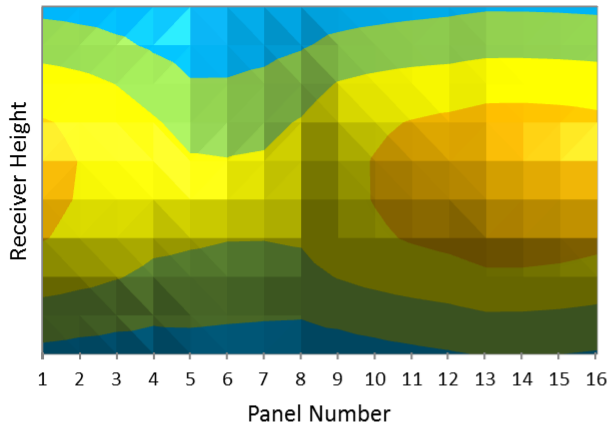
## Temperature Distribution in Receiver Panels for Flow Regime 1



# Morning, Mid-day and Afternoon – Case Studies

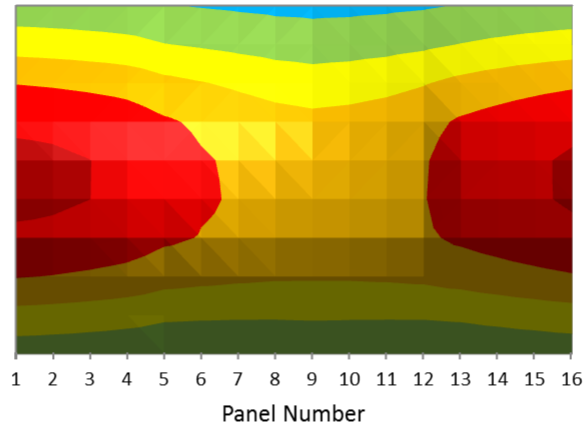
Flux Map kW/m<sup>2</sup>: DAY 272 HOUR 7

0-200 200-400 400-600 600-800



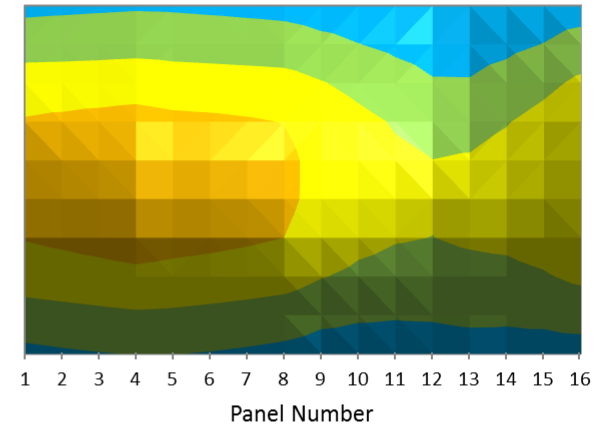
Flux Map kW/m<sup>2</sup>: DAY 272 HOUR 12

200-400 400-600 600-800 800-1000 1000-1200



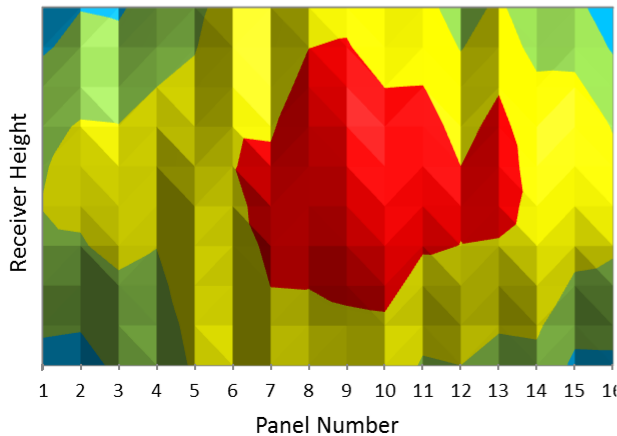
Flux Map kW/m<sup>2</sup>: DAY 272 HOUR 17

0-200 200-400 400-600 600-800



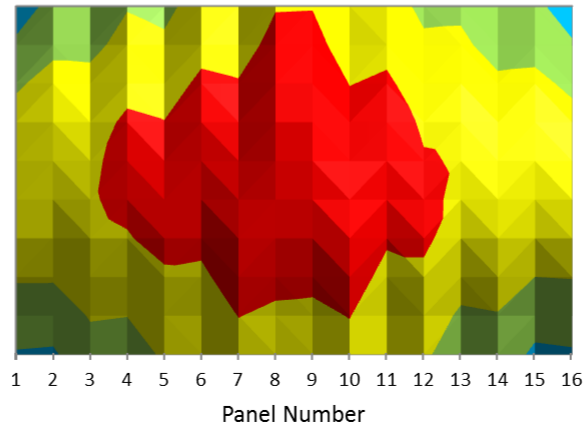
T<sub>s</sub> [°C]: DAY 272 HOUR 7

300-400 400-500 500-600 600-700



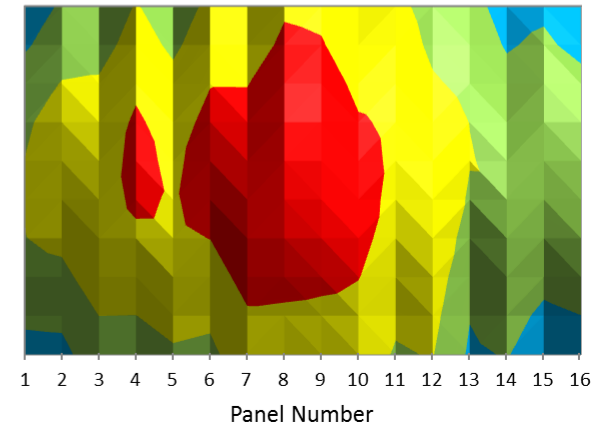
T<sub>s</sub> [°C]: : DAY 272 HOUR 12

300-400 400-500 500-600 600-700



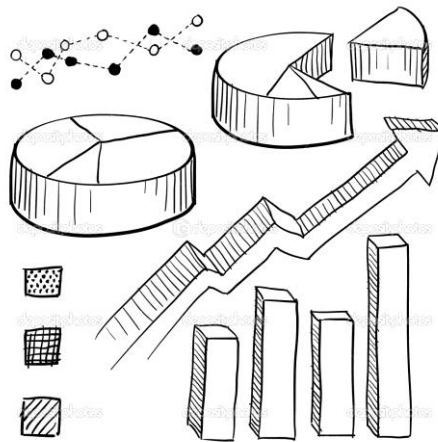
T<sub>s</sub> [°C]: : DAY 272 HOUR 17

300-400 400-500 500-600 600-700





*You may think... Yes, results are nice and pretty, but surely someone developed this model already?!*



**YES!**

*Similar models are being developed to analyse*

- Receiver design
- Receiver material
- Pressure drop calculations
- Tube-strain of panels
- Etc...

- *My overall research requires a model with the level of similar to results on a basic design.*
- *The model will be assigned some intelligence during the operating philosophy optimisation phase*
- *My model is not a “black box”*
  - *Know what is going in and out - verified!*



	Purpose							Capabilities								Licence			Source	References	
	Computational Fluid Dynamics	Feasibility	Finite Elements	Heat Balance	Ray-Tracing	Simulation	Helostat Field Optimisation	Feasibility Economic Impacts	Feasibility Technology	Finite Modelling Mechanical	Finite Modelling Thermal	Heat Transfer Fluid Analysis	Helostat Field Design Optimisation	Optical Analysis Ray-Tracing	Power Block	System Plant Simulation Performance	Commercial Licence	Free Licence			Private Use
Software Platform																					
ANSYS	X	X	X						X	X	X	X					X			ANSYS	ANSYS, 2014
ASAP					X								X				-			Breault	Breault, 2014
ASPOC		X			X		X					X	X				X			Nevada Software	ASPOC, 2014
COMSOL Multiphysics	X	X	X						X	X	X	X					X			COMSOL	COMSOL, 2014
DELSOL3		X					X		X			X			X		X			SANDIA	Kistler, 1986
EnerTracer					X								X				-			CIEMAT PSA	Blanco et al., 2000
EPSILON		X		X		X		X	X					X	X	X	X			STEAG, DLR	EPSILON, 2014
ESEMflex		X						X	X			X						X		Sun to Market	Sun to Market, 2014
ESEMpro						X					X		X	X	X			X		Sun to Market	Sun to Market, 2014
ESOM						X		X			X			X	X			X		Sun to Market	Sun to Market, 2014
Fiat Lux					X								X					X		CIEMAT PSA	Tellez, 2013
GateCycle				X		X					X				X		X			GE	GateCycle, 2014
Greenius		X				X		X	X						X		X			DLR	Buck, 2013
Helios					X								X				X			SANDIA	Ho, 2008
HFLCAL						X						X					X			DLR	Bode et al., 2012
IPSEpro		X		X				X	X		X			X	X	X	X			SimTech	IPSEpro, 2014
NowCasting						X		X							X	X	X			Sun to Market	Sun to Market, 2014
NSPOC		X			X		X					X	X		X	X	X			Nevada Software	NSPOC, 2014
OPTEC					X								X							-	Schoffel et al., 1991
OptiCAD					X								X				X			OptiCAD	OptiCAD, 2014
SAM		X				X	X	X	X			X			X		X			NREL	SAM, 2014
SCT					X								X					X		CIEMAT PSA	Tellez, 2013
SenRec	X	X	X						X	X	X							X		SENER	Martin, 2007
SENSOL		X			X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X			X		SENER	Martin, 2007
SOLERGY		X				X			X						X		X			SANDIA	Alpert et al., 1988
SolTrace					X								X				X			NREL	SolTrace, 2014
SOLUGAS	X	X	X						X	X	X						X			DLR	Buck, 2013
SolVer		X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X			X		Solucar / Abengoa	Garcia, 2007
ThermoFlow		X		X				X	X		X			X	X	X	X			ThermoFlow	ThermoFlow, 2014
TieSol					X		X					X	X				X			Tietronix	Izygon et al., 2011
Tonatiuh					X								X					X		Google-Code	Tonatiuh, 2014
TracePro					X								X					X		Lambda	Lambda, 2014
TRNSYS (STEC)		X		X		X			X					X	X	X	X			DLR	Schwarzbozl, 2006
Visual HFLCAL					X		X					X	X				X			DLR	Schwarzbolz et al, 2009
WINDELSOL					X		X					X	X				X			SANDIA	Tellez, 2013



- Model provide methodology used to obtain
  - ✓ HTF mass flow rate through receiver
  - ✓ Surface temperature distribution
  - ✓ Inner tube temperature distribution
  - ✓ Heat losses
  - ✓ Receiver Efficiency
  - ✓ Result of Heliostat field aiming strategy
  - ✓ Corresponding receiver pressure drop
  - ✓ Tube-strain per panel can be obtained

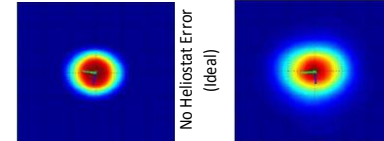
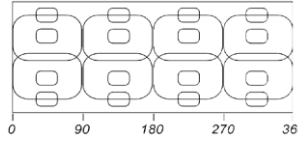
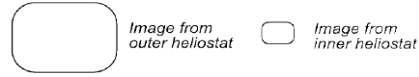
*What is next?*



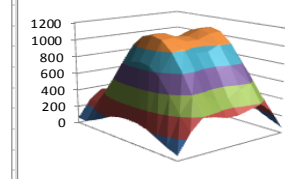
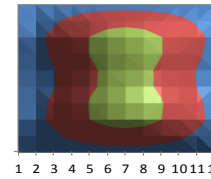
# Heliostat Field & Flux Maps – DONE!!

SIGEL= Tracking Error in OPEN-LOOP drive systems  
 SIGAZ= Foundation motion  
 SIGSX= Mirror waviness  
 SIGSY= Panel alignment error  
 SIGTX= Tracking Error in CLOSED-LOOP drive systems  
 SIGTY= Tower Sway

### Heliostat Aiming Strategy



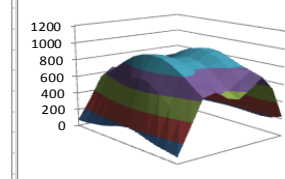
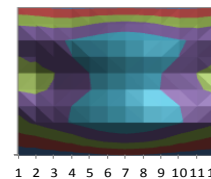
SIGEL= 0	9.62	69	67	117	175	239	273	282	273	239	175	117	67
SIGAZ= 0	7.48	271	280	441	622	790	886	913	886	790	622	441	280
	5.34	365	394	597	826	1010	1120	1150	1120	1010	826	597	394
SIGSX= 0	3.21	314	362	558	819	1010	1110	1140	1110	1010	819	558	362
SIGSY= 0	1.07	277	328	481	750	949	1060	1080	1060	949	750	481	328
	-1.07	278	330	485	755	956	1060	1090	1060	956	755	485	330
SIGTX= 0	-3.21	319	369	565	829	1020	1120	1150	1120	1020	829	565	369
SIGTY= 0	-5.34	365	394	592	820	1000	1110	1140	1110	1000	820	592	394
#_Heliostats= 8965	-7.48	256	263	419	593	756	847	872	847	756	593	419	263
	-9.62	60	56	102	156	216	246	254	246	216	156	102	56



GrossP=	651.72 MWT
Area=	9.13 m2
GrossPM=	660.35 MWT
	-1.32%
NetP=	87.59 Mwe

DAY	HOUR	COSINE	SHADOW	BLOCK	AIR ATT	SPILLAGE	TOTAL
81.00	0.00	0.83	1.00	0.98	0.92	0.99	0.60

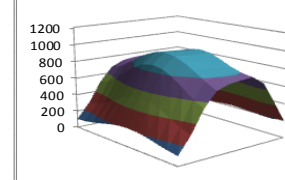
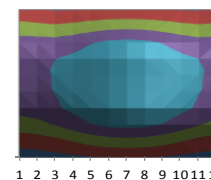
SIGEL= 0	9.62	263	227	181	169	174	181	184	181	174	169	181	227
SIGAZ= 0	7.48	586	576	540	537	590	653	682	653	590	537	540	576
	5.34	678	732	776	815	871	920	936	920	871	815	776	732
SIGSX= 0.003	3.21	595	625	699	797	879	932	948	932	879	797	699	625
SIGSY= 0	1.07	548	537	593	707	801	859	880	859	801	707	593	537
	-1.07	593	575	614	710	795	850	869	850	795	710	614	575
SIGTX= 0	-3.21	649	667	722	802	876	923	938	923	876	802	722	667
SIGTY= 0	-5.34	550	632	725	818	896	943	957	943	896	818	725	632
#_Heliostats= 10491	-7.48	298	349	423	504	611	697	727	697	611	504	423	349
	-9.62	69	72	92	110	140	177	197	177	140	110	92	72



GrossP=	658.42 MWT
Area=	9.13 m2
GrossPM=	660.75 MWT
	-0.35%
NetP=	88.54 Mwe

DAY	HOUR	COSINE	SHADOW	BLOCK	AIR ATT	SPILLAGE	TOTAL
81.00	0.00	0.80	1.00	0.98	0.92	0.89	0.52

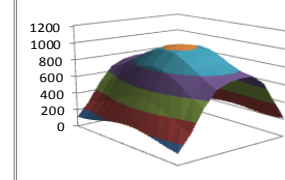
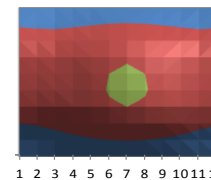
SIGEL= 0	9.62	229	209	186	189	200	211	216	211	200	189	186	209
SIGAZ= 0	7.48	473	449	426	450	493	528	540	528	493	450	426	449
	5.34	688	684	679	723	787	839	857	839	787	723	679	684
SIGSX= 0.003	3.21	760	777	799	841	898	946	963	946	898	841	799	777
SIGSY= 0.002	1.07	753	768	810	854	905	966	950	905	854	810	768	753
	-1.07	734	751	806	860	914	959	976	959	914	860	806	751
SIGTX= 0	-3.21	674	704	771	849	918	969	987	969	918	849	771	704
SIGTY= 0	-5.34	513	544	611	705	791	851	870	851	791	705	611	544
#_Heliostats= 11027	-7.48	279	296	341	408	474	520	536	520	474	408	341	296
	-9.62	103	111	131	157	185	206	212	206	185	157	131	111



GrossP=	659.40 MWT
Area=	9.13 m2
GrossPM=	668.62 MWT
	-1.40%
NetP=	88.68 Mwe

DAY	HOUR	COSINE	SHADOW	BLOCK	AIR ATT	SPILLAGE	TOTAL
81.00	0.00	0.79	1.00	0.98	0.92	0.86	0.49

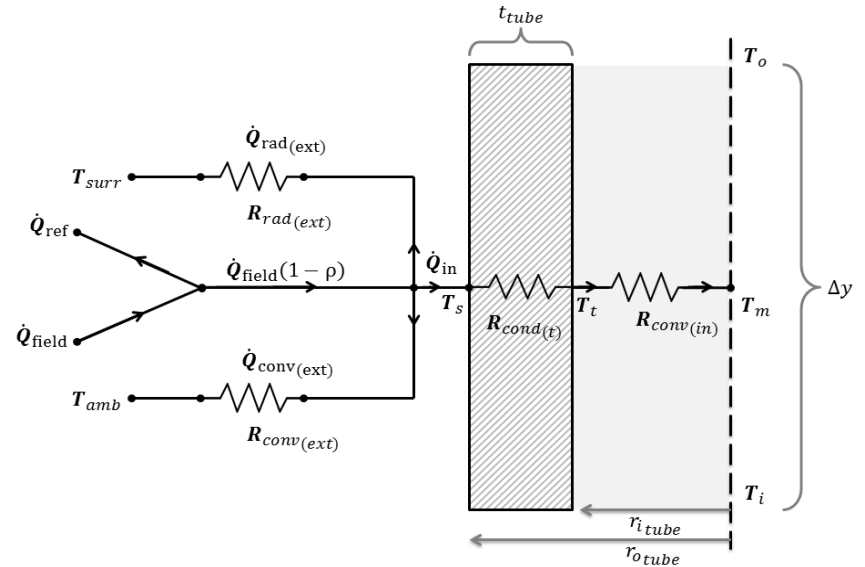
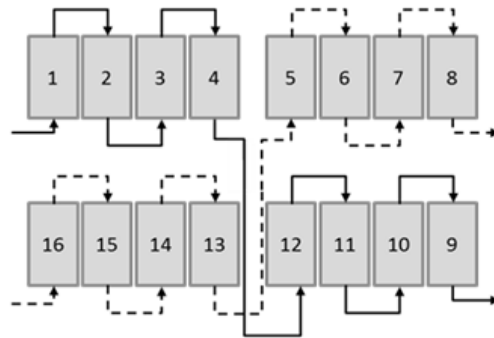
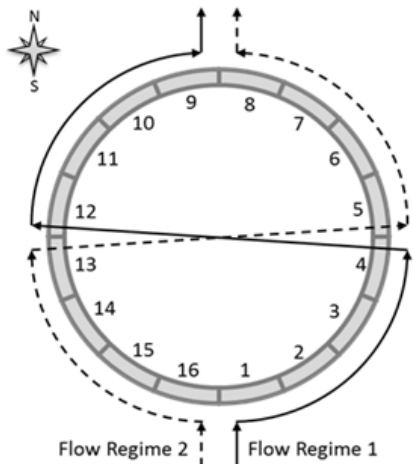
SIGEL= 0	9.62	234	218	199	202	213	226	231	226	213	202	199	218
SIGAZ= 0	7.48	459	440	424	446	476	508	520	508	476	446	424	440
	5.34	672	666	667	714	766	814	832	814	766	714	667	666
SIGSX= 0.003	3.21	758	769	793	847	914	967	987	967	914	847	793	769
SIGSY= 0.002	1.07	753	771	810	864	944	1000	1020	1000	944	864	810	771
	-1.07	729	753	805	866	949	1010	1030	1010	949	866	805	753
SIGTX= 0	-3.21	663	697	764	843	922	983	1000	983	922	843	764	697
SIGTY= 0.003	-5.34	501	531	599	689	763	821	840	821	763	689	599	531
#_Heliostats= 11252	-7.48	280	297	344	408	461	501	515	501	461	408	344	297
	-9.62	115	123	145	175	201	222	229	222	201	175	145	123



GrossP=	659.33 MWT
Area=	9.13 m2
GrossPM=	670.75 MWT
	-1.73%
NetP=	88.71 Mwe

DAY	HOUR	COSINE	SHADOW	BLOCK	AIR ATT	SPILLAGE	TOTAL
81.00	0.00	0.79	1.00	0.98	0.91	0.82	0.47

# Receiver Model – DONE!!



Flux Map kW/m<sup>2</sup>: DAY 81 HOUR 12

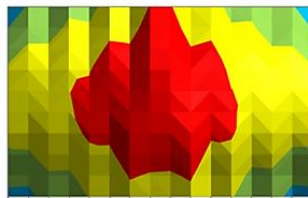
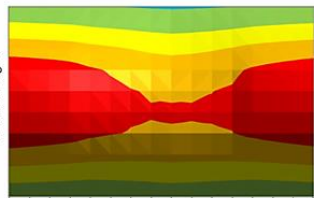
Surface Temperature °C: DAY 81 HOUR 12

Tube temperature °C: DAY 81 HOUR 12

0-200 200-400 400-600 600-800 800-1000

300-400 400-500 500-600 600-700

300-400 400-500 500-600 600-700

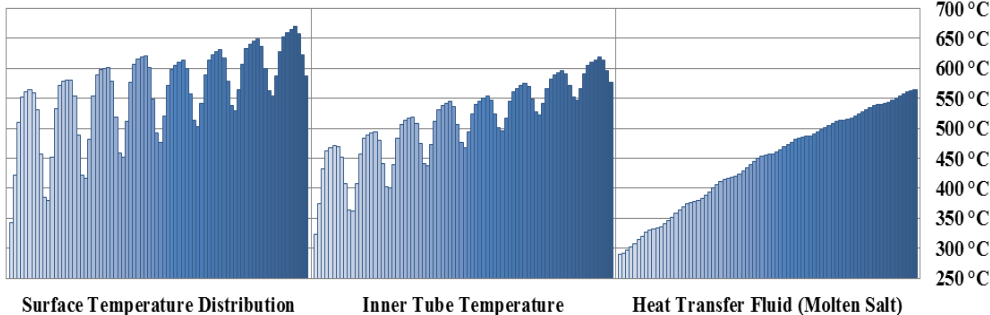


Receiver Height

Panel Number

Panel Number

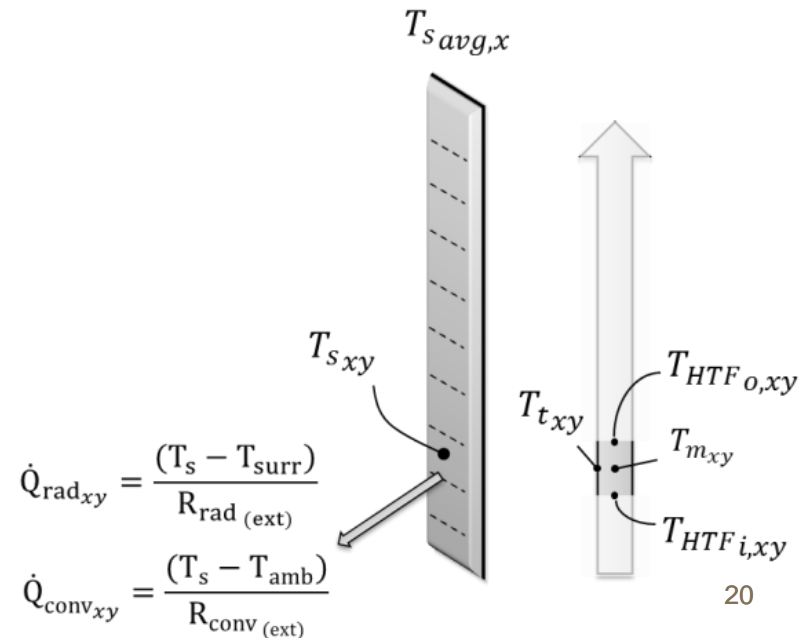
Temperature Distribution in Receiver Panels for Flow Regime 1



Surface Temperature Distribution

Inner Tube Temperature

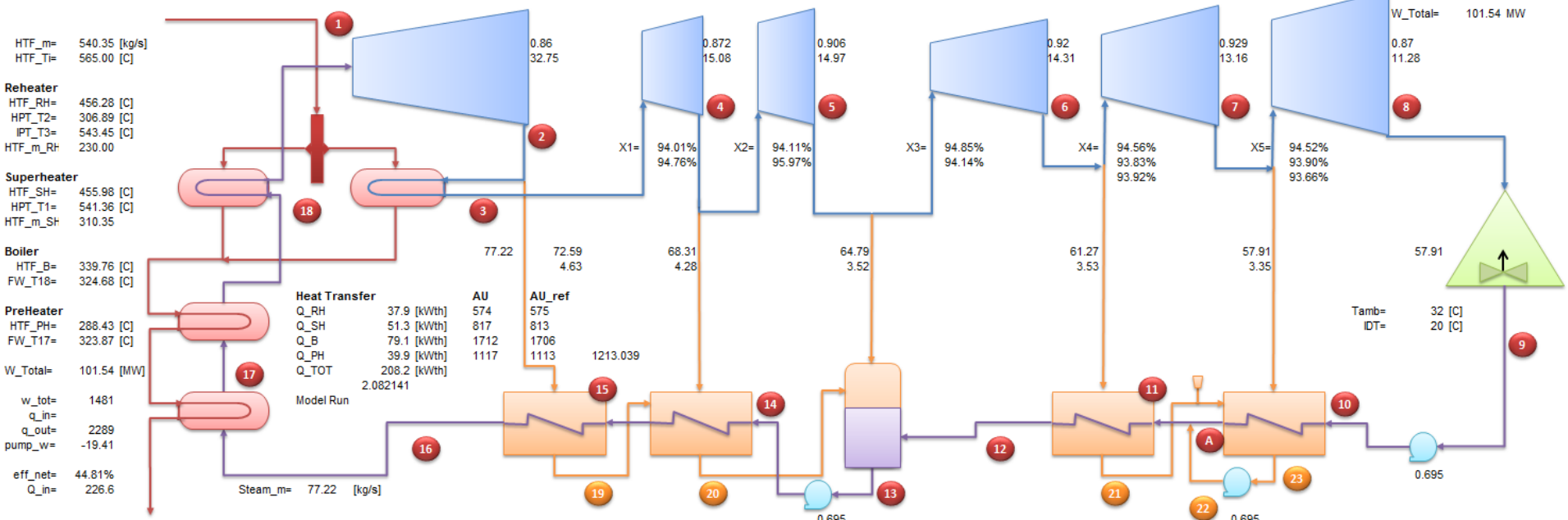
Heat Transfer Fluid (Molten Salt)



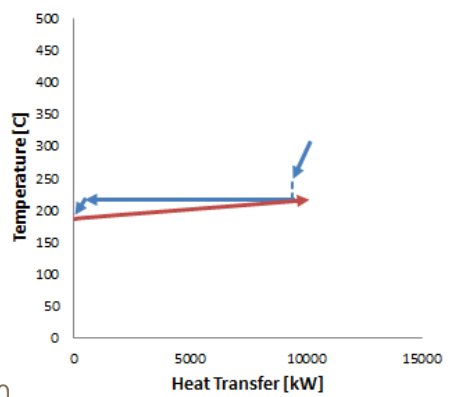
# Power Block Model – DONE!!!



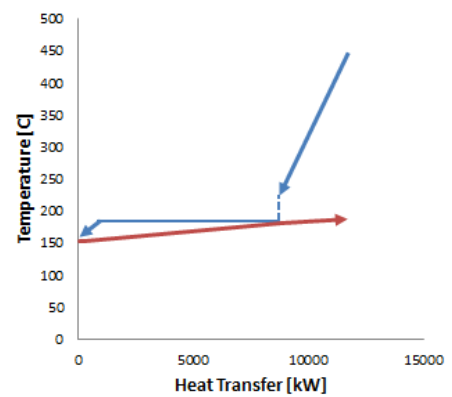
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pressure [bar]	120.00	21.79	21.79	10.94	4.87	1.86	0.58	0.1363
Temperature [C]	541.36	306.89	543.45	442.99	334.28	221.67	109.47	52.00
Entalphy	3459	3035	3563	3355	3136	2915	2700	2505
s	6.63		7.51	7.56	7.59	7.63	7.68	



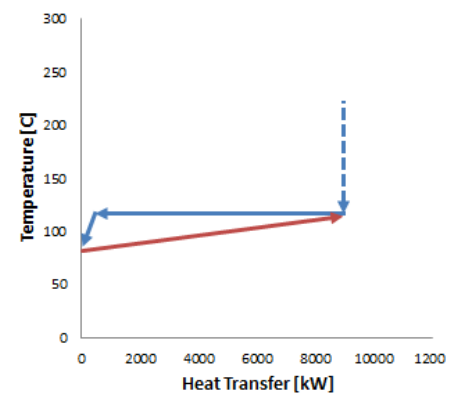
HP FWH 2 : TQ Diagram



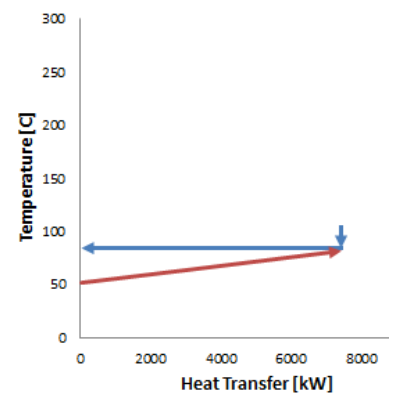
HP FWH 1 : TQ Diagram

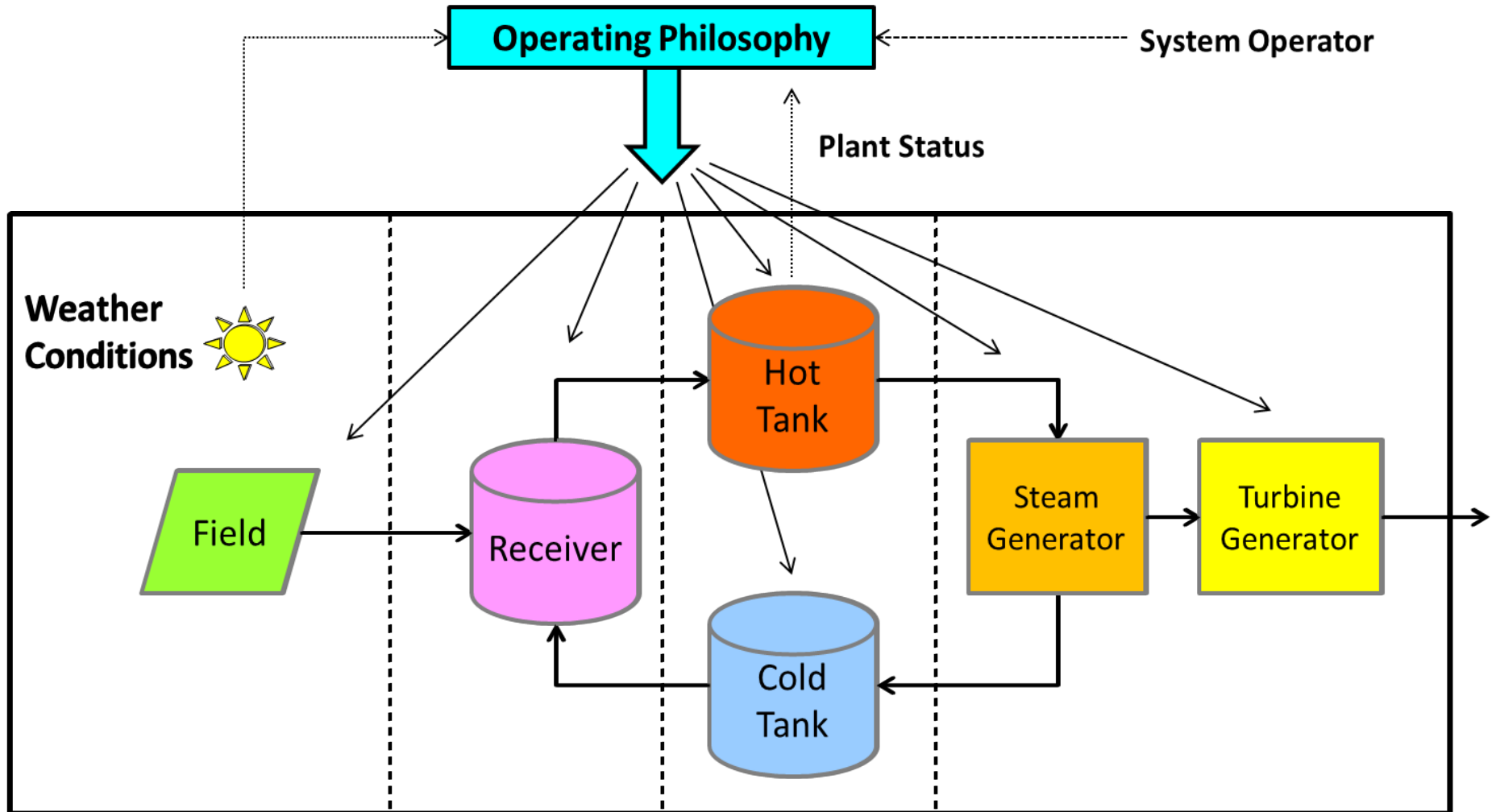


LP FWH 2 : TQ Diagram



LP FWH 1 : TQ Diagram





Thank you..





# Questions

