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Integrated adsorption-ORC system: Comparative study of four scenarios to generate cooling and power simultaneously

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Abstract

Adsorption cooling and Organic Rankine Cycle (ORC) systems are promising technologies that can be used to exploit the abundant amount of low grade heat sources such as solar energy, geothermal energy and waste heat from industrial processes. In this study, a two bed adsorption cooling cycle has been integrated with an ORC to simultaneously generate cooling and power utilising AQSOA-ZO2 (SAPO-34)/water and silica-gel/water as adsorption working pairs and R245fa, R365mfc and R141b as ORC working fluids. Four different scenarios of integrated adsorption-ORC system have been investigated, where in the first three scenarios, adsorption system is set up as a topping system, while ORC is set up as a bottoming system. The first one utilized the waste heat of adsorption to power the ORC system with no additional heat and named as Adsorption Heat Recovery Scenario (AHRS). In the second scenario the adsorption return heating fluid is used to power the ORC system (Return Adsorption Heating Fluid Scenario RAHFS). In the third scenario (Heat Exchanger Scenario HES), the cooling and heating sources leaving the adsorption system enter a heat exchanger, where additional heat can be added to the cooling fluid in order to power the ORC system. In the fourth scenario (Return ORC Heating Fluid Scenario RORCHFS), the ORC is considered to be as a topping system, while the adsorption system considered as bottoming system and the return ORC heating fluid can be used to power the adsorption cycle. Results show that when using AHRS, the integrated adsorption -ORC system can achieved system efficiency of 70% using silica-gel/water and R141b and 60% using SAPO-34/water and R141b. In addition, the maximum Specific Power (SP) and Specific Cooling Power (SCP) can be achieved utilising SAPO-34 and R141b with values of 208 W/kg\textsubscript{ads} and 616 W/kg\textsubscript{ads} respectively. This work highlights the potential of using integrated adsorption cooling system and ORC to generate cooling and power simultaneously.

Keywords Adsorption, ORC, Cooling and power generation, AQSOA-ZO2 (SAPO-34), Silica-gel

Nomenclature Adsorption, ORC, Cooling and power generation, AQSOA-ZO2 (SAPO-34), Silica-gel

Symbols

\begin{itemize}
  \item $A$ adsorption potential, J/mole
  \item $A_r$ area, m\(^2\)
  \item $c_p$ specific heat capacity, J/kg.K
  \item $k_o$ empirical constant in Eq. (6), 1/s
  \item $E_a$ activation energy, J/kg
  \item $H$ enthalpy, J/kg
  \item $H_{lg}$ evaporation latent heat J/kg
  \item $M$ mass, kg
  \item $m$ mass flow rate, kg/s
  \item $P$ pressure, Pa
  \item $Q_{st}$ isosteric heat of adsorption, J/kg
  \item $R$ gas constant, J/kg.K
  \item $R_p$ adsorbent practice radius, m
  \item $U$ overall heat transfer coff., W/m\(^2\)K
  \item $W$ power generated W
  \item $SP$ specific power generated W/kg\textsubscript{ads}
  \item $SCP$ specific cooling power W/kg\textsubscript{ads}
  \item $t$ time, s
  \item $T$ temperature, K
  \item $x$ adsorption uptake, kg/kg\textsubscript{ads}
  \item $x_{eq}$ equilibrium uptake, kg/kg\textsubscript{ads}
  \item $\rho$ density kg/m\(^3\)
  \item $\varphi$ flag
\end{itemize}

Subscript

\begin{itemize}
  \item $\text{ads.a}$ adsorbent
  \item $\text{ads}$ adsorption
  \item $\text{bed}$ adsorbent bed
  \item $\text{chill}$ chilled water
  \item $\text{des}$ desorption
  \item $\text{eff}$ effective
  \item $\text{evap}$ evaporator
  \item $f$ liquid
  \item $g$ gas
  \item $i$ adsorption/desorption
  \item $\text{in}$ inlet
  \item $j$ cooling / heating source
  \item $o$ outlet
  \item $\text{ref}$ refrigerant
  \item $r$ ratio
  \item $\text{cond}$ condenser
  \item $w$ water
1. Introduction

As population has grown significantly during last century, millions of people who live in developing countries still lack to access to secure electricity grids and the problem becomes worse in hot countries where a large amount of power is needed for air conditioning. In addition, using conventional fossil fuels has a negative impact on the environment issue such as global warming and the climate change which pushed more research towards a real change in the energy policy [1]. Organic Rankine cycle (ORC) used in a range of applications, including industrial waste heat recovery [2], solar thermal [3], biomass power plants [4], and geothermal [5]. Table (1) demonstrates a number literature using ORC with a range of working fluids and heat source temperatures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Working fluid</th>
<th>Evap. Temp. °C</th>
<th>ORC type</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Le et al [6]</td>
<td>R134a, R152a, R32, R744, R1270, R290, R1234yf, R1234ze(E)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Supercritical (basic and regenerative)</td>
<td>Max efficiency of 13.1% using R152a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pei et al [7]</td>
<td>R-123</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Regenerative</td>
<td>Max efficiency of 8.6%, 9.2% higher than basic efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mago et al [8]</td>
<td>R113, R245ca, R123, and isobutane</td>
<td>100-210</td>
<td>Regenerative</td>
<td>Higher first and second efficiencies than basic efficiency and lower irreversibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aljundi [9]</td>
<td>12 refrigerants</td>
<td>50–140</td>
<td>Basic with heat exchanger</td>
<td>Max efficiency of 13.36% using neo-Pentane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tchanche et al [10]</td>
<td>20 refrigerants</td>
<td>60–100</td>
<td>Solar with heat storage</td>
<td>R134a appears as the most suitable for small scale solar applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy et al [11]</td>
<td>R12, HCFC-123, HFC-134a, R717</td>
<td>277 (heat source)</td>
<td>non-regenerative</td>
<td>R-123 produces the maximum efficiencies and output with minimum irreversibility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Absorption and adsorption cooling systems utilising low grade heat sources have the advantage of being environmentally friendly. A number of researchers investigated the absorption cooling technology experimentally [12] and numerically [13], while many researchers investigated means of improving the adsorption cooling technology including different adsorption system configurations [14][15][16], various working pairs [17][18] through modelling[19][20] and experimental work [21]. However, ORC systems are capable to utilize a range of low grade heat sources and generate electricity, it shows relatively low efficiency compared to similar low grade heat utilization technologies like adsorption. In addition, air conditioning usually consumes a large amount of
electricity especially in hot countries, so it would be more practical to convert the low grade heat into cooling and electricity directly and simultaneously to enhance the overall system efficiency and reduce the energy conversion losses. Table (2) demonstrate a number of literature that use a range of technologies to generate cooling and power at the same time.

### Table 2: Technologies used for cooling and power generation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absorption technology</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Working pair/fluid</th>
<th>Source temp. °C</th>
<th>System performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vijayaraghavan, and Goswami [22]</td>
<td>Ammonia/water</td>
<td>87-207</td>
<td>Cycle efficiency increased by 25%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hasan et al [23]</td>
<td>Ammonia/water</td>
<td>57-197</td>
<td>Maximum second law efficiency of 65.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zheng et al [25]</td>
<td>Ammonia/water</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>Thermal and exergy efficiency of 24.2% and 37.3%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zhang and Lior [26]</td>
<td>Ammonia/water</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>Thermal and exergy efficiencies of 27.7% and 55.7%.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adsorption technology</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Working pair/fluid</th>
<th>Source temp. °C</th>
<th>System performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lu et al [27]</td>
<td>12 different salts/ammonia</td>
<td>100-200</td>
<td>40%-60% increase in exergy efficiency compared with Goswami cycle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jiang et al [28]</td>
<td>5 different salts/ammonia</td>
<td>100-400</td>
<td>Thermal efficiency of 15.8%, COP of 0.691 and exergy efficiency of 82%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wang et al [29]</td>
<td>PbCl2/ ammonia BaCl2/ ammonia CaCl2/ ammonia</td>
<td>100-400</td>
<td>Exergy efficiency improved by 40-60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bao et al [30]</td>
<td>MnCl2/ammonia</td>
<td>150-210</td>
<td>0.57 COP and 62% exergy efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bao et al [31]</td>
<td>CaCl2/ammonia</td>
<td>120-130</td>
<td>490 W of power and 5.4 °C of chilled water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jiang et al [32]</td>
<td>MnCl2-CaCl2-NH3</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>300 W of power and 2 kW of cooling and efficiency increases from 31.6% to 37.6%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lu et al [33]</td>
<td>12 different salts/ammonia</td>
<td>100-300</td>
<td>COP increased by 38%, electricity efficiency improved from 8% to 12% and second law efficiency reached 41%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AL-Mousawi et al [34]</td>
<td>MIL101Cr/water</td>
<td>70-90</td>
<td>Cycle efficiency increased from 47% to 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AL-Mousawi et al [35]</td>
<td>AQSOA-Z02/water MIL101Cr/water Aluminium-Fumarate/water silica-gel/water</td>
<td>80-160</td>
<td>Small-scale radial inflow turbine of 82% efficiency was designed and modelled using SAPO-34 and total system efficiency of 69% can be achieved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AL-Mousawi et al [36]</td>
<td>AQSOA-Z02/water MIL101Cr/water silica-gel/water</td>
<td>80-160</td>
<td>SP of 73 W/kgads and SCP of 681 W/kgads using AQSOA-Z02 and maximum system efficiency of 67% can be achieved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adsorption technology and ORC</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Working pair/fluid</th>
<th>Source temp. °C</th>
<th>System performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jiang et al [37]</td>
<td>CaCl2/BaCl2 and R245fa</td>
<td>&lt; 100</td>
<td>Energy and exergy efficiencies were 10.1%-13.1% and 18.5%-20.3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wang et al [38]</td>
<td>silica-gel/water and R600</td>
<td>78-98</td>
<td>1 kW of electricity and 6.3 kW of refrigeration from 15 kW of heat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A number of researchers [22-26] have investigated the production of cooling and power using absorption technology, however this technology has a number of negatives like large size, and toxicity
of ammonia. Production of cooling and power using adsorption technology was investigated by a number of researchers [27-36], via incorporating an expander in such system, however, this configuration may have a limited amount of power generation due to the relatively low refrigerant mass flow rate passing through the expander (coming from the desorber) especially when small amount of adsorbent is used.

Adsorption is an exothermic process and cooling source is needed during this process to sustain the cooling in the evaporator and during this process heat is rejected in the bed that undertaking the adsorption process. Heat recovery is one of the best proposed ways to benefit from the internal thermal energy of the adsorption cooling system itself, and improving the overall system's performance. In this point, researchers have put forward some effective means that promotes a useful use of the internal heat of the system. Wang et al. [39] experimentally studied the effect of passive heat recovery on the coefficient of performance and results show that the COPs of a two-bed chiller and a four-bed chiller have improved by as much as 38% and 25%, respectively, without any effect on their cooling capacities. Pan et al. [40] studied and compared the theoretical analysis of three heat recovery methods used in adsorption refrigeration system and results show that serial and passive heat recoveries (part type) are more optimal than circular heat recovery (complete type) when manufacture and cost are considered. Leong et al. [41] studied numerically the effect of using combined heat and mass recovery in adsorption cooling cycle and results show that the proposed cycle can increase the coefficient of performance (COP) of an adsorption cooling system by more than 47% compared to the single bed system. However, all the previous work does not cover the use of rejected heat from adsorption process to power another cycle like Organic Rankine cycle, while, some researchers [37][38] used the heat source leaving the ORC system to power the adsorption system, but again nobody used the cooling source (with heat recovery) that leaving the adsorption as a heat source for an ORC system and not all the possible
scenarios of integrating the adsorption system with ORC to generate cooling and power simultaneously were investigated, so there is still a clear gap of using adsorption cycle as a topping system, while ORC as a bottoming system, where ORC can be totally or partially powered using the heat recovered from the adsorption system which helps to enhance the overall system efficiency.

In this paper a two bed cooling adsorption system has been integrated with an ORC using four different scenarios to investigate the feasibility of generating cooling and power simultaneously utilising low grade heat sources. The system comprises of two adsorption beds, two condensers and two evaporators and an expander (turbine) using AQSOA-Z02 (SAPO-34)/water and silica-gel/water as adsorption pairs and R245fa, R365mfc and R141b as ORC working fluids.

1. Integrated ORC-adsorption system

Figure (1a) shows a schematic diagram of a basic two-bed adsorption cooling system which consists of desorber, adsorber, condenser and evaporator. As the adsorption is an exothermic process a cooling source is used to extract heat from the adsorber and sustain cooling through adsorption process which helps to desorb the refrigerant from the evaporator and generate the cooling effect. Desorption is an endothermic process, and a heat source (low grade heat source) is used to sustain heating during this process which helps to discharge the refrigerant (water vapour) from the hot bed. Then, the hot refrigerant will be cooled in the condenser to feed the evaporator with the refrigerant liquid and keep continuous cooling through the system. Figure (1b) shows the adsorption basic cycle on a P-T diagram; process 1-2 is an adsorbent isosteric heating where a low grade heat source is used and this heating is still continuous during the process 2-3’ while the valve 4 is opened, meanwhile a cold source is used during the process 3’-4’ and this cooling is still continuous during the process 4’-1 while the valve 2 is opened.
Figure 1: shows a basic two-bed adsorption cooling (a) schematic diagram (b) P-T diagram.

The basic Organic Rankine cycle (ORC) as shown in Figure (2) can be powered by a low grade heat sources such as solar energy or waste heat and it has four main processes. During process 1-2 the refrigerant liquid will be pumped to the evaporator pressure, while through process 2-3 heat is added to the evaporator from an external source (low grade heat source). During, 3-4 the refrigerant expands through an expander (turbine) where the mechanical power can be produced and finally, through 4-1 the refrigerant is cooled in the condenser.

Figure 2: Basic ORC cycle (a) schematic diagram (b) P-h diagram.
The main purpose of this study is to investigate the feasibility of producing cooling and power simultaneously by modifying the two-bed adsorption system to be integrated with an ORC system and improve the heat utilization efficiency. This study can be carried out using four proposal scenarios as listed below.

a) Adsorption Heat Recovery Scenario (AHRS): in this scenario, the two bed adsorption cooling system is powered using an external low grade heat source such as solar energy or geothermal energy to sustain the desorption process in the hot bed. While, during the adsorption process (in the cold bed) adsorption material needs to be cooled using an external cooling source to release the heat of adsorption and sustain the adsorption process and as a result it sustains the cooling effect in the evaporator which is one of the main outputs of the integrated system. In this scenario, the heat of adsorption can be recovered by the cooling source fluid and as the cooling source inlet temperature is relatively high (but still enough to cool the bed under adsorption process), the cooling source leaving the bed can be used to power an Organic Rankine cycle and generate electricity without using additional heat. Figure (3) shows the two bed adsorption system integrated with an ORC system to generate cooling and power simultaneously, where the adsorption cooling system is used as topping system and the ORC is used as bottoming system and during this scenario all valves are closed except V6 and V7 as listed in table (3).

b) Return Adsorption Heating Fluid Scenario (RAHFS): in this scenario, the cooling system is powered using an external low grade heat source such as solar energy or geothermal energy to sustain desorption process in the hot bed, while a cooling source is used to sustain the adsorption process. The adsorption cooling system is used as topping system and ORC is used as bottoming system and in this case ORC system is powered using the same low grade heat source line leaving the hot bed in the adsorption cooling system (topping system), so additional heat can consumed by the ORC system and more electricity is expected to be generated using this scenario and this is due to using
relatively high driving temperature to power the ORC system. Figure (3) shows the two
bed adsorption system integrated with an ORC system to generate cooling and power
simultaneously, where the ORC (bottoming system) is powered using the hot line (water
or pressurized water depends on the heat source temperature) leaving the adsorption
system (topping system) and during this scenario all valves are closed except V5 and V8
as shown in table (3).

(c) Heat Exchanger Scenario (HES): in this scenario, the adsorption cooling system is
powered by an external low grade heat source to drive the hot bed during desorption
process, while a cooling source is used in the cold bed. This scenario is similar to AHRS,
where again the cooling source line recovers the heat of adsorption from the cold bed
during adsorption process. This recovered heat can be partially used to power an Organic
Rankine cycle and generate electricity, where additional heat from the external heat
source is added in this scenario (by using additional heat exchanger) to enhance the
efficiency of the ORC system. Figure (3) shows that the hot line (water or pressurized
water) and the cold line leaving the adsorption system enter a heat exchanger to add
additional amount of heat from the hot line to the leaving cold line, so this heat (the
recovered heat and the additional heat) is used to power the ORC system and in this
scenario, all valves are open except V8 as shown in table (3).

d) Return ORC Heating Fluid Scenario (RORCHFS): in this scenario, the ORC system is
used as the topping system while the adsorption cooling system is used as the bottoming
system and an external low grade heat source is used to power the ORC system. The
heating fluid leaving the ORC system is used directly to power the two bed adsorption
system and as results, the integrated system (of adsorption system and ORC system) can
generate cooling and power at the same time. Figure (4) shows the integration of ORC
and adsorption cooling system using this scenario.
Table 3: Scenarios AHRS, RAHFS and HES valves situation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>V5</th>
<th>V6</th>
<th>V7</th>
<th>V8</th>
<th>V9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AHRS</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAHFS</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HES</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3: Schematic diagram of an adsorption -ORC integrated system scenarios 1, 2 and 3.

Figure 4: Schematic diagram of an adsorption -ORC integrated system scenarios 4.
2. Adsorbent materials properties

In this study AQSOA-Z02 (SAPO-34) is used and compared to silica-gel and this material is considered to be an advanced (synthetic zeolite) with a unique adsorbent performance that has been developed by MITSUBISHI PLASTIC Company using inorganic material design technology. Figure (5a) shows scanning electron microscope SEM image of AQSOA-Z02 which has solid regular cubic or brick shape with a uniform particle and it has smaller particle size compared to silica-gel. Figure (5b) shows the AQSOA-Z02 structure where, it has pore size of 0.38 nm compared to the water molecule size of 0.3 nm.

![Figure 5: (a) SEM image for AQSOA Z02, and (b)CHA structure for AQSOA Z02 [42].](image)

Figure (6) shows the measured isotherms of AQSOA-Z02 (SAPO-34)/water (experimental data from a DVS analyser) at three temperatures (25 °C, 35 °C and 45 °C) and the corresponding curve fitting lines [36]. In this figure, the experimental data is fitted to the equation that developed by Sun and Chakraborty [43] (equation 1) and a good agreement is obtained between the experimental data (dotted lines) and the predicted data (continuous lines) at all temperatures (25 °C, 35 °C and 45 °C) with maximum deviation of about ±12%. The constants obtained from this fitting are listed in table (4), while the equation is given by:

\[
x_{eq} = x_o \left[ \frac{k \left( \frac{P}{P_s} \right)^n}{1 + (K-1) \left( \frac{P}{P_s} \right)^n} \right]
\]

(1)

\[
k = a exp \left[ n \left( Q_{st} - h_{fg} \right) / RT \right]
\]

(2)
Table 4: Constants used in Equations (1) and (2) [36].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$x_0$</td>
<td>0.285</td>
<td>kg/kg$_{ads}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha$</td>
<td>1032</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Q_{st}$</td>
<td>3420</td>
<td>kJ/kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The modified Freundlich equation is used to present the adsorption isotherms of silica-gel/water [44][45][46] as:

$$x_{eq} = A(T_s) \left( \frac{p}{p_s} \right)^B(T_s)$$

Where

$$A(T_s) = A_o + A_1 T_s + A_2 T_s^2 + A_3 T_s^3$$

$$B(T_s) = B_o + B_1 T_s + B_2 T_s^2 + B_3 T_s^3$$

The constants of equations (4) and (5) are obtained from [46][47]. Adsorption and desorption is a time dependant process and are assumed to be controlled by macroscopic diffusion and the linear driving force (LDF) equation is used to define the adsorption/desorption rate as [44][45][48]

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = k_o \exp(-E_a/RT)(x_{eq} - x)$$
For AQSOA-Z02 (SAPO-34)/water, the kinetics constants of equation (6) are obtained from [49], while for silica-gel/water the values of kinetics constants used in equation (6) are: \( k_o = 1.3183 \text{ E+05 s}^{-1} \) and \( E_a = 42000 \text{ J/mole} \) [44][45].

### 3. Integrated system energy balance

The lumped model technique is used to describe the energy balance equations in the two adsorbent beds used in this study, where the adsorbent, the refrigerant and the bed materials are assumed to be at the same temperature at all time of the cycle[48][50][51].

\[
\frac{d(T_{\text{bed}})}{dt} + \left( M_a x^{\text{bed}}_t c_p \right) \frac{dx^{\text{bed}}_t}{dt} = \varphi M_a \left( \frac{dx^{\text{bed}}_t}{dt} \right) \left( Q_{st} - (\dot{m} c_p) \right) \left( T_{j,o} - T_{j,in} \right) \quad (7)
\]

Flag \( \varphi \) equals to 0 at switching time and equals to 1 at adsorption/desorption process. The first term on the left side of the equation (7) shows the internal energy change in heat exchanger material, including the fins and the tubes, while the second term represents the change in internal energy of the refrigerant (water). The first term on the right side of equation (7) represents the heat generated/rejected during the adsorption/desorption process respectively. The last term describes heat added/rejected to the coolant during the adsorption/desorption process and the bed outlet temperature is given by: [48][50]

\[
T_{j,o} = T^{\text{bed}}_t + \left( T_{j,in} - T^{\text{bed}}_t \right) \exp \left[ \frac{-(UA_{j})^{\text{bed}}}{(\dot{m} c_p)_j} \right] \quad (8)
\]

The energy balance equations for the condenser can be expressed by [51][52]

\[
\left( M_{c p}^{\text{cond}} \right) \frac{dT^{\text{cond}} \text{dt}} = \varphi H_{f,g} M_a \frac{dx^{\text{cond}}}{dt} = (\dot{m} c_p)^{\text{cond}} \left( T_{w,o} - T_{w,i} \right) - (c_p) \left( T^{\text{bed}} - T^{\text{cond}} \right) M_a \frac{dx^{\text{bed}}}{dt} \quad (9)
\]

The condenser outlet temperature is given by [51][52]

\[
T_{w,o} = T^{\text{cond}} + \left( T_{w,in} - T^{\text{cond}} \right) \exp \left[ -\frac{(UA_{w})^{\text{cond}}}{(\dot{m} c_p)^{\text{cond}}} \right] \quad (10)
\]

The energy balance in the evaporator is expressed as [51][52]
\( \frac{d\text{M}_{\text{eff}}}{dt} = \varphi H \frac{d\text{x}_{\text{bed}}}{dt} - (\dot{m}_{\text{c}})_{\text{evap}} (T_{\text{chill},o} - T_{\text{chill},i}) - (c_p)_{\text{w}} (T_{\text{cond}} - T_{\text{evap}}) \frac{d\text{x}_{\text{bed}}}{dt} \) \hspace{1cm} (11)

The outlet temperature of the chilled water can be written as \([45][52][51]\)

\[ T_{\text{chill},o} = T_{\text{evap}} + (\dot{m}_{\text{evap}}) \exp \left( \frac{-U A R}{(\dot{m} c_p)_{\text{evap}}} \right) \] \hspace{1cm} (12)

The mass balance of liquid refrigerant in the adsorption evaporator is given as \([45][48][50][51]\)

\[ \frac{d\text{M}_{\text{ref}}}{dt} = -M_a \left[ \frac{d\text{x}_{\text{des}}}{dt} + \frac{d\text{x}_{\text{ads}}}{dt} \right] \] \hspace{1cm} (13)

Heat added to the ORC evaporator \((Q_{\text{in}})\) and heat rejected in the ORC condenser \((Q_{\text{out}})\) can be written as \([53][54][55]:\)

\[ Q_{\text{in}} = \dot{m}_{\text{e,or}} c_p (T_{i\text{e,}} - T_{e,o}) \] \hspace{1cm} (14)

\[ Q_{\text{out}} = \dot{m}_{\text{c,or}} c_p (T_{\text{c,i}} - T_{\text{c,o}}) \] \hspace{1cm} (15)

In equation (14), \(\dot{m}_{\text{e,or}}\) is the mass flow rate of heating fluid (water or pressurized water) passing through the ORC evaporator which equals to the bed cooling fluid (water) mass flow in AHRS and HES, the bed heating fluid mass flow in RAHFS and to the main heat source mass flow in RORCHFS. \(T_{e,i}\) is the inlet temperature of ORC evaporator which equals to cooling fluid leaving the hot bed in AHRS, the heating fluid leaving the hot bed in RAHFS, the cooling fluid leaving the cold bed and the heat exchanger in HES and the main heat source temperature in RORCHFS, while \(T_{e,o}\) is temperature of the fluid leaving the ORC evaporator. In equation (15), \(\dot{m}_{\text{c,or}}\) is the mass flow rate of the cooling fluid (water) using to cool the ORC condenser which is constant during this study as shown in table (5), while \(T_{c,i}\) and \(T_{c,o}\) are the inlet and the outlet cooling fluid temperatures of the ORC condenser and as shown in figures (2-4) the isentropic efficiency of the ORC turbine can be given by:

\[ \eta_T = \frac{h_3 - h_4}{h_3 - h_4_s} \] \hspace{1cm} (16)

The power generated by the ORC turbine can be calculated as:

\[ W_{\text{turbine}} = \eta_{\text{turbine}} \dot{m}_{\text{ORC}} (h_3 - h_4) \] \hspace{1cm} (17)

The ORC cycle thermal efficiency can be calculated as:
253 \( \eta_{ORC} = \frac{W_{turbine} - W_{pump}}{Q_{in}} \) \hspace{1cm} (18) 

254 The power consumed in pump can be calculated as:

255 \( W_{pump} = \frac{m_{ORC}(P_2 - P_1)}{\rho_v n_{pump}} \) \hspace{1cm} (19) 

256 The overall performance of the integrated system is evaluated using the specific cooling power (SCP), specific generated power (SP), the cooling coefficient of performance (COP) and overall system efficiency as expressed in equations (20-23).

259 \( SCP = \frac{(m_{p})_{evap} \int_{0}^{t_{cycle}} (T_{chill,o} - T_{chill,i}) \, dt}{M_{f_{cycle}}} \) \hspace{1cm} (20) 

260 \( SP = \frac{\int_{0}^{t_{cycle}} m_{ORC}(h_3 - h_4) \, dt}{M_{f_{cycle}}} \) \hspace{1cm} (21) 

261 \( COP = \frac{(m_{c_p})_{evap} \int_{0}^{t_{cycle}} (T_{chill,o} - T_{chill,i}) \, dt}{(m_{c_p}) h \int_{0}^{t_{cycle}} (T_{h,o} - T_{h,i}) \, dt} \) \hspace{1cm} (22) 

262 \( system \, efficiency = \frac{(m_{c_p})_{evap} \int_{0}^{t_{cycle}} (T_{chill,o} - T_{chill,i}) \, dt + \int_{0}^{t_{cycle}} m_{ORC}(h_3 - h_4) \, dt}{(m_{c_p}) h \int_{0}^{t_{cycle}} (T_{h,o} - T_{h,i}) \, dt} \) \hspace{1cm} (23) 

4. System modelling

MATLAB Simulink software is used to simulate the integration a two bed adsorption system with an ORC system to study the feasibility of generating cooling and electricity simultaneously. The main components of the adsorption system such as beds, condenser and evaporator in addition to the ORC system are presented in a flow chart as shown in figure (7) to highlight the main steps used to solve the system equations (1-23).
5. Results and discussion

Table (5) shows the main operating conditions where the same conditions were applied for all scenarios except the cold bed temperature (48 °C for AHRS and HES) and the ORC condenser temperature (25 °C for AHRS and HES), while table (6) shows the characteristics of main components used in this study. Figure (8) shows the output of the adsorption-ORC integration system for cooling and power using AQSOA-Z02 (SAPO-34)/water as a working fluid and utilising heat source temperatures of 95 °C. The cycle can produce average cooling and power of up to 2.73 kW (using RAHFS) and 1.17 kW (using RORCHFS and R141b) respectively. Figure (9) compares the COP of adsorption cooling system and the efficiencies of ORC system and integrated adsorption-ORC system for the four proposed scenarios using a range of heat source temperatures utilising silica-gel/water as adsorption pair and R245fa, R365mfc and R141b as ORC fluids. Results show that, AHRS has the maximum integrated system efficiency of about 70% and this is because no additional heat is used in this scenario and ORC is powered only by the heat recovered from
adsorption cycle. Also HES has relatively high overall efficiencies compared to RAHFS and RORCHFS because HES is similar to AHRS, with a limited amount of additional heat that used through the heat exchanger. Figure (10) presents similar data but, using AQSOA Z02 (SAPO-34)/water as adsorption pair and again AHRS shows the highest integrated system efficiency of 60%, while HES has relatively high overall efficiencies compared to RAHFS and RORCHFS and this is for the same reason as for silica-gel/water. Figure (11) shows the SCP and SP of the integrated adsorption-ORC system for the four proposed scenarios utilising silica-gel/water and R245fa, R365mfc and R141b. Results show that, AHRS and HES show the lowest value of SCP due to using relatively high cooling source temperature and the lowest value of SP due to the relatively low pressure ratio through the ORC turbine caused by low temperature in the ORC evaporator. RAHFS shows the highest SCP of almost 432 W/kg$_{ads}$ using silica-gel because adsorption system is the topping system where more heat is applied to the adsorption beds. RORCHFS shows the highest SP of almost 169 W/kg$_{ads}$ using silica-gel and R141b with heat source temperature of 115 °C and this is due to ORC is topping system and more heat is added to the ORC evaporator in this scenario. Figure (12) presents similar data but, for AQSOA Z02(SAPO-34)/water and results show that RAHFS shows the highest SCP of almost 616 W/kg$_{ads}$ and RORCHFS shows the maximum SP of 208 W/kg$_{ads}$ using R141b and heat source temperature of 115 °C.

The four different scenarios used in this investigation can offer a range of options not only to the designers of energy systems, but also to the energy consumers. For example, in hot countries, air conditioning and refrigeration are considered to be the largest portion of the total residential energy consumption, and the proposed integrated system can be used as localized units to generate cooling and electricity simultaneously especially in the remote or off-grid areas (areas which are not connected to the national or main electricity grid), also this helps to increase the overall utilization efficiency of the low grade heat sources. AHRS is
preferable when limited amount of low grade heat source is available because this scenario can generate cooling and electricity simultaneously with high efficiency. Even though, RAHFS and RORCHFS can generate cooling and power at the same time with relatively high SP and SCP, the efficiencies of those scenarios are low compared to the efficiencies of AHRS and HES. However, if the used low grade heat source is infinite or semi-infinite like solar energy (as in many hot countries around the world) those scenarios can be more preferable. In addition, in this study energy losses through turbine and pump are considered where the efficiencies of the turbine and the pump are assumed to be 85% and 65% respectively as listed in table (5), while the energy losses through heat exchangers, pipes, and valves are neglected, because they are expected to be thermally insulated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bed heating fluid temperature °C</td>
<td>95-115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed cooling fluid temperature °C</td>
<td>48°/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condenser cooling temperature °C</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilled water temperature °C</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed hot fluid mass flow rate kg/s</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed cold fluid mass flow rate kg/s</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condenser mass flow rate kg/s</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaporator mass flow rate kg/s</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half cycle time s</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switching time s</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORC condenser temperature °C</td>
<td>25°/30</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORC condenser mass flow kg/s</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORC refrigerant mass flow kg/s</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expander (turbine) efficiency %</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump efficiency %</td>
<td>65</td>
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Table 6: System characteristics [36][56].

(a) Bed heat exchanger characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fin length m</td>
<td>172E-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fin width m</td>
<td>30E-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fin pitch m</td>
<td>1.2E-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module length m</td>
<td>450E-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of module</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. tubes/module</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube OD m</td>
<td>15.875E-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube thickness m</td>
<td>0.8E-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Adsorption condenser/evaporator characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pipe length m</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. tubes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube OD m</td>
<td>15.875E-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube thickness m</td>
<td>0.8E-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) ORC condenser/evaporator characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>No. tubes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube OD m</td>
<td>15.875E-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube thickness m</td>
<td>0.8E-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Scenario 1

- Cooling
- Power (R245fa)
- Power (R365mfc)
- Power (R141b)
Figure 8: Cooling and power generating using SAPO-34/water with heat source temperature of 95 °C.
Figure 9: Effect of using the four scenarios on COP and system efficiencies utilising silica-gel/water.
Figure 10: Effect of using the four scenarios on COP and system efficiencies utilising SAPO-34/water.
Figure 11: Effect of using the four scenarios on the SCP and SP utilising silica-gel/water.
Figure 12: Effect of using the four scenarios on the SCP and SP utilising SAPO-34/water.
6. Conclusion

A two-bed adsorption cooling system has been integrated with an Organic Rankine cycle (ORC) to generate cooling and electricity simultaneously using four different scenarios. In the first three scenarios, adsorption system is set up as a topping system, while ORC is set up as a bottoming system. The first scenario AHRS, the adsorption heat is recovered from the adsorption bed and used to power the ORC system, and in this case, no additional heat is applied. The second scenario RAHFS, the heating fluid leaving the adsorption system is used to power the ORC system. In the third scenario HES, a heat exchanged is used to add more heat from the heating source to the cooling line leaving the adsorption system to enhance the performance of the ORC. In the fourth scenario RORCHFS, the ORC system is set as a topping system, while the adsorption system is set as a bottoming system and the adsorption system is powered using the heating fluid leaving the ORC system. AQSOA-ZO2 (SAPO-34)/water and silica-gel/water have been used as adsorption working pairs, while R245fa, R365mfc and R141b have been used as an ORC working fluids. The main results of this investigation can be surmised as:

1. Integrating adsorption cooling system with ORC offers the advantage of generating cooling and power simultaneously and it can improve the overall system efficiency.

2. The four proposed scenarios offer wide-range options for energy designers and customers to use localised cooling and power generation units that utilize low grade heat sources.

3. AHRS achieved the maximum integrated system efficiency of 60% utilizing SAPO-34/water and R141b and 70% utilizing silica-gel/water and R141b.

4. RAHFS and RORCHFS achieved the maximum COP of about 0.63 and 0.53 using silica gel and SAPO-34 respectively.

5. Utilizing SAPO-34 and R141b in RORCHFS achieved the maximum specific power of 208 W/kg_{ads}, while in RAHFS they achieved the maximum specific cooling power of 616 W/kg_{ads}.

6. Using heat exchanger in HES can slightly increase the ORC efficiency and SP, but decrease the integrated system efficiency compared to AHRS because of using additional heat.

Acknowledgement

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References


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