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A VARIATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR OPTIMAL DESIGN AND CONTROL OF THERMAL SYSTEMS

Design and control of thermal systems still relies on empirical models and trial & error procedures



Complex multiphase heat and mass transfer without a solid theoretical background



Variational principles of nonequilibrium thermodynamics may indicate the stability of dissipative processes

Internal Entropy production **d**_e**S** Entropy variation across boundaries

 $\frac{\overline{d_i S}}{dt} = \sum_j J_j X_j \ge \mathbf{0}$

"For Linear nonequilibrium processes Entropy production is a Lyapunov function ensuring stability out of equilibrium"





CONCLUSIONS

This research demonstrates the possibility of developing a general mathematical framework for the theoretical representation of the fundamental processes of thermal systems through the variational principles of nonequilibrium thermodynamics.



Research developments and applications

Integrating the developed models in a modular simulation platform enables components and systems design, analysis, optimization and control, ultimately improving the digitalization of these technologies and realizing total energy management.