

# Reheat Rankine Cycle Problems With Solutions

**Reheat Rankine Cycle Problems with Solutions** Understanding the reheat Rankine cycle is crucial for engineers and students involved in thermodynamics and power plant design. This cycle enhances the efficiency of thermal power plants by reheating the steam between turbine stages, reducing moisture content and turbine blade erosion. However, analyzing and solving problems related to the reheat Rankine cycle can be complex due to the multiple processes involved. This article provides comprehensive solutions to common reheat Rankine cycle problems, guiding you through calculations, thermodynamic analysis, and troubleshooting techniques.

## Overview of the Reheat Rankine Cycle

Before diving into problem-solving, it's essential to understand the fundamental components and processes of the reheat Rankine cycle.

### Cycle Components

The reheat Rankine cycle consists of:

1. Boiler (Steam Generator)
2. High-Pressure Turbine (HPT)
3. Reheater
4. Low-Pressure Turbine (LPT)
5. Condenser
6. Feedwater Pump

### Cycle Processes

The cycle involves:

1. Water is pumped to high pressure.
2. Water is heated in the boiler to produce high-pressure superheated steam.
3. Steam expands in the HPT, producing work.
4. Steam is reheated in the reheater to increase its temperature.
5. Reheated steam expands in the LPT, producing additional work.
6. Steam condenses in the condenser, returning to the liquid phase.
7. Liquid water is pumped back to the boiler, completing the cycle.

# Common Problems in Reheat Rankine Cycle and Their Solutions

## Problem 1: Calculating Cycle Efficiency

Scenario: Given the inlet and outlet conditions at various points in the cycle, determine the thermal efficiency of the reheat Rankine cycle. Solution Steps:

1. Identify key state points:
  1. States 1 & 2: Pump inlet and outlet
  2. States 3 & 4: Boiler inlet and outlet (before reheating)
  3. States 5 & 6: After reheating, turbine inlet and outlet
  4. State 7: Condenser outlet (liquid water)
2. Use steam tables or Mollier charts to find properties at each state:
  1. Specific enthalpy ( $h$ )
  2. Specific entropy ( $s$ )
  3. Temperature ( $T$ )
3. Calculate work done by turbines:
  1. Work by HPT:  $(W_{\text{HPT}} = h_3 - h_4)$
  2. Work by LPT:  $(W_{\text{LPT}} = h_5 - h_6)$
4. Calculate work input to pump:
  1. Work input:  $(W_{\text{pump}} = h_2 - h_1)$
5. Determine heat added in boiler and reheater:
  1. Heat in boiler:  $(Q_{\text{in,boiler}} = h_3 - h_2)$
  2. Heat in reheater:  $(Q_{\text{in,reheat}} = h_5 - h_4)$
6. Calculate net work output:  $[W_{\text{net}} = (W_{\text{HPT}} + W_{\text{LPT}}) - W_{\text{pump}}]$
7. Compute thermal efficiency:  $[\eta = \frac{W_{\text{net}}}{Q_{\text{in,boiler}} + Q_{\text{in,reheat}}}]$

Example: Suppose the following data (hypothetical values): - State 2: Saturated liquid at 10 MPa - State 3: Superheated steam at 10 MPa, 500°C - State 4: After expansion in HPT - State 5: Reheated to 500°C at 2 MPa - State 6: After LPT expansion - State 7: Saturated liquid at condenser pressure (0.01 MPa) Plugging these into steam tables yields enthalpy values, which then allow calculation of efficiencies.

## Problem 2: Determining Reheat Pressure for Maximum Efficiency

Scenario: Given a fixed boiler and condenser pressure, determine the optimal reheat pressure that maximizes cycle efficiency. Solution Approach:

1. Understand that increasing reheating pressure reduces moisture content at the final turbine stages but may decrease efficiency beyond an optimal point.
2. Set up a parametric analysis:

1. Vary reheat pressure from near boiler pressure up to condenser pressure.
2. At each reheat pressure, perform the cycle efficiency calculation as in Problem 1.
3. Plot efficiency versus reheat pressure to identify the maximum point.
4. Use thermodynamic software or iterative calculations to refine the optimal reheat pressure.

Key considerations: - Higher reheat pressure improves turbine work but may reduce efficiency if too high. - Lower reheat pressure increases reheating benefits but may cause excessive moisture and blade erosion.

### Problem 3: Calculating the Work Output and Heat Transfer in Reheat Cycle

Scenario: Given specific inlet conditions, find the total work output and heat transfer rates in the cycle. Solution:

1. Gather known data:
  1. Steam pressure and temperature at each state
  2. Mass flow rate of steam
2. Calculate enthalpy at each state using steam tables.
3. Determine work done by turbines:
  1.  $(W_{HPT} = \dot{m} (h_3 - h_4))$
  2.  $(W_{LPT} = \dot{m} (h_5 - h_6))$
4. Calculate heat added:
  1. In boiler:  $(Q_{in,boiler} = \dot{m} (h_3 - h_2))$
  2. In reheater:  $(Q_{in,reheat} = \dot{m} (h_5 - h_4))$
5. Determine net work output:  $[ W_{net} = W_{HPT} + W_{LPT} - W_{pump} ]$
6. Calculate thermal efficiency:  $[ \eta = \frac{W_{net}}{Q_{in,boiler} + Q_{in,reheat}} ]$

### Problem 4: Addressing Moisture Content and Blade Erosion

Scenario: High moisture content at the turbine exit leads to blade erosion, reducing turbine lifespan. How does reheat pressure influence moisture content? Solution:

1. Identify the moisture content at the turbine exit using steam tables or Mollier charts at different reheat pressures.
2. Understand that increasing reheat pressure generally reduces moisture content because:
  1. Steam remains superheated longer
  2. Less moisture is produced during expansion
3. Calculate moisture content:  $[ \text{Moisture Content} = \frac{\text{Quality (x)}}{100} ]$   
where quality is derived from enthalpy values.
4. Adjust reheat pressure to balance between cycle efficiency and turbine blade protection.

# Additional Tips for Solving Reheat Rankine Cycle Problems

1. Always use accurate and up-to-date steam tables or software for property data.
2. Be mindful of units—convert all data to consistent units before calculations.
3. Understand the thermodynamic relationships between enthalpy, entropy, and temperature.
4. Use graphical methods such as T-s diagrams for visualizing cycle processes.
5. Validate calculations with simplified assumptions and cross-checks.

## Conclusion

Reheat Rankine cycle problems are integral to optimizing thermal power plants for maximum efficiency

Reheat Rankine Cycle Problems with Solutions are fundamental to understanding advanced thermal power plant efficiency improvements. The reheat Rankine cycle is an extension of the basic Rankine cycle, designed to enhance the thermal efficiency and power output of steam power plants by reheating the steam after partial expansion. This process involves complex thermodynamic calculations and problem-solving skills, making it a crucial subject for students and professionals in thermodynamics and power engineering. In this comprehensive review, we will delve into the common types of problems associated with reheat Rankine cycles, explore detailed solutions, and discuss the key concepts that underpin these calculations. Our goal is to provide clarity and confidence in tackling reheat cycle problems through systematic approaches, illustrative examples, and critical insights.

## Understanding the Reheat Rankine Cycle

Before diving into problem-solving, it's essential to grasp the fundamental working principles of the reheat Rankine cycle.

### Basic Concept

The reheat Rankine cycle involves:

- Heating water in a boiler to produce high-pressure, high-temperature steam.
- Expanding the steam in a high-pressure turbine to do work.
- Reheating the steam in the boiler to a higher temperature.
- Expanding the reheat steam in a low-pressure turbine for additional work.
- Condensing the exhaust steam to complete the cycle.

This process reduces moisture content at the final stages, improves efficiency, and increases power output.

### Key Components

- Boiler with reheating chamber - High-pressure turbine (HPT) - Reheater - Low-pressure turbine (LPT) - Condenser - Feedwater heater and pump (optional for regenerative cycles)

# Common Problems in Reheat Rankine Cycle

Problems typically involve calculating: - Work output - Cycle efficiency - Heat transfer rates - Quality of steam at various points - Specific work of turbines and pumps - Effect of different parameters on cycle performance Let's explore typical problem types and their solutions.

## Problem Type 1: Basic Reheat Cycle Analysis

### Problem Statement

A reheat Rankine cycle operates with the following data: - Boiler pressure: 8 MPa - Reheat pressure: 0.1 MPa - Turbine inlet temperature: 550°C - Condenser pressure: 0.01 MPa - Isentropic efficiencies of turbines and pump: 85% Calculate: a) The net work output per kg of steam. b) The thermal efficiency of the cycle.

### Solution Approach

1. Identify key states and draw the T-s diagram. 2. Use steam tables to find enthalpies and entropy at each key point. 3. Calculate turbine work in both expansion stages. 4. Calculate reheating process details. 5. Determine net work and efficiency.

### Step-by-Step Solution

Step 1: State 1 (after pump) -  $P_1 = 0.01$  MPa (condenser pressure) - Assuming liquid water,  $h_1 \approx 191$  kJ/kg  
Step 2: State 2 (after pump) - Pump work:  $W_p = v \Delta P$  - Approximate  $v \approx 0.001$  m<sup>3</sup>/kg -  $W_p = 0.001 (8 - 0.01) \times 10^3 = 7.99$  kJ/kg - Enthalpy after pump:  $h_2 \approx h_1 + W_p \approx 191 + 8 \approx 199$  kJ/kg  
Step 3: State 3 (after boiler heating, before expansion) -  $P_3 = 8$  MPa -  $T_3 \approx 550^\circ\text{C}$  (given) - From superheated steam tables:  $h_3 \approx 3460$  kJ/kg -  $s_3 \approx 6.78$  kJ/kg·K  
Step 4: Expansion in high-pressure turbine (State 3 to 4) - Isentropic expansion:  $s_{4s} = s_3$  - At  $P_4 =$  Reheat pressure (0.1 MPa), find  $h_{4s}$  from steam tables with  $s = 6.78$  - From tables: - At 0.1 MPa, saturated vapor entropy  $s_g \approx 7.36$  - Since  $s_{4s} = 6.78$ , the steam is superheated at 0.1 MPa with  $h_{4s} \approx 2670$  kJ/kg - Actual turbine work:  $W_{t1} = h_3 - h_4$  - Adjust for isentropic efficiency:  $W_{t1} = \eta_t (h_3 - h_{4s}) = 0.85 (3460 - 2670) = 0.85 \times 790 \approx 672$  kJ/kg - Enthalpy at state 4:  $h_4 \approx h_{4s} + \frac{(h_{4s})^{\text{actual}} - h_{4s}}{\eta_t}$  (approximate) - For simplicity, take  $h_4 \approx 2670$  kJ/kg  
Step 5: Reheating process (State 4 to 5) - Reheat steam at 0.1 MPa to  $T \approx 550^\circ\text{C}$  - Enthalpy  $h_5 \approx 3460$  kJ/kg  
Step 6: Expansion in low-pressure turbine (State 5 to 6) - Isentropic expansion from 0.1 MPa to condenser pressure:  $s_6 = s_5$  (assuming ideal) -  $s_5 \approx 6.78$  -  $h_6$  found from steam tables at  $P=0.01$  MPa and  $s=6.78$ :  $h_6 \approx 2590$  kJ/kg - Actual work:  $W_{t2} = \eta_t (h_5 - h_6) = 0.85 (3460 - 2590) \approx 0.85 \times 870 \approx 739.5$  kJ/kg  
Step 7: Condensation - Exhaust steam at state 6 enters condenser,

condenses to saturated liquid. Step 8: Calculate net work and efficiency - Total turbine work:  $W_t = W_{t1} + W_{t2} \approx 672 + 739.5 = 1411.5 \text{ kJ/kg}$  - Pump work  $W_p \approx 8 \text{ kJ/kg}$  - Net work:  $W_{net} = W_t - W_p \approx 1411.5 - 8 \approx 1403.5 \text{ kJ/kg}$  - Heat added in boiler and reheater:  $Q_{in} = h_3 - h_2 + h_5 - h_4 \approx (3460 - 199) + (3460 - 2670) = 3261 + 790 = 4051 \text{ kJ/kg}$  - Thermal efficiency:  $\eta = \frac{W_{net}}{Q_{in}} \approx \frac{1403.5}{4051} \approx 34.6\%$

## Problem Type 2: Effect of Reheat Pressure on Efficiency

### Problem Statement

Analyze how varying the reheating pressure from 0.1 MPa to 1 MPa affects the thermal efficiency of the cycle, assuming constant boiler pressure (8 MPa), turbine inlet temperature of 550°C, and other parameters fixed.

### Solution Approach

- The problem involves performing similar calculations at different reheating pressures. - For each pressure, determine the enthalpy at key points and compute efficiencies. - Use steam tables and isentropic efficiencies consistently. - Plot efficiency vs. reheating pressure to observe the trend.

### Key Insights

- Increasing reheating pressure generally improves efficiency by reducing moisture content and increasing work output. - However, practical limits exist due to equipment constraints and diminishing returns.

## Features and Pros/Cons of Reheat Rankine Cycle Problems

Features: - Emphasize understanding thermodynamic properties using steam tables. - Require careful state point identification. - Involve multiple steps with iterative calculations. - Often include efficiency optimization. Pros: - Enhance comprehension of real-world power plant cycles. - Develop problem-solving skills in thermodynamics

## Questions & Answers About reheat rankine cycle problems with solutions

| No | Question | Answer |
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|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What are common issues encountered when reheat Rankine cycle problems, and how can they be addressed?                 | Common issues include incorrect calculation of enthalpy at various points, improper handling of reheating processes, and neglecting pressure drops. These can be addressed by carefully applying thermodynamic tables or software, ensuring proper application of the first law, and accounting for irreversibilities and pressure losses in calculations.                                                                   |
| 2 | How do you determine the work output in a reheat Rankine cycle problem?                                               | The work output is calculated by subtracting the total work input (such as pump work) from the total work output (main turbine and reheat turbine work). This involves finding enthalpy differences across turbines and pumps using steam tables or Mollier diagrams and applying the formula: $W_{net} = (h_1 - h_2) + (h_3 - h_4) - (\text{pump work})$ .                                                                  |
| 3 | Why is reheating used in Rankine cycles, and how does it impact the cycle efficiency in problem analysis?             | Reheating is used to increase the cycle efficiency by expanding the steam in multiple stages, reducing moisture content at turbine exit, and allowing higher overall thermal efficiency. In problem analysis, it involves calculating the intermediate reheat state, which typically results in higher net work output and efficiency compared to simple Rankine cycles.                                                     |
| 4 | What are the key steps involved in solving a reheat Rankine cycle problem with a reheating process?                   | Key steps include: 1) Identifying all state points and given data; 2) Calculating initial enthalpies and pressures; 3) Analyzing the high-pressure turbine expansion; 4) Determining reheat conditions after the reheating process; 5) Calculating the low-pressure turbine expansion; 6) Computing work outputs, heat addition, and cycle efficiency; 7) Ensuring energy balances are maintained throughout.                |
| 5 | How do pressure and temperature conditions at various points influence the solution of reheat Rankine cycle problems? | Pressure and temperature conditions determine the enthalpy and entropy at each state, which directly affect work and heat transfer calculations. Accurate data at each point are essential for precise analysis, and changes in these conditions impact the cycle's efficiency and work output, making their correct determination crucial in problem-solving.                                                               |
| 6 | Can you explain how to evaluate the thermal efficiency of a reheat Rankine cycle with a problem example?              | Thermal efficiency is evaluated as $\eta = (\text{net work output}) / (\text{total heat input})$ . First, calculate the work done by turbines and the work consumed by the pump, then find the total heat input during boiler and reheater heating processes using enthalpy differences. Finally, divide the net work by total heat input to find the cycle's efficiency, as demonstrated in step-by-step problem solutions. |

Reheat Rankine cycle, Rankine cycle problems, thermal efficiency, steam turbine, reheat process, cycle analysis, thermodynamics problems, cycle solutions, heat transfer, power plant calculations