Optimization of circulation and climate by Using Thermodynamic

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Abstract: The constructal law of generation of flow structure is used to predict the main features of global circulation and climate. The flow structure is the atmospheric and oceanic circulation. This feature is modelled as convection loops, and added to the earth model as a heat engine heated by the Sun and cooled by the background. It is shown that the dissipation of the power produced by the earth engine can be maximized by selecting the proper balance between the hot and cold zones of the Earth, and by optimizing the thermal conductance of the circulation loops. The optimized features agree with the main characteristics of global circulation and climate. The robustness of these predictions, and the place of the constructal law as a self-standing principle in thermodynamics, are discussed.

Keywords: Constructal theory; climate; global circulation; thermodynamic optimization

1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to establish the connection between two domains: the climate models that have been developed ad hoc in geophysics, and the heat engine models that have been developed ad hoc for wind power calculations in thermodynamics. Both domains are very active, voluminous ,and established} to review them is not the objective. The connection is made on the basis of constructal theory(Bejan,1997,2000;Bejanetal.,2004), which is the thought that thermodynamic systems far from equilibrium (flow systems) construct flow architectures with purpose: the maximization of global system performance subject to global constraints. The purpose of making the connection is to eliminate the 'adhoc' from both fields, and to show that a single principle rules all the model optimizations that have been demonstrated so far.

This connection is important because atmospheric and oceanic circulation is the largest flow system on Earth, and because the implications of the theoretical success demonstrated in the two domains are great. In geophysics, the invocation of a principle of maximization of entropy generation rate has been recognized as a 'law of maximum entropy production which follows deductively from the second law of thermodynamics' (Swenson, 1989). If that were the case, the principle invoked in geophysics is at best a theorem, not a new law. More recent work on constructal theory (Bejan, 2000) suggests that the principle is indeed a self-standing law. The emergence of globally optimized flow architectures in all classes of flow systems (animate, inanimate, engineered) is a universal phenomenon (Bejan, 2000).

Climate models based on the maximization of entropy generation rate began with Malkus'(1954)hypothesis that in Be!nard convection the overall heat transferrate is maximized through the selection of flow pattern. Examples and reviews are available in (Lorenz, 1955;Paltridge,1975, 1978; Schulman, 1977; North, 1981; Lin, 1982;Lorenz et al., 2001). The connection between this hypothesis and constructal theory was noted in Nelson and Bejan (1998), where the constructal principle delivered all the known characteristics of Be!nard flow and heat transfer,in fluids as well as fluid-saturated porous media. In this paper, constructal theory is extended to the problem of atmospheric and oceanic circulation driven by heating from the sun.

The method consists of viewing the Sun-Earth-Universe assembly as an extra terrestrial power plant the power output of which is used for the purpose of forcing the atmosphere and hydrosphere to flow. The power plant models that have been proposed and optimized are listed chronologically in (Bejan, 1988;Gordon and Zarmi, 1989;De Vos, 1992; De Vos and Flater,1991;DeVosandVanderWel,1993).Aspaceship,ortheEarth,maybeviewedasaclosed

system having two surfaces, a hot surface of area AH and temperature TH; which is heated by the Sun, and a cold surface \eth AL; TL \beth cooled by radiation to the Universe. On a spaceship, the collector \eth AH \beth and radiator \eth AL \beth are the object of design(Bejan,1988). In the modeling of wind generation on Earth, the surfaces AH and AL represent the daily illuminated and dark hemispheres (Gordon and Zarmi, 1989; De Vos, 1992; De Vos and Flater, 1991), or the time-averaged equatorial and polar zones (De Vos, 1992; De Vos and Van der Wel, 1993). In all cases, the total radiation heat transfer surface is fixed,

$A_{\rm H}$ $bA_{\rm L}$ 1 ^{4}A 8 1 4

Global constraints of this type play a central role in constructal theory. In all the power plantmodels (Bejan, 1988; Gordon and Zarmi, 1989; De Vos, 1992; De Vos and Flater, 1991; De Vosand Van der Wel, 1993) it was found that the power output can be maximized by selecting two parameters, the are a fraction $\eth AH = AP$; and the position of the power plant on the thermodynamic temperature scale, for example, the temperature TH:

Thermodynamic optimization authors (Bejan, 1988; Gordon and Zarmi, 1989; De Vos, 1992;De Vos and Flater, 1991; De Vos and Van der Wel, 1993) are unaware of the use of similar principles in geophysics. At the same time, geophysics authors (Lorenz et al., 2001) continue to be unaware of the thermodynamics literature. To bring these two research worlds together is one of the objectives of this paper. To begin with, none of the power plant models dedicated to the generation of wind on Earth (Bejan, 1988; Gordon and Zarmi, 1989; De Vos, 1992; De Vosand Flater,1991;DeVosandVanderWel,1993)have accounted for natural convection}the mechanism by which the generated power is dissipated into heat by the movement of the atmosphere and the oceans. This mechanism is the new feature that the present paper adds to the power plant models that have been proposed. The mechanism has been recognized before, not only in the modelling of atmospheric dynamics (Lin, 1982; Lorenz et al., 2001), but also in the description of natural convection itself. See, for example, p.111 in(Bejan,1984). . .the convection loop is equivalent to the cycle executed by the working fluid in a heat

engine. In principle, this heat engine cycle should be capable of delivering useful work.

If we insert a propeller in the stream: this is the origin of 'wind power' discussed nowadays in connection with the harnessing of solar work indirectly from the atmospheric heat engine loop. In the absence of work-collecting devices, the heat engine cycle drives its working fluid fast enough sothat its entire work output potential is dissipated by friction in the brake at the interface between what moves and what does not move'.

EARTH MODEL WITH NATURAL CONVECTION LOOPS:

The main features of the model are illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. The surface temperature is time independent. It is averaged over the daily and annual cycles, and is represented by two

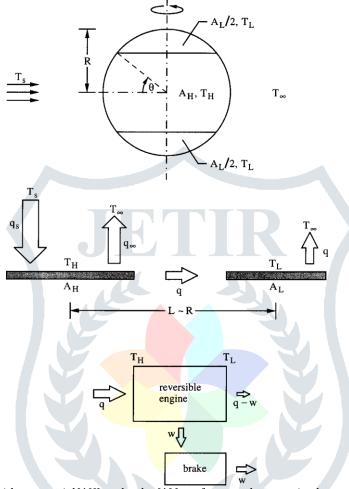


Figure 1. Earth model with equatorial(AH) and polar(AL) surfaces, and convective heat current between them.

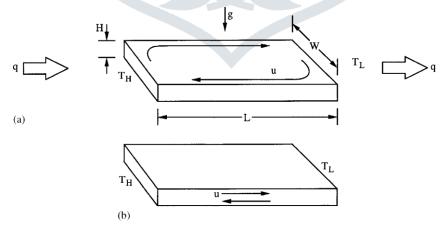


Figure 2. Natural convection loops in a fluid layer connecting the equatorial and polar surfaces.

Temperatures ðTH; TL Þ that correspond to the equatorial and polar zones ðAH; ALÞ: This surface model and radiation heat transfer calculations are the same as in De Vos (1992) and De Vos and VanderWel(1993). The equatorial surface receives the solar heat current

$$q_s$$
 VA_{Hp} $\delta 1 - \mathbf{r} \delta f$ $\mathbf{r} f$ $\delta 2 \mathbf{p}$

where Ts, s, f and r are the temperature of the Sun as a black body (5762 K), the Stefan–Boltzmann constant (5.67 \times 10—8 W m—2 K—4), the Earth–Sunview factor (2.16 \times 10—5), and the albedo of the Earth (0.3). The area AHp is the area AH projected on a plane perpendicular tothedirection Earth–Sun. The ratio AHp/AH decreases from 1/p when AH is an arrow belt along the equator, to 1 when AH covers the globe almost completely. For simplicity, we adopt the approximation AHp/AH=1; which is independent of the variable area fraction x $\frac{1}{4}$ AH=A: This approximation is permissible in view of the order-of-magnitude an $\frac{1}{4}$ lysis of the natural convection part of the model.

The AH surface radiates into space the heat current

$$q_1 \ \text{NA}_H \ \text{0.1-g} \ \text{ss} \ T^4$$
 H \dd 33b

Where $g\frac{1}{4}$ 0:4 is the Earth's green house factor, or the reflectance in the infrared region (DeVosand Flater, 1991). The difference between qs and q1 is convected over the Earth's surface, from AH to AL,

And it is finally transmitted by radiation to the cold background,

$$q\%A_{\rm L}$$
01 — gbs T^4 050 _L

Equations (3) and (5) have been simplified by neglecting T4 in favour of T4 and T4; where T1=3 K is the temperature of the background, and by considering the Earth emissivity equal to unity. By combining Equations (1)–(5) with the notation $x^{1/4}$ AH=A; we obtain

Where B is nearly constant,

The heat current q is driven from TH to TL by the buoyancy effect in the layer of fluid that covers the Earth's surface. In the following derivation of the q formula we neglect factors of order 1, in accordance with the rules of scale analysis (Bejan, 1984). The fluid layer covers an area of flow length L ov RP and width W ov RP; where R is the Earth's radius. The vertical length scale of the fluid layer, H, will be defined shortly. The length L bridges the gap between TH and TL. At the TH-end of the fluid layer, the hydrostatic pressure at the bottom of the layer is rHgH. Similarly, at the TL-end the pressure is rLgH. The pressure difference in the L direction is

$$DP_{VX_L} - r_{Hg}H_{V}rb(T_H - T_L)gH(8)$$

Where r is the mean fluid density, and b is the coefficient of volumetric thermal expansion.

The fluid-layer control volume is exposed to the force DPWH in the L direction. This force is opposed by the shear force felt by the moving fluid over the surface LW,

D*PWH*¹/4t*LW*891

The average shear stress is

where eM is the eddy diffusivity for momentum, and u is the velocity in the L direction. For the order of magnitude of eM we use Prandtl's mixing length model (e.g., Bejan, 1984, p. 236), in which we take H to represent the mixing length,

$$\underset{\mathbf{M}}{\mathbf{e}}$$
 $\frac{1}{4}H^{2}$ $\frac{H}{4}$ $\frac{H}{4}$ $\frac{H}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1$

In other words, H is the vertical dimension of the fluid system that mixes (transfers momentum vertically) while moving horizontally. Note that H is not the vertical extent of the fluid layer. By eliminating DP; u and e M between Equations (8)–(11) we obtain the horizontal velocity scale

$$\operatorname{wvbg}(T_{\mathrm{H}},T_{\mathrm{L}}) \underset{L}{\operatorname{H}^{2}} \overset{1=2}{\underset{\mathrm{\delta}12b}{\longrightarrow}}$$

The convective heat transfer rate associated with the counter flow between TH and TL depends on whether the two branches of the counter flow are in intimate thermal contact. They are not if, for example, the circulation is in the plane $L \times W$; as in the case of R-scale oceanic and atmospheric currents that complete loops over large portions of the globe (Figure 2(a)). Another example is when the loop is a vertical plane aligned with the meridian, when the branches of the counter flow are far enough apart and do not exchange heat in a significant way in the vertical direction(Figure2(b)). In such cases the convective heat current is

Or ,after using Equation(12) and L v W v R;

$$q \nabla \mathbf{r} c_B \delta g \, b \delta^{1=2} \, H^2 \, R^{1=2} \delta \, T_{\text{H}} - T_{\text{L}} \, \delta^{3=2} \delta \, 1 \, 4 \, \delta$$

Table I. The effect of the heat transfer model o results

n	$w_{\rm mm}$ (W)	X _{opt}	$C_{ m n,opt}$	$T_{\rm L}({ m K})$	$T_{\rm H}({ m K})$
1	2.28×10 ⁸	0.35	1.2×10 ⁷ K ³	189.9	260.2
2	2.28×10 ⁸	0.34	$1.4 \times 10^{6} K^{5/2}$	189.5	260.5
3	2.28×10 ⁸	0.34	$1.6 \times 10^{5} K^{2}$	188.1	260.0

is known as the convective conductance in the horizontal direction, expressed per unit of horizontal (earth) area. Note that the proportionality between heat current and temperature difference in the D definition is assumed, not deduced (we return to this aspect in Section 4 and Table I). The value of D is known empirically (Lorenzetal., 2001) to be of the order of 0.6Wm—2K—1. The theoretical estimate (14) anticipates

$$Dvrc_{p} \log b b^{1-2} H^{2} R^{-3-2} \delta T_{H} - T_{H} b^{1-2} \delta 16 b$$

Which for R v 5000km, (TH-TL) v 40K, and air properties evaluated at 08 C yields

$$Dv0:14H^2km^{-2}Wm^{-2}K^{-1}\delta17b$$

This estimate agrees with the empirical D value when H is of the order of 2 km, which is a realistic transversal length scale for flows in the atmosphere. If we perform the corresponding calculation using the properties of water at 108C, then in Equation(17) the coefficient 0.14 is replaced by 70, and D matches 0.6Wm—2K—1when H is of order 100m: this length scale is Compatible with the thickness of mixing layers in the ocean.

Consider now the alternative where the two branches of the counter flow are in good thermal contact. If the counter flow is a loop in the vertical plane $L \times H$; with the warm branch flowing from TH to TL over the top, and the cold branch returning along the bottom (Figure 2(b)), then Equation(12)continues to hold, but Equation(13) is replaced by

Where DT is the top-bottom temperature difference between the two branches of the counter flow, DT5TH2TL: The temperature of the warm branch decreases from TH at the warm entrance, to TLb DTat the cold exit. The enthalpy drop in the horizontal direction is caused by the heat transfer by ed dymotion in the vertical direction, where eH is the thermal eddy diffusivity. Using again the mixing length model, eHv uH; we find tha tEquation(19) reduces to

$$-T_{\rm L} \stackrel{\rm D77_{\rm H}}{\sim} \underbrace{T_{\rm L}}_{L} 11200$$

Such that the convection current(18) becomes

$$q \mathbf{vr} c_p \log b \delta^{1-2} H^3 R^{-1-2} \delta T_H - T_L \delta^{3-2} \delta 2 1 \delta$$

$$Dvrc_{p} \delta g b \delta^{1=2} H^{3} R^{-5=2} \delta T_{H} - T_{L} \delta^{1=2} \delta 2 2 \delta$$

These estimates for q and D are less realistic because they are smaller by a factor of H=R {1 than those of Equations(14) and (16). In conclusion, the convection model with counter flow branches that are not in intimate thermal contact is more realistic. Such a counter flow poses a minimal convective resistance to heat flow in the flow direction. This feature has been encountered before. The same type of counter flow, i.e. the same minimal resistance principle was used earlier in constructal theory in the prediction of Be!nard convection (Nelson and Bejan,1998) and the optimization of cavities in walls with many horizontal partitions (Bejan,1980)(seealsoBejan,2000).

In the following analysis, we retain Equation (14) because of the test given under Equation(17). Combining Equations(14) and(5), AL¼ð1—xÞAandA¼4pR2; we arrive at

$$C_{3=2} \hbar T_{\rm H} - T_{\rm L} \hbar^{3=2} \mathbf{v} \hbar 1 - x \hbar T^4$$
 , 823b

Where the theoretical conductance is

$$C_{3-2}$$
% $\frac{\text{KG} \log b^{1-2} H^2 R^{1-2}}{4pR^2 \delta 1 - g \delta s} \text{ v2:1} \times 10^5 \text{K}^{5=2} \delta 24 \text{p}$

This C3=2 value corresponds to air at 1 at m and 08C, and the assumption that Hv2km.

In summary, the radiation–convection model reduces to Equations (6) and (23), which determine the functions TH δ x P and TL δ xP: Unlike in earlier thermodynamic optimizations (Gordon and Zarmi,1989;DeVos,1992;DeVosand Flater,1991;DeVos and Vander Wel, 1993), the only degree of freedom in this configuration is the area fraction x. Figure 3 shows theeffect of x on TH and TL. In the limit x = 1, or AH= A, the Earth's surface has a uniform temperature, 289 K. The constants B and C3=2are known, although the C3=2 estimate is not nearly as accurate as B. We may treat the convective conductance C3=2 as a parameter that accounts for the accuracy of the convection model(more on this in TableI).

The fact that the collector-radiator temperature difference ðTH2TL Þ participates in the model as ðTH2TLÞ3=2 is in agreement with the Monin-Obukhov similarity theory(PalArya,1988), provided that the vertical length scale H is replaced by the Obukhov length

where k v 0:24 is von Karman's constant. The assumption H v LO is reasonable because the Obukhov length is the scale where the atmospheric shear effects are dominant.

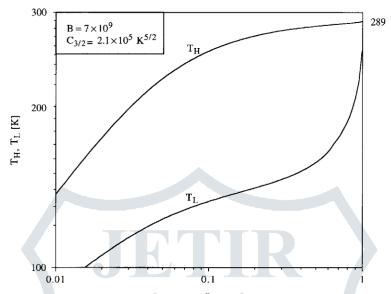


Figure 3. The effect of the area allocation fraction \hat{x} on the collector and radiator temperatures.

Inbrief, according to Monin-Obukhovtheory, the mean flow and turbulent characteristics of the Earth boundary layer depend on only four independent parameters:(i) the height z above the earth surface, (ii) the friction velocity un 1/40 t=r P1=2cf.(PalArya,1988,p.144), where un is the same as u of Equations (10) and (11), (iii) the surface kinematic heat flux q00=ðrcp Þ; and (iv)the buoyancy effectgb;org=T(cf.PalArya,1988,p.157). Buckingham's p theorem states that the only dimensionless combination of these four variables consists of z=LO and the LO group shown in Equation (25). In the analysis presented in this section we arrived at the same conclusion in a different way. The key assumption was made in Equation (9), where the effective vertical length scale(H) was taken to be the same as the thickness of the zone dominated by shear.

MAXIMIZATION OF MECHANICAL POWER DISSIPATION

The earth surface model with natural convection loops allows us to estimate several quantities that characterize the global performance of atmospheric and oceanic circulation. We pursue this from the constructal point of view, which is that the circulation itself represents a flow geometry that is the result of the maximization of global performance subject to global constraints.

The first quantity is the mechanical power that could be generated by a power plant operating between TH and TL, and driven by the heat input q. The power output(w) is dissipated by friction in fluid flow (a fluid brake system), and added fully to the heat current (qL) that the power plant rejects to TL. The power plant and the fluid brake system occupy the space shown between AH and AL in the lower part of Figure 1. Note the continuity of the heat current q through this composite system, q ¼ w b qL: The most power that the composite system could produce is associated with the reversible operation of the power plant. The power output in this limit is proportional to which is shown as a function of x in Figure 4. The w maximum is due to two competing trends. When x approaches 1, q tends to zero (see Equation (5)), the Earth's surface becomes is o thermal δ TL=TH¼1P;and the power output wise zero. In the opposite limit(x=0),TL tends to zero(see Equation (6)), and w tends to zero because q vanishes. The maximum power (wm) occurs when x opt= 0.35. This point of optimal thermodynamic operation (xopt, wm, TH, TL) is reported in Figures 5-7, where the abscissa parameter is the convective conductance C3=2; which is allowed t ovary.

The maximized power(wm) exhibits a maximum with respect to the convective conductance, as shown in Figure 6. The maximum is located at C3=2; opt¼ 1:4 × 106 K5=2 and wmm¼ 2:28×108 W: Note that the optimal convective conductance C3/2, opt exceeds by a factor of only 6 the value anticipated in Equation (24). In view of the approximate character of the simple model (radiation, Earth surface, convection) employed in this analysis (Figures 1 and 2), we conclude that the agreement between C3/2, opt and Equation(24) is correct in an order of magnitude sense. On the same basis, we speculate that the natural counter flow structure described in Figure 2 is the result of the tendency of the flow system to dissipate maximum power, such that, if suddenly left alone (in isolation), the flow system would reach equilibrium the fastest. This tendency is evidentinal I flows, and is another way of stating the constructal law(cf.Bejan,2000,Chapters5and6).

It is also possible to regard the agreement between Equation (24) and C3/2,opt as a coincidence. The reason for claiming more than a coincidence is the observation that similar coincidences are

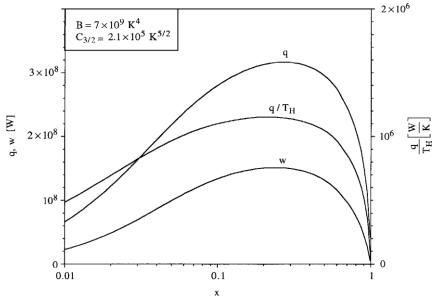


Figure4. The maximization of power output, convective heat transferrate, and convection thermal conductance, with respect to the surface allocation ratio.

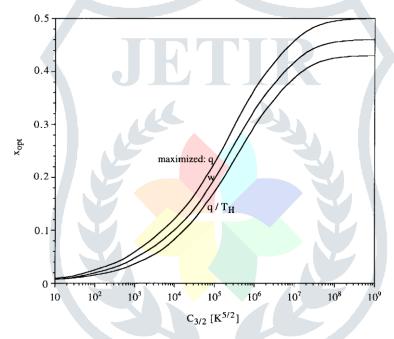


Figure 5. The optimal area allocation ratio resulting from the optimization shown in Figure 4.

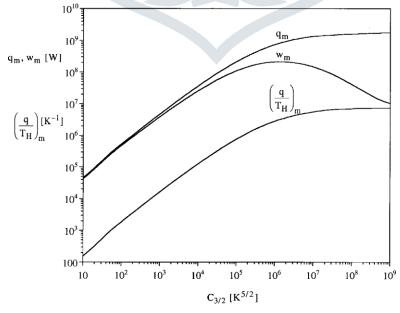


Figure 6. The maximized global performance indicator resulting from the optimizations shown in Figure 4.

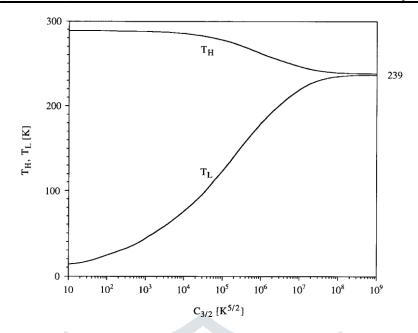


Figure 7. The temperatures of the two surfaces at the optimum summarized in Figures 5 and 6.

Occurring every time the global performance maximization principle is invoked. Examples most relevant to the present are the prediction of the flow structure and global Nusselt number for Be!nard convection(NelsonandBejan,1998) and the laminar-turbulent transition(or turbulent-laminar)in many flow configurations(Bejan,2000). The present example adds itself to the list, and suggests that global circulation and climate are covered (anticipated) by the construct allaw.

THE EFFECT OF EVAPORATION/CONDENSATION OF WATER IN THE ATMOSPHERE

Better agreement between the present theory and observed properties of atmospheric circulation is obtained if we account for the effect of latent heat in heating and cooling of humid air. In the analysis of Section2, we used only the sensible heat effect. The ratio between the sensible heat and latent heat effects in the atmosphere is known as the Bowen ratio (Bo). According to Brutsaert(1991), several Bo estimates are available and are of the same order of magnitude, for example: Budyko (Bo=5), Reichel (Bo=3.8), and Korzum et al. (Bo=5.6) (cf. (Brutsaert, 1991) p. 5). The Bo effect can be added to the preceding model by dividing the right side of Equation(14)by Bo.

CONCLUSIONS

Earlier applications of the constructal principle (Bejan, 2000) recommended it as a self-standing law that is distinct from the second law. There is nothing in classical thermodynamics to require the Carnot power to exhibit maxima with respect to geometric features such as x and C3=2:That the optimized geometric features are consistent with features observed in nature affirms the law status of the principle. It is a thermodynamic principle because it completes the thermodynamic description of flow systems under constraints. Flow and dissipation (irreversibility) must be distributed in special ways in space and time.

Figures 4–6 showed two alternatives to the maximization of power production and dissipation. One is the convective heat current (q) between the two temperature zones. The other is the ratio q=TH; which, I n view of the assumption T1{TH; is essentially the same as the thermal conductance $q=\delta TH2T1$ between two quantities can be maximized with respect to

The partitioning of the Earth's surface(x). Figure 5 shows that the optimal are a allocation ratio

Is almost the same as when w is maximized.

The difference is displayed in Figure 6: qm and (q/TH)m do not exhibit maxima with respect to the convective conductance C3=2: This makes the maximization and subsequent dissipation of power the more likely objective from the constructal point of view. Why? Because the constructal principle calls for the generation of flow architecture, and architectural features such as x opt and C3/2, opt are unambiguously a part of nature.

The robustness exhibited by xopt with respect to the optimization objective (Figure 5) is intriguing. We may ask whether rthe natural circulation model has any effecton x opt. For example, according to the simplest heat transfer model of convection, the heat current between the warm and cold regions of the earth would be proportional to the temperature difference (TH—TL), not to (TH—TL)3/2 as in Equations (14) and (21). This would replace Equation (23) with the more general statement

$$C_n \delta T_H - T_L \delta^n \mathbf{v} \delta 1 - x \delta T^4$$
 L $\delta 27 \mathbf{b}$

Where n ¼ 1 represents the simplest model, and n¼3 the convection model used in Section3.

The units of are K 2 Cn 4-n: Table I shows the results of repeating for n ¼1 and 2 the optimization work described in Section 3. The area allocation ratio and the maximized power are insensitive to the heat transfer model in the n range that can be considered reasonable. The optimized thermal conductance factor Cn;opt depends on the heat transfer model. The important feature of C n is that it can be optimized, i.e. from an infinity of possible C n values, there is one for which the global

generation and dissipation of power via organized flow is maximal.

To see why the constructal law of optimization of flow architecture is distinct from the second law, let us review the essence of thermodynamics. Thermodynamic theory was developed in order to account for the functioning and improvement f heat engines. The first law accounts for the conservation of energy, and serves as definition of energy as a concept. The second law accounts for the generation of entropy (irreversibility), on the one-way nature of currents that overcome resistances, and serves as definition of entropy as a concept.

The first law and the second law account for the functioning of a given (observed, assumed)heat engine configuration. The history of flow systems (e.g. heat engines) shows what the first law and the second law are not covering: the case-by-case increase in performance, in time. Every class of flow systems exhibits this behaviour, from river basins to animals and heat engines. Each system in its class represents a flow architecture. New flow systems coexist with old systems, but persist in time if they are better, while older systems gradually disappear.

This never-ending parade of flow systems represents the generation of flow architecture} the generation of geometric for m as the clash between objective and constraints in flow systems.

This is the phenomenon summarized in the constructal law.

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