

Utilization Of Magnesium Chloride (Mg-Cl) Cycle for Hydrogen Production of Sombrero Fusion Reactor

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Anahtar Kelimeler

SOMBRERO füzyon
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Graphical/Tabular Abstract (Grafik Özet)

In this study, neutronic analysis of the sombrero fusion reactor at different fuel ratios was performed and the amount of hydrogen production was analyzed through the Mg-Cl cycle. / Bu çalışmada sombrero füzyon reaktörünün farklı yakıt oranlarında nötronik analizi yapılmış ve hidrojen üretim miktarı Mg-Cl çevrimi yoluyla analiz edilmiştir.

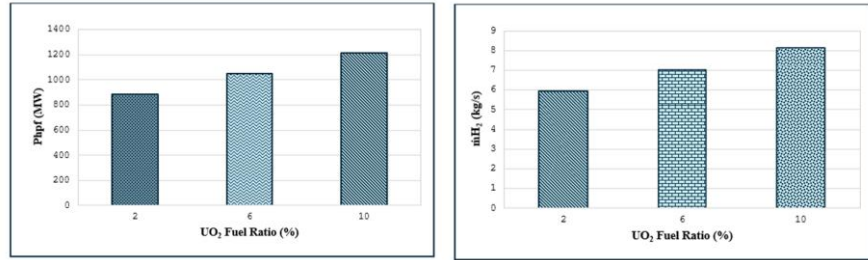


Figure A: The effect of UO₂ fuel rate on thermal power and hydrogen production /**Şekil A:** UO₂ yakıt oranının termal güce ve hidrojen üretimine etkisi

Highlights (Önemli noktalar)

- Neutronic analysis and hydrogen production analysis in the Sombrero fusion reactor. / Sombrero füzyon reaktöründe nötronik analiz ve hidrojen üretim analizi.
- Hydrogen production via magnesium chloride cycle. / Magnezyum klorür çevrimi aracılığıyla hidrojen üretimi.
- The effect of UO₂ nuclear fuel ratio on the amount of hydrogen production. / UO₂ nükleer yakıt oranının hidrojen üretim miktarına etkisi.

Aim (Amaç): Investigation of the effect of fuel ratio on hydrogen production in Sombrero fusion reactor. / Sombrero füzyon reaktöründe yakıt oranının hidrojen üretimine etkisinin araştırılması.

Originality (Özgünlük): Analyzing the hydrogen production potential at different fuel ratios in the Sombrero fusion reactor. / Sombrero füzyon reaktöründe farklı yakıt oranlarında hidrojen üretim potansiyelinin analiz edilmesi.

Results (Bulgular): The \dot{m}_{H_2} have been computed as 5,92 kg/s for 2% UO₂ fuel ratio whereas; this value has been obtained as 8,13 for 2% UO₂ fuel ratio. / %2 UO₂ yakıt oranı için \dot{m}_{H_2} 5,92103 kg/s olarak hesaplanırken; %2 UO₂ yakıt oranı için bu değer 8,12686 olarak elde edilmiştir.

Conclusion (Sonuç): As the UO₂ fuel ratio increased, the amount of hydrogen production also increased. / UO₂ yakıt oranı arttıkça hidrojen üretim miktarı da artmıştır.



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Abstract

The aim of this study is to investigate the hydrogen production potential of the magnesium chloride (Mg-Cl) cycle in the SOMBRERO fusion reactor. Three different percentages of UO₂ nuclear fuel, namely 2%, 6% and 10%, have been used while keeping the fuel zone thickness constant. The performance of the SOMBRERO fusion reactor has been considered statically. The neutronic calculations have performed with Monte Carlo neutron transport code. Firstly, it has been determined that the tritium breeding ratio (TBR) and energy multiplication factor (M) values depends on neutronicly. Secondly, the amount of hydrogen production with by using energy multiplication factor (M) have been performed. The highest hydrogen production has been obtained as 8,12687 kg/s for 10% UO₂ fuel ratio.

SOMBRERO Füzyon Reaktörünün Hidrojen Üretiminde Magnezyum Klorür (Mg-Cl) Döngüsünün Kullanımı

Makale Bilgisi

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Öz

Bu çalışmanın amacı SOMBRERO füzyon reaktöründe magnezyum klorür (Mg-Cl) döngüsünün hidrojen üretim potansiyelini incelemektir. Yakıt bölgesi kalınlığı sabit tutularak %2, %6 ve %10 olmak üzere üç farklı UO₂ nükleer yakıt yüzdesi kullanılmıştır. SOMBRERO füzyon reaktörünün performansı statik olarak değerlendirilmiştir. Nötronik hesaplamalar Monte Carlo nötron transport kodu yardımıyla yapılmıştır. Öncelikle trityum üretim oranı (TBR) ve enerji çoğaltım faktörü (M) değerlerinin nötronik olarak hesaplanmıştır. İkinci olarak enerji çoğaltım faktörü (M) kullanılarak hidrojen üretimi miktarı araştırılmıştır. En yüksek hidrojen üretimi %10 UO₂ yakıt oranında 8,12687 kg/s olarak elde edilmiştir

1. INTRODUCTION (GİRİŞ)

With the increasing demand for energy today, the environmental impact of the methods used to generate the necessary energy is also on the rise. The interest in renewable energy has consequently surged. Hydrogen is a clean energy sources in meeting this energy demand [1]. The idea of nuclear hydrogen production, which aims to utilize the heat generated in nuclear reactors more efficiently, has emerged as a result. There are many studies in the literature on this subject. Ghorbani et. al., [2] derived various thermochemical cycles such as Fe-Cl, Cu-

Cl, Co-Cl, Mg-Cl, HyS, V-Cl, Ce-Cl S-I and Zn-S-I cycles as regards thermo-eco-environment. Oruç et al. [3] examined by using various Fe-Cl, Mg-Cl, S-I, HyS, and Cu-Cl, processes in the systems the thermo-eco-environment. Razi et al., [4] performed H₂ generation by using of Cu-Cl, Fe-Cl and Mg-Cl for waste heat for industrial steel plants. Özdemir et al. [5] used Mg-Cl, H₂SO₄ and UT-3 cycles in the solar assisted Brayton and Rankine in terms of energy and exergy. Asal and Acır [6] performed the produced hydrogen amount in the LIFE fusion reactor by using cobalt chloride (Co-Cl) process. Juárez-Martínez et al. [7] investigated production of

hydrogen with by using S-I cycle for various heat exchangers under conditions. Özkaya et al. [8] performed hydrogen production in the PACER fusion concept with Fe-Cl cycle. Asal and Acir [9] examined hydrogen production in LIFE engine with Cu-Cl process under various conditions. Demir [10] applied hydrogen production in the SOMBRERO blanket with SMR method. Acir and Özkaya [11] investigated hydrogen production with Fe-Cl and Mg-Cl cycle in the PACER concept. Genç [12] presented hydrogen production with S-I, SMR and HTE cycles in the APEX. Balta et al. [13] computed exergy and energy efficiency under various conditions for hydrogen production with the Mg-Cl cycle. Asal et al., [14] performed exergy and energy efficiency under various conditions for hydrogen production with the Mg-Cl cycle in the HTR-PM.

In this study, the neutronic performance and hydrogen production with hydrogen unit in

integrated SOMBRERO fusion blanket have been performed. The neutronic calculations have been computed with Monte Carlo calculation method for 2%, 6% and 10% UO₂ fuel ratios. Firstly, the tritium breeding ratio (TBR) and energy multiplication factor (M) have been calculated. Secondly, the hydrogen production with Mg-Cl cycle in the SOMBRERO fusion blanket have been examined and compared.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS (MATERİYAL VE METOD)

2.1. SOMBRERO Fusion Reactor (Sombrero Füzyon Reaktörü)

Sombrero fusion reactor designed by W. J. Schafer Associates researcher team. The SOMBRERO names described SOLid Moving BREeder ReactOR [15]. The original reactor design has been given in Fig. 1.

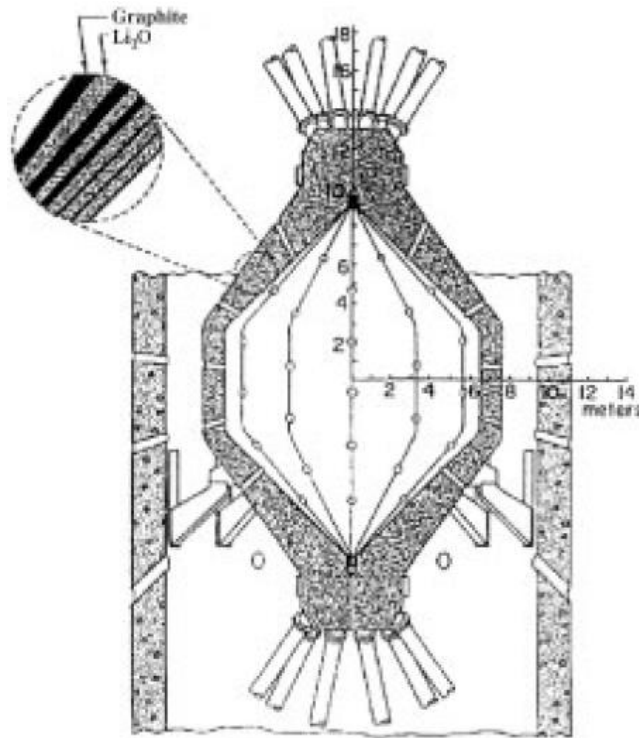


Fig. 1. SOMBRERO fusion blanket section view (SOMBRERO füzyon reaktörü kesit görünüşü)

The conceptual designed of a 1000 MWe KrF laser-driven IFE power plant. The SOMBRERO systematic view used in the calculations has been given in Fig. 2 The first wall (FW) material has been used C/C composite with 1 cm thick. The SOMBRERO blanket consists of three zones various Li enrichment. The first zone consists of 3%

C/C composite and 97% Li₂O solid breeder with 19 cm thickness.

The second zone have 20% C/C composite and 80% Li₂O solid breeder with 40 cm thickness whereas, the third zone is 50% C/C composite and 50% Li₂O solid breeder with 40 cm thickness. The first zone

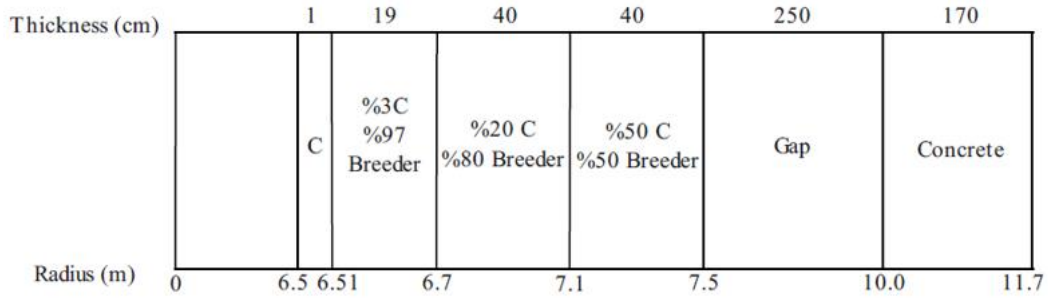


Fig. 2. SOMBRERO blanket structure (SOMBRERO blanket geometrisi)

has $UO_2 + Li_2O$ mixed of the different ratios. These ratios have been selected 10%, 6%, and 2% UO_2 in the LiO_2 . The technical properties have been given in Table 1 [15].

2.2. Magnesium Chloride Cycle (Magnezyum Klorür Döngüsü)

In the calculations have been used the three step

Mg-Cl thermochemical cycle. The reaction steps have been given as below:

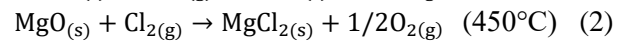
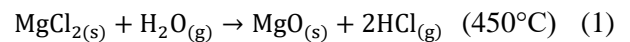


Table 1. Technical Properties of the Sombrero Fusion Reactor (Sombrero Füzyon Reaktörünün Teknik Özellikleri) [15]

Parameter	Value
Fusion Power, P_i	304 MW
Blanket thermal power, P_f	2677 MW
Fusion energy gain, Q	8,806
Alpha particles fraction	0.2
Neutron particles fraction	0.8
Efficiency of intermediate heat exchanger	0.8
Efficiency of driving system	0.5
Efficiency of gas turbine	0.6
Isotope separation system fraction	0.05
Auxiliary system fraction	0.05
Power ratio constant	2,363
Reaction efficiencies	0.9
Required electricity power	289.5 kJ/mol
Total required thermal power	122.5 kJ/mol

The first step is the hydrolysis reaction. The reaction actualized at 450–550°C. The second step at between 450°C and 500°C temperature occurred and called chlorination reaction. The third reaction

is electrolysis reaction which can occur at 70–90°C temperature [16,17]. The Mg-Cl systematic view have been illustrate in Fig 3.

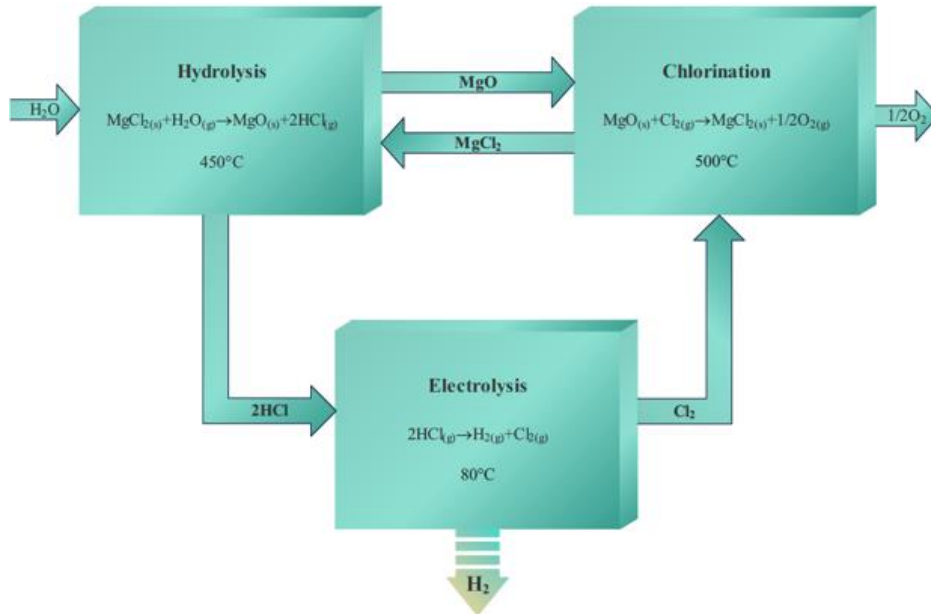


Fig. 3. Mg-Cl thermochemical cycle systematic view (Mg-Cl termokimyasal yöntemin sistematik görünümü)

The heat required (Q, kW) during a process is calculated by Eqs. (14-6) [9,18,19].

$$\dot{Q}_{in} + \dot{W}_{in} + \sum n_{in} H_{in} = \dot{Q}_{out} + \dot{W}_{out} + \sum n_{out} H_{out} \quad (4)$$

$$Q = \sum n_{out} (\bar{h}_f^o + \bar{h} - \bar{h}_0)_{out} - \sum n_{in} (\bar{h}_f^o + \bar{h} - \bar{h}_0)_{in} \quad (5)$$

$$\bar{h}(T) - \bar{h}_0 = AT + B \frac{T^2}{2} + C \frac{T^3}{3} + D \frac{T^4}{4} - \frac{E}{T} + F - H \quad (6)$$

where, \dot{W} is work (kW), h is enthalpy (kJ/kg), \bar{h}_f^o is enthalpy of formation (kJ/mol), \bar{h}_0 is standard enthalpy (kJ/mol), A, B, C, D, E, F, H values in the equation given in Eq. (6) are obtained from the Shomate Table 2 [19]. T is calculated as 1/1000 of the cycle temperature determined in K.

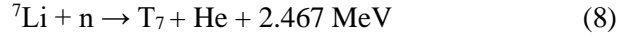
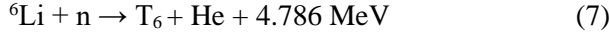
The static performance calculation of the SOMBRERO fusion reactor performed using the MCNP neutron transport code [20]. Three different percentages of UO_2 were used as fuel (2%, 6%, 10%). Li_2O has been chosen as the tritium breeder. With the obtained data, the TBR and M values were calculated. Using the relevant parameters of the reactor and the M values, the $1-\psi$ and P_{hpf} data were calculated.

Table 2. Required Mg- Cl cycle data for Shomate equation

Compounds	\bar{h}_f^o (kJ/mol)	T (K)	A	B	C	D	E	F	H
MgCl2(s)	-641,62	723-773	78,30733	2,435888	6,858873	-1,72897	-0,72991	-667,582	-641,616
H2O(g)	-241,83	723	30,092	6,832514	6,793435	-2,53448	0,082139	-250,881	-241,826
MgO(s)	-601,24	723-773	47,25995	5,681621	-0,87267	0,1043	-1,05396	-619,132	-601,241
HCl(g)	-92,31	723-353	32,12392	-13,4581	19,86852	-6,85394	-0,04967	-101,621	-92,312
Cl2(g)	0	773-353	33,0506	12,2294	-12,0651	4,38533	-0,15949	-10,8348	0
O2(g)	0	773	30,03235	8,772972	-3,98813	0,788313	-0,7416	-11,3247	0
H2(g)	0	353	33,06618	-11,3634	11,43282	-2,77287	-0,15856	-9,9808	0

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (Sonuçlar ve Tartışma)

In order for fusion reactors to be self-sustainable, TBR must be greater than 1.05. Tritium production is produced from liquid and solid fuels containing lithium. In this reactor, the solid fuel containing lithium is Li₂O. As given in Eqs. (7-9), TBR has been calculated by the sum of T₆ and T₇, which include endothermic and exothermic reactions [8,9].



$$\text{TBR} = \text{T}_6 + \text{T}_7 \quad (9)$$

TBR values obtained in the SOMBRERO fusion reactor have been given in Fig. 4. TBR values have been obtained as approximately 1.31 in the fuel range containing 2% and 10% UO₂. It can be seen from the results obtained that the reactor provides self-sustainability.

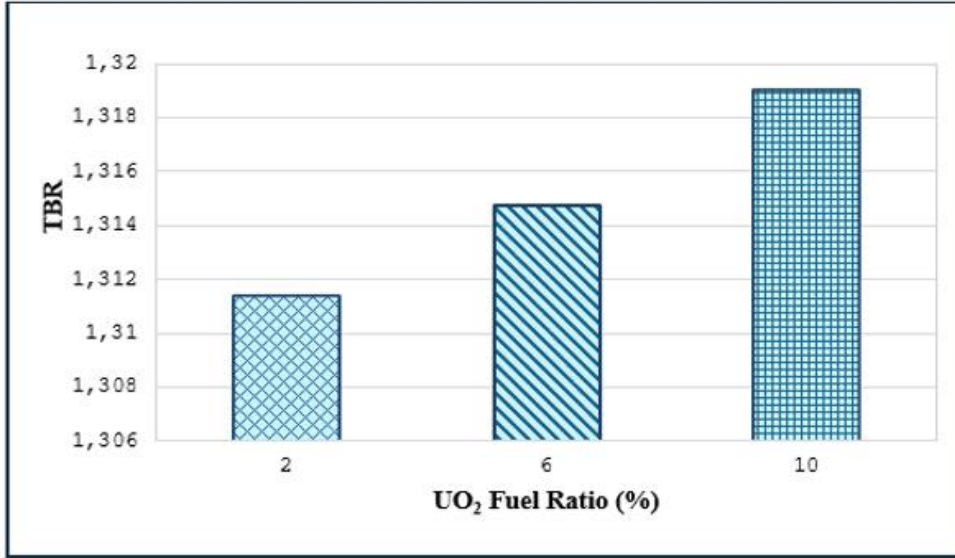


Fig. 4. Variation of tritium breeding (TBR) for various fuel ratio (Farklı yakıt oranı için trityum üretim değışimi)

Energy production occurs as a result of the reactions occurring in the Li₂O and UO₂ fuel mixture located in the first region of the Sombrero fusion blanket structure. The energy generated as a result of the reactions occurring in the fuel region is called the energy multiplication factor, as shown in Eq. (4) [8,9].

$$M = \frac{200 \text{ MeV} \cdot \langle \phi \cdot \Sigma_f \rangle + 4.786 \text{ MeV} \cdot \text{T}_6 - 2.467 \text{ MeV} \cdot \text{T}_7}{17.6 \text{ MeV}} + 1 \quad (10)$$

Fig. 5 shows the change in M depending on the fuel ratio. The M value has been obtained as 1,31322 for 2% UO₂ + 98% Li₂O

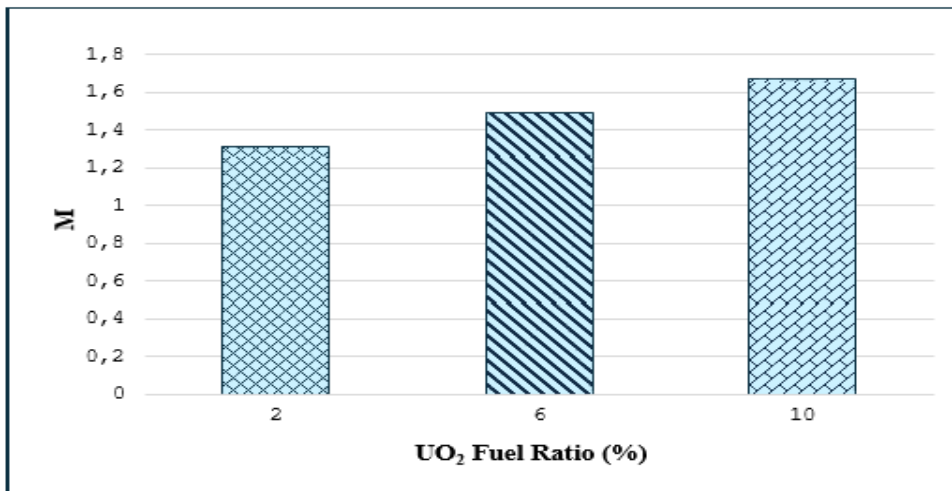


Fig. 5. Variation of energy multiplication factor (M) for various fuel ratio (Farklı yakıt oranı için enerji çoğaltım faktörü değışimi)

While the M value for 6% UO₂ + 94% Li₂O have been obtained as 1,49052, this value have been computed as 1,67014 for 10% UO₂ + 90% Li₂O. As seen in Fig. 5, it has been observed that the M value increased with the increase in fuel ratio. This increase is due to the fission reaction occurring in the fuel region depending on the fuel ratio. In other words, since the fission rate was higher for 10% UO₂ + 90% Li₂O, the M value has been highest in this parameter.

The thermal power ratio and total thermal power used in hydrogen production for the Mg-Cl thermochemical cycle are obtained from the following Eqs (5,6) [6,8,9].

$$1 - \psi = 1 - \frac{1}{\eta_{ihx} * \eta_{as} [Q * (x_a + x_n * M) + 1] * [\eta_{gt} + \epsilon]} + \frac{\epsilon}{[\eta_{gt} + \epsilon]} + \frac{x_{aux} + x_{isf}}{\eta_{ihx} + [\eta_{gt} + \epsilon]} \quad (11)$$

$$P_{hpf} = (1 - \psi) * (1 + \epsilon) * \eta_{ihx} * \frac{P_f}{Q} * [Q * (x_a + x_n * M) + 1] \quad (12)$$

The hydrogen mass flow equations for the Mg-Cl thermochemical cycle with the help of the Eqs. (7-15) given below [6,8,9]:

$$\dot{m}_{MgCl_2} = \frac{P_{hpf}}{q_{tot}} \quad (13)$$

$$\dot{m}_{H_2O} = \dot{m}_{MgCl_2} \times \frac{M_{H_2O}}{M_{MgCl_2}} \quad (14)$$

$$\dot{m}_{MgO} = \dot{m}_{MgCl_2} \times \frac{M_{MgO}}{M_{MgCl_2}} \times \eta \quad (15)$$

$$\dot{m}_{HCl} = 2 \times \dot{m}_{MgCl_2} \times \frac{M_{HCl}}{M_{MgCl_2}} \times \eta \quad (16)$$

$$\dot{m}_{Cl_2} = \dot{m}_{MgO} \times \frac{M_{Cl_2}}{M_{MgO}} \quad (17)$$

$$\dot{m}_{MgCl_{2-2}} = \dot{m}_{MgO} \times \frac{M_{MgCl_2}}{M_{MgO}} \times \eta \quad (18)$$

$$\dot{m}_{O_2} = 0,5 \times \dot{m}_{MgO} \times \frac{M_{O_2}}{M_{MgO}} \times \eta \quad (19)$$

$$\dot{m}_{H_2} = 0,5 \times \dot{m}_{HCl} \times \frac{M_{H_2}}{M_{HCl}} \times \eta \quad (20)$$

$$\dot{m}_{Cl_2} = 0,5 \times \dot{m}_{HCl} \times \frac{M_{Cl_2}}{M_{HCl}} \times \eta \quad (21)$$

The thermal power ratio (1 - ψ) and total thermal power (P_{hpf}, MW) required in the SOMBRERO fusion reactor integrated Mg-Cl hydrogen product unit have been given in Fig. 6 and 7. The 1 - ψ and P_{hpf} with increasing UO₂ fuel ratio have been increased.

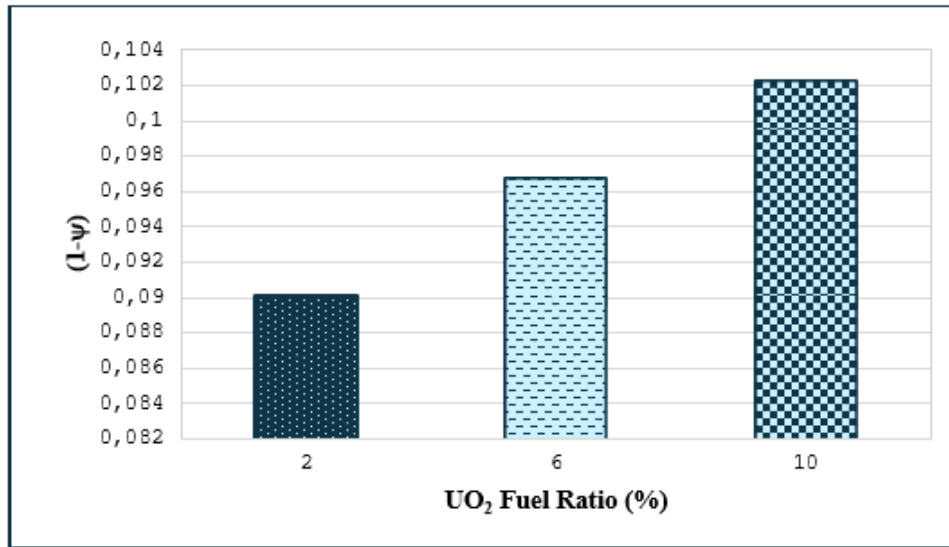


Fig. 6. Variation of thermal power ratio (1 - ψ) for various fuel ratio (Farklı yakıt oranı için termal güç oranı değişimi)

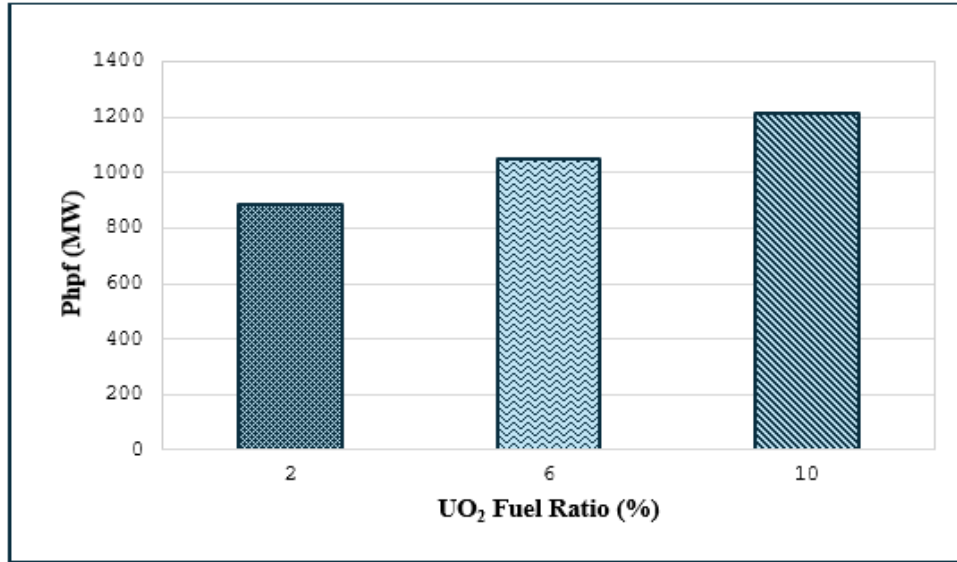


Fig. 7. Variation of total thermal power (P_{hpf} , MW) for various fuel ratio (Farklı yakıt oranı için toplam termal güç değişimi)

The $1 - \psi$ have been obtained as between 0,09006 and 0,10222, the P_{hpf} have been computed as between 884,92461 MW and 1214,59578 for 2% UO₂ and 10% UO₂, respectively.

The hydrogen production (\dot{m}_{H_2}) for various fuel ratios have been illustrated in Fig. 8.

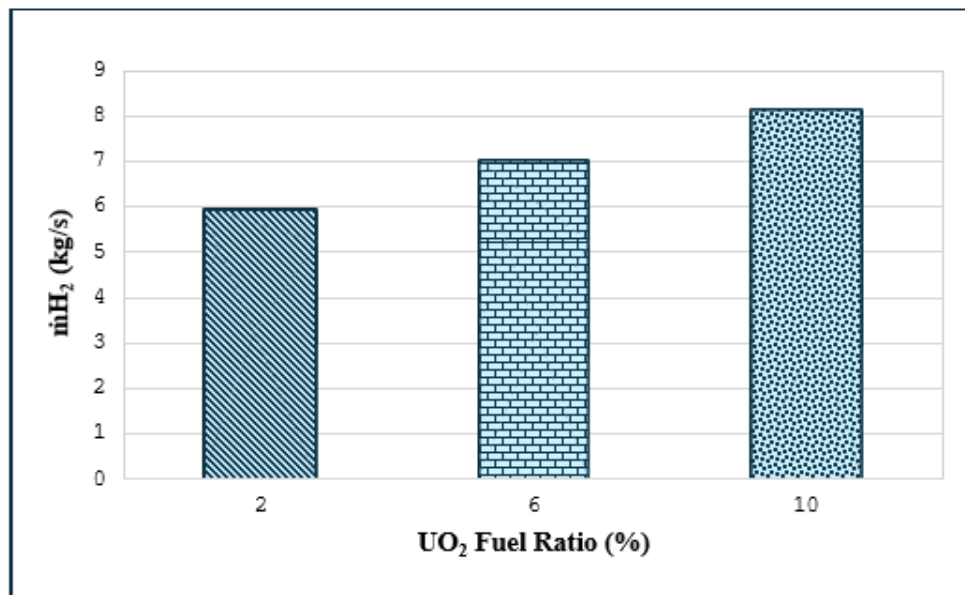


Fig. 8. Variation of hydrogen production (\dot{m}_{H_2}) for various fuel ratio (Farklı yakıt oranı için hidrojen üretimi değişimi)

The hydrogen production depending on the increase in M, which has generated due to fission reaction increasing fuel ratio, value have been increased.

The \dot{m}_{H_2} have been computed as 5,92103 kg/s for 2% UO₂ fuel ratio whereas; this value has been obtained as 8,12686 for 2% UO₂ fuel ratio as shown in Fig. 8.

Table 3. Hydrogen production values various thermochemical process and reactor (Hidrojen üretim değerleri çeşitli termokimyasal proses ve reaktör)

Reference	Type	Cycle	Produced Hydrogen Amount (kg/s) (Initial value)
Present work	SOMBRERO fusion reactor	Mg-Cl	5.92-8.12
Ref. [21]	PACER fusion reactor	Fe-Cl cycle	~13
		Mg-Cl (Option I) Mg-Cl (Option II)	~39 ~26
Ref. [9]	LIFE fusion reactor	Cu-Cl cycle	1.39
Ref. [8]	PACER fusion reactor	Fe-Cl cycle	7.36/10.96
Ref. [10]	SOMBRERO fusion reactor	SMR+WGS	33.00
Ref. [12]	APEX fusion reactor	SMR+WGS+MCS	218
		SMR+WGS	100
		SMR	60
		THE	8.60
		S-I cycle	8.40
Ref. [14]	HTR-PM reactor	Mg-Cl	2.43

The hydrogen production results obtained in this study have been compared with the hydrogen production results obtained for different thermochemical processes and reactors given in the literature in Table 3. Generally, the hydrogen production has been good performance in the compared the hydrogen production in the SOMBRERO fusion reactor with literature results.

4. CONCLUSION (SONUÇLAR)

In this study, the hydrogen production potential of the Mg-Cl (magnesium chloride) cycle in the SOMBRERO fusion reactor have been investigated. The findings obtained as a result of the study are presented below:

- The tritium breeding ratio have been obtained as about 1.31 between %2 UO₂ + %98 Li₂O and %10 UO₂ + %90 Li₂O fuel.
- The energy multiplication factor (M) have been computed as the range of 1.31 and 1.67 between %2 UO₂ + %98 Li₂O and %10 UO₂ + %90 Li₂O fuel. The M have been increased with higher UO₂ fuel.
- The hydrogen production has been calculated as 5.92 kg/s for %2 UO₂ + %98 Li₂O whereas, these value have been computed as 8.12 kg/s for %10 UO₂ + %90 Li₂O.

- The hydrogen production with Mg-Cl has been good exhibited performance in the in the SOMBRERO fusion reactor compared with literature. In future work, the hydrogen production with new types of thermochemical processes will be examined in line with the results obtained by using different reflectors, tritium production materials and different fuels in the SOMBRERO fusion reactor

DECLARATION OF ETHICAL STANDARDS (ETİK STANDARTLARIN BEYANI)

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS (YAZARLARIN KATKILARI)

Gamze ŞENER: She carried out the numerical analysis, analyzed the results and wrote the article.

Sayısal analizleri yapmış, sonuçlarını analiz etmiştir ve makalenin yazım işlemini gerçekleştirmiştir

Adem ACIR: He performed the writing process and supervising.

Yazım sürecini ve süpervizörlüğü gerçekleştirdi.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (ÇIKAR ÇATIŞMASI)

There is no conflict of interest in this study.

Bu çalışmada herhangi bir çıkar çatışması yoktur.

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