Reheating Rankine cylce

Is there an optimal pressure for reheating the steam of a Rankine cycle and if yes, what determines this optimal pressure?

Answer: Yes, the optimal reheat pressure is determined by the reheat temperature.

Explanation: The T-s diagram shows two reheat cases for the reheat Rankine cycle. In the first case there is expansion through the high-pressure turbine from 6000 kPa to 4000 kPa between states 1 and 2 with reheat at 4000 kPa to state 3 and finally expansion in the low-pressure turbine to state 4. In the second case there is expansion through the high-pressure turbine from 6000 kPa to 500 kPa between states 1 and 5 with reheat at 500 kPa to state 6 and finally expansion in the low-pressure turbine to state 7. Increasing the pressure for reheating increases the average temperature for heat addition and makes the energy of the steam more available for doing work, see the reheat process 2 to 3 versus the reheat process 5 to 6. Increasing the reheat pressure will increase the cycle efficiency. However, as the reheating pressure increases, the amount of condensation increases during the expansion process in the low pressure turbine, state 4 versus state 7. An optimal pressure for reheating generally allows for the moisture content of the steam at the low-pressure turbine exit to be in the range of 10 to 15% and this corresponds to quality in the range of 85 to 90%.