

Design of Solar Thermal Systems

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Preface

This book presents the design of solar thermal systems using mathematical modeling. The importance of mathematical modeling is continuously increasing because of the rapid spread in the use of computers as design tools. The book is thus prepared for those who are involved in the design, optimization, or evaluation of the performance of solar thermal systems.

The book is based on teaching notes for undergraduate and first year graduate courses for thermal engineering students. It is recommended as a text for senior undergraduate students or first year graduate students, and also as a reference book for engineers working in various solar thermal applications.

The book consists of 10 chapters. The first chapter reviews the world resources of energy and their classification and relation to solar energy. The second chapter reviews important topics in thermal radiation which are relevant to the subject of the book. The third chapter is concerned with the estimation of solar angles and the hourly, daily, and monthly average daily solar radiation. Mathematical equations are given to enable the designer of a solar thermal system to estimate the beam, diffuse, or total radiation on horizontal or tilted surfaces.

The transmission of solar radiation through transparent sheets of different material is treated in Chapter 4. This chapter gives mathematical equations to predict the radiation properties of multi-layer partially transparent sheets with or without an absorber plate. A computer program is included to enable the designer to estimate the radiation properties for several geometries of a stack of similar or nonsimilar transparent sheets with or without an absorber plate at any incidence angle. The program is useful in the design and optimization of flat plate collectors and solar concentrators, and can also be utilized by air conditioning engineers to estimate solar heat gain through transparent windows and doors.

Chapter 5 gives the design of flat plate collectors, and presents various types. Complete simulation of the collectors is given, and the various factors affecting their performance are discussed. A computer program is given to design and optimize the design parameters of the flat plate collectors. This program can also be used to evaluate the performance of flat plate collectors in off-design conditions.

Chapter 6 deals with solar desalination. The chapter will be helpful to those designing either roof-type or diffusion-type solar desalination systems, since it includes a more detailed description of these systems than most other solar energy text books. Analysis are given to predict the transient performance of the roof-type still. A computer program is given to assist the designer in predicting the effect of various design and operating conditions on the performance of the still. Various novel designs of roof-types stills are presented with the advantages and disadvantages of each. The chapter also gives the analysis of both the single effect and the multiple-effect diffusion-type still together with a brief presentation of the mass diffusion theory. Other methods of solar desalination are also discussed in the chapter.

The collection of solar energy at medium and high temperatures by solar concentrators is discussed in Chapter 7. Various types of concentrators are presented. Thermal analyses are given to show the important factors affecting the performance of solar concentrators. Different tracking modes are given. The material in this chapter will help the reader to select the type of solar concentrator most suitable for a particular application together with the adequate tracking mode. Details of the designing of intermittent tracking are given in the chapter. Readers interested in continuous tracking will find ample material in section 10.8 of Chapter 10.

In Chapter 8, the design of solar energy storage is considered. The first part of the chapter deals with storage methods, characteristics, location, and the evaluation of the storage process. Mathematical simulations of various types of sensible heat storage are carried out for low, intermediate, and high temperature applications. In particular, mathematical simulations are presented for the transient performance of the mixed liquid storage, underground liquid storage, and stratified liquid storage. With these simulations the reader of the chapter should be able to size the liquid storage tank required for a certain application. Designers of solid storage tanks will also find that the mathematical simulation of rock bed storage and its sizing are covered in the chapter. In addition, other techniques of solar energy storage such as low, intermediate, and high temperature phase change and chemical and mechanical storages are considered. The user of the simulation models given in this chapter should have a reasonable background in the finite difference numerical technique.

The solar-operated absorption cooling system is treated in Chapter 9. Both H_2O -LiBr and NH_3 - H_2O absorption systems are considered. Different arrangements of solar-operated absorption cooling systems are given, together with the criteria to evaluate and compare these systems. Alternative combinations of absorption cooling systems, such as the dual series connected system and the two stage absorption cooling system, are presented. Mathematical simulations of both the H_2O -LiBr and NH_3 - H_2O absorption machines are considered. A computer program is included to predict the performance of the absorption cooling machine in various design and operating conditions. An optimization procedure is given for the determination of the design parameters of the absorption cooling machine. The chapter also contains a brief description of the intermittent absorption cooling system.

Chapter 10 deals with solar power generation. The chapter includes the charac-

teristics required for the working fluids of the solar-operated Rankine cycle. Mathematical simulation is given for the Rankine cycle and selection of the various design parameters of the system is presented. The chapter also includes the performance of the solar-operated Rankine cycle (SORC) in various operating conditions. In addition, the engineering considerations for the selection of the various components of SORC are given. Analyses are also presented to select the optimum collector temperature for solar-operated power cycles. A sizeable section of the chapter is devoted to power tower technology, including material for the determination of the heliostat field layout, the determination of the tilt and orientation angle of each heliostat, and the sizing of the receiver.

The book adds considerably to engineering expertise in the design of solar thermal systems. Chapters 5 and 8 are relevant to the design of solar water heaters, swimming pool heating systems, and space heating. Chapter 6 will also assist in the design of solar desalination systems. Those involved in the design of solar operated absorption cooling systems should read Chapter 9 in addition to Chapter 8 and Chapters 5 or 7. Information on solar power generation is given in Chapter 10 and also in Chapters 7 and 8.

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Jeddah
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Contents

Chapter 1: The World Energy Resources

1.1	The Sun	1
1.2	The World Energy Resources	2
1.2.1	Coal	2
1.2.2	Petroleum Oil and Natural Gas	3
1.2.3	Shale Oil and Tar Sand	4
1.2.4	Nuclear Fission	4
1.2.5	Fast Breeder Reactor	4
1.2.6	Nuclear Fusion Energy	5
1.2.7	Hydraulic Power	5
1.2.8	Wind Power	6
1.2.9	Geothermal Energy	6
1.2.10	Hydrogen Fuel	6
1.3	Solar Energy	6
	References	10

Chapter 2: Thermal Radiation

2.1	Introduction	13
2.2	Radiation Properties	13
2.3	Opaque and Non-Opaque Materials	17
2.4	Selective Surfaces	19
2.5	Net Radiation Leaving a Gray Surface	24
2.6	Intensity of Radiation Leaving a Gray Surface	25
2.7	Radiation Exchange between Gray Surfaces	26
2.7.1	Exchange between Two Surfaces	26
2.7.2	Example: Four Surface Enclosures	28
2.7.3	Estimation of Shape Factor	28
2.7.4	Special Cases	29
2.8	Absorption and Emission of Radiation by Gases	34
2.9	Radiation Exchange between Two Gray Surfaces Through Absorbing and Transmitting Mediums	35
2.9.1	One Absorbing and Transmitting Medium	35
2.9.2	Two Absorbing and Transmitting Mediums	37

Nomenclature	38
Problems	39
References	40

Chapter 3: Solar Radiation

3.1 Introduction	41
3.2 Solar Angles	41
3.3 Extraterrestrial Solar Radiation	48
3.4 Depletion of Solar Radiation	51
3.5 Estimation of Solar Radiation Received by a Horizontal Surface	54
3.5.1 Clear Sky Models	57
3.5.1.1 ASHRAE Model (clear sky)	57
3.5.1.2 Hottel Model	58
3.5.2 Models Dependent on Local Solar Measurements	62
3.5.2.1 Hourly Radiation	62
3.5.2.2 Models to Estimate Daily Radiation	66
3.5.2.3 Models to Estimate the Monthly-Average Daily Radiation	68
3.6 Estimation of Solar Radiation on a Tilted Surface	69
3.7 Atmospheric Radiation	74
3.8 Measurements of Solar Radiation	75
Nomenclature	76
Problems	77
References	80

Chapter 4: Optical Properties of Materials and Radiation Characteristics of Surfaces

4.1 Introduction	83
4.2 Reflectances and Transmittances of Interfaces and Plates	84
4.2.1 Interface and Material Properties	84
4.2.2 Effective Properties for a Plate	86
4.3 Effective Properties of a Stack of Plates	89
4.3.1 Incident Radiation on the Outer Surface of the Stack	89
4.3.2 Incident Radiation on the Inner Surface of the Stack	91
4.4 Effective Properties of an Absorber Plate with N-Cover: Incident Radiation on the Absorber Plate	96
4.4.1 An Absorber with One Cover Plate	96
4.4.2 An Absorber Plate with N-Covers	97
4.5 Effective Properties of an Absorber Plate with N-Cover: Incident Radiation on the Top Cover	99
4.6 Computer Programming	104
Nomenclature	116
Problems	117
References	117

Chapter 5: Flat Plate Collectors

5.1	Introduction	119
5.2	Types of Flat Plate Collectors	120
5.2.1	Liquid Flat Plate Collectors	120
5.2.2	Gas Flat Plate Collectors	121
5.3	Thermal Analysis of Flat Plate Collectors	122
5.3.1	Introduction	122
5.3.2	Specifications of the Collector and the Meteorological Parameters	124
5.3.3	Radiation Processes in the Collector	126
5.3.4	Energy Balance of Different Elements of Collector	130
5.3.5	Analytical Method of Solution	135
5.3.6	Empirical Formula for Top Loss Coefficient	144
5.3.7	Total Loss Coefficient	145
5.3.8	Local Temperature Across the Plate	146
5.3.9	Collector Efficiency Factor	148
5.3.10	Fluid Temperatures and Heat Removal Factor	149
5.3.11	Average Plate Temperature	151
5.3.12	Outlet Fluid Temperature	151
5.4	Factors Affecting the Performance of FPC	154
5.4.1	Introduction	154
5.4.2	Cover	154
5.4.3	Absorber Plate	156
5.4.4	Liquid Tubes	156
5.4.5	Operating Conditions	156
5.4.6	Conclusions	157
5.5	Simulation, Design, and Optimization of FPC	157
5.6	Simulation and Algorithm of Solution for Liquid FPC	158
5.6.1	Nomenclature	159
5.6.2	Data	161
5.6.3	Steps of Calculation	161
5.6.4	Algorithm for Assisting Subroutines	162
5.6.5	Checked Program List in Basic Language	165
5.6.6	Sample Output	177
5.7	Analysis of Solar Air Heaters	178
Problems		181
References		184

Chapter 6: Solar Desalination

6.1	Introduction	187
6.2	Definitions	188

6.3	Roof-Type Solar Stills (Basin-Type)	189
6.3.1	Construction	189
6.3.2	Thermal Analysis of the Still	193
6.4	Performance Prediction of Roof-Type Stills	198
6.4.1	Generalized Procedure	199
6.4.2	Morse-Read Chart	209
6.4.3	Approximate Solution	211
6.5	The Maximum Efficiency of The Still	213
6.6	Effect of Various Parameters on the Performance of Roof-Type Stills	215
6.6.1	Effect of Solar Radiation	215
6.6.2	Effect of Ambient Temperature	215
6.6.3	Effect of Wind Velocity	215
6.6.4	Effect of Edge and Base Loss Coefficient	216
6.6.5	Brine Depth	216
6.6.6	Vapor Tightness	216
6.6.7	Condensate Leakage	216
6.6.8	Effect of Cover Slope	216
6.6.9	Effect of Gap Distance between Water Surface and Cover	216
6.6.10	Effect of Build-up of Reflecting Layers of Salt on Water Surface and Basin Linear	217
6.7	Novel Designs of Roof-Type Stills	217
6.7.1	Double-Basin Still	217
6.7.2	Basin-Type Stepped Solar Still	217
6.7.3	Wick-Type Collector-Evaporator Still	219
6.7.4	Vertical Microporous Evaporator Solar Still	220
6.7.5	Cascade Solar Still	221
6.7.6	Roof-Type Still with Treated Cover Surface	221
6.7.7	Roof-Type Still with Cover Cooling	222
6.7.8	Double-Effect Tilted Solar Still	222
6.8	Diffusion Stills	224
6.8.1	Introduction to Mass Diffusion	224
6.8.2	Thermal Analysis of Diffusion Stills	227
6.9	Multiple-Effect Diffusion Stills	231
6.10	Comparison of Transient Performance Predictions of a Single-Effect Diffusion Still with a Roof-Type Still	237
6.11	Economics of Solar Stills	243
6.12	Other Types of Solar Desalination Systems	246
6.12.1	Forced Convection Stills	246
6.12.2	Multiple Effect Humidification-Dehumidification	246
6.12.3	Solar Water Recovery from Air	247
	Nomenclature	248
	Problems	249
	References	253

Chapter 7: Concentrating Collectors

7.1	Introduction	255
7.2	Types of Concentrating Collectors	255
7.2.1	Planar Reflector	259
7.2.2	V-Trough Reflector	259
7.2.3	Parabolic Reflector	259
7.2.4	Compound Parabolic Concentrator	259
7.2.5	Dish Reflector	261
7.2.6	Heliostat Reflectors	262
7.2.7	Lens Refractor	263
7.2.8	Fresnel Lens Refractor	263
7.3	Important Factors	263
7.4	Concentration Ratio	263
7.4.1	Definitions	263
7.4.1.1	Aperture Area (A_{ap})	264
7.4.1.2	Absorber Area (A_{abs})	264
7.4.1.3	Acceptance Angle and Acceptance Half Angle	264
7.4.1.4	Theoretical Concentration Ratio C	264
7.4.1.5	Actual Concentration Ratio C_a	265
7.4.2	Maximum Theoretical Concentration Ratio	265
7.4.3	Ideal Concentrators	268
7.4.4	Actual Concentrators	268
7.5	Tracking Modes	268
7.5.1	Solar Profile Angle	270
7.5.2	No Tracking Mode	270
7.5.3	Intermittent Adjustment of Tilt Angle	272
7.5.4	Continuous Tracking About One Axis	276
7.5.5	Continuous Tracking About Two Axes	277
7.6	Thermal Analysis	277
	Nomenclature	280
	Problems	281
	References	284

Chapter 8: Solar Energy Storage

8.1	General Concepts	285
8.1.1	Storage Methods	285
8.1.2	Storage Characteristics	287
8.1.3	Storage Location	287
8.1.4	Storage Efficiency	288
8.2	Low Temperature Sensible Storage	288
8.2.1	Introduction	288
8.2.2	Storage in Liquids	290
8.2.2.1	Above Ground Liquid Storage	290

8.2.2.2	Underground Liquid Storage	291
8.2.2.3	Enhancement of Stratification	293
8.2.3	Simulation of Storage in Liquids	294
8.2.3.1	Simulation of Mixed Storage	295
8.2.3.2	Simulation of Underground Storage	297
8.2.3.3	Simulation of Stratified Liquid Storage	299
8.2.3.4	Sizing of Liquid Storage Tanks	302
8.2.4	Storage in Solids	303
8.2.4.1	Rock Bed Storage	304
8.2.4.2	In-Ground Storage	304
8.2.5	Simulation of Storage in Solids	305
8.2.5.1	Simulation of Rock Bed Storage	305
8.2.5.2	Sizing of Rock Beds	313
8.3	Intermediate and High Temperature Sensible Storage	314
8.3.1	Sensible Storage in Fluids	314
8.3.2	Sensible Storage in Solids	316
8.3.3	Sensible Storage in Fluid-Solid Media	316
8.4	Low Temperature Phase Change Storage	316
8.4.1	Phase Change Materials	317
8.4.2	Systems and Problems	317
8.5	Intermediate and High Temperature Phase Change Storage	320
8.6	Chemical Storage	320
8.7	Mechanical Storage	322
	Nomenclature	323
	Problems	325
	References	325

Chapter 9: Solar Operated Absorption Cooling Systems

9.1	Introduction	329
9.2	Basic Absorption Cooling Cycle	329
9.2.1	Description of the Cycle	329
9.2.2	Upper and Lower Limits for COP of Irreversible Absorption Cooling Cycle	332
9.2.3	Desirable Characteristics of Refrigerant-Absorbent Solution ..	333
9.2.4	Selection of Working Fluids for Solar Operated Absorption Cooling Cycle	336
9.2.5	The H ₂ O-LiBr and NH ₃ -H ₂ O Absorption Cooling Machines ..	336
9.3	Different Arrangements of Solar-Operated Absorption Cooling Sys- tems	341
9.4	Evaluation of Solar-Operated Absorption Cooling System	345
9.4.1	System Thermal Ratio	345
9.4.2	Specific Collector Area	348
9.5	Some Alternative Absorption Cooling Systems	348
9.5.1	Dual Series-Connected System	351

9.5.2	Two-Stage Absorption Cooling System	352
9.6	Simulation of the Solar-Operated Absorption Cooling Machine	355
9.6.1	Introduction	355
9.6.2	General Solar-Operated Absorption Cooling System	356
9.6.3	Simulation of H ₂ O-LiBr Machine	359
9.6.4	Simulation of NH ₃ -H ₂ O Machine	361
9.6.5	Mathematical Relations of Thermodynamic Properties	362
9.6.6	Design Parameters of Absorption Cooling Machine	364
9.6.7	Numerical Prediction of Performance of Absorption Cooling Machine	364
9.7	Optimization of Design Parameters of the Absorption Cooling Machine for Solar Applications	375
9.8	Solar-Operated Intermittent Absorption Cooling Systems	380
	Nomenclature	382
	Problems	382
	References	384

Chapter 10: Solar Power Generation

10.1	Introduction	387
10.2	Thermodynamic Power Cycles	388
10.2.1	Ideal Rankine and Reheat Cycles	388
10.2.2	Ideal Air-Standard Otto and Diesel Cycles	389
10.2.3	Ideal Air-Standard Stirling and Ericson Cycles	390
10.2.4	Ideal Air-Standard Brayton Cycle	391
10.3	Solar-Operated Rankine Cycle	393
10.3.1	Selection of Working Fluid	393
10.3.2	Simulation of Solar Operated Rankine Cycle	395
10.3.3	Design Parameters of Solar Operated Rankine Cycle	398
10.3.3.1	Overall Fluid-to-Fluid Conductance of the Heat Transfer Elements	398
10.3.3.2	Thermal Capacity of External Flows	399
10.3.3.3	Efficiency of Rotating or Moving Elements	400
10.3.3.4	External Temperatures	400
10.3.4	Performance of Solar Operated Rankine Cycle	401
10.3.5	Engineering Consideration for the Selection of the Various Components of Rankine Cycle	401
10.3.5.1	Expanders and Pumps	401
10.3.5.2	Heat Exchangers	403
10.4	Power Generation Using Hybrid Heating of Rankine Cycle	404
10.5	Power Generation Using Organic Rankine Cycle Coupled to a Solar Pond	406
10.6	Power Generation Using the Brayton Cycle	406
10.7	Optimum Collector Temperature for the Solar-Operated Power Cycle ..	407

10.7.1	Low Temperature Solar Collectors	407
10.7.2	High Temperature Solar Collectors	408
10.7.3	Various Types of Solar Collectors	409
10.8	Power Tower Technology	409
10.8.1	Concept	409
10.8.2	Heliostat Field Layout	412
10.8.3	Tilt Angles and Orientations of Heliostats	420
10.8.4	Sizing of Receiver	424
10.8.5	Types of Receivers	429
10.8.6	Review of Some Central Receiver Systems	429
	Nomenclature	429
	Problems	432
	References	433

Appendices

A.	Hooke and Jeeves Pattern Search Optimization Technique	435
B.	Equilibrium Property Data Equations for $\text{NH}_3\text{-H}_2\text{O}$ Solution	439
C.	Values of Latitude and Longitude Angles of Some Major Cities Around the World	441

Solar thermal systems differ from solar photovoltaics which convert sunlight directly into electricity. The use of the term 'solar thermal' is also associated with the integration of 'passive' heating and cooling technologies in buildings. The UK offers a good climate for solar thermal systems benefiting from around 60% of the solar energy that is received at the equator and similar amounts to other northern European states. A properly designed and installed solar thermal system can maximise the capture of this power and translate 60% of it into useful energy for hot water. Solar systems have a number of positive attributes that are likely to promote greater use in the UK. Solar thermal systems used for both space heating and domestic hot water are becoming more popular within the residential market; however, when using only diurnal storage these systems typically are unable to achieve solar fractions greater than 50% [31]. To increase the solar fraction of these systems a seasonal thermal storage system is required. When seasonal thermal storage systems are successfully implemented an annual solar fraction approaching 100% is obtainable [30]. To meet these high solar fractions, significant storage capacity is required, with seasonal thermal storage systems having

Storing solar heat (thermal batteries): If you incorporate thermal mass into a home to store and release heat, you can distribute the heat collected over a longer period of time, and there are any number of creative ways to do this. Sticking with the DIY theme for say - sheds, garages or greenhouses, you could run the heated air through tubes embedded in sand, bricks, masonry etc before venting it directly into the conditioned space. Web searches reveal an endless list of designs and assembly techniques for DIY solar air heaters, the same holds true for DIY videos on YouTube. Different designs will resonate differently with different people, so pick the one that best suits your skill set, tool collection and attention span.