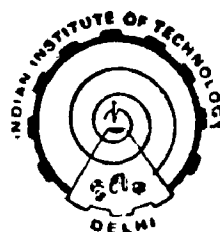


HEAT TRANSFER STUDIES ON SOLAR ENERGY COLLECTOR-CUM-STORAGE SYSTEMS

By

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CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the thesis entitled, 'Heat Transfer Studies on Solar Energy Collector-Cum-Storage Systems', being submitted by Mr. D.S..Hrishikesan is worthy of consideration for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and is a record of bona fide research work carried out by him under my guidance and supervision. The results contained in this thesis have not been submitted in part or full to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree or diploma.



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SUMMARY

In this thesis an attempt is made to identify and optimize various parameters which influence the thermal performance of various solar collector-cum-storage systems - shallow solar ponds (SSP), plastic bag water heaters and built-in-storage type solar water heaters. Here, the aspects of these systems which have not so far been attempted, but which are important from their wide applications point of view, are investigated deeply.

The enhancement in solar radiation absorbed by a flat plate collector by a pair of booster mirrors is theoretically investigated. The model, very comprehensive in nature, is capable of predicting the enhancement in solar radiation absorbed by a collector, provided with two reflectors of most general orientations, for any location and for any day of the year. The thermal performance of a shallow solar pond augmented by a plane mirror is studied experimentally as well as theoretically.

By formulating a mathematical model, the effect of a heat exchanger in the form of a serpentine tube on the performance of SSP is studied by employing periodic analysis. The variation in the behaviour of the system

with flow rate of the fluid flowing through the heat exchanger and length of the heat exchanger is studied.

With the help of a transient model, the performance of a plastic bag water heater is studied theoretically and the findings are supported by experimental results. The reduction in efficiency of the system due to the ultra violet degradation of poly vinyl chloride and its economic viability are also investigated.

The performance of an array of plastic bag water heaters in series and parallel connections is analytically evaluated employing periodic analysis method. An empirical relation is formulated between the stagnation temperature of the fluid, the number of bags to be connected in series to reach the stagnation temperature and the flow rate of the fluid maintained in the system.

The improvement in the thermal behaviour of a built-in-storage type solar water heater, when it is subjected to different types of tracking, is theoretically studied for different duty cycles, viz. no-flow (with and without night insulation), continuous flow, intermittent withdrawal, instantaneous withdrawal, minimum temperature limit withdrawal and constant temperature withdrawal. Forward time step marching technique is used for solving the energy balance equations.

CONTENTS

	Page
CHAPTER I GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER II THEORETICAL ANALYSIS OF A DOUBLE MIRROR-COLLECTOR ASSEMBLY AND ITS APPLICATION ON SHALLOW SOLAR POND	18
2.1 Introduction	18
2.2 Theoretical Model of a Two Reflector-Collector System of Random Orientation	21
2.2.1 Design of the System	21
2.2.2 Assumptions	22
2.2.3 Theoretical Analysis	23
2.2.4 Numerical Calculations	38
2.3 System Performance Study of a Shallow Solar Pond Water Heater Provided with a Plane Reflector	43
2.3.1 Design of the System	43
2.3.2 Assumptions	44
2.3.3 Theoretical Analysis	45
2.3.4 Numerical Calculations	46
2.4 Experimental Observations	47
2.5 Conclusions	48
Nomenclature	50
References	55
CHAPTER III EFFECT OF HEAT EXCHANGER ON THE PERFORMANCE OF SHALLOW SOLAR POND	57
3.1 Introduction	57
3.2 Theoretical Model of Shallow Solar Pond with Heat Exchanger	58

	Page
3.2.1 Design of the System	59
3.2.2 Assumptions	60
3.2.3 Theoretical Analysis	60
3.2.4 Numerical Calculations and Results	64
3.3 Conclusions	68
Nomenclature	69
References	71
CHAPTER IV PLASTIC BAG WATER HEATER - ITS OPTICAL DEGRADATION AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY	72
4.1 Introduction	72
4.2 Mathematical Model of Plastic Bag Water Heater	74
4.2.1 Design of the System	74
4.2.2 Assumptions	75
4.2.3 Theoretical Analysis	75
4.2.4 Numerical Calculations and Results	78
4.3 Experimental Observations	80
4.4 Economic Viability	82
4.5 Conclusions	85
Nomenclature	86
References	88
CHAPTER V PLASTIC BAG WATER HEATER ARRAY IN SERIES AND PARALLEL CONNECTIONS	90
5.1 Introduction	90
5.2 Theoretical Analysis of Plastic Bag Water Heaters in Series and Parallel Connections	92

	Page
5.2.1 Design of the System	92
5.2.2 Assumptions	93
5.2.3 Theoretical Analysis	93
5.2.4 Numerical Calculations and Results	98
5.3 Conclusions	102
Nomenclature	105
References	108
CHAPTER VI PERFORMANCE OF A BUILT-IN-STORAGE TYPE SOLAR WATER HEATER WITH TRACKING	110
6.1 Introduction	110
6.2 Theoretical Model of Built-in-Storage Type Solar Water Heater	113
6.2.1 Design of the System	113
6.2.2 Assumptions	114
6.2.3 Theoretical Analysis	115
6.2.4 Numerical Calculations and Results	119
6.3 Conclusions	127
Nomenclature	130
References	132
APPENDIX-I	133
APPENDIX-II	136