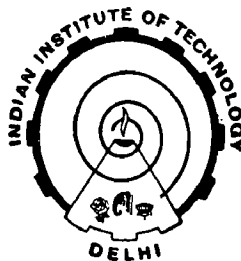


# **SOME STUDIES ON SOLAR AIR AND WATER HEATERS**

By  
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## SUMMARY

This thesis presents the theoretical and experimental investigations carried out on some solar air heaters and also on simple collector cum storage water heaters. The aim throughout the work has been to investigate and improve the collector performance. An improved empirical correlation for the computation of overall heat loss coefficient is proposed and the results obtained with this correlation found to be in good agreement with the actual solution, for a wide range of design and climatic conditions.

An attempt has been made to optimise the collector duct depth so as to collect maximum energy at minimum pumping cost. A detailed steady state analysis on the performance of a conventional black painted solar air heater has been carried out with different rates of air leakages at various positions along its length, both in the suction and pumping mode.

Systematic experiments are conducted on finned air heaters and the performance is found to be better as compared to that of a conventional air heater. A self consistent transient analysis of a finned air heater has been developed to predict its performance for different air flow rates, fin densities, position of fins, (i.e. fins attached to the top plate, fins attached to the bottom plate and fins on both plates) for both single and double glazing. Periodic analysis of a matrix type solar air heater has been developed,

for both air flow upwards, and air flow downwards, and the effect of parameters like extinction coefficient, depth of matrix, air flow rate, etc., has been studied.

Detailed experimental and theoretical analysis of collector cum storage solar water heaters under transient conditions using finite difference technique has been carried out, and the effect of baffle plate (insulated plate in the collector) has been studied for summer as well as winter seasons. The transient analysis is used to study the performance of such water heaters for different flow conditions like constant flow rate, intermittent flow rate, intermittent draw, and draw-offs at constant temperature. A novel system of a collector cum storage water heater with a PCM storage is proposed and modelled with simplified assumptions in this thesis. It is observed that this system works more efficiently under certain operating conditions as compared to conventional collector/storage water heaters.

# C O N T E N T S

CHAPTER	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
SUMMARY	
I GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1-21
II EXPERIMENTAL AND THEORETICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON THE HEAT LOSSES FROM A FLAT PLATE COLLECTOR	22-61
2.1 Introduction	22
2.2 Overall Heat Loss Coefficient and Top Loss Coefficient	23
2.3 Proposed Relation	27
2.3.1 Comparison	28
2.3.2 Conclusions	35
2.4 Experimental and Theoretical Studies on Overall Heat Loss Coefficient	43
2.4.1 Theory	44
2.4.2 Experimental Studies	47
2.4.3 Results and Discussions	48
Nomenclature	58
References	60
III EFFECT OF DUCT DEPTH AND AIR LEAKAGES IN AIR HEATERS OF CONVENTIONAL DESIGNS	62-93
3.1 Introduction	62
3.2 Mathematical Model of Air Heater	65
3.2.1 Determination of Heat Transfer Coefficients	67
3.2.2 Constants Used for Numerical Computations	70
3.2.3 Results and Discussions	70
3.2.4 Conclusions	79
3.3 Effect of Air Leak on the Performance of Air Heaters	79
3.3.1 Mathematical Model	80
Case 1: Air Leak Out	82
Case 2: Air Leak In	83
3.3.2 Parameters Used for Numerical Computations	84
3.3.3 Results and Discussions	84
3.3.4 Conclusions	89
Nomenclature	90
References	92

IV	SOLAR AIR HEATERS WITH INTERRUPTED FLOW	94-164
4.1	Introduction	94
4.2	Finned Air Heaters	98
4.2.1	Steady State Analysis of Finned and Vee-grooved Air Heater	99
4.2.1.1	Numerical inputs	104
4.2.2	Results and Discussions	104
4.2.3	Transient Analysis of Finned Air Heater	112
4.2.3.1	Mathematical Model	113
4.2.4	Experimental Studies in Finned Air Heaters	118
4.2.5	Numerical Inputs	121
4.2.5.1	Meteorological Data	121
4.2.5.2	Radiative Heat Transfer Coefficients	121
4.2.5.3	Natural Convective Heat Transfer Coefficients	124
4.2.5.4	Forced Convective Heat Transfer Coefficients	125
4.2.5.5	Other Parameters	125
4.2.6	Results and Discussions	126
4.2.7	Conclusions	133
4.3	Theoretical Modelling of Porous Bed Air Heater	133
4.3.1	Inputs	142
4.3.1.1	Meteorological Data	142
4.3.1.2	Radiative Heat Transfer Coefficients	142
4.3.1.3	Forced Convective Heat Transfer Coefficients	142
4.3.1.4	Matrix Characteristics	145
4.3.1.5	Other Parameters	145
4.3.2	Results and Discussions	145
4.3.3	Conclusions	158
	Nomenclature	160
	References	162
V	COLLECTOR CUM STORAGE TYPE WATER HEATERS	165-207
5.1	Introduction	165
5.2	Experimental and Theoretical Studies on an all Plastic Water Bag	168
5.2.1	The Water Bag	168
5.2.2	Experimental Set up	170
5.2.3	Mathematical Formulation	170
5.2.4	Numerical Inputs	171

5.2.5	Results and Discussions	172
5.2.6	Conclusions	177
5.3	Studies on Built in Storage Water Heater	177
5.3.1	Design of Built in Water Heater	178
5.3.2	Mathematical Formulation	180
	(i) Energy balance in the absence of heat withdrawal	180
	(ii) Energy balance with night insulation	182
	(iii) Energy balance in the absence of baffle plate	182
	(iv) Energy balance with heat withdrawal	182
5.3.3	Numerical Calculations	184
5.3.4	Numerical Inputs	186
5.3.5	Results and Discussions	187
5.3.6	Conclusions	201
	Nomenclature	203
	References	206
VI	BUILT IN STORAGE WATER HEATER WITH LATENT HEAT STORAGE	208-240
6.1	Introduction	208
6.2	Design of the Water Heater	213
6.3	Mathematical Formulation	215
6.3.1	Effective Thermal Properties of PCM Slab	215
6.3.2	Evaluation of $\bar{T}$ and $X$	217
6.3.3	Transient Analysis of the Water Heater	219
6.3.3.1	Energy Balance Without PCM	220
6.4	Numerical Calculations	221
6.5	Numerical Inputs	223
6.6	Results and Discussions	224
6.7	Conclusions	235
	Nomenclature	236
	References	238