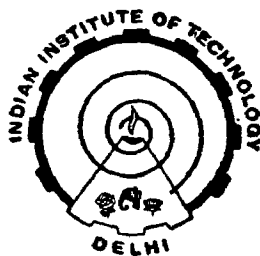


**SEMICONDUCTOR SELECTIVE COATINGS AND THEIR
APPLICATIONS IN CYLINDRICAL SOLAR COLLECTORS
OPERATING UNDER CONCENTRATED FLUX**

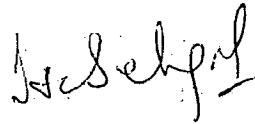
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ABSTRACT

The objective of the work was centered around the development and characterization of low cost selective absorber and heat mirror coatings, and optimization of tubular collector and concentrator systems for their use in photo-thermal conversion of solar energy. The experimental and the theoretical investigations that have been carried out are summarized below.

Selective absorber coatings of cobalt oxide (for high temperature applications) and cobalt oxide-cobalt sulphide (for low temperature applications) have been grown on commercial aluminium and galvanized iron substrates by a low cost method of spray pyrolysis. Optimum conditions of growth have been worked out by a comparative photo-thermal analysis of the coatings under identical optical illumination. Effect of growth conditions and film thickness on the absorptance and emittance have been studied. Determination of absorptance has been done by a Willey Alphameter whereas emittance of the films at different temperatures have been measured by the heat balance technique. Scanning electron microscope and electron diffraction studies have been performed to obtain information about surface topography and structural composition of the films. Biangular and angular reflectivity measurements have been carried out to study the dependence of reflectance (absorptance) of the films on the angle of incidence of solar light. Thermal stability of the films heat treated at different

temperatures under different atmospheric conditions has been investigated by scanning electron microscope study, absorptance and emittance measurements and Auger depth profile analysis.

Heat mirror coatings of tin oxide, Sb-doped tin oxide ($\text{SnO}_2:\text{Sb}$) and Sn-doped indium oxide ($\text{In}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Sn}$) have been grown on the inner walls of one meter long glass tubes by the CVD technique. The films have been investigated for their surface topography, structural composition, transmittance in the solar spectral range, reflectance in the thermal infrared, electrical conductivity, charge carrier concentration and mobility.

A comparative photo-thermal analysis has been carried out under identical optical illumination to work out the optimum gap width between the tubular absorber and the concentric glass envelope in tubular collectors employing cobalt oxide selective absorber and operating under non-evacuated conditions. Effects of variation in the gap width with the diameter of the absorber tube and the order of vacuum in the annulus on the photo-thermal performance of the collector have been studied. Effects of gap width, order of vacuum and incident illumination on the heat losses have been worked out theoretically for stagnant/transient operations of the collectors.

A Fresnel reflecting concentrator has been fabricated

using 85 mirror strips of ~ 23 mm width for the central 41 mirrors and ~ 20 mm width for the outer ones. In the design, the spacings between the mirrors in the two regions have been adjusted so as to avoid shadowing and blocking by the adjacent mirrors. Effect of number of mirror strips and concentrator to receiver separation on the concentrated power reaching the receiver has been investigated both experimentally and theoretically.

Photo-thermal performance for zero power output (i.e. under no flow condition) of the optimized tubular collector employing cobalt oxide selective absorber with- and without- heat mirror coated concentric glass envelope has been investigated under nonevacuated and evacuated conditions of the collector operating in conjunction with the optimized concentrator.

CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT ..	i
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION ..	1
1.1 Selective Absorber Surfaces ..	4
1.1.1 Absorptance, Emittance and Figure of Merit ..	5
1.1.2 Conditions of Operation and Need for Spectral Selectivity ..	7
1.1.3 Desirable Characteristics of a Selective Absorber ..	9
1.1.4 Methods to Obtain Spectral Selectivity ..	9
1.2 Heat Mirror Coatings ..	24
1.2.1 Types of Heat Mirror Coatings ..	26
1.3 Solar Collectors ..	34
1.4 Solar Concentrators ..	40
1.4.1 Parameters Characterizing Concentrators ..	41
1.4.2 Classification of Concentrators ..	42
1.4.3 Linear Solar Concentrators ..	43
1.5 The Present Work ..	49
CHAPTER II EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP AND MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUES ..	53
2.1 Introduction ..	53
2.2 Spray Pyrolytic Growth of Selective Absorber Coatings ..	53
2.2.1 The Growth Set-up ..	53
2.2.2 Growth Parameters ..	54
2.2.3 Cleaning of the Substrates ..	56
2.2.4 Deposition of the films ..	56

	Page
2.3 Pyrolytic Chemical Vapour Deposition of Heat Mirror Coatings ..	57
2.3.1 The Growth Set-up ..	57
2.3.2 Growth Parameters ..	58
2.3.3 Cleaning of the Substrates ..	58
2.3.4 Deposition of the Films ..	59
2.4 Thickness Measurement ..	59
2.4.1 Selective Absorber Coatings ..	59
2.4.2 Heat Mirror Coatings ..	60
2.5 Photo-thermal Conversion Stagnation Temperature Measurements ..	60
2.6 Spectral Reflectance and Transmittance Measurements ..	61
2.7 Angular Reflectance Measurements ..	62
2.8 Total Absorptance Measurement ..	63
2.9 Total Emittance Measurement ..	64
2.10 Scanning Electron Microscopy ..	66
2.11 Transmission Electron Microscopy ..	66
2.12 X-ray Diffraction ..	66
2.13 Auger Electron Spectroscopy ..	67
2.14 Measurement of Electrical Parameters ..	68
2.14.1 Carrier Concentration ..	68
2.14.2 Conductivity and Mobility ..	70
2.15 Differential Thermal Analysis ..	71
2.16 Durability Study ..	71
 CHAPTER III SPRAY PYROLYSED COBALT BLACK SELECTIVE ABSORBERS ..	 73
3.1 Introduction ..	73

	Page
3.2 Cobalt Oxide ..	73
3.2.1 Preparation of the Films ..	74
3.2.2 Optimization of Growth Parameters ..	78
3.2.3 Structure of the Films ..	79
3.2.4 Optical Properties ..	82
3.2.5 Mechanical and Thermal Stability ..	86
3.3 Cobalt Oxide-Cobalt Sulphide Coatings ..	89
3.3.1 Preparation of the Films ..	89
3.3.2 Optimization of Growth Parameters ..	91
3.3.3 Structure of the Films ..	92
3.3.4 Optical Properties ..	96
3.3.5 Mechanical and Thermal Stability ..	98
 CHAPTER IV	
PREPARATION AND PROPERTIES OF SnO_2 , $\text{SnO}_2:\text{Sb}$ and $\text{In}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Sn}$ Films ..	101
4.1 Introduction ..	101
4.2 Undoped and Antimony Doped Tin Oxide Films ..	102
4.2.1 Film Deposition ..	102
4.2.2 Structural Properties ..	104
4.2.3 Electrical Properties ..	107
4.2.4 Optical Properties ..	109
4.3 Tin Doped Indium Oxide Films ..	111
4.3.1 Film Deposition ..	111
4.3.2 Structural Properties ..	111
4.3.3 Electrical Properties ..	112
4.3.4 Optical Properties ..	114

	Page
CHAPTER V	
HEAT LOSS MINIMIZATION IN A CONCENTRIC CYLINDRICAL SOLAR COLLECTOR EMPLOYING COBALT OXIDE SELECTIVE ABSORBER ..	116
5.1 Introduction ..	116
5.2 Optimum Gap Width in Cylindrical Collector ..	118
5.3 Collector Design and Optimization Procedure ..	119
5.4 Performance of Concentric Cylindri- cal Collector: A Theoretical Analysis ..	121
5.4.1 Transient Performance of the Collector ..	122
5.4.2 Stagnant Condition Per- formance of the Collector ..	123
5.4.3 Heat Loss Computation for the Collector ..	123
5.5 Performance of Concentric Cylindri- cal Collector: An Experimental Analysis ..	126
5.5.1 Optimization of Gap Width ..	126
5.5.2 Effect of Vacuum in the Annulus ..	127
5.5.3 Effect of Heat Mirror Coatings ..	128
5.5.4 Effect of Increase in Illu- minated Absorber Area ..	129
NOMENCLATURE ..	131
CHAPTER VI	
FABRICATION AND OPTIMIZATION OF A FRESNEL REFLECTING CONCENTRATOR FOR A TUBULAR COLLECTOR CONFIGURATION ..	134
6.1 Introduction ..	134
6.2 Geometrical Design Analysis ..	135
6.2.1 An Ideal Design for Fresnel Reflecting Concentrator ..	137
6.2.2 A Practical Design for Fre- snel Reflecting Concentrator..	138
6.2.3 Concentrated Power ..	144

	Page
6.3 Tracking Requirements for Fresnel Reflecting Concentrator ..	145
6.4 Experimental of a Fresnel Reflecting Concentrator ..	146
6.5 Performance Analysis of the Fresnel Reflecting Concentrator ..	149
6.5.1 Effect of Receiver Height ..	149
6.5.2 Effect of Number of the Mirror Elements ..	150
6.6 Performance of Tubular Collector in Conjunction with the Linear Fresnel Reflecting Concentrator ..	151
CHAPTER VII CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE SCOPE OF WORK ..	153
7.1 Conclusions ..	153
7.2 Future Scope ..	155
REFERENCES ..	157
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS ..	171