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Enhancement of Useful Heat Extraction and Thermal Efficiency of Solar Pond using Computational Fluid Dynamic Analysis

Avantika Gupta¹, Pankaj Badgaiyan², Dheeraj Jain³

¹M. Tech Solar, Department of Energy Technology, Truba Institute of Engineering and Information Technology, Bhopal MP, India ²Assistant Professor, Department of Energy Technology, Truba Institute of Engineering and Information Technology, Bhopal MP, India ³Assistant Professor, Department of Energy Technology, Truba Institute of Engineering and Information Technology, Bhopal MP, India <u>avantikagupta2820@gmail.com</u>, pankajbadgaiyan33@gmail.com , djjain2448@gmail.com,

* Corresponding Author: Avantika Gupta

Abstract: A solar pond is a pool of saltwater which collects and stores solar thermal energy. In the present work mathematical and computational fluid dynamics analysis have been performed for different designs of solar pond for the location of central India with 23o 18' 25" N, Longitude: 77o 23' 09'' E. For that total three different three dimensional CFD model has been developed such as solar pond without pipe, with serpentine tube and solar pond with spiral tube have been used to evaluate the maximum temperature generated inside the solar pond and useful heat extraction with overall thermal efficiency of all the design of solar Pond. Water with different salinity concentration (NaCl 5% for NCZ & NaCl 10% for LCZ) on different layer and water with Al2O3 nano-fluid have been used as heat transfer fluid. Result show that design-3 of the solar pond with spiral tube by using both NaCl & Al2O3 nano-fluid gives that better temperature of generation and overall thermal efficiency as compared with all design of solar pond, in that too solar pond by using Al2O3 nano-fluid gives maximum temperature of 93.75 Co and the overall thermal efficiency of 21.56% which is much better than all other design.

Keywords: Solar energy, solar pond, useful heat extraction, thermal efficiency, CFD etc.,

I. INTRODUCTION

Global energy consumption in the last half-century has rapidly increased and is expected to continue to grow over the next 50 years but with significant differences. The past increase was stimulated by relatively "cheap" fossil fuels and increased rates of industrialization in the world; yet while energy consumption in world continues to increase, additional factors make the picture for the next 50 years more complex. Rapid increase in population in the world and standard of living of human beings, there is problem of energy crisis. The supply of oil will fail to meet the increasing population demand. Hence an alternative energy source had to be chosen to meet the future energy demands. [52] Energy is one of the factors necessary for everyone. We use energy in various forms over the year, which causes a number of significant power sources in the World to decline by the amount of time spent. As a result, many countries start to realize and have already began to look for alternative renewable energy to replace those that are vanishing. There are many types of renewable energy such as wind power, hydro power, and biomass. There is also another type of renewable energy that is always available, inexhaustible, and not adversely affecting the environment. It is solar energy. To use such energy; however, there must be a device that can store heat energy from the sun so that the stored energy can be utilized later for various usages. [51]

Solar pond is a device to collect and store energy. It can operate continuously all year long. Solar ponds collect energy from solar radiation. The radiant heat is collected at the bottom side of the pond and this amount of heat would be used later.



a) Working principle of Solar Pond:

The working of solar pond can be understood with given figure. Consider a pond of depth *L* having salts dissolved in the water. Let the concentration at the top C_1 is less than the bottom concentration C_2 , the variation of density with temperature for the two concentrations as shown. Let T_1 and ρ_1 is the temperature and density of the top layer of water indicated by point *P* and $T_2 \& \rho_2$ is the temperature and density of the bottom layer indicated by point *Q*. No convection will occur so long as the slope of the curve PQ is positive.



Figure 2: Working principle of Solar Pond

b) Type of solar ponds : There are many kinds of solar ponds such as, salt gradient solar ponds (SGSP), shallow solar ponds, membrane viscosity stabilized solar ponds membrane stratified solar ponds, saturated solar ponds; viscidity stability solar ponds, and partitioned solar ponds. [18] Butthere are two main categories of solar ponds:

Non-convecting ponds: which reduce heat loss by preventing convection from occurring within the pond.

Convecting ponds: which reduce heat loss by hindering evaporation with a cover over the surface of the pond.

c) Application of solar ponds: Solar ponds technologies offer good potential for collecting, storing and supplying of heat for different applications requiring low grade thermal energy. Thermal energy stored in the solar pond have been utilized for the better quality salt production by enhanced evaporation or purification of salt, aquaculture: using saline or fresh water to grow fish or brine shrimp, dairy industry to preheat feed water to boilers, fruit and vegetable canning industry, fruit and vegetable drying, grain industry for grain drying, production of drinking water through desalination process. The smaller ponds have been used mainly for space and water heating, swimming pool heating, while the larger ponds are proposed for industrial process heat, electric power generation, and sea water desalination on large scale. [8]The solar pond has variety of applications like, heating and cooling of buildings, swimming pool and greenhouse heating, industrial process heat, desalination, power production, agricultural crop drying, etc.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

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The main objection of the present work is to enhance the thermal storage performance by changing the design of solar pond by using different types of heat transfer fluid by performing mathematical analysis for the selected location such as Global, Diffuse and beam radiations, Reflection and Refraction, Transmissivity etc, and validate the results of CFD analysis and calculate the rate of useful heat extraction and overall thermal efficiency of the solar pond.

III. METHODOLOGY



Figure 3: Reflection and Refraction at the interface of two media

When a beam of light of intensity I_{bn} travelling through a transparent medium I strikes the interface separating it from another transparent medium 2, it is reflected and refracted as shown in figure. The reflected beam has a reduced intensity I_r and has a direction such that the angle of reflection is equal to the angle of incidence. On the other hand, the direction of the direction of the incident and refracted beams are related to each other by Snell's law which states that $n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$

$$n_1 \sin \theta_1 - n_2$$

$$\frac{\sin v_1}{1} = \frac{\pi}{1}$$

 $\sin \theta_2 \quad n_1$

Where θ_1 = Angle of incidence, θ_2 = Angle of refraction, and

 $n_1 \& n_2 =$ refractive indices of the two media.

The reflectivity $\rho = (I_r/I_{bn})$ is related to the angle of incidentce and refraction by the equations.

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2}(\rho_I + \rho_{II})$$

$$\rho_I = \frac{\sin^2(\theta_2 - \theta_1)}{\sin^2(\theta_2 + \theta_1)}$$

$$\rho_{II} = \frac{\tan^2(\theta_2 - \theta_1)}{\tan^2(\theta_2 + \theta_1)}$$

 ρ_I and ρ_{II} being the reflected of the two components of polarization. For the special case of normal incidence $\theta_1 = 0^o$

$$\rho = \rho_I = \rho_{II} = \left(\frac{n_1 - n_2}{n_1 + n_2}\right)^2$$

The transmissivity τ_r is given by an expression similar to that for ρ Thus

 $\tau_r = \frac{1}{2}(\tau_{r1}+\tau_{r2})$

Where τ_{r1} and τ_{r2} are the transmissivities of the two components of polarization.

For angle of incidence from 0 to 600 the loss due to reflection is small i.e. 2-6%.

Consider one of the components of polarization of a beam incident on a single cover. Because of the fact that there are two interfaces, multiple reflections and refraction will occurs as shown in figure.



Figure 4: Ray diagram though a single cover considering reflection-refraction alone The transmissivity τ_r based on reflection and refraction at the air-water interface can be calculated using above

equations. Refractive index for water relative to air taken equal to 1.33. Value of τ_r can be obtained for different angle of incidence (0 to 60°)

$$\cos \theta_1 = \sin \phi \cdot \sin \delta + \cos \phi \cdot \cos \delta \cdot \cos \omega$$

$$\theta_2 = \sin^{-1} \left\{ \frac{\sin \theta_1}{1.33} \right\}$$

b) Transmissivity based on absorption:

Transmissivity τ_a based on absorption can be been calculated using beam intensity incident normally on the top layer and beam intensity absorbed by lower layer and the sum of four exponentials as given equation.

$$\tau_a = \sum_{j=1}^4 A_j \, e^{-\kappa_j}$$

Where x = Depth of water and $A_j \& K_j =$ constant c) Calculation of Transmissivity alternatively: $\tau_a = 0.36 - 0.08 ln. x$

If the radiation is not incident normally,

 $\tau_a = 0.36 - 0.08 ln \frac{x}{\cos \theta_2}$

Where x = depth of water in meter, valid for x > 0.01 m

Energy flow in and out of the surface convective zone and the lower convective zone:

The calculation of the temperature distribution in a solar pond is rather involved since the pond consists of three zones. For an exact solution, need to solve the appropriate differential equation for each zone, use matching condition at the interface between the zones and satisfy the boundary conditions at the top and bottom surface of the pond because of the complexity. For the formulation, the surface convective zone and the lower convective zone are assumed to be perfectly mixed layer at uniform temperature which change only with time.



Figure 5: Energy flow in and out of the surface convective zone and the lower convective zone

Solar radiation absorbed in the pond

 $\rho C_p \frac{\partial T_{II}}{\partial t} = k \frac{\partial^2 T_{II}}{\partial x^2} - \frac{dI}{dx}$ $I = I_b \tau_{rb} \tau_{ad} + I_d \tau_{rd} \tau_{ad}$ c) Rate of useful heat extraction:

$$T_{III} - T_{a} = \frac{\tau_{r} \cdot H_{g}}{k} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{k} \frac{A_{j}}{K_{j}'} \left(1 - e^{-K_{j}' l_{2}}\right) - \frac{l_{2}}{k} \cdot \frac{q_{load}}{A_{p}}$$

 $K_j' = \frac{f}{\cos \theta_2}$

Where θ_2 is the angle of refraction corresponding to an effective angle of incidence. This is taken to be the angle of incidence on the equinox day ($\delta = 0$) at 1400 hour at the location under consideration. $l_2 = Depth$ of solar pond at the bottom of the non convective zone

 $\frac{q_{load}}{A_p}$ = Rate of useful heat extraction

Table 01: Properties of the insulation and w	vater in each	zone of the	e solar pon	d:[20][21]
Domain number	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	
Layer of Solar pond	LCZ	NCZ	UCZ	
Depth of Solar pond [m]	0.1	0.3	0.1	
Density [Kg/m ³]	1045.1	1020	<mark>992</mark> .2	
Specific heat Cp [J/kg-k]	3740.9	3945.6	4182	
Thermal conductivity k [W/m-K]	0.661	0.648	0.630	
Kinematic Viscosity [Nm-s]	0.000462	0.000528	0.001003	1
Absorption coefficient [m ⁻¹]	1.2	0.25	0.15	
Scattering coefficient [m ⁻¹]	0.15	0.12	0.1	₹ /

d) Transmissivity based on absorption at different depth of solar pond According to Bryant and Colbeck:

Transmissivity whem the radiation is not incident normally,

$$\tau_a = 0.36 - 0.08 ln \frac{\kappa}{\cos \theta_2}$$

Transmissivity based on absorption for beam radiation

$$\tau_{ab} = 0.36 - 0.08 ln \frac{x}{\cos \theta}$$

Transmissivity based on absorption for diffused radiation For the diffuse radiation take the angle of incidence θ_2 to be 60°

$$\tau_{ad} = 0.36 - 0.08 ln \frac{x}{\cos \theta_2}$$

Overall thermal efficiency of the solar Pond $MC_n(T_{III} - T_a) = V\rho C_n(T_{III} - T_a)$

$$\eta_{th} = \frac{MC_p(I_{III} - I_a)}{A_{sur}H_g} = \frac{V\rho C_p(I_{III} - I_a)}{A_{sur}H_g}$$

e) CAD geometry of solar pond for design-1:

Three dimensional CAD model of solar pond without tube has been created using ANSYS design modular. The dimensional parameters are use to create solar pond for design-1 are such as; length and width of solar pond is 1 m, height of solar pond is 0.5 m, and depth of UCZ, NCZ & LCZ are 0.1 m, 0.3 m & 0.1 m respectively as shown in figure.



Figure 6: CAD geometry of solar pond for design-1 In the present work is 202848 and total no. of elements is 44180. Types of elements used are hexahedral in shape.



f) CAD geometry of solar pond for design-2:

The length and width of solar pond is 1 m, height of solar pond is 0.5 m, and depth of UCZ, NCZ & LCZ are 0.1 m, 0.3 m & 0.1 m respectively, Diameter of serpentine tube is 25 mm with 12 turns as shown in figure.



Figure 8: CAD geometry of solar pond for design-2

In the present work is 2767916 and total no. of elements is 814337. Types of elements used are hexahedral and tetrahedral in shape due to complexity of LCZ.



Figure 9: Meshing of solar pond for design-2

g) CAD geometry of solar pond for design-3:

The length and width of solar pond is 1 m, height of solar pond is 0.5 m, and depth of UCZ, NCZ & LCZ are 0.1 m, 0.3 m & 0.1 m respectively, Diameter of spiral tube is 25 mm with 8 coil as shown in figure.



Figure 10: CAD geometry of solar pond for design-3

In the present work is 1045105 and total no. of elements is 559134. Types of elements used are hexahedral and tetrahedral in shape due to complexity of LCZ.



Figure 11: Meshing of solar pond for design-3



Figure 12: Boundary condition for the computational domain of solar pond

Axisymmetrytwo dimensional CAD model of solar pond with three zone (LCZ = lower convective zone, NCZ = Nonconvective zone & UCZ = upper convective zone) has been created. Depth of LCZ = 0.1 m, Depth of NCZ = 0.3 m and Depth of UCZ = 0.1 m with total depth of 0.5 m. Fresh water with zero salinity used for UCZ, for NCZ – 5% salinity used and for LCZ- 10% salinity used. To determine the thermal distribution need to on energy equation. Slip boundary condition assigned to the top wall of solar pond. Though the solar pond is cylindrical and only half section has been created, for that symmetry boundary is assigned to the left wall. No slip boundary condition assigned to the bottom &right side wall of solar pond. Species transport with internal diffusivity has been used to define mass diffusivity between water and NaCl and the value of mass diffusion = $2.32E-9 \text{ m}^2/\text{Sec}$ assigned. Transient analyses are performed using time step of 1 sec for 1 hour to ensure the bounded stability for accurate progressive evaluation of the flow filed. LCZ and UCZ are patched with their prescribed temperature and salinity. Temperature values for different zones (LCZ, NCZ & UCZ) are 40 C°, 60 C°& 80 C° for CFD simulation.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Total three different three dimensionalCFD model has been developed such as solar pond without pipe, with serpentine tube and solar pond with spiral tube have been used to evaluate the thermal storage performance of the solar pond.



Figure 13: Monthly average sunshine hour

The average sunshine hour for the year ranges from 10.9 hours in the month of December to 13.39 hours in the month of Jun as shown in figure.



Figure 14: Average global, diffuse & beam radiation for throughout the year









$I_{r,water} = I_b \cdot \rho_b + I_d \cdot \rho_d$

For the diffuse radiation take the angle of incidence to be 60°

Calculation of transmissivity of a cover system when the diffuse radiation is incident on it present some diffusivity, because the radiation comes from many direction. The usual practice is to assume that the diffuse radiation is equivalent to beam radiation coming at an angle of incident of 60° by assuming that the amount of diffuse radiation coming from all direction is the same.





Figure 24: Transmissivity based on absorption for beam radiation at x = 0.1 m for different solar time



Figure 26: Transmissivity based on absorption for beam radiation at x = 0.5 m for different solar time

c) Transmissivity based on absorption for diffused radiation

For the diffuse radiation take the angle of refraction θ_2 to be 40.63°



Figure 27: Solar flux I at x = 0.1 m pond depth for different solar time



Figure 30: Temperature volume rendering on different layer of solar pond using different salinity concentration for design1

After performing computational fluid dynamics analysis of solar pond without tube for temperature distribution on different layer such as LCZ, NCZ & UCZ by using water with different salinity concentration (NaCl 5% for NCZ & NaCl 10% for LCZ) on different layer has been analyzed, the maximum temperature of 79.91 C° has been observed at the LCZ of the solar pond while the minimum temperature of 40 C° has been observed at the top layer of UCZ.



Figure 31: Temperature volume rendering on different layer of solar pond using Al₂O₃for design-1

e) Computational fluid dynamic analysis of solar pond for design-2

82.31 81.84 81.38

The maximum temperature of 82.16 C° has been observed at the LCZ of the solar pond while the minimum temperature of 40 C° has been observed at the top layer of UCZ.



Figure 32: Temperature distribution on different layer of solar pond using different salinity concentration for design-2





f) Computational fluid dynamic analysis of solar pond for design-3

The maximum temperature of 91.26 C° has been observed at the mid plane of the solar pond while the minimum temperature of 40 C° has been observed at the top layer of the solar pond.



Figure 36: Temperature distribution on different layer of solar pond using different salinity concentration for design-3



Figure 37: Temperature volume rendering on different layer of solar pond using different salinity concentration for design2

The maximum temperature of 93.75 C° has been observed at the LCZ of the solar pond while the minimum temperature of 40 C° has been observed at the top layer of UCZ.







Solar pond without tube Solar pond with serpentine Solar pond with spiral tube tube

Figure 40: Comparative results of temperature distribution on different layer of solar pond for all designs



Solar pond without tube Solar pond with serpentine Solar pond with spiral tube





Figure 42: Comparative results of overall thermal efficiency on different designs of solar pond

V. CONCLUSION

□ After performing mathematical and computational fluid dynamics analysis of solar pond without tube for temperature distribution on different layer such as LCZ, NCZ & UCZ by using water with different salinity concentration on different layer has been analyzed, the maximum and minimum temperature of 79.91 Co was observed at the LCZ & UCZ respectively, while the useful heat extraction was 118.9107 W/m2 and the overall thermal efficiency of the solar pond was observed as 17.22%.

□ Solar pond without tube for temperature distribution on different layer such as LCZ, NCZ & UCZ by using water with Al2O3 nano-fluid has been analyzed, the maximum and minimum temperature of 82 Co was observed at the LCZ & UCZ respectively, while the useful heat extraction was 115.5250 W/m2 and the overall thermal efficiency of the solar pond was observed as 17.87%.

□ Solar pond with serpentine tube for temperature distribution on different layer such as LCZ, NCZ & UCZ by using water with different salinity concentration on different layer has been analyzed, the maximum and minimum temperature of 82.16 Co was observed at the LCZ & UCZ respectively, while the useful heat extraction was 115.2658 W/m2 and the overall thermal efficiency of the solar pond was observed as 17.92%.

□ Solar pond with serpentine tube for temperature distribution on different layer such as LCZ, NCZ & UCZ by using water with Al2O3 nano-fluid has been analyzed, the maximum and minimum temperature of 84.61 Co was observed at the LCZ & UCZ respectively, while the useful heat extraction was 111.2969 W/m2 and the overall thermal efficiency of the solar pond was observed as 18.69%.

□ Solar pond with spiral tube for temperature distribution on different layer such as LCZ, NCZ & UCZ by using water with different salinity concentration on different layer has been analyzed, the maximum and minimum temperature of 91.26 Co was observed at the LCZ & UCZ respectively, while the useful heat extraction was 100.5242 W/m2 and the overall thermal efficiency of the solar pond was observed as 20.78%.

□ Solar pond with spiral tube for temperature distribution on different layer such as LCZ, NCZ & UCZ by using water with Al2O3 nano-fluid has been analyzed, the maximum and minimum temperature of 93.75 Co was observed at the LCZ & UCZ respectively, while the useful heat extraction was 96.4905 W/m2 and the overall thermal efficiency of the solar pond was observed as 21.56%.

From the above conclusion it has been observed that design-3 of the solar pond with spiral tube by using both NaCl & Al2O3 nano-fluid gives that better temperature of generation and overall thermal efficiency as compared with all design of solar pond, in that too solar pond by using Al2O3 nano-fluid gives maximum temperature of 93.75 Co and the overall thermal efficiency of 21.56% which is much better than all other design.

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