*Original Article*

# An Experimental Investigation of Solar Nano Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Coating Exhibiting Higher Solar Absorption Efficiency using Box- Behnken Design

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*Abstract - This paper presents a study that explores the use of nanocoating on a flat plate collector to enhance heat transfer in a conventional flat-plate solar water heater through an experimental approach. Globally, people are facing an increasingly serious energy dilemma. Numerous studies employing replenishable energy sources, such as sun energy as opposed to fuel and electrical energy, are conducted in an effort to control the energy crisis issue. This is because solar energy is free of cost and environmentally benign. Several research studies have tried to improve the effectiveness of solar water heaters. A simple and effective method of utilizing solar power is to warm water for household purposes. Despite the significant upfront expense of a solar water heating system, there are no ongoing green energy costs. The coating is created by integrating a metallic particle, fe3o4, into the black paint. With variations in ratios (1g, 1.5g, and 2g) were applied on three distinct flat plate collectors. Throughout this research, efficiency was evaluated for fe3o<sup>4</sup> nanocoating and keeping flat plate collectors at varying tilt angles (15°, 30°, and 45°) and diverse flow rates (60, 90, and 120 kg/hr).* 

*Keywords - Collector performance, Heat transfer fluid, Optimum angle, Optimum flowrate, Selective surface coatings.*

# **1. Introduction**

An enormous heating load is turned on during peak hours, exacerbating the already existing imbalance between supply and demand for power. Considerable progress can be made in closing the gap if the heating load is shifted from conventional to non-traditional energy sources. Being completely free to operate, solar energy is the most efficient renewable energy source available. It may also close the gap between supply and demand for electricity, saving money. Many applications needing fluid temperatures lower than 80˚C use flat plate collectors, including space heating and household hot water. A straightforward and efficient technique to use solar energy is to heat water for household use. One variety of solar thermal collectors is [1]. Collector outcome is calculated [2]. The study was carried out in Bangladesh, with a 12-month data collection period. It has been discovered that the FPC water heater can operate continuously [3, 4]. The working fluid in the paper is suggested to be a phase transition material. At a certain temperature, it goes through a phase transition and releases latent heat, which heats the water. It is recommended. [5] It is suggested that the collecting mount be tilted weekly, seasonally, or biannually rather than leaving it in place all year. Finding out the long-term effectiveness of the FPC using the system advisor model is the goal of the experiment.[6]. [7] In this research, two FPCs are examined: one has a traditional design, and the other has a novel design, meaning that in this collector, heat transmission occurs directly from the absorber plate to the fluid. Additionally, GI is employed in place of Cu for the absorber plate material. Additionally, choosing a different collector results in a slight change in the output temperatures. An experiment is conducted [8], and the findings show that the water heater's efficiency is dependent on the flow rate through the collector; as the flow rate and incident solar radiation increase, so does the collector's efficiency. The effectiveness of a solar water heater is increased in this research [9] by heating an auxiliary tank that holds cold water in front of the sun and then moving it inside to heat the water quickly. This research [10] examines several incentives that might be provided to customers in order to encourage them to use solar water heaters more often. A study was conducted to analyze the V-Through Flat Plate Collector experiments conducted in Rajasthan's hot climate. One case study pertaining to this effort in Jaipur has been presented in this. The effectiveness of the solar flat collector has been observed to be enhanced by the V-grooved reflector. The research work on the effectiveness improvement of the solar water heater. In this, the zigzag grooves and three layers of glass were used in the absorber plate to analyze the performance of solar flat collectors. The results show that the performance of flat plates shows enhanced in overall conditions. The effectiveness of various tube arrangements for solar water heating systems was researched. Increasing various tube arrangements' thermal efficiency.

The high percentage of heat gathered in a zigzag tube layout in both the summer and winter seasons. Hot water is released after the water, which enters from the plate's bottom side, is heated up in the collector area. Among unconventional energy sources, solar energy is the most efficient. In the realm of green energy, solar power is becoming increasingly favoured because it is suitable for heating water in both residential and commercial settings. This is because fossil fuels, such as gas and oil, are becoming more and more expensive. By calculating the instantaneous efficiency values for various variables, the thermal efficiency of the solar collector was ascertained. A work review on current efforts to improve the efficiency of solar water heaters.

The primary emphasis of this study is the most recent advancements in the field of Solar Water Heaters (SWH). The research focuses mostly on the application of several strategies integrated to enhance solar water heater performance. These solar systems' performance is collector-dependent. The water is heated using the heat that the collector captures from the sun to the greatest extent possible. There are numerous tiny solar water heater designs available today. Solar water heaters frequently employ thermal performance-enhancing approaches, including the use of rough or grooved surface absorbers. P. Shivkumar In this investigation, the results demonstrate that the efficiency increases with the number of riser tubes and that these riser tubes are arranged in a zigzag pattern or Z configuration. Currently, this device outperforms the traditional flat plate collector in terms of efficiency. A solar system may provide 7 kW/m2 of heat in a single day. Solar energy is frequently actively converted into heat using solar collectors. A naturally occurring solar thermal technology is the sunwater heating system. Heat is produced by incident solar radiation in solar water heating systems and is then transferred to a transfer medium, like water. It is frequently feasible to replace energy and fossil fuels used for water heating with solar water heating.

#### **2. Literature**

The sun is the primary source of energy for most terrestrial sources. The sun produces 1.8 x1015 TW of energy or more than 99.9% of all energy sent to Earth today. Every day, our planet receives electricity from the sun's rays, which is a million times more than the total energy generated by all of Earth's power plants combined. Therefore, we cannot anticipate a worldwide energy crisis brought on by the sun, yet solar energy is 20,000 times more powerful than what we currently utilize. Given that there is no pollution or environmental harm associated with its usage, this quantity

appears to be a great source for meeting human requirements [9–11]. Bostrom and associates published research on nickel alumina coatings made from thermal solar absorber solutions in 2007. The ideal coating parameters were determined to be a molecule size of 10 nm, a thickness of 0.1 m, and a concentration of 65% nickel.

The permeable layer comesto a typical warm conductanc e of 0.03 and an ordinary sun-powered absorbance, sol, of 0.83. By adding an antireflection layer to the introduction retaining layer, the absorber's execution was advanced. The sample with the best antireflection coating achieved a thermal emittance of 0.04 and a solar absorptance of 0.93[12-19]. Katumba et al. (2008) investigated how carbon nanoparticles incorporated in SiO2, ZnO, and NiO matrices prepared by the solgel technique functioned as solar selective absorbers.[14]. Aluminium substrates were used for testing the coatings. Thermal emissivity and solar absorption can be determined through UV, VIS, and FTIR spectroscopy to ascertain the spectral response of composite coatings. The samples of the NiO matrix showed the best solar selective behaviour, and they suggested a theoretical evaluation framework for more material comparisons of this type. The study "Comparison between aesthetic and thermal performances of copper oxide and titanium dioxide Nano particulate coatings" was conducted by Mehdi Baneshi et al. in 2011.

The authors presented a brand-new optimization technique for creating coloured coatings that takes into account both aesthetic and thermal consequences. PVDdeposited solar selective coatings with high absorptance and low emittance have been thoroughly investigated. This study paper includes a detailed description of PVD coatings that are commercially available for use in flat plate solar thermal power production applications.

In contrast to the conventional black paint coating, Ehab AlShamaileh (2010) proposed a selective coating with a higher solar absorption efficiency for the black paint based on a nickel-aluminum (NiAl) alloy. A mass percentage of 6% NiAl alloy was the ideal composition. It is clear from the talk above that a large number of motivated researchers have used nanomaterials in numerous experiments and published their results. The studies' overall conclusion is that nanomaterials, such as chromium particles with black paint, cupric oxide, SiO2, ZnO, NiO matrices, and Ni-Al alloy, are significant.

#### *2.1. Box-Behnken Design*

For the response surface approach, the Box-Behnken design works well because it allows for the following tasks:

- Estimating the quadratic model's parameters.
- Creating sequential designs.
- Using blocks
- Identifying instances where the model does not suit the data.

Response surface designs, such as the Doehlert matrix, Box-Behnken design, and three-level full factorial design, are contrasted with one another. According to the findings, the central composite design is only slightly more efficient than the Doehlert matrix and Box-Behnken design, which are both much more efficient than the three-level complete factorial designs.

#### **3. Experimental Procedure**

The temperature coupling points and the schematic diagram of the tank under discussion and the solar flat collector are shown in Figure 1. The flat plate collector is situated next to a 100-liter tank and is inclined north and south.  $A$  2.0 m<sup>2</sup> flat plate collector with nine riser tubes with an outer diameter of 1.27 cm, each measuring 6 feet in length and 1.2 cm in wall thickness, makes up the experiment portion. Copper heat-collecting surfaces with a 0.20 mm thickness make up these riser tubes. Using thermocouples installed alternately on riser pipes, the wall temperature distribution of the collection plate riser pipe was measured. Moreover, the water's temperature is increased.

#### *3.1. Specification of Flat Plate Collector*

- Flat plate collector area =  $1.8 \text{ m}^2$
- Two glass covers of 4 mmthickness are provided with pads. The absorber istubeand sheet type.
- Number of tubes  $= 9$ Tubes dimensions
- outer diameter  $= 10$  mm
- Wall thickness  $= 1$  mm
- $Long = 2m (9$  tubes of 10 mm ODI mm wall thickness and 2m long are equispaced, and 75mm width corrugated black painted fins are embedded over thetube).
- The bottom and top headers' outer diameter  $= 25$  mm.
- Black paint is used to coat the absorber.
- 50 mm thick mineral wool insulation is used below the absorber and around the edges.

On an absorber plate, the collector was tested using a selective coating of commercial black paint mixed with  $fe_{304}$ at several ratios (1%, 1.5%, and 2%). and maintaining the collector at three distinct tilt angles: 300, 450, and 600. The collector utilized in this project is 1 x 1.2 m in size, with a copper thickness of 2 mm. It has nine copper tubes evenly distributed on it, each measuring 10 mm on the outside and 9 mm on the inside. The input and outlet headers, which have a diameter of 60 mm, were tested under various solar radiation conditions and collector tilts. The working substance, water, was tested at various flow rates, with varying  $Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  coating ratios on three collectors and at various tilt angles. Thermos couples are positioned in different places, as shown in the figure 2.



**Fig. 1 Experimental setup (1) External Motor, (2) Rotameter, (3) Pipe, (4) Table, (5) Digital Temperature Indicator, (6) Thermocouple nob, (7) Water Tank, (8) Water Pipe Connected To Collector, (9) Inlet Value, (10) Out Value, (11) Absorber Plates, (12) Copper Tubes.**

### *3.2. Collectors with Nanocoating*



 **Fig. 2 Collectors coated with nano particulars with different ratios**

# *3.3. Data Reduction*

Thermal efficiency is the ratio of heat output to heat input. The thermal efficiency  $(\eta\%)$  of the FPC is computed using

# *3.3.1. Heat gain by the Cold Fluid or Useful Energy*

 $Q_c = m_c C_{pc} (\Delta T)$  watts  $m_c$  = Mass flow of cold fluid kg/s

 $C_{\rm F}$  = Specificheatofcold fluid = 4186.8 j/kg-k.

*3.3.2. Heat Energy absorbed by the Collector*

 $Q_a = I \times A$  watts

I = Intensity of solar radiation in  $w/m^2$ 

average solar power in India is 5kw

but I = 5 cos  $\alpha$  ( $\alpha$ = angle of tilt)

FPC Surface Area of Collector =  $0.1 \times 2 = 0.2$  m<sup>2</sup> Total collector area  $(A)$  = Surface area x number of tubes (n) A =  $0.2 \times 9 = 1.8$  m<sup>2</sup>

*3.3.3. Efficiency of the unit*

$$
(\eta\%) = \frac{Qc}{Qa} \times 100
$$

# *3.4. Expected Outcomes*

It is suggested that  $f_{304}$  nanoparticles be mixed with black paint from the store, put on an absorber plate, and selected for additional research that will result in analysis, both theoretical and experimental, which may show gains in the collector's functionality.

- It is anticipated that nanoparticles will increase absorption capacity.
- The absorber's emissivity and absorbtivity will both benefit from nano coatings.
- It is expected that the metallic-coated collector's operating fluid will warm up more at the output.
- Cost reduction may be possible with nanocoatings.

#### *3.5. Process Parameters and their Levels* **Table 1. Process parameters**



#### *3.6. Design of Matrix*

The Design of Experts (DOE) is a useful tool for organizing experiments and efficiently analyzing the collected data.

The choice of the input variables and the response (output) that will be measured is the first step in the experimental task. BBD produced 17 simulation runs for a copper-absorbed plate with a  $Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  nanocoating, grouped by three factors, as shown in Table 2.

# **4. Results And Discussions**

*4.1. ANOVA for Quadratic model Response 1: Efficiency* Transform: Square Root Constant: 0





Factor coding is Coded.

Sum of squares is Type III – Partial.

The significance of the model is indicated by its F-value of 3.74. This great of an F-value is 4.81% likely to be the result of noise. Model terms with P-values less than 0.0500 are deemed significant. In this case, A and B are significant model terms. If the value is greater than 0.1000, the model terms

become irrelevant. If your model has many unimportant model terms (aside from those required to maintain hierarchy), model reduction may help improve your model. The Lack of Fit Fvalue of 56486601.23 suggests that the lack of fit is significant. Noise is likely to be the cause of a high Lack of Fit F-value by 0.01%. Since we need the model to fit, a notable lack of fit is not what we want. A poor Predicted R2 suggests

that rather than using the current model, the overall mean would be a more accurate predictor of your answer. A higherorder model might occasionally make superior predictions as well. Adeq Precision determines the signal-to-noise ratio. The ratio ought to be more than 4. You have a sufficient signal strength with a ratio of 6.930. This idea can be used to navigate the design space. The coefficient estimate, with all other factors maintained constant, shows the estimated change in response for each unit change in factor value. The total average response across all runs is the intercept in an orthogonal design. The coefficients show how the factor selections affected the modifications made in reference to that average. The VIFs are 1 when the factors are orthogonal, while multi-collinearity is indicated by any value higher than 1. The

VIF increases with the strength of the factor relationship. It is common to think that less than ten VIFs are suitable. There are not any notable model terms here. If the values of the model terms are more than 0.1000, they are considered not significant. If your model has a lot of extraneous terms (apart from those required to maintain hierarchy), model reduction might be able to help.





**Factor Coding: Actual** 

3D Surface

efficiency (%) Design Points:

Above Surface

**Below Surface** 

27.89 58.0861

 $X1 = A$ 

 $X2 = B$ 

**Actual Factor** 

 $C = 1.5$ 







**Fig. 4 Efficiency with Respect to concentration and flow rate**



**Fig. 5 Efficiency with Respect to concentration and flow rate**



## *4.2. ANOVA for Quadratic Model Response 2: Qa*

Factor coding is Coded.

Sum of squares is Type III - Partial.

P-values less than 0.0500 indicate that model terms are significant.



**Factor Coding: Actual** 

Oa **Design Points** 6.3639 8.6931

 $X1 = A$  $X2 = B$ 

#### **Actual Factor**

 $C = 1.5$ 





#### **Table 8. Coefficients in Terms of Coded Factors**



There are no important model terms in this instance. The model terms are not important if the value is bigger than 0.1000. Model reduction could make your model better if it has a large number of unimportant model terms (apart from those needed to maintain hierarchy). Case(s) with a 1.0000 leverage: PRESS statistic and Pred R2 are not defined. There is less than 0.2 discrepancy between the Adjusted R2 of 1.0000 and the Predicted R2 of 1.0000, indicating a satisfactory agreement.When all other factors are maintained constant, the coefficient estimate shows the expected change in response for each unit change in factor value. The total average response of all the runs is the intercept in an orthogonal design. Based on the factor choices, the coefficients represent modifications made around that average. VIFs are 1 when the factors are orthogonal; VIFs more than 1 denote multi-colinearity; the higher the VIF, the stronger the factor connection. VIFs of fewer than 10 are generally acceptable.

#### 3D Surface



**Fig. 8 Efficiency with Respect to concentration and flow rate**



#### *4.3. ANOVA for Quadratic Model Response 3: Qc*

**Table 10. Fit statistics**



Given the noise, the model's F-value of 2.69 suggests that it is not significant. A significant F-value like this has a 10.26% probability of being caused by noise. Model terms are considered significant when P-values are less than 0.0500. A is a significant model term in this instance. The model terms are not important if the value is bigger than 0.1000. Model reduction could make your model better if it has a large number of unimportant model terms (apart from those needed to maintain hierarchy).

According to predicted R2, the current model may not be as good at predicting your answer as the overall mean. A higher-order model might potentially be more predictive in some circumstances. Adeq Precision calculates the ratio of signal to noise. Ideally, the ratio should be higher than 4. With a ratio of 5.919, your signal strength is sufficient. The design space can be navigated using this concept. An unfavourable the predicted R² suggests that the current model may not be as good as the overall mean in predicting your answer. Higherorder models sometimes make better predictions as well. Adeq Precision is used for signal-to-noise ratio analysis.

An ideal ratio is greater than 4. Your ratio indicates a strong enough signal at 5.919. Use this model to navigate the design space. When all other factors are maintained constant, the coefficient estimate shows the expected change in response for each unit change in factor value. The total average response of all the runs is the intercept in an orthogonal design. Based on the factor choices, the coefficients represent modifications made around that average. VIFs are 1 when the factors are orthogonal; VIFs more than 1 denote multi-colinearity; the higher the VIF, the stronger the factor connection. VIFs of fewer than 10 are generally acceptable.







**Fig. 10 Efficiency with Respect to angle and flow rate**



**Fig. 11 Efficiency with Respect to concentration and angle**

#### **Nomenclature**



RSM offers an accurate optimal location and is a helpful tool for optimizing parameters. Due to their simplicity, Box-Behnken and Central Composite designs frequently use RSM designs for parameter optimization and fitting second-order polynomials to response surfaces.

#### **5. Conclusion**

In order to increase absorptivity and decrease emissivity in a liquid flat plate solar water collector, this paper suggests using a variety of nanocoating techniques. It is a novel and cutting-edge approach in the field of solar systems that can be readily implemented at a reasonable cost.

Potential research results are discussed, along with the setup requirements for the experiment and the coating techniques for the nanomaterials. Based on the studies conducted, applying these nanocoatings to liquid flat plate collectors may significantly improve the solar collector's overall efficiency.

Experiments are carried out using BBD and assessed using Design of Experiments (DOE) software to assess the heat increase of copper absorbers employing nanocoating of Fe3O4. Comparing the SWHS to regular black paint from the store, it is evident that the new coating, which contains Fe3o4 particles, collects thermal energy more effectively. The above results were compared with experimental and RSM.

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