Alternative Energy

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**Table of Contents**

Table of Contents ......................................................................................................................... v
Preface ........................................................................................................................................... viii

Chapter 1  
The Impact of energy utilization on environment ........................................................................ 1  
  M.N.A. Hawlader

Chapter 2  
Desalination of Seawater to provide fresh water ......................................................................... 9  
  M.N.A. Hawlader

Chapter 3  
A solar assisted desalination system using heat pump ................................................................. 16  
  M.N.A. Hawlader, Leong Chiing Yang

Chapter 4  
An experimental study of a phase change storage system ....................................................... 23  
  M.N.A. Hawlader and Smita Panga

Chapter 5  
Moisture migration in a grain column subjected to drying ....................................................... 30  
  M.N.A. Hawlader and Md. Shafique J. Chowdhury

Chapter 6  
Solar Drying of Guavas, Papayas and Applcs ....................................................................... 38  
  M.N.A. Hawlader and Lee Hiwee Peng

Chapter 7  
Drying under inert environment: the quality of Mango and Rockmelon .................................. 47  
  M.N.A. Hawlader and Pan Jiahe

Chapter 8  
A low temperature flat plate solar collector .......................................................................... 53  
  M.N.A. Hawlader, M. Zakir Ullah and Maung Than Htut

Chapter 9  
Optimization of an integrated solar heat-pump system ......................................................... 60  
  M.N.A. Hawlader and Ye Shaochun

Chapter 10  
Comparative study of performance characteristics using *Jatropha* Oil Methyl Esters  
  Biodiesel and Diesel ............................................................................................................. 69  
  A.K.M. Mohiuddin and Azan Mohd

Chapter 11  
Comparative Study of Emission Characteristics using *Jatropha* Oil Methyl Esters Biodiesel  
  and Diesel ............................................................................................................................. 74  
  A.K.M. Mohiuddin and Azan Mohd

Chapter 12  
Waste Cooking Oil Utilization for Biodiesel Production ....................................................... 79  
  A.K.M. Mohiuddin and Nabeel Adeyemi

Chapter 13  
Flow Characteristic of Mixing Impeller for Liquid-Liquid Mixing ........................................ 85  
  A.K.M. Mohiuddin and Nabeel Adeyemi

Chapter 14  
Solar Energy Management for Poverty Alleviation and Income Generating Activities ........ 91  
  A.K.M. Mohiuddin
Chapter 15
Turbulence model for axial mixing impeller in un baffled vessel........................................... 97
A.K.M. Mohiuddin, Nabeel Adeyemi and Muhamad Husaini

Chapter 16
Optimization and economic analysis of a solar assisted heat pump drying system........ 103
M.N.A. Hawlader, S. M. A. Rahman and K.A. Jahangeer

Chapter 17
A solar heat pump water heater for rural hospitals ............................................................... 117
M.N.A. Hawlader and M. Zakir Ullah

Chapter 18
A solar heat-pump system for air-conditioning, water heating and drying..................... 126
M.N.A. Hawlader, K.A. Jahangeer, Ye Shaochun and Choy Tack Hoon

Chapter 19
Engineering design – An approach to the development of creativity............................ 132
M.N.A. Hawlader

Chapter 20
Analysis of Engine Performance with NGV ........................................................................ 140
Sany Izan Ihsan, Nabila Sulaiman, AKM Mohiuddin and Maizirwan Mel

Chapter 21
Analysis of Engine Performance with Enhanced Fuel....................................................... 147
Sany Izan Ihsan, Khairussani Farid, Maizirwan Mel, and AKM Mohiuddin

Chapter 22
CFD analysis of an evacuated solar still............................................................................. 156
Ahmad F. Ismail, Mirghani I. Ahmed, Yousif A. Abakr

Chapter 23
Developments on Solar Operated Water Desalination....................................................... 163
Mirghani I. Ahmed, Yousif A. Abakr and Ahmad F. Ismail

Chapter 24
Theoretical and experimental evaluation of LPG as refrigerator for domestic refrigerators and freezers........................................................................................................... 169
M.M. El-Awad, M.I. Ahmed

Chapter 25
Preliminary investigation of biodiesel reactor optimization using combine CFD-Taguchi method...................................................................................................................... 179
A.K.M. Mohiuddin and Nabeel A Adeyemi

Chapter 26
Alternative mixing strategy for biodiesel production: mixed flow impeller characterization ............................................................ 188
A.K.M. Mohiuddin and Nabeel Adeyemi

Chapter 27
Experimental Investigation of a Multistage Evacuated Solar Still................................... 197
Yousif. A. Abakr, Ahmad F. Ismaill and Mirghani I. Ahmed

Chapter 28
Modelling of electronics heat sink – Influence of the wake function generation on the accuracy of CFD analysis......................................................... 203
M. I. Ahmed, A. F. Ismail, Y. A. Abakr

Chapter 29
The effect of the operating conditions on the apparent viscosity of crude palm oil during separation................................................................................................. 213
Sulaiman Al-Zuhair, Yousif A. Abakr and Mirghani I. Ahmed
Chapter 30
Thermal analysis of a micro device used for detection of colorectal cancer................. 220
Mirghani I. Ahmed, Meftah Hrairi

Chapter 31
Performance of different photovoltaic cells operating under the meteorological conditions
of Singapore........................................................................................................................................ 229
M.N.A Hawlader, Lee Poh Seng and Chua Kok Kiang

Chapter 32
Analyses of motion and drag coefficient of water droplets in a natural draught cooling
tower.............................................................................................................................................. 240
Liu Baomin and M. N. A. Hawlader

Chapter 33
A solar assisted heat pump system for desalination............................................. 252
Zakaria Mohd. Amin, M N A Hawlader and Azharul Karim

Chapter 34
Comparative study of combustion characteristics using Jatropha oil methyl esters biodiesel
and diesel........................................................................................................................................ 261
A.K.M. Mohiuddin and Azan Mohd

Chapter 35
Performance of evaporator collector and air collector in a solar assisted heat pump dryer.
...................................................................................................................................................... 269
S. M. A. Rahman and M. N. A. Hawlader
Modelling of electronics heat sink

Chapter 28

Modelling of electronics heat sink – Influence of the wake function generation on the accuracy of CFD analysis

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Abstract

Cooling of electronic components continues to attract many research & development activities towards achieving an effective way of cooling. On this work, an analytic analysis of the cooling process was conducted to calculate the required cooling rate. A Fluent CFD model was developed to model and simulate the system. Experimental results were then used to test and evaluate the conditions at which the software results are approaching the exact measured values. A relation was discovered between the thermal wake function and capability of the software to give better estimations of the circuit board temperatures. The obtained results generally showed good agreement between the simulation and the experimental results.

Keywords: CFD, electronic cooling, heat sink, simulation.

INTRODUCTION

The present decade of electronics industry encountered appearance of many mobile electronic devices, which is accompanied by the progressive decrease of electronics device sizes. Also the higher processing rates resulted in an increasing rate of heat generation per unit surface area. Cooling requirements increased dramatically to secure device performance. According to statistics. Failure occurrence of electronic equipment increases according to the increase of device working temperature. On the other hand high thermal stresses in solder joints on circuit boards are major causes of failure. Therefore, cooling of electronics components has become increasingly important in the design and operation of electronic equipment. Many techniques are used for cooling the electronic circuits, but air-cooled forced convection cooling remained to be the most used technique.

The need of cooling of electronic components was known since Thomas Edison discovered the vacuum diode in 1883. The new era of electronics was started in 1958 by the invention of the silicon integrated circuit (IC). Integrated circuits contain several components such as diodes, transistors, resistors, and capacitors in a single chip. The number of components per chip has been increasing steadily. Electronic