

Modelling of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon in Matlab

MD Irfan Ali, R. Senthilkumar and R. Mahendren

Abstract— In the last years the demand for fresh water is increasing tremendously all over the world. The future demand will be very high and the fresh water resources are getting depleted at a faster rate. We need to depend on the brackish water and oceanic water resources for meeting the fresh water demand. Furthermore non-conventional energy resources are required for meeting energy demand. One best option is to use solar energy for water distillation. This paper is about the numerical analysis and modelling of a solar still and enhancing its efficiency by mixing the still water with granular activated carbon. Matlab software is used to simulate the model. Matlab code was written for calculating the various heat fluxes in the still, to determine the hourly output of still and to find the efficiency of the still. Complete numerical analysis and various characteristics graphs of still were plotted using matlab. Simulink tool box is used to simulate the model.

Keywords— Solar Desalination, Solar Still, Granular Activated Carbon(GAC), Matlab, Simulink

I. INTRODUCTION

IN the last years the worldwide amount of fresh water becomes smaller and smaller and this causes the shortage of water in different places of the world. One reason is the global warming, the growth of the population in the world and the wasteful use of fresh water. In many areas of the world there was not enough rain. A lot of animals die on water deficiency, because a lot of water holes dry up and so the animals and of course the people cannot get enough water for their daily use. A very small fraction, about 0.3%, of the available water resources is available as fresh water [1]. A drinking water shortage is expected to become one of the biggest problems facing the world. To compensate for this, desalination of saline water appears to be the best solution, since the only inexhaustible source of water is the ocean. Desalination processes consumes significant amounts of energy, and many countries in the world, particularly those suffering from severe water shortages, cannot afford the energy required for desalination. Fortunately, many of those countries lie in areas with high insolation rates. Therefore, solar desalination can be a suitable alternative, provided efficient technologies are developed to utilize the solar energy in a cost effective way.

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Solar energy can be used to produce fresh water directly in a solar still or indirectly where the thermal energy from a solar energy system is supplied to a desalination unit.

A number of efforts have been made to develop and improve the performance of solar desalination systems, particularly solar stills. The efficiency of the still is directly proportional to the inlet water temperature to still. To increase the temperature of the water inside the still, some researches [2,4] suggested coupling the still to solar collectors. The results showed an improvement in the still's performance. One of the main reasons behind the low efficiency of solar stills, which is about 30-40% [1], is the loss latent heat of condensation to the environment and the sensible heat carried away by the condensate. The use of latent heat of condensation to preheat the feed water has shown good improvement in the still's performance [5,6]. The use of latent heat of condensation of one stage to evaporate water in another stage, as in multi-effect stills, has been studied by many researchers showing very good improvement in the still's performance [7,8]. Other researchers [9,10] have investigated the concept of evaporation at low temperatures under vacuum conditions and reported good improvement in the system performance. However they used vacuum pumps which require additional energy input to the system.

This paper presents a complete numerical analysis and modelling. Matlab M-file coding is used to find the convective, radiative and evaporative heat transfer rates and the hourly distillate from the still and the efficiency of the still. Simscape tool box from Matlab simulink is used to simulate the model.

II. MATHEMATICAL MODELING

Performance of solar still based on productivity, efficiency as well as internal heat and mass transfer coefficient. Hence performance directly proportional to internal heat transfer coefficient and distillate output from solar still. Internal heat and mass transfer coefficient in the solar still based on three parameters called convection, radiation and evaporation, hence there are three heat transfer coefficient called convective heat transfer coefficient, radiative heat transfer coefficient and evaporative heat transfer coefficient.

A. Convective Heat Transfer Coefficient

Action of buoyancy force due to density difference of humid air due to temperature difference is the major reason behind the convective heat transfer coefficient in solar still.

The convective heat transfer coefficient of water surface to condensing glass cover is given by:

$$q_{con} = h_{con} (T_g - T_w) \quad (1)$$

Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon

KJ Lindholm-Leary



Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon:

Adopting the Song of Expression: An Emotional Symphony within **Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon**

In a global eaten by displays and the ceaseless chatter of immediate conversation, the melodic splendor and psychological symphony produced by the published word often diminish into the background, eclipsed by the relentless noise and distractions that permeate our lives. Nevertheless, set within the pages of **Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon** a charming fictional treasure full of raw emotions, lies an immersive symphony waiting to be embraced. Crafted by a wonderful composer of language, this charming masterpiece conducts viewers on an emotional trip, skillfully unraveling the concealed tunes and profound impact resonating within each cautiously constructed phrase. Within the depths of the touching analysis, we can discover the book is main harmonies, analyze their enthralling publishing model, and submit ourselves to the profound resonance that echoes in the depths of readers souls.

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Table of Contents Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon

1. Understanding the eBook Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon

- Personalized Recommendations
 - Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon User Reviews and Ratings
 - Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon Free and Paid eBooks
 - Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon Public Domain eBooks
 - Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon eBook Subscription Services
 - Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon Budget-Friendly Options
 6. Navigating Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon Compatibility with Devices
 - Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon Enhanced eBook Features
 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 - Interactive Elements Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 8. Staying Engaged with Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 - Setting Reading Goals Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon

- Fact-Checking eBook Content of Modelling Of Solar Still Using Granular Activated Carbon
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
- Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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