

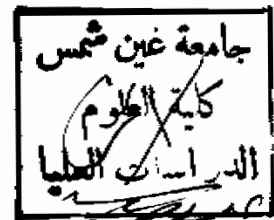
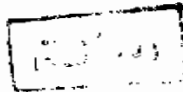
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STUDIES ON SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM ANALYSIS AND STORAGE TECHNIQUES

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
SUMMARY	i
CHAPTER I	
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Solar Radiation	1
1.2 Interaction of Solar Radiation with Semiconductor	3
1.3 Solar Cell Energy Systems	5
1.4 Storage Techniques for Solar Energy	7
CHAPTER II	
SOLAR CELL BASIC FORMULATION & PERFORMANCE AND DESIGN	
PARAMETERS :	10
2.1 The Electrical Characteristics of a Solar Cell	10
2.2 The Dependence of the Electrical Characteristics of a Silicon Solar Cell on :	14
A. The Series Resistance	14
B. The Temperature	16
2.3 The Performance Parameters of a Solar Cell	18
2.3.1 The Output Parameters	18
2.3.2 The Fittings Parameters	20
2.4 The Design Parameters of a Silicon Solar Cell ..	21
CHAPTER III	
MATHEMATICAL MODELLING AND COMPUTER ANALYSIS OF A	
SILICON SOLAR CELL	23
3.1 Mathematical Modelling of n-p Junction Silicon Solar Cell	23

3.2	Computer Analysis for Calculating the Photo-current Density, the Spectral Response and the Output Parameters at Different Design Parameters...	27
3.2.1	The Dependence of the Spectral Response on the Design Parameters	27
3.2.2	The Dependence of Photocurrent Density Components on the Design Parameters	34
3.2.3	The Dependence of the Output Parameters on the Design Parameters	42
3.2.4	The Effect of Series Resistance and Temperatures on the Output Parameters	49

CHAPTER IV

	SILICON SOLAR CELL PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS AT DIFFERENT CONCENTRATED SOLAR ILLUMINATION LEVELS	52
4.1	The Behaviour of n-p junction Silicon Solar Cell in Concentrated Sunlight	52
4.2	Computer Analysis for Studying the Effect of Design Parameters on the Performance Parameters at Different Concentrated Solar Illumination Levels	52
4.2.1	The Acceptor Concentration Effect	53
4.2.2	The Donor Concentration Effect	54
4.2.3	The Diffused Layer Thickness Effect	72
4.2.4	The Base Layer Thickness Effect	81
4.2.5	The Surface Recombination Velocity Effect	90
4.3	The Operational Temperature Effect	99

	<u>Page</u>
4.4 The Series Resistance Effect	108
4.5 Behaviour of the Performance Parameters of n-p Junction Silicon Solar Cell for the Optimized Design and Operation Parameters at Different Illumination Levels	118
 CHAPTER V	
SOLAR CONCENTRATORS - EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS	124
5.1 General	124
5.2 Concentrators' Types	126
5.3 5.2.1 Lenses	126
5.2.2 Mirrors	127
5.3 Concentrator Cell Design	129
5.4 Experimental I-V Characteristics of Silicon Solar Cells at Different Times of Daylight, "Different Solar Radiations"	130
5.4.1 Results and Discussion.....	134
5.5 Experimental Performance Parameters of a Silicon Solar Cell at Different Solar Concentrations	138
5.5.1 Results and Discussion.....	138
 APPENDICES	
Appendix A1	146
Appendix A2	148
REFERENCES	150
ARABIC SUMMARY	155

SUMMARY

SUMMARY

In this thesis the solar cell energy system is studied. The solar cell electrical characteristics, the performance and design parameters are introduced. The effect of series resistance and temperature on the output parameters of a solar cell are presented.

A mathematical model of the solar cell is used and solved by computer to study the dependence of the spectral response, the photocurrent components and the output parameters on the design parameters of a silicon solar cell at one sun. Also, the effect of the operational temperature and series resistance on the output parameters of a silicon solar cell at one sun are studied.

A theoretical analysis of silicon solar cell performance and design parameters at high solar concentrations are carried out by using a computer program. The optimum values of the design parameters are obtained. The effect of temperature and series resistance on the output parameters of a silicon solar cell is calculated at high solar concentrations.

The diurnal variations in the I-V characteristics of different silicon solar cells are carried out experimentally. Also, the output parameters of a silicon solar cell are measured experimentally at high solar concentrations. The results in this thesis could be summarized as follows :

1. The doping concentration can be optimized, for the assumed

In case the optimum base doping is found to be 10^{17} cm^{-3} and the optimum doping of the diffused layer is 10^{19} cm^{-3} .

2. The diffused layer thickness is optimum when its thickness is lower than or equal to the minority carriers diffusion length of the diffused layer.
3. The increase in the base layer thickness causes an increase in the output parameters, they saturate for thickness larger than the diffusion length of the minority carriers of the bulk material.
4. When the recombination speed (S), in general equal to or larger than 10^6 cm sec^{-1} , the output parameters are degraded.
5. The output parameters are, in general, increasing with the concentration ratio. The optimum load is reduced by increasing the concentration ratio.
6. The temperature increasing makes a degradation for the output parameters to the level of non-useful operation at high solar concentrations.
7. The series resistance value reduces dramatically the cell efficiency. An optimum solar concentration ratio is defined for a defined series resistance.
8. The short circuit current is strongly affected by the diurnal variations in radiation intensity while the open circuit voltage is slightly affected.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 SOLAR RADIATION :

Radiant energy from the sun is vital for life on our planet. It determines the surface temperature of the earth as well as supplying virtually all the energy for natural processes both on its surface and in the atmosphere.

Solar radiation is attenuated by at least 30% during its passage through the earth's atmosphere. The most important parameter determining the total incident power of solar radiation on the earth's surface is the length of the light path through the atmosphere. This length is minimum when the sun is directly overhead. The ratio of any actual path length to this minimum value is known as "the optical air mass" which is given by :

$$\text{Air mass} = \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \quad \text{when the sun is an angle } \theta \text{ to overhead.}$$

If the sun is directly overhead, the optical air mass is unity and the radiation is called "air mass one (AM1) radiation". Also when the sun is 60° off overhead the radiation is (AM2).

The Solar Constant or, air mass zero (AM0) radiation is defined as : The radiant power of solar radiation per unit area perpendicular to the direction of the sun outside the earth's atmosphere and at the mean earth-sun distance. The typical value of AM0 is 1.353 KW/m² .

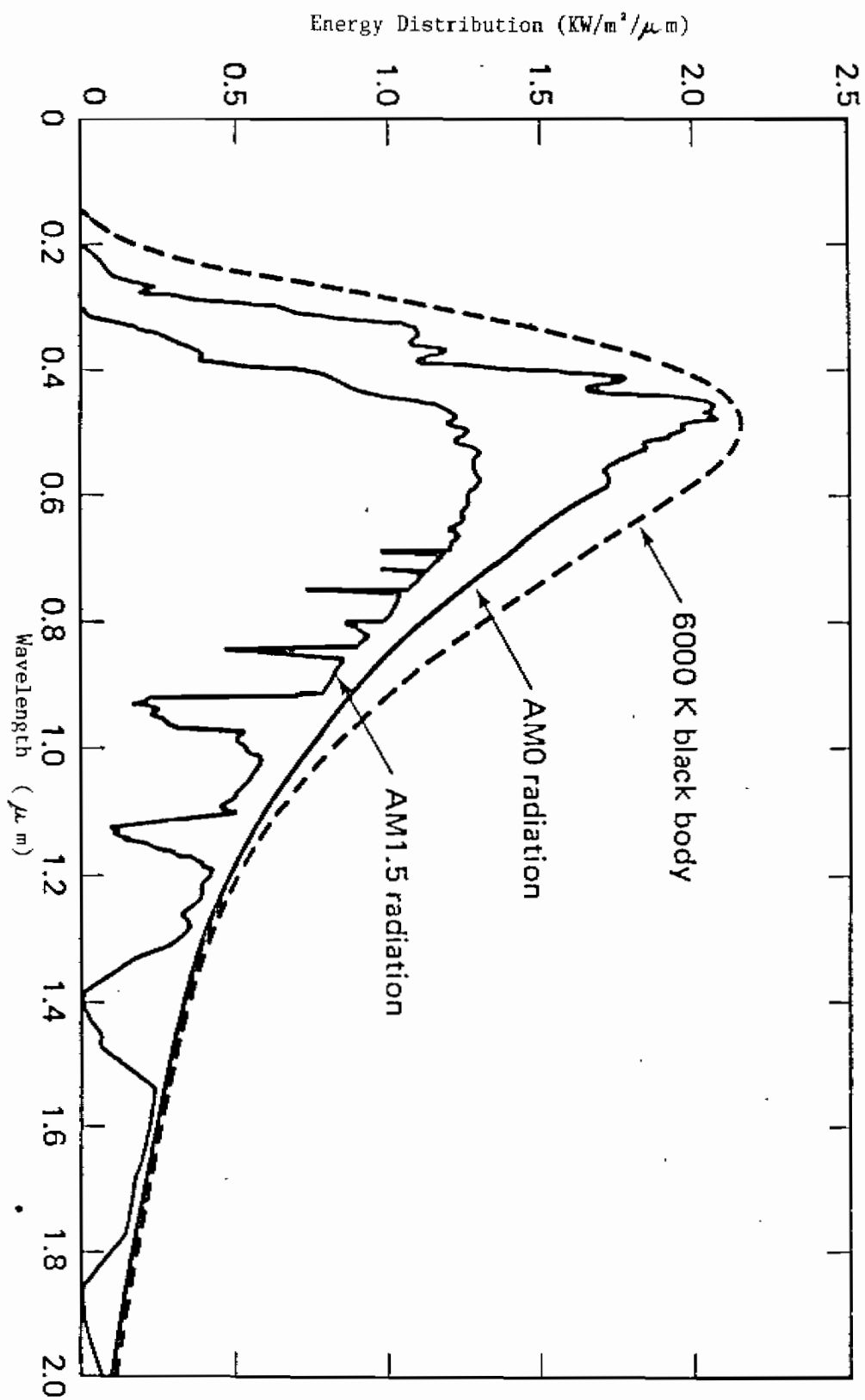


Figure 1-1 Solar Spectra at AM0 and AM1.5 Conditions and Black Body Spectrum (after[1])

A typical spectral distribution of sunlight at the earth's surface (AM 1.5) and outside the earth's atmosphere (AMO) together with the radiation distribution expected from the sun if it were a black body at 6000 K are shown in figure 1.1 .

1.2 INTERACTION OF SOLAR RADIATION WITH SEMICONDUCTOR :

When a ray of sunlight falls perpendicular on a flat section of semiconductor, a certain fraction of the incident power will be reflected and the remainder transmitted into the semiconductor. The transmitted sunlight can be absorbed within the semiconductor by using its energy to excite electrons from occupied low energy states to unoccupied higher energy states.

Reflection :

An absorbing material has an index of refraction, \hat{n}_c , which can be written in the form of a complex number as $\hat{n}_c = \hat{n} - L\hat{K}$, where \hat{K} is the extinction coefficient.

The fraction of sunlight reflected for normal incidence is given by :

$$R = \frac{(\hat{n}-1)^2 + \hat{K}^2}{(\hat{n}+1)^2 + \hat{K}^2} \quad (1-1)$$

For silicon, over 30% of the incident sunlight is reflected as indicated in figure (1.2)

Absorption :

The transmitted sunlight is attenuated as it passes through the

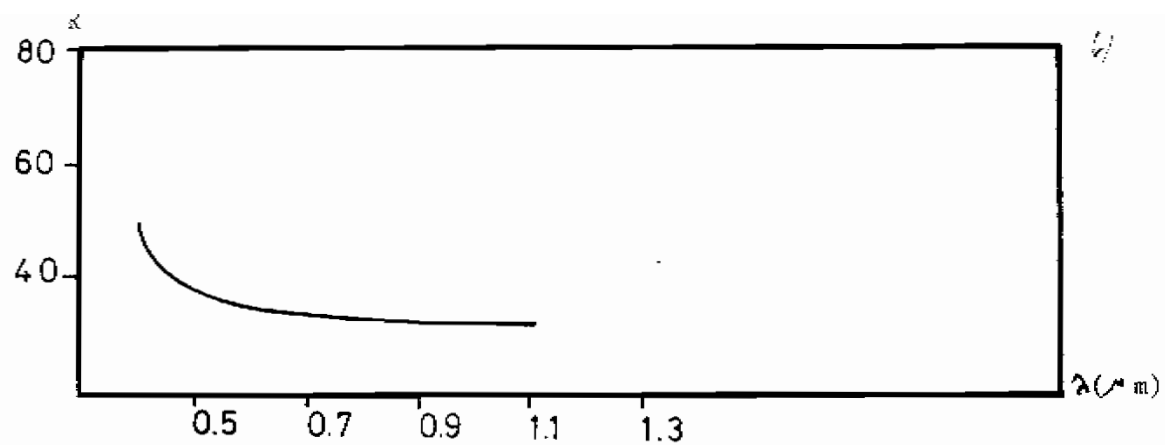


Figure 1-2 Reflectivity of Silicon as a Function of Wavelength [19]

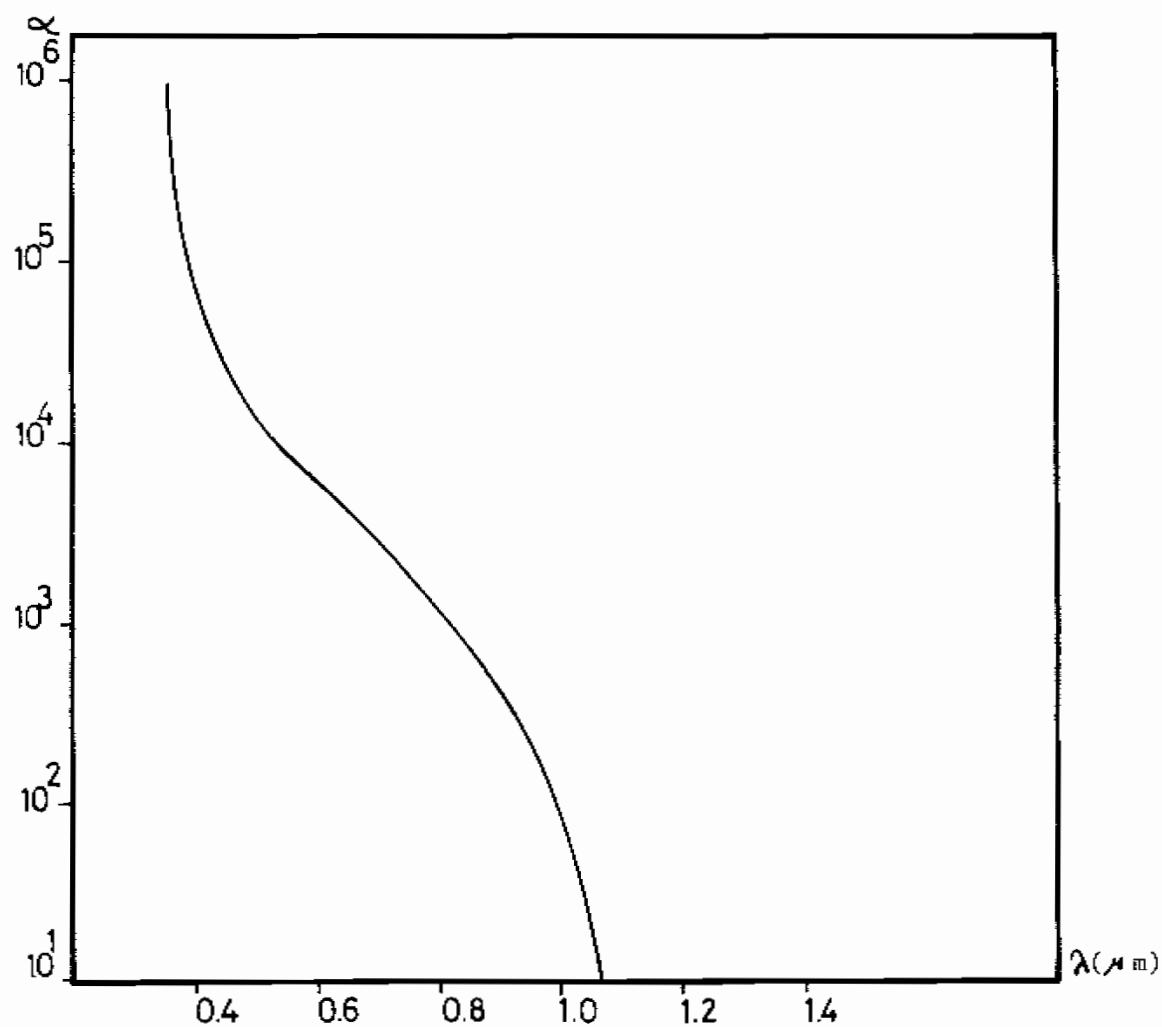


Figure 1-3 Absorption Coefficient of Silicon as a Function of Wavelength [9]

semiconductor. The rate of absorption of sunlight is exponentially proportional to its intensity for a given wavelength, this can be mathematically written as :

$$\phi(x) = \phi(x_0) e^{-\alpha(x-x_0)} \quad 1-2$$

where : $\phi(x)$ is the intensity of sunlight at distance x in the semiconductor ,

$\phi(x_0)$ is the intensity of sunlight at the semiconductor surface

and α is the absorption coefficient

The absorption coefficient (α) can be expressed depending upon the extinction coefficient to be :

$$\alpha = \frac{4 \pi F K}{c} \quad 1-3$$

where c is the velocity of light in vacuum and

F is the radiation frequency of sunlight

For silicon, the absorption coefficient variation versus the wavelength of the incident radiation is shown in figure (1.3).

1.3 SOLAR CELL ENERGY SYSTEMS :

A solar cell energy system in general consists of the cells, a storage medium, some form of back up either in the form of an auxiliary generator or the electricity supply grid, and the electrical loads, either DC or AC. Power conditioning and control are required to provide an interface between these different system elements. This is shown in figure (1.4)