

# Efficient Solar Air Heater Absorber Plate for Crop Drying Application



Gyaneshwar Sanodiya

**Abstract:** Solar air heaters are commonly placed on farms to provide heat during the drying of croplands. This practice has been studied to see if solar air heaters can provide adequate heat to support the harvesting and drying of crops. The study revealed that solar air heaters can provide sufficient heat to support the drying of croplands and the harvesting of grain. However, solar air heaters are more efficient when their air flow and thermal capacity are equal. To be more economical, they should be designed with more efficient components such as reflectors and ducting systems. The air flow and the thermal capacity of the solar air are also affected by the duct system's low heat transfer coefficient. This can be increased by taking advantage of the air's restricted thermal capacity. Active and passive approaches can also be used to increase the HT coefficient of solar air heaters. In most cases, this method is more cost-effective than using an absorber plate. In most cases, the use of an active or passive approach can increase the air flow and the HT coefficient of solar air heaters. This CFD study focused on the link between the roughness element for solar air heater ducts and the HT capacity of the system.

**Keywords:** Solar Air Heater, Crop Drying, Solar Energy, Heat Transfer.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Due to the depletion of fossil fuel reserves, it is now more important than ever to explore and use alternate forms of energy. Solar energy is a promising long-term solution that can meet the world's energy needs. Due to the depletion of fossil fuel reserves, it is essential that we explore and use energy-related solutions as soon as possible. Solar energy is a promising long-term solution. Solar energy is a free and abundant source of energy that can provide clean and pollution-free electricity. It is also a renewable resource. Solar energy is an indigenous resource that can be used for various applications. Its conversion into thermal energy is the most efficient and simple method of using solar power. A solar air heater is the most commonly used collector device due to its simplicity. They are also the least expensive. Aside from solar power, solar air heaters are also used for various applications such as heating. Due to their simplicity, solar air heaters are commonly used for the heating of various areas [1-17]. They can also be used to provide heat to spaces with low temperatures. To make solar air heaters more financially feasible in the long run, their thermal efficiency must be enhanced. This step involves increasing the air flow through

the duct system and the plate to improve the thermal efficiency of the device. An increase in the HT between the air flow and the plate can help boost the device's thermal efficiency. HT coefficients can be divided into two categories. Fig. 1 shows an ordinary flat solar collector. If solar radiation goes directly over the darkened protective surface of the highly absorbent, a large part of the vitality is absorbed and replaced in liquid tubes into the vehicle medium for capacity diversion or utilization. The underside of the safety board and both sides are covered from diminishing conduction [18-44].

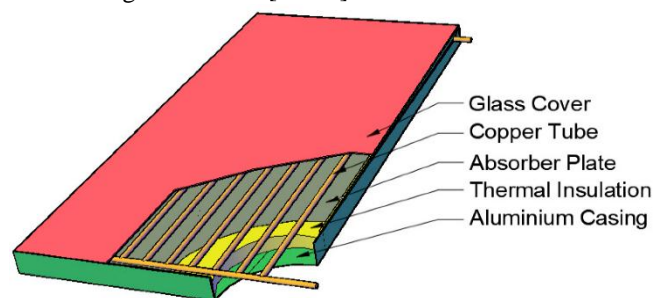


Fig. 1 Solar Air Heater

The active force techniques that are commonly used involve an acoustic field, a surface vibration, or an electric field. The use of a fluid field to improve a HT system has been around for over 80 years. These techniques are known to improve a HT system by using a combination of factors, such as an acoustic field and an electric field. The use of a fluid field and electric field to achieve this goal has been the subject of extensive research. Aside from physical surfaces, the techniques used for swirling flow involve adding fluid additives and using a variety of devices such as twisted tap inserts. To produce a swirling flow, the active methods need to have specific surface geometries. For over 140 years, researchers have been studying the various techniques that were used to improve a HT system (Fig. 2) [45-71].

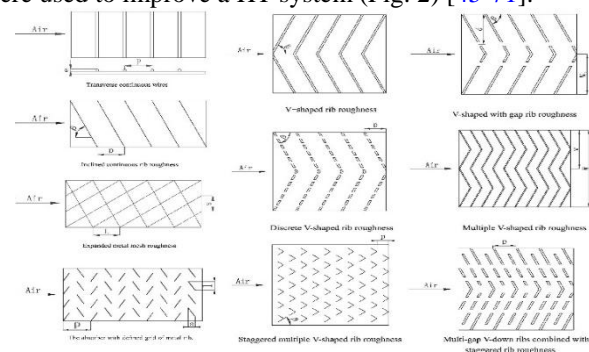


Fig. 2 Various ribs

An artificial roughness enhancement can be commonly used in forced convection HT to improve the turbulence near the HT surface.

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However, this method requires too much electricity to effectively move the air through the duct. In most cases, the use of artificial roughness has been widely adopted to improve the turbulence near the HT surface. However, this method usually consumes a high amount of electricity and requires a low power consumption to get done [72-76].

## II. METHODOLOGY

If the solar air heater is designed to have a uniform air velocity, this can be achieved by introducing a pressure outlet condition that has a set pressure of  $1.013 \times 10^5$  Pa. The temperature of the air in the duct is generally assumed to be 300 K. The design of the duct walls has been decided to apply the no-slip wall requirements and the impermeable boundary. It is necessary to provide a continuous flux of 1000W to the bottom wall in order to maintain the adiabatic wall conditions. The RNG k- model is used in the calculations. A finite volume approach is used to discretize the various governing equations of a given model. The solution is then segregated using the FV methodology. A second order upwind-biased scheme is then used to discretize the various governing equations. A commercial CFD software such as ANSYS FLUENT is used to complete the solution. The SIMPLE approach was chosen because it allows the user to combine the velocity and pressure in order to calculate incompressible flow. The dependent variable convergence conditions are 0.001. The ease of using the SIMPLE approach was also a reason why it was chosen. If the convergence criteria are not met, the solution is initiated using a first order upwind discretization scheme and then switched to a second order up wind discretization scheme. When the inlet air supply and the outlet air supply are connected, a uniform air velocity is produced. The adiabatic boundary condition is also observed. A uniform air velocity is also produced for an inlet air supply and a fixed outlet condition is established for a different outlet air supply.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A numerical study is carried out by, in order to obtain the results numerically. The selection of a turbulence model is critical for any kind of simulation. It is critical to conduct a thorough investigation of the heat transfer and flow characteristics. The optimum turbulence model for the simulation is chosen on the basis of this information. Two equation models and six turbulence models were investigated for the current simulation study, which included two equation-based models (Fig. 3).

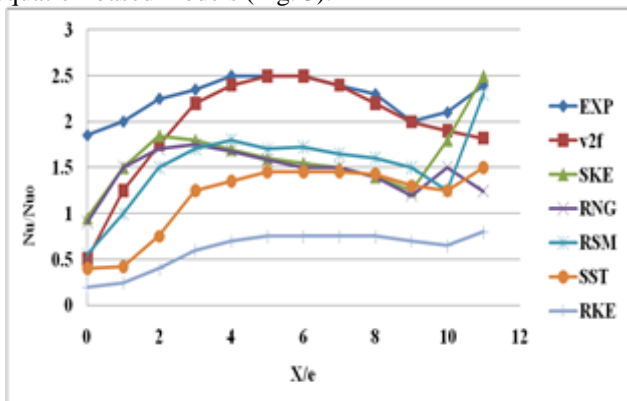


Fig. 3 Turbulence mode selection

Calculating the average Nu number involves looking at the whole test section, while calculating the pressure drop involves looking at the pressure drop at the inlet and outlet sections over the full length of the channel. According to the simulation results, as compared to a smooth duct without rib, both the heat transmission and the friction factor increase in a positive manner. The normalized Nu number, on the other hand, drops when the Re number increases (Fig. 4).

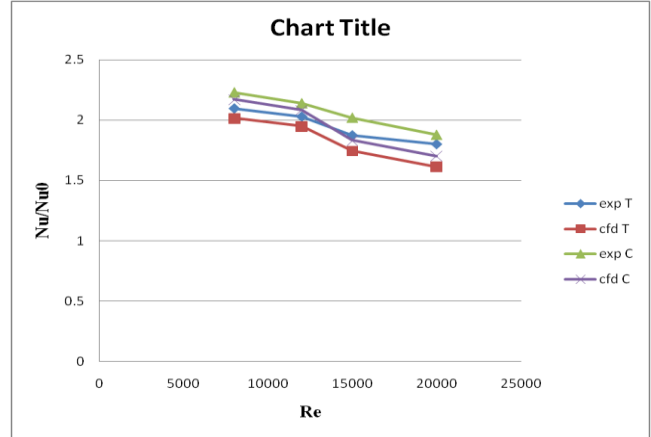


Fig. 4 Nu ratio for ribbed wall

It has been shown that when the Re number grows, the normalized friction factor ( $f/f_0$ ) for both ribs increase as well. In contrast to former ribs, later ribs experience less of a rise in  $f/f_0$ , which makes them more suitable for applications where a reduced friction factor is needed at the expense of overall thermo hydraulic performance. According to the findings of the  $Nu/Nu_0$  experiments and the CFD simulations, the maximum variation between the two is 10 percent for both ribs.

## IV. CONCLUSION

In the article about solar air heater roughness, the conclusion is:

- 1) Artificial roughness on an air heater's surface enhances HT and overall thermal efficiency compared to a smooth surface.
- 2) Artificial roughness geometry of various forms, sizes, and orientations may be used to increase performance in many applications.
- 3) The researchers observed that artificial roughness increased the amount of pumping force needed. To improve thermal efficiency while reducing pumping power, ribbed solar air heaters must be constructed.
- 4) When applied to the solar air heater, the Renormalization-group K-model produces the best two-dimensional flow results, according to the findings of the calculations.
- 5) According to the simulation results, as compared to a smooth duct without rib, both the heat transmission and the friction factor increase in a positive manner.
- 6) The normalized Nu number, drops when the Re number increases.

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