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# A novel solar multifunctional PV/T/D system for green building roofs

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## 0 Introductions

Research on PV/T/D (Photovoltaic/Thermal/Day lighting) system is a promising topic

26 in solar energy applications, and many studies have been done on conventional solar  
27 concentrators. Kern [1] proposed the basic idea of PV/T (Photovoltaic/Thermal) utilization  
28 of solar energy in 1978, the method was that arranging the flow path at the back of PV cell,  
29 the thermal energy can be taken away by the flowing fluid and the collected energy could  
30 be used for forward thermal application. This method can not only cool the PV cell and  
31 increase the photoelectric efficiency, but also can fulfill the comprehensive utilization of  
32 solar energy[2-4]. The solar energy comprehensive use ratio can reach 60%-80% for PV/T  
33 system[5-7], Li M [8] , Tan L [9] and Ibrahim A[10] also tested the performance of PV/T  
34 system and taken some optimization design.

35 Combining the PV/T system with building is the developing tendency of green  
36 building in the future; it can increase the usage ratio of solar energy. When the CPV/T  
37 (Concentrate Photovoltaic/Thermal) technology was used in building, a higher concentrate  
38 ratio is expected in order to generate higher temperature for thermal energy. The high  
39 temperature heat source will expand its application field, such as solar heater, solar  
40 air-condition and solar dehumidification. It will increase the contribution of solar energy in  
41 the field of building energy conservation.

42 High efficiency solar concentrator has its shortcuts such as it requires high-cost  
43 accurate optical material, and the tracking system has many complicated moving parts, so it  
44 is difficult to combine it with building. In addition, the performance of normal PV cell  
45 cannot improve obviously[11]. On the contrast , the CPC (Compound Parabolic  
46 Concentrator) with lower concentration ratio is more feasible to combine with the building.  
47 Garg [12] and Brogren[13] reached the CPC-PV/T system with the concentrate ratio of 3

48 and 4, studies showed that the thermal and electric output of a PV/T system increases with  
49 increasing collector length, air mass flow rate and cell density, and decreases with enlarged  
50 in duct depth. Adsten M et al [14] evaluated the CPC collector for roof or wall application,  
51 Finally, a concentrating solar collector for wall mounting was evaluated with an estimated  
52 annual output of  $194 \text{ MJ/m}^2$  at operating temperature of  $75^\circ\text{C}$ . Li G Q[15,16] and Pei G[17]  
53 taken some research about the efficiency of CPC-PV/T with different concentrate ratio, the  
54 thermal efficiency of CPC-type solar water heater system can be above 49.0% (attaining  $95^\circ\text{C}$   
55 water temperature). Recently, Li G [18] presents a novel static incorporated compound  
56 parabolic concentrator with photovoltaic/thermal system, the average value of optical  
57 efficiency within the half acceptance angle of  $35^\circ$  can achieve 83.0%.

58 Modern architecture structure design pays more attention on novel lighting and energy  
59 conservation, conventional CPC PV/T system will prevent the light into the building when  
60 it is used for the solar energy, this defect restricts the application field of the device. If the  
61 CPC PV/T system was made by transparent material, it will expand the application field  
62 and integrate with building easily. This transparent CPC PV/T system using in building can  
63 increase the visual comfort for building occupants. In the summer at noon, the sun light  
64 would transmit through the roof directly, transparent roof would cause overheating and  
65 dazzling in the building. In order to solve this problem, a novel transparent roof which is  
66 made of solid CPC PV/T/D system is presented. It integrates the solar energy PV/T/D  
67 system with building design. The PV/T/D system can control lights well at summer noon  
68 and adjust the thermal environment in the building; as a result, high efficiency utilization of  
69 solar energy is achieved in modern architecture.

70 **1 Structure and working principle of PV/T/D system**

71 The structure of a novel PV/T/D system is shown in Fig.1. It is consist of upper cover,  
72 lower cover and side plate, all of them are made by PMMA (Polymethyl methacrylate). The  
73 upper cover is composed by solid CPC. The PV cell was pasted on the undersurface of solid  
74 CPC. The light transmittance varies in accordance to the changing light incidence angles.  
75 The thickness of lower cover of PV/T/D device is 3mm, and there are 900 holes in this  
76 plate. The length and width of PV/T/D device are all 300mm, other sizes are marked in  
77 Fig.1, and unit is mm.

78

79 **Fig.1 The working principle of the PV/T/D device**

80

81 The working principle of a novel PV/T/D system is expressed briefly: sun light  
82 penetrates into the system from upper cover plate, light will be concentrated to the PV cell  
83 when the incidence angle is small; when the incidence angle is large, the light will escapes  
84 from the lateral wall of a solid CPC and provides daylighting to the building. The detailed  
85 optical principle of solid CPC was expressed by Yu Xu[19]. The PV cell could generates  
86 electrical energy as well as sufficient thermal energy, those thermal energy could heat the  
87 air between the upper and bottom plate, so the temperature of air is raised up. When the  
88 suction pump is working, the air would flow through the PV/T/D device and take away the  
89 warmed air for forward thermal application. This method can obtain additional thermal  
90 energy and fulfill the combination of PV and thermal energy, which raises the  
91 comprehensive utilization ratio of solar energy.

92 In the current study, the geometrical concentration ratio of solid CPC is 4, the right and  
93 left parabola equation of CPC is expressed by formula 1 and 2.

$$94 \quad 0.968y + 0.2504x + 75.1 = \frac{(0.2504y - 0.968x + 72.6)^2}{375} \quad (1)$$

$$95 \quad 0.968y - 0.2504x + 75.1 = \frac{(0.968x + 0.2504y + 72.6)^2}{375} \quad (2)$$

96 where  $x$  and  $y$  are coordinate in the Descartes, unit is m.

97 When the light irradiates the solid CPC in different incidence angles, it will be  
98 reflected and refracted by the different surface of solid CPC, the light path is shown in  
99 Fig.2.

100

101

### Fig.2 Entity CPC optical path diagram

102

103 Fig. 2 illustrates two representative light paths within a solid CPC. One is effective  
104 electricity generating light, like the ray 1; it will be concentrated on the PV cell which is  
105 pasted on the base of a solid CPC. The incidence angle of ray 1 is  $\alpha$ , the ray 1 is refracted  
106 into the solid CPC through the upper surface and then fully reflected by the lateral wall, and  
107 finally it will reach the edge between lateral wall and base of solid CPC. At the incidence  
108 point A, when the incidence angle is smaller than  $\alpha$ , the ray will be concentrated to the base  
109 of CPC. Another type of incidence light is effective lighting ray, like the ray 2. The  
110 incidence angle of ray 2 is  $\beta$ , which is larger than  $\alpha$ , so the ray 2 will escape from the lower  
111 side of lateral wall of CPC. It will be used to light the building.

## 112 2 Optical simulation

113 In order to analyze the light path in the entity CPC cover of PV/T/D device, lights with  
114 different incidence angles are tracked by the optical simulation software Light Tools.  
115 Assuming the incident light is parallel light, the entity CPC material is PMMA and it has  
116 high transparency, its refraction index is 1.5. The simulation result of light path in the entity  
117 CPC with different incidence angle is shown in Fig.3.

118

### 119 **Fig.3 Optical path diagram of different incidence angles**

120

121 It can be known from Fig.3, when the incidence angle is  $0^\circ$ , a part of light reach the  
122 surface on cell directly, another part of light reach the CPC surface and concentrated on the  
123 cell surface. All light achieve to the lower surface of solid CPC and none of them penetrate  
124 the solid CPC cover. With the increase of incidence angle, light begin to penetrate the solid  
125 CPC cover gradually. The lager the incidence angle is, the higher the transmittance is.  
126 When the incidence angle is  $20^\circ$ , the transmittance is 25%; when the incidence angle is  
127  $40^\circ$ , the transmittance can reach 77%; when the incidence angle is  $60^\circ$  or lager, all the  
128 light pass through the solid CPC and none of them can be received by PV cell. Analyzing  
129 the light path when the incidence angle is  $0^\circ$ , it can be discovered that not all the lights  
130 can reach the PV cell, some of them take place the full reflection in the lower surface of  
131 solid CPC and cannot received by cell. In order to avoid this phenomenon, the  
132 anti-reflection coating was used between the lower surface of solid CPC and the PV cell in  
133 the experiment device.

134 To analyze the concentration effect of solid CPC, the Light Tools was used to simulate  
135 the light distribution in different incidence angles. The changing of transmittance,  
136 reflectivity and receiving rate of cell with different incidence angle are shown in Fig.4.  
137 There, transmittance is the proportion of that lights escape from the lateral wall of CPC  
138 accounts for total incident lights. Reflectivity is the proportion of that lights escape from  
139 the upper surface of CPC (because of some lights take place the full reflection in the lower  
140 surface of CPC) accounts for total incident lights. Receiving rate of cell is the proportion of  
141 that lights received by cell accounts for total incident lights.

142

#### 143 **Fig.4 Lights distribution of different incidence angles**

144

145 It can be known from Fig.4 that the transmittance rises with the increasing of the  
146 incidence angle; while the reflectivity and receiving rate of cell are decreasing. When the  
147 incidence angle is small, a lot of lights were full reflected by the lower surface of solid CPC,  
148 there are about 50% of light full reflected with the  $0^\circ$  incidence angle. When the incidence  
149 angle is larger than  $20^\circ$ , the reflectivity decrease obviously, the reflectivity tends to  
150 become 0 when the incidence angle is larger than  $30^\circ$ . With the increase of the incidence  
151 angle, receiving rate of cell is decreasing and their relationship is near the linear. The  
152 change of the transmittance curve presents a trend which is rapid before becoming slow.  
153 The turning point of transmittance curve appears at the  $30^\circ$  incidence angle. At this  
154 incidence angle, the transmittance can reach 70%.



### 155 **3 Thermal characteristic analysis of PV/T/D system**

#### 156 3.1 Thermal characteristic simulation

157 Firstly, in order to get the air heating efficiency of PV/T/D system in different air flow  
158 rates and different heating power, the CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics) software has  
159 been used to simulate the thermal characteristic. The heat loss condition can be obtained at  
160 the same time. Simulation field of CFD model contain a part outer space of PV/T/D system,  
161 in this case, the air flow condition before inlet can be analyzed; the heat exchange between  
162 the wall of PV/T/D device and environment can be obtained.

163 In order to simplify the simulation model, the following are the assumptions made in  
164 the physical model.

- 165 1、 the air flow is incompressible and laminar in device;
- 166 2、 heat generation only occurs in the PV cell;
- 167 3、 The air flow rate is zero in environment, nature convection is the only way of  
168 heat-exchange on the exterior surface of device.
- 169 4、 the properties of material are isotropic;
- 170 5、 The working temperature is not very high and the difference in temperature is small,  
171 so the heat radiation is ignored in the simulation model.

172 The boundary condition of CFD simulation was set as follow:

- 173 a. Air inlet: inlet vent, temperature is 290K;
- 174 b. Air outlet: pressure outlet, the pressure is 2000 Pa;
- 175 c. The boundary condition of solar cell: wall, heat flux, assuming that the solar  
176 irradiance is  $1000 \text{ w/m}^2$ , the geometrical concentration ratios is 4, if the heating efficiency

177 was 80%, so the heat flux can be calculated and was  $3200\text{w/m}^2$ .

178 d. Solid CPC was defined as solid and its material was PMMA. The density is  
179  $1200\text{kg/m}^3$ , specific heat capacity is  $1500\text{ KJ/kg}\cdot\text{K}$ , heat transfer rate is  $0.2\text{W/m}\cdot\text{K}$ . The  
180 common boundary between solid and air was defined as wall, the boundary type was  
181 coupled.

182 e. the number of grids was 650,000.

183 f. Convergence criteria: Residuals of energy equation is  $10^{-6}$ , others are  $10^{-4}$ .

### 184 3.1.1 Temperature distribution

185 When the environment temperature is  $290\text{K}$ , outlet static pressure is  $2000\text{Pa}$ , the flow  
186 and heat transfer in calculate unit was shown in the fig.5, the same as the temperature  
187 distribution of lower surface, upper surface and cell surface.

188

### 189 **Fig.5 Temperature distribution**

190

191 It can be known from the temperature distribution of Fig.5 that when the distance from  
192 outlet is farther; the temperature in the lower surface and cell surface is higher. The reason  
193 is that the heat exchange of lower surface and cell surface mainly depend on force air flow  
194 of pump, air flow speed is higher on the outlet side, so the heat transfer rate is lager and the  
195 temperature is lower in this side. On the upper surface, the temperature distribution  
196 tendency is opposite with the lower surface, near the outlet the temperature of upper surface  
197 is higher than the other side, but the temperature different is only about  $2^\circ\text{C}$ . Given that the  
198 heat exchange of upper surface mainly depend on nature convection and it should have

199 same convective heat transfer coefficient for the entire surface, the temperature difference  
200 of upper surface could be explained by the air flow in within the PV/T/D device, it could  
201 absorb the thermal energy from PV cell and bring it to the outlet, where the temperature is  
202 relatively higher, as a result, the warmed air heats the upper cover plate and causes the  
203 upper cover plate temperature near the outlet being higher than the another side .  
204 Additionally, it could also be observed from Figure 5b that temperature can reach 350K in  
205 the cell surface away from outlet. If the common PV cell is working in this temperature, it  
206 will largely reduce the electric generating efficiency.

### 207 3.1.2 Air heating efficiency

208 When the heat flux of cell surface is  $3200 \text{ w/m}^2$ , the total heating power of the device  
209 is 72W, the air heating efficiency and thermal characteristic of PV/T/D system can be  
210 obtained by simulation. Under the different air flow speeds, the air heat utilization  
211 efficiency and losses of the device are shown in table 1.

212

213 **Table 1 The heat utilization efficiency and losses under different air flow speeds of the**  
214 **device**

215

216 It can be known from Table 1 that under the same heating power, air heating efficiency  
217 increases with air flow rate increase. It is because that the growing air flow rate will  
218 increase the heat exchange rate between air and hot solar cell, it will lead to the reduced  
219 PV/T/D device temperature, as the heat exchange rate would be lower under lower  
220 temperature, the heat loss of the whole device would therefore be reduced. From the

221 simulation results it can also be known that the heat loss on the lower surface is 1.5 times  
222 more than the upper surface, the heat loss on the lateral surface of device is very small.

### 223 **3.2 Steady state experiment**

224 Because the solar irradiance changes with the time, it cannot obtain the thermal  
225 characteristic of PV/T/D system in constant power. So the steady state experiment was  
226 taken in the room. The indoor experiment system is shown in Fig.6.

227

#### 228 **Fig.6 the photo of the indoor experimental system**

229

230 Fig.6 is the photo of the indoor experimental system. The system consists of PV/T  
231 concentrator, ventilator, air pump, thermometer and anemometer.

232 The thermo-signal of the device was given by the K type thermocouples and the  
233 temperature value was read from a multiplex thermo-meter. 15 thermocouples were  
234 arranged as in Fig.7. The wind velocity was measured by a KA22 thermo-ball type  
235 wind-meter whose relative error is  $\pm 2\%$ .

236

#### 237 **Fig.7 The arrange diagram of the thermo-couples in the device.**

238

239 The experiment was completed indoor in which the electricity heater was used to  
240 simulate the heat energy produced on the PV panels by sunlight through CPC concentration.  
241 On each undersurfaces of the CPC, the electricity heater piece was pasted to produce the  
242 heat to represent that of sunlight by CPC concentration. The resistant of the electricity

243 heater piece is  $3480\Omega$ . Connected heater pieces in parallel, the total resistant turned to  
244  $232\Omega$ . From this value, the electricity voltage can be calculated to be 144V when the heat  
245 power is 90W.

### 246 3.2.1 Temperature increase

247 In the experiment, the given power was put into system, analyzing the temperature  
248 distribution inside the device point by point under a certain wind speed. Apparently, both  
249 temperature distribution in the system and air-heating state would change when input power  
250 is different. Fig.8 shows that the temperature curve of 16 measurement points (there,  
251 thermocouple 16 shows the environment temperature) of the system from the beginning to  
252 temperature reached stabilization when given power was 90W (the area of device's upper  
253 surface is  $0.09\text{ m}^2$ , it corresponds to be put under solar irradiance about  $1000\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ ). At this  
254 time, 900 holes were distributed on ventilation gate of the device's backplane whose size  
255 was  $30\text{cm}\times 30\text{cm}$ , and the diameter of each hole was 3mm. In this circumstance, the wind  
256 mass flow rate passing through the system was 21.9 kg/h.

257

258 **Fig. 8 The variation of the temperature in different measuring points with the**  
259 **operation time**

260

261 According to the Fig.8, even though the thermal inertia was a little low, it will take  
262 about 2000 seconds to make the device to reach the basic equilibrium. Concerning the  
263 device was in a cooling state, if the device was in a warming state, it would reach the basic  
264 equilibrium within a much shorter time. We can also find that, in the device, the

265 temperature was distributed in an uneven way, which was increased overall from the  
266 ventilation gate to all directions. However, on the edge of the device, the temperature was  
267 decreased due to heat loss.  $T_1$  was the highest temperature, reaching  $46.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $T_2$  was the  
268 lowest temperature, which is  $34.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The average temperature from measuring points  
269 inside the device was  $41.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ , closing to  $T_8$  and  $T_{13}$ . However, the average temperature of  
270 the device's surface was  $25.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ , closed to  $T_4$ . Thus, temperature difference of the air  
271 passing in and out was around  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$ . It can be explained that the temperature state inside  
272 the device can be changed by improving the thermal conductivity (like adding insulation  
273 layer to increase the average temperature inside the device and vent air's temperature) or  
274 adjusting holes' density and distribution to change the air-flowing situation in the device.

275 According to the condition of steady state experiment, the CFD simulation boundary  
276 conditions were set follow the experiment condition. Getting the temperature of test points  
277 from simulation results and comparing them with experiment results, the temperature and  
278 error are shown in Table 2.

279

## 280 **Table2 the temperature comparing between simulation result and test result**

281

282 From the experiment result in Table 2, it can be known that the distance with outlet is  
283 further; the temperature in the cell surface is higher. On the upper surface, the temperature  
284 of upper surface near the outlet is higher than another side, but the temperature difference is  
285 very little. The experiment results of temperature distribution were in good agreement with  
286 simulation results. From the table 2, it can be seen that, on the cell surface, the test point

287 temperature of experiment result is lower than simulation result. This result may be because  
288 the radiation is ignored in the simulation model, so the simulation heat exchange rate of cell  
289 surface is lower than the real situation and the simulation temperature on the cell surface is  
290 higher. On the upper surface, the test point temperature of experiment result is higher than  
291 simulation result. Because the radiation is ignored in the simulation model, heats receive of  
292 upper cover in simulation is lower than the real situation, so the simulation result of  
293 temperature on upper surface is lower than the experiment result.

### 294 3.2.2 Experiments at different heating power

295 In order to understand the device's heat dissipation and air heat receiving condition  
296 accurately, the experimental system heat receiving and heat loss are calculated. In the case  
297 of different heating power, the changes of temperature difference between import and  
298 export are shown in Fig.9. Air inlet and outlet temperature difference reflects the heat  
299 receiving efficiency of air. As can be seen from the Fig.9, the bigger the heating power is,  
300 the greater the temperature difference between the air inlet and outlet become, and basically  
301 reflects the actual situation.

302

### 303 **Fig.9 Variation of the Temperature difference between output and input and efficiency** 304 **under steady state condition with the air heating power**

305

306 As can be seen from Fig.9, with the increasing of heat power, the inlet and outlets'  
307 wind temperature of steady-state is rising, the useful power increases; meanwhile, the heat  
308 loss is rising. So the air heating efficiency of the device is decreasing with the increase of  
309 heating power, and it is resulted from the device's high inner temperature, causing too much

310 radiation heat exchange to surroundings so that the heat loss is enhanced when increasing  
311 the heating power.

### 312 3.2.3 Experiments at different air flow rates

313 Changing the ventilation rate and remaining other conditions unchanged, the  
314 distribution of measuring points' temperature could be obtained with the same heating  
315 power under different air flow rates. Still assuming that solar irradiance is about  $1000\text{W/m}^2$ ,  
316 and heating power is selected as 90W.

317 Firstly, comparing the air heating efficiency of simulation result and experiment result  
318 in different air flow rates, the result is shown in Fig.10.

319

### 320 **Fig.10 the air heating efficiency comparing between simulation result and experiment** 321 **result**

322

323 It can be observed from Fig.10 that the air heating efficiency increase with the air flow  
324 rate increase, the change of the air heating efficiency curve presents a trend which is rapid  
325 before becoming slow. The tendency of experimental and simulation results match well.  
326 The differences between experimental and simulation results are due to the reason that  
327 ignoring the heat radiation of device in simulation model which may lead to the increasing  
328 of air heating efficiency. The differences decrease with the air flow rate increase. It may be  
329 because the high air flow rate will decrease the average temperature of the PV/T/D device  
330 and decrease the temperature difference with environment, so the heat radiation in  
331 experiment becomes small. The experiment curve is closed to the simulation curve when  
332 the air flow rate is large.



#### 333 4 Experiment under the real sky

334 Outdoor experiment was undertaken under real sky conditions. The system was  
335 arranged on the sunlight directly in which the major target is to investigate the temperature  
336 distribution of the PV/T/D system, the efficiency of PV cell, light transmittance and the air  
337 temperature increasing when the sunlight is in different incident angles.

338 The experiment system was built as the Fig.11, it mainly consist of an integral box  
339 (using the integrating sphere principle), PV/T/D system, K type thermocouples,  
340 temperature collect recorder, KA22 type wind speed meter, a light meter, a voltmeter, an  
341 ammeter, air pump, and so forth. The transmittance measurement was based on use of a  
342 photometric integrating box. The photometric integrating box is a cubic box with its  
343 internal surface painted matt white so that light can be diffusely reflected to the internal  
344 sensor. On the cover of the box, there is PV/T/D system and it admits the light into the box.  
345 An internal illuminance sensor is attached to the panel and points downward; the reason  
346 for pointing downwards is that it can avoid direct light and measure the reflected light only.  
347 Meanwhile another external sensor is placed upward near the PV/T/D system to measure  
348 the outside illuminance, which stands for the amount of light penetrating through the  
349 PV/T/D system. A concept of transmittance can be defined, which is expressed by  
350 Equation 3.

$$351 \quad \text{Transmittance} = \frac{Lx_2}{Lx_1} \times 100\% \quad (3)$$

352 where  $Lx_1$  and  $Lx_2$  are the external and internal illuminance at measuring point.

353 The PV cell used in experiment is the normal thin film cell, the photoelectricity

354 efficiency is about 8%. The outdoor experiments were conducted in Beijing, China (39°  
355 51' 45" N, 116° 18' 49" E). Test date is 2013-11-04, sunny.

356 Test method: 1) Put the test device on horizontal ground and make sure that the front  
357 edge of the cover is vertical in the south direction; 2) Raise the back of the cover and  
358 make sure that the angle between the normal of the cover and ground is the biggest solar  
359 elevation angle (33.8°) on the test day, and ensure that the incidence angle is 0° at noon.  
360 Fix the devices and the test is beginning without tracked system

361 Environment temperature, solar irradiance and integral box illumination is shown in  
362 fig.12, PV efficiency, transmittance and air heating power of the system is shown in fig.13.  
363 The PV efficiency  $\eta$  is calculated by output electric power and input total solar energy, it is  
364 shown in Equation 4. Air heating power is evaluated by Equation 5.

$$365 \quad \eta = \frac{V \times I}{S \times R} \times 100\% \quad (4)$$

$$366 \quad P_{heating} = C_p \cdot m_p (T_{outlet} - T_i) \quad (5)$$

367 where  $V$  is voltage across the load, V;  $I$  is current, A;  $S$  is area of device, m<sup>2</sup>;  $R$  is solar  
368 irradiation, w/m<sup>2</sup>;  $P$  is air heating power, W;  $C_p$  is specific heat capacity, J/g.K;  $m$  is mass  
369 flow rate of air, g/s;  $T$  is temperature, K;

370 **Fig.11 Experiment system**

371

372 **Fig.12 Environment temperature, solar irradiance and integral box illumination**

373

374 From Fig.12, the greatest solar irradiance appears at about 12:00; the changing trend  
375 of the integral box illumination in one day is hump-shaped; and that peak values appear at

376 9:00 AM and 14:30 PM, respectively. When the irradiance is strongest, at noon, the  
377 illumination in the box is low. The reason is that the incidence angle is small at noon, so  
378 most incident light was received by PV cell and it reduced the transmittance. After 14:30  
379 PM, the illumination in the box decrease with the solar irradiance decrease.

380

381 **Fig.13 PV efficiency, transmittance and air heating power of the system**

382

383 From Fig.13, it can be seen that the photoelectricity and air heating efficiency is the  
384 highest at noon. The solar energy utilization efficiency is best at noon. Experimental results  
385 show that the lowest transmittance is only 31%, and appears when there is strong sunshine  
386 at noon; while in the morning and afternoon, the transmittance of PV/T/D system can reach  
387 60%. When the transmittance is lower (10:00-14:00), PV efficiency and air heating power  
388 are higher. The biggest efficiency of PV occurs at noon and the value is higher than 7%.  
389 Furthermore, the maximum air heating power is 55W, also occurs at noon. During the test  
390 period in one day, the solar energy received by experiment device is 1833 kJ; thermal  
391 energy collected by flow air is 677kJ, electricity generated by PV cell is 97 kJ. Although the  
392 PV/T/D system does not have obvious influence on the light intensity entering a room in  
393 the morning and afternoon, while substantially reduces light intensity at noon, it can  
394 improve the status of uneven illumination in a room in one day. Meanwhile, PV/T/D system  
395 can generate electricity and hot air by surplus light.

396 Furthermore, based on the configuration of experiment device, the cost has been  
397 analyzed. PMMA plates and PV cells are the mainly cost of this device. The cost of this

398 roof is about 210 dollar/m<sup>2</sup>, in which the price of PMMA is about 110 dollar/m<sup>2</sup> and  
399 flexible solar cell price is about 100 dollar/m<sup>2</sup>. Recently, the price of roof made by glass  
400 curtain wall is about 160~320 dollar/m<sup>2</sup>. Comparing with the conventional glass roof, the  
401 cost of novel roof presented here is in the price range of the glass roof. So the novel roof is  
402 better than the conventional glass roof.

## 403 **5 Conclusion**

404 Combining the solar energy PV/T/D system with green building design, a novel  
405 transparent roof which is made by solid CPC PV/T/D system is presented. The novel  
406 building-integrated PV/T/D roofing design can achieve excellent light control at noon and  
407 improve the thermal environment in the building. Higher efficiency of solar energy  
408 utilization could be achieved in modern architecture with the new roofing technologies. If  
409 the users mainly concern about the interior temperature adjust during summer and winter,  
410 the roof should be placed in the way of that the axis of solid CPC is vertical with the east  
411 direction. In summer, solar elevation angle is large at noon and the novel roof can prevent  
412 sunlight into room; in the morning and afternoon, solar elevation angle is small and roof  
413 has high transmittance. In winter, solar elevation angle is small all the day, so the novel  
414 roofs can maintain high transmittance and let sunlight into the house.

415 Optical simulation software is used to track the light path in different incidence angles.  
416 With the increase of the incidence angle, receiving rate of cell is decreasing and their  
417 relationship is almost linear. The change of the transmittance curve presents a trend which  
418 is rapid before becoming slow. The turning point of transmittance curve appears at the 30°

419 incidence angle. At this incidence angle, the transmittance can reach 70%.

420 CFD simulation and steady state experiment have been done to investigate the thermal  
421 characteristic of PV/T/D device. The results showed that the air heating efficiency of the  
422 device is increasing with the increase of air flow rate and the decrease of heating power.  
423 Under real sky conditions, PV efficiency, transmittance and air heating power of the system  
424 are tested. The lowest transmittance is only 31%, and appears when there is strong sunshine  
425 at noon; while in the morning and afternoon, the transmittance of PV/T/D system can reach  
426 60%. When the transmittance is lower (10:00-14:00), PV efficiency and air heating power  
427 are higher. The biggest efficiency of PV occurs at noon and the value is higher than 7%.  
428 Furthermore, the maximum air heating power is 55W, also occurs at noon. Although the  
429 PV/T/D system has no obvious influence on the light intensity entering a room in the  
430 morning and afternoon, while substantially reducing light intensity at noon, it can improve  
431 the status of uneven illumination in a room in one day. Meanwhile, PV/T/D system can  
432 generate electricity and hot air by surplus light.

433 Also, comparing with the conventional glass roof, the cost of novel roof is in the price  
434 range of the glass roof. So the novel roof is better than the conventional glass roof, it will  
435 has broad application prospects.

436

### 437 **Acknowledgements**

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440 project of China (2013AA102407-2) .

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## Captions

507

### 508 **Figure captions:**

509 **Fig.1** The working principle of the PV/T/D device

510 **Fig.2** Entity CPC optical path diagram

511 **Fig.3** Optical path diagram of different incidence angles

512 **Fig.4** Lights distribution of different incidence angles

513 **Fig.5** Temperature distribution

514 **Fig.6** the photo of the indoor experimental system

515 **Fig.7** The arrange diagram of the thermo-couples in the device.

516 **Fig. 8** The variation of the temperature in different measuring points with the operation  
517 time

518 **Fig.9** Variation of the Temperature difference between output and input and efficiency  
519 under steady state condition with the air heating power

520 **Fig.10** the air heating efficiency comparing between simulation result and experiment result

521 **Fig.11** Experiment system

522 **Fig.12** Environment temperature, solar irradiance and integral box illumination

523 **Fig.13** PV efficiency, transmittance and air heating power of the system

### 524 **Table captions:**

525 **Table 1** The heat utilization efficiency and losses under different air flow speeds of the  
526 device

527 **Table 2** The temperature comparing between simulation result and test result

**Table 1**

Table 1 The heat utilization efficiency and losses under different air flow speeds of the device

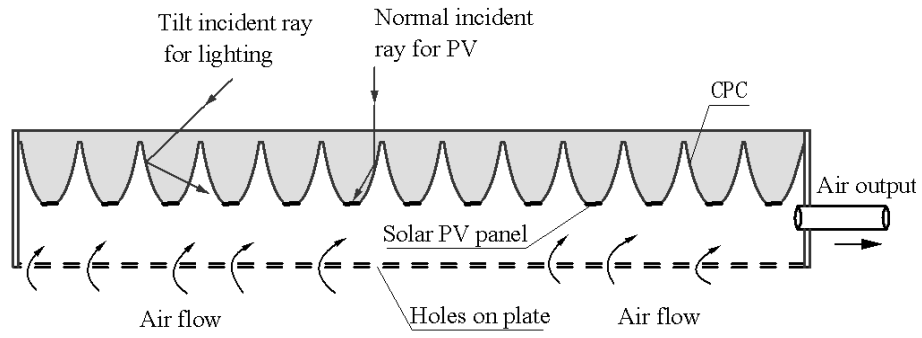
Outlet air flow rate / kg/h	Air absorbs heat/W	Losses on upper surface/W	Losses on lower surface/W	Losses on lateral surface /W	Air heating efficiency
20.16	58.22	4.66	7.55	1.89	81%
16.92	56	5.22	8.55	2.22	78%
15.12	54.89	5.62	9.05	2.34	76%
11.16	51	6.83	10.68	2.45	71%

**Table 2**

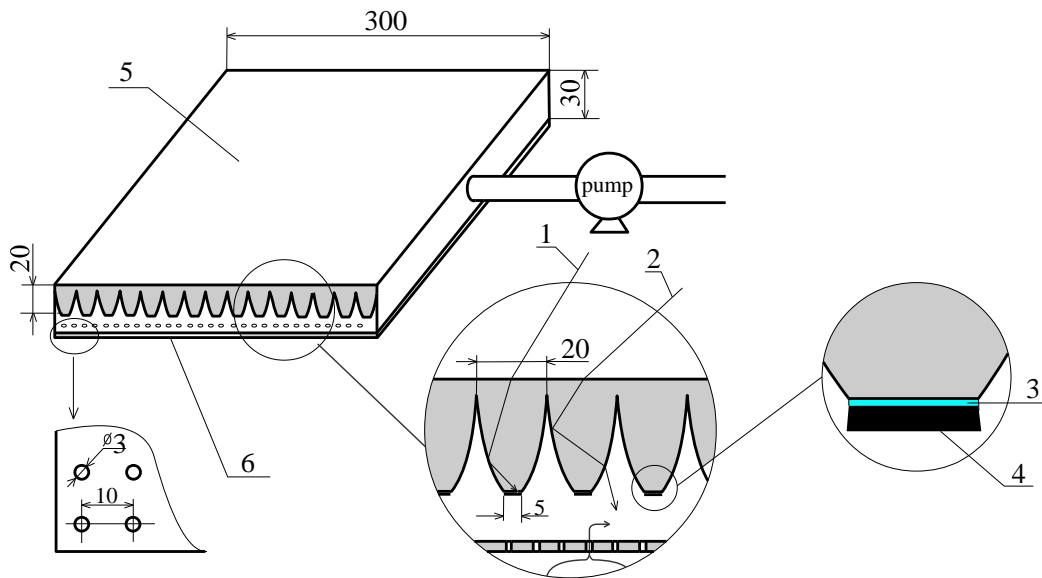
Table2 the temperature comparing between simulation result and test result

Test point	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7	T8	T9	T10	T11	T12	T13	T14	T15
Simulation result / K	326.3	324.1	321.1	296.3	295.1	298.1	297.3	318.2	311.3	318.1	315.3	295.9	316.7	317.6	300.7
Experiment result / K	319.4	318.8	314.0	299.8	296.3	301.2	301.2	314.0	309.3	317.5	315.3	299.7	314.0	307.9	299.3
Error / %	2.1	1.6	2.2	-1.2	-0.4	-1.0	-1.3	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.0	-1.3	0.9	3.1	0.5

Fig.1



(a) 2D sketch map

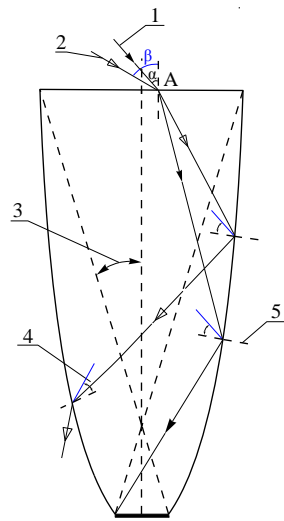


- 1. Effective generates electricity light; 2.Effective lighting light;
- 3. Anti-reflection coating; 4.PV cell; 5.Upper cover plate; 6.bottom cover plate

(b) 3D sketch map

Fig.1 The working principle of the PV/T/D device

**Fig.2**

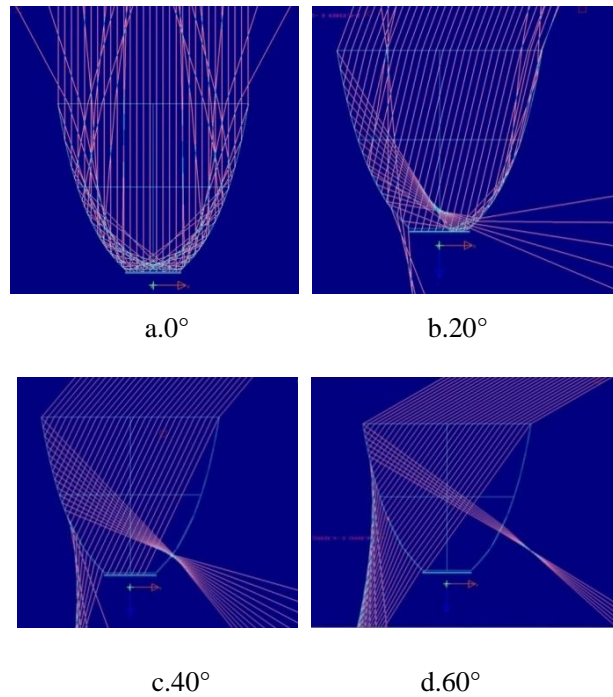


1. Effective generates electricity light; 2. Effective lighting light; 3. Half maximum acceptance angle of entity CPC; 4. Critical angle of total reflection; 5. Surface normal; A. Incidence point;  $\alpha, \beta$ .

Incidence angle/ $^{\circ}$

**Fig.2 Entity CPC optical path diagram**

**Fig.3**



**Fig.3 Optical path diagram of different incidence angles**

**Fig.4**

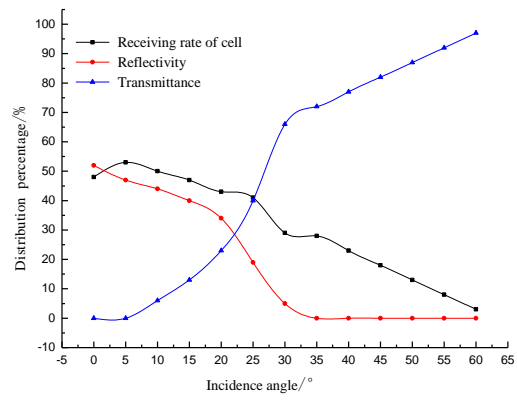
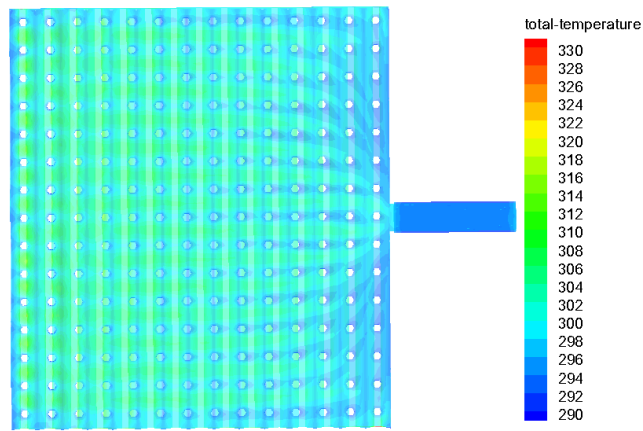
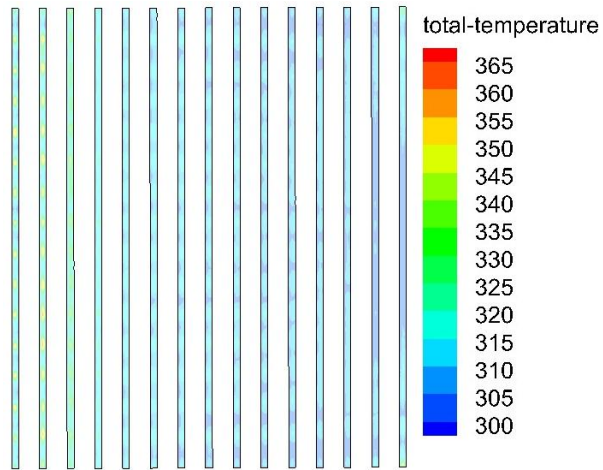


Fig.4 Lights distribution of different incidence angles

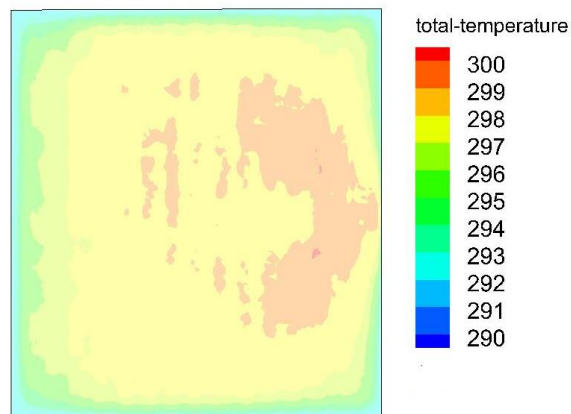
**Fig.5**



(a) Lower surface



(b) Cell



(c) Upper surface

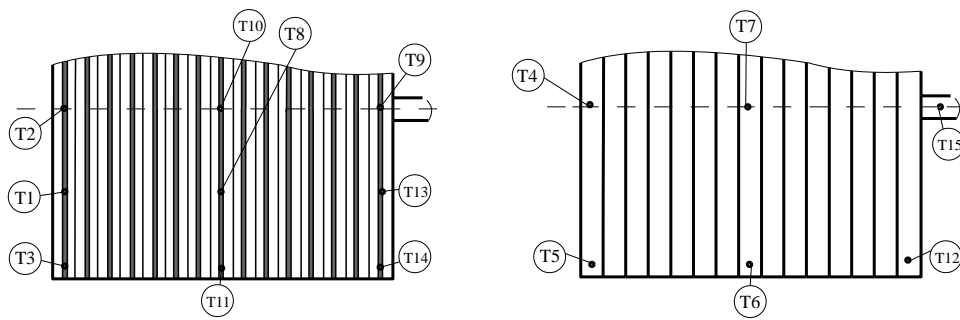
**Fig.5** Temperature distribution

**Fig.6**



Fig.6 the photo of the indoor experimental system

**Fig.7**



(a) downward view

(b) upward view

Fig.7 The arrange diagram of the thermo-couples in the device.

**Fig.8**

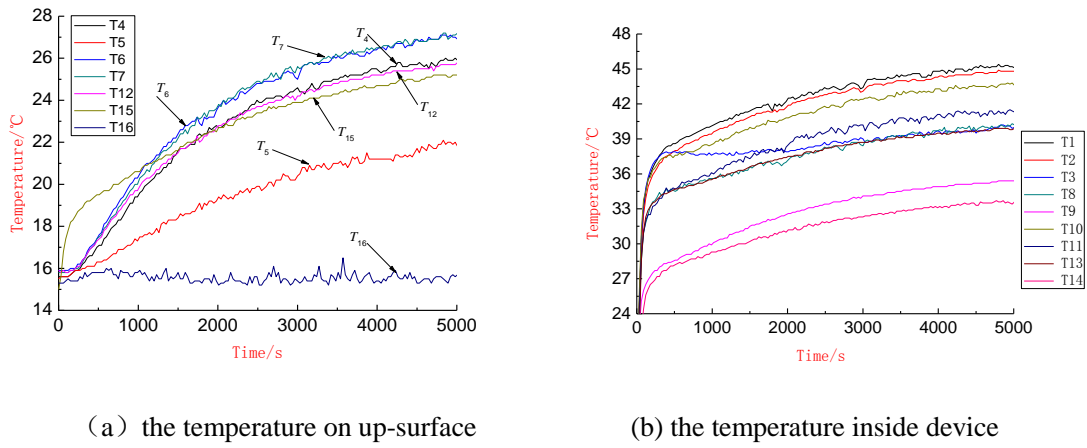


Fig. 8 The variation of the temperature in different measuring points with the operation time

**Fig.9**

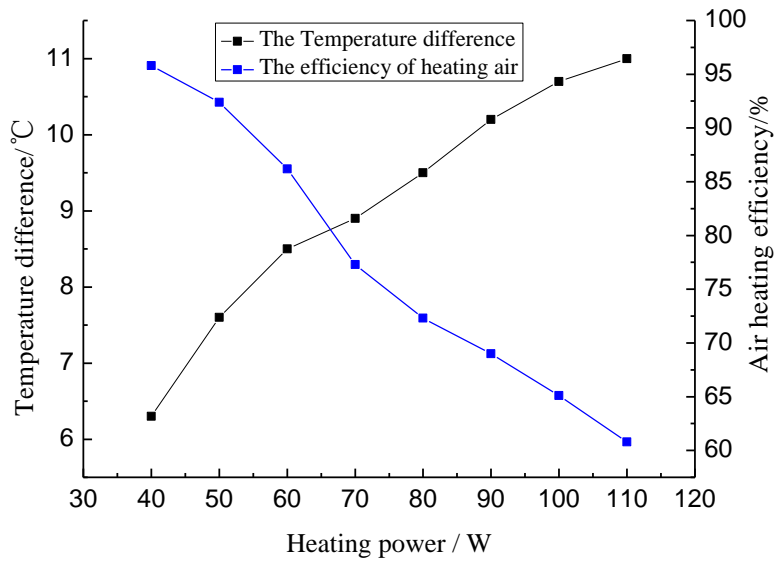


Fig.9 Variation of the Temperature difference between output and input and efficiency under steady state condition with the air heating power



**Fig.10**

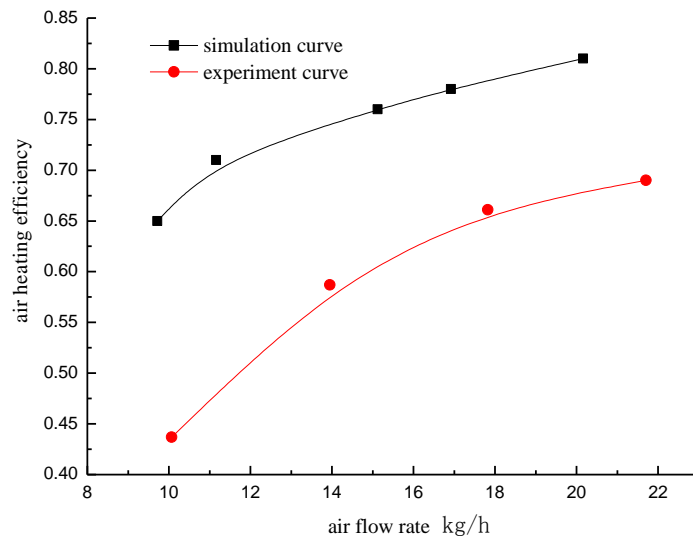


Fig.10 the air heating efficiency comparing between simulation result and experiment result

**Fig.11**



Fig.11 Experiment system

**Fig.12**

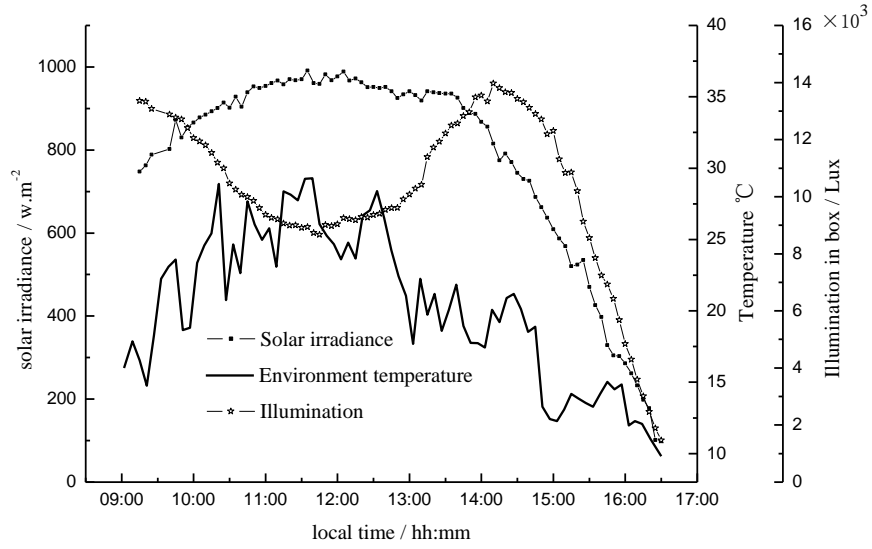


Fig.12 Environment temperature, solar irradiance and integral box illumination

**Fig.13**

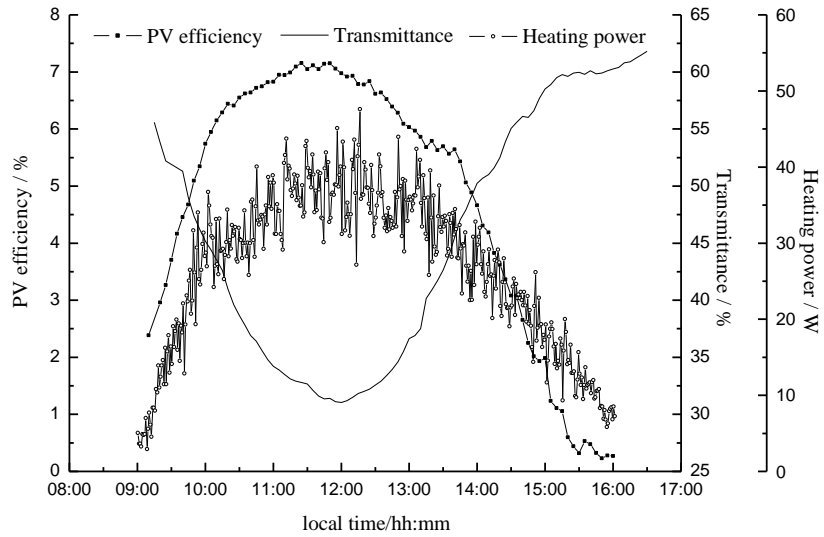


Fig.13 PV efficiency, transmittance and air heating power of the system