

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF
PHOTOVOLTAIC THERMAL SYSTEMS
USING FUNCTIONALIZED MULTI-WALLED
CARBON-BASED NANO-ENHANCED
PHASE CHANGE MATERIAL

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We hereby declare that we have checked this thesis and, in our opinion, this thesis is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.




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I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

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ABSTRAK

Teknologi fotovoltaik (PV) membolehkan penukaran tenaga suria kepada elektrik secara langsung untuk digunakan terus. Kecekapan penukaran fotovoltaik kebiasaannya berkurangan dengan peningkatan suhu sistem PV; oleh itu pengurusan suhu adalah isu utama dalam rekacipta sistem PV. Sistem hibrid fotovoltaik haba (PVT) merupakan penambahbaikan yang menjanjikan pengekstrakan tenaga haba dan tenaga elektrik secara serentak berlaku dengan mudah. Sementara itu, cabaran menggunakan system konvensional PVT berasaskan air ialah ia hanya boleh digunakan pada waktu siang. Integrasi bahan perubahan fasa (PCM) dengan sistem PVT untuk mengawal suhu serta memudahkan penyimpanan tenaga haba adalah pilihan yang popular dan berdaya maju. Walau bagaimanapun, PCM mengalami pengaliran haba yang lebih rendah menyebabkan keupayaan penyimpanan tenaga dan kadar pemindahan haba menjadi lebih rendah. Penyerakan zarah nano secara seragam ke dalam PCM meningkatkan pengaliran haba. Walau bagaimanapun, terdapat masalah yang berkaitan dengan kestabilan penyebaran zarah nano; selepas beberapa kitaran, ia semakin tergumpal. Objektif utama penyelidikan ini adalah untuk mensintesis dan mencirikan bahan perubahan fasa penambah baik nano (NePCM); membangunkan sistem PVT, menganalisa prestasi tenaga dan eksergi sistem PVT dan menilai prestasi sistem PVT bersepadu NePCM menggunakan. Kaedah dua-langkah digunakan untuk mensintesis NePCM menggunakan garam hidrat dengan suhu peralihan fasa pada 50°C sebagai PCM dan tiub nano karbon berbilang dinding berfungsi (FMWCNT) sebagai zarah nano. Nanokomposit yang disediakan telah dicirikan menggunakan spektrum inframerah transformasi fourier, analisis termo-gravimetrik, kalorimetri pengimbasan berbeza, spektrum cahaya nampak ultraviolet, Penganalisis pengaliran haba dan Kitaran haba untuk memastikan sifat fizik haba. Analisis tenaga dan eksergi dijalankan untuk menilai prestasi sistem PVT. Sistem PVT dianalisa menggunakan saluran aliran paip selari seperti yang dicadangkan dalam penganalisaan penyelidikan ini dimana ia bertindak sebagai pengumpul haba untuk mengekstrak tenaga haba khususnya. Untuk menjalankan analisis perbandingan dengan sistem PV konvensional, tiga konfigurasi baharu iaitu PVT, PVT-PCM, dan PVT-NePCM dengan kadar alir 0.4, 0.6 dan 0.8 LPM, telah dikaji. Keputusan yang diperolehi menunjukkan kestabilan kimia, fizikal dan terma daripada NePCM yang disediakan. FMWCNT pada kepekatan berat 0.7% menunjukkan peningkatan aliran haba sebanyak 100% dan pengurangan dalam penghantaran cahaya sebanyak 93.49% jika dibandingkan dengan PCM tulen. Tambahan pula, nanokomposit ini adalah stabil dari segi kimia dan haba; selepas 300 kitaran haba. NePCM yang dinyatakan di atas dengan ciri-ciri yang dipertingkat telah diintegrasikan dengan sistem PVT untuk penyelidikan terkini. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa penghasilan dan kecekapan kuasa elektrik meningkat sebanyak 29.1% dan 21.9% untuk sistem PVT-NePCM. Kecekapan haba maksimum untuk system PVT-NePCM yang diperolehi ialah 75.42%. Keseluruhan kecekapan tenaga untuk sistem PVT, PVT-PCM dan PVT-NePCM yang dihitung ialah 81.9%, 84.54%, dan 85% masing-masing pada kadar alir yang dioptimumkan. Sebaliknya, kecekapan eksergi maksimum adalah 12.37% untuk sistem PVT-NePCM. Sistem yang dibangunkan menjana kedua-dua tenaga elektrik dan tenaga haba, yang boleh digunakan di kawasan terpencil. Selanjutnya, kajian eksperimen masa nyata ke atas sistem PVT bersepadu NePCM diperlukan untuk menyiasat prestasi masa nyata sistem PVT.

ABSTRACT

Photovoltaic (PV) technology enables direct conversion of solar energy to electricity for direct consumption. Photovoltaic conversion efficiency mostly decreases with increase in temperature of the PV system; henceforth temperature management is a key issue in PV system design. A hybrid photovoltaic thermal (PVT) system is a promising development, which facilitates extraction of heat energy and electrical energy simultaneous. Meanwhile, the challenge of using conventional water-based PVT systems is that they can only be used during the daytime. Integration of phase change materials (PCM) with PVT systems to regulate the temperature as well as to facilitate thermal energy storage is a popular and viable choice. However, the PCMs suffer from lower thermal conductivity which causes lower energy storage capabilities and lower heat transfer rates. Uniform dispersion of nanoparticles into the PCM enhances the thermal conductivity. Though, there are problems pertaining to dispersion stability of the nanoparticles; after a few cycles, they get agglomerated. The main objective of the present research is to synthesize and characterize the nano-enhanced phase change materials (NePCM); develop a PVT system, analyse the energy and exergy performance of the PVT system and to evaluate the performance of NePCM-integrated PVT system. A two-step method is used to synthesize the NePCMs using salt hydrate with a phase transition temperature of 50°C as PCM and functionalize multi-walled carbon nanotubes (FMWCNT) as nanoparticle. The prepared nanocomposites were characterized using fourier transform infrared spectrum, thermo-gravimetric analysis, differential scanning calorimetry, ultraviolet visible spectrum, thermal property analyser and thermal cyclor to ensure their thermo physical properties. Energy and exergy analysis is carried out to evaluate the performance of the PVT system. PVT system is investigated using a parallel pipe flow channel as proposed in the current research investigation which acts as thermal collector for extracting the heat energy. To make a comparative analysis with the conventional PV systems, three new configurations namely PVT, PVT-PCM, and PVT-NePCM with flowrates (0.4, 0.6 and 0.8 liter per minute (LPM), have been studied. Results obtained ensures chemical, physical and thermal stability of the prepared NePCM. FMWCNT at a weight concentration of 0.7% depicts thermal conductivity enhancement by 100% and light transmission decrement by 93.49% when compared with pure PCM. Furthermore, the nanocomposites were chemically and thermally stable, after 300 thermal cycles. Aforementioned NePCM with enhanced characteristics were integrated with PVT system for real time investigation. Results show that the electrical power output and efficiency to improve by 29.1% and 21.9% for the PVT-NePCM system. The maximum thermal efficiency of PVT, PVT-PCM and PVT-NePCM systems were found to be 73.1%, 74.99% and 75.42% at 0.4 LPM, respectively. Overall energy efficiency of the PVT, PVT-PCM and PVT-NePCM system were calculated to be 81.9%, 84.54%, and 85 % respectively at the optimized flowrate. On the contrary, the maximum exergy efficiency was found to be 12.37% for PVT-NePCM system. The developed system generates both electrical energy and thermal energy, which can be used for the remote areas. Further, Real time experimental study on NePCM integrated PVTsystem is needed to investigate the real time performance of PVT system.

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