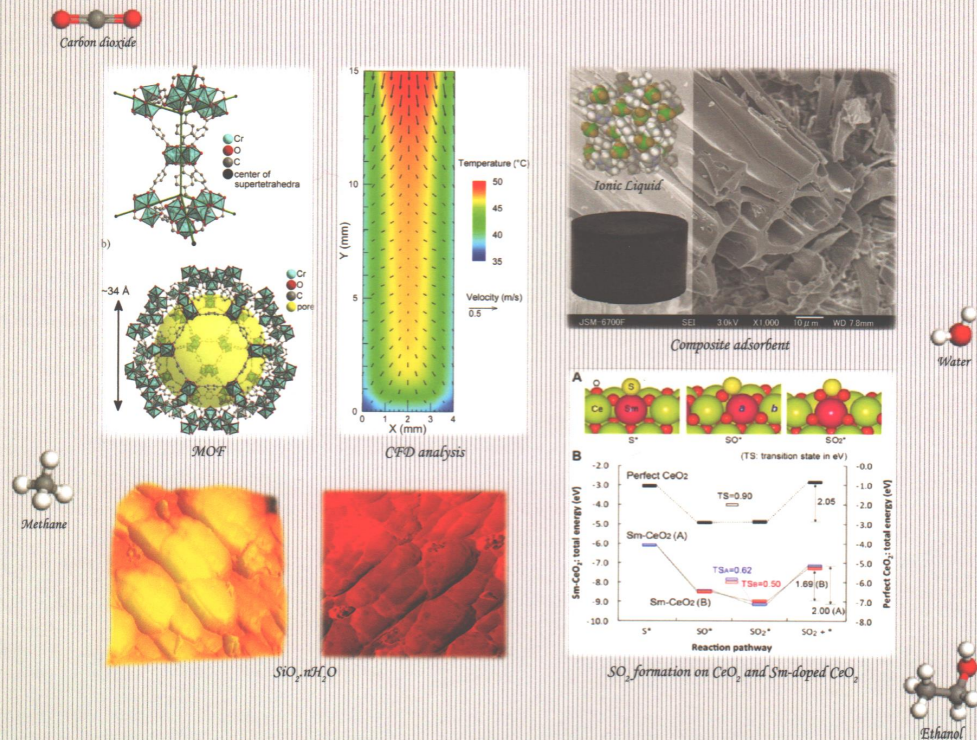


Chemical Science and Engineering Series 4

Innovative Materials for Processes in Energy Systems

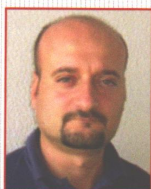


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Thermal performance simulation of a heat pump assisted solar desalination system for Kazakhstan climate conditions

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1. Introduction

Lack of fresh water is one of the key problems of Kazakhstan. According to UN estimates, over the past 50 years, providing the population with water resources in Central Asia declined by almost 3.5 times and, according to estimates, by the year 2025 may reach the critical exponent - 1.7 cubic meters per person per year. At the same time, Kazakhstan is one of the leading countries in the Central Asian region with the average annual solar radiation potential. Annual duration of sunshine is 2200-3000 hours, and the estimated capacity of 1300-1700 kW per 1 m² per year, which exceeds that of Europe. In this context, the use of solar desalination, combined with a heat pump system will provide fresh water to residents of remote areas with access to salt or polluted water.

2. System description

The schematic diagram of the heat pump assisted solar desalination system is depicted in Figure 1.

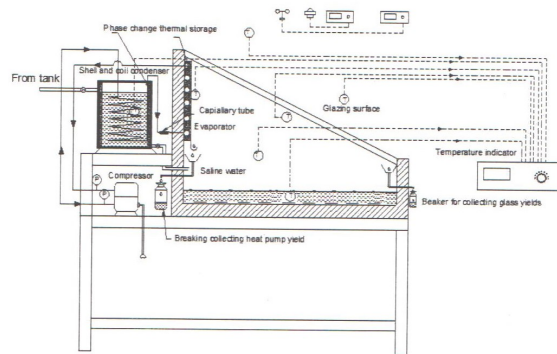


Fig.1: Schematic view of the heat pump assisted regenerative solar still.

The heat pump assisted regenerative solar still consists of a hermetically sealed reciprocating compressor, a shell and coil type condenser with thermal storage, a liquid receiver, a sealed-type refrigerant drier, a thermostatic expansion device, plate type evaporator with heat storage provision, basin area 2 m² that accommodates brackish water. The condenser will contribute to heat basin water (evaporation), especially during low solar radiation using heat pump refrigerant (R134a). The water in the basin is heated by the incident solar radiation transmitted through the glazing surface. The water will condense under this glass cover and the evaporator. The condensate will be collected by two beakers.

3. Mathematical model and method of solution

Mathematical model based on mass and energy balance equations for different part of heat pump assisted solar desalination system according to [1]. Numerical algorithm for differential equations solution based on the fourth order Runge-Kutta method [1]. Computer program for implementation of numerical algorithm developed by means of C++ programming software. As the initial conditions for temperature at the different part of the heat pump assisted solar still ambient temperature were assumed. At the first time step this temperature value was used to calculate convective and radiative heat transfer coefficients. Based on this values and physical properties temperatures at the different positions of the system were calculated.

4. Results and discussion

Temperature variation of different parts of the distiller was numerically estimated for climate conditions of Fort-Shevchenko town in Kazakhstan. Fort-Shevchenko is located on the eastern shore of Caspian Sea. Figure 1 shows the temperature variation and productivity of solar still.

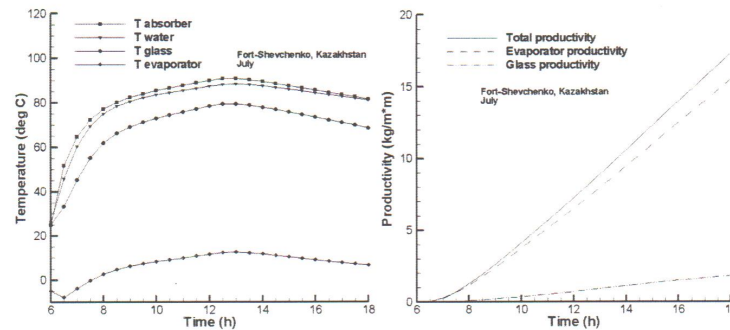


Fig.2: Temperature variation of the different parts of solar still and productivity estimation.

According to the Figure 2 maximum absorber temperature reaches a value 91 °C for July. More than 75% of condensed water is produced by evaporator comparing to glass cover. A large amount of water vapor is condensate very quickly due to the low temperature of the refrigerant [2].

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