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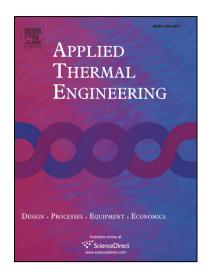
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Test method for evaluating and predicting thermal performance of thermosyphon solar domestic hot water system

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Abstract

A test method for evaluating and predicting the thermal performance of thermosyphon Solar Domestic Hot Water (SDHW) system was proposed. The evaluating mathematical model of SDHW system was developed based on the two-node theory - a SDHW system was divided into the solid part and the fluid part. By combining the dynamic energy conservation equations of the solid part and the fluid part, the evaluating mathematical model of SDHW system was derived. The model parameters have clear physical meaning which can be used to evaluate the SDHW systems. The evaluating mathematical model was further processed by using the Laplace transformation technique and the predicting mathematical model was then derived. The predicting model can be used to predict the thermal performance of SDHW system for short and long term period with flexible draw off load conditions. The experimental method was designed and experiments were carried out to validate the test method. The measured mean fluid temperature in the storage tank was compared to the predicted mean fluid temperature. The annual thermal performance prediction of the system with two draw off load conditions at different daily hot water consumptions was also carried out.

Key words: solar domestic hot water system; thermal performance prediction; Laplace transformation method; thermosyphon solar water heater

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