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# Effects of porous material and nanoparticles on the thermal performance of a flat plate solar collector: An experimental study

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## Abstract:

The thermal performance of a nanofluid flow through a flat plate solar collector with the metal porous foam filled channel is experimentally investigated. For this purpose, the SiO<sub>2</sub>/deionized water nanofluids are prepared with volume fractions of 0.2%, 0.4% and 0.6% then their thermal behavior is examined on the porous channel collector based on the ASHRAE standard. Based on the experimental results, the thermal efficiency is improved up to 8.1% in the nanofluid flow. Using the porous media and nanofluid causes an undesirable increase in the pressure drop. To take both the heat transfer enhancement and pressure drop into consideration, a Performance Evaluation Criterion (PEC) has been used for nanofluid and porous media, separately. It is observed that as the nanoparticle volume fraction increases from 0.2% to 0.6%, the performance of nanofluid flow,  $PEC_{nf}$ , is enhanced from 1.07 to 1.34 in the lowest flow rate (0.5 lit/min). Also, the performance evaluation of the porous media,  $PEC_p$ , shows that the solar collector

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