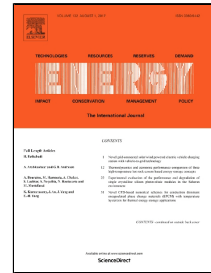


Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0360-5442(17)31200-8
DOI: 10.1016/j.energy.2017.07.025
Reference: EGY 11213
To appear in: *Energy*
Received Date: 09 March 2017
Revised Date: 22 June 2017
Accepted Date: 06 July 2017



Please cite this article as: Chang Peng, Ayyoub M. Momen, Saeed Moghaddam, An Energy-Efficient Method for Direct-Contact Ultrasonic Cloth Drying, *Energy* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.energy.2017.07.025

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An Energy-Efficient Method for Direct-Contact Ultrasonic Cloth Drying¹

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Abstract

A novel ultrasonic transducer driving method, in which the power supply to the transducer is regulated by a binary modulating signal, is introduced for the first time for use in direct-contact ultrasonic drying of fabrics. First, the drying characteristics of different fabrics on two types of transducers are studied using continuous transducer driving mode. Then, the effects of duty cycle and frequency of modulating power signals on fabric drying characteristics are investigated. The energy efficiency of the proposed transducer driving method is compared with that of the continuous transducer driving mode. The results suggest that drying using a modulating signal consists of nonlinear and linear regimes similar to those of the continuous driving mode. The results also show that drying time of a fabric depends not only on the fabric type, but also on the duty cycle and the modulating frequency. However, there exists a critical duty cycle beyond which the drying time does not change. The proposed transducer driving method is more energy-efficient compared to continuous driving mode, consuming 7–16 times less energy. Higher energy efficiencies maybe achieved by operating the transducer at higher modulating frequencies and shorter duty cycles.

Keywords: Ultrasonic cloth drying; Duty cycle; Modulating frequency; Energy factor

¹ This manuscript has been authored by the University of Florida in collaboration with UT-Battelle, LLC under Contract No. DE-AC05-00OR22725 with the U.S. Department of Energy. The United States Government retains and the publisher, by accepting the article for publication, acknowledges that the United States Government retains a non-exclusive, paid-up, irrevocable, world-wide license to publish or reproduce the published form of this manuscript, or allow others to do so, for United States Government purposes. The Department of Energy will provide public access to these results of federally sponsored research in accordance with the DOE Public Access Plan (<http://energy.gov/downloads/doe-public-access-plan>).

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