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Heat Transfer Enhancement of Two Pass Solar Air Heater using Discrete V-Shape Ribs on Absorber Plate

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Abstract: In this paper, heat transfer enhancement in two pass solar air heater with discrete V-shaped rib is investigated. Discrete ribs are attached on absorber plate. The ratio of rib height to hydraulic diameter (e/D) is 0.0287, while the range of rib pitch-to-height ratio is ($P/e = 6-12$). Experiments are carried out using air as the convective fluid, with the Reynolds number range ($Re = 2000 -14000$). Air enters the upper channel of the air heater and subsequently flows to the lower channel in the opposite direction. Roughened wall of the duct is uniformly heated with constant heat flux electric heater while the remaining three walls are insulated.

In addition, heat transfer increase as P/e increase from 6 to 10 and thereafter decrease in heat transfer coefficient is resulted.

Keyword: Enhancement of heat transfer, Two-Pass solar air heater, Thermal efficiency, Mass flow rate, Reynolds number.

I. INTRODUCTION

The main applications of solar air heaters are space heating, drying of agricultural products and paint spraying operations. The efficiency of flat plate solar air heater has been found to be low because of low convective heat transfer coefficient between absorber plate and the flowing air. Several methods, including the use of fins, artificial roughness and packed beds in the ducts, have been proposed for the enhancement of thermal performance. Use of artificial roughness in the form of repeated ribs of various shapes and orientations has been found to be a convenient method to investigate the performance of such systems.

The use of artificial roughness in solar air heaters owes its origin to several investigations carried out in connection with the enhancement of heat transfer in nuclear reactors and turbine blades. Several investigations have been carried out by different investigators as Prasad and Mullick [3], used artificial roughness in the form of fine wires in a solar air heater duct to improve the thermal performance of collector and they have obtained the enhancement (ratio of the values for roughened duct to that for the smooth duct) in Nusselt number of the order of 1.385. Gupta [2], found that the heat transfer coefficient of roughened duct using wires as artificial roughness can be improved by a factor up to 1.8 and the friction factor has been found to increase by a factor up to 2.7 times of smooth duct. Saini and Saini [1] reported that a maximum enhancement in Nusselt number and friction factor for a duct roughened with expanded metal mesh is of the order of 4 and 5 respectively in the range of parameters investigated. Karwa [5] investigated the effect on heat transfer and friction factor by using the Transverse, inclined, v-continuous and v-discrete rib on absorber plate in solar air heater, with Reynolds number range of 2800-15000, relative roughness height (e/D) range of 0.0467 - 0.050 duct aspect ratio range of 7.19- 7.75 at the fixed value of relative roughness pitch (p/e) of 10 and also developed the correlation for Stanton number and friction factor. The rib in the v-pattern were tested for both pointing upstream (V-up) and (V-down) to the flow. Enhancement in Stanton number and friction factor over that of the smooth duct was observed of the order of 65 -90% and 2.68 - 2.94 times, respectively. It is observed that 60° inclined rectangular ribs produces better results than transvers rib.

The enhancement in the Stanton number over the smooth duct was up to 137%, 147%, 134% and 142% for the V-up continuous, V-down continuous, V-up discrete and V-down discrete rib arrangement respectively. The friction factor ratio for these arrangements was up to 3.92, 3.65, 2.47 and 2.58 respectively. Based on the equal pumping power, V-down discrete roughness provides the best heat transfer performance. However, the increase in heat transfer is accompanied by an increase in the resistance of fluid flow. Prasad and Saini [4] reported that a maximum enhancement in Nusselt number and friction factor which are 2.38 and 4.25 times of smooth duct has been obtained by using artificial roughness. Although the heat transfer problems can be investigated by analytical means too, but due to the complex nature of governing equations and the difficulty in obtaining analytical/numerical solutions, the researchers have focused greater attention on the experimental investigation. From the literature survey it was found that the Nusselt number on the ribbed side wall having transverse ribs is about two or three times higher than the four sided smooth channel values

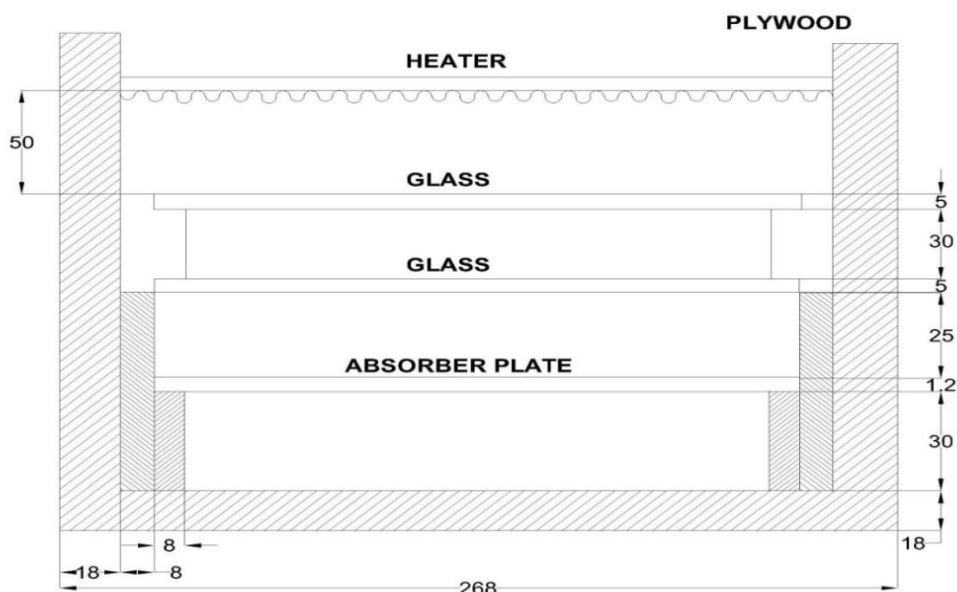


Fig-2- cross sectional view of duct

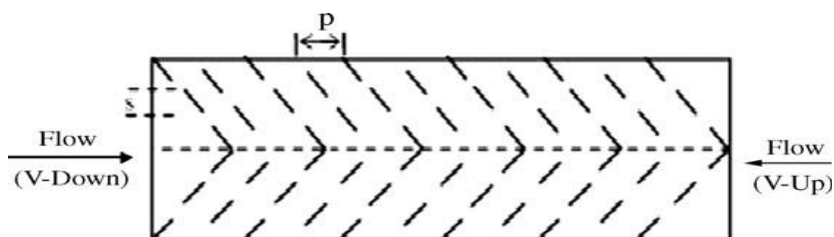


Fig-3- Schematic Diagram of absorber plate with discrete V-shaped ribs

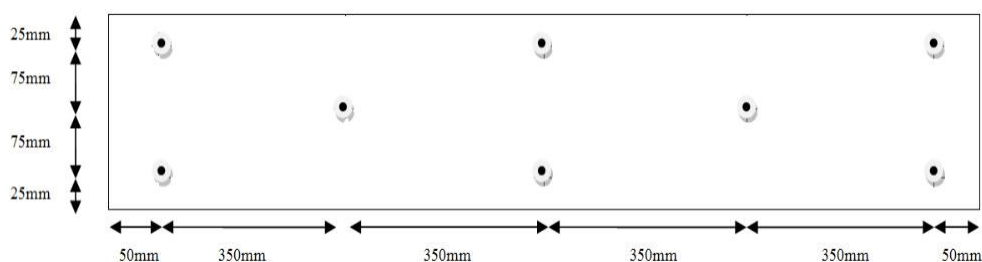


Fig-4- Position of the Thermocouples on the absorber plate

III. DATA REDUCTION

The experimental data for plate and air temperatures at various location in the duct was recorded under steady state conditions for given heat flux and mass flow rate of air. The data includes thermocouple reading and mass flow rates. This data have been reduced to obtain the average plate temperature, average air temperature, velocity of air flow in the duct and the value of heat transfer coefficient.

1) *Average Temperature*: The mean air temperature or average flow temperature T_f is the measure value at the inlet and outlet of the test section by using the following equation:

$$T_f = (T_i + T_o)/2$$

The mean plate temperature, t_p is the average of the reading of eight points located on the absorber plate.

- 2) *Mass Flow Rate*: In order to calculate mass flow rate, m , heat gain by the air, Q_{air} , and heat transfer coefficient, h , the following equation were used:

$$\dot{m} = cd A_o \sqrt{\frac{2\rho(\delta P)}{1 - \beta^4}}$$

Calibration of orifice plate against a standard pitot tube yielding a value of 0.624 for coefficient of discharge, C_d . where $\Delta P_o = 9.81 \rho_m \Delta h_o \sin \theta$:

- 3) *Heat Gain by the Air*: Heat gain by the air can be calculated by the following equation:

$$Q_{air} = \dot{m} c_p (T_o - T_i)$$

- 4) *Heat Transfer Coefficient*: The value of heat transfer coefficient between the absorber plate and fluid is given by the equation:

$$m C_p [t_o - t_i] = h A_p [t_p - t_f]$$

$$h = \frac{Q_{air}}{A_p (T_p - T_f)}$$

Where,

Q_{air} = heat input to air , KJ

C_p = specific heat of air, KJ/kg-K

T_p = temperature of plate, °C

T_f = temperature of fluid, °C

T_o = temperature at exit, °C

T_i = temperature at entry, °C

- 5) *Velocity Measurement*: Velocity measurement by the following equation:

$$V = \frac{\dot{m}}{\rho \times w \times h}$$

Where,

\dot{m} =mass flow rate, kg/s w = width of

the duct, h =height of the duct, m

ρ = density of air, kg/m³

- 6) *Reynolds Number*: The value of Reynolds number measurement by the following equation:

$$Re = \frac{\rho V D_h}{\mu}$$

Where

V = velocity of air (m/s)

D_h = hydraulic diameter (m)

ρ = density of air (kg/m³)

μ = viscosity of air (m²/s)

- 7) *Hydraulic Diameter*

$$D_h = \frac{4WH}{2(W + H)}$$

- 8) *Nusselt Number*

$$Nu = \frac{h D_h}{k}$$

Where

h = heat transfer coefficient , W/m²K

D_h = hydraulic diameter, m

k = thermal conductivity of air, W/Mk

9) Thermal efficiency η

$$\eta = \frac{G Cp(T_o - T_i)}{I}$$

$$G = \frac{\dot{m}}{A_p}$$

Where

G = mass velocity, kg/s-m²

A_p = area of the plate , m²

I = heat flux, W/m²

10) *Validity Test:* The Nusselt number determined from experimental data from smooth duct have been compared with the values obtained from dittus boelter equation (rosenhaw and Hartnett, 1973). Dittus boelter equation: $N_u = 0.023 Re^{0.8} Pr^{0.4}$ The comparison of experimental and predicted values from equation of Nusselt number has been shown in fig. 3.

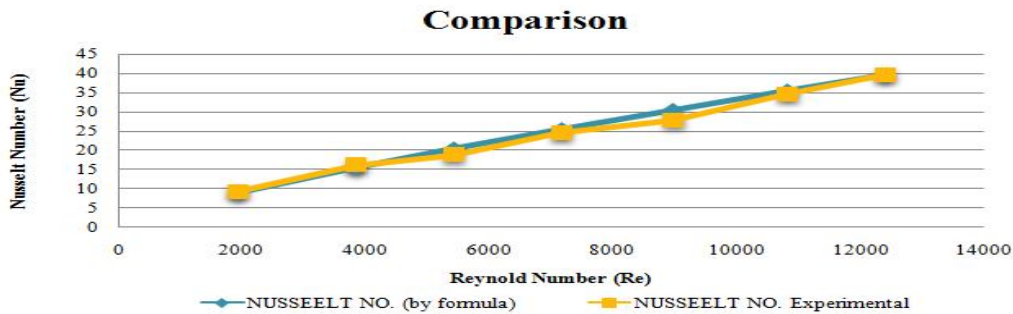


Fig. 5-comparison of expeimental and predicted values of smooth duct

IV. RESULTS AND OBSERVATION

The heat transfer characteristics of rectangular duct roughened with discrete V- shaped ribs, computed on the basis of experimental data collected for various flow and roughness parameters, have been discussed below. The result has been computed with those obtained in case of smooth ducts under similar operating conditions to discuss the enhancement in Nusselt number. It is observed the effect of Reynolds number on Nusselt number for fixed values of angle relative roughness height (e/D_h) and different values of relative roughness pitch (p/e). Nusselt number of discrete V- shaped roughened duct is higher than that of smooth duct. It is also observed that Nusselt number increases with increases of Reynolds number for both smooth and roughened duct. The Nusselt number was found maximum at relative roughness pitch (p/e) 10 because of possibility of occurrence of reattachment point in this parameter. Literature also support this result because of maximum heat transfer occurs in the vicinity of reattachment point.

The variation of Nusselt Number with Reynolds Number show in table 1 and fig. 6 .

Head (cm) h	Reynold number (Re)	Nusselt Number (Nu)				
		smooth	p/e = 6	p/e = 8	p/e = 10	p/e = 12
1	2112.18	4.33	7.25	10.32	16.09	12.63
4	4224.36	10.63	13.46	17.11	21.68	19.16
8	5974.15	18.97	22.59	26.06	31.88	28.78
14	7903.06	28.23	32.52	32.68	41.53	38.16
22	9907.01	36.38	39.35	43.55	52.07	47.54
29	11374.45	41.27	45.35	49.06	59.55	55.43
32	11948.31	43.36	47.83	52.13	63.03	59.15

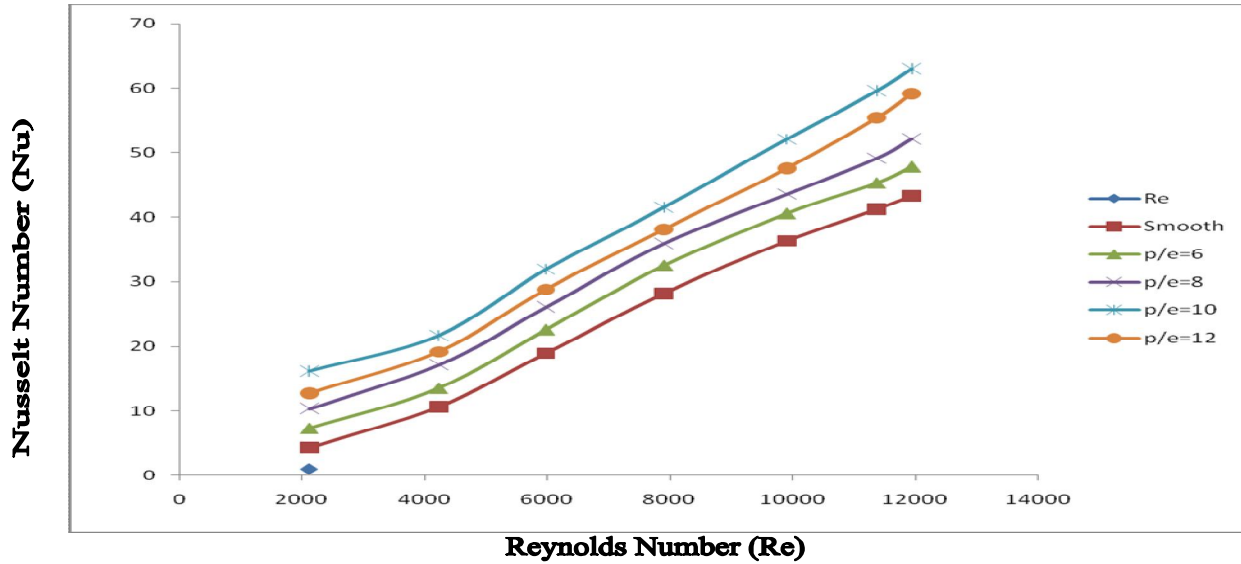


Fig. 6 - Variation Of Nusselt Number With Reynolds Number

The Variation of Heat transfer coefficient with Relative Roughness pitch shows in table 2 and fig. 7 .

S.No.	Reynolds number (Re)	Thermal Efficiency η (%)				
		smooth	p/e = 6	p/e = 8	p/e = 10	p/e = 12
1	2112.18	5.79	10.14	11.59	15.94	13.04
2	4224.36	14.49	20.28	26.08	31.88	28.98
3	5974.15	28.69	36.88	40.98	49.18	45.08
4	7903.06	37.95	48.8	54.22	65.06	59.64
5	9907.01	54.37	61.17	67.97	81.56	74.76
6	11374.45	62.43	70.23	78.03	93.64	85.84
7	11948.31	65.58	73.77	81.97	98.3	90.17

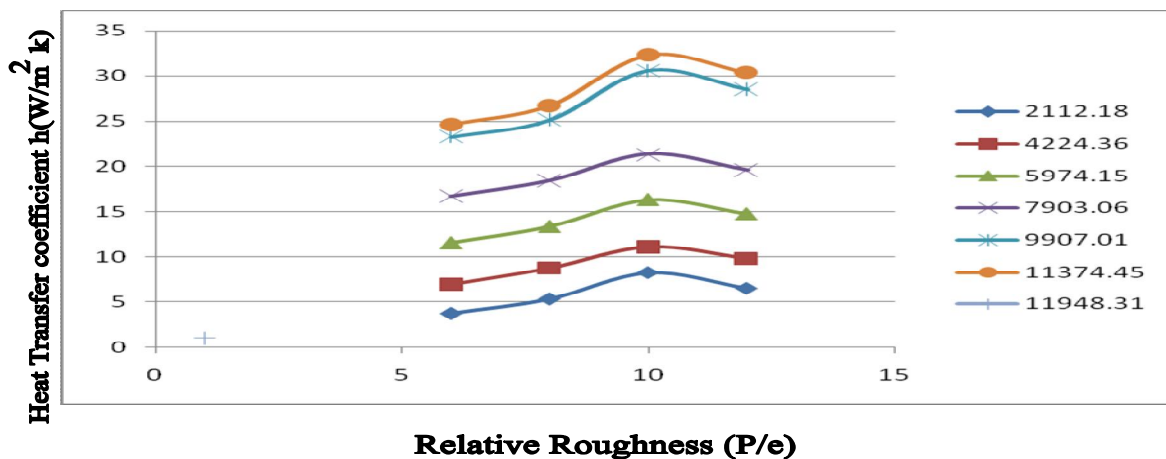


Fig. 7- variation of heat transfer coefficient with relative roughness pitch

The Variation of Thermal Efficiency with Reynolds number shows in table 3 and fig. 8 .

S.No	Reynolds number (Re)	Heat Transfer coefficient h (W/m ^{2o} K)			
		6	8	10	12
1	2112.18	3.72	5.3	8.26	6.48
2	4224.36	6.91	8.78	11.12	9.83
3	5974.15	11.59	13.37	16.36	14.77
4	7903.06	16.69	16.77	21.32	19.58
5	9907.01	20.19	22.35	26.73	24.4
6	11374.45	23.28	25.18	30.56	28.45
7	11948.31	24.55	26.75	32.35	30.36

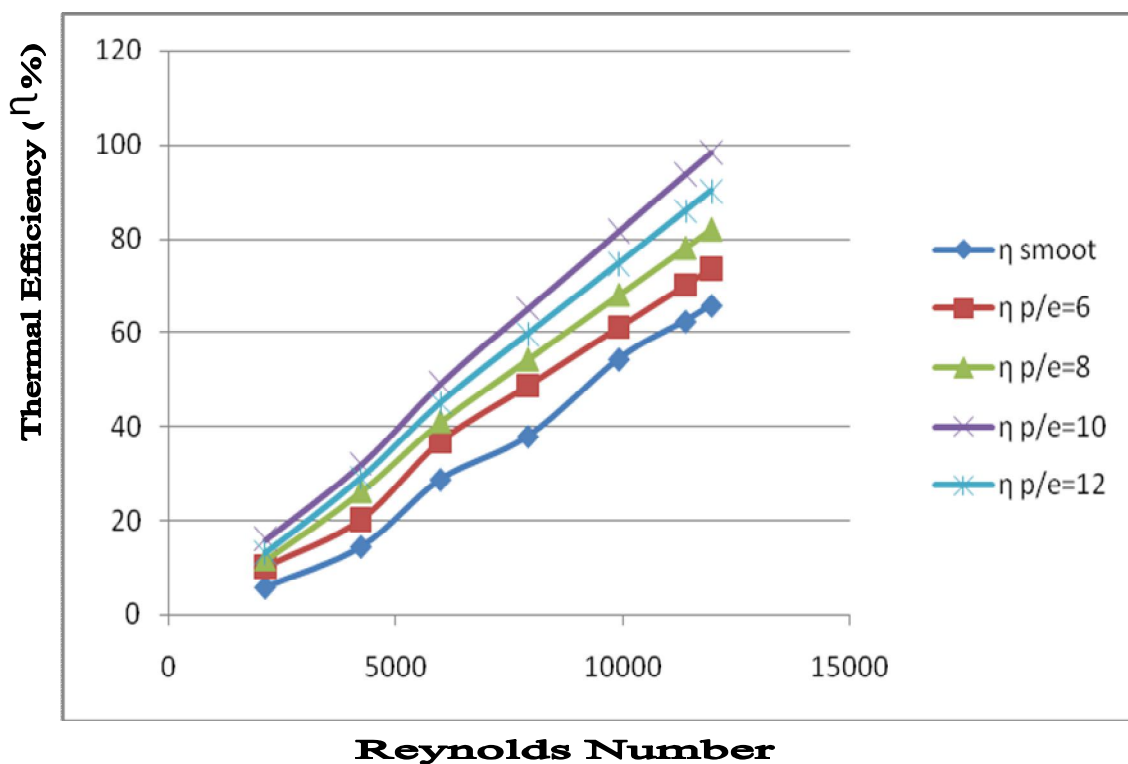


Fig. 8 - variation of thermal efficiency with reynolds number

V. CONCLUSION

The following conclusion can be made from this work:

- A. In general , Nusselt number increases with an increase of Reynolds number. The values of Nusselt number is substantially higher as compared to those obtained for smooth absorber plates. This is due to distinct change in the fluid flow characteristics as a result of roughness that causes flow separations, reattachments and the generation of secondary flow.
- B. It found that the Nusselt number increases with an increase of Reynolds number and attains maximum for relative roughness pitch of 10 and then , decreases with an increases of relative roughness pitch. The variation of Nusselt number with relative roughness pitch (p/e) is in significant at lower values of Reynolds number, but at higher Reynolds number , there is a substantial effect.
- C. The maximum experimental thermal efficiency of two pass solar air heater has been found to be 98% at the relative roughness pitch of 10.

1) *Nomenclatures*

A_c	surface area of absorber plate, m^2
C_p	specific heat of air, $J/kg\ K$
D, Dh	equivalent or hydraulic diameter of duct, m
e	rib height,
h	heat transfer coefficient, $W/m^2\ K$
H	depth of air duct, m
I	intensity of solar radiation, W/m^2
K	thermal conductivity of air, $W/m\ K$
L	length of test section of duct or long way length of mesh, m
m	mass flow rate, kg/s
P	pitch, m
Q_u	useful heat gain, W
Q_l	heat loss from collector, W
Q_t	heat loss from top of collector, W
T_o	fluid outlet temperature, K
T_i	fluid inlet temperature, K
T_a	ambient temperature, K
T_{pm}	mean plate temperature, K
W	width of duct, m

2) *Dimensionless Parameters*

e/D_h	relative roughness height
e/H	rib to channel height rat
Nu	Nusselt number
p/e	relative roughness pitch
Re	Reynolds number
W/H	duct aspect ratio

Greek

η	thermal efficiency
μ	dynamic viscosity, Ns/m^2
ρ	density of air, kg/m^3

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