



**The 4th
International Symposium on
Engineering, Energy
and Environment**

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Faculty of Engineering, Thammasat University, Thailand
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Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan

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This is an unofficial proceeding;
The official one will available online
at <http://iseee. engr. tu. ac. th/ Symposium. php>
on November, 16th 2015



Symposium Background

The Fourth International Symposium on Engineering, Energy and Environment (4th ISEEE) is aimed at finding approaches and ideas toward an important question: “How can engineering research and practice help to create a sustainable society?” It serves as a forum for the presentation of technological advances and stimulating ideas to answer this challenging question. ISEEE 2015 is the fourth in the series which has been held since 2008. This year the symposium will be held in Pattaya, Thailand. The 2015 symposium will feature plenary talks by renowned speakers and parallel sessions which provide a platform for knowledge transfer and exchange.

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CONFERENCE TOPICS

Agricultural and food engineering
Biomedical engineering and engineering in medicine
Chemical processing
Diagnostic and monitoring System
Digital technology
Engineering and education
Environmental technology and management
Manufacturing and design
Materials engineering
Productivity improvement
Renewable energy and energy management
Resilient engineering
(Natural disaster, Infrastructure, Transportation, etc.)
Transportation and logistics
Other

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CONTENT

Agricultural and food engineering

- **Adhesive Xyloglucan-Bacterial Cellulose Pulp Film for Topical Application**.....3
Saranyou Oontawee, Pattarapa Jittavisuttiwong, Chanan Phonprapai, Porntip Chaimanee
- **Aggregate Production Planning for Germinated Brown Rice with Demand under Uncertainty**..... 8
Lakkana Ruekkasaema, Montalee Sasananana
- ***Bacillus subtilis* TU-034 Enhance GABA Accumulation in Germinated Organic Brown Rice and Against Bacterial Leaf Streak Disease**.....14
Dusit Athinuwat, Nipaporn Doungkaew , Wilawan Chuaboon
- **Screening A New Pathogenic Bacterium to Control the Common Cutworm of Chinese Kale**20.
Phongsathon Poralokanon , Wilawan Chuaboon , Dusit Athinuwat
- **Efficiency of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Polysaccharides Enhance Growth of Cassava Plant and Control Root and Tuber Rot**24
Satuck Chaisue, Phongsathon Poralokanon, Wilawan Chuaboon, Dusit Athinuwat
- **New Application Strategies of Wood Vinegar for Managing Rice under Farming Production**29
Nattapone Ponghirantanachoke, Dusit Athinuwat and Wilawan Chuaboon
- **Growth and Yield component of Thai Aromatic Rice Varieties in Response to Drought Stress**..... 35
Thamaton Limratana, Ornprapa Aungoolprasert*, Phakpen Poomipan,
Voraphat Luckanatinvong and Somchai Chakatrakarn
- **The effect of electrode geometry of DBD Plasma Treatment on RD31 Rice Seed Germination**..... 41
Tipwimol Traikool, Nopporn Poolyarat, Manu Fuangfung, Supenya Chittapun,
Nuankamol Amnuaysin and Thawatchai Onjun
- **The Improvement of Germination rate of Thai Sung-Yod Rice by Using Atmospheric Plasma**46
Patcharee Wongpanom, Tipwimol Traikool, Thawatchai Onjun, Nopporn Poolyarat,
Supenya Chittapun, Nuankamol Amnuaysin, and Manu Fuangfung
- **Efficacy of High Quality Organic-Fertilizer on Growth and Yield of Purple Riceberry in Different Soil Series**52
Naruemon Sukkasamee , Ornprapa Aungoolprasert, Phakpen Poomipan
and Voraphat Luckanatinvong

Biomedical engineering and engineering in medicine

- **Guidelines to Developing Design For Sustainability for Senior Citizens in Thai Society**..... 61
Warawoot Chuangchai, Kesorn Suwanprasert
- **A New Approach to Improve The Performance of a Two-Player Board Game using P300-based Brain-Computer Interface**65
Jakawal Ongthongkum, Wannisa Anurat, Thanawat Charoenpuangkaew and Chantri Polprasert
- **An Experimental Analysis of Heat Transfer in Liver Tissue during Microwave Ablation using Single and Double Slot Antenna** 71
S. Pongpakpien, S. Wongpradubchai, P. Keangin, P.Rattanadecho
- **Biofeedback for gait rehabilitation based on Gait pattern variability**78
Narintra Junchay, Bunyong Rungroungdouyboon, Supachai Vorapojpisut
- **Assessment of Skin Surface by Acoustic Impedance Microscope** 85
Daichi Suzuki, Agus Indra Gunawana, Sachiko Yoshida, Naohiro Hozumi, Yuki Ogura,
Kazuto Kobayashi
- **Quantitative evaluation of cell using acoustic impedance microscope**90
Kenta Takahashi, Agus Indra Gunawan, Sachiko Yoshida, Naohiro Hozumi, Kazuto Kobayashi
- **Brain and Human Body Temperature Simulation of Cardiac Arrest Patient Using Finite Element Method**.....96
Woradeth Arunlertratsamee, Wiroj Limtrakarn



Chemical processing

- **Behaviors of binary CH₄-THF hydrate formation using THF hydrate** 105
Yuichi Tsuchid, Satoshi Kodama, Hidetoshi Sekiguchi
- **Separation of Model Petroleum Heavy Fraction Solvent Extraction** 110
Hiroaki Habaki, Tomonori Masuda, Ryuichi Egashira
- **Estimated Binary Mixture Flash Point from Component Structures** 116
Satok Chaikunchuensakun
- **Improved Performance of Mo-V-Te-Nb-Oxide Catalyst for the Selective Oxidation of Propane to Acrylic Acid** 122
Yoon Sik Park, Sang Seup Kum, Sang Heup Moon, Satoshi Kodama, Hidetoshi Sekiguchi
- **Protein Leaching From Films of SDS-Treated Natural Rubber Latex** 128
Adisara Yooyanyong and Panu Danwanichakul
- **Modification of Cellulose Acetate Membrane for Seawater Treatment** 134
Nittaya Tancharoen and Tippabust Eksangsri

Diagnostic and monitoring System

- **The Development of Leakage Current Measurement System for High Voltage Equipment** 143
P. Chorphaka, T. Nutthaphong
- **Development of Space Charge Measurement Equipment for HVDC Cables -Study on Pulse Voltage Waveform-** 150
Masahiko Hori, Naohiro Hozumi
- **Development of Strain-Corrosion Sensor** 157
Kenichiro Imafuku, Nobuaki Otsuki
- **Impact of climate change on annual rainfall over Eastern River Basin in Thailand: a warning signal for future industrial water supply** 163
Uruya Weesakul and Kwanchanok Oonta-on

Digital technology

- **Modeling and Simulation Energy Efficient VM scheduling for large-scale Cloud Datacenter** 171
Chotika Banditphat, Sathaporn Puengpo, Supakit Prueksaaron
- **On the Design and Implementation of Array Codes in Distributed Data Storage** 177
Phisan Kaewprapha, Nattakan Puttarak
- **Automatic Detection of Repressed Anger from Text Messages** 185
Hitoshi Obata, Daisuke Nagashima, Takashi Yukawa

Engineering and education

- **An Internet-based Remote Switching Software Development using Cloud-based and Rapid Development Tools** 193
Watchara Amasiri, Saran Lerdnantawat and Dahmmaet Bunnjaweht
- **Customized Android E-learning Implementation** 199
Piya Techateerawat
- **Effects of Electrode Position Respecting with Ground-Wire Positions on Efficiency of Hot-Air Drying Cooperating with Electric fields** 206
Duangrudee Chutrakul, and Chainarong Chaktranond
- **A Design and Implementation of a Low Cost Sine Wave Generator using a DDS Module** 213
Patid Jitjongruek and Dahmmaet Bunnjaweht
- **Microcontroller Based Multimedia Application Development: A glimpse of Internet of Things** 219
Mahesh Kumar Sharma, Suresh Mokawat, Nopbhorn Leeprechanon and Satish Kumar Raib
- **Time Study of UV grafting Poly (N-isopropylacrylamide-co-acrylamide) onto Polystyrene Surface for Tissue Culture Engineering** 226
Aye Yu Yu Swe, Kanokaon Benchaprathanphorn, Kwanchanok Viravaidya-Pasuwat and Wanwipa Siriwatwechakul



- **Gait Analysis Plates Design**232
Jakkrapun Chuanasa, Parit Wongphaet, and Prakarnkiat Youngkong

Environmental technology and management

- **Air Quality Model as a Management Tool: Case Study of a Starch Factory in Thailand** 239
Sukkasem, P., Karuchit, S., and Chuersuwan, N.
- **Development of Tray Biofilter for Treating Wastewater Odor from Pig Farm**247
Rakthaisong, A., Karuchit, S., and Potivichayanon, S.
- **Performance comparison vetiver grass roots to reduce estrogen in the water**254
Poramin Kumchoo and Krittiya Lertpocasombut
- **Production and Cost Benefit Analysis of Biodegradable Poly(lactic acid)-Epoxidized Palm Oil Blend/ Graphene Nanocomposite**.....260
Sorawit Duangsrirat and Chongrak Polprasert
- **Concrete waste utilization for coarse aggregation replacement in concrete mixed design**.....266.
Thaniya Kaosolb, Surangkana Trangkanont
- **Eco-efficiency and Environmental Impact Evaluation of Motorcycle Production Plant in Thailand**. 272
Taratip Chaisomkoon and Chongrak Polprasert
- **Diversification of Eco-services in Wetlands: *E. coli* - Rotifer Interaction under the Presence of Emergent Macrophyte**278
Hussain Mukhtar, Muhammad Saleem Kalhoro
- **Ecological Engineering for Surface Water Quality Improvement: Determination of Optimal Emergent Macrophyte (*Nymphaea*) Coverage in Wetland Mesocosm**.....284
Joel H. Kamanda, Hussain Mukhtar*, Muhammad Saleem Kalhoro
- **Socio-Eco-Efficiency Indicator (Sustainability Score) for Business Sustainability Development**..... 290.
Suvapak Taechasriprasert, Harnpon Phungrassami, Phairat Usubharatana
- **Effect of Mist Injection on Particle Separation Performance of Cyclone Separator**..... 296
Hiroki Takahashi, Satoshi Kodama, Hidetoshi sekiguchi
- **Life Cycle Assessment of Thermal Insulation Product from Agricultural waste** 302
Teerapong Churam, Phairat Usubharatan, Harnpon Phungrassami
- **Silver Nanostructure for Detection of Hydrogen Sulfide Gas** 309
Somphon Tripan, Rungroj Maolanon, Paiboon Sreearunothai
- **The design of two-stage cyclones separates the icing powder by using particle tracing flow analysis** ... 315
Yotsakorn Pratumwal, Wiroj Limtrakarn

Manufacturing and design

- **The Study of Electrical discharge machining on Lead Zirconate Titanate (PZT)** 325
Apiwat Muttamara, Siwawong Phuphet, Patittar Nakwong
- **A Study on Mechanism of Smoothing Surface Creation by Diamond Burnishing Process**..... 326
Hidetake Tanaka, Takaya Takahashi
- **Concurrent measurement method of spindle error motions using concentric circle grating and frequency modulation interferometers**.....332
Masato Aketagawa, Muhummad Madden, Yoshitaka Maeda, Kohsei Terao, Shigemitsu Koga, Takashi Sawada, Michitaka Kawada and Eiki Okuyama
- **Comparison of Fuzzy Inference System and Artificial Neural Network for Process Control**..... 338
Prasert Aengchuan, Busaba Phruksaphanrat
- **Estimation of Bending Characteristics of Creased White-Coated Paperboard subjected to In-Plane Compressive Load using V-Block Fixtures**344
Shigeru Nagasawa, Tran Xuan Quyet
- **Double Scale Measurements for Large Scale Surface Profile Measurement** 350
Eiki OKUYAMA and Masayuki ITO
- **Design of Stress Distribution in 2D Beam using FEM**
Aurasa Wuttiworawanit, Nutthanicha Kanhasiri, Attaporn Wisessint



Materials engineering

- **Investigation into Effect of Mineral Admixture on Delayed Ettringite Formation**..... 359
Shingo Asamoto, Kohki Murao, Isao Kurashige and Anura Nanayakkara
- **Development of internal hydrophobic cementitious material**..... 365
Haruka Furuta, Yao Luan, Shingo Asamoto, Taiju Yoneda
- **Density Functional Theory Simulations of Aluminium Alkoxide and Fluoride** 371
A. Jomphoak, T. Onjun, K. Hongo, R. Maezono
- **Influence of Crack Closure on Fretting Fatigue Strength of 316L Stainless Steel**376
N. Noraphaiphaksa, C. Kanchanomai and Y. Mutoh
- **Experimental study on moisture absorption behavior of cracked mortar**..... 384
Yao Luan
- **The Effect of Sulfuric Acid Solution on Electrical and Mechanical Properties of CFRTP Material using in Automotive Structural Application**393
Patarapon Palungvachira, Masatoshi Kubouchi, Yoshihiko Arao, Shinsuke Katayama, Hiroyuki Ogata
- **Effect of Heat Treatments on Microstructures and Mechanical Properties of Gas-Metal-Arc-Welded SKD 61 Tool Steel**399
Teerayut Kanchanasangtong, Supamard Sujatanond and Supachai Surapunt
- **Optimization of Surface Roughness in EDM Using Artificial Neural Network and Ant Colony Optimization** 407
Wuthichai Wongthatsanekorn, Jurapun Tongkun, Jirawan Kloypayan
- **An Experiment Study of Crack Repairing Using Yeast Fungus Biogrout** 414
Jie Fang , Hiroshi Mutsuyoshi, Yao Luan
- **Notch fatigue behavior of polypropylene resin**420
Yuichi Otsuka, Sarita Morakul, Montri Sangsuriyun, Yukio Miyashita, Yoshiharu Mutoh
- **Fatigue behavior of laser welded dissimilar stainless steels joint at room and elevated temperature**...426
Hideto Irah, Yu Narita, Yuki Iizawa and Yukio Miyashita
Jirapol Klinbun and Somsak Vongpradubchai

Productivity improvement

- **Improvement of Ring Tab Die Manufacturing**..... 433
Peter Cheriank, Kavin Laoharatchatanun and Sawat Pararach
- **Solving Supplier Selection Problem of Ice Machine Manufacturer Using Fuzzy Multi-objective Linear Programming**.....442
Wuthichai Wongthatsanekorn and Pornpan Jantasung

Renewable energy and energy management

- **Effect of inlet air velocity on downdraft type gasification system for plastic-waste RDFs**451
Thaniya Kaosol, Chatchai Kungkajita, Gumpon Prateepchaikul
- **Upgrading Japanese Cypress Pyrolysis Vapors using Zr-Ti, ZSM-5, and Silica Catalysts**..... 457
Michael Behrens, Jeffrey S. Crossa, Hiroki Akasaka, Naoto Ohtakea
- **A Simplified Linear Scattering Phase Function for Solving Equation of Radiative Heat Transfer**....465
Bundit Krittacom, Pathiwat Waramit, Ittiphon Worapun, Anucha Klamnoi and Naronksak Yotha
- **Dependable Capacity Evaluation of Solar Power Plants By Considering Actual Minutely Solar Power Generation**.....472
C. Sansilah, P. Bhasaputra and W. Pattaraprakorn
- **Evaluation of Fruit Peels for Ethanol Production**..... 479
Snunkhaem Echaroj, Noranit Praisont, Akradeth Buarat, Malee Santikunaporn
- **Automated Fault Detection and Diagnosis in Supermarkets: Review and Investigation**..... 485
Denchai Woradechjumroena, Thanapat Promwattanapakdeeb
- **The Effect of Decanter Cake Concentration on Biogas Production by Block Rubber Wastewater Co-digestion**.....491
Weerapong Lerdratranataywee and Thaniya Kaosol



| | |
|---|-----|
| ● Design of an Energy Efficient, Effective, Healthy and Vibrant Public Market Infrastructure | 497 |
| Ferdinand G. Manegdeg, Mary Ann A. Espina, Jon Dewitt E. Dalisay, Azero P. Pascual | |
| ● Energy-Saving Behavior in Households after the Great East Japan Earthquake | 504 |
| Ayami Otsuka and Daisuke Narumi | |
| ● Energy Management Program for University Campuses: A Case of Yokohama National University . | 510 |
| Ayami Otsuka and Daisuke Narumi | |
| ● Effect of Mediators on a Microbial Fuel Cell with Carbon-Fiber Electrodes | 516 |
| Bunpot Sirinutsomboon, Apichat Kritruchtanun, and Nirut Arnaratana | |
| ● Thermal Treatment of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) using Microwave Irradiation with the Assistance of Agricultural Residue | 522 |
| Prodpran Siritheerasas, Phichayanan Waiyanate, Palita Aroonratsamee, Hidetoshi Sekiguchi and Satoshi Kodama | |
| ● Comparison of Conventional and Microwave Heatings of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) | 529 |
| Prodpran Siritheerasas, Kannika Kromtin, Danita Thanmaneesin, Phichayanan Waiyanate, Palita Aroonratsamee | |
| ● System Dynamic Modeling of a Thermoelectric Peltier cooled Refrigerator | 537 |
| Yossawee Weerakamhaeng, Sumethee Naree, Jirayut Fungrattanatrai | |
| ● Evaluation of Energy Efficiency Standard and Labeling Program in Thailand | 543 |
| Watcharin Boonyarit, Prapat Wangskarn, Sarawoot Watechagit | |
| ● Analysis of Energy Consumption and Cooling Load for Improving the Chiller Plant Management of Library: the Case Study of Puey Ungphakorn Library | 549 |
| Prakasit Kittasangka and Chainarong Chaktranond | |
| ● EHD-enhanced Heat Transfer of Fluid Flow related with Sample Size | 558 |
| Suwimon Saneewong Na Ayuttayaa*, Chainarong Chaktranond and Phadungsak Rattanadecho | |
| ● Thermal Efficiency Enhancement of CB Cooking Stove by Open Type Porous Cover Using Cordierite Alumina Open-Cellular Porous Material | 567 |
| Preecha Khantikomol, Bundit Kritacom, Maitree Polsongkram | |
| ● Economic Values of Reliability Improvement for Smart Grid in Thailand by Considering Outage Cost | 576 |
| Narongkorn Uthathip, Pornrapeepat Bhasaputra and Woraratana Pattaraprakorn | |
| ● Power Flow Algorithm Including Wind Turbine Induction Generator | 583 |
| Pichai Aree | |

Resilient engineering

(Natural disaster, Infrastructure, Transportation, etc.)

| | |
|--|-----|
| ● The Numerical and Experimental Investigation of Flow Propagation in case of Urban Flooding using 3D DAM-Break Model | 591 |
| Chartchay Chumchan, Phadungsak Rattanadecho | |
| ● Seismic Performance of Reinforced Concrete Buildings with Various Ductility by Incremental Dynamic Analysis | 604 |
| Jirawat Junruang, Virote Boonyapinyo | |
| ● Evaluation of damping properties on railway structures by vibration measurement | 616 |
| Kazunori WADA, Kimitoshi SAKAI, Yoshitaka MURONO | |
| ● Resilient Structural Systems for Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Using Collapse Direction Control Device | 622 |
| Masato Saitoh, Yoshitaka Muro, Hiroki Motoyama | |
| ● Application of SFM and 3D Laser Scanning for Heritage Documentation: Wat Yai Chaimongkol, Ayutthaya, Thailand | 626 |
| Bhakapong Bhadrakom, Nakhorn Poovaradom, Krisada Chaiyasarn | |
| ● GEV Distribution with Non-central Moment Estimate for Modeling Extreme Rainfalls | 636 |
| P. Punlum, C. Chaleeraktragoon, V-T-V. Nguyen | |
| ● Statistical Downscaling of Annual Maximum Daily Rainfall | 654 |
| Chavalit Chaleeraktragoon and Pitiphat Meemookkich | |



| | |
|---|-----|
| ● Multiple viewpoint change detection in concrete beams for infrastructure resiliency | 654 |
| Krisada Chaiyasarn, Bhakapong Bhadrakom | |
| ● A Preliminary Experimental Study for Structural Seismic Response Measurement using Smart Devices | 662 |
| Ji Dang, Ashish Threstha, Xin Wang | |
| ● Estimation of Phase Velocity of Deep Soil in Bangkok by Spatial Autocorrelation (SPAC) and Centerless Circular Array (CCA) Methods | 668 |
| Amorntep Jirasakjamroonsria, Nakhorn Poovarodomb | |
| ● Effect of Mode Shapes Nonlinearity and Base Translation on Wind Loads and Responses of Buildings | 677 |
| Naret Limsamphancharoen and Chanchai Orapinpong | |
| ● Analytical evaluation of deformation-mitigation device for structures subjected to earthquake ground motions | 684 |
| Zongmu Liu, Masato Saitoh | |
| ● A Fundamental Study on Out-of-Phase Rocking Motion Caused by Batter Piles during Earthquake .. | 689 |
| Hiroki MOTOYAMA, Yoshitaka MURONO and Yuusuke TAKANO | |
| ● Novel method in avoiding flood induced damages due to tidal waves | 695 |
| Shungo Nakabe, Masato Saitoh | |
| ● Investigation of Modal Properties for Torsionally Coupled Building from Ambient Vibration Responses | 700 |
| Nuttaphon Magteppong, Nakhorn Poovarodom | |
| ● Investigation of Critical Parameters for Accurate FEM Simulation of Cracking in Concrete Lining of NATM Tunnels | 707 |
| Chamila Rankoth, Akira Hosoda, Satoshi Komatsu, Iwama Keitai | |

Transportation and logistics

| | |
|--|-----|
| ● A Trade Credit Inventory Model with Multivariate Demand for Non-Instantaneous Deteriorating Items | 715 |
| A.K. Malik | |
| ● An ant colony optimization for vehicle routing problem with time windows and shift time limit | 726 |
| Rattakorn Taengsaengjan, Sawat Pararach | |
| ● Evidence-based Road Accidents via Dashboard Camera Traffic Monitoring System | 732 |
| Boonsap Witchyangkoon and Sayan Sirimontree | |
| ● Study of Bus Service Information System Based on User Generated Contents | 738 |
| Chihiro Kawamura, Shunji Ueno, Shinobu Hanamura, Kazuhiro Maruyama, Yuichi Shirasee, Aya Kojima, Hisashi Kubota | |
| ● Study on Evaluation Index for Walking Space Focusing on Pedestrians' Smile | 744 |
| Aya Kojima, Manabu Sato, Hisashi Kubota | |
| ● Common-line Assignment model -Case Study of Bangkok Transit Network | 751 |
| Muanmas Wichensin | |
| ● Directional impact of relevant factors of trip making in a congestion charging scheme | 758 |
| Muanmas Wichensin David Boyce | |

Other

| | |
|--|-----|
| ● Optimal Design of a Cascade Thermoacoustic Engine | 767 |
| Patcharin Saechan, Isares Dhuchakallaya | |
| ● Showcase View: Design of a Public Advertising Display that Renders from the Viewer's Perspective .. | 774 |
| Sirisilp Kongsilp, Sra Sontisirikit, Matthew N. Dailey | |
| ● Impacts of Nitrogen and Neon seeding in Tokamak Plasma | 782 |
| W. Buangam and T. Onjun | |
| ● The Formation of radial electric field during L-H transition | 788 |
| P Intharat, B Chatthong, T Onjun, and N Poolyarat | |



| | |
|--|-----|
| ● Factors for Success in Eco-Industrial Town Development in Thailand | 798 |
| Jirarat Teeravarapug and Tarathon Podcharathitikul | |
| ● Skin Surface Treatment using Atmospheric Plasma | 803 |
| Kamonchanok Deemek, Tipwimol Traikool, Thawatchai Onjun, Noppon Poolyarat, Supenya Chittapun, Nuankamol Amnuaysin, and Manu Fuangfung | |
| ● Sampling Smoothed Local Descriptors by Creating a Semi-local Feature in a Vector Quantization Process | 807 |
| Izumi Suzuki, Koichi Yamada, Muneyuki Unehara | |
| ● Simulation of Neoclassical Tearing Mode Effects in Tokamak Plasma | 813 |
| Wittawat Kanjanaput and Thawatchai Onjun | |
| ● Experimental Optimization of Heat load and Cooling Flow Rate of a Micro Heat Pipe with R134a as Working Fluid | 814 |
| Jirapol Klinbun and Somsak Vongpradubchai | |

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Effects of Electrode Position Respecting with Ground-Wire Positions on Efficiency of Hot-Air Drying Cooperating with Electric fields

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Abstract

This research aims to experimentally investigate the effects of electrode position respecting with ground-wire positions on the airflow pattern and drying rate of an unsaturated porous material subjected hot-air drying cooperating with electric fields. Eight electrode wires are suspended from the upper wall of wind tunnel, while a ground wire is installed across the direction of airflow. Gap between electrode and ground wires is fixed at 2.75 cm. Angles between electrodes and ground wires are varied in the range of $\theta = 0 - 180^\circ$. Moreover, the ground positions are varied in the vertical direction at $G_y = 2.75, 11.00$ and 19.25 cm far away from the lower wall where the material is installed. In experiments, the initial saturation (S_i) of the material is 0.5 and the electrical voltage is applied at 15 kV. In addition, the temperature and mean velocity of hot air before entering the test section are controlled at 60°C and 0.35 m/s, respectively. The results show that when electric fields are introduced to airflow, the swirling flow clearly appears in the tunnel. The position and strength of swirling depends on the angle θ and ground wire position. When $G_y = 19.25$ cm, the drying rate is enhanced with the angle θ less than 90° . When the ground wire is placed closer to the material surface, influence of electric force on flow near the lower wall becomes stronger. This causes the flow to be more turbulent and the drying rate to be enhanced with all angles more than normal flow. However, at position $G_y = 2.75$ cm, the angle $\theta \geq 90^\circ$ gives the enhancement of drying rate more than $\theta \leq 90^\circ$ due to higher velocity of near-wall flow. Moreover, in this study, the drying rate can be enhanced approximately around 1.2 – 1.6 times of normal flow.

Keywords: High Voltage Electrical Fields, Hot-air Drying Efficiency, Porous Medium

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1. Introduction

Hot-air drying method is an important process in many manufactures, e.g. the pharmaceutical, food and furniture production, but this method consumes a large amount of energy and time. Therefore, this method is developed to work with the other heating processes, such as microwave [7], infrared [8], or electric field [1-6]. The using of electric field or Electrohydrodynamics (EHD) is an interesting process for enhancing the hot-air drying efficiency. The advantages are simple structure, no moving part, and easy to control the drying temperature. The principle of EHD is when the high voltage electric field is introduced to air, the charged air around electrode end moves forward the ground, meanwhile, with the shear flow effect, the uncharged air is induced to be a swirling flow. Consequently, this affect can enhance heat and moisture transfers on the surface of porous materials.

Chaktranond and Rattanadecho [1] use the electrode and ground wires, which are placed above the porous packed bed. The results show that the arrangement of packed bed with different porosity layers and the electrical voltages can enhance the rates of heat transfer rate and the moisture removal differently.

Saneewong Na Ayuttaya et al. [2] perform the numerical simulation to investigate the effects of the electric field on heat transfer in a channel flow. The results show that the heat transfer depends on the position of electrode and ground wires. When the hot-air drying process is cooperating with electric force, the surface temperature of the porous material rapidly increases.

Artana et al. [3] study the air flow control with the EHD principle. The results show that when the Reynolds number is low, the corona wind highly affects flow. In addition, this wind depends on the electrode positions.

In experiments of Lai et al. [4], the electrode wires and a ground plate are installed over and under a porous packed bed, respectively. The results show that the drying rate is increased when the electric voltage increases. However, the effect of the corona wind will drop when inlet air velocity increases.

Lai et al. [5] It is found flow that applying higher electric voltage affects the drying rate more than applying multiple electrode wires. In addition, the effect of corona wind becomes weaker when the moisture content in the porous packed bed is low.

This research investigates the effects of the angles between electrode and ground wires, as well as, ground positions on the hot-air flow pattern and on the drying rate of porous material in a rectangular duct flow.

2. Experimental setup

Figure 1 and 2 show experimental diagram. Hot air is generated by a 4-kilowatt-electric heater, and then is introduced into the test section of 30 cm × 30 cm. Porous material is replaced with a porous packed bed of 7.5 cm wide × 15 cm long × 4 cm deep, and is placed on the bottom wall of wind tunnel. All walls of the packed bed is insulated with rubber sheets, except, the surface is exposed to hot-air flow. Eight electrode wires are suspended from the upper wall of the tunnel. While a ground wire is installed across the air flow direction and ground position (G_y) is tested at 2.75, 11.00 and 19.25 cm measured away from the lower wall. The angles between electrode and ground are tested in the range of 0 – 180 degree and distance between electrode and ground wires is fixed at 2.75 cm. Weight and temperature of the packed bed are measured through a load cell (accuracy ±0.5 g) and four fiber optic wires (Luxtron Fluoroptic Thermo-meter, Model 790, Santa Clara, Canada, accuracy ±0.5 °C), respectively. The electrical voltage is generated by a high voltage power supply (Glassman, model FJ30R4, USA).

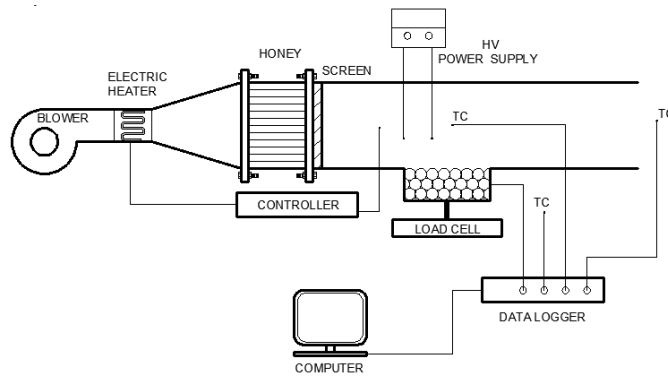


Fig.1 Schematic diagram of experimental setup

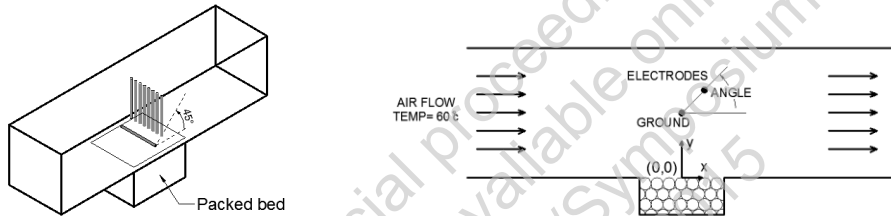


Fig.2 Positions of electrode and ground wires

3. Results and Discussion

In experiments, temperature and mean velocity of hot air before entering the test section is controlled at 60°C and 0.35 m/s, respectively. In addition, high electrical voltage is applied at 20 kV. Packed bed has the initial saturation (S_i) of 0.5 dry based, and the porosity (ϕ) of 0.385. The results show air flow pattern, which is presented by incense smoke visualization, and drying efficiency depending on the position of ground and the angle between electrode and ground.

3.1 Effects of the ground position placing near the upper wall

When the electric fields are applied and $G_y = 19.25$ cm, as shown in Fig.3, the unstable flow is clearly observed near the lower wall. In addition, when the angle between electrode and ground is larger, flow near the lower wall looks more unstable and spread wider. This is because when the ground and electrode are installed far from the lower wall, the electric force conducts the air around electrode and ground to move faster. Especially, when $\theta > 90^\circ$, the electric force performs in the same direction as air flow, Consequently, air near the lower wall where velocity is low, is influenced by shear flow effect, resulting in occurrence of circulating flow.

Figure 4 shows that when $\theta = 45^\circ$, the drying rate is higher. In this case, direction of electric force is opposite to air flow and inclines to bottom wall. This result induces swirling flow which influences the near-wall flow to circulate violently. Therefore, moisture removal can be enhanced. But when $\theta > 90^\circ$, electric force is in that same direction of air flow. It will increase the air velocity around electrode and ground wires. Then effect of shear flow will induce the unstable flow on bottom wall.

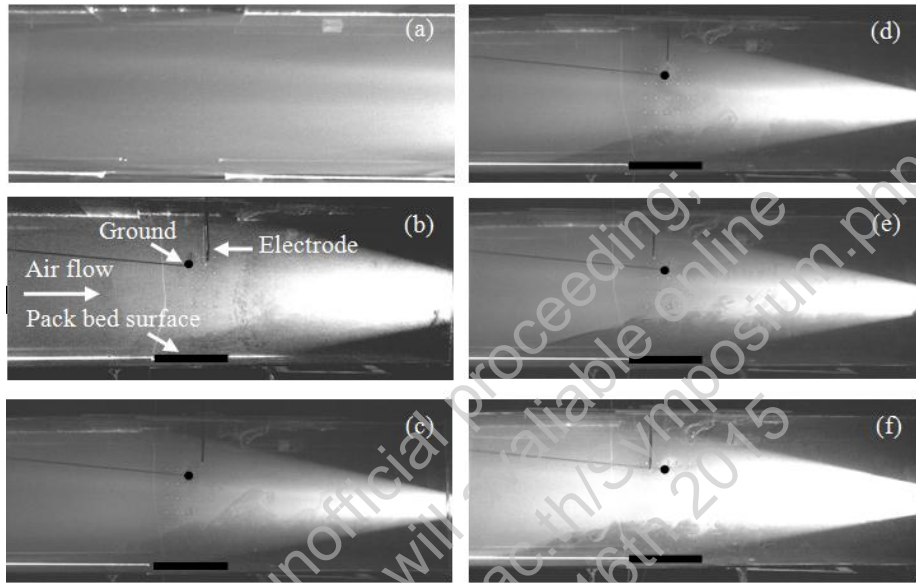


Fig. 3 Effect of angles θ when $G_y = 19.25$ cm:
 (a) NO EHD, (b) 0° , (c) 45° , (d) 90° , (e) 135° , and (f) 180° .

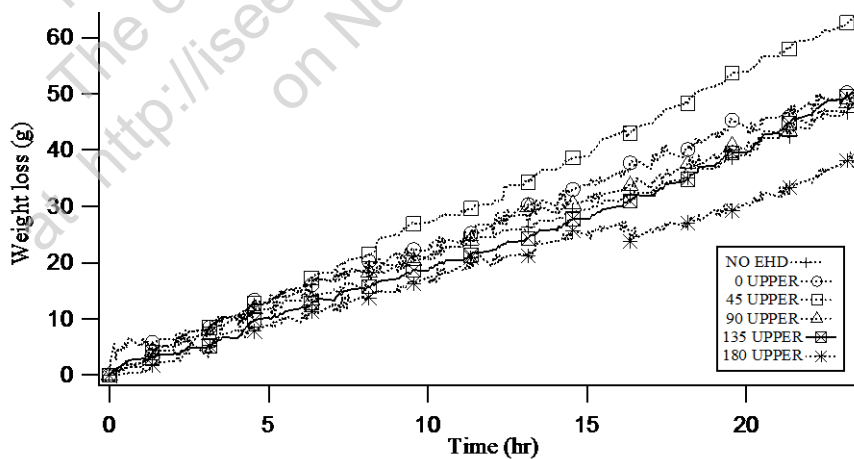


Fig. 4 Comparisons on moisture removal from packed bed in various angle when $G_y = 19.25$ cm.

As shown in Fig. 5, the unsteady flow regions become larger when the ground is moved closer the lower wall, influence of electric force on flow near the lower wall becomes stronger. This causes the flow to be more turbulent and the drying rate to be enhanced shown in Fig. 6.

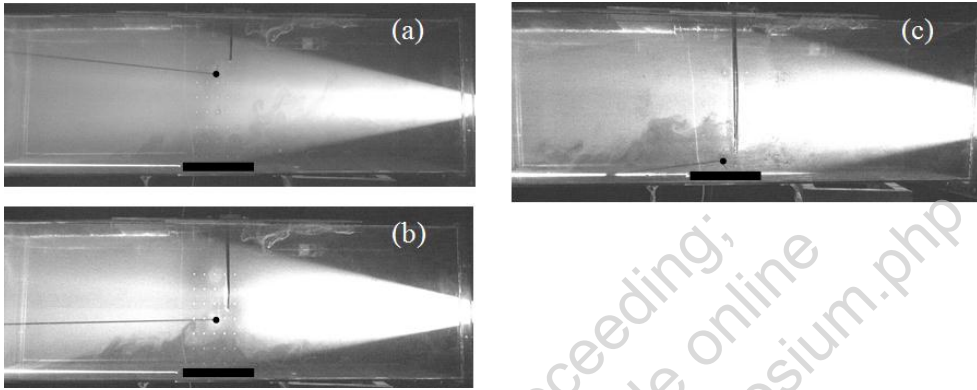


Fig. 5 Effect of ground elevation G_y when $\theta=45^\circ$:
 (a) 19.25 cm, (b) 11.00 cm, and (c) 2.75 cm.

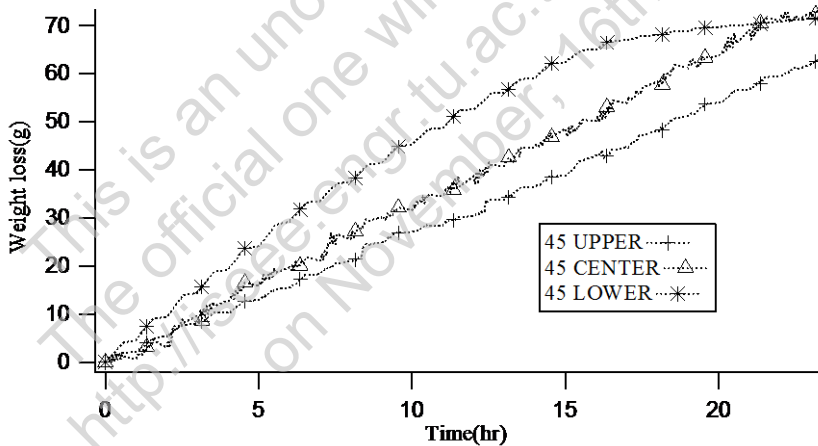


Fig. 6 Comparisons on moisture removal from packed bed in various G_y when $\theta=45^\circ$.

3.2 Effects of the ground position placing near the lower wall

Figure 7 shows that when the ground is installed near the lower wall ($\theta_y=2.75$ cm) and angle $\theta \leq 90^\circ$, the unstable region becomes bigger. This is because the effect of electric force is much higher than that of fluid force. In addition, the direction of electric force is against that of the fluid inertia force. Therefore, this conducts the shear flow effect to be stronger. Moreover, when $\theta = 90^\circ$, the electric force performs normal to fluid force charged flow

impinges on the pack bed surface. This enhances the heat and mass transfer on the packed bed surface. As shown in Fig. 8, the rate of moisture removal is high. The drying rate of this case is 1.6 times higher than that of normal flow (no EHD).

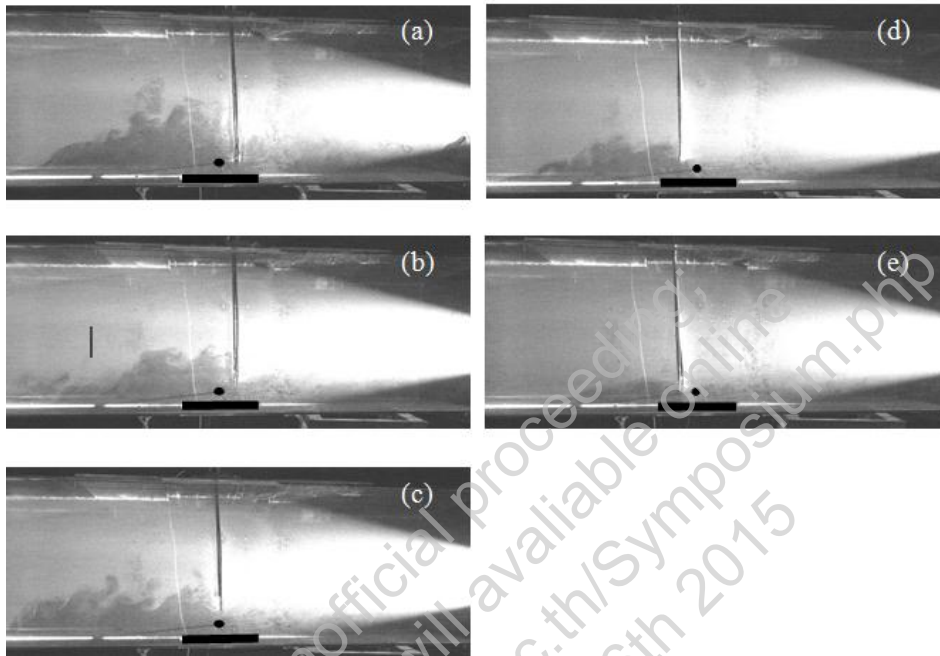


Fig. 7 Experiment result of swirling flow in various θ when $G_y = 2.75$ cm: (a) 0° , (b) 45° , (c) 90° , (d) 135° , and (e) 180° .

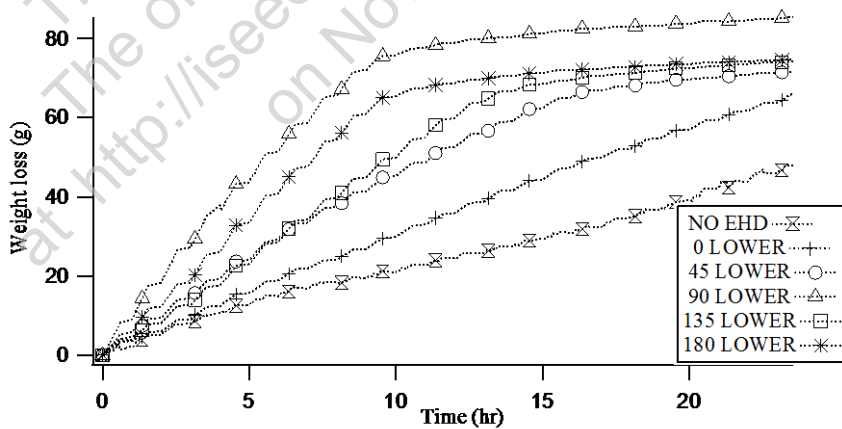


Fig. 8 Comparisons on moisture removal from packed bed in various θ when $G_y = 2.75$ cm.

4. Conclusions

This study experimentally investigates the enhancement of hot-air drying efficiency with utilizing the high voltage electric fields. We focus on the effect of the position of the ground wire (G_y) and the angle (θ) between electrode and ground positions. The following paragraph summarizes the conclusions of this study:

1. The position of ground affects the flow pattern above the surface of porous packed bed. When the ground is placed near the upper wall, the direction of electric force in the same direction of fluid flow ($\theta > 90^\circ$) increases the fluid velocity around electrode and ground wires then shear flow effect creates the unstable flow near the surface of packed bed. High moisture removal occurs when $\theta = 45^\circ$. The electric force induces the swirly flow. Then, swirly effect conduct for near flow to circulate violently. In addition, when the ground is placed closer the lower wall, the unstable flow is obviously stronger.

2. When the ground is placed near the lower wall, the electric force is stronger than the fluid force. This causes the near-wall fluid to move faster when $\theta \geq 90^\circ$. Therefore moisture can move towards to main flow quickly. Moreover when $\theta = 90^\circ$, the air is strongly induced to impinge on the bottom wall and the drying rate is enhanced around 1.6 times.

Acknowledgement

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