

**EVALUATION OF HOURLY SOLAR RADIATION
MODELS TO ESTIMATE RADIATION ON INCLINED
SURFACES IN DRY ZONE OF SRI LANKA**

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Degree of Master of Engineering

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Sri Lanka

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DECLARATION

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Prof. R.A Attalage

ABSTRACT

An analysis of global, beam and diffuse solar radiation on horizontal and 7° tilt about east west axis and facing due south orientation at Hambanthota was carried out to assess the solar resource potential in dry zone of Sri Lanka. The calculated monthly averaged daily insolation for dry zone was found to be varying between $16.30 \text{ MJ/m}^2/\text{day}$ to $22.75 \text{ MJ/m}^2/\text{day}$ with the annually averaged daily insolation of $20.07 \text{ MJ/m}^2/\text{day}$. Calculated annually averaged beam horizontal radiation was $10.87 \text{ MJ/m}^2/\text{day}$ and diffuse horizontal radiation was found to be $9.19 \text{ MJ/m}^2/\text{day}$ while 0.56 was the annual average clearness index indicating that partly cloudy sky throughout the year. Horizon brightness coefficients of Perez et al (1990) was modified using diffuse radiation data of Hambanthota. Modified model was used for the estimation of titled radiation on due south faced surfaces. Diffuse tilted daily insolation and global tilted insolation for -45° to $+45^\circ$ inclined surfaces with 1° increments was estimated and monthly and annual optimum tilt angles were derived. The calculated monthly optimum tilt angle varied between -26° to $+27^\circ$ while having annual optimum tilt angle of -2° . Hence, tilting towards due south by same angle as latitude is not the recommended optimum tilt for fixed axis systems. Optimum tilt angle for beam radiation was derived and it was found that annual optimum tilt angle for beam radiation is 6° facing towards the due south. The derived maximum solar resource potential was 2068 kWh/m^2 per annum for fixed system at -2° tilt angle and 2169 kWh/m^2 per annum for monthly tracking system which is 5% higher than the horizontal potential. It is proposed to assess the solar resource potential for tilted surfaces with different surface azimuth angles by using modified Perez et al (1990) model in future. It is also possible to modify the coefficients of circumsolar brightness components of Perez et al (1990) model for better results.

Key Words: Diffuse Solar Radiation, Isotropic Models, Anisotropic Models, Optimum Tilt angle, Hambanthota.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
ABSTRACT.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	xi
LIST OF NOMENCLATURE	xii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvi
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Present status of solar energy applications in Sri Lanka.....	2
1.3 Problem statement.....	3
1.4 Aim and objectives	4
1.5 Outcomes	5
1.6 Scope of the study	5
1.7 Outline of the study.....	5
2 REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE	6
2.1 FUNDAMENTALS OF SOLAR RADIATION	6
2.1.1 The Sun and Earth.....	6
2.2 Solar Geometry	7
2.2.1 Sun-Earth angles	8
2.2.2 Solar angles	11
2.2.3 Angles for tracking surfaces	14
2.3 Reckoning of time.....	16
2.4 Extra-terrestrial and Terrestrial Solar Radiation.....	17
2.4.1 Definitions.....	17
2.4.2 Extra-terrestrial solar radiation	18

2.4.3	Earth's Atmosphere	20
2.4.4	Atmospheric attenuation	21
2.4.5	Terrestrial Solar Radiation	25
2.4.6	Solar radiation on the tilted surface	26
2.5	Measuring of Solar Radiation	28
2.5.1	Pyranometers.....	28
2.5.2	Pyrheliometers	29
2.5.3	Sunshine recorders	29
2.6	Methods of solar radiation estimation.....	30
2.6.1	Parametric Models	30
2.6.2	Decomposition Models	36
2.6.3	Estimation of Hourly Irradiance from Daily Irradiance Data	44
2.7	Estimation of Radiation on Tilted Surfaces	46
2.7.1	Isotropic sky hourly radiation models.....	48
2.7.2	Anisotropic sky hourly radiation models.....	49
2.7.3	Daily radiation and averaged radiation models	54
3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	59
3.1	Analysis of existing diffuse radiation models.....	59
3.2	Development of new model suitable for dry zone in Sri Lanka	60
3.3	Estimation of solar radiation potential on horizontal surfaces in dry zone in Sri Lanka	63
3.4	Estimation of solar radiation potential on tilted surfaces in dry zone in Sri Lanka	63
3.5	Estimation of optimum tilt angle for dry zone in Sri Lanka	63
4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	64
4.1	Analysis of existing diffuse radiation models.....	64
4.1.1	Isotropic models.....	64
4.1.2	Anisotropic models	66

4.1.3	Summary of Analysis of existing diffuse radiation models...	68
4.2	Development of new diffuse radiation model suitable for dry zone in Sri Lanka	72
4.3	Estimation of solar radiation potential on horizontal surfaces in dry zone in Sri Lanka	75
4.3.1	Estimation of Annually averaged hourly radiation	75
4.3.2	Estimation of monthly averaged hourly radiation	76
4.3.3	Estimation of monthly averaged clearness index.....	80
4.3.4	Estimation of monthly averaged daily radiation	82
4.4	Estimation of solar radiation potential on tilted surfaces in dry zone in Sri Lanka	83
4.4.1	Annual averaged insolation on tilted surfaces	83
4.4.2	Monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces	84
4.5	Estimation of optimum tilt angle for dry zone in Sri Lanka	92
5	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	98
	References	100
Appendix A	Monthly averaged hourly global horizontal insolation	105
Appendix B	Monthly averaged hourly beam horizontal insolation	106
Appendix C	Monthly averaged hourly diffuse horizontal insolation	107
Appendix D	Monthly averaged hourly global tilted ($\beta = 7^\circ$) insolation	108
Appendix E	Monthly averaged hourly beam tilted ($\beta = 7^\circ$) insolation.....	109
Appendix F	Monthly averaged hourly diffuse tilted ($\beta = 7^\circ$) insolation	110
Appendix G	Monthly averaged hourly beam normal insolation	111
Appendix H	Monthly averaged daily global insolation.....	112
Appendix I	Monthly averaged daily beam insolation	116
Appendix J	Monthly averaged daily diffuse insolation.....	120

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 2.1 - The Sun-Earth relationship	7
Figure 2.2 - Relative position of the earth on 21 st of June and 21 st of December.....	8
Figure 2.3 - Declination angles in equinoxes and solstices	9
Figure 2.4 - Variation of the declination angle	10
Figure 2.5 - Basic Sun-Earth angles	10
Figure 2.6 - Basic Solar angles on tangential plane	12
Figure 2.7 - Basic Solar angles on tilted plane	13
Figure 2.8 - Various tracking surfaces	14
Figure 2.9 - Layers and Temperature profile of the earth's atmosphere	20
Figure 2.10 - Total atmospheric absorption at sea level	22
Figure 2.11 - Rayleigh and Mie Scattering.....	23
Figure 2.12 - Beam, diffuse and ground reflected solar radiation	28
Figure 2.13 - Annual variations of Ground Albedo in China	47
Figure 3.1 - Variations of percentage variations of predicted diffuse radiation with hourly clearness index.....	60
Figure 3.2 - Variations of percentage variations of predicted diffuse radiation with daily clearness index	61
Figure 3.3 - Variations of Percentage variations of predicted diffuse radiation with declination angle.....	62
Figure 4.1 - Annual average hourly diffuse insolation from isotropic models.....	64
Figure 4.2 - Percentage variation of hourly diffuse insolation from isotropic models	65
Figure 4.3 - Annual average hourly diffuse insolation from anisotropic models	66
Figure 4.4 - Percentage variation of hourly insolation from anisotropic models	67
Figure 4.5 - Prediction of monthly averaged daily total diffuse tilted insolation	69
Figure 4.6 - Percentage variations of predicted monthly averaged daily diffuse tilted insolation.....	70
Figure 4.7 - Comparison of diffuse radiation models using statistical parameters....	71

Figure 4.8 - Normal probability plot of modified Perez model	73
Figure 4.9 - Residual plot of modified Perez model	73
Figure 4.10 - Residual observation order of modified Perez model	74
Figure 4.11 - Histogram for modified Perez et al (1990) model.....	74
Figure 4.12 - Annually averaged hourly insolation	76
Figure 4.13 - Monthly averaged hourly global horizontal insolation	77
Figure 4.14 -Monthly averaged hourly beam horizontal insolation.....	77
Figure 4.15 - Monthly averaged hourly diffuse horizontal insolation	78
Figure 4.16 - Monthly averaged hourly tilted insolation (at $\beta = 7^\circ$).....	78
Figure 4.17 - Monthly averaged hourly beam tilted insolation (at $\beta = 7^\circ$)	79
Figure 4.18 - Monthly averaged hourly diffuse tilted insolation (at $\beta = 7^\circ$).....	79
Figure 4.19 - Monthly averaged hourly beam normal insolation	80
Figure 4.20 - Monthly averaged hourly clearness index.....	81
Figure 4.21 - Monthly averaged daily insolation.....	82
Figure 4.22 - Variation of annual average daily insolation on tilted surfaces	84
Figure 4.23 - Variation of monthly averaged daily global insolation on tilted surfaces	85
Figure 4.24 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for January.....	86
Figure 4.25 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for February.....	86
Figure 4.26 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for March.....	87
Figure 4.27 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for April	87
Figure 4.28 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for May	88
Figure 4.29 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for June	88
Figure 4.30 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for July	89

Figure 4.31 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for August.....	89
Figure 4.32 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for September	90
Figure 4.33 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for October.....	90
Figure 4.34 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for November.....	91
Figure 4.35 - Variation of monthly averaged daily insolation on tilted surfaces for December	91
Figure 4.36 - Daily variation of optimum tilt angle.....	93
Figure 4.37 - Monthly averaged daily maximum insolation and optimum tilt angle	94
Figure 4.38 - Percentage variations of Monthly averaged daily insolation with tracking systems	96

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1.1 - Solar energy utilization in Sri Lanka.....	3
Table 2.1 - Day number and recommended average day for each month	19
Table 2.2 - Hottel correlations factors for different climate types.....	34
Table 2.3 - ASHRAE (1985) clear sky radiation model coefficients	36
Table 2.4 - Classification of the sky types according to the clearness index.....	37
Table 2.5 - Perez et al brightness coefficients	53
Table 4.1 - Comparison of isotropic models using statistical parameters	65
Table 4.2 - Comparison of anisotropic models using statistical parameters.....	68
Table 4.3 - Comparison of modified Perez model using statistical parameters.....	72
Table 4.4 - Modified Brightness coefficient of Perez et al	72
Table 4.5 - Annually averaged hourly Insolation	75
Table 4.6 - Monthly averaged hourly clearness index $\bar{K}_T$	81
Table 4.7 - Monthly averaged daily insolation	83
Table 4.8 - Maximum monthly averaged insolation and optimum tilt angles	92
Table 4.9 - Maximum solar resource potential with tracking (about E-W axis) systems	95

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Description	Page
Appendix A	Monthly averaged hourly global horizontal insolation	105
Appendix B	Monthly averaged hourly beam horizontal insolation	106
Appendix C	Monthly averaged hourly diffuse horizontal insolation.....	107
Appendix D	Monthly averaged hourly global tilted ($\beta = 7^\circ$) insolation	108
Appendix E	Monthly averaged hourly beam tilted ($\beta = 7^\circ$) insolation.....	109
Appendix F	Monthly averaged hourly diffuse tilted ($\beta = 7^\circ$) insolation	110
Appendix G	Monthly averaged hourly beam normal insolation	111
Appendix H	Monthly averaged daily global insolation.....	112
Appendix I	Monthly averaged daily beam insolation	116
Appendix J	Monthly averaged daily diffuse insolation.....	120

LIST OF NOMENCLATURE

Roman Letters

A	=	Apparent solar irradiation at zero air mass, Anisotropy index, Altitude of the location in kilometres, Apparent solar irradiation at zero air mass
B	=	Atmospheric extinction coefficient
C	=	Diffuse radiation factor
c_{ω}	=	Cloud cover index
$\overline{c_{\omega}}$	=	Monthly averaged daily cloud cover index
F_1	=	circumsolar brightness factor
F_2	=	horizon brightness factor
F'	=	Klucher's modified clearness index
G	=	Total scattered intensity, Total horizontal radiation
G_0	=	Incident intensity
G_b	=	Beam radiation on horizontal surface
G_{bn}	=	Beam normal radiation
G_{bt}	=	Beam radiation on tilted surface
G_d	=	Diffuse radiation on horizontal surface
G_{dt}	=	Diffuse radiation on tilted surface
G_g	=	Ground reflected radiation on horizontal surface
G_{gt}	=	Ground reflected radiation on tilted surface
G_o	=	Extra-terrestrial radiation on horizontal surface
G_{on}	=	Extra-terrestrial normal radiation
G_{sc}	=	Solar Constant
G_t	=	Total radiation on tilted surface
$G_{\lambda,0}$	=	Monochromatic intensity at $x=0$
H	=	Daily total horizontal radiation
H_b	=	Daily beam radiation on horizontal surface
H_{bn}	=	Daily beam normal radiation
H_{bt}	=	Daily Beam radiation on tilted surface
H_d	=	Daily diffuse radiation on horizontal surface
H_{dt}	=	Daily diffuse radiation on tilted surface

H_g	=	Daily ground reflected radiation on horizontal surface
H_{gt}	=	Daily ground reflected radiation on tilted surface
H_o	=	Daily extra-terrestrial radiation on horizontal surface
H_{on}	=	Daily Extra-terrestrial normal radiation
H_t	=	Daily Total radiation on tilted surface
$\bar{H}$	=	Monthly averaged daily total horizontal radiation
$\bar{H}_b$	=	Monthly averaged daily beam radiation on horizontal surface
$\bar{H}_c$	=	Monthly averaged clear day radiation on horizontal surface
$\bar{H}_{bn}$	=	Monthly averaged daily beam normal radiation
$\bar{H}_{bt}$	=	Monthly averaged daily Beam radiation on tilted surface
$\bar{H}_d$	=	Monthly averaged daily diffuse radiation on horizontal surface
$\bar{H}_{dt}$	=	Monthly averaged daily diffuse radiation on tilted surface
$\bar{H}_g$	=	Monthly averaged daily ground reflected radiation on horizontal surface
$\bar{H}_{gt}$	=	Monthly averaged daily ground reflected radiation on tilted surface
$\bar{H}_o$	=	Monthly averaged daily extra-terrestrial radiation on horizontal surface
$\bar{H}_{on}$	=	Monthly averaged daily Extra-terrestrial normal radiation
$\bar{H}_t$	=	Monthly averaged daily Total radiation on tilted surface
I	=	Hourly total horizontal radiation
I_b	=	Hourly beam radiation on horizontal surface
I_{bn}	=	Hourly beam normal radiation
I_{bt}	=	Hourly Beam radiation on tilted surface
I_d	=	Hourly diffuse radiation on horizontal surface
I_{dt}	=	Hourly diffuse radiation on tilted surface
I_g	=	Hourly ground reflected radiation on horizontal surface
I_{gt}	=	Hourly ground reflected radiation on tilted surface
I_o	=	Hourly extra-terrestrial radiation on horizontal surface
I_{on}	=	Hourly Extra-terrestrial normal radiation
I_t	=	Hourly Total radiation on tilted surface
k_T	=	Hourly clearness index
K_T	=	Daily clearness index

$\overline{K_T}$	=	Monthly average daily cleanness index
K_λ	=	Monochromatic extinction co-efficient
L	=	Latitude angle
m_h	=	Air mass
n	=	Julian day of the year
r	=	Radius of the particle
r_b	=	Hourly beam radiation tilt factor
r_d	=	Diffuse radiation tilt factor
r_t	=	Daily global irradiance to hourly global irradiance conversion ratio
R	=	Distance between the molecule and the point of observation
R_b	=	Daily beam radiation tilt factor
R_h	=	Relative humidity
$\overline{R_b}$	=	Monthly averaged daily beam radiation tilt factor
$\overline{R_h}$	=	Monthly averaged daily relative humidity
S	=	Averaged hours of sunshine
S_0	=	Averaged maximum possible hours of sunshine
$\overline{S}$	=	Monthly averaged daily hours of sunshine
$\overline{S_0}$	=	Monthly averaged daily maximum possible hours of sunshine
t	=	Midpoint of the hour
T	=	Temperature
$T_{\max}$	=	Daily maximum temperature
$T_{\min}$	=	Daily minimum temperature
$\overline{T}$	=	Monthly averaged daily temperature
$\overline{T_{\max}}$	=	Monthly averaged daily maximum temperature
$\overline{T_{\min}}$	=	Monthly averaged daily minimum temperature
x	=	Size of the scattering particle

Greek Letters

α	=	Altitude angle, Polarizability of the particle
β	=	Tilt angle
γ	=	Solar azimuth angle
γ_p	=	Surface azimuth angle

Γ	=	Day angle
δ	=	Declination angle
Δ	=	Brightness
ε	=	Sky clearness
θ	=	Incident angle
θ_z	=	Zenith angle
λ	=	Wave length
ρ_g	=	Ground albedo
τ_λ	=	Monochromatic transmittance
ω	=	Hour angle
ω_s	=	Sunshine/sunset angle
ω_{sr}	=	Sunrise angle on tilted surface
ω_{ss}	=	Sunset angle on tilted surface

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation Description

ASHRAE	American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
AST	Apparent Solar Time
LST	Local Solar Time
PV	Photovoltaic
SLSEA	Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority
WMO	World Metrological Organization