

A CUBOID CHAMBER DESIGN FOR RADIATION-BASED SARS-COV-2 DISINFECTION

W. N. I. Yalagama

179454F

Master of Science in Materials Science

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis/dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other University or Institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text. I retain the right to use this content in whole or part in future works (such as articles or books).

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Date: May 2024

The above candidate has carried out research for the PhD/MPhil/Masters thesis/dissertation under my supervision. I confirm that the declaration made above by the student is true and correct.

Name of Supervisor: Dr. D.A.S. Amarasinghe

Signature of the Supervisor:

Date: May 2024

FOREWARD

In the wake of unprecedented global challenges brought along by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am honored to present this thesis, titled "A Cuboid Chamber Design for Radiation-Based SARS-CoV-2 Disinfection." Although the work was conceived and executed during the rough times, its completion and presentation to the university mark a significant milestone in our collective journey toward combating this brutal virus. Throughout the development of this project, we confronted numerous obstacles aggravated by the collapse of the global supply chain and stringent import restrictions imposed by the country. These constraints posed additional challenges to our design process, compelling us to rely solely on locally available resources and materials. In the face of these limitations, we demonstrated resourcefulness and ingenuity, leveraging the assets accessible to us to devise an innovative solution to combat the spread of COVID-19.

As we navigate through this period of uncertainty and disruption, the urgency to develop innovative solutions has never been more pronounced. This project represents not only a response to the immediate necessities of the pandemic but also a testament to our resilience and adaptability in the face of adversity. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we remained steadfast in our commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and contributing to the global effort to control the spread of COVID-19. The design of the disinfection chamber for SARS-CoV-2 arose from a confluence of necessity, ingenuity, and unwavering determination. Informed by the latest advancements in UV-C technology and rigorous empirical analysis, this work embodies our collective resolve to address pressing public health concerns and mitigate the impact of the pandemic on our communities.

As I stand on the precipice of presenting this thesis to the university, I am reminded of the invaluable support and guidance my mentors, colleagues, and loved ones extended to me. Their unwavering encouragement and expertise have been instrumental in shaping this project and bringing it to completion. It is my sincere hope that the findings and insights presented herein will contribute to the ongoing discourse surrounding COVID-19 mitigation strategies and inspire further innovation in the field of disinfection technology. In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have supported and contributed to this endeavor, and I invite you to join me in embracing the spirit of resilience, collaboration, and determination that has defined our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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ABSTRACT

Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) has long been recognized as a potent disinfection technology, but its prominence surged during the COVID-19 pandemic as an effective solution for air disinfection. This revival was fueled by its notable advantages over chemical and traditional disinfection methods. UVGI stands out for its residue-free nature and the absence of harmful substances, making it an environmentally friendly option. Additionally, UVGI effectively targets a broad spectrum of pathogens, including the resilient SARS-CoV-2 virus, without fostering microbial resistance. Thus, adequately designed UVGI irradiation systems hold immense promise for indoor air disinfection compared to conventional methods.

Numerous studies affirm the effectiveness of UVGI radiation at $253.7nm$ in neutralizing the SARS-CoV-2 virus when administered at the appropriate dose, dependent on factors such as airflow and UV intensity. Our primary objective was to ensure that every air molecule passing through the disinfection system receives sufficient UV light to deactivate viruses, thereby ensuring system reliability. Design parameters were meticulously chosen based on the UV light photons required to deactivate 99.9% of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, with stringent precautions taken to mitigate UV light leakage, which poses risks to human health.

This study proposes a novel conceptual design of a cuboid chamber utilizing the Line Source Spherical Emission (LSSE) model to analyze irradiance variations based on a chosen coordinate system.

The selection of the 64T5 HO G5 Philips TUV T5 double-ended UV-C (germicidal) lamp was led by considerations of market availability and cost-effectiveness. Through simulations employing the LSSE model with varying point source numbers, we comprehensively examined irradiance variation at $253.7nm$, producing informative graphs.

The investigation unveiled that with an average airflow velocity of 202.027 cm/s , the proposed chamber geometry ensures that every bit of air passing through receives a UV dose sufficient for effectively deactivating 99.9% of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This finding highlights the usefulness of our design in delivering thorough disinfection to safeguard indoor environments.

Keywords: Irradiance modelling, UV dose, Air-disinfection, germicidal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration	ii
Foreward	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
Abstract	v
Table of contents.....	vi
List of figures	ix
List of tables	xi
List of abbreviations	xii
List of Notations	xiii
Chapter 1	1
Introduction	1
1.1. Background study.....	1
1.1.1. Dose response behavior of UV.....	2
1.1.2. Exposure medium effect	5
1.1.3. Sensitivity models to UV ₂₅₄ Exposure.....	6
1.2. Effect of irradiance for human life – basic chronological approach.....	8
1.2.1. Wave-concept of light	10
1.2.2. Electromagnetic spectrum.....	12
Chapter 2.....	13
Air disinfection methods.....	13
2.1. Air disinfection	13
2.2. Indoor air sterilizing methods	15
2.2.1. Laminar flow purification equipment	16
2.2.2. Electrostatic precipitator	16
2.2.3. Negative oxygen ion disinfection technology.....	17
2.2.4. Ozone disinfection method	18
2.2.5. Pharmacy Fumigation Disinfection	19
2.2.6. UV disinfection	19
2.3. Application of UV disinfection and sterilization in indoor environments	20
2.3.1. Problems and Prospects Existing in Hospital Disinfection in Sri Lanka.....	20
2.3.2. Difficulties and Solutions for Ultraviolet Air Disinfection.....	20

Chapter 3	22
Photoreactor modelling and design	22
3.1. Radiation field modelling- Homogeneous medium	22
3.1.1. Approach to modelling.	22
3.2. Field modelling by Radiation Incidence (RI) models	24
3.3. 2-D models.....	24
3.3.1. Radial Incidence Models (RI)	25
3.3.2. Partially Diffuse Model (PDI).....	26
3.3.3. Diffuse Model (DI)	27
3.4. 3-D models.....	28
3.4.1. DI Model.....	28
3.5. Field modelling by Radiation Emission models	29
3.5.1. Line source models	29
3.5.1.1. Line Source with Parallel Plane Emission Model (LSPP).....	29
3.5.1.2. Line Source with Spherical Emission Model (LSSE)	30
3.5.1.3. Line Source with Diffuse Emission Model (LSDE).....	32
3.5.1.4. Extense Source with Volumetric Emission Model (ESDE)	33
Chapter 4.....	34
Design the UV-c disinfection chamber	34
4.1. Modelling of intensity profile of UV photoreactor chamber	34
4.2. Modelling of intensity profile of UV photoreactor chamber	38
4.2.1. Features of the bulb	38
4.2.2. Technical Data.....	39
4.2.3. Analysis.....	40
4.2.4. Results.....	41
4.2.4.1. $l_{253.7nm}$ variations with r and z for $n = 10^2$	41
4.2.4.2. $l_{253.7nm}$ variations with r and z for $n = 10^3$	42
4.2.4.3. $l_{253.7nm}$ variations with r and z for $n = 10^4$	43
4.2.4.4. $l_{253.7nm}$ variations with r and z for $n = 10^5$	44
4.2.5. Relationship of Dose, Irradiance, exposure time and the distance (r)	45
4.2.6. Air flow simulation.....	46
Chapter 5	48

Conclusion.....	48
References	49

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Description	Page
Figure 1.1	Normalized action spectrum for coliphage MS2 in aqueous suspension	5
Figure 1.2	Survival in surface	6
Figure 1.3	Effect of UV-C in survivability of SARS-CoV-2	7
Figure 1.4	Transverse harmonic vibration	10
Figure 1.5	Electromagnetic wave	11
Figure 1.6	Electromagnetic spectrum	12
Figure 2.1	Laminar flow purification equipment	16
Figure 2.2	Electrostatic precipitator	17
Figure 2.3	O^{-2} production by Superamphiphobic and Antibacterial TiO_2 and Cu_2O catalytic composite	18
Figure 2.4	Ozone disinfection method	19
Figure 3.1	Elliptical photoreactor geometry	24
Figure 3.2	Characteristics of 2-D incidence models	25
Figure 3.3	Three-dimensional Incidence model	28
Figure 3.4	LSPP Model	30
Figure 3.5	LSSE Model	31
Figure 3.6	Flux density profile (LSSE Model)	32
Figure 3.7	LSDE Model	33
Figure 3.8	ESVE model	33
Figure 4.1	Reactor schematic diagram	35
Figure 4.2	Line source coordinate comparison	38
Figure 4.3	Dimensions of 64T5HO G5 bulb	39
Figure 4.4	Photometric data of 64T5HO G5 bulb	39
Figure 4.5	$l_{253.7nm}$ variations with r and z for $n = 10^2$	41
Figure 4.6	$l_{253.7nm}$ variations with r and z for $n = 10^3$	42
Figure 4.7	$l_{253.7nm}$ variations with r and z for $n = 10^4$	43

Figure 4.8	$l_{253.7nm}$ variations with r and z for $n = 10^5$	44
Figure 4.9	Sketch of the cuboid chamber for $r = 20cm$	45
Figure 4.10	CAD Design	46
Figure 4.11	Air flow pattern in simulated environment	47

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Description	Page
Table 1. 1	Estimates of 1st order UV inactivation constants for HCOV-OV43	4
Table 1. 2	$LD_{(uv-c)}$ - SARS-COV-2	8
Table 3. 1	Classification of radiation models	23
Table 4. 1	Dimensions of bulb	39
Table 4. 2	Technical specification	39

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DI	Diffuse Incidence
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
ESDE	Extense Source Superficial Diffuse Emission
ESSE	Extense Source Superficial Spherical Emission
ESVE	Extense Source Volumetric Emission
HAI	Healthcare-Associated Infection
LD	Lethal Dose
LED	Light-Emitting Diode
LSDE	Line Source Diffuse Emission
LSSE	Line Source Spherical Emission
LVREA	Local Volumetric Rate of Energy Absorption
PDI	Partially Diffuse Incidence
PyNNFV	Pyrimidine Dinucleotide Frequency Value
RH	Relative Humidity
RI	Radial Incidence
RMSrPE	Root-Mean-Squared Relative Prediction Error
RNA	Ribonucleic Acid
SARS-CoV-2	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2
TDI	Diffuse Incidence
UV	Ultraviolet
UVGI	Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation

LIST OF NOTATIONS

l	Light intensity, $Jm^{-2}s^{-1}$
ρ	Cylindrical coordinate, m
z'	Linear source coordinate, m
N	Concentration of infective microbe or virus,
t	Time,
k	1 st -order inactivation constant, and
E	Fluence rate
N_0	Concentration of infective microbes or viruses before exposure to UV radiation
D	UV Dose
ν	frequency
T	Periodic time
λ	Wavelength
q	Energy flux density ($m^{-2}s^{-1}$)
μ	Attenuation coefficient (m^{-1})
q_λ	Radiant energy distribution
$S_{p,\lambda}$	Point source strength, W
$S_{L,\lambda}$	Line source strength, W