## SOLAR RESEARCH FACILITIES UNIT WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Ph. M.





## OPTICS OF SOLAR CONCENTRATORS Dr. Akiba Segal

Weizmann Institute of Science; Solar Research Facilities

Head of Solar Optics Design and Mathematical Modeling Unit

E-mail: a.segal@weizmann.ac.il

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# **Characteristics of Solar Energy**

Not uniformly distributed on Earth: sunny South vs. industrial North

Cannot be stored and transported unless converted into another form

Form available today: electricity (but electricity cannot be stored easily)

Intermittent. Storage necessary: conversion into chemical energy could be a solution

Low concentration: MUST BE CONCENTRATED !



### **Solar Concentrating Technologies**

- Trough systems
- Tower systems
- Dish systems















Parabolic Trough technology bases its operation on solar tracking and the concentration of solar rays on receiving tubes with high thermal efficiency, located on the focal line of the cylinder.







## Central Solar Plants: PS10, PS20 (Sanlúcar la Mayor, SPAIN)





#### **Solar Dish System**

- Point focusing.
- C = 1000 12,000.
- Unit 7.5 100 kW.
- 2-axis tracking parabolic dish.
- Modularity.
- Remote applications.









$$\begin{split} & \Pr_{exergy,ideal} = \eta_{absorption} \cdot \eta_{Carnot} = \left(1 - \frac{\sigma T^4}{C \cdot I}\right) \cdot \left(1 - \frac{T_L}{T}\right) \\ & \eta_{oxorgy} = 0 \rightarrow T_{stagnation} = \left(\frac{C \cdot I}{\sigma}\right)^{0.25} \quad \frac{\partial \eta_{exergy}}{\partial T} = 0 \rightarrow \left(T_{optimal}\right)^5 - 0.75T_L \left(T_{optimal}\right)^4 - \left(\frac{T_L IC}{4\sigma}\right) = 0 \\ & \Pi_{exergy,ideal} & \Gamma_{exergy,ideal} & \Gamma_{exergy,ideal}$$

Temperature [K]







# **Imaging Optical Concentrators:**

- Lens
- Parabolical / Spherical mirrors







# Nonimaging Optical Concentrators: Compound Parabolic / Elliptic Concentrators (CPC / CEC) Invented by Hinterberger & Winston probably simultaneously with Baranov (1965 published 1966)

**References:** 

H. Hinterberger and R. Winston, Rev. Sci. Instrum. 37, 1094 (1966). V. K. Baranov, Geliotekhnika 2, 11 (1966).

















## **CPC** with exit angle less than $\pi/2$









#### Design of a circle involute




#### Macrofocal Parabola (MFP)







- $\theta_a$  CPC's half acceptance angle and is taken equal to the rim angle of the primary parabolic concentrator.
- *r* radius tubular receiver.



# Nonimaging optical concentrators with dielectrics n >1





Ref: Ning X.,O'Gallagher J.J.,Winston R,.Appl.Opt.,26, 300, (1987)









#### **Cone concentrator**



#### Transmission-angle curve for a cone with $\theta_{max} = 10^{\circ}$



# Compound Elliptic Concentrators (CEC)





Concentrator suitable for a source AA' at a finite distance; design of a new profile is based on edge ray principle





#### Compound Elliptic Concentrator(CEC) concentrator for dishes





# Using the optical concentrators in the central solar plants



# When is useful the receiver concentrator (RC) in tower-top optics ?





Identification of best available correlation between the CPC(s) adapted at receiver(s) used for central solar plants and the field of heliostats

Rabl A., Solar Energy, 18, p.99,1976





## New concepts in designing the future central solar plants when secondary concentrators are



Segal and Epstein, Solar Energy, 65,p.206,1999/







#### Identification of best available approximation of the mathematical profile of CPC in truncated cones or pyramids



The optimum division: those points on the CPC profile satisfied the condition that difference between consecutive slopes remains constant.



## A new optical concept prevails over the design of the solar plants with central receiver: the Beam-Down Optics



# **BEAM-DOWN OPTICS**

### Cassegrain optics (17th century !!) Cassegrain telescope (about 1850 !!)





### **Principle of the Beam-Down Optics**





# Tower reflector optics two options are available: hyperboloid and ellipsoid















#### Flux and power vs. collector radius





# Ray tracing at the entrance plane of the ground concentrators







The World's biggest concentrator: decagonal section; 10 segments; H=5m,D=2.2m, d=0.45m, θ=11°





# WIS central concentrator with designed peripheral concentrators



## Application: Optical design for a central solar plant for 10MW

Restrictions: the receiver(s) is/are provided with window(s) having max. diameter 0.45m. A cluster of 7 concentrators (accept.angle 30deg.) will have an equivalent diameter of 2.2m







## **Stages in the field design**





### Field 832 heliostats x 25m2 each




## Existing software at W.I.S (1)

Design of CPC : CPCdesign.for Input: -exit radius; acceptance angle; exit angle. Output: -numerical CPC profile

## **Options for output:**

- CPC truncation:
- = given maximum entrance radius is calculated the corresponding length or
- = given maximum length is calculated the entrance radius
- CPC approximated by 'n' segments; options:
  - = equal segments
  - = non-equal segments;
  - = truncated height



exit radius(m) acceptance angle(grd) exit angle(grd) steps 0.20 20. 70. 10000

cpc dimensions:			
acceptance angle	(deg):	20.0	
maximum exit angle	(deg):	70.0	
exit radius/diameter	(m):	0.200	0.400
conic radius/diameter	(m):	0.282	0.564
length of conic part	(m):	0.175	
CPC entrance radius/di	0.549	1.098	
concentrator length	(m):	2.059	
CPC area	(m²):	6.022	



CPC entrance radius/diam (m):0.5491.098concentrator length(m):2.059CPC area(m²):6.022

interpolations for truncated CPC :

- given radius calculate height enter: 1 "radius (m)"
- given height calculate radius enter: 2 "height (m)"
- for nonequal partitions
- for equal partitions
- to finish

- enter: 3 "number\_of\_partitions"
- enter: 4 "number\_of\_partitions"

- enter: 0 0

#### 1 0.55

radius greater than maximum possible: 0.549530

1 0.50

r= 0.500000 z= 1.068932

**CPC dimensions (truncated):** 

truncated CPC entrance radius/diam (m):0.50001.0000truncated concentrator length(m):1.0690CPC area(m²):2.6933



2 1.07 z= 1.069000 r= 0.500008 cpc dimensions (truncated): truncated CPC entrance radius/diam (m): 0.5000 1.0000 truncated concentrator length (m): 1.0693 CPC area (m<sup>2</sup>): 2.6942



3 4 Lmax 1.069 partition in 4 non-equal segments;Lmax= 1.0690 r z  $\Delta z$  grd.  $\Delta$ grd. 0.2000 0.0000 segm.1 0.2818 0.1754 0.1754 25.0 segm.2 0.3505 0.3475 0.1721 18.9 6.1 segm.3 0.4249 0.6146 0.2671 12.8 6.1 segm.5 0.5000 1.0693 0.4547 6.7 6.1

CPC dimensions (truncated): truncated concentrator length(m): 1.0690 truncated CPC area (m<sup>2</sup>): 2.6933



4 4 Lmax 1.069 partition in 4 equal segments Lmax=1.069; r z  $\triangle z$ 0.2000 0.0000 segm.1 0.2828 0.1754 0.1754 segm.2 0.3893 0.4732 0.2978 segm.3 0.4565 0.7711 0.2979 segm.4 0.5000 1.0690 0.2979

CPC dimensions (truncated): truncated concentrator length(m): 1.0690 truncated CPC area (m<sup>2</sup>): 2.6933



# Existing software at W.I.S (2)

Transmission by CPC : ASsfera.for Input is the output from CPCdesign.for **Options:** no=1; Only a circular aperture of given diameter; **no=2; CPC** mathematical perfect; no=3; CPC approximated by n cone segments; no=4; CPC approximated by n pyramid segments; having cross section regular polygons with m sides; no=5; CPC approximated as at previous point + CPC peripherals (possible combinations m=3,p=6; m=6, p=6; m=10, p=5)



#### Heliostat field at WIS 64 heliostats 54m<sup>2</sup> reflective surface

Part of the WIS field (37H) seen by a CPC having  $\theta$ =20° d=0.4m; at H= 44.8m, tilted  $\delta$ =-37° (used only 33H)





## **INPUT:**

file: 'trasol.ray'	(produced by TRASOL.FOR with input from 33 heliostats from WIS field)			
file:'geom.dat':	(produced by CPCdesign.FOR CPC: r=0.2m, $\theta$ =20°, $\theta$ =20° truncated 1.8m)			
.54673 6				
.50675 .67078	h1++h6=1.8000			
.44965 .39616				
.39072 .25563				
.33442 .17589				
.28177 .12699	h1+h2=0.3023			
.20000 .17535	h.conical segm			
3.00000	_			



## **OUTPUT:**

field with 33 heliostats having the tracing errors 0.50 + 0.50 mrad and the surface errors 1.10mrad insolation 800. W/m2

run for the day 21 March hour 12.00

average cos(f)0.9643average shadowing(%)0.00average blocking (%)1.26

Concentrator dimensionsCPC with the circular cross sectionradius at the CPC entrance0.5467mradius at the CPC exit0.2000mtotal concentrator height1.8000mthe concentrator axis is tilted -33.deg with the horizontal



#### power balance

number of rays analyzed:	1281.5
hit tower before target	0.0
spillage	821.2
rays enter concentrator:	460.3
rejected in concentrator:	31.9
absorbed in concentrator:	76.5
rays transmitted:	351.9
problematic rays:	0.1

average number of reflect: 1.22 average flux in receiver : 2800. kW/m2









	d(m) / θ / θ <sub>o</sub>	D(m)	L(m)	Spillage	Enter	Losses	Enter
				(kW)	CPC(kW)	(kW)	rec.(kW)
CPC perfect	0.4/20°/70°	1.10	2.06	815	477	121	356
Perfect,TRUNCATED	0.4/20º/70º	1.09	1.80	821	460	115	345
CPC 6cones; NEq	0.4/20°/70°	1.09	1.80	821	460	108	352
CPC 6cones; Eq	0.4/20°/70°	1.09	1.80	821	460	112	349
CPC 6trunc.pyr;NEq	0.4/20°/70°	1.09	1.80	825	457	119	337
CPC18trunc.pyr;NEq	0.4/20°/70°	1.09	1.80	825	457	115	342
Perfect, TRUNCATED	0.4/20°/70°	1.08	1.60	831	450	111	339
CPC 6cones; NEq	0.4/20°/70°	1.08	1.60	831	450	112	338
CPC 6cones; Eq	0.4/20°/70°	1.08	1.60	831	450	115	335
CPC 18cones; NEq	0.4/20°/70°	1.08	1.60	831	450	111	339



Field design for 1108 heliostats 100m<sup>2</sup> each ; tower reflector 3180m2; power in CPCs 63.5MW; power in central CPC 26.8MW



CPC height (m)	Entrance radius of single CPC unit (m)	7 CPCs cluster area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Spillage around entrance (MW)	Total power entered the CPC cluster (MW)	Net power absorbed (MW) (after losses)	% from line 1
19.7 CPC height untruncated	5.34	3160	2.7	63.5	51.3	100.
14.1	5.20	2250	2.9	62.7	51.0	99.4
12.6	5.10	1990	3.2	62.4	50.7	98.9
10.5	4.90	1620	3.8	61.8	50.2	97.8
8.90	4.70	1350	4.6	61.0	49.5	96.5





Net power into receiver with truncated CPC















## The 30 KW Reformer CPC

H = 1.7m;  $D_{in}$ = 64cm;  $D_{out}$  = 15cm; Θ = 12°



## The 500 KW Reformer CPC H = 1.05m; D<sub>in</sub>= 1.17m; D<sub>out</sub> = 0.58m; Θ = 20° 12 Facets; 4 Rows







### **Principal references:**

- 1. Rabl A., "Active Solar Collectors and Their Application", Oxford U. Press, New York, 1985
- 2. Welford W.T., Winston R., "High Collection Nonimaging Optics", Academic Press, San Diego, 1989
- Winston R., Miňano J.C., Benitez P. *et all*, "Nonimaging Optics", Elsevier Academic Press, Amsterdam, 2005
- 4. Chaves J., "Introduction to Nonimging Optics", CRC Press, Boca Raton, 2008
- O'Gallager J.J., "Nonimaging Optics in Solar Energy", Morgan&Claypool Publishers, Chicago, 2008 and more than one hundred papers published since 1976 until now



# Finally, we reached the END !!

# Thank you for your attention !