Space Power Workshop 2018

Ultralight Emissive Mirrors for Thermal Management in Space

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Motivation: Space Solar Project Initiative



Radiative Laws: Stefan-Boltzmann Law and Steady State Power Balance



At Steady State, P_{net} =0, allowing us to solve for the blackbody temperature T_{Rad} at any given surface emissivity ϵ



Radiative Laws: Planck's Law for Blackbodies





Photovoltaic array modeling



Finite element model COMSOL Multiphysics including

- Surface to surface radiation
- Conductive heat transfer

Model validated using analytic and planar cell (no array) references



Controlling cell temperature

10 suns, 650 W/m² cell heat load (3J IMM at one sun)



Affect temperature with: Mirror emissivity Back side emissivity Aluminum thickness



Thermal Modelling

All assume:

- **650 W/m²** heat load (3J IMM)
- Back side emissivity 0.85

For mirror emissivity of 0.4 to 0.6 :

- Cell temps under 100 C with 3 um AI at 10 suns
- At 15 suns
 - 80 C with 10 μm Al
 - 100 C with 4 μm AI
- At 20 suns
 - 90 C with 10 μm AI
 - 100 C with 7 μ m Al



Salisbury Screen



Flat structure: easily implemented Potential for low mass per unit area Recently reported to be broadband in IR

Hocer et al, Scientific Reports Vol 5, No. 8157, 2015



Backside Emitter Optimization

Vary thicknesses of Cr and CPI to maximize Absorptivity Additional layer added to increase Absorptivity over the spectrum





Salisbury Screen Fabrication



Repeat Again for 2 Layer Salisbury Screen with appropriate thicknesses



Backside Emitter Results





Salisbury Screen Simulated Layer-by-Layer Analysis





Need for a Frontside Emitter





ITO Emissive Mirror Optimization





IR Emissivity at Different ITO and CP1 Thicknesses



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ITO Emissive Mirror Simulations



Calculated: Visible Reflectivity: 92.12%

IR Absorptivity: 57.73%



ITO Emissive Mirrors Results



Calculated: Visible Reflectivity: 92.12%

IR Absorptivity: 57.73%

Measured: Visible Reflectivity: 87.15%

IR Absorptivity: 62.06%





Thanks for Listening!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Will Wheatney, Dagney Fleischmann and theAtwater Team George Rossman, California Institute of Technology Mark Kruer & the Northrop Grumman Team Tom Tiwald, J.A. Woollam Ellipsometry Lynn Rodman, Nexolve Ryan France, NREL





