Role of agricultural engineering in environmental and sustainable development for the valley and delta areas: 2033 - 2047

BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

ESTIMATION OF HOURLY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION IN EGYPT USING MATHEMATICAL MODEL

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ABESTRACT

The main purpose of this paper is to develop a computer mathematical model which produces estimates of hourly average total solar radiation flux incident on the earth's surface under climate conditions of Delta, Egypt. Predictors for solar radiation have been developed because there is often a lack of representative solar radiation data in most countries. Cloudiness, atmospheric transmissivity, latitude and orientation of the Earth relative to the Sun, time of day, slope and aspect of the surface determine the spatial and temporal distribution of irradiance incident on a surface. Measured data were collected from the Solar-Meteorological stations of Agricultural Engineering Department at El-menoufiya University, El-Mansoura university and Belbees, in order to evaluate the present model. A comparison study between measured and predicted data has been carried out based on the main bias error and correlation coefficient. It can be concluded that the present model can be used to estimate the hourly average total solar radiation for El-menoufiya, El-Mansoura, and Belbees with an excellent agreement

***Keywords**: Global radiation models; Solar radiation; Mathematical Model**.*

INTRODUCTION

Renewable energy is accepted as a key source for the future, not only for Egypt but also for the whole world. This is primarily due to fact that renewable energy resources have some advantages when compared to fossil fuels. However, environmental concerns and limited energy sources make renewable energy technology as a good candidate for fossil fuels. While Egypt has adequate solar energy potential to support its energy demand. Therefore, it is important to harness that resource in view to find solution to energy shortage and environmental degradation the country is

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being faced to. Solar energy is which considered to be the most effective and economic alternative resource **(El-Metwally, 2005).**

In developing countries, such as Egypt, interest in solar energy applications has rapidly been growing for providing electricity and water supply in different areas. Solar radiation data is essential for modeling solar energy systems. Solar radiation is used directly to produce electricity using photovoltaic (PV) systems and solar thermal systems. Therefore, determination of global solar radiation at a location of study is required for the design and estimation of the thermal performance of any solar energy system. Solar radiation flux incident on the earth's surface is essential to architects and engineers for energy-efficient building designs and solar energy applications **(Duffie and Beckman 2006; Sen, 2008).**

The solar radiation has temporal and spatial variations. To collect this information, a network of solar monitoring stations equipped with pyranometers and data acquisition systems are generally established in the desired locations. However, the number of such stations in the network is usually not sufficient to provide solar radiation data of the desired areas, especially in developing countries. Therefore, it is necessary to develop methods to estimate the solar radiation on the basis of the more readily available meteorological data.

An alternative solution to this problem is to estimate solar radiation by using a modeling approach **(Ibrahim et al.,1985; Dorvlo et al., 2002)**

Modeling of solar radiation also provides an understanding of dynamics of solar radiation and it is clearly of great value in the design of solar energy conversion systems. Most locations in Egypt receive abundant solar radiation and hence solar energy technology can be beneficially applied in these regions. The solar radiation data are obtained from, quite few stations which have been measuring the daily solar radiation on a consistent basis. In the absence and shortage of reliable solar radiation data, hence, it is necessary to approximate solar radiation by the use of mathematical model in order to estimate and predict global solar radiation. These model uses meteorological data of the location under study. Knowledge of hourly solar radiation (direct and diffuse) on horizontal surface is essential to design solar energy devices. Hourly

values of solar radiation enable us to derive very precise information about the performance of solar energy systems (**Gopinathan, 1992**).

Solar exposure estimates are important for a wide range of applications, mainly in the agricultural and to a lesser extent engineering sectors, and in research. Examples of use include: monitoring plant growth and disease control; evaporation and irrigation; architecture and building design e.g. power station condenser cooling systems; power generation; calculation of water requirements for crops; solar heating system design and use; skin cancer research; research into coral growth; weather and climate prediction models; solar powered car races. It is very common to design solar energy systems based on the hourly average of global solar radiation and other climatic data. Also, it is rather important to determine the beam and diffuse components of total radiation incident on a horizontal surface. Once, these components are determined, they can be transposed over tilted surfaces ,and hence ,the short as well as the long-term performances of tilted flat plate collectors, photovoltaic modules and other solar devices can be estimated. Many models have been developed to estimate the amount of global solar radiation on horizontal surfaces using various climatic parameters ,such as sunshine duration, cloud cover, humidity, maximum and mini- mum ambient temperatures, wind speed, etc **(Gopinathan, 1988; Halouani et al., 1993; Chegaar and Chibani, 2001; El-Sebaii and Trabea, 2005; Jacovides et al., 2006).**

Estimation of solar radiation flux incident on different locations of Egypt either on horizontal surface or tilted surface have been studied by several researchers **(Tadros, 2000 ;El-Sebaii and Trabea, 2005)**.

Mansoura, Shebin El-Kom and Belbees are Egyptian cities which located at latitude angles 31.045, 30.54 and 30.22° N, respectively and they are one of the most solar energy abundant cities all days of the year as shown in fig(1). Therefore, solar energy devices can be operated with high performance.
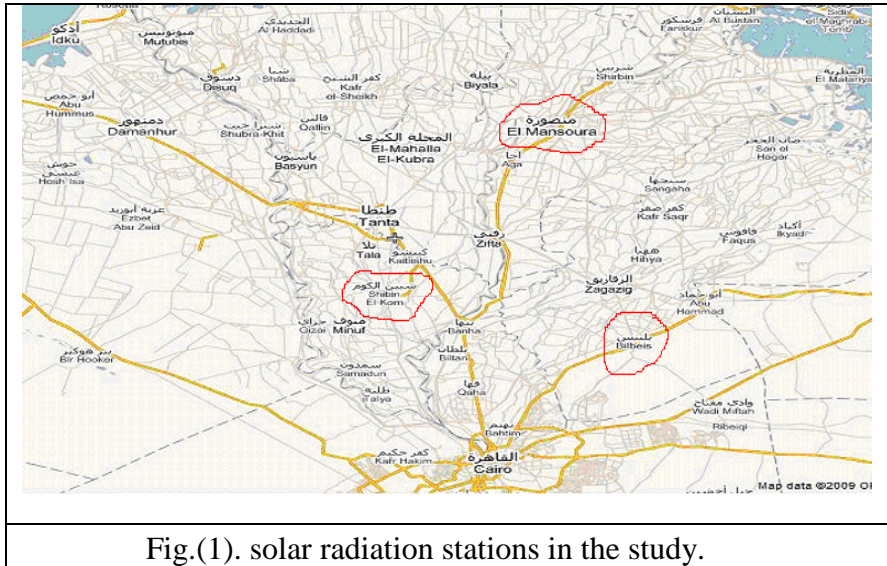
Fig.(1). solar radiation stations in the study.

The main purpose of this paper is to develop a mathematical model to estimate the hourly global solar radiation on a horizontal surfaces in the cities using the available meteorological data, such as sunshine duration and cloud cover as well as maximum, minimum and daily mean of ambient temperature covering the year of 2009.

Model for computing radiation on the horizontal surface

The total radiation received on the horizontal is a summation of the direct and diffuse radiation. **(Parker, 1991; Duffie and Beckman, 2006).**

$$I_H = I_b + I_d \qquad\qquad [\text{Wm}^{-2}] \qquad (1)$$

where:

I_H: The total solar radiation $[\text{Wm}^{-2}]$

I_b: Clear-sky horizontal beam radiation. $[\text{Wm}^{-2}]$

I_d: Clear-sky horizontal diffuse radiation $[\text{Wm}^{-2}]$

Hottel, (1976) has presented a technique for estimating the beam radiation transmitted through clear atmosphere as:

$$I_b = I_{on}\tau_b Cos\,\theta_z \qquad\qquad [\text{Wm}^{-2}] \qquad (2)$$

Where :

I_{on}: the extraterrestrial radiation measured on the plane normal to the radiation on the n day of the year.

$$I_{on} = I_{sc}[1 + 0.034 Cos(\frac{360n}{365.24})] \qquad\qquad [\text{Wm}^{-2}] \qquad (3)$$

τ_b: The beam radiation transmitted

I_{sc} : the solar constant = 1353 W/m^2

n : the number of the day from the first of January.

The number of the day (n) can be calculated as follows (**Heindl and Koch, 1976**):

$$n = 30(M) + 0.6(M - 3) - 30.5 + (N) \tag{4}$$

M : month number from 1 to 12

N : day number of the month

The atmospheric transmittance for beam radiation ,τ_b, is given in the form:

$$\tau_b = A_0 + A_1 . \exp(\frac{-k}{Cos\theta_z}) \tag{5}$$

The constants A_o ,A1,and k are for the standard atmosphere with 23 km visibility and are found from:

$A_0 = r_0 A^*_0$

$A_1 = r_1 A^*_1$

$K = r_k k^*$

The factors r_0, r_1 and rk are climate correlations which are presented in table (1):

Table (1): Beam radiation correction factors for climate types From (hotel 1976; Decarli et al., 1986; Parker, 1991).

Climate types	r_0	r_1	r_k
Tropical	0.95	0.98	1.02
Mid-latitude summer	0.97	0.99	1.02
Mid-latitude winter	1.03	1.01	1.00
Subarctic summer	0.99	0.99	1.01

These values are obtained as follows:

$$A^*_0 = 0.4237 - 0.00831(6 - A)^2$$

$$A^*_1 = 0.5055 - 0.00595(6.5 - A)^2$$

$$k^* = 0.2711 - 0.01858(2.5 - A)^2$$

θ_z: the angle of incidence, θ_z, defines as the angle between the incoming beam solar rays and the normal to the horizontal surface. It can be calculated from the following equation.

$$\theta_z = Cos^{-1}[Cos\phi Cos\delta Cos\omega + Sin\phi Sin\delta] \qquad [\,°\,] \qquad (6)$$

ϕ : Latitude angle Which is the angular location north or south of the equator, northern hemisphere of the earth is positive and southern is negative $(-90° < \emptyset > 90°)$.

δ, is the angular position of the sun at solar noon with respect to the plane of the equator, north positive and south is negative $(-23.45° < \delta > 23.45°)$. It can be found from the following equation:-

$$\delta = 23.45 Sin[360\frac{(284+n)}{365.25}] \qquad [\,°\,] \qquad (7)$$

ω : Solar hour angle Which is the angular displacement of the sun east or west of the local meridian due to rotation of the earth on its axis at $15°$ per hour, morning negative and afternoon is positive.

$$\omega = (LAT - 12).15 \qquad [\,°\,] \qquad (8)$$

Where, LAT. is the local apparent time (standard time).

Solar altitude angle (ψ) Which is the angle between the sun's rays and the horizontal plane or its the angle between the horizontal and the line to the sun, that is, the complement of the zenith angle. This angle can be estimated from the following equation:-

$$\psi = Sin^{-1}[Cos\phi Cos\delta Cos\omega + Sin\phi Sin\delta] \quad [\,°\,] \qquad (9)$$

The equation for clear sky diffuse radiation is in the from:

$$I_d = I_{on}.\tau_d Cos\theta_z \qquad (10)$$

$$\tau_d = 0.2710 - 0.2939 \times \tau_b \qquad (11)$$

Where : τ_d, The diffuse radiation transmitted

These equation can be used to estimate the total standard clear sky radiation on a horizontal surface with incident angle, θz:

Model for computing radiation on an inclined surface

An improvement on this model, the isotropic diffuse model, was derived by **Liu and Jordan, 1963; Parker, 1991; Duffie and Beckman, 2006).** The radiation on the tilted surface was considered to include three components: beam, isotropic diffuse and solar radiation diffusely reflected from the surroundings (ground):

$$I_T = I_{Tb} + I_{Td} + I_{Tr} \qquad [\text{Wm}^{-2}] \qquad (12)$$

The terms in Equation (12) become :

$$I_T = I_b R_b + I_d R_d + I_H \rho_g R_r$$
$$= I_b \frac{Cos\theta}{Cos\theta_z} + I_d \frac{(1+Cos\beta)}{2} + I_H \rho_g \frac{(1-Cos\beta)}{2} \quad [\text{Wm}^{-2}] \quad (13)$$

Where:

I_T : solar radiation absorbed at a tilted surface $\qquad [\text{Wm}^{-2}]$

I_{Tb}: beam solar radiation absorbed at a tilted surface $\qquad [\text{Wm}^{-2}]$

I_{Td} :diffuse solar radiation absorbed at a tilted surface $\qquad [\text{Wm}^{-2}]$

I_{Tr}: reflected radiation from the surroundings $\qquad [\text{Wm}^{-2}]$

R_b ,R_d, R_r,: The geometric factors, and

R_b, Ratio of beam radiation on the tilted surface to that on a horizontal surface at any time, leading in northern hemisphere, for $\gamma = 0°$, can be calculated exactly by appropriate use of Equation:

$$R_b = \frac{Cos\theta}{Cos\theta_z} = \frac{Cos(\phi-\beta)Cos\delta Cos\omega + Sin(\phi-\beta)Sin\delta}{Cos\phi Cos\delta Cos\omega + Sin\phi Sin\delta} \quad [\text{Wm}^{-2}] \quad (14)$$

ρ_g :The albedo of the ground.

β : Tilt angle of the surface = ϕ **(Elminir et al.,2006)** $\qquad [\,°\,]$

θ : Incidence angle $\qquad [\,°\,]$

γ : surface–solar azimuth angle. $\qquad [\,°\,]$

Software tools

The hourly solar radiation model was designed by using Simulink, which is an interactive tool for modeling, simulating and analyzing dynamic systems. Simulink provides a complete set of modeling tools that can be used to quickly develop detailed block diagrams of the systems. It integrates seamlessly with MATLAB, providing the user with immediate access to an extensive range of analysis. Simulink enables the building of graphical block diagrams, simulate dynamic systems, evaluate system performance and refine the designs (**Palm, 1999**).

Model parameters:

They are model inputs and can be divided into two groups. The first group includes parameters supplied by the user such as: the simulation time, latitude angle, surface azimuth, tilt angle for the inclined surface,

day and month number which were used to calculate the solar radiation at the surface.The second group includes parameters taken from the literature such as: sea level, solar constant and the constants which are used to calculate the atmospheric transmittance for beam and diffuse radiation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The simulation results obtained from this model are considered "blind", since they have not been yet compared with the measured results from the selected regions. The comparison between measured and simulated results is very important in order to check out how far the simulated results are from the measured ones. It gives an idea, if there are any obvious errors and prospects about the possibility of improvements that can be achieved by such model.

To investigate the model's ability to predict and describe the hourly solar radiation during different times, simulations were compared with measurements for the selected regions (Shebin El-Kom, Belbees and El-Mansoura). Fig.(2). presents the simulation results obtained assuming that the solar radiation reached the maximal value of 958 Wm^{-2} in June. Comparing the results, we can see that all the used equations gave very good results.

The model gave the best estimate and have the smallest errors for the hourly values. The figure shows also that the simulated hourly solar radiation followed the same trends as that measured one but with some variations in timing of the peak values. The simulated data sometimes higher, sometimes lower or almost equal the measured variable.

The measured hourly solar radiation was plotted versus the predicted from simulation model as shown in Fig.(3). High correlation coefficient between the predicted and measured values was observed. The model gave accurate prediction of the hourly solar radiation. Nevertheless, the points scattered above and below the regression line show a good agreement between the simulated versus measured hourly solar radiation and over a reasonably prolonged duration. The coefficient of determination during the simulation period were 0.9851, 0.9945 and 0.9883 for Shebin El-kom, Belbees and El-Mansoura respectively.
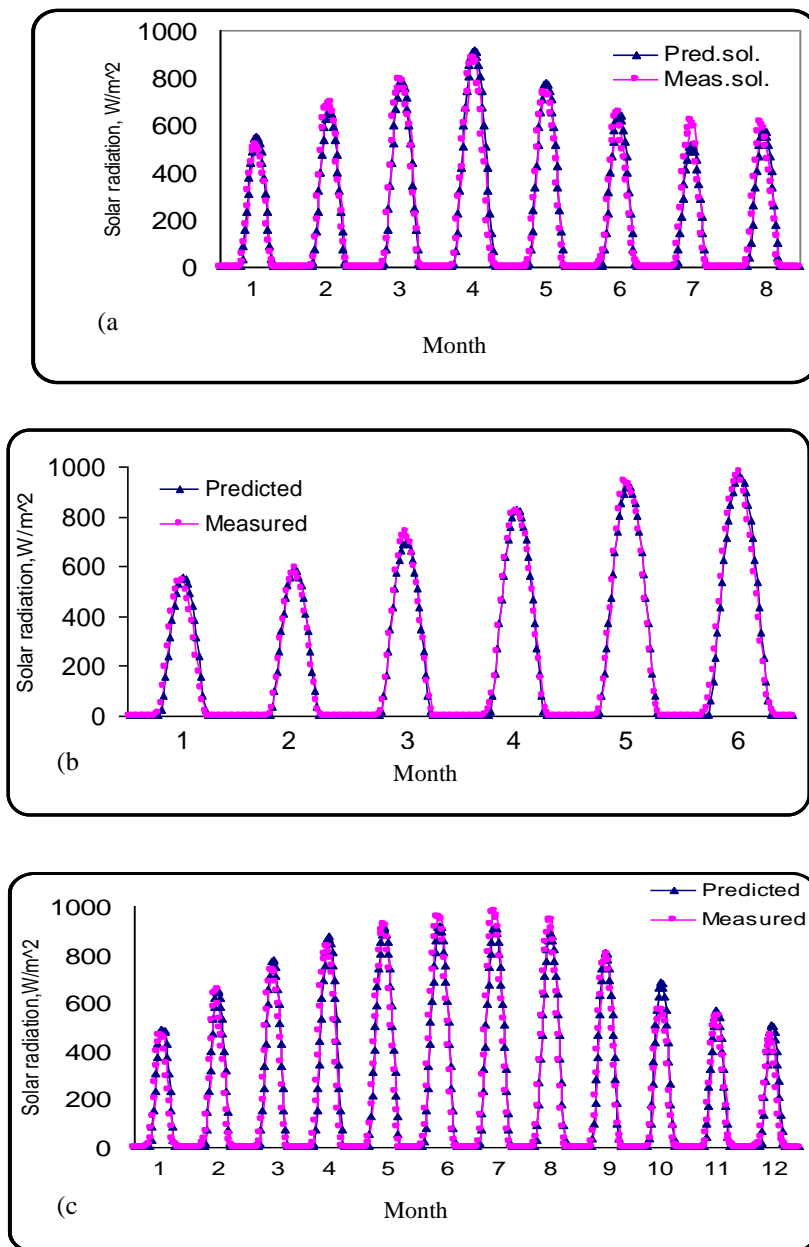
Fig.(2).Diurnal cycles of predicted and measured hourly solar radiation for (a) Shebin Elkom, (b) Belbees and (c) El-Mansoura.
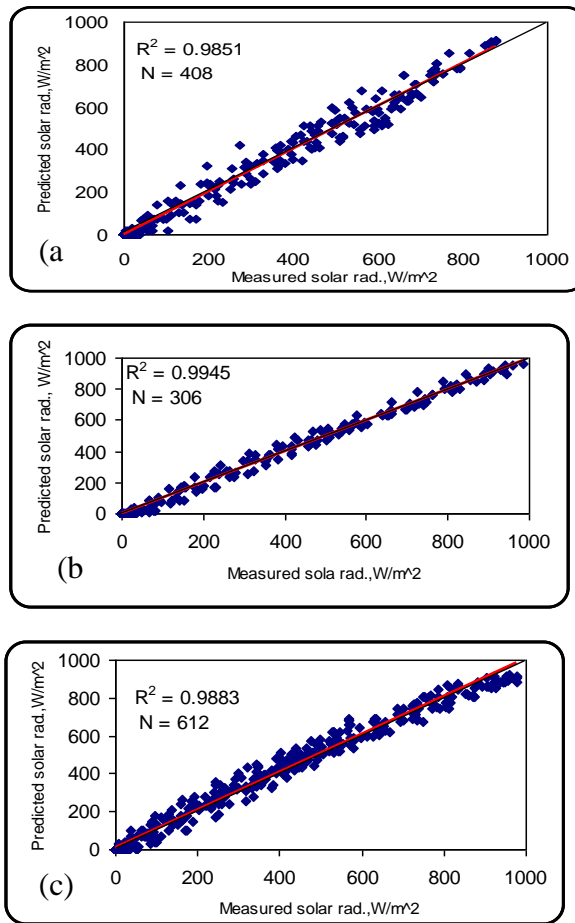
Fig.(3).Comparison between predicted and measured hourly
solar radiation for (a) Shebin Elkom, (b) Belbees and
(c) El-Mansoura, N the total number of the observation

Fig.(4) represents the differences between the measured and the
predicted values of the hourly solar radiation for during the
simulation periods, where it can be seen that the higher difference
occurred in the middle of the day and declined late afternoon and
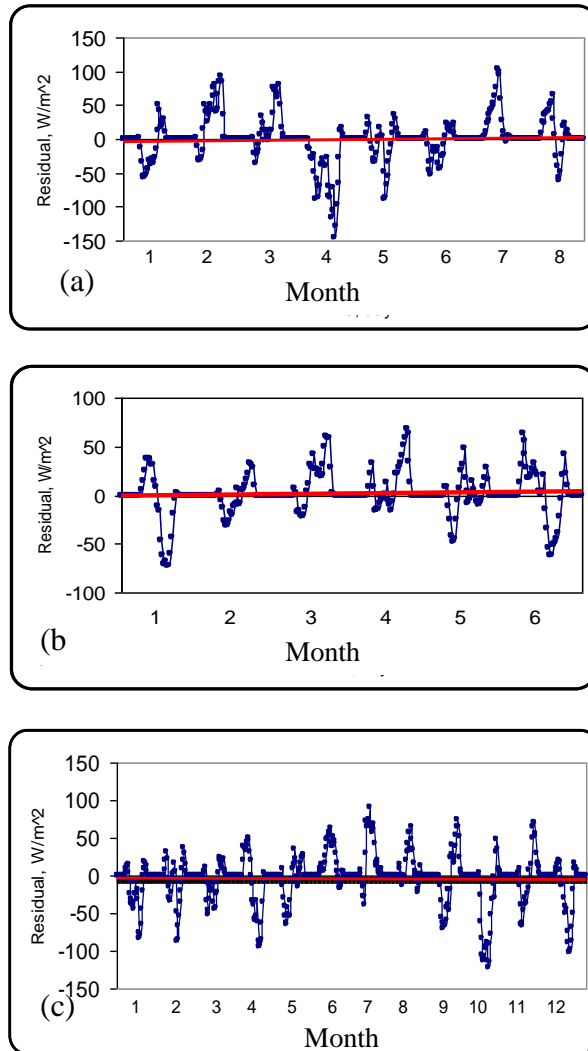early morning.

Fig.(4). Residuals of the measured and predicted hourly
solar radiation for (a) Shebin Elkom, (b) Belbees
and (c) El-Mansoura

The maximum differences between measured and predicted hourly solar
radiation profile are 145 Wm^{-2} in June for Shebin El-kom followed by
El-Mansoura 120 Wm^{-2} in October while it is 75 Wm^{-2} in January for
Belbees respectively. However, the errors obtained are similar to the
common solar radiation modeling.

In context of studies of hourly solar radiation in this model, the
distribution of the residuals of the hourly solar radiation as a function of

measured data were plotted Fig.(5). It can be observed that, the points are scattered above and below the zero line, if all points are considered together, the residual was not increase with increasing of the solar radiation Fig.(4) for the all selected regions.
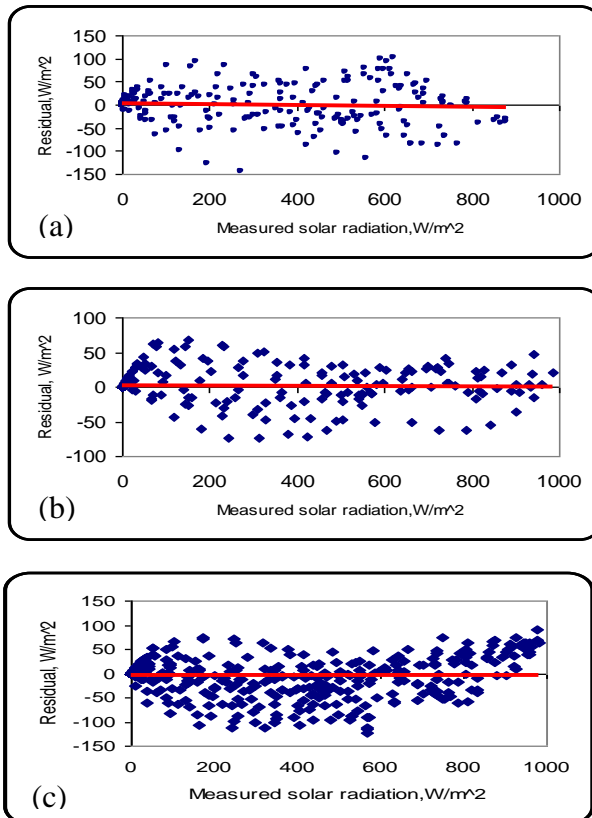

Fig.(5). Plot of residuals (predicted - measured) hourly solar radiation versus measured solar radiation for (a) Shebin Elkom, (b) Belbees and (c) El-Mansoura

CONCLUSION

A simple model for simulating hourly solar-radiation was suggested in this study. The proposed model can be used for predicting accurately hourly solar-radiation, which helps in the estimation of the long-term performances of solar-energy systems.

The model is tested for 3 provinces of Egypt. It was seen that the statistical indicator for the model such as correlation coefficient are at acceptable levels. Comparison of the model with the measured data revealed that the model provides predictions in good agreement with the measured data. It is expected that the model developed for hourly solar-radiation will be useful to the engineers of solar-energy related systems as well as those who need to have fairly good estimates of yearly variations of daily global solar-radiation for specific location.

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الملخص العربى

نموذج رياضي لتقدير الإشعاع الشمسي الساعي الكلي في مصر

أحمد توفيق طه*

يهدف هذا البحث الي تطوير نموذج رياضي باستخدام الكمبيوتر لتقدير متوسط الإشعاع الشمسي الساعي الكلي المتدفق على سطح الأرض في ظل الظروف المناخية للدلتا بمصر. وقد وضعت هذه النماذج الرياضية لتقدير الأشعة الشمسية نظرا لصعوبة الحصول علي بيانات أشعة الشمس في معظم البلدان. ونتيجة لتعرض الإشعاع الشمسي خلال اختراقه الغلاف الجوي المحيط بالأرض إلى بعض التغيرات التي تنشأ عن التشتت والامتصاص بسبب وجود جزيئات الهواء وبخار الماء والغبار الجوي وغيرها من العوامل المؤثرة الأخرى كخط العرض وتوجه الأرض بالنسبة للشمس، والوقت من اليوم، وميل وتوجه السطح فان الإشعاع الواصل إلى السطح يتكون من جزأين :الأول الأشعة المباشرة، وهي أكبرا لمكونات، والثاني هي المشتتة أو(المنتشرة)، وإجمالي هذه الأشعة تسمى الإشعاع الشمسي الكلي الساقط على السطح الأفقي التي تم تقديرها من خلال هذا النموذج الرياضي. تم جمع البيانات المقاسة من محطات الأرصاد الجوية من قسم الهندسة الزراعية في جامعة المنوفية ، جامعة المنصورة و منطقة بلبيس ، وذلك لتقييم النموذج الحالي. ولتقييم النموذج الرياضي تمت مقارنة النتائج المتحصل عليها من النموذج الرياضي بالنتائج المقاسة.وقد أوضحت النتائج وجود توافق ممتاز بين البيانات المتحصل عليها من النموذج والمقاسة للإشعاع الشمسي الكلي الساقط على السطح الأفقي لمناطق الدراسة.

يمكن الاستنتاج بأن النموذج المقترح يصلح لتقدير متوسط الإشعاع الشمسي الساعي الكلي المتدفق على سطح الأرض لمنطقة المنوفية ، المنصورة ، وبلبيس.

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