

Energy Resources and Policy

Tutorial: Solar power

1. Inclined surface solar irradiance

Using the data tables provided and the information that follows, determine the total solar irradiation of the given surface.

Latitude: 55°N
Ground reflectivity: 0.25
Date and time: 22 August @ 15:00
Surface azimuth: 180° from N
Sky condition: clear
Surface inclination (β_f): 15°

Angle of incidence:

$$i_\beta = \cos^{-1} \left(\sin \beta_s \cos(90 - \beta_f) + \cos \beta_s \cos \omega \sin(90 - \beta_f) \right)$$

where β_s is the solar altitude, β_f the surface inclination, $\omega = |\alpha_f - \alpha_s|$, α_s the solar azimuth, and α_f the surface azimuth.

Surface diffuse irradiance:

$$I_{s\beta} = I_{fh} \left(\frac{1 + \cos(90 - \beta_f)}{2} \right) \times \left(1 + \left[1 - \left(\frac{I_{fh}^2}{I_{gh}^2} \right) \right] \sin^3 \left(\frac{\beta_f}{2} \right) \right) \\ \times \left(1 + \left[1 - \left(\frac{I_{fh}^2}{I_{gh}^2} \right) \right] \cos^2(i_\beta) \sin^3(90 - \beta_s) \right)$$

where $I_{s\beta}$ is the sky diffuse irradiance, I_{fh} the diffuse horizontal irradiance and I_{gh} the global horizontal irradiance (all in W/m²).

[571 W/m²]

2. PV panel power output

A photovoltaic panel is to be deployed on a building roof, which faces South-West (225° from N) and has an inclination angle of 45°. Calculate the panel power output using the data tables provided and under the following conditions:

Latitude: 55°N;
Sky condition: clear
Ground reflectivity: 0.2
Date and time: 22 April @ 11:00

You may assume the following equations.

$$i_{\beta} = \cos^{-1}(\sin \beta_s \cos(90 - \beta_f) + \cos \beta_s \cos \omega \sin(90 - \beta_f))$$

where the parameters are as in question 1; and

$$I_{s\beta} = I_{fh} \left(\frac{1 + \cos(90 - \beta_f)}{2} \right) \times \left(1 + \left[1 - \left(\frac{I_{fh}^2}{I_{gh}^2} \right) \right] \sin^3 \left(\frac{\beta_f}{2} \right) \right) \\ \times \left(1 + \left[1 - \left(\frac{I_{fh}^2}{I_{gh}^2} \right) \right] \cos^2(i_{\beta}) \sin^3(90 - \beta_s) \right)$$

where $I_{s\beta}$ is the sky diffuse irradiance, I_{fh} the diffuse horizontal irradiance and I_{gh} the global horizontal irradiance (all in W/m²).

PV power output: $P = 0.13 I_T$ where I_T is the total radiation incident on the panel.

[93 W/m²]

