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The Hive-Stat Small-Scale Modular Tracking Heliostat

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POWERING THE NEW ENGINEER TO TRANSFORM THE FUTURE





Design Problem







Total Mirror Area: 0.6 m²

Height at Neutral Position: 0.8 m

Inspiration from Nature





Ease of Assembly- Straightforward assembly for a faster setup time

Optimized Field Placement- The design

is optimized to deliver efficiency in a multitude of positions

Cost Reduction- Cost reduced by using more common materials and off the shelf parts







Reflective Surface

- Hexagonal compact shape allows close tessellation of heliostats
- Shading effects eliminated by spacing heliostats close together so shadows do not reach reflective surface



Reflective Surface Cont.

Thermal Input Power, N = number of heliostats per module

$$TIP = 500 \cdot A_{helio} \cdot N = 500 \cdot 0.1m^2 \cdot 6 = 300 W$$

 Solar Concentration Ratio, assuming solar irradiance of 1000W/m² and a collector area around the size of one heliostat

$$SCR = \frac{2000}{N} = \frac{2000}{6} = 333.33 \, Suns$$

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Reflective Surface Cont.



Reflective Surface Cont.



$$\alpha Q_{sun} - \varepsilon \sigma \left(T^4 - T_{sky}^4 \right) - h(T - T_{air}) = M C_p \frac{dT}{dt}$$
$$\alpha = \frac{1}{Q_{sun}} \left[M C_p \frac{dT}{dt} + \varepsilon \sigma (T^4 - T_{sky}^4) \right]$$
$$Q_{sun} \alpha = \varepsilon \sigma \left(T^4 - T_{sky}^4 \right) - h(T - T_{air})$$



$$7.62\left[\frac{kW}{m^2}\right] \times 0.09 = 0.03 \times (5.67 \times 10^{-8}) \left[\frac{W}{m^2 K^4}\right] \times (T^4 - 300^4)[K] + 2\left[\frac{W}{m^2 K}\right] \times (T - 313.15)[K]$$

$$T = 285.49^{\circ} C$$

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Yield strength of wood (2.1mPa) > σ_{max}

Structure Cont.

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Item	Weight
Mirror + mirror body	16 lbs
Hinge + pole + shaft	4.28 lbs

Using Shigley's 8th Ed. Shaft Bending Stress Eq. 7.3, assuming a well-rounded shaft for stress concentration:

$$\sigma = K_p \frac{32M_a}{\pi d^3} = 1.7 \frac{32(2*10 \ lbs*2")}{\pi * 1^3} = 1732psi$$

Assuming a shear stress for 6061 aluminum as 30000psi and a fatigue strength of 14000psi for 500 million cycles, the factor of safety for near infinite life is about 8 and for peak loads about 17.



Controls Hardware cont.

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•Bidirectional control for two brushed DC motor (DC 4V to 16V).

•Control one unipolar/bipolar stepper motor. •Maximum Motor Current: 3A continuous per channel, 5A peak.

•Buck-boost regulator to produce 5V output (200mA max).

Microcontroller	ATmega328P
Operating Voltage	5V
Input Voltage (recommended)	7-12V
Input Voltage (limit)	6-20V
Digital I/O Pins	14
PWM Digital I/O Pins	6
Analog Input Pins	6
DC Current per I/O Pin	20 mA
DC Current for 3.3V Pin	50 mA
Flash Memory	32 KB
SRAM	2 KB
EEPROM	1 KB
Clock Speed	16 MHz



Figure. 1 Arduino Uno

Controls Hardware cont.



- With a speed of 10 mm/s, it would take about 35 seconds for the actuator to fully extend
- The actuator is more than fast enough to track the Sun as it travels

- Max power draw of 36 W for the actuator; 12.8V battery with 10aH
- Allows for 2 hours of full load continuous operation and 9 hours of low load continuous operation with a 20% reserve capacity



Actuation

- Angle control using two linear actuators
- Actuators each have two 2-axis joints for independent movement
- Reduced risk of damage to mirror in case of malfunction





Actuation Cont.

- Heliostats to be installed near Las Vegas, Nevada at 36.1699° N
- Earth's tilt of 23.5° gives a range of solar angles of 36.1699±23.5°= 59.67° to 12.67° from vertical in the South
- The Sun also moves 180° from East to West, but most energy is available when the Sun is high in the sky, making angles near the horizon less desirable to reach



Actuation Cont.

Assumption: Tower and heliostat field is North-South aligned with the tower in the South to minimize Sun-tower angle

Assumption: Heliostats are located between 50 and 100 meters from the tower

$$\theta_{min} = \tan^{-1} \frac{100m}{50m} = 63.43^{\circ} above horizon = 26.57^{\circ} from vertical$$

 $\theta_{max} = \tan^{-1} \frac{50m}{50m} = 45^{\circ} above horizon = 45^{\circ} from vertical$

Actuation Cont.

- Heliostat works by reflecting light, so the Law of Reflection is used
- Angle of Incidence = Angle of Reflection
- Heliostat normal bisects angle between Sun and tower



Actuation Cont.

Maximum heliostat angle North-South from vertical

$$Max = \max(solar \ angle - \frac{abs(Tower \ angle - solar \ angle)}{2}$$
$$= 59.67 - \frac{59.67 - 45}{2} = 52.34^{\circ} \text{ from vertical towards South}$$

Minimum heliostat angle North-South from vertical

$$Min = \min\left(\frac{abs(Tower \ angle - solar \ angle)}{2} + solar \ angle\right)$$
$$= \frac{26.57 - 12.67}{2} + 12.67 = 19.62^{\circ} \text{ from vertical towards South}$$

Actuation Cont.

Maximum heliostat angle East-West from vertical

Sun reaches fully West and fully East, 90° from tower in each direction

$$Min = Max = \frac{90+0}{2} = 45^{\circ}$$
 from vertical in both directions



Actuation Cont.



- North-South angle achieved by actuator mounted high on pillar, lowest angle needed is 0° for neutral position in storms
- East-West angle controlled by lower-mounted actuator for equal control in either direction
- Attached to plastic support by clips screwed onto connector

Ground mounting







Ground Mounting Cont.

Parallel Axis Theorem

$$I = 4\left(\frac{\pi d^4}{64} + \frac{\pi d^2}{4}L^2\right)$$
$$I = 4\left(\frac{\pi (0.032 \, m)^4}{64} + \frac{\pi (0.032 \, m)^2}{4}0.1299^2\right) = 0.209 \, m^4$$

Failure Mode

$$\sigma_{max} = \frac{yM_{max}}{I}$$
$$\sigma_{max} = \frac{(0.1299 \, m)(23.45 \, N \, m)}{0.209 \, m^4} = 14.57$$

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Cost Table Summary

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Total Cost: \$373.75

*Retail pricing for prototyping is higher than for commercial/bulk quantities.

Why this design?



Conclusion

- The Hive-Stat meets the standards for a 1 MW thermal-solar power plant using the reflected light of the Sun off heliostat surfaces
- The Hive-Stat is a unique and innovative design that accomplishes this, while also addressing the need for a small-scale easily deployable heliostat