

An aerial photograph of a large-scale solar panel installation on a flat roof. The panels are arranged in a grid pattern, with white lines separating them. The background shows a residential or commercial area with buildings and trees, slightly out of focus.

The Power Of Solar Panels And Their Angles

M7-23 ENGINEERING

Question

What affects do the different angles on a solar panel have on the amount of energy it absorbs?

Abstract

- In this experiment we will be using 5 solar panels, testing them in the same conditions and testing which angle outputs the most electricity. I will test this by having the 5 solar panels at 5 different angles. My hypothesis is that the most upward facing solar panel will collect the most energy. From my data I can conclude that my hypothesis was supported.

Hypothesis

- If I put 5 solar panels outside and different angles then I can see if a specific angle collects the most sun because of the amount of energy it outputs.

Procedure

- Put all 5 solar panels outside
- Change the angles to 90, 180, 40, 360, and 140 this is degrees
- Then measure the solar panels after 5 minutes to see what power is being outputted
- Repeat 20 times

Materials

- 5 Solar Panels
- 1 Roll Of Electrical Tape
- 1 Pair Of Scissors
- Popsicle Sticks
- Glue
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- Solar Cells
- Voltmeter

Results and Data

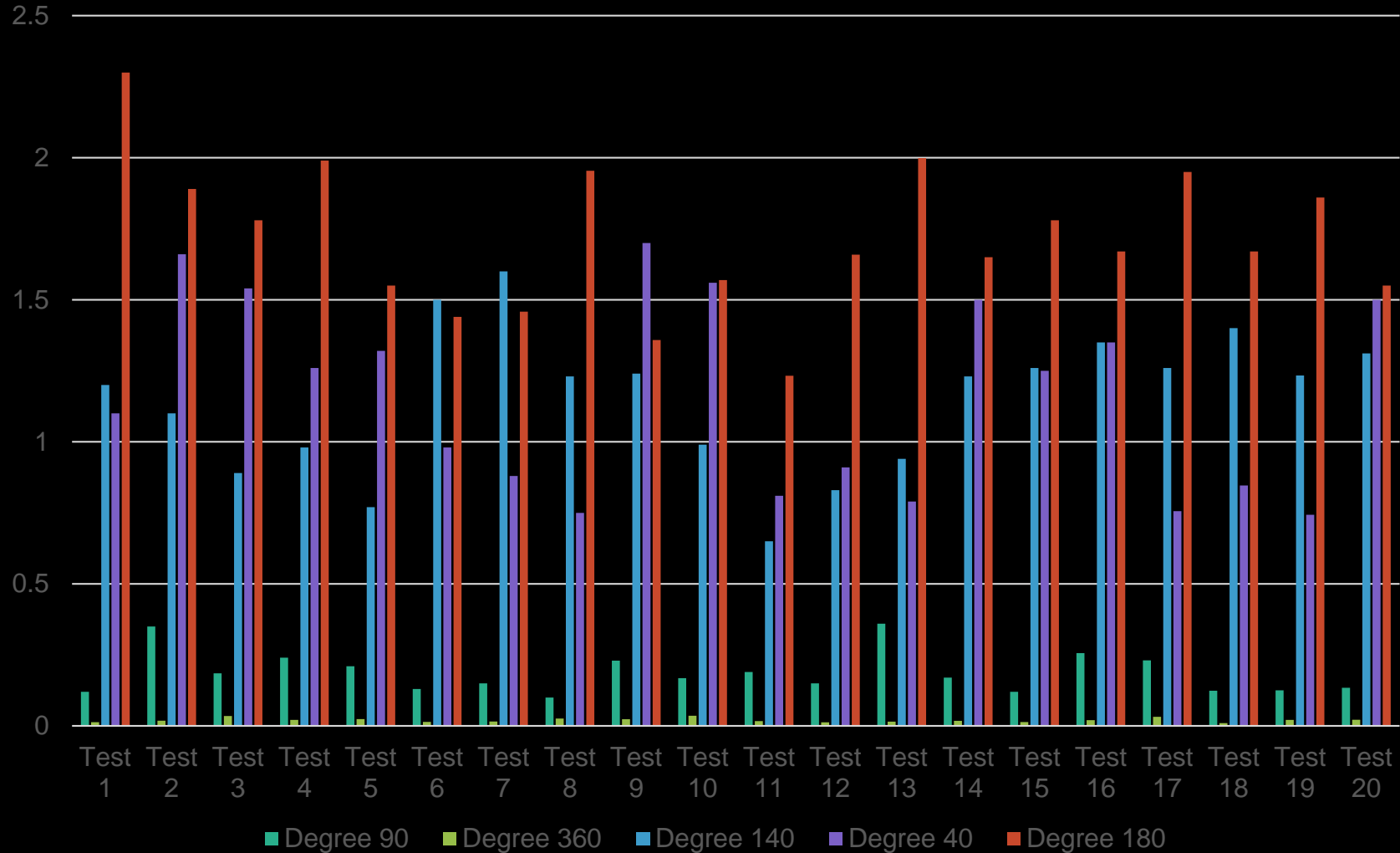
Over all the solar panel with a degree of 180 had the most energy being outputted and was the most efficient at collecting power.

	Degree 90	Degree 360	Degree 140	Degree 40	Degree 180
Test 1	0.12	0.013	1.2	1.1	2.3
Test 2	0.35	0.0185	1.1	1.66	1.89
Test 3	0.185	0.035	0.89	1.54	1.78
Test 4	0.24	0.021	0.98	1.26	1.99
Test 5	0.21	0.024	0.77	1.32	1.55
Test 6	0.13	0.014	1.5	0.98	1.44
Test 7	0.15	0.0156	1.6	0.88	1.458
Test 8	0.1	0.026	1.23	0.75	1.954
Test 9	0.23	0.0235	1.24	1.7	1.3585
Test 10	0.168	0.036	0.99	1.56	1.5694
Test 11	0.19	0.017	0.65	0.81	1.2326
Test 12	0.15	0.01254	0.83	0.91	1.659
Test 13	0.36	0.015	0.94	0.79	1.999
Test 14	0.17	0.018	1.23	1.5	1.65
Test 15	0.12	0.0135	1.26	1.25	1.78
Test 16	0.256	0.0201	1.35	1.35	1.67
Test 17	0.231	0.032	1.26	0.756	1.95
Test 18	0.124	0.01	1.4	0.84645	1.67
Test 19	0.1254	0.021	1.2333	0.743135	1.86
Test 20	0.134	0.02168	1.3113	1.5	1.55

These are measurements in watts

Graph

Energy Being outputted in watts



Conclusion

The solar panel at angle 180 was easily in the lead with it maxing out at 2.3 watts. It was followed by degree 40 and degree 140. Based on this data I would say that my hypothesis was supported by my data.

Bibliography

http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_ideas/Energy_p012.shtml

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