Article

New Curved Reflectors for Significantly Enhanced Solar Power Generation in Four Seasons †

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Abstract: A new curved-type reflector for solar power generation is proposed. By adopting the curved-type reflector between consecutive solar panel arrays, all incoming sunlight can be utilized and thus, the generated power is significantly increased. Furthermore, the proposed curved-type reflector can be generally used in four seasons regardless of the altitude or angle of the installation environment. The optimum design rule for the curved-reflector, comparing to a plane-type reflector, is completely developed in this paper. A new solar cell configuration best fit for the proposed curved-reflector is also provided. Experimental results showed that the curved-type reflector improves the spatial average solar power by 61% compared to no reflector case, which is even 11% higher than the plane-type reflector. Reflectors, especially curved-type reflectors, are found to be one of promising solutions for highly efficient solar power generation.

Keywords: solar power generation; plane-type reflector; curved-type reflector

1. Introduction

Solar power is rapidly replacing existing power sources such as fossil fuels in an effort to address issues mostly related to global climate change, economy, and safety [1–8]. However, solar power has a few limitations, including large fluctuations of the output power depending on weather conditions and angle of sunlight incidence as well as low power generation efficiency [8,9]. Many studies have attempted to improve the efficiency of solar power generation by: improving solar cell efficiency [10], a maximum power point tracking (MPPT) operation method [11,12], a cooling system for solar panels [13], and, optimization of photovoltaic inverters [14–16]. However, the impacts of these methods on efficiency have remained limited due to the seasonal-, time- or weather-varying intensity levels of sunlight incidence on the solar panels.

As the highest elevation angle of the sun is high in summer and low in winter, the seasonal efficiency of the fixed-type solar panel system varies depending on the installation angle of the panels. Generally, in solar power generation, solar panels are arranged consecutively, as shown in Figure 1. However, if two or more panels are installed, additional efficiency loss can arise due to shadows created by the variation of the elevation angle of the sun, especially in winter. Thus, the distance between neighboring panels is often elongated to minimize the efficiency decrement due to the shadows, as shown in Figure 2a. However, this elongated distance increases investment costs, such as land and management costs. Furthermore, it causes waste of sunlight in summer when the unused area is widened, as shown in Figure 2b.
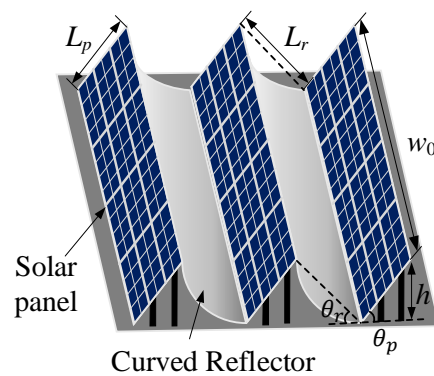
Figure 1. Proposed curved-type reflector for solar power generation.

In an effort to overcome these problems, a bifacial solar panel that uses both sides of the panel was suggested [17,18]. Although it enables the use of the reflected sunlight from the ground or the water surface, the amount of increased power generation is merely about 10%. Therefore, using a reflector with high reflectivity is generally more desirable to increase the efficiency of solar power generation.

Thus, reflectors are installed between neighboring panels, as shown in Figure 2c, to increase the solar power efficiency by nearly 50% in summer compared to no reflector case [19–24]. However, some reflected sunlight cannot enter the solar panel when the elevation angle of the sun is high.

A curved-type reflector, also known as a parabolic-shaped collector, is often used to reflect the incident sunlight onto its focal line, which raises the temperature of the fluid inside the convergence point [25]. However, the curved-reflector has never been used to increase the generated power by consecutive solar panel array. As reflectors are one of the highly promising solutions for an additional efficiency increase in solar power generation, its potential contributions and limitations should be studied in more detail. Not enough analysis and design guidelines on the reflector type have been proposed so far.

In this paper, a new solar panel array using a curved-type reflector by which all incoming sunlight can enter the solar panel regardless of the elevation angle of the sun is proposed, as shown in Figure 2d. Efficiency comparisons with no reflector and a plane-type reflector are provided with explicit analysis results [26].
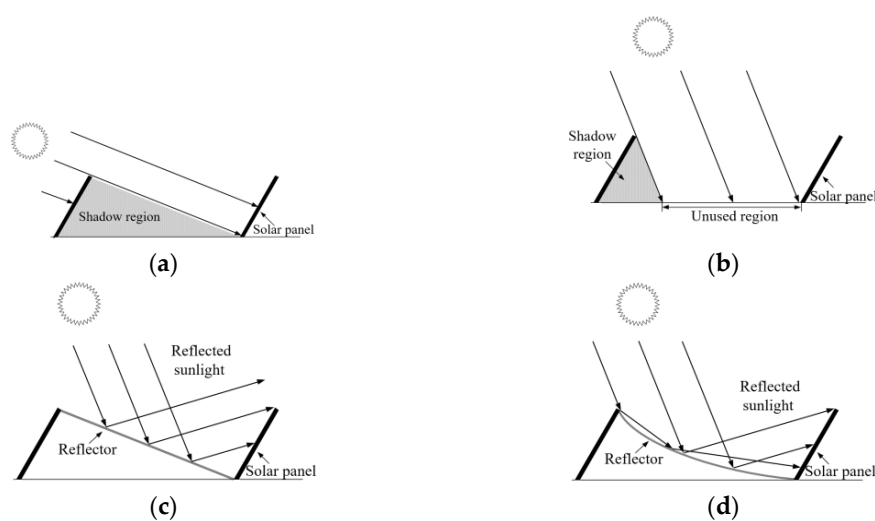

Figure 2. Perspectives of solar panel arrangements according to the inter-panel distance and elevation angle of the sun: (**a**) no reflector without shadows in winter, (**b**) no reflector without shadows in summer, (**c**) plane-type reflector with a loss of sunlight in summer, and (**d**) curved-type reflector without a loss of sunlight in summer.

2. Analysis of the Incidence Power for Different Reflector Types

2.1. Effective Amount of Sunlight Normal to a Panel

In this section, the output power of each type of reflector is fully analyzed. It is assumed that the solar panel is installed to face south (in the northern hemisphere) for all reflectors. In solar power generation systems, the generated power is mainly affected by three factors: the elevation angle of the sun θ_g, the azimuth angle of the sun measured from the north θ_a, and the shadow caused by neighboring panels, as shown in Figure 3. Note that θ_n is the angle of the normal vector of the panel and $\vec{s}$ and $\vec{n}$ are the vectors indicating the direction of the sun from the panel and the normal vector of the panel, respectively.
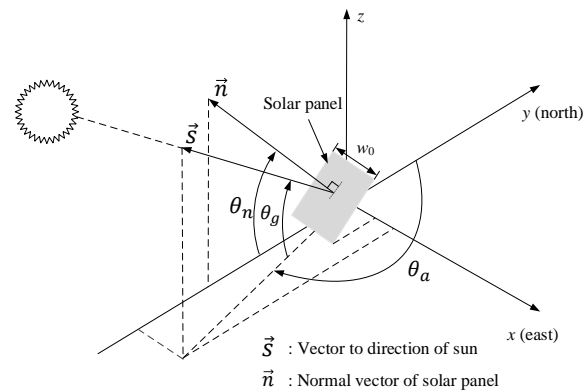

Figure 3. Description of the solar panel and incident sunlight in vector form at an arbitrary date and time.

The average power generated by a solar panel at a certain elevation and azimuth angle of the sun can be expressed as follows:

$$P_{out}(\theta_g, \theta_a) = p_0 w_0 R_e(\theta_g, \theta_a) L_e(\theta_g) \tag{1}$$

where p_0, w_0, $R_e(\theta_g, \theta_a)$, and $L_e(\theta_g)$ correspondingly represent the solar power per unit area of the panel, the panel width, the coefficient of the effective amount of sunlight normal to the panel, and the effective length that determines the amount of sunlight entering into the panel. Therefore, given the type and the size of the solar panel, the photovoltaic power from the solar panel will be determined by two factors: $R_e(\theta_g, \theta_a)$, which is the ratio of the sunlight that intersects the panel perpendicularly, and $L_e(\theta_g)$, which is varied by the reflector types and θ_g for a given panel installation environment.

Figure 3 shows the solar panel and incident sunlight in vector form at an arbitrary date and time. $R_e(\theta_g, \theta_a)$ is expressed as the inner product of two vectors $\vec{s}$ and $\vec{n}$ as follows:

$$\vec{s} = \left(\cos \theta_g \sin \theta_a, \cos \theta_g \cos \theta_a, \sin \theta_g \right) \tag{2}$$

$$\vec{n} = (0, -\cos \theta_n, \sin \theta_n) \tag{3}$$

$$R_e(\theta_g, \theta_a) = \frac{\vec{s} \cdot \vec{n}}{\left| \vec{s} \right| \left| \vec{n} \right|} = -\cos \theta_g \cos \theta_a \cos \theta_n + \sin \theta_g \sin \theta_n \tag{4}$$

As the fixed type of solar panel has a fixed direction for the sun regardless of whether or not a reflector is used, the value of $R_e(\theta_g, \theta_n)$ for all reflector types changes in unison according to the position of the sun. Therefore, $P_{out}(\theta_g, \theta_a)$ concerning the type of reflector or without a reflector is only affected by $L_e(\theta_g)$. In this paper, only $L_e(\theta_g)$ is therefore considered in the performance comparison of the different reflector types.

2.2. Effective Panel Length for the Elevation Angle of the Sun

The proposed reflector-based solar panel system is described in Figure 1, where θ_p and θ_r are the installation angle of the panel and reflector, L_p and L_r are likewise the lengths of the panel and the reflector, and h is both the height of the panel and the reflector, respectively. In order to obtain maximum power, it is important to choose the proper panel and reflector angle, as the altitude of the sun varies with the time and season. In the fixed-type solar power system, the angle of the panel is typically determined within the range of 0° to 60° [27,28]. However, there is a trade-off between the amounts of power generated in summer and winter according to the installation angle of the panel. If the installed panel angle is low, the amount of power generated can be maximized in summer in exchange for the greater power loss in winter due to the low incidence angle of the sunlight on the solar panel. On the other hand, the opposite is true if the installed angle of the panel is high. A reflector can be used to increase the power generated in summer without affecting the power generated in winter even if the installed panel angle is high. In this paper, the panel angle θ_p is set to 60° for example, so that sunlight can enter the panel vertically in winter which can maximize the conversion efficiency when the latitude of the location is 36.5°, as it is at the experiment site in Korea. The reflector angle θ_r is set to 30° so that the panel and the reflector are at a right angle which can minimize the inter-panel distance while avoiding shadows in winter. Moreover, in order to simplify the analysis, the efficiency change caused by the incident angle of sunlight into the solar panel or the optical loss of the reflector are ignored.

As shown in Figure 4, the amount of generated solar power is in proportion to the intensity of sunlight incident on the area of the solar panel, where L_h is the horizontal length of the inter-panel considering the addition of the reflector which is represented as follows:

$$L_h = L_p\left(\cos\theta_p + \frac{\sin\theta_p}{\tan\theta_r}\right) \tag{5}$$

Additionally, ground cover ratio (GCR) usually used for comparison with other configurations can be described as follows [29,30]:

$$\text{GCR} = \frac{L_p}{L_h} = \frac{\tan\theta_r}{\cos\theta_p\tan\theta_r + \sin\theta_p} \tag{6}$$

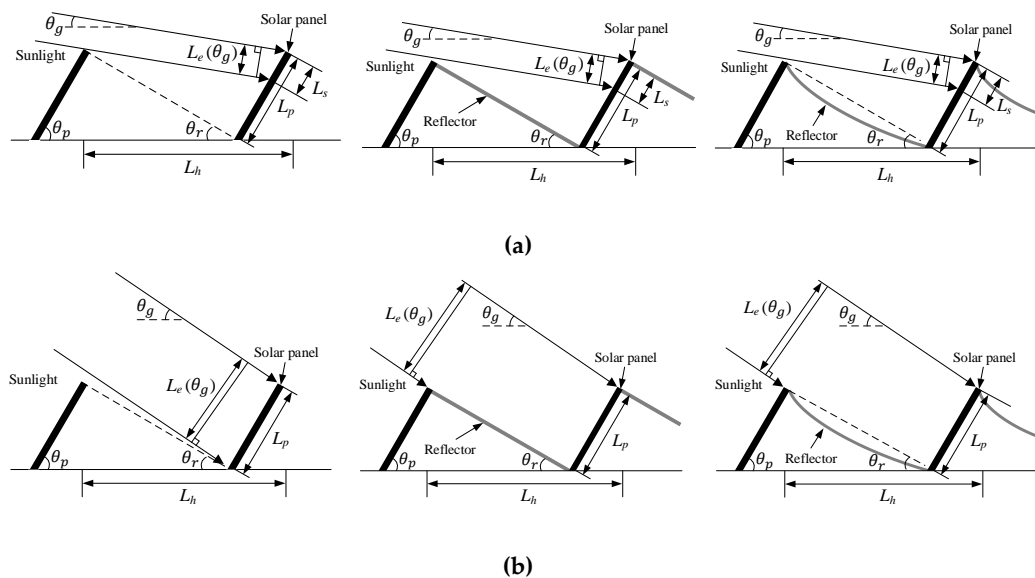where the horizontal axis of the panel is assumed to be infinitely large.

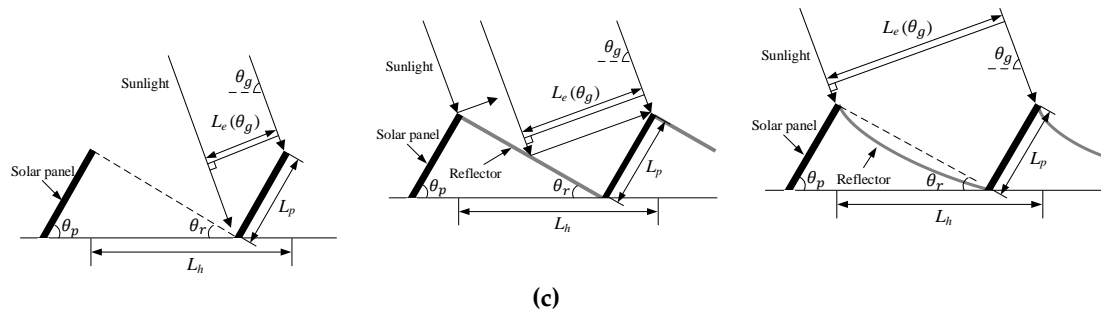**(a)**

(b)

Figure 4. *Cont.*

(c)

Figure 4. Configuration of the effective panel length according to the elevation angle of the sun and the reflector type: (**a**) low angle ($\theta_g \leq \theta_r$), (**b**) middle angle ($\theta_r < \theta_g \leq 2\theta_r$), and (**c**) high angle ($\theta_g > 2\theta_r$): no reflector (**left**), plane-type reflector (**middle**), and curved-type reflector (**right**).

The effective length $L_e(\theta_g)$ is increased by the amount of sunlight reflected by the reflector into the panel, which enhances the intensity of the sunlight entering the solar panel, as shown in Figure 4. The effective length can be categorized into three cases depending on θ_g and θ_r. Moreover, the effective length in each case varies depending on the type of reflector (the plane-type reflector or curved-type reflector) or whether a reflector is used. First, if θ_g is lower than θ_r ($\theta_g \leq \theta_r$), the neighboring panel blocks the sunlight and all reflector types show an identical value of $L_e(\theta_g)$. In this region, the unblocked panel length L_s can be determined as follows [31,32]:

$$L_s = L_p \cdot \frac{\cos\theta_p + \sin\theta_p / \tan\theta_r}{\cos\theta_p + \sin\theta_p / \tan\theta_g} \tag{7}$$

Second, if θ_g is between θ_r and $2\theta_r$ ($\theta_r < \theta_g \leq 2\theta_r$), all reflected sunlight by both the plane and curved reflectors enters the solar panel. In this region, both reflector types show an identical value of $L_e(\theta_g)$ which is higher than in the absence of a reflector, and $L_e(\theta_g)$ is determined by θ_g and L_h.

Third, if θ_g is between $2\theta_r$ and $2\theta_r + \theta_p$ ($2\theta_r < \theta_g \leq 2\theta_r + \theta_p$), some of the sunlight reflected by the plane reflector does not enter the solar panel, whereas all of the sunlight reflected by the curved reflector enters the solar panel, as shown in Figure 4c.

Fourth, if θ_g is higher than $2\theta_r + \theta_p$ ($\theta_g > 2\theta_r + \theta_p$), then $L_e(\theta_g)$. of the plane reflector becomes the same with no reflector type as all of the sunlight reflected by the plane reflector does not enter the solar panel.

The effective length $L_e(\theta_g)$ with respect to θ_g and the reflector type including GCR is summarized and plotted as shown in Table 1 and Figure 5, respectively. From Equations (5) and (6), and Table 1, following inequality for θ_g can be satisfied:

$$L_h \sin\theta_g \geq \frac{L_p}{\sin\theta_r}\sin\theta_r = L_p \geq L_p\cos(\theta_g - \theta_r), \text{ for } \theta_r < \theta_g \leq 2\theta_r \tag{8}$$

$$2L_h\sin\theta_r\cos(\theta_g - \theta_r) = 2L_p\sin(\theta_p + \theta_r)\cos(\theta_g - \theta_r) \geq 2L_p\sin(\theta_p + \theta_r)$$
$$\cos(\theta_p + \theta_r) = L_p\sin 2(\theta_p + \theta_r) \geq L_p\sin(\theta_g + \theta_p), \text{ for } 2\theta_r < \theta_g \leq 2\theta_r + \theta_p \tag{9}$$

$$L_h\sin\theta_g \geq L_p(\cos\theta_p + \frac{\sin\theta_p}{\tan\theta_g})\sin\theta_g = L_p\sin(\theta_g + \theta_p), \text{ for } \theta_g \geq 2\theta_r + \theta_p \tag{10}$$

Thus, $L_e(\theta_g)$ of the curved-type reflector is always higher than that of the plane-type regardless of θ_g which also can be verified from Figure 5. The panel angle θ_p is set to 60° for example in this paper, so that sunlight can be incident on the panel vertically in winter to maximize the conversion efficiency at the experiment site in Korea which has a latitude of 36.5°. To minimize the inter-panel distance and avoid the shadows in winter, the reflector angle θ_r and the GCR are set to 30° and 0.5, respectively. As the output power is proportional to $L_e(\theta_g)$ from (1), the ratio of theoretical spatial average solar

powers for no reflector, plane-type reflector, and curved-type reflector can be achieved from $L_e\!\left(\theta_g\right)$, which is 1.00 : 1.53 : 1.80 when $\theta_p = 60°$, GCR = 0.5.

Table 1. Effective length $L_e\!\left(\theta_g\right)$ according to the elevation angle of the sun θ_g and the type of reflector.

$L_e(\theta_g)$	No Reflector	Plane-Type Reflector	Curved-Type Reflector
Low angle ($\theta_g \le \theta_r$)	$L_s \sin\!\left(\theta_g + \theta_p\right)$	$L_s \sin\!\left(\theta_g + \theta_p\right)$	$L_s \sin\!\left(\theta_g + \theta_p\right)$
Middle angle ($\theta_r < \theta_g \le 2\theta_r$)	$L_p \sin\!\left(\theta_g + \theta_p\right)$	$L_h \sin\theta_g$	$L_h \sin\theta_g$
High angle ($2\theta_r < \theta_g < 2\theta_r + \theta_p$)	$L_p \sin\!\left(\theta_g + \theta_p\right)$	$2L_h \sin\theta_r \cos\!\left(\theta_g - \theta_r\right)$	$L_h \sin\theta_g$
High angle ($2\theta_r + \theta_p < \theta_g$)	$L_p \sin\!\left(\theta_g + \theta_p\right)$	$L_p \sin\!\left(\theta_g + \theta_p\right)$	$L_h \sin\theta_g$
Ground cover ratio (GCR)	$\frac{\tan\theta_r}{\cos\theta_p \tan\theta_r + \sin\theta_p}$	$\frac{\tan\theta_r}{\cos\theta_p \tan\theta_r + \sin\theta_p}$	$\frac{\tan\theta_r}{\cos\theta_p \tan\theta_r + \sin\theta_p}$

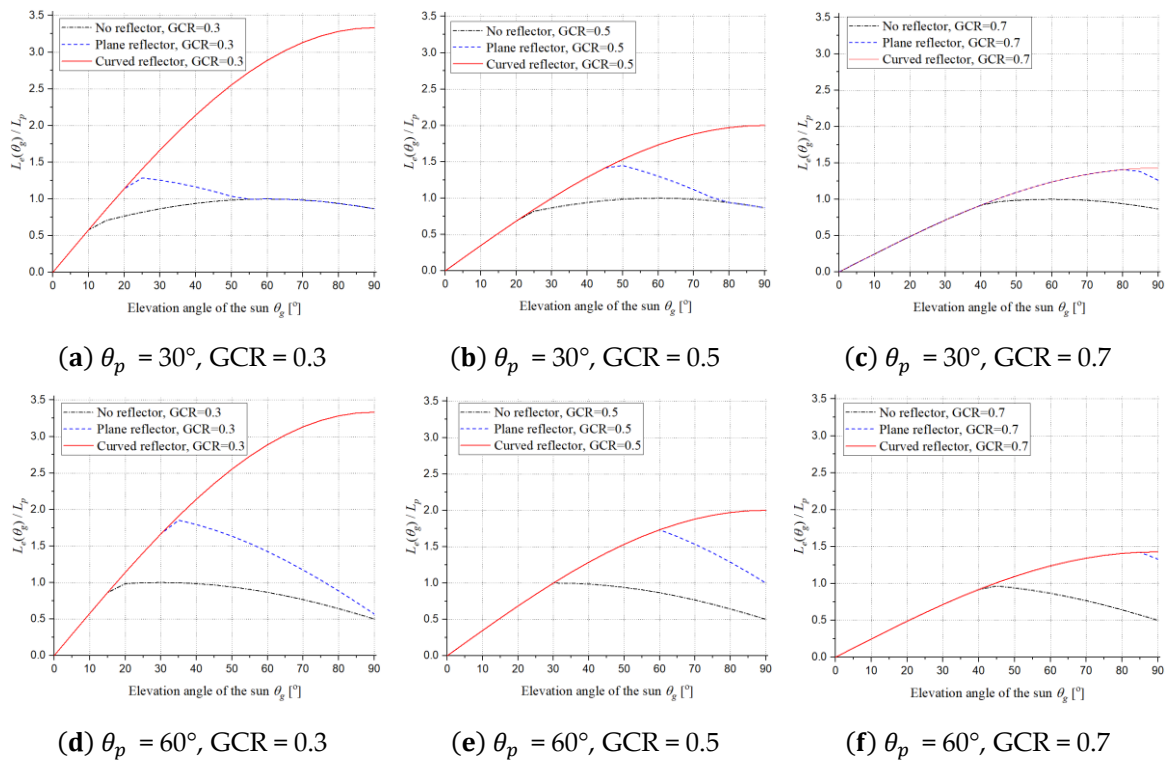(**a**) θ_p = 30°, GCR = 0.3   (**b**) θ_p = 30°, GCR = 0.5   (**c**) θ_p = 30°, GCR = 0.7

(**d**) θ_p = 60°, GCR = 0.3   (**e**) θ_p = 60°, GCR = 0.5   (**f**) θ_p = 60°, GCR = 0.7

Figure 5. Theoretical results of $L\!\left(\theta_g\right)/L_p$ with respect to θ_g, which is plotted for $\theta_p = 30°$, 60°, and GCR = 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, for example.

2.3. Design of the Curved Reflector

As shown in Figure 4c, some of the sunlight reflected by the plane-type reflector may not enter the solar panel when the elevation angle of the sun is high, which can decrease the efficiency. To avoid such sunlight leaks, the curved-type reflector must be designed carefully such that all of the reflected sunlight enters the panel regardless of the elevation angle of the sun. If all of the sunlight reflected by the curved-type reflector is incident on the panel when the sun's altitude is at the meridian altitude in summer, $\theta_{g,max}$, leaked sunlight can be eliminated under all conditions, as shown in Figure 6. Sunlight with a maximum altitude in summer $\theta_{g,max}$ can be represented as follows:

$$\theta_i + \theta_t \le \theta_{g,max},\tag{11}$$

where θ_i is the angle between the sunlight and the tangent line at the endpoint of the curved reflector and θ_t is the angle of the tangent line at the endpoint of the curved reflector.
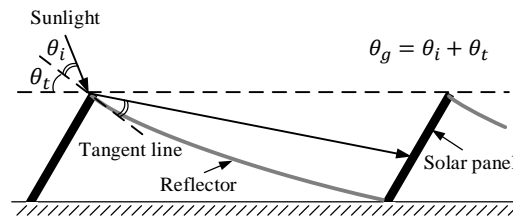
Figure 6. Description of the solar panel system with a curved reflector and sunlight with an elevation angle of θ_g.

In order to enter all of the reflected sunlight into the panel, θ_i must be smaller than θ_t, considering that a pair of angles opposite to each other are identical and the incident and the reflection angle are also identical at the reflector interface. This is expressed as follows:

$$\theta_i \leq \theta_t \tag{12}$$

From Equations (11) and (12), the relationship between θ_i and $\theta_{g,max}$ can be expressed as follows:

$$\theta_i \leq \frac{1}{2}\theta_{g,max} \tag{13}$$

When the sunlight enters at an angle lower than $\theta_{g,max}$, conditions of Equations (11)–(13) are met such that all of the reflected sunlight enters the panel regardless of the elevation of the sun. In this paper, θ_t was set to $0.5\theta_{g,max}$, thus meeting the requirements.

Figure 7 shows parameters that determine the curvature of the proposed curved-type reflector. Note that H_r and R_r. are the height and radius of the curved reflector and θ_C is the angle between the tangent line at the endpoint of the reflector and the line connecting the endpoints of the reflector. The parameters of θ_t, θ_r, and L_r are given values determined by the installation environment and specifications of the solar panel. Thus, the curvature of the proposed curved reflector which meets the conditions of Equations (11)–(13) is determined by two parameters, H_r and R_r, which can be represented as follows:

$$H_r = R_r(1 - \cos\theta_c) \tag{14}$$

$$R_r = \frac{L_r}{2\sin\theta_c} \tag{15}$$
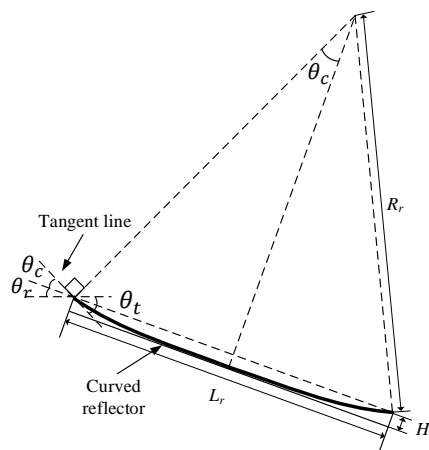
$$\theta_c = \theta_t - \theta_r \tag{16}$$

Figure 7. Description of the curved reflector with parameters that determine the curvature of the reflector.

2.4. Design of the Solar Cell Configuration of the Solar Panel

If the distribution of the light intensity incident on the solar panel is uneven, the power generated by the solar panel varies depending on the method used to connect the solar cells, such as a series connection or a parallel connection. For the curved-type reflector system, the intensity of the sunlight along the vertical line of the solar panel varies depending on the solar altitude and the curvature of the reflector. However, in conventional solar panels, solar cells are usually arranged vertically in series, as shown in Figure 8a. If the solar cell is connected in the conventional arrangement in the curved-type reflector system, the amount of generated power is determined by the solar cells at the weakest point of the sunlight. Therefore, the conventional configuration is not suitable for the proposed curved-type reflector solar power system, as the increased sunlight by the curved reflector cannot be used for power conversion.

Instead, a solar cell configuration that each horizontal line of the solar panel is connected in series is proposed in this paper, as shown in Figure 8b. As the sunlight intensity of each horizontal line of the panel is nearly constant regardless of the reflector type, the maximum power can be obtained in each line by arranging the solar cells as shown in Figure 8b.
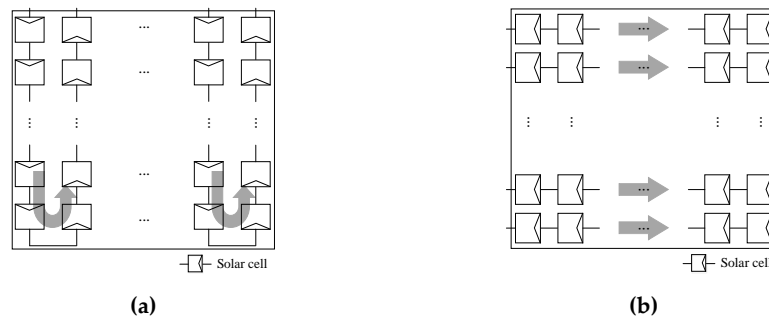

(a)   **(b)**

Figure 8. Description of (**a**) the conventional and (**b**) the proposed solar cell configurations best fit for the curved-type reflector.

The maximum power point (MPP) of the output power P_{out} with respect to the reflector type is obtained in each case using the open-circuit voltage of each line $V_{oc,k}$, the short-circuit current of each line $I_{sc,k}$, and the fill factor of the solar panel F_f which is the ratio of the maximum output power of the solar cell to the product of the open-circuit voltage and short-circuit current of the solar cell, where k represents the kth line of the panel, as described in Figure 9. This is expressed as follows [11]:

$$P_{out} = F_f \sum_{k=1}^{n} V_{oc,k} \cdot I_{sc,k} \tag{17}$$

where n is the number of series-connected solar cell lines of the panel.
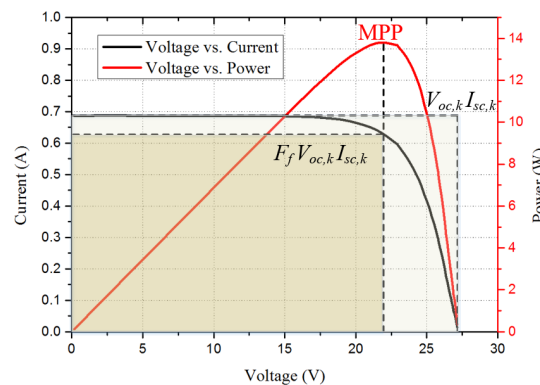

Figure 9. Description of the maximum output point of the kth line of the proposed solar cell configuration.

3. Results

The proposed solar panel with the curved-type reflector was verified using an experimental prototype, as shown in Figures 10 and 11. The solar panel was fabricated using eight lines of series-connected monocrystalline solar cells with 48 cells in each line, with the sectional area of 1342 mm by 798 mm, as shown in Figure 10. The three reflector designs (no reflector, the plane-type reflector, and the curved-type reflector) were fabricated and tested. Both the planar and curved reflectors were made of acrylic, with reflectivity of 85% for convenience of manufacturing, and the sectional area in both cases was 1342 mm by 1383 mm. The installation angles of the solar panel and the reflectors were set to 60° and 30°, respectively, and the latitude of the location where they were installed was 37.5°. The curvature of the curved reflector was set according to the parameters θ_c and H_r, which were set to 7.5° and 125 mm, respectively, such that all of the reflected sunlight can enter the solar panel where $\theta_{g,max}$ is 75°.
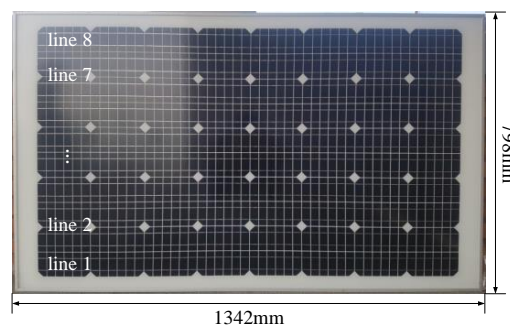

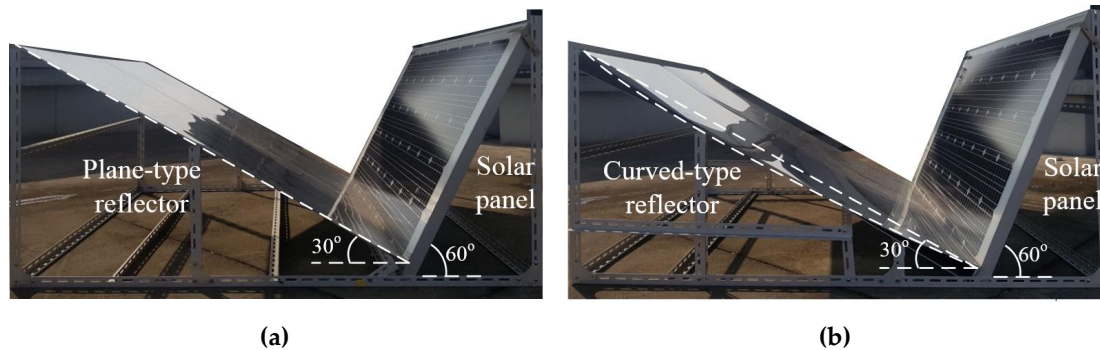**Figure 10.** Fabricated solar panel with series-connected solar cells in each line.

Figure 11. Fabricated prototypes of (**a**) the planar-type reflector and (**b**) the proposed curved-type reflector solar power system.

To measure the maximum output power of the panel, as identified from Equation (17), the open-circuit voltage $V_{oc,k}$ and short-circuit current $I_{sc,k}$ of eight lines of the solar panel for each reflector type were measured simultaneously over various elevation angles of the sun θ_g using LABVIEW, where n was set to 8. Additionally, the current-voltage characteristics of the fabricated solar panel were assessed, and the experimental value of fill factor F_f was found to be 0.74.

Figure 12 shows the experimental results of P_{out} for each reflector case with respect to θ_g when it ranged from 0° to 90° in 5° steps. Since $\theta_{g,max}$ is 75° in the installation environment for the latitude of 36.5° incident sunlight angle above $\theta_{g,max}$ cannot be measured experimentally. Thus, experimental results where incident sunlight angles exceeding $\theta_{g,max}$ were measured by leaning the entire solar power system. For example, θ_g of 80° was measured by leaning the whole system 5 degrees to the direction of sunlight. Note that as the proposed curved type reflector was optimized at $\theta_{g,max}$, some of the reflected sunlight may not enter into the panel if the incident sunlight angle is above $\theta_{g,max}$. Each of

the results was normalized according to P_{max}, which is the maximum value of P_{out}. As described in the analysis, the power generated by the solar panel was higher in the curved-type reflector as θ_g increases due to the increased incident solar power entering the panel due to the curved-type reflector. When θ_g exceeds 60°, the generated output power of the curved-type reflector decreases, as the angle of incidence is high enough to decrease the conversion efficiency of the solar cell [33] and the curved-type reflector was designed for $\theta_{g,max}$ of 75°. The ratio of the measured spatial average solar powers for no reflector, plane-type reflector, and curved-type reflector was 1.00 : 1.45 : 1.61. This ratio is a little less than the theoretical result of 1.00 : 1.53 : 1.80, as the reflectivity of the reflector is not ideal and the efficiency of the solar cell depends on the angle of the incident light or its actual temperature. The experiment values for $\theta_g > 60°$ deviate from the theory, as shown in Figure 12b,c due to the non-ideal reflectivity of reflectors.

However, the proposed curved reflector basically aims to increase the incident light on the panel dramatically compared to the conventional system, and the temperature increment effect can be minimized by changing the curvature of the curved reflector. As the goal of this paper is to verify the effectiveness of the curved-type reflector, long-term performance and a time average comparison among the reflector types during the year or day was not done, and this remains as future work.

The maximum output power from the solar panel for three cases which are no reflector, plane-type reflector, and curved-type reflector, is summarized in Table 2. Output power was measured when the sunlight illuminance is 100 kLux, which is the same as the illuminance of direct sunlight. The theoretical value was calculated based on the characteristics of the fabricated solar panel. The result shows that not only the spatial average power but also the maximum output power is higher than the other two cases when the curved reflector is adopted.

(a)

(b)

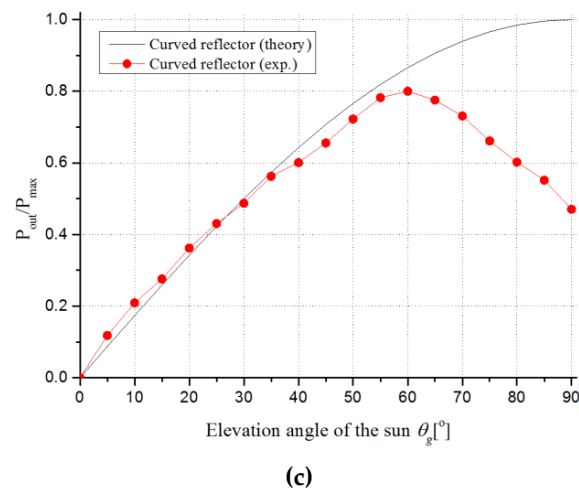**Figure 12.** *Cont.*

(c)
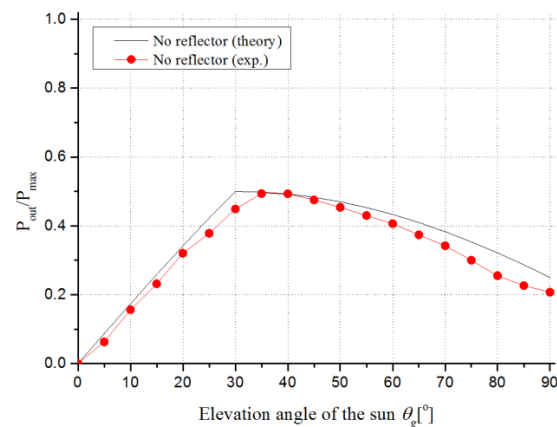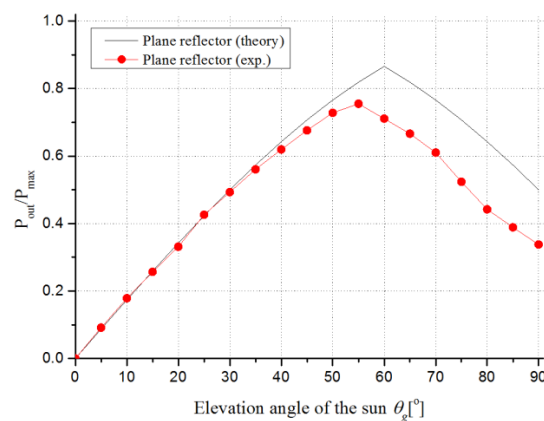
Figure 12. Experimental results of P_{out}/P_{max} with respect to the elevation angle of the sun θ_g and the reflector type: (**a**) no reflector, (**b**) plane-type reflector, and (**c**) curved-type reflector.

Table 2. Comparison of maximum output power for no reflector, plane-type reflector, and curved-type reflector.

	No Reflector	Plane-Type Reflector	Curved-Type Reflector
Theory (W/100kLux)	107.0 ($\theta_g = 30°$)	185.3 ($\theta_g = 60°$)	214.0 ($\theta_g = 90°$)
Experiment (W/100kLux)	105.6 ($\theta_g = 35°$)	161.5 ($\theta_g = 55°$)	171.2 ($\theta_g = 60°$)

Figure 13 shows the measured uneven characteristics of the illuminance distribution of the curved-type reflector when the elevation angle of the sun is 60°. A total of 242 points were measured and each result was normalized by the minimum value of the illuminance. The results indicate that reflected sunlight was concentrated along the horizontal line as the light distribution of the reflected sunlight is not even. Therefore, the horizontal connection of the solar cells in series is more suitable for the proposed curved-type reflector-based solar power system. The concentration of the reflected sunlight can be mitigated by adjusting the curvature of the curved-type reflector, which remains as future work.
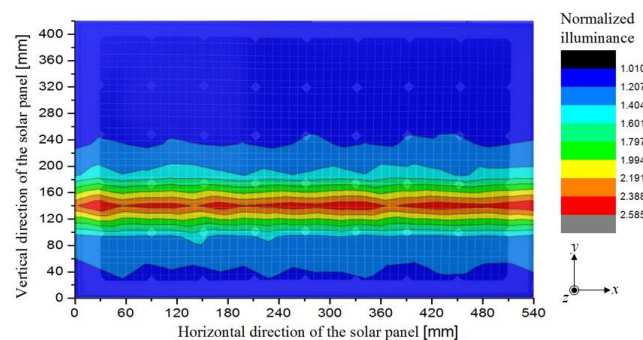

Figure 13. Measured illuminance distribution of the solar panel with a curved-type reflector when the elevation angle of the sun is 60°.

4. Conclusions

Solar panels using the curved-type reflector showed significantly increased generated solar power compared to conventional systems with no reflector or plane-type reflector. Complete theoretical analyses on the performance of the curved-type and plane-type reflectors according to the elevation angle of the sun are first shown in this paper. With the proposed curved-type reflector, all of the reflected

sunlight enters the panel regardless of the elevation angle of the sun. The ratio of experimental results for the spatial average solar power for no reflector, plane-type reflector, and curved-type reflector was 1.00 : 1.45 : 1.61. The proposed theoretical models are found to be quite accurate except for a higher elevation angle of the sun, where reflectivity of the non-ideal reflectors is deteriorated. The proposed curved-type reflector can be easily installed between existing solar panels, which increases the solar power generation on average of up to 61%. It is demonstrated throughout this paper, that reflectors are one of the promising solutions for solar power generation. Especially a curved-type reflector is a better solution than the plane-type one. However, the efficiency improvement for a higher elevation angle of the sun was not effective due to the non-ideal reflectivity of the reflectors.

To improve the efficiency of the reflector-type solar power generation for a higher angle of the sun, as well as to determine the minimum reflectivity of reflectors for achieving a given efficiency improvement, are left for future works.

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