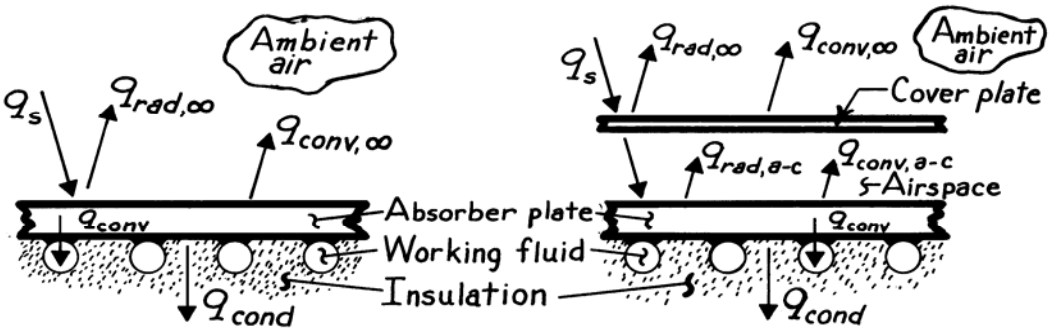
PROBLEM 1.87(b)

KNOWN: Configuration of a flat plate solar collector.

FIND: Relevant heat transfer processes with and without a cover plate.

SCHEMATIC:



The relevant processes without (above left schematic) and with (above right schematic) include:

q_S	Incident solar radiation, a large portion of which is absorbed by the absorber plate. Reduced with use of cover plate (primarily due to reflection off cover plate).
$q_{rad,\infty}$	Net radiation exchange between absorber plate or cover plate and surroundings,
$q_{conv,\infty}$	Convection from absorber plate or cover plate to ambient air,
$q_{rad,a-c}$	Net radiation exchange between absorber and cover plates,
$q_{conv,a-c}$	Convection heat transfer across airspace between absorber and cover plates,
q_{cond}	Conduction through insulation, and
q_{conv}	Convection to working fluid.

COMMENTS: The cover plate acts to significantly reduce heat losses by convection and radiation from the absorber plate to the surroundings.