

Simulation and Modeling of the CO² Refrigeration System

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Outline

- 1. General Background
- 2. Literature Reviews
- 3. Simulation Method
- 4. Simulation results
- 5. Conclusion

General Background for CO₂ Refrigeration

- Carbon dioxide (CO_2) had been used as a refrigerant for compression refrigeration system as early as 1880.
- Non-toxic, non-combustible, low cost and readily available.
- $CO₂$ Refrigerant is used over 80% in fishing vessel and relevant transportation.
- Carbon dioxide was greatly phased out when synthetic refrigerant was invented since 1920.
- From 1990, the concerns on environmental concerns has revived the comeback of $CO₂$.

Stera A. Ammonia refrigerating plant on reefer ships. Introduction to ammonia as a marine refrigerant. Lloyd's Register Technical Seminar, London; 1992.

Typical CO₂ Heat Pump Water Heater

Move ambient heat into Hot water.

Source of the product picture: model# HE-K37AQS from Panasonic(Matsushita) online catalogue http://national.jp/sumai/hp/online.html

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[Thermodyna](http://www.nctu.edu.tw/)mic and transport properties of CC near the critical point

• Near the critical point, density, enthalpy and entropy changes considerably. Specific heat shows a spike phenomenon. The peak is especially pronounced at the "pseudo" critical point.

When the pressure is increased above the critical pressure, each pressure value corresponds to an extreme value. This temperature with extreme specific heat value is called pseudocritical temperature. This pseudo-critical temperature will increase as the pressure rises, but the spike of the maximum value of the specific heat becomes less evident with increasing

pressure.

Typical $CO₂$ refrigerating cycle is above the critical point. The expansion process and the evaporation process are in the subcritical region. Therefore, $CO₂$ refrigeration cycle operates across supercritical and subcritical point region and they are called the Transcritical Cycle. Because the temperature of the critical point of carbon dioxide is low (about 31.1 ° C). Therefore, for the normal ambient temperature, no condensing occurs and single-phase gas cooling is encountered.

Typical P-h diagram for $CO₂$ & conventional refrigerant

[C](http://www.nctu.edu.tw/)OP of the Refrigerants

"Ozone depletion potential-compared with R-11.

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'Global warming potential-compared with R-11.

Threshold limit value for exposure of 8 h/day, 40 h/week, without any adverse effect.

'Zero effective GWP, because more than sufficient quantities of it can be recovered from waste gases. 'At 100°C.

Table 1 - Comparative refrigerant performance

Based upon a standard operating cycle of 258K evaporating temperature, 303K condensing temperature, 0K subcooling and 0 K superheat.

Evaporating temperature (C)

Fig. 2. Relative COP of an isentropic vapour compression cycle for different refrigerants [4].

Fig. 3. COP of a heat pump with R-22 and R-290, for different brine inlet evaporator temperatures [12].

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Comparison between CO₂, R410A & R-407C

Note: RAC= residential air-conditioning; PAC= packaged air-conditioning.

¹ Ozone depletion potential

² Global warming potentials are based on IPCC 2001.

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The Development of Heat Pump Water Heaters Using $CO₂$ Refrigerant

Aim of this study: develop a simulation program for CO² refrigeration cycle.

Literature Reviews

- There is a big difference between carbon dioxide refrigeration cycle and traditional refrigerants. The critical temperature and critical pressure of $CO₂$ are 31.1°C and 78.8 Bar in room temperature applications (such as outside air at 35° C), and the refrigerant will operate above the critical point.
- $CO₂$ refrigerant can't be cooled by ordinary condenser. $CO₂$ is cooled by near single-phase gas. Normally we call the heat exchanger as **Gas Cooler** rather than condenser.

Basic outline of the present simulation method

Simulation method

The $CO₂$ refrigeration Cycle contains four major components, including a gas cooler, an evaporator, a compressor and an expansion valve.

$$
\dot{m}_{r,o} - \dot{m}_{r,i} = 0
$$

$$
\dot{m}_{r,o}h_{r,o} - \dot{m}_{r,i}h_{r,i} = W_{com}
$$

isentropic efficiency and volumetric efficiency for the compressor

$$
\eta_{\text{isen}} = \frac{h_{r,\text{isen}} - h_{r,i}}{h_{r,o} - h_{r,i}} \qquad \eta_{\text{v}} = \frac{\dot{m}_{r,i}}{\rho_{r,i} V_{\text{com}} N_{\text{com}}}
$$

From Sarkar et al.,

$$
\eta_{v} = 0.9207 - 0.0756(\frac{P_{dis}}{P_{suc}}) + 0.0018(\frac{P_{dis}}{P_{suc}})^{2}
$$

$$
\eta_{\rm isen} = -0.26 + 0.7952(\frac{P_{\rm dis}}{P_{\rm suc}}) - 0.2803(\frac{P_{\rm dis}}{P_{\rm suc}})^2 + 0.0414(\frac{P_{\rm dis}}{P_{\rm suc}})^3 - 0.0022(\frac{P_{\rm dis}}{P_{\rm suc}})^4
$$

Gas Cooler Model

Objective: Simulation of the Targeted HX – A Tube-in-tube HX (Double Pipe HX)

• The heat exchanger is a tube-in-tube type, and the water flows counter-currently against the coolant (carbon dioxide) during the heat exchanging process.

Discretizing the HX due to significant change of physical properties

 Due to considerable change of physical properties, especially near pseudo-critical temperature, the heat exchanger must be subdivided into many small segments.

Basic equations

• Energy balance/pressure drop amid water and coolant can be written in the following equations:

$$
Q_1 = m_c \times Cp_{c1} \times (T_{a1} - T_{a2}) = m_w \times Cp_{w1} \times (T_{b1} - T_{b2})
$$
 (1)

$$
Q_1 = (UA)_1 \times (LMTD)_1 \tag{2}
$$

$$
P_{a2} - P_{a1} = \frac{4L}{d} \times f \times \frac{G_c^2}{2\rho_c}
$$
 (3)

Physical Configurations

Each segment has three unknown parameters. (water temperature, CO₂ temperature and $CO₂$ pressure).

There are three equations for each segment.

The unknown parameters can thus be solved through these equations.

HTCs in $CO₂$ & water

• For CO_2 , Dang and Hihara (2004) correlation:

$$
N_u = \frac{{f \choose s} (\text{Re}-1000) \text{Pr}}{1.07+12.7 \sqrt{\frac{f}{s}} (\text{Pr}^2/\text{s}-1)} \quad \text{Pr} = \left\{\begin{array}{cc} {^{Cp_b\mu_b}}/{_{\lambda_b}} \, , & \text{for $c_{p_b} \geq \overline{c_p}$} \\ {\frac{1}{c_{p_b}\mu_b}}/{_{\lambda_f}} \, , & \text{for $c_{p_b} < \overline{c_p}$ and ${}^{\mu_b}}/{_{\lambda_b}} \geq {^{\mu_f}}/{_{\lambda_f}} \\ {\frac{1}{c_{p_b}\mu_f}}/{_{\lambda_f}} \, , & \text{for $c_{p_b} < \overline{c_p}$ and ${}^{\mu_b}}/{_{\lambda_b}} < {^{\mu_f}}/{_{\lambda_f}} \end{array} \right.
$$

• For water, Genielinski方程式:

$$
N_{u} = \frac{\left(\frac{f}{2}\right)(Re - 1000)Pr}{1.07 + 12.7\sqrt{\frac{f}{2}(Pr^{2}/3} - 1)} \qquad f = [1.58 ln(Re_b) - 3.28]^{-2}
$$

[Algorith](http://www.nctu.edu.tw/)m for Solution of the Gas Cooler

- 1. List the basic equations.
- 2. Make the properties of fluid into these equations.
- 3. Decide the segment number for calculation, and build the completed equation sets through do loops.
- 4. Start iterating.
- 5. Print out the results if the equations are convergent.

Results and Discussion

• For validating the proposed model, calculation is compared with the measurements of Pitla et al.

Pitla et al. had conducted CO_2 tube-in-tube heat exchanger with ID = 0.00472m and $OD = 0.00635m$ for inner tube, $ID = 0.01575m$ for outer tube.

The calculations are in line with the experimental measurement, suggesting the applicability of the present modeling.

Results and Discussion & National Chiao Tung University

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Effect of the inlet pressure on (a) the variation of the local heat transfer rate vs. the dimensionless tube length, (b) the variation of c_{p} vs. the dimensionless tube length and (c) the variation of the $CO₂$ temperature vs. the dimensionless tube length.

 x/L (from the inlet of C_{min}) Q x/L (from the inlet of C_{min}) Q (a) (b) x/L (from the inlet of C_{min}) $\begin{array}{ccccccccccccccccc} \textsf{Q} & & & \textsf{Q} & & & \textsf{Q} & & & \textsf{Q} & & & \end{array}$ x/L (from the inlet of C_{min})

Schematic of the variation of the local heat transfer rate for a tube-in-tube heat exchanger: (a) Constant property, CminCmax; (b) Constant property, C_{min} = Cmax; (c) CO² flow across the pseudo-critical point; and (d) Variable property.

 $\qquad \qquad \textbf{(c)}\qquad \qquad \textbf{(d)}$

Concluding remarks for Gas Cooler

- Unlike conventional working fluid which normally shows a monotonically decrease of local heat transfer rate along the tube length, the CO₂ shows a different trend as compared to typical sub-critical fluids.
- The local heat transfer rate does not monotonically decrease with the tube length.
- In fact, a plateau occurs somewhere inside the heat exchanger. Moreover, a second maximum is seen when p is below 10 MPa, yet a significant of recovering of local heat transfer rate is encountered for $p = 8$ MPa despite the maximum temperature difference still occurs at the water inlet.
- The phenomenon is attributed to the significant rise of specific heat of $CO₂$ near pseudo critical temperature.
- The effect of tube diameter plays a crucial role of $CO₂ HX$, this is especially pronounced when the thermal resistance is on the CO_2 side.

Azi Arthur Apple Capillary tube Model

The calculation condition is based on the continuity equation, energy equation and pressure drop equations:

$$
\dot{m}_{r,o} - \dot{m}_{r,i} = 0
$$

 $\dot{m}_{r,o} h_{r,o} - \dot{m}_{r,i} h_{r,i} = 0$

Agrawal et al. [14] pressure drop equation :

$$
\frac{dp}{dL} = \left(\frac{dp}{dL}F\right) + \left(\frac{dp}{dL}a\right) \qquad \qquad \frac{dp}{dL} = -G^2(f_p\frac{v}{2D} + \frac{dv}{dL})
$$

Lin et al. [15] empirical formula can calculate the friction coefficient of the twophase flow :

$$
f_{tp} = \varphi_{tp} f_{sp} \left(\frac{v_{sp}}{v_{tp}}\right) \qquad \qquad \varphi_{tp} = \left[\frac{(8/Re_{tp})^{12} + (A_{tp}^{16} + B_{tp}^{16})^{-3/2}}{(8/Re_{sp})^{12} + (A_{sp}^{16} + B_{sp}^{16})^{-3/2}} \right]^{1/12} \left[1 + x \left(\frac{v_{g}}{v_{l}} - 1\right) \right]
$$

$$
A = 2.457 \ln \frac{1}{(7/Re_{t_p})^{0.9} + 0.27 \varepsilon / D}
$$

$$
B = \frac{37530}{Re_{t_p}}
$$

[pressur](http://www.nctu.edu.tw/)e drop in capillary tube *Pi , xⁱ*

The refrigerant flow out from the condensation region and through a smooth tube in single-phase liquid. It's change to two-phase in the tube in constant enthalpy.

$$
\frac{1}{\mu_{tp}} = \frac{1-x}{\mu_l} + \frac{x}{\mu_g}
$$

$$
\frac{dp}{dL} = -G^2(f_{tp}\frac{v}{2D} + \frac{dv}{dL})
$$

The capillary tube is further divided into many small segments to calculate pressure (Δp) and quality(*x*) alongside the capillary tube. The outlet quality and exit pressure is also obtained.

h =

const

P^o , x^o

Evaporator Model

• Fin-tube heat exchanger in evaporator region. Fluid flow pattern is a counter-cross flow. $CO₂$ refrigerant is flowing in the tube and the air is flowing outside

the tube.

Threlkeld (1970) for wet coil analysis:

$$
Q_a = \dot{m}_a \left(i_{a,i} - i_{a,o} \right) \qquad \text{(Air side)}
$$

$$
Q_c = \dot{m}_c C_{p,c} (T_{c,o} - T_{c,i})
$$
 (Refrigerant side)

$$
Q = U_{o,w} A_o F \Delta i_m
$$

$$
\Delta i_m = i_{a,i} + \frac{(i_{a,i} - i_{a,o})}{\ln(\frac{i_{a,i} - i_{r,o}}{i_{a,o} - i_{r,i}})} - \frac{(i_{a,i} - i_{a,o})(i_{a,i} - i_{r,o})}{(i_{a,i} - i_{r,o}) - (i_{a,o} - i_{r,i})}
$$

 $i_{a,i'}$ $i_{a,o}$: inlet and outlet of air enthalpy

 $i_{r,i}$: corresponding saturated air enthalpy evaluated at the inlet refrigerant temperature $i_{{\scriptscriptstyle L}$: corresponding saturated air enthalpy evaluated at the outlet refrigerant temperature

Basic Equations

Two-phase region

$$
Q_{1c} = m_c \times i_{fg} \times (1 - x) = m_a \times (i_{a1} - i_{ao})
$$

$$
Q_{1c} = (UA)_1 \times (LMHD)_1
$$

Single-phase region

$$
Q_{2c} = m_c \times Cp_c \times (T_{co} - T_s) = m_a \times (i_{ai} - i_{a1})
$$

$$
Q_{2c} = (UA)_2 \times (LMHD)_2
$$

Total heat exchange area $A_{total} = A_1 + A_2$

Evaporator

- The calculation of the air-side heat transfer coefficient
- Threlkeld (1970) Wet coil Analysis Method:

$$
h_{o,w} = \frac{1}{c_{p,a}} = \left(\frac{c_{p,a}}{b'_{w,m}h_{c,o}}\right)^{-1}
$$

$$
b'_{w,m}=\frac{i-i_{s,w,m}}{T-T_{f,m}}
$$

$$
h_{c,o} = j_{wet} \times G_c \times C_{pa} \times \text{Pr}_a^{-2/3}
$$

Evaporator

- Refrigerant side
- Hihara and Tanaka (2000) correlation:

$$
\frac{\alpha}{\alpha_{lo}} = K_1 Bo + K_2 \left(\frac{1}{X_{tt}}\right)^{2/3}
$$

$$
\alpha_{lo} = 0.023 \,\text{Re}_l^{0.8} \,\text{Pr}_l^{0.4} \,\frac{\lambda_l}{d_i}
$$

$$
K_1 = 1.4 \times 10^4
$$
, $K_2 = 0.93$

$$
X_{tt} = \left(\frac{1-x}{x}\right)^{0.9} \left(\frac{\rho_g}{\rho_l}\right)^{0.5} \left(\frac{\mu_l}{\mu_g}\right)^{0.1}
$$

图主主通大學 [C](http://www.nctu.edu.tw/)ycle Analysis Method

The first step is assuming the compressor inlet pressure, inlet temperature, outlet pressure. With these three values, one can calculate the mass flow rate of refrigerant. After $2 \rightarrow 3$ adiabatic process, the discharge compressor temperature can be obtained. $3 \rightarrow 4$ One can obtain a outlet temperature and enthalpy using the gas cooler model. Thus the exit state after capillary tube can be obtained via the $4 \rightarrow 1$ using capillary model. Checking whether the outlet pressure is the same pressure as the original guess. If it is different, we must re-assume the compressor outlet pressure. $1 \rightarrow 2$ Entering the evaporator and calculate the heat transfer rate with air. If it does not satisfied the energy balance equation in evaporation region, we should re-assume the initial value from the first step. P

h

The calculation process make use the following assumptions: 1. Heat loss is negligible 2. Steady state 3. No pressure drop in gas cooler & evaporator 4. Ignore the change of kinetic and potential energy in capillary tube

h

Simulation results

Predictions vs. Measurements

[Effect of the dry bulb a](http://www.nctu.edu.tw/)ir temperature on (a) refrigerant mass flow rate (b) COP (c) pressure (d) heat transfer rate. With RH=50%, Twi=20°C, Mw=0.08kgs⁻¹, Lcap=2.0m,

Effect of water inlet temperature on (a) refrigerant mass [fl](http://www.nctu.edu.tw/)ow rate (b) COP (c) pressure (d) heat transfer rate. With

Tdb=27℃, Twb=20℃, Vfr=8.5CMM, Lcap=2.0m,

Effect of the capillary tube length on (a) refrigerant mass flow rate (b) COP (c) pressure (d) heat transfer

Conclusions

- This study develops a simulation program of $CO₂$ refrigerant cycle system. The simulation program is capable of handling the variation of indoor conditions, gas cooler, compressor speed, and geometry of capillary tube without any prescribed conditions (i.e. fixed evaporation temperature, fixed condensing temperature, and the like).
- In gas cooler, the CO_2 may present a local minimum and a local maximum along the length of the heat exchange, provided CO2 passes through the pseudo-critical temperature, and this phenomenon becomes more and more pronounced when the pressure is close to the critical pressure
- The RH of the indoor air is an important factor affecting the overall system performance.
- Increasing the water side inlet temperature or increasing the compressor speed will decrease COP of the system.
- An increase of the length of capillary tube also increases the COP moderately.

Thanks for your attention

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