

Performance Assessment of Solar Absorption Cooling for Ontario Housing

by

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Abstract

Residential energy consumption from space-cooling has more than doubled in Canada in the last two decades, and accounts for a large portion of summer electricity usage peaks. Presently, the most common space-cooling technology in use is electrically driven vapour compression systems. These systems place a large strain on the central electricity system. Furthermore, the marginal power required to supply space-cooling is often supplied by non-renewable sources of energy, such as coal and natural gas. Solar thermal energy can be used as the driving source for a residential absorption cooling system, removing the bulk of the energy demand of the cooling system from the electricity grid while continuing to provide comfortable living conditions. In order to assess the suitability of solar absorption cooling for residential space-cooling in Ontario (Canada), simulations of the thermal and electrical performance of the technology have been completed. The goal of the research is to determine whether a solar absorption cooling system could meet the cooling loads of typical Ontario single, detached houses given the climate and housing characteristics of the region.

A TRNSYS model was constructed to dimension key system components. Two custom Types were created for this model: a controller and an absorption chiller. The size of the solar thermal array and the volumes of the hot and cold stores were established based upon a series of sensitivity analyses. Following this, an ESP-r model was configured to represent the entire energy system: the house, the occupant electrical loads, the solar thermal collectors, absorption chiller, hot and cold stores, and all ancillary equipment. To meet the goals of this research programme it was necessary to develop a calibrated model of an absorption chiller suitable for building performance simulation. A set of experimentally acquired absorption chiller performance data has been used to calibrate an absorption chiller model in ESP-r.

A control function was created in ESP-r to provide added flexibility in the execution of the plant system. Models of typical Ontario houses were selected for building performance simulation in conjunction with the plant model, and different system strategies and climates, using ESP-r. The simulations of the solar absorption cooling system demonstrate that the application of the technology is feasible for cooling Ontario houses, and results in significant reduction of residential greenhouse gas emissions.

To my husband, Jonathan James Stuart Edwards.

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Nomenclature

A	Area	m ²
AL	Appliance and lighting	
AIM-2	Alberta Infiltration Model	
BPS	Building performance simulation	
C	Specific heat capacity	J/kg°C
\bar{c}	Average specific heat capacity	J/kg°C
CH ₄	Methane	
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide	
CO _{2eq}	Equivalent CO ₂	
COP	Coefficient of performance	(-)
CSDDRD	Canadian stock of single-detached double, and row houses database	
CWEC	Canadian weather for energy calculations	
CWEEDS	Canadian weather energy and engineering datasets	
DHW	Domestic hot water	
E	Energy	MJ
F'	Collector efficiency factor	(-)
F _R	Collector heat removal factor	(-)
G _T	Incoming solar energy	W/m ²
GHG	Greenhouse gas	

GHGIF	Greenhouse gas intensity factor	
GTA	Greater Toronto area	
GWP	Global warming potential	(-)
h	Heat transfer coefficient	W/mK
H ₂ O	Water	
I	Current node	
I + 1	Next node in space	
I - 1	Previous node in space	
IESO	Independent Electricity System Operator	
HVAC	Heating, ventilation and air conditioning	
IAM	Incidence angle modifier	
J	Linear heat loss coefficient	W/m ² K
k	Thermal conductivity	W/mK
K _{act}	Incidence angle modifier	(-)
K ₁	Transversal IAM	(-)
K ₂	Longitudinal IAM	(-)
L	Quadratic heat loss coefficient	W/m ² K ²
LiBr	Lithium Bromide	
M	Number of adjoining zones	(-)
m	Mass	kg
\dot{m}	Mass flow rate	kg/s
MSF	Modified solar fraction	(-)
n	Number of zones	(-)

N	Number of surfaces in a zone	(-)
N ₂ O	Nitrous oxide	
Δp	Pressure Loss	Pa
P	Power	kW
q	Heat transfer	W
q''	Heat transfer per unit area	W/m ²
q'''	Heat transfer per unit volume	W/m ³
Q	Energy transferred by heat	J
\dot{Q}	Heat transfer rate	W
\dot{Q}_u	Useful energy gain	W
RSI	R-value	m ² K/W
SAC	Solar absorption cooling	
SF	Solar fraction	(-)
δt	Time step	s
t	Time, or current time step	s
Δt	Change in time	s
t + Δt	Future time step	s
T	Temperature	°C
ΔT	Temperature difference	°C
TAC	Thermal air conditioning	
U _L	Collector heat loss coefficient	W/m ² K
V	Volume	m ³
X	Energy density	MJ/m ³

Δx	Width of control volume	m
Δy	Height of control volume	m
z	Height	m
Δz	Length of control volume	m

Greek Constants

α	Explicit weighting	(-)
δ	Differential change	
η	Thermal efficiency	(-)
θ	Temperature	°C
ρ	Density	kg/m ³
$\tau\alpha$	Effective transmittance-absorptance	(-)
Ψ	Longitudinal angle	°
Ω	Transversal angle	°

Latin Symbols

\mathcal{Z}	Percentage of time steps where the system was unable to maintain the cooling setpoint	%
\mathcal{N}	Percentage of time steps above 25°C	%

Subscripts

a	Ambient
absorbed	Absorbed
aux	Auxiliary
avail _{on}	Available solar energy when solar collector loop is activated
captured	Captured solar energy

casual	Casual gains
cas-rad	Radiative casual gain
cas-conv	Convective casual gain
chill	Chilled water stream
chill_in	Chilled water inlet
chill_out	Chilled water outlet
coll	Collector
con	Condenser
cond	Conduction
conv	Convection
cooling	Cooling
cooling_load	Cooling load
e, θ	Effective at angle θ
e,n	Effective at normal incidence
elec-chiller	Chiller Electrical
elec-system	System Electrical
evap	Evaporator
fi	Inlet fluid
fm	Mean fluid
gen	Generator
heat_rejection	Heat rejection stream
high	High
hot	Heat medium stream

in	Inlet
losses	Losses
low	Low
out	Outlet
p	At constant pressure
peak	Peak
plant	Plant components
rad	Radiation
room	Room containing zone node
s	Surface number
sc	Solar collector
setpoint	Setpoint
solar	Solar
stored	Stored
th	Thermal
u	Useful
water	Water
wb	Wet bulb

CHAPTER 1

1.0 Introduction and Literature Review

Residential energy use in Canada increased by 9% between 1990 and 2005, accounting for 17% of the nation's total secondary energy consumption in 2005. During the same time period, the energy demand from space-cooling in residential units increased by 215%, to reach a total of 37 PJ in 2005 (NRCan, 2008a). Presently, the most common space-cooling technology in use is electrically driven vapour compression systems. These systems place a large strain on the central electricity system during the summer months, and in Ontario these marginal loads are typically powered by non-renewable sources of energy. While improvements are being realized in the thermal envelope of households, space-cooling remains a significant component of residential energy use in summer months.

With air conditioning systems in over 6.5 million households in Canada, space-cooling resulted in the emission of 1.2 Mt of CO₂ equivalent (CO_{2eq}) in 2008, with 1.0 Mt resulting from central systems. Ontario accounted for 70% of national space-cooling energy use in 2008 (NRCan, 2010), and was responsible for the majority of the cooling-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The annual air conditioning system stock in Ontario (NRCan, 2010) can be seen in Table 1-1. The number of central cooling systems has increased, though steadily remaining between 70% and 75% of the total cooling stock in Ontario.

Table 1-1: Cooling system stock in Ontario

	1990		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Central Cooling Systems (thousands)	997		1,938	2,007	2,060	2,210	2,397	2,511	2,615	2,614	2,818
Total cooling systems (thousands)	1,638		2,689	2,783	2,905	3,006	3,187	3,338	3,600	3,606	3,762

As an alternative, solar power can be used as the energy source in a residential cooling system, removing the bulk of the energy demand of the cooling system from the electricity grid. The addition of this renewable energy source can reduce the load on the electricity system, and therefore decrease the GHG contributions from cooling systems. Solar energy is a nearly limitless resource, and provides an immense amount of energy to the earth. For example, the solar radiation captured by the earth within a single month corresponds to the sum of all of the energy on the planet stored in all of the coal, petroleum, and natural gas (Vanek & Albright, 2008).

In 2003, the Solar Air Conditioning in Europe Project investigated 54 solar cooling projects across Europe. Of the projects surveyed, 40% were at the research stage, 40% were in the development stage, and only 20% of projects were in the production stage (Balaras et al., 2007).

This research has shown solar cooling to result in primary energy savings of 40-50% (Balaras et al., 2007). However, solar insolation fluctuates considerably with

latitude, and studies have shown that climate is a strong factor in the performance of solar cooling systems (Mateus & Oliveira, 2009), which establishes the need for studies in a Canadian climate. While research concerning the application of solar cooling in buildings has been completed in a number of countries, research on applications in Canada has been limited. In 2007, while there were 81 large scale solar cooling systems documented in academic literature, the only system installed in North America was in Mexico, a country with a significantly different climate than Canada (Sparber et al., 2007). Solar cooling has begun to emerge across the United States, for example at the Audubon Environmental Centre in Los Angeles (LA Audubon, 2008). Over 25 companies provide systems for purchase (SEIA, 2010), but little data is available on the performance of the systems.

In addition, while much research has been completed in the area of building space-cooling, for example for the Shanghai Institute of Building Science in China (Zhai & Wang, 2009b) and the General Hospital of Sitia in Greece (Tsoutsos et al., 2010), research concerning the application of solar cooling in residential housing has been less prevalent. Kim and Ferreira (2008) presented an overview of solar absorption studies, some of which were designed for residential application, and Florides et al. (2002b) used a domestic-size 11 kW cooling capacity absorption chiller in their assessment. These studies highlighted hurdles to the application of solar cooling to residential houses, including the limited number of small capacity (<50 kW) chillers available on the market, high initial cost, and the large collector area required per unit of installed cooling capacity

(Zhai & Wang, 2009a). While small-size water chillers are still scarce, several companies have begun the development of chillers in the range of 5-50 kW (Henning, 2007a).

Investigations on solar cooling can be completed through design testing and evaluation, as well as by using building performance simulation (BPS). Simulations are advantageous as they avoid the expense of prototype creation and allow for optimization of components and predictions for different housing styles and iterations (Florides et al., 2002b). In the last decade, a number of simulation tools have been used for BPS. The Solar Air Conditioning in Europe Project created a multimedia tool to aid in the selection of appropriate technology and techniques based on climate and other constraints (Balaras et al., 2007). Another commonly used software tool for the assessment of building systems, TRNSYS, has been employed in a number of solar cooling investigations (Mateus & Oliveira, 2009; Florides et al., 2002a; Balghouthi et al., 2005). ESP-r is a further modelling tool which is used for simulating the thermal performance of buildings and can be utilized for assessing the energy use within domestic houses (ESRU, 2002).

1.1 Solar Cooling Systems

Solar cooling combines decades of experience in space-cooling with the high solar energy resource available at the times when cooling is most needed. This combination allows for the reduction of peak electricity loads in the summer months, while also reducing the residential GHG production through the use of a

renewable energy resource. Solar cooling can be accomplished through solar thermal systems, such as 'sorption' systems, or through solar mechanical systems, such as photovoltaic technologies. Solar thermal systems are typically much less expensive (Zhai & Wang, 2009a) and avoid the requirement of converting the captured solar energy into mechanical energy for a conventional cooling system (Dincer et al., 1996).

Solar cooling systems are generally composed of solar thermal collectors, a form of heat storage, a thermally driven cooling device, the distribution system, and a backup system (Balaras et al., 2007). Figure 1-1 provides a schematic diagram of a simple solar cooling system with an absorption chiller.

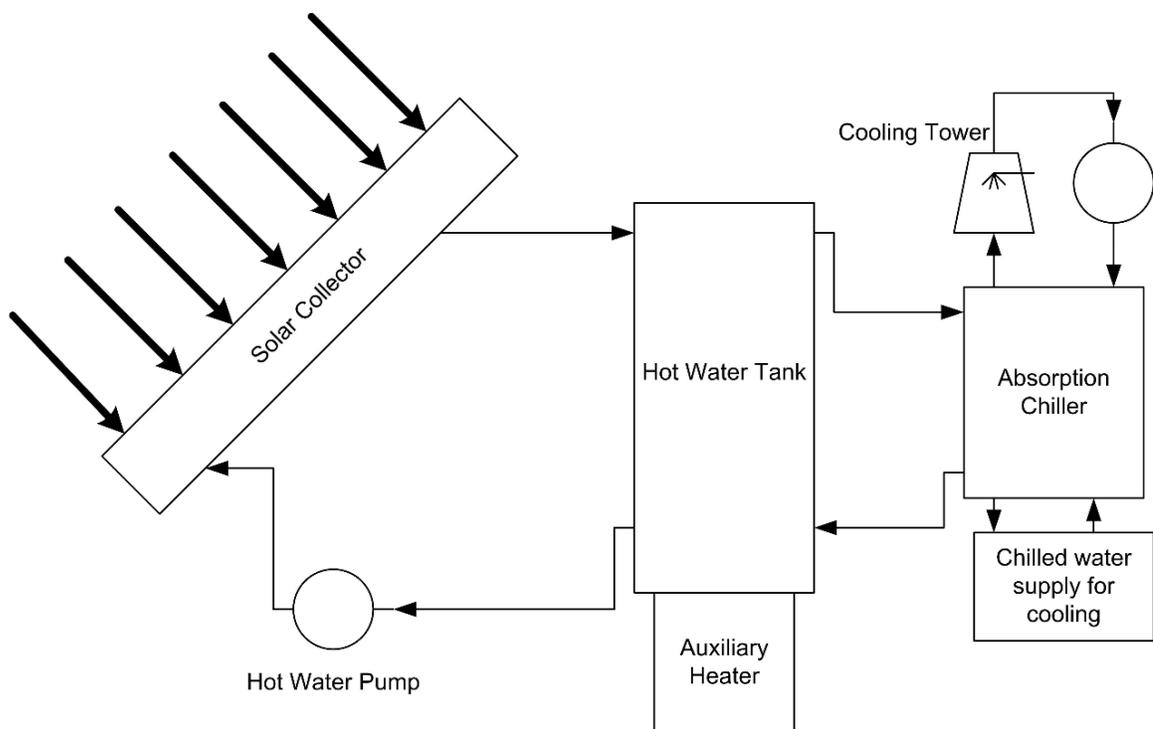


Figure 1-1: Schematic diagram of solar cooling

Solar thermal collectors use the available solar resource to heat a fluid which can then serve as the heat input to a thermodynamic cycle. There are two common types of solar thermal collectors used for cooling: flat-plate solar collectors, and evacuated-tube solar collectors. These will be described in greater detail in Section 2.2.1.

Two of the most common approaches to solar thermal cooling are through the use of chillers and dessicant systems. Chillers produce chilled water which is then utilized for direct heat transfer from the indoor air to the fluid. Common chillers for solar applications include absorption and adsorption chillers (Henning, 2007b). Dessicant cooling systems are designed to produce conditioned air by means of cooling and dehumidifying fresh air, and must be coupled with equipment that supplies conditioned ventilation air (Henning, 2007b). A study completed in 2006 showed that 67% of systems in place in Europe were based on solar absorption cooling technology (ESTIF, 2006), making it one of the more prominent solar cooling technologies currently in use (Mateus & Oliveira, 2009; Balaras et al., 2007).

1.2 Solar Absorption Cooling

Solar absorption cooling (SAC) utilizes harmless working fluids (refrigerants) such as water to produce chilled fluid for the removal of heat through space-cooling (Balghouthi et al., 2005). The thermal coefficient of performance (COP_{th}) of an absorption cooling system varies with operating conditions, including change in temperature levels and load. The COP_{th} can be defined as (Henning, 2007b):

$$COP_{th} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{low}}{\dot{Q}_{high}} = \frac{\text{Heat flux extracted at a low temperature level}}{\text{Driving heat flux supplied to cooling equipment}} \quad 1-1$$

The typical COP_{th} of a single-effect absorption system is 0.5-0.8 (Henning, 2007b). Absorption systems consist of a generator, a condenser, an evaporator, and an absorber. The working fluid is a mixture of a refrigerant and absorbent, for example water and lithium-bromide (LiBr). A typical system is shown in Figure 1-2. Heat (e.g., solar input) is transferred to vapourize the refrigerant from the solution entering the generator. The vapourized working fluid is then passed through a condenser, exiting as a liquid. Heat is rejected at an intermediate temperature from the condensing process to a heat rejection water stream. The fluid then expands through a throttling valve to lower the pressure, and enters an evaporator, where it removes heat from an incoming stream to produce chilled water. This produces the useful cooling effect, as the chilled water is used for space-cooling in the distribution portion of the air conditioning system.

The vapourized refrigerant is absorbed by a dilute solution within the absorber. The mixing heat and the latent heat of condensation resulting from the absorption process are extracted by a heat rejection medium, typically water. The absorbent, now rich in refrigerant (strong solution), is pumped through a heat exchanger to a generator, where it is heated above the boiling point of the solution, which causes the refrigerant to desorb. This heat is provided by the solar-heated fluid from the solar collectors. The absorbing solution, now with renewed absorbing capacity,

returns to the absorber, while the vapourized refrigerant flows to the condenser (Solair, 2003; Henning, 2007).

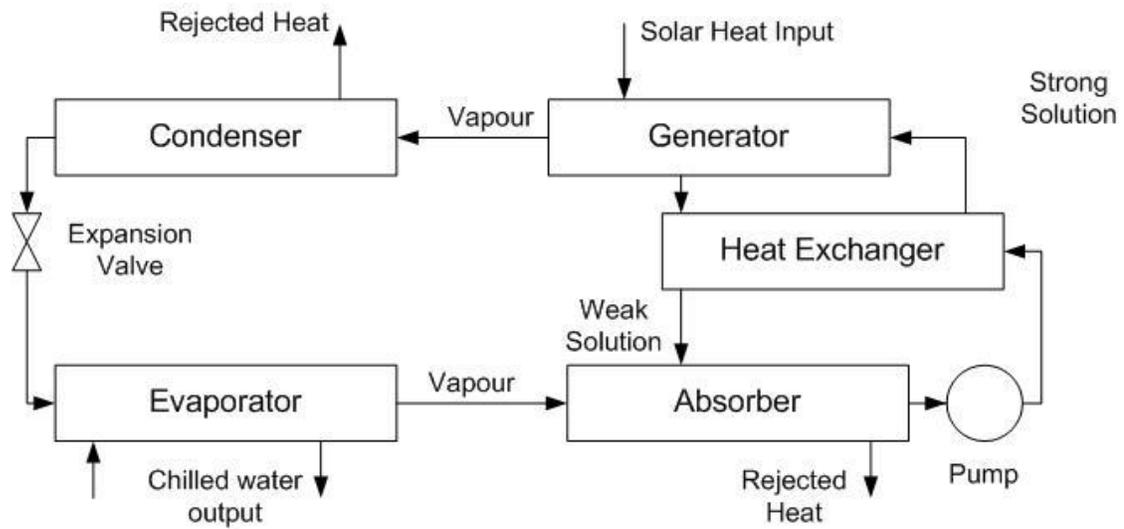


Figure 1-2: Schematic of a single-effect solar absorption chiller

Modified from (Florides et al., 2002a)

A schematic of an absorption chiller integrated into a solar-driven system is shown in Figure 1-3. Additional variations to this system setup will be provided in Chapter 2.

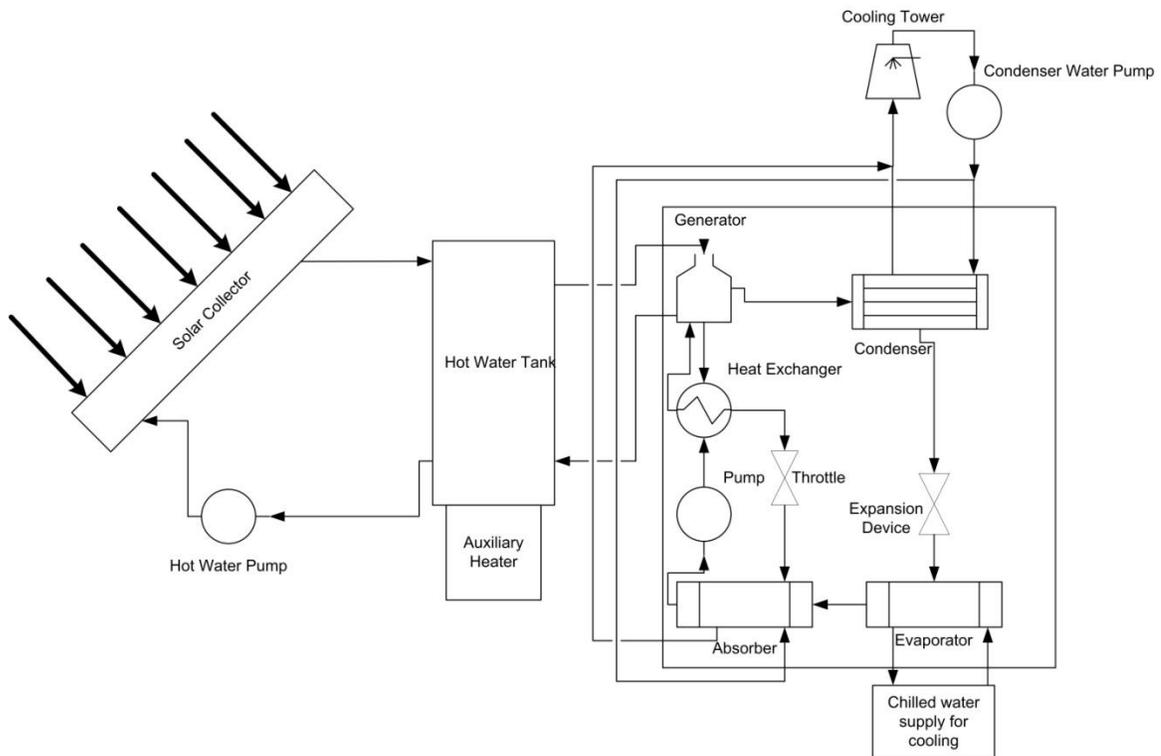


Figure 1-3: Schematic of a solar absorption cooling system
 Modified from Fong et al. (2010)

1.3 Objectives

The following research objectives are the second phase of a performance assessment of SAC for Canadian housing. The research builds upon the first phase of research completed by Geoffrey Johnson (a Carleton M.A.Sc graduate) which involved the testing of a small-scale absorption chiller suitable for residential use (Johnson, 2011).

The overall purpose of the research is to assess the feasibility of SAC for Ontario houses. To this end, the research objectives are as follows:

- Establish appropriate control schemes for a residential solar absorption chiller system;
- Conduct initial simulations of the absorption chiller system to dimension system components using TRNSYS;
- Calibrate and refine an existing ESP-r thermal air conditioning (TAC) model using data from Johnson's (2011) absorption chiller study;
- Develop a complete SAC system in ESP-r using the refined TAC model and other appropriate system components;
- Develop detailed models of representative Canadian houses;
- Perform an assessment of the solar absorption cooling system in houses with different operating conditions and for different climatic regions; and
- Determine the viability of the system based on the energy and greenhouse gas performance of the system.

1.4 Outline

The use of multiple building simulation software programs required a well-defined system setup. The system and its components are described in Chapter 2, along with an overview of building performance simulation and the selected control strategies. Chapter 3 then describes the TRNSYS simulation engine, and the initial sizing of the system components undertaken using TRNSYS. The ESP-r simulation

environment, including the building simulation and plant network simulation components, are described in Chapter 4. Following this, the description of the building performance simulation completed in ESP-r is described in Chapter 5. This description includes the calibration of the absorption chiller system, the selection of the modelled houses, and an overview of the simulations undertaken.

Following these sections, Chapter 6 presents the thermal results and analysis of the simulations undertaken. This analysis includes an overview of each of the simulation sets, their associated parameters, and the significance of the results achieved with respect to SAC in Ontario. Chapter 7 describes the electrical performance and the greenhouse gas emissions impact of the system. Finally, Chapter 8 provides an overview of the conclusions resulting from the research, and recommendations for future work.

CHAPTER 2

2.0 System Configuration and Modelling

The feasibility of solar cooling in Ontario was assessed through the use of building simulation software programs, which necessitated a thorough system description. Multiple variations of solar absorption cooling systems exist (for example, see Asrubali et al., 2009 and Cristina et al., 2010). The systems are generally comprised of the absorption chiller itself and four additional sub-systems: heat medium production, cold medium production, heat rejection, and load (Henning, 2007b). The following sections describe the various system components selected for the solar absorption cooling system (Sections 2.1 through 2.5), a brief introduction to the simulation environments employed (Section 2.7), and the overall system control strategies (Section 2.8).

2.1 Absorption Chiller

Absorption chillers used for solar cooling can be driven by various refrigerant/absorbent solutions. For applications such as air conditioning with chilled water temperatures above 5°C, water-cooled water-LiBr is the most common pairing. Lithium Bromide remains water-soluble when it comprises less than 30% of the solution by mass. For chilled water temperatures below 5°C, ammonia-water is a more prevalent pairing (IEA/SCH Task 25, 2002).

For the present research, experimental results were obtained from Johnson (2011), who used a Yazaki 35 kW (10 Ton) chiller (Aroace, 2010) with a water-LiBr working pair. The Yazaki 35 kW chiller was thus selected as the basis for both the TRNSYS and ESP-r simulations described in Chapters 3 and 5, respectively.

2.2 Heat Medium Production Sub-System

The heat medium production sub-system is responsible for the production and storage, if applicable, of the heat medium which drives the absorption chiller. The heat medium can be generated through the use of solar collectors (Ghaddar et al., 1997), auxiliary heaters (Riley & Probert, 1998), or a combination of both (Cristina et al., 2010; Muneer & Uppal, 1985). Excess heat can be passed to a domestic hot water system (Asrubali et al., 2009), or stored for future use (Florides et al., 2002b).

2.2.1 Solar collectors

Given that the design of a solar absorption cooling system was core to the objectives of this research, the inclusion of solar collectors as the main driving energy for the generation of the heat medium was vital to the system design.

The two most common solar collectors in use for thermally-driven cooling are flat plate collectors and evacuated tube collectors. Flat plate collectors are generally less expensive, are easier to maintain, and make up a large majority of collectors globally (Duffie & Beckman, 2006). Flat-plate solar collectors use a coated heat conducting metal sheet to absorb incident solar energy and glazing to transmit

radiation to the plate and reduce convective heat loss. The incident energy is transmitted to a series of pipes, typically made of copper, filled with a heat transfer medium fluid (in many cases, a water-glycol mix). Flat-plate collectors are most frequently designed for applications requiring moderate delivery temperatures, up to around 100°C, and they utilize both diffuse and beam solar radiation (Duffie & Beckman, 2006). For use with an absorption chiller in a climate with an ambient air temperature of 30°C and radiation ranging between 400 – 1000 W/m², such as Toronto (Environment Canada, 2010b), flat plate collectors average an output temperature of 95°C with an efficiency of 20-60% (Henning, 2007b).

Evacuated tube collectors represent 10% of the covered solar collectors market in International Energy Association member countries. Evacuated tube solar collectors are formed by an array of concentric glass tubes connected in parallel, within which are absorbers. The evacuated tubes impede convective and conductive heat loss from the absorber, which results in higher efficiency than flat-plate collectors at high temperatures (Henning, 2007b).

Despite their higher cost, evacuated tube collectors are commonly selected in place of flat plate collectors for solar cooling due to their lower heat exchange surface requirement (Assilzadeha, et al., 2005; Chasapis, 2009). For example, Fong et al. (2010) found evacuated tube collectors resulted in a higher solar fraction and 81% more solar radiation absorbed for SAC than flat plate collectors.

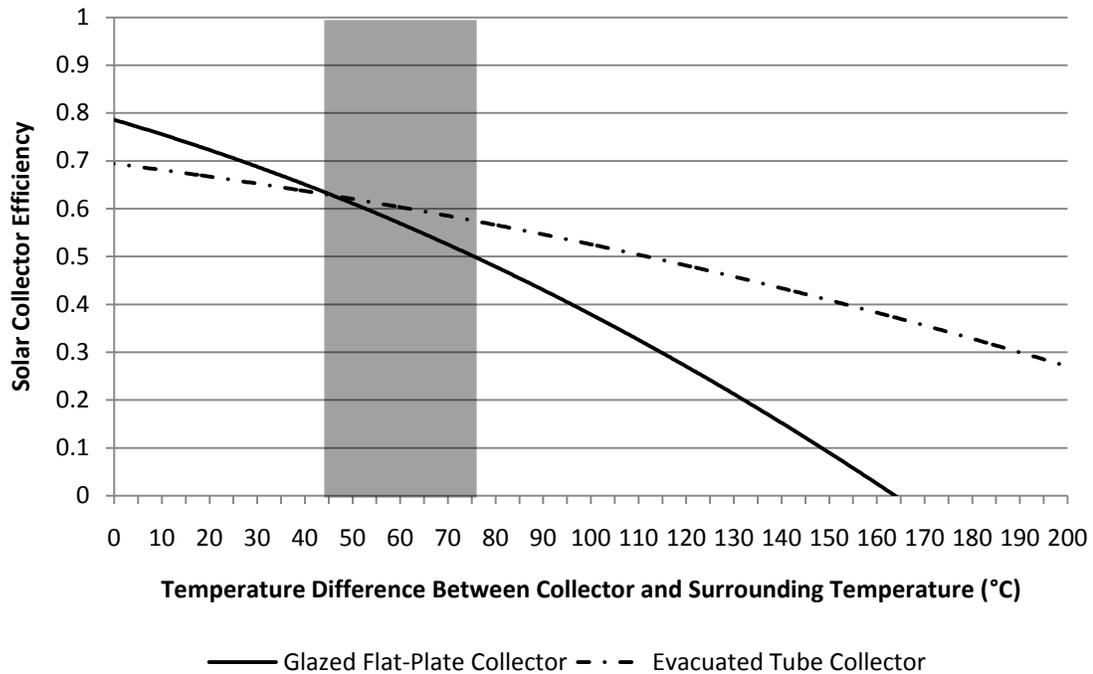


Figure 2-1 Collector characteristic curves
 Adapted from German Solar Energy Society (DGS) (2005)

The present research demands a solar collector outlet temperature in the range of 80-95°C, with an ambient temperature of approximately 20-35°C. The resulting temperature difference between the collector and surrounding temperature is in the range of 45-75°C, shown as the shaded area on Figure 2-1. For this range of temperature difference, research by the German Solar Energy Society displayed on Figure 2-1, indicates that evacuated tube collectors have efficiencies up to 10% higher than that of glazed flat-plate collectors. Due to their efficiency at the high working fluid temperatures demanded by solar absorption cooling, an evacuated tube collector was chosen as the thermal input unit for the present research.

2.2.2 Auxiliary heat production

Due to the unpredictable nature of solar radiation, back-up heat sources are occasionally employed in solar cooling systems to ensure that sufficient heat is always available to meet the cooling loads. Auxiliary heat production components are particularly beneficial on humid days with high cloud coverage, where a large latent load and low direct radiation exist (Henning, 2007b). Additionally, during the heating season, auxiliary heating systems can be used for space heating.

The objective of the present research was to determine the feasibility of solar absorption cooling for Ontario residential houses. In order to accurately assess the suitability of the technology to the climate and housing style in Ontario, it was desirable to assess the performance of solar absorption cooling without auxiliary heat production.

2.2.3 Hot storage

Thermal storage can be used in an absorption cooling system to increase the effectiveness of the system. Two different strategies exist for thermal storage:

1. A hot storage tank stores excess solar heat, which is then procured if the present solar heat is not sufficient.
2. A cold storage tank allows the storage of excess cooling potential and is procured if the present cold production of the chiller is not sufficient to meet the cooling load.

These two strategies can be used individually or in combination. The average COP_{th} of a LiBr chiller is below 1.0 (Henning, 2007b), which means that storage upstream of the chiller (hot tank) is necessarily larger than an equivalent storage downstream of the chiller (cold tank). Practically, this means that a hot storage tank must be larger than a cold storage tank to provide equivalent cooling energy storage. Cold storage will be discussed further in Section 2.3.

Most frequently, hot storage is accomplished using a hot water storage tank, in order to reduce losses in conversion of thermal energy. The use of a hot storage tank has several advantages, though its primary benefit is in addressing the fluctuating heat availability by allowing the storage of excess heat for future use when little heat is available. This strategy also reduces the need for auxiliary heating devices (Henning, 2007b). Hot storage tanks have also been used for domestic hot water on off-cooling times, when the temperature of the tank is above 60°C but below the driving temperature of the chiller (Asrubali et al., 2009). A hot water storage tank has been included in the present research to better meet the cooling demands given the fluctuating solar radiation patterns during Ontario summers.

2.3 Cold Medium Production Sub-System

Once hot water has been produced through the hot medium sub-system, the cold medium sub-system can be initialized. The cold medium production sub-system includes the chilled stream from the absorption chiller and can also include cold storage. Similarly to the addition of a hot storage tank, cold storage can be

integrated in order to store energy at times of high radiation for use at times when the available solar energy is not sufficient to meet the cooling demand. Solar gains reach a peak at solar noon, while the typical cooling load patterns peak in the afternoon or evening. The storage system is thus designed to cover the load for a number of hours (Henning, 2007b).

There are multiple cold storage options including eutectic salt, ice, and chilled water. The use of a solution of eutectic salt/water capitalizes on phase change for the storage of energy. This strategy only works well with low dehumidification needs, as the tank will only cool the distribution water to 8-10°C. Ice may be used for thermal storage, but it requires additional ice-making equipment or chillers which are designed for low-temperature distribution (Henning, 2007b).

Chilled water can also be stored in a tank in the same way as the storage of the heat medium. The storage density of a tank is determined by the heat capacity of water as well as the difference between the supply and return temperatures. A typical system may have a temperature difference of 10°C, which would provide a storage density of 41.9 MJ/m³ without dehumidification (Henning, 2007b). Due to the lower complexity and the suitable storage characteristics, a cold water tank was selected for use in the present research.

2.4 Heat Rejection Sub-System

In addition to the hot medium and cold medium production sub-systems, a heat rejection sub-system is integrated in the SAC system. The most common heat

rejection method for absorption cooling is the use of a cooling tower. A cooling tower is a form of heat exchanger which allows the rejection of energy from a warm working fluid to the ambient air. Cooling towers can be either open-circuit systems or closed-circuit systems. Open-circuit systems involve direct contact between the air and cooling-water. Around 2-3% of the circulating water is evaporated during this contact, which produces the useful cooling effect. Closed-circuit systems involve indirect contact between the cooling-water and the air through heat exchanger walls. Closed circuit systems have larger fans, which increase the electricity consumption and are generally less efficient (Henning, 2007). A cooling tower was selected for use in the present research, but was not modelled explicitly, as described in Sections 3.3.1 and 5.1.

2.5 Load Sub-System

A variety of options exist for the load sub-system, which is responsible for meeting the cooling load. A water/air system allows both the latent & sensible cooling loads to be met and was therefore selected in this case. The system was simplified to include a cooling coil for exchange of energy between the chilled water loop and an air loop. The air side of the cooling coil was then connected to a circulation fan for distribution to the house.

2.6 System Overview

The complete SAC system described in Sections 2.1 through 2.5 is shown in Figure 2-2. State points have been numbered for reference in future sections. The system includes three controls, which are described in Section 2.8.

2.7 Building Performance Simulation

Once a standardized system design has been selected, building simulation programs can then be used to assess the performance of buildings and their related plant networks under a variety of control scenarios. For the present research, BPS software was used to determine the appropriate sizing of a residential SAC system. In addition, BPS was used to simulate the performance of the system in a variety of house designs and climatic conditions.

Building simulation programs primarily utilize one of two simulation approaches: response function methods or numerical methods. Response function methods for building simulation were proposed by Stephenson and Mitalas (1967) in order to add robustness to manual methods by introducing dynamic considerations. The response function method is founded on the principle of superposition, whereby responses are summed independently of the system's component parts. This process results in the decoupling of the building and the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, as well as other interrelated networks such as building thermal processes and cross-room air movement (Clarke, 2001).

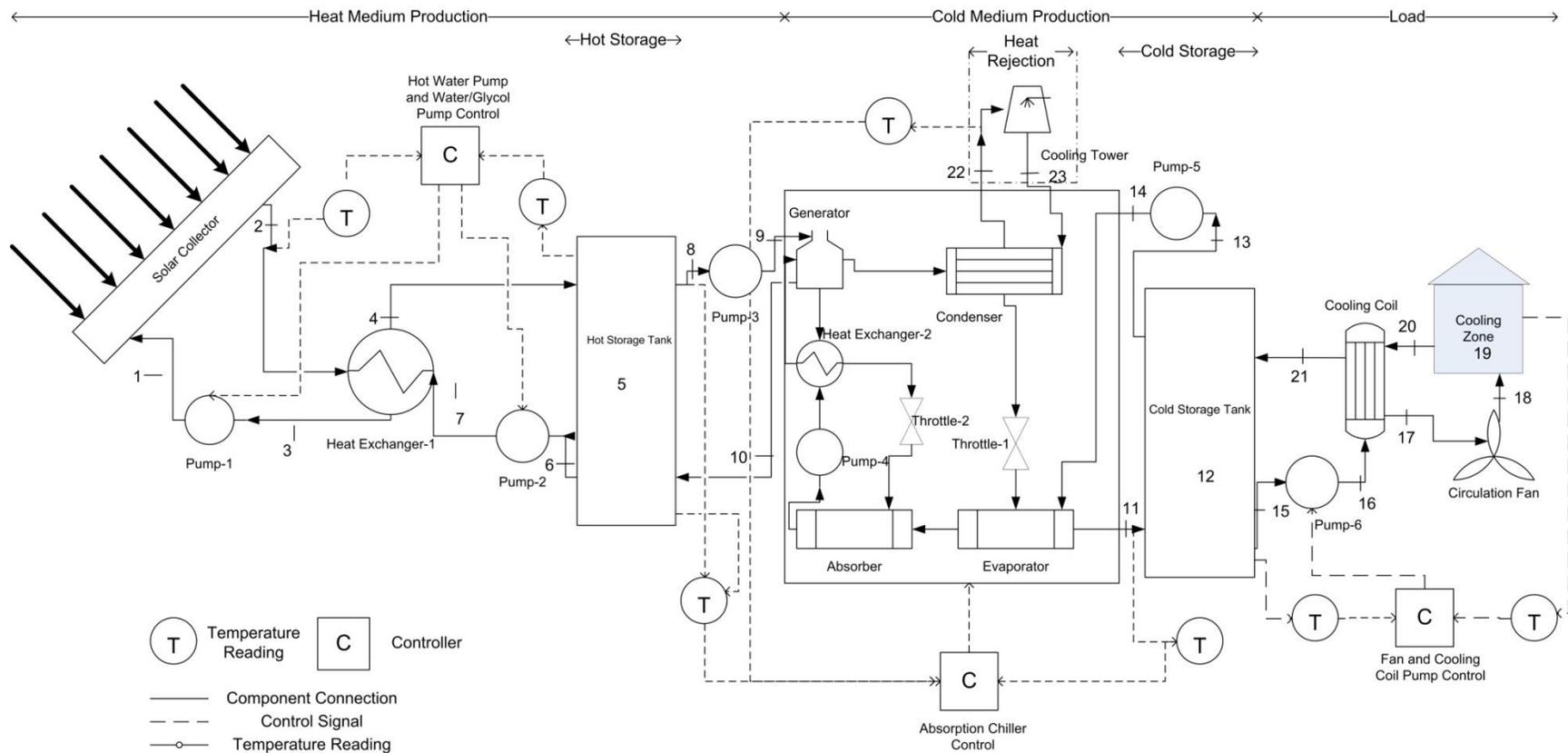


Figure 2-2: Selected solar absorption cooling system schematic

Numerical methods in finite difference for building simulation emerged following the response function method when computing power became more vigorous. Numerical methods can be used for complex systems involving multiple interactions by representing relatively small regions by discrete control volumes that can be characterized by thermal properties. Numerical methods involve the discretisation and simultaneous solution of characteristic equations for each control volume (Clarke, 2001).

For initial designs, the response function and numerical modelling approaches are both able to provide reasonable results. However, when a realistic model is desired for BPS, response function methods prove to have significant limitations. The advantage of numerical methods is the ability to solve non-linear, time varying equation sets simultaneously. The benefit of this approach is the ability to solve complex flow path interactions and systems which have significantly different time constraints for different components. Additionally, the ability to couple all interacting networks of a model ensures both spatial and temporal accuracy (Clarke, 2001). The response function method, on the other hand, is unsuitable in situations when recirculation loops or complex control schemes are present, and does not provide accurate results for complex building models due to the decoupling of systems such as heat and moisture transfers within the building envelope (Abadie et al., 2005).

The present research required two consecutive uses of BPS. Initially, BPS was used for the dimensioning of the SAC system. This process required short simulation

times, ease in component design, and robust cooling component simulation. The second phase of the research required the use of BPS for entire building simulation with the incorporated SAC system. This phase required accurate simulation of both the building and cooling components.

The TRNSYS simulation environment (University of Wisconsin, 2010) utilizes the response factor method to solve heat transfer equations and perform an overall zone energy balance in building simulation (Abadie et al., 2005). The TRNSYS software employs a sequential approach to HVAC. The outputs of one component are provided as inputs to the subsequent component, followed by iteration of component solutions. Due to its ability to rapidly prototype and design, along with the ease in adding and redesigning components, TRNSYS was selected for the initial sizing of the solar absorption cooling system. TRNSYS is described further in Section 3.1.

For the overall BPS of houses with the integrated SAC system, a program which utilized a more robust numerical method in finite difference was desired. The ESP-r simulation environment (ESRU, 2002) utilizes numerical methods for mass and thermal energy balances in the solution of its building and plant networks, and is described further in Sections 4.1 and 4.2. The ESP-r simulation environment has been extensively validated (e.g. Strachan, 2008), and is an open-source software platform. For this study, ESP-r was selected for the final modelling of the plant network and its integration into Ontario houses with different control strategies and climatic conditions.

2.8 Control Functions

Due to the complexity of the total SAC system, three distinct control strategies were employed in the management of the system. The control of the addition of energy to the system from the solar collectors is described in Section 2.8.1. The control of the withdrawal of heat from the conditioned living space is described in Section 2.8.2. Finally, the control of the absorption chiller is described in Section 2.8.3. The state points in the control descriptions refer to Figure 2-2.

2.8.1 Solar collector loop control

The solar collector loop control logic is shown in Figure 2-3 and operates as follows. The temperature at the outlet of the solar collector (T_2) is compared to the temperature at the base of the hot storage tank (T_{5_base}). If T_2 is at least 4°C greater than T_5 , the controller moves on to the next step, otherwise pump-1 and pump-2 are deactivated. In order to keep the hot tank within the temperature range accepted by the absorption chiller (70°C to 95°C), the controller then checks whether the hot storage tank temperature (T_{5_base}) is at or below 94°C. If T_{5_base} is below 94°C, pump-1 and pump-2 are actuated. The four degree temperature difference is in line with other experimental chiller controls (Bong et al., 1987), and is not an influential parameter in this modelling because once solar radiation is available, the solar collector outlet temperature is significantly higher than the hot storage tank temperature.

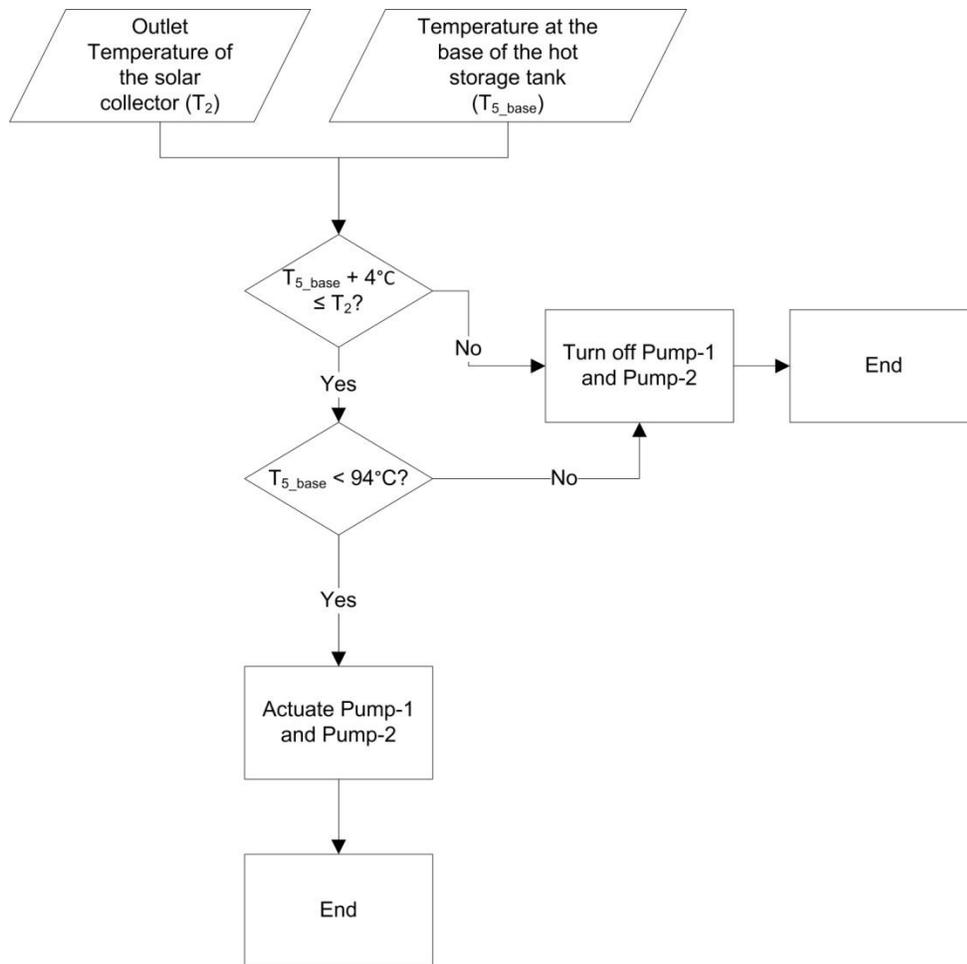


Figure 2-3: Solar collector loop control logic

2.8.2 Zone cooling loop control

The control strategy managing the cooling of the living space (zone) is determined by the zone temperature and the cooling availability in the cold storage tank, with an objective to maintain the zone temperature at $24 \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Beausoleil-Morrison et al., 2004). The zone cooling loop control logic is described in Figure 2-4.

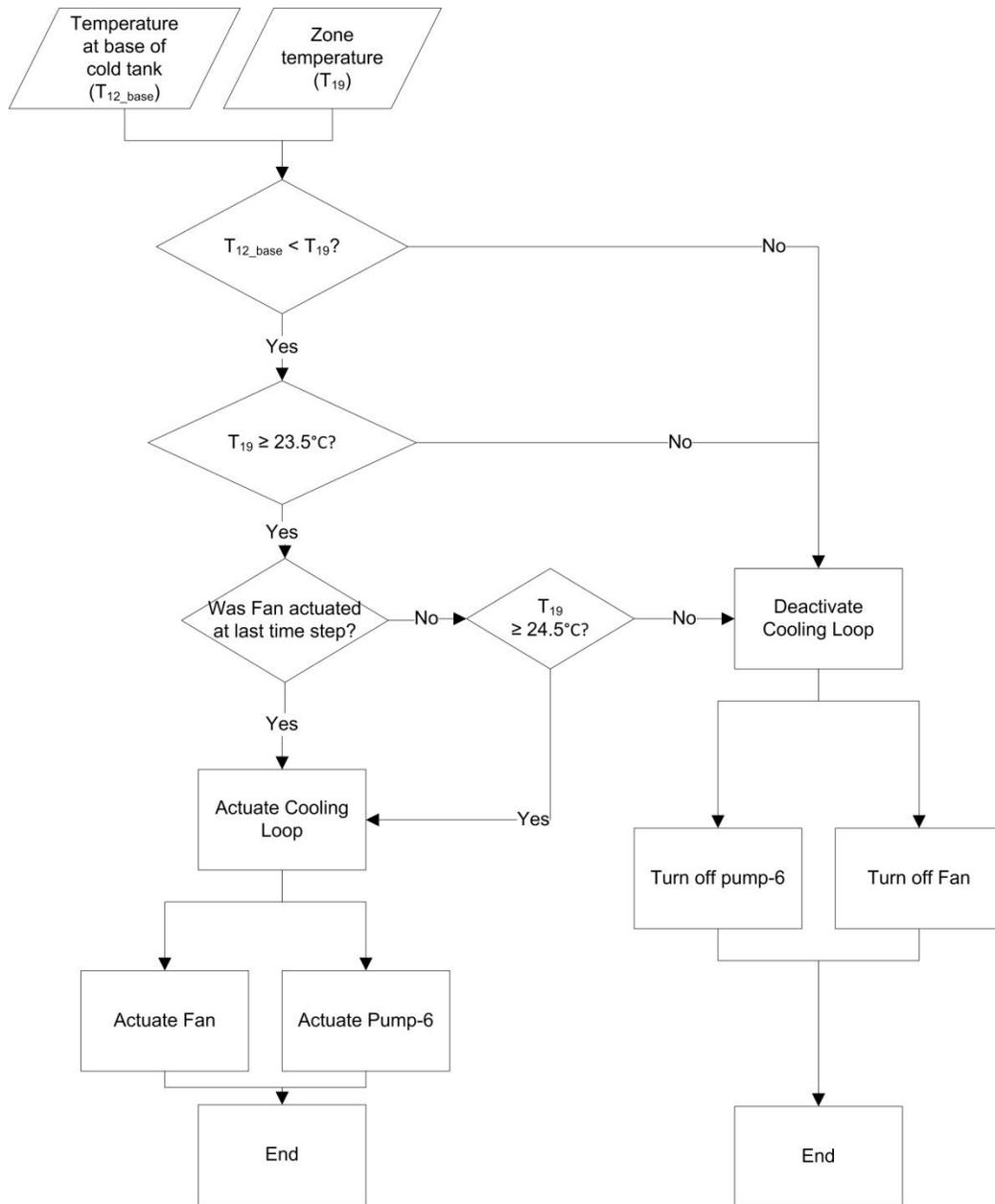


Figure 2-4: Zone cooling loop control

First, the temperature of the zone of interest (T_{19}) and the temperature at the base of the cold tank (T_{12_base}) are sensed. If T_{12_base} is greater than or equal to T_{19} , the fan and pump-6 are deactivated. Otherwise, if the zone temperature is equal to or above 23.5°C , it is determined whether the fan was actuating in the last time step,

which indicates that the cooling system is currently in operation. If T_{19} is above 24.5°C , or it is above 23.5°C and the system was already in operation, then the fan and pump-6 are both actuated. Otherwise, the fan and pump-6 are both deactivated. In this way, the cooling coil and fan actuate when the temperature of the zone surpasses 24.5°C , and continues to operate until the zone temperature is brought to 23.5°C .

2.8.3 Absorption chiller control

The control of the absorption chiller is defined by the operating conditions of the Yazaki Chiller, as described in Table 2-1 (Aroace, 2010). The chiller requires a hot medium temperature between 70°C and 95°C in order to operate, and the standard heat rejection temperature is 31°C . To this end, the absorption chiller control logic, as described in Figure 2-5, begins with the determination of the temperature at the top of the hot storage tank (T_{5_base}), which serves as the heat medium for the chiller (T_9). If T_{5_base} is between 70°C and 95°C , the logic flows to the next decision point. The treatment of the experimental data for the heat medium and chilled water streams is further described in Section 5.1.

The temperature at the top of the cold storage tank (T_{12_top}), which serves as the chilled water inlet (T_{14}), is then determined. If T_{12_top} is greater than the setpoint temperature, 7°C , then the logic flows to the final decision point. The incoming heat rejection stream temperature (T_{23}) is determined with respect to the ambient wet bulb temperature conditions. If T_{23} is less than or equal to 31.0°C , the chiller, pump-3 and pump-5 are actuated. This final logical step is treated differently in the

control strategies in TRNSYS and ESP-r, as described in Section 3.3.2 and Section 4.3, respectively. If any of the three sensed temperatures are not in the prescribed range, then the chiller and the associated pumps are deactivated.

Table 2-1: Yazaki specifications (Aroace, 2010)

Component	Parameter	Specification
Chilled Water	Outlet Temperature	7°C
	Rated Water Flow	5,496 Lph
Heat Rejection Water	Inlet Temperature	31°C (Standard)
	Rated Water Flow	18,352 Lph
Heat Medium	Inlet Temperature	88°C (Standard)
		70°C (min) – 95°C (max)
	Rated Water Flow	8,631 Lph
Electrical	Consumption	210 W

In the initial sizing of the system in TRNSYS, the solar collector and zone cooling control loops were treated together in one control component, while the absorption chiller control logic was integrated into the absorption chiller component, as described in Chapter 3. The final simulations undertaken in ESP-r included a distinct control file which managed all three control loops, as described in Chapter 4.

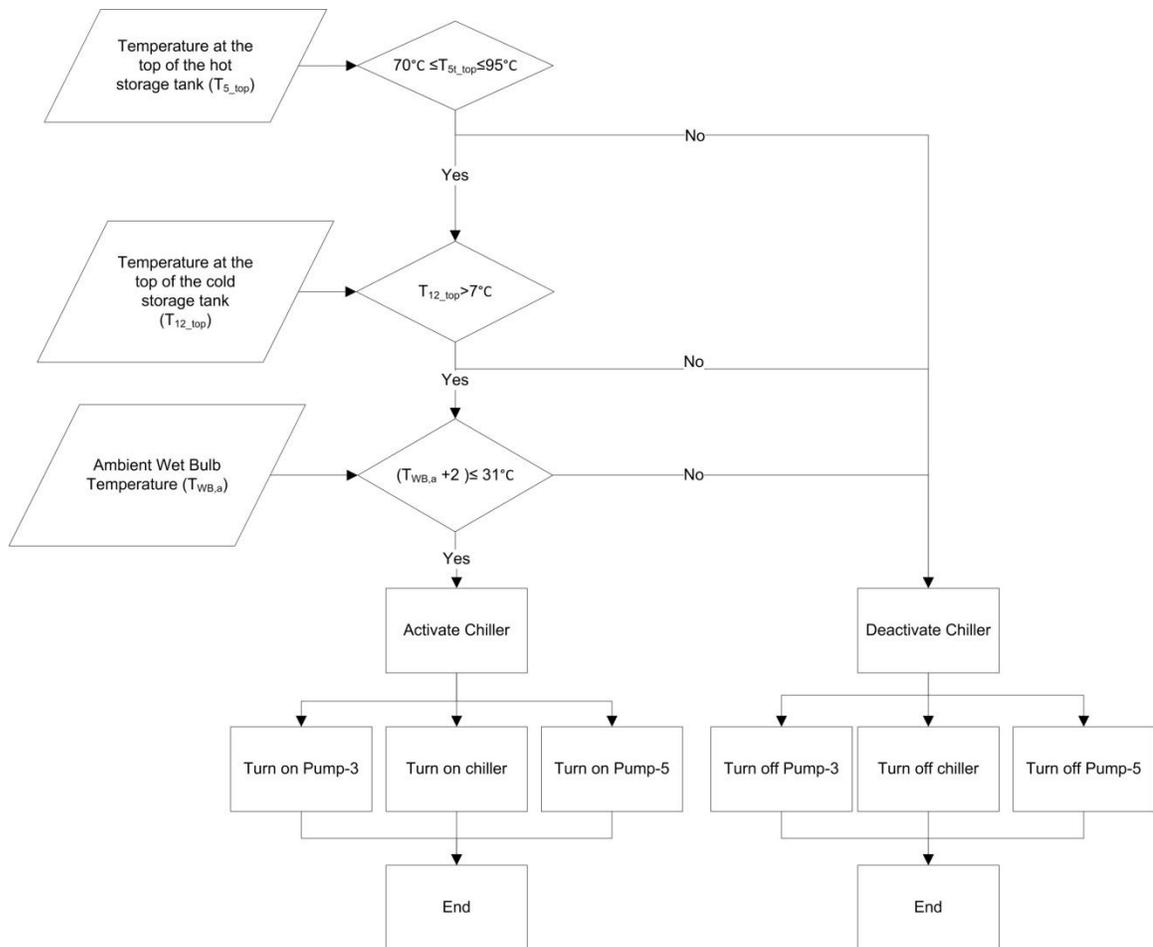


Figure 2-5: Absorption chiller control logic

The determination of a common system definition and control strategies allowed for the simulation of the solar absorption cooling system in BPS software. The system was first sized in TRNSYS, as described in Chapter 3, and was then fully implemented into the ESP-r simulation environment, as described in Chapter 4.

CHAPTER 3

3.0 Sizing of System Components

The previous chapter provided an overview of the SAC system to be modelled. This system includes multiple components whose sizes affect the performance of the system. The sizing of the SAC system components can be achieved using a variety of building simulation tools (Bongs et al., 2010). The system components were initially sized using TRNSYS 17, and the results were then used in the BPS environment ESP-r, as described in Chapter 4. TRNSYS was selected to size the components due to its flexibility in component creation, and its ability to robustly model both plant modules and controls (Underwood, 1997). A solar absorption cooling system was created in TRNSYS which included an absorption chiller, two storage tanks, evacuated tube collectors and other associated components. The system is described in further detail in Section 3.1.

The objective of the simulations was to find the appropriate sizing of the following components: hot storage tank volume, cold storage tank volume, and solar collector area. The constraints on the system were defined by the specified flow and temperature requirements of the Yazaki Chiller, as well as the control strategies described in Section 2.8. The required cooling loads used for the sizing of the components were from a two-storey Toronto house (Swan et al., 2009b), and are further described further in Section 3.4. The cooling loads used represent base

cooling loads, which are appropriate for the initial dimensioning of the system. Houses with diverse geometries and other variations to resultant loads were further explored using ESP-r, as described in Chapter 4.

3.1 TRNSYS

TRNSYS is a simulation environment for transient simulation which employs an open modular structure that allows the user to build a representative model of a physical system. Users are provided with the source code of the kernel and component models, allowing for rapid prototyping and customization of components and entire systems (University of Wisconsin, 2010).

TRNSYS projects can be setup by use of the graphical interface in the 'Simulation Studio', or by manual coding of the model's input file (referred to as the 'deck file'). The desired system is broken into individual components, each of which is referred to as a unit. Each unit in a system is characterized by a 'Type' (for example Type 4 is a stratified storage tank), and multiple instances of a Type can occur in a system. The Types are interconnected with one another to model the flow of energy, matter, or other variables. Each Type has a matching set of 'proformas' which describe the components' inputs, outputs, and parameters. Inputs are the time-dependent characteristics of the inlets to the Type (e.g., flow rate of inlet flow 1, temperature of inlet flow 1). Similarly, outputs describe the time-dependent characteristics of the outlets of the Type (e.g., flow rate of outlet 1, temperature of outlet flow 1). Parameters are the time-independent governing characteristics of the Type, e.g., the total component mass, and mass-weighted average specific heat

for a pump (University of Wisconsin, 2010). Each of the Types has an underlying mathematical model coded in FORTRAN or C++, which allows the user to program additional Types not currently available in the TRNSYS library (Vidal et al., 2009).

TRNSYS utilizes the transfer function methodology determined by Stephenson and Mitalas (1967) for the heat transfer calculations in building simulation (Abadie et al., 2005). At equal time intervals, the Mitalas & Arsenault relationships are evaluated numerically (Bansal & Bhandari, 1996). Due to the limitations of the transfer function method, the TRNSYS multizone building model (Type 56) was not used for building performance simulation in the present research, as described in Section 2.7.

Due to the high level of customization and control definition in TRNSYS, it is well suited to plant and control modelling (Underwood, 1997). The plant modelling in TRNSYS is accomplished through sequential explicit systems simulation, which involves successive substitution. At each time step, the outputs of the first unit are determined based on its parameters and inputs. The unit's outputs are then passed as the inputs to the succeeding units. The result of the successive substitutions is then used as the base for the following iteration to achieve convergence of the plant solution. This sequential method is different from the simultaneous approach used by ESP-r, described in Section 4.2.

The sequential method is advantageous for plant modelling due to the ability to rapidly prototype models, as system complexity can be increased progressively. New models can be added without impacting the overall solution,

allowing again for high levels of customization and model iteration. The limitation of the sequential method is seen in the instability of systems with little or no energy storage, and of systems which have multiple discrete states which rapidly change (Keiholz et al., 2003). The system created in TRNSYS is described in further detail in the following sections.

3.2 System Overview

The SAC system developed in TRNSYS includes three loops: the hot loop, the chilled loop, and the load loop. The hot loop and the chilled loop are connected through a custom absorption chiller Type, which is further discussed in Section 3.3.1. Figure 3-1 shows the schematic of the SAC system. The incoming solar radiation heats a water-glycol mixture (1) in an evacuated tube solar collector, which then flows through the source side of a heat exchanger (2). Water flows from the bottom of the hot storage tank (5) to the load-side of the heat exchanger (7), which then exits the heat exchanger (4) and returns to the first port at the top of the hot storage tank. The outlet of the second port at the top of the hot storage tank (8) then serves as the incoming hot stream for the absorption chiller before returning to the bottom inlet of the storage tank (10). Chilled water exiting the absorption chiller (11) is stored in a cold storage tank (12). The chilled water contained in the cold storage tank can then be accessed to meet a house's cooling demand (16).

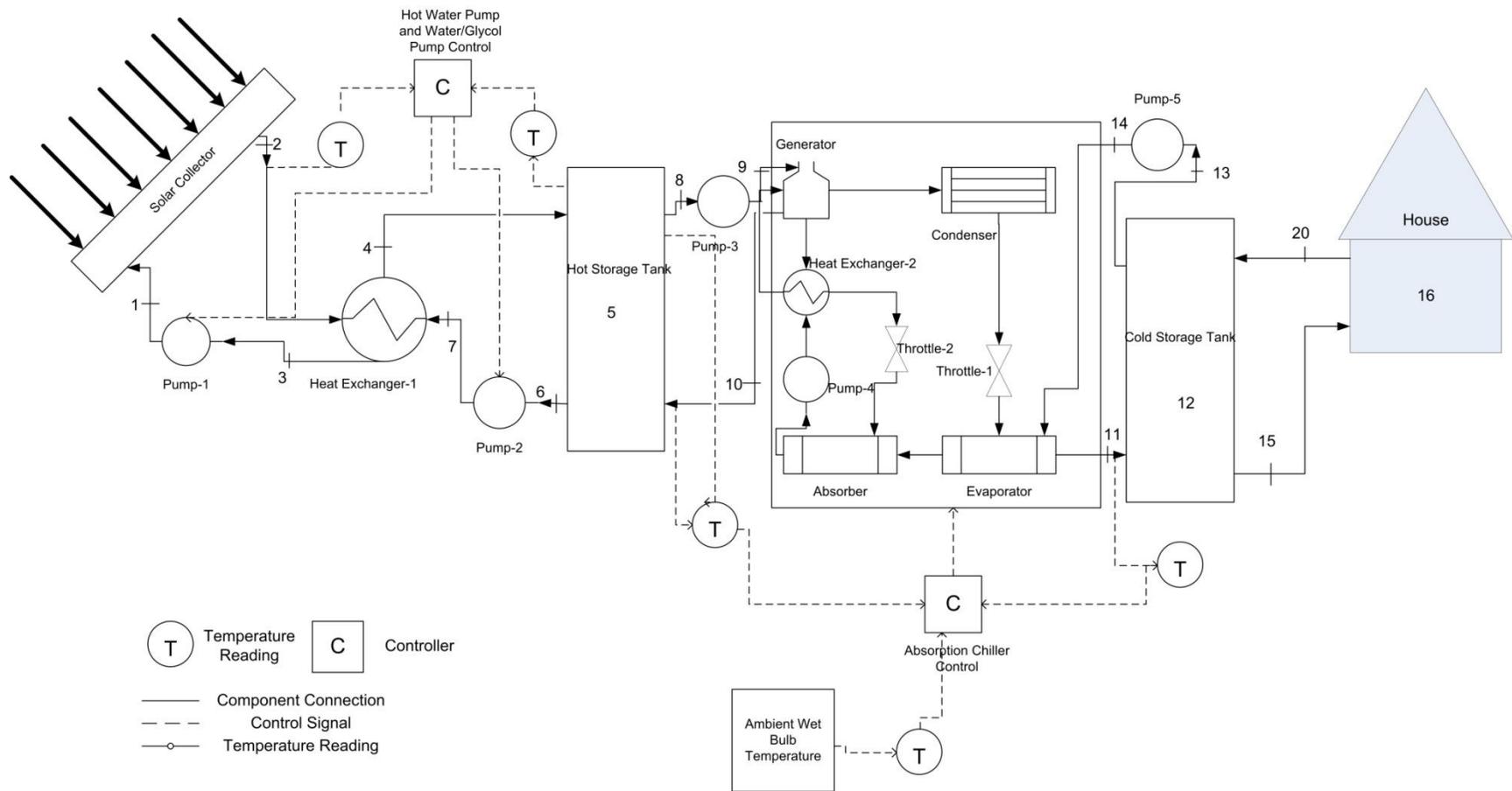


Figure 3-1: Schematic of the solar absorption cooling system

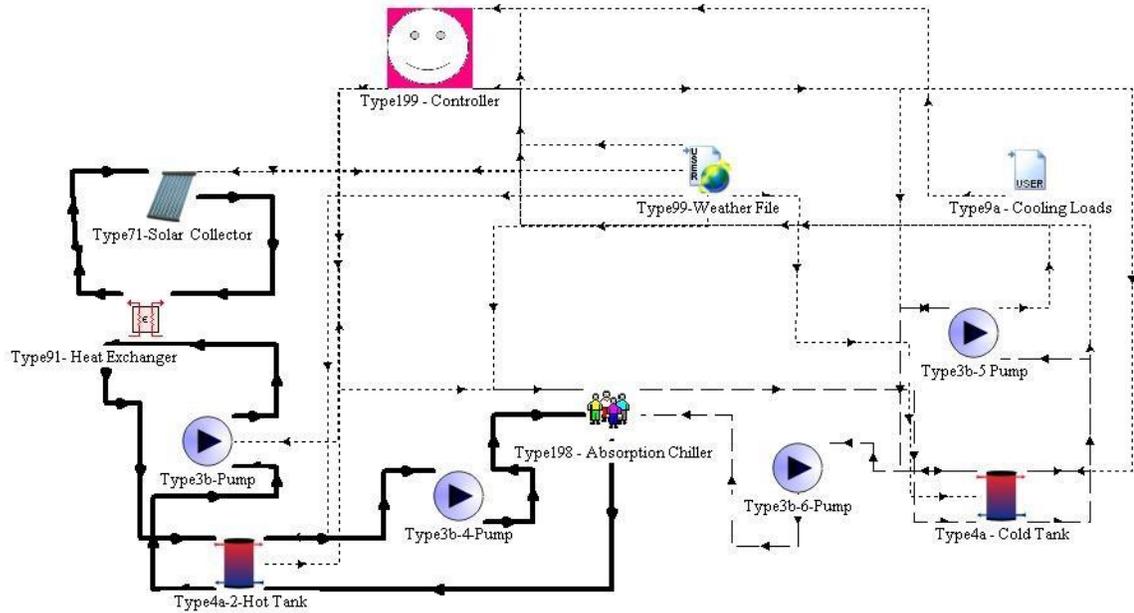


Figure 3-2: TRNSYS Simulation Studio SAC system schematic

Figure 3-2 provides the schematic of the system model developed in TRNSYS within the Simulation Studio. The Types connected by the thick lines represent the hot loop; those connected by the dashed lines represent the chilled loop; and those connected by dotted lines represent the flow of data from the weather file, cooling load file, and the controller inputs and outputs. The components will be described further in the following sections.

3.3 TRNSYS Components

In order to accurately model this system, two custom Types were created for use in TRNSYS: Type 198 – Absorption Chiller (see Section 3.3.1), and Type 199 – Absorption Chiller Controller (see Section 3.3.2). In addition to the created Types, existing TRNSYS Types were used for the remaining components. The evacuated tube collector (see Section 3.3.3) and storage tanks (see Section 3.3.4) are described

below, while inputs and parameters for all other Types may be found in Appendix A. Finally, the mathematical model for each of the components from the standard TRNSYS library can be found in Chapter 4 of the TRNSYS documentation (University of Wisconsin, 2010).

3.3.1 Type 198 – absorption chiller

The custom absorption chiller Type is a simple component which performs an energy balance on the given input flows based off of a control strategy. The work completed by Johnson (2011), further discussed in Chapter 5, was not available at the time when the sizing was being undertaken. For the initial dimensioning of the system, a constant COP_{th} was selected for simplicity as an appropriate baseline for the sizing of the system. For this study, a constant COP_{th} of 0.6 was selected based on previous experiments such as Grossman (2002). Figure 3-3 shows the resulting COP_{th} from multiple experiments completed with a water-LiBr absorption chiller with a chilled water setpoint of 7°C. From this figure, it can be seen that a COP_{th} of 0.6 is an appropriate conservative value for the initial sizing of the single-effect system.

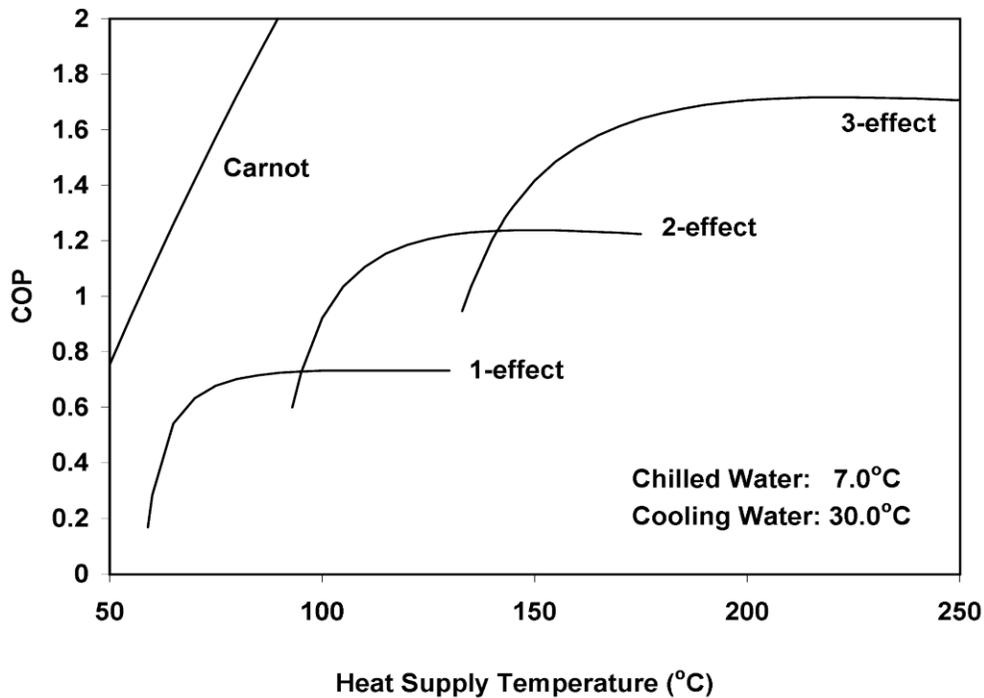


Figure 3-3: Coefficient of performance as a function of solar heat supply temperature for LiBr-water absorption chillers

(Grossman, 2002, with permission)

The control strategy for Type 198 took into consideration the Yazaki specifications described in Table 2-1 for each of the three flow loops. The logic utilized by Type 198 in determining whether the chiller should actuate is shown in Figure 2-5 and described in Section 2.8.3.

A logical variable was output from the Type at each time step which indicated whether the chiller had actuated at that time step. When not actuating, the flow rate and temperature of each of the water streams flowing into the chiller remained unchanged. This strategy was equivalent to implementing a control on the pump which would only allow the water streams to flow to the chiller when actuated. When the chiller was actuated, a simple energy balance was used to determine the

outlet temperature of each of the streams. The first calculation performed by Type 198 was to determine the required heat rejection energy to reduce the chilled water stream to the chilled setpoint. Equation 3-1 describes this relationship:

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{Chill}} = (T_{\text{Chill_In}} - T_{\text{SetPoint}}) * \dot{m}_{\text{Chill}} * C_{\text{Chill}} \quad \text{3-1}$$

where \dot{Q}_{Chill} is the energy removed from the chilled water stream in W, $T_{\text{Chill_In}}$ is the temperature of the chilled water inlet in °C, T_{SetPoint} is the setpoint temperature of the chilled water outlet in °C, \dot{m}_{Chill} is the flow rate of the chilled water in kg/s, and C_{Chill} is the heat capacity of the chilled fluid in J/kg°C (in this case water). Type 198 then checked to ensure that \dot{Q}_{Chill} was below the rated capacity of the chiller (35kW). If the required energy was above the rated capacity, then \dot{Q}_{Chill} was set to 35 kW, and the outlet temperature of the chilled stream ($T_{\text{Chill_Out}}$) was calculated using Equation 3-2.

$$T_{\text{Chill_Out}} = T_{\text{Chill_In}} - \left(\frac{\dot{Q}_{\text{Chill}}}{\dot{m}_{\text{Chill}} * C_{\text{Chill}}} \right) \quad \text{3-2}$$

If the required energy was below the rated capacity, the calculated value of \dot{Q}_{Chill} was retained and the outlet temperature of the chilled stream was set to the chiller setpoint. The energy removed from the chilled water stream was then used to calculate the required energy from the heated stream (\dot{Q}_{Hot}), as described by Equation 3-3.

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{Hot}} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{\text{Chill}}}{\text{COP}_{\text{th}}} \quad 3-3$$

The coefficient of performance (COP_{th}) and auxiliary power (P_{Aux}) were both parameters input by the user. As previously stated, the COP_{th} was considered to remain constant at 0.6, and the auxiliary power provided by the Yazaki guidelines (Aroace, 2010) was 210 W. The outlet temperature of the hot stream was then calculated using Equation 3-2, replacing all the chilled water values with those of the hot water stream.

The heat transferred to the heat rejection stream ($\dot{Q}_{\text{Heat_Rejection}}$) was calculated using Equation 3-4. The outlet flow rates of each of the streams were equated to the incoming flow rates.

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{Heat_Rejection}} = \dot{Q}_{\text{Hot}} + P_{\text{Aux}} + \dot{Q}_{\text{Chill}} \quad 3-4$$

Equation 3-1 through 3-4 provided the mathematical model for the absorption chiller Type, which was then used in conjunction with other system components and controls.

3.3.2 Type 199 – absorption chiller controller

The absorption chiller controller was created in order to control when the hot and cold cycle pumps would actuate. Additionally the controller was designed to estimate the temperature exiting the house being cooled. The details of the controller were modelled after the description in Section 2.8.3. The cold cycle was

uniquely treated in TRNSYS to account for the use of existing cooling loads rather than modelling a full building.

The cold cycle controller was used to emulate the use of the stored chilled water to meet the cooling loads of the house. If a cooling load existed in the house, the pump would actuate, circulating the chilled water from the storage tank to meet the load. Equation 3-5 was then used to determine the exiting water temperature, assuming the cooling load was fully met by the chilled water and the flow rate (\dot{m}_{House}) remained constant.

$$T_{20} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{\text{Cooling_Load}}}{C_{\text{Chill}} * \dot{m}_{\text{House}}} + T_{15} \quad 3-5$$

In this equation, C_{Chill} is the heat capacity of the water in J/kg°C, $\dot{Q}_{\text{Cooling_Load}}$ is the cooling load of the house in W, and T_{20} and T_{15} are the temperatures of the outlet and inlet water flows respectively, in °C. In order to determine whether the cooling load could be sufficiently met by the cooling system, the outlet temperature of the house T_{20} was monitored. If T_{20} was above the upper deadband temperature of the house (24.5°C), the load was considered to be unmet. Due to the simplistic nature of this initial sizing, unmet loads in one time step were not considered to affect the cooling load in the following time steps.

3.3.3 Type 71 – evacuated tube collector

The existing evacuated tube collector Type (Type 71) was selected from the TRNSYS component library for use in the modelled system. Type 71 uses a text file containing a list of transverse and longitudinal incidence angle modifiers (IAM) to determine the thermal performance of the collector. The user is required to provide the results from standard efficiency tests based on the fluid temperature.

The thermal efficiency (η) of an evacuated tube solar collector can be determined using the thermal performance expression represented by Equation 3-6 (Harrison et al., 1993), and is equal to the ratio of the collected useful energy (\dot{Q}_U) to the solar energy incident on the collector. The solar energy incident on the collector is equivalent to the incoming energy per square metre, G_T (W/m^2), multiplied by the collector area, A (m^2). The collector area can be defined as the gross area (GR), the aperture area (AP), or the absorber area (AB), each leading to different coefficient definitions. Figure 3-4 shows these three area definitions.

$$\eta = \frac{\dot{Q}_U}{G_T A} = F' \left((\tau\alpha)_e - U_L \frac{(T_{fm} - T_a)}{G_T} \right) \quad 3-6$$

The term F' is unitless and is called the collector efficiency factor. This factor is an attribute of the collector, and allows for the determination of a quadratic characteristic equation for the thermal efficiency of the collector. The collector efficiency factor is based on the temperature difference determined by the average temperature of the fluid in the collector, T_{fm} ($^{\circ}C$), and the ambient temperature,

T_a ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), and is primarily used in European markets. An alternate expression of Equation 3-6 is to replace F' with the collector heat removal factor, F_R . The term T_{fi} ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), the collector inlet fluid temperature, would then replace T_{fm} .

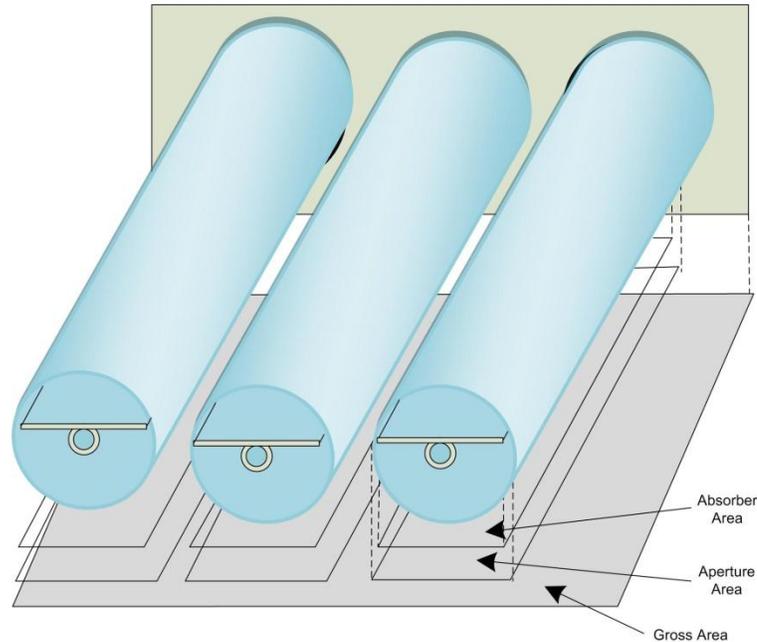


Figure 3-4: Solar collector area definition

The term $\tau\alpha$ is the effective transmittance-absorptance product on the cover and absorber plate, and U_L is the collector heat loss coefficient ($\frac{W}{m^2K}$). The term U_L is further described using additional coefficients J ($\frac{W}{m^2K}$) and L ($\frac{W}{m^2K^2}$), in Equation 3-7. The change from T_{fm} to T_{fi} also applies to Equation 3-7 when the collector heat removal factor is used.

$$U_L = J - L(T_{fm} - T_a)$$

3-7

Type 71 employs the above expressions to align with manufacturer information supplied by the user. Additionally, Type 71 utilizes beam and diffuse IAMs for the performance prediction under actual sky conditions, which account for incident solar angles and overcast conditions. The incidence angle modifier ($K_{\alpha\tau}$) is the ratio between the effective transmittance-absorptance at angle θ $[(\tau\alpha)_{e,\theta}]$ and the transmittance-absorptance at normal incidence $[(\tau\alpha)_{e,n}]$, as described in Equation 3-8.

$$K_{\alpha\tau} = \frac{(\tau\alpha)_{e,\theta}}{(\tau\alpha)_{e,n}} \quad 3-8$$

Evacuated tube collectors have asymmetric incidence angle effects and must be measured from additional angles to fully characterize the IAM. The IAM is estimated by using a transversal IAM $[K_1(\Omega)]$ at angle Ω (taken in the plane containing the aperture normal) and a longitudinal IAM $[K_2(\Psi)]$ at angle Ψ (taken in the plane normal to the collector aperture), as expressed in Equation 3-9. Angles Ω and Ψ are defined in Figure 3-5.

$$K_{\alpha\tau} = K_1(\Omega)K_2(\Psi) \quad 3-9$$

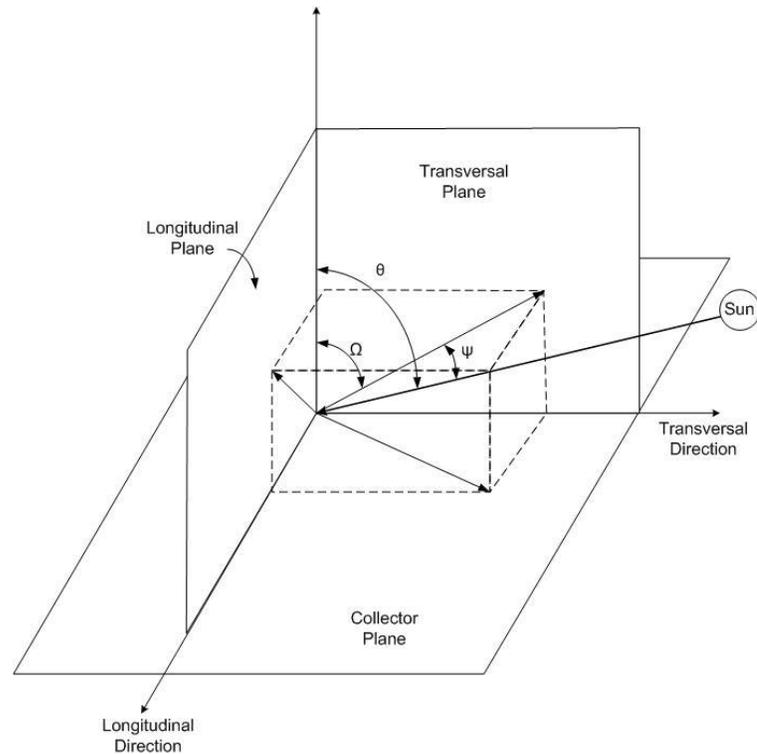


Figure 3-5: Bi-axial incidence angle modifier definitions
Adapted from (Harrison et al., 1993)

The selection of an evacuated tube collector for the model was based on the following criteria:

- Typical gross area between 10 and 100 m²
- IAM information available from the manufacturer
- Efficiency information based on gross area available from the manufacturer
- Nominal efficiency above 0.5

The Wikora Wikosun HP 65-30 evacuated tube collector (Solartechnik Prufung Forschung, 2007) met the above conditions, and was selected for the modelling of the solar collector. The data used for the modelling of the

Wikora tubes can be found in Table 3-1 and Table 3-2. The efficiency of the Wikora tubes is based on the mean collector fluid temperature, and thus the collector efficiency factor is used.

Table 3-1: Thermal performance coefficients of Wikora tubes
(Solartechnik Prufung Forschung, 2007)

Intercept efficiency ($F'\tau\alpha$)	0.567
Negative of first order efficiency coefficient ($F'J$)	1.21
Negative of second order efficiency coefficient ($F'L$)	0.0008

Table 3-2: IAM data for Wikora tubes
(Solartechnik Prufung Forschung, 2007)

Direction	0°	15°	30°	45°	60°	75°	90°
Transversal IAM	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.93	0.78	0.45	0.00
Longitudinal IAM	1.00	1.00	0.98	0.96	0.88	0.60	0.00

3.3.4 Type 4a - storage tank; fixed inlets, uniform losses

Type 4a, a tank with two fixed inlets and uniform losses, was chosen for the modelling of the cold and hot storage tanks. Each of the storage tanks were modelled with 15 nodes. Fifteen nodes provided a reasonable simulation run time, and have also been shown to produce accurate temperature distributions through

TRNSYS modelling studies (Cruickshank & Harrison, 2006). A height of 0.9 m was selected for each tank, based on the height of current domestic hot water tanks (NRCan, 2008b), which resulted in a separation of 0.06 m between each node.

3.4 System Sizing

As described earlier, the three components to be sized using the TRNSYS system were:

- Hot storage tank (volume)
- Cold storage tank (volume)
- Solar collector (area)

The Yazaki specifications provided constraints on the treatment of the flow rates and allowable temperatures of the flows into the chiller. These specifications are detailed in Table 2-1.

The results of Swan et al. (2009b) were used for the required cooling loads for the sizing of the components. These loads were representative of a single detached home in Toronto, Ontario during a typical summer. The house selected for modelling was a two-storey house built in 2000. The model was used as the base case for the building performance simulations undertaken in ESP-r, further described in Section 5.2. Weather data for the city of Toronto was selected as it is one of Canada's hottest cities, without having a high level of solar radiation compared to other major Canadian cities (Phillips, 2010). The range of cooling loads across different housing sizes and climates were not expected to cause significant variation

in the sizing of the system components, therefore the results obtained from using a particular house in the Toronto area were considered representative for Ontario houses.

It was desired that the system had high performance for this initial sizing due to the modelling simplifications described, and consequently the system was considered appropriately sized when the cooling loads were met during at least 99% of the time steps. Meeting 99% of the cooling loads represents nominally thirty hours during the cooling season with unmet cooling loads. A five minute time step was used for the simulations from May 15th – September 15th.

To begin, an analysis was completed to determine the sensitivity of the system's performance to the modification of a number of variables. The following parameters were varied during the sensitivity analysis:

- Solar collector flow rate (1 on Figure 3-1)
- Solar collector area
- Hot storage tank volume
- Cold storage tank volume
- Hot loop flow rate (7 on Figure 3-1)
- Cold loop flow rate (15 on Figure 3-1)

Initial rough calculations using the maximum daily cooling load (215 MJ) and the nominal chiller capacity (35 kW) were completed to determine a reasonable baseline for each of the above components. These initial conditions are detailed in

Table 3-3. Each parameter was varied until changes no longer made a significant difference to the simulation results, or until they reached a value which was physically unreasonable.

Table 3-3: Initial variable conditions

Variable	Initial Condition	Range Varied
Solar Collector Flow Rate	0.21 kg/s	0.05 kg/s – 0.25 kg/s
Solar Collector Area	55 m ²	25 m ² – 70 m ²
Hot Storage Tank Volume	1.3 m ³	0.8 m ³ – 2.0 m ³
Cold Storage Tank Volume	1.7 m ³	0.75 m ³ – 2.2 m ³
Hot Loop Flow Rate	0.26 kg/s	0.05 kg/s – 0.4 kg/s
Cold Loop Flow Rate	0.44 kg/s	0.3 kg/s – 0.9 kg/s

The rough cold loop flow rate was determined using Equation 3-10 assuming a six degree temperature rise across the house, and a peak load of 11 kW (\dot{Q}_{peak}).

$$\dot{m} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{peak}}{C\Delta T} \quad 3-10$$

The storage energy density ($X_{chill,water}$) of the cold water tank is described by Equation 3-11. Assuming the same resulting temperature rise as previously, the resulting capacity is 28.9 MJ/m³. It was desired that the cold storage tank would be capable of meeting the evening loads, when cooling loads still exist but the solar radiation has subsided. For the initial conditions, a reasonable estimate was made

that one third of the daily maximum cooling load would occur in this period, resulting in a desired storage capacity of 49.1 MJ. Dividing the desired storage capacity ($Q_{chill,stored}$) by the energy density, as shown in Equation 3-12, a nominal tank size (V_{chill}) of 1.7 m³ was determined.

$$X_{chill,water} = \rho_{chill} c_{chill} \Delta T \quad 3-11$$

$$Q_{chill,stored} = V_{chill} X_{chill,water} \quad 3-12$$

The hot storage tank was included in order to meet the fluctuating daily solar availability. It was desired that the storage tank would be capable of meeting the house's peak load (\dot{Q}_{peak}) for 2 hours. Using Equation 3-12, where the heat transfer rate ($\dot{Q}_{hot,water}$) was calculated using Equation 3-13 and a peak load of 11 kW, the hot storage tank size was found to be 1.3 m³.

$$\dot{Q}_{hot,water} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{peak}}{COP_{th}} \quad 3-13$$

The solar collector area was determined by assuming an ideal heat exchanger between the solar collector and the hot tank, and using an average insolation value for Toronto of 800 W/m². To meet the peak load plus 20%, and assuming a COP_{th} of 0.6, the required heat transfer was found to be 22 kW. The resulting solar collector area was determined to be 55 m².

The hot loop flow rate was calculated using Equation 3-10, with a heat transfer of 22 kW and a temperature difference of 20°C. The resulting flow rate was 0.26 kg/s. Finally, the solar collector flow rate was determined based on a desired temperature difference of 30°C, to keep the solar collector losses at a minimum. Using Equation 3-10 with a heat transfer of 22 kW, and a heat capacity of 3,559 J/kg°C the solar collector flow rate was found to be 0.21 kg/s.

For each run of the simulation, all variables were held constant except for one. For instance, for the first iterations, all variables were held constant except for the solar collector flow rate. Multiple simulations were then run, each with a different value for the solar collector flow rate. This process was then repeated for each of the variables. The range over which each variable was changed is found in Table 3-3. This analysis allowed for the determination of the sensitivity of the system to each of the components.

After all iterations of the sensitivity analysis were completed, the best performing size for each variable was then chosen to create a new baseline. The best performance was considered to be the iteration with the lowest value for ϵ (%), where ϵ is described by Equation 3-14.

$$\epsilon = \text{Percentage of timesteps where the system was not able to meet the cooling load with an outlet water temperature from the house} \leq 24.5^{\circ}\text{C} \quad 3-14$$

The outlet water temperature is representative of the interior house temperature, so if the outlet temperature is above 24.5°C, it indicates that the house temperature is above the upper deadband setpoint. The variation process was then repeated for the new baseline to optimize the sizing of the solar collector array and the storage tanks. The results of the sensitivity analysis and sizing are provided in Sections 3.4.1 through 3.4.4.

3.4.1 Sensitivity of the solar collector flow rate

The sensitivity of the solar collector flow rate was expected to be low. The solar collector flow was constrained to a loop containing the solar collector and the heat exchanger. It was expected that as the flow rate increased, the resulting temperature of the flow exiting the solar collector would decrease, but the overall heat transferred to the fluid would be fairly constant. The solar collector performance is related to the flow rate, resulting in some minor fluctuations in system performance with changes in flow. Figure 3-6 shows the relationship between the solar collector flow rate and the number of unmet cooling loads. The solar collector flow rate resulting in the most time steps maintained at the setpoint was found to be 0.1 kg/s.

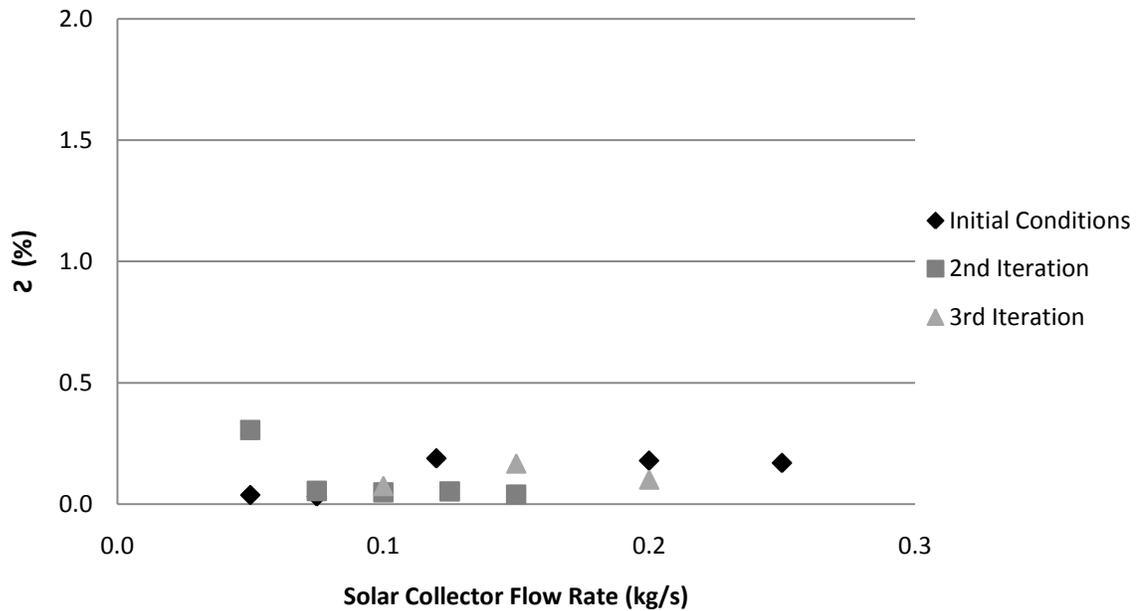


Figure 3-6: Sensitivity of unmet cooling loads to solar collector flow rate

3.4.2 Hot loop flow rate

The hot loop flow rate was defined as the flow rate between the hot storage tank and the load side of the heat exchanger. The sensitivity of the hot loop flow rate was expected to be minimal, and was confirmed through the sensitivity analysis. As seen in Figure 3-7, the system performance was mildly dependent on the hot loop flow rate. After three iterations, the flow rate with the least number of time steps above the setpoint was 0.05 kg/s.

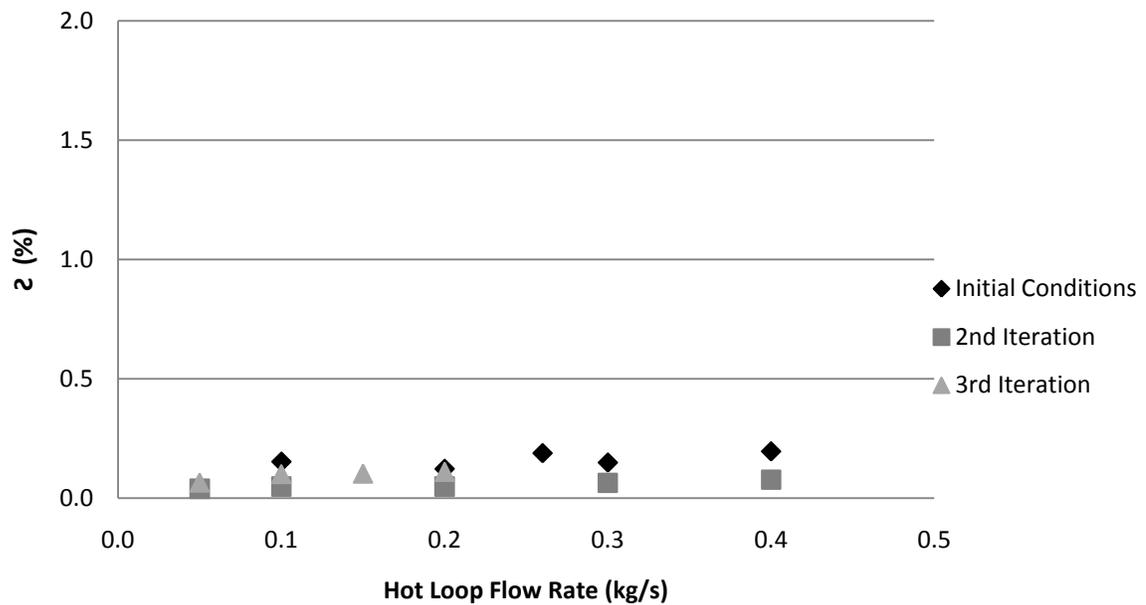


Figure 3-7: Sensitivity of unmet cooling loads to hot loop flow rate

3.4.3 Cold loop flow rate

The cold loop flow rate was defined as the flow rate between the cold storage tank and the theoretical house. The performance of the system as modelled was not very sensitive to the cold loop flow rate, though this flow rate was the determining factor for the required mass of chilled water in the cold tank at any given time. Figure 3-8 displays the sensitivity of z to the variation of cold loop flow rate during the three iterations. The flow rate at which the cooling setpoint was most often met was selected. A flow rate of 0.9 kg/s was found to have the smallest value of z for the cold loop.

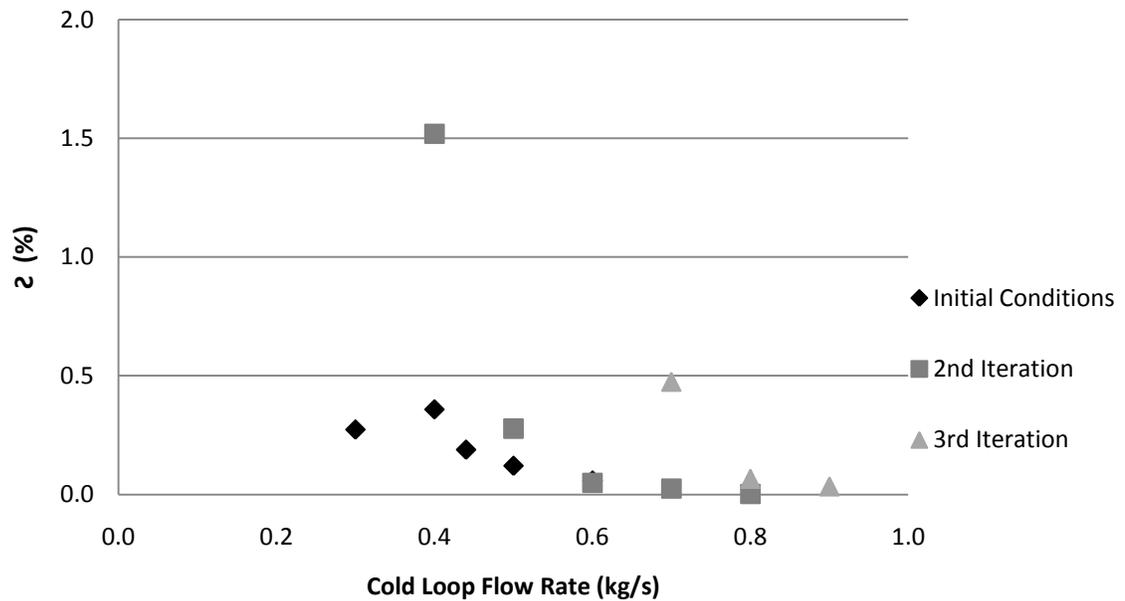


Figure 3-8: Sensitivity of unmet cooling loads to cold loop flow rate

3.4.4 Component sizing

After the sensitivity of the extraneous variable values was established, the most favourable sizing of the solar collector area and the cold and hot storage tanks was determined. This process was iterative, with each new sizing of one component being used as the baseline for the following iteration of the other two components.

Solar collector area

The solar collector area was an important consideration, with increasing collector area providing increased performance, as can be seen in Figure 3-9. The final sizing of the solar collector was completed using the final conditions of the two storage tanks. A solar collector area of 40 m² or greater was found to result in the temperature setpoint being maintained at least 99.5% of time steps, and as such 40 m² was selected as an appropriate trade-off between size and performance.

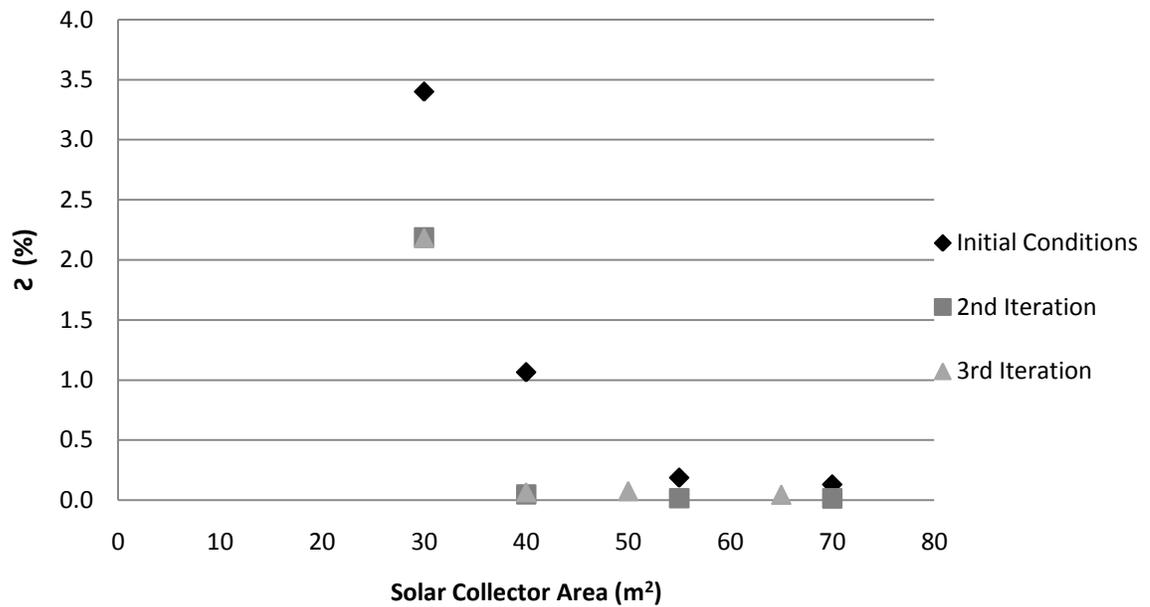


Figure 3-9: Sizing of the solar collectors

Hot and cold storage tanks

The hot and cold storage tanks both increased overall system performance with increased volume. Figure 3-10 and Figure 3-11 display a general trend of a decrease in η with an increase in tank size for the hot storage tank and cold storage tank, respectively.

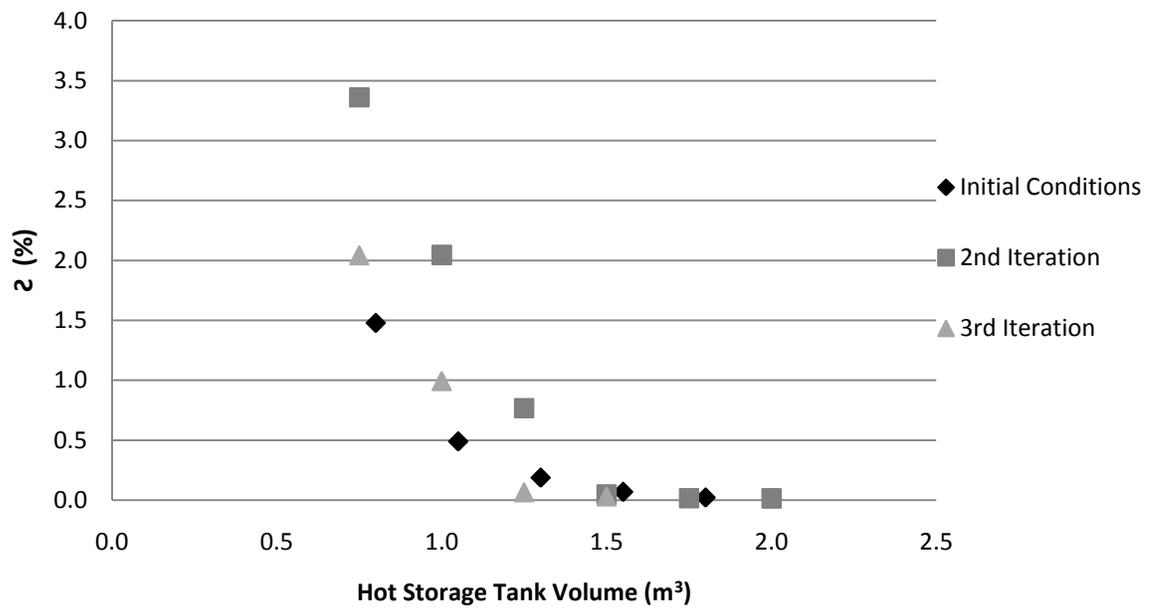


Figure 3-10: Sizing of the hot storage tank

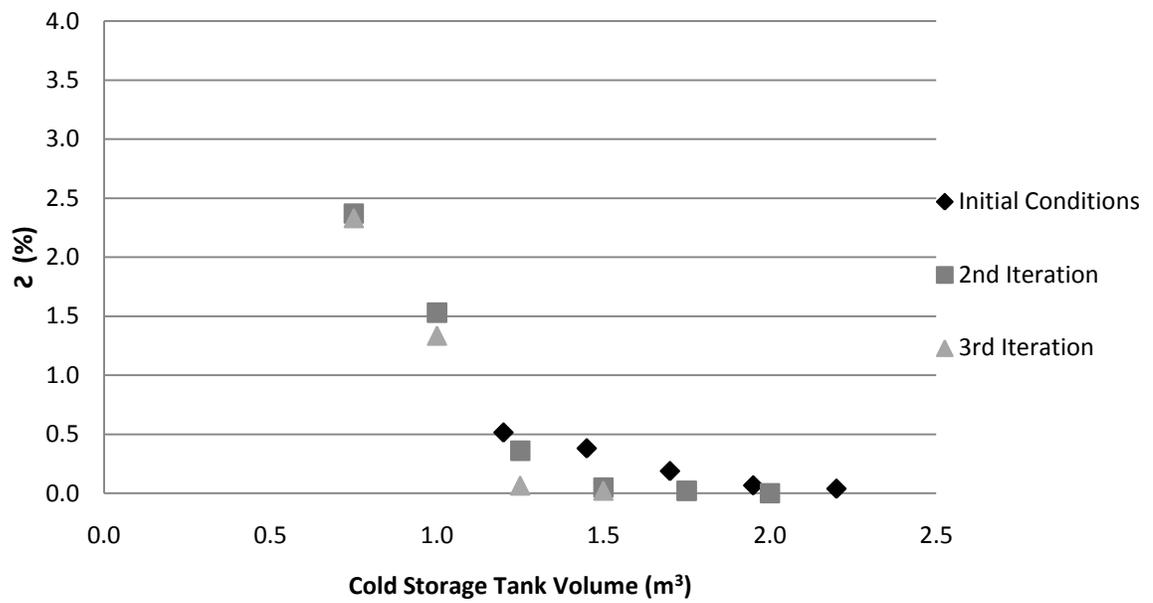


Figure 3-11: Sizing of the cold storage tank

Figure 3-12 shows the relationship between each of the storage tank sizes and z . As seen in previous figures, z is found to be minimal at larger tank sizes. A cold tank

size of 1.25 m² and a hot tank size of 1.0 m³ were selected in order to meet a value of ϵ above 99%.

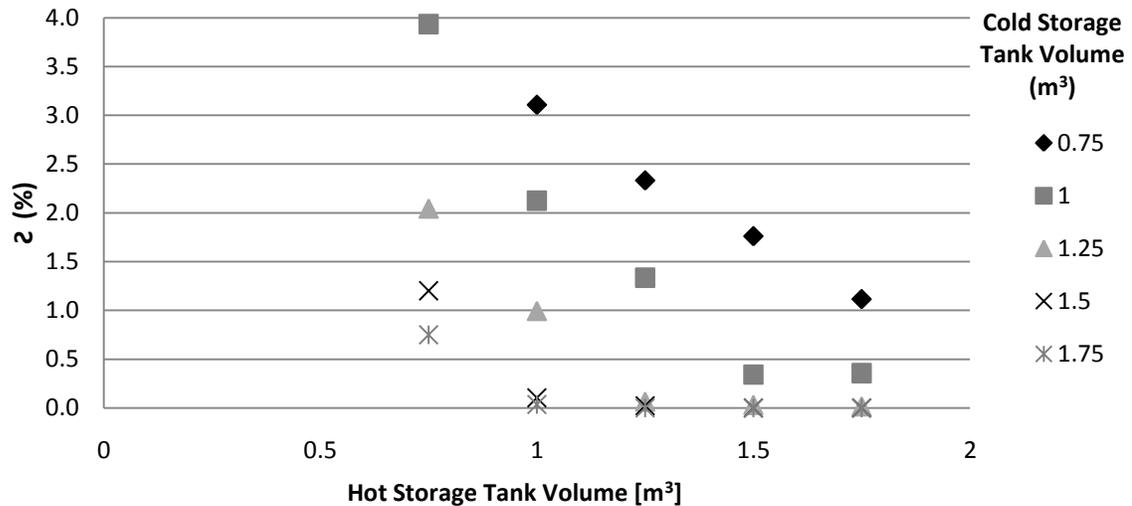


Figure 3-12: Relationship between storage tank sizes and unmet cooling loads

Table 3-4: Final component sizing

Variable	Initial Condition	Final Sizing
Solar Collector Area	55 m ²	40 m ²
Hot Storage Tank Volume	1.3 m ³	1.0 m ³
Cold Storage Tank Volume	1.7 m ³	1.25 m ³
Hot Loop Flow Rate	0.26 kg/s	0.05 kg/s
Cold Loop Flow Rate	0.44 kg/s	0.9 kg/s
Solar Collector Flow Rate	0.21 kg/s	0.1 kg/s

The final sizing for each of the variables is detailed in Table 3-4. The results of the component sizing in TRNSYS are conducive to the physical constraints of a Canadian

home. A roof capable of accommodating 40 m² of evacuated tube collector is large, but feasible. While tanks of 1.0 m³ and 1.25 m³ volume are also large for domestic use, they are in the same size range of electric water tanks for large family homes (NRCan, 2008b). The final component sizes were determined for use in the building simulations completed in ESP-r which are further described in Chapter 4.

CHAPTER 4

4.0 ESP-r Building Performance Simulation Software

Chapter 3 described the use of TRNSYS for sizing the components of the solar absorption cooling system under consideration. For the sizing of the plant system, a sequential approach to plant modelling was advantageous due to the ability to use different modelling methods for different components, and the ability to rapidly prototype the system layout and sizing. However, once the SAC system is incorporated into a full building simulation, the complexity of the plant and building modelling makes it advantageous to use a simultaneous plant modelling approach. ESP-r simulation software was chosen for the performance simulation of the SAC system in a variety of house designs and climates. While multiple building performance simulation software programs exist (U.S. Department of Energy, 2011), ESP-r was chosen for the work because it is an open-source, non-proprietary simulation software which allows for a high level of customization. Additionally, ESP-r has been well validated and can be used with a high degree of confidence (Strachan, 2008).

The present chapter describes the modelling techniques of the ESP-r simulation software. Section 4.1 will describe the building thermal network modelling, Section 4.2 will describe the plant network modelling, and Section 4.3 will describe

the control functions. The following description of the simulation techniques integrated in ESP-r is adapted from Clarke (2001).

4.1 The ESP-r Building Thermal Network

ESP-r was developed in the 1970s, at the time when numerical methods were beginning to take hold in the BPS industry. ESP-r uses a numerical method with simultaneous solution for solving the building thermal network by representing the model as numerous discretised control volumes. A building is split into separate thermal zones, each made up of a variety of surfaces, plant network interactions, and control functions.

The formulation of a model in ESP-r comprises three stages, beginning with the discretisation of the building system. The discretisation is completed through placing nodes at points of interest throughout the building. Conservation equations are then developed for each node, which include the transfers of mass, energy, and momentum between the node and the surrounding nodes. Based on the present time-row states and prescribed boundary conditions, the resulting set of nodal equations is then solved simultaneously at each time step in order to determine the future time-row variables.

Within an ESP-r building model, thermal zones are defined, each bounded by surfaces containing internal surface nodes and a single air point node in the middle of the zone. The zoning of a building allows for the differentiation between conditioned and unconditioned areas, as well as other varying occupant comfort

settings and internal gains. For example, a main floor containing a kitchen and washer/dryer will have different heating and cooling setpoints and internal gains than an unconditioned attic.

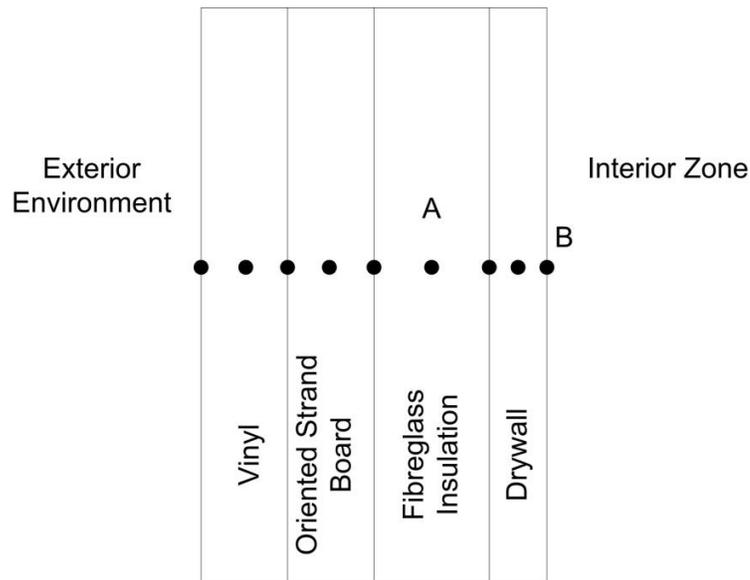


Figure 4-1: Control volume discretisation of an opaque surface
Adapted from Beausoleil-Morrison (2000)

Within a zone, each surface and point of interest is discretised into control volumes (nodes). Figure 4-1 shows an opaque surface comprising 4 different materials discretized into nodes. In ESP-r, each construction material has three nodes: an internal surface node (at the intersection between the most internal surface of the material and the internal environment, or the next material, as applicable), an intra-constructional node (at the midsection of the volume), and an external surface node (at the intersection between the material and the external environment, or the next material, as applicable). A study from Clarke (1977) postulates that spatial

discretisation of a homogeneous element into three or more nodes is considered acceptably accurate (as cited in Clarke (2001)).

Once discretisation has been achieved, governing equations for each node are developed based on the applicable heat transfer. A variety of heat and mass transfer processes can take place within a thermal network. Figure 4-2 outlines some of the most common processes within a building, and also identifies the three nodes just described. The figure depicts heat and mass transfer through infiltration (air flow to and from the external environment through cracks and gaps), internal convection, longwave radiation (both internally and externally), inter-zone airflow, internal gains from occupants and equipment, and exterior convection. Additional sources of heat and mass transfer include HVAC equipment, renewable energy systems, and cogeneration systems.

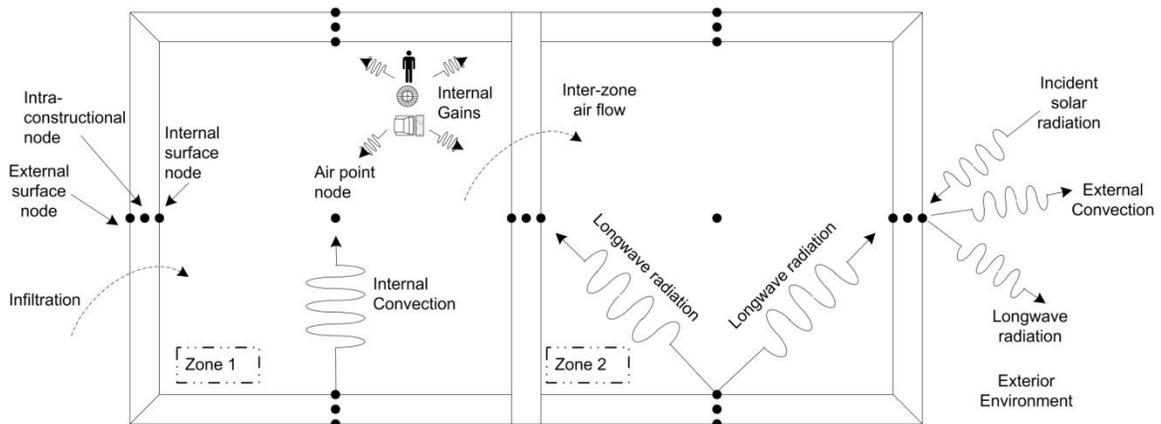


Figure 4-2: Heat and mass transfer processes
Adapted from Beausoleil-Morrison (2000)

Figure 4-3 provides a detailed view of a single opaque surface. For an opaque surface, the energy transfer occurring through the surface will include conduction

through the solid material, convection within porous materials, as well as radiation. Moisture transfer and contact resistances will also affect the surface, in all three dimensions. In order to model this surface, ESP-r assumes one-dimensional conduction with constant thermophysical properties through the material. This approximation has sufficient accuracy for thin layers of material, and allows for the nodal distribution previously described.

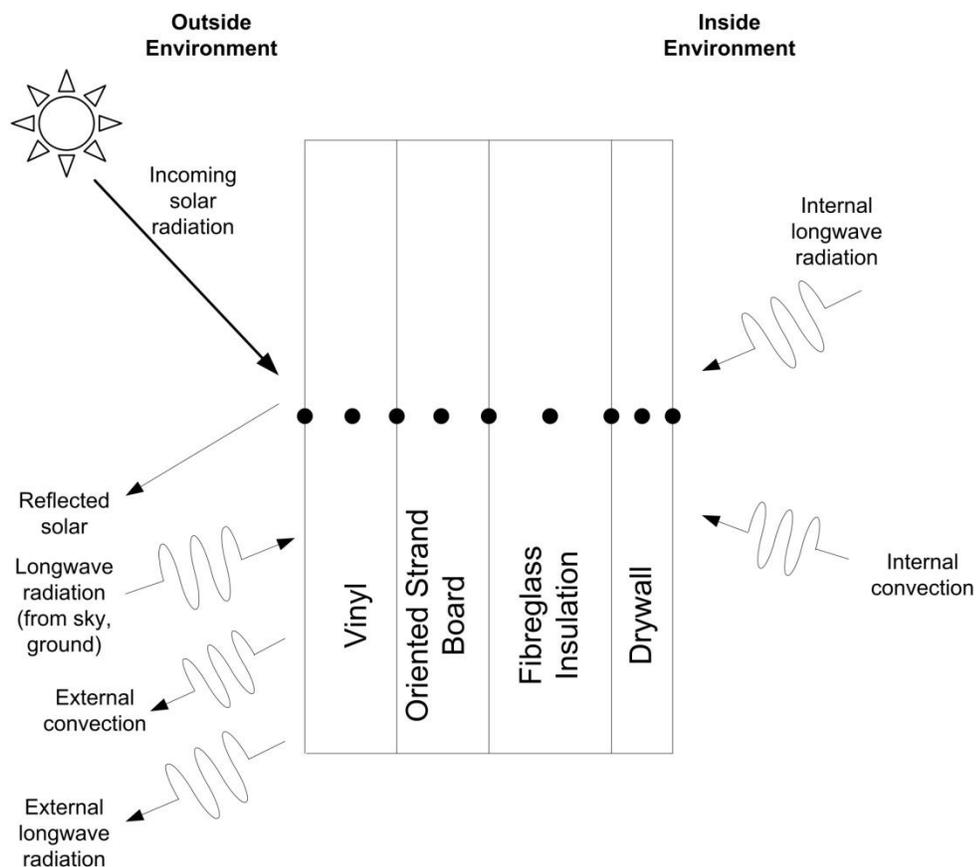


Figure 4-3: Heat and mass transfer processes in an opaque surface
Adapted from Beausoleil-Morrison (2000)

For each region (intra-constructional, zone air, etc.), an equation is derived which integrates the thermal interaction with other regions through conduction,

convection, radiation, and fluid flow. For example, for regions with conduction, the Fourier heat equation is included. These conservation equations are expressed for each of the nodes, approximated using the Taylor Series expansion. ESP-r allows the user to specify the implicit and explicit weighting for the building simulation solutions. A fully explicit solution provides an independent equation for each node. The resulting set of equations may be easily resolved by solving future time-row values at each time step based on the initially prescribed temperatures at $t = 0$. A fully implicit solution would present an equation for each node which would contain both present and future time temperatures, related to the surrounding nodes (Clarke, 2001).

For an intra-constructural node such as *A* in Figure 4-1 the heat balance can be expressed by Equation 4-1:

$$\rho C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial q''_{cond}}{\partial x} + q'''_{plant} \quad 4-1$$

where ρ is the density of the material (kg/m^3), C_p is the specific heat capacity at constant pressure of the material (J/kgK), $\frac{\partial T}{\partial t}$ represents the change in temperature with time of the control volume (K/s), q'''_{plant} is the heat transfer by the plant components per unit volume (W/m^3), and $\frac{\partial q''_{cond}}{\partial x}$ represents the change in heat transfer by conduction per unit area with distance through the control volume (W/m^3).

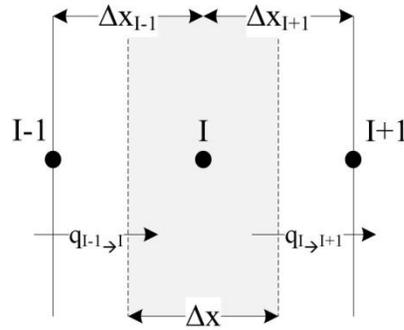


Figure 4-4: Control volume for an intra-constructural node
Adapted from Beausoleil-Morrison (2000)

Figure 4-4 provides an example of an intra-constructural control node with related definitions. The I term represents the current node in the centre of the control volume, $I-1$ represents the previous node in space, and $I+1$ represents the next node in space. Δx represents the width of the control volume (m), Δx_{I-1} the distance between the current node and the previous node (m), and Δx_{I+1} the distance between the current node and the next node (m). Integrating over space, the fully explicit Taylor series expansion provides Equation 4-2, where the conductive heat transfers $q_{I-1 \rightarrow I}$ (W) and $q_{I \rightarrow I+1}$ (W) are described in Equations 4-3, and 4-4, respectively.

$$(\rho C_p \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z)_I \frac{T_I^{t+\Delta t} - T_I^t}{\Delta t} = q_{I-1 \rightarrow I} - q_{I \rightarrow I+1} + q_{plant} \quad 4-2$$

$$q_{I-1 \rightarrow I} \approx \frac{k_{I-1} \Delta y \Delta z}{\Delta x_{I-1}} (T_{I-1}^t - T_I^t) \quad 4-3$$

$$q_{I \rightarrow I+1} \approx \frac{k_{I+1} \Delta y \Delta z}{\Delta x_{I+1}} (T_I^t - T_{I+1}^t) \quad 4-4$$

In these equations, $t+\Delta t$ denotes the future time step, t the current time step, k the thermal conductivity of the material (W/mK), Δx the width of the control volume (m), Δy the height of the control volume (m), and Δz the length of the control volume (m).

In order to finalize the conservation equations, the ESP-r user must determine at what ratio to weight the implicit and explicit expressions. A common formulation is the Crank-Nicholson method, which applies a 50% weighting to each of the implicit and explicit formulations, and is unconditionally stable (Clarke, 2001). The Crank-Nicholson method was selected for the present work due to its stability. The resulting formulation for intra-constructional control volumes can be seen in Equation 4-5.

$$\left[\frac{2(\rho C_p)_I}{\Delta t} + \frac{k_{1-1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{1-1}} + \frac{k_{I+1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{I+1}} \right] T_I^{t+\Delta t} - \left[\frac{k_{I-1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{I-1}} \right] T_{I-1}^{t+\Delta t} - \left[\frac{k_{I+1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{I+1}} \right] T_{I+1}^{t+\Delta t} - \frac{q_{plant}^{t+\Delta t}}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} = \quad 4-5$$

$$\left[\frac{2(\rho C_p)_I}{\Delta t} - \frac{k_{1-1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{1-1}} - \frac{k_{I+1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{I+1}} \right] T_I^t + \left[\frac{k_{I-1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{I-1}} \right] T_{I-1}^t + \left[\frac{k_{I+1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{I+1}} \right] T_{I+1}^t + \frac{q_{plant}^t}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z}$$

Similarly, for an internal surface control volume such as B in Equation 4-1, the control volume would have the form shown in Figure 4-5. The resulting Crank-Nicholson difference formulation is described by Equation 4-6, where s represents the surface number facing the control volume, and h_{rad} and h_{conv} are the radiative and convective heat transfer coefficients (W/m²K), respectively. In the case of the internal surface node, there is also the addition of heat transfer by solar gains, $q_{solar,I}$ (W), and by radiative casual gains, $q_{cas-rad,I}$ (W).

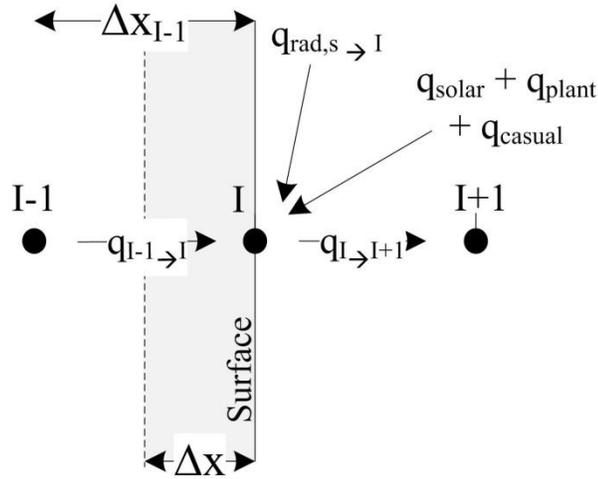


Figure 4-5: Control volume for an internal surface node
Adapted from Beausoleil-Morrison (2000)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left[\frac{2(\rho C_p)_I}{\Delta t} + \frac{k_{1-1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{1-1}} + \frac{h_{conv,I}^{t+\Delta t}}{\Delta x} + \frac{\sum_{s=1}^N h_{rad,s \rightarrow I}^{t+\Delta t}}{\Delta x} \right] T_I^{t+\Delta t} - \left[\frac{k_{I-1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{I-1}} \right] T_{I-1}^{t+\Delta t} - \left[\frac{h_{conv,I}^{t+\Delta t}}{\Delta x} \right] T_{I+1}^{t+\Delta t} - \quad 4-6 \\
 & \frac{\sum_{s=1}^N h_{rad,s \rightarrow I}^{t+\Delta t} T_s^{t+\Delta t}}{\Delta x} - \frac{q_{solar,I}^{t+\Delta t}}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} - \frac{q_{cas-rad,I}^{t+\Delta t}}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} - \frac{q_{plant,I}^{t+\Delta t}}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} = \left[\frac{2(\rho C_p)_I}{\Delta t} - \frac{k_{1-1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{1-1}} - \frac{h_{conv,I}^t}{\Delta x} - \right. \\
 & \left. \frac{\sum_{s=1}^N h_{rad,s \rightarrow I}^t}{\Delta x} \right] T_I^t + \left[\frac{k_{I-1}}{\Delta x \Delta x_{I-1}} \right] T_{I-1}^t + \left[\frac{h_{conv,I}^t}{\Delta x} \right] T_{I+1}^t + \frac{\sum_{s=1}^N h_{rad,s \rightarrow I}^t T_s^t}{\Delta x} + \frac{q_{solar,I}^t}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} + \frac{q_{cas-rad,I}^t}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} + \\
 & \frac{q_{plant,I}^t}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z}
 \end{aligned}$$

Finally, a zone air control volume, as shown in Figure 4-6, introduces the contribution of advective mass transfer through flow from other zones, as well as infiltration from the exterior through cracks and openings. This contribution is dependent on the mass flow rate as well as the temperature gradient between the zone and the infiltrating zone or exterior. The introduction of advection mass transfer from other zones to air point node I of a zone (\dot{m}_{ij}) is expressed by Equation 4-7, where J denotes a different zone.

$$\dot{m}_{ij} = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \dot{m}_{j \rightarrow i}^t (C_p (T_j^t - T_i^t))_{j \neq i}$$

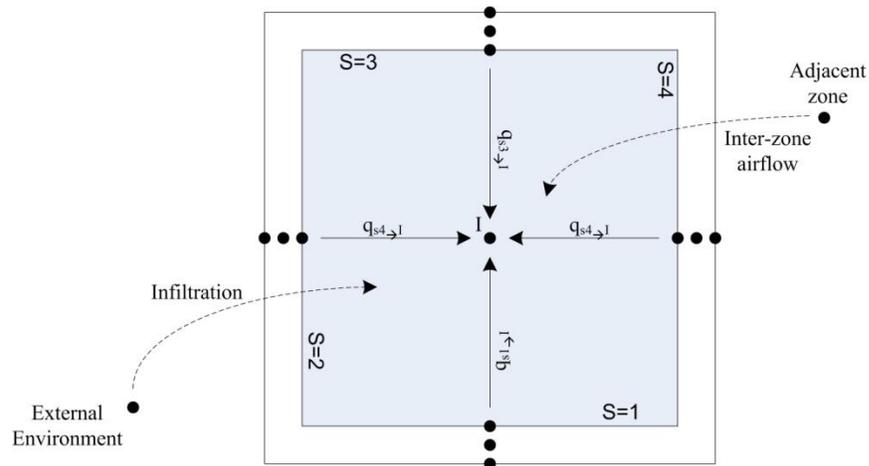


Figure 4-6: Zone air control volume
Adapted from Beausoleil-Morrison (2000)

The transfer from other zones is prescribed by the air flow network, within which users define mechanisms and quantities for the inter-zone air flow. The contribution of infiltration from the exterior (\dot{m}_{ia}) is similarly expressed by Equation 4-8, where a denotes the exterior.

$$\dot{m}_{ia} = \dot{m}_{a \rightarrow i}^t (C_p (T_a^t - T_i^t)) \quad 4-8$$

In order to determine the mass flow rates infiltrating the zone, ESP-r utilizes the Alberta Infiltration Model (AIM-2) (Walker & Wilson, 1990). The AIM-2 model relates the weather file information, specifically the wind speed, to the air leakage sites and the pressure difference between the interior and exterior, in order to determine the air infiltration rate.

First, the user inputs the level of sheltering from the wind based on surrounding trees, buildings, and other objects. This information is used along with the wind speed to determine the force of the wind acting on the building envelope. Second, random infiltration is determined based on the pressure difference across each leakage site on the building envelope. The pressure difference is determined by temperature difference between the interior and exterior, the wind, and appliance operation. The size and location of leakage heavily influence the infiltration rate, and the incorporation of the AIM-2 model into ESP-r has also allowed users to consider the effects of occupants opening and closing windows. The AIM-2 model approximates the numerical solutions of these complex mass balances through algebraic equations which are then included in the overall system equation set (Wang et al., 2009).

Combining Equations 4-7 and 4-8 with the contributions from convective heat transfer from each surface determined by convection coefficient correlations (Beausoleil-Morrison, 2000), a zone air control volume would have the Crank-Nicholson formulation shown in Equation 4-9, where V_{room} is the volume of the room containing the air zone node, and $q_{\text{cas-conv}}$ is the convective casual gain heat transfer (W).

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left[\frac{2(\rho C_p)_I}{\Delta t} + \frac{\sum_{S=1}^N h_{c,s \rightarrow I}^{t+\Delta t} A_S}{V_{room}} + \frac{\sum_{J=1}^M \dot{m}_{J \rightarrow I}^{t+\Delta t} C_p}{VL_{room}} + \frac{\dot{m}_{a \rightarrow I}^{t+\Delta t} C_p}{VOL_{room}} \right] T_I^{t+\Delta t} - \left[\frac{\sum_{S=1}^N h_{c,s \rightarrow I}^{t+\Delta t} A_S T_S^{t+\Delta t}}{VOL_{room}} \right] - \tag{4-9} \\
& \left[\frac{\sum_{J=1}^M \dot{m}_{J \rightarrow I}^{t+\Delta t} C_p T_J^{t+\Delta t}}{VOL_{room}} \right] - \left[\frac{\dot{m}_{a \rightarrow I}^{t+\Delta t} C_p T_a^{t+\Delta t}}{VOL_{room}} \right] - \frac{q_{cas-conv,I}^{t+\Delta t}}{VOL_{room}} - \frac{q_{plant,I}^{t+\Delta t}}{VOL_{room}} = \left[\frac{2(\rho C_p)_I}{\Delta t} - \frac{\sum_{S=1}^N h_{c,s \rightarrow I}^t A_S}{VOL_{room}} - \right. \\
& \left. \frac{\sum_{J=1}^M \dot{m}_{J \rightarrow I}^t C_p}{VOL_{room}} - \frac{\dot{m}_{a \rightarrow I}^t C_p}{VOL_{room}} \right] T_I^t + \left[\frac{\sum_{S=1}^N h_{c,s \rightarrow I}^t A_S T_S^t}{VOL_{room}} \right] + \left[\frac{\sum_{J=1}^M \dot{m}_{J \rightarrow I}^t C_p T_J^t}{VOL_{room}} \right] + \left[\frac{\dot{m}_{a \rightarrow I}^t C_p T_a^t}{VOL_{room}} \right] + \\
& \frac{q_{cas-conv,I}^t}{VOL_{room}} + \frac{q_{plant,I}^t}{VOL_{room}}
\end{aligned}$$

Once the set of nodal equations has been determined, the set must be solved at each time step. This solution can be obtained through direct methods or iterative methods. The iterative method was described in Section 3.1 and is the approach taken by TRNSYS. The method used by ESP-r involves the use of rapid direct techniques, with additional iteration of the air flow network when necessary. The interested reader is directed to Clarke (2001) for a full description of the solution approach.

4.2 The ESP-r Plant Network

ESP-r includes the option for an explicit or an idealized plant network for modelling heating and cooling systems. The idealized plant network imitates the functionality of the plant energy injection and extraction through simplified, ideal systems with set characteristics, such as cooling capacity. The ideal system uses controllers that manage the heat injection and extraction within the capacity limits of the system, in order to maintain the desired comfort conditions in the conditioned zone. The ideal network has limited functionality and does not sufficiently account for the cyclical nature of actual heating and cooling systems, nor does it allow for high levels of

customization or component creation. The ideal plant network was not appropriate for the modelling of the SAC system undertaken in the present research, and therefore the explicit plant network was employed. The ideal plant network was used for the electrical modelling of a vapour compression air conditioning system as a comparison to the SAC system, which is further described in Section 7.2.

The explicit plant network creates an additional set of nodes to the thermal network, each node representing one component (or part thereof), of the plant system. The building model energy balances, for example Equation 4-5, include a corresponding entry to the plant network. The plant network can be simplistic or complex, the latter increasing the required computational power.

Individual plant components can have multiple nodes, and node placement carries significance in the way the component is modelled. Plant inputs or extracts which are convective in nature will transfer energy directly with the zone air, and have a fluid nodal location. This placement is appropriate for air conditioning systems, where the cooling flux is convectively added under a control strategy. Inputs or extracts which are both convective and radiant have a surface nodal location. This placement is in accordance with the convective transfer to the proximal fluid volume, and the longwave radiation to the surrounding surfaces. Such a placement is appropriate for components that have explicit surfaces described, such as radiant panels and radiators. Nodes can also be considered as a capacity or insulation node, for systems which would input or extract energy to an intra-material node such as under-floor heating systems.

Figure 4-7 displays a single-node solar collector, where the node is considered as a fluid node. The collector node interacts with two other plant nodes through energy flow in and out, where \dot{m} is the mass flow rate (kg/s) and C_p is the specific heat capacity (J/kgK). The collector receives longwave solar radiation, and also has a mass of fluid, m_{coll} (kg). The outlet temperature can be determined through explicit simulation.

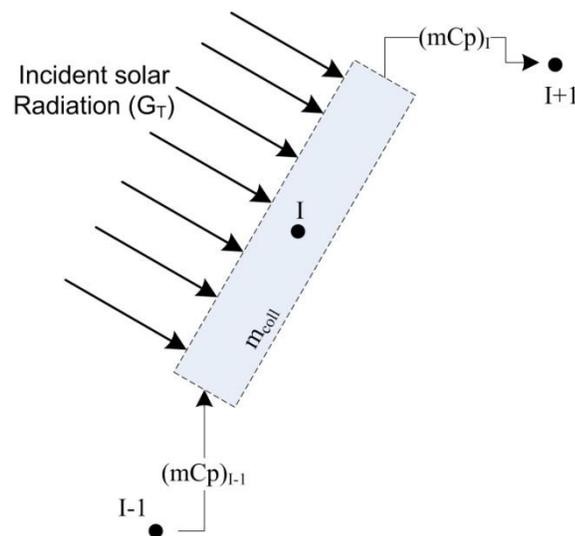


Figure 4-7: Solar collector control volume

A set of conservation equations is described for each node in a component. The number of equations is dependent on the number of phases and properties used. A system of equations can then be created for the plant component network in the same way as for the thermal network described in Section 4.1. This system is combined with the building and fluid flow equation systems and solved numerically. In order to decrease complexity and required processing power, components often include an independent algorithm for internal processes, which allows the overall

component to be represented by a small number of control volumes. Users provide the required inputs for the characteristic equations, including for example the total component mass and the working fluid heat capacity.

For the solar collector shown in Figure 4-7, the methodology in ESP-r is summarized below. The interested reader is directed to Thevenard et al. (2004) for a more thorough description of the solar collector model. The energy balance for the control volume is described by Equation 4-10 where the left hand side is comprised of the mass of the collector, m_{coll} (kg), the average fluid heat capacity, \bar{c} (kJ/kg°C), and the change of the outlet fluid temperature with respect to time, $\frac{\partial \theta_{out}}{\partial t}$ (°C/s).

$$m_{coll} \bar{c} \frac{\partial \theta_{out}}{\partial t} = -\dot{m} C_p (\theta_{out} - \theta_{in}) + \eta A G_T \quad 4-10$$

The right hand side of the equation includes the energy change through advection, where θ is the fluid temperature (°C), as well as the heat transfer from the incoming solar radiation, G_T (W/m²), multiplied by the gross collector area, A (m²), and the solar collector efficiency, η . The collector efficiency is defined by Equation 4-11, where η_0 , η_1 and η_2 are efficiency coefficients, further described in Section 3.3.3, and $\Delta\theta$ (°C) can either be based on the inlet or average fluid temperature.

$$\eta = \eta_0 - \eta_1 \frac{\Delta\theta}{G_T} - \eta_2 \frac{\Delta\theta^2}{G} \quad 4-11$$

As with the thermal network, conservation equations can be determined using the flux through the control volume at the present and future time steps. These equations can then be integrated using a Taylor Series expansion for the future time row. For the modelling of the solar collector in ESP-r, Equation 4-11 is rearranged in terms of θ_{out} , rather than θ_{avg} or θ_{in} . The reader is directed to (Thevenard et al., 2004) for the complete steps of the transformation. With this rearrangement, the future time row of the European collector balance, is expressed by Equation 4-12 where ΔT ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) is the difference between the mean fluid and ambient temperatures, δt is the time step (s), and θ_a is the ambient temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$). Similarly, the present time row can be expressed by Equation 4-13.

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[-\dot{m}(t + \delta t)C_p(t + \delta t) - A \frac{(\eta_1 + \eta_2 \Delta T(t))}{2} - \frac{m\bar{c}}{\delta t} \right] \theta_{out}(t + \delta t) + \left[\dot{m}(t + \delta t)C_p(t + \right. & \text{4-12} \\ & \left. \delta t) - A \frac{(\eta_1 + \eta_2 \Delta T(t))}{2} \right] \theta_{in}(t + \delta t) = -A \frac{(\eta_1 + \eta_2 \Delta T(t))}{2} \theta_a(t + \delta t) - A\eta_0 G(t + \delta t) - \\ & \frac{m\bar{c}}{\delta t} \theta_{out}(t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{m\bar{c}}{\delta t} \theta_{out}(t + \delta t) = & \left[\dot{m}(t)C_p(t) + A \frac{(\eta_1 + \eta_2 \Delta T(t))}{2} - \frac{m\bar{c}}{\delta t} \right] \theta_{out}(t) & \text{4-13} \\ & -\dot{m}(t)C_p(t)\theta_{in}(t) - A \frac{(\eta_1 + \eta_2 \Delta T(t))}{2} \theta_a(t) - A\eta_0 G(t) \end{aligned}$$

Combining Equations 4-12 and 4-13, Equation 4-14 provides the conservation equation for the solar collector, where α represents the explicit weighting, and $(1-\alpha)$ is the implicit weighting.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left[-\alpha \left(\dot{m}(t + \delta t) C_p(t + \delta t) + A \frac{(\eta_1 + \eta_2 \Delta T(t))}{2} \right) - \frac{m\bar{c}}{\delta t} \right] \theta_{out}(t + \delta t) + \alpha \left[\dot{m}(t + \right. \\
& \left. \delta t) C_p(t + \delta t) - A \frac{(\eta_1 + \eta_2 \Delta T(t))}{2} \right] \theta_{in}(t + \delta t) = \\
& \left[(1 - \alpha) \left(\dot{m}(t) C_p(t) + A \frac{(\eta_1 + \eta_2 \Delta T(t))}{2} \right) - \frac{m\bar{c}}{\delta t} \right] \theta_{out}(t) - (1 - \alpha) \dot{m}(t) C_p(t) \theta_{in}(t) - \\
& \alpha \left(A \frac{(\eta_1 + \eta_2 \Delta T(t))}{2} \theta_a(t + \delta t) + A \eta_0 G(t + \delta t) \right) - (1 - \alpha) \left(A \frac{(\eta_1 + \eta_2 \Delta T(t))}{2} \theta_a(t) - \right. \\
& \left. A \eta_0 G(t) \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{4-14}$$

The solution of the building thermal network described in Section 4.1 can now be completed using the resulting expression of Equation 4-14 for the solar collector plant component. The function of the ESP-r plant network is prescribed by the control systems described in the following section.

4.3 Control Systems

The approach taken in ESP-r for control systems is a collection of control loops, each consisting of a sensor, response, and actuator, as shown in Figure 4-8.



Figure 4-8 Control loop methodology in ESP-r

The sensor measures a parameter which determines when actuation will occur. This parameter could be the temperature of a zone, the ambient temperature,

incoming solar radiation, or any other parameter which may affect the operating conditions of the house. Once the sensed parameter has been selected, the user may select the details of the actuator for delivery of the action. The actuation includes both location details and the characteristics of the actuation. For instance, actuation could occur at a point in a zone, or at a surface or intra-constructural node, or in the case of a plant component actuation would occur at a component node.

Once the sensor and actuator details have been selected, the response details are described, which characterise the control action based on the sensed condition. The user may then determine various control strategies for user-prescribed time blocks. Controllers include on/off controllers, free-floating conditions for non-conditioned areas, and flux laws. For instance, the user could sense the temperature of the zone (sensor), and describe that between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm the zone could be free-floating, and from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm the cooling fan should actuate whenever the temperature exceeds 25°C.

The conditions of the system are sensed at each time step and are delivered to the controller response algorithm. This algorithm then modifies the model parameters before the final matrix equation is solved. Multiple control types can be combined and incorporated into the overall control strategy.

The ESP-r control strategy approach does not allow the actuation of multiple plant components simultaneously based on a single sensor, and was not sufficient for the control needs of the present research. In order to meet the control strategy outlined

in Section 2.8, an independent control file was created that was read by the building performance simulator of ESP-r prior to solving the plant network. The control file included the sensing of the main zone temperature, ambient air temperature, the temperature of the hot and cold storage tanks, and the chilled and hot stream temperatures into the chiller. Based on these temperatures, the various pumps, cooling fan, and chiller were actuated based on the control logic prescribed in Section 2.8.

4.4 Climatic Considerations

ESP-r requires climatic conditions in order to simulate the environmental effects on building performance. The dry bulb temperature is required for heat transfer by conduction, and radiation between the building and the surroundings. The dry bulb temperature can also be used to determine the soil temperature, which accounts for the heat loss from the foundation. Direct and diffuse solar radiation is required for the assessment of the absorption, transmission, and reflection of solar radiation through building surfaces. The wind speed and direction are used in the AIM-2 modelling to determine the ambient-zone air leakage, and finally the relative humidity is used for the determination of the wet-bulb temperature used in the absorption chiller control, as well as the changes in latent load and air density and specific heat values (Swan, 2010).

ESP-r's thermal and plant networks, when combined with customized control strategies, and detailed climatic information, allow for a highly customizable and accurate modelling of housing and HVAC performance. The detailed plant network,

selected houses and modelling strategy used for BPS in ESP-r are described in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER 5

5.0 ESP-r Modelling Methods

The performance assessment of the SAC system for houses in Ontario was completed in the ESP-r simulation environment. The ESP-r system developed was of similar format to the system developed in TRNSYS, and included a hot loop, a chilled loop, and a load loop. A schematic of the system is provided in Figure 5-1. The most significant deviation from the TRNSYS model discussed in Chapter 3 was the additional thermal modelling of a single-detached house, which included the implementation of a cooling coil and fan in the plant network.

The accuracy of any building performance simulation is dependent on the quality of the underlying system data and parameters. The subsequent sections discuss the selected parameter definitions for the modelling of the absorption chiller, along with the additional changes to the SAC system. Section 5.1 discusses the plant network, Section 5.2 discusses the house models, Section 5.3 describes the selection of the climatic information, Section 5.4 describes the sizing of the system, and finally Section 5.5 describes the simulation strategies employed in ESP-r.

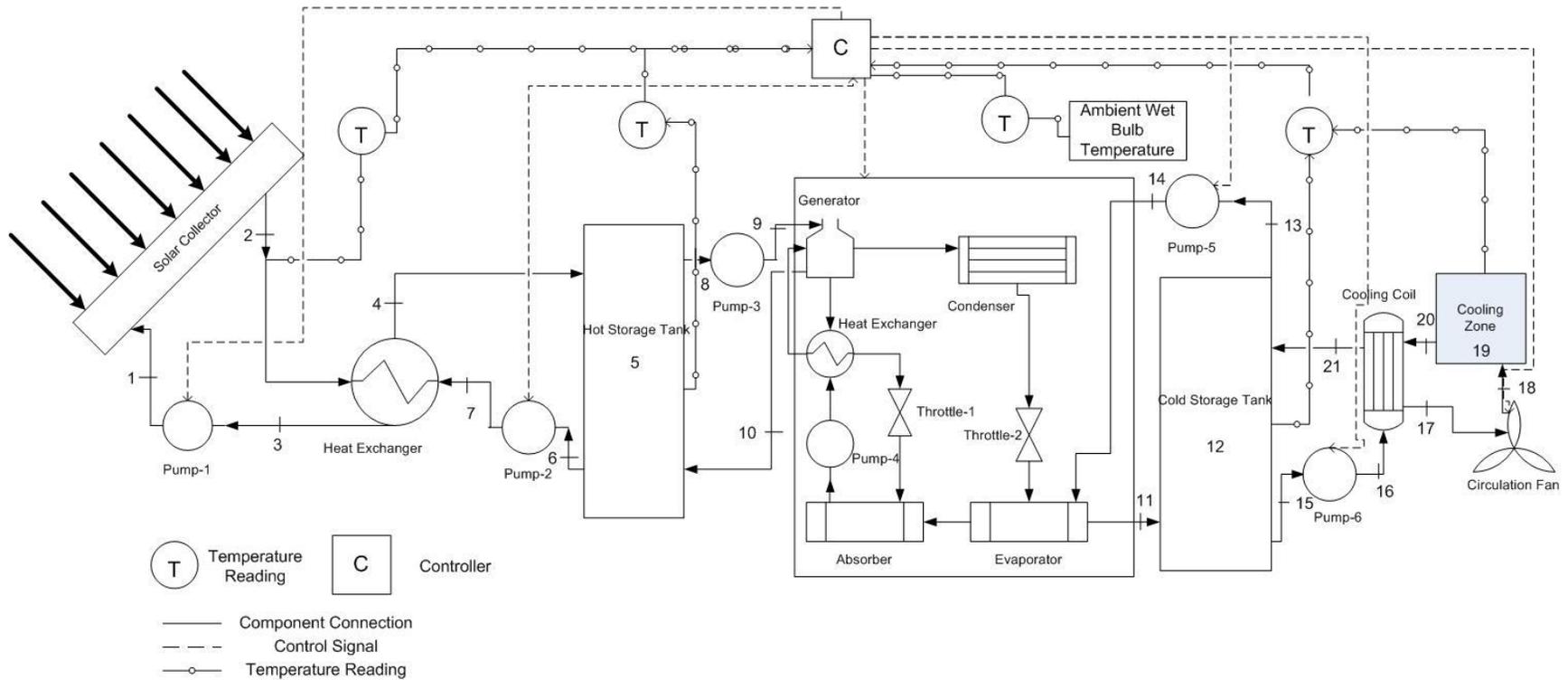


Figure 5-1: Schematic of ESP-r plant network representing the SAC system

5.1 Plant Network Description

The plant network was composed of existing components from the ESP-r source code, with minor adjustments, and it also included a novel customized controller component, described in Section 5.1.1. An existing absorption chiller component was modified for use and is described in Section 5.1.2. The employed solar collector model was similar to the TRNSYS model previously described in Section 4.2. The reader is directed to the ESP-r source code for the underlying mathematical models for the remaining components (ESRU, 2002). The description of the system components and associated inputs can be found in Appendix B.

The solar collector model utilized had a flow rate limitation which impeded the use of the desired flow rate. A lower flow rate was used, which resulted in a slightly lower solar collector efficiency, but the overall heat transfer to the system was minimally affected. The resulting solar fractions and overall performance are thus considered a slightly conservative estimate of the system's performance.

5.1.1 Controller component

In order to control multiple plant components simultaneously, a customized controller component was created using FORTRAN for use in the ESP-r system. The controller followed the described control parameters in Section 2.8, and thus controlled the actuation of the solar collector pump, hot loop pump, absorption chiller and associated pumps, cold loop pump, cooling coil, and circulation fan. The

control file was read in prior to the solution of the plant components at each time step.

The control of the absorption chiller component was altered from Section 2.8.3 in order to align with experimental results from Johnson (2011), as described in Table 5-1. The lower limit of the condenser inlet temperature in the experimental work completed by Johnson (2011) was 26.7°C. It was expected that a decrease in condenser inlet temperature would increase the performance of the chiller, however no experimental data was available for validation. In the event that the condenser inlet temperature was below 26.7°C, the chiller model assumed the inlet temperature was equal to 26.7°C, leading to a conservative estimation of the chiller performance. Similarly, the Yazaki chiller being modelled is able to function with generator inlet temperatures up to 95.0°C, but Johnson's experimental work only provided inlet temperatures up to 86.6°C. In the event that the chiller inlet temperature was greater than 86.6°C, the heat transfer rate calculations were completed with a generator inlet temperature of 86.6°C.

**Table 5-1 Temperature ranges for chiller experimental data
(Johnson, 2011)**

Component	Minimum Temperature Tested (°C)	Maximum Temperature Tested (°C)
Chilled Water Inlet (Temperature 14)	10.8	22.2
Heat Rejection Water Inlet	26.7	32.7
Heat Medium Inlet (Temperature 9)	73.6	86.6

The lowest evaporator inlet temperature examined by Johnson was 10.8°C, and therefore 10.8°C was selected as the lowest allowable evaporator inlet temperature. Finally, the minimum generator inlet temperature for chiller operation was shifted from 70.0°C to 73.6°C, the lowest temperature examined by Johnson.

5.1.2 Absorption chiller component

The absorption chiller model in ESP-r was created by Beausoleil-Morrison et al. (2004) and was designed for calibration with experimental data. This model has three nodes: the water-side of the generator, the water-side of the evaporator, and the air-side of the condenser. The model was created to use an experimentally obtained COP_{th} characteristic equation based on the difference between actual and standard conditions for each node inlet. The use of the derived COP_{th} equation also required the user attribution of the temperature of the generator at the refrigerant inlet and the generator efficiency. In order to reduce the number of assumptions and the compounded experimental error from the COP_{th} calculations, the model was modified such that it is based on experimentally derived relationships for the generator and evaporator heat transfers.

The chiller model is controlled using the custom controller described in Section 5.1.1 and therefore has no internal control mechanisms. The inlet temperatures, inlet flow rates, and ambient wet bulb temperature are supplied to the chiller component. The condenser inlet temperature ($T_{con,in}$) is determined by adding a two degree buffer to the ambient wet bulb temperature ($T_{a,wb}$) as shown in

Equation 5-1. A two degree buffer was assumed to be an appropriate approximation of the local heating effects surrounding the condenser given the structure of the component source code and the nature of the present research (Beausoleil-Morrison et al., 2004).

$$T_{con,in} = T_{a,wb} + 2.0 \quad 5-1$$

After determining the condenser inlet temperature, the chiller model must evaluate the heat transfer that occurs at the generator and evaporator. The generator and evaporator heat transfer rates were determined through characteristic equations based on the inlet temperatures from Johnson's experimental work (Johnson, 2011). The data used for the regressions can be found in Appendix C. Multiple configurations of the generator heat transfer characteristic equation were assessed to determine the most appropriate form for the correlation. Three of the equation forms can be seen in Figure 5-2.

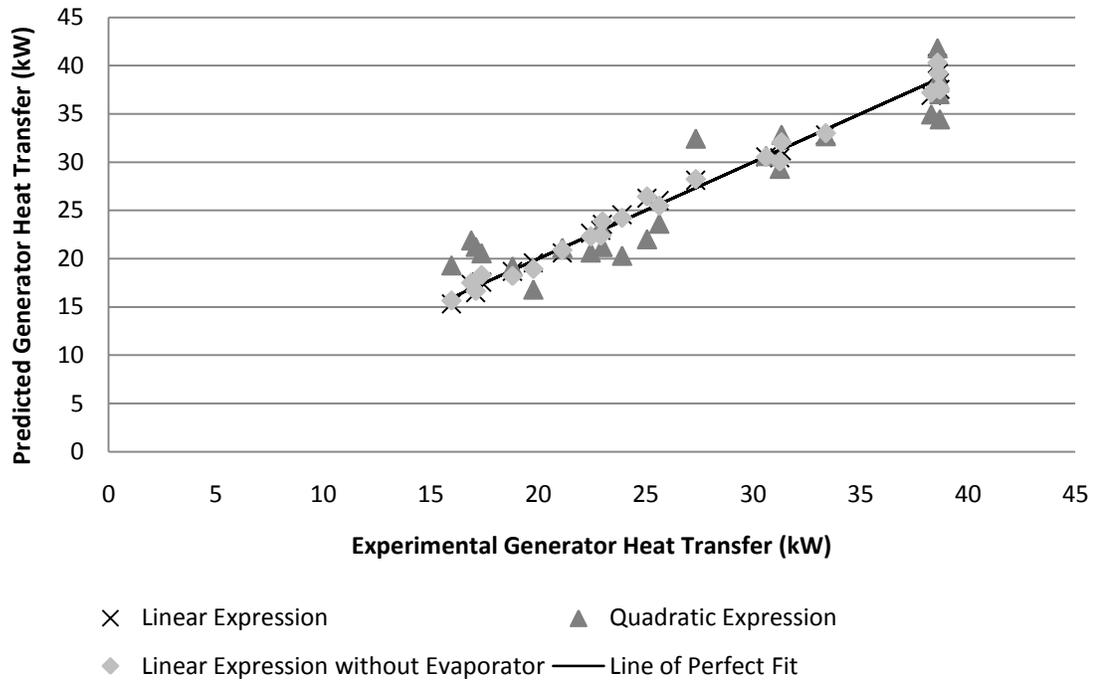


Figure 5-2: Comparison of the predicted and experimental generator heat transfer rates

The characteristic equations for the “linear expression”, “quadratic expression”, and “linear expression without evaporator” are described in Equations 5-2, 5-3, and 5-4 respectively. In these equations, \dot{Q}_{gen} is the generator heat transfer rate (W), T is the temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), the subscripts for gen,in, evap,in, and con,in are the inlet conditions for the generator, evaporator, and condenser, respectively, and the remaining variables are coefficients to be determined.

$$\dot{Q}_{gen} = a_0 + a_1 * T_{gen_inlet} + a_2 * T_{evap_inlet} + a_3 * T_{cond_inlet} \quad 5-2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{Q}_{gen} = & b_0 + b_1 * T_{gen_inlet} + b_2 * T_{evap_inlet} + b_3 * T_{cond_inlet} + b_4 * T_{gen_inlet}^2 \\ & + b_5 * T_{evap_inlet}^2 + b_6 * T_{cond_inlet}^2 + b_7 * T_{gen_inlet} * T_{evap_inlet} \\ & + b_8 * T_{gen_inlet} * T_{cond_inlet} + b_9 * T_{evap_inlet} * T_{cond_inlet} \end{aligned} \quad 5-3$$

$$\dot{Q}_{gen} = c_0 + c_1 * T_{gen_inlet} + c_2 * T_{cond_inlet} \quad 5-4$$

A linear expression based on the inlet temperature at all Equation 5-5 provides the selected expression. The p-values for each of the retrieved coefficients for the generator heat transfer are found in Table 5-2.

$$\dot{Q}_{gen} = -70.387 + 1.9269 * T_{gen,in} + 0.16366 * T_{evap,in} - 1.8824 * T_{con,in} \quad 5-5$$

Table 5-2: Generator heat transfer coefficients

	Regression Coefficient	p-value
a ₀	-70.387	1.924E-11
a ₁	1.9269	1.069E-19
a ₂	0.16366	2.360E-02
a ₃	-1.8824	1.028E-12

The p-value is a statistical parameter that characterises the significance of each term in an expression. The p-value is obtained by setting each coefficient to zero and contrasting the result with that obtained when the coefficient is non-zero. The p-value is then compared to a selected level of significance, in this case 0.05, to

determine whether the term has any statistical significance. The interested reader is directed to (Kutner et al., 2004) for a thorough description of the p-value.

The obtained p-values for the generator heat transfer were all significantly below 0.05, which affirms that each term in the selected linear expression holds statistical significance. The least significant term in the expression was found to be the evaporator inlet temperature, corresponding to coefficient a_2 .

Similar expressions were investigated for the evaporator heat transfer characteristic equation, with \dot{Q}_{gen} being replaced by \dot{Q}_{evap} in Equations 5-1 through 5-4. The predicted evaporator heat transfer is plotted against the experimentally retrieved values in Figure 5-3.

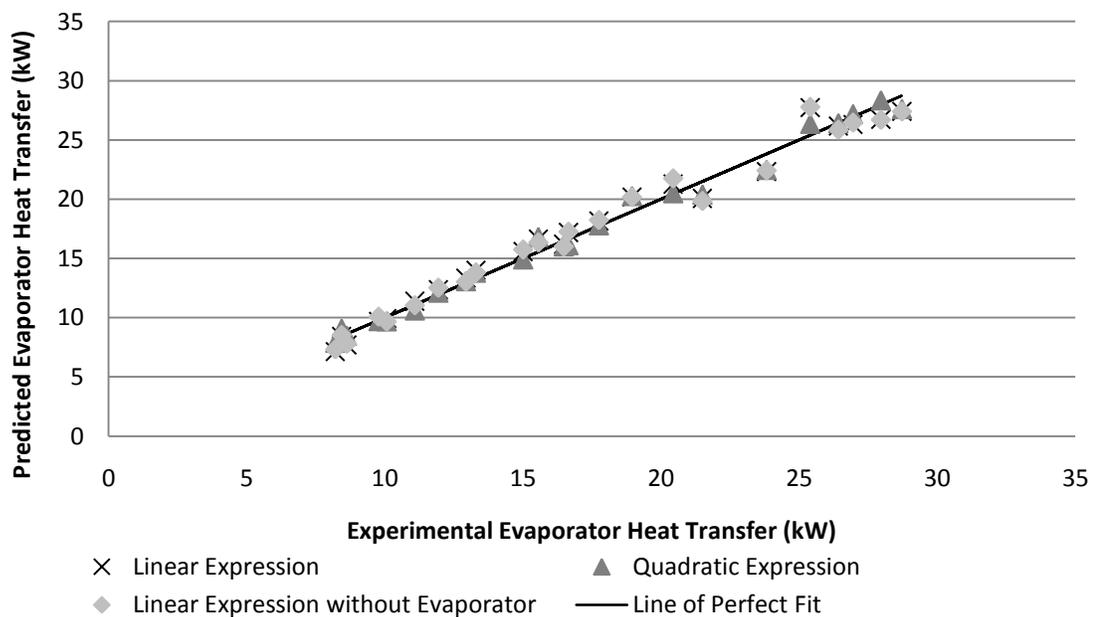


Figure 5-3: Comparison of the predicted and experimental evaporator heat transfers

The linear expression was found to best represent the evaporator heat transfer. Table 5-3 provides the coefficients and p-values for the expression. The evaporator inlet temperature, with coefficient a_2 , was found to be marginally statistically insignificant based on the p-value. The predicted values of the linear expression and the linear expression without evaporator temperature were compared, and the minimally better predictions from the full linear expression were found to be worth any additional computing power required by the extra term. The linear expression was selected for use and is described by Equation 5-6.

Table 5-3: Evaporator heat transfer linear expression coefficients

	Regression Coefficient	p-value
a_0	-46.765	1.1449E-06
a_1	1.5296	1.4926E-15
a_2	0.08963	3.2192E-01
a_3	-1.9135	1.0584E-10

$$\dot{Q}_{evap} = -46.765 + 1.5296 * T_{gen,in} + 0.08963 * T_{evap,in} - 1.9135 * T_{con,in} \quad 5-6$$

After the heat transfer occurring at the evaporator and at the generator has been determined, an energy balance is completed on the chiller as a whole. The resulting

condenser heat transfer, \dot{Q}_{con} , is determined using Equation 5-7, where P_{aux} is the user-specified auxiliary pump power.

$$\dot{Q}_{con} = \dot{Q}_{gen} + \dot{Q}_{evap} + P_{aux} \quad 5-7$$

The thermal coefficient of performance is calculated using Equation 5-8.

$$COP_{th} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{evap}}{\dot{Q}_{gen}} \quad 5-8$$

The matrix equation for each of the nodes is then described for the simultaneous solution of the outlet nodal temperatures of the chiller along with the remaining plant components, based on a simple nodal energy balance of the form shown in Equation 5-9.

$$\dot{Q} = \dot{m}C_p(T_{outlet} - T_{inlet}) \quad 5-9$$

5.2 House Models

To accurately assess the performance of the SAC system in Ontario houses, a number of house models were utilized. Swan et al. (2009a) developed a database of representative houses across Canada, called the Canadian Stock of Single-Detached, Double, and Row Houses Database (CSDDRD). The house models include a high level of detail, including required inputs for full thermal analysis in ESP-r simulations. From this database of over 16,000 houses, four house models were

selected for use in the present research. The criteria for the house model selection are described in Table 5-4.

Table 5-4: Criteria for house model selection

	House 1	House 2	House 3	House 4
House Name	1955	1976	1976-LW	2000
Vintage	1950-1960	1970-1980	1950-2010	2000-2010
Locale	Greater Toronto Area	Greater Toronto Area	Greater Toronto Area	Greater Toronto Area
Cooling System	Central Air	Central Air	Central Air	Central Air
Main Living Zone Floor Area	Average floor area for houses meeting the above criteria	Average floor area for houses meeting the above criteria	Average floor area for houses meeting the above criteria	Average floor area for houses meeting the above criteria
Fenestration Area	Average fenestration area for houses meeting the above criteria	Average fenestration area for houses meeting the above criteria	Above average fenestration area for houses meeting the above criteria	Average fenestration area for houses meeting the above criteria

In order to capture the diversity in building styles present across Ontario, houses across three vintage periods were selected. The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) was selected as the main region for the assessment due to the high population and high summer temperatures present in Toronto. After selecting houses that met the vintage and regional requirements, houses with central air were selected, since these are the homes that would benefit from a SAC system. Following this selection, the house with the main living floor area and window area most similar to the

average of the remaining houses was selected for each vintage. Finally, a house meeting the previous criteria, but also possessing a significantly larger window area, was selected in order to simulate the high solar gains associated with large fenestration. The following sections describe the geometry and envelope characteristics, air flow, and internal gain strategies for each of the houses. The interested reader is directed to work by Swan (2009a, 2009b, 2010) for further information on the CSDDRD, and its modelling in ESP-r.

5.2.1 Geometry and envelope characteristics

The CSDDRD defines three types of thermal zones: foundation, main levels, and attic or roof spaces. A foundation generally represents a basement or a crawl space. For the present research, neither basements nor crawl spaces are regarded as part of the main living space, and are consequently unconditioned zones. The foundation level is treated through specific descriptions to the BASEIMP model in ESP-r which estimates the heat loss for each unique foundation type.

Main levels represent the primarily occupied levels in a house and receive heating and cooling. These levels can range from one to three distinct storeys above the foundation zone. The attic or roof space levels are unconditioned spaces located above the highest main level. The zoning of the house into distinct regions has important implications in the treatment of air flow between each zone and the exterior environment, as discussed in the following section.

The geometric and envelope characteristics of each of the houses are described in Table 5-5. Sketches are provided for each house in Figure 5-4 through Figure 5-7. The 1955 and 2000 houses have two main living zones, while the 1976 and 1976-LW houses each have one.

In addition to the geometric differences between the houses, each house has a different main wall building material composition. The width of each wall layer and its corresponding insulation R-value (RSI) determines the resistance of the material to conductively transfer heat to the adjoining layer, and as a whole these characteristics determine the conductive flow of heat through the wall. The 2000 vintage house has the highest RSI value for the main walls, which would impede heat transfer from incident solar radiation through the walls, but it also results in heat being unable to exit the living space to the exterior.

The 1955, 1976, and 2000 houses have similar window areas, while the 1976-LW house has twice the fenestrated area. The 1976-LW is the only house which has low emissivity, argon gap windows, but the house also has over 15 m² of windows with the same properties as the other houses. The resulting solar gain in the 1976-LW house was expected to be much higher, requiring a more robust cooling system.

Table 5-5: House characteristics

House	Main floors	Livable Floor Area (m ²)	Window Area (m ²)	Window Type	Main Walls Building Materials (exterior to interior)	Main walls RSI (Km ² /W)	Air Changes per Hour	Appliance and Lighting
1955	2	144.75	21.04	Double glaze (3mm) 13mm air gap U = 1.877 W/m ² K	Brick (RSI 0.1) Brick (RSI 0.3) Expanded Polystyrene (RSI 0.7) Drywall (RSI 0.1)	1.20	14.05	Low
1976	1	126.36	20.62	Double glaze (3mm) 13mm air gap U = 1.877 W/m ² K	Vinyl (RSI 0.0) Oriented Strand Board (RSI 0.1) Fibreglass Batt (RSI 1.6) Drywall (RSI 0.1)	1.80	5.11	High
1976 - LW	1	128.67	15.90 40.38	Double glaze (3mm) 13mm air gap U = 1.877 W/m ² K Double glaze (3mm) Inside pane low-Emissivity 9mm argon gap U = 2.703 W/m ² K	Vinyl (RSI 0.0) Oriented Strand Board (RSI 0.1) Fibreglass Batt (RSI 2.2) Drywall (RSI 0.1)	2.39	4.66	Low
2000	2	186.49	21.52	Double glaze (3mm) 13mm air gap U = 1.877 W/m ² K	Vinyl (RSI 0.0) Oriented Strand Board (RSI 0.1) Fibreglass Batt (RSI 2.9) Drywall (RSI 0.1)	3.05	4.95	Medium

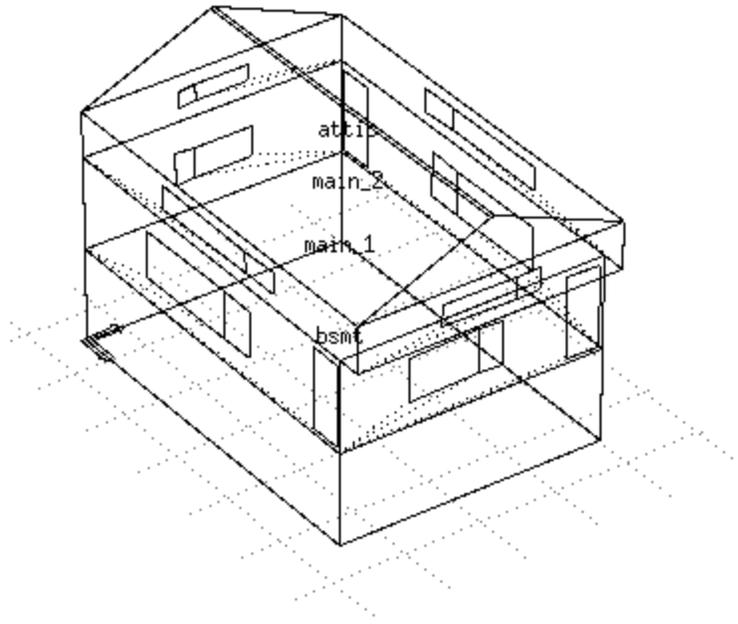


Figure 5-4: Wireframe diagram of the 1955 house

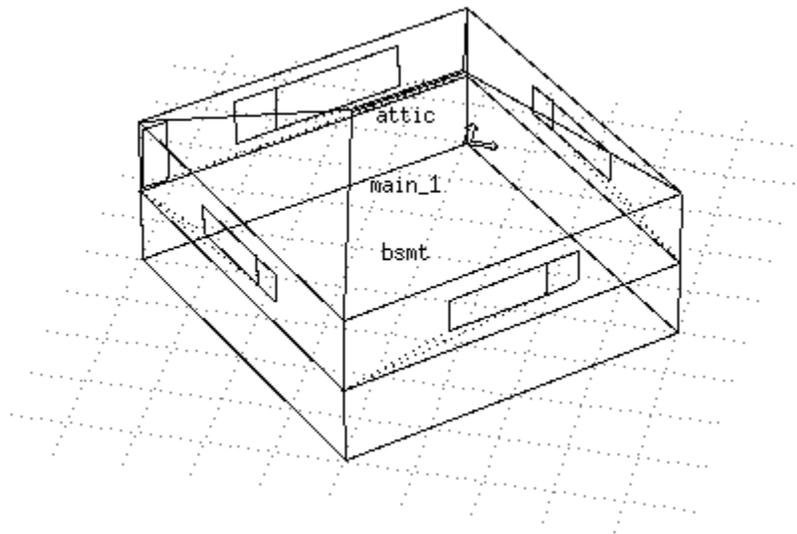


Figure 5-5: Wireframe diagram of the 1976 house

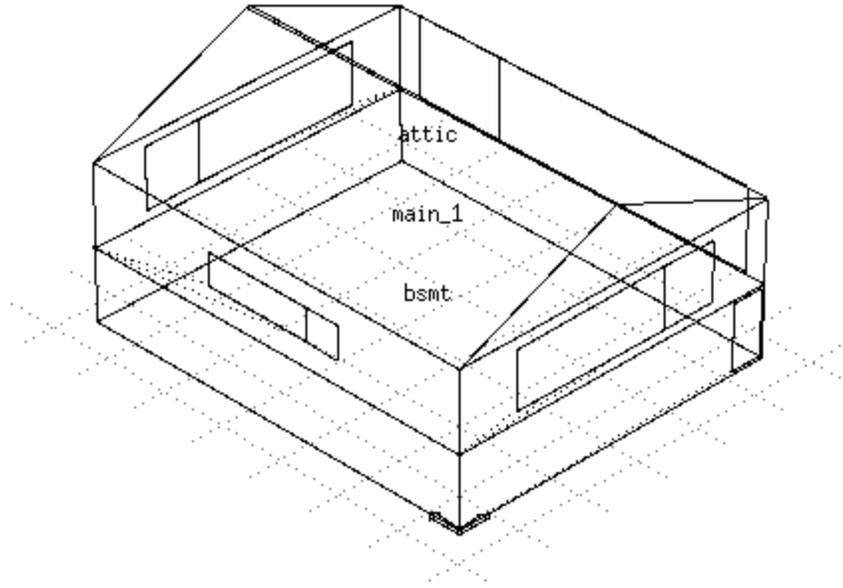


Figure 5-6: Wireframe diagram of the 1976-LW house

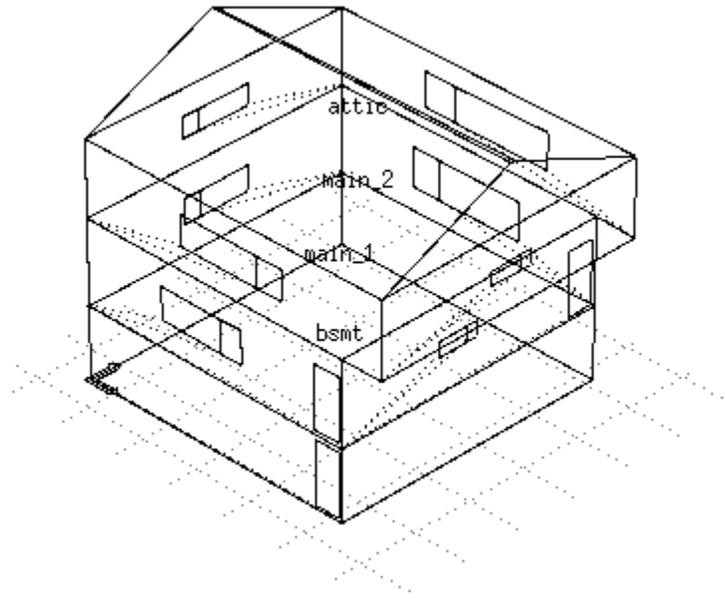


Figure 5-7: Wireframe diagram of the 2000 house

5.2.2 Air flow

As described in Section 4.1, ESP-r has multiple manners of addressing air flow within a building. The CSDDRD houses utilise an air flow network for inter-zone air flow (forced and free); the AIM-2 model for natural zone-ambient air exchange through cracks and gaps; and mechanical ventilation for fan-driven zone-ambient air exchange. The air flow network is also used for large zone-ambient air flows through windows or large gaps such as attics (Swan L. G., 2010). Cooling was injected solely into the main zone of each house, with the cooling of additional zones being accomplished through inter-zone air flow. The air flow rates between main living zones were varied in the 1955 and 2000 houses to determine the optimal setting to model centrally-distributed cooling.

5.2.3 Internal gains

The internal gains present in a house affect the cooling load due to the addition of heat to the living spaces. The CSDDRD houses include appliance and lighting energy consumption (AL), the bulk of which results in heat addition to the zones (Swan et al., 2009a). Swan et. al. (2009b) used 5 minute time step load profiles from the International Energy Agency's Energy Conservation in Building and Community Systems Program (IEA, 2010), to create hourly integrated profiles. Three profiles of AL consumption were produced to reflect different AL usage rates: low (12.2 GJ/year), medium (21.8 GJ/year), and high (35.7 GJ/year). Each house has a specified AL distribution, including a multiplier to match the occupant usage for

each house. The 1955 and 1976-LW house had low AL profiles, while the 2000 and 1976 houses had medium and high profiles, respectively.

The AL energy resultant from the clothes dryer is assumed to be exhausted to the exterior, while energy addition from all other AL sources is assumed to become a mix of 50% convective and 50% radiative sensible load to the zones. The domestic hot water (DHW) volume draw is not treated as an internal gain in the CSDDRD models (Swan, 2010).

5.3 Climatic information

The base case for the assessment of the SAC system was the Canadian Weather for Energy Calculations (CWEC) Toronto (Numerical Logics, 1999) weather file. CWEC files are derived from hourly weather information for Canada from 1953 to 1995 and are representative of conditions which would result in approximately average cooling loads in buildings, based on statistically comparing various climatic conditions (Environment Canada, 2011). CWEC weather files for Windsor and Ottawa were also used in the research. Finally, to further investigate the suitability of the system across multiple years, Canadian Weather Energy and Engineering Datasets (CWEEDS) were employed for Toronto from 1999 to 2008. CWEEDS datasets provide 21 weather elements at specific locations on an hourly basis.

5.4 System Configuration

The simulation of the house models in ESP-r was undertaken first with the base sizing determined in TRNSYS, as described in Chapter 3. As described in

Section 5.1.2, the ESP-r system used experimentally-derived parametric equations for the generator and evaporator heat transfers, while the TRNSYS model assumed a constant COP_{th} of 0.6. Additionally, the static cooling loads used in TRNSYS did not take into consideration the effect unmet cooling loads at a given time step would have on the subsequent time step. The chiller inlet flow rates were much higher in TRNSYS due to correspondence to Yazaki specifications, while in ESP-r these values were based on the experimental flow rates. These variations meant that the sizing completed in TRNSYS provided a good starting point for the system modelling in ESP-r, but the system had to be further refined to find appropriate sizing in ESP-r. Once implemented in ESP-r, the system was altered to simulate a variety of tank sizes, solar collector areas, and inter-zone flow rates to determine the most favourable model setup for the performance of the system in ESP-r.

Each of the parameters described in Section 3.4, as well as the tilt angle of the solar collector, were varied at small increments in ESP-r to find the most favourable conditions. The performance of the system was based on the variable \mathcal{N} (%), described by Equation 5-10, where n is the number of conditioned zones. The setpoint of the system was $24 \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$. The two minute time step used resulted in minor increases above 24.5°C in a single time step before the chiller system would actuate. In order to only count time steps when the SAC was unable to meet cooling demands, zone temperatures above 25.0°C were considered to be above the setpoint.

$$\mathcal{N} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \text{Number of timesteps zone temperature above } 25.0^{\circ}\text{C}}{\text{Number of timesteps} * n} * 100 \quad 5-10$$

The desired performance of the best system was a value of \mathcal{N} below 5%, while maintaining practical sizing of components. Five percent of time steps results in approximately 150 hours of the summer with unmet cooling setpoints, and was selected as an appropriate target for assessing feasibility of the system. The sizing was completed using the 2000 vintage house model described in the previous section, which was also used for cooling load determination in the TRNSYS simulations described in Chapter 3. The Toronto CWEC weather file was used for the weather information.

To begin, the tilt angle of the solar collector was varied from 0 to 90° from the horizontal. The resulting value of \mathcal{N} , is shown by month in Figure 5-8. It was observed that a tilt angle above 50° from the horizontal produced very poor system performance, and therefore these results have not been included in the figure. A dashed line is provided to show the desired performance characteristic of the system (setpoint maintained 95% of the time steps). The system was able to meet the cooling load in July marginally more frequently with a solar collector tilt angle of 10°, but a tilt angle of 20° performed significantly better in August.

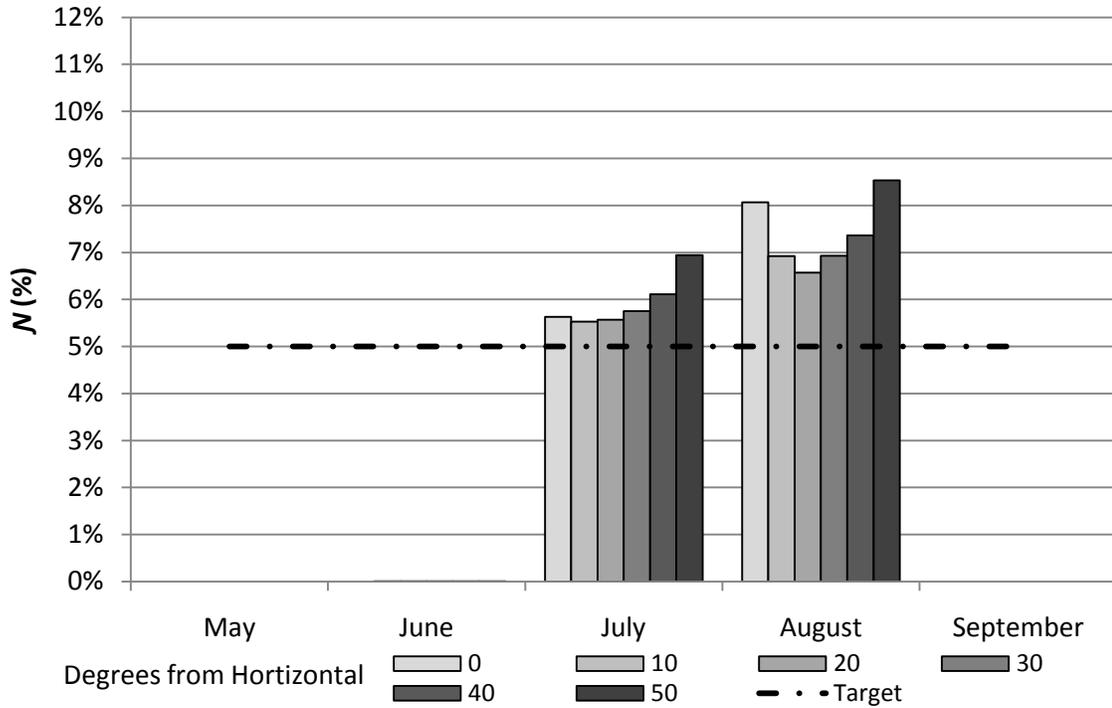


Figure 5-8: Percentage of unmet cooling loads by month for different solar collector tilt angles

Figure 5-9 shows the solar collector efficiency for each collector tilt angle, where the efficiency is calculated using Equation 4-11. The efficiencies of the collectors with tilt angles between 0 and 50° from the horizontal were found to be similar, with minor deviations across each month. A tilt angle of 20° from the horizontal was selected due to its higher performance in maintaining the desired setpoint.

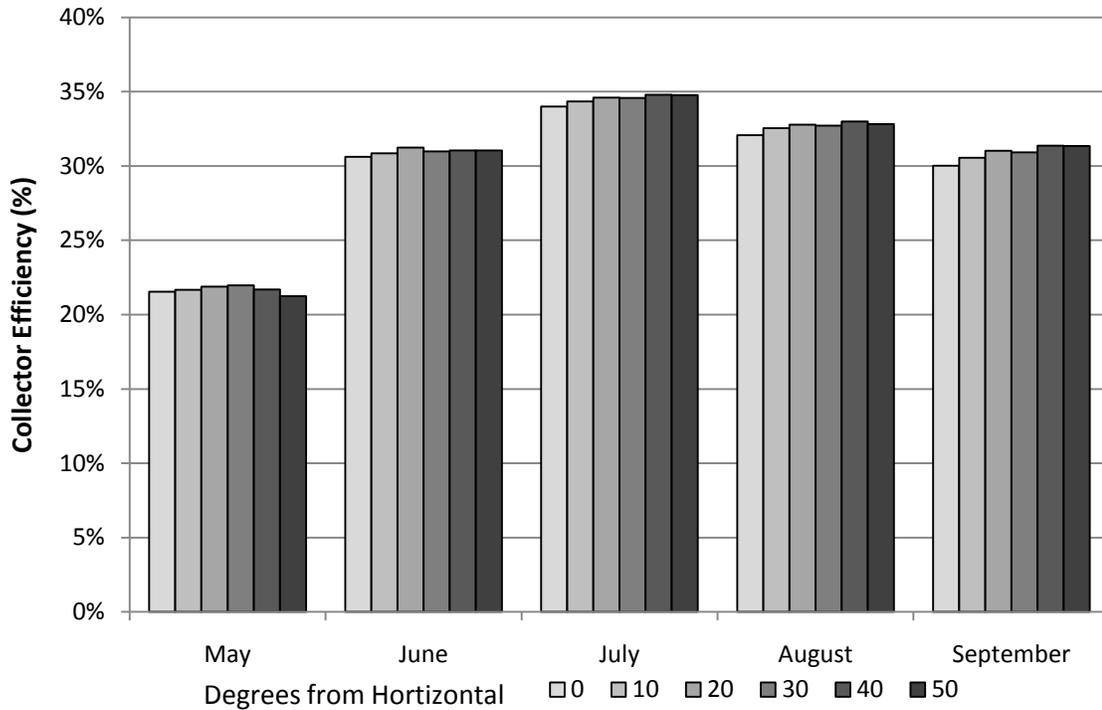


Figure 5-9: Monthly solar collector efficiency for different tilt angles

With the selected tilt angle of the solar collector, the size of the solar collectors and water tanks were varied to determine the optimal configuration. The hot storage tank size was found to increase the performance of the system with increased size, but this performance increase stagnated at 0.5 m³. The high flow rate requirement of the absorption chiller hot medium flow results in the majority of the usable solar energy being directed immediately to the chiller. This direct transfer of energy results in a minimal availability of solar energy for storage on days with high chiller activation. A hot storage tank volume of 0.5 m³ was found to provide an appropriate level of thermal storage.

The performance of the system was found to be very sensitive to the volume of the cold tank and solar collector area. The \mathcal{N} term is displayed for various tank and

collector configurations in Figure 5-10. Increases in the cold storage tank size and the solar collector size were both found to increase the performance of the system, with a diminishing gain for each consecutive increase of either component. A solar collector area of at least 30 m² was required for a value of \mathcal{N} of 5%. However, even the smallest cold storage tank size, 0.75 m³, was able to meet the setpoint 95% of the time with a large enough solar collector area.

The maximum air temperature of the main living zone is shown for a variety of solar collector areas and tank sizes in Figure 5-11. Increasing the size of the solar collector and the cold tank decreased the maximum zone temperature, but all configurations had a maximum zone temperature above 26°C.

Due to the considerable increase in performance with a larger solar collector, a final collector area of 50 m² was utilized in the remainder of the study. Figure 5-12 shows the monthly performance of the system with a 50 m² solar collector and a variety of tank sizes. None of the cold tank sizes were able to meet the cooling loads in August, but tank volumes of 1.5 m³ and greater were able to meet at least 95% of the cooling loads in all other months. A cold tank size of 1.5 m³ was selected as the final size for the SAC system.

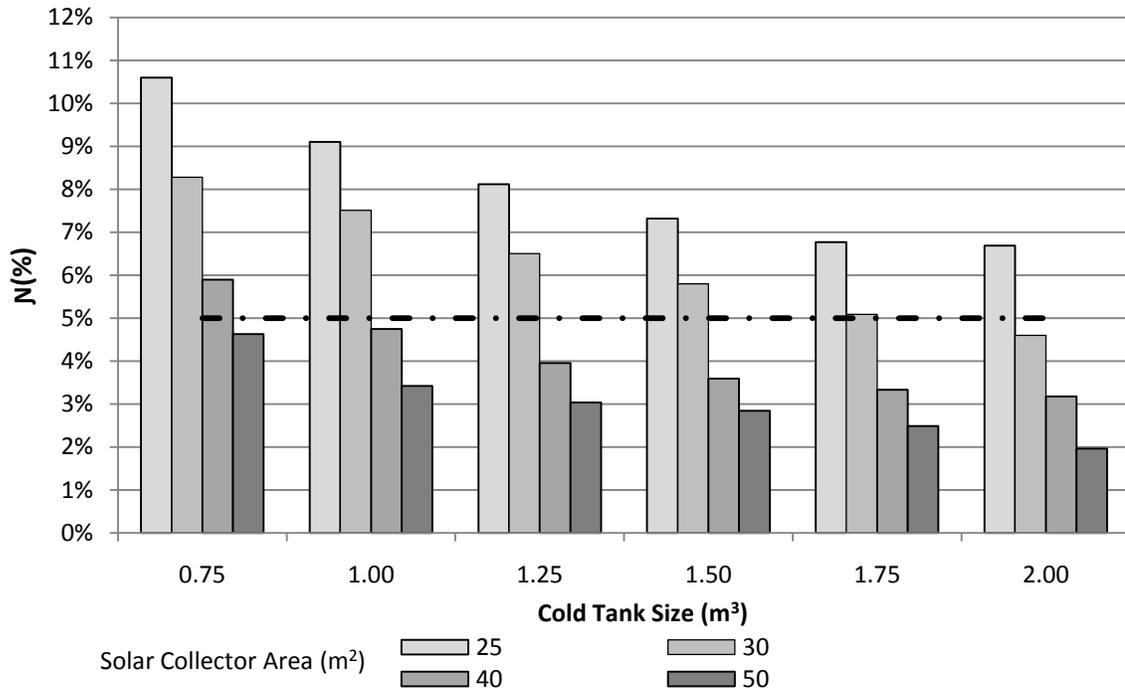


Figure 5-10: Percentage of cooling loads unmet with various cold tank and solar collector sizes

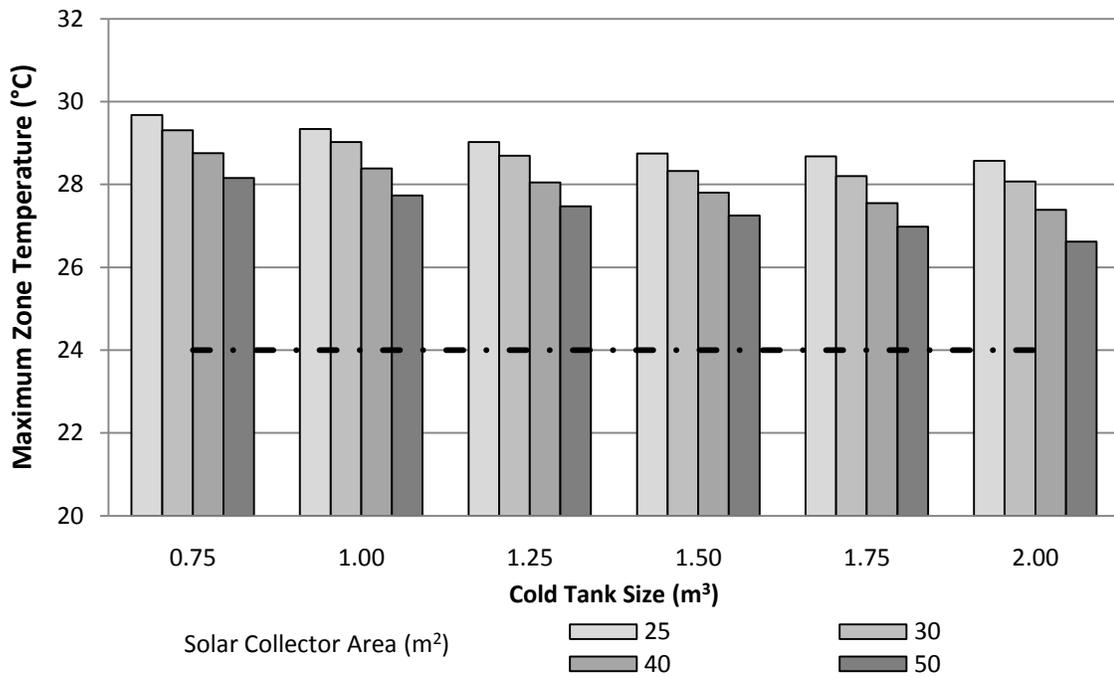


Figure 5-11: Maximum main living zone temperature for various solar collector and cold tank sizes

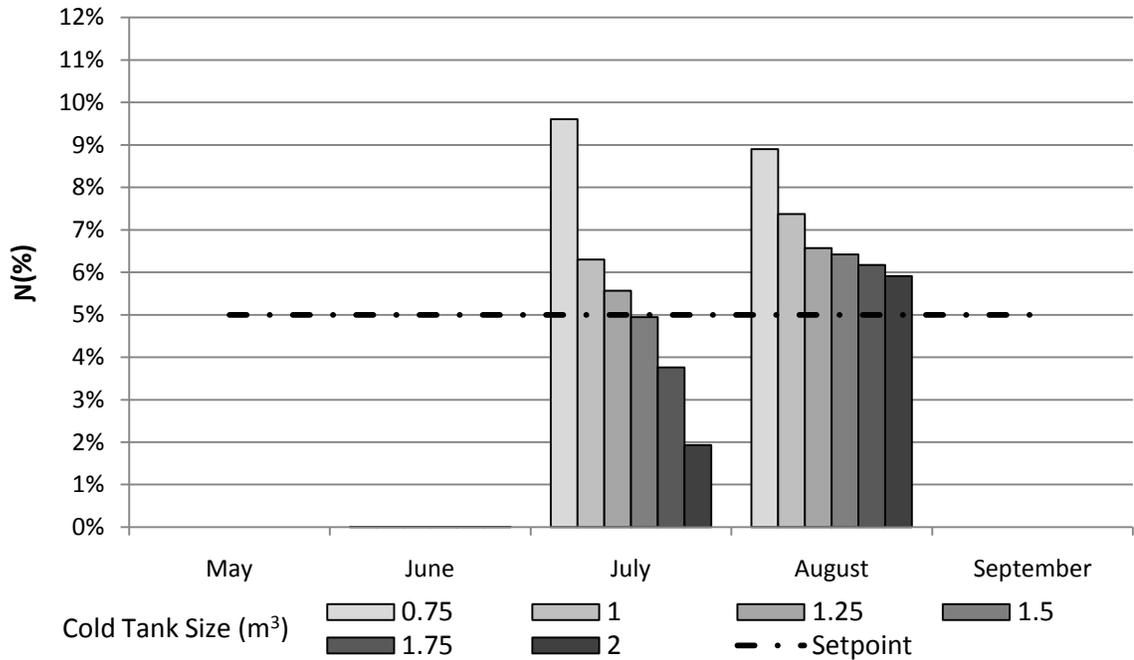


Figure 5-12: Percentage of monthly unmet cooling loads for various cold tank sizes with a solar collector area of 50m²

The final sizing of the tanks and solar collector are summarized in Table 5-6. With the varying COP and cumulative heating effect of the final model, a larger solar collector and cold storage tank were needed to meet the cooling demands of the house than initially determined in the TRNSYS simulations. With the final sizing of the system components completed, the system was implemented in multiple house models with different configurations, as described in the following section.

Table 5-6: Tank and solar collector sizing

Variable	Preliminary Sizing	Final Sizing
Solar Collector Area	40 m ²	50 m ²
Hot Storage Tank Volume	1.0 m ³	0.5 m ³
Cold Storage Tank Volume	1.25 m ³	1.5 m ³

5.5 Simulation Strategy

The performance of the SAC system was simulated with the 2000 house and the Toronto CWEC weather file as the system base case. The 2000 house was selected as the base model because of the potential for the residential application of SAC in the future, particularly in newer housing developments. The modelling was accomplished at a two-minute time step in order to suit the small time constant of the solar collector and to obtain accurate representations of the plant system response. Once the base case simulations were completed, the performance of the SAC was simulated with a variety of changes to test the robustness of the system. The simulation cases examined can be seen in Table 5-7.

To begin, simulations were completed with the four different house models described in Section 5.2. These simulations were completed to represent the breadth of current housing design in Ontario. Next, the system was simulated with the base house in different regions, namely Windsor, Ontario, and Ottawa, Ontario. Windsor consistently has one of the highest summer temperatures in Canada, high humidity, and also has considerably high night-time temperatures. Ottawa is also a high temperature city in Ontario (Environment Canada, 2010b), and provided an additional test climate. It was assumed that the design of the GTA houses was representative of urban Ontario houses and that they were appropriate for testing in the Windsor and Ottawa municipalities.

Table 5-7: Simulation cases

Run #	House	Climate	Cooling Set-point (°C) (+/- 0.5)	Min. Generator Temp. (°C)
1	2000	Toronto CWEC	24	73.6
2	1955	Toronto CWEC	24	73.6
3	1976	Toronto CWEC	24	73.6
4	1976 - LW	Toronto CWEC	24	73.6
5	2000	Windsor CWEC	24	73.6
6	2000	Ottawa CWEC	24	73.6
7	2000	Toronto 1999	24	73.6
8	2000	Toronto 2000	24	73.6
9	2000	Toronto 2001	24	73.6
10	2000	Toronto 2002	24	73.6
11	2000	Toronto 2003	24	73.6
12	2000	Toronto 2004	24	73.6
13	2000	Toronto 2005	24	73.6
14	2000	Toronto 2006	24	73.6
15	2000	Toronto 2007	24	73.6
16	2000	Toronto 2008	24	73.6
17	2000	Toronto CWEC	23	73.6
18	2000	Toronto CWEC	Varying 24/26	73.6
19	2000	Toronto CWEC	24	70.0
20	2000	Toronto CWEC	24	75.0
21	2000	Toronto CWEC	24	80.0

The 2000 house model was also simulated with the Toronto Pearson International Airport CWEEDS data from 1999 to 2008 in order to assess the ability of the system to meet cooling loads across the temporal variance of an individual city.

The performance of the system was assessed with a lower cooling setpoint (23°C), and a varying system with a day-time setpoint of 24°C and a night-time setpoint of 26°C. Different setpoints were investigated in order to determine the ability of the system to meet different occupant comfort preferences. All setpoints included a one degree deadband.

The minimum generator inlet temperature for activation of the chiller based on Yazaki specifications (Aroace, 2010) is 70°C. Johnson (2011) showed that higher inlet temperatures result in a higher COP, however reaching a higher temperature can be difficult on days with lower available solar radiation. In order to assess the impact of the generator inlet temperature, the SAC system was simulated with four different minimum temperatures: 70°C, 73.6°C, 75°C, and 80°C. The base case for all other simulations was 73.6°C, as it was the lowest inlet temperature tested by Johnson (2011).

Occupant behaviour such as the operation of blinds and windows was not included in the present research. The potential for the inclusion of occupant behaviour is described in Chapter 8.

For each variation, the performance of the system was determined in terms of the ability of the system to maintain the cooling setpoint during the time period from

May 15th through September 15th. The results of these assessments are found in Chapter 6. Following the simulations, an analysis of greenhouse gas emissions was completed in comparison to typical vapour compression systems and is presented in Chapter 7.

CHAPTER 6

6.0 Results and Analysis

In order to determine the suitability of solar absorption cooling to Ontario households, the SAC system was modelled with a variety of constraints and environmental conditions. The baseline case observed was the 2000 vintage house with the Toronto CWEC weather data, from May 15th to September 15th. The results of the building performance simulations undertaken are described in the following sections. For houses with two conditioned zones, N denotes the average percentage of time steps that the cooling setpoint was unmet in each zone, though the inter-zone air flow was such that the two zones had nearly identical temperatures. All results are plotted against standard time. Full results are provided in Appendix D.

To begin, the performance of the system in relation to a house without cooling is investigated in Section 6.1. The overall performance of the base case is provided in Section 6.2. The significance of building geometry and construction is then assessed in Section 6.3 through the comparison of the four different house models. The effect of climate on the system performance is then explored in Section 6.4 through simulations in different climates and across multiple years. Finally, Section 6.5 describes the impact of different control strategies.

6.1 Comparison to Free Floating Conditions

In order to assess the performance of the SAC system, the system was first compared to a free floating (no cooling system) house model. The 2000 vintage house was simulated with the Toronto CWEC weather data, with and without the SAC system. The daily maximum temperature in the main living zone, referred to as Zone 1, for July and August is plotted for both the free floating and conditioned states in Figure 6-1. The cooling setpoint (24°C) of the conditioned house is shown by a dashed line.

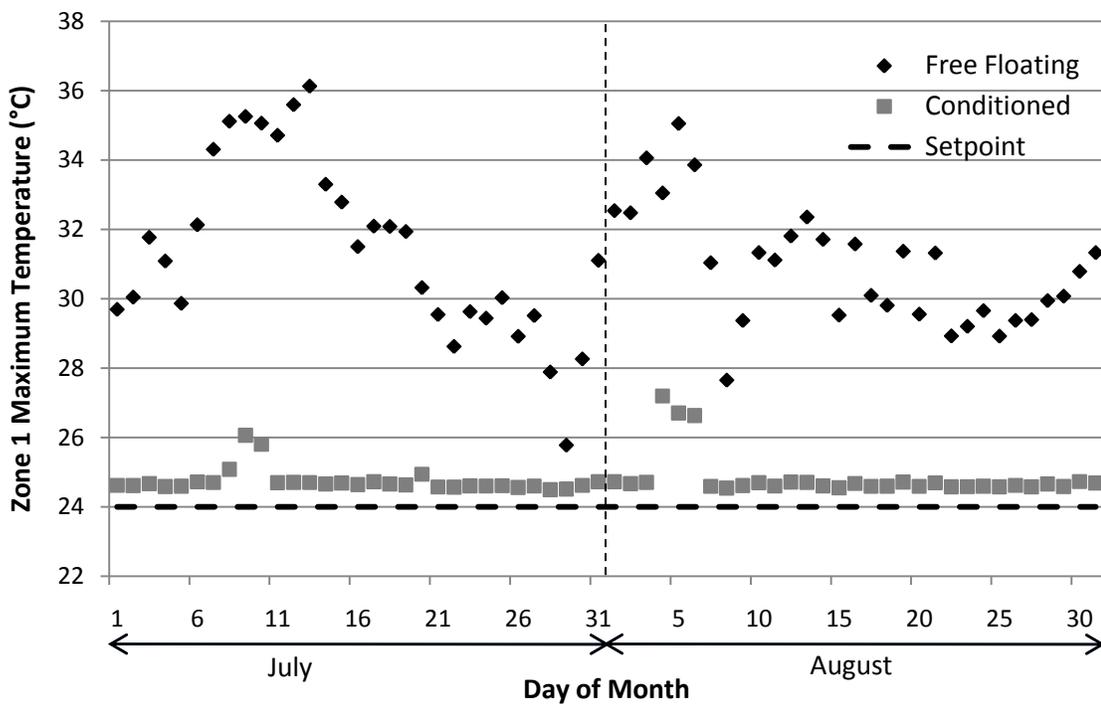


Figure 6-1: Maximum daily temperature in Zone 1 for July and August

As expected, the free-floating house has much higher peak temperatures than the conditioned house. The maximum temperature reached in the free floating case is 36.1°C , whilst the maximum temperature in the conditioned case is 27.2°C . The

maximum daily temperature for both the free-floating and conditioned cases are above the setpoint of $24 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$.

The average daily temperature in Zone 1 is shown in Figure 6-2 for July and August. The average daily temperature of the conditioned house is centered around the setpoint of 24°C , as expected, with deviations up to a maximum of 25.9°C . The free floating house is seen to vary significantly due to shifts in climatic conditions, with a maximum average temperature of 33.6°C and an average temperature of 28°C or higher more than 50% of the time.

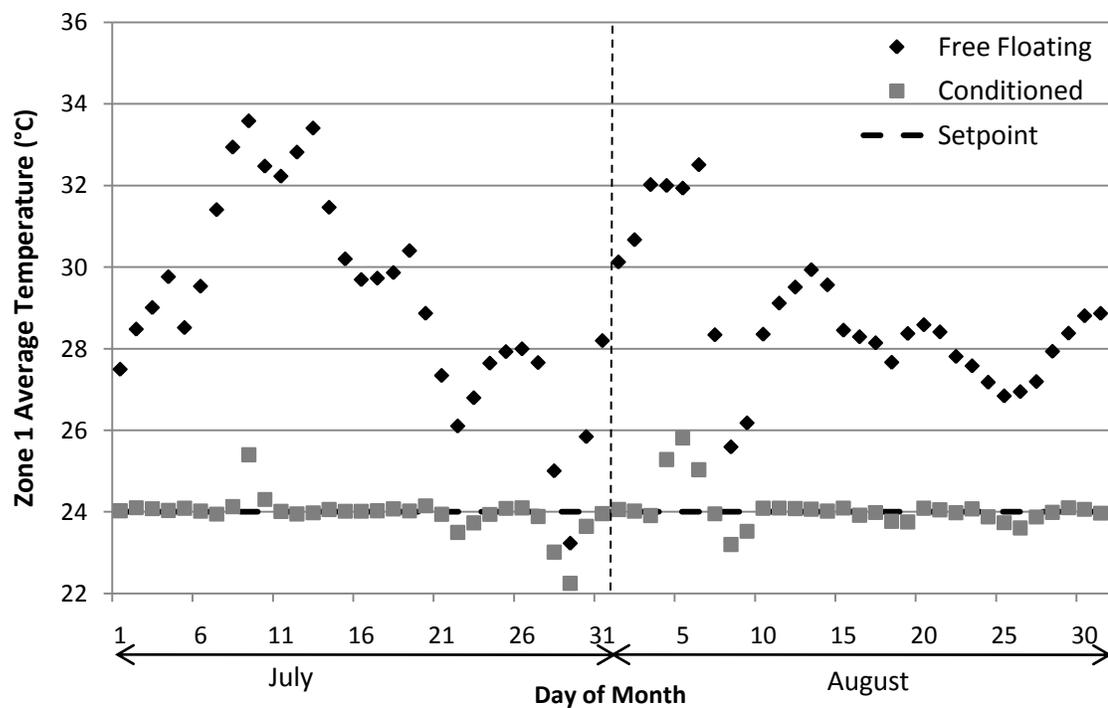


Figure 6-2: Average daily temperature in Zone 1 for July and August

The free floating case demonstrates the need for space-cooling in order to meet the desired comfort conditions. While the base case still experiences maximum zone

temperatures 4°C above the setpoint, it is still able to maintain a comfortable average temperature. The general performance of the SAC system will be assessed in the next section.

6.2 System Performance

The SAC system was modelled in the 2000 vintage house with the Toronto CWEC climate from May 15th – September 15th to act as the reference system for future comparisons. The summary of the system’s performance is presented in Table 6-1. The system was able to meet the 24 +/- 0.5°C cooling setpoint 97.5% of the time, with a peak zone temperature of 27.2°C.

Table 6-1: Summary of performance characteristics

Climate	Average Ambient Temp. (°C)	Number of hours ambient Temp. above 30°C	\mathcal{N}(%)	Max. Zone Temp. (°C)	Avg. Zone Temp. (°C)
Toronto CWEC	18.3	31	2.5	27.2	23.4

The temperature trends for the hot and cold tanks on a typical day (July 4th) are shown in Figure 6-3. The blocks correspond to the time steps where the chiller is activated. Figure 6-4 shows the zone temperature, ambient temperature, and available solar radiation on the same day. The morning hours serve as a time to

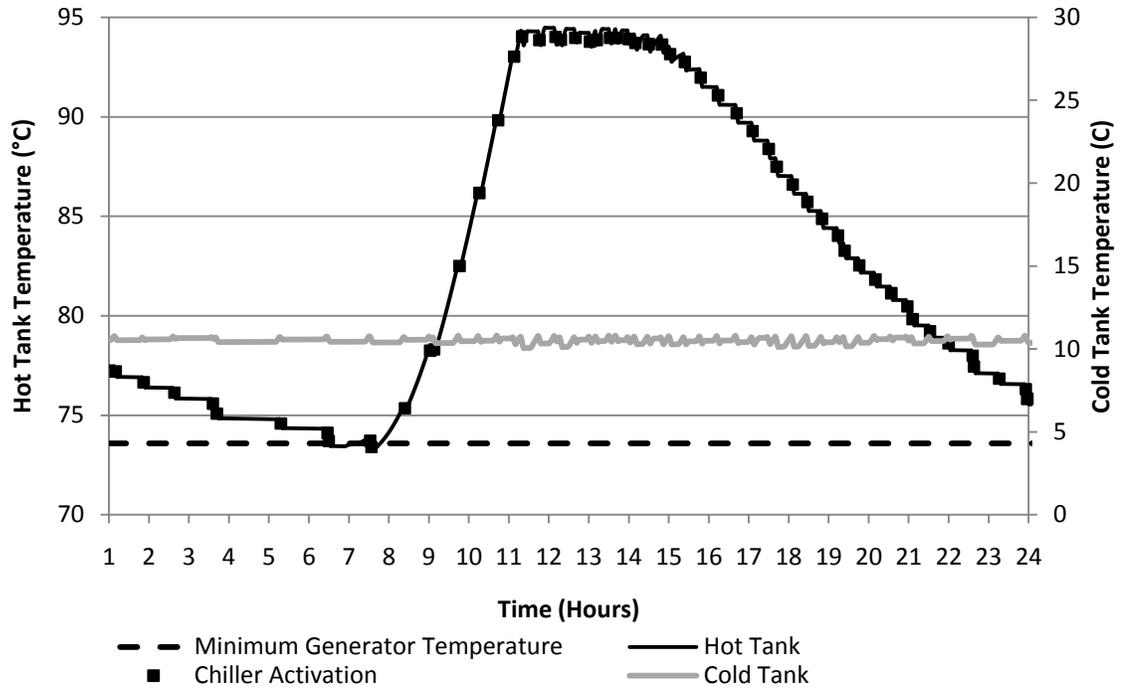


Figure 6-3: Tank temperatures and chiller activation on July 4th

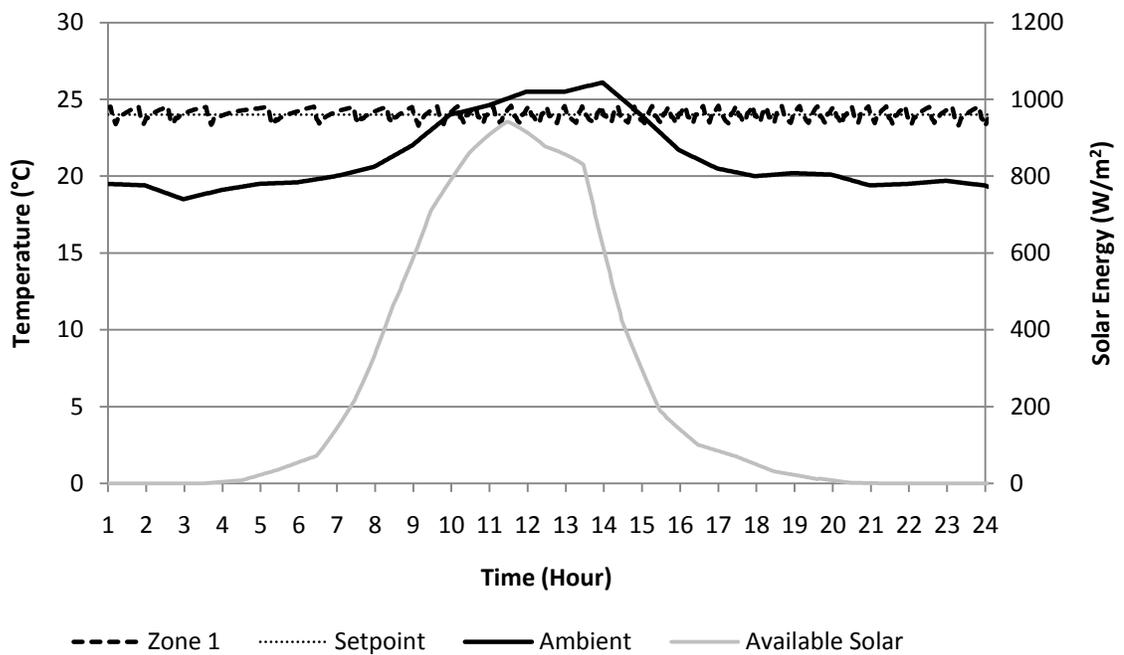


Figure 6-4: Zone and ambient temperatures on July 4th

charge the hot tank to the maximum generator operating temperature. The chiller activates throughout the day, with more frequent activations in the afternoon and evening hours. The zone temperature fluctuates between 23.5°C and 24.5°C, corresponding to the cooling deadband.

Similar plots are shown for the day with the peak zone temperature, August 4th, in Figure 6-5 through Figure 6-7. For ease of viewing the fluctuation of the hot tank temperature, it has been plotted with an amplified temperature axis in Figure 6-6. Immediately it can be seen that the cold tank begins the day at a much higher temperature than on July 4th. The ambient temperature on August 4th was in a similar range as that of July 4th, but the solar radiation was significantly lower.

This low radiation resulted in the hot storage tank being unable to maintain the minimum generator inlet temperature. Once the tank reached the minimum generator inlet temperature, the chiller immediately activated, drawing the hot storage tank temperature down and consequently cycling the chiller off. The hot storage tank then recharged until the setpoint and again the chiller activated immediately. The low solar radiation meant that by 3:00 pm the hot tank could no longer be charged and the chiller remained inactive. This inactivity resulted in a steadily increasing cold tank temperature, and consequentially a steadily increasing zone temperature. Zone 1 reached a peak temperature of 27.2°C in the late evening.

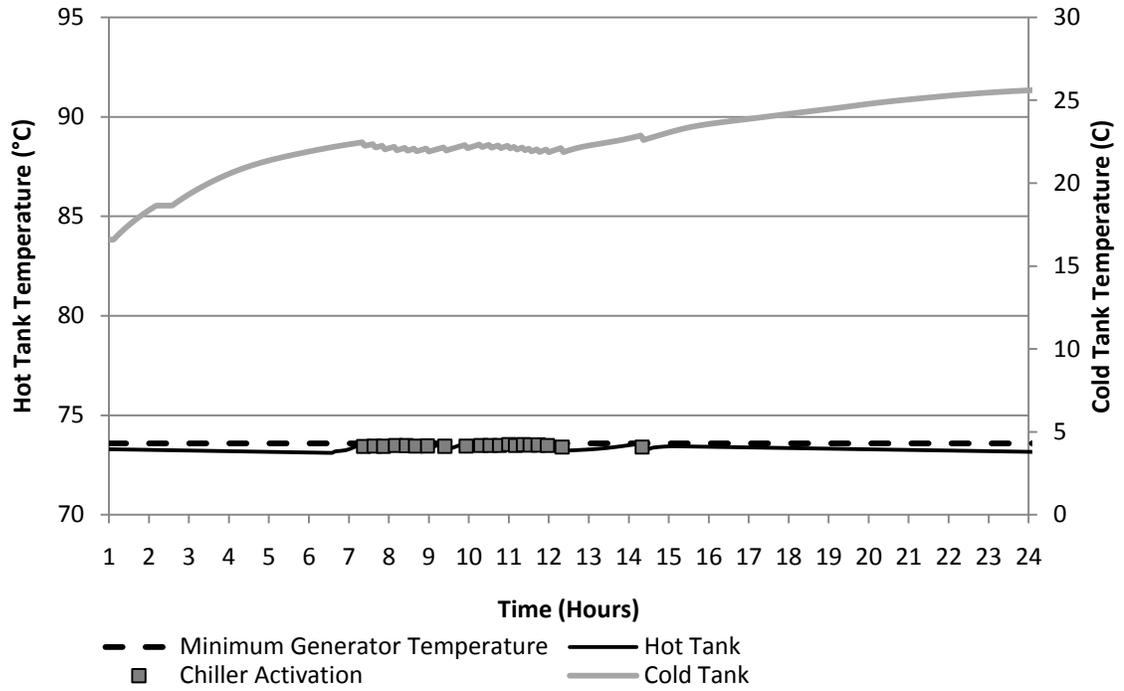


Figure 6-5: Tank temperatures and chiller activation on August 4th

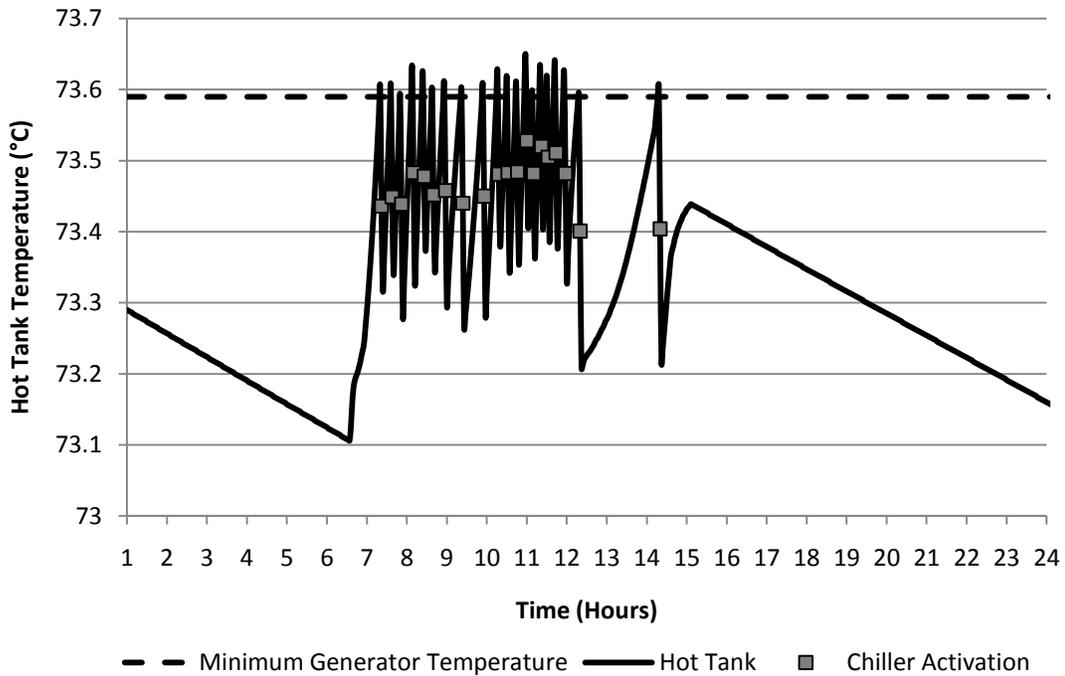


Figure 6-6: Hot tank temperature variation on August 4th

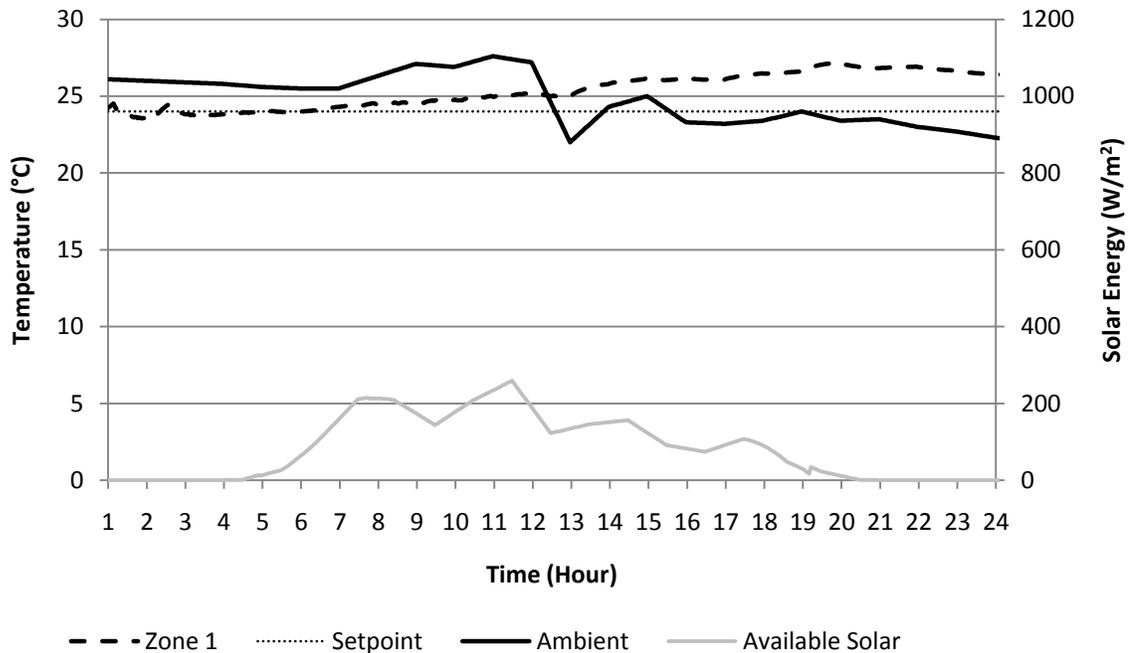


Figure 6-7: Zone and ambient temperatures on August 4th

Plots of the hot tank, cold tank, and zone temperatures on a cool and sunny day, May 17th, are shown in Figure 6-8 and Figure 6-9. The ambient temperature throughout the day is below the setpoint, resulting in cooler zone temperatures in the morning, and steadily charged hot and cold tanks. The zone temperature increases steadily with the increase of solar radiation, causing two evening chiller activations to bring the cold tank back down to the setpoint.

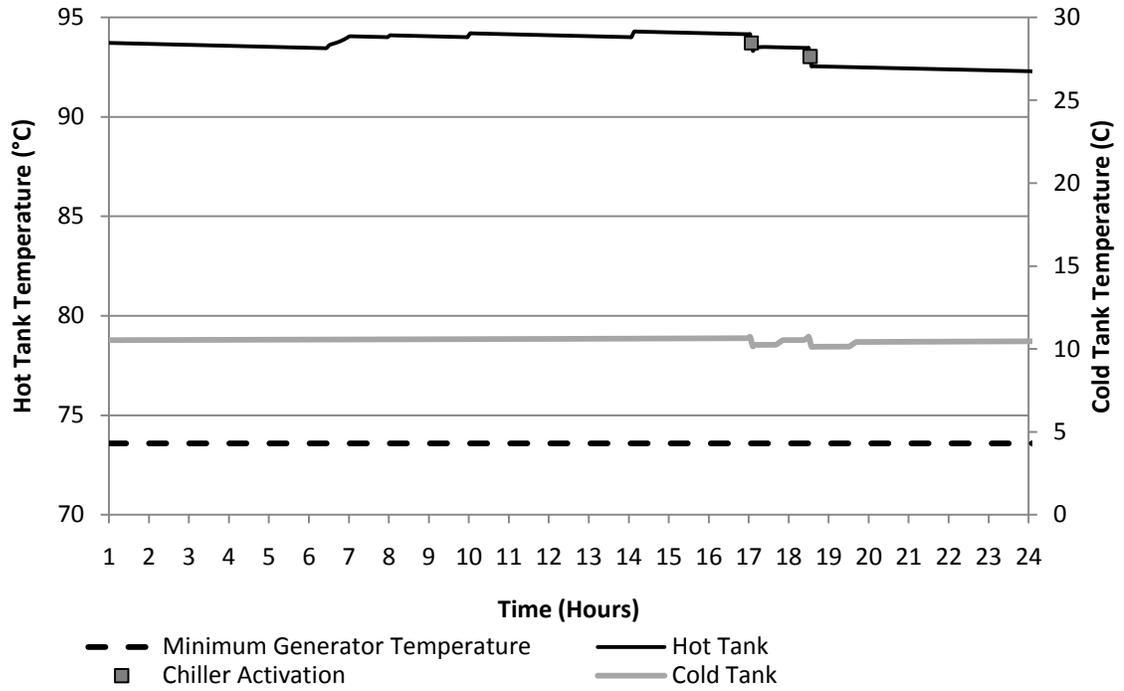


Figure 6-8: Tank temperatures and chiller activation on May 17th

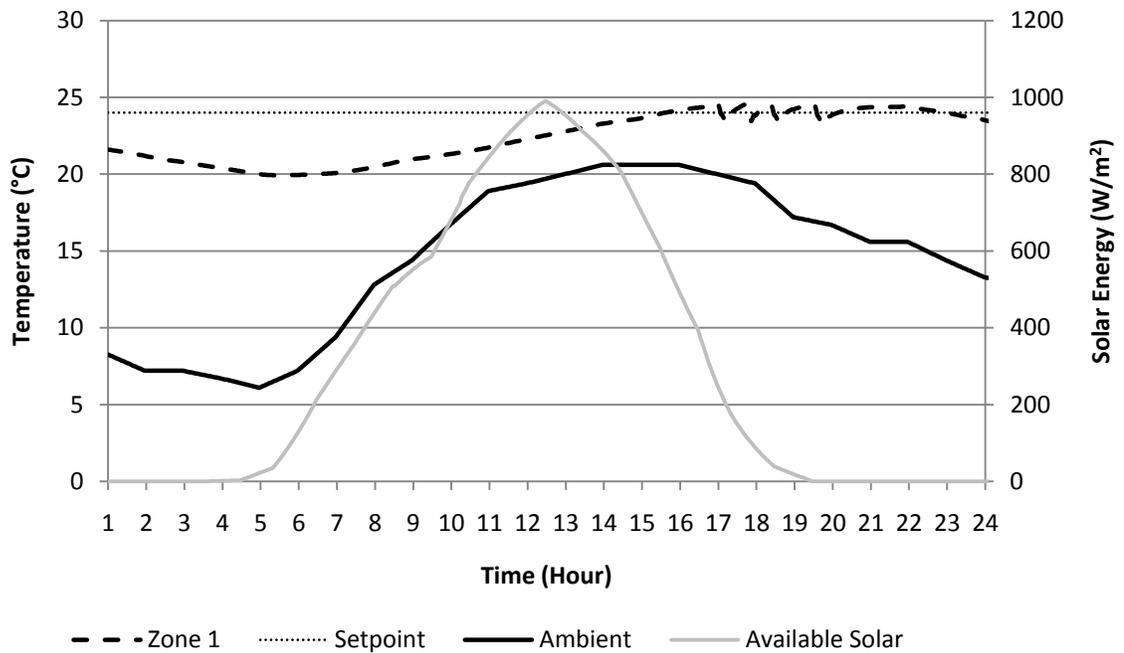


Figure 6-9: Zone and ambient temperatures on May 17th

The following parameters were determined for the chiller and system performance, where P_{elec} is the electrical power (MJ) consumed:

$$Q_{captured} = \text{solar energy captured by solar collector (MJ)} \quad 6-1$$

Equation 6-1 defines the amount of solar energy that is transferred to the working fluid that is circulating through the solar collector.

$$Q_{avail_{on}} = \text{incident solar energy on collector at time steps when solar collector loop is activated (MJ)} \quad 6-2$$

Equation 6-2 defines the amount of solar energy that is incident upon the solar collector during the time steps when working fluid is circulating through the solar collector.

$$MSF_{chiller} = \frac{Q_{evap}}{Q_{captured}} \quad 6-3$$

$MSF_{chiller}$ is the modified solar fraction and is equal to the ratio of the heat transferred at the chiller's evaporator to the solar energy captured by the solar collector.

$$SF_{chiller} = \frac{Q_{evap}}{Q_{avail_{on}}} \quad 6-4$$

$SF_{chiller}$ is the solar fraction and is equal to the ratio of the heat transferred at the chiller's evaporator to the solar energy available during time steps the solar collector loop is active.

$$COP_{elec-chiller} = \frac{Q_{evap}}{P_{elec-chiller}} \quad 6-5$$

Equation 6-5 provides the electrical COP of the chiller, which is equal to the ratio of the heat transferred at the chiller's evaporator to the electrical power input to the chiller.

$$\text{MSF}_{\text{system}} = \frac{Q_{\text{cooling}}}{Q_{\text{captured}}} \quad 6-6$$

$\text{MSF}_{\text{system}}$ is the modified solar fraction of the system and is equal to the ratio of the cooling energy removed from the zone to the solar energy captured by the solar collector.

$$\text{SF}_{\text{system}} = \frac{Q_{\text{cooling}}}{Q_{\text{availon}}} \quad 6-7$$

$\text{SF}_{\text{system}}$ represents the solar fraction of the system and is equal to the ratio of the cooling energy removed from the zone to the solar energy available when the solar collector loop is active.

$$\text{COP}_{\text{elec-system}} = \frac{Q_{\text{cooling}}}{P_{\text{elec-system}}} \quad 6-8$$

Equation 6-8 describes the electrical COP of the system and is equal to the ratio of the cooling energy removed from the zone to the electrical power supplied to the system.

The average value of the system performance parameters on July 4th between 9:30 am and 5:00 pm are provided in Table 6-2. The electrical power consumption of system components used in determining the COP_{elec} is described more fully in Section 7.1. The average chiller COP_{th} value of 0.74 is in line with the range observed by Johnson (2011). The system has an overall solar fraction ($\text{SF}_{\text{system}}$) of 11%, with significant losses occurring across the solar collector. The $\text{COP}_{\text{elec-chiller}}$ is high, due to the high evaporator heat transfer and low electrical input, which does not include the cooling tower or associated components.

Table 6-2: Average performance indicators for the SAC system on July 4th

Parameter	Average value between 9:30 am and 5:00 pm
COP_{th}	0.74
$MSF_{chiller}$	0.51
$SF_{chiller}$	0.19
$COP_{elec-chiller}$	163.8
MSF_{system}	0.50
SF_{system}	0.11
$COP_{elec-system}$	12.3

The overall monthly performance of the chiller is described in Table 6-3. The average daily cooling was found to be 86 MJ/day, with a maximum daily average cooling of 139 MJ/day occurring in July. The chiller was able to meet all of the loads in May, June, and September, while the system was unable to maintain the setpoint for a portion of both July and August. A significant finding is the number of days where temperatures above the setpoint occur – only three sequential days in each July and August. This suggests that while the chiller failed to maintain the cooling setpoint 2.5% of the time steps, these time steps were concentrated on very few days, rather than being a frequent occurrence.

Table 6-3: Monthly performance summary of base case

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Total
Incident Solar Energy (MJ)	18660	33252	34220	30599	12984	129715
Solar Energy Captured (MJ)	233	2870	6194	5035	1321	15653
Cooling Energy (MJ)	95	1955	4181	3419	838	10488
Average Daily Cooling (MJ/day)	11	70	139	110	70	85
$\mathcal{N}(\%)$	0.0	0.0	3.5	5.8	0.0	2.5
Days with unmet cooling loads	0	0	3	3	0	6
COP_{th}	0.74	0.72	0.69	0.70	0.73	0.70
$COP_{elec-chiller}$	169	149	106	110	148	117
SF_{system}	0.09	0.21	0.24	0.22	0.20	0.20
$COP_{elec-system}$	6.9	9.3	8.0	7.7	9.1	8.2
Days Chiller in Operation/Days Simulated	9/17	28/30	30/31	31/31	12/15	110/124

The time steps where the system failed to maintain the setpoint are shown for July 7th through 9th in Figure 6-10 and for August 4th through 6th in Figure 6-11. A day before and after the days with unmaintained setpoints is included in each case to provide additional context. The ambient temperature on July 6th was quite high, but was matched by high solar radiation. Lower solar radiation and higher ambient temperatures resulted in the hot and cold storage draining on July 7th. Persistently high evening ambient temperatures resulted in an overheated zone temperature.

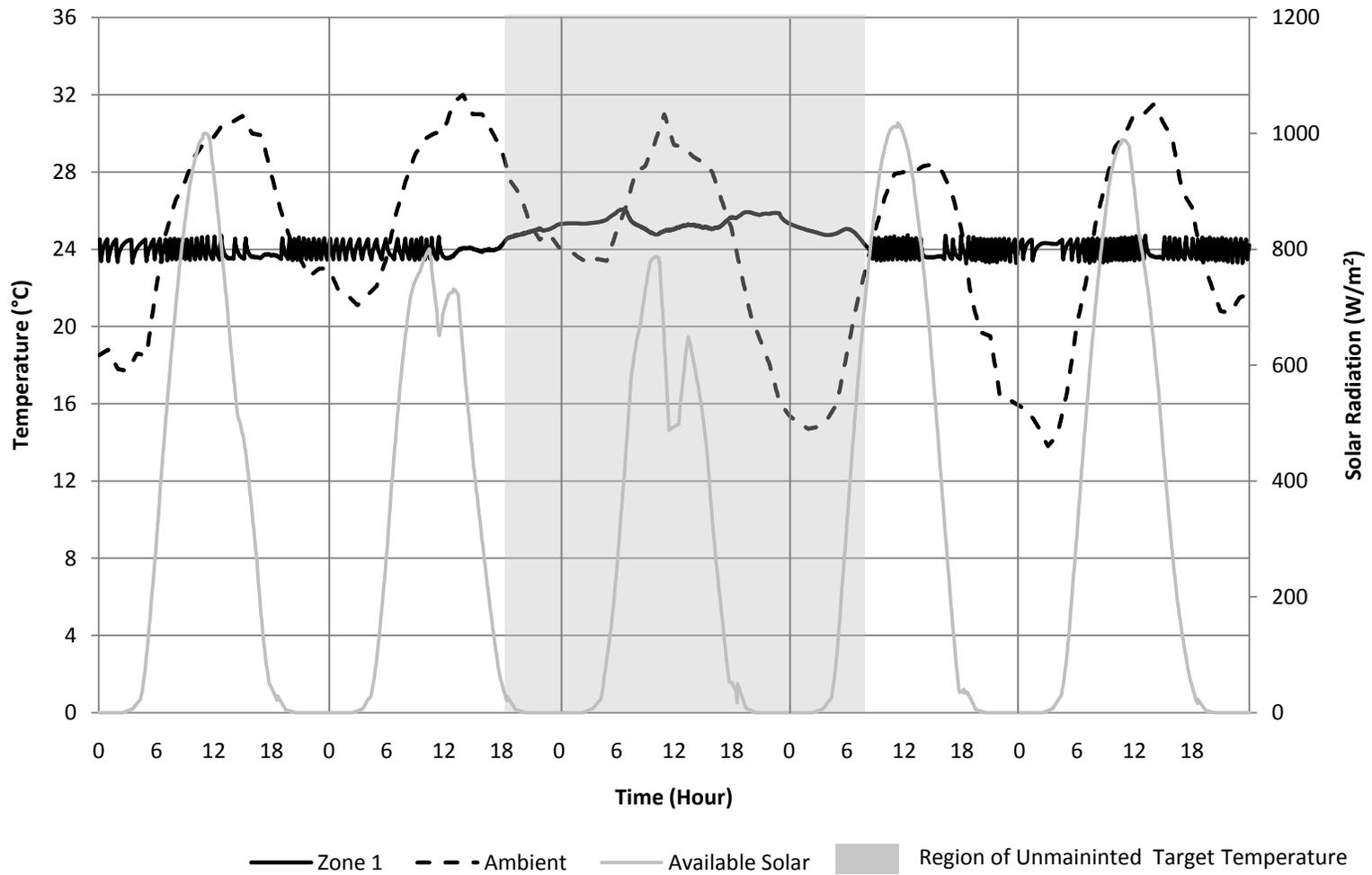


Figure 6-10: Zone temperature and ambient conditions during time of unmet cooling setpoint from July 6th to July 10th

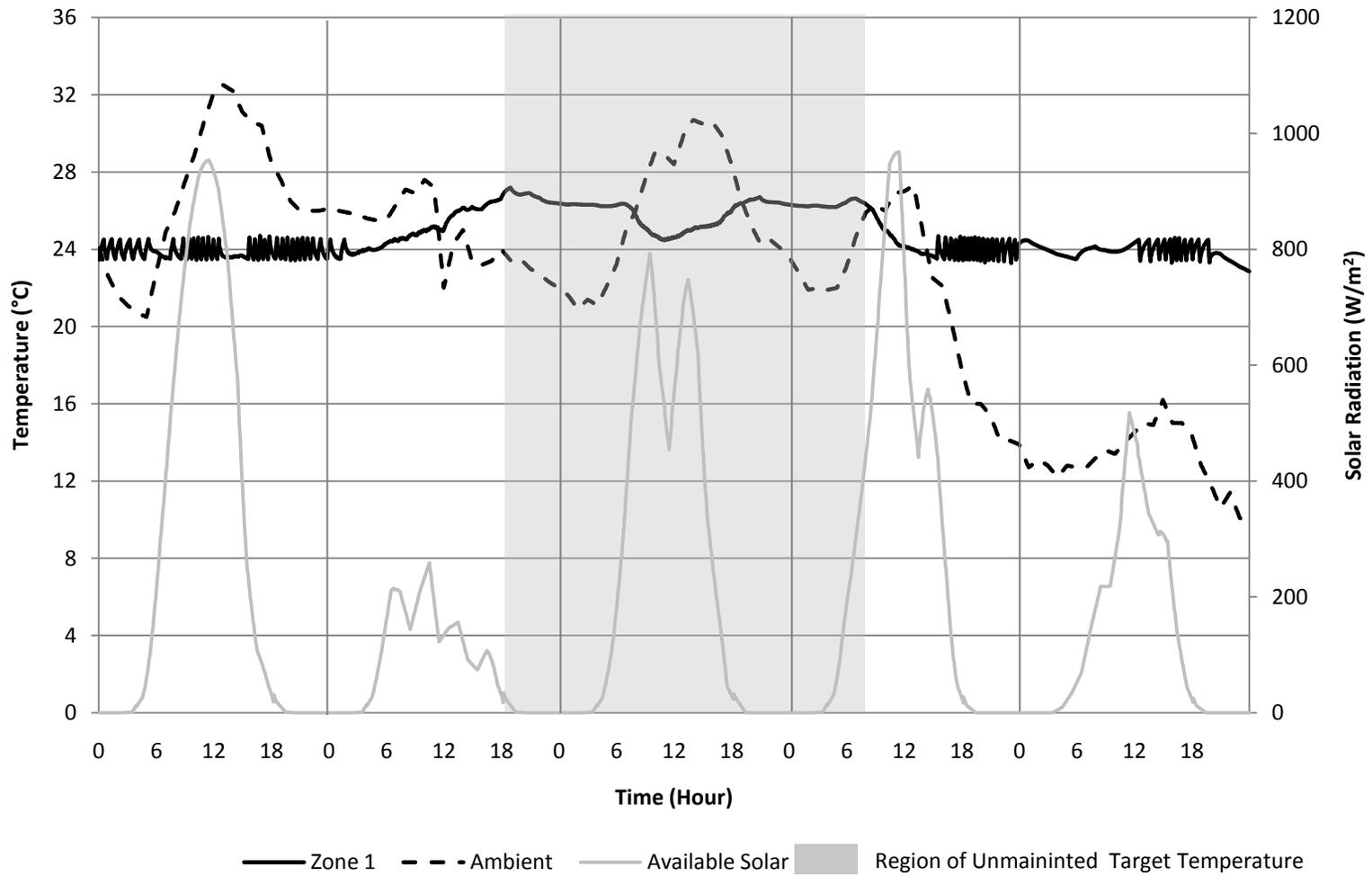


Figure 6-11: Zone temperature and ambient conditions during time of unmet cooling setpoint from August 3rd to August 7th

The following day presented average radiation and sustained high ambient temperatures, resulting in the system being unable to bring the zone back to the setpoint temperature. Finally, on July 9th, the high levels of solar radiation and slightly lower ambient temperatures enabled the system to bring the zone temperature back to the setpoint in the morning hours.

In August, while the setpoint was well maintained on August 3rd, a day of very low solar radiation resulted in the peak zone temperature on August 4th, causing a lasting effect for another 36 hours, described earlier.

The COP_{th} of the chiller was fairly consistent throughout the summer, with a maximum monthly average in May. The chiller activated less frequently in May, resulting in higher generator inlet temperatures, which improved the chiller performance. The chiller was in operation 114 out of the 124 days simulated, with daily operation occurring in August.

The instantaneous values of the performance parameters fluctuate considerably due to the multi-stage nature of the cooling process. The time at which solar radiation is available results in greater available cooling, with some delay due to the charging of the hot and cold storage tanks. The daily performance parameters for the chiller and system for the weeks of June 27th – July 10th are shown in Figure 6-12 and Figure 6-13, respectively.

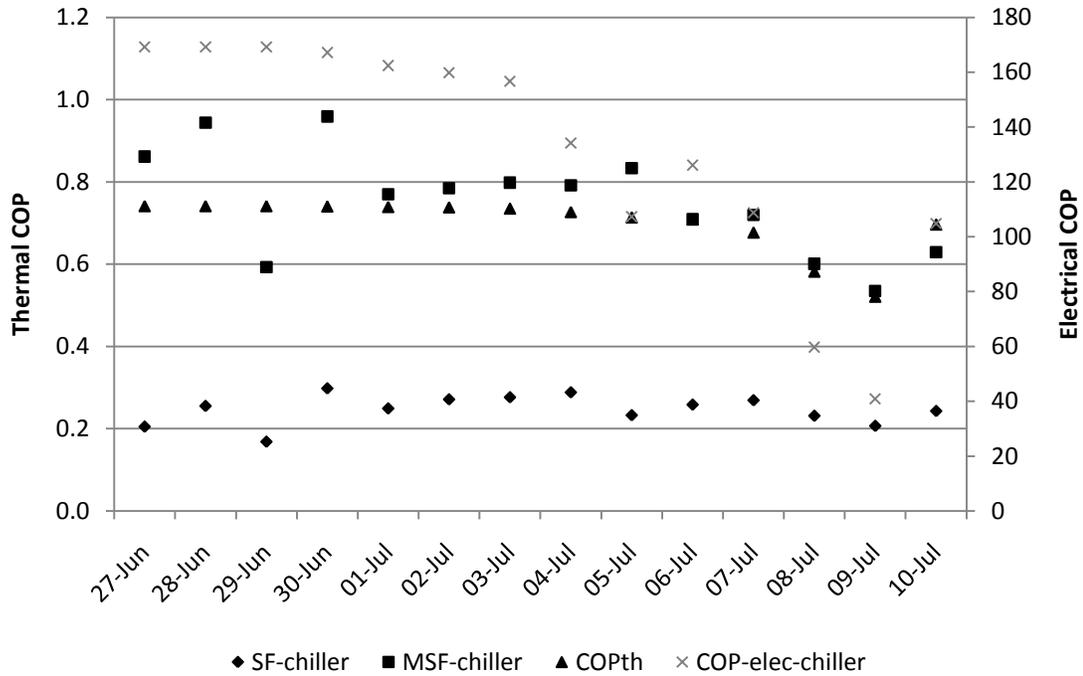


Figure 6-12: Chiller performance parameters from 9:30 am-5:30 pm over a two week period

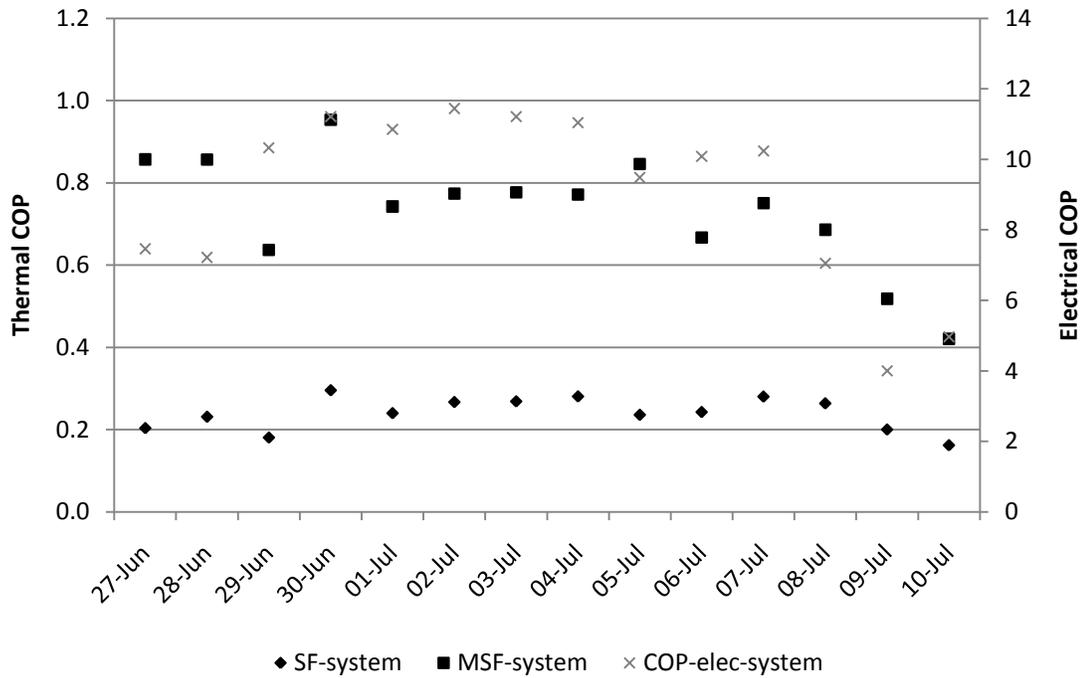


Figure 6-13: System performance parameters from 9:30 am-5:30 pm over a two week period

The chiller and system as a whole show high electrical COP_{elec} at the beginning of the simulation period, where temperatures were more moderate and the tanks were better able to charge and maintain stored energy. As the weather grew hotter, the COP_{elec} decreased with frequent activation of the solar components, cooling loop and the chiller. The COP_{th} stayed within the range of 0.5 to 0.75, with increased performance at the beginning of the week where higher evaporator inlet conditions were more frequent. The SF_{system} was also fairly constant, with peaks nearing 30%, while the $SF_{chiller}$ varied considerably with changing weather patterns.

The energy flow for a typical day, July 4th, is shown on Figure 6-14. The available solar energy for the day is 1050.9 MJ, only about 22% of which is absorbed for use in the SAC system due to sporadic solar collector pump activation and solar collector inefficiencies. The resultant energy is available to the generator, along with 27.8 MJ from the hot storage tank, which allows 189.4 MJ of energy to be removed through the evaporator. The resulting cooling output is 184.7 MJ, along with 0.5 MJ of additional storage in the cold tank. The diagram shows the heat loss in the hot storage tank and heat gain in the cold storage tank, as well as the auxiliary power input. The major loss of available solar energy occurs from the sporadic activation of the solar collector loop and the coefficient of performance of the chiller.

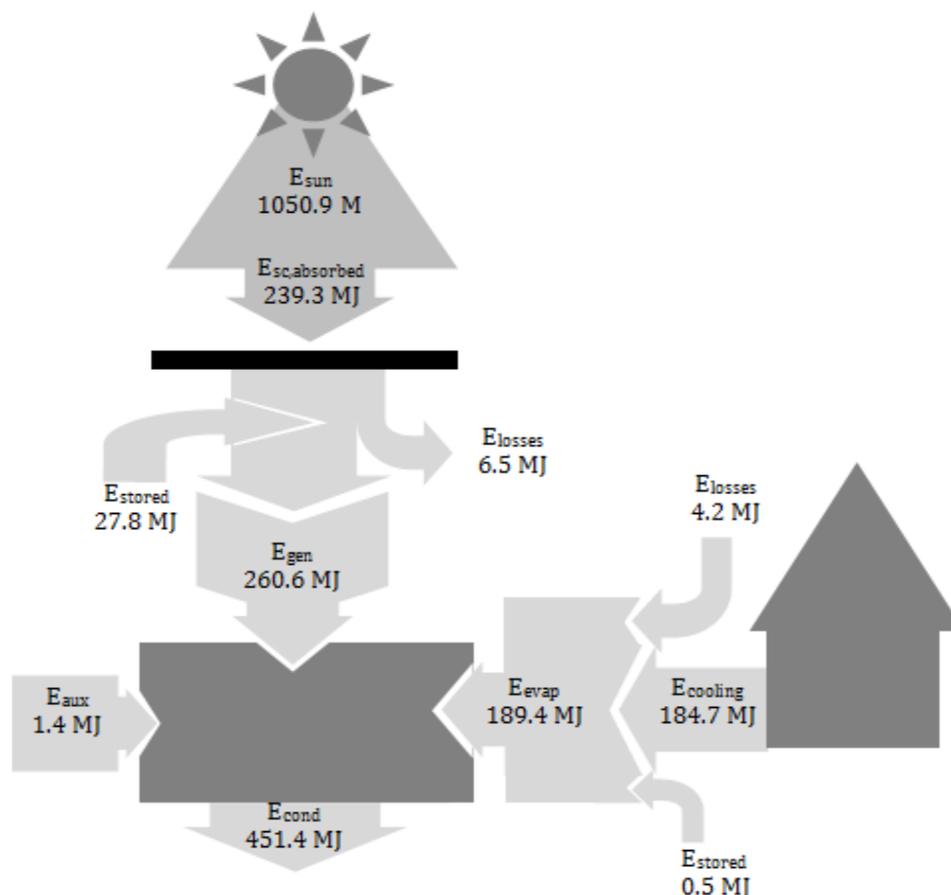


Figure 6-14: Energy flow for the SAC system on a typical day (July 4th)

The allowable generator inlet temperature of the chiller had a range of 73.6°C to 95.0°C. This wide range affected the chiller performance, and consequently the overall operation of the system. The performance and characteristics of the system with different generator inlet temperatures over August 1st and 2nd are shown in Table 6-4. From the table, it can be seen that the highest generator inlet temperatures occur at higher average solar radiation. Higher generator inlet temperatures result in a higher COP_{th} and a significant evaporator heat transfer, resulting in a decreased outlet temperature of the chiller cold stream.

Table 6-4: System performance at different operating conditions for two hot days (August 1st - 2nd) with peak solar radiation of 937 W/m²

Parameter	Generator Inlet Temperature (°C)					Average values
	<75	75-80	80-85	85-90	>95	
Solar Irradiation (W/m ²)	148.6	224.9	212.6	221.8	655.5	321.3
Ambient Temperature (°C)	24.1	23	20.7	23.6	25.0	23.6
Chiller Hot Outlet (°C)	70.6	73.2	76.8	79.1	85.4	76.3
Chiller Cold Inlet (°C)	11.3	10.6	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.8
Chiller Cold Outlet (°C)	9.2	7.8	6.3	4.7	4.3	6.9
Hot Tank (°C)	73.5	77.4	82.6	87.1	93.6	84.4
Cold Tank (°C)	11.7	10.6	10.4	10.5	10.5	11.1
Coil Air Inlet (°C)	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0
Coil Air Outlet (°C)	13.6	12.6	12.2	11.9	11.6	12.3
Cooling Power (kW)	5.4	5.9	5.5	5.2	4.9	5.3
Chiller COP _{th}	0.60	0.63	0.69	0.73	0.74	0.66
Chiller Electrical COP	55.2	76.8	115.7	156.4	164.8	104.0

Higher generator inlet temperatures denote a higher charging of the hot tank from solar radiation, and less frequent chiller activation. This results in a lower cooling power output, while high activation of the chiller at low generator inlet temperatures result in higher cooling output. The chiller COP and electrical COP are seen to increase significantly with higher generator inlet temperatures due to the

dependence of the evaporator and generator heat transfers on generator inlet temperature.

The histogram shown in Figure 6-15 displays the frequency of the occurrence of each level of evaporator heat transfer on August 1st. The high frequency of evaporator heat transfers over 32.5 kW results in the low chiller cold outlet temperatures seen in Table 6-4.

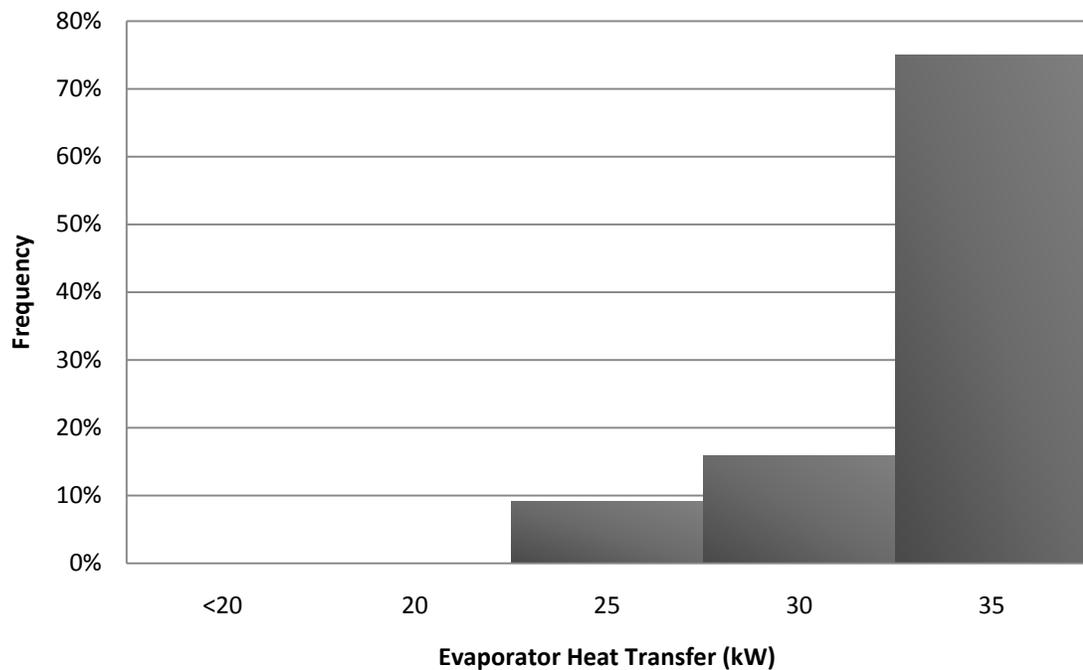


Figure 6-15: Histogram of the evaporator heat transfer on August 1st, a typical hot day

6.2.1 Summary of findings

The findings for the general performance of the SAC system are as follows:

- The SAC system is able to perform well on warm days with high solar radiation, and on days with cooler ambient temperatures.
- The SAC system is unable to maintain the desired setpoint on hot days with low solar radiation.
- The system was unable to meet the cooling setpoint on two periods of three sequential days each, where a trend of high ambient temperatures was followed by a day with lower than average solar radiation. The peak Zone 1 temperature was 27.2°C.
- The SF_{system} increases as the day progresses due to the energy availability in the storage tank in the late afternoon and evening when the solar radiation has decreased.
- The chiller COP_{th} remains fairly constant throughout the day, and falls within the range of 0.5 to 0.75.
- The biggest sources of energy loss in the system are the collector efficiency, and the chiller inefficiencies.
- The chiller has an evaporator heat transfer of 32.5 kW or greater more than 50% of the time that it operates over the full summer.

The performance of the 2000 vintage house with Toronto CWEC climate data reference case will now be compared to cases with different house constructions, climatic conditions, and control strategies.

6.3 Significance of Housing Construction and Geometry

The significance of the construction and geometry of houses on the performance of the SAC system was determined through the modelling of four different houses. These houses represented three different house vintages and two different window areas. The full details of the modelled houses are described in Table 5-5 on page 93. Each house was modelled with the SAC system in the Toronto CWEC climatic conditions, and the summary of performance results for each house is provided in Table 6-5. The system was able to meet at least 95% of the loads in all cases except for the 1976-LW house.

Table 6-5: Summary of results for four houses

House	$N(\%)$	Max. Zone Temp. (°C)	Avg. Zone Temp. (°C)
1955	3.3	28.2	22.8
1976	3.9	28.7	23.0
1976-LW	22.7	34.6	23.9
2000	2.5	27.2	23.4

The maximum monthly temperature for the main zone of each house is shown in Figure 6-16. The width of each slice represents the fraction of the summer simulated in that month, for instance only the final 17 days of May were included, while June through August had full months of simulation. The radius of each slice represents the maximum temperature that was reached in the zone. The centre of the circle represents 19°C, and each subsequent ring denotes one additional degree. The results indicate that the vintages with average window areas had similar maximum zone temperatures, peaking in August. The 1976 vintage had the highest temperature of the three houses, with a peak of nearly 29°C in August.

The 1976-LW house, with large windows, had significantly higher peak temperatures, reaching a maximal temperature of 34.6°C in July. The marginally higher zone temperature in July rather than August for 1976-LW can be attributed to the higher solar radiation occurring in July. The increase in solar radiation increases the performance of the SAC system for each house, but was not enough to offset the higher solar gains of the house with large window area.

The average monthly temperature of the main zone for each house is displayed in Figure 6-17. The three house constructions with average window area have similar average monthly zone temperatures, and in this case the 1976-LW house is similarly aligned, with average temperatures within a degree of the 2000 house, and within a degree and a half of the 1955 and 1976 houses.

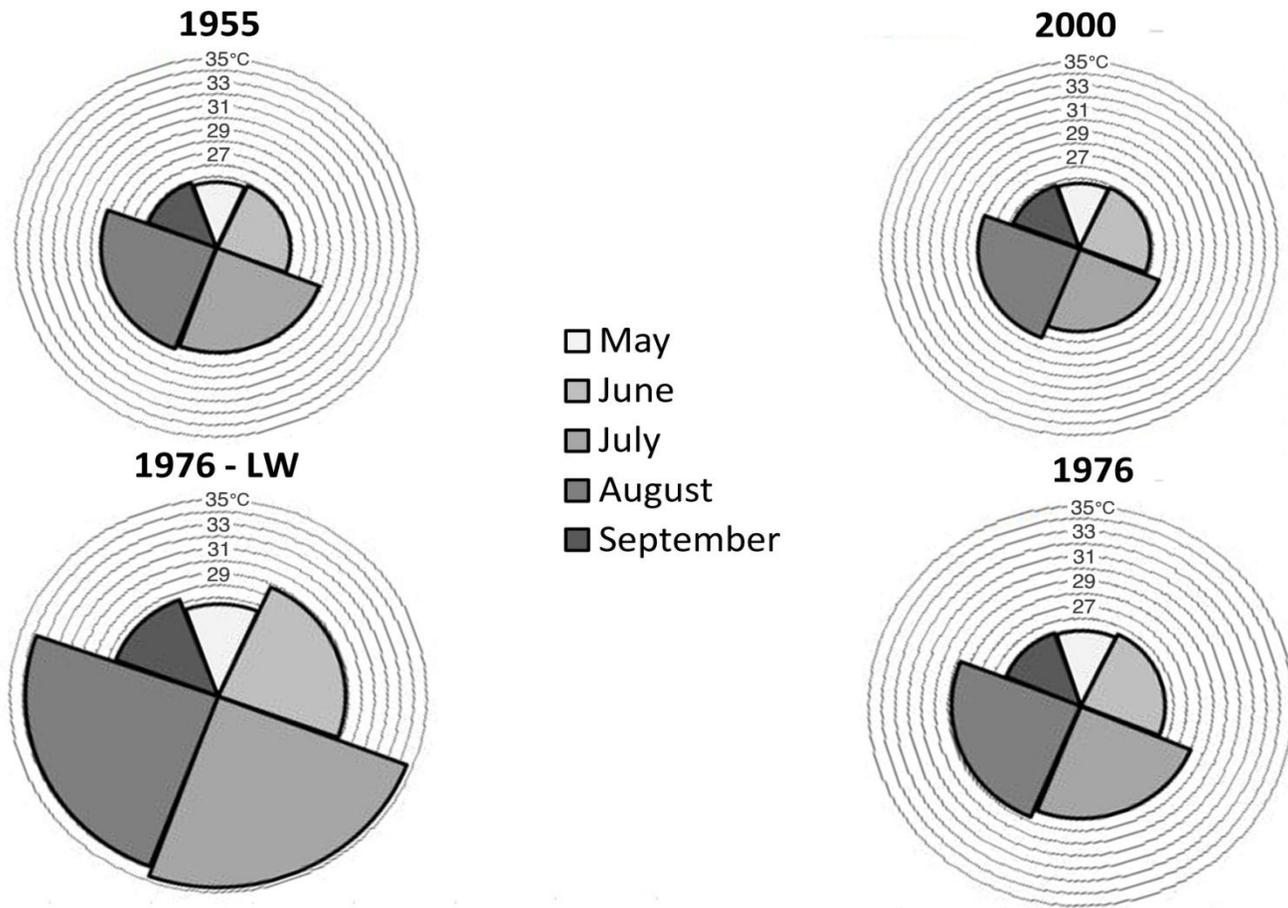


Figure 6-16: Maximum monthly Zone 1 temperature for different house models

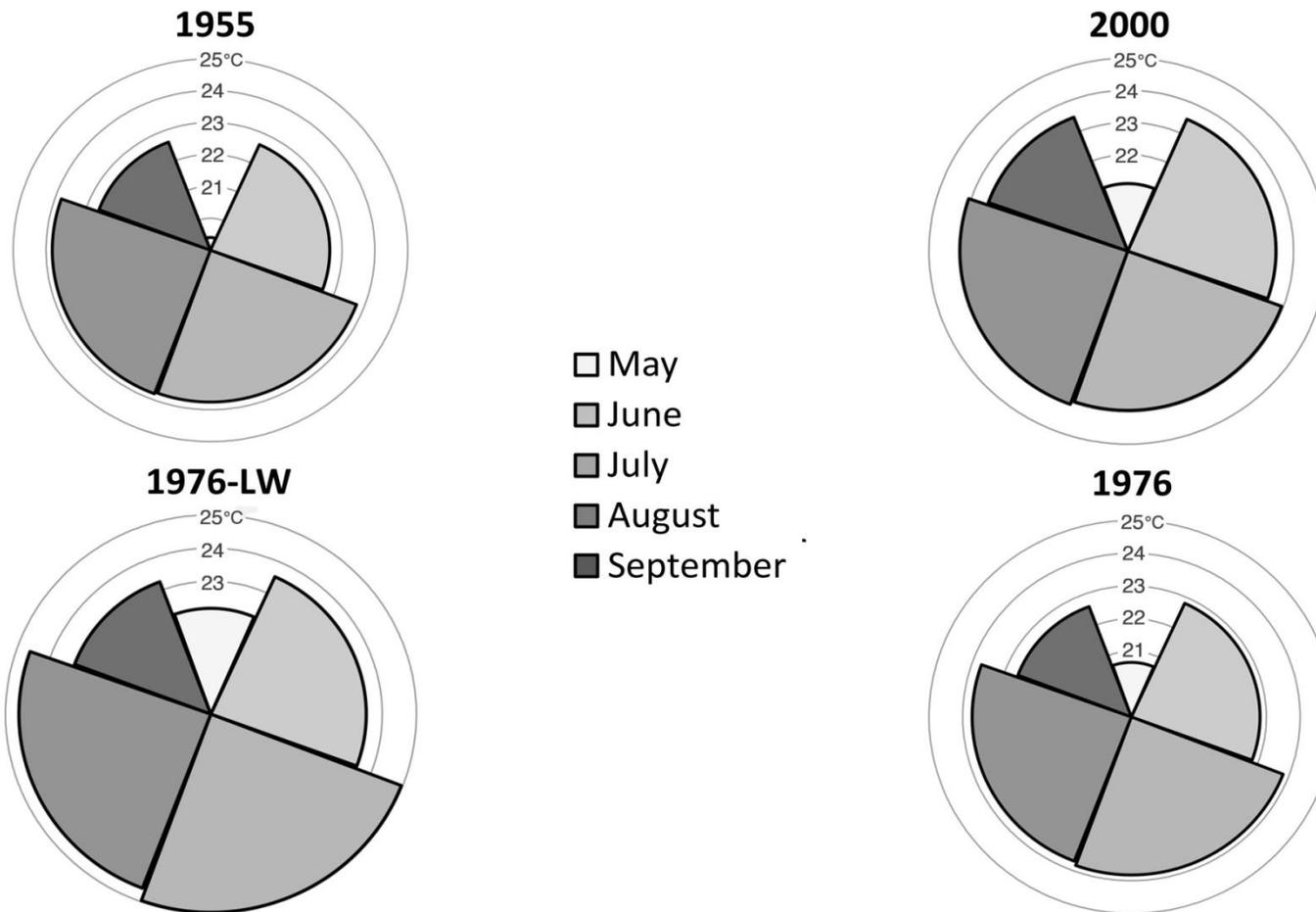


Figure 6-17: Average monthly temperature for Zone 1 for different house models

The fraction of \mathcal{N} that occurs during each of the time periods for each house is shown in Figure 6-18. The figure shows that the unmet loads for the 1955, 1976, and 2000 houses occur throughout the day with fairly even distribution. The majority of unmet cooling loads in the 1976-LW house, however, occur between 9:00 am and 4:59 pm, due to the reduced storage in the morning period, and the high solar gains through the large window area. This phenomenon is shown on July 30th in Figure 6-19 and Figure 6-20. While both the 1976 and 1976-LW house cold storage tanks increase in temperature as the sun rises, the higher solar gains in the 1976-LW house causes the zone temperature of the house to increase more rapidly, surpassing the setpoint from 7:00am onwards.

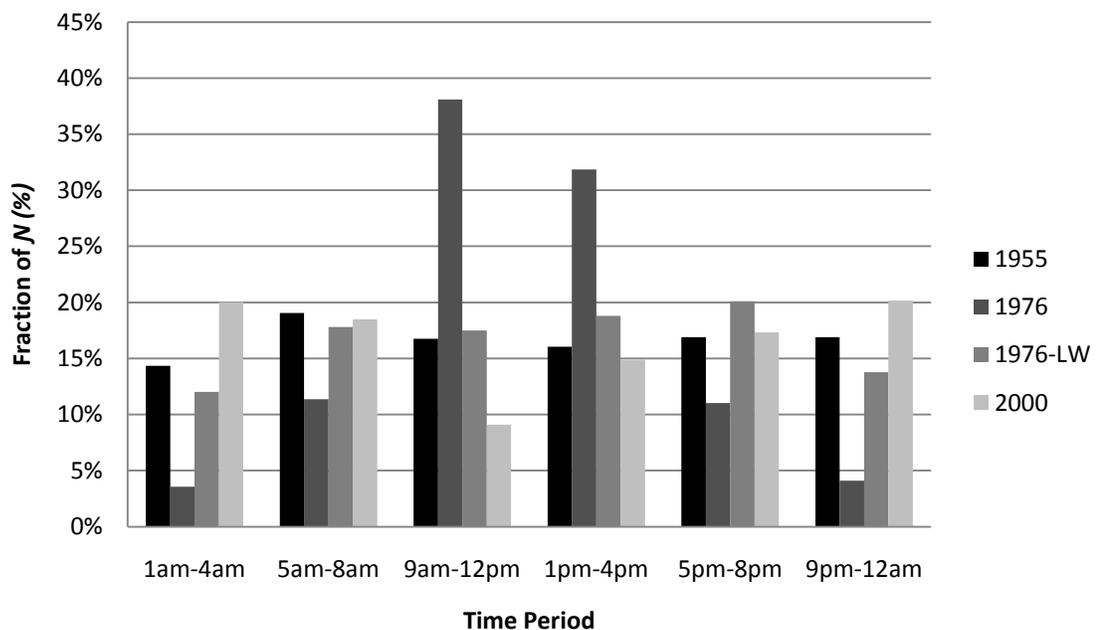


Figure 6-18: Breakdown of unmet cooling loads by time period

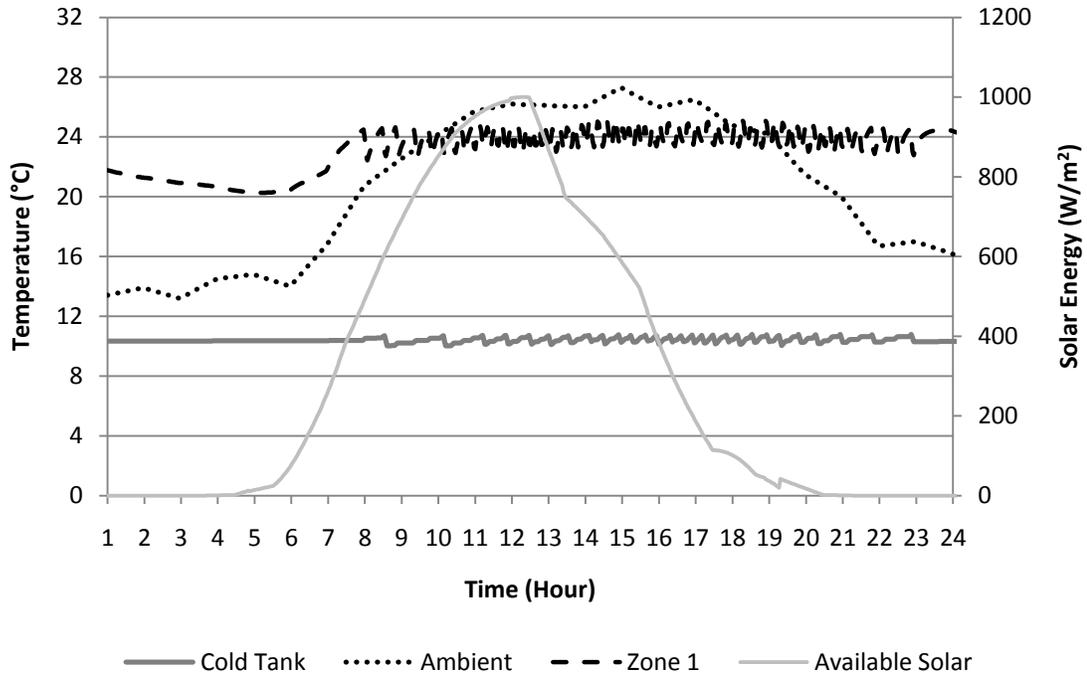


Figure 6-19: Temperature fluctuation of the 1976 house on July 30th

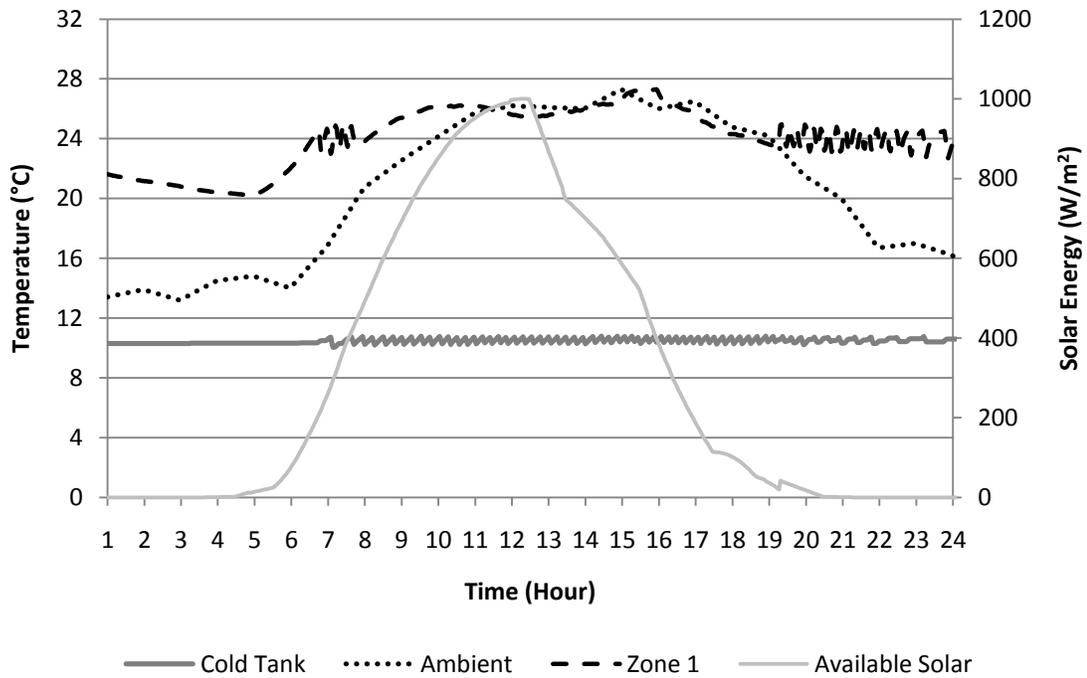


Figure 6-20: Temperature fluctuation of the 1976-LW house on July 30th

With reference to Figure 6-18 again, the 1955 and 2000 houses both show a trend with lowest frequency of unmet loads occurring during the peak daylight hours, while the 1976 and 1976-LW have the highest frequency of unmet loads at this time. The 1955 and 2000 have two main living zones, while the other houses have single main living zones. It is estimated that the cooling loads overnight for the 1955 and 2000 houses may be greater due to the larger volume of livable zone. The higher external wall surface area of the two story houses causes greater thermal build up across the walls during the day, which is then released over night, causing additional thermal loading. This increased cooling load has a greater effect overnight when the sun has set and there is limited storage available, but does not affect the performance of the system when solar energy is rampant.

The monthly flow of energy from incident solar energy to useful cooling power for each house is shown in Figure 6-21. The 1976-LW house has the highest cooling loads of the four houses, which results in a more rapid reduction of both the hot and cold storage tanks, and a more frequent actuation of the solar collector pump, chiller, and cooling loop. The frequent actuation of the pump results in more solar energy absorbed for the 1976-LW house than any of the others. The differences between the remaining three houses are minimal, with slightly higher cooling energy supplied by the 1976 house.

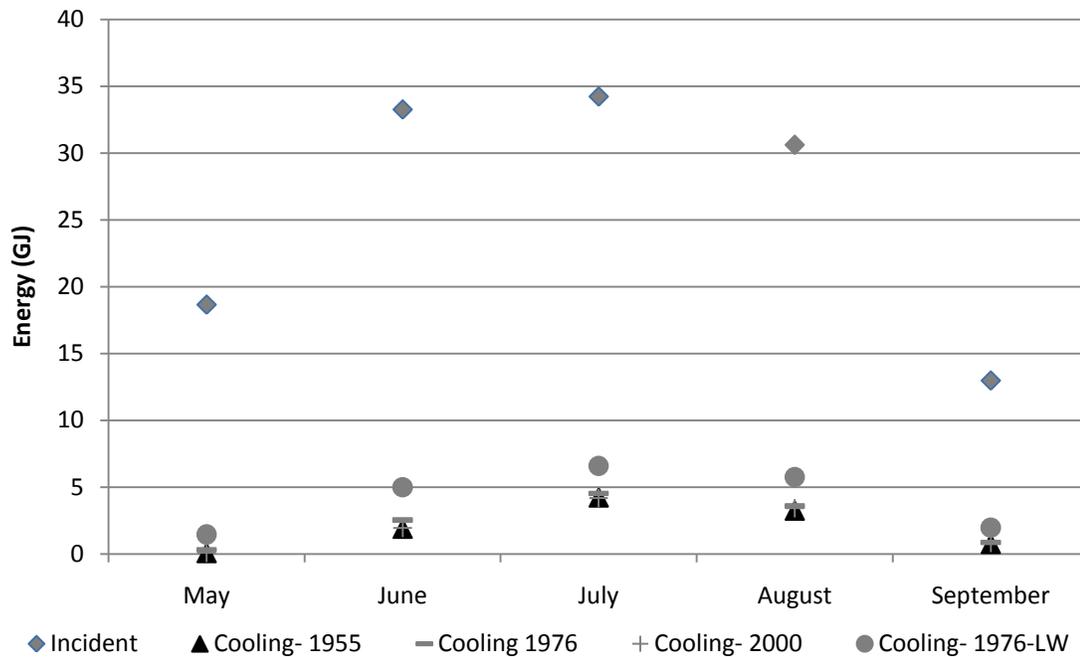


Figure 6-21: Monthly energy flow for each house

6.3.1 Summary of findings

The results of the variation in housing geometry and construction are as follows:

- The geometry and vintage of a house can cause moderate variations in the performance of the SAC system.
- The window area can cause significant variations in the performance of the SAC system. In particular, the peak temperature of the zone and the number of timesteps with unmet cooling loads are seen to be highly affected by the window area.

- The peak loads for a house with high window area tend to occur in the early hours of solar gain before the chiller has begun to function.
- Houses with larger cooling loads have higher solar fraction due to the more frequent actuation of solar collector components. A higher solar fraction does not necessarily indicate a better system performance overall.
- Absorbed radiation peaks in the late morning/early afternoon hours for most houses due to the charging of the hot and cold storage tanks, which then deactivates the solar loop pump.
- Houses with two storeys tend to have more unmet loads than single-storey houses during the night time hours. The night time loads may be due to the convective release of the thermal mass of the walls into the house.

6.4 Effect of Climate and Weather Conditions

The three houses with average window sizes were found to have similar SAC system performance. To determine the effect of the climatic conditions on the system performance, the operation of the SAC system in the 2000 house was simulated in three Ontario climates using CWEC data (Numerical Logics, 1999), as described in Section 6.4.1. The SAC system was also simulated with ten Toronto Pearson International CWEEDS weather files, as discussed in Section 6.4.2.

6.4.1 Regional considerations

The simulations undertaken across Ontario used CWEC climate files from Toronto, Windsor, and Ottawa. The results of these simulations are shown in Table 6-6. The

Windsor climate has a lower number of days above 30°C, but a higher overall average ambient temperature than the other two climates. The average Zone 1 temperature for each house was similar, with slightly higher peak temperatures in Toronto and Windsor.

Table 6-6: Summary of results for Toronto, Windsor, and Ottawa simulations

Climate	Average Ambient Temp. (°C)	Number of Hours Ambient Temp. above 30°C	$\mathcal{N}(\%)$	Max. Zone Temp. (°C)	Avg. Zone Temp. (°C)
Toronto (baseline)	18.3	31	2.5	27.2	23.4
Windsor	19.8	25	2.4	26.2	23.7
Ottawa	17.9	20	0.9	28.2	23.3

The breakdown of when the unmet cooling loads occur in each house is shown in Figure 6-22, along with the average temperature for each climate during each time period. The Windsor climate has unmet loads occurring most frequently overnight, which is a result of the higher average night time temperatures, which causes the storage tanks to be drained of energy once solar energy is no longer available.

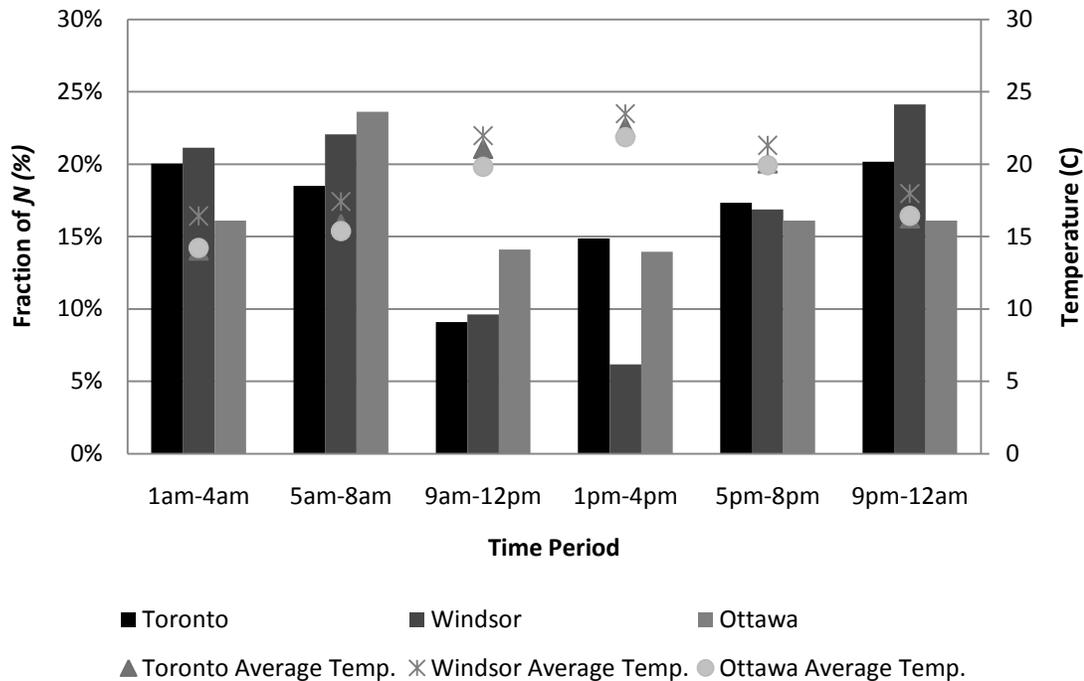


Figure 6-22: Breakdown of unmet cooling loads across four hour periods in three climates

The Toronto and Windsor climates show a decrease in unmet cooling loads during the hours with available solar energy. The Ottawa climate, however, has the highest fraction of unmet cooling loads during the 5:00 am-8:59 am period. This difference is explained by the higher incident solar radiation in the Toronto and Windsor climates, causing these systems to more quickly meet the daytime cooling loads than the house in the Ottawa climate.

Figure 6-23 and Figure 6-24 show the maximum monthly and average Zone 1 temperatures, respectively, for the 2000 house for each climate. The maximum monthly Zone 1 temperatures occurring in each climate were found to be similar, with a slightly higher peak in Toronto in August, and a significant peak of

28.2°C in July in Ottawa. This maximal temperature corresponds to July 20th, the climax of a hot week in Ottawa.

The temperatures of various component streams throughout this hot day are shown in Figure 6-25. The high temperature of the cold tank at the start of the day and the high ambient temperature resulted in all of the available solar energy being used directly in the absorption chiller, with no usable cold or hot storage available after the sunset. The result was an evening with high Zone 1 temperatures, where the system was unable to meet the load for 60% of the day. The Windsor climate was found to result in a higher temperature in September than the other two climates, corresponding to a particularly hot September 1st day.

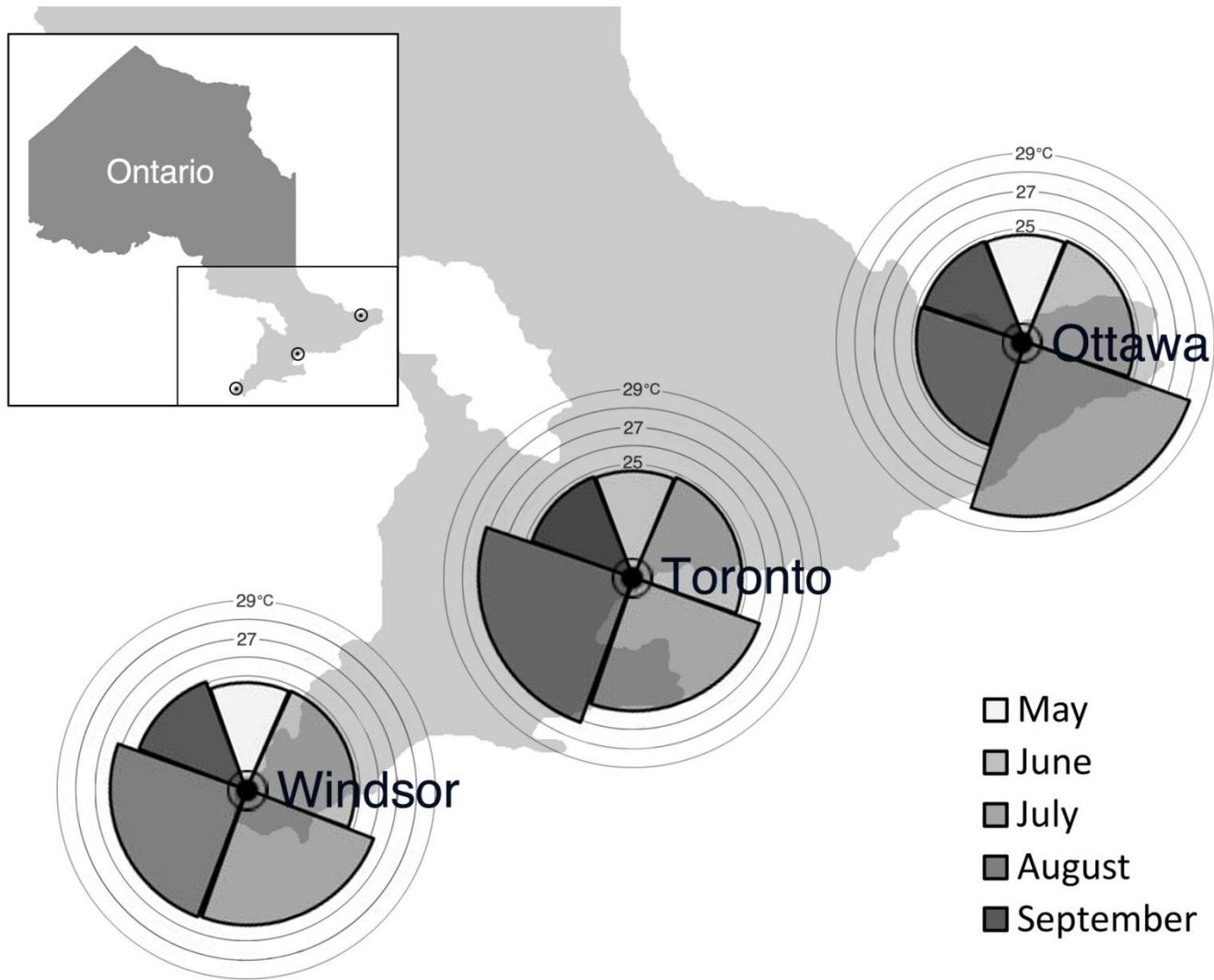


Figure 6-23: Maximum monthly Zone 1 temperature for three Ontario climates

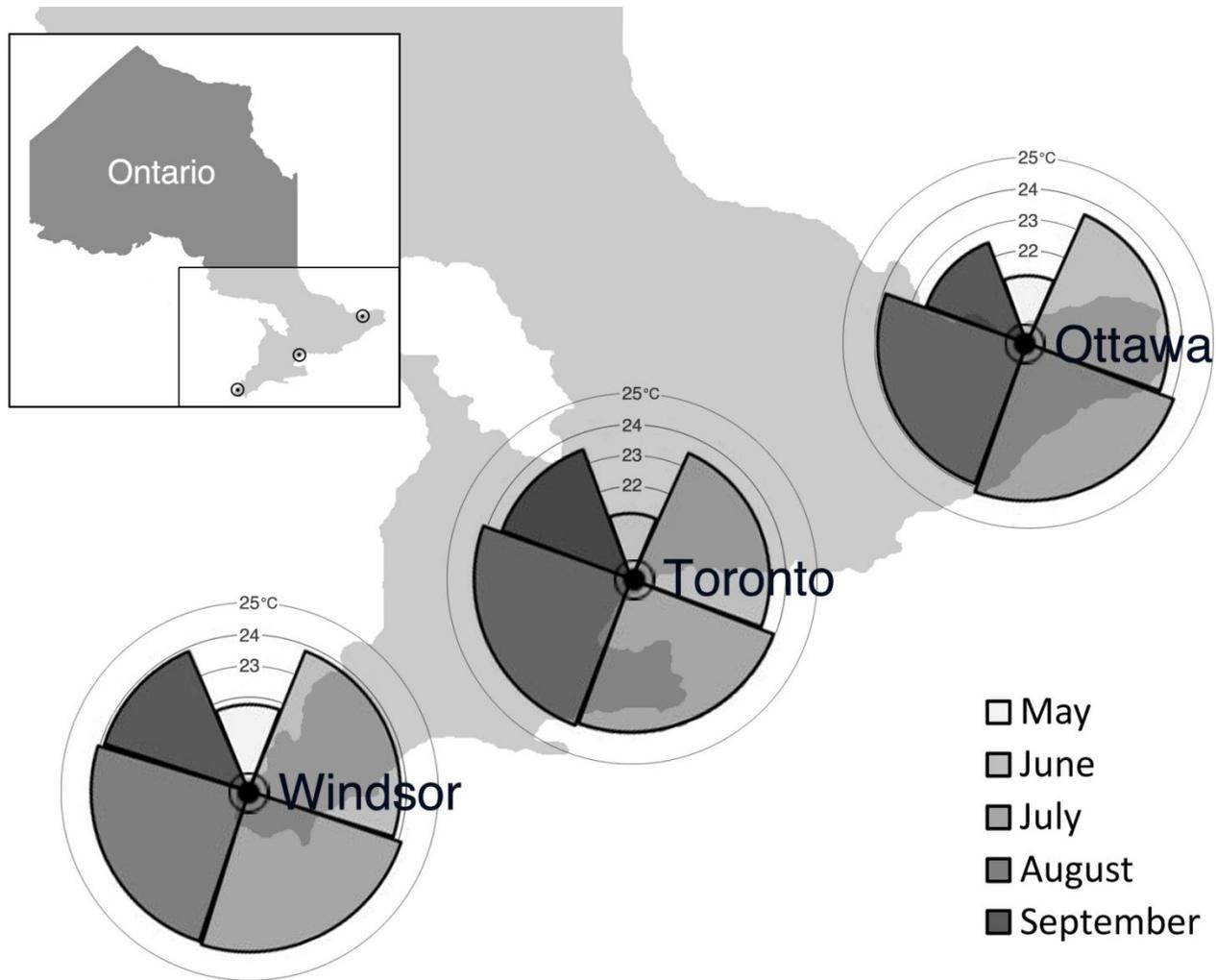


Figure 6-24: Average monthly Zone 1 temperatures across three Ontario climates

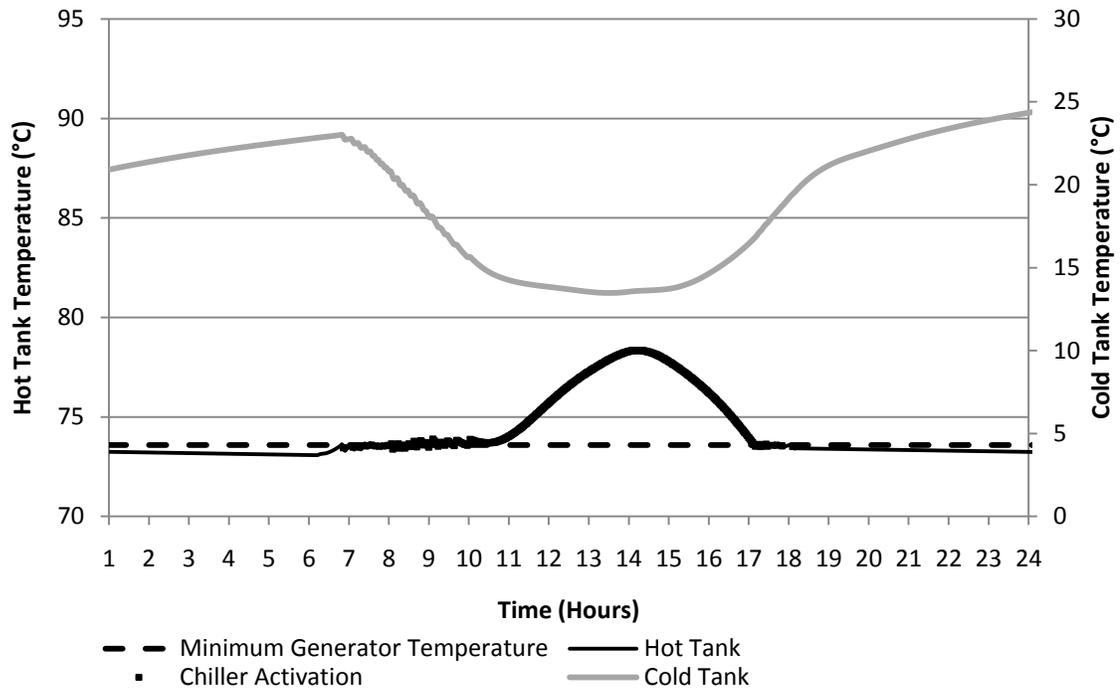


Figure 6-25: Component temperatures on hottest day (July 20th) in Ottawa

The average temperatures for May through August were found to be within one degree of each other for all three climates, however Windsor was found to have a mildly warmer September in relation to the other climates. The average Zone 1 temperature in Windsor in September was 23.9°C, which corresponds to the higher average ambient temperature of 18.1°C in Windsor, compared to 17.6°C in Toronto and 15.4°C in Ottawa.

The temperature of the hot storage tank and cold storage tank for August 1st is shown for each of the three climates in Figure 6-26. While the weather conditions in each of the three cities were different on August 1st, it was a hot day with high solar radiation in all three regions. The hot tank begins at a high enough temperature for

the chiller to activate in Ottawa and Toronto, while the Windsor tank needs to be charged throughout the early morning before reaching the minimum required temperature. The cold tanks for all three climates are able to maintain the chiller setpoint temperature throughout the day.

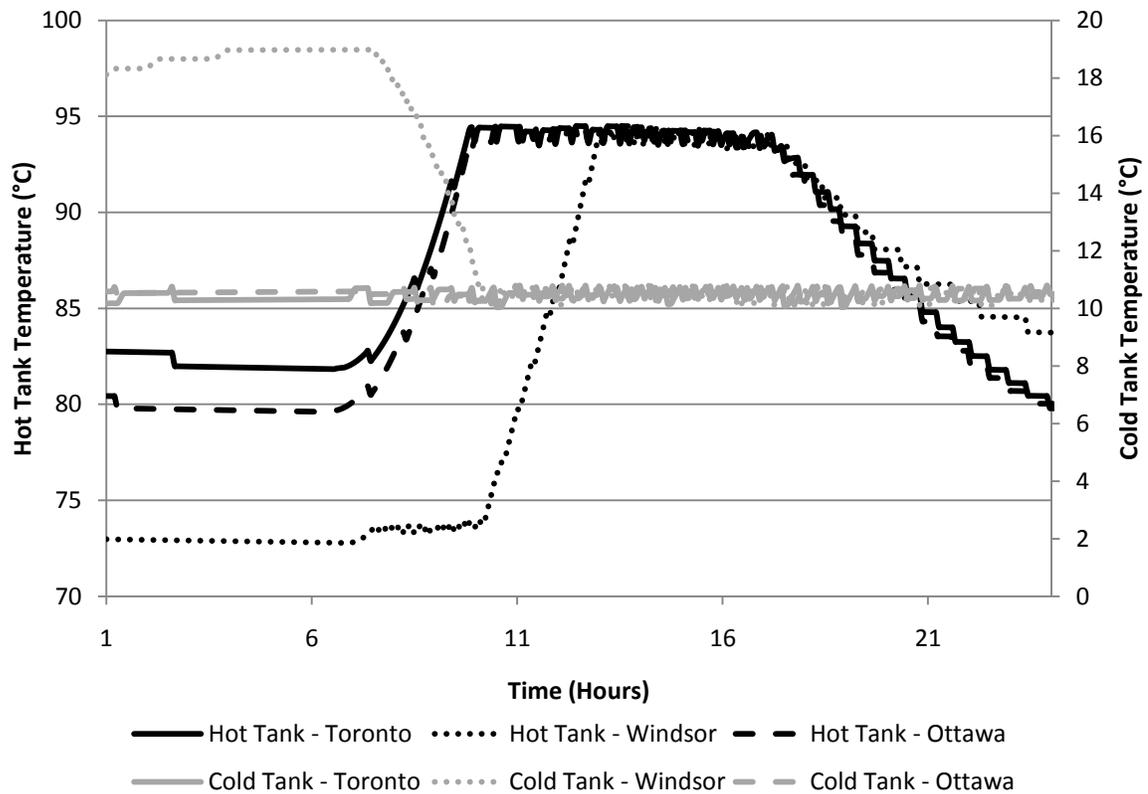


Figure 6-26: Storage tank temperatures for three Ontario climates on August 1st

The system performance variation in a single climate across a number of years is presented in the following section. A summary of findings for climatic and weather conditions is subsequently presented.

6.4.2 Temporal considerations

Given the variation of temperatures and humidity of a particular climate each year, the performance of the SAC system in the 2000 house was modelled from 1999 to 2008 in the Toronto region using CWEEDS weather files. Figure 6-27 shows the resulting percentage of unmet cooling loads for each summer, as well as the maximum occurring and average temperatures for Zone 1. Table 6-7 displays weather information about each of the years. The hot summers of 2002 and 2005 in Toronto resulted in the highest frequency of zone temperatures above the setpoint of 24°C, but the highest peak zone temperature occurs in 2006.

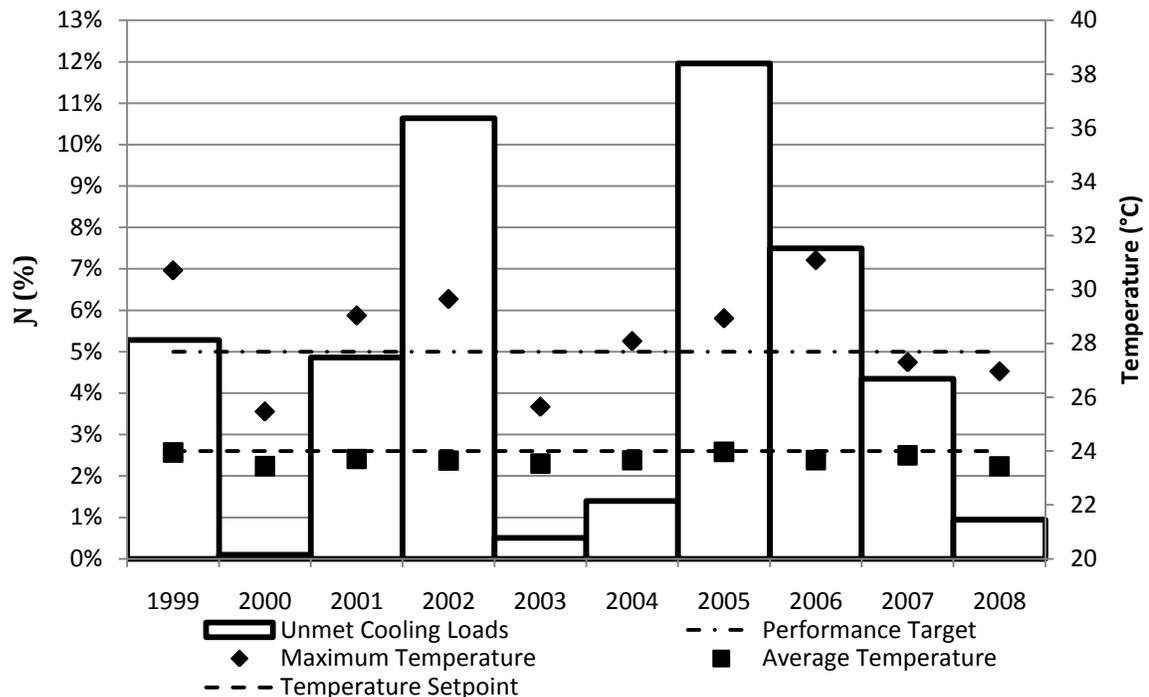


Figure 6-27: Unmet cooling loads and maximum and average zone temperatures in Toronto from 1999-2008

The SAC system was able to meet the cooling loads and maintain the desired comfort conditions at least 95% of the time for six of the summers investigated. The remaining four summers had over-heated living zones between 5.3% and 12.0% of the time. The decade-long simulations show that while changes in weather do not affect the average zone temperature, they do significantly affect the peak temperature and frequency of peak temperatures.

Comparing N in Table 6-7 shows that the peak number of unmet cooling loads coincides with the years with the highest number of hours with high ambient temperatures and low solar radiation. While these occurrences don't account for all unmet cooling loads, it does affirm the finding in Section 6.2 that the system performs most poorly on hot days with low solar radiation. This finding may also explain the higher number of unmet cooling loads in 2006, despite the higher average ambient temperature and solar radiation in 2007.

Table 6-7: Summary of weather and performance variables for Toronto Pearson International Airport for 1999-2008

Year	Average Ambient Temp. (°C)	Average daytime Global Horizontal Solar Radiation (W/m ²)	Number of hours ambient temp. above 30°C	Number of hours $T_a > 30^\circ\text{C}$ and Radiation $< 500 \text{ W/m}^2$	Maximum Monthly Temperature					$\mathcal{N}(\%)$	Max. Zone Temp. (°C)	Avg. Zone Temp. (°C)
					May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.			
1999	20.9	392.2	123	4	31	32.9	34.7	31.7	30.7	5.3	30.7	23.9
2000	18.5	355.5	6	0	23.1	31.1	27.9	30.7	30.4	0.1	25.5	23.4
2001	20.0	401.7	107	3	24.4	32.6	31.8	37.2	31.6	4.9	29.0	23.7
2002	20.7	419.8	188	2	27.9	31.7	35.1	34.6	34.2	10.6	29.6	23.6
2003	19.5	387.9	65	0	24.2	34.2	31.6	31.7	28.5	0.5	25.6	23.5
2004	18.6	353.4	8	0	26.4	31.3	30.1	29.3	28.4	1.4	28.1	23.7
2005	21.5	404.8	159	3	24.5	34.1	34.7	33.8	31.6	12.0	28.9	24.0
2006	20.1	354.0	105	4	33.9	33.3	34	36.4	28	7.5	31.1	23.7
2007	20.5	397.2	124	1	30.9	34.2	33.7	34.5	33.8	4.3	27.3	23.8
2008	19.0	358.2	25	0	27	33.1	30.9	29.4	30.3	0.9	27.0	23.4

6.4.3 Summary of findings

The analysis of climatic and weather conditions is as follows:

- Climatic and weather conditions create variations in peak zone temperatures, and mildly affect the average temperatures.
- Climatic conditions affect the prevalence of peak Zone 1 temperatures, and subsequently the number of hours the system is unable to maintain the zone setpoint.
- The SAC system is able to maintain the cooling setpoint at least 95% of the time for average cooling years in Toronto, Windsor, and Ottawa.
- The frequency of hot ambient days is a key indicator of the system performance, however the frequency of hot days with low solar radiation was found to be the strongest predictor of the inability of the system to meet cooling loads.
- The SAC system is able to meet the loads 60% of the years between 1999 and 2008 in Toronto.

6.5 Control Strategies

The performance of the SAC system in the 2000 house with Toronto CWEC data was assessed with different control strategies, including changes to the zone setpoint temperature, and the minimum generator inlet temperature for the absorption chiller. The results of the zone setpoint simulations are described in Section 6.5.1,

and the results of the generator inlet temperature simulations are discussed in Section 6.5.2.

6.5.1 Zone cooling setpoint

To begin, the system was modelled with three different zone temperature setpoints: 1) 24 +/- 0.5°C at all hours, 2) 23 +/- 0.5°C at all hours, and 3) 24 +/- 0.5°C from 8:00 am – 7:59 pm, 26 +/- 0.5° from 8:00 pm – 7:59 am (varying setpoint). The summary of results for the three simulations is found in Table 6-8. The varying setpoint case provided the least number of time steps above the desired setpoint, and all systems were able to meet at least 95% of the loads.

Table 6-8: Summary of results for different zone cooling setpoints

Setpoint	% of time steps above setpoint	% of time steps above 25°C from 8:00 am-7:59 pm	Max. Zone Temp. (°C)	Avg. Zone Temp. (°C)
24 (baseline)	2.5	1.0	27.2	23.4
23	2.8	1.1	27.2	22.7
24 - 8:00 am-7:59 pm 23 - 8:00 pm-7:59 am	1.5	1.0	27.2 27.1	23.6 23.7

The resulting cold tank and zone temperatures for each control strategy on August 4th, the day with the peak Zone 1 temperature, is shown in Figure 6-28. The varying setpoint case begins the day with a cold tank maintained at the chiller

setpoint temperature overnight. The other two cold tanks begin the day at near-zone temperatures. On this particular hot day, the three cold tanks are drained throughout the day, and none are able to maintain the zone temperature at 24°C in the evening. The varying setpoint case is able to maintain a cooler temperature throughout the day.

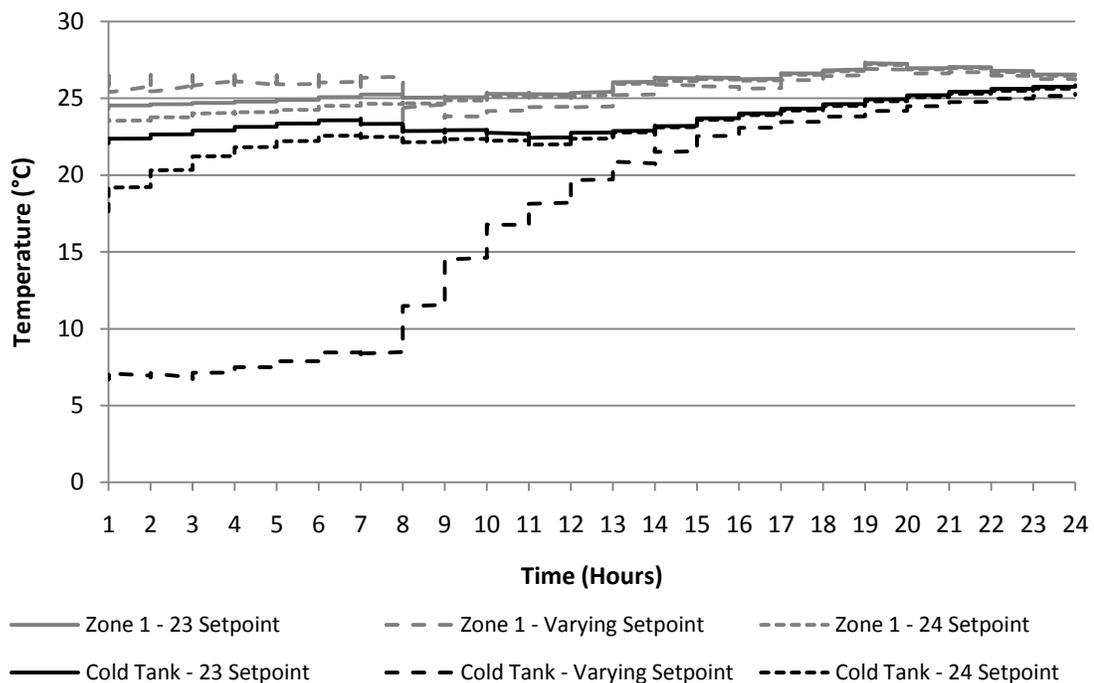


Figure 6-28: Cold storage tank and zone temperatures for different cooling setpoints on August 4th

6.5.2 Minimum generator inlet temperature

The SAC system was simulated with four different minimum generator inlet temperatures: 70°C, 73.6°C, 75°C, and 80°C. The summary of the results of these simulations can be seen in Table 6-9. The increase in minimum generator inlet temperature resulted in a lower number of time steps that the system was unable to

meet the cooling setpoint. The improved performance of the system diminished once the minimum generator inlet temperature was 80°C. This result is most likely due to evening hours when high ambient temperatures persist, without available solar radiation to maintain the tank at the minimum generator inlet temperature.

The increase in generator inlet temperature resulted in an increase of the average COP_{th} , as expected. The increased COP_{th} resulted in an increase in evaporator heat transfer and ultimately an increase in the ability of the system to maintain the cooling setpoint in Zone 1. The increase also led to fewer days with chiller activation, though the frequency of activation was similar for all four cases.

Table 6-9: Summary of results for different minimum generator inlet temperatures

Minimum Generator Inlet Temperature (°C)	$\mathcal{N}(\%)$	Maximum main zone temperature (°C)	Average main zone temperature (°C)	Average COP_{th}	% of time steps chiller activated	Number of days chiller activated
70	2.9	27.3	23.4	0.63	4.8	109
73.6 (baseline)	2.5	27.2	23.4	0.67	4.2	110
75	2.3	27.2	23.4	0.69	3.9	111
80	2.3	27.3	23.4	0.71	3.8	112

6.5.3 Summary of findings

The results of the variation of the cooling setpoint and minimum generator inlet temperature are as follows:

- A higher overnight cooling setpoint increases the daytime performance of the system due to higher storage capacity available in the early morning hours.
- The SAC was still able to meet a reduced cooling setpoint of $23 \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ 95% of the time, and the peak zone temperature was not significantly affected by the change in setpoint.
- Increasing the minimum generator inlet temperature increases the overall performance of the system, including the COP_{th} and the number of time steps the zones are maintained at the cooling setpoint.
- The peak and average zone temperatures are not significantly affected by changing the minimum generator inlet temperature.

6.6 Summary of Results

The thermal performance of the SAC system was tested in a variety of houses and climates, and with varied control strategies. The system proved to be capable of maintaining a setpoint of $24 \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ at least 95% of the time for typical summers in Toronto, Windsor, and Ottawa; and within houses with average window area. The system failed to meet the desired cooling loads in a house with extremely large window area, and on days with high ambient temperatures and low solar radiation.

For the base case, this resulted in 3 sequential days in both July and August with an unmaintained cooling setpoint.

These results indicate that SAC is a technically feasible option for cooling residential houses in Ontario. The resulting electrical performance of the system will be assessed in Chapter 7. Further potential for optimization of the system is explored in Chapter 8.

CHAPTER 7

7.0 Electrical Results and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

One of the primary motivations for the use of solar absorption cooling is to reduce the peak load on the electrical grid during the summer months. Peak loads are supplied by GHG intensive energy generation sources, and therefore a decrease in peak loads would result in a decrease in GHG emissions. The performance of the 2000 house was simulated both with the inclusion of the SAC system and with an ideal plant model of a vapour-compression system in ESP-r (see Section 4.2). The electrical consumption of each case was compared, and the resulting reduction in GHG emissions of the SAC system was determined.

The description of the electrical loads of the SAC system is provided in Section 7.1. The electrical performance, including the overall electrical consumption of the SAC and the vapour-compression systems is discussed in 7.2. The GHG emission determination was completed using Farhat & Ugursal (2010), and is described in Section 7.3. Finally, the resulting GHG reduction is presented in 7.4.

7.1 System Electrical Loads

The electrical consumption of each component in the SAC system is provided in Table 7-1. The pumping power of Pump-1 (Figure 5-1), P_I (W), was considered to be the power required to pump water across the height differential from the heat exchanger at ground level to the rooftop solar collector, z (m), at the mass flow rate,

\dot{m} (kg/s), as expressed in 7-1. The acceleration due to gravity is denoted by g (m/s²).

$$P_1 = \dot{m}gz \quad 7-1$$

Table 7-1: Electrical consumption by component of SAC system

Component	Electrical Consumption (W)
Heat Exchanger – Solar Collector Pump (Pump-1)	8
Hot Water – Heat Exchanger Pump (Pump-2)	10
Hot Water –Chiller Pump (Pump-3)	130
Cold Water – Chiller Pump (Pump-5)	74
Chiller Auxiliary Power	210
Cold Water – Cooling Coil Pump (Pump-6)	32
Circulation Fan	250
Cooling Tower and Associated Components	500

The electrical consumption of Pump-3, P_3 (W) and Pump-5, P_5 (W), was determined by Equation 7-2, using the pressure losses (Δp) provided in the Yazaki specifications (Aroace, 2010). Equations 7-1 and 7-2 ignore pump and motor irreversibilities, but provide a reasonable base electrical draw for comparison.

$$P_3 = \frac{\dot{m}}{\rho} \Delta p \quad 7-2$$

The chiller auxiliary power was also stipulated in the Yazaki specifications (Aroace, 2010). The circulation fan power was determined by the electrical consumption of the circulation fan used in the vapour-compression unit in Swan (2009a), in order to accurately compare the two cooling systems. The remaining pumps (Pump-2 and Pump-6) were determined using Equation 7-2 and estimated pressure drops from commercially available components. The cooling tower electrical consumption was conservatively estimated by scaling the findings of Fong et al. (2010) to the flow rate of the condenser water stream. The final electrical consumption was compared to the absorption chiller electrical analysis by Fong et al. (2010) to confirm that the values were appropriate.

The electrical consumption of the vapour compression air conditioning unit was determined using the existing ideal HVAC model included in the CSDDRD (Swan et al., 2009a) for the house under investigation. The system size was appropriate to meet the cooling setpoint at least 95% of the time, and was representative of a traditional vapour compression air conditioning unit used in the house.

Both systems provided cooling centrally in the main zone and used inter-zone air flow to distribute cooling to the second living zone. The modelled electrical consumption of the inter-zone fan was not included in the electrical analysis, however it would be the same for both cases.

7.2 Electrical Performance

The total electrical consumption of the SAC system in each of the four houses from May 15th to September 15th for the Toronto CWEC and Toronto 2006 CWEEDS climates is provided in Table 7-2. The electrical consumption with a conventional vapour-compression air conditioner set to meet the cooling setpoint of 24 +/- 0.5°C at least 95% of the time is also provided. None of the SAC systems assessed with the 2006 Toronto climate, nor with the 1976-LW house were able to meet the desired level of cooling ($\mathcal{N} = 95\%$), so these values do not represent a direct comparison to the conventional air conditioning system.

Table 7-2: Total summer electrical draw for four houses with conventional and solar absorption cooling systems

House	Climate	$\mathcal{N}(\%)$	SAC System Electrical Consumption (MJ)	Conventional Air Conditioner Electrical Consumption (MJ)
1955	Toronto CWEC	3.3	1,129	5,772
1976	Toronto CWEC	3.9	1,291	6,635
1976-LW	Toronto CWEC	22.7	2,446*	10,896
2000 (baseline)	Toronto CWEC	2.5	1,155	5,384
1955	Toronto 2006	11.7	2,121*	8,962
1976	Toronto 2006	10.8	2,239*	9,224
1976-LW	Toronto 2006	29.2	3,507*	13,472
2000	Toronto 2006	7.5	1,856*	7,564

* Cases where the cooling setpoint was not maintained for a minimum of 95% of time steps

In all cases, the SAC system consumes considerably less electrical energy than the conventional system. For the typical Toronto CWEC climate, the reduction in electrical consumption is over 75% for the 1955, 1976, and 2000 systems. A SAC system sized to adequately meet the cooling loads experienced in Toronto in 2006 would require greater electrical consumption than is listed, however it is expected that the consumption would still be lower than the conventional system.

The 1976-LW house is included to highlight the significant electrical draw required to cool the highly-fenestrated house. The SAC system was unable to meet the cooling loads for this house, but it is expected that the electrical consumption of an optimized system for the house would be significantly higher than for the other houses. As previously discussed, a house with large cooling loads, such as the 1976-LW house, resulted in more frequent activation of all system components. This activation created a higher electrical draw, even though the system can still fail to fully meet the cooling loads. The 1976-LW house had higher electrical consumption than all other houses and had the worst performance.

For all four houses, the proportion of the electricity use for each component is similar and is shown for the 2000 house in Figure 7-1. The largest electrical demand is due to the circulation fan, and consequently the pump between the cooling coil and the cold tank also consumes a significant portion of the electricity.

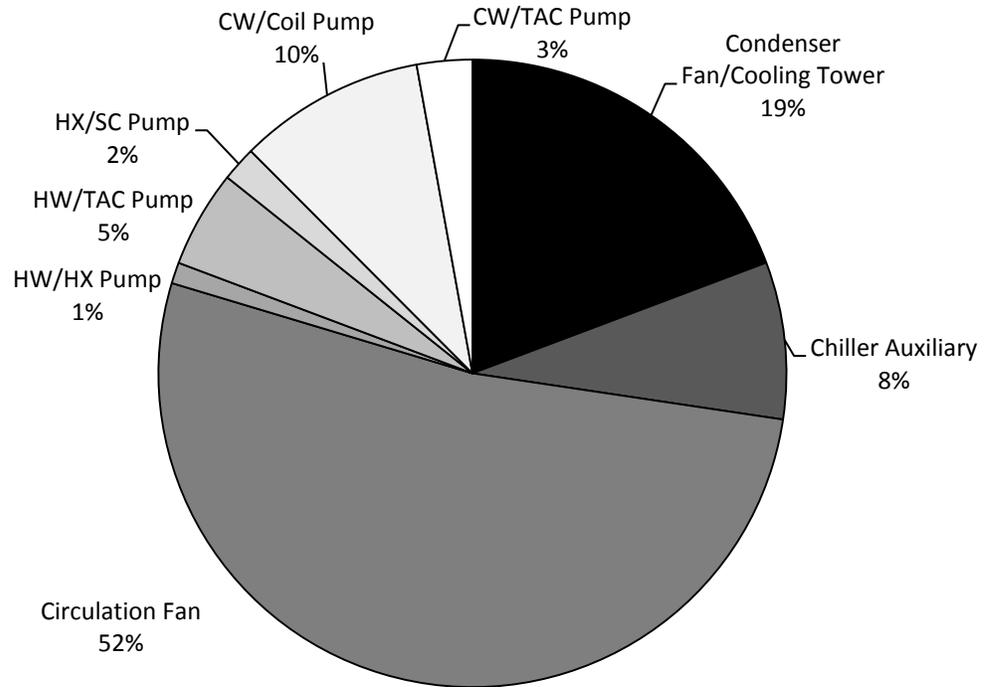


Figure 7-1: Electrical breakdown for 2000 house

The methodology for determining the GHG emission reduction for the SAC system is provided in the following section, followed by the resulting GHG performance of the system.

7.3 Determination of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The determination of greenhouse gas emissions from electrical consumption is dependent on the source of electrical energy. The breakdown of electricity generation by source in Ontario is nuclear (50%), hydro (21%), coal (18%), natural gas (8%), and wind (1%) (Farhat & Ugursal, 2010). For simplicity, wind, hydro, and nuclear generators are not considered to have any greenhouse gas emissions. The electricity grid is powered by a combination of plants to meet base loads,

intermediate loads, and peak loads. The quantity of each of the three plant types is determined strategically in order to meet the variable power needs, while minimizing the cost of power generation (Farhat & Ugursal, 2010).

Base load plants are those which generate power at full capacity continuously. They are characterized by having high fixed costs and low operational costs. In Ontario, the primary base load plants are nuclear and hydroelectric plants. Intermediate load plants have moderate fixed costs, and their operational costs are higher than the base load plants. The purpose of intermediate load plants is to meet the demand between the daytime base loads and peak loads. Intermediate plants are selected because their output can change more rapidly than base plants.

Peak generation plants are selected because their output can be altered quickly to meet demand fluctuations. They have low capital cost and the highest operational cost, and are thus the most expensive to employ. In Ontario, the intermediate and peak plants are coal, natural gas, oil, and hydroelectric generators with storage. Ontario also has minor wind generation, which is considered a non-dispatchable source and is fed into the grid whenever the power is available (Farhat & Ugursal, 2010).

The primary GHGs released during the combustion of fossil-fuels are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), water (H_2O), and nitrous oxide (N_2O). Water is generally not considered as having a human-induced global warming effect due to its atmospheric regulation through precipitation. As CO_2 is the gas of primary interest for global

warming, the global warming potential (GWP) relates the impact of other gases to that of CO₂ through CO₂ equivalence. The GWP is a measure of the contribution to global warming of a given gas over a period of 100 years, where CO₂ is defined to have a value of 1.0. The gases CH₄ and N₂O have GWPs of 25 and 298, by mass, respectively, indicating a much greater impact by mass than CO₂ (Farhat & Ugursal, 2010).

In order to determine the reduction in the GHG emissions of the solar absorption cooling system, greenhouse gas intensity factors (GHGIF) were employed. The work of Farhat & Ugursal (2010) was selected due to their extensive work in determining accurate GHGIFs for intermediate and peak generation for the Ontario region at a monthly and seasonal level. This analysis is well-suited to the assessment of cooling systems due to the coincidence of high electrical cooling loads with the use of intermediate and peak generation facilities.

The GHG emission reduction was determined by comparing the electrical consumption of the CSDDRD house (Swan et al., 2009a) modelled with the vapour-compression system and the solar absorption cooling system. This comparison was completed using Equation 7-3 and the monthly marginal GHGIFs and transmission losses determined by Farhat and Ugursal (2010) for Ontario, listed in Table 7-3.

GHG emission reduction

7-3

$$= \left(\frac{\text{reduction in on - site electricity consumption (kWh)}}{1 - \frac{\% \text{ losses}}{100}} \right) \times \text{GHGIF}$$

**Table 7-3: Marginal greenhouse gas intensity factors
(Farhat & Ugursal, 2010)**

Month	Marginal GHGIF (gCO_{2eq}/kWh)
May	501
June	514
July	489
August	491
September	455
% losses	6

7.4 Greenhouse Gas Emission Results

Once the reduction in electricity consumption for the 2000 house with Toronto CWEC climate was determined with the implementation of the SAC system, the GHG emission reduction was calculated. Table 7-4 provides the monthly reduction in electricity consumption of the SAC system relative to the traditional vapour-compression system, and the resulting GHG emission reduction. The total GHG emissions of the house's cooling system were reduced by 614 kg CO_{2eq}. The average Canadian was responsible for 22.04 tonnes of CO_{2eq} in 2008, with 1.3 tonnes from

residential sources (Environment Canada, 2010a). The implementation of a SAC system for a household of four would account for an approximate reduction of 12% of the household's annual residential GHG emissions.

Table 7-4: Monthly greenhouse gas emission reduction

Month	Reduction in on-site electricity consumption (MJ)	GHG Emission Reduction (kgCO_{2eq})
May	95	14
June	856	130
July	1528	221
August	1360	197
September	390	52
Total	4229	614

The total residential sector central air space-cooling energy use in Ontario was 12.1 PJ in 2008 (NRCAN, 2010). Each of the systems described in Table 7-2 resulted in over 75% reduction in electrical consumption for the SAC system relative to the vapour compression system. Estimating a 75% reduction in electrical consumption for the adoption of SAC systems in place of existing systems, a rough approximation can be made for the total GHG emissions reduction for central air space-cooling in Ontario.

Farhat and Ugursal (2010) presented an annual GHGIF for Ontario of 407 gCO_{2eq}/kWh when monthly energy reduction information is unavailable. Using

Equation 7-3 and the estimated energy reduction in Table 7-5, the annual GHG emission reduction was determined for Ontario central air space-cooling for different levels of provincial SAC adoption. The data in the table are meant as an approximation and are not recommended for use beyond the discussion in the present research.

As presented in the table, a 1% adoption rate of the SAC technology in Ontario residential households could roughly produce a reduction of 10 kilotonnes of CO_{2eq} annually, a significant reduction. The data presented provides incentive for continued research into the reduction of barriers to the adoption of SAC for residential space-cooling.

Table 7-5: Approximation of annual Ontario central air space-cooling GHG emission reduction for different levels of SAC adoption

SAC Adoption Rate	Energy Reduction (TJ)	GHG Emission Reduction (kilotonnes CO _{2eq})
1%	91	10
5%	454	51
10%	907	103
25%	2269	256
50%	4538	513

The BPS of the SAC system showed a considerable reduction in electrical consumption of over 75%, compared to a traditional vapour compression system. Due to the reliance on GHG-intensive fuels for intermediate and peak loads, this

electrical reduction translated into a reduction of 614 kg of GHG emissions. These results demonstrate that SAC is not only technically feasible in Ontario, but also would provide much needed relief from peak electrical grid loading and provincial GHG emissions. Conclusions about the assessment of SAC for Ontario as well as recommendations for future work are provided in the following Chapter.

CHAPTER 8

8.0 Conclusions and Recommendations for Future Work

Residential space-cooling accounts for a significant level of electricity use during the summer months in Canada. This work has shown that solar absorption cooling could reduce the electrical draw for space-cooling, and positively impact the electricity grid during the peak summer season in Ontario. This reduction in electrical draw could consequently reduce the emissions from greenhouse gas-intensive peak demand energy sources. The assessment of the suitability of solar absorption cooling as an alternative to traditional vapour compression cooling was undertaken for a representative sample of Ontario residences. This research was the second phase of a larger performance assessment; the first phase involved experimental testing of a small-scale absorption chiller.

The research objectives were to create an accurate model of a full, appropriately-sized solar absorption cooling system for use in building performance simulation software. The system was designed and first sized using TRNSYS 17 software, and later implemented in a full building model in the ESP-r simulation environment. The performance of the system was assessed within different house geometries, operating conditions, and climatic regions. The system was found to perform well with a large solar collector area of 50 m², and two water storage tanks totalling 2.0 m³.

The system was able to maintain a cooling setpoint of 24 +/- 0.5°C at least 95% of the time from May 15th – September 15th for typical summers in Toronto, Windsor, and Ottawa. The system was robust enough to successfully maintain a lower cooling setpoint of 23 +/- 0.5°C. The system failed to meet the cooling setpoint on days with high temperatures and low incident solar radiation, and in houses with particularly high window areas. The fluctuation of weather conditions from year to year for Toronto affected the performance of the system.

The electrical draw for the SAC system was less than 25% than that of a vapour compression system, resulting in a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. These results affirmed the feasibility and environmental benefits of using a solar absorption cooling system for space-cooling in Ontario.

The results of the research attest to the potential use for solar absorption cooling in Ontario climates, while also providing motivation for further research into the application and reduction of barriers of SAC systems.

8.1 Recommendations for System Optimization

The system used for the base analysis in the research utilized a large evacuated tube collector area, which represents a high initial investment cost. In addition, the 1.5 m³ cold storage tank is rather large for residential applications. Future research should address opportunities to reduce the high capital cost required to implement the SAC system. These opportunities could involve grants from government bodies

for renewable energy systems, as well as options for reducing the required size of these system components.

The inclusion of occupant behaviour strategies in future research work could result in much lower required storage and solar collector area. Many occupants actuate blinds and utilize operable windows within their residences that could significantly reduce the cooling loads of a house. The work of Saldanha (2010), for example, could be incorporated into building simulation to determine the reduction in loads from various occupant control strategies.

Additionally, the research demonstrated the sensitivity of the system to the generator setpoint temperature. Further experimental research on the absorption chiller across a wider range of operating conditions would bring about a greater level of accuracy to future simulations, including a variety of flow rates for each of the chiller streams. Experimental research to determine accurate electrical consumption of all components and in particular the cooling tower, would also prove to be beneficial for further investigations.

Finally, the Yazaki chiller (Aroace, 2010) used was selected due to the available recent experimental results. However, the chiller has a 35 kW capacity, which is much greater than the peak loads experienced by most residential houses. The effect of the oversized chiller was frequent cycling on and off of the chiller during simulations. This cycling was due to the immediate draw of the hot tank temperature below the minimum generator temperature. A smaller chiller could

result in less frequent cycling and higher chiller efficiencies. This change would also better utilize the hot storage as it would be less frequently drawn down, and better align available cooling to the times with greatest cooling need.

8.2 Recommendations for Future Simulation Work

For future solar absorption cooling research involving simulations, it is recommended that the associated ESP-r components are further refined. For the absorption chiller model, it is suggested that a dynamically calculated temperature buffer based on experimental data is employed in order to more accurately reflect local heating conditions, as suggested by Beausoleil-Morrison et al. (2004). The evacuated tube solar collector model in ESP-r should also be revised to allow for a wider range of flow rates to be evaluated. These changes, though minimal in their effects, would allow for more accurate simulation of component performance.

The greenhouse gas emission predictions in the present research were reliant on the GHGIFs determined by Farhat and Ugursal (2010). The provincial fuel mix and GHGIFs shift each year due to the fluctuations in electrical production and efficiencies of the marginally producing power plants. Additionally, the Ontario government has projected that coal plants will be phased out and replaced with increased base loads provided by nuclear and intermediate and peak natural gas production by 2014, which will significantly affect the monthly GHGIF for Ontario. It is advised that future work in this area uses updated IESO data to determine appropriate GHGIFs.

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APPENDIX A: TRNSYS Deck File

VERSION 17

* Model "Type99-Weather File" (Type 99)

*

UNIT 21 TYPE 99 Type99-Weather File

*\$UNIT_NAME Type99-Weather File

*\$MODEL .\Weather Data Reading and Processing\User Format\Type99.tmf

*\$POSITION 134 255

*\$LAYER Main #

PARAMETERS 3

55 ! 1 Logical unit

4 ! 2 Sky model for diffuse radiation

1 ! 3 Tracking mode

INPUTS 3

0,0 ! [unconnected] Ground reflectance

0,0 ! [unconnected] Slope of surface

0,0 ! [unconnected] Azimuth of surface

*** INITIAL INPUT VALUES

0.2 0 0

*-----

* Model "Type9a - Cooling Loads" (Type 9)

*

UNIT 20 TYPE 9 Type9a - Cooling Loads

*\$UNIT_NAME Type9a - Cooling Loads

*\$MODEL .\Utility\Data Readers\Generic Data Files\First Line is Simulation
Start\Free Format\Type9a.tmf

*\$POSITION 650 202

*\$LAYER Main #

PARAMETERS 10

2 ! 1 Mode

0 ! 2 Header Lines to Skip

1 ! 3 No. of values to read

1 ! 4 Time interval of data

1 ! 5 Interpolate or not?

1 ! 6 Multiplication factor

0 ! 7 Addition factor

1 ! 8 Average or instantaneous value

57 ! 9 Logical unit for input file

-1 ! 10 Free format mode

*-----

* Model "Type4a - Cold Tank" (Type 4)

*

UNIT 26 TYPE 4 Type4a - Cold Tank

*\$UNIT_NAME Type4a - Cold Tank

*\$MODEL .\Thermal Storage\Stratified Storage Tank\Fixed Inlets\Uniform Losses\Type4a.tmf

*\$POSITION 511 383

*\$LAYER Main #

PARAMETERS 34

1	! 1 Fixed inlet positions
0.5	! 2 Tank volume
4.19	! 3 Fluid specific heat
1000	! 4 Fluid density
3.0	! 5 Tank loss coefficient
.06	! 6 Height of node-1
.06	! 7 Height of node-2
.06	! 8 Height of node-3
.06	! 9 Height of node-4
.06	! 10 Height of node-5
.06	! 11 Height of node-6
.06	! 12 Height of node-7
.06	! 13 Height of node-8
.06	! 14 Height of node-9
.06	! 15 Height of node-10
.06	! 16 Height of node-11
.06	! 17 Height of node-12
.06	! 18 Height of node-13
.06	! 19 Height of node-14
.06	! 20 Height of node-15
1	! 21 Auxiliary heater mode
1	! 22 Node containing heating element 1
1	! 23 Node containing thermostat 1
150	! 24 Set point temperature for element 1
5	! 25 Deadband for heating element 1
0	! 26 Maximum heating rate of element 1
1	! 27 Node containing heating element 2
1	! 28 Node containing thermostat 2
150	! 29 Set point temperature for element 2
5	! 30 Deadband for heating element 2
0	! 31 Maximum heating rate of element 2
0	! 32 Not used (Flue UA)
20	! 33 Not used (Tflue)
100	! 34 Boiling point

```

INPUTS 7
22,4      ! Type199:TempExHouse ->Hot-side temperature
11,2      ! Type3b-5 Pump:Outlet flow rate ->Hot-side flowrate
9,3       ! Type198:Chilled Water Outlet Temperature ->Cold-side
temperature
9,4       ! Type198:Chilled Water Outlet Flow Rate ->Cold-side flowrate
21,1      ! Type99-Weather File:Ambient temperature ->Environment
temperature
0,0       ! [unconnected] Control signal for element 1
0,0       ! [unconnected] Control signal for element 2
*** INITIAL INPUT VALUES
20 100.000799 10 5496.599007 22 1 1
DERIVATIVES 15
50        ! 1 Initial temperature of node-1
50        ! 2 Initial temperature of node-2
50        ! 3 Initial temperature of node-3
50        ! 4 Initial temperature of node-4
50        ! 5 Initial temperature of node-5
50        ! 6 Initial temperature of node-6
50        ! 7 Initial temperature of node-7
50        ! 8 Initial temperature of node-8
50        ! 9 Initial temperature of node-9
50        ! 10 Initial temperature of node-10
50        ! 11 Initial temperature of node-11
50        ! 12 Initial temperature of node-12
50        ! 13 Initial temperature of node-13
50        ! 14 Initial temperature of node-14
50        ! 15 Initial temperature of node-15
*-----

* Model "Type4a-2-Hot Tank" (Type 4)
*

UNIT 25 TYPE 4  Type4a-2-Hot Tank
*$UNIT_NAME Type4a-2-Hot Tank
*$MODEL .\Thermal Storage\Stratified Storage Tank\Fixed Inlets\Uniform
Losses\Type4a.tmf
*$POSITION 243 500
*$LAYER Main #
PARAMETERS 34
1         ! 1 Fixed inlet positions
0.5      ! 2 Tank volume
4.19     ! 3 Fluid specific heat
1000     ! 4 Fluid density
3.0      ! 5 Tank loss coefficient

```

```

.06          ! 6 Height of node-1
.06          ! 7 Height of node-2
.06          ! 8 Height of node-3
.06          ! 9 Height of node-4
.06          ! 10 Height of node-5
.06          ! 11 Height of node-6
.06          ! 12 Height of node-7
.06          ! 13 Height of node-8
.06          ! 14 Height of node-9
.06          ! 15 Height of node-10
.06          ! 16 Height of node-11
.06          ! 17 Height of node-12
.06          ! 18 Height of node-13
.06          ! 19 Height of node-14
.06          ! 20 Height of node-15
1           ! 21 Auxiliary heater mode
1           ! 22 Node containing heating element 1
1           ! 23 Node containing thermostat 1
150         ! 24 Set point temperature for element 1
5           ! 25 Deadband for heating element 1
0           ! 26 Maximum heating rate of element 1
1           ! 27 Node containing heating element 2
1           ! 28 Node containing thermostat 2
150         ! 29 Set point temperature for element 2
5           ! 30 Deadband for heating element 2
0           ! 31 Maximum heating rate of element 2
0           ! 32 Not used (Flue UA)
20          ! 33 Not used (Tflue)
100         ! 34 Boiling point
INPUTS 7
23,3        ! Type91- Heat Exchanger:Load side outlet temperature ->Hot-
side temperature
23,4        ! Type91- Heat Exchanger:Load side flow rate ->Hot-side flowrate
9,1         ! Type198:Hot Water Outlet Temperature ->Cold-side
temperature
9,2         ! Type198:Hot Water Outlet Flow Rate ->Cold-side flowrate
21,1       ! Type99-Weather File:Ambient temperature ->Environment
temperature
0,0         ! [unconnected] Control signal for element 1
0,0         ! [unconnected] Control signal for element 2
*** INITIAL INPUT VALUES
30 100.000799 10 100.000799 22 0 0
DERIVATIVES 15
50          ! 1 Initial temperature of node-1
50          ! 2 Initial temperature of node-2

```

```

50          ! 3 Initial temperature of node-3
50          ! 4 Initial temperature of node-4
50          ! 5 Initial temperature of node-5
50          ! 6 Initial temperature of node-6
50          ! 7 Initial temperature of node-7
50          ! 8 Initial temperature of node-8
50          ! 9 Initial temperature of node-9
50          ! 10 Initial temperature of node-10
50          ! 11 Initial temperature of node-11
50          ! 12 Initial temperature of node-12
50          ! 13 Initial temperature of node-13
50          ! 14 Initial temperature of node-14
50          ! 15 Initial temperature of node-15

```

```

*-----

```

```

* Model "Type71-Solar Collector" (Type 71)

```

```

*

```

```

UNIT 3 TYPE 71  Type71-Solar Collector

```

```

*$UNIT_NAME Type71-Solar Collector

```

```

*$MODEL .\Solar Thermal Collectors\Evacuated Tube Collector\Type71.tmf

```

```

*$POSITION 276 319

```

```

*$LAYER Main #

```

```

PARAMETERS 11

```

```

1          ! 1 Number in series
40         ! 2 Collector area
3.559     ! 3 Fluid specific heat
2         ! 4 Efficiency mode
69.55    ! 5 Flow rate at test conditions
0.576    ! 6 Intercept efficiency
4.356    ! 7 Negative of first order efficiency coefficient
0.00288  ! 8 Negative of second order efficiency coefficient
54       ! 9 Logical unit of file containing biaxial IAM data
7        ! 10 Number of longitudinal angles for which IAMs are provided
7        ! 11 Number of transverse angles for which IAMs are provided

```

```

INPUTS 10

```

```

23,1      ! Type91- Heat Exchanger:Source-side outlet temperature ->Inlet
temperature
23,2      ! Type91- Heat Exchanger:Source side flow rate ->Inlet flowrate
21,1      ! Type99-Weather File:Ambient temperature ->Ambient
temperature
21,18     ! Type99-Weather File:total radiation on tilted surface ->Incident
radiation
0,0       ! [unconnected] Incident diffuse radiation
0,0       ! [unconnected] Solar incidence angle

```

```

0,0          ! [unconnected] Solar zenith angle
0,0          ! [unconnected] Solar azimuth angle
21,23       ! Type99-Weather File:slope of tilted surface ->Collector slope
0,0          ! [unconnected] Collector azimuth

```

```

*** INITIAL INPUT VALUES

```

```

20 360 10 0 0 0 0 45 0

```

```

*** External files

```

```

ASSIGN "Type71-EvacuatedTubeSolarCollector-IAMData.dat" 54

```

```

*|? What file contains the 2D IAM data? |1000

```

```

*-----

```

```

* Model "Type199" (Type 199)

```

```

*

```

```

UNIT 22 TYPE 199      Type199

```

```

*$UNIT_NAME Type199

```

```

*$MODEL .\Controllers\Absorption Chiller Controller\Type199.tmf

```

```

*$POSITION 75 150

```

```

*$LAYER Main #

```

```

INPUTS 7

```

```

25,1          ! Type4a-2-Hot Tank:Temperature to heat source ->TempBaseHT

```

```

25,3          ! Type4a-2-Hot Tank:Temperature to load ->TempTopHT

```

```

26,1          ! Type4a - Cold Tank:Temperature to heat source ->TempBaseCT

```

```

3,1           ! Type71-Solar Collector:Outlet temperature ->TempExtSC

```

```

20,1          ! Type9a - Cooling Loads:Output 1 ->Cooling Load

```

```

11,2          ! Type3b-5 Pump:Outlet flow rate ->FlowExCT

```

```

21,1          ! Type99-Weather File:Ambient temperature ->Tamb

```

```

*** INITIAL INPUT VALUES

```

```

0 0 0 0 0 0

```

```

*-----

```

```

* Model "Type3b-5 Pump" (Type 3)

```

```

*

```

```

UNIT 11 TYPE 3      Type3b-5 Pump

```

```

*$UNIT_NAME Type3b-5 Pump

```

```

*$MODEL .\Hydronics\Pumps\Single Speed\Type3b.tmf

```

```

*$POSITION 468 276

```

```

*$LAYER Main #

```

```

PARAMETERS 5

```

```

2880          ! 1 Maximum flow rate

```

```

4.19          ! 2 Fluid specific heat

```

```

60.001192    ! 3 Maximum power

```

```

0.05         ! 4 Conversion coefficient

```

```

0.5          ! 5 Power coefficient

```

```

INPUTS 3
26,1          ! Type4a - Cold Tank:Temperature to heat source ->Inlet fluid
temperature
26,2          ! Type4a - Cold Tank:Flowrate to heat source ->Inlet mass flow
rate
0,0           ! [unconnected] Control signal
*** INITIAL INPUT VALUES
20 100 1
*-----

```

```

* Model "Type3b-6-Pump" (Type 3)
*

```

```

UNIT 17 TYPE 3  Type3b-6-Pump
*$UNIT_NAME Type3b-6-Pump
*$MODEL .\Hydronics\Pumps\Single Speed\Type3b.tmf
*$POSITION 562 532
*$LAYER Main #
PARAMETERS 5
5472          ! 1 Maximum flow rate
4.19          ! 2 Fluid specific heat
60.001192    ! 3 Maximum power
0.05         ! 4 Conversion coefficient
0.5          ! 5 Power coefficient
INPUTS 3
26,3          ! Type4a - Cold Tank:Temperature to load ->Inlet fluid
temperature
26,4          ! Type4a - Cold Tank:Flowrate to load ->Inlet mass flow rate
0,0           ! [unconnected] Control signal
*** INITIAL INPUT VALUES
20 100.000799 1
*-----

```

```

* Model "Type3b-Pump" (Type 3)
*

```

```

UNIT 7 TYPE 3  Type3b-Pump
*$UNIT_NAME Type3b-Pump
*$MODEL .\Hydronics\Pumps\Single Speed\Type3b.tmf
*$POSITION 123 415
*$LAYER Water Loop #
PARAMETERS 5
180.0        ! 1 Maximum flow rate
4.19         ! 2 Fluid specific heat
60.001192    ! 3 Maximum power

```

```

0.05          ! 4 Conversion coefficient
0.5           ! 5 Power coefficient
INPUTS 3
25,1         ! Type4a-2-Hot Tank:Temperature to heat source ->Inlet fluid
temperature
25,2         ! Type4a-2-Hot Tank:Flowrate to heat source ->Inlet mass flow
rate
22,1         ! Type199:CS Hot Pump Cycle ->Control signal

```

```

*** INITIAL INPUT VALUES

```

```

20 100.000799 1

```

```

*-----

```

```

* Model "Type3b-4-Pump" (Type 3)

```

```

*

```

```

UNIT 15 TYPE 3  Type3b-4-Pump

```

```

*$UNIT_NAME Type3b-4-Pump

```

```

*$MODEL .\Hydronics\Pumps\Single Speed\Type3b.tmf

```

```

*$POSITION 252 628

```

```

*$LAYER Main #

```

```

PARAMETERS 5

```

```

8640          ! 1 Maximum flow rate

```

```

4.19          ! 2 Fluid specific heat

```

```

60.001192    ! 3 Maximum power

```

```

0.05         ! 4 Conversion coefficient

```

```

0.5          ! 5 Power coefficient

```

```

INPUTS 3

```

```

25,3         ! Type4a-2-Hot Tank:Temperature to load ->Inlet fluid
temperature

```

```

25,4         ! Type4a-2-Hot Tank:Flowrate to load ->Inlet mass flow rate

```

```

0,0          ! [unconnected] Control signal

```

```

*** INITIAL INPUT VALUES

```

```

85 100.000799 1

```

```

*-----

```

```

* Model "Type91- Heat Exchanger" (Type 91)

```

```

*

```

```

UNIT 23 TYPE 91  Type91- Heat Exchanger

```

```

*$UNIT_NAME Type91- Heat Exchanger

```

```

*$MODEL .\Heat Exchangers\Constant Effectiveness\Type91.tmf

```

```

*$POSITION 342 404

```

```

*$LAYER Main #

```

```

PARAMETERS 3

```

```

1.0          ! 1 Heat exchanger effectiveness

```

```

3.559      ! 2 Specific heat of source side fluid
4.19       ! 3 Specific heat of load side fluid
INPUTS 4
3,1        ! Type71-Solar Collector:Outlet temperature ->Source side inlet
temperature
3,2        ! Type71-Solar Collector:Outlet flowrate ->Source side flow rate
7,1        ! Type3b-Pump:Outlet fluid temperature ->Load side inlet
temperature
7,2        ! Type3b-Pump:Outlet flow rate ->Load side flow rate
*** INITIAL INPUT VALUES
90 360.0 70 100.000
*-----

* Model "Type198" (Type 198)
*

UNIT 9 TYPE 198 Type198
*$UNIT_NAME Type198
*$MODEL .\HVAC\Absorption Chiller (Hot-Water Fired, Single Effect)\Type198.tmf
*$POSITION 426 682
*$LAYER Main #
INPUTS 10
15,1       ! Type3b-4-Pump:Outlet fluid temperature ->Hot Water Inlet
Temperature
15,2       ! Type3b-4-Pump:Outlet flow rate ->Hot Water Inlet Flow rate
17,1       ! Type3b-6-Pump:Outlet fluid temperature ->Chilled Water Inlet
Temperature
17,2       ! Type3b-6-Pump:Outlet flow rate ->Chilled Water Inlet Flowrate
0,0        ! [unconnected] COP
0,0        ! [unconnected] Auxiliary Power
0,0        ! [unconnected] Chiller Control Signal
0,0        ! [unconnected] Chiller Set Point
22,5       ! Type199:Cooling Season ->CoolingSeason
21,1       ! Type99-Weather File:Ambient temperature ->TempAmb
*** INITIAL INPUT VALUES
85 500.000399 12.22 500.000399 0.6 755.99992 1 7 1 0
*-----

END

```

APPENDIX B: ESP-r Plant Network Description and Inputs

```
# Total no. of specified components and simulation type
12 3
#-> 1, variable speed domestic WCH pump; 1 node model
pump_hw_hx 15
1 # Component has 1 control variable(s).
5.0000 # 1 Component total mass (kg)
4185.0 # 2 Mass weighted average specific heat (J/kgK)
0.20000 # 3 UA modulus from wall to environment (W/K)
6.000 # 4 Rated total absorbed power (W)
0.50000E-04 # 5 Rated volume flow rate (m^3/s)
0.70000 # 6 Overall efficiency (-)
#-> 2, Generic 2-node fluid fluid heat exchanger with multiple flow regimes
heat_exchanger 52
0 # Component has 0 control variable(s).
1.0000 # 1 Mass of encapsulated fluid on 'hot' side (kg)
1.0000 # 2 Mass of encapsulated fluid on the "cold" side (kg)
6000.0 # 3 Overall heat transfer coefficient (W/m^2K)
1.0000 # 4 Heat transfer surface area (m^2)
0.0000 # 5 UA modulus for component (W/K)
2.0000 # 6 Flow arrangement index (-)
#-> 3, variable speed domestic WCH pump; 1 node model
pump_hx_sc 15
1 # Component has 1 control variable(s).
5.0000 # 1 Component total mass (kg)
3558.8 # 2 Mass weighted average specific heat (J/kgK)
0.20000 # 3 UA modulus from wall to environment (W/K)
10.000 # 4 Rated total absorbed power (W)
0.96061E-04 # 5 Rated volume flow rate (m^3/s)
0.70000 # 6 Overall efficiency (-)
```

#-> 4, Simplified flat plate solar collector, 1 node model

solar_collect 84

0 # Component has 0 control variable(s).

50.0000 # 1 Collector area (m2)

2.0000 # 2 Type of efficiency equ. (1=North-American,2=European)

0.57600 # 3 Constant coef. of efficiency equ. (-)

1.2100 # 4 Linear coef. of efficiency equ. (W/m2/C)

0.0008 # 5 Quadratic coef. of efficiency equ. (W/m2/C2)

0.68576E-01 # 6 Collector test flow rate (kg/s)

3860.0 # 7 Heat capacitance of fluid used for test (J/kg/C)

2.0000 # 8 Inc. angle correction (=1 Fit,=2 Interpolation)

0.20000 # 9 Inc. angle equation linear term coef. (-)

0.0000 # 10 Inc. angle equation quadratic term coef. (-)

1.0000 # 11 Number of data pairs for inc angle correction (-)

0.0000 # 12 1st inc. angle correction data pair angle (Deg)

1.0000 # 13 1st inc. angle correction data pair factor (-)

0.0000 # 14 2nd inc. angle correction data pair angle (Deg)

1.0000 # 15 2nd inc. angle correction data pair factor (-)

0.0000 # 16 3rd inc. angle correction data pair angle (Deg)

1.0000 # 17 3rd inc. angle correction data pair factor

0.0000 # 18 4th inc. angle correction data pair angle (Deg)

1.0000 # 19 4th inc. angle correction data pair factor (-)

0.0000 # 20 5th inc. angle correction data pair angle (Deg)

1.0000 # 21 5th inc. angle correction data pair factor (-)

0.0000 # 22 6th inc. angle correction data pair angle (Deg)

1.0000 # 23 6th inc. angle correction data pair factor (-)

0.0000 # 24 7th inc. angle correction data pair angle (Deg)

1.0000 # 25 7th inc. angle correction data pair factor (-)

0.0000 # 26 8th inc. angle correction data pair angle (Deg)

1.0000 # 27 8th inc. angle correction data pair factor (-)

0.0000 # 28 9th inc. angle correction data pair angle (Deg)

```

1.0000 # 29 9th inc. angle correction data pair factor (-)
0.0000 # 30 10th inc. angle correction data pair angle (Deg)
1.0000 # 31 10th inc. angle correction data pair factor (-)
20.000 # 32 Collector slope (deg. from horizontal)
180.00 # 33 Collector azimuth (deg., N=0, E=90)
50.000 # 34 Mass fraction of propylene glycol (%)
0.0000 # 35 Mass of collector (kg)
3559.00 # 36 Collector average capacitance (J/kg-C)
#-> 5, 1-node tank for TAC work
hw_tank      60
0 # Component has 0 control variable(s).
500.0 # 1 Component total mass (kg)
1.1750 # 2 Tank heat gain coefficient (W/k)
4185.0 # 3 Specific heat of water in tank (J/kgK)
#-> 6, variable speed domestic WCH pump; 1 node model
pump_hw_tac  15
1 # Component has 1 control variable(s).
5.0000 # 1 Component total mass (kg)
4185.0 # 2 Mass weighted average specific heat (J/kgK)
0.20000 # 3 UA modulus from wall to environment (W/K)
130.000 # 4 Rated total absorbed power (W)
0.14400E-02 # 5 Rated volume flow rate (m^3/s)
1.0000 # 6 Overall efficiency (-)
#-> 7, 3-node description of a TAC unit
TAC          61
2 # Component has 2 control variable(s).
55.000 # 1 temperature of refrigerant at generator inlet (oC)
0.80000 # 2 generator heat exchanger effectiveness (e)
0.10133E+06 # 3 water pressure in FC-cogen h/x - generator inlet loop (Pa)
0.62544 # 4 nominal COP at standard operating conditions (a)
-0.17194E-02 # 5 COP generator temp 1st order polynomial coefficient (b1)

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-0.27549E-02 # 6 COP condenser temp 1st order polynomial coefficient (b2)
0.70038E-02 # 7 COP evaporator temp 1st order polynomial coefficient (b3)
-0.53193E-03 # 8 COP generator temp 2nd order polynomial coefficient (c1)
0.28771E-02 # 9 COP condenser temp 2nd order polynomial coefficient (c2)
-0.17200E-04 # 10 COP evaporator temp 2nd order polynomial coefficient (c3)
0.50710E-03 # 11 COP gen-conden temp 2nd order polynomial coefficient (d1)
0.46441E-03 # 12 COP gen-evap temp 2nd order polynomial coefficient (d2)
-0.17481E-02 # 13 COP cond-evap temp 2nd order polynomial coefficient (d3)
88.000 # 14 generator standard operating temperature (oC)
31.000 # 15 condenser standard operating temperature (oC)
7.0000 # 16 evaporator standard operating temperature (oC)
210.000 # 17 TAC refrigerant pump power (W)
1.0000 # 18 mass flow rate of air through condenser (kg/s)
500.00 # 19 condenser fan power (W)
2.0000 # 20 temperature rise at condenser inlet (oC)
0.10000E+08 # 21 Limit on heat input to generator at std conditions (W)
#-> 8, variable speed domestic WCH pump; 1 node model
pump_cw_tac 15
1 # Component has 1 control variable(s).
5.0000 # 1 Component total mass (kg)
4185.0 # 2 Mass weighted average specific heat (J/kgK)
0.20000 # 3 UA modulus from wall to environment (W/K)
74.000 # 4 Rated total absorbed power (W)
0.13300E-02 # 5 Rated volume flow rate (m^3/s)
0.70000 # 6 Overall efficiency (-)
#-> 9, 1-node tank for TAC work
cw_tank 60
0 # Component has 0 control variable(s).
3
1500.0 # 1 Component total mass (kg)
1.1750 # 2 Tank heat gain coefficient (W/k)

```

4185.0 # 3 Specific heat of water in tank (J/kgK)

#-> 10, variable speed domestic WCH pump; 1 node model

pump_tank_coil 15

1 # Component has 1 control variable(s).

5.0000 # 1 Component total mass (kg)

4185.0 # 2 Mass weighted average specific heat (J/kgK)

0.20000 # 3 UA modulus from wall to environment (W/K)

46.000 # 4 Rated total absorbed power (W)

0.80000E-03 # 5 Rated volume flow rate (m³/s)

0.70000 # 6 Overall efficiency (-)

#-> 11, air cooling coil fed by WCH system; 3 node model

cooling_coil 20

0 # Component has 0 control variable(s).

0.20000 # 1 Component total mass (kg)

800.00 # 2 Average specific heat of solids (J/kgK)

6.0000 # 3 UA modulus (node 1 to surroundings) (W/K)

0.20000 # 4 Mass of water encapsulated in component (kg)

5.6450 # 5 Coil outside (air) heat transfer area (m²)

1.0000 # 6 Coil inside (water) heat transfer area (m²)

0.20000 # 7 Coil face area (m²)

0.10000E-04 # 8 Metal thermal resistance (m²K/W)

0.11500E-01 # 9 Internal tube diameter (m)

#-> 12, centrifugal fan, 1 node model ; flow control

circ_fan 3

1 # Component has 1 control variable(s).

0.10000 # 1 Component total mass (kg)

1000.0 # 2 Mass weighted average specific heat (J/kgK)

0.0000 # 3 UA modulus (W/K)

250.000 # 4 Rated total absorbed power (W)

0.2500 # 5 Rated volume flow rate (m³/s)

0.70000 # 6 Overall efficiency (-)

The following is a list of component connections.

17 # Total number of connections

# receiving	node	conncn	sending	node	diversion	suppl1	suppl2
# component			type component		ratio		
solar_collect	1	3	pump_hx_sc	1	1.000	# 1	
pump_hw_hx	1	3	hw_tank	1	0.500	# 2	
pump_hx_sc	1	3	heat_exchanger	1	1.000	# 3	
heat_exchanger	1	3	solar_collect	1	1.000	# 4	
heat_exchanger	2	3	pump_hw_hx	1	1.000	# 5	
TAC	1	3	pump_hw_tac	1	1.000	# 6	
hw_tank	1	3	heat_exchanger	2	1.000	# 7	
pump_hw_tac	1	3	hw_tank	1	0.500	# 8	
cw_tank	1	3	TAC	2	1.000	# 9	
TAC	2	3	pump_cw_tac	1	1.000	# 10	
hw_tank	1	3	TAC	1	1.000	# 11	
pump_cw_tac	1	3	cw_tank	1	0.500	# 12	
pump_tank_coil	1	3	cw_tank	1	0.500	# 13	
cooling_coil	2	4	circ_fan	1	1.000	1.00	# 14
cw_tank	1	3	cooling_coil	3	1.000		# 15
cooling_coil	3	3	pump_tank_coil	1	1.000		# 16
circ_fan	1	3	cooling_coil	2	1.000		# 17

The following is a list of containment temperatures.

5 # Total number of containments

# Component	cont	type	suppl1	suppl2	suppl3
cw_tank	3		1.00000	0.00000	0.00000
hw_tank	3		1.00000	0.00000	0.00000
solar_collect	0		0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
cooling_coil	3		1.00000	0.00000	0.00000
circ_fan	3		1.00000	0.00000	0.00000

APPENDIX C: Experimental Data Used for Regression Analysis

The following data is a summary of data gathered by Johnson (2011) from his experimental investigations of the absorption chiller performance. This data was used to determine expressions for the evaporator and generator heat transfer rates based on inlet conditions. For full experimental data, the interested reader is directed to Johnson (2011).

Trial	Generator Inlet Temperature (°C)	Evaporator Inlet Temperature (°C)	Condenser Inlet Temperature (°C)	COP
1	81.58	12.86	27.63	0.704
2	81.7	15.03	27.6	0.723
3	74.6	14.74	27.74	0.654
4	74.84	18.75	27.8	0.692
5	80.08	10.79	28.96	0.653
6	80.78	15.09	29.17	0.714
7	84.03	15.27	29.12	0.744
8	74.82	16.22	29.67	0.565
9	75.2	19.75	29.28	0.593
10	76.93	20.51	29.32	0.607
11	73.59	22.16	29.47	0.562
12	74.21	14.5	30.5	0.566

Trial	Generator Inlet Temperature (°C)	Evaporator Inlet Temperature (°C)	Condenser Inlet Temperature (°C)	COP
13	85.64	15.11	30.23	0.658
14	80.03	17	29.78	0.62
15	83.84	19.18	29.8	0.6833
16	79.72	19.19	29.7	0.689
17	81.13	17.78	32.26	0.611
18	74.17	17.98	31.96	0.519
19	75.41	19.17	32.72	0.506
20	77.05	22.12	31.22	0.568
21	74.88	22.24	31.27	0.539
22	75.73	18.99	32.58	0.501
23	75.03	14.74	26.74	0.709

APPENDIX D: LIST OF RESULTS

Run #	House	Climate	Cooling Setpoint	Min. Generator Temp. (°C)	\mathcal{N} (%)	Max. Zone Temp. (°C)	Avg. Zone Temp. (°C)
1	2000	Toronto CWEC	24	73.6	2.5	27.2	23.4
2	1955	Toronto CWEC	24	73.6	3.3	28.2	22.8
3	1976	Toronto CWEC	24	73.6	3.9	28.7	23.0
4	1976 - LW	Toronto CWEC	24	73.6	22.7	34.6	23.9
5	2000	Windsor CWEC	24	73.6	2.4	26.2	23.7
6	2000	Ottawa CWEC	24	73.6	0.9	28.2	23.3
7	2000	Toronto 1999	24	73.6	5.3	30.7	23.9
8	2000	Toronto 2000	24	73.6	0.1	25.5	23.4
9	2000	Toronto 2001	24	73.6	4.9	29.0	23.7
10	2000	Toronto 2002	24	73.6	10.6	29.6	23.6
11	2000	Toronto 2003	24	73.6	0.5	25.6	23.5
12	2000	Toronto 2004	24	73.6	1.4	28.1	23.7
13	2000	Toronto 2005	24	73.6	12.0	28.9	24.0
14	2000	Toronto 2006	24	73.6	7.5	31.1	23.7
15	2000	Toronto 2007	24	73.6	4.3	27.3	23.8
16	2000	Toronto 2008	24	73.6	0.9	27.0	23.4
17	2000	Toronto CWEC	23	73.6	2.8	27.3	22.7
18	2000	Toronto CWEC	Varying 24/26	73.6	1.5	27.2	23.6
19	2000	Toronto CWEC	24	70.0	2.9	27.3	23.4
20	2000	Toronto CWEC	24	75.0	2.3	27.2	23.4
21	2000	Toronto CWEC	24	80.0	2.3	27.3	23.4