Mechanical and Energy Engineering

**Exergy Analysis of a Domestic Refrigerator**

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**ABSTRACT**

An energy and exergy thermodynamic analysis using EES program was done for a domestic refrigerator working with R-134a using vapor compression refrigeration cycle. The analysis deals with the system component, i.e. compressor, condenser, evaporator and the expansion device. The analysis depends on the entropy generation minimization approach to improve the refrigerator performance by exploring the optimum design points. These design points were derived from three different theories governing the entropy generation minimization using exergy analyzing method. These theories were first applied to find the optimum balance between the hot inner condenser area and the cold inner evaporator area of the refrigerator and between its hot and cold thermal conductances. Nine types of condensers were used according to its internal surface area and thermal conductance, in order to reach the minimum entropy generation in the refrigerator. The results showed that the compressor has the lowest exergy efficiency of 25%. The expansion device was the second component after the compressor with exergy efficiency of 92%, followed by the condenser with an efficiency of 93%. The evaporator was found to have an exergy efficiency of 98%. The experimental tests were repeated for the nine condensers sizes with three different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The exergy analysis showed that the design of the refrigerator mainly depends on thermal conductance calculations rather than the surface inner area estimation.

**Key Words:** entropy generation, exergy analysis, refrigerator.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Refrigeration occupies a wide range in domestic and commercial sectors for cooling and food preservation applications. This causes an increase in energy demand, which requires an efficient energy utilization for useful application. One of its applications is the domestic refrigerator, which is now used in every house in the world. The design and optimization of the domestic refrigerator is an initial issue in reducing energy consumption and therefore reducing electricity bill of the household. Condensers and evaporators inner area represent governing parameters in designing the domestic refrigerator. The effect of these parameters is to be tested experimentally and analyzed theoretically using the entropy generation minimization approach. These tests are to be repeated for three environmental temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C applied to 10-ft³ domestic refrigerator working with R134a to optimize its performance. Several sizes of the condenser are to be considered.

The refrigeration system performance can be evaluated using energy and exergy analysis, which are based on the first and second law of thermodynamics. The researchers have given a pronounce physical reasoning for the losses and its percentage in the refrigerator, in order to improve the performance.

Bejan, 1989 carried out a theoretical analysis of refrigeration system. Two arguments were explained, the first was based on a refrigeration plant model, the irreversibility of which is due solely to the internal heat transfer that passes directly through the machine all the way to the load temperature. The second argument was based on a more refined model in which the refrigeration plant irreversibility is due to three heat transfer phenomena. It was shown that there exist optimum ways of allocating heat exchange equipment to the distinct parts of the plants, to make a balance between the hot and cold end heat exchangers in the refrigeration plant. Klein, and Reindl, 1998 investigated theoretically the effect of heat exchanger allocation on overall system performance and entropy generation rate using both reverse Carnot and vapor compression refrigeration cycle models. The vapor compression model considers non-ideal compressor performance, compressor volumetric efficiency, refrigerant properties, and throttling in addition to mechanistic heat exchanger models. The results support the conclusions of, Bejan, 1989, that maximum performance is observed when the condenser and evaporator sizes are approximately equal. Chang, 2006 developed a theoretical investigation on the optimal design of a refrigeration plant with considerations on both external and internal irreversibilities. The optimal area-ratio and the corresponding maximum coefficient of performance solutions have more significant effects on a freezing system than on an air-conditioning system. For the case of no internal irreversibility, the analytical solution gave a similar results to that of, Bejan, 1989 and, Klein, and Reindl, 1998. Stanciu et al., 2011 performed a comparative theoretical exergy analysis on the operation and performances of one stage vapor compression refrigeration system using several refrigerants R22, R134a, R717, R507a and R404a. The investigation gave a suitable indication on the compression ratio, superheating of the cycle and exergy destruction rates. Ukey, and Chaudhary, 2012 used a theoretical exergy analysis for a domestic refrigerator working with R134a and R12. The analysis showed that the cooling load and the second law efficiency were affected by the change in evaporator and condenser temperatures. Also the dead-
state temperature, which is varying, according to the particular geological location of the system affects the second law efficiency. Roy, and Mandal, 2014 made a theoretical analysis for an ideal vapor compression refrigeration system using different refrigerants R12, R134a and R290 and developed a mathematical model to solve the mathematical problems. Various parameters was computed which included compressor power, coefficient of performance of the system, total exergy loss, mass flow rate and exergy efficiency. The analysis found that the compressor power increases with decrease in evaporator temperature and increase in condenser temperature for all three refrigerants. Exergy loss of the system increases with the decrease in evaporator temperature. Khan, et al., 2015 provided a detailed exergy analysis for theoretical vapor compression refrigeration cycle using R12, R22 and R134a. The equations of exergetic efficiency and exergy destruction for the main system components such as compressor, condenser expansion device and evaporator were developed. It was found that exergy efficiency and COP increases with increase in degree of subcooling for all refrigerants. Prakash, et al., 2016 presented a theoretical energetic and exergetic performance of vapor compression refrigeration system working with mixture of refrigerants to replace R12. A computational model was produced based on this analysis solved using MATLAB for the effects of evaporator temperatures on exergy efficiency, and exergy defect on coefficient of performance. They found that the highest irreversibility was in the compressor followed by the evaporator, the expansion valve and the condenser.

Most of these studies focused on analyzing each component in the system separately to show its efficiency. In the present study, the theoretical entropy generation minimization approach is to be applied to experimental results to obtain the optimum design point between the condenser and evaporator of a 10 ft³ domestic refrigerator in terms of inner areas and overall heat transfer coefficient. These tests are to be repeated for three ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C in an isolated and controlled environment. Nine different sizes of the condenser tube are to be used to carry out the experimental tests.

2. DOMESTIC REFRIGERATOR

The Domestic Refrigerator consists of a cabinet, an evaporator, a compressor, a condenser and a capillary tube. The refrigerator is made of a pressed steel with paint and waterproof outside shell. Expanded polyurethane panels are installed between the outer and the inner shells to minimize heat gain. The specifications of the main components are as follows; the compressor: hermetic reciprocating one manufactured by Danfoss Company model: FR6G. The condenser: is a static condenser (wire on the tube), which exchange heat by natural convection and radiation with the environment. The evaporator is a roll-bond two-layered evaporator panel with symmetrical channels on both sides. The capillary tube is a copper capillary tube type. It was selected using selection software according to ASHRAE technical committee 8.9, ASHRAE, 1997. The refrigerator cabinet is made of pressed steel with white paint. Polyurethane foam filled the space between the outer and inner plastic shell to minimize heat transfer losses from the cabinet to the outside, and maintain the refrigerated space at a constant temperature.

3. INSTRUMENTATION

Several measuring instruments have been used with domestic refrigerator. Thermistors of negative temperature coefficient (NTC) type are used to measure the temperature. The pressure gauges were used to indicate the pressure at high and low-pressure sides of the refrigerant circuit. Also, four pressure transducers were used to measure the pressure across the compression cycle of the domestic refrigerator. A turbine refrigerant mass flow meter made from stainless steel was used to measure the flow rate of refrigerant. Digital power clamp meter was used to
measure the current, the voltage supplied to the refrigerator and the power consumption per hour and day. All measuring devices are connected with interface unit Data Acquisition DAQ. The interface Arduino connected to the computer control system (Laptop) in order to view the data using LABVIEW software, which enables the communication between the systems under study. The rig is modified according to the need for carrying up exergy analysis to each component in the vapor compression refrigeration system. After the system modifications were accomplished, leak checking is required to assure that there is no leak in the system. The refrigerant was charged using refrigerant R134a can and an electronic scale to measure the required amount of refrigerant mass.

4. THERMODYNAMIC MODEL

The thermodynamic model for a domestic refrigerator is done according to the basis of the most recent method that has a novel idea. The vapor compression refrigeration cycle consists of four thermodynamic processes: 1-2 suction line, 2-3 isentropic compression, 3-4 discharge line, 4-5 heat rejection, 5-6 isenthalpic throttling, 6-1 heat absorption as shown in Fig. 1. Several effects have a major impact on the cycle due to the irreversible processes. The first one is friction losses and heat losses in the compressor. Others are pressure drop in the heat exchangers and connecting lines, the superheating at evaporator outlet, heat transfer from the refrigerant to the air depends on the heat exchanger effectiveness and the superheat and sub-cool the refrigerant in the system. The cycle elements are modeled as follows:

4.1 Compressor

The modeling of the thermal performance of a household hermetic reciprocating compressor depends on thermal analysis to find the total power input, and mass flow rate. The second is to find the approximate properties of the outlet refrigerant, which lead to the calculation of the power required to compress the refrigerant. The power input to the compressor is the summation of the work and the power required to overcome the friction and heat losses, which can be expressed in the form, Bejan, 1996 and, Bejan, 2006:

\[
P = W + Q_{total \, losses} \tag{1}
\]
\[
W = \dot{m}_r \times (h_3 - h_2) \tag{2}
\]
\[
Q_{total \, losses} = Q_{conv&rad \, losses} + Q_{friction \, losses} \tag{3}
\]
\[
Q_{convlosses} = a_{comp} \times A_{scomp} \times (T_{shell} - T_{amb}) \tag{4}
\]

To find the heat transfer coefficient, the relations of the vertical cylinder will be used as follows:

\[
Nu = c \times Ra^m \tag{5}
\]
\[
Nu = \frac{a_{comp} \times L_c}{K_a} \tag{6}
\]
\[
Ra = \frac{g \times \beta \times (T_{shell} - T_{amb}) \times \rho_{\infty} \times L_c^3}{K_a} \tag{7}
\]

Where \( L_c = \frac{A_{scomp}}{perimeter} \), \( \beta = \frac{1}{T_{film}} \), and \( T_{film} = \frac{T_{shell} + T_{amb}}{2} \).

All properties are taken at \( T_{film} \).

The radiation heat transfer losses from the compressor shell, which has an important percentage compared to the natural convection losses, can be calculated as:

\[
Q_{radlosses} = F_{1-2} \times \sigma_b \times A_{scomp} \times \varepsilon_{scomp} \times (T_{shell}^4 - T_{amb}^4) \tag{8}
\]

The exergy analysis of an energy balance is required such as:

\[
Power - \dot{m}_r \times \sum_{in} h_2 = \dot{m}_r \times \sum_{out} h_3 + Q_{total \, losses} \tag{9}
\]
\[
ED_{comp} = \left(1 - \frac{T_{amb}}{T_{shell}}\right) Q_{total \, losses} - Power + \sum_{in} ex - \sum_{out} ex \tag{10}
\]
\[ \eta_{\text{ex,comp}} = \eta_{\text{ex,comp}} = 1 - \zeta_{\text{comp}} \] (11)

and the exergy efficiency:

\[ \zeta_{\text{comp}} = \frac{E_{\text{D,comp}}}{\text{power}} \] (12)

4.2 Wire Condenser

The wire condenser is used to reject the heat of the refrigerant to the air. This type of condenser usually means poorer heat exchanger and therefore more contribution of external and internal losses. The following assumptions are considered: Steady-state case and one-dimensional analysis. Cross flow heat exchanger, iron tubes, bends, and iron fins, unmixed refrigerant side and mixed airside. The refrigerant side is divided into three regions, superheat, two-phase, and subcooled. The bends have an effect on the heat transfer in the three regions. The two-phase region for the refrigerant is considered homogenous mixture. The effects of the kinetic and potential energies of the refrigerant are negligible. Properties of the refrigerants are uniform thermodynamically. Smooth tube type for inside, and outside. There is no change in the temperature and pressure of the refrigerant with the radius of the tube. A linear relation between heat transfer coefficient and pressure drop with the quality. Using Muller-Stenhagan correlation for pressure drop in the two-phase flow.

4.2.1 Refrigerant Side

The three regions of superheat, subcooled and two-phase flow are considered subsequently.

4.2.1.1 Superheat and subcooled regions:

The superheat region is the first part of the condenser and the refrigerant in gas phase while the subcooled region is the last part of the condenser and the refrigerant in the liquid phase. The heat transfer coefficient can be determined according to the following correlations, Incropera, et al., 2010.

\[ St \cdot Pr^k = a \cdot Re^b \] (13)

The properties are evaluated at the film temperature, \( T_{\text{film}} \).

\[ T_{\text{film}} = \frac{T_{\text{wall}} + T_{\text{bulk}}}{2} \]

In Eq. (13) \( a, b \) are constants with values shown in Table 1.

The heat rejected is given by:

\[ Q_{4 - \text{sat}} = \dot{m_r} c_p \left( T_4 - T_{\text{cin,sat}} \right) \] (14)

\[ Q_{4 - \text{sat}} = \alpha_{4 - \text{sat}} A_{\text{si-4}} \left( T_{\text{4-csat}} - T_{\text{wi-4csat}} \right) \] (15)

Where:

\[ A_{\text{si-4}} = \pi \cdot d_i \cdot L_{\text{superheat}} \]

\[ L_{\text{superheat}} = \frac{\pi d_i}{A_{\text{si-4}}} \]

\[ T_{\text{cin,sat}} = \text{Refrigerant temperature at inlet saturated region.} \]

\[ T_{4-csat} = \left( T_4 + T_{\text{cin,sat}} \right) / 2 \] is the average temperature of the refrigerant at inlet and outlet at the superheat region.

\[ T_{\text{wi-4csat}} = \left( T_{\text{wi}} + T_{\text{cin,sat}} \right) / 2 \] is the average temperature of inside tube wall at the inlet and outlet at the superheat region.

The total pressure drop is the summation of the friction pressure drop and the momentum pressure drop as well as the gravity pressure drop that is neglected.

The total pressure drop is the summation of the friction, momentum, and bends pressure drop.

\[ \Delta P_{\text{total}} = \Delta P_{\text{friction}} + \Delta P_{\text{mom}} + \Delta P_{\text{bends}} \] (16)
4.2.1.2 Two phase region:
It is the second part of the condenser, which covers more than 85% of total area of the condenser. ASHRAE, 1997. The heat transfer rate can be calculated by:

\[ Q_{\text{two-phase}} = \dot{m}_r \ast h_{fg} \]  

(17)
The target is to find the suitable two-phase area in order to reject this heat. The first step is to find the type of flow pattern in order to calculate the heat transfer coefficient, the two-phase flow may be stratified, stratified wavy, bubbly and mist flow. To identify the flow pattern at a particular value of vapor quality \( x \), the following limitations are to be applied, Hajal, et al., 2003 and, Thome, et al., 2003:

- Annular flow exists if \( G > G_{\text{wavy}}, G < G_{\text{mist}} \) and \( x > x_{1A} \).
- Intermittent flow exists if \( G > G_{\text{wavy}}, G < G_{\text{mist}} \) or \( G < G_{\text{bubbly}} \) and \( x < x_{1A} \).
- Stratified-wavy flow exists if \( G_{\text{strat}} < G < G_{\text{wavy}} \);
- Fully stratified flow exists if \( G < G_{\text{strat}} \).
- Mist flow exists if \( G > G_{\text{mist}} \).

The heat transfer coefficient is given by, Thome, et al., 2003:

\[ \alpha_{\text{ctp}} = \frac{\alpha_f \ast \frac{D_{cl}}{2} \ast (2 \pi \ast \theta) \ast \frac{D_{cl}}{2} \ast \alpha_c}{2 \pi \ast \frac{D_{cl}}{2}} \]  

(18)

Following Traviss, 1972, the energy balance was used to calculate the two-phase length. The important point is the length of the two-phase area, the diameter is fixed as 6.35mm (1/4)”, with an inner diameter of 4.42mm, so the area is the target.

The approximate length can be found from the relation of the energy balance, Traviss, 1972 as follows:

\[ \alpha_{\text{ctp}} \ast A_{s-\text{tp}} \ast \Delta T = \dot{m}_r \ast h_{fg} \ast \Delta x \]  

(19)

\[ G = \frac{\dot{m}_r}{A_c} \] and \( A_c = \pi \ast D_{cl}^2/4 \)

\[ \alpha_{\text{ctp}} \ast \pi \ast d_i \ast l \ast \Delta T = G \ast \pi \ast d_i^2/4 \ast h_{fg} \ast \Delta x \]

Let \( l = dz \) and \( \Delta x = dx \)

Re-arrangement yields:

\[ \frac{dz}{dx} = \frac{G \ast h_{fg} \ast d_i}{4 \ast \alpha_{\text{ctp}} \ast \Delta T} \]

\[ \int dz = \frac{G \ast h_{fg} \ast d_i}{4 \ast \alpha_{\text{ctp}} \ast \Delta T} \int dx \]

It is the length of the tube is required to cover the change in the quality, and the average heat transfer coefficient can be found from the following:

\[ \frac{1}{\alpha_{\text{ctp}}} = \frac{1}{x_{i} - x_{e}} \int_{x_{i}}^{x_{e}} \frac{dx}{A_{i-\text{tp}} \ast (T_R - T_{\text{win}})} \]  

(20)

From equation (20), the length of the two-phase region will be found.

The flow pattern will be determined according to Cavallini limitations, where the total pressure drop in the saturated region is the summation of pressure drop due to, friction, momentum. The gravity pressure drop is the horizontal layout of the tubes will be neglected.

\[ \Delta P_{\text{tp-total}} = \Delta P_{\text{tp-friction}} + \Delta P_{\text{tp-mom}} + \Delta P_{\text{tp-bends}} \]  

(21)

4.2.2 Air Side:
The condenser shape and configuration allow a good understanding of the behavior of the heat
transfer and the pressure drop. Before clarifying the analysis of the condenser airside, the fin efficiency, the finned tube surface effectiveness, the overall heat transfer coefficient, and the E-NTU method should be determined as follows:
The actual fin efficiency is calculated using the approximation for fin geometry relation:
\[ \eta_f = \frac{\tanh(mL)}{mL} \]  
(22)
Where:
\[ m = \sqrt{\frac{4-a_{air}}{R_{fin}D_f}} \]
The finned tube surface is described using its areas, where:
\[ A_{tot} = A_f + A_t \]  
(23)
\[ A_f = \pi \cdot D_f \cdot L_f \cdot No.\ fins - A_{contact} \]  
(24)
\[ A_{tube} = \pi \cdot D_{to} \cdot L_{tube} - A_{contact} \]  
(25)
\[ A_{contact} = (D_f \cdot D_{to} \cdot 0.75) \cdot No.\ legs \cdot No.\ fins \]  
(26)
To calculate the heat transfer by natural convection and radiation the following steps to be applied:
The natural convection heat transfer coefficient is divided according to surfaces horizontal and vertical:
The heat transfer coefficient for horizontal surfaces \( \alpha_{cav} \) equations.
\[ Ra_h = \frac{9.81 \cdot \beta \cdot (T_{cs} - T_{amb}) \cdot D_t \cdot \rho_a}{[\mu_a]^2} \]  
(27)
If \( Ra_h < 10^9 \)
\[ \alpha_{cav} = 1.32 \cdot \left( \frac{T_{cs} - T_{amb}}{D_t \cdot \rho_c} \right)^{0.25} \]  
(28)
If \( Ra_h > 10^9 \)
\[ \alpha_{cav} = 1.52 \cdot \left( \frac{T_{cs} - T_{amb}}{D_t} \right)^{0.3333} \]  
(29)
The heat transfer coefficient for vertical surfaces \( \alpha_{cav} \) equations.
\[ Ra_v = \frac{9.81 \cdot \beta \cdot (T_{cs} - T_{amb}) \cdot H_t \cdot \rho_a}{[\mu_a]^2} \]  
(30)
If \( Ra_h < 10^9 \)
\[ \alpha_{cav} = 1.42 \cdot \left( \frac{T_{cs} - T_{amb}}{H_t} \right)^{0.25} \]  
(31)
If \( Ra_h > 10^9 \)
\[ \alpha_{cav} = 1.31 \cdot \left( \frac{T_{cs} - T_{amb}}{H_t} \right)^{0.3333} \]  
(32)
The radiation heat transfer coefficient \( \alpha_{rad} \):
\[ \alpha_{rad} = \epsilon \cdot 5.67 \cdot 10^{-8} \cdot \left( \frac{(T_{cs})^4 - (T_{amb})^4}{T_{cs} - T_{amb}} \right) \]  
(33)
To calculate the wire fin efficiency:
\[ k_{iron} = 72.9 \cdot e^{-0.00081663 \cdot T_{cs}} \]  
(34)
\[ m_{fin} = \left( 4 \cdot (\alpha_{cav} + \alpha_{rad}) \right)^{0.5} \]  
(35)
\[ \eta_{fin} = \frac{\tanh[m_{fin} \cdot L_{fin}]}{m_{fin} \cdot L_{fin}} \]  
(36)
To calculate the surface efficiency:
\[ \eta_s = 1 - \frac{A_f}{A_{tot}} \left( 1 - \eta_f \right) \]  
(37)
The heat transfer from the wire condenser:
The overall heat transfer coefficient is determined by the following equation:

\[ R_{ac} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\eta_{ac}} + \frac{1}{\alpha_{cav} + \alpha_{crad} \cdot A_{t}} + \frac{1}{\alpha_{tube} \cdot I_{p}}} \]  

(40)

The effect of fouling inside and outside is neglected because the refrigerator is brand new. The effectiveness of the wire condenser is calculated by considering the heat exchanger unmixed-mixed cross-flow configuration, Incropera, et al., 2010 and, Holman, 2010:

\[ \varepsilon_{H,E} = 1 - \exp\left\{-(1/C^*) \cdot [1 - \exp(-\text{NTU} \cdot C*)]\right\} \]

(42)

Where:

\[ C^* = \frac{c_{\text{min}}}{c_{\text{max}}} \quad \text{where} \quad C = \dot{m} \cdot C_p \]

Also \( \varepsilon_{H,E} \) can be defined as:

\[ \varepsilon_{H,E} = \frac{Q_{\text{act}}}{Q_{\text{max}}} = \frac{\dot{m} \cdot c_{\text{min}} \cdot (T_{cl} - T_{co})}{\dot{m} \cdot c_{\text{min}} \cdot (T_{hi} - T_{ci})} \]

Which leads to \( \varepsilon_{H,E} = \frac{(T_{cl} - T_{co})}{(T_{hi} - T_{ci})} \)

(43)

\[ \text{NTU} = \frac{c_{\text{min}}}{c_{\text{max}}} \]

(44)

NTU determines the ‘thermal size’ of a heat exchange, which will be calculated from equation (42).

4.2.3 Exergy analysis of the condenser:
The condenser represents the second component in the vapor compression refrigeration system. The condenser was made of iron tube and fins printed with black color.

The energy:

\[ \dot{m}_{r} \cdot h_{4} + \dot{m}_{a} \cdot a_{\text{a}} = \dot{m}_{r} \cdot h_{5} + \dot{m}_{a} \cdot h_{a} + Q_{\text{cond losses}} \]

(45)

\[ Q_{\text{cond losses}} = \dot{m}_{r} \cdot (h_{4} - h_{5}) - \dot{m}_{a} \cdot (h_{a} - h_{a}) \]

(46)

The exergy analysis:

\[ ED_{\text{cond}} = \left(1 - \frac{T_{\text{amb}}}{T_{\text{wallcond}}}ight) Q_{\text{lossescond}} + \Sigma_{\text{in ex}} - \Sigma_{\text{out ex}} \]

Where:

\[ \Sigma_{\text{in ex}} = \dot{m}_{r} \cdot \left( e_{x_{4}} + \frac{p_{4}}{\rho_{4}} \right) + \dot{m}_{a} \cdot \left( e_{x_{a}} + \frac{p_{a}}{\rho_{a}} \right) \]

\[ \Sigma_{\text{out ex}} = \dot{m}_{r} \cdot \left( e_{x_{5}} + \frac{p_{5}}{\rho_{5}} \right) + \dot{m}_{a} \cdot \left( e_{x_{a}} + \frac{p_{a}}{\rho_{a}} \right) \]

The final form for the exergy analysis is:

\[ ED_{\text{cond}} = \left(1 - \frac{T_{a}}{T_{\text{wallcond}}}ight) Q_{\text{lossescond}} + \dot{m}_{r} \cdot \left[ (e_{x_{4}} - e_{x_{5}}) + \frac{\Delta P_{\text{cond}}}{\rho_{4}} \right] + \dot{m}_{a} \cdot (e_{x_{a}} - e_{x_{a}}) \]

(47)

\[ \zeta_{\text{cond}} = \frac{ED_{\text{cond}}}{P_{\text{power total}}} \]

(48)

The exergy efficiency is given by:

\[ \eta_{\text{cond}} = 1 - \zeta_{\text{cond}} \]

(49)

4.3 Throttling Device
The throttling device is the controller of refrigerant mass flow rate and to keep the pressure
difference between the high side and low side. The capillary tube is used, as a throttling device due to low cost, but it is not sensitive to the deviation that happens to the system due to the effect of environment.

The assumptions for throttling device are Fixed capillary tube area. Constant flow rate. Isenthalpic expansion. Subcooled inlet refrigerant temperature. Entropy generation due to pressure drop is more than that for heat transfer.

From the energy balance got a throttling process only from the steady state thermodynamic equation, because no work suspended or heat loss is added to the valve system.

\[ h_s = h_6 \] (50)

The exergy destruction:

\[ E_{D_{throttling}} = \left(1 - \frac{T_o}{T_w}\right) Q_s^6 + \hat{m}_r \cdot \sum_{in} \left[ e_{x5} + \frac{P_s}{\rho_s} \right] - \hat{m}_r \cdot \sum_{out} \left[ e_{x6} + \frac{P_s}{\rho_s} \right] \]

\[ e_{x5} = (h_5 - h_o) - T_o \cdot (s_5 - s_o) \]

\[ e_{x6} = (h_6 - h_o) - T_o \cdot (s_6 - s_o) \]

Since, \( \left(1 - \frac{T_o}{T_w}\right) Q_s^6 = 0 \) and \( W = 0 \)

Then the final form is given as:

\[ E_{D_{throttling}} = \hat{m}_r \cdot \left[ (T_o \cdot (s_6 - s_5)) + \frac{\Delta P_{ss}}{\rho_s} \right] \] (51)

\[ \xi_{throttling} = \frac{E_{D_{throttling}}}{\text{Power}_{total}} \] (52)

The exergy efficiency is:

\[ \eta_{throttling} = 1 - \xi_{throttling} \] (53)

### 4.4 Evaporator

The fourth important part of the vapor compression refrigeration system is the evaporator. The following assumptions are considered in the modeling of the evaporator: Steady state, one-dimensional analysis. Natural convection heat transfer. Roll bond heat exchanger of aluminum covered with thermal paint, the inner side refrigerant is mixed flow due to the shape of the passages, and the air is mixed also. The inside and outside tube surfaces are of the smooth types. Properties for refrigerants are uniform thermodynamically. The refrigerant side is divided into two regions, saturated and superheat. The saturated region for the refrigerant side is considered homogenous mixture, and the nucleate boiling and convection boiling happen at the same time. The effect of the kinetic and potential energy of the refrigerant is negligible. The total length of the inside area is constant. A linear relation between the pressure and quality for the refrigerant at two-phase Region. The heat transfer for air happens for dry surface only and by natural convection and radiation.

#### 4.4.1 Refrigerant side:

The saturated region covers more than 80% of the total area of the evaporator. The Kandlikar, 1990 correlation for a saturated two-phase flow boiling heat transfer inside horizontal and vertical tubes are used in order to calculate the local heat transfer coefficient inside the evaporator tubes.

\[ \frac{\alpha_{t_{\text{evap}}}}{\alpha_t} = C_1 \cdot C_{\text{e}}^2 \cdot (25 Fr_{t_{o}})^c + C_3 \cdot B_{\text{o}}^4 \cdot F_{t_{o}} \] (54)

The first term represents the convective boiling and the second term represents the nucleate boiling. The single-phase liquid heat transfer coefficient will be calculated by Dittus-Boelter correlation:

\[ \alpha_t = 0.023 \cdot Re_t^{0.8} \cdot Pr_t^{0.4} \cdot \left( \frac{k_l}{D_{el}} \right) \] (55)

Where:
The convection-boiling region happens at a convection boiling number \( C_o < 0.65 \) while the nucleate boiling is done at \( C_o > 0.65 \). For a vertical and horizontal flow with \( Fr_{lo} > 0.04 \), the Froude number multiplier in the convection boiling term becomes unity. The fluid dependent parameter \( F_{fl} = 1.5 \) for R12, which is the nearest refrigerant to R134a.

By using the same method in the condenser, the average heat transfer and the tube length will be found:

\[
\alpha_{ave} = \frac{\alpha_{tpave} A_{ei} RQ_{sat} + \alpha_{she} A_{ei} RQ_{super}}{A_{ei}}
\]

Where:
\[
RQ_{sat} = \delta_{hsat} / \delta_{htot}, \quad RQ_{super} = \delta_{hsuper} / \delta_{htot}
\]

The pressure drop in this region is similar to that detailed in the condenser section. The second region of the evaporator is the superheat region, which covers less than 20% of the total area. The heat transfer coefficient and the pressure drop will be found by the same correlations used in the superheat region for the condenser.

### 4.4.2 Airside:

In order to calculate convection and radiation heat transfer coefficients of the outer surface of the evaporator, it was split into eight areas. Four vertical areas and four horizontal areas according to the face direction heat transfer.

The radiation heat transfer coefficient \( \alpha_{erad} \):

\[
\alpha_{erad} = \varepsilon * 5.67 \times 10^{-8} \times \left( \frac{T_{ae}^4 - T_{we}^4}{T_{ae} - T_{we}} \right)
\]

The convection heat transfer for vertical surfaces was calculated as follows, *Incropera, et al., 2010*:

\[
\bar{N}u_L = \left\{ 0.825 + \frac{0.387 Ra_L^{1/6}}{1 + (0.492 / Pr)^{9/16}} \right\}^2 \frac{\alpha_{eav} L_c}{K_a}
\]

\[
L_c = \frac{A_{sw}}{\rho}
\]

\[
Q_{conv1} = 4 * A_{vs} * [\alpha_{eav} + \alpha_{erad}] * (T_w - T_{ae})
\]

The convection heat transfer for horizontal surfaces was calculated as following, *Incropera, et al., 2010*:

For lower surface:

\[
\bar{N}u_L = 0.54 Ra_L^{1/4} \quad 10^4 \leq Ra_L \leq 10^7
\]

\[
\bar{N}u_L = 0.15 Ra_L^{1/3} \quad 10^7 \leq Ra_L \leq 10^{11}
\]

\[
Q_{conv2} = 2 * A_{hs} * [\alpha_{eah} + \alpha_{erad}] * (T_w - T_{ae})
\]

For upper surface:

\[
\bar{N}u_L = 0.27 Ra_L^{1/4} \quad 10^5 \leq Ra_L \leq 10^{16}
\]

\[
Q_{conv3} = 2 * A_{hs} * [\alpha_{eah} + \alpha_{erad}] * (T_w - T_{ae})
\]
4.4.3 Exergy analysis of the evaporator:
The energy balance is given as:

\[ Q_{ea} = Q_{conv1} + Q_{conv2} + Q_{conv3} \]

\[ \alpha_{eaave} = \frac{4 \cdot A_{vs} \cdot [\alpha_{ave} + \alpha_{erad}] + 2 \cdot A_{hs} \cdot [\alpha_{eah} + \alpha_{erad}] + 2 \cdot A_{hs} \cdot [\alpha_{eha} + \alpha_{erd}]}{A_{esot}} \] (65)

\[ Roe = \frac{1}{\alpha_{eaave} \cdot A_{esot}} \]

\[ Retot = Rie + Roe \]

\[ U Ae = \frac{1}{Retot} \]

Where: 
- \( A_{hs1} = A_{hs3} = 0.09394 \text{m}^2 \) the horizontal outer surface area
- \( A_{vs2} = A_{vs4} = 0.05135 \text{m}^2 \) the vertical outer surface area

The exergy analysis is given as:

\[ Q_{evap, \text{losses}} = m_r \cdot (h_6 - h_1) - m_{a, \text{evap}} \cdot (h_{a, \text{evap}} - h_{a, \text{out, evap}}) \] (66)

The exergy balance is given as:

\[ ED_{evap} = \left( 1 - \frac{T_{ae}}{T_{wall, evap}} \right) Q_{losses, evap} + \sum_{in} e x - \sum_{out} e x \]

The final form for the exergy analysis is:

\[ ED_{evap} = \left( 1 - \frac{T_{ae}}{T_{wall, evap}} \right) Q_{losses, evap} + m_r \cdot \left( ex_6 - ex_1 \right) + \frac{\Delta p_{evap}}{\rho_6} \cdot \left( ex_{a, \text{ine}} - ex_{a, \text{out, evap}} \right) \] (67)

The exergy destruction of air will be neglected due to the smallest value.

\[ \zeta_{evap} = \frac{ED_{evap}}{\text{power}_{total}} \] (68)

The exergy efficiency is given by:

\[ \eta_{\text{m, evap}} = 1 - \zeta_{evap} \] (69)

The analysis and the optimization of the refrigerator were carried out using EES software.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

A number of legs in the figures represent the condensers sizes.

**Figs. 2 and 3** show the T-s and P-h diagrams of the vapor compression refrigeration cycle for different sizes of condensers at 25°C ambient temperature. The compressor compression ratio remained constant, which means that the compression ratio does not affect the increase in condenser size. The condenser and evaporator pressures and temperatures decrease with the increase in the condenser size. The dryness fraction decreases with the increase in the condenser size, which gives a better cooling effect in the evaporator side due to the increase in the cooling effect. The maximum and minimum temperatures of each cycle are shifted down with the increase in the condenser size. That is happening due to the drop in the pressure, which leads to a drop in the condenser and evaporator temperatures. The T-s diagram and P-h diagram are for the same system working at ambient temperatures 30°C and 35°C and the same behavior were seen.

**Figs. 4 and 5** show the T-s and P-h diagrams of the vapor compression refrigeration cycle for 15 legs condenser at different ambient temperature 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The compression ratio remained the same despite the change in the suction and discharge pressure and temperature. The condenser and evaporator temperature increases with the increase in the ambient temperature. The dryness fraction increases with the increase in the ambient temperature, which acts to
decrease the cooling effect. The cycle maximum and minimum pressure shift up with the increase of the ambient temperature. The two-horn area is increased with the increase in the ambient temperature that means an increase in the compressor losses and the inlet of the evaporator, which reduced the cooling effect.

**Fig. 6** shows the relation between the subcooled degrees with different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures. The degree of subcooled increases gradually with the increase in the condenser size at different ambient temperature.

**Fig. 7** shows the relation between the evaporator wall temperatures with different sizes of condensers at different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The value of evaporator wall temperature decreases with the increase in the condenser size at each of the ambient temperature, due to the increase in the amount of liquid refrigerant that passes to the evaporator leading to temperature reduction.

**Fig. 8** shows the relation between the compressor surface temperatures with different sizes of condensers at different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The value of compressor surface temperature decreases from 71.6°C to 58°C, with the increase in the condenser size at each ambient temperature. This decrease is due to the low suction temperature.

**Fig. 9** shows the relation between the mass velocities with different sizes of the condenser at different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The value of mass velocity increases with the increase in the condenser size at each ambient temperature, with a range from 56 kg/m² to 66kg/m². That is due to the increase in the refrigerant mass inventory.

**Fig. 10** shows the relation between the power consumption with different sizes of the condenser at different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The power increases with the increase in the condenser size at each ambient temperature, with a range from 157W to 206W. That also happens due to the increase in refrigerant mass inventory.

**Fig. 11** shows the relation between the total power consumption and the losses with different sizes of condensers at 25°C ambient temperature. The figure shows that the power consumption increases gradually with the increase in condensers sizes. The increase in the power done due to the increase in refrigerant mass inventory. The total losses took 2/3 of the power consumption, which included the convection losses, radiation and friction losses. The convection and radiation losses seem to remain constant with different sizes of condensers and the radiation losses are larger than the convection losses. The friction losses increase with the increase in the wire condenser size. It is lower than the convection and radiation losses till 17 legs condenser after that the friction is the greater. The actual work took 1/3 of the total power consumption, which means that the compressor works in the worst condition due to the largest losses. This highlighted the critical area that needs more research to improve the behavior of the household compressor.

The power consumption and the losses for 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures are the same as shown in **Fig. 11**.

**Fig. 12** shows the relation between the compressor exergy with different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures. The figure refers to the place where the condenser and evaporator heat capacities UA at 13 legs condenser are equal. The other point where the internal surface areas are equal is at 26 legs condenser. The exergy behavior of the compressor at each ambient temperature is the same and it is increased till condensers legs 13 to 15, after that the exergy drop down. The maximum exergy is 26 % at condenser with legs between 13 to 15, which refers to the best operation points.

**Fig. 13** shows the relation between the condenser exergy with different sizes of condensers at different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The condenser exergy efficiency value is
ranging between (88-96) %. This higher condenser exergy value was due to the low-pressure drop and the small difference in the inlet and outlet refrigerant temperature across the condenser. Fig. 14 shows the relation between the throttling refrigerant with different sizes of condensers at different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The exergetic value of throttling ranged between (90-93) % due to the small surface area, which leads to low heat transfer losses.

Fig. 15 shows the relation between the evaporator exergy with different sizes of condensers at different temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The exergy value of the evaporator is around 98 %.

Fig. 16 shows the relation between the condenser heat rejection with different sizes of condensers at different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The condenser heat dissipation for refrigerant increases slightly with the increase in condenser size. The amount of refrigerant heat needed to reject is 140W to 185W at different ambient temperatures, while the air absorbing capacity is between 70W to 90W.

Fig. 17 shows the relation between the condenser heat transfer coefficients with different sizes of condensers at different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The value of the average heat transfer coefficient remained constant for different sizes of condensers due to the heat to be rejected is 140W to 185W as shown in Fig. (19). The values illustrated in the figure are the average value of superheat, saturated and subcooled regions depend on the length need to dissipate heat.

Fig. 18 shows the relations between the effectiveness of the condenser with different sizes of condensers at different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The effectiveness value of the condenser increases with the increase in the condenser size at each ambient temperature.

Fig. 19 shows the relation between the condenser thermal conductance with different sizes of condensers at different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The thermal conductance of the condensers increases due to the increase in the heat transfer area, while the evaporator remains constant because no change was done. The thermal conductances for condenser and evaporator were equal at condenser with leg 12, while the condenser thermal capacity is nearly three times the evaporator capacity at the point where the inner surface area is equal.

Fig. 20 shows the relation between the condenser area to total area ratio and allocation xi at 25°C ambient temperature. At allocation 0.5 the $\chi U A_c$ equal $\chi U A_e$ when the area of the condenser is equals approximately 0.3 of the total area, and also at allocation 0.5 the $\chi A_{le}$ equal $\chi A_{lc}$, but when condenser equals 0.5 of the total area. It was found from Fig. 12 for the relation between compressor exergy at different sizes of condensers, the best is at the condenser size between 13 legs and 15 legs. That means for optimum design, the condenser thermal capacity must be larger than the evaporator thermal capacity by (25-30) %, which is necessary in matching the components of the vapor compression refrigeration system design. The same results were found at 30°C and 35°C.

Fig. 21 shows the relation between the irreversibility with different sizes of condensers at different ambient temperatures 25°C, 30°C and 35°C. The irreversibility range of the cycle is about 0.097 to 0.137, while the highest irreversibility value of the cycle is for 25°C followed by 30°C and 35°C.

Fig. 22 shows the relation between the cycle exergy efficiency with different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures. The highest value of exergy efficiency was at 25°C ambient temperature at each condenser size, followed by 30°C and 35°C.

6. CONCLUSIONS
The main objective of this work was to find the optimum working point with the lower irreversibility of a vapor compression refrigeration system for a domestic refrigerator. This was done using different sizes of condensers at different ambient temperatures with an exergy
analysis of the cycle components. A thermodynamic model for a steady state vapor compression refrigeration system for a domestic refrigerator working with R-134a has been developed depending on the EES software. The model validation was checked against the experimental results and the following concluding remarks are drawn from the model and tests:

1. The compressor has the largest exergy dissipation compared to other components of the cycle with an exergy efficiency of 25%.
2. The throttling device is the second in exergy dissipation after the compressor with 92% exergy efficiency.
3. The condenser exergy dissipation is higher than the evaporator with 93% exergy efficiency.
4. The evaporator has the lowest exergy dissipative with 98% exergy efficiency.
5. The optimum working condition can be obtained when the condenser thermal conductance is larger than the evaporator thermal conductance by (25-30)% . The design of the system must be carried out according to thermal conductance, rather than the internal surface area because; the point of equal inner area gave the worse working conditions.

REFERENCES:

- Roy, R., & Mandal, B. K., 2014, First Law and Second Law Analysis of Mechanical Vapor Compression Refrigeration System Using Refrigerants CFC12, R134a and R290,


**NOMENCLATURE**

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<td>area</td>
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Table 1. Values of constants for equation (13).

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Figure 1. The P-h diagrams for vapor compression refrigeration cycle.

Figure 2. T-s diagrams of vapor compression refrigeration cycle with different sizes of condensers at 25°C ambient temperatures.

Figure 3. P-h diagrams of vapor compression refrigeration cycle with different sizes of condensers at 25°C ambient temperatures.

Figure 4. T-s diagrams of vapor compression refrigeration cycle for 15 legs condenser at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

Figure 5. P-h diagrams of vapor compression refrigeration cycle for 15 legs condenser at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

Figure 6. Subcooled degree via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.
**Figure 7.** Evaporator wall temperature via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

**Figure 8.** Compressor surface temperature via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

**Figure 9.** Mass velocity via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

**Figure 10.** Power via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

**Figure 11.** Total power consumption and the losses via different sizes of condensers at 25°C ambient temperature.

**Figure 12.** Exergy of compressor via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.
Figure 13. Condenser exergy via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

Figure 14. Throttling exergy via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

Figure 15. Evaporator exergy via different sizes of condensers at 254°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

Figure 16. Condenser heat rejection via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

Figure 17. Condenser heat transfer coefficient via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

Figure 18. Effectiveness of condenser via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.
Figure 19. Thermal capacity via different size of condenser at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

Figure 20. The percentage of condenser area (condenser + evaporator) to total area ratio with allocation xi at 25°C ambient temperature.

Figure 21. Irreversibility via different size of condenser at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.

Figure 22. Second law efficiency of the cycle via different sizes of condensers at 25°C, 30°C and 35°C ambient temperatures.