Thermal Energy Shifting Using Thermal Energy Storage with Solar Assisted System for Space Cooling Application

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Abstract

Due to the instability and irregular of national electric power supplied to residence sector in Iraq for long term history, attracted researchers interest to strive for solutions, and associated challenge dry and very hot summer season in Iraq on air conditioning application, A test room full size prototype was constructed in Baghdad, its size 3.35m³, the room is built from very good thermal insulation Autoclave Aerated Concrete AAC with white painted Concrete roof, test room is exposed to solar radiation during entire day, thermal energy shifted by time using thermal energy storage TES containing PCM, PCM is soft paraffin its phase inversion temperature (29 to 27)°C, thermal energy was shifted from night timing by cooling down TES (Discharging PCM) to peak time 11:00 am to 02:00 pm, the testes were carried out over entire summer season April to October, the results showed thermal energy can shift to by any quantity and time based on mass of PCM and enthalpy, electrical energy saved at peak time 52.5% of total power spent over season 2.7 KW/day, Only 27% of electric energy utilized to discharge PCM during night, about 43% of heat lose is sourced from exposed roof, melting and solidification of PCM temperature must be within indoor comfort range 23 to 28 °C to release or absorb the latent heat 41kJ/kg.

Keywords: TES, PCM, Energy Shifting, Space Cooling, Solar Assisted System, Charging and Discharging.

استخدام طاقه حمرارية بالمساعدة من نظام شمسي لنقل الطاقة الحرارية الزمني باستخدام خزان حراري بمساعدة منظومة شمسية

الخلاصة:

سبب عدم استقرار الطاقة الكهربائية في العراق لزمن بعيد، حيث الباحثين اللذين في هذا الاحج لإيجاد حلول، بالإضافة إلى اكتشاف البطالة الحرارية جرب جدًا ويعتبر نقل الطاقة في مجال تبريد الطاقة في مجال تبريد الطاقة، في هذا البحث تم إنشاء عقبة بالأعداد الحفظية، في ظل معالجة عزلاً جيداً 33.5 م، القفز بيتًا يحتويه وتلفي دي من مواد عازلة جيدة للحرارة مثل الفوسفات والنسف الكوبتيكي لون أبيض، الكفحة معرضة للإشعاع الشمس خلال طول فترة البارد، استخدم تبريد طاقة حرجي ل hứng حيوى الطاقة الحرارية زمنياً يحتوي على مادة معمرة للطوارئ. استخدم شمع بارفيت للنشر عبر طور جاهز من (29) إلى (27) درجة مئوية، الطاقة الحرارية تلتزم زمنياً لتسير إلى إذا درجة تكتمل ليلًا إلى وقت النوم عن الساحة 11:00 صباحًا إلى 02:00 لبند الضرع تقليل استهلاك الطاقة الكهربائية لتبريد الغرفة، مجموعه من العوامل تشتغل خلال موسم صيفي كامل من شهر نيسان إلى شهر تموز، النتائج بنية تغريدة 52.5% من الطاقة الكهربائية خلال موسم صيفي كامل من شهر نيسان إلى شهر تموز درجة تكتمل ليلًا إلى وقت النوم عن الساحة 11:00 صباحًا إلى 02:00 لبند الضرع تقليل استهلاك الطاقة الكهربائية لتبريد الغرفة، مجموعه من العوامل تشتغل خلال موسم صيفي كامل من شهر نيسان إلى شهر تموز، النتائج بنية تغريدة 52.5% من الطاقة الكهربائية خلال موسم صيفي كامل من شهر نيسان إلى شهر تموز. النتائج بنية تغريدة 52.5% من الطاقة الكهربائية خلال موسم صيفي كامل من شهر نيسان إلى شهر تموز، النتائج بنية تغريدة 52.5% من الطاقة الكهربائية خلال موسم صيفي كامل من شهر نيسان إلى شهر تموز.
1. Nomenclatures
AAC: Autoclave Aerated Concrete
CLTD: Cooling Load Temperature Difference
PCM: Phase Change Material
TES: Thermal Energy Storage

2. Problem Definition.
The major problem is the discontinuity of national electric power supply in Iraq to residence sector, and tremendous electric power consumption with associated cost spent by personals on residence space conditioning during very hot and dry summer, still doesn’t satisfy the delivered service.

3. Problem Solution
Thermal energy storing and shifting defines as storing the energy from undesired time and use in other timing, a solution was introduced to contribute in solving the national power discontinuity, by utilizing thermal energy storage with assistance of PCM materials, the idea is to absorbs the heat from PCM during availability of electricity A/C unit with relatively less ambient temperature at night to minimize the average temperature of PCM to lowest temperature possible, then shift it to peak time during noon when the ultimate load and demand exist, PCM material is offering the ultimate heat gain or release compare to its mass, because of the latent heat resulted from phase change of liquification or solidification [3].

4. Objective
The objective of current research:
1- Shift the thermal energy for space cooling application to absorb the heat from space at peak time when electric national power shutdown, and use electrical solar energy as a secondary power generation system to withstand the operation of air circulation inside the TES and rest of room appliances,
2- Implement local (domestic) row materials in the entire research experiment of room construction, TES fabrication, PCM material …etc..

5. Introduction
Thermal energy shifting in the residence space conditioning application represents a major topic in thermal engineering aspects due to its impact, it simply defines storing the thermal energy at redundancy time by manner and utilize it at desired timing, e.g., discharge the thermal energy during night when there is no demand on electric power and charge it during peak time during the day for space cooling as for heating is vice versa, an electric solar system is equipped to assist and save more power and substitute the electrical supply shortage, as far its impact on environment to minimize the emissions, 27% of worldwide energy on residence and 17% CO₂ emission [1].

The main focal point of current research is to simulate the case of national electric energy shut down and maintaining the room at comfort temperature range during very hot and dry summer at peak time by utilizing the pre-discharged thermally PCM and absorbed enthalpy of phase inversion with assistance of electrical solar energy on full-size prototype test room.

Many past researcher had their opinion and results, [2] carried out experimental and numerical work on cascaded thermal energy storage with multi PCMs for reason of heat exchange minimization, the process was improved by using metal foam, the comparison was with TES contain single PCM versus cascaded system for different length, air stream velocities, melting temperatures, porosities and other parameters for optimization, results showed the phase change is improved with using metal foam in terms of time and uniform heat propagation, as the cascated system is more TES with single PCM. The enhancement in melting-solidification time was 33.36% and 10.15% respectively, [3] Introduced PCM in building system roof, ground, walls and windows, and utilize its latent heat in TES, the results showed the theoretical work recommend using phase change temperature of PCM within the range of room temperature, use PCM in encapsulation is better due to no leak and low cost, the process was to shift the energy from night to peak day time and save the cost within 1/3 to 1/5, [4] carried out experimental work on room with (PCM-gypsum) integrated with ceiling including ventilation channels for air flowing. The concept is to cool down the room space at daytime for Warsaw climate by charging part of cooling load into PCM, then discharge PCM by air ventilation at night. The selection of PCM fusion temperature was considered based on thermal comfort and middle temperature oscillation of changing and discharging of PCM. A microencapsulated PCM contain 27% of composite wall, temperature of (PCM) fusion 22.8 °C, the ceiling is covered with layer of PCM 6cm thick, and has air channels of 3x3cm square cross section, and distant 6cm from each center, the air channels connected in series for each couple side by side, and each couple connected in parallels with other couples, all couples of channels gathered in manifold mounted with ventilation system. Results showed the temperature difference between inlet and outlet air once charging PCM, temperature had dropped approximately from 29.5 °C to 23.5 °C for air flows 2m/s over 6m full length coupled channel. Transient temperature distribution along the channel showed the PCM melts at the inlet first once charging PCM, meanwhile after 7.5 hrs. PCM still solid at outlet of channel. Measurement over single week period showed part of time were undergoing sensible heat either above or below fusion point of PCM which reduced the overall performance of PCM, [5] Conducted theoretical Numerical study was investigated the thermal energy storage and regenerative for phase change material use. The model was a circular tube passing through PCM media insulated from surrounding; equation of transient heat transfer was solved for unsteady two-dimension conduction heat transfer with heat storage and no heat generation via Finite Difference Method (FDM), (PCM) media is either absorbs of grand heat with

[217]
circular tube carrying water, the study encompasses two types of PCM boundary circular and square. Moreover, a several (PCM) with different fusion temperature (28, 48, 64 and 84 °C) was simulated for reason of investigation the effect of thermophysical properties of timing of fusion and solidification. Results showed an acceptable convergence with comparing with other experiments; Results showed the circular geometry of outer boundary of PCM causes a PCM to change its phase within shorter time. Thermophysical property is function of fusion temperature especially Thermal Conductivity, PCM with high Thermal Conductivity reduce timing of phase change, contradicting with Specific Heat, But the amount of latent heat becomes more with longer timing of phase change (Time of response material its phase). Result showed the timing of solidification is less than the timing of fusion (Melting). This is because a thin layer forming has a relatively high thermal conductivity once solidification, [6] Used Energy Plus software to analyses performance of PCM in shopping center buildings, the study was done in five different regions in Iran, they considered climate condition and PCM thickness, type of HVAC, wall specification and Position of PCM layer. The main aim of research is to increase the thermal capacity in building by test various thickness layer of PCM and its position in building (Roof, Floor, Southern Wall …. etc.), and the position of PCM layer whether if its situated inside, outside, or in both sides. Although, they predicted the approximated amount of reduction CO2 emission which resulted from energy saving by implementing PCM. The PCM was bioPCM instead of ordinary paraffin-based due to the flammability and convergence of thermal characteristics. Results showed the PCM layer situated inside wall is more effective than other cases, moreover, the thickness of PCM gave an exponential relation with heat as results showed the optimization thickness between 4 to 6 cm, The results showed the participation of building construction, the roof or ceiling was dominated with about 60% of PCM thermal contribution, while western wall was about 18% and rest maintained 5-10%. Also for building with poor thermal insulation PCI can play as a thermal insulation due to low thermal conductivity and higher thermal capacity, [7] Studied experimentally and theorectically the energy shifting for space heating and cooling, used two types of PCMs 18°C potassium fluoride tetrahydrate 130kg and 28°C calcium chloride hexahydrate 170kg for different phase change melting points, and placed in conical encapsulated, the test and analysis was performed on house situated in Adelaide hourly over entire year, it was able to shift energy during peak time 76% and 55% annual heating and cooling load respectively. A rectangular prism TES was used, the A/C was discharging and charging the PCM inside TES, [8] The researchers had analyzed performance of PCM storage for heating and cooling process using air based PCM storage with solar energy, the researchers had recommended the melting temperature of PCM during summer was about 29 °C.

Current research will adopt a separate TES installed indoor allows to exchange the heat with PCM by passing forced air through longitudinal circular channels, and the method of discharging will be done by A/C at night time when there is no need or demand on power and shift to peak time of the day.

6. Advantage and Disadvantage of using PCM

Advantage:
1. Good latent heat per unit mass.
2. Low cost and available.
3. Long durable operation cycle.
4. Simple TES design and construction.
5. Possible to use in heating and cooling applications.
6. Safe in terms of toxic and explosive.

Disadvantage
1. Initial cost.
2. Possible to have leak.
3. TES occupy space, and if it was built in within building construction it will affect the mechanical properties of building components.
4. PCM expands and shrink in volume noticeably when temperature variation.
5. Unsafe in terms of flammability.

7. Experimental

Test Room Prototype

The test room full-size prototype with dimension 4.7*2.5*2.85m was built in way exposed to solar radiation all day, and walls built from Autoclaved Aerated Concrete blocks AAC with very low thermal conductivity 0.13 W/m. K, A 0.2m wall thickness. 1.8m² door and 0.9m² window were made from PVC and very good sealed, the roof is made of reinforced concrete slab with iron bar mesh, see Fig. 1.

Figure (1): Test room full-size prototype.

Thermal Energy Storage

A horizontal cylindrical TES contain 175kg of soft paraffin as a PCM material placed indoor, it has a five horizontal air passages in matrix shape permits to force the air to flow for thermal exchange reason see Fig. 2.
Figure (2): TES sketch and dimension.

TES made of plastic and air channels made from galvanized iron with 1 mm thickness, TES can handle 7900 kJ/3hrs of thermal energy, this is a design selection, based on the amount of heat lose during peak time of test room which was pre-estimated using Cooling Load Temperature Difference (CLTD) method [12] during peak time of hottest day in summer 21-July [9], see Fig.3.

Figure (3): TES Prototype.

PCM (Phase Change Material)

A soft paraffin is implemented in current research, it was evoked from Daura Refineries with phase inversion temperature 43°C, the phase inversion point was minimized to range (29 to 27)°C by mixing the liquid paraffin with kerosene 35% of volume [5] and [10], the major reason is to utilize the enthalpy of PCM at phase inversion temperature must be within space comfortable range [4], as per ASHRI comfort criterial [11] (22 to 27)°C, all thermophysical properties required to remeasure post mixing with kerosene, the results showed, Enthalpy of fusion-solidification is 35 kJ/kg, \( C_p=1.98 \text{ kJ/kg.K} \), Thermal Conductivity \( =0.2 \text{ W/m.K} \), density \( =0.93 \text{ kg/m}^3 \) for solid phase and 0.88 kg/m³ for liquid phase [19] and [20].

Electrical Solar System

An electrical solar system was adopted to sustain the operation on going when national electric power shutdown, it is representing auxiliary power generation system, it was selected based on required load 240W and 3hr duration, the system consists of couple of PV panels 260W total, controller charger, 210 Amp/hr. battery and invertor capacity 2200W, see Fig. 4.

Figure (4): Electric Solar Components.

The selection of A/C capacity 1ton refrigeration based on running software HAP to estimate the suitable A/C with concurrent load.

Experimental Tests Procedure

An essential couple of repeated tests were conducted each month of entire summer season from April to October for comparative reason the tests took in place of tata acquired from instruments from 08:00 till 17:00, the test room is very good insolated and sealed from infiltration. Fig. 5 is showing the test rom section sketch indicating the TES setup and indoor split unit with fan facing the TES that is able to withdraw the cold air from A/C indoor unit and blow it to TES air channels (Discharging), and able to circulate the space air when A/C shutdown (Charging)

Figure (5): Test Room Sketch.

Test 1: The test room is purely cooled by A/C as continues operation from 08:00 till 17:00, simulating the case of national power is continue supply (No shutdown), this represent as a reference of next Test 2 at which the power is off, the acquired data is the total amount of electric power spend, indoor temperature and outdoor ambient parameters (Temperature, Solar
Radiation and Wind Speed, as well as the associated heat loss from test room components.

**Test 2:** The test room is subjected to national electric shutdown at peak time, the TES is pre-cooled by A/C indoor unit during night time over 10hrs to minimize average PCM temperature and becoming in solid state, then the test commence at 08:00 am till 11:00 am the test room is cooled by A/C, from 11:00 am till 14:00 the national electric power offline, and electric solar panel will active to sustain the room lighting and fan to circulate the indoor space air to charge the TES in order to maintain the room within comfort range, then from 14:00 to 17:00 the room is cooled by A/C again.

8. **Theoretical**

The hypotheses of current research to declare and complement to experiment, therefore, the PCM behavior of phase inversion as following; Fig. 6 is showing the phase change with temperature variation presumed constant pressure versus time elapse, however the equation 1 is the governed equation to predict the amount of heat gain or release [13].

\[
Q = m[C_p_{liquid}\Delta T + H + C_p_{solid}\Delta T] \quad \text{(1)}
\]

TES was analyzed thermally using Ansys software package, the dimension of TES is presented in Fig. 2, the meshing process is by default and the mesh size is about varying and concentrated at interfacing region of two domains (Air convection and PCM conduction) see Fig. 7.

The assumptions were presumed to simplify model, PCM thermal conductivity assumed constant (homogeneous isotropic), constant density, there is no buoyancy effect, temperature diffuses in three cylindrical dimensions with time dependent.

The boundary conditions set to solve the energy equation of PCM domain and to solve (continuity, momentum and energy equations) of air convection domain, assumed that the air enters the pipe with certain velocity in direction -z axis and certain temperature, and exits to open area has no back pressure applied, TES is thermally insulated from ends and body, thermal exchange between domains is based on direct contact with thin material 0.5mm thickness galvanized iron.

The governing equation of unsteady state three-dimension cylindrical coordinate is equation 2 [14].

\[
\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r \cdot k \frac{\partial T}{\partial r}) + \frac{1}{\partial z^2} (k \frac{\partial T}{\partial z}) + \varepsilon_{gen} = \frac{c \ v}{\rho} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}
\]

Assumed the PCM is constant K, TES is insulated from boundary, and forced convection is taking in place in air passages with known inlet temperature and velocity, the air will exchange the heat from/to PCM, the outlet air is opened to zero pressure aria, Fig. 7 is the TES meshing model.

Figure (6): PCM Phase Inversion.

Figure (7): Ansys Model Mesh.

Heat exchange by air forced convection from/to PCM can be estimated by following equation based on flowing type whether turbulent or laminar for developing flow [16]:

For Laminar flow

\[
\text{Nu} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{1}{\theta_b} \right) \quad \text{(3)}
\]

\[z^+ = \frac{L/R}{Re Pr} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_b \text{ from table} \quad \text{(4)}
\]

For Turbulent flow

\[
\text{Nu} = 0.036 Re^{0.8} Pr^{1/3} \left( \frac{R\theta}{T} \right)^{0.055} \quad \text{(5)}
\]

Moreover it can be evaluated by:

\[
Q = \dot{m}.C(T_{out} - T_{in})_{air} \quad \text{(6)}
\]

The national electric energy consumption was directly measured by counter W.hr, the amount of heat gain is estimated by Cooling Load Temperature Difference (CLTD) [9] the effect of ambient temperature and solar temperature. By applying energy balance on test room.
\[ \sum Q_{\text{in}} + \sum Q_{\text{gen}} = \sum Q_{\text{out}} + \sum Q_{\text{store}} \quad \text{(7)} \]

\[ \sum Q_{\text{in}} = Q_{\text{wall}} + Q_{\text{roof}} + Q_{\text{window}} + Q_{\text{door}} + Q_{\text{infiltration}} + Q_{\text{ground}} \quad \text{(8)} \]

The general equation of components facing solar radiation is:

\[ Q = U.A.CLTD \quad \text{(9)} \]

\[ Q_{g} = U.A.(T_{\text{uncond.space}} - T_{\text{room}}) \quad \text{(10)} \]

\[ Q_{\text{infiltration}} = 1.22 \cdot \dot{v} \cdot 1.005 \cdot (T_{\text{amb}} - T_{\text{room}}) \quad \text{(11)} \]

\[ \sum Q_{\text{gen}} \]: Is thermal energy generated inside the control volume. Dissipated heat from lights and fan KW [15].

\[ \sum Q_{\text{out}} \]: Energy been extracted from control volume.

9. Validation of Numerical with Experiments

Intensive experiment was conducted to obtain a result, to know the behavior of flow and PCM melting and solidification, a numerical modeling was run by Ansys Fluent, the unsteady state numerical work with initial condition and boundary conditions were compared to with experimental at different time period, while charging and discharging, e.g., at time=0 sec, the air inlet velocity and temperature is known, the air outlet temperature can be measures, as well as the average PCM temperature, after certain time PCM temperature will change in accordance with air outlet temperature, numerical results compared with experimental presuming same initial and boundary condition of certain case and same time interval, and compare the results, average PCM temperature and air outlet temperature were very close 1 to 1.5± °C.

10. Error Analysis and Accuracy

The temperature measurement was calibrated with manual thermometers, and found that the expected error doesn’t exceed 0.5± °C, e.g., the heat gain for certain day 14200 kJ/10hrs, considering the temperature difference round of error of heat gain will be 13750 kJ/10hrs, the error will be 3.1% which is acceptable. For power measurement, the manual reading taken from counter is compared with instant measured current multiplied by voltage and reading showed very close values.

11. Results and discussions

Extensive experimental results showed that the average temperature behavior trend of PCM when discharging and charging is shaping in Fig. 8, the reference temperature is 25°C of indoor temperature, the PCM is discharged to minimized its average temperature about 9°C, at 07:45 am it is kept stable about 20°C small rise in PCM temperature at 11:00 am due to heat transfer from room space to TES, from 11:00 am till 14:00 a remarkable increase in PCM temperature due to thermal exchanging with environment about 9°C.

The electrical energy taken by A/C to perform the entire tests (Test 1 and Test 2) presented earlier Fig. 9 will describe it:

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Fig. 11 is showing the effect of heat gain versus temperature of PCM during only discharging period which is 3hrs of peak time, it is showing the PCM temperature is increasing with hottest monthes in summer, whilst Fig. 12 presenting a selective day variation of power on A/C versus the heat gain.

**Figure (11):** Heat gain vs. PCM Temp. Discharging.

**Figure (12):** Heat gain vs. Power consumed.

**Figure (13):** Figure (5.20.A): PCM Temp. during discharging and charging.

Fig. 13 is interpretating the PCM temperature periodinf history of selective day, starting from discharging during night ahead till charging during noon, including temperature difference, PCM cool down about 8.5°C during 10hrs, resulting phase transition from liquid into solid, and during charging about 6.5°C of temperature will increase resulting partial liquid-solid phase.

Theoretical simulation results by Ansys fluent solved the governing equation 2 numerically with certain initial and boundary conditions, the results showed the temperature distribution in air convection domain as in fig. 14 and 15, the velocity of air is 5.2m/s for the inlet temperature 18 and 26 of cases discharging and charging respectively, Fig. 16 is showing the pressure drope cross the air axis in z direction (flow direction), and Fig. 17 is showing the Nu (Nusselt No.) in air domain at where the forced convection on going, Note the inlet is reveres from right to left.

**Figure (14):** Air temp. contours while discharging.

**Figure (15):** Air temp. contours while charging.

**Figure (16):** Air flow pressure drop cross z-axix.

**Figure (17):** Nu No. in forced convection z-axix.

The PCM doamins temperature contours are indicated in Fig. 18 and 19 for charging and discharging after 900sec, as it is seen the ultimate temperature variation occures where is the temperture is sourced or sunk (air chanels).
The flow behavior is presented in Figs. (20 and 21), it is showing different air flow velocities at the inlet versus Turbulent Reynolds No. and its reflection of heat transfer by Nusselt No. as a direct relation, the experiment was held on 3m/s and 5.9 m/s and excluded the rest because considering the electrical energy consumed by fan and high sound resulted from flow turbulence, which is practically not applicable to obtain comfort and silence operation.

**Figure (20):** Air stream velocity vs. Reynolds No.

**Figure (21):** Air stream temp. vs. Nusselt No.

**Figure (22):** Heat Gain from room construction components.

12. Conclusion

It can deduce the following from experiment and theoretical simulation:

1. PCM material used in application of residence cooling and it can be used to store the heat for heating, its phase conversion temperature must be within comfort temperature range 22 to 27°C.
2. Electrical energy saved at peak time 52.5% of total power spent over season 2.7KW/day.
3. Electrical energy spends on A/C to discharge PCM and shift the energy to peak time is more than the test of full operation without energy shifting within 64% increasing.
4. Only 27% of energy spend on discharging process alone by A/C is going to discharge the PCM heat casing minimize its temperature, because the A/C must cool down the entire space during night as well as the effect of TES effectiveness.
5. It is possible to shift thermal energy to any time and any quantity, considering the energy spend on discharging (cooling down PCM) and the massive amount of PCM as well as the type of PCM (latent heat).
6. TES maintain the room temperature within comfort temperature range during peak time over 2.5 hours, the last half hour there is a significant temperature increase. Especially during very warm summer days.
7. Air velocity inside air passages or Reynolds No. is directly proportional to amount of heat transfer and Nusselt No. as it is influencing the charging/discharging timing of PCM, increase Reynolds No. will increase heat transfer and minimize charging/discharging timing.
8. Solar energy is powerful method to save energy, it is available energy if the sun rise is there.
9. The major fraction of heat gain is sourced from ambient exposure roof about 43% see Fig. (22).
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