DESIGN AND FABRICATION OF A SOLAR POWERED ICE-COOLED AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM

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A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINERING, FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR DEGREE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (BENG)

SUPERVISED BY: ENGR. MARTIN OSIKHUEMHE

CERTIFICATION

We hereby confirm that the research project submitted to the Mechanical Engineering Department was conducted by six students: **Idehen Justice Osarobomwen (ENG1905612)**, **Osaikhuwomwan Unity (ENG1905651)**, **Anaweokhai Omuwa (ENG1805355)**, **Eronlan Jedidiah Esele (ENG1905605),** and **Ikechukwu Jordan Oghenemaro (ENG1905620)** all from the University of Benin's Mechanical Engineering Department, under the guidance of their supervisor, Engr. **Martin Osikhuemhe.**

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ENGR. MARTIN OSIKHUEMHE

(PROJECT SUPERVISOR)

Signature: ________________________ Date: ________________________

ENGR. MARTIN OSIKHUEMHE

(PROJECT COORDINATOR)

Signature: ______________________ Date: ________________________

PROFESSOR E.G SADJERE

(HEAD OF DEPARTMENT)

DEDICATION

We dedicate this project to God, the omnipotent, who bestowed upon us the wisdom, knowledge, and insight necessary to complete this programme successfully. We are grateful for His guidance and support throughout our journey.

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all individuals who played a crucial role in the completion of this report.

Special thanks to our supervisor Engr. Martin Osikhuemhe, whose expert guidance and unwavering support were instrumental in shaping this project.

We also appreciate the contributions of the Department of Mechanical Engineering staff, led by Professor E.G Sadjere, and the University of Benin for providing essential resources and a conducive research environment.

Additionally, we thank our friends and family for their encouragement and understanding throughout this journey.

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ABSTRACT

This report details the design, fabrication, and testing of a solar-powered ice cooling air conditioning system that utilizes a unique ice-based air conditioning cycle for sustainable cooling. The system harnesses solar energy to power a DC battery, which drives a pump to circulate cold water. This cold water is produced by melting ice stored in a container atop the system, with the volume of water carefully calculated to ensure sufficient cooling capacity. The chilled water is then directed to extractor fins, where it absorbs heat from the surrounding air, significantly reducing the temperature. The system's design prioritizes efficiency and environmental sustainability, promoting a cost-effective and eco-friendly approach to climate control.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Climate change, marked by rising global temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events, presents significant challenges for Nigeria. Defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as alterations in the global atmosphere due to human activity, climate change has far-reaching environmental, health, and economic impacts (UNFCCC, 1992). In Nigeria, the effects are exacerbated by inadequate adaptation techniques and technologies, leading to severe consequences such as extreme heat waves, which often exceed 40°C (104°F), posing health risks like heat exhaustion and dehydration (Audu, 2013). Additionally, the reliance on carbon-emitting generators and outdated cooling appliances worsens environmental issues, including ozone layer depletion and global warming, due to the use of harmful refrigerants like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HCFCs) (Bhatti, 1999).

Nigeria’s electricity sector faces significant inefficiencies, including insufficient generation capacity, frequent blackouts, and high costs. Despite an installed capacity of 12,522 MW, only 4,000–5,000 MW is typically available due to infrastructural and operational challenges (NERC, 2024a). The country’s reliance on gas-fired plants is often disrupted by pipeline vandalism and gas shortages, further complicating energy access. Recent tariff increases, such as the rise to ₦225 per kWh for Band A customers, highlight affordability challenges and inequities in the power sector, making electricity access even more difficult for many Nigerians (NERC, 2024**B**).

The rising temperatures caused by climate change have made air-conditioning a necessity in Nigeria. However, the high cost of electricity and the prevalence of inefficient, outdated cooling systems have led to increased reliance on carbon-emitting generators and second-hand appliances, further contributing to environmental degradation (Afonso, 2006). According to the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR), refrigeration and air-conditioning processes consume about 15% of global electricity, much of which is generated from fossil fuels, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions (Lucas, 1988).

Solar-powered ice-cooled air-conditioning systems offer a sustainable solution by integrating solar energy collection and ice storage. Photovoltaic (PV) panels capture sunlight and convert it into electricity to power the refrigeration cycle, which produces and stores ice. The stored ice acts as a thermal battery, providing cooling during periods of high demand or low solar energy availability (Dieng and Wang, 2000a). These systems offer environmental benefits by replacing harmful refrigerants with eco-friendly alternatives and utilizing solar energy, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ozone layer depletion. Additionally, adsorption systems, which use thermal energy instead of mechanical compressors, offer higher efficiency and lower energy consumption compared to conventional systems (Dieng and Wang, 2000b).

However, challenges such as ice storage management, system integration, and initial costs must be addressed for successful implementation. Effective ice storage requires proper insulation and maintenance to prevent melting and ensure availability during peak demand. Advanced insulation materials and smart control systems can optimize ice storage and utilization (Sarbu and Sebarchievici, 2018a). Integrating solar panels and ice storage systems with existing infrastructure can be challenging, especially in urban areas with limited space, but modular designs and compact systems can help overcome these constraints (Koši, et al., 2016). Advances in PV technology, such as high-efficiency solar panels and smart energy management systems, can enhance performance by capturing more solar energy and optimizing energy use (NREL, 2021). Financial incentives, such as subsidies and tax rebates, can also make the system more accessible to residential and commercial users (IRENA, 2019a).

The solar-powered ice-cooled air-conditioning system aligns with Nigeria's abundant sunlight resources, offering a sustainable and reliable energy source for cooling (Kabir et al., 2018). By reducing electricity costs and minimizing the use of fossil fuels, the system contributes to Nigeria's climate change mitigation efforts (Dincer and Rosen, 2011a). Its scalability and adaptability make it suitable for various applications, from residential buildings to large commercial and industrial facilities. Pilot projects can demonstrate its effectiveness and encourage widespread adoption (Herold et al., 2016a). With continued innovation, policy support, and public awareness, this technology can play a pivotal role in mitigating climate change, improving energy access, and enhancing the quality of life in Nigeria.

1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Nigeria faces considerable energy challenges, including unreliable power supply, frequent outages, and a dependence on fossil fuels that contribute to environmental pollution and climate change. The country’s hot and humid climate makes air-conditioning essential for comfort and productivity. However, traditional air-conditioning systems consume a lot of energy, further straining the already fragile power grid.

Solar energy offers a promising solution. A solar-powered ice-cooled air-conditioning system harnesses solar energy that will power the electrical components of the system, which is then used for cooling indoor spaces. This reduces reliance on the unreliable national grid, lowers energy costs, and has less environmental impact compared to traditional air-conditioning systems.

1.3 AIM OF PROJECT

To create an innovative cooling system that reduces reliance on conventional electricity, lowers energy costs, and minimizes environmental impact.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT

- Renewable Energy Source: Design a solar-powered ice cooling air-conditioning system to reduce reliance on conventional electricity and utilize renewable solar energy.

- Environmental Sustainability: Eliminate the environmental impact of traditional vapor compression systems by using water to transfer heat, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint.
- Energy Efficiency: Reduce energy consumption by leveraging off-peak energy and optimizing the system for various climatic conditions and building types.
- Cost-Effectiveness: Design a cost-effective system with low operating costs, reducing energy bills and providing a sustainable cooling solution.
- Comfort and Consistency: Maintain a consistent and comfortable indoor temperature, ensuring a reliable and consistent cooling performance.
- Easy Maintenance: Design a system that is easy to install, maintain, and repair, minimizing downtime and reducing maintenance costs.
- Water Conservation: Reduce water usage compared to traditional cooling systems, promoting water conservation and sustainability.
- Domestic Application: Develop a system suitable for domestic use, providing an environmentally friendly and sustainable cooling solution for homes.

1.5 SCOPE OF PROJECT

The present project work will involve:

a. Design
b. Fabrication
c. Test of proof of concept

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF PROJECT

The creation of a solar-powered ice cooling air-conditioning system is highly impactful due to several key advantages:

- Improved Cooling Efficiency: By integrating solar energy with ice storage, this system boosts cooling efficiency. Ice can be produced and stored during off-peak hours, allowing the system to handle peak cooling demands without stressing the electricity grid.
- Cost Savings: Utilizing solar energy to power cooling, reduces operational costs by decreasing reliance on expensive grid electricity, especially during peak times, which results in significant long-term savings.
- Extended Cooling Capacity: The ice storage ensures a dependable cooling source even when solar energy is unavailable, such as during the night or overcast days, thereby increasing the system's reliability and flexibility.
- Grid Load Reduction: By generating cooling energy during low-demand periods and using it during peak times, the system eases the strain on the electrical grid, helping to stabilize the power supply and prevent overloads.
- Sustainability: The project supports renewable energy use and innovative cooling technologies, aligning with broader sustainable development goals and reducing the environmental footprint.
- Climate Adaptation: It provides an effective cooling solution for areas facing rising temperatures and frequent heatwaves due to climate change, enhancing comfort and safety for residents.

- Market Differentiation: By merging solar energy with thermal storage, the project introduces new opportunities in the market for sustainable air-conditioning technologies, setting a standard for future innovations.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INDOOR AIR ENVIRONMENT:

The indoor air environment, particularly in the context of air-conditioning (AC), emphasizes the significant influence of air-conditioning systems on the health, comfort, and performance of occupants in enclosed spaces with high human activity. Key factors that define the indoor air environment include temperature, humidity, ventilation, and air purity (ASHRAE, 2019a). The quality of indoor air is critically important, as studies have shown that people spend approximately 90% of their time indoors, especially in industrialized countries (NRC, 1981). Poor indoor air quality (IAQ) has been linked to a range of health issues, including respiratory problems, allergies, and Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) (Fisk et al., 2009).

Air-conditioning systems, often integrated into Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) systems, play a vital role in regulating these factors, thereby maintaining and improving IAQ in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings (Seppänen and Fisk, 2002). HVAC systems are particularly crucial in large buildings, where they manage airflow and air quality across multiple zones and levels. Even standalone or split air-conditioning units can significantly impact IAQ in smaller or limited areas. However, while air-conditioning systems enhance thermal comfort, they can also contribute to health issues if not properly maintained or designed. For instance, inadequate ventilation and the accumulation of indoor pollutants, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and particulate matter, have been linked to Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) and other health problems (Niu, 2004a; Wang et al., 2004).

Moreover, the use of synthetic materials in construction and furnishings has introduced additional sources of indoor pollutants, such as formaldehyde and benzene, which can accumulate in poorly ventilated spaces (Jones, 1999a). To mitigate these risks, proper ventilation rates and the use of air filtration systems are essential. Studies have shown that increasing ventilation rates can significantly reduce the prevalence of SBS symptoms and improve occupant productivity (Wargocki et al., 2002). Therefore, ensuring that indoor air environments meet both thermal comfort and IAQ standards is essential for occupant well-being and productivity.

Air-conditioning systems, frequently included as a part of Heating, Ventilation, and Air-conditioning (HVAC) systems, are utilized to regulate temperature and humidity, ventilate and filter locations and also to control air flow. Especially for big buildings, HVAC systems are very important since they are responsible for airflow and air quality throughout different zones and levels. Free-standing units or split air-conditioning units, too, can greatly affect IAQ in limited areas. Indoor air environments must meet the requirement of thermal comfort and IAQ. The wide use of air-conditioning helps to improve thermal comfort, but health problems associated with poor IAQ appear more frequently (e.g., SBS) (Niu, 2004b).

2.1.1 HUMIDITY MANAGEMENT

The human body is generally more sensitive to changes in temperature than to changes in relative humidity. While there is less conclusive evidence to suggest that either high or low humidity levels are detrimental to the health of healthy individuals under normal conditions, extreme humidity levels can still pose risks. A study conducted by the University of California, Berkeley, on thermal comfort at high relative humidity found no significant physiological or psychological differences in human responses to relative humidity levels between 60% and 90% within a temperature range of 20°c to 26°c during sedentary activities (Zhang et al., 2010). This suggests that, within moderate temperature ranges, humidity variations may have a limited impact on thermal comfort for most people. However, other studies have shown that prolonged exposure to very high or very low humidity levels can lead to discomfort and health issues, such as respiratory irritation or dehydration (Arundel et al., 1986; Wolkoff and Kjaergaard, 2007). One of the primary functions of air-conditioning (ac) units is to manage indoor humidity levels. Optimal indoor humidity levels are generally recommended to be between 30% and 60% relative humidity (RH) (ASHRAE, 2019b). Low humidity levels, typically below 30%, can lead to dryness in respiratory passages and skin, increasing susceptibility to infections and causing discomfort for occupants (Arundel et al., 1986). Conversely, high humidity levels, particularly above 60%, can promote the growth of mold, dust mites, and other biological contaminants, which can negatively impact indoor air quality and health (Fisk et al., 2007a; Mendell et al., 2011). When an air-conditioning system is used to cool a home, it naturally dehumidifies the air by condensing excess moisture and discharging it. However, in more advanced hvac systems, specialized humidifiers and dehumidifiers may be incorporated to maintain humidity within an optimal range (Wyon, 2004)**.**

Thermal comfort depends on three basic conditions. The first condition, particularly for individuals under long-term exposure, is the establishment of a heat balance. This balance is often insufficient under extreme environmental conditions. By establishing a double heat balance, an equation can be derived to better predict and achieve thermal comfort (Fanger, 1970). This approach considers both metabolic heat production and environmental factors, such as air temperature, humidity, and airflow, to ensure optimal comfort for occupants. Research has shown that maintaining thermal comfort not only improves occupant well-being but also enhances productivity and cognitive performance (Lan et al., 2011; Seppänen et al., 2006a).

$F = (H/A_{du}, I_{cl}, T_{db}, T_{mrt}, RH, V, t_s, E_{sw}/A_{du})$ … … … (2.1)

Where;

F = Function of thermal comfort criteria

H/A_{du} = Internal heat production per unit body dubious area

I_{cl} = Thermal resistance of clothing

T_{db} = Dry bulb temperature

T_{mrt} = Mean radiant heat temperature

RH = Relative humidity

V= Air velocity

t_s = Mean skin temperature

E_{sw}/A_{du} = Heat loss per unit body surface area by evaporation sweat discretion

For a given activity level, the t_s and E_{sw} are seen to be the only physiological variables influencing the heat balance in equation.

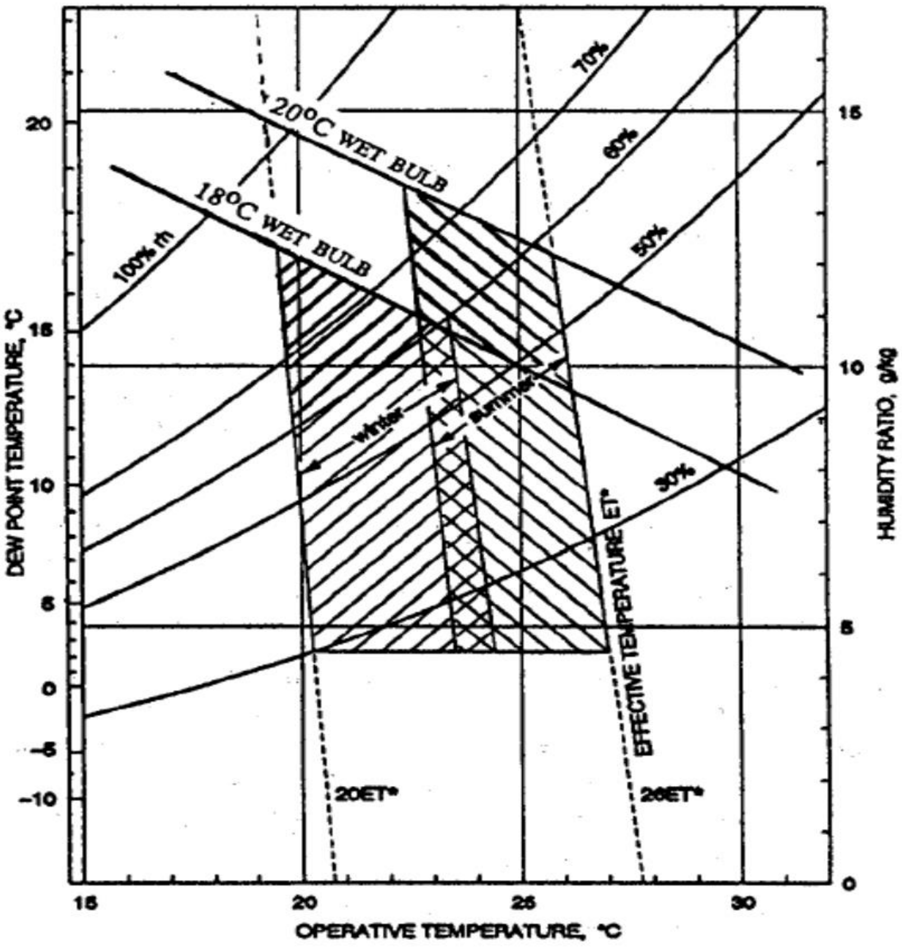

Figure 2-1: Acceptable range of operative temperature and humidity for people in typical summer and winter clothing during light, primarily sedentary activities.

2.1.2 TEMPERATURE REGULATION AND COMFORT

Air-conditioning (AC) is most commonly recognized for its ability to control indoor temperature, but its role extends far beyond this. AC systems are essential for maintaining a comfortable and productive environment by regulating temperatures within a typical comfort range of 20–25°C (ASHRAE, 2019c). This temperature range is critical for ensuring that occupants can work comfortably and effectively, as deviations outside this range can lead to discomfort, reduced productivity, and even health issues (Seppänen et al., 2006b).

In extreme climates, air-conditioning plays a vital role in protecting occupants from heat-related illnesses, such as heat stroke and dehydration (Kovats & Hajat, 2008). During cooler months, AC systems often work in conjunction with heating systems to provide consistent thermal comfort year-round. This is particularly important in regions with significant seasonal temperature variations.

In sensitive environments, such as hospitals, laboratories, and data centers, maintaining precise temperature control is crucial. Any fluctuations in temperature can have detrimental effects, not only on human health but also on the performance and longevity of sensitive equipment (Fisk et al., 2007b). For example, in hospitals, temperature stability is essential for patient recovery and the proper functioning of medical equipment. In laboratories, even minor temperature variations can compromise experimental results, while in data centers, overheating can lead to equipment failure and data loss (ASHRAE, 2015).

Thus, air-conditioning systems are indispensable for ensuring both human comfort and operational efficiency across a wide range of settings. Properly designed and maintained AC systems not only enhance occupant well-being but also protect critical infrastructure and equipment from the adverse effects of temperature fluctuations..

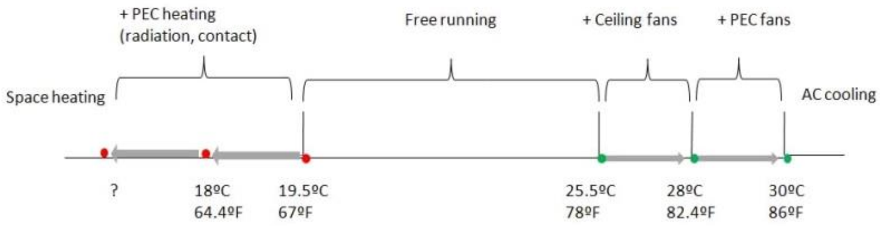

Figure 2-2:Thermal comfort air temperature thresholds for HVAC buildings with fans and radiant sources in building

2.1.3 VENTILATION

Ventilation is a critical component of indoor air quality management, particularly in applications that require significant air changes. Air conditioners play a key role in filtering air and releasing it into specified areas, ensuring that indoor environments remain healthy and comfortable. Proper ventilation is especially important in combating the diffusion and transmission of infectious diseases through the air, as recognized by organizations such as ASHRAE and the Federation of European Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning Associations (REHVA) (Friedlander, 2020; Liu et al., 2019). These organizations emphasize the importance of adequate ventilation rates and air filtration in reducing the risk of airborne disease transmission.

While the relationship between health effects and ventilation rates in residential settings is less frequently studied, insufficient ventilation in homes has been identified as a significant risk factor for various health issues. These include coughing, wheezing, asthma, and airway infections (Wai Tham, 2016). Proper ventilation is essential to dilute and remove indoor pollutants, including allergens, pathogens, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which can accumulate in poorly ventilated spaces (Fisk et al., 2007c).

The human body requires a consistent supply of clean air to function properly. On average, an adult needs approximately 2.5 liters of air per breath for normal breathing (Bakó-Biró et al., 2012). After exhalation, about 0.5 liters of air remain in the lungs and airways, a volume that varies depending on age. For example, newborns have a breathing rate of 40 to 45 inhalations/exhalations per minute, children range from 25 to 30 inhalations/exhalations per minute, and adults typically breathe at a rate of 16 to 20 inhalations/exhalations per minute (Bakó-Biró et al., 2012). These physiological requirements underscore the importance of maintaining adequate ventilation rates to ensure that occupants have access to clean, fresh air at all times.

Table 2-1: Inhalation and exhalation rates

Element	Inhaled air (%)	Exhaled air (%)
Oxygen	20.96	15.4–17
Hydrogen	78	78

Carbon dioxide	0.04	4–5.6
Water vapor and other gases	1	1

As highlighted above, several urgent societal factors underscore the importance of prioritizing indoor air quality (IAQ). These factors include urbanization, population density, energy efficiency, the widespread use of air-conditioning, climate change, and the development of new materials and products (Melikov, 2016). Each of these factors contributes to the complexity of maintaining healthy indoor environments, making IAQ a critical issue that requires immediate attention and innovative solutions.

Urbanization and population density have led to the construction of high-rise buildings and densely populated urban areas, where natural ventilation is often limited. This has increased reliance on mechanical ventilation and air-conditioning systems, which, if not properly designed or maintained, can compromise IAQ (Jones, 1999b). For example, in densely populated cities, inadequate ventilation in residential and commercial buildings has been linked to higher concentrations of indoor pollutants, such as carbon dioxide (CO_2) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (Sundell et al., 2011).

2.1.4 AIR PURITY

In improving ventilation through air purity, air cleaning could be performed to obtain indoor air quality using two methods: dry cleaning and wet cleaning.

2.2 AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM

An air-conditioning (AC) system is a technology designed to improve the indoor environment by controlling the temperature, humidity, and air quality of a confined space, whether it is a building, vehicle, or other enclosed area. These systems play a critical role in ensuring thermal comfort and maintaining healthy indoor air quality (IAQ), particularly in regions with extreme climates or high levels of outdoor pollution (ASHRAE, 2019d).

The concept of air-conditioning has existed for thousands of years, with ancient civilizations developing rudimentary methods to stay cool. For example, in ancient Egypt, people used wet mats to cool themselves through evaporative cooling. In ancient Greece, aqueducts were used to circulate cool water through homes, while in ancient China, hand-cranked fans were employed to blow air over wet cloths, creating a cooling effect (Cooper, 1998). These early innovations laid the foundation for modern air-conditioning technologies.

The first modern air-conditioning system was developed by Willis Haviland Carrier in 1902. Carrier’s system was initially designed to control humidity in a printing plant, but it quickly evolved into a technology that could regulate both temperature and humidity in various settings (Carrier, 1980). The term “air-conditioning” was later coined by Stuart

Cramer, a textile engineer, who used the term to describe the process of conditioning air to improve the quality of textile production (ASHRAE, 1999). Since then, air-conditioning systems have become an integral part of modern life, used in homes, offices, hospitals, and vehicles to create comfortable and healthy indoor environments.

Today, air-conditioning systems are essential for maintaining thermal comfort and IAQ, especially in urban areas with high population density and extreme weather conditions. They also play a critical role in sensitive environments, such as hospitals and data centers, where precise temperature and humidity control are necessary to protect both human health and equipment (Fisk et al., 2007d).

2.2.1 TYPES OF AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM

There are three primary types of air-conditioning system; Vapor compression air-conditioning system, Absorption air-conditioning system and Thermoelectric air-conditioning system (Riffat and Qiu, 2004a)

Vapor Compression Air-Conditioning System

Vapor compression air-conditioning systems are the most widely used type of air-conditioning technology, designed to reduce the temperature of a confined space by changing the state of a fluid known as the refrigerant. These systems are commonly employed in domestic homes, commercial buildings, and industrial facilities due to their efficiency and reliability (ASHRAE, 2019e).

In a vapor compression system, the refrigerant undergoes a continuous cycle of phase changes to absorb and release heat. The process begins when the refrigerant, such as 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (R-134a), in its liquid form, absorbs heat from the indoor environment. This heat absorption causes the liquid refrigerant to evaporate into a gas. The gaseous refrigerant is then compressed by a compressor, which raises its temperature and pressure. Next, the hot refrigerant gas passes through a condenser, where it is cooled and condenses back into a liquid. Finally, the liquid refrigerant expands through an expansion valve, reducing its pressure and temperature, and preparing it for the next evaporation cycle (Calm, 2008a).

This cycle of evaporation, compression, condensation, and expansion allows the system to continuously remove heat from the indoor environment and release it outdoors, thereby cooling the confined space. The efficiency and performance of vapor compression systems depend on factors such as the type of refrigerant used, the design of the system components, and the operating conditions (Riffat and Qiu, 2004b).

While vapor compression systems are highly effective, they have raised environmental concerns due to the use of refrigerants that can contribute to global warming and ozone depletion if leaked into the atmosphere. As a result, there has been a push toward developing more environmentally friendly refrigerants and improving system efficiency to minimize environmental impact (Calm, 2008b).

Absorption Air-Conditioning System

Absorption air-conditioning systems are a type of cooling technology that utilizes heat energy to drive the cooling process, rather than relying on mechanical energy as in vapor compression systems. These systems are particularly advantageous in applications where waste heat, solar energy, or other heat sources are available, making them an energy-efficient alternative for large-scale cooling needs (Herold et al., 2016b).

The absorption cycle operates through a series of thermodynamic processes involving a refrigerant and an absorbent. Commonly used refrigerant-absorbent pairs include water-lithium bromide (for air-conditioning applications) and ammonia-water (for industrial refrigeration). The cycle begins with the absorption of the refrigerant vapor by the absorbent solution, forming a concentrated solution. This solution is then heated in a generator, where the refrigerant is driven off as a vapor due to the application of heat. The refrigerant vapor is then condensed into a liquid in a condenser, releasing heat to the surroundings. The liquid refrigerant passes through an expansion valve, where its pressure is reduced, and it evaporates in the evaporator, absorbing heat from the space to be cooled. Finally, the refrigerant vapor is reabsorbed by the absorbent solution, completing the cycle (ASHRAE, 2019f).

One of the key advantages of absorption systems is their ability to operate using low-grade heat sources, such as waste heat from industrial processes or solar thermal energy, making them suitable for sustainable and energy-efficient cooling applications (Kim and Infante Ferreira, 2008a). Additionally, these systems are environmentally friendly, as they do not rely on ozone-depleting refrigerants and have a lower carbon footprint compared to conventional vapor compression systems (Florides et al., 2002).

However, absorption systems are generally larger and more complex than vapor compression systems, and they have lower coefficients of performance (COP), making them less suitable for small-scale or residential applications. Despite these limitations, they are widely used in industrial settings, large commercial buildings, and district cooling systems, where their ability to utilize waste heat and renewable energy sources provides significant economic and environmental benefits (Herold et al., 2016c).

Thermoelectric Air-Conditioning System

Thermoelectric air-conditioning systems are a unique type of cooling technology that utilizes the Peltier effect to transfer heat from one location to another. The Peltier effect is a thermoelectric phenomenon in which an electric current is used to transfer heat between two dissimilar materials, such as semiconductors. In a thermoelectric air-conditioning system, this effect is harnessed to cool air by transferring heat from the air to a heat sink, which dissipates the heat into the surrounding environment (Riffat & Ma, 2003). These systems are compact, quiet, and environmentally friendly, as they do not require refrigerants or moving parts. However, they are generally less efficient than vapor compression systems and are typically used in small-scale applications, such as cooling electronic devices, medical equipment, or specialized enclosures (Riffat & Qiu, 2004c).

In addition to the main types of air-conditioning systems—vapor compression, absorption, and thermoelectric—there are also hybrid and integrated systems that combine different technologies to achieve more efficient and versatile cooling. These systems are designed to optimize energy use, reduce environmental impact, and improve performance in specific applications. Examples include:

Hybrid systems that alternate between absorption and vapor-compression cooling:

These systems, also known as intermittent absorption/vapor-compression systems, switch between the two technologies based on energy availability or cooling demand. For example, they may use vapor compression during peak electricity hours and absorption cooling during off-peak hours or when waste heat is available (Herold et al., 2016d).

Systems that continuously integrate absorption and vapor-compression cooling:

These continuous absorption/vapor-compression systems combine the two technologies in a single cycle to enhance efficiency and flexibility. They are particularly useful in applications where both electricity and heat sources are available, such as in industrial or large commercial settings (Kim & Infante Ferreira, 2008b).

Vapor-compression systems paired with cold thermal storage:

These systems use thermal storage to store cooling capacity during periods of low demand or low energy costs, which can then be used during peak demand periods. This approach improves energy efficiency and reduces operational costs, making it suitable for large-scale applications such as district cooling or industrial refrigeration (Riffat & Shankland, 1993).

2.3 Daily Electrical Energy Demand in Nigeria

The daily electrical demand in Nigeria can be classified into peak energy demand and off peak energy demand.

Peak Energy Demand: This is the period where the demand for electrical power is highest. The first peak period occurs between 0500hrs to 0800hrs (early in the morning) when people are awake in preparation for the day's activities, many home appliances are utilized. The second peak period occurs between 1800hrs to 2400hrs during the period when electricity consumers return home from their respective offices hence, many appliances are put into use (Ale and Adeyemi, 2022a)

Off Peak Energy Demand: this is the period when consumers' demand for electrical power is at the lowest (minimum). The minimum load demand of the day occurs around 0000 hrs to 0500hrs in the morning when major commercial centers and industrial loads are shut down. The second off peak period occurs around 0800hrs to 1800hrs whenever offices and industrial loads are at their peak with a drastic drop in domestic load (Ale and Adeyemi, 2022b)

This project seeks to mitigate peak energy demands by harnessing conventional refrigeration systems to produce ice during off-peak hours. The resulting thermal energy is stored and subsequently released during peak hours, reducing strain on the energy grid.

2.4 THERMAL ENERGY STORAGE (TES)

Thermal energy storage is a technology that stocks thermal energy by heating or cooling a storage medium so that the stored energy can be used at a later time for heating and cooling process and power generation (Sarbu and Sebarchievici, 2018b). Thermal energy storage is a promising solution to the rising demand for energy. Here waste heat energy can be stored and release when needed.

Thermal energy can be stored in well insulated materials as a change in internal energy of the material such as sensible heat, latent heat, thermochemical or combination of all three heats. Thermal energy storage deals with the storage of energy by cooling, heating, melting, solidifying a material. Thermal energy becomes available when the process is reversed (Chavan et al., 2018)

The advantages of TES application include improved energy efficiency, increased reliability, cost savings and reduced environmental impacts through lower carbon emissions (Dincer and Rosen, 2011b).

In Europe, it has been estimated that around 1.4 million GWh/yr cam be saved and 400 million tons of C02 emissions avoided in buildings and in industrial sectors by more extensive use of heat and cold storage (IRENA, 2013)

2.4.1 TYPES OF THERMAL ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

Based on the type of materials being selected for heat or cold storage, TES system can be classified into Sensible Heat Storage System, Latent Heat storage system and Chemical Heat Storage system (Alva et al., 2018)

Sensible Heat Storage (SHS) system:

Sensible heat storage system is the simplest thermal energy storage method, it involves heating or cooling a storage medium like water, sand molten salts or rock, with water being the cheapest option. Water is the most widely used and commercially viable heat storage medium, with numerous applications in residential and industrial settings, while underground storage if sensible heat in liquid and solid form is often utilized for large scale applications. The main benefits of SHS is that it is cheap and affordable and also it has safe operations free from the risks posed by harmful materials (Sarbu and Sebarchievici, 2018c)

In SHS systems, energy storage and utilization is achieved through the storage medium's heat capacity and temperature shift to charge and discharge, with the stored thermal energy dependent on the medium's specific heat, temperature and the amount of storage material (Kumar and Shukla, 2015)

Latent Heat Storage (LHS) system

Latent heat storage is also called Phase Change Storage. These storage systems employ the use of Phase-change Materials (PCM). These storage materials store and release heat during phase change at a constant Temperature. Typically, solid-liquid phase transition and solid-solid phase transitions are used. In solid-solid phase change, the latent heat is smaller compared to solid-liquid phase transition but it offers advantages such as no leakages and elimination of encapsulation needs (Cardenas and Leon, 2013)

The high Latent heat in solid-gas and Liquid-gas transition is outweighed by the substantial volume expansion. This large volume change causes containment issues, making them impractical for thermal storage (Sharma and Sagara, 2005).

Chemical Heat Storage (CHS) System

Chemical heat storage system also known as thermochemical energy Storage utilizes reversible chemical reactions to absorb and release energy by breaking and reforming chemical bonds. In this method of heat storage there is nearly complete recovery of stored heat energy during synthesis reaction (Yan et al., 2015)

The charging process involves application of heat to dissociate a Material A into constituent's parts B and C. These reaction products are subsequently isolated and stored until discharging, when B and C recombine under precise pressure and temperature conditions releasing energy. The independent storage of products B and C effectively mitigate thermal losses, restricting them to sensible heat effects, which are substantially smaller in magnitude compared to heat of reaction (Sarbu and Sebarchievici, 2018d)

Below is a Table comparing the features of the various TES system. Source (Desai et al., 2021)

Table 2-1: Characteristics of various TES systems

Characteristics	Thermal Energy Storage system		
	SHS	LHS	TCHS

Energy storage density	Small (0.18 $GJ \cdot m^{-3}$)	Moderate (0.36GJm^{-3})	High (1.8GJm^{-3})
Heat storage value	$mC_p\Delta T_{SHS}$	mH_F	$f_f m\Delta H_{TCM}$
Heat storage dependency	Increase of temperature	Heat of fusion	Enthalpy of reaction
Temperature of storage	Final charging temperature	Final charging temperature	Ambient temperature
Duration of storage	Depending on the heat loss	Depending on the heat loss	Theoretically unlimited
Heat transport distance	Short	Short	Long
Maturity of technology	Commercialized	Pilot-scale	Laboratory scale
System complexity	Low	Low	High
Heat loss during storage	High	High	Minor
Insulation requirement	Yes	Yes	No
Cost	Low	Moderate	High

PASSIVE AND ACTIVE TES SYSTEM

Passive TES systems are TES systems which do not require input like pumping work during charging and discharging process (Heier et al., 2015). They use phenomena such as Thermal inertia and natural convection to achieve the intended purpose (Alva et al., 2018b)

Active TES system utilizes pumping mechanism to circulate heat transfer fluid (HTF) during charging and discharging phases. The necessity for pumping in Large scale implementations arises from substantial pressure head losses attributed to extended pipeline lengths and HTF viscosity, which demands high heat transfer rates through forced convection (Alva et al., 2018c)

2.4.2 COLD THERMAL ENERGY STORAGE (CTES)

Cold thermal energy storage or cooling thermal energy storage is a form of TES where thermal energy is stored at low temperatures typically using ice or chilled water to provide cooling during peak demand periods. The Cold thermal energy is usually stored during off peak periods. Cold storage mediums are usually either sensible heat medium like chilled water or latent heat medium like Ice, PCM, eutectic salts etc. Ethylene glycol is a typical HTF. CTES have applications in air-conditioning, food and pharmaceutical industries (Alva et al., 2018d)

2.4.3 TYPES OF COLD THERMAL ENERGY STORAGE

- Sensible thermal storage: chilled water tank, low temperature fluid, aquifers etc
- Latent thermal storage; internal-melt ice on coil, extended-melt ice on coil, encapsulated ice, ice slurry, ice harvest, other phase change materials.
- Source (abidi et al., 2012)

2.4.4 COLD THERMAL STORAGE IN AIR-CONDITIONING

Cold thermal storage technology which involves storing cold energy for later use, has numerous applications in air-conditioning systems for buildings vehicles and other temperature controlled space. By decoupling cooling demands from peak power usage, cold thermal energy storage reduces peak electricity consumption while also offering benefits like waste heat recovery and integration with renewable energy source (Li et al., 2012)

2.4.5 BENEFITS OF COLD THERMAL ENERGY STORAGE IN AIR-CONDITIONING

The benefits of integrating Cold thermal storage in Air-conditioning systems include:

1. **Lowest first cost**: Although Cold Thermal Energy Storage (CTES) installation requires extra upfront costs, the overall system investment can often be reduced due to the smaller size requirements of refrigeration system components.

2. **Reduced energy cost:** A cold thermal storage system cuts peak demand by up to 50% or more and shifts electricity usage from peak to off-peak hours, significantly reducing electrical demand for HVAC or process cooling systems during high-usage periods.

3. **Energy saving:** Lowering supply water temperature through ice storage system utilization reduces the total annual electric energy consumption for HVAC and refrigeration systems.

4. **Extending the capacity of existing system**: Installing cool storage can boost the apparent capacity of existing HVAC and refrigeration systems at a lower cost than expanding traditional non-storage equipment (ASHRAE, 1999g)

5. **Variable capacity:** Ice thermal storage systems allow for precise temperature control, maintaining a constant supply temperature despite fluctuations in cooling demand, and enable HVAC&R facilities to optimize equipment and storage usage in real-time, enhancing flexibility and efficiency year-round.

6. **Reduced Maintenance:** Cold thermal storage devices require minimal maintenance due to their lack of moving parts, and the smaller refrigeration equipment used in ice storage systems further reduces overall maintenance needs compared to traditional systems.

7. **Environmentally friendly:** The implementation of Cold Thermal Energy Storage (CTES) in HVAC&R systems significantly mitigates environmental impact by reducing energy consumption, lowering CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions, and minimizing global warming. Additionally, shifting electricity usage to nighttime reduces pollution by 31%, while smaller refrigerant amounts decrease ozone layer depletion and leakage-related global warming, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and eco-friendly operation.

Source (Kosi et all, 2016)

2.4.6 TYPES OF COLD THERMAL STORAGE MEDIUM

1. Chilled water
2. Ice storage
3. Ice slurries

4. Phase change materials (PCM) and PCM slurries
5. Salt hydrates and eutectic s
6. Paraffin wax and fatty acid
7. Refrigerant hydrates

Source (li et al., 2012)

2.4.7 ICE THERMAL ENERGY STORAGE (ITES)

In ITES, Ice is generated during charging period to latter releasing cold thermal energy during discharge. Ice making for thermal is basically of two Types; static and dynamic Ice making.

Static ice making forms an ice layer on the cooling surface, whereas dynamic systems produce and remove ice from the surface. Although most ice-making systems are static, dynamic systems offer better efficiency due to reduced thermal resistance. However, dynamic systems typically require a water solution as a phase change material to facilitate ice removal (Saito, 2002)

2.4.8 COMPARISON OF VARIOUS CTES

Below is a table comparing various cold thermal storage system

Table 2-2: Comparison of various cold thermal storage systems (Hasnain, 1998)

Primary features	Chilled water storage	Ice storage	Eutectic salt storage
Specific heat (kJ kg^{-1} K^{-1})	4.19	2.04	-

Latent heat of fusion (kJ kg^{-1})	-	333	80-250
Maintenance	High	Medium	Medium
Warranty availability	Low	High	Medium
Tank interface	Open tank	Closed system	Closed tank
Discharge fluid	Water	Secondary coolant	Water
Charging temperature (˚C)	4 to 6	—6 to —3	—20 to 4
Chiller	Standard water	Low temp. secondary coolant	Standard water
Packaged system	Medium	High	High
Heating capability	Low	High	Medium
Chiller charging efficiency	5.0-5.9 COP	2.9-4.1 COP	5.0-5.9 COP
Storage installed cost (\$ kW^{-1} h^{-1})	8.5-28	14-20	28-43
Discharge temperature (˚C)	Above 1-4	1-3	9-10

2.5 SOLAR ENERGY

Solar energy is the energy derived from the sun’s radiation, making it a renewable and sustainable source of power. It can be harnessed and converted into usable energy for various applications, including electricity generation, heating, and even powering vehicles (Twidell et al., 2015). As a clean and abundant resource, solar energy plays a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and decreasing dependence on fossil fuels, making it an essential component of the global transition to sustainable energy systems (IEA, 2020).

One of the primary applications of solar energy is electricity generation, which aligns with the requirements of this project. Solar panels, also known as photovoltaic (PV) cells, are the most common technology used to convert sunlight directly into electricity. These panels generate direct current (DC) electricity, which can be converted into alternating current (AC) for use in homes, businesses, and various devices. In the context of this project, solar energy can be utilized to power an ice cooling air-conditioning system, providing a sustainable and energy-efficient solution for cooling needs (Kabir et al., 2018).

The integration of solar energy into air-conditioning systems offers several advantages, including:

- **Reduced energy costs**: By generating electricity on-site, solar panels can significantly lower energy bills.
- **Environmental benefits:** Solar energy reduces reliance on fossil fuels, lowering carbon emissions and mitigating climate change.
- **Energy independence:** Solar power provides a reliable and decentralized energy source, reducing dependence on grid electricity (IRENA, 2019b).

By incorporating solar panels into the project, the ice cooling air-conditioning system can operate more sustainably, aligning with global efforts to promote renewable energy and reduce environmental impact.

2.5.1 CONVERSION PROCESS TO ELECTRICAL ENERGY

To incorporate solar energy into ice cooling air-conditioning system for the purpose of power generation, the conversion of solar energy to electrical energy would typically involve photovoltaic panels.

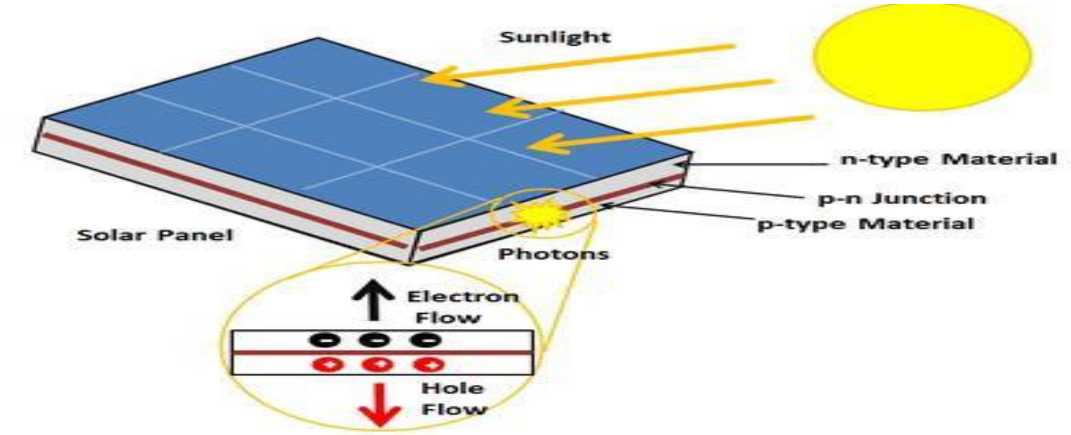

Figure 2-3: A typical photovoltaic cell

2.5.2 WORKING PRINCIPLE OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS

• Solar panels contain photovoltaic cells made of semiconductor materials (usually silicon). When sunlight hits these cells, photons (light particles) knock electrons loose from the atoms in the semiconductor, generating a flow of electricity (Chow, 2010a)

• The electricity produced by the solar panels is in the form of direct current (DC). This DC electricity can either be used directly to power DC components of the system in review like the DC-powered compressors, fans, or pumps or converted to alternating current (AC) for general AC-powered devices (Chow, 2010b)

In retrospect, solar energy comes from the sun in the form of electromagnetic radiation. This light is made up of particles called photons, which carry energy. The energy of a photon depends on its wavelength where shorter wavelengths have more energy, while longer wavelengths have less. According to Smets et al., Solar Energy: The Physics and Engineering of Photovoltaic Conversion, Technologies and Systems (Smets et al., 2016).

- **Creating a Current**: The movement of electrons generates a flow of electrical current. By connecting a load (like a motor or battery) to the circuit, this current can be harnessed for practical use.
- **Circuit Completion**: To complete the circuit, electrons flow back through the external circuit, returning to the p-type material. This flow of electrons constitutes direct current (DC) electricity.
- **Collection of Current**: Metal contacts on the PV cell gather the electrons, channeling them into an external circuit where they generate usable electricity.
- **Conversion to Usable Power**: The direct current (DC) generated by the PV cells can be converted into alternating current (AC) using an inverter, making it suitable for useful powering of the system or feeding into the electrical grid.

2.5.3 MODES OF CONVERSIONS

1. **Solar Energy to Electrical Energy:** Solar panels convert sunlight (solar energy) into electrical energy through the photovoltaic effect. This electrical energy powers the system.

2. **Electrical Energy to Mechanical Energy:** The electrical energy generated is used to power mechanical components like compressors and pumps, converting it into mechanical energy that circulates the refrigerant.
3. **Mechanical Energy to Thermal Energy:** The compressor increases the pressure of the refrigerant, causing it to heat up. This thermal energy is then dissipated in the condenser.
4. **Thermal Energy to Ice:** The system may utilize a thermal storage mechanism where excess cooling is used to freeze water into ice. This ice stores thermal energy for later use, where we incorporated an ice water reservoir that serves as the condenser.
5. **Ice to Cooling Effect:** When the ice is used, it absorbs heat from the air in the space being cooled, effectively converting the stored thermal energy back into a cooling effect.

Source (Twidell et al, 2015b)

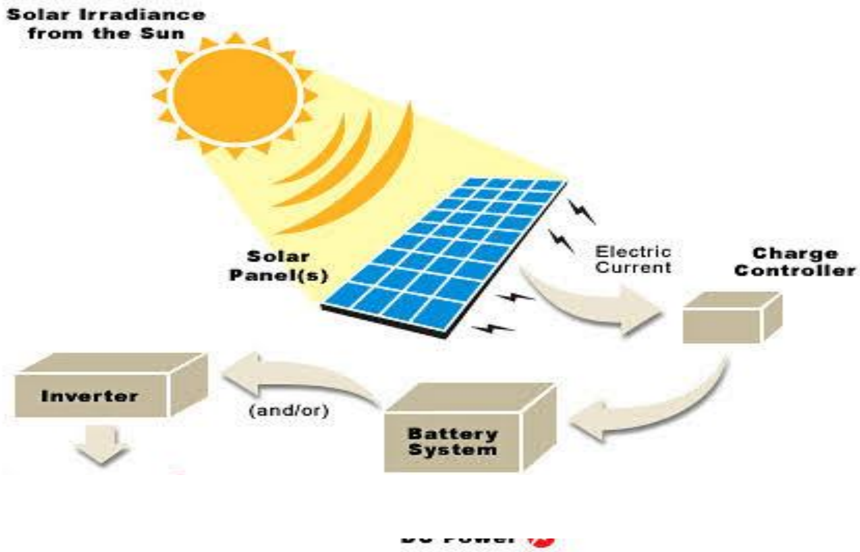

Figure 2-4: Shows Conversion modes involving photovoltaic transference

Source (Hishikawa et al. 2019)

Higher temperatures typically reduce the efficiency of PV cells because they increase the energy lost to heat.

Reflection and Absorption; Some light is reflected away from the cell or absorbed as heat, rather than being used for electricity generation.

Since PV cells generate direct current electricity, and most homes and appliances use alternating current, an inverter is needed to convert DC to AC. The inverter also conditions the power, ensuring stable voltage and frequency for safe and effective use, ‘The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) offers numerous reports on solar energy applications’

2.5.4 MAIN REASONS FOR CHOOSING SOLAR ENERGY

Air-conditioning demand is often highest during the daytime when solar radiation is at its peak. Solar energy generation naturally aligns with this increased demand, making it an efficient match for cooling systems, couple that with the fact that solar panels have no moving parts, so they require very little maintenance compared to other power generation systems. With occasional cleaning and inspection, solar panels can last 20-30 years, providing reliable energy (Adeyemi et al. 2022).

Reduced Reliance on the Grid: By generating our own electricity, we've become less dependent on the electrical grid. This is especially beneficial in areas with unstable power supplies, high electricity costs, or frequent outages.

Off-Grid Operation: In remote locations or places without reliable grid access, solar energy provides a sustainable way to power any cooling system without needing external energy sources.

CHAPTER 3

MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 METHODOLOGY

This chapter outlines the methodology employed in the design and fabrication of the cooling mode of an ice-cooled air conditioning system. The process involves several stages, including preliminary testing, conceptual design, detailed design, material selection, and fabrication. The goal is to develop an efficient and sustainable cooling system that utilizes ice as a primary cooling medium. The methodology is divided into distinct phases to ensure a systematic approach to achieving the desired outcomes.

3.2 PRELIMINARY TESTING

Preliminary tests were conducted to validate the system's functionality, identify design flaws, and gather initial performance data. These tests ensured the system operated as intended and provided a foundation for future enhancements.

Some of these test included:

1. **Solar Power System:** Simulated solar energy input using solar panels, charge controllers, and battery storage, with variable power supply testing to mimic different solar irradiance levels.

2. **Ice Storage Unit:** Tested the ice storage unit's cooling operation, measuring the time it took for 1kg of ice at 0°C to melt completely, and assessing the effectiveness of insulation in reducing heat gain.
3. **Heat Exchanger:** Evaluated the heat exchanger's performance in transferring heat between the cold water and air, determining the achievable temperature and humidity levels.
4. **Air Handling Unit:** Investigated the impact of fan speed on the system's performance using a fan to circulate air through the system.

3.3 CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

Two primary design concepts were explored for this project;

3.3.1 DESIGN 1- A SYSTEM WITH A SUBMERSIBLE PUMP IN ICE/WATER RESERVOIR AND A SPIRAL COPPER HEAT EXCHANGER:

In this system, a submersible pump played a crucial role in circulating cold water through the heat exchanger. The pump was fully submerged in the water reservoir, allowing it to efficiently pump cold water from the reservoir through the heat exchanger and back into the reservoir.

In conjunction with the submersible pump, a copper spiral heat exchanger was employed to facilitate efficient heat transfer between the cold water and the surrounding air In conjunction with the submersible pump, a copper spiral heat exchanger was employed to facilitate efficient heat transfer between the cold water and the surrounding air

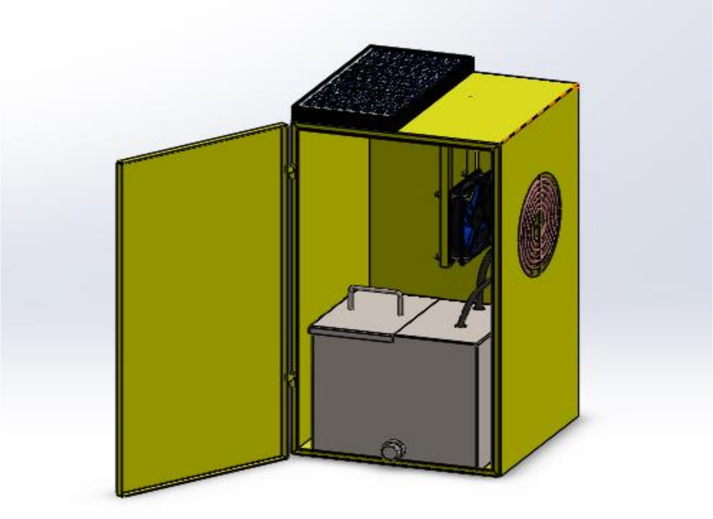

Figure 3-1: Conceptual design 1

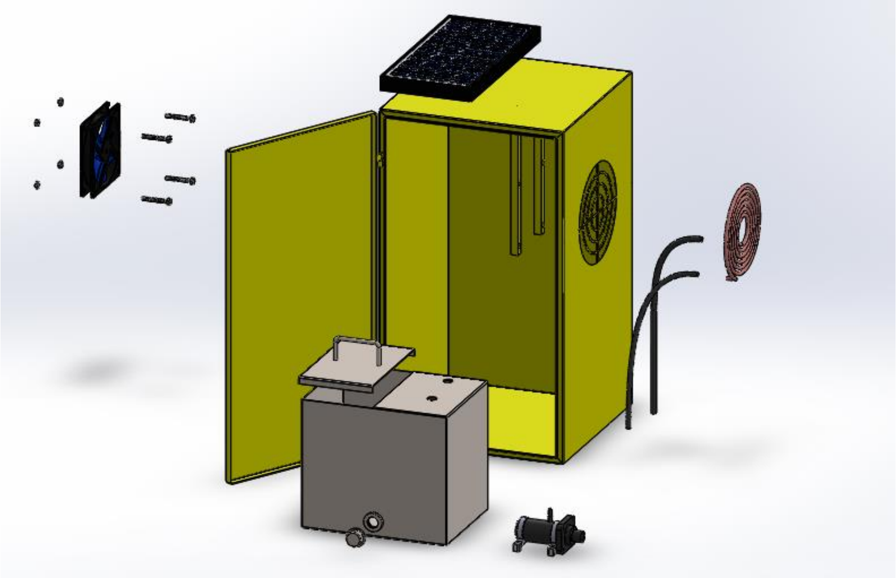

Figure 3-2: Exploded view of conceptual design 1

3.3.2 DESIGN 2 - A SYSTEM WITH GRAVITY-FED RADIATOR HEAT EXCHANGER WITH DISCHARGE PUMP

In this design, a hybrid approach was employed to circulate cold water through the radiator heat exchanger. The system leveraged the principles of gravity and mechanical pumping to create an efficient and reliable circulation loop. Cold water from the ice/water reservoir flowed downward through the radiator heat exchanger, driven by gravity. A discharge pump was used to return the cooled water back to the ice/water reservoir, completing the circulation loop.

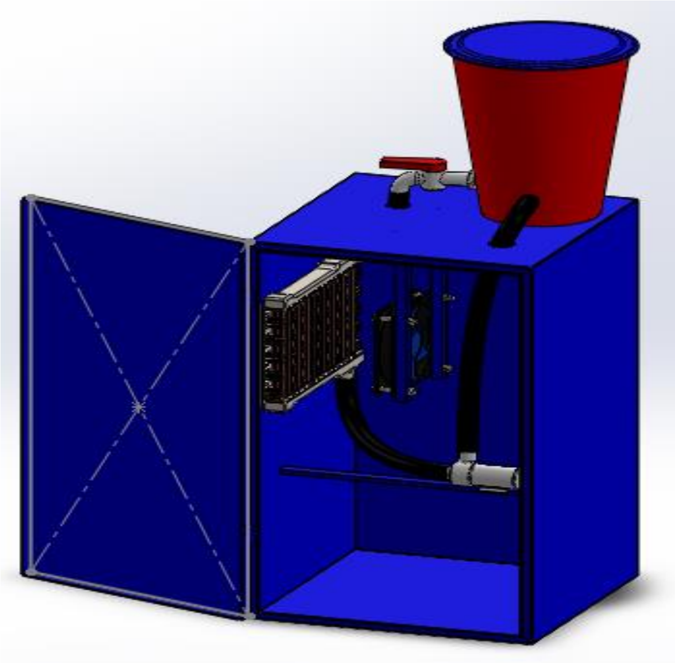

Figure 3-3: Conceptual design 2

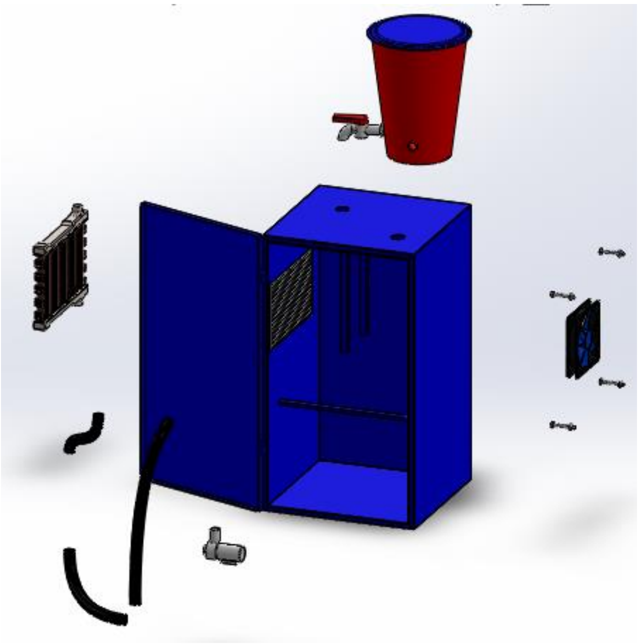

Figure 3-4: Exploded view of Conceptual design 2

3.3.4 DESIGN SELECTION

A category weighting methodology was utilized to determine the superior design concept. This approach involved assigning weights to various design parameters, allowing for a thorough evaluation and comparison of the two concepts, and ultimately identifying the best design solution.

categories and their respective weights:

1. **Energy Efficiency (Weight: 25%)**: How effectively the system uses energy to achieve cooling.
2. **Cooling Capacity (Weight: 25%)**: The system's ability to remove heat from the air.

3. **Cost (Weight: 15%)**: Initial and operational costs.
4. **Complexity (Weight: 10%)**: Design and installation complexity.
5. **Maintenance (Weight: 15%)**: Ease of maintenance and durability.
6. **Reliability (Weight: 10%)**: System stability and likelihood of failure.

DESIGN 1: SUBMERSIBLE PUMP WITH COPPER SPIRAL HEAT EXCHANGER

- **Evaluation**:
    1. **Energy Efficiency**: High due to the efficient design of the copper spiral heat exchanger. **(Score: 8/10)**
    2. **Cooling Capacity**: High cooling capacity due to the effective heat transfer properties of copper. **(Score: 9/10)**
    3. **Cost**: Higher initial cost due to the use of copper and a submersible pump. **(Score: 6/10)**
    4. **Complexity**: Moderate complexity due to the need for a submersible pump and proper sealing. **(Score: 7/10)**
    5. **Maintenance**: Requires regular maintenance for the pump and potential cleaning of the heat exchanger. **(Score: 7/10)**
    6. **Reliability**: Generally reliable but depends on the pump's performance and durability. **(Score: 8/10)**

- **Weighted Score**:

  - Energy Efficiency: 8 × 0.25 = 2.0
  - Cooling Capacity: 9 × 0.25 = 2.25
  - Cost: 6 × 0.15 = 0.9
  - Complexity: 7 × 0.10 = 0.7
  - Maintenance: 7 × 0.15 = 1.05
  - Reliability: 8 × 0.10 = 0.8
  - **Total: 7.7/10**

DESIGN 2: GRAVITY-FED RADIATOR HEAT EXCHANGER WITH DISCHARGE PUMP

- **Evaluation**:
  1. **Energy Efficiency**: Slightly lower than System 1 due to less efficient heat transfer in radiator designs. **(Score: 8/10)**
  2. **Cooling Capacity**: Slightly lower than System 1 but still effective for most applications. **(Score: 8/10)**
  3. **Cost**: Lower initial cost due to simpler design and potentially cheaper materials (e.g., aluminum). **(Score: 8/10)**
  4. **Complexity**: Simpler design with fewer components. **(Score: 9/10)**
  5. **Maintenance**: Easier to maintain due to fewer moving parts and accessible components. **(Score: 9/10)**

6. **Reliability**: Highly reliable due to the simplicity of the gravity-fed system and fewer failure points. **(Score: 9/10)**

- **Weighted Score**:
  - Energy Efficiency: 8 × 0.25 = 2.0
  - Cooling Capacity: 8 × 0.25 = 2.0
  - Cost: 8 × 0.15 = 1.2
  - Complexity: 9 × 0.10 = 0.9
  - Maintenance: 9 × 0.15 = 1.35
  - Reliability: 9 × 0.10 = 0.9
  - **Total: 8.35/10**

Table 4-1: Design selection

CATEGORY	**WEIGHT (%)**	**DESIGN 1**		**DESIGN 2**	
		SCORE	**WEIGHTED SCORE**	**SCORE**	**WEIGTED SCORE**
ENNERGY EFFICIENCY	25	8	2.0	8	2.0
COOLING CAPACITY	25	9	2.25	8	2.0
COST	15	6	0.9	8	1.2
COMPLEXITY	10	7	0.7	9	0.9
MAINTENANCE	15	7	1.05	9	1.35

RELIABILITY	10	8	0.8	9	0.9
TOTAL	**100**		**7.7**		**8.35**

Design 2 (Gravity-Fed Radiator Heat Exchanger with Discharge Pump) achieves a higher overall score (8.35/10) compared to design 1 (Submersible Pump with Copper Spiral Heat Exchanger), which scores 7.7/10.

Therefore, design 2 emerges as the superior choice under this weighting system, as it effectively balances energy efficiency, cooling capacity, and other practical factors. Consequently, it was selected for the detailed design phase.

3.4 DETAILED DESIGN

3.4.1 KEY COMPONENTS

- **Ice/water reservoir:**

The ice/water reservoir was meticulously designed to hold 8 liters of ice or chilled water, serving as a crucial component of the cooling system. It was constructed using high-density polyethylene (HDPE), a material chosen for its durability, corrosion resistance, and ability to withstand temperature variations. The reservoir incorporates a valve system to regulate the flow of cold water and facilitate drainage, ensuring efficient operation and ease of maintenance.

- **Radiator heat exchanger**:

The radiator heat exchanger was a cross-flow heat exchanger, facilitating efficient heat transfer between the cold water and warm air. In this configuration, the cold water flows vertically downwards through the aluminum tubes, while the warm air flows perpendicularly, creating a cross-flow pattern.

To further enhance heat transfer, the radiator heat exchanger incorporated fins, which significantly increase the surface area available for heat exchange. The fins, carefully designed and spaced, provide an extensive interface between the cold water and warm air, allowing for optimal heat transfer. As the warm air flows through the fins, it transfers its heat to the cold water flowing through the tubes, resulting in efficient cooling

- **Fan:**

The air conditioning system utilizes a high-performance, 12-volt direct current (DC) fan, specifically designed to provide efficient airflow while minimizing power consumption. With a maximum current rating of 0.15 amps, this fan is capable of delivering a substantial airflow volume, ensuring effective heat transfer and cooling performance.

The 12V DC fan is an ideal choice for this solar-powered air conditioning system, as it can be easily powered by a solar panel or battery bank. The fan's DC operation also provides a high degree of efficiency, reducing energy losses and minimizing the system's overall power requirements.

- **Pump:**

A 12-volt, 7-ampere direct current (DC) pump played a crucial role in the system by facilitating the return of cooled water to the ice-water reservoir. This pump delivered a volumetric flow rate of 5 liters per minute, ensuring a consistent and reliable circulation of water throughout the system.

- **CASING:**

The casing for the system was meticulously designed to ensure durability, structural integrity, and aesthetic appeal. It was constructed using 2mm thick mild steel, a material chosen for its strength, affordability, and ease of fabrication. To enhance the rigidity and stability of the casing, hollow rectangular bars were incorporated as support structures. These bars were strategically placed to distribute mechanical stress evenly and provide additional reinforcement, ensuring the casing can withstand operational loads and environmental conditions.

To further improve the casing's longevity and visual appeal, it was treated with a spray-painting process**.** A vibrant blue color was chosen for the paint, not only to give the casing a modern and professional appearance but also to serve a functional purpose. The blue paint adds an additional layer of protection against corrosion, which is particularly important in environments where the casing may be exposed to moisture, humidity, or other corrosive elements. The paint acts as a barrier, preventing rust and extending the lifespan of the casing while also making it visually distinctive.

Battery:

The total power consumption of the fan and pump:

- Fan Power ($P_{fan)}$ = V·I =12V × 0.15A = 1.8W
- Pump Power ($P_{pump)}$ = V·I =12V × 7A = 84W
- Total Power: (P_{total}) = P_{fan} + P_{pump} = 1.8W + 84W = 85.8W

With the operating time set to 5 hours, the energy consumption and battery capacity are calculated as follows:

- Energy Consumption (E_{total}) = P_{total}·t = 85.8W × 5h = 429Wh
- Battery Capacity (Ah) = E_{total} ÷ V = 429Wh ÷ 12V = 35.75Ah

12V, 50Ah battery is used to account for inefficiencies and provide a safety margin.

- **Solar panel:**

The wattage of the solar panel to charge the battery is calculated as thus:

- Daily Energy Consumption = 429Wh

- Sunlight Hours: Assume 5 peak sunlight hours per day
- System Efficiency: Account for losses in the system. A typical efficiency factor is 80%

$P_{solar} = E_{total} \div (\text{sunlight hours} \times \text{efficiency})$

$P_{solar} = 429\text{Wh} \div (5\text{h} \times 0.8) = 107.25\text{W}$

A 120W monocrystalline solar panel was chosen to charge this system To ensure safe and efficient operation, a 12-volt, 10-ampere battery management system (BMS) was integrated into the design. The BMS plays a crucial role in regulating the charging and discharging processes of the battery, preventing overcharging, deep discharging, and other potential issues that could compromise the battery's lifespan or overall system performance.

3.5 SPECIFICATIONS

3.5.1 FUNCTIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. Temperature Range: 20°C to 30°C
2. Humidity Range: 40% to 80%
3. Air Flow Rate: 1000m^3/h (590CFM)
4. System Efficiency: 80% efficient
5. Backup Power: 5 hours of backup power from the battery
6. Charging time: 5 hours

7. System Protection: Overcharge/over-discharge protection

3.5.2 NON-FUNCTIONAL DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

1. Energy efficiency: minimize any consumption and waste
2. User Interface: Intuitive and easy-to-use interface for monitoring and controlling the system with a visual indicator of temperature and humidity levels
3. Color: blue
4. Volume of ice/water reservoir: 8 liter

3.5 BILL OF MATERIAL

Table 4-2: Bill of material

S/N	COMPONENT	SPECIFICATIONS	QUANTITY	UNIT COST (₦)	TOTAL COST (₦)
1	PUMP	12V, 7A	1	30000	30000
2	FAN	12V, 0.15A	1	25000	25000
3	RADIATOR	ALUMINIUM	1	18000	18000
4	ICE / WATER RESERVOIR	HDPE, 8 LITRES	1	10000	10000
5	BATTERY	12V, 50AH	1	45000	45000
6	BMS	12V, 10A	1	4000	4000

7	SOLAR PANEL	MONOCRYSTALLINE, 12V, 120W	1	74000	74000
8	MILD STEEL PLATE	1200M BY 2400M BY 2MM	2	34000	68000
9	BOX SECTION TUBE STEEL	37MM BY 75MM BY 1,5MM, LENGTH 5400MM	1	13500	13500
10	HOSE	1.2MM, LENGTH 10M	1	5900	5900
11	COPPER WIRES	14 AWG LENGTH 2M	1	14000	14000
12	SWITCH	12V, 15A	1	2300	2300
13	BOLT AND NUT	13MM	15	200	3000
TOTAL					**312700**

3.6 **TOTAL COST**

Table 4-3: Total cost

S/N	**CATEGORY**	**COST (₦)**
1	MATERIAL	312700
2	MISCELLANEOUS	50000
TOTAL COST		362700

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 RESULTSAND DISCUSSION

The result taken from testing the solar ice powered air conditioner in a closed 1.5× 2.5× 3.0m room. Whereby there was no external ventilation.

Table 4-1: Tables of values of performance of system

TIME	TEMPERATURE INFRONT OF AIR CONDITIONER (c)	ROOM TEMPERATURE (c)	RELATIVE HUMIDITY INFRONT OF AIR CONDITIONER (%)	POWER CONSUMPTION (W)
1.00 pm	31.2	31.1	63	70.23
1.30 pm	25. 7	29.9	74	73.51
2.00 pm	25.5	29.7	72	75.79
2.30 pm	25.3	29.5	73	78.23
3.00 pm	25.1	29.3	75	79.23
3.30 pm	24.9	29.1	76	81.47
4.00 pm	24.7	28.9	76	83.96
4.30 pm	24.8	28.8	77	86.17

5.00 pm	24.6	28.7	78	86.94
5.30 pm	24.9	28.6	79	88.94
6.00 pm	24.7	28.9	77	90.26

The temperature in front of the air conditioner drops significantly from 31.2°C at 1:00 pm to 24.7°C at 6:00 pm, showing a clear cooling effect. The room temperature also decreases from 31.1°C to 28.9°C, but at a slower rate, indicating that while cooling is occurring, the room temperature stabilizes at around 28.6 – 28.9°C in the later hours suggesting that the cooling effect is localized and may not be fully effective in cooling the entire room. The relative humidity in front of the AC increases from 63% at 1:00 pm to 79% at 5:30 pm. This suggests that the ice-powered system is introducing moisture into the air, which is common for cooling methods involving water or ice. However, in the final reading at 6:00 pm, humidity drops to 77%, which might indicate that the system reached a limit in moisture addition or that natural air circulation started balancing it.Power consumption gradually increases from 70.23 W at 1:00 pm to 90.26 W at 6:00 pm. The rise suggests that as the ice melts or cooling demand increases, the system requires more power to sustain cooling

4.2 COMPARISON WITH CONVENTIONAL AIR CONDITIONING

In the Ice-Powered AC the Room temperature drops from 31.1°C to 28.9°C (2.2°C decrease in 5 hours) while in the Conventional AC, the Room temperature drops from 26°C to 24°C (2°C decrease in 5 hours). Observing that the Ice cooled AC initially starts at a higher room temperature and achieves slightly better cooling than the conventional AC. However, conventional AC maintains a lower and more stable room temperature, providing consistent cooling.

Table 4-2: Table comparing ice powered AC to conventional AC

Parameter	Ice-Powered AC	Conventional AC
Cooling Mechanism	Uses ice to absorb heat and cool air.	Uses refrigerant cycles (compressor, condenser, evaporator).
Temperature Reduction	Lowers temperature, but room cooling is limited	More effective at cooling entire rooms uniformly.
Humidity Control	Increases humidity due to ice melting.	Reduces humidity via condensation and drainage.
Power Consumption	Gradually increases as ice melts (70.23W → 90.26W).	Higher (500W–2000W for typical units), but consistent.
Cooling Efficiency	Limited to localized areas, effectiveness drops as ice melts.	Maintains stable temperature across large spaces.
Operational Costs	Lower energy cost but requires ice replenishment	Higher electricity bills, but no need for ice

Calculating the cooling rates per hour of both air conditioner

- For Ice cooled AC 22 ° c / 5 hours = 0.44°c/h
- For conventional AC 20°c / 5 hours= 0.40 ° c/h

We can deduct that both systems have similar cooling rates, but the ice-powered AC starts at a higher temperature and struggles to bring the room below 28.9°C however Conventional AC cools more effectively in the long run and can reach lower temperatures.

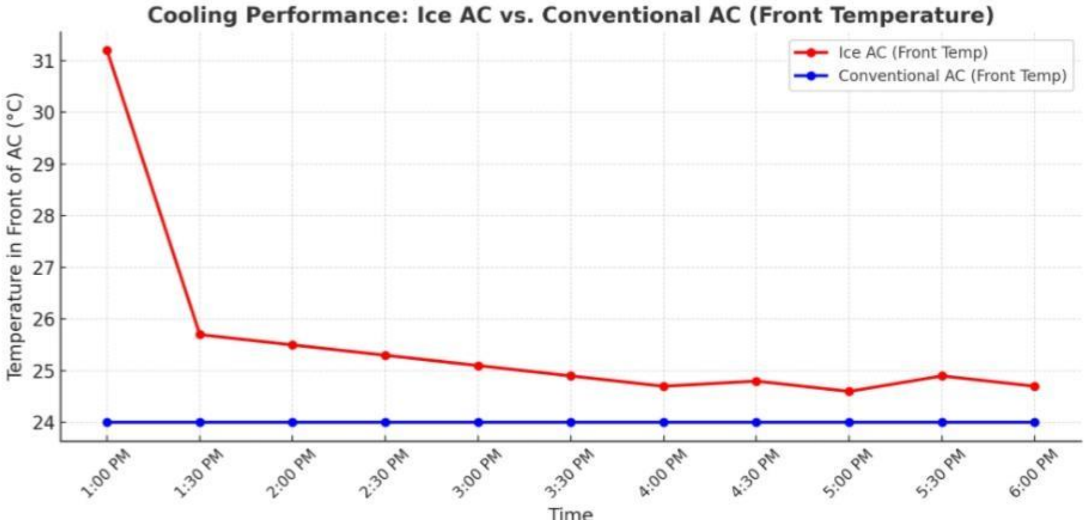

Figure 4-1: A Graph comparing the temperature in front of the AC for both Ice-Powered AC and Conventional AC over time

Ice-Powered AC shows a gradual temperature decrease but fluctuates slightly, likely due to ice melting over time, while Conventional AC maintains a constant front temperature (~24°C), showing its stable cooling performance. This confirms that Conventional AC provides more consistent cooling, while the Ice AC cools initially but loses efficiency over time.

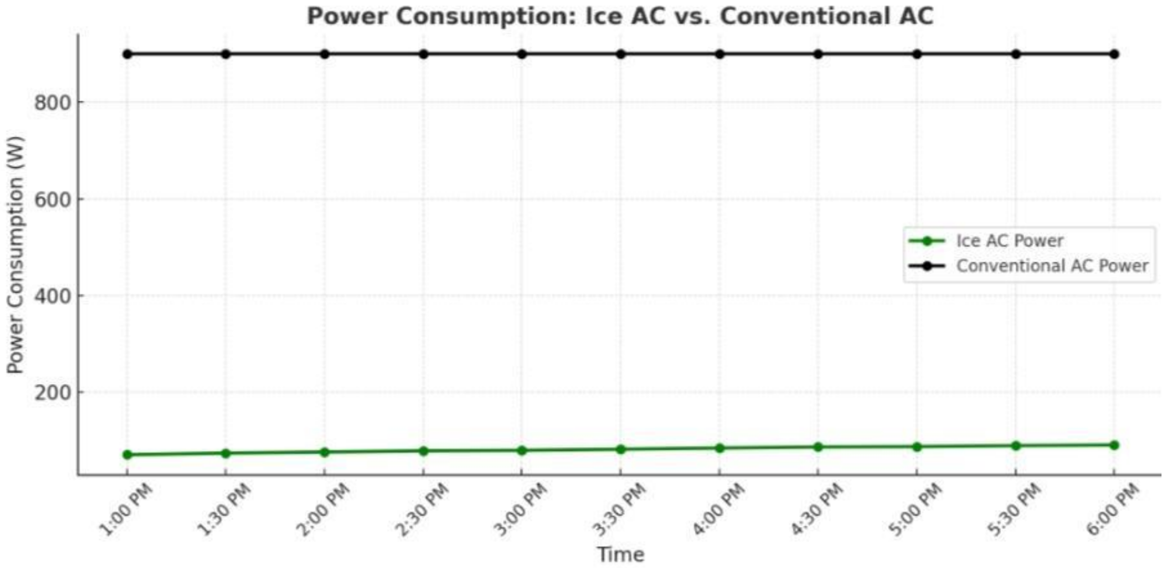

Figure 4-2: Power consumption comparison graph for Ice-Powered AC vs. Conventional AC

The Ice cooled AC starts with low power (~70W) but gradually increases (~90W), indicating that cooling efficiency decreases as ice melts where as conventional AC maintains a constant high power (~900W), ensuring steady cooling but with higher energy consumption. This confirms that Ice AC is far more energy-efficient, but Conventional AC provides more consistent cooling at the cost of higher power usage.

4.3 DISCUSSION

1. Temperature Analysis:

Temperature in Front of Air Conditioner:

The temperature in front of the air conditioner decreased from 31.2°C at 1:00 pm to 24.6°C at 5:00 pm, before slightly increasing to 24.7°C at 6:00 pm. This represents a total temperature reduction of 6.6°C over the test period.

The most significant cooling occurred between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm, with a temperature drop of 5.7°C. This rapid cooling is attributed to the system's initial operation, where the ice storage was at its maximum capacity, providing a high cooling output.

After 2:00 pm, the temperature stabilized, with only minor fluctuations. This indicates that the system reached a steady-state operation, where the cooling output balanced the heat load in the environment.

Room Temperature:

The room temperature decreased from 31.1°C at 1:00 pm to 28.7°C at 5:00 pm, before slightly increasing to 28.9°C at 6:00 pm. This represents a total temperature reduction of 2.4°C.

The room temperature reduction was less pronounced compared to the temperature in front of the air conditioner, suggesting that the cooling effect was more localized near the air conditioner.

The slower reduction in room temperature indicates that the system may require optimization for larger spaces or higher cooling demands.

2. Relative Humidity Analysis:

The relative humidity in front of the air conditioner increased from 63% at 1:00 pm to 79% at 5:30 pm, before slightly decreasing to 77% at 6:00 pm.

This increase in humidity is expected as the air conditioner cools the air, reducing its capacity to hold moisture. The cooling process causes water vapor in the air to condense, leading to higher relative humidity levels.

The relative humidity remained within a comfortable range (60–80%), indicating that the system did not excessively dry or humidify the air.

3. Power Consumption Analysis:

The power consumption of the system increased steadily from 70.23 W at 1:00 pm to 90.26 W at 6:00 pm.

The increase in power consumption is likely due to the system working harder to maintain lower temperatures as the ambient conditions changed over time. For example, as the room temperature decreased, the system required more energy to sustain the cooling effect.

Despite the increase, the power consumption remained relatively low, demonstrating the energy efficiency of the solar-powered ice-cooled system.

4. System Performance and Efficiency:

Cooling Capacity:

The system demonstrated effective cooling performance, particularly in the localized area in front of the air conditioner. The temperature reduction of 6.6°C highlights the system's ability to provide significant cooling output.

The room temperature reduction of 2.4°C suggests that the system may need optimization for larger spaces or higher cooling demands. This could involve increasing the ice storage capacity or improving the distribution of cooled air throughout the room.

Energy Efficiency:

The system's power consumption remained low throughout the test, with a maximum of 90.26 W at 6:00 pm. This is significantly lower than conventional air-conditioning systems, which typically consume hundreds of watts.

The use of ice cooling likely contributed to the system's energy efficiency, as the ice storage acted as a thermal battery, reducing the need for continuous energy input.

Thermal Storage Effectiveness:

The ice storage mechanism effectively stored cooling energy during the initial operation and released it gradually over time. This allowed the system to maintain stable temperatures with minimal energy input, particularly during the later stages of the test

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSSION

5.1 CONCLUSSION

The development and implementation of a solar-powered ice cooling air conditioning system represent a significant advancement in sustainable and energy-efficient cooling technologies. As the demand for air conditioning continues to rise due to global temperature increases, conventional cooling systems contribute significantly to energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. This study highlights the potential of utilizing solar power in conjunction with an ice-based cooling system as an environmentally friendly alternative that can mitigate energy dependence and reduce operational costs.

One of the key advantages of this system is its ability to leverage solar energy, an abundant and renewable resource, to power the cooling process. By utilizing solar panels during peak sunlight hours, the system efficiently generates electricity for the refrigeration cycle, which produces and stores ice. This stored ice can then be used during non-sunlight hours to provide cooling without additional energy consumption. Such an approach not only ensures a reliable and continuous cooling effect but also enhances energy efficiency by reducing reliance on the electrical grid, particularly during peak demand periods.

Furthermore, the ice storage mechanism serves as an effective thermal battery, enabling energy to be harnessed and utilized when cooling demand is highest. This feature significantly reduces electricity costs, especially in regions where time-of-use pricing is implemented. Additionally, the system's ability to operate with minimal mechanical components compared to conventional air conditioning units results in lower maintenance costs and prolonged equipment lifespan, making it a viable option for both residential and commercial applications.

From an environmental perspective, the solar-powered ice cooling air conditioning system contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions and the overall carbon footprint associated with cooling technology. Since it minimizes the dependency on fossil fuel-based electricity, it plays a crucial role in mitigating climate change and promoting sustainability. Moreover, the system aligns with global initiatives aimed at reducing energy consumption and promoting renewable energy integration.

Despite its numerous benefits, certain challenges need to be addressed to enhance the widespread adoption of this technology. The initial investment cost for solar panels and ice storage infrastructure may be a barrier for some users. However, with continued advancements in solar technology and reductions in manufacturing costs, the economic feasibility of such systems is expected to improve. Additionally, further research into optimizing ice production efficiency and integrating smart control systems could enhance overall performance and adaptability.

In conclusion, a solar-powered ice cooling air conditioning system offers a promising solution to the growing demand for energy-efficient and environmentally friendly cooling technologies. By harnessing solar energy and utilizing ice storage for cooling, the system presents a sustainable alternative to conventional air conditioning units. With continued innovation, policy support, and increasing awareness of renewable energy solutions, this technology has the potential to revolutionize the cooling industry, contributing to a greener and more energy-efficient future. The transition to such systems can play a pivotal role in achieving energy sustainability goals while ensuring comfort and efficiency in various climatic conditions worldwide.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Optimize Ice Production Efficiency – Improve refrigeration cycle performance to maximize ice generation while minimizing energy consumption.
- Enhance Solar Energy Utilization – Integrate advanced photovoltaic (PV) technologies, such as bifacial or high-efficiency solar panels, to increase energy capture.
- Develop Smart Control Systems – Implement automated sensors and AI-based controllers to regulate ice production and cooling distribution for improved efficiency.
- Increase Thermal Storage Capacity – Design larger or more efficient ice storage systems to extend cooling duration during non-sunlight hours.

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