

LABORATORY MANUAL

**REFRIGERATION
&
AIR CONDITIONING**

ME- 411-F

LIST OF EXPERIMENTS

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Note : 1. At least ten experiments are to be performed in the semester.
 2. At least seven experiments should be performed form the above list. Remaining three experiments may either be performed from the above list or as designed & set by the concerned institute as per the scope of the syllabus.

EXPERIMENT NO.1

Aim: - To study refrigeration cycle, determine of coefficient of performance of cycle & determine of tonnage capacity of refrigeration unit.

Apparatus used: -

Refrigeration test Rig consists of (Compressor (rotary), Air cooler condenser, Capillary tube, Evaporator coil, voltmeter, current meter, voltmeter, energy meter, Thermocouple pressure gauge, vacuum gauge, and freezer

Description of the Test Rig:-

The experimental refrigeration cycle test rig consist of a compressor unit, condenser, evaporator, cooling chamber, controlling devices and measuring instruments those are fitted on a stand and a control panel. The apparatus is fabricated in such a way; to refrigeration system hermetically sealed compressor is fitted on stand with the help of flexible foundation bolts to minimize vibrations. Electric power input to the compressor is given through thermostatic switch.

Temperature sensor details: -

1. T_1 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed at Compressor Discharge Line
2. T_2 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed after Condenser
3. T_3 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed after Capillary Tube
4. T_4 = Temperature Sensor : Inside freezer
5. T_5 = Temperature Sensor: Fixed at Compressor Suction Line.

Theory: -

The coefficient of performance of refrigeration plant is given by the ratio of heat absorbed, by the refrigerant when passing through the evaporator or the system, to the working input to the compressor to compress the refrigeration.

Co-efficient of Performance = Heat removed by refrigerant / Power input

$$COP_{\text{plant}} = m C_p \Delta T / K. Wh$$

Where

m = mass of water kept in cooling chamber

C_p = specific heat of water = 4.18 Kj /Kg K

ΔT = temperature of cooling water $^{\circ}\text{K}$

$Kwh = 1000 \times V.I \times 60 \times 60 \text{ KJ} = V.I \times \text{KJ} = V.I \times 3600 \text{ KJ}$

KWH = reading of energy meter.

Co-efficient of refrigeration cycle is given by the ratio of net refrigeration effect to the power required to run the compressor.

$$\text{COP}_{(\text{cycle})} = \frac{\text{Net refrigerant effect in unit time}}{\text{Power input in unit time}} \\ = \frac{m \cdot C_p \Delta T}{\text{KwH}}$$

Where (Q), = mass flow rate of the refrigerant m^3 / sec

C_p = Specific heat of refrigerant

ΔT = Temperature difference ($T_1 - T_3$)

KWH = Kilowatt hours energy meter reading.

The co-efficient of performance of a refrigeration system is given by the ratio of heat absorb, to the work input.

$$\text{COP} = \frac{\text{Heat removed by refrigerant}}{\text{Power input}}$$

$$= \frac{m \cdot C_p \Delta T}{\text{K.Wh}}$$

Where,

m = mass of water kept in cooling chamber

C_p = specific heat of water = 4.18 Kj / Kg K

ΔT = temperature of cooling water K

Kwh = power consumed by the compressor in unit time.

Tonnage capacity:

The capacity of a refrigeration machine is the refrigeration effect in a given time from a body. This capacity of machine is given by standard commercial ton of refrigeration. This is called as refrigerating effect i.e. melting of 1 ton of ice at 0°C in 24 hours.

$$\text{TR} = 336 \times 1000 / 24 \times 60 \times 60 = 3.88 \text{ Kj / sec.}$$

Tonnage capacity of the machine = Net refrigerating effect of machine / 3.88

$$= \frac{m \cdot C_p \Delta T}{3.88}$$

Procedure:

Switch on the compressor and let it run for considerable time. Say for automatic cut off by thermostatic switch at normal position. Fill a measured quantity of water in ice cane (100 gm) and put it into cooling chamber. Measure initial temperature of water before putting into cooling chamber by noting the value of T_4 as T_{4i} note down the energy meter reading. Wait till compressor starts. Compressor shall be started automatically as and when temperature of cooling chamber falls up to adjusted temperature.

After starting the compressor note down the temperature T_4 at the interval of every 15 minutes and note it down as T_{4C} .

Note down the power consumed by compressor till ice forms i.e. temperature T_4 should reach 0°C . At 0°C of ice cane note down all the temperature i.e. T_1, T_2, T_3, T_4 and T_5 . Also note down the suction and discharge pressure by the respective gauges. Note down the flow rate of refrigerant by rotometer.

$$\text{Hence Refrigeration effect TR} = 336 \times 1000 / 24 \times 14000 \text{ KJ / hour}$$

Where latent heat of fusion of ice = 336 KJ / kg.

Tonnage capacity of the plant

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{Net refrigerant effect of plant} / 14000 \text{ KJ / hour} \\ &= m \times C_p \Delta T / 14000 \end{aligned}$$

Where, m = mass of water kept in cooling chamber

C_p = initial and final heat of water = 4.18

ΔT = initial temp. T_c = final temperature water $T_1 - T_2$

T_1 = initial temperature of water.

T_c = final temperature of water

Tonnage capacity of cycle

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{Net refrigerating effect produced by refrigerant} / 14000 \text{ Kj /h} \\ &= m \times C_p \Delta T / 14000 \text{ tones} \end{aligned}$$

Where, m = mass flow rate of refrigerant

C_p = Specific heat of refrigerant

ΔT = Temperature of refrigerant at discharge and suction = T_1, T_5

Observation Table

Sr no.	Energy meter reading			Mass of water	Temperature of chilling water initial final ΔT	T1	T2	T3	T5
	Initial (a)	Final (b)	$C = (a-b)$						

Calculation:

$$1- \text{COP (plant)} = m \times C_p \Delta T / \text{KWH}$$

Where m = Mass of water kept in ice cane (kg)

C_p = Specific heat of water = 4.18

ΔT = $T_{4i} - T_{4C}$

KWH = Total energy meter reading

(Final value – initial value of energy meter.)

Sample Calculation

$$COP = m \cdot C_p \Delta T / KWh = (20 \times 4.187 \times 12) / (245 \times 3.9)$$

$$\text{Tonnage capacity} = COP / 3.88 \text{ TR}$$

Result: -

Viva Question: -

1. Mention the advantages of vapour compression refrigeration system?
2. Describe the mechanism of a simple vapour compression refrigeration system?
3. What is sub cooling?
4. What is superheating?
5. Why is superheating considered to be good in certain cases?

EXPERIMENT NO.2

Aim: - To determine the COP and Tonnage capacity of the chilling plant.

Apparatus: - Compressor, Condenser, Evaporator, Capillary Tube, Ammeter, Voltmeter.

Theory: -

The apparatus consist of a hermitically sealed compressor which is fitted on the base of a M.S stand on a wooden stand. The compressed refrigerant from the compressor flows towards the air cooled finned condenser. After the condenser condensed refrigerant is collected in the receiver tank and from receive it passing through a filter drier and capillary tube and enter into evaporator (cooling coil) unit. Evaporator unit is a shell and tube type heat exchanger, which consist of stainless steel vassal and evaporator coil is wounded in this vassal (tank) an arrangement is provided to flow water to be chilled in this tank. Flow rate of the chilled water is measured by using a Rota meter. Refrigerant after the evaporator unit is sucked back in compressor. Power input to the compressor is measured by using the energy meter which giving power consumed by compressor directly. A pressure and vacuum range is fitted on the control panel to measure pressure at the discharge and suction respectively. Digital temperature indicator is also fitted on control panel to measure temperature at different positions. A selector switch is provided over these by turning its position respective temperature may be noted.

Coefficient of Performance

The Co-efficient of performance of a chilling plant is given by the ratio of heat absorb to the work input.

$$\text{COP} = \text{Heat removed by refrigerant} / \text{Power input}$$

$$= m \times C_p \Delta T / K.Wh$$

Where,

m = mass of water kept in the evaporator unit / mass flow rate of the water.

C_p = specific heat of water = 4.18 Kj /Kg K

ΔT = temperature difference of chilling water

Kwh = power consumed by the compressor in unit time.

Tonnage capacity:-

The capacity of a refrigeration machine is the refrigeration effect in a given time from a body. This capacity of machine is given by standard commercial tone of refrigeration. This is called as refrigerating effect i.e. melting of 1 ton of ice at 0°C in 24 hours.

$$TR = 336 \times 1000 / 24 \times 60 \times 60 = 3.88 \text{ KJ / sec.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tonnage capacity of the machine} &= \text{Net refrigerating effect of machine} / 3.88 \\ &= m \times Cp\Delta T / 3.88 \end{aligned}$$

Temperature sensor details: -

1. T_1 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed at Compressor Discharge Line
1. T_2 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed after Condenser
2. T_3 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed after Capillary Tube
3. T_4 = Temperature Sensor : Inside Water Cooling Tank
4. T_5 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed at Compressor Suction Line.

Procedure:

Switch on the compressor and let it to run for considerable time, until thermostatic switch starts functioning. Now fill the measured quantity of the water in evaporator or allow water to flow through the tank. Note down the reading of energy meter and initial temperature of chilling water and start stop watch and take the readings required for calculations in the table for certain interval.

Observation Table

Sr no.	Energy meter reading			Mass of water	Temperature of chilling water initial final ΔT	T1	T2	T3	T5
	Initial (a)	Final (b)	C = (a-b)						

Sample Calculation

COP

$$= m \cdot Cp\Delta T / KWh = 20 \times 4.187 \times (12) / 245 \times 3.9$$

Tonnage capacity

$$= \text{COP} / 3.88 \text{ TR}$$

Precautions: -

1. Keep all the hand shut off valves tight closed until not required.
2. Keep small flow rate of the chilling water.
3. Compressor should not continuously for long time that should be hermetically cut down by the by the thermostat switch.
4. Do not disturb the copper piping, because it may cause leakage of the refrigerant from the system.

Result: -

Viva Questions: -

- What is the purpose of chilling plant?
- What is the use of thermostat control in ice plant?
- What are the applications of ice plant?
- What is freezing Drying?
- What is defrosting?

EXPERIMENT NO: 3

Aim: - To Determine COP and Tonnage capacity of a Air Conditioning system.

Apparatus: - Compressor, Condenser, Evaporator, Capillary Tube, Ammeter, Voltmeter.

Theory: -

Air conditioning equipment is used to maintain controlled atmospheric conditions as per required. The controlled atmospheric conditions may be required for human comfort or manufacturing processes of engineering goods. Air conditioning systems are classified in two groups.

1. Packed Units
2. Central Unit

A packed unit is self-contained unit, because complete unit including compressor, evaporator, condenser, fan motor etc. are kept in a common enclosure. Capacity of packed or window AC is 1 to 1.5 T.R. This AC is mounted with the room which is required for controlled atmosphere.

A window AC mainly consists of following sub-assemblies:

1. System assembly includes compressor, condenser, evaporator, expansion device, and filter.
2. Motor with blower & fan assembly includes, a double ended shaft motor, a fan and a motor and suitable bracket for it.
3. Cabinet and air distributing assembly – it includes a cabinet as enclosure for whole system, an air distributing system.
4. Control panel assembly – it includes the switched those required to control the entire AC system as per the requirement, IC temperature, humidity etc.

The AC Test Rig is designed and fabricated, to determine the performance and to study its working principle. The AC test Rig consist a 1.5 T sealed compressor unit, a finned condenser (heating coil) and evaporator (cooling coil), a double ended (shaft) motor to run fan and blower simultaneously and fitted on a wooden stand and properly covered by grill. A duct is assembled along with blower unit as a carrier of comfort air, the velocity of the air passing through the coil is measured by using a pilot tube fitted in duct itself and connected to V-tube manometer which

is fitted on control panel. The control panel is fitted over compressor and fan-blower assembly. Control panel consist of 1 phase energy meter to measure power consumed by compressor, a Rota meter to measure flow rate of refrigerant pressure gauge to measure pressure of discharge side compound vacuum gauge to measure suction side pressure, a digital temperature indicator to measure temperature at various places. The desired temperature find out by changing position of selector switch with it. A voltmeter and ammeter is also fitted on control panel.

Specifications of AC Test Rig:

Compressor	: Hermetically sealed compressor 1.5 T.R. with starting and running capacitor.
Refrigerant	: R - 22
Pressure gauge	: 0.300 PSI
Suction gauge	: - 30-0-150 PSI
Rota meter	: 0-5 L L PM
Fan blower motor	: 1 / 30 HP 1- 0
Condenser & evaporator	: Double row finned.

Window type air conditioner

The performance of an air-conditioning system is expressed in terms of co-efficient of performance. And COP is the ratio of net refrigerating effect and power supplied to do the work i.e.

$$COP = R_n / W$$

Where

$$\begin{aligned} R_n &= \text{heat removed by system} \\ &= m \cdot Cp\Delta T \end{aligned}$$

Where

$$\begin{aligned} m &= \text{mass of air supplied / minute.} \\ Cp &= \text{Specific heat of air} \\ \Delta T &= \text{Difference in temperatures.} \end{aligned}$$

$$T_1 - T_2$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 &= \text{Surrounding temperature} \\ T_2 &= \text{Air duct temperature} \end{aligned}$$

Mass of circulated air can be calculated by

$$m = V_a / V_{sa}$$

Where

$$\begin{aligned} V_a &= \text{Quantity of air supplied m}^3 / \text{min.} \\ V_{sa} &= \text{Area of duct} \times \text{velocity of the air.} \end{aligned}$$

$$= L \times b \times \sqrt{2 \{ P_{(stag)} - P_{(stat)} \}} / \rho$$

ρ = mass density of air

$P_{(stag)}$ = Stagnation or total pressure.

$P_{(stat)}$ = Static pressure

W = Power input time and measured by energy meter reading.

Procedure: -

Switch on the power supply to system i.e. start the compressor simultaneously start fan blower motor also. Now compressed refrigerant passing through the condenser and after condensing. It goes to evaporator, where due to cooling effect air, which is sucked by blower cools. After few minute the air at the outlet of air duct will become cool at that time. And also measure the static and total pressure by using V-tube manometer and pilot tube.

Temperature sensor details: -

1. T_1 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed at Compressor Discharge Line
2. T_2 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed after Condenser
3. T_3 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed after Capillary Tube
4. T_4 = Temperature Sensor : Inside Cooling Tank
5. T_5 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed at Compressor Suction Line.

Observation Table

S. No.	T1	T2	P_{stag}	P_{stat}	P Total	No. of revolution	W = Total power consumed

Sample Calculation

$$COP = m \cdot Cp\Delta T / KWh = 20 \times 4.187 \times (12) / 245 \times 3.9$$

$$\text{And C O P} = m \cdot Cp\Delta T / W$$

Precautions: -

1. Run the system for quite some time before taking readings.
2. Note down number of revolutions of energy meter carefully with the help of stop watch.
3. Insure considerable cooled air output from air duct.
4. The system should not switch OFF immediately after once switched ON.

5. The control valve of pressure and compound gauge should open partly; when it is required to measure pressure otherwise valves must be closed.
6. Do not twist any pipe line and handle all switches valves very carefully only as and when required.

Result: -

Viva Questions: -

1. What do you mean by conditioning of air?
2. Explain the working principle of air conditioning system?
3. What are the different types of air conditioning system?
4. What are the various controls system used in air conditioning system?

EXPERIMENT NO. 4

Aim: -To determine the COP and Tonnage capacity of a Mechanical Heat pump.

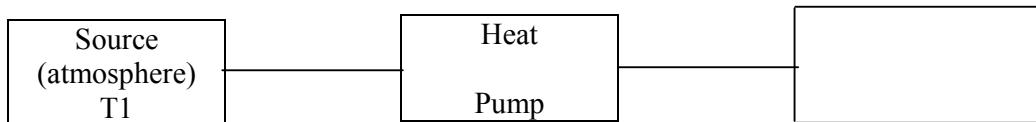
Apparatus Used: - Compressor, Condenser, Evaporator, Capillary Tube, Ammeter, and Voltmeter.

Theory: -

A mechanical heat pump is mechanical equipment which is used to supply the heat to the system, where it is installed, and maintain its temperature more than that of surrounding. Mechanical heat pump absorbs heat from surrounding (atmosphere). Work input to a heat pump is supplied by compressor. With reference to the fig. Heat Q_2 is supplied to the room and temperature T_2 is maintained above the T_1 whereas heat Q_1 is absorbed by the surrounding. Hence performance of heat pump is given by

$$COP = Q / W$$

Where Q = heat removed from the system.
 W = work supplied in compressor.



Theory: -

Coefficient of performance of mechanical heat pump is the ratio of heat removed by it and work supplied i.e.

$$COP = Q / W$$

Where,

Q = heat removed
 W = $m \cdot Cp\Delta T$ watts.

m = mass of water in heating (condensation) or cooling (evaporator) tank.

Cp = Specific heat of water kJ / kg. K
 ΔT = Initial and final temperature of water for unit time K.
 W = Power consumer by compressor of unit time W.
 = energy meter reading.

Technical Specification: -

Compressor = hermetically sealed of 1/3 T
 Discharge pressure gauge = 0-3 - PSI
 Suction pressure gauge = - 30-0-150 PSI
 T_1 & T_2 are temperature of discharge suction side 0°C
 T_3 and T_7 are temperature of water 0°C
 T_2 , T_3 , T_5 and T_6 are temperature of inlet and outlet of heating and cooling coil.

Procedure: -

Fill measured quantity of water in condenser and evaporator banks and note down the initial temperature of tanks by means of selector switch as T_{4i} . Now note down the energy meter and switch on the power supply to compressor. Run the compressor for unit time (say 30 minute) and note down the change in temperature of T_{4f} and energy meter reading. Above procedure may be repeated for cooling coil also.

Temperature sensor details: -

1. T_1 = Temperature Sensor: Fixed at Compressor Discharge Line
2. T_2 = Temperature Sensor: Fixed after Condenser
3. T_3 = Temperature Sensor: Inside hot water tank
4. T_4 = Temperature Sensor: fixed after capillary tube
5. T_5 = Temperature Sensor : Inside cold water tank
6. T_6 = Temperature Sensor : Fixed at Compressor Suction Line

Observation Table

S. no.	Time	T_{3i}	T_{4f}	Mass of water in condensation	Mass of water in evaporator	Energy meter reading

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Calculation:

$$Q = m \cdot C_p \cdot T = \dots \text{Watts}$$

W=.....Watts

Precautions: -

1. Use stabilized power supply.
 2. Drain the water from tanks after performing experiment.
 3. When apparatus is no longer in use condense the refrigerant.
 4. Use stop watch for time measurement.

Result: -

Viva Questions: -

1. Explain the working principle of mechanical heat pump?
 2. What is the COP of mechanical heat pump?
 3. What is the difference between air conditioning and mechanical heat pump?
 4. How the cooling and heating is done in mechanical heat pump?

Experiment no.5

Aim: - To determine the COP and Tonnage capacity of an Ice Plant.

Apparatus: - Compressor, Condenser, Evaporator, Capillary Tube, Ammeter, and Voltmeter.

Introduction: -

Ice plant machine is used to manufacture ice. Solid state of water is called the ice. Working principle of ice plant is based on compression system. An ice plant consists of following components.

1. Compressor: - Compressor increases the pressure and temperature of refrigerant and pumps it out towards condenser in vapour form. After condensation that refrigerant goes to evaporator and again converted into vapour form. From the evaporator refrigerant is sucked by the compressor during the suction stroke and again being pump to condenser.
2. Condenser: - This is a heat exchanger and made of copper tubes of U-shape refrigerant flows through these tubes & getting condensed by the surrounding air to forced or natural air according to the capacity of the plant. In condenser vapour refrigerant is converted into liquid form.
3. Receiver Tank: - This is one sort of storage tank, which is filled by the liquid refrigerant. This tank is made of steel to withstand the high pressure and get stored. The main advantage of receiver in only during the shut off period of plant, at which time refrigerant can keep safe after condensation.
4. Filter driver: - To absorb moisture from the refrigerant filter drier is used. This is made of brass and filled by silica jell or activated alumina.
5. Expansion service: - For expansion of refrigerant in evaporated expansion device are used. There are two types of expansion devices commonly in use, (I) expansion valve, (II) capillary tube. Capillary tube is a copper tube of very small size. Due to its small size gas is form in is end portion which causing low temperature in evaporator.
6. Evaporator: - This is made of U-shaped tubes. In these tubes refrigerant circulated. Evaporator is an ice plant is fitted next to expansion device. The refrigerant in evaporator converted into vapour form and in result low temperature creating in surrounding, due to heat transfer. Evaporator also called as cooling coil or freezing unit.

Theory: -

The ratio of useful heat to work input is called the co-efficient of performance of a refrigerating machine i.e.

$$\text{COP} = \text{Heat output} / \text{Power input}$$

$$= m \cdot Cp\Delta T / \text{Kwh}$$

Where

m = Mass of water is ice cane in kg.

Cp = Specific heat of water = 4.18

ΔT = Temperature drop of ice cane water in unit time, k

kwh = Power consumed by the compressor in unit time.

Procedure: -

Fill the water in ice box and add the solid salt in it, which that the gravity of brine becomes 1.2. Fill the water in ice canes. The measured quantity of water should be filled. And keep the ice canes in brine tank and close the door. Switch on the power supply to compressor, at the time of starting note down the initial temperature of ice cane water and energy meter reading. Also switch on the stop on the stop watch take the readings of ice cane temperature and energy meter at the interval of 5 minutes. Take enough set of readings for considerable difference in temperature.

Switch off the compressor and drain the ice can water.

Observation Table: -

Sr. No.	Mass of water (kg)	Temperature			Energy meter		Time (sec)
		Initial (a)	Final (b)	ΔT (b-a)	Initial	Final	

Applications: -

Experimental ice plant unit consist of a hermetically sealed compressor which is fitted on a press wood foundation and M.S stand. Discharge pipe of compressor goes to condenser. From here refrigerant flows towards evaporator or ice tank, through the receiver tank, drier filter and capillary tube. Condenser is of fin type and made of U-shaped copper tubes in rows. A fan motor is fitted at stand to supply forced air to condenser to increase heat transfer rate. Ice tank consist is a brine tank and ice cans, those are packed in an insulation box. Refrigerant flow towards compressor from the evaporator coil. Thermocouples are embedded on different positions. Thermocouple number T1 at selector switch indicated the temperature of discharge side, T2 after condensation, T3 ice can water temperature, T4 at the end of evaporator coil and T5 at control panel is also provided which consist, energy meter, digital temperature indicator, ammeter, voltmeter, pressure gauge and suction gauge. Hand shut off valves are connected with pressure and suction gauge. By opening these valves pressure of discharge or suction side can be checked as and when required. Density of brine is measured with the help of hydrometer.

Calculations: -

q = Heat removed by refrigerant in unit time = m. Cp. ΔT =
W = Power consumed by compressor in unit time =

$$\text{COP} = q / w$$

Precautions: - Insure correct gravity of the brine solution

- Measure time precisely
- Store the refrigerant in receiver tank
- Drain water from ice canes
- Do not open the door of ice box
- Keep thermocouple well in deep in ice cane

Results:--

Viva Question:

1. What is the working principle of ice plant?
2. What is the role of brine in ice plant?
3. Why ammonia is used as a refrigerant in ice plant?
4. Which refrigerant is mostly used in ice plant & why?
5. What is TR of ice plant?

EXPERIMENT NO-06

Aim: - To study the cut sectional model of reciprocating, rotary and centrifugal compressor.

Apparatus used: - Cut sectional Model of Reciprocating, Centrifugal and Rotary compressor

- **Reciprocating compressor:**

Theory: -

The compressors in which the vapour refrigerant is compressed by reciprocating motion of the piston are called reciprocating compressors. These compressors are used for refrigerant which have comparatively low volume per Kg and a large differential press. Such as NH₃ (R-717), R-12, R-22 and CH₃Cl (R-40). The reciprocating compressors are available in sizes as small as ½ KW which are used in small domestic refrigeration and up to about 150 KW for large capacity.

The two types of reciprocating compressor in general are: -

- Single acting vertical compressor.
- Double acting horizontal compressor.

The single acting compressors usually have their cylinder arranged vertically radially or in 'V' or 'W' form. The double acting compressors usually have their cylinder arranged horizontal.

Working: -

When the piston moves downwards, the refrigerant left in the clearance space expands. Thus, the volume of the cylinder increase and the pressure inside the cylinder decreases. When the pressure become slightly less than the valve gets opened and the vapour refrigerant flows into the cylinder. This flow continuous until the piston reaches the bottom of the stroke. At bottom of the stroke, the suction valve closes because of spring action. Now, when the piston moves upwards, the volume of the piston moves upwards, the volume of the cylinder decreases and the pressure inside the cylinder increases. When the pressure inside the cylinder becomes greater than that on the top of the discharge valve, the discharge valve gets opened & the vapour refrigerant is discharged into the condenser and the cycle is repeated.

1. ***Work done during isothermal compression:*** -

Work done during suction stroke: - $W_1 = \text{Area } A B B' A' = p_1 v_1$

Work done during Compression: - $W_2 = \text{Area } B C_1 C_1' B' = p_1 v_1 \log_e (v_1 / v_2)$

Work done during Discharge: - $= 2.3 m RT_1 \log_r r$

2. Work done during polytropic compression: - ($p v^n = \text{Constant}$)

Work done during suction stroke: - $W_1 = \text{Area } A B B' A' = p_1 v_1$

Work done during Compression: - $W_2 = \text{Area } B C C' B' = p_2 v_2 - p_1 v_1/n - 1$

Work done during Discharge: - $W_2 = \text{Area } C D A' C = p_2 v_2$

3. Work done during Isentropic Compression: -

$$W = y / y-1 \times m cp (y-1 / y) (T_2 - T_1) = m cp (T_1 - T_2)$$

• Rotary compressor

Theory: - In rotary compressor, the vapour refrigerant from the evaporator is compressed due to movement of blades. The rotary compressors are positive displacement type compressor. Since, the clearance in rotary compressors is negligible; therefore, they have high η_{vol} . These may be used for refrigerants like R-12, R-22, and R-144 & NH₃.

The two types of rotary compressors are: -

- Single stationary blade type
- Rotating blade type

Working: -

Single stationary blade type

It consists of a stationary cylinder, a roller and a shaft. The shaft has an eccentric on which the roller is mounted. A blade is set into the slot of a cylinder in such a manner that it always maintains contacts with a sloter by means of a spring. The blade moves in and out of the slot to follow the rotor when it rotates. Since the blade separates the suction and discharge parts, therefore it is often called a sealing blade. When the shaft rotates, the roller also rotates the roller rotates so that it always touches the cylinder wall.

Rotating Blade type

It consists of a cylinder and a slotted rotor containing a number of blades. The centre of the rotor is eccentric with the centre of the cylinder. The blades are forced against the cylinder wall by the centrifugal action during the rotation of the motor.

The low pressure and temperature vapour refrigerant from the evaporator is drawn through the suction port. As the rotor turns, the suction vapour refrigerant entrapped between the two adjacent blades is compressed. The compressed refrigerant at high pressure and temp is discharged through the discharge port to the condenser.

Centrifugal Compressor

The centrifugal compressor increases the pressure of low pressure vapour refrigerant to a high pressure by centrifugal force. The centrifugal compressor is generally used for refrigerants that require large displacement and low condensing pressure, such as R-12 is and R-113. However, the refrigerant R-12 is also employed for large capacity applications and low-temperature applications.

Theory:-

A single stage centrifugal compressor, in its simplest form, consists of an impeller to which a number of curved vanes are fitted symmetrically. The impeller rotates in an air volute casing with inlet and outlet points.

The impeller draws in low pressure vapour refrigerant from the evaporator. When the impeller rotates, it pushes the vapour refrigerant from the centre of the impeller to its periphery by centrifugal force. The high speed of the impeller leaves the vapour refrigerant at a high velocity at the vane tips of the impeller. The kinetic energy thus attained at the impeller outlet is converted into pressure energy when the high velocity vapour refrigerant passes over the diffuser. The diffuser is normally a vane less type as it permits more efficient part load operation which is quite and it further converts the kinetic energy into pressure energy before it leaves the refrigerant to the evaporator.

Viva Questions

1. What is the effect of clearance volume in reciprocating compressor?
2. Draw ideal and actual P-V diagrams for a reciprocating compressor?
3. On what factors does the volumetric efficiency of a compressor depend?
4. What is the effect of compression index and the discharge pressure on volumetric efficiency?
5. What is a multi-stage compressor? Give its advantages.
6. What do you understand by hermetic sealed compressor? Give its advantages.

EXPERIMENT NO.07

Aim: - To study the various controls used in Refrigeration and Air conditioning system.

Apparatus used: - Schematic diagrams of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning controls.

Theory: -

The controls are very essential for satisfactory and economical working of a refrigerant. The electrical connection diagram of a domestic refrigerator is shown in fig. The refrigerant is fitted with following controls.

1. Starting Relay: -

The starting relay is used to provide the necessary starting torque required to start the motor. It also disconnects the starting winding of the motor when the motor speed increases. When the compressor motor is to be started, the thermostat is in closed position. When the electric supply is given, an electric current passes through the running winding of the motor and the starting relay. Due to the flow of electric current through relay coil & due to electromagnetism, its armature is pulled thereby closing the starting winding contacts. The current through starting winding provides the starting torque and the motor starts. As, the motor speed increase, the running winding current decrease. The current in the starting relay is no longer able to hold the relay and it gets released thereby opening the starting winding contacts. Thus, the starting winding gets disconnected.

2. Overload protector : -

The basic function is to protect the compressor motor winding from damage due to excessive current, in the event of overloading or due to some fault in the electric circuit. It consists of a bimetallic strip. During the normal working of the compressor, the contacts are closed. Whenever there is any abnormal behavior, the bimetallic strip gets heated and bands, thereby opening the motor contacts, and de-energizing it. The overload protector is fitted on the body of the compressor and operates due to the combined action of heat produced when current passes through the bimetallic strip and a heater element, and heat transferred from the compressor

body. It may be noted that the abnormal behavior of compressor may be due to low voltage, high voltage, high load, low suction pressure, high suction & discharge pressure.

3. Thermostat: -

A thermostat is used to control the temperature in the refrigeration. The bulb of the thermostat is clamped to the evaporator or Freezer. The thermostat bulb is charged with few drops of refrigerant. The thermostat can be set to maintain different temperature at a time. When the desired temperature is obtained, the bulb of the thermostat senses it; the liquid in it compresses and operates the bellows of the thermostat and open compressor motor contacts. The temperature at which motor stops is called cut-out temperature. When the temperature increases, the liquid in the bulb expands thereby closing the bellow contact of the compressor motor. The temperature, at which compressor motor starts, is called cut-in temperature. A thermostat is very crucial in operation of refrigerator as the running time of compressor is reduced considerably thereby cutting the operation cost as well as enhancing the compressor life due to non-continuous working.

Viva Questions: -

1. Describe the functioning of various controls in a refrigerator?
2. What is Thermostat?
3. What is over load protector?
4. What is starting relay?
5. What is the Function of over load protector?

EXPERIMENT NO. 08

Aim: - To study different psychrometric process & chart.

Apparatus Used: - Psychometric Process chart.

Theory: - The psychometric is a branch of Engineering Sciences which, deals with the study of moister mixed with water vapour or humidity.

The various psychometric processes involved in air conditioning to vary the psychometric properties of air according to the requirement are as follows:

(i) Sensible Heating –

The heating of air, without any change in its specific humidity is known as sensible heating. Let air at temperature t_{d1} passes over a heating coil of temperature t_{d3} . It may be noted that the temperature of air leaving the heating coil (t_{d2}) will be less than t_{d3} . The process of sensible heating on psychometric chart is shown by horizontal line 1-2, extending left to right. The point 3 represents the surface temperature of the heating coil.

The heat absorbed by the air during sensible heating may be obtained from the psychometric chart by the enthalpy difference ($h_2 - h_1$). It may be noted that the specific humidity during the sensible heating remains constant ($W_1 - W_2$). The dry bulb temperature increases from t_{d1} to t_{d2} and relative humidity reduces from ϕ_1 to ϕ_2 and relative humidity reduces from ϕ_1 to ϕ_2 . The amount of heat added during sensible heating may also be obtained from the relation.

$$\text{Heat added: } q = h_2 - h_1$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= C_{pa} (t_{d2} - t_{d1}) + W C_{ps} (t_{d2} - t_{d1}) \\ &= (C_{pa} + W C_{ps}) (t_{d2} - t_{d1}) = (t_{d2} - t_{d1}) \end{aligned}$$

$$q = 1.022 (t_{d2} - t_{d1}) \text{ kJ/kg}$$

(ii) Sensible cooling –

The cooling of air without any change in its specific humidity is known sensible cooling. Let air at temperature t_{d1} passes over a cooling coil of temperature t_{d3} as shown.

1. It may be noted that the temperature of air leaving the cooling coil (t_{d2}) will be more than t_{d3} . The process of sensible cooling is shown by horizontal line 1-2 extending from right to left. The point 3 represents the surface temperature of the cooling coil. The heat rejected by air during sensible cooling may be obtained from the psychometric chart by the enthalpy difference ($h_1 - h_2$). It may be noted that the

specific humidity during the sensible cooling remains constant. The dry bulb temperature reduces from t_{d1} to t_{d2} and relative humidity increases from φ_1 to φ_2 . The amount of heat rejected during sensible cooling may also be obtained from the relation.

$$\text{Heat rejected} \quad q = h_1 - h_2$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= C_{pa}(t_{d1} - t_{d2}) = W C_{ps} (t_{d1} - t_{d2}) \\ &= (C_{pa} + W C_{ps}) (t_{d1} - t_{d2}) = C_{pm} (t_{d1} - t_{d2}) \end{aligned}$$

The term $(C_{pa} + W C_{ps})$ is called humid specific heat C_{pm} and its value is taken as 1.022 kJ / kg K.

$$\therefore \text{Heat rejection, } q = 1.022 (t_{d2} - t_{d1}) \text{ kJ / kg.}$$

(iii) By pass factor of heating and cooling coil:

Let one kg of air at temperature t_{d1} is passed over the coil having its temperature (i.e. coil surface temperature) t_{d3} . A little consideration will show that when air passes over a coil, some of it (say x kg) just by-passes unaffected while the remaining $(1-x)$ kg comes in direct contact with the coil. This by-pass process of air is measured in terms of a by-pass factor. The amount of air that by-passes or the by-pass factor depends upon the following factors:

- The no. of fins provided is a unit length i.e., pitch of cooling coil fins.
- The no. of row in a coil in the direction of flow; and
- Velocity of flow of air.

It may be noted that the by-pass factor of a cooling coil decreases with decrease in fin spacing and increase in number of rows.

Balancing the enthalpies; we get:

$$x C_{pm} t_{d1} + (1-x) C_{pm} t_{d3}$$

$$= 1 x C_{pm} t_{d2}$$

$$x (t_{d3} - t_{d1}) = t_{d3} - t_{d2}$$

$$x = (t_{d3} - t_{d2}) / (t_{d3} - t_{d1})$$

Where x is called the by-pass factor of the coil and is generally written as BPF. Therefore, by-pass factor for heating coil,

$$\text{BPF} = (t_{d3} - t_{d2}) / (t_{d3} - t_{d1})$$

Similarly, by-pass factor for cooling coil,

$$\text{BPF} = (t_{d2} - t_{d3}) / (t_{d1} - t_{d3})$$

(iv) Humidification and Dehumidification

The addition of moisture to the air, without any change in its dry bulb temperature is known as humidification. Similarly, removal of moisture from the air, without change in its dry bulb temperature is known as dehumidification. The heat added during humidification process and heat removed during dehumidification process is shown on the psychometric chart.

It may be noted that in humidification, the relative humidity increase from φ_1 to φ_2 and specific humidity also increases from w_1 to w_2 . Similarly, in dehumidification, the relative humidity decreases φ_1 to φ_2 and specific humidity also decreases from w_1 to w_2 . It may be noted that in humidification, change in enthalpy is shown by intercept (h_2-h_1) on the psychometric chart. Since the dry bulb temperature of air during the humidification remains constant, therefore its sensible heat also remains constant. It is thus obvious, that the change in enthalpy per kg of dry air due to the increased moisture content equal to (w_2-w_1) kg per kg of dry air is considered to cause a latent heat transfer (LH).

Mathematically,

$$LH = (h_2-h_1) h_{fg} (w_2-w_1)$$

Where h_{fg} is the latent heat of vaporization at dry bulb temperature (t_{d1})

(v) Cooling with adiabatic humidification

When the air is passed through an insulated chamber having sprays of water (known as air washer) maintained at a temperature (t_i) higher than the dew point temperature of entering air (t_{dp1}), but lower than its dry bulb temperature (t_{d1}) of entering air (or equal the wet bulb temperature of the entering air (t_{w1})) then air is said to be cooled and humidified. Since no heat is supplied or rejected from the spray water as the same water is re-circulated again and again, therefore, in this case, a condition of adiabatic saturation will be reached.

The temperature of spray water will reach the thermodynamic wet bulb temperature of the air entering the spray water. This process is shown by line 1-3 on the psychometric chart and follows the path along the constant wet bulb temperature line or constant enthalpy line. In an ideal case when the humidification is perfect (or the humidifying efficiency of the spray chamber is 100%). In actual practice, perfect humidification is never achieved. Therefore, the final condition of air at outlet is represented by point 2 on the line 1-3.

The effectiveness or the humidifying efficiency of the spray chamber is given by

$$\eta_H = \frac{\text{Actual drop in DBT}}{\text{Ideal drop in DBT}} = \frac{\text{Actual drop sp. humidity}}{\text{Ideal drop sp. humidity}}$$

$$= \frac{td_1 - td_2}{td_1 - td_3} = \frac{W_2 - W_1}{W_3 - W_1}$$

(vi) Cooling and humidification by water injection (Evaporative cooling)

Let water at a temperature t_1 is injected into the flowing steam of dry air (a). The final condition of air depends upon the amount of water evaporation. When the water is injected at a temperature equal to the wet bulb temperature of the entering air (t_{w1}), then the process follows the path of constant wet bulb temperature line.

Let,

- M_w = Mass of water supplied,
- m_a = Mass of dry air,
- W_1 = Specific humidity of entering air,
- W_2 = Specific humidity of leaving air, and
- H_w = Enthalpy of water injected into the air.

Now for the mass balance,

$$W_2 = W_1 + m_w / m_a$$

And by heat balance,

$$\begin{aligned} h_2 &= h_1 + m_w / m_a \times h_{fw} \\ &= h_1 + (W_2 - W_1) h_{fw}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $(W_2 - W_1) h_{fw}$ is very small as compared to h_1 and h_2 , therefore it may be neglected. Thus the water injection process is a constant enthalpy process, irrespective of the temperature of water injected (i.e. whether the temperature $t_1 < t_w$ or $t_1 > t_w$).

(vii) Heating and humidification

This process is generally used in winter air conditioning to warm and humidify the air. It is the reverse process of cooling & humidity. When air is passed through a humidifier having spray water temperature higher than the dry bulb temperature of the entering air, the unsaturated air will reach the condition of saturation and thus the air becomes hot. The heat of vaporization of water is absorbed from the spray water itself and hence it gets cooled. In this way, the air becomes heated and humidified. The process of heating and humidification is shown by line 1-2 on the psychometric chart. The air enters at condition 1 and leaves at condition 2. In this process, the dry bulb temperature as well as specific humidity of air increases. The final relative humidity of the air can be lower or higher than that of the entering air.

Let,

m_{w1} and m_{w2} = Mass of spray water entering and leaving the humidifier in kg,

h_{fw1} and h_{fw2} = Enthalpy of spray water entering and leaving the humidifier in kJ / kg.

W_1 and W_2 = Specific humidity of the entering and leaving air in kg / kg of dry air,

h_1 and h_2 = Enthalpy of entering and leaving air in kJ / kg of dry air, and

m_a = Mass of dry air entering in kg.

For mass balance of spray water,

$$\begin{aligned} (m_{w1} - m_{w2}) &= m_a (W_2 - W_1) \\ m_{w2} &= m_{w1} - m_a (W_2 - W_1) \end{aligned}$$

For Enthalpy balance,

$$m_{w1} h_{fw1} - m_{w2} h_{fw2} = m_a (h_2 - h_1)$$

Substituting the value of m_{w2} from equation (i), we have

$$\begin{aligned} m_{w1} h_{fw1} - \{m_{w1} - m_a (W_2 - W_1)\} h_{fw2} \\ = m_a (h_2 - h_1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore h_2 - h_1 = m_{w1} / m_a (h_{fw1} - h_{fw2}) + (W_2 - W_1) h_{fw2}$$

The temperatures t_{s1} and t_{s2} denote the temperatures of entering and leaving spray water respectively. The temperature t_3 is the mean temperature of the spray water which the entering air may be assumed to approach.

Actually, the heating and humidification process follows the path as shown by dotted curve, but for the calculation of psychometric properties, only the end points are important. Thus, the heating and humidification process shown by a line 1-2 on the psychometric chart may be assumed to have followed the path 1- A and A – 2. We see that the total heat added to the air during heating and humidification is,

Total heat added to the air during heating humidification:

$$q = h_2 - h_1 = (h_2 - h_a) + (h_a - h_1) = q_i + q_s$$

(viii) Heating and humidification by steam injection

The stream is normally injected into the air in order to increase its specific humidity. This process is used for the air conditioning of textile industries where high humidity is maintained. The dry bulb temperature of air changes very little during the process.

Let

m_s = Mass of steam supplied,

m_a = Mass of dry air entering,

W_1 = Specific humidity of air entering,

W_2 = Specific humidity of air leaving,

h_1 = Enthalpy of air entering,

h_2 = Enthalpy of air leaving, and

h_s = Enthalpy of steam injected into the air.

Now for mass balance;

$$W_2 = W_1 + m_s / m_a$$

For heat balance;

$$h_2 = h_1 + m_s / m_a \times h_s = h_1 + (W_2 - W_1) h_s$$

(ix) Adiabatic Mixing of Two Air Streams

When two quantities of air having different enthalpies and different specific humidity are mixed, the final condition of the air mixture depends upon the masses involved, and on the enthalpy and specific humidity of each of the constituent masses which enter the mixture.

Let

m_1 = Mass of air entering at 1,

h_1 = Enthalpy of air entering at 1,

W_1 = Specific humidity of air entering at 1,

m_2, h_2, W_2 = Corresponding values of air entering at 2 and

m_3, h_3, W_3 = Corresponding values of mixture leaving at 3.

Assuming no loss of enthalpy and specific humidity during the air mixing process, we have for the mass balance,

$$m_1 + m_2 = m_3$$

For the energy balance,

$$m_1 h_1 + m_2 h_2 = m_3 h_3$$

and for the mass balance of water vapour,

$$m_1 W_1 + m_2 W_2 = m_3 W_3$$

Substituting the value of m_3 from equation (i) in equation (ii),

$$m_1 h_1 + m_2 h_2 = (m_1 + m_2) h_3 = m_1 h_3 + m_2 h_3$$

or $m_1 h_1 - m_1 h_3 = m_2 h_3 - m_2 h_2$

$$m_1 (h_1 - h_3) = m_2 (h_3 - h_2)$$

$$\therefore \frac{m_1}{m_2} = \frac{h_3 - h_2}{h_1 - h_3}$$

Similarly, substituting the value of m_3 from equation (i) in equation (iii), we have

$$\frac{m_1}{m_2} = \frac{W_3 - W_2}{W_1 - W_3}$$

Now from equation (iv) and (v),

$$\frac{m_1}{m_2} = \frac{h_3 - h_2}{h_1 - h_3} = \frac{W_3 - W_2}{W_1 - W_3}$$

The adiabatic mixing process is represented on the psychometric chart as shown in fig. The final condition of the mixture (point 3) lies on the straight line 1-2. The point 3 divides the line 1-2 in the inverse ratio of the mixing masses. By calculating the value of W_3 from equation (vi), the point 3 is plotted on the line 1-2.

It may be noted that when warm high humidity air is mixed with cold air, the resulting mixture will be a fog and the final condition (point 3) on the psychometric chart will lie to the left or above the saturation curve which represents the fog region. The temperature of the fog is that of the extended wet bulb line passing through point 3.

The fog may also result when steam or a very fine water spray is injected into air in a greater quantity than required to saturate the air. Even lesser quantity of steam, if not mixed properly, may result fog.

The fog can be cleared by heating the fog, mixing the fog with warmer unsaturated air or mechanically separating the water droplets from the air.

Viva Questions

1. What do you understand by the term ‘psychometric’?
2. Define Specific humidity?
3. Define Absolute humidity?
4. What is Relative humidity?
5. What is Dew point temperature?
6. What is a sling psycho-meter?
7. What is by-pass factor for cooling coils?
8. Define sensible heat factor?
9. What is fog?

EXPERIMENT NO. 09

Aim: - To Study working principle of steam jet refrigeration system.

Apparatus Used: - Reference of steam jet refrigeration system diagram and P -H and T - S diagrams.

Theory: -

The steam jet refrigeration system (also known as ejector system refrigeration system) is one of the oldest methods of producing refrigeration effect. The basic components of this system are an evaporator, a compressor device, a condenser and a refrigerant control device. This system employs a steam injector or booster (instead of mechanical compressor) to compress the refrigerant to the required condenser pressure level. In this system, water is used as the refrigerant. Since the freezing point of water is 0°C, therefore, it cannot be used for applications below 0°C. The steam jet refrigeration system is widely used in food processing plants for pre-cooling of vegetables and concentrating fruit juices, gas plants, paper mills, breweries etc.

Principle of steam jet refrigeration system: -

The boiling point of a liquid changes with change in external pressure. In normal conditions, pressure exerted on the surface of a liquid is the atmospheric pressure. If this atmospheric pressure is reduced on the surface of a liquid, by some means, then the liquid will start boiling at lower temperature, because of reduced pressure. This basic principal of boiling of liquid at lower temperature by reducing the pressure on its surface is used in steam jet refrigeration system.

The boiling point of pure water at standard atmospheric pressure of 760 mm of Hg is 100°C. It may be noted that water boils at 12°C if the pressure on the surface of water is kept at 0.014 bar and at 7°C if the pressure on the surface of water is 0.01 bar. The reduced pressure on the surface of water is maintained by throttling the steam through the jets or nozzles.

Working of steam jet refrigeration system: -

The flash chamber or evaporator is a large vessel and is heavily insulated to avoid the rise in temperature of water due to high ambient temp. It is fitted with perforated pipes for spraying water. The warm water coming out of the refrigerated space is sprayed into the flash water chamber where some of which is converted into vapours after absorbing the latent heat, thereby cooling the rest of water.

The high pressure steam from the boiler is passed through the steam nozzle thereby increase its velocity. The high velocity steam in the ejector would entrain the water vapours from the flash chamber which would result in further information of vapour. The mixture of steam and water vapour passes through the ventilate-tube of

the ejector and gets compressed. The temperature and pressure rises considerably and fed to the water cooled condenser where it gets condensed. The condensate is again fed to the boiler as feed water. A constant water level is maintained in the flash chamber and any loss of water due to evaporation is made up from the make-up water line.

Steam Ejector: -

The steam ejector is one of the important components of a steam jet refrigeration system. It is used to compress the water vapours coming out of the flash chamber. It uses the energy of fast moving jet of steam to entrain the vapours from the flash chamber and then compress it. The high pressure steam from the boiler expands while flowing through the convergent divergent nozzle. The expansion causes a very low pressure and increases steam velocity. The steam attains very high velocities in the range of 1000 m/s to 1350 m/s. The nozzles are designed for lowest operating pressure ratio between nozzle throat and exit. The nozzle pressure ratio of less than 200 is undesirable because of poor ejector efficiency when operating at low steam pressure.

The water vapour from the flash chamber are entrained by the high velocity steam and both are mixed in the mixing section at constant pressure. The mean velocity of the mixture will be supersonic, after the mixing is complete. This supersonic steam gets a normal shock, in the constant area throat of the diffuser. This results in the rise of pressure and subsonic flow. The function of the diverging portion of the diffuser is to recover the velocity head as pressure head by gradually reducing the velocity.

Analysis of Steam Jet Refrigeration System: -

The temperature – entropy ($T-s$) and enthalpy-entropy ($h-s$) diagrams for a steam jet refrigeration system are shown in fig. (a) and (b) respectively.

The point A represents the initial condition of the motive steam before passing through the nozzle and the point B is the final condition of the steam, assuming isentropic expansion. The point C represents the initial condition of the water vapour in the flash chamber or evaporator and the point E is the condition of the mixture of high velocity steam from the nozzle and the entrained water vapour before compression. Assuming isentropic compression, the final condition of the mixture discharged to the condenser is represented by point F. The final condition of the mixture before mixing with the water vapour is shown at point D. The make-up water is supplied at point G whose temperature is slightly lower than the condenser temperature and is throttled to point H in the flash chamber.

Viva Questions

1. What is principle of a steam jet refrigeration system?
2. Explain the working of steam jet refrigeration system?
3. What are the advantages of steam jet refrigeration system?

4. What are the disadvantages of steam jet refrigeration system?
5. What is Steam Ejector?

EXPERIMENT NO. 10

Aim: - To study the analysis of simple vapour compression cycle and explain the various types of Vapour compression cycle with T-S and P-H diagram

Apparatus Used: - schematic diagram of Simple vapour compression cycle.

Theory:

A vapour compression refrigeration system is an improved type of air refrigeration system in which a suitable working substance, termed as refrigerant, is used. It condenses and evaporates at temperatures and pressures close to the atmospheric conditions. The refrigerants, usually, used for this purpose are ammonia (NH_3), carbon dioxide (CO_2) and sulphur dioxide (SO_2). The refrigerant used, does not leave the system, but is circulated throughout the system alternately condensing and evaporating. In evaporating, the refrigerant absorbs its latent heat from the brine (salt water) which is used for circulating it around the cold chamber. While condensing, it gives out its latent heat to the circulating water of the cooler. The vapour compression refrigeration system is, therefore a latent heat pump, as it pumps its latent heat from the brine and delivers it to the cooler. The vapour compression refrigeration system is now-a-days used for all purpose refrigeration. It is generally used for all industrial purpose from a small domestic refrigerator to a big air conditioning plant.

Mechanism of a Simple Vapour Compression Refrigeration System

Compressor:

The low pressure and temperature vapour refrigerant from evaporator is drawn into the compressor through the inlet or suction valve A, where it is compressed to a high pressure and temperature. This high pressure and temperature vapour refrigerant is discharged into the condenser through the delivery or discharge valve B.

Condenser:

The condenser or cooler consists of coils of pipe in which the high pressure and temperature vapour refrigerant is cooled and condensed. The refrigerant, while passing through the condenser, gives up its latent heat to the surrounding condensing medium which is normally air or water.

Receiver:

The condensed liquid refrigerant from the condenser is stored in a vessel known as receiver from where it is supplied to the evaporator through the expansion valve or refrigerant control valve.

Expansion valve:

It is also called throttle valve or refrigerant control valve. The function of the expansion valve is to allow the liquid refrigerant under high pressure and temperature to pass at a controlled rate after reducing its pressure and temperature. Some of the liquid refrigerant evaporates as it passes through the expansion valve, but the greater portion is vaporized in the evaporator at the low pressure and temperature.

Evaporator:

An evaporator consists of coils of pipe in which the liquid-vapour refrigerant at low pressure and temperature is evaporated and changed into vapour refrigerant under high pressure and temperature to pass at a controlled rate after reducing its pressure and temperature. Some of the liquid refrigerant evaporates as it passes through the expansion valve, but the greater portion is vaporized in the evaporator at the low pressure and temperature.

Types of Vapour Compression Cycles:

We have already discussed that vapour compression cycle essentially consists of compression, condensation, throttling and evaporation. Many scientists have focused their attention to increase the coefficient of performance of the cycle. Though there are many cycles, yet the following are important from the subject point of view:

1. Cycle with dry saturated vapour after compression,
2. Cycle with wet vapour after compression,
3. Cycle with superheated vapour after compression,
4. Cycle with superheated vapour before compression, and
5. Cycle with under-cooling or sub-cooling of refrigerant.

Theoretical Vapour Compression Cycle with Dry Saturated Vapour after compression

A vapour compression cycle with dry saturated vapour after compression is shown on T-S and P-H diagrams in (a) and (b) respectively. At point 1, let T_1 , p_1 and s_1 , be the temperature, pressure and entropy of the vapour refrigerant respectively. The four processes of the cycle are as follows:

1. Compression Process:

The vapour refrigerant at low pressure p_1 and temperature T_1 is compressed isentropic ally to dry saturated vapour as shown by the vertical line 1-2 on T-s diagram and by the curve 1-2 p - h diagram. The pressure and temperature rises from p_1 to p_2 and T_1 to T_2 respectively.

The work done during isentropic compression per kg of refrigerant is given by
 $w = h_2 - h_1$

Where

h_1 = Enthalpy of vapour refrigerant at temperature T_1 , i.e. at suction of the compressor, and

h_2 = Enthalpy of the vapour refrigerant at temperature T_2 , i.e. at discharge of the compressor.

2. Condensing process:

The high pressure and temperature vapour refrigerant from the compressor is passed through the condenser where it is completely condensed at constant pressure p_2 and temperature T_2 , as shown by the horizontal line 2-3 on T-s and p-h diagrams. The vapour refrigerant is changed into liquid refrigerant. The refrigerant while passing through the condenser, gives its latent heat to the surrounding condensing medium.

3. Expansion process

The liquid refrigerant at pressure $p_3 = p_2$ and temperature $T_3 = T_2$ is expanded by throttling process through the expansion valve to a low pressure $p_4 = p_1$ and temperature $T_4 = T_1$ as shown by the curve 3-4 on T-s diagram and by the vertical line 3-4 on p-h diagram. We have already discussed that some of the liquid refrigerant evaporates as it passes through the expansion valve, but the greater portion is vaporized in the evaporator. We know that during the throttling process, no heat is absorbed or rejected by the liquid refrigerant.

4. Vaporizing process:

The liquid-vapour mixture of the refrigerant at pressure $p_4 = p_1$ and temperature $T_4 = T_1$ is evaporated and changed into vapour refrigerant at constant pressure and temperature, as shown by the horizontal line 4-1 on T-s and p-h diagrams. During evaporation, the liquid-vapour refrigerant absorbs its latent heat of vaporization from the medium (air, water or brine) which is to be cooled. This heat which is absorbed by the refrigerant is called refrigerating effect and it is briefly written as R_E . The process of vaporization continues up to point 1 which is the starting point and thus the cycle is completed.

We know that the refrigerating effect or the heat absorbed or extracted by the liquid-vapour refrigerant during evaporation per kg of refrigerant is given by

$$R_E = h_1 - h_4 = h_1 - h_{f3}$$

Where h_{f3} = Sensible heat at temperature T_3 , i.e. enthalpy of liquid refrigerant leaving the condenser.

It may be noticed from the cycle that the liquid-vapour refrigerant has extracted heat during evaporation and the work will be done by the compressor for isentropic compression of the high pressure and temperature vapour refrigerant.

Coefficient of performance,

$$\therefore \text{C.O.P.} = \text{Refrigerating effect} / \text{Work done} = (h_1 - h_4) / (h_2 - h_1) = (h_1 - h_{f3}) / (h_2 - h_1)$$

Theoretical Vapour Compression Cycle with Wet Vapour after Compression

In this cycle, the enthalpy at point 2 is found out with the help of dryness fraction at this point. The dryness fraction at points 1 and 2 may be obtained by equating entropies at points 1 and 2.

$$\therefore \text{C.O.P.} = \text{Refrigerating effect} / \text{Work done} = (h_1 - h_{f3}) / (h_2 - h_1)$$

Theoretical Vapour Compression Cycle with Superheated Vapour after Compression

In this cycle, the enthalpy at point 2 is found out with the help of degree of superheat. The degree of superheat may be found out by equating the entropies at points 1 and 2.

Now the coefficient of performance may be found out as usual from the relation,

$$\therefore \text{C.O.P.} = \text{Refrigerating effect} / \text{Work done} = (h_1 - h_{f3}) / (h_2 - h_1)$$

A little consideration will show that the superheating increase the refrigerating effect and the amount of work done in the compressor. Since the increase in refrigerating effect is less as compared to the increase in work done, therefore, the net effect of superheating is to have low coefficient of performance.

Theoretical Vapour Compression Cycle with Superheated Vapour before Compression:

In this cycle, the evaporation starts at point 4 and continues up to point 1', when it is dry saturated. The vapour is now superheated before entering the compressor up to the point 1.

The coefficient of performance may be found out as usual from the relation.

$$\therefore \text{C.O.P.} = \text{Refrigerating effect} / \text{Work done} = (h_1 - h_{f3}) / (h_2 - h_1)$$

Theoretical Vapour Compression Cycle with under cooling or Sub cooling of Refrigerant:

Sometimes, the refrigerant, after condensation process 2'-3', is cooled below the saturation temperature ($T_{3''}$) before expansion by throttling. Such a process is called under cooling or sub cooling of the refrigerant and is generally done along the liquid line as shown in fig. The ultimate effect of the under cooling is to increase the value of coefficient of performance under the same set of conditions.

The process of under cooling is generally brought about by circulating more quantity of cooling water through the condenser or by using water colder than the main circulating water. Sometimes, this process is also brought about by employing a heat exchanger. In actual practice, the refrigerant is superheated after compression and under cooled before throttling, as shown. A little consideration will show that the refrigerating effect is increased by adopting both the superheating and under cooling process as compared to a cycle without them, which is shown by dotted lines.

In this case, the refrigerating effect or heat absorbed or extracted,

$$R_E = h_1 - h_4 = h_1 - h_{f3}$$

$$\text{And work done, } w = h_2 - h_1$$

$$\therefore \text{C.O.P.} = \text{Refrigerating effect} / \text{Work done} = (h_1 - h_{f3}) / (h_2 - h_1)$$

Viva Questions

1. What are the advantages of vapour compression refrigeration system?
2. Describe the mechanism of a simple vapour compression refrigeration system?
3. What is sub-cooling and superheating?
4. Why is superheating considered to be good in certain cases?
5. What is tonnage capacity of refrigeration system?
6. What is the effect of superheating and sub cooling on the COP?