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**Amir Vosough**  
 SAMA Technical and  
 Vocational Training College,  
 Islamic Azad University,  
 Ahvaz Branch, Ahvaz, Iran.

**Shahab Shahidi**  
 SAMA Technical and  
 Vocational Training College,  
 Islamic Azad University,  
 Ahvaz Branch, Ahvaz, Iran.

**Ashcan Marahel**  
 SAMA Technical and  
 Vocational Training College,  
 Islamic Azad University,  
 Ahvaz Branch, Ahvaz, Iran.

**Fatemeh Hesami**  
 SAMA Technical and  
 Vocational Training College,  
 Islamic Azad University,  
 Ahvaz Branch, Ahvaz, Iran.

**Correspondence:**  
**Amir Vosough**  
 SAMA Technical and  
 Vocational Training College,  
 Islamic Azad University,  
 Ahvaz Branch, Ahvaz, Iran.

## Optimization the refrigeration cycles using genetic algorithm

**Amir Vosough, Shahab Shahidi, Ashcan Marahel, Fatemeh Hesami**

### Abstract

In this study, a refrigeration cycle with one and two intercoolers is thermodynamically examined. This work attempts to substitute the effect of environmentally harmful agents in nature, such as R134a with environment-friendly fluids in nature: R152a, R404a and R744 examine the effect of this substitution on the performance of the cycle and compare it to the previous working fluids and finally, the best refrigerant considering properties and performance is selected. The consequence shows the highest irreversibility is related to the throttle valve and then the compressors.

**Keywords:** Refrigeration system, Modeling, Simulation, Performance, Comparison.

### 1. Introduction

The average world temperature will be increasing from 1.5 K to 4.5 K in the next 100 years. The key factor in global warming is greenhouse gas emissions. A part of producing greenhouse gases are due to the use of HFC refrigerants in cooling systems. These refrigerants strongly affect global warming. Using environment-friendly refrigerants has always been the concern of environmentalists and the world community. (R744)CO<sub>2</sub>, R152a and R32 are among refrigerants that can solve the issues of greenhouse gas emissions and further depletion of the ozone layer at the present time and in the future. Yet another concern is regarding the performance of these refrigerants. Therefore, this study compared the performance of these refrigerants with that of CFC ones, e.g. R134a.

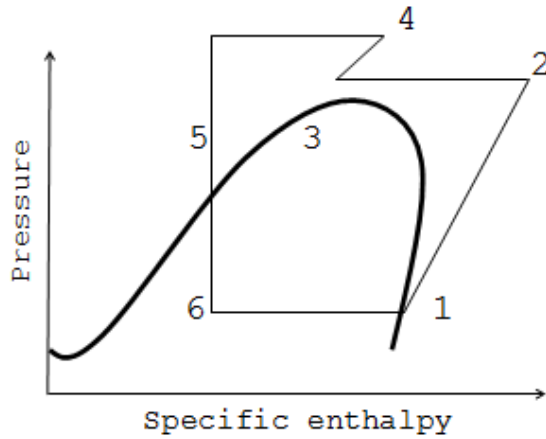
Aphornratana S *et al.* [1] did energy and exergy analyses on the simple absorption refrigeration cycle and showed the results in graphs. He calculated the lost exergy in different parts of the cycle and showed that irreversibility due to the transmission of heat in the evaporator has a profound effect on the performance of the cycle. The results indicated that the highest level of internal irreversibility occurs in the absorbent and the generator. He showed that this irreversibility is reducible by increasing the heat transmission coefficient of transformers.

By considering the condenser temperature to vary from 298 K to 308 K and the evaporator temperatures to vary from 238 K to 228 K and analyzing the effects of temperature variations on the irreversibilities of the cycle, Nikolaidis AC *et al.* [2] conducted an exergy analysis on the two-phased R22 refrigeration cycle. He indicated that changes in the weather have considerable effects on the performance of the cycle and concluded that the environment, weather is an important factor in the optimal design of the refrigeration cycle.

Considering the increasing size of the hole in the ozone layer, global warming and the pressures by the legal community, McMullan JT [3] stated that the types and manner of using refrigerants and the related industries should be reconsidered. He discussed imminent problems and the way industries can go along with these issues. In this study, he also discussed alternative refrigerants, the complexity of using combinations of refrigerants and the complexity dangers in the design and manufacturing of the use of combinations of refrigerants against common refrigerants. Yang JL *et al.* [4] examined the environment-friendly refrigerant R1234yf instead of the common refrigerant R134a and concluded that the performance of this refrigerant is lower compared to common refrigerants. They also utilized numerical analysis in order to optimize condenser and evaporator. More research is conducted regarding refrigeration cycles that can be examined in articles [5-10].

This study examines the thermodynamics analyses of two refrigeration cycles shown in figure 1 and 2 with a single intercooler and two intercoolers. The working fluid is one of the three common refrigerants: R134a, R32 and R152a. The performance of these refrigerants is

compared to the environment-friendly fluid in nature R744 (CO<sub>2</sub>) refrigerant and the best refrigerant fluid is selected considering properties and performance. Also, the best pressures of cycles in relation to each other was obtained using optimization algorithms.



**Fig 1:** A schematic view of the cycle with one intercooler for the refrigerant (R-744) CO<sub>2</sub>

## 2. Methodology

The isentropic yield of the low, intermediate and high pressure compressor is calculated using the formulae (1-3), which will be considered to be 70, 75, and 80%.

$$\eta_{is,c,Lp} = \frac{h_{2s} - h_1}{h_2 - h_1} \quad (1)$$

$$\eta_{is,c,Ip} = \frac{h_{4s} - h_3}{h_4 - h_3} \quad (2)$$

$$\eta_{is,c,Hp} = \frac{h_{6s} - h_5}{h_6 - h_5} \quad (3)$$

The special work of the compressor is calculated using Formula (4).

$$w_c = \frac{[(h_2 - h_1) + (h_4 - h_3) + (h_6 - h_5)]}{\eta_{mech}} \quad (4)$$

The output heat from the intercooler and the gas cooler are calculated using formulae (5-7).

$$q_{ic,1} = h_2 - h_3 \quad (5)$$

$$q_{ic,2} = h_4 - h_5 \quad (6)$$

$$q_{gc} = h_6 - h_7 \quad (7)$$

The heat transmitted from the evaporator is calculated using Formula (8).

$$q_{ev} = h_1 - h_8 \quad (8)$$

The energy balance of the cycle is calculated using Formula (9).

$$w_c = (q_{gc} + q_{ic,1} + q_{ic,2}) - q_{ev} \quad (9)$$

Finally, the performance of the cooling system is as Equation (10).

$$COP = \frac{q_{ev}}{w_c} \quad (10)$$

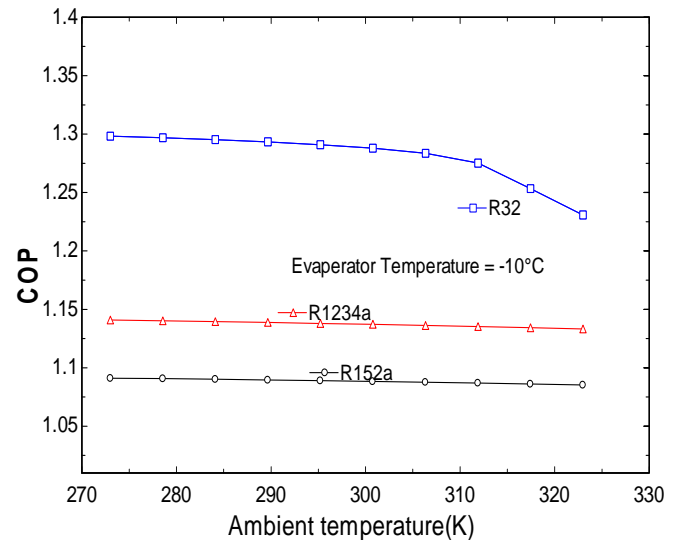
The efficiency of the second law of thermodynamics of the system is calculated using Formula (11).

$$\eta_{II} = \frac{w_c - (i_c + i_{gc} + i_{ic} + i_{tv} + i_{ev})}{w_c} \quad (11)$$

In order to perform thermodynamic calculations, a code is written in EES software and exergy and energy analyses are done in the cycles, so that the strengths and weaknesses of the cycles are determined for optimization and the comparison of refrigerants. The Genetic algorithm of EES software is used to analyze the refrigeration cycle.

## 3. Results and Discussion

In Figure 2, the coefficient of performance of the cycle is calculated for three types of refrigerants in terms of the ambient temperature in evaporator temperature of -20 °C. As shown in this figure, the efficiency of the cycle decreases with the increase of the ambient temperature.



**Fig 2:** The coefficient of performance of the cycle in terms of the ambient temperature in evaporator temperature of -10 °C

In Table 1, the irreversibility of various components of the cycle with one intercooler is calculated. As can be seen in the table, the highest irreversibility is related to the throttle valve and then the compressors. It is true that a great deal of the energy in the condenser is lost, but this energy has low temperature and pressure and its working ability, called exergy, is also low. Therefore, the irreversibility due to the waste of heat in the condenser is in the third rank.

**Table 1:** The irreversibility of various components of the cycle with one intercooler for refrigerant R744

Components	Irreversibility (kJ/kg)	Component irreversibility/Total Irreversibility (%)
Compressors	22.67	27.53
Inter cooler	7.65	9.3
condenser	18.41	20.6
evaporator	3.32	4.3
Throttle valve	30.28	36.77
COP	-	1.2
II $\eta$	-	30.89
total	82.33	100

In Table 2, the level of irreversibility of various components of the cycle with two intercoolers for refrigerant R744 is calculated. As can be seen in Table 5, the highest percentage of irreversibility is related to the throttle valve with 39.7% and after that the compressors with 29.23%. Comparing tables 4 and 5 shows that the cycle with two intercoolers has a lower irreversibility and better coefficient of performance since the cycle is closer to its state of ideal Carnot cycle thermodynamically and this is compatible with thermodynamic concepts.

**Table 2:** The irreversibility of various components of the cycle with two intercoolers for refrigerant R744

Components	Irreversibility(kJ/kg)	Component irreversibility/ Total irreversibility (%)
Compressors	22.3	29.23
Inter cooler1	7.65	10.0
Inter cooler2	9.9	12.98
condenser	2.8	3.67
evaporator	3.32	4.23
Throttle valve	30.28	39.7
COP	-	1.27
$\Pi\eta$	-	32.1
total	76.26	100

As can be seen in Table 3, different components of the refrigeration cycle are compared to each other considering the type of refrigerants in terms of the level of irreversibility

**Table 3:** Comparison of the level of irreversibility and efficiency of different refrigerants in evaporator temperature of  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and environment conditions ( $C \Phi_{\text{atm}}=1 \text{ bar}$ ,  $T_{\text{atm}}=25$ )

Refrigerant	Compressor (Kw)	Evaporator (Kw)	Condenser (Kw)	Inter cooler(Kw)	Throttle valve (Kw)	Total irreversibility(Kw)	Second law efficiency (%)	Cop
R134a	22.16	2.911	4.061	43.77	17.02	89.93	24.84	1.137
R152a	36.34	4.857	8.088	85.81	22.6	157.7	24.2	1.088
R32	33.19	5.207	33.19	67.39	20.81	138	26.79	1.286

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