

30 140 150 160 170 180 150 200 210
Entholpy (Blu D)

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Sense

Webinar Series

1.86 $10^{-3}T^{3/2}\sqrt{1/M_1+1/M_2}$

 $p\sigma_1^2\Omega$

Making Sense Webinars

Emerson and Our Partners Giving Insight on the Three Most Important Issues in Refrigeration

Sense of the promising role of **Sense Sense Contains and Sense 1**

Webinar Series

Mid-Point vs. Dew Point

Refrigerant Blends, Glide and Design of Systems

July 16, 2013

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Agenda

- **Basics of Refrigerant Blends and "Glide"**
- **How Refrigerant Glide Affects System Components**
	- Heat Exchangers
	- Compressors Selection

Maintenance of Systems Using Refrigerants With Glide

- Setting Superheat, Sub-cooling
- Charging Systems and Handling Leaks

Questions and Answers

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Refrigerants and Refrigerant Blends

- **Refrigerants can be single component or a blend of several** component chemicals
- ASHRAE classifies blends as Azeotropic (R500 Series) and Zeotropic (R400 Series)
- Single refrigerants and Azeotropic blends evaporate or condense at constant temperature in a constant pressure process
- For Zeotropic blends going through a constant pressure process, the temperature varies between dew (saturated vapor) and bubble (saturated liquid) points
	- The temperature variation (glide) can be relatively small like R410A, and R404A, which for practical purposes can be treated as single refrigerants or Azeotropes
	- However, many Zeotropes have larger temperature glide subject of this webinar

What Is Glide?

Single Component Refrigerant in Equilibrium

Two-Component Blend in Equilibrium

What Is Glide?

Makin

Mollier Diagram (p-h Chart): Single Refrigerant

Courtesy: Honeywell

Enthalpy (kJ/kg)

Makinc

Mollier Diagram (p-h Chart): Single Refrigerant

Enthalpy (kJ/kg)

States Along the Vapor Line Are at Dew Point

> **"When the saturated vapor starts to cool, it will form dew drops…"**

States Along the Liquid Line Are at Bubble Point

"…saturated liquid will start to form bubbles when heated…"

In Between the Two Is Your "Mid-Point"

Courtesy: Honeywell

Mid-Point vs. Dew Point and the Refrigeration Cycle

Makin

Assume Negligible Pressure Drop Effects

Mid-Point vs. Dew Point and the Refrigeration Cycle (Continued)

But When There Is Glide…

Per AHRI Standards, Compressors are Rated Based on Dew Point Pressure/ Temperatures

When there is glide and assuming little/no pressure drop, the temperature at mid-point ≠ temperature at dew point

Assume Negligible Pressure Drop Effects

Designing a System for Refrigerants With Glide: Heat Exchangers

Evaporator

- $-$ Average Temperature Across the Coil $+$ Fan $=$ Discharge Air Temperature
	- This is also recognized as the Mid-Point
	- Evaporator Mid-Point Temperature = Average of Evaporator Inlet and Outlet Temperatures (Dew Point)
		- Ideal Evaporator Inlet Temperature, $T_i = f(h_{liq}, P_{evap;dev})$
		- The inlet temperature is subject to system sub-cooling!

Average Evaporator Coil Temperature

Pressure-Temperature Chart

- **For the Evaporator Coil:**
	- Using gauges, determine the pressure at the outlet of your evaporator
	- Find the corresponding Bubble Temperature using the "Bubble" column
	- Likewise, find the Dew Temperature using the Dew Column
	- $-$ Evaporating Temp. $=$ (Bubble Temp + Dew Temp)/2
- **Example:** Find the average evaporator temperature of a system using R422D as the refrigerant when the gauge pressure at the evaporator outlet reads 48 psig.
	- Find ~48 psig in Bubble Column: 20°F
	- Find ~48 psig in Dew Column: 27°F
	- The Average Coil Temp = $(27+20)/2 = 23.5^{\circ}F$
- **A more accurate estimate would account for inlet quality. So instead of average, multiply bubble by 0.40, dew by 0.60 and sum:**
	- Find ~48 psig in Bubble Column: 20°F
	- Find ~48 psig in Dew Column: 27°F
	- The Average Coil Temp = $0.40*(20) + 0.6*(27) = 24.2^{\circ}F$

Condenser Sizing

$$
TD_{cond} = T_{condensing} - T_{ambient}
$$

- **Catalogs typically use dew point for condensing temperature of blends**
- **With TD based on dew point, blends will show smaller capacity than single refrigerants**
- **This will lead to oversized condensers for blends**

Design Condensing Temperature Should Use Average of Bubble and Dew Points.

Average Condenser Coil Temperature

Pressure-Temperature Chart

- **The operating coil temperature for single component refrigerants is the corresponding temperature found in the P-T Chart.**
- **For blends, however, proceed as follows:**
	- Using gauges, determine the pressure at the outlet of your condenser. Inlet pressure may also be used.
	- Find the corresponding Bubble Temperature using the "Bubble" Column.
	- Likewise, find the Dew Temperature using the Dew Column.
	- $-$ Average Coil Temp. $=$ (Bubble Temp $+$ Dew Temp)/2
- **Example: Find the average condensing temperature of a system using R422D when the gauge pressure at the condenser outlet reads 183 psig.**
	- Find ~183 psig in Bubble Column: 90°F
	- Find ~183 psig in Dew Column: 95°F
	- $-$ The Average Coil Temp = $(90+95)/2 = 92.5$ °F

Actual Example of Condenser Sizing

- Honeywell tested a fully instrumented system comprising a 3 hp semi-hermetic condensing unit and a walk-in cooler/freezer evaporator with R404A and N40
- The ambient air was fixed (95°F), but the condensing temperature was floating to capture the natural response of refrigerant in the heat exchanger
- Data indicates no need to oversize condenser, since TDs (average of bubble and dew) are the same for R404A and N40 blend

Actual System Results (0°F Box, 95°F Ambient)

Design TD Should Be Based on Average of Bubble and Dew Points to Avoid Oversizing the Condenser for a Blend.

Compressor Selection Example Dew Point vs. Mid-Point

Makinc

Emerson Product Selection Software v. 1.0.39

Select Compressors Based on Mid-Point and Compare Energy

Degree of Superheat

Pressure-Temperature Chart

- **The refrigerant is in superheated vapor state at the end of the evaporator.**
- **To determine superheat, use nearest saturated state (Dew Point) in your P-T Chart.**
- **Procedure:**
	- Use gauges to determine the pressure at the coil outlet, and a thermometer to get the actual temperature at the same point.
	- Get the Dew Temperature from the "Dew" Column.
	- Superheat = Actual Temperature Dew Temperature
- **Example:** Find the superheat on a system which uses R422D when the pressure at the evaporator outlet reads 41 psig and your surface thermometer reads 30°F.
	- -41 psig yields $\sim 20^{\circ}$ F (Using Dew Point)
	- Degree of Superheat = $30^{\circ}F (20^{\circ}F) = 10^{\circ}F$

Degree of Subcooling

Pressure-Temperature Chart

- **The Refrigerant will be in liquid state at the end of the condenser.**
- **To determine subcooling, use the nearest saturated state (Bubble Point) in your P-T Chart.**
- **Procedure:**
	- Use gauges to determine the pressure at the coil outlet, and a thermometer to get the actual temperature at the same point.
	- Use the "Bubble" Column to get the Bubble Temperature.
	- Subcooling = Actual Temperature Bubble Temperature
- **Example:** Find the amount of subcooling on a system using R422D when the liquid line temperature reads 96°F and the liquid line pressure is 212 psig.
	- 212 psig yields ~ 100°F (Using Bubble Point)
	- Degree of Subcooling = $100^{\circ}F 96^{\circ}F = 4^{\circ}F$

Subcooling and Refrigerant Charging in Systems Without Liquid Receiver

- **Systems Without Liquid Receiver** are known **as Critically Charged**
- **Common Practice** is to charge those systems to **Match the Subcooling (From Bubble Point)**
- For **Blends With Glide,** this will result in an **Overcharged** System

Subcooling (from Bubble Point) should be lowered by about ½ of the glide when working with blends in critically charged systems

Vlakin

Fractionation of Blends During Leak Events

- **Leak Events Were Simulated Using a 0.1 mm ID Orifice in** a 1-Ton Walk-in Cooler/Freezer System (Box Temp of -25°C). Outdoor varied from 10°C to 20°C.
- **Charge of R407F and POE Lubricant**
- **Two Types of Leaks Were Evaluated in Two Locations:**
	- System ON: 1) Vapor Discharge Line, 2) Middle of Condenser (Liquid-vapor)
	- System OFF: In the Middle of the Condenser (Vapor While System OFF)

Fractionation During Leak Events

- There were no changes in composition during vapor leaks at the discharge line
- Leaks in the middle of the condenser with system ON or OFF caused minor changes in composition, **Mostly Within Typical Refrigerant Tolerances (±2%)**
- Performance decreased less than **5% Due to the Fractionation**
- If the charge is topped off, composition and performance get even closer to original values

Final Comments

- Blends behave differently than single component refrigerants when liquid+vapor are present in equilibrium
- Compressor selection should be made knowing how the *system* will actually operate, not how the compressor was tested
- Heat exchangers will operate at different refrigerant temperatures when blends are used, which should be taken into account when selections are made
- System charging, subcooling, setting superheat, topping off after a leak — all deserve special attention
- This presentation is for information only consult individual component and equipment manufacturers for specific guidelines on the use of their equipment

Thank You!

We thank Honeywell BRL for their assistance with several of the charts and content of this presentation.

Questions and Answers

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