

Research Article

Matlab-Simulink Model of CHMT for Internal Climate in Greenhouses

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Abstract

Over the past twenty years, Kenya's food security has been threatened by the sub-division of land into tiny areas and the clearance of forests to make way for settlement. These actions have an impact on soil moisture, rainfall patterns, and regional temperature changes. Clear response plans and adaptation techniques have been required to address the threats that have arisen. Greenhouse farming, where warmer temperatures are attained and the impact of unfavourable weather conditions on plants is mitigated by the enclosure, is one strategy being used to combat the production of food and climate change. Nevertheless, crop production and quality are negatively impacted by traditional techniques of regulating temperature and humidity through arbitrary opening and closing of the greenhouse walls. In light of this, the goal of this research was to enhance greenhouse farming as it exists today by implementing a dynamic, adjustable system that would create ideal climate conditions for plant growth. This mostly entailed controlling the greenhouse's humidity, temperature, and vapour pressure deficit to the ideal ranges needed by various plants. The humidity and air temperature within the greenhouse were the controlled microclimate conditions. These were accomplished by simulating the convective heat transfer and mass transfer that occur inside the greenhouse to control the temperature and humidity, and by developing mathematical model utilizing differential equations. Proportional Integral Derivative (PID) was utilized to automatically modify SIMULINK, a block-based modelling and simulation tool. Regardless of the different external conditions, the numerical values for internal temperature and humidity were calculated and graphically depicted. The model made it possible to modify the outcomes according to the needs of the plant. To increase crop productivity in greenhouse farming, it was suggested that a physical prototype model be constructed and integrated into the greenhouse construction.

Keywords

Matlab, Simulink, Convective Heat, Convective Mass, Greenhouse, Climate, PID

1. Introduction

1.1. Background Information

In the last few decades, climate change has affected global agriculture and the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate

Change assessment report indicated that most countries have experienced increase in average temperature and periods of heavy precipitation. These climatic variability and changes have posed a threat to food production in areas where farming is predominantly rain-dependent and on small-scale for

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Received: 31 March 2024; Accepted: 16 April 2024; Published: 27 August 2024



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majority of the farmers. In order to counter the above mentioned challenges in Kenya, National Greenhouse Manufacturing Association proposed adaptation irrigation and greenhouse farming [12, 19]. Greenhouse is a buildings used for the production of crops where more favorable climatical conditions are attained by applying the appropriate control methods. The greenhouses are built to gather light and to trap the considerable heat contained in sunshine [7, 28, 31], as shown by Figure 1. It is with this idea that the researchers of

this paper used to improve the current and increase greenhouse farming in the Central Kenya. The ventilation of the greenhouse is required to remove heated air and introduce drier air for evaporative cooling. In areas with extremely high temperatures and very dry air, it may be possible to maintain cooler air temperatures than outdoors by taking advantage of the combined effects of evaporative cooling equipment and crop transpiration [7, 8, 11, 25].

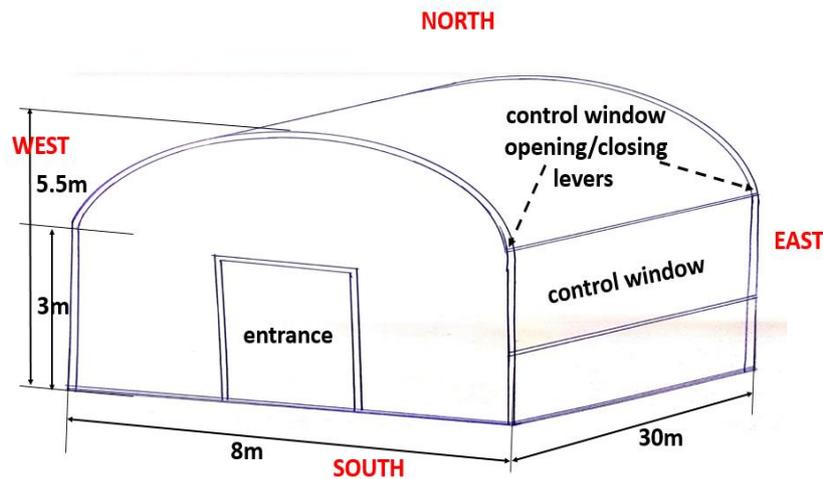


Figure 1. Dimensions of the greenhouse under study.

In a greenhouse heat and mass transfer (HMT), mainly occur through convection which is the movement of groups of molecules within fluid either by diffusion or by advection; heat fluxes are due to condensation of water vapor, from solar radiation, ventilation, and plant transpiration. Most of convective heat fluxes exchanging between different parts of the greenhouse depend on the heat transfer coefficients and the temperature difference between the elements surface and the air. Water vapor content of the air inside the greenhouse is an important environmental parameter, which determines the proper development of a crop. The model describing the changes in the water vapor content of the air inside the greenhouse is based on the mass balance equation. Mass transfer due to ventilation can take place in both directions depending on the conditions inside and outside the greenhouse [5, 6, 8, 10].

When the modeling had been done, the governing equations were solved to obtain the required solution. In the study, dynamic model was used to express behavior of the system over time where a model of a system is the replica of the system, which had all the properties and functions of the system, and simulation was the process by which computer was used to reproduce the behavior of a system using a model. Simulation of a system was represented as the running of the system's model which was used to explore and gain new insights into new technology besides estimating the performance of systems that are too complex for analytical solutions. In the analysis, assumptions were made to simplify the model divided it

into number of sub-models as shown by Figure 2, where each sub-model was treated independently before they were integrated together. Often dynamic systems required control system to perform properly thus, PID controller was designed to attain the study objectives [3, 9, 14, 17, 27].

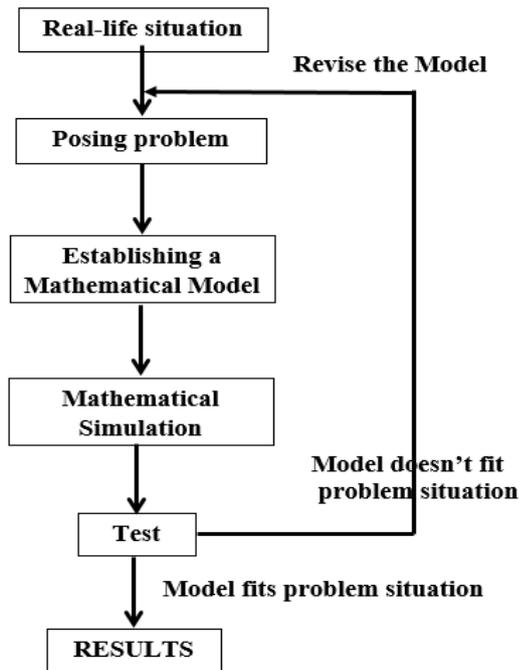


Figure 2. Schematic representation of the Modeling process.

Mathematical modeling can either be black-box model or white-box model depending with available information. In black-box models estimate both the functional relationship between variables and the numerical parameters in those functions and artificial neural networks approach is usually applied, which usually does not need anything except the input and output data sets. These models are mainly used for complex systems, especially when input-output patterns are in quantitative form and when they not in quantitative form, fuzzy models are used, as shown by Figure 3 shows the relationship between inputs and outputs of a system [2, 15, 17, 26, 29, 30].

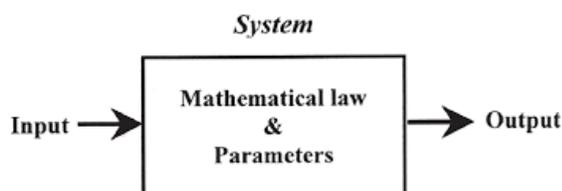


Figure 3. Representation of Mathematical Model.

1.2. Statement of Research Problem

Most of famers practicing greenhouse farming control the temperature and humidity by conventional methods of opening and closing the greenhouses walls. This method affects the yields as the temperature and humidity level required by different plants for maximum production are not guaranteed. This is the concept that formed the base of the research to formulate auto-tuned MATLAB-SIMULINK model of convective HMT

inside a greenhouse and use the results to improve the cooling and ventilating systems. Analysis of simulation results allowed to make statement of logical correctness of the developed model and makes it possible to determine.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The study was done with objective of performing three-dimensional MATLAB-SIMULINK dynamic model for convective HMT for ventilating systems inside a greenhouse, and then:

1. Determine the modes of convection heat and mass transfer (CHMT) of the gases and vapour inside the greenhouse and,
2. Develop an auto-tuned PID-controlled dynamic mathematical MATLAB-SIMULINK model of CHMT exchange of the air inside a greenhouse, where growing of different crops could be carried out.

1.4. Assumptions Made

During the formulation of the mathematical model for these processes, equations of heat and mass balances for the air inside the greenhouse were developed aided by [5, 6, 10, 24] with the following simplifying assumptions:

1. The flow of the gases and vapor inside the greenhouse was assumed to be incompressible and lamina,
2. In the system, effect of energy loses was neglected,
3. Impact of the ground on the HMT was neglected,
4. The evaporation from the greenhouse cover and crops was neglected, because in modern greenhouses the condensate is drained from the cover.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Introduction

The dynamic behavior of the micro-climate inside a greenhouse is a combination of physical processes involving energy transfer and mass balance. The internal processes depend on the outside environmental conditions, structure of the greenhouse, type and state of the crop, and on the effect of the control actuators. The development of models of a dynamic system is a complex process that depends on the characteristics of the dynamics of the process object of study as guided by [7, 15, 17, 27]. These models have been developed in different parts of the world and applied to several greenhouse structures under different climatic actuators, cover materials and crops. Although all these models are based on the same physical principles, they showed differences in the approaches used when adapted to the particular conditions in each area. All these works describe the basic equations of the mathematical models and include some results, but they do not describe the complete methodology used for the implementation, calibration, and validation of the mod-

els. To model the climate that is generated inside a greenhouse based on physical, physiological, biological, and chemical principles, mass and energy balances have to be applied to all its constitutive elements. The internal greenhouse climate is a function of air temperature, water content in the air, external temperatures, surface of the cover, crop type and soil characteristic. Besides the climatical variables, in modeling greenhouse climate one has to consider the presence or absence of installed actuators that constitute the inputs to the system and that can be artificially manipulated. In models of the greenhouse, principle of continuity between its elements applies, so that the HMT processes in each can be studied using mass and energy equations [5-7, 10].

2.2. Literature Review

A number of researchers have in the last two decades performed modeling of the greenhouses climate and applied MATLAB-SIMULINK in their models. Agricultural greenhouse aims to create a favorable micro-climate to the requirements of growth and development of culture, from the surrounding weather conditions, produce according to the cropping calendars fruits, vegetables and flower species out of season and widely available along the year. It is defined by its structural and functional architecture, the quality thermal, mechanical and optical of its wall, with its sealing level and the technical and technological accompanying. The greenhouse is a very confined environment, where multiple components are exchanged between key stakeholders and those factors are light, temperature and relative humidity [3, 9, 20, 21, 24, 28]. Thus, development of applicable cooling technologies is an important research endeavor. And appropriate greenhouse design, right choice of cladding material coupled with suitable ventilation and cooling techniques address the problems of summer greenhouse production of high temperature regions. So, there is a necessity to carry out in deep investigation on the design aspects of greenhouse and its functional characteristics influence on micro-climate. This information is useful for the researchers' work on the engineering aspects of greenhouse technology [7, 8, 17, 21, 25], that is:

1. Adaptation of literature models to the test object, by taking into account characteristic dimensions of the tested greenhouse and its technical equipment,
2. Solve the governing equations for convective HMT inside the greenhouse.
3. Draw up a computer model and perform simulations, and,
4. Graphical and statistical validation of the resulting model of the process of heat exchange and mass transfer in the air inside the greenhouse using the results of experimental studies.

2.3. Greenhouses Technology



Figure 4. Some samples of greenhouses found in Kenya.

In some of the temperate regions where the climatic conditions are extremely adverse, no crops can be grown but man has developed methods of growing some high value crop continuously by providing protection from the excessive cold, which is called as greenhouse technology: technique of providing favorable environment condition to the plants. It is rather used to protect the plants from the adverse climatic conditions such as wind, cold, precipitation, excessive radiation, extreme temperature, insects and diseases. It is also important to create an ideal microclimate around the plants which is possible by erecting a greenhouse, where the environmental conditions are so modified that one can grow any plant in any place at any time by providing suitable environmental conditions with minimum labor. Greenhouses are of different types in relation to use, cost, environmental and geographical location and the material used to cover them. Although there are advantages in each type for a particular application, in general there is no single type greenhouse, which can be constituted as the best, and shown by Figure 4(a) to (f) [6-8, 24, 28, 31].

2.4. Factor Affecting Greenhouse Environment

The dynamic behavior of the greenhouse microclimate is a combination of physical processes involving energy transfer and mass balance. Temperature is the most important variable of the greenhouse climate that can and needs to be controlled. The majority of the crops grown in greenhouses is warm-season species which are adapted to average tempera-

tures in the range 17°C and 27°C. For optimum production, air humidity is another important variable, which has traditionally been expressed in terms of relative humidity. Relative humidity within the range 60 and 90% is suitable to plant growth. Values below 60% may occur during ventilation in arid climates, or when plants are young with small leaves, and this can cause water stress. Serious problems can occur if the relative humidity exceeds 95% for long periods, and favor rapid development of fungal diseases. [7, 8, 11, 14, 24, 28].

2.5. Energy and Mass Balances

Convective heat transfer is transfer of heat from one place to another via movement of fluids. Practically, convective heat transfer involves the combined processes of unknown conduction and advection. This motion is associated with large numbers of molecules are moving collectively or as aggregates. Such motion, in the presence of a temperature gradient, contributes to heat transfer. Because the molecules in aggregate retain their random motion, the total heat transfer is then due to the superposition of energy transport by random motion of the molecules and by the bulk motion of the fluid, shown in Figure 5 [5, 6, 10, 27].

Mass transfer between a moving fluid and a surface or between immiscible moving fluids separated by a mobile interface is often aided by the dynamic characteristics of the moving fluid. This mode of transfer is called convective mass transfer, with the transfer always going from a higher to a lower concentration of the species being transferred. Convective transfer depends on both the transport properties and the dynamic characteristics of the flowing fluid. When an external pump or similar device causes the fluid motion, the process is called forced convection. If the fluid motion is due to a density difference, the process is called free or natural convection shown in Figure 5 [5, 6, 10, 27].

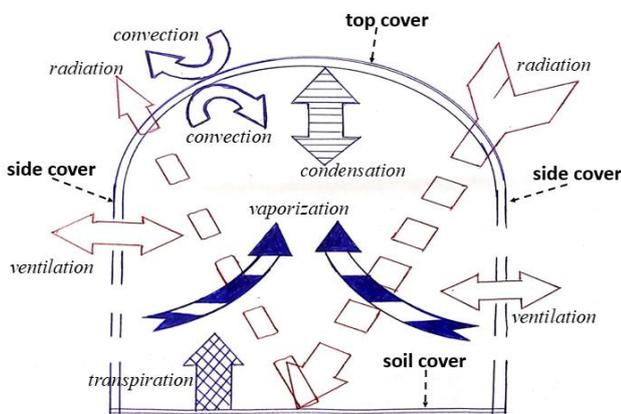


Figure 5. Modes of heat and mass exchange inside and outside a greenhouse.

2.6. Structural Requirements

The National Greenhouse Manufacturing Association developed excellent standards for ventilating and cooling greenhouses. These include recommendations and designs affecting site elevation, sunlight intensity, orientation and shape of the greenhouse and crops being grown [14, 31]. The following is a discussion of systems and requirements. Greenhouse ventilation is required to regulate temperature and moisture levels and provide carbon dioxide for good crop production. There are two basic ventilation systems used in greenhouse production systems, natural and mechanical ventilation systems [11, 14, 17, 25, 31]. Natural ventilation depends upon normal air movement created by wind pressures or by gradients induced by differences in air temperature between the growing area and the outside environment. Mechanical ventilation is defined as air movement created by fans that bring air into the growing area through controllable openings built into the greenhouse walls and exhaust it through the fan assembly. The ability to change the size of inlets is important for proper design of mechanical ventilation systems. Fan ventilation is normally controlled by thermostats and in some cases by humidity sensing devices when relative humidity is the control parameter [7, 8, 11, 31].

There are two primary reasons airflow is necessary in greenhouses: to remove excess heat through ventilation as the temperature rises, replacing hot air with cooler air, and to control relative humidity and carbon dioxide within the plant canopy. A single system can serve both needs in smaller greenhouses, while separate exhaust and circulation systems are common in larger-sized greenhouses. Separate systems need to be carefully coordinated and adjusted to work together instead of counteracting each other. Air movement systems range from simple, do-it-yourself arrangements to professionally designed, installed and integrated computer controlled systems [7, 8, 11, 31].

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. Introduction

To promote good growth of plants, greenhouses, require either heating or cooling depending with the climatic conditions of the region they are, but equally important they require ventilation during hot days. In relation to CHMT inside a greenhouse, this is required for two reasons: to regulate the internal temperature and to remove water vapor transpired by the plants which are done through ventilation, caused by pressure differences or natural buoyancy forces through ventilators located either on top, on the sides, or both. Air movement and mixing within the greenhouse has a direct influence on the energy exchange of the vegetation. Therefore, it is important that the ventilators are designed correctly and the rate of ventilation controlled adequately. Cultivation technologies are developing with time aiming to lower the cost of production as they gain widespread acceptance and this drives the needs for

a knowledge-rich information technology as we move from the information age to a knowledge-driven society. This has increased the efforts based on modern communication technologies to provide the missing bridge from the expert teams or knowledge bases to the low-level controllers of the production side [7, 11, 14, 23, 25].

In this thesis, the understanding of transport mechanisms leading to the estimation of energy and mass balances of the greenhouse system was very important. The study involved the solar radiation, exchange by convection between the plants, structural parts and the internal and external air, latent heat produced by condensation and vaporization of the water inside and the exchange through evapo-transpiration process of the plants inside. The processes of thermal energy exchange among the greenhouse, the surroundings, and the greenhouse components are illustrated in Figure 6 [10, 23, 25, 28].

3.2. Modes of CHMT for Gases and Vapor Inside the Greenhouse

3.2.1. Introduction

The dynamic behaviour of the micro-climate inside greenhouses is a combination of physical processes involving energy transfer and water vapour fluxes. These processes depend on the outside environmental conditions, structure of the greenhouse, type and state of the crop and on the effect of the control actuators [5-7, 10]. For successful growing of plants inside greenhouses, climate variables mainly temperature and humidity need to be studied carefully. These environmental factors are not possible to change but their effects can be altered. The idea behind greenhouses farming is to alter these environmental factors of a small enclosed region to favor growth of plants that can otherwise not be grown in the original state of these factors. The Table 1 shows some plants and the environmental factors that favor their optimum yields.

Table 1. Plants and the environmental factors that favor their optimum yields.

Plant	Temperature range	Relative humidity range
Tomato	17 – 22°C	65 - 75%
Kale	17 – 22°C	70 - 80%
Cabbage	15 - 20°C	70 - 80%
Strawberries	15 - 23°C	64 - 77%
Grapes	15 - 30°C	60 - 70%
Peas	12 - 24 °C	70 - 80%

3.2.2. Temperature

Air temperature influences the energy balance of the plant canopy through the convective heat transfer to the plant leaves and bodies and this affects air movement in the greenhouse. The optimal level of the air temperature in the greenhouse depends on the photosynthetic activity of the plant in question, under the influence of the intensity of solar radiation on disposal, that is, for each light intensity, there is an optimal air temperature, enabling maximum photosynthetic activity [5-7, 10, 24, 25].

3.2.3. Humidity

Water transport between the plant canopy and the environment is one of the most important parameters of the photosynthetic activity. The water vapour transport depends mainly on light intensity at disposal, temperature of the environment, and root characteristics of the plant in question in combination with the ability of the cultivation base to offer the necessary water quantity, but also on the air humidity of the plant environment. The air humidity influences the greenhouse climate characteristics and transpiration of the plant leaves. The intensity of the water transport of the plants depends directly on the temperature inside the greenhouse, Figure 8 [5-7, 10, 24, 25].

3.3. The Dynamic MATLAB/SIMULINK Auto-tuned PID Controlled Model

3.3.1. Introduction

As internal air diffuses from one point to another inside the greenhouse, it moves with the energy it possesses resulting in heat flow rate. These movements of particles with the energy they possess constitute the CHMT. The Figures 7 and 8 show the convective heat and mass flow of a mixture of components making the greenhouse air, while figure 1 represents a diagrammatic view of the sample greenhouse under study [5-7, 10, 24, 27].

3.3.2. Heat Transfer Equation

The amount of heat balance in the greenhouse is a multi-dimensional quantity consisting of heat transfer and mass exchange to and from the greenhouse environment. The parameters involved in the physical process of the greenhouse are in an energy balance with the environment and, all together, are in an energy balance with the greenhouse environment. The heat balance according to Figure 6 was expressed by equation (1) as developed by [10, 24, 27].

$$Q_{total} = (Q_{rad} + Q_{trp}) - (Q_{cnv} + Q_{cond} + Q_{ven} + Q_{vap}) \quad (1)$$

Where each heat in Js^{-1} sub-model Q_{total} is net heat flux supplied into the greenhouse, Q_{rad} is heat flux supplied from solar radiation, Q_{trp} is heat flux of transpiration, Q_{cnv} is heat

flux exchanged between interior air and greenhouse cover, Q_{cond} is heat flux supplied by condensation, Q_{ven} is heat flux exchanged through the ventilation and Q_{vap} is heat flux exchanged through the ventilation; are defined by [10] as,

$$Q_{rad} = \tau_{air} I_{air} A_{gh}$$

$$Q_{trp} = \frac{\lambda(\alpha - \alpha^2) Q_{rad}}{L_{air}(\lambda + \gamma)} - \left(\frac{0.16\lambda\alpha\kappa\rho C_p (T_{in} - T_{out})}{rL_{air}(\lambda + \gamma)} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\lambda\alpha}{L_{air}(\lambda + \gamma)} \left[(1 - \alpha)\tau_{air} I_{air} A_{gh} - \left(\frac{0.16\kappa\rho C_p (T_{in} - T_{out})}{r} \right) \right]$$

$$Q_{conv} = H_{conv} A_{gh} (T_{in} - T_{out});$$

$$Q_{cond} = \rho_{wat} L_{sat} m_{cond} (H_{in} - H_{out}) (T_{in} - T_{out});$$

$$Q_{ven} = G\rho C_p (T_{in} - T_{out});$$

$$Q_{vap} = \left[\rho V_{vap} C_{vap} - \rho_{wat} V_{liq} C_{liq} \right] (T_{in} - T_{out}) \text{ and}$$

$$Q_{vap} = C_{vap} A_{floor} u \left[\rho - \rho_{wat} \right] (T_{in} - T_{out}).$$

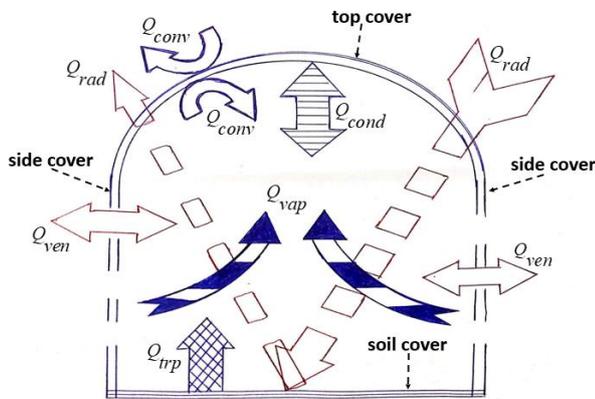


Figure 6. Heat transfer fluxes with the internal air in a greenhouse.

The convection heat transfer model for greenhouse was represented by an air temperature sub-model of the internal air as the parameters of the convection process between the cover, the greenhouse air and the floor. The internal temperature for the model was thus calculated using equation (2) developed by [10, 24, 27]:

$$\rho C_p V \frac{dT_{in}}{dt} = \tau_{air} I_{air} A_{gh} + \left[\frac{\alpha\lambda(1-\alpha)}{L_{air}(\lambda+\gamma)} \tau_{air} I_{air} A_{gh} - \frac{0.16\kappa\lambda\alpha\rho C_p}{rL_{air}(\lambda+\gamma)} (T_{in} - T_{out}) \right] - H_{conv} A_{gh} (T_{in} - T_{out}) - G\rho C_p (T_{in} - T_{out}) - \rho_{wat} L_{sat} m_{cond} (H_{in} - H_{out}) (T_{in} - T_{out}) - C_{vap} A_{pipe} u \left[\rho - \rho_{wat} \right] (T_{in} - T_{out}) \quad (2)$$

Rearranging the terms of equation (2) in favor of $(T_{in} - T_{out})$, $(H_{in} - H_{out})$, $(H_{in} - H_{out})(T_{in} - T_{out})$ and the constant term, the equation yielded (3) below.

$$\rho C_p V \frac{dT_{in}}{dt} = \tau_{air} I_{air} A_{gh} + \frac{\alpha\lambda(1-\alpha)}{L_{air}(\lambda+\gamma)} \tau_{air} I_{air} A_{gh} - \frac{0.16\kappa\lambda\alpha\rho C_p}{rL_{air}(\lambda+\gamma)} (T_{in} - T_{out}) - H_{conv} A_{gh} (T_{in} - T_{out}) - \rho_{wat} L_{sat} m_{cond} (H_{in} - H_{out}) (T_{in} - T_{out}) - G\rho C_p (T_{in} - T_{out}) - C_{vap} A_{pipe} u \left[\rho - \rho_{wat} \right] (T_{in} - T_{out}) \quad (3)$$

Which further simplified to,

$$\frac{dT_{in}}{dt} = A_1 (T_{in} - T_{out}) + A_2 (H_{in} - H_{out}) + A_3 (H_{in} - H_{out})(T_{in} - T_{out}) + A_4 \quad (4)$$

3.3.3. Mass Transfer Equation

Convective mass balance for the internal relative humidity a given ventilation rate and a rate of moisture production for the considered greenhouse was performed. As Figure 7 shows the main sources of vapor in a greenhouse are crop transpiration, evaporation of the soil surface and pools, and water influx by fogging or cooling [10, 24, 27].

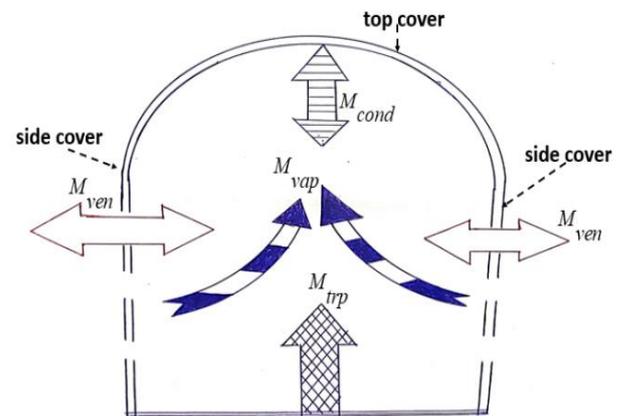


Figure 7. Mass transfer fluxes with the internal air in a greenhouse.

The model describing the changes in the water vapor content of the air inside the greenhouse is based on the

mass balance equation, equation (5) below as used by [10, 24, 27]:

$$M_{total} = M_{trp} + M_{vap} - M_{cond} - M_{ven} \quad (5)$$

Where each mass in $\text{kgm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ sub-model, M_{total} is net mass flux content of inside the greenhouse, M_{trp} is mass flux due to transpiration process, M_{vap} is mass flux of water vapour from irrigated water, M_{cond} is mass flux due to condensation process and M_{ven} is mass lost flux due to ventilation; are defined by the equations,

$$M_{trp} = \frac{\lambda\alpha}{rA_{gh}(\lambda + \gamma)} \left[(1 - \alpha)\tau_{air}I_{air}A_{gh} - \left(\frac{0.16\kappa\rho C_p(T_{in} - T_{out})}{r} \right) \right];$$

$$M_{cond} = \rho_{wat}L_{sat}m_{cond}(H_{in} - H_{out})(T_{in} - T_{out})$$

$$M_{vap} = A_{floor}u(\rho - \rho_{wat}) \text{ and}$$

$$M_{ven} = \frac{\rho C_p G}{3.52895PA_{gh}}(H_{in} - H_{out}).$$

The total mass of gases inside the greenhouse was given by the differential equation (6) assuming that there is no mass lost in the process.

$$V \frac{dH_{in}}{dt} = \frac{\lambda\alpha}{rA_{gh}(\lambda + \gamma)} \left[(1 - \alpha)\tau_{air}I_{air}A_{gh} - \left(\frac{0.16\kappa\rho C_p(T_{in} - T_{out})}{r} \right) \right] + A_{floor}u(\rho - \rho_{wat}) - \rho_{wat}L_{sat}m_{cond}(H_{in} - H_{out})(T_{in} - T_{out}) - \frac{\rho C_p G}{3.52895PA_{gh}}(H_{in} - H_{out}) \quad (6)$$

Like equation (2), rearranging the terms of (6) in favor of $(T_{in} - T_{out})$, $(H_{in} - H_{out})$, $(H_{in} - H_{out})(T_{in} - T_{out})$ and the constant term, the equation was written as equations (7) below.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dH_{in}}{dt} = & -\frac{0.16\kappa\rho C_p V \lambda \alpha}{r^2 A_{gh}(\lambda + \gamma)}(T_{in} - T_{out}) - \frac{V \rho C_p G}{3.52895PA_{gh}}(H_{in} - H_{out}) \\ & - V \rho_{wat}L_{sat}m_{cond}(H_{in} - H_{out})(T_{in} - T_{out}) \\ & + \frac{V \lambda \alpha (1 - \alpha)\tau_{air}I_{air}A_{gh}}{rA_{gh}(\lambda + \gamma)} + VA_{floor}u(\rho - \rho_{wat}) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Which was further written as,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dH_{in}}{dt} = & B_1(T_{in} - T_{out}) + B_2(H_{in} - H_{out}) \\ & + B_3(H_{in} - H_{out})(T_{in} - T_{out}) + B_4 \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

3.4. The Dynamic MATLAB/SIMULINK model

3.4.1. Introduction

As shown in equations (4) and (8), the mathematical model for the air inside a greenhouse includes two nonlinear differential equations, which are related to each other so much, with a complex relationship between the variables making direct calculation difficult. In this research, the dynamic model was designed by a SIMULINK blocks diagram using SIMULINK toolbox in MATLAB.

3.4.2. Greenhouse Model

The climate produced in a greenhouse is the result of complex mechanisms involving the processes of heat and mass exchange. The internal climate is also strongly dependent on the outside conditions, especially in unheated greenhouses. In greenhouse climate models the parameters of the internal climate such as air, soil and crop temperatures, and air humidity are calculated using energy and water vapor balances for the various components of the system. The dynamic behavior of the microclimate inside a greenhouse is a combination of physical systems involving internal heat transfer and mass balance. The HMT coefficients are functions of the system variables and it is important that they are formulated under relevant conditions of the greenhouse situation [9, 10, 24, 27]. Further, greenhouse climate models are specific for a greenhouse type, crop, region and weather conditions and the models are formulated and validated for those specific conditions and it is not possible to directly extrapolate them to different conditions, since they may produce erroneous predictions; thus the need for a model to be formulated for the current geographical location, the Central Kenya region, shown by the pair of equations (9).

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dT_{in}}{dt} = & A_1(T_{in} - T_{out}) + A_2(H_{in} - H_{out}) + \\ & A_3(H_{in} - H_{out})(T_{in} - T_{out}) + A_4 \\ \frac{dH_{in}}{dt} = & B_1(T_{in} - T_{out}) + B_2(H_{in} - H_{out}) + \\ & B_3(H_{in} - H_{out})(T_{in} - T_{out}) + B_4 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (9)$$

Where A_i and B_i for $i=1,2,3,4$ are the air climate parameters inside the greenhouse defined in Appendix.

3.4.3. SIMULINK Model Implementation

SIMULINK is a software package based in MATLAB which is used for modeling, analyzing, and simulating a wide variety of dynamic systems. SIMULINK provides a graphical interface for constructing the models. It is particularly useful for studying the effect of nonlinearities on the behavior of the system. The designed CHMT model composed of two main differential equations, (4) and (8) related to the greenhouse temperature and humidity of internal air. Therefore, this model was divided into

temperature and humidity sub-models as in Figure 8 for the internal air. During the modeling process, it was possible to add new customized blocks. The initialization of the model was performed by a designed MATLAB program that loads in the workspace of MATLAB the greenhouse structure data, the characteristic of the materials used in the greenhouse, the features of the actuator systems, universal physical constants, values of the coefficients involved in the physical processes, crop data, and the initial values of state, output, characteristic, and disturbance variables as shown by flow diagram Figure 8. Further, SIMULINK reads the values of the available external variables contained in data files [3, 9, 20, 23]. On the other hand, the simulation of this model involved the solution of governing differential equations also done by SIMULINK solvers for such equations.

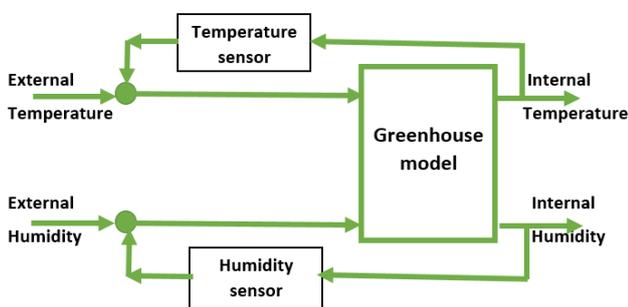


Figure 8. Simulink scheme for greenhouse model.

3.4.4. PID-Controller Theory

The greenhouse environment control problem was to create a favorable environment for the crop in order to reach predetermined results for high yield, high quality and low costs. It was difficult to implement control problem practically due to the complexity of the greenhouse environments; however, most of these approaches are either theoretically complex or difficult to implement in the actual greenhouse production, and in this problem the controller method adopted was PID-controller method due to its simple architecture, easy implementation and excellent performance. These terms, proportional, integral, and derivative are then summed to calculate the output of the PID controller as shown by

equation (10). PID controller, shown by Figures 9 and 10, is a control loop feedback mechanism widely used to control systems. In this thesis, the controller attempts to minimize the difference between the measured and expected values shown by Figure 9 by adjusting the greenhouse processes through the three PID parameters and then determining the weighted sum which was then adjusted by tuning. By tuning the three parameters in the PID controller algorithm, the controller can provide control action designed for specific process requirements as explained by [1, 2, 4, 13, 22].

$$u(k) = K_p e(t) + K_i \int_0^t e(t) dt + K_d \frac{de(t)}{dt} \quad (10)$$

Where,

$$y(t) = \begin{bmatrix} T_{in}(t) \\ H_{in}(t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad u(t) = \begin{bmatrix} u(T_{in}(t)) \\ u(H_{in}(t)) \end{bmatrix}, \quad e(t) = |y(t) - u(t)| \quad (11)$$

PID tuning is the process of finding the values of proportional, integral, and derivative gains of a PID controller to achieve desired performance and meet design requirements. Traditionally, PID controllers are tuned either manually or using rule-based methods. Manual tuning methods are iterative and time-consuming, and if used on hardware, they can cause damage [1, 2, 4, 13, 22]. In this research, PID controllers were automatically tuned to achieve the optimal system design and to meet design requirements, since plant modeled could not be handled using traditional rule-based methods accurately, Figure 9. This automated PID tuning workflow involved:

1. Identifying greenhouse model from input-output test data,
2. Modeling PID controllers in Simulink using PID Controller blocks,
3. Automatically tuning PID controller gains and fine-tune your design interactively,
4. Tuning multiple controllers in batch mode, and,
5. Tuning single-input single-output PID controllers as well as multi-loop PID controller architectures.

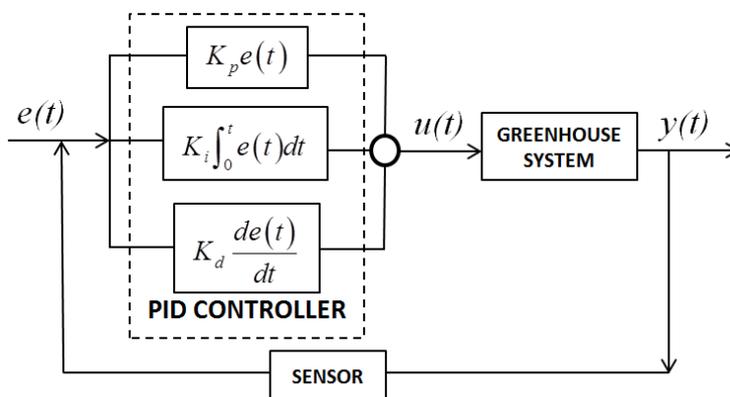


Figure 9. Block diagram of general PID controller.

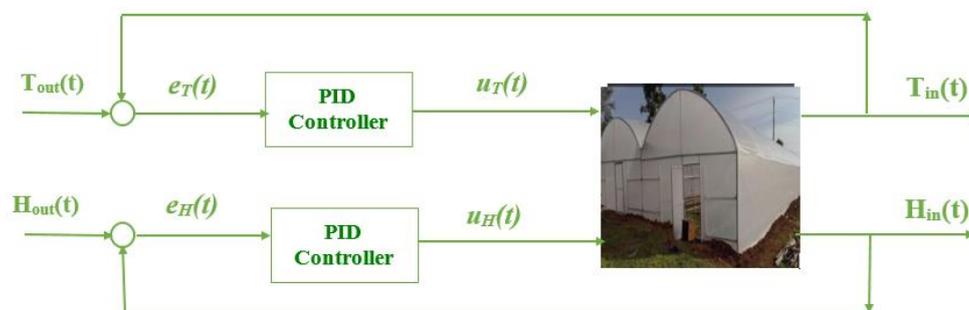


Figure 10. PID-controller for Temperature and Humidity.

Note that the greenhouse dynamic system mentioned above is a two-input and two-output continuous time nonlinear system, as shown in Figure 10. In order to simulate its behavior on a digital computer, the automatic PID-controller tuning was adopted to evaluate the PID terms as explained by Laplace transform of equation (12) to get [1, 13, 22].

$$u(t) = K_p + \frac{K_i}{s} + K_d s \tag{12}$$

The performance of the PID controller mainly depends on the selection of the PID parameters as shown by the table below:

Table 2. Effects of K_p , K_i and K_d tuning.

Losed-loop response	Rise time	Settling time	Overshoot	Steady-state error	Stability
Increasing K_p	Decrease	Increase	Small increase	Decrease	Degrade
Increasing K_i	Small decrease	Increase	Increase	Large decrease	Degrade

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Received: 31 March 2024; Accepted: 16 April 2024; Published: 27 August 2024



Increasing K_d Small decrease Decrease Decrease Minor change Improve

3.5. Validation and Verification of the Results

In this part, the simulation results of the MATLAB-SIMULINK and RKM4 solutions models were compared against a set of analytical solutions of equations (9) for some selected crops that were proposed to be grown in the modeled greenhouse. The validation process was performed on the developed models for some crops to be grown in the greenhouse based on individual crop demand in Table 1 before adoption. The validation process was used to demonstrate that the model produced reasonable representation of the actual system and that it reproduces system behaviour with enough fidelity to satisfy analysis objectives while verification is the process that ensures the conceptual model is reflected accurately in the computerized representation. There are several methods used in validating and verifying a model and to guarantee that the model predicts accurately the reality for which it was built. The validation was based on the convergence of RKM4 solutions for some crops given by Table 1 [10]. For most models there are three separate aspects which should be considered during model validation and verification:

1. Assumptions
2. Input parameter values and distributions
3. Output values and conclusions.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Introduction

The solution of the temperatures inside the greenhouse was based on decreasing the energy inputs and eliminating their excesses; in cases where heating is used, the artificial energy input is eliminated by turning it off while to decrease natural inputs, solar radiation was minimized by means of shading, inside or outside the greenhouse. The increase in energy losses was achieved by ventilation. Every ventilation system was used to regulate the interior air temperature by diffusion to the outside air due to their temperature gradients and this diffusion in turn affected humidity. If the interior temperature must be further decreased, active cooling methods are usually applied. Ventilation is the air exchange between the greenhouse and the exterior through the greenhouse openings, vents and slits. The air renewal allows the

evacuation of the excess heat and a decrease in the air temperature, modifying the atmospheric humidity, and modifying the gas composition of the atmosphere. If the air leaving the greenhouse is dry, the energy evacuated is very limited due to the low specific heat of dry air, while if it's humid, the temperature decrease will be much higher, as the energy evacuated with the humid greenhouse air is much bigger. Therefore, the humidity difference between the interior and exterior is more important than the temperature difference, for greenhouse cooling purposes [5, 8, 10, 25].

4.2. The Dynamic MATLAB/SIMULINK Auto-tuned PID Controlled Model

4.2.1. Introduction

The system of differential equations (9) representing the greenhouse temperature and humidity of internal air were first modelled as separate sub-models using SIMULINK then the sub-models were then joined together via the common parameters. This part describe how the sub-models were created and then represent them by block SIMULINK diagrams. The part concludes by combining the sub-models with PID controllers and perform an auto-tuning of the controllers.

4.2.2. Dynamic MATLAB/SIMULINK

Dynamic mathematical model of the microclimate inside the greenhouse comprised of energy and mass balance equations and the functions of each mode of transfer that affect convective flow of air and gases. In the study, four components of heat transfer sub-model and three components of mass transfer sub-model [17, 25]. In each of the two sub-models, each component comprised of a subsystem SIMULINK block with the inputs and outputs described by the respective equation. Lastly, basing the SIMULINK model on three inputs, the humidity and temperature of the environment where the greenhouse is to be built, and the area available, a mathematical sub-models represented by Figures 11 and 12 below were developed for the internal temperature and humidity, respectively, of the greenhouses for the region under study based on the outside conditions and the expected conditions for the target crop, as shown by Appendix IV. Two temperature-humidity recorders were adopted to measure the air temperature and relative humidity both inside and outside the greenhouse [3, 9, 20, 23].

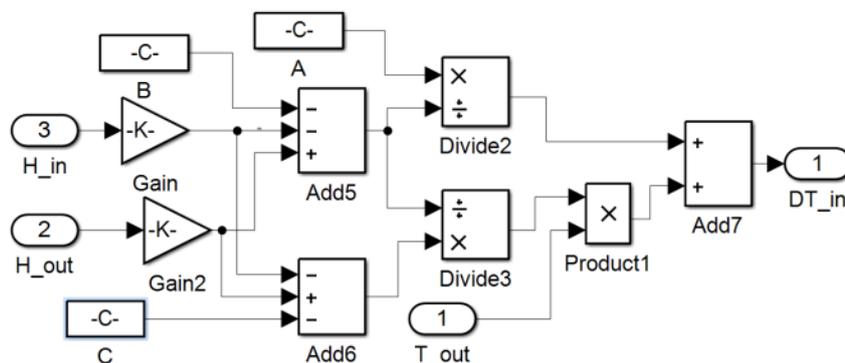


Figure 11. SIMULINK block for the internal temperature model in the greenhouse under study.

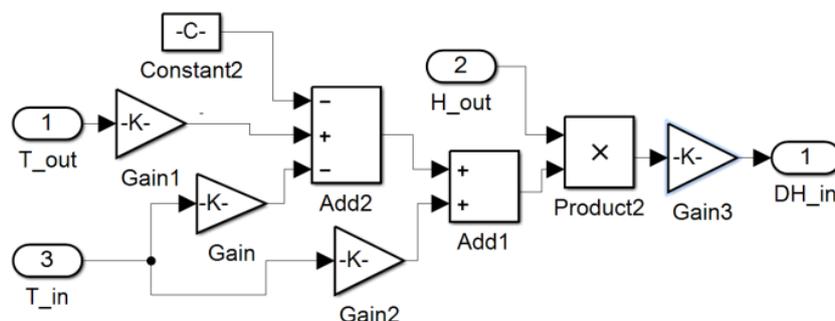


Figure 12. SIMULINK block for the internal humidity model in the greenhouse under study.

4.2.3. Analysis of the PID-Controlled Model

In this Chapter, simulating tests were carried out to evaluate the proposed PID controller for internal temperature and humidity controllers. On Figures 11 and 12, the PID controller, on Figure 10 was incorporated to produce the controlled greenhouse Figure 11 which using SIMULINK blocks was represented as Figure 13 below. The appropriate tuning was done to produce the required simulated temperature and humidity subject to requirements of Appendix IV taking care of both over-shoot and under-shoot of temperature and humidity which could have adverse negative effects on production of the plants being grown. This show the need to adopt automatically controlled ventilation systems as this could reduce the extent of the over-shoot and/or the under-shoot. Lastly, the potential of the designed controllers for internal greenhouse environment quality control was discussed based on the simulating results.

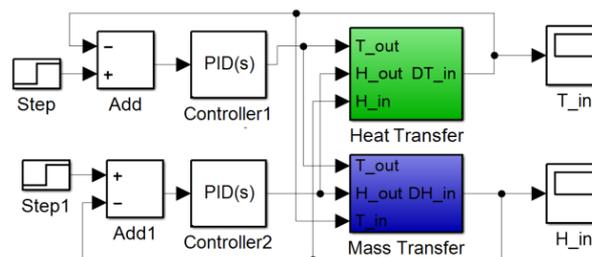


Figure 13. Dynamic Model of the CHMT using MATLAB-SIMULINK for Ventilation and Cooling Systems inside a Greenhouse.

After running the MATLAB-SIMULINK model in figure 13, the results got were graphically represented by figures 14 and 15 and further by table 3 for simulated internal tempera-

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ture and internal humidity respectively, and proved the proposed automatic PID controller has excellent performance on efficient auto tuning of the parameters only when needed; fast response speed; small overshoot; small steady error; and stability and adaptability response to uncertain factors. These advantages make the proposed controller suitable for solving the major difficulties in internal micro-climate control.

In determining the model solution, the range of temperature and humidity used were based on optimal values of the plants conditions represented by table 1.

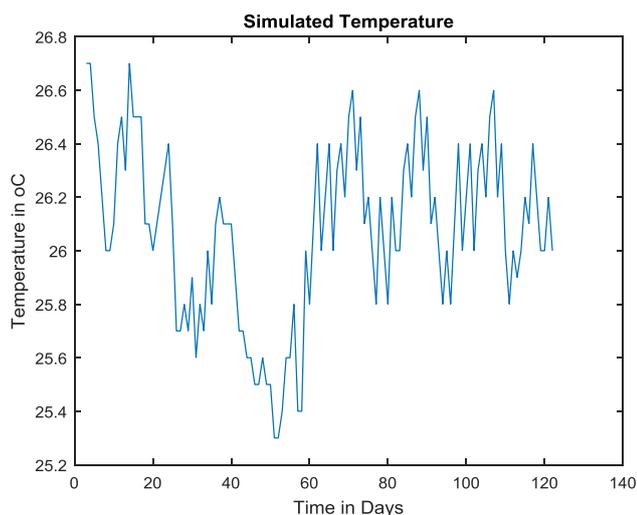


Figure 15. Graphical representation of the Simulated Temperature.

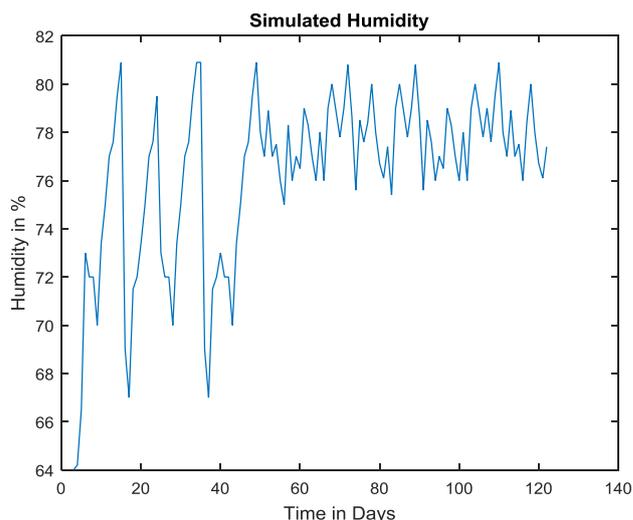


Figure 15. Graphical representation of the Simulated Humidity.

4.3. Validation and Verification of the Results

Lastly, an extensive comparison was done between the climatical requirements of some selected crops to be grown in the greenhouses, the numerically calculated internal temperature and humidity and the PID-controlled simulated internal temperature distribution and humidity for the greenhouse and represented by table 3 below. This showed the high level of accuracy of the PID-controlled model based on the theoretical values got for a similar numerical model by [10].

Table 3. Comparison of the numerically calculated and the PID-controlled internal conditions for the crops targeted to be planted in the modelled greenhouse.

T_{out} °C	H_{out} in %	Average required Temp	Average required Hum	Model Cal- culated T_{in} in °C	Model Cal- culated H_{in} in %	PID- Controlled Temp in °C	Error / Abso- lute Differ- ence	PID- Controlled Hum in %	Error / Absolute Difference
15	54	19.5	70	15.0004779	53.9999439	15.000273	0.00020495	54.00081681	0.00087295
16	56	19.5	75	16.0004609	55.9999474	16.0003797	0.0000817	56.00011592	0.00016855
17	59	17.5	70	17.0004375	58.9999505	17.000269	0.00016849	59.00124479	0.00129432
18	61	19	70.5	18.0004232	60.9999532	18.0002679	0.00015524	60.00005041	0.99990281
19	62	22.5	65	19.0004163	61.9999557	19.0002532	0.00016315	62.00117692	0.00122124
20	65	18	75	20.0003972	64.9999579	20.0027114	0.00231427	65.00012291	0.00016500
21	67	17.5	70	21.0003853	66.9999599	21.0002908	0.0000945	67.00023604	0.00027613
22	70	22.5	65	22.0003688	69.9999617	22.0003703	0.00000145	70.00117578	0.00121405
23	74	17.5	70	23.0003489	73.9999634	23.0027195	0.00237061	74.00114264	0.00117925
24	77	18.0	75	24.0003353	76.9999649	24.0000846	0.00025071	77.00014537	0.00018045
25	79	19.5	75	25.0003269	78.9999663	25.0003571	0.00003028	79.00110091	0.00113459
26	80	17.5	70	26.0003228	79.9999676	26.0002924	0.00003039	80.00031915	0.00035153

T_{out} °C	H_{out} in %	Average required Temp	Average required Hum	Model Calculated T_{in} in °C	Model Calculated H_{in} in %	PID-Controlled Temp in °C	Error / Absolute Difference	PID-Controlled Hum in %	Error / Absolute Difference
27	80	19.0	70.5	27.0003228	79.9999688	27.0011917	0.0008689	81.00141423	1.00144541
28	81	18.0	75	28.0003188	80.9999699	28.0004938	0.00017504	83.00086801	2.00089808
29	81	22.5	65	29.0003188	80.9999710	29.0002757	4.3062E-05	85.00270399	4.00273302
30	81	22.5	65	30.0003188	80.9999719	30.0016826	0.00136385	88.00011952	7.00014759

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusion

The model developed shows that if the temperatures and humidity required in growing a given plant and get maximum production, then the environmental conditions of a region can be used to determine the internal climatic conditions of the greenhouse before plant growth starts. The microclimate model of the greenhouse described by this research work will therefore play a very important role in prediction of the energy requirements and adoption of proper methods for cooling and ventilating. PID controllers have been extensively used in the greenhouse production process owing to their simple architecture, easy implementation and excellent performance. However, the tuning of several controllers in the complex greenhouse environment is a challenge to process engineers and operators. Many controllers are poorly tuned in practice due to the complexity of the controlled greenhouse such as the dynamical behavior of greenhouse climate and control requirements, which present strong interactions among variables, non-linearities, multiple constraints and conflicting objectives. This research work presented an automatic PID controllers based on SIMULINK-PID Controller blocks using Figure 13. The proposed tuning scheme has been tested for many indoor climate control models and simulations. Results show the effectiveness and usability of the proposed method for step responses. The obtained gains are applied in PID controllers and can achieve good control performance such as small overshoot, fast settling time, and less rise time and steady state error. The results suggest that the proposed tuning scheme is a quite promising method and it presented the following features:

1. It can be applied in the cases that the empirical methods cannot be used;
2. The method can effectively solve the strong interactions among process variables; and,
3. The method can be applied into certain strong nonlinear control system including non-convex problems due to adopting global optimization algorithms.

5.2. Recommendations

PID controllers have been widely used for indoor environment control because of its practicality and good control performance and the PID controller is selected as the main part of the proposed control strategy for the indoor climate control. Although PID control can successfully been used for general indoor climate control, temperature and humidity, the indoor air quality have different physical quantities and have different features that affect it; hence, in order to further analyse potential of using advanced control method to improve the indoor environment quality, research work should be carried out and a novel control strategy for indoor temperature and humidity designed based on the control difficulties encountered in this research work.

Nomenclature

- I_{air} = Solar radiation density, Wm^2
 A_{gh} = Area of the cover of the greenhouse, m^2
 C_p = Specific heat of air inside the greenhouse, $Jkg^{-1}K^{-1}$
 L_{air} = Latent heat of vaporization, Jkg^{-1}
 T_{in} = Air temperature inside the greenhouse, K
 T_{out} = Air temperature outside the greenhouse, K
 r = Radiative resistance
 K = Unit conversion
 H_{conv} = Heat transfer coefficient of the internal air between the floor and the cover, $Wm^{-2}K^{-1}$
 L_{sat} = Latent heat of saturation water, Jkg^{-1}
 m_{cond} = Mass heat transfer coefficient at the surface of the greenhouse, ms^{-1}
 H_{in} = Humidity of the air inside the greenhouse, %
 H_{out} = External air humidity, %
 G = Indoor and outdoor ventilation rate, m^3s^{-1}
 ΔH_{vap} = Enthalpy of the water vapour, Js^{-1}
 ΔH_{liq} = Enthalpy of liquid water, Js^{-1}
 C_{vap} = Specific heat of water vapour inside the greenhouse, $Jkg^{-1}K^{-1}$
 C_{liq} = Specific heat of water inside the greenhouse, Jkg^{-1}

$^1\text{K}^{-1}$	m_{vap} = Mass of vapour from the irrigated water, $\text{kgm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$	L_{vap} = Latent heat of vaporization, Jkg^{-1}
	m_{liq} = Mass of the irrigated water, $\text{kgm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$	K_p = Proportional gain for PID-controller
	V_{vap} = Volume of water vapour inside greenhouse, m^3	K_i = Integral gain for PID-controller
	V_{liq} = Volume of irrigated water inside greenhouse volume, m^3	K_d = Derivative gain for PID-controller
	u = Rate at which the irrigated water leaves the soil surface, ms^{-1}	λ = Slope of saturation vapor pressure curve at air temperature, PaK^{-1}
	V = Greenhouse volume, m^3	α = Priestley-Taylor coefficient
	A_{leaf} = Leaf area index for the greenhouse plants, m^2	ρ = Air density inside the greenhouse, kgm^{-3}
	P = Atmospheric pressure, Pa	γ = Psychrometric constant, PaK^{-1}
	P_{air} = Pressure of the air inside the greenhouse, Pa	ρ_{wat} = Density of water, kgm^{-3}
	e_{sat} = Saturation vapor pressure, Pa	τ_{air} = Transmissivity of the greenhouse covering materials for solar radiation
	R_{vap} = Universal gas constant for water vapour, $\text{Jkg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$	
	M_{air} = Mass of air inside the greenhouse, $\text{kgm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$	
	R_{air} = Universal gas constant for dry air, $\text{Jkg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$	

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Appendix

The Input Parameters for the Greenhouse Variables Used in SIMULINK Model

Symbol	Numerical Value	Description
τ_{air}	0.89	Transmissivity of the greenhouse covering materials for solar radiation
I_{air}	1.366	Solar radiation density in Wm^2
A_{gh}	529.434	Area of the cover of the greenhouse in m^2
λ	0.2456	Slope of saturation vapor pressure curve at air temperature in kPaK^{-1}
α	1.26	Priestley-Taylor coefficient
ρ	1.292	Air density inside the greenhouse in kgm^{-3}
C_p	1.314	Specific heat of air inside the greenhouse in $\text{Jkg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$
L_{air}	2.45	Latent heat of vaporization in kJkg^{-1}
H_{soil}	6.45	Soil heat flux in $\text{MJm}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$
γ	66	Psychrometric constant in kPaK^{-1}
r	0.64	Radiative resistance
κ	86400	Unit conversion constant in sd^{-1}
H_{conv}	4.8	Heat transfer coefficient of the internal air between the floor and the cover in $\text{Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$
ρ_{wat}	1006.2	Density of water in kgm^{-3}
L_{sat}	2400	Latent heat of water in kJkg^{-1}
m_{cond}	7×10^{-7}	Mass heat transfer coefficient at the surface of the greenhouse in ms^{-1}
G	0.644	Indoor and outdoor ventilation rate in m^3s^{-1}
V	1015.2	Greenhouse volume in m^3
A_{floor}	240	Area of the floor of the greenhouse in m^2
A_{leaf}	3	Area leaf of the plants inside the greenhouse in m^2
P	1.013	Atmospheric pressure in kPa

$$A_1 = \frac{1}{\rho C_p V} \left[-\frac{0.16\kappa\lambda\alpha\rho C_p}{rL_{air}(\lambda+\gamma)} - H_{conv}A_{gh} - G\rho C_p - C_{vap}A_{pipe}u(\rho - \rho_{wat}) \right], A_2 = 0, A_3 = -\frac{\rho_{wat}L_{sat}m_{cond}}{\rho C_p V}, A_4 = \frac{\tau_{air}I_{air}A_{gh}}{\rho C_p V} \left[1 + \frac{\alpha\lambda(1-\alpha)}{L_{air}(\lambda+\gamma)} \right]$$

$$B_1 = -\frac{0.16\kappa\rho C_p V\lambda\alpha}{r^2 A_{gh}(\lambda+\gamma)}, B_2 = -\frac{V\rho C_p G}{3.52895PA_{gh}}, B_3 = -V\rho_{wat}L_{sat}m_{cond}, B_4 = V \left\{ \frac{\lambda(\alpha-\alpha^2)\tau_{air}I_{air}}{r(\lambda+\gamma)} + A_{floor}u(\rho - \rho_{wat}) \right\}$$

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