

1 Thermal evaluation of laminated composite phase change material 2 gypsum board under dynamic conditions

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6 Abstract

7 Thermal evaluation of non-deform laminated composite phase change material (PCM)
8 gypsum board has been carried out. The theoretical studies covered the analysis of
9 different thicknesses of PCM layers and their corresponding heat transfer rates during
10 energy storage and discharge processes. A simply approach was also provided for
11 determining the appropriate thicknesses of PCM layer under various conditions. For
12 the purpose of experimental study and validation, a laminated gypsum board
13 consisting of a 4 mm PCM layer was evaluated in a naturally ventilated condition. It
14 achieved a maximum heat exchange of 15.6 W/m^2 and a maximum energy storage of
15 363.7 kJ/m^2 . A model room built with the laminated PCM gypsum boards was also
16 evaluated and achieved a maximum temperature reduction of $5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ as compared with
17 $1.8 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for the one with ordinary gypsum board. Even though about 25% of the energy
18 stored could not be released within the targeted period, the overall thermal
19 performance of the PCM gypsum board was quite remarkable. Further heat transfer
20 enhancement mechanism may therefore be necessary for the energy discharge
21 process.
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24 **Keywords:** Non-deform PCM; Laminated gypsum board; Heat transfer; Energy
25 storage and discharge
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27 1. Introduction

28
29 Thermal storage systems for energy conservation in buildings have gained more and
30 more attention. Phase change materials (PCMs) as latent heat storage material are
31 particularly attractive for energy conservation in buildings due to their high energy
32 storage capacity at constant temperature [1-3].
33

34 Investigations into composite PCM drywall systems especially gypsum board has
35 drawn high research interests in the past twenty years. Gypsum board is usually found
36 in the interior side of partition walls as a cladding element. This guarantees the use of
37 most of the thermal inertia when PCMs are integrated. Such great potential has
38 therefore led to past efforts towards the development of PCM gypsum board. For
39 instance, Shilei *et al.*[4] immersed a piece of gypsum board in a solution of PCM
40 containing capric acid and lauric acid and achieved energy storage capacity of
41 39 kJ/kg at 24°C . Borreguero *et al.* [5] studied the feasibility of directly embedding

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Nomenclature

A	Surface area of PCM layer (m^2)
a	Constant, defines the temperature varying scope
b	Constant, defines the starting temperature
C_p	Specific heat ($kJ/kg \text{ } ^\circ K$)
E_a	Actual thermal energy storage per unit surface area (kJ/m^2)
E_m	Maximum thermal energy storage per unit surface area (kJ/m^2)
e	Thickness (m)
e_{pcm}	Thickness of PCM layer (m)
H	Enthalpy of material (kJ/kg)
H_{ref}	Reference Enthalpy (kJ/kg)
H_s	Sensible enthalpy (kJ/kg)
ΔH	Latent heat (kJ/kg)
h	Convective heat transfer coefficient ($W/m^2 \text{ } ^\circ K$)
k	Thermal conductivity ($W/m \text{ } ^\circ K$)
L	Latent heat capacity of PCM (kJ/kg)
n	Steps
q	Heat flux (W/m^2)
q_i	Heat flux of each step (W/m^2)
T	Temperature (K)
T_{init}	Initial temperature (K)
T_s	Solidus Temperature (K)
T_l	Liquidus Temperature (K)
T_{ref}	Reference Temperature (K)
T_∞	Air temperature (K)
t	Time (s)
V	Volume (m^3)
<i>Greek</i>	
β	Liquid fraction
ρ	Density (kg/m^3)
ζ	Percentage of energy storage (%)
δ	Relative energy storage capacity

42

43 microencapsulated PCM in gypsum boards to increase the wall energy storage
44 capacity. It was reported that the composite PCM gypsum boards were able to either
45 increase or reduce the average surface temperature by up to 1.3 $^\circ C$ during the heating
46 and cooling processes respectively. Schossig *et al.* [6] numerically and experimentally
47 investigated the thermal performances of PCM gypsum board in a full-size room with
48 external shading device. The test achieved a maximum differential temperature of
49 2 $^\circ C$ between the PCM coated room and the conventional room.

50

51 Although significant advances towards the development of PCM gypsum board have
52 been made over the past two decades, there are still integration and heat transfer
53 problems associated with phase change materials. One of the issues is that most of the
54 commercially available microencapsulated PCMs have relatively low thermal
55 conductivities which adversely affect their thermal response after integration into
56 gypsum boards. For these reasons Darkwa and Kim [7] investigated a different
57 integration method by laminating microencapsulated hexadecane PCM onto a gypsum
58 board and then evaluated it against a randomly mixed PCM gypsum board. The
59 results showed that the laminated PCM board was able to release about 27% more
60 latent heat than the randomly mixed type. Further heat transfer enhancement study

61 was carried out by Darkwa and Zhou [8]. A laminated composite
62 aluminium/hexadecane gypsum board was developed and compared with a pure
63 hexadecane gypsum board sample. The test results revealed faster thermal response
64 by the aluminium/hexadecane sample regarding the rate of heat flux and also achieved
65 about 10% and 15 % heat transfer enhancements during the charging and discharging
66 periods respectively. Its measured effective thermal conductivity also increased by
67 1.25 W/m K as compared with 0.15 W/m K for pure hexadecane sample. However,
68 relatively lower energy storage density was obtained due to the high porosity of the
69 microencapsulated PCM powder. In order to overcome this problem, Darkwa *et al.* [9]
70 recently developed a novel non-deformed composite hexadecane phase change
71 material based on powder compaction technique. This approach resulted in a PCM
72 tablet with about 97% increase in energy storage density and thermal conductivity
73 value of 2.3 W/m K despite 10% reduction in its latent heat capacity. This study is
74 therefore intended to theoretically and experimentally evaluate the thermal
75 performance of this PCM tablet in a gypsum board.

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77 2. Mathematical modelling and simulation

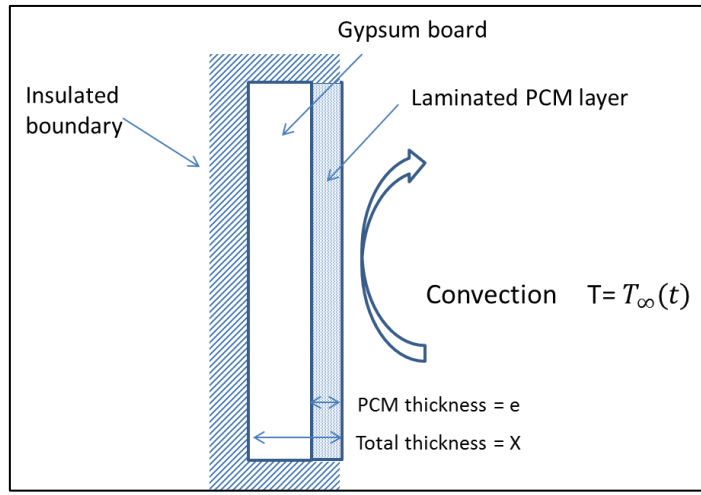
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79 2.1 Physical model

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81 In actual buildings, gypsum boards are often used on the interior wall areas which are
82 not exposed to the sun, but are coupled to a space-averaged room temperature by
83 convection. To establish an understanding of the thermal performance of an idealized
84 PCM gypsum board, it is assumed that the board has only one surface experiencing
85 convective heat transfer with the surrounding air. Fig. 1 shows a diagram of a
86 laminated composite PCM gypsum board consisting of a gypsum board and a PCM
87 layer made up of PCM tablets.

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Figure 1: Laminated PCM gypsum board

94 2.2 Governing equations

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96 The assumptions for the modelling are summarized as follows:

- 97 ● The heat transfer in PCM board is dominated by one-dimensional conduction.
- 98 ● The heat transfer between PCM and air is by convection only.
- 99 ● Both the liquid and solid phases of PCM are isotropic and homogeneous, thus
- 100 their thermophysical properties are taken to be constants at each phase.
- 101 ● Thermal energy stored by gypsum board is neglected as it is significantly smaller
- 102 as compared with the energy stored by means of latent heat in PCM.

103

104 An enthalpy porosity technique [10] was used in this study for modelling the

105 solidification/melting process. Accordingly, the general governing equation of

106 one-dimensional heat transfer in PCM is given as:

107

$$108 \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(k \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) = \rho \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} \quad (1)$$

109

110 Where, the enthalpy of the material (H) was computed as the sum of the sensible

111 enthalpy (H_s), and the latent heat (ΔH) as presented in Eq. 2:

112

$$113 \quad H = H_s + \Delta H \quad (2)$$

114

115 Where the sensible enthalpy is given as:

$$116 \quad H_s = H_{ref} + \int_{T_{ref}}^T C_p dT \quad (3)$$

117 The latent heat content (ΔH) is written as:

$$118 \quad \Delta H = \beta L \quad (4)$$

119 L is the latent heat capacity of the PCM, and β is the liquid fraction during the phase

120 change which occurs over a range of temperatures $T_s < T < T_l$, defined by the follow

121 relations:

$$122 \quad \beta = \begin{cases} 0 & (T < T_s) \\ \frac{T-T_s}{T_l-T_s} & (T_s \leq T \leq T_l) \\ 1 & (T > T_l) \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

123 Where, T_s and T_l are the solidus and liquidus temperature of PCM, respectively.

124

125 2.3 Initial and boundary conditions

126

127 At time $t = 0$, the whole PCM layer was taken to be solid that was maintained at a

128 temperature T_{init} below the solidus temperature T_s of the PCM. The initial condition

129 at $t = 0$ in the model is therefore given by:

$$130 \quad T(x, t) = T_{init} \quad (0 \leq x \leq e, t = 0) \quad (6)$$

131

132 Where, e is the thickness of PCM layer.

133 According to the assumption, one surface of PCM layer experiences convective heat
 134 transfer with the surrounding air, the other surface is adiabatic. The boundary
 135 condition is therefore given by:

$$136 \quad \begin{cases} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = 0 & (x = 0) \\ k \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = h(T(x, t) - T_{\infty}(t)) & (x = e) \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

137 Where, $T_{\infty}(t)$ is the air temperature. To model the PCM under dynamic boundary
 138 conditions, it was assumed that $T_{\infty}(t)$ varies sinusoidally with time t (s). It
 139 represents the diurnal indoor temperature fluctuation. The equation for $T_{\infty}(t)$ is
 140 given by:

$$141 \quad T_{\infty}(t) = a \cdot \sin\left(2\pi \cdot \frac{t-21600}{86400}\right) + b \quad (8)$$

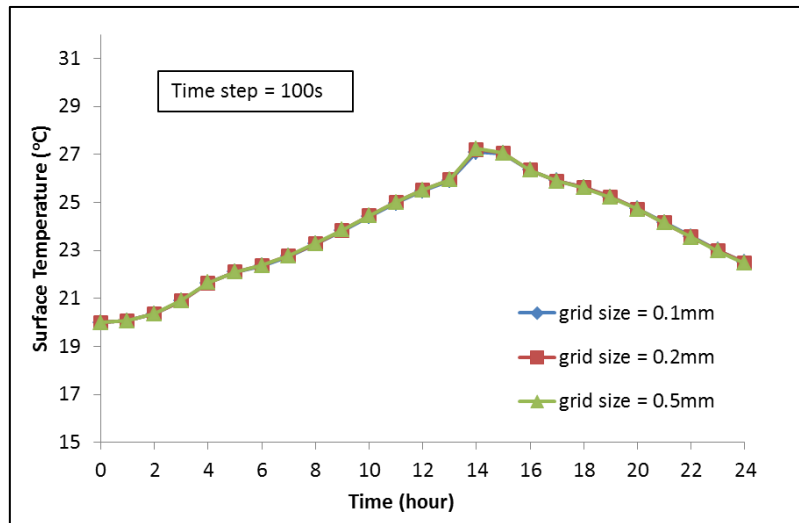
142 Where the constant “ a ” defines the temperature varying scope; and the constant “ b ”
 143 defines the starting temperature.

144

145 2.4 Simulation

146

147 In this study, the grid of the physical model was built using the Gambit software and
 148 the numerical solution was obtained using Fluent 6.3 software. The effects of the time
 149 step and grid size on the solution were carefully examined. The grid sizes of 0.1, 0.2
 150 and 0.5 mm and three different time steps, i.e. 10, 100 and 1000 s were checked. As
 151 appears from Fig.2, the results obtained for surface temperature variation of PCM
 152 gypsum board were independent of the grid size. Fig.3 shows the results for three
 153 different time steps. One can see that there is no difference between time steps 10s
 154 and 100s, but a deviation with time step of 1000s. These indicate that the results
 155 obtained were independent of all above grid sizes and time steps of 10 and 100s.
 156 Therefore in order to save computational resources and calculation time as well as
 157 minimising errors, a grid size of 0.2 mm and time step of 100 s were used.
 158 Convergence of the solution was checked at each time step for a convergence criterion
 159 of 10^{-6} for the energy equation.



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Figure 2: Grid dependency of the numerical solution.

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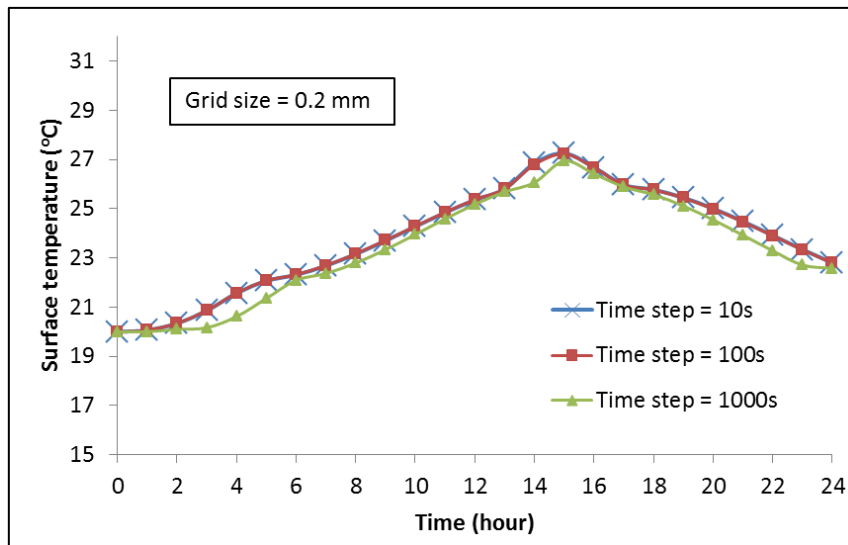


Figure 3: Time dependency of the numerical solution.

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166 The evaluation of thermal performance of PCM gypsum board was conducted under
 167 air temperature variations of 20~28 °C corresponding to condition in most naturally
 168 and forced ventilated room (convective heat transfer coefficients $h = 5, 10$ and 15
 169 $W/m^2 K$). It was then simulated over a period of 24 hours for its thermal performance
 170 based on data in Tab. 1.

171

172

Table 1: The simulation data

Items	PCM gypsum board *	
	PCM layer	gypsum
Components	PCM layer	gypsum
Density (kg/m ³)	821	950
Specific heat (kJ/kg K)	2.20	0.84
Latent heat (kJ/kg)	111.80	-
Phase change temperature range (°C)	22 ~ 26	-
Thermal conductivity (W/m k)	2.30	0.16
Thickness (mm)	e=2,4,6,8,10	10,8,6,4,2
Total thickness X (mm)	12	
Air temperature variation (°C)	20~28	
Heat transfer coefficient (W/m ² K)	5,10,15	

*Data source: Darkwa *et al.* [9]

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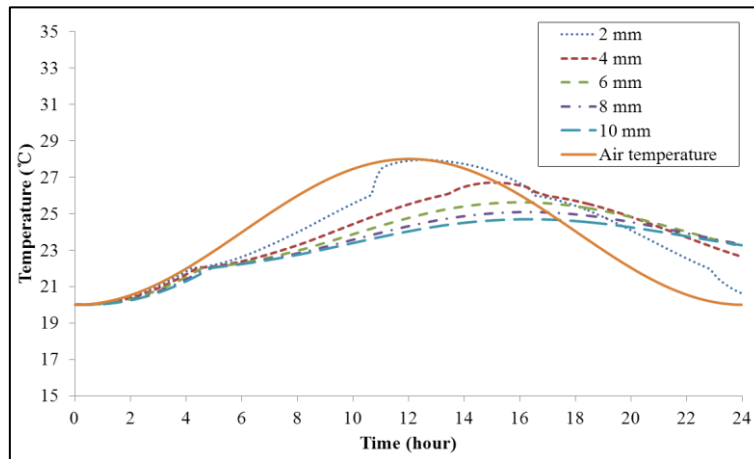
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175 2.5 Results and analysis

176

177 As shown in Fig.4, there was significant temperature difference between the surface
 178 of PCM gypsum board and the surrounding air. The 2 mm PCM layer responded
 179 faster than the other layers and reached the maximum surface temperature of about
 180 28 °C at 13.5 hours. There was a time lag of about 3.5 hours for the 4 mm layer and
 181 about 4-5 hours for the 6, 8 and 10 mm layers. These conditions are demonstrated

182 with the contours of static temperature in Fig. 5 where the 2 mm layer was fully
 183 melted after the air had reached its peak temperature. The temperature differences also
 184 resulted in various heat exchange rates as shown in Fig. 6. The 6, 8 and 10 mm layers
 185 of PCM achieved relatively higher heat flux rates than the 2 mm and 4 mm layers due
 186 to the larger temperature differences between PCM and air for the 6, 8 and 10 mm
 187 layers.

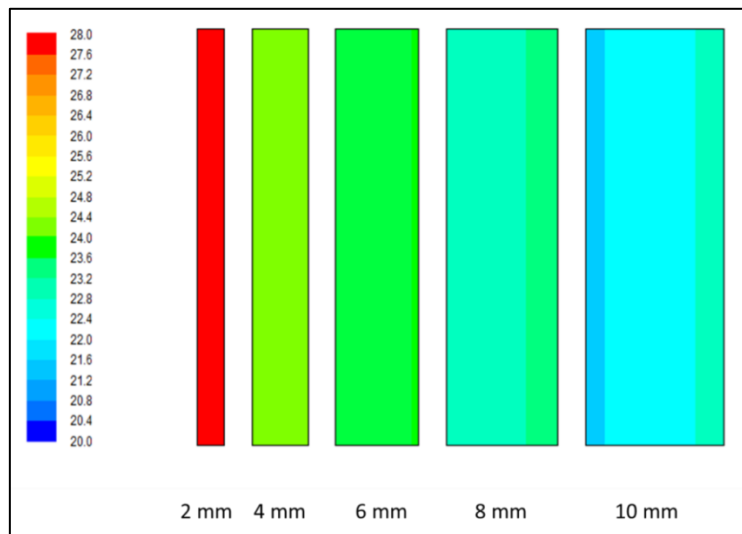


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Figure 4: Surface temperature profiles for $h = 5 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$



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192 Figure 5: Contours of static temperature of PCM layers after peak air temperature for $h = 5 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$

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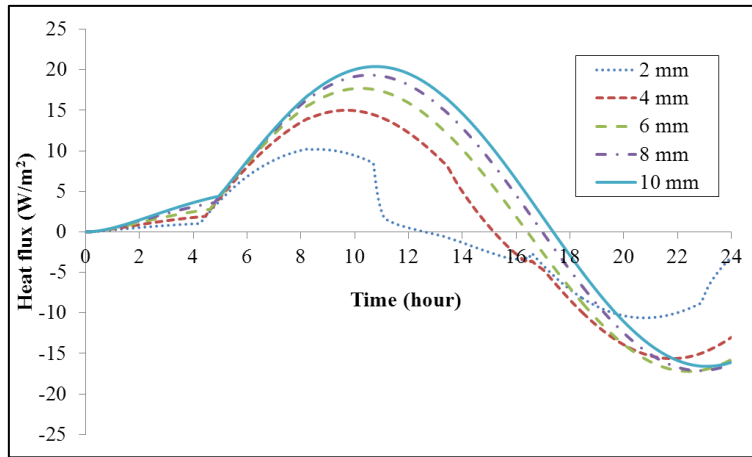


Figure 6: Heat flux profiles for $h = 5 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$

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Fig. 7 shows the surface temperature profiles for different thicknesses for $h = 10 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$. There was very small time lag between the peak air temperature and the 2 and 4 mm thick PCM layers thus making them more thermally responsive than the others. There was a time lag of 1 hour for the 6 mm, 3 hours for the 8 mm and 4 hours for the 10 mm layers. The temperature contours in Fig. 8 shows that the 2 mm and 4 mm layers were fully melted after the peak air temperature was reached when compared with other layers. The corresponding heat flux profiles for the layers are shown in Fig. 9. In comparison with $h = 5 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$ there was some level of increase in heat flux rates for all the thicknesses except the 2 mm thick layer which remained unchanged. The increase in heat flux rate for the 4 ~ 10 mm layers was approximately between 25 % and 50 %.

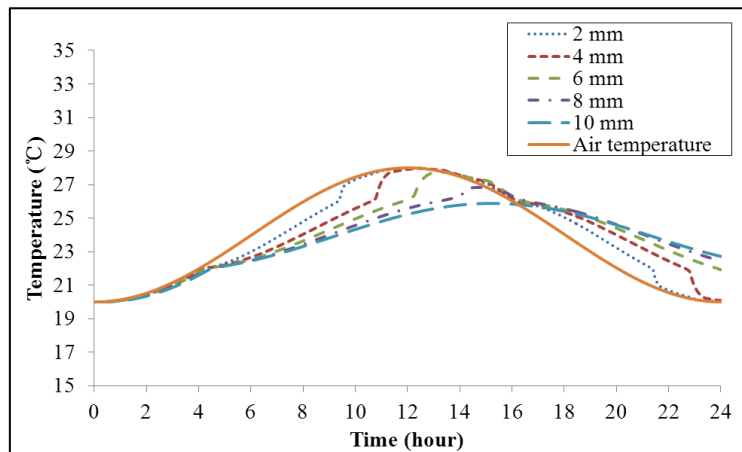
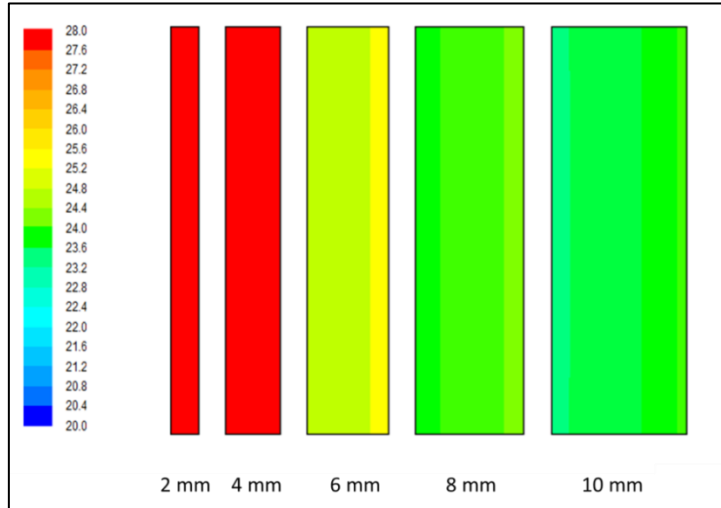


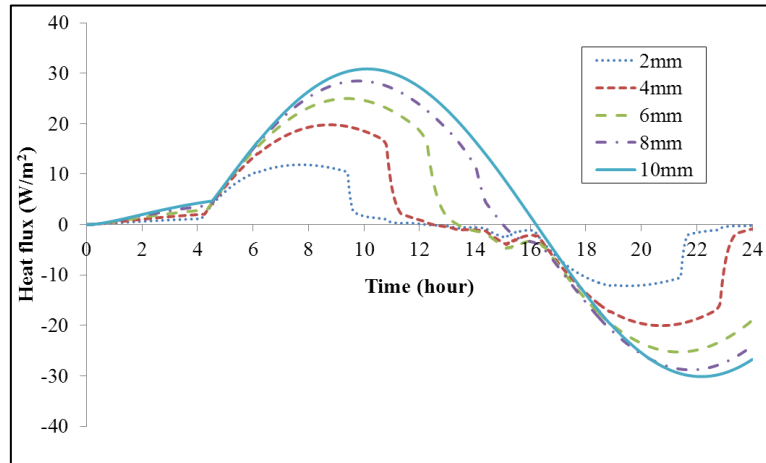
Figure 7: Surface temperature profiles for $h = 10 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$

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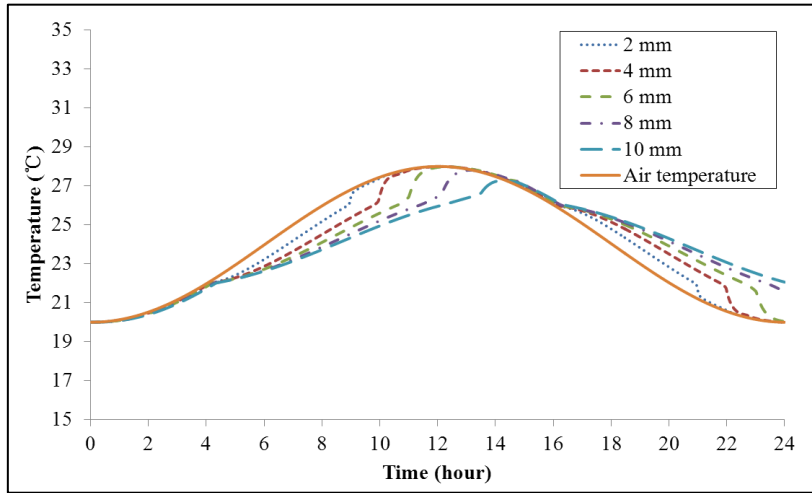
Figure 8: Contours of static temperature of PCM layers after peak air temperature for $h = 10 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$



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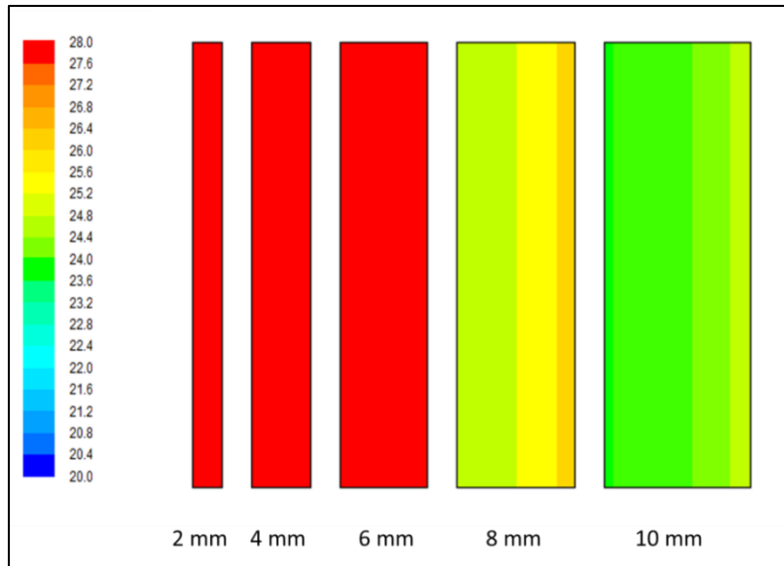
Figure 9: Heat flux profiles for $h = 10 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$

220 Fig. 10 illustrates the surface temperature profiles for $h = 15 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$ and shows that
221 the time lag affected only the 8 mm and 10 mm layers. The 2mm, 4 mm and the 6 mm
222 layers were fully melted before the peak air temperature was reached. These are
223 supported with the contours of static air temperatures in Fig. 11. There was a slight
224 improvement in the heat flux rates as shown in Fig. 12 despite higher value of
225 convective heat transfer coefficient. The maximum heat flux achieved was about 37.5
226 W/m^2 as compared with 30.2 W/m^2 obtained under $h = 10 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$.
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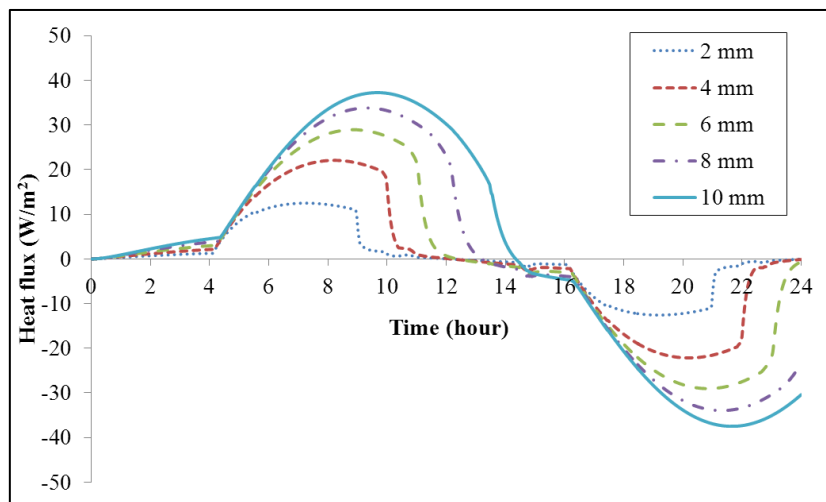
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Figure 10: Surface temperature profiles for $h = 15 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$



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Figure 11: contours of static temperature of PCM layers after peak air temperature for $h = 15 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$



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Figure 12: Heat flux profiles for $h = 15 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$

236 2.6 Selection of thicknesses of PCM layer

237

238 The selection of the appropriate thickness of PCM layer depends on room temperature
 239 variation and heat transfer coefficient between the PCM and the surrounding air. It
 240 also depends on an indicator called percentage of energy storage (ζ). It is defined as
 241 the ratio of the actual thermal energy (E_a) stored by the PCM to its maximum heat
 242 storage capacity (E_m) as expressed in Eq. 9 [11].

243
$$\zeta = \frac{E_a}{E_m} \times 100\% \quad (9)$$

244

245 Where the actual energy stored by PCM (kJ/m^2) is expressed as:

246
$$E_a = \sum_n q_i \cdot t \quad (10)$$

247

248 The maximum heat storage capacity per unit surface area (kJ/m^2), which is made up
 249 of both latent heat and sensible heat, is also expressed as:

250
$$E_m = \frac{\rho \cdot V \cdot L + \int_{T_{min}}^{T_{max}} \rho \cdot V \cdot C_p \cdot dT}{A} = \rho \cdot e_{pcm} \cdot L + \int_{T_{min}}^{T_{max}} \rho \cdot e_{pcm} \cdot C_p \cdot dT \quad (11)$$

251

252 For the selection of the most appropriate thickness, two conditions need to be satisfied:
 253 large energy storage capacity and high percentage of energy storage. Now, using Eqs.
 254 10 and 11, actual energy storage capacities and the corresponding percentages of
 255 energy storage can be summarised as shown in Tab. 2 and plotted in Figs. 13 ~ 15.
 256 The points of intersections in the graphs indicate the appropriate thicknesses as:
 257 approximately 4 mm for $h = 5 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$, 8 mm for $h = 10 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$ and about 10 mm
 258 for $h = 15 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$. It should be noted that the appropriate thicknesses were selected
 259 amongst five predetermined thicknesses in the simulation data, i.e. 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10
 260 mm.

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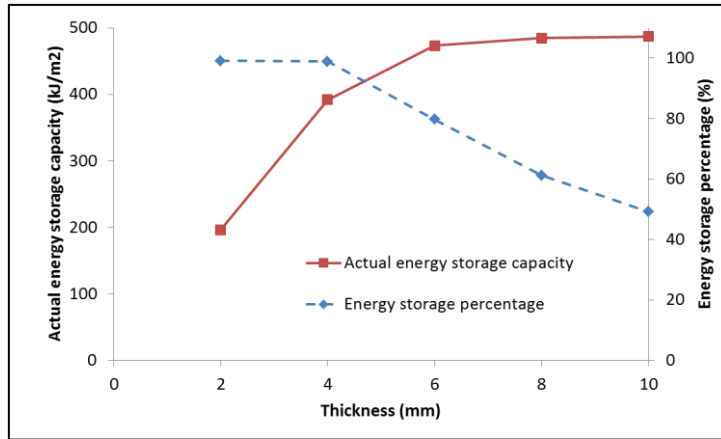
262 For the benefit of the experimental study and validation, a 4 mm thickness of PCM
 263 layer was selected for the condition of $h = 5 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$ which satisfies most naturally
 264 ventilated rooms.

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266 Table 2: Actual energy storage capacities and percentages of PCM layers of different
 267 thicknesses

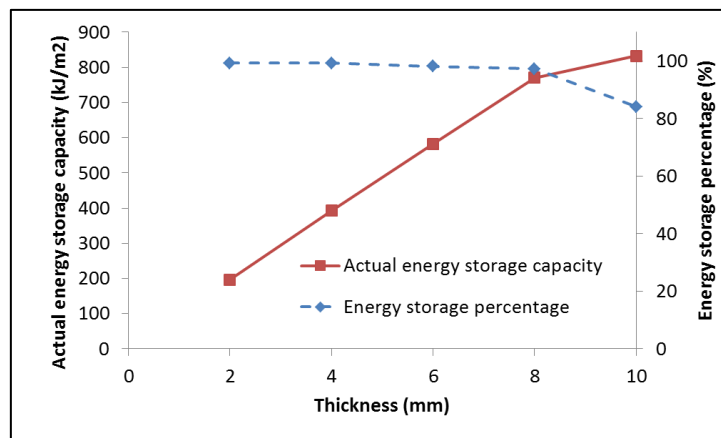
PCM layer (mm)	Actual energy storage capacity (E_a) kJ/m^2			Energy storage percentage (ζ) %		
	$h=5$ $\text{W/m}^2\text{K}$	$h=10$ $\text{W/m}^2\text{K}$	$h=15$ $\text{W/m}^2\text{K}$	$h=5$ $\text{W/m}^2\text{K}$	$h=10$ $\text{W/m}^2\text{K}$	$h=15$ $\text{W/m}^2\text{K}$
2	196.3	196.7	196.7	99.1	99.3	99.3
4	391.7	392.9	393.3	98.9	99.2	99.3
6	473.5	582.8	587.0	79.7	98.1	98.8
8	484.8	770.7	775.5	61.2	97.3	97.9
10	487.2	832.8	965.4	49.2	84.1	97.5

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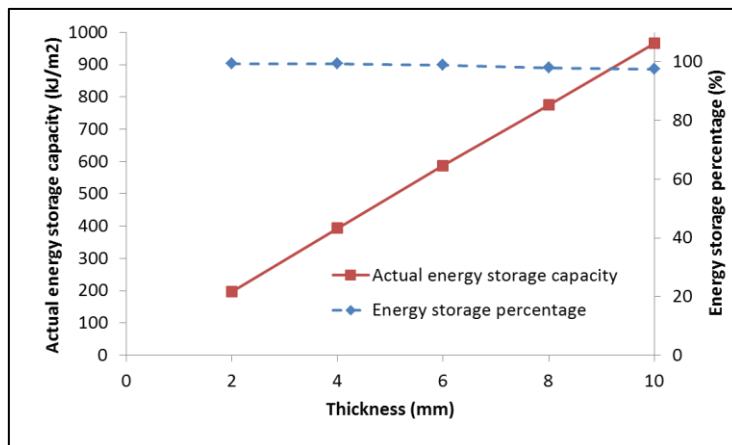
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Figure 13: Actual energy storage capacity against energy storage percentage for $h = 5 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$



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Figure 14: Actual energy storage capacity against energy storage percentage for $h = 10 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$



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Figure 15: Actual energy storage capacity against energy storage percentage for $h = 15 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$

283 3. Experimental evaluation

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285 3.1 Sample preparation

286

287 A number of composite PCM rectangular tablets, each measuring 30 mm * 30 mm * 4
288 mm as shown in Fig.16 were prepared based on previous work and specifications
289 given in Tab. 1 by Darkwa *et.al.* [9]. The tablets were then laminated with PVA
290 adhesive material onto a gypsum board which measured 500 mm * 300 mm * 8 mm
291 thick. The final test sample was therefore made up of a laminated 4mm PCM layer
292 and 8 mm gypsum board.

293



294

Figure 16: Picture of PCM tablet

295

296

297 3.2 Sample testing

298

299 The test was carried out in a climate controlled chamber (Fig. 17) which had an
300 operational temperature range of - 20°C to 80 °C for a relative humidity ranging from
301 30% to 95%. The air temperatures and heat flux were respectively measured with a set
302 of calibrated thermocouples (Omega K-type thermocouple TT-K-30-SLE, ± 1.1 °C)
303 and thin film heat flux sensors (Omega HFS-04, ± 0.5 W/m²) through a data logger
304 (Agilent 34970A + 20 channel multiplexer 34901A) and a dedicated computer. In
305 order to achieve a uniform air around the test sample a 1m * 1m * 1m wooden box
306 (Fig. 18) was built and placed around it as displayed in Fig. 19. This prevented the
307 forced air flow from the chamber's fan to affect the sample and any air flows around
308 the sample were only occurring mainly due to natural buoyancy. An approximate
309 sinusoidal variation (20 ~ 28 °C) of the air temperature was then prescribed to
310 simulate a daily indoor temperature variation which corresponds to the same
311 condition in the numerical study.

312 3.2.1 Test procedure

313

314 The thermal performance test was carried out over a 24-hr full-cycle condition
315 covering both heating and cooling processes and repeated for five times but on every
316 other day. The average values of measurements were then used for analysing. The
317 specific procedures are as follows.

318 (a) The chamber was initially cooled down until the surface temperature of the
319 sample reached 20 °C.

320 (b) The chamber was then switched on to the heating mode and was programmed to

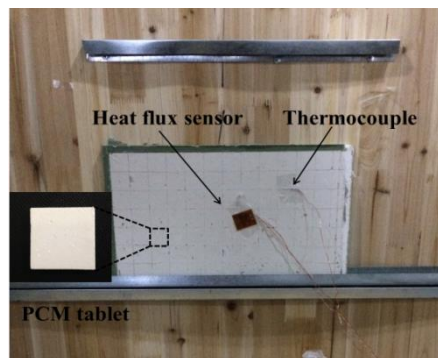
321 heat the air in the wooden box slowly from 20 °C to 28 °C over a 12-hour period.
322 (c) After achieving the desired temperature, the heating process was terminated to
323 allow the cooling process to begin. Similarly, the cooling process was controlled
324 within a 12- hour period whilst the temperatures were monitored from 28 °C to 20
325 °C.
326



327
328 Figure 17: Climate controlled chamber

Figure 18: Picture of the wooden box in the chamber

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331 Figure 19: Arrangement of test sample and accessories inside the wooden box

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333 3.2.2 Test results

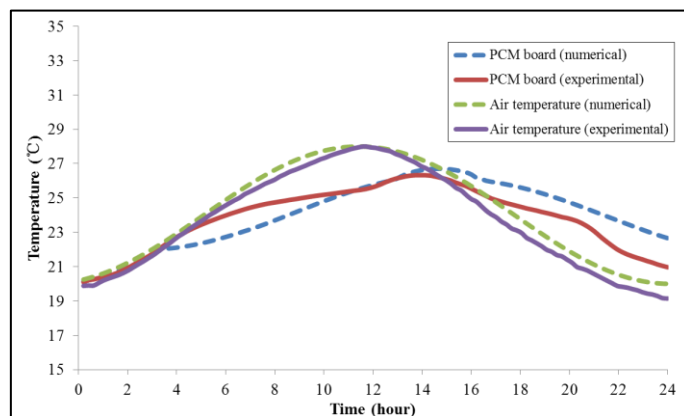
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335 The average test results from the five 24-hr measurements are used for the discussion
336 below. The estimated deviation from the average values of the measurements was
337 about ± 0.3 °C on temperature measurements and ± 0.5 W/m² on heat flux due to
338 potential errors of instruments and experimental conditions. Fig. 20 shows the
339 theoretical and experimental surface temperature profiles of the sample during energy
340 storage and release periods. During the initial stage, both profiles displayed similar
341 trends until phase change process begun. The profiles show theoretical/experimental
342 time lag of 3.3/3.5 hours between the peak surface temperature of the board and the
343 peak space temperature. There was also a differential temperature of up to 2 °C
344 between the two sets of results at the end of the discharge process but found them to
345 be fairly comparable.

346

347 The thermal effectiveness of the PCM gypsum board was also evaluated by measuring
348 the heat flux data and using it to calculate the cumulative energy storage/discharge. As

349 shown in Fig. 21, the theoretical/experimental heat flux profiles were found to be
 350 fairly close with peak values of 15.2/15.6 W/m² during the charging process and
 351 14.8/11.75 W/m² for the discharge mode. The corresponding cumulative energy
 352 storage/discharge profiles are also shown in Fig. 22. The theoretical energy storage
 353 was obtained as 391.7kJ/m² as against an experimental value of 363.7kJ/m². During
 354 the discharge mode, the theoretical and experimental energy discharges were achieved
 355 as 301kJ/m² and 272.7kJ/m² respectively. It should also be noticed that the
 356 experimental energy storage percentage reached a fairly high value of 91.8% even
 357 though it was still about 7.1% lower than numerical value of 98.9%. It indicates that 4
 358 mm was an appropriate thickness of PCM layer that guaranteed both high energy
 359 storage capacity and high storage percentage under this condition. It also shows that
 360 there was however a small amount of PCM not melted at this stage (the energy
 361 storage would at least be about 381.6 kJ/m² if PCM was fully melted, corresponding
 362 to its potential latent and sensible heat storage capacity). In general, the numerical and
 363 experimental results were found to be in good agreement, i.e. approximately 6%
 364 difference in time lag, 3% and 21% in peak values of heat flux in charging and
 365 discharging processes respectively, 7% and 9% in cumulative energy storage and
 366 discharge capacity respectively. However analysis of the results shows that about 25 %
 367 of the energy stored could not be released within the monitored period of 24 hrs.

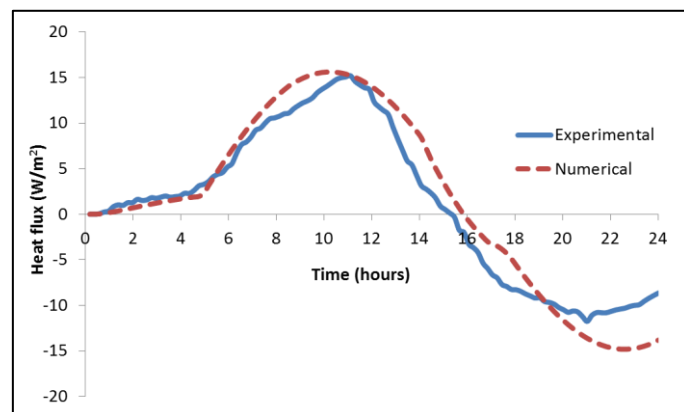


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Figure 20: Surface temperature profile of PCM gypsum board

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Figure 21: Heat flux profile of PCM board

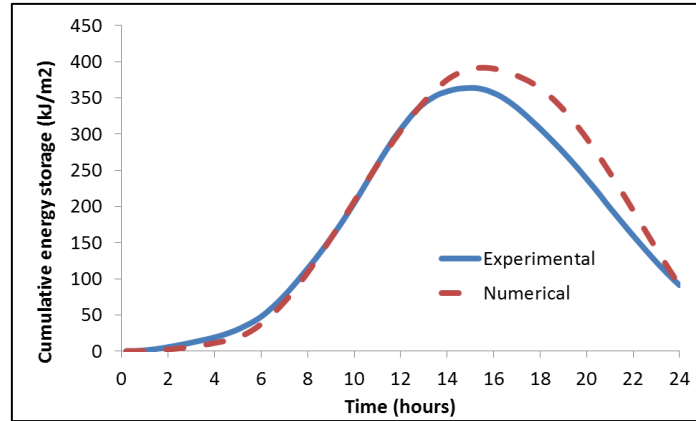


Figure 22: Cumulative energy storage and release profiles of PCM board

3.3 Thermal evaluation of PCM gypsum board in model rooms

In order to evaluate the thermal effectiveness of the developed sample, two identical model rooms (one with gypsum boards and the other with PCM gypsum boards) were built and tested in the climate chamber. The full and exploded views of the rooms are shown in Figs. 23 and 24 respectively. Due to space limitation, their sizes were scaled down to 0.5m * 0.5 m * 0.3 m. The external surfaces of the wall board and roof were all insulated with 20 mm polyurethane foam except the front elevation wall which was considered as a heat entrance to the model room. For this reason the PCM model room had three of its internal walls fully laminated with PCM layers as shown in Fig. 24.

The same procedure as described in Section 3.2.1 was then adopted for this test. However an external sinusoidal temperature variation between 20~30 °C was used in order to characterize the decrement factor due to the PCM layer.



Figure 23: Model room

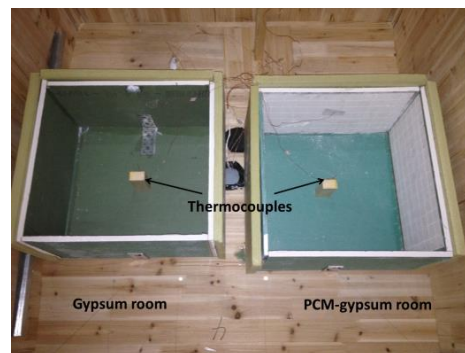


Figure 24: Exploded views of the rooms

3.3.1 Results and analysis

Fig. 25 shows the air temperature profiles inside the two model rooms during heating and cooling processes. It can be seen that the gypsum room displayed much steeper

399 temperature gradient than the PCM-gypsum room. The temperature in the gypsum
 400 room also reached a state of equilibrium with the external air at 17 hours whereas the
 401 PCM-gypsum room reached its equilibrium condition much later at 20 hours i.e. 8
 402 hours after the peak external air temperature. The overall test analysis shows that the
 403 PCM-gypsum room was able to achieve a maximum temperature reduction of 5 °C
 404 between external and internal environment as compared with 1.8 °C for the gypsum
 405 room.

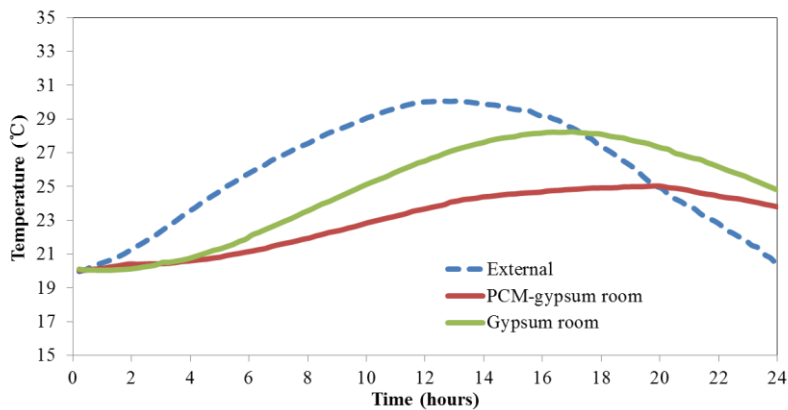


Figure 25: Mean air temperature profiles in model rooms

4. Conclusions

The study did focus on the theoretical and experimental evaluation of a non-deform laminated PCM gypsum board. Based on the theoretical studies, different thicknesses of PCM layers and heat transfer coefficients were analysed for their thermal responsiveness. According to the results, the appropriate thicknesses of PCM layer under different convective heat transfer coefficients were selected as follows: approximately 4 mm for $h = 5 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$, 8 mm for $h = 10 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$ and about 10 mm for $h = 15 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$.

For the benefit of the experimental study and validation, a 4 mm thickness of PCM layer was laminated onto a gypsum board and evaluated in a naturally ventilated controlled chamber. Its corresponding theoretical and experimental cumulative energy storage/discharge values were also determined and found to be in a good agreement. In order to evaluate its thermal effectiveness the PCM gypsum board was incorporated into a model room and evaluated against an ordinary gypsum board room under the same environmental condition.

Analysis of the results showed a significant display of temperature moderation by the PCM gypsum room thus confirming its effectiveness as an energy storage material for building application. The specific findings may therefore be summarised as follows:

- Theoretical/experimental peak heat flux values of the PCM board were obtained as 15.2 / 15.6 W/m^2 and 14.8 / 11.75 W/m^2 for the charging and discharging processes respectively.

- 433 • Theoretical maximum energy storage/discharge was obtained as 391.7 kJ/m²/
434 301 kJ/m² as against 363.7 kJ/m² / 272.7 kJ/m² for the experimental process.
435 • The PCM gypsum room achieved a maximum temperature reduction of 5 °C
436 in comparison with 1.8 °C for the gypsum room.
437

438 Even though about 25% of the energy stored could not be released within the
439 monitored period, the overall performance was considered to be satisfactory. However,
440 some form of heat transfer enhancement during the discharge process is considered as
441 necessary. The theoretical study could be expanded in the future with the development
442 of PCM models within whole building simulation programs in order to be able to
443 theoretically evaluate the integration of non-deform laminated PCM gypsum boards
444 together with the rest of the building components. The experimental evaluation could
445 also be carried out in the future with full scale samples under different climate and
446 indoor conditions.
447
448

449 **Acknowledgement**

450 The authors wish to thank the Ningbo Science and Technology Bureau, China for
451 supporting this research under the Key Laboratory of Integrated Thermal Energy
452 Storage Technologies (ITEST) for buildings project.
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