



# Article Improving the Fuel Economy and Energy Efficiency of Train Cab Climate Systems, Considering Air Recirculation Modes

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Abstract: Current developments in vehicles have generated great interest in the research and optimization of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems as a factor to reduce fuel consumption. One of the key trends for finding solutions is the intensive development of electric transport and, consequently, additional requirements for reducing energy consumption and modifying climate systems. Of particular interest is the optimal functioning of comfort and life support systems during air recirculation, i.e., when there is a complete or partial absence of outside air supply, in particular to reduce energy consumption or when the environment is polluted. This work examines numerical models of airfields (temperature, speed, and humidity) and also focuses on the concentration of carbon dioxide and oxygen in the cabin, which is a critical factor for ensuring the health of the driver and passengers. To build a mathematical model, the Navier-Stokes equations with energy, continuity, and diffusion equations are used to simulate the diffusion of gases and air humidity. In the Ansys Fluent finite volume analysis package, the model is solved numerically using averaged RANS equations and k- $\omega$  turbulence models. The cabin of a mainline locomotive with two drivers, taking into account their breathing, is used as a transport model. The problem was solved in a nonstationary formulation for the design scenario of summer and winter, the time of stabilization of the fields was found, and graphs were constructed for different points in time. A comparative analysis of the uniformity of fields along the height of the cabin was carried out with different locations of deflectors, and optimal configurations were found. Energy efficiency values of the climate system operation in recirculation operating modes were obtained. A qualitative assessment of the driver's blowing directions under different circulation and recirculation modes is given from the point of view of the concentration of carbon dioxide in the breathing area. The proposed solution makes it possible to reduce electricity consumption from 3.1 kW to 0.6 kW and in winter mode from 11.6 kW to 3.9 kW and save up to 1.5 L/h of fuel. The conducted research can be used to develop modern energy-efficient and safe systems for providing comfortable climate conditions for drivers and passengers of various types of transport.

**Keywords:** air conditioning; Ansys Fluent; climate control; HVAC; CFD; humidity; CO<sub>2</sub> concentration; cabin climate control system; carbon dioxide; fuel economy

# 1. Introduction

The optimization of configurations and operating modes of heating and ventilation systems of vehicles can reduce fuel consumption in internal combustion engines, reduce energy consumption, and extend the service life of electric vehicle batteries. In addition, the creation of a comfortable microclimate maintains optimal performance, the concentration of drivers, and conditions for the rest of transport passengers in [1–5].



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**Copyright:** © 2024 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). Critical HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) parameters include the concentration of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the cabin and directly in the breathing area. An increase in  $CO_2$  concentration to 1% can cause drowsiness, suffocation, and lead to tragic consequences [6,7]. Partial or complete air recirculation can cause this situation in the cabin and the lack of air supply from the environment.

Thus, the use of recirculation as one of the effective tools for reducing energy consumption while optimizing thermal comfort parameters requires additional study and restrictions to maintain the required gas concentrations.

The abbreviation HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) includes rather broad concepts of studying, controlling, and optimizing microclimate parameters. In particular, these include temperature, pressure, air velocity and humidity, gas concentration, odors, illumination, etc. Civil and industrial transport, aircraft, buildings, and whole open micro-districts act as research objects. The most promising approach for the study of such problems is the use of mathematical modeling based on fundamental equations of hydrodynamics, together with advanced numerical methods.

Recommendations on temperature conditions and air quality are widely presented in various standards, in particular in the European air quality recommendations [8,9], the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards [10,11], WHO, and others [12–16]. In particular, in [12], a review analysis is carried out on labor protection at passenger transport stations and vehicles, and in [15,16], studies are carried out in aircraft.

Analytical approaches based on balance equations [17–19] make it possible to obtain volume-averaged field characteristics [20–22]. The problems of finding heat transfer coefficients using the Nusselt criterion were considered for harvesting machines [23], off-road vehicles [24–28], building elements [29–35], car cabins [36–40], and engineering systems [41–43]. This approach involves the use of previously found heat transfer coefficients to simulate heat exchange with external regions. For example, in [24], the temperature regime in the interior of an SUV was studied depending on the fan rotation speed. In [25], the assessment of thermal comfort in the vehicle interior was conducted, considering solar radiation. The article [41] considered numerical modeling and heat transfer in concentric and eccentric cavities of rotation. The work [43] discusses conjugate heat transfer in an anode roasting furnace. In article [40], a method is proposed to calculate heat transfer coefficients for a multilayer car cabin wall that considers forced convective heat exchange between internal and external air. The article also compares the results obtained numerically and analytically based on various applied theories.

The complex geometry of vehicle cabins makes the use of analytical methods impossible. To directly determine the values of thermal comfort fields at each point of the internal domain, the solution of three-dimensional hydrodynamic equations using CFD analysis is required [44–49]. Therefore, in the aforementioned studies [50,51], CFD investigations were conducted on vehicle ventilation systems in tropical climates. A study was conducted on ACH in airplanes, cars, and buses, as well as the impact of passenger arrangement on cabin air flow structure.

Works [52–59] investigate climate control systems, considering the use of various controllers to obtain values of carbon dioxide concentrations in various areas [60,61], and control systems for damper drives. Experimental measurements of air quality, temperature profile, and energy consumption in the cabin of an electric vehicle are given in [53,55]. The articles [62–67] evaluate safety in terms of temperature factors when vehicles are heated from direct sunlight.

The economic justification for various air conditioning systems for electric buses is given in [68–70], and an assessment of the economic efficiency of using a heat pump system is given. Studies have been conducted on humidity and the effective removal of condensation from fogging on the internal surfaces of a car [54,71,72].

Researchers developed a mathematical model in [73] to examine how viral particles are transmitted within car interiors, specifically from air intake deflectors and the driver's respiratory tract.

The above review showed that despite the large number of studies, there is currently no clear methodology for analyzing the control of the climate system of transport crews. Therefore, in each specific case, it is necessary to conduct experimental studies.

This work aims to develop a method for studying the climate system operation in a railroad locomotive cabin [74] with two drivers (driver and assistant driver), as seen in Figure 1. In particular, a solution was obtained in the form of the speed fields, temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide concentration, and oxygen. Primary attention is paid to studying the values of air concentrations during breathing, which is a critical factor for ensuring the health of the driver and passengers. In particular, the normal level of carbon dioxide concentration according to ASHRAE standards [10,11] is considered as being less than 600 ppm (0.06%); when the value reaches 1000 ppm (0.1%), drowsiness already occurs; and a value of more than 2500 (0.25%) is considered hazardous to health.



**Figure 1.** 2TE25KM—mainline freight two-section diesel locomotive with AC-DC electrical transmission: (**a**) general view; (**b**) control system.

The mathematical model is built based on hydrodynamic equations: the Navier– Stokes equations and the energy and continuity equations. To model humidity and gas concentration, a diffusion equation has been added to the system.

Winter and summer temperature scenarios are considered as heating and cooling modes of air in the cabin, respectively. The problem was solved in a nonstationary formulation, the times of field stabilization were found, and graphs of the values of velocities, temperatures, humidity, and gas concentrations were constructed in different areas of the cabin at different times. The values of power consumption (energy efficiency) for various modes of operation of the climate system are also plotted. A comparative analysis of the uniformity of fields along the height of the cabin with different locations of deflectors was carried out, and optimal configurations were found. A qualitative assessment of the driver's blowing directions under different circulation and recirculation modes is given from the point of view of the concentration of carbon dioxide in the breathing area. As a verification, a comparison was made with experimental data on measuring microclimate indicators at workplaces for the mainline diesel locomotive 2TE25K.

The significance of this work is as follows. The constructed numerical algorithm allows for the research and optimization of all necessary air flows inside the cabin. In particular, it allows researchers to study changes in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the cabin and in the inhaled air, including studying different degrees of air recirculation to increase energy efficiency. This model allows researchers to study the issues of the effective operation of life support systems in the absence of external air in critical situations

#### 2. Materials and Methods

## 2.1. Problem Statement

The approach is based on the Navier–Stokes equations, in which liquids are represented as a continuous continuum [3,4]. The system of equations consists of relations of moments (1), continuity (2), energy (3), and relations for an ideal gas (Cliperon–Mendeleev) (4); to model air humidity and gas concentrations, diffusion Equations (5)–(7) are used [75,76]:

$$\frac{\partial \rho u}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho u u) = X - \nabla p + \nabla \tau, \qquad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho u) = 0, \tag{2}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho T}{\partial t} + \nabla (T \rho \boldsymbol{u}) = \frac{\lambda}{c_{\rho}} \Delta T - \nabla \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n} T \boldsymbol{J}_{i},$$
(3)

$$p = \frac{\rho T R}{M},\tag{4}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho Y_i}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \boldsymbol{u} Y_i) = \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{J}_i, \quad i = 1..N - 1,$$
(5)

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} Y_i = 1.$$
 (6)

$$\boldsymbol{J_i} = \left(\rho D_{i,m} + \frac{t}{Sc_t}\right) \nabla Y_i + D_{i,T} \frac{\nabla T}{T}.$$
(7)

The main variables here are the following: u is the velocity of the medium;  $\rho$  is density; p is pressure; T—temperature;  $Y_i$  is the mass fraction of substance i;  $J_i$  is the diffuse flow of substance i;  $Sc_t$  is the turbulent Schmidt number; and  $\tau = \mu [(\nabla u + \nabla u^T) - \frac{2}{3}\nabla \cdot uE]$  where E is the only tensor.

Gas parameters:  $\mu$  refers to the viscosities;  $\lambda$  and  $c_{\rho}$  are thermal conductivity and specific heat capacity; R and M are the gas constant and the molar mass;  $Sc_t$  is the turbulent Schmidt number;  $\mu_t$  is the turbulent viscosity;  $D_{i,m}$  are the mass diffusion coefficients; and  $D_{i,T}$  are the thermal diffusion coefficients (thermal diffusion coefficients).

At the boundaries of the region  $\Omega$  with normal n, fixed field values are specified. For temperatures and concentrations, their flows are additionally specified:

$$T|_{\Omega} = T^*, \qquad -\lambda \frac{\partial T}{\partial n}\Big|_{\Omega} = q^* = -\alpha (T - T_{out}).$$
 (8)

$$Y_i|_{\Omega} = Y_i^*, \qquad -\frac{\partial Y_i}{\partial n}\Big|_{\Omega} = J_i^*.$$
 (9)

Thus, partial differential Equations (1)–(7) with boundary conditions (8) and (9) represent a system of closed boundary value problems of air motion.

#### 2.2. Geometry Model

Figures 2 and 3 show a flat diagram and a 3D model of the cabin of the mainline freight diesel locomotive 2TE25K [74]. Air enters the cabin through the deflectors, which are shown in orange in Figure 3a, and exits through the exhaust valve located in the floor, shown in blue in Figure 3b. In this diagram, the inlet deflectors are located on the sides of



the windshield, in front of the front feet, and under the windshield. Below in this work, cases of other blowing configurations are also studied.

Figure 2. Typical scheme of cabin: (a) actual diagram; (b) 3D model.



Figure 3. Geometry model for FEM analysis: (a) orange—inputs; and (b) blue—outputs.

#### 3. Results

## 3.1. Numerical Analysis

To numerically solve the boundary differential problem (1)–(8), CFD analysis was used. This method consists of replacing the main variables with Reynolds-averaged ones [77–82] and using new RANS equations. In this case, there is a need to use turbulence models.

The Ansys CFD (Ansys Fluent) finite volume analysis package was used to obtain the numerical results and the settings are shown in Table 1. Figure 4 shows a polygonal mesh of the surface of the locomotive cab half, which was constructed using Ansys Meshing.

Num	Title	Value
	Grid Settings	
1	Number of cells	489,154
2	Number of nodes	1,372,408
3	Number of wall layers	6
4	Minimum cell area, m <sup>2</sup>	$1.2 imes10^{-8}$
5	Maximum cell area, m <sup>2</sup>	$1.43 imes10^{-3}$
	The Numerical Method Setting	s
6	Solver	Pressure-Based
7	Solution Methods	Simplex
8	Turbulence model	$k-\omega$
9	Diffusion Model	Species Transport

Table 1. Boundary conditions and environment parameters for summer and winter modes.



Figure 4. Mesh of finite volumes: (a) axonometric view; (b) side view.

The numerical method chosen was "Simplex" based on the "Pressure-Based" solver. The turbulence model was used  $k - \omega$ , proposed by Ansys Fluent by default, although to increase the speed of calculation in such problems it may be more preferable to use the  $k - \varepsilon$  turbulence model. A special transport model was used to simulate humidity.

Table 2 shows the number of iterations of convergence of the stationery and transition problems depending on the number of cells and grid nodes, as well as the values of the specified residuals. The quality of the grid (Tables 2 and 3) was assessed by the value of the mesh orthogonality parameter. For these tasks, this value is within acceptable values [77]. First, the tetragonal mesh was built in Ansys Meshing, then it was converted into a polygonal conformal mesh inside Ansys Fluent Meshing, which allows for the reduction in the number of elements by increasing the number of nodes.

Num	Title	Value 1	Value 2	Value 3
1	Number of cells	489,154	208,264	187,035
2	Number of nodes	1,372,408	935,624	841,100
3	Number of wall layers	6	6	6
4	Minimum cell area, m <sup>2</sup>	$1.2  imes 10^{-8}$	$3.4 imes10^{-8}$	$8.7 imes10^{-8}$
5	Maximum cell area, m <sup>2</sup>	$1.43  imes 10^{-3}$	$1.2  imes 10^{-2}$	$1.8  imes 10^{-2}$
6	Mesh orthogonality	$7.7  imes 10^{-2}$	$7.0  imes 10^{-2}$	$6.1  imes 10^{-2}$
7	Number of iterations for convergence of a static problem	5523	7677	11,523
8	Number of iterations for convergence of a static problem	76,569	92,263	116,873

#### Table 2. Mesh quality.

Table 3. Minimal mesh quality and value of residuals.

Num	Title	Value
9	Value of residuals	$1 imes 10^{-4}$
	Minimal mesh quality	
10	Mesh orthogonality	$7.7 imes10^{-2}$
11	Variable residual values	$1 imes 10^{-4}$
	Value of residuals	

For the nonstationary time integration problem, a fixed time step  $\Delta t = 5 \times 10^{-3}$  s was chosen. This value was set based on recommendations in [77]:

$$\Delta t_{max} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{L}{v}.$$
(10)

Here, *L* is the characteristic size; in this case, the average cell size is 25 mm; and *v* is the characteristic speed. The characteristic speed for (10) is taken to be 0.7 and obtained based on the speed values at the entrance deflectors and several preliminary calculation operations. For these values,  $\Delta t_{max} = 1.1 \times 10^{-2}$  s. For a given step, according to (10), the flow will cover a distance of no more than one cell.

As a turbulence model for the RANS equation, two-parameter models of isotropic turbulence [77,78] were chosen: the  $k - \omega$  model (transfer equations are written for the kinetic energy of turbulence k and the specific dissipation rate of turbulent energy  $\omega$ ) and the  $k - \varepsilon$  model (transport equations are written for the kinetic energy of turbulence k and the rate of dissipation of turbulent energy  $\varepsilon$ ). For these problems, they show almost identical results, but the  $k - \varepsilon$  model converges 30% faster. The  $k - \omega$  model does not include complex nonlinear wall damping functions required for the  $k - \varepsilon$  model, and therefore it is more accurate and more stable and is recommended for use by default as a universal model in the latest versions of Ansys Fluent [77].

The Species Transport model in Ansys Fluent calculates the concentrations of water vapor, oxygen, and carbon dioxide. The mixing and transport of chemicals can be modeled by solving conservation equations, which describe convection, diffusion, and reactions for each component. No chemical reactions occur in this solution.

#### 3.2. Task Parameters

The train cabin is made of a metal frame of a multilayer wall. Table 1: The outside of the cabin is sheathed with 2.5 mm thick steel sheets welded to the frame, and the inside is lined with 3 mm thick perforated aluminum sheets. To ensure good sound insulation and thermal insulation, the internal surfaces of the sheets and frame are covered with anti-noise mastic, and between the sheets of outer and inner cladding, packages of glass plates or

In order to consider heat exchange with the environment, convective heat transfer was used to model the cabin wall and external domain (8). As an applied theory for obtaining heat transfer coefficients  $\alpha$ , the Jurgens formula was used [40]. Parameter values are given in Table 4.

Table 4. Parameters for determining the heat transfer coefficient of the cabin wall.

Material of Wall Layers	Coefficient of Thermal Conductivity, $W/(m \cdot K)$	Thickness of Each Layer, m	
	Cabin wall		
Steel	58	0.0025	
Bituminous mastic anti-noise layer	0.27	0.003	
Foamed polyethylene	0.032	0.03	
Aluminum	203	0.002	
Wall		0.0375	
	Windows		
Glass	1	0.01	

A comparative analysis of thermal characteristics using applied theories and directly taking into account the external environment as a separate domain is given in [40].

Using Formula (11) for the wall thickness of 0.0375 m, the values of the coefficient  $\alpha = 1.04 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K})$  (heat transfer coefficient) can be obtained. The composition of the wall is presented in Table 3.

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{\sum \frac{\delta_i}{\lambda_i} + \frac{1}{5+3.4u'}},\tag{11}$$

Here, u' is the external air speed (train speed);  $\lambda_i$  and  $\delta_i$  are the thermal conductivity of the *i*-th wall and the thickness; and  $\alpha$  is the thermal conductivity coefficient for the walls.

For a train speed of 16.7 m/s, the heat transfer coefficient of the wall was  $1.04 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K})$  and that of the windows was  $38.14 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K})$ .

For numerical and experimental purposes, a train moving at a constant speed was considered. It was assumed that the climate system in the train was not operating and that velocities, temperatures, and concentrations had constant values according to the values given below. Then, the climate system was set to operate at the initial moment of time. Initial and boundary conditions were set (Tables 5 and 6) with equipment characteristics [83].

The problem was solved for summer and winter modes; accordingly, the cooling and heating of the cabin were modeled in the time domain.

To estimate the value of the amount of water vapor in the air, it is more convenient to use values relative to humidity in %. Arden Buck's formulas [84] can be used to translate the values:

$$p = \frac{p_{H_2O}}{p_{H_2O}^*} \cdot 100\%, \tag{12}$$

$$p_{H_2O}^* = 6.1121 e^{\left[\frac{(18.678 - \frac{T}{234.5}) \cdot T}{257.14 + T}\right]} \cdot 100, \tag{13}$$

$$p_{H_2O}^* = 6.1115e^{\left[\frac{(23.036 - \frac{T}{333.7}) \cdot T}{279.82 + T}\right]} \cdot 100, \tag{14}$$

where  $p_{H_2O}$  and  $p_{H_2O}^*$  are the partial pressure and equilibrium pressure of saturated vapor and T is the temperature in degrees Celsius. Formula (13) is used for positive temperatures, and Formula (14) is used for negative temperatures.

Num	Title	Value
	Summer mode	
1	Flow temperature in inlet deflectors, °C	16
2	Flow velocity in the inlet deflectors, m/s	0.4
3	Air temperature in the cabin $ _{t=0}$ , $^{\circ}C$	40
4	External air temperature, °C	45
5	Average temperature of the driver's body, $^\circ C$	30
6	Mass fraction of water vapor in air conditioner air	0.006
7	Relative humidity of water vapor in air conditioner air, %	50
8	Mass fraction of water vapor in the cabin at the initial moment of time	0.0056
9	Relative humidity in the cabin at the initial moment of time, %	12.3
10	CO <sub>2</sub> concentration in air conditioner air, %	0.03
11	$\rm CO_2$ concentration in the cabin at the initial moment of time, $\%$	0.03
	Winter mode	
12	Flow temperature in inlet deflectors, °C	50
13	Flow velocity in the inlet deflectors, m/s	0.4
14	Air temperature in the cabin $ _{t=0}$ , °C	5
15	External air temperature, °C	-50
16	Average temperature on the human surface, $^\circ C$	30
17	Mass fraction of heater water vapor	0.0027
18	Relative humidity of heater water vapor, %	4
19	Mass fraction of water vapor in the cabin at the initial moment of time	0.0027
20	Relative humidity in the cabin at the initial moment of time, %	50
21	CO <sub>2</sub> concentration in air conditioner air, %	0.03
22	$\rm CO_2$ concentration in the cabin at the initial moment of time, $\%$	0.03

Table 5. Boundary and initial conditions and air parameters for summer and winter modes.

Table 6. Mixture parameters for summer and winter modes.

Num	Mixture Parameters	Value
23	Molecular weight of air, kg/kmol	28.966
24	Specific heat of air, J/(kg·K)	1006.43
25	Molecular weight of water vapor kg/kmol	18.0153
26	Specific heat of water vapor, J/(kg·K)	2014
27	Molecular weight of carbon dioxide, kg/kmol	44.01
28	Specific heat of carbon dioxide, J/(kg·K)	840.37

To determine the mass and thermal diffusion coefficients in Equation (7) for an ideal gas, the kinetic theory relations available in Ansys [78] were used. In general, these coefficients depend on the temperature, pressure, and composition of the mixture.

Table 7 presents the average values of diffusion coefficients in the volume for the winter and summer regimes.

Num	Title	Value, Summer Mode	Value, Winter Mode
1	Coeff. mass diffusion CO <sub>2</sub> , [m <sup>2</sup> /s]	$1.58 imes10^{-5}$	$1.56 imes10^{-5}$
2	Coeff. mass diffusion $H_2O$ , $[m^2/s]$	$2.37 imes10^{-5}$	$2.35 imes10^{-5}$
3	Coeff. mass diffusion Air, [m <sup>2</sup> /s]	$2.32  imes 10^{-5}$	$2.31 imes10^{-5}$
4	Coeff. thermal diffusion CO <sub>2</sub> , $[kg/(m s)]$	$1.49 imes10^{-9}$	$9.82  imes 10^{-10}$
5	Coeff. thermal diffusion $H_2O$ , [kg/(m s)]	$-1.83 imes10^{-8}$	$-1.97 imes10^{-8}$
6	Coeff. thermal diffusion Air, [kg/(m s)]	$1.68 imes10^{-8}$	$1.87 imes 10^{-8}$

## Table 7. Diffusion coefficients.

# 3.3. Breathing Simulation

Initial breathing data for one driver are shown in Table 8 [85,86].

Table 8. Driver breathing parameters.

Num	Title	Value
1	Exhalation temperature, °C	36.6
2	Volume of air inhaled per breath, liter	0.5
3	Breathing frequency, breathing/min	15
4	Time of one breath, s	4
5	Relative humidity of exhaled air, %	100
6	CO <sub>2</sub> concentration of exhaled air, %	4.03
7	Inhalation–exhalation surface area, m <sup>2</sup>	0.00105

In this case, the breathing rate from time *t* of one driver is given by a periodic function:

$$v(t) = \frac{\pi \cdot V_0}{2 \cdot S_{In} \cdot T_0} \cdot sin\left(\frac{t \cdot \pi}{T_0}\right), \left[\frac{M}{c}\right].$$
(15)

Here,  $V_0$  is the volume of inhaled air per breath, m<sup>3</sup>;  $T_0$ —time of one breath, s; and  $S_{in}$  is the inhalation–exhalation surface area (nasal or oral surfaces), m<sup>2</sup>.

The concentration of carbon dioxide and humidity during respiration were specified over time by piecewise constant functions (set 1) in accordance with Table 3.

$CO_{\rm company}$ tractions (t)	data from set 1, if exhalation,	
$CO_2$ concentration (t) = $-$	calculated values if inhalation.	(16)
Polativo humidity (t) _	data from set 1, if exhalation,	(10)
Relative indificitly $(t) = \langle$	calculated values if inhalation.	

The assumption in this case is that the concentration of carbon dioxide in exhaled air remains unchanged, regardless of the increase in inhaled air concentration. However, as a complication, it is possible to assume a variable concentration of exhaled carbon dioxide, depending on the inhaled one.

## 3.4. Numerical Results

Initially, a nonstationary problem was solved. The process was studied until the onset of a stable state, and the time to achieve stabilized parameters and the values of the parameters at each time step were determined.

The following Figures 5–12 show the values of solving nonstationary problems over time for the summer and winter modes. The initial and boundary conditions were set in accordance with Tables 4–8.



Figure 5. Temperature values versus time in summer mode.



Figure 6.  $CO_2$  concentration values over time in summer mode.



Figure 7.  $CO_2$  concentration values over time in summer mode on the indicated surfaces.



**Figure 8.** CO<sub>2</sub> concentration values in the center over time in summer mode, as well as in recirculation mode.



**Figure 9.**  $CO_2$  concentration values over time in summer mode on the indicated surfaces, as well as for recirculation mode.



Figure 10. Temperature values over time in winter mode.



Figure 11. CO<sub>2</sub> concentration values over time in winter mode.



Figure 12. CO<sub>2</sub> concentration values over time in winter mode on the indicated surfaces.

Temperatures and carbon dioxide concentrations are given:

- Average values at the entrances and exits from the cabin (designation in the Figures below: "Inlets" and "Outlets");
- Average value in the cabin (designation in the Figures below: "in Volume");
- Average value on the driver's inhalation–exhalation surface (designation in the Figures below: "Breath");
- In front of the driver's face at the intersection of two lines (hereinafter referred to as the Center), as seen in Figure 4 (designation in the Figures below: "In center").

In addition, Figures 8 and 9 show the graphs of carbon dioxide concentration obtained in the recirculation mode for the summer mode: values in the center (in "center" Rec) and the average value in the cabin ("in Volume Rec").

It is necessary to explain how the recirculation mode works in climate systems. Air in the circulation mode after leaving the cabin through the valve (outlet) enters the pipe space, and then completely (or partially in case of partial recirculation) comes back to the inlet. Thus, for the mathematical formulation at the inputs of the values of concentrations of carbon dioxide and water vapor, we need to set not the data from Table 4 but those values that are obtained in the previous iteration at the output ( $X_i^{Inlet} := X_{i-1}^{Outlet}$ , where *i*—time step). That is, the values of inlet concentrations will increase with time. The values of inlet temperatures and velocities, on the other hand, will not change because they are regulated by the climate system. In such a mathematical formulation, we are expected to obtain

a decrease in energy consumption (required power of the climate system) but also an increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide and humidity in the cabin.

The field stabilization time was about 300 s. Table 9 shows the results of average values by the cabin volume and in front of the driver's face in the center for a time of 300 s.

Ν	Title	Summer Mode, Value	Winter Mode, Value
1	Temperature in volume, °C	30.0	25.4
2	Temperature in center, °C	24.2	24.3
3	Air speed in center, m/s	0.02	0.06
4	Relative humidity in volume, %	24.9	17.1
5	Relative humidity in center, %	38.1	17.3
6	CO <sub>2</sub> concentration in volume, %	0.034	0.034
7	$CO_2$ concentration in center, %	0.124	0.039

Table 9. Results of average values by volume for a time of 300 s.

The power of the climate system according to heat balances in summer was 3122 W, and in winter it was 11,624 W. Power in this case is calculated using the following formula:

$$Q(t) = \dot{m} \cdot \mathbf{c}_{\rho} \cdot \Delta T,$$

where  $\dot{m}$  is the mass air flow rate,  $c_{\rho}$  is the heat capacity of the air, and  $\Delta T$  is the temperature difference at the inlet and outlet to the climate system.

Figure 13 shows the power values of the climate system for the summer and winter modes in the full circulation and full recirculation modes, respectively. Power in the recirculation mode is reduced by the climate system using cooled or heated air from the cabin rather than from outside. In the recirculation modes, power is reduced by a factor of 5 in the summer mode and by a factor of 3 in the winter mode.



Figure 13. Power of the climate system in circulation and recirculation mode.



For time value of 300 s, Figures 14–19 below show the fields of temperatures, speeds, relative humidity, and carbon dioxide concentrations in the driver's median secant plane.

**Figure 14.** Temperature, °C: (**a**) summer mode; (**b**) winter mode.



**Figure 15.** Temperature on the same numerical scale, °C: (**a**) summer mode; (**b**) winter mode.



Figure 16. Velocity field, m/s: (a)—summer mode; (b)—winter mode.



Figure 17. Relative humidity, %: (a)—summer mode; (b)—winter mode.



Figure 18. Relative humidity on the same numerical scale, %: (a)—summer mode; (b)—winter mode.



Figure 19. Gas concentration, volume fraction: (a)—summer mode; (b)—winter mode.

# 4. Comparison with Experimental Data

Verification was carried out on the basis of a comparison with the experiment of measuring microclimate parameters at workplaces for the mainline diesel locomotive

2TE25K—Protocol No. 125/1 dated 25 September 2020. The measurements were carried out by the Meteoskop-M, seen in Figure 20a [87], a microclimate parameter meter, with serial number 220516, in accordance with the standards [88]. The error of "Meteoscop-M" is  $\pm 0.2$  °C.



Figure 20. Temperature measurement: (a)—Meteoskop-M [89]; (b) blue and red—points for measuring temperature.

According to this technique, measurements are carried out at a distance of 0.15 m and 1.5 m from the cabin floor; only average values are recorded in the protocol. Table 10 shows the temperatures obtained numerically and as a result of measurements. Numerical values were recorded at a height of 0.15 m and 1.5 m from the cabin floor on the vertical axis, as seen in Figures 20b and 21.

Table 10. Results of comparison of experimental measurements and numerical calculations.

Num	Title	Numerical	Experiment	Error, %	Standard
		Summ	er Mode		
1	Temperature at 0.15 m, $^\circ \mathrm{C}$	22.5			
2	Temperature at 1.5 m, °C	37.6			
3	Average temperature, °C	30.1	32.5	7.4	20–28
		Winte	r Mode		
4	Temperature at 0.15 m, $^\circ \mathrm{C}$	12.8			
5	Temperature at 1.5 m, °C	28.5			
6	Average temperature, °C	20.65	21.4	3.5	20-28



Figure 21. Temperature measurement points: (a)—summer mode; (b)—winter mode.

The difference between numerical calculations and the experiment was 3.5% and 7.4%, respectively.

## 5. Discussion

Based on the distribution of fields obtained above, the following patterns can be identified in the behavior of air flows and value fields in the cabin of a diesel locomotive:

- The nature of the distribution of speeds and temperatures is significantly uneven.
- Limit values are reached in the areas of greatest airflow, located under the windshield.
- Areas of air "stagnation" are located in the upper corners of the cabin.
- In the winter mode, flow velocities reach higher values at a distance from the deflectors, which is caused by higher air temperatures in the winter mode.

For a more detailed study of the unevenness of the fields, Figures 22–25, graphs of the distribution of temperatures and velocities on the vertical (OY) and horizontal (OZ) axes were constructed. Dashed lines mark the intersections with the driver and the seat. The results of magnitude distributions along the OX axis are not presented in this paper due to space limitations.



Figure 22. Temperatures on the horizontal axis OZ.



Figure 23. Temperatures on the vertical axis OY.



Figure 24. Velocities on the horizontal axis OZ.



Figure 25. Velocities on the vertical axis OY.

Calculations were performed for three extra deflector locations and blowing speeds to evaluate their influence, while maintaining a total flow rate of  $380 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$  for the summer mode:

- (a) The deflector located under the windshield has been reduced in area by half. The total incoming flow speed increased to 0.7 m/s;
- (b) The deflector located under the windshield was moved to the cab roof without changing the area. The flow velocity took on the initial value of 0.4 m/s;
- (c) The deflector located under the windshield has been reduced in area by half. A deflector of the same size was located on the roof. The flow velocity took on the initial value of 0.4 m/s.

To numerically assess the impact of the location of the air intake deflectors, Table 11 shows the difference in values on the vertical axis, as seen in Figure 4b, at a distance of 0.15 m and 1.5 m from the floor. The problem was solved in a stationary formulation. The smallest values are highlighted in green, i.e., values for which the location of the deflectors gives the most uniform picture of the distribution of values along the height on a given axis.

		Location of Deflectors			
Ν	Title	Under the Windshield	On the Roof	Reduced under the Windshield	Reduced under the Windshield and on the Roof
1	Temperature, °C	5.654	0.668	2.286	1.315
2	Velocity, m/s	0.105	0.063	0.179	0.056
3	Relative humidity, %:	7.297	2.786	3.756	1.946
4	$CO_2$ concentration in volume, %	0.055	0.098	0.017	0.009

Table 11. Gradient of field distribution along the vertical axis.

Thus, the most uniform picture of the location of the temperature field is provided by the option with the location of deflectors on the roof, and for the fields of speeds, relative humidity, and carbon dioxide concentration, this is provided by the simultaneous location of deflectors on the roof and under the windshield.

*Humidity*. Maximum relative humidity values are reached in winter due to significantly lower ambient temperatures. Relative humidity limits are located along the cabin trim and above the window area.

Above the front window, a value greater than 100% is reached, which in real conditions leads to condensation and at low temperatures can lead to freezing of surfaces. It is worth noting that this mathematical theory, and, directly, the use of the diffusion equation, can be applied quite accurately for relative humidity values from 0% to 100% and can predict the very fact of the formation of the "dew point". If this range is exceeded, it is necessary to use models that take into account the phase transition of water vapor from gaseous to liquid and solid states.

*Carbon dioxide.* In full circulation mode (air intake outside the cabin), the average values of carbon dioxide concentration in the cabin practically do not increase, which is caused by a much greater influx of air with a higher oxygen content than carbon dioxide entering during breathing.

For the summer regime in the time range of 30–80 s, as seen in Figure 6, an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is observed. A detailed examination of the fields' slices over time shows that up to a range of 30 s, exhaled air spreads downward from the breathing area; then, as the cabin space cools, it begins to rise; and after a range of 80 s, it spreads upward. Thus, in the range of 30–80 s, a "stagnation" zone is formed in front of the driver's face. A similar behavior of the air environment can be seen in Figures 14–18, in which the flows from the windowsill deflectors propagate down and up for the summer and winter modes, respectively. This fact is caused not only by the temperature ratio of the flows but also by the complex field of air velocities.

In full recirculation mode in Figures 8 and 9, we see the expected increase in carbon dioxide values over time.

Based on the calculations performed, the following assumptions and recommendations can be made for effectively reducing the concentration of carbon dioxide depending on the circulation mode:

- For the full circulation mode (air intake from outside), the most effective will be the flow that "blows away" the air from the driver's breathing area towards the outlet valves. In this case, the most optimal would be, in particular, the location of the air deflectors on the roof of the cabin. Thus, Figure 26 shows a three-dimensional graph of CO<sub>2</sub> streamlines for the summer mode when exhaling with a deflector on the roof. It can be seen that the exhaled air is almost immediately blown towards the outlet valve.
- For full or partial recirculation mode, the blowing flow should remove air from the breathing area to the far edges of the cabin, mixing it as much as possible. In this case, a more complex configuration of deflectors will be most effective, for example, the simultaneous operation of deflectors located under the front window and on the roof.



**Figure 26.** CO<sub>2</sub> streamlines for the summer mode for the case of the deflector located under the windshield: (**a**) frontal view; (**b**) side view.

Thus, Figure 27 shows a three-dimensional graph of  $CO_2$  streamlines for the summer mode during exhalation with deflectors on the roof and under the windshield. It can be seen that the exhaled air has a rather complex trajectory and spreads throughout the entire volume of the cabin.



**Figure 27.** CO<sub>2</sub> streamlines for the summer mode for the case of deflectors located under the windshield and on the roof: (**a**) frontal view; (**b**) side view.

#### 6. Conclusions

The following main results were obtained:

- 1. Fields and graphs of the distribution of temperatures, speeds, humidity, and carbon dioxide concentrations in the time range for summer and winter regimes were constructed. A comparison was made with experimental data on measuring microclimate indicators at workplaces of the mainline diesel locomotive 2TE25K. The differences be-tween the numerical calculations and experiment were 3.5% and 7.4%, respectively.
- 2. The proposed solution makes it possible to reduce electricity consumption from 3.1 kW to 0.6 kW and in the winter mode reduce it from 11.6 kW to 3.9 kW and save up to 1.5 L/h of fuel. For the winter regime, areas of "dew point" formation and condensation formation were identified.

- a. For the full circulation mode (air intake from outside), the most effective will be the flow that "blows away" the air from the driver's breathing area towards the outlet valves. In this work, as an example, the operation of an injection deflector on the roof of the cabin is considered;
- For full or partial recirculation mode, the blowing flow should remove air from the breathing area to the far edges of the cabin, mixing it as much as possible. In this case, the most effective would be a more complex configuration of deflectors, for example, the simultaneous operation of deflectors located under the front window and on the roof.
- 4. The recirculation mode allows for a significant reduction in climate system output and an increase in energy efficiency by recycling pre-cooled or heated cabin air rather than outside air. Thus, full recirculation modes increase energy efficiency by a factor of 5 for the summer mode and by a factor of 3 for the winter mode.

The presented model allows researchers to study and optimize the operation of climate systems, including for improving energy efficiency and reducing transport pollutant emissions, considering the maintenance of thermal comfort parameters and maximum permissible concentrations of carbon dioxide. This method can also simulate the entry and spread of harmful substances in the vehicle cabin.

It is proposed to consider the following as further research in this work:

- Addition of equations to the mathematical model reflecting the phase transitions of water vapor for more accurate modeling when the relative humidity exceeds 100%;
- Considering solar radiation on heat exchange in the cabin;
- Conducting experimental measurements of fields for various deflector operating schemes, including CO<sub>2</sub> concentration fields;
- Extended numerical study of the full recirculation mode, the influence of the deflectors, as well as the behavior of experimental measurements for this case;
- Also quite interesting is the study of excess pressure in the cabin, which is necessary, among other things, to prevent the entry of dust and pollutants through leaks in the cabin casing, bypassing the filter elements of the climate system. These studies have already been conducted and are being prepared for publication.

The conducted research can be used to develop modern energy-efficient and safe systems for providing comfortable climate conditions for drivers and passengers of various types of transport.

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# Nomenclature

HVAC	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
CFD	Computational Fluid Dynamics
и	Velocity of the Medium
ρ	Density
р	Pressure
Т	Temperature
$Y_i$	Mass Fraction of Substance <i>i</i>
$J_i$	Diffuse Flow of Substance <i>i</i>
$Sc_t$	Turbulent Schmidt Number
μ	Viscosities
λ	Thermal Conductivity
c <sub>ρ</sub>	Specific Heat Capacity
Ŕ	Gas Constant

- M Molar Mass
- *Sct* Turbulent Schmidt Number
- *D<sub>i,T</sub>* Thermal Diffusion Coefficients

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