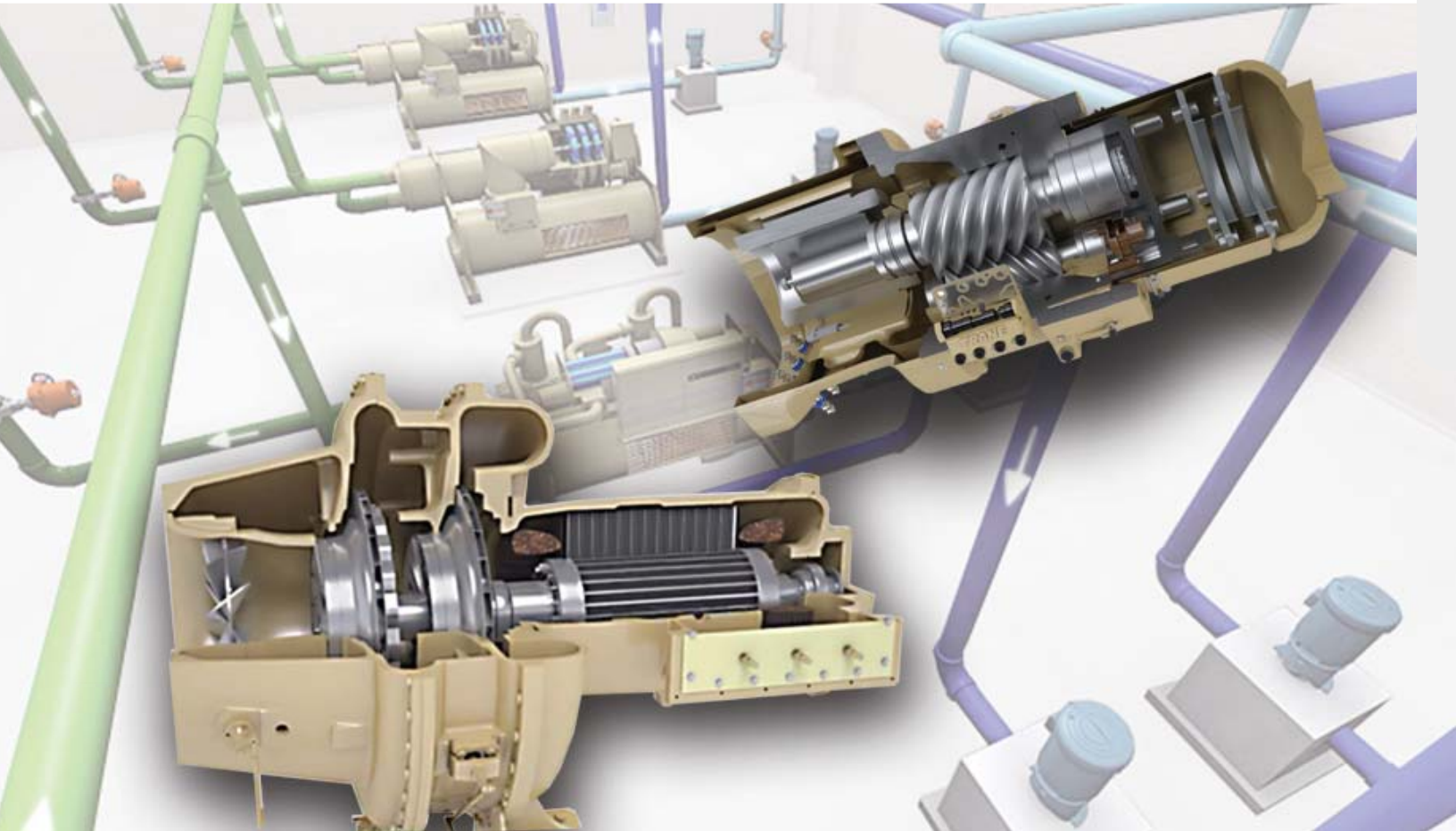




Trane Engineers Newsletter Live

Variable-Speed Compressors on Chillers

Presenters: Lee Cline, Brian Sullivan, Mike Filler, Mick Schwedler, Jeanne Harshaw (host)



EDUCATION PROVIDER





Trane Engineers Newsletter Live Series

Variable-Speed Compressors On Chillers

Abstract

This ENL discusses the operational, performance and application differences for centrifugal (dynamic compression) and helical-rotary (positive displacement) compressors. Discussion includes an overview of how variable-speed drives affect chilled-water system components, physics of centrifugal compressor chillers and screw compressor chillers, applications that benefit from each technology, importance of proper life-cycle analysis supported by examples and application considerations. Attendees will leave with an understanding of which technologies bring real value to different system applications.

Presenters: Trane engineers Brian Sullivan, Lee Cline, Mick Schwedler and Mike Filler

After viewing attendees will be able to:

1. Summarize the effects of VFDs on centrifugal and screw compressors in terms of physics (load/lift and performance)
2. Identify applications that offer customer benefits for each technology
3. Understand the importance of accurate life-cycle analysis (and provide examples)
4. Application considerations

Agenda

- Effects of variable-speed drives (VSDs) on chilled-water systems
- Physics of VSDs on centrifugal compressor chillers
 - Physics (lift vs. load)
 - Performance (work)
- Physics of VSDs on screw compressor chillers
 - Physics (lift vs. load)
 - Performance (work)
- Applications that benefit from each technology
- Importance of life-cycle analysis
- VSD chiller application considerations
- Summary



Presenter biographies

Variable-Speed Compressors on Chillers

Brian Sullivan | systems engineer | Trane

Brian Sullivan is a staff engineer in the Systems Engineering group specializing in chilled-water plant optimization. He started at Trane in 1976 as a laboratory engineer and has since held various positions in research, product development, and engineering management with most of his experience with product development for the centrifugal product line.

Brian earned his Bachelors degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Missouri at Rolla. He is a member of ASHRAE and past chair for the water-cooled AHRI engineering committee.

Mike Filler | product manager | Trane

Mike Filler is the Product Manager for Trane Water-Cooled Rotary Chillers, based in Pueblo, Colorado. Mike started his career with Trane, training and supporting design and analysis software, such as TRACE™ 700. He has since held roles internally and externally in various applications, marketing and product support positions.

Mike graduated from Clarkson University with a Mechanical Engineering degree in 2000 and recently completed an MBA with Indiana University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Colorado and an ASHRAE-certified High-performance Building Design Professional.

Mick Schwedler | applications engineer | Trane

Mick has been involved in the development, training, and support of mechanical systems for Trane since 1982. With expertise in system optimization and control (in which he holds patents), and in chilled-water system design, Mick's primary responsibility is to help designers properly apply Trane products and systems. Mick provides one-on-one support, writes technical publications, and presents seminars.

A recipient of ASHRAE's Distinguished Service and Standards Achievement Awards, Mick Chairs ASHRAE's Advanced Energy Design Guide (AEDG) Steering Committee and is past Chair of SSPC 90.1. He also contributed to the ASHRAE GreenGuide and is a member of the USGBC Pilot Credits Working Group. Mick earned his mechanical engineering degree from Northwestern University and holds a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin Solar Energy Laboratory.

Lee Cline | systems engineer | Trane

Lee is a staff engineer in the Systems Engineering department with over 30 years of experience at Trane. His career at Trane started as a factory service engineer for heavy refrigeration, helping to introduce the CVHE centrifugal chiller with electronic controls to the industry. Following that Lee was a member of the team that kicked off the microelectronic building automation and Integrated Comfort Systems controls – ICS - offering at Trane. He continues to push new unit and system control and optimization concepts into the industry, many of which are integrated in Trane EarthWise™ Systems. As a Systems Engineer Lee also has the opportunity to discuss HVAC system application and control with owners, engineers and contractors on a daily basis.

Lee earned his Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Technological University. He is a member of ASHRAE and a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Wisconsin.



Variable-Speed Compressors on Chillers

Trane Engineers Newsletter Live Series



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Learning objectives

- Summarize how VSDs effect centrifugal and screw compressors (physics, load/lift characteristics and performance)
- Identify applications that offer customer benefits for each technology
- Understand how to properly model variable-speed chillers in TRACE™ 700
- Identify application mistakes to avoid

AGENDA

- Effects of VSDs on chilled-water system components
- Physics of VSDs on centrifugal compressor chillers
 - Physics – lift vs. load
 - Performance (work)
- Physics of VSDs on screw compressor chillers
 - Physics – lift vs. load
 - Performance (work)
- Applications that benefit from each technology
- Importance of life-cycle analysis
- VSD chiller application considerations

Today's Presenters



Mike Filler

Product Manager,
screw and scroll
chillers



Brian Sullivan

Systems Engineer



Lee Cline

Systems Engineer



Mick Schwedler

Applications
Engineering
Manager

AGENDA

- **Effects of VSDs on chilled-water system components**
- Physics of VSDs on centrifugal compressor chillers
 - Physics – lift vs. load
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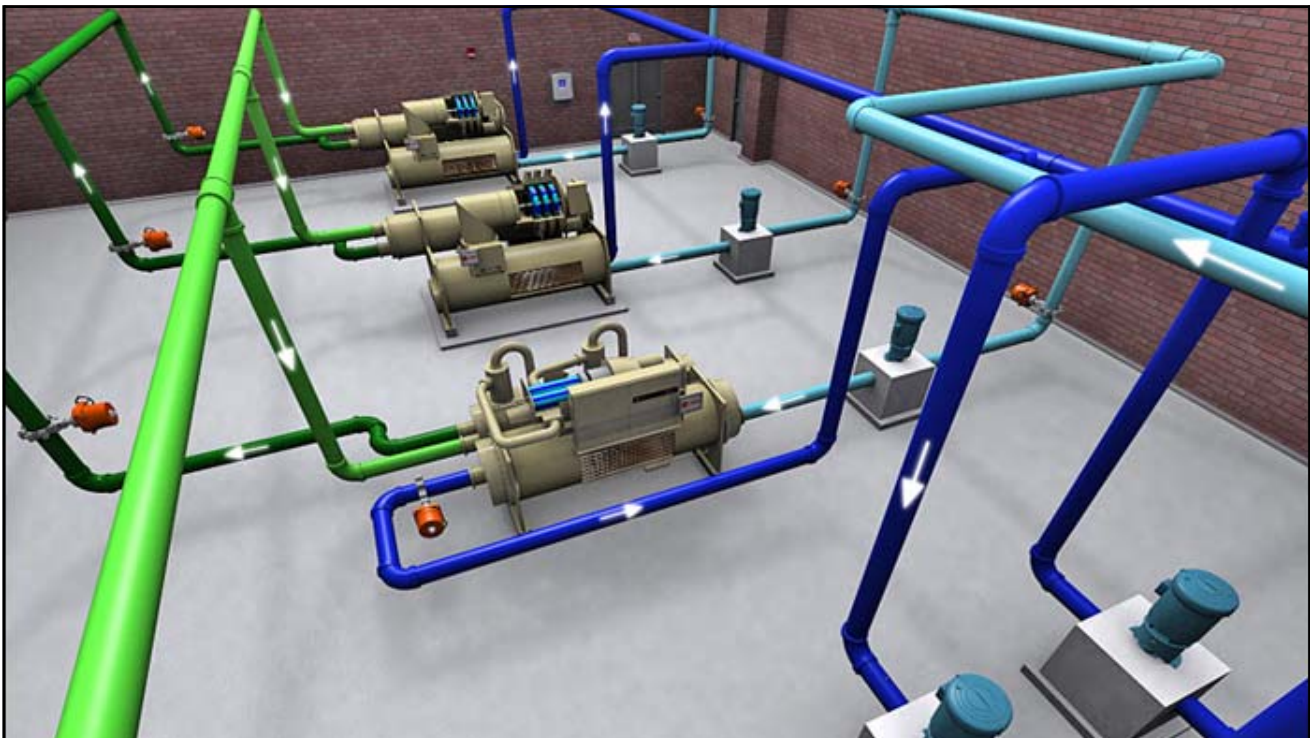
Affinity Laws

2012 ASHRAE Handbook HVAC Systems and Equipment

1. “Flow (capacity) varies with rotating speed”
2. “Head varies as the square of the rotating speed”
3. “Brake horsepower varies as the cube of the rotating speed”

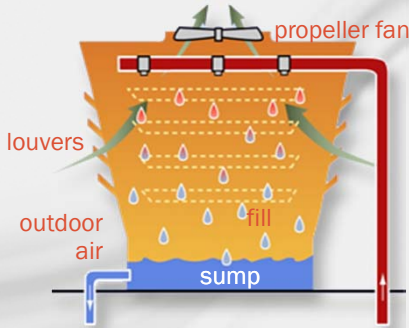
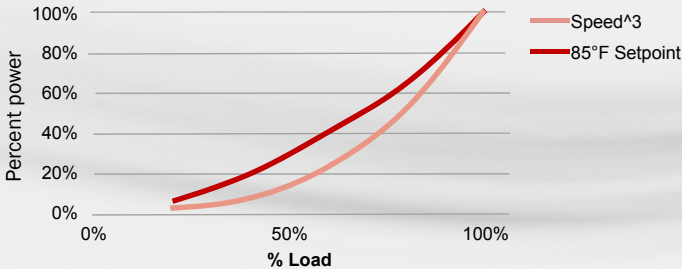
“The (third) affinity law assumes that the system curve is known and that head varies as the square of the flow.”

Many systems don't follow this assumption



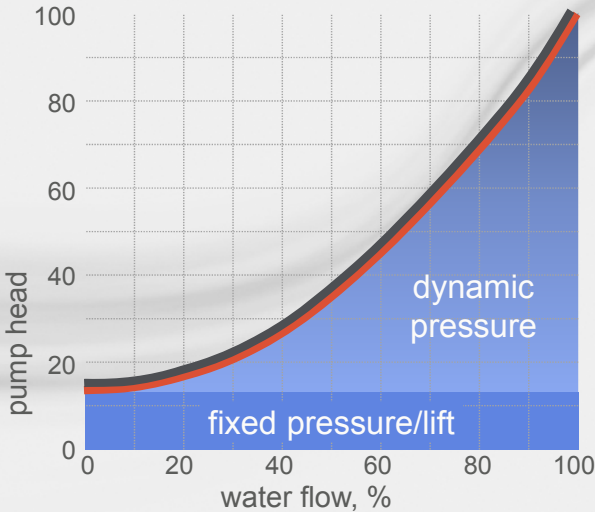
2006 ENL Summary VSDs and Their Effect on System Components

- Cooling tower fans – Load/power curve *nearly cubic*



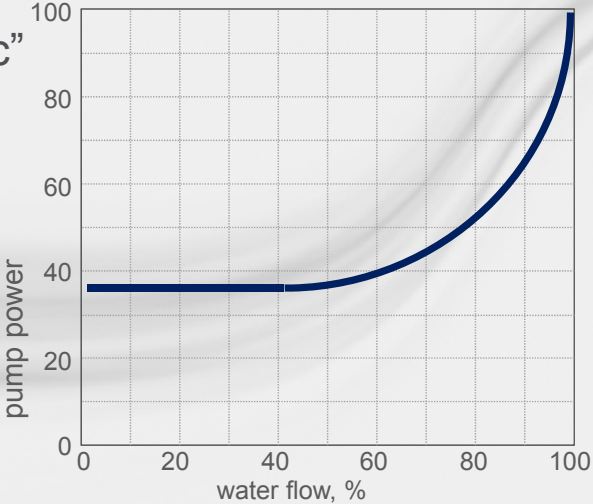
2006 ENL Summary Chilled and Condenser Water Pumps

- Head/flow curve not “squared”
 - Control setpoint
 - Cooling tower static “lift”



2006 ENL Summary Chilled and Condenser Water Pumps

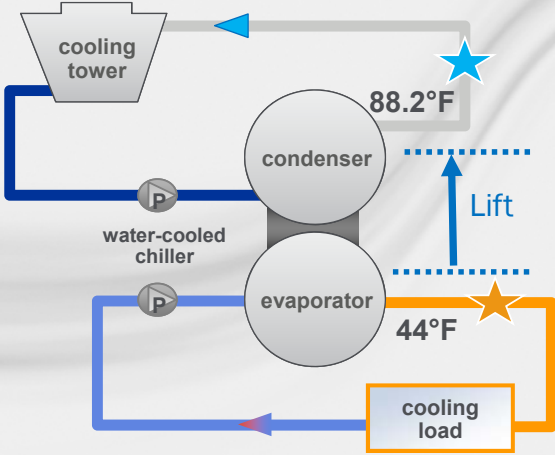
- Power/flow curve not “cubic”
 - DP curve not squared
 - Minimum flow rates



2006 ENL Summary VSDs and Their Effect on System Components

Variable speed chillers:
Load/power curve not cubic

- Lift depends on system operating conditions
- Power is dependent on **load** and **lift**
- The relationship of power changes for different compressor types



AGENDA

- Effects of VSDs on chilled-water system components
- **Physics of VSDs on centrifugal compressor chillers**
 - **Physics – lift vs. load**
 - **Performance (work)**
- Physics of VSDs on screw compressor chillers
 - Physics – lift vs. load
 - Performance (work)
- Applications that benefit from each technology
- Importance of life-cycle analysis
- VSD chiller application considerations

Centrifugal Compressors on Chillers

Key Points

- Ideal kW/ton performance is a function of the temperature lift across the chiller
- Fixed speed centrifugal and screw chillers have unloading devices that reduce tonnage and take advantage of reduced lift
- Variable speed modulating capability provides a means to maintain the compression efficiency for chillers as the lift and load is reduced
- We can obtain both fixed speed and variable speed chillers – which is best?

Centrifugal Compressors on Chillers

Terms

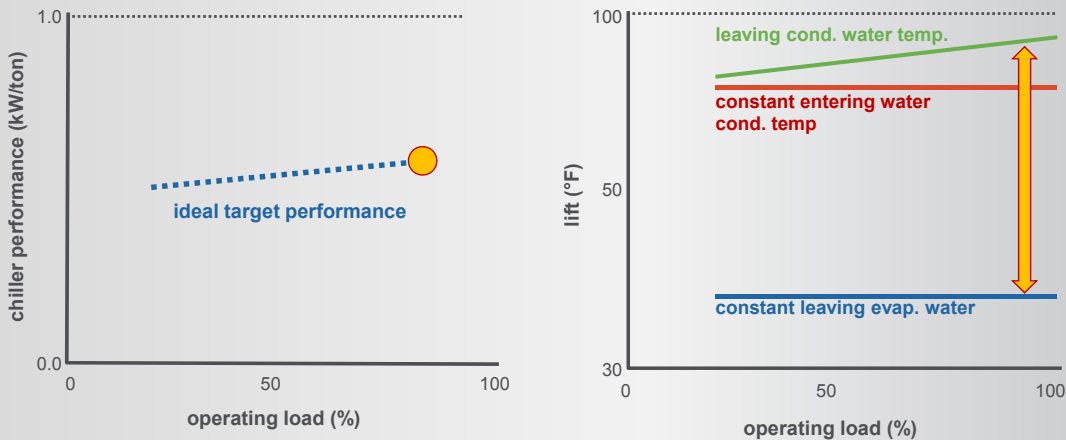
- Efficiency (η) = Ideal Power / Power Input
- Ideal Power:
A Carnot (isentropic) Refrigeration Cycle defines ideal Work (Power):
$$COP_{Carnot} = T_{cold} / (T_{hot} - T_{cold})$$
$$T_{cold} \text{ and } T_{hot} \text{ are in units of absolute temperature}$$
$$kW/ton_{Carnot} \propto (T_{hot} - T_{cold}) / T_{cold},$$

assuming T_{cold} is constant

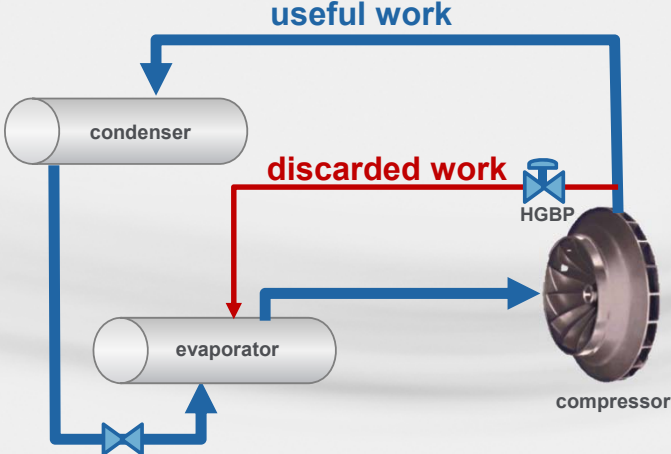
$$\text{Ideal Power (kW)} \propto \text{Capacity (tons)} * (T_{hot} - T_{cold}) \text{ (F)}$$

where "Lift" = $(T_{hot} - T_{cold}) = (T_{Condenser} - T_{Evaporator})$
- Power input (kW) \propto Capacity (tons) * Lift (F) / Unit Efficiency (η)

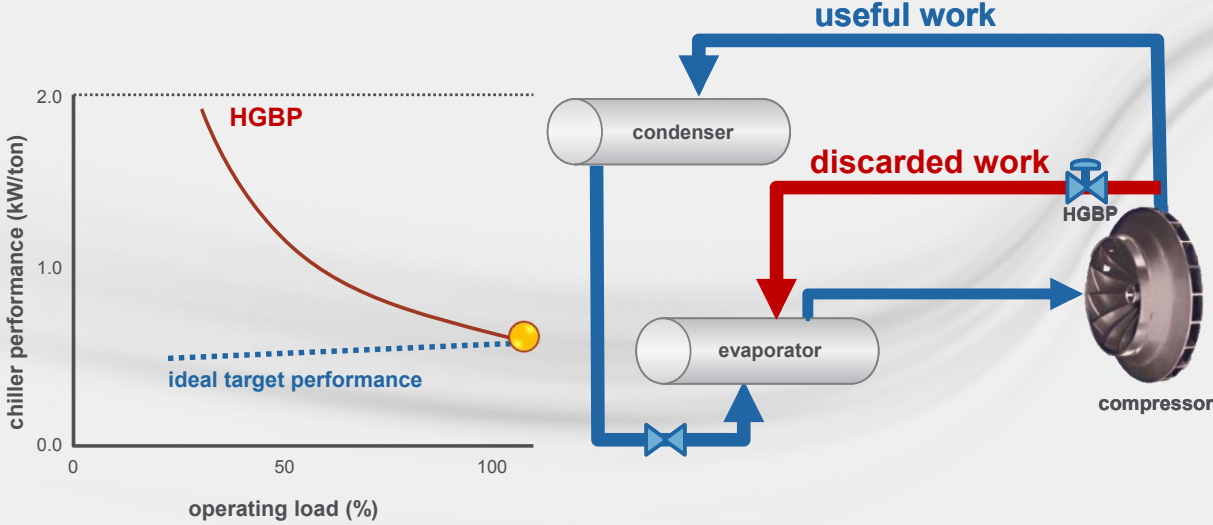
kW/ton Performance vs. Lift



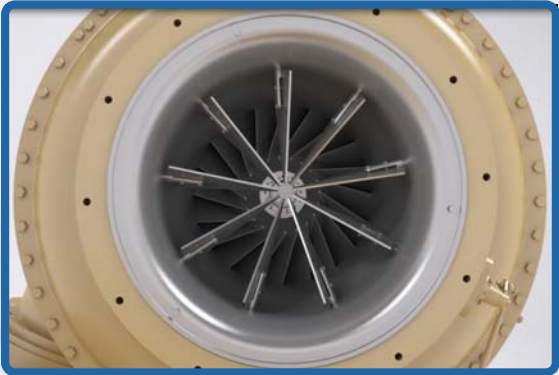
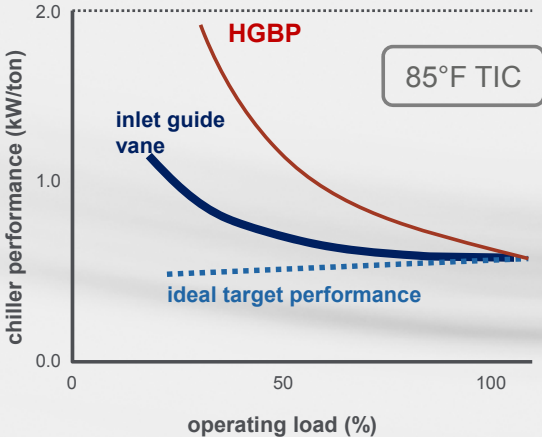
Hot Gas Bypass (HGBP) Cycle



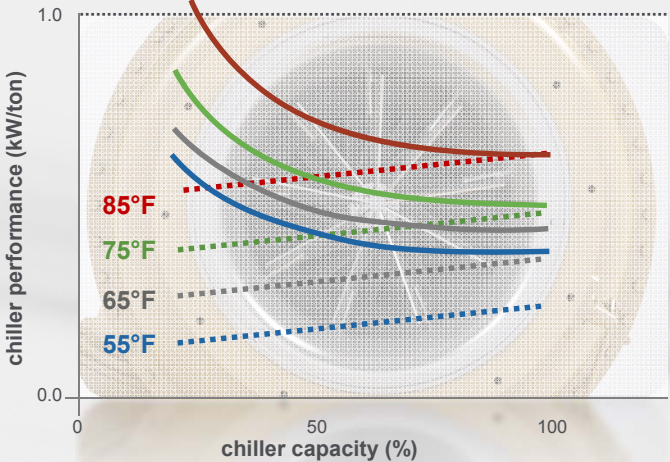
HGBP Performance



Fixed-Speed Centrifugal Chiller Performance

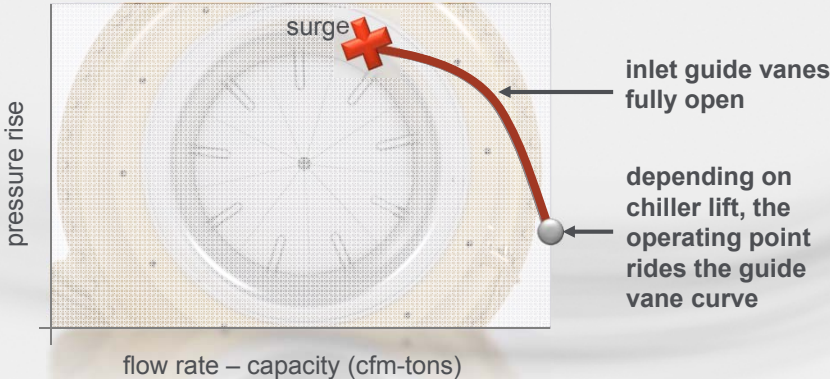


Fixed-Speed Chiller Performance

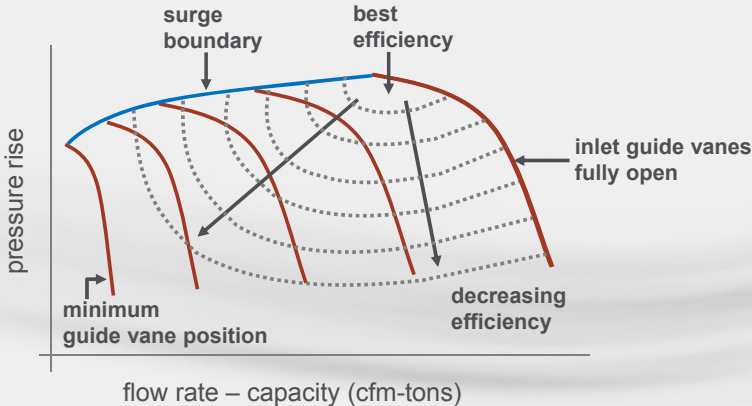


Fixed-Speed Compressor Map

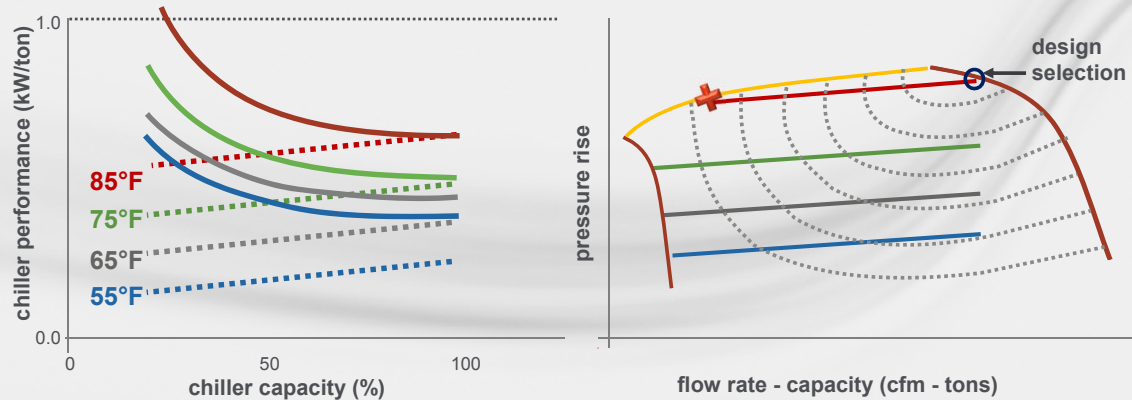
guide vanes modulate to vary chiller capacity



Fixed-Speed Compressor Map



Fixed-Speed Compressor Map

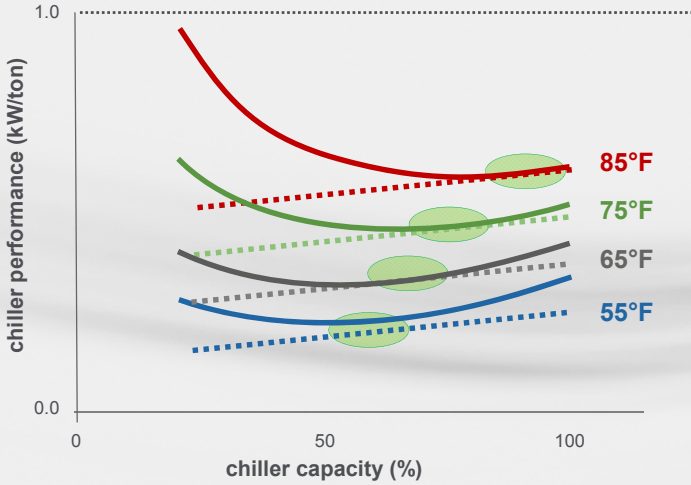


Centrifugal Compressors on Chillers

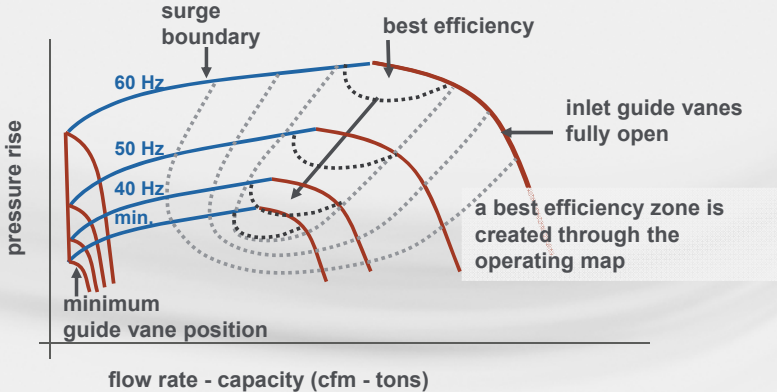
Key Points

- Ideal and actual kW/ton performance is a function of the temperature lift across the chiller
- Fixed speed centrifugal and screw chillers with mechanical unloading devices effectively reduce tonnage and take advantage of reduced lift

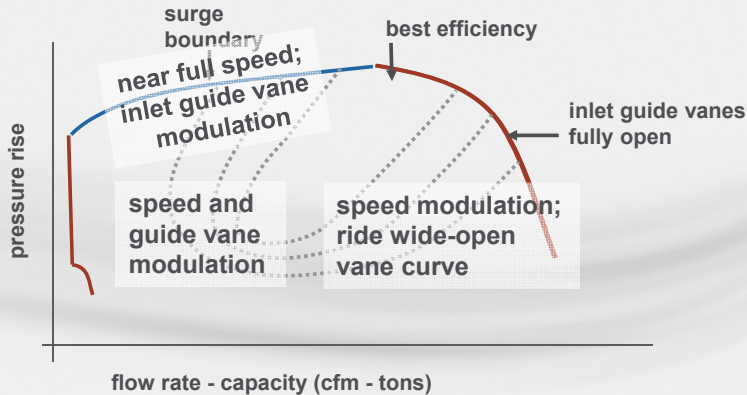
Variable-Speed Centrifugal Chiller Performance



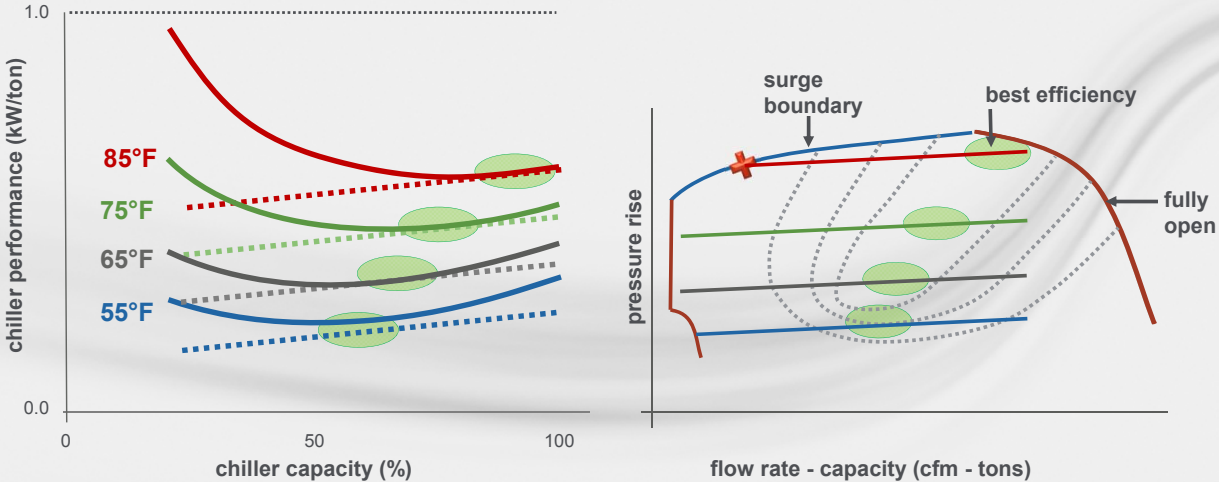
Variable-Speed Compressor Map



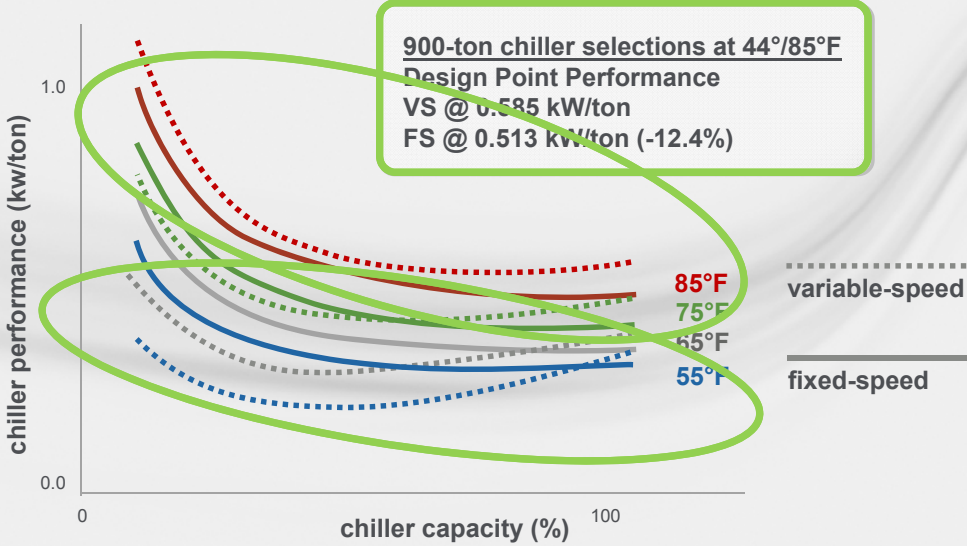
Variable-Speed Compressor Map



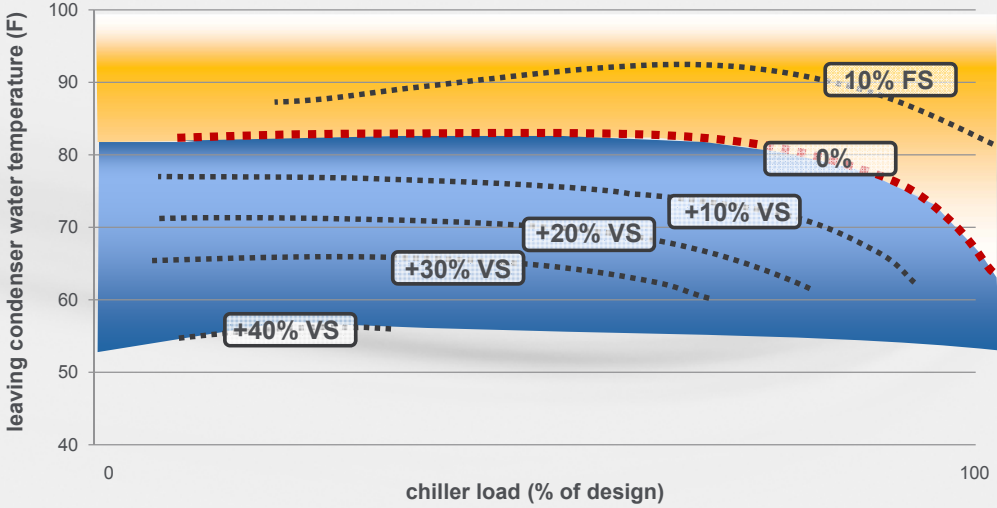
Variable-Speed Compressor Map



Centrifugal Performance Comparison (Equivalent Price) Fixed Speed versus Variable Speed



Fixed Speed / Variable Speed Comparison

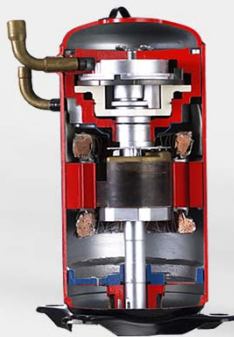


AGENDA

- Effects of VSDs on chilled-water system components
- Physics of VSDs on centrifugal compressor chillers
 - Physics – lift vs. load
 - Performance (work)
- **Physics of VSDs on screw compressor chillers**
 - **Physics – lift vs. load**
 - **Performance (work)**
- Applications that benefit from each technology
- Importance of life-cycle analysis
- VSD chiller application considerations

Positive Displacement Compressors

Scroll



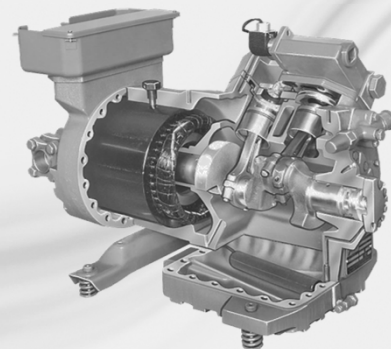
- 10-40 tons
- Few moving parts

Rotary Screw



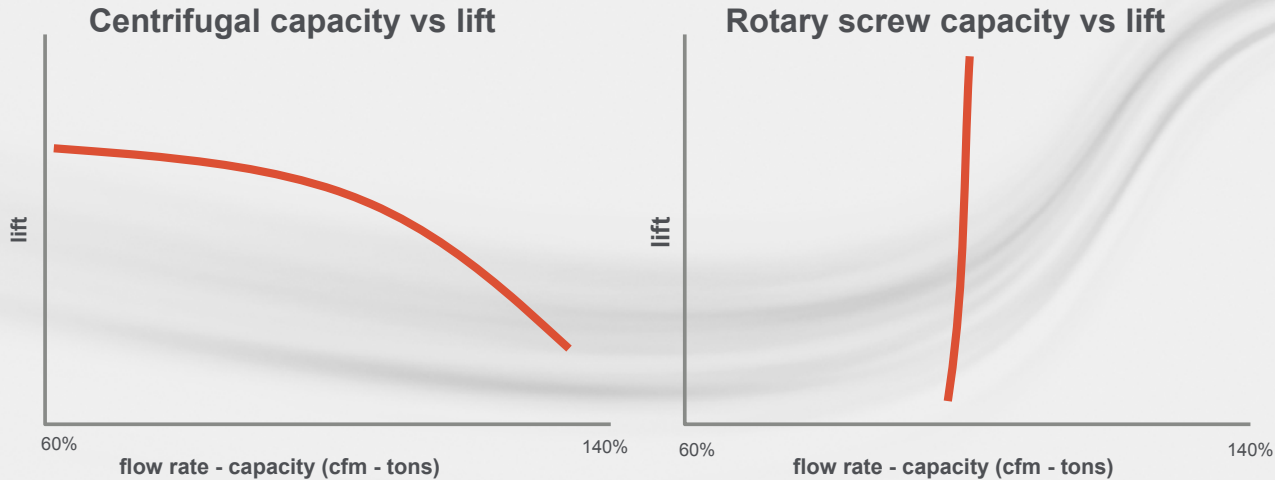
- 35-450 tons
- Few moving parts

Reciprocating

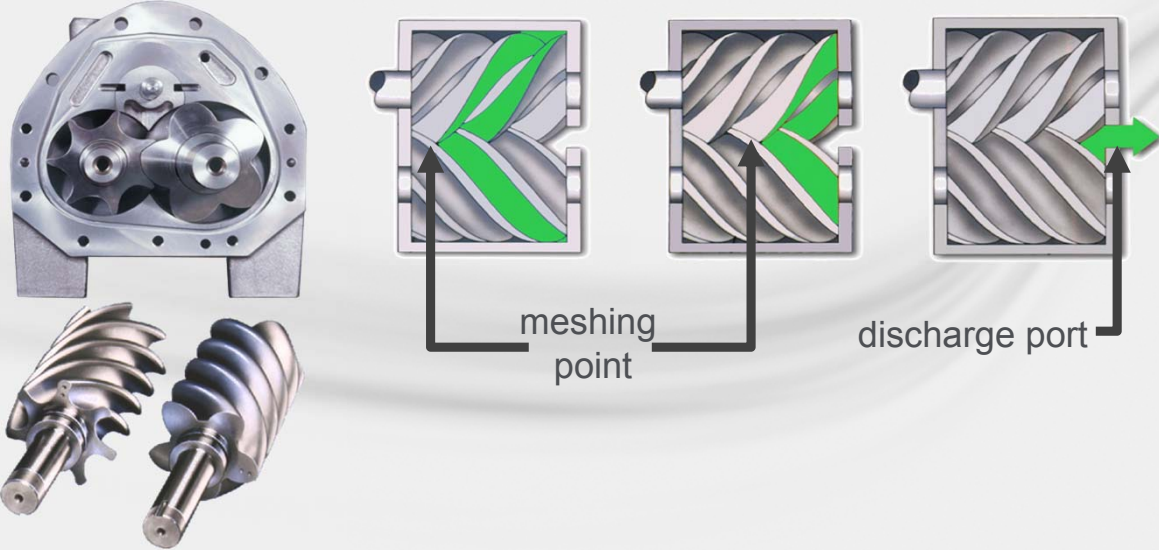


- 10-100 tons
- Many parts

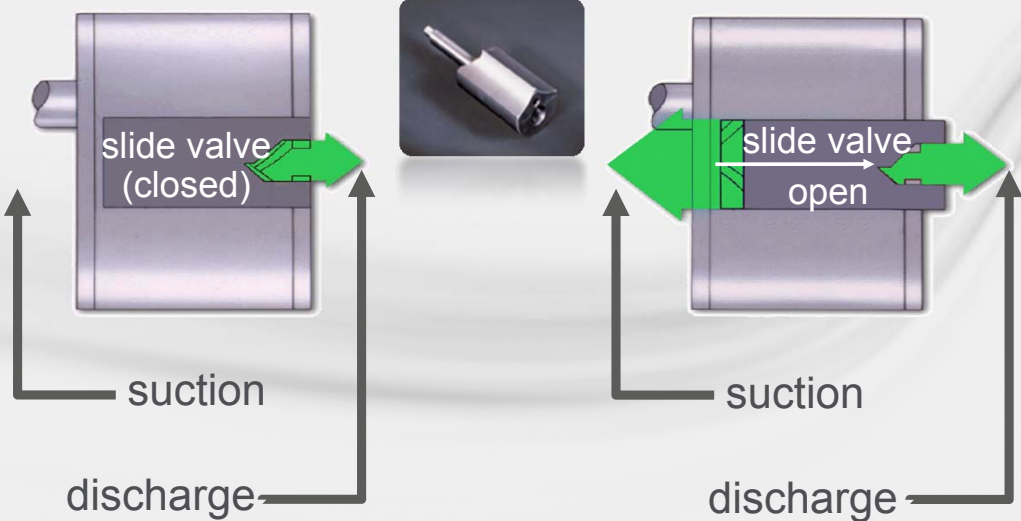
Flow versus Pressure Differential



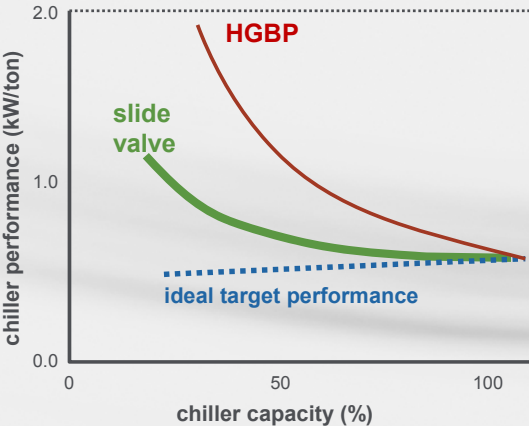
Rotary Screw Compressor



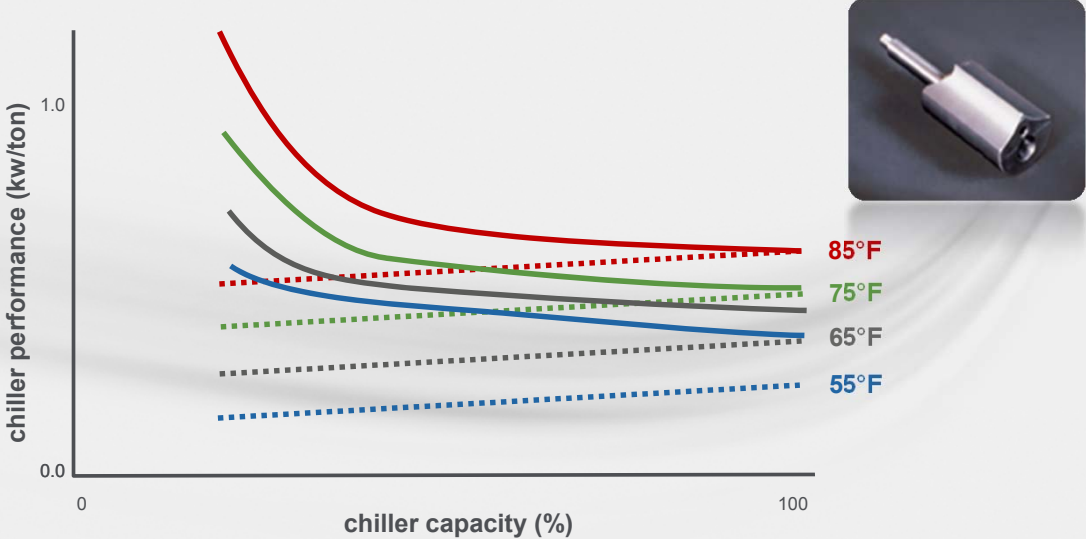
Slide Valve Unloading



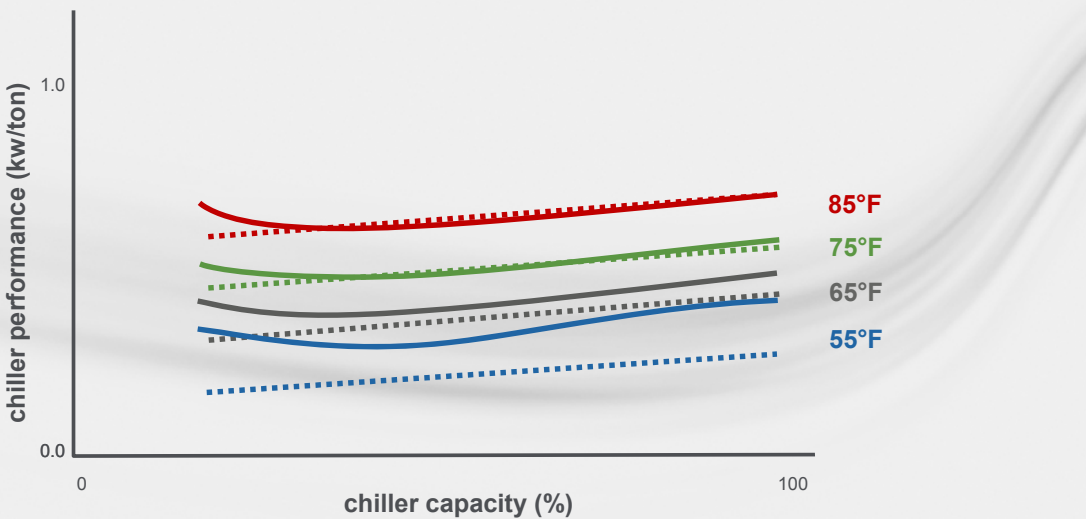
Part Load Efficiency at Fixed Speed



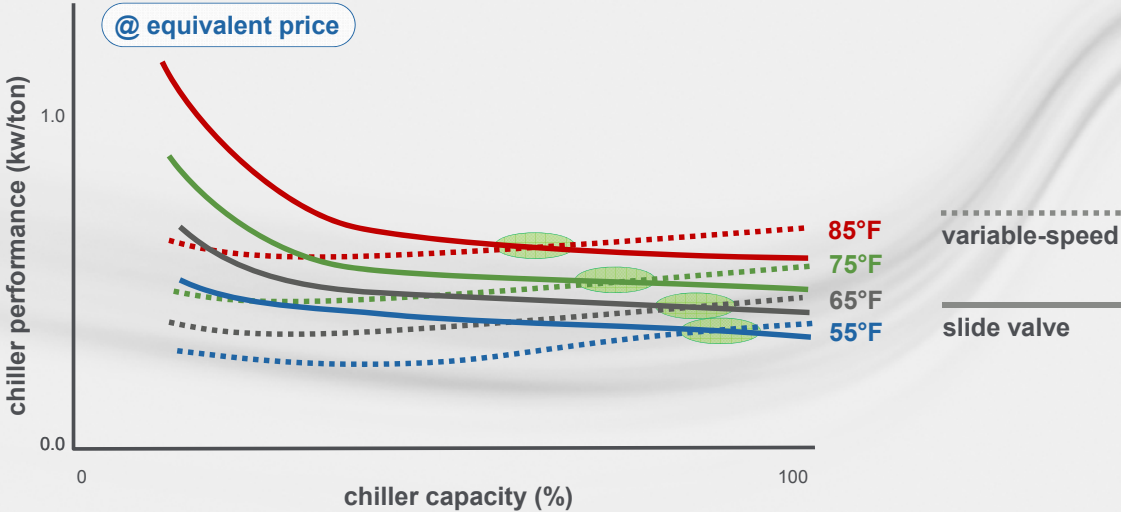
Part Load Efficiency with Slide Valve



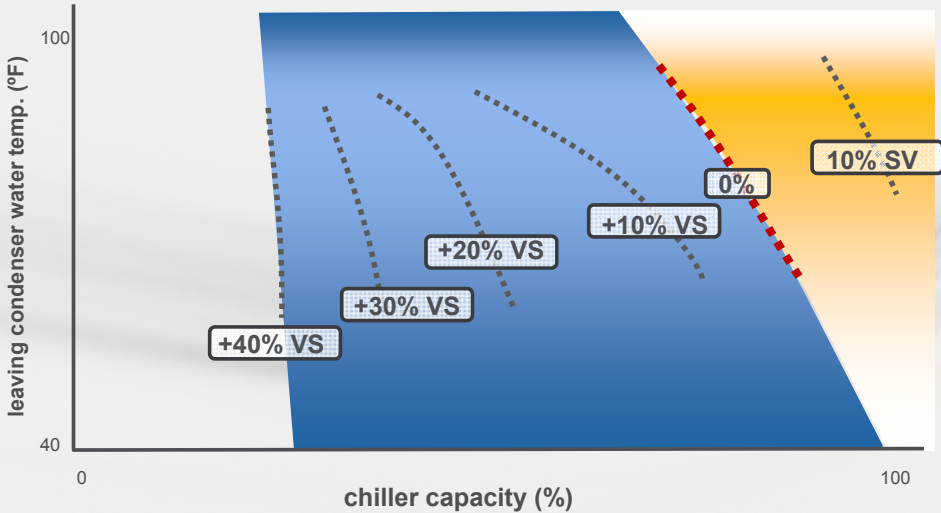
Part Load Efficiency with Variable Speed



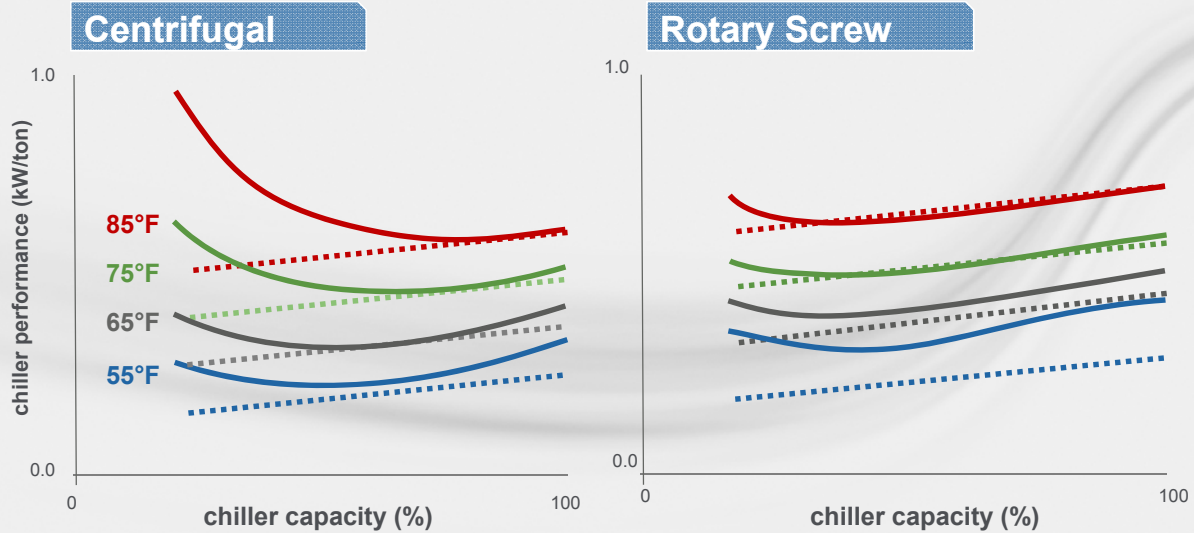
Slide Valve versus Variable Speed



Slide Valve versus Variable Speed



Variable Speed Centrifugal vs. Rotary



Key Points on Rotary Screw Compressors

- Speed modulation is a function of capacity
- Variable speed efficiently fills gaps in capacity
- If sound levels are important, specify them
- Use life cycle cost analyses for comparing different chillers
- Capacity range of 35-450 tons

AGENDA

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Summary of performance differences

The Physics of Operation are Different

- Centrifugal impellers operate on the principle of dynamic compression
- Rotary compressors operate on the principle of positive displacement
- Unloading Performance may vary greatly for different modulation technologies
- For a given modulation technology the performance across different compressor types is similar

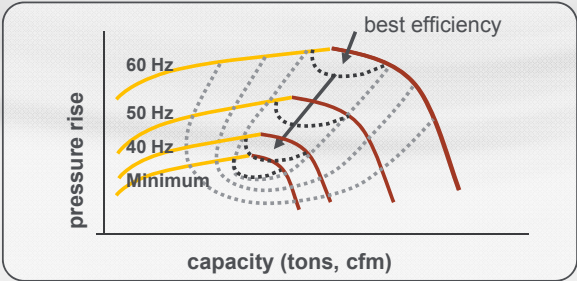


Summary of performance differences

Full Load and Part Load Efficiency

- Reduced *load* and *lift* benefit equally
 - Each reduces the work the compressor has to perform

Power input (kW) \propto Capacity (tons) * Lift (F) / Unit Efficiency (η)



Summary of performance differences

Full Load and Part Load Efficiency

- Centrifugal compressors are optimized and manufactured per the specified operating conditions
- Screw compressors are selected and applied from discrete families based on required capacity and lift
- Centrifugal chiller’s design efficiencies can be better than screw chillers and with normally reduced lift the part load performance results are similar



Summary of performance differences

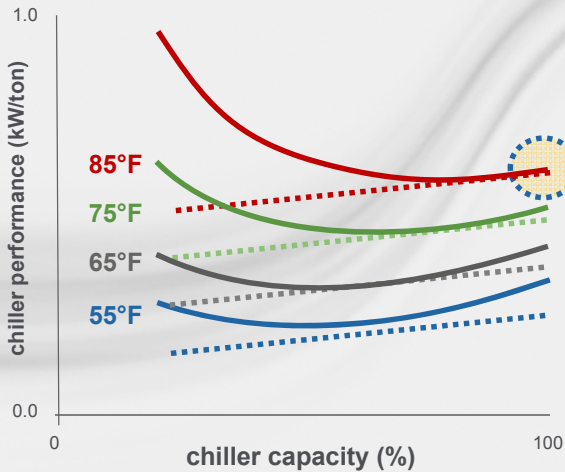
Operating Limitations

- Operating limitations for variable speed chillers are very similar to constant speed chillers.
 - Operating range
 - Minimum load point
 - Operating stability
- Screw chillers have no risk of surge with a constant entering condenser water temperature
- Trane CenTraVacs™ normally unload to 10%-15% with constant entering condenser water temperature without energy wasting hot gas by-pass (aka “Range Extension System”)

Summary of performance differences

Full Load and Part Load Efficiency

- Full Load performance establishes the chiller's ultimate part load performance



AGENDA

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Beneficial Applications of Chiller VSDs

- Centrifugal
 - **Must** have reduced lift
 - Chiller loads below 80% also beneficial
- Screw
 - Reduced load or lift
- Qualitative examples – is further analysis warranted?

Datacenter – Temperate Climate

- No economizer
- Temperate climate (Kansas City, MO)
- Buildout loads expected to be constant
- 2 chillers
- N+1 design

Operation for significant # hours	Centrifugal	Screw
Reduced Lift	+	+
Reduced Load		
Below 80% Load	If N+1 turned on	If N+1 turned on
Perform Analysis?	Yes	Yes

High Temperature Datacenter – Cold Climate

- Minneapolis, MN
- High supply air temperature (75°F)
- Economizer
- Buildout loads expected to be constant

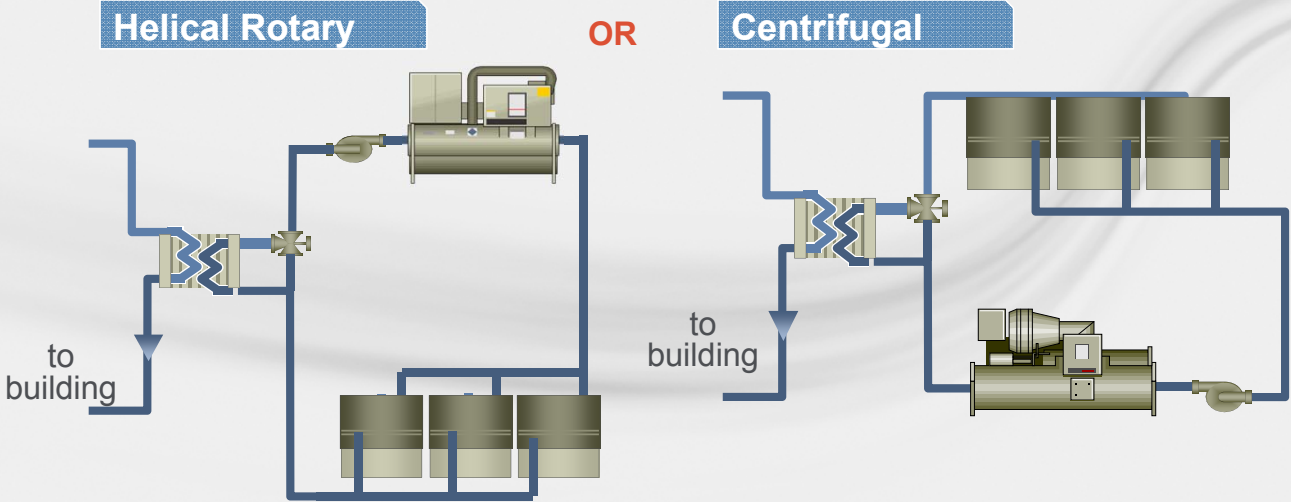
Operation for significant # hours	Centrifugal	Screw
Reduced Lift		
Reduced Load		
Perform Analysis?	No	No

Hotel – Hot and Humid Climate

- Caracas, Venezuela (always hot and humid)
- 3 chillers
 - Two 400-ton
 - One 200-ton “swing” for nighttime or low occupancy operation

Operation for significant # hours	Centrifugal	Screw
Reduced Lift		
Reduced Load	+	+
Perform Analysis?	No	Yes, for swing chiller

Ice Storage Retrofit



Ice Storage Retrofit to Add Capacity #1

- Make ice at night
- Operate ice chillers during the day at “chilled water temperatures” to augment ice tanks

Operation for significant # hours	Centrifugal	Screw
Reduced Lift	+	+
Reduced Load	+	+
Perform Analysis?	Yes	Yes

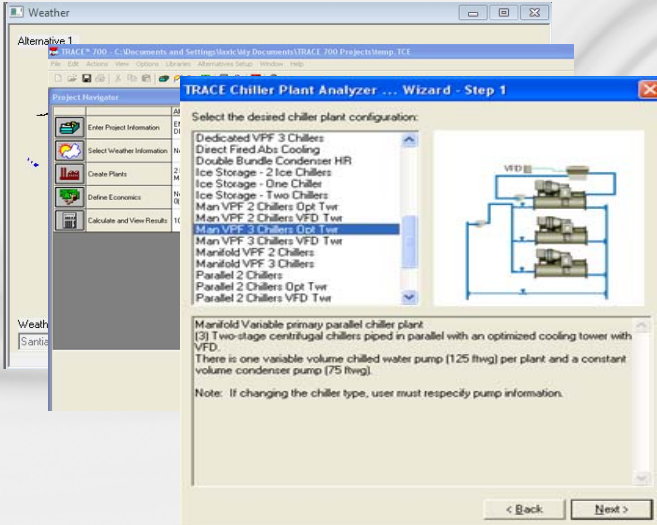
Ice Storage Retrofit to Add Capacity #2

- Make ice at night
- Ice chillers off during the day (full storage)

Operation for significant # hours	Centrifugal	Screw
Reduced Lift	Temperate climates	Temperate climates
Reduced Load		
Perform Analysis?	Temperate climates	Temperate climates

Analysis Using Chiller Plant Analyzer

- Inputs
 - Location
 - Building type
 - Economizer?
 - Chilled water system type
 - Design load



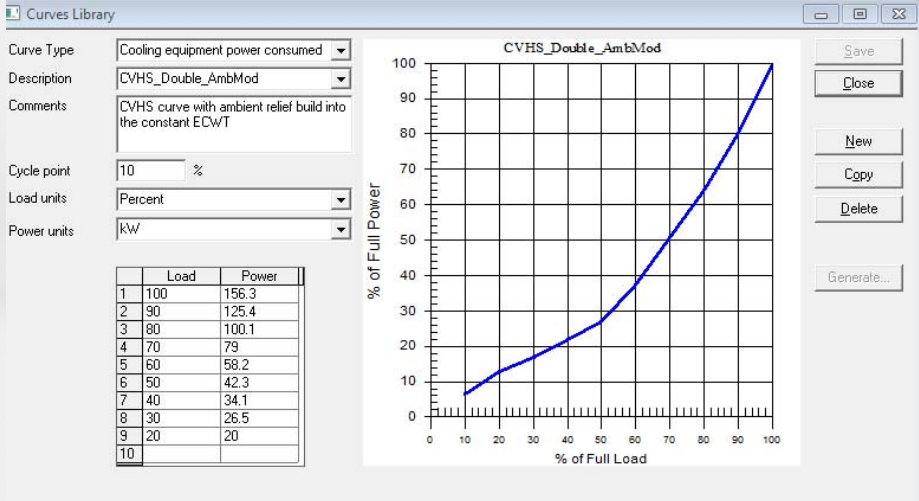
300-ton VSD Chiller Data – Incorrect Use

Percent Load (%)	ECWT	kW	kW./ton
20	65	20.0	.334
30	65	26.5	.295
40	65	34.1	.284
50	65	42.3	.282
60	69	58.2	.324
70	73	79.0	.376
80	77	100.1	.417
90	81	125.4	.465
100	85	156.3	.521

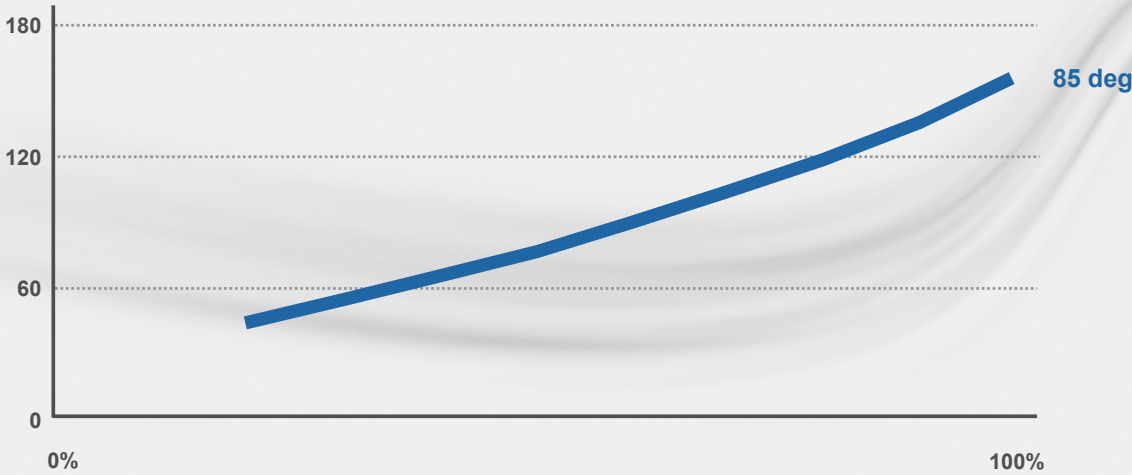
Percent Load (%)	ECWT	kW	kW./ton
20	85	44.6	.744
30	85	55.2	.614
40	85	66.1	.551
50	85	89.8	.499
60	85	89.8	.499
70	85	104	.495
80	85	119.2	.497
90	85	136.2	.505
100	85	156.3	.521

80 % higher than assumed!

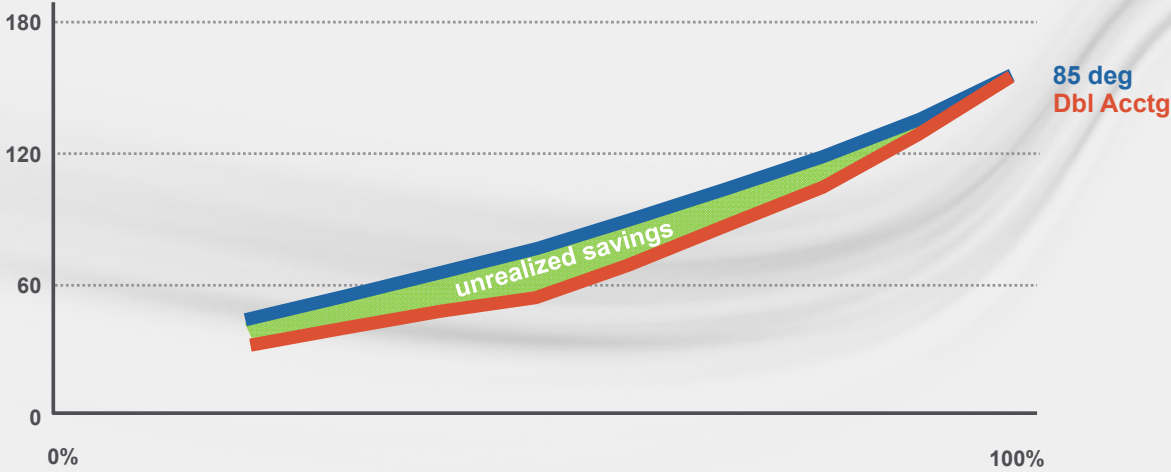
Input That Double Accounts for Lift Reduction



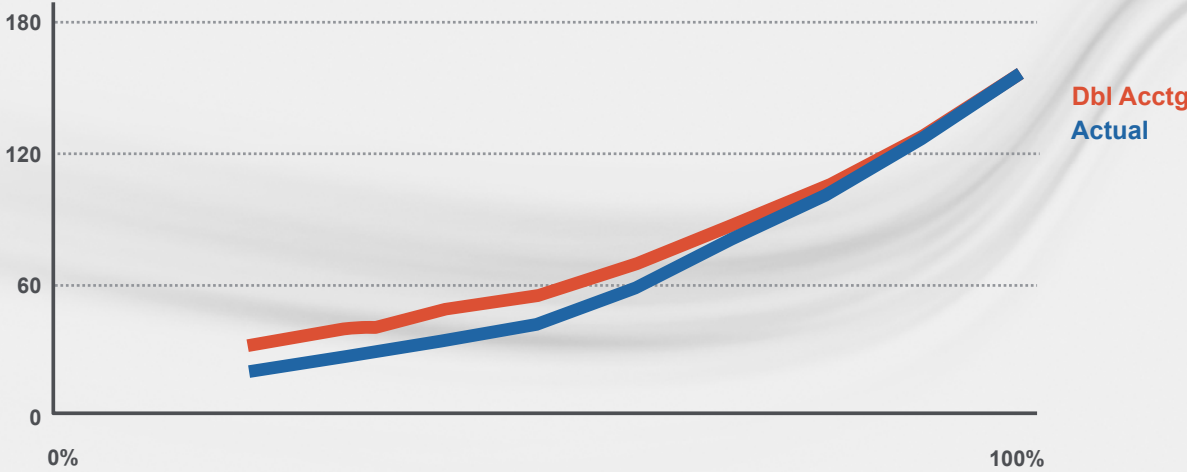
Humid Climate Improper Modeling



Humid Climate Improper Modeling



Temperate Climate Improper Modeling



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- **Importance of life-cycle analysis**
- VSD chiller application considerations

Use Actual Utility Rates

(Demand and Consumption)

- Compare same price chillers
 - Spend money on VSD
 - Spend money on more heat transfer surface (premium efficiency)
- Premium efficiency has 12.5% lower demand (kW) than variable speed
- So-called “combined rates” underestimates operating costs
 - Especially the VSD chiller
(does not account for 12.5% demand difference)

myPLV™ calculator

Chiller Condenser Type: **Water Cooled Chiller** ▼
 City/location: **Atlanta, GA** ▼
 Building Type and Airside Economizer: **Hospital w/o Econ** ▼
 Building Peak Load: **1000** tons
 Number of Chillers in Plant: **3** (assumes equal size chillers in parallel)
 Size of Each Chiller: **550** tons
 Plant Capacity (Calculated Point): **1650** tons
 ASHRAE 90.1 app G oversize factor (Calculated Point): **65%** %

Calculate myPLV™ Conditions

myPLV™ Test and Submittal Points
 Enter chiller performance values for four submittal points.

% FL	tons	ton-hrs	weighting	ECWT	Chiller kW/Ton
25%	138	333,706	9.1%	55.1° F	
50%	275	1,316,605	35.9%	70.8° F	
75%	413	1,698,111	46.3%	78.5° F	
94%	517	318,703	8.7%	76.1° F	
design	550		0%	85.0° F	
Total ton-hrs:		3,667,125	myPLV™		
					Annualized kW-hrs
					0

myPLV™ calculator

City/location: **Atlanta, GA**
 Building Type and Airside Economizer: **Hospital w/o Econ**
 Building Peak Load: **1000** tons
 Number of Chillers in Plant: **3** (assumes equal size chillers in parallel)
 Size of Each Chiller: **550** tons

Job Name:

Save and Send

myPLV™ Test and Submittal Points
 Enter chiller performance values for four submittal points.

% FL	tons	ton-hrs	weighting	ECWT
25%	138	333,706	9.1%	55.1° F
50%	275	1,316,605	35.9%	70.8° F
75%	413	1,698,111	46.3%	78.5° F
94%	517	318,703	8.7%	76.1° F
design	550		0%	85.0° F
Total ton-hrs:		3,667,125		

\$ per kW-hr: \$ 0.06
 \$ per kW demand: \$ 12.00
 Ratchet Rate: 0%

Peak Loading for demand charge calculations

Month	Peak tons	Demand tons
Jan	523	523
Feb	458	500
Mar	888	888
Apr	627	627
May	965	965
Jun	954	954
Jul	1,000	1,000
Aug	973	973
Sep	964	964
Oct	741	741
Nov	626	626
Dec	596	596

Water Cooled Chiller Selections

Conditions	Base	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7
kW/Ton @ 25% load, ECWT = 55.1° F								
kW/Ton @ 50% load, ECWT = 70.8° F								
kW/Ton @ 75% load, ECWT = 78.5° F								
kW/Ton @ 94% load, ECWT = 76.1° F								
kW/Ton @ 100% load, ECWT = 85.0° F								
Price								
myPLV™ (kW/ton)								
Annual kW-hrs								
Annual Consumption Charge								
Annual Demand Charge (Est)								
Total Annual Energy Charge								
Simple Payback (years)								

A Few Examples...

- 530-ton load
- Two, 265-ton screw chillers
- \$0.06/kWh; \$12/kW

	Chiller type	Full load (kW/ton)	Added Price (two chillers)
Base	CS	0.678	NA
AFD	VSD	0.691	\$19,900
Prem Eff	CS	0.612	\$17,400
Prem Eff + AFD	VSD	0.600	\$37,600

Houston – Office, Economizer

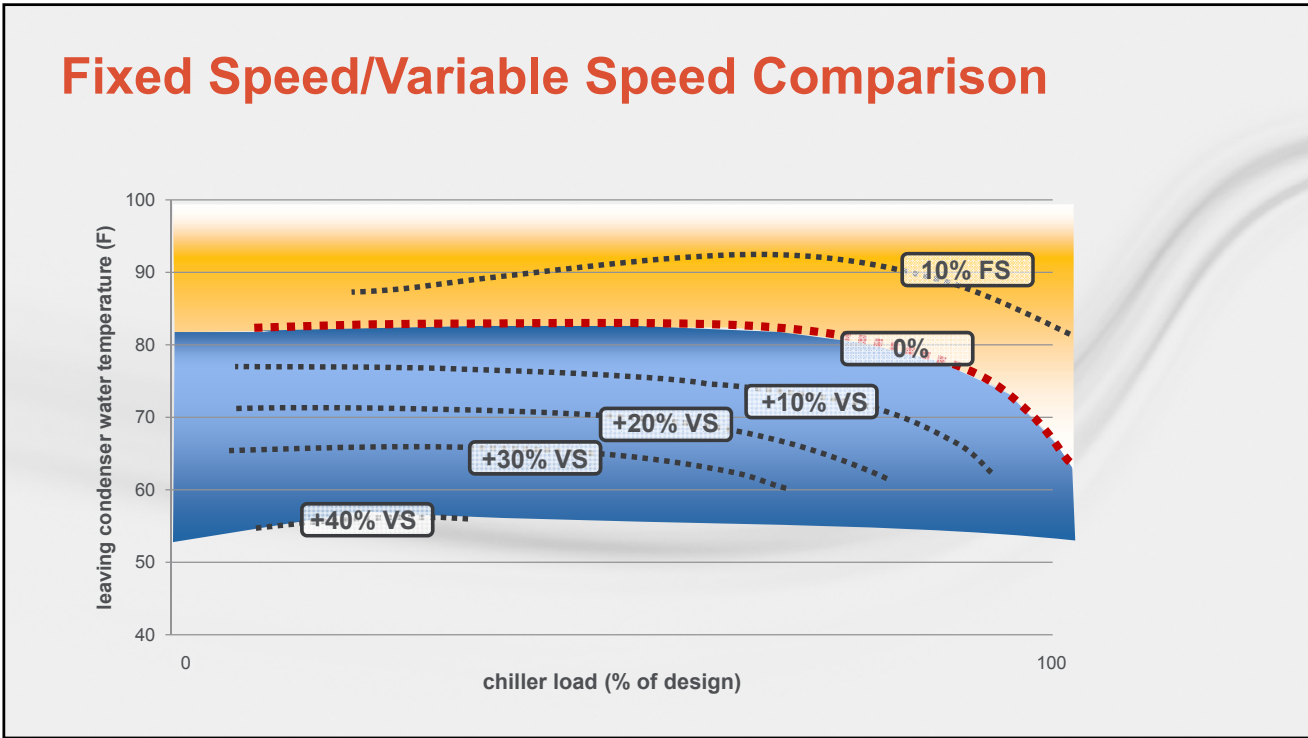
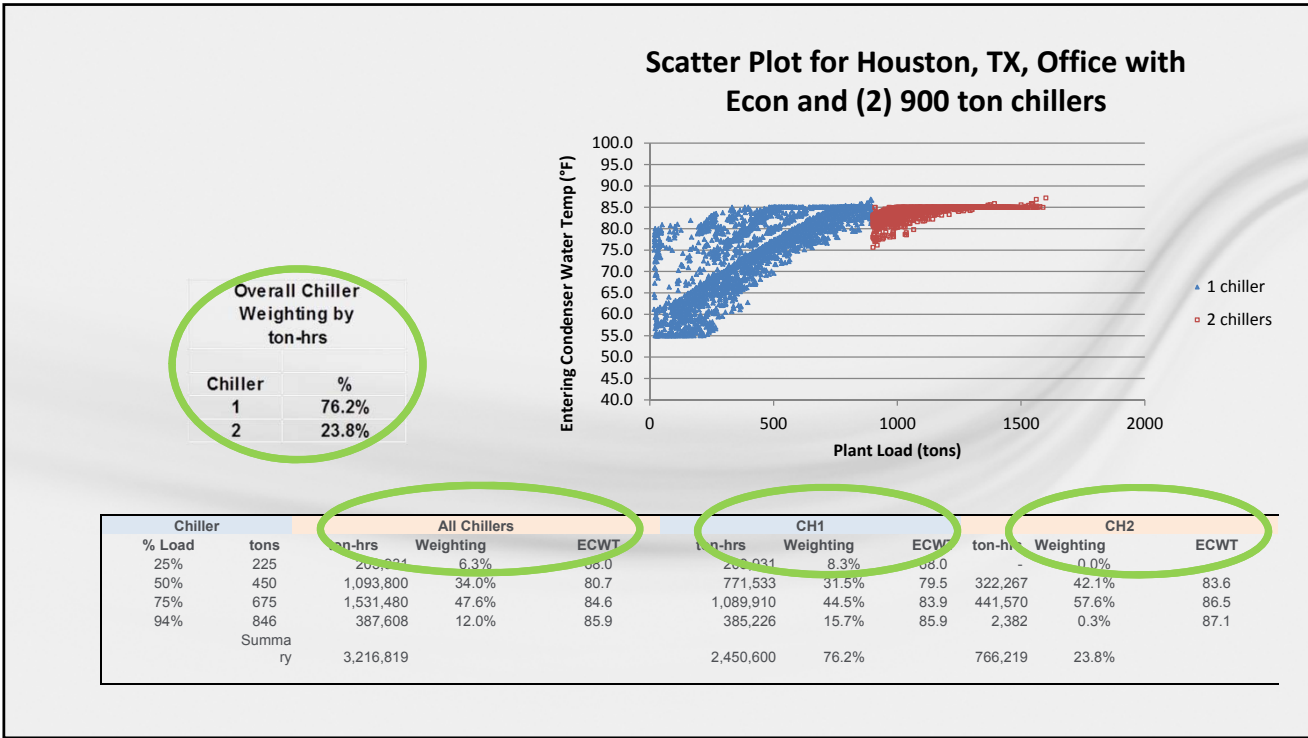
Condition	CS Min Comp	AFD	Prem Eff	Prem Eff + AFD
kW/Ton @ 25% load, ECWT = 66.1° F	0.771	0.371	0.734	0.347
kW/Ton @ 50% load, ECWT = 78.1° F	0.648	0.501	0.607	0.444
kW/Ton @ 75% load, ECWT = 81.5° F	0.655	0.585	0.612	0.527
kW/Ton @ 94% load, ECWT = 82.1° F	0.646	0.630	0.589	0.558
kW/Ton @ 100% load, ECWT = 85.0° F	0.678	0.691	0.612	0.600
Price		\$19,900.00	\$17,400.00	\$37,600.00
myPLV™ (kW/ton)	0.656	0.547	0.611	0.490
Annual kW-hrs	700,062	592,042	652,799	529,913
Annual Consumption Charge	\$ 42,004	\$ 35,523	\$ 39,168	\$ 31,796
Annual Demand Charge (Est)	\$ 38,222	\$ 36,956	\$ 34,501	\$ 33,825
Total Annual Energy Charge	\$ 80,226	\$ 72,479	\$ 73,669	\$ 65,621
Simple Payback (years)		3.5 Years	2.7 Years	2.6 Years

Lexington Hospital – No Economizer

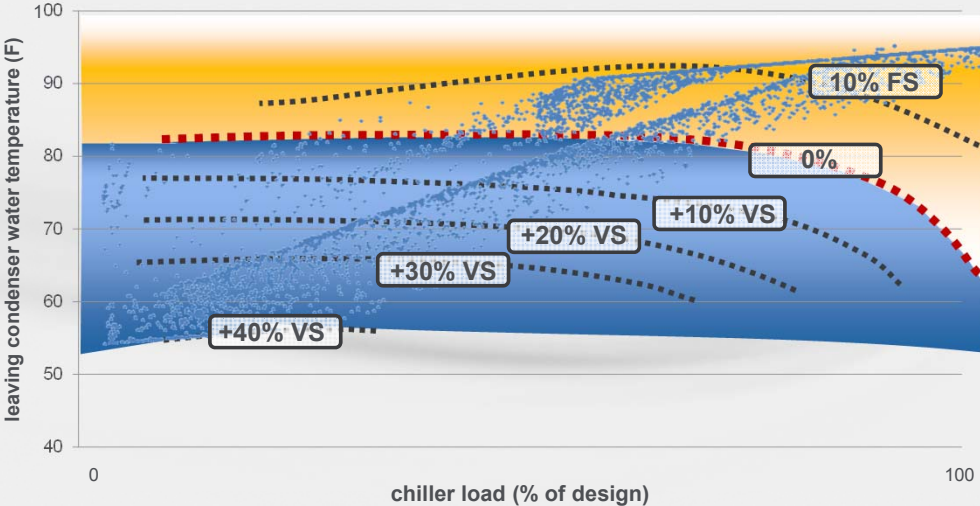
Water Cooled Chiller Selections				
Conditions	Base	AFD	Prem Eff	Prem Eff + AFD
kW/Ton @ 25% load, ECWT = 55.0° F	0.475	0.321	0.526	0.297
kW/Ton @ 50% load, ECWT = 65.4° F	0.523	0.375	0.487	0.352
kW/Ton @ 75% load, ECWT = 74.4° F	0.592	0.508	0.557	0.460
kW/Ton @ 94% load, ECWT = 77.9° F	0.603	0.579	0.553	0.515
kW/Ton @ 100% load, ECWT = 85.0° F	0.678	0.691	0.612	0.600
Price	\$0.00	\$19,900.00	\$17,400.00	\$37,600.00
myPLV™ (kW/ton)	0.556	0.440	0.530	0.404
Annual kW-hrs	922,488	754,615	876,765	688,256
Annual Consumption Charge	\$ 55,349	\$ 45,277	\$ 52,606	\$ 41,295
Annual Demand Charge (Est)	\$ 36,284	\$ 36,980	\$ 32,752	\$ 32,110
Total Annual Energy Charge	\$ 91,633	\$ 82,257	\$ 85,358	\$ 73,405
Simple Payback (years)		2.1 Years	2.8 Years	2.1 Years

MyPLV – Houston Load Profile

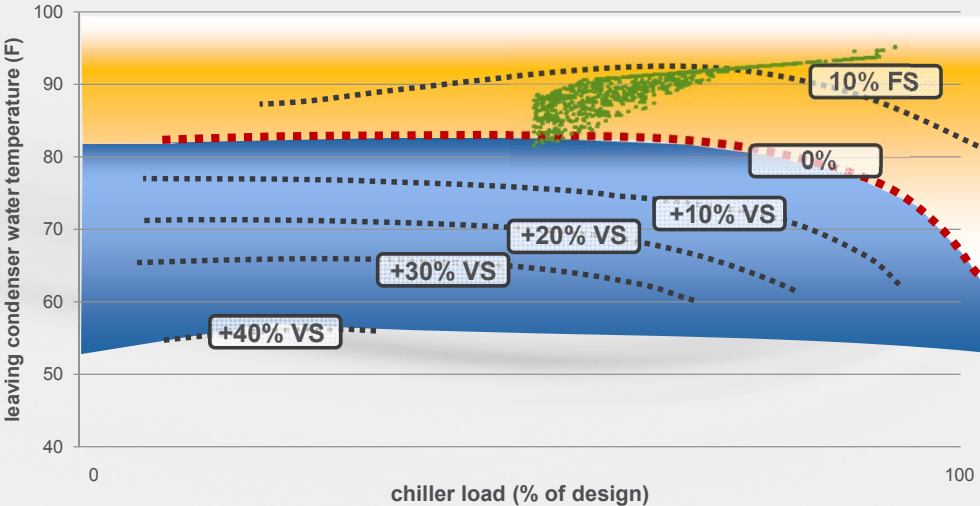
- A large office building with an airside economizer
- 1600 tons peak load with two 900 ton CVHF chillers
- The cooling tower is running a Chiller Tower Optimization algorithm (leaving tower water temperature moves with outdoor wet bulb)



Load Profile for Chiller #1



Loading Profile for Chiller #2



myPLV Analysis - Houston

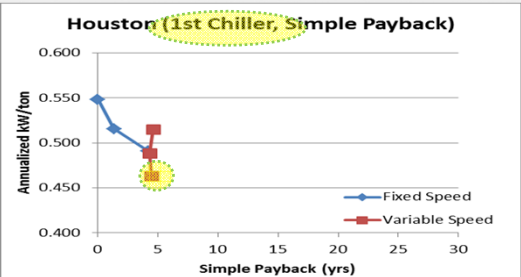
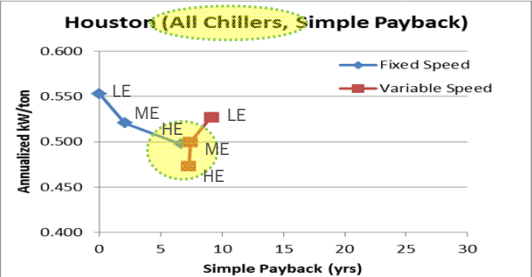
- A large office building with an air-side economizer
- 1600 tons peak load with two 900 ton CVHF chillers
- The cooling tower is running a Chiller Tower Optimization algorithm (Leaving tower water temperature moves with outdoor wet bulb)
- Payback based on \$0.10/kWH for energy usage (no demand charges)
- 3 chiller efficiencies considered (Low, Med, High)

Design kW/ton at AHRI Conditions	Fixed Speed	Var Speed
Low Efficiency (LE)	0.574	0.589
Medium Efficiency (ME)	0.532	0.550
High Efficiency (HE)	0.495	0.514

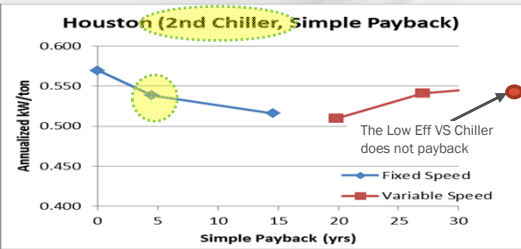
Houston – Total Plant (all chillers)

Conditions	LE_Fix	ME_Fix	HE_Fix	LE_Var	ME_Var	HE_Var
kW/Ton @ 25% load, ECWT = 65.9° F	0.548	0.519	0.507	0.389	0.376	0.371
kW/Ton @ 50% load, ECWT = 75.9° F	0.552	0.521	0.507	0.525	0.500	0.476
kW/Ton @ 75% load, ECWT = 80.9° F	0.550	0.519	0.490	0.540	0.512	0.479
kW/Ton @ 94% load, ECWT = 82.9° F	0.570	0.529	0.498	0.585	0.547	0.515
kW/Ton @ 100% load, ECWT = 85.0° F	0.574	0.532	0.495	0.589	0.550	0.514
Price	\$0.00	\$21,600.00	\$118,400.00	\$64,400.00	\$118,400.00	\$181,400.00
myPLV™ (kW/ton)	0.553	0.521	0.497	0.527	0.500	0.473
Annual kW-hrs	1,778,738	1,675,252	1,600,642	1,708,153	1,619,177	1,529,722
Annual Consumption Charge	\$ 177,874	\$ 167,525	\$ 160,064	\$ 170,815	\$ 161,918	\$ 152,972
Annual Demand Charge (Est)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Annual Energy Charge	\$ 177,874	\$ 167,525	\$ 160,064	\$ 170,815	\$ 161,918	\$ 152,972
Simple Payback (years)	0	2.1 Years	6.6 Years	9.1 Years	7.4 Years	7.3 Years

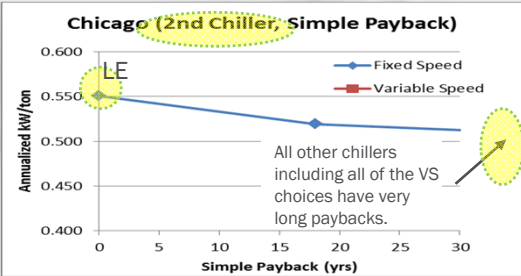
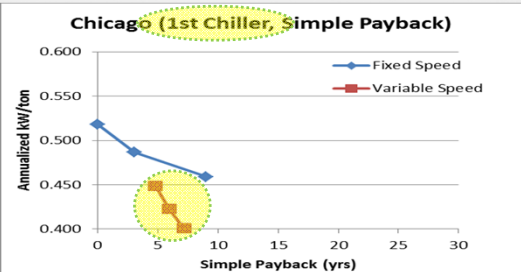
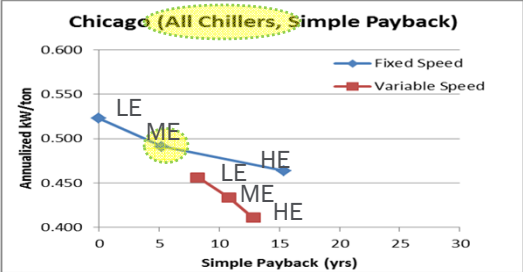
Chiller Payback Analysis – myPLV Houston



- Likely choices are High Eff Fixed Speed or High Eff Variable Speed
- Achieve a better payback if the first chiller is a High Eff Variable Speed with the 2nd chiller a Med Eff Fixed Speed



Chiller Payback Analysis – myPLV Chicago

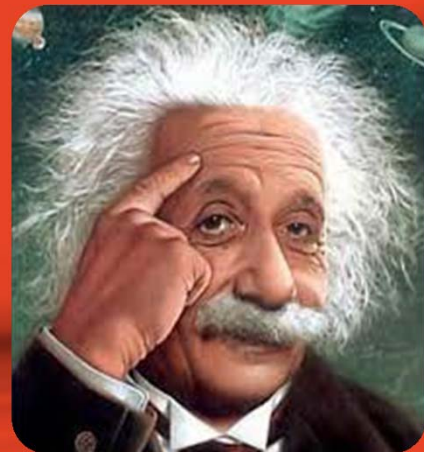


AGENDA

- Effects of VSDs on chilled-water system components
- Physics of VSDs on centrifugal compressor chillers
 - Physics – lift vs. load
 - Performance (work)
- Physics of VSDs on screw compressor chillers
 - Physics – lift vs. load
 - Performance (work)
- Applications that benefit from each technology
- Importance of life-cycle analysis
- **VSD chiller application considerations**

**Everything should be made
as simple as possible,
but not simpler.**

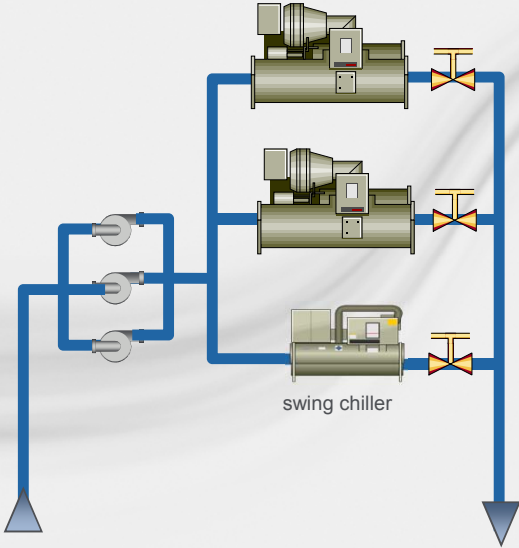
Albert Einstein



VFD chiller application considerations

Swing Chillers

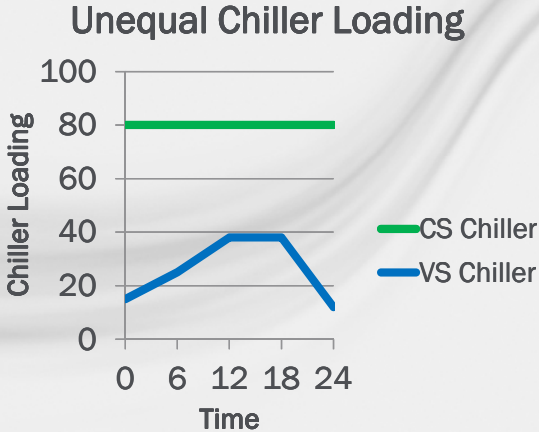
- Why a swing chiller?
 - ~~Save CHW pump energy~~
 - Variable Primary Flow
 - ~~Save GDW pump energy~~
 - Low Flow / Variable Flow
 - ~~Save chiller energy~~
 - VSD on compressor
- Why not a swing chiller?
 - Variable Primary Flow Sequencing



VFD chiller application considerations

Uneven Loading of Chillers

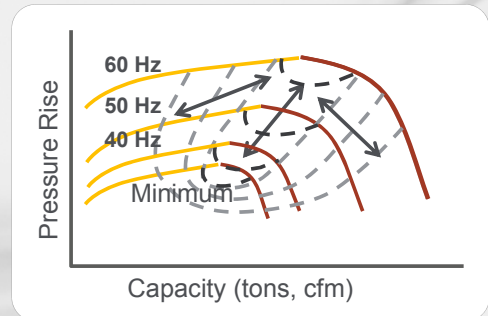
- Why uneven loading?
 - ~~Efficiency~~
 - Run the most efficient chiller the most lightly loaded?
- Why not uneven loading?
 - Hard to control
 - Drives the unloaded chiller into unstable operation
 - Operators will override it



VFD chiller application considerations

Stable Operating Conditions

- Causes of instability
 - Staged tower fans
 - Unstable tower fan speed control
 - Hunting AHU control valves
 - Unstable VPF by-pass valve control
- Benefits of stable system operation
 - Accurate LWT control
 - Higher chiller efficiency
 - Reduced maintenance costs



Summary

- VSDs on centrifugal chillers benefit from reduced lift
- VSDs on screw chillers benefit from reduced load or lift
- Analysis needs to account for
 - Chiller comparison
 - Same-price VSD or premium efficiency chillers
 - Additional investment premium efficiency **AND** VSD
 - Actual chiller performance
 - Actual utility rates

Summary

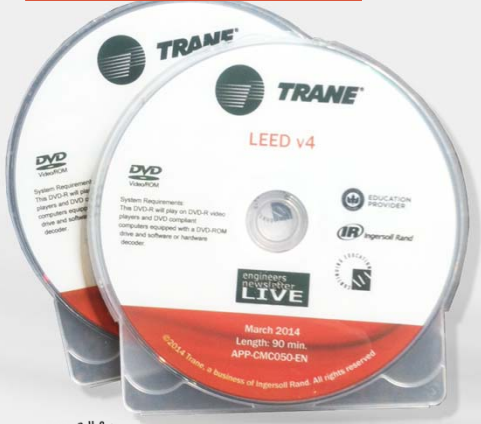
- Quick analysis tools
 - Chiller Plant Analyzer
 - myPLV
- Due to VSD chiller performance, paradigms might change
 - Hot gas bypass is inefficient and not necessary
 - Swing chillers may not be necessary
 - Keeping sequences simple is preferable – and enhances system stability

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Trane Engineers Newsletter LIVE
APP-CMC053-EN QUIZ

1. Hot gas-by-pass should be considered as a viable option for a chiller:
 - a. When a chiller is required to unload below 50% load.
 - b. When renamed as “Range Extension System” by marketing.
 - c. To eliminate the possibility for compressor surge.
 - d. When a process application requires the chiller to idle at zero (0) load without cycling the compressor.
 - e. For low-lift / low-load operation.
2. Which do not correctly complete the following statement? Choose all that apply.-
Stability of system and chiller operation can be enhanced by...
 - a. Oversizing system components.
 - b. Applying variable speed control rather than cycling control on cooling tower fans.
 - c. Applying variable speed or optimized constant condenser water flow.
 - d. Careful commissioning of system operation during startup.
3. Which of the following impact chiller part load energy consumption? Choose all that apply.
 - a. Chiller full load energy efficiency
 - b. Leaving chilled water temperature
 - c. Leaving condenser water temperature
 - d. Chiller load point
 - e. All of the above
4. Which compressor style(s) can be selected from 35 to 450 tons or more:
 - a. Scroll only
 - b. Rotary Screw only
 - c. Centrifugal only
 - d. Rotary Screw & Centrifugal
5. Which of the following statements is correct for hot and humid climates:
 - a. Always use a variable speed drives on all components, including chiller compressors.
 - b. Never use a variable speed drive on a water-cooled chiller, since there won't be enough hours with condenser relief.
 - c. Variable speed rotary screw chillers can make sense even on applications where all variable speed drives in a plant with centrifugal chillers would not be justified.
 - d. Select the least-expensive, least-efficient chiller, since there will be so many hours of economizer operation
6. Assuming a constant 85 entering condenser water temperature, unloading a rotary screw chiller with a variable speed drive from 100% to 75% of maximum capacity will improve its efficiency.
 - a. True
 - b. False
7. An equation for ideal cooling performance is credited to
 - a. Carnot
 - b. Newton
 - c. Aristotle
 - d. Hartman

8. Variable speed Centrifugal Compressors control their capacity by modulating (best answer)
 - a. Hot Gas Bypass
 - b. Inlet guide vanes only
 - c. Inlet guide vanes and motor speed
 - d. Motor speed only

9. Which is affected the most by varying the speed of a centrifugal compressor
 - a. The peak pressure rise the compressor is capable of producing at a given speed
 - b. The refrigerant volume flow rate
 - c. The chilled water temperature
 - d. The pressure rise of the compressor at full speed

10. High Voltage (>600 Volts) variable speed drives cost (complete the sentence)
 - a. Less than low voltage (<600 volts) variable speed drives
 - b. About the same as low voltage variable speed drives
 - c. More than low voltage variable speed drives
 - d. Trick question – they don't make high voltage variable speed drives



Engineers Newsletter Live - Audience Evaluation

Variable Speed Compressors on Chillers

Please return to your host immediately following program.

Your Name _____

Company name: _____

Business address: _____

Business Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Event location: _____

AIA member Number: _____

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Was the topic appropriate for the event? Yes No

Rate the content of the program. Excellent Good Needs Improvement

Rate the length of the program. Appropriate Too long Too short

Rate the pace of the program. Appropriate Too fast Too slow

What was most interesting to you?

What was least interesting to you?

Are there any other events/topics you would like Trane to offer to provide additional knowledge of their products and services?

Additional questions or comments:



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March 2015

Variable-Speed Compressors on Chillers

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Cline L. and B. Sullivan, "The Impact of VSDs on Chiller Plant Performance," 2013, volume 42-4.

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Refrigeration Compressors (2000) TRG-TRC004-EN

Helical Rotary Water Chillers (1999) TRG-TRC012-EN.

Centrifugal Water Chillers (1999) TRG-TRC010-EN

Analysis Software

Trane Air-Conditioning and Economics (TRACE™ 700). Available at www.trane.com/TRACE

myPLV™ chiller performance evaluation tool available at www.trane.com/myplv



Product Information:

Optimus™ Chiller Model RTHD

Sales Brochure: [RLC-SLB031-EN](#)

Catalog: [RLC-PRC020F-EN](#)

Stealth™ Chiller Model RTAE

Sales Brochure: [RLC-SLB026-EN](#)

Catalog: [RLC-PRC042D-EN](#)

EarthWise™ CenTraVac™ Chillers

Sales Brochure: [Adaptive Frequency Drive Third Generation, AFD3 - CenTraVac Chiller Models CVHE and CVHF 575V to 600V 60 Hz applications \(508.4 KB\)](#)

Product Catalog: [EarthWise CenTraVac Water-Cooled Liquid Chillers 120-3950 Tons, 50 and 60 Hz, Product Catalog \(3.9 MB\)](#)

Product Catalog - [Remote-Mounted Medium Voltage Air-Cooled Adaptive Frequency Drive with Tracer AdaptiView Control \(1.5 MB\)](#)