

# AC Scheduling Based on Thermodynamics of Indoor for On-Campus Small Data

Hyun Duck Choi, Soon Woo Rhee, Choon Ki Ahn, Myo Taeg Lim

School of Electrical Engineering, Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Email: [chlgusejr87@korea.ac.kr](mailto:chlgusejr87@korea.ac.kr), [swrhee@korea.ac.kr](mailto:swrhee@korea.ac.kr), [hironaka@korea.ac.kr](mailto:hironaka@korea.ac.kr), [mhim@korea.ac.kr](mailto:mhim@korea.ac.kr)

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## Abstract

This paper proposes a new day-ahead control scheme of an air conditioning (AC) based on thermodynamic model of indoor-temperature. The thermodynamic model of indoor-temperature can be achieved by modified first-order thermal dynamic equation. For the practical verification of proposed model, we implemented the home energy management system (HEMS) in the laboratory and used real experiment data sets. The proposed model can be represented by a state-space model of indoor-temperature and its parameters are obtained by least square algorithm. Through the proposed thermodynamic model, indoor-temperature can be predicted closely, and a behavior pattern of AC can also be achieved. This research involves the experimental verification of the proposed approach and communication architecture between the aggregator and a system user in a laboratory environment.

## Keywords

Home Energy Management System (HEMS), Least-Square, Convex Optimization, Demand Response (DR), Air-Conditioning (AC)

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## 1. Introduction

Through the smart grid project offering a two-way communication frame, a home energy management system (HEMS) is able to manage residential load control based on measurement for the home environment, the user's comfort, and electricity bills [1]-[3]. The main issue concerning the design of HEMS is how to provide the intelligent solution for energy consumption that reflects the customer's specific lifestyle. The suitable HEMS should have the capabilities to schedule the load demands to minimize the expenditure on electricity bills and user's uncomfortable sense simultaneously.

Accurate load forecast for residential appliance is essential for efficient consumption of the electrical energy [4] [5]. In order to maintain balance between electricity production and demand on the network, accurate forecast for appliance load is one of the important issues in smart grid. However, residential load forecasting is usually difficult, due to its random nature of turning on/off. Many researches for residential load forecasting have been proposed over the years and still remains an important issue.

Air conditioning (AC) unit is the representative appliance which belongs to the category of thermostatically controlled appliance [6]. Thus, the analysis of thermodynamic model of indoor-temperature with AC is required

for efficient load control. The estimation of the indoor-temperature of the next day is essential in order to predict usage of the AC load in private homes.

Through the thermal dynamic model [7]-[9] of indoor-temperature, it is possible to estimate the indoor-temperature based on the outdoor temperature information of the following day. Based on the user's characteristic and estimation of indoor-temperature, the AC scheduling pattern can also be predicted. The indoor-temperature is also significant information on load shifting or reducing strategy. By providing the indoor temperature information of before and after DR response to consumers, the efficient DR reaction can be led.

In this paper, we propose a new day-ahead control scheme of an AC based on a modified thermodynamic model of indoor-temperature. There are extensive literatures on the thermal dynamic models of large facilities, however there are limited results in the open literatures on models for residential homes using data of relatively small size. Thus, we implemented the HEMS with smart AC in the laboratory and used real experiment data sets for the validation of the proposed method.

## 2. Day-Ahead Control Scheme for AC Scheduling

### 2.1. Modified Thermodynamic Model of Indoor-Temperature

As a standard description of thermal dynamics including a residential AC, the discrete-time dynamic equation of indoor-temperature [7] can be represented as follows:

$$T_{in}[k+1] = T_{in}[k] + \alpha(T_{out}[k] - T_{in}[k]) + \beta P_{AC}[k] + c + w[k] \quad (1)$$

where  $T_{in}[k]$  is the indoor-temperature at time  $[k]$ ;  $T_{out}[k]$  is the outdoor-temperature at time  $[k]$ ;  $P_{AC}[k]$  is power consumed by AC; and  $w[k]$  is white Gaussian noise. First, we have performed validation of the model using real data collected from our laboratory. The collected data includes indoor-temperature, outdoor-temperature, and AC power usage. However, the above model did not fit well because the effectiveness of internal thermal noise is simply modeled by constant scalar  $c$ . In this paper, in order to give more detailed description for the effectiveness of internal thermal noise, we propose a modified thermal dynamic model for indoor-temperature as following form:

$$T_{in}[k+1] = T_{in}[k] + \alpha(T_{out}[k] - T_{in}[k]) + \beta P_{AC}[k] + \chi(\gamma - T_{in}[k]) \quad (2)$$

where  $T_{in}[k]$ ,  $P_{AC}[k]$ , and  $P_{AC}[k]$  are defined above and  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  and  $\chi$  are the model parameters to be estimated. In this equation, the effectiveness of internal thermal noise is represented by the term of  $(\gamma - T_{in}[k])$ .  $\gamma$  denotes the temperature of internal thermal noise and it needs to be estimated. The difference between the temperature of internal thermal noise  $\gamma$  and  $T_{in}[k]$  affects the next indoor temperature in the proposed model. Based on the dynamic model in (2), the state-space form of indoor-temperature can be represented as

$$\begin{aligned} x[k+1] &= Ax[k] + Bu[k] \\ y[k] &= Cx[k] \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} x[k] &= T_{in}[k], \quad u[k] = \begin{bmatrix} T_{out}[k] \\ P_{AC}[k] \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \\ A &= [1 \quad -\alpha \quad -\chi], \quad B = [\alpha \quad \beta \quad \chi\gamma], \quad C = 1. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

As a model fitting method, we use a least-square (LS) algorithm.

$$(\hat{A}, \hat{B}) = \arg \min_{A, B} \left( \sum_{k=1}^N \|x[k+1] - (Ax[k] + B[k])\|^2 \right) \quad (5)$$

where  $N$  is the number of observations used in the parameter estimation. In this study, we considered the case

when  $N$  corresponds to 30 days of measurements. The model extracted from the data needs to be validated using real experiment data sets. With the estimated parameters  $\hat{\alpha}$ ,  $\hat{\beta}$ ,  $\hat{\gamma}$  and  $\hat{\chi}$  obtained from data set, we test the accuracy of the model using a different data set. Based on the state-space model, the prediction of indoor-temperature can be obtained

$$\hat{x}[k+1] = \hat{A}x[k] + \hat{B}u[k] \quad (6)$$

The mean squared Prediction Error (PE) is given by

$$e_p = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \|\hat{x}[k+1] - x[k+1]\|^2 \quad (7)$$

The validation of indoor-temperature prediction is given in Section 3.

## 2.2. Optimization Framework for HEMS Based on the Modified Thermodynamic Model

The residential consumer's interest is two-fold. One is to minimize residential consumer payment and the other is the user's comfort. It is clear that these two objectives can be conflicting in many scenarios. One of the important issues for optimization problem in HEMS is how to select a cost index for user's comfort. If one can predict user's power consumption pattern for next day, cost selection problem becomes easy. Taking this into consideration, we can get the cost function to be minimized as follows:

$$J = \sum_{k=1}^N \left( \sigma C_p[k] P_{AC}[k] + \delta \|\hat{T}_{in}^r[k] - T_{in}[k]\|^2 \right) \quad (8)$$

where  $\hat{T}_{in}^r[k]$  is the prediction of indoor-temperature considering the usual power usage pattern;  $C_p[k]$  is electricity price;  $P_{AC}^r[k]$  is power consumed by AC;  $\sigma$  and  $\delta$  are adjusting weight parameters. The first and second terms of the objective function in (8) denote the total electricity payment amount and the total cost of uncomfotableness, respectively. As shown in (8), user's discomfort index becomes simply the distance from the normal pattern which can be obtained by estimation of indoor-temperature and user's AC operating guide. Based on the cost function in (8), we can formulate the optimal AC scheduling problem as the following constrained optimization framework:

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{P_{AC}} J \\ & s.t \quad x[k+1] = \hat{A}x[k] + \hat{B}u[k] \\ & \quad \quad 0 \leq \sum_{k=1}^N P_{AC} \leq \lambda \sum_{k=1}^N P_{AC}^r, \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where  $P_{AC}^r$  is normal AC load based on the prediction indoor-temperature and user's pattern;  $\lambda$  is load reduction ratio. As shown in (9), the thermodynamic of indoor-temperature and  $P_{AC}^r$  can be integrated as constraint. The optimization variables are the energy consumption scheduling vectors for AC. Given the feasible AC scheduling sets and the model in (3), the goal is to find the best AC scheduling vectors to make the cost minimize.

## 3. Experimental Results

### 3.1. Experiment Setup Environment for Measurement Data

For the practical verification of proposed method, we implemented the HEMS with smart AC in the laboratory and used real experiment data sets. **Figure 1** shows the HEMS setup operated by laptop and micro controller unit (MCU) in our laboratory environment. The experiment was carried out in the research laboratory in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Korea University. This 35 m<sup>2</sup> house is designed to represent real living space for three people. In our experiment, a smart AC which is possible to communicate with MCU for DR was used. The MCU consists of SEP 2.0 communication unit, control unit for AC usage, and AC power measuring unit. The HEMS consists of a laptop with Internet connectivity that runs the HEMS program and can be communicated with the smart AC through Korean DR protocols (Open ADR 2.0/SEP 2.0) standard. Detailed specifications of equipment for HEMS in laboratory are shown in **Table 1**. The loading profile of the smart AC is

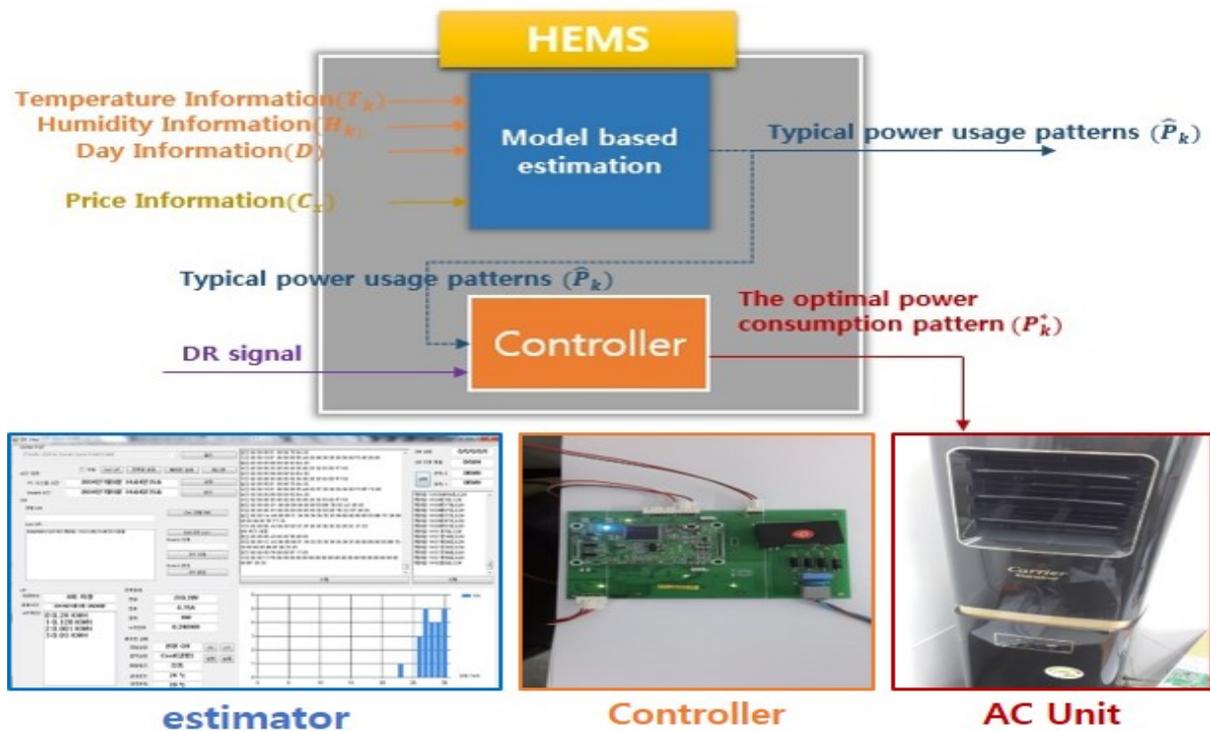


Figure 1. Layout of HEMS and setup environment.

Table 1. Device configuration.

Laptop			
Model	Processor	Memory	OS
Lenovo ThinkPad E540	2.20 GHz Intel i7-4702MQ	4 GB	Windows 7 32 bit
MCU			
Model	Function	Communication	Performance
ATmega2560	communication with Server and AC operating AC with DR level	interface: RS232C communication level: TTL	CPU: 8-bit AVR Flash: 256 KB Max operating Frequency : 16MHz
Smart AC			
Model	Function	Voltage	Current
Carrier CPM-A157TGB0	Air Conditioner Dehumidifier	220 V	8.1 A

obtained by MCU measurement data, which has been measured for 30 days in the area where the house is located. In the same manner, MCU has ability to turn on/off AC using its own outputs. Indoor-temperature and humidity were obtained through the thermostat and outdoor-temperature brought in meteorology. Using these collected data, we validate the effectiveness of the proposed prediction approach based on the modified thermodynamic model in Section 3.

### 3.2. Result Validation

In this section, we present the experiment results and assess the performance of the proposed prediction of indoor-temperature for AC scheduling. Model parameters of thermodynamic model calculated by least square al-

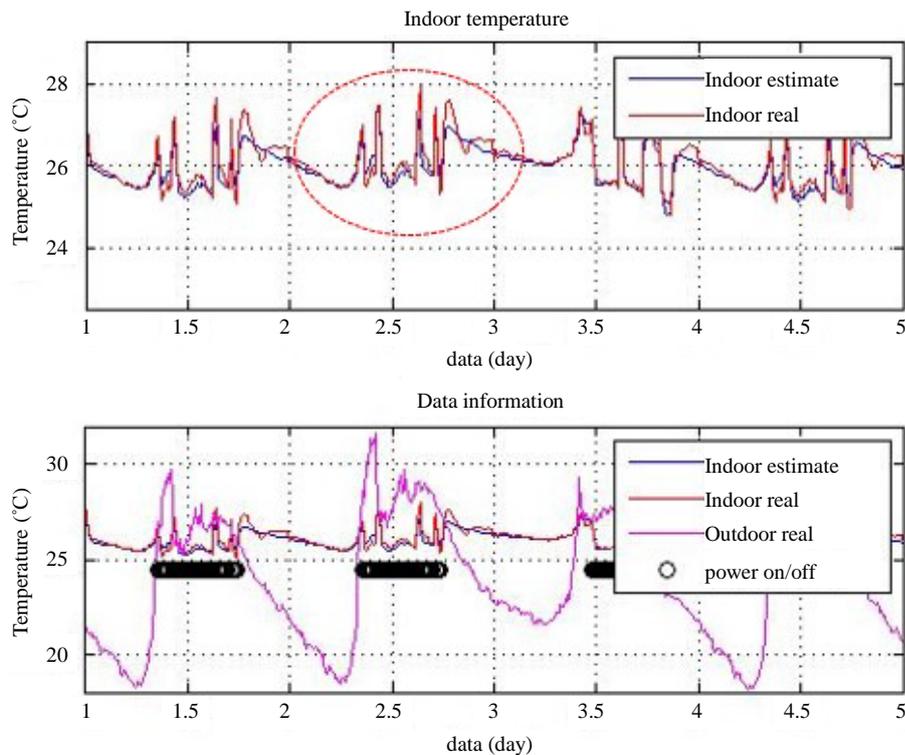
gorithm are listed in **Table 2**. The collected data includes AC load consumption, humidity, indoor-temperature and outdoor-temperature within a month period from July 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014. We mainly focus on a three days period due to limited space. After the prediction of next day indoor-temperature, HEMS presents the AC scheduling based on user’s pattern in **Table 3**. To make the simulation more close to the realistic and show the impact of accuracy of the parameter fitting, real measurement data of indoor-temperature and model based estimation of indoor-temperature are plotted for a comparison. The real measurement data of outdoor-temperature, real measurement data of indoor-temperature using AC, predictive indoor-temperature using AC based on consumer’s AC usage pattern are shown in **Figure 2**. **Figure 3** shows the PE of indoor-temperature. As shown in **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**, the model-based estimation of indoor-temperature is similar to the measurement data. Forecast of indoor-temperature and AC usage for the next day can be integrated into convex optimization framework for optimal AC scheduling.

**Table 2.** Parameters.

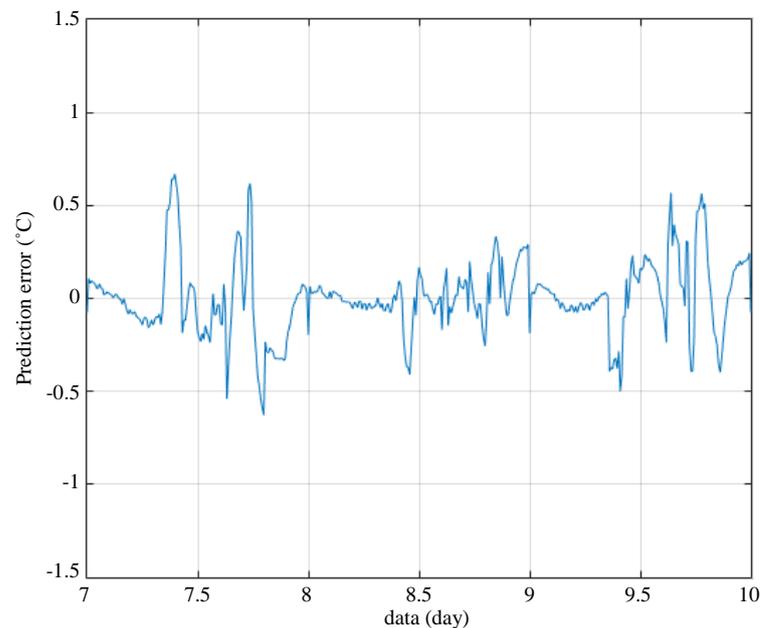
$\hat{\alpha}$	$\hat{\beta}$	$\hat{\gamma}$	$\hat{\lambda}$	$P_{ac} [k]$ (kWh)
0.1176	-2.0121	27.1269	0.5081	0.3

**Table 3.** AC operating rule based on predictive indoor temperature and humidity.

minimum continuous operation hours	20 minutes
maximum continuous operation hours	4 hours
maximum operating time per day	8 hours
The predictive temperature > 27 & humidity < 70%	turn on
The predictive temperature > 26 & humidity > 70%	turn on



**Figure 2.** Collected data and estimation of indoor-temperature.



**Figure 3.** Prediction error (PE) for indoor-temperature.

## 4. Conclusion

In this paper, we implemented HEMS for day-ahead AC scheduling based on thermodynamic model in a laboratory environment. The AC load forecasting is usually difficult, due to its random nature of turning on/off. The proposed HEMS estimated indoor-temperature based on the modified thermodynamic model and used this information to forecast behavior pattern of AC rather than estimating the AC prediction pattern directly. The case study of the smart AC provides a closed system which is suitable for demonstration purpose in a laboratory environment. The proposed prediction approach based on the modified thermodynamic model can describe thermal characteristic of indoor-temperature and can be integrated into the optimization framework for optimal AC scheduling. The ideas described in this paper can be extended to address other thermostatically controlled appliances.

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