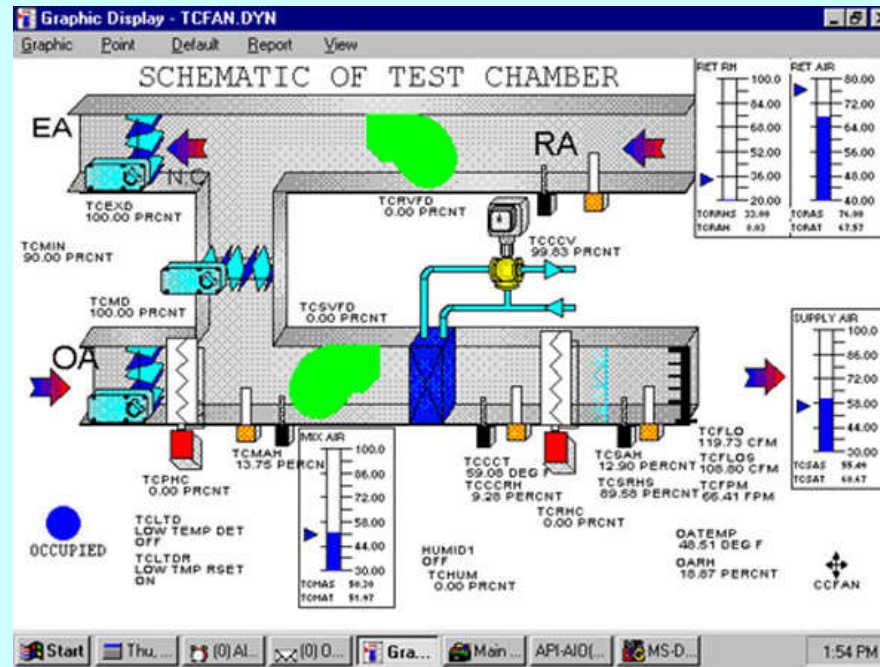


# MEBS7012 Air conditioning and refrigeration

<http://ibse.hk/MEBS7012/>



## Introduction



*Ir Dr. Sam C. M. Hui*  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
The University of Hong Kong  
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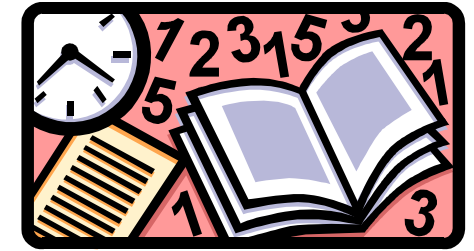
Aug 2020

# Contents



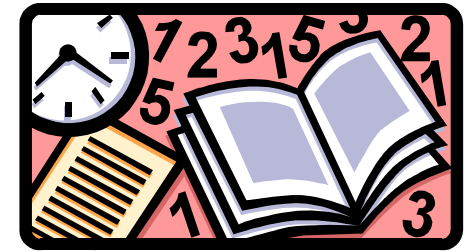
- Course Background
- What is HVAC&R?
- Air Conditioning
- Design of HVAC Systems

# Course Background



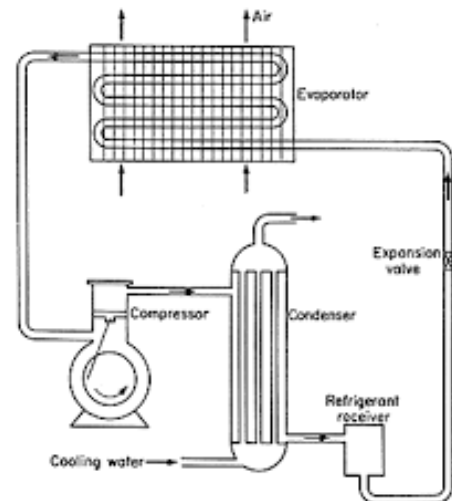
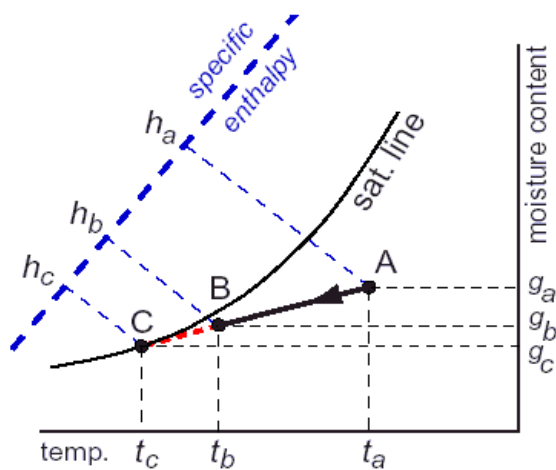
- MEBS7012 Air conditioning and refrigeration
  - Educational Objectives:
    - To enable students to understand the basic principles of design and operation of **Heating, Ventilating, Air-Conditioning and Refrigerating (HVAC&R)** systems for environmental control of buildings
    - To enable students to design and select proper HVAC&R systems to serve the desired purpose



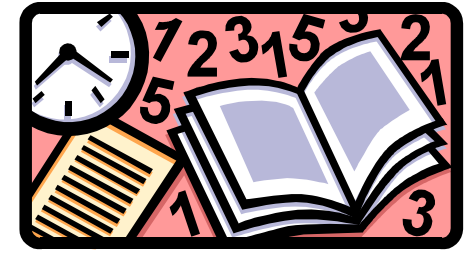


# Course Background

- MEBS7012 Air conditioning and refrigeration
  - Learning Outcomes:
    - To explain the fundamental principles of HVAC&R systems for environmental control of buildings.
    - To develop skills for design and selection of HVAC&R systems.



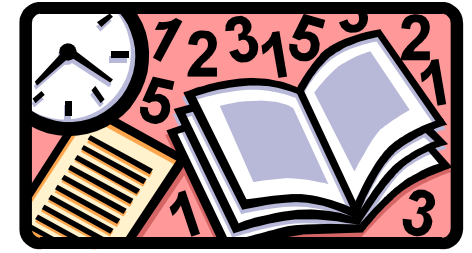
# Course Background



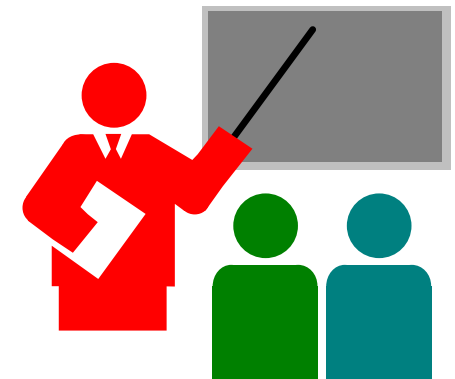
- These two courses are related
  - MEBS7012 Air conditioning and refrigeration
    - Basic principles of HVACR
    - Practical design skills
  - MEBS7014 Advanced HVAC applications
    - System characteristics and operation
    - Analysis and design strategies



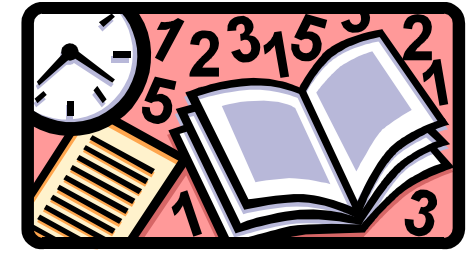
# Course Background



- Lecturers:
  - Ir Dr. Sam C. M. Hui (sam.cmhui@gmail.com)
  - Dr. Benjamin P. L. Ho (benjamin.ho@hku.hk)
- Assessment Methods:
  - 60% by written examination (2 hours)
  - 40% by continuous assessment (2 nos. assignments)
    - One assignment from each lecturer
- Course Website:
  - <http://ibse.hk/MEBS7012/>
  - (with links and resources)



# Course Background



- Study topics of MEBS7012:
  - Introduction
  - Advanced psychrometry
  - Thermal comfort
  - Load estimation (I) & (II)
  - Energy calculations

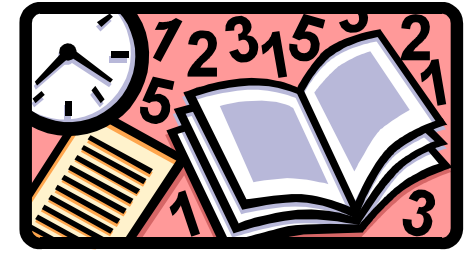
- 
- Cooling systems
  - Heating systems
  - Air side systems
  - Ventilation systems
  - Refrigeration systems
  - Heat rejection



**Ir Dr. Sam C M Hui**



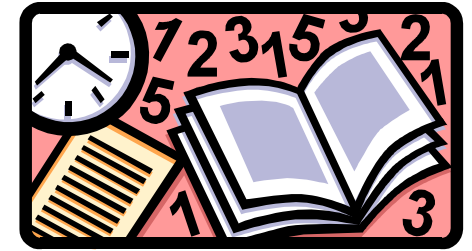
**Dr. Benjamin P L Ho**



# Course Background

- Assumptions
  - You have basic knowledge of thermodynamics and fluid mechanics
  - You are interested in developing your knowledge and skills in HVAC&R
- Focus of this course
  - From basic principles to intermittent level of HVAC design skills
  - Main focus on cooling design and air conditioning





# Course Background

- Review of basic knowledge: [NPTEL E-learning course -- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning <http://nptel.ac.in/courses/112105129/>]
  - Lesson 4 Review of fundamental principles – Thermodynamics : Part I
  - Lesson 5 Review of fundamental principles – Thermodynamics : Part II
  - Lesson 6 Review of fundamentals: Fluid flow
  - Lesson 7 Review of fundamentals: Heat and Mass transfer

>> Review them if you need to know the basic knowledge.

What is HVAC&R?





# What is HVAC&R?

- What is HVAC&R?
  - HVACR is an acronym or abbreviation for the products and services related to the functions of:
  - **H**eating 採暖
  - **V**entilation 通風
  - **Air-C**onditioning 空調
  - **R**efrigeration 製冷

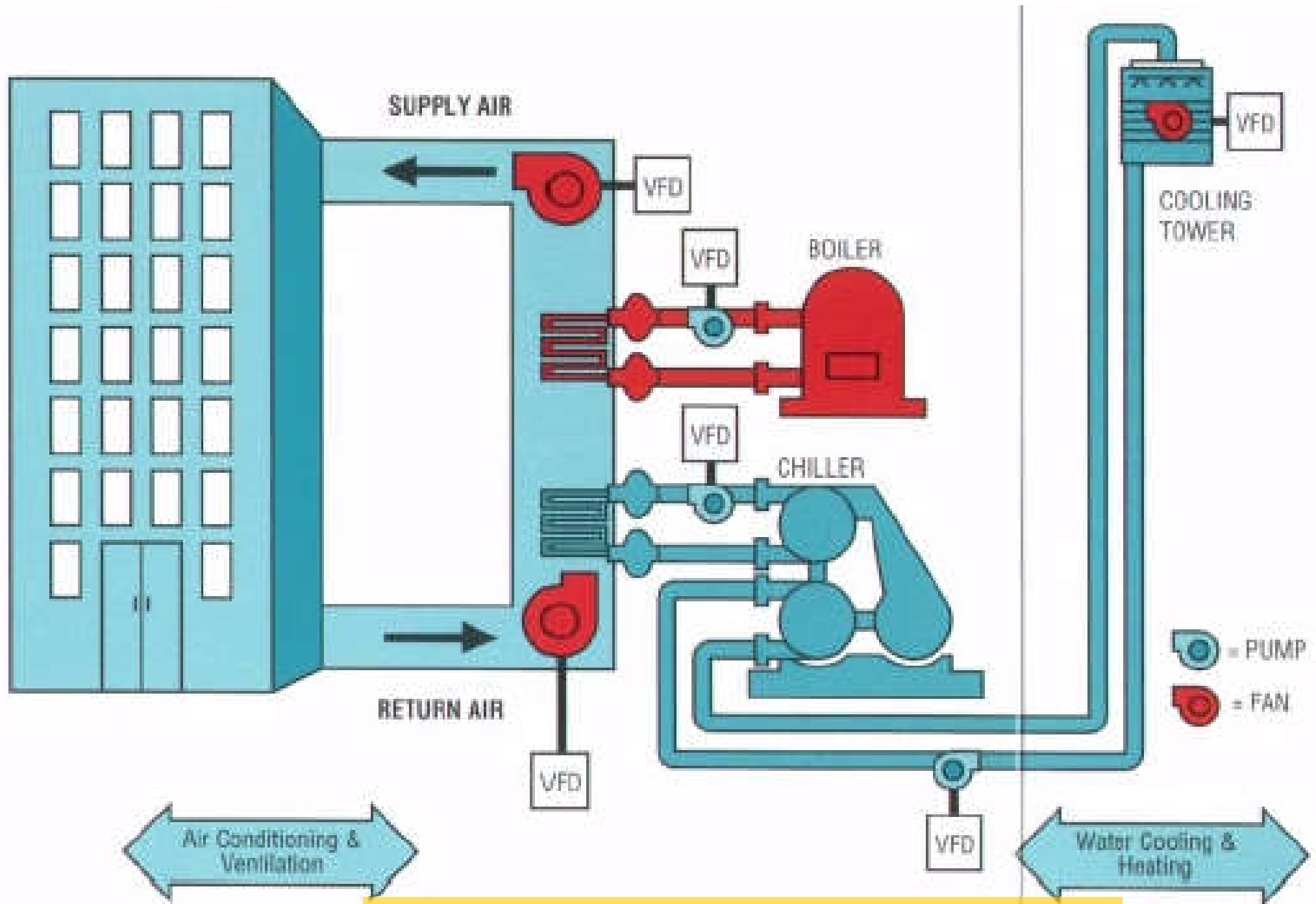




# What is HVAC&R?

- They are the engineering systems that help to control and maintain the conditions of indoor built environment
- Also known as:
  - Environmental control systems (ECS)
  - Heating, ventilating, air-conditioning and refrigerating (HVAC&R) systems
  - Heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC)
  - Mechanical ventilating and air-conditioning (MVAC)
  - Air conditioning and refrigeration (AC&R)

# Example of a centralised HVAC system



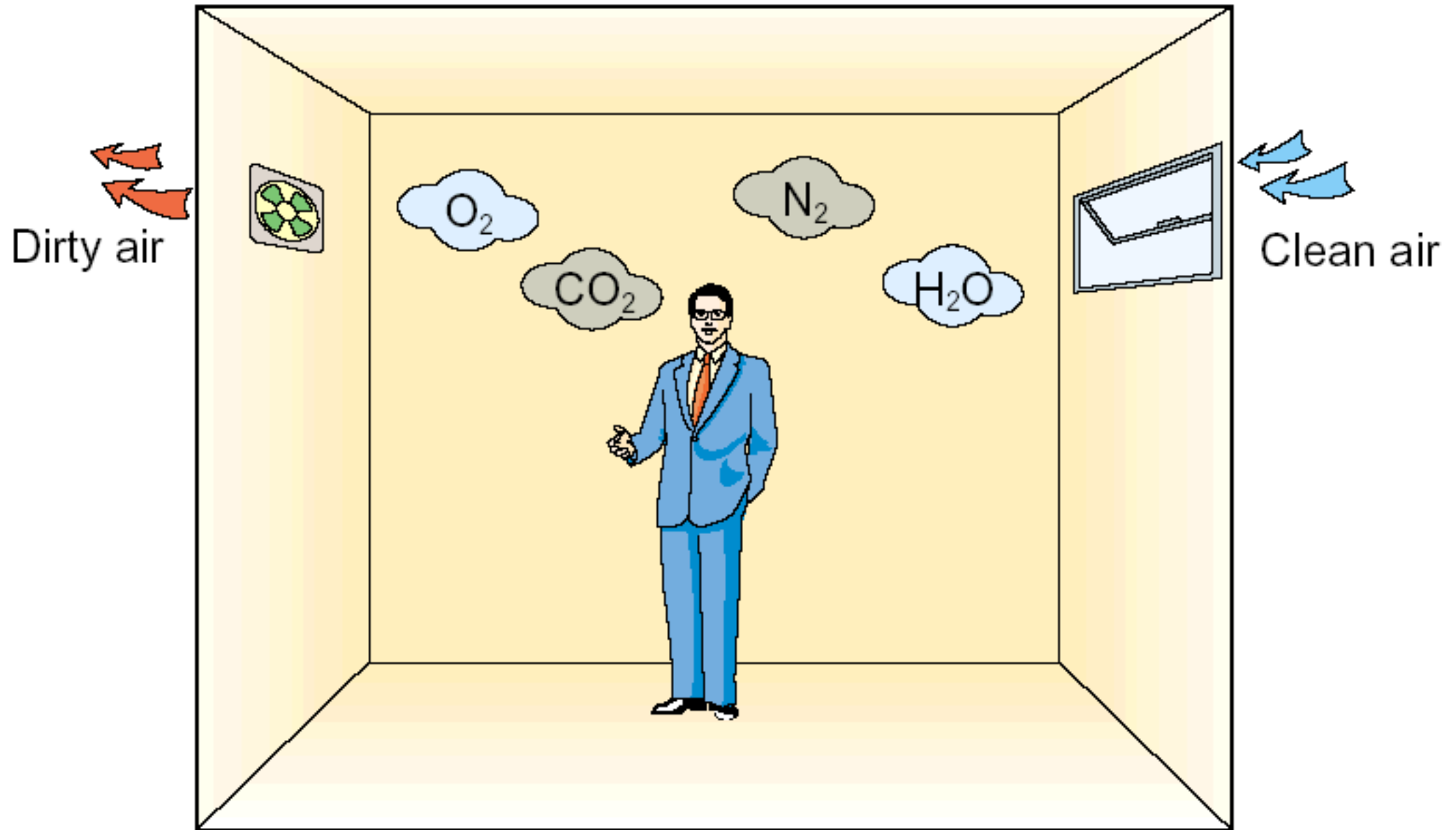
Do you know the HVAC components?



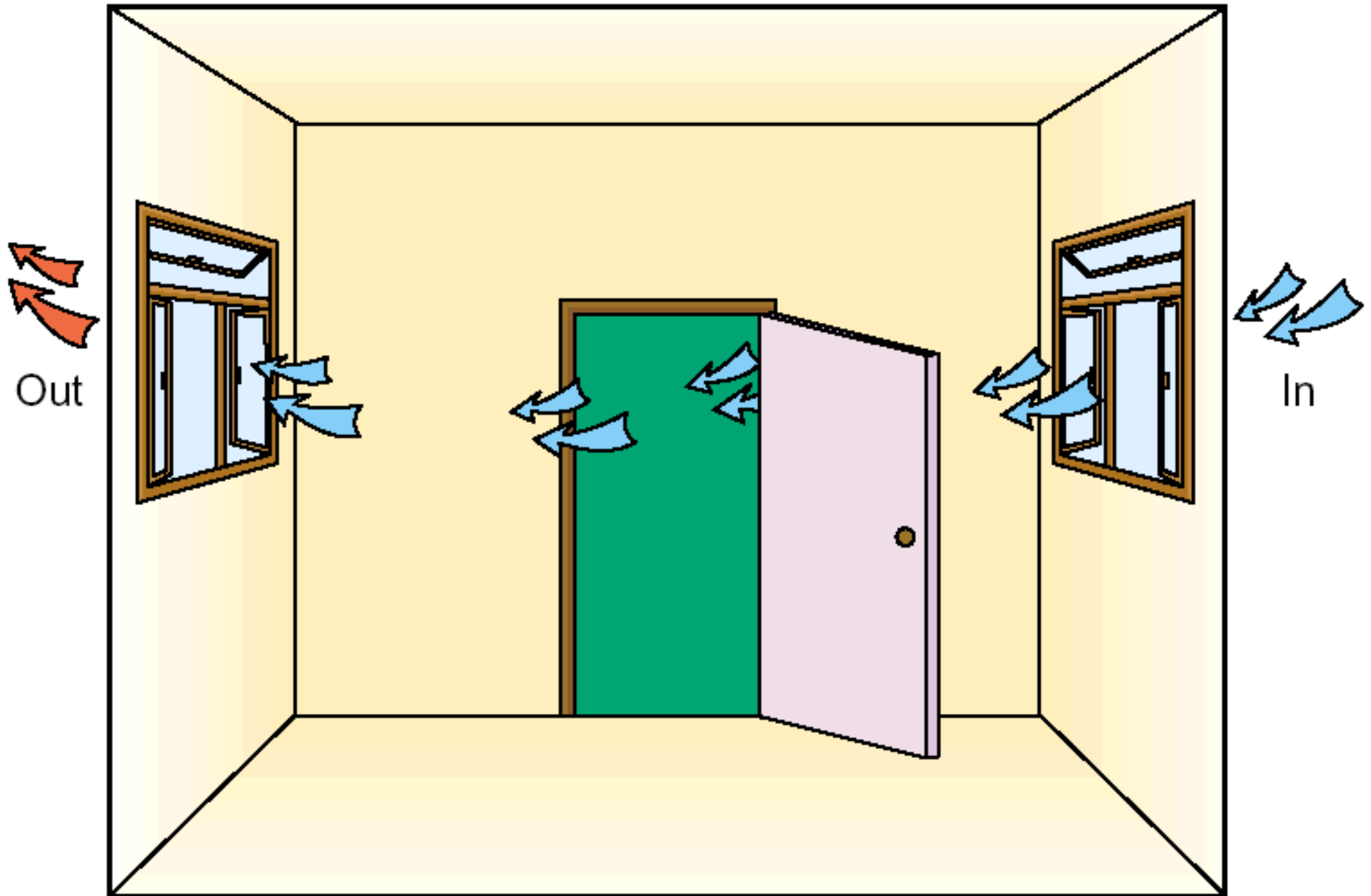
# What is HVAC&R?

- Understand the purpose of HVAC design
  - To provide adequate indoor air quality by removing and/or diluting indoor pollutants
  - To provide adequate ventilation for processes
  - To remove heat & maintain thermal comfort
  - To control humidity & prevent condensation
- Understand the climate (external conditions)
  - Summer: cooling design & dehumidification
  - Winter: heating design

# Simple ventilation design



# Cross ventilation (natural)



(Source: [www.iaq.hk](http://www.iaq.hk))



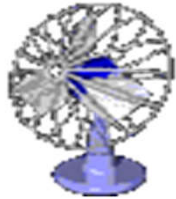
# Cross ventilation (mechanical assisted)





# What is HVAC&R?

- Common ventilation strategies



- Natural ventilation
  - Mechanical ventilation
  - Comfort cooling
  - Air conditioning (full control of temp./humidity)
  - Mixed mode or hybrid systems
- If internal heat gains are sufficiently low and the external environment is suitable, natural ventilation can provide a low energy solution

## Ventilation design hierarchy

Is it feasible to use  
**Natural Ventilation?**

If situation prevents this,  
is it feasible to use  
**Mechanical Ventilation?**

If situation prevents this,  
is it feasible to use  
**Hybrid/Mixed Mode Ventilation?**

If situation prevents this,  
is it feasible to use  
**Cooling and Heating  
(without humidity control)?**

If situation prevents this,  
is it feasible to use  
**Full Air Conditioning  
(with humidity control)?**

Increasing:

- energy consumption
- capital cost
- running costs
- maintenance
- complexity

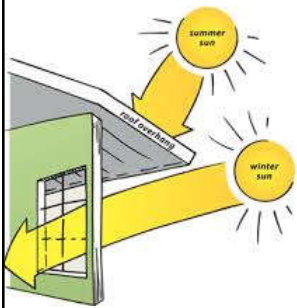


# What is HVAC&R?

- Interactions affecting HVAC design

- Building fabric (architectural design)

- Site orientation & conditions
    - Built form, shading, window performance, thermal mass
    - Thermal insulation, reducing infiltration/air leakage



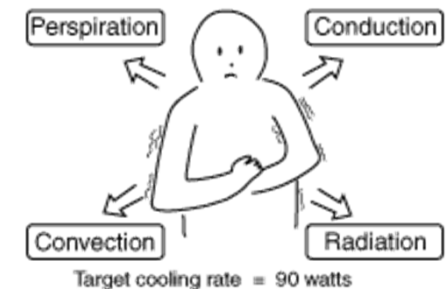
- Building services elements, e.g.

- Lighting system & daylighting
    - Small power or equipment loads



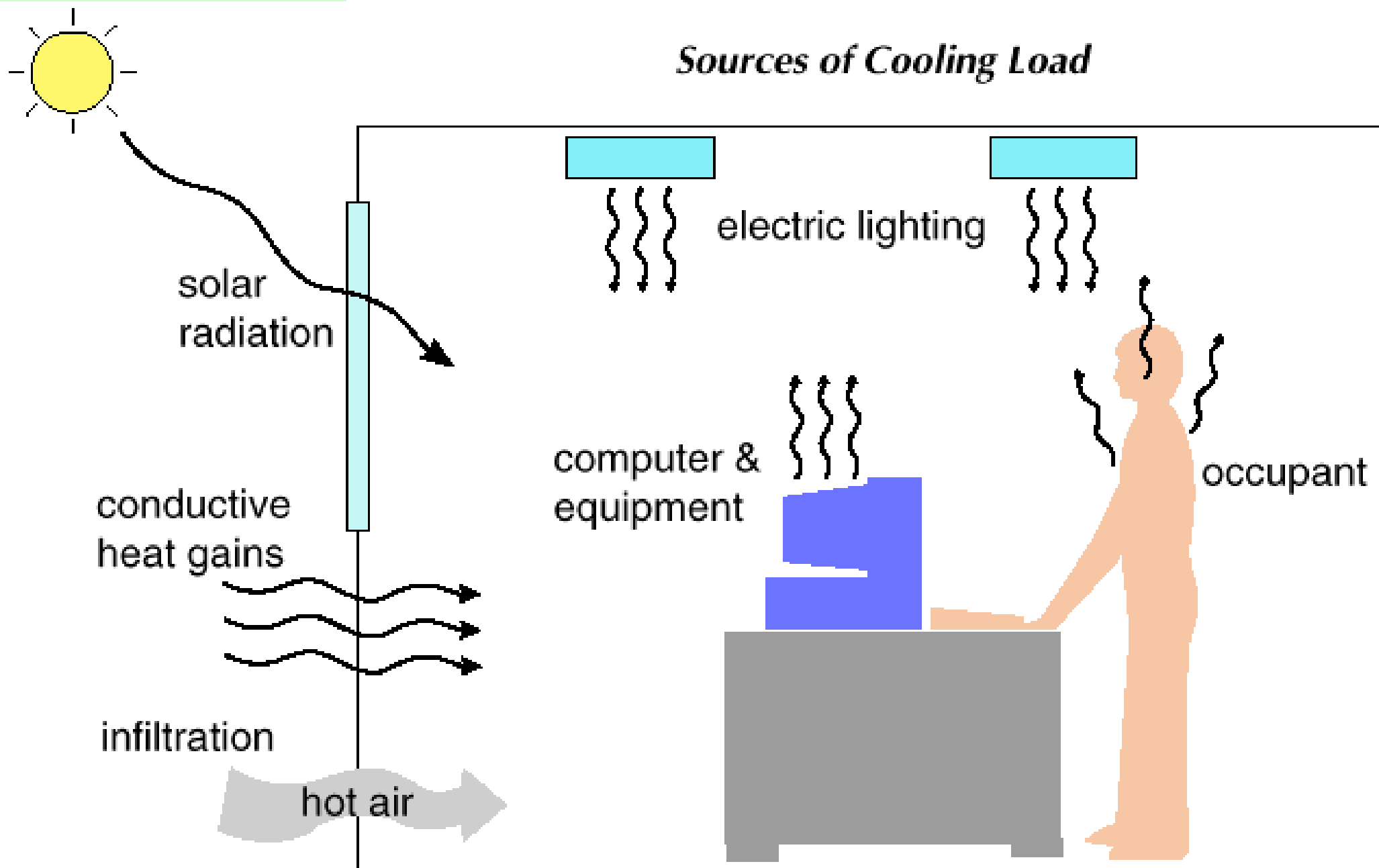
- Occupants' behaviour (human factors)

- How users behave and react

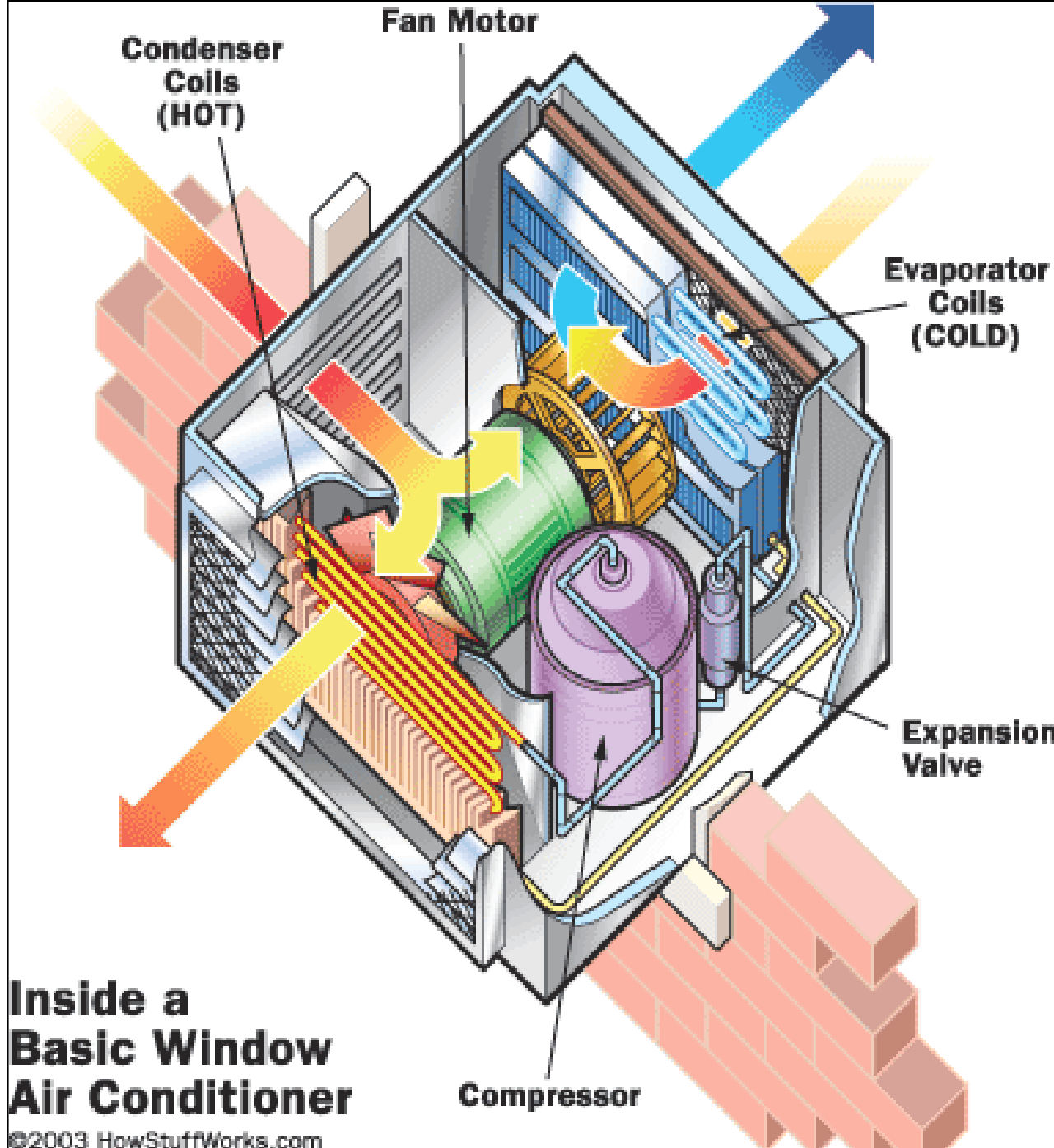


Can you identify all the heat gains?

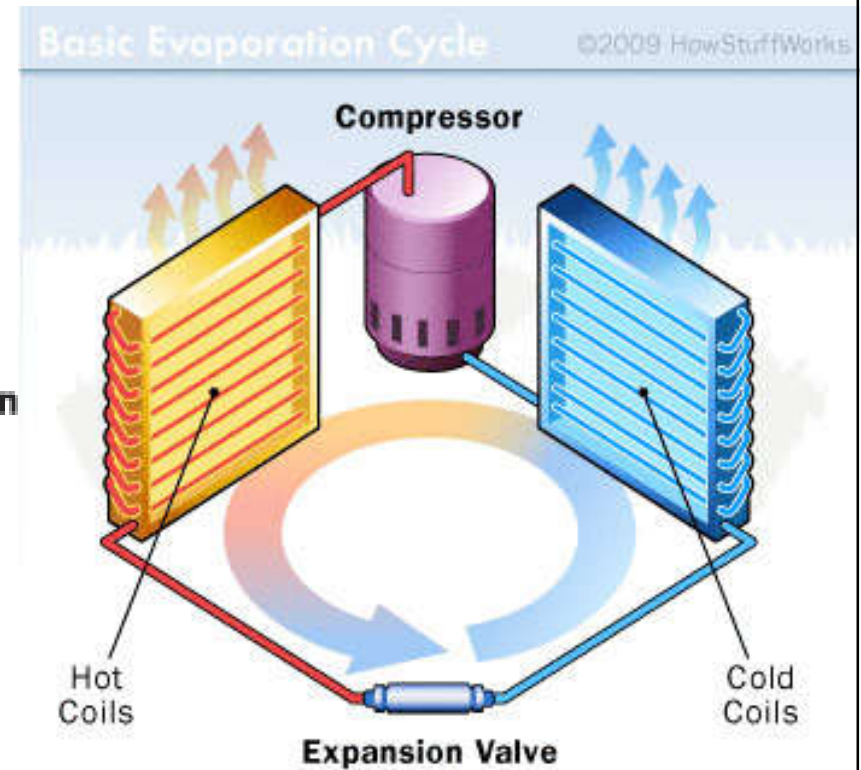
Outdoor weather



Indoor conditions and activities



Window-type  
air conditioner



**Inside a  
Basic Window  
Air Conditioner**

©2003 HowStuffWorks.com

See also: “How Air Conditioners Work” (1:07)

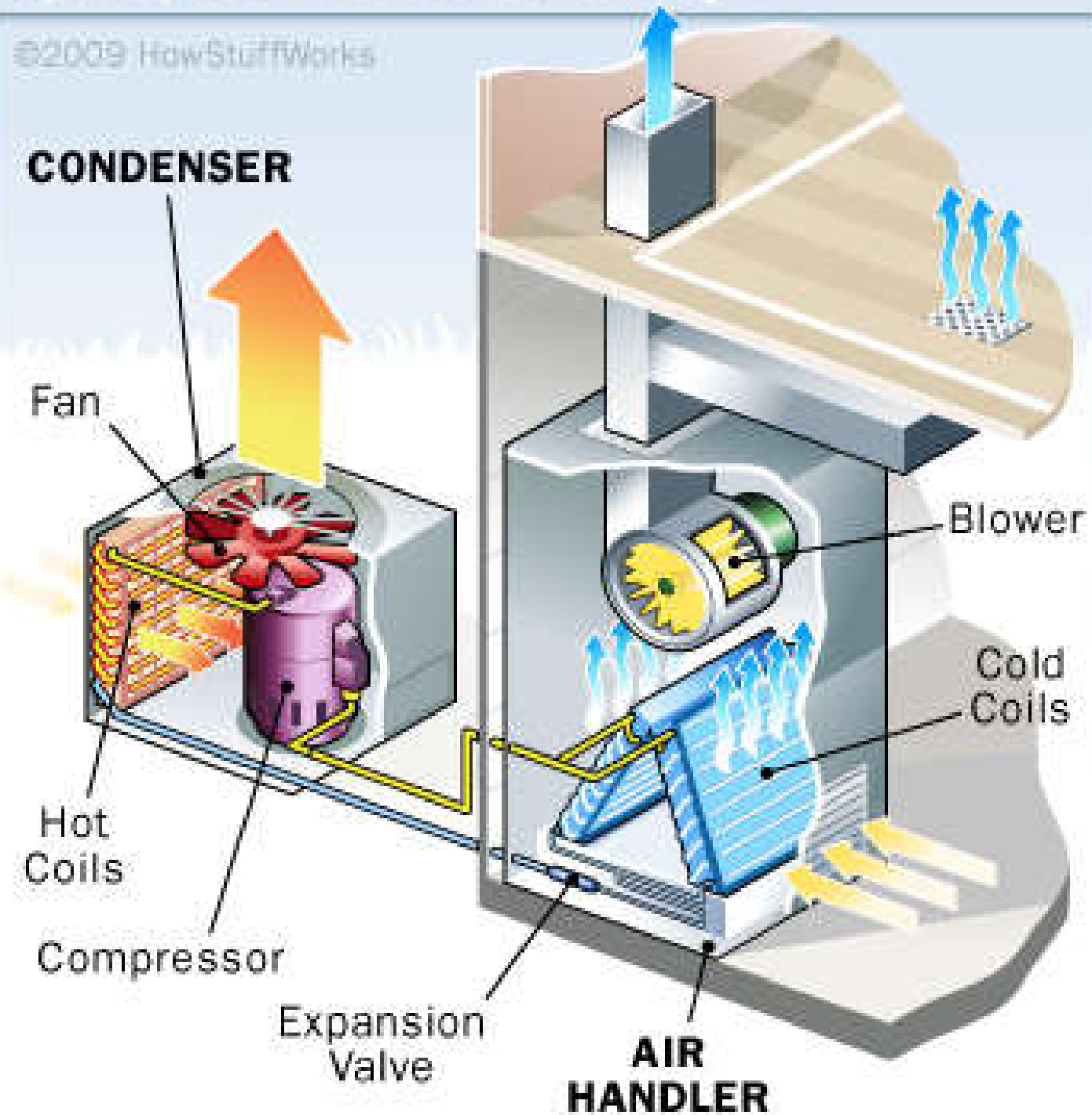
<http://youtu.be/nKZ2DPvvua8>

(Source: [www.howstuffworks.com/ac.htm](http://www.howstuffworks.com/ac.htm))

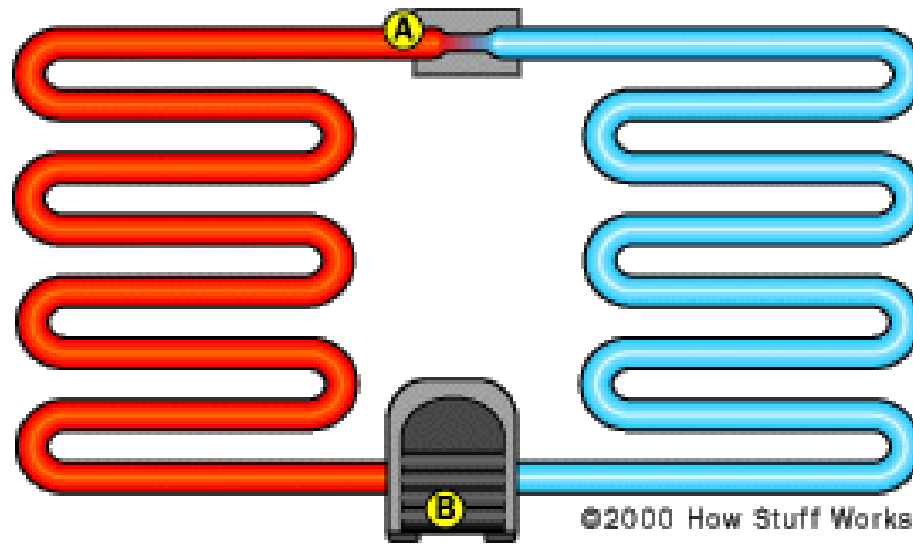
# Split-system Air Conditioning

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Split-type air conditioner

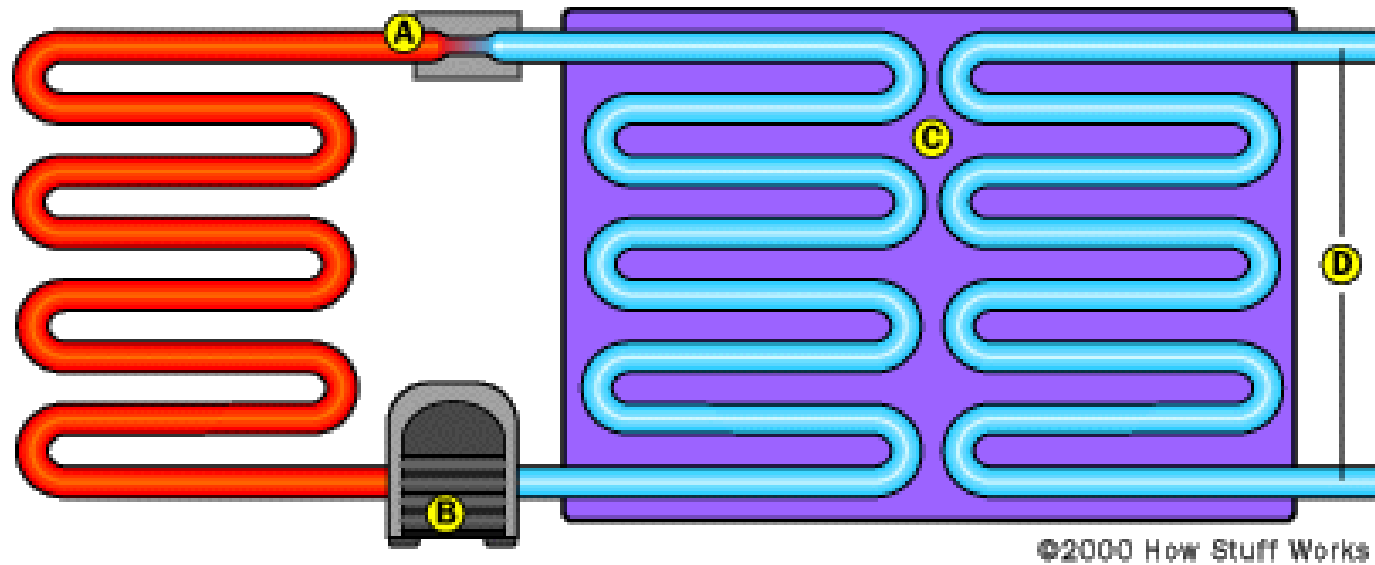


Refrigerant cycle



What are the major components?

A typical air conditioner

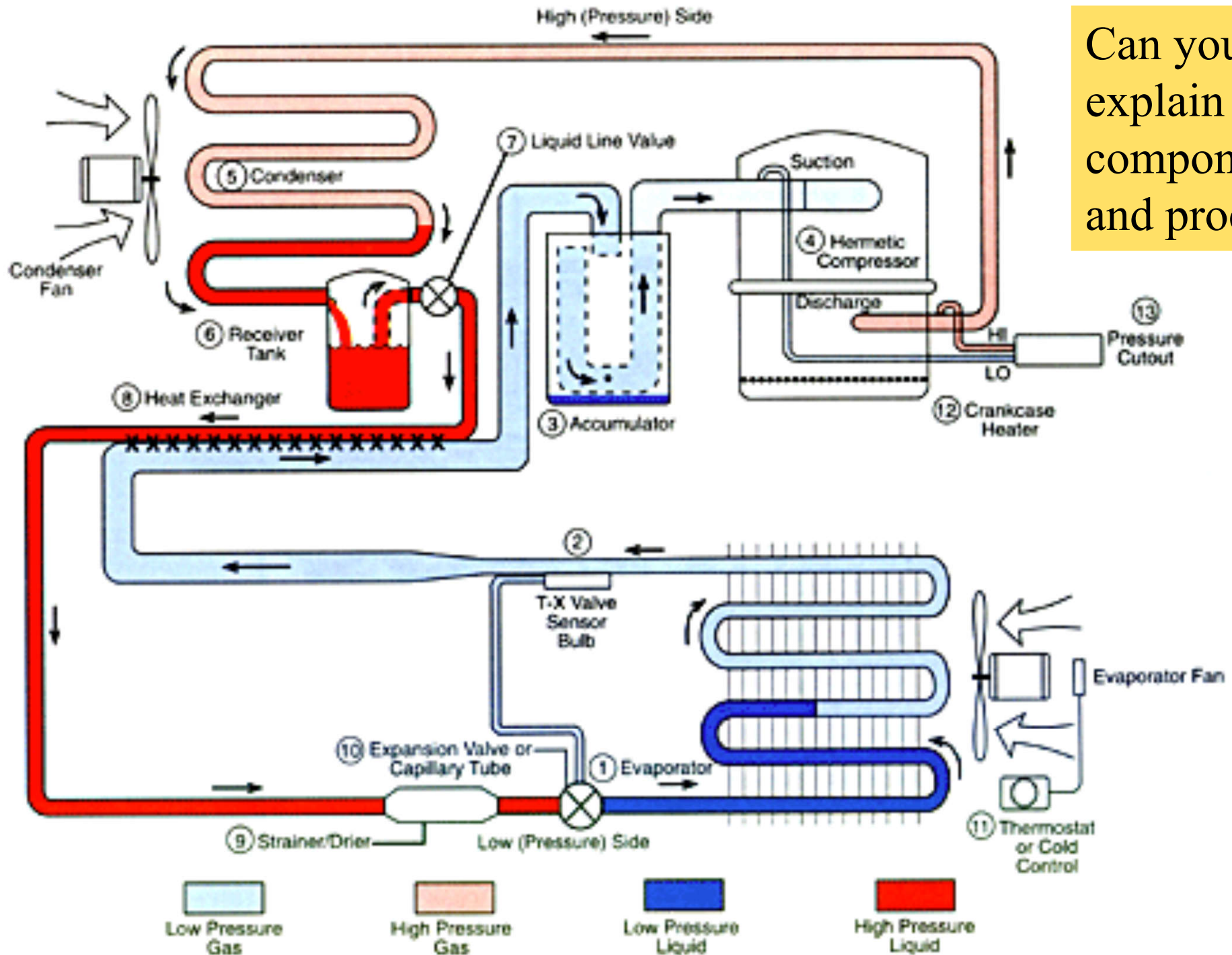


Chilled water system

Air conditioning with a chilled water system



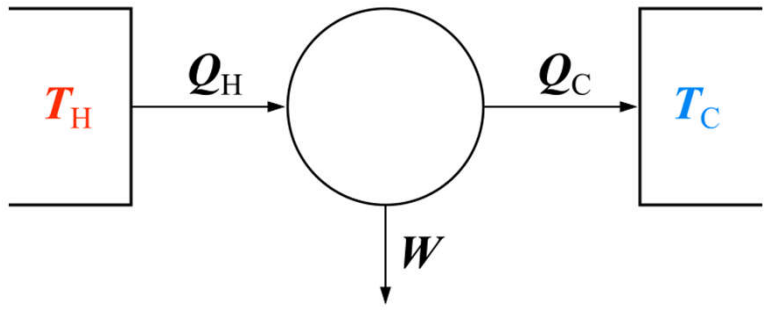
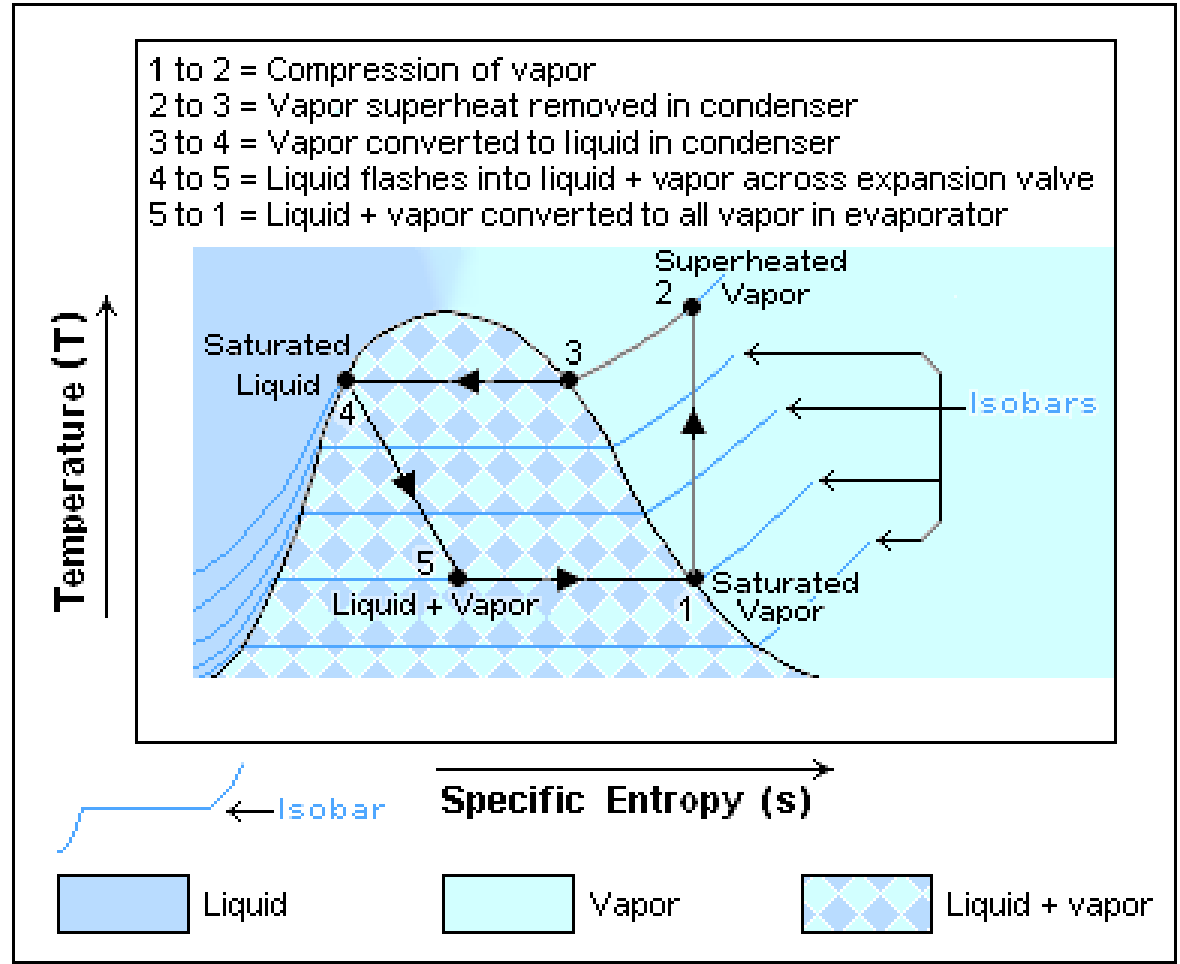
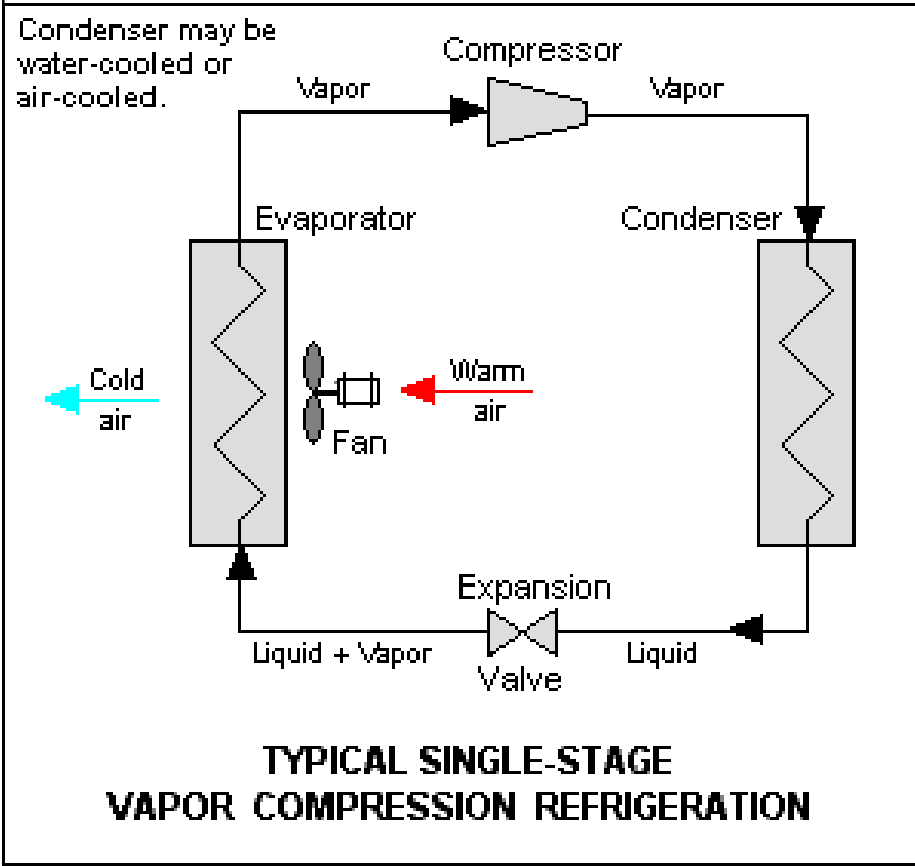
# Basic refrigeration cycle



Can you explain the components and process?

# Vapour compression refrigeration

Can you explain the principles?



COP of a refrigerator = Cooling Effect/Work Input =  $Q_L/W_{net,in}$

COP of a heat pump = Heating Effect/Work Input =  $Q_H/W_{net,in}$

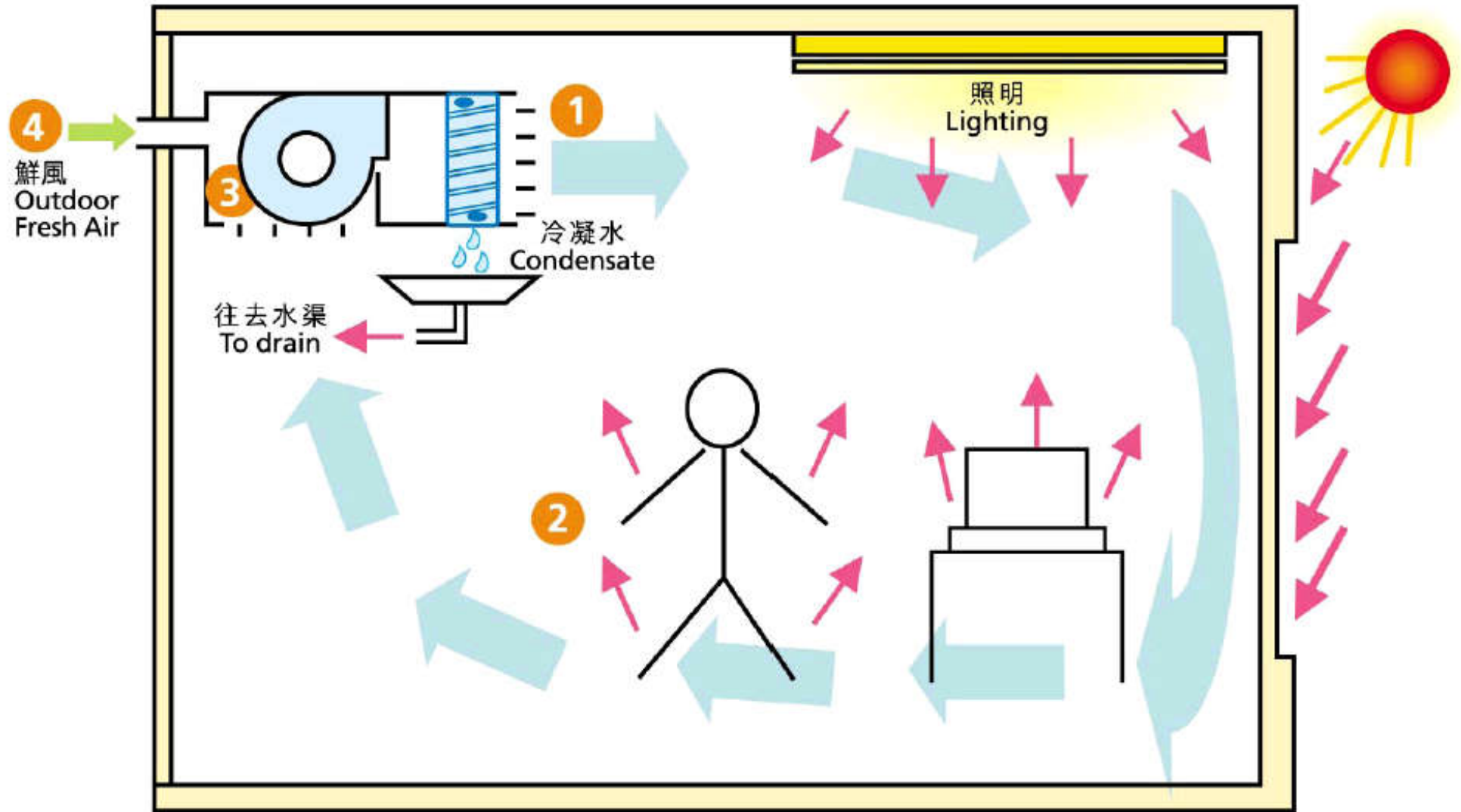
(Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heat\\_pump\\_and\\_refrigeration\\_cycle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heat_pump_and_refrigeration_cycle))

典型空調系統

Typical Air-conditioning Process

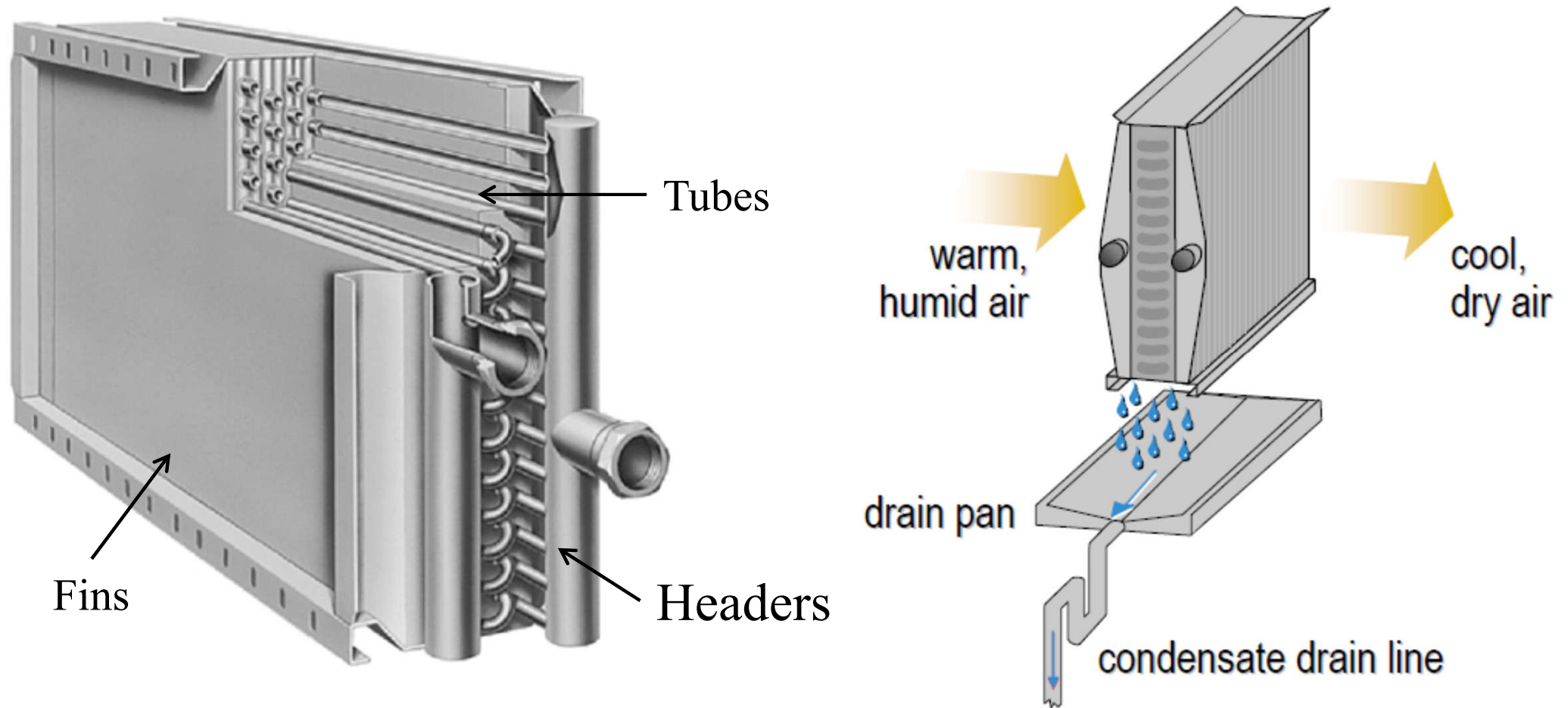
What is this A/C system called?

冷卻盤管具冷卻及抽濕功效  
Cooling Coil for Cooling & Dehumidification



(Source: EnergyWitts newsletter, EMSD)

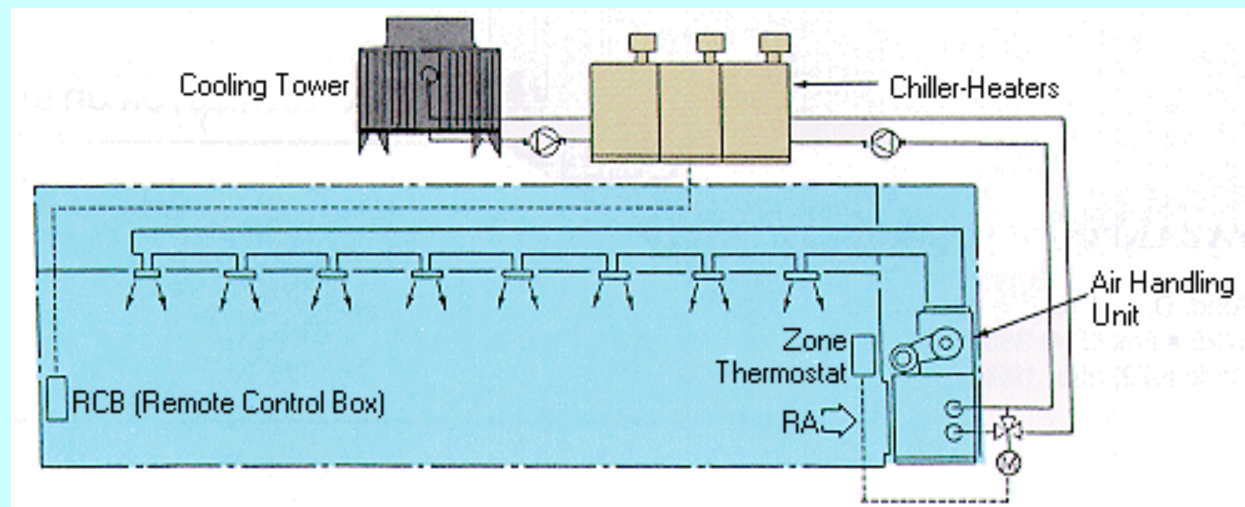
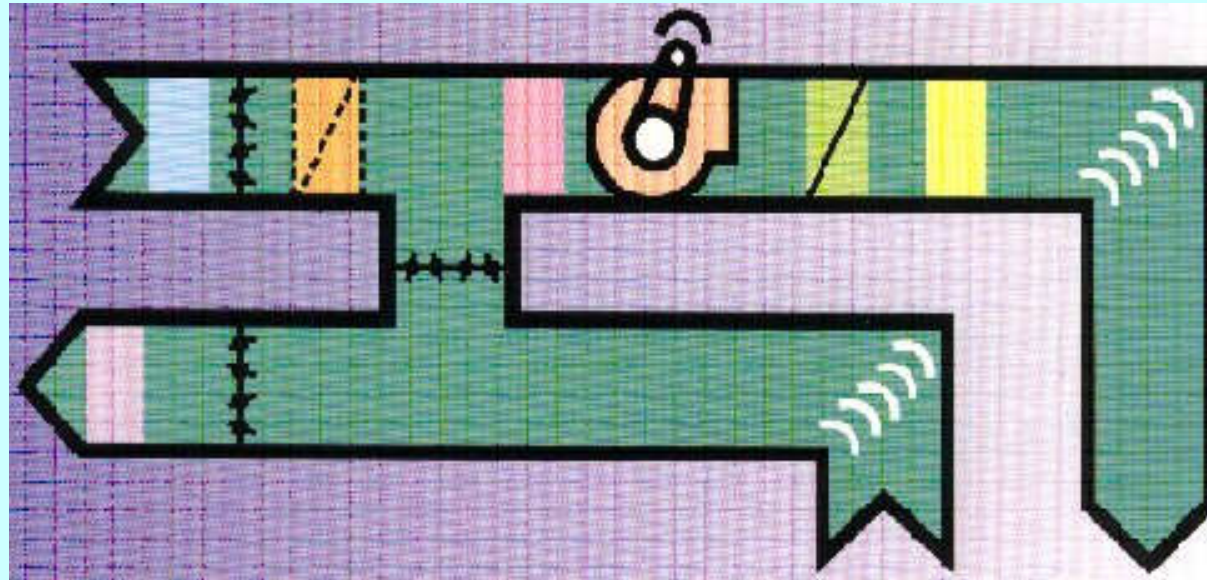
# Chilled water cooling coil (a heat exchanger)



Sensible heat exchange:  $q_S = m_a \times c_p \times (t_b - t_a)$

Latent heat exchange:  $q_L = m_a \times h_{fg}$

# Air Conditioning



# Air Conditioning



- The term “air conditioning” has gradually changed, from meaning just cooling to the total control of:
  - Temperature
  - Moisture in the air (humidity)
  - Supply of outside air for ventilation
  - Filtration of airborne particles
  - Air movement in the occupied space

“冷氣”



“空氣調節”

“空調”





# Air Conditioning

- Definition (from ASHRAE\*)
  - Air conditioning is the process of treating air so as to control simultaneously its temperature, humidity, cleanliness, and distribution to meet the requirements of the conditioned space.
    - Basic processes: Cooling and Heating
- Comfort cooling (air conditioning)
  - To meet comfort requirements of occupants

# Air Conditioning



- Seven main air-conditioning processes:
  - 1. Heating (adding thermal energy)
  - 2. Cooling (removing thermal energy)
  - 3. Humidifying (adding moisture)
  - 4. Dehumidifying (removing moisture)
  - 5. Cleaning (removing particulates/contaminants)
  - 6. Ventilating (exchanging air between the outdoors and the conditioned space)
  - 7. Air Movement (circulating and mixing air)



# History of refrigeration and air conditioning



Seasonal harvesting of snow and ice has begun earlier than 1000 B.C. (Store ice in winter for summer use), e.g. ice cellars of ancient Chinese

Do you know ways to keep cool of ancient Chinese?

(Source: 5 Smart Ways to Keep Cool of Ancient Chinese <http://www.chinawhisper.com/5-smart-ways-to-keep-cool-of-ancient-chinese/>)  
(See also: Ice house (building) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice\\_house\\_\(building\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice_house_(building)))

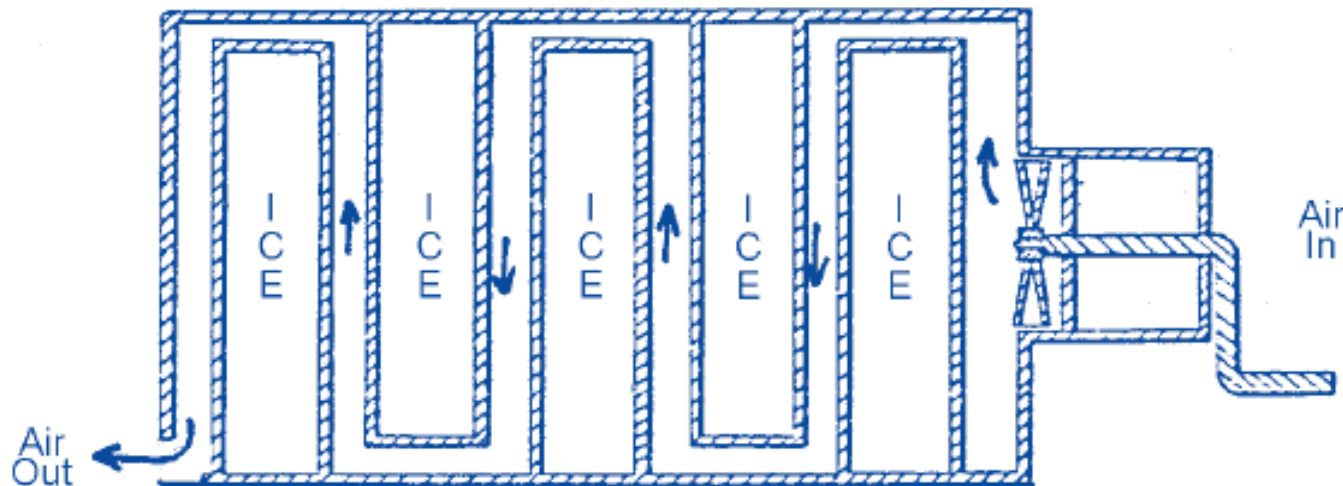


Figure 1: Shaler's patented cooler for ventilating air, 1865.

(Source: ASHRAE Journal, Feb 1999, [https://www.ashrae.org/File%20Library/docLib/Public/200362710047\\_326.pdf](https://www.ashrae.org/File%20Library/docLib/Public/200362710047_326.pdf))

- Ice cooling
- Evaporative cooling
- Ventilation (air flow)
- Porcelain pillows
- Salt solution cooling

# Air Conditioning



- The History of Air Conditioning

- [http://www.air-conditioners-and-heaters.com/air\\_conditioning\\_history.html](http://www.air-conditioners-and-heaters.com/air_conditioning_history.html)



- 1830: Dr. John Gorrie (ice for cooling hospital rooms)
    - 1881: James Garfield (device w/ melted ice water)
    - Late 19<sup>th</sup> century: “manufactured air” (controlling humidity in textile mills)
    - Early 1900s’: Willis Carrier (designed modern A/C systems for offices, apartments, hotels, hospitals)
    - 1917-1930: movie theatres were kept cool by A/C

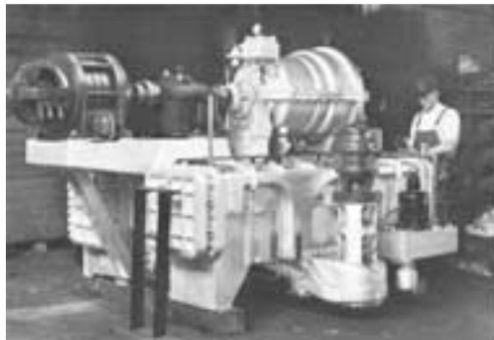
# Air Conditioning



- The Father of Modern Air Conditioning
  - Dr. Willis Haviland Carrier (1875-1950)



- Formed Carrier Air Conditioning Company (1907)
- Published a paper on rational psychrometric formulae in 1911
- Invented and patented many HVAC equipment
- Wrote a well-known air conditioning textbook



# Air Conditioning



- Applications of air conditioning:
  - Industrial sector
    - e.g. textile mills, electronics, pharmaceutical
  - Commercial sector
    - e.g. offices, hotels, retails
  - Residential sector
    - e.g. apartments, houses
  - Transport sector
    - e.g. aircrafts, buses, private cars, trains



# Air Conditioning



- Significance of air conditioning and refrigeration
  - No. 10 on the list of the [Greatest Engineering Achievements of the 20th Century]
  - <http://www.greatachievements.org>
    - These cooling technologies have altered some of our most fundamental patterns of living
    - Buildings are climate-controlled & comfortable
    - Fresh foods & milk are kept in refrigerators/freezers
    - Building designs are changed completely
    - Environment for industrial processes are controlled

# Air Conditioning



- Importance of air conditioning for buildings
  - Change building designs & human adaptation
  - Affect occupant satisfaction, productivity, health and safety
  - Contribute to effective building performance
  - Often form a major part of building construction costs and running costs
  - Affect energy consumption & environmental performance of a building

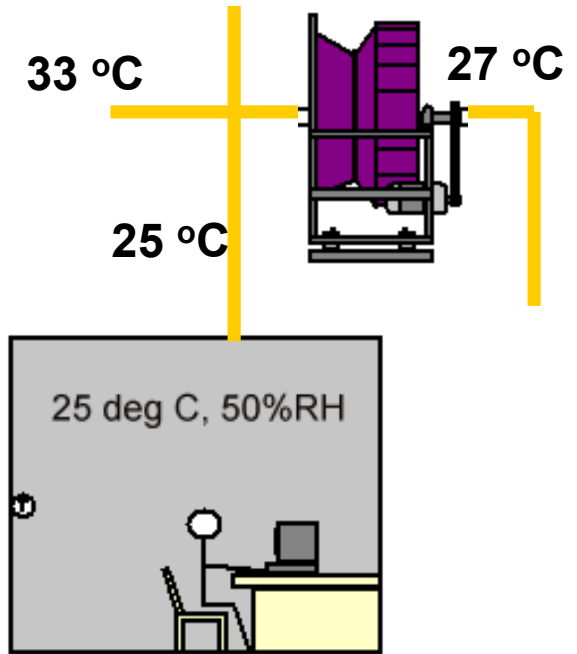
# Air Conditioning



- To understand better, air conditioning system can be divided into five subsystems or loops:
  - 1. Air-side
  - 2. Chilled water
  - 3. Refrigeration equipment
  - 4. Heat rejection
  - 5. Controls



33 °C, 28 °C

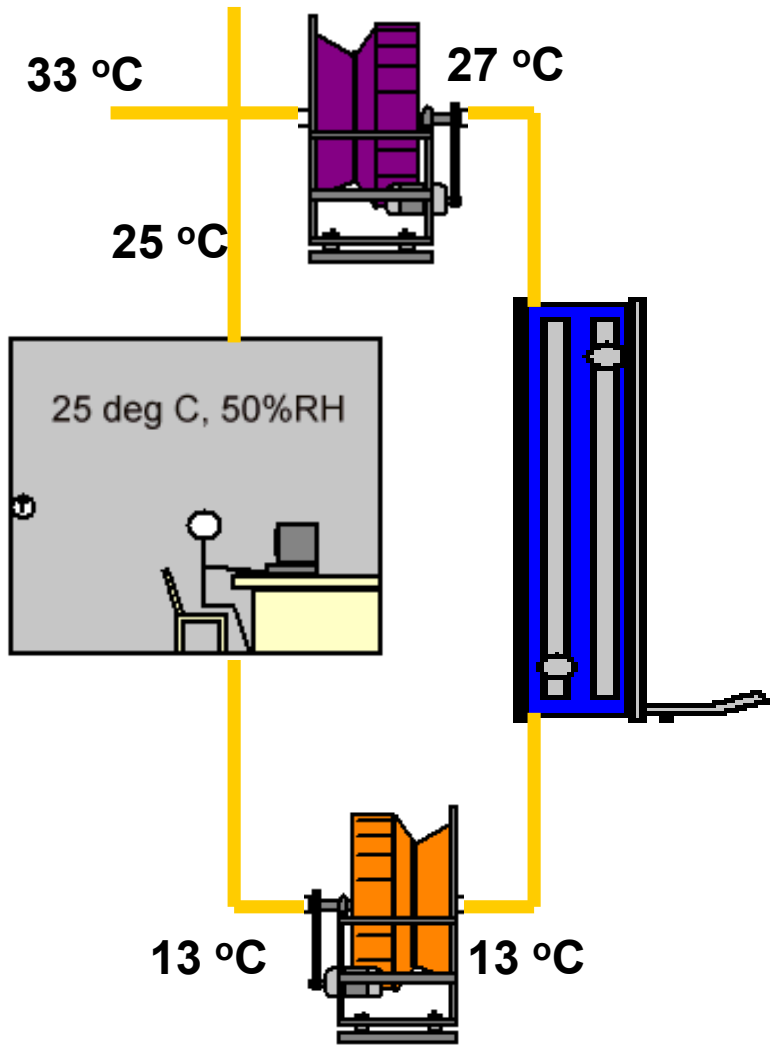


Conditioned space





33 °C, 28 °C

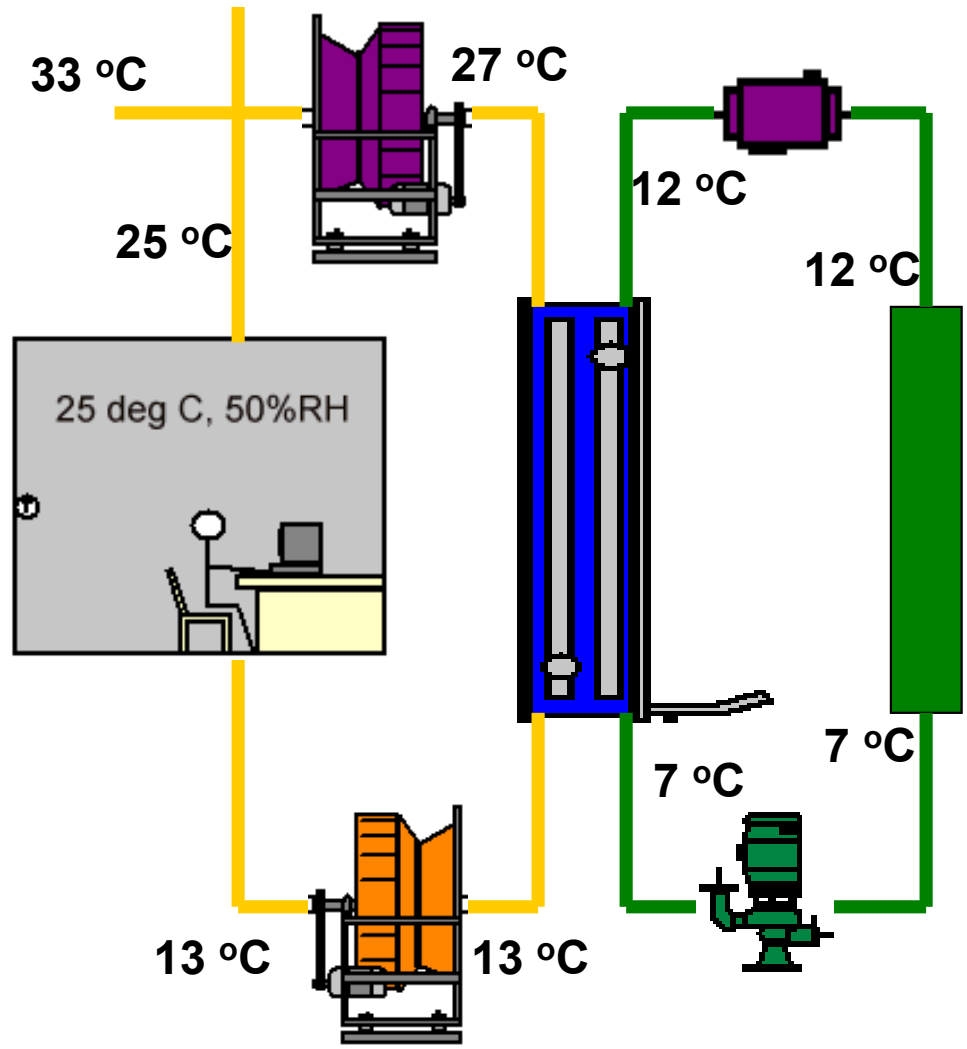


Air side system



33 °C, 28 °C

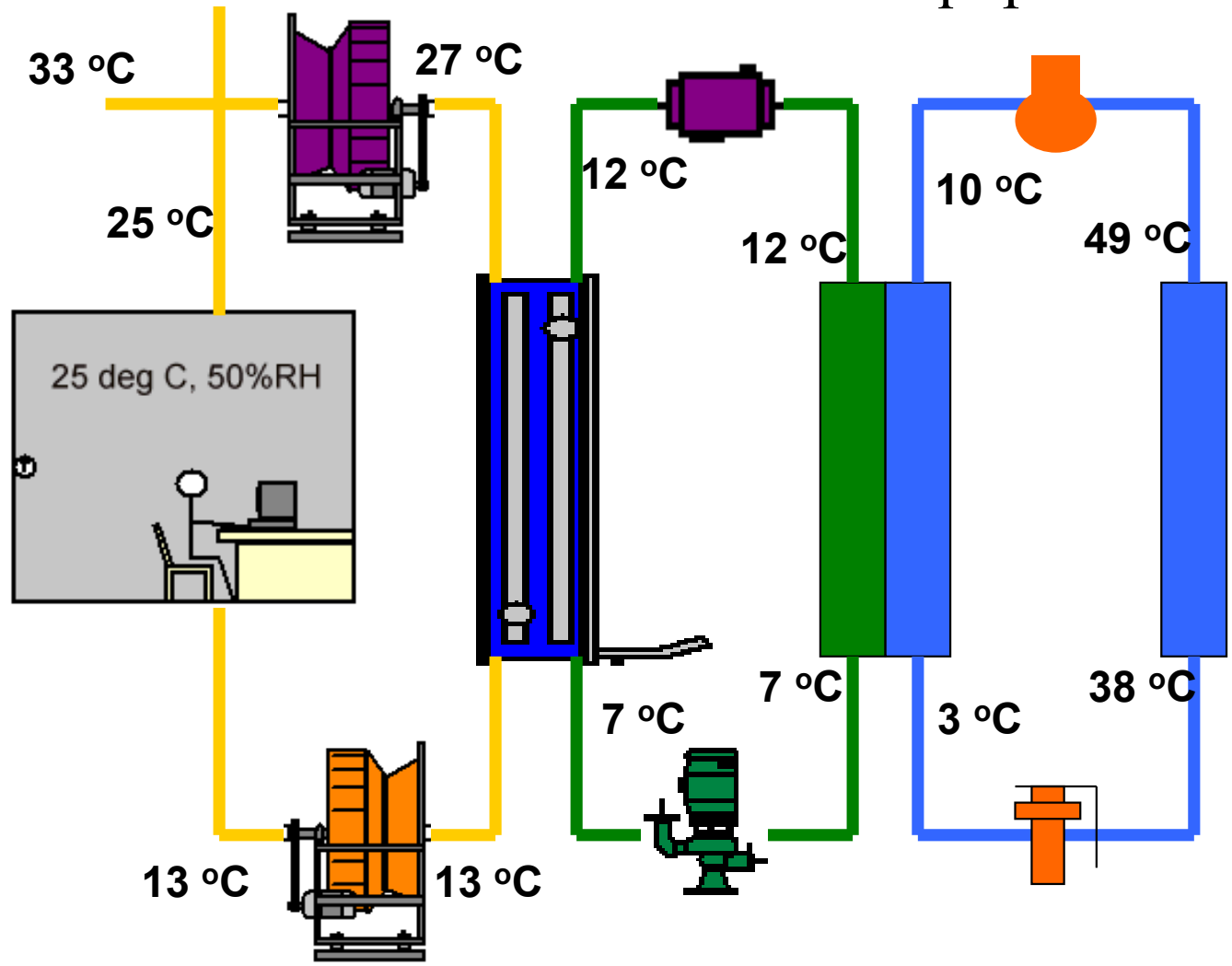
# Chilled water system





33 °C, 28 °C

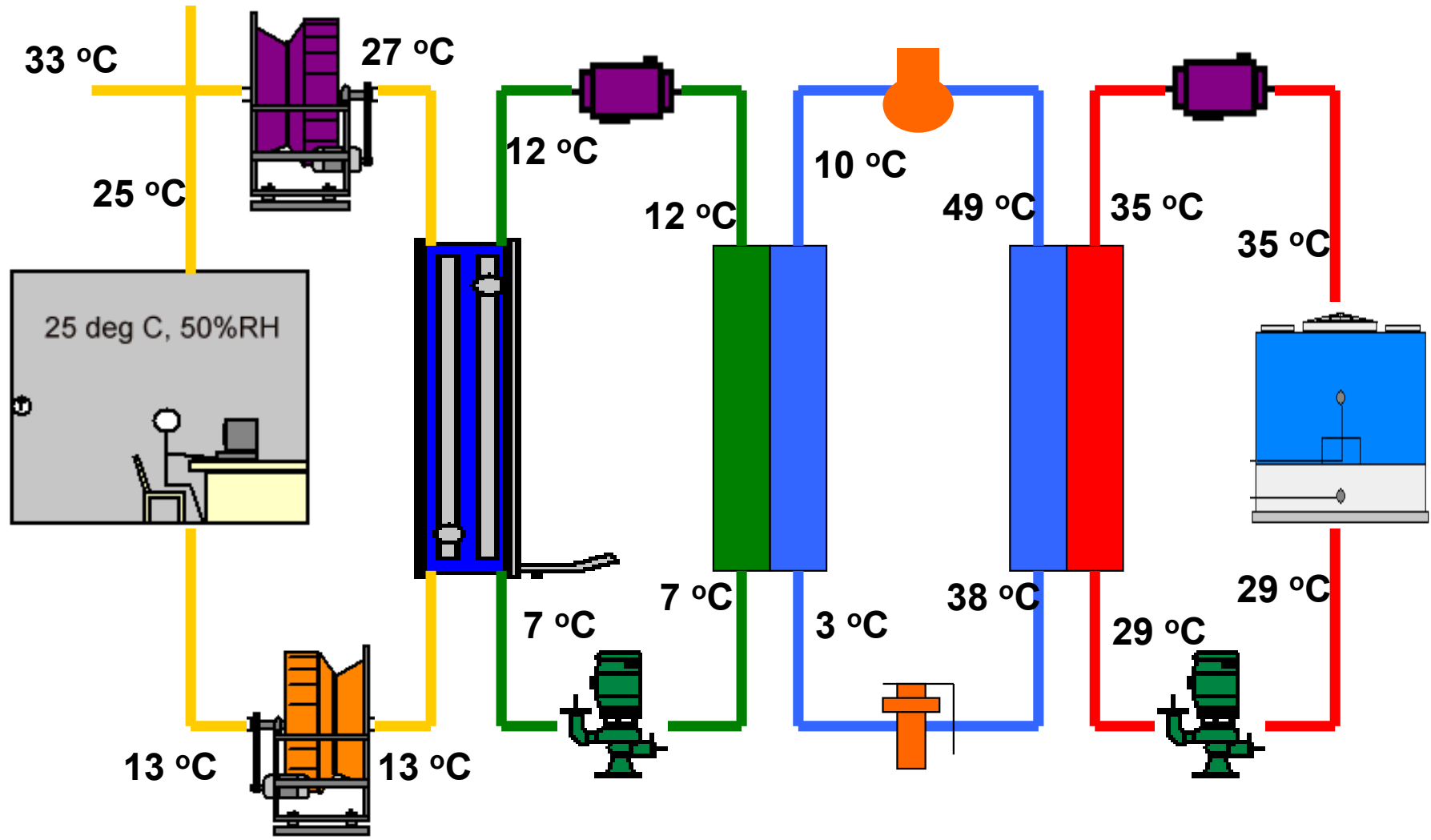
# Refrigeration equipment





33 °C, 28 °C

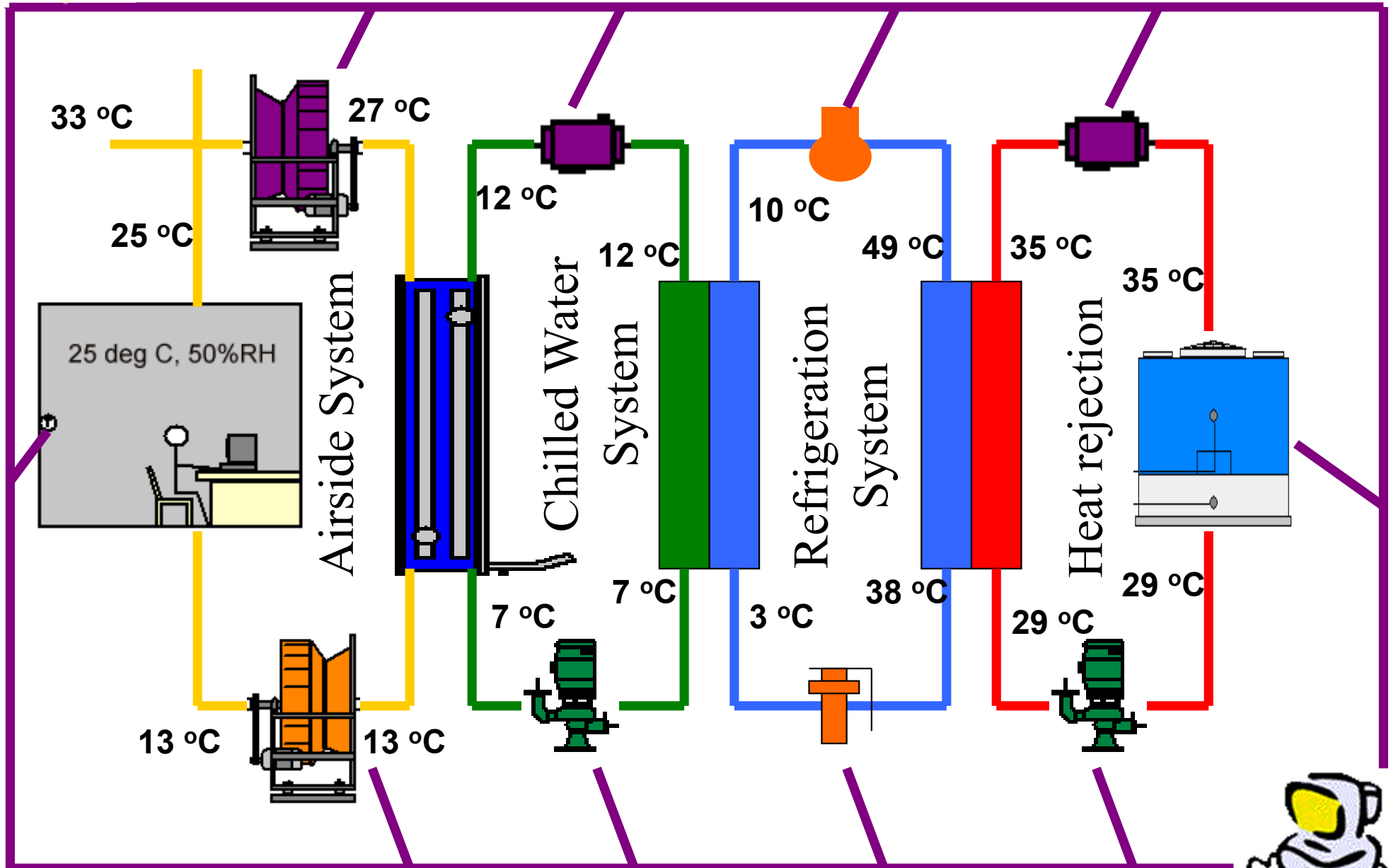
# Heat rejection





33 °C, 28 °C

# Control Loop

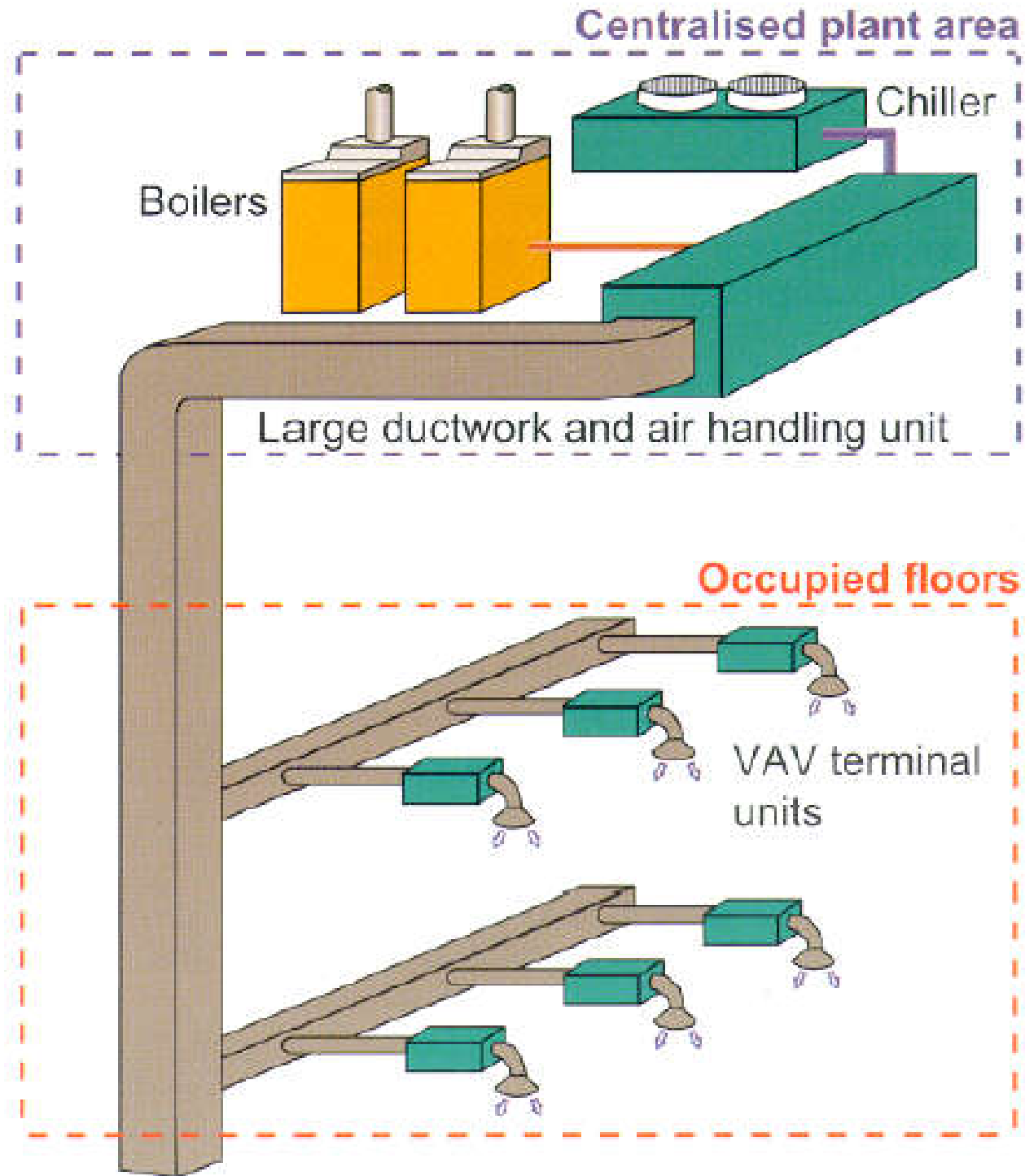




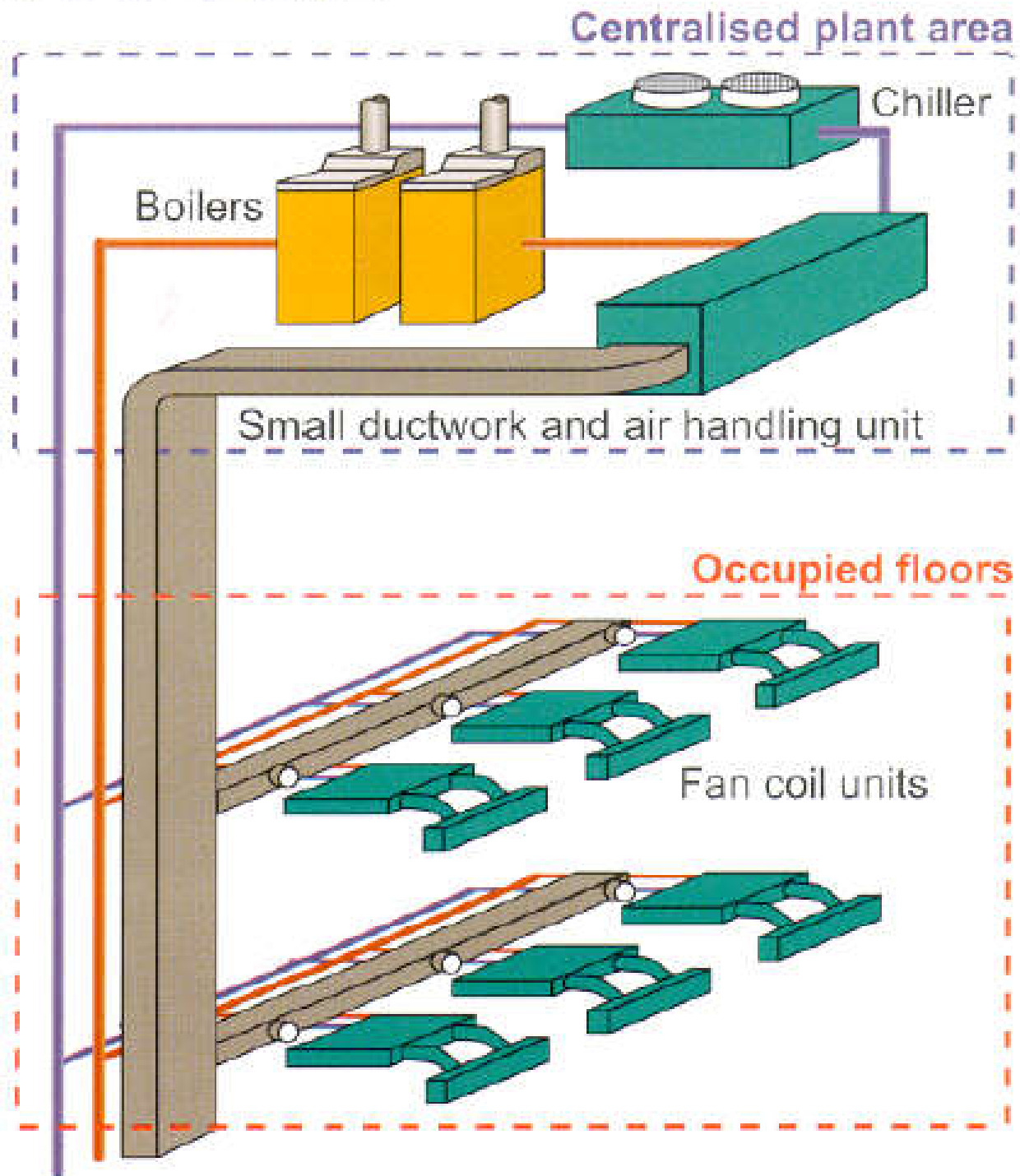
# Design of HVAC Systems

- Classification of HVAC systems -- three generic types of systems:
  - Centralised all air systems
    - Such as CAV (constant air volume), VAV (variable air volume), dual duct, multizone
  - Partially centralised air/water systems
    - Such as FCU (fan coil unit), induction units
  - Local systems (mainly direct expansion systems)
    - Such as window-type units, split-type systems, VRF (variable refrigerant flow)(?)

# Centralised air system (VAV example)

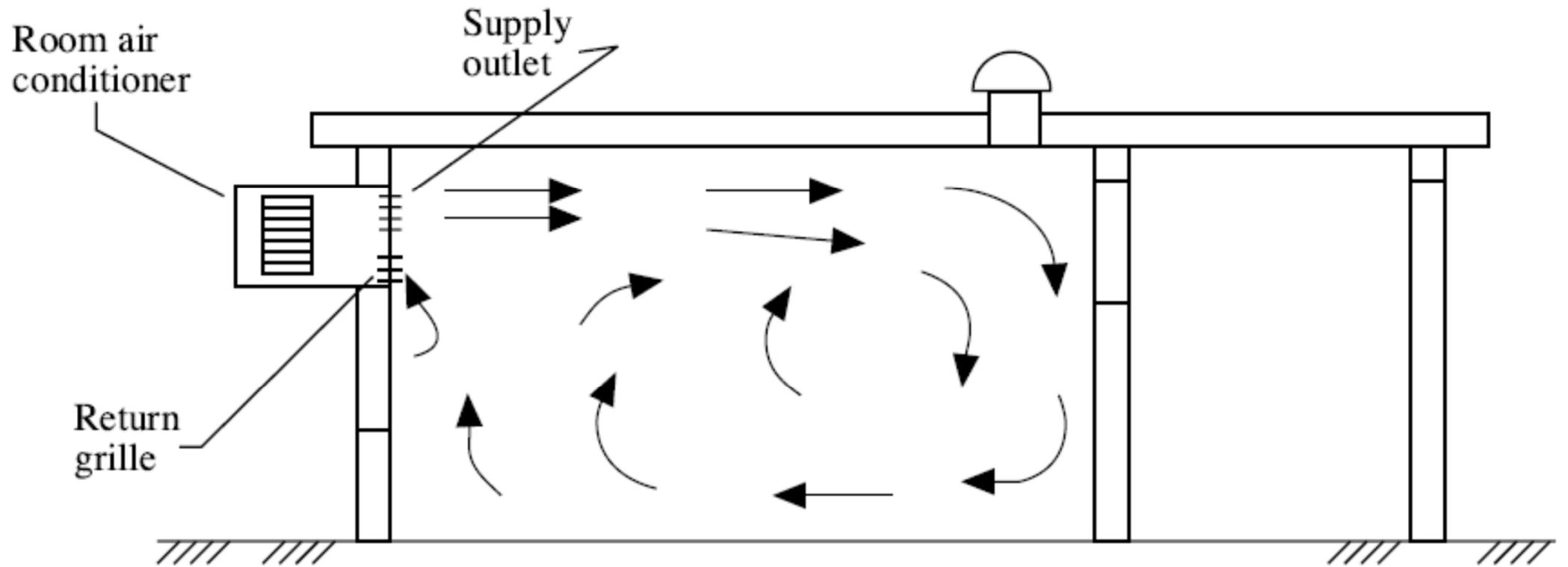


# Partially centralised air/water system (Fan coil example)

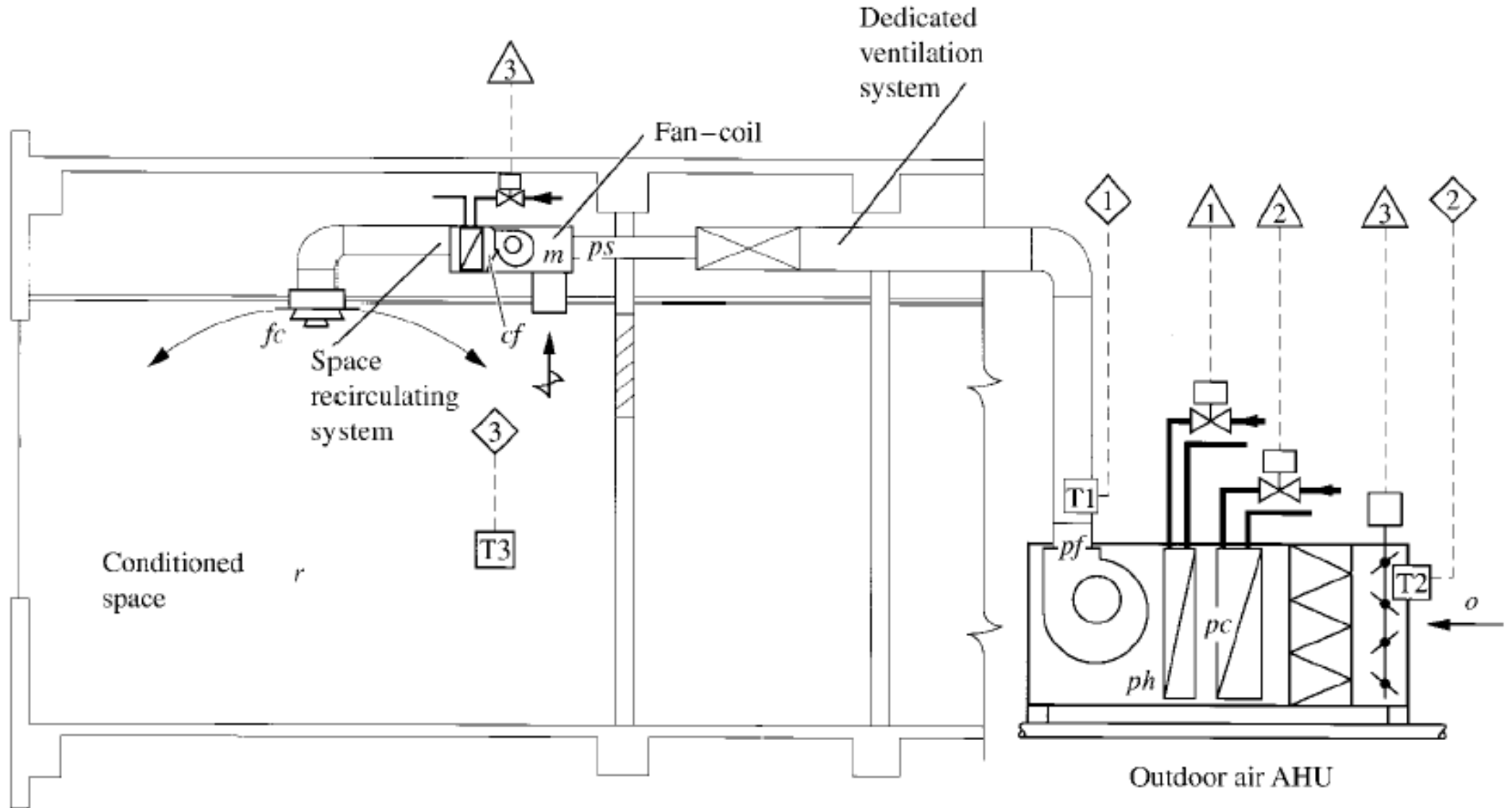




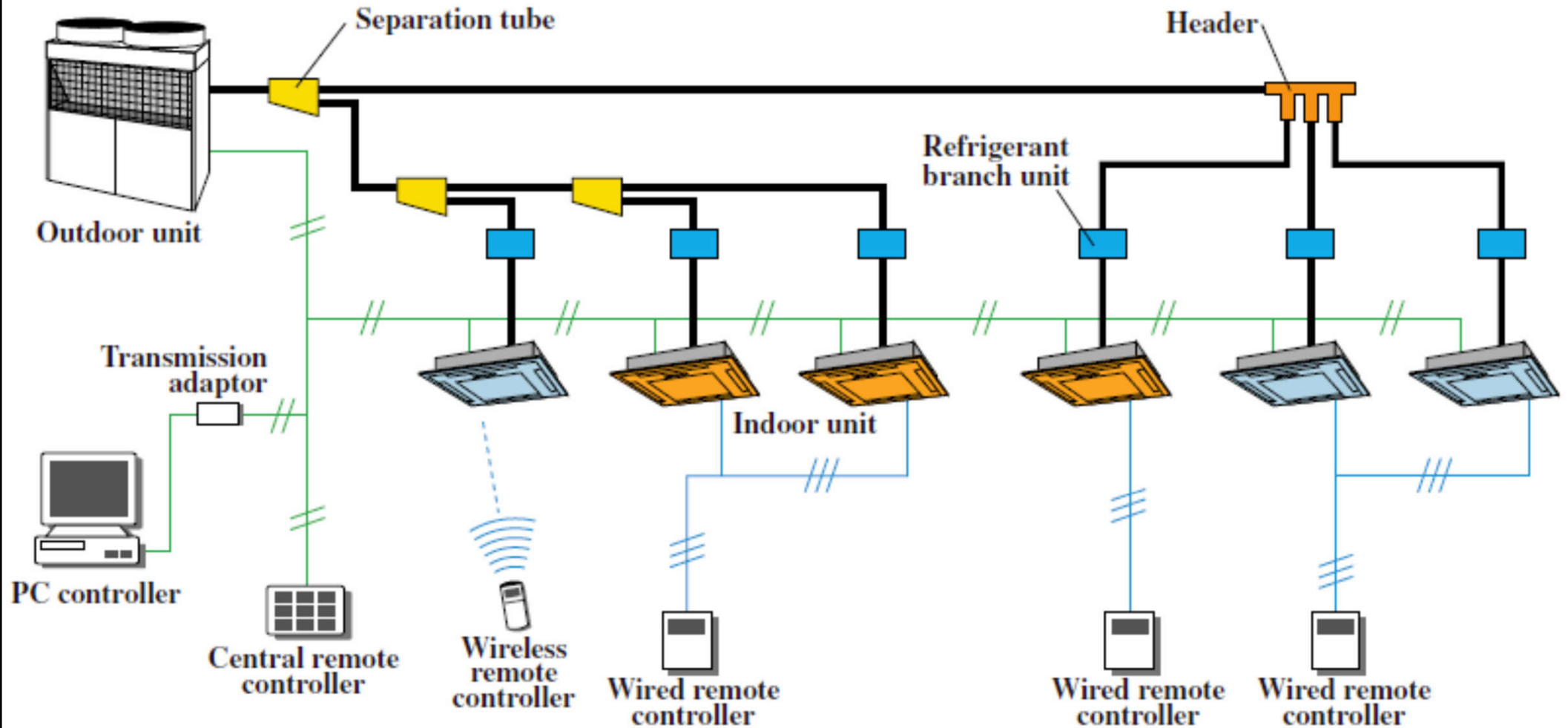
# An individual room air-conditioning system



# Primary air fan coil unit (PA-FCU) system



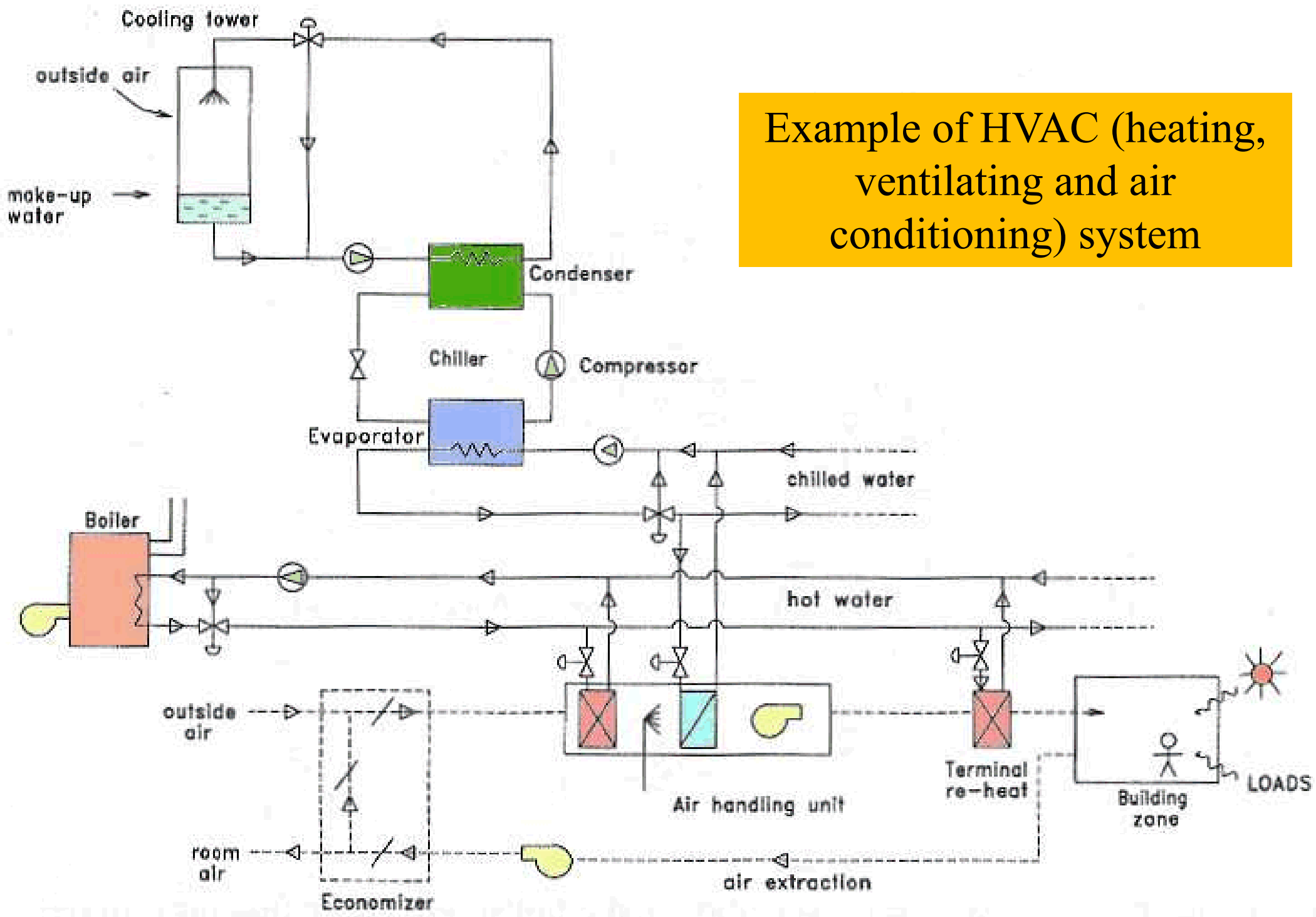
# Variable refrigerant flow (VRF) system



(Source: Fujitsu)

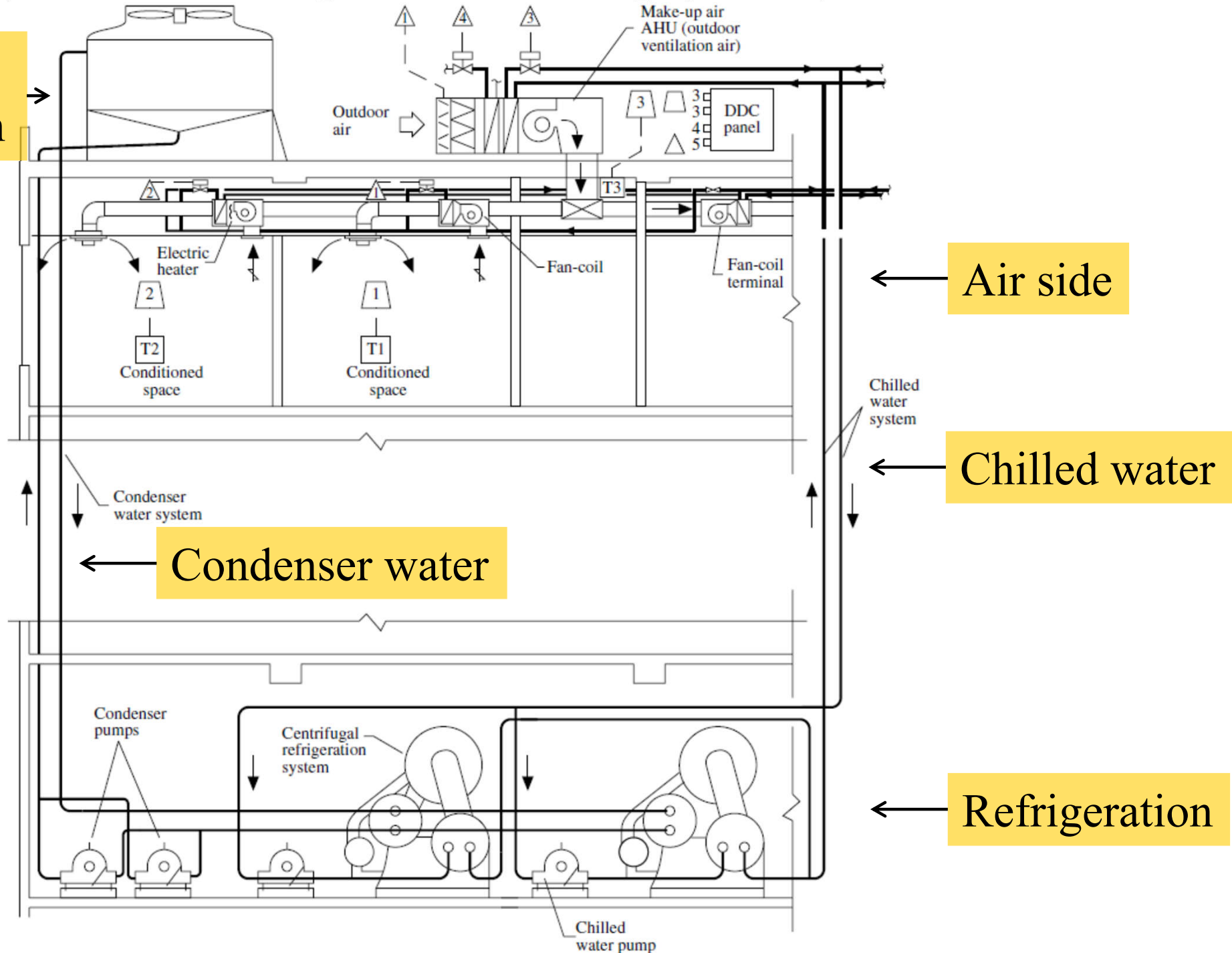
(See also: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variable\\_refrigerant\\_flow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variable_refrigerant_flow))

Example of HVAC (heating, ventilating and air conditioning) system



# A space-conditioning air-conditioning system (fan-coil system)

Heat rejection



Air side

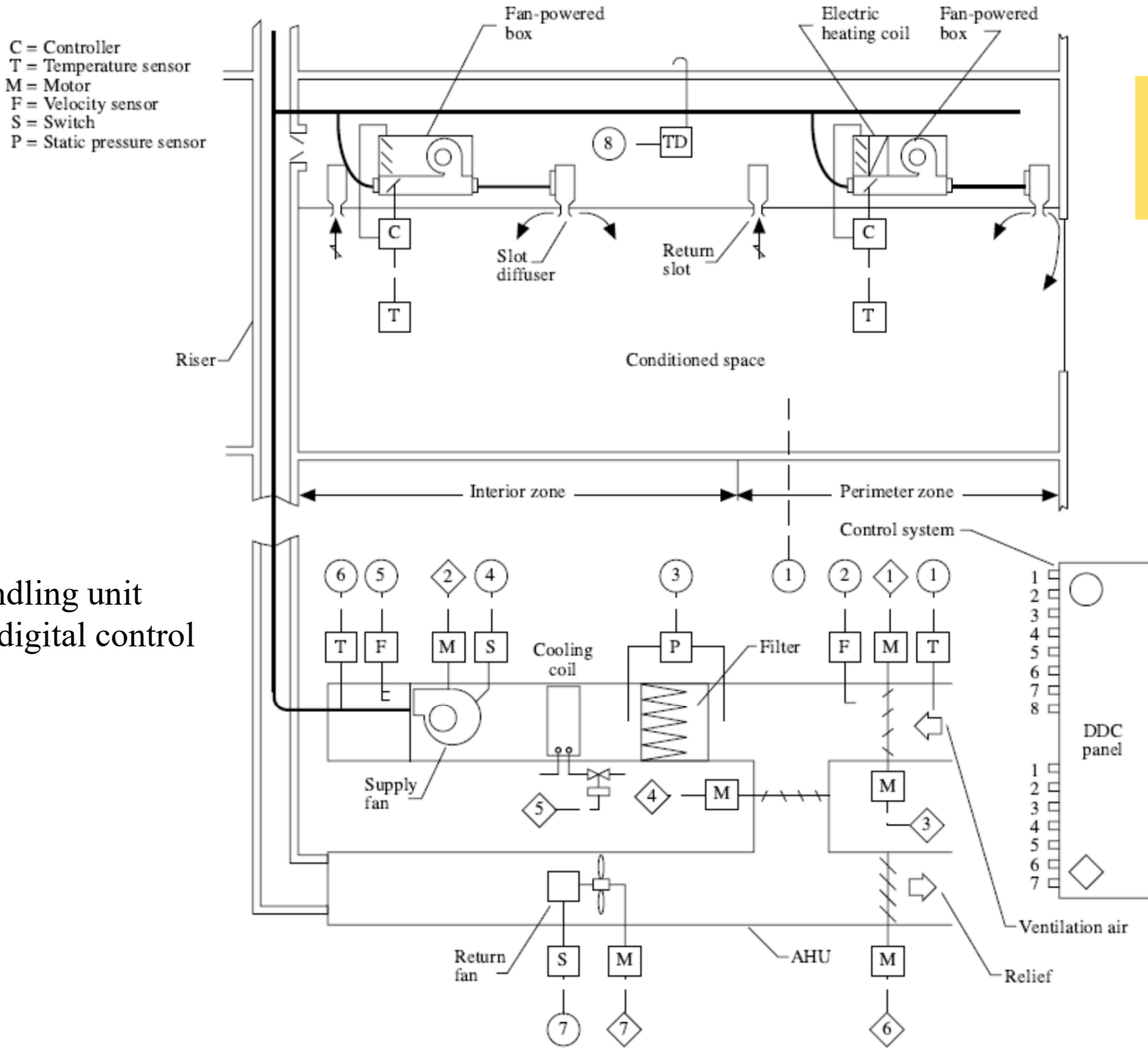
Chilled water

Condenser water

Refrigeration

(Source: Wang, S. K., Lavan, Z. and Norton, P., 2000. *Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Engineering*)

# Air-side and control systems for a typical floor of a central system

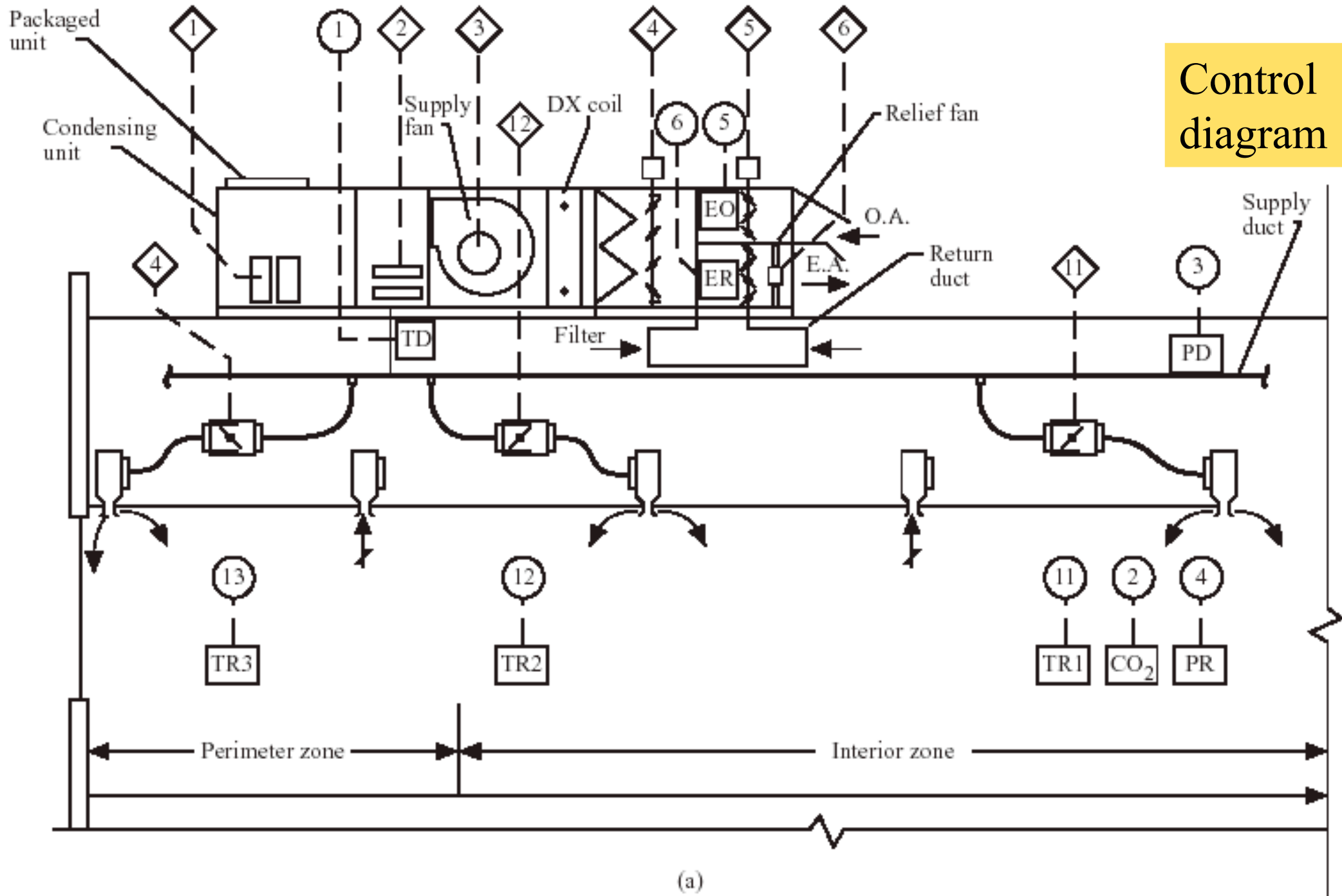


Control diagram

AHU = air handling unit  
DDC = direct digital control

(Source: Wang, S. K., Lavan, Z. and Norton, P., 2000. *Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Engineering*)

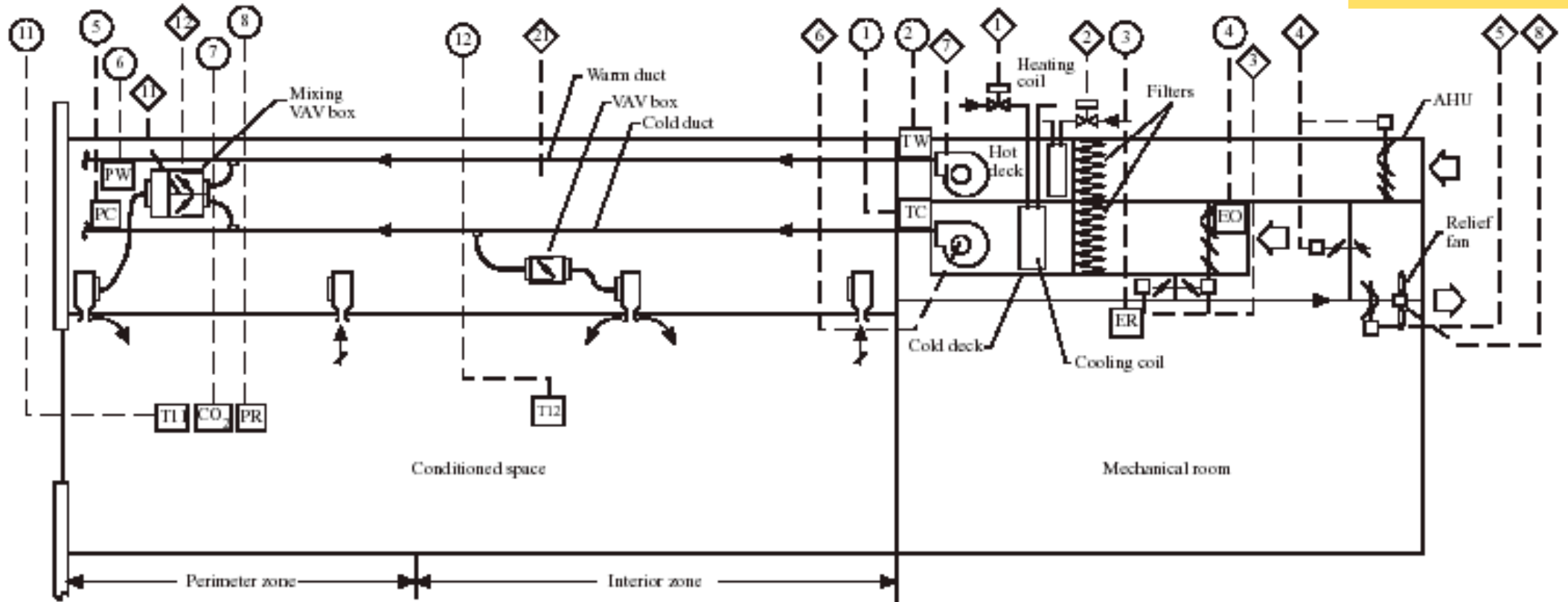
# Variable-air volume (VAV) package system (rooftop unit)



(Source: Wang, S. K., 2001. *Handbook of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration*, 2nd ed.)

# A dual-duct VAV central system

Control diagram







# Design of HVAC Systems

- Key issues of modern HVAC design:
  - Indoor air quality (IAQ)
    - Affect our health, productivity, and even safety
  - Energy conservation
    - Reduce energy consumption in new and existing buildings w/o compromising comfort and IAQ
  - Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
    - Ozone layer destruction
    - Use of low polluting materials, e.g. refrigerants



# Design of HVAC Systems

- Design of an HVAC system includes:
  - 1. Calculation of the maximum cooling and heating loads for the spaces to be served
  - 2. Selection of the type of system to be used
  - 3. Calculation of piping and/or duct sizes
  - 4. Selection of the type and size of equipment (chillers, boilers, fans, air handling units, heat exchangers, etc.)
  - 5. A layout of the system and schematic diagrams



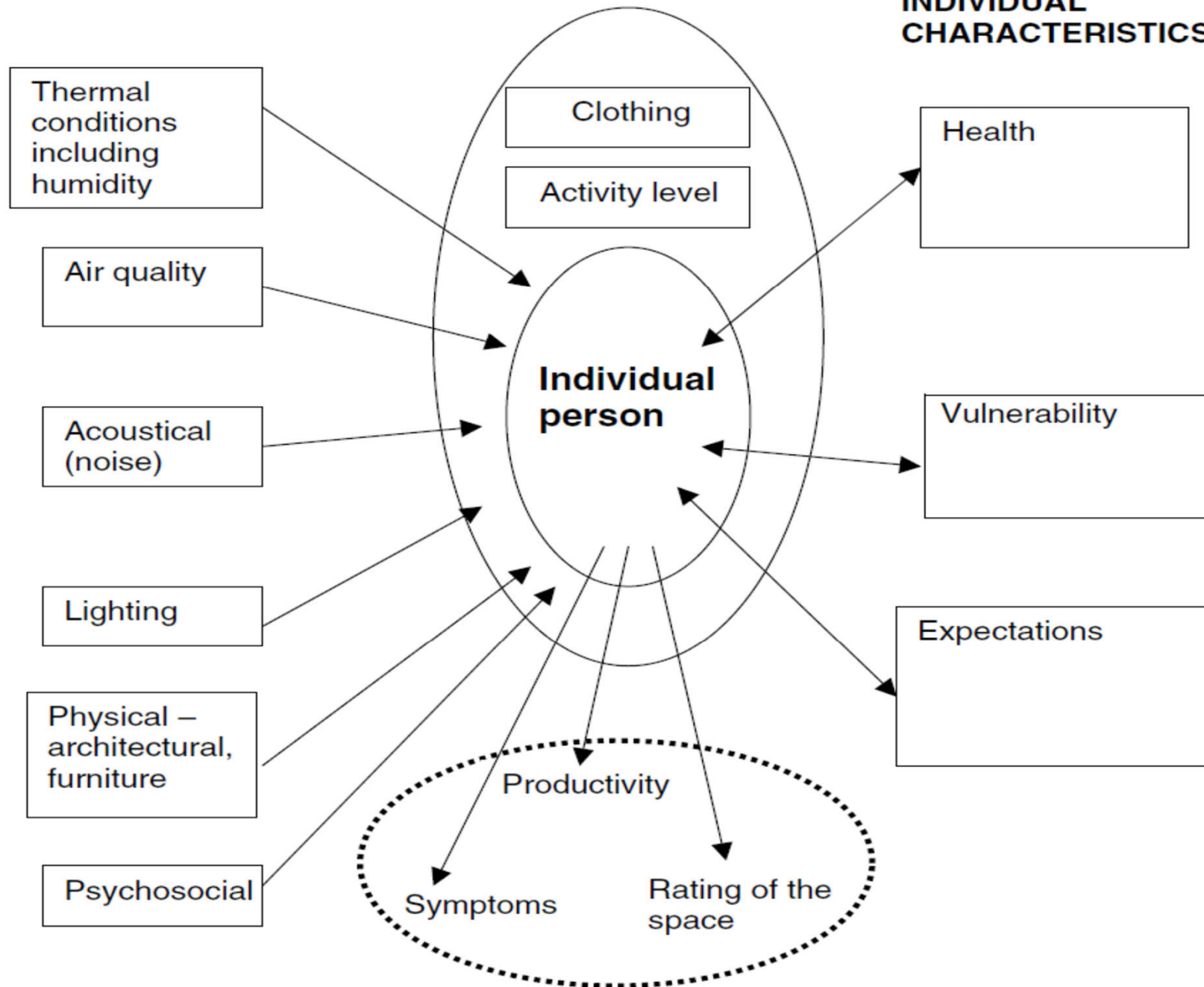
# Design of HVAC Systems

- Establish key performance requirements, e.g.
  - Demands of building occupants & activities
  - Spatial requirements
  - Reliability, adaptability & flexibility
  - Maintenance requirements
  - Control quality & complexity
  - Aesthetics, time constraints & security
  - Investment criteria & whole life cycle costs
  - Energy/environmental targets
  - Indoor environmental standards

# Three main groups of factors that affect human comfort

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

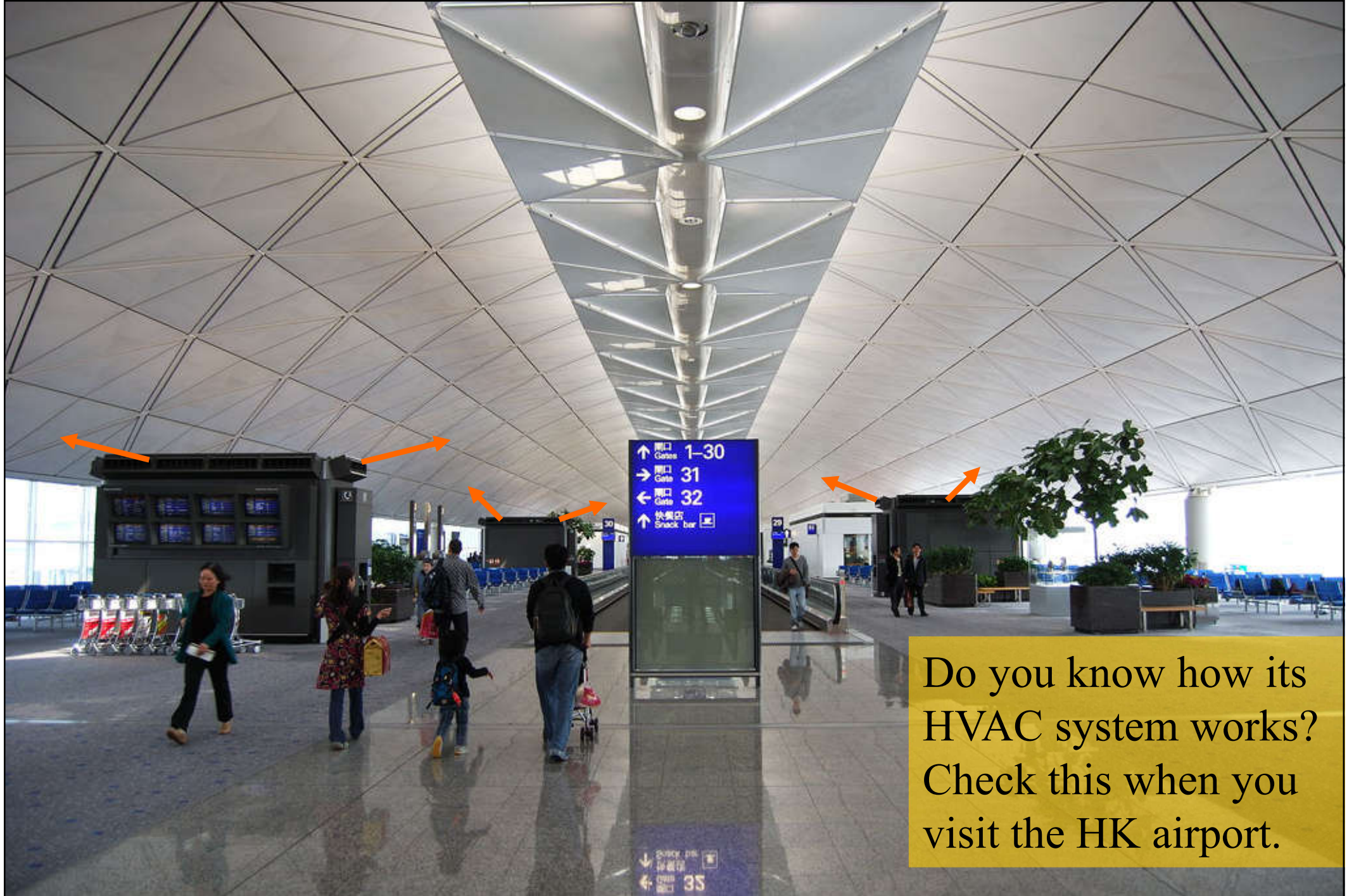
## INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS



# Design of HVAC Systems



- Practical design strategy: integrated approach
  - AIM to meet the requirements of the people & processes without being excessive & wasteful
    - Energy efficiency, technically & economically sound
  - LINK with the design of building fabric (architecture) to maximise passive design potential
  - BASED on clear understanding of the building, client and end-user needs
  - FOLLOWED by effective commissioning, handover and building management

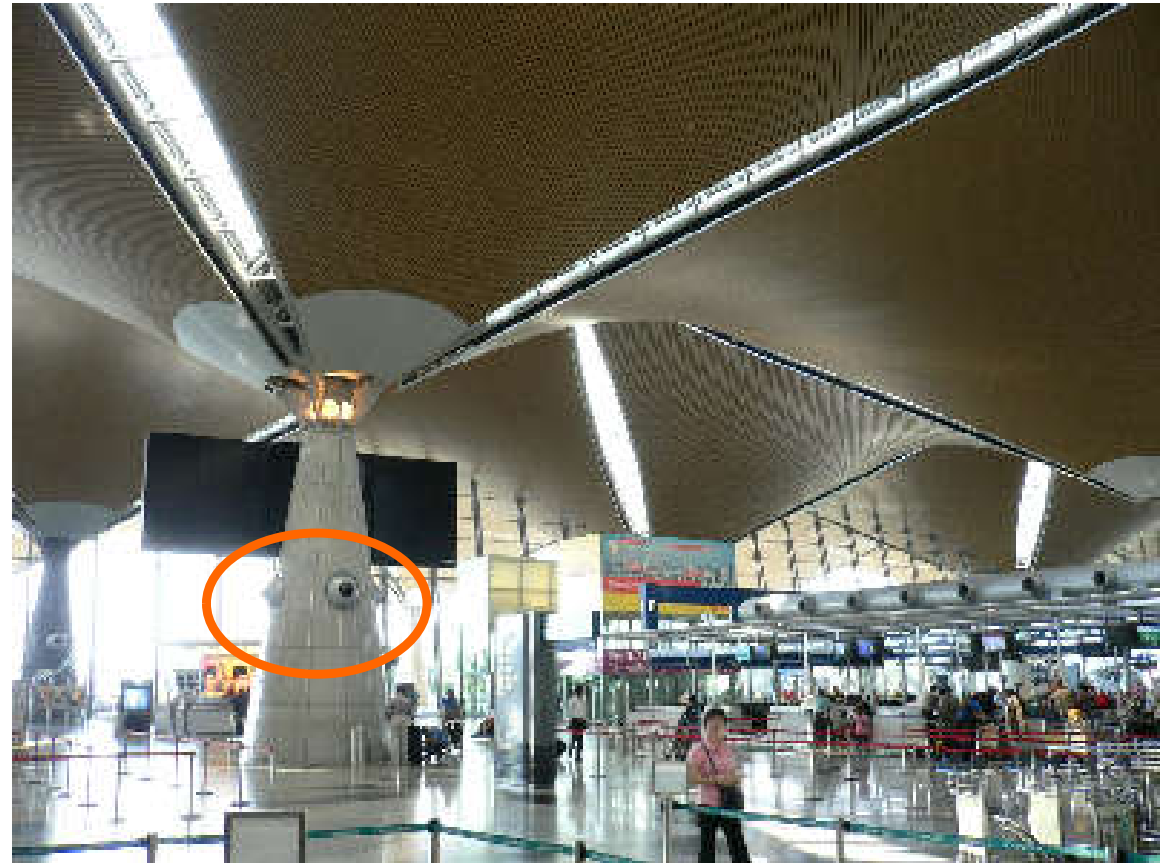


Do you know how its HVAC system works? Check this when you visit the HK airport.

Hong Kong International Airport

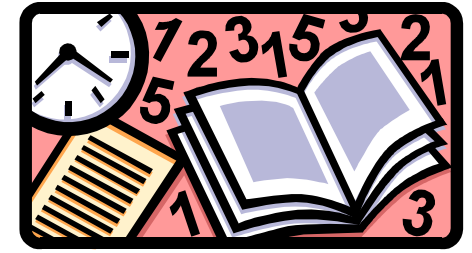


Stansted Airport, UK



KL International Airport, Malaysia





# Further Reading

- Videos:

- HVAC Training - Basics of HVAC (10:20)

<https://youtu.be/ScVBPAitibQ>

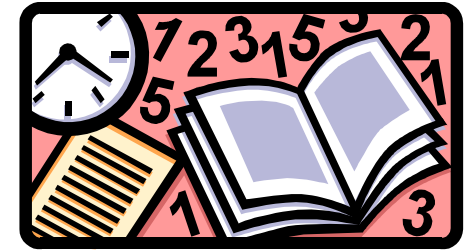
- Home Cooling System Design Issues (5:07)

<http://youtu.be/3r1bMdFS4NA>



- Textbook:

- Wang, S. K., Lavan, Z. and Norton, P., 2000. *Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Engineering*, Chp. 1, CRC Press, Boca Raton. [[HKU ebook](#)]



# References

- Useful references:
  - Grondzik, W. (ed.), 2007. *Air-conditioning Systems Design Manual*, Second Edition, Butterworth-Heinemann, Burlington, MA.
  - Howell, R. H., Coad, W. J. and Sauer, H. J., 2017. *Principles of Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning*, 8th ed., American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Atlanta, GA.
  - Jones, W. P., 2001. *Air Conditioning Engineering*, 5th ed., Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford & Boston.
  - Mcdowall, R., 2007. *Fundamentals of HVAC Systems*, SI edition, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Inc., Atlanta, GA.
- Online learning materials:
  - NPTEL E-learning course -- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning  
<http://nptel.ac.in/courses/112105129/>