The National Institutes of Health | Division of Technical Resources | Office of Research Facilities

Design Requirements Manual **News to Use**

April 2025

Vol. 02, No. 89

The formulae $\frac{\partial \rho U_i}{\partial t}+\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}(\rho U_i U_j)=-\frac{\partial P}{\partial x_i}+\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}\left(\mu\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x_j}\right)+g_i(\rho-\rho_0)$ for building $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}(\rho \overline{U}_i \overline{U}_j)=-\frac{\partial \overline{P}}{\partial x_i}+\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}\left(\mu\frac{\partial \overline{U}_i}{\partial x_j}-\rho\overline{u_i'u_j'}\right)+g_i(\rho-\rho_0)$ state of the art $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(\rho \overline{U}_i \overline{H})=\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}\left(\lambda\frac{\partial \overline{T}}{\partial x_i}-\rho\overline{u_i'h'}\right)$ biomedical research facilities.

AI in HVAC Systems for Biomedical Facilities: Optimizing Design, Operations, and Maintenance - Introduction

In biomedical research facilities, reliable and effective HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems are indispensable for maintaining controlled environments critical for human and animal research, laboratories, and specialized clinical spaces. These systems regulate temperature, humidity, air quality, and airflow to protect sensitive equipment, ensure the safety of researchers and participants, and maintain the integrity of experiments. However, as efficiency and reliability demands rise alongside stricter regulatory requirements, traditional HVAC systems often struggle to meet the complex needs of biomedical environments. The constraints of existing conditions also push the limits of design and equipment. Artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as a transformative solution, offering innovative ways to enhance system performance, optimize energy usage, and ensure operational reliability. This three-part series explores AI's expanding role in HVAC systems for biomedical facilities: part one is an overview of AI's potential to revolutionize HVAC systems in biomedical research settings, while part two will examine AI's impact on system design optimization and qualification, and part three will highlight AI's role in enhancing system performance through predictive maintenance and real-time management.

Benefits of AI in HVAC Optimization

AI integration into HVAC systems offers numerous advantages tailored to the unique demands of biomedical research facilities:

1. **Energy Efficiency:** AI-driven systems analyze real-time data—such as room occupancy, temperature fluctuations, and research activity levels—to dynamically optimize HVAC performance. This reduces energy consumption and operational costs.[1,2]
2. **Precision Control for Sensitive Environments:** Biomedical facilities often require strict environmental controls to ensure experimental integrity and equipment reliability. AI enables real-time adjustments to maintain precise temperature and humidity levels critical for biosafety labs, cleanrooms, and animal research spaces.[3,4]
3. **Predictive Maintenance**: By analyzing sensor data from HVAC systems, AI predicts potential failures or inefficiencies before they occur. This enables proactive maintenance strategies that reduce downtime and extend equipment lifespans.[2,4]
4. **Regulatory Compliance and Sustainability**: AI ensures compliance with standards such as ASHRAE while helping facilities achieve energy efficiency budgets even as systems age.[2,5]

Future Trends in AI for Biomedical HVAC Systems

Emerging trends highlight how AI will continue to evolve as a tool to optimize HVAC systems for biomedical environments:

1. **Machine Learning Integration:** Advanced machine learning algorithms will enhance AI's ability to adapt dynamically to changing facility needs by analyzing historical data alongside real-time inputs.[1,4]
2. **AI for Energy Source Adaptability:** Future AI systems will integrate various energy sources—such as solar or geothermal—into HVAC operations to further reduce the cost of facility operation.[2,4]
3. **Enhanced HVAC Design Tools:** AI-powered design platforms will allow engineers to simulate system performance before implementation, ensuring optimal configurations tailored to specific uses like animal facilities or cleanrooms.[4,5]
4. **Real-Time Adaptation:** AI will offer real-time control over airflow, temperature, humidity, and pressurization based on live data to ensure stability and control of critical environmental parameters required by scientific equipment, animal colonies, and regulatory compliance.[1,3]

Conclusion

AI is reshaping HVAC systems in biomedical facilities by improving energy efficiency, regulatory compliance, and operational reliability. These advancements promise significant benefits for researchers by enabling environments optimized for cutting-edge biomedical research while reducing costs and environmental impact. In the next article of this series, we will explore how AI is already impacting the design process for HVAC systems in biomedical settings—focusing on system qualification and performance review.

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