

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Solar Powered Refrigerator for Vaccine Storage

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Outline

- Introduction
- Design and Objectives
- Data Acquisition
- Future Work



Introduction



- Vaccines and food refrigeration is an issue in areas where electricity does not exist or is extremely unreliable
- Conventional vaccine storage such as kerosene and battery refrigerators are not suitable for these conditions
- Solution: Solar powered refrigerator



Design and Objectives



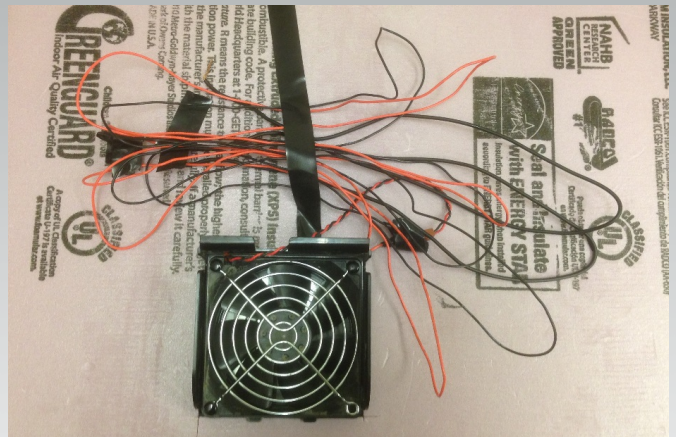
World Health Organization Guidelines:

- Temperature range 0°C to 8°C
- Must be able to maintain cooling up to 4 days without power

Solar Powered Fridge Design:

- Solar panel, connected to the fridge, supplies the

Design and Objectives



Data Acquisition

- Power the fridge and record the time it takes to freeze all ice packs
 - Determines minimum energy required to run the fridge
- Monitor and record the temperature change over time in 5 different areas
 - Ensure uniform temperature gradient
 - Find the most effective locations for ice packs
 - Determine maximum time



Current Setup



- Battery powered
 - simulate solar power
- All ice packs are in top compartment
- Thermocouples are taking measurements
- Fan is used to facilitate the flow of cold air
- Wire compartments work better than glass compartments




Future Work

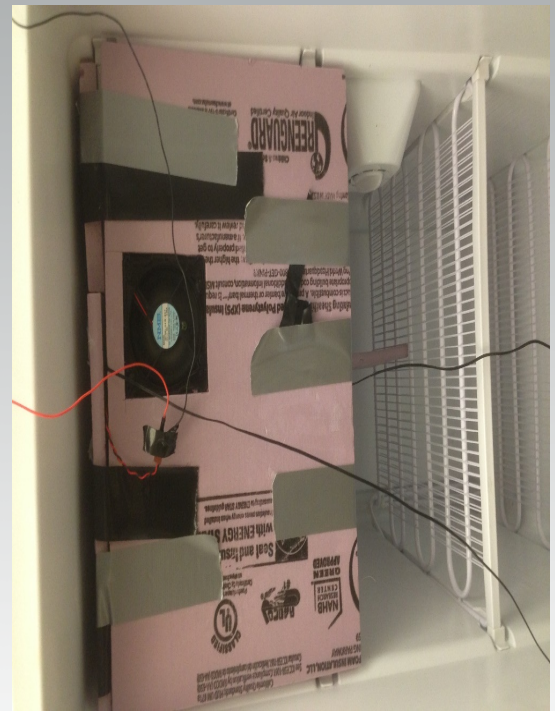
- Program on LabVIEW to have all 5 thermocouples logging data
- Optimize fridge design and layout
 - Number of ice packs and their locations
 - Alternative ways to increase flow of cold air from freezer to fridge (currently using a fan)



Future Work

Tests to be run:

- Relocate the fan so it faces downwards
- Design a feedback loop to turn on/off the fan
- Use a hole at the bottom compartment instead of a fan
- Try the working design on Prof. Lilly's other fridge to ensure design fidelity 



Thank You!



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