Article

Fixing Efficiency Values by Unfixing Compressor Speed: Dynamic Test Method for Heat Pumps

Carsten Palkowski ^{1,†}, Andreas Zottl ², Ivan Malenkovic ³ and Anne Simo ^{1,*}

¹ BAM Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung; carsten.palkowski@bam.de

² AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH; andreas.zottl@ait.ac.at

³ Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE; ivan.malenkovic@ise.fraunhofer.de

* Correspondence: anne.simo@bam.de; Tel.: +49-30-8104-4552

† Current address: Unter den Eichen 87, 12205 Berlin, Germany

Abstract: The growing market penetration of heat pumps indicates the need for a performance test method which better reflects the dynamic behavior of heat pumps. In this contribution, we developed and implemented a dynamic test method for the evaluation of the seasonal performance of heat pumps by means of laboratory testing. Current standards force the heat pump control inactive by fixing the compressor speed. In contrast, during dynamic testing, the compressor runs unfixed while the heat pump is subjected to a temperature profile. The profile consists of the different outdoor temperatures of a typical heating season based on the average European climate and also includes temperature changes to reflect the dynamic behavior of the heat pump. The seasonal performance can be directly obtained from the measured heating energy and electricity consumption making subsequent data interpolation and recalculation with correction factors obsolete. The method delivers results with high precision and high reproducibility and could be an appropriate method for a fair rating of heat pumps.

Keywords: heat pump; dynamic test method; seasonal performance factor; variable frequency drive; field approximation; energy label; air source heat pump; ground source heat pump

1. Introduction

Improving energy efficiency in buildings is a major objective of energy policy makers and energy researchers in recent years [1]. Space and water heating are of particular interest in the household sector. In 2010, their energy use already accounted for 56 % of the global household energy consumption and is predicted to increase drastically over the next decades. [2]. For efficient and environmentally friendly coverage of future space heating demands, heat pumps (HPs) have been identified as a promising technology in various studies. Connolly et al. [3] for example, presented a comprehensive scenario in which HPs take on a key role in renewable energy systems. Mathiesen et al. [4] highlighted the fact that HPs increase the flexibility of energy systems. Improving the energy efficiency of HPs is of particular importance as the energy consumption during operation accounts for the vast majority of the total carbon dioxide equivalent emissions based on the life cycle climate performance. In the case of air/air HPs, more than 70 % of the total carbon dioxide emission equivalents are caused during usage [5]. Throughout a heating season most of the time the heat demand is lower than the rated capacity of the HP. In order to improve the seasonal efficiency, inverter-driven HPs have been launched on the market and steadily became more popular in the past years. These types of HPs can adjust their heating capacity to the heat load by continuously regulating their compressor speed by means of pulse width modulation (PWM) and pulse amplitude modulation (PAM) via the inverter. Shao [6] showed that the proper modulation of the capacity to the heat demand significantly reduces the power consumption of the HP; thus the compressor operating speed is essentially affecting the performance of the HP [7]. Several studies confirmed the influence of the compressor speed on the capacity and thus control strategies via frequency adjustment of the

compressor have been developed [8–11].

To determine the energy efficiency of HPs by means of laboratory tests, various standards exist, such as (DIN) EN 14825, AS/NZS 3823 (AS/NZS, 2014) and ANSI/AHRI Standard 201/240 (AHRI, 2008), ASHRAE 116-2010 (ASHRAE 2010), and JIS C9612 (JIS 2013) [12–16]. According to these standards, a seasonal performance is determined from tests under one full load and various part load conditions to represent different heat demands during a heating season. In order to achieve steady-state conditions required by these standards, the HP control is forced inactive by fixing the compressor speed. Thus, the control unit of the HP is not considered during the entire test. In addition, to prevent the HP from operating in ON/OFF-mode, the supply temperature is increased by an individual amount corresponding to the test specimen. As a result, the heating capacities are usually much higher than the prescribed heat demand and require a correction calculation with prescribed corrector factors. For different HPs, the determined seasonal performance may not be comparable due to the different supply temperatures.

Therefore, new approaches for the evaluation of the seasonal performance of HPs, including the dynamic behavior and the control of the unit, are crucial to make results more representative and more comparable. There is only few literature that describes methods or approaches for the dynamic testing of HP systems by laboratory means. But various studies exist which reproduced the seasonal performance of HPs via simulations [17,18], also considering operating parameters of the units control like the compressor frequency [19]. Menegon et al. [20] and also Haller et al. [21] developed dynamic laboratory tests for the characterization of heating systems. Riederer et al. [22] developed a dynamic test specifically for ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) considering dynamic weather conditions, occupancy profiles and a reference building. Huchtemann et al. [23] followed another approach and developed a dynamic test on a Hardware-in-the-Loop (HiL) test bench which can be applied for GSHPs and also air source heat pumps (ASHPs). He observed deviations between measured performance and the manufacturer declared performance, which were determined with standard tests. Mavuri [24] obtained similar deviations testing air/air HPs under steady-state conditions with unfixed compressor speed, thus considering the modulation control unit of the HP. He determined the seasonal performance from the BIN method, which is well known for the evaluation of seasonal behavior [15]. He calculated the seasonal performance from the interpolation of results measured under certain part load conditions and did not consider temperature changes. However, to adequately predict the seasonal performance of HPs by means of laboratory performance tests, the whole temperature operating range during a heating season should be considered, which would be from -10°C to 15°C for the average European climate, for example.

In this study, we propose a new test method using a dynamic approach to determine the seasonal performance of HPs. The method is in line with the state of the art of HP technology, considering the HP's dynamic control behavior. Thus, this method could help to distinguish between HPs with efficient and less efficient control systems and would give manufacturers the impetus to optimize their control systems.

This article is structured as follows: Section 2.1 provides the main background information on the method of the dynamic test. Section 2.2 shows the results of two HPs tested with the dynamic method. In particular, the feasibility and reproducibility of the dynamic tests are examined. In section 3, the results are discussed and the advantages and disadvantages of the dynamic method compared to the standard method are elaborated, recommendations for further investigations are given. Section 4 gives a comprehensive background of the test setup and section 5 gives a short conclusion of the main research results.

2. Results

2.1. Concept of the dynamic method

The dynamic method is based on twenty eight individual compensation measurements at different source temperatures (outdoor temperatures ϑ_o). The individual temperature sequences of the outdoor temperature are combined to form a temperature profile which represents the average (temperate) climate in Europe according to the EN 14825 [12]. During dynamic testing the control of the HP (variable frequency drive (VFD) or ON/OFF operation) is active during the whole measurement. The heating capacity is controlled via a compensation load given by the test bench on the sink side. The seasonal performance can be obtained directly via an energy balance.

To determine the seasonal performance according to the dynamic method, the HP is subjected to various conditions on the source side and the sink side. Based on the test conditions given in EN 14825, the conditions on the sink side, the part load ratio (PLR) and the supply temperature ϑ_s , are a function of the outside temperature. The further described correlations, used for our measurements, also refer to the conditions described in EN 14825. The PLR is defined as the ratio of the heating capacity $\dot{Q}_{h,PLR}$ at outdoor temperatures higher than -10°C to the nominal heating capacity $\dot{Q}_{h,100\%}$ at the specific outdoor temperature of -10°C . Further, it is a function of the outdoor temperature according to Equation (1):

$$PLR = \frac{\dot{Q}_{h,PLR}}{\dot{Q}_{h,100\%}} = 0.614 - 0.039 \cdot \vartheta_o \quad (1)$$

The supply temperature for medium temperature level correlates with the outdoor temperature as follows:

$$\vartheta_{s, medium} = \begin{cases} -\vartheta_o + 45^\circ\text{C} & \text{if } \vartheta_o \leq -7^\circ\text{C} \\ -1.11\vartheta_o + 44.22^\circ\text{C} & \text{if } -7^\circ\text{C} < \vartheta_o \leq 1^\circ\text{C} \\ -1.20\vartheta_o + 44.40^\circ\text{C} & \text{if } 1^\circ\text{C} < \vartheta_o \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

The supply temperatures for low temperature level are determined according to Equation (3):

$$\vartheta_{s, low} = \begin{cases} -0.67\vartheta_o + 28.33^\circ\text{C} & \text{if } \vartheta_o \leq -7^\circ\text{C} \\ -0.33\vartheta_o + 30.67^\circ\text{C} & \text{if } -7^\circ\text{C} < \vartheta_o \leq 1^\circ\text{C} \\ -0.60\vartheta_o + 31.20^\circ\text{C} & \text{if } 1^\circ\text{C} < \vartheta_o \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

The seasonal coefficient of performance (SCOP) for the dynamic test is defined as the ratio of heating energy measured to the amount of electricity consumed over the entire measurement period as described by Equation (4):

$$SCOP_{dyn} = \frac{Q_h}{E_{el}} \quad (4)$$

The seasonal space heating energy efficiency η_s reflects the SCOP in relation to the primary energy consumption and is calculated from Equation (5):

$$\eta_s = \frac{SCOP_{dyn}}{CC} \cdot 100\% - \sum F(i) \quad (5)$$

For the consideration of the primary energy consumption, the conversion coefficient CC^1 is used. $\sum F(i)$ is the correction factor for further contributions accounting for temperature controls and, in case of GSHPs, the electricity consumption of the ground water pumps. $\sum F(i)$ is 8 % for GSHPs and 3 % for ASHPs [25].

The outdoor temperature profile was developed with regard to the following criteria:

1. The duration and frequency of each individual outdoor temperature sequence shall represent the average European climate according to the mean occurrence of each temperature from the EN 14825, with each individual outdoor temperature weighted as in the BIN distribution.
2. The temperature range of the profile should be between -10°C and 15°C , accordingly.
3. The test duration per temperature sequence shall not be less than five hours in order to maintain high reproducibility and, in particular, to be able to reproduce operating conditions such as defrost cycles.
4. The profile should take into account both an increase and a decrease of outdoor temperature and thus reflect the behavior of the HP during changes of the day temperature.
5. The total test period shall not exceed six days.

Figure 1 shows the outdoor temperature profile over the entire test period of six days (144 hours) as well as the supply temperatures and PLRs, the latter both set as a function of the outdoor temperature according to Equations (1) - (3). We have tested two different methods to provide the outside temperature to the heat pump. For the first method, the heat pump determines the outdoor temperature directly via its temperature sensor, which is installed in a climate box running the outdoor temperature profile shown in Figure 1. For the second method, the measurement sensors of the heat pump are bypassed by setting the outside temperature by means of a variable electrical resistance. The two methods will be examined in section 2.2.3 with regard to their impact on the HP's behavior and on the test results.

Figure 1. Profiles of the outdoor temperature (red line), supply temperature at medium (blue solid line) and low level (blue dashed line) and the corresponding part load ratio (yellow line).

¹ Conversion coefficient (CC) means a coefficient reflecting the estimated 40 % average EU generation efficiency referred to in Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council; the current value of the conversion coefficient used for the energy label and minimum performance standards is $CC = 2.5$.

2.2. Experimental data

In this study, we show the results of two HPs tested according to the dynamic method in different accredited test laboratories. Table 1 gives detailed information about the two test specimen. In order to demonstrate the feasibility of the dynamic method for all types of HPs, we performed tests on both, GSHPs and ASHPs. Both HPs were subjected to the outdoor temperature profile shown in Figure 1. The seasonal performance was calculated according to Equations (4) and (5).

Table 1. Detailed Information of the HPs tested with the dynamic test method.

HP#	HP type	Rated heating capacity (kW)	Declared η_s (%)	Temperature level (°C)
1	GSHP	8.2	144	55
2	ASHP	9.2	156	35

During the test, the outdoor temperature, the supply temperature, the heating capacity and the electrical power consumption were recorded with a measurement every ten seconds. Figure 2 exemplarily shows the measurement results of the dynamic test with the climate box for HP#1. For a comparison between measured values and set values, the latter are also shown in Figure 2. On the source side, the measured outdoor temperature (Figure 2a) followed the setpoint values during the entire test period. On the sink side, the supply temperature (Figure 2b) reacted to the variation of the outdoor temperature via the HP's control according to the correlations which are given in Equation (2) and depicted in Figure 1. The supply temperature was close to the setpoint values for most of the time. However, it does not reach the set points at both particularly high and particularly low outdoor temperatures, i.e. at low and at high PLRs. The measured heating capacity (Figure 2c) generally follows the given heating curve, but is on average slightly higher than the setpoint values, with the exception of the last sequences where PLRs get close to 1. The average heating capacity partly deviates from the set values, especially with particularly low PLRs. The electric power consumption P_{el} (Figure 2d) increases with increasing heating capacity and vice versa as the HP adjusts the compressor speed to the heating demand continuously via VFD or via ON/OFF operation. Figure 2e shows the cumulated heating energy and the cumulated electric energy consumption. At the end of testing, HP#1 in total provided an amount of heating energy Q_h of 711.79 kWh with an electricity consumption E_{el} of 218.69 kWh. The energy balance results in a $SCOP_{dyn}$ of 3.25 or rather a seasonal space heating energy efficiency η_s of 122 % according to Equations (4) and (5).

2.2.1. Tests with GSHP

In the following, the behavior under full load conditions (PLR = 1) and part load conditions (PLR = 0.15) is shown for the tested GSHP (HP#1). Figure 3a shows the total of six hours of measurement data acquisition of outdoor temperature, supply temperature, heating capacity and electric power consumption for HP#1 at set outdoor temperatures of -9 °C and -10 °C. The measured average outdoor temperature corresponds to the required setpoint temperature at any time. The supply temperature likewise follows the given setpoint temperature, but does not reach the required values as it is slightly lower on average than the setpoint temperature. For an outdoor temperature of -9 °C, the average heating capacity is at the set values, but for -10 °C, the average heating capacity is again slightly lower than required.

The control behavior of HP#1 at an outdoor temperature of 12 °C (PLR = 0.15) can be deduced from the measurement data curves shown in Figure 3b. Both the average outdoor temperature and the average supply temperature meet the required set points. In addition, the temperature curves are continuous and are not subject to any fluctuations. The measured heating capacity approaches the required heating capacity only during a short phase of approximately one hour and is significantly higher than the set heating capacity for the rest of the temperature sequences. Both the heating capacity and the electric

Figure 2. Results of the dynamic test for HP#1 (GSHP) using the climate box: (a) outdoor temperature ϑ_o ; (b) supply temperature ϑ_s ; (c) heating capacity $\dot{Q}_h$; (d) electrical power consumption P_{el} ; (e) cumulated energies (thermal Q_h and electrical E_{el}).

Figure 3. Measurement of a GSHP at (a) rated capacity (PLR = 1) and (b) part load (PLR = 0.15) using the climate box.

power consumption show a continuous development. Only temporarily the HP adjusted the heating capacity to approach the set values.

2.2.2. Tests with ASHP

As described in section 2.2.1 the same six hours of data acquisition at PLRs of 1 and 0.15 are shown for HP#2 (ASHP) in Figure 4. Significant differences in comparison to the data curves of HP#1 (GSHP) shown in Figure 3 can be observed. At full load (Figure 4a) a cyclic behavior, caused by defrosting processes at the evaporator, is observed for all measured parameters. The average outdoor temperature provided by the test bench matches the required values. It fluctuates at cyclic intervals as a result of the defrosting phases caused by the HP's control behavior. The average supply temperature is achieved at some measuring points but is slightly lower on average. The required heating capacity is achieved and provided by HP#2, but the defrosting cycles lead to temporary negative heat flows. As a result, the average heating capacity is also lower than the set values. The regulation of the compressor can also be observed by the course of the electric power consumption, especially during defrost cycles. The measurement data curves of the ASHP (HP#2) in Figure 4b again show considerable differences compared to the measurement data of the GSHP (HP#1) in Figure 3b, since a cyclic behavior is observed for all parameters. The average values of the measured temperatures are higher (supply temperature) or lower (outdoor temperature) than the set temperatures. However, the minima and maxima of the temperature cycles are close to the set values, respectively. The heating capacity fluctuates considerably around the given set value and reaches amplitudes of approximately 5 - 7.5 kW ($\pm 200\%$). The average heating capacity however corresponds to the set heating capacity, since the phases with excessively high heating capacity are compensated by phases with no or even negative flow of heating energy. For all parameters, the frequency of the cycles are identical.

Figure 4. Measurement of an ASHP at (a) rated capacity (PLR = 1) and (b) part load (PLR = 0.15) using the climate box.

2.2.3. Precision of the dynamic test method

The main criteria for a well - designed test method are representativeness, comparability among different appliances, costs of the measurement and reproducibility. The latter is discussed more in detail in this section with particular focus on the use of the climate box and the electrical resistance. We repeated the dynamic tests for HP#1 and HP#2 in different laboratories. For HP#2 we performed the dynamic test using the climate box twice in the same laboratory (lab 1) to conclude for repeatability. Figure 5a shows the results of these tests, more precisely the determined cumulative heating energies and cumulative electric energy consumptions.

The set heating energy represents the ideal case that the heating capacity provided by the HP meets the exact heating demand at all times. HP#2 apparently covers the heating demand almost ideally for both tests, i.e. it neither generates too little nor too much heat. The tests resulted in cumulative heating energies of 650.58 kWh (lab1) and 646.96 kWh (lab1), respectively. The cumulated electric energy consumption differs only slightly for both measurements, with values of 192.39 kWh and 188.95 kWh, respectively. According to Equations (4) and (5), the cumulated energies result in the seasonal space heating energy efficiencies η_s of 132.28 % and 133.96 %, corresponding to an intra - laboratory precision (repeatability) of 0.63 %.

For HP#1 we performed the dynamic test once in two different laboratories to conclude for reproducibility (lab 1 using the climate box and lab 2 using the electrical resistance). Figure 5b shows the results of these tests. In both laboratories, the determined electric energy consumptions are similar, with values of 218.69 kWh (lab 1) and 198.00 kWh (lab 2), respectively. In contrast, the amount of heating energy produced by HP#1 differs between the two laboratories. As HP#1 strictly follows the heating demand (set heating energy) in laboratory 2, it produces excess heat during the tests in laboratory 1. According to Equations (4) and (5), the cumulated energies result in the seasonal space heating energy efficiencies of HP#1 to 122.20 % (lab 1) and 109.96 % (lab 2), which corresponds to an

inter - laboratory precision (reproducibility) of 5.01 %.

Figure 5. Cumulated heating energy and cumulated electric energy consumption of (a) HP#2 measured two times in the same laboratory and (b) HP#1 measured in different laboratories, Lab1 and Lab2, respectively.

3. Discussion

The dynamic method achieves high repeatability and the inter-laboratory deviation (reproducibility) is at an adequate level. The deviations of the heating energies between laboratory 1 and 2 in Figure 5b could be explained by the fact that the set outdoor temperature was assigned to the HP in different ways. In laboratory 1, the HP detected the temperature directly via its temperature sensor using the climate box, whereas in laboratory 2 the temperature was given to the HP via an electrical resistance. The test with the electrical resistance implicates that we obtain results which are independent from the quality of the temperature sensor and thus possible sources of uncertainties are reduced. Testing using the climate box with the temperature sensor being active, however, enables to record the control quality of the HP in its entirety. This would be closer to field conditions compared to when using an electrical resistance. In the case of HP#1, for example, Figures 3b and 3c show the hysteresis that occurs by comparing setpoint and actual values of the sink side parameters at low and high outdoor temperatures (low and high PLRs). This could occur because the outdoor temperature detected by the HP differs from the actual outdoor temperature. Most likely the reproducibility can be further improved using the same methods to provide the outdoor temperatures (via electrical resistance or via climatic box).

The comparability of various HPs could be a significant advantage of the dynamic method in comparison to current standards like EN 14825. Figure 6 shows the heating capacity of five HPs, determined according to EN 14825, and the demanded heating load (set value) required for the respective outdoor temperatures.

Although these HPs were all tested at fixed compressor speeds according to the manufacturers' instructions, they could not meet the required heating capacity for most of the tested operating points. At low outside temperatures, HP#3 and HP#5 could not achieve the required heating capacity within the permissible deviations according to EN 14825 ($\pm 10\%$). This is due to the HPs' specification of the bivalence temperature. Below this particular temperature, the HPs cannot provide the amount of

Figure 6. Average heating capacity determined according to EN 14825 (fixed compressor speed) of several HPs, including HP#2.

demanded heating capacity by themselves and thus would need additional support by an electric heater in the field. In our case, we observed bivalence temperatures at 2 °C (HP#3) and −7 °C (HP#5). At higher outside temperatures all HPs generally provide higher heating capacities than required. The deviations at outdoor temperatures of 7 °C and 12 °C can be directly attributed to the methodology of EN 14825. According to the EN 14825, the supply temperature is increased whenever ON/OFF operation would occur thus circumventing OFF -sequences. This consequently results in an increase of heating capacity. If the heating capacity is more than 10 % higher than demanded, the EN 14825 requires to adjust the coefficient of performance (COP) with prescribed correction factors ².

Figure 7a shows the comparison of the heating capacities of HP#2 for different outdoor temperatures, determined with the dynamic method (unfixed compressor speed) and with the standard method EN 14825 (fixed compressor speed).

At PLRs higher than 0.54 the HP operated with variable compressor speed during the dynamic test. For PLRs lower than 0.54 we observed ON/OFF operation. The heating capacities of the dynamic method are the average values of the entire respective temperature sequence, including the periods of OFF operation and the stabilization phase at the beginning of each sequence. The consideration of the stabilization phase is permissible as the small fluctuations during the stabilization phase can be neglected. It is shown that the heating capacities determined with the dynamic method are close to the demanded heating load, whereas in the standard test an excessive heat can be observed at low PLRs due to the aforementioned methodology of EN 14825. Figure 7b shows the corresponding COPs for the dynamic method and for the standard method EN 14825 (after applying the correction factors). The COP³ determined with EN 14825 increases continuously with decreasing PLR, whereas the COP determined with the dynamic method also increases initially with decreasing PLR, but decreases again as soon as ON/OFF operation occurs. The high deviations of COPs between standard test and dynamic

² According to EN 14825 the prescribed correction factors are CR and C_d . CR is the ratio of measured heating capacity and required heating capacity. The degradation coefficient C_d is determined via the formula $1 - P_{OFF} / P_{PLR}$ for each PLR, respectively. P_{OFF} is the electric power consumption measured during 5 min after the compressor has been switched off for 10 minutes and P_{PLR} is the electric power consumption during operation at a particular PLR. C_d generally achieves values of between 0.9 and 1.

³ According to EN 14825 after applying the correction factors the COP is called COP_{bin} . However for reasons of simplicity, we call the coefficient of performance simply COP for both methods.

Figure 7. (a) Average heating capacity and **(b)** COP results of HP#2 for different PLRs determined with the dynamic method (unfixed compressor speed: VFD or ON/OFF operation) and according to EN 14825 (fixed compressor speed).

test at low PLRs might indicate that the efficiency losses due to ON/OFF operation are not adequately taken into account by the correction factors. Thus, the methodology of the EN 14825 could lead to an overestimation of the COP at low PLRs. In addition, the standard test loses comparability between different HPs because the adjustment of the supply temperature is individual for each HP, respectively (see Figure 6). In contrast, the dynamic method provides both, the consideration of efficiency losses during ON/OFF operation and a comparability for various HPs without the need for correction factors.

The performed tests showed that the dynamic method can be applied to both HP types, GSHPs and ASHPs, with common modifications to the test bench (see section 4). The control of an HP is its individual strategy to reach the requirements on the sink side via its heating curve and is taken into account by applying the dynamic test method. It was observed that the HPs were usually unable to meet the heating set points for PLRs close to 1 and 0. However, particularly in these cases, the dynamic method enables a clear differentiation between the control behaviors of tested HPs in case of using the climate box. For $PLR=1$, for example, HP#1 does not provide a sufficient amount of heat, but for $PLR=0.15$ in contrast, it generates a slight excess of heat. HP#2, on the other hand, is able to meet the required heating capacity precisely. The dynamic method, however, provides a fair comparison of HPs with different control strategies. It should be put up for discussion if tested HPs should in any case achieve the setup values on the sink side for reasons of comparability. In this context, the two methods climate box and electrical resistance should be further examined.

4. Materials and Methods

This section gives an insight into the test setup for the dynamic tests and the methodological differences between the dynamic test and the steady - state test according to EN 14825. In addition, this section specifies which measurement parameters are used for the calculation of the seasonal performance in this paper. The dynamic test can be performed with a conventional HP - test bench that is used for testing according to EN 14825. For both, ASHP and GSHP, the test bench consists of a cooling apparatus,

a source and a heating side. The design of the cooling apparatus of the test bench and the heating side are independent of the type of test specimen. The cooling unit represents the heating demand of the reference building by extracting a variable amount of heat from the heating circuit depending on the corresponding test conditions. The heating circuit can thus be flexibly adapted to the required conditions, the required compensation load can be applied to the HP condenser. The compensation load is controlled and adjusted by varying the volume flow $\dot{V}_w$ on the heating side. Both the supply temperature ϑ_s and the temperature difference between the supply and the return $\vartheta_s - \vartheta_r$, however, remain constant as long as the set outdoor temperature remains unchanged. The heating capacity $\dot{Q}_h$ is determined according to Equation (6):

$$\dot{Q}_h = \dot{V}_w \cdot c_{p,w} \cdot (\vartheta_s - \vartheta_r) \quad (6)$$

The test setup on the source side differs depending on whether we are testing GSHPs or ASHPs. If a GSHP is tested, the required heat and temperature on the source side are provided by a system that treats the brine or water according to the desired conditions. The supply temperature on the source side is 0°C at any time during the test, regardless of the given outdoor temperature ϑ_o . In the case that an ASHP is tested, the outdoor unit of the test specimen is located in a climate chamber. The required outdoor temperature ϑ_o and the relative humidity are provided directly by the conditioning system of the climate chamber.

The voltage U and electric current I are measured by a potentiometer and ammeter at the power connection of the HP. From this, the total electric power consumption of the HP P_{el} is finally determined as the product of voltage and current. It includes the compressor power P_c , the power for the auxiliary system of the HP P_a (control unit, liquid pumps, lights, etc.) and the fan power of the outdoor unit P_v (for ASHPs only) according to Equation (7):

$$P_{el} = \sum P_x = P_c + P_a + P_v \quad (7)$$

For the calculation of the seasonal performance, the heating energy Q_h provided by the HP and the required electric energy consumption E_{el} during the entire test period are put in proportion according to Equation (4). The heating energy is given by Equation (8) as the integral of the measured heating capacity curve; the electric energy consumption is given by Equation (9) as the integral of the measured electric power curve:

$$Q_h = \int \dot{Q}_h d\tau \quad (8)$$

$$E_{el} = \int P_{el} d\tau \quad (9)$$

The COP is calculated from the average values of heating capacity $\dot{Q}_h$ and electric power consumption P_{el} of the examined sequence:

$$COP = \frac{\dot{Q}_h}{P_{el}} \quad (10)$$

Figure 8 shows the methodological differences between the dynamic test and the steady-state test according to EN 14825. For the steady-state test (Figure 8a), the test bench provides the required conditions on both, sink side and source side. The HP control is forced inactive by fixing the compressor speed. This enables steady-state conditions for the heating capacity and the electric power consumption at all times. For the dynamic test (Figure 8b), the HP drives unfixed via its heating curve according to Equations (1) - (3) and its capacity modulation (VFD or ON/OFF operation). It actively regulates the required sink side conditions in dependency on the outdoor temperature. The test bench supportively reacts by providing the required conditions for compensation load and return temperature on the sink side and the outdoor temperature on the source side.

Figure 8. Methodology of (a) the steady - state test according to EN 14825 and (b) the dynamic test.

5. Conclusions

The growing market penetration of HPs indicates the need for a performance test method which better reflects their capacity modulation. Currently, energy efficiency testing for HPs is only executed in particular test modes, that fix the compressor speed and do not reflect the real use behavior of HPs. This study proposes a test method with dynamic profiles based on climate data and designed for outside temperature, supply temperature and the heating capacity. The dynamic test method has the following advantages:

- It considers the real control behavior of HPs.
- It can be conducted independently from manufacturer support and makes special test modes obsolete.
- It considers the whole temperature range of a heating season (from $-10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for average European climate) directly by measurement, specifically those sequences which are commonly linearly interpolated in current standards.
- It makes linear interpolation and the prescription of invariables obsolete and hence gives a closer approximation of the field performance of HPs and could reduce the need for field tests.
- It has the potential to achieve a high degree of automation and could be easily modified to new technologies.

Furthermore, on the basis of these findings, we propose that the following should be subject to further research:

- The optimum values for the permitted deviations and tolerances are to be defined.
- The temperature sequences can be further shortened. Therefore, the influence of the stabilization phase on the average results should be investigated for all temperature sequences.
- The feasibility for testing fixed - speed HPs should be investigated.
- The use of climate box and electrical resistance should be examined.

Author Contributions: conceptualization, C.P.; methodology, C.P. and A.Z.; software, A.Z. and I.M.; validation, C.P., A.Z. and I.M.; formal analysis, C.P.; investigation, A.Z. and I.M.; resources, A.S.; data curation, C.P.; writing–original draft preparation, C.P.; writing–review and editing, A.Z., I.M. and A.S.; visualization, C.P.; supervision, A.S.; project administration, A.S.

Acknowledgments: This project is financed as a part of the National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency (NAPE) of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

ASHP	air source heat pump
GSHP	ground source heat pump
COP	coefficient of performance
HiL	Hardware-in-the-Loop
HP	heat pump
PLR	part load ratio
SCOP	seasonal coefficient of performance
VFD	variable frequency drive

References

1. Chua, KJ. et al. Achieving better energy - efficient air conditioning - A review of technologies and strategies. *Appl Energ* **2013**, *104*, 87–104.
2. Berardi, U. A cross - country comparison of the building energy consumptions and their trends. *Resour Conserv Recy* **2017**, *123*, 230–241.
3. Connolly, D. et al. Smart energy Europe: The technical and economic impact of one potential 100 % renewable energy scenario for the European Union. *Renew Sust Energ Rev* **2016**, *60*, 1634–1653.
4. Mathiesen, BV. et al. 100 % renewable energy systems, climate mitigation and economic growth. *Appl Energ* **2011**, *88*, 488–501.
5. Li, G. et al. Investigations of life cycle climate performance and material life cycle assessment of packaged air conditioners for residential application. *Sust Energ Tech Assess* **2015**, *11*, 114–125.
6. Shao, S. et al. Performance representation of variable - speed compressor for inverter air conditioners based on experimental data. *Int J Refrig* **2004**, *27*, 805–815.
7. Tu, Q. et al. Control strategy of compressor and sub-cooler in variable refrigerant flow air conditioning system for high EER and comfortable indoor environment. *Appl Therm Eng* **2018**, *141*, 215–225.
8. Choi, JM.; Kim, YC. Capacity modulation of an inverter - driven multi - air conditioner using electronic expansion valves. *Energy* **2003**, *28*, 141–155.
9. Jeong, K.; Choi, JM. Capacity modulation of a cascade heat pump with the variation of compressor speed and electronic expansion valve opening. *Renew Sust Energ* **2014**, *6*, 1–9.
10. Park, YC. et al. Performance analysis on a multi - type inverter air conditioner. *Energ Convers Manage* **2000**, *42*, 1607–1621.
11. Wu, C. et al. Development of control method and dynamic model for multi evaporator air conditioners (MEAC). *Energ Convers Manage* **2005**, *46*, 451–465.
12. DIN Normenausschuss Kältetechnik (FNKä). DIN EN 14825:2016 Air conditioners, liquid chilling packages and heat pumps, with electrically driven compressors, for space heating and cooling - Testing and rating at part load conditions and calculation of seasonal performance. Berlin, Germany, **2016**.
13. Standards Australia and New Zealand Standards. AS/NZS 3823:2014 Performance of electrical appliances - Air conditioners and heat pumps. Sydney, Australia / Wellington, New Zealand, **2014**.
14. Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute. ANSI/AHRI 210/240:2008. Standard for Performance Rating of Unitary Air-Conditioning & Air - Source Heat Pump Equipment. Arlington, USA, **2008**.
15. American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Inc. ASHRAE, ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 116-2010 Methods of Testing for Rating Seasonal Efficiency of Unitary Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps. Atlanta, USA, **2010**.
16. Japanese Industrial Standards Committee. JIS C9612: 2013 Room Air Conditioners. Tokyo, Japan, **2013**.
17. Gomes, A. et al. A physically - based model for simulating inverter type air conditioners/heat pumps. *Energy* **2013**, *50*, 110–119.
18. Cuevas, C.; Lebrun, J. Testing and modelling of a variable speed scroll compressor. *Appl Therm Eng* **2009**, *29*, 469–478.

- 411 19. Lee, SH. et al. Simulation-based optimization of heating and cooling seasonal performances of an air - to - air
412 heat pump considering operating and design parameters using genetic algorithm. *Appl Therm Eng* **2018**, *144*,
413 362–370.
- 414 20. Menegon, D. et al. Development of a new dynamic test procedure for the laboratory characterization of a
415 whole heating and cooling system. *Appl Energy* **2017**, *205*, 976–990.
- 416 21. Haller, MY. Dynamic whole system testing of combined renewable heating systems - The current state of the
417 art. *Energy Buildings* **2013**, *66*, 667–677.
- 418 22. Riederer, P. et al. Dynamic test method for the determination of the global seasonal performance factor of
419 heat pumps used for heating cooling and domestic hot water preparation. *Proceedings of the 11th International*
420 *IBPSA Conference, Glasgow, Scotland* **2009**, *11*.
- 421 23. Huchtemann, K. et al. Testing method for evaluation of a realistic seasonal performance of heat pump
422 heating systems: Determination of typical days. *12th REHVA World Congress: volume 3, Aalborg, Denmark*
423 **2016**, *12*.
- 424 24. Mavuri, S. Field behaviour of inverter air conditioners effect on seasonal performance. *IJAIEM* **2015**, *4*, 18–25.
- 425 25. European Commission. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 811/2013. *Official Journal of the European*
426 *Union* **2013**, *L289*: 136–161.