

A Review on Virtual Testbed Frameworks for Implementation of Various HVAC Control Strategies

Shakthi Sabarinath S.V¹ and Prema Arokia Mary. G²

Post Graduate Student, M.Tech Data Science, Department of Information Technology¹

Assistant Professor II, Department of Information Technology²

Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract: *This literature survey provides a review of virtual testbed frameworks for the implementation of various Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) control strategies. With the advancement of technology and the increasing demand for energy-efficient HVAC systems, virtual testbeds have emerged as powerful tools for evaluating and optimizing control strategies. This survey examines the existing literature on virtual testbed frameworks, highlighting their key features, advantages, and limitations and specifically with the frameworks that supports implementation of reinforcement-based control methods and allow implementation of baseline methods for testing various control strategies. It also presents an overview of different HVAC control strategies that have been implemented and evaluated using these frameworks. The survey aims to provide researchers in the field of HVAC control with a valuable resource for understanding the state-of-the-art virtual testbed frameworks and their applications.*

Keywords: Virtual testbed, HVAC optimization, building simulator, RL implementation.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Belmans, B., Aerts, D., Verbeke, S., Audenaert, A., & Descamps, F. (2019). Set-up and evaluation of a virtual test bed for simulating and comparing single- and mixed-mode ventilation strategies. *Building and Environment*, 151, 97–111. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.BUILDENV.2019.01.027>
- [2]. Huang, S., Wang, J., Fu, Y., Zuo, W., Hinkelman, K., Kaiser, R. M., He, D., & Vrabie, D. (2021). An open-source virtual testbed for a real Net-Zero Energy Community. *Sustainable Cities and Society*, 75, 103255. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2021.103255>
- [3]. Storek, T., Wüllhorst, F., Koßler, S., Baranski, M., Kümpel, A., & Müller, D. (2021, September 1). A virtual test bed for evaluating advanced building automation algorithms. <https://doi.org/10.26868/25222708.2021.30637>
- [4]. Blum, D., Arroyo, J., Huang, S., Drgoňa, J., Jorissen, F., Walnum, H. T., Chen, Y., Benne, K., Vrabie, D., Wetter, M., & Helsen, L. (2021). Building optimization testing framework (BOPTTEST) for simulation-based benchmarking of control strategies in buildings. *Journal of Building Performance Simulation*, 14(5), 586–610. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19401493.2021.1986574>
- [5]. Arroyo, J., Manna, C., Spiessens, F., & Helsen, L. (2021, September 1). An Open-AI gym environment for the Building Optimization Testing (BOPTTEST) framework. <https://doi.org/10.26868/25222708.2021.30380>
- [6]. Wang, Z., Chen, B., Li, H., & Hong, T. (2021). AlphaBuilding ResCommunity: A multi-agent virtual testbed for community-level load coordination. *Advances in Applied Energy*, 4, 100061. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adapen.2021.100061>
- [7]. Jia, M., & Srinivasan, R. (2020). Building Performance Evaluation Using Coupled Simulation of EnergyPlusTM and an Occupant Behavior Model. *Sustainability*, 12(10), 4086. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12104086>

- [8]. Chervonyi, Y., Dutta, P., Trochim, P., Voicu, O., Paduraru, C., Qian, C., Karagozler, E., Davis, J. Q., Chippendale, R., Bajaj, G., Witherspoon, S., & Luo, J. (2022). Semi-analytical Industrial Cooling System Model for Reinforcement Learning.
- [9]. Findeis, A., Kazhamiaka, F., Jeen, S., & Keshav, S. (2022). Beobench. Proceedings of the Thirteenth ACM International Conference on Future Energy Systems, 374–382. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3538637.3538866>
- [10]. Vazquez-Canteli, J. R., Dey, S., Henze, G., & Nagy, Z. (2020). CityLearn: Standardizing Research in Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Demand Response and Urban Energy Management.
- [11]. Jiménez-Raboso, J., Campoy-Nieves, A., Manjavacas-Lucas, A., Gómez-Romero, J., & Molina-Solana, M. (2021). Sinergym. Proceedings of the 8th ACM International Conference on Systems for Energy-Efficient Buildings, Cities, and Transportation, 319–323. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3486611.3488729>
- [12]. Scharnhorst, P., Schubnel, B., Fernández Bandera, C., Salom, J., Taddeo, P., Boegli, M., Gorecki, T., Stauffer, Y., Peppas, A., & Politi, C. (2021). Energym: A Building Model Library for Controller Benchmarking. *Applied Sciences*, 11(8), 3518. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app11083518>
- [13]. Moriyama, T., De Magistris, G., Tsubori, M., Pham, T.-H., Munawar, A., & Tachibana, R. (2018). Reinforcement Learning Testbed for Power-Consumption Optimization (pp. 45–59). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-2853-4_4
- [14]. Zhang, Z., & Lam, K. P. (2018). Practical implementation and evaluation of deep reinforcement learning control for a radiant heating system. Proceedings of the 5th Conference on Systems for Built Environments, 148–157. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3276774.3276775>
- [15]. Touzani, Samir, Granderson, Jessica, Pritoni, Marco, Kiran, Mariam, Krishnan Prakash, Anand, Wang, Zhe, & Agarwal, Shreya. (2021, February 08). FlexDRL v1.0. [Computer software]. <https://github.com/LBNL-ETA/FlexDRL>. <https://doi.org/10.11578/dc.20210311.8>.
- [16]. Zhang, C., Shi, Y., & Chen, Y. (2022). BEAR: Physics-Principled Building Environment for Control and Reinforcement Learning.