

Cool Coat: An Advanced Wearable Thermal Management Solution for Harsh Environment

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Background

- Workers are often exposed to harsh environments with extreme temperatures, posing **serious risks to their health and safety**¹.
- The Cool Coat project utilizes **carbon veil fabric**, known for its high thermal conductivity, combined with **thermoelectric cooling** sources and fans to create wearable garments for efficient thermal management.
- This innovation aims to enhance comfort and productivity for workers in **harsh environments**, potentially benefiting first responders and military personnel in hot conditions.

Objectives

- Demonstrate the Cool Coat concept integrating carbon veil fabric, fans, and thermoelectric coolers with a focus on user comfort and functionality.
- Compare performance between Cool Coat and a control coat, **analyzing temperature, efficiency, and wearer comfort**.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Cool Coat in **cooling distribution**.
- Identify **areas** for improvement for future iterations.

Research Design and Methods

Design & Fabrication: Introducing the Cool Coat with integrated carbon veil fabric, thermoelectric elements, and controlled by an app, alongside a basic control coat for comparison.

Experimental Setup: Using infrared cameras, the performance of both coats is assessed during light, medium, and heavy exercise scenarios.

Data Analysis: Detailed evaluation of the Cool Coat's thermal efficiency and comfort against the control coat with statistical insights.

Preliminary results



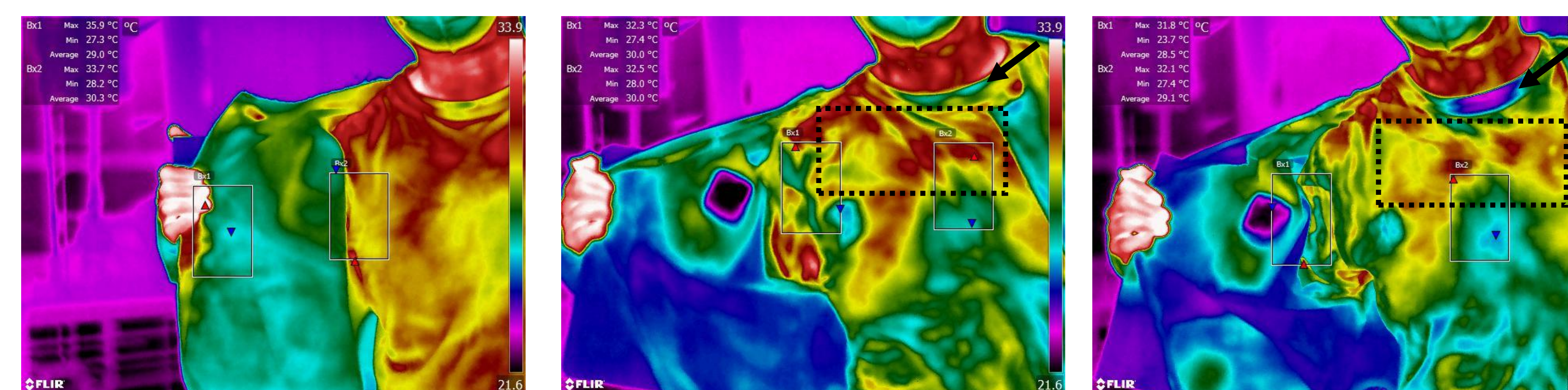
Carbon veil fabric

Thermoelectric device

Fans jacket



Infrared camera FLIR T640



No cooling

No carbon veil + cooling

Carbon veil + cooling

Expected results

- Cool Coat shows superior thermal management compared to control coat, **regulating temperature and reducing heat risks**.
- Novel approach of **wearable thermal management** utilizing carbon veil, thermoelectric devices, and fans.
- Potential to transform personal thermal management with a **cost-effective, lightweight, and user-friendly design**.
- Prospect of influencing future wearable tech advancements, **boosting safety and health** in demanding conditions.

Future directions

- Scale up production exploration
- Real-time temperature tracking and notifications.

Acknowledgement

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References

- Kanan et al, Automation in Construction 88 (2018): 73-86.
- Chen et al, Aiha Journal 643 (2003): 352-359.