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Experimental and modelling investigations of air exchange and infection transfer due to hinged-door motion in office and hospital settings.

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Abstract

Occupants spend a significant amount of time indoors where temperature and air quality has an important impact on their comfort, health and work performance. Understanding the role of airflow exchange between spaces is crucial to describe the processes of mixing and transport of substances driven by air motion and therefore essential for evaluating indoor air quality. This work presents the results of field measurements and laboratory experiments designed to characterise door operation and to quantify its influence on air volumes exchanged between rooms due to door motion. The field study was conducted to identify typical total door cycle times in single person offices. The laboratory experiments were conducted in a scale model to investigate the exchange flow between two generic rooms. The model consisted of a water filled tank divided into two equal rooms, which were connected by a computer-controlled hinged door. Flow visualisations were used to describe flow patterns and concentration measurements of Rhodamine WT were performed to quantify exchange volumes. With hold open times of between 0s and 26.67s the total fluid volume exchanged was found to be between 67% and 98% of the total volume swept. Based on the exchange volume found in these experiments combined with the Wells-Riley equation the effect of ventilation rate on the probability of occupants in an adjacent room becoming infected was investigated. With ventilation rates for a medium air quality the risk of infection is low (<0.05). However, the probability of infection quickly rises with lower ventilation rates.

Keywords: ventilation, indoor air quality, door motion, risk infection, volume exchange, flow visualisation

1. Introduction

The international drive towards more energy efficient buildings has increased the demand to understand and design suitable ventilation systems to improve indoor air quality. There is growing evidence that the prevention of 'Sick Building Syndrome' and respiratory illnesses in children may require ventilation rates of up to 25 l/s/person, over double the UK's current standards (Sundell et al 2011). It has also been shown that increasing air flows over 10 l/s can reduce days taken off work due to illness (Milton et al 2000). The role of ventilation becomes increasingly important in higher risk environments, such as isolation facilities or laboratory/industrial settings, where local extract ventilation is essential for the health and safety of the staff.

Activities such as the movement of people also have the potential to distribute contaminants and impact on the local ventilation regime. This movement will generate mixing as well as opening/closing air pathways between spaces. Contaminants may be transferred between spaces due to airflow across a doorway. These airflows can be generated by convective effects due to indoor temperature gradients, but also due to the operation of doors and people movement.

Experimental studies have been used to assess the potential contribution of door operation to air and contaminant transport. The main focus of these studies have been the quantification of mass exchange between rooms and the description of flow dynamics. Several studies have been presented for the flow induced by buoyancy and door motion (e.g. Kiel et al 1989; Wilson et al 1990), a setting particularly important for external doors where the temperature gradients across the opening can be high. However, in the case of internal doors the temperature difference is likely to be small and mixing and transport will be primarily driven by the door or human motion. Interest in the escape of infectious material from isolation rooms has led to a focus on this mixing in clinical environments (e.g. Tang et al 2005; Eames et al 2009; Kalliomäki et al 2012; Tang et al 2013; Fontana et al 2014). More specifically, Tang et al (2005 and 2013) and Eames et al (2009) conducted experiments for the visualization of the flow generated by the motion of a door separating two rooms. The experiments were conducted in a scale laboratory model, consisting of a tank filled with water with a door separating two rooms. Food dye was used as a tracer and indicative pictures and figures were provided to describe the exchange flow generated by the door motion. Fontana et al (2014) also considered the air exchanged through a doorway using a water scaled model with two rooms separated by a doorway. Kalliomäki et al (2012) provided one of the few examples of full scale results available. Their experiments were based on the use of smoke and gases to visualise and quantify the flow exchange between rooms.

The volume which is exchanged between two rooms due to door motion has also been quantified. Kiel et al (1989) performed experiments in a scale model to determine the fluid volume that is exchanged through an external doorway. Since the experiment mainly concerned the buoyancy induced flow, the study was based on the Densimetric Froude number. Full scale measurements with tracer gas were also carried out. At a density difference between rooms of zero, it was found that the exchange volume increases linearly with door speed. They also showed that the volume exchanged was found to be almost constant with the hold open time, which is the time the door is held at the maximum opening angle. A typical value of the volume exchanged was found to be about 50% of the swept volume ($\text{door height} \times \text{door width}^2 \times \pi/4$ for 90° opening). Considering experiments with isothermal flow Eames et al (2009) tested several door opening angles and found that the exchanged volume varies from about 1.5% to 5% of the room volume and it is comparable to the volume swept by the door. Kalliomäki et al (2012) also quantified the effect of a range of door opening times and hold open times on the exchanged volume. The results show that the exchanged volume increases with hold open time and total cycle time (opening, hold open and closure), while it does not vary with door speed for a certain hold open time. Several discrepancies can be found in these previous studies. For instance, Kiel et al (1989) found that door speed is the most important variable dictating the amount of volume flux, whereas Kalliomäki et al (2012) showed that the total cycle time, and in particular the hold open time, is the main control parameter.

In reality door motion is combined with the movement of people (either singular or multiple) through the door way which will also contribute to the air exchange. The airflow created by people

as they walk along a straight line, and the ability of contaminants to be spread in the persons wake, has been shown for corridors (Wood et al 2014) and aircraft cabins (Poussou et al 2010). Considering the combination of human movement alongside door motion Tang et al (2013) included a visualisation of human movement demonstrating that as a health care worker walks through a doorway there is flow both ways, into and out of the room. Kalliomäki et al (2013) compared the volume of air exchanged between rooms from door opening alone, and door opening and manikin movement combined. Kalliomäki's study demonstrated that there is a slightly greater exchange when manikin movement is also considered; the movement increased the volume exchanged due to door motion alone by approximately one quarter. Total air volumes exchanged were approximately 1.2-2.2m³ (dependent on the varied parameters) with an increase of 0.3 - 0.4m³ when a moving person was included. It was however acknowledged that, due to the variation in results and the other parameters studied, more work would be required to fully quantify this. Choi et al (2012) used CFD analysis to study the air transferred between rooms due to door and human motion, they found results of a similar order to Kalliomäki et al (2013). The air volume estimated to be transferred by human movement was found to be approximately 32% of that moved by a swinging door alone. Using CFD analysis Lee et al (2014) approximated the total cumulative air volume exchanged to increase from approximately 0.4m³ to 0.7m³ when a person's motion was added to that of a door. The study by Lee et al (2014) indicates a greater proportion of the fluid is moved between rooms due to person motion than was shown by Choi et al (2012) or Kalliomäki et al (2013). However, in Lee's study the volume transferred due to door motion alone appears to be smaller which may be due to variation in other experimental parameters (e.g. room size).

The majority of previous studies have tended to focus on isolation rooms, however, it is also worth considering other areas both within and outside the health care environments. For instance, understanding the draught created by a door may be important for designing local extract ventilation in industrial settings. Further, understanding and limiting the spread of infection in non-critical environments is also necessary. In fact many infections are spread in everyday situations or in non-critical health care environments, before the patient has been fully diagnosed. Epidemiological models are commonly used to assess the benefit of infection control methodologies on the spread of disease. In this context, the Wells-Riley model was developed several decades ago (Riley et al 1978) to investigate the role of ventilation in reducing the spread of airborne diseases (such as Measles and Tuberculosis (TB)). The application of the model has been discussed by several authors (e.g. Aliabadi et al 2011; Beggs et al 2003; Sze To et al 2009). There have been many advances in the application of the Wells-Riley model, for instance using a stochastic formulation (Noakes et al 2009) or considering the unsteady concentration of infectious material in the air (Gammaitoni et al 1997). However, despite these advances it is still considered a useful model today to evaluate the role of ventilation in simple comparisons. In order to evaluate the risk of infection in neighbouring rooms it is necessary to combine the Wells-Riley model with an understanding of the transfer of infectious material across a doorway. Therefore, this study aims to understand the risk of infection transfer in adjacent spaces due to motion of the door separating these spaces by; (i) evaluating typical door usage in a non-isolation settings; (ii) visualising the flow induced by door motion and quantifying the fluid volume exchanged between rooms due to door motion for a range of hold open times in isothermal conditions; and (iii) evaluating the risk to a person due to infectious substances being transferred between rooms by door opening.

2. Methods

Based on the three main objectives outlined above the methodology is split into three components. (i) Initially a field study was conducted on single occupancy offices to understand the characteristics of use. This was followed by (ii) an experimental investigation of the exchange flow induced by the door motion, including flow visualization, and concentration measurements for estimating the volume exchanged between the two rooms for different hold open times. Finally, (iii) epidemiological modelling was carried out to assess the probability of infection transfer due to door opening in a variety of scenarios.

2.1 Field studies

There is little information available on door speed and use, particularly in non-critical environments. Therefore we monitored door usage in eleven single person offices in order to understand how non-automatic doors in standard settings are used. The offices are of a similar size and located in two separate multi-storey buildings. The rooms have centrally controlled heating and openable windows. The offices are mixed between south and north facing. The offices were monitored for two months each in different seasons, equating to over 400 office days in total. Measurements were taken of the total door cycle time. Magnets were attached to both frame and door, which connected when the door was closed. State monitors (Tempcon, UK) logged a timestamp when the state changed and the door opened (magnets disconnected) and then when the door was fully shut (magnets re-connected). The difference in time between the state changes from closed to open and from open to closed was used to evaluate typical total door cycle times. This does not monitor the angle of opening.

2.2 Experimental study

Experiments were conducted in a 1:10 laboratory scale model consisting of a plexiglas tank (0.90 m x 0.70 m wide x 0.20 m high) of horizontal bottom (see Figure 1). The tank was divided into two equal parts by means of a wall (Figure 1). A hinged door of dimensions 0.20 m by 0.09 m was placed in the middle of the tank. The door is full height (allowing clearance room 5mm). This reduces the flow generated over the top of the door and allows the analysis, in first instance, of vertical axis flow structures. The door motion was provided by means of a computer controlled door actuator (Figure 1). The opening angle was approximately 90°. The time for the door opening was 0.7 sec (time in the experiment), approximately equal to the time required for the door closure. The total time and acceleration profile was repeatable and monitored by using an in-house Labview® script, through which various hold open times (t_h) could be specified. The tank was closed by means of a Plexiglas lid bolted on the vertical sides of the tank, this ensured the development of an enclosed space as in real rooms, rather than approximating the flow dynamic by means of a free surface flow. Four round openings (Figure 1) of diameter about 0.05 m were made on the lid (two in each room) to allow for dye injection, for stirring the mixture and for concentration measurements. During the door motion, the openings were covered with cylindrical lids, resulting in a smooth ceiling in the tank.

2.2.1 Scale model experimental methodology

Water was used as working fluid and the modelling was based on the Reynolds number matching between the model and a generic full scale reference. For a viscosity ratio between air and water of $\nu_a/\nu_w = 15$ (20 °C) and for a length ratio $L_m/L_f = 1/10$ between model (m) and full scale (f), the time scale is $t_f/t_m = 6.67$. Therefore 1 s of experimental time corresponds to 6.67 s in the full scale.

The tank was filled with tap water, closed, and air bubbles removed using a syringe linked with a catheter submerged through the four openings, before each experiment. Water of one room was coloured using food dye to visualise the mass flux. The mixture was sufficiently stirred and was left to rest before each experiment. The tank was homogeneously illuminated by means of two LED floodlights. A digital camcorder, (Panasonic HC-V720) was placed beneath the tank and a second camcorder (Panasonic HC-V210) was placed to face the side of the tank. Both cameras provided video of resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels at a frequency of 50 fps. The MovieShop Framer[®] software was used for extracting characteristic video frames.

Rhodamine WT was used as a tracer to measure the fluid volume exchanged between the two rooms. Prior to the Rhodamine injections, the water in the tank was left for over 60 hours to promote chlorine decay. Measurements of Rhodamine concentration were carried out by means of Cyclops fluorometer (Turner Designs[®]). This instrument was linked with an analogue to digital converter, USB-1208LS by Computing Measurement[®]. For the data acquisition the TracerDAQ[®] software was used. The instrument was calibrated daily. The relation between the measured voltage and the concentration was found to be linear with an excellent accuracy. A concentration of approximately 300 ppm was created in one room, and 20-50 ppm in the second room. The bottom of the tank was covered with a black surface to avoid any reflections. After the door motion (opening, hold open and closure) the mixture of both rooms was stirred sufficiently to obtain a uniform concentration. Then, the concentrations in each room were measured again. The volume V_x exchanged between the two rooms, termed here as A and B , can be obtained from the conservation of Rhodamine mass. For room A the following relation can be written:

$$C_{oA}V - C_{oA}V_x + C_{oB}V_x = C_A V \quad (1)$$

C_{oA} and C_{oB} are the average concentrations before the door motion in rooms A and B respectively, C_A is the average concentration in room A after the door motion, and V is the volume of each room. A similar equation can be written for room B and the final volume exchanged, V_x , was estimated as the average from both equations. The experiment investigated a variation in hold open time with a constant opening time. Results from ten experiments with three different hold open times are presented in section 3.2.

2.3 Infection modelling

The measured volume of air exchanged between rooms in the experiments are used to calculate the probability that a person in the adjacent room will become infected. These scenarios assume a single infectious individual in room A (12m^3) with an adjacent room B (55m^3) that is populated by 10 susceptible people. The probability that the susceptible occupants will become infected can be calculated using the Wells-Riley model (Riley et al 1978). This model uses the concept of a quanta of infectious disease, a unit that described the amount of infectious contagion in the air including the infectiousness of the disease and the susceptibility of other occupants. The value of a quanta is such that if everyone in the space inhaled one quanta of infectious material then $1 - 1/e$ (or $\sim 63.2\%$) of them would become infected (Wells 1955). It is worth noting that the value of quanta is usually calculated from an outbreak, and automatically accounts for many of the other parameters that may affect the transfer of infection, such as the biological decay or deposition of infectious particles. Therefore, this is a reasonable method to evaluate the risk of infection due to door opening in a range of ventilation scenarios although it does have limitations, including the assumption of well-

mixed air and that the injection of infectious material is continuous over time. Although there have been advances in this model over the past decades its original form is deemed most suitable here to gain an initial understanding of the risk of infection spread due to door motion under a range of basic ventilation scenarios. The model can be used to calculate the number of susceptible people (S) who become infected (I).

$$I = SP_r \quad (2)$$

Where P_r is the probability that a person will become infected. This probability can be calculated as:

$$P_r = 1 - e^{-\frac{I p q t}{Q_B}} \quad (3)$$

where p is the average pulmonary ventilation rate of the susceptible occupants (m^3/min), taken as $0.01\text{m}^3/\text{min}$, which is in line with that used by both Beggs et al (2003) and Nardell et al (1991). The exposure time to infection is represented by t (min), I is the number of infectors (taken as 1), Q_B (m^3/min) is the ventilation rate in room B and q is the quanta generation rate (quanta/min). The Wells-Riley model is usually concerned with an infectious individual being located in the same space as the susceptible occupants, with a rate of generation of infectious material (quanta/minute). However, here we are concerned with the spread of infection between rooms and therefore q is taken as the amount of quanta that is transferred through the doorway, averaged over the period between door openings (quanta/minute).

$$q = \frac{V_x C_A}{t_d} \quad (4)$$

Where V_x is the volume of fluid exchanged (m^3), t_d is the time between door openings (minutes) and C_A is the concentration of quanta in room A (quanta/ m^3). The air is assumed to be uniformly mixed immediately after the door opening. The quanta of infectious material in room A is calculated using the standard dilution equation (and not including the dilution due to door opening).

$$\frac{dC_A}{dt} = \frac{q_i + Q_A C_i - Q C_A}{V_A} \quad (5)$$

Where C_i is the amount of quanta entering the room from outside in the ventilation air (in this case zero), V_A is the volume of room A, q_i is the initial quanta generation rate in room A (values defined in 2.3.1), and Q_A is the ventilation rate in room A (m^3/min).

2.3.1 Modelling Scenarios

Although there is much debate as to the extent influenza is spread through the airborne route, there is increasing evidence that aerosol transmission is particularly important over short distances (Tellier 2009), thus the first modelling scenario considers influenza being spread in an office environment. The Wells-Riley model has most commonly been applied for outbreaks of TB, a disease that is well accepted to be airborne and of increasing concern due to presence of multi-drug resistance varieties (WHO 2014). Therefore, the risk of the spread of TB has been considered for the final two scenarios. The quanta of infection is a simplistic method of representing the spread of infection, and difficult to estimate. The value is often calculated following an outbreak and can vary considerable. Beggs et al (2003) outline a range of values from TB in the literature that vary from 1.25 to > 30,000 depending on the patient and whether aerosolised particles are generated through a health care intervention.

For this study, specific examples from the literature that best represent our scenario are used to provide appropriate values for the quanta of infectious material produced (Table 1).

Table 1: Quanta of infectious material for outbreaks of specific diseases. These are the values of q_i input into equation (5) for the three scenarios.

Scenario	Disease	Reported quanta per hour	Source
(1) Office	Influenza	70	Rudnick and Milton (2003)
(2) Hospital side room	Tuberculosis	1.25	Nardell et al (1991)
(3) Bronchoscopy	Tuberculosis	360	Gammaitoni et al (1997)

The three specific scenarios in this study include: an office outbreak of influenza, a patient with undiagnosed TB in a single room, and a patient with TB undergoing bronchoscopy. For each scenario a selection of ventilation rates are considered as outlined in Table 2. The office and single room are chosen deliberately as being non-critical situations where there is no isolation protection. The first considers the spread of infection in a typical office environment, with an index case in a single office attached to a larger, multi-occupied outer office. Ventilation rates are based on what is required for fresh air for different classifications of indoor air quality (IAQ) as defined by BS EN 13779. A busy period is considered initially with the office door opened every 10 minutes. This is then compared to periods when the door is opened once every 30 or 60 minutes. Similarly the second case considers a hospital single room, where a patient may be placed whilst awaiting diagnosis or transfer, this is connected to a larger public area. The final scenario considers the generation of infectious material due to a Bronchoscopy. Bronchoscopy is well known to create aerosols and as such there are specified ventilation rates to protect health care workers, in the UK the number of air changes per hour required is defined as 15 ac/h (Department of Health 2007). This is compared to a ventilation rate in line with a moderate IAQ classification to assess the risk due to poorly maintained ventilation or inadequate design. For both scenarios the door is assumed to be opened every 10 minutes.

Table 2: Ventilation rates in room A and B for the investigated scenarios.

Scenario		Ventilation Rate		Source
		(l/s/person unless stated)		
		Room A	Room B	
1(a)	Office outbreak of	12.5	12.5	Medium IAQ standard (BS EN 13779)
	(b) influenza	8	8	Moderate IAQ standard (BS EN 13779)
	(c)	8	5	(A) Moderate and (B) low IAQ standard (BS EN 13779)
	(d)	5	8	(A) Low and (B) moderate IAQ standard (BS EN 13779)
2 (a)	Side room outbreak of TB	6 ac/h	6ac/h	Recommended air change for (A) single room and (B) general ward (Department of Health 2007)
		(b) 12 ac/h	6ac/h	Recommended total air change for (A) an airborne infection isolation room and (B) general ward (AIA 2001)

3(a)	TB outbreak due to Bronchoscopy.	15 ac/h	6ac/h	Required air flow for (A) endoscopy suite and (B) general ward (Department of Health 2007)
(b)		3 ac/h	6ac/h	Ventilation rate for (A) moderate IAQ standard and (B) general ward (BS EN 13779; Department of Health 2007)

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Field measurements of door cycle times

The results from door monitoring gave values between 1 s and several hours. For the purpose of this research any open time longer than 1 hour has been removed. Figure 2 shows a histogram of 3710 instances of door opening, with the frequency of each time period of opening. Periods of the door being opened > 10 minutes in length are grouped together under “more” (not including periods greater than 1 hour). As can be seen from the data there is a large spread of results with a third of the instances having a period between 3 and 6 s, and some as short as 1s. This is faster than the cycle time previously considered in scaled water tanks (e.g. Tang et al 2013; Eames et al 2009). For this paper an opening time of approximately 0.7 s in the model (≈ 4.7 s full scale equivalent) resulting in a minimum full scale total cycle time of approximately 9 s is used.

3.2 Experimental investigation of air flow across a door way.

The volume exchanged between the two rooms for three different hold open times (full scale values of 0 s, 6.67 s, and 26.67 s) is shown in Figure 3. The solid symbols correspond to the average volume for each hold open time. The obtained volumes and times had been scaled up, i.e. the values shown in Figure 3 refer to full scale. Figure 3 shows the volume exchanged increases with hold open time, for clarity a linear trendline has been shown through the available results. This increase in volume exchanged with hold open time is in accordance with the findings of Kalliomäki et al (2012) who found a similar linear relationship with full scale measurements. Although limited to three hold open times our findings support this linear relationship, providing confidence in the ability of our scaled model to mimic the real environment. This finding is in contrast to the results reported by Kiel et al (1989), who concluded that hold open time had negligible impact on the exchange volume. Previous studies have normalized their results by the room volume V_r (Eames et al 2009) or the volume swept by the door V_d (Kiel et al 1989). The present dimensionless volume V_x/V_r varies from 0.013 to 0.019, this is lower but of the same order as the values reported by Eames et al (2009). The average values for V_x/V_d are between 0.67 and 0.98. This is higher than the typical dimensionless volume of 0.50 reported by Kiel et al (1989), but generally in agreement to Eames et al (2009) who reported that the exchange volume is comparable but smaller to the volume swept by the door.

3.3. Flow Visualisations

The evolution of the flow induced by the door motion is shown in Figure 4. The left column shows the bottom view, while the right column shows the side view of the tank. The experimental hold open time was 1 s, which corresponds to approximately 6.67 s in the full scale. As a consequence of the door opening, a rotating cloud of coloured water enters the room on the right (Figure 4a and 4b). A large-scale vertical structure is shed towards the bottom-left side of the domain (Figure 4b),

promoting what we define here as the first phase of the mass exchange. These observations seem to be in accordance with the observations by Tang et al (2005) and Eames et al (2009). From the side visualization view it is possible to observe that the vortex structure appears to initially be two-dimensional, however its dynamics becomes clearly three-dimensional later. The second phase of the process occurs when the door returns to the closed position (Figures 4c and 4d). Analogous to phase one, the vortex is formed due to the strong velocity gradient induced by the door movement. In this phase the vortex is shed towards the upper-left side of the domain (along the interface between the rooms). The vortex shedding is associated with a jet-like motion, which propagates in the clock-wise direction attached to the domain walls (Figures 4d). This jet-like motion and the vortex interaction with the ambient fluid in the right room, promotes an efficient mass distribution within the right volume. This can have implications for any hazardous operations occurring adjacent to the door and along the perpendicular wall as the generated vortex may break down the local extract if it is not strong enough. Further investigation of the flow structures and velocity measurements would enable the risk of this interacting with local extracts to be evaluated and mitigation strategies developed.

3.4 Risk of infection

Based on the results from the experiments a hold open time of 6.67 s (full scale) was considered, providing an exchange volume V_x of 0.9m³ which was applied in equation 4. For the following results the probability of infection transfer (calculated using equation (3)) is plotted over a period of five hours exposure time.

1) Spread of influenza in a typical office space

The probability of infection for the four ventilation scenarios with a door opening every 10 minutes is shown in Figure 5 with a comparison for door opening schedule. As would be expected the higher ventilation rates for the medium quality environment provide the lowest risk of infection in the adjacent room. The short time period and low levels of quanta present in the air result in a function that appears straight, although it is in-fact just a small part of an exponential function. By increasing the air change rate by approximately 50% the risk of infection is reduced by more than half. A higher air exchange rate in the source room provides a greater benefit than increasing the ventilation in the room of susceptible people, although the reduction in risk is not great. To put the probabilities below in context, if we were to calculate the number of new occupants now infected using equation (2), this would show that by changing the ventilation in one room to 5l/s we would result in one of the ten occupants in room B becoming infected. As well as an impact on health and wellbeing, the new infection, due to a reduction in ventilation, would have economic impacts for the company due to an extra person either taking a day off work ill or performing below their best abilities.

2) Spread of TB from a hospital single room

The quanta of infection used here is taken as that for an average TB patient (Riley 1962), which is typically low and this is reflected in very low probabilities that someone in the adjacent room becomes infected as shown in Figure 6. However, the quanta can vary and there has been a case of an office outbreak where the quanta was calculated as being 12.7 quanta per hour (Beggs et al 2003).

3) Spread of TB from a Bronchoscopy suite

Figure 7 presents the probability of infection transfer from a Bronchoscopy suite where the quantity of infectious material generated can be very high. The figure shows that current ventilation standards in the UK (15 ac/h) give a low probability of another person becoming infected in the adjacent room. However, it also highlights the importance of designing and maintaining ventilation systems properly in these situations as with a poorer ventilation regime the number of new infections in our 10 susceptible people would be 1 after 90 minutes.

The visualisations shown in figure 4 demonstrate the way the infection material may circulate in the room, clearly giving a larger dose to anyone located adjacent to the door on the side of the jet. Visualisations such as these are valuable to understand how infectious material may circulate and can provide some simple solutions such as ensuring places people are likely to wait (e.g. receptionist desks, nurses stations or simple seats) are located away from these zones, thereby reducing the risk of being caught in an infectious jet before it has been well diluted. However, these results will be affected by the movement of people which is not currently included, as the motion of people may increase mixing and also drag contaminant across a space. Infectious particles may escape from one room and be transported in the wake of a person along a corridor where it has been shown the contaminant may move significantly further than the person (Woods et al 2014).

The results shown in figures 5-7 present simplistic scenarios assuming that the infectious quanta is immediately well mixed in the room air. Door motion alone has been considered to transfer the infectious particles between spaces with a single defined opening angle, speed and hold open time. In reality this will vary both by use and also by location. The results presented in section 3.1 are only for office doors. Hospital doors may well have different hold open times; in some cases doors are automatic which usually means they move more slowly or multiple health care workers may enter a room at once requiring the door to be open for a longer period. This study ignores the effect of a person walking between the rooms which has been shown to increase the exchange of infectious material between rooms. Although the contribution of human motion to airflow exchange is not well established, the increase in volume of air exchanged can be estimated to be approximately 30% (+/- 5%) (Kalliomäki et al 2013; Choi et al 2012). This study also only considers isothermal conditions. If a temperature gradient exists between the two spaces the volume exchanged will also increase. Therefore, the volume exchanged estimated here are likely to be lower than those encountered in real settings. These results also assume that there are two spaces joined with a door opened at regular intervals. In reality the way people interact and move between spaces is more complex. In order to improve our understanding of the risk of airborne infection transfer these should be taken into account, and the stochastic behaviour of people used to identify the range of possible air paths and resulting risk. However, the current study provides a useful evidence base to begin to estimate the role of human activity on the risk of infection transfer in a range of occupied spaces.

4 Conclusions

There is discrepancy in the literature about the air exchanged across doorways due to the door opening, and the relative importance of door speed and hold open time. Therefore, there is a need to generate more experimental data of door opening and to evaluate the potential risk this poses to infection transfer and IAQ. This paper has provided some initial results to investigate the role of hold

open time on the volume flux between rooms alongside epidemiological models to investigate the infection risk with the following main findings:

- A linear relationship between door hold open time and volume flux between rooms was found. The volume of air exchanged being 67% to 98% of the volume swept by the door for a full scale hold open time between 6.67 s and 26.67 s.
- The door opening promoted the development of a well-defined mechanism of mass exchange between rooms. The opening and closing stages, are translated into two clear phases, each governed by the formation and movement of a large-scale vortex. The vortex and the jet-like motion associated with the second phase govern, based on qualitative evidence, the transport and mixing within the visualised room.
- The risk of infection in an adjacent room when moderate levels of ventilation are used is low. However, risk in the adjacent room increases when the air exchange rate is reduced in either room. In the example shown here of an influenza outbreak in a busy office the difference between low IAQ ventilation rates in just one room versus moderate ventilation in both could lead to the difference in a new case of infection occurring or not.

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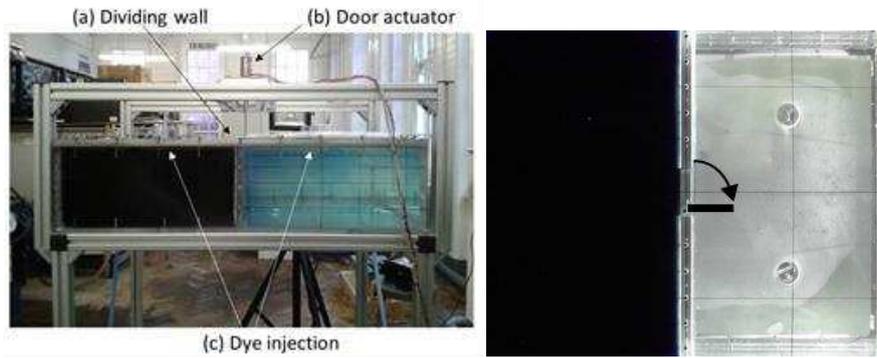


Figure 1. The experimental apparatus showing the side view (left) and bottom view (right) indicating door motion.

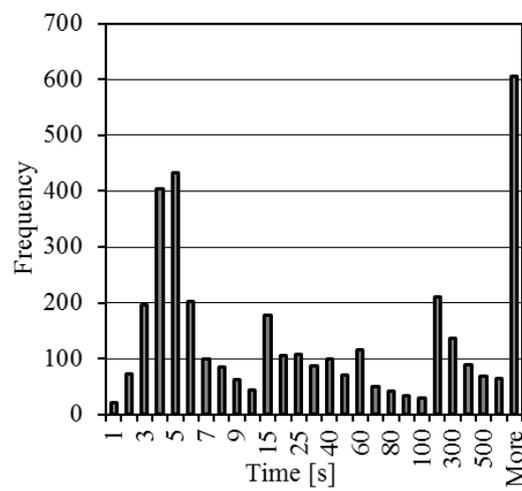


Figure 2: Histogram of total indoor door cycle times

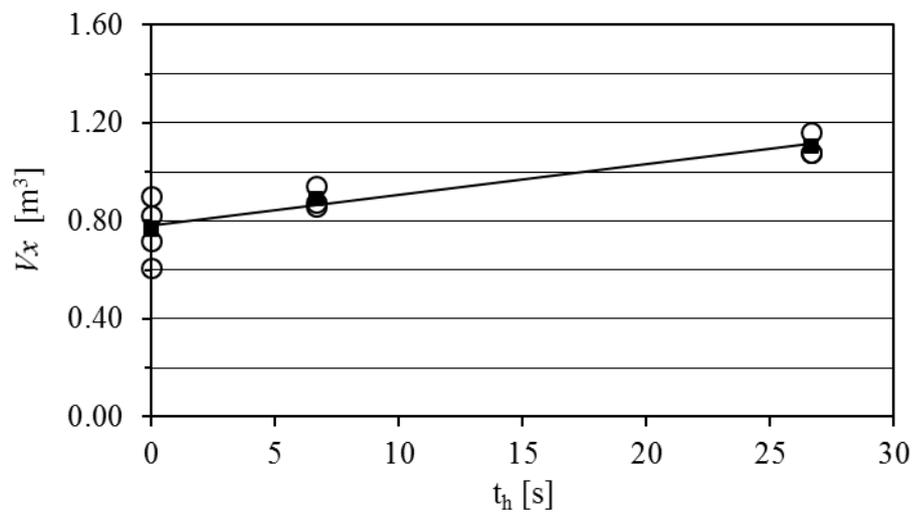


Figure 3: Volume exchanged V_x for various hold open times t_h (full scale values)

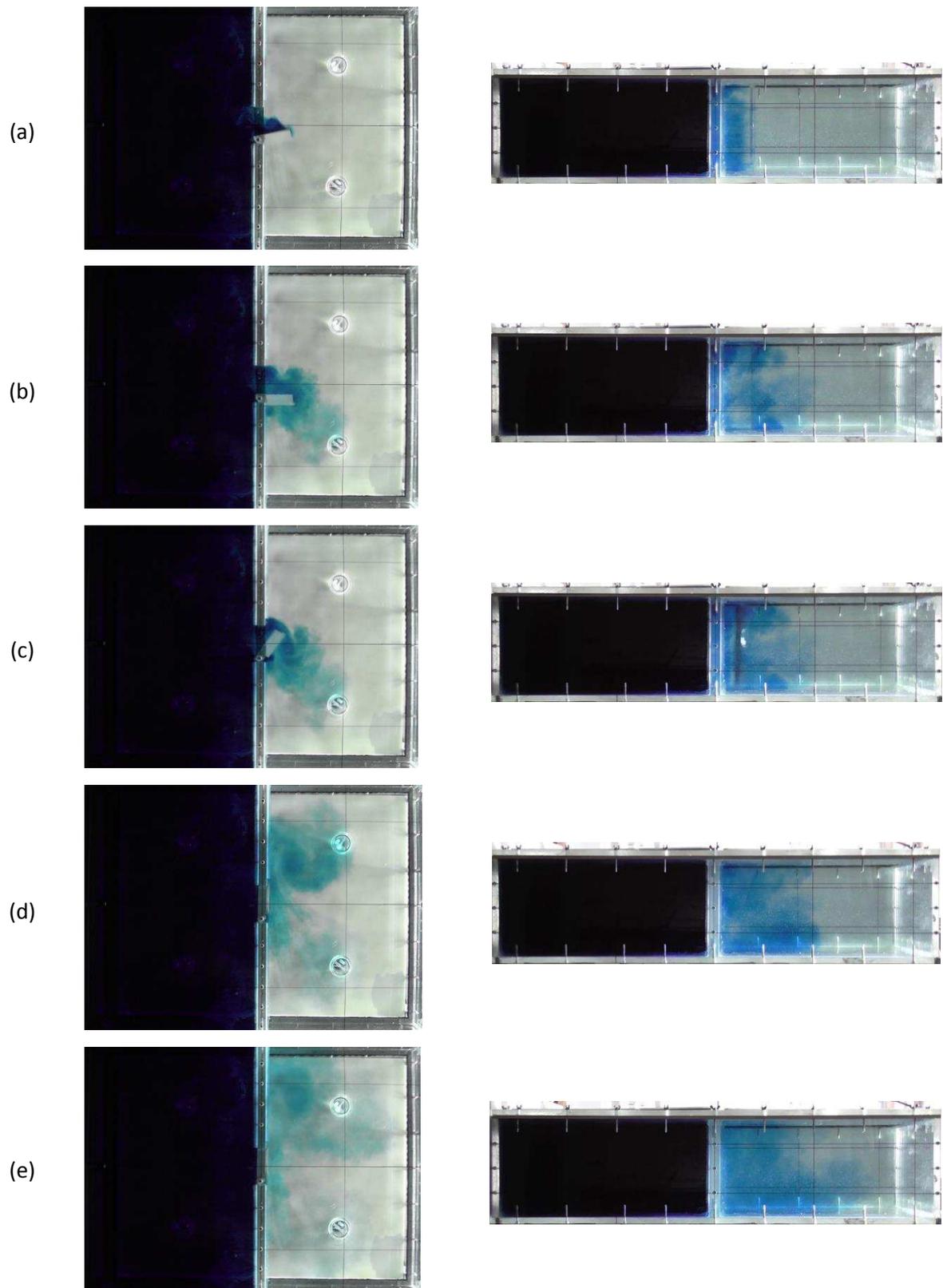


Figure 4. Instantaneous frames showing the mass flux at different times after the door started to open: (a) 4.00 s, (b) 10.94 s, (c) 12.54 sec, (d) 23.35 s (or 7.74 s after door closure), (e) 42.15 s (or 26.55 after door closure). The hold open time was about 6.67 s. (times given are for the full scale)

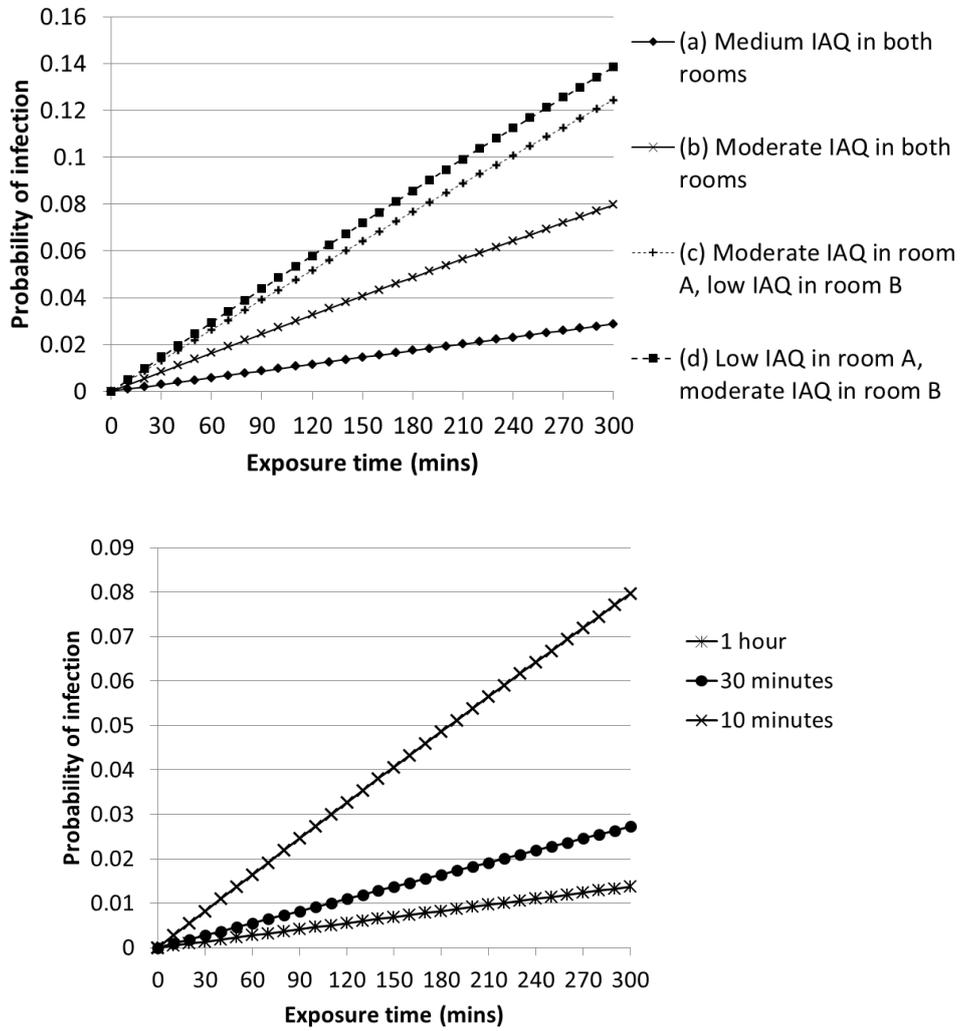


Figure 5: Comparison of different ventilation rates on the probability of infection (Pr) from an outbreak of flu in scenario (1) an office (top) and different door schedules for a ventilation rate of moderate IAQ standard ($8l/s/person$) (bottom)

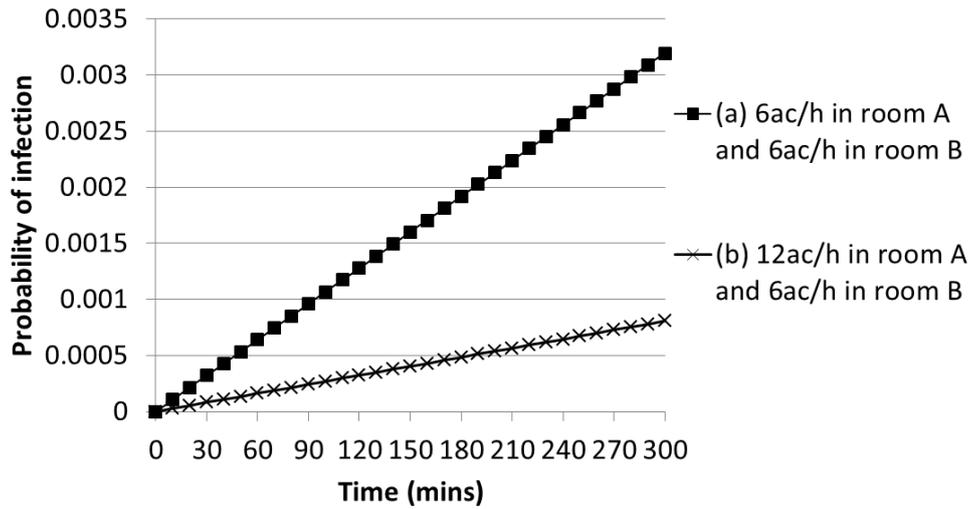


Figure 6: Probability of infection (Pr) in scenario (2) due to TB spreading from a side room for two ventilation regimes.

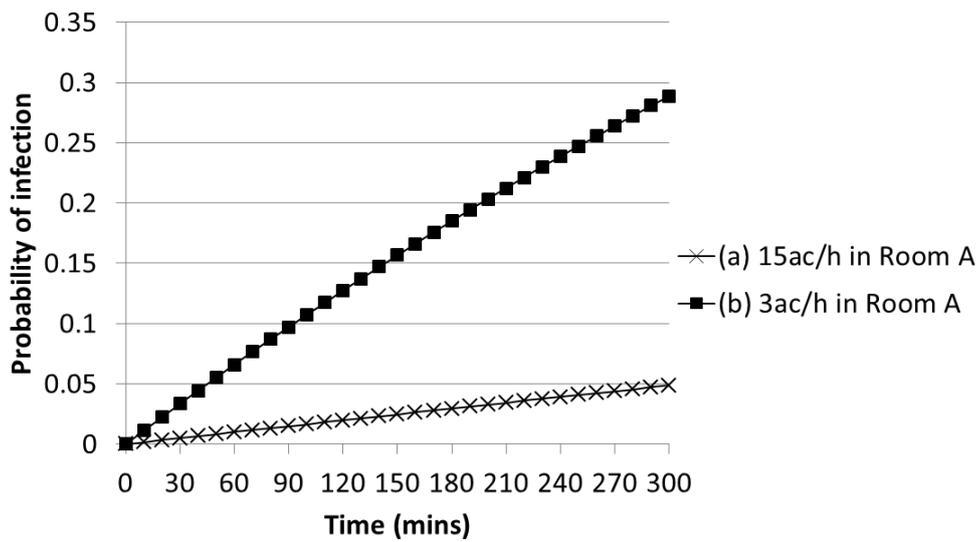


Figure 7: Probability of infection (Pr) in scenario (3) due to TB spreading from a bronchoscopy suite for two ventilation regimes.