



Simulations of interactions between buildings and their outdoor conditions at multiple scales

Dr. Miguel Martin

Agenda

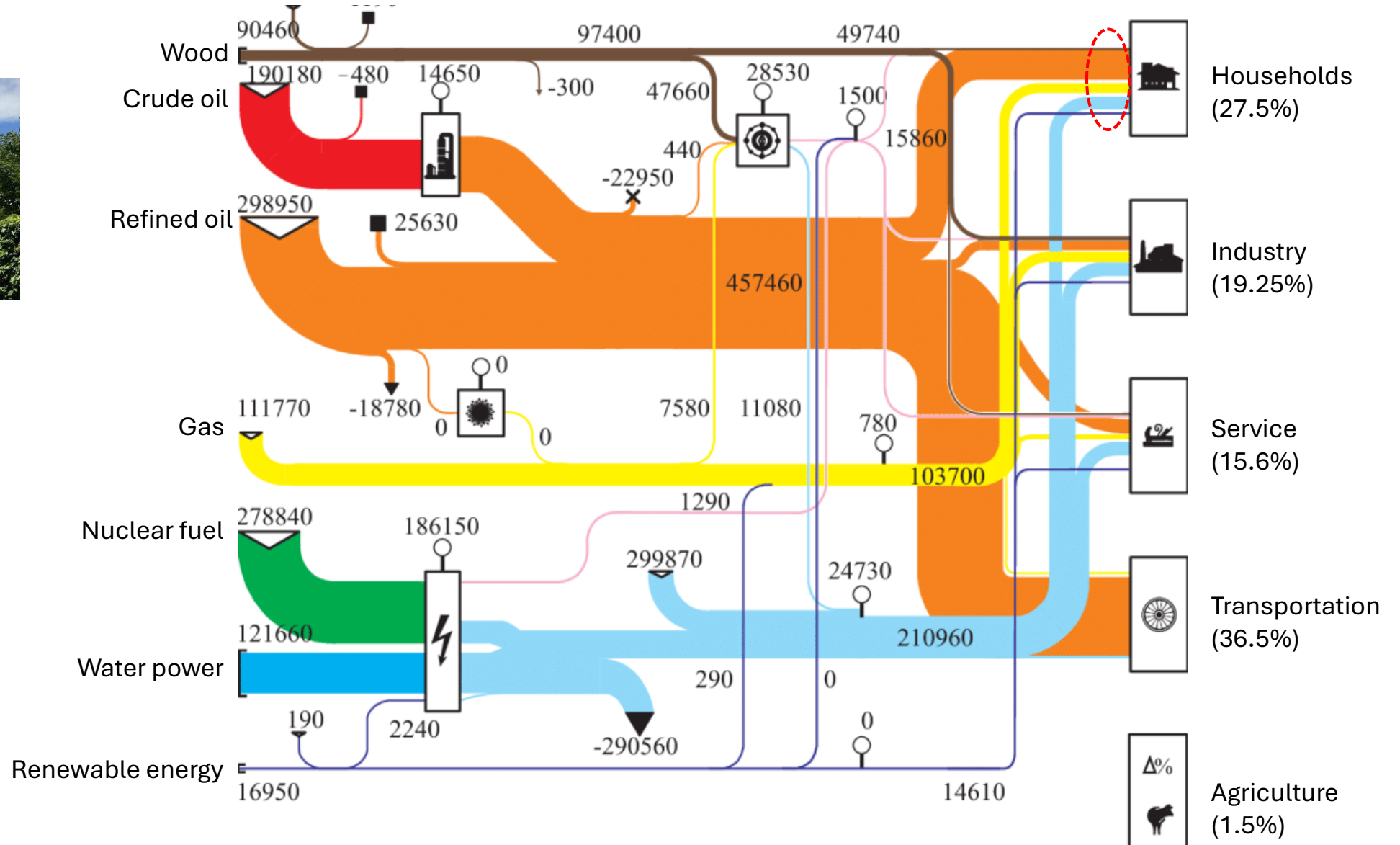
- Past research in simulations of interactions between one building and its outdoor conditions
- Overview of the SCIENCES project
- Coupling between detailed building energy models and a data driven urban canopy model for neighbourhood scale simulations
- Impact of interactions between buildings and their outdoor conditions on the calibration of an urban building energy model
- A full grey box model to simulate interactions between buildings and their outdoor conditions at the city scale

A city skyline at sunset with a white text box overlaid on the left side. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark orange and red clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the buildings. The water in the foreground reflects the colors of the sky. The text box is white with a red border at the bottom.

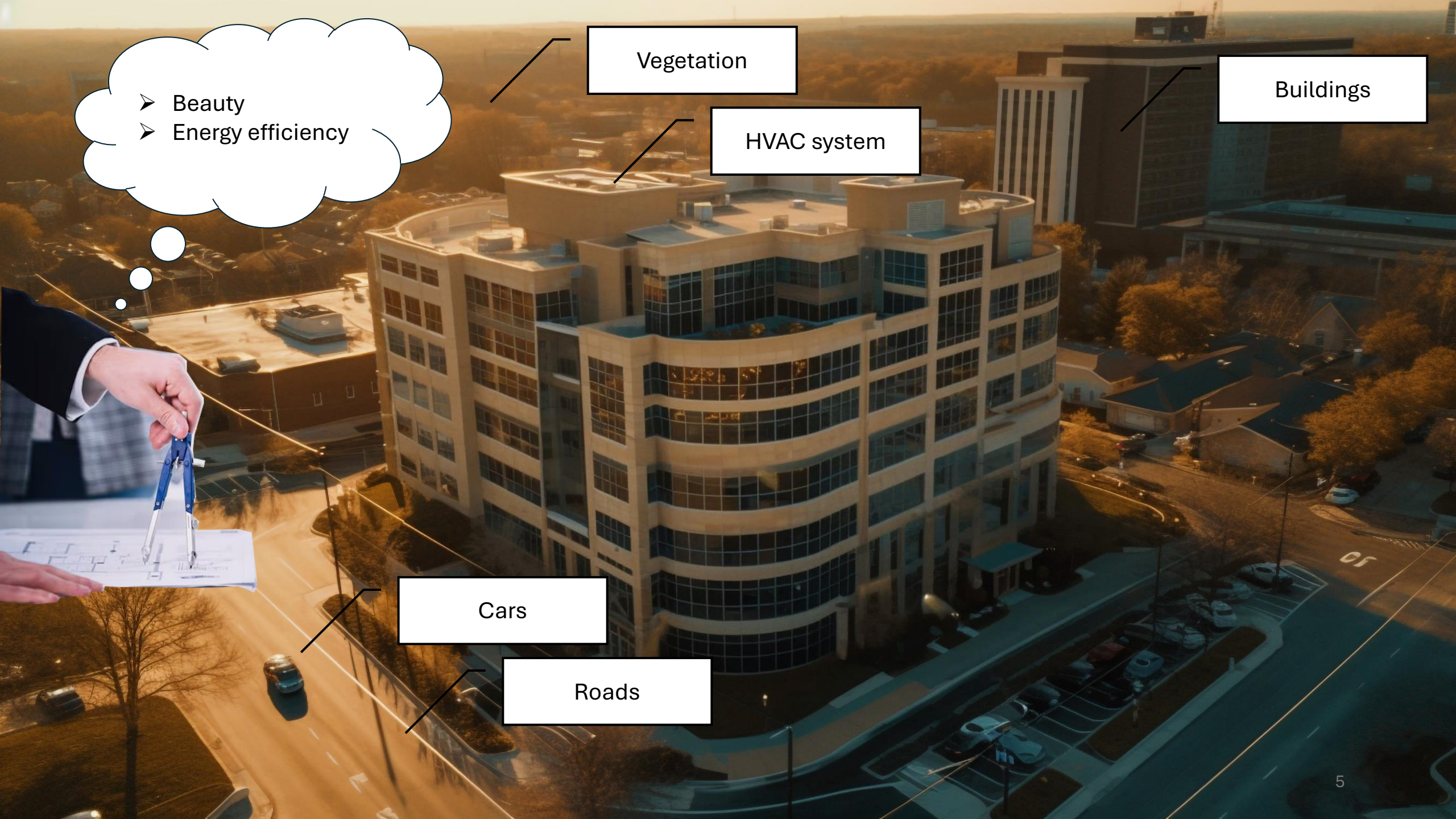
Past research in building energy and urban microclimate modelling



Energy Centre



Berger, M. (2012). Urban heat-balling-A review of measures on reducing heat in tropical and subtropical cities. *Sustainable future energy*, 445-451.



Vegetation

Buildings

HVAC system

- Beauty
- Energy efficiency

Cars

Roads



Temp.

Hum.

Heat

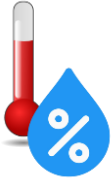
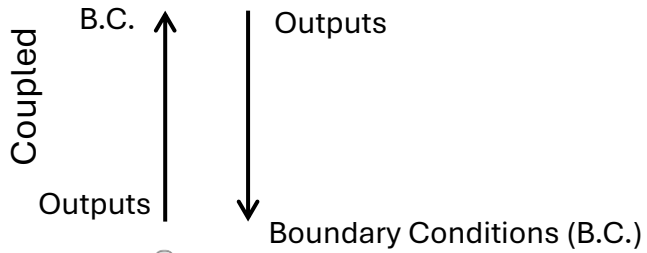
Vapour

White box

Grey box

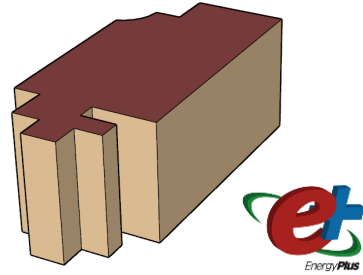
Black box

Building energy model

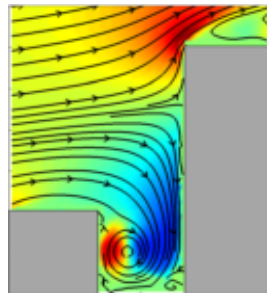


Urban microclimate model

Detailed model



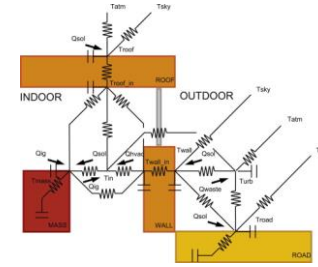
Computational fluid dynamics



Son et al. (2022)

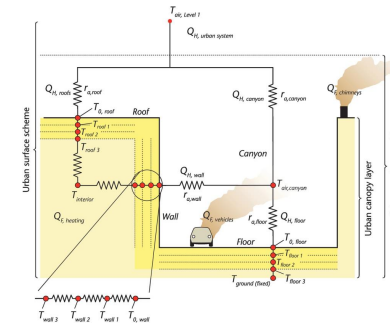
OpenFOAM

Lumped thermal model



Bueno et al. (2012)

Lumped thermal model



Oke et al. (2017)

Statistical model

LR



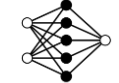
RF



SVM



ANN



Statistical model

LR



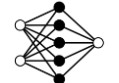
RF

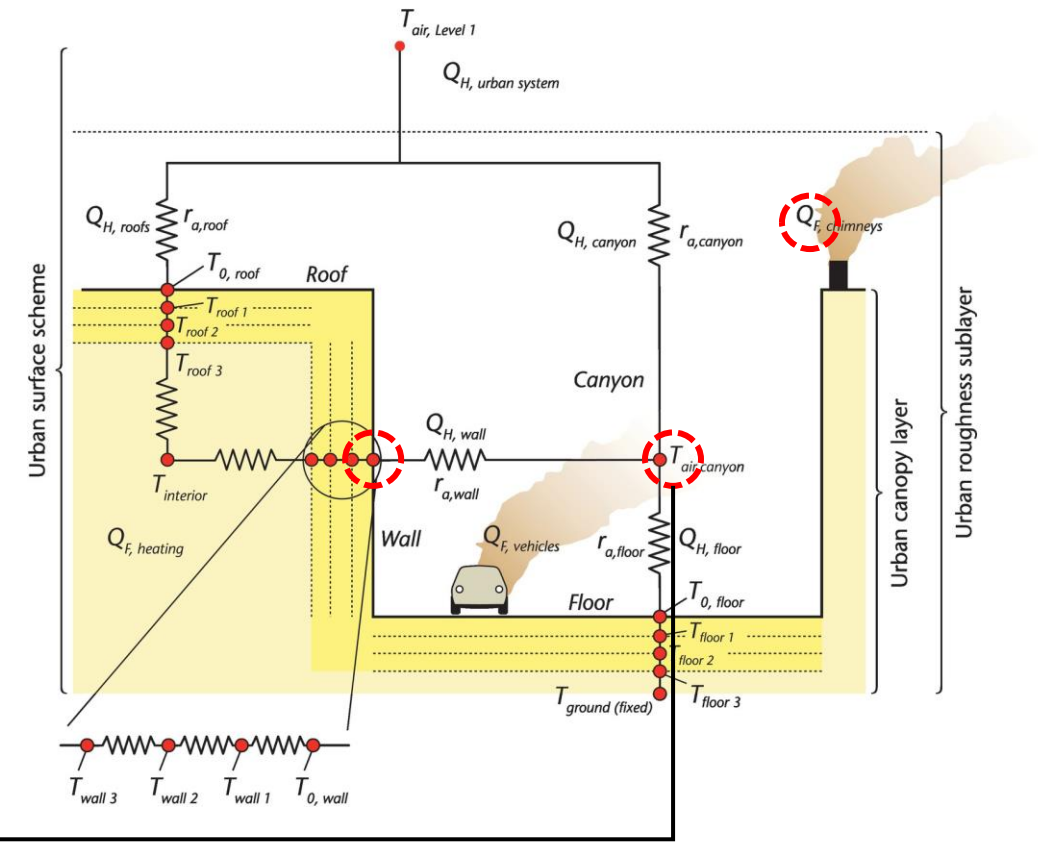
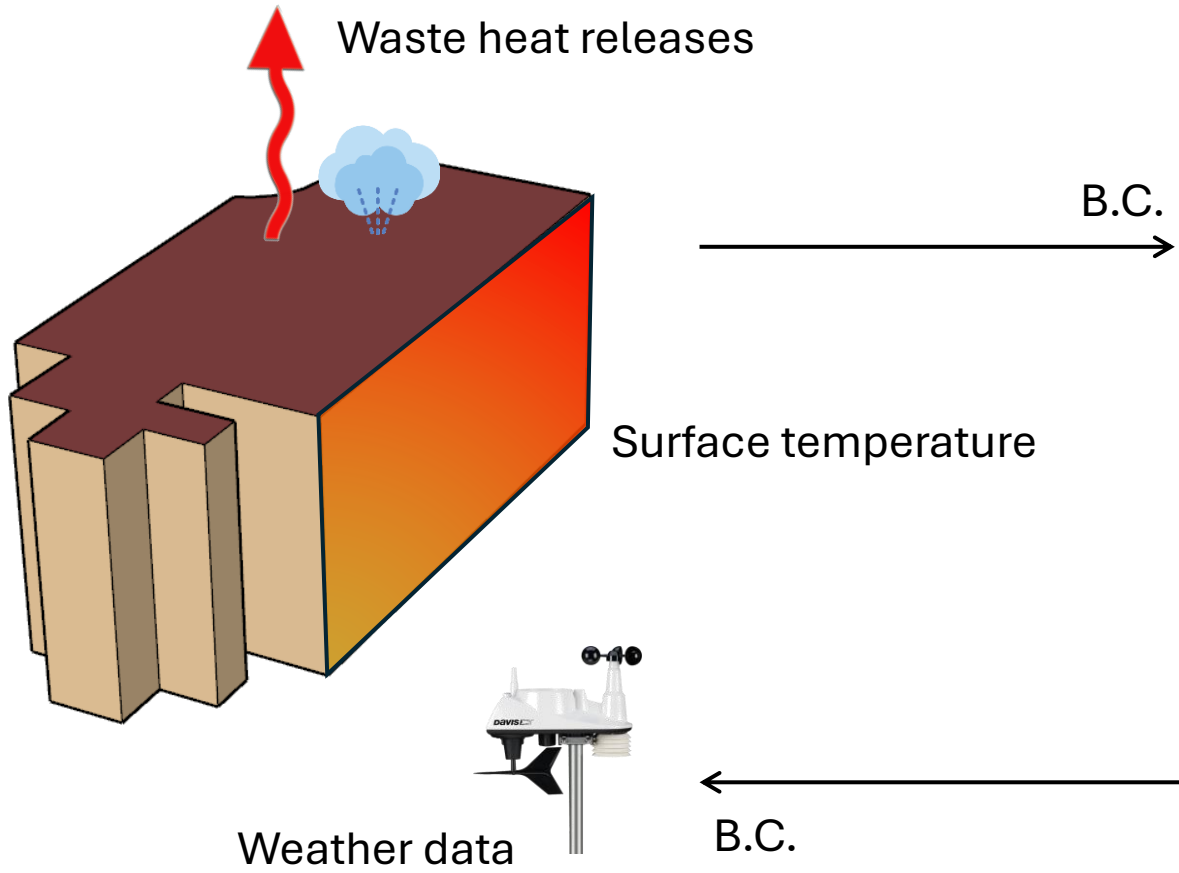


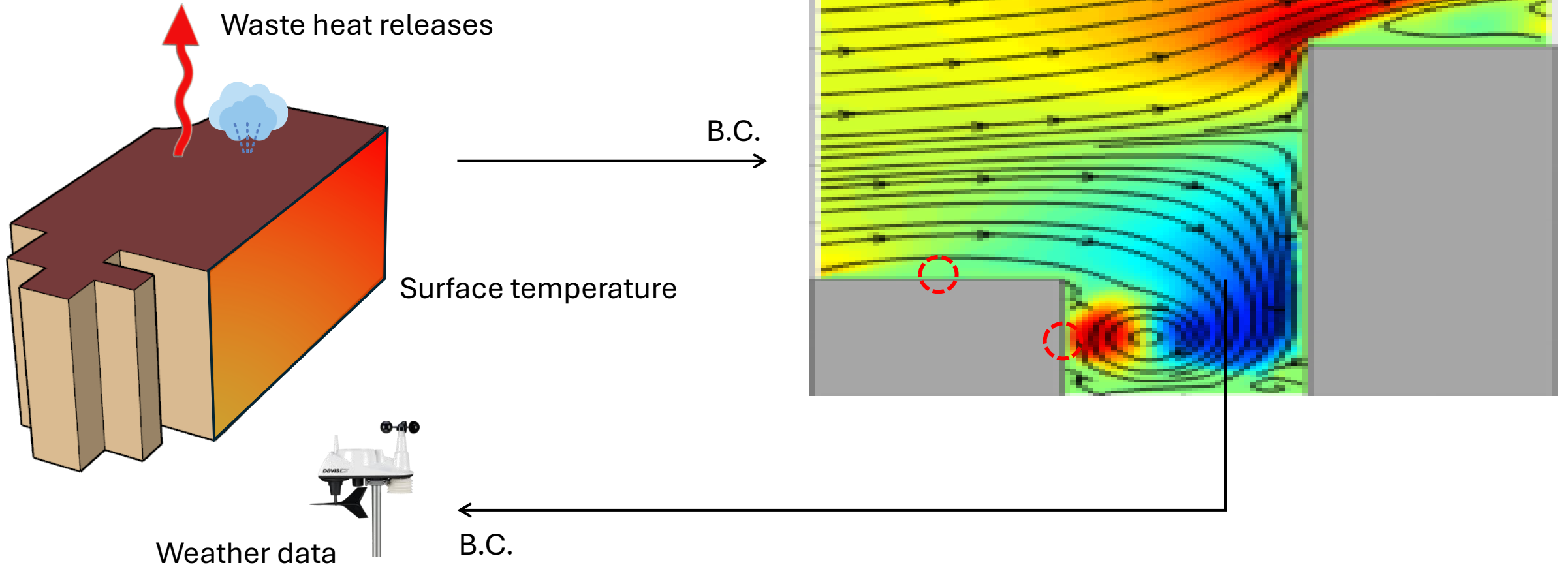
SVM

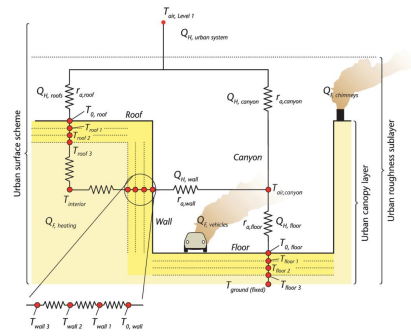


ANN

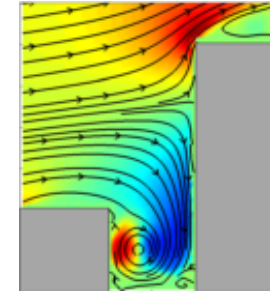




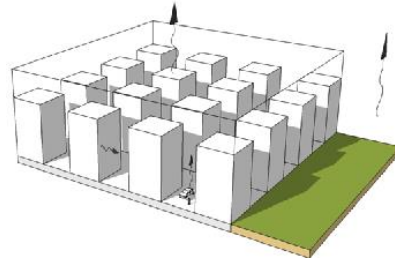




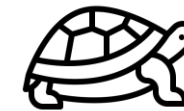
versus



Urban morphology

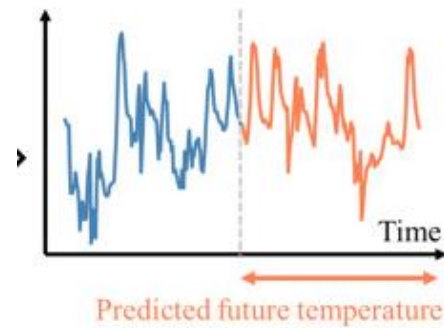


Computational efforts



Short- and long-term predictions

UHI mitigation strategies



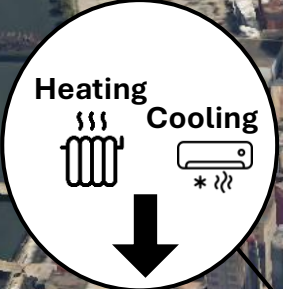
Bureau of Street Services LA

Perez et al. (2014)

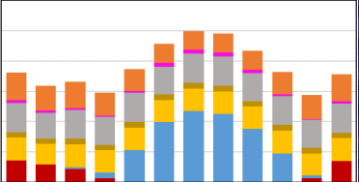
A dramatic sunset over a city skyline, likely New York City, with a white text box overlaid on the left side. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and red clouds, and the city buildings are silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun. The water in the foreground reflects the colors of the sky.

Overview SCIENCES project



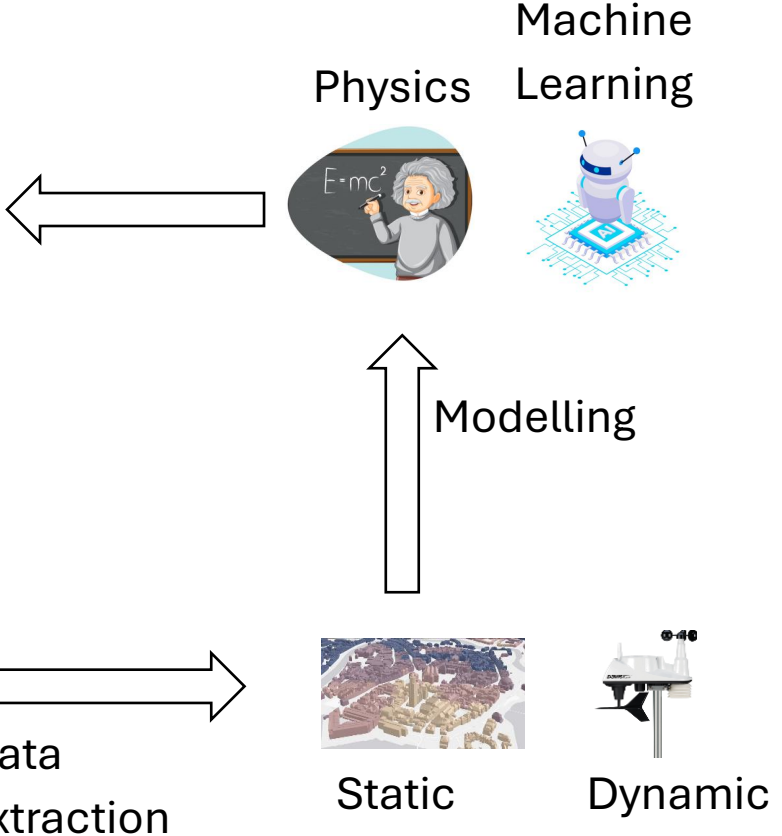


Building energy use



Outdoor conditions

MONDAY, MAY 23
27°C / 81F
14:35
Real Feel 25°C / 76F
Humidity 61%

A weather icon depicting a sun partially obscured by a blue cloud, with three white raindrops falling from the bottom of the cloud.

Data integration

Model generation

Simulation

Calibration

Application

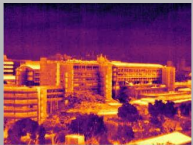
3D city model



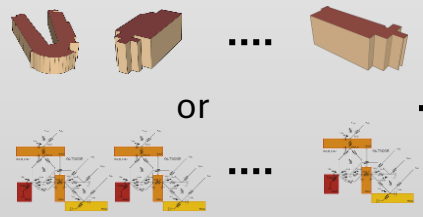
Weather data



Thermal images



Energy data



or

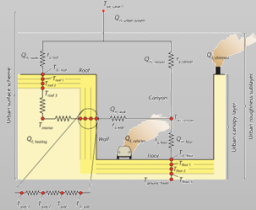
BEMs



Uncertain parameters of white box BEMs

Co-simulate from t_0 to t_N

UMM



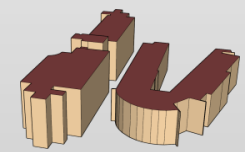
Sensitivity analysis

Sampling generation

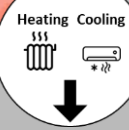
Surrogate modelling

Optimization

Trained or calibrated model

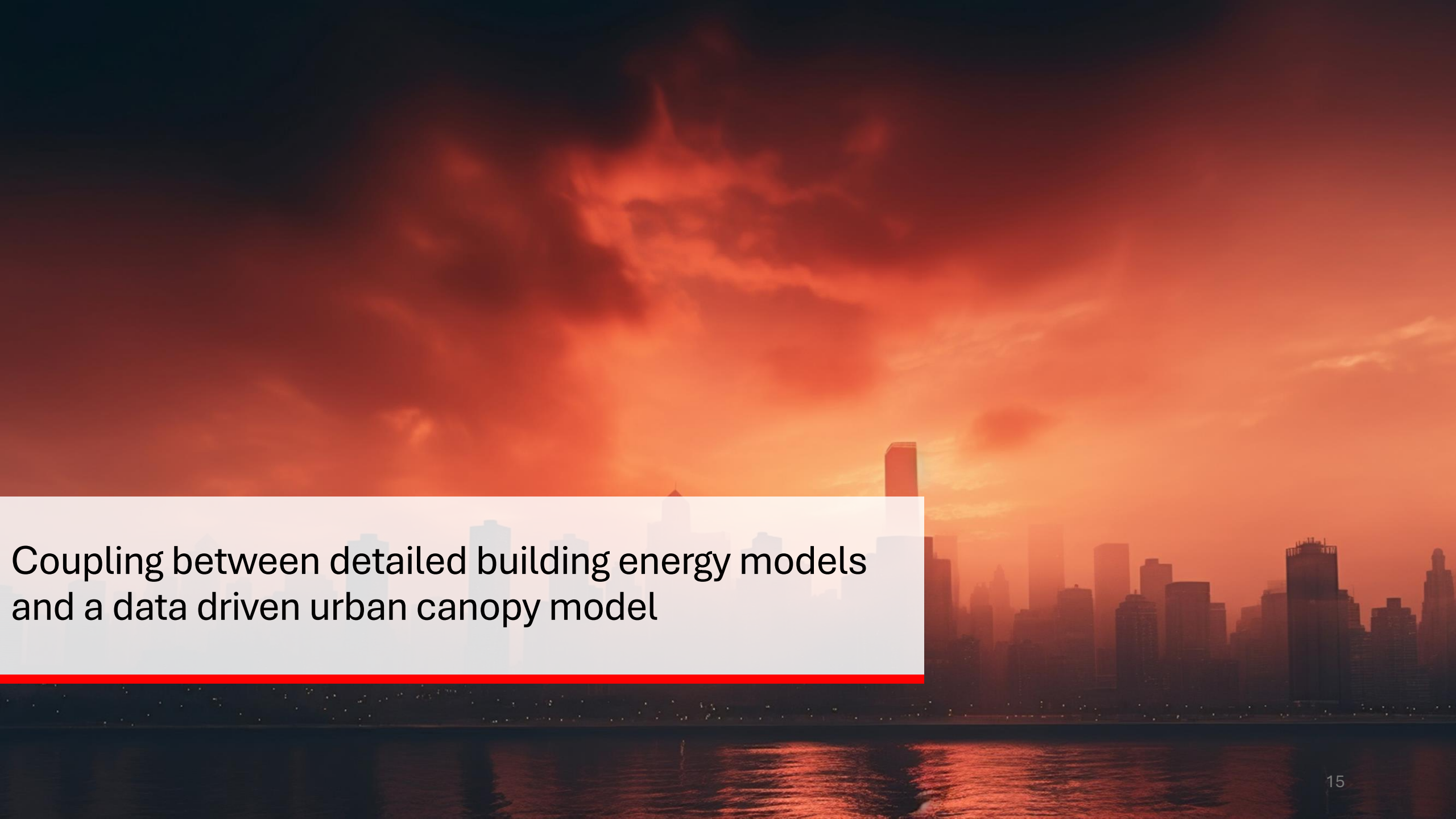


Anthropogenic heat



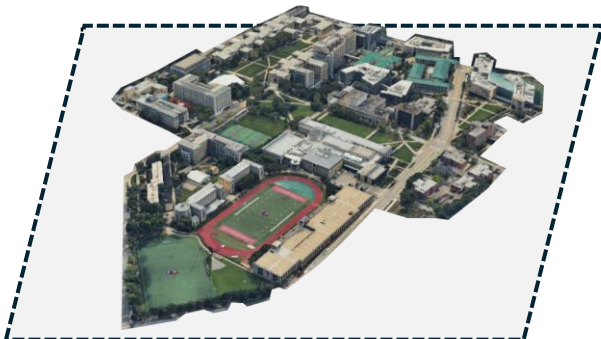
UHI countermeasures



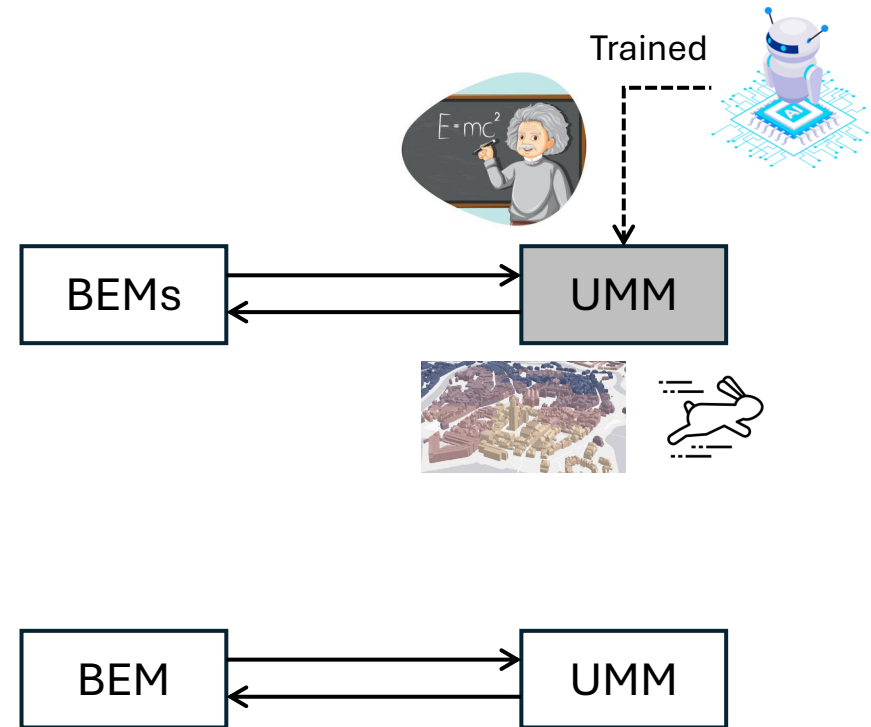
A city skyline at sunset with a white text box overlaid on the left side. The sky is filled with dramatic, orange and red clouds, and the water in the foreground reflects the warm light. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright horizon.

Coupling between detailed building energy models and a data driven urban canopy model

**Neighbourhood
scale**

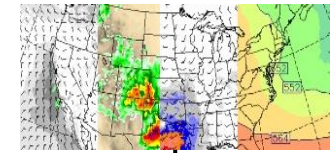


**Building
scale**



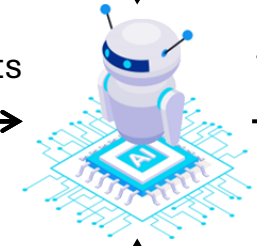


Weather simulations



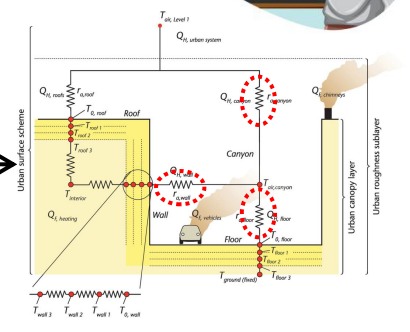
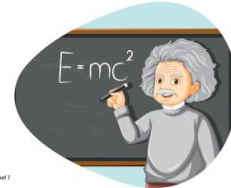
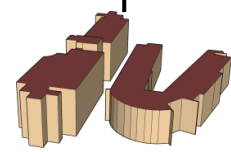
Simulated data

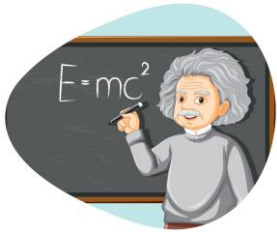
Measurements



Trained

Simulated data





Heat and water mass stored by the street canyon

Convective heat and mass transfer between surfaces and the air volume

Sensible and latent heat releases by buildings and traffic



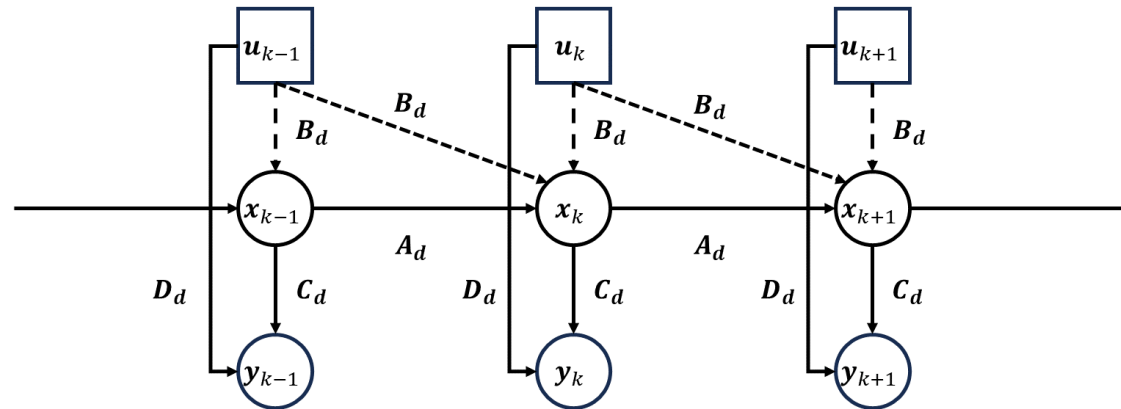
$$\begin{aligned}
 C \frac{d\bar{T}_{can}}{dt} &= \sum_{m=1}^M h_m A_m (\bar{T}_m - \bar{T}_{can}) + \sum_{n=1}^N H_n \\
 C \frac{d\bar{q}_{can}}{dt} &= \sum_{p=1}^P h_p A_p (\bar{q}_m - \bar{q}_{can}) + \frac{C_p}{L} \sum_{q=1}^Q LE_q
 \end{aligned}$$



Discrete linear state space

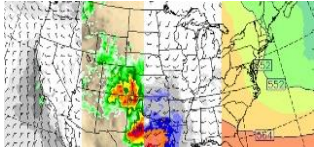
Linear state space

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{x} &= A \cdot x + B \cdot u \\
 y &= C \cdot x + D \cdot u
 \end{aligned}$$

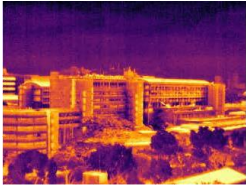


- - -> **Implicit discretization scheme**
- > **Explicit discretization scheme**

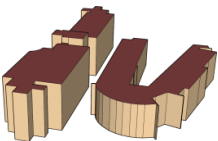
Climate model



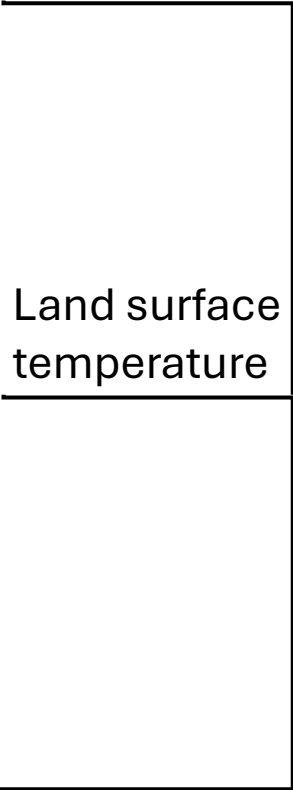
Thermal images



Building models

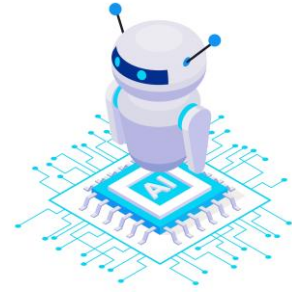


Atmospheric conditions



Land surface temperature

Wall and window surface temperature
Sensible and latent waste heat releases



A_d, B_d, C_d, D_d

Discrete linear state space

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_{n+1} &= A_d \cdot x_n + B_d \cdot u_n \\ y_{n+1} &= C_d \cdot x_n + D_d \cdot u_n \end{aligned}$$

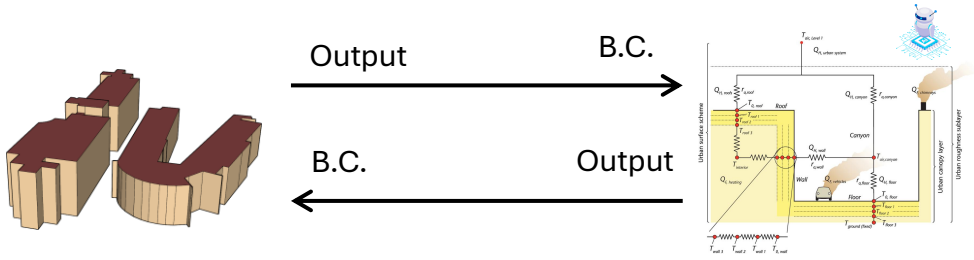
Input vector

Measurements

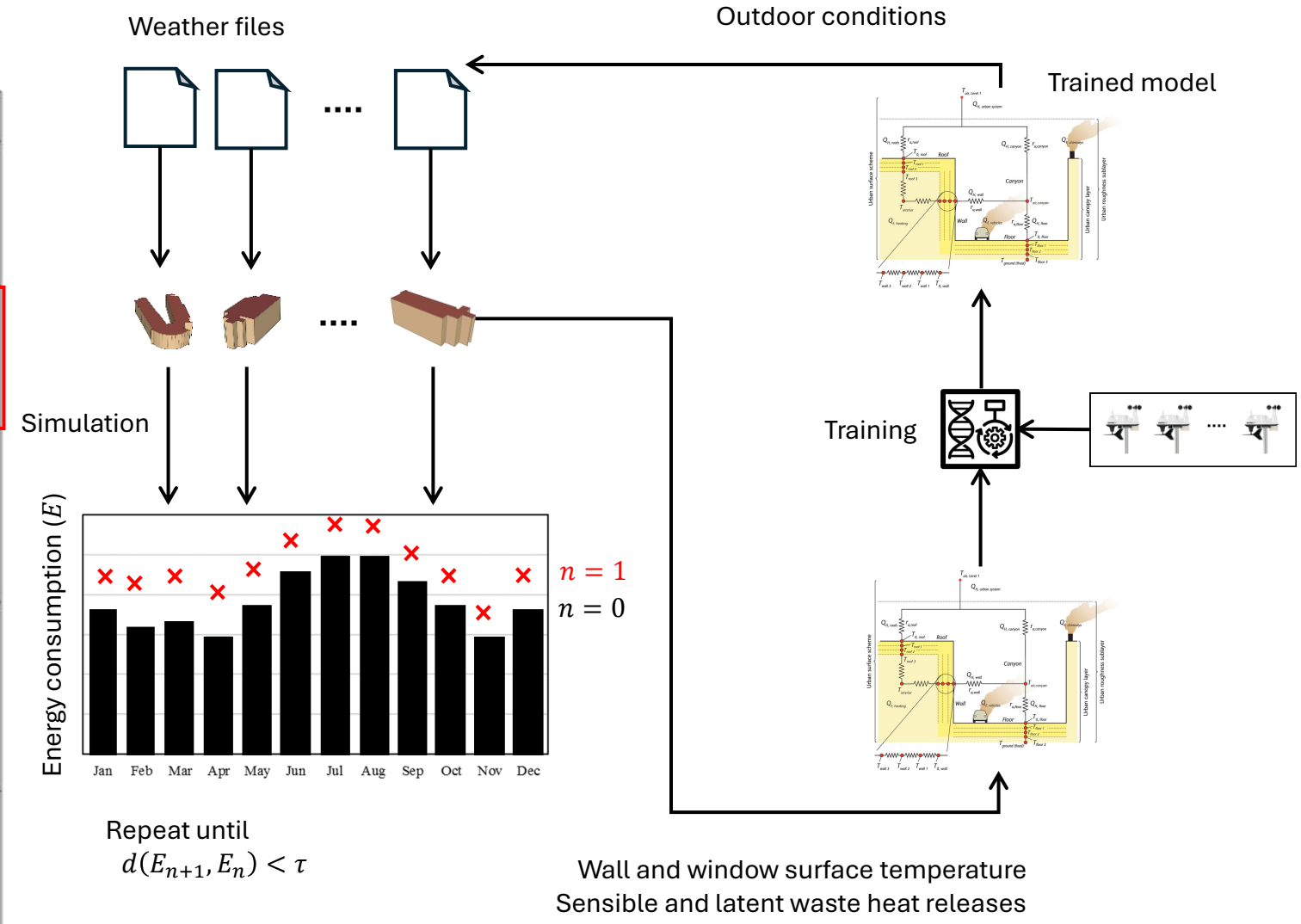
$$\min_{h_1 \dots h_M} d(\hat{y}_n, y_n)$$

Genetic Algorithm



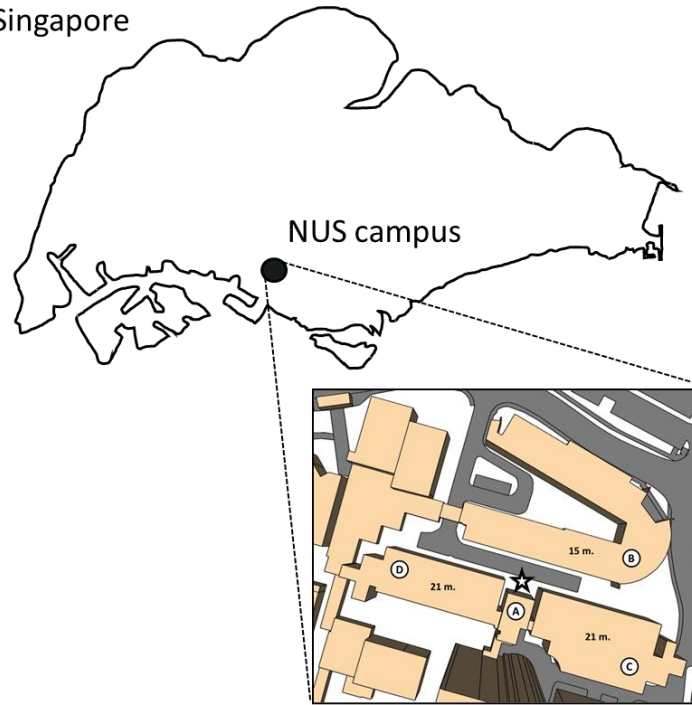


Staged Coupling	Illustration of Methodologies
Static Coupling	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div> <p>One Step</p> <p>ES → CFD</p> <p>CFD → ES</p> </div> <div> <p>Two Step</p> <p>ES → CFD → ES</p> <p>CFD → ES → CFD</p> </div> </div>
	<p>One-Time-Step Dynamic Coupling</p> <p>ES ↔ CFD</p> <p>Iterate till converge at one specific time step</p>
Dynamic Coupling	<p>Quasi-Dynamic Coupling</p> <p>ES → CFD → ES → CFD → ...</p> <p>1st step 2nd step</p> <p>A period of time</p>
	<p>Full Dynamic Coupling</p> <p>ES ↔ CFD ↔ ES ↔ CFD → ...</p> <p>1st step 2nd step</p> <p>iterate till converge iterate till converge</p> <p>A period of time</p>
	<p>Virtual Dynamic Coupling</p> <p>ES ↔ CFD</p> <p>Different situations</p> <p>Generate functions database of $\Delta T_{\text{la,ir}}$ and h_{lc}</p> <p>Year round</p> <p>ES</p>

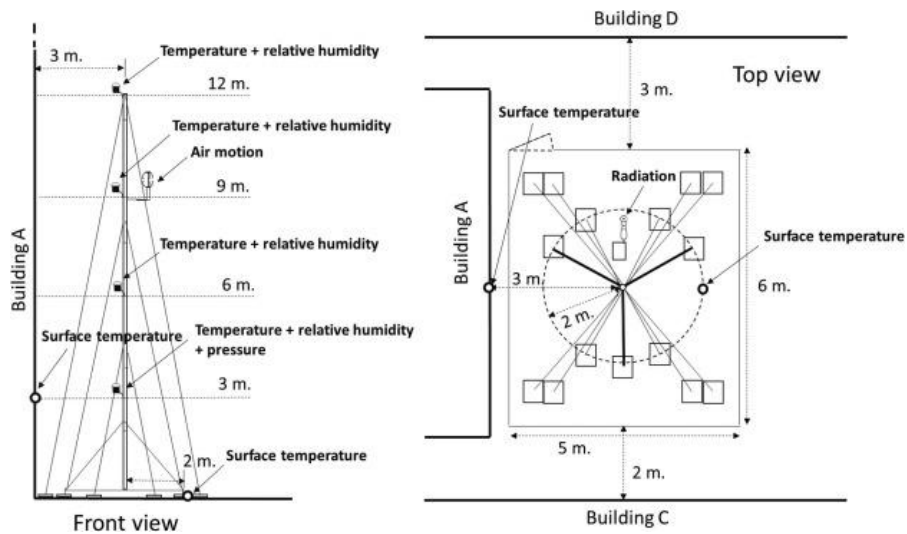
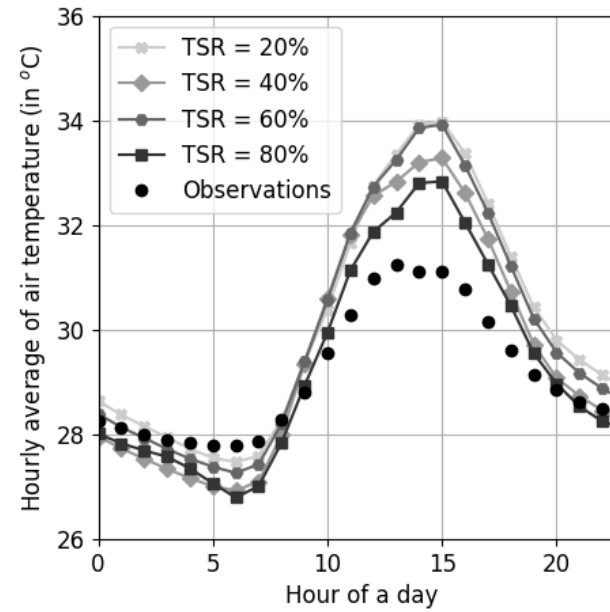


Zhang, R., Mirzaei, P. A., & Jones, B. (2018). Development of a dynamic external CFD and BES coupling framework for application of urban neighbourhoods energy modelling. *Building and Environment*, 146, 37-49.


Singapore



TSR = Training Sampling Ratio



TSR	Temperature		Humidity		Size test samples
	RMSE (K)	MBE (K)	RMSE (g/kg)	MAE (g/kg)	
20%	2.24	0.93	6.80	5.90	8291
40%	2.24	0.39	4.19	3.67	6219
60%	2.31	0.80	5.46	4.76	4146
80%	2.16	0.23	4.42	3.82	2074

A city skyline at sunset with a white text box. The sky is a vibrant orange and red, with dark clouds. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky. The water in the foreground reflects the colors of the sunset. A white rectangular box with a red border at the bottom contains the text.

Calibration of an urban building energy model

HVAC system ???



Windows ???



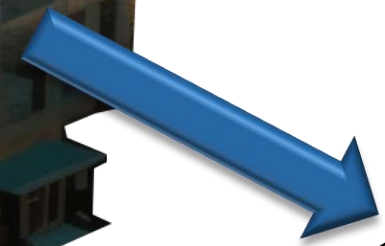
Materials ???



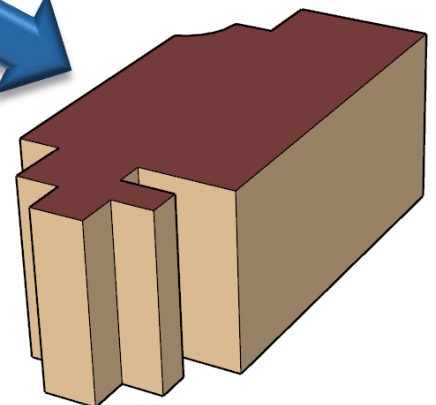
What parameters significantly affect the energy consumption?
(sensitivity analysis)

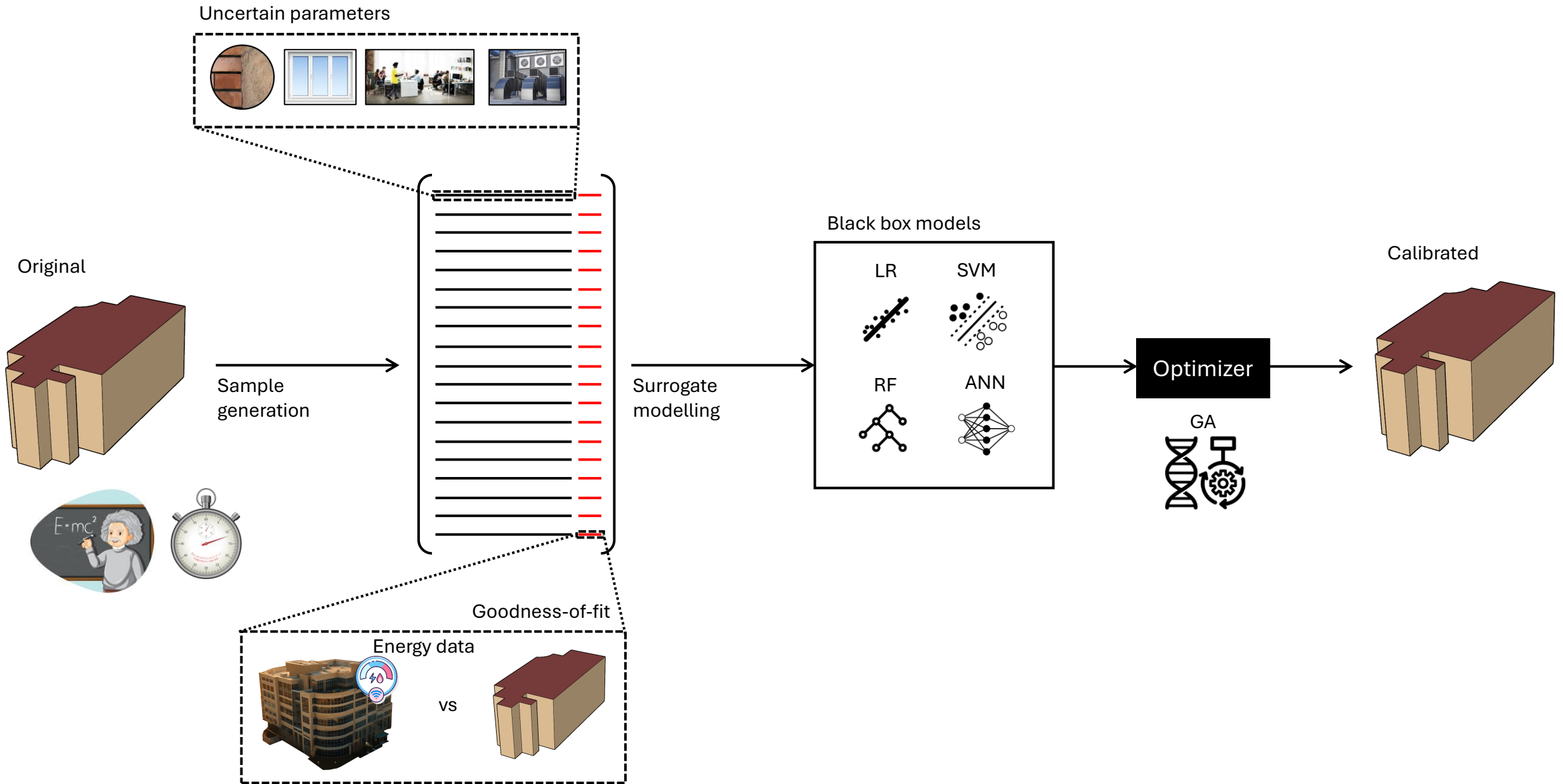


???



Building energy model





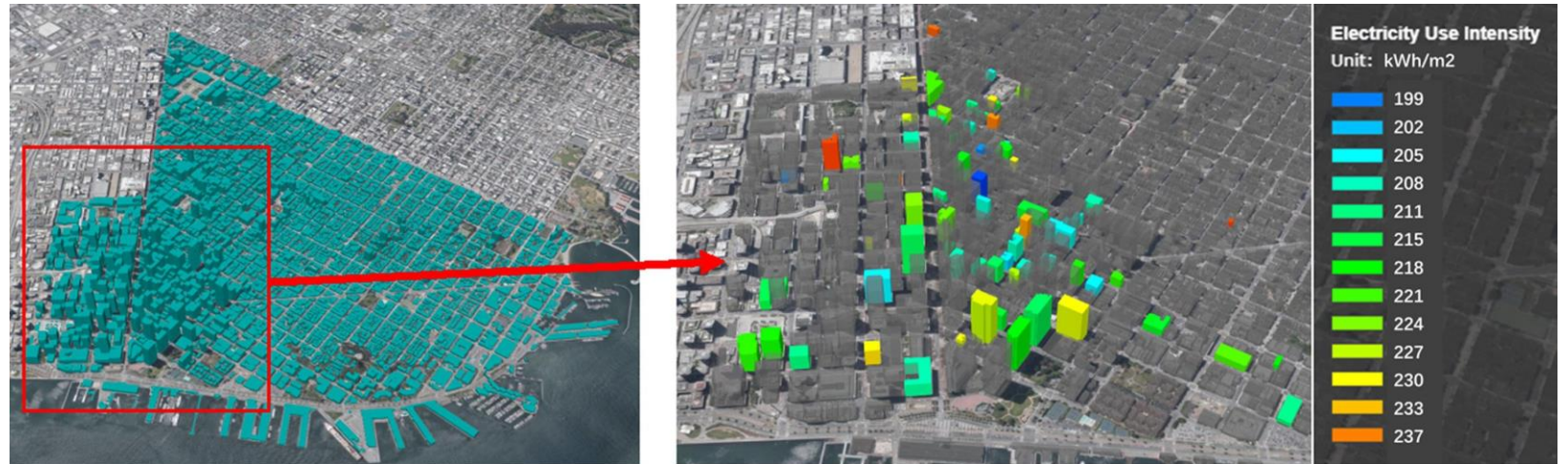
Sensitivity analysis

Sampling generation

Surrogate modelling

Optimization

Urban building energy model



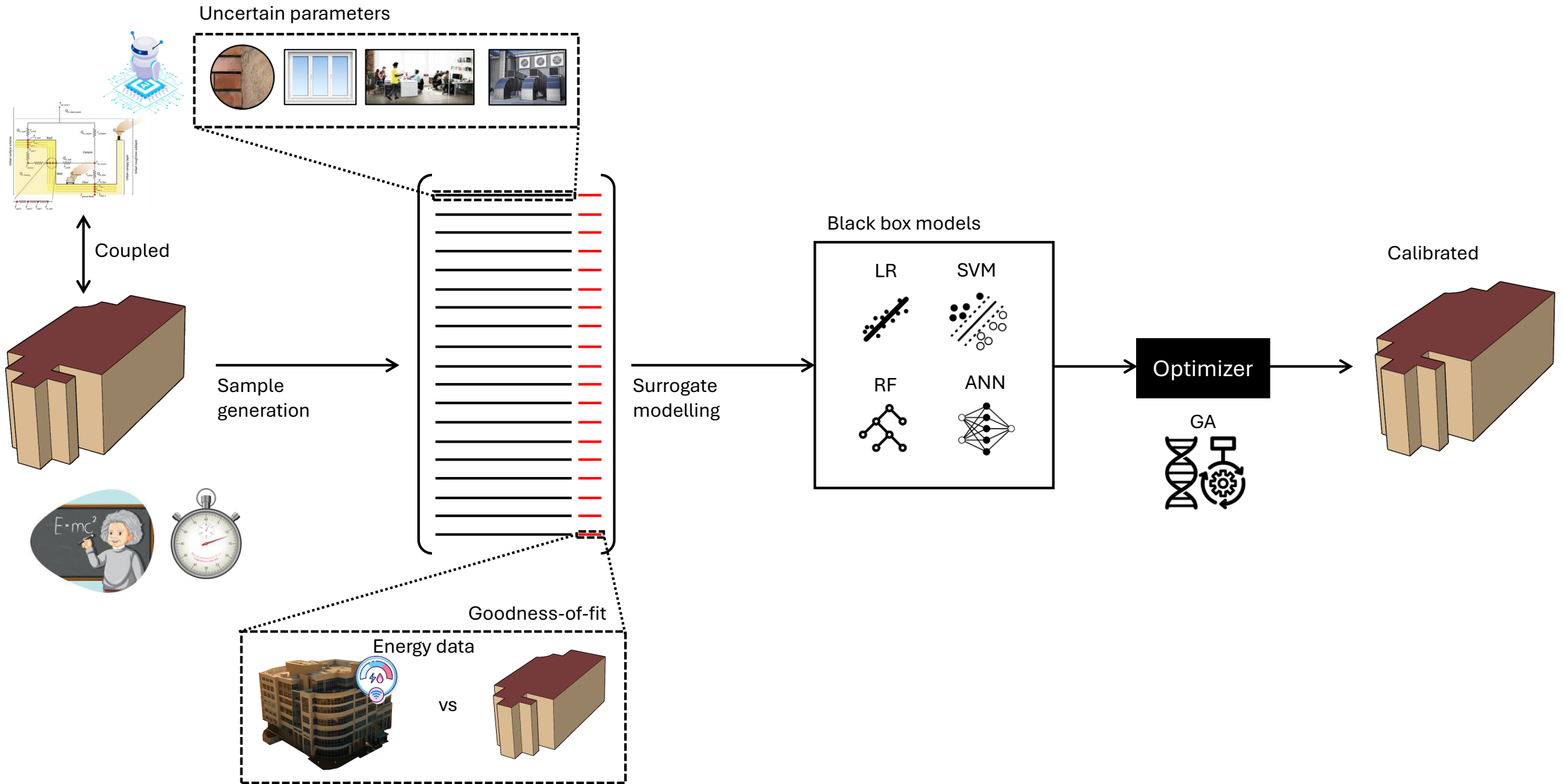
Chen et al. (2020)

(a)

(b)



Why are interactions between buildings and their outdoor conditions being ignored in most urban building energy models?



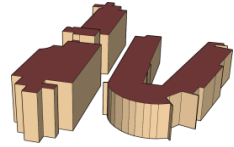
Sensitivity analysis

Sampling generation

Surrogate modelling

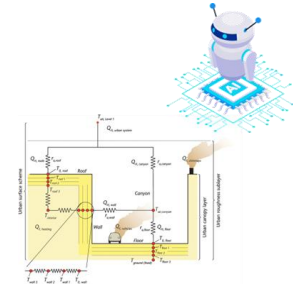
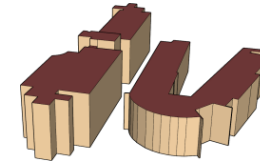
Optimization

Uncoupled



versus

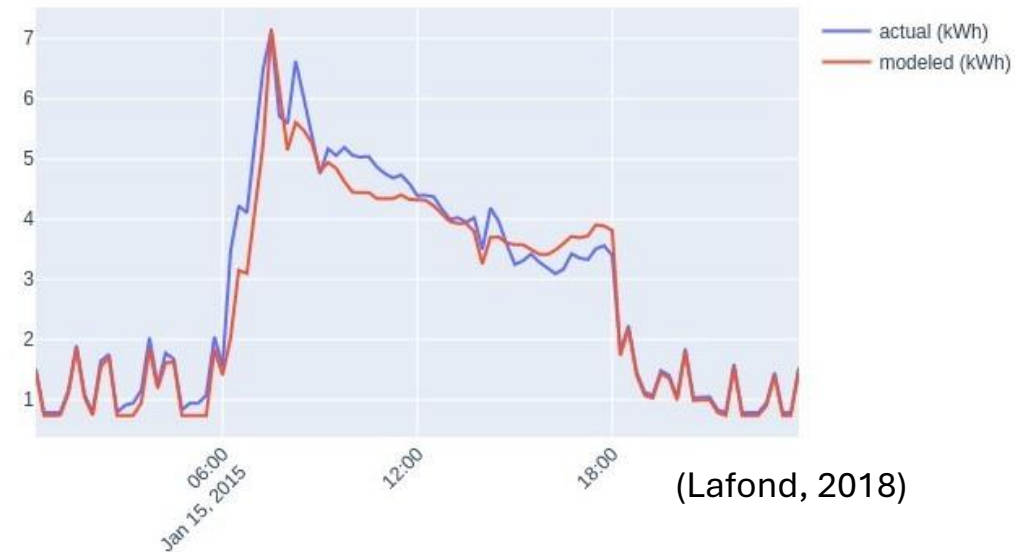
Coupled



Goodness-of-fit

$$CV(RMSE) = \frac{1}{\bar{Y}} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (Y_i - \hat{Y}_i)^2}{N}}$$

Total heating/cooling load



(Lafond, 2018)

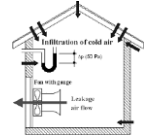
Sensitivity analysis

Sampling generation

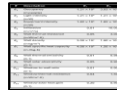
Surrogate modelling

Optimization

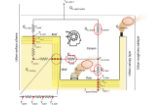
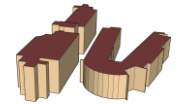
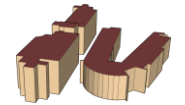
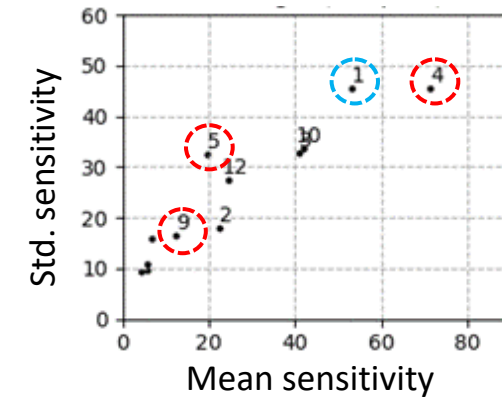
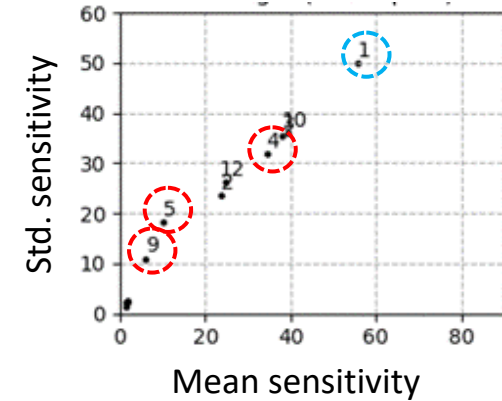
$$S(\theta_i) = \Delta CV(RMSE) / \Delta \theta_i$$



INIVE EEIG (2004)



θ	Description	θ_l	θ_u
θ_1	Occupancy (in people)	1.21×10^2	3.03×10^3
θ_2	Light intensity (in W)	1.21×10^4	1.21×10^5
θ_3	Equipment intensity (in W)	1.82×10^4	1.82×10^5
θ_4	Infiltration (in m^3/s)	0.01	10.00
θ_5	Wall thermal resistance (in W/m^2-K)	0.05	3.00
θ_6	Wall density (in kg/m^3)	3.00×10^2	1.80×10^3
θ_7	Wall specific heat capacity (in $J/kg-K$)	4.00×10^2	1.50×10^3
θ_8	Wall thermal emissivity (0-1)	0.01	0.98
θ_9	Wall solar absorptivity (0-1)	0.05	0.90
θ_{10}	Window-to-wall ratio (0-1)	0.01	0.90
θ_{11}	Window thermal resistance (in W/m^2-K)	0.04	1.50
θ_{12}	Window solar heat gain (0-1)	0.20	0.90

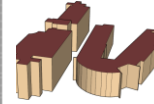
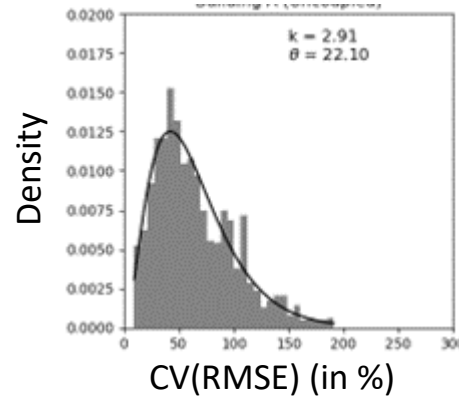


Sensitivity analysis

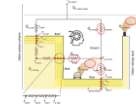
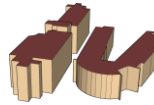
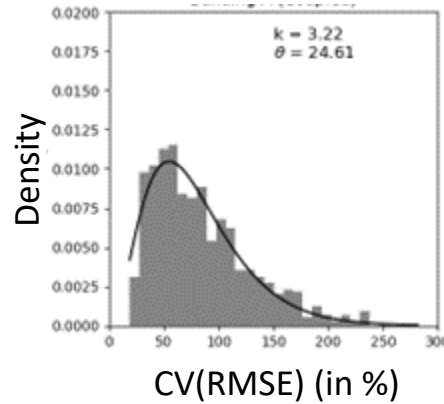
Sampling generation

Surrogate modelling

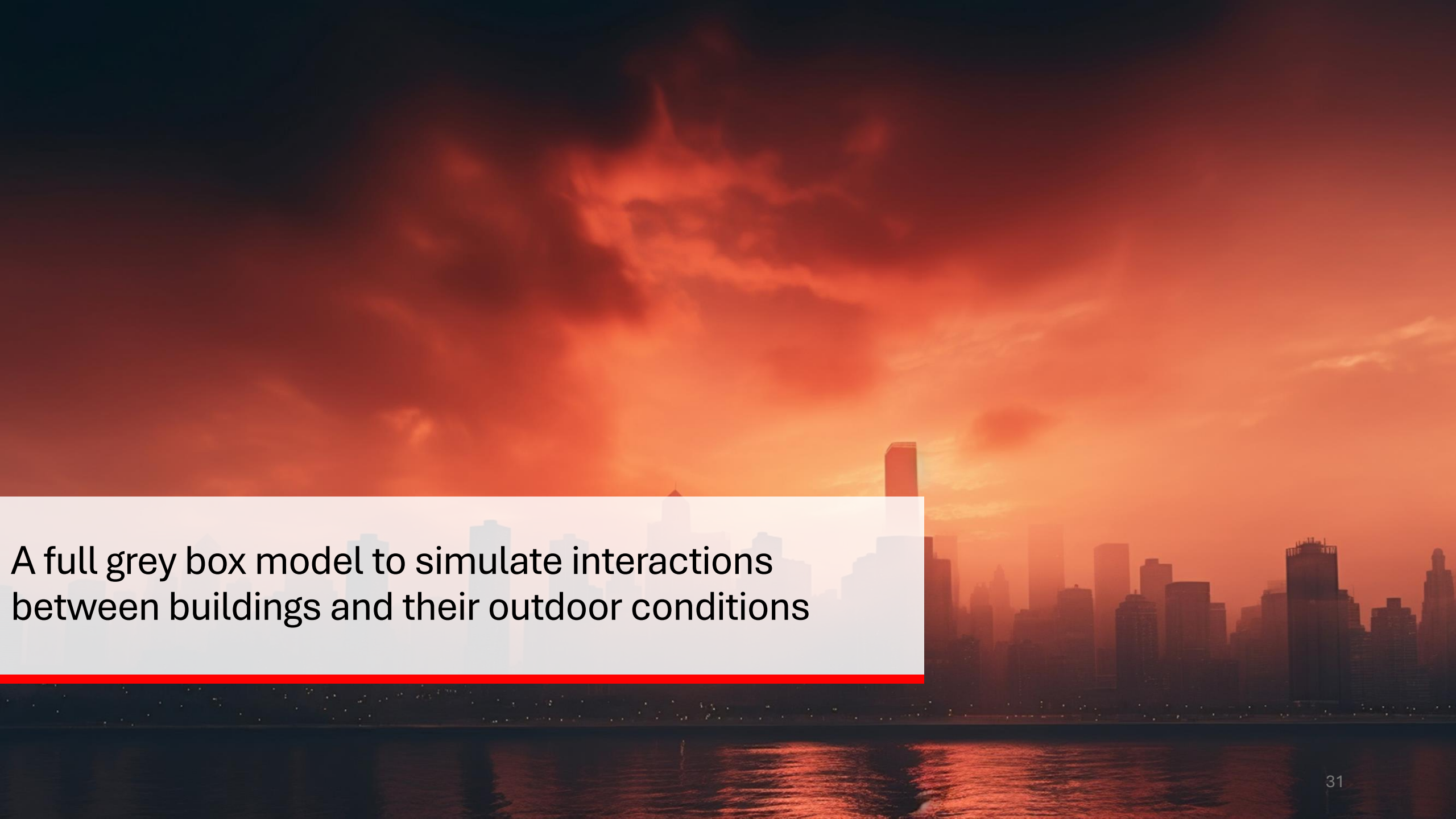
Optimization



	Building A		Building B		Building C	
	20%	30%	20%	30%	20%	30%
Uncoupled	7.2	17.2	3.9	13.5	4.4	13.0
Coupled	3.5	9.6	3.7	9.6	3.0	8.6



θ	Building A		Building B		Building C	
	coeff.	t	coeff.	t	coeff.	t
θ_1	0.0141	27.1	0.0156	35.4	0.0140	28.8
θ_2	0.0001	10.0	0.0001	11.1	0.0001	8.9
θ_3	0.0001	14.7	0.0002	21.3	0.0002	18.4
θ_4	4.1065	27.0	4.7787	37.6	4.2432	29.8
θ_5	-1.6943	-3.4	-1.2795	-2.9	0.0304	0.1
θ_6	-0.0012	-1.1	-0.0007	-0.7	-0.0006	-0.6
θ_7	-0.0052	-3.6	-0.0020	-1.7	-0.0011	-0.8
θ_8	-3.9092	-2.8	-2.3606	-1.7	-0.9580	-0.6
θ_9	3.6317	2.0	11.7867	7.8	14.0499	8.0
θ_{10}	41.6530	24.5	28.1425	20.1	24.8345	16.3
θ_{11}	2.7882	2.7	2.4681	-2.9	3.7907	3.7
θ_{12}	33.4358	15.7	22.3531	12.6	20.9123	10.2
C	20.8267	17.4	21.8236	21.8	18.2139	16.3

A city skyline at sunset with a white text box overlaid on the left side. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and red clouds, and the water in the foreground reflects the colors. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky.

A full grey box model to simulate interactions between buildings and their outdoor conditions

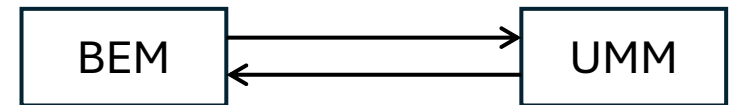
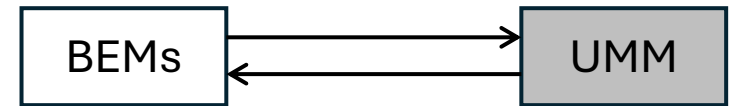
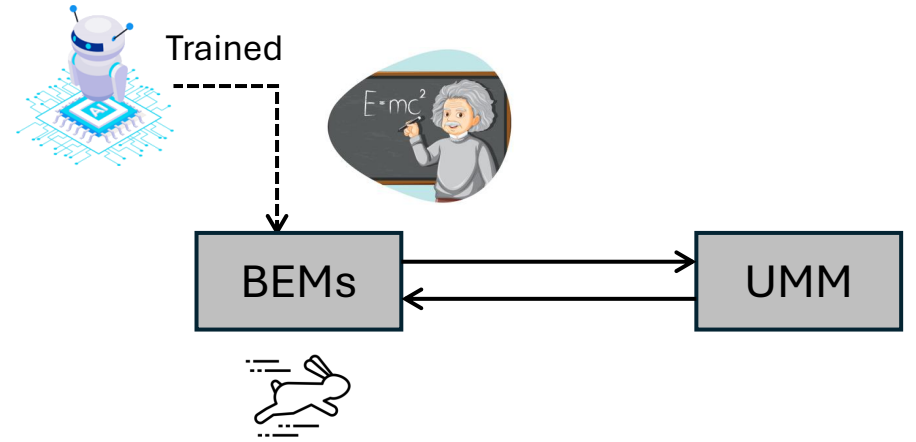
City
scale

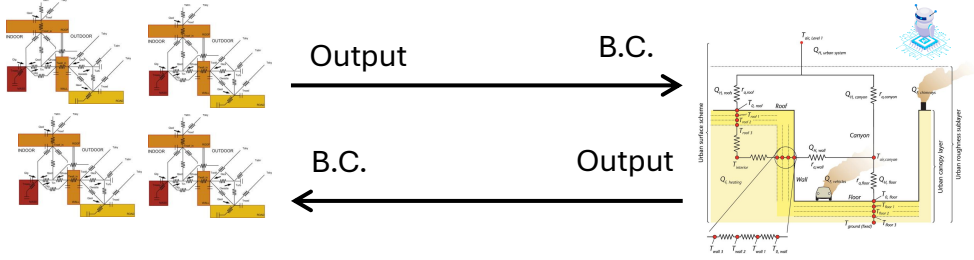


Neighbourhood
scale

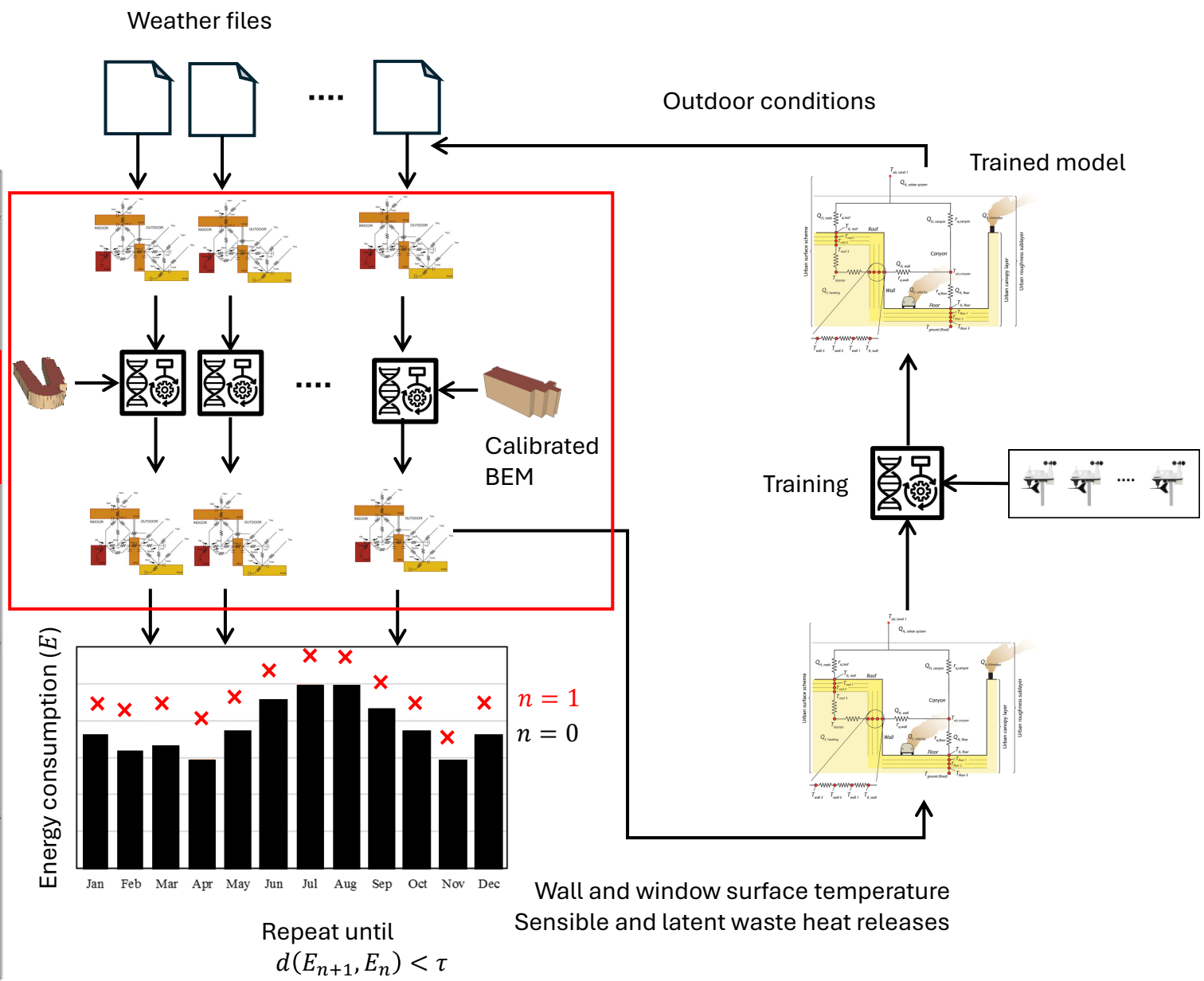


Building
scale

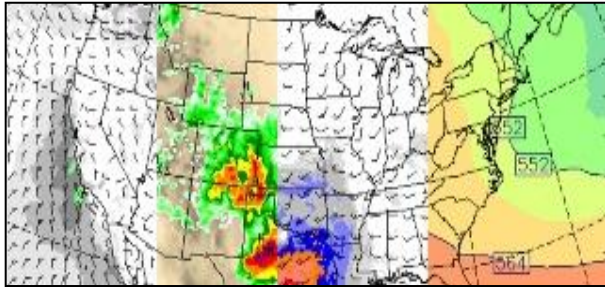




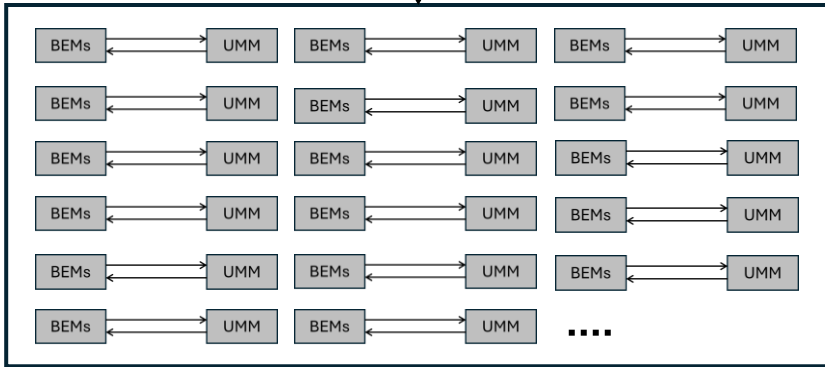
Staged Coupling	Illustration of Methodologies	
Static Coupling	One Step	Two Step
Dynamic Coupling	One-Time-Step Dynamic Coupling	
	<p>Iterate till converge at one specific time step</p>	
	Quasi-Dynamic Coupling	
Full Dynamic Coupling		
Virtual Dynamic Coupling		



Zhang, R., Mirzaei, P. A., & Jones, B. (2018). Development of a dynamic external CFD and BES coupling framework for application of urban neighbourhoods energy modelling. *Building and Environment*, 146, 37-49.



Atmospheric conditions



Integrated

City digital twin platform



Architects



Urban planners



City

Climate risk assessment



Greenhouse gas emissions

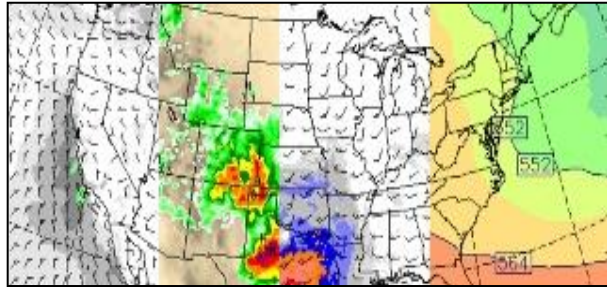


Economy

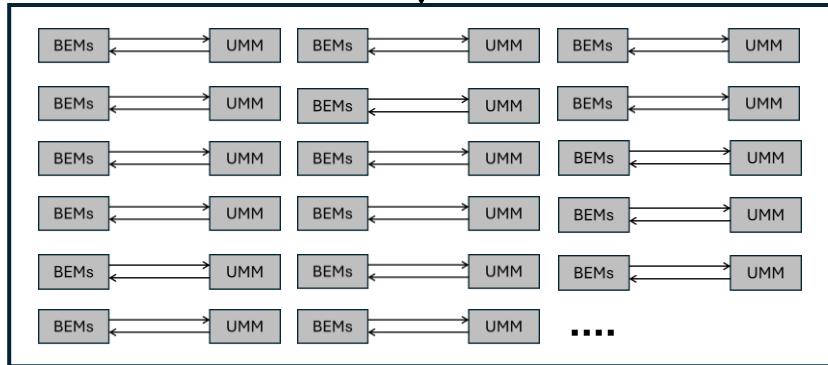


Public health



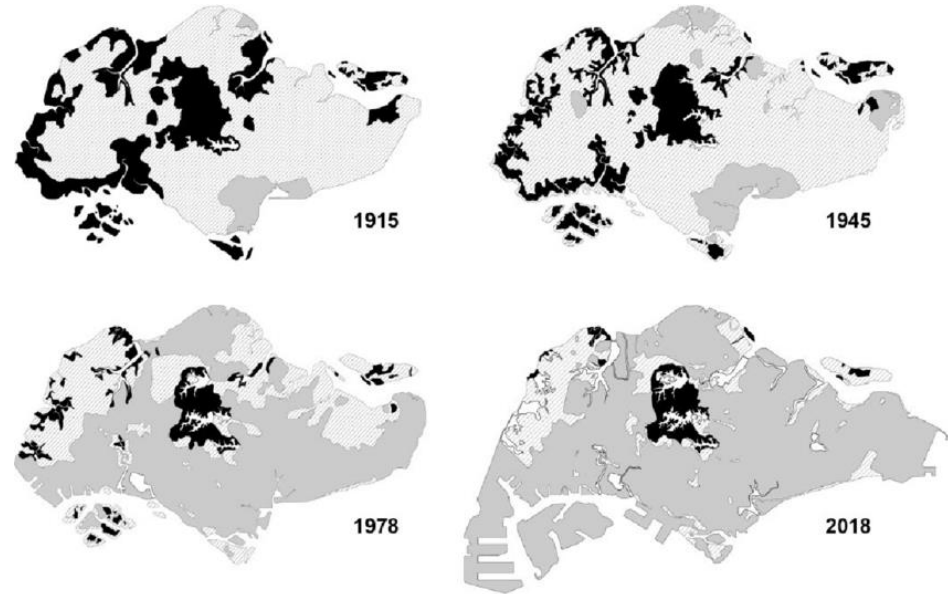


Atmospheric conditions

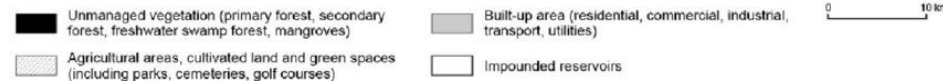


City

Urban expansion



Type of land cover



Fong, L. S., Leng, M. J., & Taylor, D. (2020). A century of anthropogenic environmental change in tropical Asia: Multi-proxy palaeolimnological evidence from Singapore's Central Catchment. *The Holocene*, 30(1), 162-177.



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I am a postdoctoral researcher sponsored by the [Marie-Curie Global fellowship](#) to contribute to the mission [Climate Neutral and Smart Cities](#) in collaboration with the [Delft University of Technology](#) and [Carnegie Mellon University](#).

Q&A session

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