

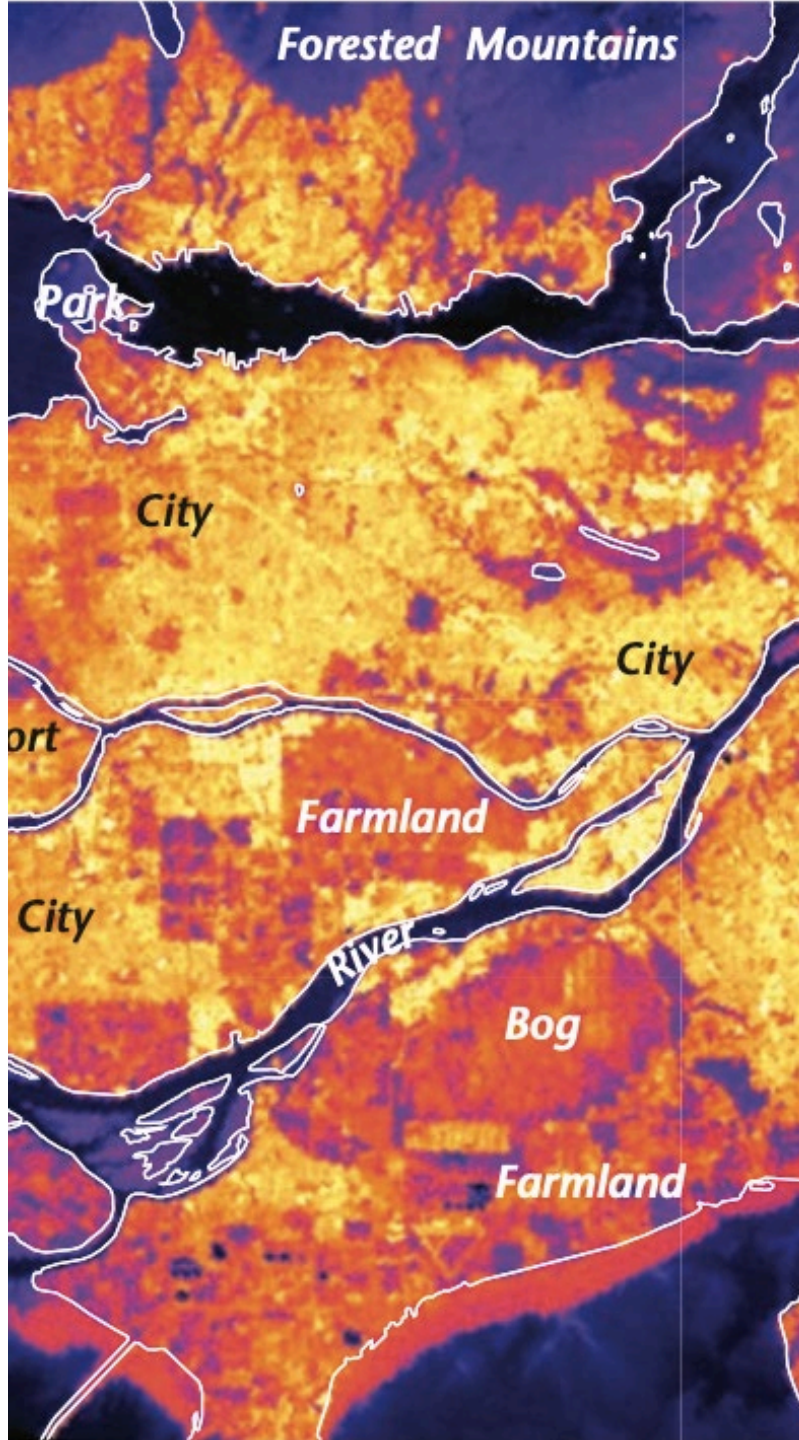


# **CIVIL-309: URBAN THERMODYNAMICS**

**Assist. Prof.  
Dolaana Khovalyg**

Lecture 01:  
**Course overview.**  
**Urban characteristics and the UHI effect.**

**9 September 2024**



# CONTENT:

## I. Introduction to the course

- Content, schedule, grading
- Group project overview

## II. Urban characteristics

- Overview of properties
- Local climate zones (LCZ)
- Street canyon aspect ratio ( $\lambda_s$ )
- Sky view factor ( $\psi_{sky}$ )

## III. Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect

- Energy balance for cities, anthropogenic heat
- UHI definition, types, magnitude, dynamics
- Consequences



- **Dolaana KHOVALYG, Assist. Professor**

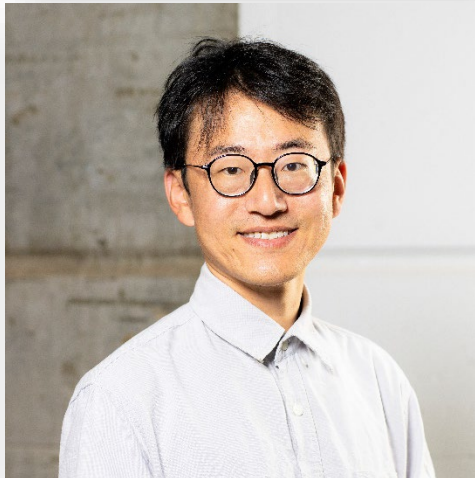
[dolaana.khovalyg@epfl.ch](mailto:dolaana.khovalyg@epfl.ch)

Head of the **Laboratory of Integrated Comfort Engineering (ICE)**

Lab website: <https://www.epfl.ch/labs/ice/>

**Research focus:** energy reduction of the thermal conditioning in buildings, building physics, well-being and comfort of building occupants

**Teaching activities:** CIVIL-309 “*Urban Thermodynamics*”, ENG-445 “*Building Energetics*”, CIVIL-450 “*Thermodynamics of Comfort in Buildings*”



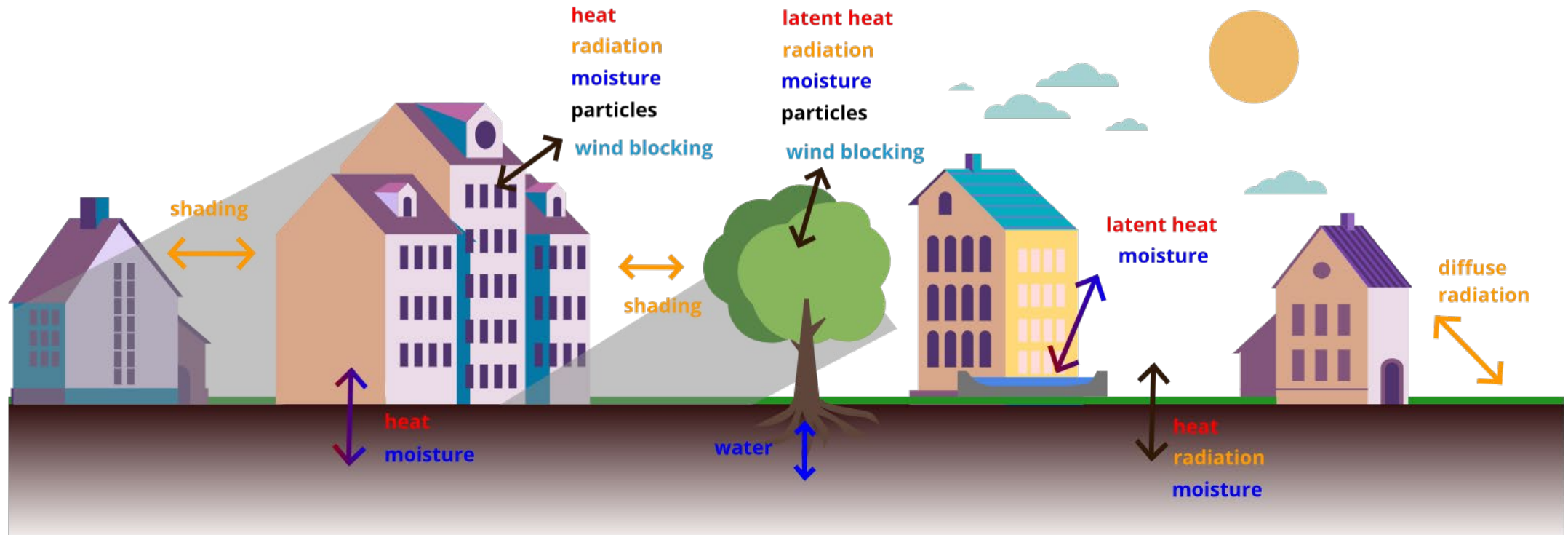
- **Kun LYU, Postdoctoral Researcher**

[kun.lyu@epfl.ch](mailto:kun.lyu@epfl.ch)

**Research focus:** Outdoor thermal comfort, biophilic design, urban heat island effect mitigation

**Teaching activities:** CIVIL-309 “*Urban Thermodynamics*”

- Learn the **effect** of **urban elements** on **urban climate** and **outdoor comfort**, analysis of **urban neighborhoods** from a **thermodynamics perspective**
- Identify the **magnitude** of **heat exchange** and **type of the exchange** between **different urban elements** such as **buildings**, **vegetation**, **water bodies**, **ground**, and the **surrounding environment**
- Intro to the **Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect** in **cities** and **mitigation strategies**, raise awareness of **climate-sensitive urban design**

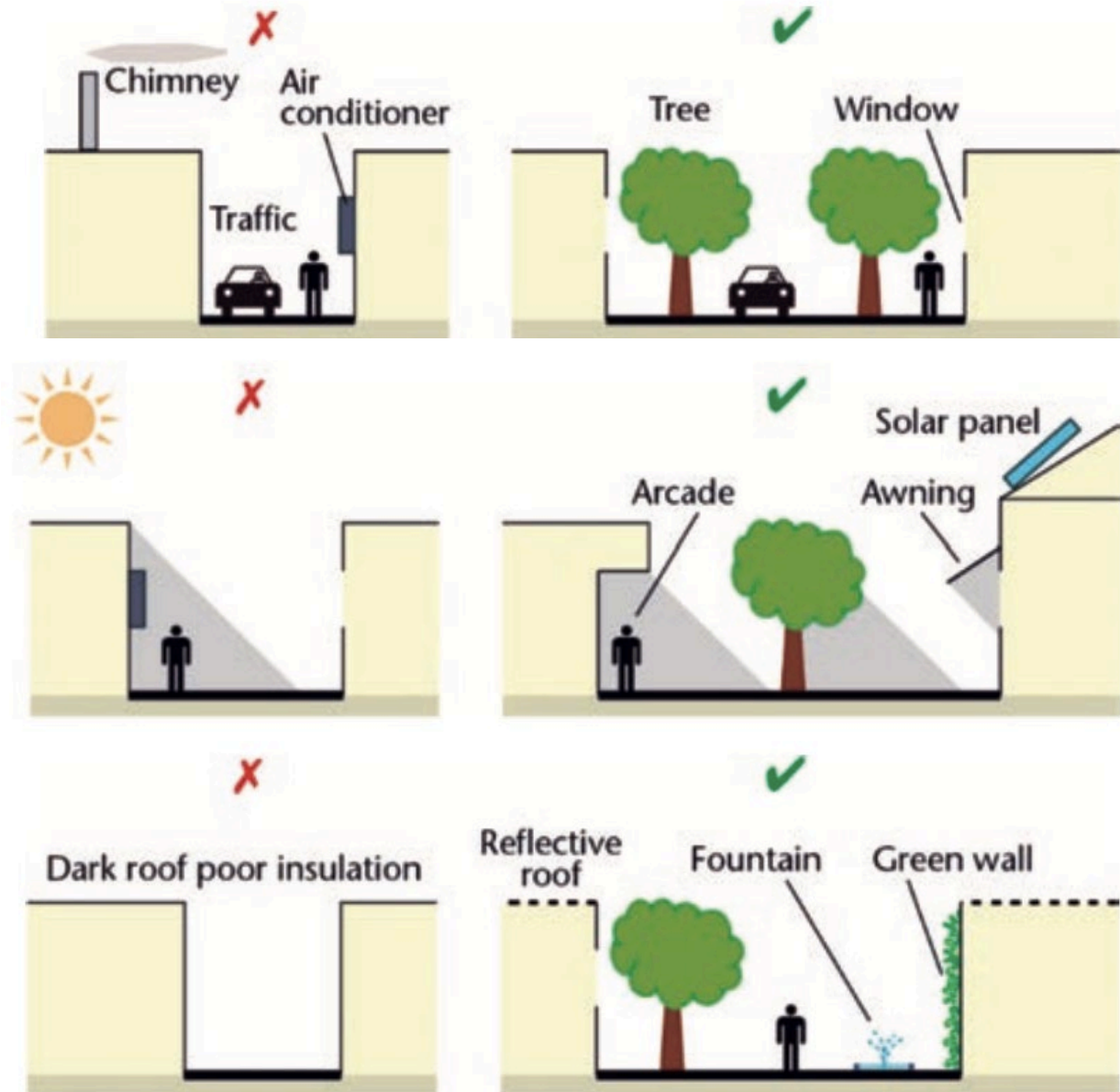




# EPFL Course Objectives: recognize & mitigate poor urban design

We'll investigate questions such as:

- How do **urban canyons** affect the environment?
- Which **building configurations** are most advantageous?
- Why is **controlling surface reflectivity** important in urban areas?
- How does **evaporative cooling** from trees impact the environment?
- Does **enhancing street ventilation** improve environmental conditions?
- What are the **best strategies** for designing **thermally comfortable streets**?
- How can the **Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect** be minimized?
- ..... and many more!



# Course Information

- **Lectures (L):** Mondays **15:15-17:00**, room INJ 218
- **Practice sessions (P):** Mondays **17:15 – 18:00**, room INJ 218
- **Expected student activities:**  
participate in lectures, practice sessions and group project
- **Grading:**
  - **Quiz (30%)**, open book exam, individual assessment
  - **Group project (70%)**, group assessment, peer-evaluation
- **Formation of groups** (4-5 ppl per group, 9 x 5 ppl + 2 x 4 ppl) – **by Week 3:**
  - **Option 1:** *Self-formation* (you find people that you want to work with)
  - **Option 2:** *Random assignment* (we will assign people to each group randomly)

# EPFL Course Schedule

Lectures (L) 15:15-17:00, practice sessions (P) 17:15-18:00, room INJ218

| Week | Date  | Time                           | ID        | Topics                                                                                                                                                       | Responsible |
|------|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1    | 09.09 | 2 x 45'                        | <b>L1</b> | <b>Course overview</b> (content, evaluation, group project). <b>Urban characteristics, Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect.</b>                                   | DK          |
|      |       | 1 x 45'                        | <b>P1</b> | Exercises based on materials in lecture L1                                                                                                                   | KL          |
| 2    | 16.09 | <b>No class (holiday)</b>      |           |                                                                                                                                                              |             |
| 3    | 23.09 | 2 x 45'                        | <b>L2</b> | Overview of <b>physical parameters. Urban environment and urban modeling.</b>                                                                                | DK, KL      |
|      |       | 1 x 45'                        | <b>P2</b> | <b>Workshop</b> on how to use the simulation tool <b>ENVI-met</b> (basic functions, geometry input, etc.)<br>Exercises based on materials in lecture L2 [HW] | KL          |
| 4    | 30.09 | 2 x 45'                        | <b>L3</b> | <b>Heat Transfer:</b> Conduction and radiation                                                                                                               | DK          |
|      |       | 1 x 45'                        | <b>P3</b> | Exercises based on materials in lecture L3                                                                                                                   | KL          |
| 5    | 07.10 | 2 x 45'                        | <b>L4</b> | <b>Heat Transfer:</b> Convection and evaporation                                                                                                             | DK          |
|      |       | 1 x 45'                        | <b>P4</b> | Exercises based on materials in lecture L4                                                                                                                   | KL          |
| 6    | 14.10 | 90'                            | <b>Q</b>  | <b>Quiz</b> (open book exam, based on lectures L1-L4)                                                                                                        | DK, KL      |
|      |       | 1 x 45'                        | <b>V</b>  | <b>Case study site (EPFL Innovation park) visit,</b><br>overview of important urban features                                                                 | DK, KL      |
| 7    | 21.10 | <b>Fall Break (no classes)</b> |           |                                                                                                                                                              |             |

# EPFL Course Schedule

Lectures (L) 15:15-17:00, practice sessions (P) 17:15-18:00, room INJ218

| Week | Date  | Time    | ID        | Topics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Responsible |
|------|-------|---------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 8    | 28.10 | 2 x 45' | <b>L5</b> | <b>Building-environment interaction:</b> thermal, aerodynamic, and hydrodynamic interaction                                                                                                                                                                                      | DK          |
|      |       | 1 x 45' | <b>P5</b> | <b>Group work—simulation practice based on L5:</b> building-environment interactions, workflow to create and modify building geometry, and materials for building walls and roofs. Data visualization for building surface temperature and visualization for scenario comparison | KL          |
| 9    | 04.11 | 2 x 45' | <b>L6</b> | <b>Ground-environment interaction:</b> ground properties, thermal, aerodynamic, and hydrodynamic interaction                                                                                                                                                                     | DK          |
|      |       | 1 x 45' | <b>P6</b> | <b>Group work – simulation practice based on L6:</b> relevant parameters for ground materials, soil profile, and data analysis regarding ground-environment interactions                                                                                                         | KL          |
| 10   | 11.11 | 2 x 45' | <b>L7</b> | <b>Water body - environment interaction:</b> thermal, aerodynamic, and hydrodynamic interaction                                                                                                                                                                                  | DK          |
|      |       | 1 x 45' | <b>P7</b> | <b>Group work – simulation practice based on L7:</b> workflow to create different water bodies and fountains in ENVI-met and data analysis for water-environment interactions                                                                                                    | KL          |
| 11   | 18.11 | 2 x 45' | <b>L8</b> | <b>Vegetation – environment interaction:</b> characteristics of vegetation, evapotranspiration, aero- and thermal interaction                                                                                                                                                    | KL          |
|      |       | 1 x 45' | <b>P8</b> | <b>Group work – simulation practice based on L8:</b> two modes of vegetation models in ENVI-met and methods to create new vegetation profiles, green walls and roofs, data analysis for vegetation-environment interactions                                                      | KL          |



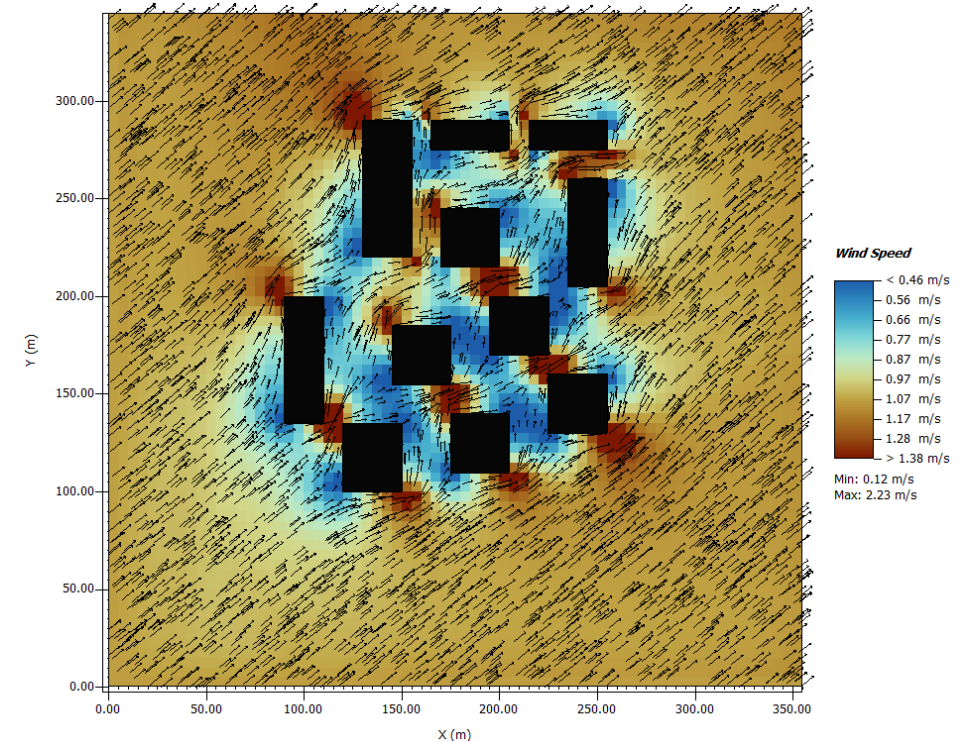
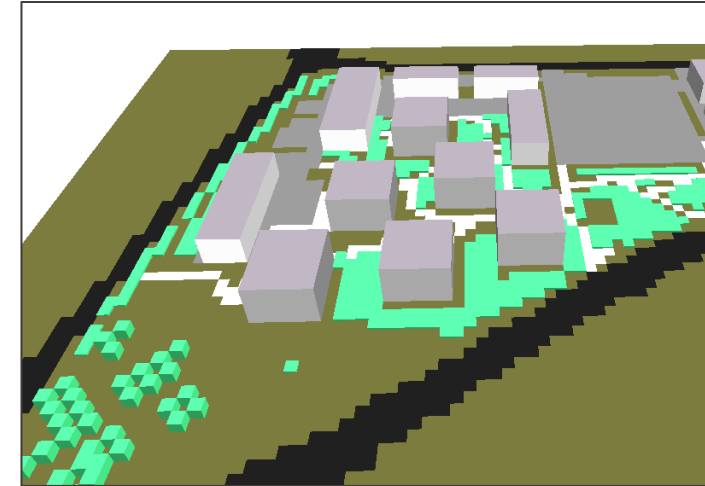
Lectures (L) 15:15-17:00, practice sessions (P) 17:15-18:00, room INJ218

| Week                                                                     | Date  | Time    | ID  | Topics                                                                                                                                                         | Responsible |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 12                                                                       | 25.11 | 2 x 45' | L9  | <b>Human Outdoor Comfort:</b> Parameters affecting human comfort and comfort indices (UTCI, PET)                                                               | DK          |
|                                                                          |       | 1 x 45' | P9  | <b>Group work – simulation practice based on L9:</b> methods to calculate thermal comfort indices from ENVI-met simulation, dynamic thermal comfort simulation | KL          |
| 13                                                                       | 02.12 | 3 x 45' | --  | <b>Intermediate presentations of group projects</b>                                                                                                            | DK, KL      |
| 14                                                                       | 09.12 | 2 x 45' | L10 | <b>Climate-Sensitive Urban Design:</b> complex interaction of all urban elements and their effect on UHI and outdoor environmental quality                     | KL          |
|                                                                          |       | 1 x 45' | P10 | <b>Group work – simulation practice based on L10:</b> developing an integrated solution in ENVI-met for the climate-sensitive urban design                     | KL          |
| 15                                                                       | 16.12 | 2 x 45' | L11 | <b>Urban Energy</b> (renewable energy sources in cities).<br><b>Summary of the course.</b>                                                                     | DK          |
|                                                                          |       | 1 x 45' | P11 | <b>Group work</b> - finalizing the analysis and the report                                                                                                     | KL          |
| <b>Submission of group projects and peer-evaluation by 23.12 (12:00)</b> |       |         |     |                                                                                                                                                                |             |

- **Lecture slides** will typically be available 1-2 days before the class meeting
- A file with **exercises** will be uploaded **prior** to the corresponding lecture
- A file with **solutions** will be uploaded **after** the exercise session

- T.R. Oke, G.Mills, A. Christensen, J.A. Vooght, **Urban Climates**, Cambridge University Press
  - *ebook (PDF file) is available [here](#), 3 printed copies are available in the library*
- S. Medved, **Building Physics: Heat, Ventilation, Moisture, Light, Sound, Fire, and Urban Microclimate**, Springer
  - *ebook (PDF file) is available [here](#), 1 printed copy is available in the library*
- A. Rodrigues, R.A. Sardinha, G. Pita, **Fundamental Principles of Environmental Physics**, Springer
  - *ebook (PDF file) is available [here](#), no printed copy is available in the library*
- N. Mason, P. Hughes, **Introduction to Environmental Physics: Planet Earth, Life and Climate**, Taylor & Francis
  - *ebook (PDF file) is available [here](#), 1 printed copy is available in the library*

- **Aim:** To understand **the influence** of **urban elements** on the **urban microclimate**, investigate **their interactions**, and explore **possible urban overheating mitigation strategies** for the given site.
- **Objectives:**
  1. **Critically** examine **current site conditions** (e.g., LCZ, material properties, urban morphological parameters, green elements, climate characteristics) **in relation to the microclimate**;
  2. Identify, *illustrate* and *compare* **individual effects** of **buildings, ground cover, vegetation, water** on the urban microclimate;
  3. Examine **the combined** effects of **multiple urban elements** on **microclimate** and propose *optimised* intervention solutions.



- **Site of interest: Innovation Park of EPFL**
- It includes:
  - 6 square buildings of the Innovation park
  - 5 other surrounding buildings
  - 1 large parking area
  - Roads and pedestrian pathways
  - Trees, grass and forest
- The surface of the area of interest covers about 11 hectares. The **highest building is 22 m tall**.
- The **prevailing wind direction** comes from the **northeast** and **southwest** with an average wind speed of **1.6 m/s**.
- The **pavement materials** are **asphalt, grass, cement** and **stabilized sand**.
- **Vegetation** is present with **a forest** at the **South-West corner** of the area and **trees scattered** between the buildings.







3D model from: [https://sketchfab.com/models/db0ca2f22d97466c931bfcc2cd764283/embed?utm\\_source=website&utm\\_campaign=blocked\\_scripts\\_error](https://sketchfab.com/models/db0ca2f22d97466c931bfcc2cd764283/embed?utm_source=website&utm_campaign=blocked_scripts_error)

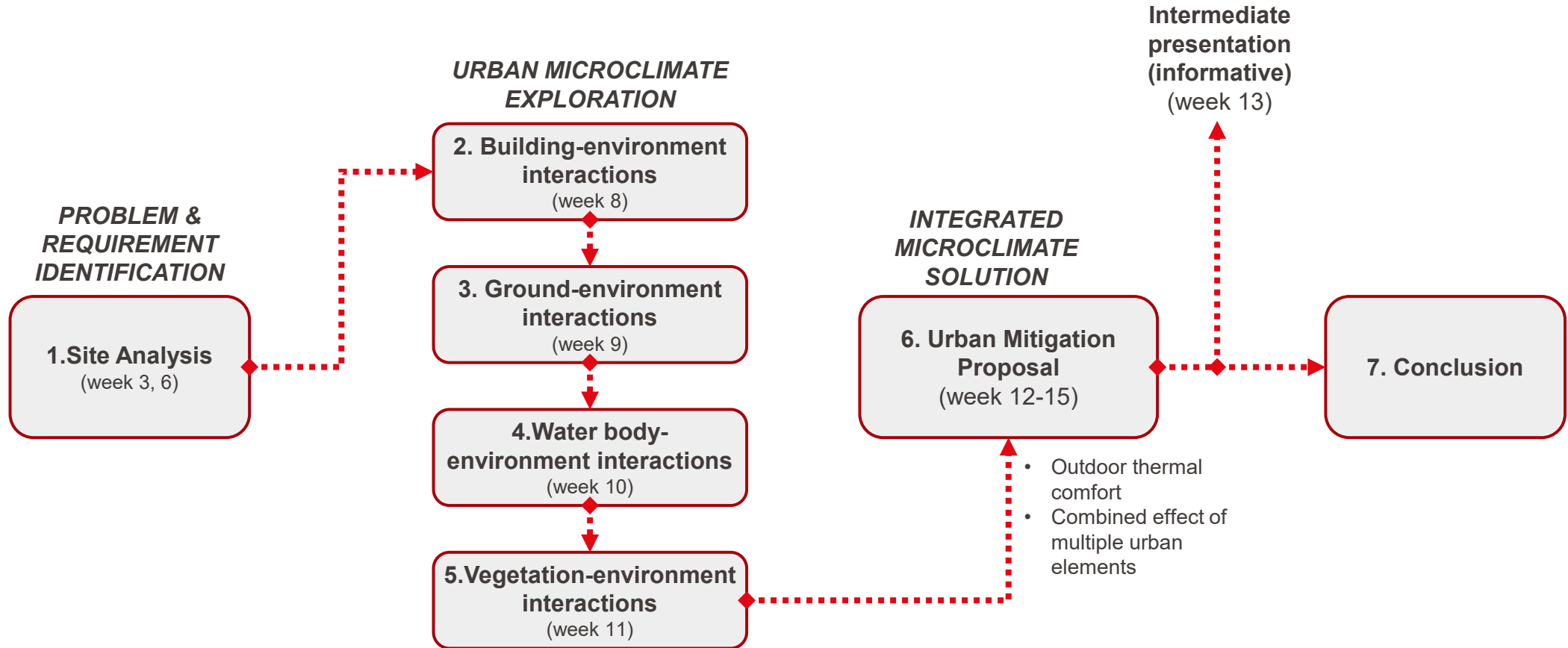


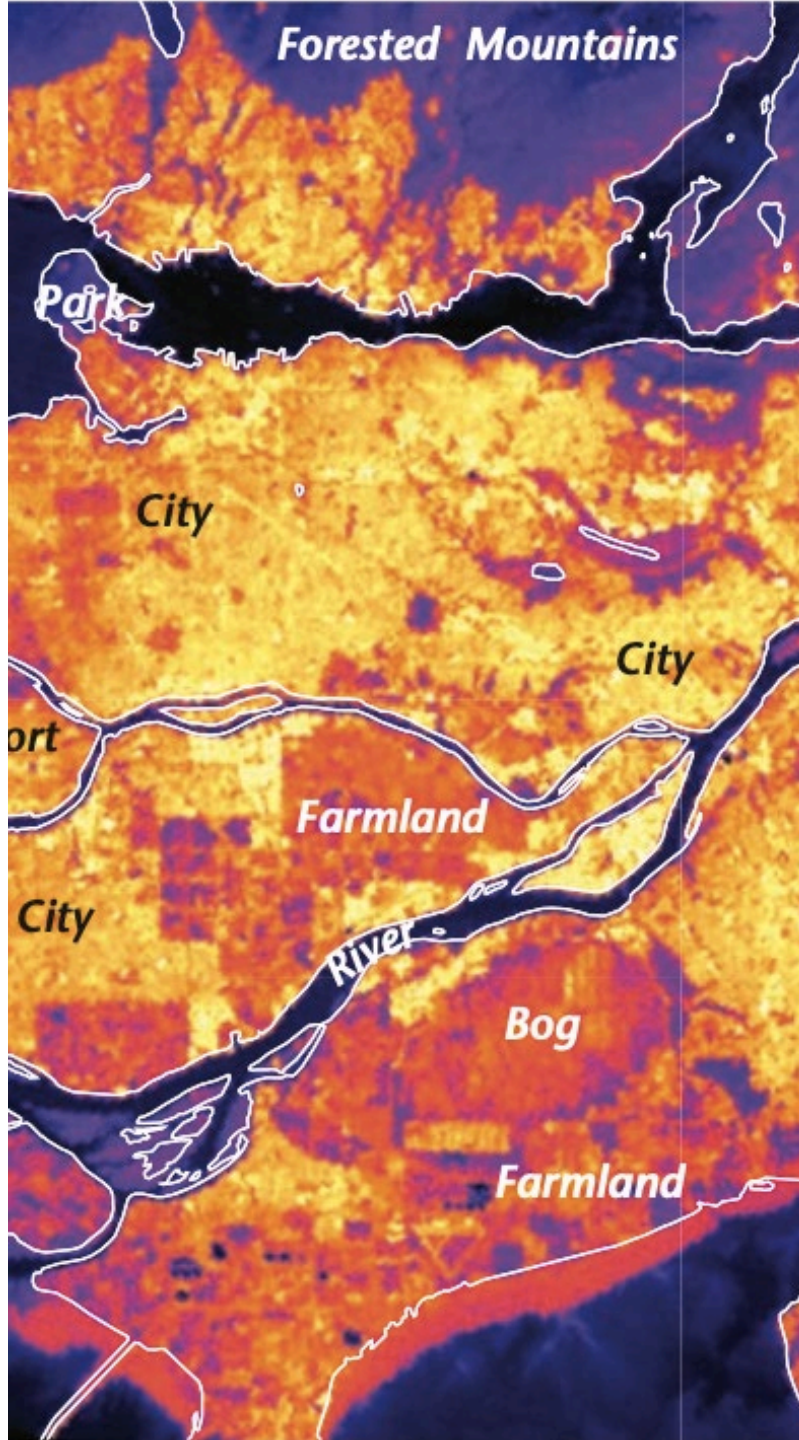
# EPFL Group Project: Overview

- Each simulation introduces a new element or changes to the existing configuration (base case). The urban elements *should be introduced gradually* in order to see *their individual effect*.
- Critically analyze the improvement of previous simulation (cases 1 – 5) and propose integrated solution (case 6, you may introduce new elements different from cases 2-5).
- Holistic assessment of energy balance and microclimate condition (including outdoor thermal comfort).

| Case Number                    | Base Case | Building Modification                                                 | Ground Modification                                   | Water body Modification                                        | Vegetation Modification                                           | Integrated Solution                                |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Potential modifications</i> | ---       | <i>Building geometry, wall and roof material, green wall and roof</i> | <i>Ground cover, permeable surface, cool pavement</i> | <i>Fountain, pool, pond (depth, size, shape of water body)</i> | <i>Vegetation type, configuration, green space size and shape</i> | <i>Combined effects, impact on thermal comfort</i> |
| 1                              | ✓         |                                                                       |                                                       |                                                                |                                                                   |                                                    |
| 2                              | ✓         | ✓                                                                     |                                                       |                                                                |                                                                   |                                                    |
| 3                              | ✓         |                                                                       | ✓                                                     |                                                                |                                                                   |                                                    |
| 4                              | ✓         |                                                                       |                                                       | ✓                                                              |                                                                   |                                                    |
| 5                              | ✓         |                                                                       |                                                       |                                                                | ✓                                                                 |                                                    |
| 6                              | ✓         | ✓                                                                     | ✓                                                     | ✓                                                              | ✓                                                                 | ✓                                                  |

- For more details, see *project description and report structure template*.





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- Street canyon aspect ratio ( $\lambda_s$ )
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- Energy balance for cities, anthropogenic heat
- UHI definition, types, magnitude, dynamics
- Consequences



# Introduction: Cities

- **0.5%** of the *world surface* is covered by **urban areas**. In *Europe*, it is **4.4%** of the land that is covered by **built-up areas** (around twice the surface of Portugal).
- More than half of the **world's population** lives in urban areas (**56%**). In *Europe*, it is **75%** of the population.
- **Rapid urbanization**: by 2050, urban population is expected to double and 7 of 10 people in the world will live in cities. Urban land growth is expected to *at least double*.
- Major **challenges** emerges from the *speed* and *scale* of *urbanization*:
  - Ecological (climate, resources, biodiversity, etc.)
  - Social (housing, transport, basic services, jobs, etc.)
- Cities use **2/3** of global energy use and account for more than **70%** of greenhouse gas emissions.

Cities inhabitants, January 2017:

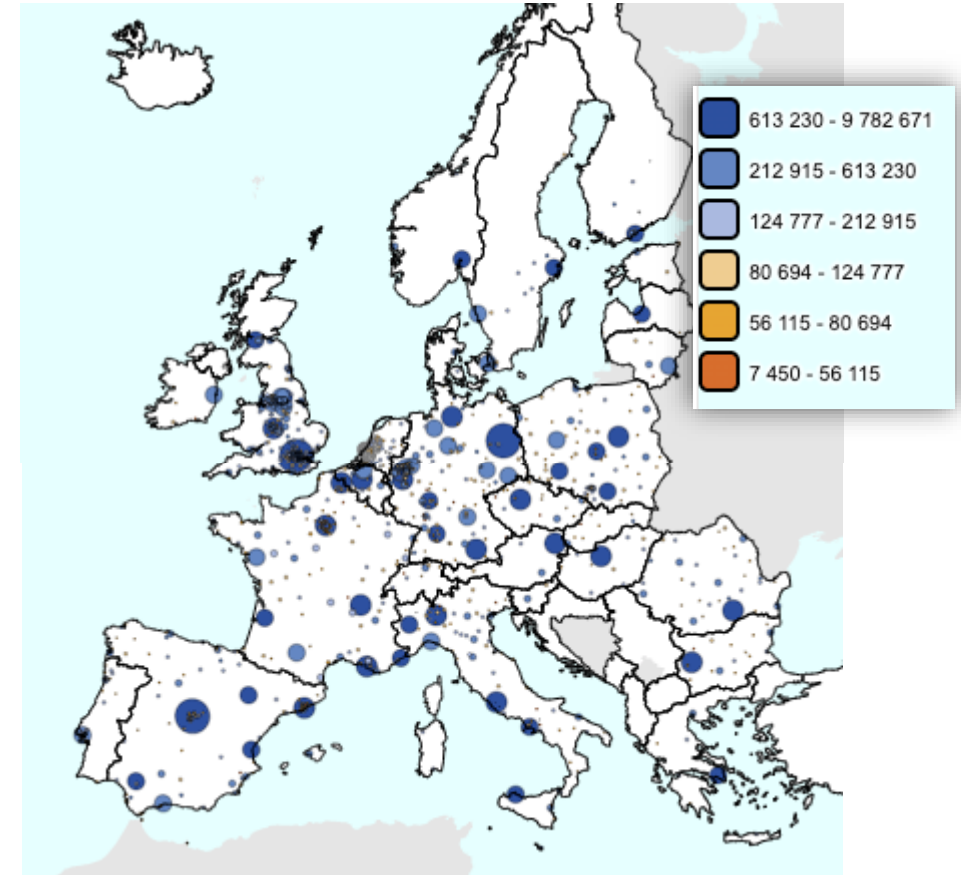
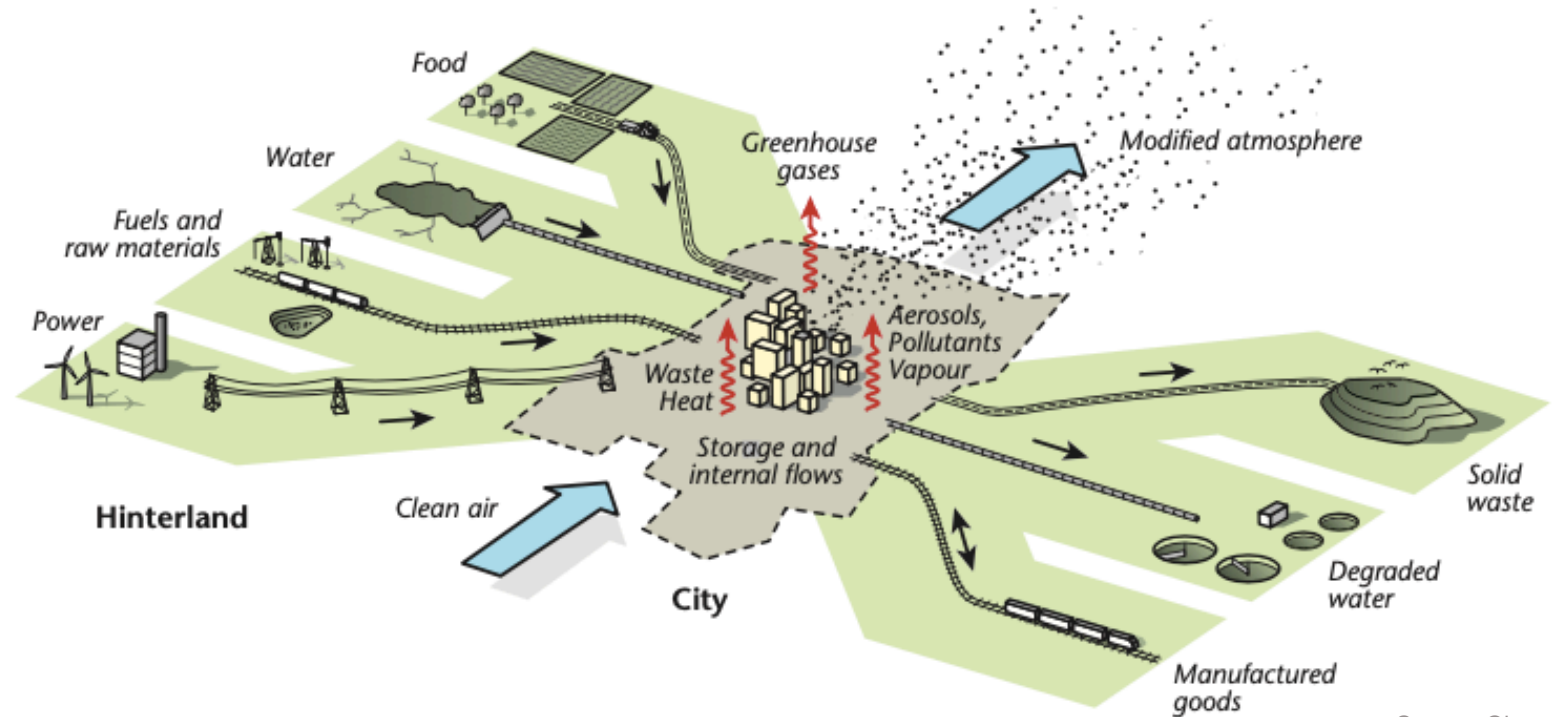


Image from [webservice](#)

# Introduction: Urban Ecosystem

- **City:** *integrated* open system of living things interacting with their physical environment (Douglas, 1983).
- **Urban metabolism:** analogy of the city to a single living organism which imports and exports energy and mass and transforms materials. It cannot exist without support from the outside.



Source: Oke,  
Urban Climates, p. 4

Isolated  
System

No exchanges

Closed  
System

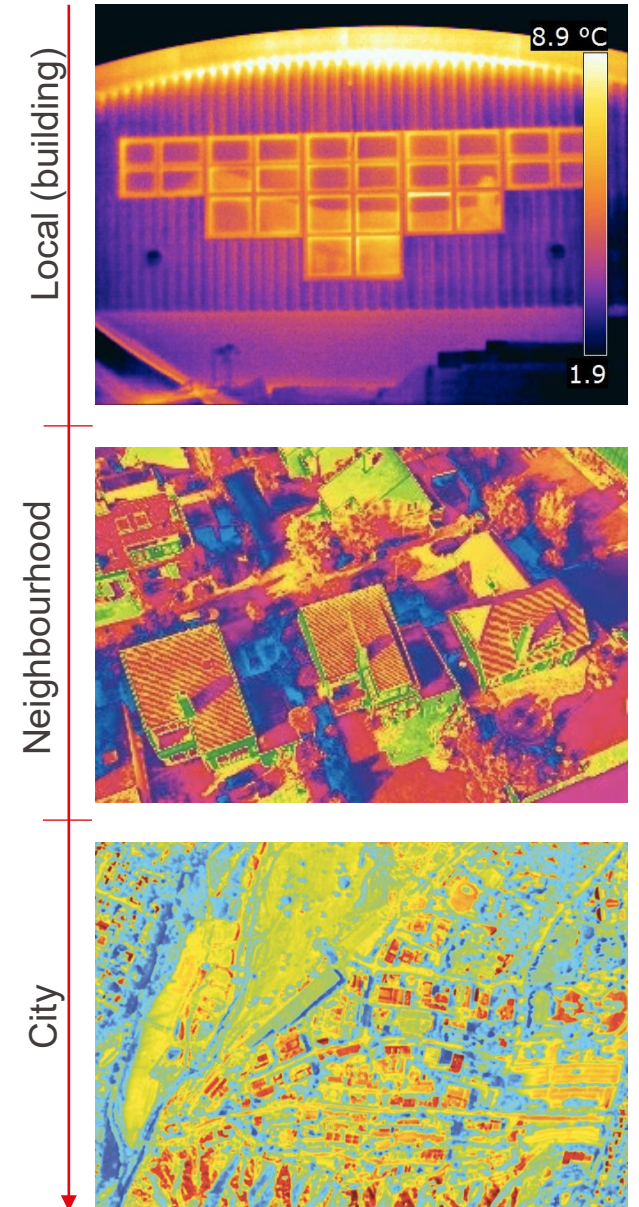
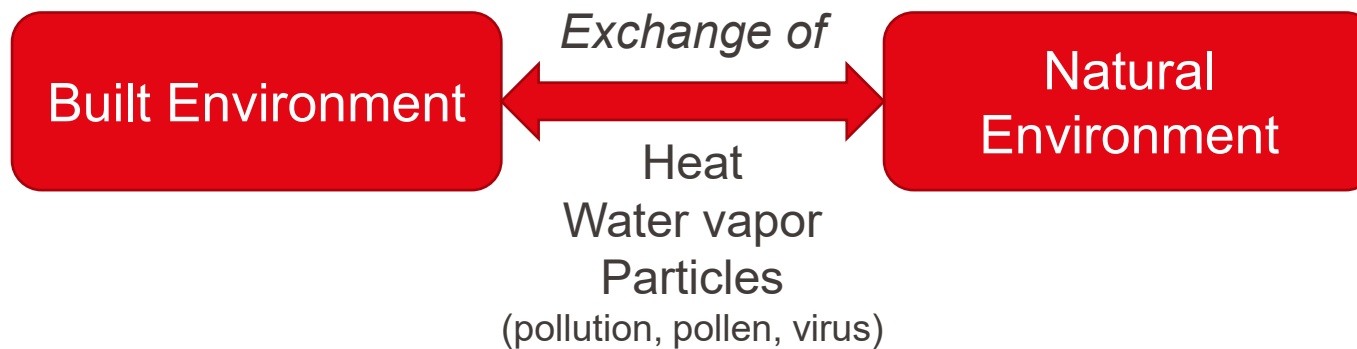
Energy exchange

Open  
System

Energy and  
material exchange

Non-equilibrium  
thermodynamics

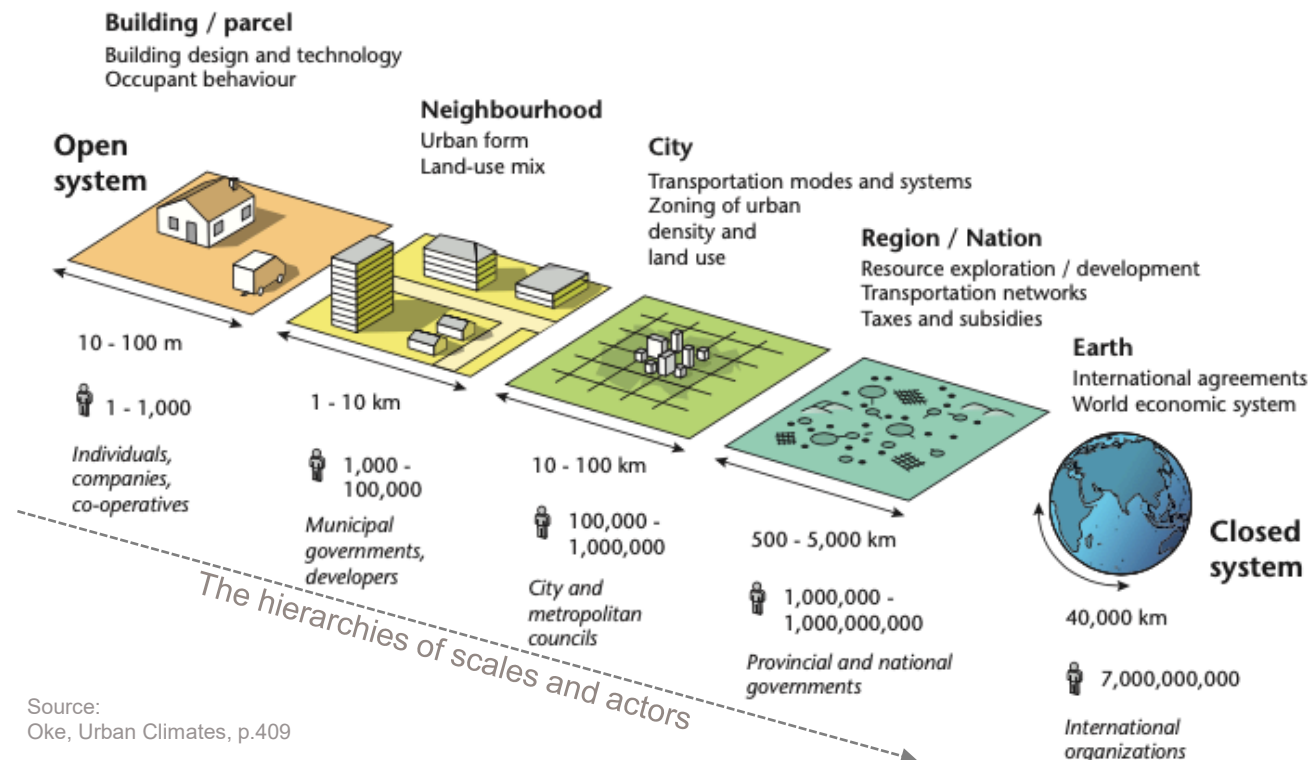
- The **city environment** and its **microclimate** *differs* from the one of its surroundings:
  - Accumulation of solar energy that *form* **heat islands**
  - Decrease of the local wind speed
  - Decrease solar irradiation and hours of sunshine due to *pollution*
  - More *intense* flooding with faster run-off
- The **wind spreads** *these urban effects* to the *countryside*
- **Importance of the scales** (local, regional, global): these urban effects *do not occur the same way at different scales*.



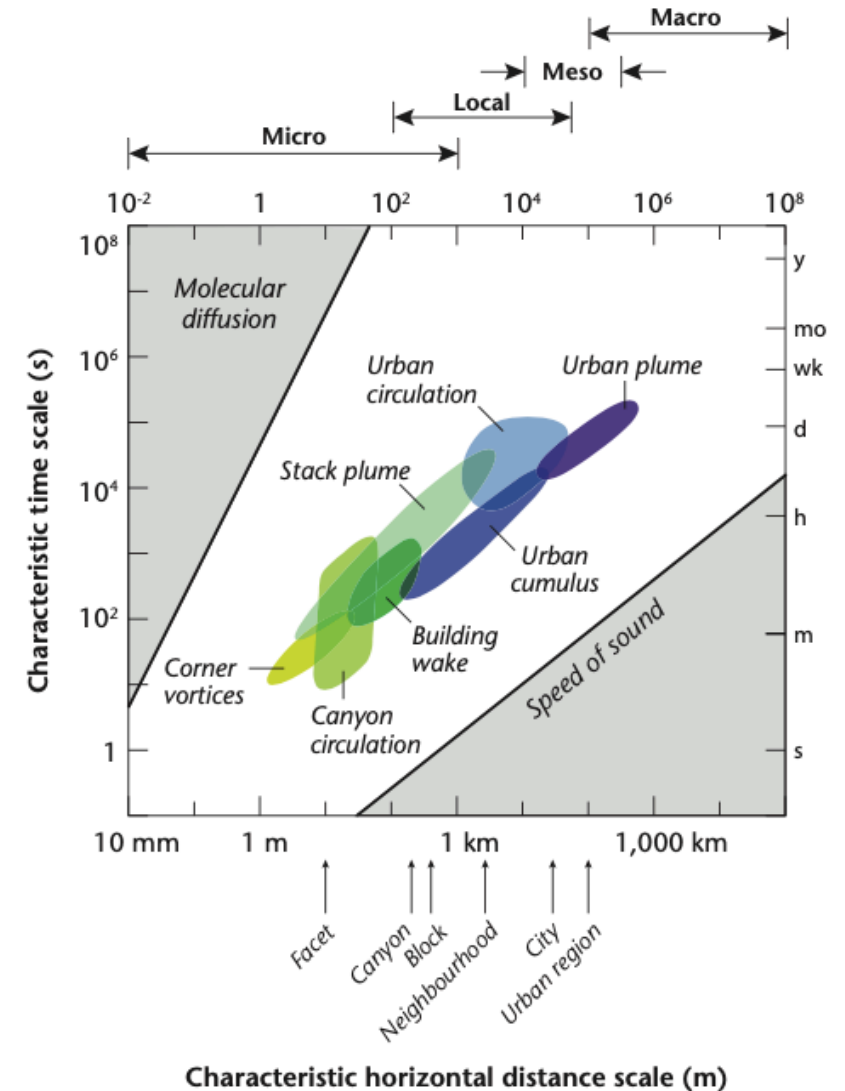


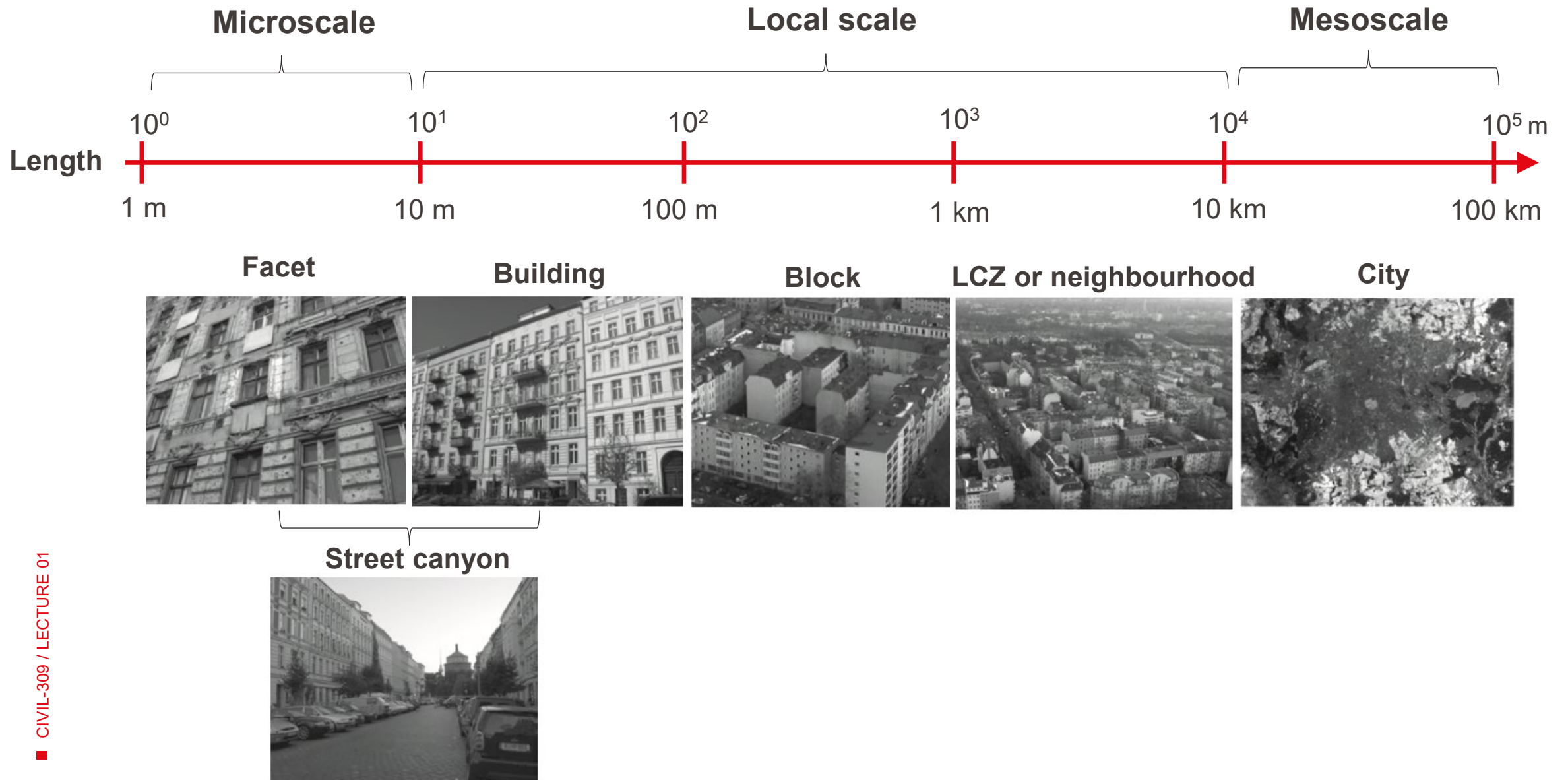
# Urban characteristics: Urban scales

- Each **space scale** faces *different physical phenomena* of *different times scales*. Space and time scale are correlated.
- Each **climate feature** *combines to form larger ones up to the scale of the whole urban boundary layer*.
- Each space scale is linked to **different urban objects** and **different actors**.



Time and horizontal space scales of selected urban dynamics and wind phenomena:





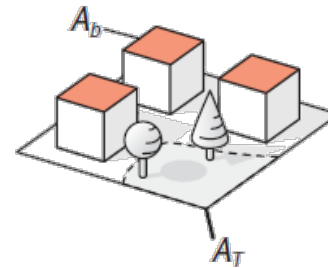
# EPFL Urban characteristics: Overview of urban properties

- Cities are characterized by the **fraction of their surface** allocated to *buildings*, *vegetation* or *pavement* and by the **geometry of their elements**.
- Main urban properties: **fabric** (materials), **surface cover**, and **urban structure**
- Parameters describing urban cover and structure:
  - Building plan area fraction ( $\lambda_b$ )
  - Vegetated plan area fraction ( $\lambda_v$ )
  - Impervious plan area fraction ( $\lambda_i$ )
  - Canyon aspect ratio ( $\lambda_s$ )
  - Floor space ratio ( $\lambda_{floor}$ )
  - Complete surface ratio ( $\lambda_c$ )
  - Frontal aspect ratio ( $\lambda_f$ )

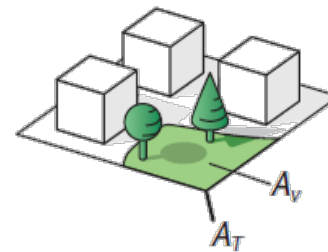
Parameters describing urban cover, length scales and urban structure:

Urban cover

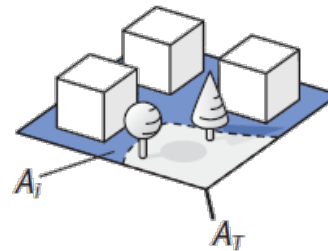
(a)  $\lambda_b = A_b/A_T$



(b)  $\lambda_v = A_v/A_T$

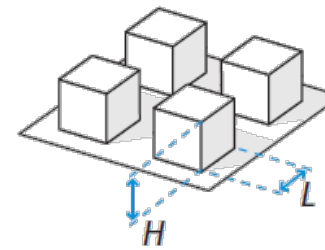


(c)  $\lambda_i = A_i/A_T$

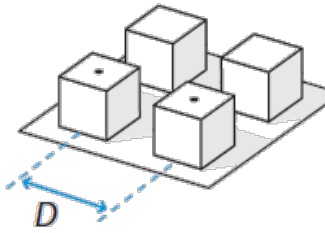


Length scales

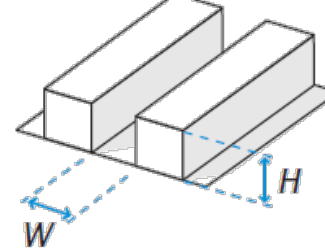
(d) Building dimensions



(e) Building spacing

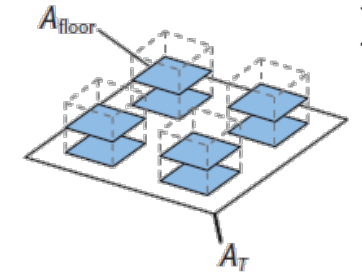


(f)  $\lambda_s = H/W$

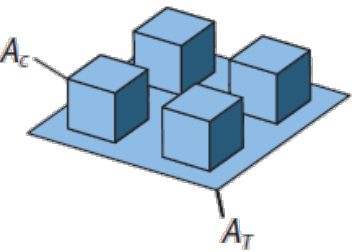


Urban structure

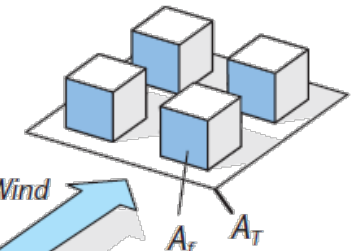
(g)  $\lambda_{floor} = A_{floor}/A_T$



(h)  $\lambda_c = A_c/A_T$



(i)  $\lambda_f = A_f/A_T$

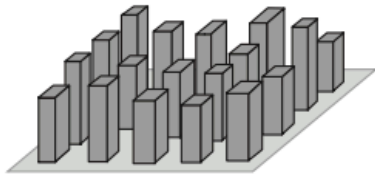




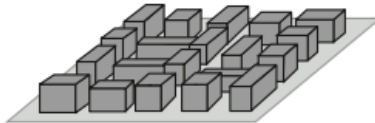
# Urban characteristics: Local Climate Zones (LCZ)

- LCZ - categorization of the urban landscape types per their ability to modify local surface climates

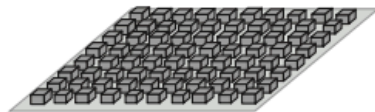
**LCZ 1**  
Compact highrise



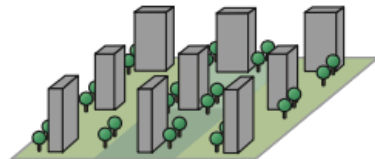
**LCZ 2**  
Compact midrise



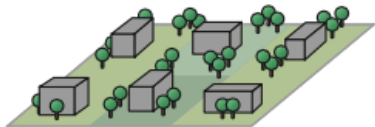
**LCZ 3**  
Compact lowrise



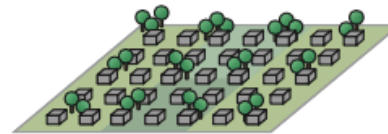
**LCZ 4**  
Open highrise



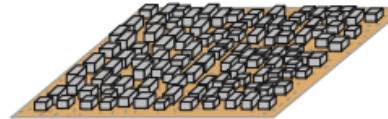
**LCZ 5**  
Open midrise



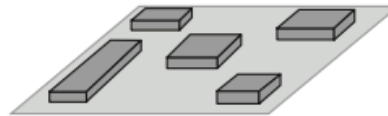
**LCZ 6**  
Open lowrise



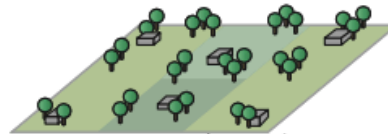
**LCZ 7**  
Lightweight lowrise



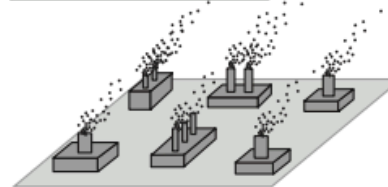
**LCZ 8**  
Large lowrise



**LCZ 9**  
Sparsely built



**LCZ 10**  
Heavy industry



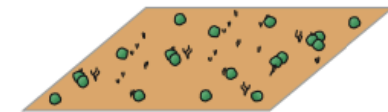
**LCZ A**  
Dense trees



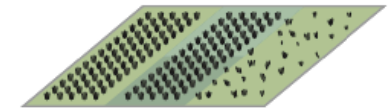
**LCZ B**  
Scattered trees



**LCZ C**  
Bush, scrub



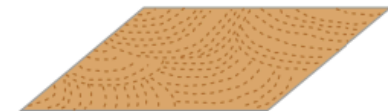
**LCZ D**  
Low plants



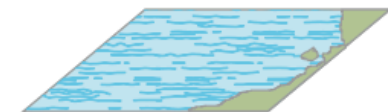
**LCZ E**  
Bare rock or paved



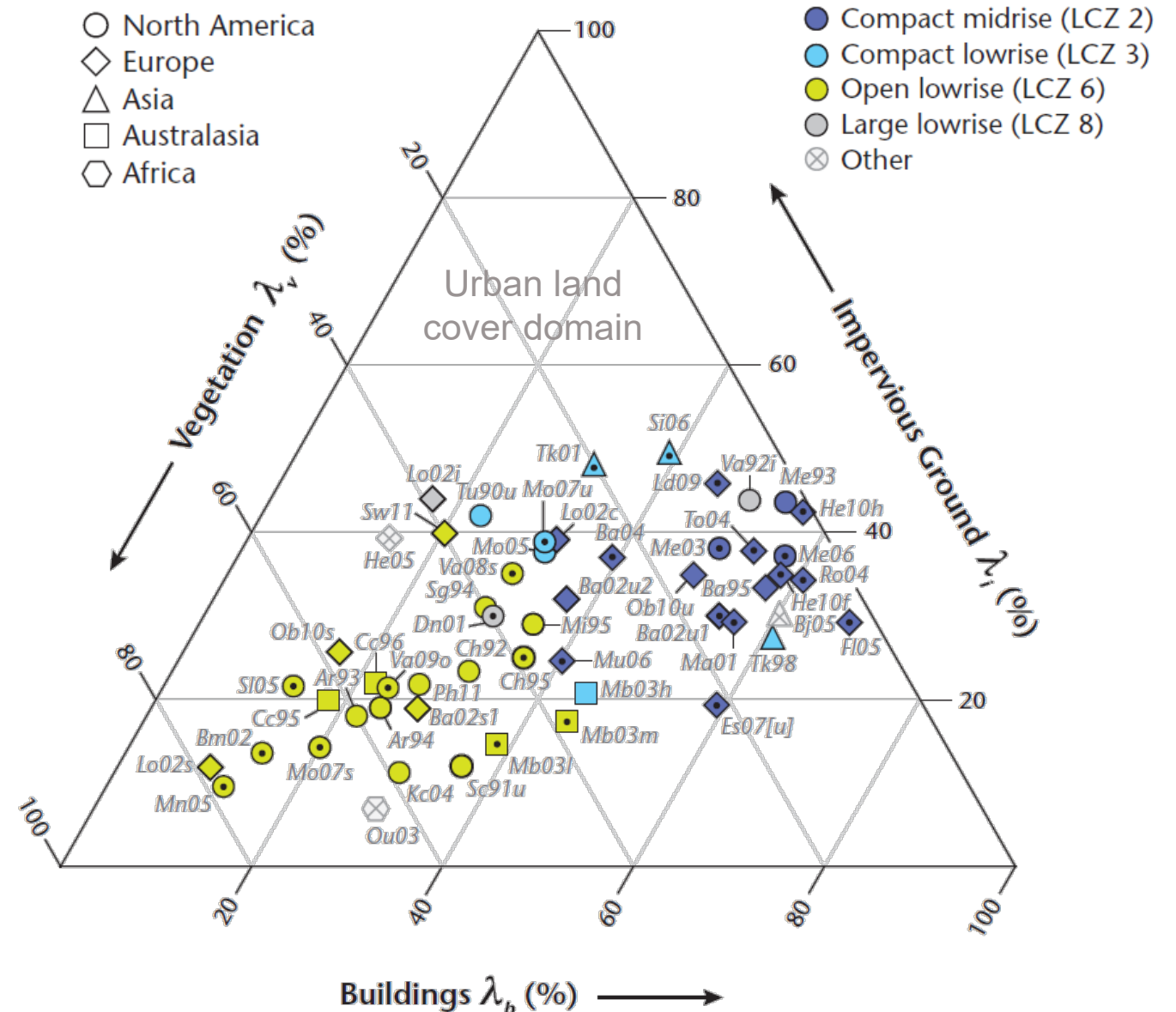
**LCZ F**  
Bare soil or sand



**LCZ G**  
Water

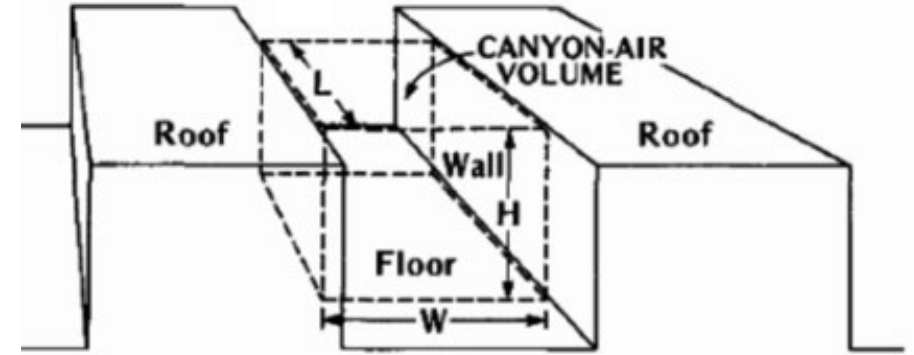


- **Local climate zone LCZ:** categorization of the urban landscape types per their ability to *modify local surface climates*.
- LCZ type indicates impermeability, roughness, thermal behavior, *use of energy and water*.
- Other types of categorizations:
  - **land use classes** (expresses urban function, irrelevant for physics),
  - **climatopes** (no explicit description of the surface, define areas with similar microclimatic characteristics, relevant for urban planning).



- Urban canyon or street canyon: structure formed by a street with its three facets: canyon floor (usually a road), and two sides (the walls of flanking buildings)
- Canyon aspect ratio  $\lambda_s$ : the ratio between the height (H) and width (W) of an urban canyon

$$\lambda_s = \frac{H}{W} \quad (1-1)$$



- Assessment of the canyon aspect ratio is important for understanding radiation access, shade and trapping, wind effects, thermal comfort and dispersion of pollutants.

|                                                |  |
|------------------------------------------------|--|
| Canyon,<br>$H/W = 0.5$ ,<br>$\lambda_b = 0.33$ |  |
| Canyon,<br>$H/W = 1$ ,<br>$\lambda_b = 0.5$    |  |
| Canyon,<br>$H/W = 2$ ,<br>$\lambda_b = 0.66$   |  |
| Canyon,<br>$H/W = 4$ ,<br>$\lambda_b = 0.8$    |  |

LCZ 1: Compact high-rise

LCZ 2: Compact mid-rise

LCZ 3: Compact low-rise

LCZ 4: Open high-rise

LCZ 5: Open mid-rise

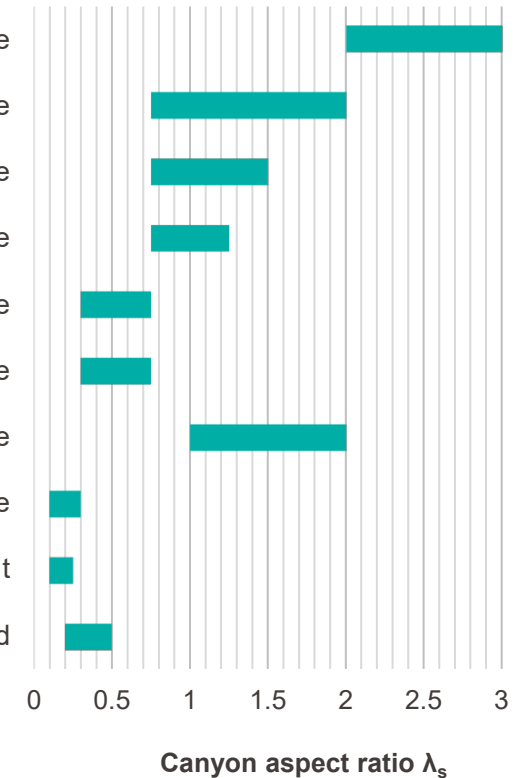
LCZ 6: Open low-rise

LCZ 7: Lightweight low-rise

LCZ 8: Large low-rise

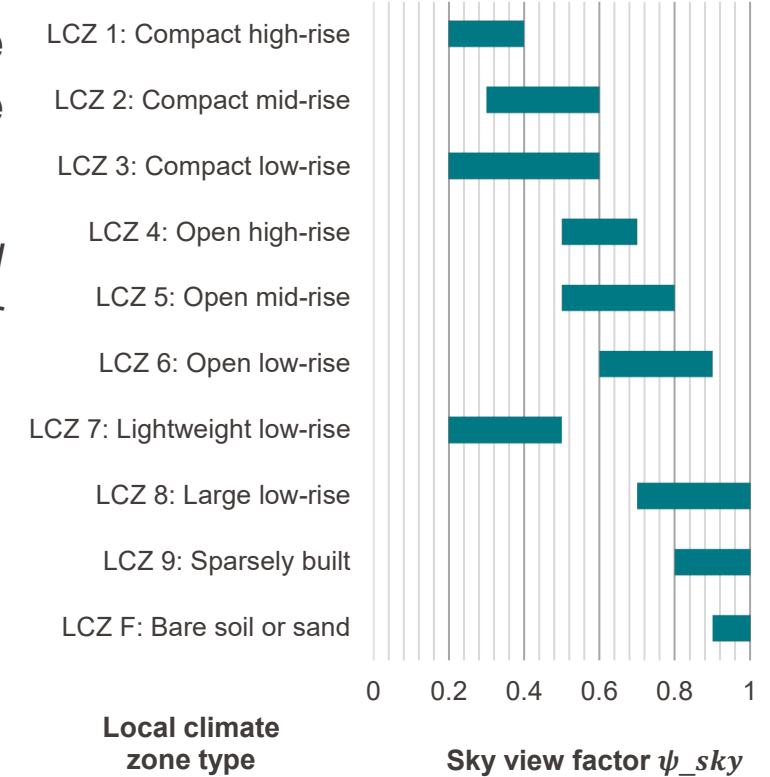
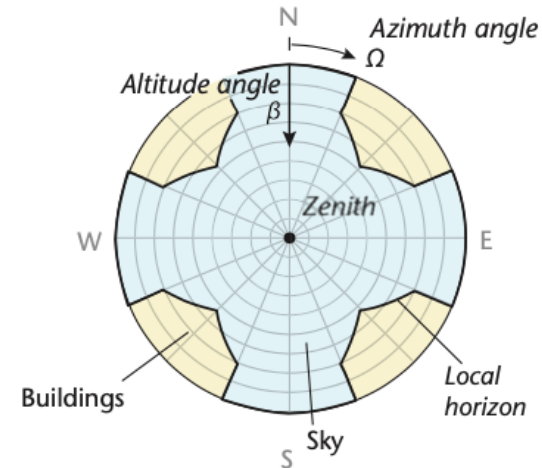
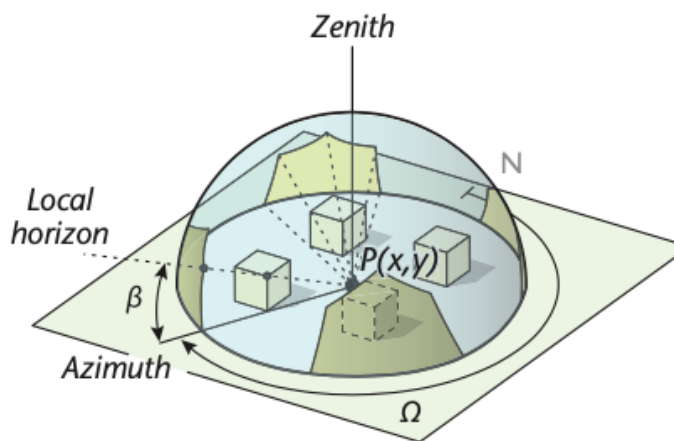
LCZ 9: Sparsely built

LCZ F: Bare soil or sand

Local climate  
zone type

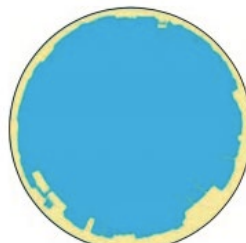


- **Sky view factor  $\psi_{sky}$** : fraction of the radiative flux leaving the surface at a given point that reaches the atmosphere above the urban canopy.
- $\psi_{sky} = 1$  for a point at the top of a roof with *no horizon screening* by other buildings or hills. *Open areas* have *high* sky view factor whereas *obstructed* configurations have a *low* sky view factor.

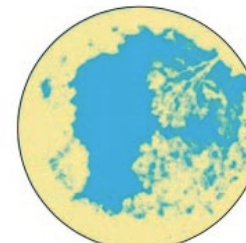


Source: Oke, Urban Climates, p. 23

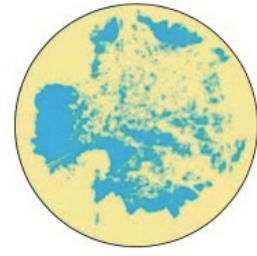
Parking lot:



Park:

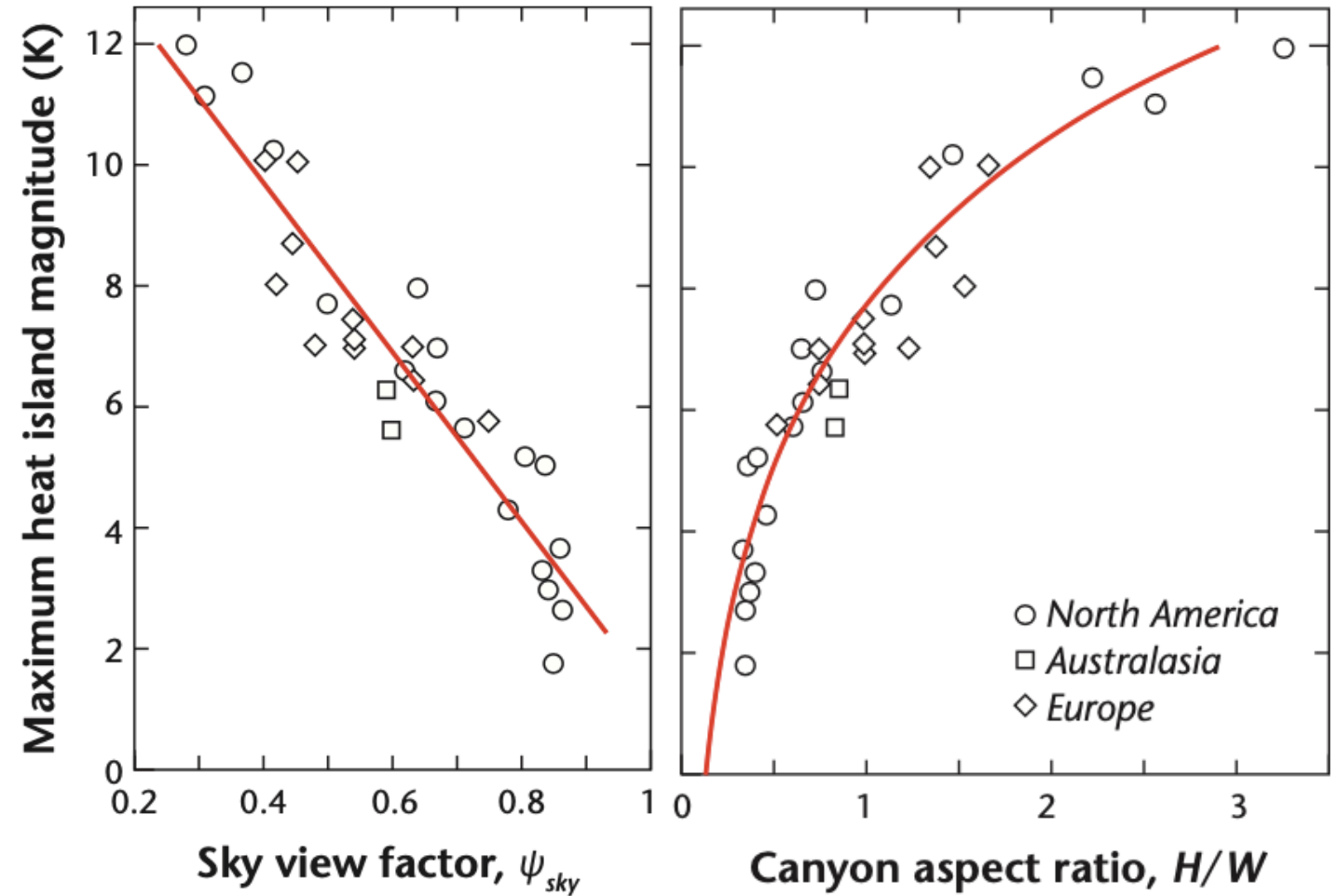


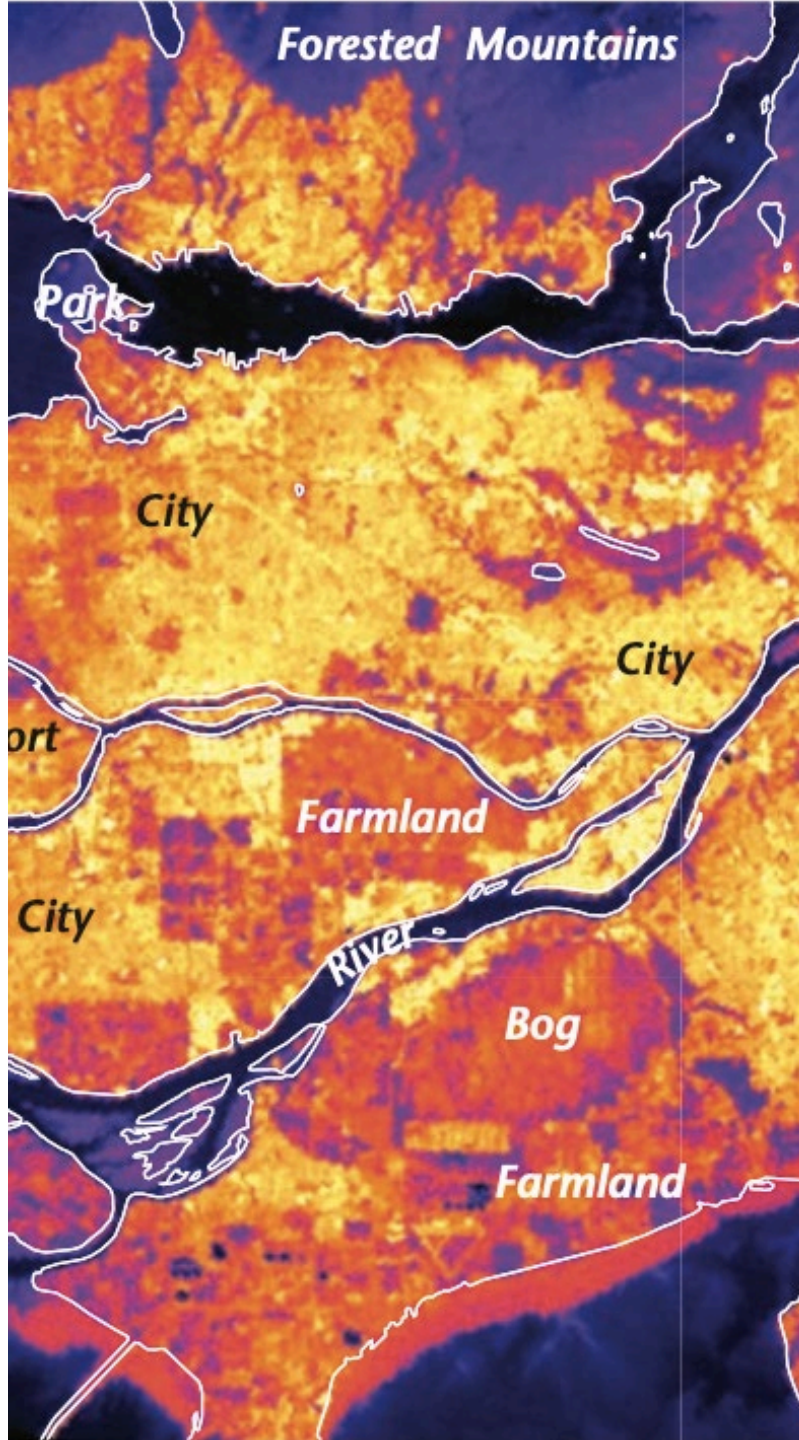
Tree-lined street:



Source: Oke, Urban Climates, p. 24

- The **sky view factor**  $\psi_{sky}$  and the **canyon aspect ratio**  $\lambda_s$  are *correlated* to the **urban heat island effect** (valid for all types and sizes of cities)
- **Sky view factor**  $\psi_{sky}$  and the **canyon aspect ratio**  $\lambda_s$  are **universal indicators** of the **thermal behavior** of **urban areas** (even though these characteristics are less precise than actual *physical properties* describing the physical behavior of urban areas)





# CONTENT:

## I. Introduction to the course

- Content, schedule, grading
- Group project overview

## II. Urban characteristics

- Overview of properties
- Local climate zones (LCZ)
- Street canyon aspect ratio ( $\lambda_s$ )
- Sky view factor ( $\psi_{sky}$ )

## III. Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect

- Energy balance for cities, anthropogenic heat
- UHI definition, types, magnitude, dynamics
- Consequences

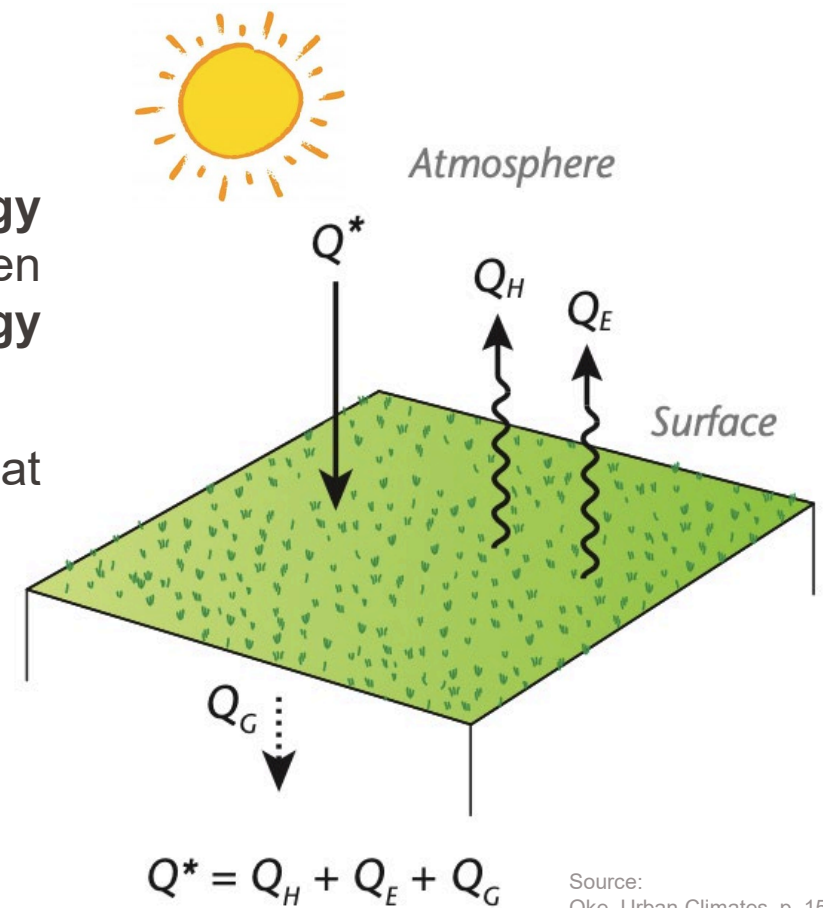


# EPFL Energy Balance in Rural areas

- The **surface energy balance (SEB)** - the net result of energy exchanges by *radiation*, *convection* and *conduction* between a **surface element** and the **atmosphere**. Due to **energy conservation**, the surface *should always be* at balance.
- **SEB formulation for a rural area** (no built elements, no heat sources):

$$(1-2) \quad Q^* = Q_H + Q_E + Q_G \quad (W/m^2)$$

Net allwave radiation heat flux  
Sensible heat flux  
Latent heat flux  
Ground heat flux (conduction to the soil)



\* the balance in Eqn. (1-2) *simplified* by considering only *vertical fluxes* over the surface

- The **daily** and **seasonal pattern** of the **SEB** is **set** by the **radiation heat flux  $Q^*$**  received from the Sun:
  - During day,  $Q^* > 0$  and energy goes into the soil as sensible heat or into the air through convection.
  - During night,  $Q^* < 0$  and energy is released from surfaces.

Note that in Oke's book "*Urban Climates*" the **net heat flux** in units of  $W/m^2$  is labeled as  $[Q]$  (capitalized), while in other sources it could be labeled as  $[\dot{q}]$  (e.g., in Medved's book)

# EPFL Energy Balance in Urban areas

- Urban areas differ significantly from rural areas by their surface geometry and properties. It leads to a very different dynamic of physical processes.
- The energy balance of an urban element is made of a control volume that contains sources and sinks of energy.
  - Although the urban element is a combination of surfaces, the energy balance is not only the sum of these surfaces as these surfaces also interact with each other.
  - Contrary to the surface energy balance (SEB), the masses of the volume elements are considered.

$$(1-3) \quad Q^* + Q_F = Q_H + Q_E + \Delta Q_S + \Delta Q_A \quad (W/m^2)$$

Net radiation

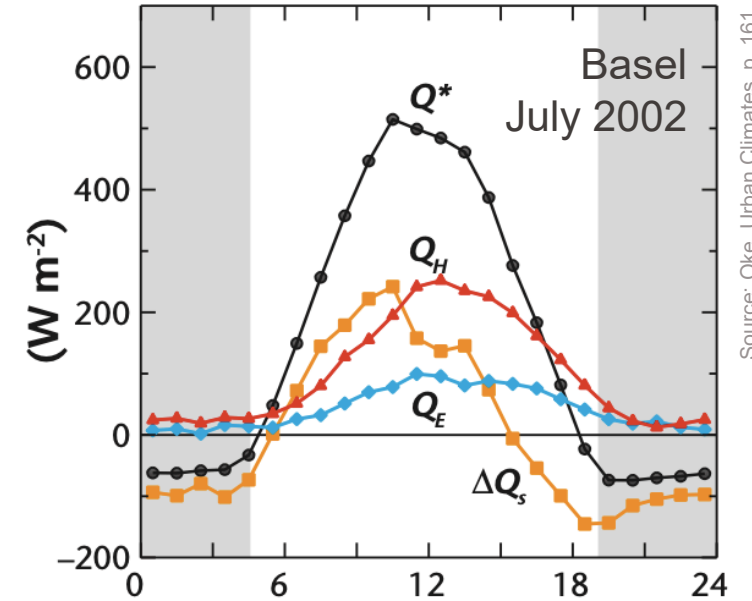
Anthropogenic heat

Sensible heat

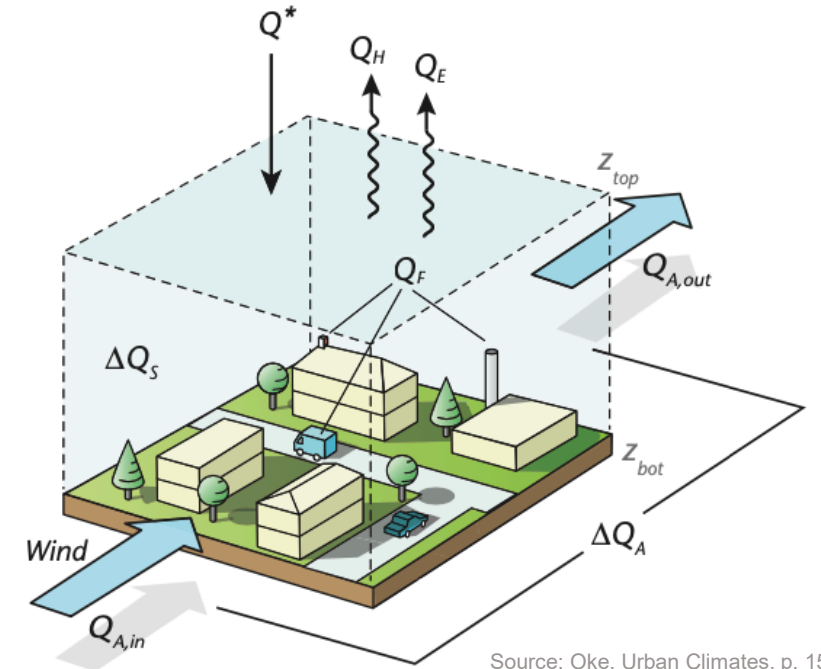
Latent heat

Stored heat

Advection heat  
(considered ~0 in practice)



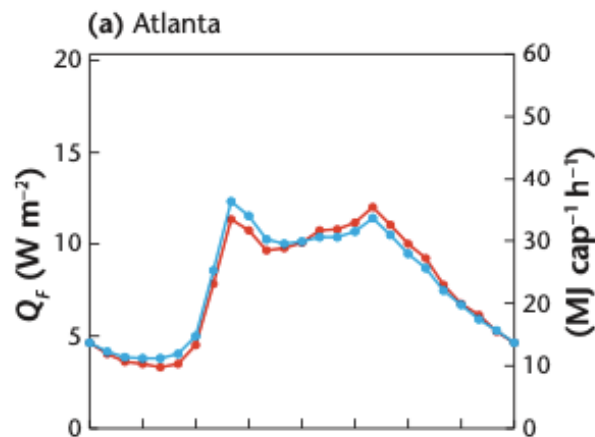
Source: Oke, Urban Climates, p. 161



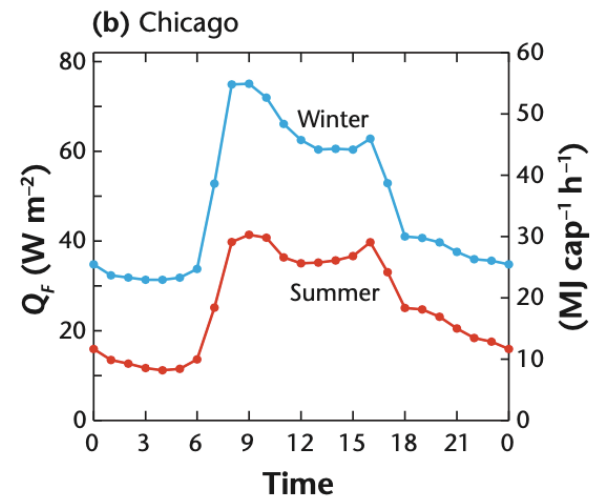
Source: Oke, Urban Climates, p. 157

# EPFL Anthropogenic Heat

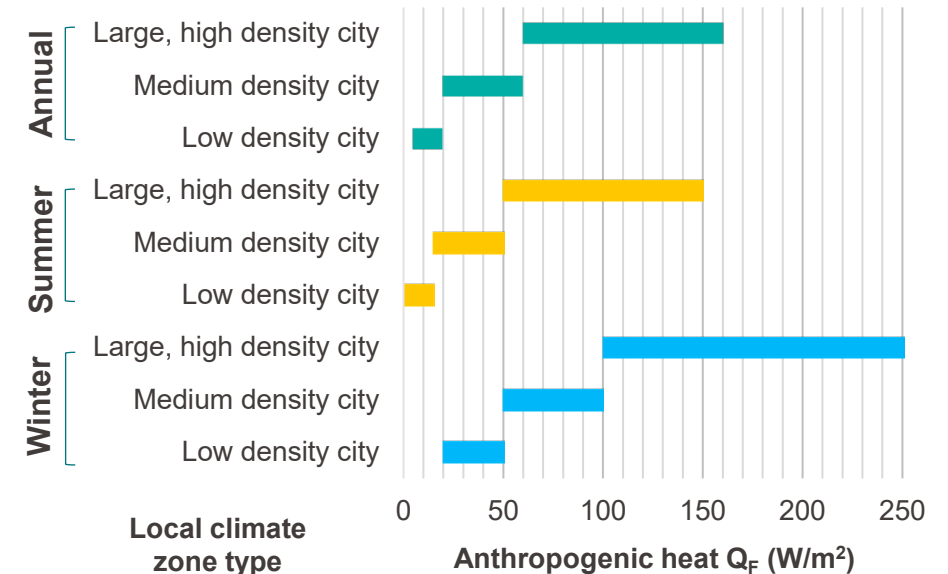
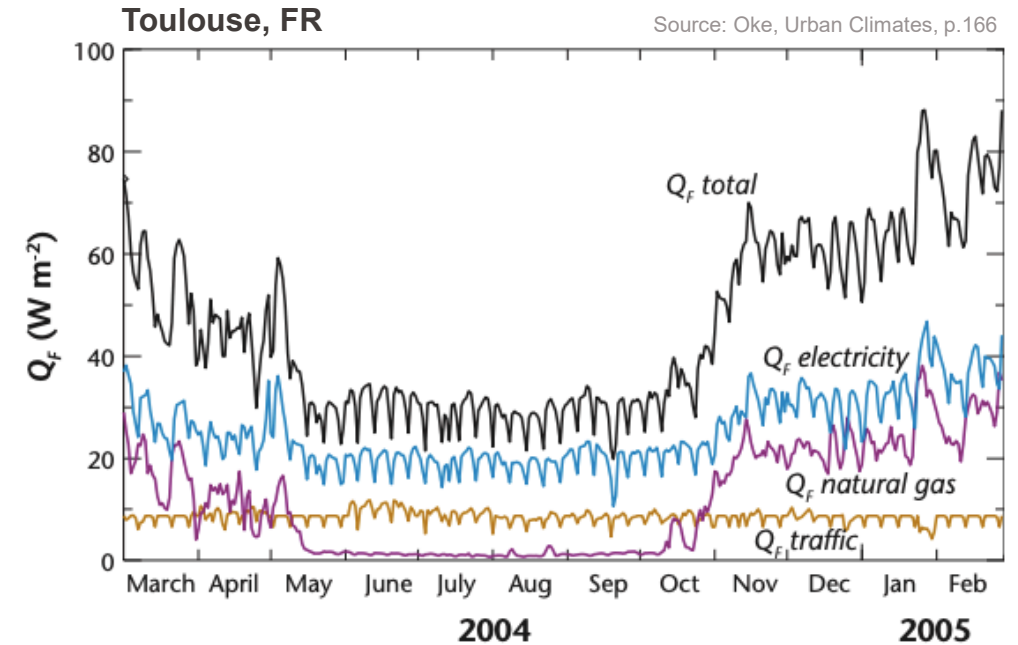
- **Anthropogenic heat  $Q_F$  ( $W/m^2$ ):** heat released from human activities to the atmosphere
- **Main sources of anthropogenic heat:**
  - Human and animal metabolisms
  - Use of electric devices
  - Combustion of fuels
- Anthropogenic heat is *higher* during the day. It *varies* with the *season* with peaks of heat flux during winter and summer if heating and cooling are used.



Source: Oke, Urban Climates, p.165



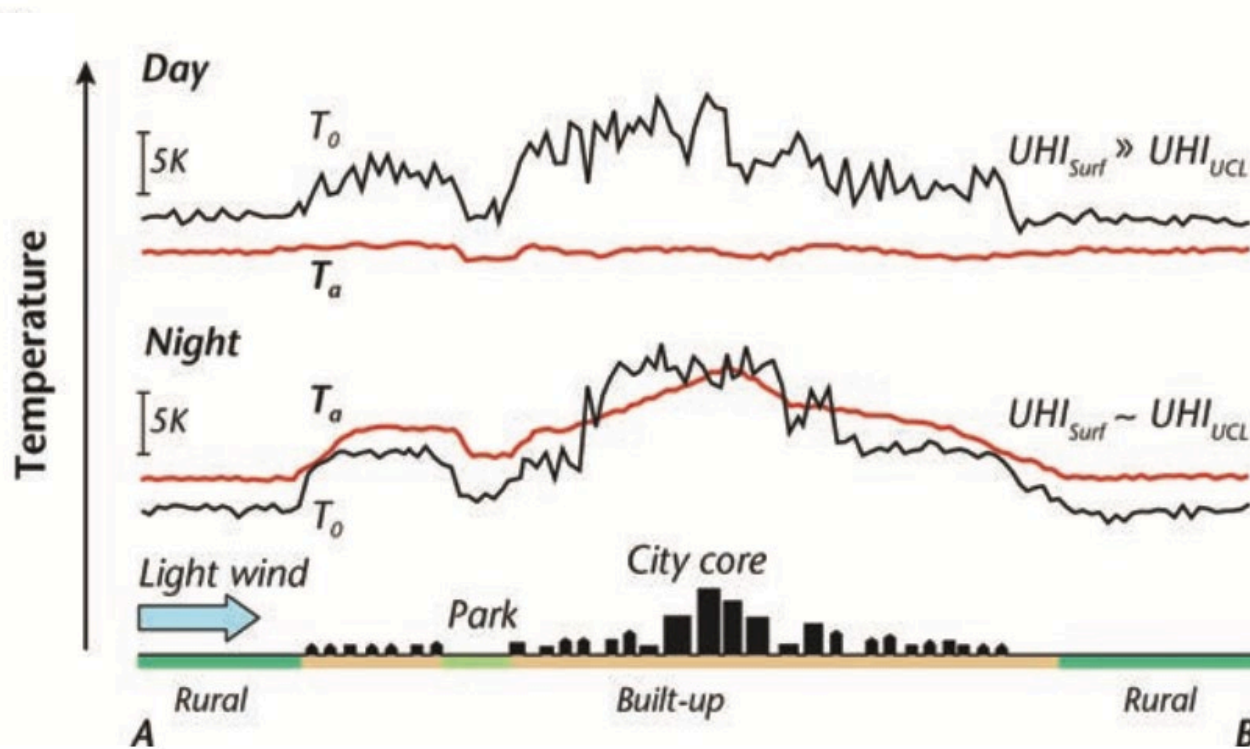
Time





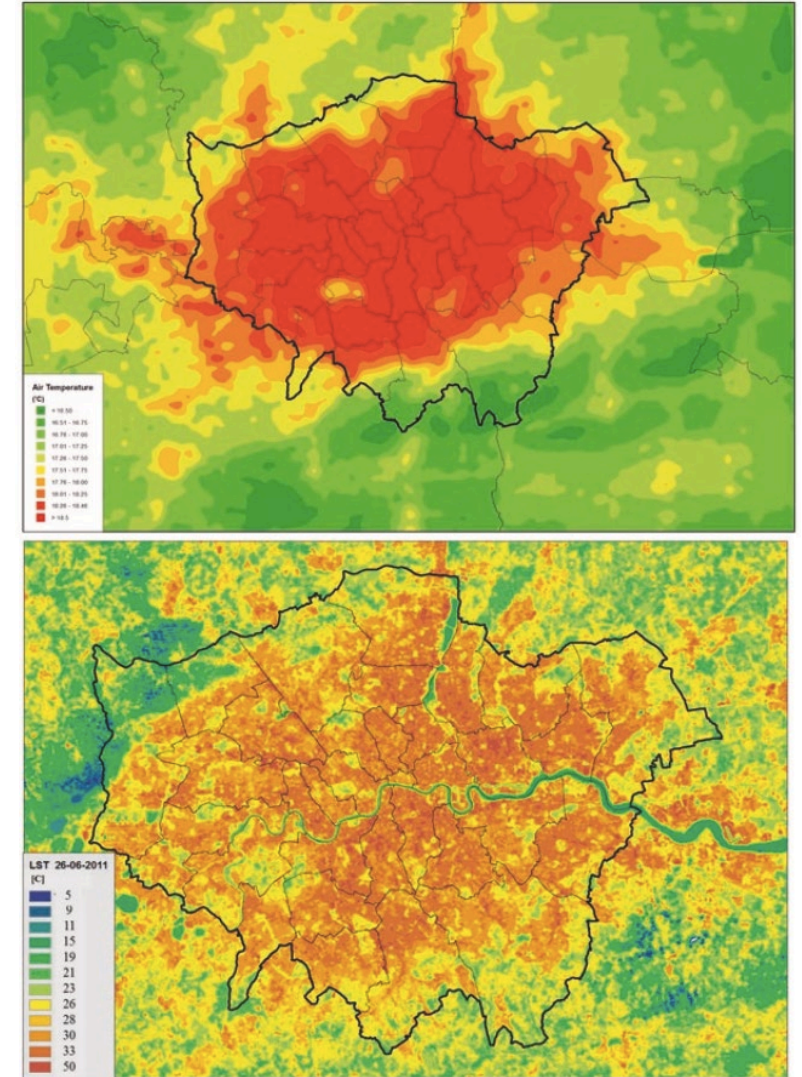
# EPFL Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect

- Urban heat island UHI phenomenon: urban areas experience significantly *higher* temperatures than their surrounding rural areas due to **unintentional climate alterations** caused by human activities.



Source: Oke, Urban Climates, p. 200

## Surface and air UHI for the city of London



Source: Palme & Salvati, Urban microclimate modelling for comfort and energy studies, p. 33

# Urban Heat Island (UHI): Types

- Different UHI exist, they are characterized by their **scales**, their **physical processes**. They have different *temporal* and *spatial* dynamics.
- The **different UHI** require *different monitoring* schemes and **models** for simulation
- They *interact with each other* resulting in a *global effect*

## UHI types:

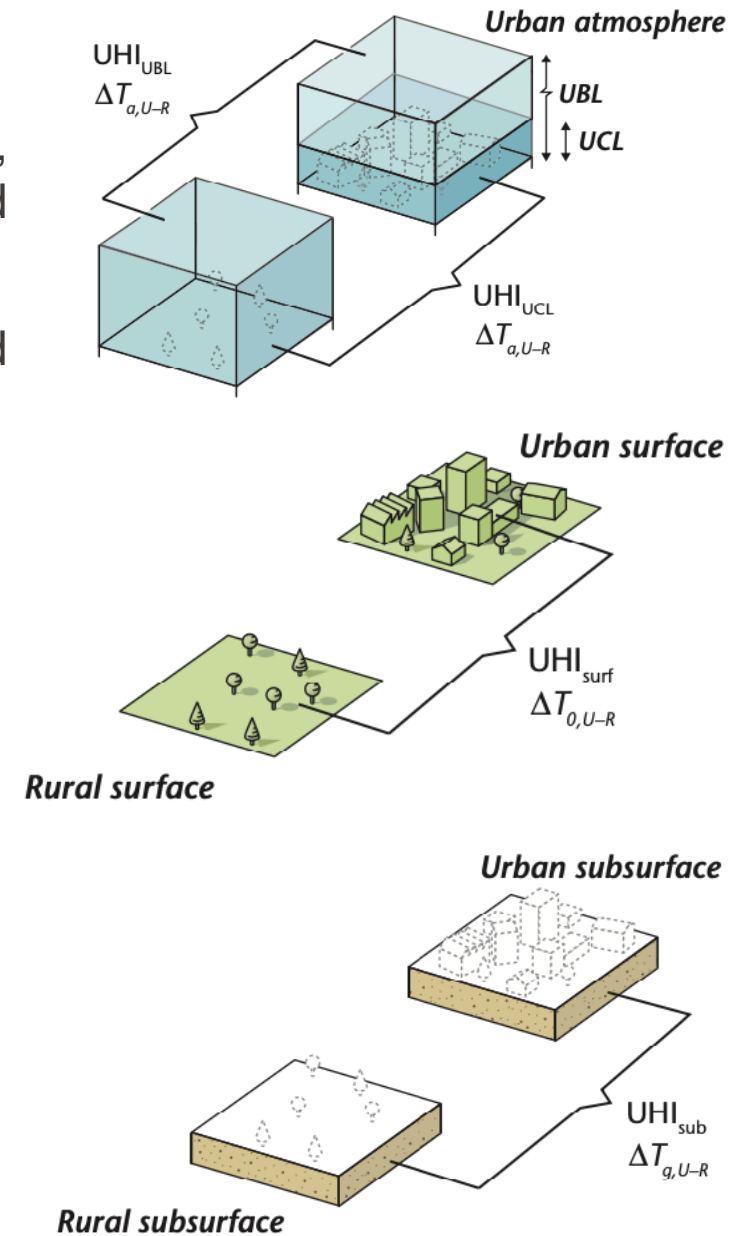
- Air temperature → Urban canopy layer UHI
- Surface temperature → Surface UHI
- Ground temperature → Subsurface UHI

Global change

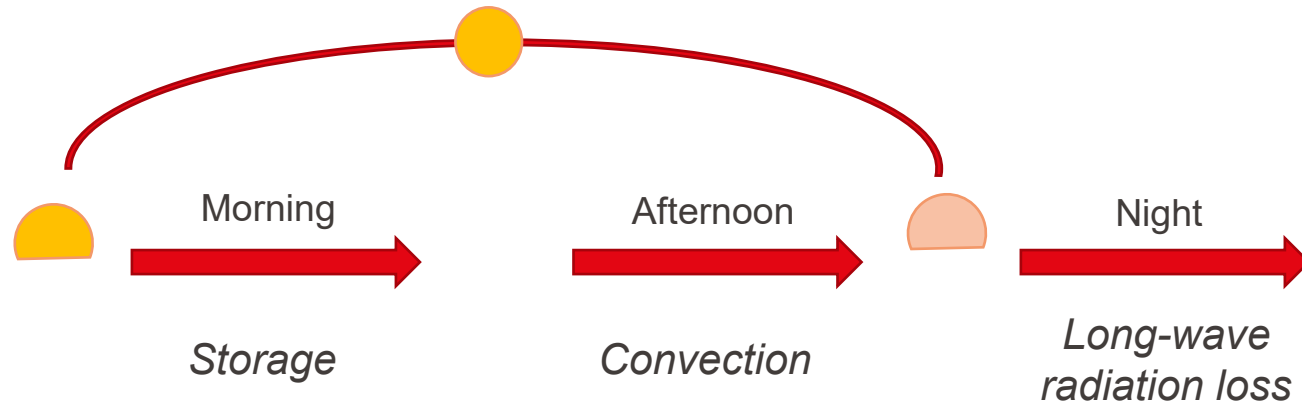
Urban canopy layer UHI

Surface UHI

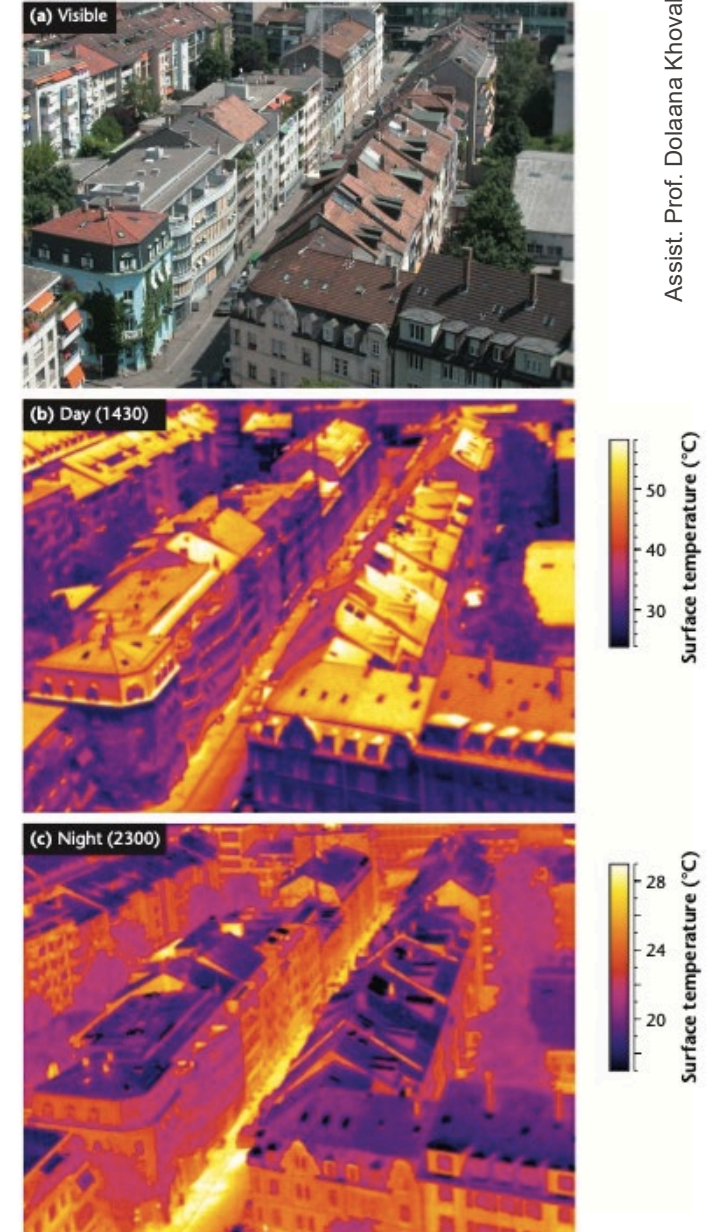
Subsurface UHI



- **Temporal and spatial variation** of each type of UHI: UHI varies *daily*, with *season* and with *weather*.
- **Diurnal variation of UHI:** UHI is primarily driven by solar radiation. During day, heat is *absorbed* by urban surfaces. During night, urban surfaces are cooled down via *convection* and *radiation loss*.



- **Weather-driven variation of UHI:** it *decreases* with wind speed and cloud cover as *less sun radiation reaches the urban surface*.
- **Seasonality of UHI:** it is higher during summer and lower during winter.



Source: Oke, Urban Climates, p. 201



# Urban Heat Island (UHI): Magnitude

- UHI magnitude or intensity  $UHI_{mag}$  (K or °C) - difference between urban and rural temperatures:

$$UHI_{mag} = \Delta T_{U-R} = T_U - T_R \quad (1-4)$$

- The **maximum night UHI intensity** (with respect to air temperature  $T_{air}$ ) is correlated with the **average canyon aspect ratio**:

$$UHI_{mag} = 7.54 + 3.97 \ln \frac{H}{W} \quad (1-5)$$

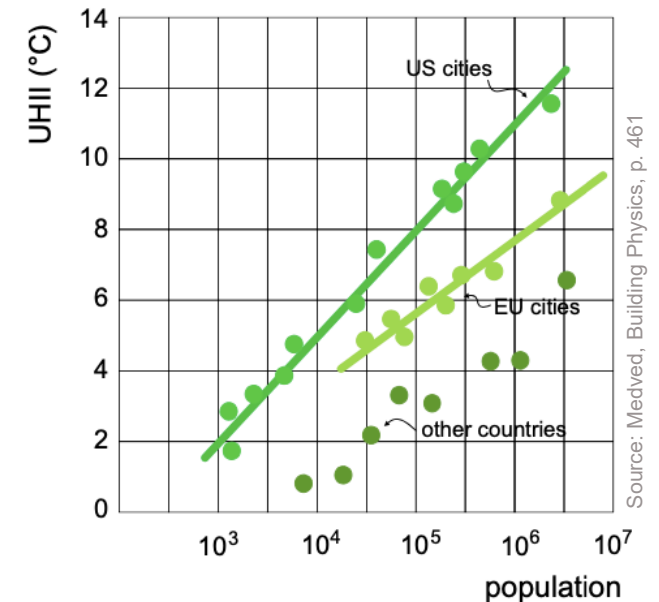
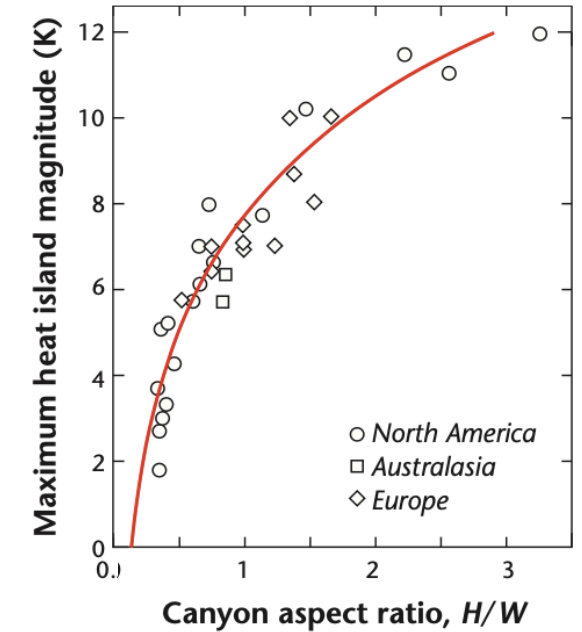
$H$  (m) – average height of the streets,  $W$  (m) – average width of the streets

- Empirical expression of **the maximum night UHI intensity** (with respect to  $T_{air}$ ) as a function of **population**:

North America:  $UHI_{mag} = 2.96 \cdot \log(P) - 6.41 \quad (1-6)$

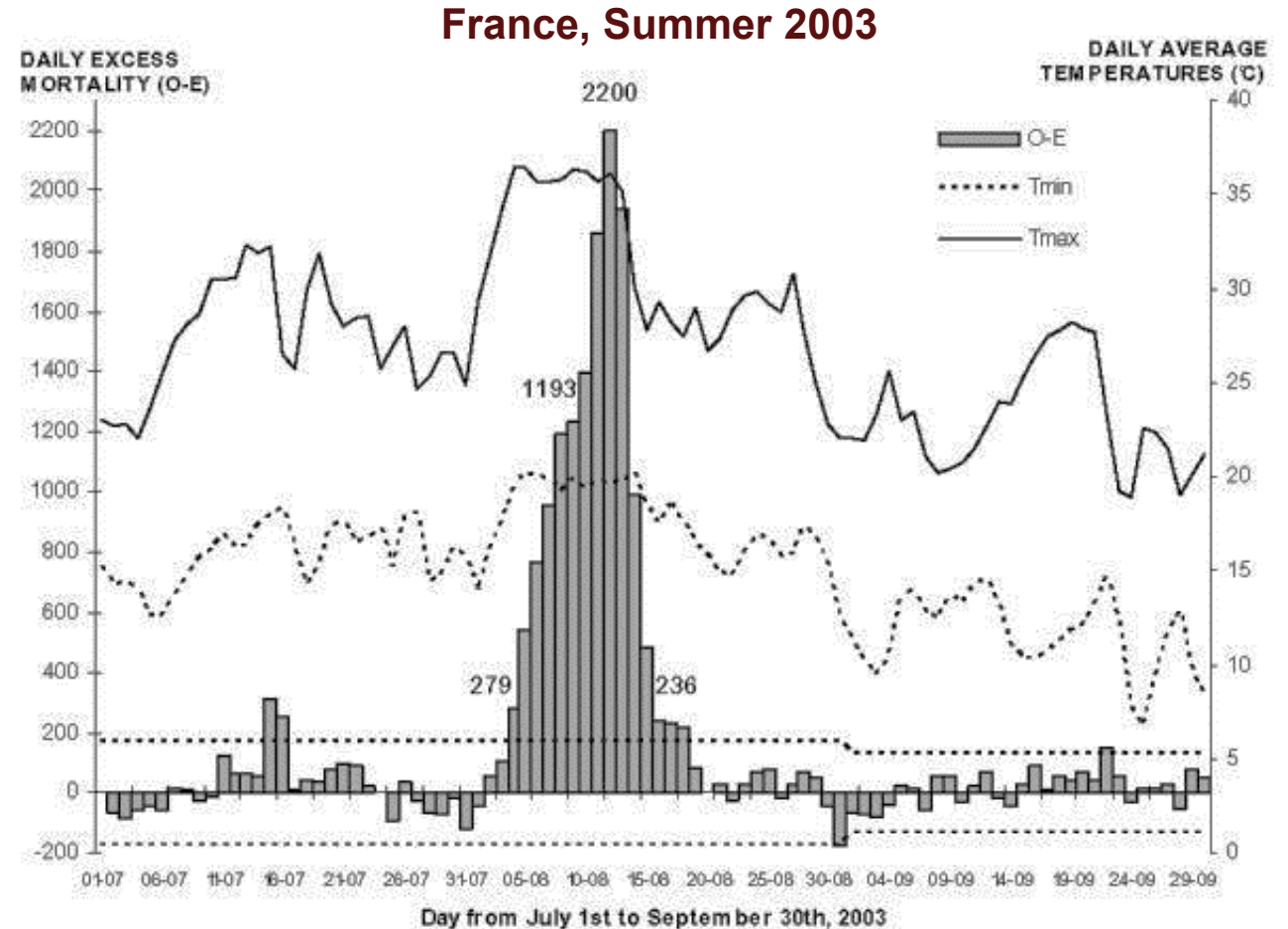
Europe:  $UHI_{mag} = 2.01 \cdot \log(P) - 4.06 \quad (1-7)$

$P$  (nb inhabitants) - city population





1. Increasing urban temperature records and temperature difference between urban and rural areas
2. Lower space heating cost but higher space cooling requirements
3. Increased heat stress on city residents in summer
4. Disruption in biological rhythm and threat to the existence of plants and animals
5. Increased rate of chemical reactions leading to smog and pollution
6. Contribution to and enhanced by global climate change



Source: <http://europemc.org/article/PMC/1950160>

# EPFL Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect

Name **urban elements** that can lead to **exacerbated UHI effect** of the district shown in the picture.



## ■ Main causes of the UHI:

1. **Decreased long-wave radiation loss** to the sky due to the *increase in blockage*
2. **Increased absorption of short-wave radiation** due to *increased reflection* and use of *low-albedo materials*
3. **Increased absorption of long-wave radiation** due to *air pollution*
4. **Increased sensible heat storage** due to the use of materials with *high thermal transmittance* (e.g., concrete, asphalt, brick)
5. **Decreased evapotranspiration** due to the reduced presence of soil, water bodies, and vegetation
6. **Increased anthropogenic heat production** due to *buildings and heavy traffic*
7. **Decreased convective heat transport** due to a *reduction in wind speed*



Image from: [Air pollution hotspots in Europe \(phys.org\)](https://phys.org)

Source: Kubilay, A., Derome, D. & Carmeliet, J. (2017), 'Coupling of physical phenomena in urban microclimate: A model integrating air flow, wind-driven rain, radiation and transport in building materials', Urban Climate 24





**Thank you  
for your attention**

**Assist. Prof.  
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