



# **CIVIL-309: URBAN THERMODYNAMICS**

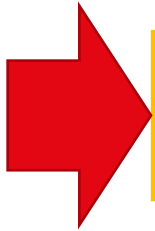
**Assist. Prof.  
Dolaana Khovalyg**

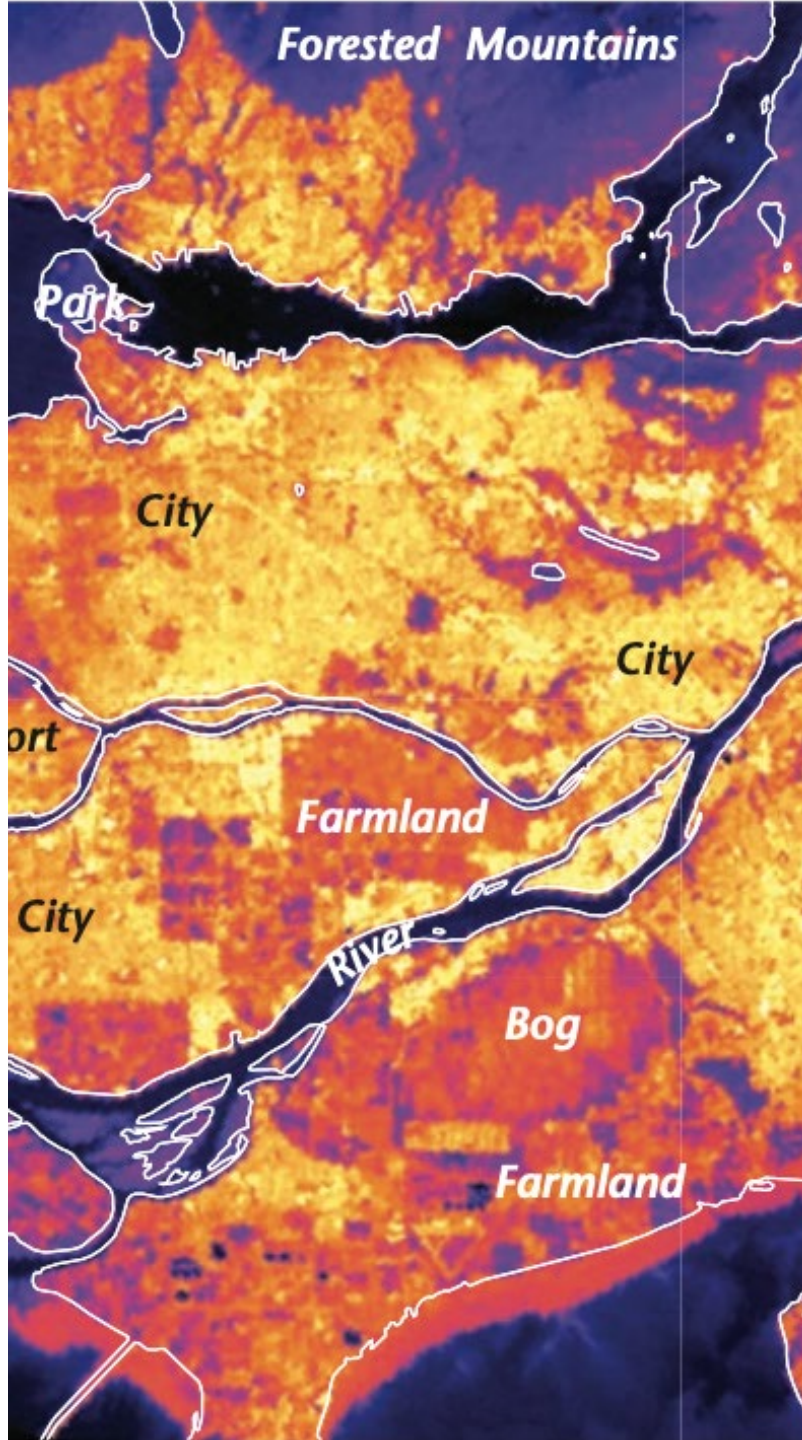
Lecture 04:

**Heat Transfer and Thermal Properties:  
Convection and Evaporation**

# EPFL Course Schedule

Week	Date	Time	Topics	Instructor
1	12.09	2 x 45'	<b>Course overview:</b> content, evaluation, topics <b>Urban characteristics, Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect</b>	DK
		1 x 45'	Introduction to the web tool <b>CityTherm</b> (part I)	DK
2	19.09	1 x 45'	<b>Overview of physical parameters</b>	DK
		1 x 45'	<b>Introduction to the course project I</b>	DK, JY
		1 x 45'	Supervised work on the course project I	JY
3	26.09	2 x 45'	<b>Heat Transfer: Conduction and radiation</b>	DK
		1 x 45'	Supervised work on the course project I	JY
4	03.10	2 x 45'	<b>Heat Transfer: Convection and evaporation</b>	DK
		1 x 45'	Supervised work on the course project I	JY
5	10.10	1 x 45'	<b>Campus walk:</b> exploring urban thermodynamics	DK, JY
		2 x 45'	Supervised work on the course project I	JY
6	17.10	3 x 45'	Supervised work on the course project I <b>Course project I submission deadline: 16:00 on October 17</b>	JY
7	24.10		<b>BREAK</b>	





# CONTENT:

## I. Convection

- Definitions
- Fluid properties
- Heat transfer coefficient
- Natural and forced convection

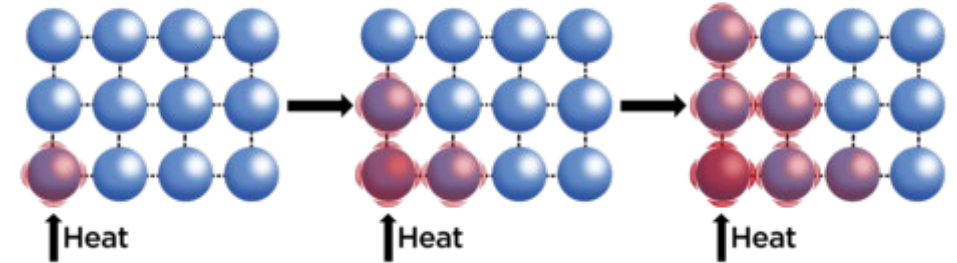
## II. Combined modes of heat transfer

## III. Evaporation

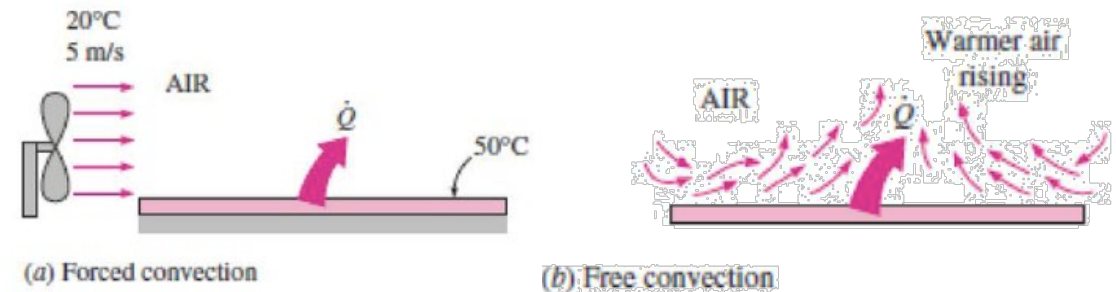
- Definitions
- Transport of water vapor
- Bowen ratio
- Methods to determine evaporation rate (Eddy Correlation, Bulk Transfer, Energy Balance, Penman)

- **Sensible (“visible”) heat transfer** - energy transferred as heat, require the existence of a temperature difference. There are 3 modes of heat transfer.

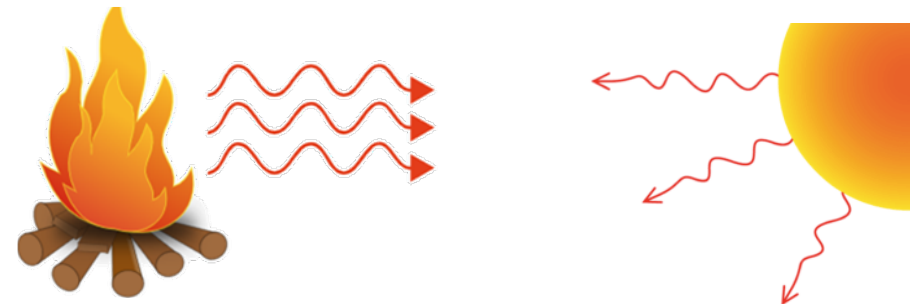
- **Conduction** – the transfer of thermal energy *from the more energetic particles of a substance to the adjacent less energetic ones as a result of interactions between particles.*



- **Convection** – the transfer of thermal energy *between a solid surface and the adjacent liquid or gas that is in motion* (the faster the fluid motion, the greater the convection heat transfer).



- **(Thermal) Radiation** – the energy emitted by matter in the form of *electromagnetic waves* (transfer at the speed of light).



# Which of the following dimensionless numbers in convection do you know about?

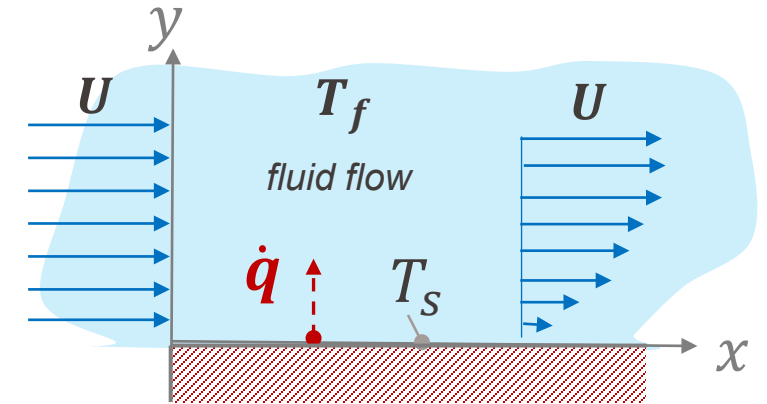
(choose up to 3 at the same time, or  
select separately ALL or NONE)

- A. Nusselt number
- B. Prandtl number
- C. Rayleigh number
- D. Reynolds number
- E. Grashof number
- F. All
- G. None

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- Transport of energy due to **diffusion** (random collisions of molecules) and by **bulk motion of the fluid** (heat transfer from a surface to a moving fluid or between different fluids).
- The **rate of heat transfer**  $q$  ( $\frac{W}{m^2}$ ) from or to a **surface** is *proportional* to **heat transfer coefficient** and the **temperature difference** between the **surface temperature** ( $T_s$ ) and the **temperature of the free stream fluid** ( $T_f$ ):

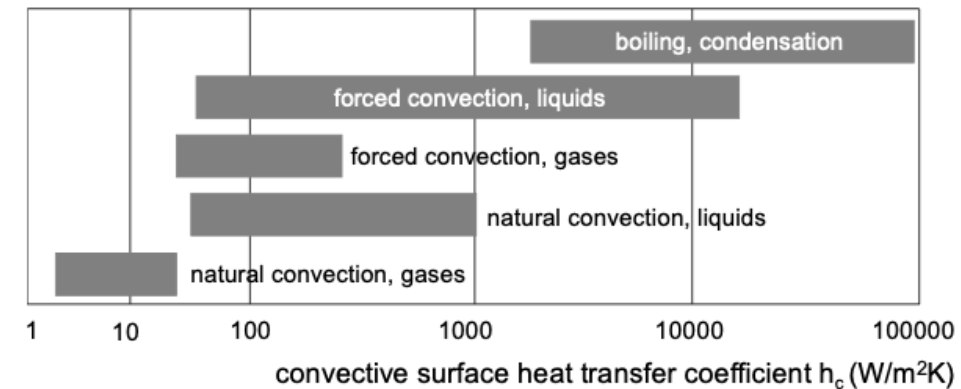


If  $T_s > T_\infty$ , the convection heat flux is transferred **from** the surface

Newton's Law of Cooling:  $q = h_{conv} \cdot (T_s - T_f)$  (4-1)

- Convective heat transfer coefficient**  $h_{conv}$  ( $\frac{W}{m^2 \cdot K}$ ): the rate of heat transfer (in 1 sec) *between a solid surface and a fluid per unit surface area* ( $1 \text{ m}^2$ ) *per unit temperature difference* (1 K).
- Convective thermal resistance**  $R_{conv}$  ( $\frac{m^2 \cdot K}{W}$ ): the *reciprocal* of convective heat transfer coefficient, indicates ability of the medium to resist a heat flow.

Source: Medved, Building Physics, p. 22



$$R_{conv} = \frac{1}{h_{conv}} \quad (4-2)$$

- Convective heat transfer coefficient  $h_{conv}$  depends on:
  - Fluid properties ( $\mu$ ,  $k$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $c_p$ )
  - Solid surface characteristics (its geometry and roughness)
  - Intensity of fluid flow (fluid velocity  $V$ )
  - Fluid motion (natural vs. forced)
  - Type of the fluid flow (laminar vs. turbulent)

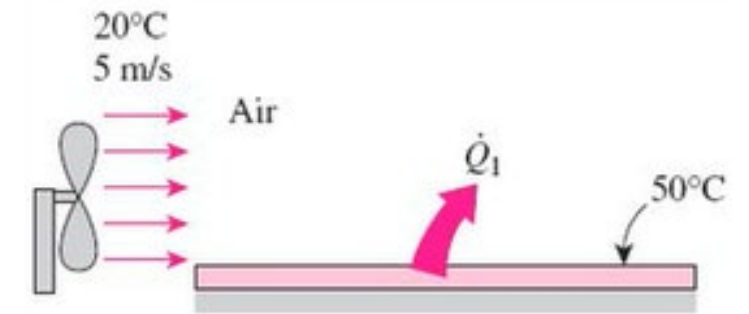
$$h_{conv} = \frac{Nu \cdot k}{L_c} \quad (4-3a)$$

$$Nu = \frac{\dot{q}_{conv}}{\dot{q}_{cond}} = \frac{h_{conv} \cdot \Delta T}{k \cdot \Delta T / L} = \frac{h_{conv} \cdot L_c}{k} \quad (4-3b)$$

$L_c$  - characteristic length (m)

- Nusselt number,  $Nu$**  (–): **dimensionless convective heat transfer number**, represents *the enhancement of heat transfer through a fluid layer as a result of convection relative to conduction* across the same fluid layer.

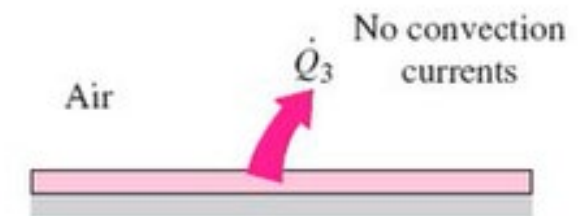
$Nu \approx 1$  - heat transfer across the layer by pure conduction,  $Nu \gg 1$  - more effective convection



(a) Forced convection



(b) Natural convection



(c) Conduction

Reminder from L3

- **Density,  $\rho$**  ( $\frac{kg}{m^3}$ ): **mass of a unit volume** of a material substance
- **Thermal conductivity,  $k$  or  $\lambda$**  ( $\frac{W}{m \cdot K}$ ): **the rate of heat transfer** (in 1 sec) through **a unit of thickness** (1 m) of the material **per unit area** (1 m<sup>2</sup>) per **unit temperature difference** (1 K/m).
- **Thermal diffusivity,  $\alpha$**  ( $\frac{m^2}{s}$ ): **time** at which temperature *change travels* and **depth** of the layer involved in *thermal changes*, **represents how fast heat diffuses through a material**. A material with low thermal diffusivity, such as sand, doesn't store much of the thermal energy.
- **Specific heat capacity (isobaric),  $c_p$**  ( $\frac{J}{kg \cdot K}$ ): ability of a material to store heat. Energy absorbed by 1 kg of material when its temperature increases by 1 K, highly dependent on temperature.
- **Heat capacity (isobaric),  $C_p$**  ( $\frac{J}{m^3 \cdot K}$ ): specific heat capacity expressed in terms of the volume.

$$k = \alpha \cdot C_p \quad (3-11)$$

$$\alpha = \frac{k}{\rho \cdot c_p} \quad (3-12)$$

$$C_p = \rho \cdot c_p \quad (3-13)$$

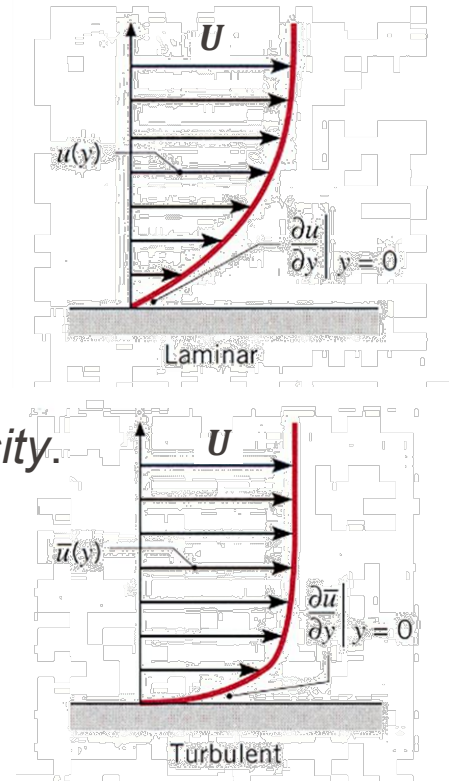
# Fluid Properties: Conductive and Convective

Fluid Type	$t$ ( $^{\circ}C$ )	Both		Conduction			Convection		
		$\rho$ ( $\frac{kg}{m^3}$ )	$k$ ( $\frac{W}{m \cdot K}$ )	$c_p$ ( $\frac{kJ}{kg \cdot K}$ )	$\alpha \cdot 10^{-6}$ ( $\frac{m^2}{s}$ )	$\mu \cdot 10^{-6}$ ( $\frac{N \cdot s}{m^2}$ )	$\nu \cdot 10^{-6}$ ( $\frac{m^2}{s}$ )	$Pr$	
Air	-10	1.334	0.023	1.006	17.62	16.61	12.6	0.717	
	0	1.287	0.024	1.006	18.94	17.11	13.49	0.714	
	20	1.194	0.026	1.007	21.58	18.11	15.27	0.709	
	40	1.118	0.027	1.008	24.42	19.07	17.2	0.705	
	60	1.052	0.029	1.008	27.38	20.02	19.21	0.702	
Water	0	1000	0.555	4.219	0.13	1790	1.79	13.61	
	20	998	0.598	4.182	0.14	1008	1.01	7.063	
	40	992	0.627	4.178	0.15	653	0.66	4.385	
	60	983	0.651	4.19	0.16	470	0.48	3.077	
Argon	0	1.784	0.018	0.52	19.09	20.99	11.77	0.616	
Krypton	0	3.75	0.0094	0.248	10.14	23.29	6.21	0.613	
Xenon	0	5.9	0.0056	0.158	6.05	21.1	3.58	0.591	

Source: Medved, Building Physics, p. 19

# EPFL Convection Properties

- **Viscosity** is the material property which relates the **viscous stresses** in a material to the **rate of change of a deformation** (the strain rate).
- **Dynamic viscosity**  $\mu$  ( $\frac{N \cdot s}{m^2}$  or  $\frac{kg}{m \cdot s}$ ): *proportionality constant* between the **vertical gradient of horizontal velocity** ( $\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$ ) and the **induced shear stress** ( $\tau_w$ ). It characterizes the *resistance to deformation at a given rate*.
- **Kinematic viscosity**  $\nu$  ( $\frac{m^2}{s}$ ): the ratio of the *dynamic viscosity* to the *fluid density*.



$$\tau_w = \mu \cdot \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)_{y=0} \quad (4-4)$$

$$\nu = \frac{\mu}{\rho} \quad (4-5)$$

Material properties can be combined into dimensionless numbers:

- **Prandtl number, Pr** (–): the *relative thickness* of the **velocity** and the **thermal boundary layers**, the ratio of **momentum diffusivity** to **thermal diffusivity** ( $Pr \approx 1$  in gases,  $Pr \approx 10$  for water).

$$Pr = \frac{\text{Molecular diffusivity of momentum}}{\text{Molecular diffusivity of heat}} \quad (4-6)$$

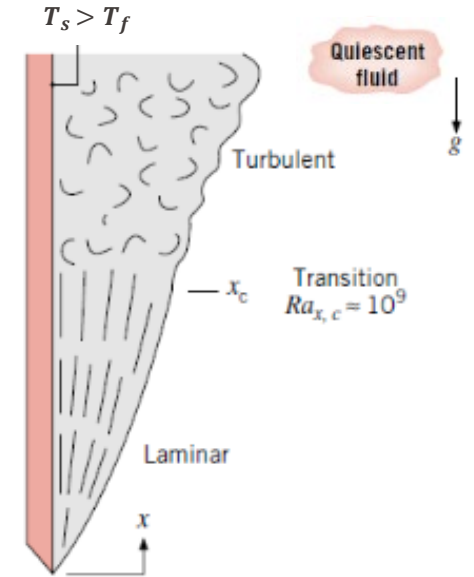
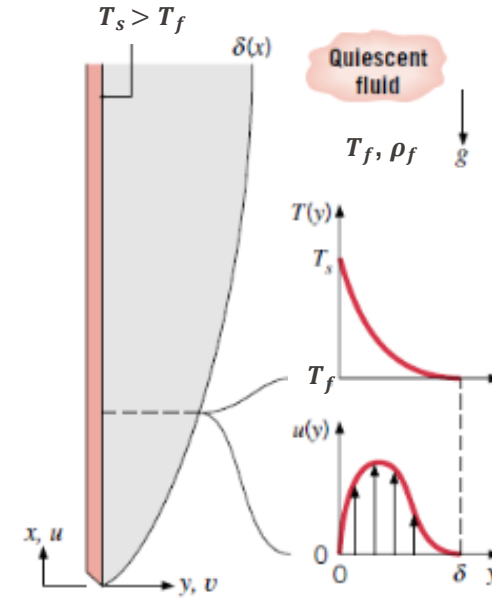
$$Pr = \frac{\nu}{\alpha} \quad (4-6a)$$

$$Pr = \frac{c_p \cdot \mu}{k} \quad (4-6b)$$

# Convection: Natural (Free)

- **Natural or free convection:** motion of fluid resulting from a temperature gradient (the fluid motion is due to the difference in density induced by the difference in temperature). The driving force of natural convection is buoyancy.
- **Volumetric thermal expansion coefficient  $\beta$  ( $\frac{1}{K}$ ):** expresses the net buoyancy force, the variation of the density of a fluid with temperature at constant pressure.

$$\beta = -\frac{1}{\rho} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial T} \right)_P \quad (4-7a) \quad \xrightarrow{\text{for ideal gas}} \quad \beta = \frac{1}{T} \quad (4-7b)$$



$$T = \frac{T_s + T_f}{2} \quad (4-8)$$

### Flow regime for vertical flat plates:

- Laminar flow  $Ra \leq 10^9$
- Turbulent flow  $Ra > 10^9$

- **Grashof number  $Gr$  (-):** the ratio of the buoyancy force to the viscous force acting on the fluid, governs the flow regime in natural convection.

$$Gr = \frac{\text{Buoyancy}}{\text{Viscosity}}$$

$$Gr = \frac{g \cdot \beta \cdot (T_s - T_f) \cdot L_c^3}{\nu^2} \quad (4-9) \quad \text{for } T_s > T_f$$

- **Rayleigh number  $Ra$  (-):** the product of  $Gr$  and  $Pr$  numbers, the ratio of buoyancy force and thermal and momentum diffusivities.

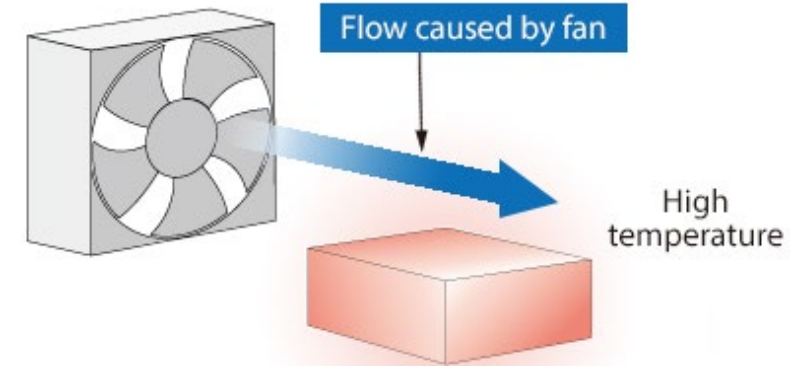
$$Ra = Gr \cdot Pr \quad (4-10)$$

- **Forced convection:** fluid motion *forced* by an **external source** (i.e., wind, fan).
- **Reynolds number  $Re$**  (-): the ratio of **inertial forces** to **viscous forces** within a fluid.
  - At small  $Re$ , the *viscous forces* are large enough to *suppress* random fluctuations → **laminar flow**
  - At large  $Re$ , the *inertial forces* ( $\sim \rho, V$ ) are *large relative* to viscous forces, thus, the viscous forces *can not prevent* the random and rapid fluctuations of the fluid → **turbulent flow**

$$Re = \frac{\text{Inertia forces}}{\text{Viscous forces}} \quad (4-11)$$

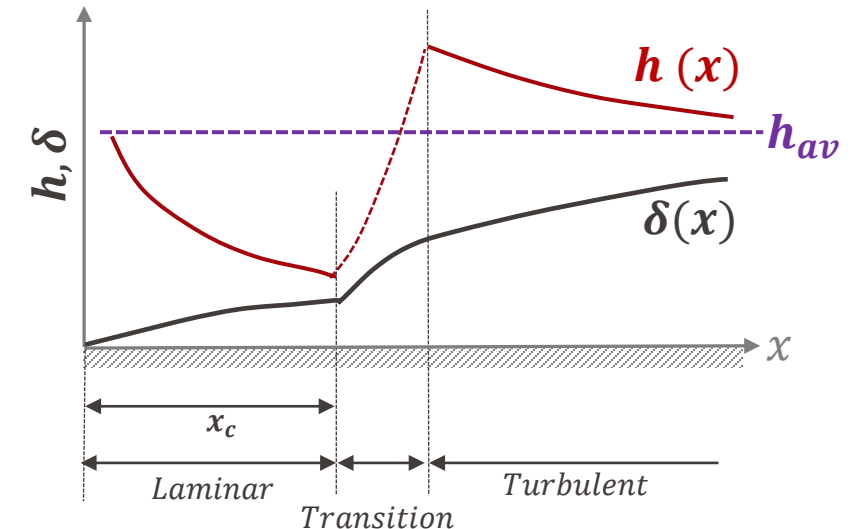
$$Re = \frac{U \cdot L_c}{\nu} \quad (4-11a)$$

$$Re = \frac{\rho \cdot U \cdot L_c}{\mu} \quad (4-11b)$$



### Flow regime for horizontal flat plates:

- Laminar flow  $Re \leq 5 \cdot 10^5$
- Turbulent flow  $Re > 5 \cdot 10^5$



# EPFL Overview of **dimensionless numbers** in convection:

- **Nusselt number,  $Nu$**

$$Nu = \frac{\text{Convection}}{\text{Conduction}} \quad (4-3b)$$

$$Nu = \frac{h_{conv} \cdot L_c}{k}$$
  
- **Prandtl number,  $Pr$**

$$Pr = \frac{\text{Diffusivity of momentum}}{\text{Diffusivity of heat}} \quad (4-6a)$$

$$Pr = \frac{\nu}{\alpha} \quad (4-6a)$$

$$Pr = \frac{c_p \cdot \mu}{k} \quad (4-6b)$$
  
- **Rayleigh number,  $Ra$**

$$Ra = \text{Boyancy force} \cdot [\text{Diffusivity of momentum \& heat}] \quad (4-10)$$

$$Ra = Gr \cdot Pr$$
  
- **Grashof number,  $Gr$**

$$Gr = \frac{\text{Boyancy force}}{\text{Viscous forces}} \quad (4-9)$$

$$Gr = \frac{g \cdot \beta \cdot (T_s - T_f) \cdot L_c^3}{\nu^2} \quad \text{for } T_s > T_f$$
  
- **Reynolds number,  $Re$**

$$Re = \frac{\text{Inertia forces}}{\text{Viscous forces}} \quad (4-11)$$

$$Re = \frac{U \cdot L_c}{\nu} \quad (4-11a)$$

$$Re = \frac{\rho \cdot U \cdot L_c}{\mu} \quad (4-11b)$$

# Which of the following dimensionless numbers related to convection do you understand well now?

(choose up to 3 at the same time, or select separately ALL or NONE)

- A. Nusselt number
- B. Prandtl number
- C. Rayleigh number
- D. Reynolds number
- E. Grashof number
- F. ALL
- G. NONE

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# Which of the following parameters characterize pure convection?

- A. Specific heat capacity**
- B. Dynamic viscosity**
- C. Thermal diffusivity**
- D. Thermal conductivity**

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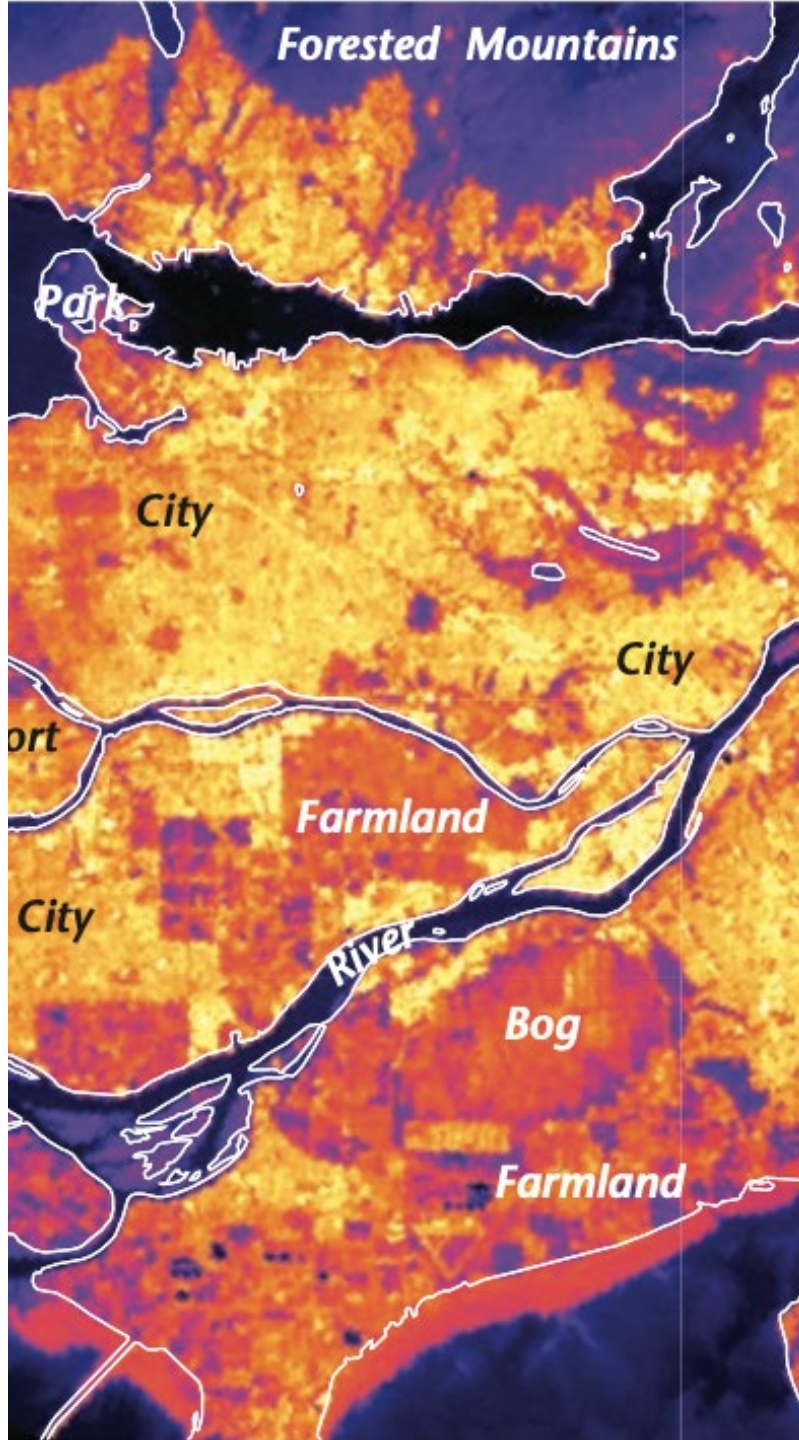
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▪ **Natural convection:**  $Nu = C \cdot Ra^n$  (4-12)

▪ **Forced convection:**  $Nu = C \cdot Re^m \cdot Pr^n$  (4-13)

**$Nu$  number** (dimensionless heat transfer coefficient) is typically determined *experimentally* or using *numerical methods*.

Mode	Surface Type	Flow Type	$C$	$m$	$n$	Validity Range	Characteristic dimension $L_c$
Free	Vertical plate	Laminar	0.59	-	1/4	$Ra_H < 10^9$	Plate height $H$
		Turbulent	0.10	-	1/3	$Ra_H > 10^9$	Plate height $H$
	Upper surface of a heated horiz. plate / lower surface of a cooled horiz. plate	Laminar	0.54	-	1/4	$Ra_L: 10^4 - 10^7$	Area/Perimeter
		Transition	0.15	-	1/3	$Ra_L: 10^7 - 10^{11}$	Area/Perimeter
	Lower surface of a heated horiz. plate / upper surface of a cooled horiz. plate	All	0.27	-	1/4	$Ra_L: 10^5 - 10^{11}$	Area/Perimeter
Forced	Horizontal flat plate	Laminar	0.664	0.5	1/3	$Re_L < 5 \cdot 10^5$	Plate length $L$
		Turbulent	0.037	0.8	1/3	$Re_L: 5 \cdot 10^5 - 10^7$ $Pr: 0.6 - 60$	Plate length $L$



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- Definitions
- Fluid properties
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- Natural and forced convection

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- Definitions
- Transport of water vapor
- Bowen ratio
- Methods to determine evaporation rate (Eddy Correlation, Bulk Transfer, Energy Balance, Penman)

- Heat flux  $\dot{q}$  ( $\frac{W}{m^2}$ ) formulation:

$$\dot{q} = U_{tot} \cdot \Delta T = \frac{1}{R_{tot}} \cdot \Delta T \quad (3-8)$$

$$U = \frac{1}{R} \quad (3-9)$$

Thermal transmittance,  
Overall heat transfer coefficient,  
[W/m<sup>2</sup>K]

Temperature  
gradient, [K] \*

- Thermal Transmittance U** (U-value,  $\frac{W}{m^2 \cdot K}$ ): heat transfer coefficient, an **indicator of the efficiency to promote** heat conduction by the material.
- Thermal Resistance R** (R-value,  $\frac{m^2 \cdot K}{W}$ ): the capacity of a material to **resist** heat flow.

- Conduction:**  $\dot{q}_{cond} = k \frac{\Delta T}{L}$  (3-5b)  $\Rightarrow R_{cond,i} = \frac{L_i}{k_i}$  (3-10)
- Convection:**  $\dot{q}_{conv} = h_{conv} (T_s - T_f)$  (4-1)  $\Rightarrow R_{conv} = \frac{1}{h_{conv}}$  (4-2)
- Radiation:**  $\dot{q}_{rad} = h_{rad} (T_s - T_\infty)$  (3-18b)  $\Rightarrow R_{rad} = \frac{1}{h_{rad}}$  (3-23)

1-D formulations

\* Temperature gradient should be positive since heat flows **spontaneously** from the **hot side** to the **cold side** according to the 2<sup>nd</sup> law of thermodynamics

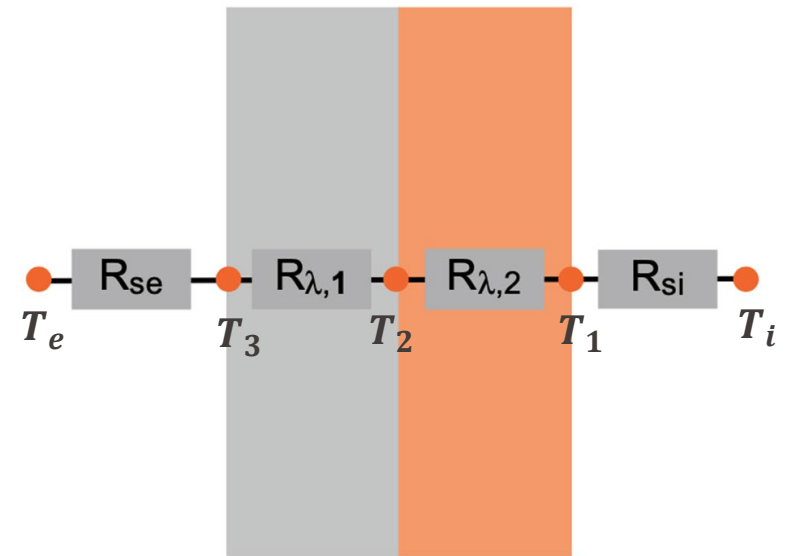
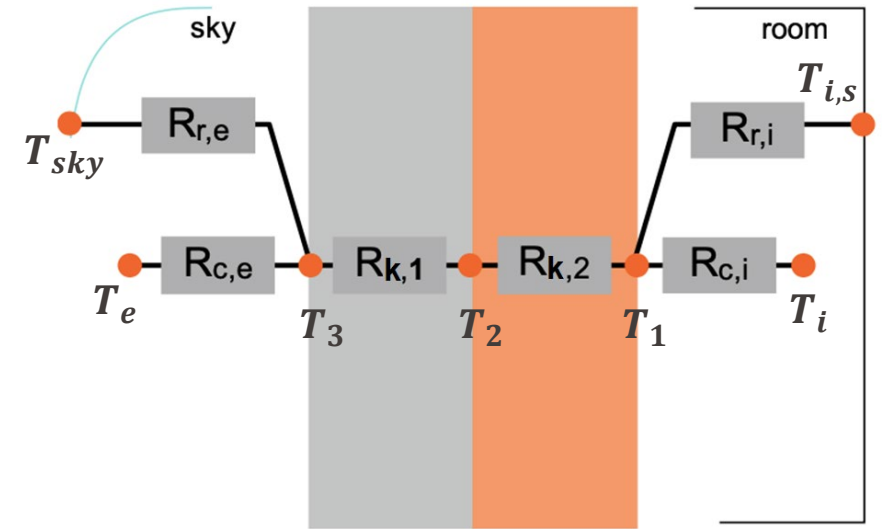
# Combined modes: Thermal Resistance

- Using the electrical circuit analogy, heat transfer problems involving multiple modes of heat transfer can be analyzed using the network of thermal resistances forming a thermal circuit. Considering Eqn. (3-6)-(3-7) from Lect. 3:

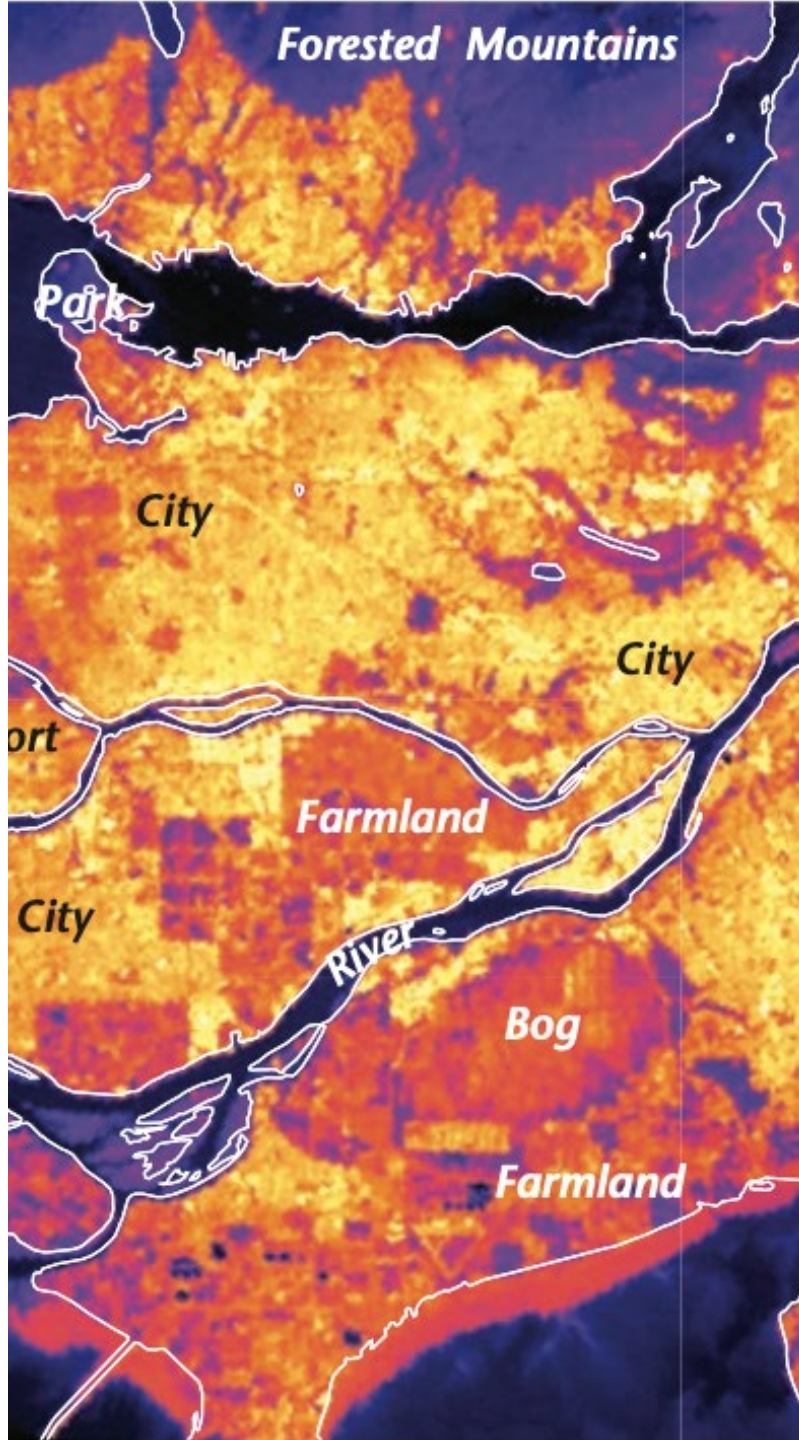
$$R_{tot} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{\frac{1}{R_{r,e}} + \frac{1}{R_{c,e}}}}_{R_{se}} + R_{k,1} + R_{k,2} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\frac{1}{R_{r,i}} + \frac{1}{R_{c,i}}}}_{R_{si}} \quad (4-14)$$

- For buildings, the convective and radiative resistances of the outer and inner wall are *combined* in a single thermal resistance  $R_{se}$  or  $R_{si}$  (referred as a *surface thermal resistance*). For a wall with j number of solid layers:

$$U = \frac{1}{R_{tot}} = \frac{1}{R_{si} + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{L_j}{k_j} + R_{se}} \quad (4-15)$$



Source: Medved, Building Physics, p. 41



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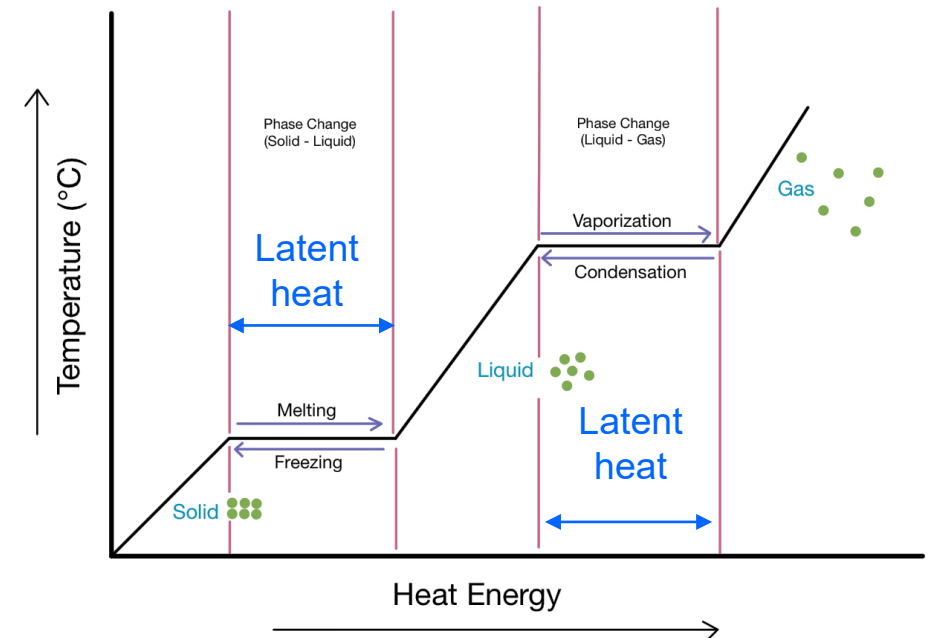
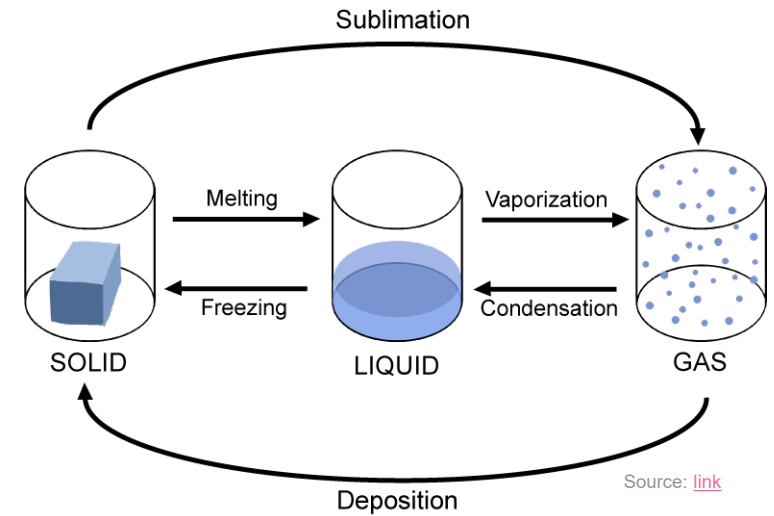
- Definitions
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- Methods to determine evaporation rate (Eddy Correlation, Bulk Transfer, Energy Balance, Penman)

- The urban water availability is of interest for its capacity to **evaporate**. Only *liquid* water evaporates. Heat can be used as **latent heat** instead of sensible heat (temperature of water does not increase, only enthalpy changes)
- During evaporation, the energy is stored as latent heat in the state of gaseous water and will be released when water condensate. Condensation is also named **dewfall**.
- Latent heat flux density  $Q_E$**  ( $\frac{W}{m^2}$ ): energy flux that is used to evaporate the water mass.

$$Q_E = L_v \cdot E \quad (1-6)$$

$L_v$  - latent heat of vaporization ( $2.464 \frac{MJ}{kg}$  at  $15 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ )

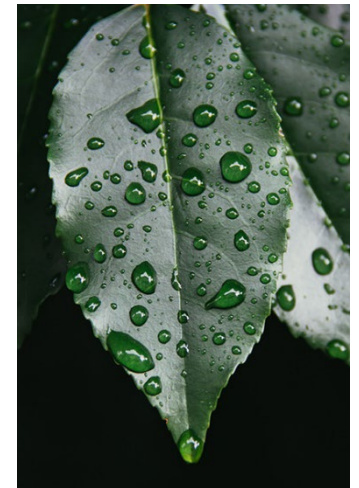
$E$  - mass flux density of water in  $\frac{kg}{m^2 \cdot s}$ .



Source: <https://www.expil.com/t/phase-change-diagrams-overview-examples-8057>

# EPFL Evaporation: Definitions

- **Evaporation:** *phenomenon* by which a substance is converted from the **liquid state** into **vapor state** (the reverse process of evaporation is **condensation**).
- **Atmospheric evaporation** takes place from:
  - Free water surface
  - Moist surfaces (soil, artificial surfaces)
  - Leaves of living plants and trees
- **The amount of water evaporated** depends on:
  - the **supply of energy to release latent heat**
  - the physical process of **transport of vapor away from any interface**
  - ...and the **supply of water**.
- Vapor is transferred almost the same way as *heat and momentum*, by *advection* and *pressure gradients*.



Images from [weblink](#)

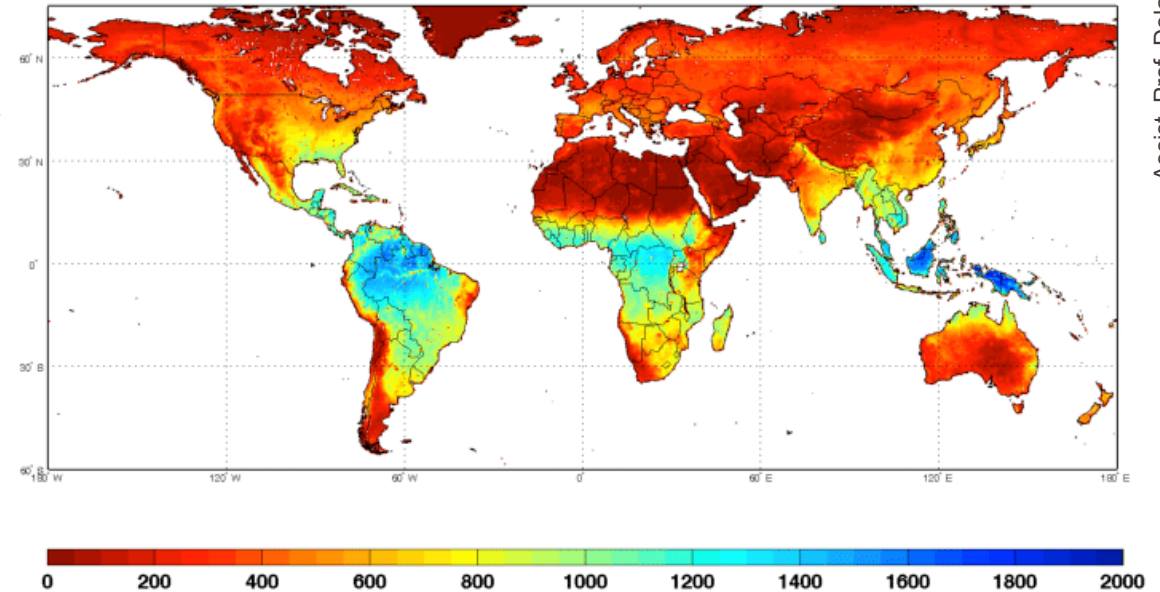
Note:  $1 \text{ kg}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}) = 1 \text{ mm}/\text{s}$

- Potential evaporation**  $E_{\text{pot}}$ ,  $\text{kg}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s})$ :  
*the maximum rate of evaporation for a given surface conditions with no water supply limitation. Free evaporation depends on the prevailing meteorological conditions*
- Actual evaporation**  $E$ ,  $\text{kg}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s})$ :  
*always less than potential evaporation. It is most often less than potential evaporation because the surface may not be saturated*

$$E < E_{\text{pot}} \quad (4-16)$$

- If a surface is not saturated with water, **the rate of evaporation depends on its moisture content**
- Potential evaporation** for soil, vegetation or an artificial surface is generally *less than the free water surface evaporation under the same weather conditions*, especially in humid regions.

World's potential evapotranspiration (mm/y), 2006



Source: Wang et al. (2012) [10.5194/hessd-9-4777-2012](https://doi.org/10.5194/hessd-9-4777-2012)

Crop	Location	Season	Actual evaporation (E, mm)	Rainfall (P, mm)	Potential evaporation (mm)	E - P (mm)
Wheat	UK	May-July	188	68	270	120
Wheat	UK	June-August	230	134	280	96
Barley	UK	May-July	220	125	270	95
Barley	Syria	March-May	154	93	360	61
Millet	India	November-February	87	30	480	57
Barley	Syria	March-May	103	39	360	64
Peanut	India	December-February	102	0	400	102

Source: Mason, Introduction to environmental physics, p. 327

# Evaporation rate ( $E$ ): Transport of Water Vapor

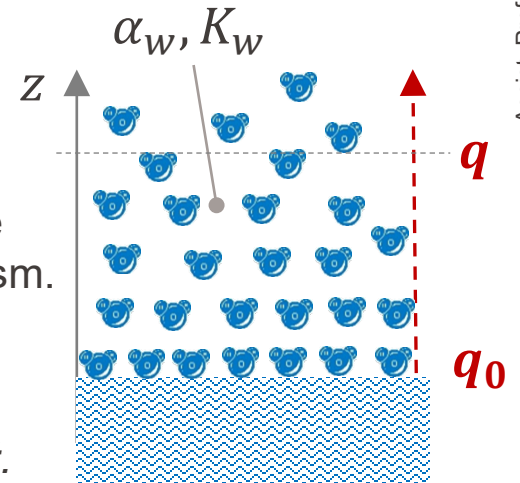
- The expression of the **evaporation rate**  $E$  ( $\frac{kg}{m^2s}$ ) due to the **transport of water vapor** over a **surface** depends whether the **flow** is **laminar** or **turbulent**.

- Laminar flow: Fick's law** for the evaporation rate at a *horizontal surface*:

$$E = -\rho \cdot \alpha_w \cdot \frac{\partial q}{\partial z} \quad (4-17)$$

$\alpha_w$  ( $m^2/s$ ) - molecular diffusivity of water vapor  
 $q$  ( $kg/kg$ ) - specific humidity (see L2, slide 24)

- Only valid when molecular exchange is the primary (perhaps the only) transport mechanism.
- Fick's law is not applicable for *urban areas* because the flow in the atmosphere at the *surface layer* at local scale is *always turbulent*.



- Turbulent flow:** the evaporation rate at a *horizontal surface* is given by **the eddy correlation method**:

1 D, steady state

$$E = -\rho \cdot K_w \cdot \frac{\partial q}{\partial z} \quad (4-18)$$

$K_w$  ( $m^2/s$ ) - eddy diffusivity

- Turbulent fluxes arise due to the *existence of a gradient of a related property in the air* and *turbulent motion* set off either by *mechanical* or *thermal* production. The greater the gradient and the more efficient the mixing, the stronger the flux density.
- The intensity of turbulent mixing depends on the *surface roughness*, *wind shear* or *friction velocity*, and *thermal stratification*. The evaporation rate also depends on the above factors, plus *the average specific humidity gradient*.

# Evaporation rate ( $E$ ): Numerical Methods

- Many different **numerical methods** have been developed to assess evaporation rates:

- Eddy correlation** or **covariance method**: expresses the evaporation heat flux as a function of *the humidity gradient*.
- Bulk transfer approach**: expresses the evaporation rate as a *linear* function of *specific humidity* with *the bulk coefficient*.
- Energy balance** or **Bowen ratio method**: estimates the evaporation with the expressions of the *energy balance* and *the Bowen ratio*.
- Penman approach**: a synthesis of *the energy balance* and *the bulk transfer method*.
- Gradient** or **Aerodynamic method**: under neutral stability conditions, both the wind speed and specific humidity follow logarithmic profile laws.
- Profile method**: *evaporative heat flux profile* over urban areas *is known* and expressed as *a function of the altitude*.

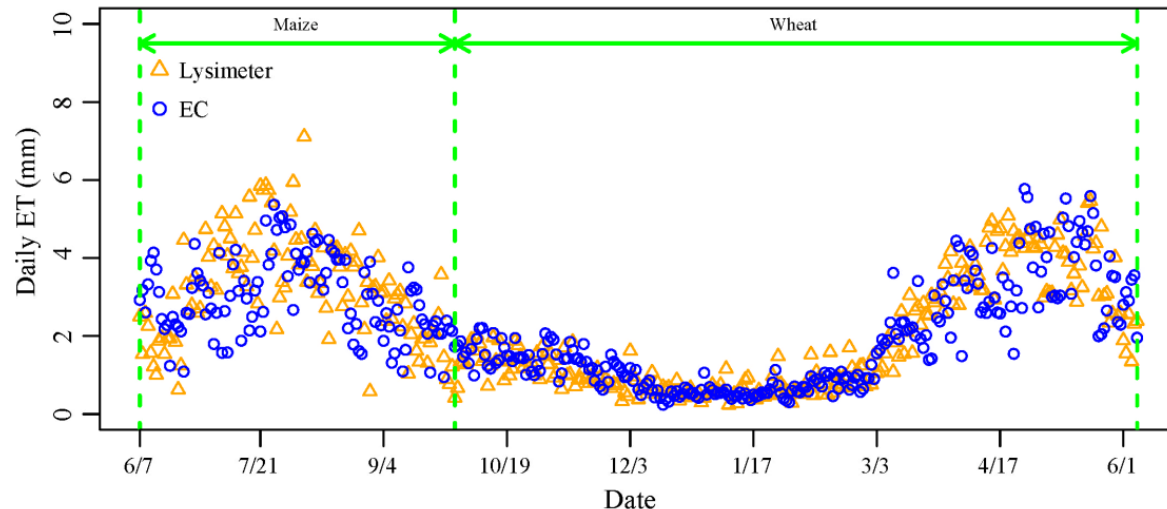
- The **energy balance method** assesses evaporation *due to an external supply of energy converted to latent heat  $E_S$*  while **the eddy correlation method, the bulk transfer approach** assesses the evaporation *due to the transport of water vapor  $E_T$* .
- The **Penman approach** is *the most used* and has numerous applications in soil and vegetation evaporation assessment.
- The **gradient** and **profile methods** give *empirical expressions* of the evaporation function of the altitude  $E = f(z)$ .

# Evaporation rate ( $E$ ): Eddy Correlation Method

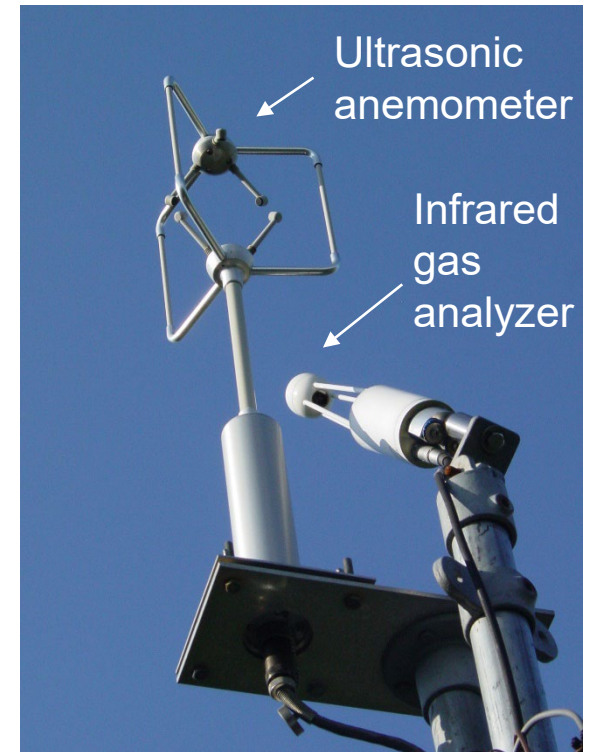
- The **eddy correlation method** is used to *directly* measure the **local water vapor flux**  $E$  ( $\frac{kg}{m^2s}$ ) over a *homogeneous* or *non-homogeneous* surface.
- It **requires** measurements fluctuations of **vertical velocity**  $w$  and **specific humidity**  $q$ , and calculation of their **covariance**  $\overline{w \cdot q}$ .
- *Difficult* to obtain input parameters  $w$  and  $q$ , as the fast-responding instruments are required, adequately calibrated and installed with care.
- The method is **the most accurate one**, used to *calibrate* other methods such as **aerodynamic**, **Bowen** and **Penman** methods.

$$E = \rho \cdot \overline{w \cdot q} \quad (4-19)$$

$w$  (m/s) - vertical velocity  
 $q$  (kg/kg) - specific humidity



Source: Wang et al. (2020)  
 doi.org/10.1139/cjss-2020-0050



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddy\\_covariance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddy_covariance)

# Evaporation rate: Bulk Transfer Method

- A **bulk transfer law** is the relationship between *surface kinematic flux of a meteorological variable* to the product of *wind speed times the difference of that variable between the surface and some reference height*.
- The **bulk transfer coefficient  $C_W$**  is an empirical constant of **proportionality** in a bulk law transfer.
- The **bulk transfer method** expresses the evaporation rate as:

$$E = \rho \cdot C_W \cdot U \cdot (q_0 - q_r) \quad (4-20a)$$

Can be simplified assuming that *specific humidity very close to the surface equals the one at the surface*  $q_0 = q_s$  :

$$E = \rho \cdot C_W \cdot U \cdot (q_s - q_r) \quad (4-20b)$$

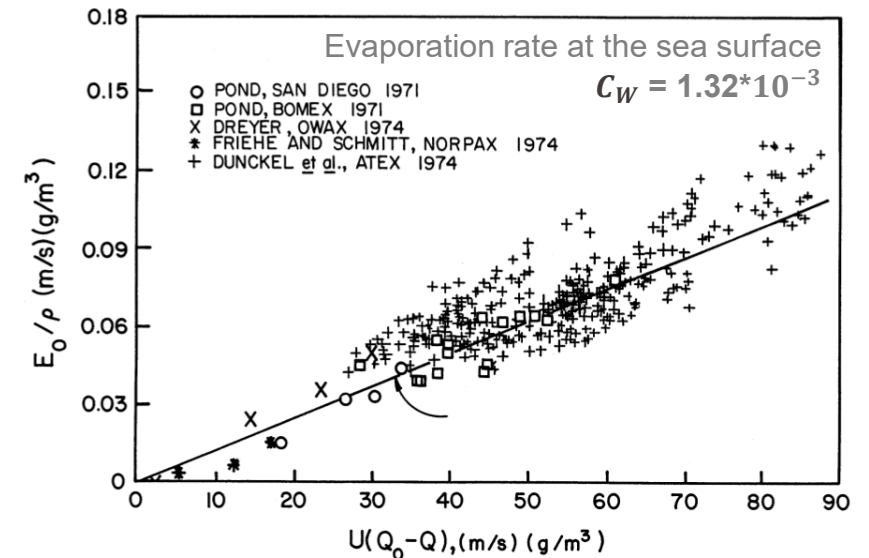
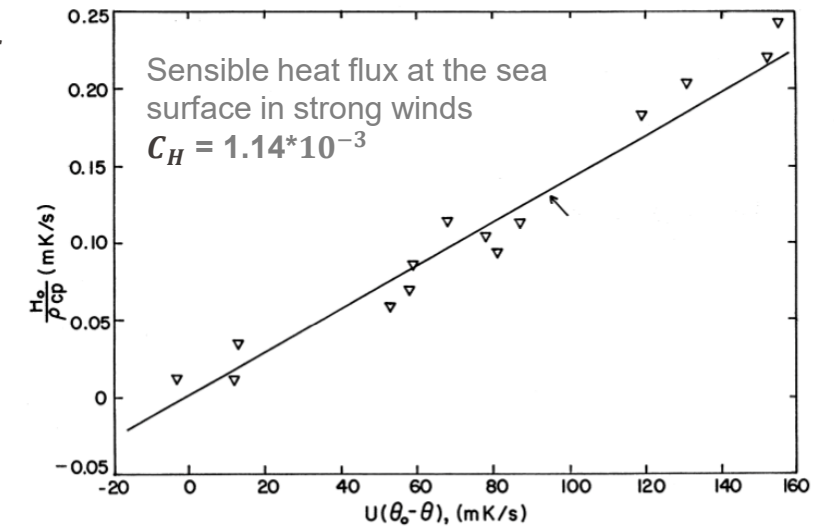
$C_W$  (-) - bulk transfer coefficient for water vapor,  $\rho$  ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^3$ ) – air density,  $U$  ( $\frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$ ) – air speed at reference height, Subscripts: “0” (very close to the surface), “s” (at the surface, saturated), “r” (reference height above the surface)

- The formulation is similar to the sensible heat flux, by Reynold’s analogy between *heat* and *mass* transfer:

$$Q_H = \rho \cdot c_p \cdot C_H \cdot U \cdot (T_s - T_r) \quad (4-21)$$

$C_H$  - bulk heat transfer coefficient,  $C_W = C_H$  in Reynold’s analogy between water vapor and heat transfers

Source: Arya, Introduction to micrometeorology, p.252

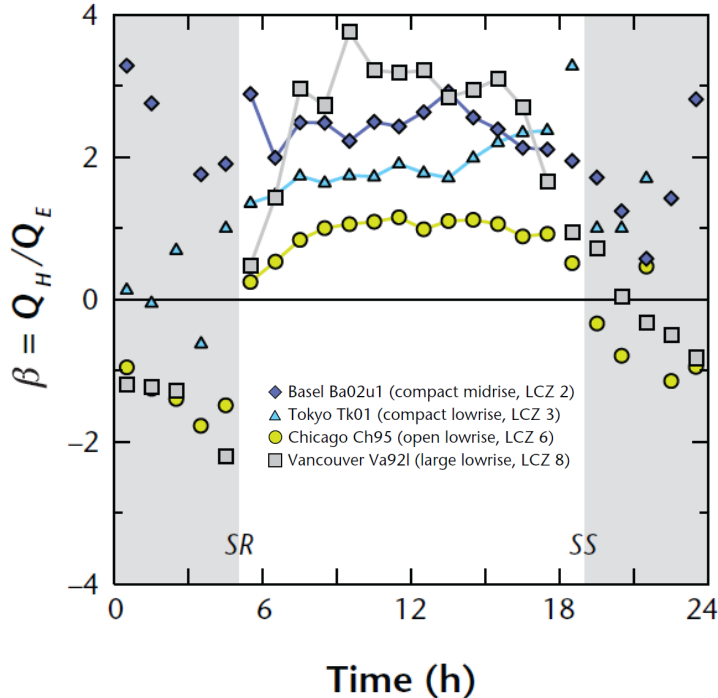


# Evaporation: Bowen Ratio

- Bowen ratio  $B$**  (-): the ratio of sensible heat to latent heat flux.

$$B = \frac{Q_H}{Q_E} \quad (4-22)$$

Typical daytime values of Bowen ratio for **natural** and **urban** systems (in bold – mean values, the range depends on moisture availability)



Surface description	LCZ	Bowen ratio $B$
Tropical oceans	G	0.1
Lakes	G	0.2 – 1
Crops	D	<b>0.3</b> 0.1 – 1
Urban 35 – 75% greenspace	6, 9	<b>1</b> 0.5 – 2.5
Urban 25 – 40% greenspace	3, 5	<b>2</b> 1.5 – 3
Urban < 20% greenspace	2, 3, 8	<b>4</b> 3 – 8
Semi-arid lands	C, F	2 – 6
Sandy desert	F	≈10

Source: Oke, Urban climates, p. 184

- The Bowen ratio informs regarding the *condition of surfaces* and near them:
  - $B > 1$  indicates that **the surface channels more heat** into **sensible form**. The *lower atmosphere gets warmer*.
  - $B < 1$  indicates that **latent heat dominates**. The *surface and near-surface air is cooler*, whilst *the surface adds humidity to the environment*.

- The **Bowen ratio** can be estimated from the **gradient transport** relations for **sensible** and **latent heat** (with the assumption that *the eddy exchange coefficients*  $K_h = K_w$  are equal):

$$B = \frac{c_p}{L_v} \cdot \frac{\frac{\partial T}{\partial z}}{\frac{\partial q}{\partial z}} = \frac{c_p}{L_v} \cdot \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta q} \approx \frac{c_p \cdot p_a}{0.622 \cdot L_v} \cdot \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta p_v} = \gamma \cdot \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta p_v} \quad (4-23)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{c_p \cdot p_a}{0.622 \cdot L_v} \quad (4-24)$$

$p_v$  (Pa) - partial pressure of water vapor,  $L_v$  ( $\frac{J}{kg}$ ) - latent heat of vaporization,  $\gamma$  (kPa/K) - psychrometric constant.

The Bowen ratio can be estimated by measuring the differences in temperature  $\Delta T$  and in specific humidity  $\Delta q$  at two levels in the surface layer (e.g. with a dry and wet-bulb thermometer).

- Surface Energy Balance:** knowing the Bowen ratio, the radiative ( $Q^*$ ) and the ground heat flux ( $Q_G$ ), the **latent** ( $Q_E$ ) and **sensible** heat flux ( $Q_H$ ) can be computed:

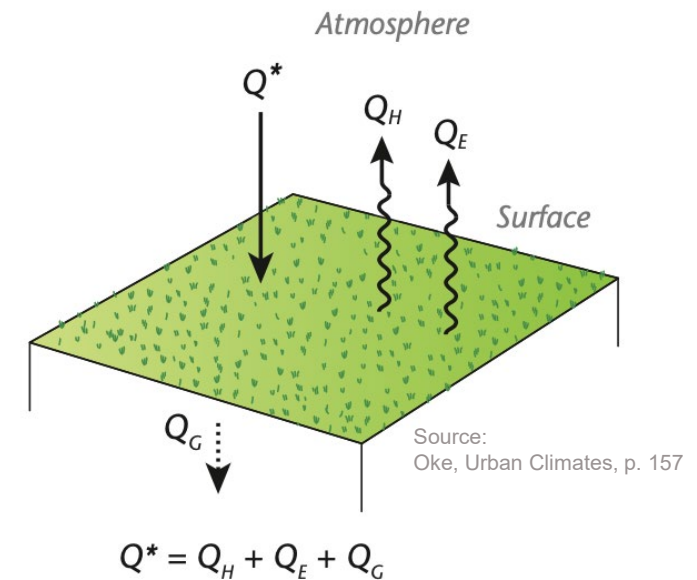
$$Q^* = Q_H + Q_E + Q_G \quad (1-2)$$

Latent heat flux

$$Q_E = \frac{Q^* - Q_G}{1 + B} \quad (4-25)$$

Sensible heat flux

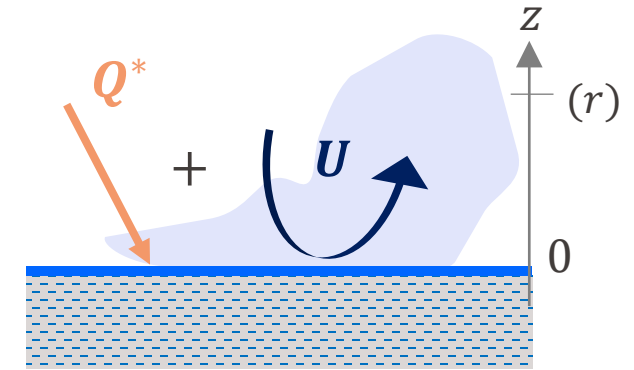
$$Q_H = B \cdot \frac{Q^* - Q_G}{1 + B} \quad (4-26)$$



# Evaporation rate ( $E$ ): Penman method

- Assuming water availability, the **driving forces** of evaporation are the **supply of energy** (mainly from a radiative heat flux) and the **transport of mass away from the interface** where evaporation happens (i.e., the convection/advection of water vapor).

$$E_{pot} = \underbrace{\frac{m}{m + \gamma} \cdot \left( \frac{Q^* - Q_G}{L_v} \right)}_{\text{Radiation term } E_S} + \underbrace{\frac{\gamma}{m + \gamma} \cdot E_a}_{\text{Aerodynamic term } E_T} \quad (4-27)$$



- $E_a$  ( $kg/m^2 \cdot s$ ) - drying power of air:

$$(4-20b) \quad E_a = \rho \cdot C_W \cdot U \cdot (q_s - q_r)$$

$q_s$  ( $kg/kg$ ) - specific humidity at the reference height ( $r$ ) assuming saturated air at  $T_r$ ,  
 $q_r$  ( $kg/kg$ ) - actual specific humidity at the reference height ( $r$ ),  
 $C_W$  (-) - bulk transfer coefficient for water vapor,  $U$  ( $\frac{m}{s}$ ) - air speed at reference height

- $m$  ( $kPa/K$ ) - slope of the saturated vapor pressure versus temperature curve at  $(T_r + T_0)/2$ :

$$m = \frac{p_{v,0} - p_{v,sat,r}}{T_0 - T_r} \cong \frac{dp_{v,sat}}{dT} \quad (4-28a)$$

$$m = 4098 \cdot \frac{0.6108 \cdot e^{\frac{17.27 \cdot t_r}{t_r + 237.3}}}{(t_r + 237.3)^2} \quad (4-28b)$$

- $\gamma$  ( $kPa/K$ ) - psychrometric constant:

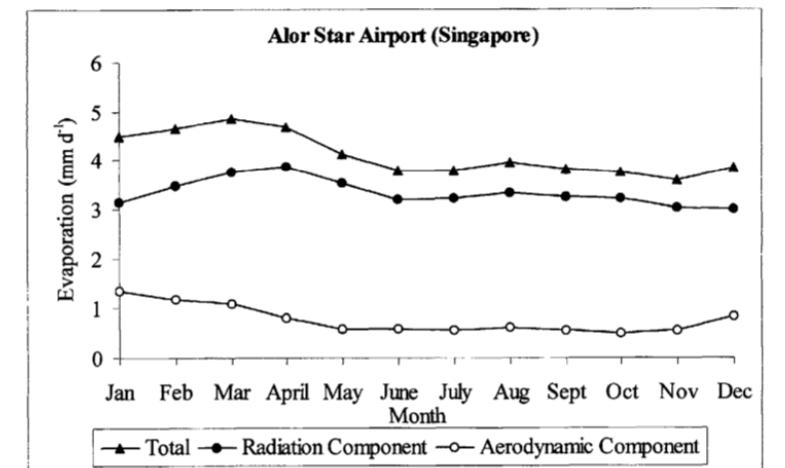
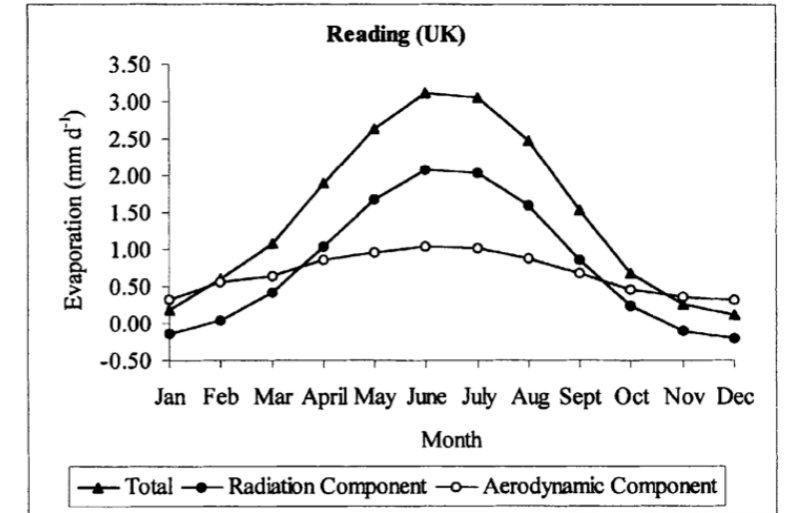
$$\gamma = \frac{c_p \cdot p_a}{0.622 \cdot L_v} \quad (4-24)$$

# Evaporation rate ( $E$ ): Penman method

- It is *the most widely used method* to calculate **daily average potential evaporation**.
- The **Penman** method is a *combination of the energy balance and the bulk transfer* methods:
  - **The radiation term  $E_S$  comes** from the **energy balance** method. The ground heat flux is *neglected* for the assessment of *daily evaporation* (see Lect. L6).
  - **The aerodynamic term  $E_T$  comes** from the **bulk transfer** method. It depends on the temperature, humidity of the air and on its wind speed.
  - **The balance between both terms** depends on the **climatic conditions**:
    - For *hot dry air*, the aerodynamic term is dominant
    - For *cold and humid air*, evaporation is less and there is more balance between both terms
- The **Bowen ratio** associated with the **Penman equation**:

$$B = \frac{\gamma}{m} \left( \frac{E_{pot} - E_a}{E_{pot}} \right) \quad (4-29)$$

Monthly evaporation rates for various locations:



Source: Mason, Introduction to environmental physics, p. 355



**Thank you  
for your attention**

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