

**CIVIL - 450:**  
**THERMODYNAMICS**  
**of COMFORT**  
**in BUILDINGS**

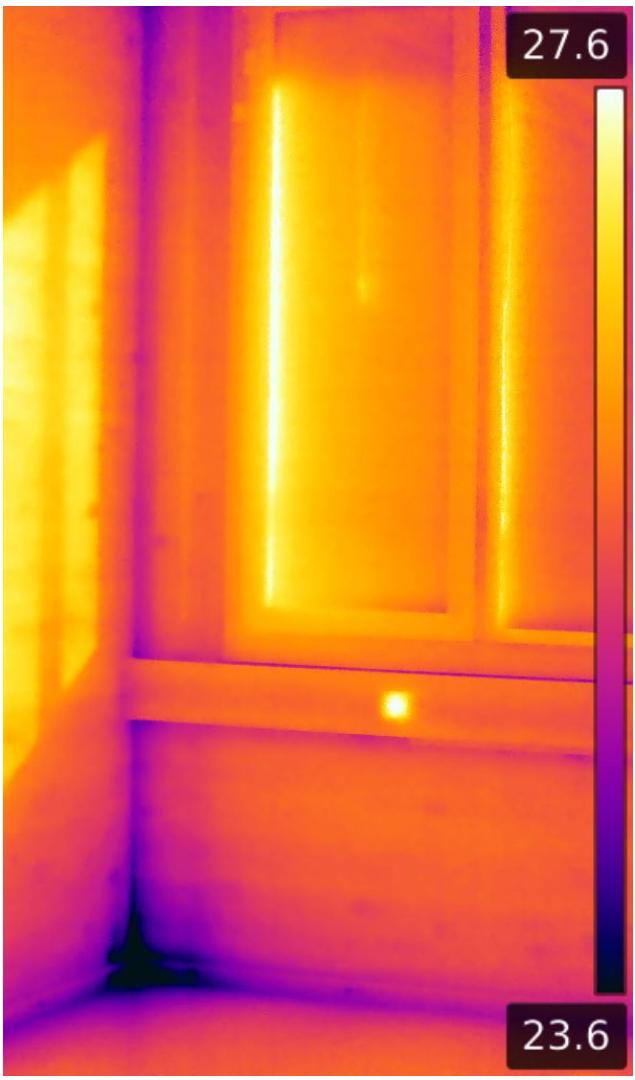
**Assist. Professor**  
**Dolaana Khovalyg**

Lecture 01:

Course Overview.

Intro to Thermal Comfort and Human Thermoregulation

**21 February 2025**



## CONTENT:

- **Introduction to the course**
- **Subjective evaluation of the thermal environment**
- **Intro into human thermoregulation**
- **Review of comfort requirements**
- **Class activity**



From Femmes de Science Project:

<https://portraits-professeures-epfl.ch/en/portraits/>

□ **Dolaana KHOVALYG, Assist. Professor**

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

- **Head of the Laboratory of Integrated Comfort Engineering (ICE)**
- **Research focus:** energy efficient buildings, building physics, personalized comfort systems, thermal conditioning of people, well-being and comfort of building occupants
- **Teaching activities:** CIVIL-309 “*Urban Thermodynamics*”, ENG-445 “*Energy and Comfort in Buildings*”, CIVIL-450 “*Thermodynamics of Comfort in Buildings*”

Advancing human comfort studies,  
the design and control of occupant-  
centered thermal systems



More details on the ICE activities online: <https://www.epfl.ch/labs/ice/>

# Buildings are Exhibition Halls filled with Wonders of Thermodynamics:

- Around and across the building envelope
- In ventilation and heat recovery ventilation
- In space heating/cooling (supply and generation)
- In hot water production and delivery
- Around on-site electricity generation systems
- Around the human body.....everywhere around!

## Fluids:

- Air
- Water
- Refrigerants
- Glycol
- Blood

## States:

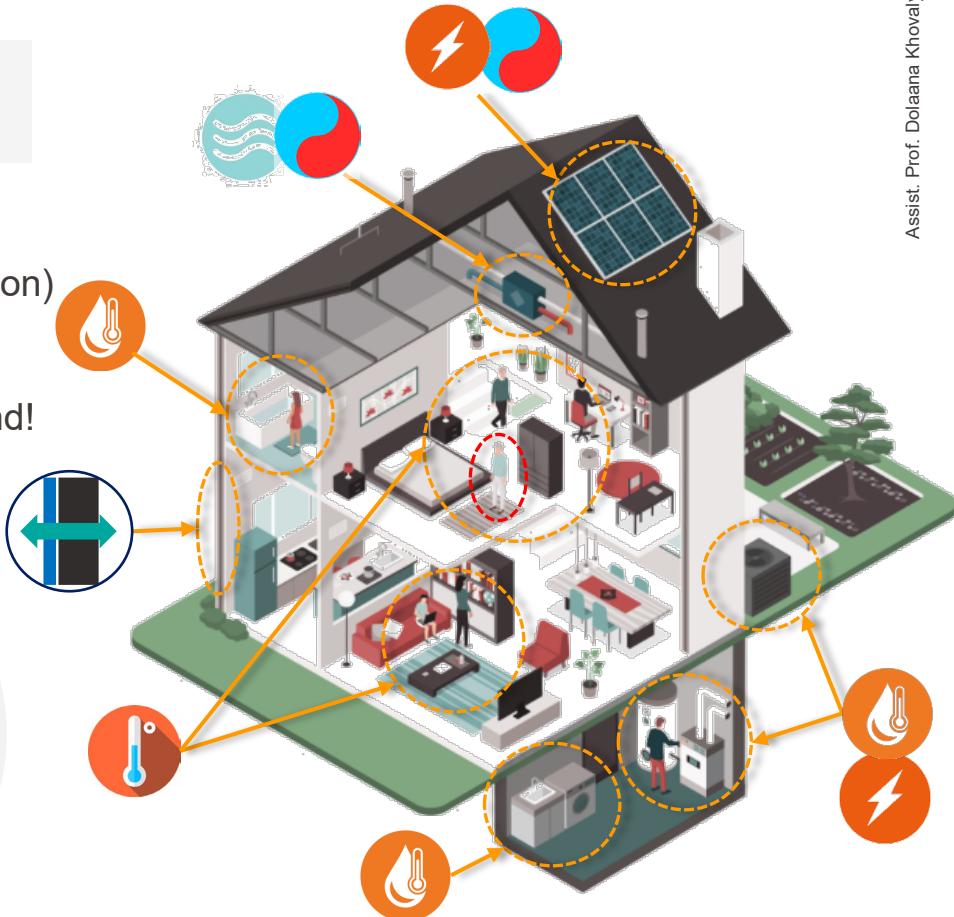
- Single-phase
- Two-phase

**Processes:**

- Evaporation
- Condensation

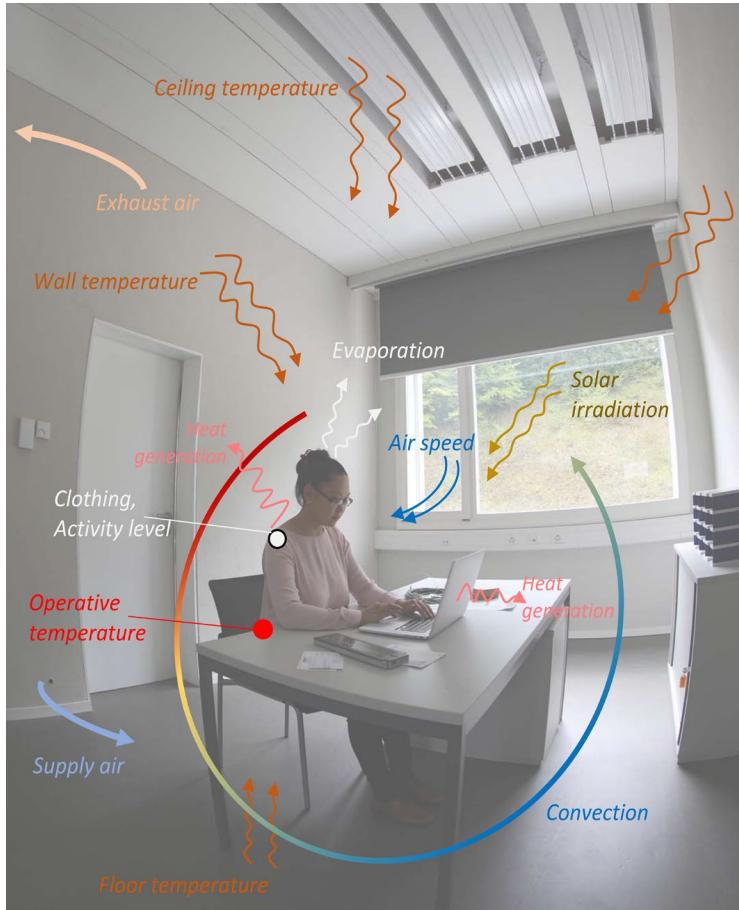
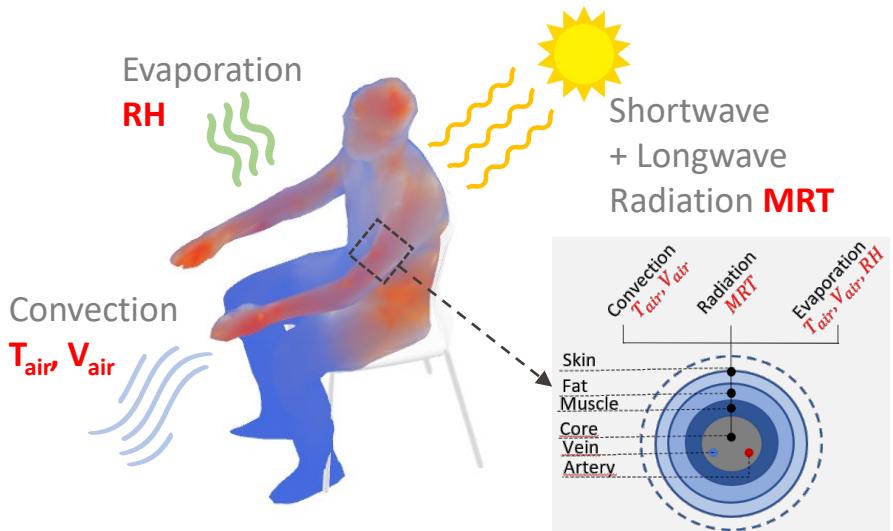
## Processes:

- Evaporation
- Condensation



# What is CIVIL-450 about?

- Analysis of **thermal energy transfer** within the **built environment**
- **Levels:** human level, room level, building level
- Detailed characterization of **driving mechanisms** for **heat exchange** between the **human body** and the **surrounding environment** and their **connection with subjective perception of comfort**



# What is “COMFORT”?

“A condition that allows a person to operate optimally”

“Absence of discomfort due to environmental conditions, feeling of well-being”

“Comfort is the absence of discomfort. It is when a person is in a sense of well-being”

- **COMFORT** – a state of *physical ease* and *freedom* from *pain* or *constraint* (Dictionary)
- **THERMAL COMFORT** “...the condition of mind that expresses satisfaction with the thermal environment and is assessed by subjective evaluation” (ASHRAE 55, ISO 7730)



### TEACHING METHODS:

- 5 lectures on **theoretical background** regarding the human energy balance, thermal comfort, exergy and energy analysis in the built environment
- 2 laboratory activities at the **EPFL-Fribourg campus** at the facilities of *the Laboratory of Integrated Comfort Engineering and Smart Living Lab*

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

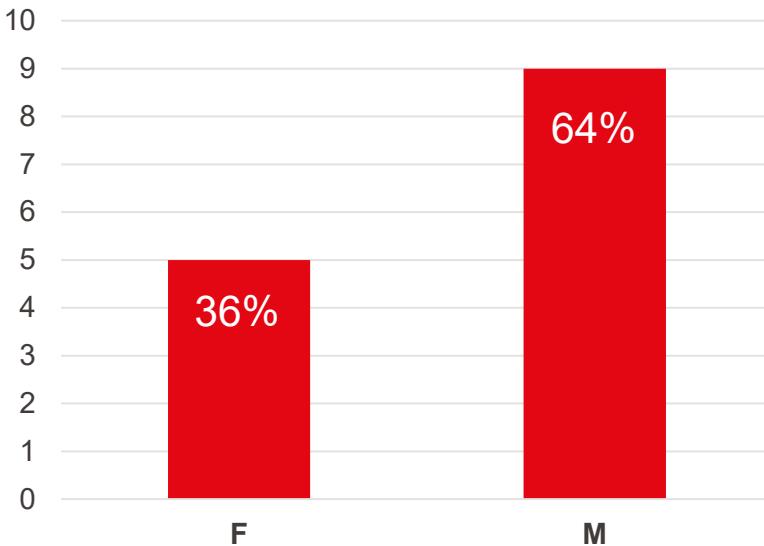
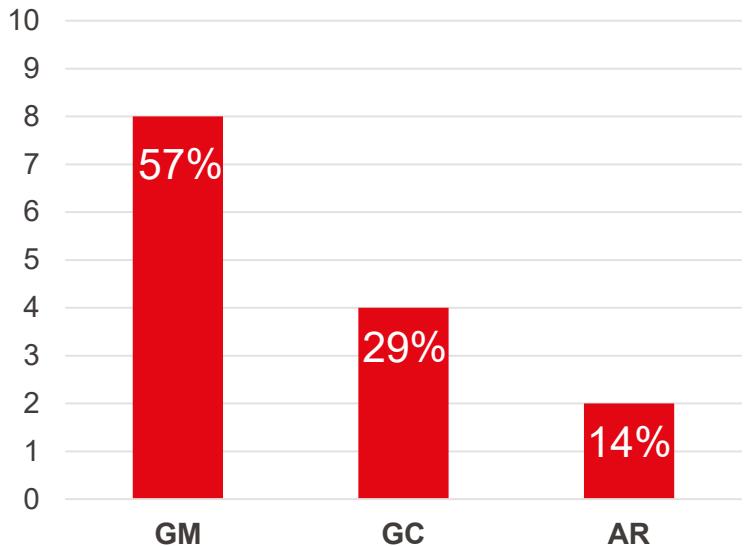
- Attend lectures and laboratory activities
- Work in groups, data analysis and interpretation, reporting, and presentation
- **Groups of 3-4 students** (at least **1 female** per group) should be formed **by Week 3**

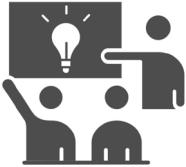
### ASSESSMENT METHOD:

The grading is based on the following activities:

- **Presentation and report on the lab work #1: 50% (15+35)**
- **Presentation and report on the lab work #2: 50% (15+35)**

# Course Information - Class Population





Classroom GC D0 386 is on the Lausanne campus

WEEK	DATE	CONTENT	LOCATION
1	21.02.2025	Intro to thermal comfort and human thermoregulation	GC D0 386
2	28.02.2025	Human body energy balance	GC D0 386
3	07.03.2025	Exergy analysis in the built environment ( <i>guest lecture</i> )	GC D0 386
4	14.03.2025	Lab #1 in Fribourg (climatic chamber). Measurements and instrumentation.	EPFL-Fribourg
5	21.03.2025	Group work on Lab #1	GC D0 386
6	28.03.2025	Group work on Lab #1	GC D0 386
7	04.04.2025	Invisible radiant heat: transparent & translucent building elements and their effect on comfort ( <i>guest lecture</i> )	GC D0 386
8	11.04.2025	Lab #1 presentations, reports submission	GC D0 386
9	18.04.2025	Good Friday (holiday)	No class
10	25.04.2025	Easter break	No class
11	02.05.2025	Lab #2 in Fribourg (building prototype)	EPFL-Fribourg
12	09.05.2025	Building-environment interaction and energy balance	GC D0 386
		Group work on Lab #2	
13	16.05.2025	Group work on Lab #2	GC D0 386
14	23.05.2025	Group work on Lab #2	GC D0 386
15	30.05.2025	Lab #2 presentations, reports submission. Course summary and course evaluation.	GC D0 386



### □ Forrest MEGGERS, Associate Professor

- Director of the **C.H.A.O.S. lab** - *Cooling and Heating for Architecturally Optimized Systems*
- Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, **Princeton University** (USA)
- Founder of **CHAOSense** <https://www.chaosense.com/> and **ClearlyCool** <https://www.clearly-cool.com/>
- More details: <https://soa.princeton.edu/content/forrest-meggers>



Make sure to attend his exciting lectures on **March 7 and April 4!**



More info online: <https://www.epfl.ch/labs/ice/research-facilities/>

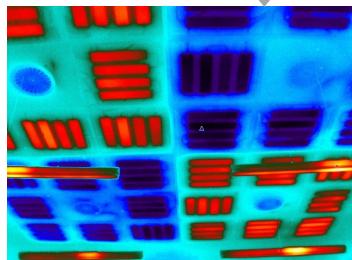
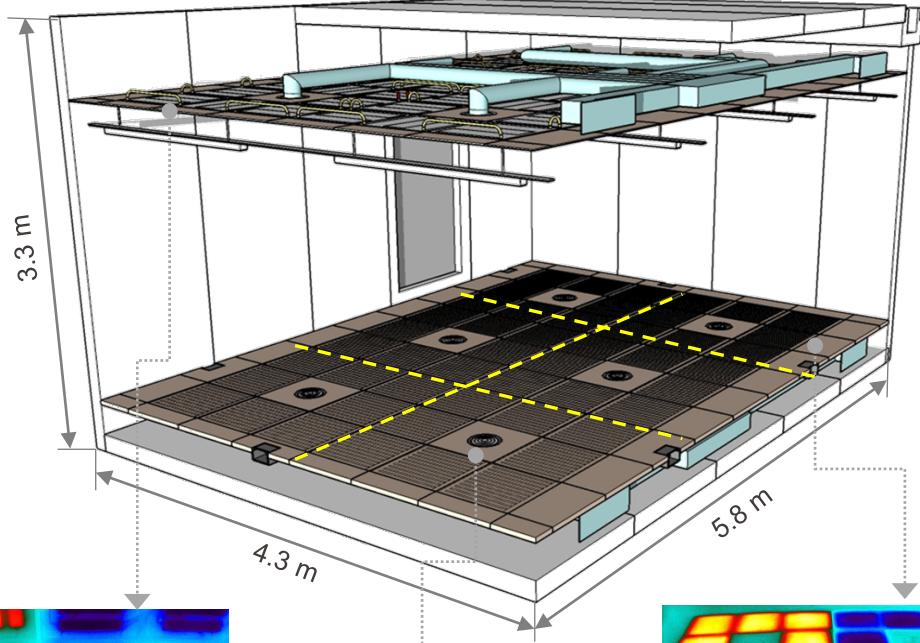
- An **air-tight** enclosure
- Size (useful volume):  
 $5.8 \times 4.3 \times 2.5(\text{h}) \text{ m}^3$

### Operational range of parameters:

- Temperature range: **+15...+35°C**
- Relative humidity: **20..80%**
- Lighting intensity: **100-700 lux**
- Ventilation rate:  
**0.5 - 10 ACH (30-600 m<sup>3</sup>/h)**

### Specific characteristics:

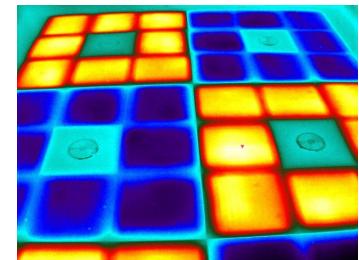
- Air supply: **ceiling/floor**  
(1-6 combination of diffusers)
- Radiant heating/cooling:  
**ceiling/floor** independent  
loops on the floor/ceiling)
- **Ultra** supply filtration
- SIEMENS controls,  
**BACnet** protocol



Radiant ceiling



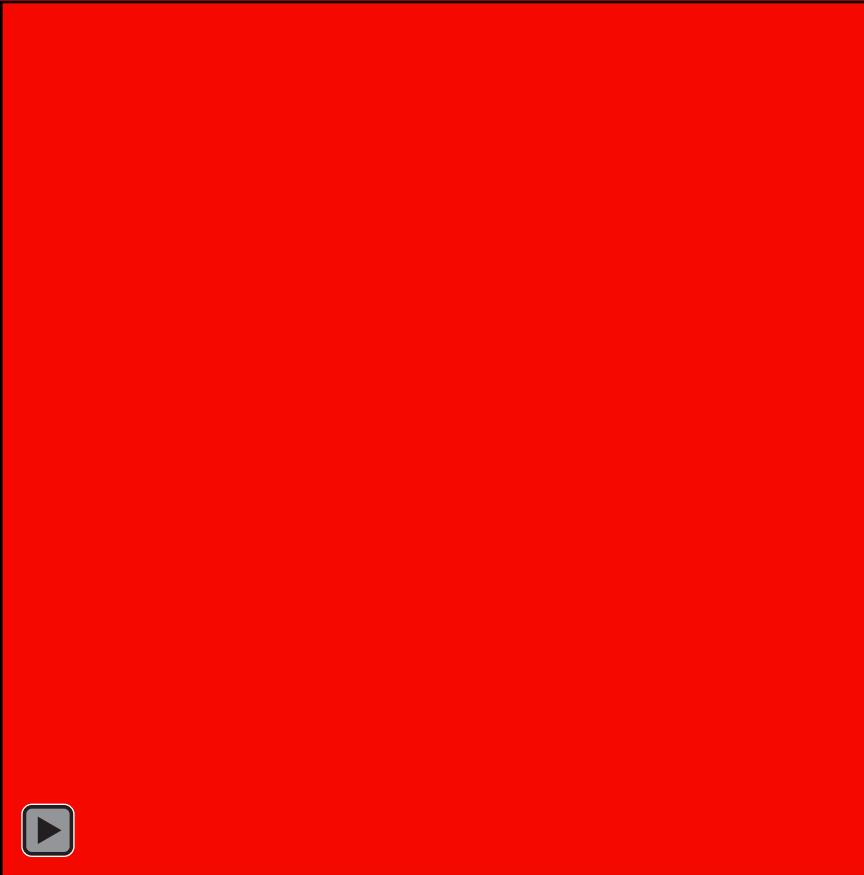
Air diffuser

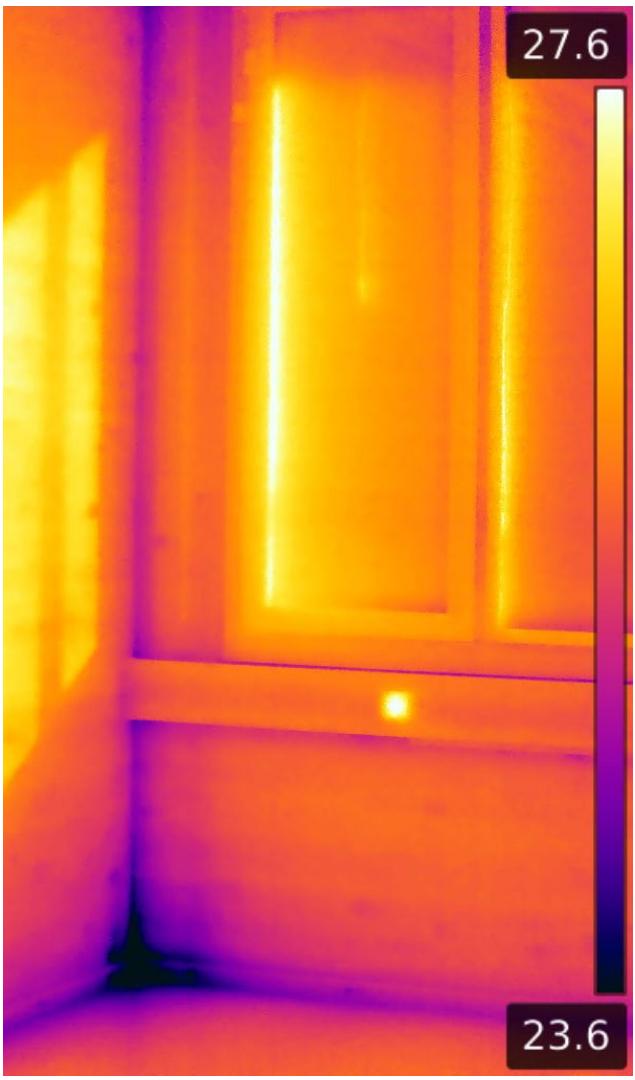


Radiant Floor



Virtual Tour: <https://building2050-rdi.epfl.ch/virtualtour/slldemo/>





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- Indoor environment in a building may be classified (per **EN 15251**) by:
  - Criteria used for **energy calculations** (*new buildings*)
  - **Whole year computer simulations** of the **indoor environment** and **energy performance** (*new and existing buildings*)
  - **Long term measurement of selected parameters for the indoor environment**
  - **SUBJECTIVE RESPONSES FROM OCCUPANTS** (*existing buildings*)

## Standard **ISO 10551:2001**

### “Assessment of the influence of the thermal environment using subjective judgement scales”:

The following introductory questions shall be posed:

- before applying the perceptual scale: “How are you feeling (at this precise moment)?” (followed by the replies from the scale);
- after the response given on the perceptual scale, and immediately before applying the evaluative scale: “Do you find this...?” (followed by the replies from the scale);
- after the response given on the evaluative scale, and immediately before the application of the preference scale: “Please state how you would prefer to be now” (followed by the replies from the scale).

## Comfort Evaluation Approaches for Various Applications

Measurement Method	Nature of Application	
	Short-Term	Long-Term
Occupant Surveys	<p><b>Right-Now/Point-in-Time Survey (must survey relevant times and population):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Binning (TSENS scores) leads to % comfort exceedance during period of survey.</li> <li>• Needs coincident temperature to extrapolate to full range of conditions.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Used for research, problem diagnostics)</i></p>	<p><b>Occupant Satisfaction Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey scores give % dissatisfied directly. (“dissatisfaction” may be interpreted to start either below -1, or below 0).</li> <li>• Time period of interest can be specified to survey takers.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Used for building management, commissioning, rating operators and real estate value, compliance with green building rating systems).</i></p>
Environmental Measurements	<p><b>Spot Measurements, Temporary (Mobile) Sensors (must select a relevant time to measure):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use measurements to determine PMV (Sections 5.3.1, 5.3.3).</li> <li>• Use measurements to determine compliance with adaptive model (Section 5.4).</li> </ul> <p><i>(Used for real-time operation, testing and validating system performance).</i></p>	<p><b>Logging Sensors over Period of Interest, or Trend Data from Permanently Installed (BAS) Sensors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exceedance hours: sum of hours over PMV or Adaptive Model limits.</li> <li>• Binned exceedances may be weighted by their severity.</li> <li>• Instances of excessive rate-of-temperature change or of local thermal discomfort can be counted.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Used for evaluating system and operator performance over time).</i></p>

	1	2	3	4	5
Type of judgement	Perceptual	Affective evaluation	Thermal preference	Personal acceptability	Personal tolerance
Subject under judgement	<b>Personal thermal state</b>				<b>Thermal ambience</b>
<b>Wording</b>	<p>"How do you feel (at this precise moment)?"</p> <p>7 or 9 degrees, from very (or extremely) COLD to very (or extremely) HOT</p>	<p>"Do you find it.....?"</p> <p>4 or 5 degrees, from COMFORTABLE to very (or extremely), UNCOMFORTABLE</p>	<p>"Please state how you would prefer to be now"</p> <p>7 (or 3) degrees, from (much) COLDER to (much) WARMER</p>	<p>"How do you judge this environment (local climate) on a personal level?"</p> <p>2 degrees, GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE, GENERALLY UNACCEPTABLE</p>	<p>"Is it .....?"</p> <p>5 degrees, from perfectly TOLERABLE to INTOLERABLE</p>

# How do you feel the temperature at this moment?

A. Hot

B. Warm

C. Slightly warm

D. Neutral

E. Slightly cool

F. Cool

G. Cold

Please login:  
[responseware.eu](http://responseware.eu)

Session ID: **civil450**

# Do you perceive temperature at this moment?

- A. Very comfortable
- B. Comfortable
- C. Slightly comfortable
- D. Neutral
- E. Slightly uncomfortable
- F. Uncomfortable
- G. Very uncomfortable

Please login:  
[responseware.eu](http://responseware.eu)  
Session ID: **civil450**

# Is the **temperature** acceptable for you at this moment?

A. Acceptable

B. Unacceptable

# Would you **like** to be...?

- A. **Colder**
- B. **No change**
- C. **Warmer**

# Are you experiencing the following sources of thermal discomfort?

- A. Hot surfaces
- B. Cold surfaces
- C. Hot body parts
- D. Cold body parts
- E. Drafts

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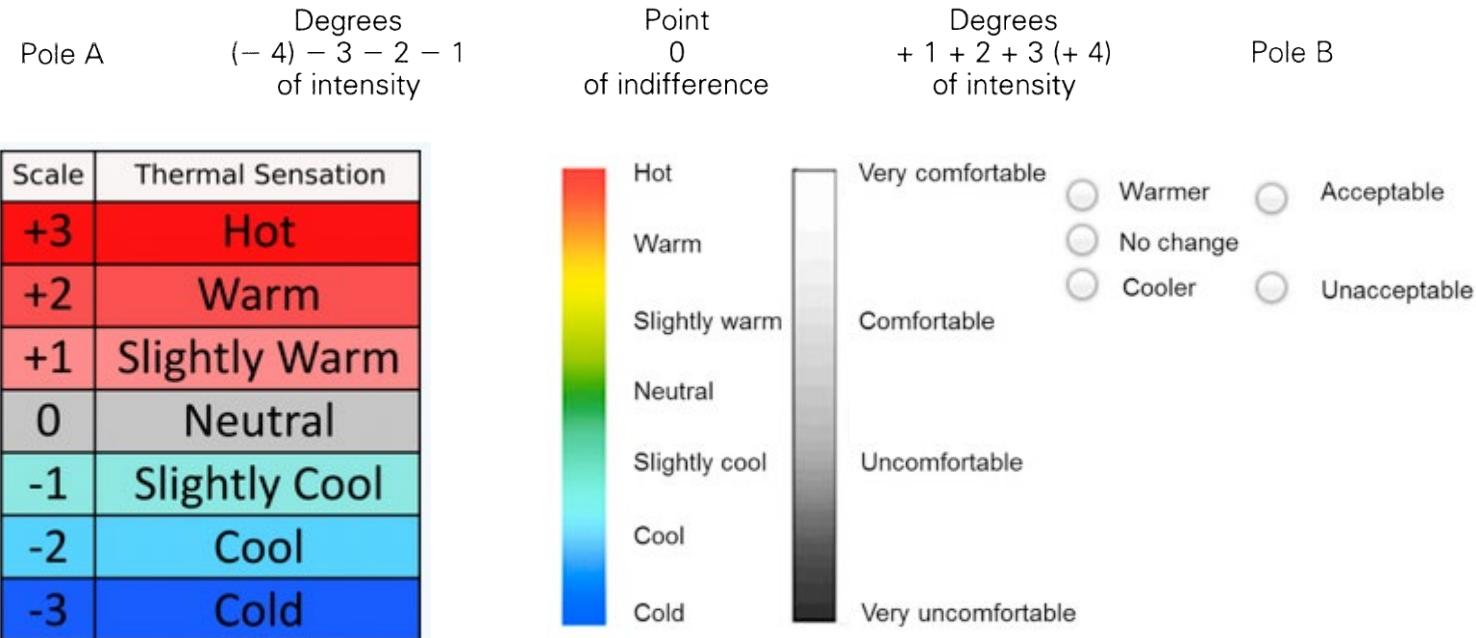
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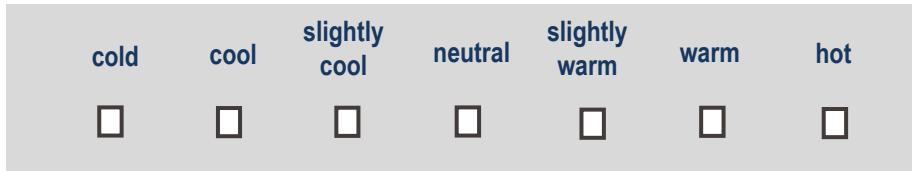
# Subjective Indoor Environment Evaluation

A 7-degree scale shall be applied in the case of environments judged to be temperate (close to thermal neutrality or slightly hot or cold); a 9-degree scale shall be applied in the case of environments judged to be more intensely hot or cold. A practical limit between the two categories of environment is suggested at  $PMV = \pm 2$ .

A symmetrical 7-degree two-pole scale, which can be extended to 9 degrees, comprising a central indifference point and two times 3 (or 4) degrees of increasing intensity.



- Categorical output



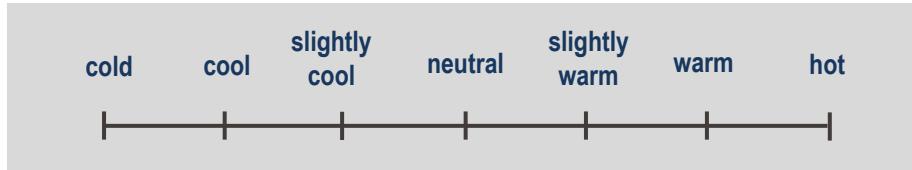
**PROS:**

- Easy to compare to other studies, mostly used
- Easy to implement in survey tools

**CONS:**

- Not optimal for some statistical correlation analysis
- Loss of data when categorizing

- Continuous output



**PROS:**

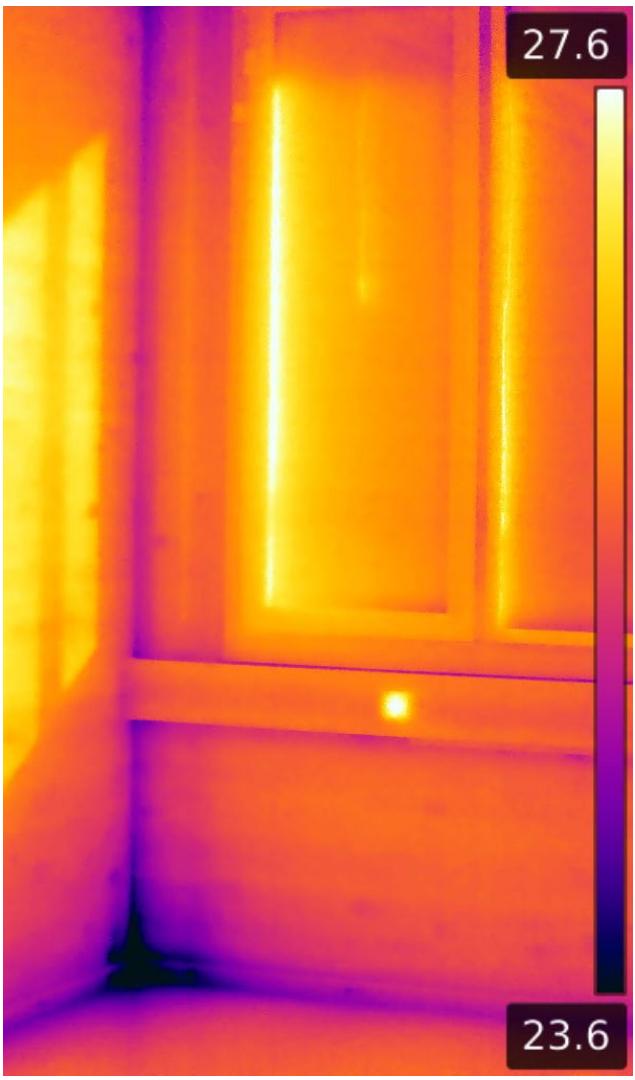
- More detailed and useful for statistical analysis that require continuous data input

**CONS:**

- Longer post processing of data
- The distances between the nodes might not be representative and all equal (issue of «equidistance»)

- Numerical output

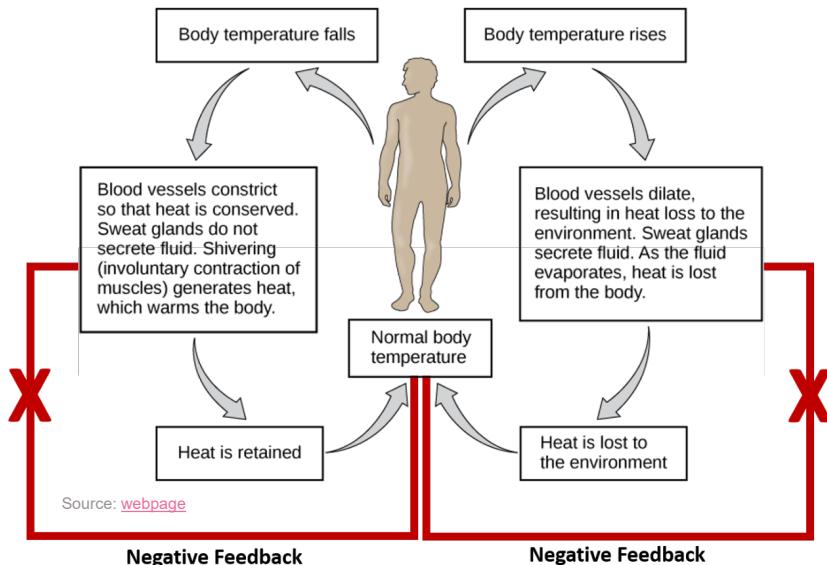




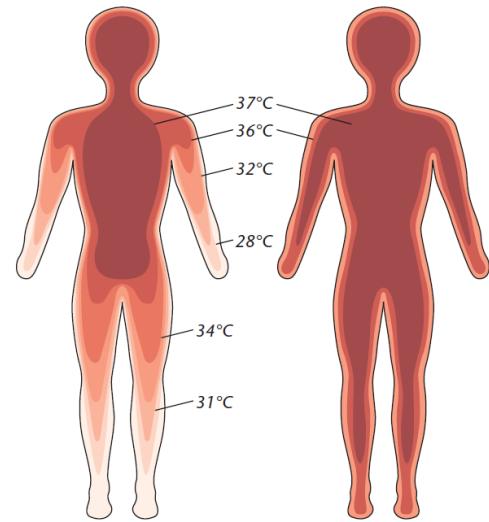
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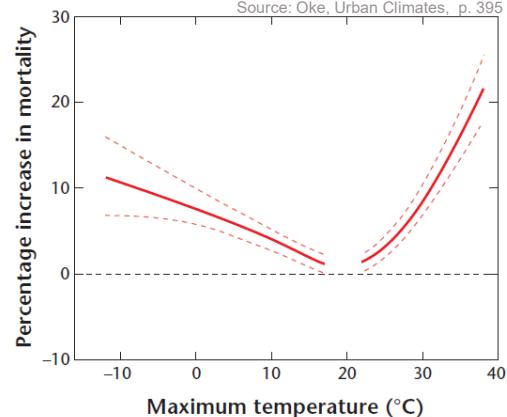
- The human beings are homeotherms therefore the body tries to maintain an internal temperature  $\sim 37^\circ\text{C}$
- The mechanism of heat balance and temperature control is regulated by the **hypothalamus**
- The human body temperature can be used as *an indicator of its thermal condition*

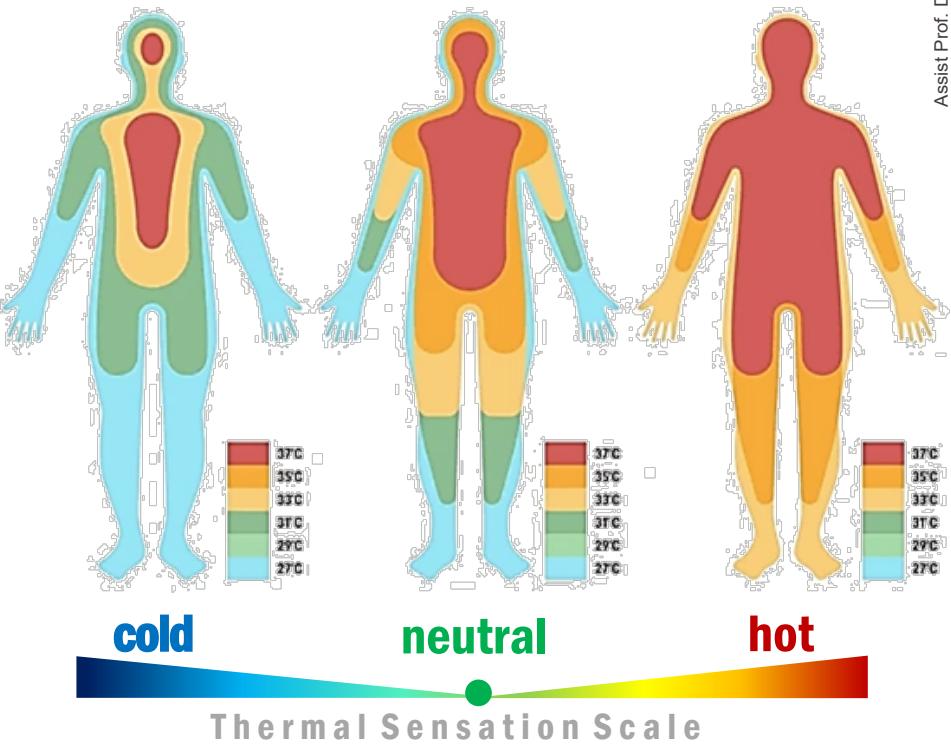
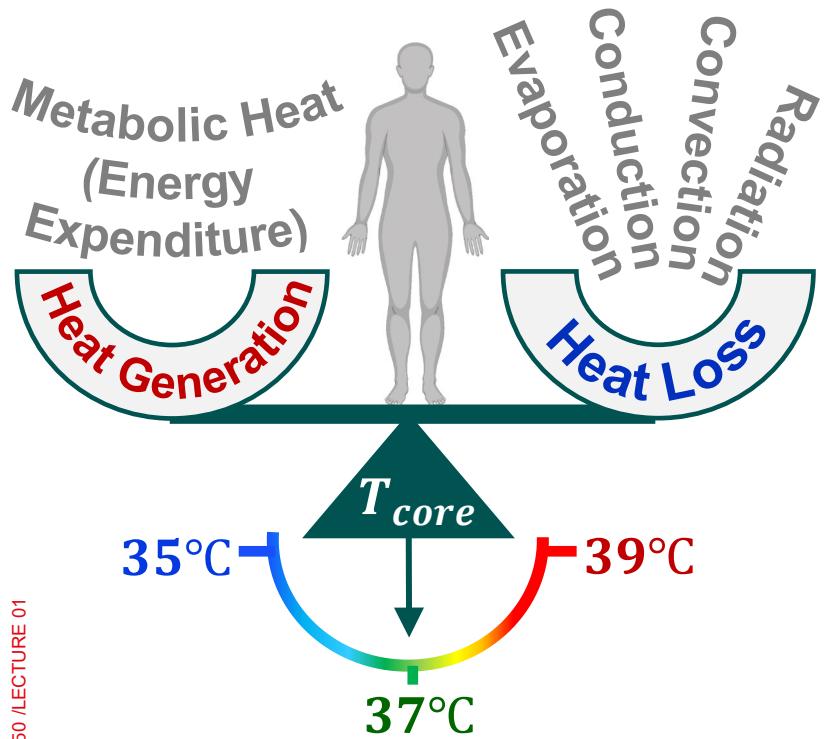


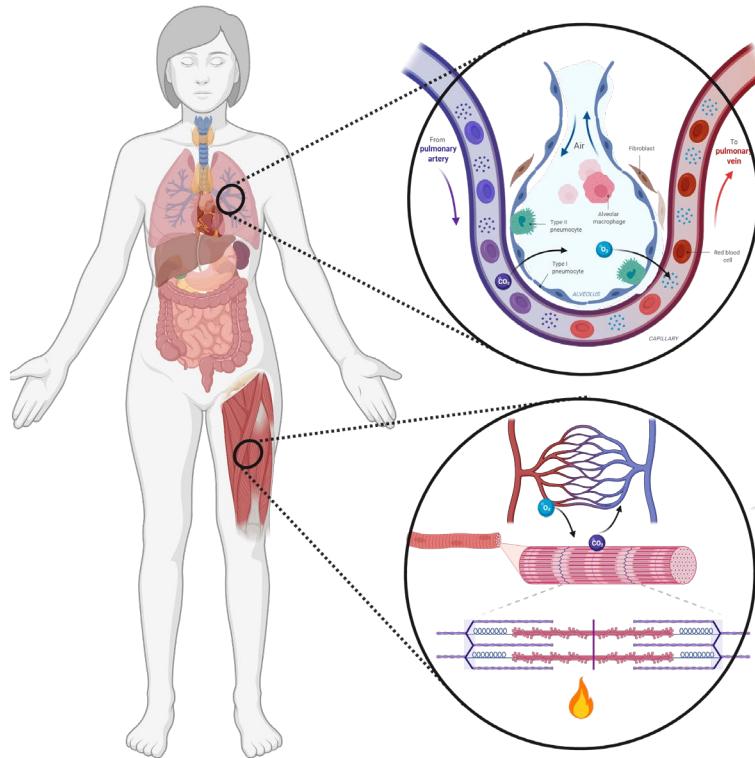
(a) Cool conditions (b) Warm conditions



Source: Oke, Urban Climates, p. 395







### Metabolic rate/ Energy Expenditure

#### Indirect Calorimetry Gases

- CO<sub>2</sub> Produced
- O<sub>2</sub> Consumed

#### Direct Calorimetry Heat

- The rate of transformation of chemical energy into **heat** and **mechanical work** by metabolic activities of an individual, per unit of skin surface area

Expressed in units of **Met**, **1 Met = 58.2 W/m<sup>2</sup>**  
 (the energy produced per unit skin surface area of an average person seated at rest)

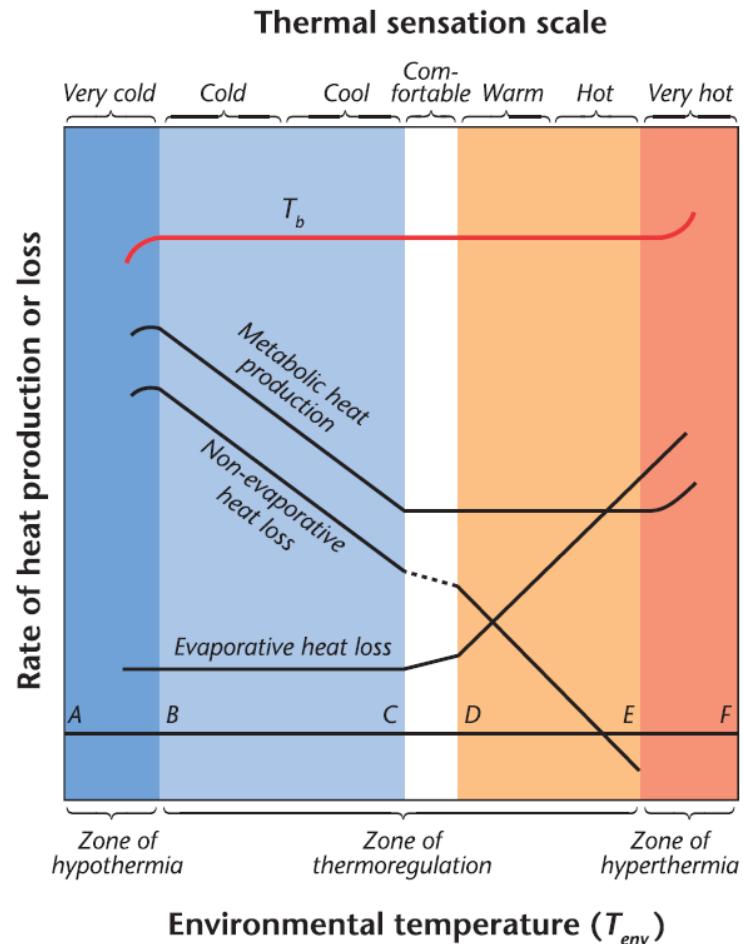
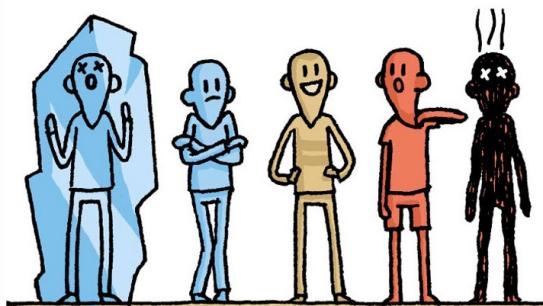
$$Met = \frac{EE}{BSA} \cdot \frac{1}{58.2}$$

Activity type	Met	W/m <sup>2</sup>
Reclining	0.8	45
Seated, relaxed	1.0	58
Sedentary activity (office, dwelling, school, laboratory)	1.2	70
Standing, light activity (shopping, laboratory, light industry)	1.6	93
Standing, medium activity (domestic work, machine work)	2.0	116
Walking on level ground:		
2 km/h	1.9	110
4 km/h	2.8	165
5 km/h	3.4	200

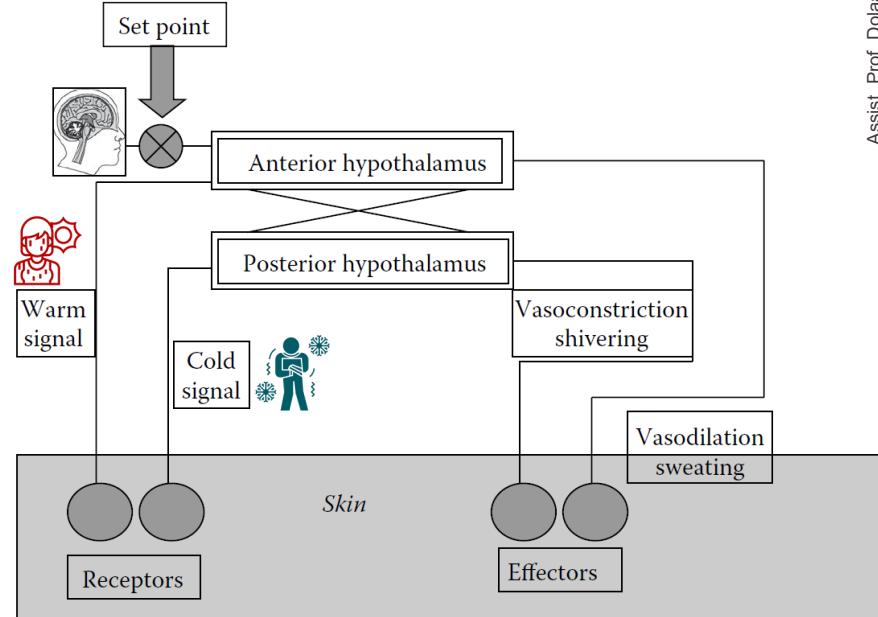


1 Met = 58.2 W/m<sup>2</sup>  
 Average BSA = 1.7 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Average BSA (males) = 1.9 m<sup>2</sup>

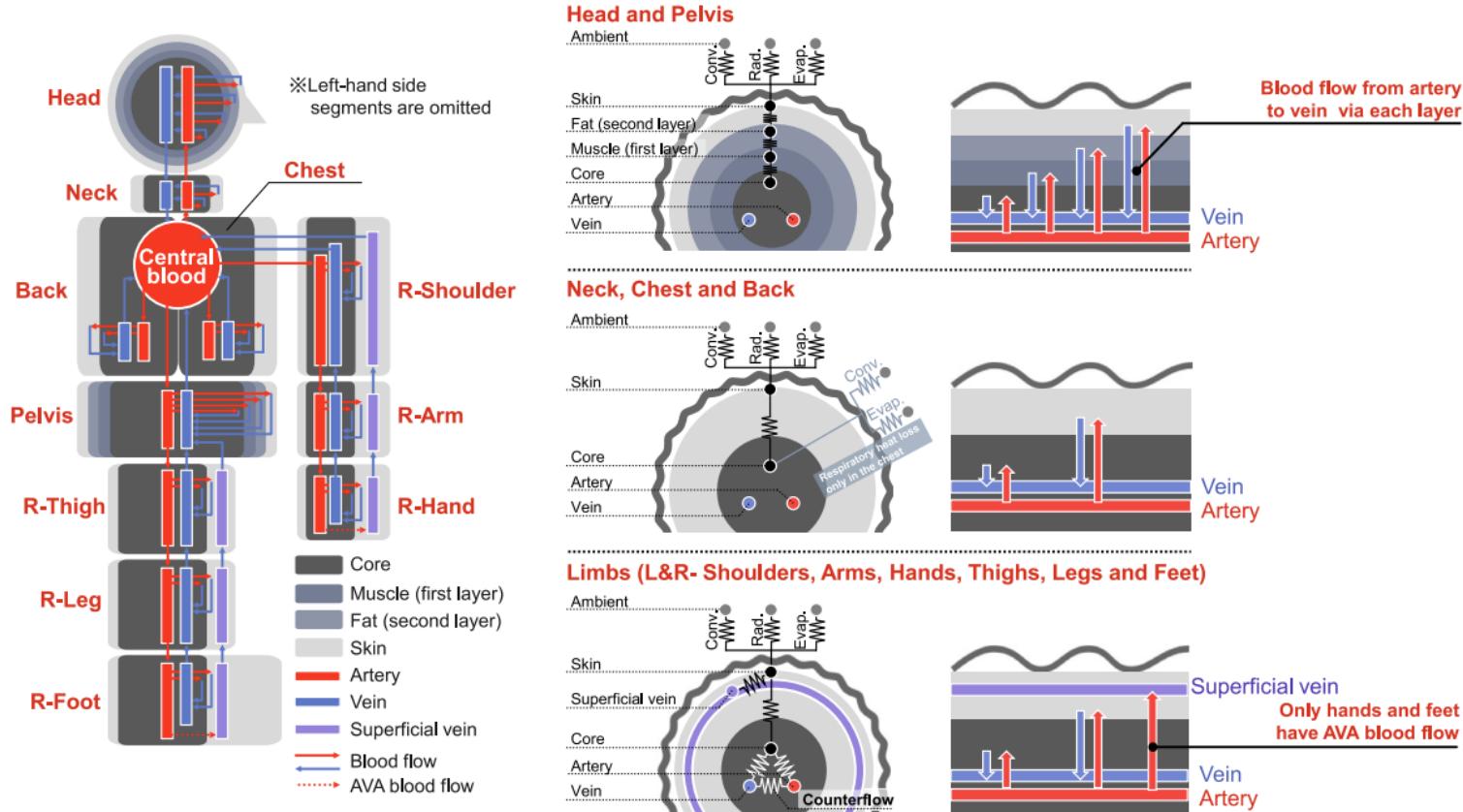
- **THERMAL COMFORT** “...the condition of mind that expresses satisfaction with the thermal environment and is assessed by subjective evaluation” (ISO 7730, ASHRAE 55).
- **Thermal comfort** is achieved when there is a balance between the generation of metabolic heat within the body and the loss of heat from the body (via the mechanisms of conduction, convection, radiation and evaporation).



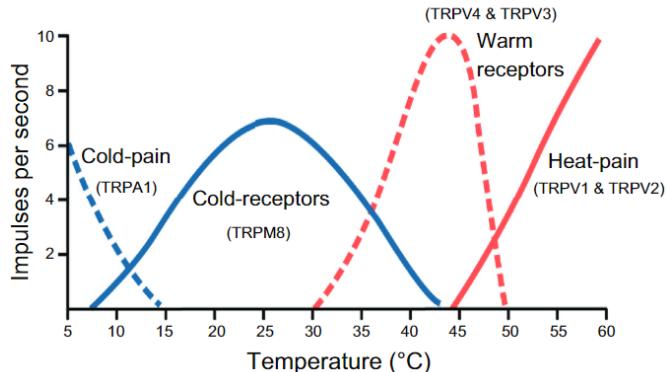
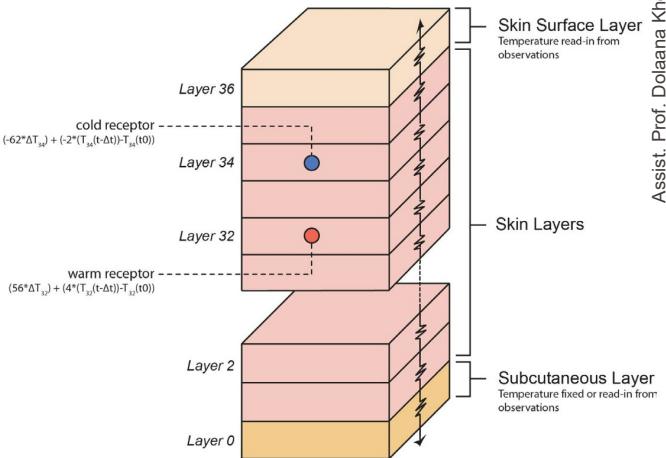
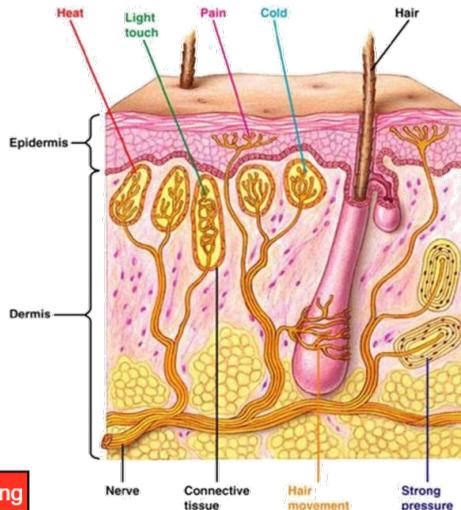
- When human thermoregulation is modeled, it can be divided into 2 parts:
  - Passive system** simulates *physical human body* and *models heat transfer within the human body, and between the human body and its environment*. The passive system is *controlled by* the human body's active system.
  - Active system** simulates the human body's *regulatory responses* of vasoconstriction, vasodilation, shivering and sweating.



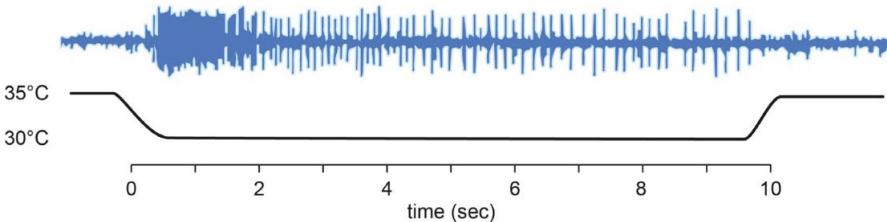
# EPFL Human Thermoregulation: Passive System Modeling



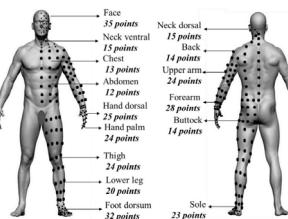
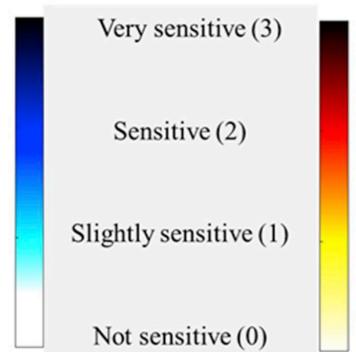
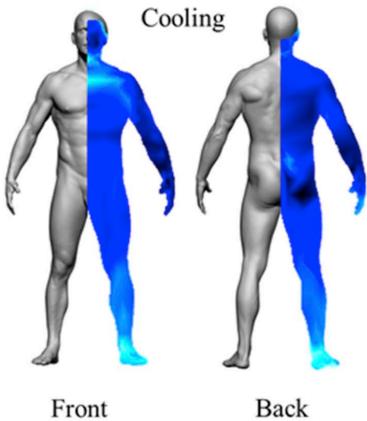
- Thermoreceptors can be separated into receptors for **warmth** and **cold** detection
- Cold receptors** located closer to the skin surface than **warm receptors**
- Warm receptors will turn up their signal rate when they feel warmth



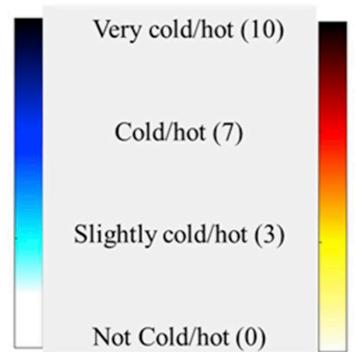
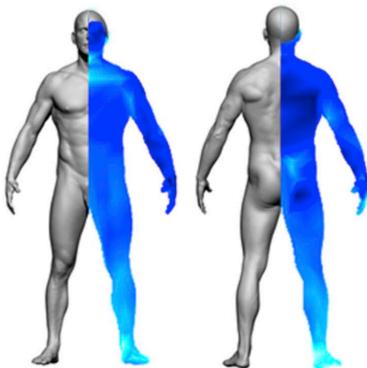
The dynamic and static response profile of a cold thermoreceptor recorded in a human subject during sudden cooling:



## A) Thermosensitivity



## B) Thermal sensation



- Surface area of the body  $A_{body}$  in  $\text{m}^2$  (DuBois formula):

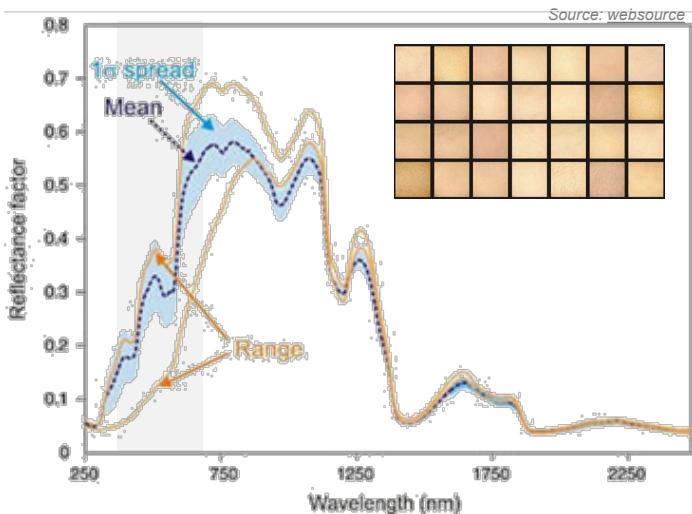
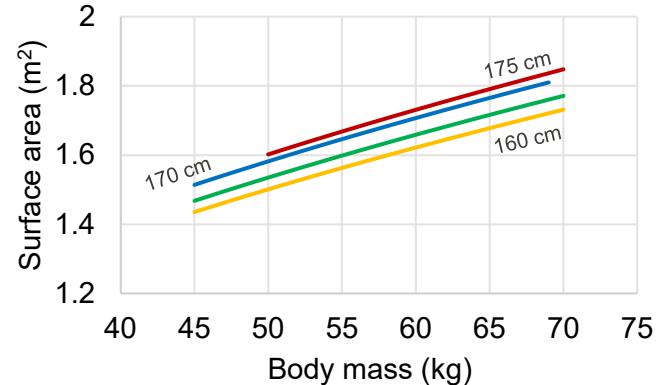
$$A_{body} = 0.007184 \cdot M^{0.425} \cdot H^{0.725}$$

$M$  (kg) – human body mass,  $H$  (cm) – human height

- “Average” human body parameters:

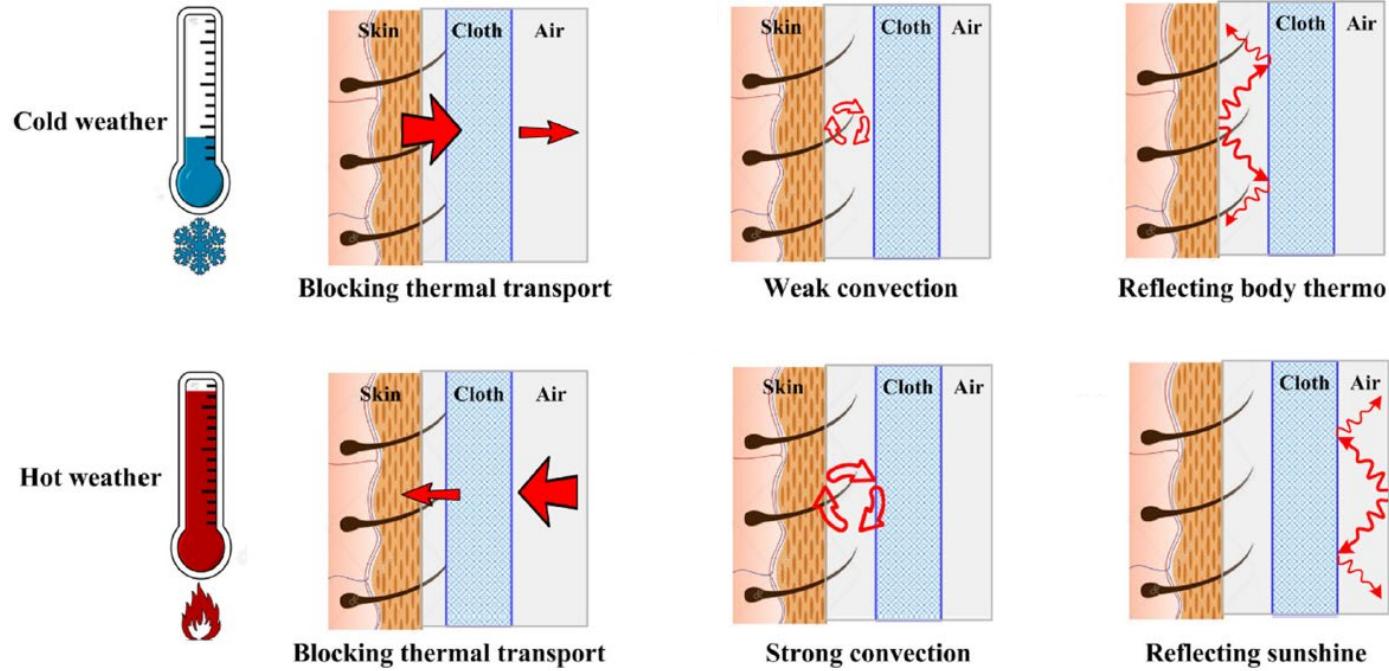
$$M = 70 \text{ kg}, H = 165 \text{ cm}, r_{body} = 0.12 \text{ m}$$

- Reflectivity of human skin, depending on pigmentation (melanin) and skin blood flow (hemoglobin), regulates absorption of radiation:
  - Varies from 0.15 (dark) - 0.35 (light) at 0.4-0.7  $\mu\text{m}$  (visible wavelength)
  - Increases sharply to 0.6 between 0.8-1.2  $\mu\text{m}$
  - Drops at longer wavelengths ( $> 1.2 \mu\text{m}$ )



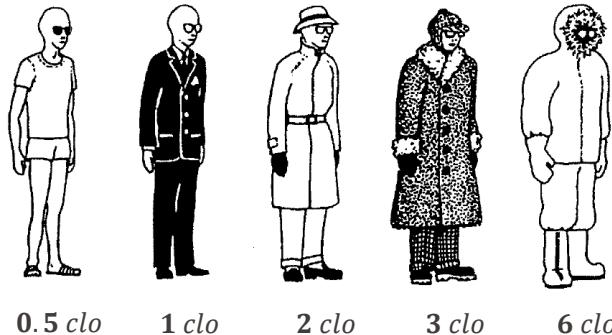
# Clothing: Effect on Heat Losses from the Body

- **In cold weather**, clothing should *reduce* heat conduction, *minimize* heat convection, and *reflect* the heat radiation back
- **In hot weather**, clothing should *block* the heat conduction from the environment, *enhance* heat convection, and *reflect* heat radiation away from the clothed skin



- Clothing creates **thermal resistance**  $R_{cl}$  ( $\frac{m^2 K}{W}$ ) between *body* and *environment*
- Various types of clothing vary in their **thermal resistance**  $I_{cl}$  (*insulative capacity*) measured in “**clo**”

$$R_{cl} = I_{cl} \cdot 0.155 \frac{m^2 K}{W}$$



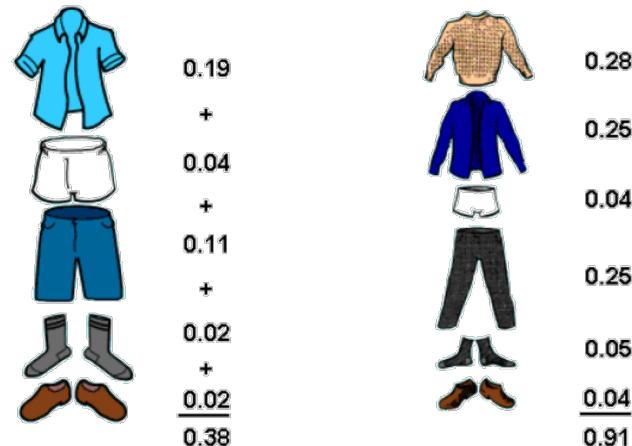
- **Clothing factor  $f_{cl}$**  - a ratio of the clothed surface area to that of the nude body

$$f_{cl} = \frac{A_{cl}}{A_{body}} \begin{cases} \text{for } I_{cl} \leq 0.5 \\ \text{for } I_{cl} > 0.5 \end{cases}$$

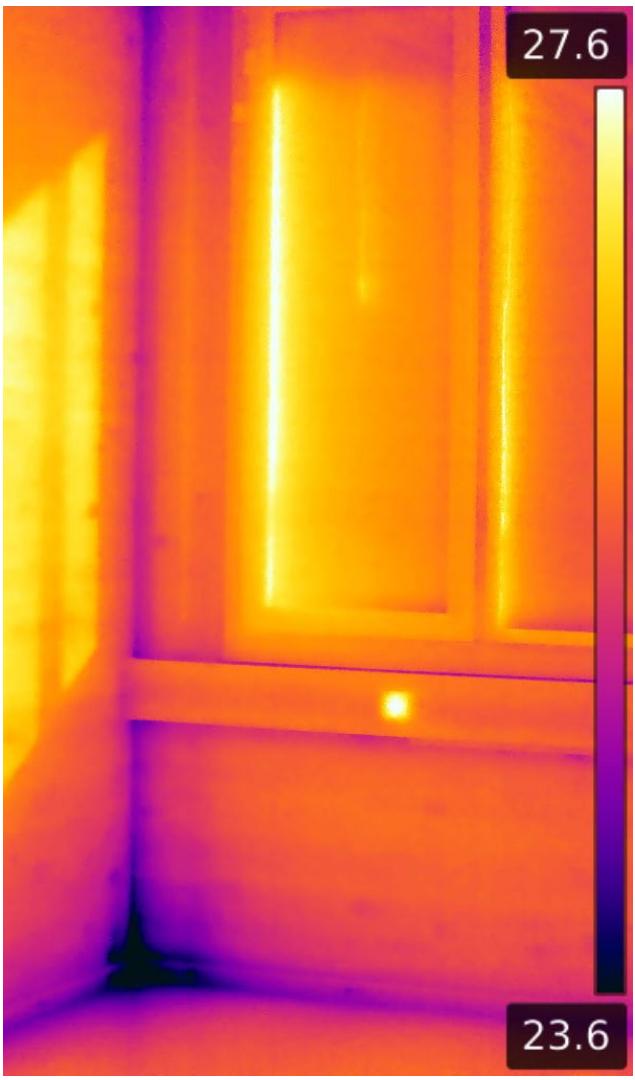
$$f_{cl} = 1 + 0.31 \cdot I_{cl}$$

$$f_{cl} = 1.05 + 0.645 \cdot I_{cl}$$

Insulation for the entire clothing:  $I_{cl} = \sum I_{clu}$



$A_{cl}$  (m<sup>2</sup>) – area of the human body covered with clothing

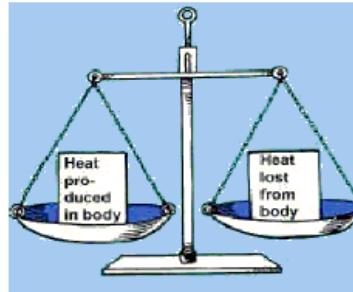


# CONTENT:

- **Introduction to the course**
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# Criteria for Thermal Comfort

- **Thermal neutrality** for the body as a whole is a necessary, but *not sufficient condition* for thermal comfort.
- **Local thermal discomfort** due to *draught, vertical temperature gradient, radiant asymmetry, or warm or cold floors* may cause occupants to find **the thermal conditions unacceptable**.



***It is essential to evaluate thermal comfort in 2 steps:***

1. Evaluate **overall body's thermal comfort**
2. Check that there is **no local discomfort**

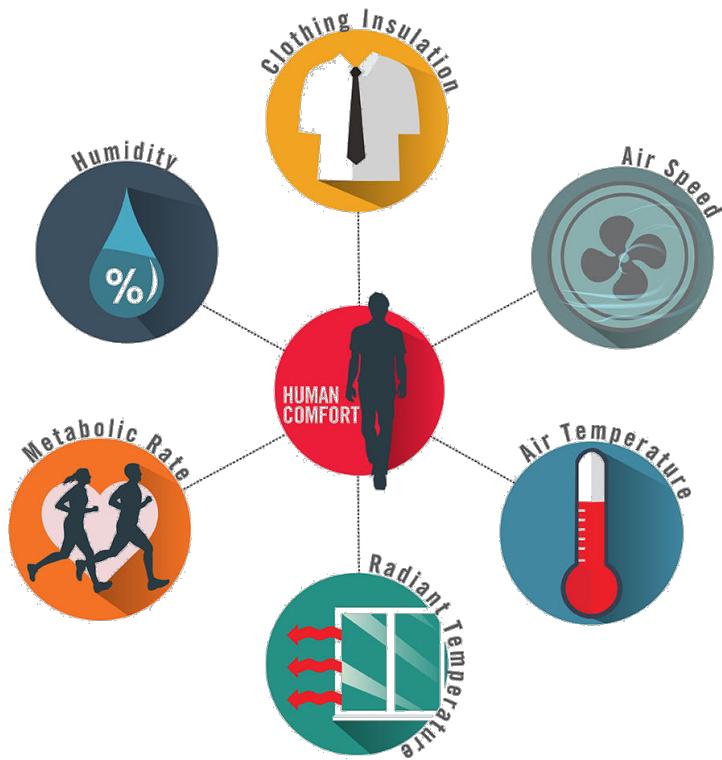
# Thermal Comfort Models

## ■ PMV/PPD model: Focus of Lecture 02

- Considers thermal comfort as a result of steady-state human body heat balance
- It is a function of **activity** (metabolic rate), **clothing insulation** and the **4 environmental parameters** (air temperature, mean radiant temperature, air velocity and air humidity).
- Typically applicable for mechanically conditioned buildings

## ■ Adaptive comfort model:

- Considers thermal comfort as a result of **adaptation** (physiological, behavioural, psychological)
- Establishes a **strong relationship** of the **comfortable temperatures** inside a building to the **mean temperatures prevailing outside the building**
- Applicable for *naturally ventilated and “free-running”* buildings



Source: Fanger, 1970, de Dear et al. (2013) Indoor Air

## ▪ PMV/PPD model:

Inputs

Select method: **PMV method**

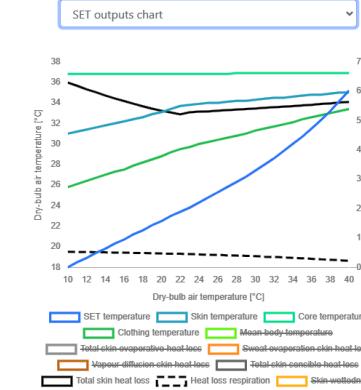
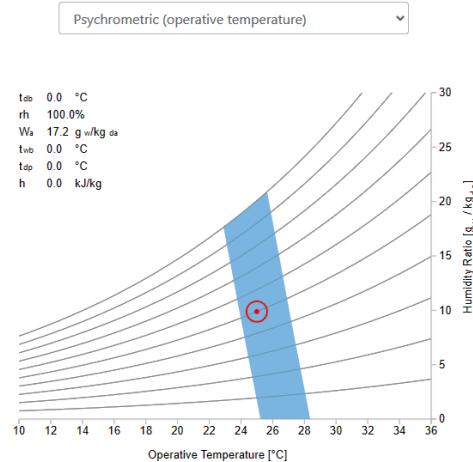
Operative temperature: **25 °C**

Air speed: **0.1 m/s** **No local control**

Relative humidity: **50 %** **Relative humidity**

Metabolic rate: **1 met** **Seated, quiet: 1.0**

Clothing level: **0.61 clo** **Trousers, long-sleeve shirt**



## ▪ Adaptive model:

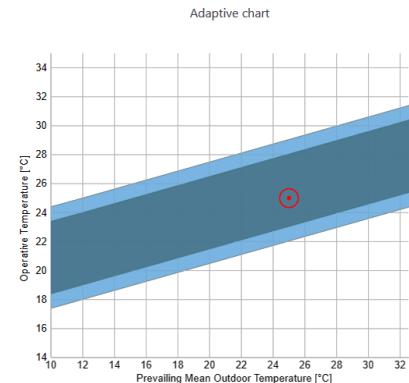
Inputs

Select method: **Adaptive method**

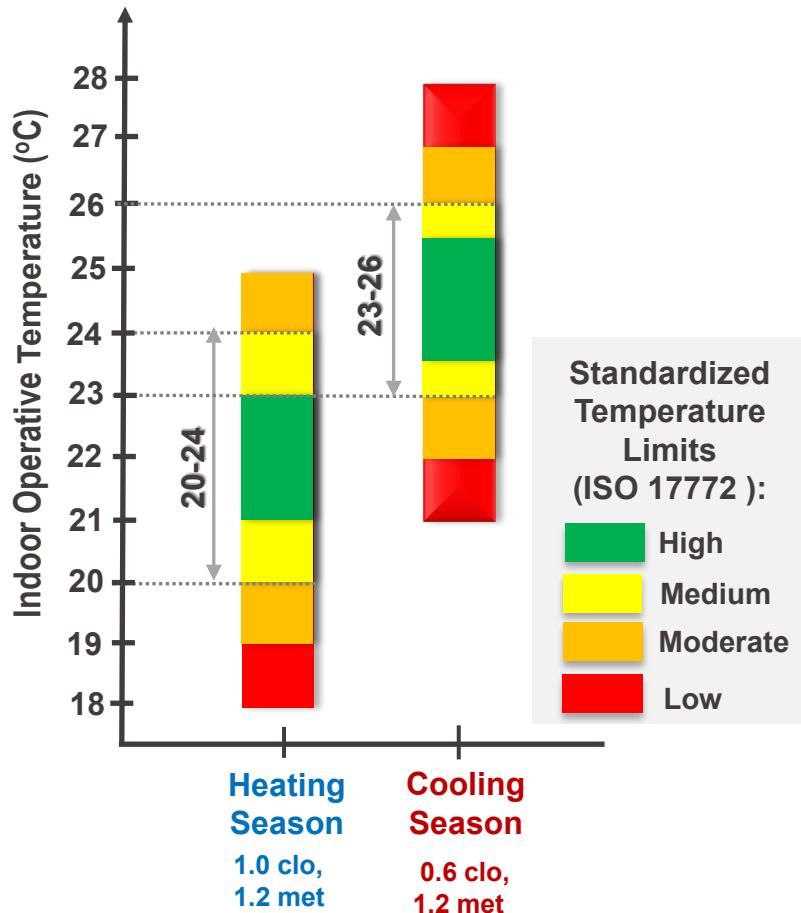
Operative temperature: **25 °C** **Use operative temp**

Prevailing mean outdoor temperature: **25 °C**

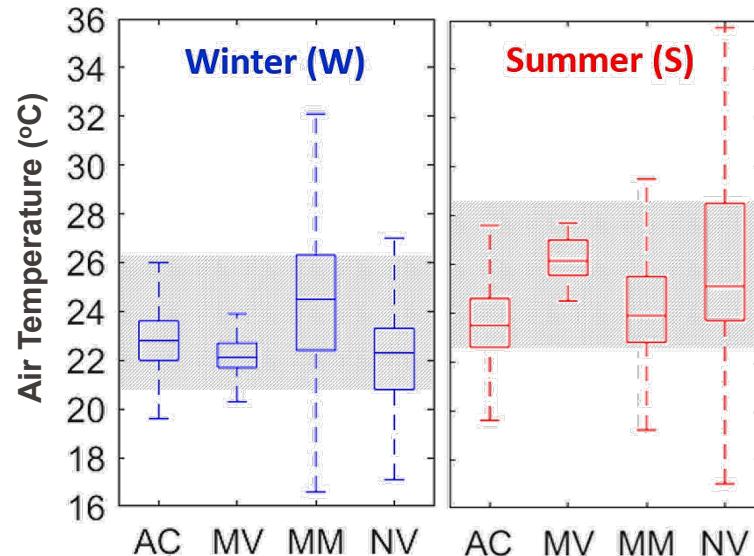
Air speed: **0.3 m/s (59 fpm)**



# Thermal Comfort in Buildings: Current Practice



Air temperature variation  
in differently conditioned buildings  
(ASHRAE Global Thermal Comfort Database II)



AC – air-conditioned, MV – mechanically ventilated  
MM – mixed mode, NV – naturally ventilated



- **Draught –**

*unwanted, local cooling* of the skin **caused by air movement**. It is most prevalent when the whole-body thermal sensation is cool (below neutral). Draft sensation depends on air speed, air temperature, activity, and clothing.



- **Radiant temperature asymmetry –**

The thermal radiation field about the body may be **nonuniform** due to **hot** and **cold surfaces** and **direct sunlight**. This **asymmetry** may cause local discomfort and reduce the thermal acceptability of the space



- **Vertical air temperature difference –**

Thermal stratification that results in the air temperature at the **head level** *being warmer* than that **at the ankle level** may cause thermal discomfort. Thermal stratification in the opposite direction is rare.



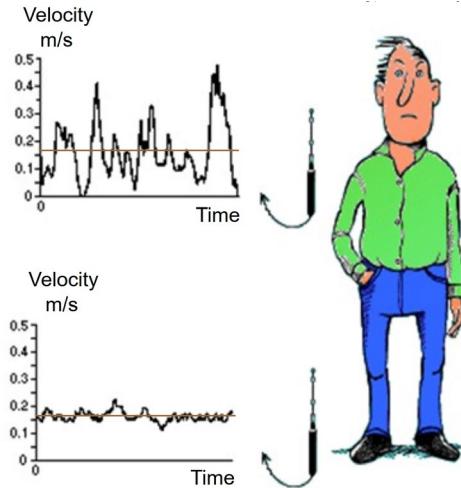
- **Floor surface temperature (warm or cool floor) –**

Occupants may feel uncomfortable due to contact with floor surfaces that are too warm or too cool. The temperature of the floor, rather than the material of the floor covering, is the most important factor for foot thermal comfort while wearing shoes.

- Air currents can occur near *cold* & *hot* surfaces, near ventilation inlets, convective air current occur *naturally* around the human body

$$DR = (34 - t_{op}) (v_{a,mean} - 0.05)^{0.62} (0.37 \cdot v_{a,mean} \cdot Tu + 3.14)$$

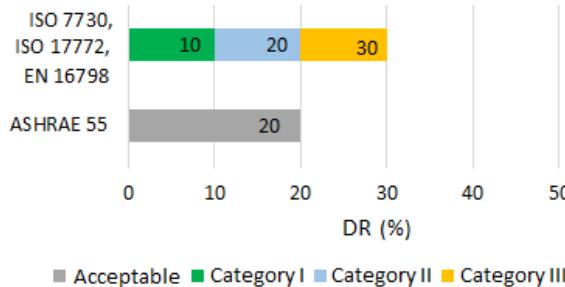
Operative temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )      Average air speed (m/s)      Turbulence intensity (%)  
 $Tu = v_{\text{RMS}}/v_{a,mean}$

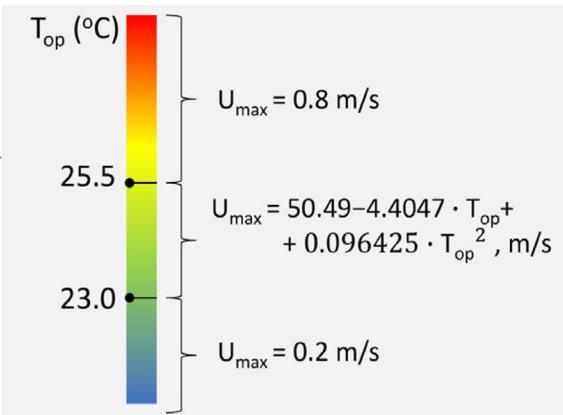
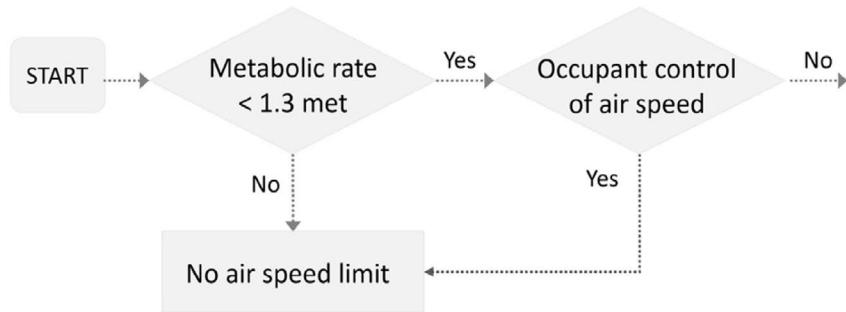


Acceptable maximum air speed to avoid draft:

Standard	Categories	$U_{\text{max}}$ (m/s), summer	$U_{\text{max}}$ (m/s), winter
ASHRAE 55	acceptable	0.8	0.15
ISO 17772,	I	0.12	0.10
EN 16798	II	0.19	0.16
	III	0.24	0.21

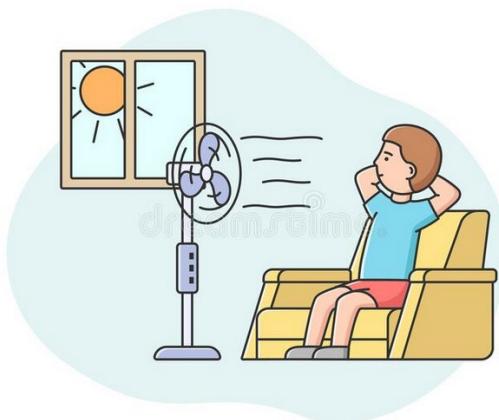
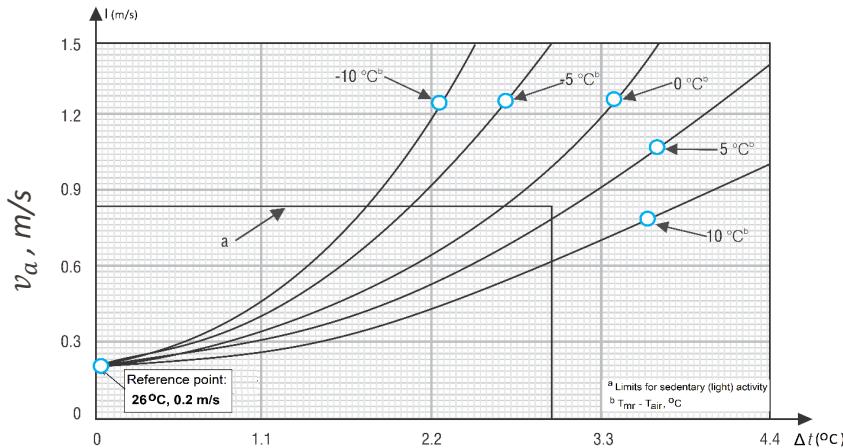
Standardized acceptable draft rate:

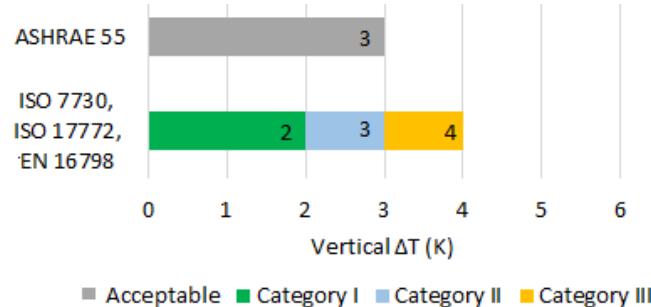
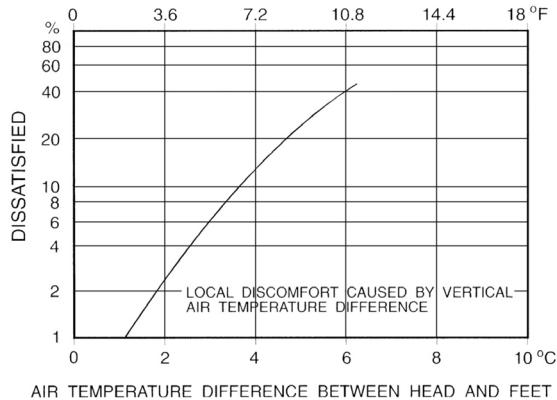




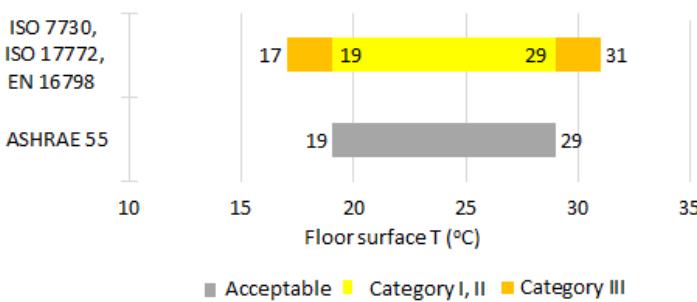
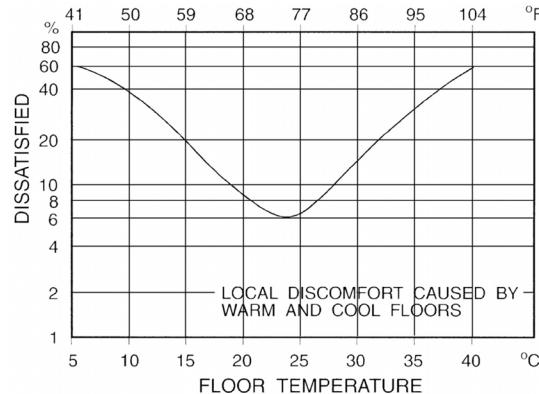
Source: ASHRAE 55-2017

- Air speed required to offset increased temperature (0.5 clo, 1.2 met):



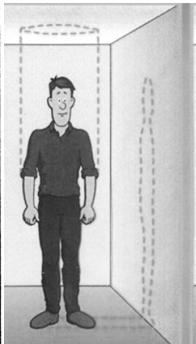
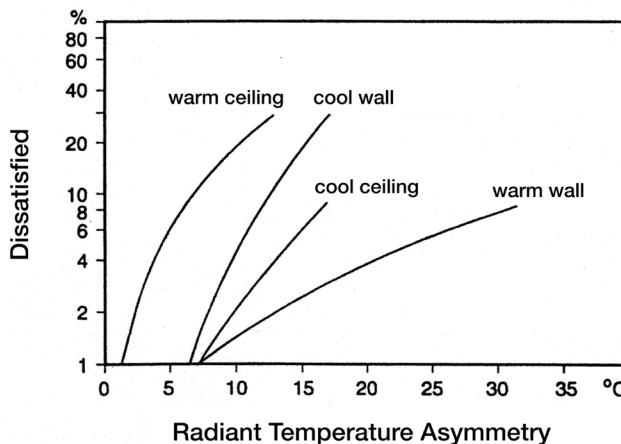
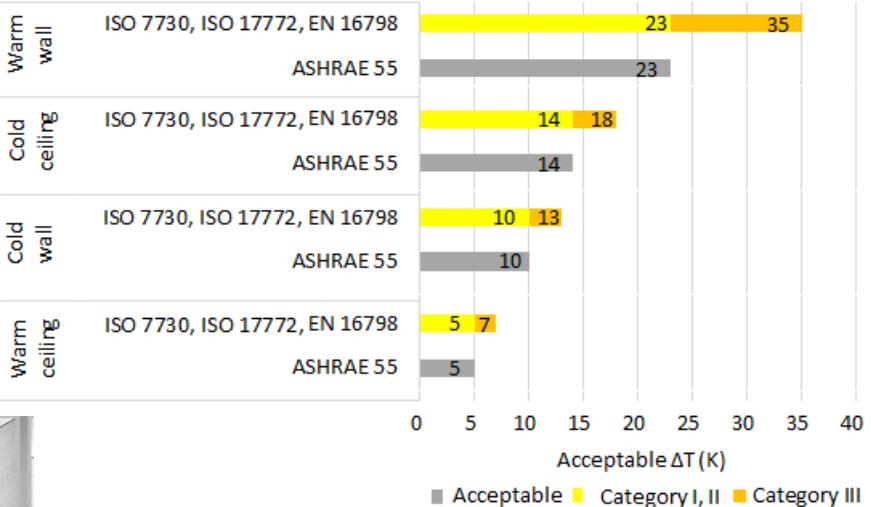
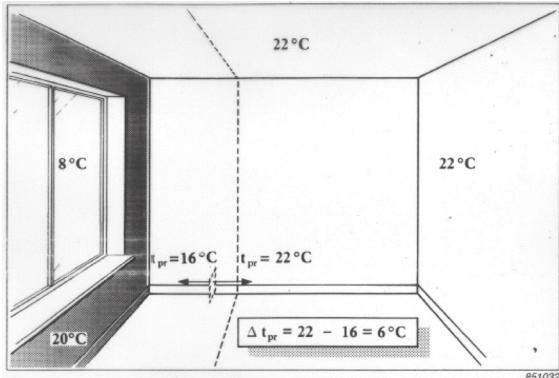


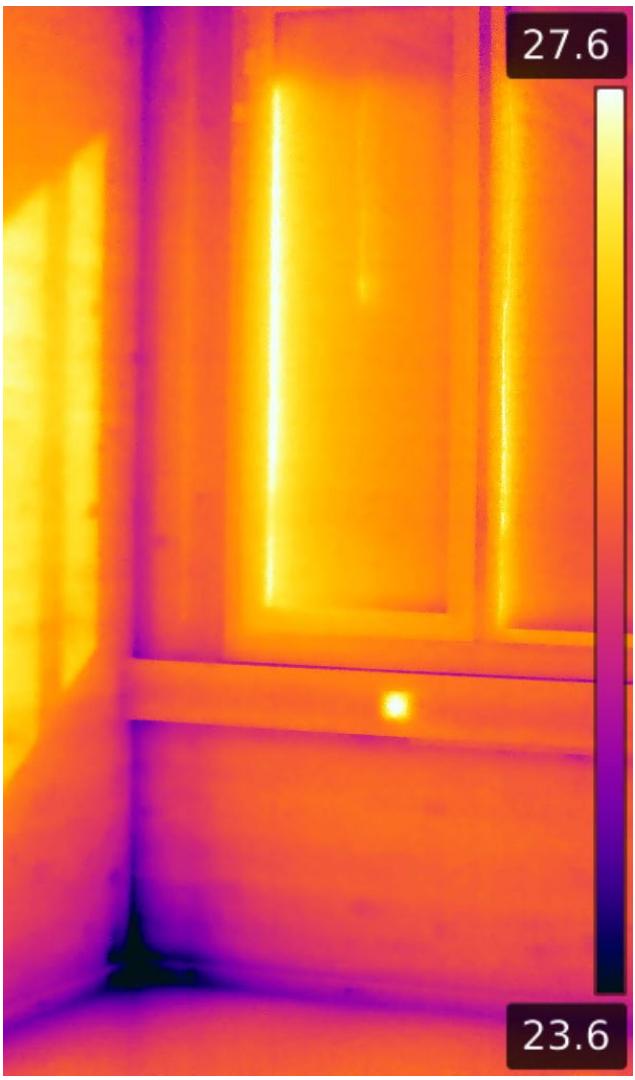
## Floor Surface Temperature



# Radiant Temperature Asymmetry

- Characterized by *the difference* in the two half-room temperatures



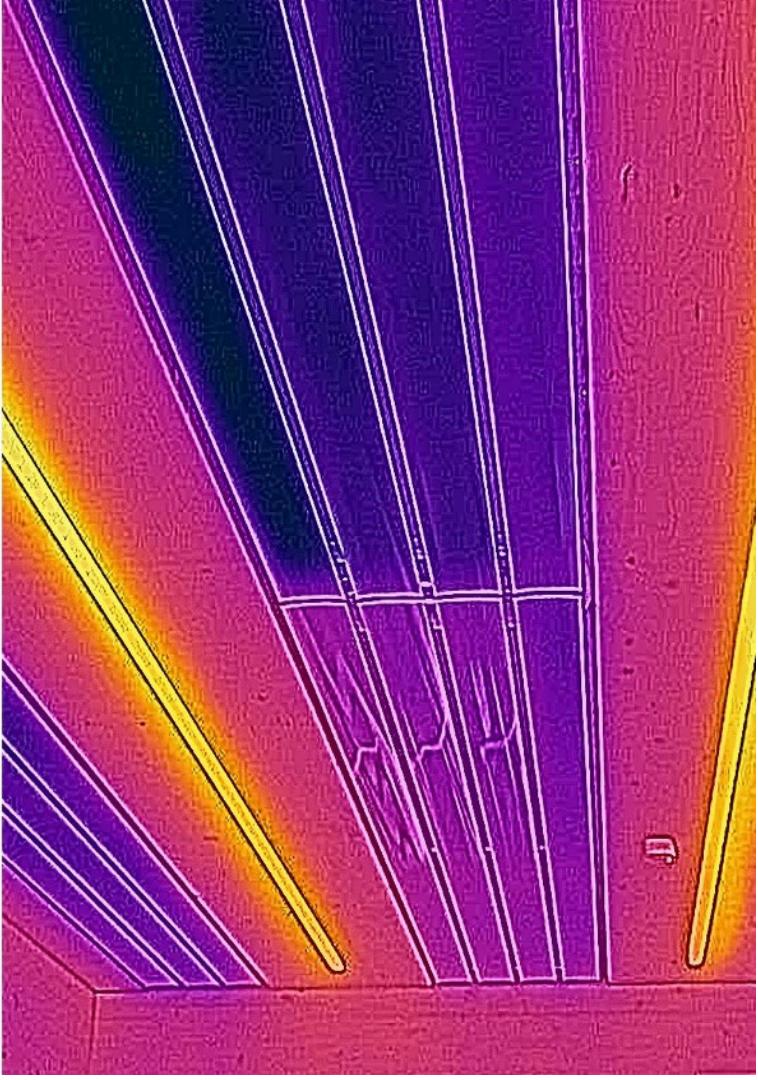


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- Observe your comfort and your environment
- Complete the COMFORT SURVEY
- Estimate your metabolic rate\*
- Calculate total thermal insulation of your clothing ensemble\*
- Compare *your thermal sensation vote* with *the predicted one* using the CBE Thermal Comfort Tool: <https://comfort.cbe.berkeley.edu/>
- Discuss with your neighbor:
  - The difference between predicted and actual thermal sensation vote
  - Effect of local discomfort (if any) on your thermal comfort

\*Use data in the file “ASHRAE 55\_MET and CLO.pdf”



**Thank you  
for your attention**

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