

Variability of physical meteorology in urban areas at different scales: implications for observations and modelling

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Surrey **A Robbins** Southampton **C Vanderwel, D Lim** Imperial **M van Reeuwijk, T Grylls**

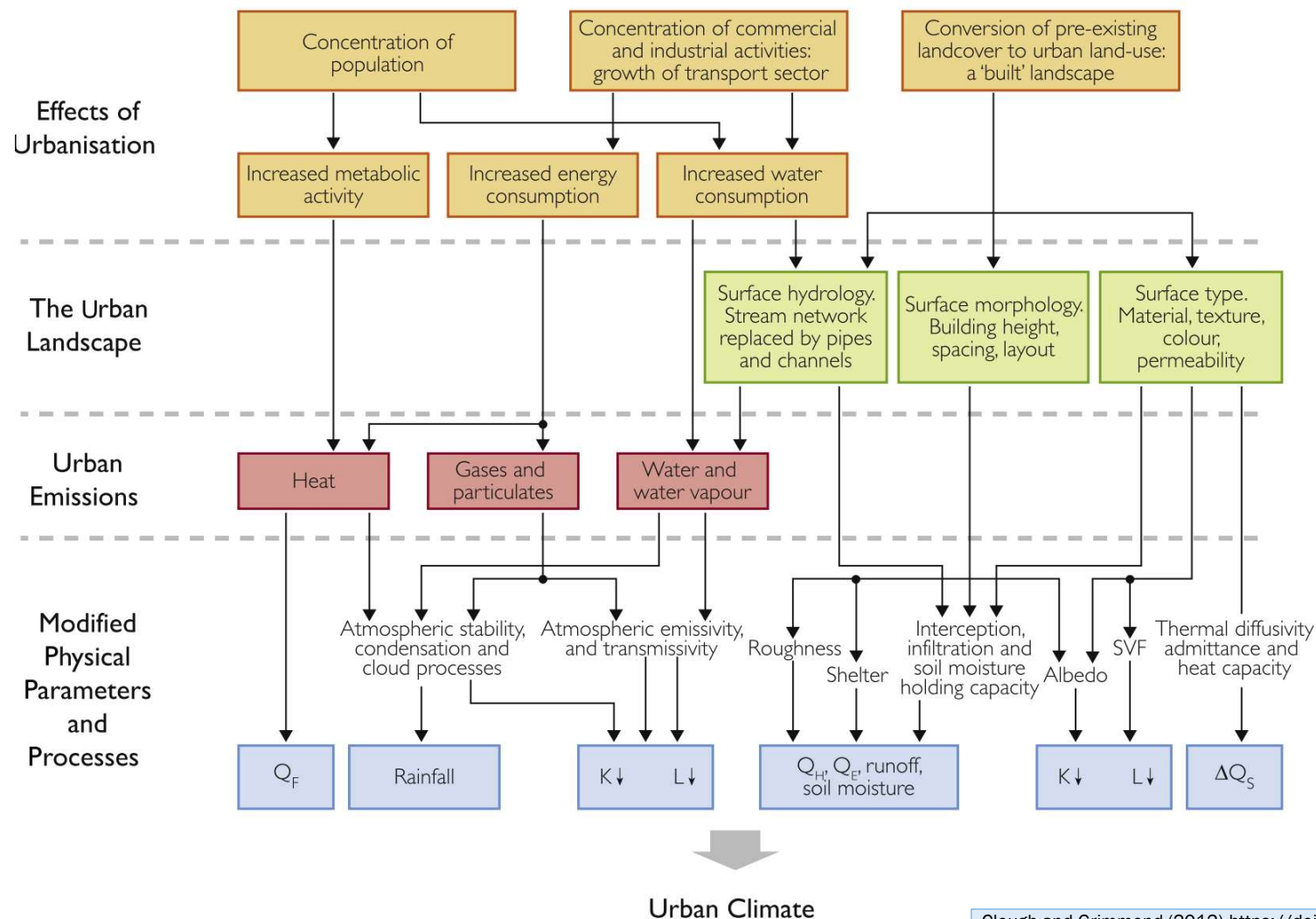
Freiburg **A Christen, D Fenner** DART **T Yin, JP Gastellu-Etchegorry** ^{UW} **RJ Ronda** ^{CSIRO} **IN Harman**

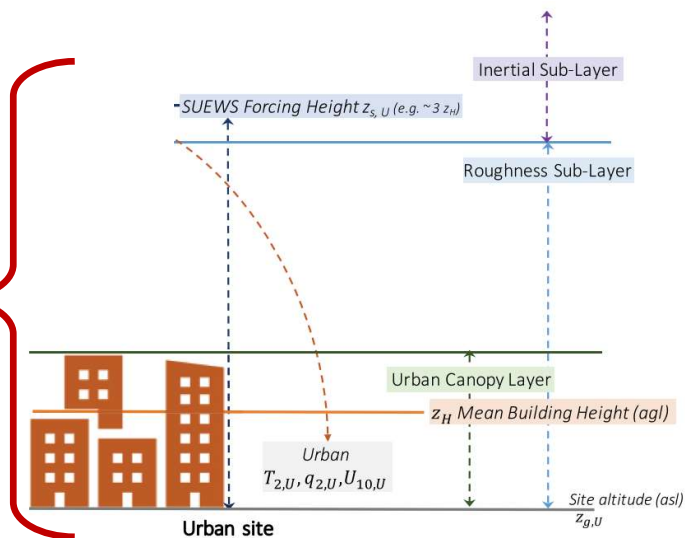
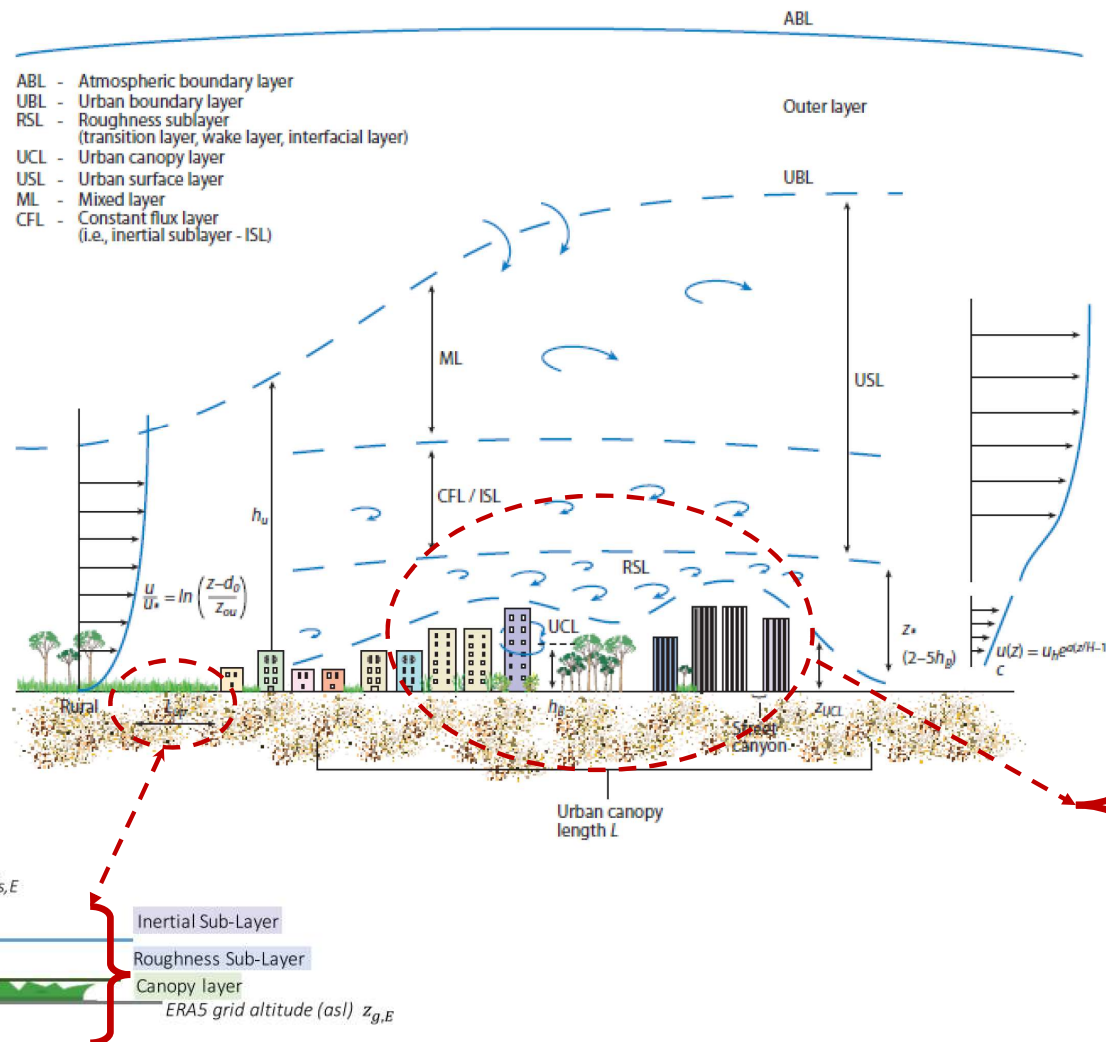
Met Office **E Warren, C Charlton-Perez, H Lean**

Acknowledgements

Funders: NERC AirPro, Newton Fund/Met Office CSSP-China, EPSRC UK Fluids Network visiting scientist award, ERC Synergy *urbisphere* (855005), H2020 UrbanFluxes, EPSRC DARE
Facilities: UKRI University of Southampton Water Channel, NERC University of Surrey EnFlo Wind tunnel, EPSRC MAGIC London hardware model, Site providers
People: *Beijing cluster model* work: George Meachim (UR), Matthew Coburn (Southampton), Christoph Kent (UR), Shiguang Miao (IUM, CMA)

Urban Atmospheric Processes



ERA5 Surface-level $z_{s,E}$ $T_{2,E}$, $q_{2,E}$, $U_{10,E}$

Inertial Sub-Layer

Roughness Sub-Layer

Canopy layer

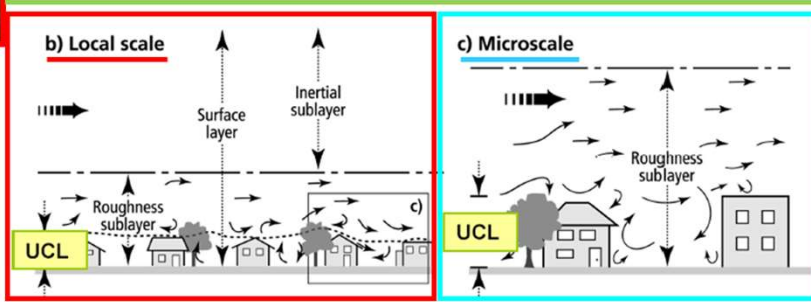
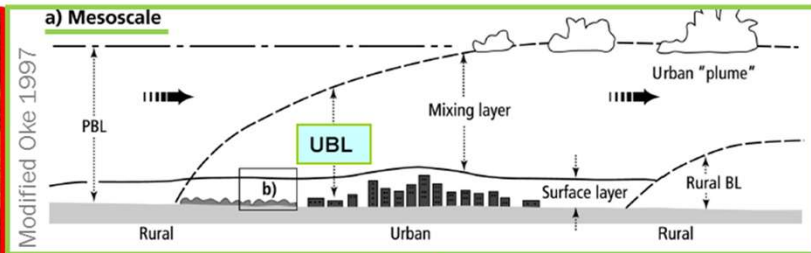
ERA5 Grid

ERA5 grid altitude (asl) $z_{g,E}$ Fernando 2010: <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-fluid-121108-145459>Tang et al. 2021: *Building and Environment*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2021.108088>

Challenge of scale



- Observe over relatively small areas
- Need to model (NWP, Climate, Applications) for complete city at an appropriate scale



Numerous constraints or challenges in urban areas

- MOST – breaks down close to the surface
- Urban roughness elements large
- Thermal and Visible remote sensing
 - coarse spatial scales or coarse temporal scales
 - + need clear skies
- Spatial heterogeneity
 - 3-d nature of the urban surface
- Anthropogenic effects
 - Behaviour change heat and mass exchanges

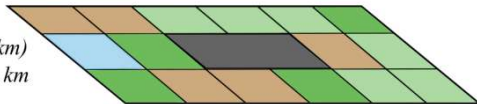
Modelling: Climate, Weather, Planning, Building Design

Horizontal scales

Detail of city representation

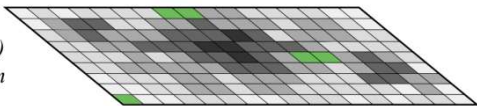
i. Global / regional

domain size $O(1000 \text{ to } 100 \text{ km})$
model resolution $\sim 100 \text{ to } 10 \text{ km}$



ii. City

domain size $O(100 \text{ to } 10 \text{ km})$
model resolution $\sim 5 \text{ to } 0.3 \text{ km}$



iii. Neighbourhood

domain size $O(10 \text{ to } 0.1 \text{ km})$
model resolution $\sim 10 \text{ to } 1 \text{ m}$



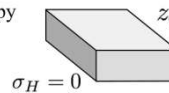
iv. Building

domain size $O(100 \text{ to } 10 \text{ m})$
model resolution $\sim 4 \text{ to } < 1 \text{ m}$

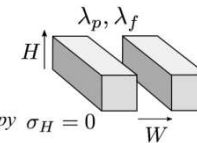


Modelling & simulation approaches

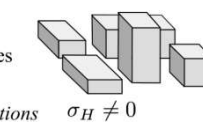
modified vegetation canopy
bulk processes
slab models



generic street canyon
roof and street-canyon
processes modelled
single- / multi-layer canopy models



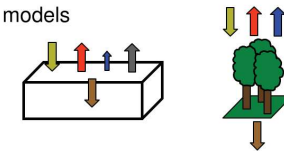
complex urban canopies
building-induced processes
resolved
building-resolving simulations



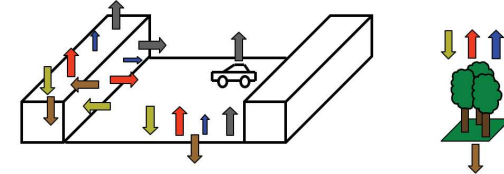
indoor / outdoor environments
coupled processes resolved
indoor-resolving simulations



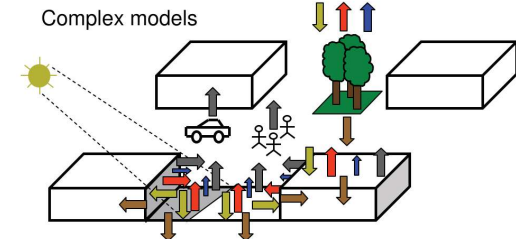
Simple models



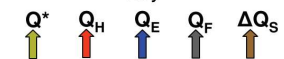
Moderate complexity models



Complex models

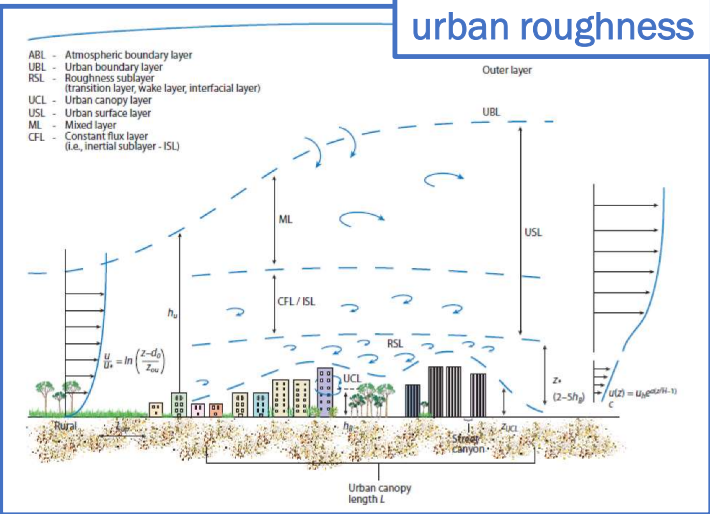
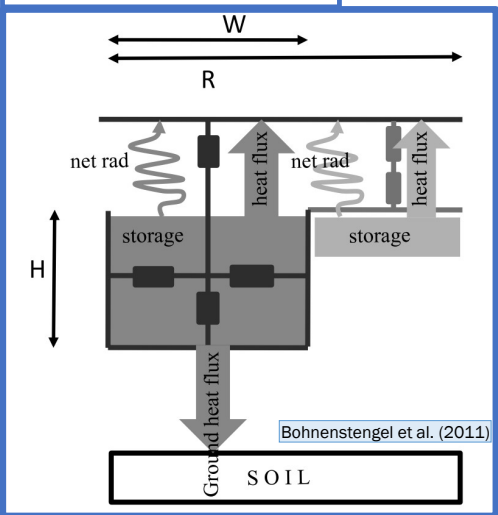


Key

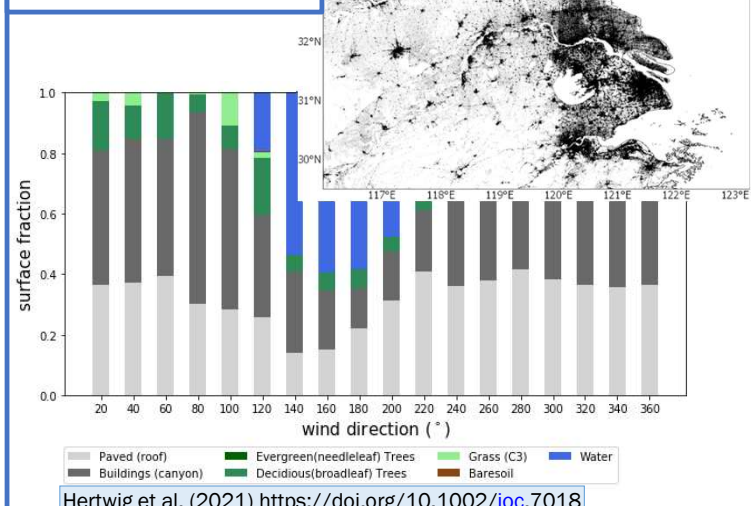


Urban Characteristics

urban morphology

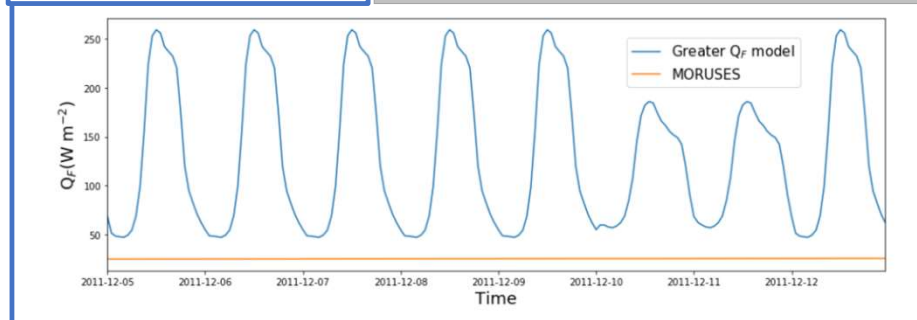


urban land cover

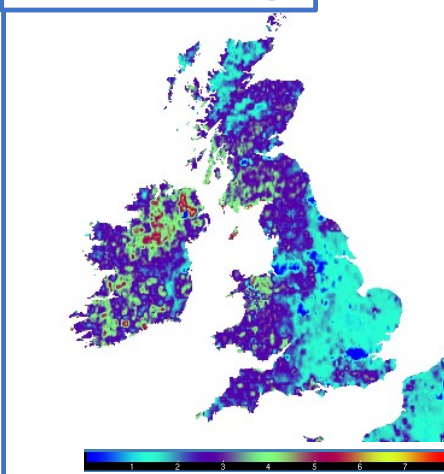


anthropogenic heat

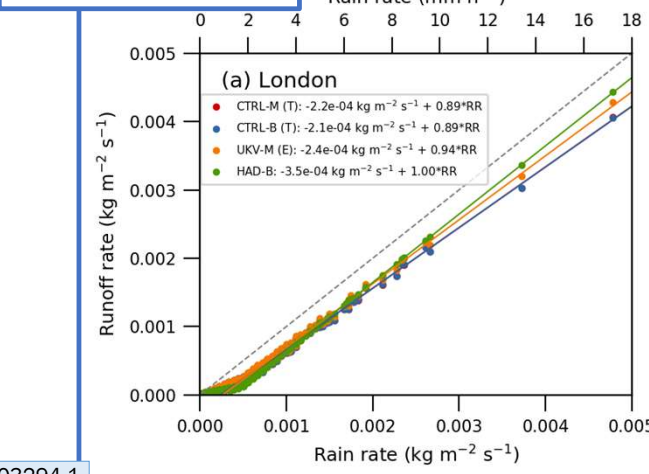
Treated as parameter- should be dynamic



urban phenology

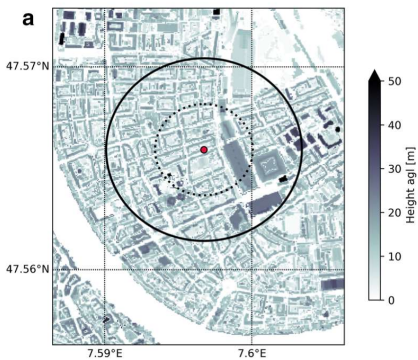


urban hydrology



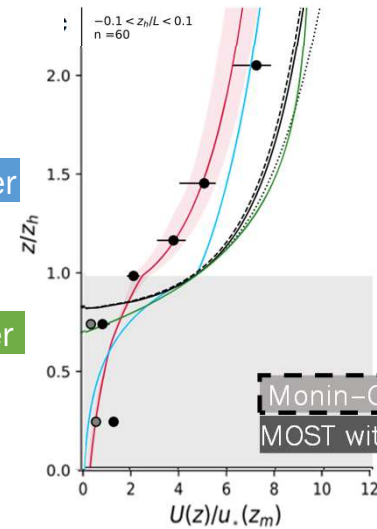
Real World Observations: Basel

Basel-Sperrstrasse



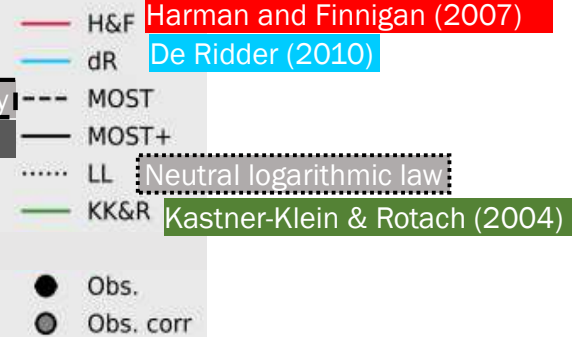
Roughness sub layer

Urban Canopy Layer



Near neutral

Wind across flat-roof buildings



Harman and Finnigan (2007)

De Ridder (2010)

Neutral logarithmic law

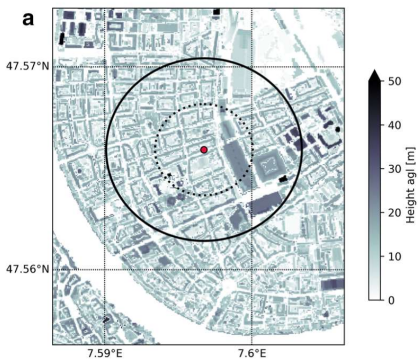
Kastner-Klein & Rotach (2004)

Profiles of Wind speed
normalized by friction velocity

Real World Observations: Basel & Gothenburg

Different stabilities

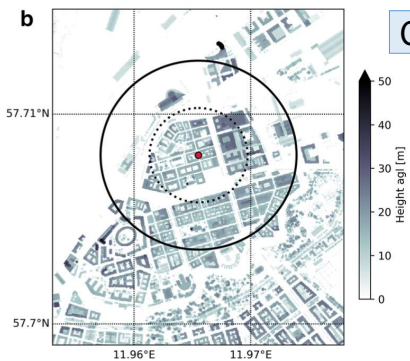
Basel-Sperrstrasse



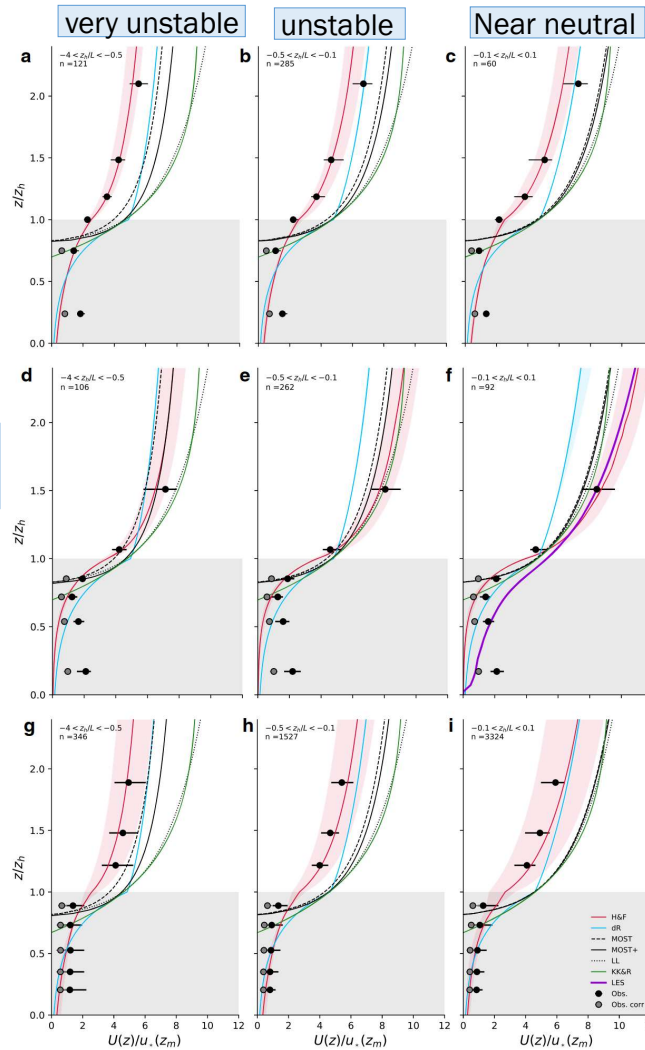
flat-roof buildings

pitch-roof buildings

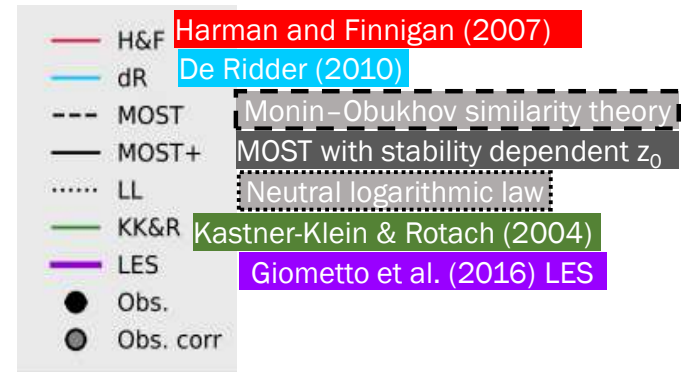
Gothenburg



perpendicular to the street canyon



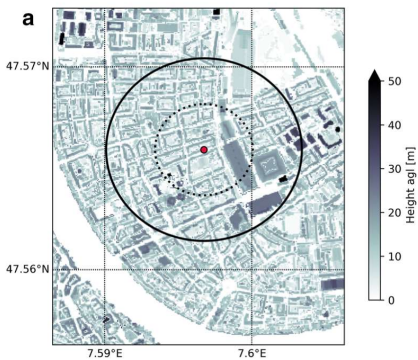
Wind speed profiles normalized by friction velocity



Real World Observations: Basel & Gothenburg

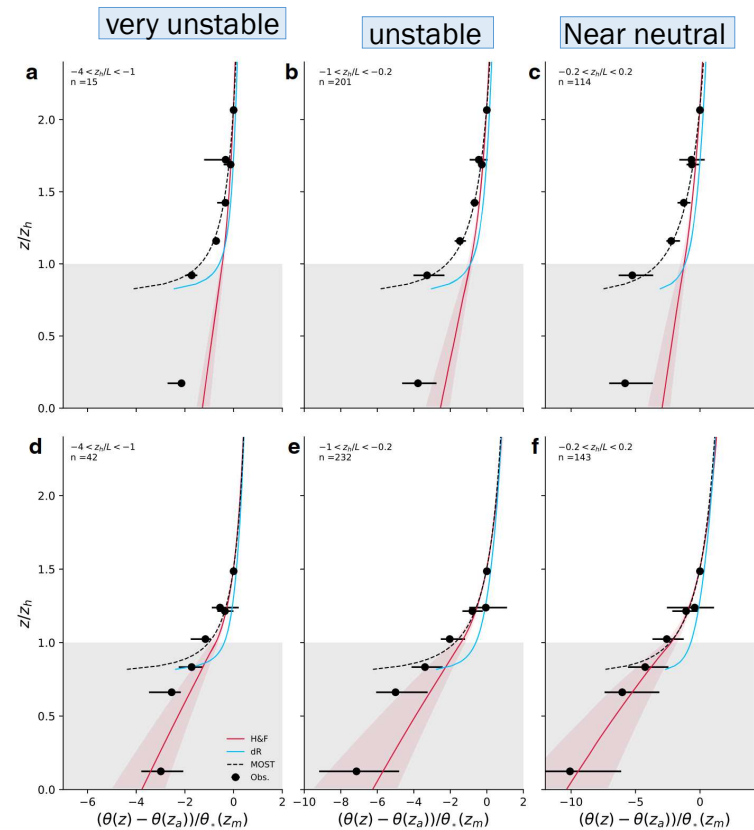
Different stabilities

Basel-Sperrstrasse



flat-roof buildings

pitch-roof buildings



Temperature Profile

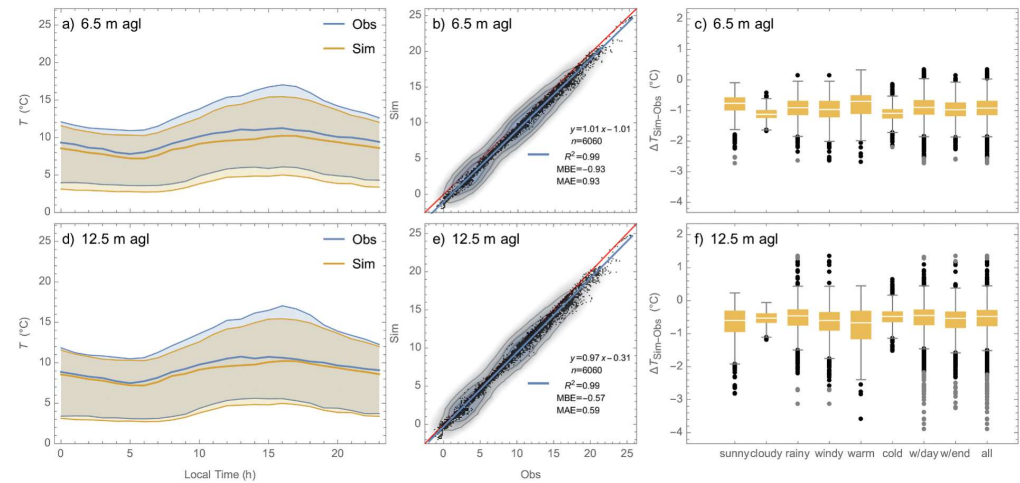
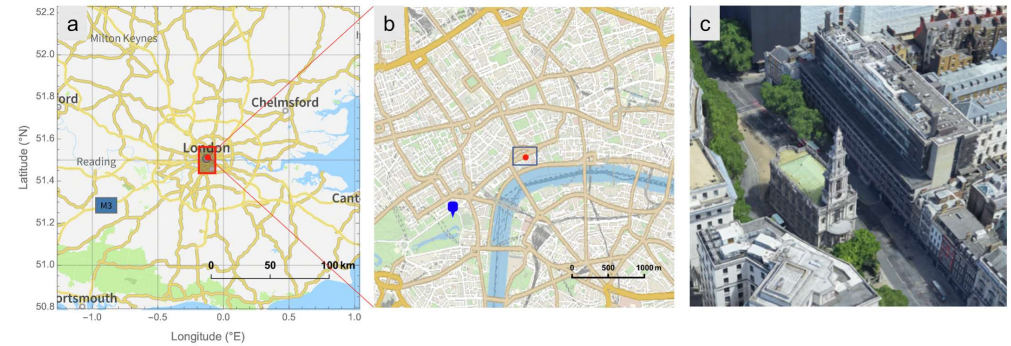
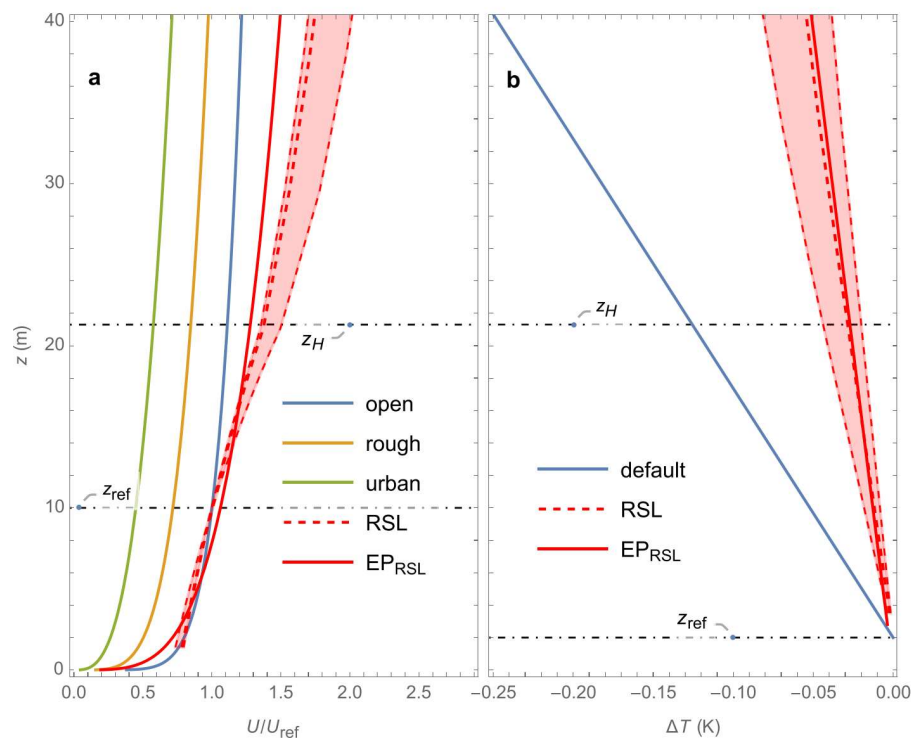
— H&F
— dR
--- MOST
● Obs.

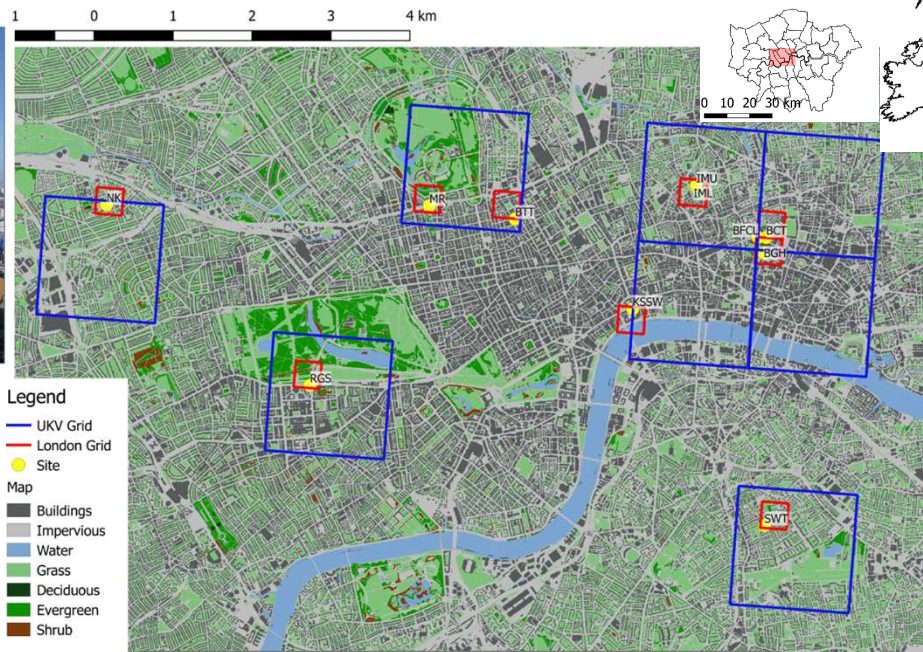
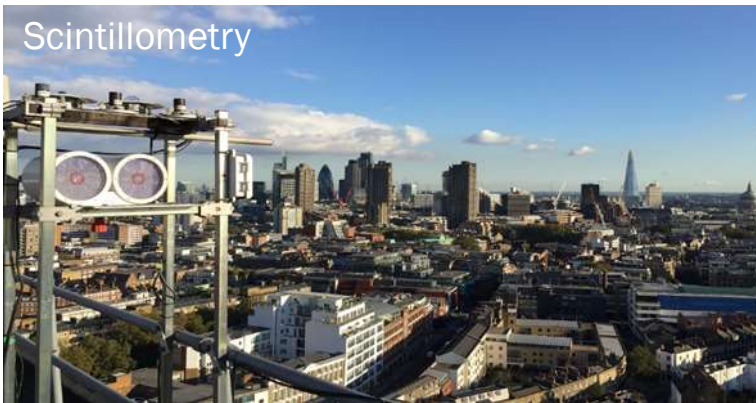
Harman and Finnigan (2007)

De Ridder (2010)

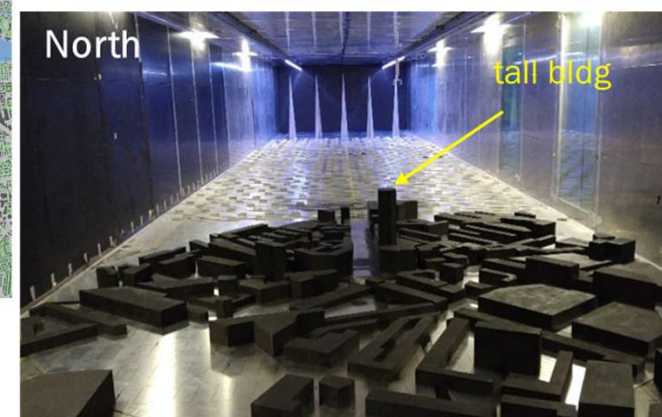
Monin–Obukhov similarity theory

SUEWS: RSL Profile Evaluation in London



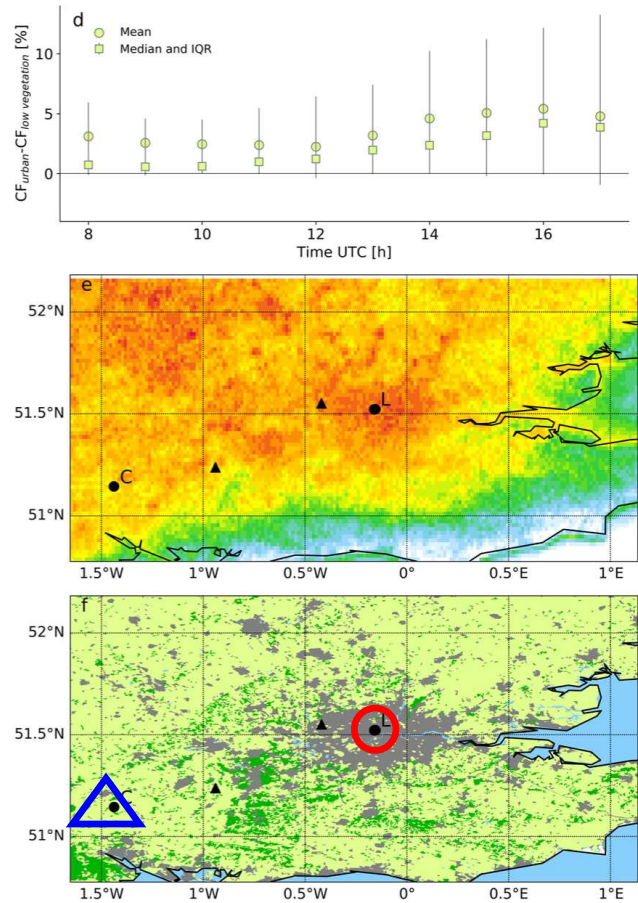


Ceilometer/ALC

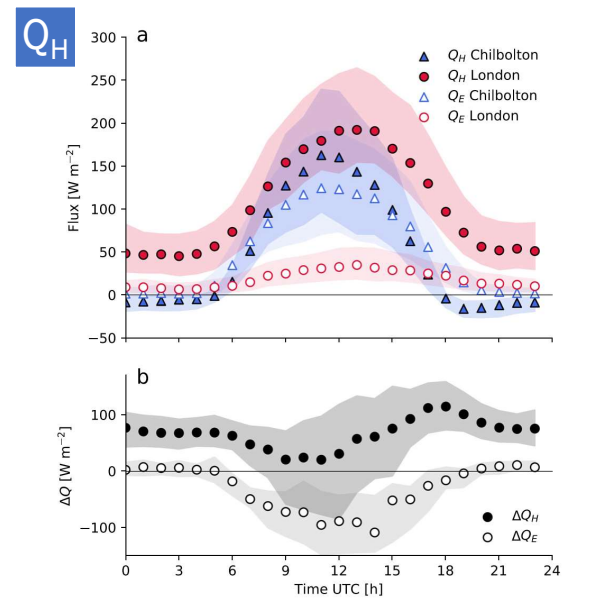
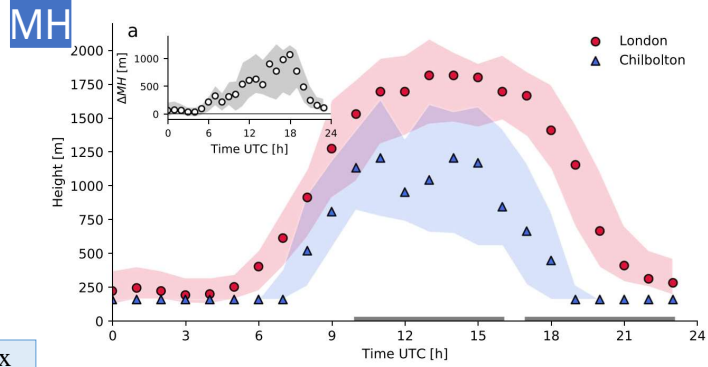
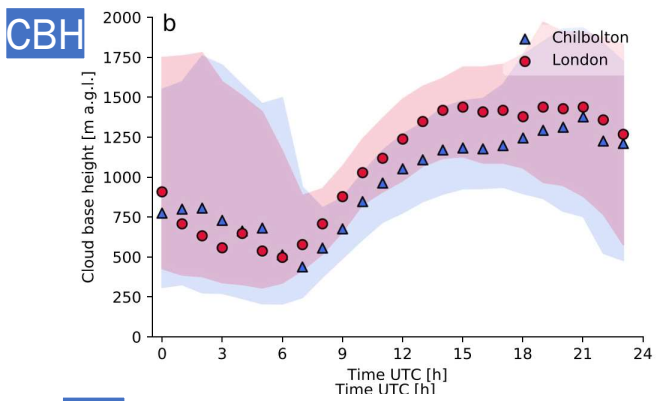
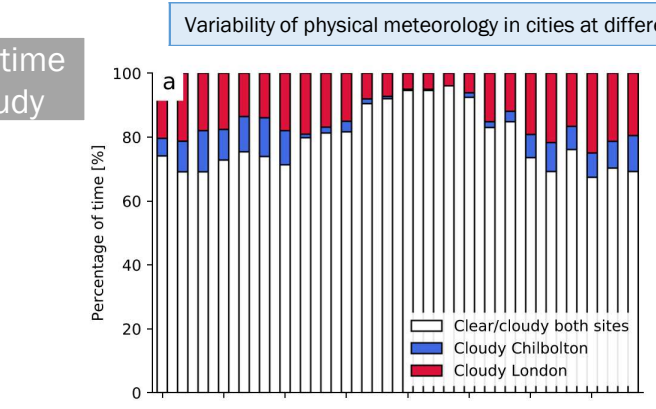


Urban & Rural Cloud

- MSG –HRV Satellite

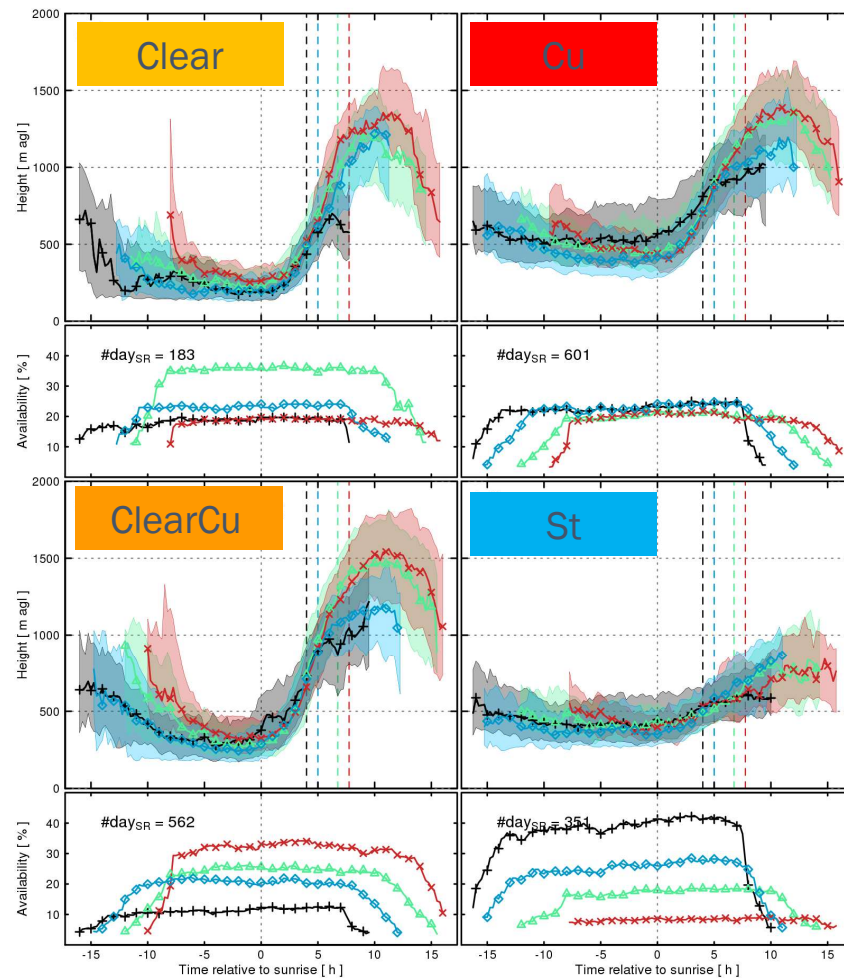


% of time cloudy



London

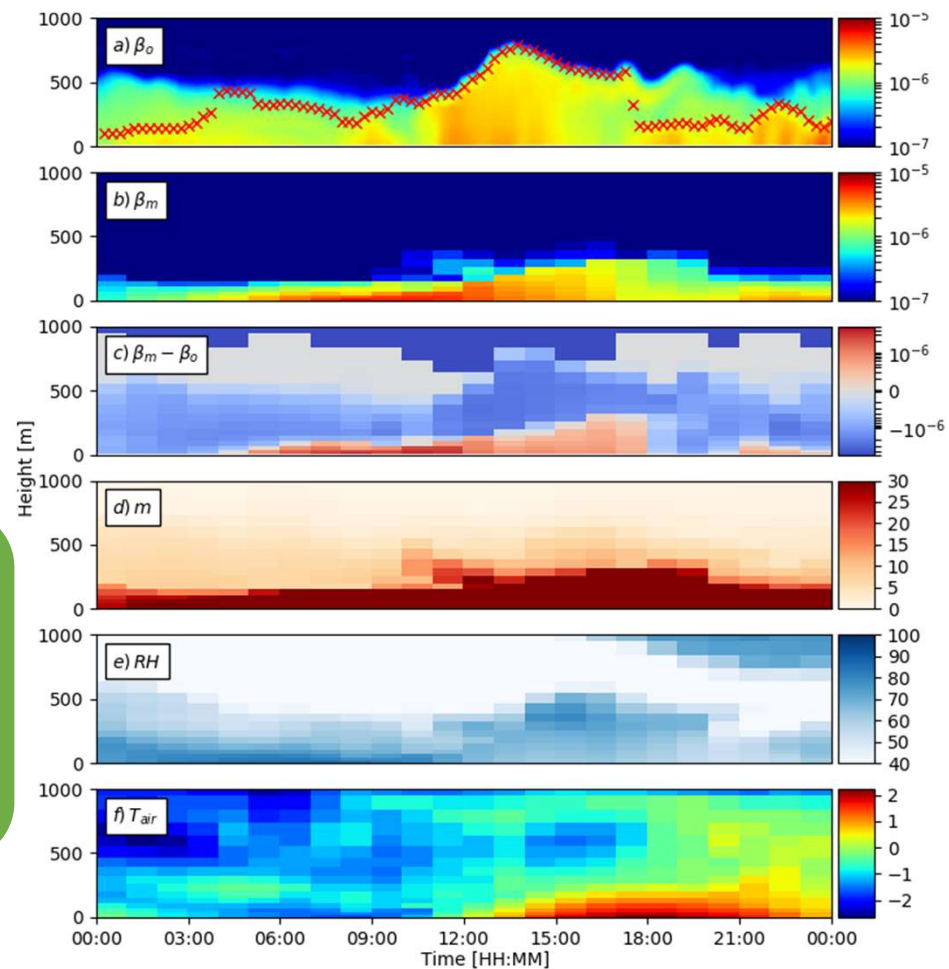
DJF JJA
 MAM SON



- Lower for **clear** nights
- Highest for **Cu** days
- Morning growth rates:
 - Strongest - for **ClearCu**
 - Weakest – for **St**

High pollution case (19 January 2016)

- Observed daily average $\text{PM}_{10} > 50 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
- UKV with Best-1T scheme

Observed β Modelled β $\beta_m - \beta_o$

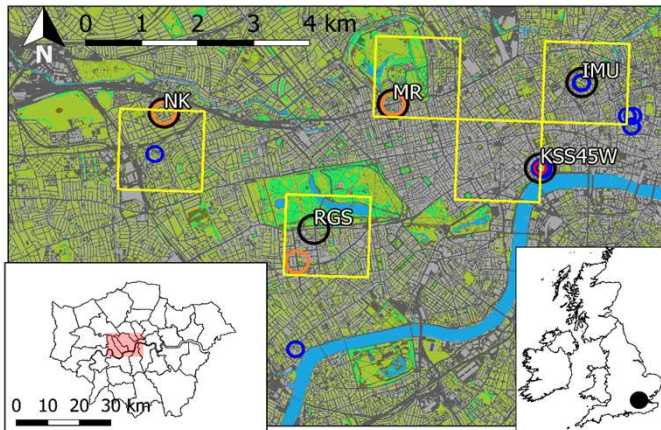
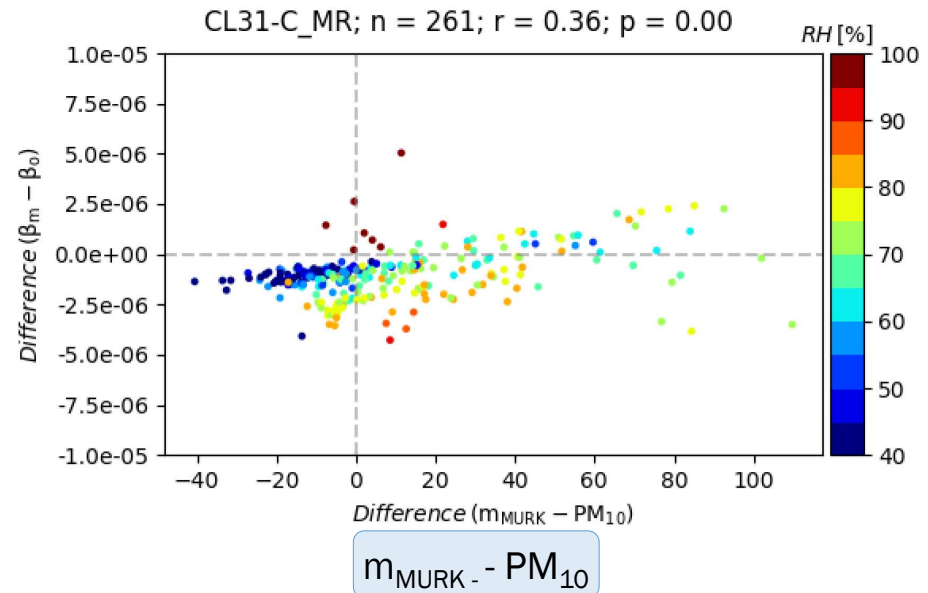
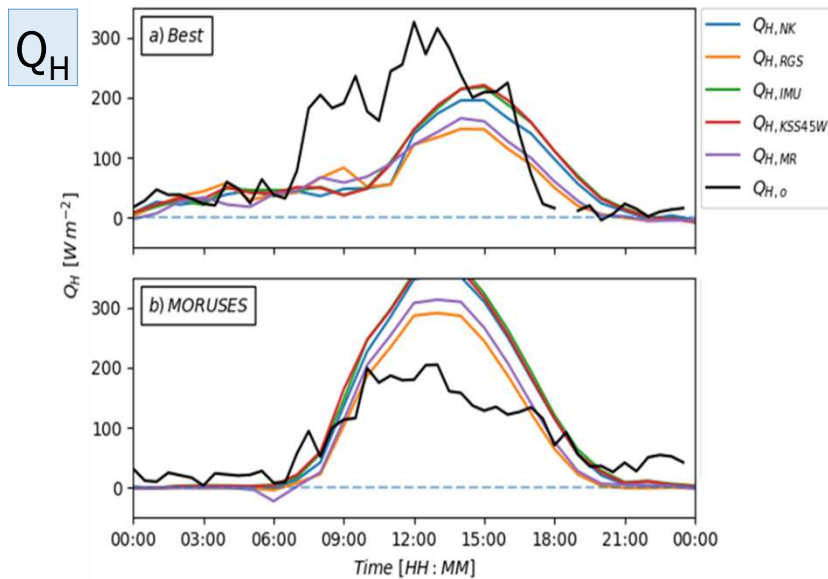
Aerosol mass

RH

 T_{air}

- Almost persistently high β_m near the surface
- Aerosol: insufficiently mixed in the vertical due to lack of aerosol dispersion
- Earlier dates – could identify emission inventory problems

Other near surface evaluation

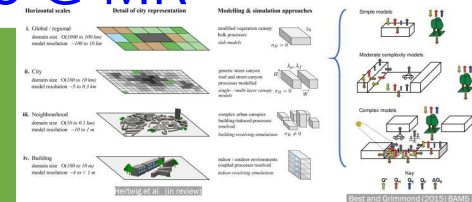


- Point difference in attenuated backscatter ($\Delta\beta = \beta_m - \beta_o$) near the surface
difference in total mass ($\Delta m = m_{MURK} - PM_{10}$) [PM_{10} a proxy]
- Suggests aerFO underestimates attenuated backscatter
- β_m - most accurate during drier conditions (RH - point colour)
 - Error in RH - becomes more important at high RH due to $f_{RH,ext}$

Impact of changing model dynamics on β_m assessed with aerFO @ MR

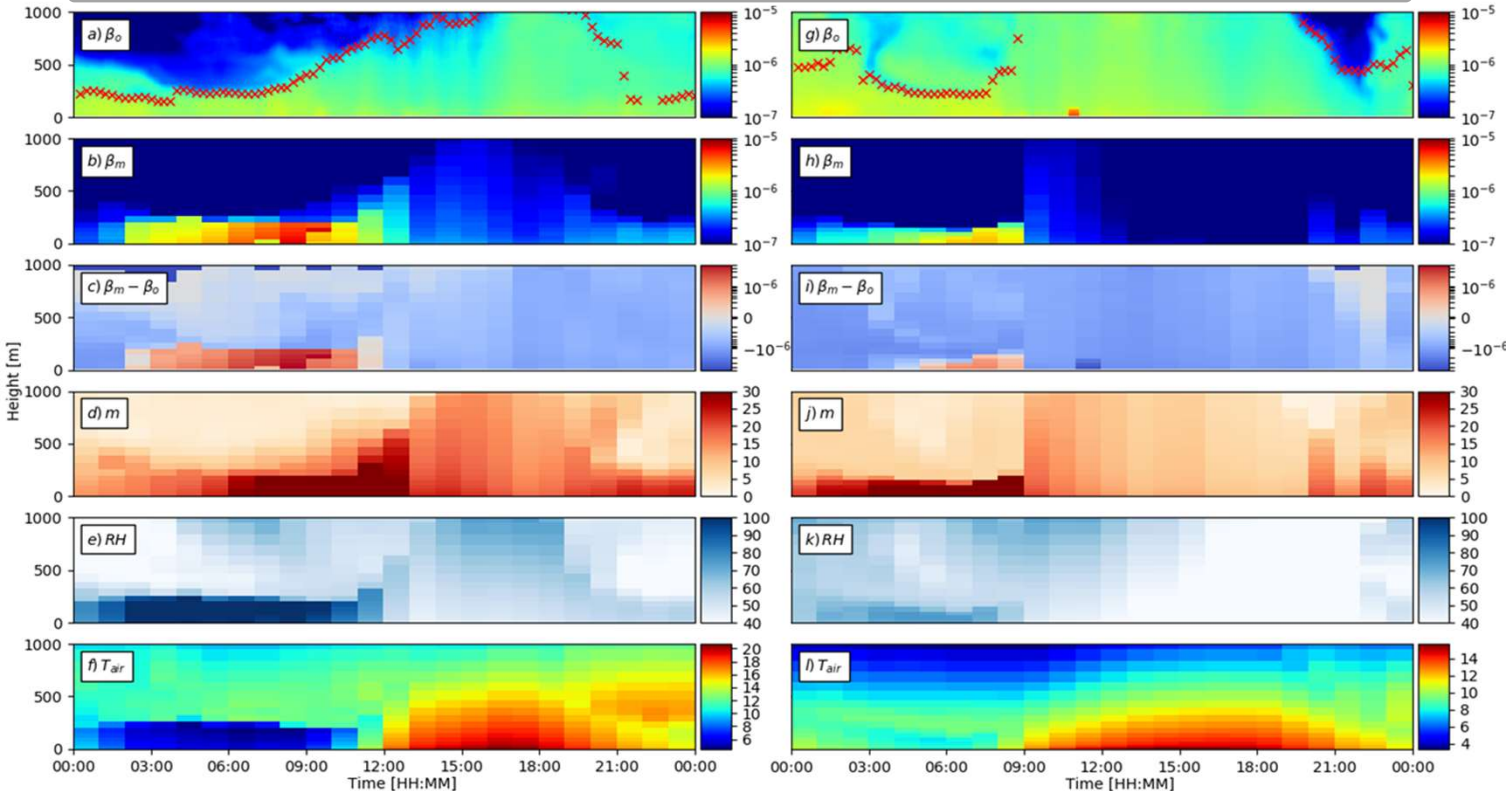
- Urban surface scheme change in UKV:
 - Best 1-tile \rightarrow MORUSES (15/Mar/16)

- Morning near-surface β_m
 - 1-tile - high throughout
 - MORUSES - less
- Cold surface bias \rightarrow delayed vertical mixing of m_{MURK} and high RH



Best 1 tile - 14 April 2015

MORUSES - 04 May 2016



Observed β

Modelled β

$\beta_m - \beta_o$

Aerosol mass

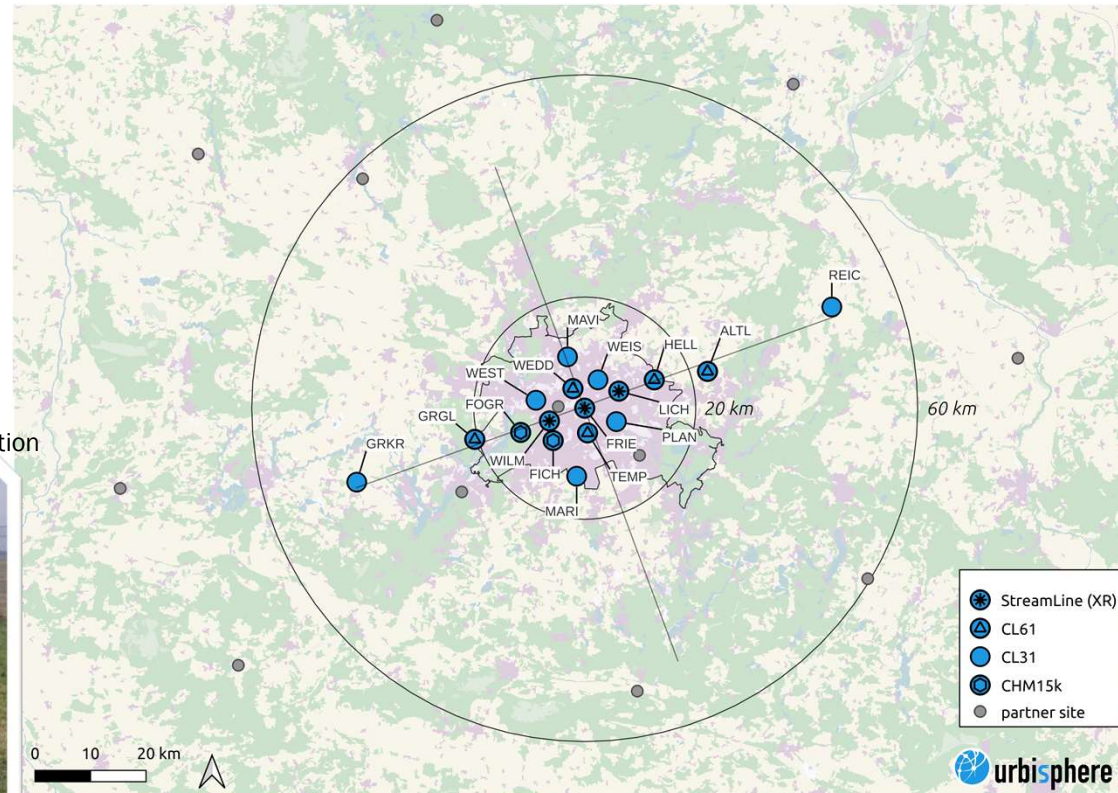
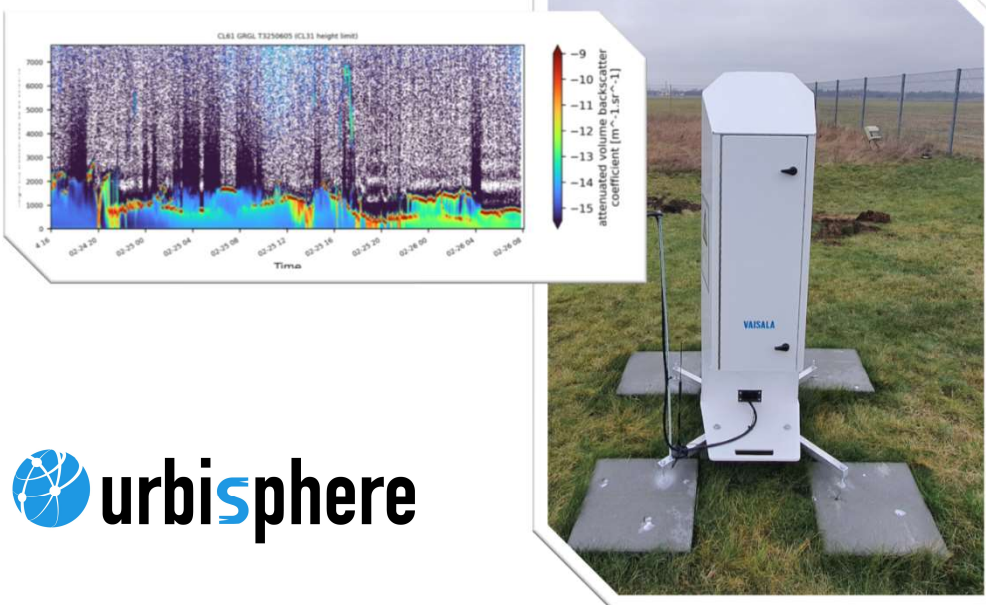
RH

T_{air}

Berlin: Automatic LiDAR and ceilometer (ALC) network

- quantify 3-dimensional modification
- internal variability of aerosol, mixed-layer dynamics and clouds as air flows across this urban area

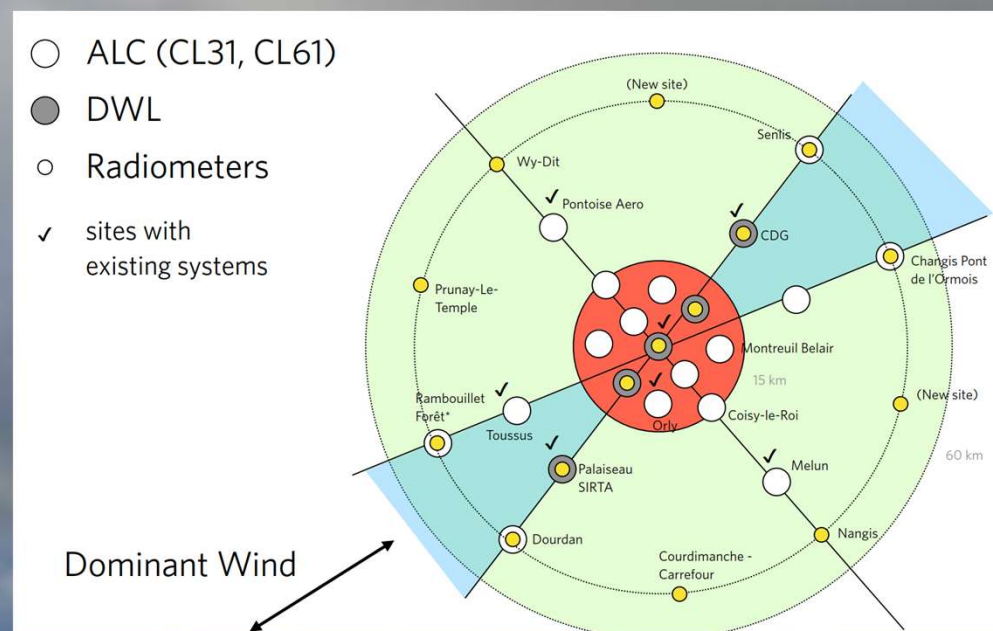
Five sites Vaisala CL61 with depolarization



- 12 ALCs
- + 12 existing operational ALC systems
- Provide: cloud, attenuated aerosol backscatter
- From this mixed-layer heights and AOD can be derived

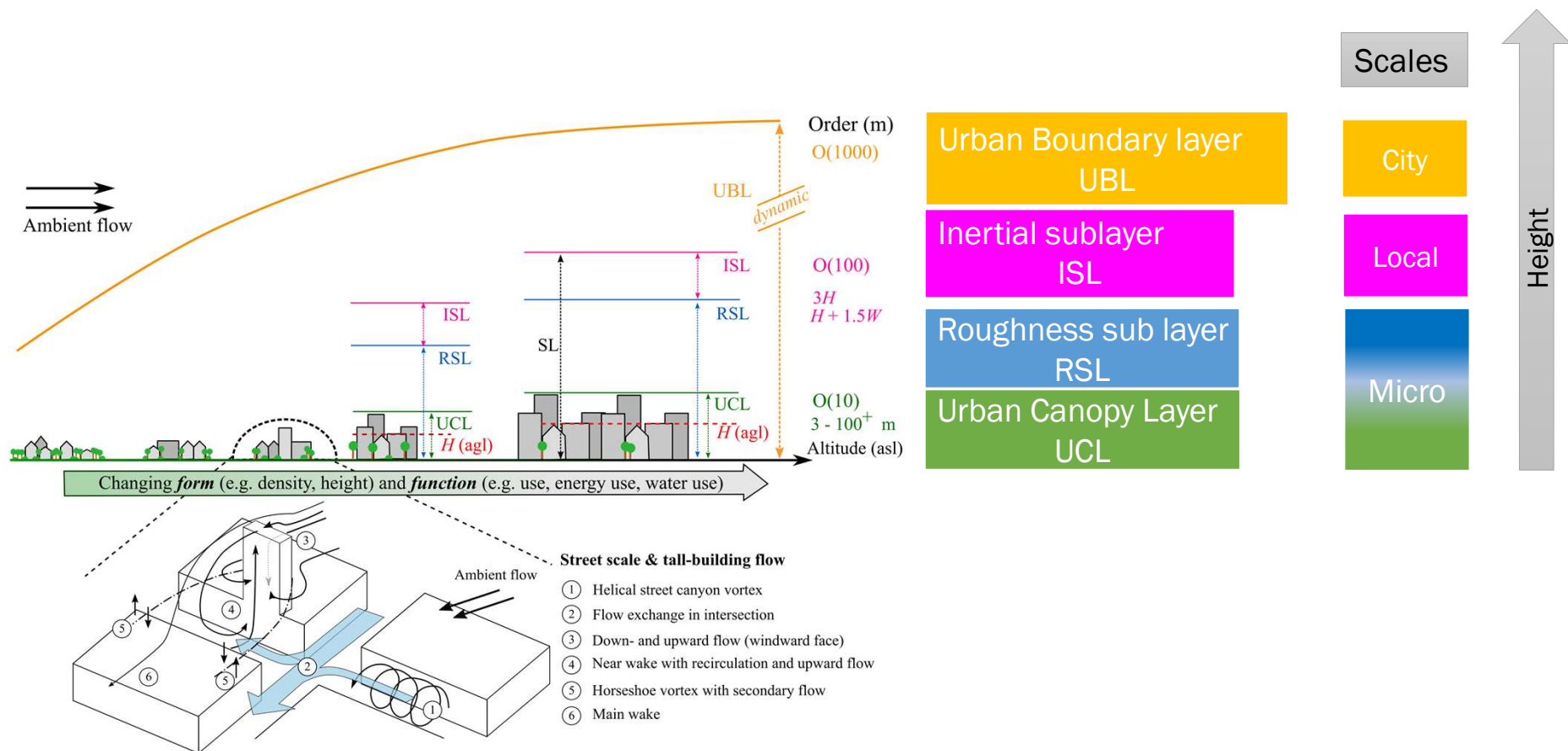
Next field campaign - Paris (late 2022 – late 2023)

- After Berlin
 - SmUrObs to be deployed in Paris
 - synergies with projects:
 - GHG projects - ICOS, Actris
 - Pre-Olympics campaigns – Meteo France, WMO
-
- Paris
 - 'isolated' city
 - 12 million people in metropolitan area



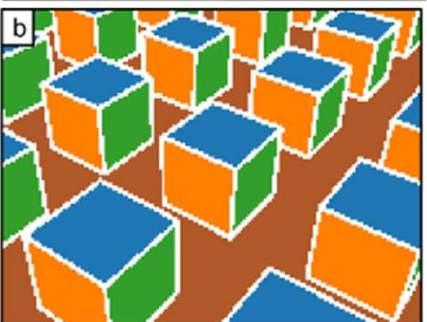
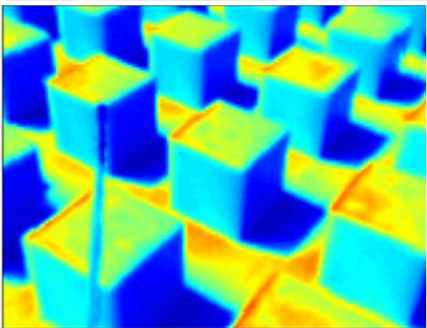
Contact us for more information

Scales in the urban atmosphere

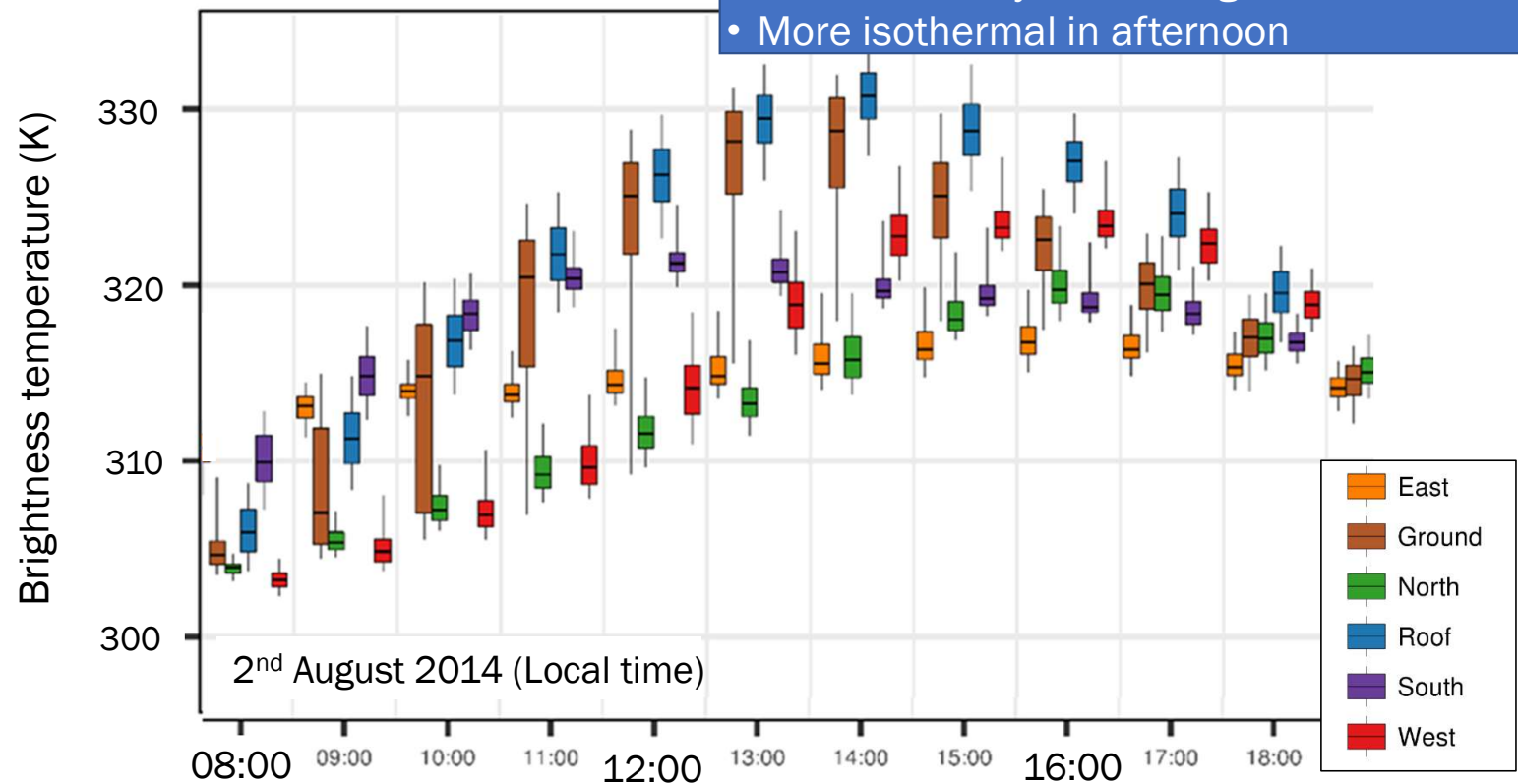


Micro-scale: Controls on variability of surface temperature

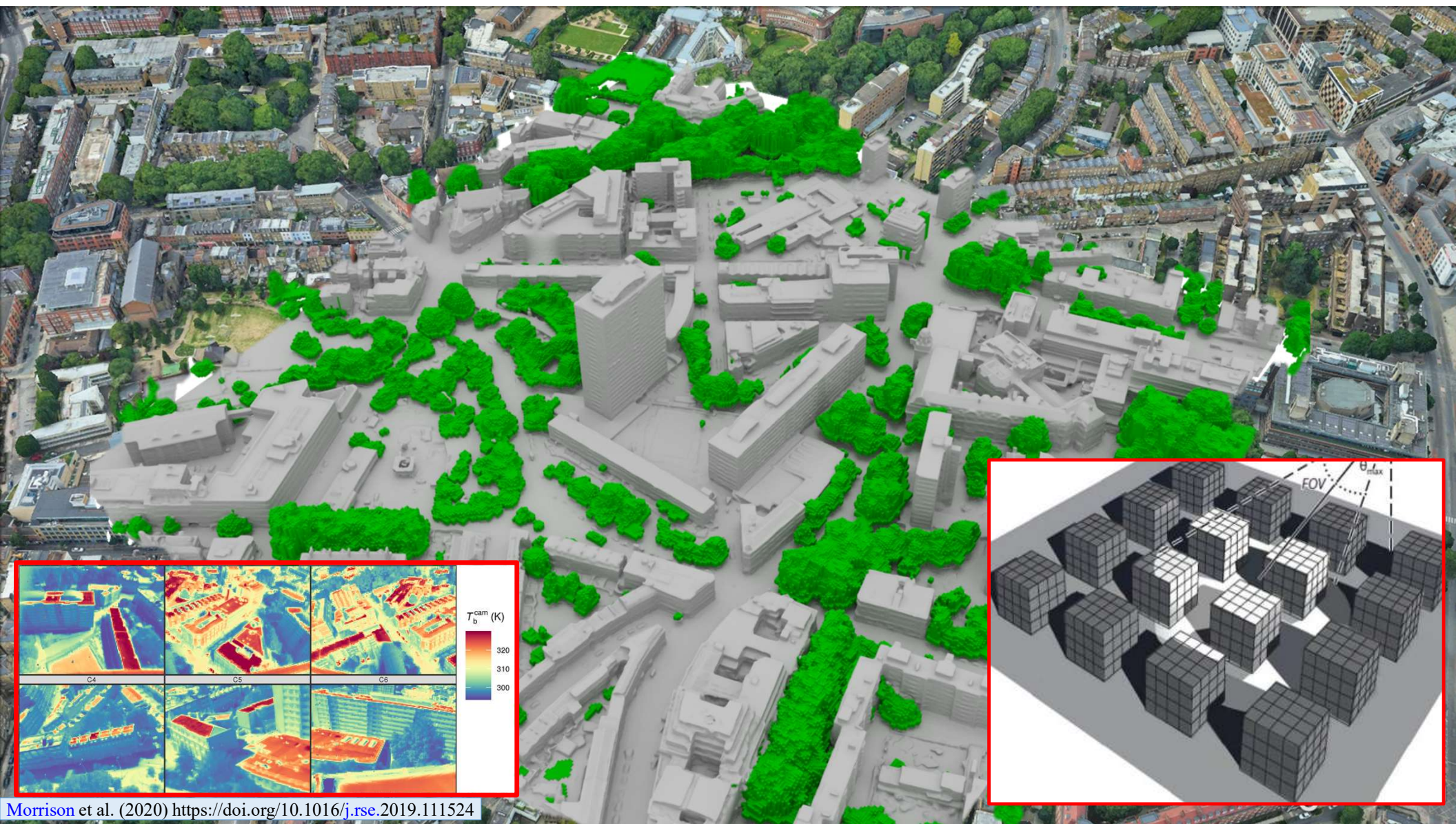
- Facet orientation



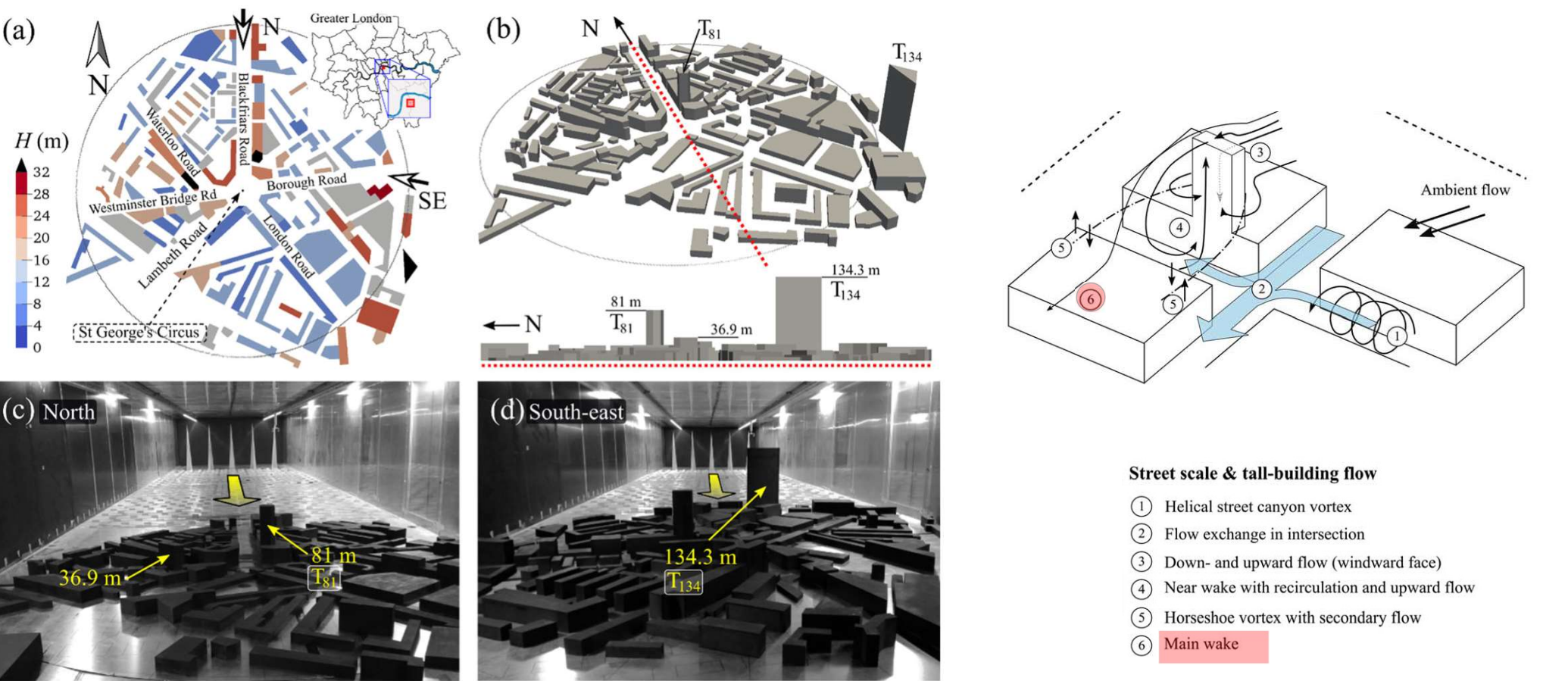
- Brightness temperatures differ by over 30 K
- Ground highly variable from shadows
- Most variability in morning
- More isothermal in afternoon



Morrison *et al.* 2018 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2018.05.004>



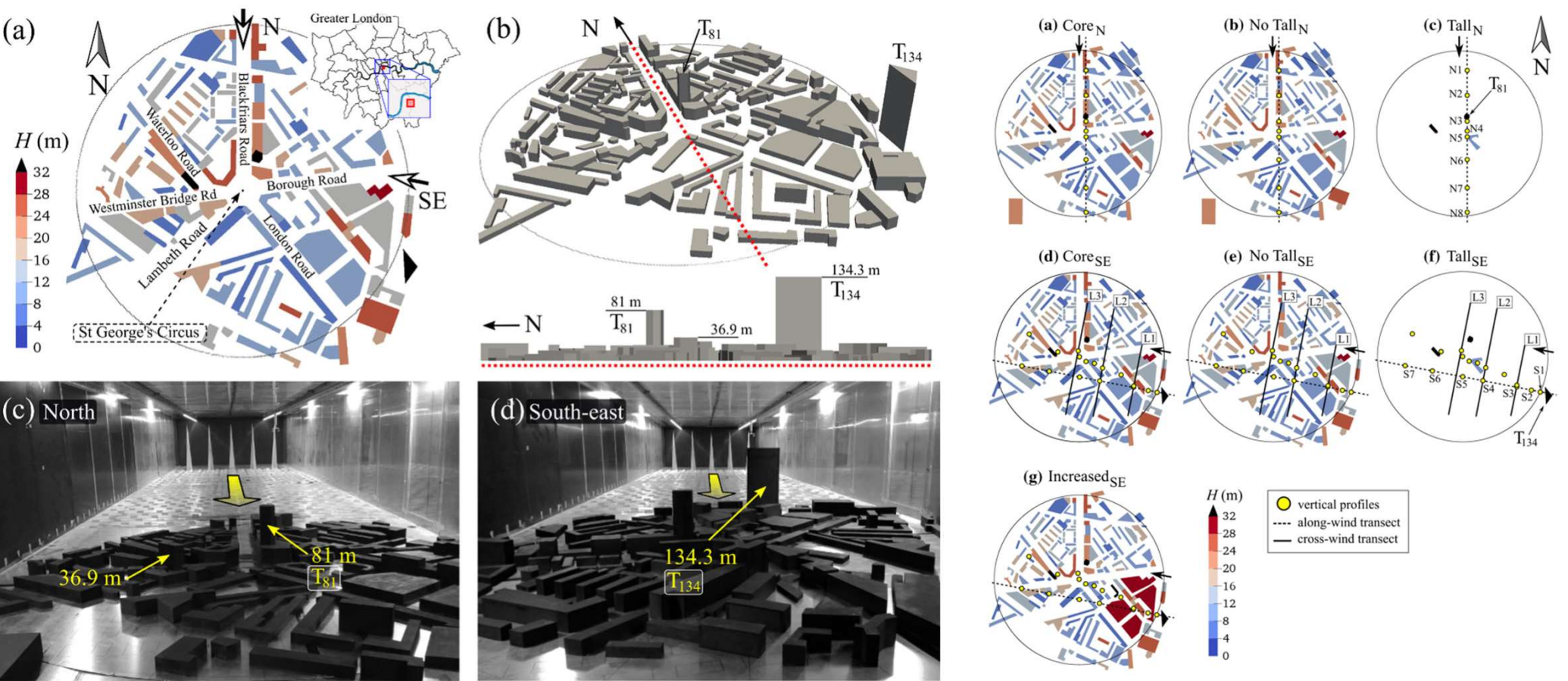
Wind Tunnel (EnFlo, University of Surrey): Isolated Tall Buildings (London)



Hertwig *et al.* (2019) *BLM* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10546-019-00450-7>

Hertwig *et al.* (2021) *Faraday Discussions* <https://doi.org/10.1039/D0FD00098A>

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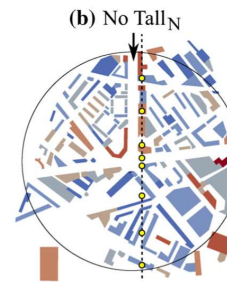
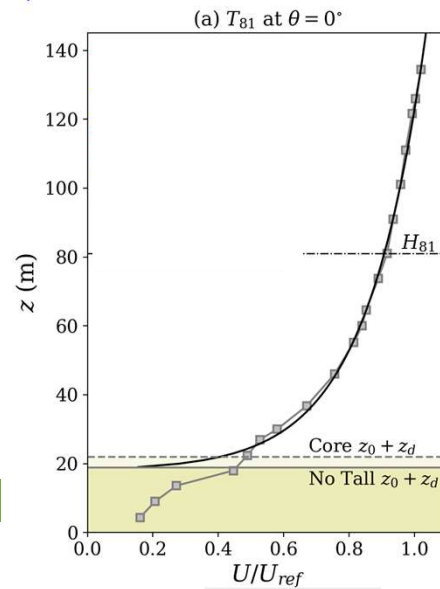
Isolated Tall Buildings (TB): London

Profiles of mean longitudinal
(along-wind) velocity (U/U_{ref})
ensemble averages

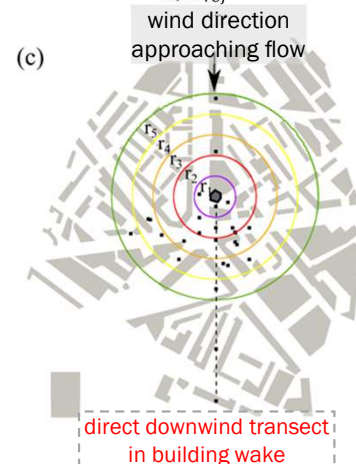
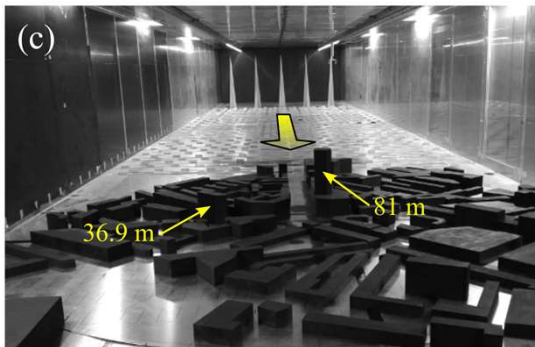
Micro

Roughness sub layer

Urban Canopy Layer



—■— all sites (No Tall)
— log-law fit (No Tall)



- Measurement locations
radii (arcs, colour) - increments of $0.5 H_{TB}$

Distances from tall building

- $r_1 = 0.5H_T$
- $r_2 = 1.0H_T$
- $r_3 = 1.5H_T$
- $r_4 = 2.0H_T$ (T_{81} only)
- $r_5 = 2.5H_T$
- $r_6 = 3.0H_T$ (T_{134} only)
- $r_7 = 3.5H_T$ (T_{134} only)
- $r_8 = 4.0H_T$ (T_{134} only)

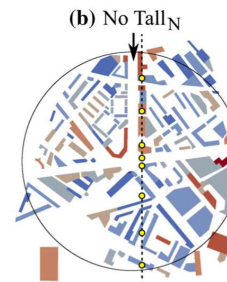
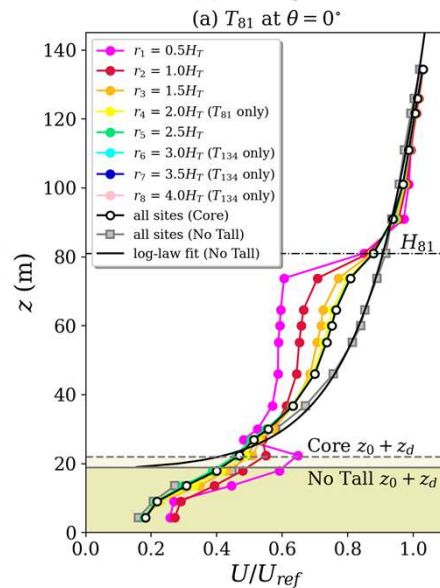
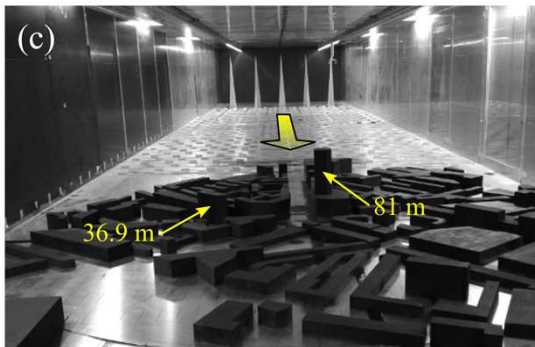
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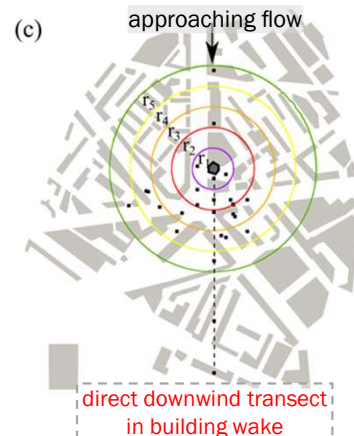
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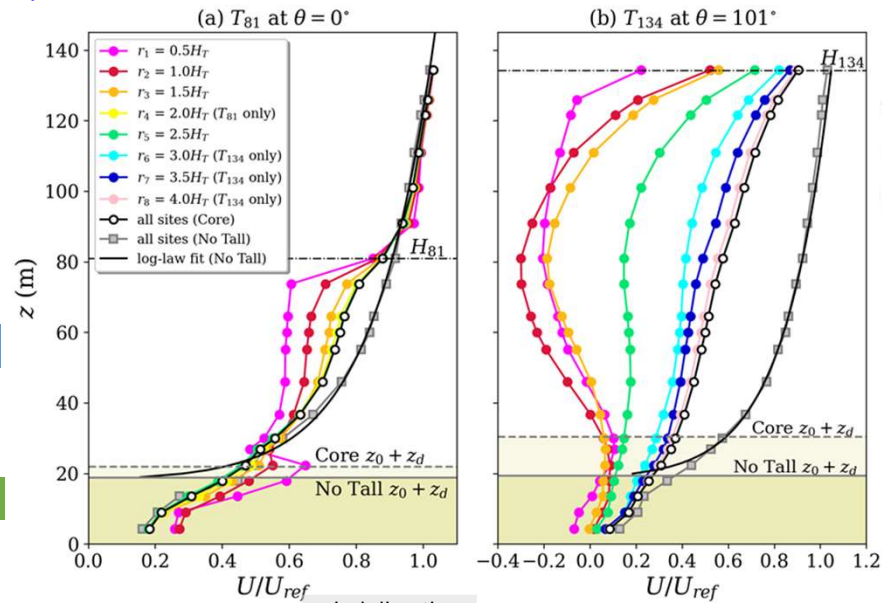
radii (arcs, colour) - increments of $0.5 H_{TB}$

Distances from tall building

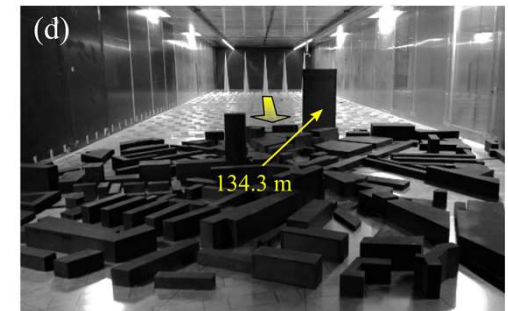
- $r_1 = 0.5H_T$
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- $r_3 = 1.5H_T$
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- $r_5 = 2.5H_T$
- $r_6 = 3.0H_T$ (T_{134} only)
- $r_7 = 3.5H_T$ (T_{134} only)
- $r_8 = 4.0H_T$ (T_{134} only)

Isolated Tall Buildings (TB): London

Profiles of mean longitudinal
(along-wind) velocity (U/U_{ref})
ensemble averages



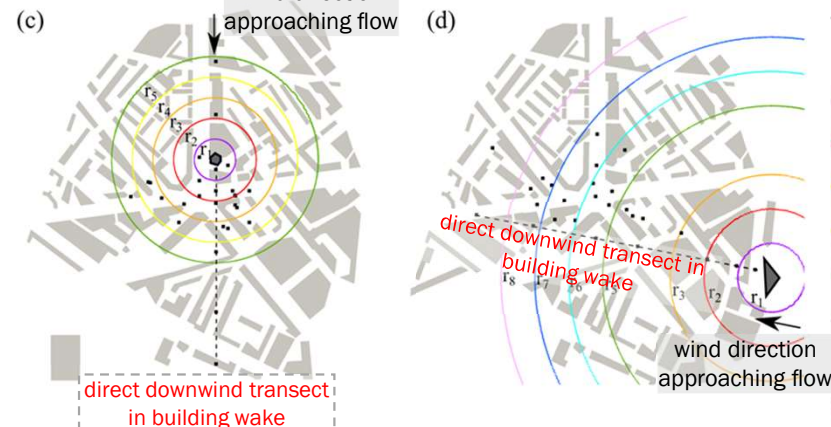
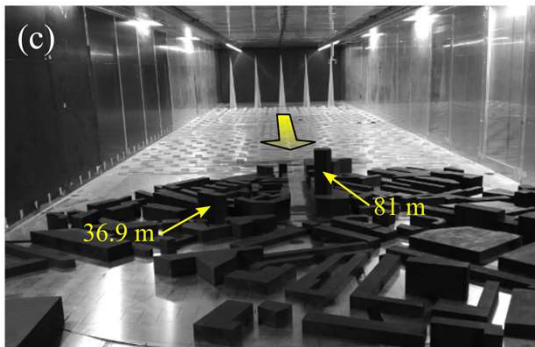
○ all sites (Core)
 □ all sites (No Tall)
 — log-law fit (No Tall)



Roughness sub layer

Urban Canopy Layer

Micro

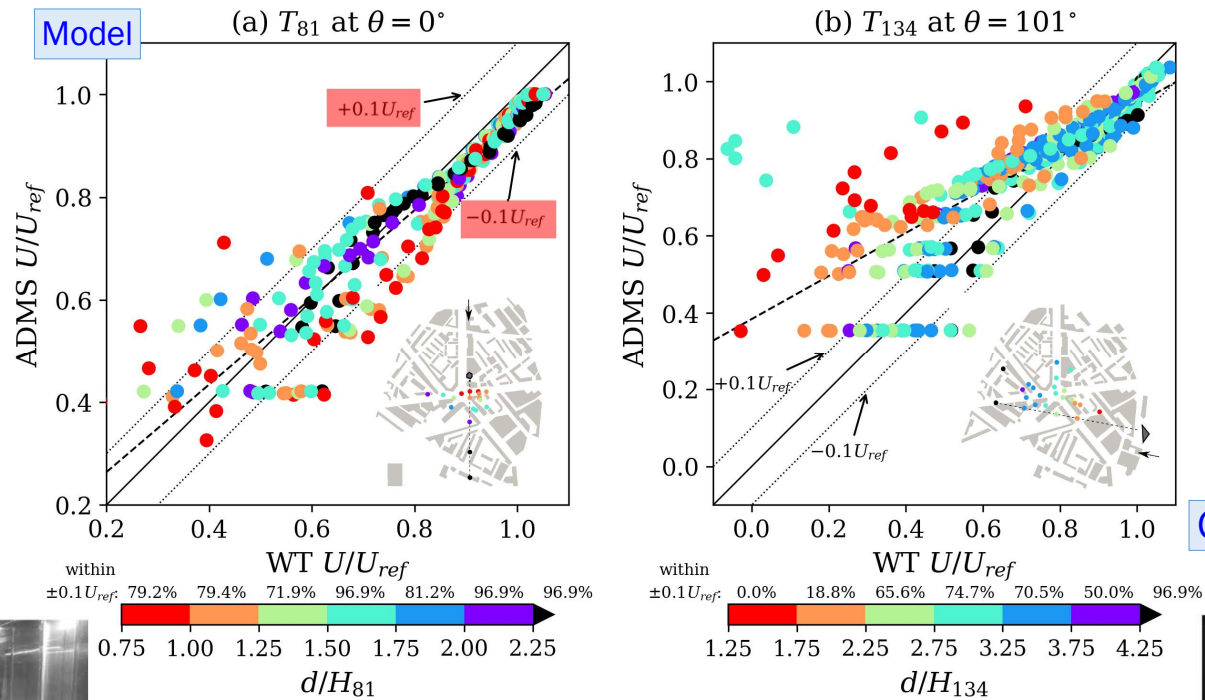


- Measurement locations
radii (arcs, colour) - increments of $0.5 H_{TB}$

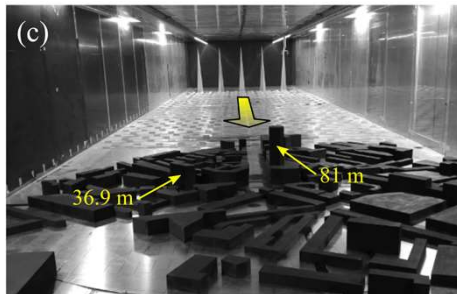
Distances from tall building

- $r_1 = 0.5H_T$
- $r_2 = 1.0H_T$
- $r_3 = 1.5H_T$
- $r_4 = 2.0H_T$ (T_{81} only)
- $r_5 = 2.5H_T$
- $r_6 = 3.0H_T$ (T_{134} only)
- $r_7 = 3.5H_T$ (T_{134} only)
- $r_8 = 4.0H_T$ (T_{134} only)

Along-wind velocity (U/U_{ref}) in the main wake behind Isolated Tall Buildings (TB)

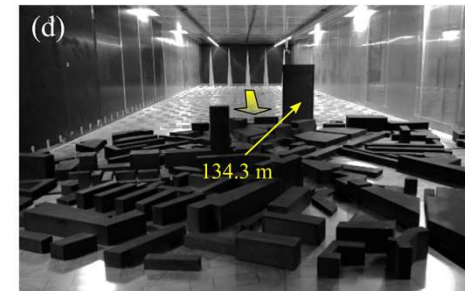


Observations



Straight-line distance (d/H_{TB}) from the centre of TB

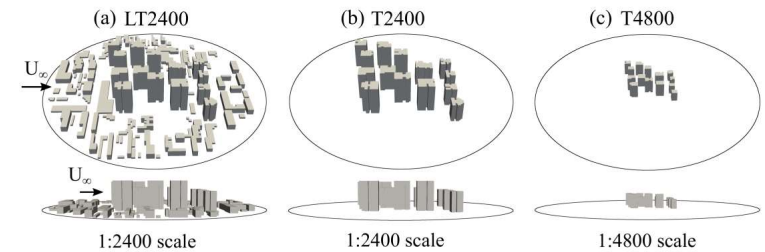
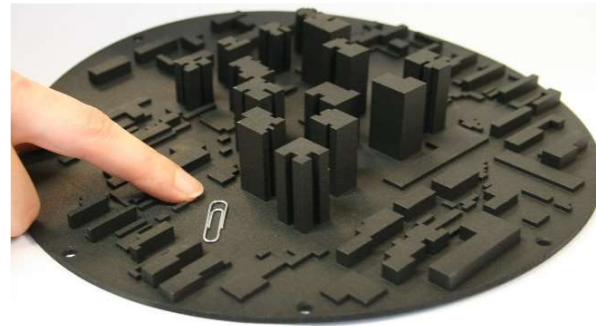
Each site has data pairs at several heights



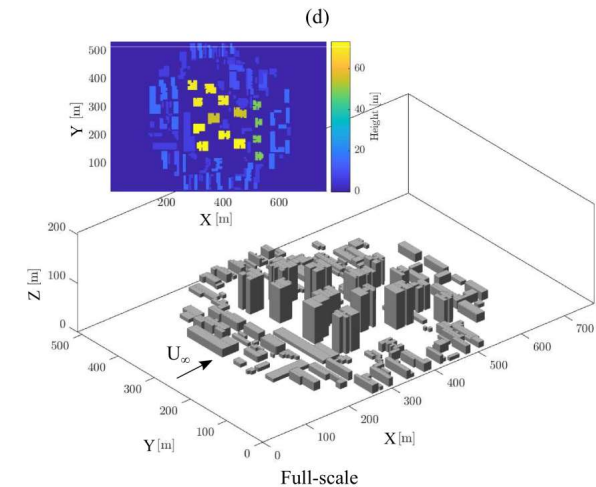
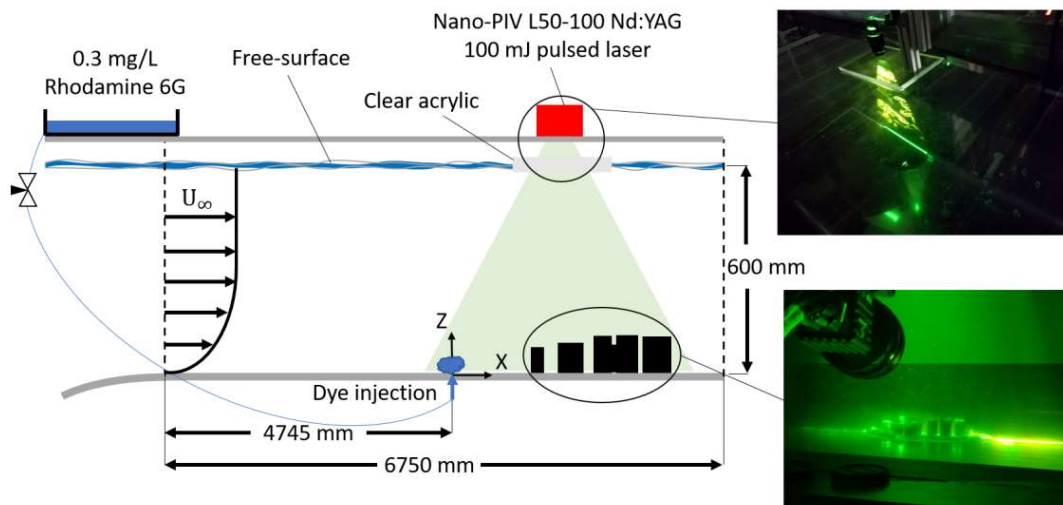
Hertwig *et al.* (2019) *BLM* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10546-019-00450-7>

Hertwig *et al.* (2021) *Faraday Discussions* <https://doi.org/10.1039/D0FD00098A>

Univ. of Southampton Water flume setup: Cluster of Tall Buildings (Beijing)



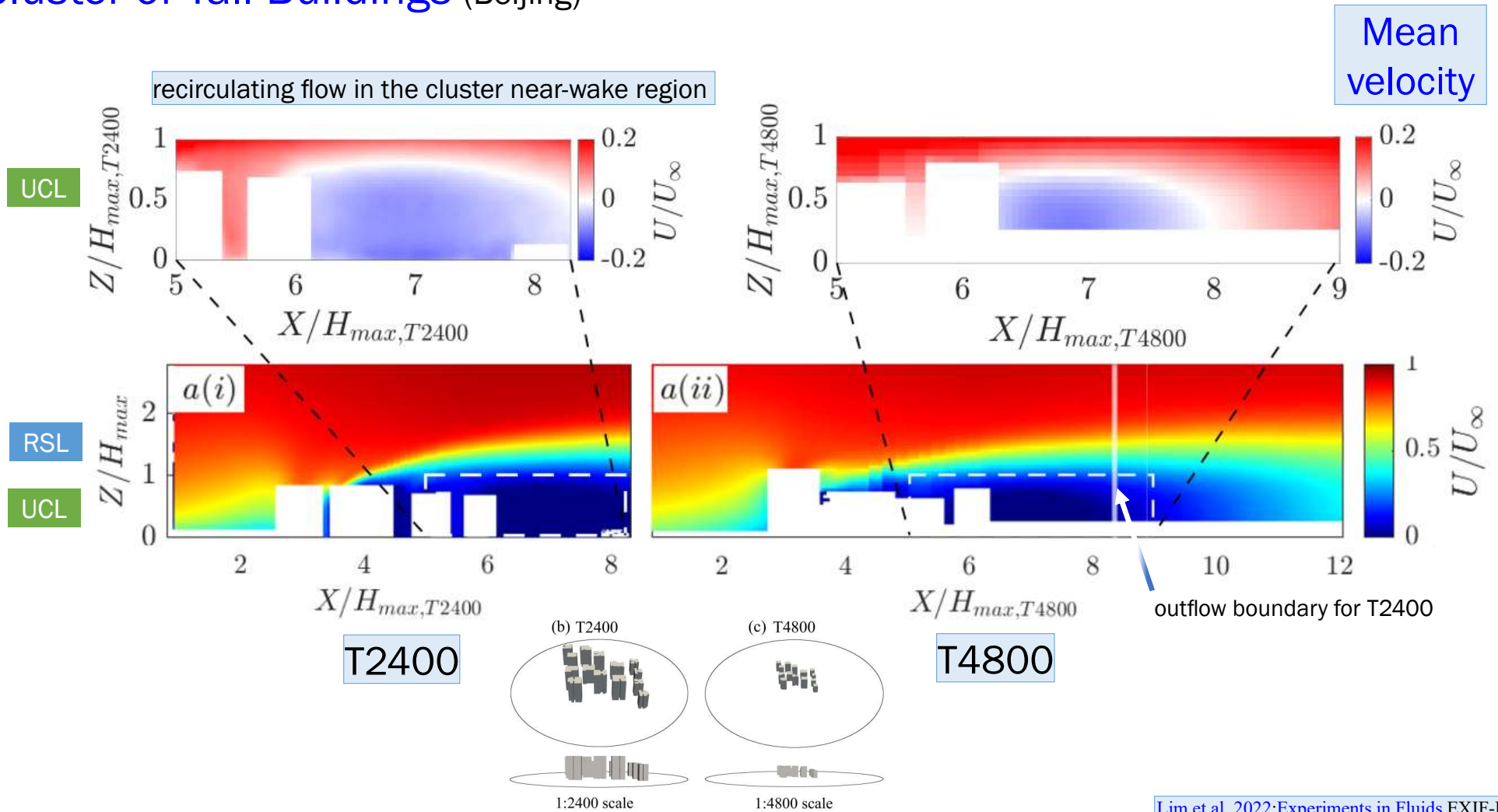
Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) and Planar Laser Induced Fluorescence (PLIF)

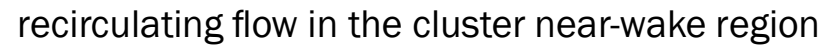


Hertwig et al. 2021 *Faraday Discussions* <https://doi.org/10.1039/D0FD00098A>

Lim et al. 2022: Pollutant dispersion by tall buildings in rural-to-urban landscapes: Laboratory experiments and Large-Eddy Simulation, *Experiments in Fluids* EXIF-D-21-00325

Cluster of Tall Buildings (Beijing)





mean velocity

velocity variance

Reynolds shear stress

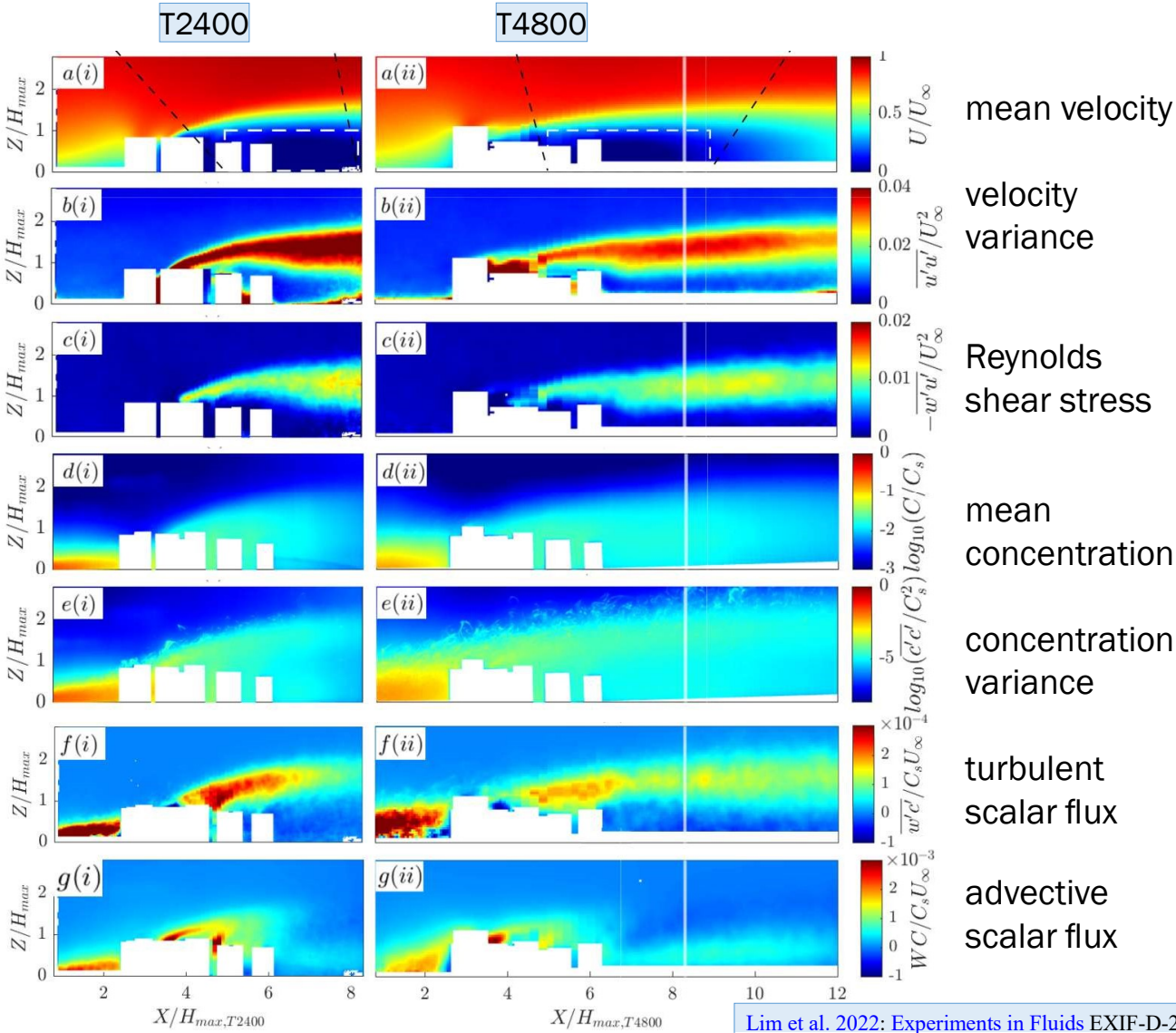
mean concentration

concentration variance

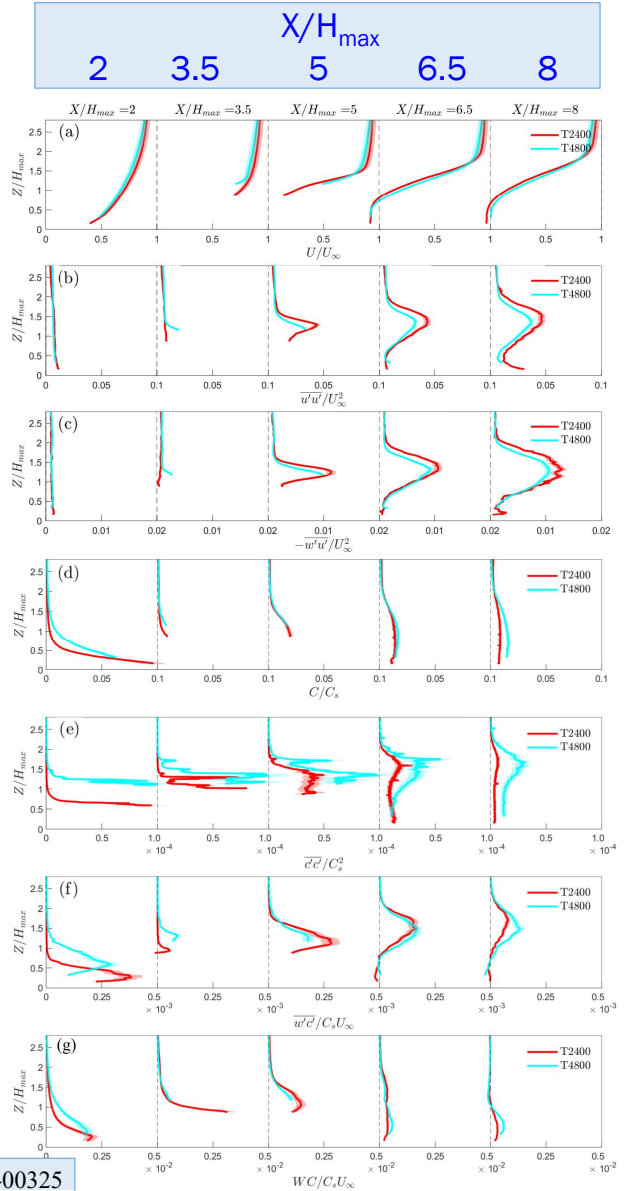
turbulent scalar flux

advective scalar flux

- outflow boundary for T2400

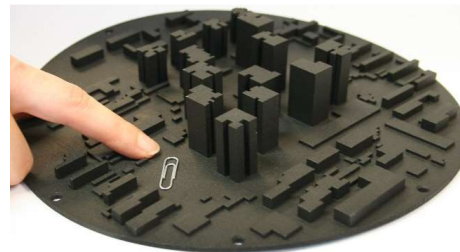
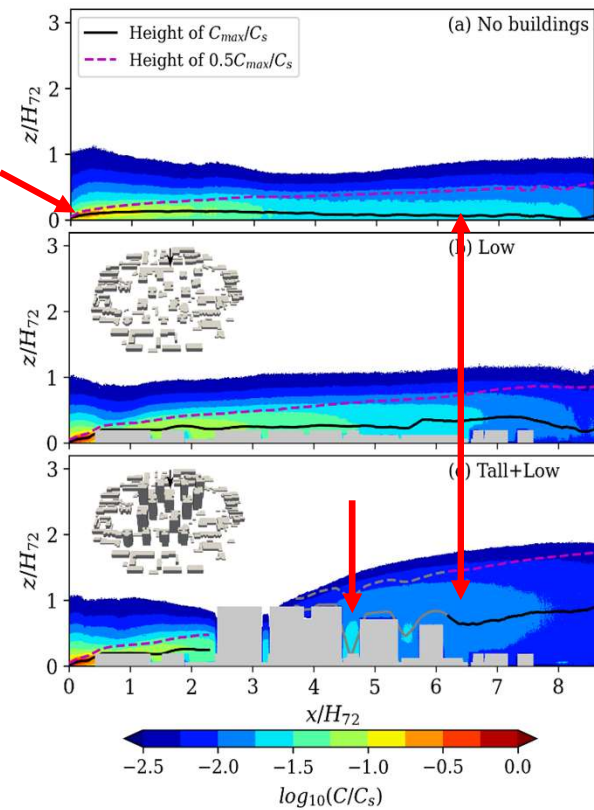


Lim et al. 2022: Experiments in Fluids EXIF-D-21-00325



Cluster of Tall Buildings: Beijing

Observations

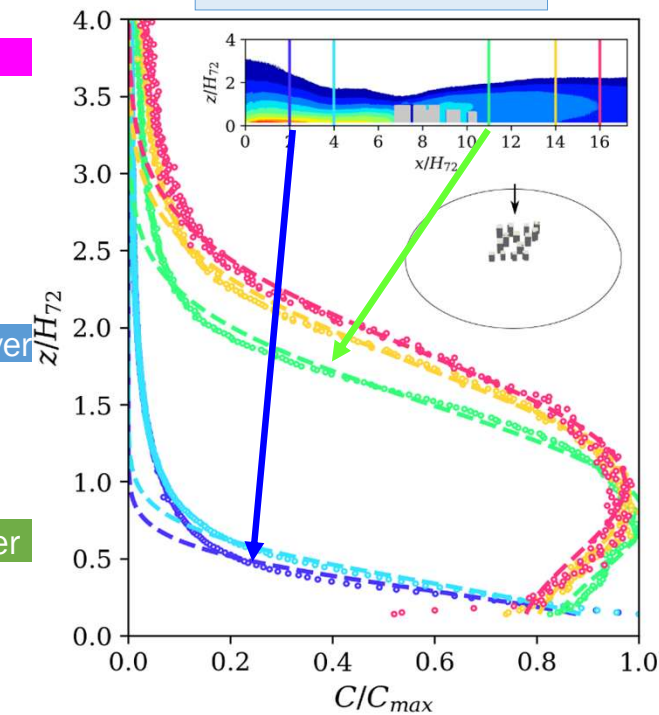


Inertial sublayer

Roughness sub layer

Urban canopy layer

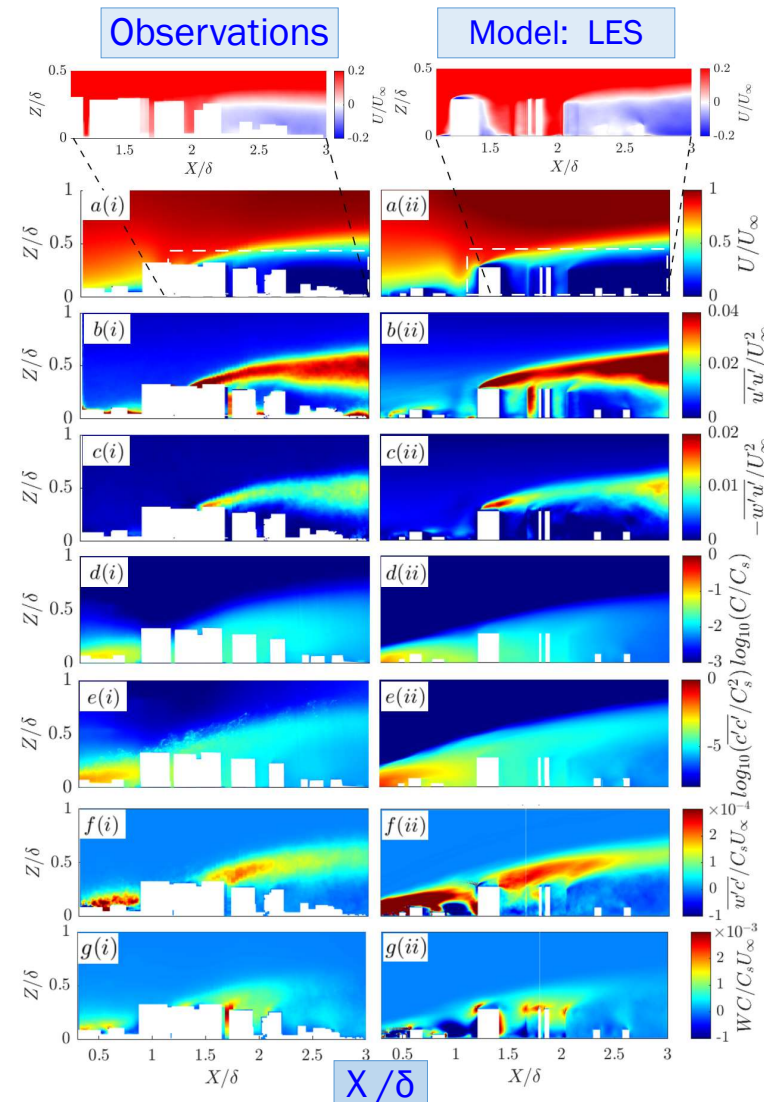
Modelling



Cluster of Buildings

Normalised by
Boundary layer depth

Z/δ



mean velocity

velocity variance

Reynolds shear stress

mean concentration

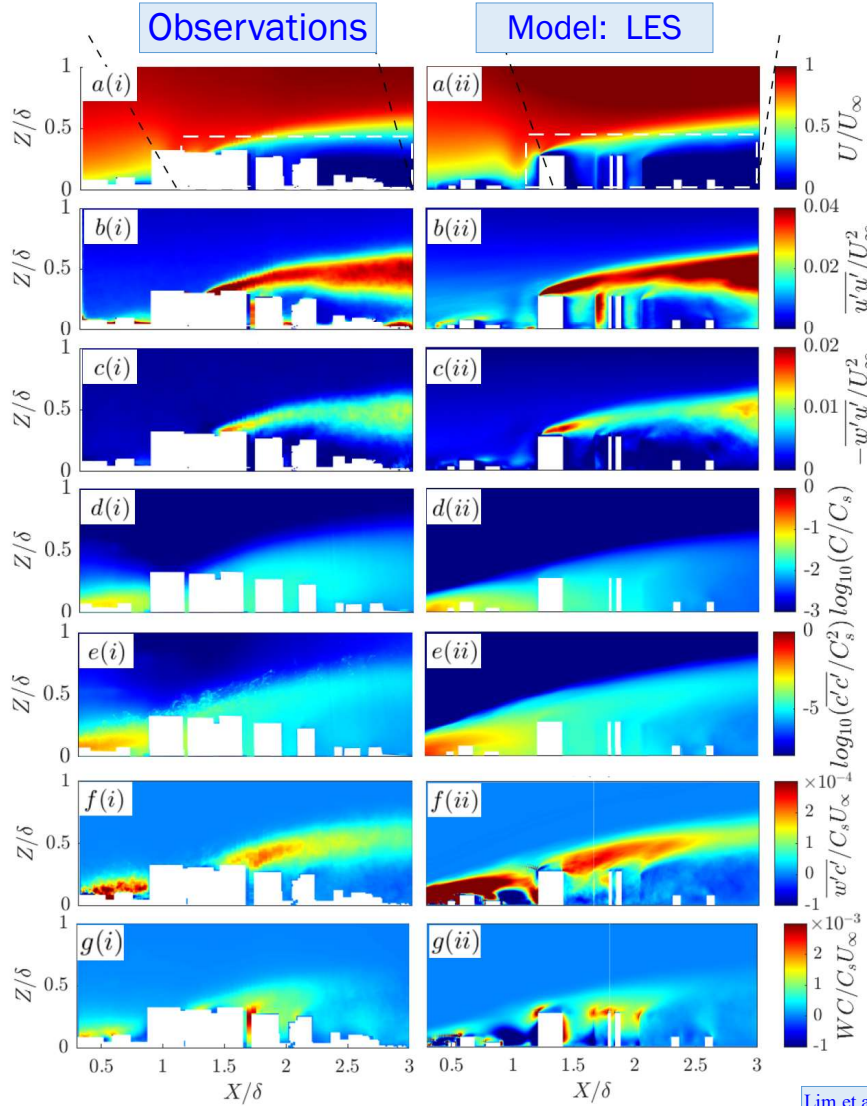
concentration variance

turbulent scalar flux

advective scalar flux

Lim et al. 2022: Experiments in Fluids EXIF-D-21-00325

X streamwise distance
Z Height (vertical)
 δ Boundary layer depth



mean velocity

velocity
variance

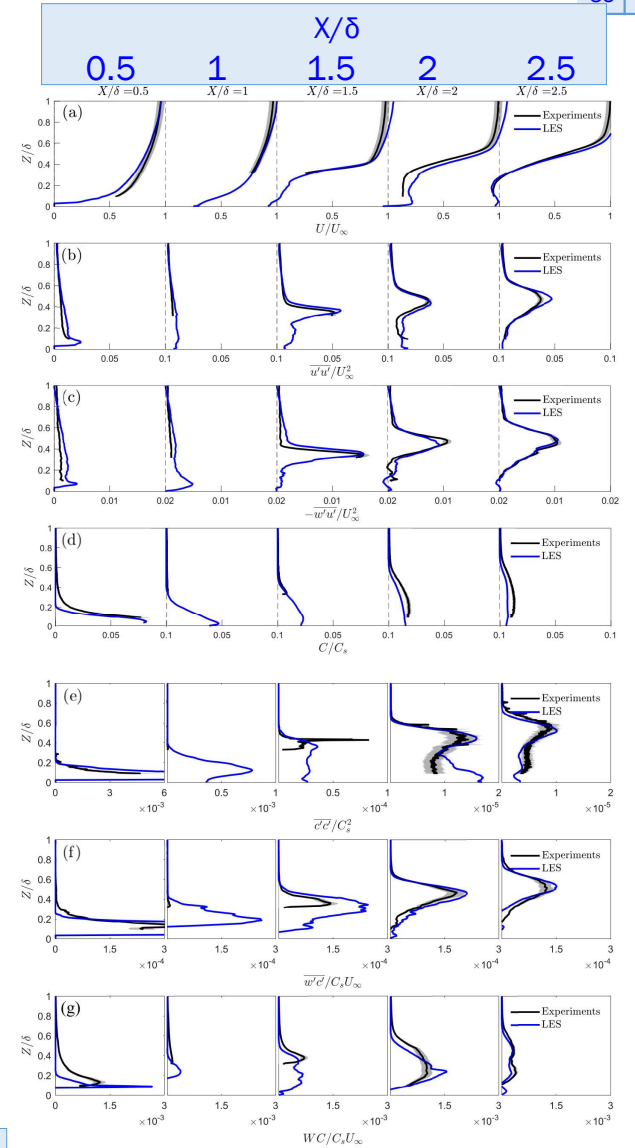
Reynolds
shear stress

mean
concentration

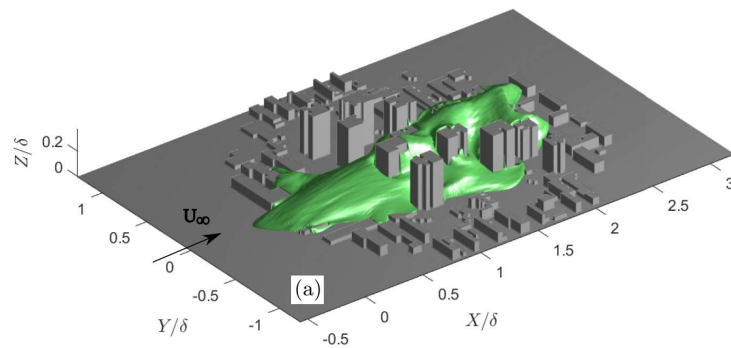
concentration
variance

turbulent
scalar flux

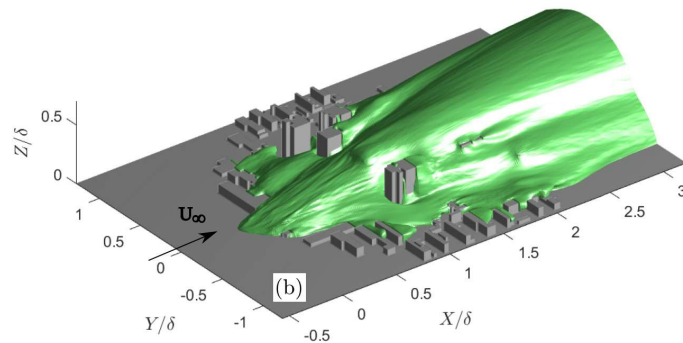
advective
scalar flux



Iso-surfaces of the concentration plume: LES



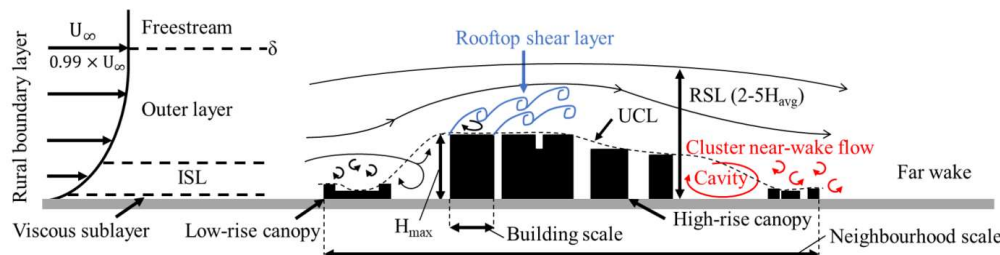
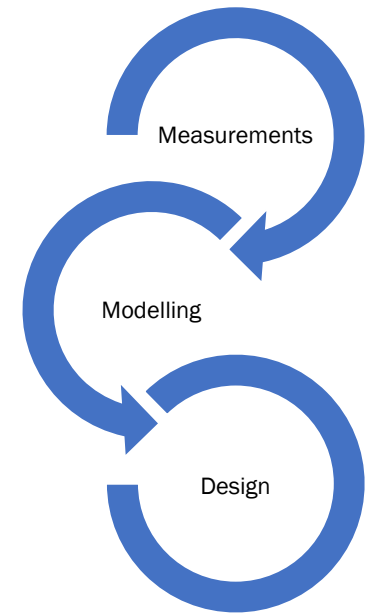
Isovalue: $C/C_B = 10^{-2}$



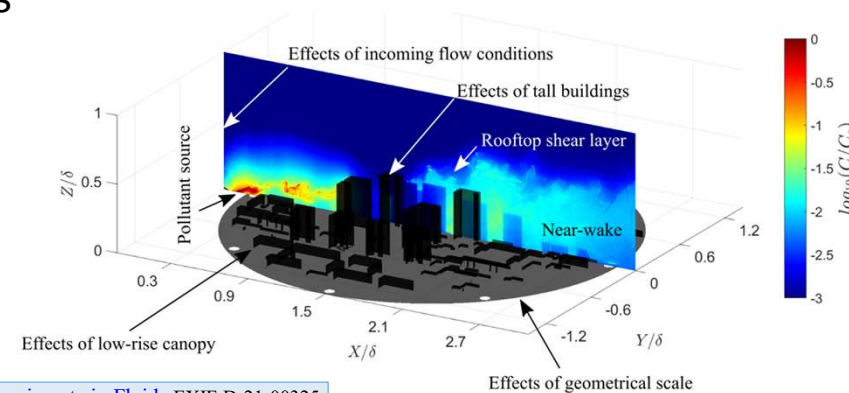
Isovalue: $C/C_B = 10^{-3}$

Final Comments

- We need to understand the impacts of physical meteorology to improve both observations and modelling
- As we obtain acceptable 'simple' models – we need to address more complex situations
 - Atmospheric conditions e.g. stability
 - Building morphology and materials e.g. not homogenous
 - Human activities e.g. timing and locations of emissions
- A range of models are needed for a wide range of purposes
 - Improve weather or climate forecasts
 - Improve building design
 - Reduce unnecessary energy use, reduce CO₂ emissions
 - Improve CO₂ modelling in urban areas



Lim et al. 2022; Experiments in Fluids EXIF-D-21-00325



Land-cover ancillaries of the online HadGEM3 Best-1T simulations

• IGBP based LC over China

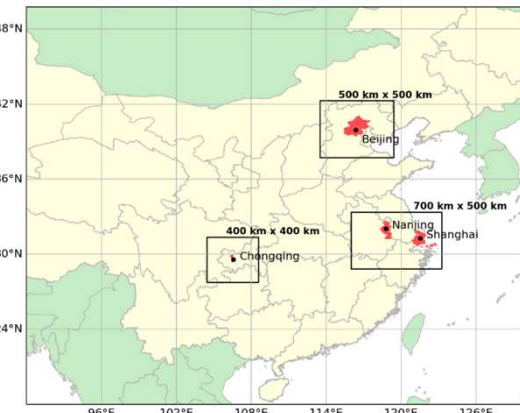
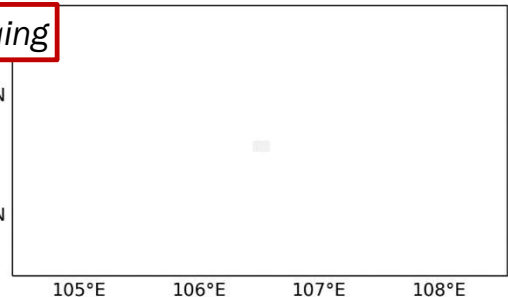
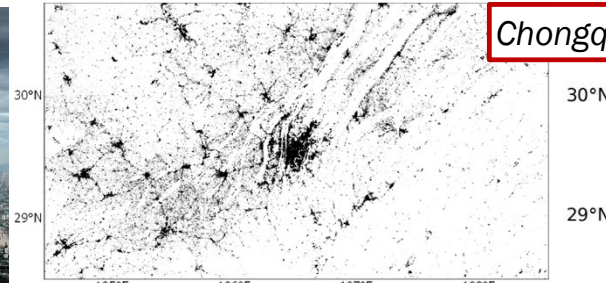
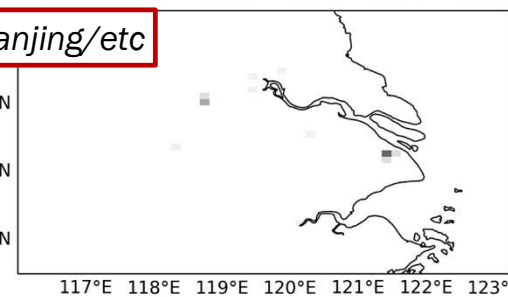
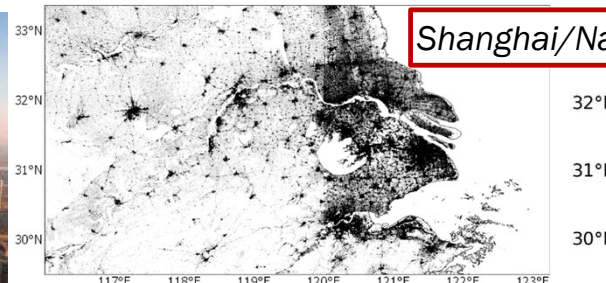
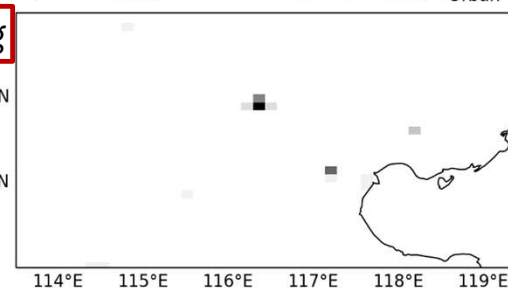
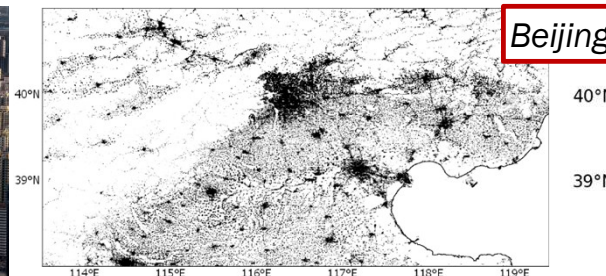
- Poor accuracy of urban fraction
- used in HadGEM3 PRIMAVERA runs
- Better / more recent sources should be used

Binary Global Urban Footprint

IGBP urban land-cover fraction

non urban urban

0.0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0 f_{Urban}



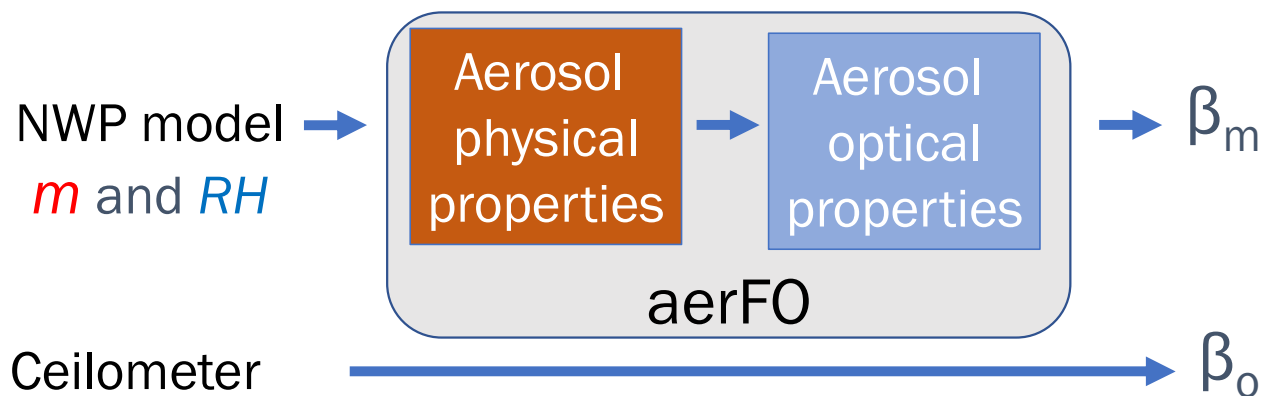
Aerosol Forward Operator (aerFO): to estimate attenuated backscatter (β_m)

- Data assimilation – needs to be computationally cheap

- Features:

- Non-cloud conditions
- Cites (AQ)
- Wavelength dependent
- Effect of hygroscopic growth on physical & optical properties via an extinction enhancement factor ($f_{RH,ext}$)
 - Includes effect of water vapour absorption

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Lidar ratio = 60 sr | Aerosols |
| Ammonium Nitrate | NH_4NO_3 |
| Ammonium Sulphate | $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ |
| Aged Fossil Fuel Organic Carbon | OC |

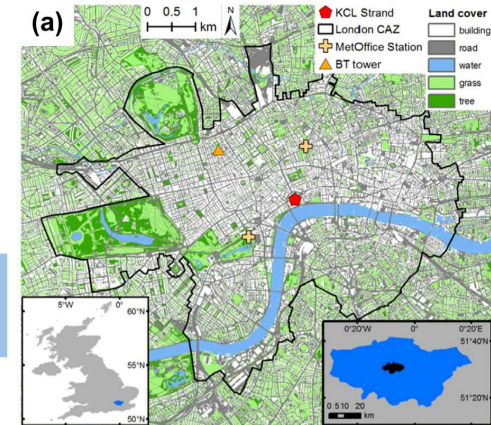
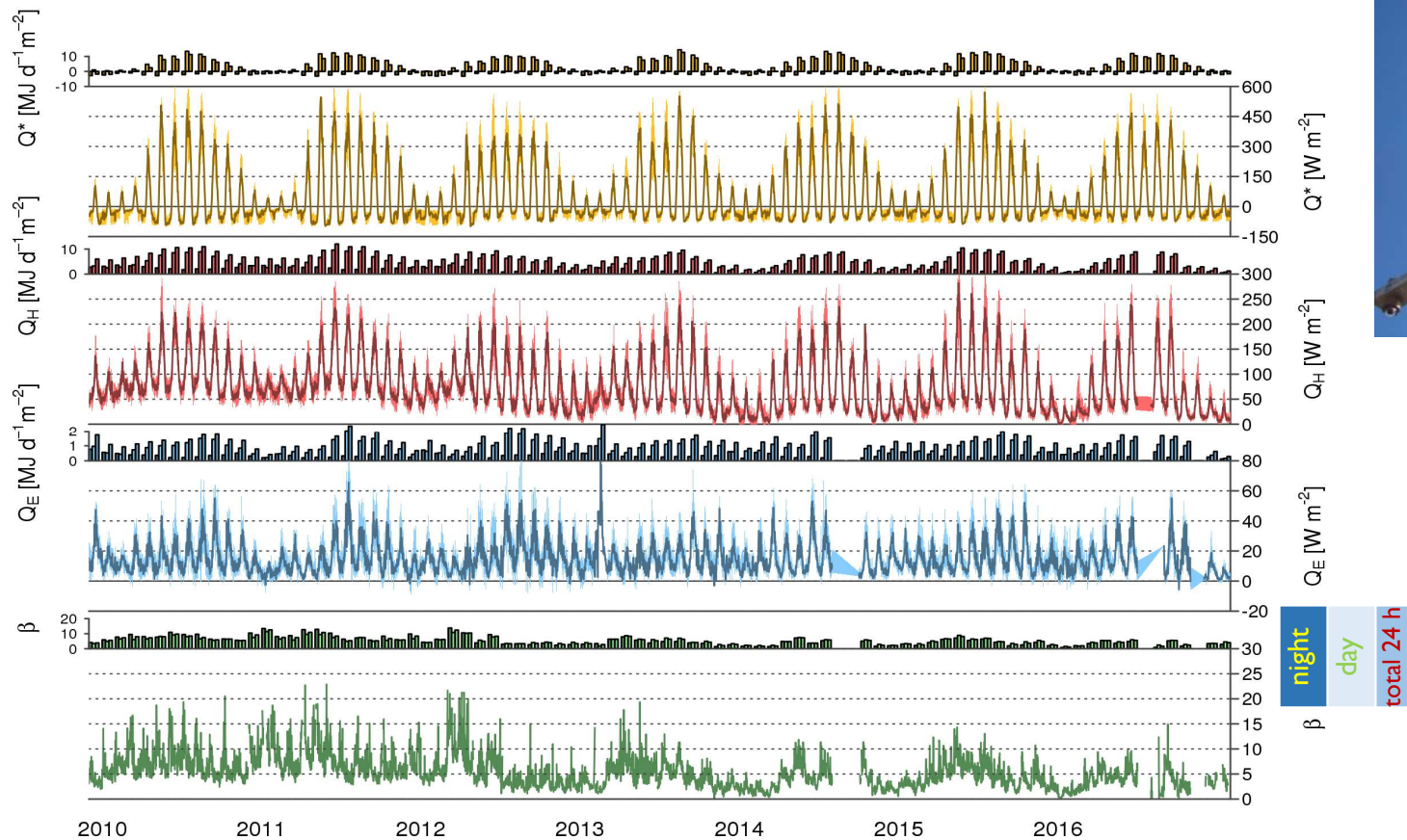


Warren et al. (2018) Atmos. Env.

Warren et al. (2020) AE
(improved chemistry)

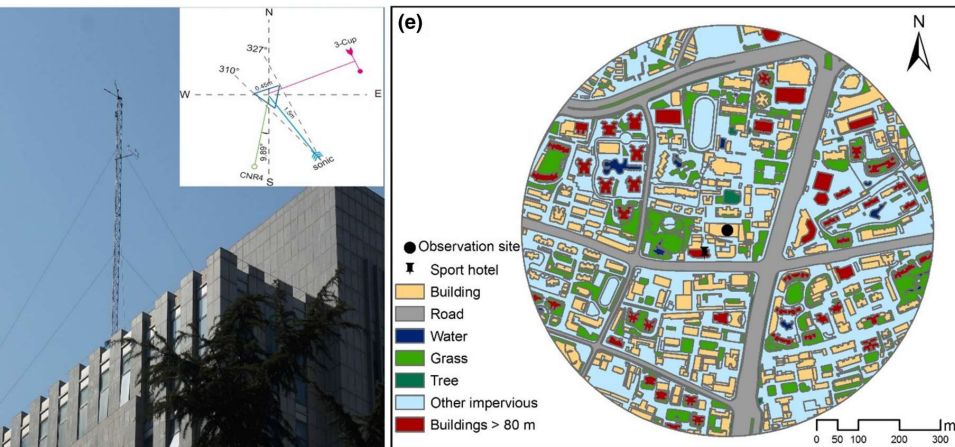
Fluxes: EC - long term measurements

Monthly Median Diurnal Cycle, shaded IQR, KSS



Kotthaus & Grimmond (2014a) Urban Climate, Kotthaus and Grimmond (in prep).

Challenges: Siting, Tall buildings



Ao et al. 2016 *Int. J. Climatol.* 36: 10.1002/joc.4657

