

## SRC: A SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO BUILDING THERMAL SIMULATION

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### ABSTRACT

SRC (System of Resistances and Capacitances), is a new building thermal simulation program which uses an RC-Network representation to model the thermal flow among building elements and an H-Network representation to model the humidity mass flow among building air volumes. Two coupled systems of ODEs are formed based on these representations, which are solved using a forward numerical scheme of varying time step. This systemic approach enables a linear, time varying approximation of building's thermal behavior to be realized, allowing state space-based control techniques to be applied. SRC's performance is evaluated using IEA-BESTEST diagnostic case buildings. The obtained results, which include annual heating and cooling demands as well as temperature data, are validated using the results of other software as references.

### INTRODUCTION

Recently, the need for designing energy-efficient buildings, has triggered the development of a plethora of building thermal simulation programs, Crawley et al. (2008), which also led to the development of highly complex mathematical models, for the description of the thermal transfer phenomena of buildings. Based on these models, accurate estimations of a building's annual energy need for heating and cooling, are possible. These energy estimations, contribute towards selecting the building materials as well as setting the design requirements, which together with the structural and aesthetic requirements, lead to candidate energy-efficient building designs. Consequently, thermal simulation programs, which use highly complex mathematical models, are useful in the initial design process of energy-efficient buildings.

Apart from the initial design phase, it became apparent that during the building's operation phase, energy savings can also be achieved by appropriate control of building micro-climate devices. These, include in general, devices which are capable of altering the building's comfort conditions and refer to energy consuming devices (HVACs, heaters air conditioners,...), as well as passive devices (windows, blinds,...). This fact, led to the development of control techniques which range from simple, rule-based processes, to more complicated model predictive control (MPC) methods, Prívará et al. (2012). The last requires the existence of a mathematical model describing building's thermal behavior.

Consequently, for both the initial (design) and the operational phases of a building, thermal models can be used, with different complexity requirements. In the design phase, complex models are required as they

provide increased calculation accuracy, as opposed to the operation phase, where model complexity, although it is preferable, it adds difficulty in developing associated control methods. In order to meet the above requirement of a model being complex enough for the initial design phase calculation accuracy requirements, and at the same time simple enough to be used by existing control techniques, a new simulation program named System of Resistances and Capacitances (SRC Lilis (2012)), is developed.

SRC's contribution relies on a systemic representation of a building in which, its thermal behavior at every time instant, is described by a linear, time varying system of equations. This system of equations consists of a constant component, obtained by the building's geometry and material properties (contained in an input **gbxml file**) and a time varying component which depends on the weather conditions (provided by an input **weather file**). This linear system is formed by solving numerically two systems of coupled ordinary differential equations, describing the heat flow rates and humidity mass flows among the building spaces according to the topologies of two **representation networks**.

The structure of SRC's components and its calculation processes necessitates the following paper organization. Initially, an overview of SRC is presented (1.1), followed by an analysis of the two modeling representation networks (1.2), used by SRC simulations and the respective systems of ODEs (**RC-Network** (1.2.1) and **H-Network**(1.2.2)). The description of SRC concludes with an analysis of its numerical scheme (1.3) and contribution (1.4). The paper resumes with a description of the test buildings used for the evaluation of SRC, and a comparison of SRC's performance with respect to the results of other thermal simulation software applied on the **IEA-BESTEST** case buildings.

### SRC

#### **1.1 Overview**

SRC's architecture, consists of seven major blocks, displayed in the block diagram of figure 1. Six of them contain programs which run independently and interchange input and output data with the **DATA** repository. The building thermal and humidity mass transfer calculations, are carried out by the SRC.m routine in **MAIN** block (figure 1), using the output of the following five sub-blocks:

- **BUILDING**, containing subprograms:  
**XML\_TREE.m**, **GEO.m** and **MAT.m**.  
XML\_TREE.m parses the input building gbxml file <Name\_of\_building>.xml and creates <Name\_of\_building>.mat. GEO.m and MAT.m

programs extract building geometry and material characteristics and store them in files GEO.mat and MAT.mat, respectively.

- **F\_CALC** containing subprogram **F\_CALC.m**, which evaluates the view factors (Winget, J.M. et. al. (1989)) between internal building surface pairs and stores them in file F\_CALC.mat.
- **SOLAR\_CALC** containing subprogram **SOLAR\_CALC.m**, which calculates the solar gains on building surfaces and stores them in file SOLAR\_CALC.mat.
- **SCH** containing subprograms **XX\_SCH.m**. XX\_SCH.m are timing programs called schedulers which generate the operation schedules of micro-climate devices (openings (XX=OP), blinds (XX=BL), internal gains (XX=IG), HVACs (XX=HV), infiltration-ventilation devices (XX=IV) and ideal devices of infinite capacity used to calculate heating/cooling demands (XX=LD)). The resulting operation schedules are stored in file XX\_SCH.mat.
- **WEATHER\_DATA** containing subprogram **WEATHER\_DATA.m**, which essentially evaluates the weather variables used by SRC and store their values in file <Station\_Location>.mat.

SRC's main program (**SRC.m** in block **MAIN** of figure 1) can also run independently as a function without requiring I/O from the files of Fig. 1. **SRC.m** relays on the formation of two representation networks, which are analyzed next.

## 1.2 Building representation networks

SRC performs thermal and energy building simulations by forming and solving two coupled systems of ordinary differential equations: one which describes the thermal energy flows among building elements and one which evaluates the humidity mass transfer among building spaces. These coupled systems are associated with two network representations. The system which describes the thermal flow is associated with a network of interconnected resistances (R) and capacitors (C), called RC-Network, which is formed based on the electrical analogy Fraisse et al. (2002). The system describing the humidity flows, is associated with a network of humidity nodes, called H-Network. These network representations are illustrated for a simple one zone building, in figure 2 and their formation rules are described in the following sections.

### 1.2.1 RC-Network

The need for a state-space representation of a building, triggered the introduction of nodal models Boyer et al. (1996) and linearizations using symbolic differentiations around a steady state point Felgner et al. (2002), which led to the use of RC-networks in building thermal modeling. In SRC, as in the other RC-network models, the impedance of the thermal flow, caused by building elements, is represented by electrical resistances (R) and their thermal storage is modeled by capacitors (C). The partitions of the elements in the gbxml input file, define the spatial grid used to compute heat transfer and hence the number of R and C elements. These R,C electrical elements, form an undirected graph (RC-Network) which obeys the following modeling rules:

- **Building elements modeling rules:**
  1. **Walls, ceilings and roofs** are modeled by **three resistances (3R)**, (two to model internal and external **surface convection** phenomena and one to model **material thermal impedance**), and **two capacitors (2C)** to model their temporal thermal storage.
  2. **Floors** are modeled by **two resistances (2R)**, (one to model the internal surface convection and one to model the material thermal impedance), and **one capacitor (1C)** to model floor's temporal thermal storage.
  3. **Openings** are modeled by **three resistances (3R)** (as in the case of a wall, two resistances are used to model internal and external surface convection phenomena and one resistance to model material thermal impedance).

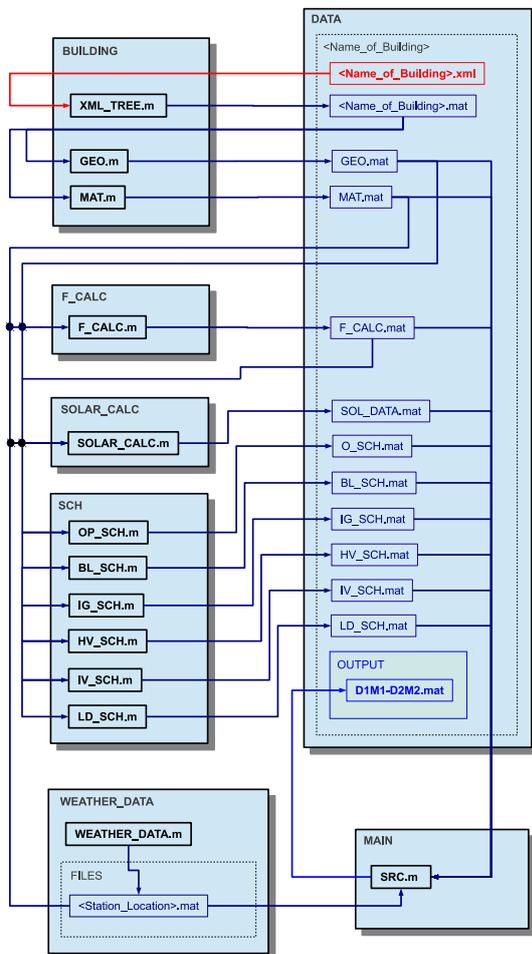


Figure 1: Overview of SRC

- **Building volumes modeling rules:**
  1. A **space air volume** is modeled by a **single capacitor (1C)**.
  2. The **outside air volume** is modeled by an **AC voltage source (AC)**, as its temperature changes with respect to time.
  3. The **ground volume** attached to the building is modeled by a **DC source (DC)**, as its temperature remains constant over a long period of time.
- **Node assignment rules:**
  1. **Network nodes** which include: inner or outer surface nodes  $su_i, su_o \in Su$  ( $Su$  is the set of surface node indexes) assigned to building constructions, air volume nodes  $sp_i \in Sp$  ( $Sp$  is the set of space node indexes), assigned to building spaces.
  2. Two **boundary nodes** are also assigned: the first is assigned to the outside air volume (outside air node), and the second to the ground volume attached to the building (ground node).

SRC uses the RC-Network representation in order to populate:

- A **conductance matrix**  $[R_t]$  containing all the thermal resistances populated according to their interconnections.
- A **capacitance matrix**  $[C_t]$  which is a diagonal matrix containing all the thermal capacitors of the building elements.
- A **heat flow rate vector**  $Q_t$ .

$Q_t$  contains all the heat flow rates at the RC-Network nodes, which are updated by:

- **Solar heat flow rates** on surface nodes  $su \in Su$ :  $\Delta Q^{\text{sol}}(su)$  (ASHRAE (2007), Perez et al. (1990)) which involve shading calculations using shade projection (Vatti, B.R. (1992)). Solar radiation passing from openings to building interior spaces, is evaluated using the solar heat gain coefficients of the openings for different incident angles.
- **Long-wave radiation (LWR) heat flow rates** on surface nodes  $su \in Su$ :  $\Delta Q^{\text{LWR}}(su)$  (View factors calculation: Winget, J.M. et. al. (1989), LWR on internal surfaces: Oppenheim (1956), LWR on external surfaces: Cole (1976)). The long wave radiation from the openings to the internal walls is calculated using the view factor pairs of the openings with the respective walls.
- **Heat flow rates from boundary nodes** on surface nodes  $su \in Su$ :  $\Delta Q^{\text{air}}(su)$  (outside air) and  $\Delta Q^{\text{gnd}}(su)$  (ground).
- **Micro-climate devices' heat flow rates** to space nodes  $sp \in Sp$ :  $\Delta Q^{\text{dev}}(sp)$  (openings, blinds, heaters, HVACs, air conditioners,... ASHRAE (2009b)).

- **Infiltration heat flow rates** to space nodes  $sp \in Sp$ :  $\Delta Q^{\text{inf}}(sp)$  ASHRAE (2009b).
- **Internal gains' heat flow rates** to space nodes,  $sp \in Sp$ :  $\Delta Q^{\text{ig}}(sp)$  and associated internal surfaces,  $su_i \in Su$ :  $\Delta Q^{\text{ig}}(su)$  ASHRAE (2009b).

The time evolution of the temperatures at the RC-Network nodes, included in vector  $T_t$ , can be described by a system of ODEs involving the  $[C_t]$  and  $[R_t]$  matrices and the  $Q_t$  vector, formed according to the Kirchhoff current laws for electrical circuits:

$$[C_t] \frac{dT_t}{dt} = [R_t]T_t + Q_t \quad (1)$$

### 1.2.2 H-Network

In SRC the air volumes of building spaces together with the outside air volume encompassing the building under consideration, are assumed to interchange water vapor quantities. The concentration of water vapor in each air volume, is measured using the humidity ratio measure (ASHRAE (2009a)). The building air volumes are represented by network nodes and the water vapor flow paths by network edges, forming a humidity network called H-Network. H-Network conforms with the following node and edge assignment rules:

1. **Network nodes** are assigned to the **air volumes of building spaces** (inside air volume nodes).
2. A **single boundary node** is assigned to the **outside air volume** (outside air volume node).
3. **Edges** connecting the H-Network nodes are assigned to **humidity flow paths**, which are associated with air flows between building air volumes. Air flows are realized at the locations of, either external building openings (connecting outside with inside air volume nodes), or internal building openings (connecting internal air volume nodes), or at the locations of mechanical ventilation devices (HVACs, fans,...).

H-Network is used in order to form:

- The **dry air mass matrix**  $[M_t]$  which is a diagonal matrix with dimension equal to the number of building spaces containing at entry  $M_t(sp_i, sp_i)$  the mass of dry air of air volume of space  $sp_i \in Sp$ .
- The **water-vapor rate vector**  $W_t$  which contains at entry  $sp_i$  the total incoming water vapor mass rate to the air volume of space  $sp_i$ :

$$W_t(sp_i) = \sum_{sp_k \in N_{sp_i}} w_t(sp_k, sp_i) \quad (2)$$

$N_{sp_i}$  is the set of neighbor nodes to node  $sp_i$ . Neighbor nodes of  $sp_i$  are the nodes connected with humidity flow paths to node  $sp_i$ .  $w_t(sp_k, sp_i)$  is the water vapor mass flow rate from node  $sp_k$  to node  $sp_i$ . Vapor mass flows

are generated during the operation of micro-climate devices (HVACs, openings ...) , which transfer air masses either from outside or neighbor spaces  $sp_k$ , to space  $sp_i$ .

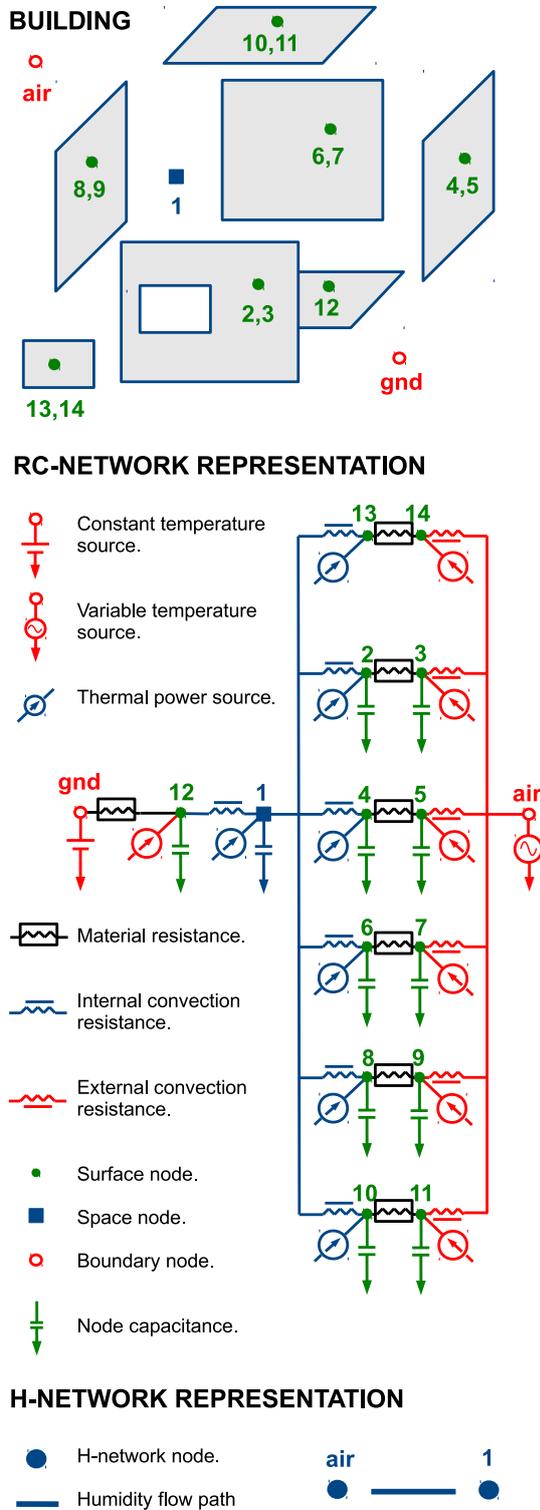


Figure 2: RC and H Network building representations

The time evolution of the humidity ratio values, referring to the air-volumes of the building spaces (included in vector  $H_t$ ), can be described by a system of ODEs, involving the  $[M_t]$  matrix and the  $W_t$  vector, accord-

ing to the water vapor mass conservation law below water vapor saturation levels:

$$[M_t] \frac{dH_t}{dt} = W_t \quad (3)$$

### 1.3 Numerical scheme

SRC follows a first order and forward difference numerical scheme of variable time step. The variable time step is selected in order to preserve small variances among consecutive temperature results and execution speed. Although necessary conditions for stability of the scheme have not been established, due to the mathematical complexity of the underlying model, a temperature variance rule is introduced which preserved stability in the results of all of the tested scenarios. Additionally, the first order of the scheme is selected in order to: enable the formation of time varying linear systems, describing the thermal behavior of the whole building (such as (14)), and facilitate model based temperature control schemes, highlighting SRC's contribution. SRC's numerical calculations at time instances  $f \in \{1, \dots, F\}$ , can be summarized by the following steps:

1. An initial temperature profile for the temperatures at the RC-network nodes (contained in vector  $T_0$ ), an initial humidity ratio profile, referring to the humidity ratio values at the H-network nodes (contained in vector  $H_0$ ) and an initial time step  $\delta t_0$ , are considered.
2. The heat flow rates at every building space node  $sp_i \in Sp$ , are updated by adding the total heat flow rate to node  $sp_i$  at time f ( $\Delta Q_f(sp_i)$ ):

$$Q_f(sp_i) \rightarrow Q_{f-1}(sp_i) + \Delta Q_f(sp_i) \quad (4)$$

The total heat flow rate at  $sp_i$ , is given by:

$$\Delta Q_f(sp_i) = \sum_{sp_k \in N_{sp_i}} \rho_f^{air}(sp_k) \dot{V}_f(sp_k, sp_i) \Delta h_f(sp_k, sp_i) \quad (5)$$

$N_{sp_i}$  is the set of neighbor air volumes to air volume  $sp_i$ .  $\dot{V}_f(sp_k, sp_i)$  is the air transfer rate from volume of space  $sp_k$  to volume of space  $sp_i$ ,  $\rho_f^{air}(sp_k)$  is the density of air in volume  $sp_k$  and  $\Delta h_f(sp_k, sp_i) = h_f(sp_k) - h_f(sp_i)$  is the enthalpy change with  $h_f(sp_k)$ ,  $h_f(sp_i)$  being the enthalpies of air volumes of spaces  $sp_k$  and  $sp_i$ . The enthalpy of air volume of space  $sp_i$ , at time instant f is calculated by:

$$h_f(sp_i) = [c_{p,da} + c_{p,w} H_f(sp_i)] T_f(sp_i) \quad (6)$$

where  $c_{p,da}$  and  $c_{p,w}$  are the specific heats of dry air and water vapor respectively and  $T_f(sp_i)$  is the dry bulb temperature of air volume of space  $sp_i$ , at time instant f.

- Similarly, the heat flow rate at every building surface node  $su \in Su$ , is updated by adding the total heat flow rate to node  $su$ ,  $\Delta Q_f(su)$ :

$$Q_f(su) \rightarrow Q_{f-1}(su) + \Delta Q_f(su) \quad (7)$$

- The future temperature estimates (contained in vector  $T_{f+1}$ ), are evaluated using the current time step  $dt_f$ , the present values  $T_f$ , and a finite differences forward numerical scheme on (1), at time instance  $f$ :

$$T_{f+1} = [A_f]T_f + \bar{Q}_f \quad (8)$$

where:  $[A_f]$  is the transition matrix:

$$[A_f] = I + \delta t_f [C_f]^{-1} [R_f] \quad (9)$$

( $[R_f]$ ,  $[C_f]$  are the time samples of  $[R_t]$  and  $[C_t]$  matrices) and  $\bar{Q}_f$  is the reduced heat flow rate vector:

$$\bar{Q}_f = \delta t_f [C_f]^{-1} Q_f \quad (10)$$

$Q_f$  is the heat flow rate vector, updated in the previous steps.

- Similarly, using the humidity mass transfer ODE: (3), and the current humidity ratio values  $H_f$ , the future humidity ratio estimates of building spaces  $H_{f+1}$ , are approximated using the following expressions:

- Humidity below saturation levels**

$$\begin{aligned} (H_f(sp) < H_{sat}(sp) \vee L_f(sp) \leq 0) \\ H_{f+1}(sp) = H_f(sp) + \delta t_f [M_f(sp)]^{-1} W_f(sp) \\ L_{f+1}(sp) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Humidity above saturation levels**

$$\begin{aligned} (H_f(sp) \geq H_{sat}(sp) \vee L_f(sp) > 0) \\ H_{f+1}(sp) = H_{sat}(sp) \\ L_{f+1}(sp) = L_f(sp) + \delta t_f [M_f(sp)]^{-1} W_f(sp) \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

As in case of the thermal ODE,  $[M_f(sp)]$  and  $W_f(sp)$  are samples of the dry air mass matrix  $[M_t(sp)]$  and air-vapor flow rate vector  $W_t(sp)$ , of space  $sp$ 's air volume at time instant  $f$ .  $L_f(sp)$  and  $L_{f+1}(sp)$  are the liquified vapor vectors at time instances  $f$  and  $f + 1$ , containing the fraction of the total air mass which the vapor quantities occupy and turn into liquid in space  $sp$ . Although the last case of (11) was not used in the simulation examples, as saturation conditions never satisfied, it is required in order to preserve the humidity mass equilibrium and it will be added for completeness in the future.

- Finally, in order to avoid large temperature variances, the maximum value of the absolute difference between the future and present temperature vectors:  $\max(|\Delta T_{f+1}|) = \max(|T_{f+1} - T_f|)$ , is compared against a temperature sensitivity value ( $T_{sens}$ ) and some of the simulation parameters are updated according to the following temperature variance rule:

- Small temperature variance**

$$(\max(|\Delta T_{f+1}|) \leq T_{sens})$$

$$\begin{cases} \delta t_{f+1} = \delta t_f \\ \{T_f, H_f\} = \{T_{f+1}, H_{f+1}\} \\ f \rightarrow f + 1 \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

- Large temperature variance**

$$(\max(|\Delta T_{f+1}|) > T_{sens})$$

$$\begin{cases} \delta t_{f+1} = \frac{\delta t_f}{2} \\ \{T_f, H_f\} = \{T_{f-1}, H_{f-1}\} \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

For all the simulations presented here the temperature sensitivity value was set at  $T_{sens} = 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ .

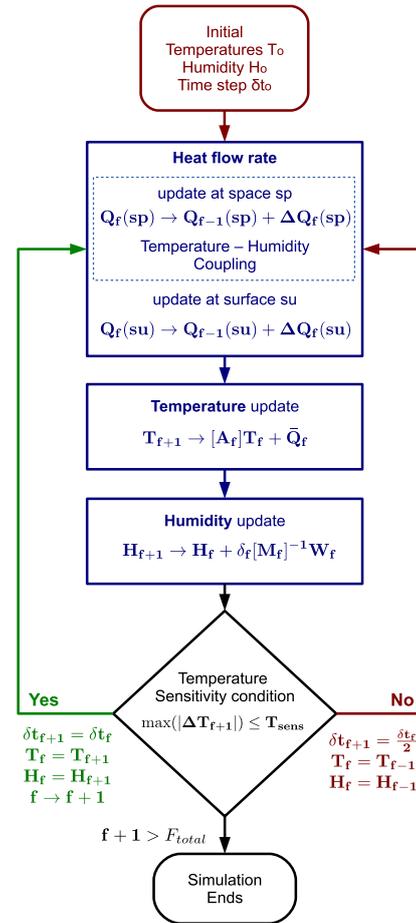


Figure 3: Numerical scheme of SRC

#### 1.4 Contribution

The development of SRC was motivated by the need of a consistent systemic representation of a building, where the time evolution of temperatures of the building elements, satisfy a “global” linear system of equations derived using induction on system (8):

$$\begin{bmatrix} T_1 \\ T_2 \\ \dots \\ T_F \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_0 & I & 0 & \dots \\ A_1 A_0 & A_0 & I & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ A_{F-1} \dots A_0 & \dots & \dots & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_0 \\ \bar{Q}_0 \\ \dots \\ \bar{Q}_F \end{bmatrix}$$

The compound matrix in the previous relation describes the thermal response of the building, at time instances  $\{1, \dots, F\}$ . The above expression allows climate control methods to be carried out as convex optimization problems, Lilis et al. (2013), where the variables to be controlled (space temperatures for example), are extracted from the global system, forming a smaller system:

$$T(sp) = [A(sp, :)]\bar{Q}(sp) + T_{oth}(sp) \quad (14)$$

Vectors  $T(sp) = \{T_1(sp), \dots, T_F(sp)\}$  and  $\bar{Q}(sp) = \{\bar{Q}_1(sp), \dots, \bar{Q}_F(sp)\}$  are the parts of the temperature and heat flow rate vectors, referring to building space nodes. Similarly,  $[A(sp, :)]$  contains the rows of the compound matrix which refer to the space nodes.  $T_{oth}(sp)$  is the part of  $T(sp)$  which depends on the components of  $\bar{Q}$  which do not include the space components  $\bar{Q}(sp)$ , and the initial temperature vector  $T_o$ .

### 1.5 Applications to model based climate control

SRC's mathematical foundation expressed by the subsystem (14) enables the formulation of climate control problems as regularized convex optimization problems Lilis et al. (2013). In such problems the goal is to determine the reduced heat flow rates at building spaces which bring the space temperatures (according to (14)), as close as possible (in the l2-norm sense), to a desired space temperature vector  $T_d$ . Mathematically the above are summarized by the following expression:

$$\bar{Q}^*(sp) = \arg \min_{\bar{Q}(sp)} \|T(sp) - T_d\|_2 + \alpha \|\bar{Q}(sp)\|_2 \quad (15)$$

The regularization parameter  $\alpha > 0$  penalizes the energy demand expressed by  $\bar{Q}(sp)$ .

## EVALUATION CASES

### 1.6 Case buildings

SRC is tested on **IEA-BESTEST** building cases Neymark et al. (2008), which include a series of buildings named "Case X" ( $X = \{195, \dots, 320\}$ ) with geometries displayed in figure 4. The openings, shades, internal gains, infiltration and set points, as well as the radiation absorption coefficients of materials, vary from one building case to another, as displayed in table 4.

Initially two basic building cases are considered: **Case600** characterized by low thermal mass materials and **Case900** which has high thermal mass materials. These cases are simulated assuming no climate control (**Free float cases - FF**) and perfect climate control preserving the internal space temperature within the set points of table 4 (**Loaded cases - LD**).

The second set of simulation scenarios includes the cases **Case195 - Case320** and more precisely their loaded scenarios. These simulations are performed in order to demonstrate SRC's ability to capture different heat transfer phenomena. This is done by looking at the differences in the annual demands for heating

and cooling according to table 3. These annual demands, which refer to each building case, are obtained by calculating the total required energy of ideal devices of infinite capacity, which preserve the internal space temperature at the set point limits of table 4. Significant differences in these demands indicate that the phenomenon under consideration is taken into account during the simulation procedure.

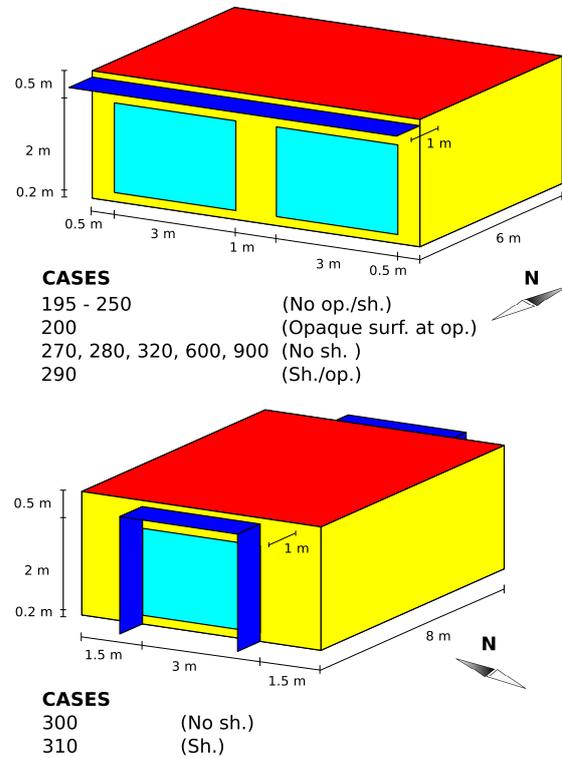


Figure 4: Case buildings' geometries  
op.: Openings, sh.: Shades

### 1.7 Comparison

The plots of figures 5 indicate that the annual energy demands for heating and cooling estimated by SRC for the Case 600 (Low thermal mass case, H: 4.61 MWh / C: 7.03 MWh) and Case 900 (High thermal mass case, H: 1.3 MWh / C: 2.62 MWh), are inside the min/max range of BESTEST simulation test programs (BESTEST limits for **Case 600**: Heating 4.296 - 5.709 MWh, Cooling 6.137 - 7.964 MWh, **Case 900**: Heating 1.170 - 2.041 MWh, Cooling 2.132 - 3.415 MWh).

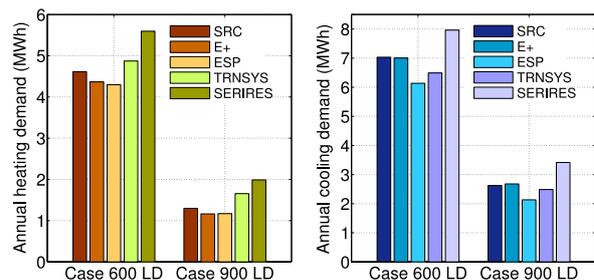


Figure 5: Annual heating and cooling demands for Case 600 (Low mass) and Case 900 (High mass)

Tables 1 and 2 demonstrate that the minimum, maximum and average estimated zone temperatures by SRC are close to the ones estimated by other simulation programs.

Table 1: Maximum - Minimum annual zone temperatures °C

Case	600FF min-max	900FF min-max
E+	(-18.07) - (66.00)	(-2.4) - (43.7)
ESP	(-15.60) - (64.90)	(-1.6) - (41.8)
TRNSYS	(-17.80) - (65.30)	(-6.4) - (42.5)
SERIRES	(-10.00) - (69.80)	(-3.9) - (43.4)
<b>SRC</b>	<b>(-19.11) - (67.34)</b>	<b>(-5.87) - (43.16)</b>

Table 2: Average annual zone temperature °C

Case	600 FF	900 FF
E+	26.2	26.4
ESP	25.1	25.5
TRNSYS	24.5	24.5
SERIRES	25.9	25.7
<b>SRC</b>	<b>25.45</b>	<b>25.20</b>

Finally, the demand differences (displayed in the plots of figure 7) validate that all the phenomena of table 3 are taken into account by SRC and that the obtained demand differences are close to the ones obtained by EnergyPlus.

Table 3: IEA-BESTEST case differences

Case diff.	Phenomenon under examination
(195)	Solid conduction
(200)-(195)	Film convection
(210)-(200)	External IR with internal IR off
(220)-(215)	External IR with internal IR on
(215)-(200)	Internal IR with external IR off
(220)-(210)	Internal IR with external IR on
(230)-(220)	Infiltration (Inf.)
(240)-(220)	Internal gains (Ig.)
(250)-(220)	Exterior solar absorbance
(270)-(220)	South solar transmittance
(280)-(270)	Cavity albedo
(290)-(270)	South horizontal overhang
(300)-(270)	East, west solar transmittance.
(310)-(300)	East, west overhang and fins.
(320)-(270)	Thermostat deadband.

## CONCLUSIONS

It was demonstrated using the IEA-BESTEST diagnostic procedure that, System of Resistances and Capacitances (SRC), a new building thermal simulation program, is capable of capturing a variety of phenomena appearing in buildings, which involve: building spaces, internal/external surfaces, as well as microclimate devices (openings, blinds, HVACs,...). These phenomena include: thermal conduction and convec-

tion, short-wave (solar) and long-wave (infrared) radiation and humidity mass transfer.

The component-based structure of SRC allows certain tasks to be executed independently (view-factor and solar gain calculations) only once for every building, without requiring to be repeated for each future simulation call, fact that reduces the total simulation time.

Additionally the systemic approach of SRC, offers the ability of forming a global system of linear equations describing the thermal response of the whole building over a finite set of time instances  $\{1, \dots, F\}$ , fact that opens new opportunities to develop state-space based thermal control techniques.

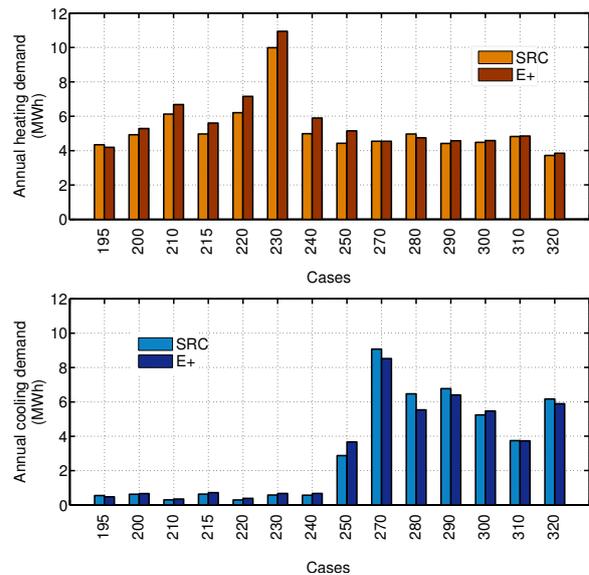


Figure 6: Total heating and cooling demands

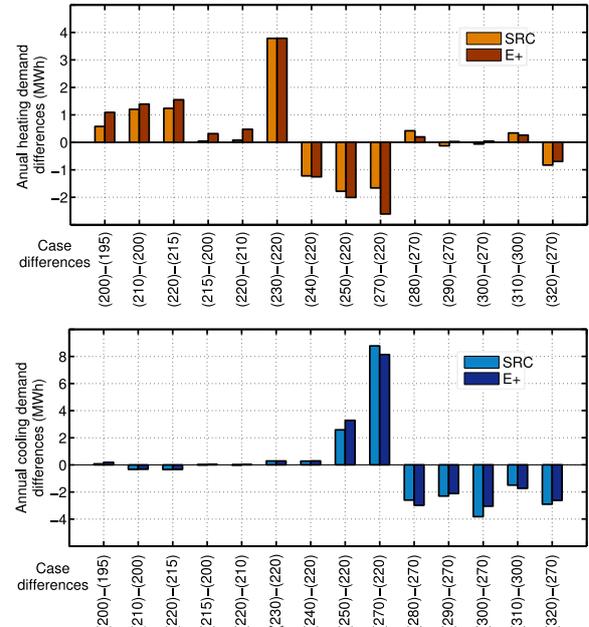


Figure 7: Heating and cooling demand differences

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Table 4: IEA-BESTEST cases specification.

**Op.** : Opening.

**G. S.** : Glass Surface.

**Sh.**: Shade.

**Ig.P.** : Internal gains power.

**Inf.**: Infiltration in ACH.

**Ex.S.** : External shortwave absorption coefficient.

**Int.S.** : Internal shortwave absorption coefficient.

**IR.** : Infra-red (longwave) absorption coefficient.

**Set P.** : Set Points.

**S** : South orientation. / **E/W** : East/West orientation.

Case	Op.	G.S.	Sh.	Ig.P.	Inf.
195	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
200	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
210	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
215	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>220</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
230	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	1
240	n/a	0	n/a	200 W	n/a
250	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>270</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
280	S	12	n/a	n/a	n/a
290	n/a	12	S	n/a	n/a
300	E/W	6/6	n/a	n/a	n/a
310	E/W	6/6	E/W	n/a	n/a
320	S	12	n/a	n/a	n/a
600	S	12	n/a	200 W	0.5
900	S	12	n/a	200 W	0.5

Case	Ex.S.	In.S.	Ex.IR.	In.IR.	Set P.
195	0.1	n/a	0.1	0.1	20/20
200	0.1	n/a	0.1	0.1	20/20
210	0.1	n/a	0.9	0.1	20/20
215	0.1	n/a	0.1	0.9	20/20
<b>220</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>20/20</b>
230	0.1	n/a	0.9	0.9	20/20
240	0.1	n/a	0.9	0.9	20/20
250	0.9	n/a	0.9	0.9	20/20
<b>270</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>20/20</b>
280	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.9	20/20
290	0.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	20/20
300	0.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	20/20
310	0.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	20/20
320	0.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	20/27
600	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	20/27
900	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	20/27

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