### High resolution simulations of the interactions between urban canopy and Boundary Layer



### Why is the Urban Canopy Layer (UCL) important?



### Many people live in the UCL



Mexico city, population more than 20 million

Around half of the global population lives in cities and is forecast to increase to three quarters during the next twenty five years





Factors determining air pollutant concentration in UCL



### Emissions, dispersion within the UCL



Exchanges between UCL and Urban Boundary Layer (UBL) above

### Factors determining air temperature in UCL



Energy budget from many surfaces with different thermal properties. Trapping of radiation in street canyons. Lack of vegetation

Heat fluxes from urban surfaces, and anthropogenic heat fluxes. Dispersion of heat within UCL



Exchanges between UCL and UBL

Air pollutants and temperature in the UBL can be advected from other parts of the city, or from rural areas



### ÚCL

On the other hand, UBL structure is determined by UCL (e. g. heat fluxes, turbulence) and boundary layer formed around the city

UBL and UCL are closely linked and must be considered together. To account for UBL, an horizontal scale larger than the city must be considered (mesoscale). The phenomena involved are complex and non-linear.

To investigate UCL and evaluate strategies to improve air quality and microclimate in UCL, the best tool is a numerical model.



Such model must be able to reproduce at best wind, temperature and turbulence fields in the UCL and UBL (for air pollution such fields are used by a dispersion model). For computational reasons, it is not possible to build a model able to resolve every building and at the same time have a domain large enough to represent urban-rural interactions.



Example: Domain size: 50km High resolution mesoscale simulations performed today: DX=DY=1km=> nx=50, ny=50 DZ stretched, nz=50, DT=30s. For 1 hour (nx\*ny\*nz)\*3600./Dt =1.5 10<sup>7</sup> calculations are needed.

To resolve the buldings, DX=DY=1m, DT=0.003s, Without modifying the DZ, for 1 hour 10<sup>16</sup> calculations are needed.

To resolve the buildings and have a domain size large enough, we need a computer 10<sup>9</sup> faster than todays computers !

So, the most common approach is to use mesoscale models at high resolution (1km or several hundreds of meters), and parameterize the impact of the city on wind, turbulence and heat fluxes.



The key in such modelling is the representation of the urban effects on the airflow.

Which are those effects?

### The most important urban effects are



It is possible to group such effects in:



Thermal (on temperature)



Dynamical (on momentum and TKE)

In recent years, also thank to the continous increase of CPU power, several approaches have been proposed to account for such effects in mesoscale models. In the rest of the presentation we will see:

- Techniques used to parametrize urban thermal effects
- Future directions. Account for Building Energy.

- Techniques used to parameterize urban dynamical effects
- Analysis of CFD results from an urban parameterization perspective.



Idealized simulations of the impact of urban canopy on UBL structure.

Thermal effects

### **Semi-empirical approach**

Objective Hysteresis Model (OHM Grimmond et al., 1991). Reasonable expectation that  $\Delta Q_s$  (storage) is a fraction of R (net all-wave radiation). A daily plot of  $\Delta Q_s$  vs R results in a hysteresis loop



H. Taha (1999) implemented OHM in a mesoscale model

Changing the coefficents, it can work for any surface.

$$\Delta Q_s = a_1 R + a_2 \frac{\partial R}{\partial t} + a_3$$

Problem: a long series of data is needed to find the parameters  $a_1, a_2, a_3$ .



### **Physically based approaches**

Weigthed average of fluxes from different urban surfaces (road, wall, roof) (Masson 2000, Kusaka et al. 2001, Martilli et al.2002).



$$\begin{split} H_{r,w,s} &= -C_{r,w,s} \left( T_{air} - T_{r,w,s} \right) & r = roof, \\ H_{r,w,s} &= heat \ flux & s = street \\ w = wall \end{split}$$

 $C_{r,w,s}$  is a coefficient function of wind speed and surface roughness. Usually it takes into account atmospheric stability for horizontal surfaces, but not for vertical surfaces.

### Surface temperatures $(T_s)$ are estimated solving an energy budget at each surface.

$$\frac{\partial T_s}{\partial t} = \frac{\left(R - (H + G + L)\right)}{C_s \Delta z_s}$$

Radiative fluxes are positive if directed toward the surface. Non-Radiative fluxes are positive if directed away from the surface

*R*=short and longwave radiation *G*=heat diffused in the material *H*=sensible heat flux to the atmosphere *L*=latent heat fluxes (only in Masson 2000, and Kusaka et al. 2001). Cs= specific heat of material,  $\Delta z_s$  depth of the material layer *G* is estimated by solving an heat diffusion equation in several layers in the material (wall, roof, street).

$$\frac{\partial T_i}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( K_s \frac{\partial T_i}{\partial z} \right)$$

 $K_s$ =thermal conductivity of the material  $T_i$ =temperature of the ith layer in the material



It is strongly affected by the thermal properties of the materials, and (for roof and walls) by the air temperature in the house Radiation is composed by short (solar), and long (infrared) waves. For walls and street radiation trapping must be considered.



 $R_{WD_1}, R_{WD_2}, R_{SD}$  = Incident radiation at walls and street function of the solar zenith angle and street orientation.

 $\alpha_{\rm W}, \alpha_{\rm S}$  = Albedo of wall and street

 $\Psi_{SW}, \Psi_{WS}, \Psi_{WW} =$  View factors street-to-wall, wall-to-street, wall-to-wall. View factor from surface A to surface B, is defined as the fraction of radiative energy leaving surface A that reaches surface B



$$R_{W1}^{L\downarrow} = R_{WD1}^{L\downarrow} + \Psi_{SW} \Big( \varepsilon_S \sigma T_S^4 + (1 - \varepsilon_S) R_S^{L\downarrow} \Big) + \Psi_{WW} \Big( \varepsilon_W \sigma T_{W2}^4 + (1 - \varepsilon_W) R_{W2}^{L\downarrow} \Big) \\ R_{W2}^{L\downarrow} = R_{WD2}^{L\downarrow} + \Psi_{SW} \Big( \varepsilon_S \sigma T_S^4 + (1 - \varepsilon_S) R_S^{L\downarrow} \Big) + \Psi_{WW} \Big( \varepsilon_W \sigma T_{W1}^4 + (1 - \varepsilon_W) R_{W1}^{L\downarrow} \Big) \\ R_S^{L\downarrow} = R_{SD}^{L\downarrow} + \Psi_{WS} \Big( \varepsilon_W \sigma T_{W1}^4 + (1 - \varepsilon_W) R_{W1}^{L\downarrow} \Big) + \Psi_{WS} \Big( \varepsilon_W \sigma T_{W2}^4 + (1 - \varepsilon_W) R_{W2}^{L\downarrow} \Big)$$

Differences between the schemes:

Masson (2000) integrates over all the possible streets directions

Kusaka et al. (2001) and Martilli et al. (2002) consider predominant streets directions

Martilli et al. (2002) consider several numerical levels in the canopy and vertical distribution of buildings heights.

### Validations

Masson 2000 over Marseille (from Lemonsu et al. 2004)



### Validations





## Moreover there are additional anthropogenic sources of heat.



From Ichinose et al. 1999 for Tokyo

In limited areas, they can reach peaks of hundreds of  $W/m^2$ . Of the same order of the the solar radiation.

Injected as a source term in the atmosphere





Important in estimates of energy savings for UHI mitigation strategies.

The air temperature in the building  $T_r$  is estimated from

$$\frac{\partial T_r}{\partial t} = \frac{H_{in\,surf} + H_{vent} + H_{eq} + H_{occ} + H_{a.cond.}}{V_{air}\rho C_P}$$

Sensible heat exchanged between internal surfaces (walls, pavements, roofs) and internal air.

$$H_{in.surf} = \sum_{i} A_{wi} C_{wi} (T_{wi} - T_r)$$

 $A_{wi}$  = area of the surface  $C_{wi}$  = exchange coefficient  $T_{wi}$  = internal surface temperature.



To estimate the surface temperature an energy budget is solved at the internal surfaces, accounting for solar radiation entering from windows.



The walls and roof temperature calculation can be coupled with the one presented before.

Exchange of heat between the interior and exterior of the buildings through exchange of air masses.

 $H_{vent} = C_p \rho V_a (T_a - T_r)$   $T_a = \text{external air temperature.}$  $V_a = \text{ventilation rate.}$ 

Ventilation rate is a function of window opening, infiltration, architecture, wind speed, temperature difference between interior and

exterior.



Wind towers in Yazd, Iran

- 'Collateral' importance of this term:
- •Potential for natural cooling ventilation systems
- •Exchanges of pollutants outdoor-indoor.

### Sensible heat generated by equipments



$$H_{eq} = \sum_{j} \varphi_{j}^{e}(t) q_{j}^{e}$$

 $q_j^e$  Energy generated by the equipment

 $\varphi_j^e(t)$  Period of use the equipment

Sensible heat generated by occupants

$$H_{occ} = \varphi^o(t)q^o$$

*q*<sup>o</sup> Energy generated by one occupant

 $\varphi^{o}(t)$  Number of occupants as a function of time

Air conditioning pumps heat from inside to outside the building. Assuming a full air conditoning case, the internal air temperature is constant. So

$$H_{a.cond.} = - \left( H_{in.surf} + H_{vent} + H_{eq} + H_{occ} \right)$$

If COP is the energy efficiency of the air conditioning system, the cooling energy consumption is



$$E_C = \frac{H_{a.cond.}}{COP}$$

And the waste heat emission (heat input to the atmosphere) is

$$Q_A = E_C + H_{a.cond.} = \frac{COP}{COP+1} H_{a.cond}$$

# **Break** ?





Roughness length (z0)~of 1-3 m,. Based on similarity theory that assumes that turbulent fluxes are constant with height in the surface layer.

### However....

Turbulent fluxes are not constant with height (Rotach 1993) in the Urban Roughness Sublayer (1-3 times mean building heigth). The similarity theory cannot be applied.





To parameterize the canopy it is common to use a drag (or porosity) approach, mutuated from vegetation canopy modelling

### Mathematical formulation

Consider a volume of air within the urban canopy (e. g. the grid cell of the model)



the spatial average of a flow quantity over the volume is

$$\langle \phi \rangle = \frac{1}{V} \int_{V} \phi(x) dV$$

Then the fluctuation from the average is

$$\widetilde{\phi}(x) = \phi(x) - \left\langle \phi \right\rangle$$

So, the spatially-averaged Navier-Stokes equations become



This term is not zero because the volume is not simply connected. If the volume is not simply connected, derivation and integration do not commute

Def. simply connected= property of a surface or other space such that any closed curve within it can be continuously shrunk to a point without leaving the space.

### View from the top



building



$$\left\langle \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial x_i} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{V} \int_V \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial x_i} dV = \frac{1}{V} \int_S \tilde{p} n_i da$$

Link with pressure fluctuation on building surfaces (Gauss theorem)

Approaches to parameterize this term are mutuated from vegetation canopy modelling. Small differences between the approaches.

i=1,2, e. g. the drag force is horizontal

Uno et al., 1989  

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial x_i} \right\rangle = -\rho C_d \eta a(z) \langle u_i \rangle \left( \langle u_1 \rangle^2 + \langle u_2 \rangle^2 \right)^{1/2}$$
  
 $a(z) = building surface area density,  $\eta$  fraction of building area,  $C_d = 0.1$$ 

Sievers, 1990

 $\left| \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} \right\rangle = -\rho C_d w_f \left\langle u_i \right\rangle \left| \left\langle \vec{u} \right\rangle \right|$ 

Brown and Williams, 1998  $\left\langle \frac{\partial \widetilde{p}}{\partial x_i} \right\rangle = -\rho f_{roof} C_d a(z) \langle u_i \rangle |\langle u_i \rangle|$ 

Martilli et al. 2002,

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial \widetilde{p}}{\partial x_i} \right\rangle = -\rho C_d \frac{S_w}{V_{air}} \left\langle u_i^{ort} \right\rangle \left| \left\langle u_i^{ort} \right\rangle \right|$$

 $w_f$  wall area density,  $C_d=0.2$ 

a(z)=building surface area

 $f_{roof}$ =horizontal fraction of model grid covered by buildings, a(z)building surface area density

> $S_w$  wall surface in the cell,  $V_{air}$ =air volume of the cell,  $u^{ort}$  = wind component ortogonal street direction,  $C_d = 0.4$

Coceal and Belcher 2004

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial \widetilde{p}}{\partial x_i} \right\rangle = -\rho C_d \frac{\lambda_f}{(1-\beta)} \langle u_i \rangle |\langle \vec{u} \rangle|$$

 $\lambda f$  total frontal area per unit ground area,  $(1-\beta)$ =fractional volume of the cell occupied by air,  $C_d=1$ .

### Parameterization of the turbulent fluxes in the UCL

Coceal and Belcher, 2004

$$\left\langle \overline{u_i' u_j'} \right\rangle = -2l_m^2 |S| S_{ij}$$
$$S_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial U_j}{\partial x_i} \right)$$
$$|S| = \left( 2S_{ij} S_{ij} \right)^{1/2}$$

 $l_m$  is a spatially averaged turbulence integral length scale, estimated as

$$\frac{1}{l_m} = \frac{1}{kz} + \frac{1}{l_c}$$

And  $l_c$  is deduced imposing that at the top of the canopy h

$$\frac{1}{kh} + \frac{1}{l_c} = \frac{1}{k(h-d)}$$

With d displacement height

$$\frac{d}{h} = 1 + A^{-\lambda_p} \left( \lambda_p - 1 \right)$$

 $\lambda_p$  Plan area density

#### From Coceal and Belcher, 2004





Figure 13. Deceleration of mean wind at half the roughness element height through canopy of roughness elements. Comparison of the urban canopy model with the measurements of Davidson *et al.* (1995, 1996). The canopy lies between x/b = 0 and 18; *b* is defined in Fig. 12.

Another approach is to solve a TKE budget and then estimate the turbulent exchange coefficients from TKE.

To do this, an extra term must be added in the TKE eqn. (it can be derived with similar arguments as it was done for momentum).

$$\frac{\partial \rho E}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial \rho U_i E}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial \rho \overline{ew}}{\partial z} + \rho K_z \left[ \left( \frac{\partial U_x}{\partial z} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial U_y}{\partial z} \right)^2 \right] - \frac{g}{\theta_o} \rho K_z \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} - \varepsilon + D_E$$

Uno et al., 1989  

$$\rho C_d \eta a(z) \left( \left| \left\langle u_1 \right\rangle \right|^3 + \left| \left\langle u_2 \right\rangle \right|^3 \right)$$
Brown and Williams, 1998  

$$D_E = \rho f_{roof} C_d a(z) \sum_i \left| \left\langle u_i \right\rangle \right|^3$$
Martilli et al. 2002,

$$D_E = \rho C_{drag} \left| U_{IU}^{ort} \right|^3 \frac{S^{V}_{IU}}{V_{IU} - V_{IUbuild}}$$

The physical meaning of the term is to accelerate the transfer of energy from mean to turbulent motions (or from large to small scales).



Buildings are very efficients in breaking large eddies in smaller ones.

In a K-l turbulence closure (one of the most used in mesoscale models), the dissipation and the diffusion coefficents are estimated using a length scale.

$$\frac{\partial \rho E}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial \rho U_i E}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial \rho \overline{ew}}{\partial z} + \rho K_z \left[ \left( \frac{\partial U_x}{\partial z} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial U_y}{\partial z} \right)^2 \right] - \frac{g}{\theta_o} \rho K_z \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z}$$
$$- \rho C_\varepsilon \frac{E^{3/2}}{I_\varepsilon} + D_E \qquad K_z = C_k I_k E^{1/2} \qquad \left\langle \overline{u'w'} \right\rangle = -K_z \frac{\partial U}{\partial z}$$

In rural area the length scale is proportional to the height above ground. Martilli et al. 2002 proposed two modifications for urban areas.



### **Reynolds Stress**

### From Martilli et al. 2002



### How to improve ?



Use street canyon CFD models to derive properties of the mean flow and parameterizations for mesoscale models.



Buildings are explicitly resolved. Simulation at high resolution, but for very small domain.



Figure 1. 2D and 3D building arrays in the USBPA meteorological wind tunnel.

CFD models validated against wind tunnel data.

CFD simulation with model FLUENT of flow over an array of obstacles. Reproduction of wind tunnel experiment of M. Brown at U.S. EPA. (For more about the results, see Jose Luis Santiago's presentation).



Spatial average of the results over thin slices of building-canyon units, and over the whole array. These is the closest to the average needed for mesoscale models.





### Turbulent fluxes

CFD model gives stationary solutions comparables with wind tunnel data. In which sense are the results stationary?

What is stationary is a time average of the results. The average is performed over a time scale larger than the time scale of the turbulent motions.

The turbulent fluxes computed by the CFD model are locally time averaged turbulent fluxes  $\overline{u'w'(x)} = \frac{1}{2} \int (u(x,t) - \overline{u}(x))(w(x,t) - \overline{w}(x))dt$ 

$$u'w'(x) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{T} (u(x,t) - u(x))(w(x,t) - w(x))dt$$
  
$$\overline{u}(x) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{T} u(x,t)dt, \qquad \overline{w}(x) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{T} w(x,t)dt$$

CFD output

In reality they are also a space average over the grid cell, but since the grid cell of a CFD is very small, this is the most important part.

However, when the time and space average is made over a volume large enough (e. g. containing one or more street canyons), the subgrid fluxes arising from the spatial average must be accounted for.  $\langle \overline{u} \rangle$ 



To see it, it is useful to split the variable (e. g. wind speed) in three parts.

 $u(x,t) = \langle \overline{u} \rangle + \widetilde{u}(x) + u'(x,t)$  $\widetilde{u}(x) = \langle \overline{u} \rangle - \overline{u}(x)$  $u'(x,t) = u(x,t) - \langle \overline{u} \rangle - \overline{u}(x)$ 

Brackets indicate the spatial average, and overbars the time average

- $\widetilde{u}$  is the spatial variation of the time mean flow around individual roughness elements
- u' is the turbulent fluctuation (changing in time)

Averaging the momentum flux we have, then



And the dispersive stress is neglected.

Is this the case for an urban canopy? We can estimate both terms from CFD results.



More important at city boundaries, less inside.





The most common way to parameterize the Reynolds stress is through an eddy diffusivity



### It is of interest to plot this ratio



When a TKE-1 model is used, two length scales are needed to estimate the dissipation, and the eddy diffusivities. From the CFD data we can derive these two length scales.



### Test case

### Wind speed 3/ms Mean building height 15m



Sapporo (Uno et al. 1988)  $Z_h$  =40-60m,  $Z_t$  =90-100m St. Louis (Godowitch et al. 1985)  $Z_h$  =150m,  $Z_t$  =325+/-105m

From Martilli, 2002

### **Building height and H/W ratio**



Night time

Temperature (C)







### Night time

### Conclusion

Today there is the knowledge and CPU power to make high resolution simulations of UCL and UBL, considering building energy, turbulent and sub-grid fluxes in the UCL.



ONE numerical tool able to:

- •Investigate UBL and UCL structure
- •Estimate efficiency of air pollution abatement strategies
- •Estimate efficiency of UHI mitigation strategies
- •Account for cross interactions between these strategies



### THE END





### Thank you.