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# Combined Fire Safety and Comfort Study Using Moment Independent and Variance Based Method

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### Introduction



# Sustainable or safety design?

New buildings must enhance passive design strategies, especially in tropical context, as well as a high safety level. Considering fire safety and thermal comfort as the root of a sustainable project, one should be careful of the interactions that can exist between these two key considerations, especially in **passive buildings**.

# **Comfort and safety measures**







# Sensitivity Analysis

The key idea consists in representing the output Variance  $V_Y$  (4) as a summation of increasing order terms:

$$V_Y = \sum_{i=1}^p V_i + \sum_{1 \le i \le j \le p} V_{ij} + \dots + V_{1\dots p}$$
(4)

With  $V_Y$  the variance of the output distribution. The  $V_i$  (5) and  $V_{ii}$  (6) terms can be calculated as follows:

 $V_i = V(E[Y|X_i])$  (5)  $V_{ij} = V(E[Y|X_i, X_j]) - V_i - V_j$  (6)

Sobol' (1990) introduced his first (7) and second (8) order indices while Homma and Saltelli (1996) worked on a total order index (9), which is define as the sum of all order sensitivity indices relative to the parameters  $X_i$  as follows:

The extended Givoni's (Givoni, 1969) zones proposed by Lenoir (2013) are chosen here to define the thermal comfort index named C (1)

$$C = \frac{Nb_{values} - \sum_{1}^{Nb_{values}} Nb_{(T_{air} > 30^{\circ}C \text{ or } HR_{int} > 80\%)}}{Nb_{values}}$$
(1)

The index selected for fire safety evaluation, S (2), is based on three threshold values (Allard et al. 2011) : The maximal upper layer temperature (ULT), the lower layer temperature (LLT) and the minimal layer height (LH) with respect to the French fire safety regulation for LH.

$$S = \frac{Nb_{values} - \sum_{1}^{Nb_{values}} Nb_{(T_{ULT} > 206^{\circ}C \text{ or } T_{LLT} > 60^{\circ}C \text{ or } LH < 1,80m)}{Nb_{values}}$$
(2)

Nb represents the number of values or number of simulation points.

 $I = \alpha \times \mathbf{S} + \beta \times \mathbf{C}$ 

### Normalized index (3) associating comfort and safety

$$S_i = \frac{V_i}{V_y}$$
 (7)  $S_{ij} = \frac{V_{ij}}{V_y}$  (8)  $S_{T_i} = \sum_{k \neq i} S_k$  (9)

With #i, all the indices that contain i (i, ij, ijk, ijkl ...).

## Results

# Sensitivity Analysis / Total order measurements

Flow_rate			
Window_soffit_height			
Room_height			
Window_width			
Outdoor_temperature			
Room_lenght			
Window_sill_height			
Room_width			
Indoor_temperature	Combined study		
Orientation	Thermal Comfort alone	9	
Floor_thickness_concrete			TabalOndan
Relative_Humidity	Fire Safety alone		lotal Urder
Wall_thickness_insulation			Indices ST for
Wall_thickness_plasterboard			the combined
Wall_thinckness_cladding			and the
Roof_thickness_plasterboard			dissociated
Roof_thickness_deck			studies, with
Roof_thickness_insulation			α=0.5

 $\beta = (1 - \alpha) \in [0, 1]$  (3)

0.5 2.5 Total Order indices

Case Study

#### **Common parameters**

Window geometry : sill, soffit, width Room geometry : sill height, soffit height, window width Ventilation: flow rate



**EnergyPlus parameters** Wall thickness: material cladding, insulation, plasterboard Roof material thickness: deck, insulation, plasterboard Floor material thickness: concrete

Room orientation : 1 parameter

#### **CFAST parameters :**

Indoor conditions: Temperature, Relative Humidity Outdoor condition: Temperature



#### The first two parameters are the same for the global and the dissociated studies.

# **Conflicting parameter**



or  $\alpha = 0.1$ 

On the one hand, increasing flow rate also increases the global index when the emphasis is laid on fire safety ( $\alpha$ =0.9). On the other hand, it can be observed that the **global index decreases**, when considering thermal comfort with a greater weight ( $\alpha$ =0.1). The **flow rate** is identify here as conflicting

## Conclusion



This study presented a **combined study methodology** in order to assess both thermal comfort and fire safety in buildings, using sensitivity analysis and probability density function analysis. The results obtained demonstrated the importance of considering both comfort and fire safety targets together, knowing that these two considerations have common inputs parameters. The use of probability density function allowed to identify the flow rate as a **contentious parameter**.

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