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Microclimatic modeling and simulation tools : an academic benchmark

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General framework

DIAMS PROJECT

- **Objective:** Evaluate the contribution of thermal infrared satellite measurements in support of numerical modeling for urban climatology for the diagnosis and monitoring of overheating from the urban to the building scale, for use by local authorities.
- **First step:** Qualification of various urban microclimate models developed or used by the consortium

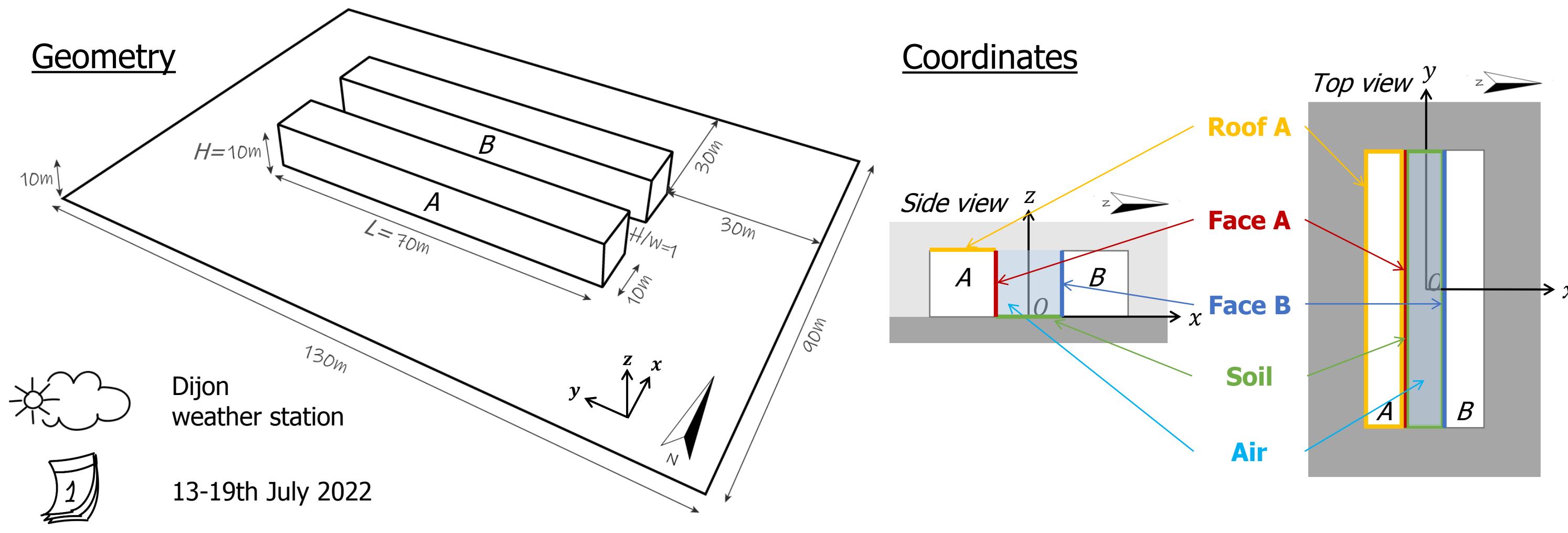
Challenges for the model qualification:

- heterogeneous, open and large space integrating multiple physical phenomena at different scales
- very large amount of data to have a good knowledge of the area (materials, vegetation, heat sources...)
- very large number of variables (temperatures, air speed and humidity, radiation, surface temperatures...)

→ Definition of an academic benchmark based on a simplified configuration

Methodology

CONFIGURATION



PROCEDURE

1. Separated phenomena study (I, II, III)
 2. Incremental phenomena coupling (IV, V)
- + variant cases to study models sensitivity

PARAMETRIZATION

Solar radiation	Infrared radiation	Aeraulic	Heat conduction and storage
albedo soil 0.15 / 0.3	emissivity soil 0.9	Surface roughness 0 m	
albedo walls 0.4 / 0.55	emissivity walls 0.9 (0 transmittivity)	Wind direction 0° / 45°	
albedo roof 0.2	emissivity roof 0.9 (0 transmittivity)		
direct horizontal flux 194.2 - 603.5 - 112.5 W/m ²	T _s wall 25 °C / 35°C (faceA)		
diffuse horizontal flux 128.0 - 263.1 - 115.3 W/m ²	T _s roof 25 °C		
atmosphere Transparent air	T _s soil 17 °C		
Date: 07/18 at 6:30 am - 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Incident horizontal flux sky model 394.4 W/m ²		
Output variable: global incident SW flux [W/m ²]	Isotropic atmosphere		
Compared models : MATHIS, SOLENE-MICROCLIMAT, TRABOULE, MONTE-CARLO (reference calculation [1])	Transparent air		

URBAN MICROCLIMATE MODELS

MATHIS [2]	SUSHI [3]	SOLENE-MICROCLIMAT [4]	TRABOULE [5]
Radiosity	Radiosity	Radiosity	RTE resolution (FV) + absorption
Detail levels	••	••	•••
Heat conduction and storage	FD method	Transfer functions (FS)	RC / FE methods
Detail levels	1D multi-layers	1D quadrupoles (1/material)	1D multi-layers
Aeraulic	Simplified parametrization	Empirical correlations	CFD (code SATURNE [6]) RANS $k - \varepsilon$
Detail levels	-	-	CFD (PROLB [7]) LBM-LES

FD: finite differences / FE: finite elements / FS: Fourier space / FV: finite volumes / RC: electrical analogy / RTE: radiative transfer equation

Conclusions

- Definition of a robust strategy to discuss and evaluate the urban microclimate models capabilities
 - Selection of a simplified geometry and common input parameters
 - Gathering of different data types from simulations
 - Results analysis on three levels: surface average, profiles and fields
- Comparable results but with different resolution and objectives for the models

References and acknowledgments

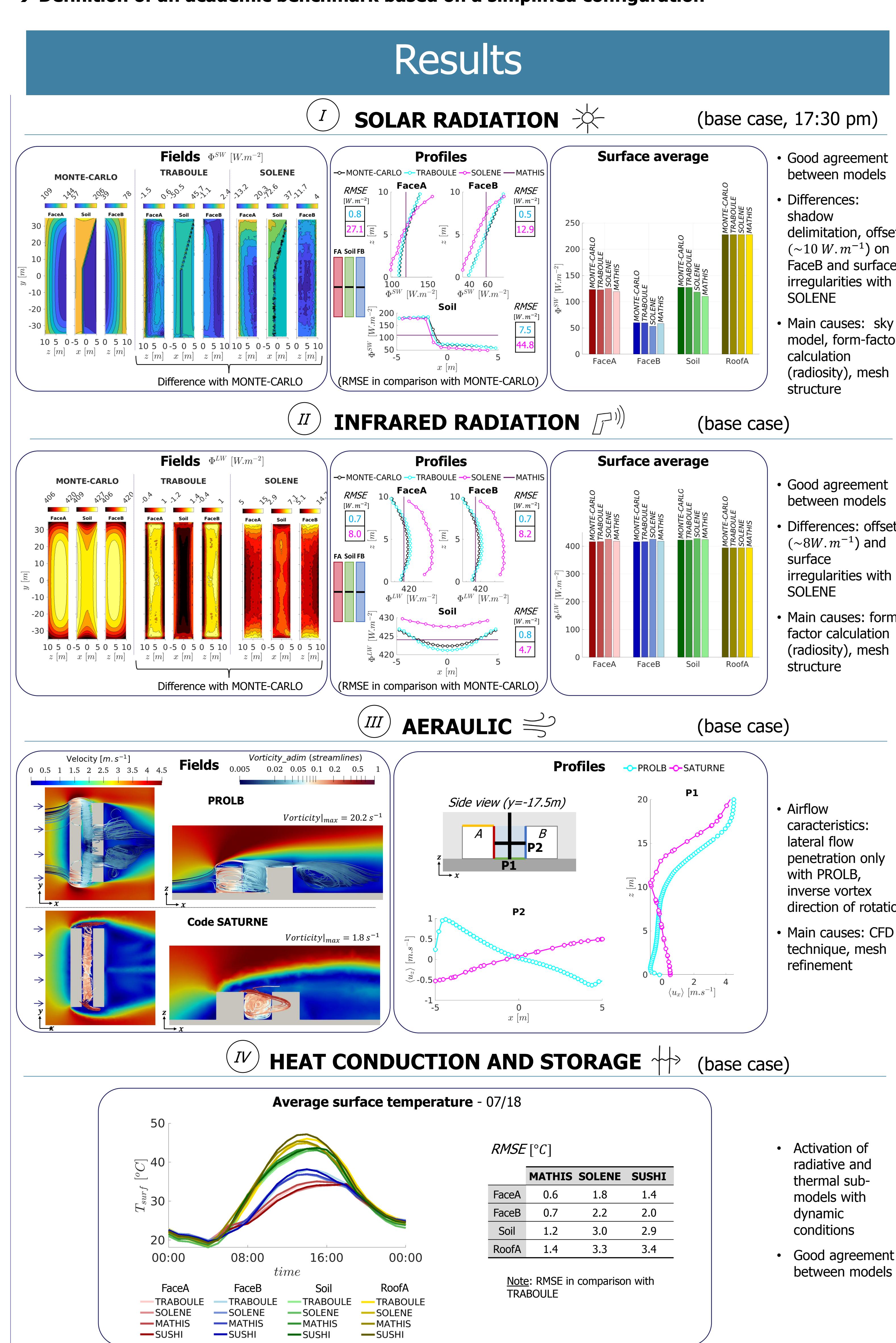
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Perspectives

- Ready-to-use datasets allowing modelers to validate and compare urban microclimatology tools
- Application to a real-life configuration: the experimental campaign CAMCAT (oral presentation n°75)
- Implementation of a complete approach for the validation of urban microclimate models (oral presentation n°191)

- Activation of radiative and thermal sub-models with dynamic conditions
- Good agreement between models

- Good agreement between models
- Differences: shadow delimitation, offset (~10 W·m⁻²) on FaceB and surface irregularities with SOLENE
- Main causes: sky model, form-factor calculation (radiosity), mesh structure

- Good agreement between models
- Differences: offset (~8W·m⁻²) and surface irregularities with SOLENE
- Main causes: form-factor calculation (radiosity), mesh structure

- Airflow characteristics: lateral flow penetration only with PROLB, inverse vortex direction of rotation
- Main causes: CFD technique, mesh refinement