An aerial photograph of a densely populated urban area, likely in a coastal city. The foreground shows a busy street with many people and colorful umbrellas, suggesting a market or festival. The middle ground is filled with a dense cluster of buildings, mostly in shades of beige and white. In the background, the sea is visible under a clear blue sky.

Scale issues for atmospheric modelling at urban scale

Valéry MASSON

Centre National de
Recherches Météorologiques

15 November 2017

Cities & Climate

- 2.7% of land areas
- 55% of world population
- 80% of GDP
(gross domestic product)
- 70% of Green-House Gases emissions



IPCC synthesis report (2014):

In urban areas climate change is projected to increase **risks** for **people, assets, economies** and ecosystems, including risks from **heat stress**, storms and **extreme precipitation**, inland and coastal **flooding**, landslides, air **pollution**, drought, water scarcity, **sea level rise** and storm surges (*very high confidence*)

Cities & Climate

Several actions at international scale



World Weather Research Programme has 4 objectives, 2 related to urban:

1. High Impact Weather and its socioeconomic effect in the context of global change

Urban floods,
Heat & Pollution
in megacities, ...

2. Urbanization:

Research & services for megacities
and large urban complexes



Source: Baklanov, WMO, (2015)

Source: <https://public.wmo.int>

Cities & Climate

Several actions at international scale



World Weather Research Programme has 4 objectives, 2 related to urban:

1. High Impact Weather and its socioeconomic effect in the context of global change

Urban floods,
Heat & Pollution
in megacities, ...

2. Urbanization:

Research & services for megacities
and large urban complexes

scientific issues: [...]
high-resolution modelling,
Grey zone, [...]

Source: Baklanov, WMO, (2015)

Source: <https://public.wmo.int>



Scale issues for modelling at urban scale

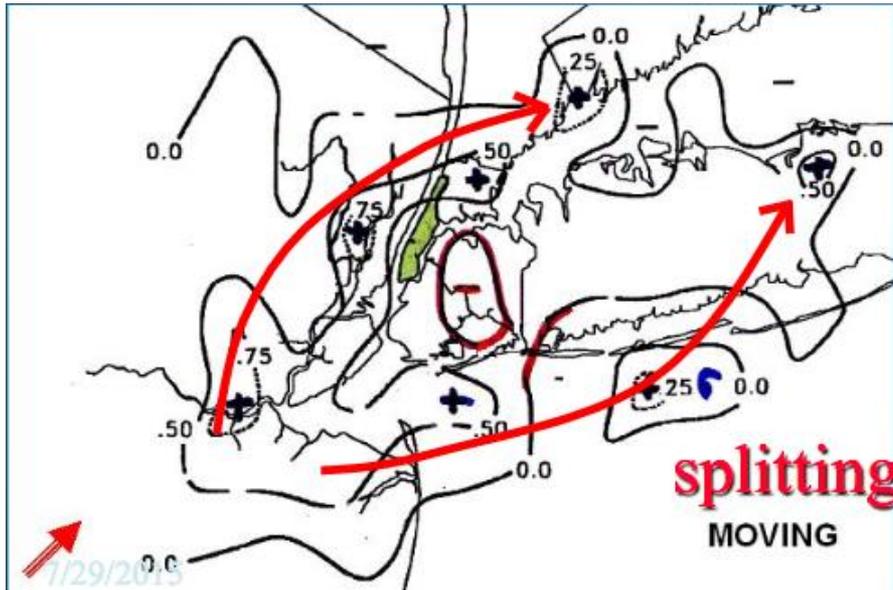
- 1) Mesoscale-impacts on thunderstorms
- 2) Local-scale impacts: the Urban Heat Island
- 3) Modelling
- 4) Description of the cities for models: the « LCZ »
- 5) Which scale for adaptation strategies ?

Scale issues for modelling at urban scale

- 1) Mesoscale-impacts on thunderstorms
- 2) Local-scale impacts: the Urban Heat Island
- 3) Modelling
- 4) Description of the cities for models: the « LCZ »
- 5) Which scale for adaptation strategies ?

Meso-scale Impacts on Thunderstorms

2 mains urban effects



SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Analysis of 2 summers of convection above NYC



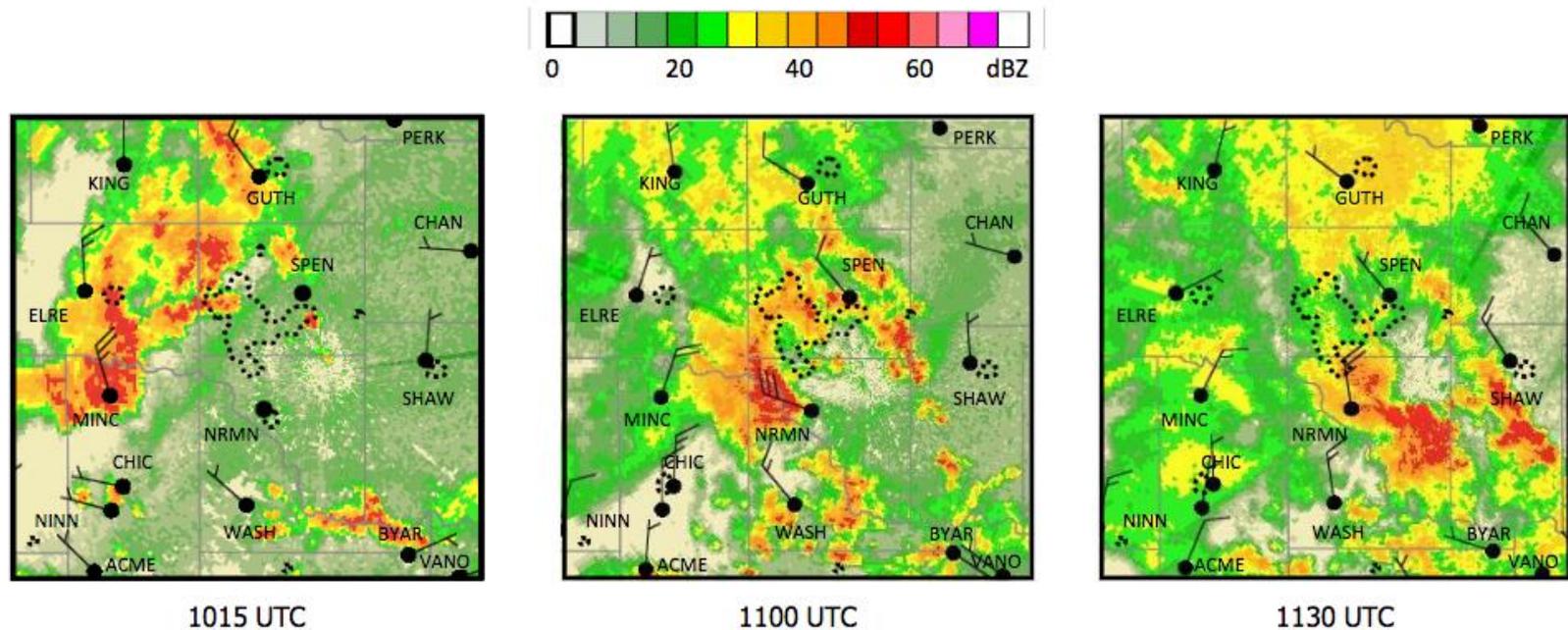
Source: Bornstein and Leroy (1985)

Meso-scale Impacts on Thunderstorms: splitting

The splitting effect is mainly due to the **increased roughness**.

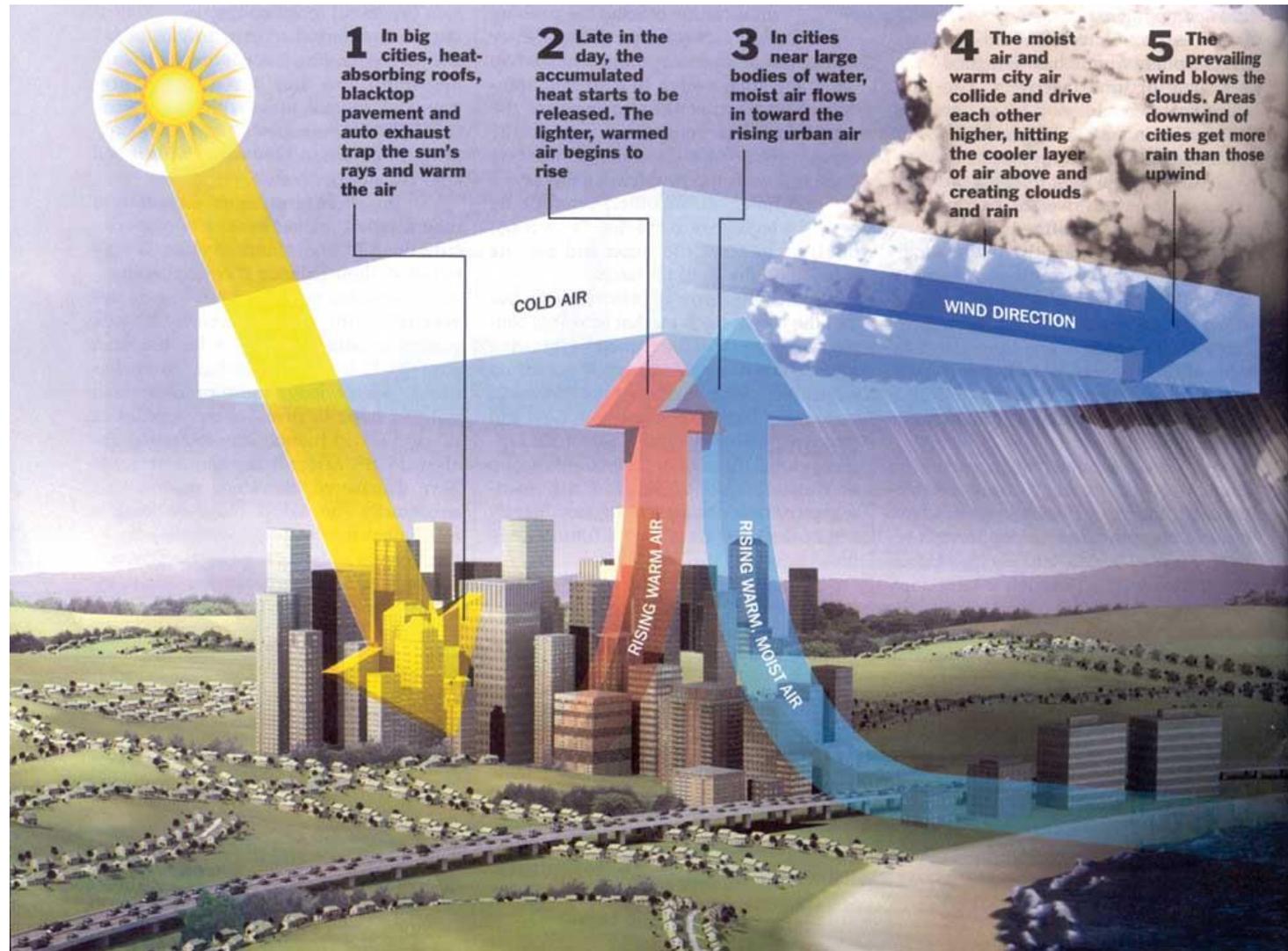
Such effects are mostly studied in USA and China

→ This may be because megacities are prominent obstacles in flat regions



Observed radar reflectivity (dBz) from OKC radar

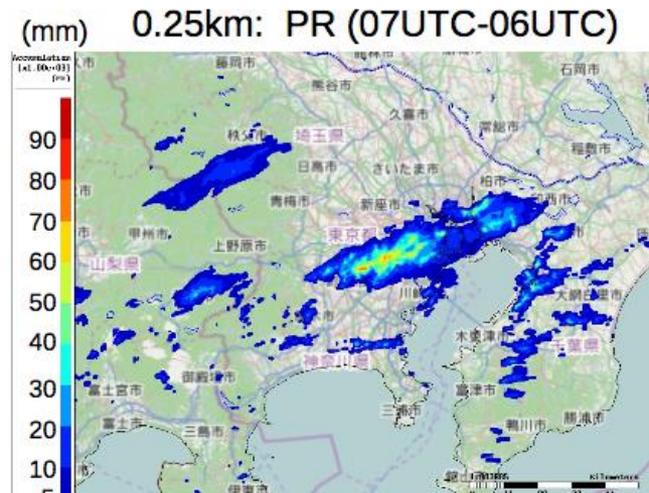
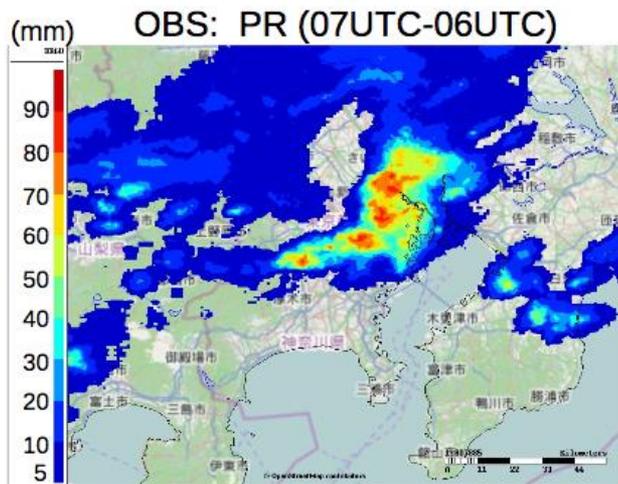
Meso-scale Impacts on Thunderstorms: enhancement



Source: WMO website

Meso-scale Impacts on Thunderstorms: enhancement

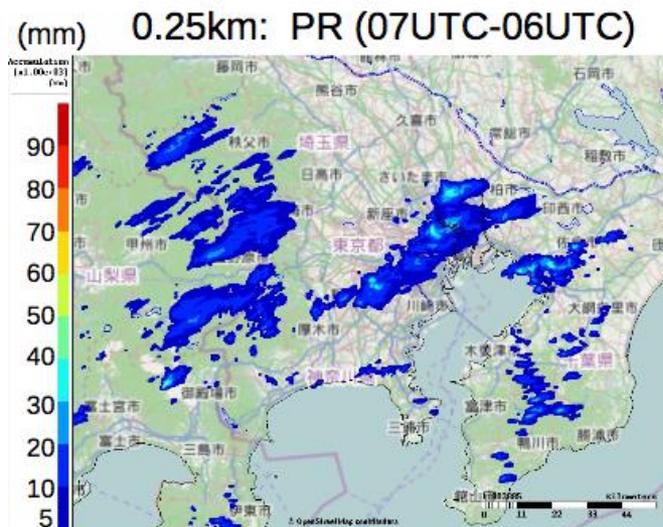
Cas study of 26 August 2011 of flash flood on Tokyo (TOMACS campaign)



Canadian model
GEM at 250m

with
urban scheme

Radar
observations



without
urban scheme



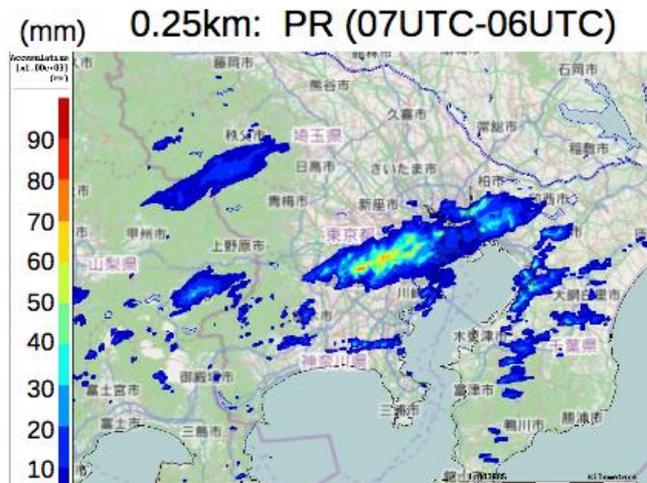
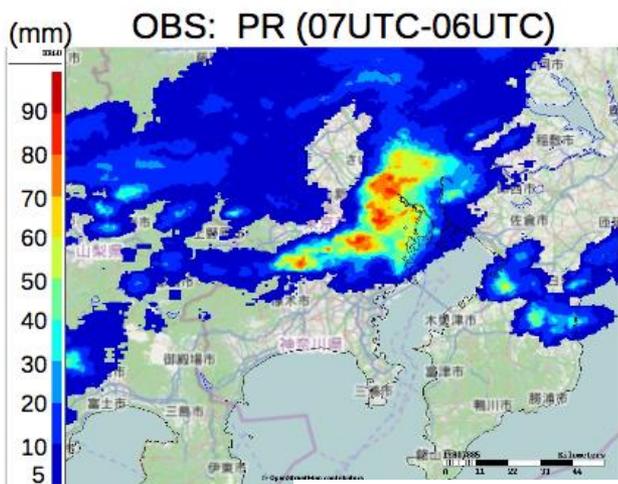
Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Source: *Bélaïr et al,*
2015



Meso-scale Impacts on Thunderstorms: enhancement

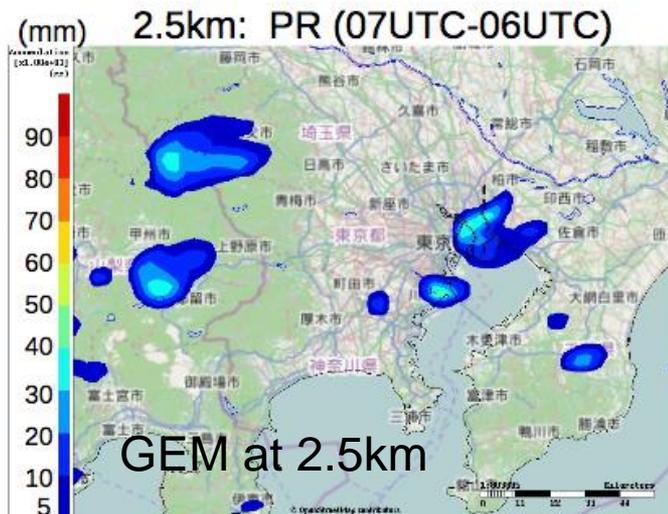
Cas study of 26 August 2011 of flash flood on Tokyo (TOMACS campaign)



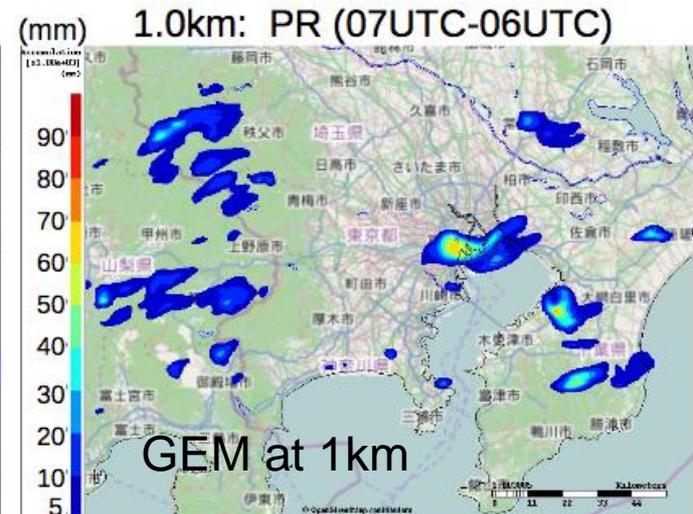
Canadian model
GEM at 250m

with
urban scheme

Radar
observations



GEM at 2.5km



GEM at 1km



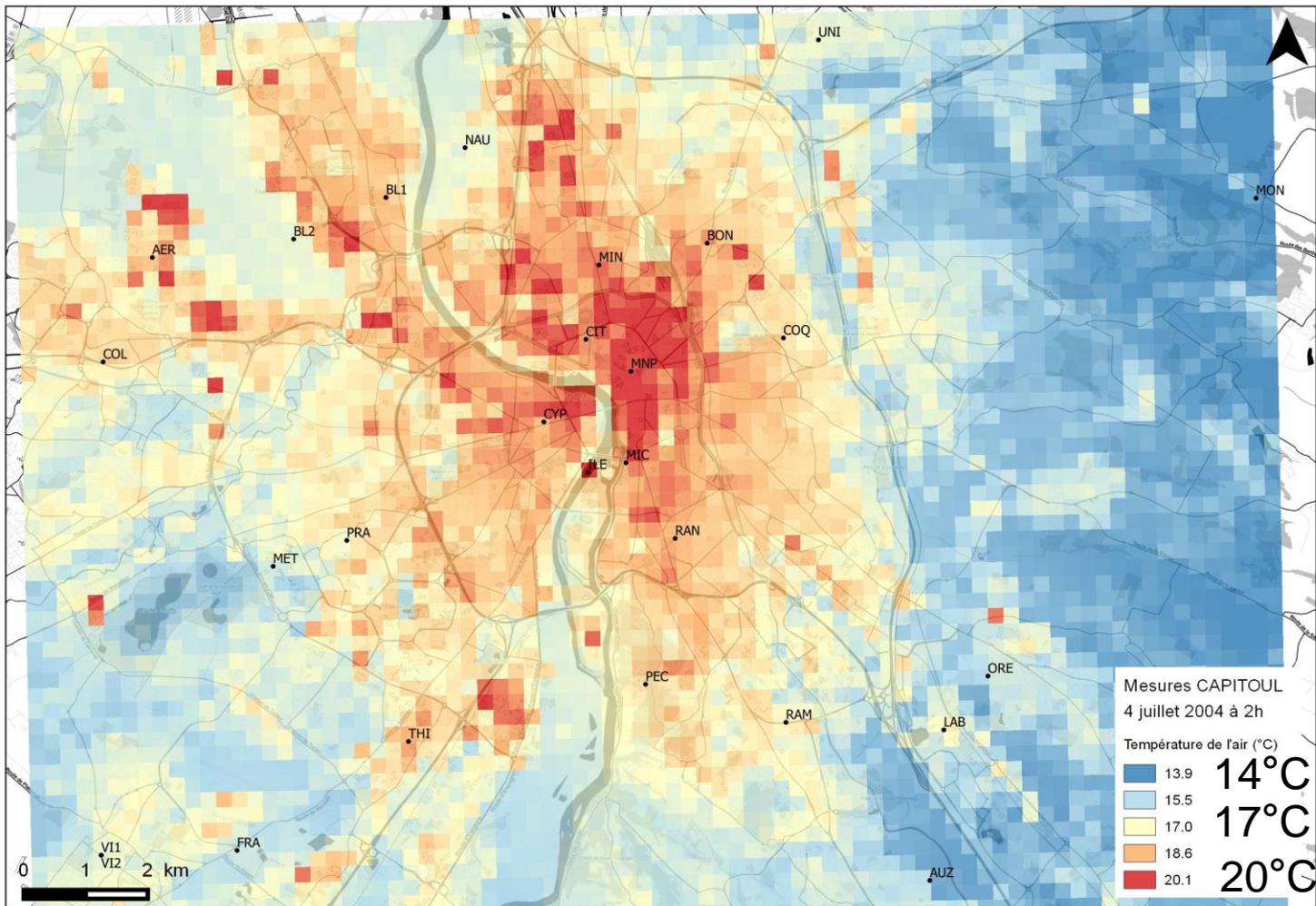
Source: Bélair et al,
2015

Scale issues for modelling at urban scale

- 1) Mesoscale-impacts on thunderstorms
- 2) Local-scale impacts: the Urban Heat Island
- 3) Modelling
- 4) Description of the cities for models: the « LCZ »
- 5) Which scale for adaptation strategies ?

Urban Heat Island (UHI)

One summer night in Toulouse (using measurements from 20 met stations)



Source: J. Hidalgo

Modification of the Surface Energy Balance

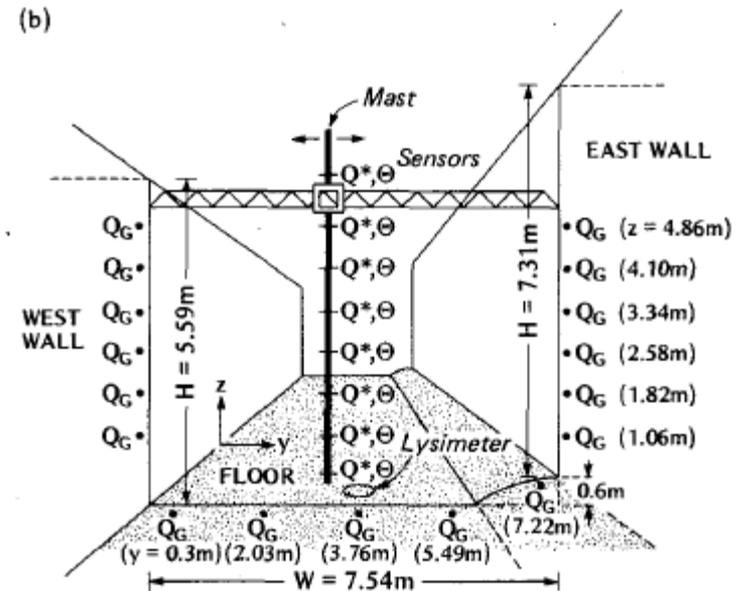
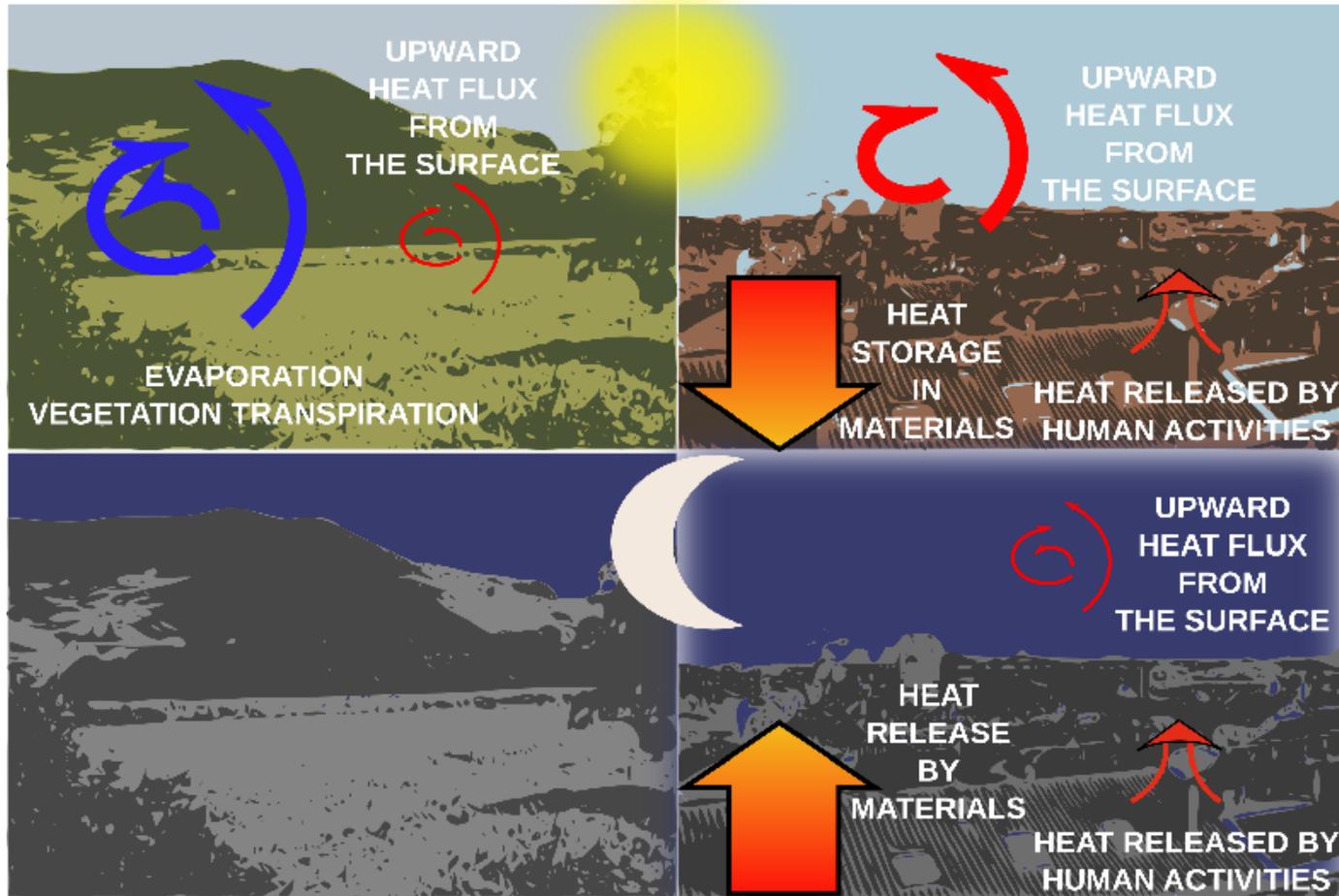


FIG. 2. The experimental urban canyon: (a) actual conditions (note the superstructure shadow on the east wall) and (b) schematic of instrument deployment, dimensions and coordinates.

Source: Nunez & Oke, 1976

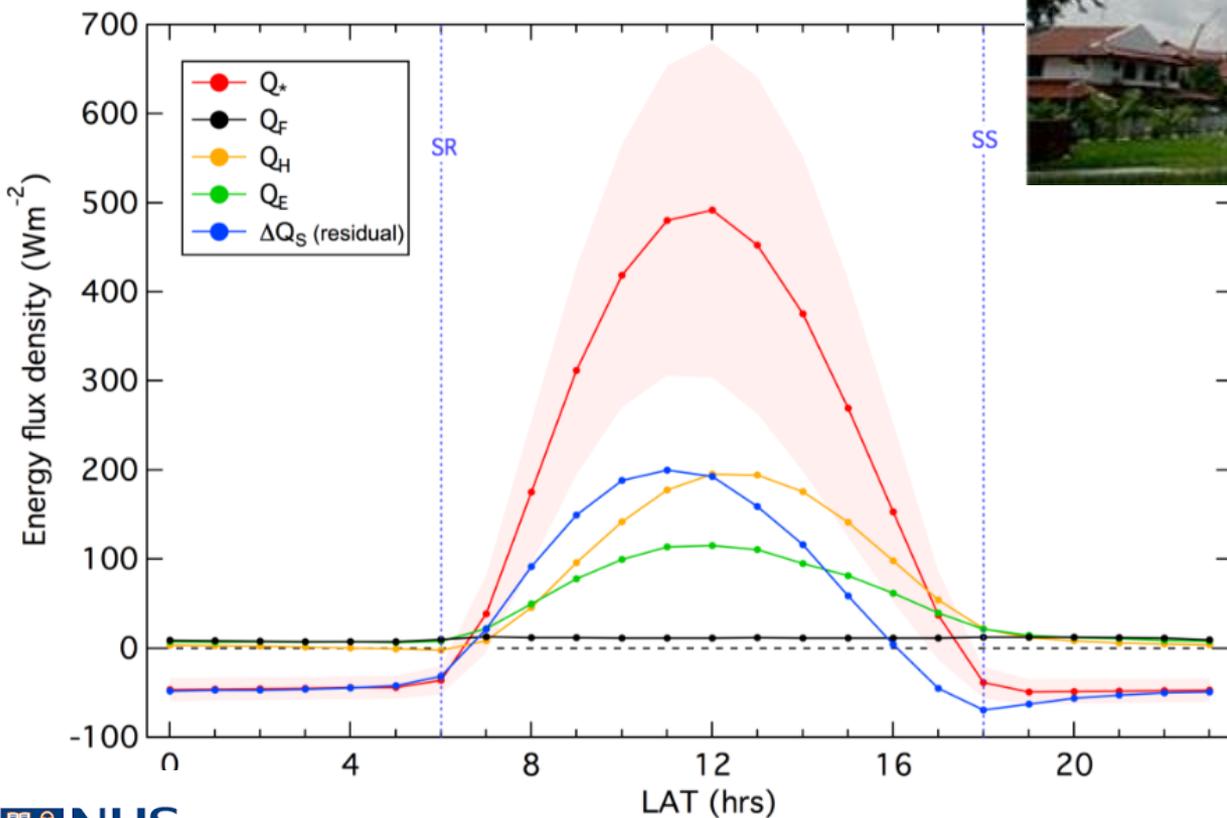


Modification of the Surface Energy Balance



Modification of the Surface Energy Balance

Surface Energy Balance, Singapore



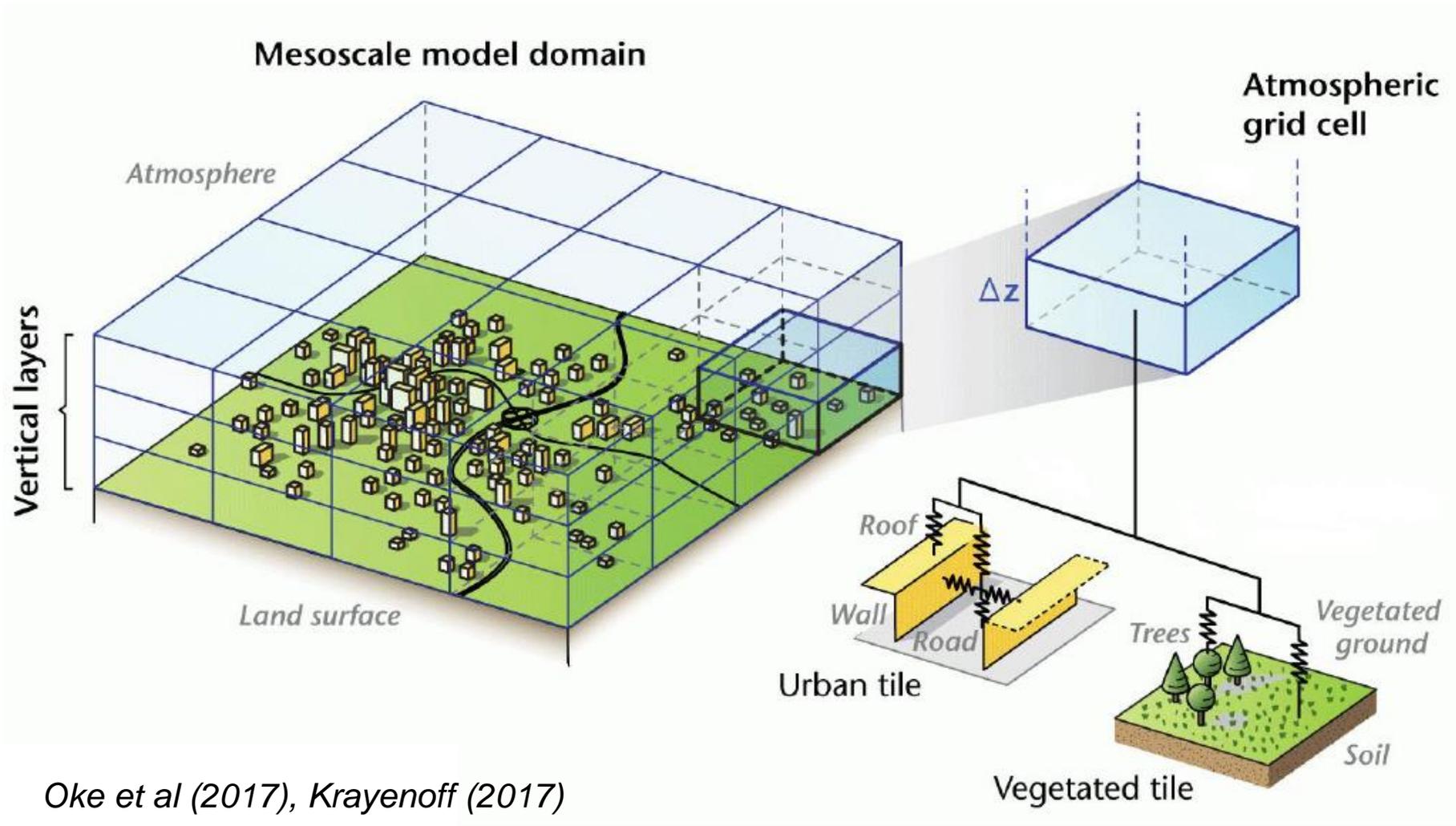
Scale issues for modelling at urban scale

- 1) Mesoscale-impacts on thunderstorms
- 2) Local-scale impacts: the Urban Heat Island
- 3) Modelling
- 4) Description of the cities for models: the « LCZ »
- 5) Which scale for adaptation strategies ?

The old modelling way: rocks !



The Urban Canopy Models (UCM)



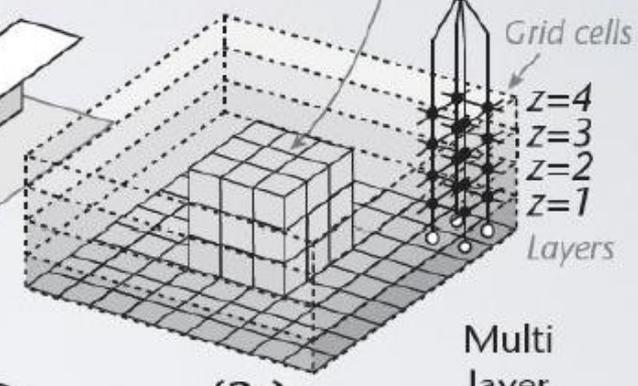
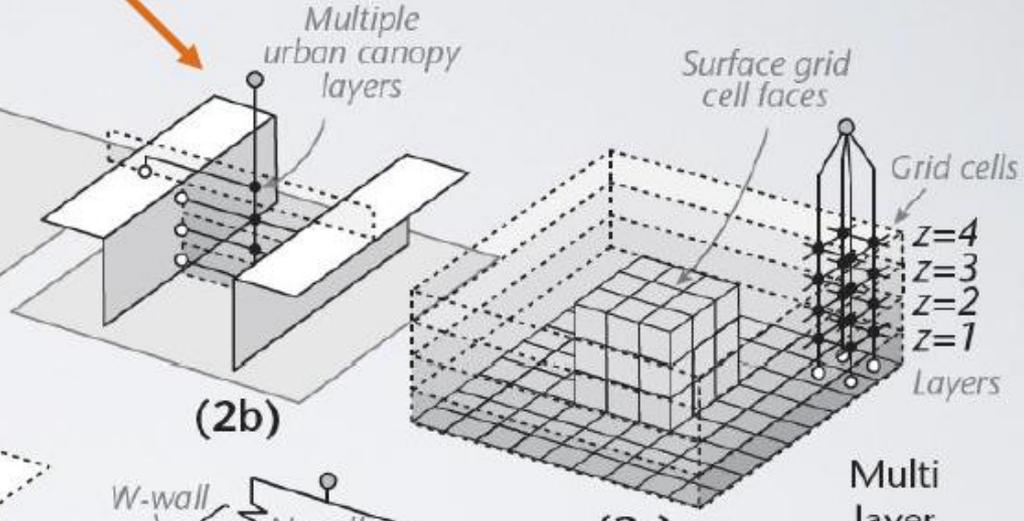
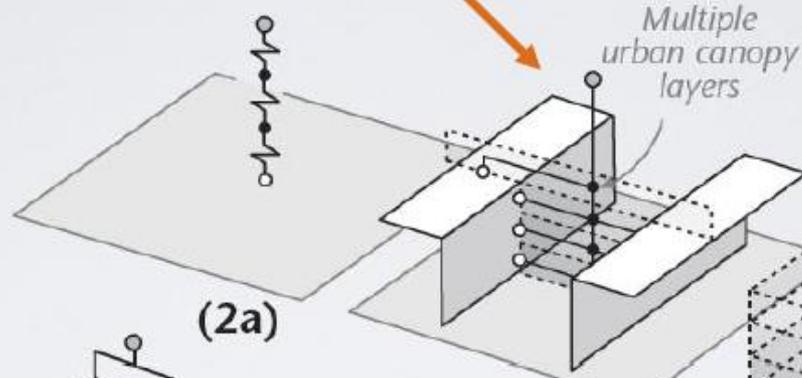
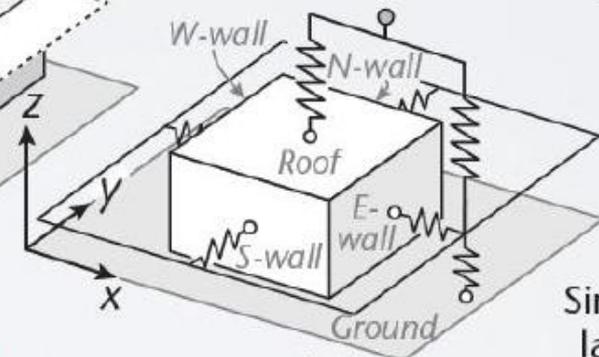
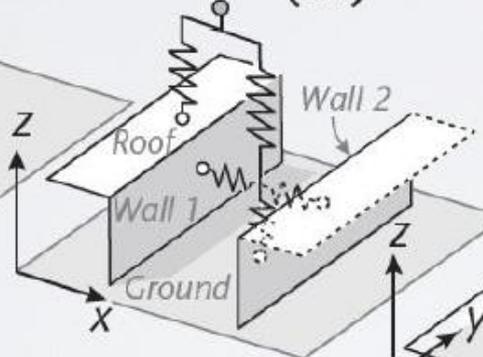
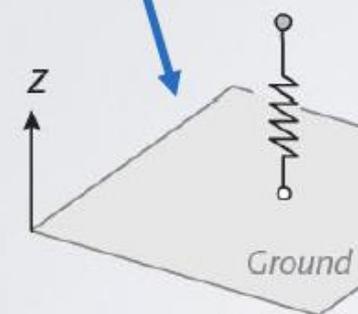
Oke et al (2017), Krayenoff (2017)

The Urban Canopy Models (UCM)

Multi-layer urban canopy model
(Martilli et al. 2002 [BEP])

◦ ISL

Bulk/slab (Up to 2000s)



Single-layer urban canopy model
(Masson, 2000 [TEB]; Kusaka et al. 2001)

Oke et al. 2017

Modelling the Surface Energy Balance: TEB

The Town Energy Balance (TEB) model

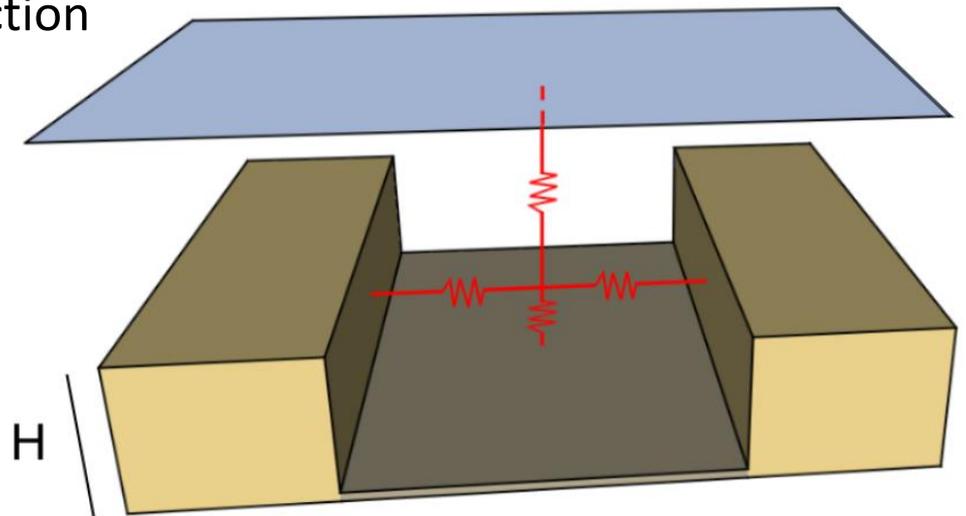
■ Key physical processes of urban climate

- 3D surface (street canyon)
- Radiative exchanges between walls & roads
- Heat Fluxes, Water & Snow, Friction

■ Allows simulation of :

- Impact on Boundary Layer
- Street micro-climate
- Urban Heat Island

■ Coupled in many meteorological models



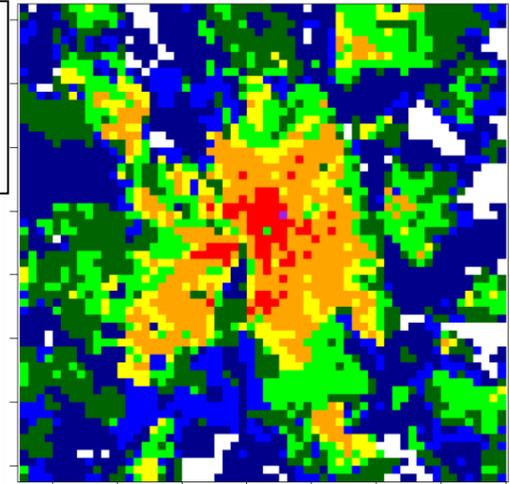
Modelling the Surface Energy Balance: TEB

1) Building Energy Module

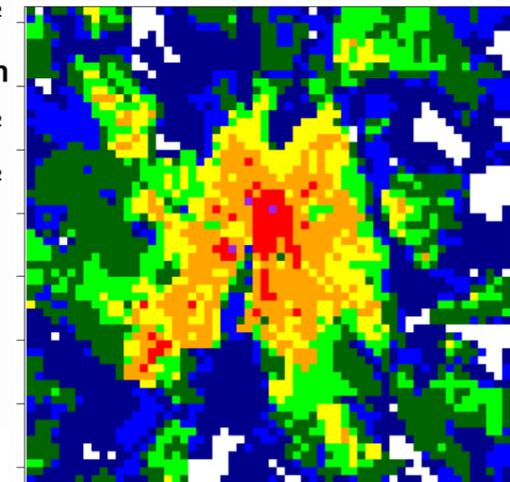
- Energy consumption of buildings

Wintertime building's energy consumption in Toulouse, France

Simulation



Inventory



15 km

(Buono et al 2012, Pigeon et al 2014, Schoetter et al 2017)

Modelling the Surface Energy Balance: TEB

1) Building Energy Module

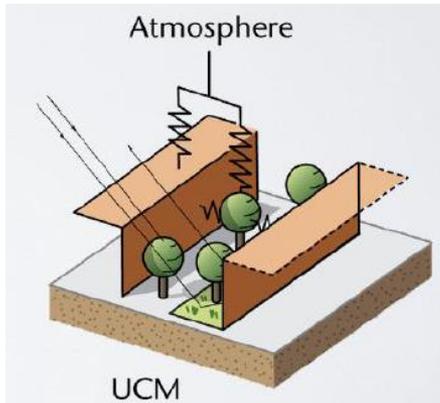
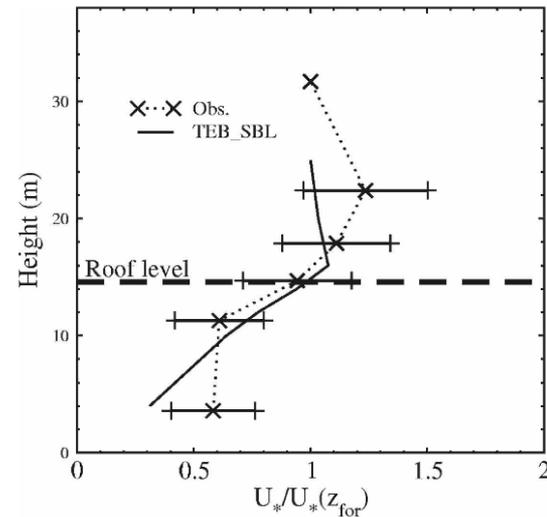
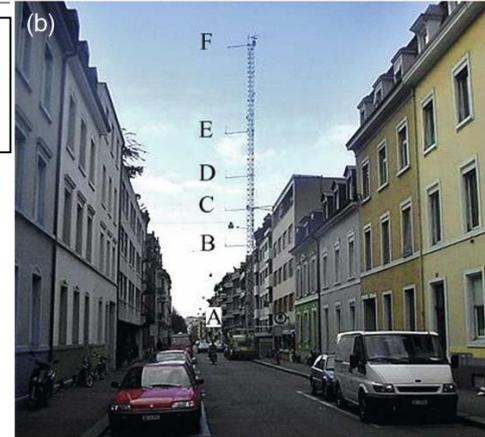
- Energy consumption of buildings

2) Surface Boundary Layer scheme

3) Three types of Urban vegetation

- Gardens, Street trees, green roofs

Validation on Basel
(BUBBLE experiment)



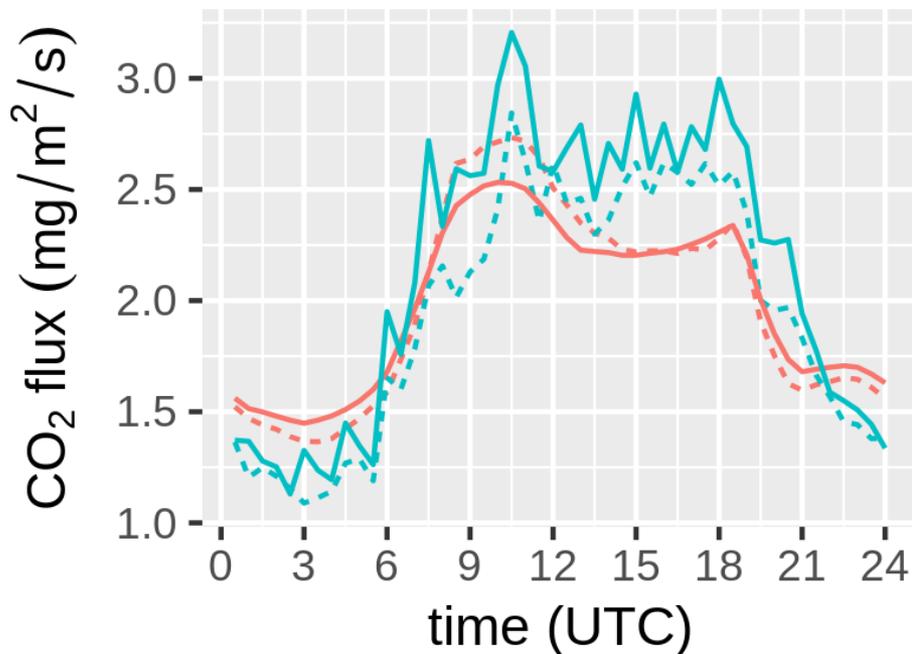
Lemonsu et al 2012, De Munck et al 2013,
Redon et al 2017

Hamdi and Masson 2008

Modelling the Surface Energy Balance: TEB

4) Exemple of applications

- **CO₂ fluxes in cities**
 - **Simulated Buildings + vegetation CO₂ fluxes**



(Goret et al 2018 in prep.)

wintertime, 2005

— mean

- - - median

— model (TEB)

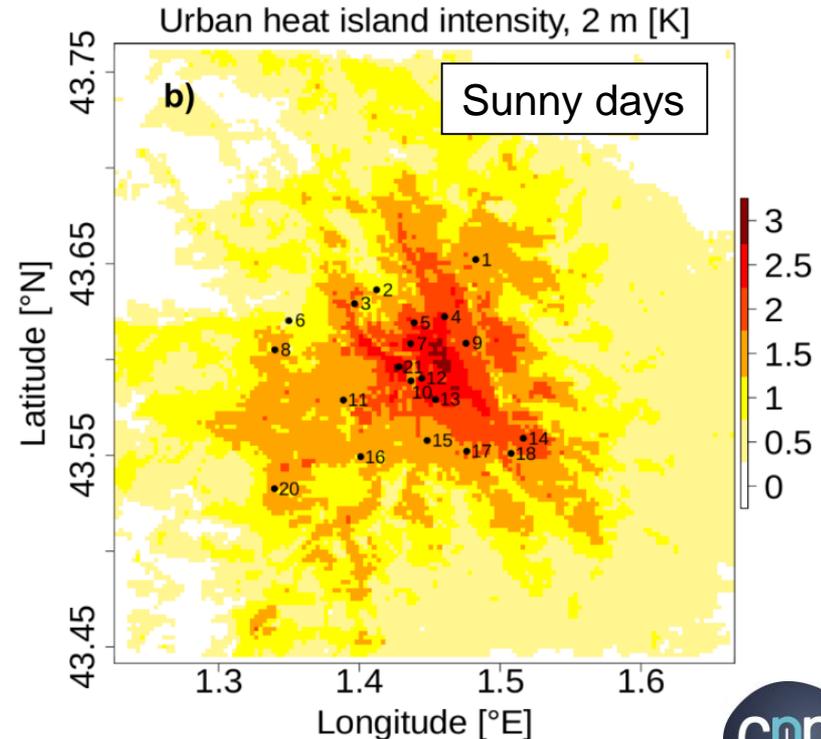
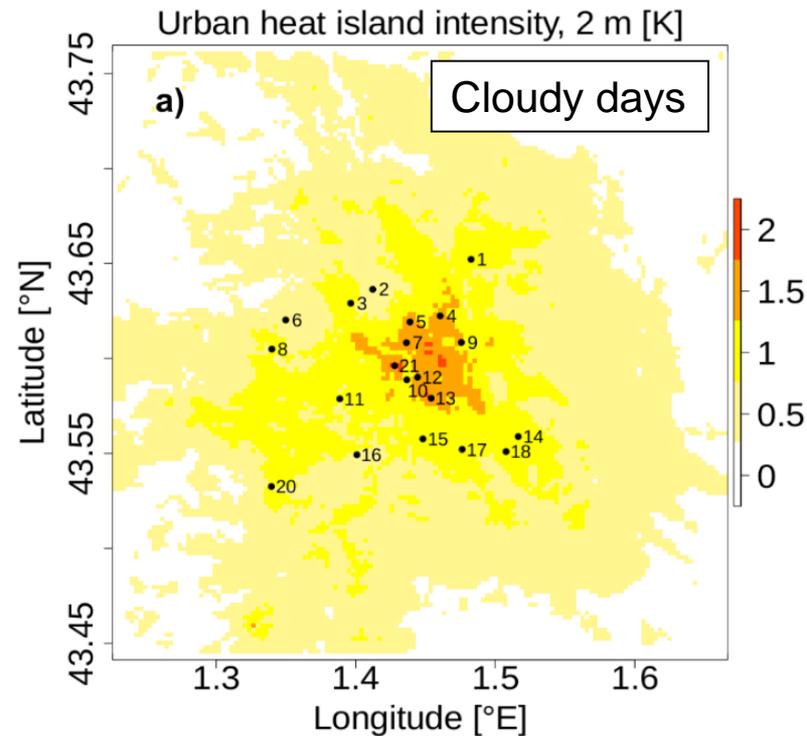
— observations



Modelling the Surface Energy Balance: TEB

UHI simulation in Toulouse (France)

MesoNH model, 250m of resolution
average UHI on 2004 summer



Source: R. Schoetter

Scale issues for modelling at urban scale

- 1) Mesoscale-impacts on thunderstorms
- 2) Local-scale impacts: the Urban Heat Island
- 3) Modelling
- 4) Description of the cities for models: the « LCZ »
- 5) Which scale for adaptation strategies ?

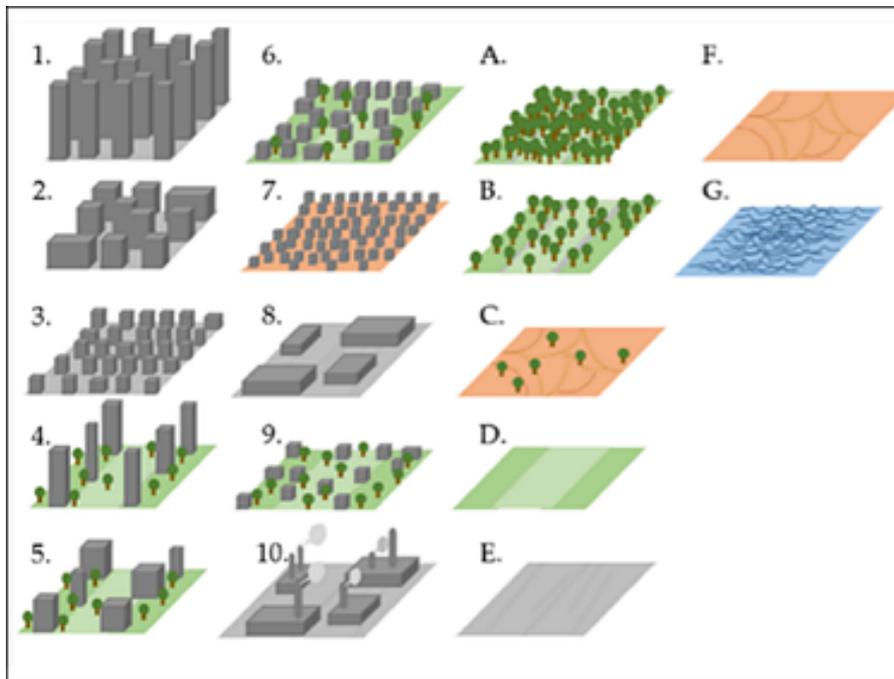
Description of cities: the « Local Climate Zones »

A typology :

-recognized by the Urban Climate community

-10 urban classes

-Link with atmospheric models being developed



LCZ
COMPACT MID-RISE
2

DEFINITION

Form: Attached or closely spaced buildings 3–9 stories tall. Buildings separated by narrow streets and inner courtyards. Buildings uniform in height. Sky view from street level significantly reduced. Heavy construction materials (stone, concrete, brick, tile); thick roofs and walls. Land cover mostly paved or hard-packed. Few or no trees. Moderate space heating/cooling demand. Moderate to heavy traffic flow. *Function:* Residential (multi-unit housing); multistorey tenements); commercial (office buildings, hotels, retail shops); industrial (warehouses, factories). *Location:* Core (old city, old town); inner city, central business district); periphery (high-density sprawl). *Correspondence:* UCZ2 (Oke 2004); A1, A2, A4, Dc2 (Ellefsen 1990/91).

ILLUSTRATION

High angle

Low level

PROPERTIES

<i>Sky view factor</i> 0.3 – 0.6	
<i>Canyon aspect ratio</i> 0.75 – 2	
<i>Mean building height</i> 10 – 25 m	
<i>Terrain roughness class</i> 6 – 7	
<i>Building surface fraction</i> 40 – 70 %	
<i>Impervious surface fraction</i> 30 – 50 %	
<i>Pervious surface fraction</i> < 20 %	
<i>Surface admittance</i> 1,500 – 2,200 J m ⁻² s ^{-1/2} K ⁻¹	
<i>Surface albedo</i> 0.10 – 0.20	
<i>Anthropogenic heat flux</i> < 75 W m ⁻²	

From: Steward and Oke (2012)

World Urban Database initiative

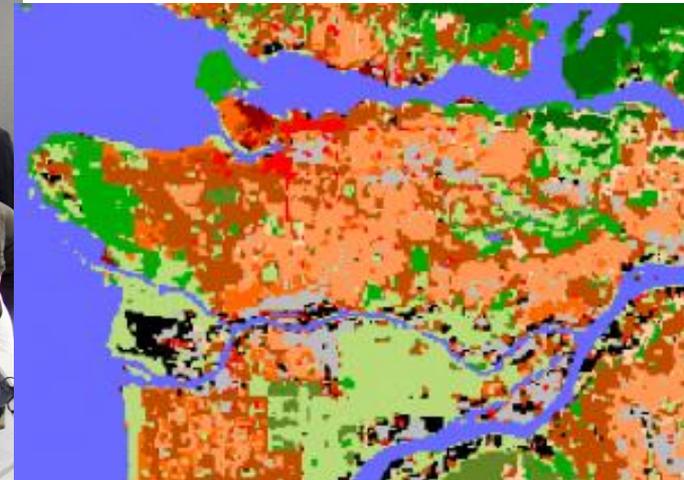
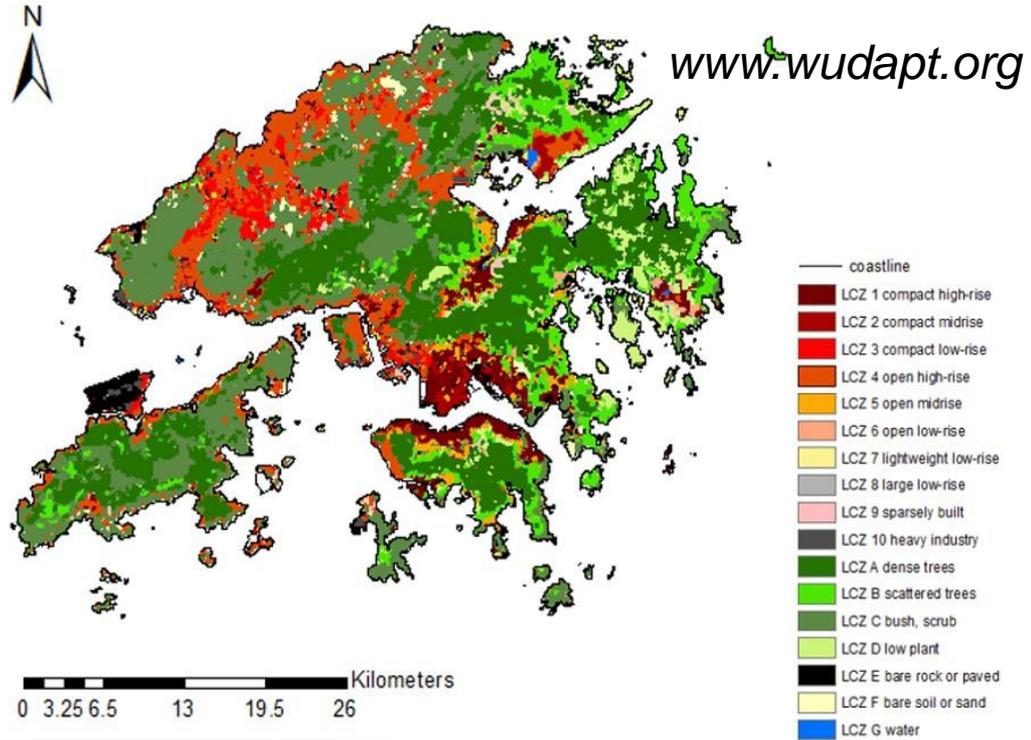
A methodology to map cities:

-Using satellite images

-100m of resolution

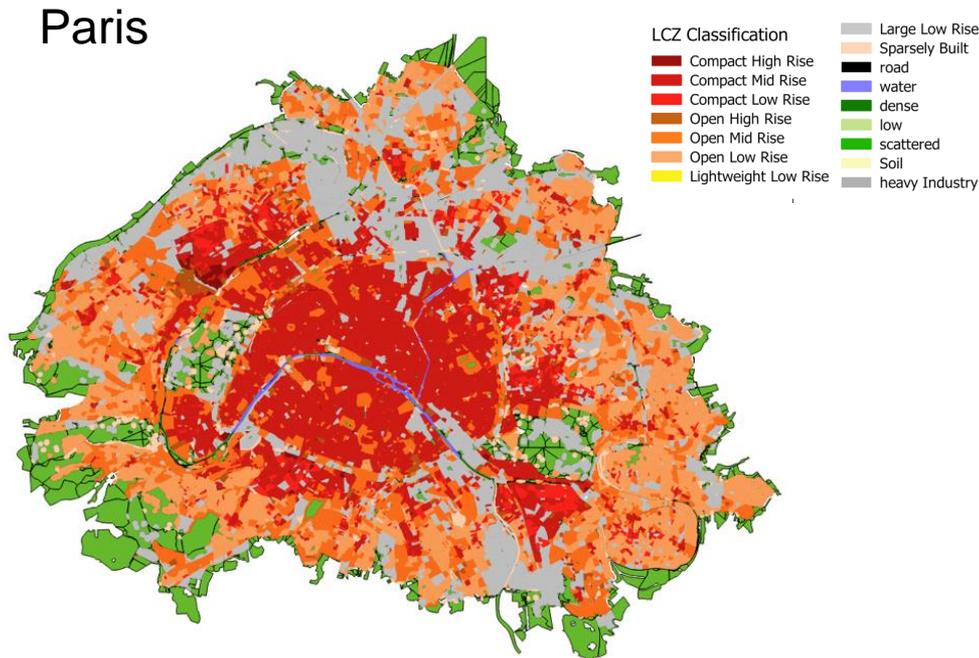
-Produces LCZ maps by local experts

-Approx. 100 cities



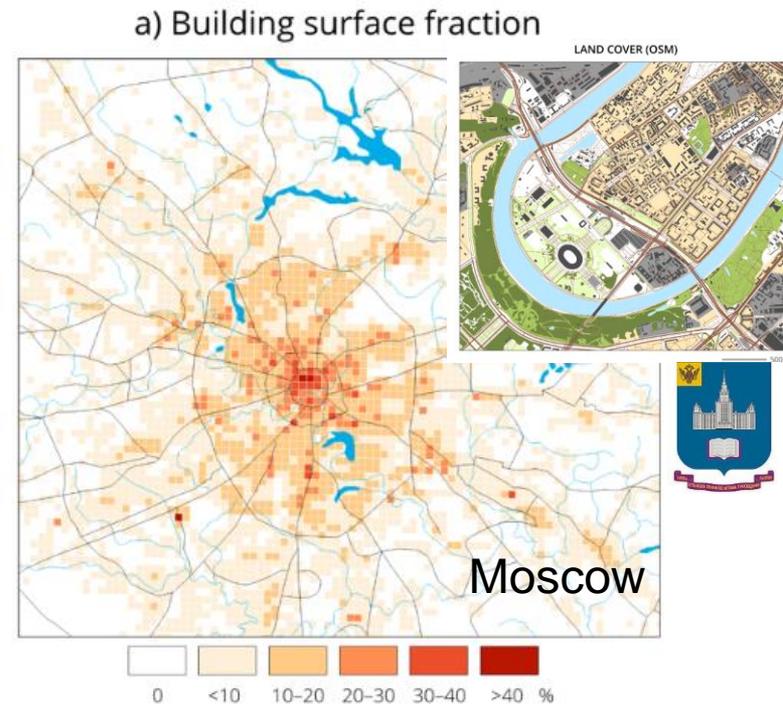
From Buildings data, e.g. Open Street Map

Determination of model urban parameters from building's databases



LCZ from French Building's Database

Source: Hidalgo et al (2017)



Urban parameters from OSM

Source: Samsonov et al (2015)

Architecture varies from one location to another

At world scale



Seattle



Copenhagen

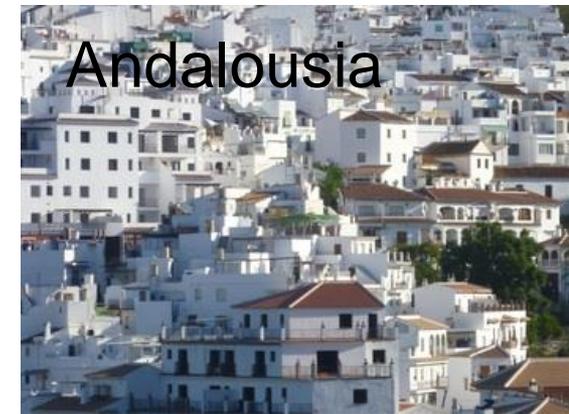
Architecture
for mid-rise
buildings



Shanghai



Quito, Ecuador



Andalusia

Scale issues in
building's description



Tombouctou, Mali



Architecture varies from one location to another

At world scale



Seattle



Copenhagen

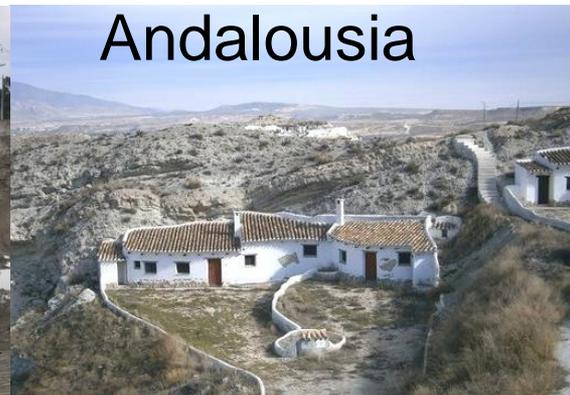
Architecture for houses



Shanghai



Quito, Equador



Andalouisia

Scale issues in building's description



Tombouctou, Mali

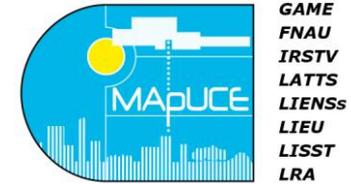


Scale issues for modelling at urban scale

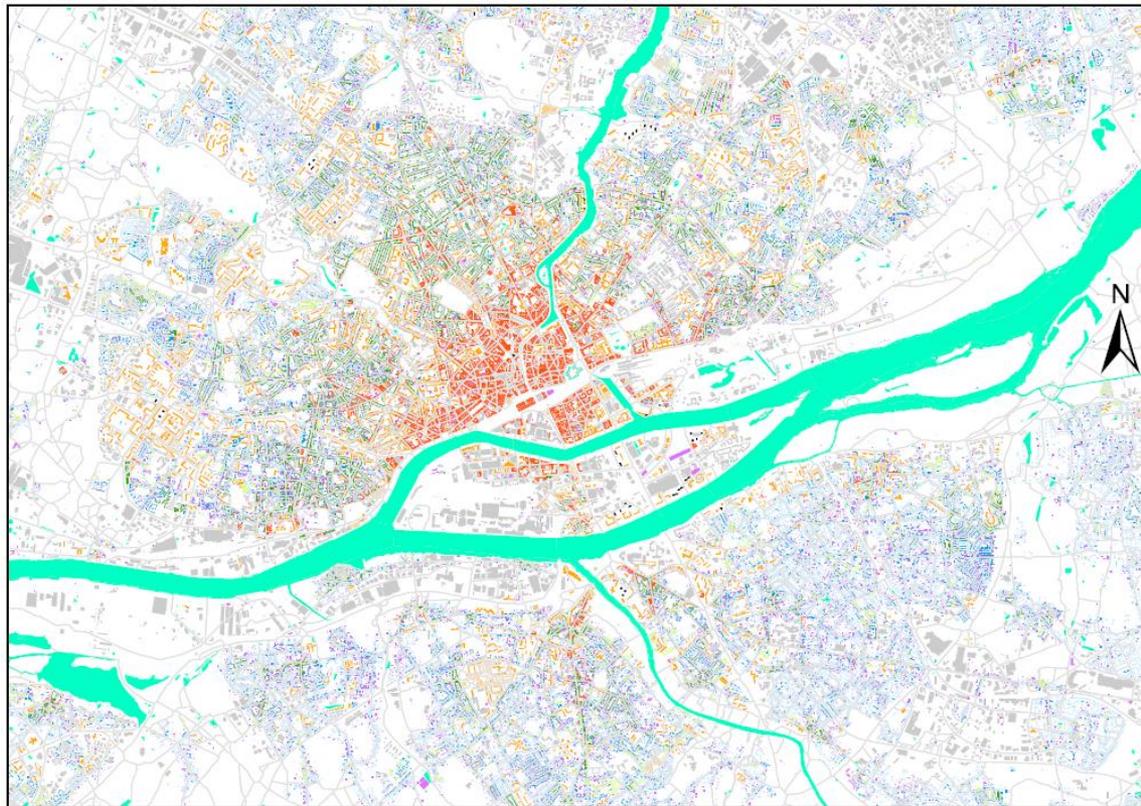
- 1) Mesoscale-impacts on thunderstorms
- 2) Local-scale impacts: the Urban Heat Island
- 3) Modelling
- 4) Description of the cities for models: the « LCZ »
- 5) Which scale for adaptation strategies ?

What scale urban planners wish

- In order to do the link with urban planners and stake holders
 - The pertinent spatial scale is ...



City of Nantes

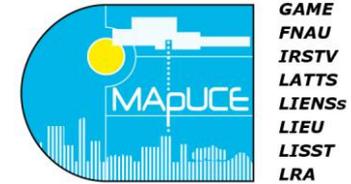


Typology

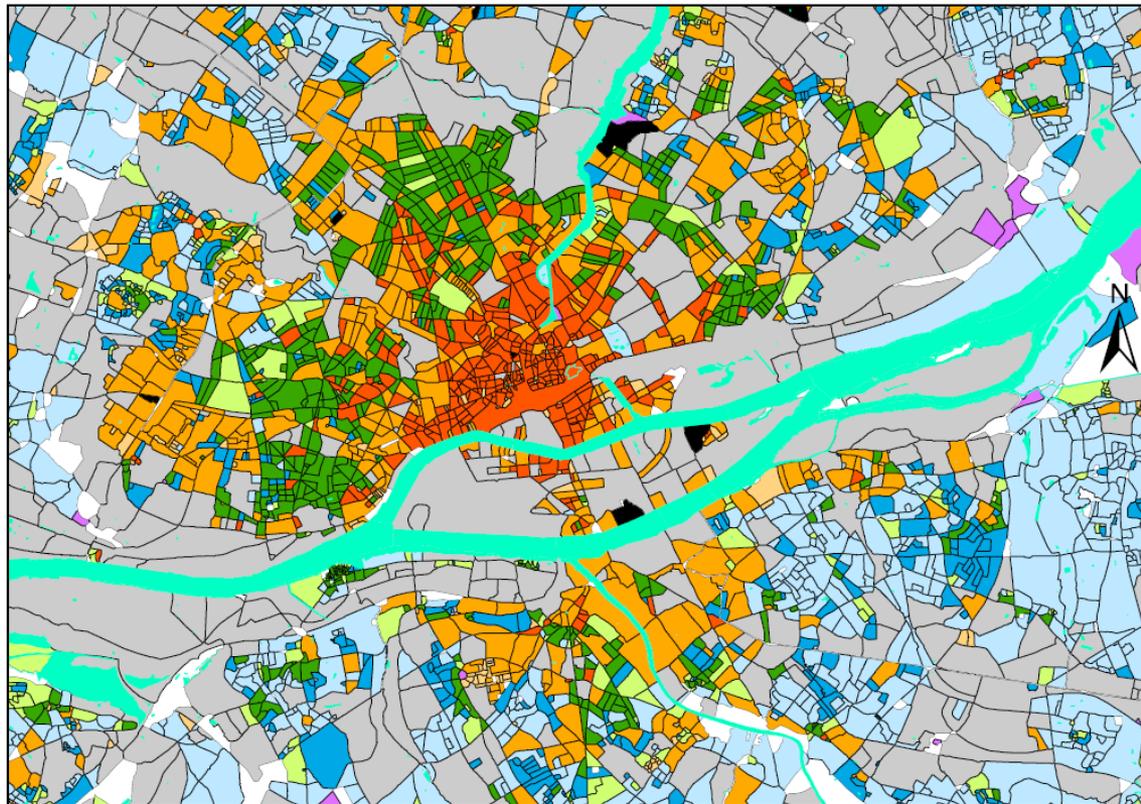
0 1 000 2 000 Meters

What scale urban planners wish

- In order to do the link with urban planners and stake holders
 - The pertinent spatial scale is ... **the urban block !!!**



City of Nantes

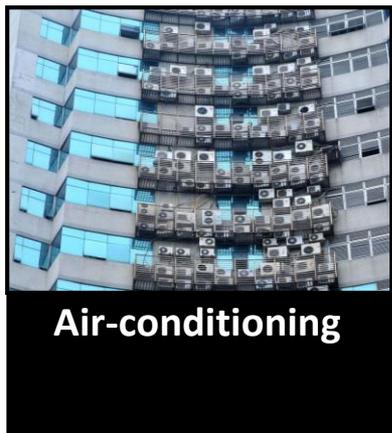


0 1 000 2 000 Meters

Typology

Adaptation of cities to climate change

- In 2100, air-conditioning will probably be necessary



Air-conditioning

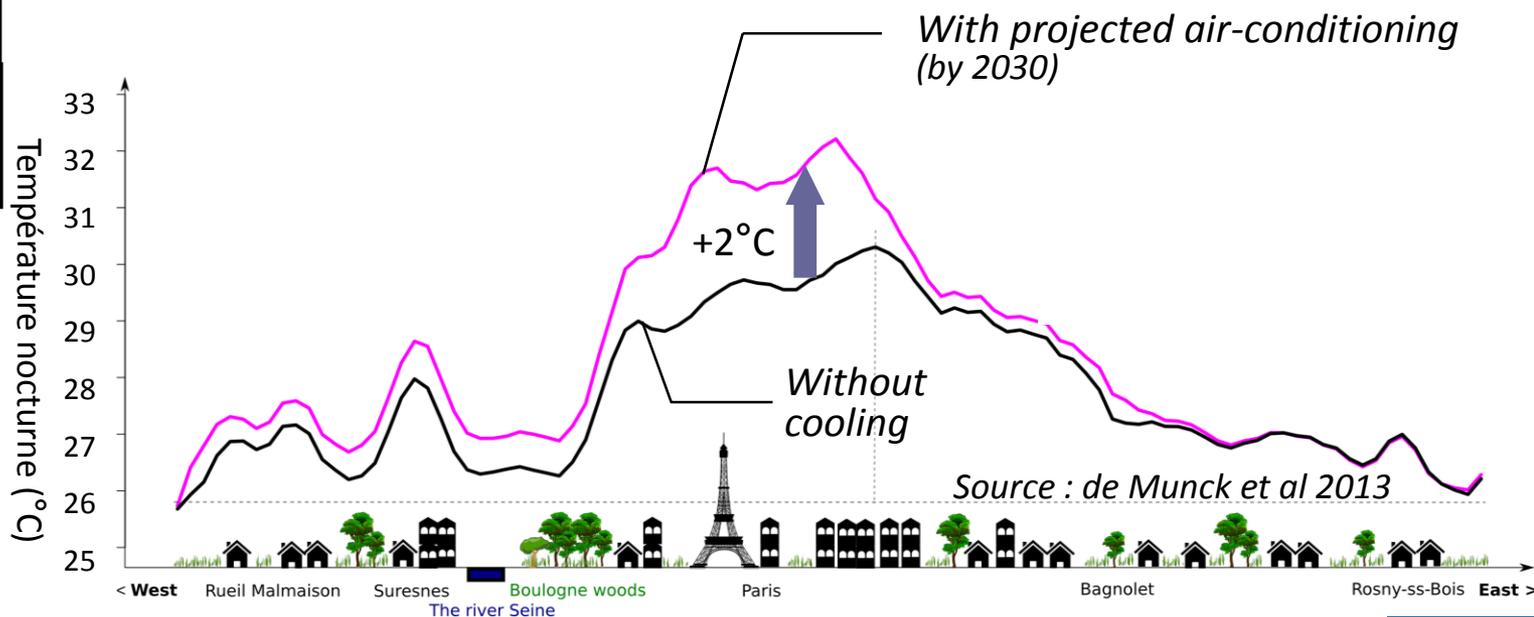
Adaptation of cities to climate change

- In 2100, air-conditioning will probably be necessary

→ Air conditioning increases heat outside
→ Needs even more cooling !
→ Impacts people without access to air-conditioning

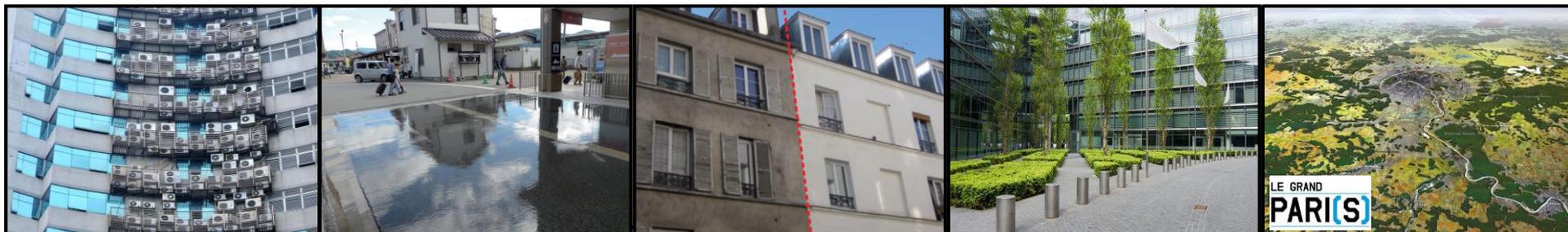


Air-conditioning



Adaptation of cities to climate change

- In 2100, air-conditioning will probably be necessary
- But one can reduce its use !



Air-conditioning

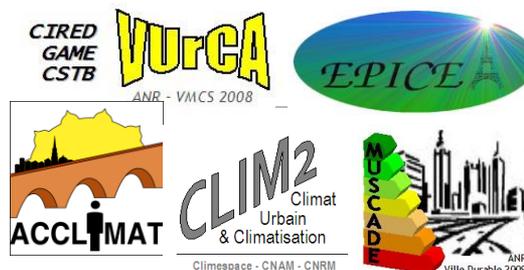
**Heat wave
Emergency
practices**

**Buildings
renovation**

**Urban
Vegetation,
water resources**

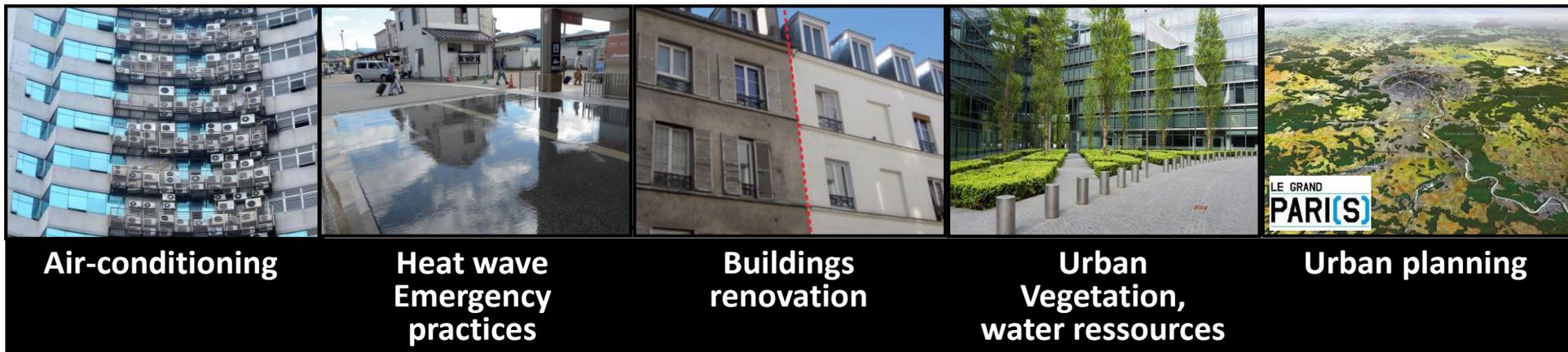
Urban planning

• **Levers that combine mitigation and adaptation**



Adaptation of cities to climate change

- In 2100, air-conditioning will probably be necessary
- But one can reduce its use !



Air-conditioning

Heat wave
Emergency
practices

Buildings
renovation

Urban
Vegetation,
water resources

Urban planning

• **Levers that combine mitigation and adaptation**

• **Evolution of behaviours :
very efficient**

Comportements et usages



CIRED
GAME
CSTB

VURCA
ANR - VMCS 2008

EPICE

ACCLIMAT

CLIM2
Climat
Urban
& Climatisation

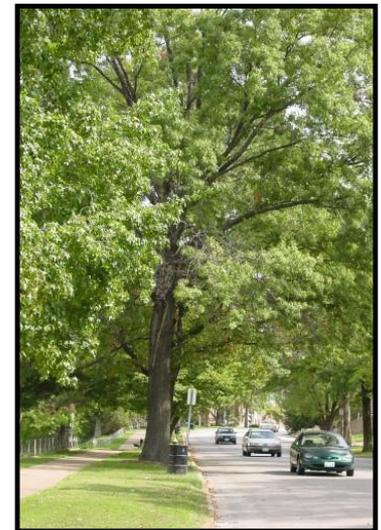
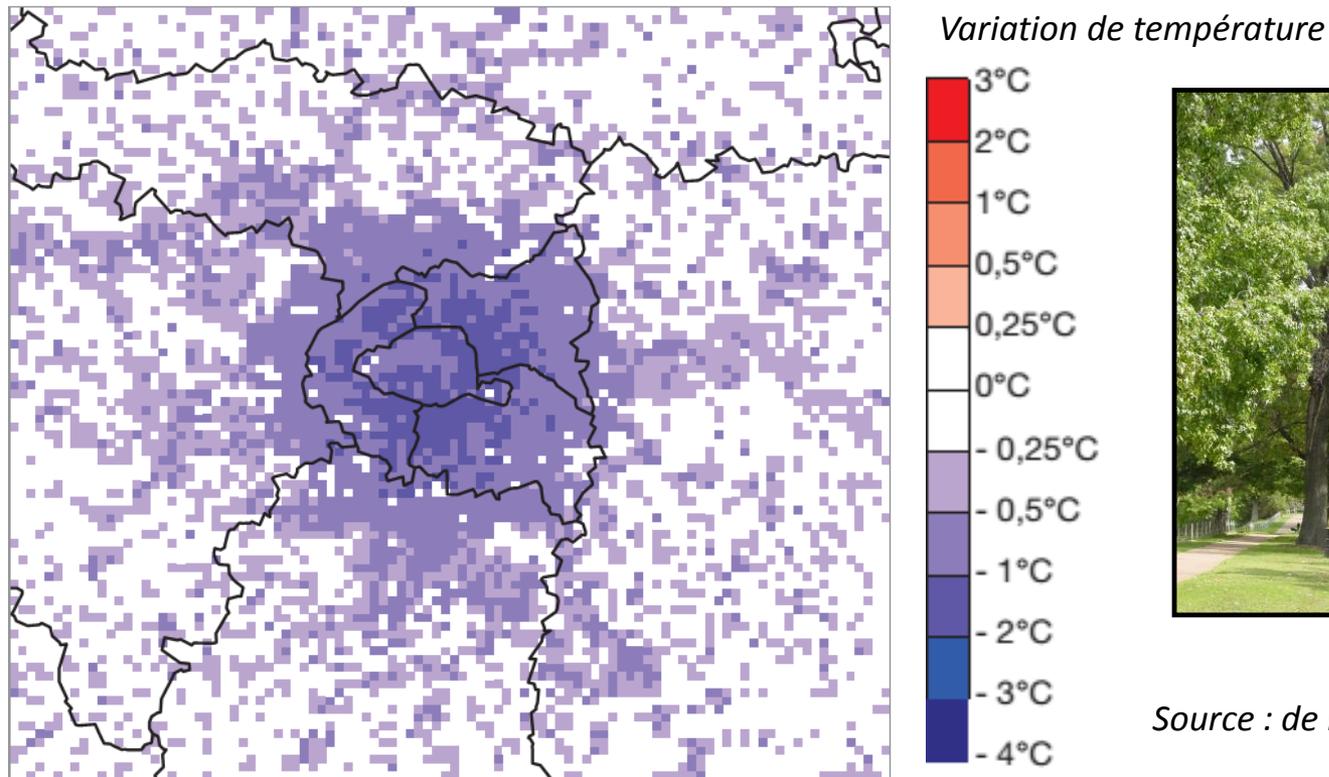
Climespace - CNAM - CNRM

MUSCADE
ANR
Ville Durable 2009



Urban vegetation

- Green roofs contribute to building insulation
- Ground vegetation and trees are efficient to cool the air



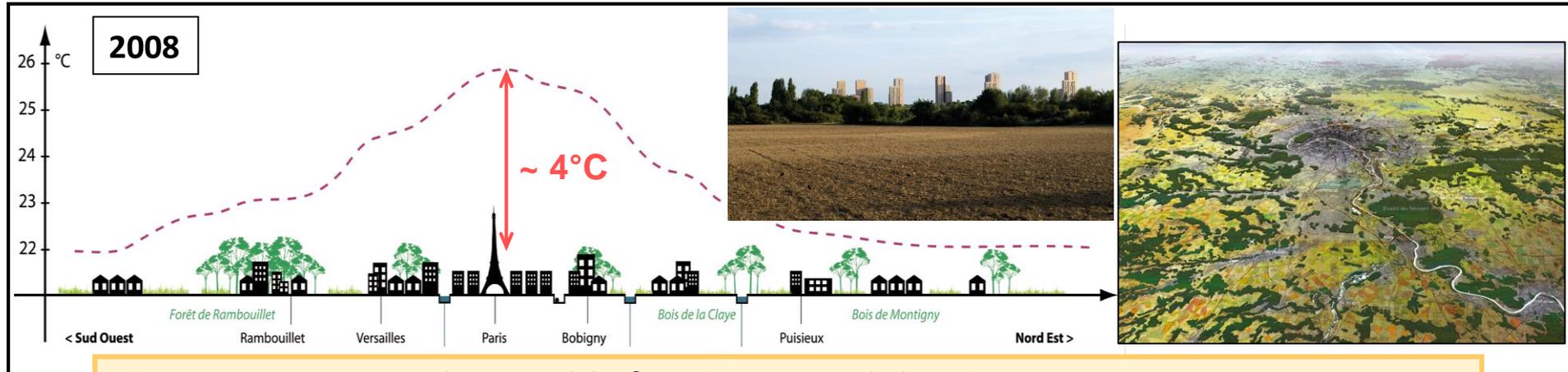
Source : de Munck 2015

Variation of temperature caused by an increase of 50% of ground vegetation in available spaces (car parks, sidewalks, places,...)

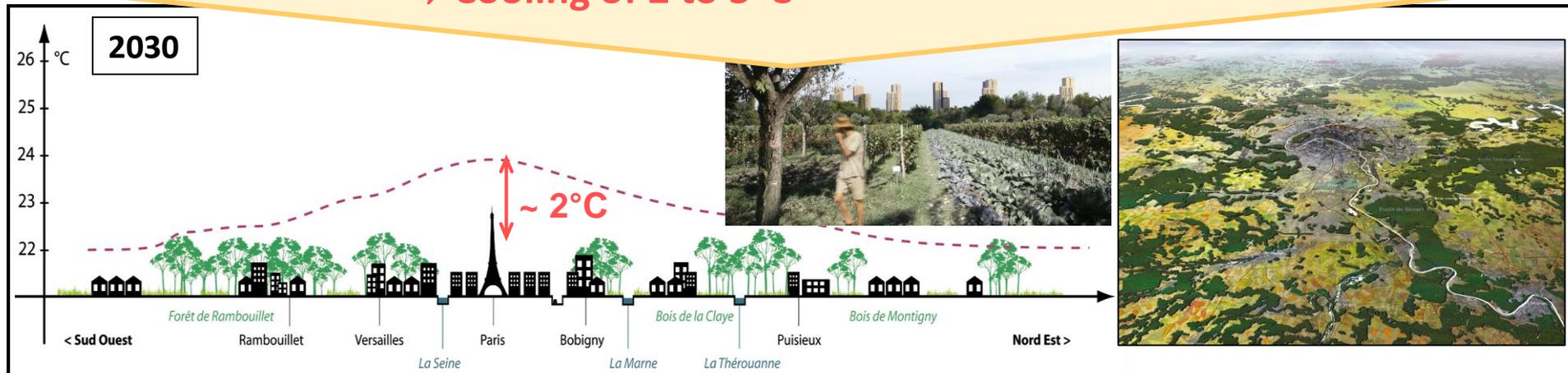
The countryside can cool the city

Grand Paris (Groupe Descartes)

Source : Yves Lion et coll. 2009



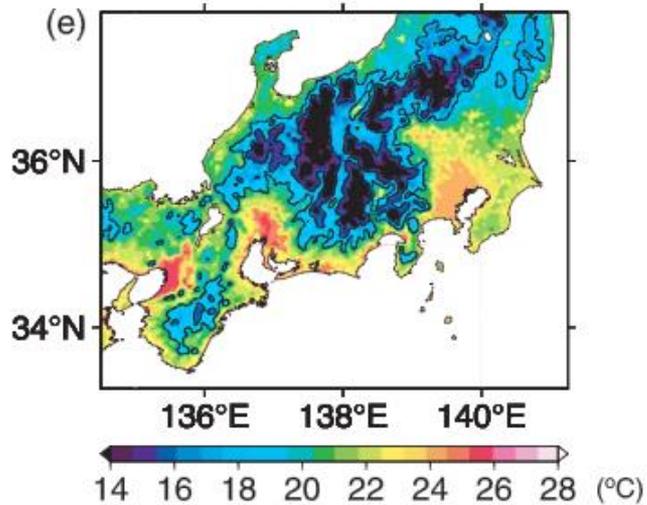
Scenario: Local vegetable farming around the city
→ Short supply chains & food governance
→ Cooling of 2 to 3°C



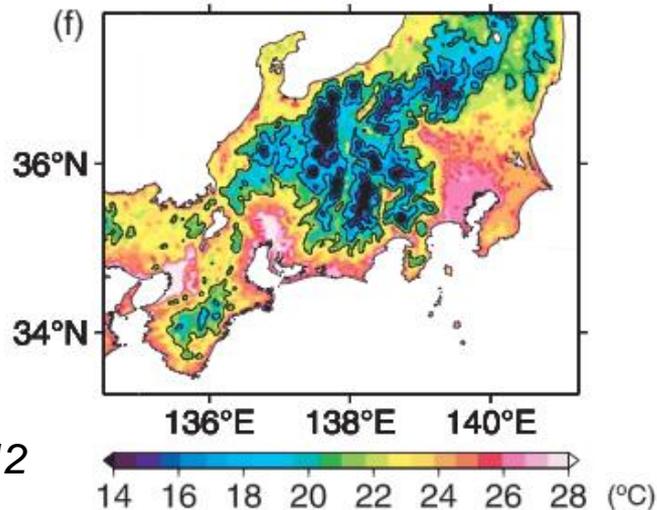
Urban Climate Modelling ... only starting

1 month 3km-resolution simulation in present and future climate in Japan

August Tmin
2000s



August Tmin
2070s

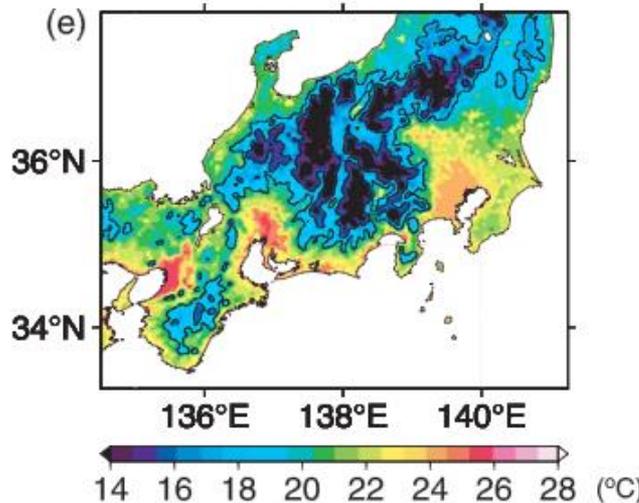


→ Need of downscaling methods

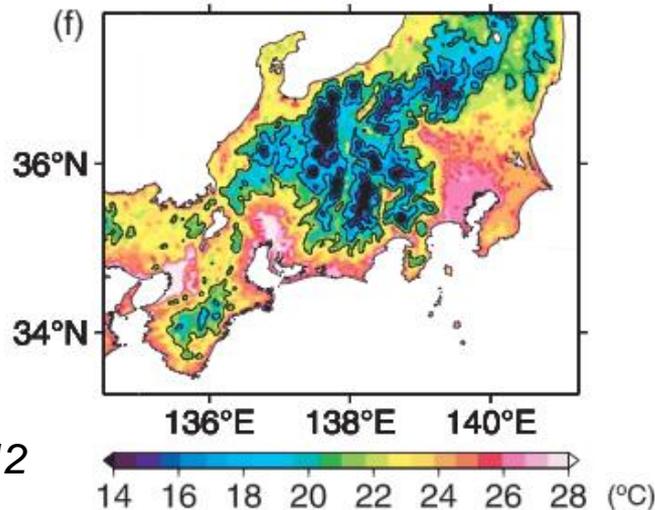
Urban Climate Modelling ... only starting

1 month 3km-resolution simulation in present and future climate in Japan

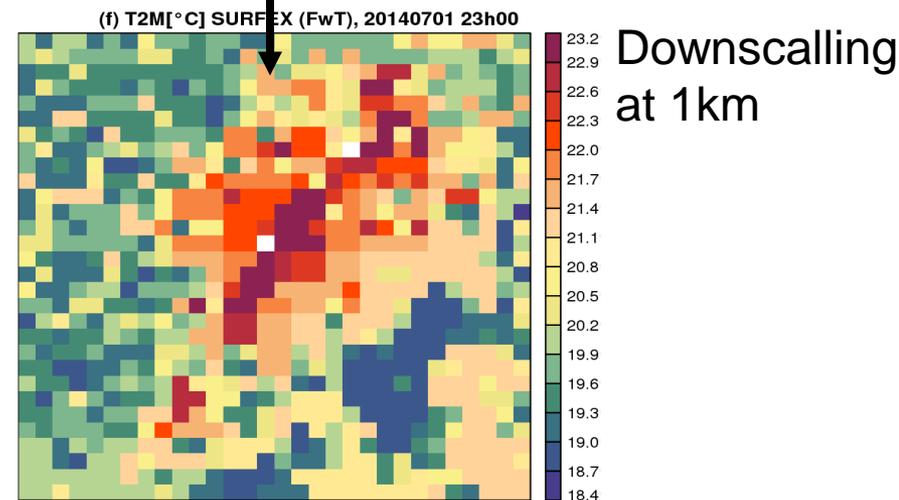
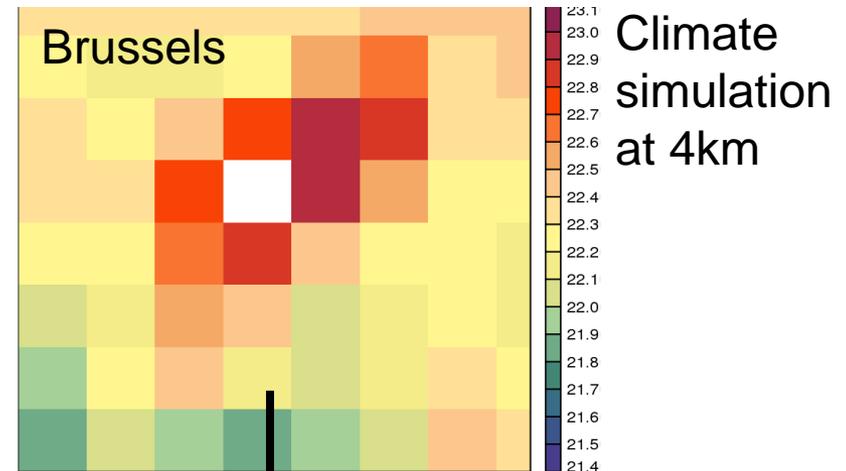
August Tmin
2000s



August Tmin
2070s



Kusaka et al 2012



Hamdi et al, 2014



Conclusions

1) Urban scale is meteorologically is at least in the grey

2) Specific processes and impacts

3) The city actors want **very fine scale ...**

... even for weather forecast !

Urban Weather Forecast

- Weather Forecast during the PAN-American games (Toronto 2015)

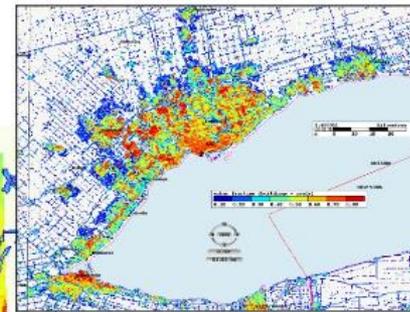
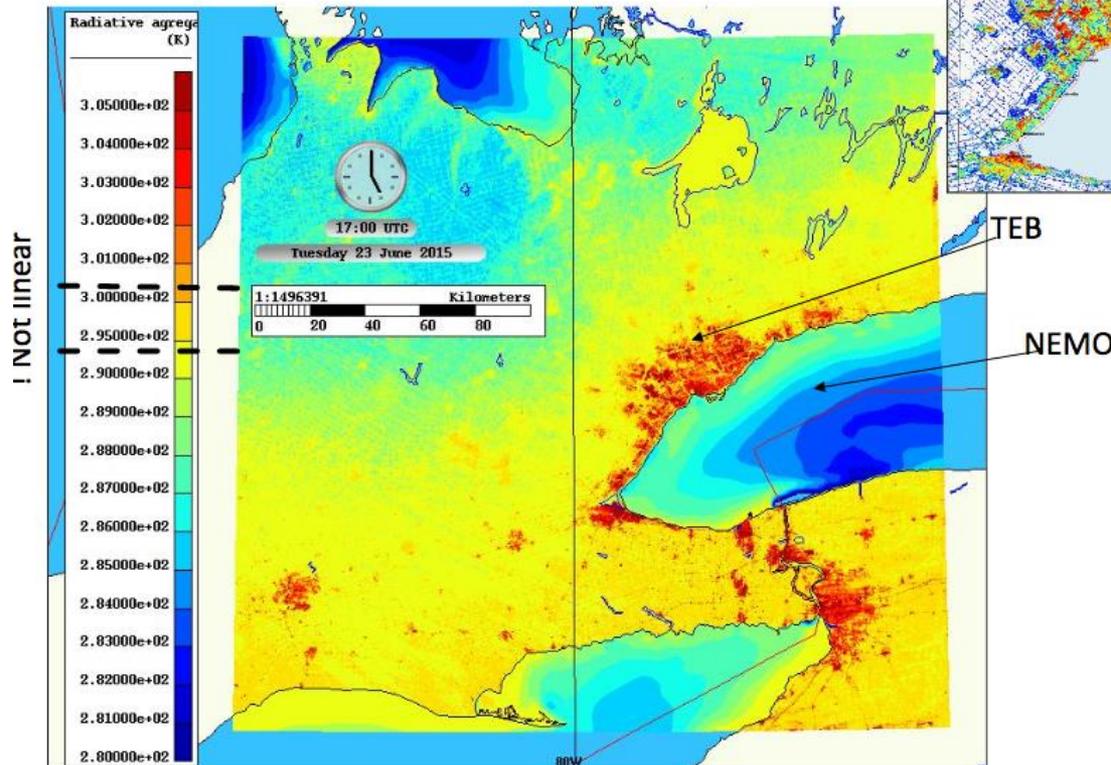


Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Radiative Surface Temperature

250-m GRID SPACING, *Urban fraction (%)*

Simulations at 250m of resolution



Source: Leroyer et al 2015



Urban Weather Forecast

- Forecast during the PAN-American games (Toronto 2015)

Heat stress indices

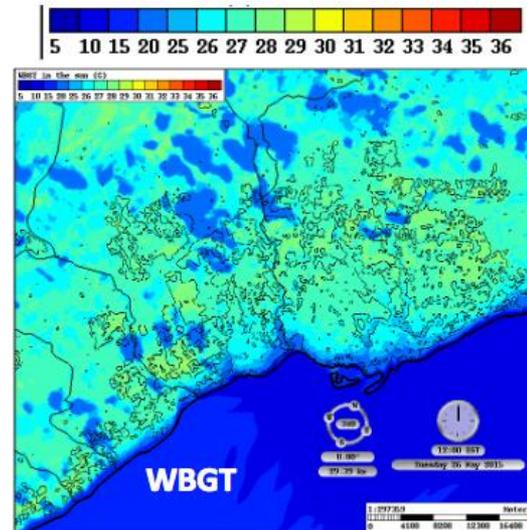
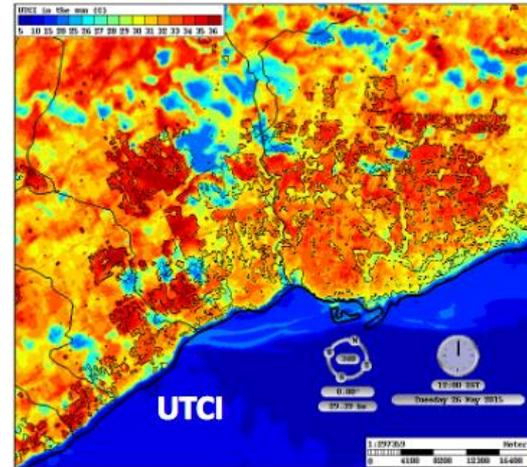
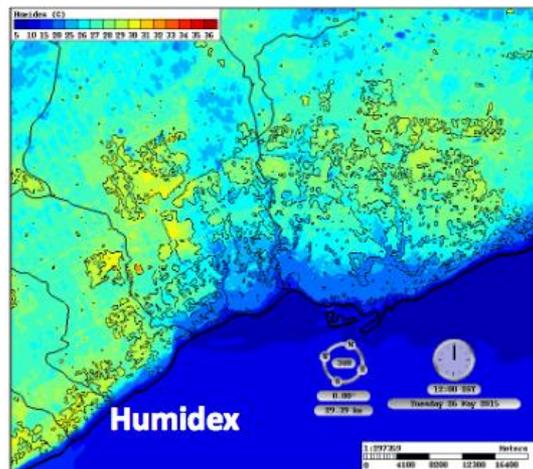
Humidex (equivalent dry air temperature)

UTCI (Universal Thermal and Climate Index)

WBGT (Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature)



to evaluate UTCI and WBGT : PanAm
Obs. of the globe temperature



Black contour: 50 % urban



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Source: Leroyer et al 2015



Thank
You