



**THREE-DIMENSIONAL HEAT
TRANSFER EFFECTS IN
BUILDING COMPONENTS**

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PREPARED BY:

Enermodal Engineering Limited
650 Riverbend Drive
Kitchener, Ontario, N2K 3S2
Tel: (519) 743-8777, Fax: (519) 743-8778
Email: office@enermodal.com

SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY:

Dr. Roger Henry
The CANMET Energy Technology Centre (CETC)
Energy Technology Branch, Energy Sector
Department of Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E4

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The CANMET Energy Technology Centre (CETC)
Energy Technology Branch, Energy Sector
Department of Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street, 13th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario,
K1A 0E4

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Department of Natural Resources Canada
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Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G1

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Three-Dimensional Heat Transfer Effects in Building Components

Summary

The thermal performance of building envelope components, such as windows, doors and walls, are regularly being evaluated with computer simulation methods such as VISION and FRAME, particularly for building code requirements. The former performs a one-dimensional analysis on centre-of-glass, the latter two-dimensional analysis of frame and wall sections.

This report investigates three-dimensional effects at corners and where significant thermal bridging is suspected to occur, in order to assess limitations and potentially improve conventional two-dimensional modelling. Ten cases are studied with three modelling techniques.

For most cases good agreement is obtained between two- and three-dimensional modelling and with physical tests. However conductive components that span materials, such as steel bolts in curtain walls, can have a substantial impact on heat transfer. For these cases, area of influence is the best two-dimensional modelling method.

Effets en trois dimensions des transferts de chaleur dans les éléments de construction

Résumé

Le rendement thermique des divers éléments de l'enveloppe d'un bâtiment, comme les fenêtres, les portes et les murs, fait l'objet d'évaluations régulières à l'aide de méthodes de simulation informatique, par exemple VISION et FRAME, en ayant particulièrement en vue le respect des exigences propres au Code du bâtiment. Le logiciel VISION permet d'effectuer une analyse à une dimension de la zone située au centre d'une vitre quelconque, alors que le FRAME, lui, permet une analyse à deux dimensions de certaines parties des cadres et des murs.

Le présent rapport explique l'investigation menée au sujet des effets à trois dimensions que l'on peut constater dans les recoins et les endroits susceptibles de subir d'importants ponts thermiques. Cette investigation vise à évaluer les limites et à améliorer, si possible, la modélisation habituelle à deux dimensions. On a donc recours à trois techniques de modélisation pour étudier dix cas.

Dans la majorité des cas, il y a harmonisation entre les tests à deux et à trois dimensions, et les tests mécaniques. Toutefois, les corps conducteurs qui séparent les matériaux, tels que les boulons d'acier dans les murs rideaux, peuvent considérablement influencer sur les transferts de chaleur. Lorsque cela se produit, il vaut mieux se tourner vers la méthode de modélisation à deux dimensions.

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