

Incorporating Urban Systems in Global Climate Models: The Role of GIScience

This research is supported by the Office of Science (BER), U.S. Department of Energy, Cooperative Agreement No. DE-FC02-97ER62402, by the National Science Foundation grant numbers ATM-0107404, and ATM-0413540, the NCAR Weather and Climate Impact Assessment Science Initiative, and the University of Kansas, Center for Research. Johannes Feddema Trisha Jackson Pei-Ling Lin John Bauer University of Kansas

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Motivation:

• Urbanization is a significant component of anthropogenic land cover change

• Urban areas affect local climate; does this scale to a global impact?

• The majority of people live in urban areas and experience urban climates

• Urban areas are detectable at the GCM grid scale

• Urban areas are expected to expand significantly in the near future

A TRACE

• Urban areas are the main source of anthropogenic emissions

Percent Urban at Climate Model Resolutions



Preliminary Data

CLM Urban Canyon Model



Model Parameter/data needs

- Global delineation of urban areas
- Geometric and radiative properties of the canyon
- Surface and conductive properties of walls, roofs (road properties assumed constant)
- Information on human activity and energy consumption levels

An Urban Sub-model in the CLM



Offline Validation :

- Following methods and data used by Masson et al. 2002 for TEB model
- Observations from two urban sites (courtesy of S. Grimmond):
 - Mexico City
 - Vancouver

Offline Validation – Mexico City

Oke et al. (1999); Dec 1-7, 1993

Historic city core (H/W=1.2, H=18m)





Offline Validation – Vancouver

Voogt and Grimmond (1999); Aug 11-25, 1992

Light Industrial (H/W=0.4, H=6m)





Simulated Urban Energy Balance Characteristics

- NCEP atmospheric forcing
- Rural grassland
- Default city with H/W=0.5,...,3.0



Simulated Urban Heat Island

- NCEP atmospheric forcing
- Rural grassland
- Default city with H/W=0.5,...,3.0



Variability in Simulated Heat Island caused by

Climate and Rural Environment

- •Atmospheric forcing from CAM (offline model)
- •Default city with H/W=0.5,...,3.0
- •Rural environment from CLM Surface Data





Summer Daily Maximum Heat Island Distribution (H/W = 0.5)



Model Validation:

- Limited validation demonstrates that the urban model shows promise in simulating fluxes and temperatures
- Qualitative analysis indicates that the urban model reproduces some general observed characteristics of heat islands:
 - An urban heat island that increases in intensity with height to width ratio.
 - A decrease in the diurnal temperature range.
- At a given height to width ratio, a wide range of heat islands is simulated depending on prevailing meteorological conditions and the nature of the rural surface.
- A dataset needs to be developed to conduct global simulations

Representing urban areas in CLM/CCSM

Gridcell



Creating a Global Urban Dataset

- 1. Divide world into manageable portions
- 2. Define urban extent
- 3. Delineate three degrees of "urbanness"
- 4. Compile database of building properties

30 Regions With Similar Urban Character



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Compare Global Satellite Products

1km resolution

- DISCover
- GLC2000
- MODIS-IGBP
- MODIS-UMD



Evaluation of Satellite Products

Taipei, Taiwan



MODIS issues



LandScan 2004



Limitations of Satellite Products

- Disagree on what constitutes urban areas
- Processing flaws and methodological questions
- Do not distinguish between levels of urbanization
- Cannot distinguish differences in urban characteristics based on cultural and regional differences
- Lack of temporal information for historical and future projections

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Population Dataset – LandScan



(Dobsen et al, 2000)



MODIS Mask of Mexico City



Mexico City (Landscan)



MODIS Mask of Paris

Paris (Landscan)



Cumulative Landscan population for MODIS urban grid cells by region



Final Product



Creating a Global Urban Dataset

- 1. Divide world into manageable portions
- 2. Define urban extent
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- 4. Compile database of building properties

Building properties

- Building height
- Height to width ratio
- Vegetated Fraction
- Properties of building materials
 - Emissivity
 - Albedo
 - Heat capacity
 - Thermal conductivity

World Housing Encyclopedia

EERI / IAEE Encyclopedia



World Housing End

Click on the Continents and Co **Retrieve Country Specific Inf**





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Discloimer:

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http://www.world-housing.net/index.asp

Algeria



Building Description: Stone masonry apartment building

Summary EERI Reports 75 🗄 🧰 1 General Information This is a typical residential construction type found in most Algerian urban centers, constituting 40 to 50% of the total urban housing stock. This construction, built mostly before the 1950s by French 3 Socio-Economic Issu contractors, is no longer practiced. Buildings of this type are typically 4 Structural Features 4 to 6 stories high. The slabs are wooden structures or shallow arches supported by steel beams (jack arch system). Stone masonry walls, usually 400 to 600 mm thick, have adequate gravity load-bearing capacity: however, their lateral load resistance is very low. As a result, these buildings are considered to be highly vulnerable to seismic effects. 8 Construction Econor Created On: Wednesday, June 05, 2002 🗄 🧰 9 Insurance Last modified On: Tuesday, November 01, 2005 B 10 Seismic Strenather 🗄 🧰 11 References iii 12 Contributors Photo Gallery E 13 Pictures



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Computing average properties

Building Properties						
	Thermal Conductivity (W/mK)	Heat Capacity (MJ/m^3 K)	Albedo	Density (kg/m^3)	Specific Heat (J/kg C)	Emissivity
concrete	0.7	1075.2	0.225	1280	840	0.92
brick	0.7	1360.0	0.3	1700	800	0.9
mud	1.0	1456.0	0.3	1820	800	0.9
wood	0.1	1127.5	0.5	550	2050	0.87
glass	0.9	2100.0	0.08	2500	840	0.91
stone	2.6	2310.0	0.275	2750	840	0.92
adobe	1.0	1456.0	0.3	1820	800	0.91
rubble	0.8	950	0.275	1900	500	0.92

Sources: T.R. Oke, 1987 and J.A.Clarke, 2001









Preliminary data

Further Work

- Compare test run to case study parameters
- Adjust assumptions based on test results
- Initiate development of a transient dataset
- Run a global application to see how different regions respond
- Make urban dataset available
- Proceed to next step in improving land cover datasets