



Energy in Buildings and  
Communities Programme

**IEA EBC Annex 71**

## **Quantifying the Thermal Performance of the Building Fabric based on Smart Meter Data**

Staf Roels, Christian Struck and Twan Rovers

IEA Technical Collaboration Programme on Energy in Buildings and Communities Webinar  
- Reducing the Performance Gap between Design Intent and Real Operation -

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Today no operational rating and little measurement  
based optimisation of buildings  
At the same time, we see following trends



Internet of Things



Home automation



Big Data

To what extent can we use on board monitored data  
to assess the energy performance of our buildings?

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## Quantifying the thermal performance of the building fabric

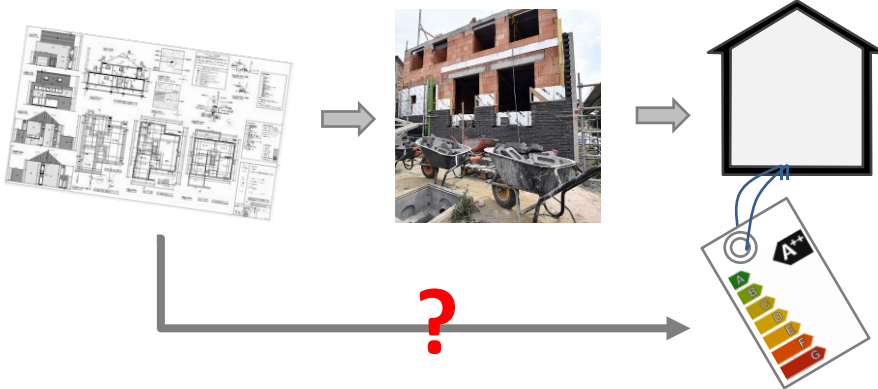
### Today's theoretical approach

Energy performance estimated using simulation software; EPB en EPC

building plans and specifications

building delivery

energy labelling



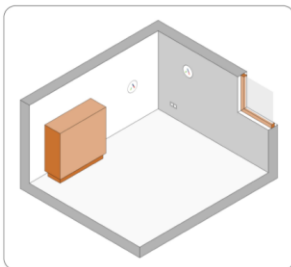
Actual quality/performance often turns out worse than expected  
Missed opportunities to optimise energy efficiency

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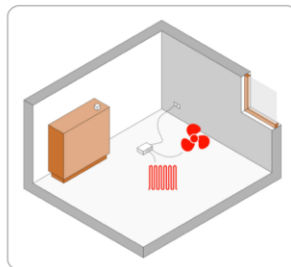
## Quantifying the thermal performance of the building fabric

### As-built thermal quality check

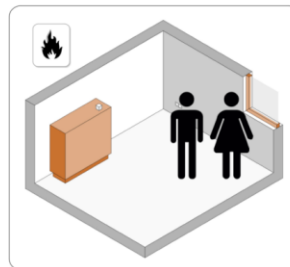
Three options



**R-value/U-value test**  
Local thermal performance  
of building elements



**Specific heating test**  
Thermal performance  
of whole building envelope



**On-board test**  
Thermal performance  
of whole building envelope

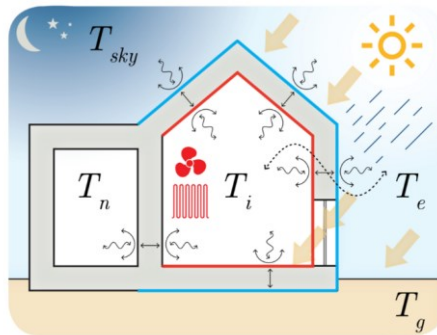
*focus of IEA EBC Annex 58-project*

*focus of Annex 71-project*

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Estimate as-built thermal performance of the building fabric, based on measured data during normal operating conditions

$$C_i \frac{\partial \theta_i}{\partial t} = \Phi_h + \Phi_{int} + \Phi_{sol} + \Phi_l + \Phi_{tr} + \Phi_v + \Phi_m$$



**HTC ?**

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$$C_i \frac{\partial \theta_i}{\partial t} = \Phi_h + \Phi_{int} + \Phi_{sol} + \Phi_l + \Phi_{tr} + \Phi_v + \Phi_m$$

$$\Phi_{tr} = \Phi_{tr}^e + \Phi_{tr}^n + \Phi_{tr}^{adj} + \Phi_{tr}^g$$

$$\Phi_{tr}^e + \Phi_{tr}^n + \Phi_{tr}^g \sim HTC$$

Exploration of different statistical methods:

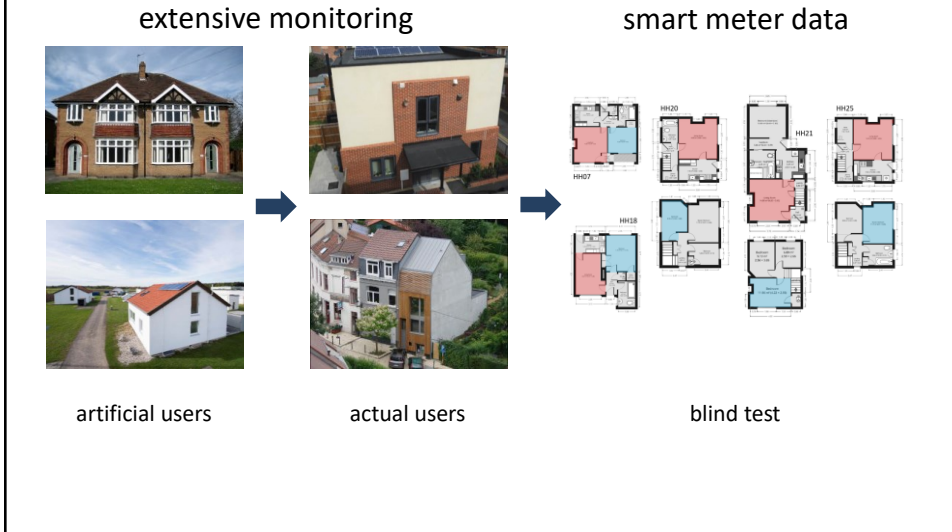
- Averaging method
- Linear regression models
- Energy signature model
- AR(MA)X-models
- grey box models
- ...

Investigating the impact of input data:

- solar gains
- heat input (SH vs. DHW)
- weather data
- indoor temperature
- infiltration and ventilation
- ...

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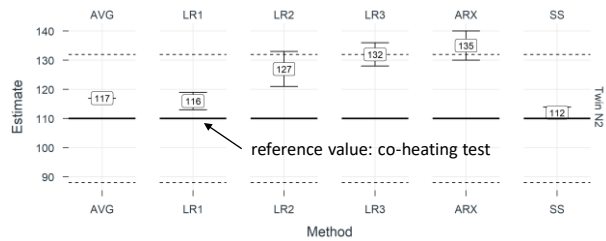
# IEA EBC Annex 71: from extensive monitoring campaigns to smart meter data



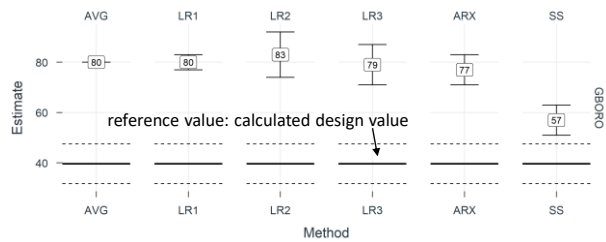
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## Some results

Twin test houses, Germany  
artificial users



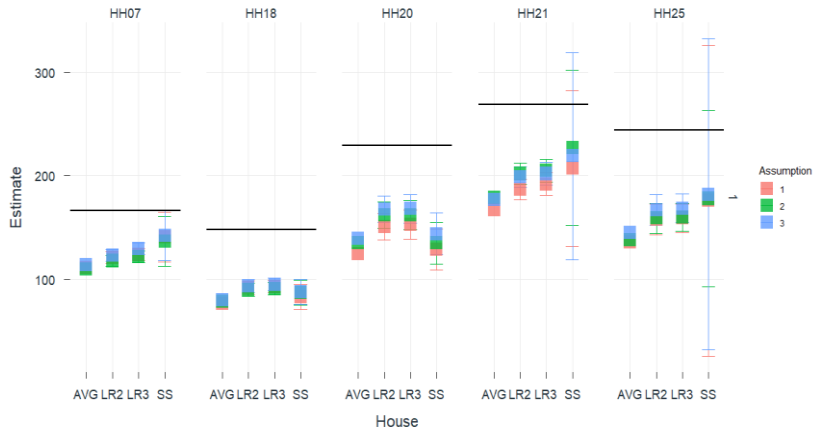
Social housing dwelling, UK  
actual users



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## Blind test: SMETER-project, UK

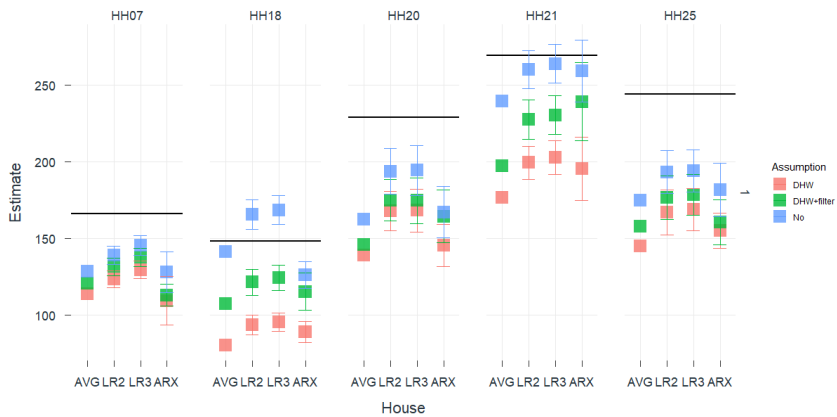
Impact of the different assumptions applied on indoor temperature averaging



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## Blind test: SMETER-project, UK

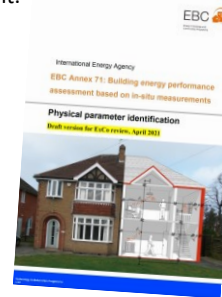
Impact of the different assumptions applied in DHW and SH splitting



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## Conclusions

- Statistical tools show promise to determine the building's HTC based on limited on-site monitored data.
- Static methods showed to be more robust in application, but overall both static and dynamic measurements resulted in similar estimates
- Results often in close agreement with the target values (co-heating test results), but for some buildings deviations up to almost 50% were found.
- Assumptions on almost all parameters (measurement time and period, internal heat gains, temperature averaging,...) showed to significantly impact the outcome.
- A further in-depth analysis on more case studies is advisable to turn the methods into reliable tools to be used in actual performance assessment.
- Details can be found in the IEA EBC Annex 71-reports



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## Consequences for The Netherlands?

### Characterization of as-built energy performance

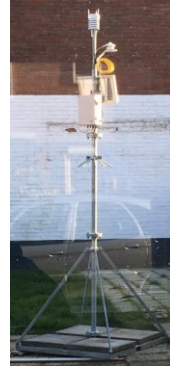


Source: <https://www.bouwwereld.nl/categorie/bouwfouten>

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## Consequences for The Netherlands?

### Characterization of as-built energy performance



In-situ performance assessment of renovation measures, testing and standardization of methods (blowerdoortest, co-heating test, ...)

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## Consequences for The Netherlands?

### Characterization of as-built energy performance using on-board monitoring data.

- More cost-effective and less intrusive than traditional heating experiments
- Quality assurance
- Performance tracking
- Model calibration



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## Consequences for The Netherlands?

A number of methods have been developed and described to determine the as-built HLC and HTC.

Future work:

- Improving accuracy / reducing uncertainty
- Automation of methods for large-scale application

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