CityBES: A Data and Computing Platform for City Buildings

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How to reduce 50% energy use in city building stock?



- Buildings in cities consume 30-70% of the primary energy
- Cities have different building energy use profiles
- The building sector has the most potential to save energy



City Building Energy Saver (CityBES.Ibl.gov)



Overview of CityBES

- 1. An open-access web-based platform to support city and district scale building energy efficiency programs.
- 2. Creation and evaluation of energy retrofit scenarios for city buildings.
- 3. Visualization (3D + GIS) of existing buildings' performance data.
- 4. Detailed energy modeling and simulation, considering inter-building effect and interactions with urban climate
- 5. Builds upon open standards

Workflow and Use Cases



CityGML

- International OGC standard for representation and exchange of 3D city models.
- Started in 2002, v.2.0 in 2012
- Multi-resolution model
- Customization and extensibility



Examples of CityGML objects





Open City Buildings Datasets



Translate diverse city datasets into inter-operable, standardized format

Case Study – Retrofit Analysis (940 bldgs, 11 ECMs, SF)



Visualizing Performance of City Buildings



Visualizing the San Francisco energy ordinance dataset with 1,573 buildings: (1) filtering buildings by type, size, vintage, and (2) color-coding by EUI, CO_2 emission, ENERGY STAR score, compliance status.

Benchmarking Performance of City Buildings



Comparing site EUI of 522 office buildings in San Francisco with 63503 office buildings in the BPD.

Identify and evaluate strategies to mitigate GHG emissions



Hunters Point Shipyard

- Leverage and activate a massive number of existing resources, priorities, and opportunities all at once
- Dramatically increase the economic multiplier of HPS and other projects already in development
- Cement San Francisco's role as a global center of innovation and the crossroads for the Bay Area cluster

Concord Naval Base

- The 2,200-acre former naval base could eventually hold 6M ft² commercial real estate, as well as 12,000 units of housing.
- The development contract could be as much as \$6 billion.

Multiscale Coupled Urban Systems: An Exascale Computing Project



- USDOE Office of Science
- Five national labs: ANL, LBNL, ORNL, NREL, PNNL

- Application Area: Coupled computational models integrating urban systems such as atmosphere, buildings, transportation, and social/economics.
- Challenge Problem: Support urban design and operations, at multiple scales (district, building, vehicles) through coupled models capturing interdependencies between urban systems and activities.





Challenges

1. Data

A big data problem integrating diverse sources with different temporal and spatial resolutions, quality, and structure/format.

2. Modeling

Integration of multiple domain models with different scales and resolutions.

3. Simulation

An exascale computing problem.

Publications

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- M. Wetter, M. Bonvini and T.S. Nouidui. Equation-based languages A new paradigm for building energy modeling, simulation and optimization. Energy and Buildings, 117:290–300, 2016.
- 6. R.Z. Pass, M. Wetter, M.A. Piette. A Tale of Three District Energy Systems: Metrics and Future Opportunities. Proc. of ACEEE Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, Asilomar, CA, August 2016.
- 7. R.Z. Pass, M. Wetter, and M.A. Piette. A Thermodynamic Analysis of a Novel Bidirectional District Heating and Cooling Network. Energy and Buildings, 2017, under review

Thank You!

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