

Building Science Education “UPDATE”

BUILDINGS XIII Conference

Overview of Key Activities

Discussion/Forum on BSE Priorities

Future Direction/Steps

Patrick Huelman, John Straube, Theresa Weston, Bill Rose, Sam Taylor

December 6, 2016 – Clearwater, FL

Joint Committee on Building Science Education
& NIBS-BETEC Education Committee

<http://www.BuildingScienceEducation.net>



This Evening's Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview by Joint Committee & BETEC Education
 - Pat Huelman/John Straube; Georg Reichard/Theresa Weston
- DOE Overview: 2017 Race to Zero; BSE Solution Center
 - Sam Rashkin – Chief Architect, DOE Building Technologies Office
- Discussion/Forum: Input for Joint Task Group Priority Projects
 - Supporting *Building Science Fundamentals* (B.S. 101) for Schools
 - Developing a “*Hygrothermal Analysis Guide*” to support RTZ faculty & students
 - Encouraging *Infusion of B.S.* into traditional courses (need input – model syllabi, lecture modules, supplemental resources)
- Next Steps
 - Critical needs
 - Potential resources
- Adjourn to the Reception



This Week's (& Next Year's) Work

- Initiate Discussions/Inputs into Joint Task Group Priorities
 - Critical side meetings at this conference
 - Future inputs via email and web meetings
- With a Focus on Priority Products
 - Intro to Building Science Fundamentals
 - Hygrothermal Analysis Guide – initial focus is on RTZ
 - Technical approach
 - Levels of analysis
 - Infusion of BSE into Traditional Courses
 - Critical core competencies matching desired proficiency levels
 - Focused on key target courses and content/resources
- Address Next Steps/Schedule



Overarching Goal

- To improve building science education, in general
 - Quantity
 - Quality

- But in particular for the Joint Committee, a focus on degree programs for building professionals
 - Associate
 - Undergraduate
 - Professional
 - Graduate



Desired Outcome

- To ensure all students in building design, engineering, construction, and operations will graduate with:
 - a substantive “building science fundamentals” course (preferably early in their program),
 - solid “building science” concepts infused into their traditional coursework,
 - well-designed experiential learning opportunities,
 - access to specialized, in-depth building science coursework.



Mission of Joint Committee for Building Science Education

- Support a critical transformation of the education and training of the design and construction industry, such that its professionals:
 - Are educated, trained, and certified in building science and related advanced design and construction management practices;
 - Can routinely design, build (renovate or fix), and operate quality high-performance buildings that are safe, healthy, durable, comfortable and very energy efficient;
 - And will provide the highest value to their clients.



Progress Since “BUILDINGS XII”

Highlights of Outreach Activities

- BUILDINGS XXII – BSE Update -December 2013
- Building Science Education Workshops
 - Toronto BSE Workshop, April 2014 - Issues
 - Arlington BSE Workshop, Jan. 2016 - Solutions
 - Penn State Conference, March 2016 - BSE Session
- Ongoing Web Meetings – Both BETEC & Joint Task Group
- Support for DOE Race to Zero & BSE Solution Center
- Organize the Westford BSE Updates (2014, 2015, 2016)
- Special Briefings: ASHRAE, DOE, EEBA, etc.
- BUILDINGS XXIII – BSE Update – December 2016



Important Themes

- Using a broad definition for “building sciences”.
- Focus => Building science KSA’s needed to plan, design, analyze, construct/renovate, and commission quality, high-performance buildings.
- Prioritization => Health, Safety, Durability, IAQ
 - First: Ensure no harm, no foul, no lawsuits;
 - Second: Make it energy and resource efficient;
 - Everything else (daylighting, passive, green, sustainable) must fit within these two overarching priorities.

- Note: “Core Competencies for A/E Firm New Hires” and “DOE BSE Guidelines” are available.



Critical Pathways for Success

- 1. Focus early efforts on “baby steps”
 - Promote a dedicated building science fundamentals course,
 - Support infusion of building science into traditional coursework and teaching resources,
 - Encourage special higher level building science technical electives.

- 2. Provide easier access to building science resources
 - Promote excellence in building science teaching texts and support materials.



Critical Pathways for Success

- 3. Ensure best practices
 - Up-to-date access to research results
 - Connection to real world applications.
- 4. Support and expand building science experiential learning (RTZ) that is paired to academic learning
- 5. Support graduate building science programs to increase future teaching capacity.



NIBS/ASTM/JCBSE BSE Workshop



Solutions for Building Science Education – Jan. 11, 2016



NIBS/ASTM/JCBSE WORKSHOP on Building Science Education

- Workshop Reflected Broad, High-Level Support
 - Keynote addresses from industry & academic leaders
 - Leadership of AIA, ASHRAE, ASC, SBSE, etc.
- Presentations Focused on Solutions
 - Sharing pedagogical approaches
 - Infusion of building science principles
 - Building science fundamentals and beyond
 - Pairing of academic & experiential learning
 - Current state of building science resources
 - Textbooks, supplemental materials
 - Need for best current science



Penn State Residential Conference

Building Science Education Session



Joint Committee Presentation:

“Not So Difficult” Approaches to Improve Building Science Education in Collegiate Design & Construction Programs

March 2016



Prioritization of Building Science

Key Assumptions

- Priority building science requirements
 - Health & safety, building durability, IAQ, & energy
- Priority damage functions (buildings & people)
 - Fire, smoke, and structure
 - essential, but addressed by codes and established practice
 - Moisture Management (Water, Water, and Water!)
 - critical and currently under-represented
 - Indoor Environmental Quality
 - very important and must become integrated
- Effectively dealing with damage functions
 - risk tolerant designs and work procedures (e.g. QM)



Conveying Key Building Science Concepts Heat-Mass Transfer/Moisture Transport/IAQ

- Can these critical concepts be fit into existing courses?
 - Heat transfer, 2nd Law of Thermodynamics (simplified)
 - Psychrometrics, relative humidity (RH), dew point
 - Prioritized moisture transport mechanisms
 - Requirements for air flow
 - Functions of the enclosure; esp. environmental separation
 - Continuity of control layers; verification with pen test
 - Understanding hygrothermal performance of enclosures, including performance consequences of material/placement
 - HVAC systems; esp. ventilation and make-up air
- Within one or two modules is a huge challenge?
 - Currently a “work in progress”, but it has been done!



Building Science Resources

(Partial Listing)

➤ Key Textbooks/References

- ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals
- High Performance Enclosures: Straube, J.
- Understanding Psychrometrics: Gatley, D.
- Water in Buildings: Rose, W.
- Other resources under development
 - DOE/PNNL BSE Solution Center
 - Building Science Fundamentals: Lstiburek, J.
 - Building Science for Building Enclosures: Straube, J. & Burnett, E. 2nd Edition



Building Science Online Resources

(Partial Listing)

- DOE Building America Solution Center
 - <https://basc.pnnl.gov/>
- Building Science Corporation
 - www.BuildingScience.com/Information
- Building Science Labs
 - www.buildingsciencelabs.com/the-library/
- SBSE Website
 - www.sbse.org/resources/



Building Science Online Resources (Partial Listing)

➤ Joint Committee Website

- www.BuildingScienceEducation.net



EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING SCIENCE EDUCATION
Transforming the Design/Construction Profession

[Home](#)[About](#)[Programs/Task Groups](#)[Resources](#)[Events/News](#)[University Consortium](#)

Joint Committee On Building Science Education

The Joint Committee on Building Science Education is a coalition of university and other peer organizations that is working closely with academic and research organizations and the US Department of Energy to facilitate excellence in building science education. It was established as a standing joint committee on building science education, by the National Consortium of Housing Research Centers (University Consortium), the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC), and partnering university organizations. Its work currently

www.buildingscienceeducation.net/



EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING SCIENCE EDUCATION
Transforming the Design/Construction Profession
Joint Committee on Building Science Education

**Building Enclosure Technology
and Environment Council**
a council of the National Institute of Building Sciences



Recognizing Great Progress

- Quality resources for teaching building science
 - Currently available or under development
- Improved access to building science research & best practices
 - DOE Building America BSE Solution Center
 - Other: ASHRAE, NIBS, BSC, BSL, Joint Committee
- Affirming opportunities for “infusion”
 - Traditional courses; associated teaching resources
- Excellent experiential learning opportunities
 - Race to Zero, etc.



Theresa Weston (for Georg Reichard)

NIBS-BETEC Education Committee

➤ Overview/Update/Announcements from BETEC



Sam Rashkin

Chief Architect – DOE Building Technologies Office

- Race to Zero Student Design Competition
- DOE/PNNL BSE Solution Center



Building Science Fundamentals

B.S. 101 - Dedicated Stand-Alone Course

- Strong desire for a required (or technical elective) course
- Provide adequate coverage of key concepts & principles
 - Heat & mass transfer
 - Hygrothermal performance of enclosures
 - HVAC, IAQ, etc.
- Variations have been taught at:
 - Waterloo, Penn State, Leuven, U-IL, U-MN, etc.
- Popular textbooks & resources
 - B.S. for Building Enclosures/High Performance Enclosures/B.S. for Building Enclosures
 - Building Physics/Applied Building Physics
 - ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals
 - Online Articles: BSC, BSL, BA Solution Center, etc.



Building Science Fundamentals

B.S. 101 - Dedicated Stand-Alone Course

➤ Open Discussion

- How?
- Where?
- When?
- What?



Development of a “Hygrothermal Guide”

- Many faculty have expressed some hesitation or concerns about “best practices” to teach hygrothermal design, analysis, and evaluation.
- Determined to be especially important/desirable to support faculty and students in the Race to Zero.
- Is it possible (and useful) to create a “Schaum’s Outline” type guide to assist faculty in teaching hygrothermal analysis?



Building Science Fundamentals

U-MN “Hygrothermal” Experience – “5 Steps”

- Establish Context, Principles, and Perspective
- Heat Transfer & Thermal Profiles
- Psychrometrics, Moisture Transport & Vapor Profiles
- Material Storage & Modeling
- Analysis, Interpretation & Synthesis

Note: This approach has been part of our senior capstone course for many years and successfully applied by our U of MN RTZ teams. A summary handout is available.



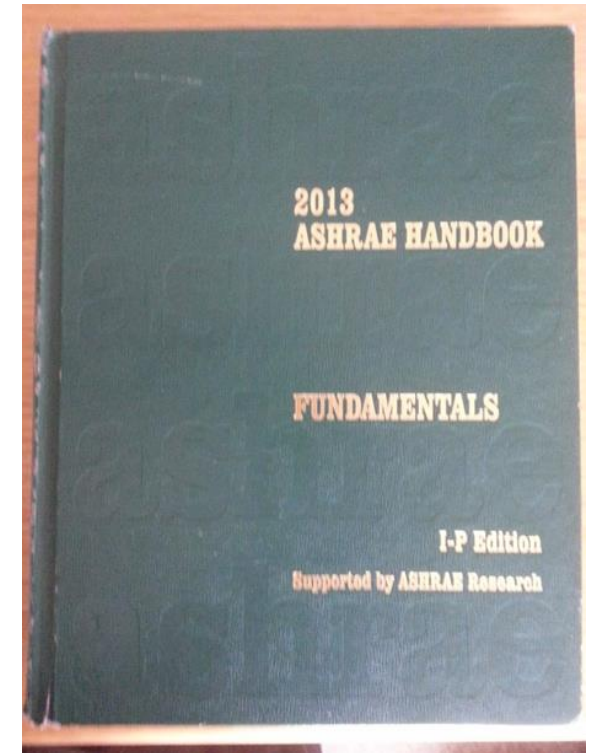
It Takes A Bookshelf



Building Science Fundamentals

U-MN “Hygrothermal” Experience

- Establish Context, Principles, and Perspective
 - Lstiburek: “The 5 Fundamental Changes”
 - Increased thermal resistance
 - Change in permeability of linings
 - Mold susceptibility of materials
 - Storage/redistribution of moisture
 - Uncontrolled 3-D airflow
 - Intro to ...
 - Building science
 - Heat/Air/Moisture
 - Control layers

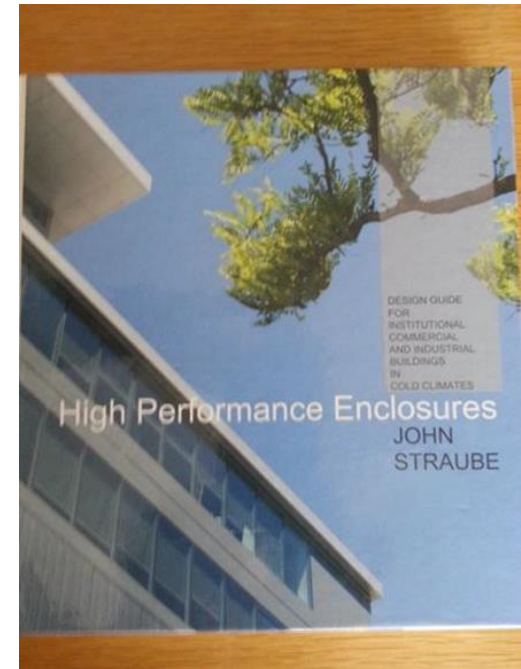
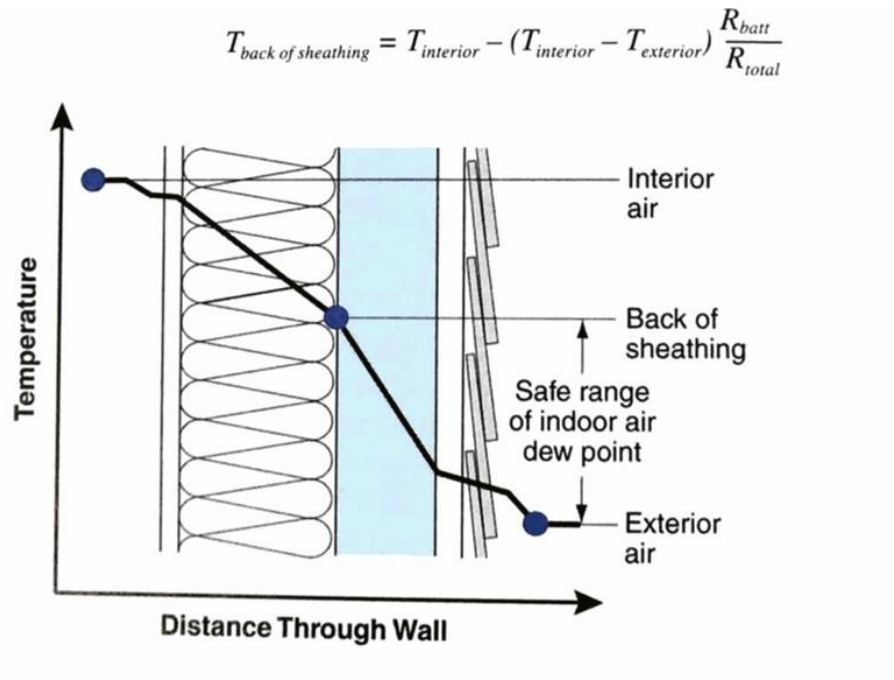


Building Science Fundamentals

U-MN “Hygrothermal” Experience

➤ Heat Transfer & Thermal Profiles

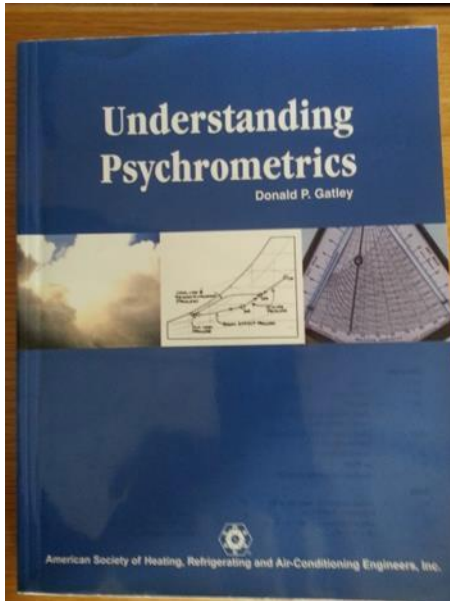
- Temperature profile (hand calculations/spreadsheet)
- Simplified (single surface) to detailed (each interface)



Building Science Fundamentals

U-MN “Hygrothermal” Experience

- Psychrometrics, Moisture Transport, Vapor Profiles
 - Enhanced Glaser (Dew Point) Method (spreadsheet)
 - WIB for context, BSBE for structure, ASHRAE for units



Component name	R-Value (hr-ft ² -F/Btu)	Permeance (gr/hr-ft ² -in.Hg)	r perm (hr-ft ² -in.Hg/gr)	Temperature (°F)	Saturation vapor pressure (in.Hg)	RH	Vapor pressure (in.Hg)
				T ₁ (=input)	svp ₁ (=f(T ₁))*	rh ₁ (=input)	vp ₁ (=svp ₁ * rh ₁)
				T ₁			vp ₁
	R ₁ (from reference)	p ₁ (from reference)	rp ₁ (= 1/p ₁)	T _m = (T ₁ R ₂ + T ₂ R ₁) / (R ₁ + R ₂)	svp (=f(T _m))*		vp _m = (vp ₁ rp ₂ + vp ₂ rp ₁) / (rp ₁ + rp ₂)
	R ₂ (from reference)	p ₂ (from reference)	rp ₂ (= 1/p ₂)	T ₂			vp ₂
				T ₀ (=input)	svp ₀ (=f(T ₀))*	rh ₀ (=input)	vp ₀ (=svp ₀ * rh ₀)

*See Appendix B for the function converting temperature F to saturation vapor pressure.

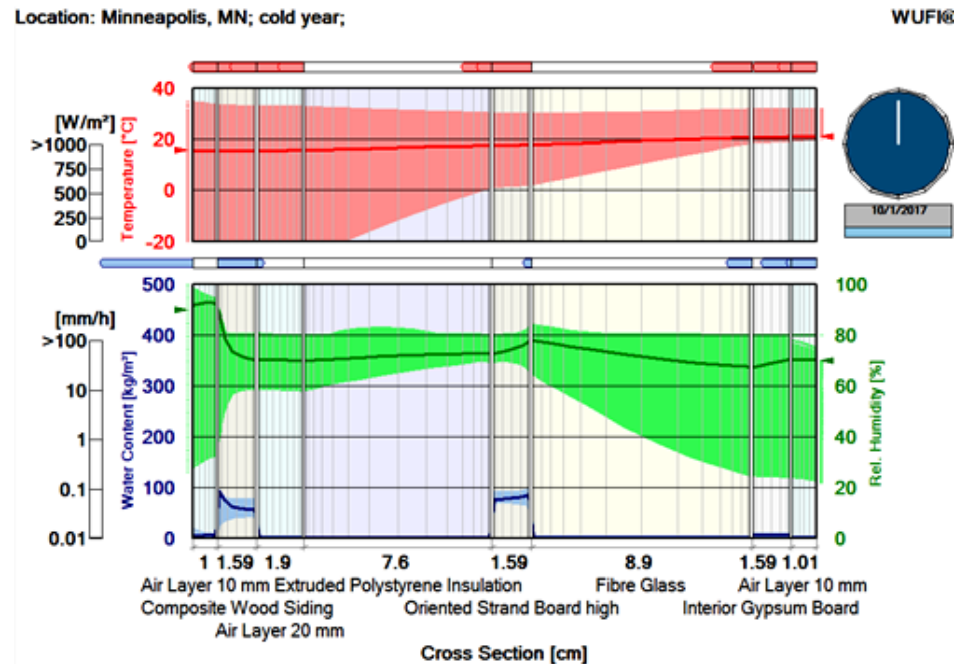
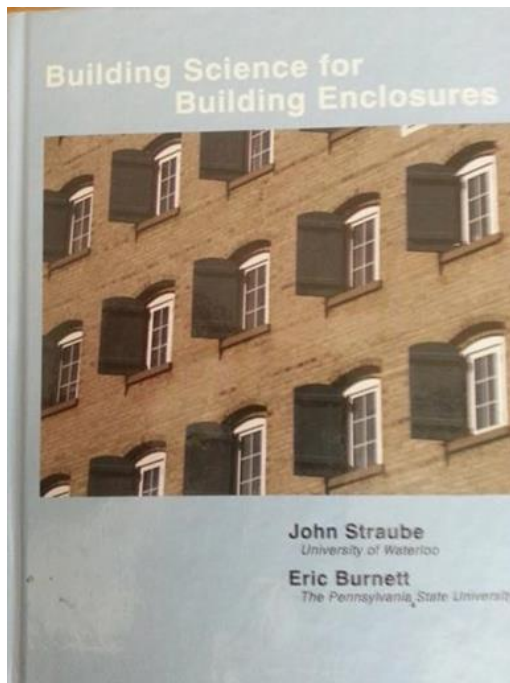


Building Science Fundamentals

U-MN “Hygrothermal” Experience

➤ Material Storage & Modeling

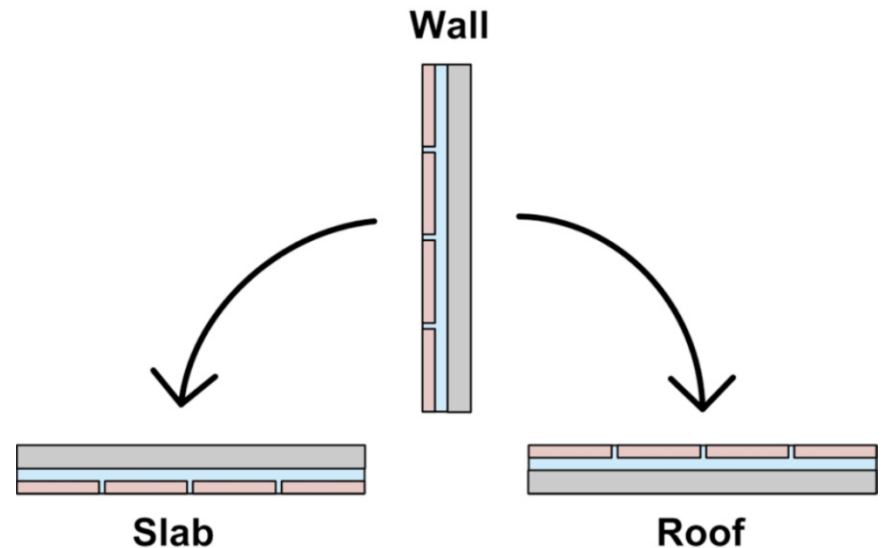
- BSBE: Chapter 8 (materials); Chapter 6 (examples)
- 1-D coupled heat/moisture analysis (WUFI software)



Building Science Fundamentals

U-MN “Hygrothermal” Experience

- Analysis, Interpretation, & Synthesis
 - Review limitations of each approach
 - Compare and contrast results
 - Step away from the edge!
 - The Perfect Enclosure



Development of a “Hygrothermal Guide”

➤ The Progression???

- Establish Context, Principles, and Perspective
- Heat Transfer & Thermal Profiles
- Psychrometrics, Moisture Transport & Vapor Profiles
- Material Storage & Modeling
- Analysis, Interpretation & Synthesis



Development of a “Hygrothermal Guide”

- Levels and/or Depth???
- Qualitative Approaches
- Quantitative Approaches
 - Simple hand calculation
 - Extended spreadsheet calculations
 - Modeling & simulation
- Precedence/Prior Experience/Intuition



Development of a “Hygrothermal Guide”

➤ Other Approaches

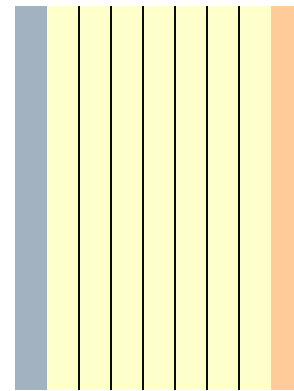
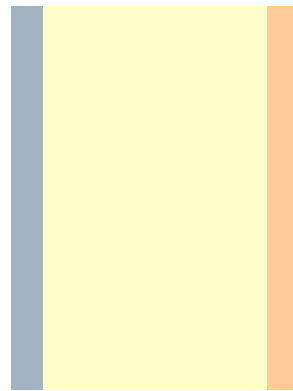
- Georg Reichard
- John Straube
- Bill Rose

➤ Open Discussion



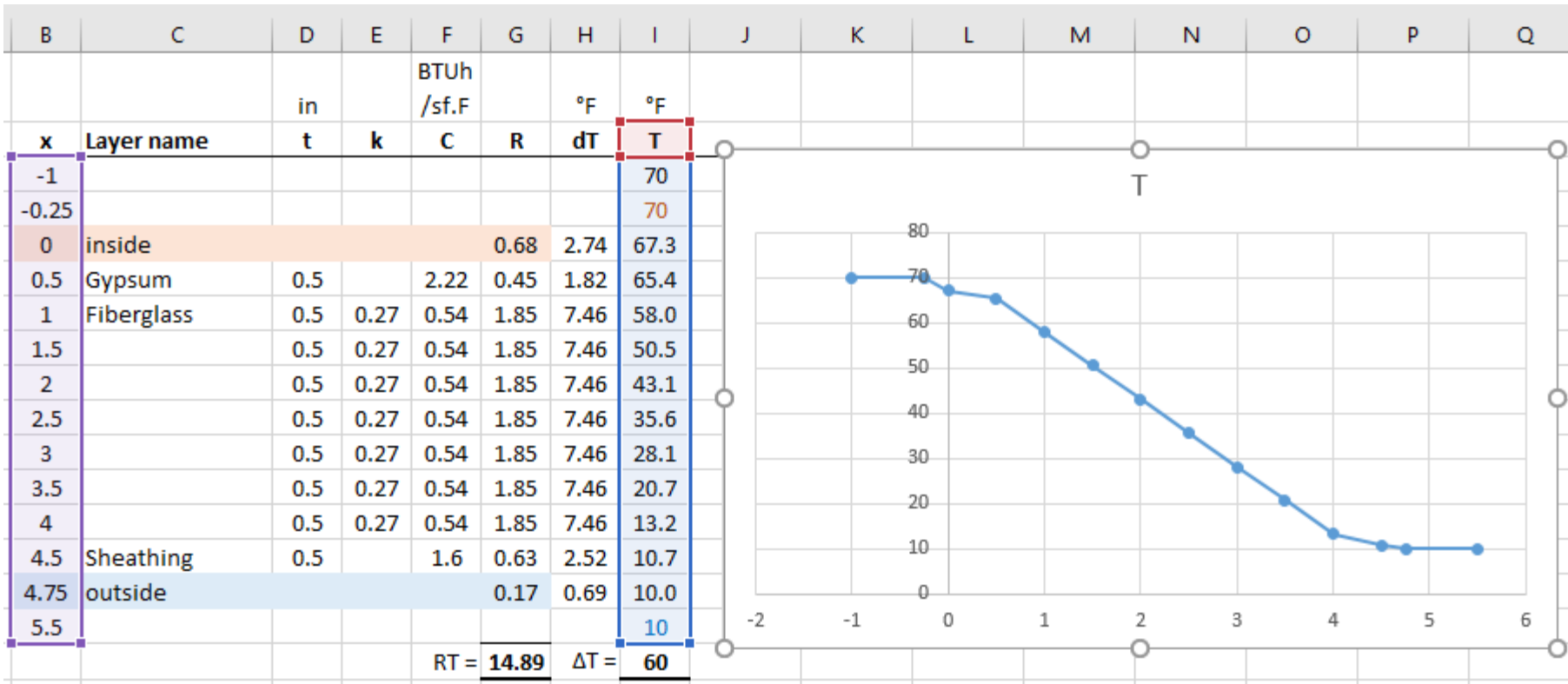
Hygrothermal Profile

- For this exercise building component with the following layer composition is given (from inside to outside):
 - 1/2" Gypsum board (drywall)
 - 3 1/2" Fiberglass batt insulation
 - 1/2" Plywood sheathing

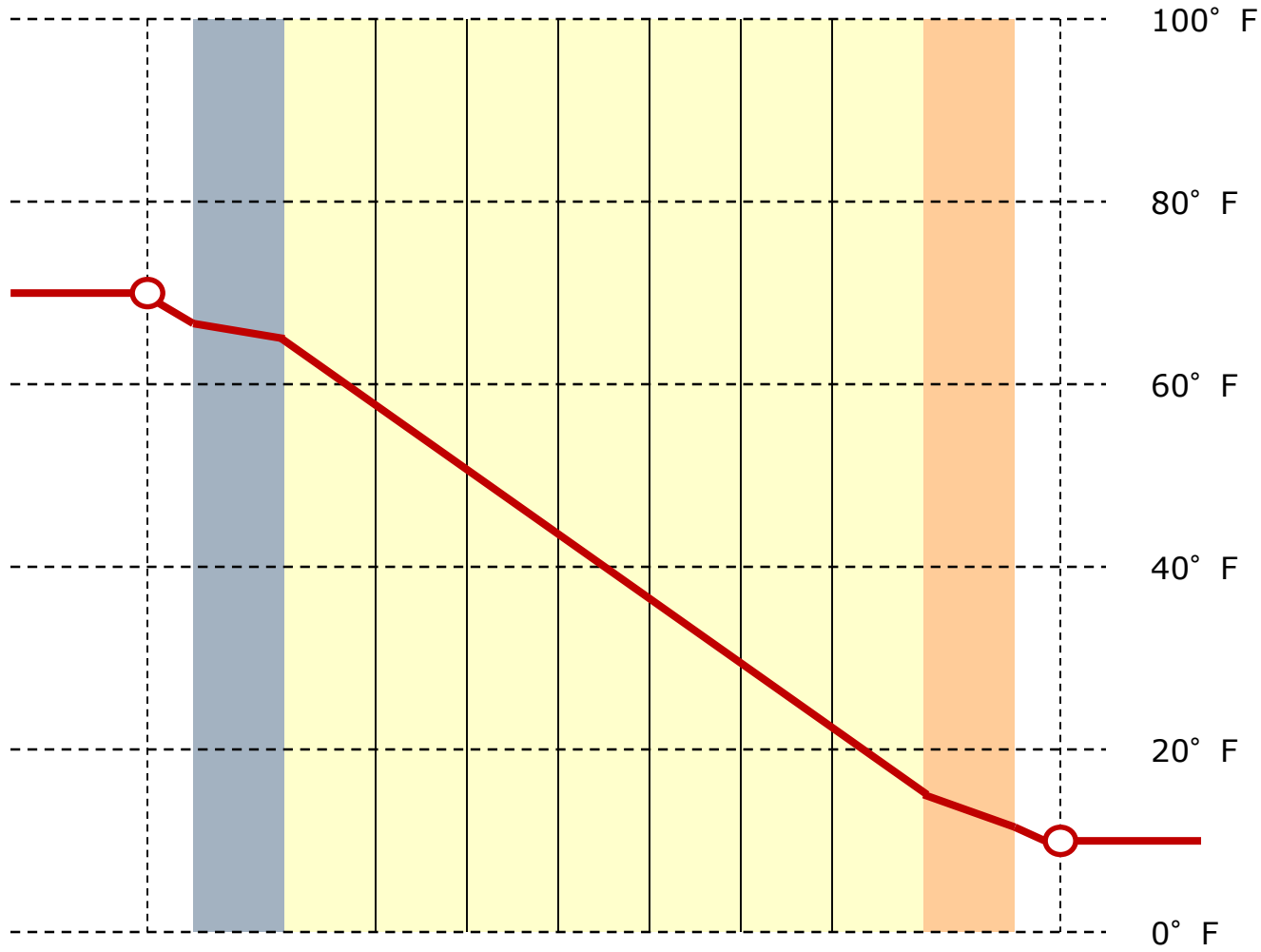


Create the graph

- ❑ Select "x" and "T" column
- ❑ Insert "Scatter Plot" (e.g. with straight lines and markers)



Temperature Gradient



© Dr. Georg Reichard, Department of Building Construction, Myers-Lawson School of Construction

New running variable for depth

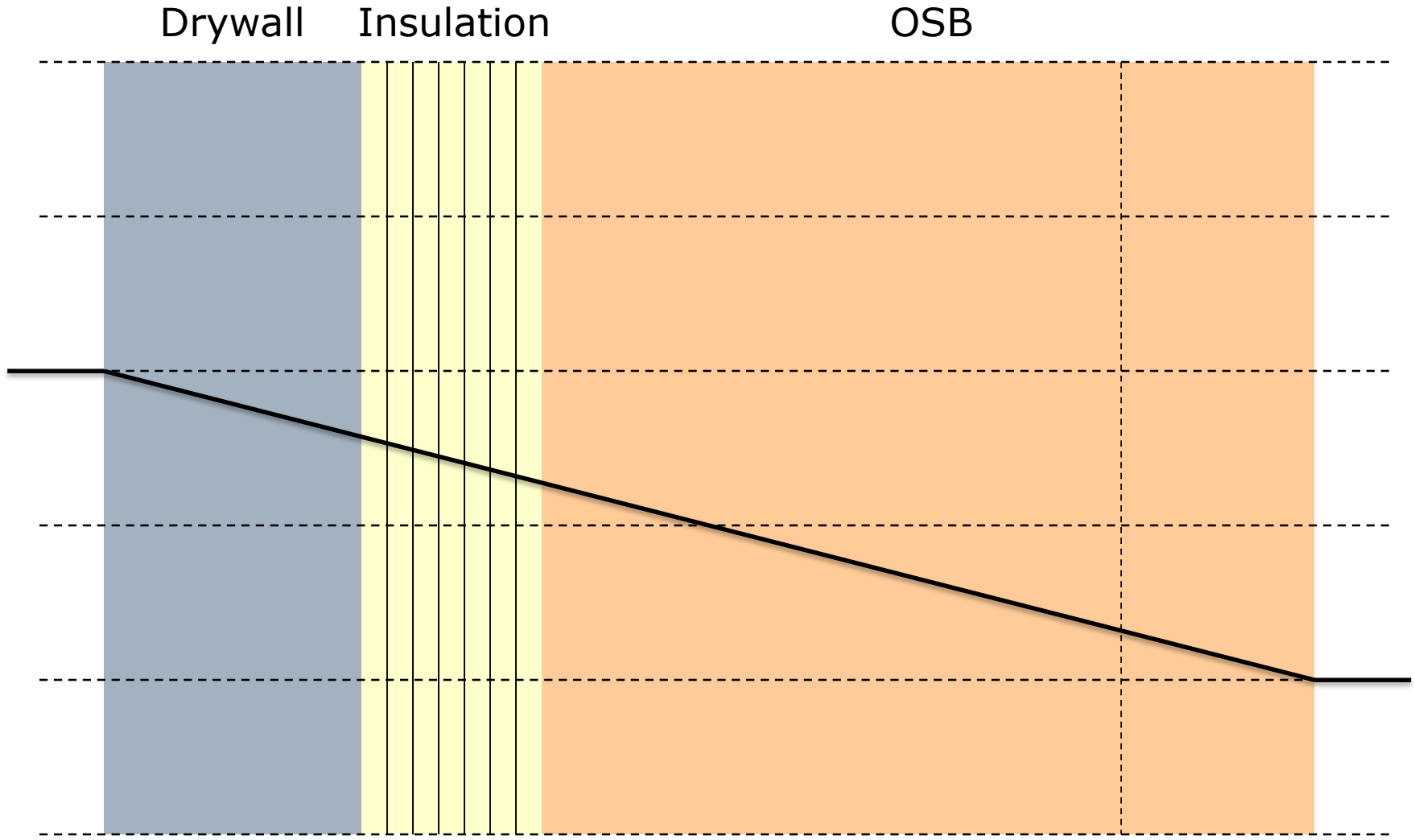
	A	B	C	D
1				in
2		x	Layer name	t
3		-1		
4		-0.3	air	
5		0	inside	
6		0.5	Gypsum	0.5
7		1	Fiberglass	0.5
8		1.5		0.5
9		2		0.5
10		2.5		0.5
11		3		0.5
12		3.5		0.5
13		4		0.5
14		4.5	Sheathing	0.5
15		4.75	outside	
16		5.5	air	
17				$t_T = 4.5$

M	N	O
perm		
-in	in	in
μ''	aet	vx
120		
		0.0
15.0	4.00	4.0
118	0.51	4.5
118	(=O7+N8
118	0.51	5.5
118	0.51	6.0
118	0.51	6.5
118	0.51	7.1
118	0.51	7.6
5.00	12.00	19.6
aet _T =	19.56	

□ We need a new running variable for the depth x as we progress through layers

- Start at 0
- Add individual equivalent thicknesses (aet_i)
- End should be the same as total air equivalent thickness aet_T

Vapor pressure gradient through permeability equivalent thickness



© Dr. Georg Reichard, Department of Building Construction, Myers-Lawson School of Construction

Development of a “Hygrothermal Guide”

➤ Open Discussion

- Is this going in the right direction (for this audience)?
- Where does it make sense?
- What needs to be altered
- What needs to be added?
- Are there alternative methods to assess?



Building Science Infusion & Fundamentals (Research Underway)

- Infusion of Building Science into Traditional Courses (see Website)

- Near Term – Improve Traditional Courses
 - Review curricula, texts, slides
 - Provide best practice errata (slides/handouts) to counter bad practices and misleading resources
 - Introduce “why” of best building science practices



Building Science Infusion & Fundamentals (Research Underway)

- Longer Term – Key Textbooks/References
 - Infusion of building science best practices into textbooks & associated supporting materials (slides, etc.)
 - Identify & engage authors and reviewers
 - Please Identify and Share
 - Recommended Target Courses for Infusion
 - Recommended Modules/Other Resources
- Note Online BSC and BSL resources



Building Science Infusion

Priority Targets

- Environmental Controls I & II (or Environmental Systems I & II)
 - Typically touches on heat transfer and air flow
 - Generally includes discussion of RH & IAQ
 - Popular references/texts include:
 - Mechanical & Electrical Equipment for Buildings: Grondzik, W., Kwok, A., Stein, B., Reynolds, J.
 - Heating, Cooling, Lighting: Sustainable Design Methods for Architects: Lechner, N.

Note: We are looking for current instructors to assist us in evaluating syllabi, texts, and resources.



Building Science Infusion Priority Targets

- Materials & Methods I & II (aka Construction Technologies I & II)
 - Typically touches on enclosure design
 - Can include discussion of moisture, RH
 - Popular references/texts include:
 - Building Construction: Mehta, M.
 - Building Construction Illustrated: Ching, F.
 - Fundamentals of Building Construction: Allen, E., Iano, J.

- Note: We are looking for current instructors to assist us in evaluating syllabi, texts, and resources.



Building Science Infusion Priority Targets

➤ Other Potential Course Targets

- Construction Documentation
- Construction Project Management
- Systems Integration
- Sustainable Design
- ???



Building Science Infusion Priority Targets

➤ Open Discussion

- Are we pointed in the right direction?
- Are there other critical targets
- What methods can be used to reach the faculty?



Good News

- Significant progress is being made towards larger building science education goals and outcomes.
- Have achieved several short-term successes:
 - Uncovered a wealth of building science teaching resources that are (or will be) readily available,
 - Demonstrated that it is “not so difficult” to infuse building science into existing courses, and
 - We have several experiential learning opportunities to reinforce building science best practices.



Our Challenge

➤ Short-Term Objectives

- Increase, improve, share building science resources
- Continue to support “building science infusion”
- Push for building science fundamentals courses
- Expand experiential learning opportunities

➤ Medium-Term Targets

- Push for revision of curriculum, credentials, accreditation, etc. to incorporate building science

➤ Long-Term Goals

- Support graduate education and research in building science, so we will have future teachers and mentors



Please ...

- Help us identify successful building science programs, courses, or modules.
- Work with “us” to review existing and potentially new building science materials and resources.
- Consider sharing your knowledge, experiences, and resources for use by others.



Thank You

- Be sure to visit the JCBSE website
 - [www. BuildingScienceEducation.net](http://www.BuildingScienceEducation.net)

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