

# Energy and air quality in the built environment

## Brent Stephens, PhD

Assistant Professor

Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL



## The Built Environment Research Group

advancing energy, environmental, and sustainability research within the built environment at Illinois Institute of Technology



web www.built-envi.com email brent@iit.edu twitter @built\_envi

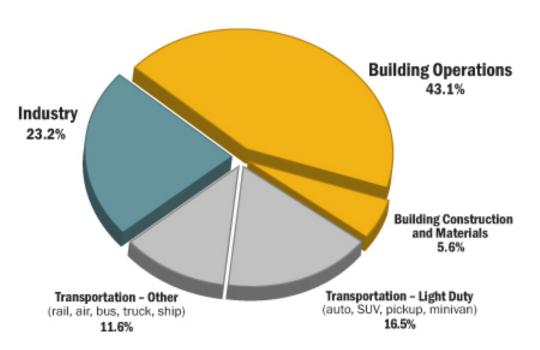
## What do you think of when you hear "energy"?



## What do I think of when I hear "energy"?



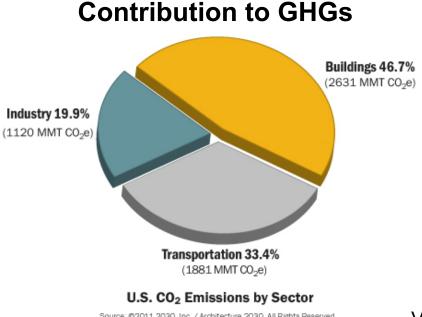
## **Buildings**



## Buildings account for ~43-48% of total U.S. energy consumption

Buildings in the U.S. account for ~7% of the total amount of energy used in the world

## Buildings account for a lot of GHG and pollutant emissions

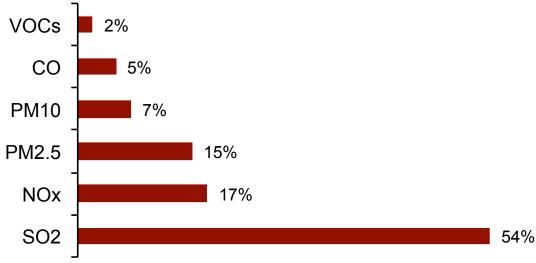


Source: @2011 2030, Inc. / Architecture 2030. All Rights Reserved. Data Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (2011).

#### Major uses

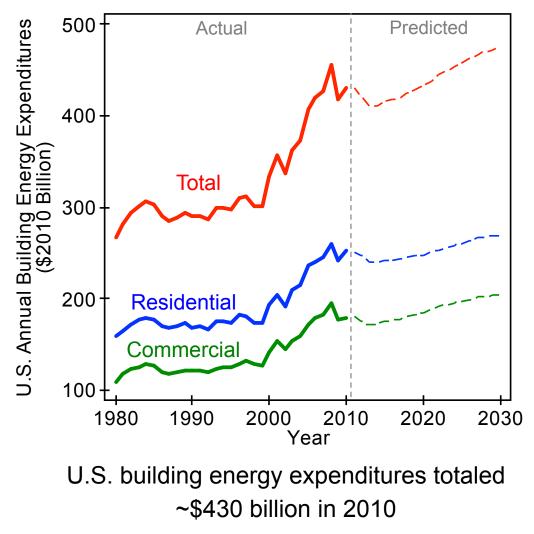
- Heating
- Cooling
- Lighting
- Water heating

#### Contribution to outdoor air pollution

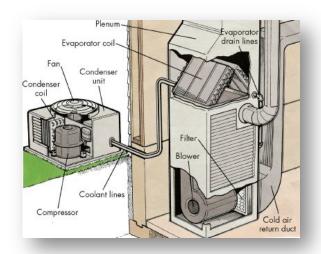


#### Percent contribution by U.S. buildings

## Building energy use costs a lot of money



Approximately 3% of our GDP



Approximately 1/3 of building energy use is for space conditioning ~1% of our GDP is spent on heating and cooling buildings





#### Formaldehyde and Other Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions in Four FEMA Temporary Housing Units

Maddalena et al., Environ. Sci. Technol. 2009, 43, 5626-5632



Formaldehyde in the Indoor Environment Salthammer et al., *Chem. Rev.* **2010**, 110, 2536-2572

#### Emission Rates of Formaldehyde from Materials and Consumer Products Found in California Homes

Kelly et al., Environ. Sci. Technol. 1999, 33, 81-88



#### Association between gas cooking and respiratory disease in children

Melia et al., British Medical Journal 1977, 2, 149-152

#### **Indoor Air Pollution and Asthma**

Ostro et al., Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care. Med. 1994, 149, 1400-1406

#### Respiratory Symptoms in Children and Indoor Exposure to Nitrogen Dioxide and Gas Stoves

Garrett et al., Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care. Med. 1998, 158, 891-895

#### **Pollutant Exposures from Natural Gas Cooking Burners**

Logue et al., Environ Health Perspect. 2014, 122, 43-50



Association of domestic exposure to volatile organic compounds with asthma in young children

Rumchev et al., Thorax 2004, 59, 746-751



### Cleaning products and air fresheners: exposure to primary and secondary air pollutants

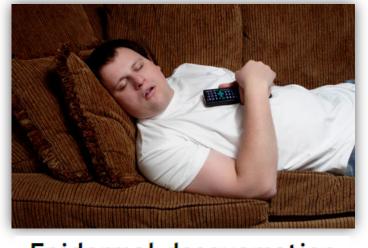
Nazaroff and Weschler, Atmos Environ. 2004, 38, 2841-2865

Frequent use of chemical household products is associated with persistent wheezing in pre-school age children

Sherriff et al., Thorax 2005, 60, 45-49

## The Use of Household Cleaning Sprays and Adult Asthma

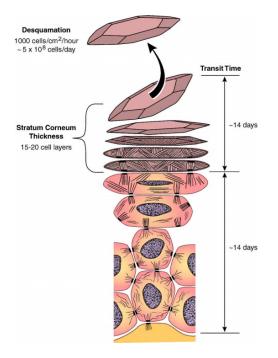
Zock et al., Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care. Med. 2007, 176, 735-741

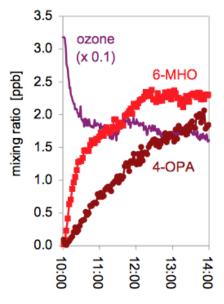


Epidermal desquamation

Milstone, J. Dermatol. Sci. 2004, 36, 131-140

## We shed our entire outer layer of skin every 2-4 weeks





#### Reactions of ozone with human skin lipids: Sources of carbonyls, dicarbonyls, and hydroxycarbonyls in indoor air

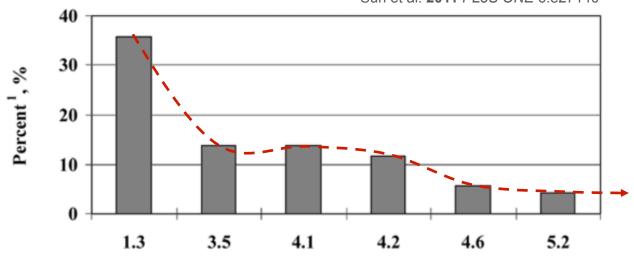
Wisthaler and Weschler, Proc Nat Acad Sci. 2010, 107, 6568-6575



#### Evidence of Airborne Transmission of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Virus

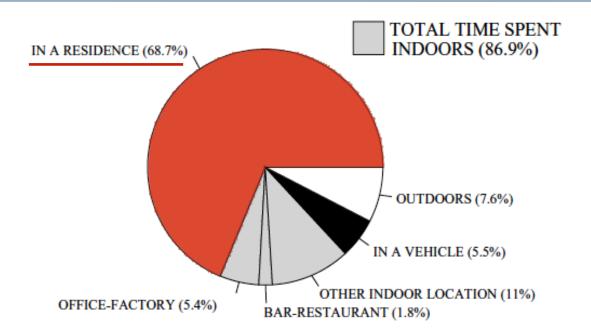
Yu et al., New Engl. J. Med 2004, 350, 1731-1739

In China, Students in Crowded Dormitories with a Low Ventilation Rate Have More Common Colds: Evidence for Airborne Transmission Sun et al. 2011 PLoS ONE 6:e27140



Mean ventilation rate in winter, L/s per person

## We spend *a lot* of our time in buildings



- Americans spend almost 90% of their time indoors
  - 75% at home or in an office Klepeis et al., J Exp. Anal. Environ. Epidem. 2001, 11, 231-252
- Residential indoor air pollution is estimated to result in 5-14% of the annual non-communicable, non-psychiatric disease burden in the U.S.
   Excludes SHS and radon
- Cumulative lifetime cancer risks of 1-10 excess cases per 10,000 people

Wallace et al., *Environ. Health Perspect.* **1991**, 95, 7-13 Sax et al., *Environ. Health Perspect.* **2006**, 114, 1558-1566 Hun et al., *Environ. Health Perspect.* **2009**, 117, 1925-1931

## Buildings impact people, energy, and the environment



The design, construction, and operation of buildings greatly affect their contribution to energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, financial expenditures, human exposures to airborne pollutants, and human health The **Built Environment Research Group** at IIT is dedicated to investigating problems and solutions related to energy and air quality within the built environment

#### **Research areas:**

Indoor air quality

Building science measurements and methods HVAC filtration and air cleaning Human exposure assessment Building energy efficiency and energy modeling

## The Built Environment Research Group

advancing energy, environmental, and sustainability research within the built environment at Illinois Institute of Technology



web www.built-envi.com email brent@iit.edu twitter @built\_envi

Stephanie Kunkel, PhD Postdoctoral Fellow

> Parham Azimi PhD Candidate, ENVE

Torkan Fazli PhD Candidate, CE

Haoran Zhao PhD Candidate, ENVE

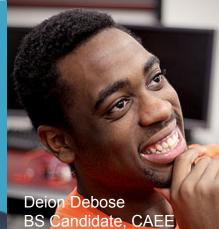
Dan Zhao PhD Candidate, ENV



Akram Ali MS Candidate, ARCE



Joseph Chee Poh Huan BS Candidate, ECE



Jihad Zeid BS Candidate, ChBE

Boyang "Bobo" Dong BS Candidate, ECE Rou Yi Yeap BS Candidate, ChBE Zack Zanzinger BS Candidate, CAEE Tommy Zakrzewski

Part-time PhD Candidate, CE

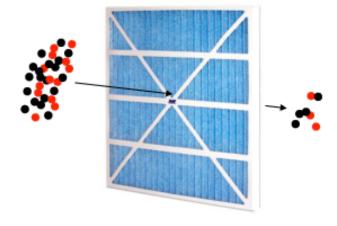
## Highlights of some recent research projects

1) Characterizing outdoor pollutant infiltration





#### 2) Filtration of indoor aerosols



3) Ultrafine particle emissions from 3D printers



## Highlights of some recent research projects

4) Building science measurements in the Hospital Microbiome Project



5) Open source building science sensors



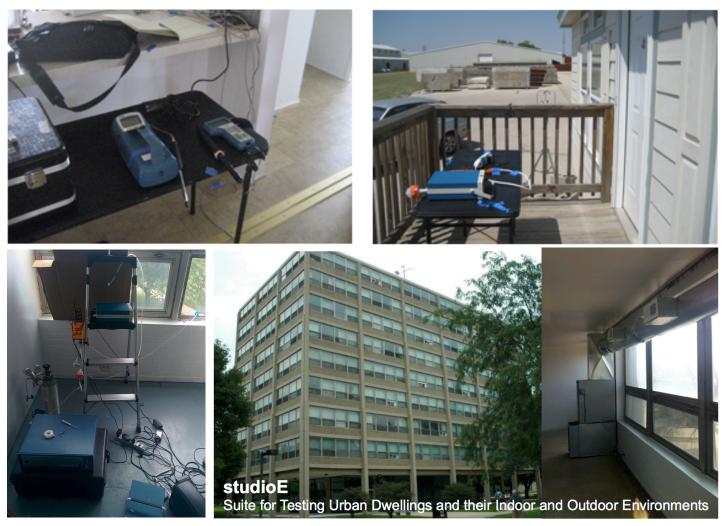
6) Optimizing Chicagoland housing retrofits for 50% energy savings



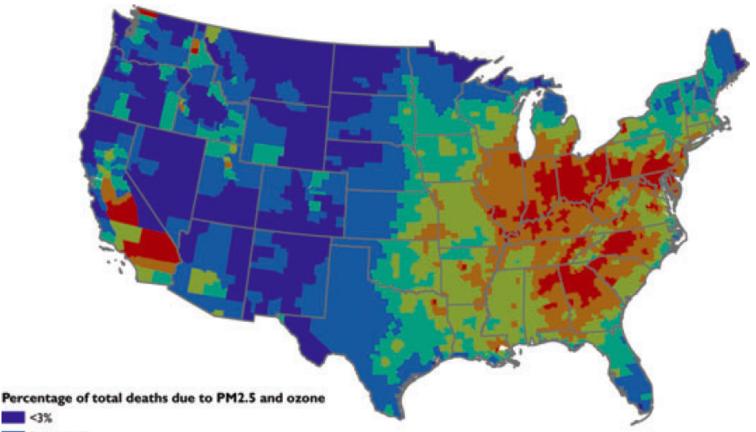
#### 7) Indoor air and climate change



#### 1) Characterizing outdoor pollutant infiltration



## Motivation: Outdoor ozone and particulate matter



<3%</li>
3.1 to 4.1%
4.2 to 5.3%
5.4 to 6.2%
6.3 to 7.2%
7.3 to 9.8%

An estimated 130,000 deaths in 2005 in the US were related to outdoor  $PM_{2.5}$  (and 4,700 w/  $O_3$ )

Fann et al., 2012 Risk Analysis

## **Exposures to outdoor O<sub>3</sub> and PM**

• Elevated outdoor concentrations  $\rightarrow$  health effects

#### **Particulate Matter (PM)**

Respiratory symptoms, cardiovascular mortality, lung cancer

Pope et al., **2002** *J Am Med Assoc*; Pope and Dockery, **2006** *J Air Waste Manag Assoc*; Miller et al., **2007** *New Engl J Med*; Ostro et al., **2010** *Environ Health Persp* 

#### Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)

Hospital admissions, respiratory illness, short-term mortality

Gent et al., **2003** *J Am Med Assoc*; Bell et al., **2004** *J Am Med Assoc*; Hubbell et al., **2005** *Environ Health Persp*; Jerrett et al., **2009** *New Engl J Med* 

• Americans spend most of their time indoors (nearly 90%)

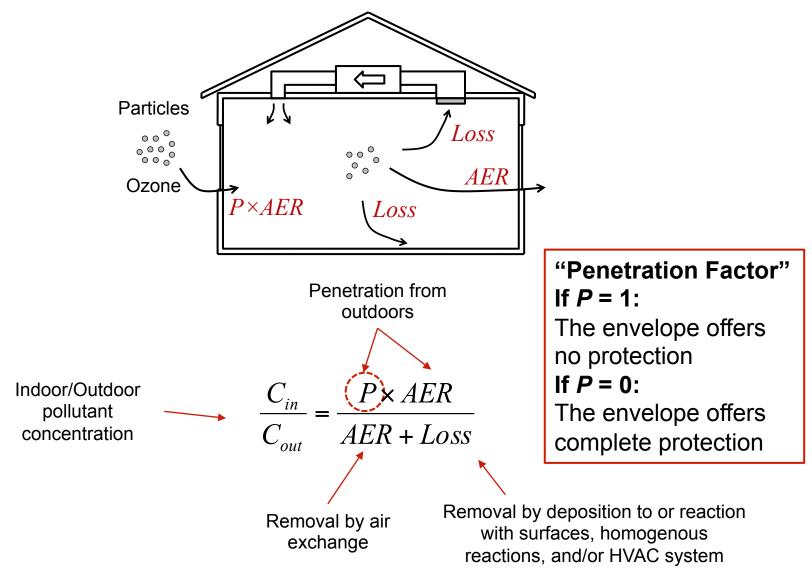
~70% at home Klepeis et al., 2001 J Expo Anal Env Epi

- Outdoor PM and O<sub>3</sub> infiltrate in buildings w/ varying efficiencies
   PM: Chen and Zhao, 2011 Atmos Environ
   O<sub>3</sub>: Avol et al., 1998 Environ Sci Technol; Weschler, 2000 Indoor Air
- Exposure to outdoor PM and  $O_3$  (+ rxns) often occurs indoors

**PM:** Meng et al., **2005** *J Exp Anal Environ Epidem*; Kearney et al., **2010** *Atmos Environ* **O**<sub>3</sub>: Weschler, **2006** *Environ Health Persp* 

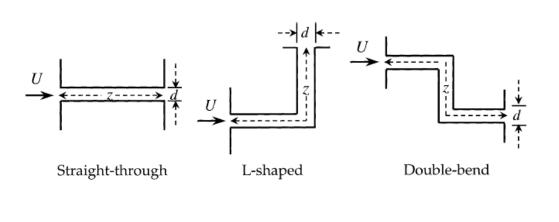
- But we don't fully understand how and why infiltration varies
  - Lack of knowledge leads to "exposure misclassification"

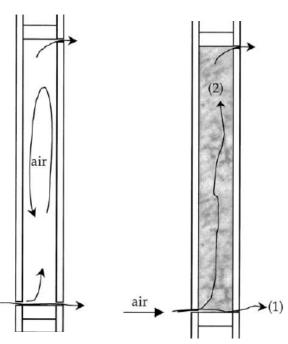
#### Mechanisms that impact indoor exposures to outdoor pollutants



## **Envelope penetration factors**

- O<sub>3</sub> and PM can infiltrate through leaks in building envelopes
  - Ozone can react with envelope materials
  - Particles can deposit on envelope materials
- No one has ever measured natural ozone penetration factors
  - Some modeling, some unrealistic measurements (by me)
- A few groups have measured PM penetration factors
  - Limited in number





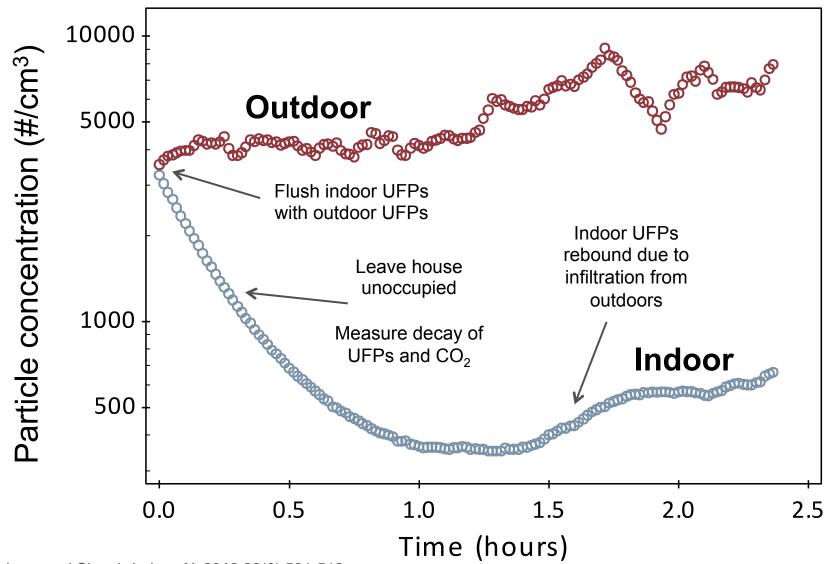
## Measuring envelope penetration factors

We have been working on novel methods to rapidly measure envelope penetration factors in order to characterize the ability of building envelopes to prevent the transport of outdoor pollutants indoors



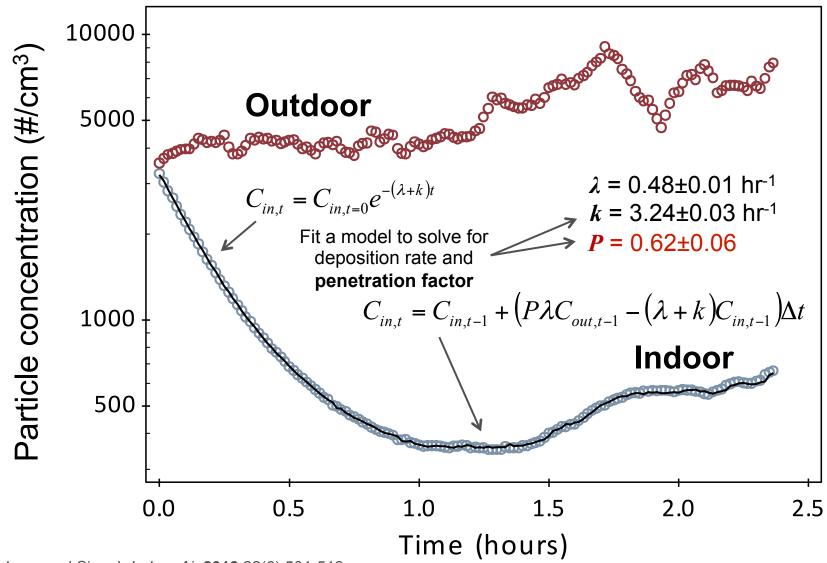
- Size-resolved PM 0.01-10 µm
- PM<sub>2.5</sub>
- Ultrafine particles (UFPs < 100 nm)
- Black carbon
- O<sub>3</sub>
- NÔ<sub>x</sub>

#### Test method for ultrafine particle (UFP <100 nm) penetration



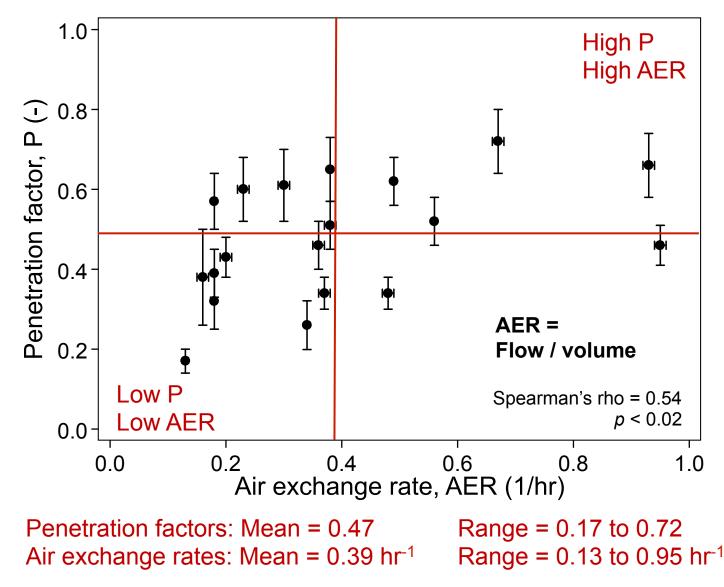
Stephens and Siegel, Indoor Air 2012 22(6):501-512

#### Test method for ultrafine particle (UFP <100 nm) penetration



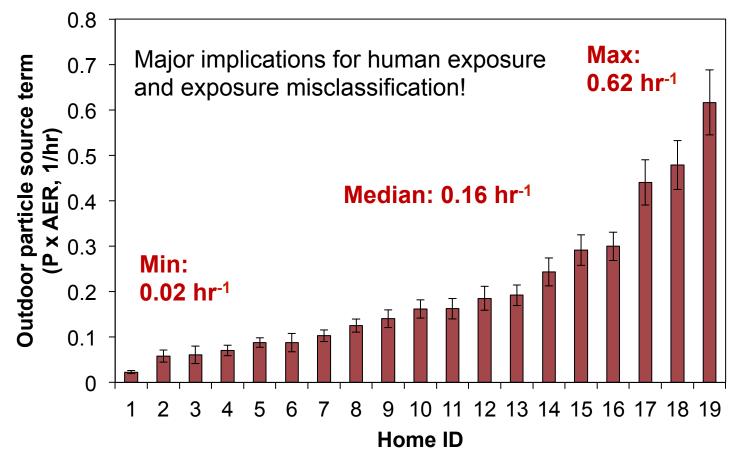
Stephens and Siegel, Indoor Air 2012 22(6):501-512

#### **UFP** penetration results: P vs. AER

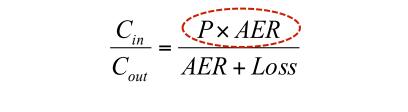


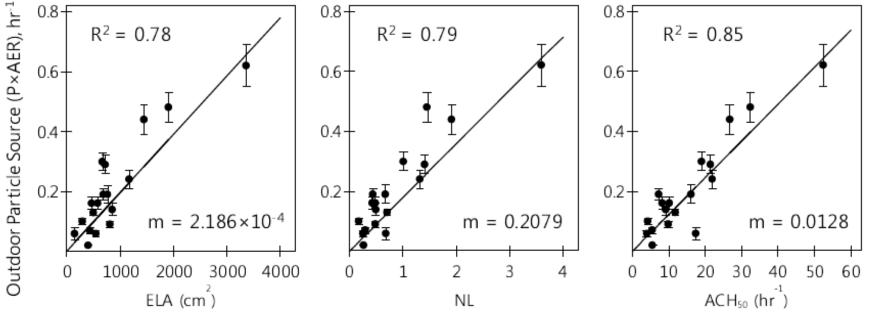
#### **Outdoor UFP source terms: Penetration × AER**





#### Outdoor UFP source terms and air leakage





#### Leakier homes had much higher outdoor particle source rates

- Leaky homes are also older predictive ability?
- Potential socioeconomic implications: low-income homes are also leakier

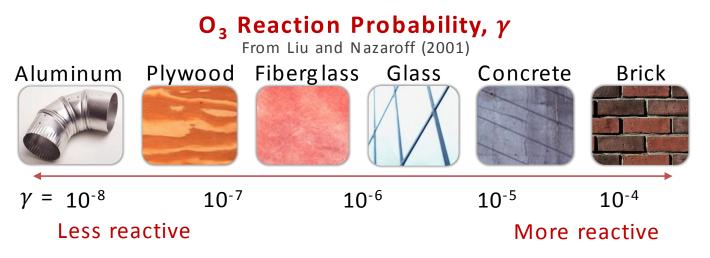
Chan et al., 2005 Atmos Environ

## Outdoor ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) infiltration

Typically assumed that ozone penetration factor = 1

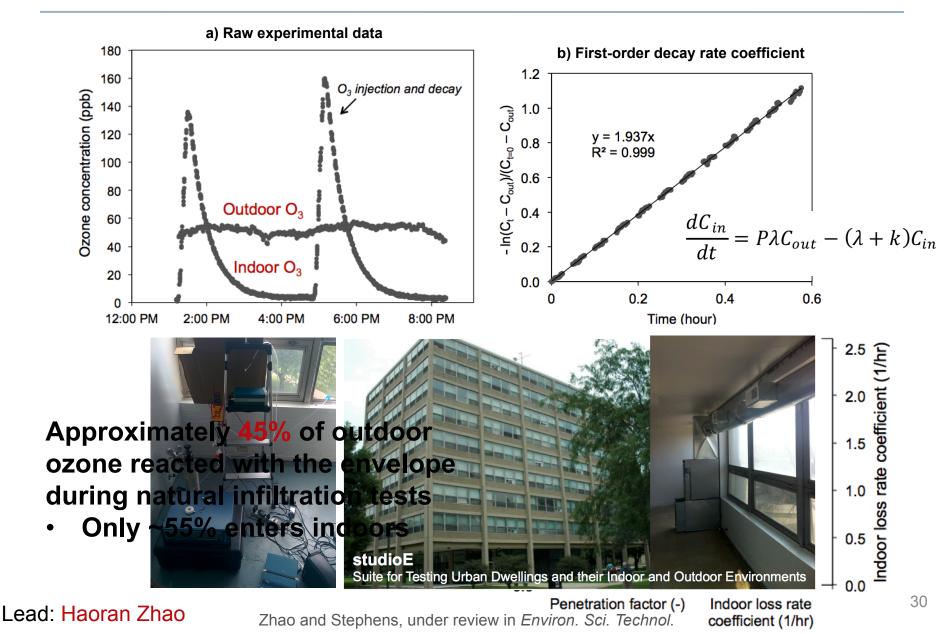
Weschler, 2000 Indoor Air; Weschler, 2006 Environ Health Persp

• But ozone reacts with common envelope materials:

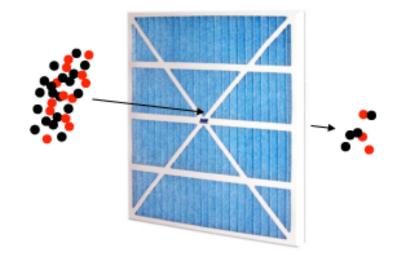


- Need a test method to solve for two unknown parameters with one equation
  - Ozone injection and decay with simultaneous air exchange measurements

## Improved method for measuring O<sub>3</sub> penetration



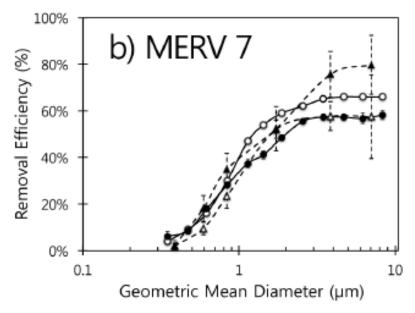
## 2) Filtration of indoor aerosols



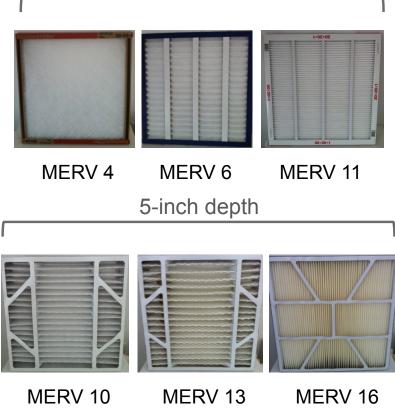
## **HVAC filter performance**

## ASHRAE Standard 52.2 → "MERV" rating

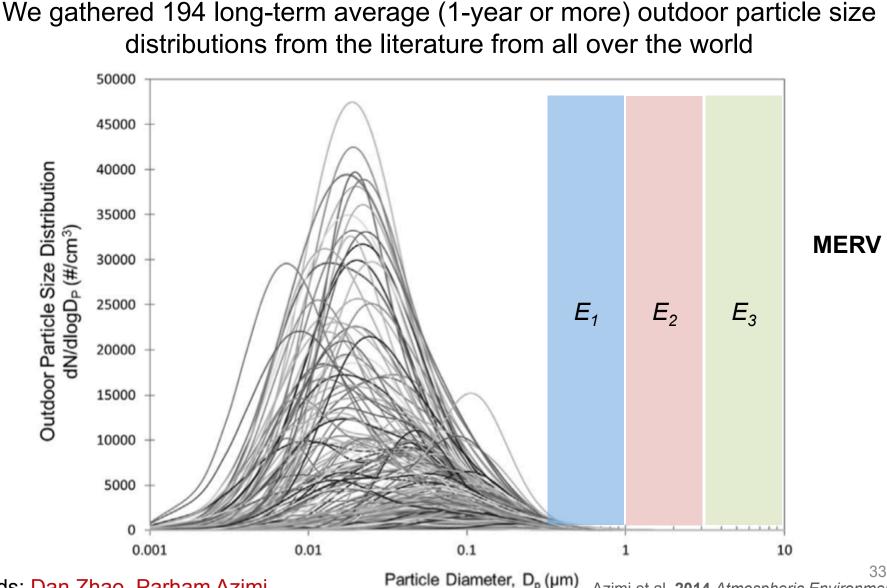
- Filter efficiency for 0.3 to 10 µm particles
- Higher MERV → higher removal efficiency for particle sizes tested
   BUT: 1-inch depth
- Vast majority of particles in indoor environments are less than 0.3 µm



Stephens and Siegel, *Aerosol Sci. Technol.* **2012** 46(5), 504-513 Stephens and Siegel, *Indoor Air* **2013** 



## HVAC filter efficiency for outdoor PM<sub>2.5</sub> and UFPs



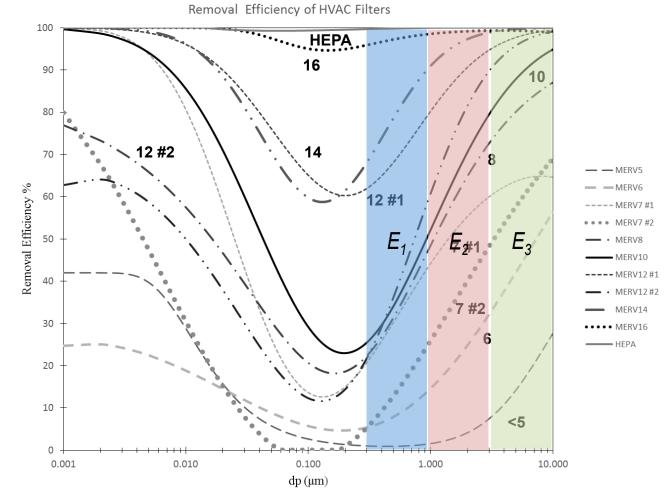
Leads: Dan Zhao, Parham Azimi

Azimi et al. 2014 Atmospheric Environment

## HVAC filter efficiency for outdoor PM<sub>2.5</sub> and UFP

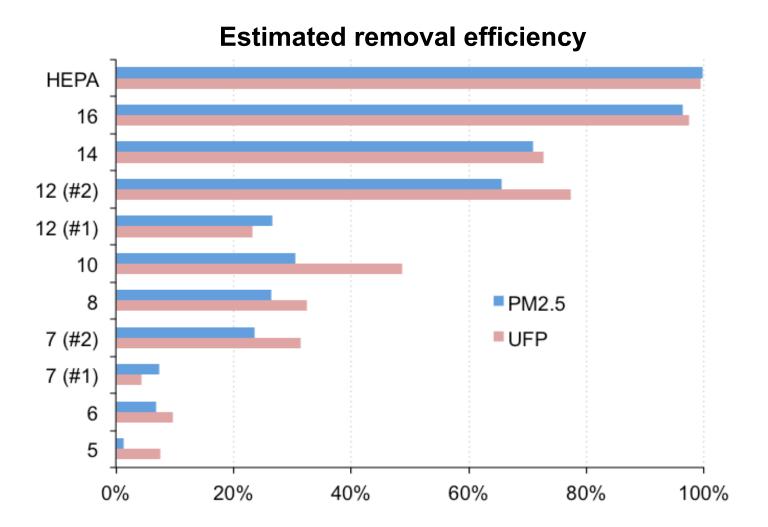
#### Filtration efficiency varies with particle size

- Impaction
- Interception
- Diffusion
- Settling

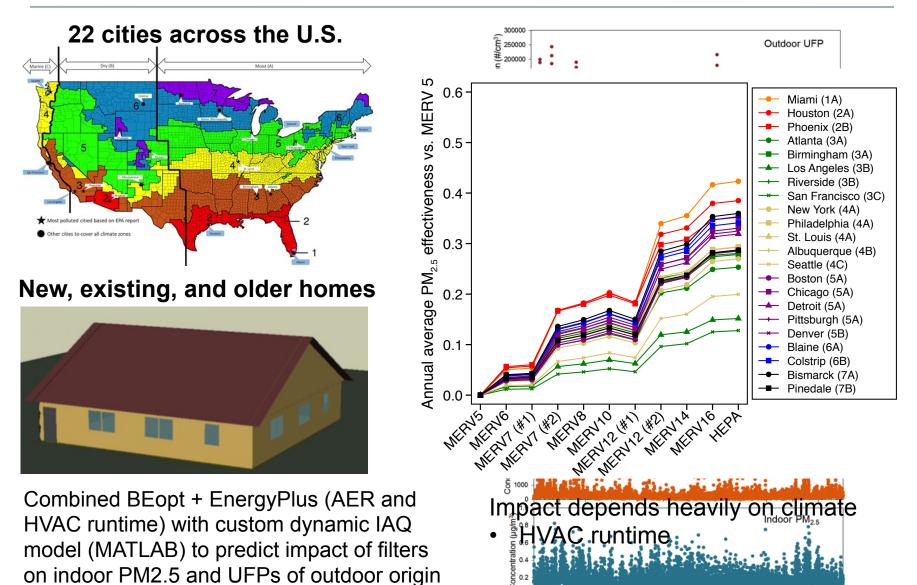


Hecker and Hofacre 2008 EPA Report 600/R-08/013 34

## **Mapping** outdoor size distributions to filtration efficiency for outdoor origin PM<sub>2.5</sub> and UFPs



## ASHRAE RP-1691: Modeling the impact of HVAC filters on indoor particles of outdoor origin (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and UFPs)



MAY

JUN JUL AUG

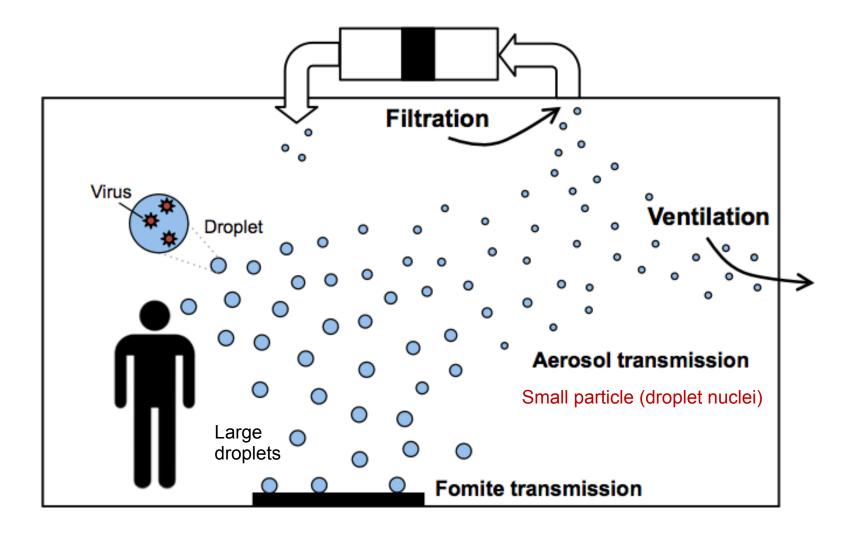
SEP OCT NOV

Leads: Dan Zhao, Parham Azimi

### Indoor aerosols: **Bioaerosols** Rapid evaporation of droplets, *Mythbusters*



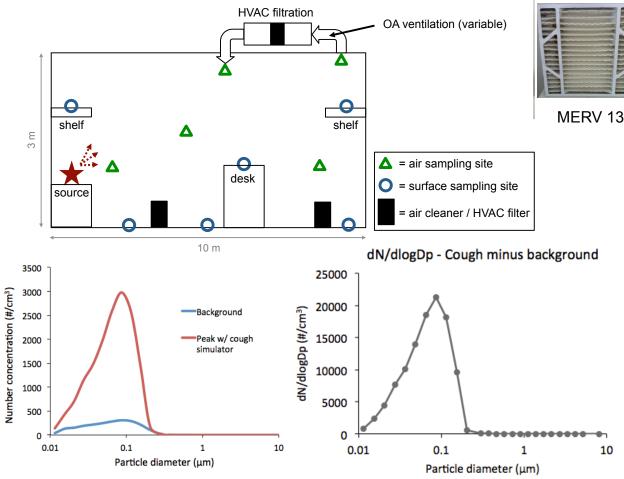
### Particle size is important for distribution and removal



# **Bioaerosol transport and control: Experimental**

# Development of an experimental system for assessing indoor bioaerosol transport and control

**Sponsor:** Sloan Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (Kunkel)



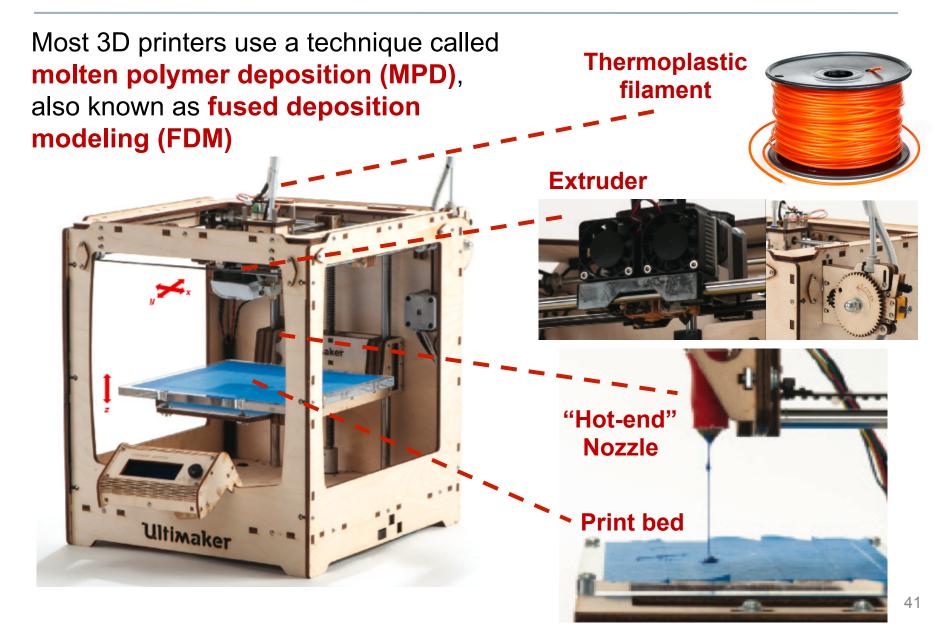


Leads: Stephanie Kunkel, Parham Azimi

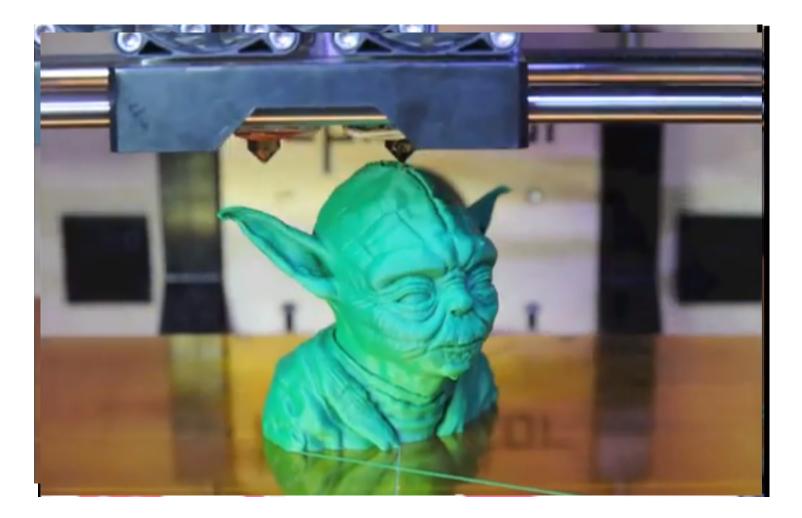
### 3) Ultrafine particle emissions from 3D printers



# Additive 3D printers: MPD/FDM



## **MPD/FDM 3D printer in action**



Yoda head @ 0.1 mm layer height | <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8\_vloWVgf0o</u>

# Additive 3D printers: MPD/FDM

### **Thermoplastic filaments**

Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) Polylactic acid (PLA) Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) Many others

### Hot-end nozzle

0.2-0.8 mm diameter hole ~215-250°C for ABS ~160-220°C for PLA ~190°C for PVA

Print bed ~110°C for ABS <40°C for PLA





# **Our ad-hoc experiment**

- Five 3D printers were tested
  - All 5 were the same popular commercial variety
  - All unenclosed designs

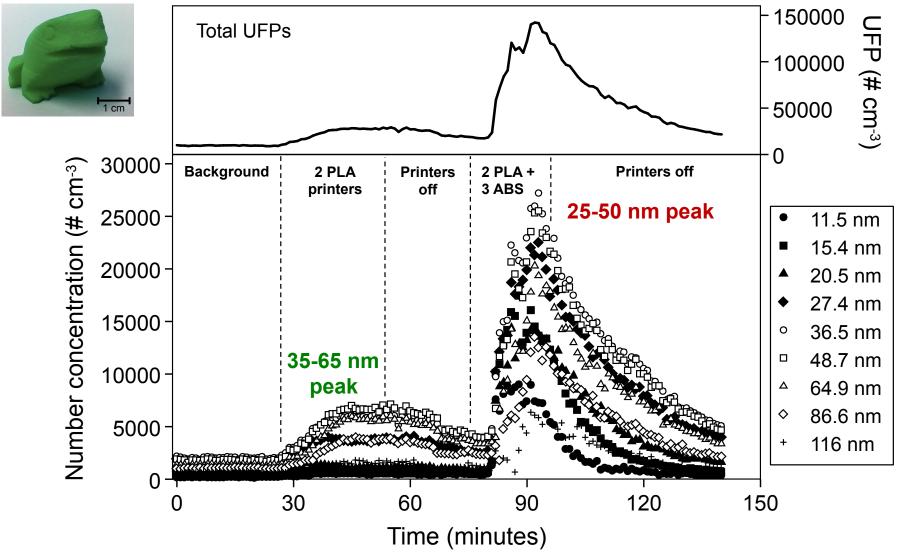


Stephens et al. 2013 Atmos Environ 79:334-339

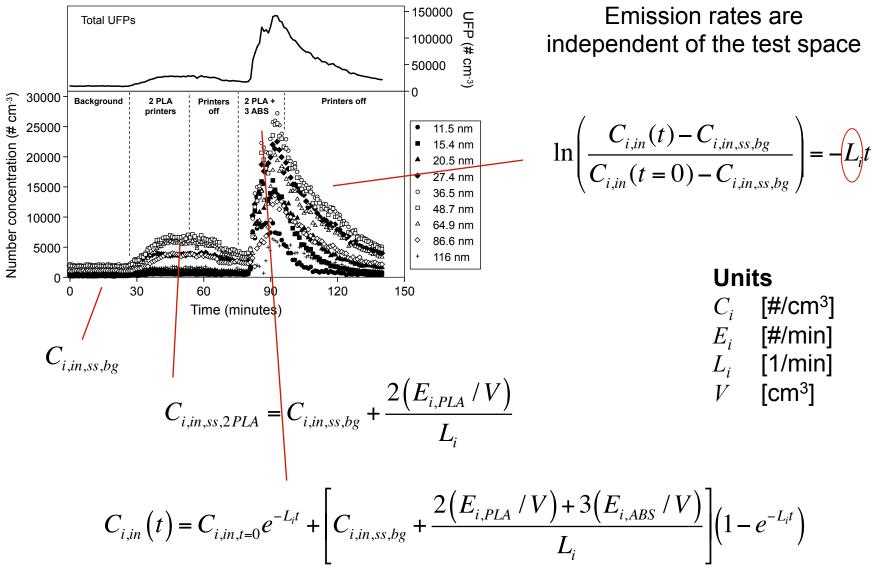
- Two types of filaments at different operational conditions
  - 2 PLA @ 200°C nozzle and 18°C bed temperatures
  - 3 ABS @ 220°C nozzle and 118° bed temperatures
- Operating in a closed 45 m<sup>3</sup> (1600 ft<sup>3</sup>) office environment
   Floor area ~19 m<sup>2</sup> (200 ft<sup>2</sup>)
- Ultrafine particle concentrations measured w/ TSI NanoScan SMPS Tritscher et al. 2013 J Physics 429
   Lead: Parham Azimi



## Measured ultrafine particle concentrations

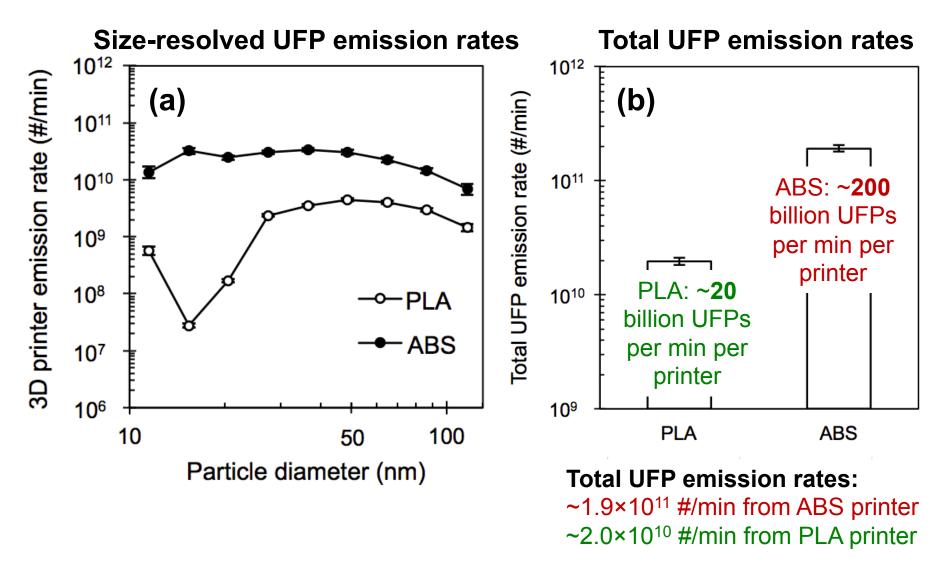


## **Estimating emission rates**



Stephens et al. 2013 Atmos Environ 79:334-339

### Size-resolved and total UFP emission rates



# News coverage: Tell your own story



# Are 3D printers harmful to your health?

Airborne particles from 3D printers could be as harmful to your health as cigarette smoke

GEAR AND GADGETS

JUL 25, 2013 03:34 PM ET // BY JESSE EMSPAK

**Hail**Online

The Telegraph 3D printers could cause strokes, researchers warn

### Will A 3-D Printer Destroy **FAST @MPANY** Your Lungs?

3-D Printers Might Be Hazardous To Your Health

Is There Long-Term Health Risks to 3-D Printing? One Study Says 'Yes' StreetInsider.com if you're not inside...you're outside

# **Public and scientific interest**



Atmospheric Environment

### Most Downloaded Atmospheric Environment Articles

The most downloaded articles from ScienceDirect in the last 90 days.

#### 1. Ultrafine particle emissions from desktop 3D printers

November 2013 Brent Stephens I Parham Azimi I Zeineb El Orch I Tiffanie Ramos

The development of low-cost desktop versions of three-dimensional (3D) printers has made these devices widely accessible for rapid prototyping and small-scale manufacturing in home and office settings....

Share Article 🔰 🥤 🕙 🚺 🖪 🕒

http://www.journals.elsevier.com/atmospheric-environment/most-downloaded-articles/

Accessed October 7, 2014



# Moving forward: Research needs

- 1. Characterize emissions
  - More printers, more filaments, both particles (UFPs) and gas-phase compounds (VOCs, SVOCs), chemical constituents
- 2. Characterize **exposures** in realistic environments
  - Homes, offices, schools, etc.
- 3. Inhalation **toxicology** and **health** outcomes
  - Using cell lines, mouse models, or human subjects
- 4. Investigate control strategies
  - Exhaust ventilation, gas and particle filtration, enclosures

# Moving forward: New project

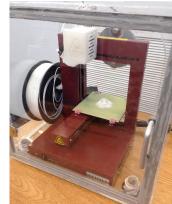
We were recently awarded research funding through CDC/NIOSH:

• NIOSH R03: Evaluating and controlling airborne emissions from desktop 3D printers

3 phases over 2 years:

- Chamber testing to characterize emissions of particles and VOCs from 5 of the most popular desktop 3D printers
- 2. Measurements (and models) of realistic exposures in real occupational environments
- Development and evaluation of custom gas and particle filtration devices and enclosures









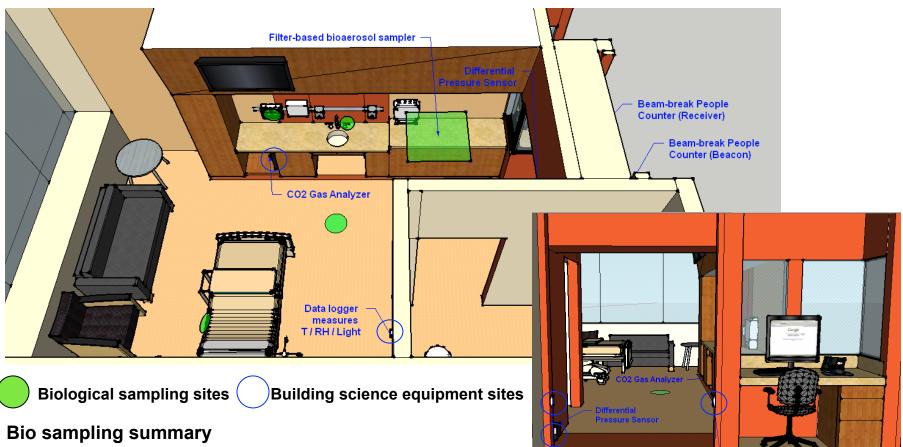
### 4) Building science measurements in the Hospital Microbiome Project





http://hospitalmicrobiome.com/

## **Bio sampling + building science measurements**



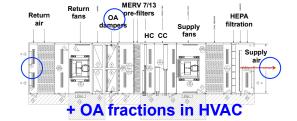
- ~10,000 swabs in rooms, nurse stations, and patients/ staff
- 16S/18S/ITS sequencing (ongoing)

### Building science data summary

- 80+ variables measured continuously every 5 minutes
- 100,000+ data points per variable → 8 million+ data points
- over 8500+ hours of active data collection per variable

#### Images courtesy of Tiffanie Ramos

**Cospital** Microbiome





Data Logger (attached with adhesive) measuring temperature, relative humidity and light



Differential Pressure Sensors (in black box with batteries, attached with adhesive), data logger, clear tube running to outer door frame





**MERV 7/13** 

pre-filters

нс сс

+ OA fractions in HVAC

HEPA

filtration

Supply air

Supply fans

OA

dampers

Return

fans

Eléc/

Return

air

# Building science data summary

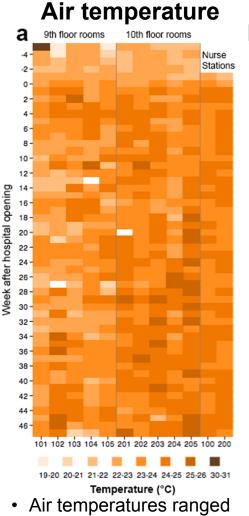
How do		vary	?
	<ol> <li>Air temperature</li> <li>Relative humidity</li> <li>Absolute humidity</li> <li>Illumination levels</li> <li>Human occupance</li> <li>Pressurization</li> <li>Ventilation rates (</li> </ol>	s Y	<ol> <li>Within rooms</li> <li>Between rooms</li> <li>Between floors</li> <li>Between night and day</li> </ol>

And what are the potential implications for microbiology?

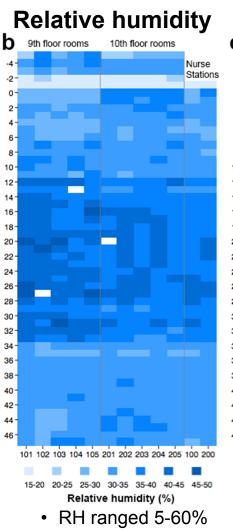
lospital

Microbiome

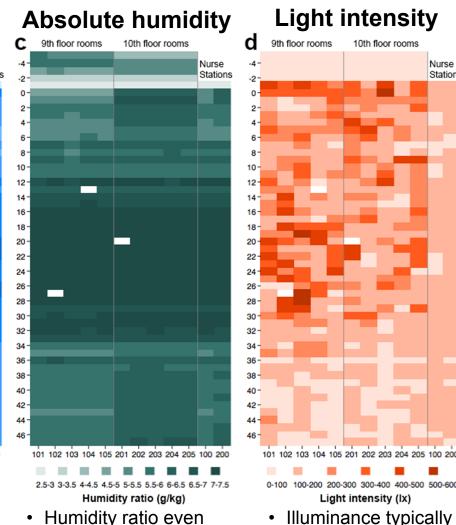
### **H**ospital Microbiome Weekly average environmental conditions



- 19-27℃
- No correlation between rooms ٠
- Controlled by occupants



- Strong correlation
- between rooms
- Governed by HVAC



stronger than RH

Strong seasonal signals

- Illuminance typically 10-200 lx
  - Weak correlations between rooms 58

Nurse Stations Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

Ramos et al. 2015 accepted in PLoS ONE

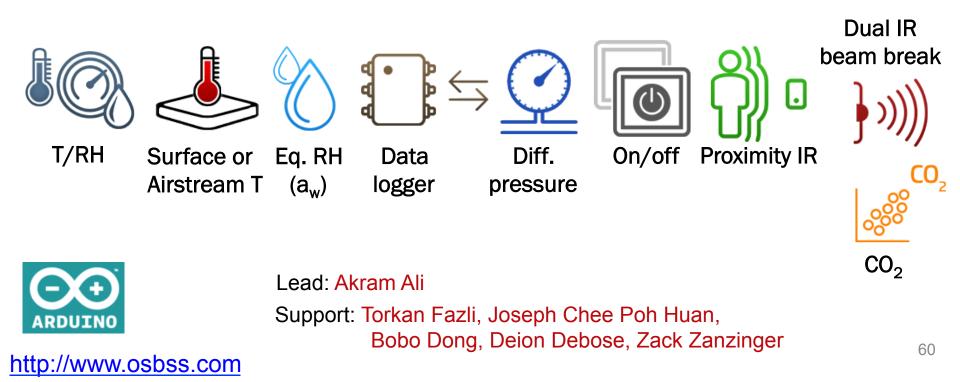
### 5) Open source building science sensors





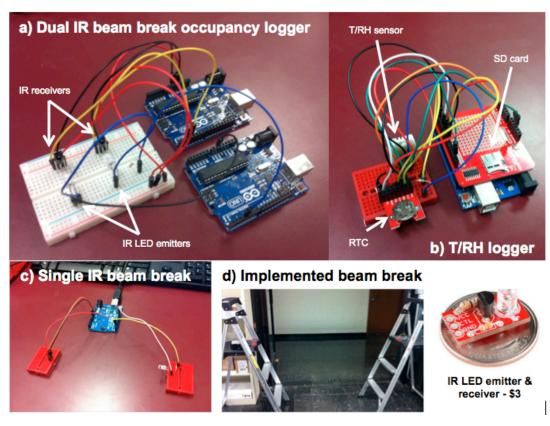


The **Open Source Building Science Sensors (OSBSS)** project is designing and demonstrating how to build a network of inexpensive building environmental and operational sensors for long-term studies of the indoor environment using open source hardware and software



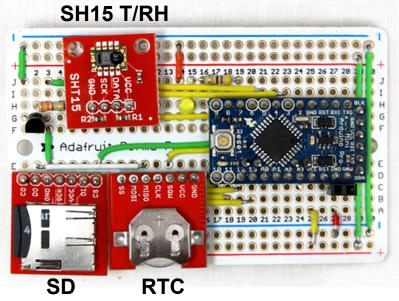
# **Development process: Stage 1 (Concept)**

- Begin with breadboard (solder-less) concept development on Arduino Uno controllers with off-the-shelf sensors
  - Allows for testing basic functionality, accuracy, and developing code
- Issues at this stage:
  - High power draw
  - Real time clock (RTC)
  - Data storage
  - Durability
  - Aesthetics



# **Development process: Stage 2 (Prototype)**

- Select most promising sensor(s)
- Move from Arduino Uno to Arduino Pro Mini (or knock-off versions for \$3)
  - Large reductions in power draw with custom libraries
  - Use of sleep mode functions
- Upgrade to solder-able breadboard
  - Improves durability
- Upgrade to custom enclosures
   Improves aesthetics
- Provides base low-power logger



# **Development process: Stage 2 (Prototype)**

### Why the Arduino Pro Mini 328?

- Can use either 3.3V or 5V DC
- 8 MHz (3.3V) or 16 MHz (5V) processor
- Small footprint (0.7x1.3")
- 8 analog pins
- 14 digital I/Os
- 32 kB flash memory (2 kB used by bootloader)



### **Original Apple Macintosh**

Released: Jan 24, 1984 Intro price: \$2,495 Clock speed: 7.8 MHz Memory: 128 kB RAM



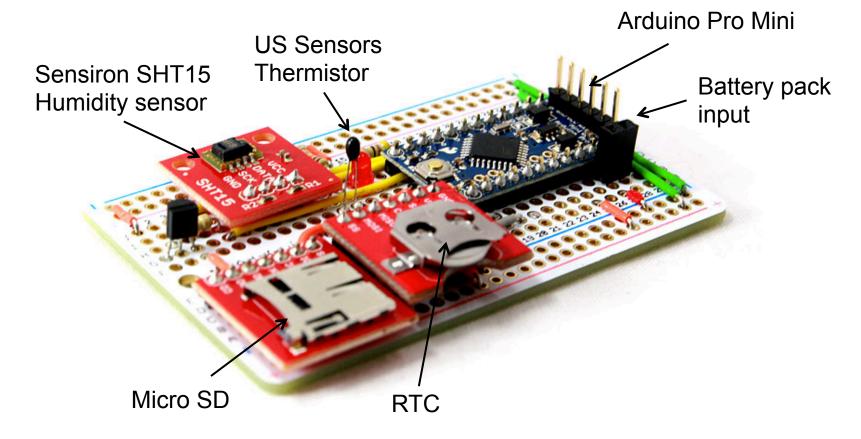
**Pro Mini power draw:** From ~20 mA resting (Uno) To ~0.2 mA resting (Mini + code) *From ~4 days to ~400 days on AA* 

### **Development process: Stage 3 (Tutorials)**



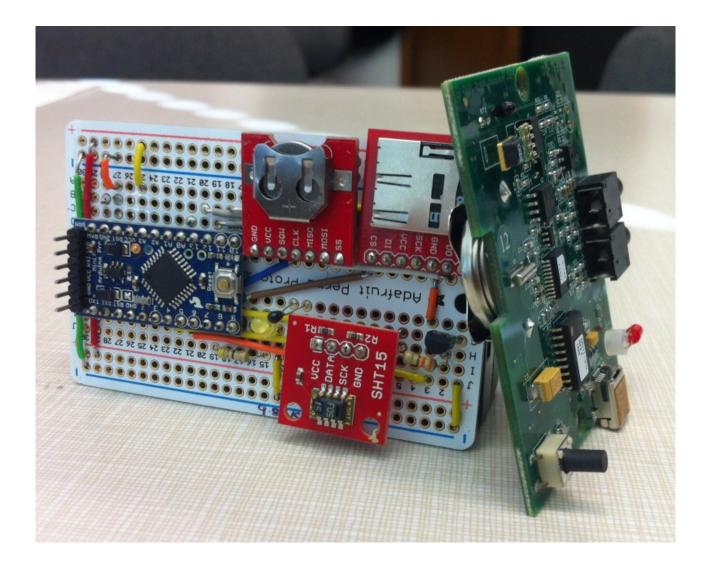
# **Temperature and RH**

- Provided the base for our core long-term battery powered data logger
- Currently the only full tutorial online



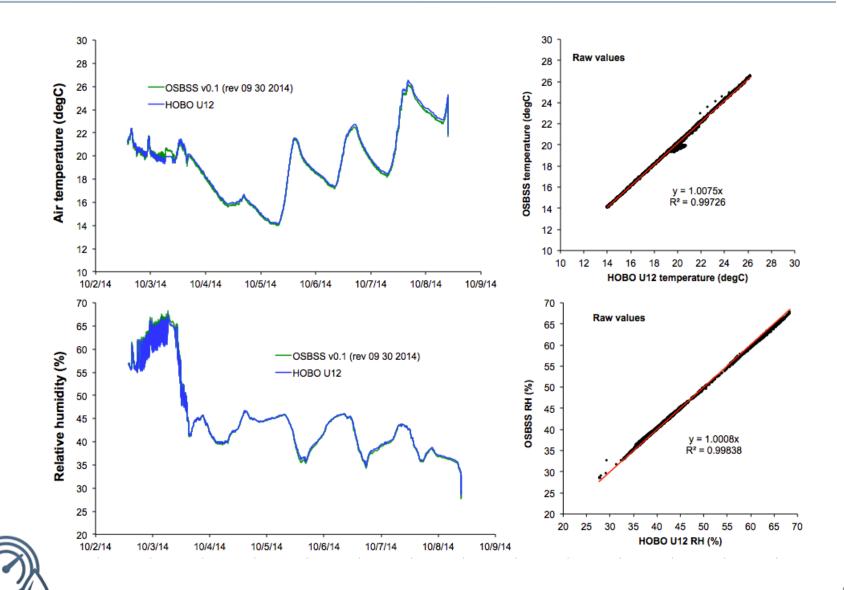


### T/RH verification: OSBSS vs. HOBO

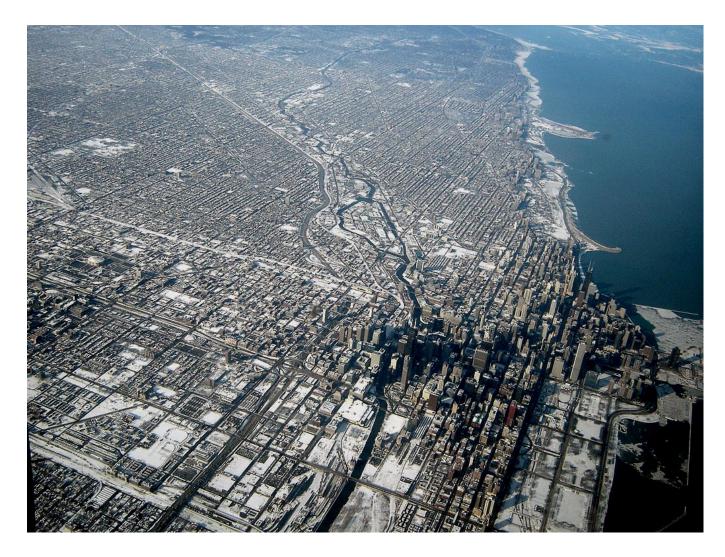




# T/RH verification: OSBSS vs. HOBO



### 6) Optimizing Chicagoland housing retrofits for 50% energy savings



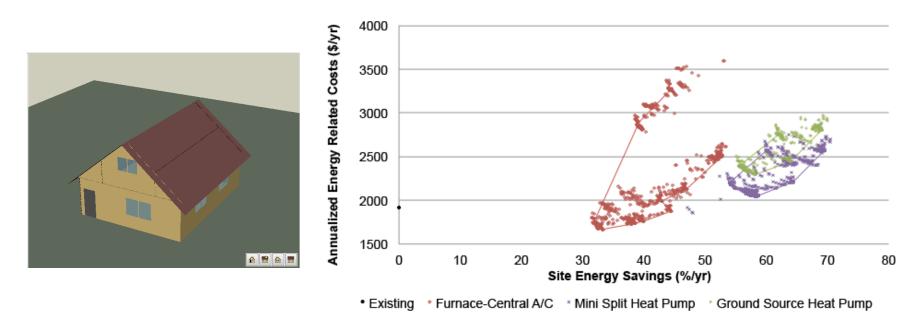
# **Retrofitting older Chicago homes**

- Over 900,000 single-family homes in Chicagoland were built before 1978
  - Often poorly insulated, poor air sealing, and low efficiency heating and cooling equipment



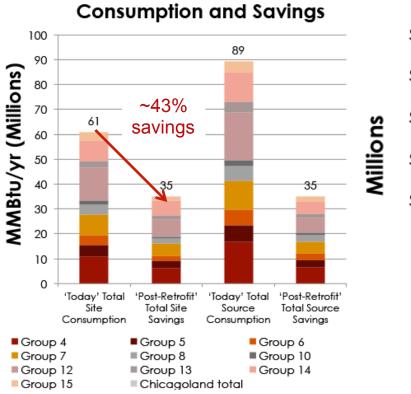
# **Retrofitting older Chicago homes**

- We demonstrated the utility of whole building energy simulation and optimization software (BEopt + EnergyPlus) to construct a "tool box" of prescriptive deep energy retrofits that can be applied to large portions of the housing stock
  - Envelope retrofits, then HVAC retrofits
  - Sequential search optimization methods on Amazon EC2

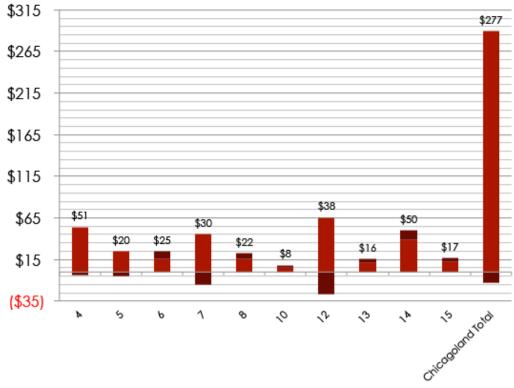


# **Retrofitting older Chicago homes**

If we applied these retrofits across the Chicago building stock:



### Collective Energy \$315



### Estimated ~\$280 million USD in annual energy savings!

Potential Monetary Savings per Group based on Fuel Type\*

### 7) Indoor air and climate change



### EPA STAR: Impacts of climate change on indoor air

"Combining measurements and models to predict the impacts of climate change and weatherization on indoor air quality and chronic health effects in U.S. residences"

Climate change is expected to impact the concentrations of airborne pollutants inside buildings in both direct and indirect ways

IOM 2011; Spengler Indoor Air 2012 22: 89–95; Nazaroff Environ Res Lett 2013 8: 015022

### Direct:

- Changes in outdoor pollutants
- Changes in meteorological conditions that drive building performance and indoor concentrations
  - Air exchange rates
  - HVAC operation (and filtration)
  - Window opening behaviors

### Indirect:

- Widespread policy responses
  - Weatherization of older buildings
  - Energy efficient new construction
  - Tighter buildings; altered HVAC runtimes

### New EPA STAR Project (3 years):

- Modeling concentrations, exposures, and health effects of indoor air in homes across U.S.
- Field measurements in 30 homes before and after retrofits
  - Outdoor pollutant penetration
  - Envelope airtightness

# Moving forward...

### We continue to conduct research at the intersection of energy and air quality in the built environment

Many thanks to all of the homeowners, occupants, and business owners that let us inside their buildings

### Funding sources, people, and projects:

- I/O pollutants: University of Texas at Austin Continuing Fellowship, NSF IGERT Award DGE #0549428, ASHRAE Grant-In-Aid & RP-1299, Thrust 2000 Endowed Graduate Fellowship (all UT-Austin), Jeff Siegel, Zeineb El Orch, Will Ollison, API, EPA
- Filtration: National Air Filtration Association (NAFA) Foundation, Al Veeck, Parham Azimi, ASHRAE
- HMP: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Jack Gilbert, Jeff Siegel, Tiffanie Ramos, Parham Azimi, Laurit Dide
- **OSBSS:** Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Paula Olsiewski, ACE PURE, Akram Ali, Deion Debose, Boyang "Bobo" Dong, Torkan Fazli, Joseph Huan, Zack Zanzinger, OSBSS Advisory Board
- **3D printers:** Armour College of Engineering, Bobby Zylstra, Julie Steele (3D Printer Experience), Mike Moceri, Parham Azimi, Zeineb El Orch, Tiffanie Ramos, Sara Glade, NIOSH/CDC
- Retrofits: Honnie Leinartas
- IA+CC: EPA, Elevate Energy

### Built Environment Research







web www.built-envi.com email brent@iit.edu twitter @built\_envi