

## MICROCLIMATE MODELS TO PREDICT THE CONTRIBUTION OF FACADE MATERIALS TO THE CANOPY LAYER HEAT ISLAND IN HOT-HUMID AREAS

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### ABSTRACT:

This paper aims to study a microclimate model for predicting the role of façade materials to the Canopy Layer Heat Island. ENVI-met was selected to model the microclimate of four street canyons in Yogyakarta, which vary in façade materials, street orientation, and land cover. Three to four-day field measurements in each canyon were intended to obtain microclimate data at pedestrian level, wind speed and orientation at the boundary layer for simulation input and validation. The validation study confirms the accuracy of ENVI-met simulations in predicting air temperature and relative humidity when the initial wind speed at the boundary layer is  $> 1.5$  m/s. These input data affected on the simulation results. However, the “comparison” feature offers a facility to analyze the modification in the air temperature and mean radiant temperature in the street canyon due to higher thermal transmittance and higher surface albedo façade materials. The results show that street orientation, big trees along the street and sky view factor significantly affect the pattern of air temperature modified by the increasing thermal transmittance and albedo of the façades.

*Key-words:* Albedo, Canopy Layer Heat Island, Façade materials, Microclimate model, Thermal transmittance.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Many studied the role of surface materials in the microclimate of the surrounding and the Canopy Layer Heat Island (CLHI). Erell et al. (2014), Ghaffarianhoseini et al. (2015), Kyriakodis & Santamouris (2017), Lee & Meyer (2018), Santamouris et al. (2012), Taleghani (2018) proved the ability of high albedo ( $\alpha$ ) materials to remediate the extremely heat by reflecting a large portion of solar radiation to the sky that further reduces the sensible heat flux. The contribution of the combination of high  $\alpha$  and high solar emissivity materials, so-called cool materials, to the reduction of the ambient temperature ( $T_a$ ) has been observed by Santamouris et al. (2012) and Kyriakodis & Santamouris (2017).

Some of them (Chokhachian et al., 2017; Erell et al., 2014; Taleghani, 2018) argued the negative impacts of the radiative property on the surrounding thermal environment. Taleghani (2018) showed that altering the  $\alpha$  of the roof may not influence the near ground surface thermal conditions. Using high  $\alpha$  materials lowers the  $T_a$ , but elevates the heat stress at the pedestrian level (Erell et al., 2014).

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Meanwhile, Chokhachian et al. (2017) found that a light color wall with less solar absorption is worse for outdoor comfort during hot periods in Munich compared to dark ones. However, only few studies observed the effect of the thermal properties of the material on the CLHI. Thermal inertia of material causes delaying of material's thermal response. Materials with high thermal inertia can mitigate CLHI by moderating the rate of stored heat at night and the emitted heat to the atmosphere (Sen et al., 2015). It must be noted that the magnitude of reflected solar radiation and the effect on outdoor thermal comfort is highly context-dependent (Laureti et al., 2018; Lee & Mayer, 2018; Taleghani, 2018).

We found limited studies on the impacts of facade materials on the CLHI. Chokhachian et al. (2017) conducted a parametric study of facade materials with different  $\alpha$  in Munich, which resulted in a proportionally reverse relationship among solar absorption, surface temperature ( $T_s$ ), and mean radiant temperature ( $T_r$ ). A higher solar absorption facade reflects less solar radiation, which further cools the surrounding space. Different facade materials affect smaller on local  $T_r$  values than the difference in solar absorption percentages. Gael (2014) carried out a study on the effect of facade properties ( $\alpha$  and thermal transmittance or U-value) on the canopy layer microclimate within city blocks in Budapest. According to Gael (2014), change in U-values insignificantly modified the diurnal cycles. The effect of  $\alpha$  on the  $T_a$  within UCL becomes very noticeable during the day.

The relationship between  $T_r$  and  $\alpha$  is directly proportional with mostly limited effects on the daytime. Higher  $\alpha$  reduces the  $T_s$ , but increases the  $T_r$ . The  $T_r$  within the canopy is a function of built form and facade density indicated by the uneven effect of  $\alpha$  in time and per configuration. The canopy layer  $T_r$  is mainly driven by the change in  $\alpha$ , but hardly affected by facade's U-value (Gael, 2014).

Except Fox et al. (2018), who used a terrestrial multispectral sensor calibrated with an empirical line method to measure and predict the distributions of spectral reflectance from urban vertical surfaces, most other studies employ ENVI-met program. Gael (2014) utilized ENVI-met to simulate the canopy layer microclimate and MATLAB to analyze the results. Aside from using ENVI-met to estimate the microclimate elements of the urban block, Chokhachian et al. (2017) employed TRNSYS to simulate the effect of different surface materials on the  $T_r$  and  $T_a$  inside a canyon. The  $T_r$  values resulted from TRNSYS replaced the values calculated by ENVI-met due to inaccuracy issues. The ENVI-met calculations of  $T_r$  tend to highly estimate compared to on-site measurements in studies conducted in Dhaka, Bangladesh (Sharmin et al., 2017) and Freiburg, Germany (Chen et al., 2014). A study using ENVI-met models to predict the  $T_r$  of an archaeological park in a tropical area confirms the inaccuracy ranging from 24.8% to 30.1%. However, setting up the solar radiation in "Solar Adjustment Factor" (SAF) feature and the cloud cover in "Cloud Condition" feature could improve 19.7% of the accuracy (Binarti et al., 2020a).

This study aims to predict the response of surface materials of building facade along the streets and the effects on the CLHI. Since the current developed simulation program is possible to predict large simulation area with acceptable accuracy, we employed ENVI-met and explored the advantages and limitations to model the microclimate of the street canyons at pedestrian level (CLHI), which varied in the facade materials of buildings along the streets.

## 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY AREA









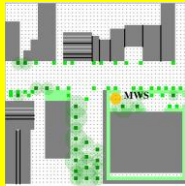
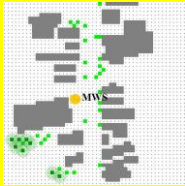
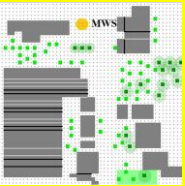
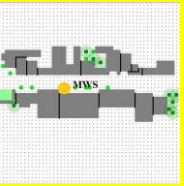
Four street canyons in Yogyakarta – i.e., Urip Sumoharjo Street (US), C. Simanjuntak Street (CS), Palagan Tentara Pelajar Street (PT), and Agus Salim Street (AS), – were selected based on the street orientation, façade materials, green area, building density and height. Ivan & Benedek (2017), Paramita & Suparta (2019) and Ursu (2019) mentioned that built-up area, green area, building density and height affect the land surface temperature and microclimate. The street canyons are situated at the latitude of  $7^{\circ}48'5''S$  and the longitude of  $110^{\circ}21'52''E$  that belongs to hot-humid climates (Koppen Aw).

According to Wicahyani et al. (2014), the UHI phenomenon also appeared in Yogyakarta. The strengthening phenomenon is described by the significant differences of the surface temperature between urban and rural area, which reveal on Landsat 8 OLI/TIRS satellite images retrieved on May 5, 2018, at 06:32:03 (9 K) and August 25, 2018, at 21:50:13 (13 K) (Binarti et al., 2020b).

As a medium-scale city, the height to width ratio (h/w) or the sky view factor (SVF) of the street canyons in Yogyakarta varies slightly. Despite the variety in building density and height, the average SVFs measured using a fish-eye camera and calculated by SVF calculator (Lindberg & Grimmond, 2010) look similar. They range from 0.82 to 0.89 (see **Table 1**). As busy commercial streets, window glazing and aluminum/metal cladding dominate the façades along US street and CS street. Whereas, timber and brick prevail on the façade along AS street. Large trees along the PT street appear more dominant compared to those along the other canyons.

**Table 1.**

**Four street canyons and their characteristics.**

Code	US	CS	PT	AS
Street name	Urip Sumoharjo	C. Simanjuntak	Tentara Pelajar	Agus Salim
Street orientation	90°	0°	0°	90°
Street view				
Fish-eye photos				
SVF:				
Maximum	0.89	0.92	0.93	0.90
Average	0.82	0.89	0.82	0.85
Minimum	0.65	0.85	0.65	0.79
ENVI-met 3D models and the instrument placements (MWS)				

### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. Field measurements for input data and validation

ENVI-met is the most widely used outdoor microclimate software due to the capability in predicting the outdoor microclimate at a very high spatial resolution (Taleghani, 2018) and the availability of free version with acceptable accuracy (Salata et al., 2016; Binarti et al., 2020a). However, several studies mentioned the inaccuracy of this software especially in predicting the  $T_r$  (Binarti et al., 2020a; Chen et al., 2014; Sharmin et al., 2017) and the wind speed ( $v$ ) (Acero & Herranz-Pascual, 2015). To increase the accuracy, ENVI-met provides forcing method by inputting 24-hour for the simple forcing or annual microclimate data for the full one at a certain point within the study area.

To measure the microclimate of the street canyon – i.e.,  $T_a$ , relative humidity (RH),  $v$  – a micro weather station (MWS) PCE FWS-20 equipped with ESPEC RS-13 with two channels was installed at the pedestrian level ( $\pm 1.2$  m). One channel of ESPEC RS-13 connects the data logger to a globe thermometer to measure the globe temperature ( $T_g$ ), and the other connects the data logger to a soil thermometer to measure the soil temperature ( $T_s$ ). We used microclimate data retrieved from these instruments for input data and validation study. For the validation study, we compared field-measured data of  $T_a$ , RH,  $v$ , and  $T_r$  to simulated  $T_a$ , RH,  $v$ , and  $T_r$ . The  $T_r$  was calculated using the classical equation of  $T_r$  in ASHRAE Handbook (ASHRAE, 1997). The same micro weather station at the height of 10 m measured the  $v$  at the boundary layer for input data at initial time of ENVI-met simulations. All instruments comply with ISO 7726 (Johannson et al., 2014).

#### 3.2. Modeling the microclimate using ENVI-met

This study employed the free version ENVI-met v.4.4.3 (ENVI-met, 2019) with 50 x 50 x 30 cells as the maximum grid number in x-, y-, and z-axis. Binarti et al. (2020a) mentioned several methods to maximize the capability of free version ENVI-met in predicting the  $T_r$  of an archaeological tourist area in hot-humid climate (at the latitude 7°45'S and the longitude of 110°30'E). Maximizing the spatial resolution is the first method adopted in this study.

Table 2.

Meteorological data for simulation input.

Street canyon	US	CS	PT	AS
Date	07/09/2019	30/09/2019	26/09/2019	10/09/2019
$T_a$ max at 1.2 m (°C)	32.54 at 12:00	34:67 at 14:00	35.24 at 13:00	36.03 at 13:00
$T_a$ min at 1.2 m (°C)	22.02 at 04:00	23.23 at 06:00	23:03 at 05:00	21.82 at 05:00
RH max at 1.2 m (%)	84.83 at 04:00	89.25 at 06:00	91.42 at 05:00	97.17 at 06:00
RH min at 1.2 m (%)	39.08 at 11:00	33.00 at 15:00	33.75 at 12:00	29.17 at 13:00
Initial time	14:00	14:00	12:00	08:00
$v$ (m/s) and wind direction at 10 m high	2.97 & 270	1.89 & 180	1.56 & 135	1.08 & 270
Ts (°C) and RHs (%) at the depth of				
(1) 0-20 cm	29.6 – 66.0	34.3 – 79.0	28.4 – 62.0	26.1 – 55.7
(2) 20-50 cm	28.6 – 74.0	33.3 – 87.0	27.4 – 70.0	25.1 – 63.7
(3) > 50 cm	27.0 – 78.0	31.5 – 91.0	25.9 – 74.0	24.3 – 67.7

By using 3 m resolution for dx and dy, the maximum grid number simulation area enables to cover 150 x 150 m<sup>2</sup>. We did not apply the telescoping factor since the maximum building height only raises 23 m. In the study conducted by Binarti et al. (2020a), the “Solar

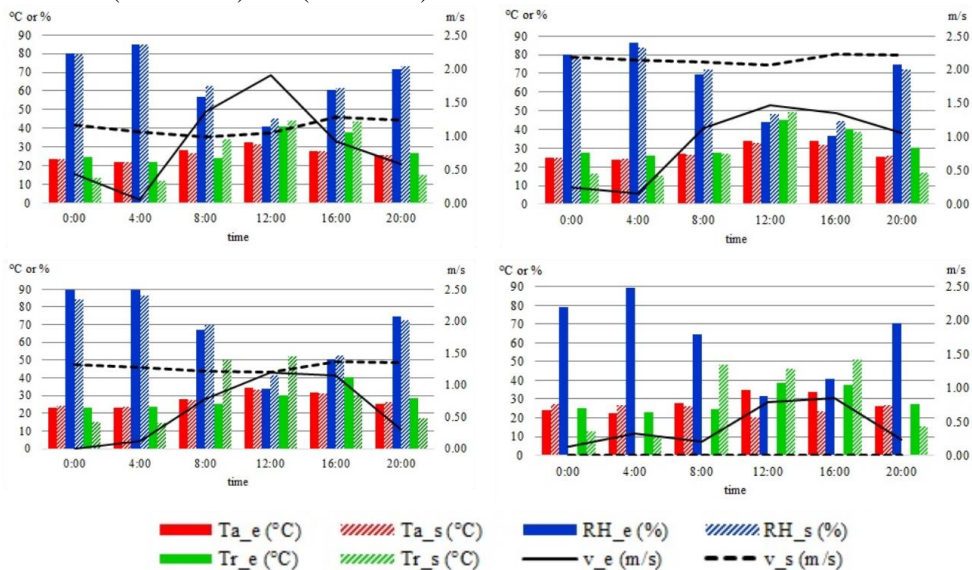
Adjustment Factor” (SAF) feature contributes to a 19.7% improvement of the accuracy in calculating the Tr. Based on the comparison between field measure and simulated solar radiation flux, Binarti et al. (2020a) used 67.6% for the SAF of simulations on September 21, 2018, and 74.4% for the SAF of simulations on October 17, 2018. Since the location of the study areas has proximity to the archaeological tourist area, this study applied 70% for the SAF. Cloud conditions were set up at 0 octas (clear sky).

**Table 2** presents the meteorological data used for simulations of each area retrieved from three- to four-day field measurements. To obtain high accuracy of the simulation results, this study selected the initial time at the time when high  $v$  occurred.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 4.1. Results of the validation study

To validate ENVI-met simulation results, we compared simulation results of the Ta, RH,  $v$ , and Tr at the instrument installation points to measurement results of the same microclimate elements. **Fig. 1** presents the results of microclimate simulations of four street canyons with existing façade materials. By excluding the simulation results of AS street canyon, the accurate predictions of Ta with the discrepancy ranging from 0 (US street at 00:00 and 04:00 and CS street at 0:00) to -0.07 (CS street at 16:00) can be achieved. Predictions of the RH and Tr are less accurate compared to the one of the Ta. The discrepancies of RH range from 0 (US at 00:00 and 04:00) to 0.18 (CS at 16:00 and PT at noon); whereas, the discrepancies of Tr range from -0.02 (CS at 08:00) to -1.16 (AS at 04:00). Although all initial wind directions at the boundary layer are (mostly) parallel to the street orientation, **Fig. 1** shows significant discrepancies in the  $v$  prediction, which range from 0.01 (PT at noon) to 1 (PT at 0:00).



**Fig. 1.** Comparison between simulated and measured microclimate data of US area (left-above), CS area (right-above), TP area (left-bottom), and AS area (right-bottom) (Notes:  $_e$ : existing;  $_s$ : simulated).

The wind (speed) in CS and PT street canyon, which have north-south orientation, behaves similarly. ENVI-met tends to overestimate the  $v$  in the nighttime. At noon ENVI-met could predict the  $v$  accurately or with a slight discrepancy. Lower initial  $v$  at 10 m high resulted in lower accurate predictions shown in the predictions of the  $T_a$  (maximum discrepancy = -0.70), RH (maximum discrepancy = -999),  $v$  (no results) and  $T_r$  (maximum discrepancy = -1.16) of AS area. These results confirm the statements of Nyuk Hien et al. (2012) that low initial  $v$  at the boundary layer for the ENVI-met input data produces inaccurate simulation results.

#### 4.2. The role of wall material with higher U-value

At the second stage, we replaced all wall materials with 45 cm-thick, burned brick. This material has high U-value and thermal inertia. Maps of comparison between existing façade materials and 45 cm-thick, burned brick walls of US and CS area show similar  $T_a$  differences (Fig. 2). In the whole day,  $T_a$  slightly increases due to high U-value walls. Only at 20:00 the change in wall materials in CS area slightly reduces the  $T_a$ . The increase in  $T_a$  in US area is much higher than that of in PT area. The maximum increase in the  $T_a$  occurred at noon - i.e., 0.27 K - 0.44 K for US area and 0.1 K - 0.2 K for PT area. In other areas (CS and AS), increase in the  $T_a$  due to higher U-value wall materials only occurred in the day. In the night, the reduction of the  $T_a$  in CS area is higher than that of in AS area. However, wall material with higher U-value generally tends to increase the  $T_a$  in the day (Fig. 2).

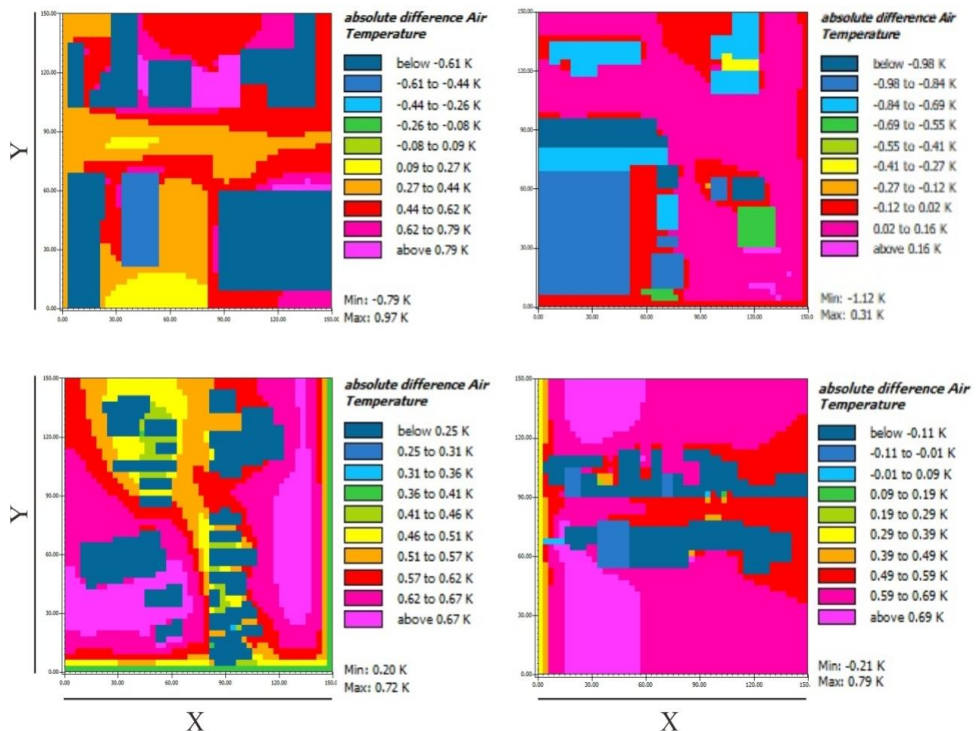


Fig. 2. Comparison map of  $T_a$  at noon between existing wall materials and 45 cm burned brick walls in US area (left-above), PT area (right-above), CS area (left-bottom) and AS area (right-bottom).

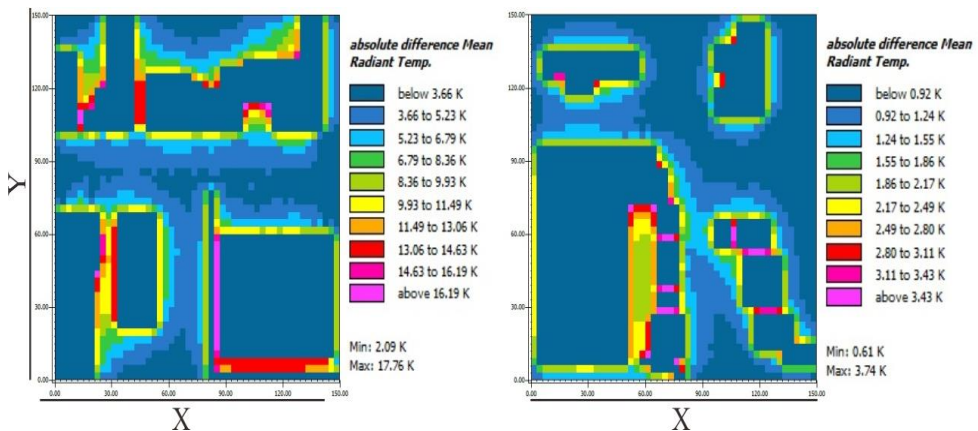
Increasing the U-value of wall materials in both areas cannot modify the  $v$ . Simulations of the  $T_r$  in US street canyon increase the  $T_r$  due to the 45 cm-thick, burned brick walls. The maximum increase (6.54 K) occurred at 04:00, and the minimum increase (2.27 K) occurred at 20:00. The simulation results of  $T_r$  in PT, CS, and AS street canyons show similar results with much lower  $T_r$  differences compared to the  $T_r$  differences in US area. From 20:00 to 08:00, the  $T_r$  in CS and AS street canyons decrease from 0.07 K to 0.16 K.

#### 4.2. The role of wall material with higher $\alpha$

At the third stage, we added a high surface albedo ( $\alpha = 0.9$ ) coating on the external surface of 45 cm-thick burned brick walls. Comparison maps of  $T_a$  between urban areas with existing wall materials and ones with 45 cm-thick burned brick walls combined with high surface wall  $\alpha$  show that contributions of high external surface wall  $\alpha$  to the  $T_a$  of street canyons are diverse and do not have a specific pattern.

In US street canyon, adding high  $\alpha$  coating on the external surface walls reduces the  $T_a$  in the early morning and the night (16:00 – 04:00). This pattern also appears in PT street canyon. At 08:00 high external wall  $\alpha$  materials reduces the  $T_a$  in both street canyons. At noon due to the increasing  $\alpha$ , the  $T_a$  in US street canyon decreases. Whereas, the  $T_a$  in PT street canyon tends to increase. Although CS and AS street canyons have different orientation, the increase in external surface wall  $\alpha$  created a very similar pattern of the  $T_a$ . The pattern of  $T_a$  as the effect of high external surface wall  $\alpha$  materials is different from the pattern of  $v$ . Increase in wall  $\alpha$  slightly raises the  $v$  in US street canyon, but it slightly reduces the  $v$  in AS street canyon. However, the increase in external surface wall  $\alpha$  cannot modify the  $v$  in the north-south oriented street canyon (CS and PT).

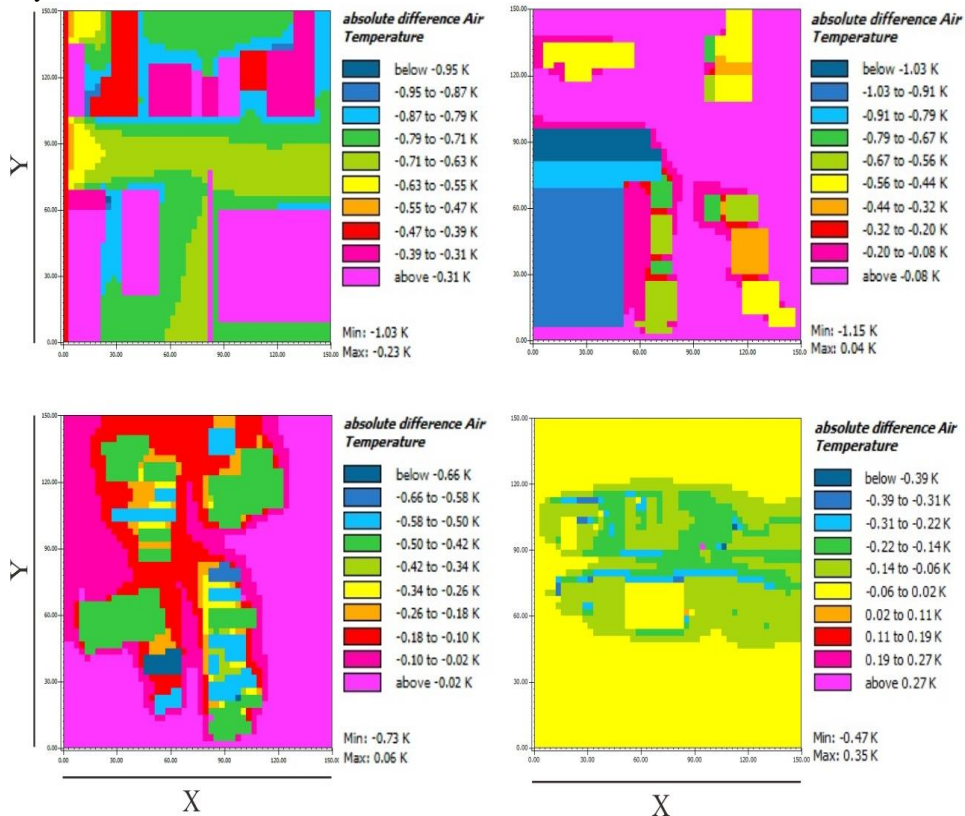
**Fig. 3** presents the comparison maps of  $T_r$  of street canyons between areas with existing wall materials and ones with high external surface wall  $\alpha$ . Effects of high  $\alpha$  on  $T_r$  at 08:00-16:00 in four street canyons are similar. During that time,  $T_r$  increases due to high external surface wall  $\alpha$ , which the most significant effect appears in US street canyon. The whole day  $T_r$  in US and PT street canyons have the same pattern. These results confirm the results of previous studies on the role of  $\alpha$  carried out by Chokhachian et al. (2017), Erell et al. (2014), and Taleghani (2018).



**Fig. 3.** Map of  $T_r$  at noon comparison between existing wall materials and high external surface albedo walls in US area (left), PT area (right).

### 4.3. High U-value vs. high U-value with high external surface $\alpha$

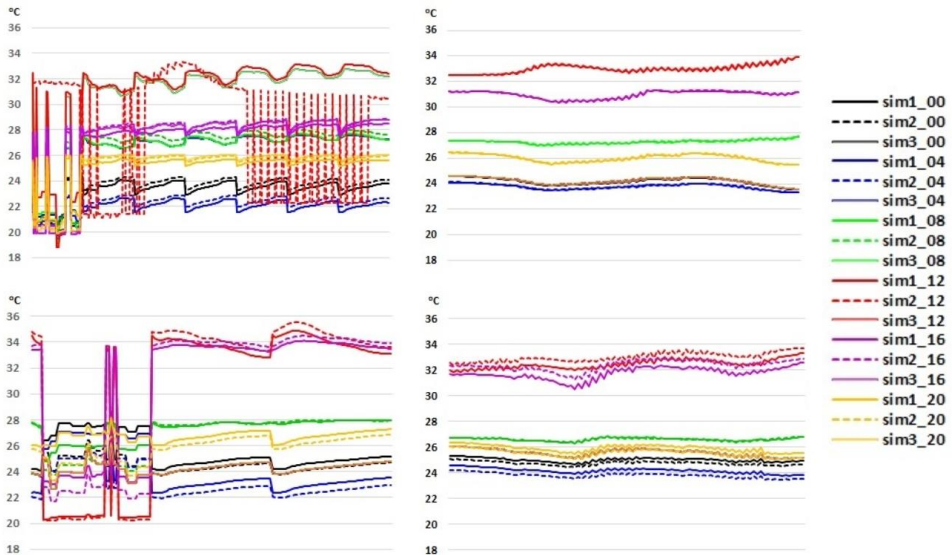
Comparison maps between urban areas with high U-value and the ones with high U-value combined with high external surface  $\alpha$  indicate the increase in  $T_a$  in the early morning and the night (at 00:00, 04:00, and 20:00) due to the additional high  $\alpha$  coating (Fig. 4). Meanwhile, in the daytime (at 08:00-16:00), adding high  $\alpha$  coating on the external surface walls tends to lower the  $T_a$  in the street canyons. However, adding high  $\alpha$  coating on the external surface walls would raise the  $T_r$  the whole day as we observed in four street canyons.



**Fig. 4.** Comparison maps of  $T_a$  at noon between existing wall materials and walls with high U-value and high external surface wall  $\alpha$  in US area (left-above), PT area (right-above), CS area (left-bottom), and AS area (right-bottom).

Interesting results are shown by Fig. 5, which describes how street orientation determines the diurnal  $T_a$  profile. The  $T_a$  fluctuates especially in the daytime on the canyons with east-west orientation. Application of higher U-value and  $\alpha$  on US canyons raises the  $T_a$ . Increasing the U-value and  $\alpha$  of the façade in AS and CS canyons could reduce the  $T_a$  in the nighttime and the morning, but not at 12:00 and 16:00. The different effect on the  $T_a$  in US, CS, and AS canyons may be caused by the smaller SVF (the width and distance between buildings along the canyon) of the US canyon. In PT canyon, the presence of big trees along the street might moderate the effect of façade material change on the  $T_a$ .





**Fig. 5.** Ta profiles at 00:00, 04:00, 08:00, 12:00, 16:00 and 20:00 of US canyon (left-above), PT canyon (right-above), AS canyon (left-bottom), and CS canyon (right-bottom)

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

Current microclimate models allow users to investigate the contribution of façade materials to CLHI. The validation study confirms the ENVI-met accuracy in predicting the Ta in the canopy layer when the initial wind speed at the boundary layer for input data is  $> 1.5$  m/s. The analysis feature to compare two simulation scenarios offers a facility to conduct an experimental study with variation in façade material properties. Simulations of one-day Ta show that the effect of the thermal and radiative properties of façade materials on the canyon Ta depends on the street orientation, the presence of big trees along the street and the canyon aspect ratio or SVF. The comparison maps of simulation results between urban areas with existing façade material and the ones with 45 cm-thick, burned brick show a slight increase in the Ta in the daytime. Adding high  $\alpha$  coating on the external surface walls can reduce the Ta in the daytime, but raise the Ta in the early morning and the night.

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