



Adoption of V4 buildings to nZEB standard using natural and bio-based materials

Olsztyn 09. – 12. 09. 2021

- supported by
- Visegrad Fund
- •

# CHARACTERISATION, APPLICATION AND TECHNICAL VALUE ANALYSIS OF NATURAL AND RECYCLED THERMAL INSULATIONS

Balázs Nagy, PhD

Budapest University of Technology and Economics  
Faculty of Civil Engineering, Dept. Of Construction Materials and Technologies



UNIVERSITY  
OF WARMIA AND MAZURY  
IN OLSZTYN



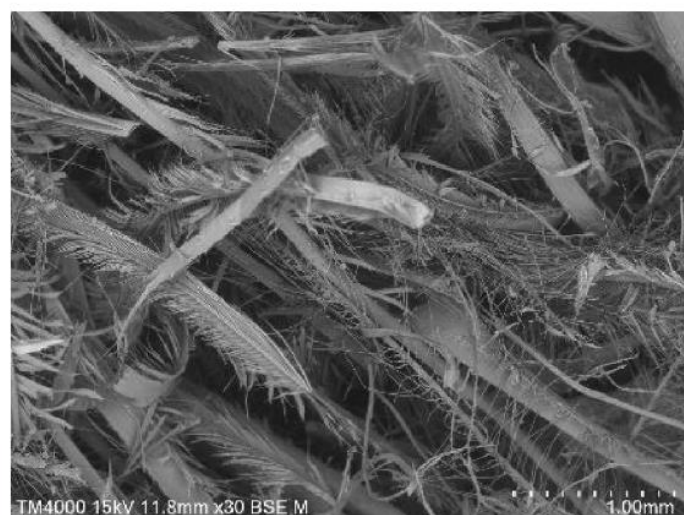


- Visegrad Fund
- •

# Characterisation: feather fibre fabric & others



(a) Feather fibre fabric, density 29.8 kg/m<sup>3</sup>



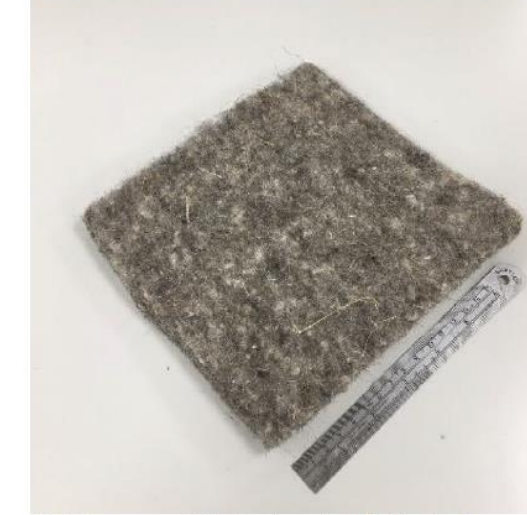
(b) Feather fibre fabric SEM image



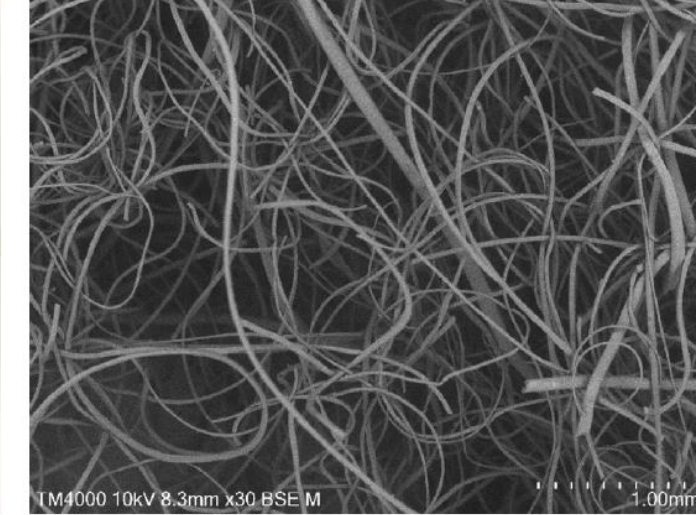
(c) Hemp fabric, density 83.3 kg/m<sup>3</sup>



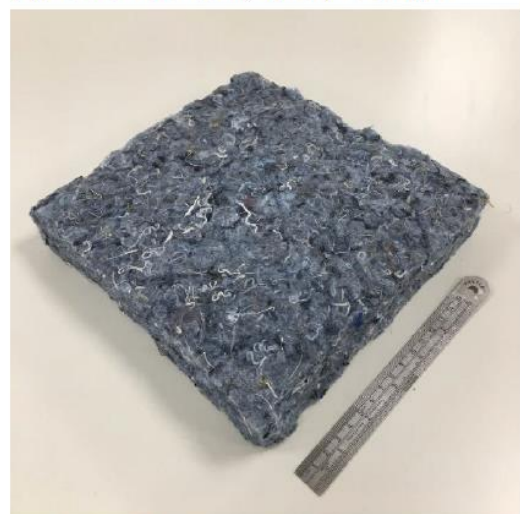
(f) Hemp fibre fabric SEM image



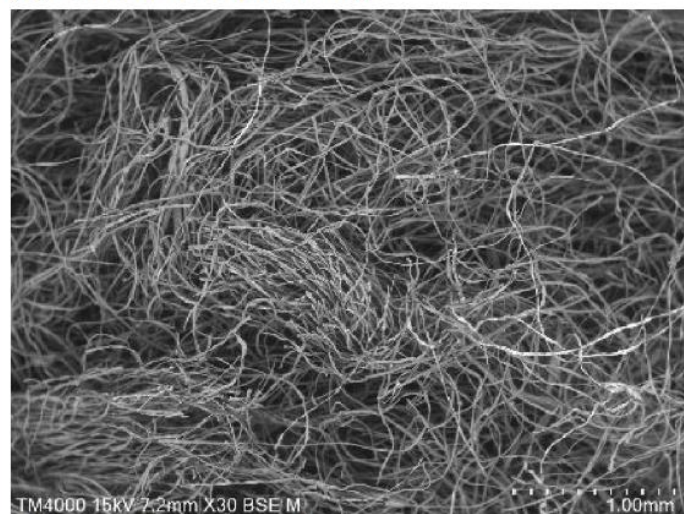
(i) Sheep wool fabric, density 47.6 kg/m<sup>3</sup>



(j) Sheep wool SEM image



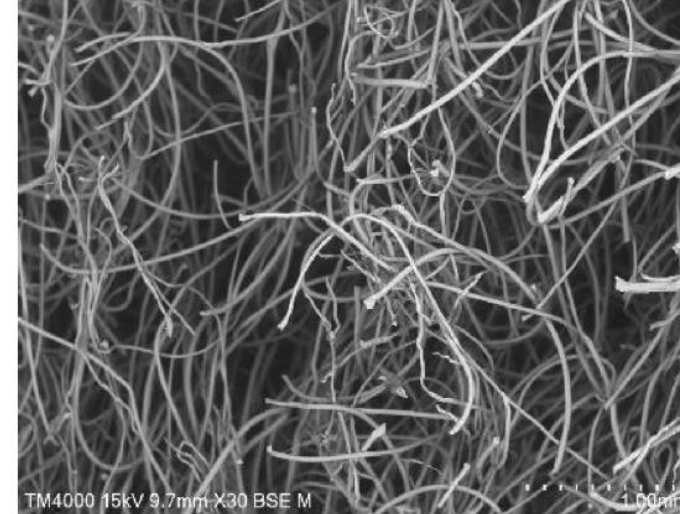
(c) Denim fabric, density 30.0 kg/m<sup>3</sup>



(d) Denim fibre fabric SEM image



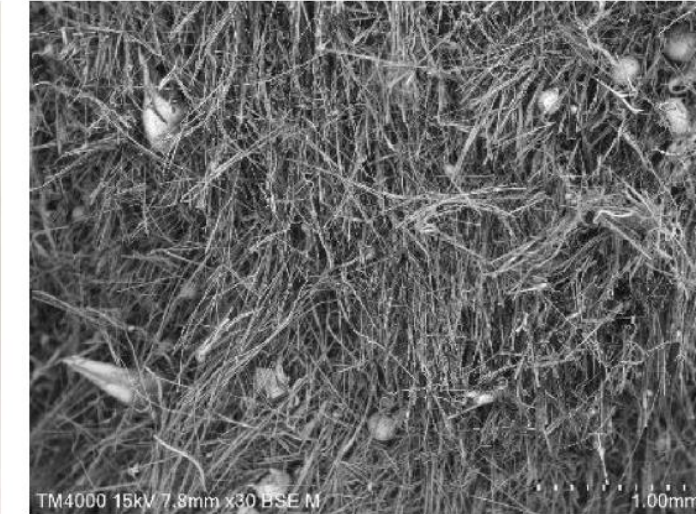
(g) PET fabric, density 25.5 kg/m<sup>3</sup>



(h) PET fabric SEM image



(k) Rock wool, density 110.3 kg/m<sup>3</sup>



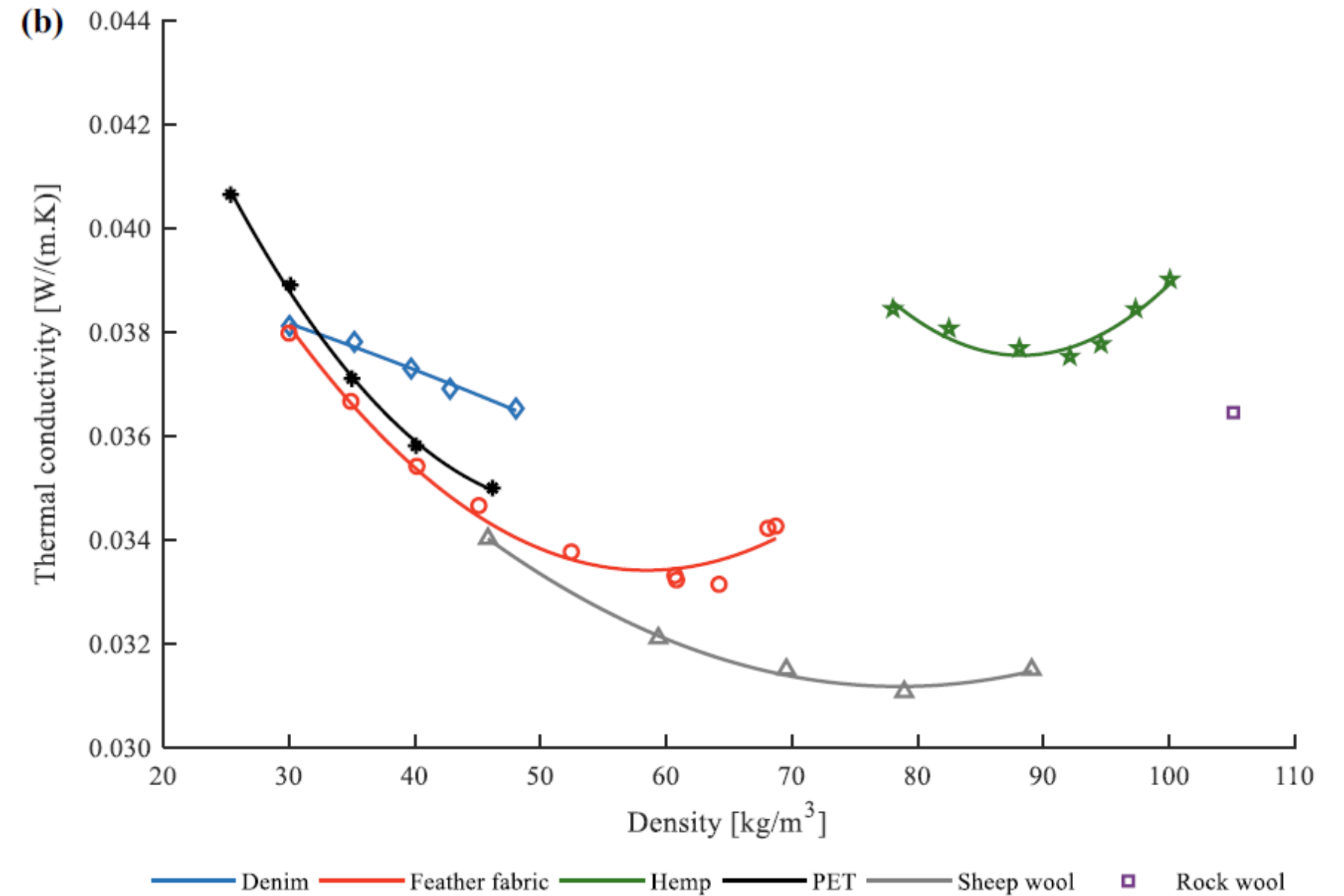
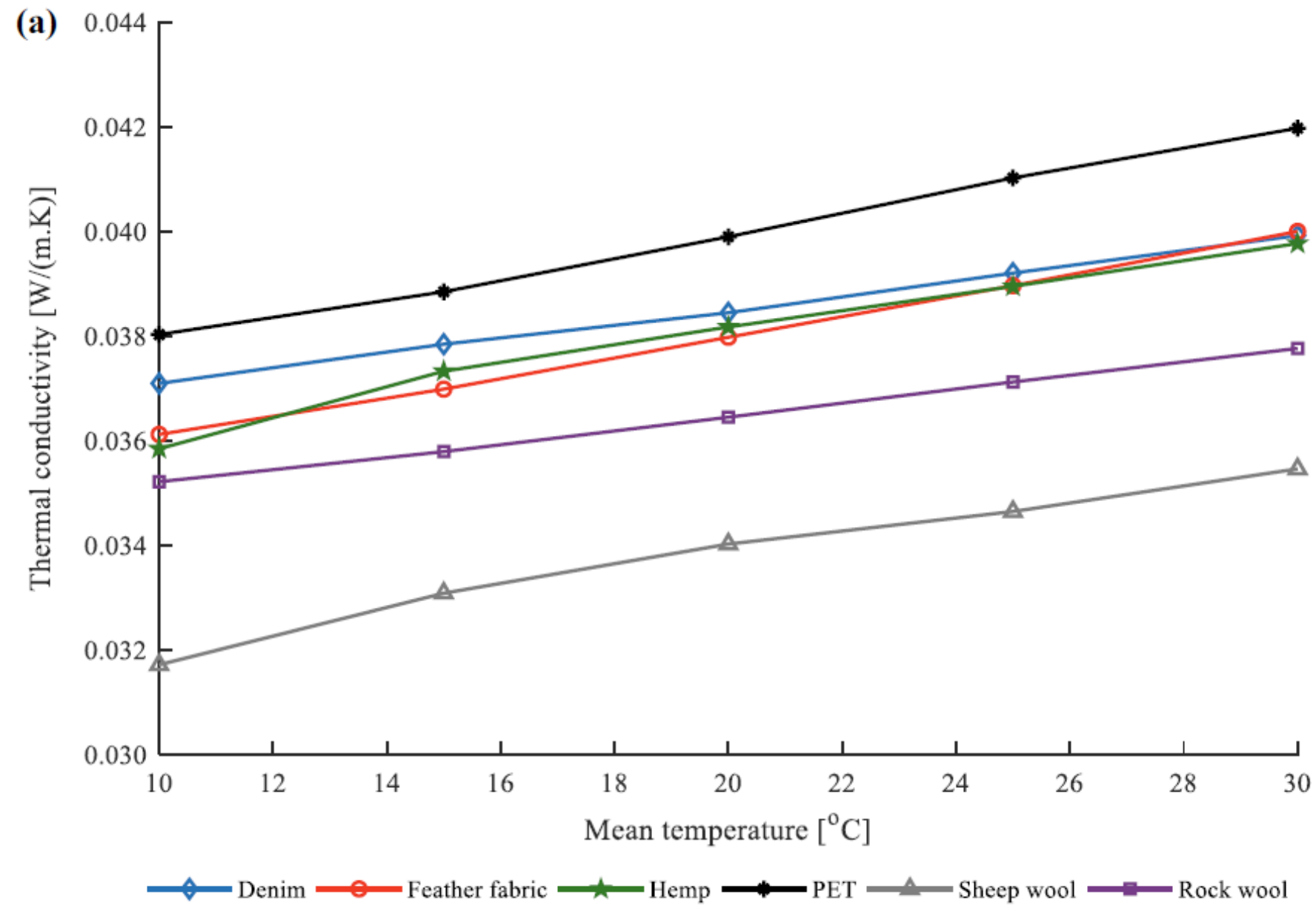
(l) Rock wool SEM image

Images of the feather fibre fabric produced in this study and the commercially available thermal insulation materials tested for comparison. Scanning electron microscope images of the microstructure of each material are also shown.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12649-020-01007-3>



# Characterisation: feather fibre fabric & others



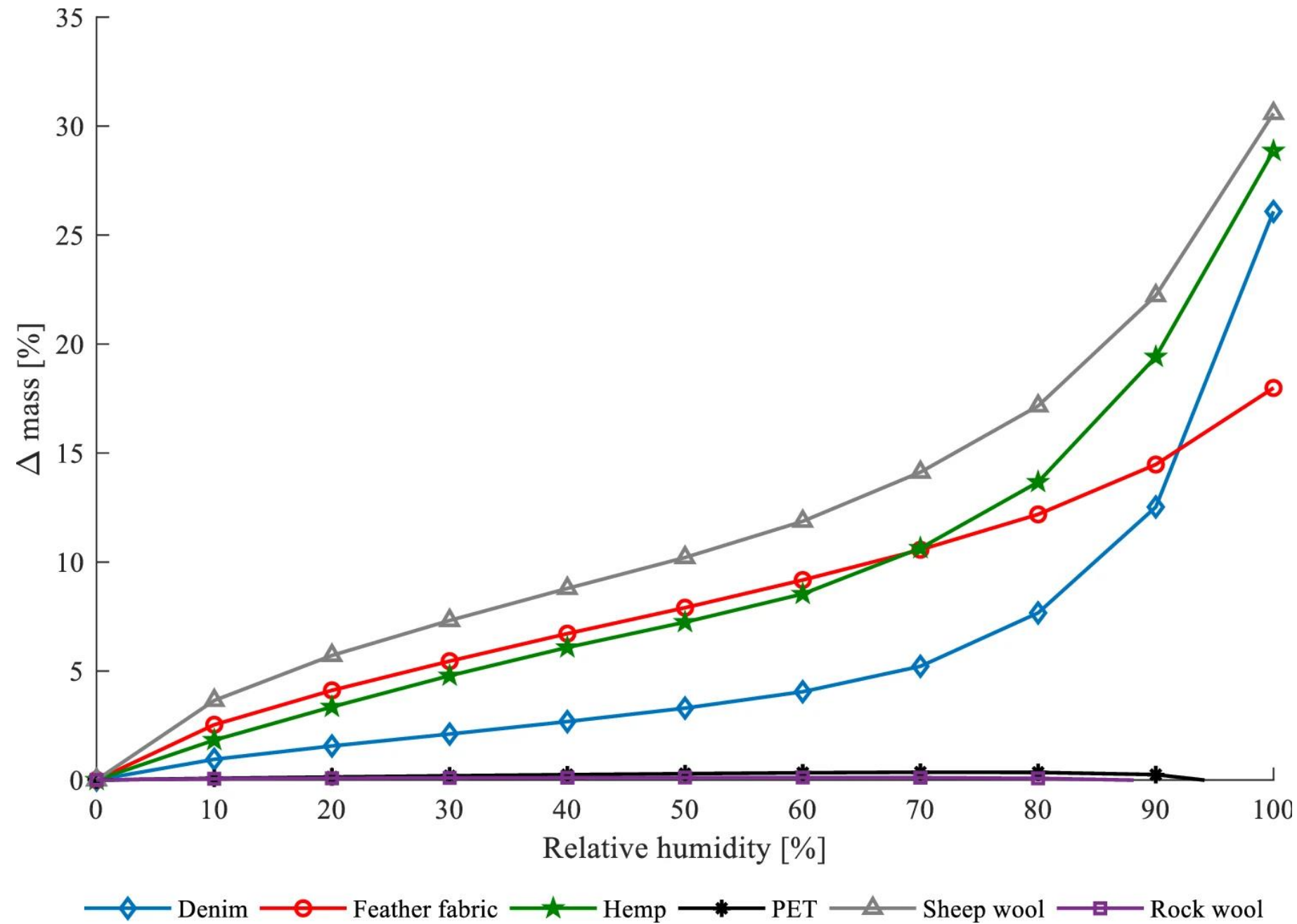
Thermal conductivity data for feather fibre fabric and commercially available thermal insulation materials (tested at 20°C,  $\Delta T = 10$  °C).

**a** Effect of test temperature on thermal conductivity, **b** effect of sample density on thermal conductivity

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12649-020-01007-3>

- Visegrad Fund
- •

# Characterisation: feather fibre fabric & others



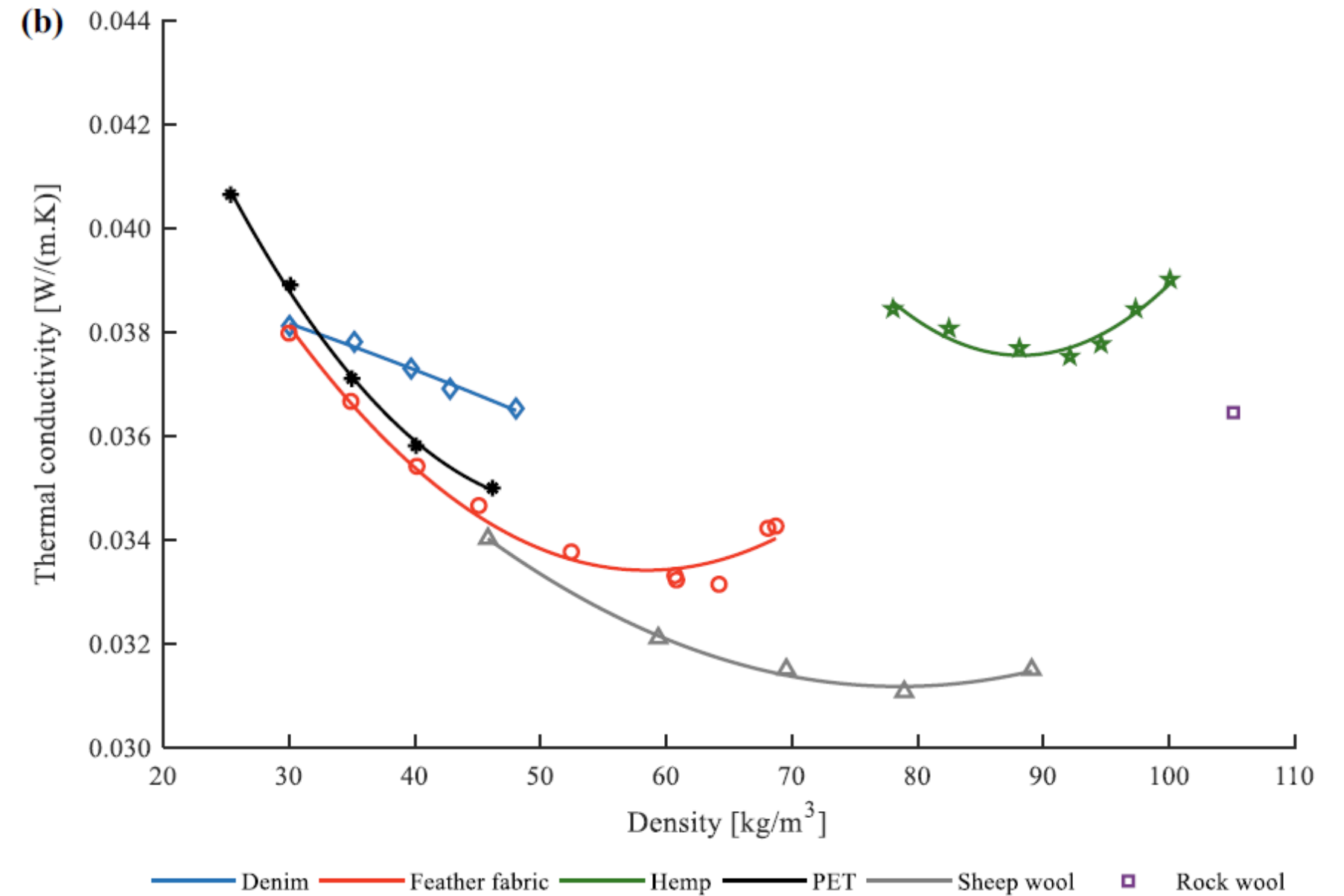
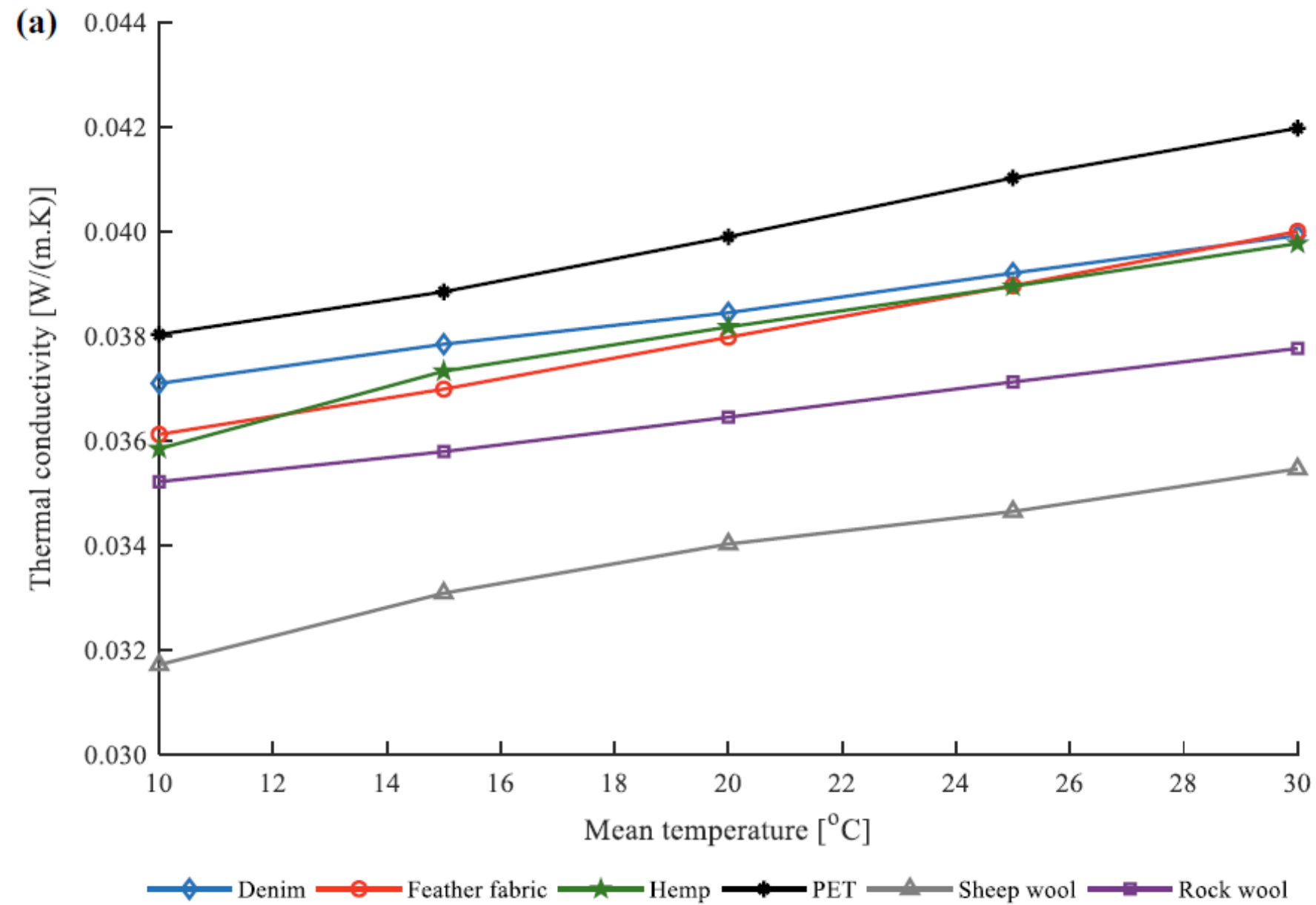
## Summary of key thermal property characterisation results for different thermal insulation materials:

	Feather fibre	Denim	Hemp	PET	Sheep wool	Rock wool
As-received density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	29.8	30.0	83.3	25.5	47.6	110.3
Thermal conductivity (λ) at 20 °C in W/(m K)	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.040	0.034	0.036
Optimum density for minimum thermal conductivity λ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	59	48	88	46	79	110
Minimum possible thermal conductivity (λ) W/(m K)	0.033	0.036	0.037	0.035	0.031	0.036
Percentage mass increase at 50% relative humidity	7.9	3.3	7.2	0.3	10.2	0.1

DVS data for feather fibre fabrics and commercially available thermal insulation materials

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12649-020-01007-3>

# Characterisation: feather fibre fabric & others



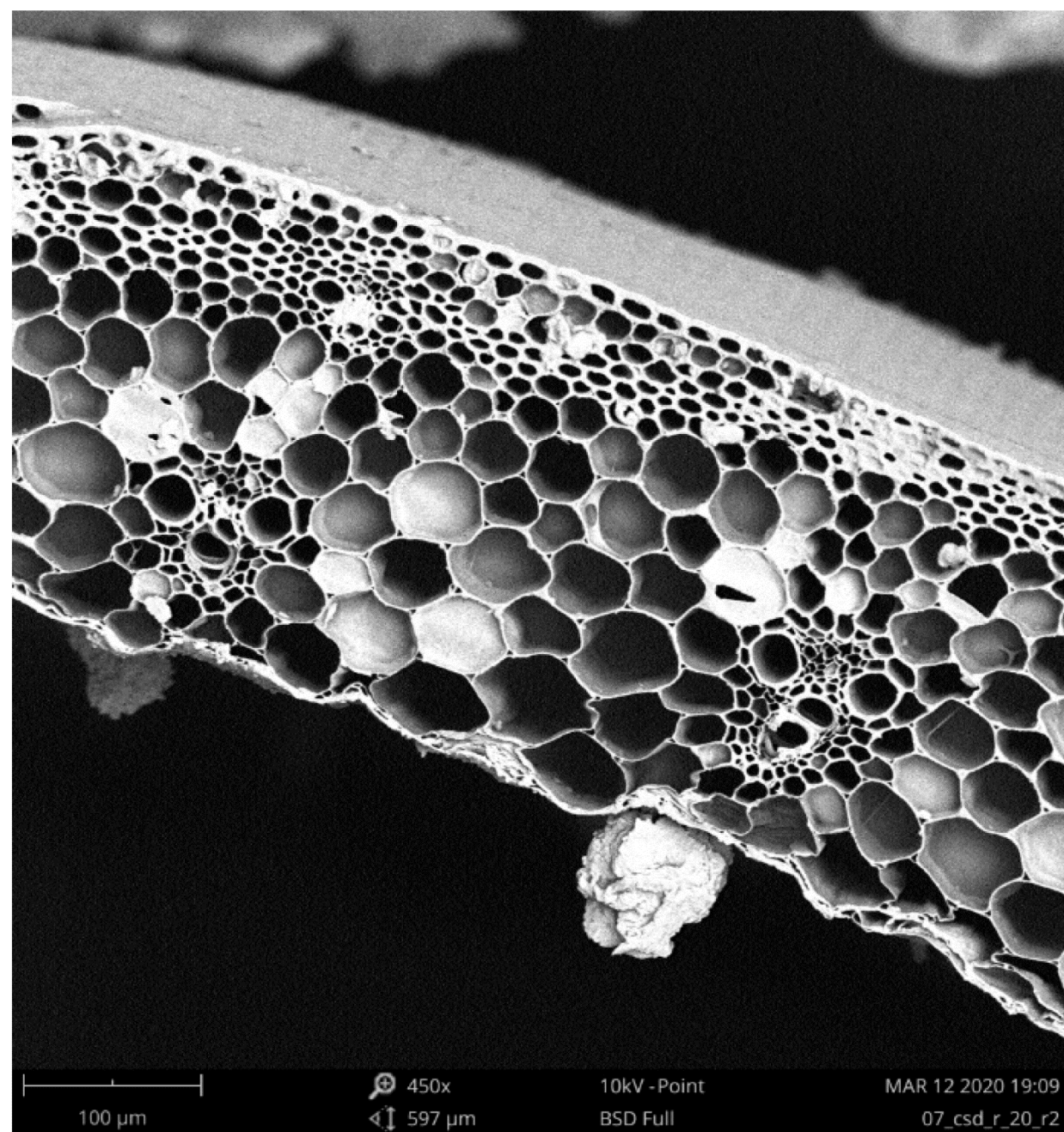
Thermal conductivity data for feather fibre fabric and commercially available thermal insulation materials (tested at 20°C, ΔT = 10 °C).

**a** Effect of test temperature on thermal conductivity, **b** effect of sample density on thermal conductivity

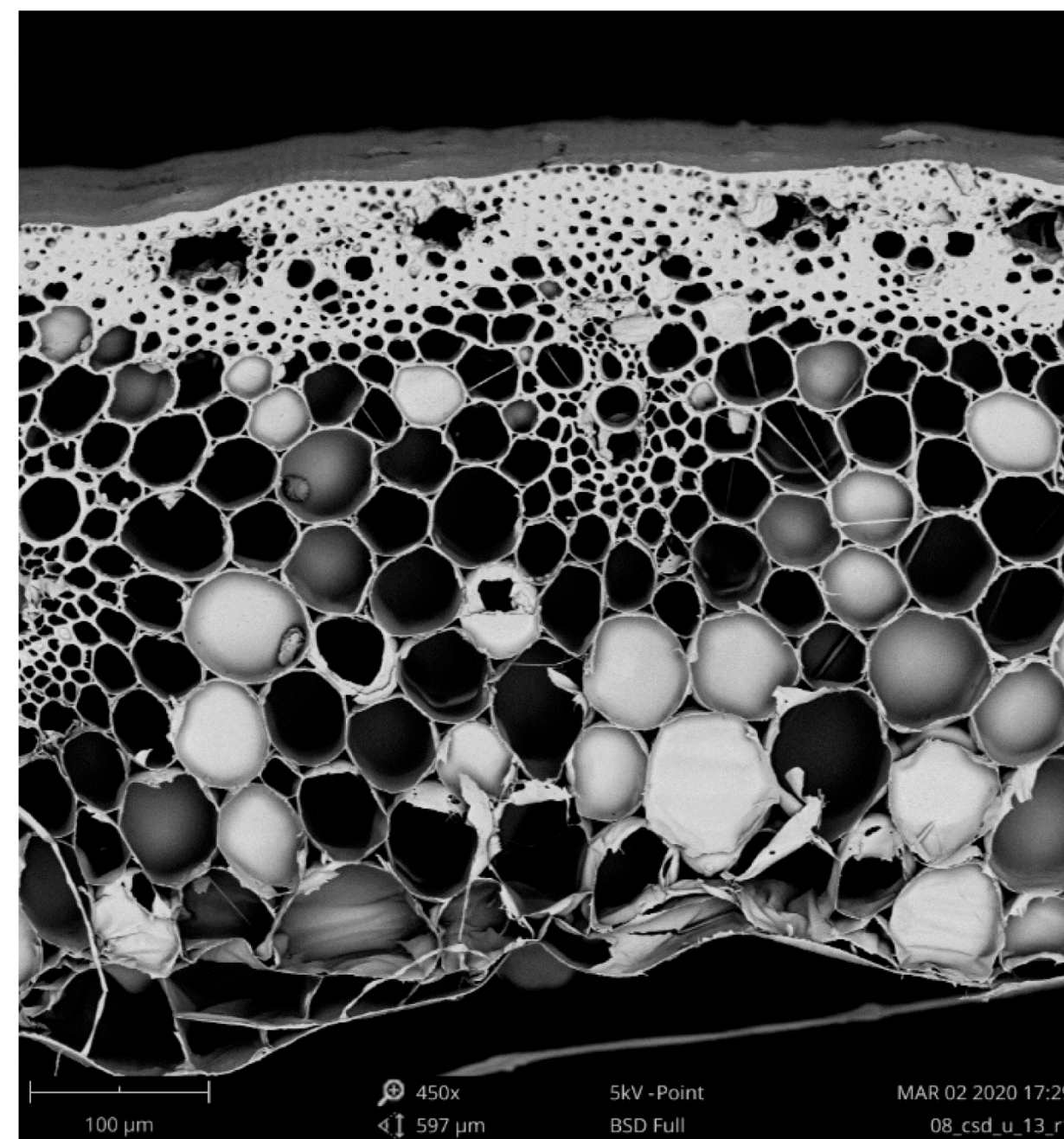
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12649-020-01007-3>



# Characterisation: wheat and barley straw bulks



(a)



(b)



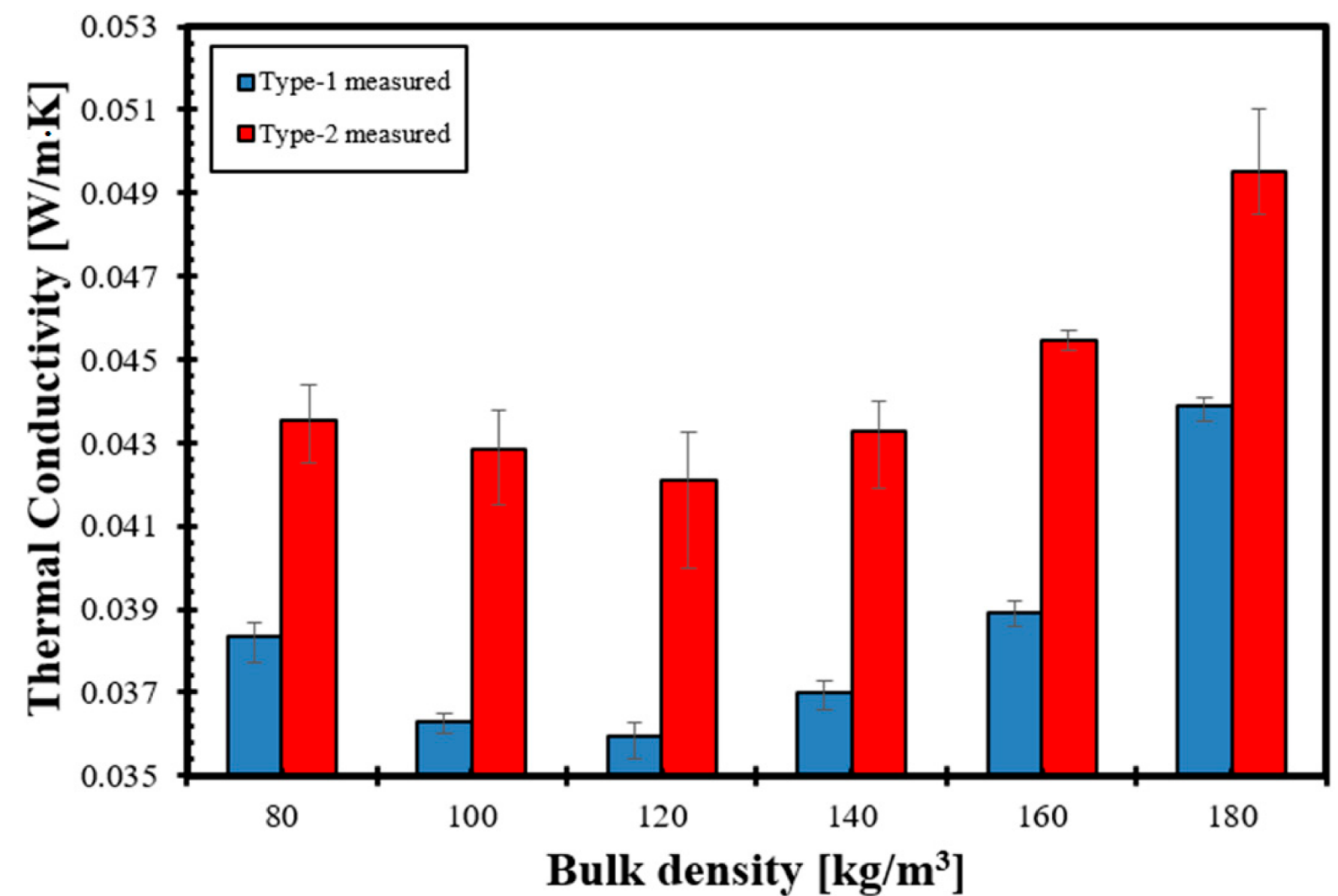
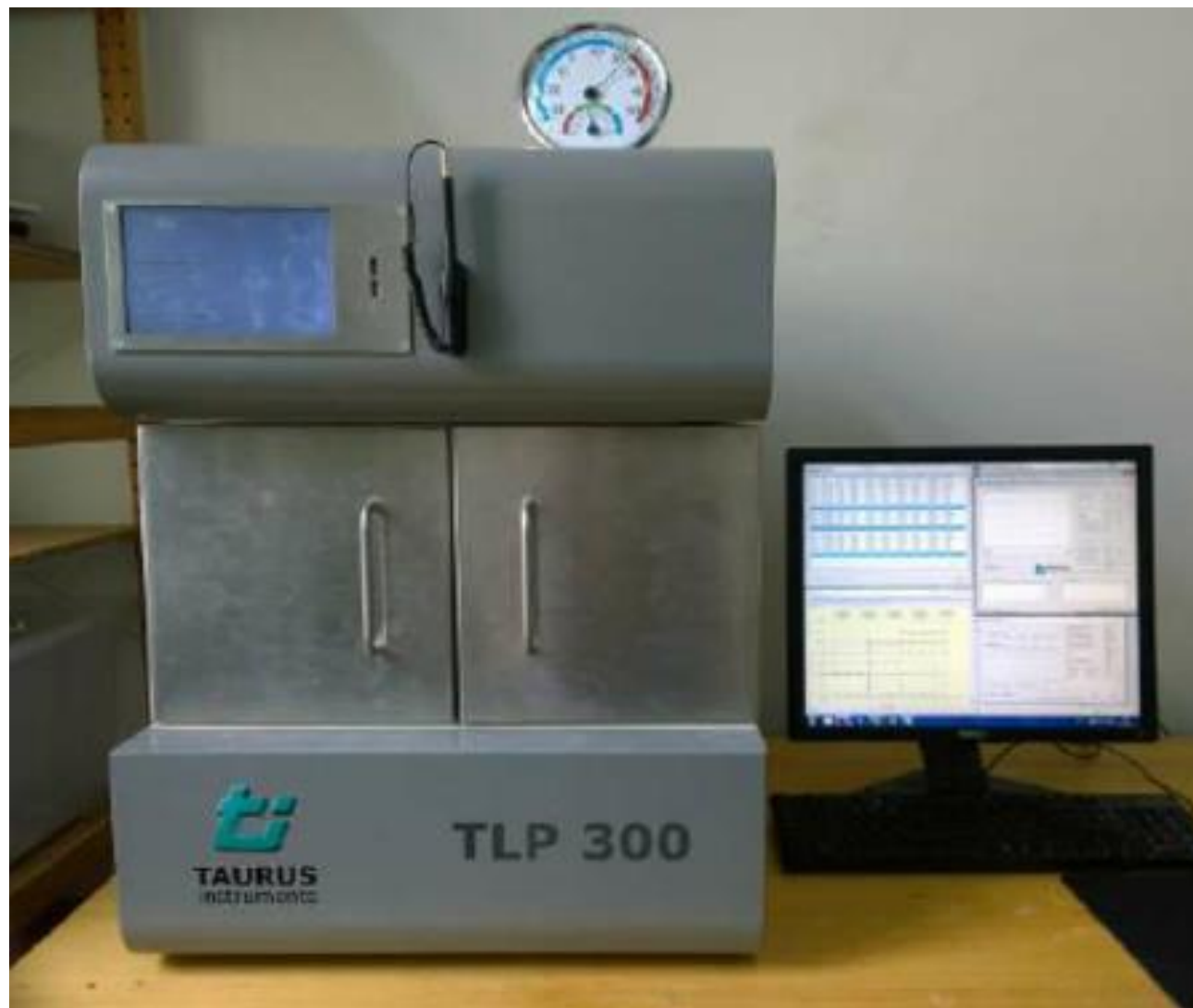
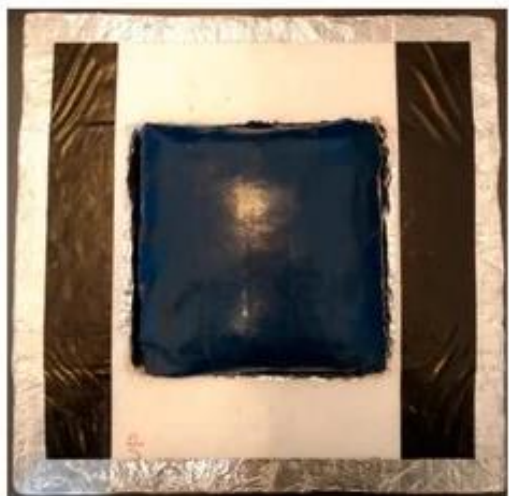
SEM images in 450× magnification of: (a) Type-1: Barley straw stem; (b) Type-2: Wheat straw.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ma14164408>



- Visegrad Fund
- 
- 

# Characterisation: wheat and barley straw bulks



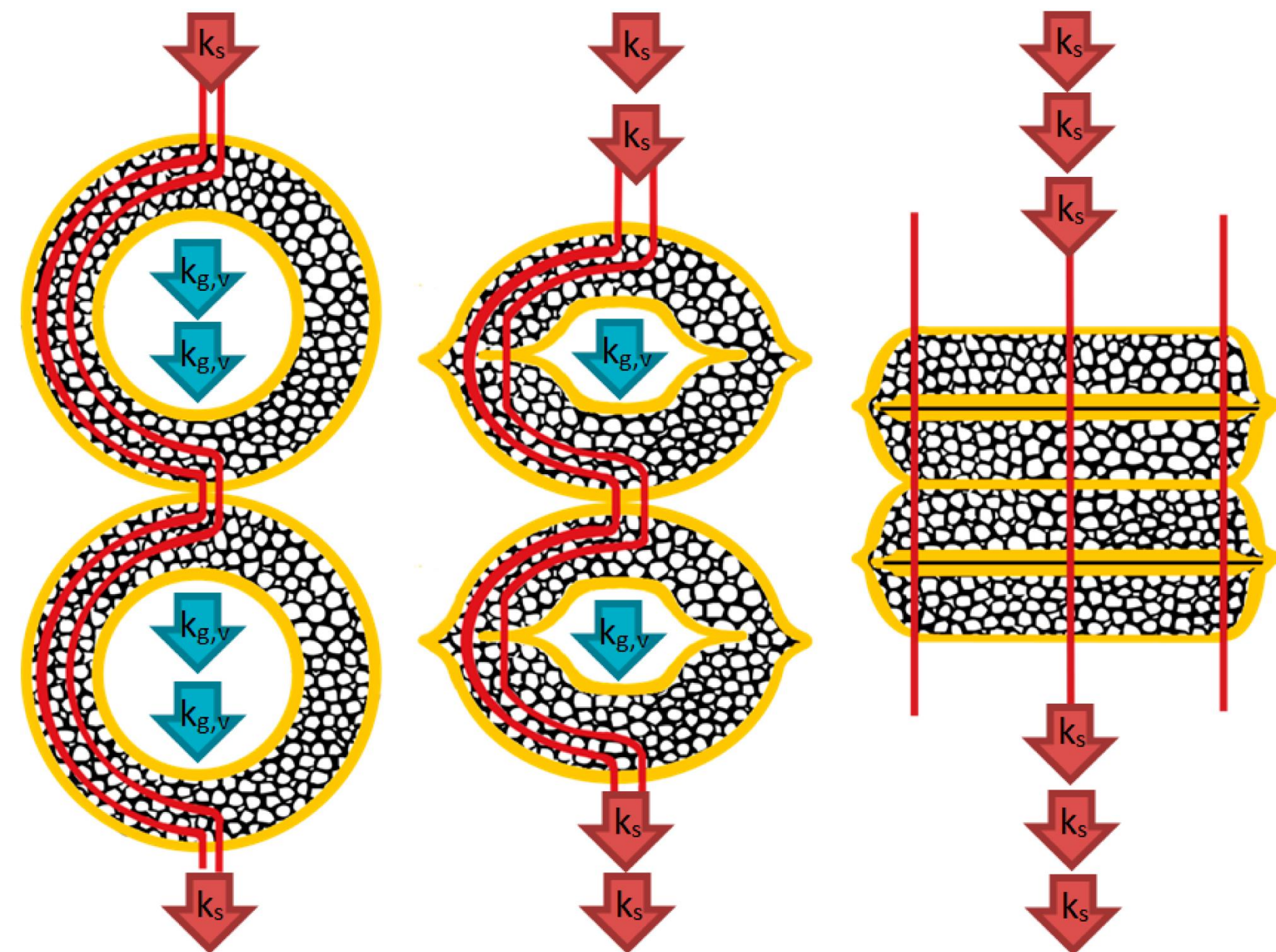
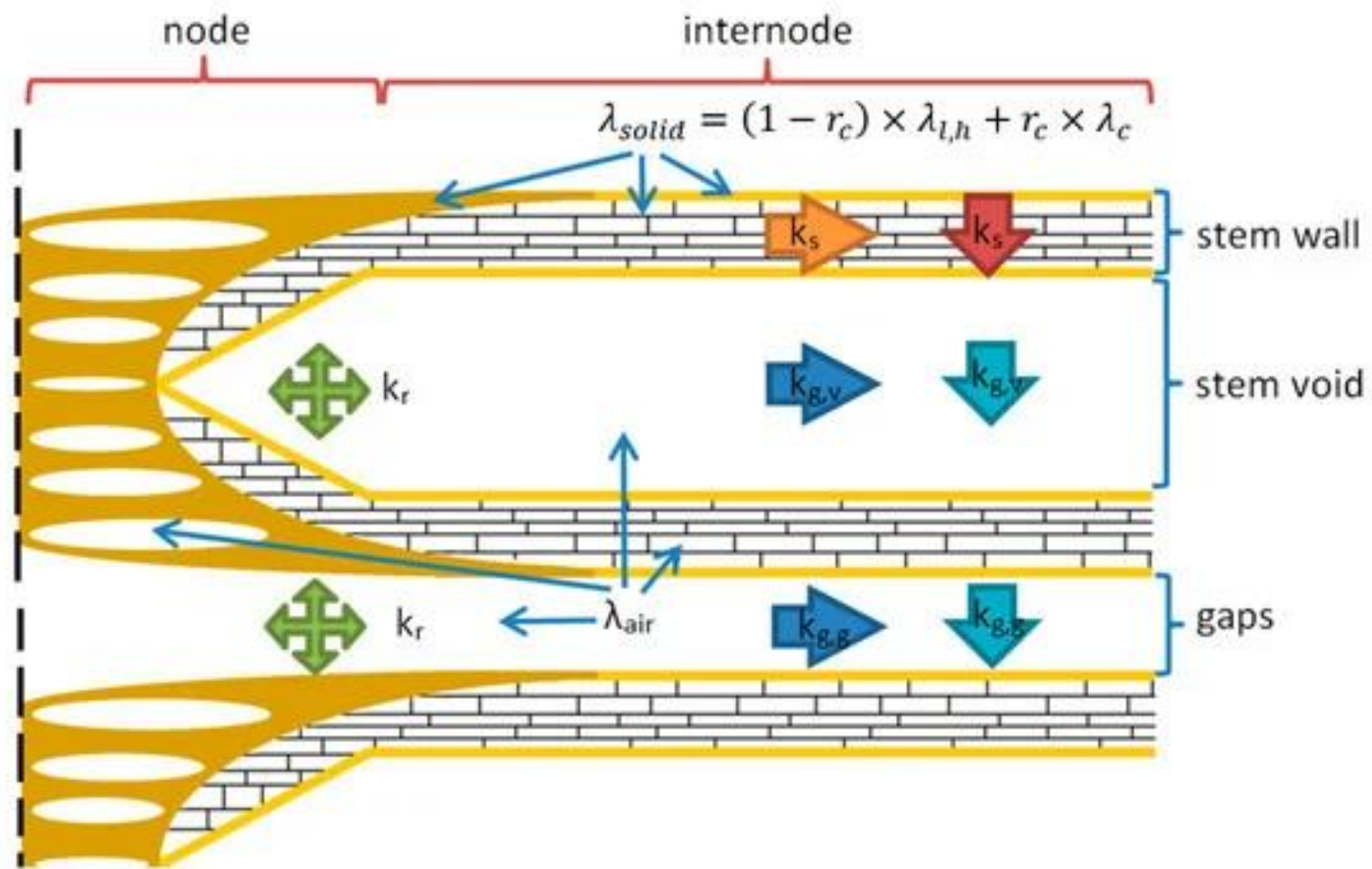
Measured thermal conductivity using GHP of randomly oriented Type-1 and Type-2 straw bulks with different bulk densities.  
Type-1: Barley straw; Type-2: Wheat straw.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ma14164408>



- Visegrad Fund
- •

# Characterisation: wheat and barley straw bulks



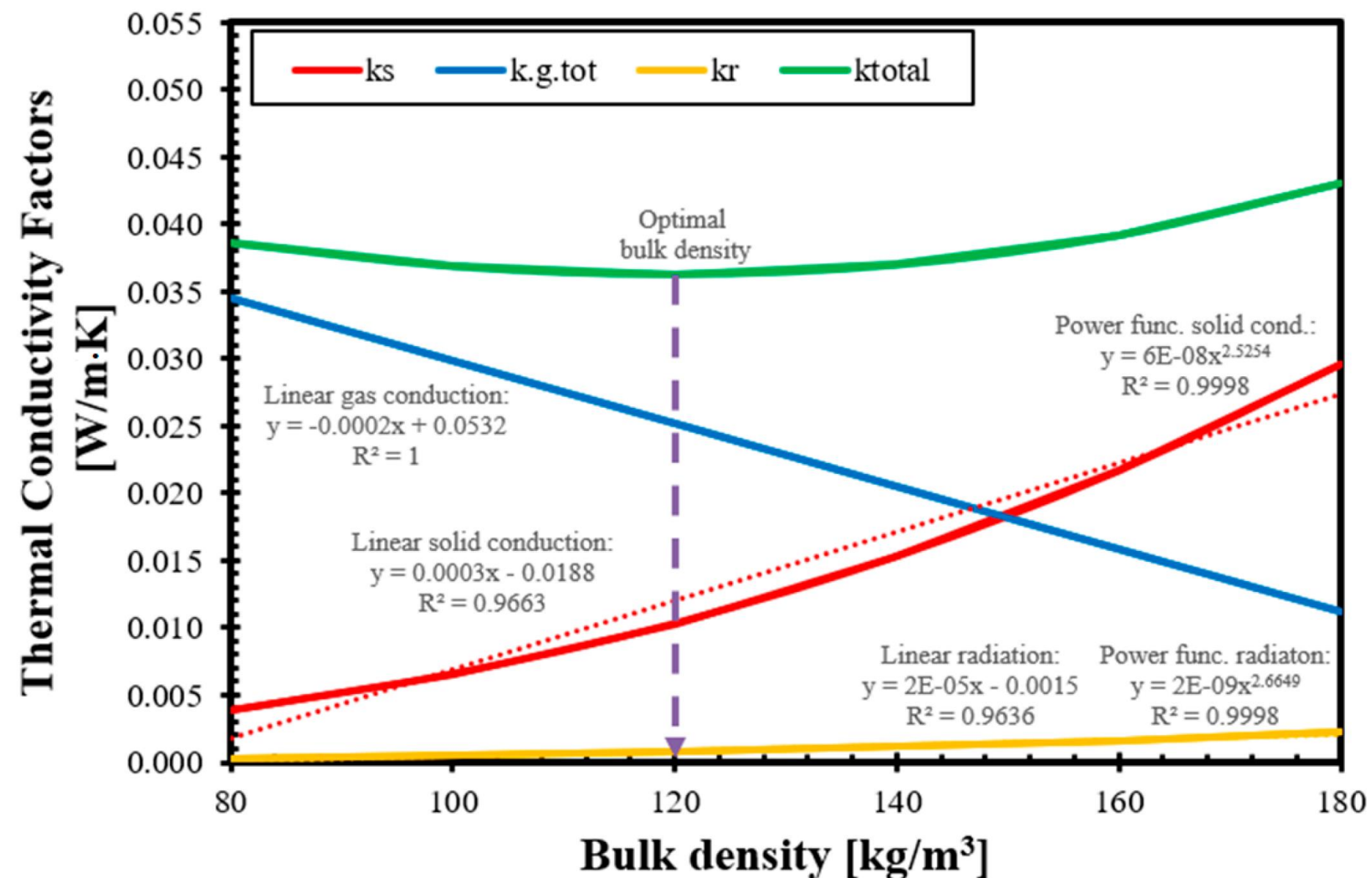
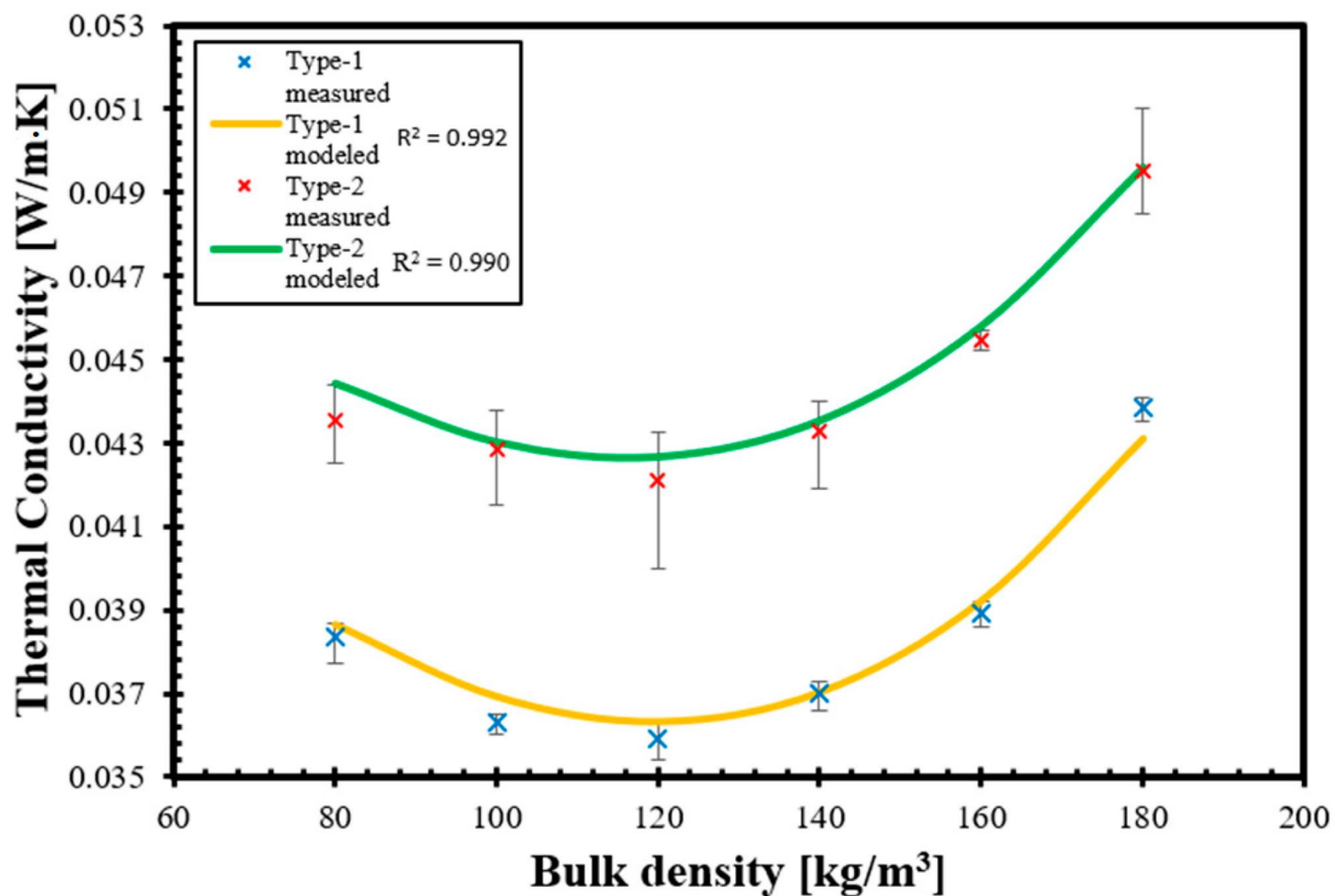
Heat Transfer in Straw-Based Thermal Insulating Materials:

- $k_s$  – conduction through the solid medium (fibers), this component includes the heat transfer in the natural composite and in its embedded air pores;
- $k_{g,tot}$  – conduction through gas medium including:
- $k_{g,g}$  – conduction in the air trapped in gaps among the stems,
- $k_{g,v}$  – conduction in the voids of stems;
- $k_r$  – radiative heat transfer;
- $k_{conv}$  – convection in the air in gaps between the fibers.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ma14164408>



# Characterisation: wheat and barley straw bulks



Relationship between bulk density and total thermal conductivity in case of the results of laboratory measurements and the analytic-empirical model using Type-1: Barley and Type-2: Wheat straws.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ma14164408>



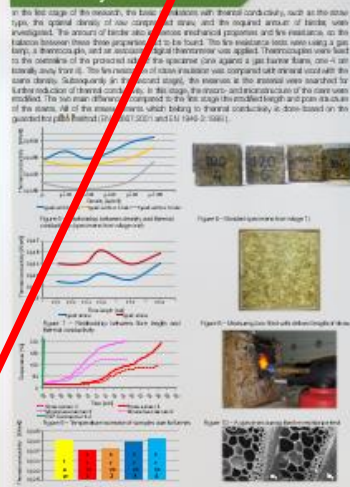
# Application: straw thermal insulation panels

World Sustainable Energy Days  
4 - 6 March 2020, Wels/Austria

## Biodegradable and fire-resistant thermal insulation boards made of wheat straw

The environmentally friendly thermal insulations are more and more popular, but most of them have inferior thermal insulation performance. The commonly used mineral (perlite, vermiculite, polymer foams) have better performance, but they also have higher price and higher environmental footprint. In the future, there will be a need for an environmentally friendly insulations that can substitute these materials. Our research aims to develop the type of product. Straw is suitable for this purpose as a biomass material as it comes out from the residues which during with some built houses. But in the natural condition (in bales), most of the material properties lag from the biomass of modern materials. In this research, we investigated two types of straw from different countries. The key parameter to achieve the final goal is to observe what kind of modifications can reduce the thermal conductivity of the natural fibres. The effect of macro-structure or micro-structure changes was investigated, and the best modifications were confirmed in the final material. These modifications ensure the insulation performance, but the proper usability is ensured by a special binder, which also grants the fire resistance. These modifications ensure insulation performance and durability, but a well-developed adhesive provides proper usability and fire resistance. Naturally, the effect of the binder on the thermal conductivity in the final product was also investigated. In addition to the insulation performance, the appropriate resistance of our thermal insulation is also significant because fire spread on facade can lead to serious consequences. Therefore our material was tested by 200-1200 °C fire, and the time needed to reach 200 °C on the product side was measured. We kept in mind that the final product (up to 10 cm) should be resistant to the heat and when the insulator will be tested without having any further results. At the same time, it can satisfy 90% of the requirements.

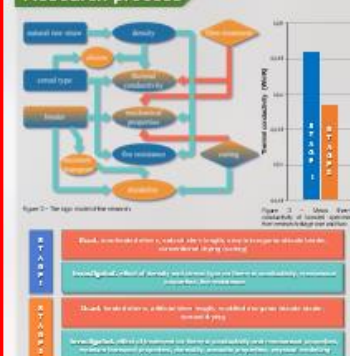
### Laboratory measurements



### Conclusion

The thermal conductivity of wheat straw changes in the same way by changing density, or in the same level, when it concerns the change in density. The density of the straw is affected by the structure of stems, which affects the material moisture value, and the change of the structure. The higher density is obtained by the structure of stems and by the structure of the stems. The higher density is obtained by the structure of stems and by the structure of the stems. The higher density is obtained by the structure of stems and by the structure of the stems.

### Research process



Dániel CSANADY and Balázs NAGY

Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Department of Construction Materials and Technoacoustics, Műegyetem rkp. 1111 Budapest, Hungary. Email: csanady.daniel@epito.tome.hu and nagy.balazs@epito.tome.hu

## Research process

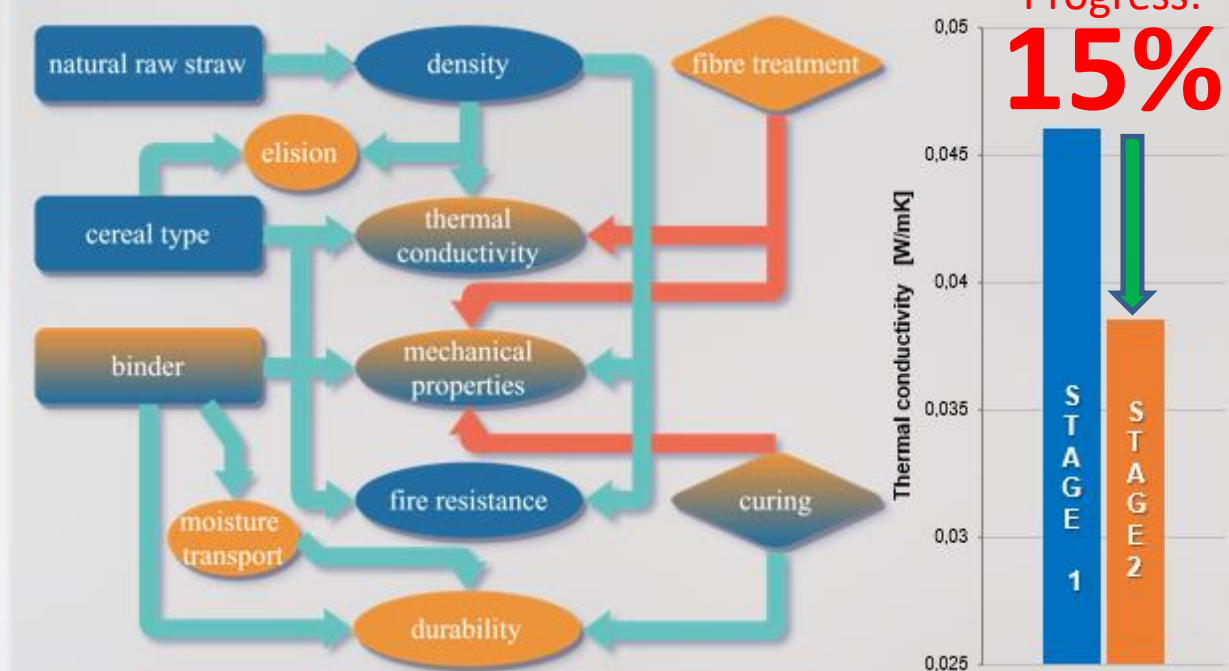


Figure 3 - The logic model of the research

Progress: **15%**

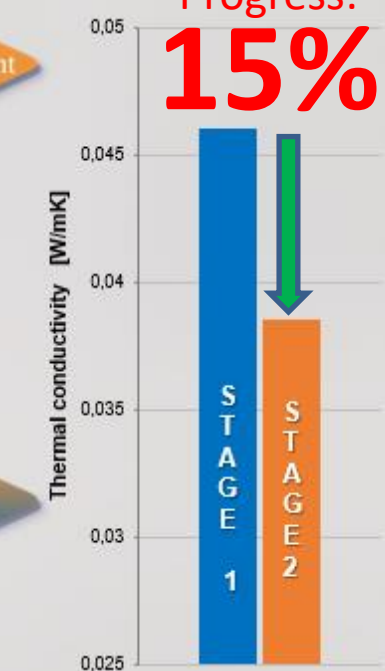


Figure 3 - Mean thermal conductivity of bonded specimens from research stage one and two

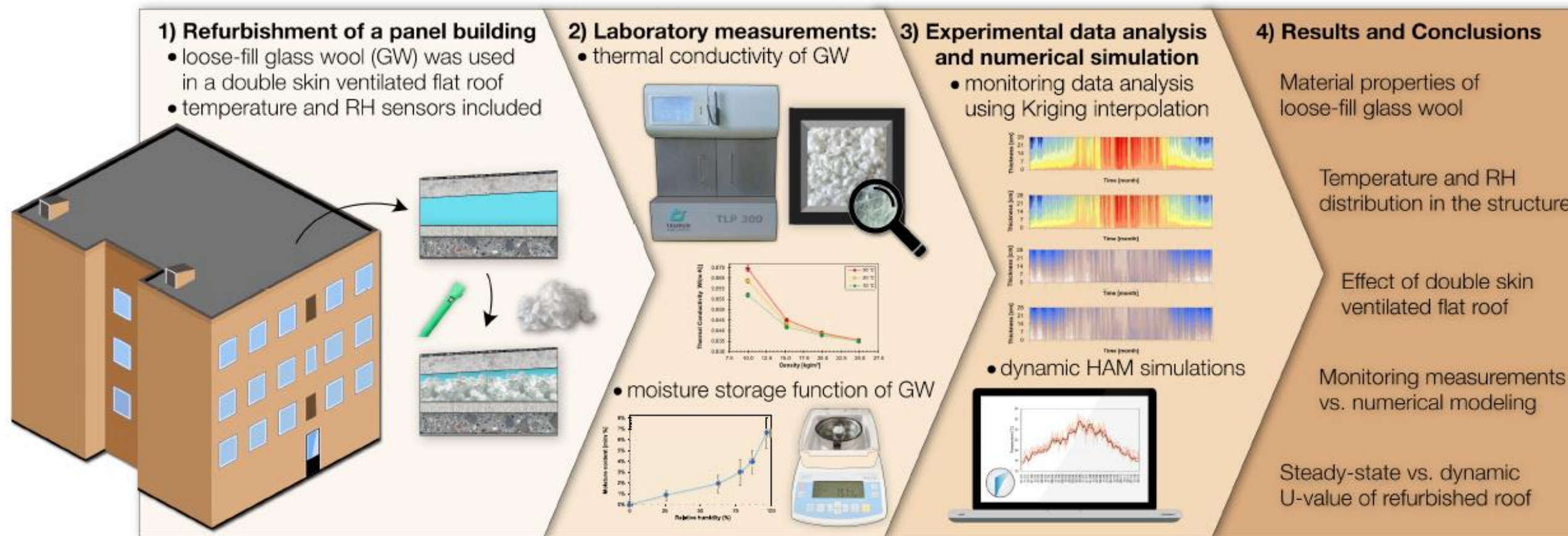
STAGE 1	Used: non-treated stems, natural stem length, simple inorganic silicate binder, conventional drying (curing)
	Investigated: effect of density and cereal type on thermal conductivity, mechanical properties, fire resistance
STAGE 2	Used: treated stems, artificial stem length, modified inorganic silicate binder, special drying
	Investigated: effect of treatment on thermal conductivity and mechanical properties, moisture transport properties, durability, acoustic properties, physical modelling



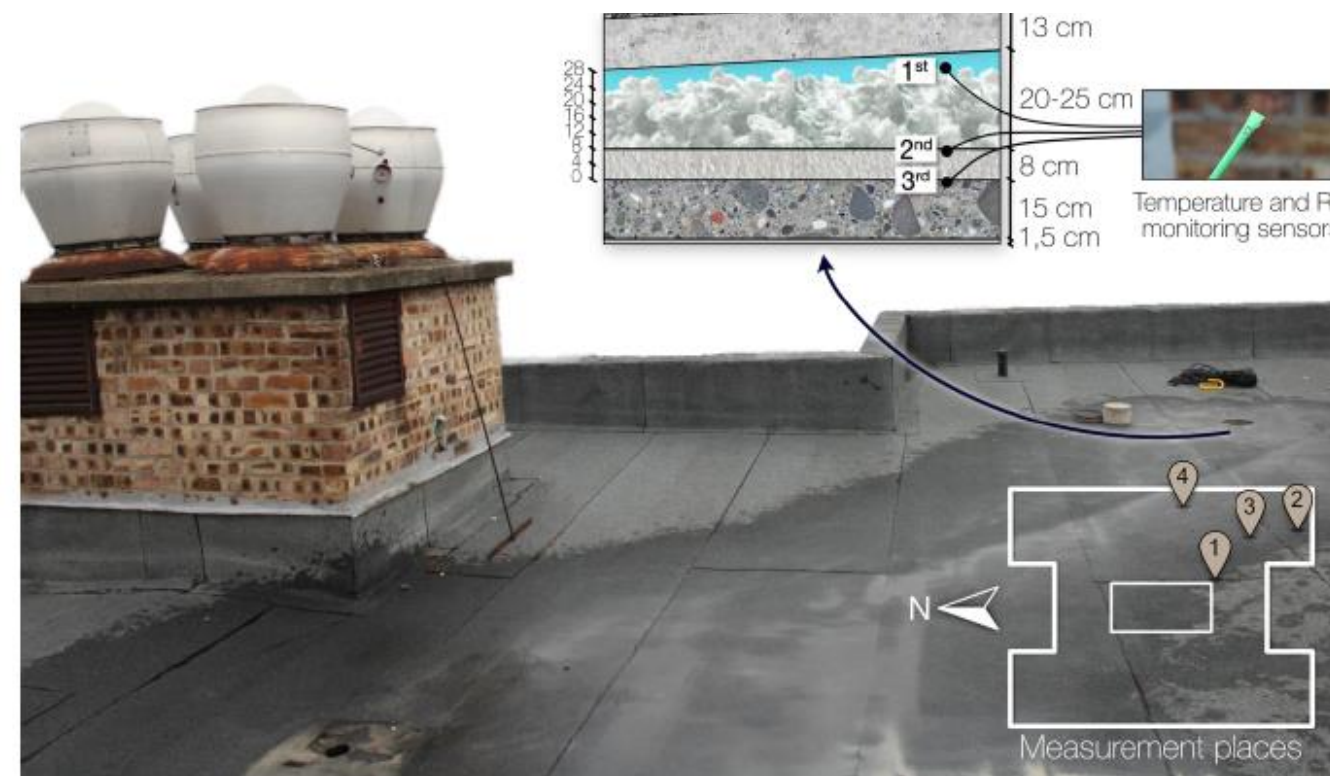


- Visegrad Fund
- 
- 

# Application: ventilated double-skin cold roofs



Szél utca, Budapest III. kerület



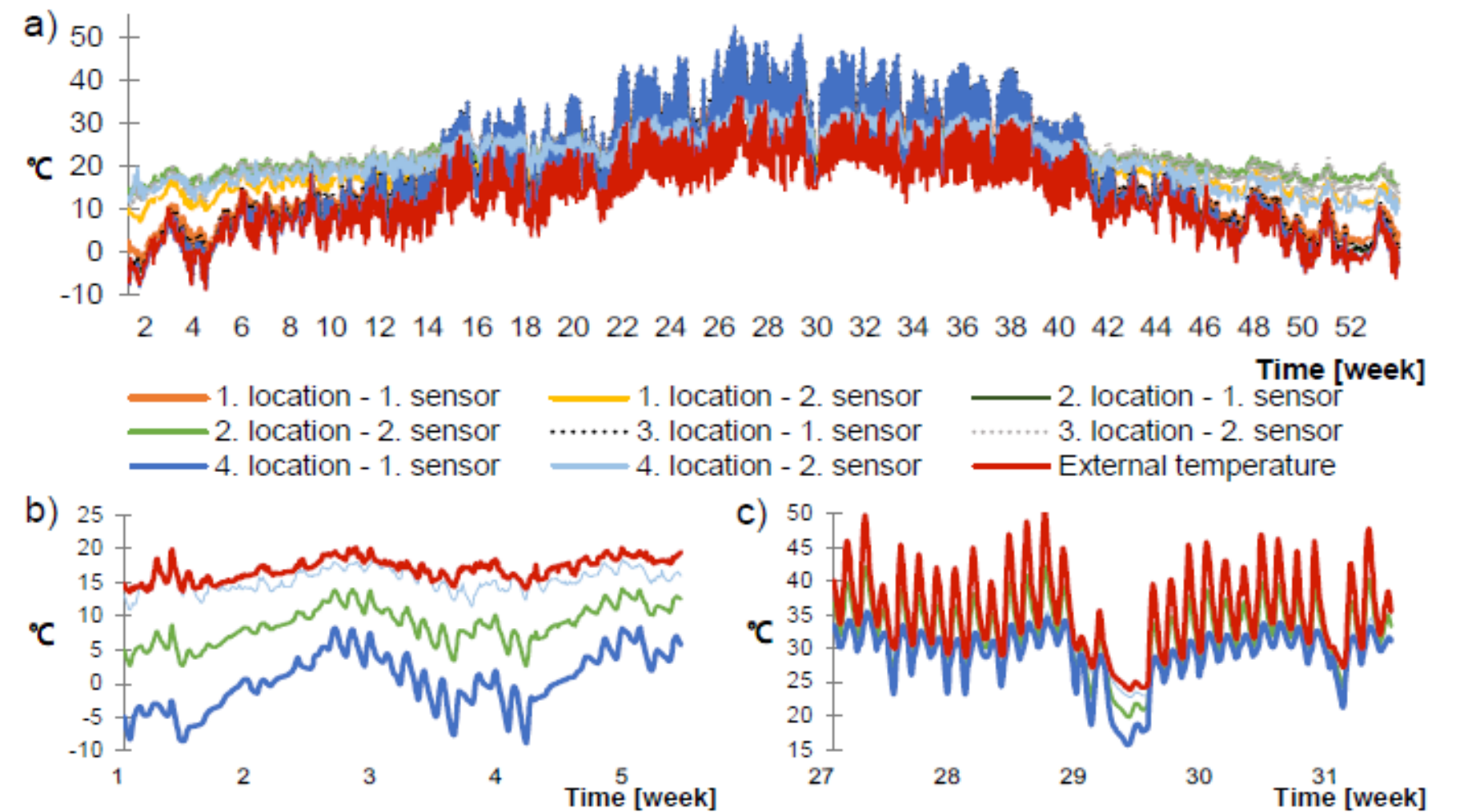
Blowing mineral wool (Supafil) made using 60% recycled glass

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csite.2021.100941>  
<https://doi.org/10.2478/9788395669699-032>



- Visegrad Fund
- 
- 

# Application: ventilated double-skin cold roofs



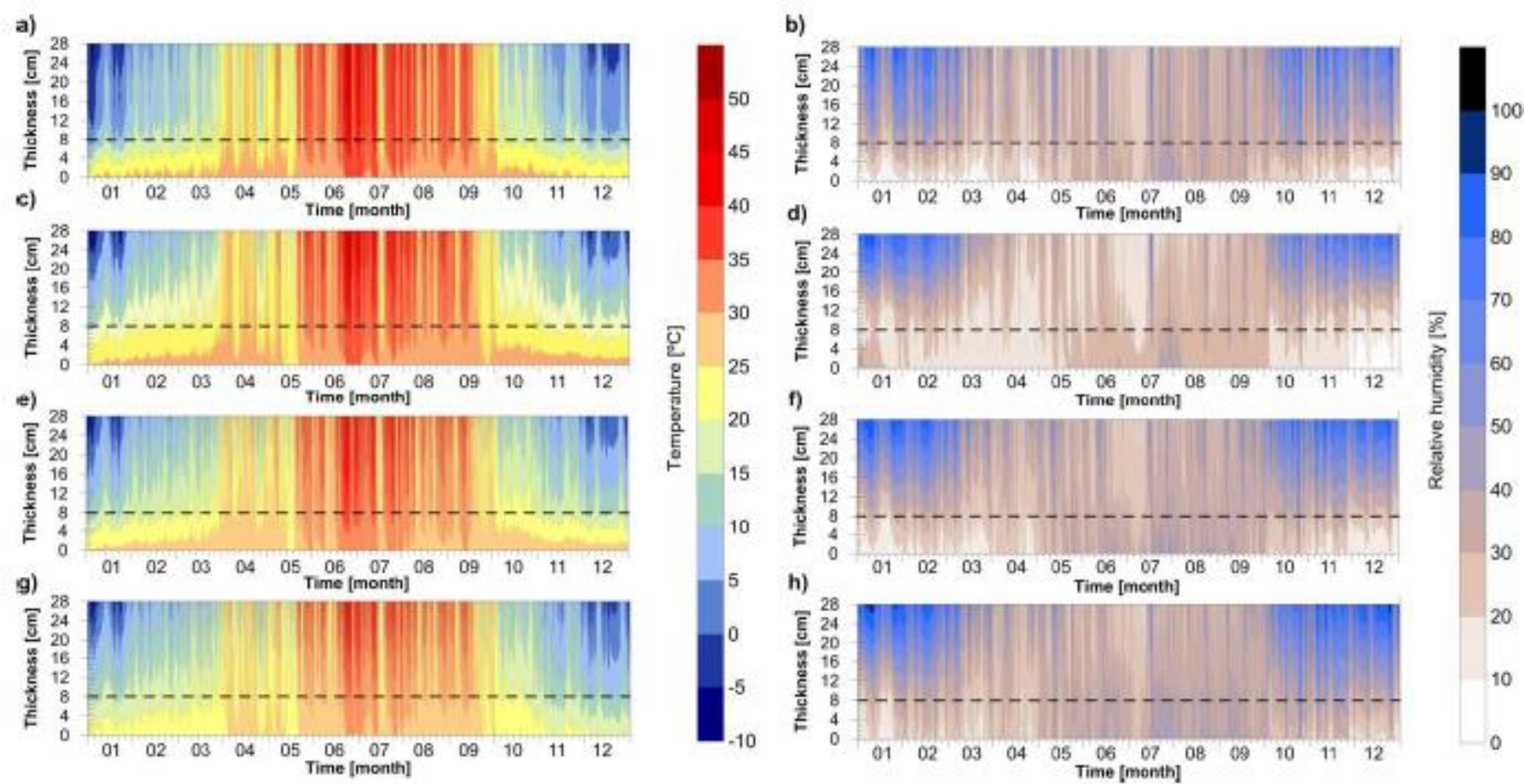
a) temperature distribution in different measurement points during a year, b) temperature distribution in January, c) temperature distribution in July

Sensor placement in the roof structure, insulating process & measurement results of sensors

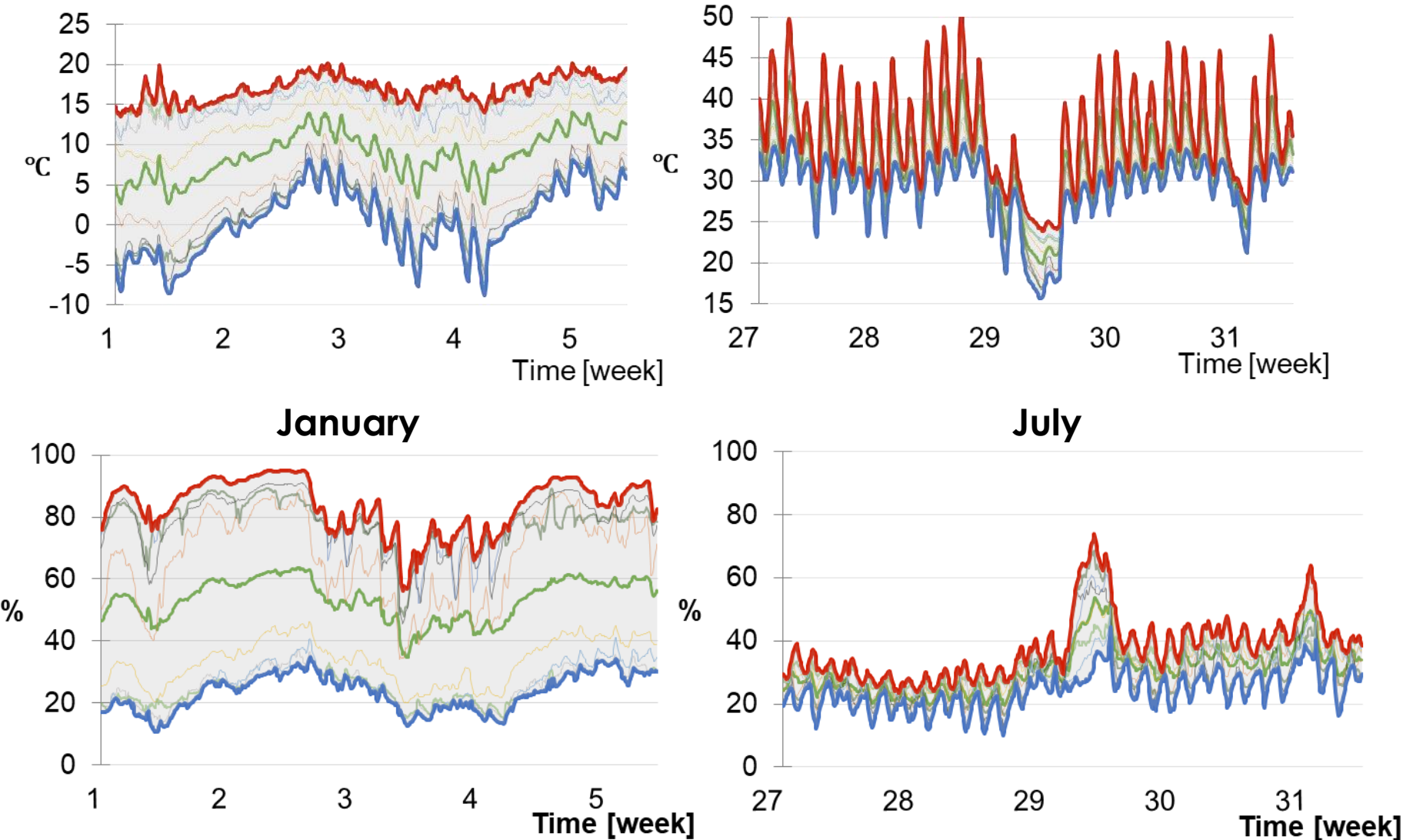
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csite.2021.100941>  
<https://doi.org/10.2478/9788395669699-032>



# Application: ventilated double-skin cold roofs



**Fig. 2** Measured and interpolated values during a year: a) Temperature of the 1<sup>st</sup> place, b) RH of the 1<sup>st</sup> place, c) Temperature of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place, d) RH of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place, e) Temperature of the 3<sup>rd</sup> place, f) RH of the 3<sup>rd</sup> place, g) Temperature of the 4<sup>th</sup> place, h) RH of the 4<sup>th</sup> place



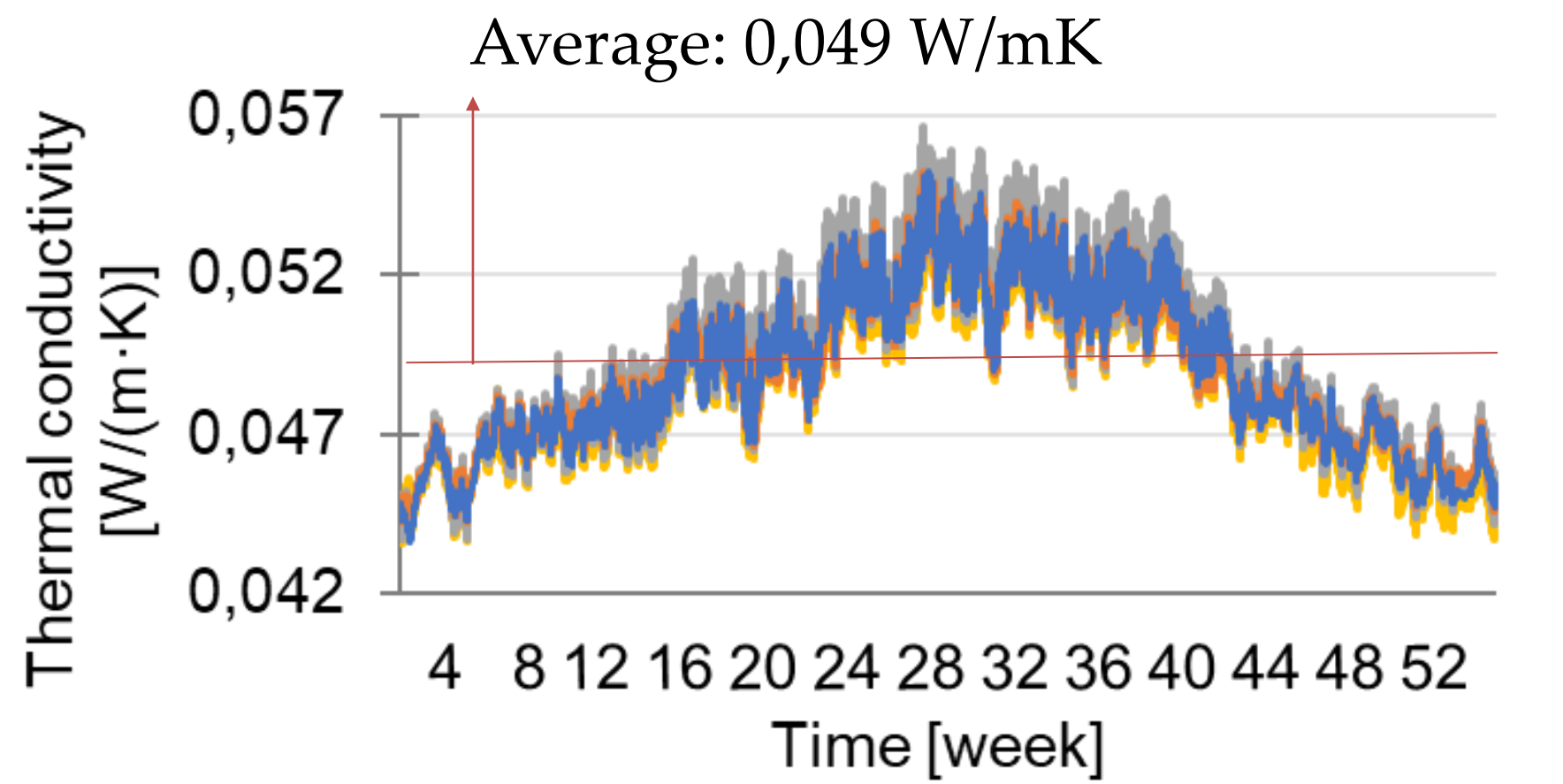
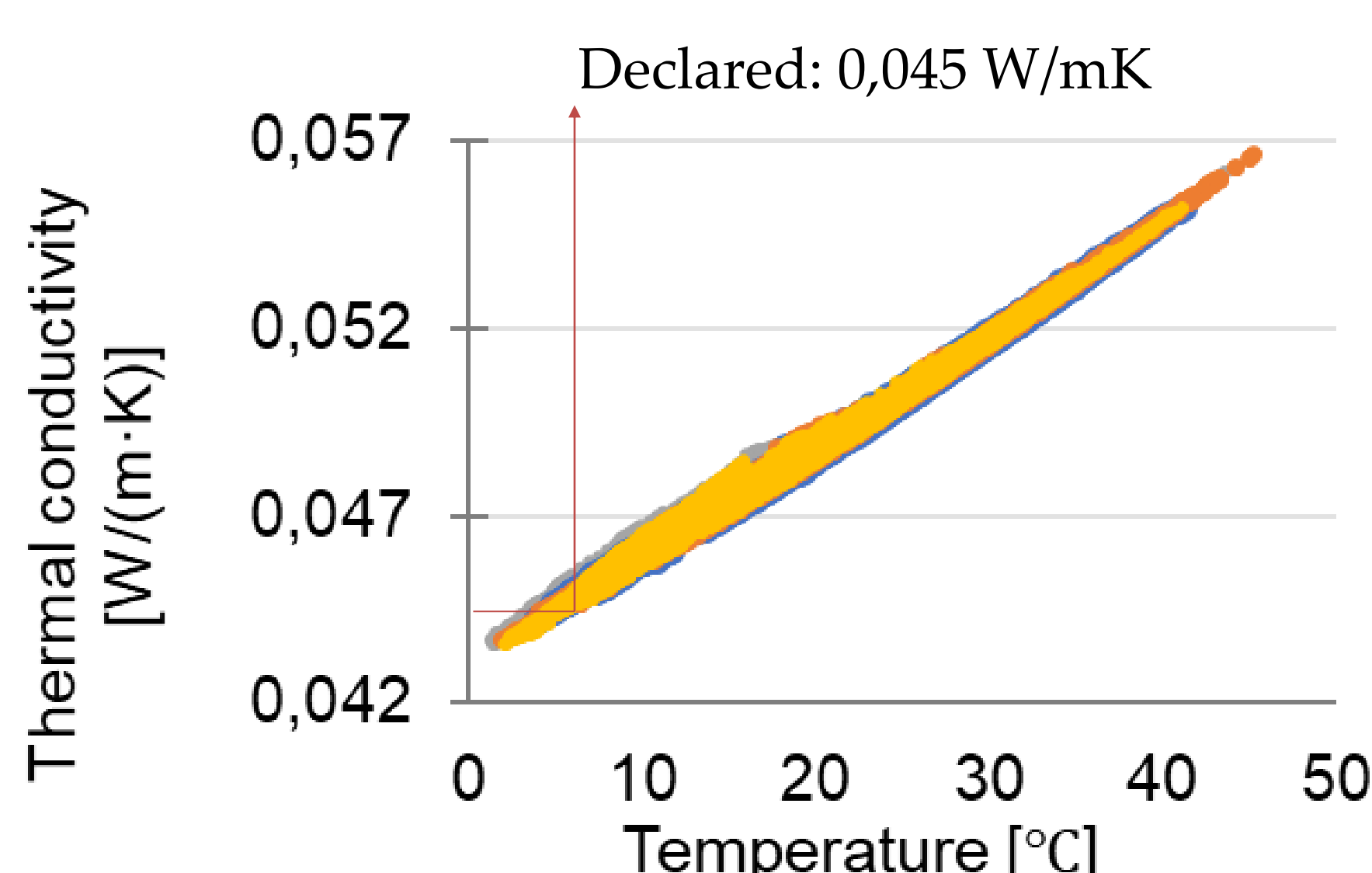
Measured temperature and relative humidity distribution across the construction

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csite.2021.100941>  
<https://doi.org/10.2478/9788395669699-032>



- Visegrad Fund
- 
- 

# Application: ventilated double-skin cold roofs



- 4th meas. loc.
- 3rd meas. loc.
- 2nd meas. loc.
- 1st meas. loc.

- 4th measurement location
- 2nd measurement location
- 3rd measurement location
- 1st measurement location

$$\lambda_2 = \lambda_1 \cdot e^{ft(T2-T1)} \cdot e^{fu(U2-U1)}$$

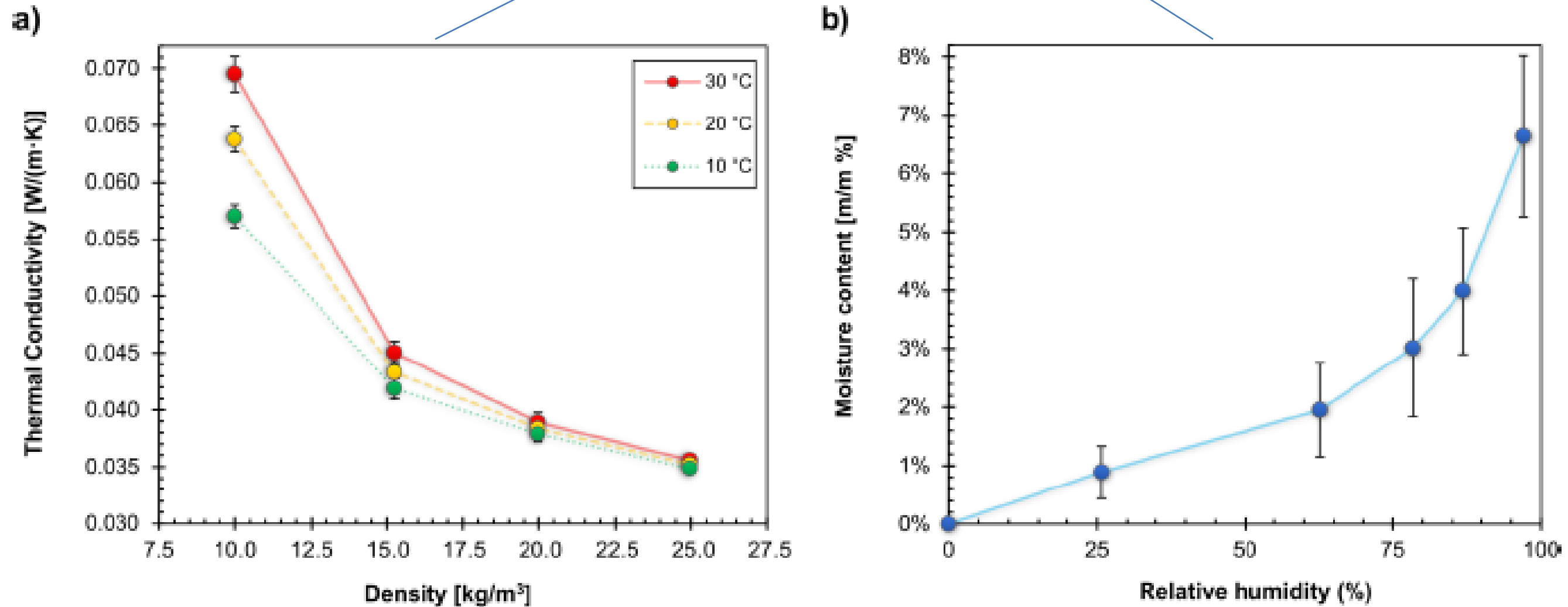
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csite.2021.100941>  
<https://doi.org/10.2478/9788395669699-032>



- Visegrad Fund
- •

# Application: ventilated double-skin cold roofs

$$\lambda_2 = \lambda_1 \cdot e^{ft(T2-T1)} \cdot e^{fu(U2-U1)}$$



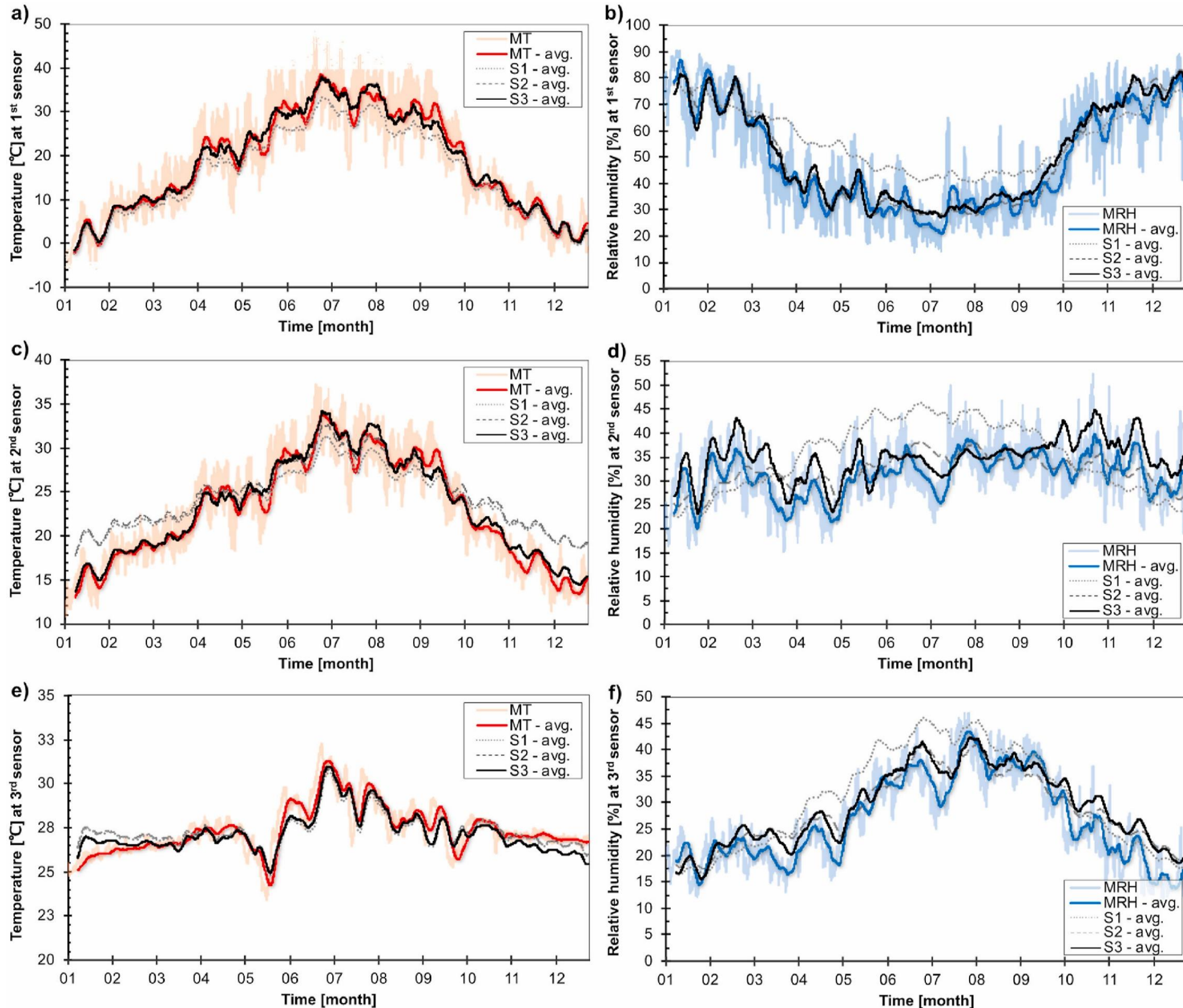
Laboratory measurements results of glass wool: a) thermal conductivity at different density and temperature b) moisture storage function

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csite.2021.100941>  
<https://doi.org/10.2478/9788395669699-032>



- Visegrad Fund
- 
- 

# Application: ventilated double-skin cold roofs



**Table. 1** Monthly transient U-values [ $W/(m^2K)$ ] according to dynamic simulations

Month	S1	S2	S3
October	0.137	0.118	0.181
November	0.155	0.148	0.217
December	0.157	0.154	0.222
January	0.150	0.148	0.215
February	0.147	0.137	0.207
March	0.137	0.131	0.188
April	0.107	0.086	0.123

### WUFI (Heat and Moisture) model:

- Boundary Conditions according to monitoring measurements
- 3 different, advancing models:
  - S1: standard model with general material properties from manufacturer
  - S2: adding air change and radiation in the cavity
  - S3: adding the laboratory measured material properties

### Conclusion:

- Blowing with 10-12 kg/m<sup>3</sup> bulk density instead of 15 kg/m<sup>3</sup> results in 35% higher U value of the construction!!!

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csite.2021.100941>  
<https://doi.org/10.2478/9788395669699-032>



- Visegrad Fund
- •

# Technical value analysis

## COMBINEX method with Guilford weighting

Homlokzati hőszigetelések paraméterei											
	Hőszigetelés	Termék	Hővezetési tényező [W/mK]	Szükséges vastagság [cm]	Fajhő [J/kgK]	Hőkapacitás [J/m <sup>3</sup> K]	Páradiffúziós ellenállási szám [-]	Térfogatsúly [kg/m <sup>3</sup> ]	Tűzvédelmi osztály	Nyomószilárdság [kPa]	Kereskedelmi átlagár [br. Ft/m <sup>2</sup> ]
1	Fenolgyanta hab	Austrotherm Resolution Fassade	0,022	8	1 500	52 500	20	35	E	nincs adat	12 488
2	Expandált polisztirolhab (EPS)	Austrotherm AT-H80	0,038	14	1 460	36 500	60	25	E	80	3 670
3	Grafitadalékos EPS	Austrotherm GRAFIT Reflex	0,031	12	1 460	36 500	60	25	E	80	3 196
4	Vákuumpanel	Kingspan OPTIM-R	0,007	2,5	800	160 000	100 000	200	E	150	38 100
5	Kőzetgyapot	Frontrock Super	0,036	14	1 030	139 050	1	135	A1	20	5 066
6	Farost	Steico therm dry	0,037	14	2 100	231 000	3	110	E	50	18 605
7	Fagyapot	Steico Protect	0,046	16	2 100	483 000	5	230	E	150	9 025
8	Kenderrost	Steico Konope	0,039	14	1 600	160 000	4	100	E	nincs adat	15 252
9	Szalmatábla	W-Heat	0,039	15	1 380	200 100	5	145	A2	100	10 287
10	Aerogél vakolat	Fixit 222	0,028	10	920	202 400	4	220	A1	nincs adat	200 554

- Thermal conductivity
- Volumetric heat capacity
- Vapour diffusion resistance factor
- Fire resistance
- Compression strength
- Price
- Global warming potential
- Workability
- Etc.

1) Select and collect comparable material and technical parameters of natural, bio-based or conventional thermal insulation materials.

<https://tdk.bme.hu/EMK/ep2/Tarsashazak-innovativ-energiahatekonysagi>



- Visegrad Fund
- 
- 

# Technical value analysis

Homlokzati hőszigetelés esetén										
Preferenciamátrix és súlyozás	Hővezetési tényező	Hőkapacitás	Páradiffúziós ellenállási szám	Térfogatsúly	Tűzvédelmi osztály	Nyomószilárdság	Kereskedelmi ár	Beépítés bonyolultsága	Alapanyag/ előállítás ökológiai lábnyoma	Összesen
Hővezetési tényező	-	7	5	7	3	7	7	7	7	<b>50</b>
Hőkapacitás	0	-	2	5	1	4	3	3	3	<b>21</b>
Páradiffúziós ellenállási szám	2	5	-	5	3	7	5	6	4	<b>37</b>
Térfogatsúly	0	2	2	-	1	6	3	4	2	<b>20</b>
Tűzvédelmi osztály	4	6	5	6	-	7	7	7	6	<b>48</b>
Nyomószilárdság	0	3	0	1	0	-	2	2	2	<b>10</b>
Kereskedelmi ár	0	4	2	4	0	5	-	5	3	<b>23</b>
Beépítés bonyolultsága	0	4	1	3	0	5	2	-	2	<b>17</b>
Alapanyag/ előállítás ökológiai lábnyoma	0	4	3	5	1	5	4	5	-	<b>27</b>
Összesen	6	35	20	36	9	46	33	39	29	<b>253</b>

a <sup>2</sup>	a-ből	p	p-ből	u	Z	Z-ből	k1*Z+k2	W
2500	0,198	0,849	0,188	1,033	1,000	0,249	3,486	0,183
441	0,083	0,389	0,086	-0,282	0,279	0,069	1,694	0,089
1369	0,146	0,643	0,142	0,366	0,634	0,158	2,577	0,136
400	0,079	0,373	0,083	-0,324	0,256	0,064	1,637	0,086
2304	0,190	0,817	0,181	0,906	0,930	0,231	3,313	0,174
100	0,040	0,214	0,047	-0,792	0,000	0,000	1,000	0,053
529	0,091	0,421	0,093	-0,200	0,324	0,081	1,806	0,095
289	0,067	0,325	0,072	-0,453	0,186	0,046	1,462	0,077
729	0,107	0,484	0,107	-0,040	0,412	0,102	2,024	0,107
8661	1,000	4,516	1,000		4,022	1	19,000	1,000
	1,000		minimum	-0,792	k1	10		
			maximum	1,033	k2	1		

<- súlyozás dominanciája (ha jobban el akarod választani a változatokat egymástól, növekd ezt a számot)

- 2) Create an online poll about the comparison criteria, use pair comparison
- 3) Compose the preference matrix from the results of the polling
- 4) Calculate the weights according to Guilford

<https://tdk.bme.hu/EMK/ep2/Tarsashazak-innovativ-energiahatekonysagi>



- Visegrad Fund
- 
- 

# Technical value analysis

Homlokzati hőszigetelések pontozása													
	Hőszigetelés	Termék	Hővezetési tényező [W/mK]	Fajhő [J/kgK]	Hőkapacitás [J/m <sup>3</sup> K]	Páradiffúziós ellenállási szám [-]	Térfogatsúly [kg/m <sup>3</sup> ]	Tűzvédelmi osztály	Nyomószilárdság [kPa]	Beépítés bonyolultsága	Alapanyag/előállítás ökológiai lábnyoma	Kereskedelmi átlagár [br. Ft/m <sup>2</sup> ]	Pontszám
1	Fenolgyanta hab	Austrotherm Resolution Fassade	4,0	3,6	1,0	4,0	4,0	1,0	0,0	4,0	1,0	3,2	28,8
2	Expandált polisztirolhab (EPS)	Austrotherm AT-H80	1,2	3,4	0,0	3,0	5,0	1,0	3,3	5,0	1,0	4,0	29,8
3	Grafitadalékos EPS	Austrotherm GRAFIT Reflex	2,4	3,4	0,0	3,0	5,0	1,0	3,3	4,0	1,0	5,0	31,0
4	Vákuumpanel	Kingspan OPTIM-R	5,0	0,0	2,8	0,0	1,3	1,0	5,0	0,0	0,0	1,0	16,1
5	Kőzetgyapot	Frontrock Super	1,5	1,5	2,5	5,0	2,4	5,0	1,0	3,0	3,0	3,9	32,7
6	Farost	Steico therm dry	1,4	5,0	4,0	5,0	2,8	1,0	2,1	5,0	4,0	2,7	33,0
7	Fagyapot	Steico Protect	0,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	0,0	1,0	5,0	5,0	4,0	3,5	<b>37,5</b>
8	Kenderrost	Steico Konope	1,0	4,0	2,8	5,0	2,9	1,0	0,0	5,0	4,0	3,0	<b>33,7</b>
9	Szalmatábla	W-Heat	1,0	3,0	3,5	5,0	2,2	4,0	4,0	5,0	5,0	3,4	<b>41,1</b>
10	Aerogél vakolat	Fixit 222	2,9	1,0	3,5	5,0	1,0	5,0	0,0	2,0	0,0	0,0	20,5

Results with weights:

Falszigetelések	Súlyozott pontszám
Fenolgyanta hab	2,606
Expandált polisztirolhab (EPS)	2,271
Grafitadalékos expandált polisztirolhab	2,515
Vákuumpanel	1,814
<b>Kőzetgyapot</b>	<b>3,226</b>
<b>Farost</b>	<b>2,983</b>
Fagyapot	2,708
Kenderrost	2,635
<b>Szalmatábla</b>	<b>3,514</b>
Aerogél vakolat	2,644

5) Scoring relative to comparison (e.g. 1-5 scale based on performance)

6) Weight the scores and get the final result

<https://tdk.bme.hu/EMK/ep2/Tarsashazak-innovativ-energiahatekonysagi>



# CESB22 YRSB22

Prague | 2022 July 4–6

supported by

- Visegrad Fund
- •

## Abstract of Contribution 274



ID: 274

CESB22 Abstract

Preference of oral presentation

*CESB22 topics:* New materials and components for sustainable buildings, Integration of principles of circular economy into building design process, Decision-support tools and assessment methods for sustainable built environment, Retrofitting of existing building stock

*SDG topics:* Good Health & Wellbeing, Sustainable Cities & Communities

*Keywords:* Technical value analysis, thermal insulation, natural-based materials, energy-efficient refurbishment

### Evaluation of Bio and Natural-based Thermal Insulation Materials in Visegrad Countries

Balázs NAGY<sup>1</sup>, Lukáš BOSÁK<sup>2</sup>, Karel STRUHALA<sup>3</sup>, Piotr KOSIŃSKI<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary; <sup>2</sup>Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia; <sup>3</sup>Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic; <sup>4</sup>University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland

Existing guides on refurbishing buildings to nZEB standards are mostly focusing on using conventional thermal insulation materials, such as polystyrene, polyurethane or mineral wool, although these popular thermal insulations have rather high embodied environmental impacts. Moreover, their waste is long-lasting and their recycling is currently uneconomical since these materials are commonly incinerated or landfilled at the end of their life-cycle. Besides that, using incompatible thermal insulations on the building envelope of existing buildings could change hygrothermal behaviour, which may contradict the aim of the refurbishment.

Therefore, in our research, we focused on the performance evaluation of bio- and natural-based materials using technical value analysis methodology to determine which thermal insulations are worth using in energy-efficient refurbishment projects and which ones may perform even better than conventional materials among the available ones in the Visegrad countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia). During the research, we created a criteria matrix according to the Combinex value analysis method. Then, we evaluated the properties using to obtain the scores for each material in the decision matrix. We then sent the criteria matrix to selected 20+ experts in the AEC industry from the Visegrad countries to be able to calculate weights for our decision matrix by using Guilford's weighting scheme.

As a conclusion, we show that there are currently several bio- and natural-based alternative thermal insulation materials in the Visegrad countries that are generally more advantageous to use than conventional materials.





Adoption of V4 buildings to nZEB standard using natural and bio-based materials

Olsztyn 09. – 12. 09. 2021

- supported by
- Visegrad Fund
- •

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**  
**NAGY.BALAZS@EMK.BME.HU**

Balázs Nagy, PhD



UNIVERSITY  
OF WARMIA AND MAZURY  
IN OLSZTYN



SLOVAK UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY IN BRATISLAVA



Budapest University of Technology and Economics