Introduction to Civil Information Systems

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Overview

Urban Applications

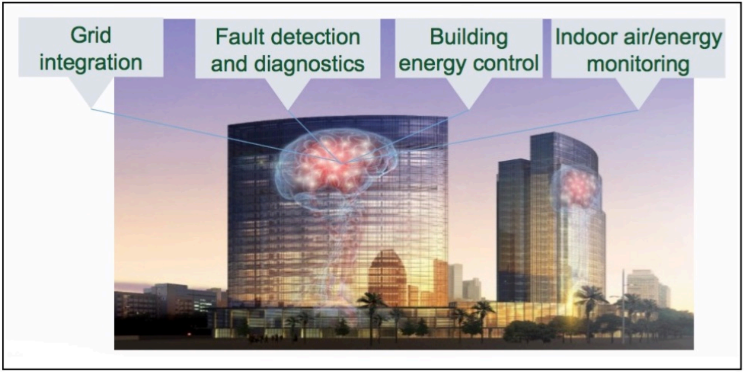
How do buildings work?

Array of Things: Sensing behavior in Chicago

SONYC: Noise Pollution in NYC

Modern Buildings (Vision for Future)

Example 1: Buildings that Think! (Work at NIST / UMD, 2017)



Research Question: How to use AI / Semantics to bring data, context and algorithms together for decision making?

Legend: data = building geometry; context = occupant behavior; algorithms = reasoning.

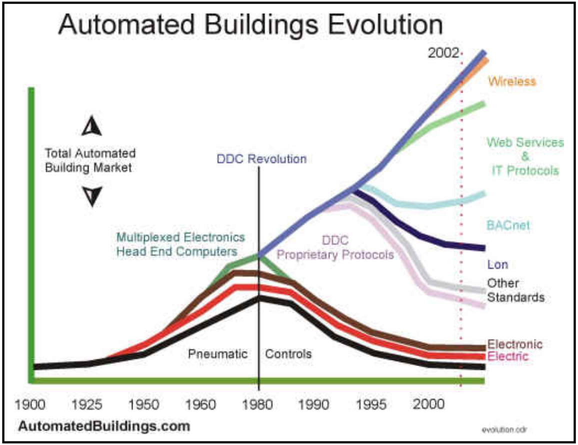
Modern Buildings (Key Features)

Modern buildings are:

- Advanced, self-contained and tightly controlled environments design to provide services (e.g., transportation, lighting, etc).
- Large size (e.g., 30,000 occupants, thousands of points of sensing and control for air quality and fire protection).
- Many stakeholders; highly multi-disciplinary.
- Building have networks for: arrangement of spaces; fixed circulatory systems (power, hvac); dynamic circulatory systems (flows of energy).
- Many sources of heterogeneous data.
- Necessity of performance-based design and real-time management.
- System functionality controlled by software!

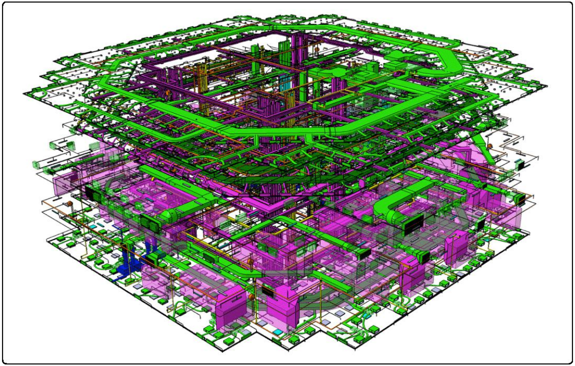
Modern Buildings (Key Features)

Large-scale building systems are packed with automation:



Modern Buildings (Key Features)

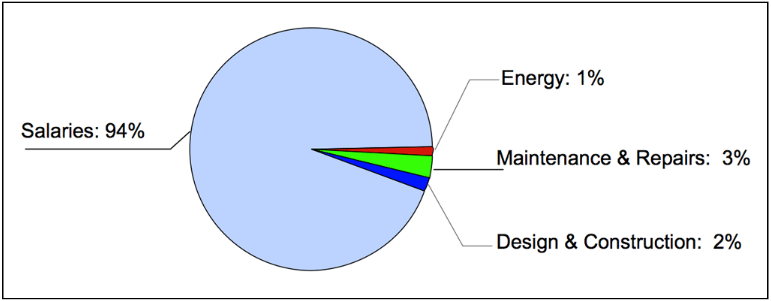
Large-scale building systems are intertwined networks of networks:



Understanding the relationships among the networks and their combined behaviors can be very challenging.

Modern Buildings (Economics)

Lifecycle costs in office buildings over a 30-Year period:



Energy systems have a huge impact on building occupant comfort and indoor air quality which, in turn, affects salary performance.

Source: United Technologies Research Center, 2009.

Modern Buildings (Integrated Energy Systems)

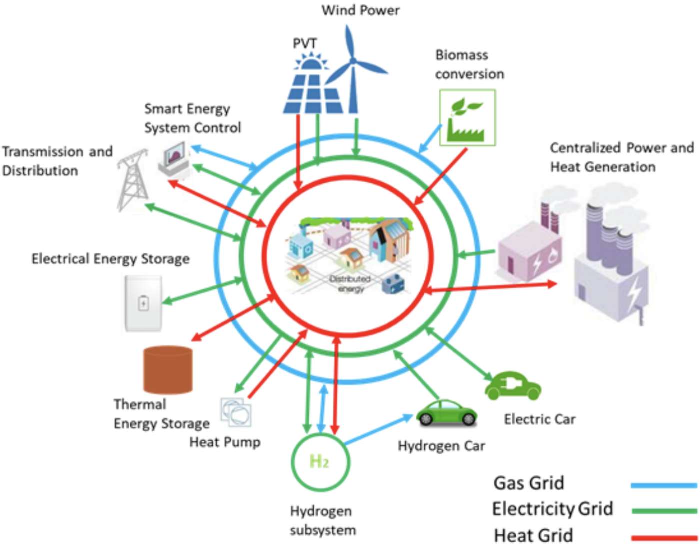
Trend toward Integrated Energy Systems:

- Commercial and residential buildings consume 1/3 of the world's energy.
- And by 2025, buildings will consume more energy than the transportation and industrial sectors combined.
- Standard models of building operation rely on centrally produced power as a source of high-grade energy.
- Advances in technology allow for consideration of alternatives, such as local production of power.

Examples:

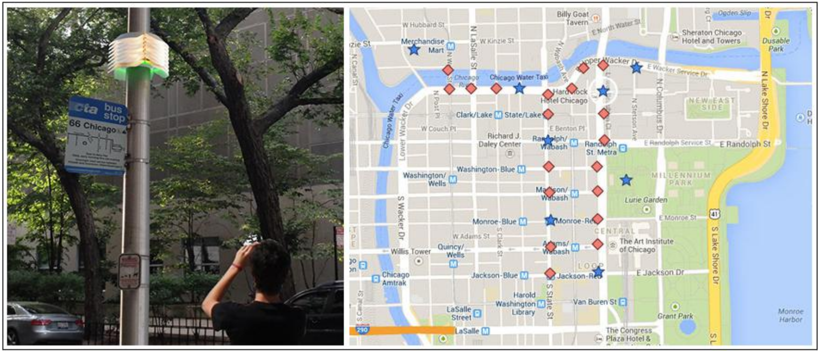
- Solar power; small-scale combined heat and power systems.
- Electricity production through use of ducted wind turbines.

Integrated Energy Systems (Proposed)



Smart Cities: Urban Sensing in Chicago

Array of Things, Chicago (EOL 2022). Modular sensor boxes will collect real-time data on the city's environment, infrastructure and activity.



Basic Questions. How is the city used? What is going on?

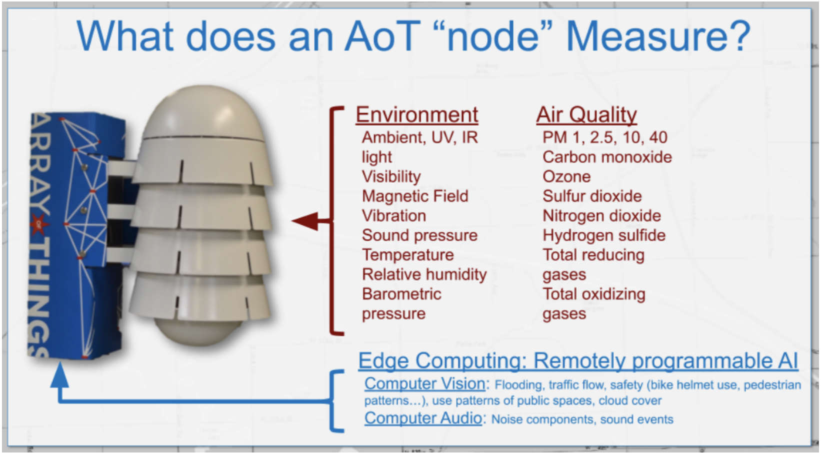
Smart Cities: Urban Sensing in Chicago

What Data is Collected?

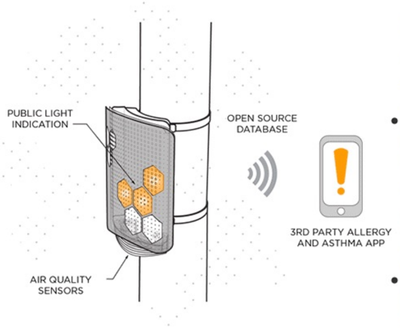
The nodes will initially measure temperature, barometric pressure, light, vibration, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, ambient sound intensity, pedestrian and vehicle traffic, and surface temperature. Continued research and development will help create sensors to monitor other urban factors of interest such as flooding and standing water, precipitation, wind, and pollutants.

Array of Things is interested in monitoring the city's environment and activity, not individuals. In fact, the technology and policy have been designed to specifically avoid any potential collection of data about individuals, so privacy protection is built into the design of the sensors and into the operating policies. Array of Things will not collect any personal or private information.

Smart Cities: Urban Sensing in Chicago



Smart Cities: Urban Sensing in Chicago



What Can be Done with this Data?

Potential applications of data collected by the Array of Things include:

- Sensors monitoring air quality, sound and vibration (to detect heavy vehicle traffic), and temperature can be used to suggest the healthiest and unhealthiest walking times and routes through the city, or to study the relationship between diseases and the urban environment.
- Real-time detection of urban flooding can improve city services and infrastructure to prevent property damage and illness.
- Measurements of micro-climate in different areas of the city, so that residents can get up-to-date, high-resolution "block-by-block" weather and climate information.
- Observe which areas of the city are heavily populated by pedestrians at different times of day to suggest safe and efficient routes for walking late at night or for timing traffic lights during peak traffic hours to improve pedestrian safety and reduce congestion-related pollution.

SONYC: Sounds of New York City

SONYC. A system for monitoring, analysis and mitigation of urban noise pollution.

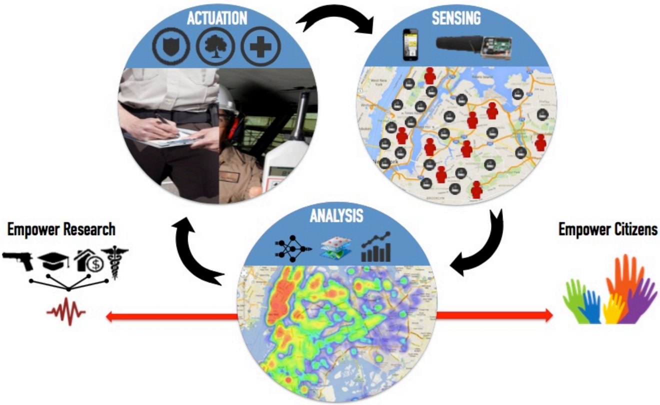
Motivation. Over 70 million people in US are exposed to noise levels beyond the limit of EPA considers to be harmful.

Short-term Problems. Sleep disruption.

Long-term Problems. Hypertension, heart disease, hearing loss.

SONYC: Sounds of New York City

Complaints. NYC authorities receive more than 800 noise-related complaints per day!



SONYC: Sounds of New York City

Noise Analytics. Analyze and understand noise pollution at a city-scale.

Summary

Recurring Themes and Key Points

Recurring Themes

- Information-age systems offer enhanced functionality and better performance, but their design is more difficult than in the past.
- Physical systems and computational systems fail in completely different ways.
- Sensor networks will form the eyes and ears of complex control and information systems.
- As system complexity increases, more and more of the functionality will be managed by software!

Key Points for Building Better Systems

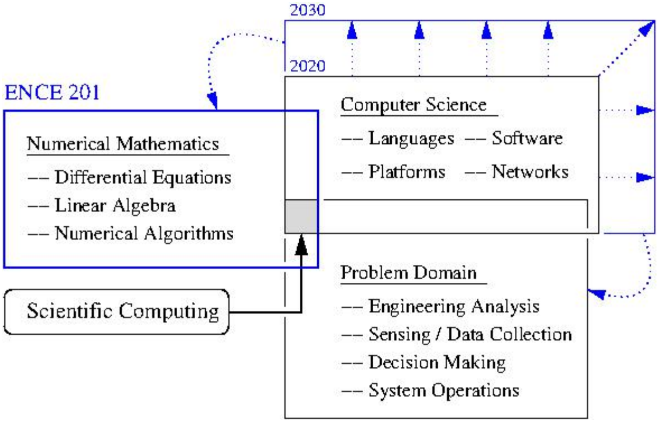
Looking Forward

Use sensing and software to build better systems:

- Improve situational awareness – to understand what is actually happending a building or city?
- Connect sensor measurements to short- and long-term urban needs (e.g., decisions on a bus stop; longer term urban planning).
- Capture the spatial, temporal, and intensity aspects of environmental phenomena (e.g., fires, flooding) and their impact on natural (e.g., air quality) and man-made systems (e.g., transportation networks, food chains).
- Look ahead and forecast future states of the system?

Central Role of Scientific Computing

Scientific computing lies at the intersection of computer science, numerical mathematics, and domain-specific problem solving.



Central Role of Scientific Computing

Computer Science and Software:

- Very fast computations.
- Mass collection of data.
- Rapidly growing importance of data sciences.
- Artificial Intelligence and Data Mining.
- Machine Learning.

Numerical and Applied Mathematics:

- Differential Equations
- Numerical Analysis and Linear Algebra.

Central Role of Scientific Computing

Large-Scale Simulation:

- Improved protection of buildings from extreme environmental loadings (e.g., earthquakes, fire, tsunamis, blast).
- To understand how consequences of global warming (e.g., sea-level rise; wild fires) will impact cities.

Improved Management of Urban Processes:

- Network systems analysis and optimization.
- New strategies for data-driven management of interdepenent urban networks.
- Prevention of cascading failures.

Computer Language for ENCE 201

Getting Started. We need learn to walk before we can run:

Capability	1970s	1980s	1990s
Languages	Fortran, C	MATLAB	Python, Java

Why Python?

- Not too difficult – it's a reasonable place to start learning.
- Good support for data analysis and data analytics.
- Good support for numerical calculations.
- Provides a stepping stone to other languages.

References

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Appendices

How do Physical Systems Fail?

Physical System Concern

- Design success corresponds to notions of enhanced performance, resilience and reliability.
- Behavior is constrained by conservation laws (e.g., conservation of mass, conservation of momentum, conservation of energy, etc..).
- Behavior often described by families of differential equations.
- Behavior tends to be continuous – usually there will be warning of imminent failure.
- Behavior may not be deterministic – this aspect of physical systems leads to the need for reliability analysis.
- For design purposes, uncertainties in behavior are often handled through the use of safety factors.

How do Software Systems Fail?

Software System Concerns

- Design success corresponds to notions of correctness of functionality and timeliness of computation.
- Computational systems are discrete and inherently logical. Notions of energy conservation ...etc... and differential equations do not apply.
- Does not make sense to apply a safety factor. If a computational strategy is logically incorrect, then "saying it louder" will not fix anything.
- The main benefit of software is that functionality can be programmed and then re-programmed at a later date.
- A small logical error can result in a system-wide failure.