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Enhancing Building Airflow Modeling for Homeland Security Applications

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Content

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- Basics of CONTAM
- The CFDO Editor
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Project Overview

- Main Focus: Air flow models
- Sub-focuses:
 - CFDO Editor
 - Ducts
 - BioWatch Indoor Reachback Center

Basics of CONTAM

- An indoor air quality and ventilation program
- Calculates airflow and contaminant concentration
- Air circulation quality assessment
- Building Design Evaluation
- Personal Exposure

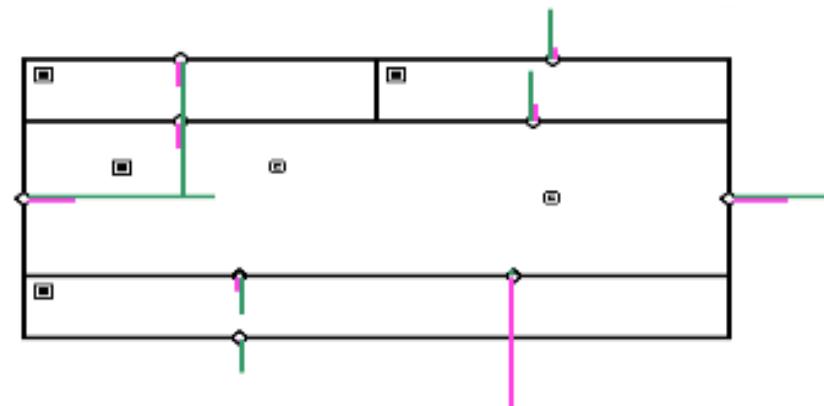


Figure 1: CONTAM model example

The CFD0 Editor is Relatively Accurate

- Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)- Fluid mechanics technique for flow analysis
- Root Mean Square (RMS) of divergence:
 - 9.6% Air Speed,
 - 3.2% Temperature
 - 13% Contaminant Concentration

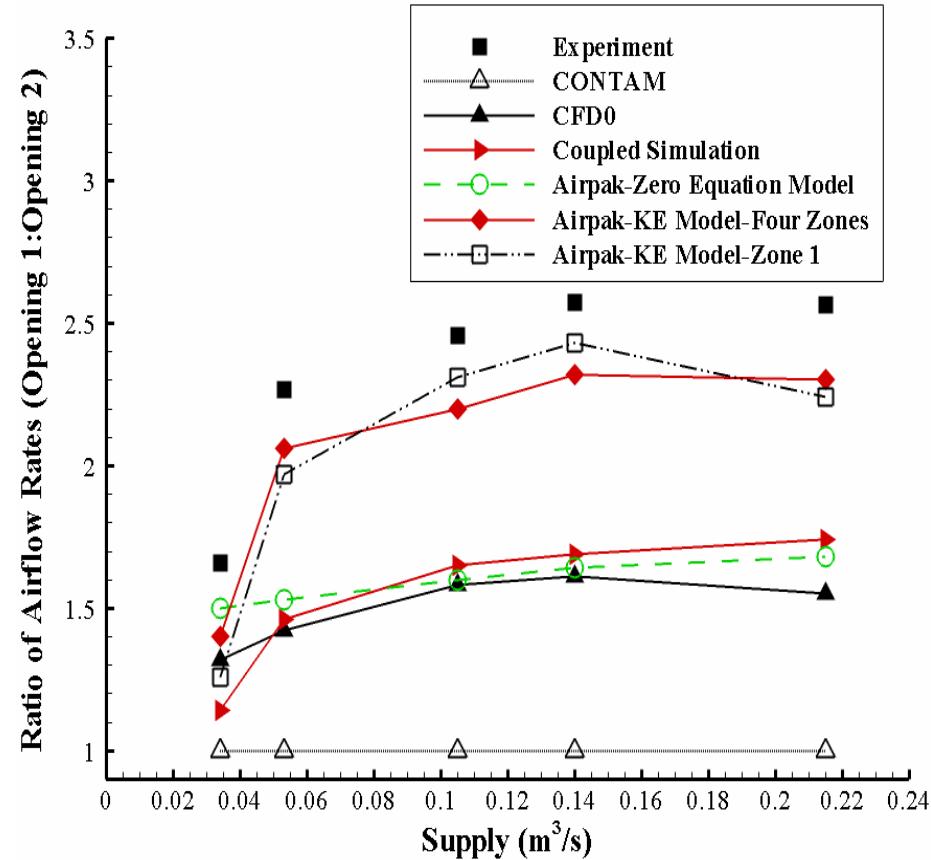


Figure 2: Comparison of various models (Wang, 2007)

The CFDO Editor Provides Great Visuals

- CFDO coupled

simulation-

Uses CFD in a zone

for a CONTAM

simulation

- Graphical
Representation

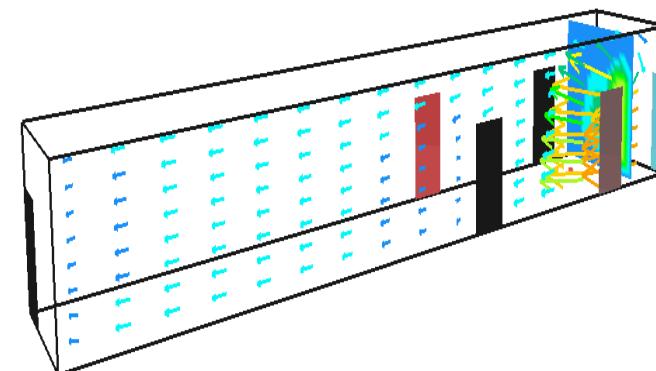
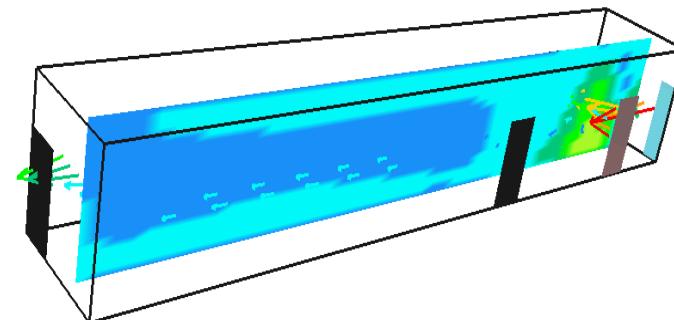
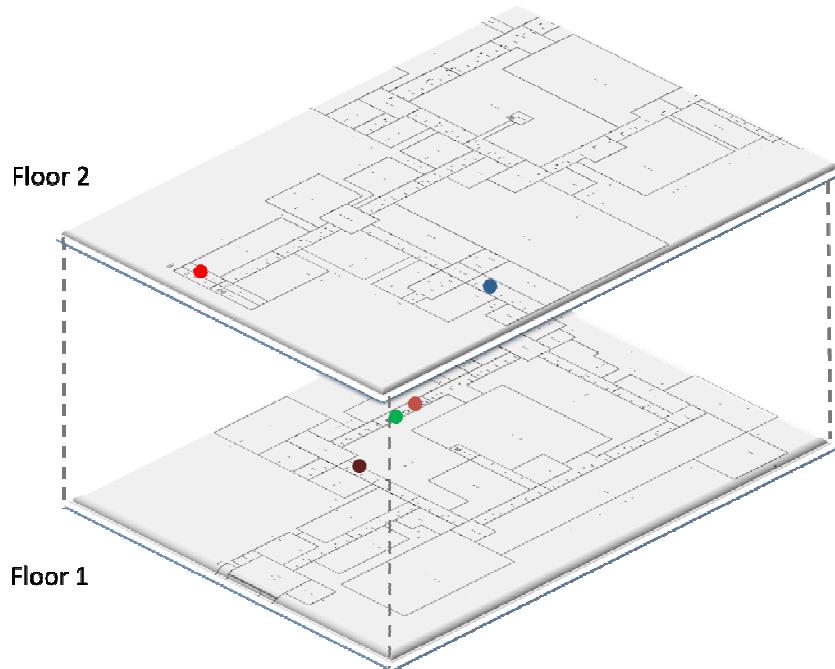


Figure 3: CFDO outputs

A Simpler Model is Necessary

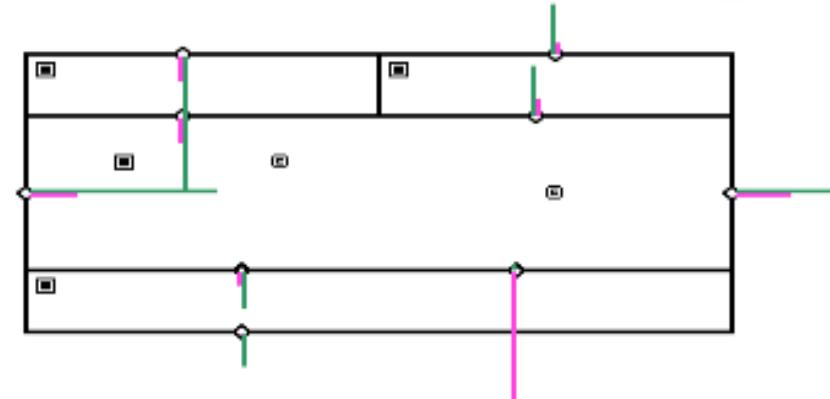
- Real Facility Case

- 2 floors
- 111 zones
- 88 contaminants



- Simple Case :

- 1 floor
- 4 zones
- 2 contaminants



Simulation Parameters Greatly Affect Simulation Time and Accuracy

Table of Different Simulations

Model	# of zones	Transient/steady	#Contaminants	Run time (min)
Simple Case 1	4	Steady	2	~1
Simple Case 1	4	Transient	2	~180
Simple Case 1	4	Transient	3	~210
Simple Case 2	5	Transient	2	~210
Real Facility Case	111	Transient	88	Did not complete

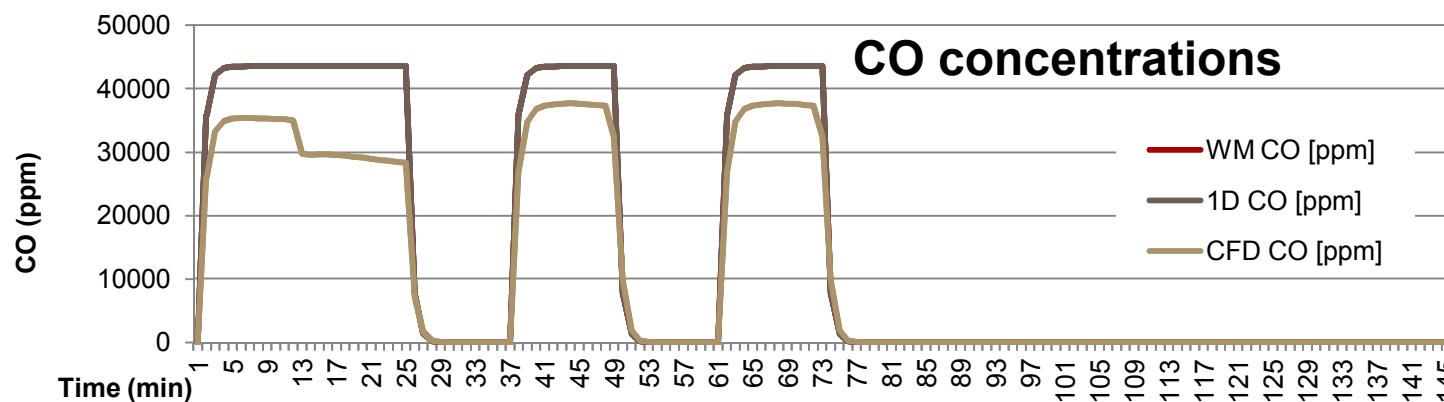


Figure 6: Comparison of WM, 1D, and CFD for simple case

Conclusions

- CFDO Editor is relatively accurate; however, limitations exist including:
 - Low CFD zone and contaminant capacity
 - Restrictions on flow paths
 - Inadequate Geometries
 - Time
- Recommend waiting to use CFDO capability in CONTAM
 - Future improvement in accuracy, speed, and ductwork compatibility needed
 - Possible ways to bypass limitations

Questions?

Reference

- Wang, Liangzhu. *Coupling of Multizone and CFD Programs for Building Airflow and Contaminant*. Thesis. PURDUE UNIVERSITY, 2007. West Lafayette: Purdue University, 2007. Print.