Double Diffusive Convection Heat and Moisture Transfer Inside a Planted Roof Building Under Hot Humid Climate: Case of Lomé City in West Africa

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Abstract: Planted roofs have been investigated as a passive cooling technical for the energy efficiency purpose in buildings. More quantitative data on this topic are required to solve a lack of information for many specific regions. This study is focused to a numerical investigation of the thermal comfort inside a green roof rectangular ventilated cavity in a hot and humid climate as the one of Lomé in west Africa. The left vertical is heated and partly saturated with water to provide humidification of the indoor air. Transfer dimensionless equations are solved using an implicit finite difference scheme, Thomas algorithm and the Gauss Seidel iterative method. We analyze the effects of inlet airflow on the thermal process inside the ventilated and planted enclosure have been investigated. The comfort temperature range deduced from data is: 25°C < Tc < 27°C, that of the indoor air humidity is: 49% < Hr < 60%. The different ranges obtained are significant and lead to improve inside thermal comfort. The solar flux 350 W.m−2, the average value in case of Lomé city, was used to establish a heat transfer correlation to predict heat transfer through the roof with a relative error not exceeding 4%. This model can be very useful for engineers in the design and optimization stage of a green roof in practical buildings.

Keywords: Planted Roof, Heat and Mass Transfer, Leave-Area-Index, Modelling, Simulation

Introduction

Metallic and concrete roofs are very common in buildings in most developing countries and especially in tropical regions. Temperatures inside such buildings are usually above the comfortable range in these regions. Direct cooling devices electrically operated are feasible but are expensive and exposed to unreliable electrical grids. In such context, passive cooling techniques seem more appropriate to provide comfort. Passive cooling in buildings include roofs treated with thermal insulation, painted with white paint, shallow pond with thermal insulation and evaporative cooling (Nahar et al., 1999; Jain, 2006; Joseph, 1999; Tang and Etzion, 2004). One way is to consider any treatment of the building which reduces its cooling load, such as solar control and minimizing internal heat gains. Studies in the literature show that a great part of the heat gains inside a building is brought about by roof elements (Nahar et al., 1999). In hot-humid climates, some methods or techniques are better adapted to improve thermal comfort in buildings. Particularly, the use of thermal insulation underneath and above the concrete flagstone roof reduces the heat load in a building (Samah and Banna, 2009; Banna et al., 2002; Del Barrio, 1998). In literature, approaches and research findings regarding the role of green roofs in urban heat mitigation and improving thermal comfort in buildings can be found. A literature review confirms the advantage of green roofs and their potential for reducing the intensity of heat islands and excess heat in building in different climatic zones (Jamei et al., 2021; Hodo-Abalo et al., 2012; Dong et al., 2020; Samah et al., 2020). Green roofs performance are associated with physical process like evapotranspiration and shading (Kumar and Kaushik, 2005) that contributes fairly well to energy efficiency in buildings and urban heat island mitigation (Wong et al., 2003).

Nowadays, controlling the indoor air environment is an essential asset for the study of double diffusive mixed
convection in a ventilated room. In a ventilated cavity there can be two different types of convection; in particular the natural internal convection induced by the buoyancy forces thanks to the heat and mass sources and the external convection forced by mechanical ventilation. The fluid flow structure and the dynamics of heat or mass transfer within the ventilated cavity are governed by the interaction between natural and forced convections resulting in diffusive mixed double convection. In literature review, studies have shown the interest of the problem of mixed convection in rectangular ventilated enclosures. Thus, Angirasa (2000) and Raji and Hasnaoui (1998) carried out a numerical study of laminar mixed convection in two-dimensional enclosure subjected to an auxiliary or contrary jet with a heated side wall. Mixed convection in ventilated cavities where the horizontal top wall and the left vertical wall were subjected to equal heat fluxes has been studied by Raji and Hasnaoui (2000). However, the effects of thermal and mass buoyancy forces induced by temperature and concentration gradients have not been sufficiently investigated. Yan (1996) and Lee K. et al. (1997) analyzed by laminar mixed convection, the transport phenomena in heat and mass transfers in conduits. 

When considering green roof building cavity, the effect of foliage material on flow structure is poorly known. Some experimental studies have been reported on the thermal performance but few models exist for practical building optimization. A green roof as a passive cooling technique requires detailed studies to increase the amount of reliable data that can support its dissemination (Sailor et al., 2008). Indeed, climatic conditions play an important role in the behavior of green roofs. Thus, quantitative data in the context of hot and humid tropical climates are still needed. The research conducted had the following objectives:

- To propose a heat transfer model for a green roof under hot and humid climate of Lomé city in west Africa
- To analysis the effect of foliage density on the temperature and humidity field and inside fluid flow characteristics
- To evaluate the potential improving thermal comfort inside a green roof building

The model can be very useful for engineers in design and optimization stage of a green roof in practical buildings.

### Modelling and Numerical Procedure

#### Physical Model

The physical model consists as it can be seen in Fig. 1 of a ventilated rectangular cavity with inlet and outlet openings on their vertical walls. The inlet opening of size $e$ is located on the bottom the vertical wall allowing the ambient airflow to get in at a uniform velocity. The warm air from the cavity is discharged through the outlet opening placed at the top of the left vertical wall. The inlet and outlet opening have the same size. The green roof is composed of a layer of flagstone of thickness equal to 20 cm surmounted by a layer of soil (30 cm of thickness) and a canopy. The heat flux transferred into the cavity through the top wall comes from the green roof while the left vertical wall is saturated with water and heated. Other walls are assumed adiabatic. Besides, solid walls are supposed to be impermeable.

#### Mathematical Model

In this study, the green roof model is characterized by the solar heat gain Factor (FE) used to calculate the heat flux transferred to the cavity through the green roof. Previous studies (Hodo-Abalo et al., 2012) have proposed a correlation to calculate the EF according to the Leaf Area Index (LAI).

$$FE = \kappa \exp \left(-\frac{LAI}{\pi}\right) + \Theta \quad (1)$$

where:

$$\kappa = 97.48 \times 10^3 \exp\left(-\frac{B_o}{3.27898}\right) + 8.07878$$

$$\pi = -0.19839 + 0.19839 + 0.14606 B_o$$

$$\kappa = 0.00693 B_o^2 + 0.00021 B_o^3 - 2.9162 \times 10^{-6} B_o^4$$

$B_o = $ The Biot number

Transfer equations have been presented for double diffused mixed convection and completed by the boundary conditions.

The following assumptions are made in the analysis:

- The laminar airflow is two dimensional
- Fluids are incompressible and isotropic
- Thermo physical properties of the fluids are assumed to be constant except the density which obeys the boussinesq approximation
- Viscous heat dissipation is neglected

Considering these simplifying assumptions, the dimensionless equations are written using the stream function and vorticity formulation. Dimensionless variables are chosen as follows:

$$U = \frac{u}{u_0}, V = \frac{v}{v_0}, \tau = \frac{\rho u_0}{\rho H}, X = \frac{x}{H}, Y = \frac{y}{H}$$

$$\Omega = \frac{\omega H}{u_0} = \frac{\lambda (T - T_e)}{\phi (FE) H} = \frac{C}{p \mu D (C - C_e)}$$

$$B_l = \frac{e}{H}, B_l = \frac{H - e}{H} \quad (2)$$

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With these dimensionless variables, vorticity and heat and mass transfer equations inside the enclosure are:

\[
\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + U \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial X} + V \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial Y} = \frac{1}{\beta} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Y^2} \right) + R_e \left( \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial X} \right) + R_s \left( \frac{\partial C}{\partial X} \right)
\]

\[
\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Y^2} + \Omega = 0
\]

\[
\frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial t} + U \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial X} + V \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial Y} = \frac{1}{\beta \lambda} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \Theta}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Theta}{\partial Y^2} \right) + \frac{1}{\alpha} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Y^2} \right)
\]

\[
\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + U \frac{\partial C}{\partial X} + V \frac{\partial C}{\partial Y} = \frac{1}{\alpha_c} \left( \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial Y^2} \right) + \frac{1}{\alpha_s} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Y^2} \right)
\]

The dimensionless numbers such as Prandtl number, Schmidt number, Reynolds number, thermal Grash of number, solutal Grash of number, thermal Richardson number and solutal Richardson number are defined as follows:

\[
P_f = \frac{v}{\alpha}, S_c = \frac{v}{D_c}, R_e = \frac{u \beta \Lambda}{v g \beta_r H^2 (FH) \phi}, G_{rs} = \frac{g \beta_r H^2 \phi}{p_l D_v^2}, R_s = \frac{G_T}{R_c}, R_c = \frac{G_s}{R_c}
\]

As defined, it is clear that, the thermal Grash of number is a function of LAI. Temperature, water vapor density, velocity, vorticity and stream function are initialized as follows:

\[
U = V = 0, \psi = 0, \Theta = 0, C = 0
\]

The following boundary conditions are used to complete the above equations:

- Inlet: \( X = 0, \) \( 0 \leq Y \leq B_i \)

\[
U = 1, V = 0, \psi = 0, \Theta = 0, C = 0
\]

- Outlet: \( X = L/H, B_2 \leq Y \leq 1 \)

\[
\frac{\partial U}{\partial X} \bigg|_{X=L/H} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial X} \bigg|_{X=L/H} = 0,
\]

\[
\frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial X} \bigg|_{X=L/H} = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial X} \bigg|_{X=L/H} = 0,
\]

\[
\frac{\partial C}{\partial X} \bigg|_{X=L/H} = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial X} \bigg|_{X=L/H} = 0
\]

- On heated and saturated left wall:

\[
X = 0, B_i \leq Y \leq 1
\]

\[
U = -\frac{g \beta_r \Lambda}{u_0 p_l c} \frac{\partial C^*}{\partial X} \bigg|_{X=0}, V = 0
\]

\[
\psi = U, Y, \Omega = -\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial X^2} \bigg|_{X=0},
\]

\[
\frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial \psi} \bigg|_{\gamma = 0} = 0, \frac{\partial C^*}{\partial \psi} \bigg|_{\gamma = 0} = 1
\]

where, \( \xi \) is the ratio of the heat transmitted to the wetted wall:

- On top heated wall:

\[
Y = 1, 0 \leq X \leq L/H, U = V = 0,
\]

\[
\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \psi} \bigg|_{\gamma = 1} = 0, \Omega = -\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \psi^2} \bigg|_{\gamma = 1},
\]

\[
\frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial \psi} \bigg|_{\gamma = 1} = 0, \frac{\partial C^*}{\partial \psi} \bigg|_{\gamma = 1} = 0
\]

- Other walls are impermeable and adiabatic:

\[
U = V = 0, \psi = 0, \Omega = -\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \psi^2}
\]

\[
\frac{\partial C^*}{\partial \psi} \bigg|_{\gamma = 0} = 0
\]

The relative humidity is deduced as a ratio of the vapor pressure \( P_v \) and the saturated vapor pressure \( P_{v_s} \) used in (Tiwari, 2002).

The average Nusselt and Sherwood numbers are used to describe heat and mass transfer rates respectively.

- On the top wall

\[
N_{u_a} = \int_{x=L/H}^x N_{u_a}(X) \, dx
\]

where local Nusselt is calculated as follow:

\[
N_{u_a}(X) = \frac{1}{\Theta} \bigg|_{\gamma = 1}
\]

- On the left wall

Local Nusselt and Sherwood numbers are calculated as follows:

\[
N_{u_s}(Y) = \frac{1}{C} \bigg|_{X=0}
\]

\[
S_c(Y) = \frac{1}{C} \bigg|_{X=0}
\]
**Numerical Procedure**

The implicit finite difference method was used to discretize the transfer equations. The diffusive terms were approximated using the central finite difference scheme. The system of algebraic equations obtained is solved using the Thomas algorithm and the Gauss-Seidel iterative method. The time and spatial steps retained for this study, are respectively $\Delta t = 0.0025$ and $\Delta X = 0.0025$ m, $\Delta Y = 0.0025$ m. In Fig. 2 is shown the methodology flowchart retained for the study. The initial data (solar flux density, leaf area index, ambient temperature, etc.) is considered as input to solve different equations. An iterative process was applied and the following criterion was used to assess the convergence of the solution:

$$\left| \frac{x_{i,j}^k - x_{i,j}^{k-1}}{x_{i,j}^k} \right| \leq 10^{-5} \quad (24)$$

where, $x$ is $\Theta, C^*, \Psi$ or $\Omega$.

**Mesh Refinement and Code Validation**

The size of the grid has been optimized to make the results independent of the chosen size. The optimized $81 \times 81$ grid was retained for the calculations in this study. We tested our algorithm on the problem of Saha et al. (2009) to verify the accuracy of our numerical procedure and the comparison of the results shows a satisfactory agreement. Indeed, similar distributions of streamlines, isotherms and isoconcentrations are obtained. In Fig. 3, are shown our results obtained by our procedure and those of Sumon for $P_r = 0.7$, $R_e = 100$, $R_i = 10$ and buoyancy ratio $N = 1$. Our procedure was also tested on problems of Vahl Davis (1983), Manzari (1999) and Wan et al. (2001) with a satisfactory agreement as shown in Table 1. The code developed in Formula Translation (FORTRAN) and validated, is applied to the simulation of the present model.
Main Results and Analysis

The dimensions of the ventilated enclosure, inlet and outlet openings are taken constant as, $B_1 = 0.1$ and $B_2 = 0.9$. The mixed convective study was carried out for the Prandtl number $Pr = 0.72$. Reynolds number is calculated by incrementing the air velocity at the entrance of the cavity while the massic or solutal Grashof number is obtained from solar irradiation. Solar irradiation used for computation in this study, is an average value illustrating solar irradiation in different selected localities. Particular attention is paid on Lomé climate conditions which are describe by some meteorological parameters which we have plotted in Fig. 4. In this case, $\phi$ value is equal to 350 W.m$^{-2}$ in average. The thermal Richardson or Grashof numbers according to its definition in this study, strongly depends on the LAI. Therefore, the leaf area index is chosen as the main sensitivity parameter of the model. Particular attention is paid to its effects on the flow structure. The LAI values considered for this simulation are in a range one and six. This study examines the heat transfer and fluid flow characteristics induced by mixed convection with a constant heat source at the horizontal top wall which represents the green roof and a mass source at the left vertical wall. The resulting flow structure is analyzed to provide a fundamental understanding of the effect of the LAI and $Re$ on flow, but also on temperature and water vapor concentration fields. In the present study, Nusselt and Sherwood numbers where important dimensionless parameters in heat and mass transfer description. Effects of the LAI and Reynolds number on those parameters have been examined.

Characteristics of Flow Structure, Temperature and Mass Concentration Fields

Streamline, isotherms and isoconcentration line are used to describe mixed convection with heat and mass transfer in the ventilated cavity. A study of the sensitivity of the Nusselt and Sherwood numbers to the main parameters was presented and discussed. Streamline, isothermal and isoscentration contours illustrating the effect of Leaf Area Index are presented in Fig. 5-7 for different solar radiation heat fluxes. The flow structure is characterized by open lines and fluid recirculation at the bottom. The effect of natural convection remains present but relatively weak at high LAI values as the open lines characterizing forced convection remain slightly dominant as shown in Fig. 5a, 6a and 7a. For a given value of $\phi$, an increase in LAI decreases the Richardson number. A decrease in LAI (increased Richardson number) causes a gradual development of the recirculation cells in the lower right corner of the cavity thus causing a change in the flow structure. For lower values of $\phi$, there is competition between imposed airflow and the natural convection as illustrated by the streamlines in Fig. 5a. At higher $\phi$ values (streamlines of Fig. 7a), the lower recirculation cells spread and lessen the induced flow and at the same time result in substantially the same kinetic energy in the induced flow practically equivalent to that of the inlet section. Heat transfer by convection induces the growth of recirculating cells and induce in faster removal of heat and water vapor from heat and mass sources. The increase in heat flow and concentration gradients induces an increase of buoyancy forces. Recirculation cells grow by absorbing thermal energy.
through induced forced flow. Thus, the compressed forced flow covers the heat and mass sources at low LAI values. The shifting of the isothermal, isoconcentration and isohumidity fronts throughout the cavity characterizes the temperature and water vapor fields and shows the effect of natural convection on the distribution of these fields. Since the induced flow sweeps over heat and mass level to the upper left corner of the cavity decrease indicating better heat and mass transfer. As the Richardson number increases, the non-linearity of the different fields’ increases and the appearance of plume is real and indicates the establishment of a double diffusive flow of natural convection. In this case, the thermal conduction in the fluid becomes predominant (isotherm lines of Fig. 6b and 7b).

Heat transfer characteristic has been expressed by the Nusselt heat transfer number. For different LAI values and for a given solar heat flux value, variations of Nusselt number on the roof top is examined. Results showed that an increase of LAI gradually, decreases the Nusselt numbers towards a limit value as shown in Fig. 8. The effect of Leaf Area Index on Nusselt number for different solar heat flux values is presented in Fig. 9. Evolution of Nusselt number showed clearly that, it decreases as LAI increases. On other hand, heat transfer from the planted roof is significantly reduced with a very dense vegetation canopy on the roof top and the thermal quality in the enclosure can be improved. This result is in good agreement with that of the previous study, which clearly proved that heat transfer across a planted roof decreases as LAI increases (Hodo-Abalo et al., 2012). Heat transfer is affected by the flow structure taken into account with Reynolds number. Nusselt number us a function of LAI increases with Reynolds number as shown in Fig. 10. The phenomenon not only intensified heat transfer but also increases the quantity of heat driven out of the enclosure.

**Fig. 3:** Validation (Saha et al., 2009)
Fig. 4: Some meteorological parameters: (a) Solar irradiation; (b) ambient and dew temperatures, relative humidity

Fig. 5: (a) Streamlines and isotherm lines for $\phi = 50 \text{ W/m}^2$; (b) Isoconcentration lines and isohumidity lines for $\phi = 50 \text{ W/m}^2$
Fig. 6: (a) Streamlines and isotherm lines for $\phi=100 \text{ W/m}^2$; (b) Isoconcentration lines and isohumidity lines for $\phi = 100 \text{ W/m}^2$
Fig. 7: (a) Streamlines and isotherm lines for $\phi = 200 \text{ W/m}^2$; (b) Isoconcentration lines and isohumidity lines for $\phi = 200 \text{ W/m}^2$
Fig. 8: Variation of local Nusselt number on the top wall

Fig. 9: Evolution of average Nusselt number versus LAI

Fig. 10: Evolution of average Nusselt number versus LAI. Effect of Reynolds number. $\phi = 50 \, \text{W/m}^2$, $\phi = 100 \, \text{W/m}^2$, $\phi = 200 \, \text{W/m}^2$ et $\phi = 350 \, \text{W/m}^2$
Heat Transfer Correlation

It is important to know the thermal behavior of a building to facilitate the optimization of such a construction in practice. A correlation is proposed to help predict heat transfer through a green roof as a function of Reynolds number and LAI in the particular case of Lomé city (\(\phi = 350 \text{ W.m}^{-2}\)). To this end, an average Nusselt number is calculated as a function of LAI and \(Re\).

Variation of Nusselt number \(Nu\) as a function of the LAI for a given \(Re\) value, can be calculated as:

\[
Nu = A^* \exp \left( \frac{LAI}{B^*} \right) + C^0
\]  

$$f (\text{Re}) = -10^{-4} \text{Re}^3 + 0.0113 \text{Re} - 0.6568,$$

$$av = 0.08870 \text{ and the relative error not exceed } 4\%.$$  

Thermal Comfort

One of the main objectives of the planted roof is to minimize the heat gains in the cavity through the roof and provide the thermal comfort. This thermal comfort notion depends on the indoor air temperature and humidity. The commonly used temperature range is 22 - 28°C in sub-saharian region.

It’s recommended a relative humidity of 30 to 60%. The comfort temperature in ventilated room use in the present study is expressed as follows (Richard, 1997):

\[
T_c = 0.48T_a + 9.22
\]

Table 1: Quantitative validation of the present model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ra = (10^3)</td>
<td>Max.</td>
<td>1.50 (0.092)</td>
<td>1.47 (0.109)</td>
<td>1.501 (0.08)</td>
<td>1.493 (0.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Min.</td>
<td>0.692 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.623 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.691 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.637 (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Av.</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>1.074</td>
<td>1.117</td>
<td>1.096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ra = (10^4)</td>
<td>Max.</td>
<td>3.53 (0.143)</td>
<td>3.47 (0.125)</td>
<td>3.579 (0.13)</td>
<td>3.539 (0.13)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Min.</td>
<td>0.586 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.497 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.577 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.579 (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Av.</td>
<td>2.243</td>
<td>2.084</td>
<td>2.254</td>
<td>2.172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ra = (10^5)</td>
<td>Max.</td>
<td>7.71 (0.08)</td>
<td>7.71 (0.08)</td>
<td>7.945 (0.08)</td>
<td>7.758 (0.07)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Min.</td>
<td>0.729 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.614 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.698 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.745 (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Av.</td>
<td>4.52</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.598</td>
<td>4.431</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Table 2: Values of coefficients $A^*$, $B^*$ and $C0^*$ for different values of Reynolds number ($\phi = 350 \text{ W.m}^{-2}$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Re</th>
<th>$A^*$</th>
<th>$B^*$</th>
<th>$C0^*$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>0.47585</td>
<td>0.90018</td>
<td>5.44029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>0.67112</td>
<td>0.88249</td>
<td>6.38125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>0.95306</td>
<td>0.86584</td>
<td>9.04812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>1.40243</td>
<td>0.88712</td>
<td>7.09131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>1.95306</td>
<td>0.86584</td>
<td>9.04812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350</td>
<td>1.99112</td>
<td>0.86731</td>
<td>9.87815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>1.99952</td>
<td>0.87999</td>
<td>10.46216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>450</td>
<td>2.20922</td>
<td>0.88241</td>
<td>10.82235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>2.19849</td>
<td>0.90443</td>
<td>11.29929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550</td>
<td>1.99137</td>
<td>0.90852</td>
<td>12.08145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>2.04409</td>
<td>0.88534</td>
<td>13.00063</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fig. 11:** Fitted curves of coefficients $A^*$ and $C0^*$ as a function of Reynolds number

**Fig. 12a** Evolution of the comfort temperature versus the outdoor mean temperature. (a): $\phi = 350 \text{ W.m}^{-2}$, $Re = 100$. (b): $\phi = 350 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$, $Re = 200$. 
**Conclusion**

A numerical investigation of the thermal comfort inside a green roof rectangular ventilated cavity in a hot and humid climate as the one of Lomé in West Africa has been done. The effects of airflow on the thermal process inside the ventilated and planted enclosure have been investigated. It was found that, heat transfer in the enclosure is influenced significantly by the LAI and the ventilation in the enclosure. The comfort temperature range deduced from data is: $25^\circ$C $< T_c < 27^\circ$C that of the indoor air humidity is: $49 \% < H_r < 60\%$. The different ranges obtained are significant and lead to improve inside thermal comfort. The solar flux (350 W.m$^{-2}$) in case of Lomé city was used to establish a heat transfer correlation to predict heat transfer through the planted roof with a relative error not exceeding 4%; so that it can be useful for engineers in the design and optimization stage of a green roof in practical buildings. A large LAI stabilizes and reduces the indoor temperature toward the acceptable range. The foliage density and therefore the plant species selection influence the thermal behavior of a green roof.

**Nomenclature**

- $\alpha$: Thermal diffusivity ($m^2.s^{-1}$)
- $\beta_r$: Thermal expansion coefficient ($k^1$)
- $\beta_c$: Mass expansion coefficient ($m^3.kg^{-1}$)
- $\nu$: Kinematic viscosity ($m^2.s^{-1}$)
- $\rho$: Density ($kg.m^{-3}$)
- $\lambda$: Thermal conductivity ($W.m^{-1}.k^{-1}$)
- $\theta$: Dimensionless temperature (-)
- $\Omega$: Dimensionless vorticity (-)
- $\omega$: Vorticity ($s^{-1}$)
- $\Psi$: Dimensionless stream function (-)
- $\psi$: Stream function ($m^2.s^{-1}$)
- $\zeta$: ratio of the heat transmitted to the wetted wall
- $\tau$: Dimensionless time (-)
The study does not provide a detailed modeling of the green roof but uses the results of previous studies by the authors themselves as input data for the current model.

The study does not analyze the life cycle analysis, costs and social benefits of green roof.

The study does not analyze the potential of the green roof to mitigate the heat island effect and greenhouse gas mitigation in the urban areas.

Acknowledgment

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Study Limitations

- This study is based on model simulation of a green roof building in West Africa context.
- The study does not provide a detailed modeling of the green roof but uses the results of previous studies by the authors themselves as input data for the current model.
- The study does not analyze the life cycle analysis, costs and social benefits of green roof.
- The study does not analyze the potential of the green roof to mitigate the heat island effect and greenhouse gas mitigation in the urban areas.

Author’s Contribution

Hodo-Abalo Samah: Contributions in physical model definition, write model equations, simulates the model, analysis and interprets results. Write the draft of the article. Give final approval of the version to be submitted and any revised version.

Magolmèèna Banna and Belkacem Zeghmati: Contributions in physical model definition, corrects equations, supervises model simulation, analysis and interprets results. Corrects the draft of the article and contributes for significant intellectual content. Give final approval of the version to be submitted and any revised version.

Ethics

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this study. This article is original and contains unpublished study. The corresponding author confirms that all of the other authors have read and approved the manuscript and no ethical issues.

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