



California Public Interest
Energy Research (PIER)



U.S. Department of Energy

Radiance Related Activities at LBNL

Andrew McNeil
Building Technologies Department
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Eleanor Lee, Stephen Selkowitz, Joseph Klems, Robert Clear,
Dariush Arasteh, Mike Rubin, Phil Haves, Michael Wetter,
Jacob Jonssen, Tianzhen Hong, Christian Kohler, Robin Mitchell,
Mehry Yazdanian, Kyle Konis

Goals

1. Enable accurate annual assessments of innovative daylighting technologies
2. Enable users of all abilities to simulate complex fenestration with Radiance

Outline

Part 1: Overview of Radiance related activities at LBNL

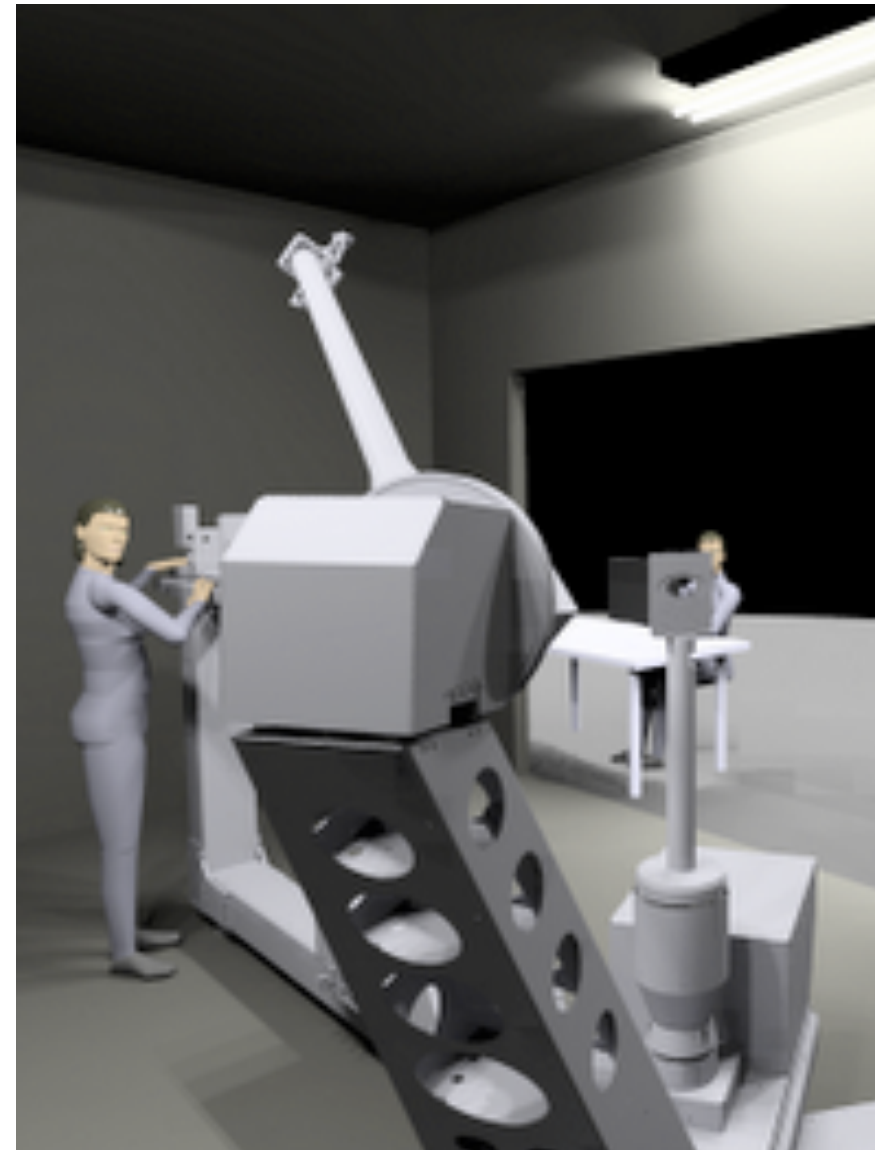
Part 2: Applying new Radiance tools to perform an annual assessments of complex fenestration systems

Radiance Related Activities At LBNL

- Optical Measurements
- Window6 BSDF integration
- COMFEN - Radiance Integration
- Building Controls Virtual Test Bed (BCVTB)
- Increased Support of Radiance Community

Measurements of Optically Complex Fenestration Layers

- Measured ~200 devices!
- Working on a way to make data available (some kind of robust database).

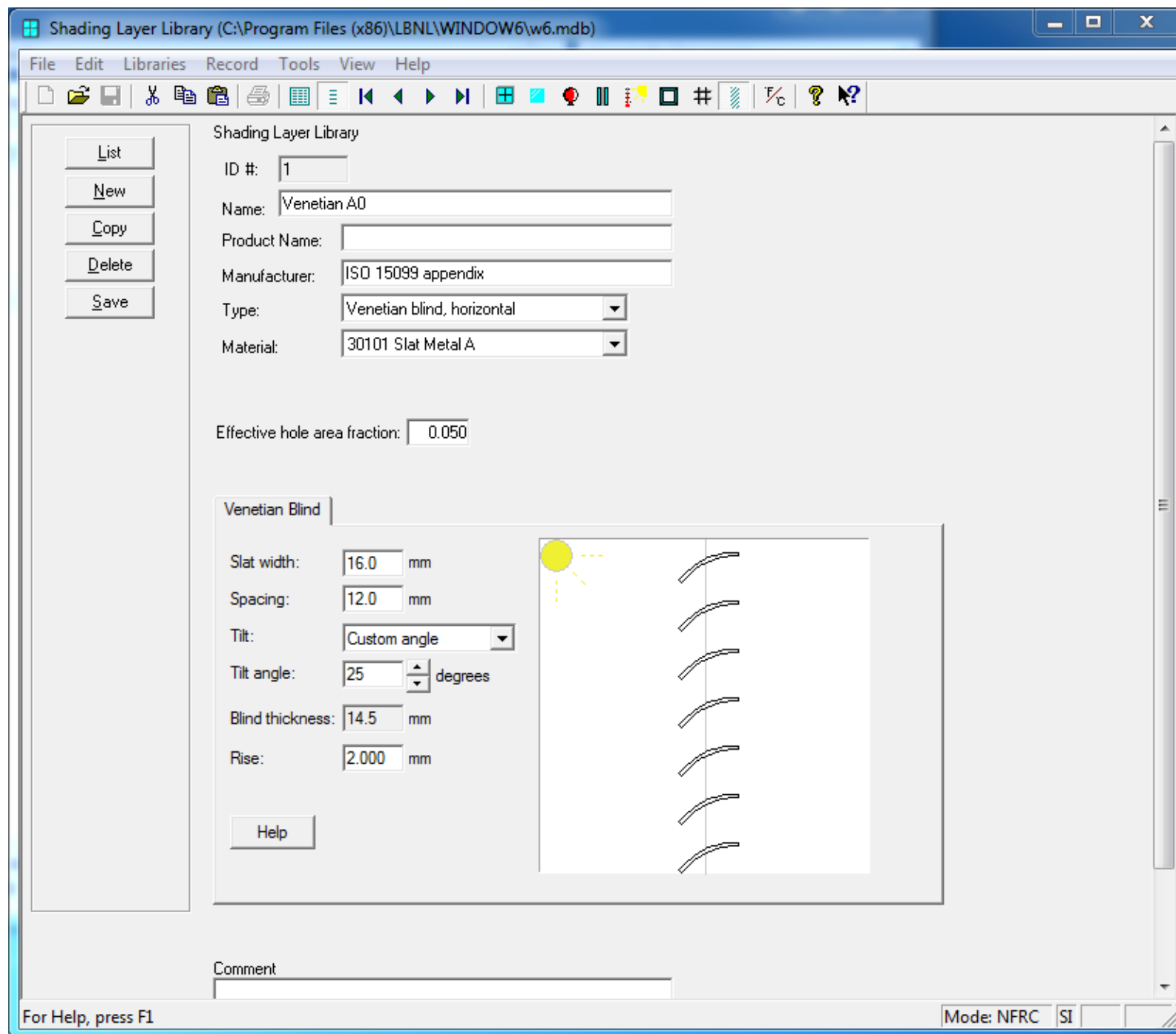


pab-opto goniophotometer

Window6

- Includes non-specular window components
- Writes a BSDF file for glazing + shading
- Working to include MGF data for mkillum renderings.

Window 6

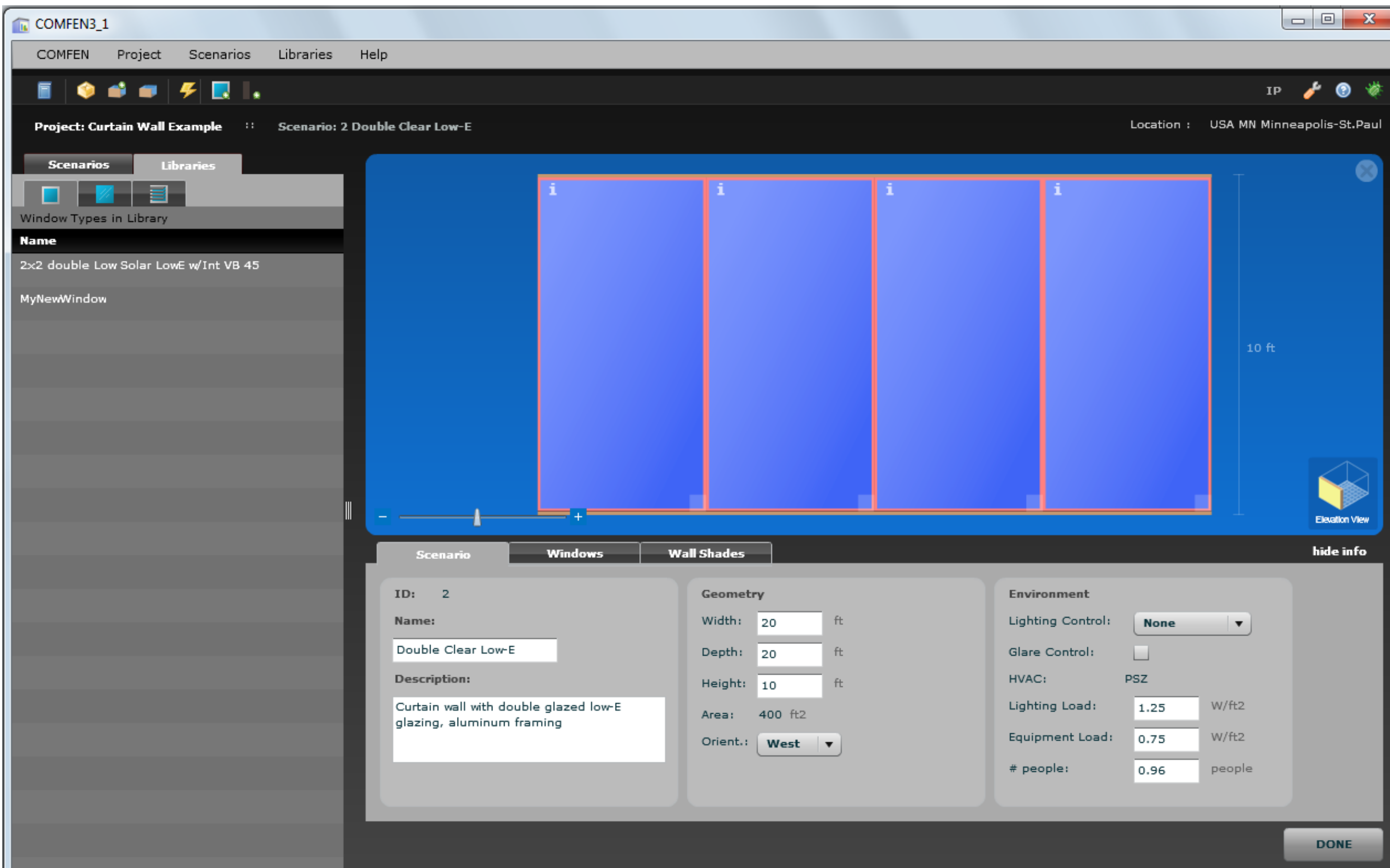


- Venetian Blind
- Homogeneous Diffusing Shade
- Woven Shade
- Frit
- BSDF import

COMFEN

- Commercial Fenestration Design Tool for conceptual/preliminary design
- For architects, engineers, building industry professionals
- Provides comparative results between façade design options and their impact on the perimeter zone
- Multiple glazing and shading options on each façade.
- EnergyPlus simulation engine
- **Not** whole building analysis.





Define a glazing system for a window (glass + gas components).

COMFEN3_1

COMFEN Project Scenarios Libraries Help

Curtain Wall Example :: Library :: editing Double Low Solar Low-E Clear (Air)

3D View Inside

Section View Outside Inside

Glazing System

NAME: Double Low Solar Low-E Clear (Air)

GLAZING SYSTEM LAYERS

(Drag glass and gas layers from right)

	Type	ID	Name	Thickness (in)	Emiss F	Emiss B	Flip
1	Glass	5284	SB60 Cle	0.22	0.84	0.03	
2	Gas	1	Air	0.35			
3	Glass	9804	CLEAR6.L	0.22	0.84	0.84	

Calculated Properties:

Tvis: SHGC: U-factor: Thickness:

NFRC 0.701 0.382 0.291 Btu/h-ft²-F 0.946 in

Calculate using WINDOW6

GAS AND GLASS LIBRARY

Glass		Gas		Manufacturer	Source	R _i	Thickness (in)
NFRC I	Name	Tvis	Tsol				
100	BRONZE_3.DAT	0.68	0.646	Generic	IGDB v11.4		0.12
101	BRONZE_6.DAT	0.53	0.486	Generic	IGDB v11.4		0.23
102	CLEAR_3.DAT	0.90	0.834	Generic	IGDB v11.4		0.12
103	CLEAR_6.DAT	0.88	0.771	Generic	IGDB v11.4		0.23
104	GRAY_3.DAT	0.62	0.609	Generic	IGDB v11.4		0.12
200	SiAg25LE_3ww.b	0.22	0.156	Bekaert Specialt	IGDB v16.3		0.12
201	AutBr30_3ww.bsf	0.34	0.244	Bekaert Specialt	IGDB v17.0		0.12
202	H70_3.bsf	0.72	0.368	Bekaert Specialt	IGDB v16.3		0.13
203	H70-8_3.bsf	0.72	0.381	Bekaert Specialt	IGDB v16.3		0.13
207	SBr20_3ww.bsf	0.22	0.130	Bekaert Specialt	IGDB v16.3		0.12

Select

SAVE CANCEL

Include shades, blinds, drapes, external shading devices, etc.

COMFEN3_1

COMFEN Project Scenarios Libraries Help

Curtain Wall Example :: Library :: editing Venetian Blind Exterior 45o slat

Shading System Schem...

(visualization for shading system not yet available)

Shading System

NAME AND PROPERTIES

Name: Venetian Blind Exterior 45o slat

Type: venetian blind

Location: Exterior

Control:

Type: Always on

Set point: 32

Set point 2: 32

Slat angle: Fixed Slat angle

DETAILS

Orientation: Horizontal

Slat Geometry

Width: 0.45 in

Spacing: 0.3 in

Thickness: 0.04 in

Slat Tilt

Tilt: 45 degrees

Min Tilt: 0 degrees

Max Tilt: 180 degrees

Slat Conductivity

Conductivity: 92 Btu/h-ft-F

Slat Optical Properties

	Solar		Visible	
	Beam	Diffuse	Beam	Diffuse
Transmittance	0	0	0	0
Reflectance, front	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Reflectance, back	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7

SAVE CANCEL

Assign glazing systems to windows in model.

The screenshot shows the COMFEN software interface for a 'Curtain Wall Study'. The main window displays a 3D model of a curtain wall with four vertical window units. A red arrow points from the '3mm Low-e air' row in the 'Glazing Systems in Library' table to the first window unit. The table lists various glazing systems with their TVis, SHGC, and U-Factor values. The bottom panel shows the 'Windows' tab with configuration options for Name, Geometry, and Environment.

Glazing Systems in Library

Name	TVis	SHGC	U-Factor
Single Clear	0.89	0.86	5.91
Double Clear Air	0.78	0.70	2.70
Double Low-e Air	0.69	0.46	1.65
Double Clear with Argon	0.81	0.76	2.57
Triple Clear	0.70	0.61	1.74
3mm Low-e air	0.72	0.49	1.78
3mm Clear	0.74	0.68	1.93
Sample GlzSys	0.74	0.68	1.93
Dbl LowE Argon	0.00	0.00	0.00
MyNewGlazingSystem	0.00	0.00	2.00

Drag a glazing system onto each window

Windows Configuration Panel:

- Name:** Double Low-E Ext VB45
- Description:**
- Geometry:**
 - Width: 20 ft
 - Depth: 20 ft
 - Height: 10 ft
 - Area: 400 ft²
 - Orient.: South
- Environment:**
 - Lighting Control: None
 - Glare Control: ☐
 - HVAC: PSZ
 - Lighting Load: 1.25 W/ft²
 - Equipment Load: 0.75 W/ft²
 - # People: 1

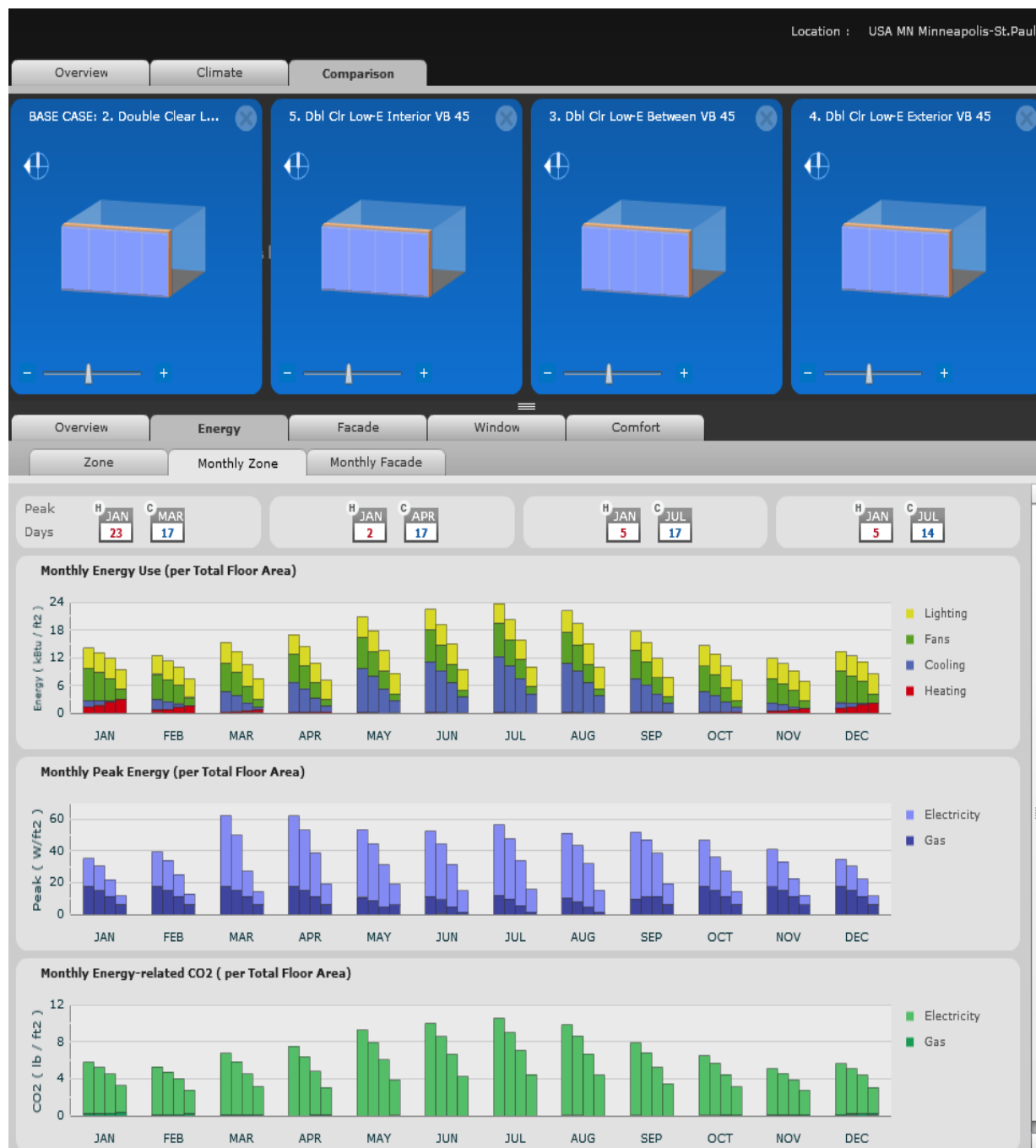
DONE

COMFEN Annual Energy Results

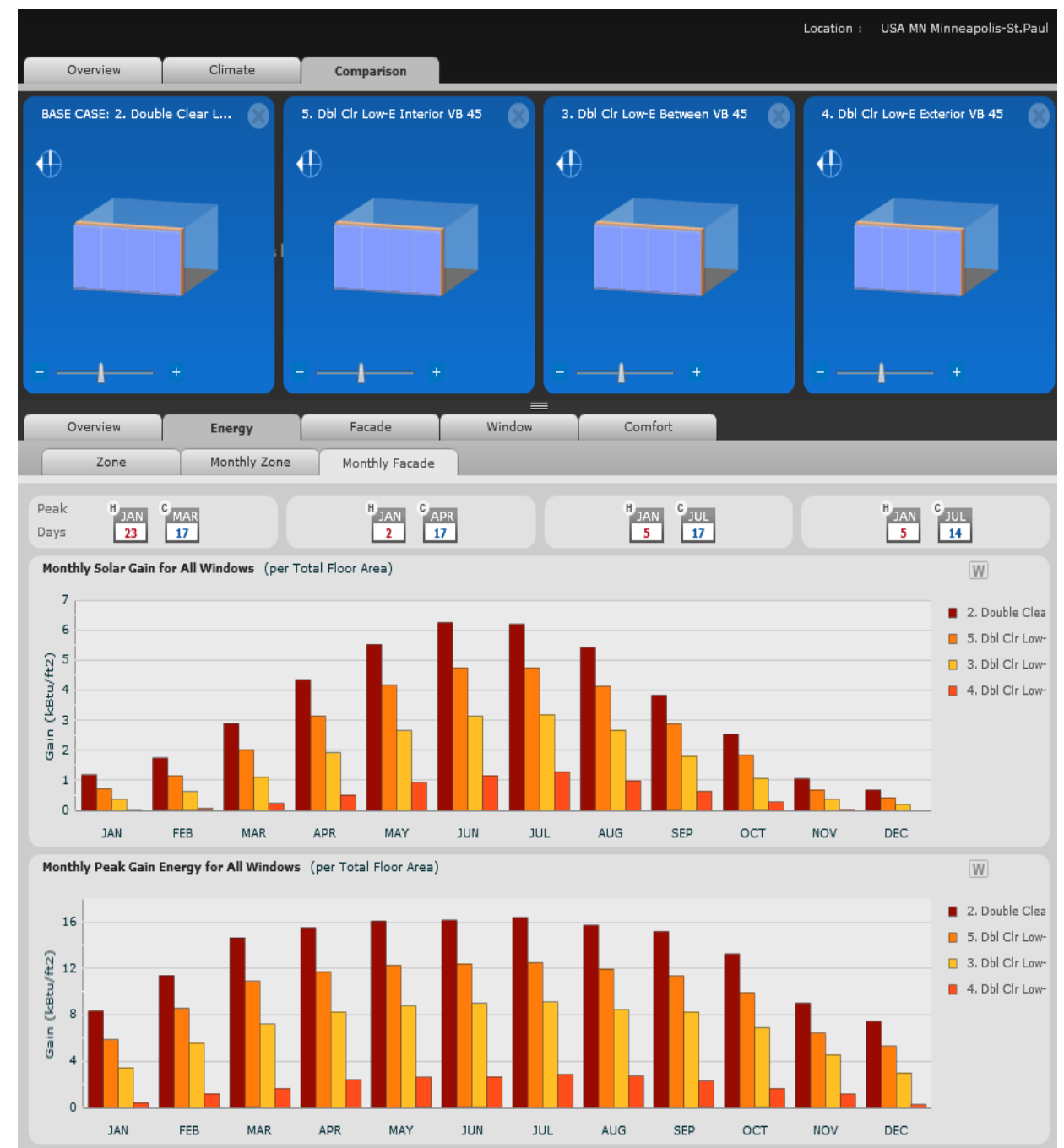


Monthly Zone Results

Energy-use + Peak

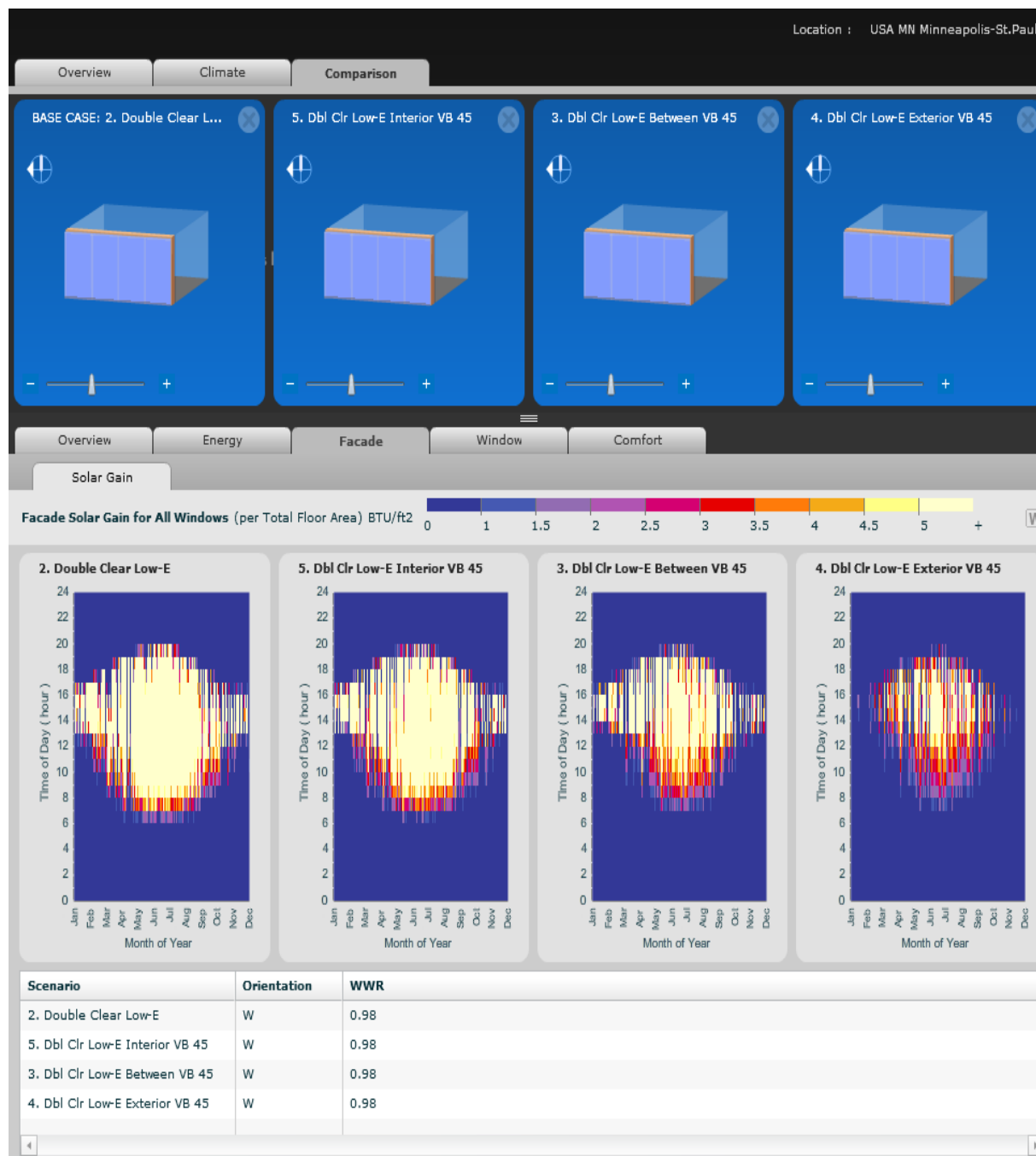


Facade-energy (load)

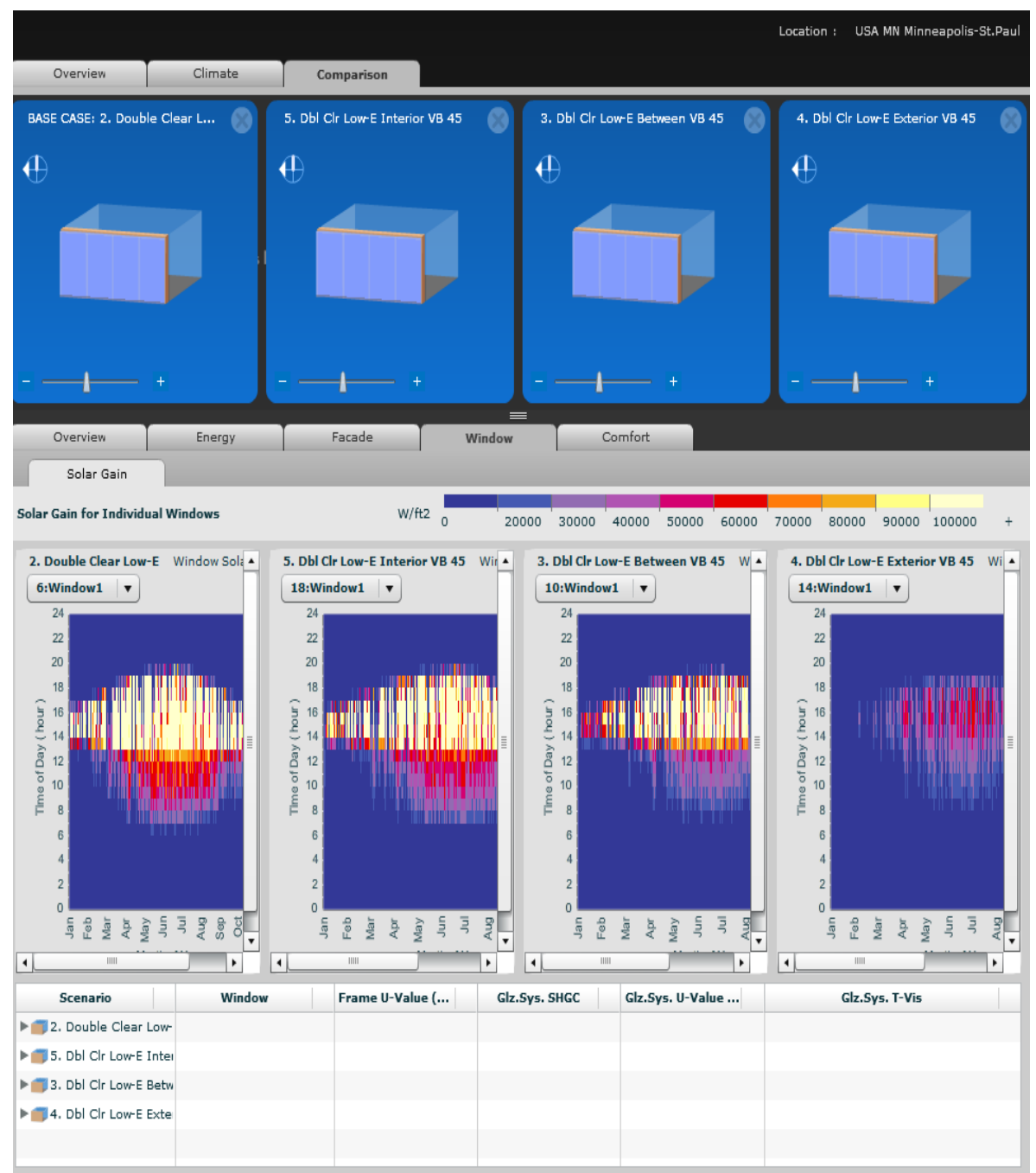


Solar Gain

Facade Gain



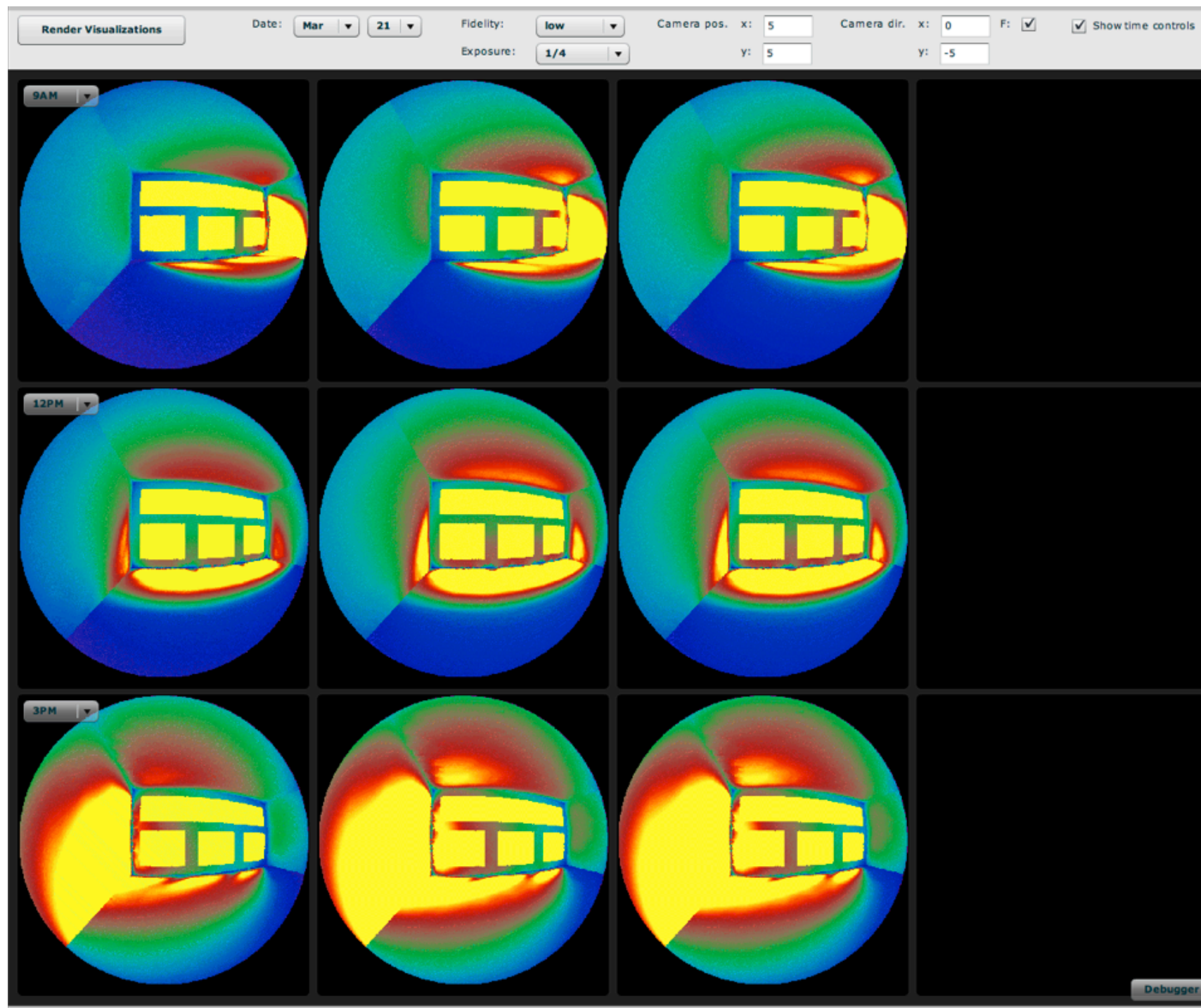
Window Gain



Radiance Integration with COMFEN

- Clean & Easy Radiance integration for modeling complex fenestration using BSDF.
- Stage One - static renderings using mkillum l+ option with BSDF file (October 2010)
- Stage Two - more realistic renderings using mkillum l- option and using detailed geometry incorporated in BSDF file.
- Stage Three - Annual Daylight Calculations with Radiance?

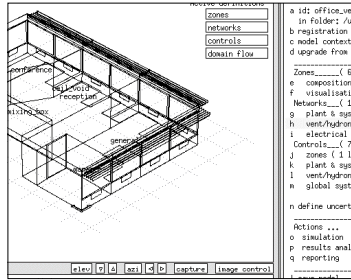
Radiance Integration with COMFEN



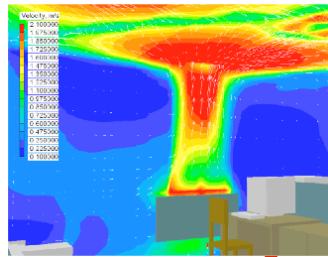
Building Controls Virtual Test Bed (BCVTB)

- allows users to easily connect simulation programs & share data between programs.
- provides an opportunity to simulate interaction between building systems
- gives the ability to test control semantics

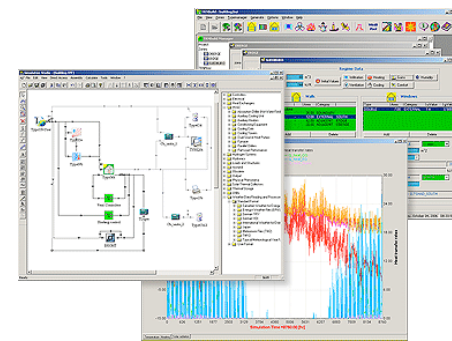
ESP-r
building energy



Fluent
airflow



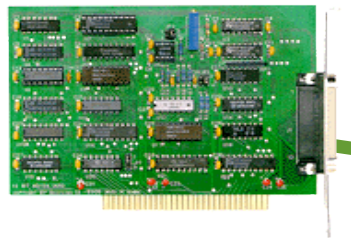
TRNSYS
building energy



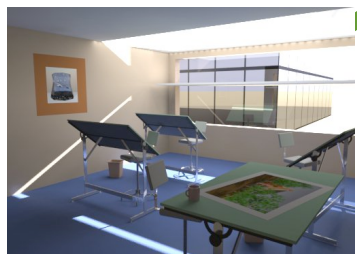
BCVTB Links

- implemented
- - - funded
- - - in proposal
- . . . in discussion

Hardware



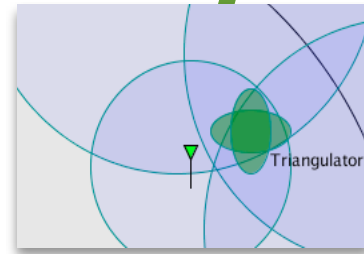
Window 6
fenestration



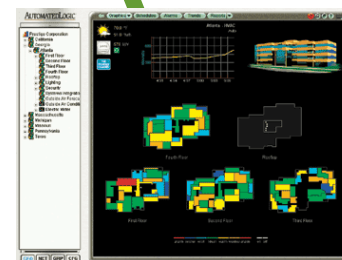
Radiance
lighting



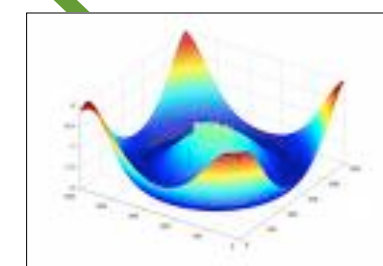
www+xml
real-time data



Ptolemy II
wireless
networks



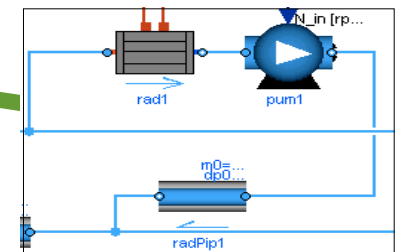
BACnet
building
automation



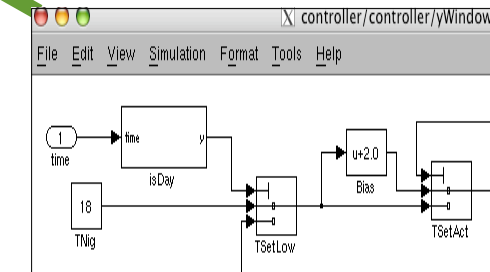
MATLAB
controls & data
analysis



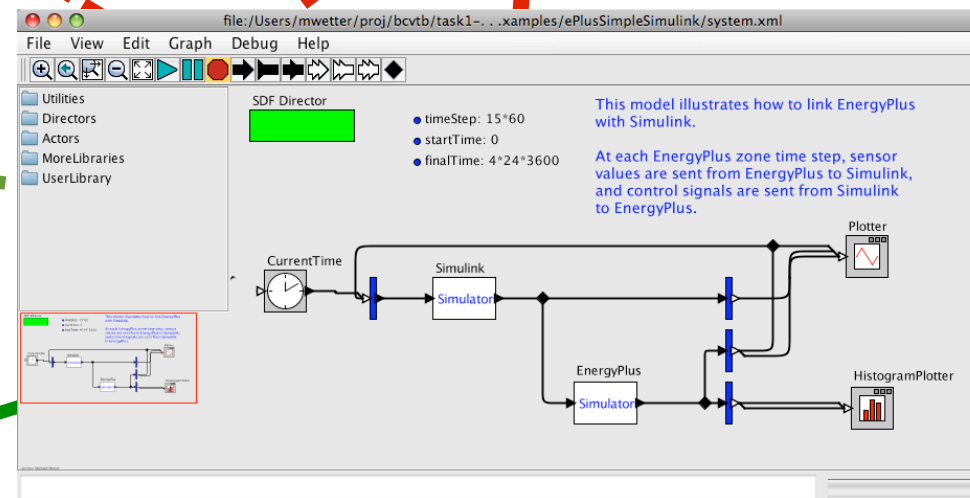
EnergyPlus
building energy



Modelica
HVAC & controls



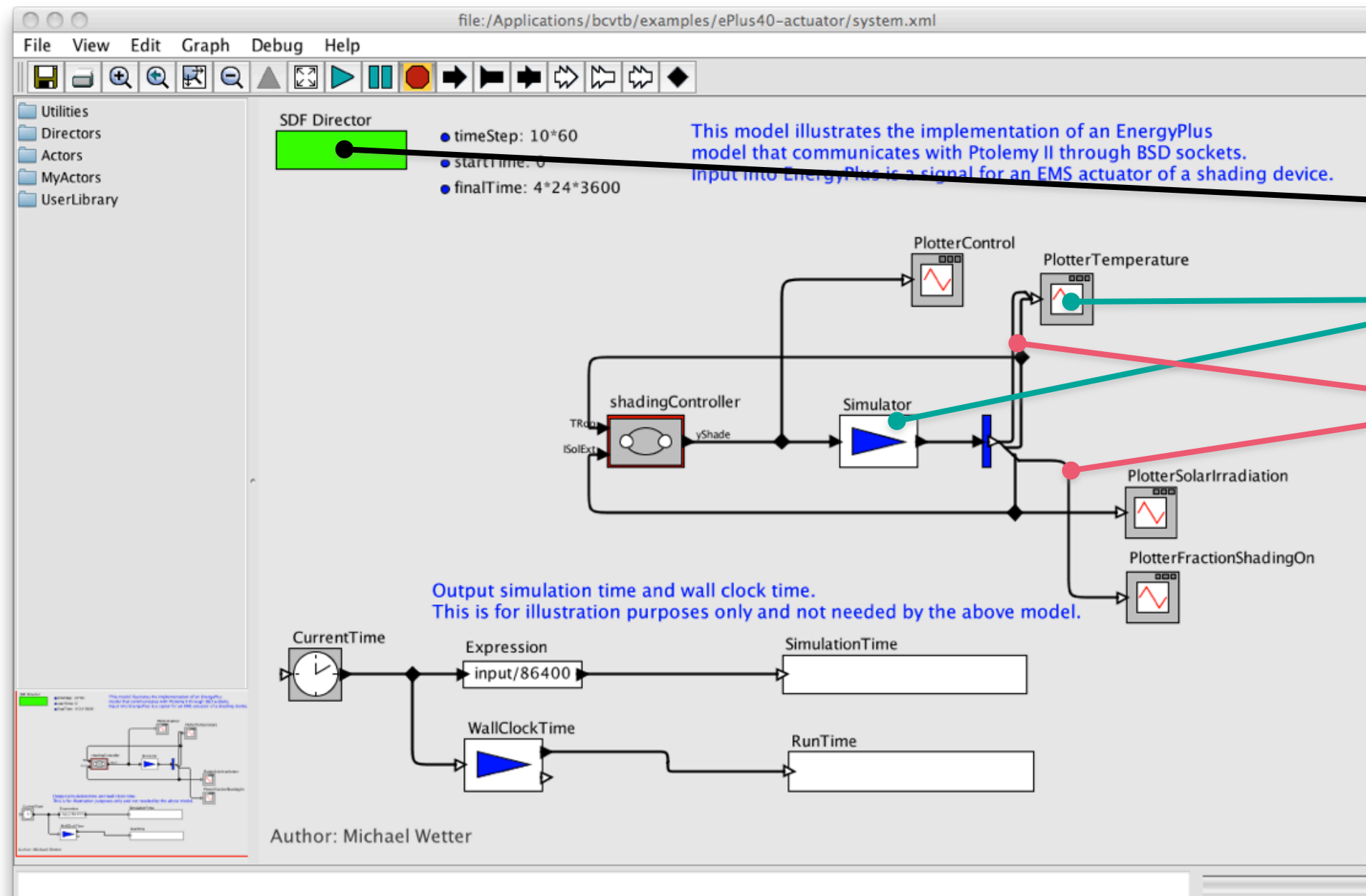
Simulink
controls



BCVTB is

- Based on Ptolemy framework
- Actor-oriented framework for concurrent simulation
- UC Berkeley EECS department
- Java
- Has a graphical user interface - Vergil
- Open Source

BCVTB GUI



Director

Actors

Links
(data flow)

Support Radiance User Community

- We're working to secure funding for a new website.
- We want to host Radiance Workshop in 2011

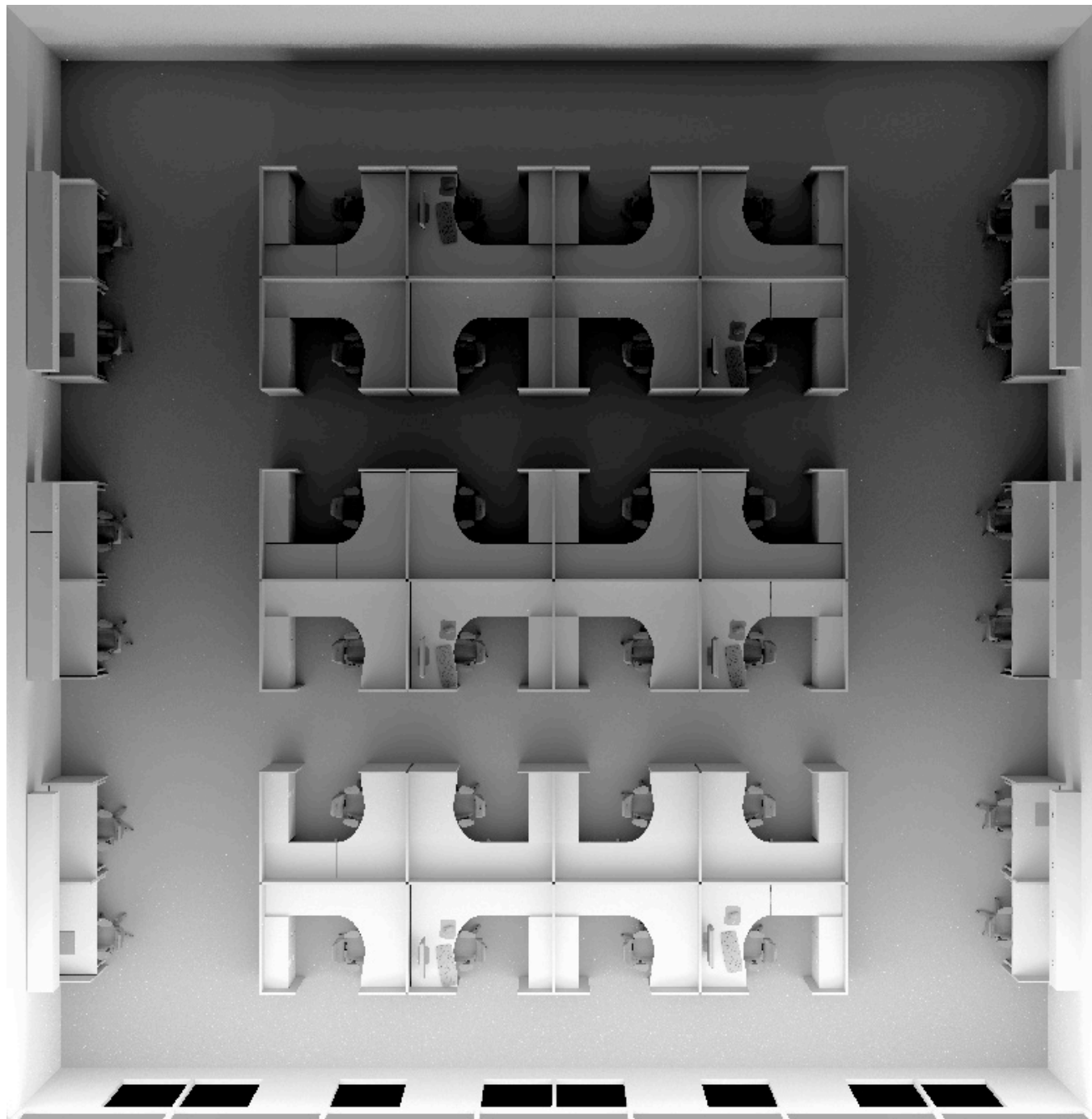
Website Wish List

- Organized process for pre-release testing.
(volunteers for platform testing needed!)
- Anonymous CVS access
(via mirror or git)
- Organized library of tutorials, references and documentation.
- Material repository with some sort of trusted user rating system.
- Improved browsing and searching of the mailing list (forum with subscription)?
- Anything else?

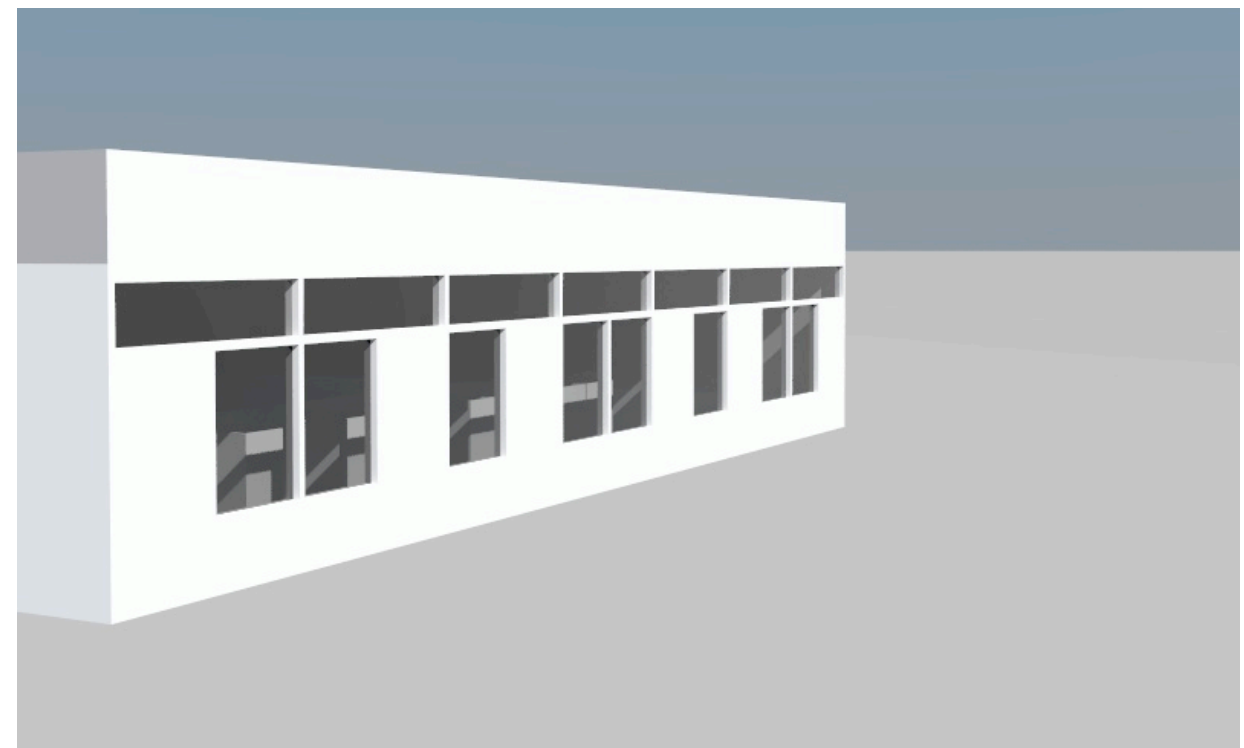
Annual Assessment of Optically Complex Fenestration

Applying new Radiance BSDF tools

Open Plan Office Space

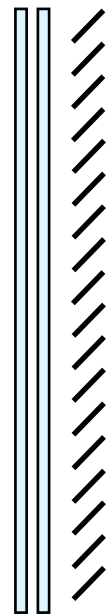
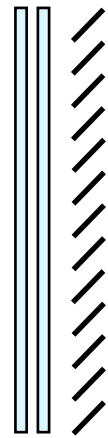


- The space is extra deep for testing daylight redirection systems
- The fenestration consists of upper daylight windows and lower view windows

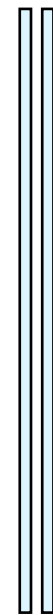
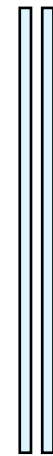


Fenestration Systems

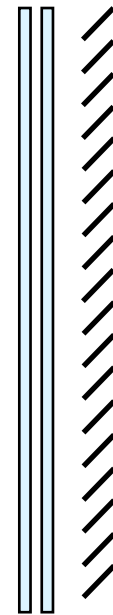
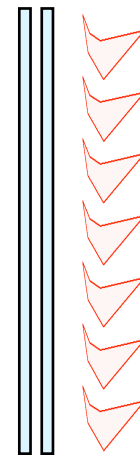
Daylight Glazing
67% VLT



Reference 1
Venetian Blinds



Reference 2
Clear Glazing

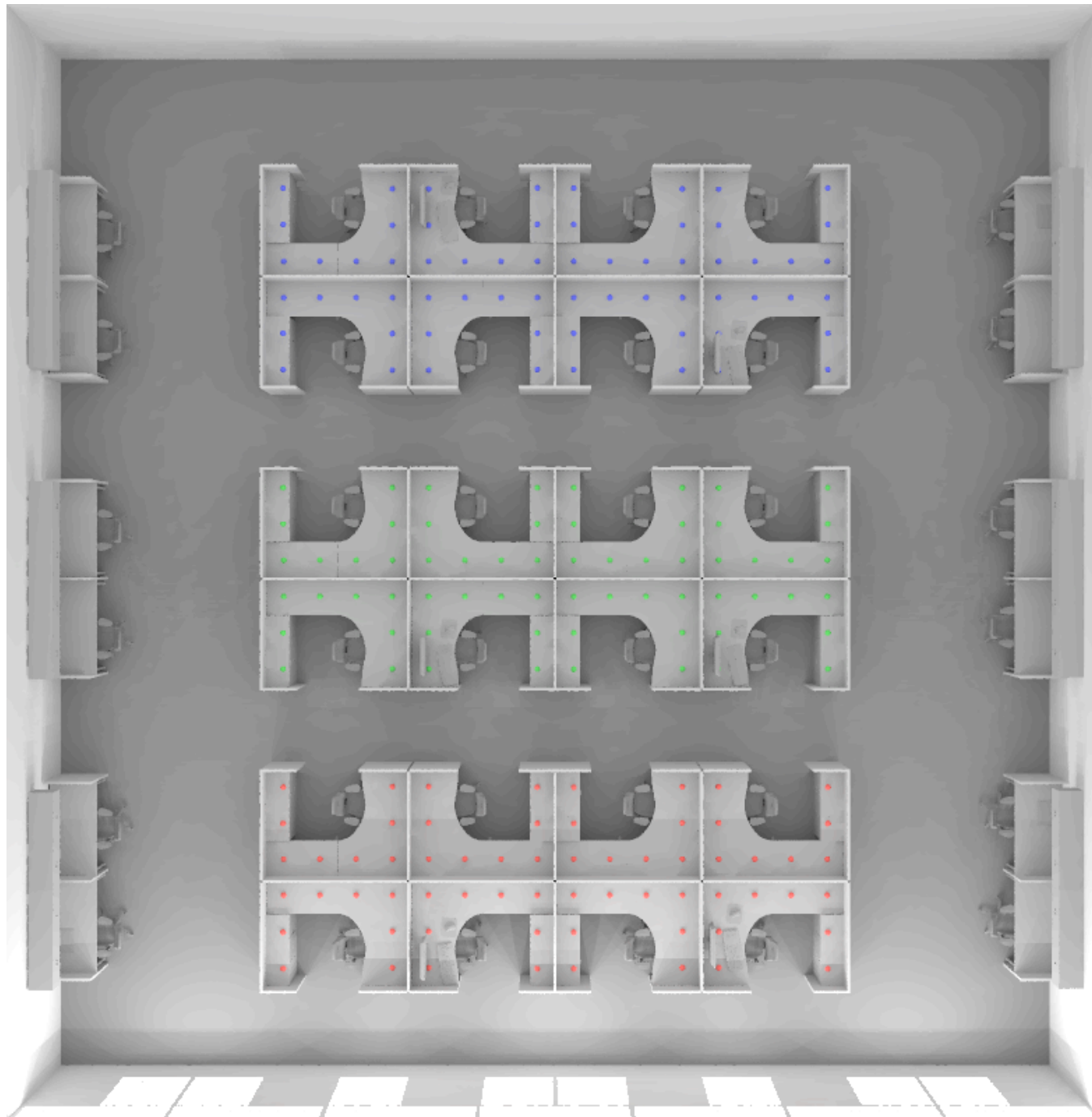


Test Case
Optical Light Shelf

View Matrices

- Illuminance sensor points for daylight sufficiency
- Luminance renderings for visual comfort

Illuminance View Matrix



Zone 3

Zone 2

Zone 1

Illuminance View Matrix

rtcontrib settings

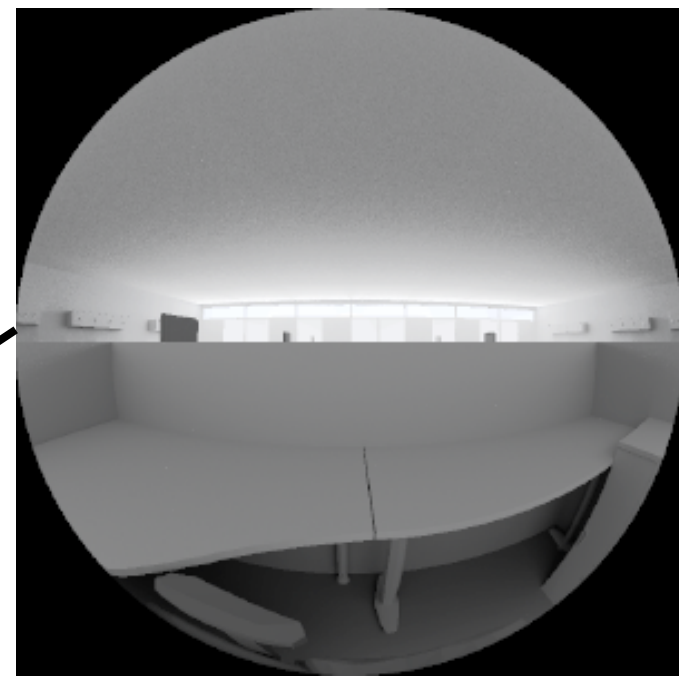
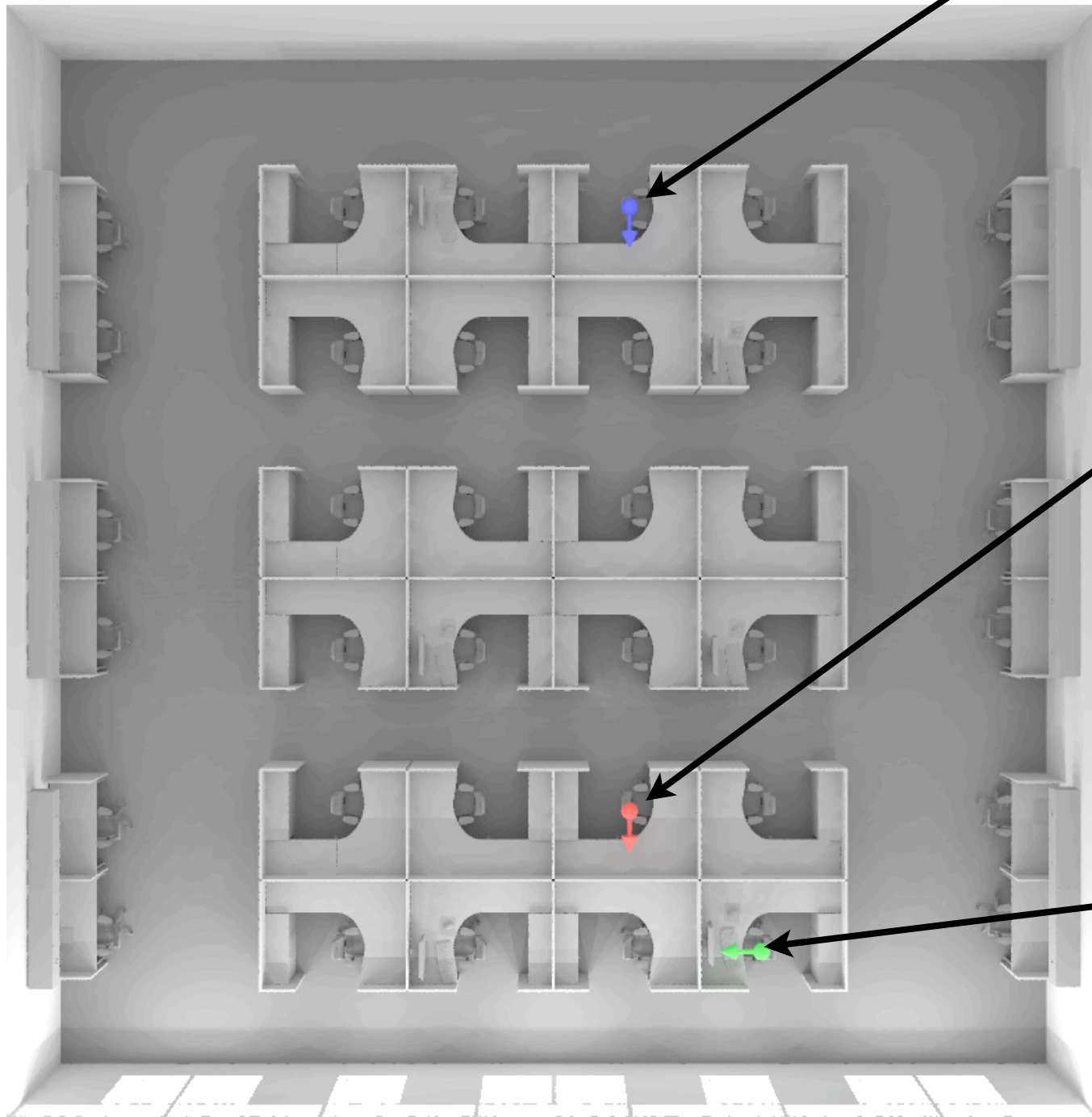
-ab	5
-ad	10000
-as	0
-aa	0
-lw	1.00E-12
-ds	0.06

Computation Time:

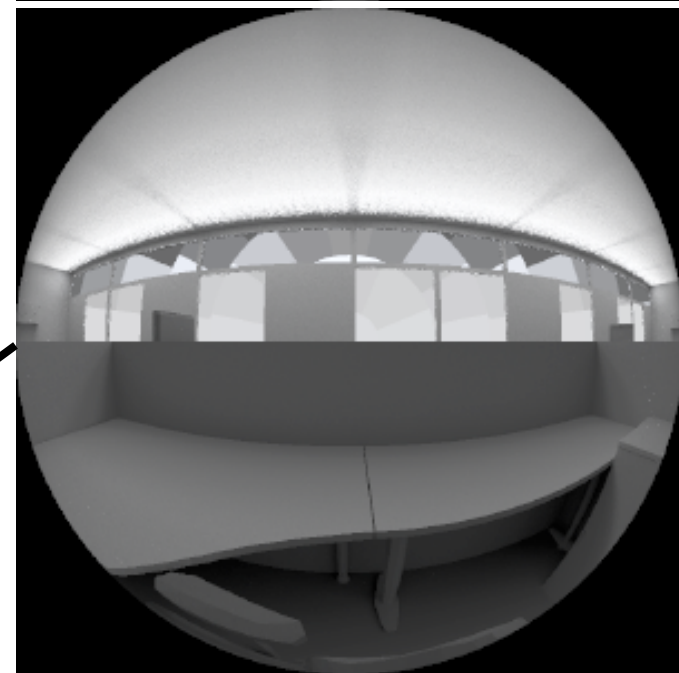
1.25 CPU*Hours

(1) 2.66 GHz Processor

Rendered View Matrix



View 3



View 1



View 2

Rendered View Matrix

rtcontrib settings

-ab	5
-ad	10000
-as	0
-aa	0
-lw	1.00E-12
-ds	0.06

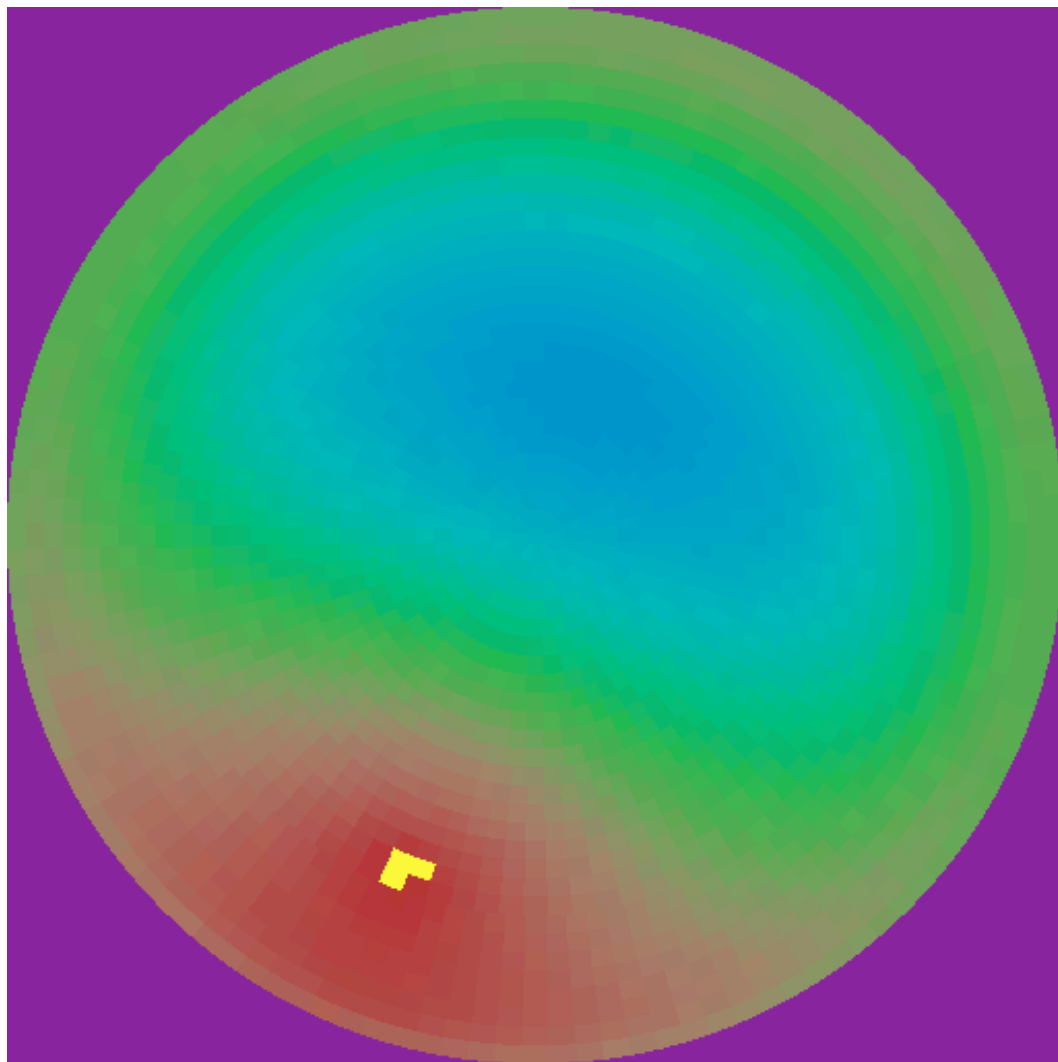
Computation Time:

4013 CPU*Hours

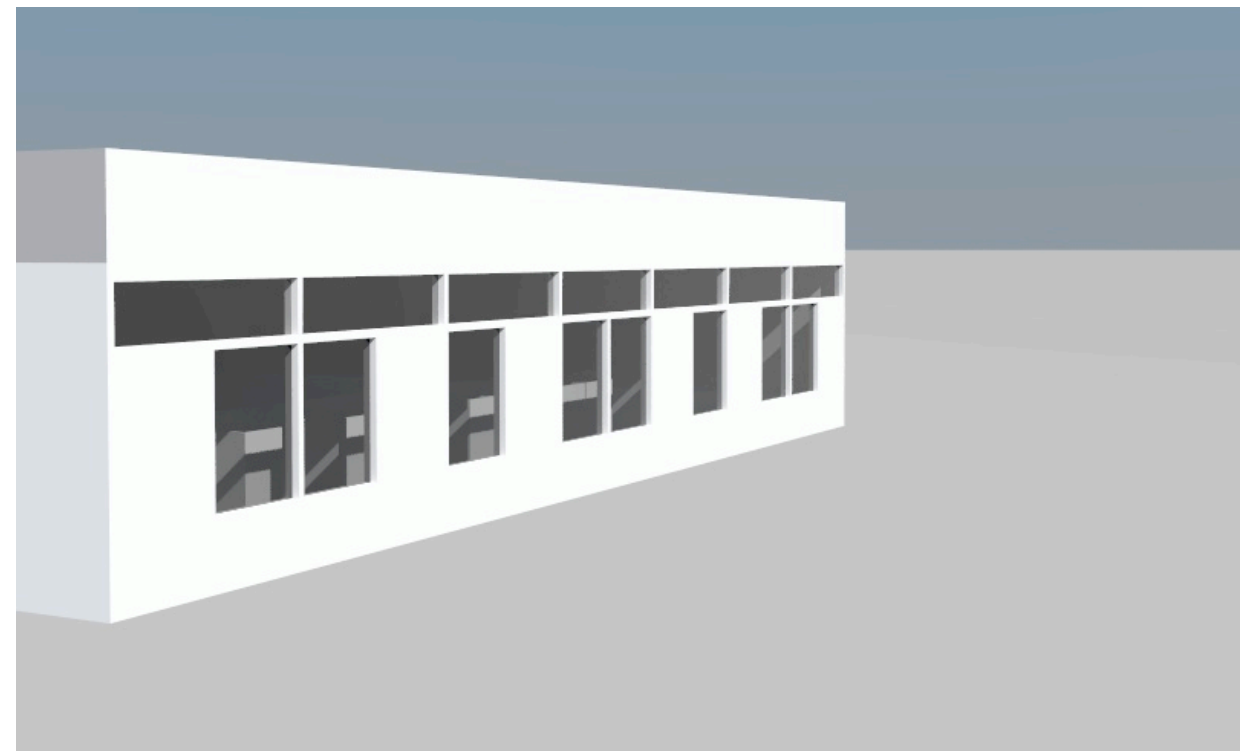
(64) 2.66 GHz Processor

62 Hours (wall time)

Daylight Matrix



Reinhart MF:4 sky
(2305 divisions)



No External Obstructions

Computation Time:
1.25 CPU*Hours

S Matrix

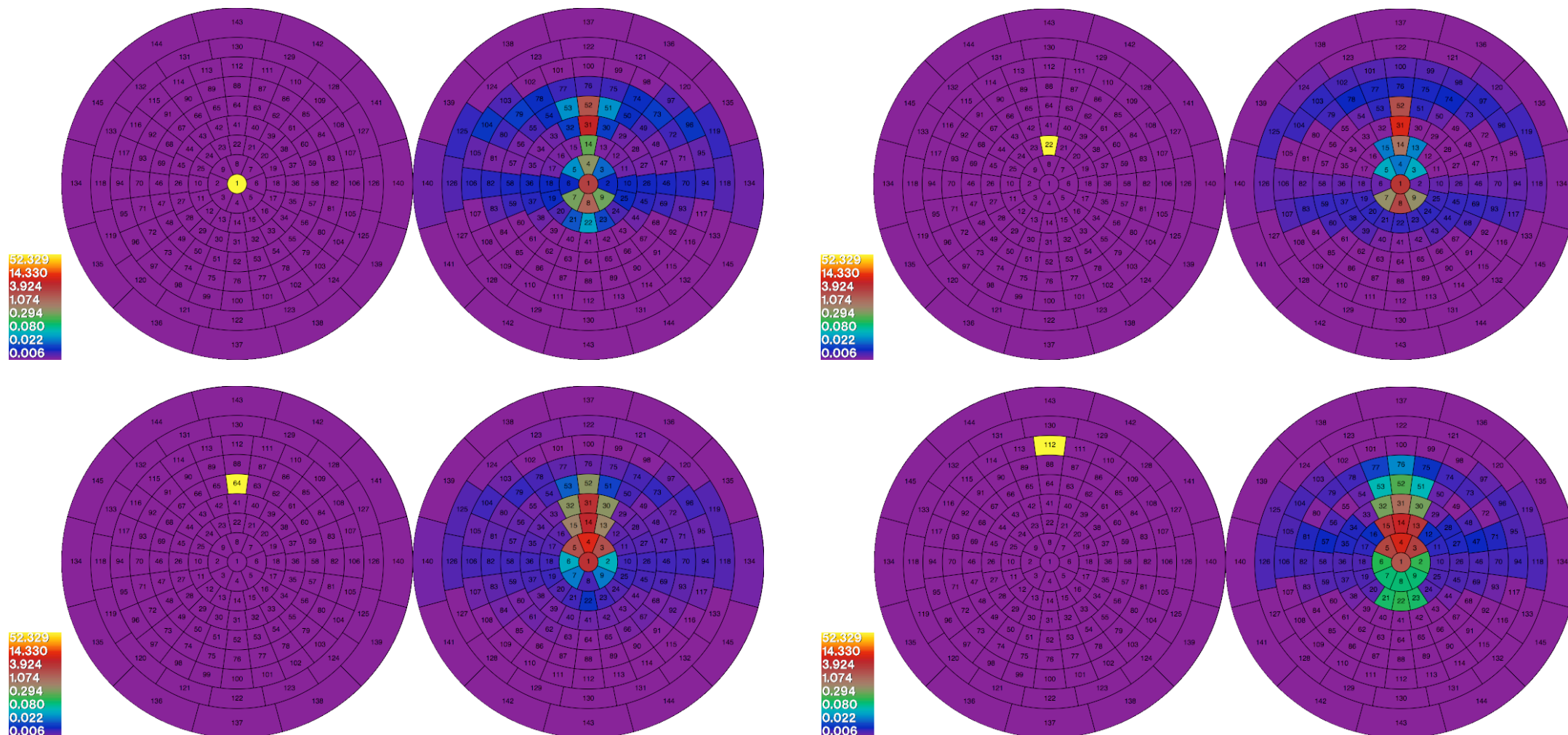
- Sky vectors were pre-computed and zipped to reduce repetitive generation of the same sky vectors.

```
gendaylit [options] | genskyvec -m 4 | gzip > m_d_t.svec.gz
```

- gensky was used when gendaylit failed (assumed a static sun and sky efficacy).
- Computation time: 1.0 CPU hours

T-Matrix (BTDF)

- Generated a BTDF using radiance genklemsamp and rtcontrib.



Prelude Calculation Times

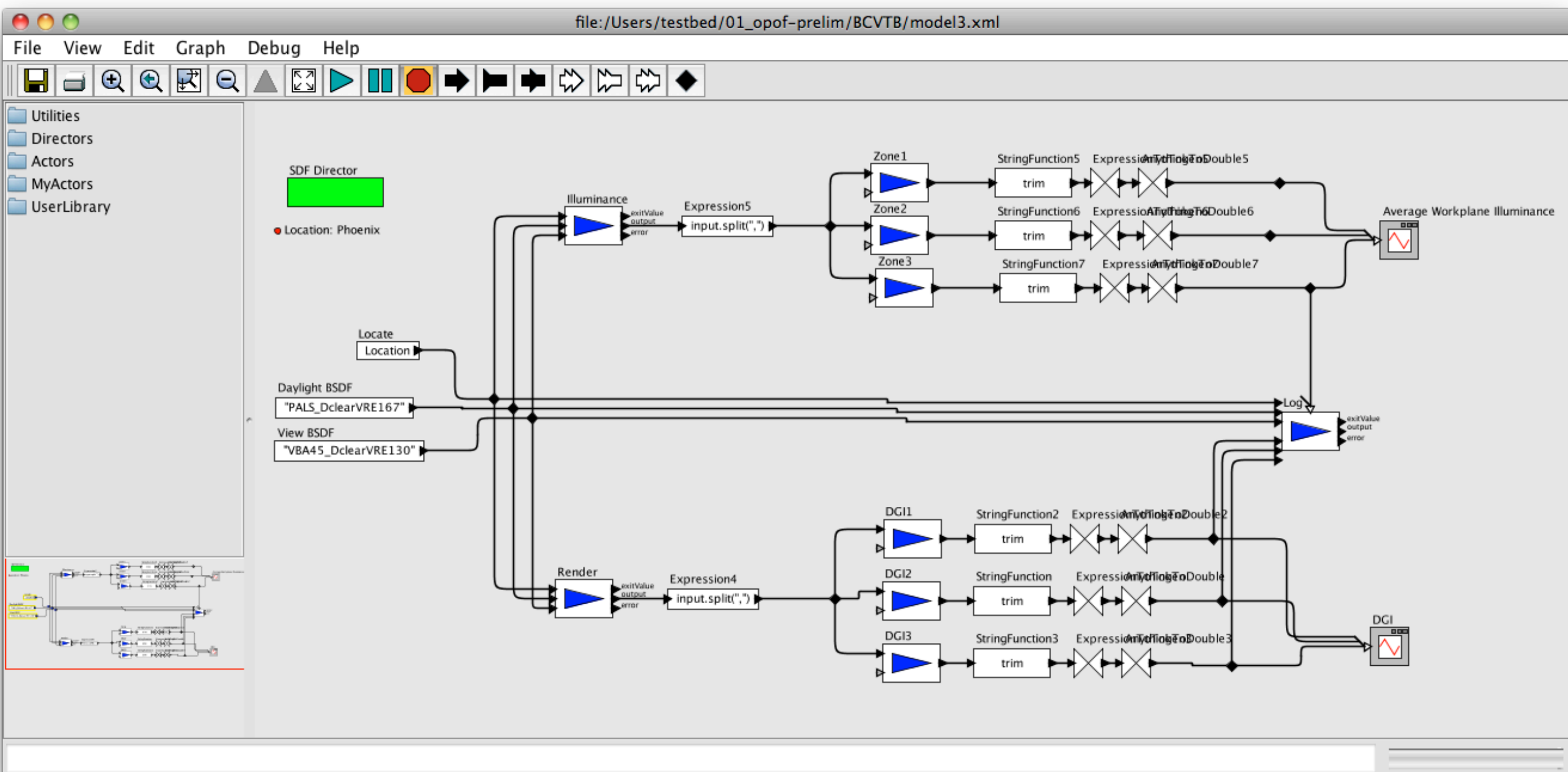
- V Matrix: 1.25 hours for Illuminance
62 hours for a Rendering
- D Matrix: 1 hour
- T matrix: 1 hour with genBSDF
0.05 hours with Window6
- S matrix: 1 hour

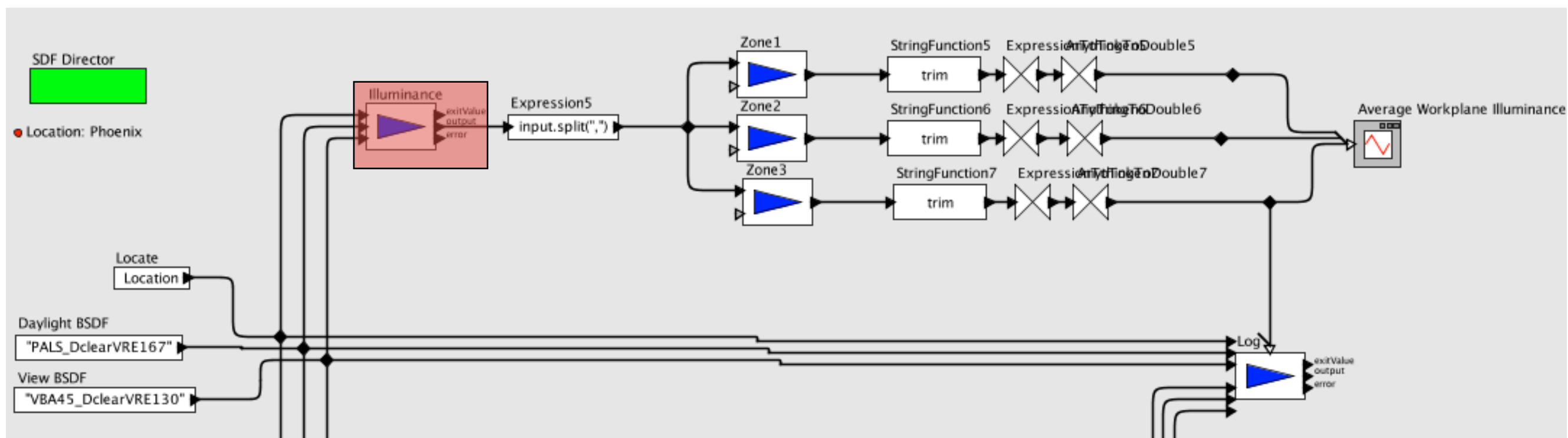
Now we can start our annual simulations!

Annual Runs

- dctimestep for illuminance zones
 - Illuminances processed for UDI, CDA and lighting energy use.
 - computation takes 2.5 hours
- dctimestep for rendered views
 - Images analyzed for DGI
 - computation takes 12.5 hours (smaller images would speed this up)

BCVTB Model for Annual Daylight Simulation





Configure ports for Illuminance

Name	Input	Output	Multiport	Type	Direction	Show Name	Hide	Units
exitValue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	string	DEFAULT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
output	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		DEFAULT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
error	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		DEFAULT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Locate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		DEFAULT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
bsdf1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		DEFAULT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
bsdf2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		DEFAULT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Commit Apply Add Remove Help Cancel

Edit parameters for Illuminance

programName:

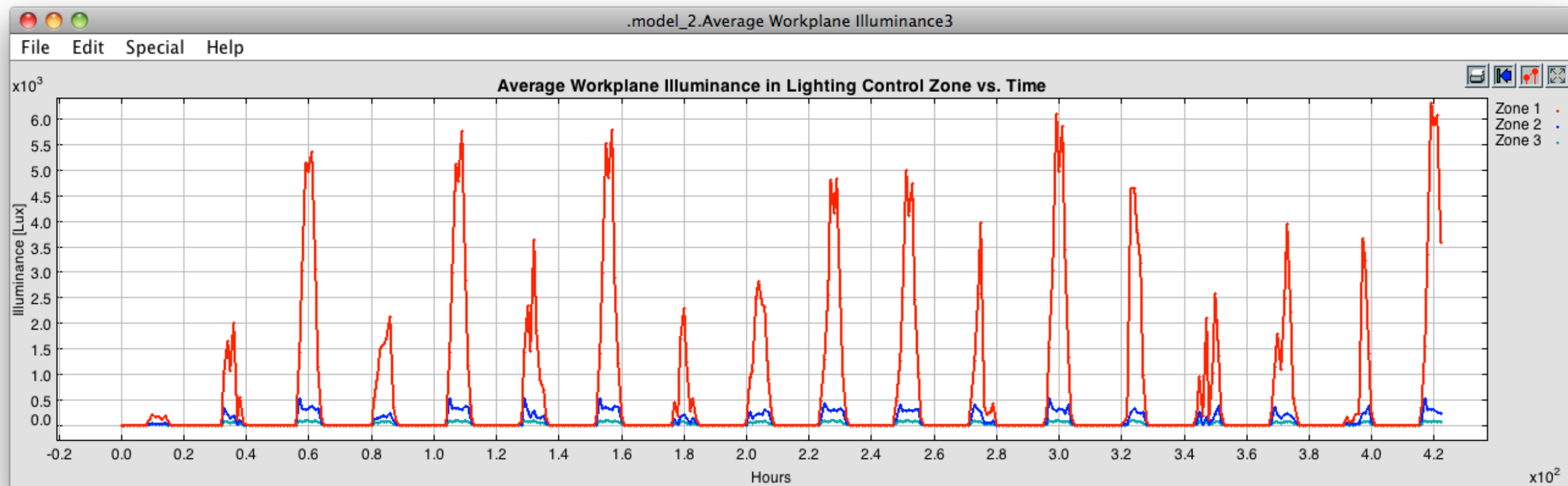
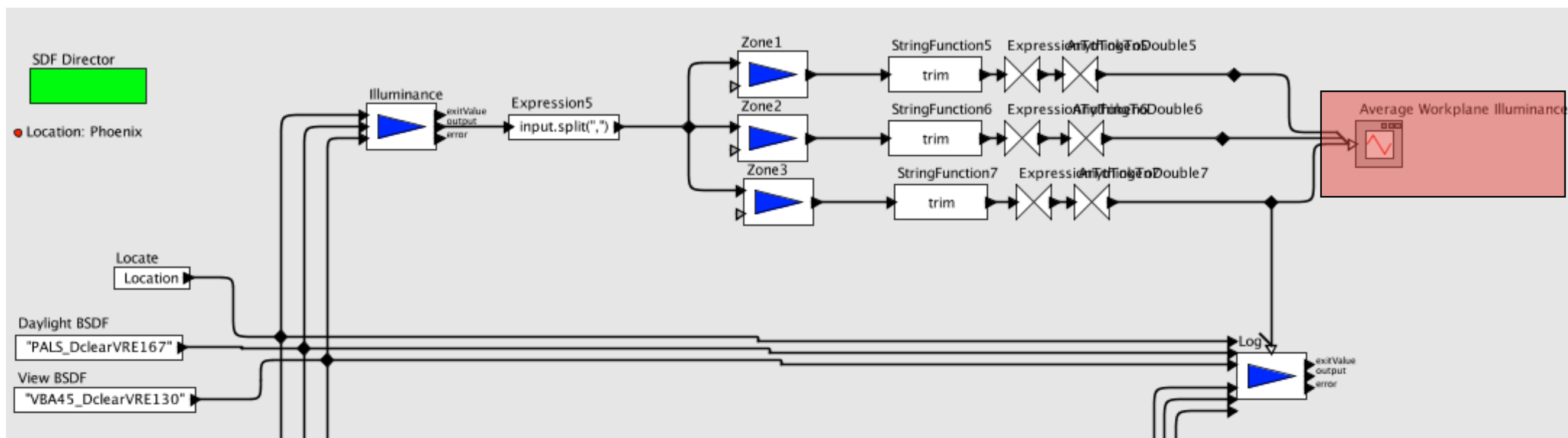
programArguments:

workingDirectory:

simulationLogFile:

showConsoleWindow: ☐

Cancel Help Preferences Restore Defaults Remove Add Commit



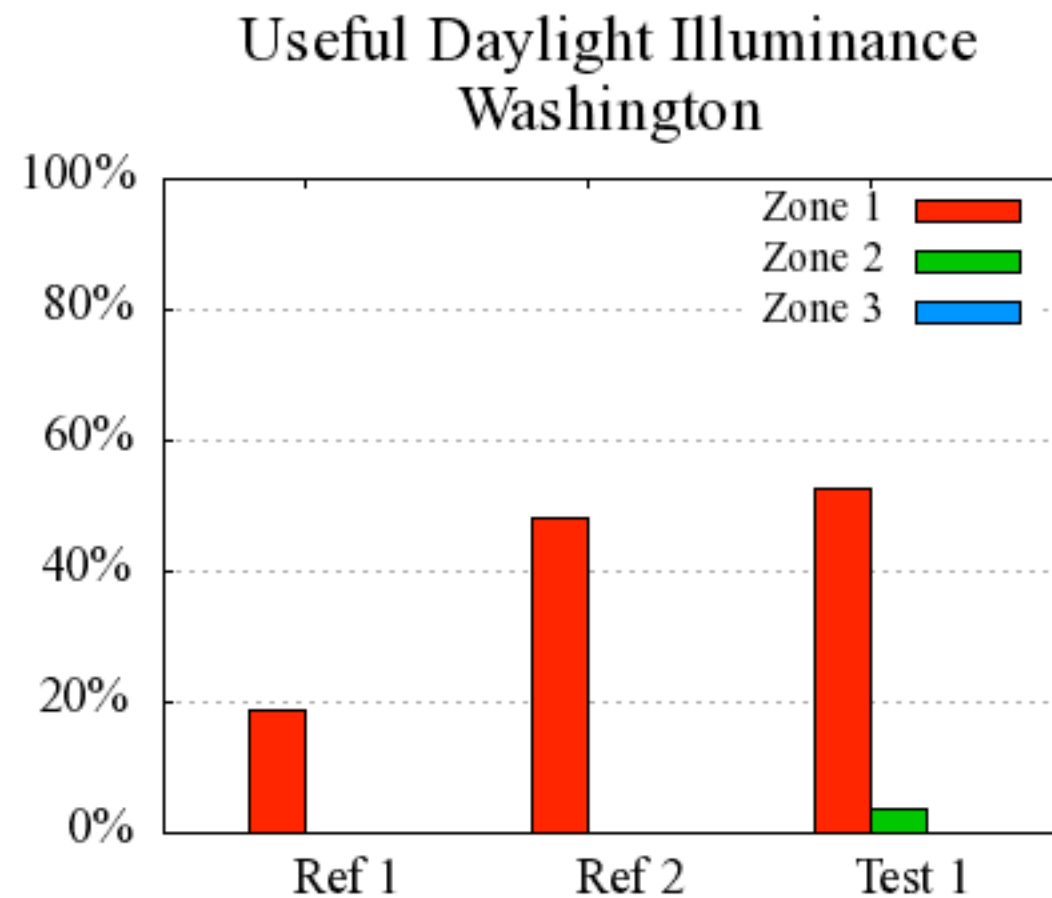
Why Use BCVTB?

BCVTB is not necessary for annual simulations with Radiance.

We used BCVTB because of our future needs:

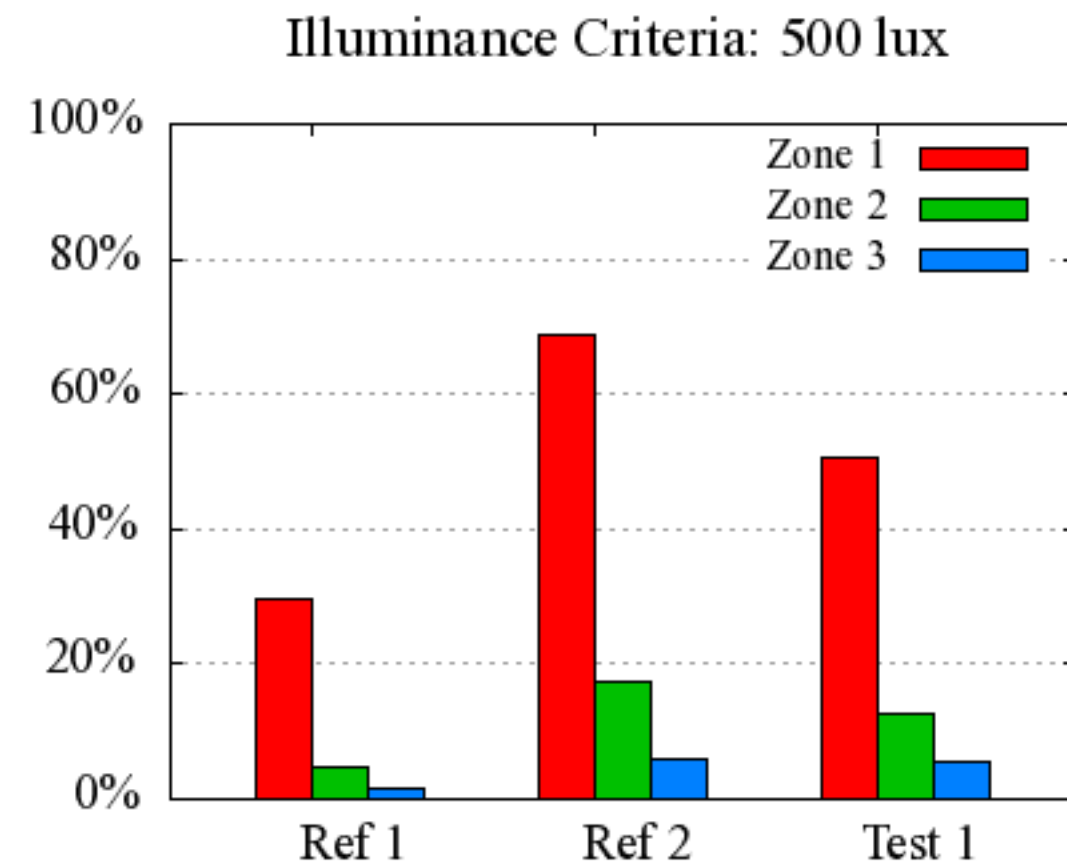
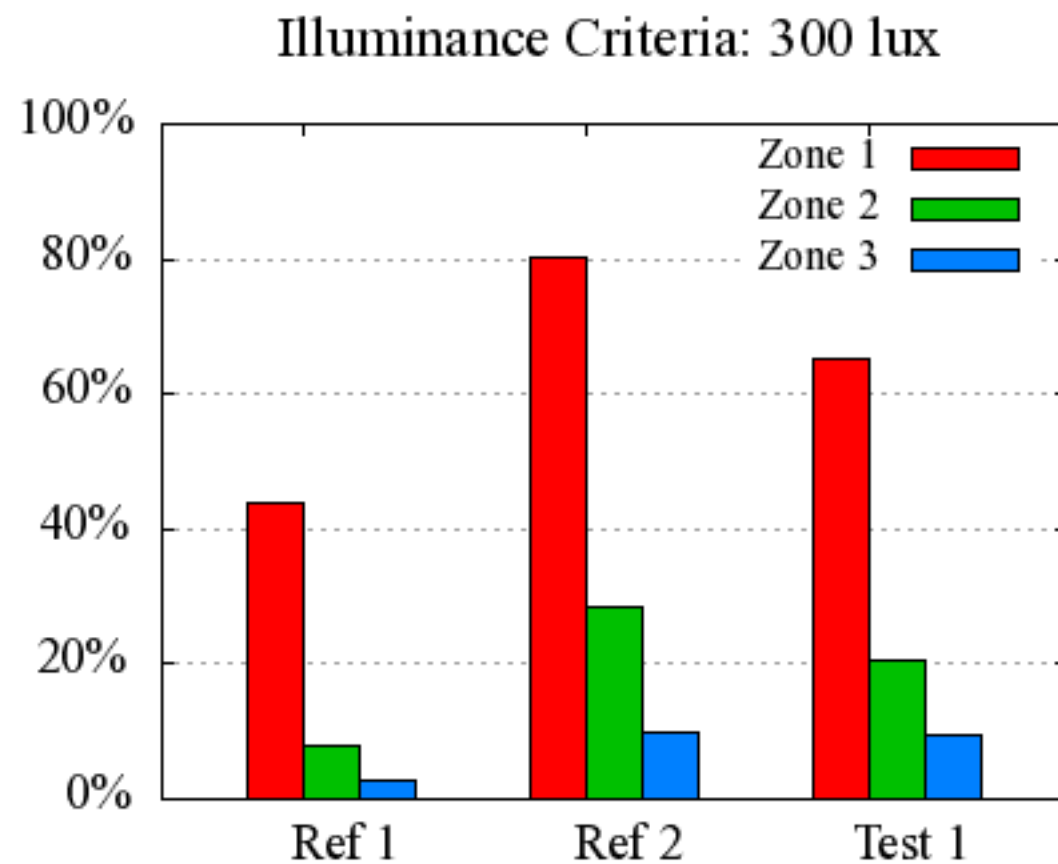
- Ability to easily incorporate control algorithms when we simulate dynamic systems
- Ability to add Energy Plus to the model to simulate HVAC energ.
- Ability to connect manufacturer's control hardware to test systems without the need to reveal proprietary algorithms

Useful Daylight Illuminance



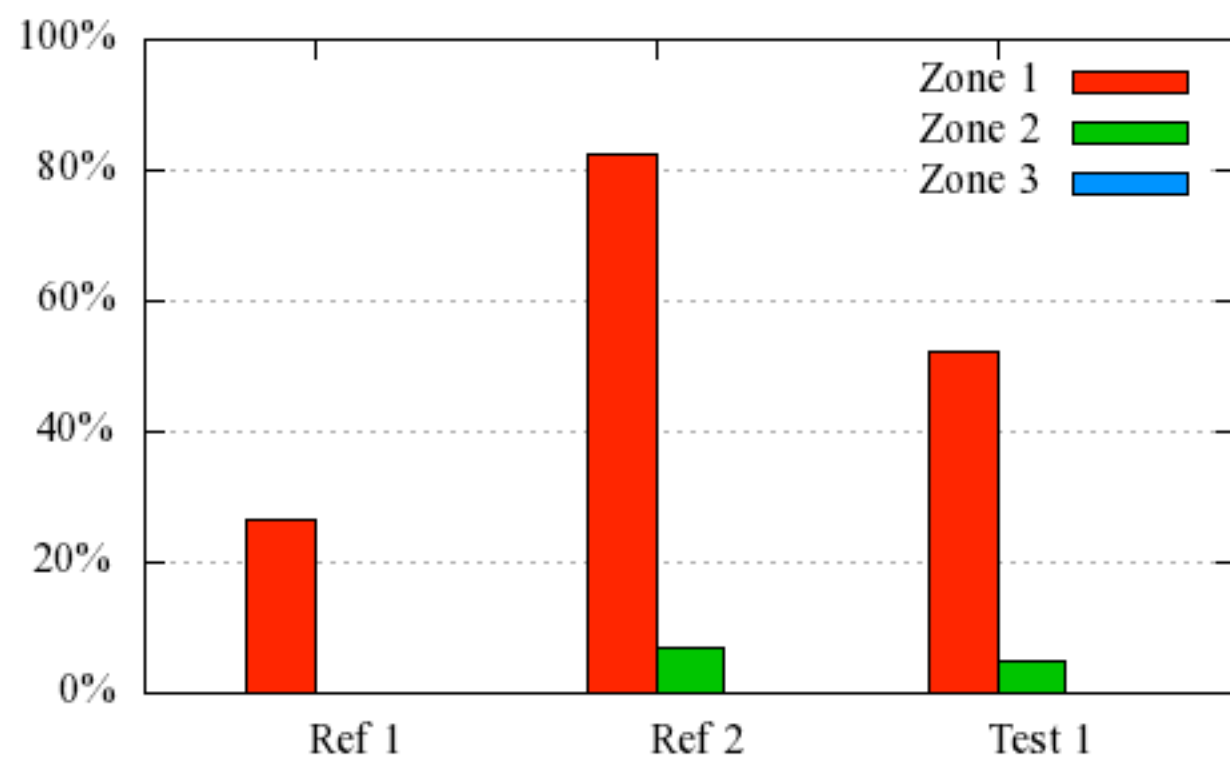
Continuous Daylight Autonomy

Continuous Daylight Autonomy Washington

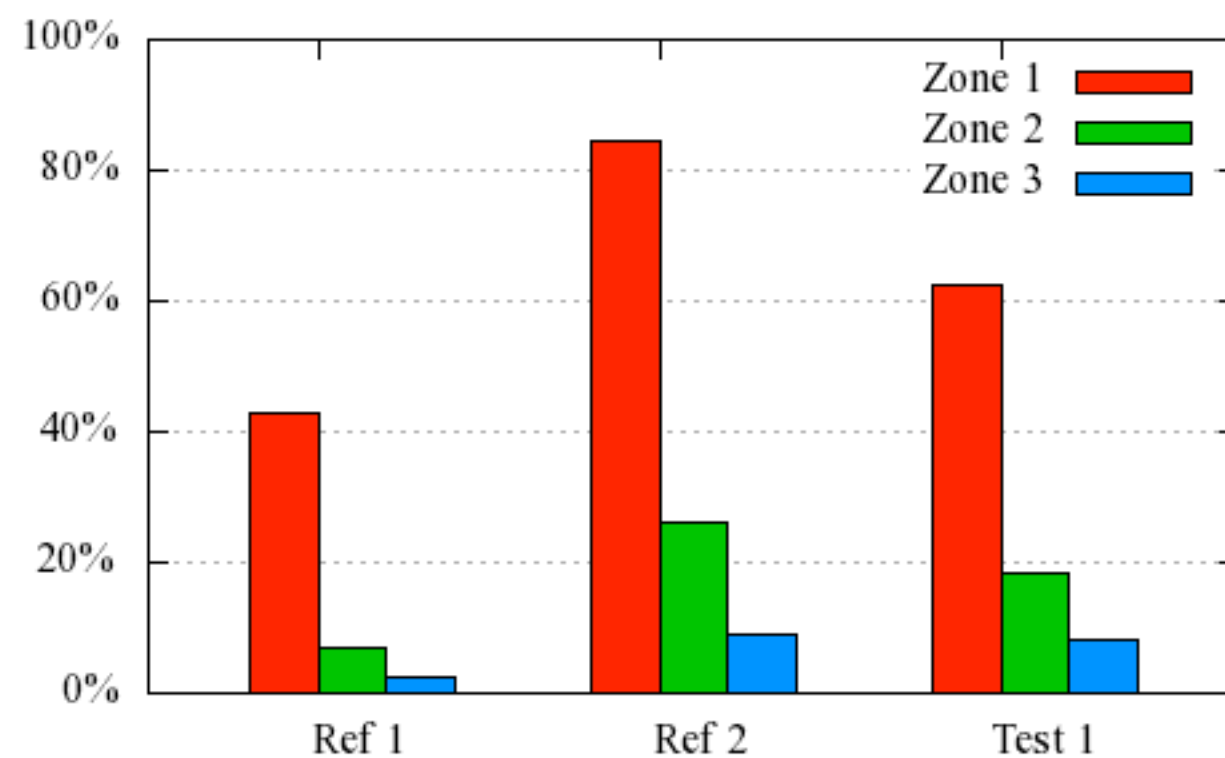


Percent Lighting Energy Savings Washington

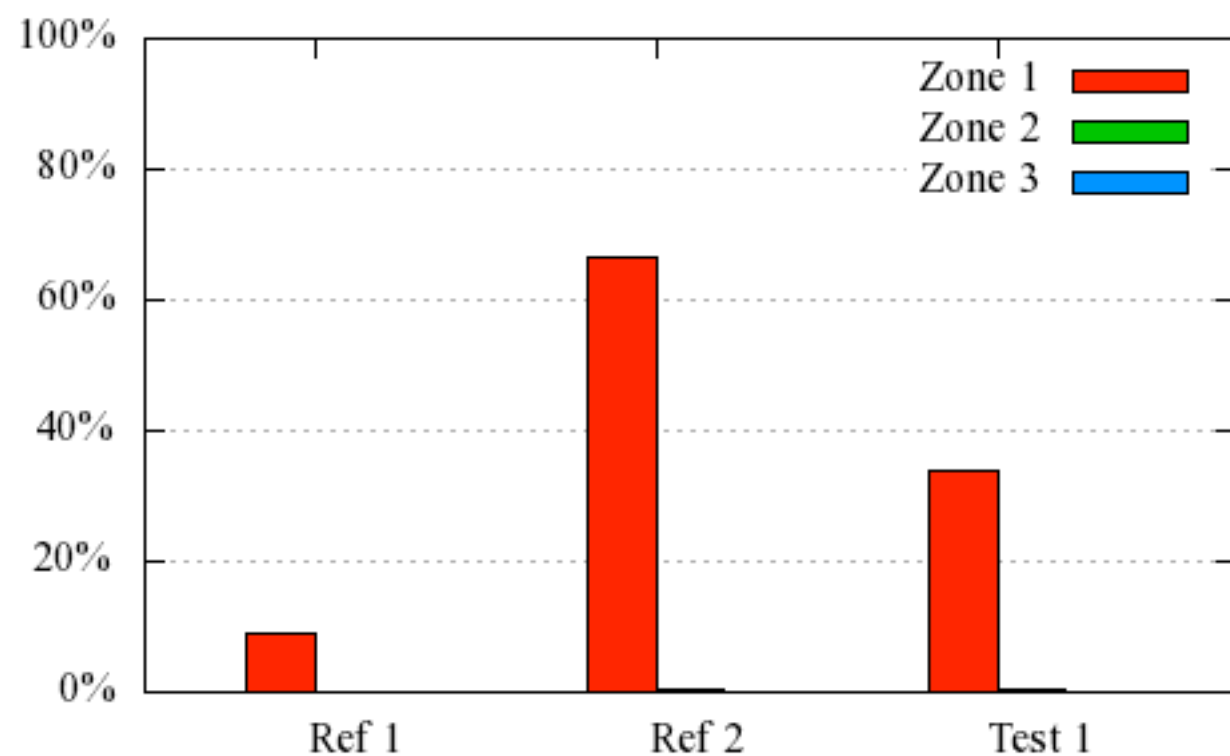
Bi-Level Switching, 300 lux Set Point



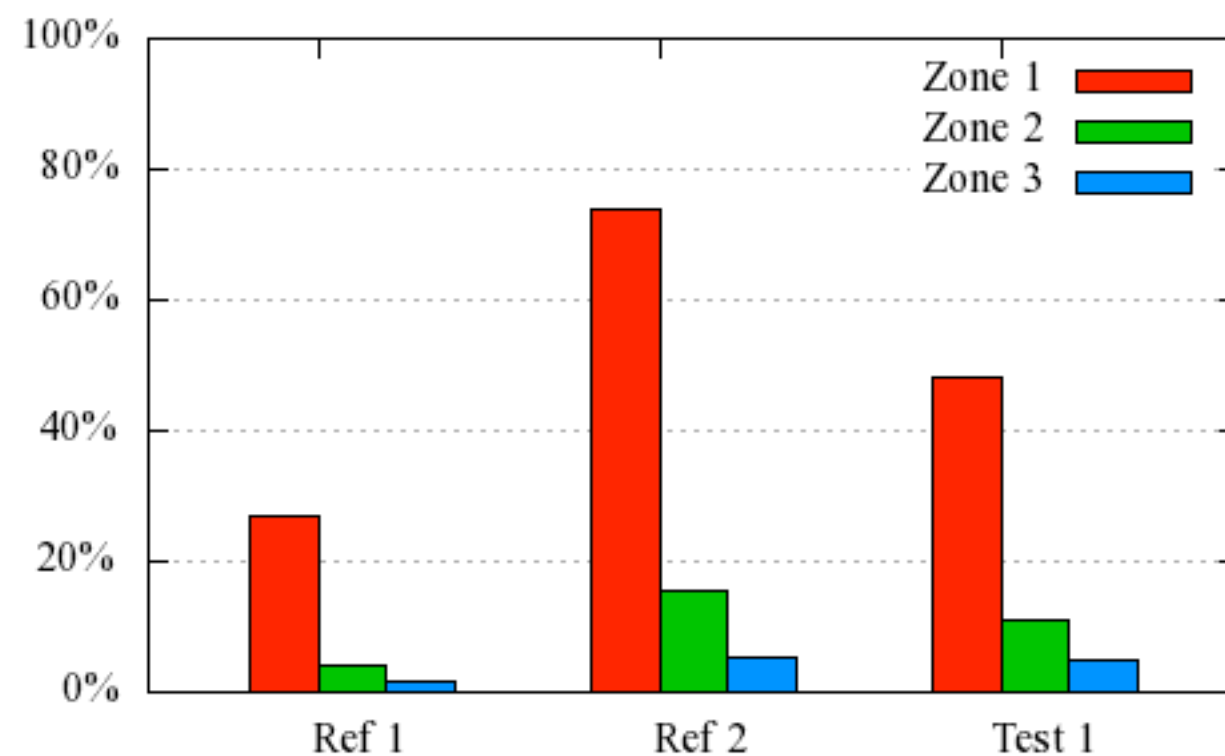
Dimming, 300 lux Set Point



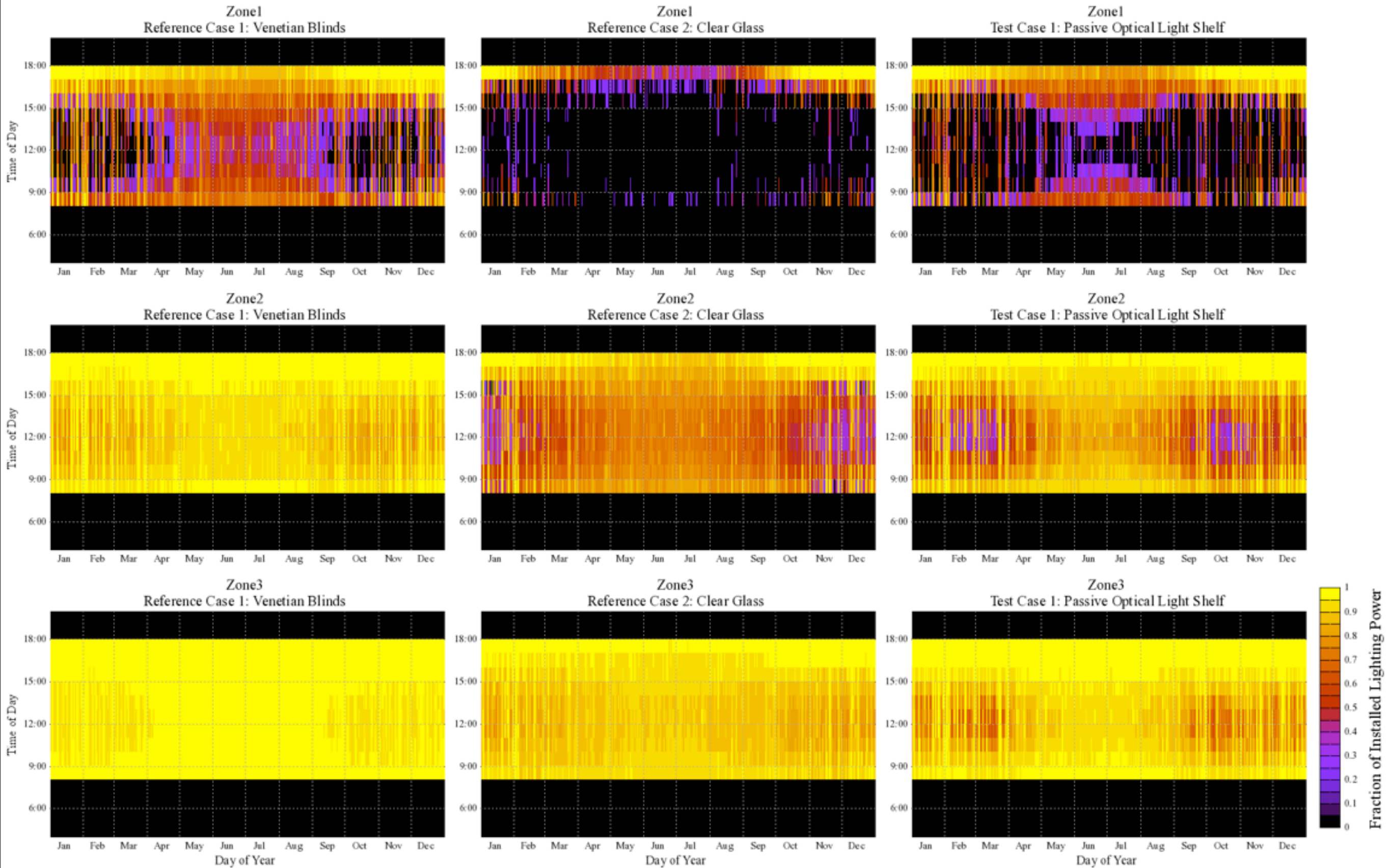
Bi-Level Switching, 500 lux Set Point



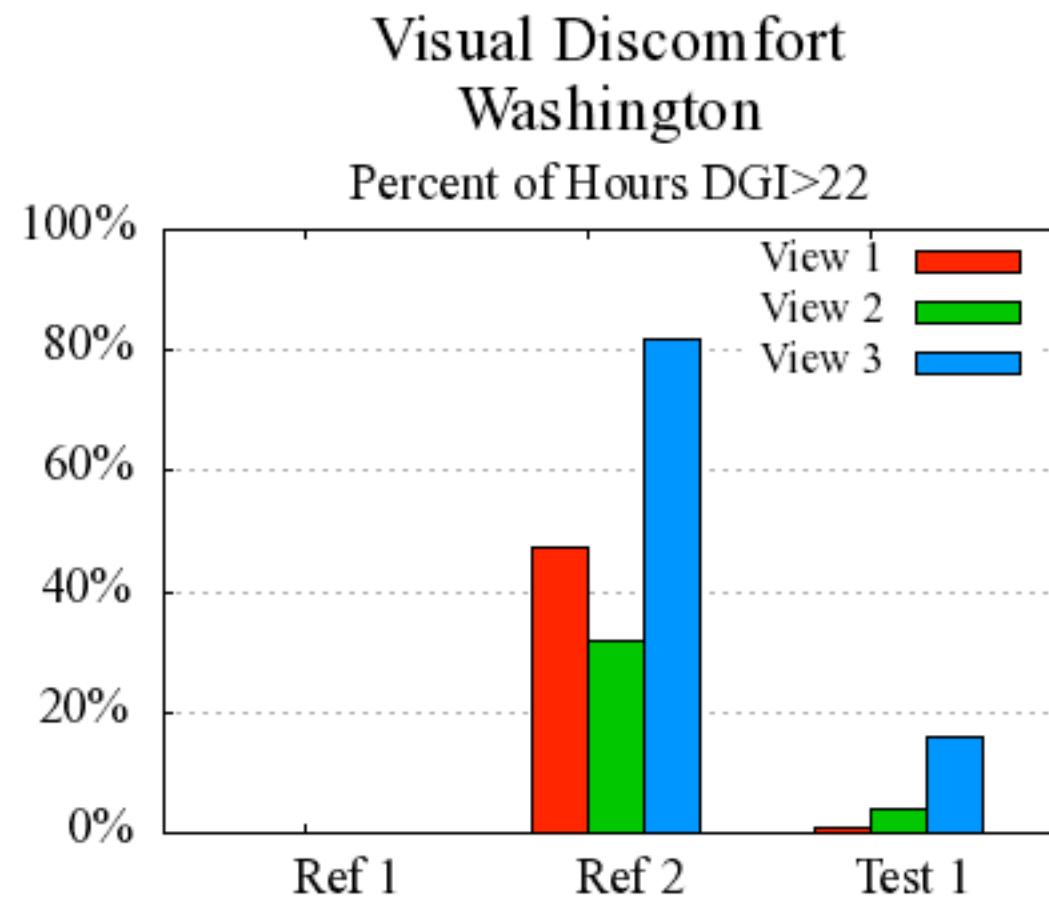
Dimming, 500 lux Set Point



Annual Lighting Power Usage Plots
Washington, 300 Lux Setpoint, Dimming Control System

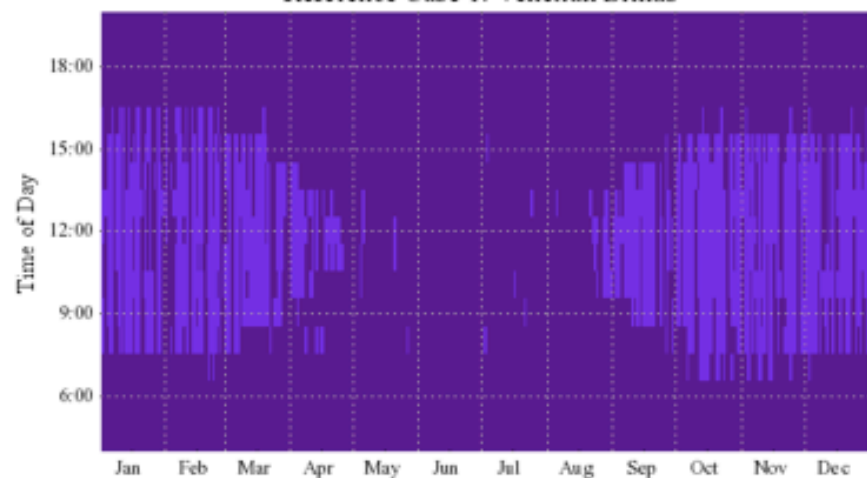


Daylight Glare Index

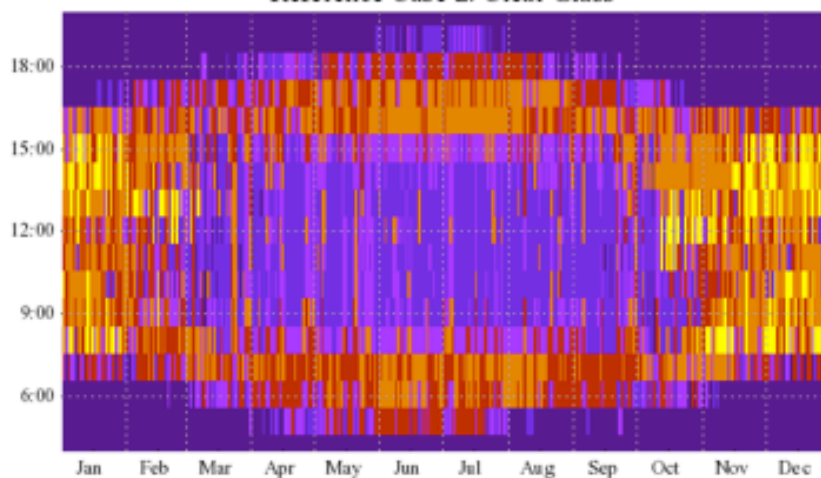


Annual Daylight Glare Index Plots Washington

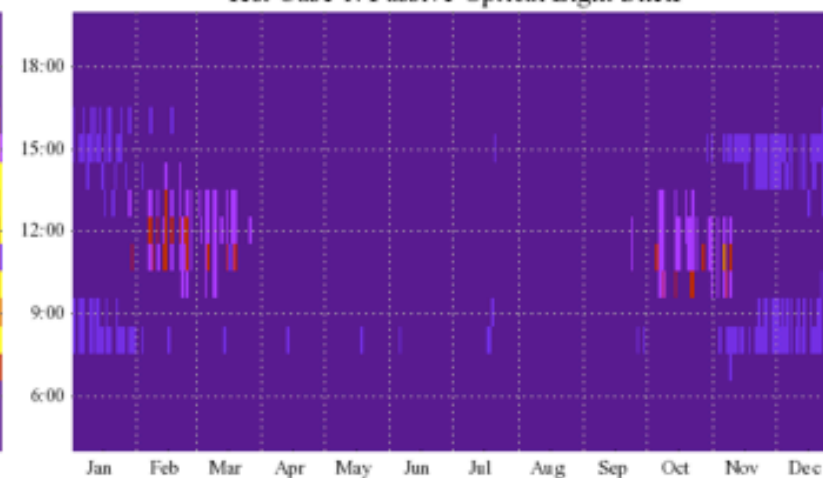
View1
Reference Case 1: Venetian Blinds



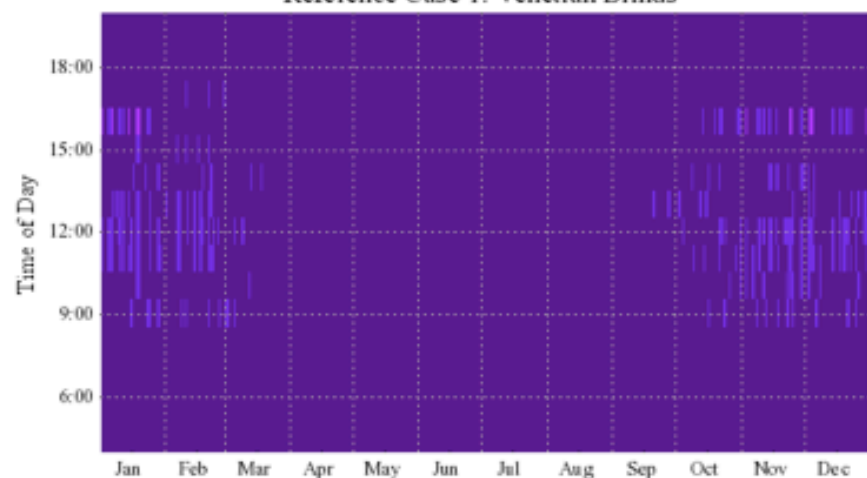
View1
Reference Case 2: Clear Glass



View1
Test Case 1: Passive Optical Light Shelf



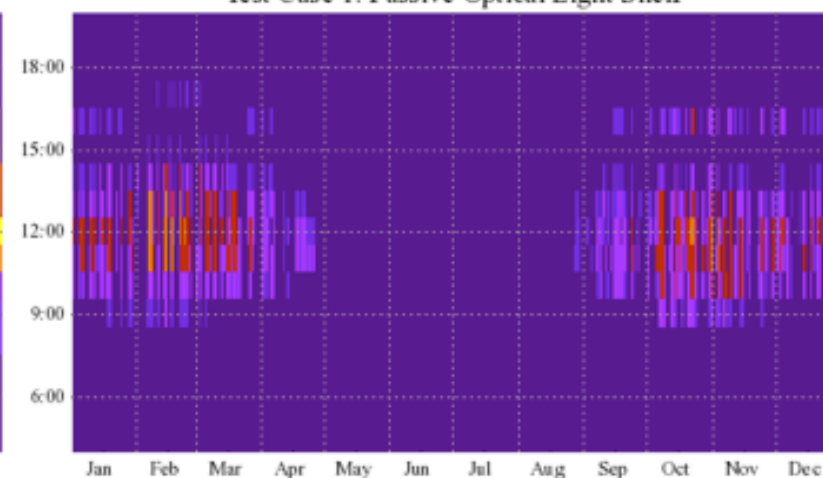
View2
Reference Case 1: Venetian Blinds



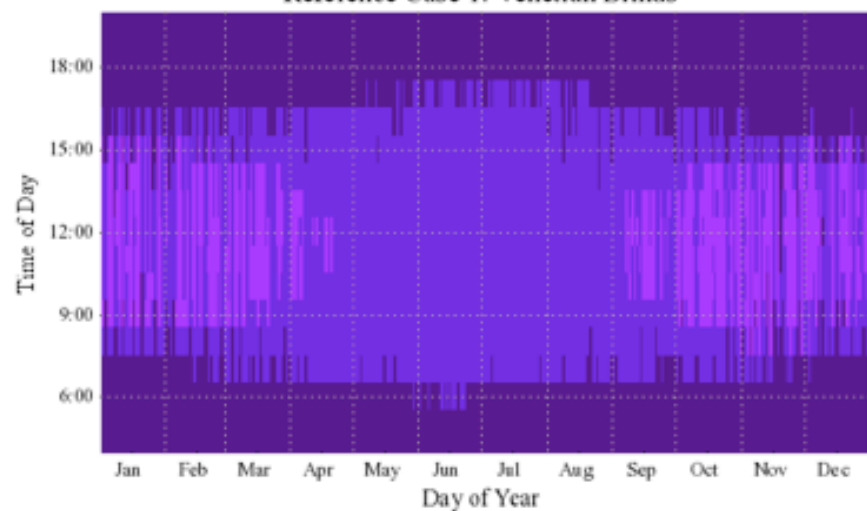
View2
Reference Case 2: Clear Glass



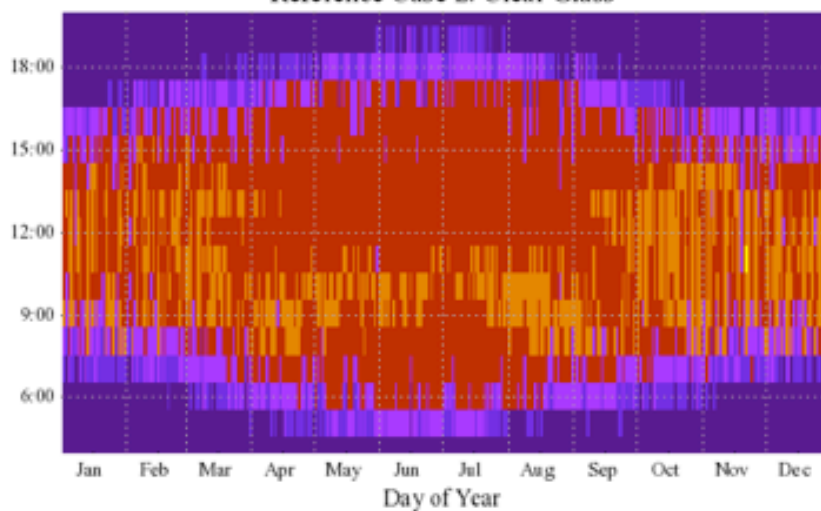
View2
Test Case 1: Passive Optical Light Shelf



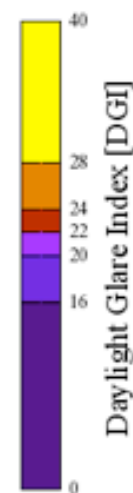
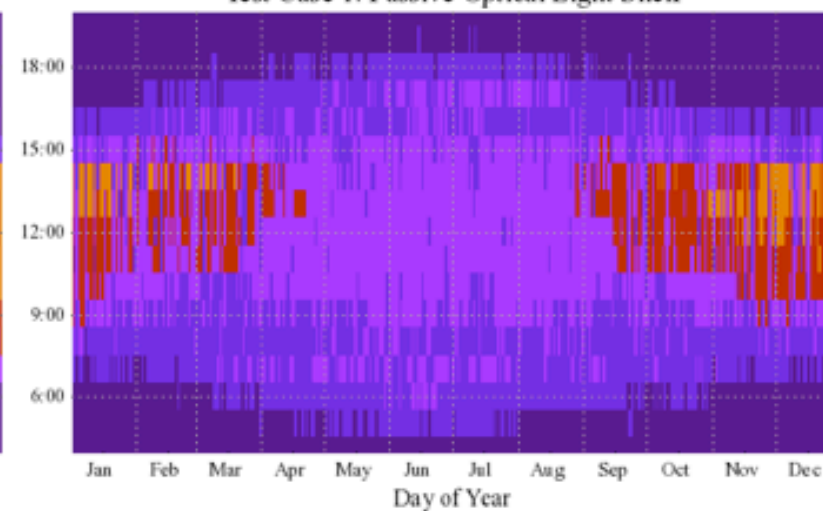
View3
Reference Case 1: Venetian Blinds



View3
Reference Case 2: Clear Glass



View3
Test Case 1: Passive Optical Light Shelf



Who Would Do This?

- **Manufacturers**
 - Test products in a prototype stage
 - Test products in various climates
 - Test control algorithms for motorized products.
- **Lighting Consultants**
 - Simulate performance of various systems for a specific project
 - Evaluate design of custom shading systems

What do users need to do this?

- Illuminance only - relatively fast:

a desktop computer

half a day (for computation - not including model prep.)

- Renderings - slower:

Could be sped up by using lower resolution images and reduced rendering parameters. Could still be done with a desktop computer but would need to run overnight. A small cluster doesn't hurt though.



California Public Interest
Energy Research (PIER)



U.S. Department of Energy

Windows and Daylighting Group

Building Technologies Department
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Building 90-3111
Berkeley, CA 94720
Email: amcneil@lbl.gov

More Info:

Window 6

<http://windows.lbl.gov/software/window/6>

High performance commercial building
facades

<http://lowenergyfacades.lbl.gov>

Acknowledgments

US Department of Energy
California Energy Commission
Public Interest Energy Research
(PIER)