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Original
MTD: a new powerful method to select urban-rural pairs for Urban Heat Island quantification applied to Turin, Italy / Bassani, F., Garbero, V., Poggi, D., Ridolfi, L., GRAF VON HARDENBERG, J., Milelli, M.. - (2022). (EGU General Assembly 2022 Vienna (AT) 23–27 May 2022) [10.5194/egusphere-egu22-5793].

Availability:
This version is available at: 11583/2965204 since: 2022-05-31T12:11:47Z

Publisher:
EGU

Published
DOI:10.5194/egusphere-egu22-5793

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27 November 2026

Politecnico di Torino
Department of Environment, Land and Infrastructure Engineering

EGU General Assembly 2022

Arpa Piemonte Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione Ambientale

MTD: a new powerful method to select urban-rural pairs for Urban Heat Island quantification applied to Turin, Italy

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EGU General Assembly
Session CL3.2.1 – 25 May 2022

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The Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect

Causes

- thermal properties → urbanized areas ≠ natural lands
- anthropogenic heat emissions → vehicles, air conditioning, industries…
- geometric effects: buildings
  - blocking of wind → inhibits cooling by convection
  - multiple surfaces for the reflection and absorption of sunlight (limited thermal dispersion)



The **city** *traps heat* during the day and *releases* it at night
⇒ *warmer* temperatures than its rural surroundings

$$\mathbf{UHI} = T_{urban} - T_{rural}$$

Crucial task: selecting proper urban-rural pairs

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The case of Turin

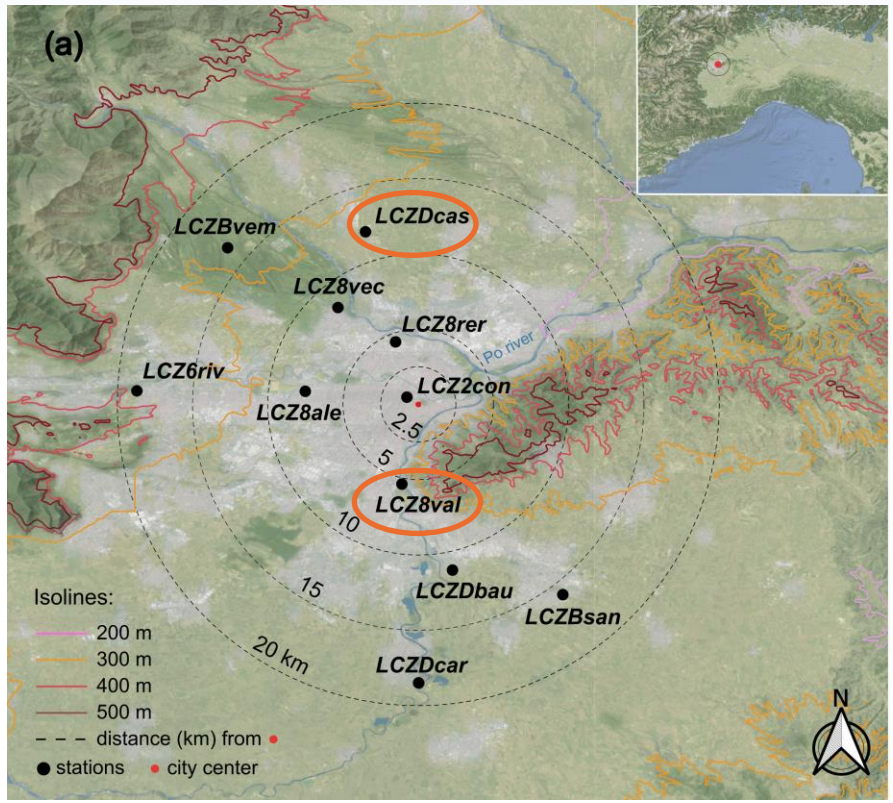

Figure from Bassani, F., Garbero, V., Poggi, D., Ridolfi, L., von Hardenberg, J., & Milelli, M. (2022). An innovative approach to select urban-rural sites for Urban Heat Island analysis: the case of Turin (Italy). *Urban Climate*, 42, 101099.

- 11 weather stations on a complex morphology
- The Local Climate Zones (LCZ) do not always classify them correctly:

	reality	LCZ type*	classification
LCZ8val		8. Large low-rise 	*wrong*
LCZDcas		D. Low plants 	*too local*

*From Stewart, I.D., Oke, T.R. (2012). Local climate zones for urban temperature studies. *Bull. Am. Meteorol. Soc.* 93, 1879–1900.

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The MTD method
(Mean Temperature Difference)

Step 1: the metric

- No *preliminary* classification of sites
- For each station **S**: $MTD_{i,M}^{S} = T_{i,M}^{S} - \overline{T_{i,M}^{S}} - \left\langle T_{i,M}^{S} - \overline{T_{i,M}^{S}} \right\rangle$

$T_{i,M}^{S}$: monthly-averaged hourly temperature (i=1,..,24 hours, M=1,..,12 months)
$\overline{\cdot}$: temporal average over all times
$\langle \cdot \rangle$: spatial mean among all N_S stations

⇒ Detects common *thermal behaviors* in a group of heterogeneous stations

Step 2: application of PCA

$MTD_{i,M}^{S}$ →

	hours	Station 1	Station 2
January	01	MTD (°C)	MTD (°C)
	...	MTD (°C)	MTD (°C)
	24	MTD (°C)	MTD (°C)
...	...	...	...
December	01	MTD (°C)	MTD (°C)
	...	MTD (°C)	MTD (°C)
	24	MTD (°C)	MTD (°C)

→ $\mathbf{MTD}_{288\times S}$ (24h x 12months = 288)

- Clustering of the thermal patterns (from step 1) into distinct groups, basing on the largest variance

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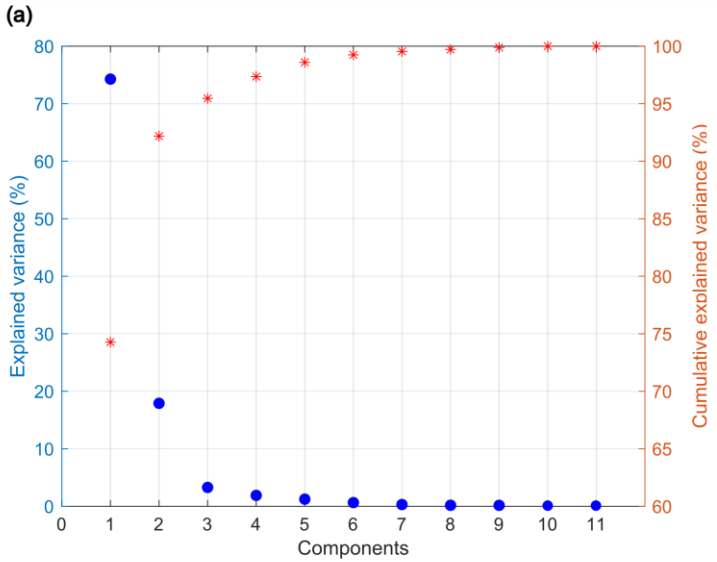
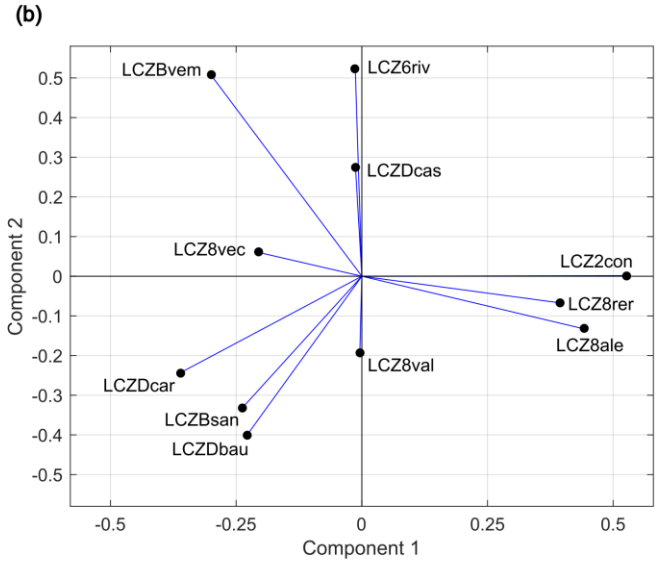
Results: classification of stations

% variance of each component: 1st ≈ 74%

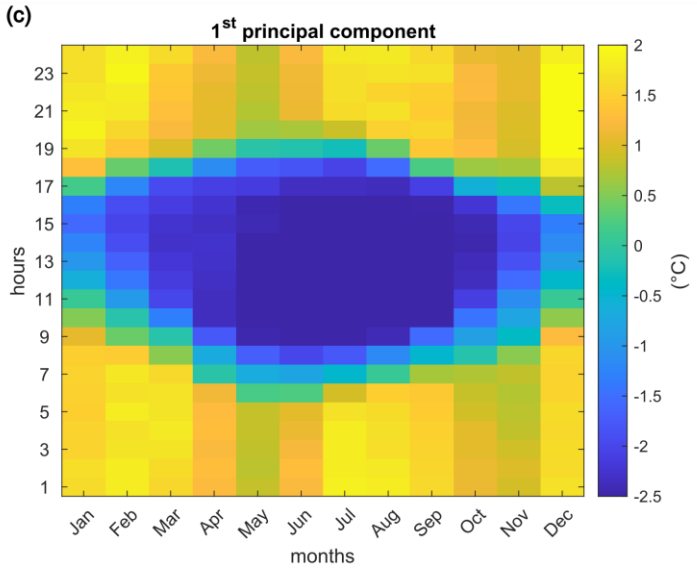


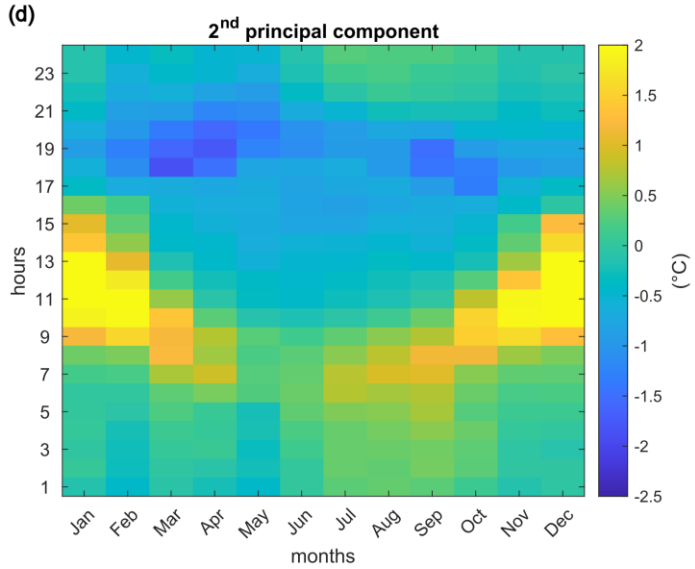


P.C. 1: clustering into 3 groups

1. Comp.1 >0
2. Comp.1 ≈ 0
3. Comp.1 <0

urban thermal pattern (Comp.1>0)

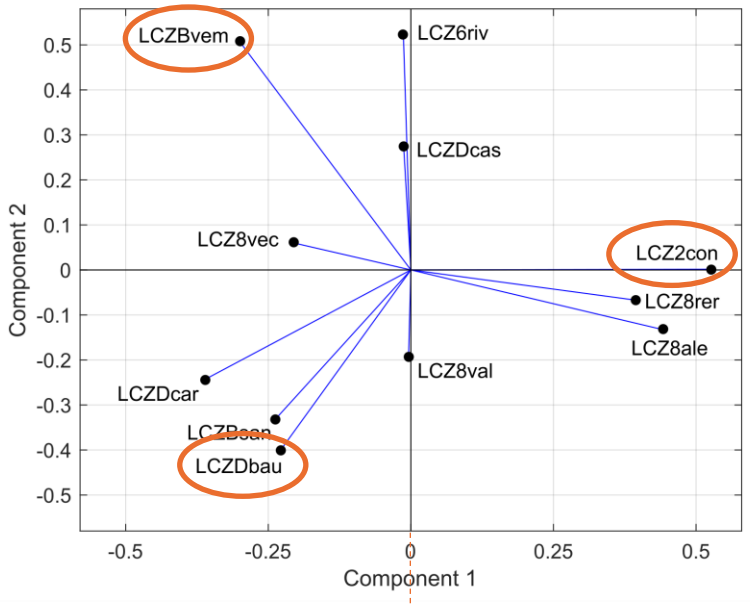




other geographical features (e.g., North-South)

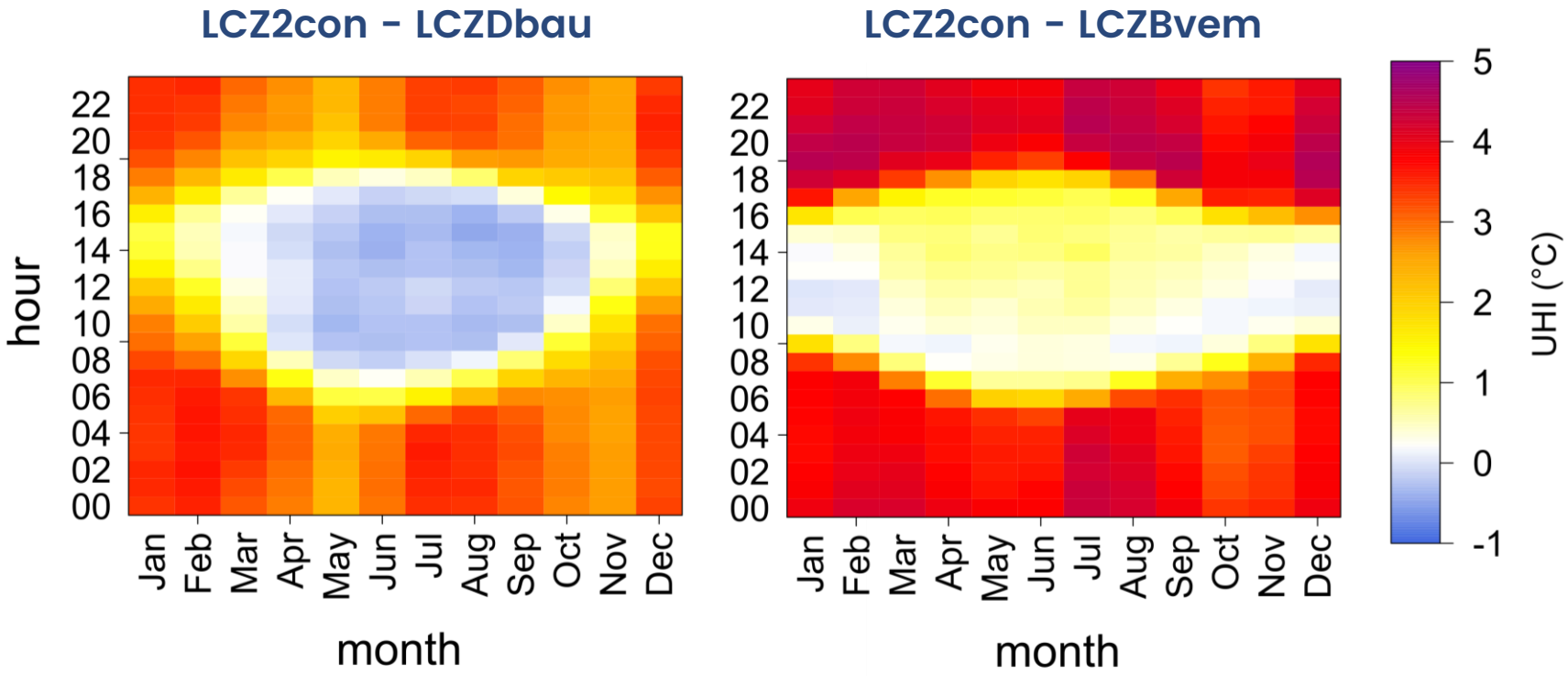
Figure from Bassani, F., et al. (2022). *Urban Climate*, 42, 101099.

Results: UHI over Turin



rural stations ⟷ *urban* stations

⇒ choice of 1 urban and 2 rural stations



- Mean annual UHI over 14 years of data availability
- Slight Urban Cool Island (UHI<0 at daytime) for LCZDbau
- Nocturnal UHI ≈ 3°C (LCZDbau) and ≈ 4°C (LCZBvem)

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Figure from Milelli, M., Bassani, F., Garbero, V., Poggi, D., von Hardenberg, J., & Ridolfi, L. (2022). Under review in *Urban Climate*.

Conclusions

MTD features

- Objective classification of stations
  - No preliminary assumptions needed
    - Works very well for complex territories

Turin UHI

- Stations: 3 urban, 5 rural (3 hybrid → not proper for UHI)
  - UHI city-South ≈ 3°C
    - UHI city-North ≈ 4°C

Thank you!

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