

Simulation of the indoor climate of livestock buildings: a tool to assess climate change scenarios

Günther Schauberger

WG Environmental Health
Department of Biomedical Sciences
University of Veterinary Medicine
Vienna, Austria



EAAP 2016
*67th Annual Meeting of the
European Federation of Animal Science
Belfast NI, 29 Aug – 2 Sept 2016*



Objectives

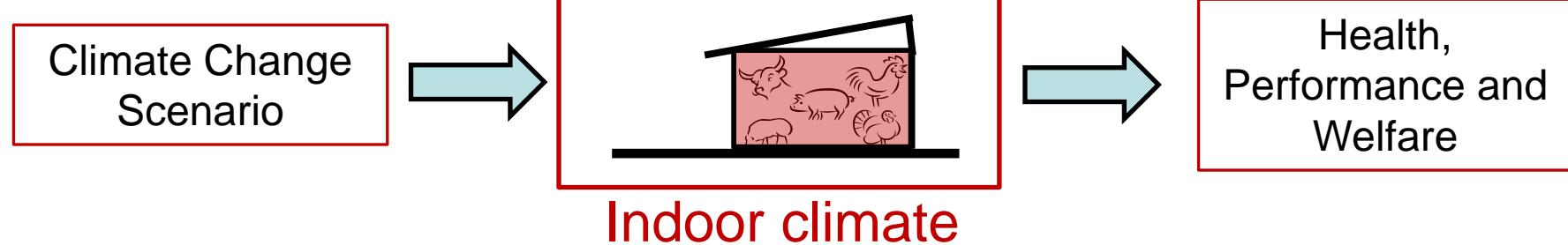
Background

Impact assessment of climate change scenarios
on farm animals in confined livestock buildings

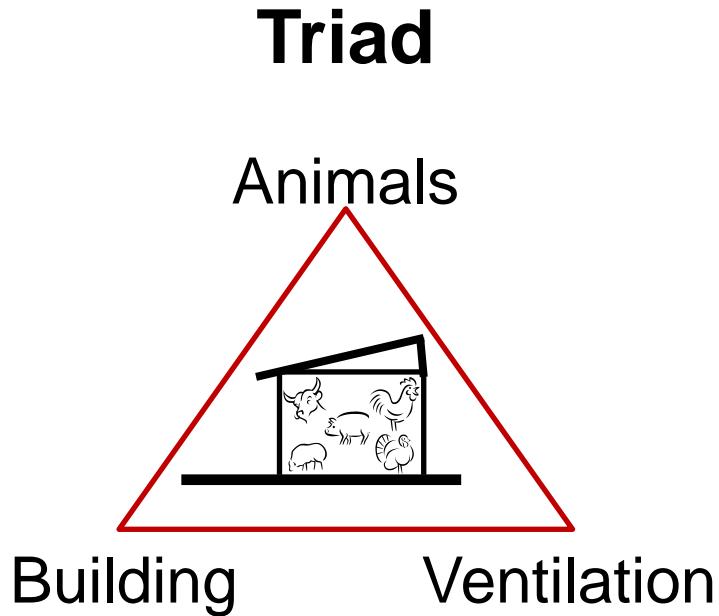
Grazing animals ~ cattle



Confined livestock systems ~ poultry and pig



Model structure



Balance equations

Sensible heat - Temperature
Latent heat - Humidity
 CO_2
 NH_3
odour

Temporal resolution

one hour (steady-state)

Air Treatment

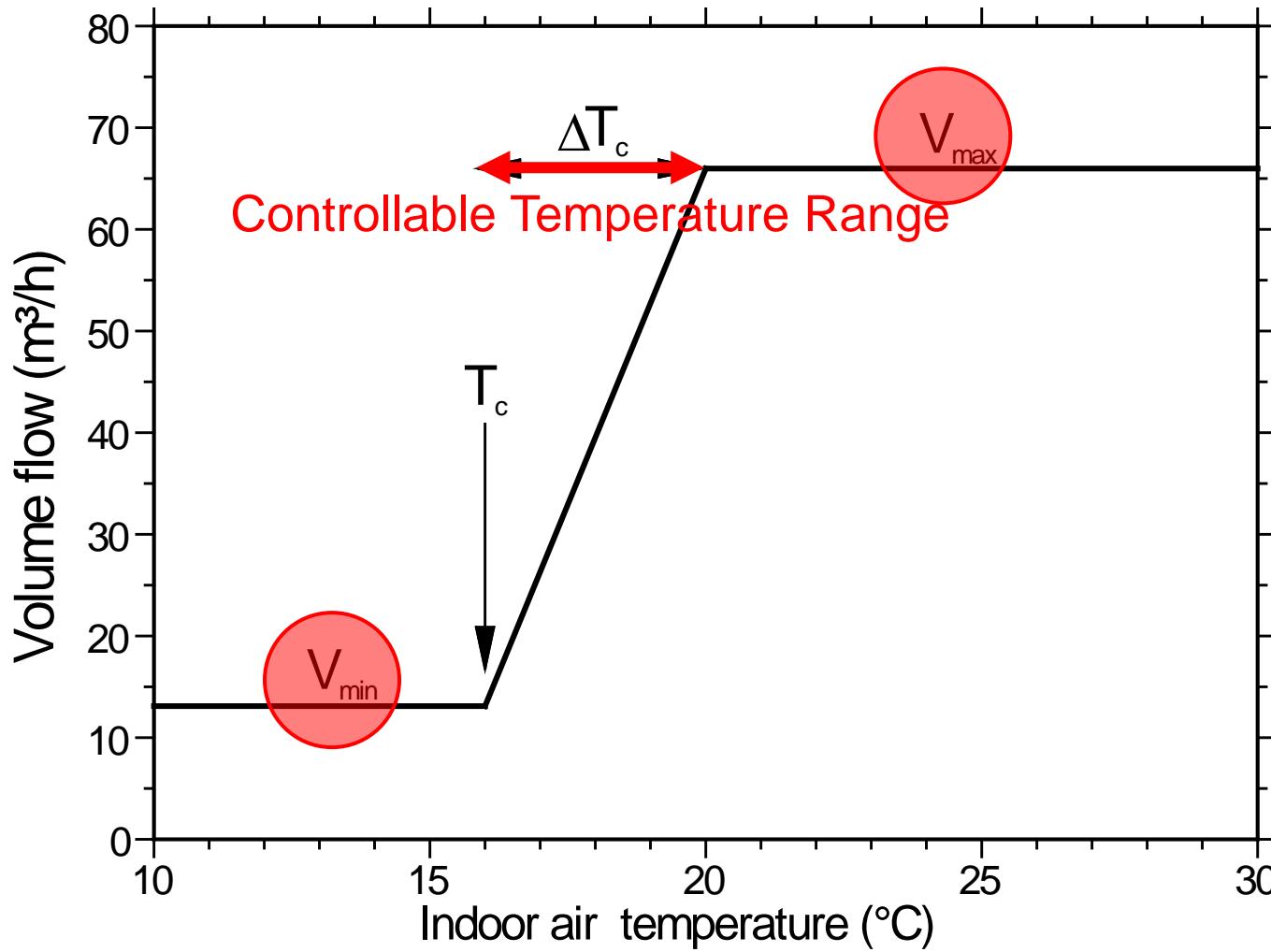
heating, cooling pads, fogging,
earth tubs, heat exchange

Limitation

mechanically ventilated building
no spatial resolution

Ventilation system

Design parameters (V_{\max} and V_{\min}) and control unit

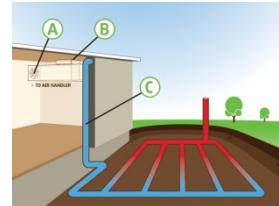


Air treatment

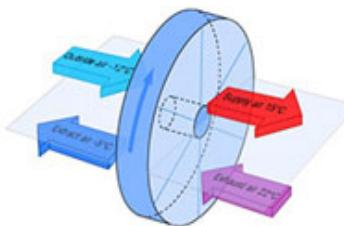
Heating



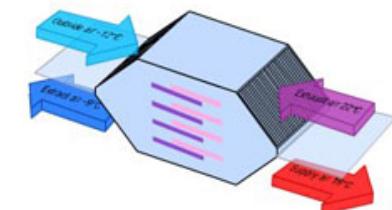
Earth tube systems



Heat exchanger
regenerative



recuperative



Cooling pads

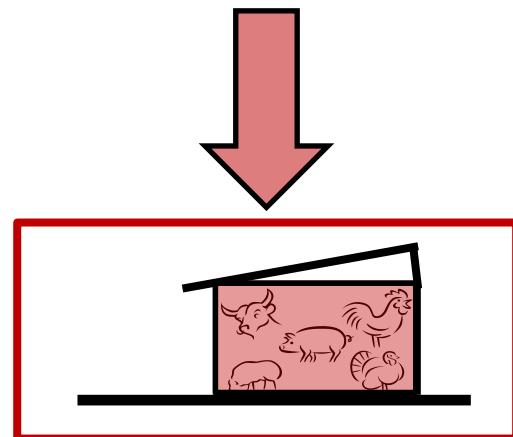


Water fogging systems



Application of the model

Meteorological
data



Indoor climate

Impact on the
animals

Reference data (1985-2010)

**Climate change scenario RCP 4.5
(2036-2065)**

Core Module: Mechanical ventilation

Air treatment: cooling pads, fogging, earth tube systems, heat exchanger

Management: inverted feeding regime, animal density

Output of the simulation

Thermal environment

indoor temperature and humidity
condensation

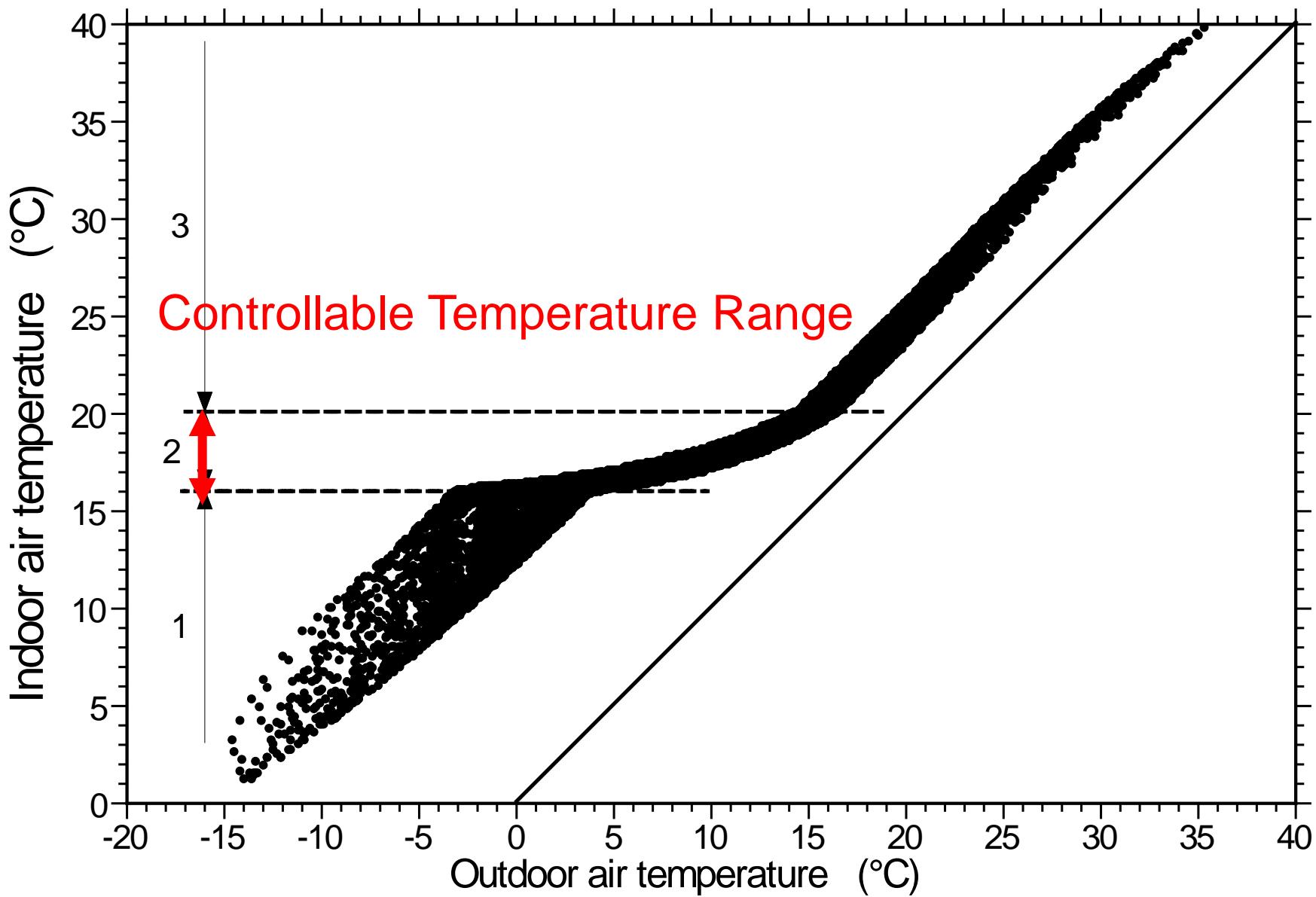
heat stress indices ~ THI

Indoor air quality = Emission

CO_2 ~ GHG

NH_3 ~ precursor for PM

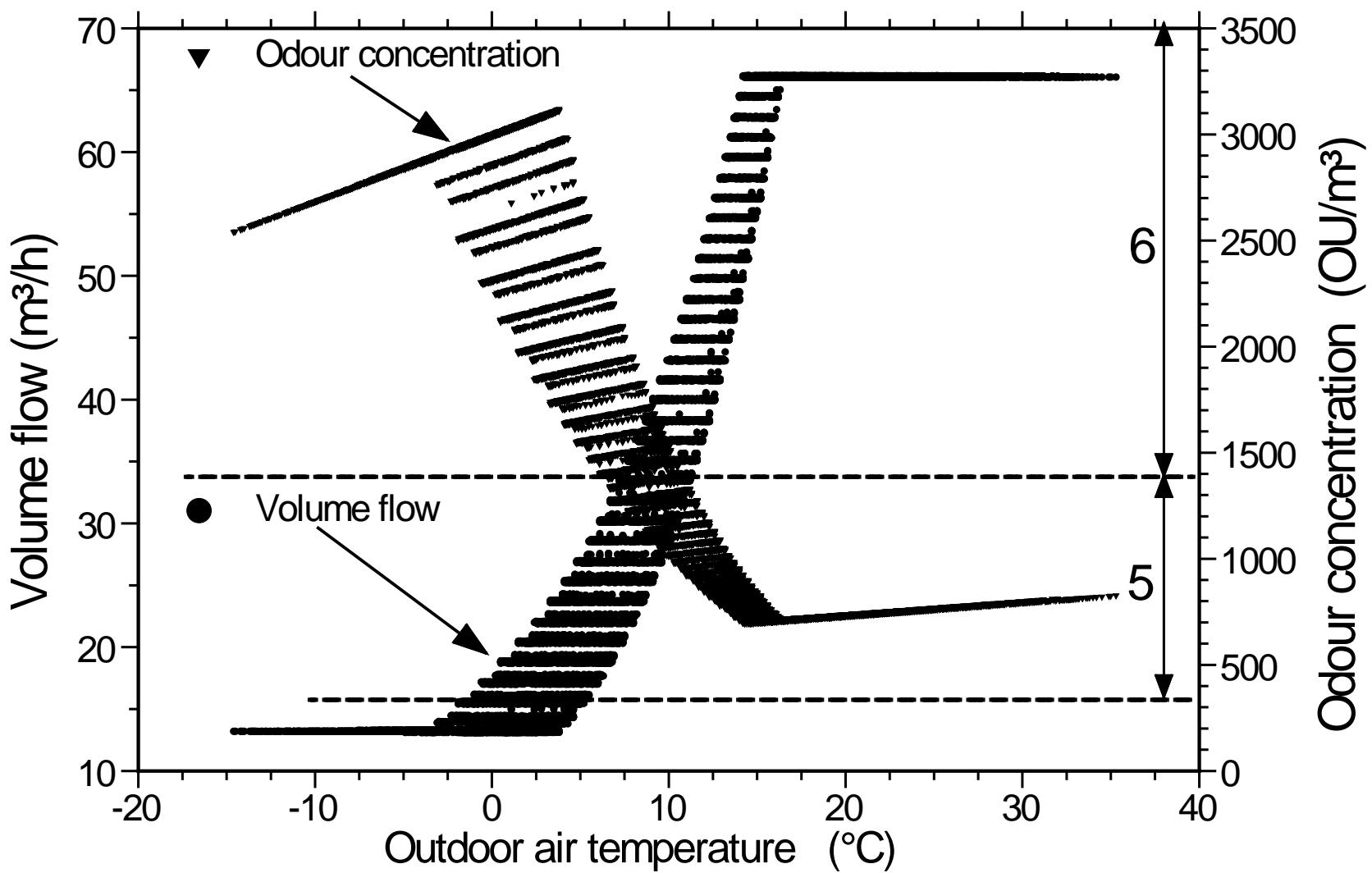
odour ~ annoyance

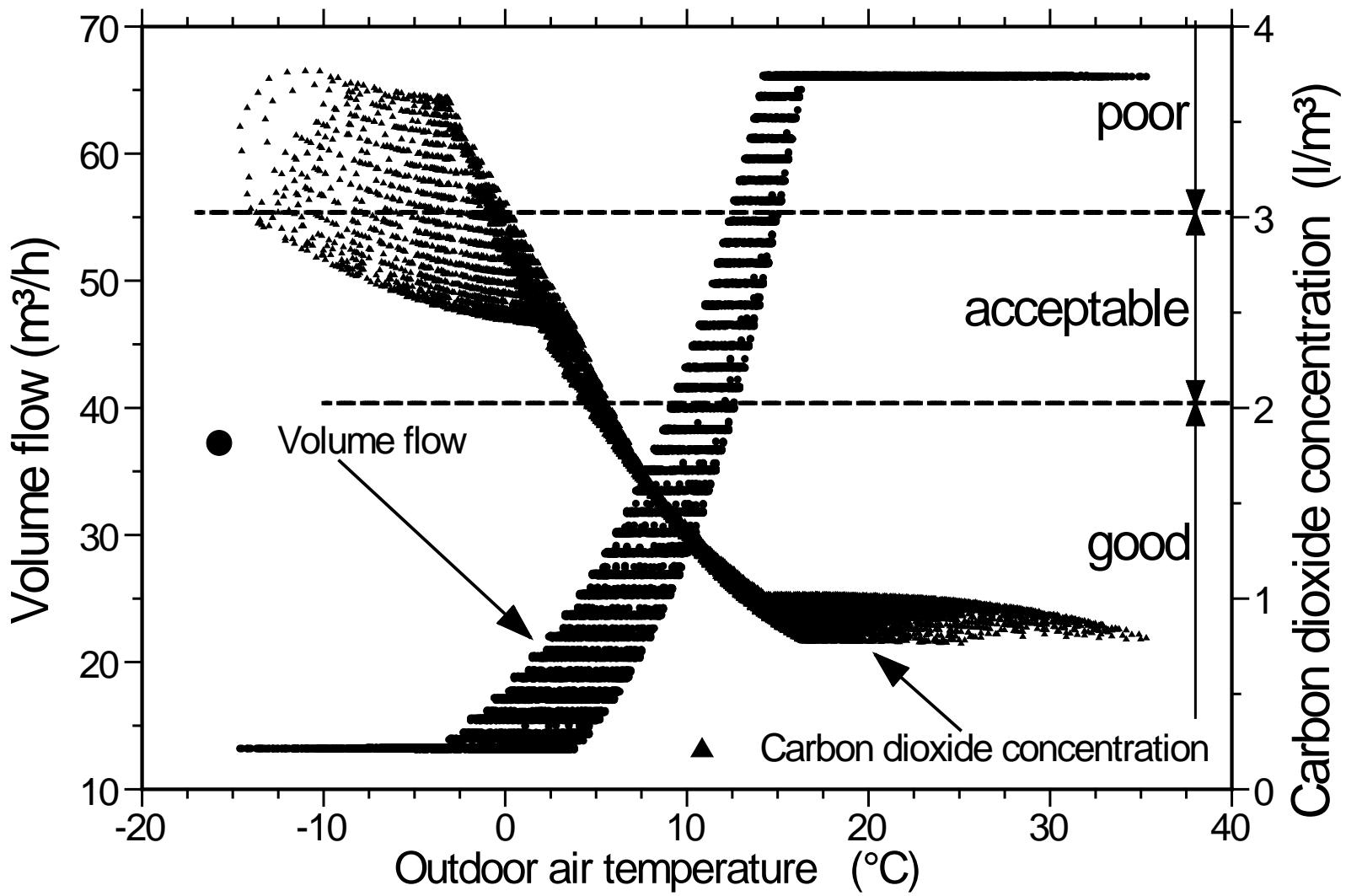


Thermal indoor climate

Indoor temperature	Relative humidity F (%)			Sum
	< 50	50 - 70	> 70	
$T_i > 20^\circ\text{C}$	12.6	10.5	3.9	27.0
$16^\circ\text{C} \leq T_i \leq 20^\circ\text{C}$	1.4	16.0	39.0	57.4
$T_i < 16^\circ\text{C}$	0	0	16.6	16.6
Sum	14.0	26.5	59.5	100

Optimum





Impact on animals

Holistic indices

THI ~ combination of Temp and rel. Humidity
exceedance of a threshold for selected parameters

Performance / welfare / health measures

Daily weight gain

Feed conversion ratio

laying performance, milk production, mortality

? Welfare measures

? Health measures (~ need of medication)

Model application

Climate change: impact on livestock

Business as usual ~ assessment of the resilience
Adaptation measures ~ cost / benefit
Vulnerability and adaptive capacity

Climate change: impact on the environment

CH_4 ~ not relevant for pig and poultry
 CO_2 ~ GHG
 NH_3 ~ precursor for PM, eutrophication
odour ~ separation distance to avoid annoyance

Thank you for your attention !

