

# Energy cost models for air supported sport hall in cold climates considering energy efficiency

Authors: Natasa Nord\*, Hans Martin Mathisen, Guangyu Cao

Affiliations:

<sup>1</sup>Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Department of Energy and Process Engineering, NO-7491 Trondheim, Norway

\*E-mail address: [natasa.nord@ntnu.no](mailto:natasa.nord@ntnu.no). Phone number: (+47) 73593338.

## Abstract

The aim of the study was to develop models for energy planning for air supported sport hall by analyzing different energy efficiency possibilities. This is a very specific building type suitable for sport activities in cold climates. The observed hall was operated when outdoor temperature was under 5°C, while the most common measured indoor air temperature was 8°C during the year. Neither indoor nor outdoor temperature influenced the overpressure. Based on the measurements, the specific annually heating energy use was 75 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. The results showed that improvement in the hall insulation would not give a significant effect on the heating use. The analysis of energy efficiency measures showed that air recirculation has the greatest effect on total energy use and the air recirculation could give an energy saving of 27 % when 50 % of the indoor air was recirculated. The results might be used to calculate heating energy demand for different operation scenarios in the air supported halls. The results give a simple tool to size the heating coil in the AHU and for energy planning for similar halls. The study gave very specific and unique data on energy use in sport halls in cold climate.

Keywords: air supported sport hall, energy efficiency, air recirculation, energy planning, cold climate

## 1. Introduction

Air supported hall is a specific construction where overpressure in the hall has to be kept to maintain the hall height. A sport hall is usually built with a plastic cover and insulation. This type of construction may be used for sport facilities in the cold climates to afford a long training season for outdoor sports such as football, golf, running, or some other activities. In addition to these sport activities, the sport hall could be used for some other

35 activities such as social gathering, a temporary cinema, or military training. These other  
36 activities usually requires a higher indoor temperature in the hall than for the sport activities.  
37 The air supported hall can afford to people in the cold climates to train outdoor sports all over  
38 the year. However, there is a few references on the energy use or operation of these sport  
39 facilities. A similar problem regarding insufficient information and lack of consistent data  
40 about building energy use in general is pointed out in [1].

41 Energy use in sports halls can be very different from ordinary buildings such as  
42 residential or office buildings. The Norwegian statistics show that the total specific annual  
43 energy use in offices and commercial buildings may vary from 200 to 250 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> [2], where  
44 the exterior wall U-value might be from 0.18 to 0.5 W/m<sup>2</sup>K. Energy use in sport facilities may  
45 be influenced by many factors that are not directly technical parameters. Therefore, it may not  
46 be acceptable to use the basic assumptions of building energy use for these sport buildings.  
47 For example, operation time and type of activities may have great influence on energy use in  
48 the sport halls. Therefore, it is important to analyze energy use in the sport halls for a proper  
49 analysis.

50 Sport halls in Greece use less than 100 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> per year [3]. However, climate is  
51 much warmer in Greece than Norway and it might cause that the sport halls in Greece have  
52 much lower heating demand and higher cooling demand. Therefore, it could be concluded  
53 that a higher energy use might be expected in the sport halls located in Norway. In the  
54 research work of the Centre for Sport Facilities and Technology [4], energy use in the  
55 swimming pools in Norway is analyzed. Swimming halls are a very different building type  
56 than the air supported sport hall, but their energy use could give a theoretical maximum on  
57 energy use in the sport facilities. They found out that the swimming halls may use from 2 000  
58 up to 7 000 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>ws (water surface) [5]. In the work of Nord and Sjøthun, it was found that  
59 two Norwegian sport halls built in 1967 and 2003 have the specific total annual energy use of  
60 1 600 and 230 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>, respectively. Both examples show possibility to decrease energy use  
61 by 30 % [6]. An air supported sport hall in Trondheim consists of three handball courts and  
62 occupied 2 718 m<sup>2</sup> [7]. This hall is covered with two-layer cover with insulation which gives  
63 U-value of 3.05 W/m<sup>2</sup>K [8]. The indoor temperature in this hall is maintained at the minimum  
64 of 16°C. The total annual district heating use was 583 324 kWh in 2012. Monthly distribution  
65 of the district heating use and monthly average outdoor temperatures are given in Figure 1.  
66 Based on the presented facts, the total annual specific heating use was 215 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>, while the  
67 average annual outdoor temperature was 5°C.

68

69 Figure 1. District heating use in the air supported sport hall in Trondheim, Norway

70 To decrease energy use in the air supported construction, air recirculation might be a  
71 good energy efficiency measure. Air recirculation can be calculated in terms of the proportion  
72 of return air in the total supplied airflow. Proportions of recirculated air as high as 80 - 90 %  
73 are common in North America, whereas, in Finland, they are usually between 30 - 70 % [9].  
74 To get an acceptable living environment, a minimum ventilation rate of  $0.5 \text{ h}^{-1}$  is  
75 recommended in Finland and other EU countries [10]. For example, 70 % recirculated air  
76 accompanied by an adequate intake of outdoor air can be used without causing adverse effects  
77 [9]. Another study also reported that the potential energy saving of 8.3 – 28.3 % may be  
78 achieved with acceptable indoor air quality (IAQ) by increasing recirculated air [11]. One  
79 recent study developed a local demand control ventilation solution, which may save 40 – 50  
80 % supply air in the system by using recirculated air [12]. Table 1 gives a summary of energy  
81 saving potentials and consequences on IAQ and indoor environment quality (IEQ) by using  
82 recirculated air or return air in buildings.

83

84 Table 1. Energy saving potentials and consequences on IAQ and IEQ

85

86 The above information found in the literature and examples together with the data  
87 collected from the observed hall in Mo i Rana, Norway, were useful information to calibrate  
88 the simulation model.

89 To enable easy energy planning, renting, and design, it is necessary to have available  
90 tools and methods for energy use prediction based on the driving variables. In that way, a  
91 building operator or building owner could budget the energy cost and plan building activities.  
92 For example, principle component analysis is used to identify important variables of energy  
93 use in low energy office building. In this study the outdoor temperature and heating system  
94 operation parameters are identified as important and may be used to describe heating energy  
95 use [13]. In the work of Hens, simple linear regressions between daily or monthly heating use  
96 and outdoor temperature show good fitting results reliable for a further analysis [14]. In this  
97 study, linear regression was used to derive simple tool for energy planning and hall design.

98 The aim of the study was to analyze different energy efficiency possibilities for the air  
99 supported sport hall in Mo i Rana, North Norway. Further, the aim was to analyze  
100 possibilities to achieve a higher and more stable hall temperature. The study also estimated  
101 energy use when the hall would operate longer and the hall temperature would be higher.  
102 Total annually and daily energy use were also calculated considering sensitivity of the results.  
103 In addition, the real time indoor environment and energy measurements were analyzed in this

104 study. More than one year of the detail operation data were analyzed in this study. All these  
105 data were combined to give suggestions for heat supply sizing and energy planning for the air  
106 supported sport hall. Since the air supported hall is a typical construction, the results of this  
107 study could be treated as general and could be used in for other similar constructions.

108

## 109 **2. Methods**

110 To analyze energy use in the air supported sport hall, documentation from the  
111 observed hall, together with the real-time measurements, and simulation were used.  
112 *EnergyPlus* was used as a simulation tool. The real-time measurements and documentation  
113 were used to calibrate the simulation model. *EnergyPlus* is based on the most popular features  
114 and capabilities of BLAST and DOE-2, it includes many innovative simulation capabilities  
115 such as time steps of less than an hour, modular systems, and plant integrated with heat  
116 balance-based zone simulation, multizone air flow, thermal comfort, and photovoltaic  
117 systems. *EnergyPlus* has been verified and used for many studies related to energy use.

118 Modeling of pressure level is based on simplified equations for pressure drop and  
119 pressure differences. Nevertheless, the results can still show trends for the pressure level in a  
120 hall. These results for pressure levels are not equal to the real hall measurement, but can be  
121 still used as guide values to show trends.

122 The model calibration was performed by using data from the hall documentation and  
123 by introducing several operation scenarios.

124

## 125 **3. Air supported sport hall**

126

### 127 *3.1 Sport hall description*

128 In this Section basic information about the hall, the hall operation, and the hall  
129 construction are given. Importance and meaning of this information for the simulation model  
130 and the analysis are also briefly explained in the text.

131 Figure 2 and Figure 3 show two photos of the air supported sport hall, which is a full-  
132 scale football court and has a ground area of 120 x 95 m. The highest point of the roof is at 28  
133 m above the floor. The hall can be considered as one of the biggest in Europe of this type [8].  
134 The hall has been used for football, golf, and different training activities of the pupils. The  
135 stands can receive 650 people. The floor consists of sand and artificial grass over the sand. In  
136 addition to the football court, the hall contains changing and storage room. With changing  
137 room is meant all the rooms used for changing such as showering and meeting rooms.

138 Changing room, storage, and other rooms occupied an area of 75 x 12 m. Therefore, an area  
139 of 11 400 m<sup>2</sup> was used for the further simulation and result presentation, where the changing  
140 room takes 900 m<sup>2</sup>.

141

142

143 Figure 2. Interior of the air supported sport hall in Mo i Rana, Norway

144

145

146 Figure 3. Facade of the air supported sport hall in Mo i Rana, Norway

147

### 148 *3.2 Energy service system description*

149 The air supported sport hall is connected to the district heating network in Mo i Rana  
150 with a heat exchanger of 580 kW. Originally a bigger heat exchanger of 1 300 kW was  
151 planned. The idea was that 1 050 kW would be used for heating of the hall and 250 kW for  
152 heating of the changing rooms. The hall is warmed up with the ventilation air that was blown  
153 directly into the hall. The air is warmed up by a heating coil. Air handling unit (AHU) has one  
154 fan that ensured sufficient pressure in the hall. It is necessary to provide sufficient  
155 overpressure in the hall so that the hall can stand as planned. An average overpressure in the  
156 hall should be about 250 - 310 Pa to keep the hall stand. Practically it is possible to keep the  
157 hall stands with the lowest overpressure of approximately 175 Pa and a maximum  
158 overpressure of 620 Pa [15].

159 Floor heating was installed in the changing rooms. Floor heating and showers were  
160 also connected to the district heating. The changing rooms had own ventilation plant with 100  
161 % air from the hall. There was no heat recovery for this ventilation plant.

162 The lighting system in the hall consisted of 144 light points in the roof, where each of  
163 them has 1 000 W. The entire lighting system is rarely in use, usually a part of the lighting  
164 points were in use. For example, under an usual training during the working day about 30  
165 light points were in use. During the tournaments about 62 % of the all the lighting points were  
166 in use. The full lighting implied that about 92 % of the all the lighting points were in use.  
167 Base on this information the internal load from the lighting system were modeled.

168 The AHU for the hall consisted of a supply fan and a heating coil as shown in Figure  
169 4. In the documentation was found that the air flow rate through the fan was 18 m<sup>3</sup>/s and  
170 installed fan power rate was 22.371 kW. In the AHU there was a possibility for the air  
171 recirculation as shown in Figure 4. However, this possibility had not been used. The reason

172 for that was a risk that the overpressure would be low to keep the hall stands. Therefore,  
173 within this study energy savings by using heat recovery was analyzed.

174

175 Figure 4. Sketch of the air handling unit

176

### 177 3.3 Modelling of the sport hall

178 Figure 5 shows the geometry of the simulation model. The construction of the hall  
179 consisted of the insulation cover that has pockets with the fiber insulation. The hall producer  
180 guaranteed the U-value of  $0.406 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$ . Due to some issues during the construction phase, a  
181 lower U-value was achieved of  $0,473 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$  [16]. This U-value was used in the simulations.  
182 Several cold bridges were introduced at the connection lines between the insulation covers.  
183 The simulation models were calibrated with a U-value for the cold bridges of  $5.8 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$ . The  
184 geometry of the simulation model is shown in Figure 5. Cold bridges can be observed as thin  
185 lines in the hall roof in Figure 5.

186

187

Figure 5. Simulation model

188 Based on the hall geometry, the model was developed with a covering area of  $18\,200$   
189  $\text{m}^2$ . To model that the part of the construction had lack of insulation, it was assumed that  $14.2$   
190 % of the total cover was without insulation. An U-value of  $5.474 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$  was assumed for the  
191 cover without the insulation. This U-value was obtained when the fiber insulation was  
192 removed from the envelope construction.

193 Data about the operation time of the hall were crucial to model properly the energy use  
194 of the hall. On the yearly level, the hall was in operation from November until May. During  
195 working days, the hall is open before noon for three hours on Monday, Wednesday, and  
196 Friday for the school pupils. About 45 persons were present in the hall before noon. Further,  
197 during working days from 3:30 p.m. till 10:30 p.m. the hall was open for training and public.  
198 About 100 to 120 people were present in the hall in the afternoon. During weekend,  
199 tournaments were organized and the hall was in use from 9 a.m. till 7 p.m. at Saturdays and  
200 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. at Sundays. In total about 650 people might be present in the hall. The  
201 above facts were used to develop schedules and models for the internal loads from the  
202 occupants in the hall. It was important to make difference between the athletes and the public,  
203 because the athletes had light clothes and trained hard, while the public had more cloth and  
204 was in a sitting position. Both the athletes and the public were modeled in *EnergyPlus*.

205 The weather data of the year 2010 for Mosjøen, Norway, were used for the simulation,  
206 which was the nearest place with the available data on the Internet in Norway[17]. The data  
207 were converted to produce an EPW weather input file for the *EnergyPlus* model. The outdoor  
208 temperature used for the simulation is shown in Figure 6, where a line at 5°C is introduced to  
209 indicate difference between warmer and colder period.

210

211 Figure 6. Outdoor temperature for the simulation model

212

#### 213 4. Results

214 The aims of the study were: to analyze possibilities for energy efficiency in the air  
215 supported sport hall, possibilities to increase the indoor temperature, and to define key  
216 numbers important for the energy cost models. To provide these, a huge analysis was  
217 performed starting from the model calibration till analyzing different energy efficiencies  
218 scenarios. In this section, the results on energy and real time measurement, the model  
219 calibration, energy efficiency, and effects on the hall energy planning and design are  
220 presented.

##### 221 4.1. Energy use measurements

222 More than a year of energy measurement data were analyzed. The most important  
223 conclusions and key number are presented here. Some additional issues with the energy  
224 measurement important for the model calibration are also discussed. Energy measurements on  
225 electricity and district heating use were obtained.

226 The measurements on the electricity use appeared to be too low compared to the  
227 installed power rate of the fan and light. For example, the analysis of the electricity use  
228 showed a specific annual electricity use of 2.1 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. Comparing that with the installed fan  
229 power rate of 22.371 kW operating entire year and assuming an average fan load of 50 %, it  
230 appeared that the fan electricity use should be about 98 MWh or 8.6 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. Due to these  
231 big difference between the measured electricity use and installed power, the nominal value of  
232 the installed fan power rate were used to calibrate the model.

233 The district heating measurements showed an annual specific heating use of 75  
234 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. Comparing this with the before mentioned air supported sport hall in Trondheim,  
235 using 215 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> of district heating, the heating use in the analyze hall was lower. To recall  
236 the hall in Trondheim had an indoor temperature of 16°C, while the hall in Mo i Rana had  
237 8°C, see Figure 7. In addition, the hall in Mo i Rana was better insulated with a U-value of  
238 0.473 W/m<sup>2</sup>K comparing with the U-value of 3.05 W/m<sup>2</sup>K in the hall in Trondheim. Since the

239 value of the district heating use appeared to correspond well with the values found in other  
240 studies, it was used for the model calibration.

241

#### 242 4.2. *Measured indoor temperature and pressure in the sport hall*

243 The indoor environment and energy measurements in the hall were important for the  
244 model calibration. More than one year of the detail operation data were analyzed. Some of the  
245 most important measurements and conclusions are presented in this section. The analyzed air  
246 supported sport hall had building energy management system (BEMS). Figure 7 shows the  
247 temperature measurements over one year period.

248

249 Figure 7. Temperature measurements in the hall

250 The measurements of the indoor temperature shows that the most common indoor  
251 temperature was 8°C. Further, these measurements showed that with the increase of the  
252 outdoor temperature, the indoor temperature was increasing too. By analyzing BEMS  
253 measurement on the air handling unit, it was difficult to find a reliable relation between the  
254 supply and indoor air temperature. However, a trend was identified that when the supply  
255 temperature is increasing up to 20°C, the indoor temperature was increasing as well.  
256 Increasing of the supply temperature up to 50 or 60°C did not give any effect on the increase  
257 of the indoor temperature. These high supply air temperatures might be the result of the  
258 system dynamic, for example immediately after the heating coil start. These measurements  
259 and trends were important for modeling of the air handling unit and control.

260 Height of the hall was measured at three locations: mid-point, South point, and North  
261 point. All the obtained measurements are organized and presented in Figure 8. Results  
262 showed that the hall height could be kept in a large range of the overpressure from 300 Pa to  
263 550 Pa. This conclusion from Figure 8 was important for the further study about the air  
264 recirculation. If the hall height could be kept in a large range of the overpressure value, than  
265 the change in the overpressure due to air recirculation would not influenced a lot the hall  
266 height.

267

268 Figure 8. Hall height vs. overpressure in the hall

269



#### 270 4.3. *Energy performance and model calibration*

271 The aim of the model calibration was to find a reference model that could be used in  
272 the energy efficiency analysis and for energy planning. Further, the model calibration study  
273 could show a possible range on energy use in the analyzed hall. Previously mentioned  
274 information on the hall construction, district heating energy use, and operation data were  
275 reliable to be used for the calibration. The air heating system of the hall was turned on when  
276 the outdoor temperature was lower than 5°C. The calibration was performed by introducing  
277 different scenarios where the most unsure parameters were changed. All the calibration  
278 scenarios were summarized in Table 2. For Calibration 1 in Table 2, collected data explained  
279 in Section 3 were used. This meant that for Calibration 1 a flow rate of 18 m<sup>3</sup>/s was assumed.  
280 For other calibration scenarios, lower air flow rates were chosen. The air pressure rise over  
281 the fan were chosen based on the fan characteristic.

282 Table 2. Calibration scenarios

283  
284 A summary of the specific annual heating use for all the calibration scenarios is given  
285 in Figure 9. In addition, the annual average indoor temperature in the hall is given in Figure 9.

286  
287 Figure 9. Calibration summary

288 The results in Figure 9 showed a trend that was noted by the hall operator, at low air  
289 flow rate, 6 m<sup>3</sup>/s, the indoor temperature decreased. Further the results showed that a possible  
290 heating energy use could be in the range from 53 to 115 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. Comparing these values  
291 with the measured district heating of 75 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>, it could be concluded that the assumed  
292 calibration scenarios in Table 2 were reasonable for the further analysis. Since Calibration 1  
293 was based on the collected data, it was used as a reference scenarios to estimate energy  
294 efficiency possibilities in the hall.

#### 296 4.4. *Energy efficiency measure in the sport hall*

297 The following energy efficiency measures were tested for the air supported sport hall:  
298 improvement of the hall insulation and recirculation of the indoor air. Table 3 gives a  
299 summary of the parameters that could decrease the heating energy use. As part of the hall  
300 lacked the insulation cover, this lack was estimated to be about 14.2 % of the total cover area.  
301 With the scenario of ‘All insulation’, it was assumed that there was no lack in the insulation.  
302 Further models were estimate by including the air recirculation with different percent of the  
303 outdoor air such as 80 %, 70 % and 50 %. These values were chosen to avoid decrease of the

304 hall overpressure and to maintain a satisfied IAQ. Similar values were suggested in the  
305 literature.

306 Table 3. Energy efficiency measures

307

308 Figure 10 shows the total annual specific district heating use for different energy  
309 efficiency measures. Due to uncertainties about the recirculation and supply air temperature  
310 control, additional simulations were performed to estimate the uncertainty in the results. The  
311 uncertainty in the results on the energy efficiency measures are also shown in Figure 10 as  
312 vertical variation lines.

313

314 Figure 10. Summary of energy efficiency measures on the district heating demand

315 The results in Figure 10 showed that the air recirculation gave the biggest reduction in  
316 the heating use. Improvement of the insulation that there was no lack in the cover insulation  
317 would give barely 1 % in district heating savings. The simulation model was also tested for  
318 different insulation possibilities, but improvement in the insulation did not give a significant  
319 decrease in the heating use of the hall. The air recirculation gave an energy saving of almost  
320 27 % by circulating 50 % of the indoor air. Similar energy saving possibilities are found in  
321 [11, 18, 19]. Similarity between the simulation results and results from the literature gave a  
322 high fidelity in the presented results for the further decision making and energy planning,  
323 thereby can be treated as general and valid for other studies.

324 Further analysis on additional simulation results on increase in the indoor temperature  
325 and extension of the operation time were also performed. It was interesting to perform this  
326 part of the analysis, because the increased indoor air temperature together with the extended  
327 operation time would give a possibility to use the hall for other activities. The most important  
328 results are brief discussed. The results showed that the extended operation time would  
329 increase the average annual indoor temperature for about 0.6 K. Extended operation time and  
330 increased indoor temperature could increase the average annual indoor temperature for about  
331 1.2 K. In total, the increase in the indoor air temperature and extended operation time would  
332 increase the district heating use for more than 40 % annually. However, if 50 % of the indoor  
333 air was recirculated, the specific district heating use would still be lower than with 100 % of  
334 the outdoor air and short operation time. This means that the air recirculation and longer  
335 operation time are favorable for the indoor air temperature. Further the analysis with  
336 introducing a decentralized heating coil of 500 kW was performed too. The results showed  
337 that the total specific annual heating energy use including the additional heating coil would be  
338 121 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> with 50 % outdoor air and 198 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> with 100 % outdoor air. These values

339 are higher than with the central air heating through the heating coil in the AHU. The  
340 decentralized heating coil could increase the temperature in the hall, but at the same time it  
341 would increase the total heating energy use. The reason for this is that the heating coil is  
342 decentralized equipment and could be control based on the user needs, not centrally.

343

#### 344 *4.5. Energy cost model and sport hall design*

345 The aim of this part of the study was to give key numbers that could help for energy  
346 planning, renting the hall, and hall design. To develop this tool, all the results from the daily  
347 simulation related to the heating use, heating rate, and indoor temperature were organized and  
348 analyzed. As shown before, the heating coil in the AHU was using most of the district  
349 heating. Therefore, the further results are given considering only heating and heating rate for  
350 the heating coil. The results on daily heating demand could be used for energy planning and  
351 renting the hall. Figure 11 shows heat demand and heating rate at different outdoor  
352 temperatures with a share of 100 % and 50 % outdoor air. When the outdoor temperature was  
353  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the heating rate would be 810 kW. As the hall only had a heat exchanger of 580 kW,  
354 which resulted in a low temperature during cold days. The results in Figure 11 and previous  
355 discussion proved that the model calibration was correct and that the results could be treated  
356 as general and valid for other studies. If the recirculation of the 50 % of the indoor air was  
357 implemented, a heating coil of about 413 kW would be necessary to warm up the hall.

358

359 Figure 11. Daily heating demand at 100 % and 50 % outdoor air

360 Figure 12 and Figure 13 show the trends of heat demands and heating rate for different  
361 operation scenarios. The functions in Figure 12 show the heat demand in kWh/day, the y-axis  
362 is presented with MWh for the effectiveness of the presentation. One may use these functions  
363 in combination with the district heating price to estimate the renting cost of the hall. Figure 13  
364 is a simple chart to choose the necessary heating coil in the AHU and the heat exchanger for  
365 the connection to the district heating system. Figure 13 may be used as a tool to design similar  
366 air supported hall considering different indoor air temperatures and the share of air  
367 recirculation.

368

369

370 Figure 12. Daily heat demand at different operation scenarios

371

372

373 Figure 13. Heat rate at different operation scenarios

374

## 375 **5. Discussion**

376 As mentioned in Introduction, it was difficult to find reliable data on energy use of air  
377 supported sport halls. Therefore, it is necessary to estimate the validity of the presented  
378 results. Monthly heating use was available for the air supported hall in Trondheim, see Figure  
379 1. Heating energy use data were available in our study, see Section 4.1. Monthly heating use  
380 versus outdoor temperature for different measurements and simulation scenarios are given in  
381 Figure 14. The results of this analysis showed that the sport hall in Trondheim had the  
382 steepest line, indicating a low U-value and higher indoor temperature than in the analyzed  
383 hall. The hall in Mo i Rana was better insulated. This resulted in a less steep line in Figure 14.  
384 Introducing the air recovery with a share of 50 % outdoor air would give a less steep line and  
385 thereby less dependent heat demand on the outdoor temperature. Calibration 5 gave the lowest  
386 heat use in Figure 14 and the less steep line. To recall, Calibration 5 implied only an air flow  
387 rate of 6 m<sup>3</sup>/s, which induced the lowest indoor air temperature, see Figure 9.

388

389

390

Figure 14. Monthly heating use versus outdoor temperature

391

392 Since the comparison of different halls and simulation results in Figure 14 looks  
393 soundly, it could be concluded that the presented results in this study are general and valid for  
394 other studies.

394

## 395 **6. Conclusions**

396 The aim of the study was to develop models for energy planning for air supported  
397 sport hall by analyzing different energy efficiency possibilities in cold climate. Further, the  
398 aim was to analyze possibilities to achieve a higher and more stable hall temperature.

399 The observed hall in Mo i Rana had a lower annual specific heating energy use of 75  
400 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>, comparing the air supported sport hall in Trondheim that used 215 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> of  
401 heating energy. The energy efficiency analysis showed that improvement of the insulation had  
402 no significant effect on the district heating use. The air recirculation has the greatest effect on  
403 energy efficiency. The 50 % of the air recirculation could result in an energy saving of 27 %.  
404 The recirculation of the indoor air would not influence much the overpressure in the hall.  
405 However, the recirculation of the indoor air might cause decreasing of the overpressure in the  
406 hall.

407 40 % increase in specific annual district heating use could be expected when indoor  
408 temperature and operation time were increased. However, if 50 % of the indoor air is  
409 recirculated, the specific district heating use would still be lower than with 100 % of the  
410 outdoor air and short operation time. This means that it is worth to combine extended  
411 operation time with higher indoor temperature and the recirculation of the indoor air. It is  
412 possible to achieve higher and more comfortable indoor temperature with the 50 % indoor air  
413 recirculation. Higher indoor temperatures without recirculation would require a twice higher  
414 heating energy use. In addition, higher temperature would require almost a twice bigger  
415 heating rate to be installed in the hall. The simulation results were similar to the values of  
416 energy use and energy savings potential of the sport halls found in [6, 11, 18, 19].

417 Trends for the heating and heating rate demand were obtained for different operation  
418 scenarios. The functions may be used to estimate the heating energy demand with different  
419 operation scenarios, which may be useful to calculate the daily energy cost and design the  
420 heating system of the hall. This means that the functions are a simple tool to calculate the size  
421 of the heating coil in the AHU for similar halls.

422

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427

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## Tables

Table 1. Energy saving potentials and consequences on IAQ and IEQ

References	Portion of the recirculated air	Energy saving potential	IAQ and IEQ
Jaakkola et al. [9]	70 %	-	No (accompanied by an adequate intake of outdoor air)
Chao and Hu [11]	-	8.3 – 28.3%	IAQ is acceptable (>90% occupants)
Naumov et al. [12]	100 m <sup>3</sup> /h	40 – 50 % (air saving)	Acceptable microclimate
Aziz et al. [13]	-	70 %	Drying process
Chakroun et al. [14]	40 %	37 %	CO <sub>2</sub> concentration less 600 ppm
Liang et al. [15]	Return air dynamic control	27.8 %	Acceptable room air temperature
Hirunlabh et al. [16]	15 %	24 %	Drying room air

Table 2. Calibration scenarios

Scenario	Parameters
<b>Calibration 1</b>	Air flow rate = 18 m <sup>3</sup> /s Air pressure rise over the fan = 900 Pa Air heating period: Oct. 15th till May 10th
<b>Calibration 2</b>	Air flow rate = 18 m <sup>3</sup> /s Air pressure rise over the fan = 900 Pa Air heating period: Dec. 1st till May 1st Lower temperature in the changing rooms
<b>Calibration 3</b>	Air flow rate = 10 m <sup>3</sup> /s Air pressure rise over the fan = 1 350 Pa Air heating period: Oct. 15th till May 10th
<b>Calibration 4</b>	Air flow rate = 10 m <sup>3</sup> /s Air pressure rise over the fan = 1 350 Pa Air heating period: Dec. 1st till May 1st
<b>Calibration 5</b>	Air flow rate = 6 m <sup>3</sup> /s Air pressure rise over the fan = 1 500 Pa Air heating period: Oct. 15th till May 10th

Table 3. Energy efficiency measures

<b>Scenario</b>	<b>Parameters</b>
<b>All insulation</b>	All insulation Air flow rate = 18 m <sup>3</sup> /s – 100 % outdoor air, no recirculation
<b>All insulation and 80 % outdoor air</b>	All insulation Air flow rate = 18 m <sup>3</sup> /s – min 80 % outdoor air, with recirculation
<b>All insulation and 70 % outdoor air</b>	All insulation Air flow rate = 18 m <sup>3</sup> /s – min 70 % outdoor air, with recirculation
<b>All insulation and 50 % outdoor air</b>	All insulation Air flow rate = 18 m <sup>3</sup> /s – min 50 % outdoor air, with recirculation

Note: Air pressure rise over the fan = 900 Pa; Air heating period: Oct. 15th – May 10<sup>th</sup>; Set temperature for the recirculation was equal as the supply air temperature 20°C in the changing rooms



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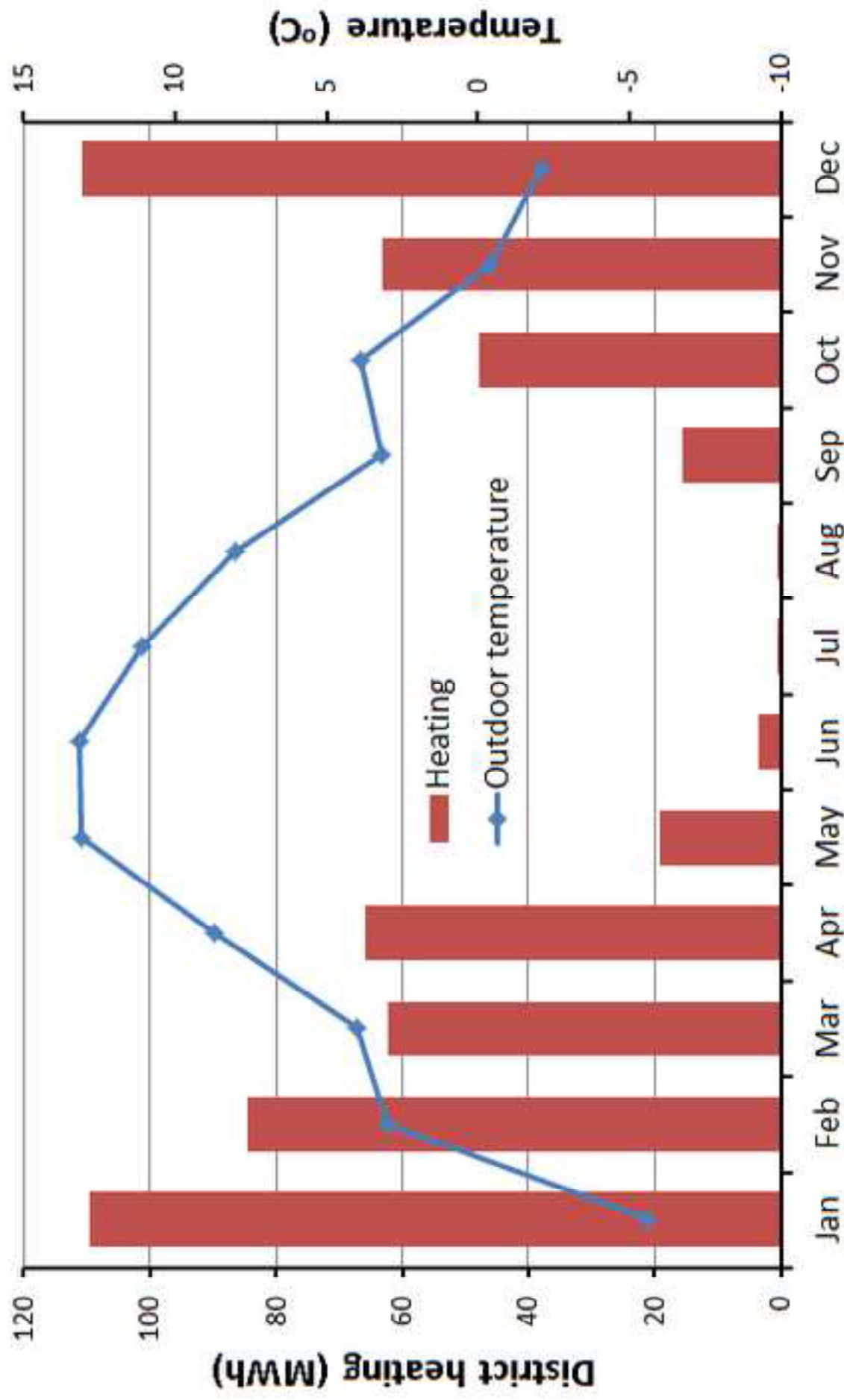


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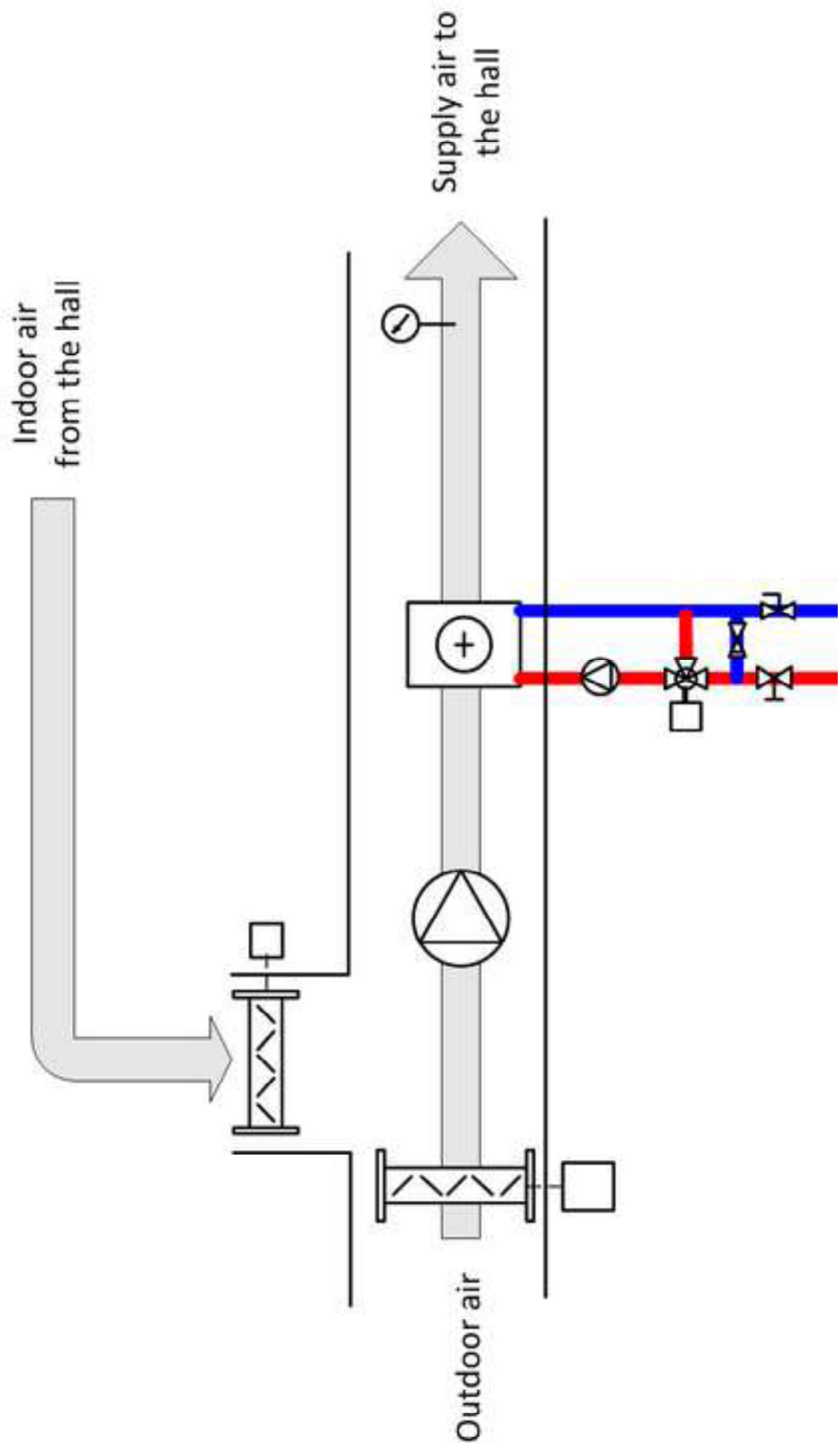


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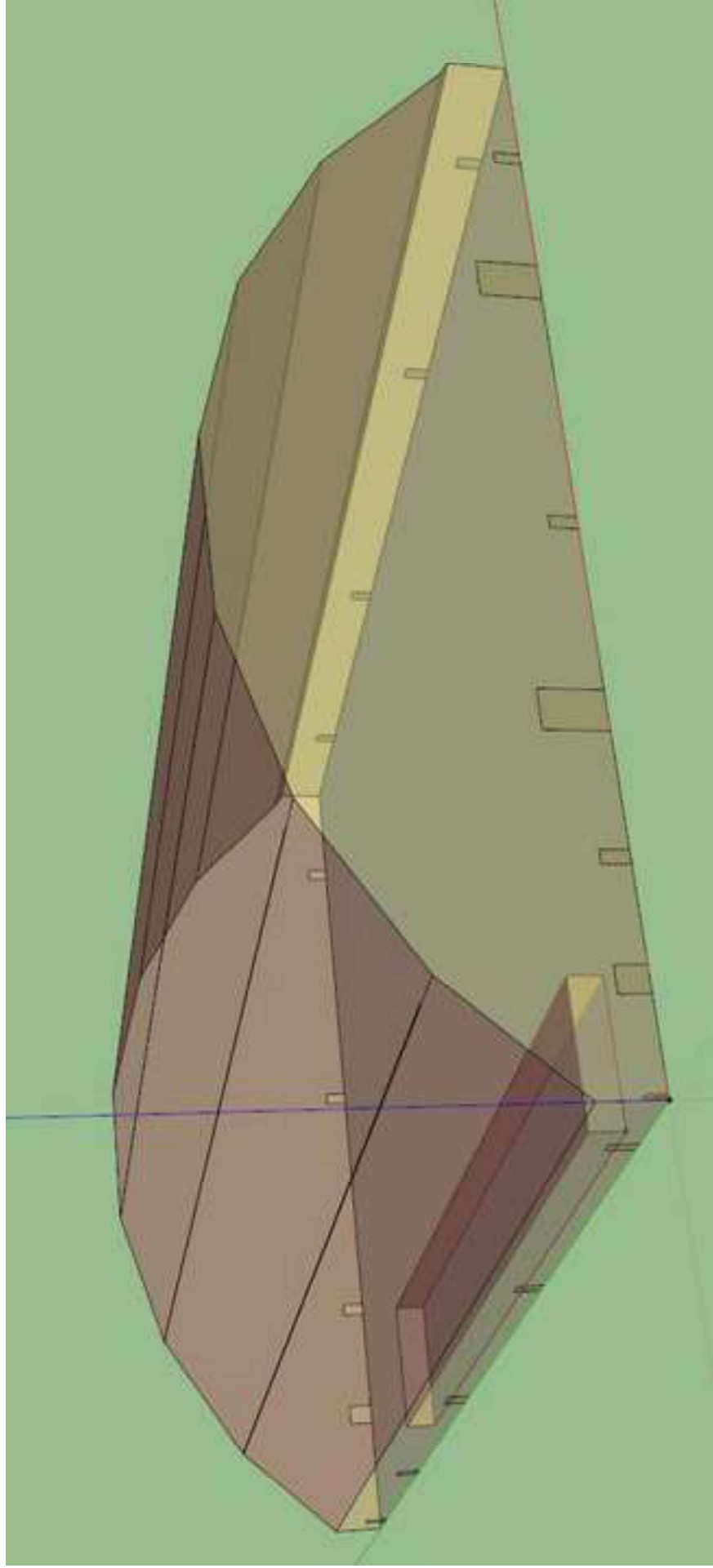


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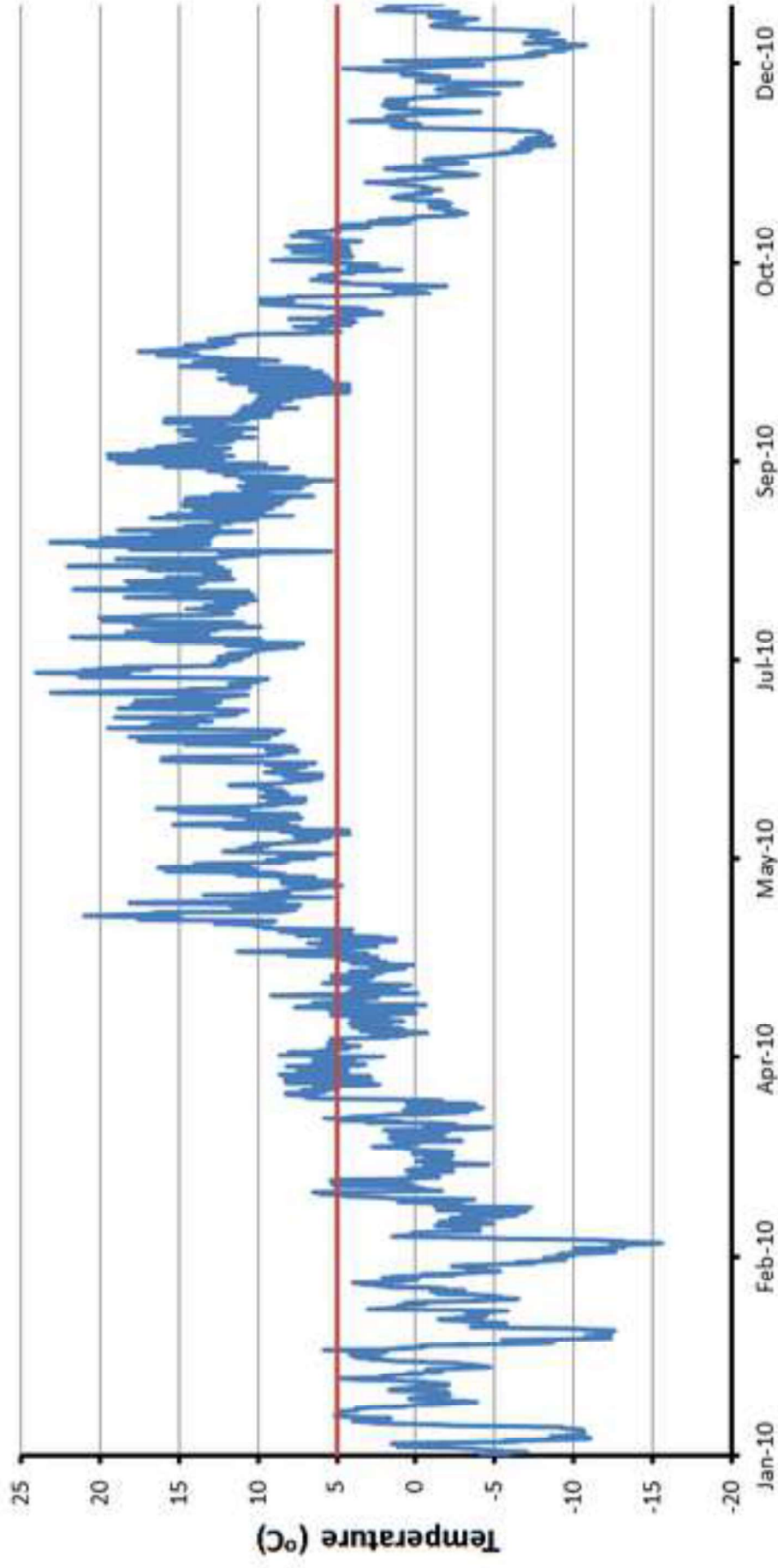


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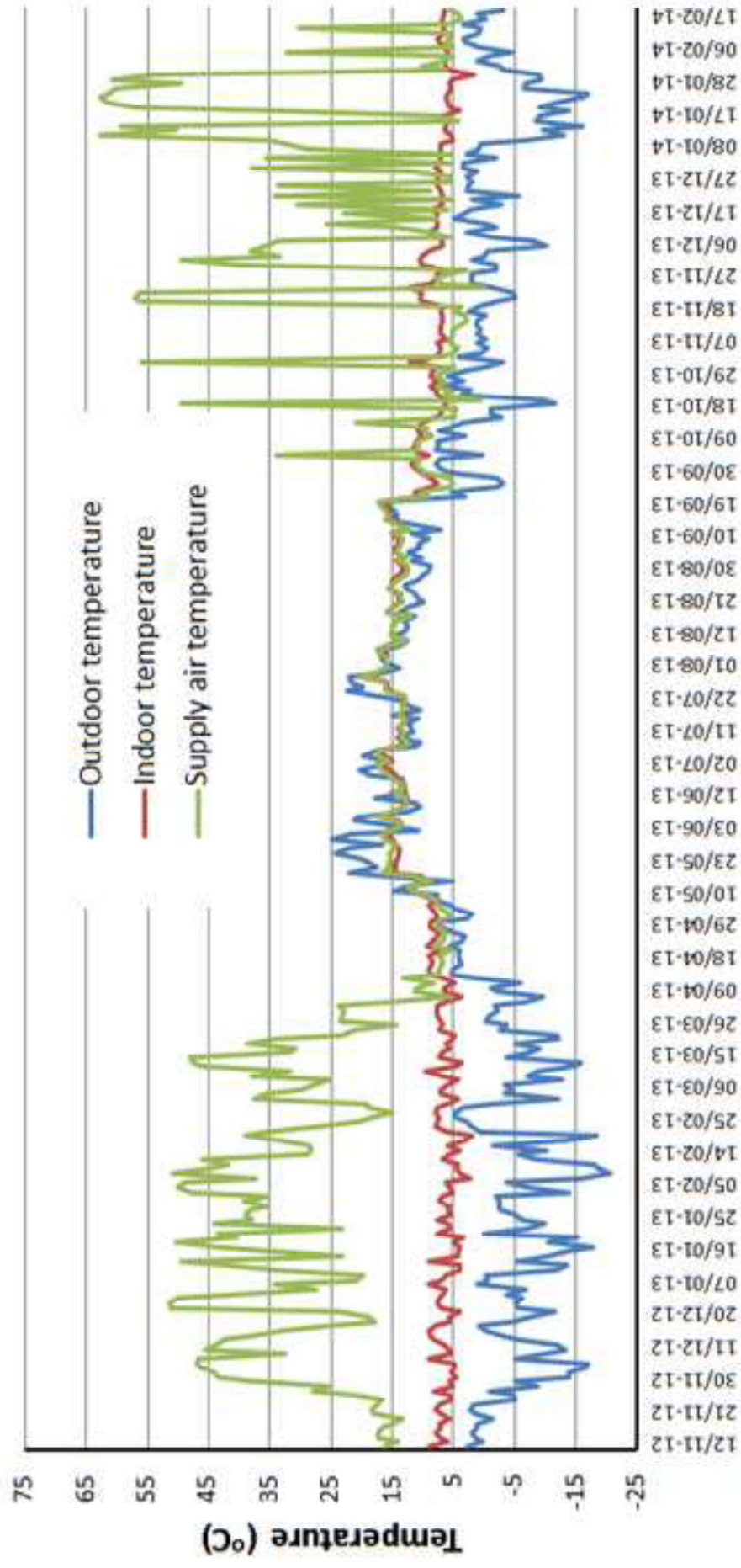


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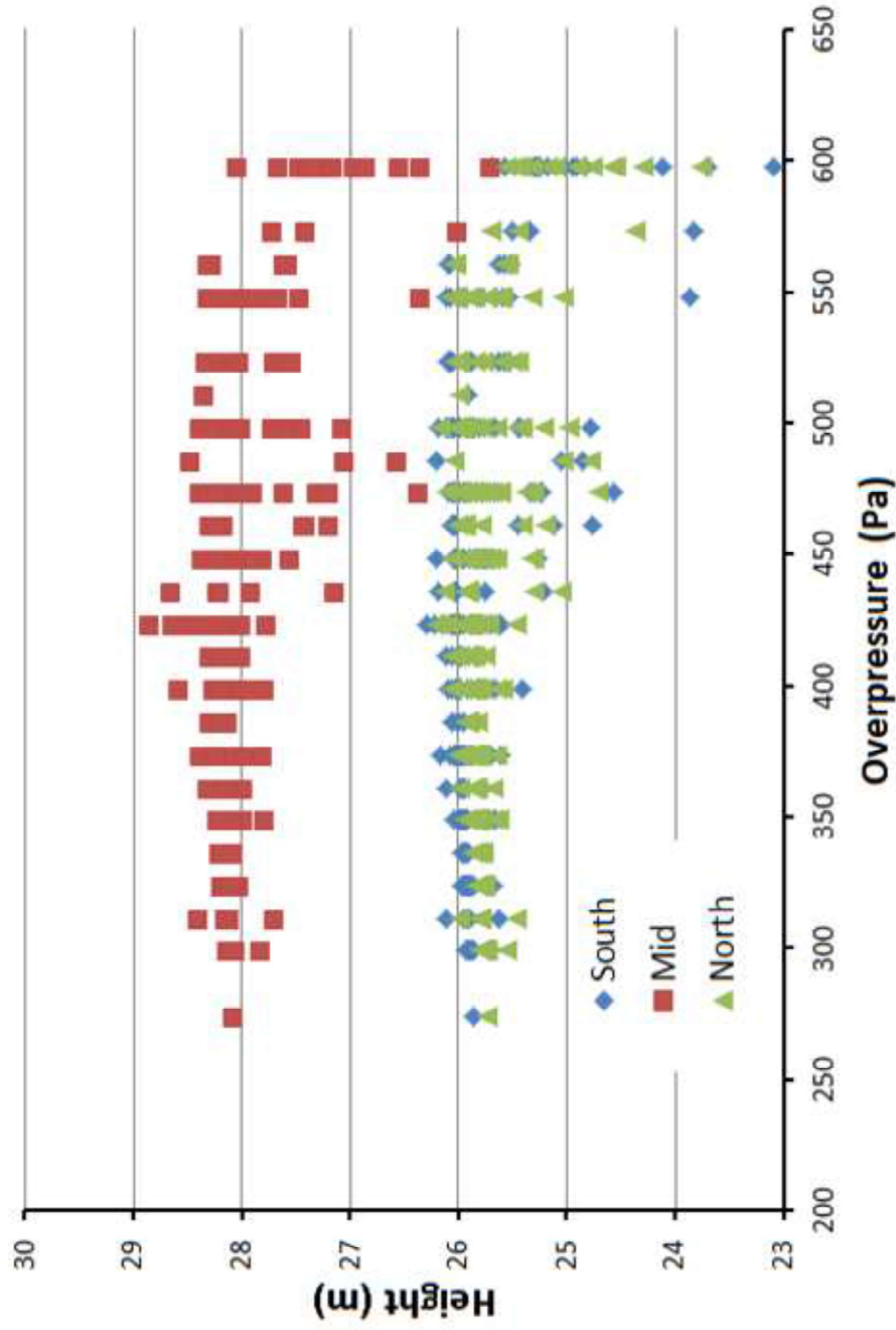




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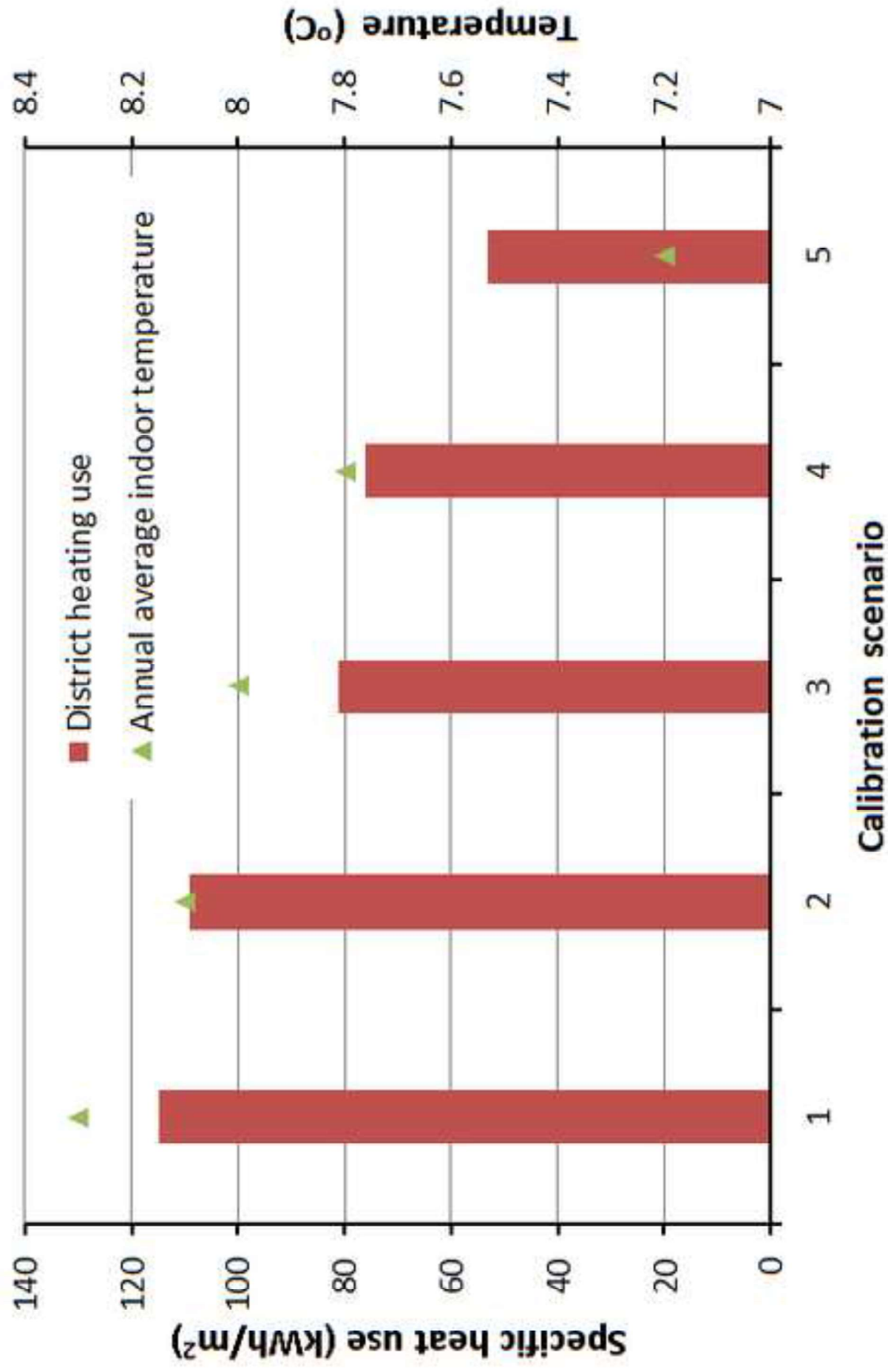


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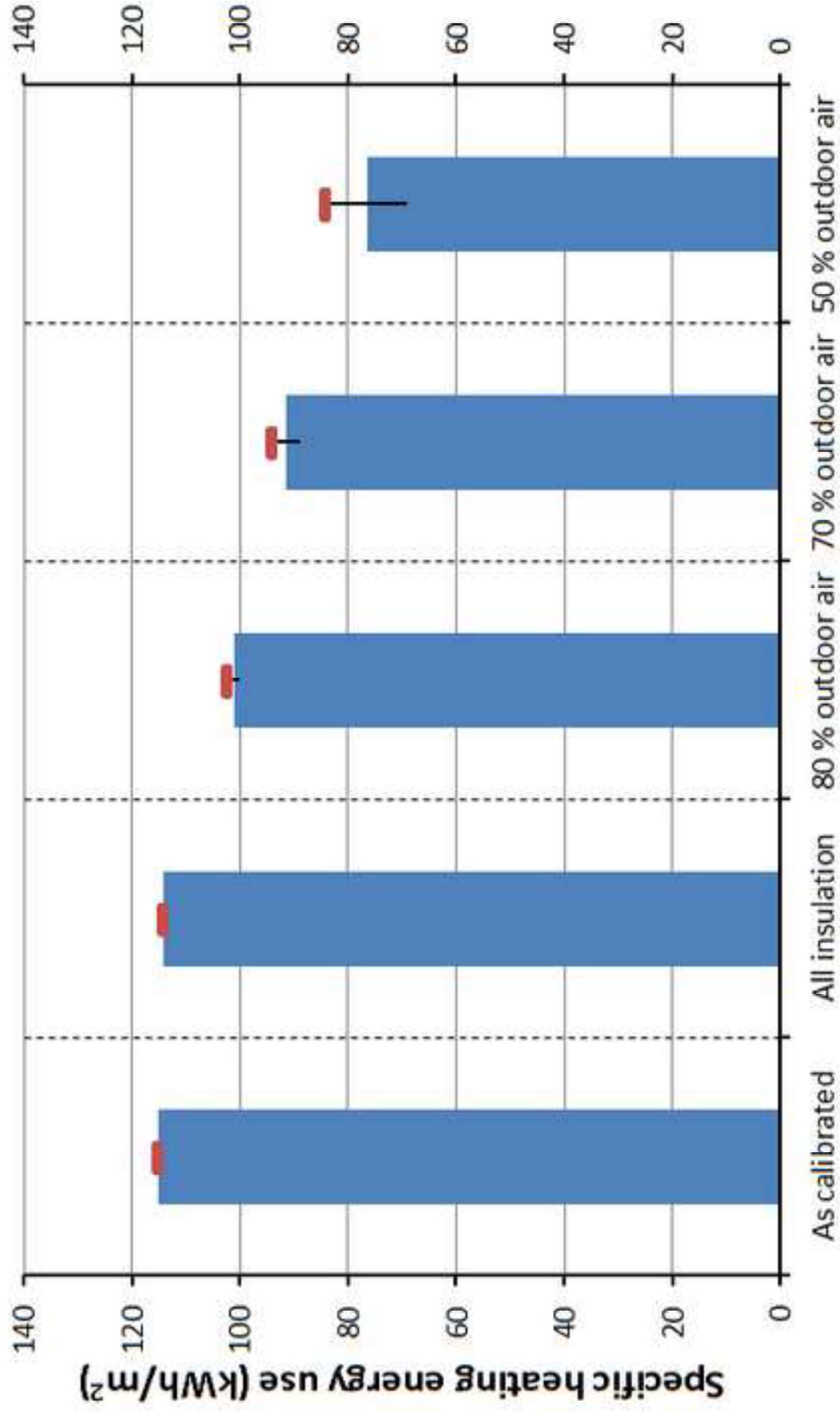


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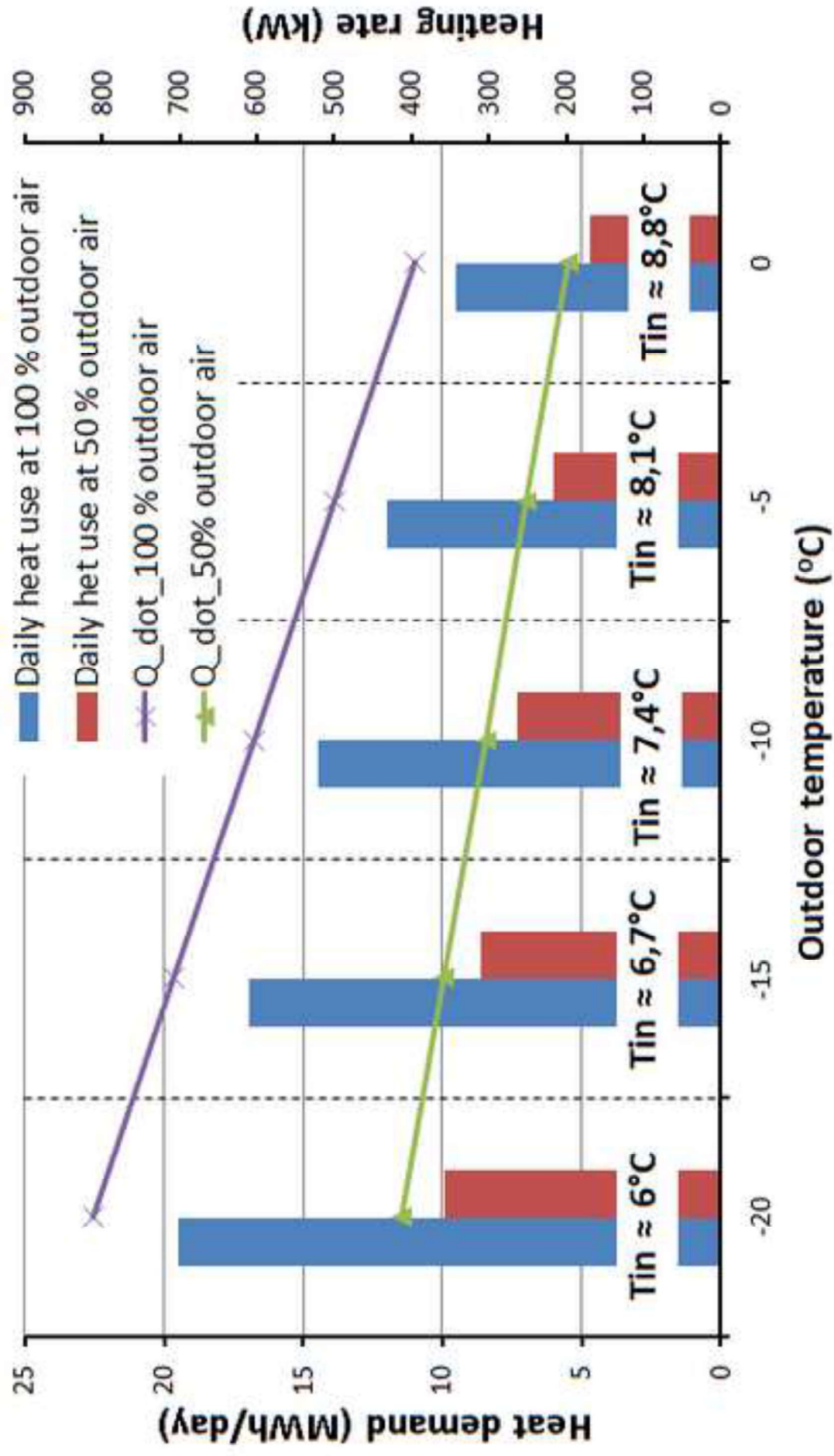


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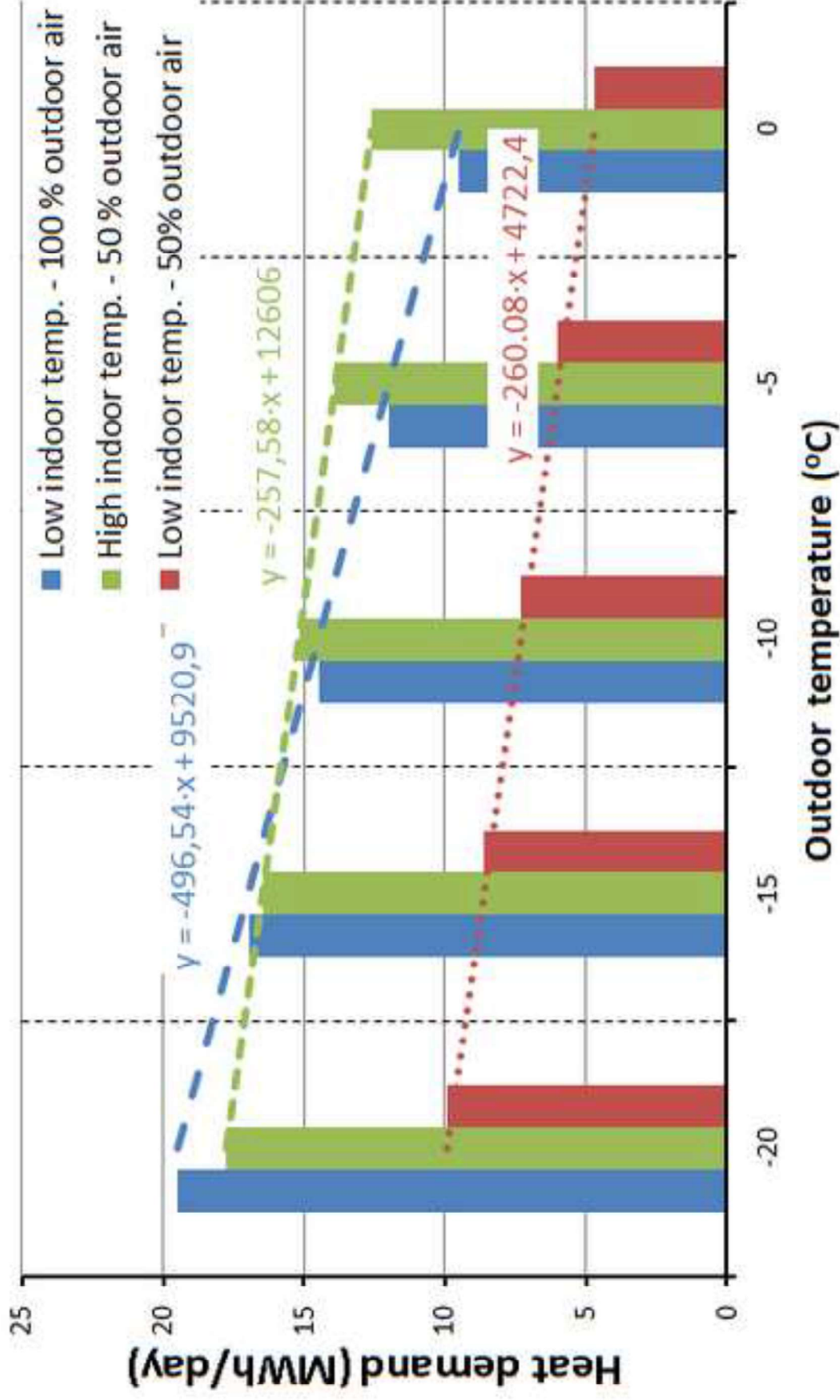


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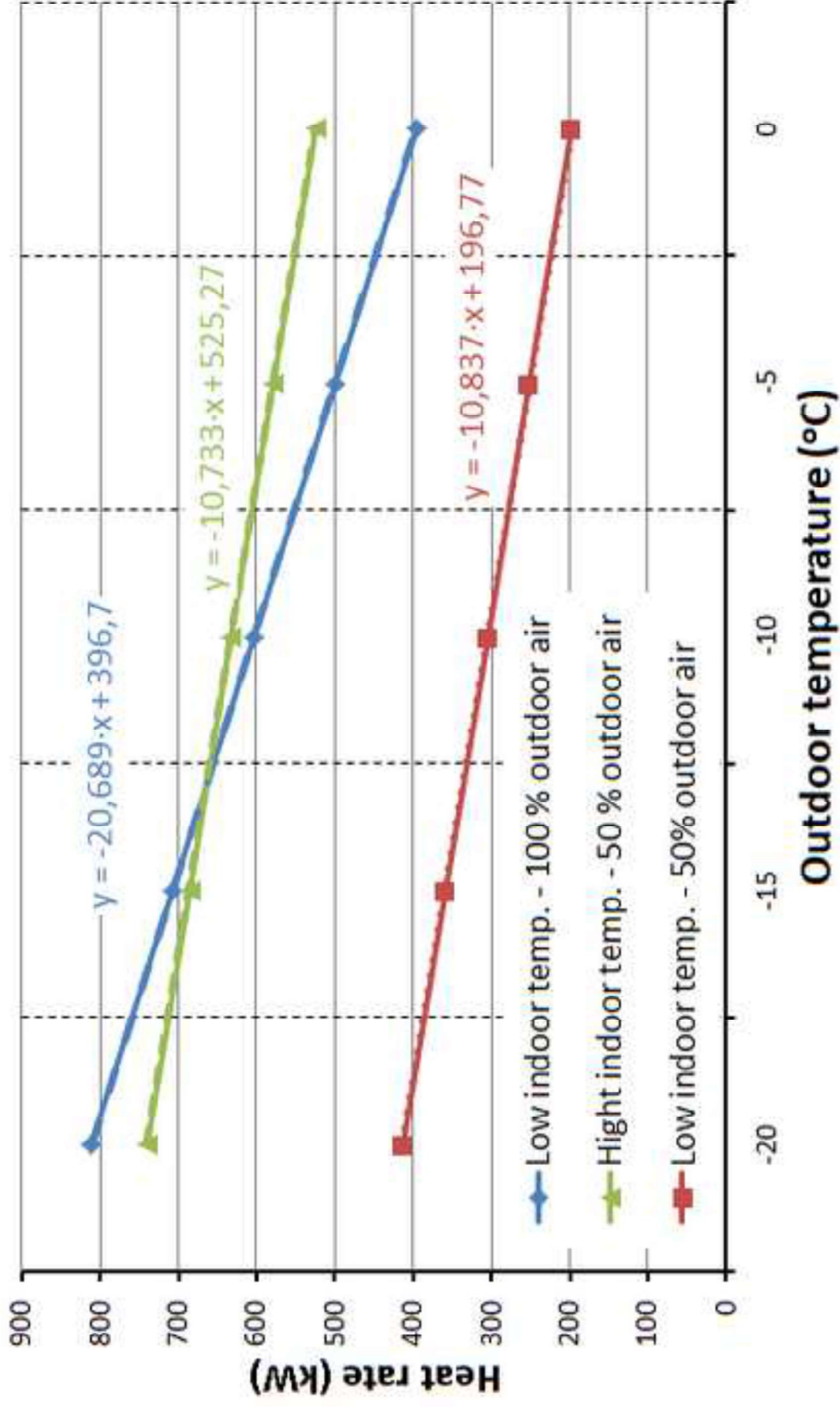


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