Thermal bridges in building construction — Heat flows and surface temperatures — Detailed calculations

Ponts thermiques dans les bâtiments — Flux thermiques et températures superficielles — Calculs détaillés
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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 10211 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 163, Thermal performance and energy use in the built environment, Subcommittee SC 2, Calculation methods.

This first edition of ISO 10211 cancels and replaces ISO 10211-1:1995 and ISO 10211-2:2001, which have been technically revised.

The principal changes are as follows:


— Clause 3 indicates that ISO 10211 now uses only temperature factor, and not temperature difference ratio;

— 5.2.2 specifies that cut-off planes are to be located at the larger of 1 m and three times the thickness of the flanking element;

— 5.2.4 contains a revised version of Table 1 to correct error for three-dimensional calculations and to clarify intentions;

— 5.2.7 specifies that acceptable criterion is either on heat flow or on surface temperature; the heat flow criterion has been changed from 2 % to 1 %;

— 6.3 specifies that surface resistance values are to be obtained from ISO 6946 for heat flow calculations and from ISO 13788 for condensation calculations; the contents of Annexes E and G of ISO 10211-1:1995 have been deleted in favour of references to ISO 13788;

— 6.6 specifies that data for air cavities is obtained from ISO 6946, EN 673 or ISO 10077-2; the contents of Annex B of ISO 10211-1:1995 have been deleted in favour of these references;

— 10.4 contains text formerly in ISO 13370, revised to specify that linear thermal transmittance values for wall/floor junctions are the difference between the numerical result and the result from using ISO 13370 (a more consistent definition);

— Annex A contains corrections to results for case 3; the conformity criterion for case 3 has been changed from 2 % of heat flow to 1 %; a new case 4 has been added;

— Annex C contains a corrected procedure;

— all remaining annexes from ISO 10211-1:1995 and ISO 10211-2:2001 have been deleted.
Introduction

Thermal bridges, which in general occur at any junction between building components or where the building structure changes composition, have two consequences compared with those of the unbridged structure:

a) a change in heat flow rate, and
b) a change in internal surface temperature.

Although similar calculation procedures are used, the procedures are not identical for the calculation of heat flows and of surface temperatures.

A thermal bridge usually gives rise to three-dimensional or two-dimensional heat flows, which can be precisely determined using detailed numerical calculation methods as described in this International Standard.

In many applications, numerical calculations based on a two-dimensional representation of the heat flows provide results of adequate accuracy, especially when the constructional element is uniform in one direction.

A discussion of other methods for assessing the effect of thermal bridges is provided in ISO 14683.

ISO 10211 was originally published in two parts, dealing with three-dimensional and two-dimensional calculations separately.
Thermal bridges in building construction — Heat flows and surface temperatures — Detailed calculations

1 Scope

This International Standard sets out the specifications for a three-dimensional and a two-dimensional geometrical model of a thermal bridge for the numerical calculation of:

— heat flows, in order to assess the overall heat loss from a building or part of it;
— minimum surface temperatures, in order to assess the risk of surface condensation.

These specifications include the geometrical boundaries and subdivisions of the model, the thermal boundary conditions, and the thermal values and relationships to be used.

This International Standard is based upon the following assumptions:

— all physical properties are independent of temperature;
— there are no heat sources within the building element.

This International Standard can also be used for the derivation of linear and point thermal transmittances and of surface temperature factors.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 6946, Building components and building elements — Thermal resistance and thermal transmittance — Calculation method

ISO 7345, Thermal insulation — Physical quantities and definitions

ISO 13370:2007, Thermal performance of buildings — Heat transfer via the ground — Calculation methods

ISO 13788, Hygrothermal performance of building components and building elements — Internal surface temperature to avoid critical surface humidity and interstitial condensation — Calculation methods
3 Terms, definitions, symbols, units and subscripts

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 7345 and the following apply.

3.1.1 thermal bridge
part of the building envelope where the otherwise uniform thermal resistance is significantly changed by full or partial penetration of the building envelope by materials with a different thermal conductivity, and/or a change in thickness of the fabric, and/or a difference between internal and external areas, such as occur at wall/floor/ceiling junctions.

3.1.2 linear thermal bridge
thermal bridge with a uniform cross-section along one of the three orthogonal axes.

3.1.3 point thermal bridge
localized thermal bridge whose influence can be represented by a point thermal transmittance.

3.1.4 three-dimensional geometrical model
3-D geometrical model
geometrical model, deduced from building plans, such that for each of the orthogonal axes the cross-section perpendicular to that axis changes within the boundary of the model.

See Figure 1.

3.1.5 three-dimensional flanking element
3-D flanking element
part of a 3-D geometrical model which, when considered in isolation, can be represented by a 2-D geometrical model.

See Figures 1 and 2.

3.1.6 three-dimensional central element
3-D central element
part of a 3-D geometrical model which is not a 3-D flanking element.

See Figure 1.

NOTE A central element is represented by a 3-D geometrical model.

3.1.7 two-dimensional geometrical model
2-D geometrical model
geometrical model, deduced from building plans, such that for one of the orthogonal axes the cross-section perpendicular to that axis does not change within the boundaries of the model.

See Figure 2.

NOTE A 2-D geometrical model is used for two-dimensional calculations.

3.1.8 two-dimensional flanking element
2-D flanking element
part of a 2-D geometrical model which, when considered in isolation, consists of plane, parallel material layers.
3.1.9
two-dimensional central element
2-D central element
part of a 2-D geometrical model which is not a 2-D flanking element

3.1.10
construction planes
planes in the 3-D or 2-D geometrical model which separate different materials, and/or the geometrical model
from the remainder of the construction, and/or the flanking elements from the central element

See Figure 3.

3.1.11
cut-off planes
construction planes that are boundaries to the 3-D or 2-D geometrical model by separating the model from the
remainder of the construction

See Figure 3.

3.1.12
auxiliary planes
planes which, in addition to the construction planes, divide the geometrical model into a number of cells

3.1.13
quasi-homogeneous layer
layer which consists of two or more materials with different thermal conductivities, but which can be
considered as a homogeneous layer with an effective thermal conductivity

See Figure 4.

3.1.14
temperature factor at the internal surface
difference between internal surface temperature and external temperature, divided by the difference between
internal temperature and external temperature, calculated with a surface resistance $R_{si}$ at the internal surface

3.1.15
temperature weighting factor
weighting factor which states the respective influence of the temperatures of the different thermal
environments upon the surface temperature at the point under consideration

3.1.16
external boundary temperature
external air temperature, assuming that the air temperature and the radiant temperature seen by the surface
are equal

3.1.17
internal boundary temperature
operative temperature, taken for the purposes of this International Standard as the arithmetic mean value of
internal air temperature and mean radiant temperature of all surfaces surrounding the internal environment

3.1.18
thermal coupling coefficient
heat flow rate per temperature difference between two environments which are thermally connected by the
construction under consideration
3.1.19 **linear thermal transmittance**
heat flow rate in the steady state divided by length and by the temperature difference between the environments on either side of a thermal bridge

**NOTE** The linear thermal transmittance is a quantity describing the influence of a linear thermal bridge on the total heat flow.

3.1.20 **point thermal transmittance**
heat flow rate in the steady state divided by the temperature difference between the environments on either side of a thermal bridge

**NOTE** The point thermal transmittance is a quantity describing the influence of a point thermal bridge on the total heat flow.

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**Key**

- F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 3-D flanking elements
- C 3-D central element

**NOTE** 3-D Flanking elements have constant cross-sections perpendicular to at least one axis; the 3-D central element is the remaining part.

*Figure 1 — 3-D geometrical model with five 3-D flanking elements and one 3-D central element*
Key
F2, F3, F4, F5  3-D flanking elements
C  3-D central element
NOTE  F2 to F5 refer to Figure 1.

Figure 2 — Cross-sections of the 3-D flanking elements in a 3-D geometrical model treated as 2-D geometrical models

Key
C_x construction planes perpendicular to the x-axis
C_y construction planes perpendicular to the y-axis
C_z construction planes perpendicular to the z-axis
NOTE  Cut-off planes are indicated with enlarged arrows; planes that separate flanking elements from central element are encircled.

Figure 3 — Example of a 3-D geometrical model showing construction planes