

# THIN GLASS SANDWICH

*a thermal study of regular and semiregular  
tessellations used in bi-directional sandwiches*

MARC A.J. DEN HEIJER



RESISTANCE

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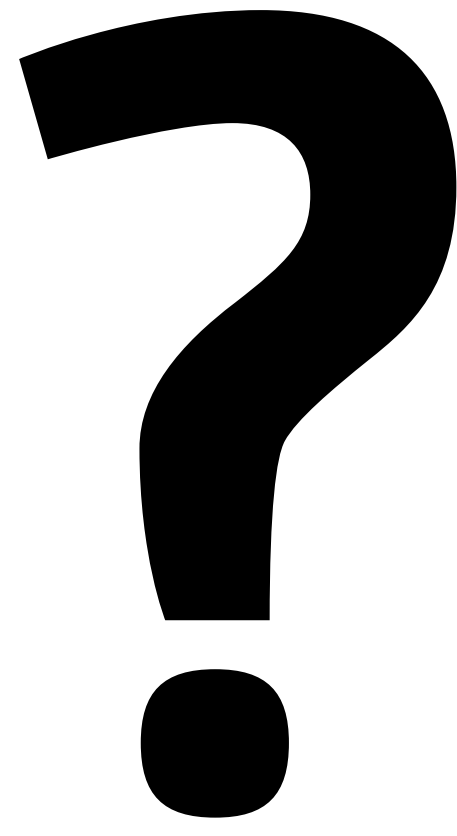
RESISTANCE

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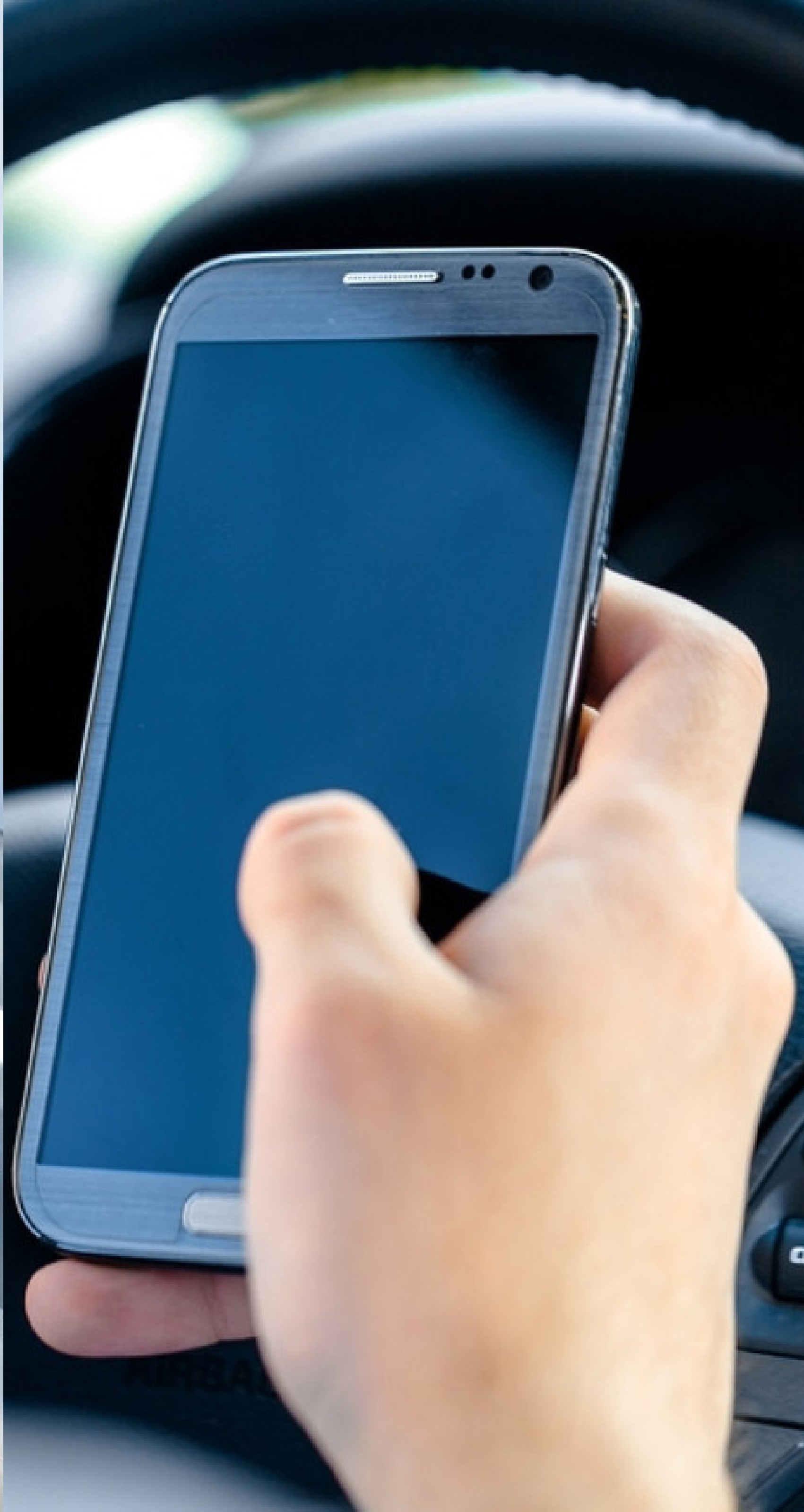
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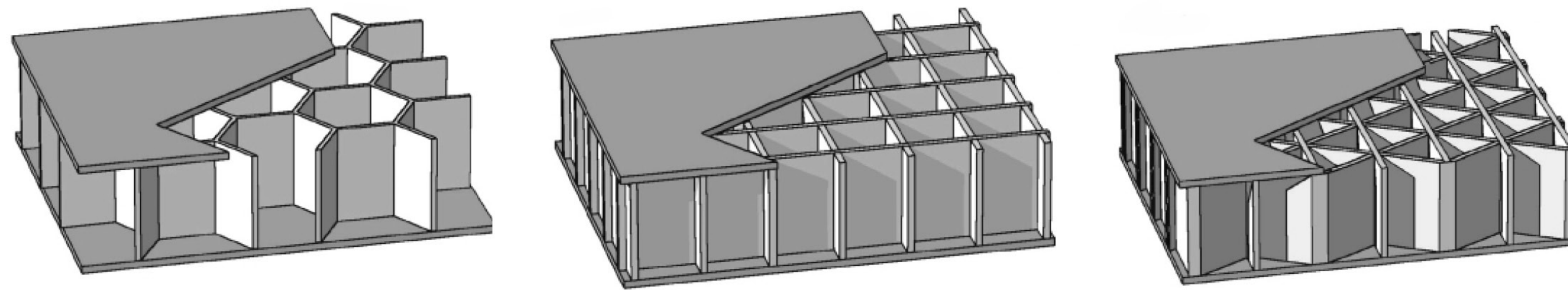
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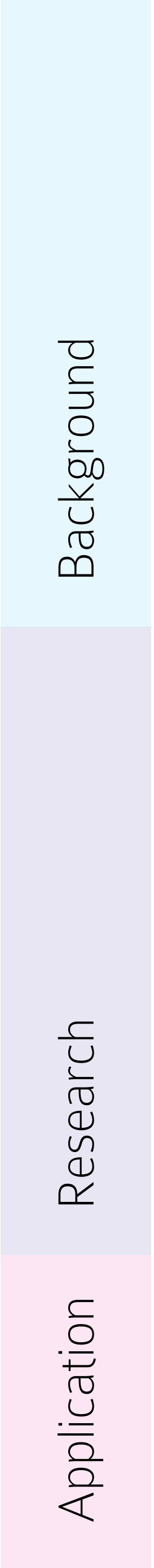




# **SANDWICH ELEMENTS**

Pingle et al. (2011)

**TO WHAT EXTENT CAN A THIN GLASS SANDWICH  
COUNTERBALANCE ITS DECREASED THERMAL PERFORMANCE  
BY REDUCING EMBODIED ENERGY DURING PRODUCTION?**



Literature review

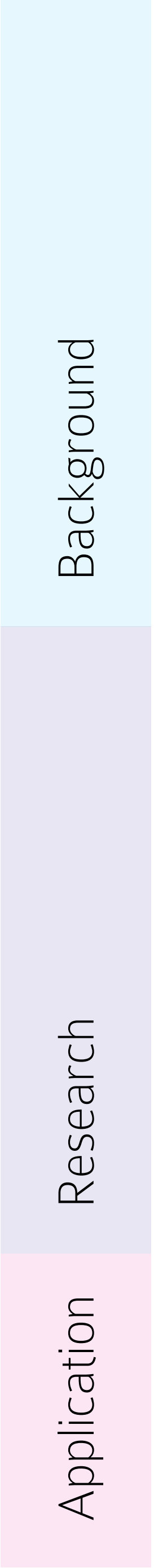
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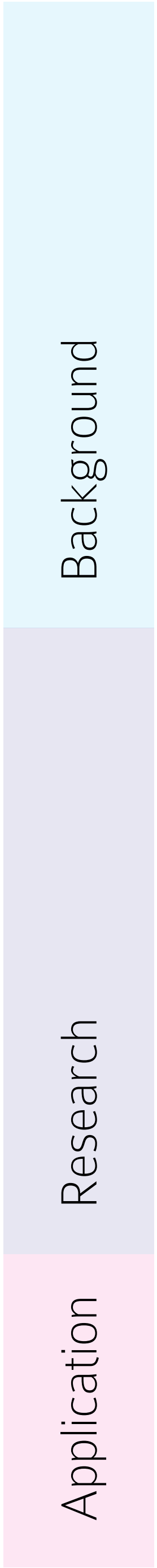
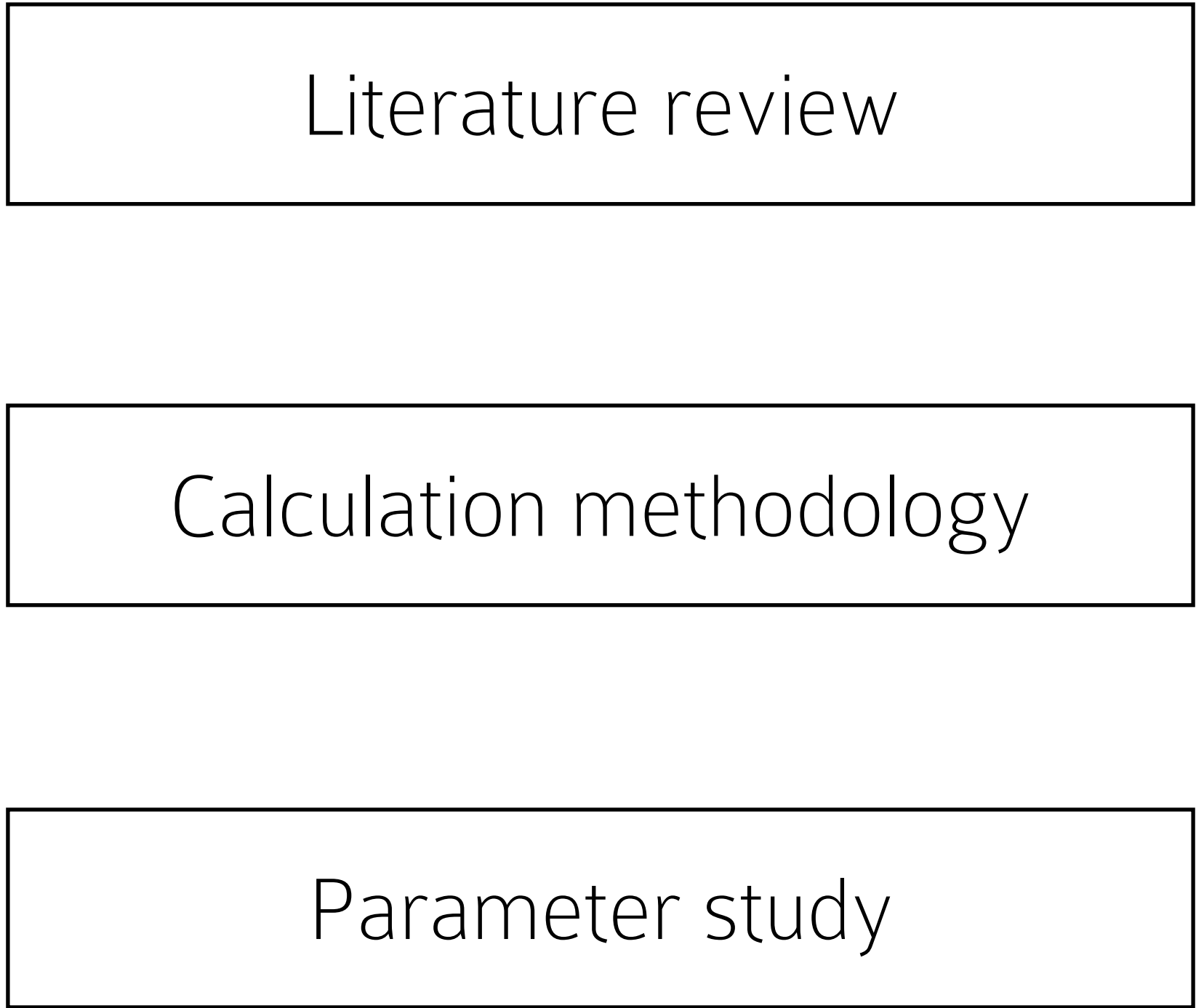
Research

Application

Literature review

Calculation methodology



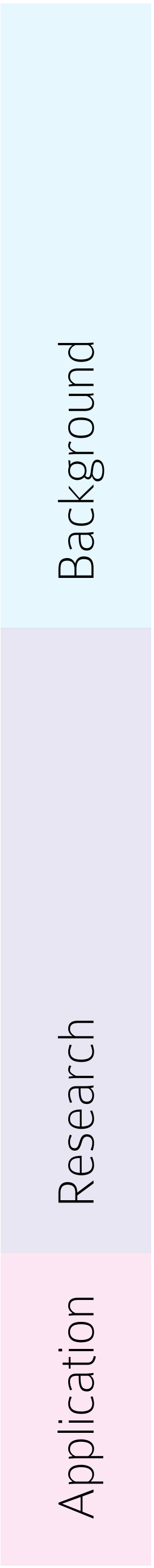


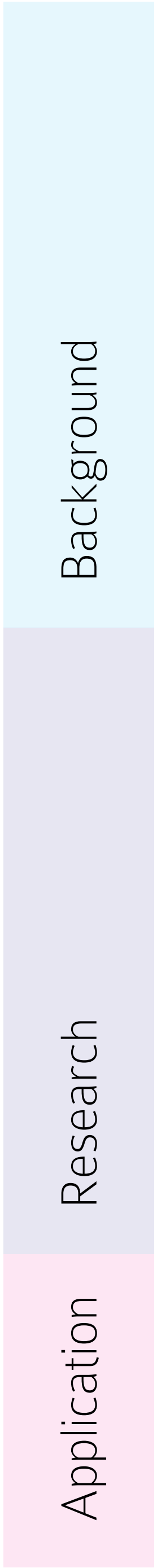
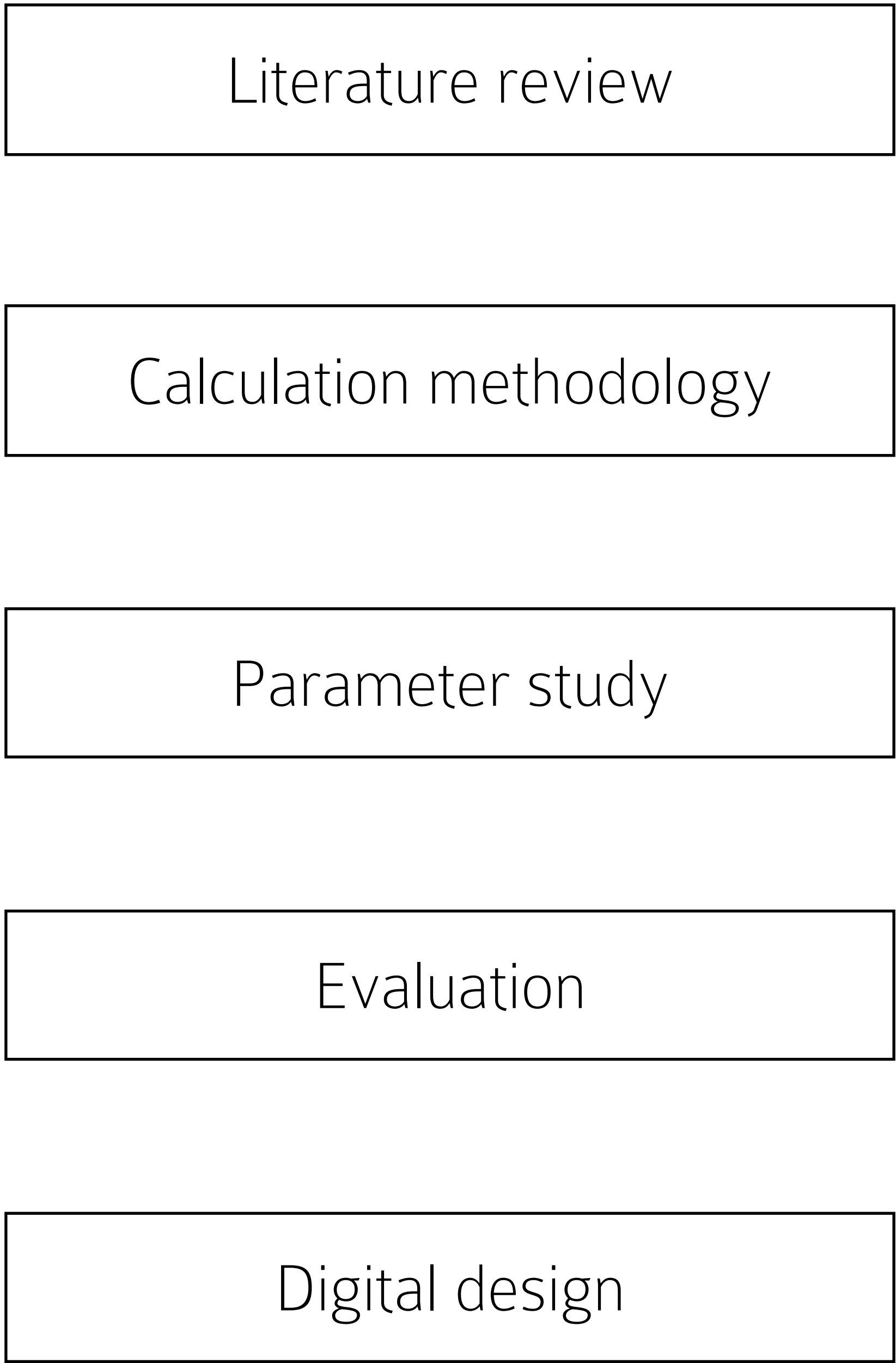
Literature review

Calculation methodology

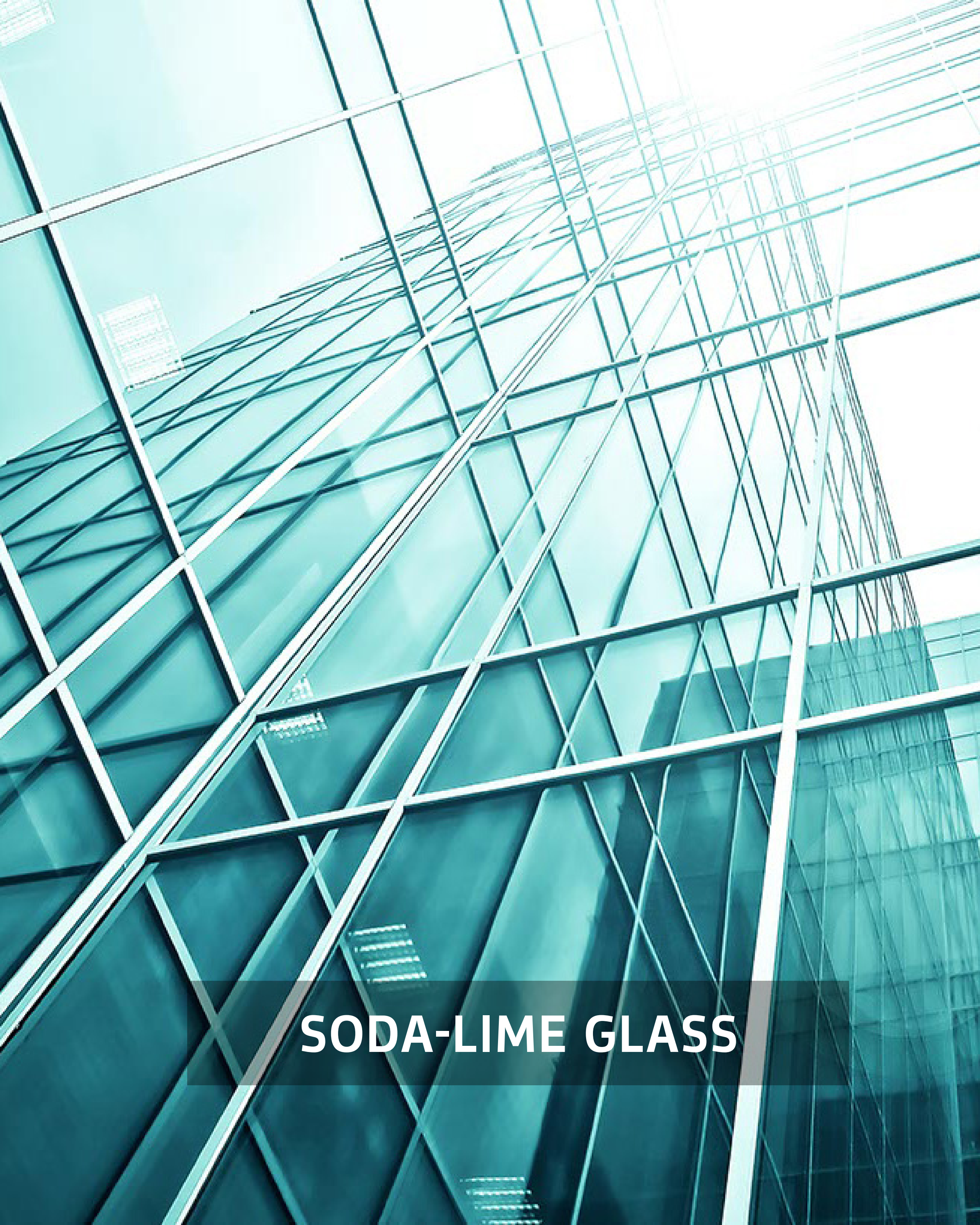
Parameter study

Evaluation





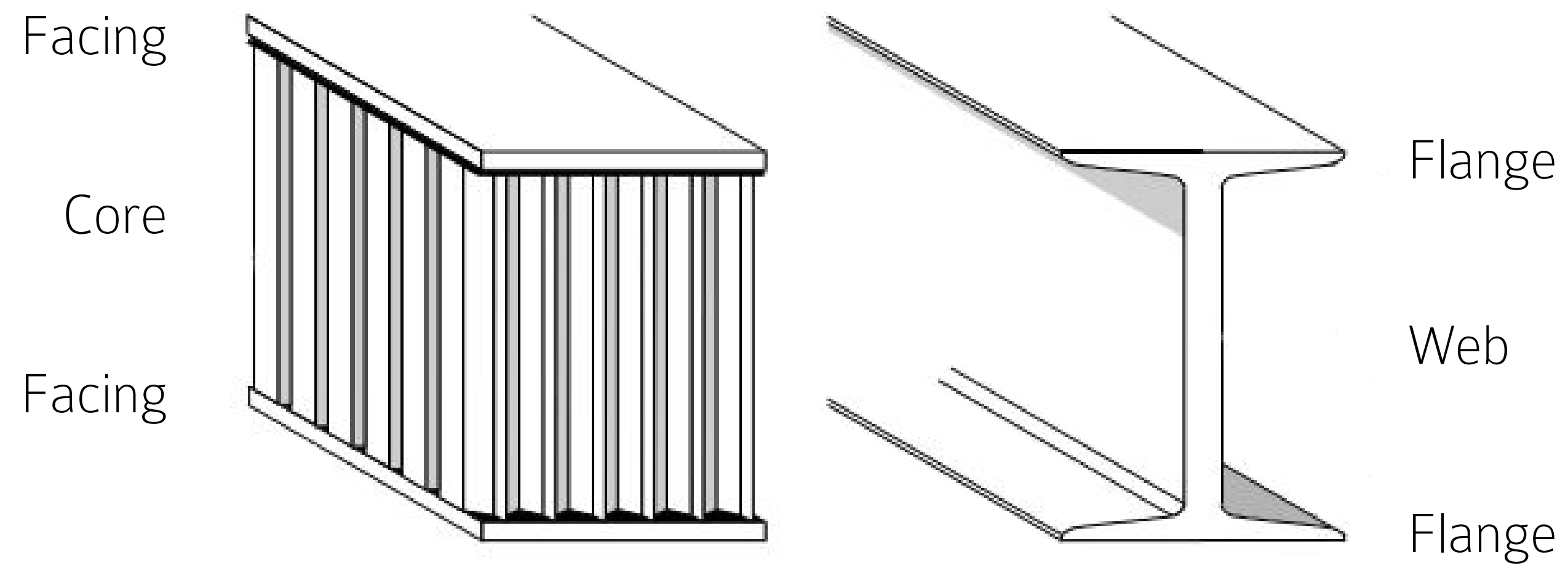
LITERATURE REVIEW



**SODA-LIME GLASS**

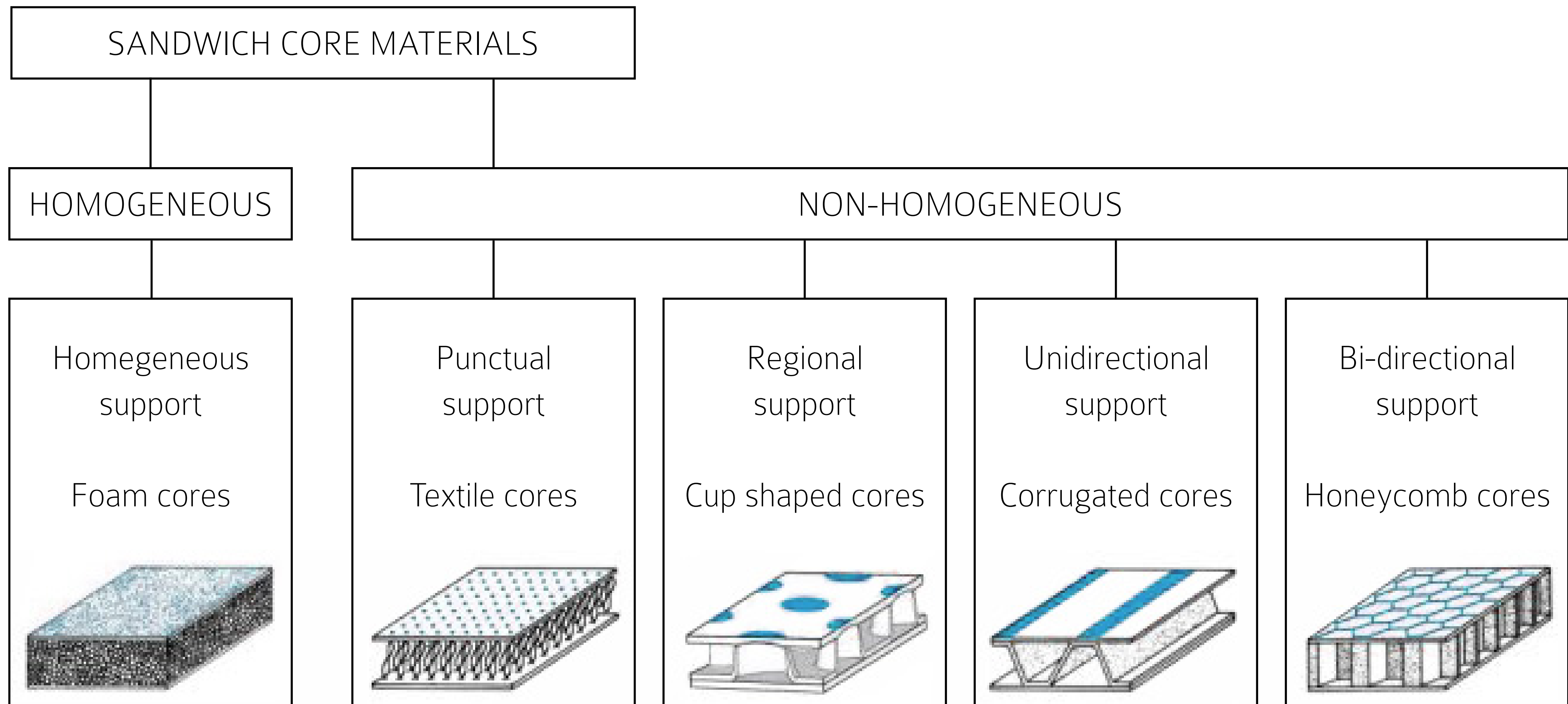


**ALUMINOSILICATE GLASS**



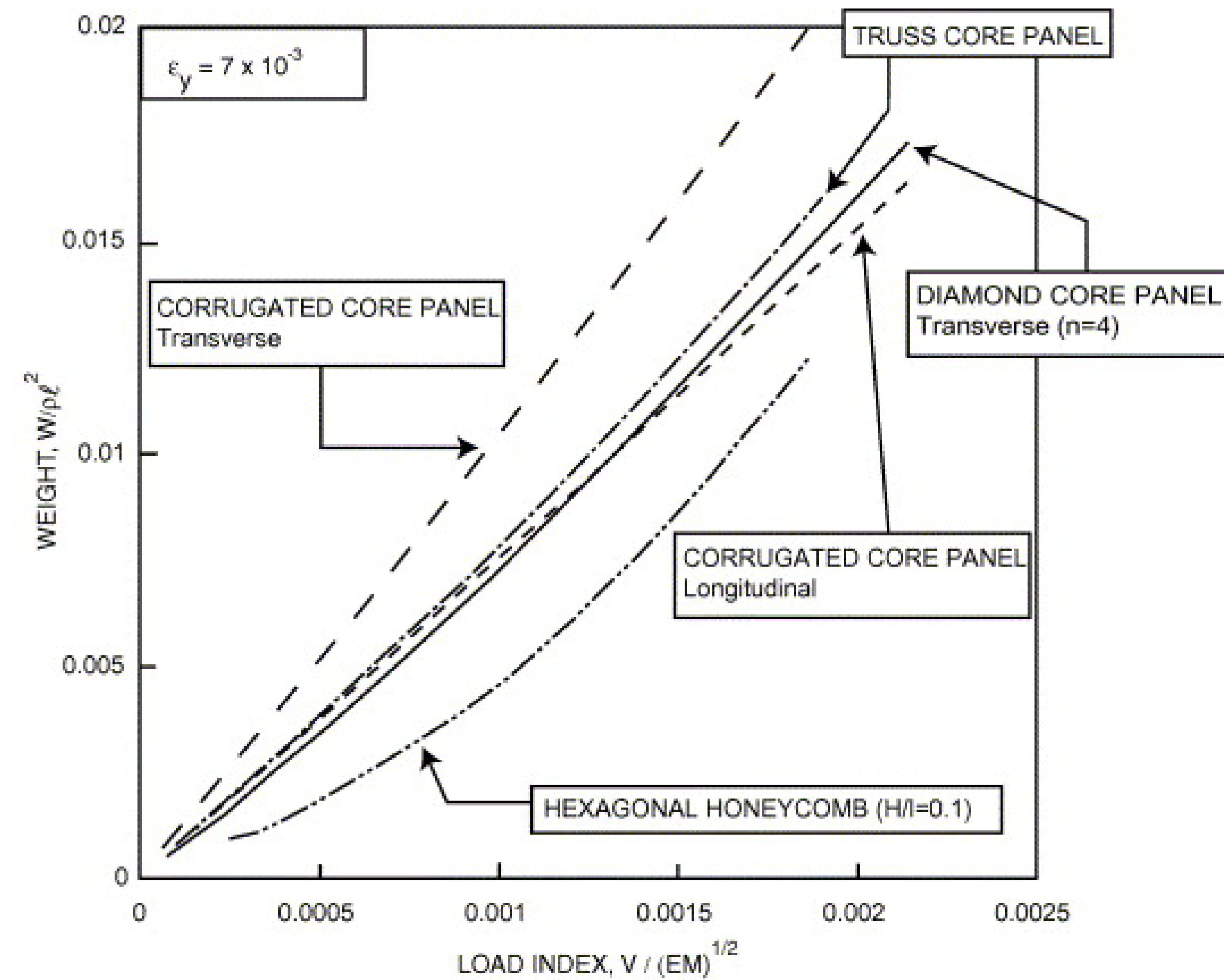
## SANDWICH AND I-BEAM

comparison by Hexcel (2000)



## SANDWICH TYPOLOGIES

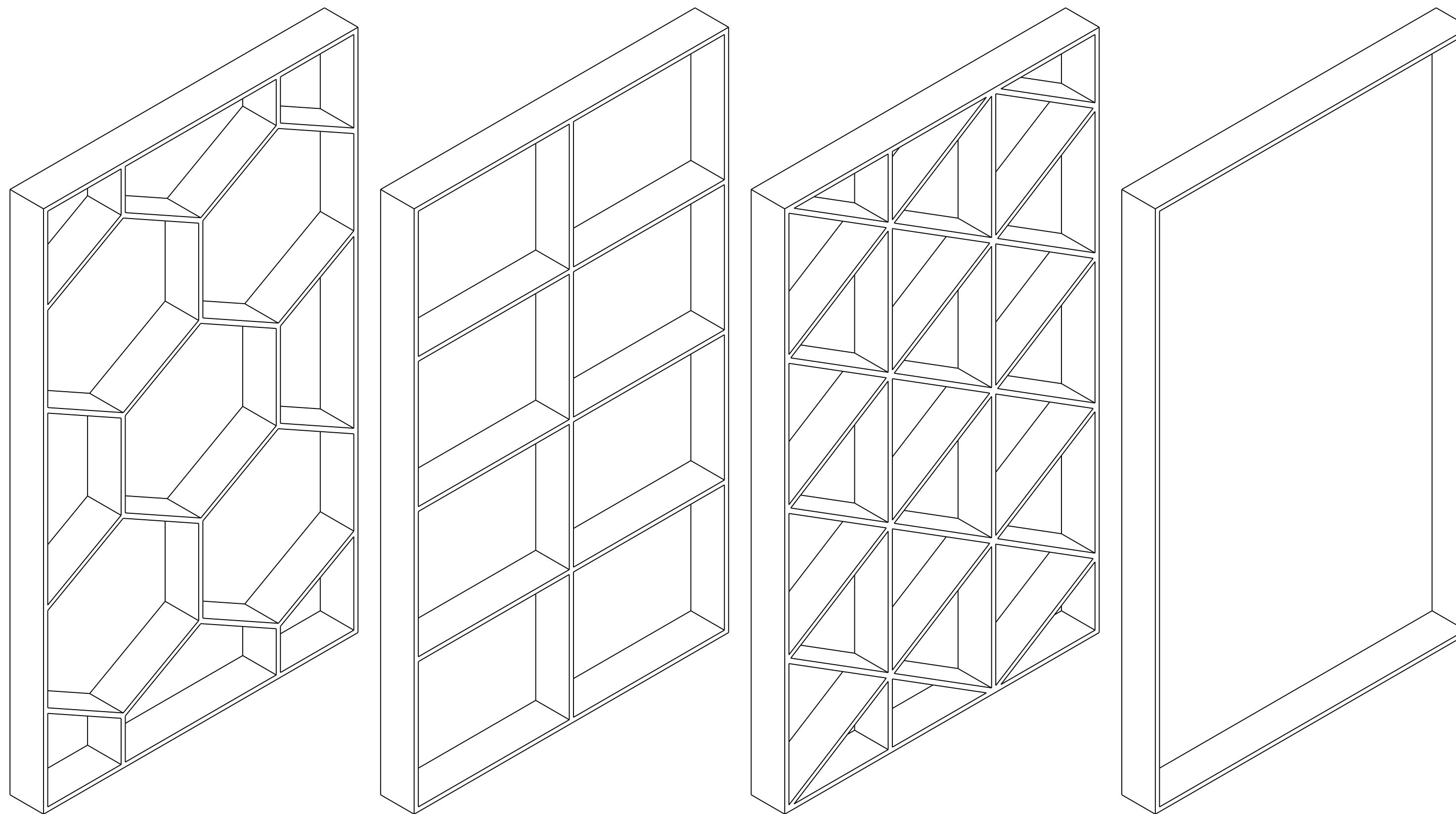
classification by Econcore (n.d.)



## STRENGTH AND STIFFNESS

weight-load ratio of sandwich typologies (Valdevit, Huchinson, & Evans, 2004)

CALCULATION METHODOLOGY



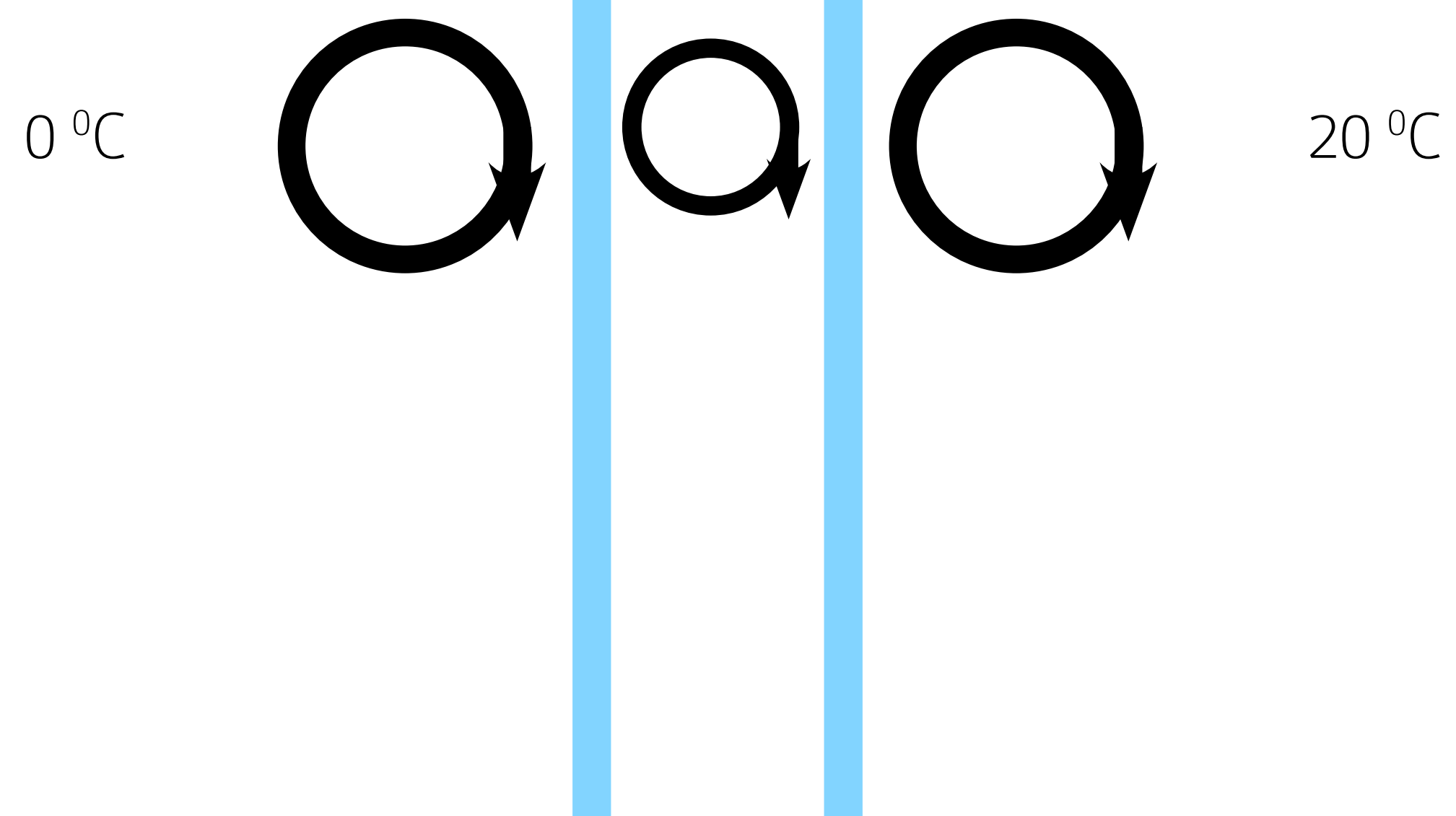
## BASIC PROTOTYPES

250x250x16mm, uncoated glass, air-filled cavity, PETG ribs 2mm

0 °C

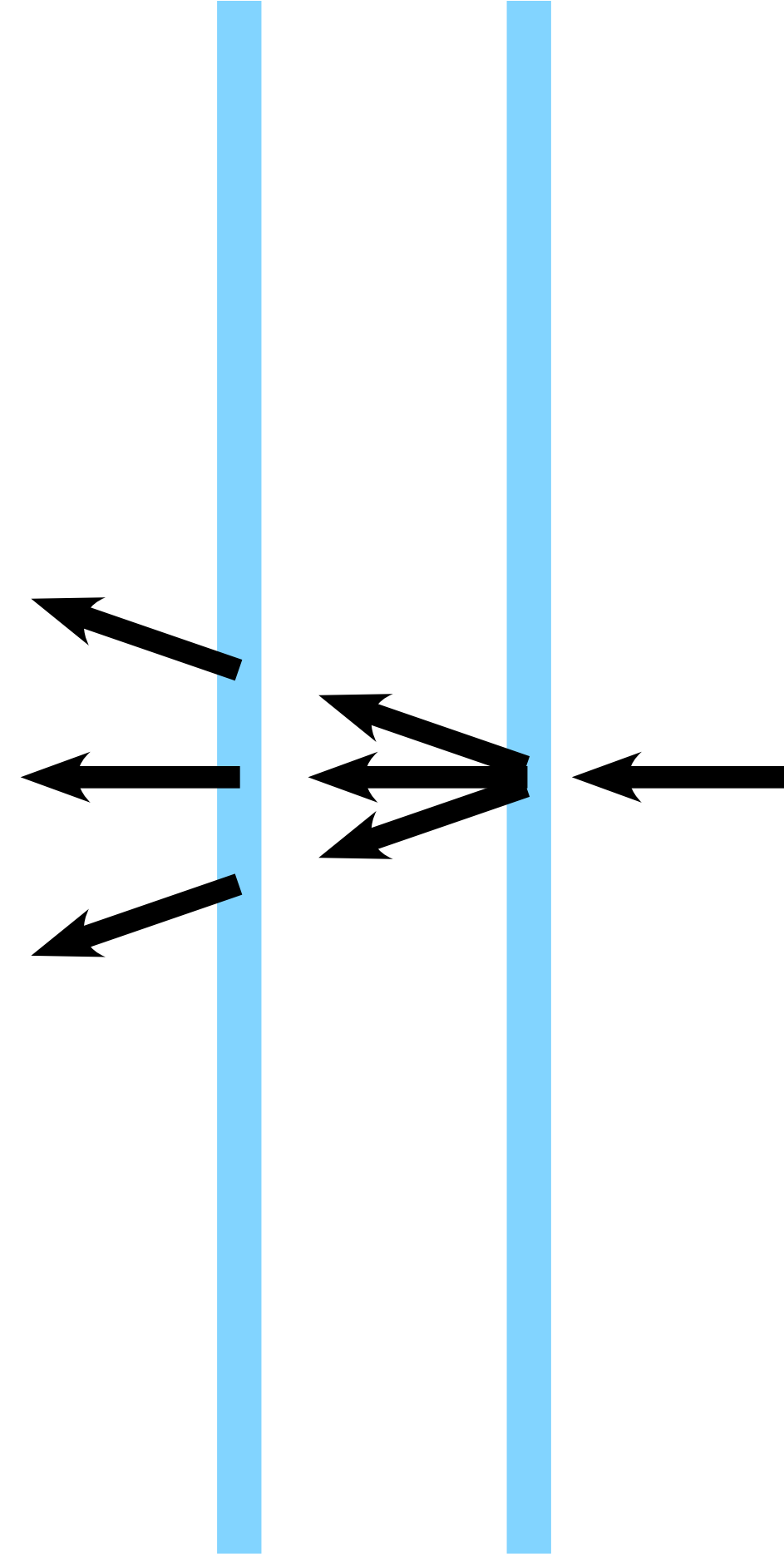
20 °C

**HEAT TRANSFER**



**CONVECTION**

0 °C



20 °C

**RADIATION**

0 °C



20 °C

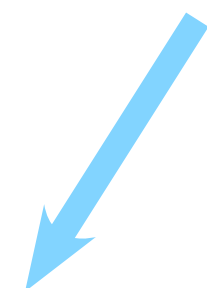
**CONDUCTION**

$$R_g = \frac{1}{h_a + h_r}$$

## CAVITY RESISTANCE

according to NEN-EN-ISO6946

$$R_g = \frac{1}{h_a + h_r}$$

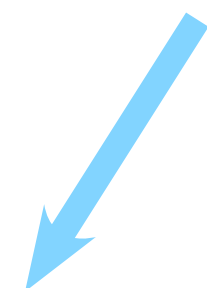


| Direction of heat flow                  | $h_a^a$<br>W/(m <sup>2</sup> ·K)           |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Horizontal                              | $0,73 \times (\Delta T)^{1/3}$             |
| Upwards                                 | $1,14 \times (\Delta T)^{1/3}$             |
| Downwards                               | $0,09 \times (\Delta T)^{0,187} d^{-0,44}$ |
| <sup>a</sup> Or, if larger, $0,025/d$ . |                                            |

# CAVITY RESISTANCE

according to NEN-EN-ISO6946

$$R_g = \frac{1}{h_a + h_r}$$



| Direction of heat flow                  | $h_a^a$<br>W/(m <sup>2</sup> ·K)           |
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| Horizontal                              | $0,73 \times (\Delta T)^{1/3}$             |
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| <sup>a</sup> Or, if larger, $0,025/d$ . |                                            |

$$h_r = \frac{h_{r0}}{\frac{1}{\varepsilon_1} + \frac{1}{\varepsilon_2} - 2 + \frac{2}{\left(1 + \sqrt{1 + d^2/b^2} - d/b\right)}}$$

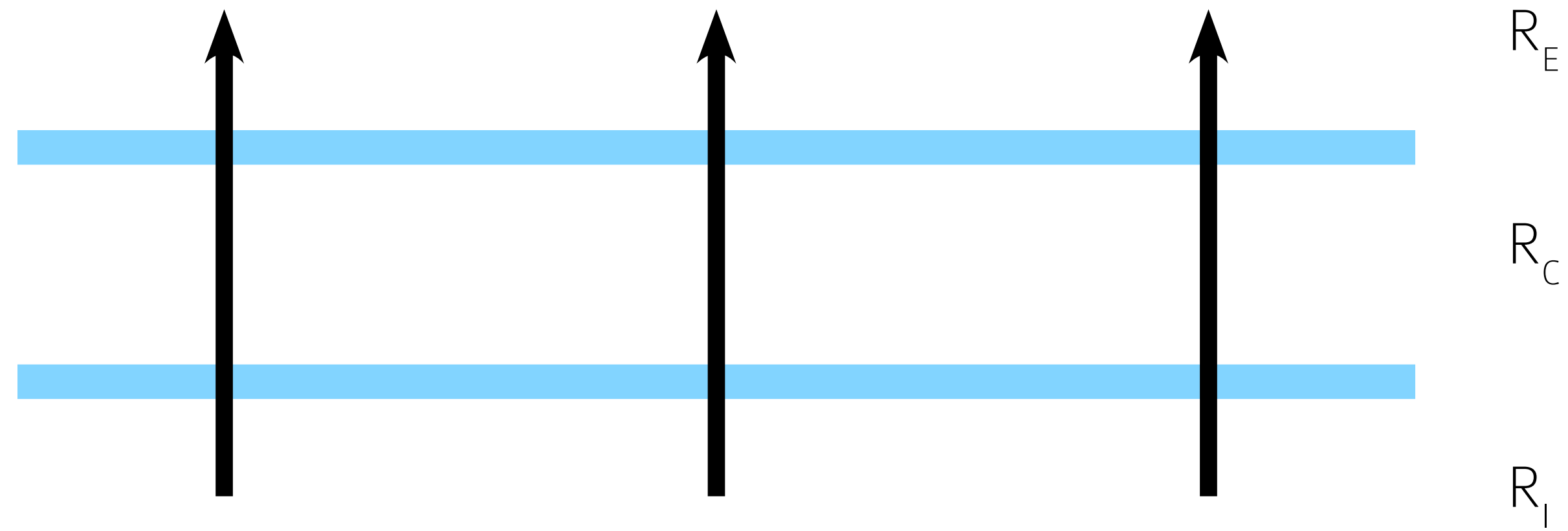
$$b = D_H = \frac{4A}{P}$$

| Mean temperature<br>°C | $h_{r0}$<br>W/(m <sup>2</sup> ·K) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -10                    | 4,1                               |
| 0                      | 4,6                               |
| 10                     | 5,1                               |
| 20                     | 5,7                               |
| 30                     | 6,3                               |

## CAVITY RESISTANCE

according to NEN-EN-ISO6946

0 °C

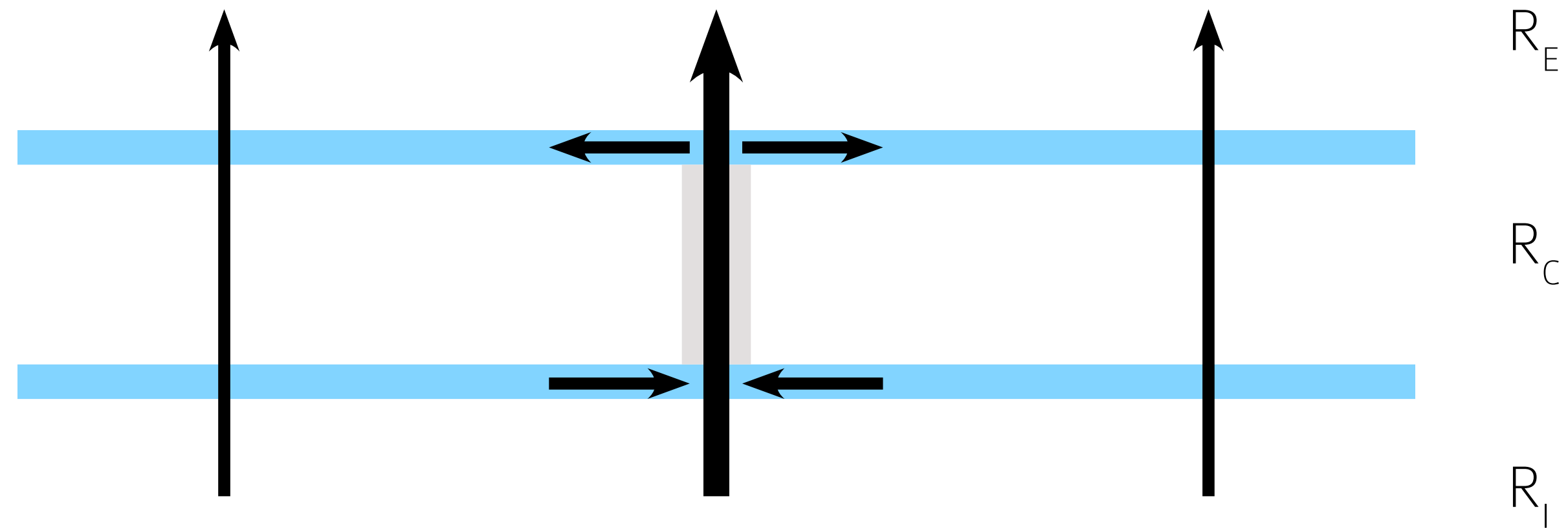


20 °C

## CAVITY

without thermal bridge

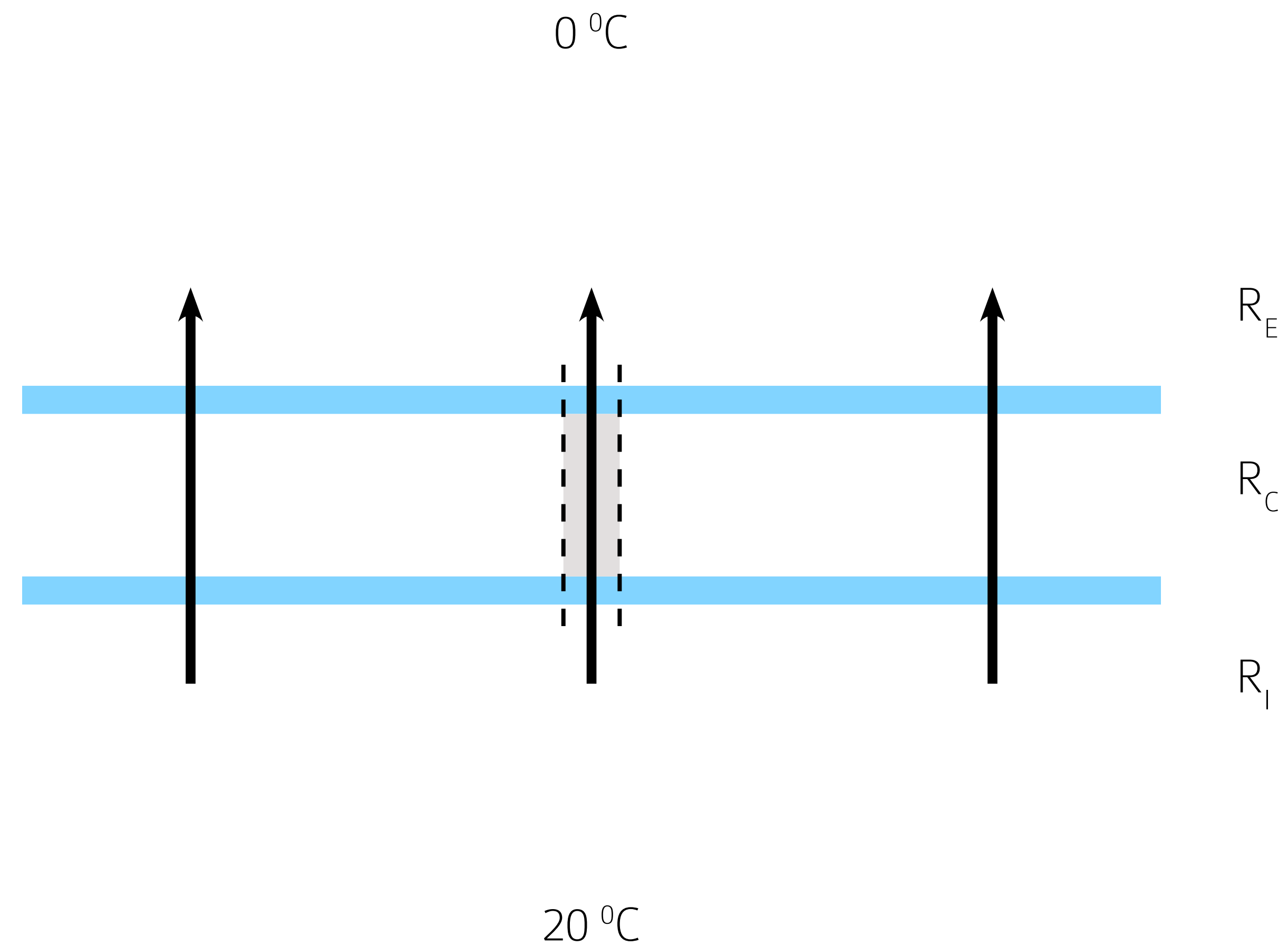
0 °C



20 °C

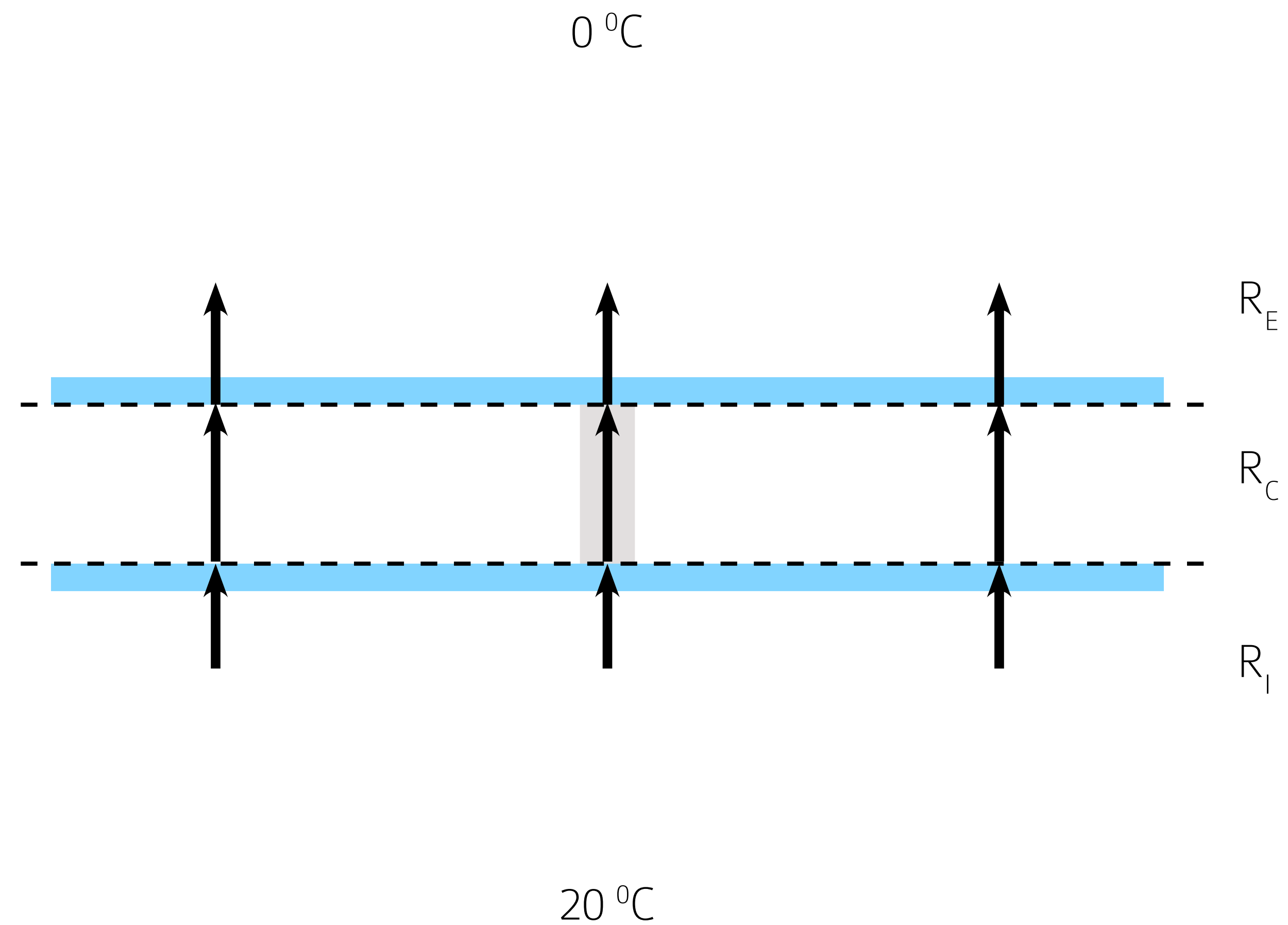
## CAVITY

with thermal bridge



## SIMPLE ANALYTICAL CALCULATION

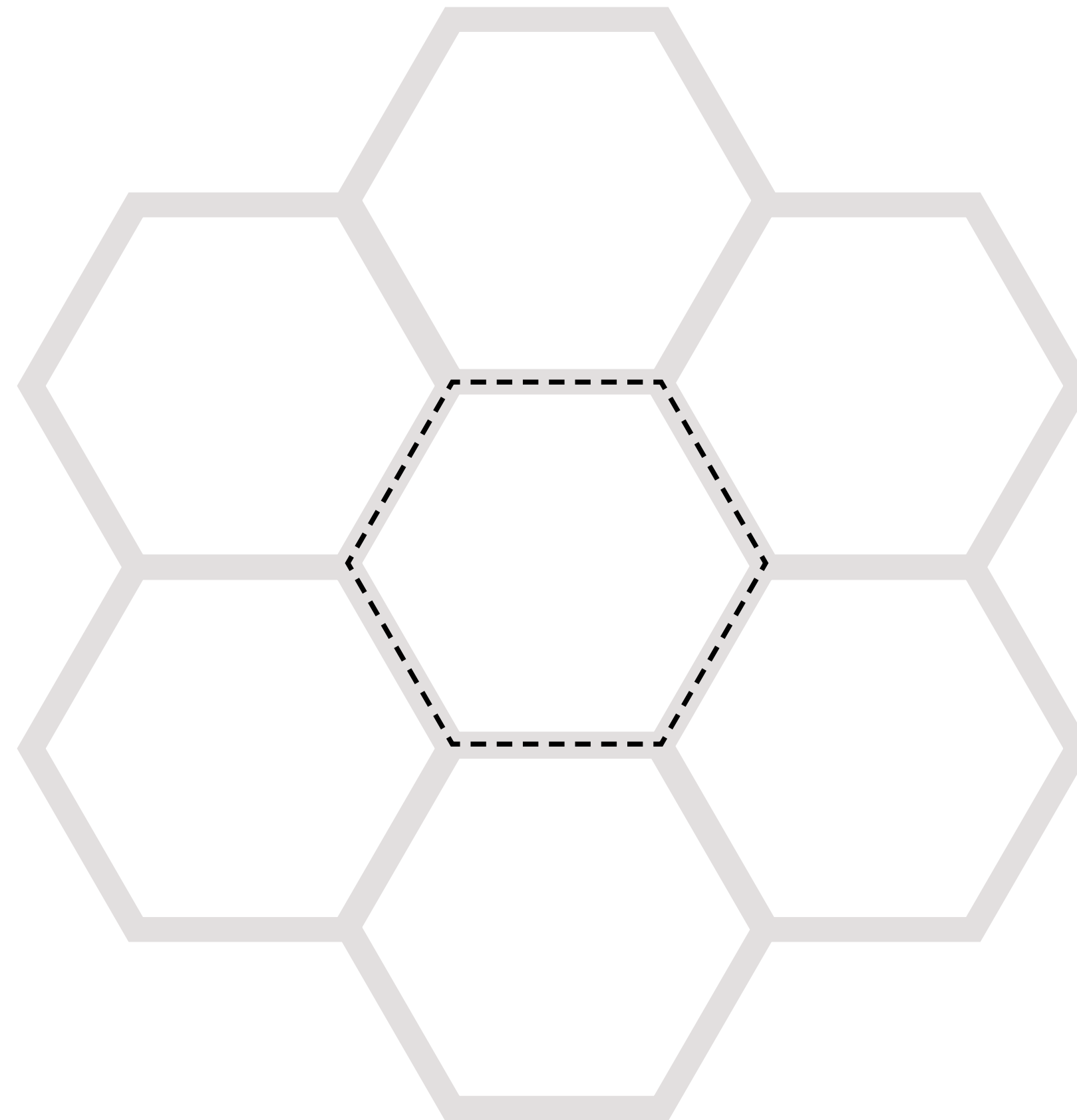
minimum U-value by Zeegers (2006)



## SIMPLE ANALYTICAL CALCULATION

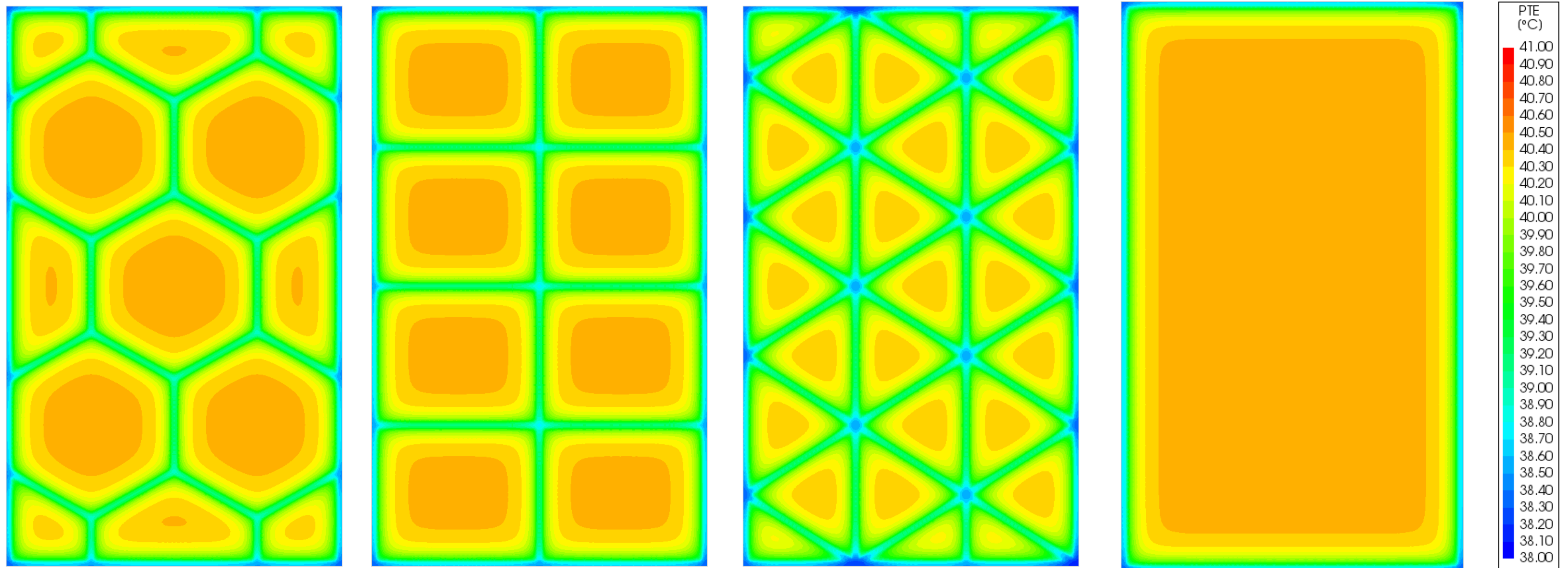
maximum U-value by Zeegers (2006)

$$U_{\text{eff}} \approx \frac{U_{\text{cop}} S_{\text{cop}} + \psi_{\text{edge}}^{(c)} l_p}{S_{\text{cop}} + S_{\text{edge}}}$$



## DETAILED ANALYTICAL CALCULATION

by Tenpierik, Van der Spoel, & Cauberg (2007)



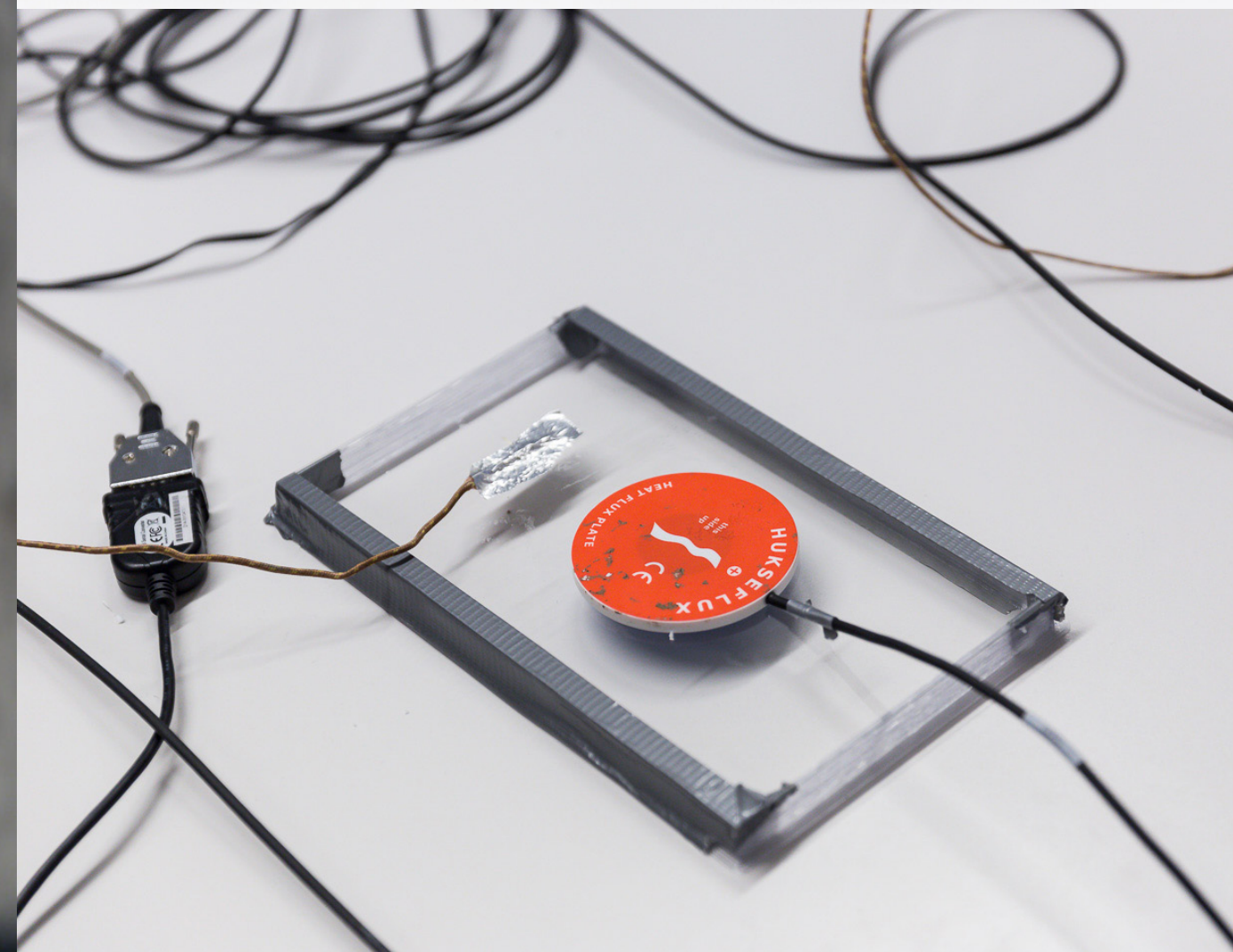
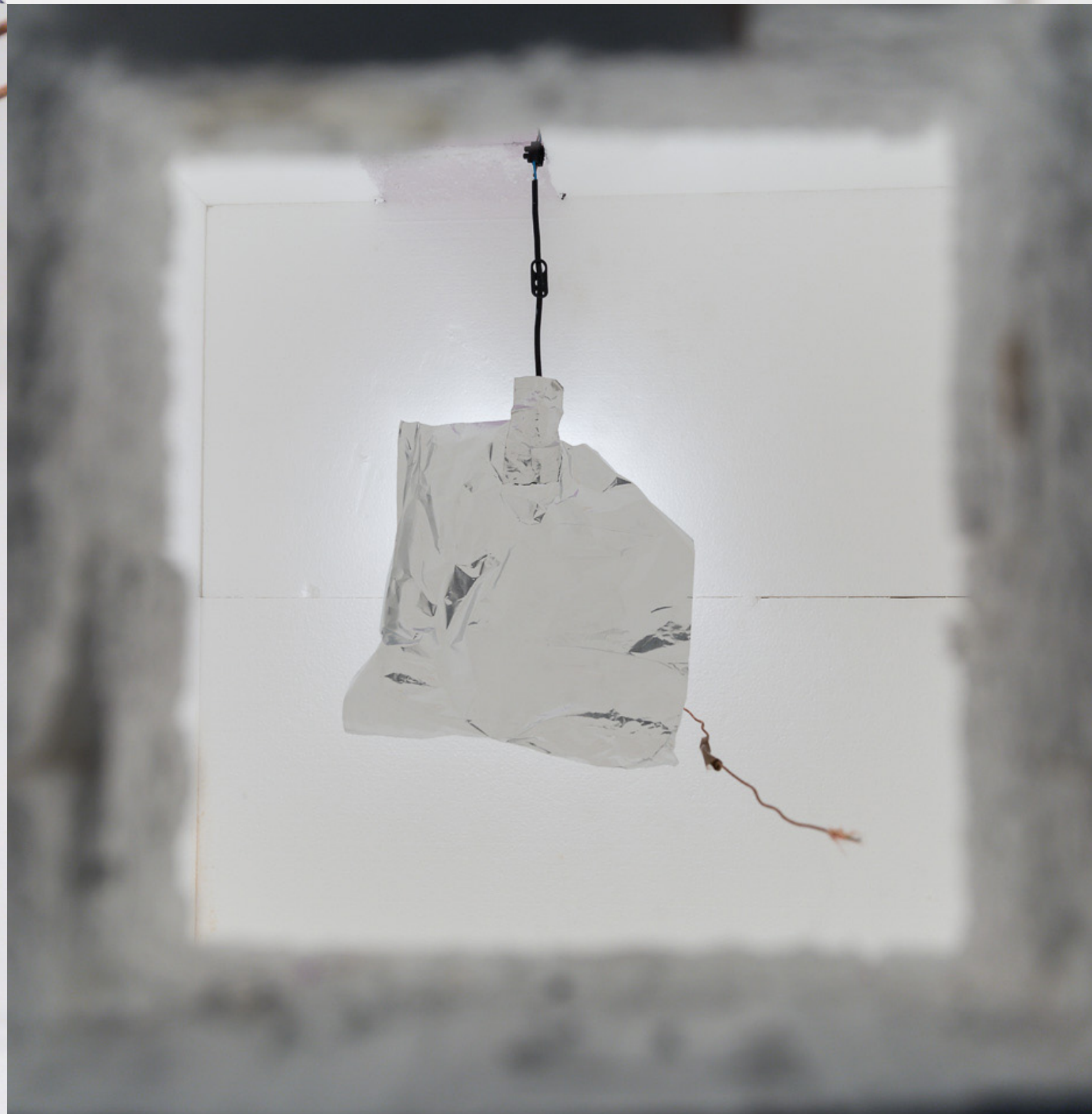
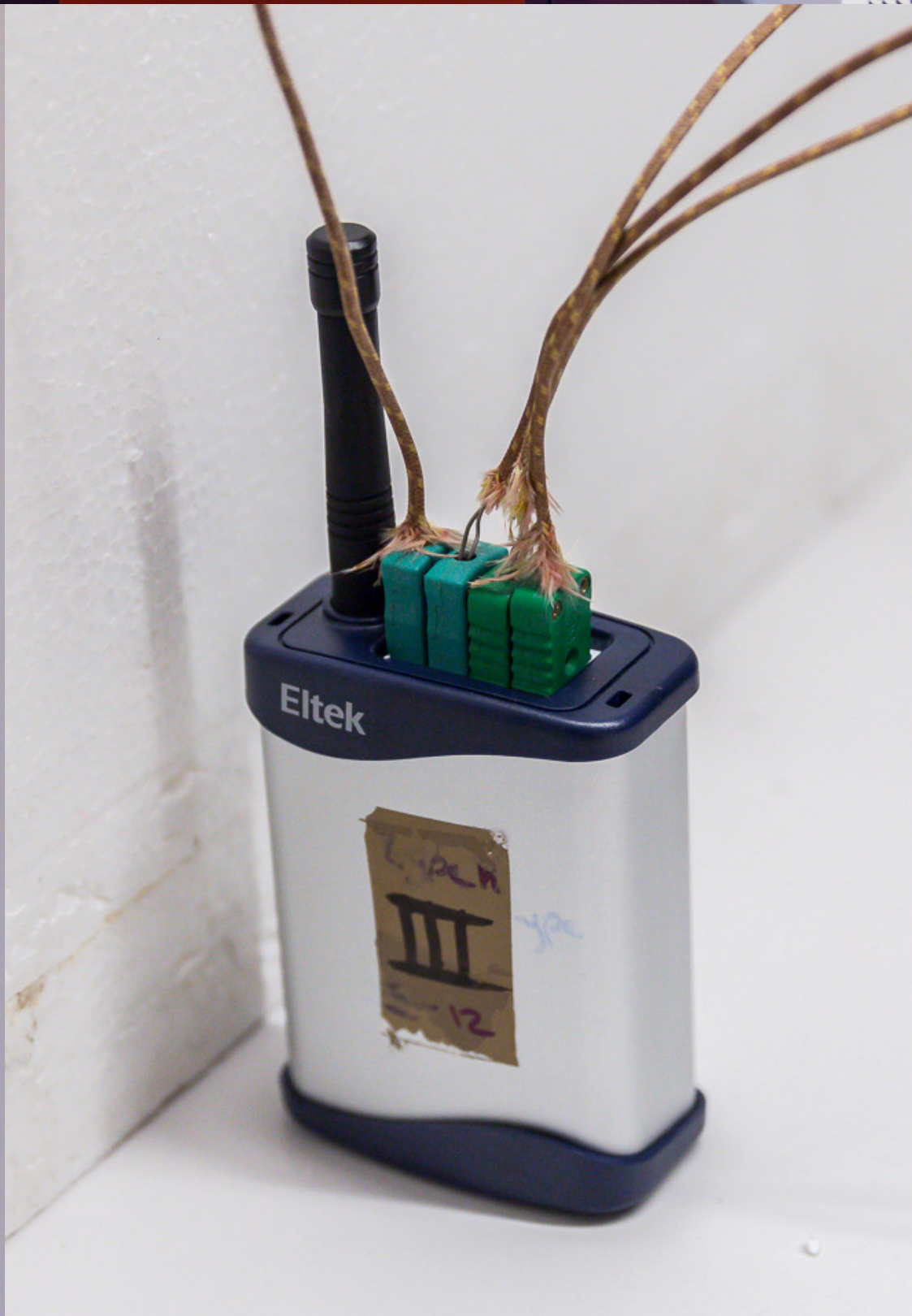
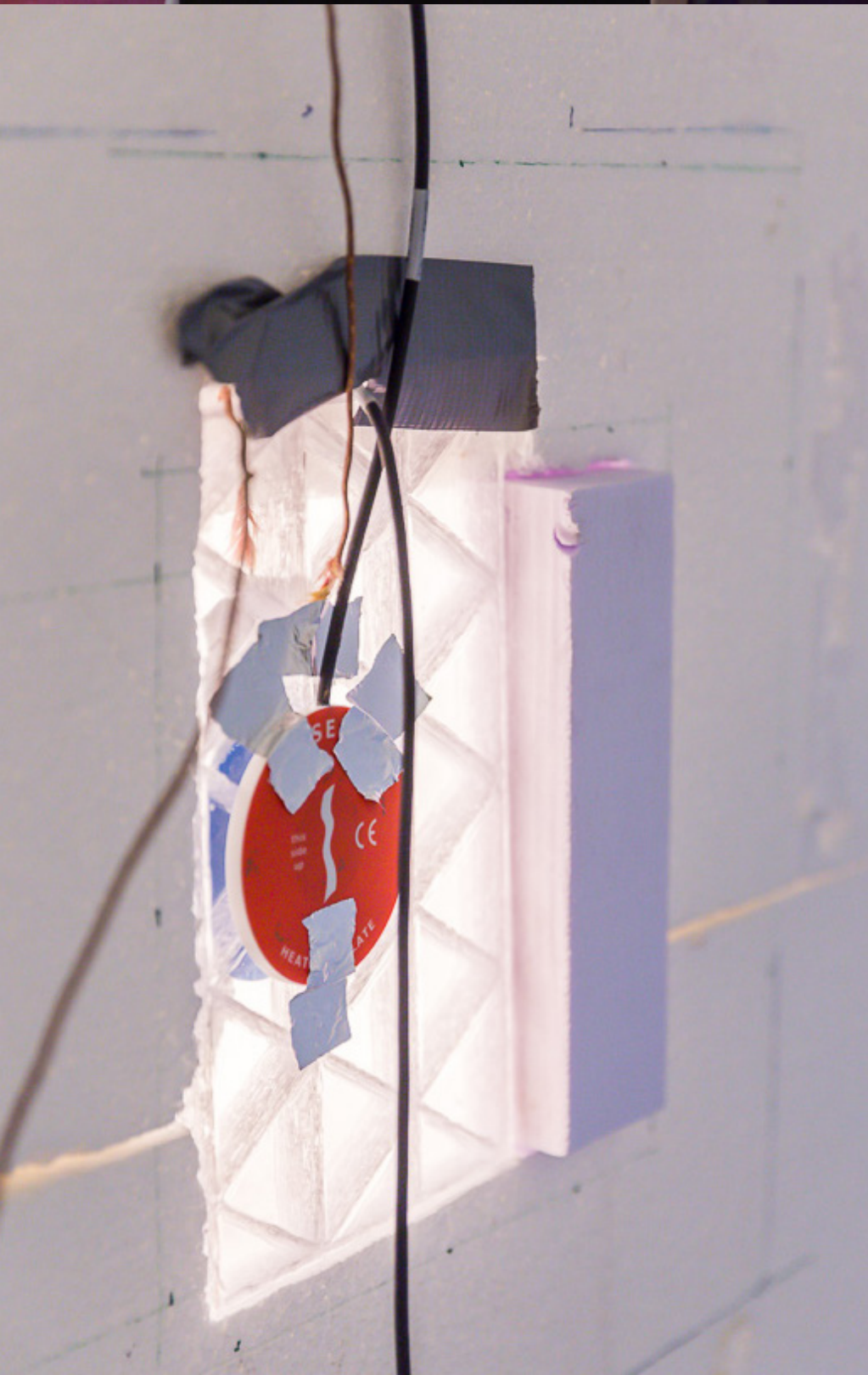
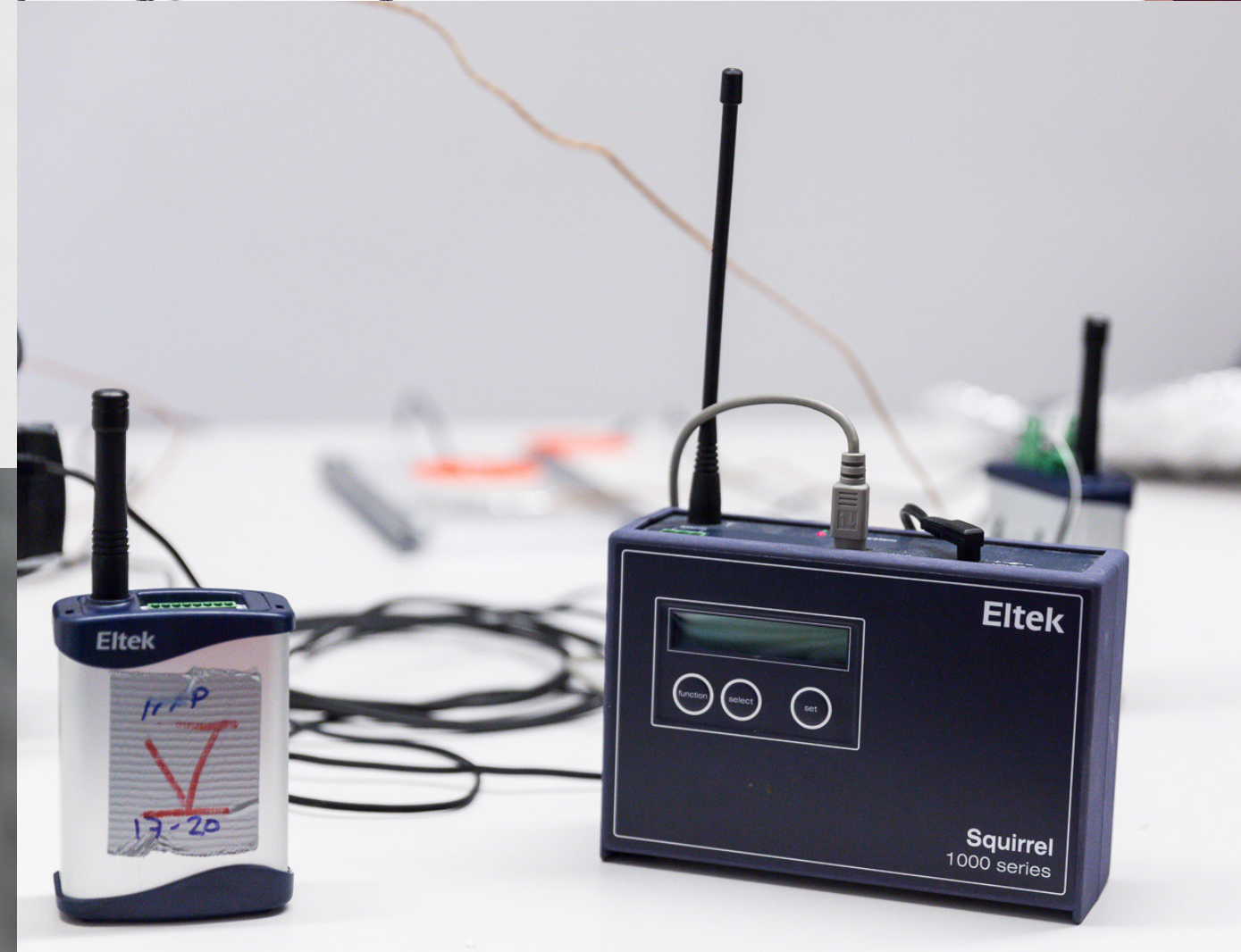
## NUMERICAL ANALYSIS

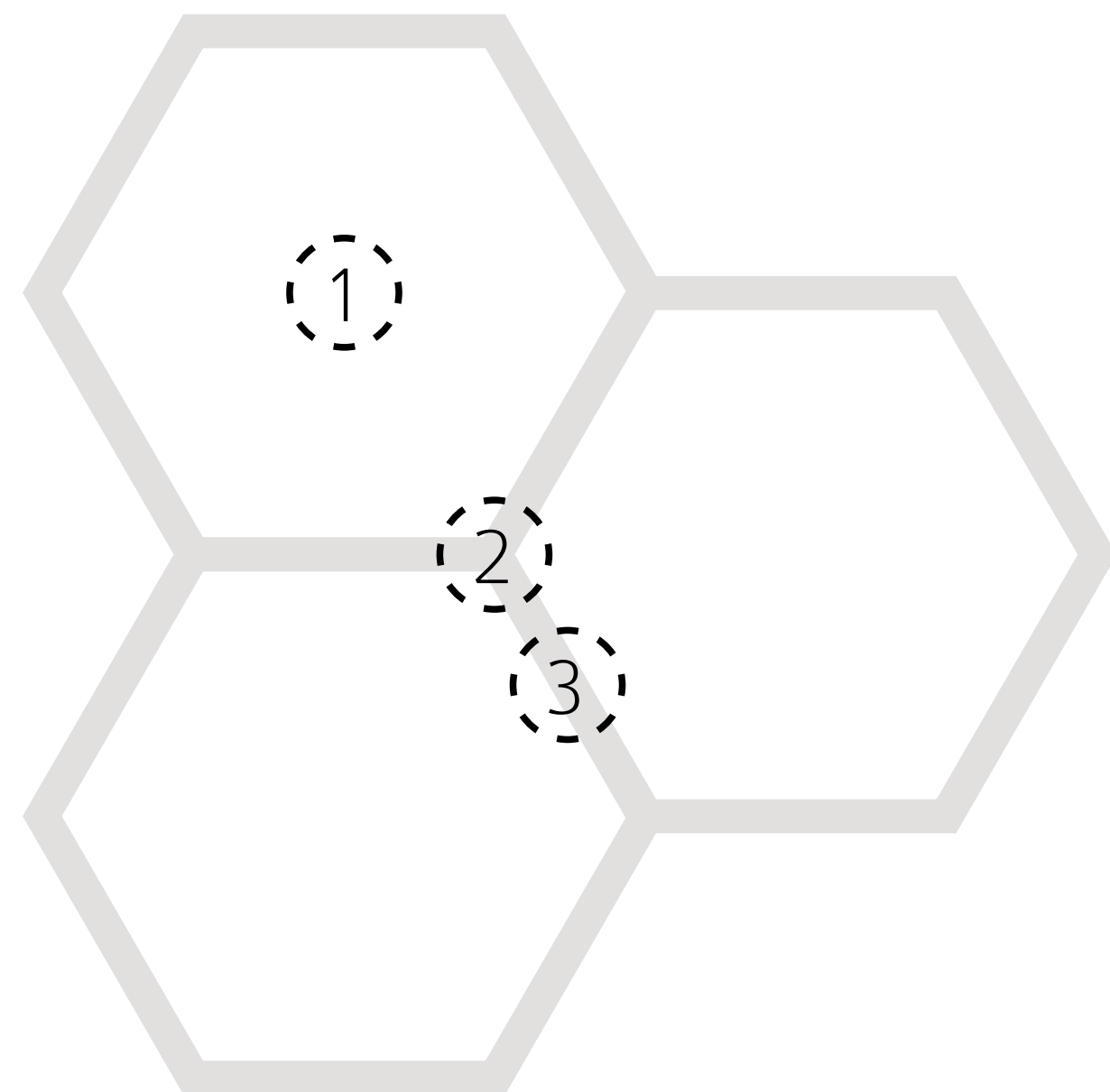
23°C - 48°C and boundary resistance at both sides of 0.1304 m<sup>2</sup>K/W

|          | U (W/m <sup>2</sup> K) |          |           |
|----------|------------------------|----------|-----------|
|          | Simple                 | Detailed | Numerical |
| Hexagon  | 2.453                  | 2.473    | 2.472     |
| Square   | 2.445                  | 2.463    | 2.452     |
| Triangle | 2.488                  | 2.533    | 2.481     |
| Empty    | 2.456                  | 2.454    | 2.454     |

# COMPARISON CALCULATION METHODS

boundary resistance at both sides of 0.13 m<sup>2</sup>K/W





|          | U (W/m²K) |      |         |
|----------|-----------|------|---------|
|          | Cell      | Knot | Element |
| Hexagon  | 2.46      | 2.37 | 2.54    |
| Square   | 2.55      | 2.45 | 2.61    |
| Triangle | 2.39      | 2.50 | 2.53    |
| Empty    | 2.54      |      |         |

PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS

boundary resistance at both sides of 0.13 m²K/W

|          | U (W/m²K) |        |          |           |
|----------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|
|          | Physical  | Simple | Detailed | Numerical |
| Hexagon  | 2.37-2.54 | 2.453  | 2.473    | 2.472     |
| Square   | 2.45-2.61 | 2.445  | 2.463    | 2.452     |
| Triangle | 2.39-2.53 | 2.488  | 2.533    | 2.481     |
| Empty    | 2.54      | 2.456  | 2.454    | 2.454     |

PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS VERSUS ANALYTICAL CALCULATION

boundary resistance at both sides of 0.13 m²K/W

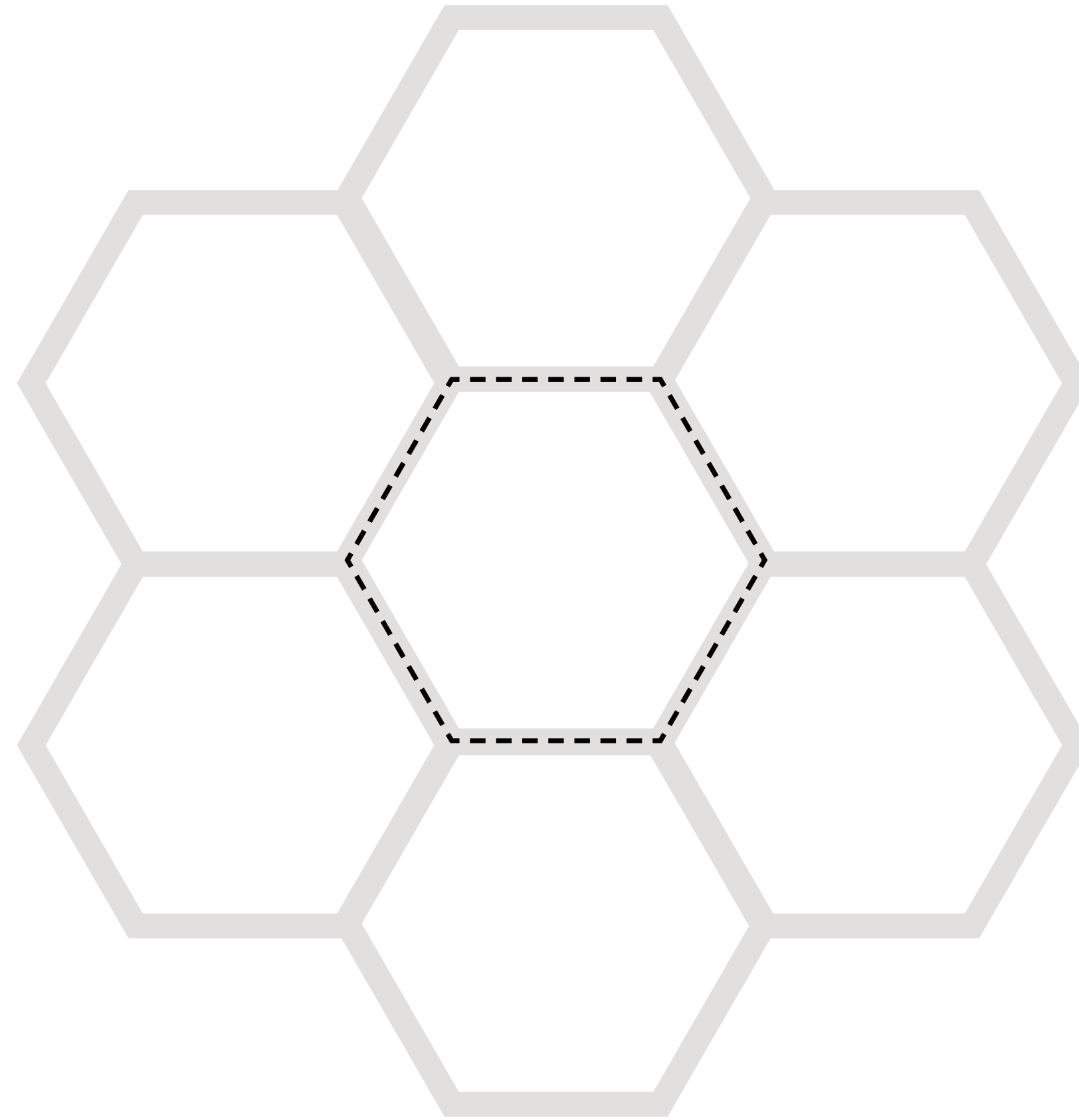
PARAMETER STUDY

|                              | PETG        | PA          | PLA         |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | 1260 - 1280 | 1090 - 1100 | 1240 - 1270 |
| Young's modulus (GPa)        | 2.01 - 2.11 | 1.60 - 1.68 | 3.30 - 3.60 |
| Tensile strength (MPa)       | 60 - 66     | 40 - 47     | 47 - 70     |
| Compressive strength (MPa)   | 57.5 - 63.5 | 55.0 - 46.7 | 66.0 - 86.4 |
| Thermal conductivity (W/mK)  | 0.29        | 0.24        | 0.15        |
| Resistance UV radiation      | Fair        | Fair        | Good        |
| Recycleble                   | True        | True        | True        |
| Embodied energy (MJ/kg)      | 89 - 98     | 210 - 232   | 52 - 58     |

# MATERIAL CHOICE

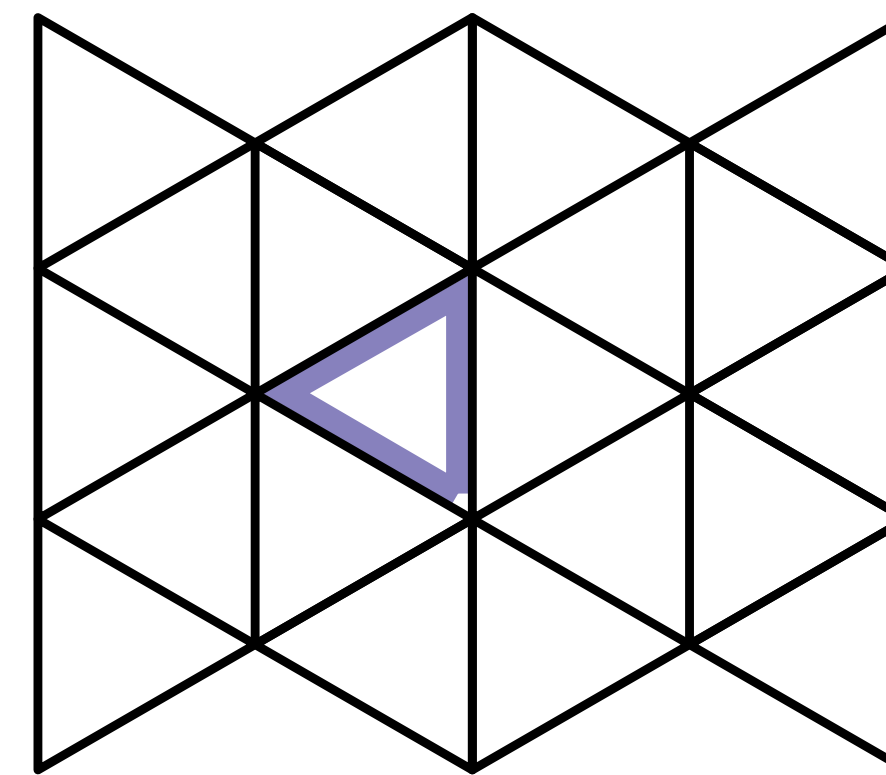
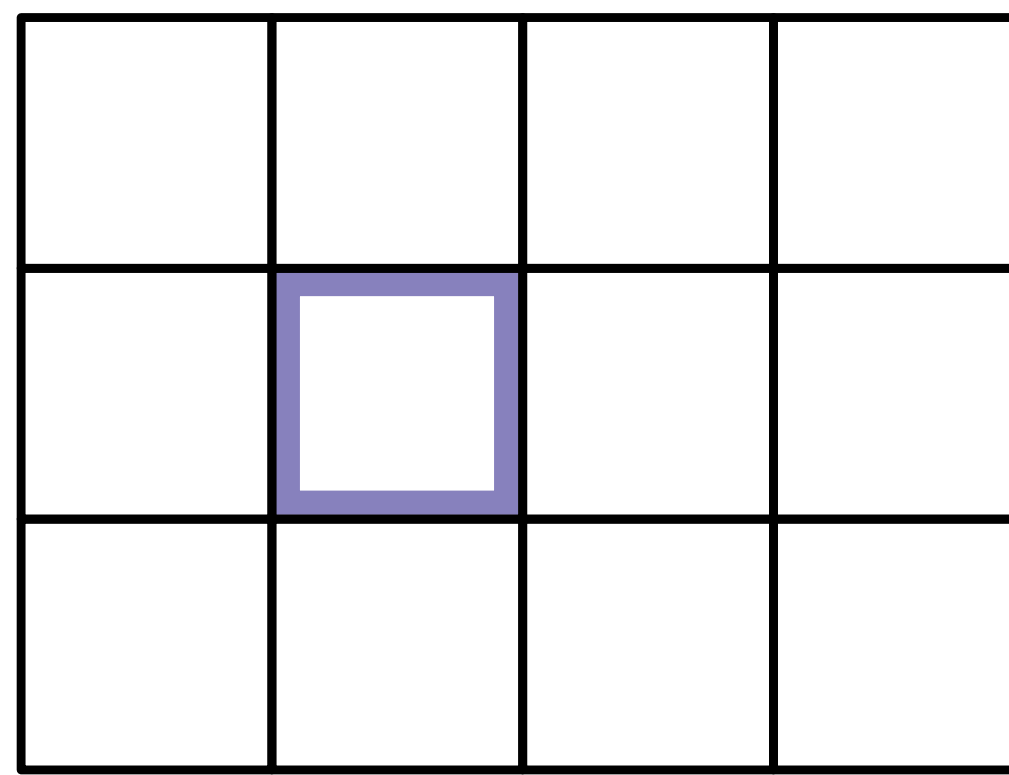
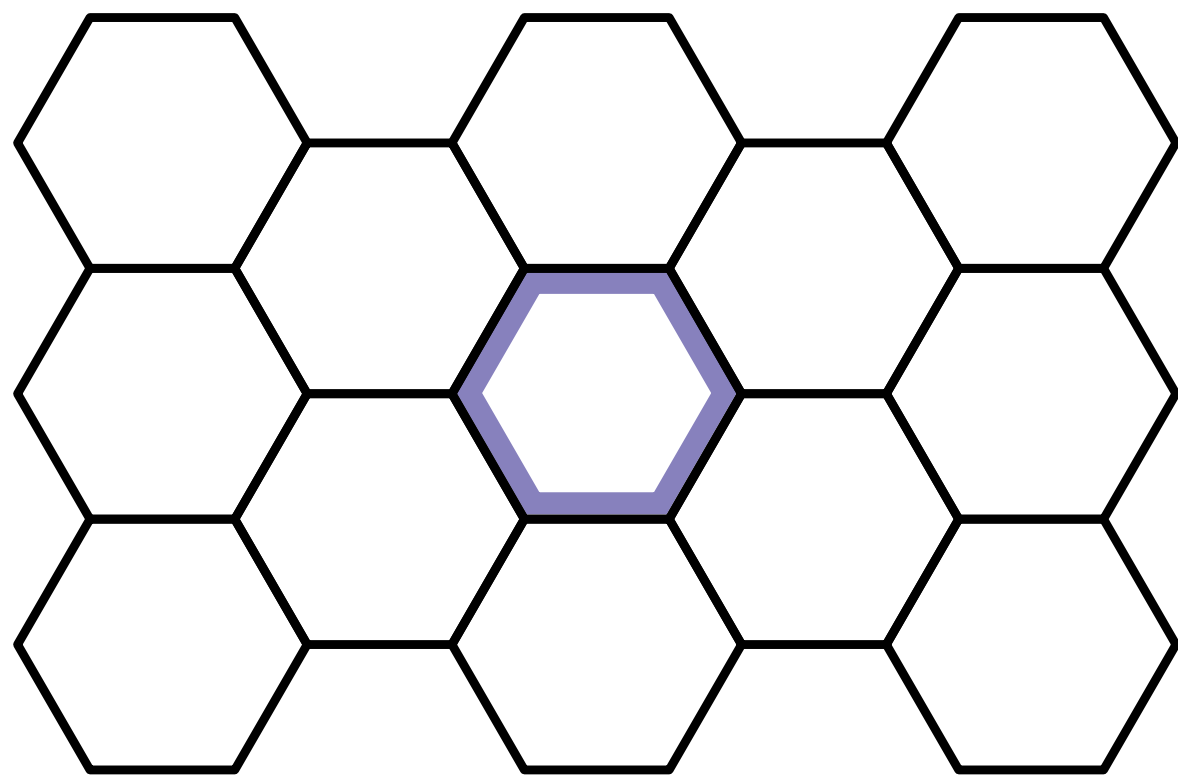
information based on CES (2018)

$$U_{\text{eff}} \approx \frac{U_{\text{cop}} S_{\text{cop}} + \psi_{\text{edge}}^{(c)} l_p}{S_{\text{cop}} + S_{\text{edge}}}$$

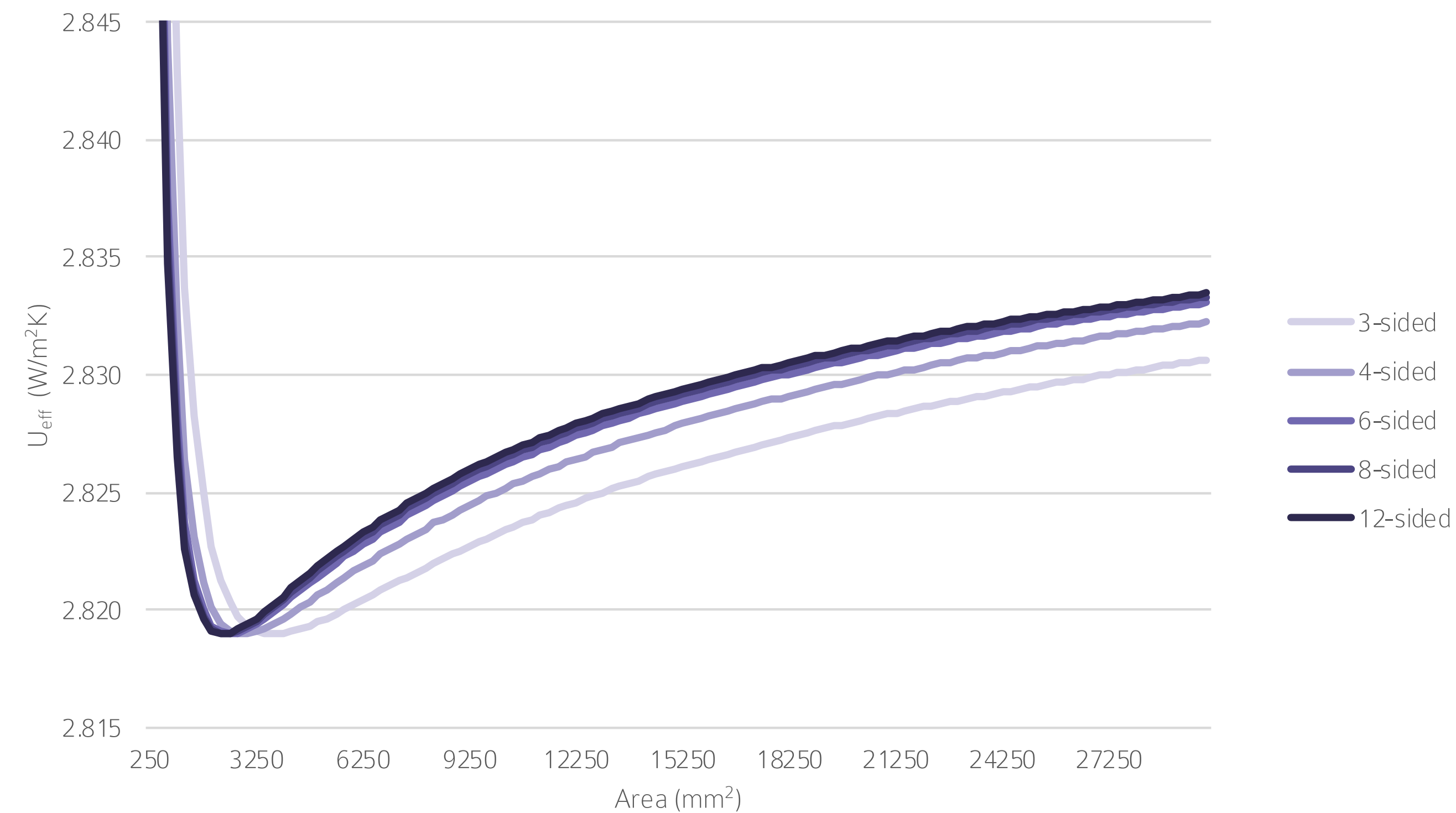


## SETUP

boundary resistance 0.04 and 0.13 m<sup>2</sup>K/W temperatures 0°C and 20°C



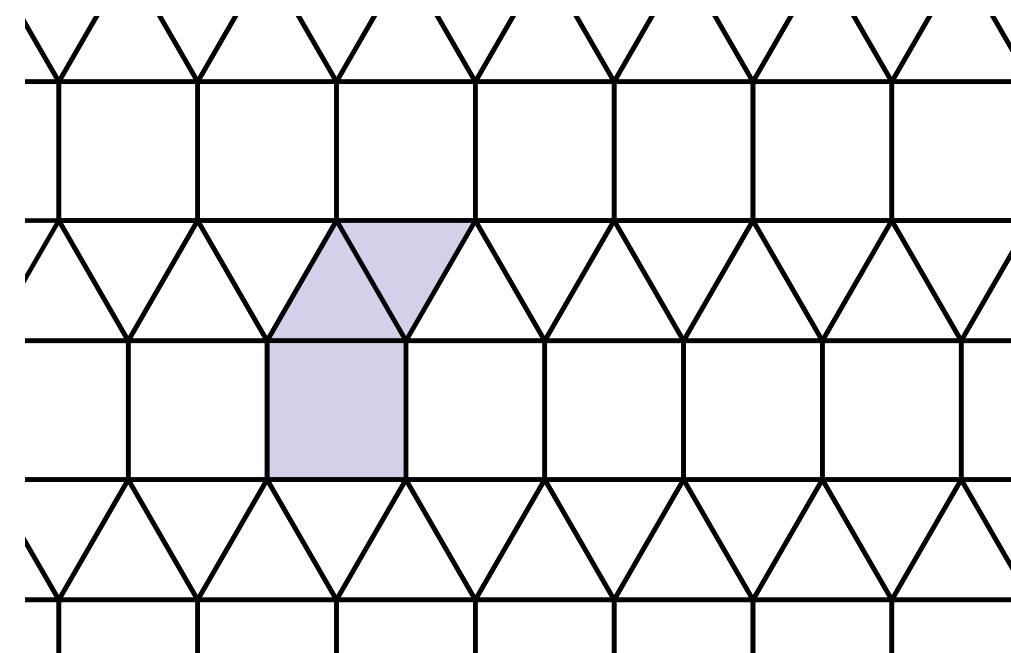
## REGULAR TESSELATIONS



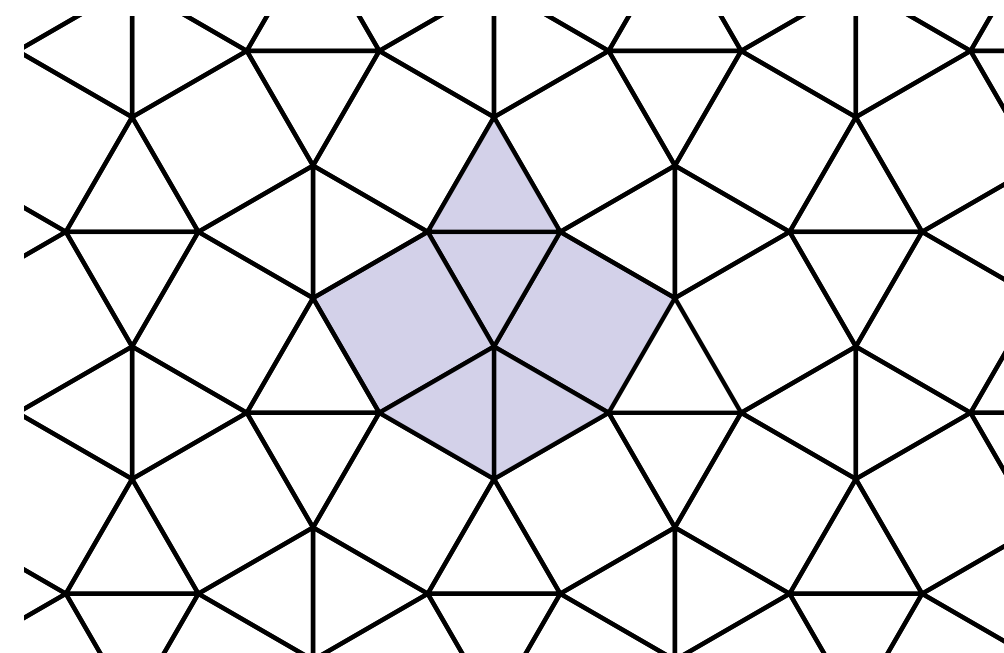
|            |         |         |         |         |          |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Polygon    | 3-sided | 4-sided | 6-sided | 8-sided | 12-sided |
| Area (mm²) | 3750    | 3000    | 2500    | 2500    | 2250     |

## RELATION BETWEEN SIZE OF POLYGONS AND U-VALUE

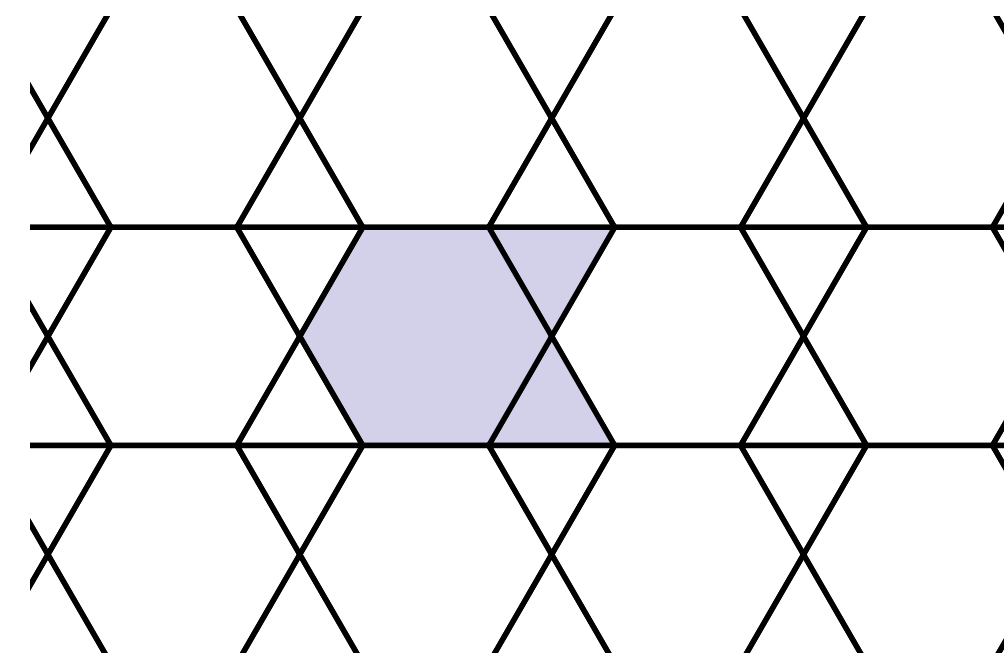
bottom at 2.819 W/m<sup>2</sup>K



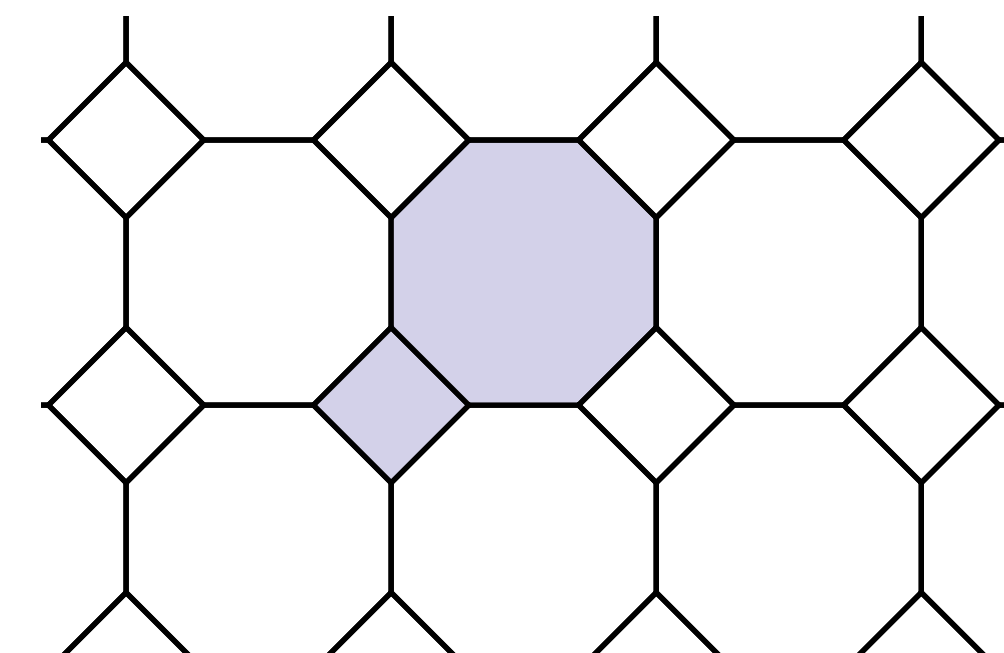
Pattern A 3.3.3.4.4



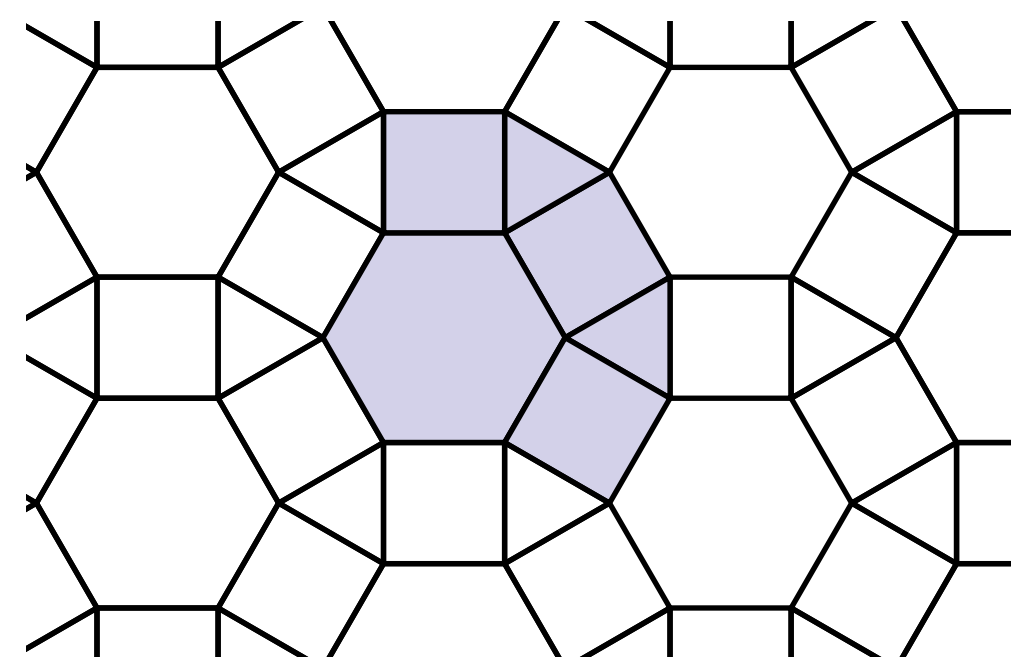
Pattern B 3.3.4.3.4



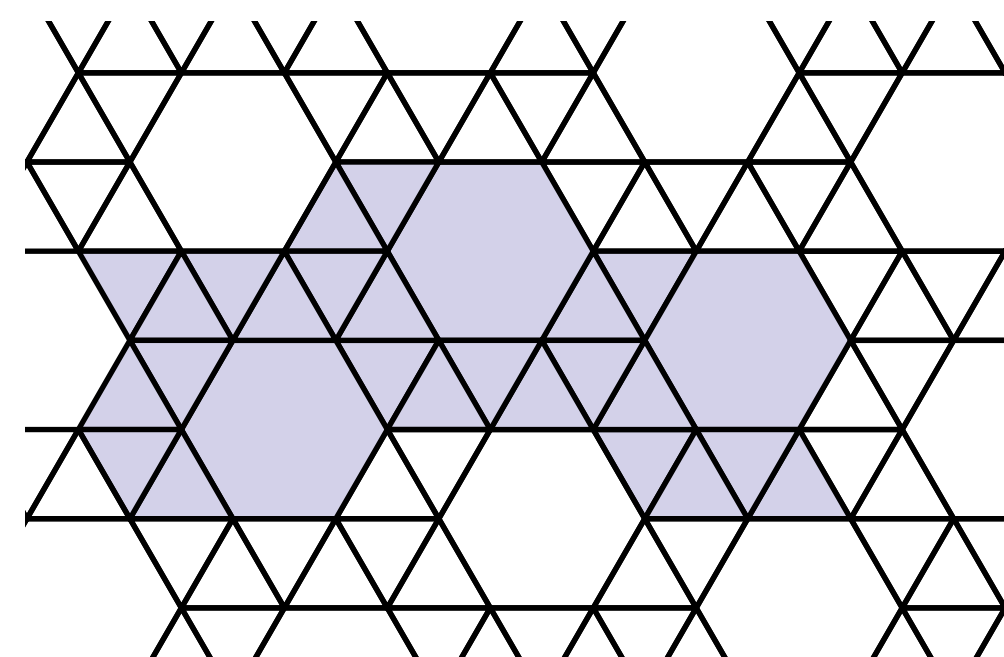
Pattern C 3.6.3.6



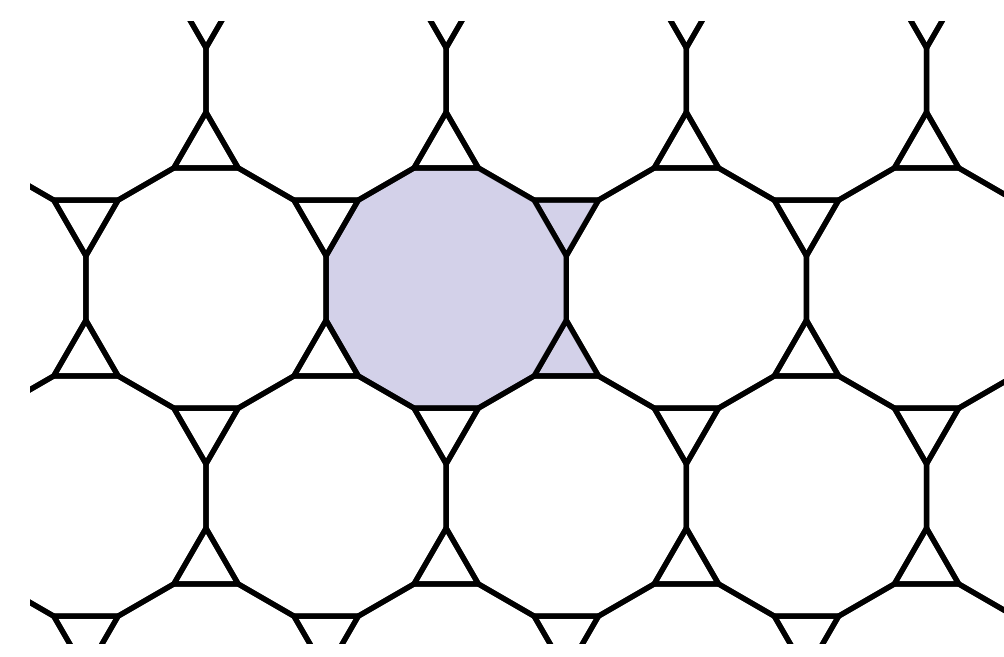
Pattern D 4.8.8



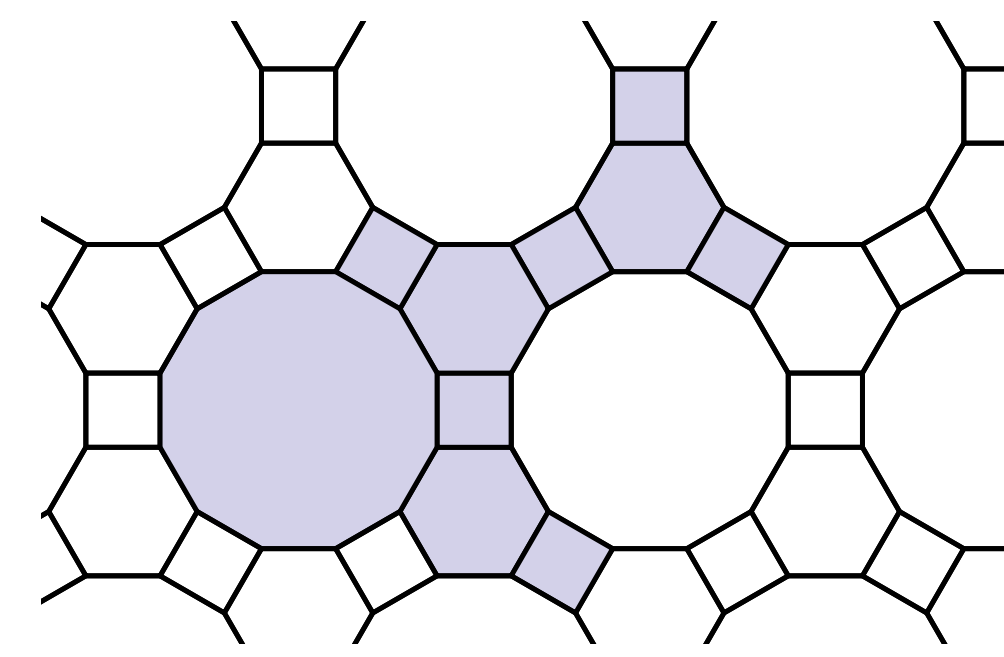
Pattern E 3.4.6.4



Pattern F 3.3.3.3.6

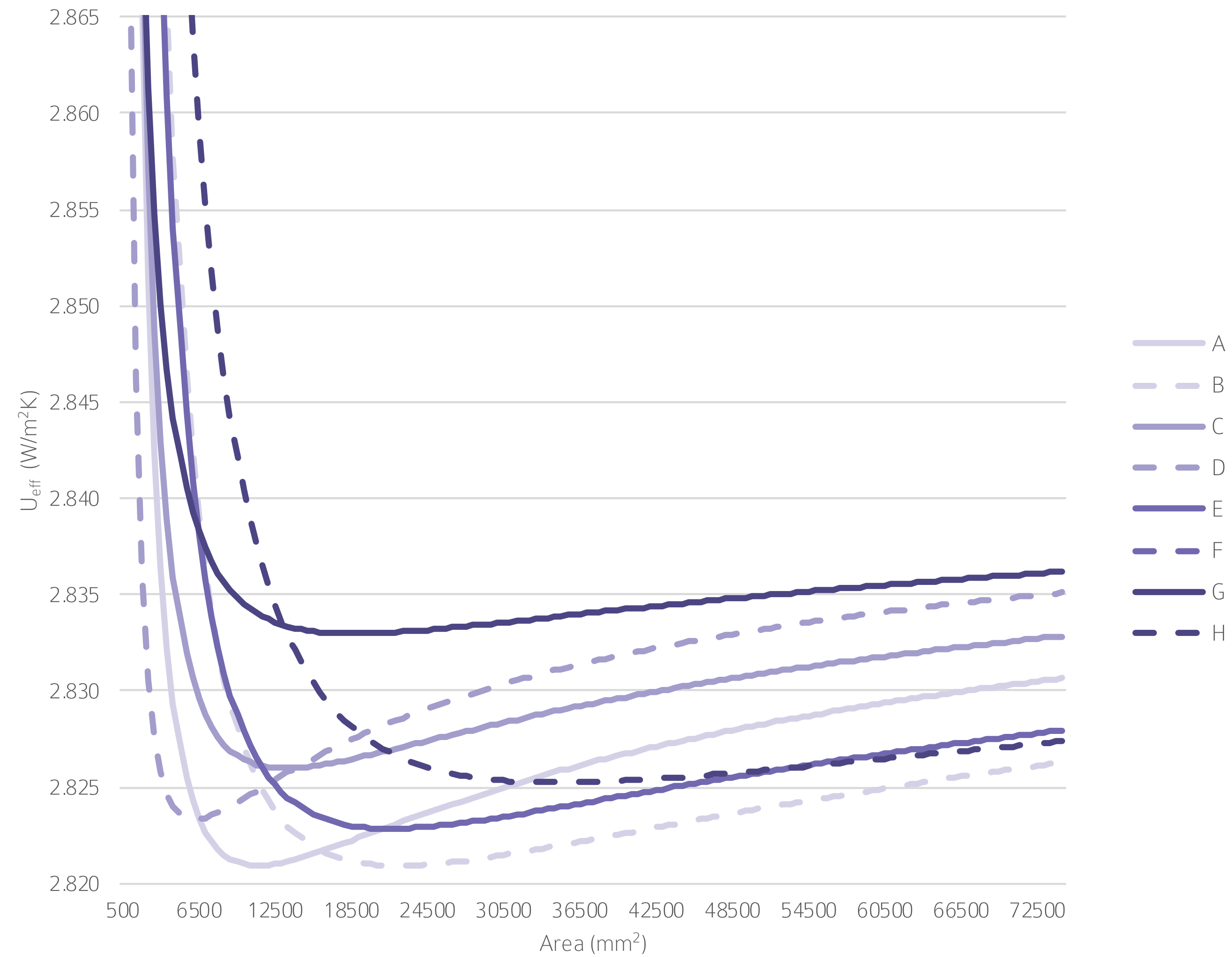


Pattern G 3.12.12

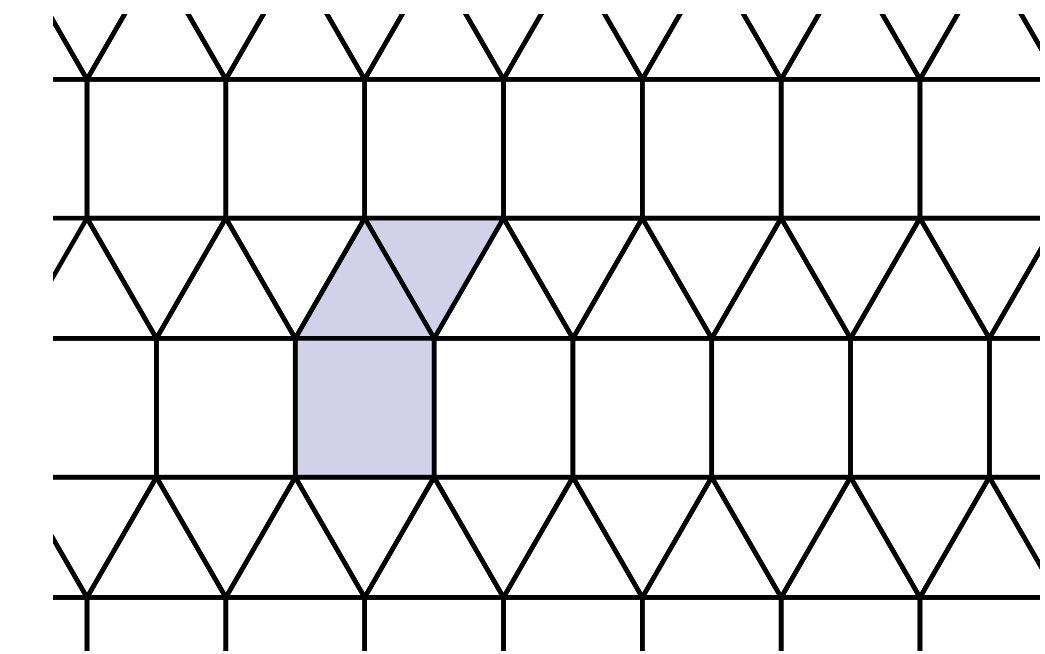
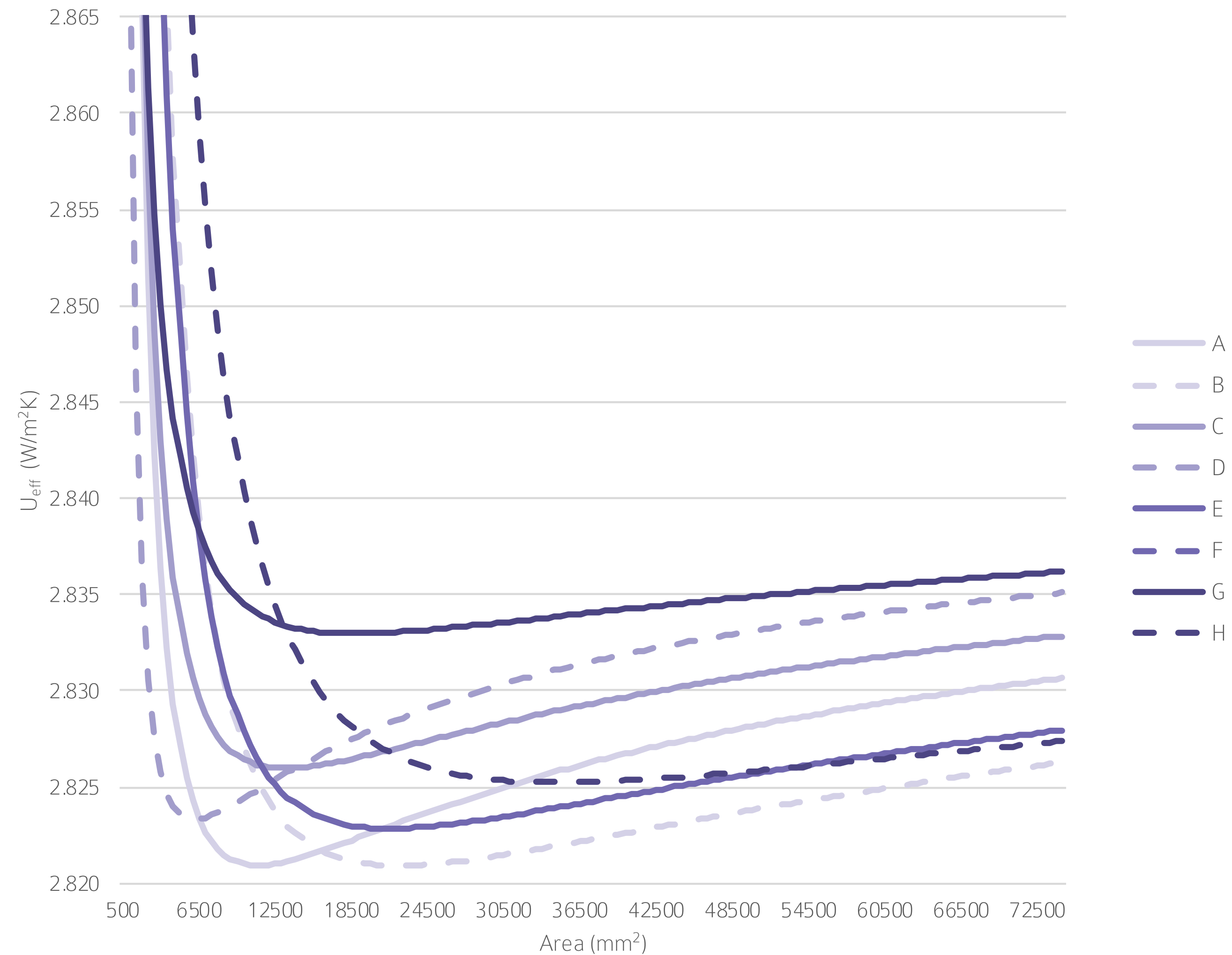


Pattern H 4.6.12

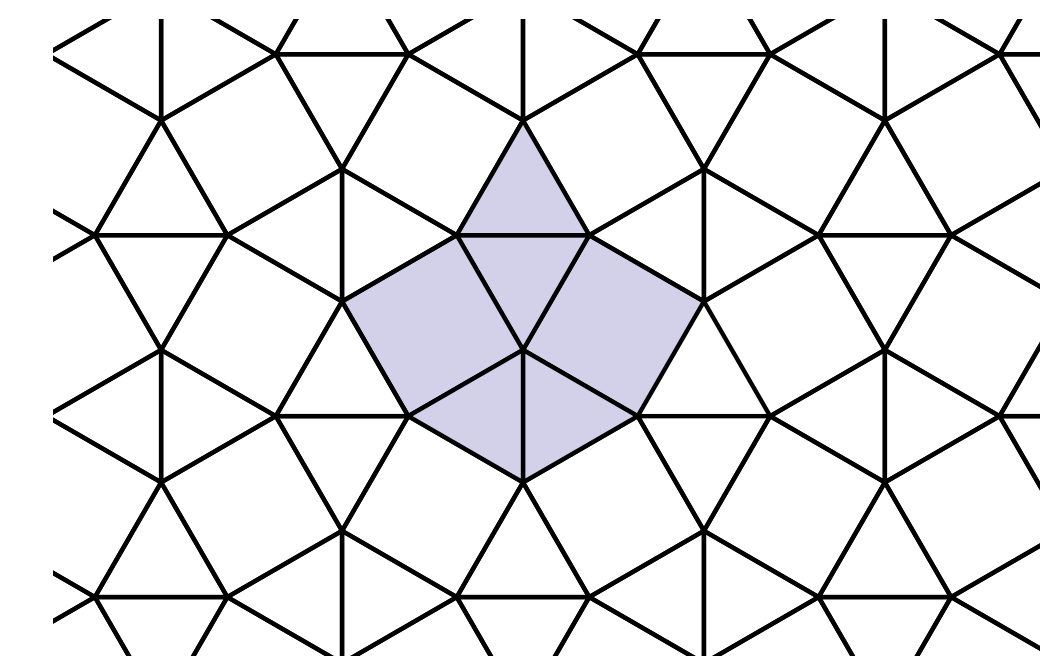
## SEMIREGULAR TESSELATIONS



## RELATION BETWEEN SIZE OF REPEATING PATTERN AND U-VALUE

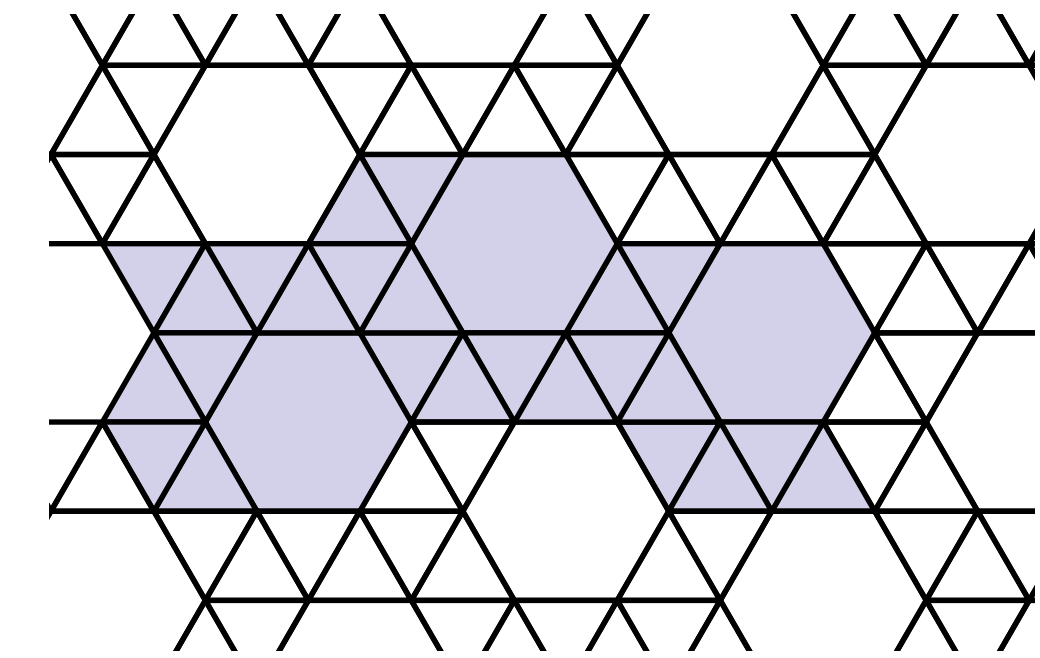
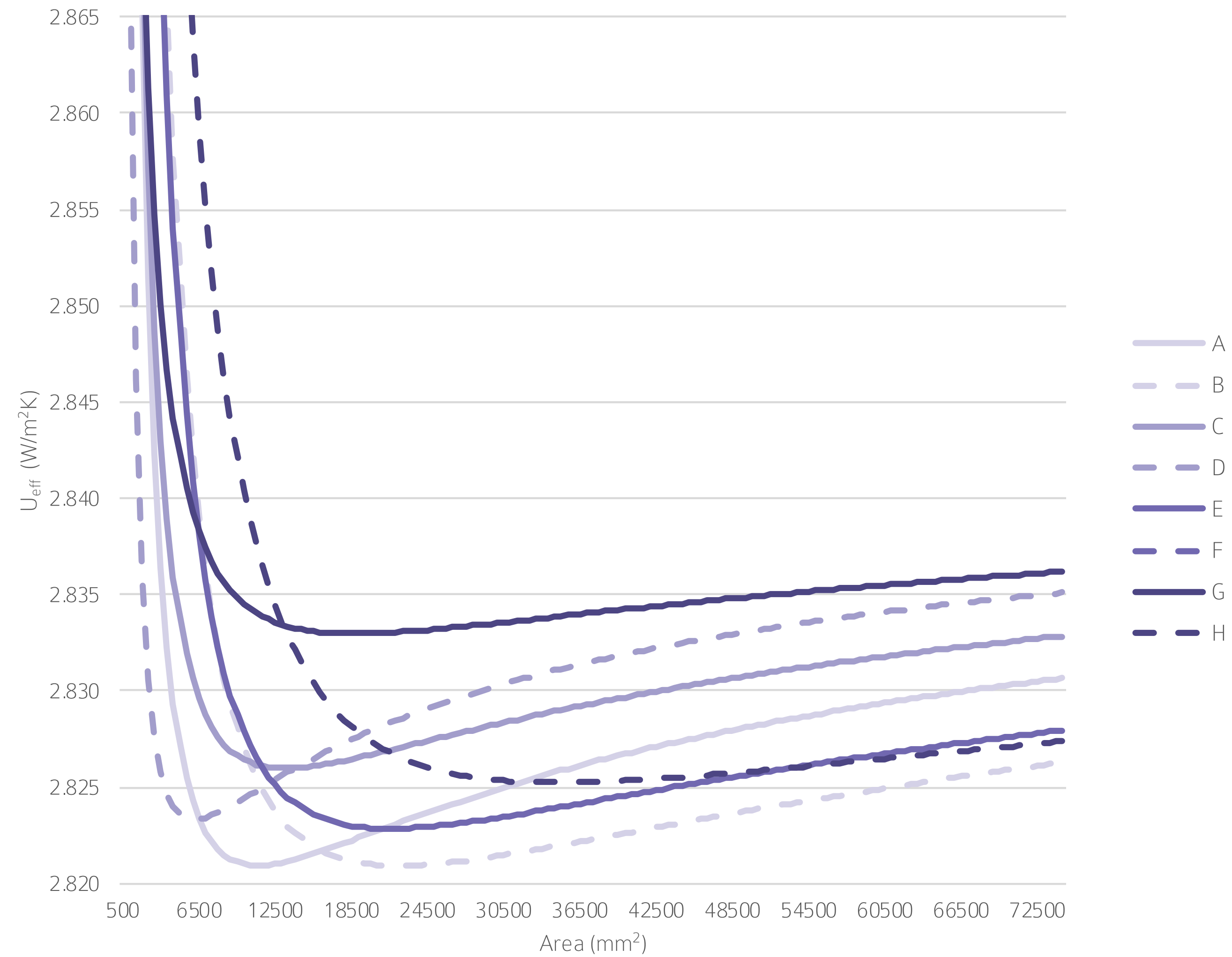


Pattern A 3.3.3.4.4



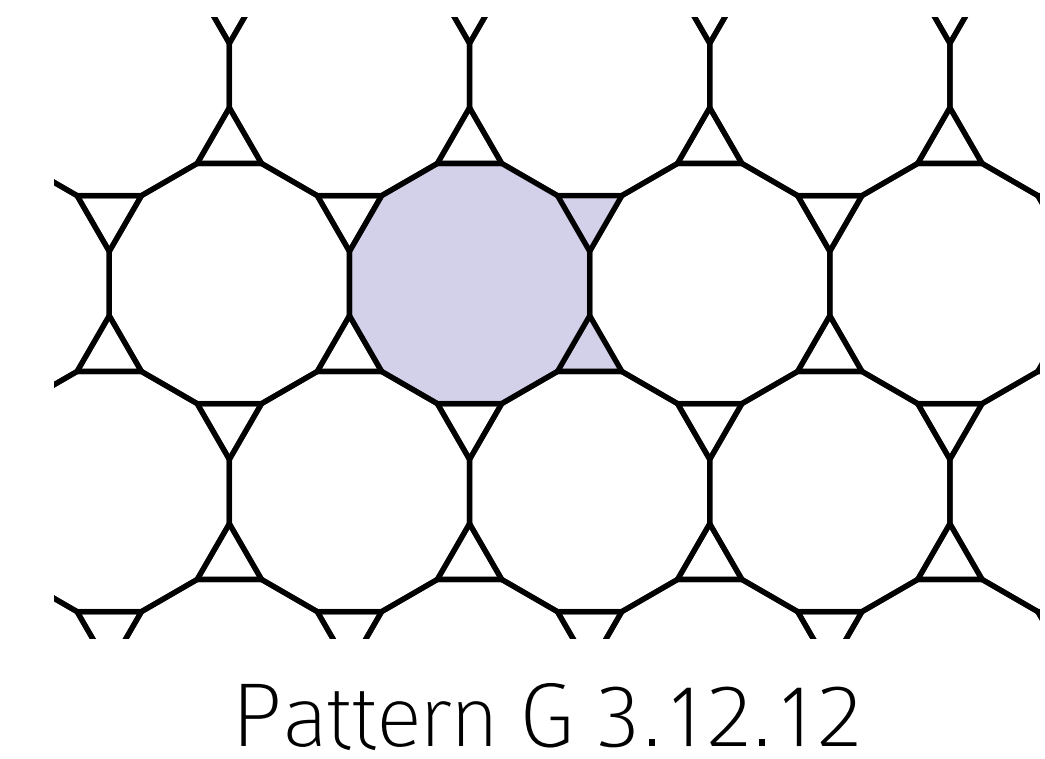
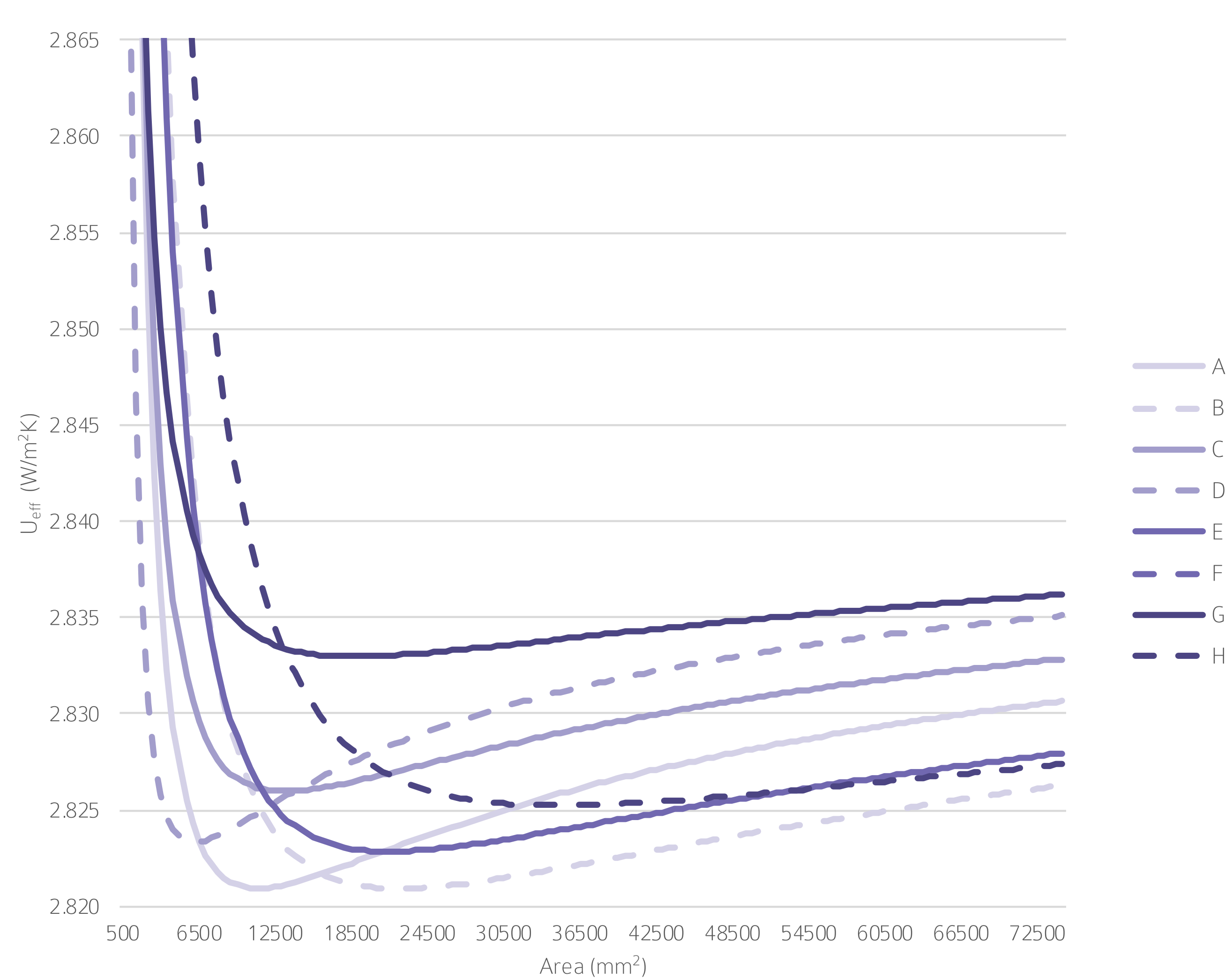
Pattern B 3.3.4.3.4

## RELATION BETWEEN SIZE OF REPEATING PATTERN AND U-VALUE

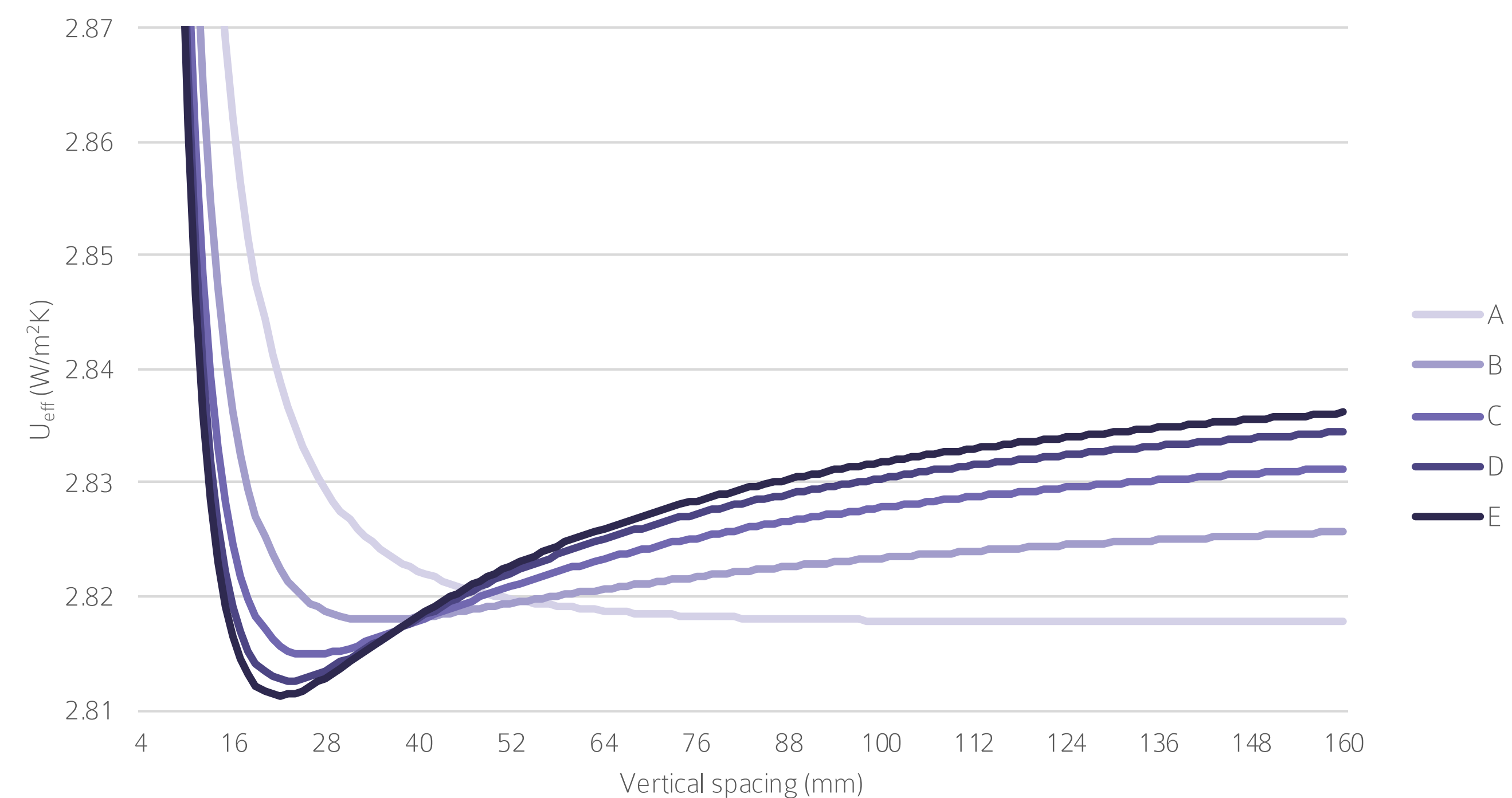


Pattern F 3.3.3.3.6

## RELATION BETWEEN SIZE OF REPEATING PATTERN AND U-VALUE



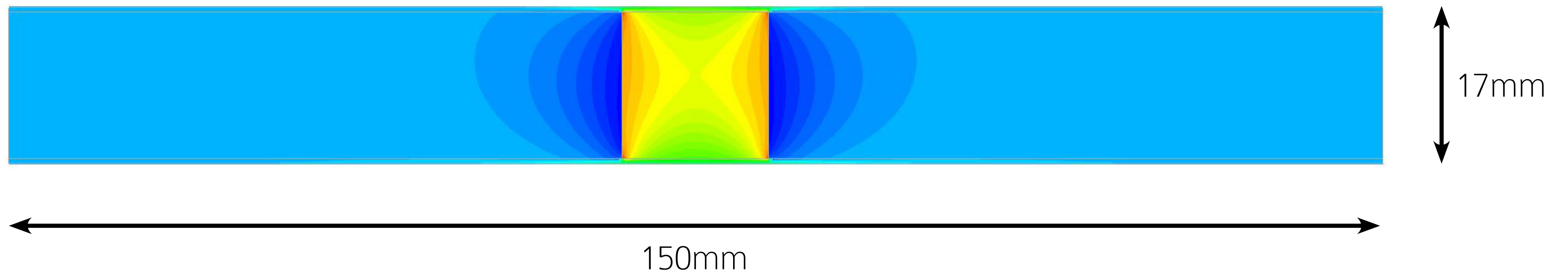
## RELATION BETWEEN SIZE OF REPEATING PATTERN AND U-VALUE



| Rectangle   | A     | B     | C     | D     | E     |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Width (mm)  | 40    | 80    | 160   | 320   | 640   |
| Height (mm) | 132   | 34    | 26    | 23    | 22    |
| U (W/m²K)   | 2.818 | 2.818 | 2.815 | 2.813 | 2.811 |

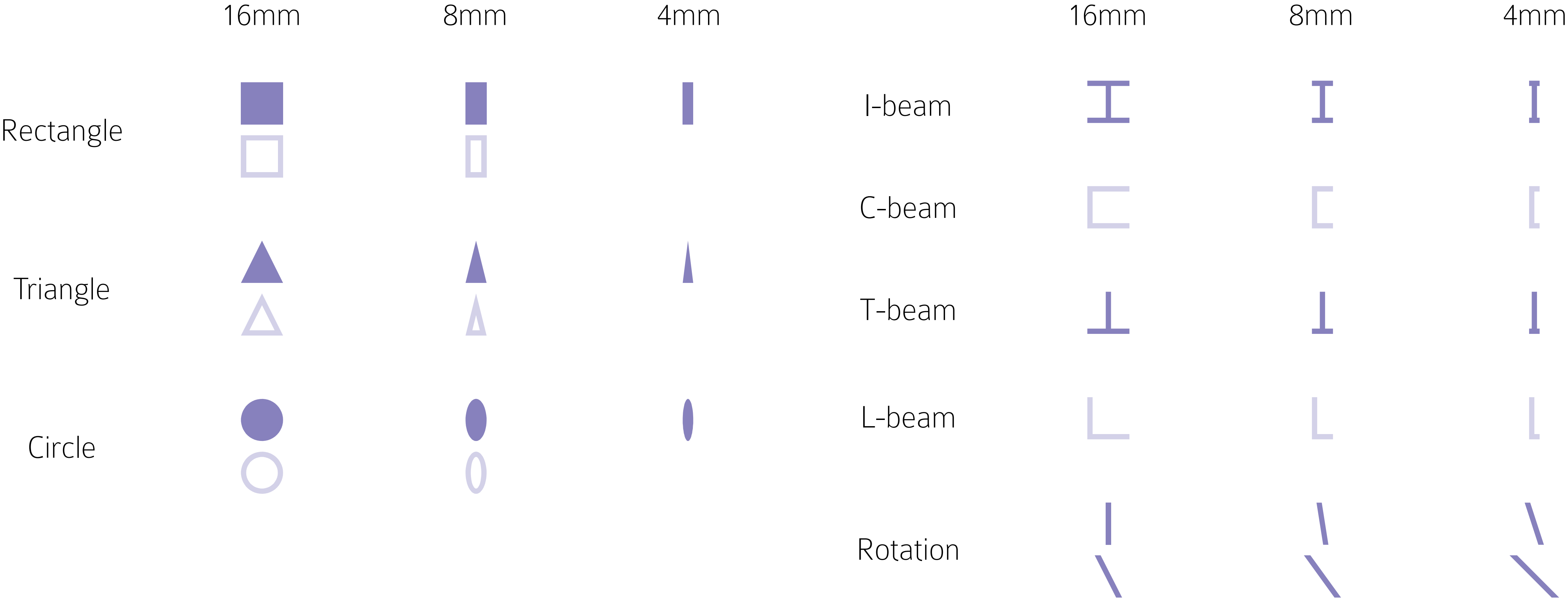
RELATION BETWEEN ELONGATION OF RECTANGLE AND U-VALUE

$$\psi = (q_2 * l_2 - q_1 * l_1) / \Delta T$$

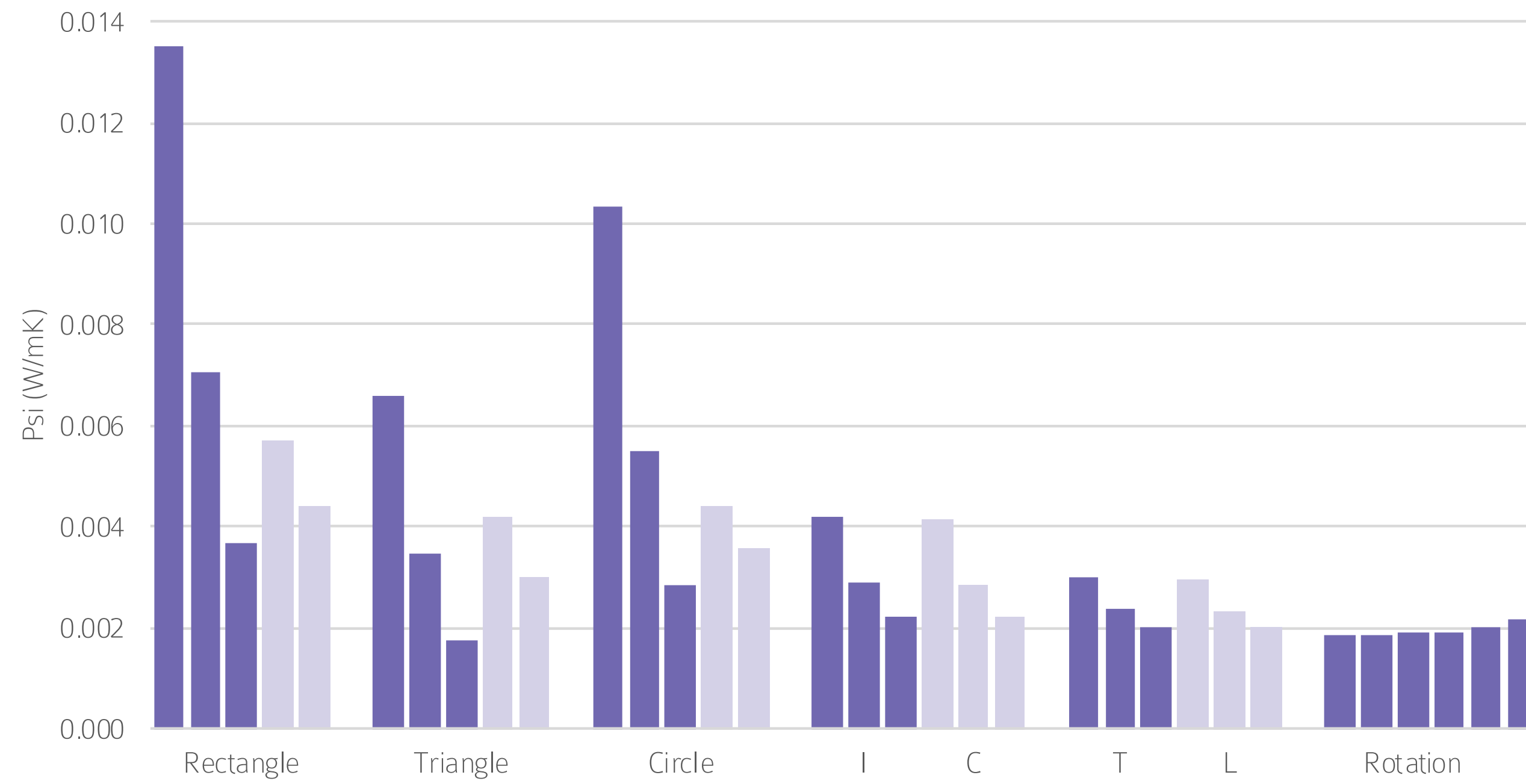


## THERMAL BRIDGE

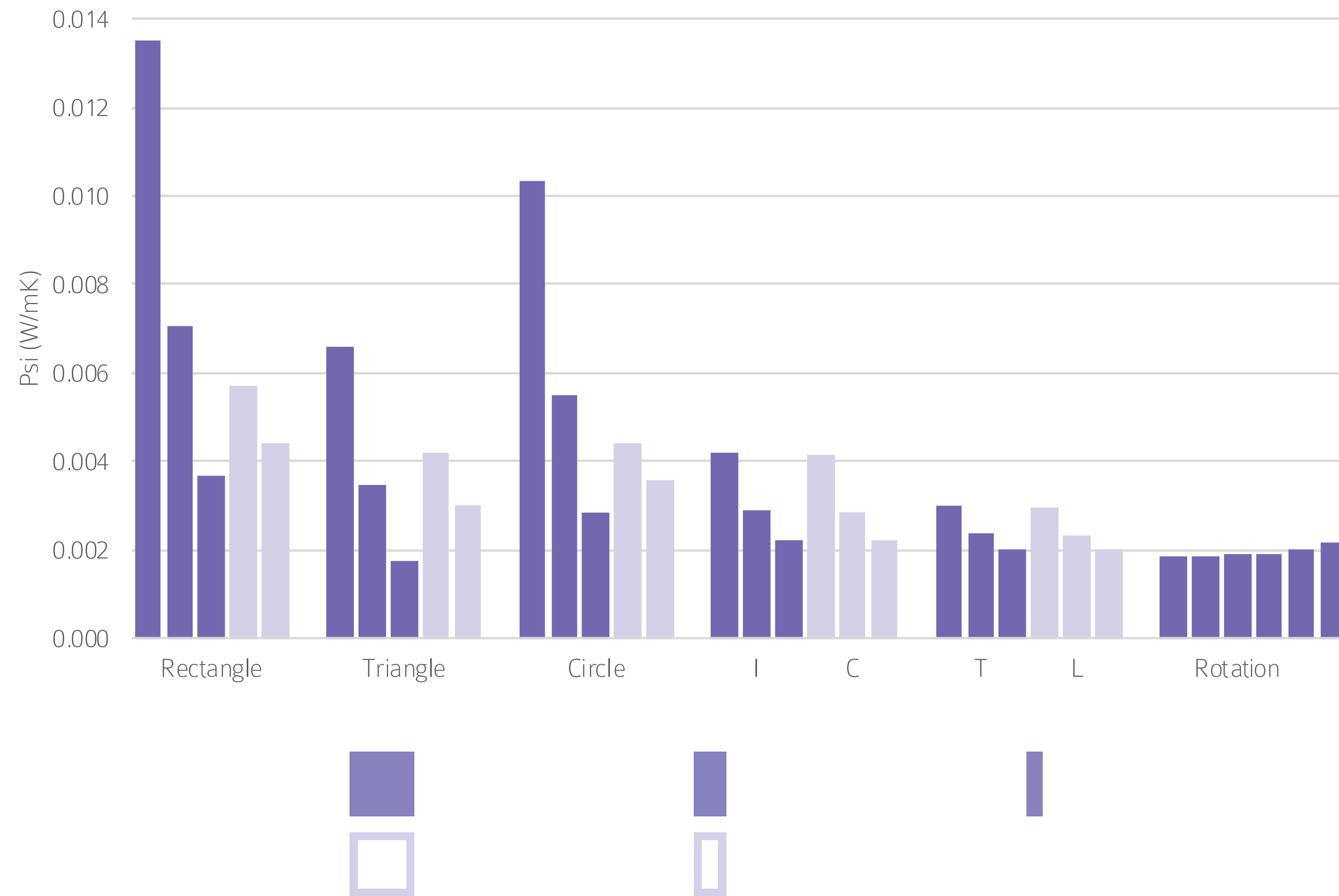
boundary resistance 0.04 and 0.13 m<sup>2</sup>K/W temperatures 0°C and 20°C



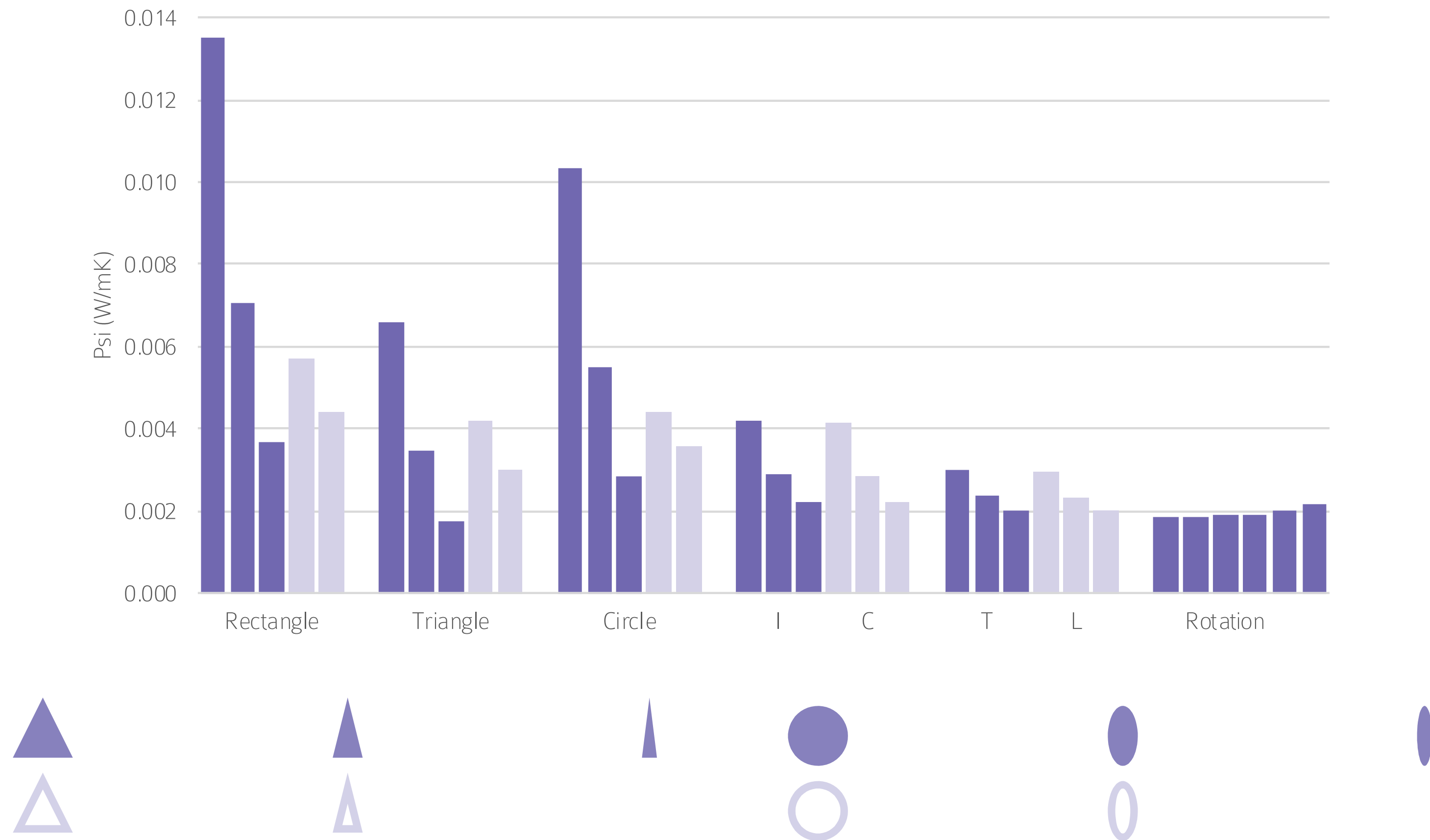
SELECTION OF SPACERS



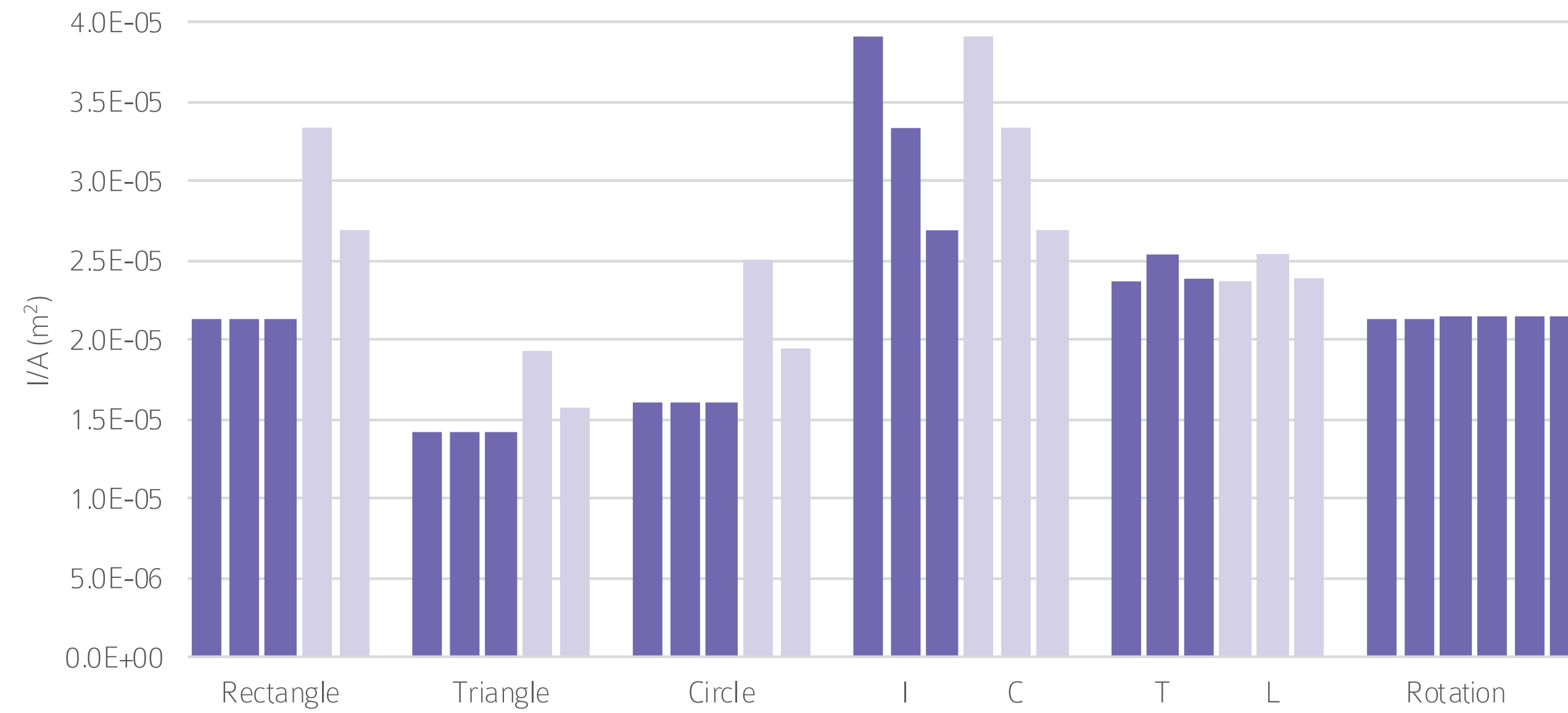
## LINEAR THERMAL TRANSMITTANCE



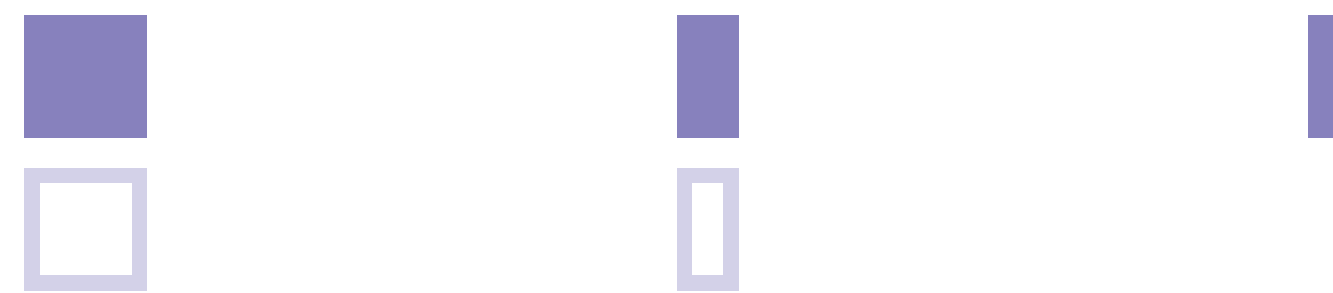
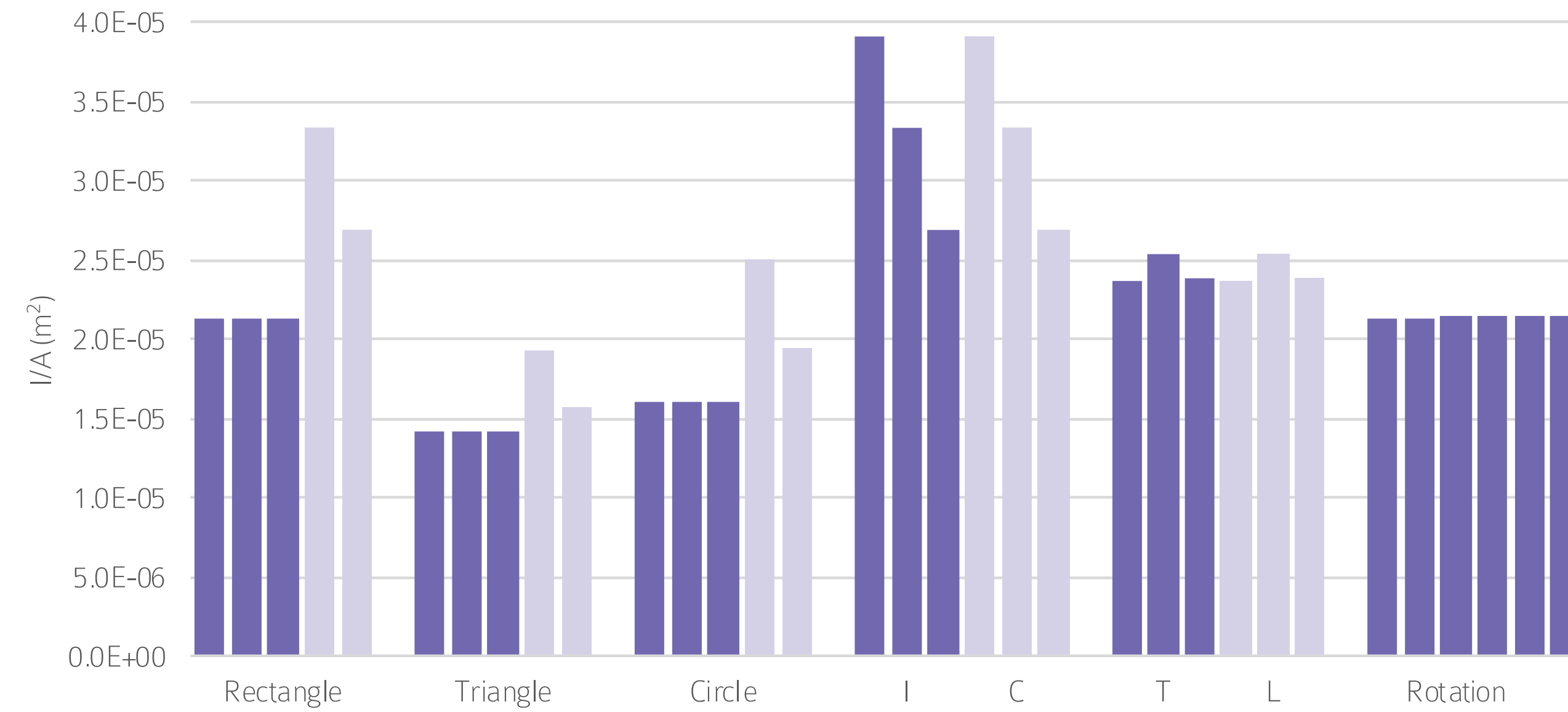
## LINEAR THERMAL TRANSMITTANCE



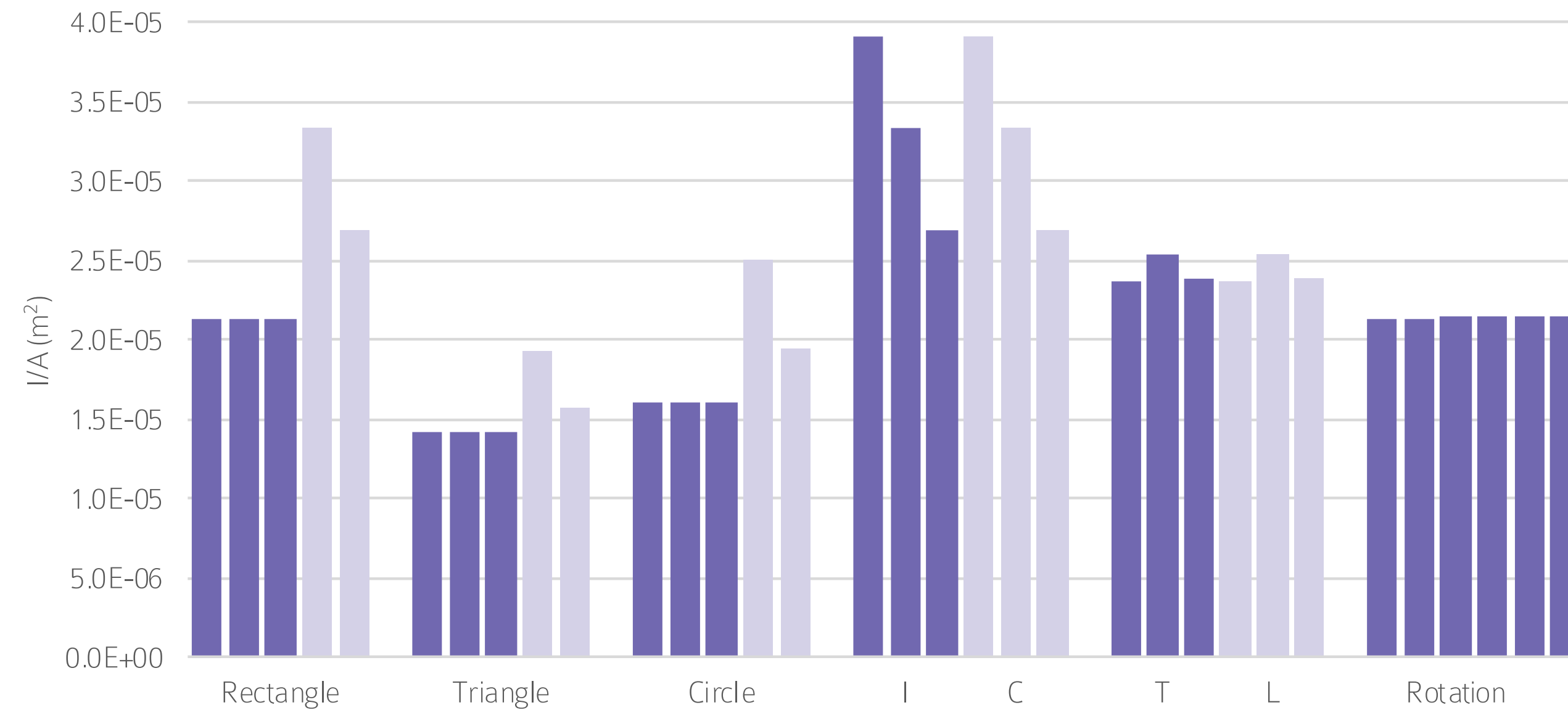
## LINEAR THERMAL TRANSMITTANCE



## SECOND MOMENT OF AREA / AREA



## SECOND MOMENT OF AREA / AREA

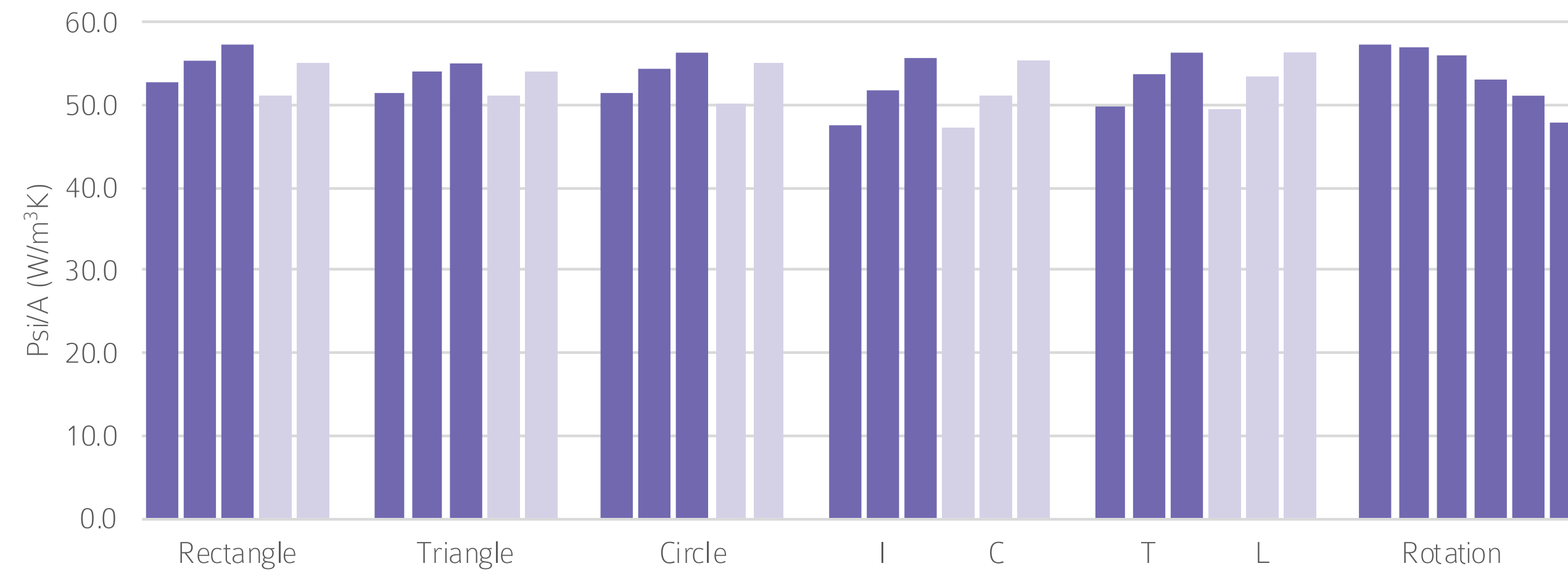


I

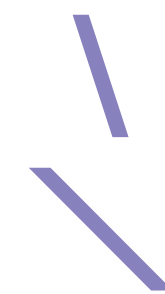
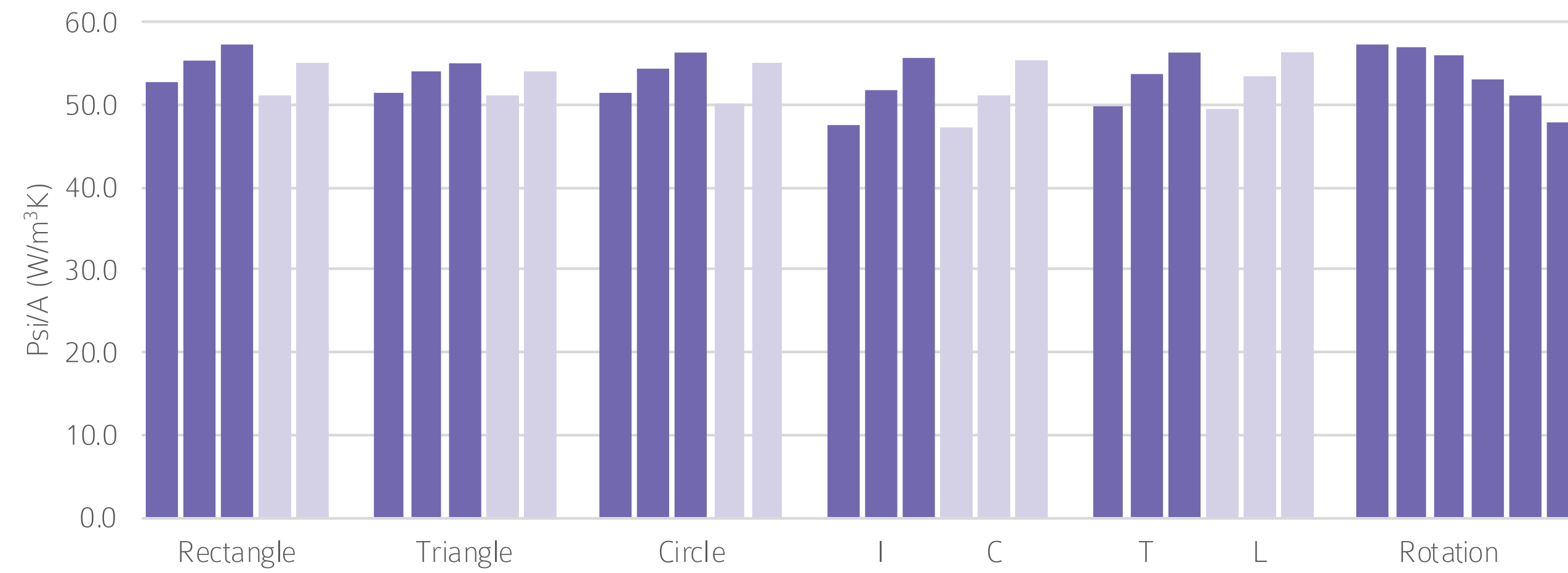
I

I

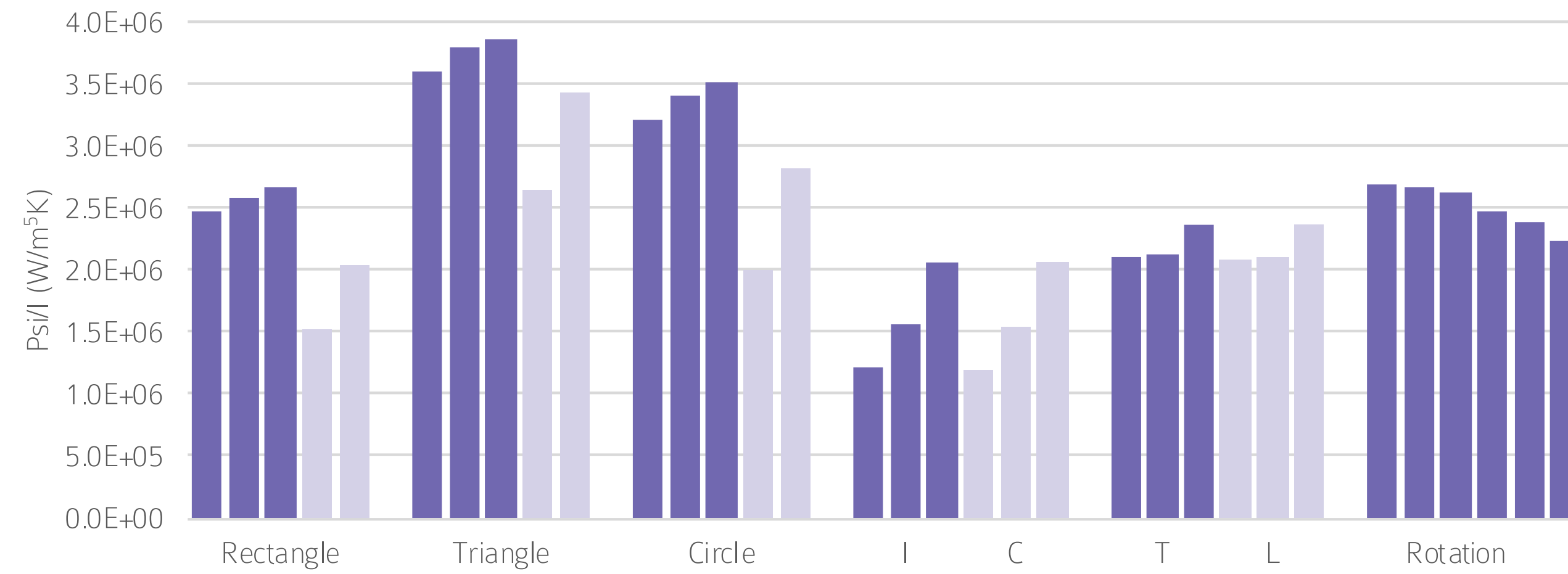
## SECOND MOMENT OF AREA / AREA



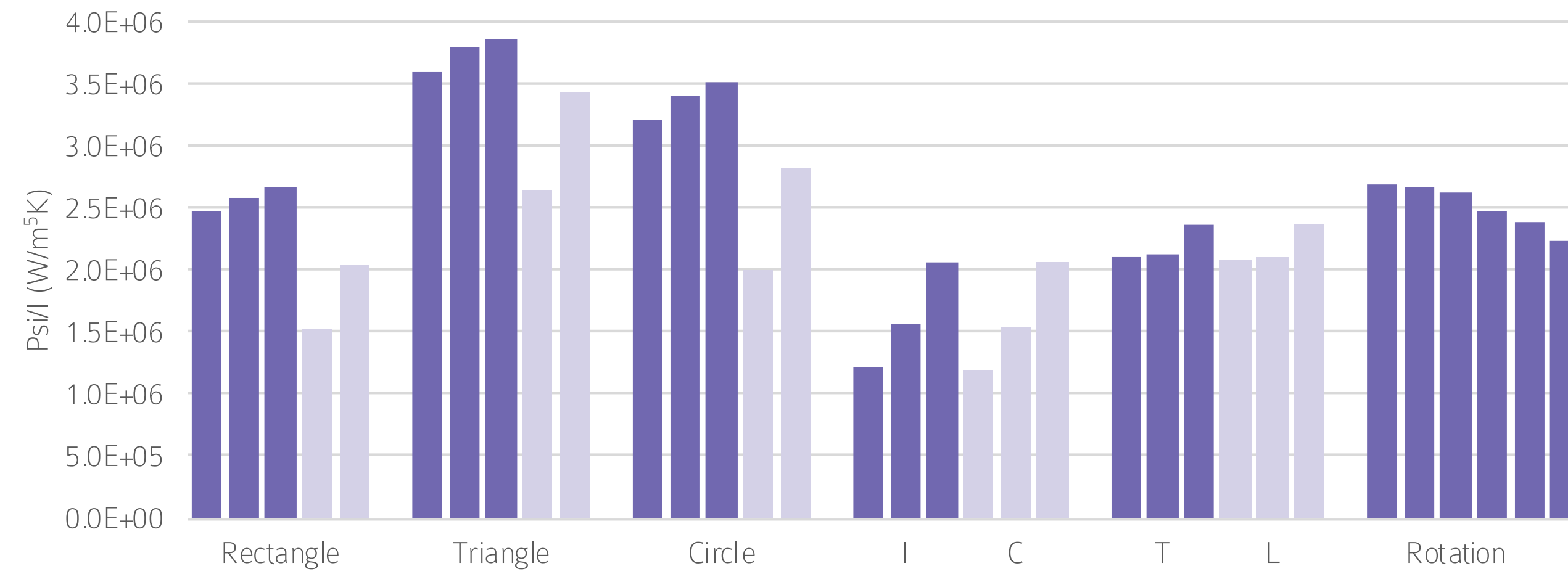
**LINEAR THERMAL TRANSMITTANCE / AREA**



**LINEAR THERMAL TRANSMITTANCE / AREA**

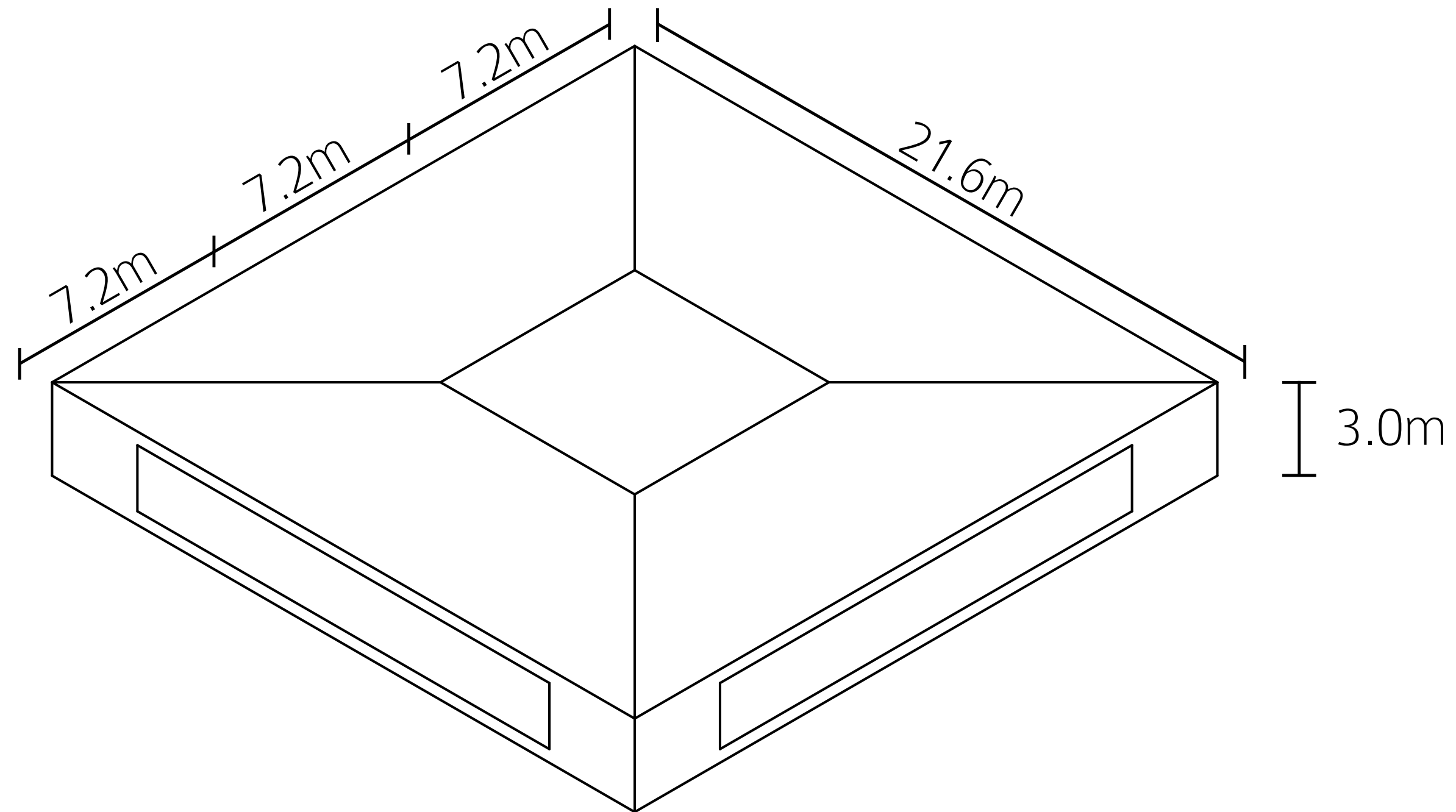


**LINEAR THERMAL TRANSMITTANCE / SECOND MOMENT OF AREA**



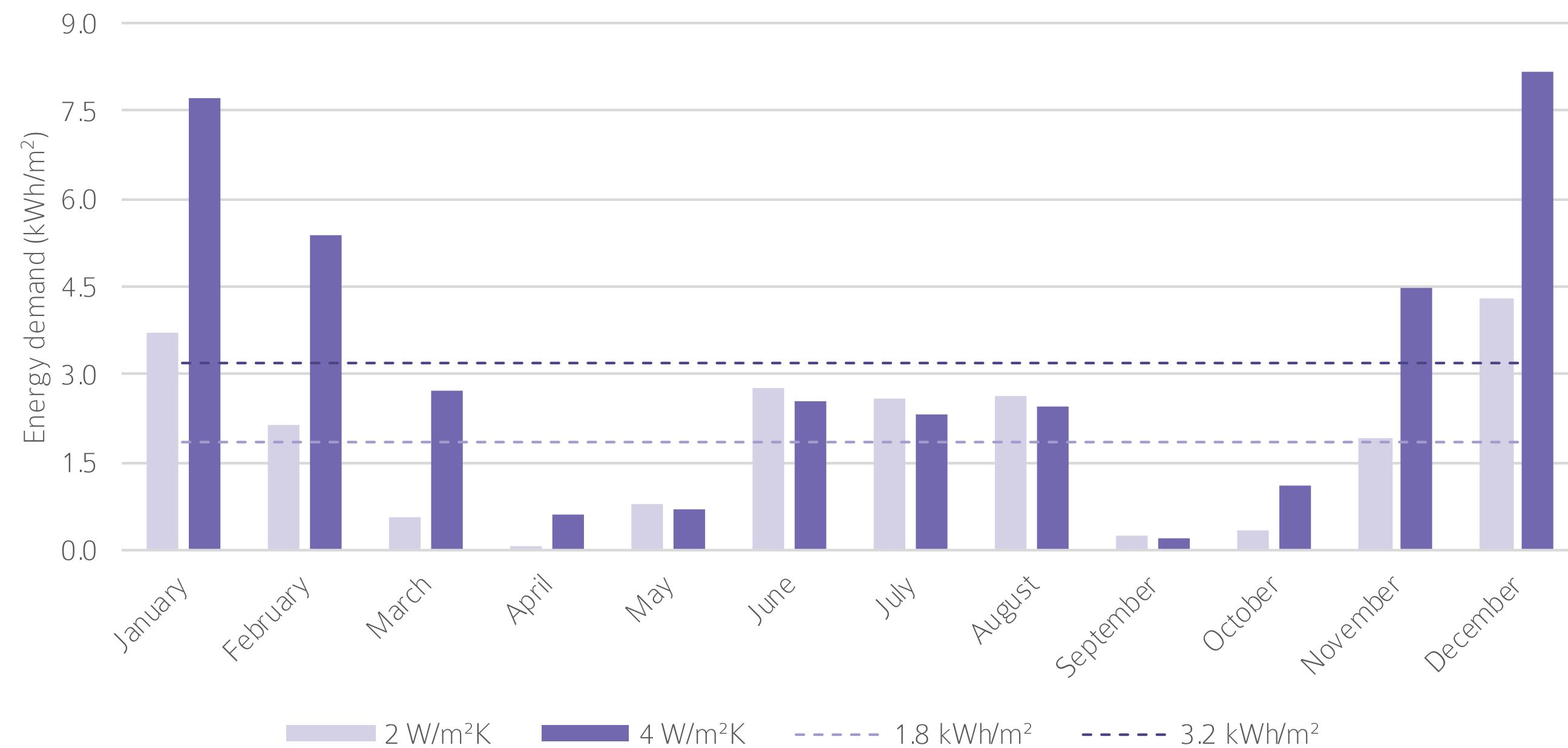
**LINEAR THERMAL TRANSMITTANCE / SECOND MOMENT OF AREA**

EVALUATION



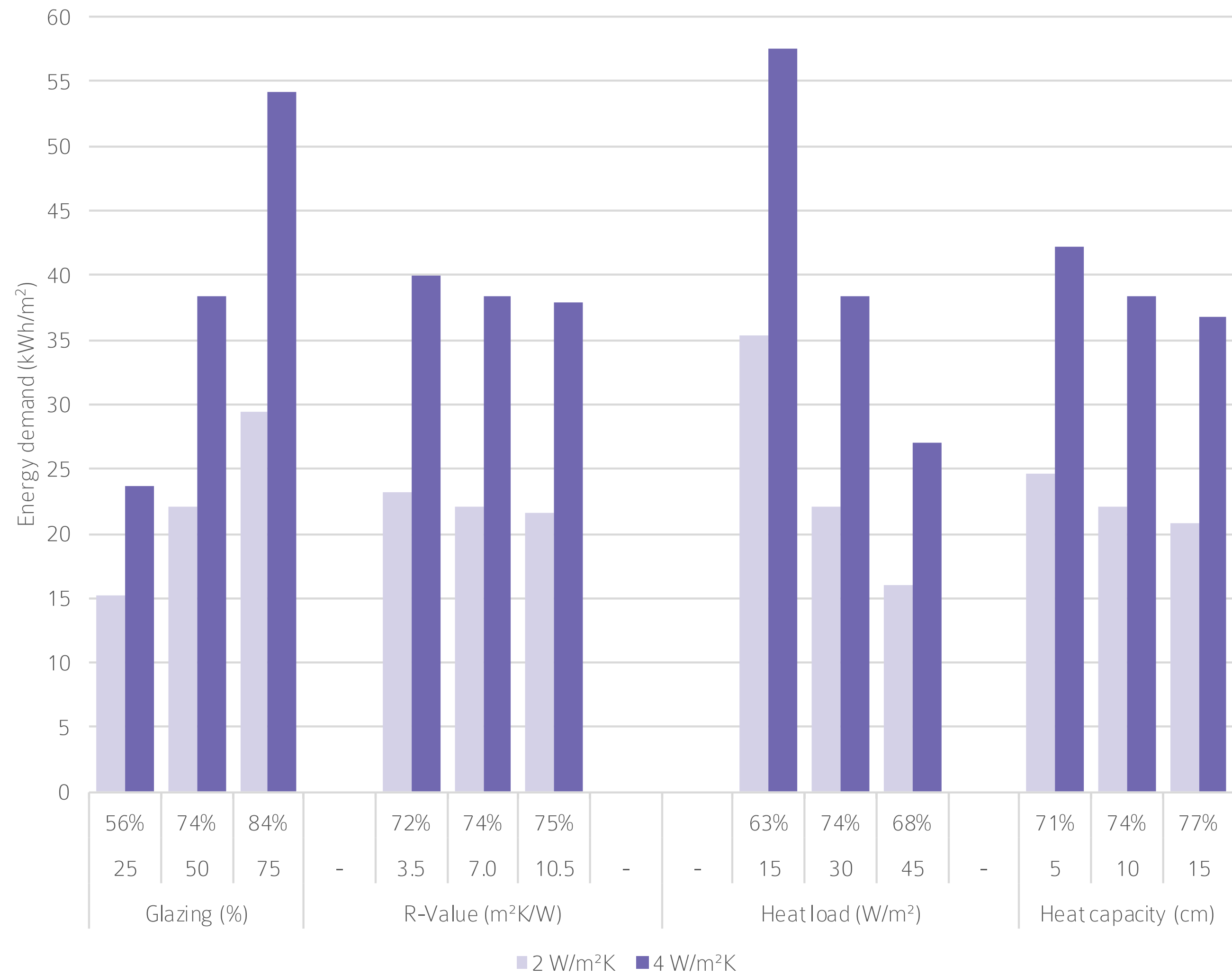
## ENERGY MODEL

Glazing // R-Value // Heat load // Heat capacity



## MONTHLY ENERGY DEMAND

Glazing 50% // R-value 7.0 m²K/W // Heat capacity 10cm concrete // Heat load 30W/m²



# ANNUAL ENERGY DEMAND

**IGU**  
2.756 W/m²K

**TGS**  
2.811 W/m²K

|                                    | Insulating Glass Unit | Thin Glass Sandwich |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Glass total thickness (mm)         | 12                    | 1                   |
| Glass type density (kg/m³)         | 2500                  | 2430                |
| Glass type embodied energy (MJ/kg) | 10.6                  | 13.9                |
| Window embodied energy (MJ/m²)     | 318.0                 | 33.8                |

**EMBODIED ENERGY GLASS**

per square meter window

**IGU**  
2.756 W/m<sup>2</sup>K

**TGS**  
2.811 W/m<sup>2</sup>K

|                                                |         |
|------------------------------------------------|---------|
| PLA (%)                                        | 8.90    |
| PLA (m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>2</sup> )          | 1.14e-3 |
| Embodied energy PLA (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> )       | 98.99   |
| Embodied energy extruding (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 10.54   |
| Embodied energy sandwich (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> )  | 143.3   |

Embodied energy IGU (MJ/m<sup>2</sup>)                      318.0

**EMBODIED ENERGY INCLUDING PLA**

per square meter window

**IGU**  
2.756 W/m<sup>2</sup>K

**TGS**  
2.811 W/m<sup>2</sup>K

|                                        |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Glazing percentage (%)                 | 25    | 50    | 75    |
| Glazing area (m <sup>2</sup> )         | 64.8  | 129.6 | 194.4 |
| Δ Embodied energy (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 24.25 | 48.52 | 72.78 |

**SAVED EMBODIED ENERGY**

per square meter floor

**IGU**  
1.100 W/m<sup>2</sup>K

**TGS**  
2.811 W/m<sup>2</sup>K

|                                              |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Glazing percentage (%)                       | 25    | 50    | 75    |
| Energy demand IGU (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year) | 19.06 | 26.88 | 35.85 |
| Energy demand TGS (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year) | 27.59 | 44.48 | 62.95 |
| Δ Energy demand (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year)   | 8.53  | 17.60 | 27.11 |
| Δ Energy demand (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> /year)    | 30.72 | 63.37 | 97.58 |

**OPERATIONAL ENERGY**

per square meter floor

**IGU**  
1.100 W/m<sup>2</sup>K

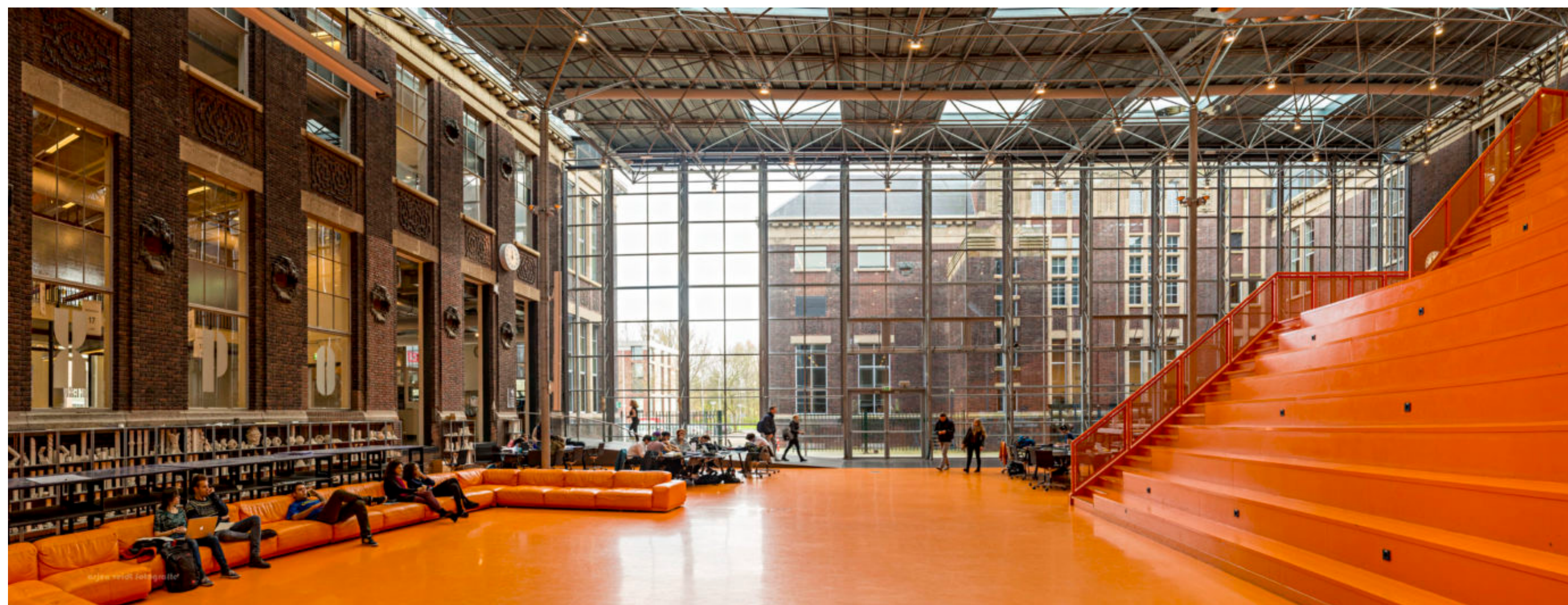
**TGS**  
2.811 W/m<sup>2</sup>K

|                                              |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Glazing percentage (%)                       | 25    | 50    | 75    |
| Energy demand IGU (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year) | 19.06 | 26.88 | 35.85 |
| Energy demand TGS (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year) | 27.59 | 44.48 | 62.95 |
| Δ Energy demand (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year)   | 8.53  | 17.60 | 27.11 |
| Δ Energy demand (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> /year)    | 30.72 | 63.37 | 97.58 |
| Δ Embodied energy (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> )       | 24.25 | 48.52 | 72.78 |

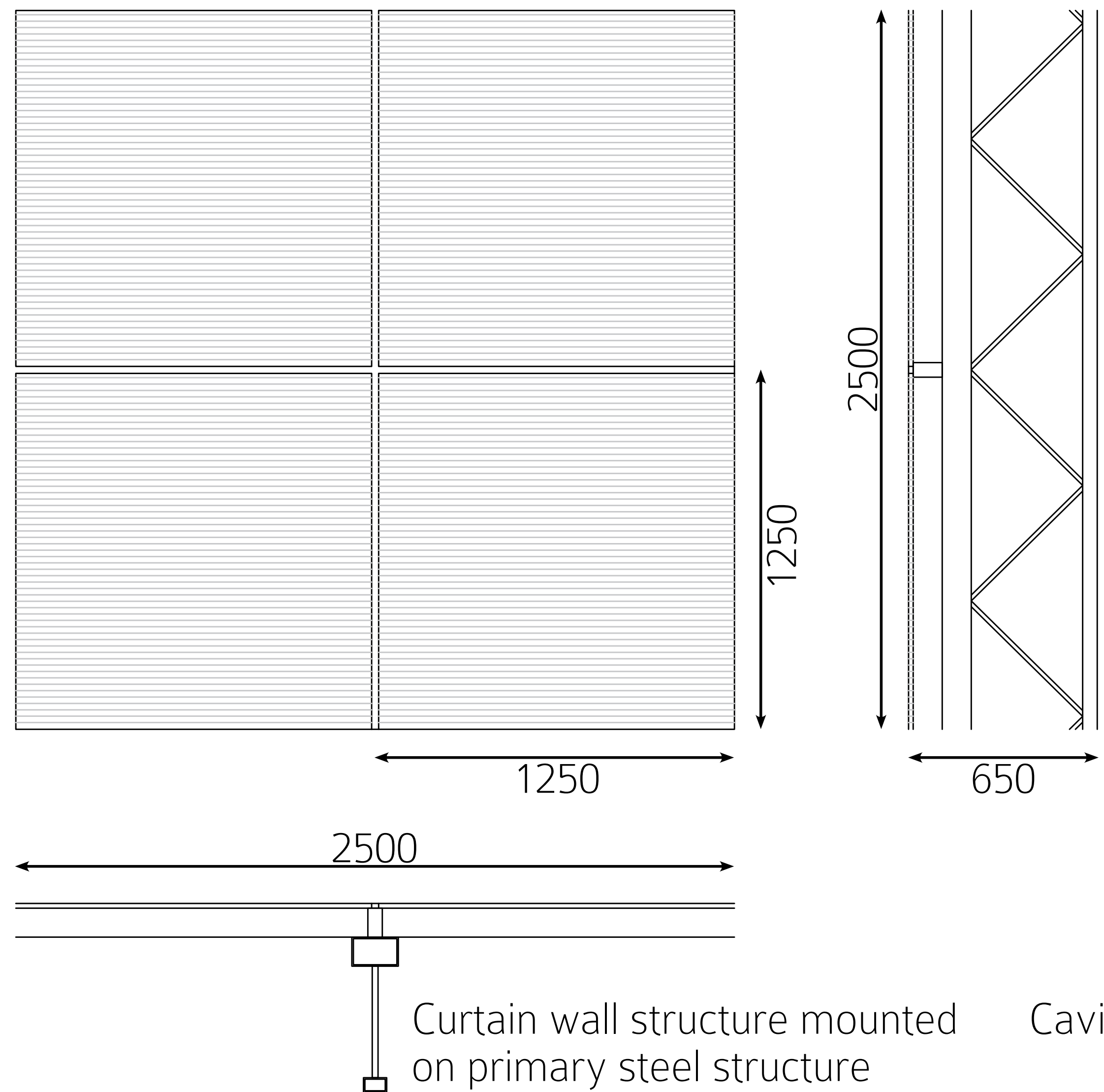
## OPERATIONAL ENERGY VERSUS EMBODIED ENERGY

per square meter floor

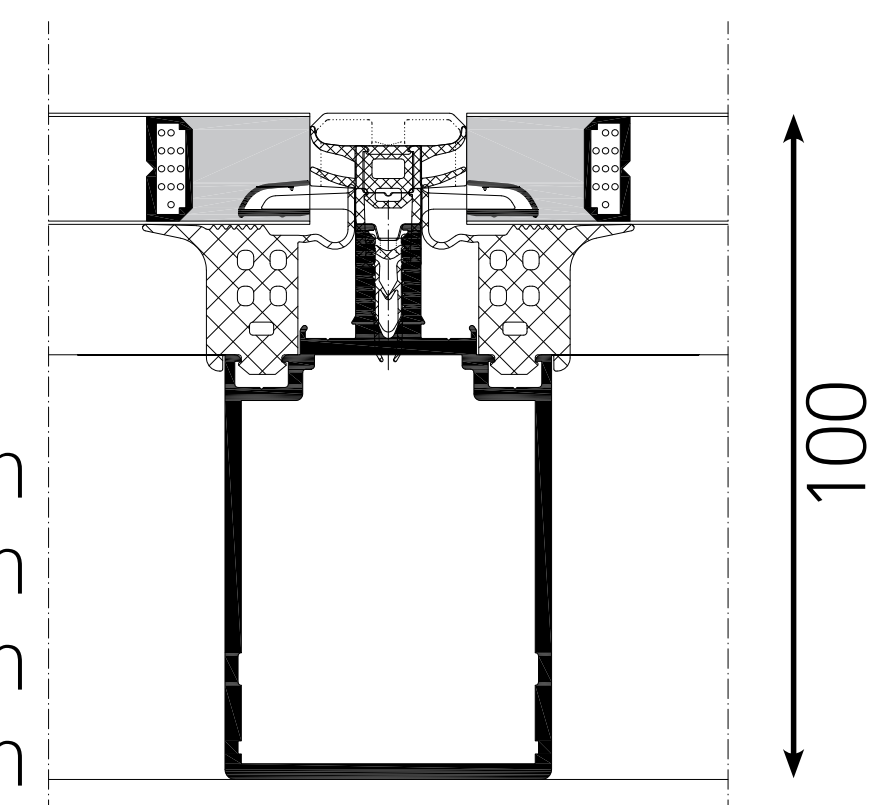
DIGITAL DESIGN



## ORANGE HALL BK-CITY



Curtain wall structure

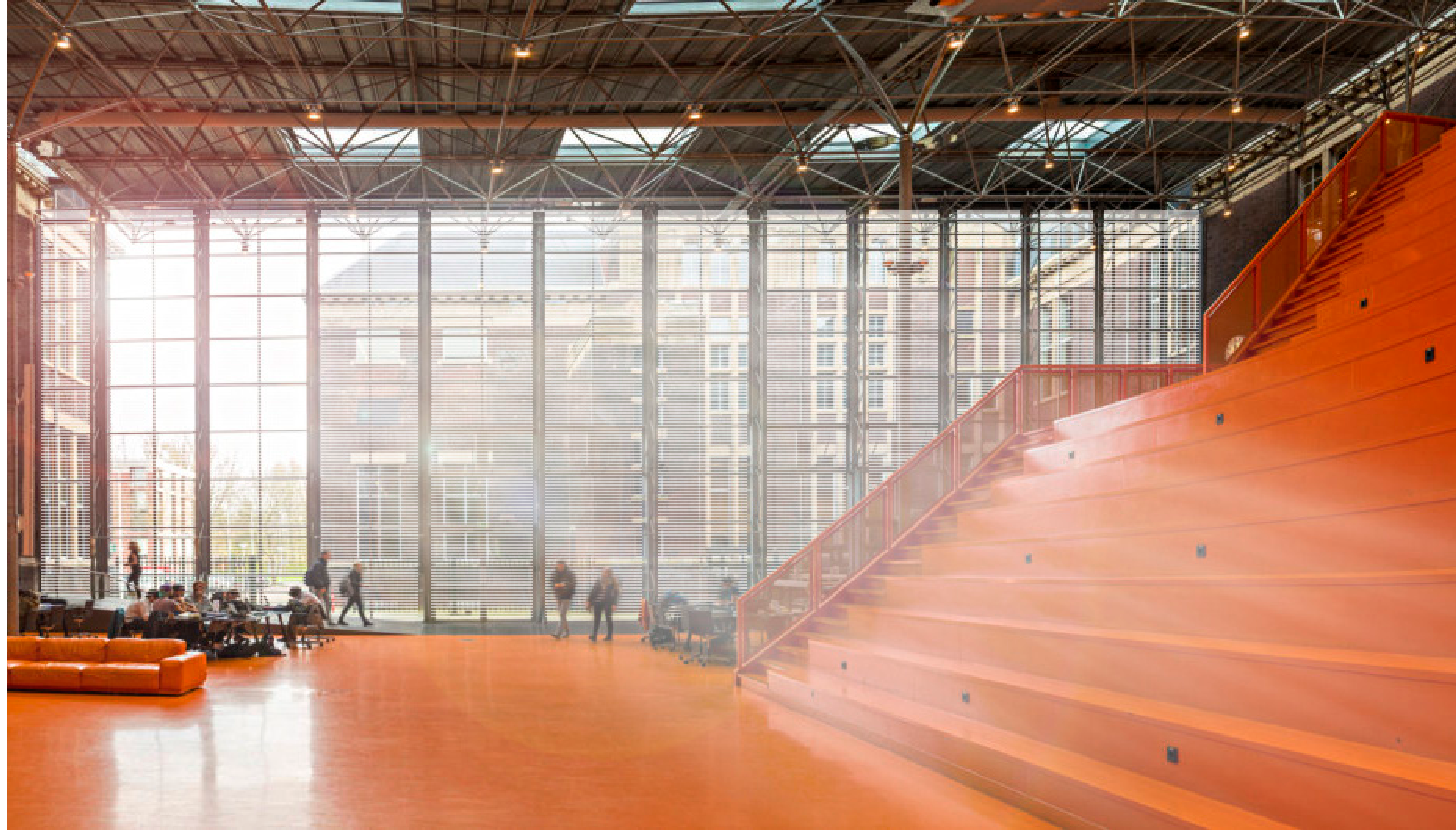


Thin glass sandwich  
Aluminosilicate glass 0.5mm  
Cavity 16mm filled with PLA ribs 2mm  
Aluminosilicate glass 0.5mm

## FAÇADE FRAGMENT AND DETAIL

PLA ribs vertical spacing 22mm





CONCLUSIONS

**TO WHAT EXTENT CAN A THIN GLASS SANDWICH  
COUNTERBALANCE ITS DECREASED THERMAL PERFORMANCE  
BY REDUCING EMBODIED ENERGY DURING PRODUCTION?**

Embodied energy is lower compared to IGU

Embodied energy is lower compared to IGU

U-value is higher compared to IGU

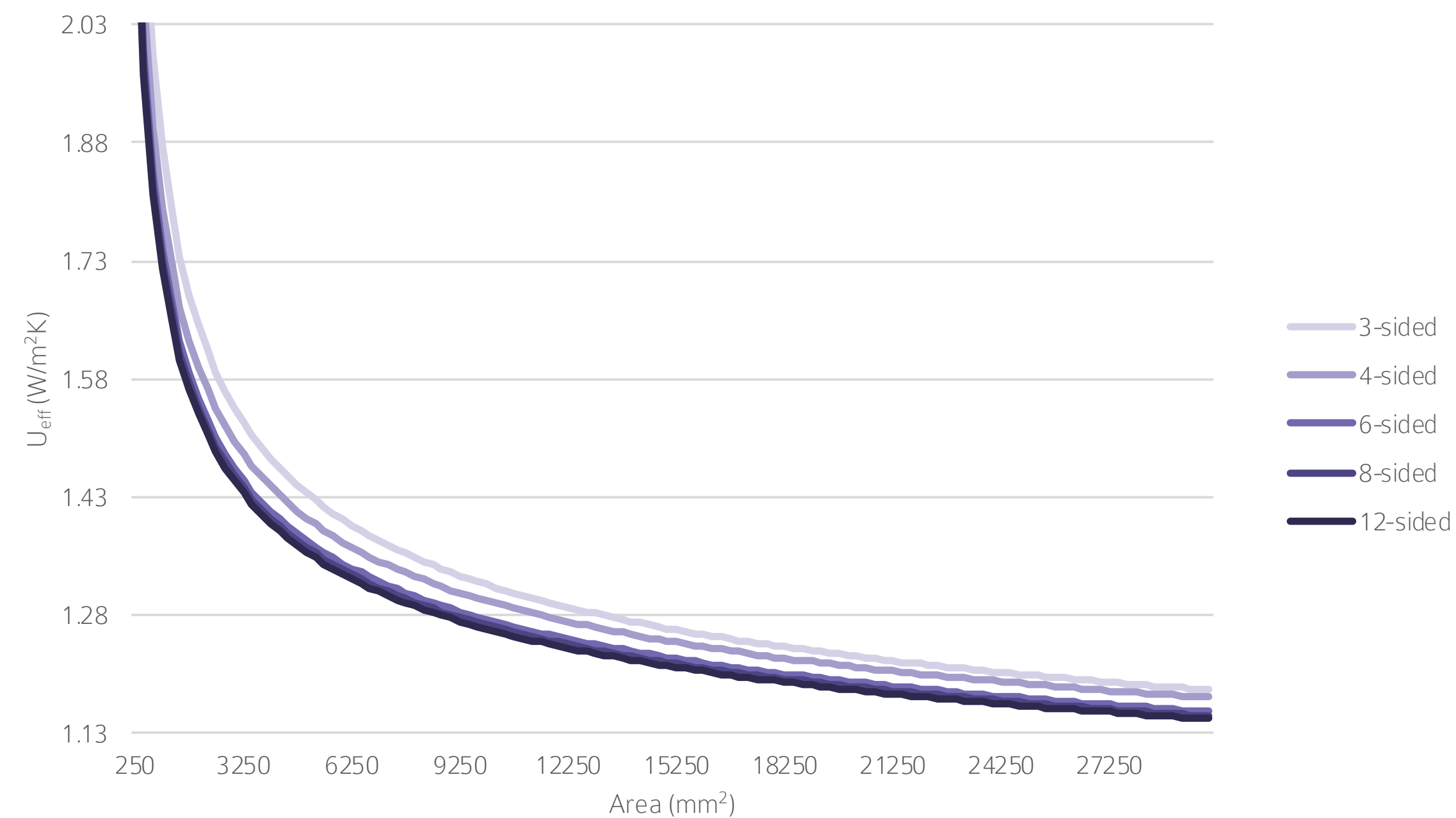
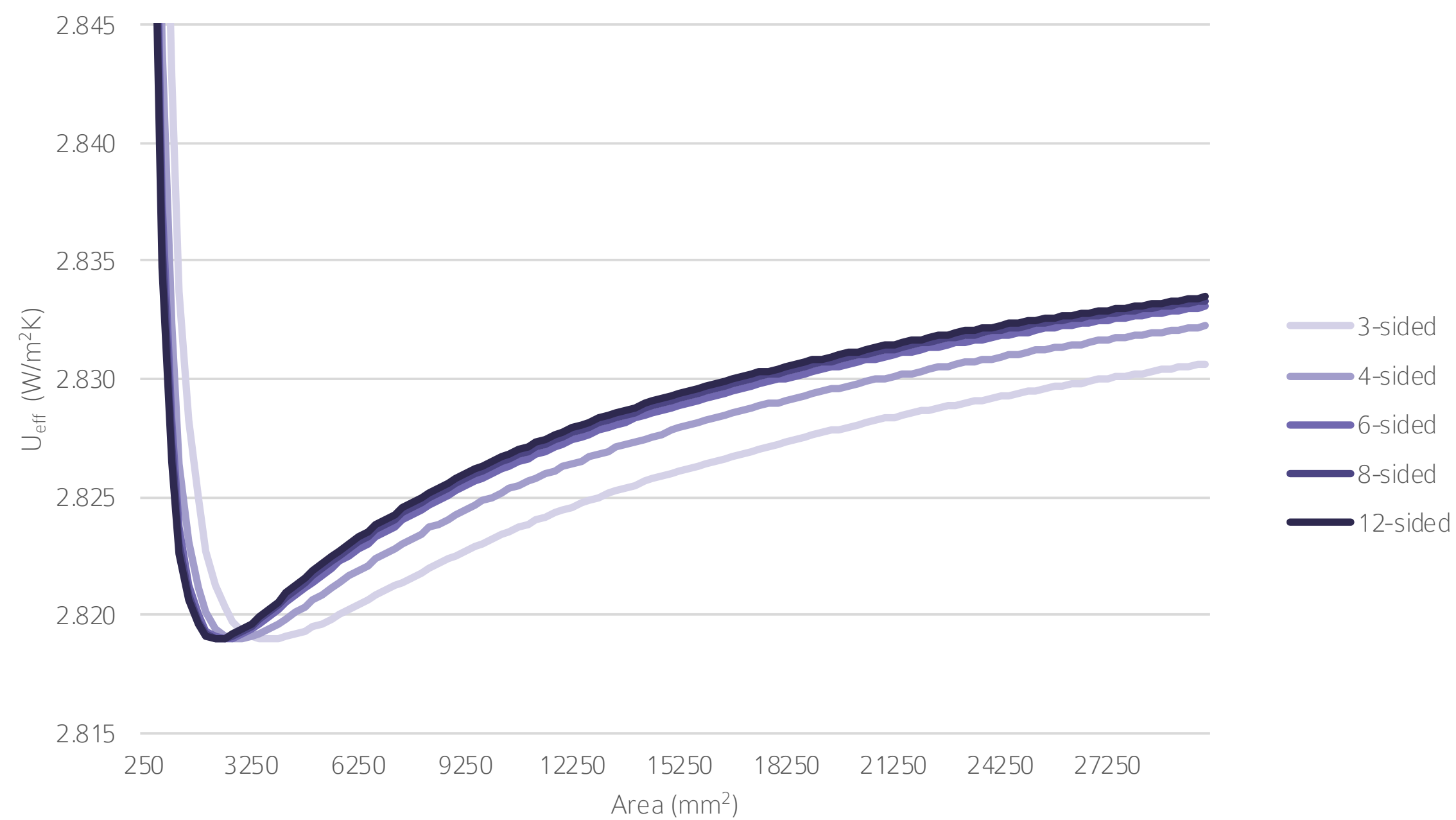
Embodied energy is lower compared to IGU

U-value is higher compared to IGU

The thin glass sandwich is lighter compared to IGU

RECOMMENDATIONS

Use of coatings and noble gasses



**AIR-FILLED, UNCOATED VERSUS ARGON-FILLED, COATED**

Use of coatings and noble gasses

Geometric distribution in elevation for spacers

Use of coatings and noble gasses

Geometric distribution in elevation for spacers

Acoustics when applying in the built environment

# THIN GLASS SANDWICH

*a thermal study of regular and semiregular  
tessellations used in bi-directional sandwiches*

MARC A.J. DEN HEIJER

