



Simulation-based assessment of energy flexibility offered by the thermal capacity in district heating network pipes

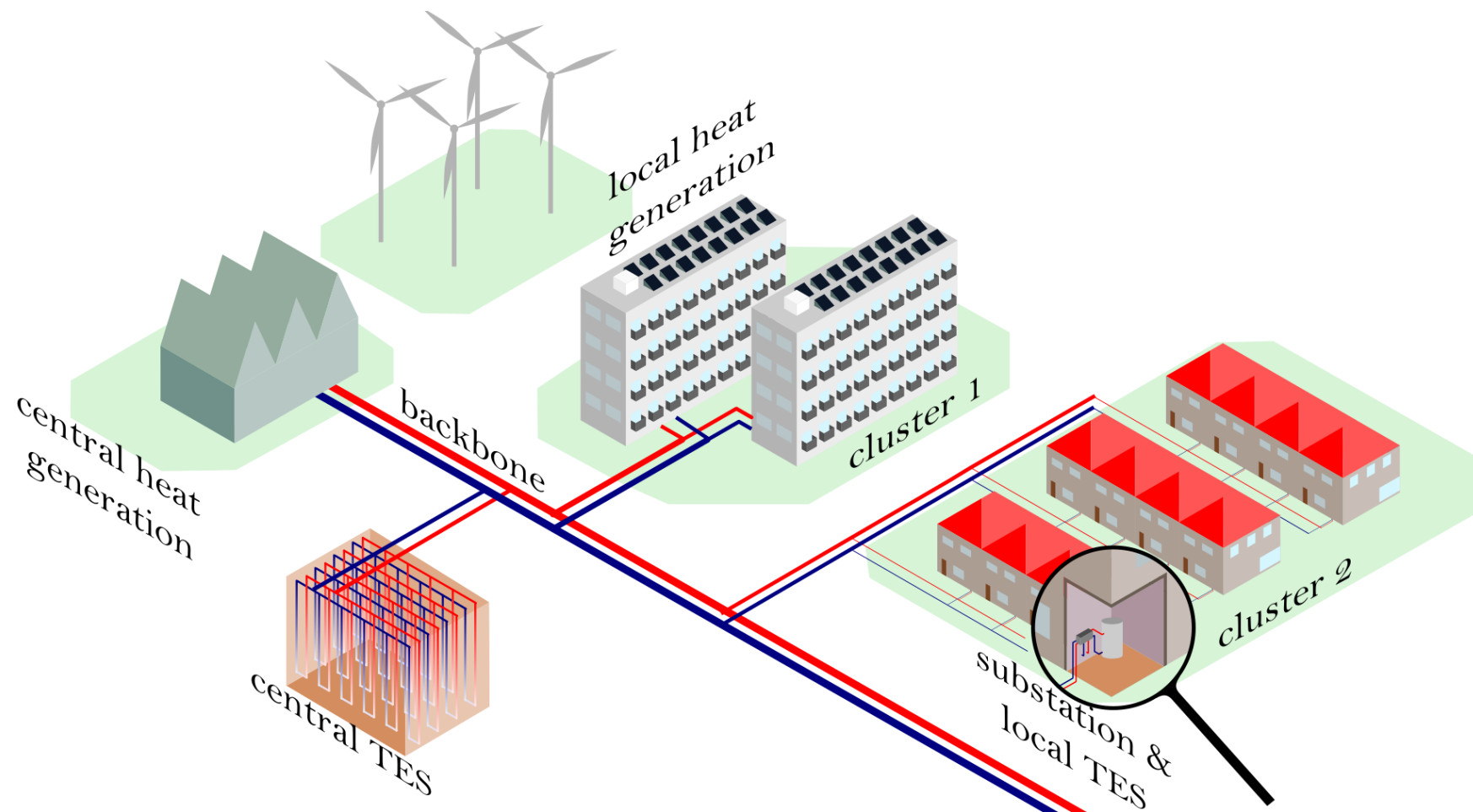
Annelies Vandermeulen

Tijs Van Oevelen

Bram van der Heijde

Lieve Helsen

Context

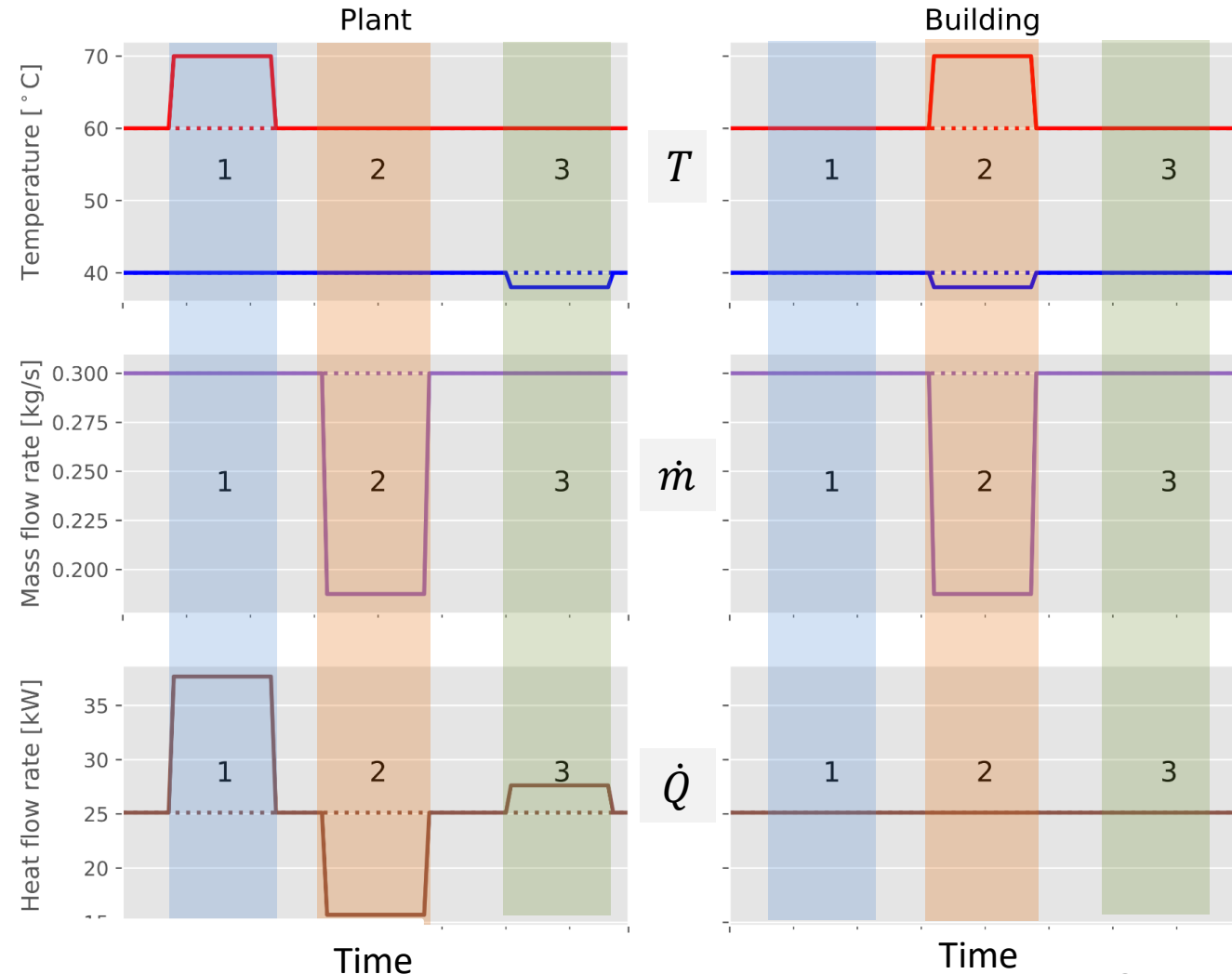
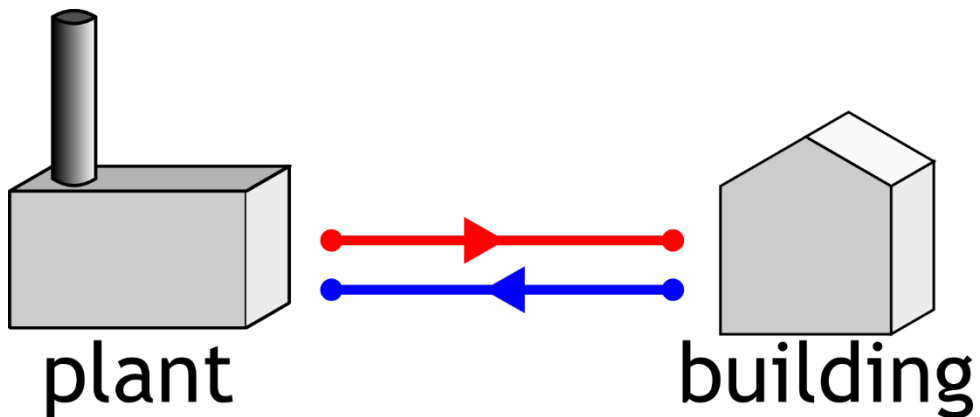


- 1 Charge period
- 2 Discharge period
- 3 Rebound period

Network flexibility

Network flexibility:

To use the thermal inertia of the water contained in the pipes to shift the plant heat load in time

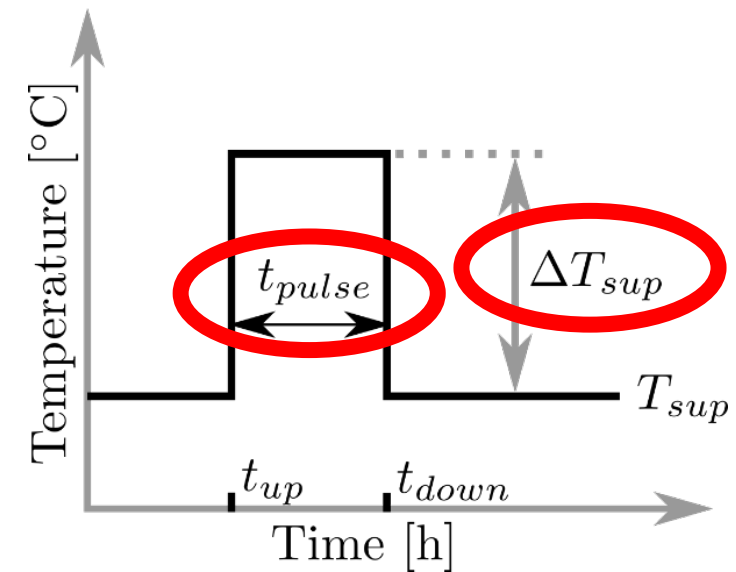


Research goal

How sensitive is the available network flexibility to the control parameters?

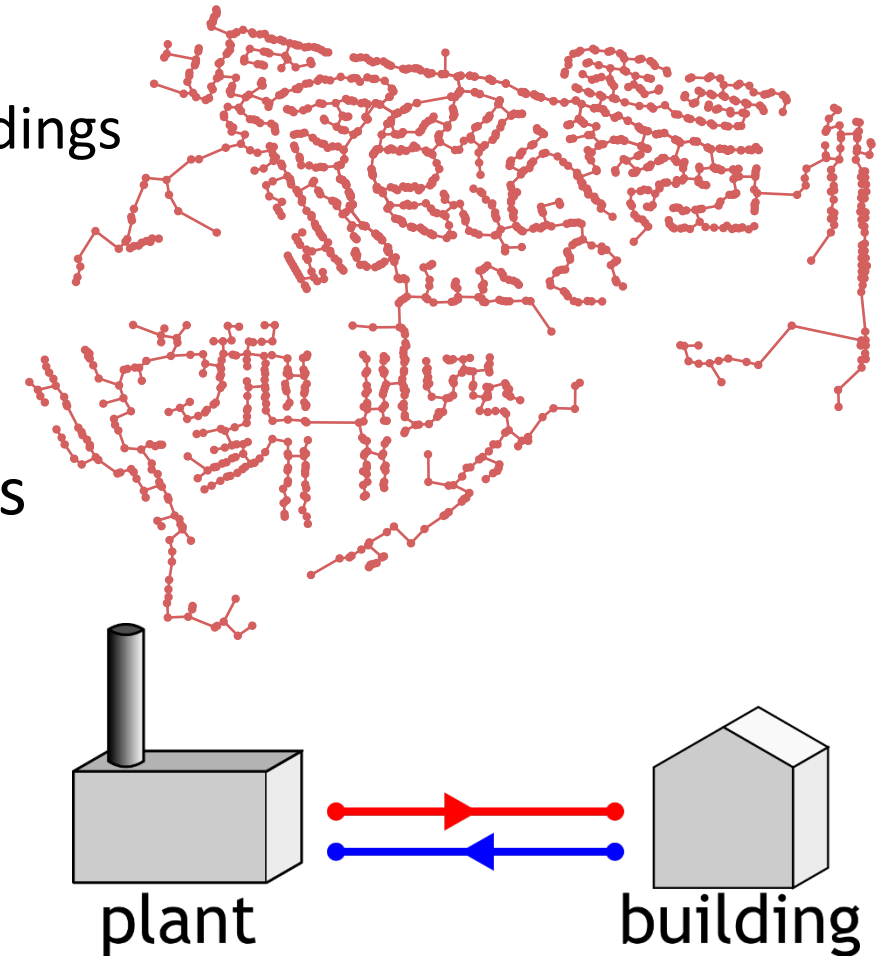
Control parameters:

- t_{pulse}
- ΔT_{sup}



Network model: Modelica

- Aggregated model of Waterschei (Belgium) – 1500 buildings
 - **Single building (Aggregated heat demand profile)** [1]
 - Extensive substation model
- Pipe: validated plug flow model [2]
- Plant: no ramping and power output constraints



[1] B. van der Heijde, A. Vandermeulen, R. Salenbien, and L. Helsen, "Integrated Optimal Design and Control of Fourth Generation District Heating Networks with Thermal Energy Storage," *Energies*, vol. 12, no. 14, p. 2766, 2019.

[2] B. Van Der Heijde *et al.*, "Dynamic equation-based thermo-hydraulic pipe model for district heating and cooling systems," *Energy Convers. Manag.*, vol. 151, no. July, pp. 158–169, 2017. 5

Simulated cases

Seasons:

- Winter
- Spring
- Summer

Scales:

- 1500 buildings
- 150 buildings
- 15 buildings

Control parameters:

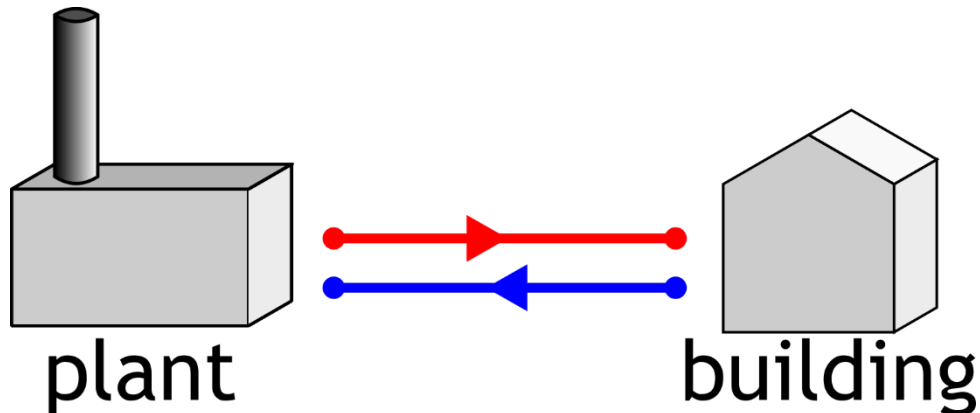
- t_{pulse}
- ΔT_{sup}

Methodology

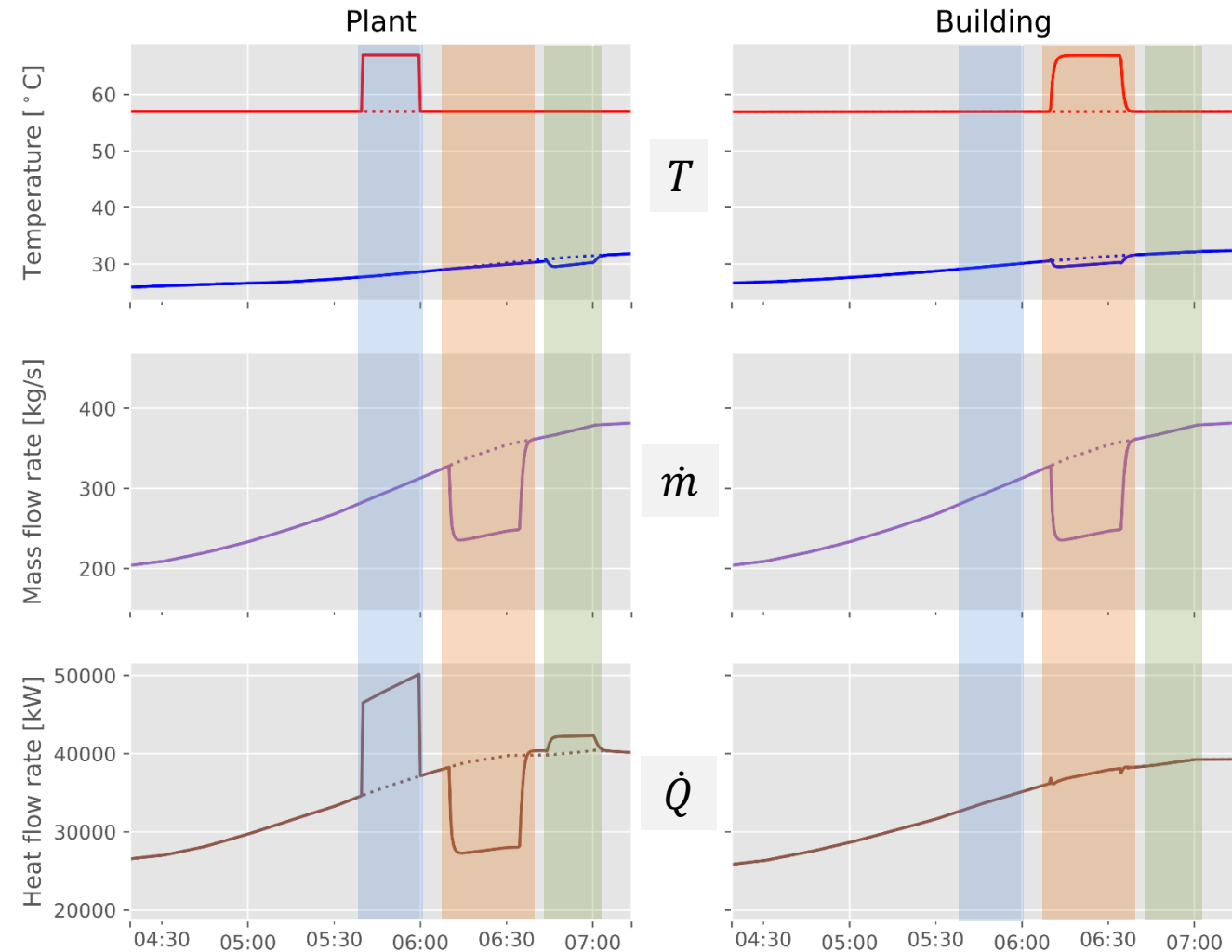
Quantification of network flexibility:

By simulating two cases:

- 1) No flexibility: constant temperature
- 2) Flexibility: pulse temperature

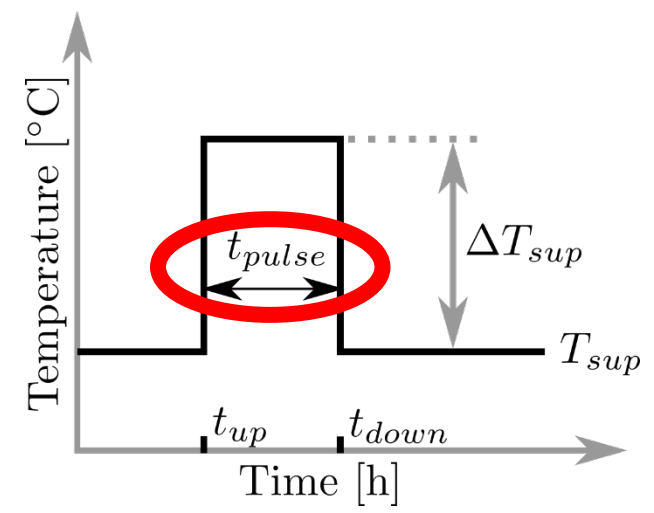


- 1 Charge period
- 2 Discharge period
- 3 Rebound period



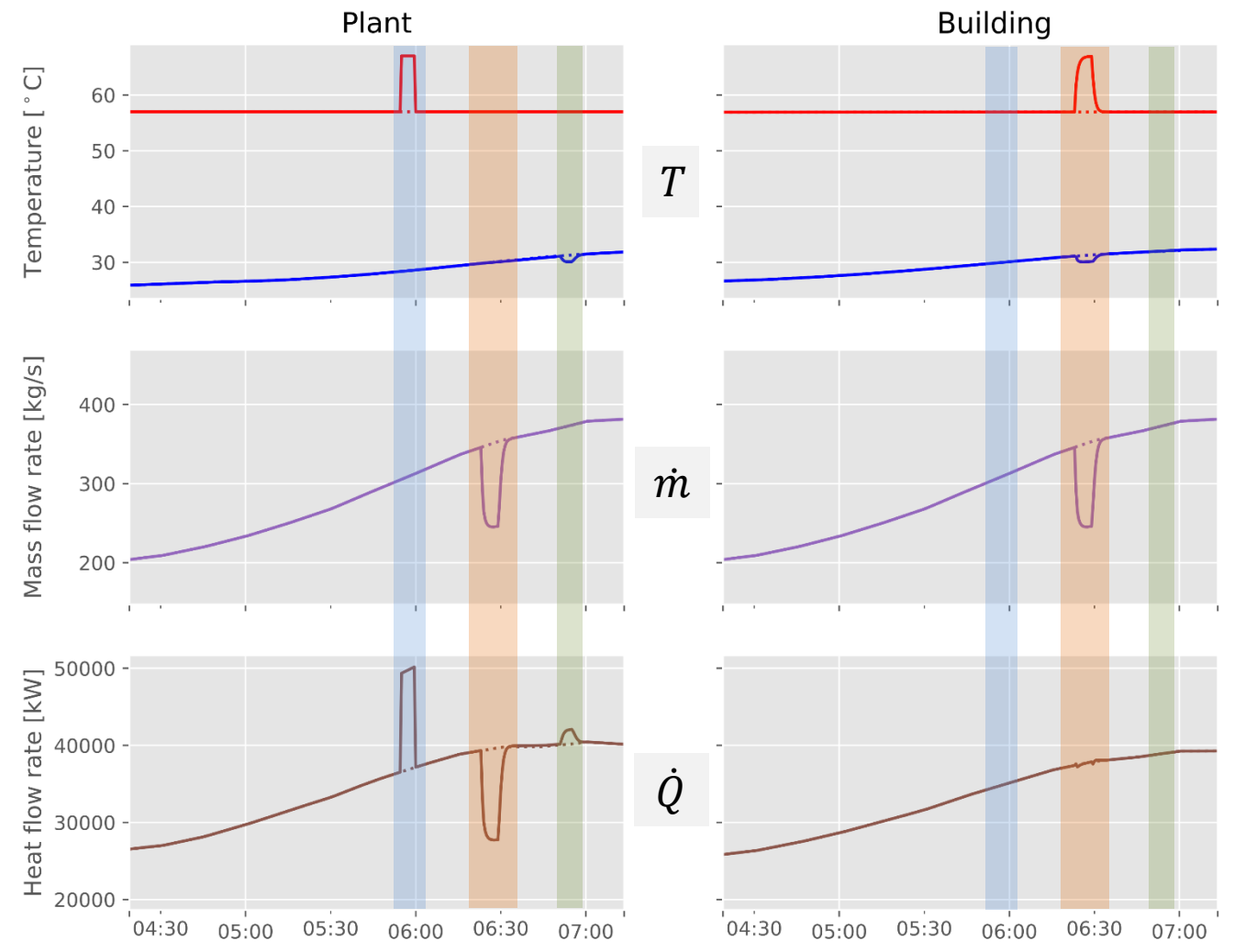
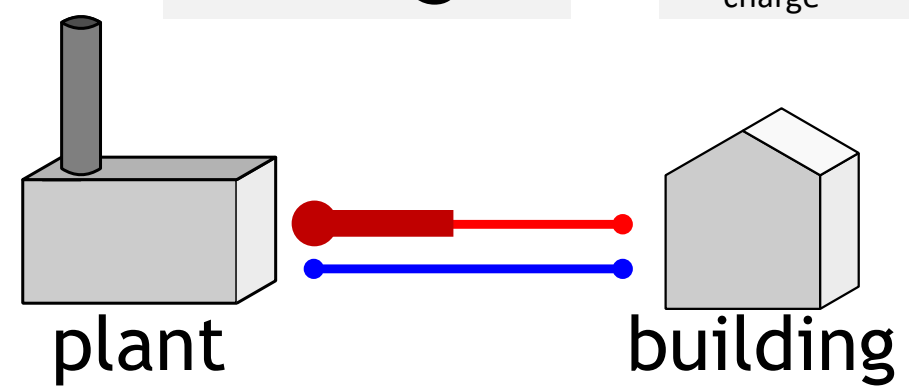
- 1 Charge period
- 2 Discharge period
- 3 Rebound period

Variations of t_{pulse}



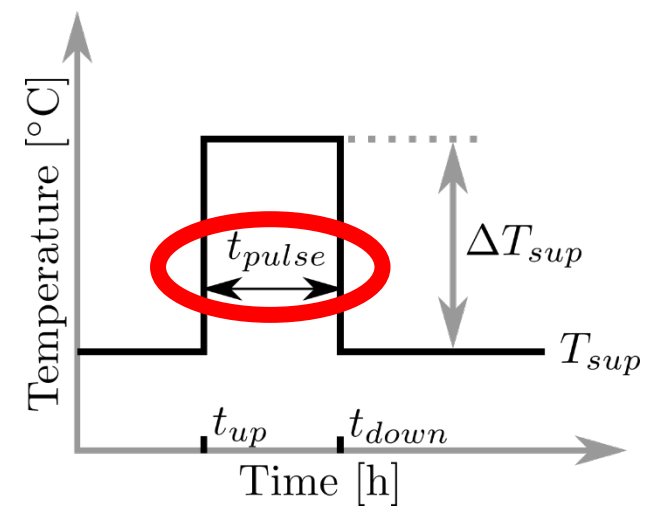
Short Charge

$\Delta T_{sup} = 9^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $t_{charge} = 5 \text{ min}$



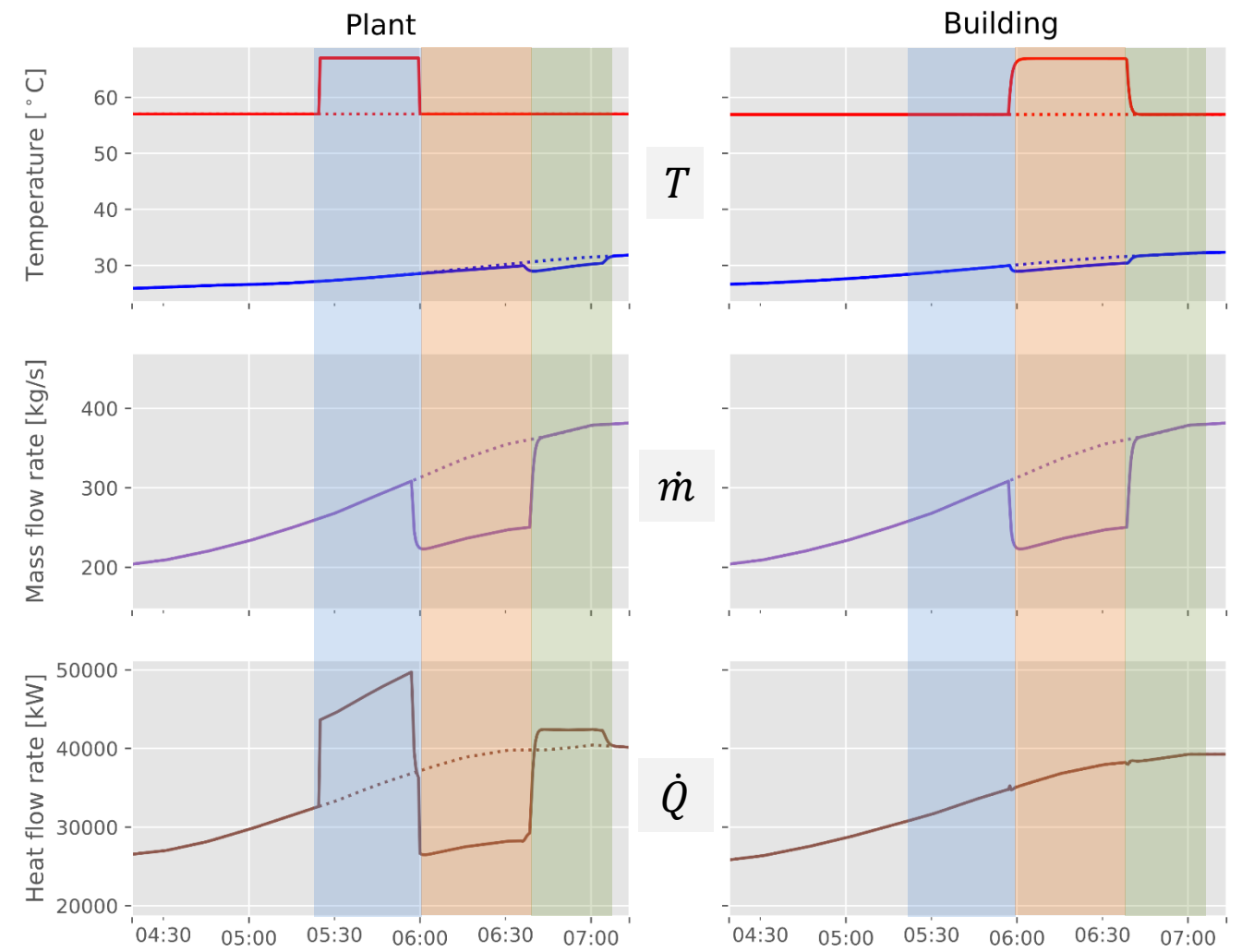
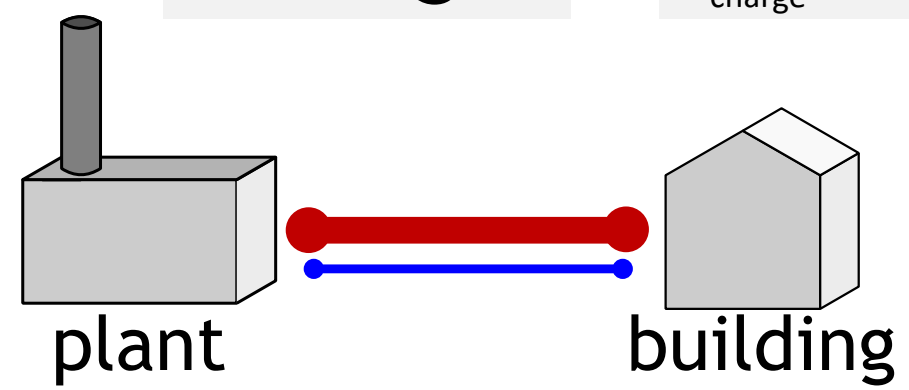
- 1 Charge period
- 2 Discharge period
- 3 Rebound period

Variations of t_{pulse}



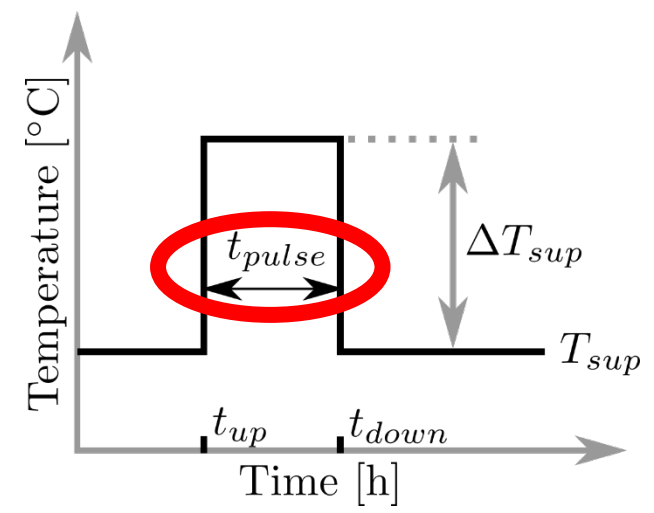
Optimal Charge

$\Delta T_{sup} = 9^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $t_{charge} = 35 \text{ min}$



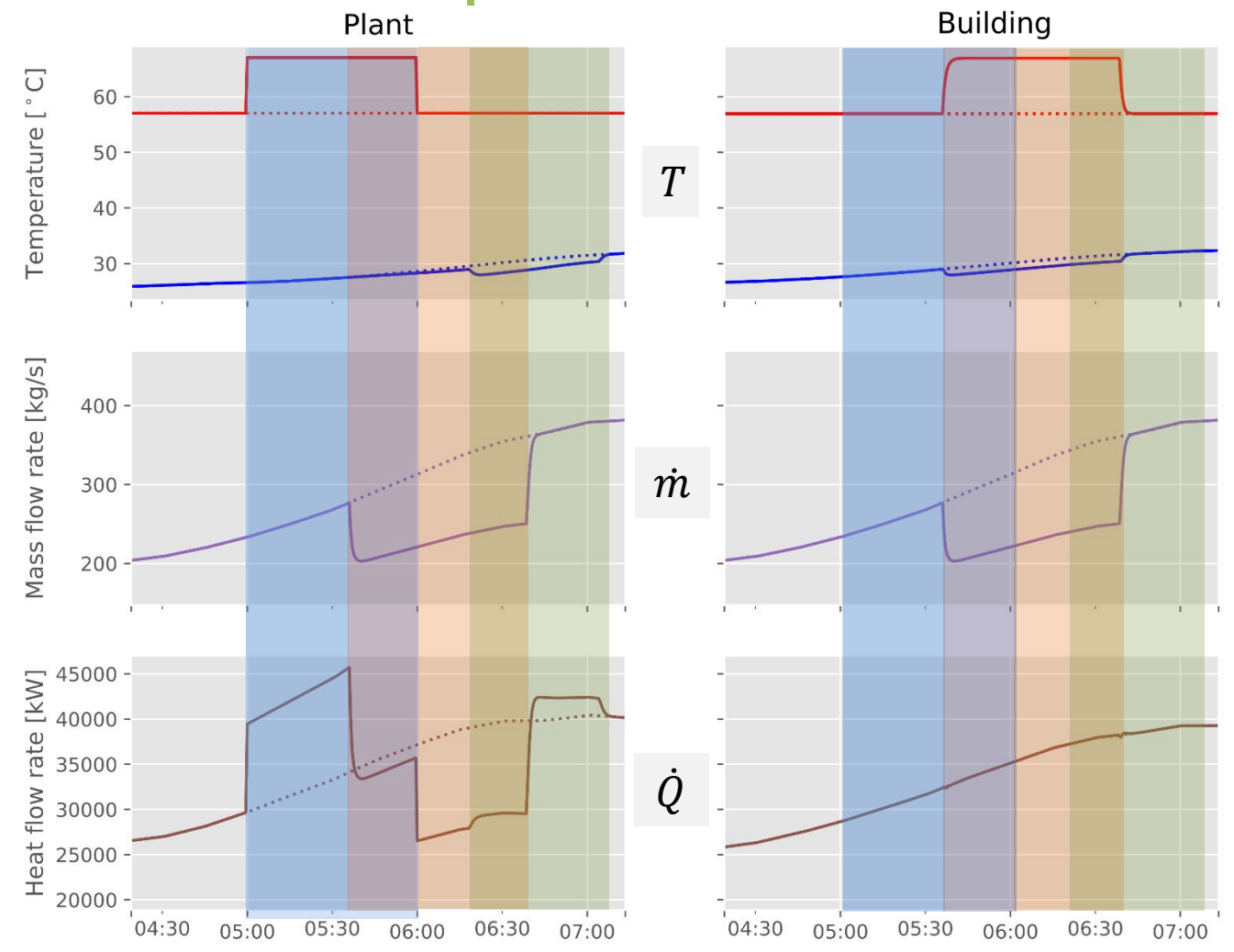
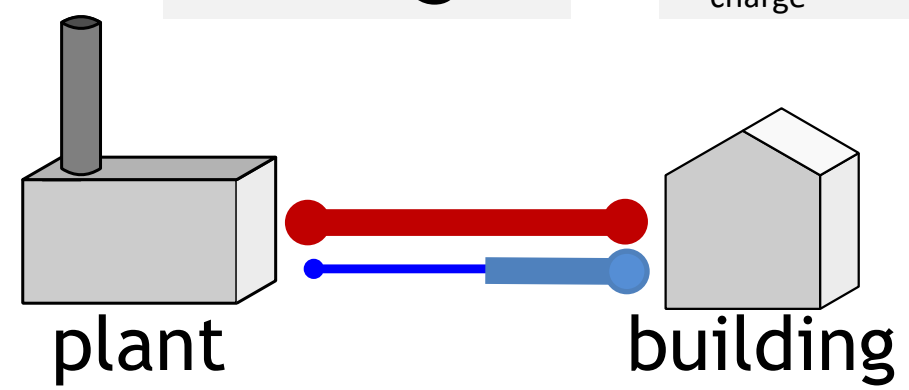
- 1 Charge period
- Early discharge period
- 2 Discharge period
- 3 Rebound period

Variations of t_{pulse}

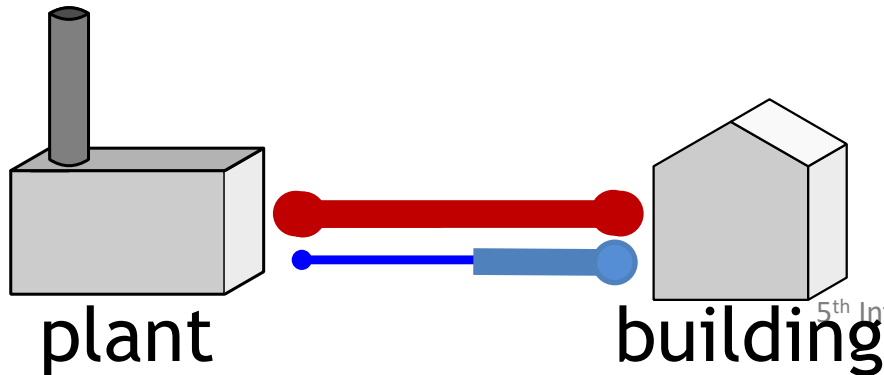
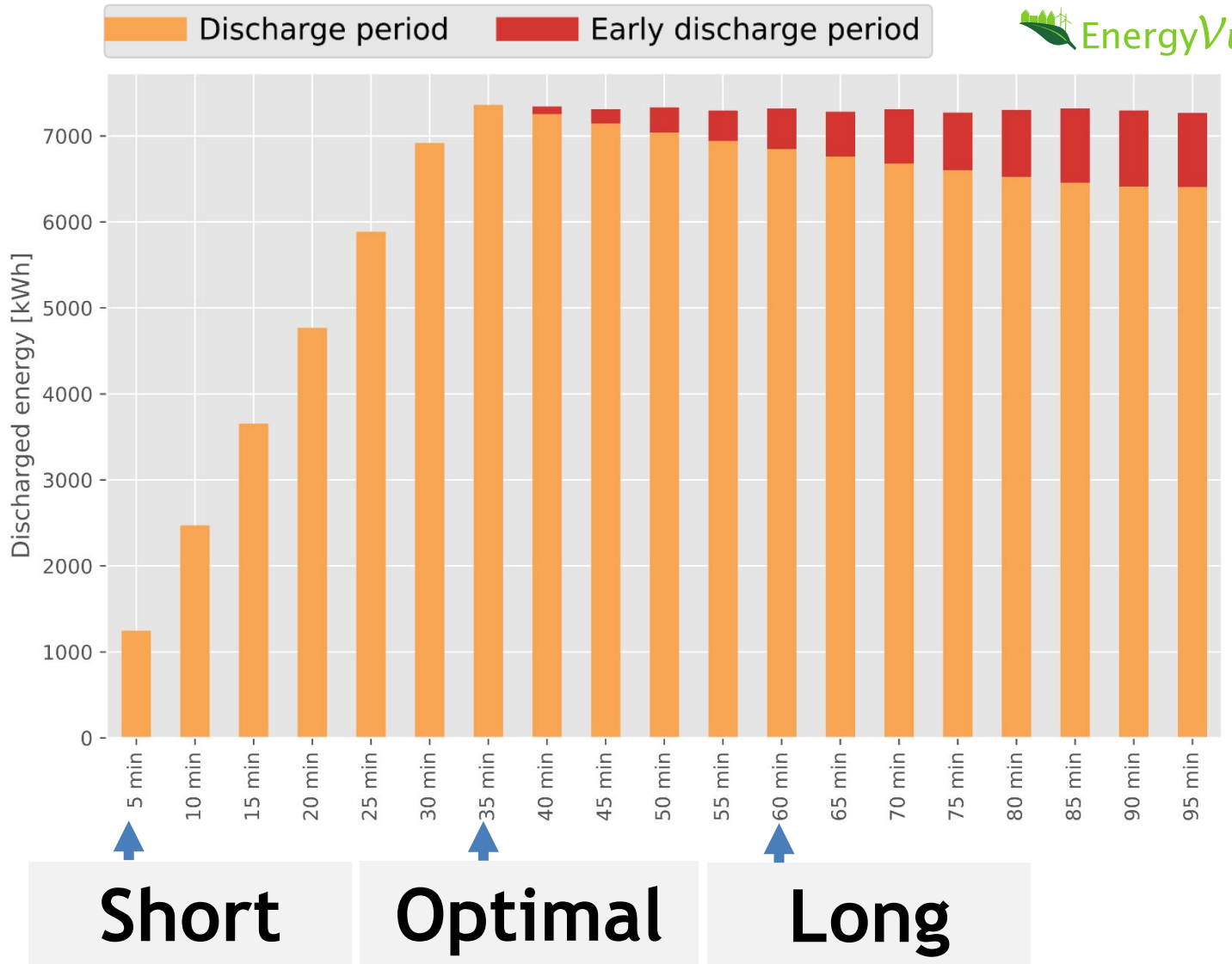
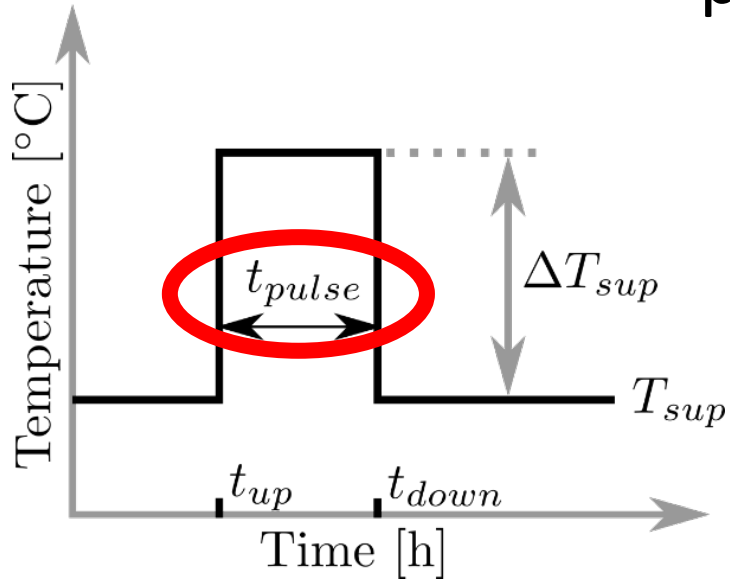


Long Charge

$\Delta T_{sup} = 9^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $t_{charge} = 60 \text{ min}$



Variations of t_{pulse}



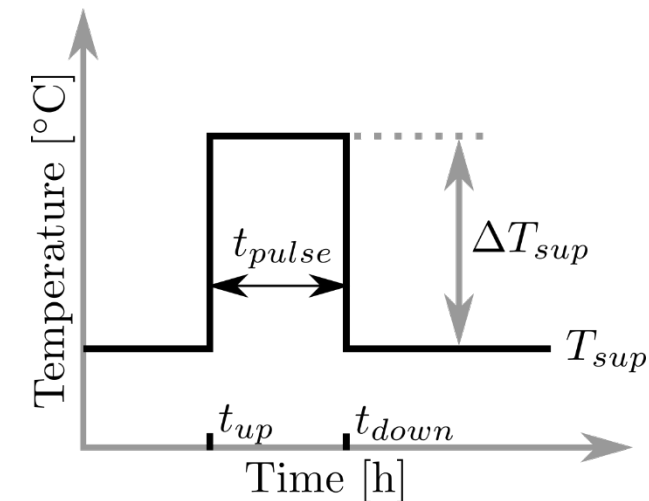
Conclusions

Characterization of supply temperature pulse response:

Charge period

Discharge period

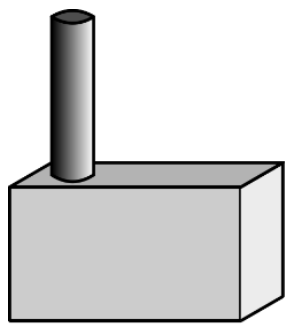
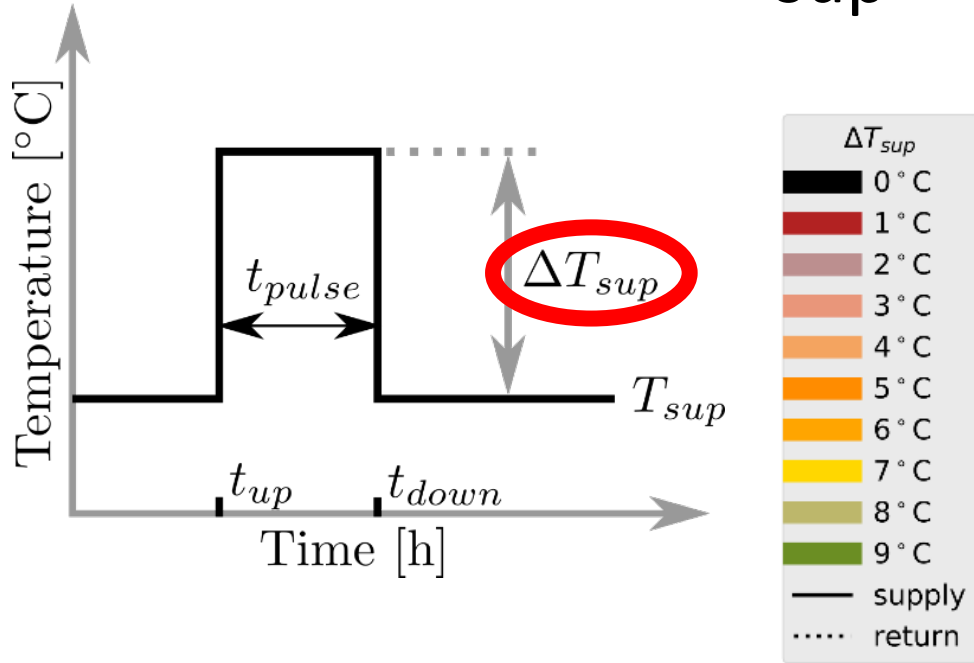
Rebound period



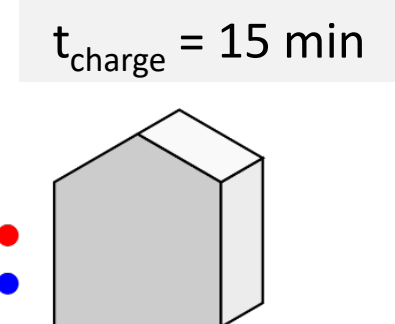
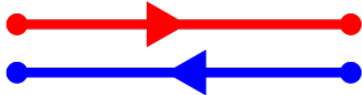
To activate network flexibility: Limited charge duration is important to prevent early discharging

Questions?

Variations of ΔT_{sup}



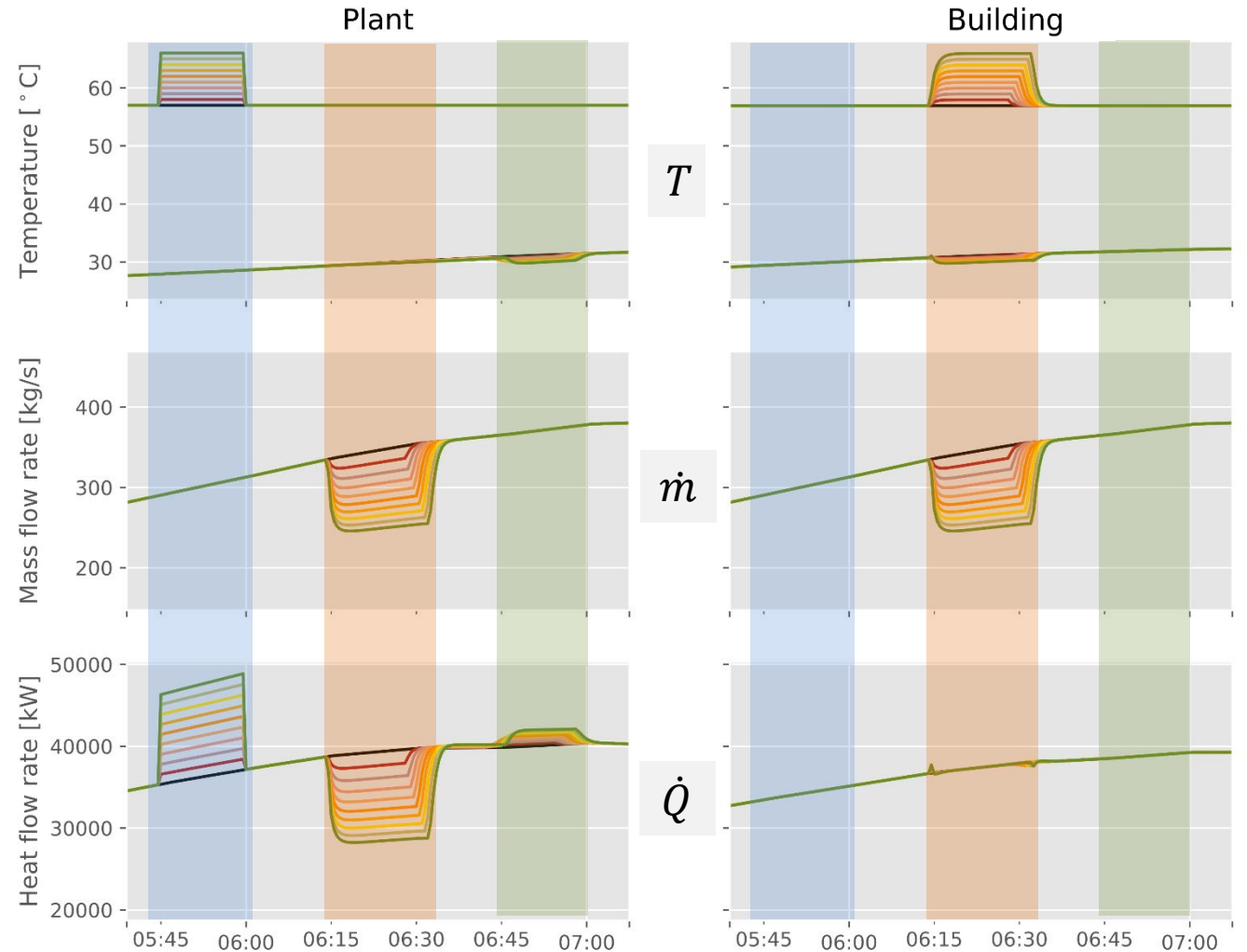
plant



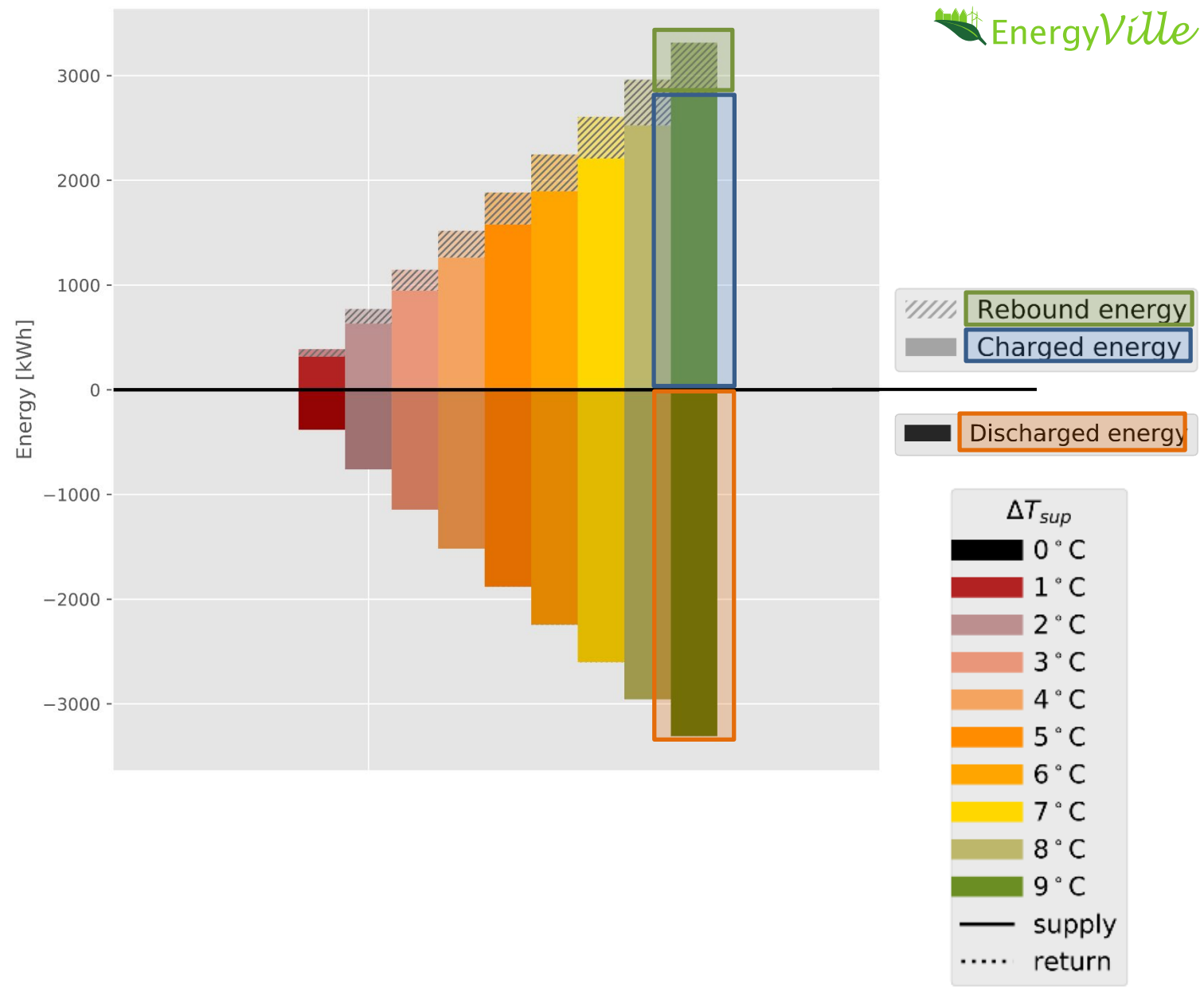
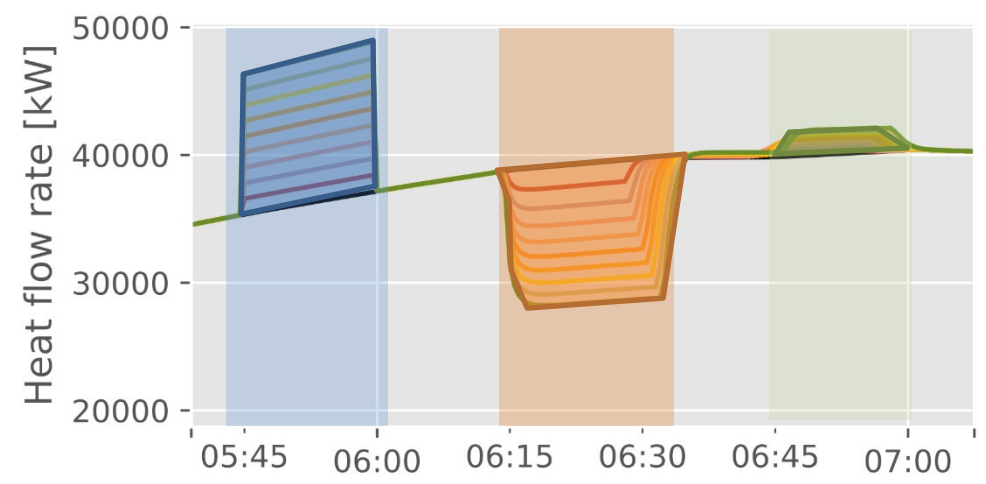
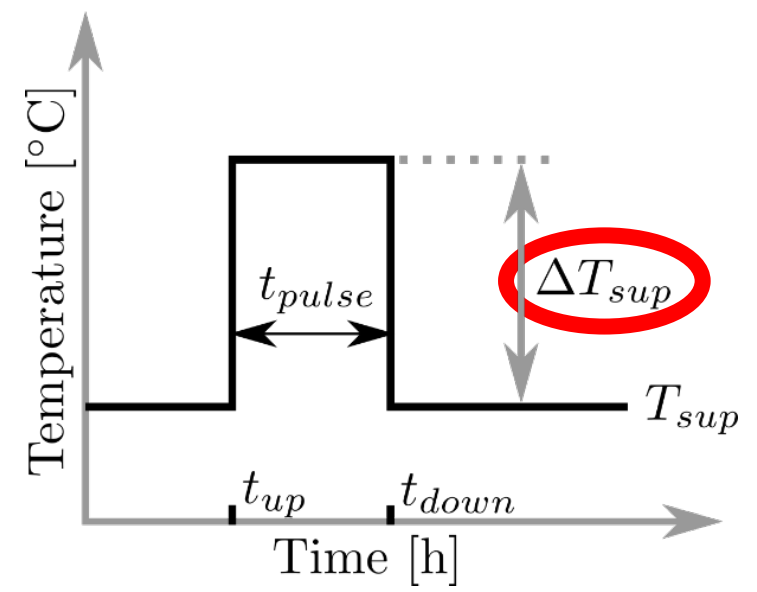
building

$t_{charge} = 15 \text{ min}$

- 1 Charge period
- 2 Discharge period
- 3 Rebound period



Variations of ΔT_{sup}



Variations of t_{charge}

