



# Acoustic modeling of airborne sound insulation of wooden facade systems using artificial neural networks

**WOOD RISE-2022**  
**Portorož, Slovenia**

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**Industrial partner: FPInnovations, Canada**





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# 1- Introduction

## ❖ What is special about wood?



### Prefabricated

- Quick & easy installation



### Eco-Friendly

- Renewable



### Time saving

- Faster than conventional materials



### Fire-resistant

- Charring provides longer resistance



### Less carbon footprint

- Less carbon emission



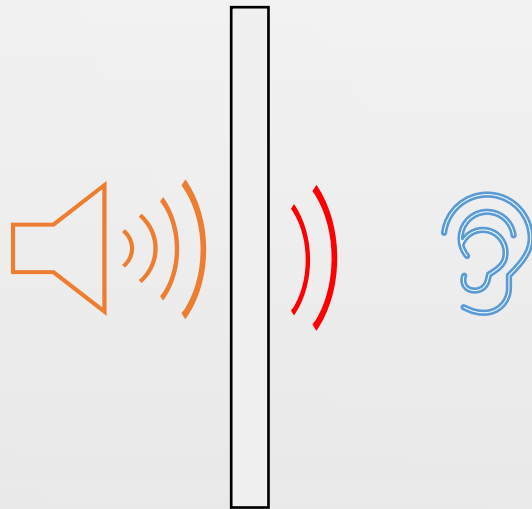
### Thermal insulation

- Better insulation than concrete

# 1- Introduction

## ❖ What is special about wood?

### ❑ But...



- Wood has poor sound insulation due to its lightweight comparing to concrete [2]
- Acoustic measurements are time and cost demanding
- Many challenges face developing a reliable tool:
  - the standardized method
  - the variety of construction materials,
  - measurements cannot be generalized

- Wooden constructions have **lower** subjective sound insulation compared to heavy structures [1]

[1]- Guigou-Carter, C.; Villot, M.; Wetta, R. Prediction method adapted to wood frame lightweight constructions. *Build. Acoust.* 2018, 13, 173–188.

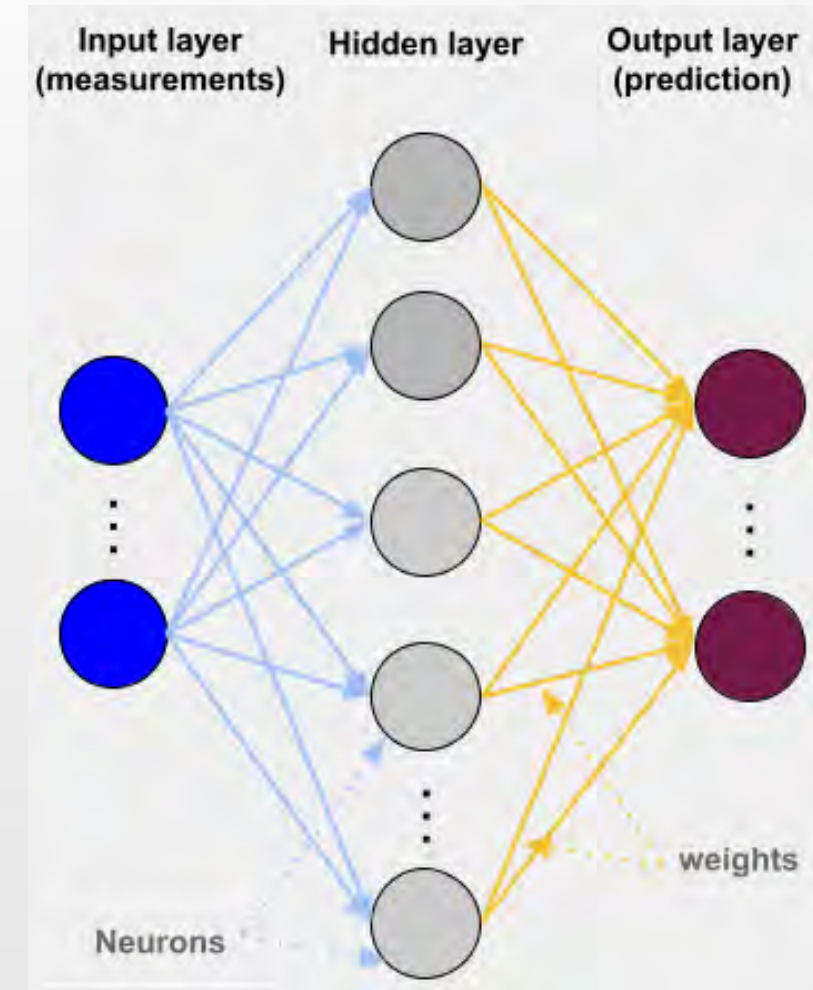
[2]- Zhou, Jianhui, and Zijian Zhao. "Apparent impact sound insulation performance of cross laminated timber floors with floating concrete toppings." *INTER-NOISE and NOISE-CON Congress and Conference Proceedings*. Vol. 263. No. 1. Institute of Noise Control Engineering, 2021.



# 2- Materials and Methods

## 2.1. Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)

- Machine learning applications have been widely used in complex problems in various fields [3-5]
- Comprises of input layer, hidden, and output layer(s)
- Errors that are made by ANN are viewed to evaluate the values of weights





# 2- Materials and Methods

## 2.2 Acoustic Measurements

- 100 lab-based measurements
- The measurement sources: Lund University and CNRC [6]

Database		ANN model		
Air-borne meas. no.	100	100		
		training set	validation set	testing set
		80	10	10



# 2- Materials and Methods

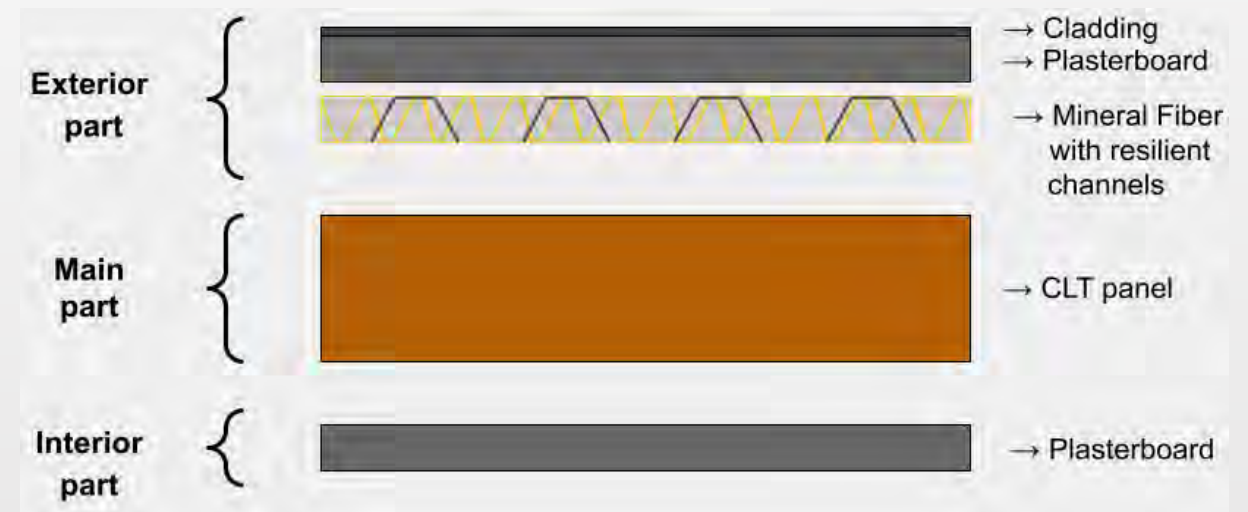
## 2.2 Acoustic Measurements

- Physical and geometric parameters:
  - material types and their installation order
  - thickness and density of constructional elements
  - total and group thickness and density of the structure
  - facade area
  - volume of the structure
  - studs' depth and spacing between them

# 2- Materials and Methods

## 2.2 Acoustic Measurements

- Split into **three**: Exterior, main, and interior parts





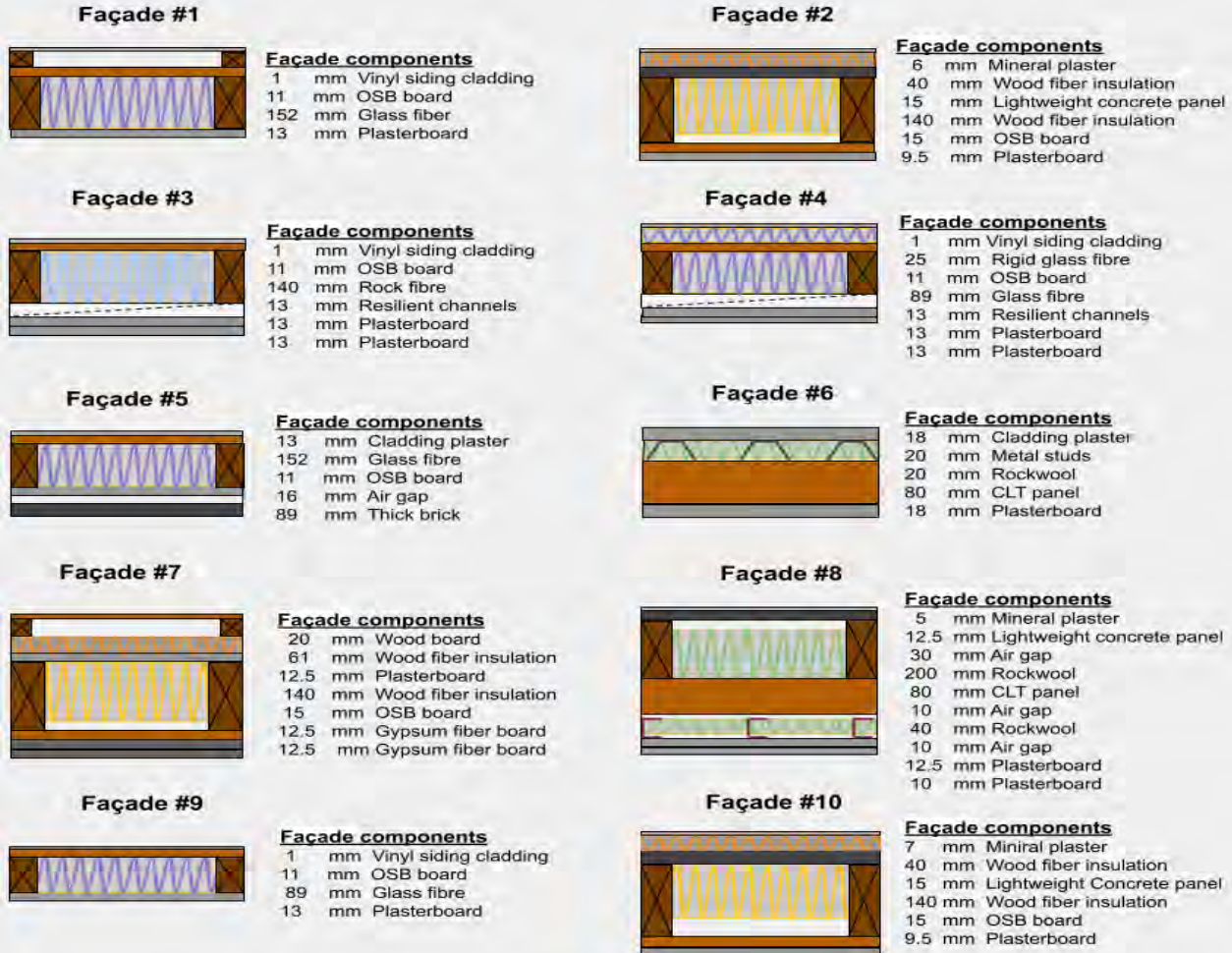
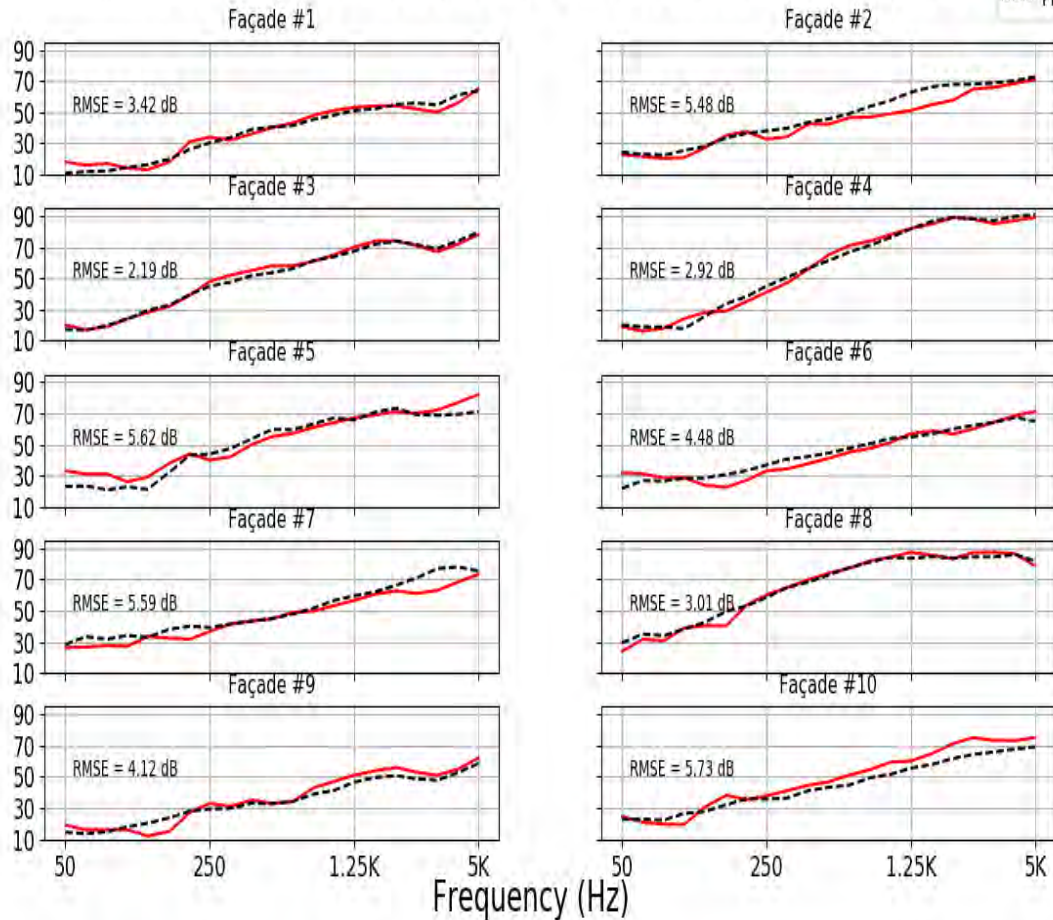
# 3- Results and discussion

## 3.1. Comparison between measured and predicted airborne

Measured and predicted airborne sound insulation curves for test façades

— Measured curve  
- - - Predicted curve

Airborne sound reduction index R (dB)

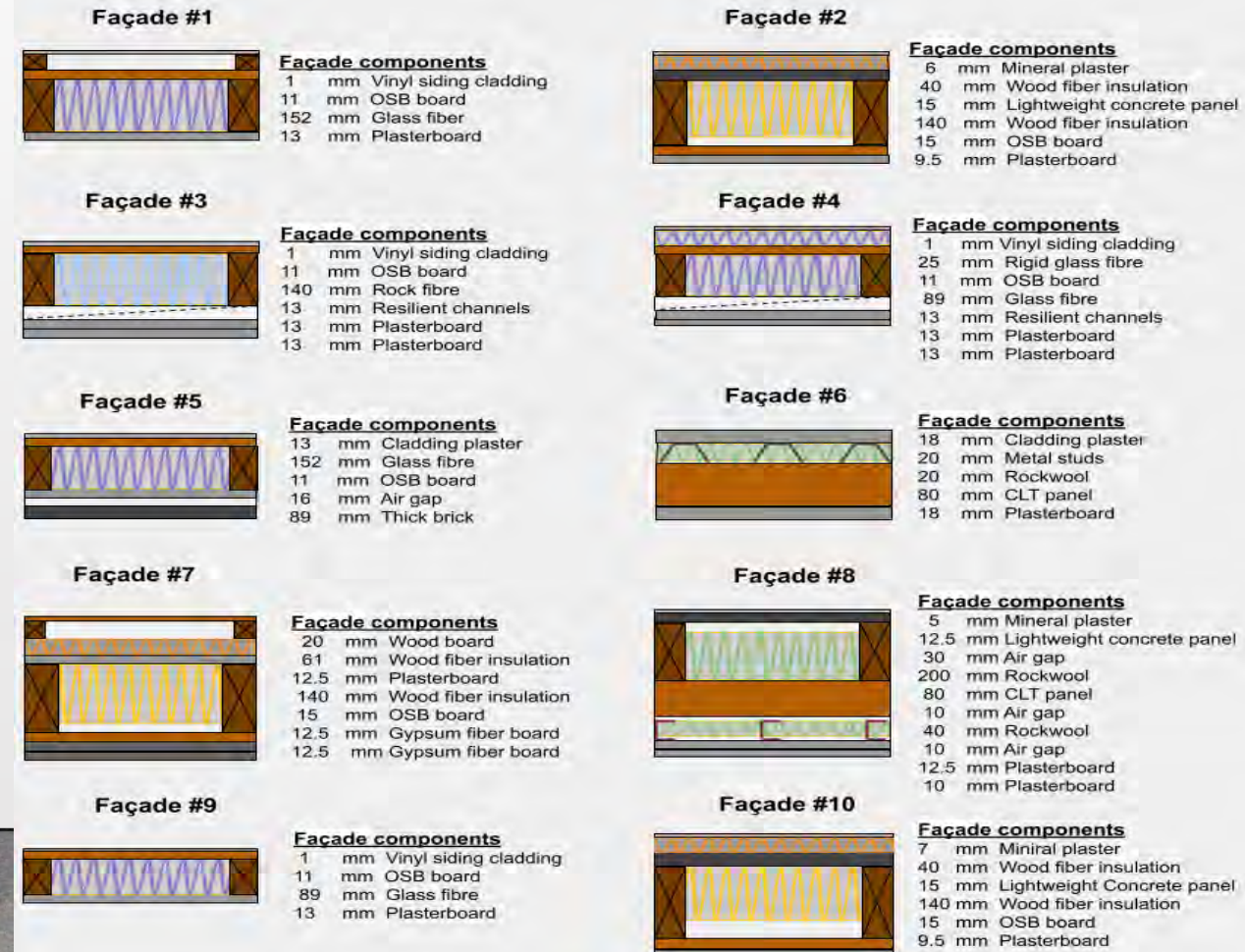




# 3- Results and discussion

## 3.1. Comparison between measured and predicted airborne curves

Floor no.	RMSE (dB)	Rw (dB)	Rw Pred (dB)
1	3.42	39	40
2	5.48	46	48
3	2.19	53	53
4	2.92	50	51
5	5.62	52	51
6	4.48	55	55
7	5.59	48	51
8	3,01	65	67
9	4,12	37	38
10	5.73	49	47

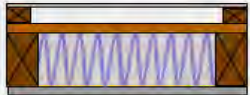


# 3- Results and discussion

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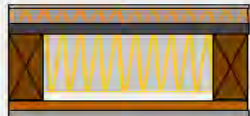
**Façade #1**



**Façade components**

- 1 mm Vinyl siding cladding
- 11 mm OSB board
- 152 mm Glass fiber
- 13 mm Plasterboard


**Façade #2**



**Façade components**

- 6 mm Mineral plaster
- 40 mm Wood fiber insulation
- 15 mm Lightweight concrete panel
- 140 mm Wood fiber insulation
- 15 mm OSB board
- 9.5 mm Plasterboard

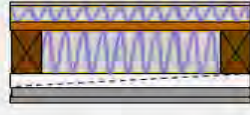
**Façade #3**



**Façade components**

- 1 mm Vinyl siding cladding
- 11 mm OSB board
- 140 mm Rock fibre
- 13 mm Resilient channels
- 13 mm Plasterboard
- 13 mm Plasterboard

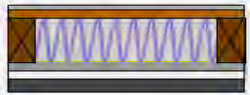
**Façade #4**



**Façade components**

- 1 mm Vinyl siding cladding
- 25 mm Rigid glass fibre
- 11 mm OSB board
- 89 mm Glass fibre
- 13 mm Resilient channels
- 13 mm Plasterboard
- 13 mm Plasterboard


**Façade #5**



**Façade components**

- 13 mm Cladding plaster
- 152 mm Glass fibre
- 11 mm OSB board
- 16 mm Air gap
- 89 mm Thick brick

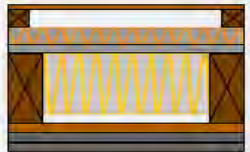
**Façade #6**



**Façade components**

- 18 mm Cladding plaster
- 20 mm Metal studs
- 20 mm Rockwool
- 80 mm CLT panel
- 18 mm Plasterboard

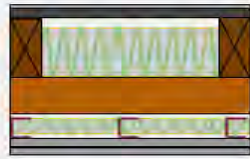
**Façade #7**



**Façade components**

- 20 mm Wood board
- 61 mm Wood fiber insulation
- 12.5 mm Plasterboard
- 140 mm Wood fiber insulation
- 15 mm OSB board
- 12.5 mm Gypsum fiber board
- 12.5 mm Gypsum fiber board


**Façade #8**



**Façade components**

- 5 mm Mineral plaster
- 12.5 mm Lightweight concrete panel
- 30 mm Air gap
- 200 mm Rockwool
- 80 mm CLT panel
- 10 mm Air gap
- 40 mm Rockwool
- 10 mm Air gap
- 12.5 mm Plasterboard
- 10 mm Plasterboard

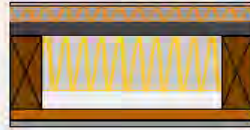
**Façade #9**



**Façade components**

- 1 mm Vinyl siding cladding
- 11 mm OSB board
- 89 mm Glass fibre
- 13 mm Plasterboard

**Façade #10**



**Façade components**

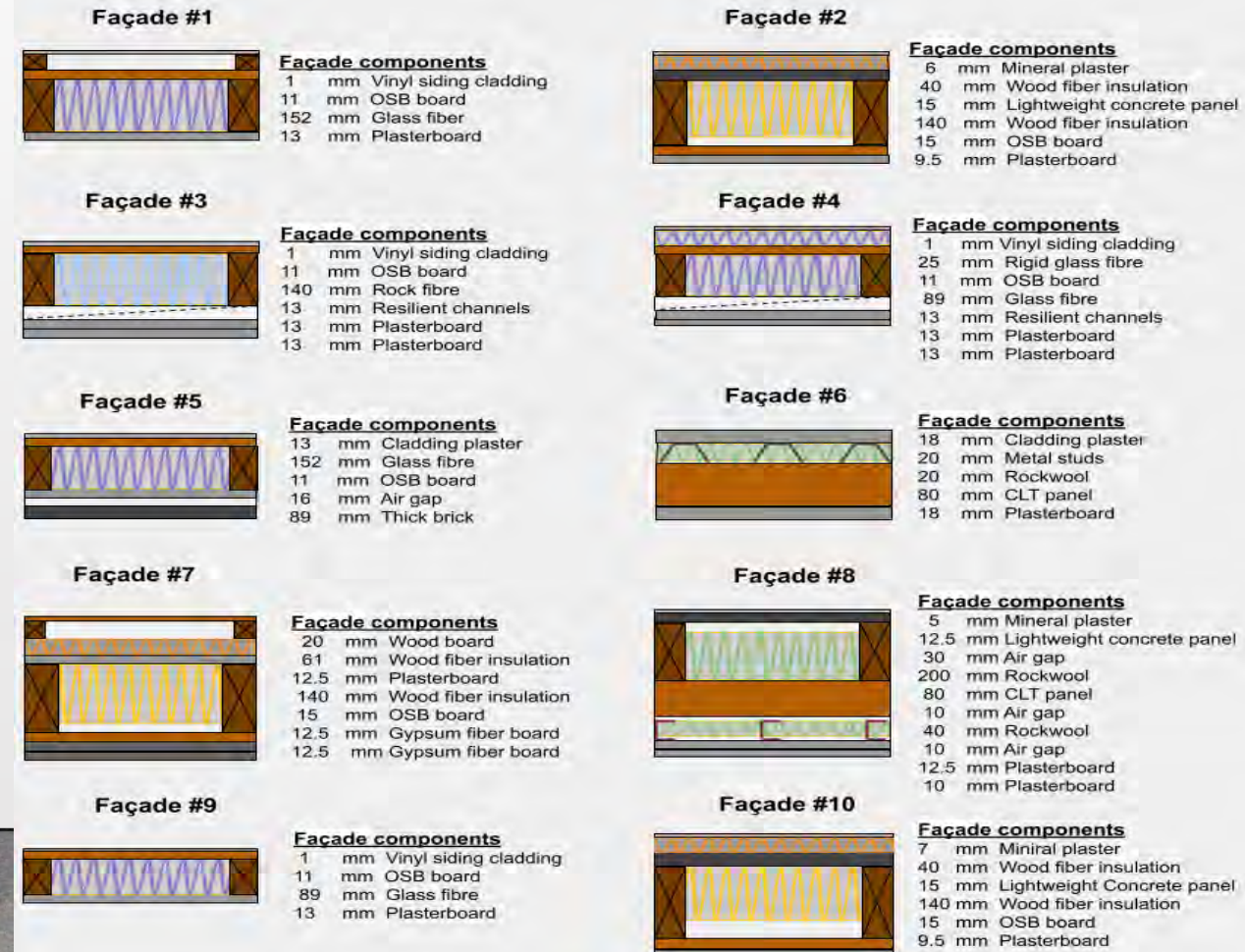
- 7 mm Mineral plaster
- 40 mm Wood fiber insulation
- 15 mm Lightweight Concrete panel
- 140 mm Wood fiber insulation
- 15 mm OSB board
- 9.5 mm Plasterboard



# 3- Results and discussion

## 3.1. Comparison between measured and predicted airborne curves

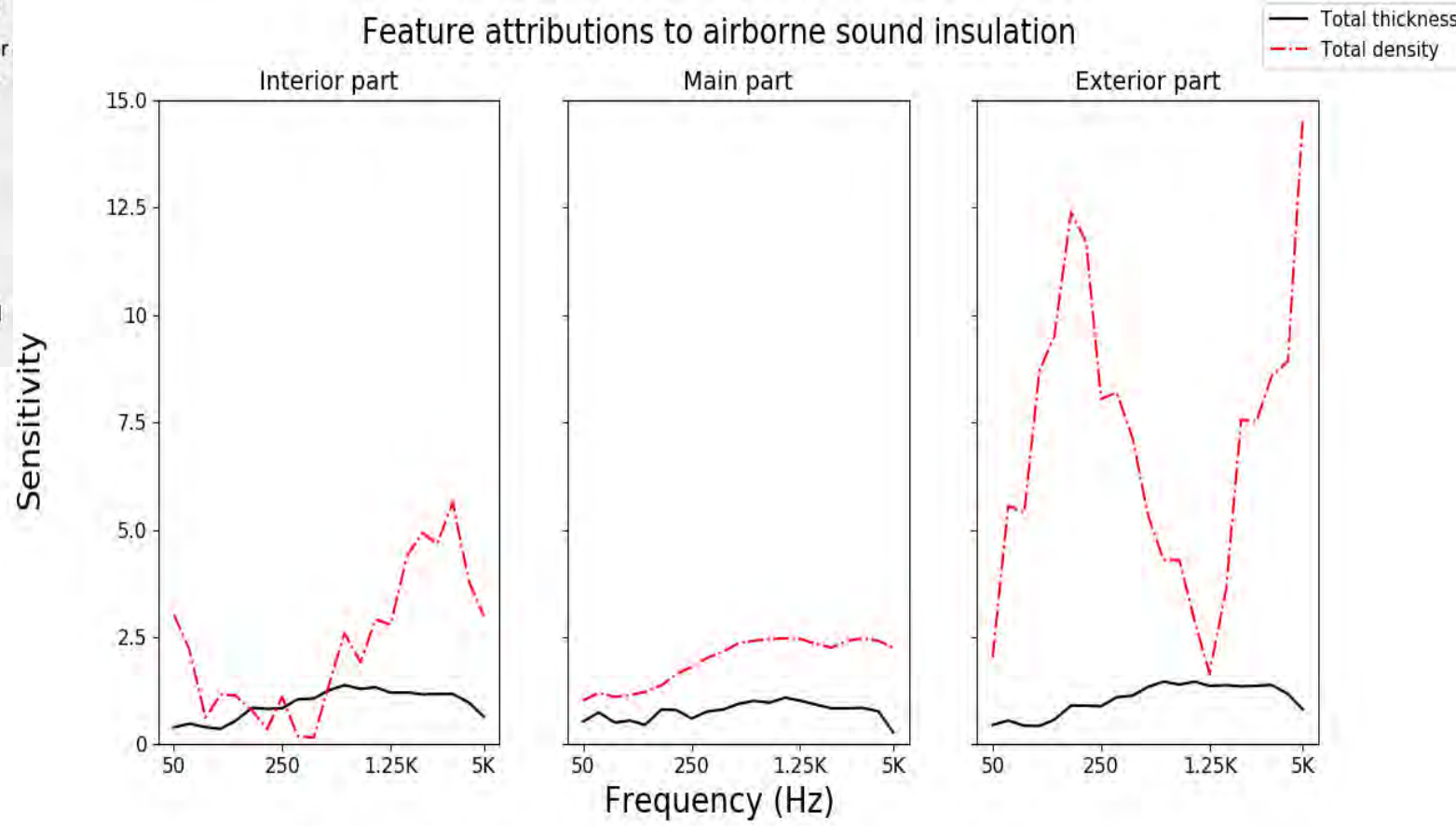
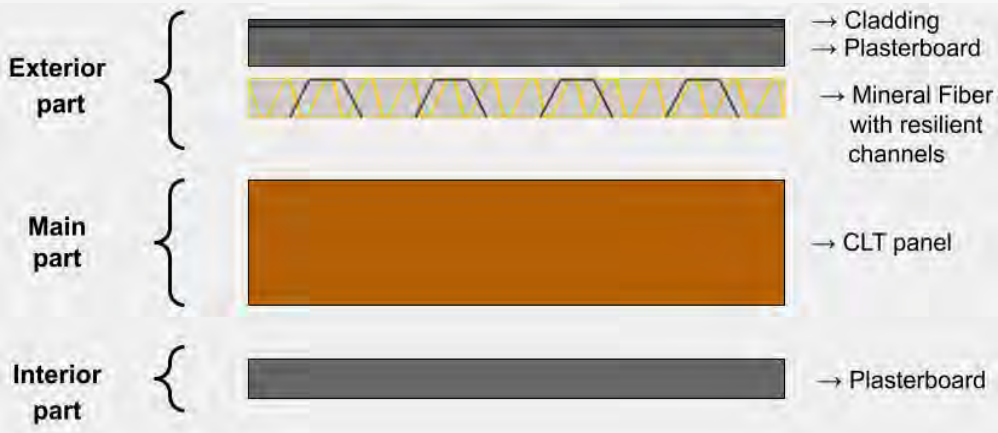
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# 3- Results and discussion

## 3.3. Sensitivity analysis

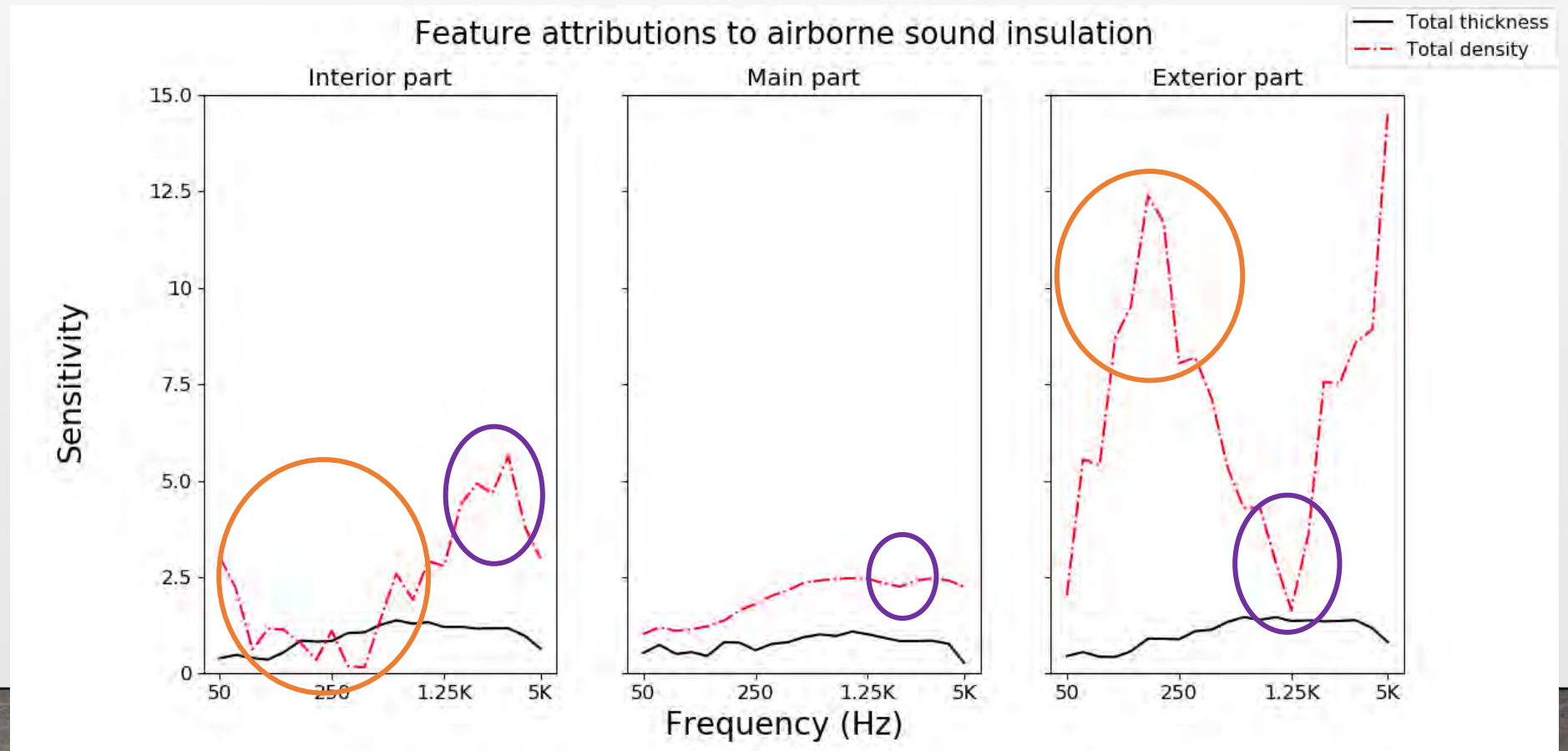


# 3- Results and discussion

## 3.3. Sensitivity analysis

○ Effect of resonance frequency

○ Effect of critical frequency





## 4- Conclusion

- The present article demonstrates a potential of ANN model in prediction airborne sound insulation curves for façade walls
- The model can predict  $R_w$  within a maximum error of 3 dB
- In many cases the prediction is difficult around the fundamental and the critical frequencies
- The total thickness and total density of interior, main and exterior parts of façades have remarkable effects at all frequencies
- The total density of the exterior part has higher attribution on the predictions



# 5- References

[1]- Guigou-Carter, C.; Villot, M.; Wetta, R. Prediction method adapted to wood frame lightweight constructions. *Build. Acoust.* 2018, 13, 173–188.

[2]- Zhou, Jianhui, and Zijian Zhao. "Apparent impact sound insulation performance of cross laminated timber floors with floating concrete toppings." *INTER-NOISE and NOISE-CON Congress and Conference Proceedings*. Vol. 263. No. 1. Institute of Noise Control Engineering, 2021.

[3]- Chattopadhyay, A.; Manupriya, P.; Sarkar, A.; Balasubramanian, V.N. Neural network attributions: A causal perspective. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Machine Learning*, PMLR, Long Beach, CA, USA, 9–15 June 2019.

[4]- Thai, L.H.; Hai, T.S.; Thuy, N.T. Image classification using support vector machine and artificial neural network. *Int. J. Inf. Technol. Comput. Sci.* 2012, 4, 32–38.

[5]- Serpilli, F.; Di Nicola, G.; Pierantozzi, M. Airborne sound insulation prediction of masonry walls using artificial neural networks. *Build. Acoust.* 2021, 28, 391–409

[6]- Bradley, J.S.; Birta, J.A. *Laboratory Measurements of the Sound Insulation of Building Facade Elements*; Institute for Research in Construction, National Research Council Canada: Ottawa, ON, Canada, 2000.