

# Functional Identification

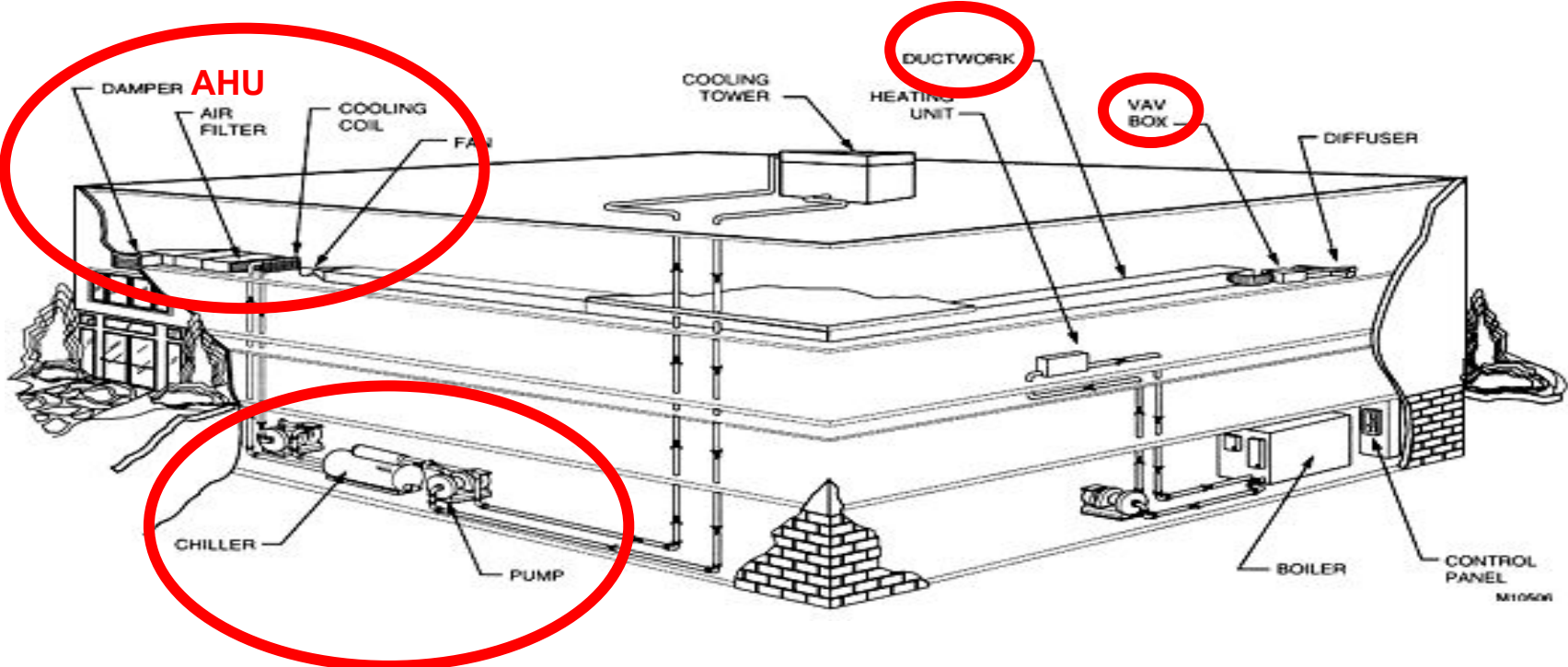
Marco Pritoni, Arka Bhattacharya, David Culler, Mark Modera

**AKA:**  
**“Short Paper: A Method for Discovering  
Functional Relationships Between Air  
Handling Units and Variable-Air-Volume  
Boxes From Sensor Data”**

Marco Pritoni, Arka Bhattacharya, David Culler, Mark Modera

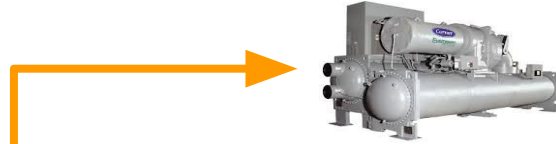
BuildSys 2015

# Building HVAC Systems



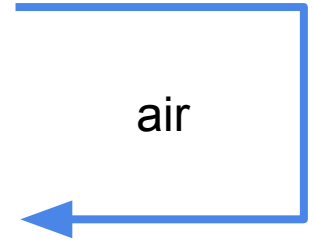
# HVAC Loops

Chiller



water

Air Handling Unit



air

VAV boxes



Occupants



# ...in Stanley Hall



**Air Handling Unit**

4



1

air

**Functional Relationship**

N

**VAV boxes**

179



1

1

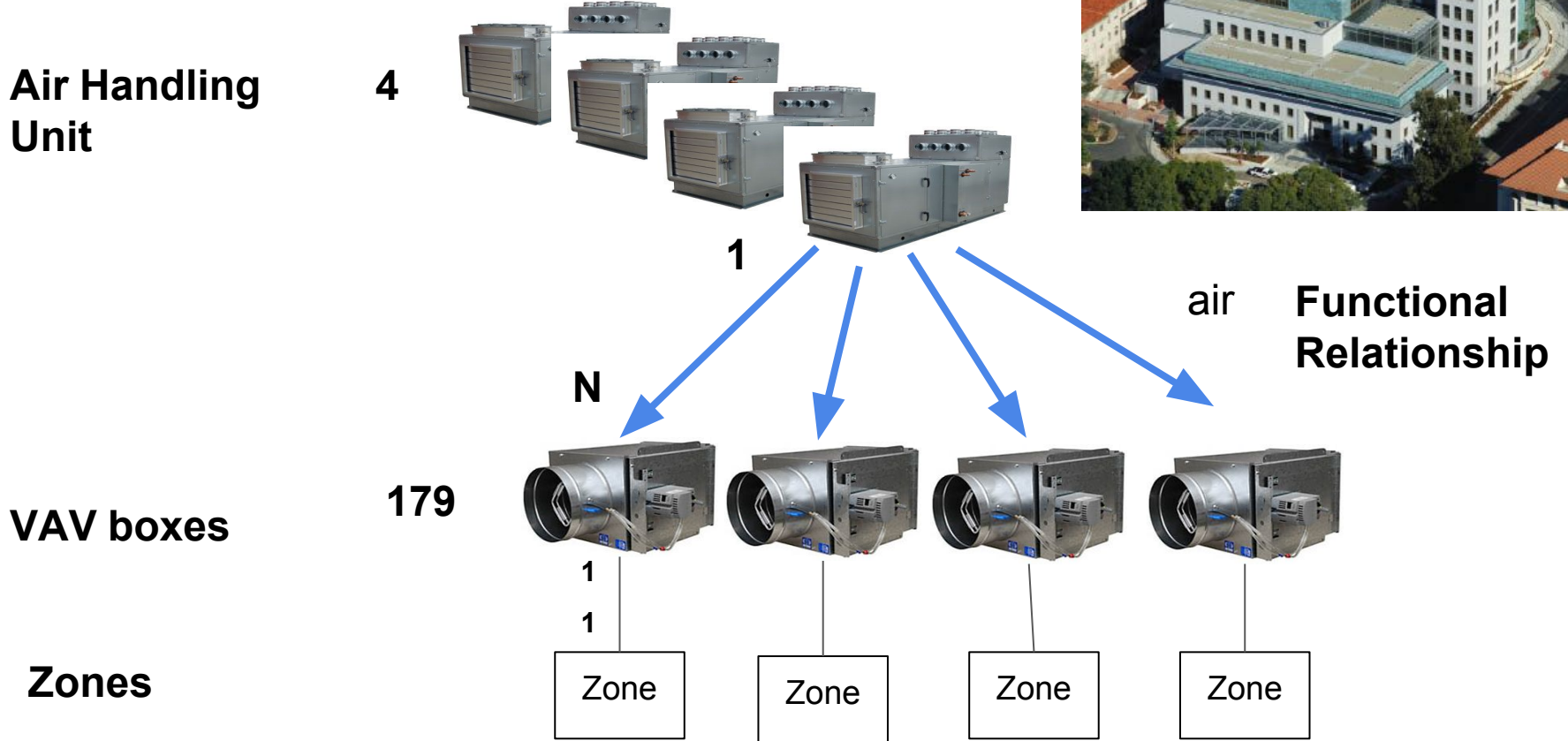
**Zones**

Zone

Zone

Zone

Zone



# Why do we care about Functional Relationship?

Knowing what is connected to what is **necessary** to:

- implement advanced control strategies (e.g. resets, MPC ...)
- run system-level analytics (for fault detection, performance evaluation, benchmark )
- find the root of some problems



Zone

So what is the problem?

**BAS Metadata should capture all functional relationships**

Unfortunately,

- (1) Metadata often does not capture all such relationships (especially in Legacy BAS)
- (2) Erroneous metadata.





# ...in Stanley Hall



**Air Handling Unit**

4



1

air

**Functional Relationship**

N

**VAV boxes**

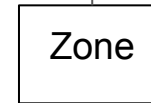
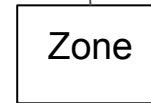
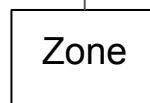
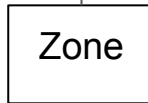
179



1

1

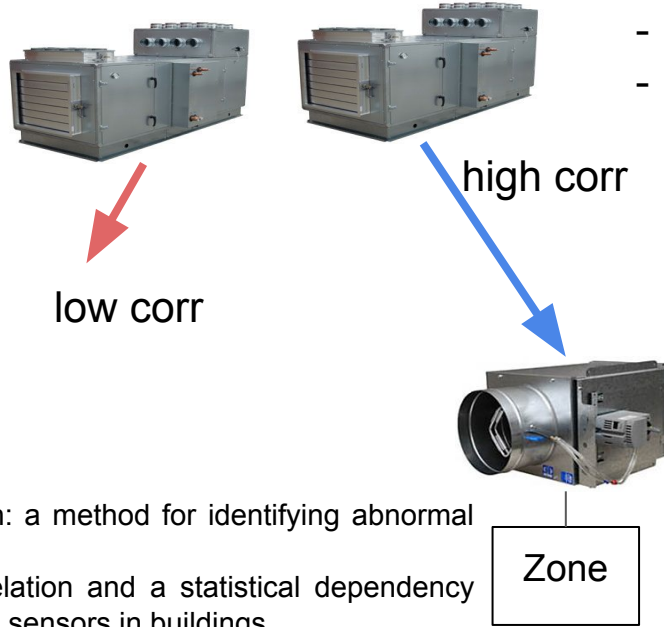
**Zones**





# Any correlation ?

Both intuition and literature\* suggest some “variation” of a correlation method should identify this Functional Relationship



each **AHU** has:

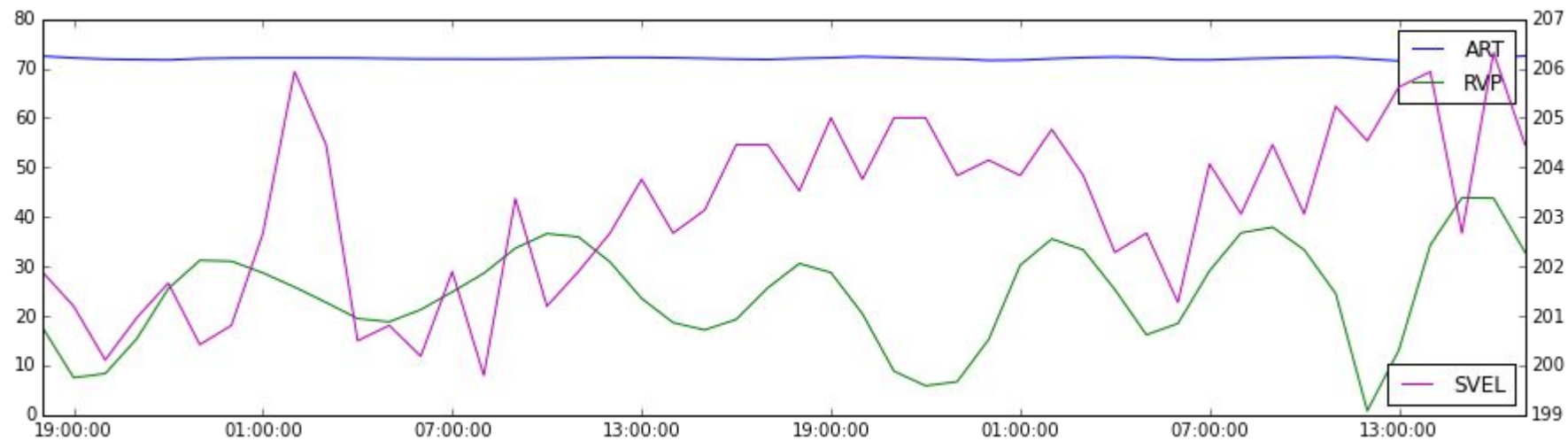
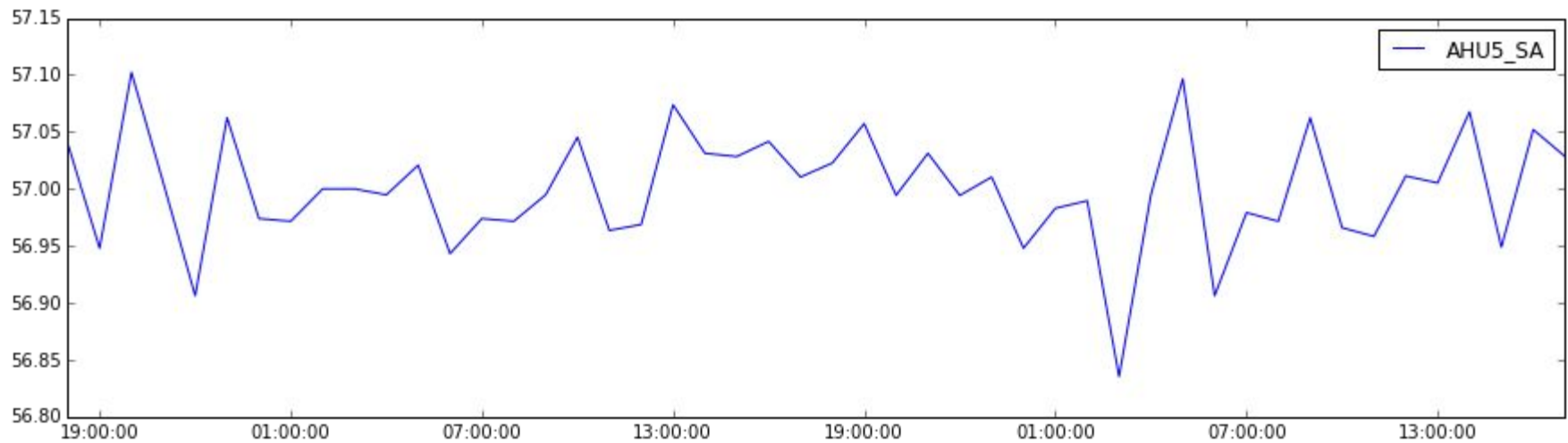
- a **temperature** sensor
- an **airflow** sensor

each **VAV/ZONE** box has:

- an **airflow** sensor
- a **reheat valve position** sensor
- a **ZONE temperature** sensor

\*

- R. Fontugne, et al. 2013. Strip, bind, and search: a method for identifying abnormal energy consumption in buildings.
- M. Koc, et al. 2014. Comparison of linear correlation and a statistical dependency measure for inferring spatial relation of temperature sensors in buildings.
- B. Narayanaswamy, et al. 2014. Data driven investigation of faults in HVAC systems with model, cluster and compare (MCC).
- D. Hong, et al. 2013. Towards Automatic Spatial Verification of Sensor Placement in Buildings.



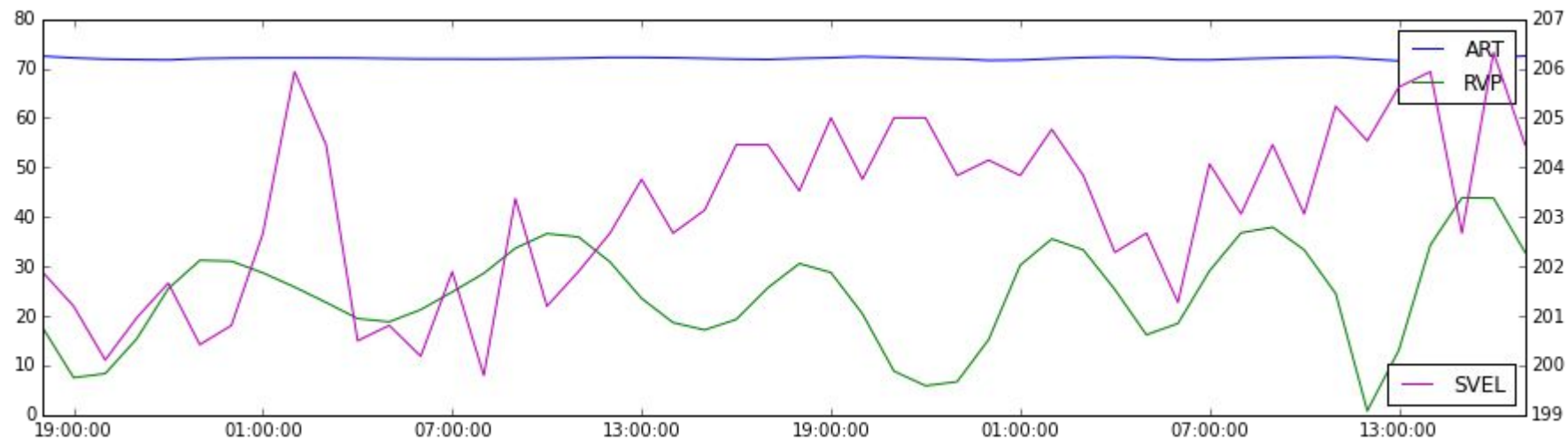
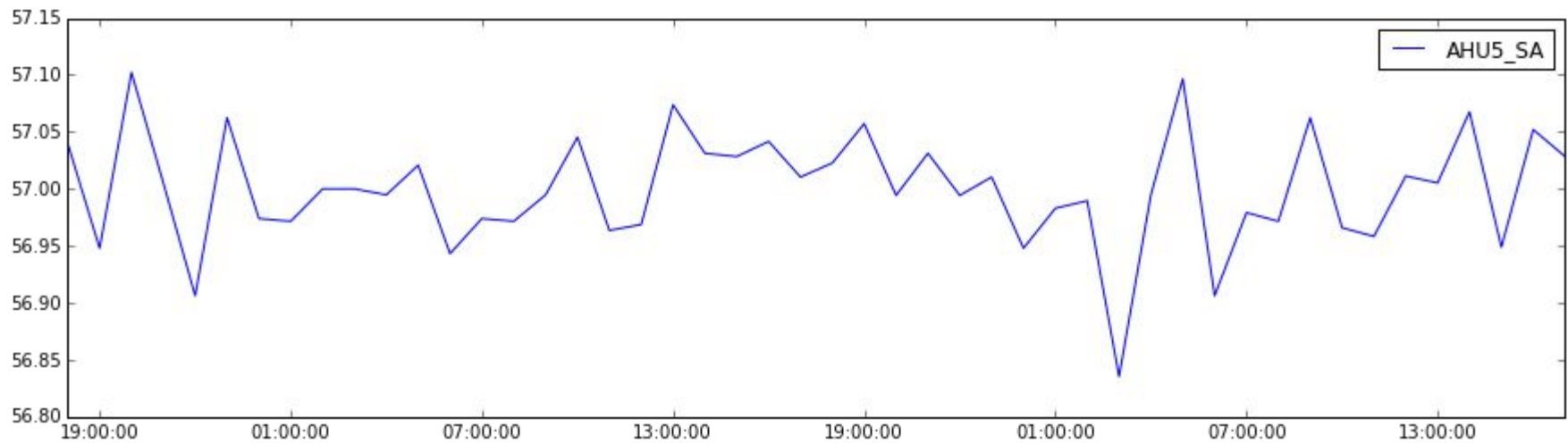
# 1) Correlation on raw data

## Methodology

correlation coefficients		Example VAV <sub>AHU2</sub>			Example VAV <sub>AHU4</sub>		
		T <sub>zone</sub>	DMP	RVP	T <sub>zone</sub>	DMP	RVP
AHU 2	T <sub>sa</sub>	-0.06	0.06	0.11	-0.11	0.24	0.29
AHU 4	T <sub>sa</sub>	-0.20	-0.19	-0.06	-0.04	-0.01	0.02

## Results

Technique	AHU Attribution Details	% ROOMS correctly identified
Correlation (Raw)	AHU whose supply air temperature has max. correlation to VAV sensors	38%



# 2) PCA + Correlation

## Methodology

correlation coefficients		Example VAV <sub>AHU2</sub>	Example VAV <sub>AHU4</sub>
		Eig1	Eig1
AHU 2	T <sub>sa</sub>	0.12	0.20
AHU 4	T <sub>sa</sub>	-0.12	-0.04

## Results

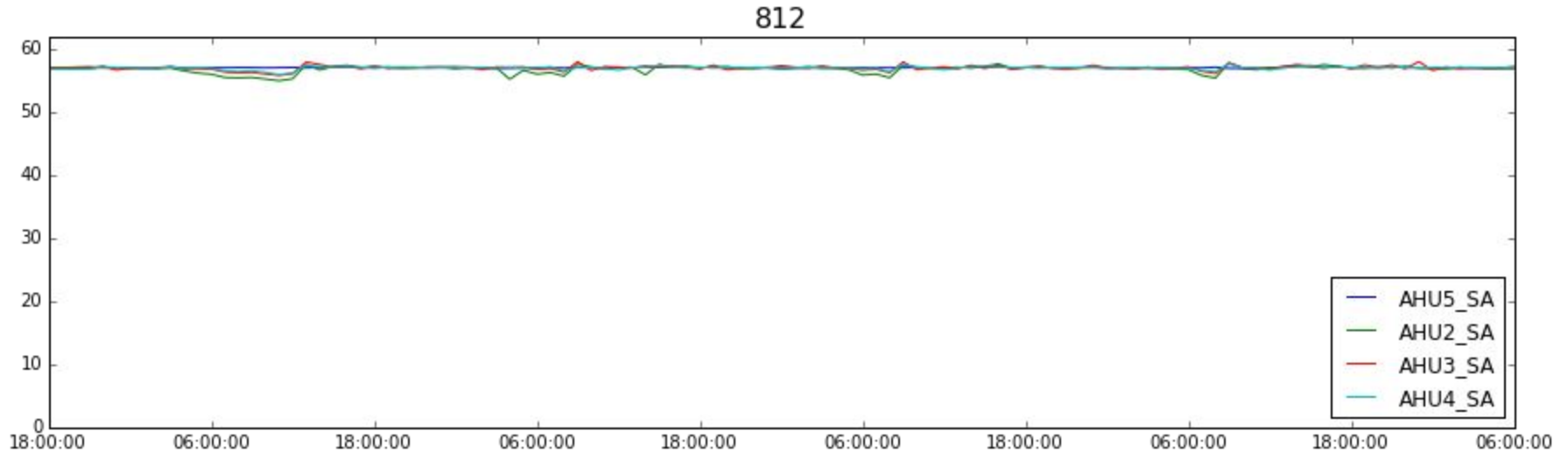
Technique	AHU Attribution Details	% ROOMS correctly identified
Correlation (Raw)	AHU whose supply air temperature has max. correlation to VAV sensors	38%
Correlation (PCA)	Same as above but with principal components	32%





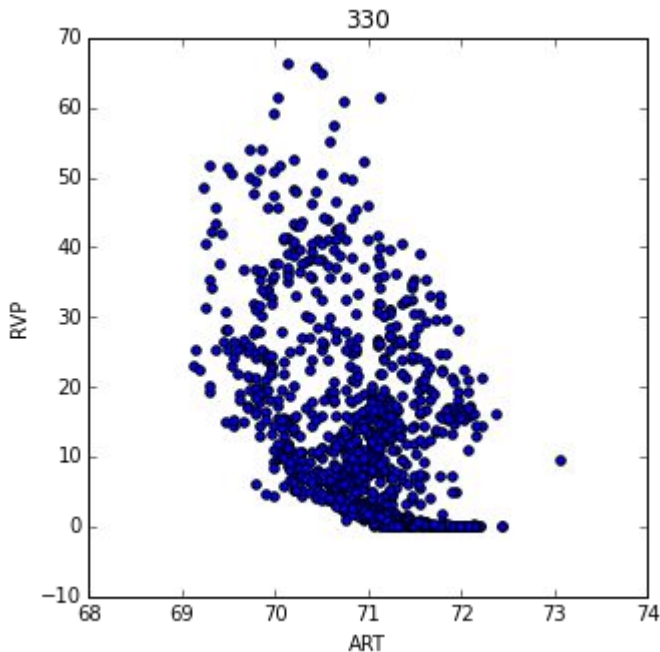
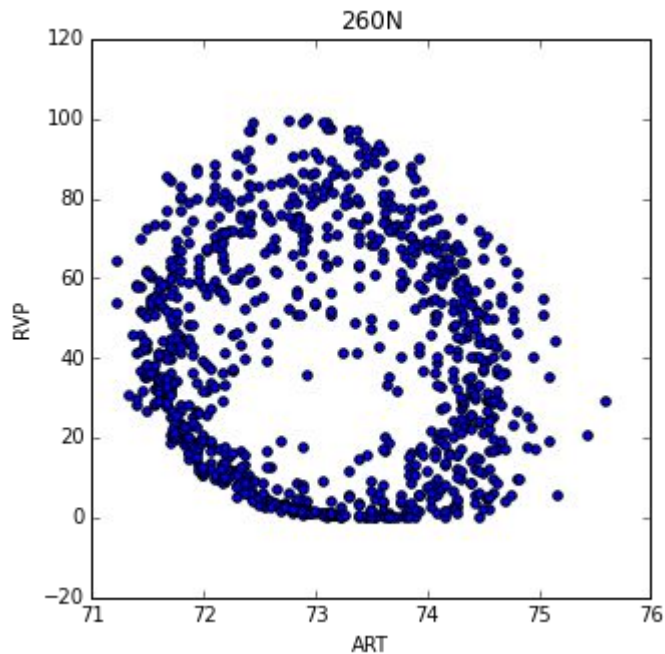
# Why?

1) How different is the behavior of each AHU?



# Why?

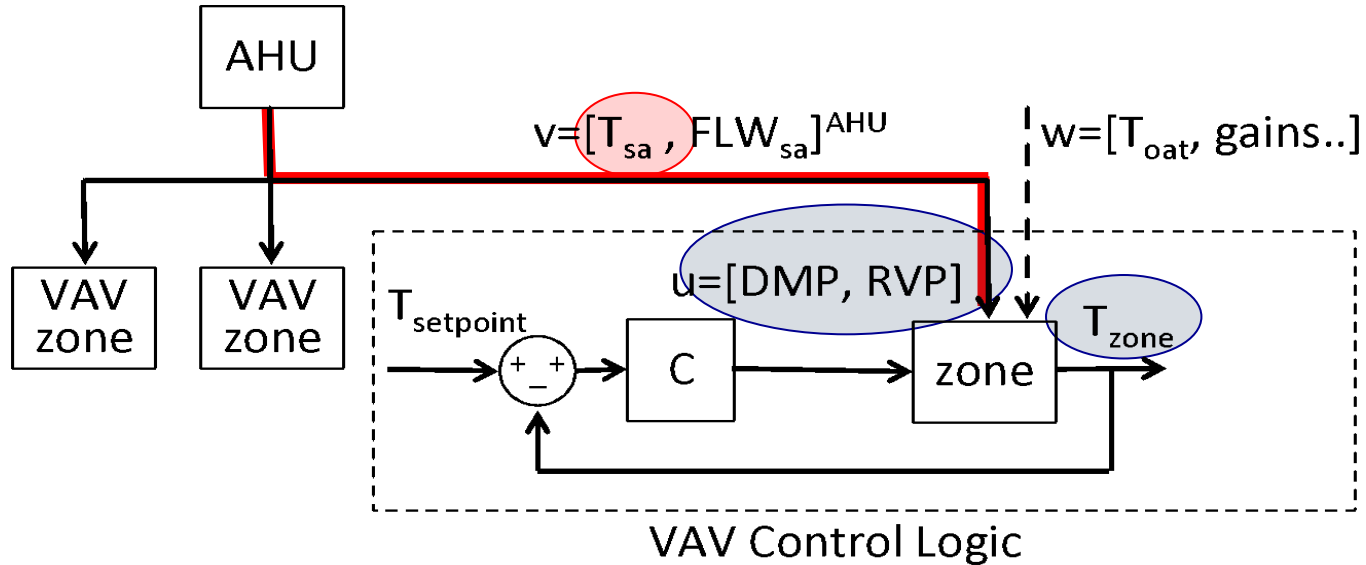
- 1) How different is the behavior of each AHU?
- 2) How about time lags?



# Why?

- 1) How different is the behavior of each AHU?
- 2) How about time lags?
- 3) Are we measuring all major variables that influence the system ?
- 4) Are variables we measure independent ?

# Control loop



FLW : air flow

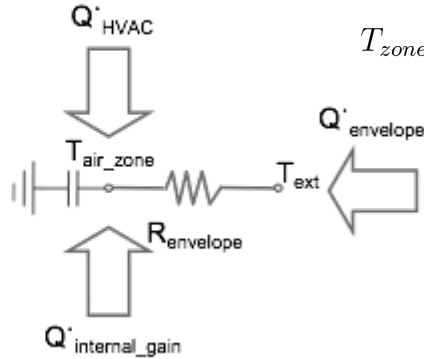
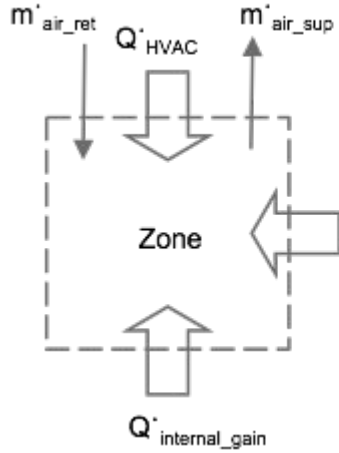
DMP : damper (air flow into room)

RVP : reheat valve position

T : temepature

# 3) System Identification

## Methodology



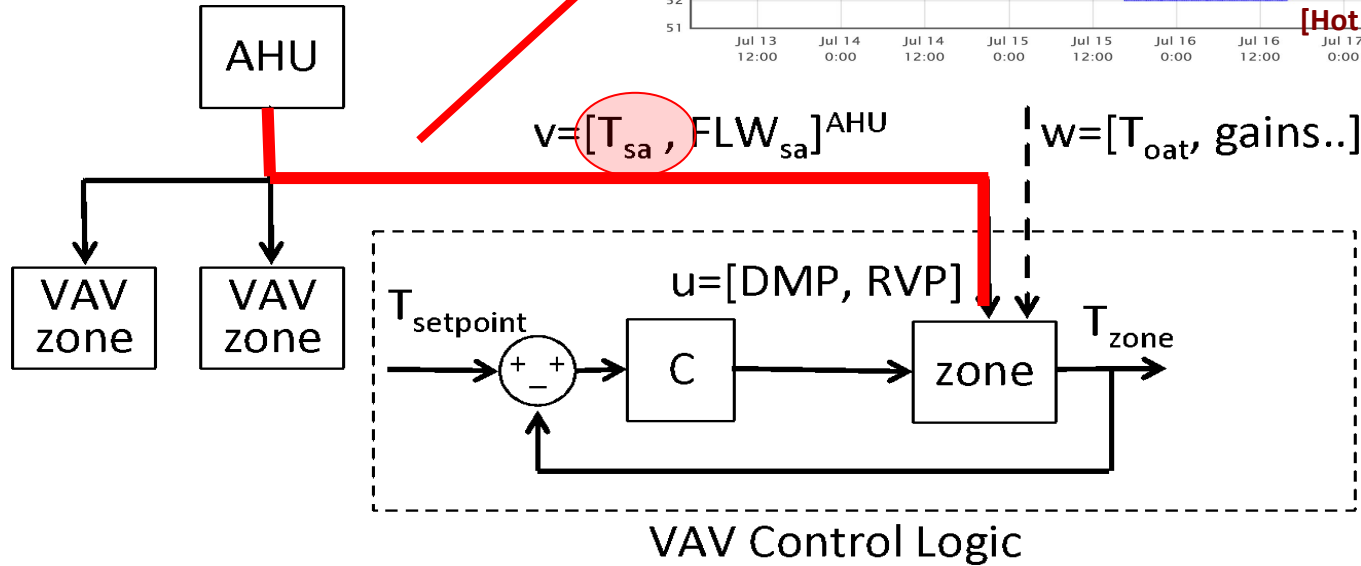
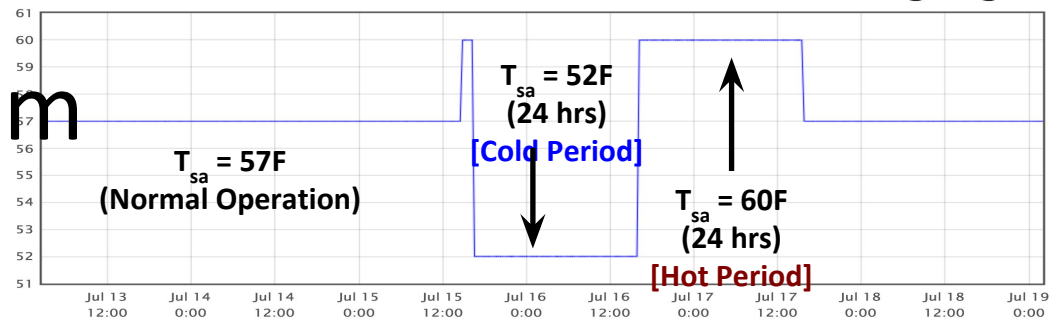
$$T_{zone,t} = \beta_1 \cdot T_{zone,t-1} + FLW_t \cdot \sum_t^{t-k} \beta_2 \cdot RVP_i + \beta_3 \cdot FLW_t \cdot T_{sa,t}^{AHU} + \beta_4 \cdot T_{out,t}$$

Classification Metric =  $R^2$

## Results

Technique	AHU Attribution Details	% ROOMS correctly identified
Correlation (Raw)	AHU whose supply air temperature has max. correlation to VAV sensors	38%
Correlation (PCA)	Same as above but with principal components	32%
System Identification	AHU whose supply air temp gives lowest error	32%

# 4) Perturb the system

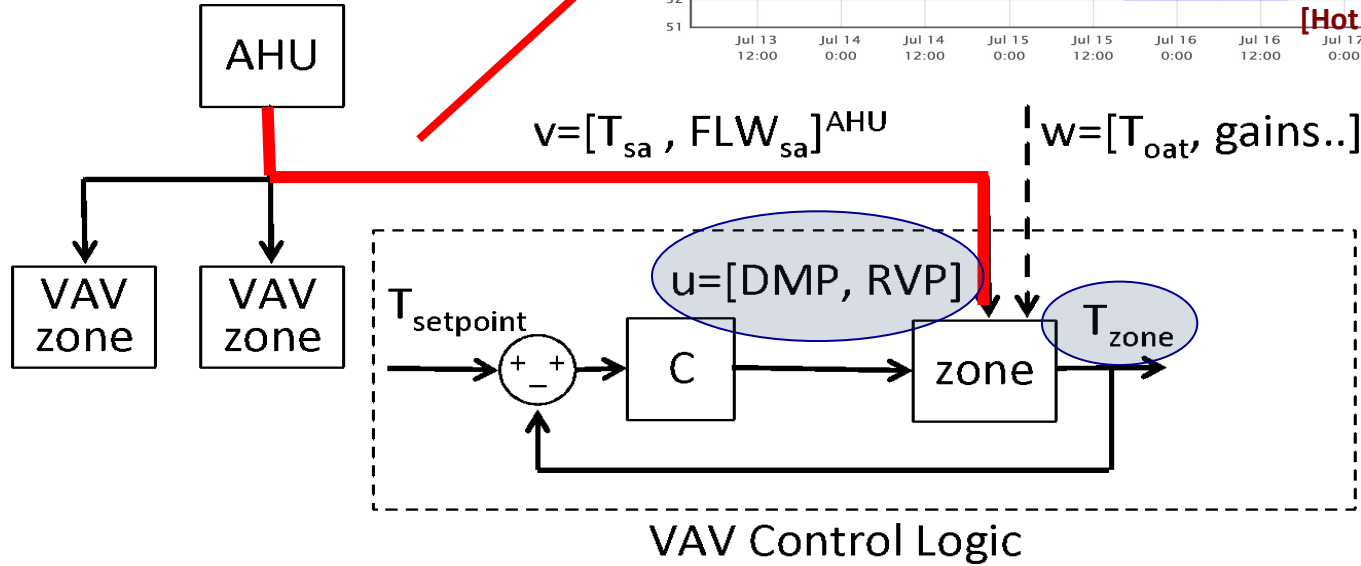
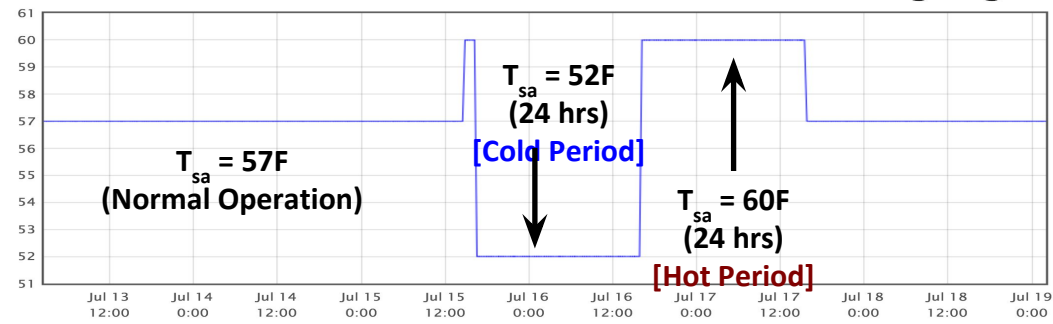


FLW : air flow

DMP : damper (air flow into room)

RVP : reheat valve position

T : temperature



FLW : air flow

DMP : damper (air flow into room)

RVP : reheat valve position

T : temperature

# Perturb Cluster and Vote

- 1) perturb one AHU at the time (1 day hot 1 day cold)
- 2) calculate euclidean distance between two days:  
$$\sqrt{[\text{mean}(\text{zone temp}), \text{mean}(\text{reheat}), \text{mean}(\text{airflow})]_{\text{hot}} - [\text{mean}(\text{zone temp}), \text{mean}(\text{reheat}), \text{mean}(\text{airflow})]_{\text{cold}}}$$
- 3) for each VAV vote to select the AHU corresponding to the highest score

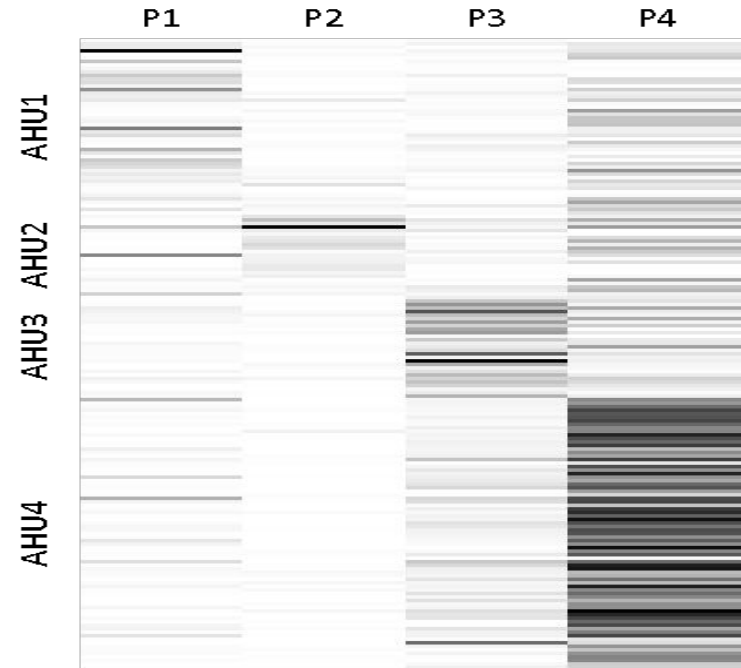
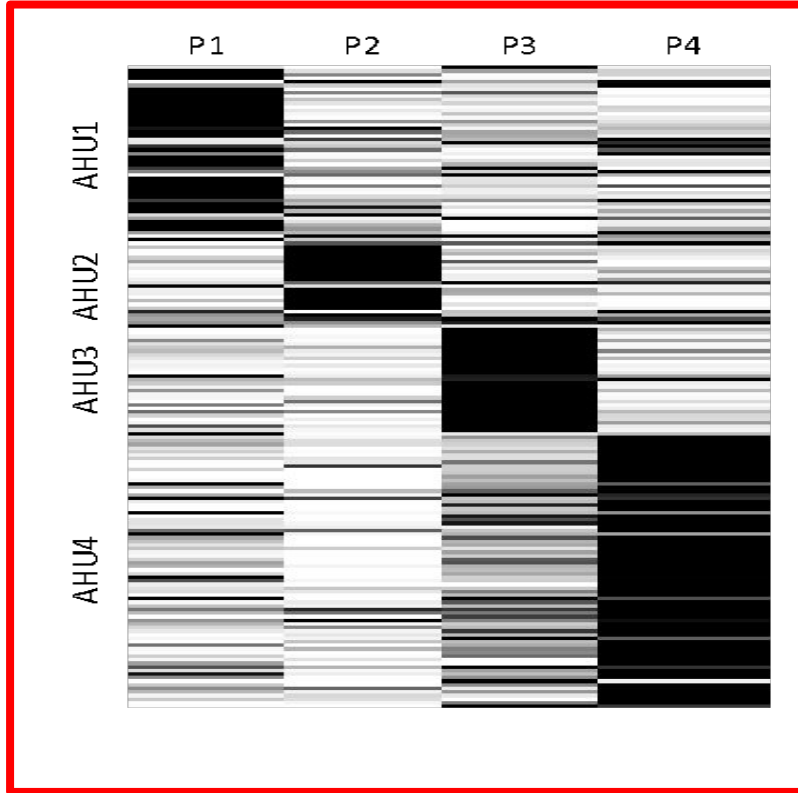
## Results

Technique	AHU Attribution Details	% ROOMS correctly identified
Perturb Cluster and Vote	Perturb all AHUs and attribute VAV to AHU which caused max internal perturbation	79%



# Results

79% rooms identified correctly



Number of AHUs: 4  
Number of VAVs : 179

# Comparison

Technique	AHU Attribution Details	% ROOMS correctly identified
Random	Randomly allocate VAV boxes to AHUs	25%
Correlation (Raw)	AHU whose supply air temperature has max. correlation to VAV sensors	38%
Correlation (PCA)	Same as above but with principal components	32%
State Identification	AHU whose supply air temp gives lowest error	32%
<b>Perturb Cluster and Vote</b>	<b>Perturb all AHUs and attribute VAV to AHU which caused max internal perturbation</b>	<b>79%</b>

# Future Work

- Utilize other techniques and compare them (ML classification, process control ...)
- Verify the how valuable is having “some physics” in the technique
- Verify if this is generalizable to other buildings
- Evaluate how long the perturbation should last
- Perturb Flow Rate ?
- Obtain relationships without perturbation
- Test other relationships

