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Lighting Quality Study of Shopping Malls in China Based on the Evaluation Experiment

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ABSTRACT

The lighting environment of the shopping malls will greatly influence the customer's visual comfort and product sales. This experiment studied the lighting environment of jewelry stores with the highest lighting energy consumption in shopping malls. The jewelry store scene which was built in the Key Laboratory of Building Environment Simulation had a total of 150 lighting conditions. Then, we measured lighting parameters, and subjective evaluation of lighting quality (including lighting comfort and commodities display effect) with 30 participants were carried out. We analyzed the experimental data to get the influence law of lighting parameters on lighting quality. Finally, this paper introduces an emerging ensemble learning algorithm XGBoost (extreme gradient boosting) to construct evaluation models of multiple lighting parameters for lighting quality in jewelry stores, which were verified to have good accuracy. It is of great significance to save energy on the basis of ensuring the lighting quality of the shopping malls.

KEYWORDS

Jewellery stores, Lighting quality, Experimental study, XGBoost, Evaluation model

INTRODUCTION

With the development of economy in China, the increasing number of shopping malls have very high requirements for visual comfort of the indoor light environment, resulting in high energy consumption (Hou et al. 2016). However, visual comfort of shopping malls is poor due to incomplete lighting design standards (MOHURD 2013); lighting in shopping malls accounts for 30%-40% of total energy consumption, so energy conservation has become an urgent problem (Xu et al. 2013; Lowry 2016). Because the establishment of the light environment index system is based on human subjective feelings, the impact mechanism of different spatial and lighting parameters on visual comfort is studied through evaluation experiments and parameter analysis. And to build the lighting evaluation model is the main means to solve the above problems, but there are still some problems in the current studies:

(1) In the aspect of evaluation experiments, there are mainly three kinds of research methods: a) The evaluation experiment in real buildings can not change lighting parameters. Therefore, it is difficult to obtain the influence rules to establish an index system (Jin et al. 2017; Ricciardi and Buratti 2018); b) Constrained by the laboratory environment, evaluation experiments in the laboratories can not study the impact of spatial parameters (Ampenberger et al. 2018); c) There is some controversy over using virtual reality technology to study lighting environment (Heydarian et al. 2015; Natephra et al. 2017). (2) In the aspect of lighting parameters analysis, regression equations were used to fit the visual comfort formula which continuous number could be predicted. However, the sample size was usually limited, and the existing methods greatly reduced the accuracy of the evaluation formula (Deng et al. 2018; Jin et al. 2017).

In order to solve the above problems, the real store scene was built in the Key Laboratory of Building Environment Simulation to conduct an evaluation experiment; XGBoost (Hassan et al. 2017; Urraca et al. 2017) was used to solve the classification problem of big data. Based on this, the impact of lighting parameters on the lighting quality were studied, and lighting evaluation models were established to ensure visual health, to improve visual comfort, and to save lighting energy consumption, while satisfying the functions of lighting. It has important scientific and practical significance for achieving a healthy, comfortable and energy-saving light environment of shopping malls.

METHODS

Experimental setup

We designed and built the Key Laboratory for building light environment simulation in Tianjin University, which is biggest and high performance in Asia (Figure 1). The plan, the height and all the luminaires of the laboratory can be adjusted. Therefore, the light environment of various architectural spaces can be restored and monitored in the laboratory.



Figure 1. Key Laboratory of Building Environment Simulation. a) Exterior, b) Interior.

The jewelry stores with the highest lighting energy consumption in the shopping malls were selected as the research object, and the jewelry store experiment scene was set up in the laboratory (Figures 2). 12 downlights (Dimension: $\oint 282*H130$; Beam angle: 120°; Power: 60w) embedded in the ceiling were as ambient lighting; 12 spotlights (Dimension: $\oint 158*H100$ mm; Light source: LED; Beam angle: 24°; Power: 30w) embedded in the crane span structure and the strip light (Dimension: W39*H9mm; Light source: LED (SMT 2835); Beam angle: 110°; Power: 12w) in the counters were as accent lighting. The luminous flux and CCT (correlated color temperature) of all luminaires can be adjusted intelligently which can constitute a large number of lighting conditions.



Figure 2. The simulated jewelry store. a) Store plan, b) Luminaire plan, c) Elevation, d) Photo.

Lighting variable setting and measurement methods

According to the standards and the field investigation, we determined the extreme values of the variables of lighting conditions to cover most of actual conditions. In the experiment, all luminaires were intelligently controlled to set up a total of 150 lighting conditions (Table 1).

Using the center-distribution method, measurement points are shown in Figure 3. And the measurement height was 0.75m (SAC 2009). The measurement instrument was CL-500A spectroradiometer. The stores scene without windows avoided the effect of natural light while measuring.

Table 1. Lighting variable setting.

Lighting system	Variable	Number of levels	Value
Ambient lighting	illuminance	3	500 lx, 1000 lx, 1500 lx
			1000 lx, 1500 lx, 2000 lx, 3000 lx, 4000 lx,
Accent lighting	illuminance	10	5500 lx, 7000 lx, 8500 lx, 10000 lx, 12000 lx
	CCT	5	3500 K, 4000 K, 4500 K, 5000 K, 5500 K



Figure 3. Measurement points plan. Figure 4. The process of the experiment.

Subjective lighting quality assessment

In the experimental scene of jewelry stores, a questionnaire survey (Table 2) was conducted to subjectively evaluate 150 lighting conditions. Thirty research participants who aged 22 to 26 years (15 female and 15 male subjects) were divided into 6 groups to evaluate the randomly disturbed lighting conditions in 5 days. In the experiment scene, participants simulated the shopping process, fully experienced the light environment and then subjectively evaluated the lighting quality. The experimental process is shown in Figure 4. Participants were asked to wear eye masks to avoid interference between two lighting conditions. After evaluating every 10 lighting conditions, participants rested for 20 minutes to eliminate the effect of fatigue experiment on the experiment results.

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Lighting condition number	Visual comfort	Very bad		Bad			Good			Excellent	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Effects of commodities presentation	Very bad 1 2		Bad 3 4 5			Good 6 7 8			Excellent 9 10	

Table 2. Lighting quality questionnaire

RESULTS

Processed experimental data and conducted preliminary analysis. 150 lighting conditions were discussed separately in accordance with three ambient lighting conditions. In each ambient lighting scene, CCT of the accent lighting was set in five levels. But in the actual measurement, CCT changed due to the change of the illumination. In order to analyze the results, the average number of CCT was obtained from the CCT which were set up as same.

The influence of lighting parameters on lighting quality

Figure 5 describes the influence of illuminance and CCT of accent lighting on visual comfort when ambient CCT is 4000 K which is the most commonly used and ambient illuminance is in three levels. The abscissa is horizontal illuminance of accent lighting, and the ordinate is

the value of visual comfort. The different colored lines represent different CCT of accent lighting. The question of visual comfort had a scale value from 1(very bad) to 10(excellent) which greater values indicated more comfort.

As shown in Figure 5, within the range of experimental values, (1) When the ambient illuminance is different: visual comfort increases with the increased ambient illuminance. With the increase of ambient illuminance, visual comfort increases smaller and smaller with increased accent illuminance. When ambient illuminance increases to more than 8000 lx, visual comfort of some conditions begin to decrease. (2) When the ambient illuminance is the same: visual comfort increases with the increase of illuminance, and the increase tends to be smaller and smaller. When the accent CCT is about 4000K (medium color temperature), the jewelry store has better visual comfort. (3) As shown in Figure 5-c, when the ambient illuminance is 1500 lx, the reason for the special point is: the sequence of lighting conditions to evaluate was random. The lighting condition of special point (Accentuated CCT is 5290.8K, and accent illuminance is 10000 lx) was evaluated after the condition (Ambient illuminance is 500 lx, and the accent illuminance is 576 lx). The difference in illuminance between the two lighting conditions is too large, causing visual discomfort.



Figure 5. Influence of lighting parameters on visual comfort. a) Illuminance of ambient lighting is 500 lx, b) Illuminance of ambient lighting is 1000 lx, c) Illuminance of ambient lighting is 1500 lx.

Fig. 6 describes the lighting parameters on the presentation effect of the commodities when the ambient CCT is 4000K. The abscissa is horizontal illuminance of accent lighting, and the ordinate is effect of commodities presentation. The scale value of presentation effect is from 1(very bad) to 10(excellent), and larger values indicate better presentation.

As shown in Figure 6, within the range of the experiment values, (1) When the ambient illuminance is different: the ambient illuminance has small effect on the presentation effect. (2) When the ambient illuminance is the same: the effect of commodity presentation increases with the increased accent illumination. When the accent illuminance is greater than 10000 lx, the presentation effect decreases or stays the same. When the accent CCT is medium CCT(4000K) or high CCT(4000K-5600K), the presentation effect is better. Accent lighting in low CCT in the jewelry store has poorer presentation effect.



Figure 6. Influence of lighting parameters on effects of commodities presentation. a) Ambient illuminance is 500 lx, b) Ambient illuminance is 1000 lx, b) Ambient illuminance is 1500 lx.

Evaluation model

XGBoost is an extension of the Gradient Boosting Machine. The Boosting classifier belongs to the ensemble learning model (Hassan et al. 2017; Urraca et al. 2017). XGBoost is widely used in energy consumption prediction (Touzani et al. 2018; Robinson et al. 2017) and power distribution due to its high efficiency and accuracy. This paper introduces XGBoost into the evaluation of lighting quality in shopping malls and establishes a multi-parameter evaluation model.

Evaluation model of visual comfort in the jewelry store

Data preprocessing was performed, the outliers of visual comfort experiment data were removed by using an interquartile range method, and then the end points of the interval were used as the comfort label values. We obtained the visual comfort distribution of all lighting conditions of the jewelry store.

We used python to build an evaluation model of visual comfort in the jewelry store based on the XGBoost ensemble learning classification algorithm. Experimental data was randomly divided into training sets and test sets in a ratio of 4:1. And we built XGBoost classification models on the training sets and adjusted parameters according to the classification prediction accuracy rate of the test sets. Finally, the optimal combination of parameters are as follows: max_depth=3, n_estimators=50, learning_rate=0.1, subsample=0.95. The prediction accuracy rate of the model on the test sets is 0.9, which shows that the model has good generalization ability, and the accuracy rate of the training sets is 0.942, which can effectively prevent the model from overfitting. According to the weights, the order of features of well-trained XGBoost model is: accent illuminance (0.3483), accent CCT (0.2780), Ra (general color rendering index) of accent lighting (0.2161), ambient illuminance (0.1573) (Figure 7).

Evaluation model of commodities presentation effect in the jewelry store

Similarly, an evaluation model of product presentaition effect in jewelry store was obtained. When ambient CCT is approximately 4000K, the order of the features is: accent illuminance (0.5244), accent CCT (0.2502), Ra of accent lighting (0.1934) and ambient illuminance (0.0319) according to the weights (Figure 8).



Ambient illuminance Accentuated illuminance Accentuated CCT Ra of accent lighting



Ambient illuminance
Accentuated illuminance
Accentuated CCT
Ra of accent lighting

Figure 7. Weights of the features that affect visual comfort of the jewelry store. Figure 8. Weights of the features that affect commodity presentation effect of the jewelry store.

DISCUSSIONS

In the aspect of illuminance, visual comfort and commodity display effect increase with the increase of illuminance, but the increasing trend gradually flattens. And for the effect of commodities display, the accent illuminance has a greater influence, and the influence of the ambient illuminance is smaller (Figure 8). However, when the accent illuminance is greater than 8000 lx, most of the visual comfort and display effect begin to decrease. In the aspect of CCT, when accent CCT is about 4000K, the jewelry store has better visual comfort and product display effect. Store lighting design should consider both sides.

When the ambient CCT is about 4000K, the well-trained XGBoost model can be used to predict the visual comfort and the commodities display effect to guide the lighting design of the jewelry stores. The evaluation model has the following limitation: In order to avoid the fatigue test of participants from affecting the results, the ambient CCT is unified to the

commonly used value (4000 K) according to the field investigation. Therefore, this evaluation model can not evaluate other lighting conditions except that the ambient CCT is 4000K.

CONCLUSIONS

This study proposes the influence laws of lighting parameters on lighting quality of jewelry stores in shopping malls, and obtains an evaluation model of lighting environment in jewelry stores. Based on advanced machine learning algorithms, the proposed model can predict and evaluate lighting quality (visual comfort and effect of commodity display) through multiple lighting parameters (illuminance of ambient lighting, illuminance of accent lighting, CCT of accent lighting, and Ra of accent lighting). The results show that the model achieves an ideal predicting accuracy. This method can be extended to lighting design in shopping malls to improve lighting quality and to achieve energy saving.

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