

Article

Extending the IFC-Based bim2sim Framework to Improve the Accessibility of Thermal Comfort Analysis Considering Future Climate Scenarios

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Abstract: Future weather scenarios significantly affect indoor thermal comfort, influencing people's well-being and productivity at work. Thus, future weather scenarios should be considered in the design phase to improve a building's climate change resilience for new constructions as well as renovations in building stock. As thermal comfort is highly influenced by internal and external thermal loads resulting from weather conditions and building usage, only a dynamic building performance simulation (BPS) can predict the boundary conditions for a thermal comfort analysis during the design stage. As the model setup for a BPS requires detailed information about building geometry, materials, and usage, recent research activities have tried to derive the required simulation models from the open BIM (Building Information Modeling) Standard IFC (Industry Foundation Classes). However, even if IFC data are available, they are often faulty or incomplete. We propose a template-based enrichment of the BPS models that assists with imputing missing data based on archetypal usage of thermal zones. These templates are available for standardized enrichment of BPS models but do not include the required parameters for thermal comfort analysis. This study presents an approach for IFC-based thermal comfort analysis and a set of zone-usage-based templates to enrich thermal comfort input parameters.

Keywords: Building Information Modeling; IFC to simulation; thermal comfort; building performance simulation; climate change



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1. Introduction

Climate change necessitates future weather scenarios that will significantly affect humans' everyday lives and pose challenges to housing design and construction. These challenges emphasize the need for measures such as shading, temperature peak reduction through thermal mass (if available), or night cooling ventilation [1]. Bell et al. [2] estimate an increase in cooling demand for buildings at up to 35% for the year 2050 and stress that BPS must be improved and advanced in order to serve as a reliable planning and prediction tool, for example, by properly incorporating not only warmer average temperatures due to climate change but also short yet extreme weather events. People in Western societies spend 90% of their time indoors throughout the day [3,4], and thermal comfort influences well-being and productivity at work, in schools, and at home [5–7]. Therefore, future annual weather conditions should be considered in a building's design phase to improve the building's climate change resilience for new constructions and renovations in existing buildings.

Since thermal comfort is strongly influenced by internal and external loads resulting from weather conditions and building usage, only a dynamic building performance simulation (BPS) can predict the boundary conditions for a thermal comfort analysis during the design stage. As the model setup for a BPS requires detailed information on building geometry, materials, and usage, recent research activities have attempted to derive the

required simulation models from the open BIM (Building Information Modeling) Standard IFC (Industry Foundation Classes) [8]. However, even when the IFC data are available, it is often erroneous or incomplete. A template-based enrichment of the BPS models helps fill in missing data based on archetypal usage of thermal zones (e.g., for defining internal loads and schedules based on the usage of thermal zones). These templates are available for standardized enrichment of BPS models, but do not include the required parameters for thermal comfort analysis.

We propose a basic setup to integrate automated thermal comfort analysis into an IFC-based BPS setup. This setup enables the user to perform an IFC-based thermal comfort analysis in the design process with minimal additional effort. It assists in rapidly evaluating building designs and even small changes without major remodeling efforts. The impact of climate change on building design can be easily considered when comparing the impact of design decisions. Furthermore, this setup cannot only be used to minimize building operational costs but also consider, e.g., embodied carbon for different design strategies when optimizing the building's design for maximum thermal comfort design. For a quick template-based model enrichment, we propose zone-usage-based thermal comfort parameters. These parameters are rough estimates but enable users to consider usage-specific setups and can be further specified for individual project needs.

After an introduction to the related research on thermal comfort and climate change, IFC-based BPS, and future weather scenarios, we present our approach for IFC-based thermal comfort simulation. This approach extends the existing IFC-based BPS approach *bim2sim* [9,10]. A set of thermal comfort parameters for template-based BPS model enrichment supports the presented *bim2sim* extension. The proposed methods and templates are evaluated on a case study IFC building applying a TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2050, 2080) weather scenarios for Cologne, Germany.

1.1. Related Research

The related research for our study is grouped into the three areas of (1) thermal comfort with respect to climate change, (2) general IFC-based methods for BPS, and (3) related research on future weather scenarios for the use in BPS.

1.1.1. Thermal Comfort and Climate Change

Thermal comfort in general and the Fanger [11] model in particular have been used in different simulation scenarios, but oftentimes for a specialized purpose or situation, such as thermal comfort in trains [12], the prediction of thermal comfort in indoor swimming pools [13], the heat exposure in a kitchen environment [14], or the investigation of rural heating systems' efficacy [15]. In early design stages, suitable models for occupant behavior allow the designers to evaluate design decisions with respect to their combined influence on comfort and the building's energy consumption [16]. Gritzki and Rösler [17] describe a simulation approach where BPS and HVAC system simulations were coupled with Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) in order to investigate the feasibility of Net-Zero Energy concepts in office buildings. Although their approach is quite extensive, including thermal and draught simulation as well as prediction of CO₂ distribution, it might prove beneficial to interface this approach with IFC to facilitate integration into the BIM process.

Barbosa et al. [18] describe an approach to investigate the vulnerability of Portuguese residential buildings, focusing on occupancy and insulation. Their multi-step procedure involves geometry and constructive data acquisition, acquisition of monitoring data, modeling in EnergyPlus as well as calibration against weather data and the final comfort assessment. The results emphasized the beneficial role of external insulation in increasing the adaptive capability of buildings. As stated by the authors, future replications should also include air-tightness of the building or additional shading devices in the simulation.

Applying the Simulation-based Large-scale uncertainty/sensitivity Analysis of Building Energy performance (SLABE) methodology, Escandón et al. [19] projected the impact of climate change on a building category with a case study object located in Seville, Spain.

Generalization took place by Monte Carlo resampling of the EnergyPlus input parameters. Among the nine geometrical parameters, floor height, form ratio, floor area, and orientation had considerable influence. Among the 17 envelope parameters, the absorptance of the wall's external layer showed the highest standard rank regression coefficient in that category. User behavior was identified as the major influence within the three analyzed operation parameters, but also among all categories, and its relevance was estimated to even increase with the progress of climate change. In line with previous studies, the authors project an overall worsening of the indoor thermal conditions towards the year 2050, resulting in elevated cooling demands (up to 250 % increase) and an increase in discomfort hours of about 36 %. Escandón and colleagues suggest and emphasize the usefulness of incorporating the approach as a plugin in BIM tools.

Aiming to improve multi-type building performance prediction as well as optimization, Yan et al. [20] propose a machine learning (ML)-based procedure, which was applied to dwellings by the Singaporean Housing Development Board. Transfer learning techniques, as well as multi-objective genetic optimization, were utilized to derive optimal performance and design parameters for daylight performance, energy efficiency, and thermal comfort from short to long-term future climate conditions.

Various approaches to evaluate the thermal resilience of buildings were reviewed by Siu et al. [21]. According to the authors, one of the main issues to be resolved is a lack of standardized procedures for the prediction and evaluation of a building's thermal resilience with simulations. This holds true not only for the BPS part but also for the methods applied to create extreme weather data. Many of the studies projecting thermal comfort changes caused by climate change oftentimes focus on regions where heat is already present [22–24]. As no region will remain untouched by climate change or its consequences, it might prove beneficial to include a thermal comfort simulation and prediction component in BIM models.

The heat-balance guided thermal comfort model by P. O. Fanger [11] is implemented in current comfort-related standards such as the ASHRAE 55 [25] or DIN EN ISO 7730 [26]. Although the model has been criticized because of some shortcomings compared to adaptive approaches—such as its application focus on mechanically conditioned buildings—it is still one of the most common models applied to derive predictions for thermal comfort [27]. Besides the theoretically sound foundation on human heat exchange with the environment, the model is fairly easy to apply based on four physical (air temperature, radiant temperature, air velocity, and relative humidity) as well as two person-related (physical activity, clothing) variables. Both of the model's metrics, the predicted mean vote (PMV) and the predicted percentage dissatisfied (PPD), are easy to interpret and present themselves as suitable variables for simulation purposes.

1.1.2. IFC-Based BPS

The use of Building Information Modeling (BIM) as a collaborative approach for building design is widely used in the European Union, but the implementation is heterogeneous [28]. IFC [8] is used as an open data exchange format for BIM data. The IFC-based setup of BPS models has been widely discussed in related research, but the IFC-based process still leads to errors (e.g., syntax, geometry, semantics, consistency) [29–31]. So far, the processes are not sufficiently supported and integrated by available software tools, preventing them from being more widely adopted in industry.

The basic concept of translating IFC-based geometry into BPS models utilizes the second level space boundaries (IFC4: *IfcRelSpaceBoundary2ndLevel*), initially introduced by Bazjanac [32]. These space boundaries describe the virtual heat-transmitting surfaces in-between thermal zones and the building's surroundings, considering adjacent thermal zones and building constructions. While some studies discuss methods for generating second-level space boundaries for building simulation [33–39] or directly integrate space boundary generation methods in their IFC-based BPS approaches [39–41], other studies rely on the IFC4 schema-conform definition of space boundaries for the (semi-)automatic

generation of BPS models [9,42–45]. To be able to rely on the quality of provided space boundaries, a validation and/or a correction process may need to be applied, as proposed by Ying and Lee [29], Richter et al. [30]. At least for minor corrections (e.g., surface normal orientation), the correction process, in most cases, has less computational costs than generating new space boundaries and should be preferred over generating a full set of new space boundaries.

With its modular and open-source approach for IFC-based BPS simulations, the bim2sim tool [9,10] provides a solid base for adapting the EnergyPlus-based BPS methods toward thermal comfort analysis. The bim2sim tool aims to support engineers with a geometric and semantic simulation model setup using IFC and template-based data. This drastically reduces the manual model setup time, while only minor manual model corrections are required after applying the bim2sim tool [10].

The structure of this open-source framework is displayed in Figure 1, showing the central data processing and enrichment steps for the two BPS plugins PluginEnergyPlus and PluginTEASER, using EnergyPlus and Modelica as simulation backends, respectively. A similar approach is available for HVAC simulations with the PluginAixLib, also using Modelica as a simulation backend. The modular approach of the bim2sim tool and the integrated HVAC simulation support the future implementation of a dynamic co-simulation setup of BPS and HVAC, which is not part of the proposed methods but could also be extended for the application of thermal comfort. The initial implementation of the bim2sim framework also includes plugins for exporting CFD boundary conditions for use in the commercial CFD-Software ANSYS FLUENT (Version 2022 R2) and an initial implementation supporting Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) [10].

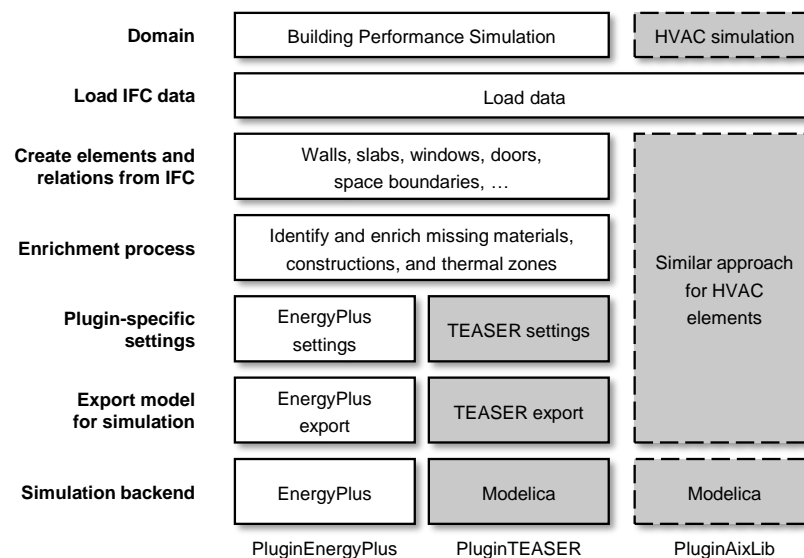


Figure 1. Simplified representation of the main bim2sim workflow; for Building Performance Simulation including the PluginEnergyPlus (white) and the PluginTEASER (gray, solid line), and for HVAC simulations the PluginAixlib (gray, dashed line).

All plugins start with the shared process of loading the IFC data. In the next step, the required elements for the BPS domain are created for the respective process (e.g., walls, slabs, windows, doors, and space boundaries). The available element properties within the IFC are identified, evaluated, and enriched (user input- or template-based) if properties are missing. This process is followed by plugin-specific settings, the export for the simulation backend, and the simulation itself.

The template-based enrichment in bim2sim builds on archetypal templates (e.g., for zone usage), which are derived within TEASER [46]. These use conditions represent the boundary conditions for zone types defined in DIN V 18599-10 [47] and VDI 2078 [48]

and are further enriched by internal load profiles defined in SIA 2024 [49] (TEASER Documentation: <https://rwth-ebc.github.io/TEASER//master/docs/code/teaser.logic.buildingobjects.html#teaser.logic.buildingobjects.useconditions.UseConditions>, accessed on 12 November 2023).

Mahecha Zambrano et al. [16] state that the representation of occupant behavior in BPS, i.e., occupancy and occupancy-related schedules (internal loads due to lighting and equipment), is oversimplified, and that the development of a generalized model for occupant behavior is impossible due to the occupants' diversity. For the simulation of thermal comfort, the hierarchy of occupant behavior needs to be evaluated, e.g., how the occupants decide on changing room set point temperatures and adjusting their clothing when feeling thermally uncomfortable [16]. The choice of the modeling approach for occupant behavior in related research is based on the type of behavior, the building design stage, or the spatial scale of the simulation. Depending on the scale of the simulation, stochastic occupancy models can be used to derive suitable occupancy profiles for the buildings. To minimize the (manual and computational) effort in considering occupant behavior, Mahecha Zambrano et al. [16] suggest using a pre-processed set of schedules for occupant behavior with an estimation of the probability of these scenarios. This schedule set could support the designer in the decision-making process when considering extreme events. However, as the available occupant models lack validation, standardized validation approaches are required to be able to compare the results of different studies [16].

The bim2sim tool acts as basis for further development of IFC-based thermal comfort methods within the present study. However, thermal comfort parameters are yet not sufficiently represented within the usage-based TEASER templates.

1.1.3. Future Weather Scenarios

For the generation of future weather scenarios, General Circulation Models (GCMs) are downscaled from their worldwide scale of typically 1–5° latitude and longitude [50] (i.e., about 111–555 km) to regional scale high-resolution Regional Climate Models (RCMs) with a resolution of 4 km or less [51]. Wilby and Wigley [52] introduced four statistical downscaling approaches: regression, weather pattern approaches, stochastic weather generators, and limited-area climate models. Belcher et al. [53] further refined these approaches to dynamical downscaling, stochastic weather generation, interpolation, and introduced morphing. While dynamical downscaling is computationally expensive, stochastic weather generation requires large input data sets, and interpolation may lead to biased resulting data; the proposed morphing technique has low computational cost and builds upon real climate data [53]. However, even though this technology produces consistent future weather data based on future climate predictions, the resulting characteristics are still mainly influenced by the input weather data and, thus, do not reflect changed characteristics and variability (e.g., heat waves) in future climate [53].

Zeng et al. [54] present a recent critical review on these generation approaches of future weather data for building performance simulation, giving advice for the choice of future weather files according to the application (i.e., energy analysis, thermal resilience, HVAC design, utility analysis). For the analysis of thermal resilience, they recommend the use of future extreme weather data instead of typical year weather data. However, morphed weather data (unable to reflect actual future weather variability) was still used in related research [54].

Nielsen and Kolarik [55] presented a review on existing climate research. They discovered that more than half of their 47 analyzed studies (2015 and newer) used the outdated weather data of CMIP3 (Phase 3 of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP)), supporting the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) based on weather data mostly generated in 2005 and 2006: <https://pcmdi.github.io/mips/cmip3/>, accessed on 12 November 2023), partially due to the availability through the CCWorldWeatherGen Tool that easily generates EnergyPlus Weather files. Only five out of the analyzed studies underlined why they chose the selected climate model even though

the resulting weather files show high variance and may lead to an erroneous interpretation of the simulation results. The ways to deal with solar radiation data for BPS are manifold in related research, as global horizontal irradiance from GCM and RCM have to be converted to direct normal irradiance and diffuse horizontal irradiance for the use in BPS [55]. They published the results of their study on a continuously updated webpage (FutureWeatherBPS: www.futureweatherbps.com, accessed on 12 November 2023), currently (November 2023) including data from 82 studies and a total of 210 locations.

Rodrigues et al. [56] propose an open-source morphing tool for future weather data, as the existing tools (CCWorldWeatherGen [50], Weather Morph [57], WeatherShift (<https://weathershift.com/>, accessed on 17 November 2023)) have limited accessibility (i.e., not open-source), rely on outdated data models, or are not free to use and, thus, may not be accessible for researchers with limited funding.

Hong et al. [58] discuss ten questions on building's and occupants adaptation to climate changes. Considering changes in the outdoor environment and their impact on the buildings, they list general climate trends and local weather conditions, urban microclimate and heat island effects and hazards as influential on thermal resilience of buildings.

1.2. Aim of Study

The current study integrates thermal comfort analysis into an existing IFC-based BPS approach. In this way, we address the need for an automated thermal comfort model setup to avoid remodeling when considering design alternatives [21]. Zone usage-based thermal comfort parameters were derived for template-based enrichment of thermal zones, aiming to extend the existing templates. The proposed methods were evaluated on a case study building represented in IFC4. From the BPS-based thermal comfort analysis results, thermal zones with critical thermal comfort situations were identified. The case study assessed the applicability of state-of-the-art comfort metrics and the resilience of the building in future weather scenarios.

2. Materials and Methods

This section starts with an introduction to the thermal comfort approaches used in our study for thermal comfort analysis. In the following Section 2.2, we propose the implementation of our *bim2sim PluginComfort*, which extends the existing *bim2sim EnergyPlus* methods by an additional thermal comfort analysis. Section 2.3 addresses the extension of the TEASER templates by activity (Section 2.3.1) and clothing parameters (Section 2.3.2) used for thermal comfort analysis for each archetypal thermal zone. Finally, in Section 2.4, we describe the weather data used in our study.

2.1. Evaluate Thermal Comfort Models

EnergyPlus provides the implementation of the adaptive comfort analysis according to DIN EN 15251 [59], which has been withdrawn and replaced by DIN EN 16798-1 [60], which is not yet implemented in EnergyPlus. With the standard's transition, the methods for thermal comfort still rely on ISO 7730 [26]. While methods to calculate the running mean outdoor temperature have not changed, the standards for acceptable temperatures have changed (cf. Table 1), i.e., the lower boundary for each comfort category has been reduced by one degree Celsius, and thus, slightly cooler temperatures are defined to be acceptable. However, since the calculation of temperatures itself did not change with the transition to DIN EN 16798-1, the available EnergyPlus implementation of the DIN EN 15251 can still be used with minor modifications in the evaluation of results.

The template values we derived for the clothing parameters are static throughout the whole year as a simplification for template-based model enrichment. In further research, we could use ASHRAE Standard 55 [25] dynamic clothing model in comparison to our static template-based clothing parameter set. ASHRAE 55 enables dynamic clothing based on outdoor air temperatures. This may not be applicable to office and other formal situations

(e.g., in formal office or meeting situations), so zone-usage-based clothing may be more applicable in this case.

Table 1. Differences in running mean outdoor temperatures as set points for thermal comfort categories in DIN EN 15251 [59], DIN EN 16798-1 [60].

	DIN EN 15251	DIN EN 16798-1
Category I, upper threshold		24.1...30.7 °C
Category I, lower threshold	21.75...26.7 °C	19.1...25.7 °C
Category II, upper threshold		25.1...31.7 °C
Category II, lower threshold	20.75...25.7 °C	18.1...24.7 °C
Category III, upper threshold		26.1...32.7 °C
Category III, lower threshold	18.1...24.7 °C	17.1...23.7 °C
<i>Applicable for running mean temperature:</i>		
Upper threshold		10...30 °C
Lower threshold	15...30 °C	10...30 °C

2.2. Implementation of PluginComfort for bim2sim

The proposed *PluginComfort* is an extension of the *bim2sim PluginEnergyPlus* (cf. Figure 1). This new plugin requires comfort parameters for each thermal zone, introduced as simplified usage-based parameters in Section 2.3.

Figure 2 visualizes the structure of the proposed thermal comfort plugin. This plugin builds upon the existing implementation of the *PluginEnergyPlus* within the *bim2sim* framework, as described in Figure 1. While the general tasks like loading IFC data and general element setup from IFC are the same as for all other plugins within the *bim2sim* environment, additional template-based data are loaded within the enrichment process of the thermal zones, adding personal comfort parameters for activity and clothing. If this data are available from the given IFC data, these personal parameters could also be loaded directly from IFC. However, since IFC does not yet provide standardized property sets for these personal parameters, the current implementation only considers a template-based enrichment for personal parameters.

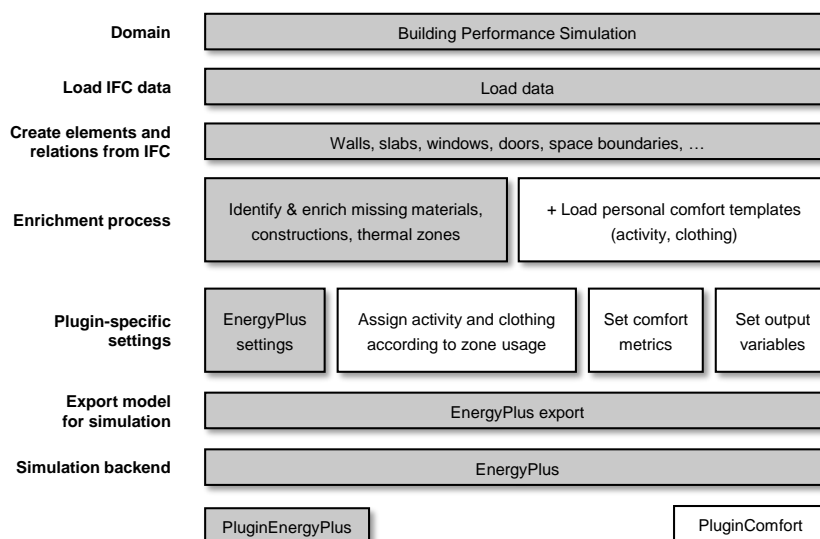


Figure 2. Simplified representation of the workflow of the *bim2sim*-based thermal comfort plugin *PluginComfort*; the new plugin builds upon the existing parts of the *PluginEnergyPlus* (gray) by loading additional data in the enrichment process and comfort-related settings in the plugin-specific settings (white).

Within the plugin-specific settings, the implementation of the PluginEnergyPlus is extended by adding the personal comfort parameters for activity and clothing to the individual thermal zones according to their zone usage. Furthermore, the applicable comfort metrics are selected, and the related output variables are set. The export of the EnergyPlus simulation model is the same as for the PluginEnergyPlus. The simulation results of the PluginComfort can be evaluated with suitable visualizations to support design decisions within the design stages of the building.

With this IFC-based thermal comfort plugin, BPS models for design variants can quickly be created, minimizing the manual effort to remodel the geometry. Applying future weather data within the IFC-based BPS assists in evaluating the impact of climate change and the thermal resilience of the design variants. For this evaluation, the heating and cooling loads are related to the resulting thermal comfort of the building. Considering the modular structure of the bim2sim framework, an additional analysis of the embodied carbon of the design variants could easily be added to further support the design decisions by extending the existing implementation of the LCA Plugin *PluginLCA* [10].

2.3. Enrichment of Thermal Comfort Parameters for Archetypal Zone Usage

Richter et al. [61] outline the input requirements for an IFC-based thermal comfort analysis. Although many parameters for thermal comfort analysis, as specified in ISO 7730, can be derived at runtime from a BPS simulation (e.g., air/radiant/floor temperature, air velocity, humidity), parameters for clothing insulation and metabolic rates must be defined prior to simulation. This parameter definition is specific for the conditions of the simulated environment. They also suggest that these parameters can be included in the underlying IFC or be defined in room-specific templates, similar to the approach used in TEASER for archetypal simulations.

In our study, we expand on and refine the existing archetypal TEASER templates (cf. Section 1.1.2) for these activity degree and clothing parameters. These parameters are derived from established standards and are mapped to TEASER's archetypal zones. The following sections provide a detailed description of this extending and mapping process.

2.3.1. Enrichment of Activity Degree Parameters for Archetypal Zone Usage

The existing TEASER templates already include archetypal data for different usage of thermal zones, including occupant activity degree data and occupant heat flow in W/person. These parameters are derived from values provided by the Swiss standard SIA 2024 [49], which provides data to calculate the energy demand of buildings in early building design stages. However, these available activity degrees are standardized (mostly either 1.2 met or 2.0 met) and do not reflect the expected variations in activity due to individual zone usage. Therefore, these parameters are unsuitable for evaluating zone-usage-based thermal comfort, as shown by a first comparison of the existing TEASER activity data with standards for thermal comfort analysis [26,62].

There are several national and international standards for defining the activity degree of occupants. DIN EN ISO 8996 [63] provides data to accurately determine the metabolic rate in working environments. This standard also provides calculation methods to determine the metabolic rates for various activities, taking into account human conditions such as gender, age, and body weight. However, since we extend a template-based approach that provides approximate data to enrich archetypal zone setups, we require more generalized metabolic data at this stage. For this purpose, DIN EN ISO 8996 [63] categorizes metabolic rates in its Annex A, ranging from (0) Resting (100–125 W/person) to (4) Very high metabolic rate (>465 W/person). As these categories are broad, each covering a range of metabolic rates of about 100 W/person, we rely on other international standards and guidelines (i.e., ISO 7730 [26], ASHRAE Fundamentals [62]) for more specific metabolic data related to particular activities.

ISO 7730 [26] provides metabolic rates and heat flows for different activities in Table A.5 and Table B.1. The ASHRAE Fundamentals [62] give a detailed introduction to

thermal comfort analysis in Chapter 9, providing typical metabolic rates for an average adult person (person’s body surface area $A = 1.8 \text{ m}^2$) in Table 4.

Table 2 displays an excerpt of the activity values for the archetypal room types in the existing TEASER template (cf. Table A1 for full set of parameters for all zone types), along with the corresponding derived activity values obtained from ISO 7730 and ASHRAE Fundamentals. To make the data derivation process transparent, we list the activity types mapped to each room type from both sources (columns (4) and (5)) and their related individual metabolic rates. The metabolic rates from ISO 7730 and ASHRAE Fundamentals show only minor deviations (mostly 0 – 0.2 met), although the matched activities vary due to differences in specifications. The newly derived (and combined) activity degree is calculated as the mean of columns (6) and (7), rounded up to the nearest decimal place. This value is rounded up because a higher activity degree results in higher cooling loads and an increased risk of occupant overheating during summer. On the basis of this combined activity degree, the heat flow (W/person) is displayed in column (10), calculated with $1 \text{ met} = 58.1 \text{ W/m}^2$ and the average adult surface area of $A = 1.8 \text{ m}^2$ [62].

Table 2. Deriving activity parameters for archetypal enrichment of thermal zones based on ASHRAE Fundamentals and ISO 7730, including a comparison to existing TEASER template values. Columns: (1) Room type according to TEASER templates, (2) Activity degree from TEASER templates (met), (3) Heat flow from TEASER templates (W/person), (4) Chosen activity type according to ASHRAE Fundamentals, Chapter 9 Table 4, (5) Chosen activity type according to ISO 7730, Table A.5 and B.1, (6) ASHRAE activity degree (met), (7) ISO 7730 activity degree (met), (8) Resulting combined activity degree (met), (9) Absolute deviation from TEASER activity degree (met), (10) Resulting heat flow (W/person), (11) Absolute deviation from TEASER heat flow (W/person).

(1) Room Type	(2)	(3)	(4) ASHRAE Fundamentals	(5) ISO 7730	(6)	(7)	(8) Activity Degree (met)	(9)	(10) Heat Flow (W/Person)	(11)
Single office	1.2	70	Office, Typing	A.5, Single office	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.0	125	55
Bed room	1.2	70	Resting, Sleeping	B.1, Reclining	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.4	84	14
Kitchen in nonresidential buildings	1.2	70	Cooking	B.1, Standing, medium activity	1.8	2	1.9	0.7	199	129
WC and sanitary rooms in non-residential buildings	1.2	70	Resting, Seated, quiet	B.1, Seated, relaxed	1	1	1	0.2	105	35
Traffic area	1.2	70	Office Walking	B.1, Walking, 2 km/h	1.7	1.9	1.8	0.6	188	118
Living	1.2	70	Resting, Seated, quiet	B.1, Sedentary activity	1	1.2	1.1	0.1	115	45

Columns (9) and (11) show the absolute difference to the original activity parameters from the TEASER Templates given in columns (2) and (3), respectively. While some of the metabolic rates correspond to the previous TEASER values, the new values for the heat flow per person greatly exceed the previous values (mostly between 79 and 169 %, referring to the full parameter set in Table A1).

Updating the activity data in the TEASER Templates is necessary for thermal comfort analysis, as they show high deviations from the metabolic rates reported in existing thermal comfort standards. Since the activity values provided in ASHRAE Fundamentals and ISO 7730 show only small deviations, the derived combined values give a reasonable estimate for these corrected parameter values.

2.3.2. Enrichment of Clothing Insulation Parameters for Archetypal Zone Usage

Contrary to the derivation of activity parameters, the TEASER templates do not provide pre-existing values for clothing insulation parameters. Thus, these values have to be derived from scratch. These values could be derived from the detailed clothing combinations in the international standard DIN EN ISO 9920 [64], which focuses on detailed descriptions of clothing settings. However, similar to the DIN EN ISO 8996 [63] standard for activity degrees, the DIN EN ISO 9920 [64] describes the clothing insulation with such high detail that it is not easily applicable for deriving standardized clothing insulation settings for extending the pre-existing templates. We only expect these more detailed clothing

parameters to increase the accuracy of the simulation results if we perform a massive study on average clothing in buildings.

Similar to the previous section, ISO 7730 [26], Table C.1 and the ASHRAE Fundamentals [62], Chapter 9, Table 7 provide data for predefined clothing sets. Opposite to activity degrees, clothing parameters may vary with the seasons. ISO 7730 states operative temperatures for summer and winter, referring to a general clothing value of 0.5 clo (summer) and 1.0 clo (winter). However, as for the individual archetypal room settings (e.g., offices), specific clothing standards may apply that do not vary with the seasons. The first version of the data set only provides a single clothing parameter since the set point cooling and heating temperatures also do not vary with the seasons in the TEASER templates.

The calculation of the complete clothing insulation I_T consists of multiple parts, e.g., base insulation (clothing insulation I_{cl}), air insulation I_a , and clothing area factor f_{cl} [64]. The position of the human body (e.g., seated, standing) and the surroundings (e.g., chair if seated, bed if sleeping) also affect the person’s insulation. ASHRAE Fundamentals [62] state that a factor of up to 0.15 clo should be added to the clo value caused by clothing when a person is seated on a chair. Nevertheless, clothing insulation and air insulation cannot simply be added, as the clothing affects the air layers [64]. The surrounding insulation significantly affects the effective insulation of a person in bedding systems. However, as our study proposes a new set of generalized templates for archetypal zone usage that is used for simple estimation of thermal comfort in the design phase, we decided to add clothing insulation values as additional insulation factors, such as chairs (when seated) or beds (when sleeping). The reduced accuracy of the clothing insulation is covered by the general assumption of an estimation of an average/standard setup (of person, clothing, and activity degrees) per archetypal zone usage.

In the proposed template (see Table 3 for an excerpt and cf. Table A2 for the full parameter set), we split the insulation parameter into two parts: clothing insulation and surrounding insulation. By splitting these parameters, we ensure transparency of our assumptions. We consider the sum of these two parameters for our further thermal comfort analysis.

Table 3. Deriving clothing parameters for archetypal enrichment of thermal zones based on ASHRAE Fundamentals and ISO 7730. Columns: (1) Room type according to TEASER templates, (2) Chosen clothing type according to ASHRAE Fundamentals, Chapter 9 Table 7, (3) Chosen clothing type according to ISO 7730, (4) ASHRAE clothing (clo), (5) ISO 7730 clothing (clo), (6) Resulting combined clothing parameter (clo), (7) Chosen surrounding insulation type, (8) Surrounding insulation (clo).

(1) Room Type	(2) ASHRAE Fundamentals	(3) ISO 7730	(4)	(5)	(6) Clothing Insulation (clo)	(7) Surrounding Insulation Description	(8) Surrounding Insulation (clo)
Single office	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Executive chair	0.15
Bed room	Walking shorts, shortsleeved shirt	Panties, T-shirt, shorts, light socks, sandals	0.36	0.3	0.33	Average based on Zhang et al. [65]	2
Kitchen in nonresidential buildings	Long-sleeved overalls, T-Shirt	Underpants, shirt, trousers, smock, socks, shoes	0.72	0.9	0.81	None	
WC and sanitary rooms in non-residential buildings	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	None	
Traffic area	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	None	
Living	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Executive chair	0.15

Depending on climate zones as well as culture, bedding systems vary with regard to insulation, materials, and general configuration. However, as Zhang et al. [65] describe, the filling of the bedding materials has a minor effect on the resulting insulation of the bedding system. Still, it highly depends on the weight per unit area of the bedding system. Thus, even a study on Chinese bedding systems can be considered for Western Europe if the weight of the bedding system is chosen appropriately. Zhang et al. [65] measured bedding system insulation between 1.53 and 4.89 clo depending on the per-

centage of body coverage and system. As we aim for a surrounding insulation factor that we can add to the clothing insulation, we estimate an additional surrounding insulation factor of 2.0 clo. This surrounding insulation factor for bedding already incorporates a reduction of the combined clothing and surrounding insulation value (clothing and surrounding insulation factor follow the principles of superposition, such that for the general template value, we decided to keep the clothing value fixed, while we reduce the surrounding insulation value). We keep in mind that this surrounding insulation factor highly depends on the bedding system weight (that may be changed due to weather conditions), body coverage, and even sleeping posture. A more detailed statistical study on average sleeping parameters should be considered in further research. For PMV calculations in ISO 7730, the maximum clo value is limited to 2.0 clo, which the proposed combinations of clothing and additional insulation may exceed. Thus, the applicability of the ISO 7730 needs to be further tested.

As the effect of surrounding insulation is rather small (e.g., for wooden stools), these parameters can be considered optional and used for the fine-tuning of models (e.g., in classroom or meeting room settings, where all people are expected to be seated on a chair). We expect the additional insulation of the bedding systems to be crucial for thermal comfort, while office chairs are negligible. However, the impact of clothing and surrounding insulation factors on the general thermal comfort within the room should be elaborated in more detailed case studies.

2.4. Definition of Weather Data

For evaluating the impact of climate change by using our proposed IFC-based thermal comfort analysis, we use TMYx weather (2007–2021) for Cologne Bonn, as this matches with the German construction setup from TEASER templates. On this weather data, we applied the open-source morphing tool Future Weather Generator [56] to generate future weather predictions for 2050 (i.e., median months from 2036 to 2065) and 2080 (i.e., median months from 2066 to 2095) [56] based on the up-to-date CMIP6 Global Climate Model EC-Earth3 [66]. For simplicity, the years of the future weather scenarios are denoted in the following as 2050 and 2080. For further evaluation of the proposed methods, we choose the IPCC Scenario SSP5-8.5, following the recommendation of Zeng et al. [54] to use extreme weather data for analysis of thermal resilience. We choose the worst-case scenario to underline the potential of thermal comfort analysis during design stage, keeping in mind that all weather data only represent predictions of future scenarios. By using the morphing tool by Rodrigues et al. [56], we address the criticism that much research still relies on the outdated climate model CMIP3 [55]. However, for a detailed analysis of climate change's impact on thermal comfort, CMIP6-weather data should be used with specific predictions that match the actual design purpose (e.g., extreme weather summer periods for determination of overheating risks), which has not been taken into account within our proposed demonstration case.

Figure 3 displays the outdoor temperature for the selected weather scenarios per month. The monthly median temperatures in the SSP5-8.5 scenarios are for 2050 up to 4.37 °C higher than the TMYx baseline and 6.4 °C higher for the corresponding 2080 weather data. Since the weather data was transformed to the future weather scenario using morphing, the general characteristics (e.g., amount of outliers per month) are approximately similar to the baseline weather. As already criticized by Zeng et al. [54], the variability of current weather data is preserved through the morphing methodology, such that changes in the variability (or even developed phenomena like heat islands) are not represented in the morphed data.

Our proposed study focuses on climate trends morphed for local weather conditions. The analysis of urban microclimate, heat islands, and hazards is part of further research and can easily be built upon our proposed IFC-based thermal comfort framework.

To evaluate the use of the IFC-based thermal comfort, we use the SSP5-8.5 weather data for 2080 to further analyze the results. As we do not have specific hot summer design

weather data available for the latest IPCC scenario, the 2080 data are the most extreme data that are available for our current comfort analysis.

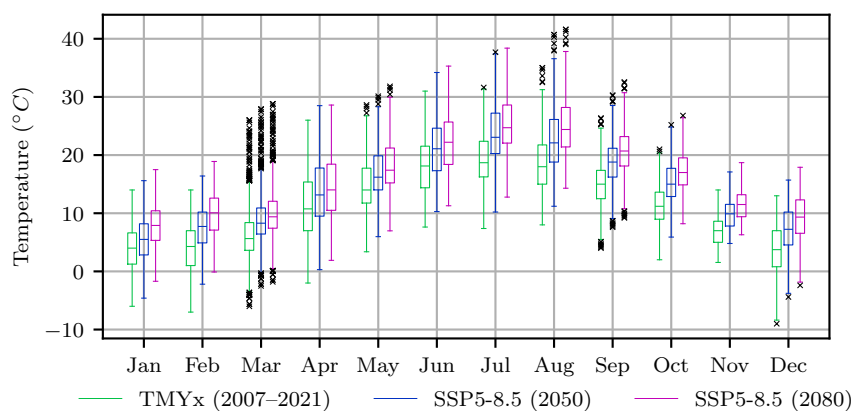


Figure 3. Monthly outdoor temperature for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 for 2050 and 2080 weather data (Boxplots defined by median and Interquartile Range (IQR) from 25th to 75th percentile and whiskers limited by ± 1.5 IQR).

3. Results

The simulation models are generated using the proposed template-based thermal comfort data and the IFC-based bim2sim workflow with the proposed *PluginComfort* for BPS-based thermal comfort analysis. The evaluation in Sections 3.2 and 3.3 analyzes the impact of the future weather scenarios on thermal comfort with and without cooling, compared to the current weather. As the present study addresses IFC-based evaluations of climate change impact on buildings using a case study in Germany, the results focus on the evaluation of summer comfort, since the climate change increases the observed temperatures throughout the year (cf. Figure 3).

3.1. Use Case: FZK-Haus

The use case building for demonstrating the proposed IFC-based thermal comfort setup is the KIT FZK-Haus (FZK-Haus (IFC4), provided by Institute for Automation and Applied Informatics (IAI) / Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT): https://www.ifcwiki.org/index.php?title=KIT_IFC_Examples, accessed on 12 November 2023) (total floor area: 208.55 m²) displayed in Figure 4. The simulation setup is based on the structure of the archetypal templates used for TEASER [46], which are also used in bim2sim. For the choice of materials and constructions, the construction type is selected as heavy, and the materials and constructions are set for a building construction year between 1995 and 2015. The thermal zone usage templates are modified to match the use case of a residential house and further extended by the derived templates for activity and clothing (cf. Tables 2 and 3). The set points for heating and cooling (cf. Table 4) are derived from SIA 2024 [49] and do not include a night setback. Spaces that do not have cooling requirements according to SIA 2024 [49] are defined to have a maximum indoor temperature of 32 °C. The simulation setup uses ideal loads to meet the desired set points for heating and cooling in Section 3.2, and heating without cooling in Section 3.3.

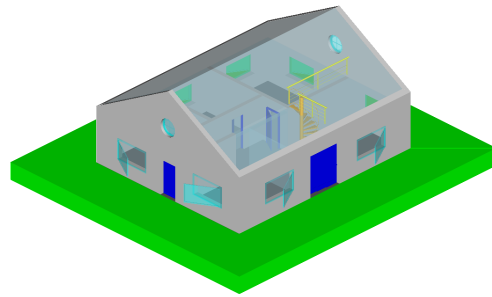


Figure 4. Use Case: FZK Haus.

Table 4. Heating and cooling set points.

	Heating [°C]	Cooling [°C]
Living	21	28
WC Residential	24	32
Kitchen Residential	20	26
Single office	21	26
Traffic area	18	32
Bedroom	21	28

The occupancy schedules are derived and adapted from Mitra et al. [67] and displayed in Figure A1. Schedules and loads for lighting and technical equipment are adapted from Remmen et al. [46] and SIA 2024 [49]. Natural ventilation set points are adapted from Remmen et al. [46] and DIN V 18599-10 [47].

3.2. Template-Based Thermal Comfort with Cooling

To get insights into the impact of future weather scenarios for heating and cooling loads, the use case is first simulated with enabled heating and cooling set points. Figure 5 displays heating and cooling loads for the weather scenarios, showing a major decrease of the heating loads (−36.04% for 2050 and −51.96% for 2080). The observed cooling loads drastically increase by 174.60% for 2050 and 256.15% for 2080. These calculated energy loads for heating and cooling align with the observations from related research [19,68] for future climate scenarios for the years 2050–2100.

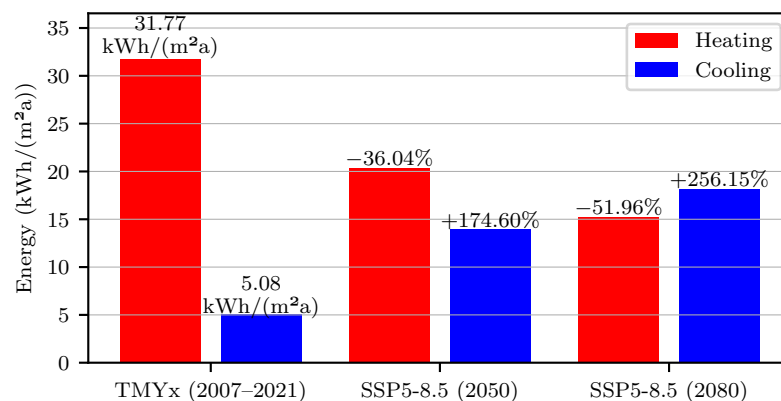


Figure 5. Annual energy demand for heating and cooling per building floor area.

The analysis of the heating and cooling loads shows that in future climate scenarios, significantly higher energy demands occur to meet the cooling set points and likewise the thermal comfort requirements. For an overview on the impact of climate change on thermal comfort under the previously defined conditions, Figures 6 and 7 display the daily

mean PMV values per thermal zone (solid lines) and the daily mean outdoor temperature (dashed line) for the summer months between April and October.

For TMYx (2007–2021), the daily mean PMV ranges from -1.21 (Living_2) in December to 1.73 (Bedroom) in July. For SSP5-8.5 (2080), the daily mean PMV ranges from -1.04 (Living_2) in January to 2.06 (Traffic area) in August. The characteristics of the PMV reflect the set points and weather data that have been used for simulation. The cooling set points are reflected in the PMV data, where the PMV reaches a “plateau” in summer (e.g., for the Single office) since the choice of cooling set points indirectly limits the level of PMV. The weather data are reflected in the PMV, where the outdoor temperature has a qualitatively high similarity with the PMV, which is true for the PMV in Figure 6 for the TMYx weather data, but only in April, May, and October for the SSP-5-8.5 weather data in Figure 7. We can observe a stronger correlation between outdoor temperature and PMV for the TMYx data here since the cooling set points are only reached for a smaller period in summer than for the SSP5-8.5 weather scenario.

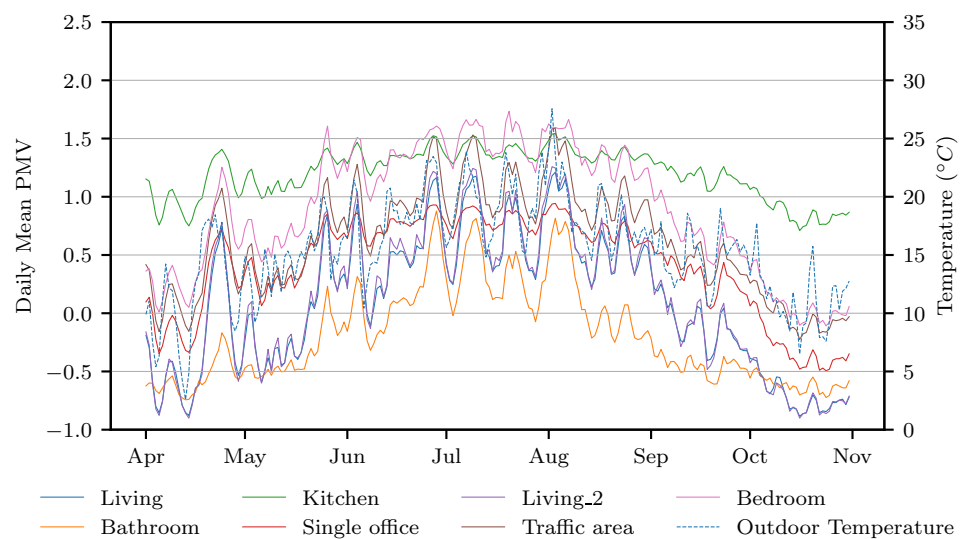


Figure 6. TMYx (2007–2021) mean daily PMV with cooling.

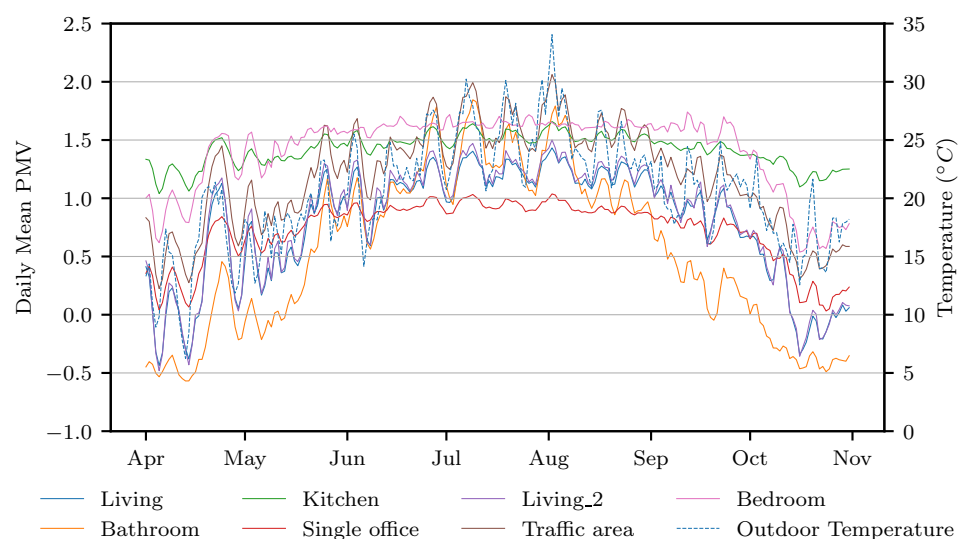


Figure 7. SSP5-8.5 (2080) mean daily PMV with cooling.

For TMYx (2007–2021) data, the low PMV during winter is caused by larger differences between zone mean air temperature (used for set point control) and the actual operative

air temperature that has been used to calculate the PMV (i.e., even with a set point of 21 °C, the actual operative temperature was below 20 °C, causing occupants to feel cold). For the SSP5-8.5 (2080) scenario, the least comfortable status can be seen in the thermal zones without cooling (e.g., traffic area). For the analysis of the proposed clothing and activity parameters, a larger range of set points and building types needs to be tested, ideally supported by measured data and validation.

In Germany, most of the building stock (residential but also a large amount of public office buildings and schools) rely on natural ventilation and do not have cooling devices. Thus, as for fully conditioned buildings, thermal comfort can be accomplished by spending more energy (or by choosing a resilient building design during the design stage, which also could be supported by our proposed methods); we perform a more detailed analysis of our approach without cooling.

3.3. Template-Based Thermal Comfort Analysis without Cooling

For the use case without cooling, we added natural ventilation, which generally increases the heating load of the building through more added outdoor air. The heating loads for this use case are displayed in Figure 8. Here, since with increasing temperature natural ventilation increases the heat loss through the windows, the decrease of heating demand is lower compared to the previous use case with cooling, reducing the heating energy by 27.51 % until 2050 and by 36.65 % until 2080.

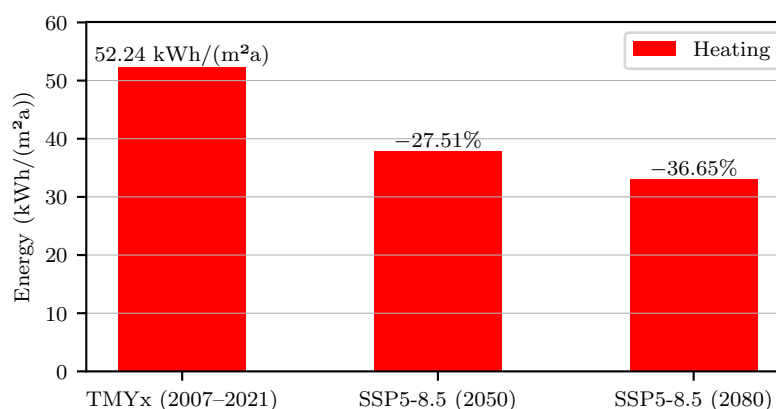


Figure 8. Annual energy demand for heating per building floor area.

As this use case without mechanical cooling allows a more in-depth analysis of the impact of climate change on thermal comfort, further results are visualized for different levels of granularity. Starting in Section 3.3.1 with an annual comparison of the mean PMV values and hours within individual PMV ranges, calendar plots highlight the changes in the daily mean PMV values, while in Section 3.3.2 further diagrams give insights into the adaptive thermal comfort per room.

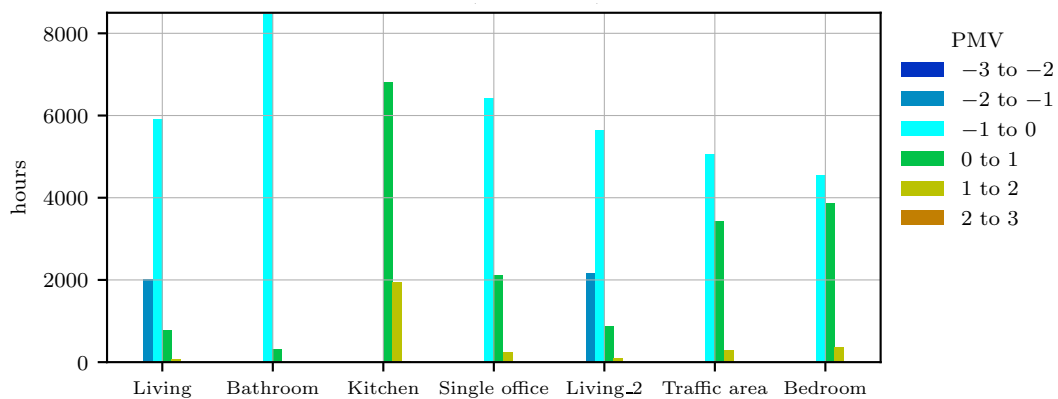
3.3.1. Analysis of Fanger’s PMV

Figure 9 displays an overview of the annual PMVs in the individual thermal zones. This mean annual PMV value does not take into account seasonal differences in the PMV but still outlines that for the given weather data of TMYx and SSP5-8.5 (2080), the annual PMV increases combined over all thermal zones about 0.44 (mean PMV over all thermal zones).

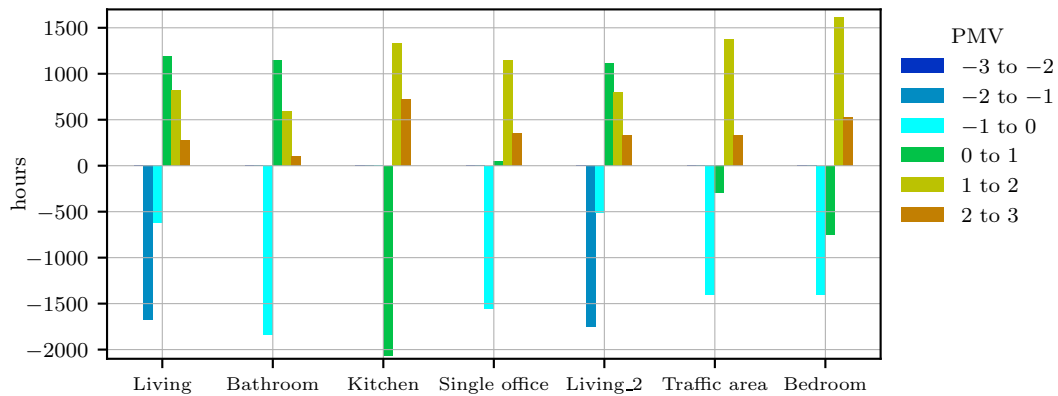


Figure 9. Mean annual PMV per thermal zone comparing the scenarios for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080) weather data.

Figure 10 displays the changes between the two climate scenarios per thermal zone. Here, the number of hours per thermal zone within a specific PMV range is displayed for TMYx (2007–2021) in Figure 10a, for SSP5-8.5 (2080) in Figure 10c, and the changes between these scenarios in Figure 10b. The results in Figure 10b highlight that the number of hours that are rather cold (PMV smaller 0) drastically shifts to warmer predicted temperature perceptions, resulting in more than 700 hours with a PMV larger than 2 in the kitchen. In the SSP5-8.5 scenario for 2080, all zones show PMVs larger than 2, while none of the thermal zones have shown so much discomfort for the baseline scenario.



(a)



(b)

Figure 10. Cont.

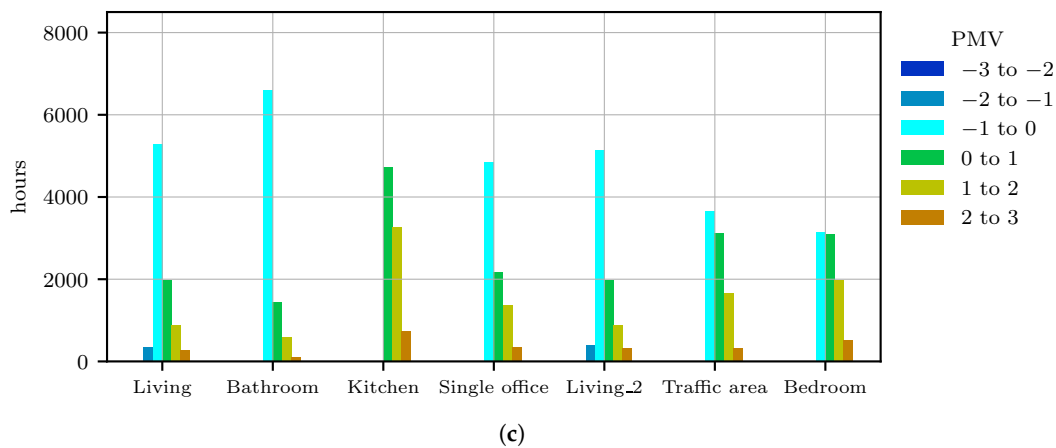


Figure 10. Number of hours of the individual thermal zones within PMV ranges for TMYx (2007–2021) (a), SSP5-8.5 (2080) (c) and the difference between TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080) (b).

To gain more insights on the actual changes of the daily PMV variations through the year, the changes in the PMV data are visualized in Figures 11 and 12 for the exemplary thermal zones *Living* and *Kitchen* using calendar plots highlighting the 24 h mean PMV values per thermal zone. These calendar plots give a quick impression on the seasonal changes in the thermal comfort, highlighting seasonal shifts between the years TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

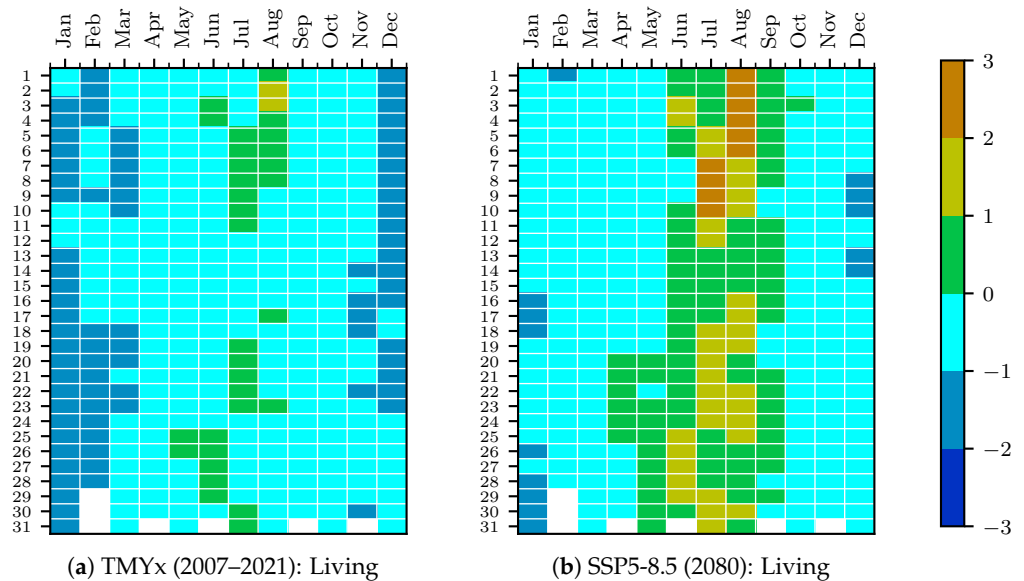


Figure 11. 24 h mean PMV values for thermal zone “Living” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

For the thermal zone *Living* in Figure 11 with TMYx (2007–2021) weather data, the PMV ranges between -2 and $+2$ for the whole year, showing several longer periods of PMV below -1 within the months of November through March, mixed with periods of PMV between -1 and 0 . This highlights that the heating set points for this thermal zone may not be sufficiently set to meet the comfort requirements or that the proposed clothing or activity values are too low for the winter months. Comparing the daily mean PMV values for the years of TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080), the number of PMV below -1 drastically reduced in the winter months, while the summer months (especially July and August) for SSP5-8.5 (2080) show a longer period of days with a PMV greater 1, and 10 days with a PMV between 2 and 3 and, thus, high discomfort for the occupants.

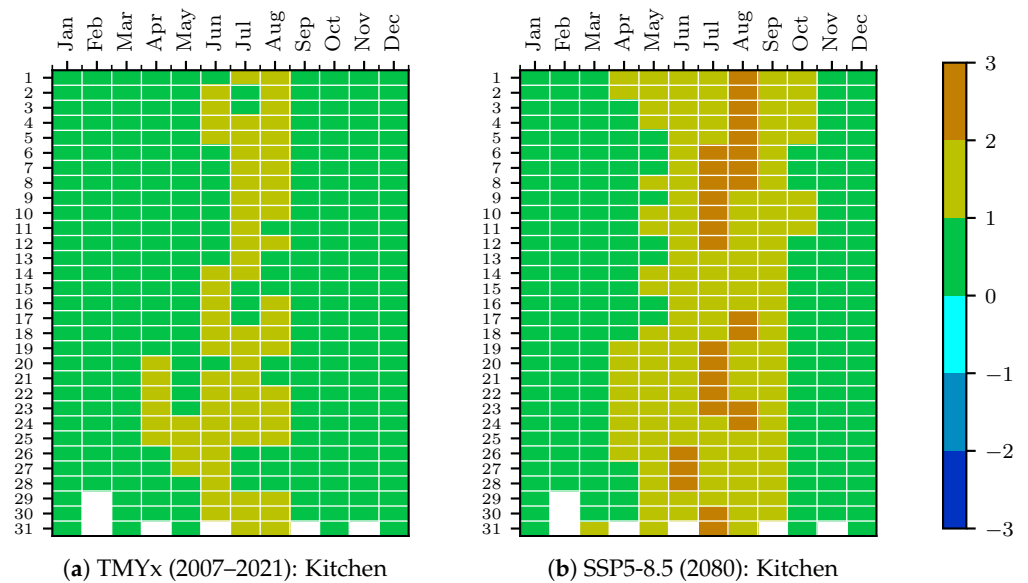


Figure 12. 24 h mean PMV values for thermal zone “Kitchen” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

For the thermal zone *Kitchen* in Figure 12, the PMV index in scenario TMYx (2007–2021) ranges between 0 and 1 (September through March) and a mix between 0 and 2 (April through August). With the 2080 weather data, the PMV between 1 and 2 is no longer mixed with PMV below 1 from May through September, but from June to August, 29 days with a higher PMV than 2 occur, resulting in longer periods of high discomfort.

The heating loads in the kitchen are generally higher than in the other rooms. Additional mechanical ventilation may help reduce the heating loads during kitchen use to prevent overheating. However, due to the predicted climatic changes, a residential kitchen with natural ventilation may just not be able any longer to reach a thermally comfortable status throughout the year.

These calendar plots reflect the daily mean PMV index, including the observed cool-down during the night. The actual maximum heat loads can be higher than the presented values of the calendar plots. Calendar plots for the other thermal zones are placed in Appendix A.4 in Figures A2–A6.

3.3.2. Analysis of Adaptive Comfort

With increasing indoor temperatures due to the lack of cooling, adaptive comfort measures may better represent the actual thermal sensation of occupants. For the evaluation of adaptive thermal comfort we apply the adaptive comfort metrics according to DIN EN 15251 [59] (withdrawn) and DIN EN 16798-1 [60]. As mentioned in Section 2.1, DIN EN 15251 is implemented and available in EnergyPlus, but DIN EN 16798-1 is not. Thus, we combine their results to highlight the differences between these two standards. For the analysis of the acceptable operative temperature, the main difference for DIN EN 16798-1 is that the acceptable lower bound of the operative temperature per category is decreased by 1 °C compared to DIN EN 15251. The upper boundaries are not changed. Both standards include three categories regarding the level of expectation towards thermal comfort within the room, ranging from Category I (high level of expectation) to Category III (low level of expectation).

In Figure 13, the operative indoor temperature (vertical axis) is plotted over the running mean outdoor temperature (horizontal axis) within the outdoor temperature range of 10 °C to 30 °C for thermal zone “Living”. Each scattered point in the diagram is colored according to its category in DIN EN 15251. The dashed lines visualize the upper and lower thresholds of the DIN EN 16798-1 categories. For the baseline weather, the operative temperatures are in the lower categories of DIN EN 15251, while with the reduced thresholds in DIN EN 16798-1, the operative temperatures mostly vary within the

ranges of Category I and II. For this baseline weather scenario, only a very limited amount of time crosses the upper band of Category I. The range of the mean outdoor temperature is mostly below 24 °C. For The SSP5-8.5 (2080) scenario in the right plot, operative indoor temperatures are widely spread over the mean outdoor temperature range, and the upper thresholds of the Categories are often crossed; some operative temperatures are even beyond the upper threshold of Category III.

Figure 14 displays the adaptive comfort according to DIN EN 15251 and DIN EN 16798-1 for the kitchen zone. Compared to Figure 13, the indoor operative temperatures are higher in general, which is due to the high internal loads of kitchen equipment. For the weather data of TMYx (2007–2021), the operative temperatures are balanced between the thresholds of the categories of DIN EN 16798-1, while for the SSP5-8.5 scenario, again, even the upper band of Category III is exceeded multiple times. As described for Figure 12, natural cooling is not sufficient in this scenario to even keep a low standard of thermal comfort.

For adaptive comfort diagrams for “Living_2” (Figure A7), “Bedroom” (Figure A8), and “Single office” (Figure A9) see the appendix. The thermal zones of the bathroom and traffic area do not show enough occupancy according to the standards to be applicable to the adaptive comfort analysis.

We additionally evaluate the percentage of time within the individual thermal comfort categories for each thermal zone (Figure 15). All percentages of the TMYx (2007–2021) data refer on the total number of 4728 hours within the applicable range of the DIN EN 16798-1 (running outdoor temperature between 10 °C and 30 °C) and 6744 hours for the SSP5-8.5 (2080) scenario, neglecting the actual occupancy time for this evaluation.

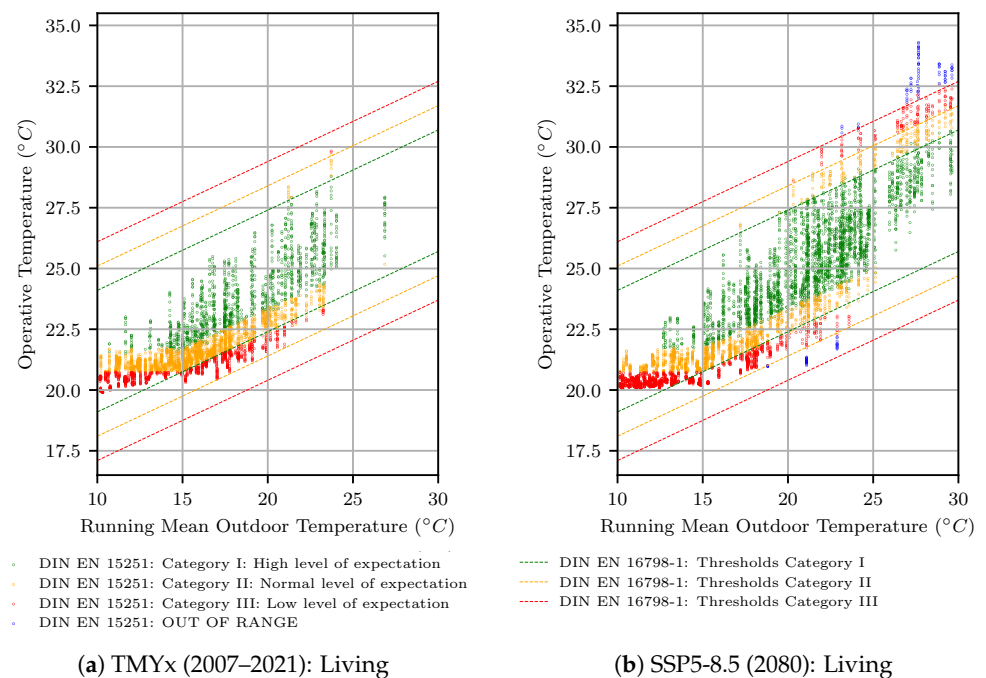


Figure 13. Adaptive comfort according to DIN EN 16798-1/DIN EN 15251 for zone “Living” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

The evaluation shows that for the base scenario, we have most of the time inside Categories I and II (in Category III: only 1% for the kitchen and 2% for traffic area), while we have in the SSP5-8.5 scenario between 0–10% in Category III and even between 0–4% worse than Category III. While the conditions of the TMYx (2007–2021) scenario need a further evaluation of the actual occupancy hours to determine if they are still within the acceptable thermal comfort range (max. 1% of the occupancy time worse than Category II according to DIN EN 16798-1 [60]), the SSP5-8.5 scenario is far out of range.

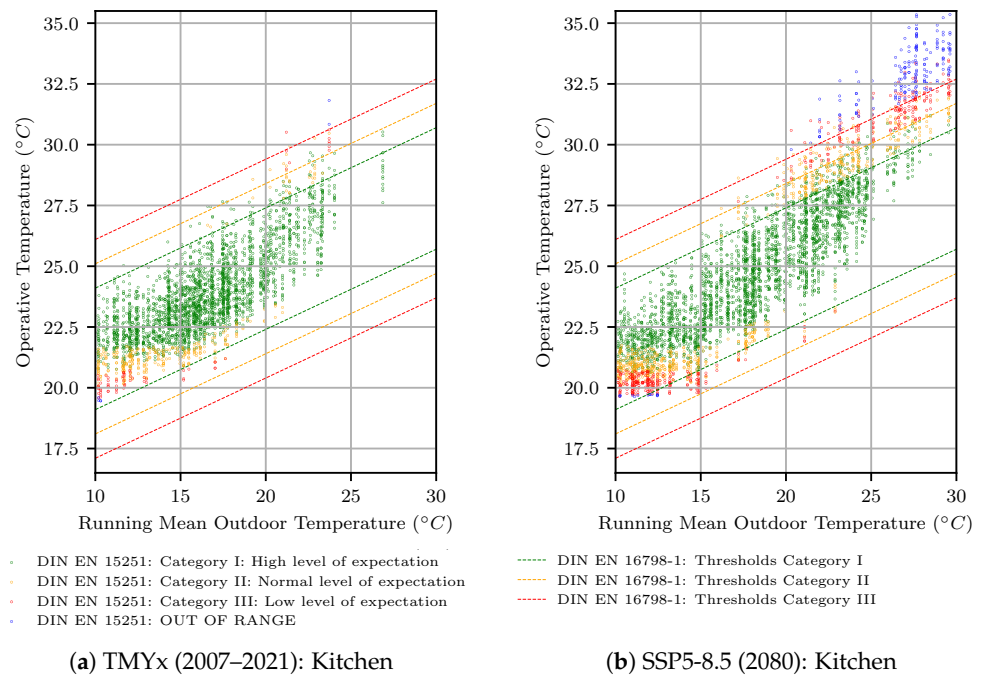
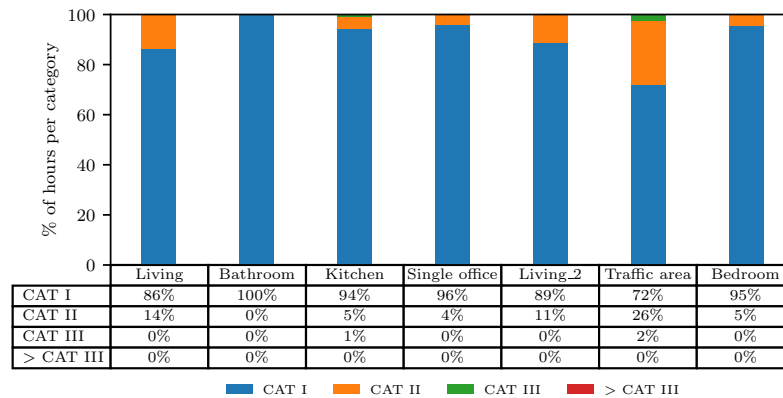
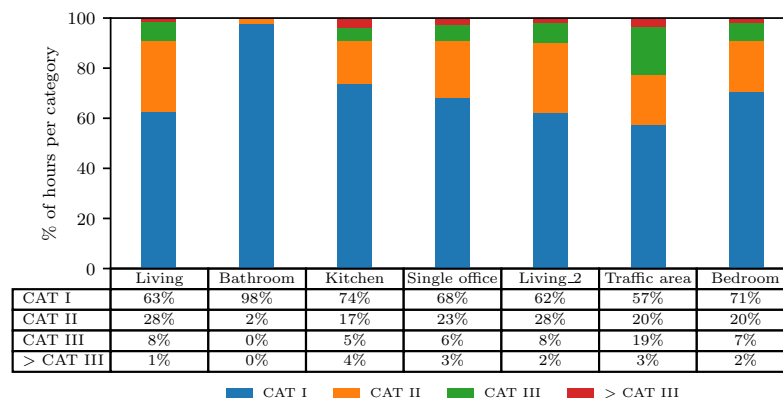


Figure 14. Adaptive comfort according to DIN EN 16798-1/DIN EN 15251 for zone “Kitchen” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).



(a) TMYx (2007–2021)



(b) SSP5-8.5 (2080)

Figure 15. Adaptive comfort according to DIN EN 16798-1, percentage of hours per category.

4. Discussion and Limitations

The present study proposes an extension to the IFC-based bim2sim framework to facilitate thermal comfort analysis. The study also introduces an extension to a simplified data set (i.e., TEASER [46]) used to provide the thermal comfort parameters, which are unavailable in the IFC standard. This extended data set is proposed in a manner similar to the original template and builds upon the existing dataset used in bim2sim. This simplified set of thermal comfort parameters has certain limitations that users should consider.

First, the template values provide only an estimate of the number of occupants in each thermal zone. We derived the clothing and activity parameters on the basis of assumed zone usage and with the support of existing standards. To better understand the parameters, we listed the decisions and fundamentals of each individual parameter. This listing enables further users of the templates to determine if the individual parameters are applicable to their case or if they require modification.

The proposed parameters do not account for seasonal variations (or even current outdoor weather conditions also depending on day-/nighttime) regarding clothing, as this reflection would unnecessarily complicate the parameter set. For certain types of zones, such as offices and meeting rooms, seasonal clothing changes may not even be applicable. Further research should test either various sets of clothing parameters, including summer and winter attire, or a range of clothing parameters for each zone on the basis of outdoor temperature. The latter would adapt the dynamic clothing described in ASHRAE 55, but also consider minimum and maximum clothing requirements for specific zone types.

We disregarded regional and cultural differences in clothing in the proposed templates. Since, even within the same culture, clothing standards in offices vary across businesses, the template values need to be adjusted to fit individual circumstances. Furthermore, the template considers only standardized body shapes and activity levels, represented by a body surface area of 1.8 m^2 . Gender specifications are not included, nor are individuals who are shorter, taller, underweight, or overweight. To ensure the thermal comfort for underrepresented groups, noise should be introduced to clothing and activity parameters, allowing for the computation of thermal comfort to be repeated and evaluated for a wider range of occupant parameters. Since only standardized clothing has so far been evaluated, no skirts or dresses are included in the proposed clothing template.

We presented a simplified set of parameters for the surrounding insulation. For the sake of simplicity, we suggest adding this value to the occupant's clothing parameter, even though they may not physically add up to the total clo value. Further evaluation is necessary. Additionally, the ISO 7730 PMV only accounts for clothing up to 2 clo, but our mixed furniture approach may result in higher clothing values. To remain within the range of ISO 7730 applicability, we have to limit the PMV to 2 clo, select an alternative comfort index, or expand and validate the ISO 7730 PMV approach for clo values exceeding 2. Similarly to the classic Fanger model, which omits occupant adaptive measures including clothing changes, we also disregard such variability. As predicting individual variations in clothing can be difficult, we suggest adding a clo value increment during colder seasons to account for additional clothing layers worn, and a decrement during warmer seasons to account for reduced clothing. While this approach is crude, it can limit clothing adaptability and assist in incorporating variability driven by human behavior into the simulation.

As stated by Mahecha Zambrano et al. [16], occupants decide to adjust clothing or change the room's set point temperature. Furthermore, they state that developing generalized models for occupant behavior is not possible due to the diversity of occupants. However, the use of standardized occupancy schedules is crucial for computationally efficient decision-making in the early design stages. The approach to generate a set of schedules along with a probability of the occurrence of these scenarios [16] could assist to further improve the accuracy of our proposed IFC-based thermal comfort analysis.

For the evaluation of the results, we modified, as described, more parameters than just the proposed clothing and activity parameters compared to the original TEASER templates [46] to meet the requirements of our residential building. Some parts of the

TEASER templates originate from the DIN V 18599-10 [47], which has been designed for energetic validation and rating of buildings and, thus, may not be fully applicable for engineering tasks within the design stage of buildings. For a further use of our proposed thermal comfort parameters as addition to the TEASER template set, the full set of templates should also be tested for consistency. As an example: in the TEASER templates, the bedroom has full occupancy 24/7 while a hotel room is only occupied during the night.

Taking a closer look at the thermal comfort analysis itself, it has to be noted that BPS using EnergyPlus only calculates a single-node-per-zone PMV measure, neglecting any kind of furniture or people position within the room. The BPS engineer should be aware of the BPS limitations and also of the inaccuracies due to the choice of parameters. For a detailed thermal comfort analysis, the user must apply a much more detailed CFD analysis, which could be focused on building parts that show a high dissatisfaction with thermal comfort discovered in the BPS analysis.

When we take a closer look at the impact of the weather data, the presented results and examples only show the potential of our IFC-based approach. This study does not evaluate or compare actual design alternatives but focuses on proposing the IFC-based thermal comfort approach itself. Other weather files representing other climate change scenarios will lead to different results. However, our approach can be easily repeated using different weather files representing a variety of climate change scenarios. Design alternatives can be evaluated using our IFC-based approach without manual remodeling. However, our simulation results (heating and cooling loads) match the observations from related research [19,68], even though the results can only be qualitatively compared as the building geometry, construction, location, and weather data vary from the cases from related literature. The development of benchmark cases could help to evaluate the accuracy of our proposed methods.

A more general limitation of our proposed methods is that the selected timeframe for weather prediction should be chosen according to the predicted use of the analyzed buildings. The timespan of climate prediction from our use case is only used to highlight the potential of our proposed methods. However, until we reach the SSP5-8.5 (2080) scenario, the building can be refurbished multiple times (HVAC, insulation), or even demolished, or the usage has changed (used as an office of a smaller company vs. used as a holiday apartment), such that the comfort predictions and energy savings do not apply anymore. The construction weight and the resulting resilience of the building due to thermal mass in comparison to the embodied carbon can still be evaluated with our methods even for such large timespans of sixty years, but the occupancy schedules and internal loads can hardly be predicted.

However, as long as the user is aware of the input data limitations when interpreting the thermal comfort results, the reduced model setup time due to enriched IFC data is still highly beneficial to the decision-making within the design process.

5. Conclusions

The IFC-based BPS approach has the capability to reduce the effort for setting up models of design variants for energy and thermal comfort analysis of buildings. The template-based approach assists in rapidly filling in missing thermal comfort parameters. However, the application engineers should be aware of the simplifications that come with the template-based enrichment and should validate the model and its results for plausibility. With the use of our proposed IFC-based thermal comfort analysis plugin for the bim2sim tool, buildings providing IFC data in the design phase can quickly be evaluated for their robustness towards climate change. In this way, design variants can be tested for their resilience regarding different climate change scenarios.

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

BPS	Building Performance Simulation
BIM	Building Information Modeling
CFD	Computational Fluid Dynamics
CMIP	Coupled Model Intercomparison Project
IFC	Industry Foundation Classes
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IQR	Interquartile Range
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
ML	Machine Learning
PMV	Predicted Mean Vote
PPD	Predicted Percentage Dissatisfied

Appendix A. Thermal Comfort Templates

Appendix A.1. Activity Parameters

Table A1. Deriving activity parameters for archetypal enrichment of thermal zones based on ASHRAE Fundamentals and ISO 7730, including a comparison to existing TEASER template values. Columns: (1) Room type according to TEASER templates, (2) Activity degree from TEASER templates (met), (3) Heat flow from TEASER templates (W/person), (4) Chosen activity type according to ASHRAE Fundamentals, Chapter 9 Table 4, (5) Chosen activity type according to ISO 7730, Tables A.5 and B.1, (6) ASHRAE activity degree (met), (7) ISO 7730 activity degree (met), (8) Resulting combined activity degree (met), (9) Absolute deviation from TEASER activity degree (met), (10) Resulting heat flow (W/person), (11) Absolute deviation from TEASER heat flow (W/person).

(1) Room Type	(2)	(3)	(4) ASHRAE Fundamentals	(5) ISO 7730	(6)	(7)	(8) Activity Degree (met)	(9)	(10) Heat flow (W/person)	(11)
Single office	1.2	70	Office, Typing	A.5, Single office	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.0	125	55
Group Office (between 2 and 6 employees)	1.2	70	Office, Typing	A.5, Landscape office	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.0	125	55
Open-plan Office (7 or more employees)	1.2	70	Office, Typing	A.5, Landscape office	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.0	125	55
Meeting, Conference, seminar	1.2	70	Office, Typing	A.5, Conference Room	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.0	125	55
Main Hall, Reception	1.2	70	Office Walking	B.1, Standing, light activity	1.7	1.6	1.7	0.5	178	108
Retail, department store	1.2	70	Office, Filing, Standing	A.5, Department store	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.3	157	87
Retail with cooling	1.2	70	Office, Filing, Standing	A.5, Department store	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.3	157	87
Class room (school), group room (kindergarten)	1.2	70	Office, Writing	A.5, Kindergarten	1	1.4	1.2	0.0	125	55
Lecture hall, auditorium	1.2	70	Office, Typing	A.5, Auditorium	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.0	125	55
Bed room	1.2	70	Resting, Sleeping	B.1, Reclining	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.4	84	14
Hotel room	1.2	70	Resting, Sleeping	B.1, Reclining	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.4	84	14
Canteen	1.2	70	Office, Filing, Seated	A.5, Cafeteria/restaurant	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	125	55
Restaurant	1.2	70	Office, Filing, Seated	A.5, Cafeteria/restaurant	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	125	55
Kitchen in non-residential buildings	1.2	70	Cooking	B.1, Standing, medium activity	1.8	2	1.9	0.7	199	129
Kitchen—preparations, storage	2	90	Cooking	B.1, Standing, medium activity	1.8	2	1.9	0.1	199	109
WC and sanitary rooms in non-residential buildings	1.2	70	Resting, Seated, quiet	B.1, Seated, relaxed	1	1	1	0.2	105	35
Further common rooms	1.2	70	Office, Typing	B.1, Sedentary activity	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.0	125	55
Auxiliary areas (without common rooms)	1.2	70	Office Walking	A.5, Department store	1.7	1.6	1.7	0.5	178	108
Traffic area	1.2	70	Office Walking	B.1, Walking, 2 km/h	1.7	1.9	1.8	0.6	188	118
Stock, technical equipment, archives	2	90	Office, Filing, Standing	B.1, Standing, light activity	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.5	157	67
Data center	1.2	70	Office, Filing, Standing	B.1, Standing, light activity	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.3	157	87
Commercial and industrial Halls—heavy work, standing activity	2	90	Machine work, heavy	B.1, Walking, 5 km/h	4	3.4	3.7	1.7	387	297

Table A1. Cont.

(1) Room Type	(2)	(3)	(4) ASHRAE Fundamentals	(5) ISO 7730	(6)	(7)	(8) Activity Degree (met)	(9)	(10) Heat flow (W/person)	(11)
Commercial and industrial Halls—medium work, standing activity	1.6	80	Machine work, light (electrical industry)	B.1, Standing, medium activity	2.2	2	2.1	0.5	220	140
Commercial and industrial Halls—light work, standing activity	1.2	70	Machine work, sawing	B.1, Standing, light activity	1.8	1.6	1.7	0.5	178	108
Spectator area (theater and event venues)	1.2	70	Resting, Seated, quiet	A.5, Auditorium	1	1.2	1.1	0.1	115	45
Foyer (theater and event venues)	1.2	70	Resting, Standing, relaxed	B.1, Standing, light activity	1.2	1.6	1.4	0.2	146	76
Stage (theater and event venues)	2	90	Dancing, social	B.1, Walking, 3 km/h	3.2	2.4	2.8	0.8	293	203
Exhibition, congress	1.2	70	Office, Filing, Standing	A.5, Department store	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.3	157	87
Exhibition room and museum conservation demands	1.2	70	Resting, Standing, relaxed	B.1, Standing, light activity	1.2	1.6	1.4	0.2	146	76
Library—reading room	1.2	70	Office, Reading, seated	B.1, Sedentary activity	1	1.2	1.1	0.1	115	45
Library—open stacks	1.2	70	Office, Filing, standing	B.1, Standing, light activity	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.3	157	87
Library—magazine and depot	1.2	70	Office, Filing, standing	B.1, Standing, light activity	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.3	157	87
Gym (without spectator area)	3	120	Calisthenics/exercise	B.1, Walking, 5 km/h	3.5	3.4	3.5	0.5	366	246
Parking garages (office and private usage)	0	35	Office Walking	B.1, Walking, 2 km/h	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8	188	153
Parking garages (public usage)	0	35	Office Walking	B.1, Walking, 2 km/h	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8	188	153
Sauna area	1.2	70	Resting, Seated, quiet	B.1, Seated, relaxed	1	1	1	0.2	105	35
Exercise room	3	120	Office, Writing	A.5, Classroom	1	1	1	2.0	105	15
Laboratory	1.2	70	Office, Filing, Seated	B.1, Sedentary activity	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	125	55
Examination- or treatment room	1.2	70	Office, Filing, standing	B.1, Standing, light activity	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.3	157	87
Special care area	1.2	70	Office, Lifting/packing	B.1, Standing, medium activity	2.1	2	2.1	0.9	220	150
Corridors in the general care area	1.2	70	Office Walking	B.1, Walking, 2 km/h	1.7	1.9	1.8	0.6	188	118
Medical and therapeutic practices	1.2	70	Office, Filing, Seated	B.1, Standing, light activity	1.2	1.6	1.4	0.2	146	76
Storehouse, logistics building	2	90	Office, Lifting/packing	B.1, Standing, medium activity	2.1	2	2.1	0.1	220	130
Living	1.2	70	Resting, Seated, quiet	B.1, Sedentary activity	1	1.2	1.1	0.1	115	45
Classroom	1	70	Office, Writing	A.5, Classroom	1	1.2	1.1	0.1	115	45

Appendix A.2. Clothing Parameters

Table A2. Deriving clothing parameters for archetypal enrichment of thermal zones based on ASHRAE Fundamentals and ISO 7730. Columns: (1) Room type according to TEASER templates, (2) Chosen clothing type according to ASHRAE Fundamentals, Chapter 9 Table 7, (3) Chosen clothing type according to ISO 7730, (4) ASHRAE clothing (clo), (5) ISO 7730 clothing (clo), (6) Resulting combined clothing parameter (clo), (7) Chosen surrounding insulation type, (8) Surrounding insulation (clo).

(1) Room Type	(2) ASHRAE Fundamentals	(3) ISO 7730	(4)	(5)	(6) Clothing Insulation (clo)	(7) Surrounding Insulation Description	(8) Surrounding Insulation (clo)
Single office	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Executive chair	0.15
Group Office (between 2 and 6 employees)	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Standard office chair	0.1
Open-plan Office (7 or more employees)	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Standard office chair	0.1
Meeting, Conference, seminar	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt, suit jacket	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.96	0.7	0.83	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Main Hall, Reception	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt, suit jacket	Underwear with short sleeves and legs, shirt, trousers, jacket, socks, shoes	0.96	1	0.98	ISO 7730, C.3 Standard office chair	0.1
Retail, department store	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt, long-sleeved sweater, T-shirt	Panties, shirt, trousers, jacket, socks, shoes	1.01	1	1.01	None	
Retail with cooling	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt, long-sleeved sweater, T-shirt	Panties, shirt, trousers, jacket, socks, shoes	1.01	1	1.01	None	
Class room (school), group room (kindergarden)	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Lecture hall, auditorium	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Bed room	Walking shorts, short-sleeved shirt	Panties, T-shirt, shorts, light socks, sandals	0.36	0.3	0.33	Average based on Zhang et al. [65]	2
Hotel room	Walking shorts, short-sleeved shirt	Panties, T-shirt, shorts, light socks, sandals	0.36	0.3	0.33	Average based on Zhang et al. [65]	2
Canteen	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01

Table A2. Cont.

(1) Room Type	(2) ASHRAE Fundamentals	(3) ISO 7730	(4)	(5)	(6) Clothing Insulation (clo)	(7) Surrounding Insulation Description	(8) Surrounding Insulation (clo)
Restaurant	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Kitchen in non-residential buildings	Long-sleeved overalls, T-Shirt	Underpants, shirt, trousers, smock, socks, shoes	0.72	0.9	0.81	None	
Kitchen—preparations, storage	Long-sleeved overalls, T-Shirt	Underpants, shirt, trousers, smock, socks, shoes	0.72	0.9	0.81	None	
WC and sanitary rooms in non-residential buildings	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	None	
Further common rooms	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Auxiliary areas (without common rooms)	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	None	
Traffic area	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	None	
Stock, technical equipment, archives	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	None	
Data center	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	None	
Commercial and industrial Halls— heavy work, standing activity	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.57	0.7	0.64	None	
Commercial and industrial Halls— medium work, standing activity	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.57	0.7	0.64	None	
Commercial and industrial Halls— light work, standing activity	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.57	0.7	0.64	None	
Spectator area (theater and event venues)	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt, suit jacket	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.96	0.7	0.83	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Foyer (theater and event venues)	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt, suit jacket	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.96	0.7	0.83	None	
Stage (theater and event venues)	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	None	
Exhibition, congress	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt, suit jacket	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.96	0.7	0.83	None	
Exhibition room and museum conservational demands	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt, suit jacket	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.96	0.7	0.83	None	

Table A2. Cont.

(1) Room Type	(2) ASHRAE Fundamentals	(3) ISO 7730	(4)	(5)	(6) Clothing Insulation (clo)	(7) Surrounding Insulation Description	(8) Surrounding Insulation (clo)
Library—reading room	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Library—open stacks	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	None	
Library—magazine and depot	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	None	
Gym (without spectator area)	Walking shorts, short-sleeved shirt	Underpants, shirt with short sleeves, light trousers, light socks, shoes	0.36	0.5	0.43	None	
Parking garages (office and private usage)	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt, long-sleeved sweater, T-shirt	Panties, shirt, trousers, jacket, socks, shoes	1.01	1	1.01	None	
Parking garages (public usage)	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt, long-sleeved sweater, T-shirt	Panties, shirt, trousers, jacket, socks, shoes	1.01	1	1.01	None	
Sauna area	Not applicable	Not applicable	0	0	0	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Exercise room	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Laboratory	Long-sleeved overalls, T-Shirt	Underpants, shirt, trousers, smock, socks, shoes	0.72	0.9	0.81	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Examination- or treatment room	Long-sleeved overalls, T-Shirt	Underpants, shirt, trousers, smock, socks, shoes	0.72	0.9	0.81	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Special care area	Long-sleeved overalls, T-Shirt	Underpants, shirt, trousers, smock, socks, shoes	0.72	0.9	0.81	Average based on Zhang et al. [65]	2
Corridors in the general care area	Long-sleeved overalls, T-Shirt	Underpants, shirt, trousers, smock, socks, shoes	0.72	0.9	0.81	None	
Medical and therapeutic practices	Long-sleeved overalls, T-Shirt	Underpants, shirt, trousers, smock, socks, shoes	0.72	0.9	0.81	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01
Storehouse, logistics building	Long-sleeved overalls, T-Shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.72	0.7	0.71	None	
Living	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Executive chair	0.15
Classroom	Trousers, long-sleeved shirt	Underwear, shirt, trousers, socks, shoes	0.61	0.7	0.66	ISO 7730, C.3 Wooden stool	0.01

Appendix A.3. Simulation Setup for Use Case 1: FZK-Haus

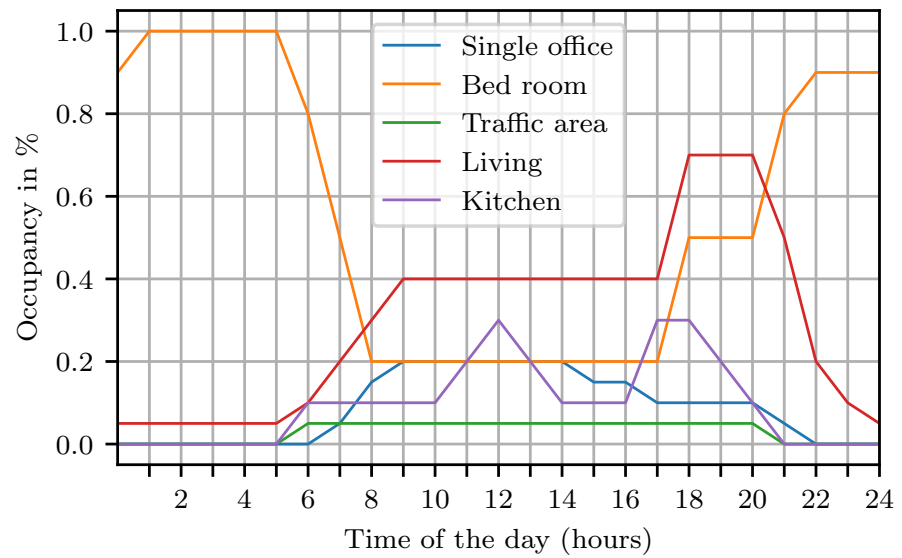


Figure A1. Occupancy profiles derived from Mitra et al. [67].

Appendix A.4. Additional Simulation Results for Use Case 1: FZK-Haus

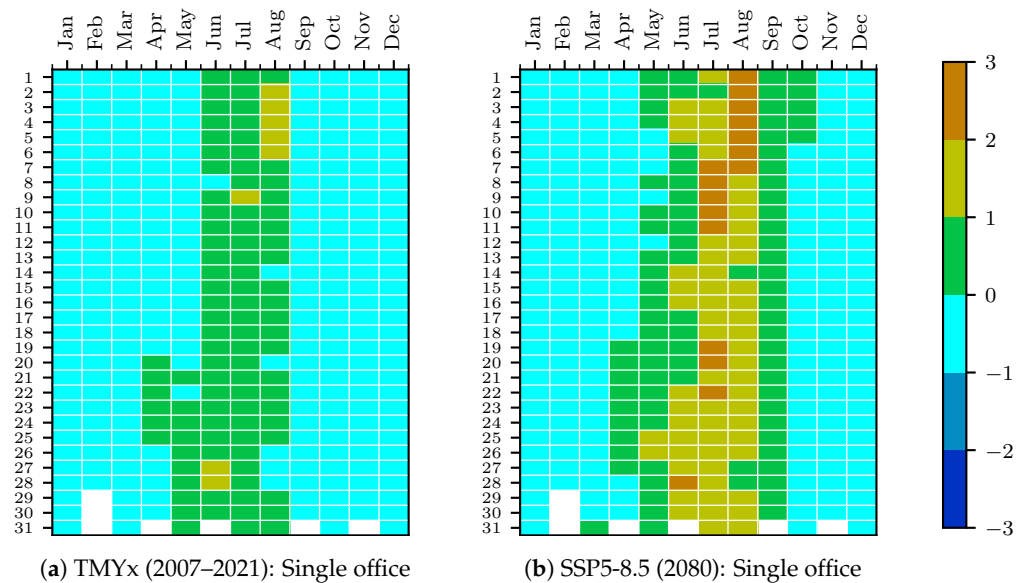


Figure A2. 24 h mean PMV values for thermal zone “Single office” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

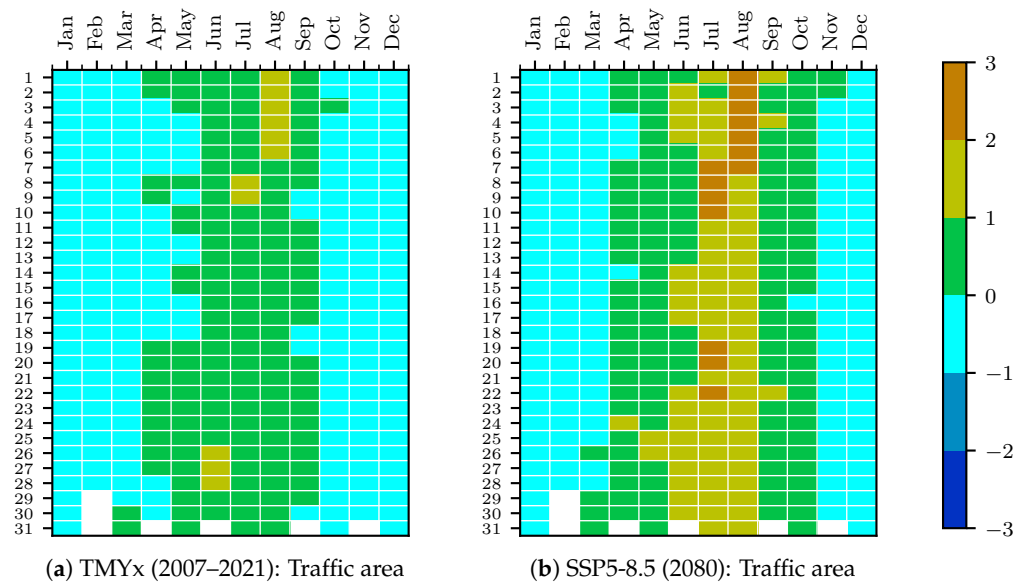


Figure A3. 24 h mean PMV values for thermal zone “Traffic area” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

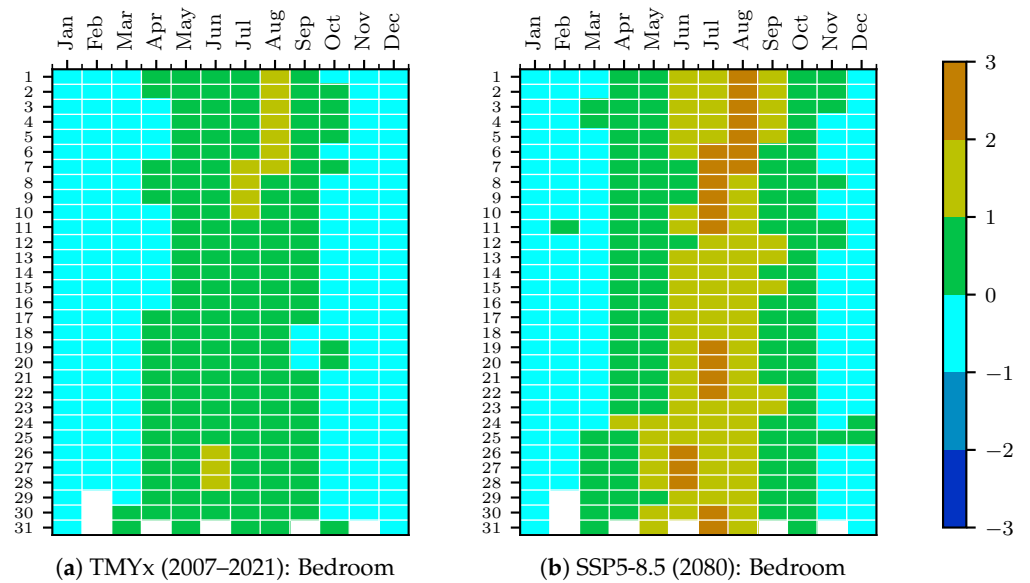


Figure A4. 24 h mean PMV values for thermal zone “Bedroom” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

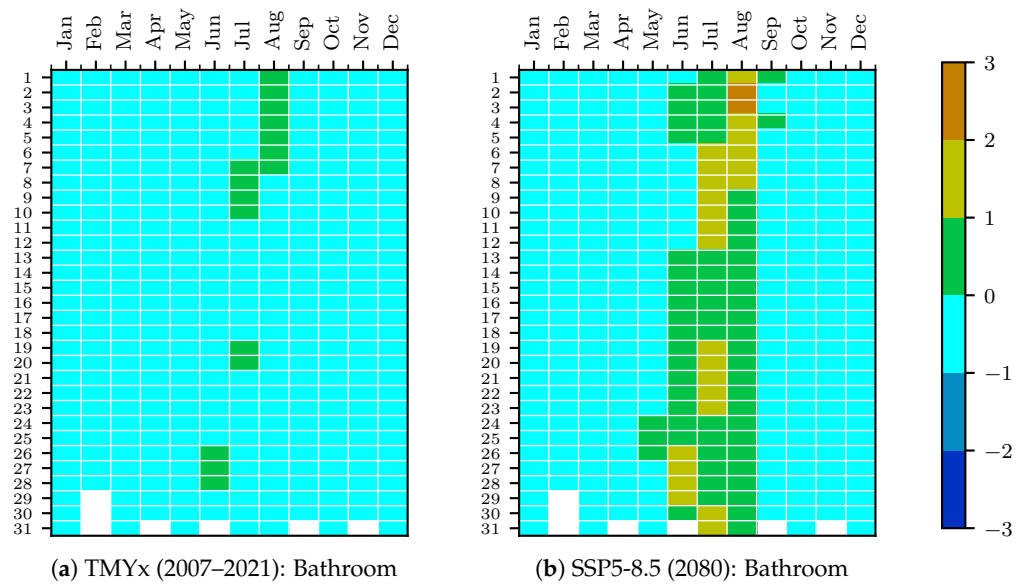


Figure A5. 24 h mean PMV values for thermal zone “Bathroom” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

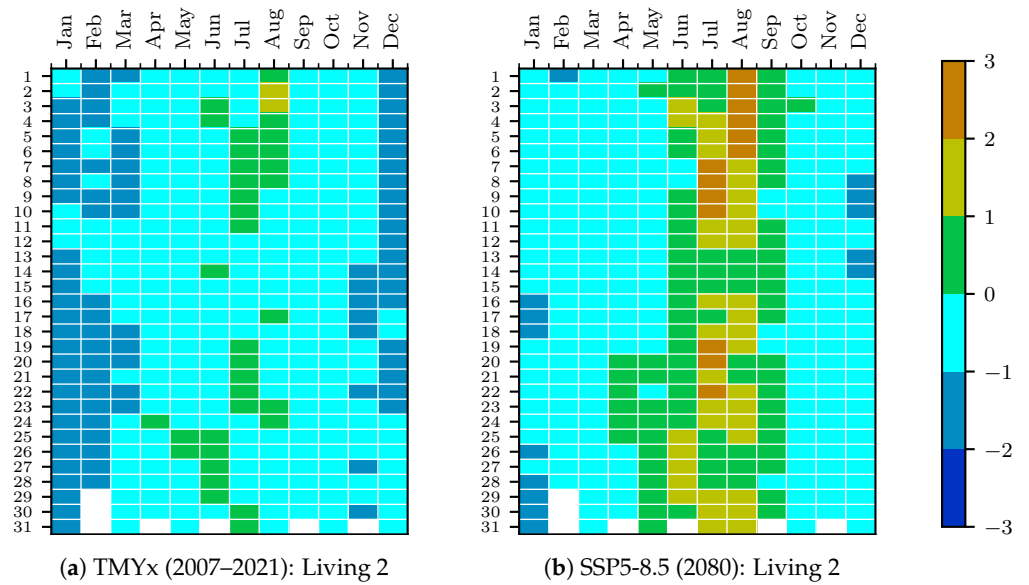


Figure A6. 24 h mean PMV values for thermal zone “Living 2” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

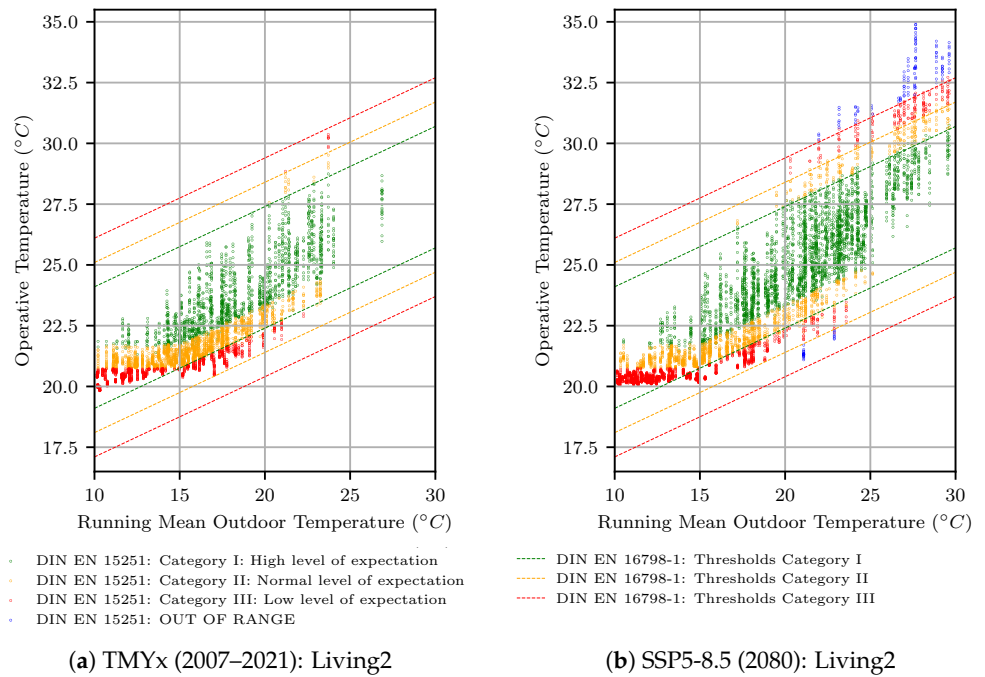


Figure A7. Adaptive comfort according to DIN EN 16798-1/DIN EN 15251 for zone “Living2” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

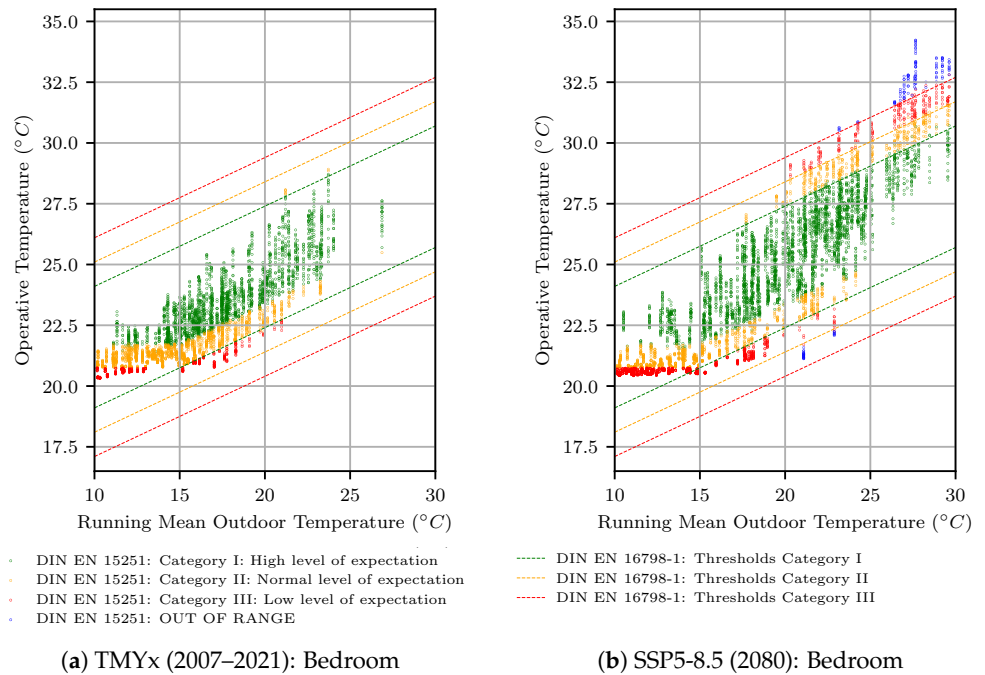


Figure A8. Adaptive comfort according to DIN EN 16798-1/DIN EN 15251 for zone “Bedroom” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

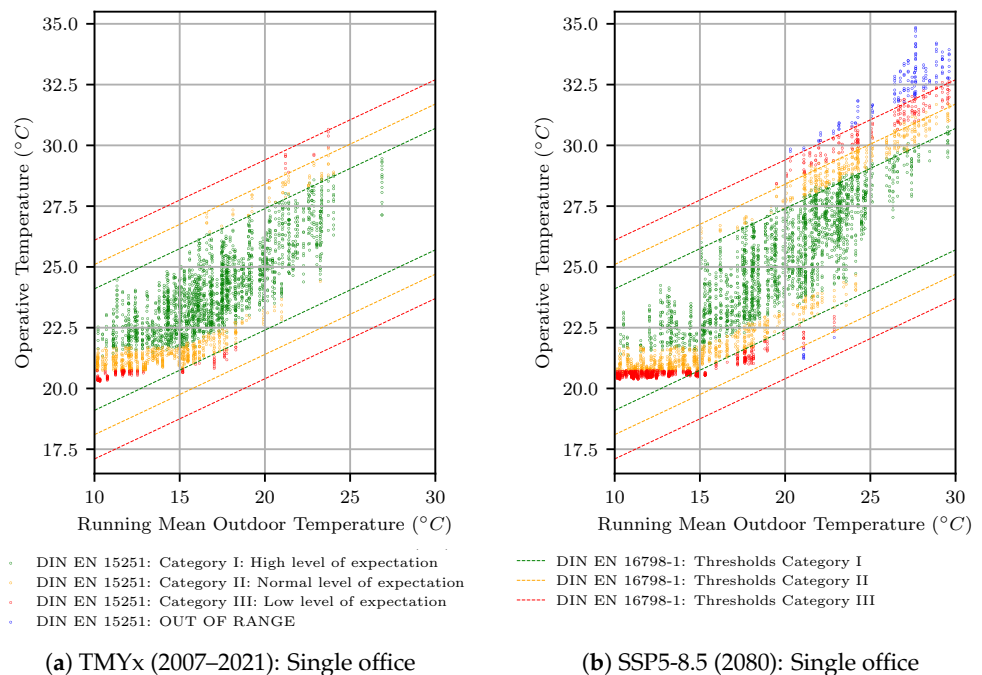


Figure A9. Adaptive comfort according to DIN EN 16798-1/DIN EN 15251 for zone “Single office” for TMYx (2007–2021) and SSP5-8.5 (2080).

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