
Introduction to Lighting Systems and Controls

Course No. ENRG 54

Outline

A. Introduction to fundamentals of lighting

- Lighting terminology
- Physics and principles of lighting
- Units of measurement
- Vision and colors
- Ambient, directional and task lighting
- Over- and under-illuminance

B. Lighting systems

- Components
- Types of lamps
- Ballasts
- Lamp comparison matrix
- Types of lighting luminaires and intensities
- Energy efficiency measures (EEMs)

C. Lighting controls

- Basic concepts of effectiveness of lighting control
- Types and appropriate applications of lighting controls
- Lighting control equations
- Energy efficiency measures (EEMs)

D. Additional EEMs

- De-lamping
- Scotopic lighting
- Task and ambient light levels
- Circadian rhythms

E. Lighting measurements

- Tools
- Data loggers and applications

F. Lighting calculations

- Equation and method of calculating lumens (zonal cavity formula)
- Equation and method of calculating energy savings
- Method of calculating skylight energy savings

G. Lighting standards, codes and regulations

- Underwriters' Laboratory (UL)
- Uniform Building Code (UBC)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Title 24 applications

H. O&M measures to assure optimal performance

F. Lighting calculations

1. Equation and method of calculating lumens (zonal cavity formula)
2. Equation and method of calculating energy savings
3. Equation and method of calculating skylight energy savings

Zonal Cavity Procedure (Lumen Method)

Zonal Cavity Formula

$$E_{ave} = \frac{\# Fixture \times \# Lamps \times Lamp Lumens \times CU \times LLF}{Area}$$

E ave = Average Illuminance (fc)

CU = Luminaire Coefficient of Utilization

LLF = Light loss factor

Luminaire Coefficient of Utilization

$$CU = \frac{\text{Lumens Striking Work Plane}}{\text{Lumens Emitted By the Lamps}}$$

- Depends on Room Cavity Ratio (RCR) and room reflectance
- Accounts for the percentage of light that will reach the workplane from a given luminaire under specific room conditions
- Requires user to make assumptions about ceiling and wall reflectances
- Requires user to calculate RCR

Room Cavity Ratio (RCR)

$$RCR = \frac{5h \times (L + W)}{L \times W} \quad \text{or}$$

$$RCR = \frac{2.5h \times P}{L \times W}$$

- h = Distance from luminaire plane to work plane
- L = Room length
- W = Room width
- P = Room perimeter

Light Loss Factors (LLF)

- Recoverable LLFs
 - Lamp Lumen Depreciation (LLD)
 - Luminaire Dirt Depreciation (LDD)
 - Room Surface Dirt Depreciation (RSDD)
- Non-Recoverable LLF
 - Ballast factor
 - Voltage
- Total LLF = LLD X LDD X RSDD X BF X Other LLFs

Zonal Cavity Procedure (Lumen Method)

- Provides a single value of average illuminance
- Advantages
 - Provides a quick, easy way to estimate illuminance or fixture quantities needed
 - An easy means of comparing different luminaires or lamps

Another Use for Lumen Method

- To determine the number of luminaires required to achieve an average illuminance:

$$\# \text{ Fixtures} = \frac{E_{ave} \times Area}{\# \text{ Lamps} \times \text{Lamp Lumens} \times CU \times LLF}$$

E_{ave} = Average Illuminance (fc)

CU = Luminaire Coefficient of Utilization

LLF = Light loss factor

Point by Point Calculations

- Useful for determining illuminance at a specific point
- Accounts for angle of incidence
- Requires knowledge of inverse square law and basic trig. Functions
- Limitations
 - Labor intensive
 - Requires separate calculation for each point
 - Applicable for point sources
 - Does not account for interreflections

Inverse Square Law

- Basic equation to find illuminance

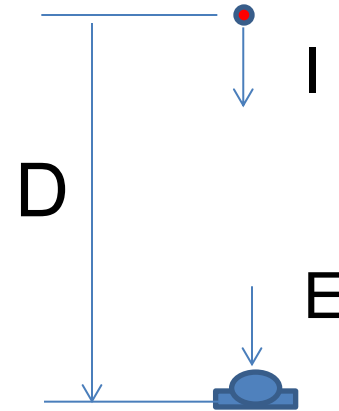
$$E = \frac{I}{D^2}$$

Where

E = target Illuminance (fc)

I = Source Intensity (cd)

D = Distance from Source to Target (ft)



Inverse Square Law

- Horizontal illuminance – source at an angle:

$$E_h = \frac{I \cdot \cos(\theta)}{D^2}$$

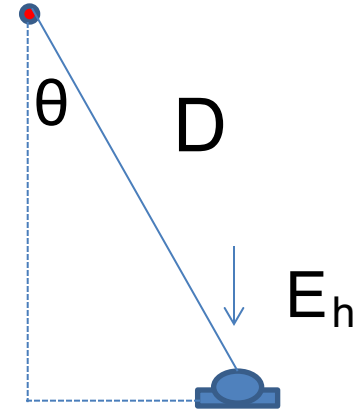
Where

E_h = target Illuminance (fc)

I = Source Intensity (cd)

D = Distance from Source to Target (ft)

θ = Angle of incidence



Inverse Square Law

- Vertical illuminance – source at an angle:

$$E_v = \frac{I \cdot \sin(\theta)}{D^2}$$

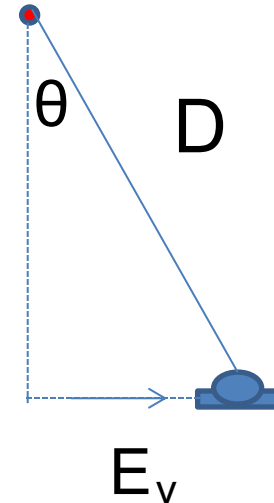
Where

E = target Illuminance (fc)

I = Source Intensity (cd)

D = Distance from Source to Target (ft)

θ = Angle of incidence



F. Lighting calculations

1. Equation and method of calculating lumens (zonal cavity formula)
2. Equation and method of calculating energy savings
3. Equation and method of calculating skylight energy savings

Energy saving equation

Power = The Rate of Consumption kilowatts kW

Time = The Duration of Consumption

Energy = Power X Time

= Total Consumption in Kilowatt hours kWh

Control strategy: regulate the rate of consumption (**power**),
or the duration of consumption (**time**), or both.

Energy saving calculation

Energy = Power X Time = Total kWh

1. If reducing power only (e.g. de-lamping, re-lamping):

$$\Delta \text{ Energy} = \Delta \text{ Power} \times \text{Time} = (\text{Power}_1 - \text{Power}_2) \times \text{Time}_2$$

2. If reducing time only (e.g. installing occupancy sensor):

$$\Delta \text{ Energy} = \text{Power} \times \Delta \text{Time} = \text{Power} \times (\text{Time}_1 - \text{Time}_2)$$

3. If both power and time reduced (e.g. daylighting control)

$$\Delta \text{ Energy} = \text{Power}_1 \times \text{Time}_1 - \text{Power}_2 \times \text{Time}_2$$

Excel practice

1. $\Delta \text{ Energy} = \Delta \text{ Power} \times \text{Time} = (\text{Power}_1 - \text{Power}_2) \times \text{Time}_2$
2. $\Delta \text{ Energy} = \text{Power} \times \Delta \text{Time} = \text{Power} \times (\text{Time}_1 - \text{Time}_2)$
3. $\Delta \text{ Energy} = \text{Power}_1 \times \text{Time}_1 - \text{Power}_2 \times \text{Time}_2$

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Blended energy rate (\$/kWh)									
2	annual \$/kWh	0.151623								
3										
4					Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual
5		Pre kW	Post kW	kW reduced	Pre hours	post hours	hours (savings)	energy savings	energy saving %	dollar (\$) savings
6	Sample - notes			=B6-C6			=E6-F6	=(B6*E6)-(C6*F6)	=H6/(B6*E6)*100%	=H6*\$B\$2
7	Lighting I - de-lamping	1.46	0.96	0.50	1246	1246	0	618.51	34.00%	\$ 93.78
8	Lighting II - occupancy	1.46	1.46	0	1246	747.6	498.40	727.66	40.00%	\$ 110.33
9	Lighting III - combine I & II	1.46	0.96	0.50	1246	747.6		1,101.46	60.55%	\$ 167.01
10										

4. Simple payback period = estimated cost / annual savings

Excel hands-on practice

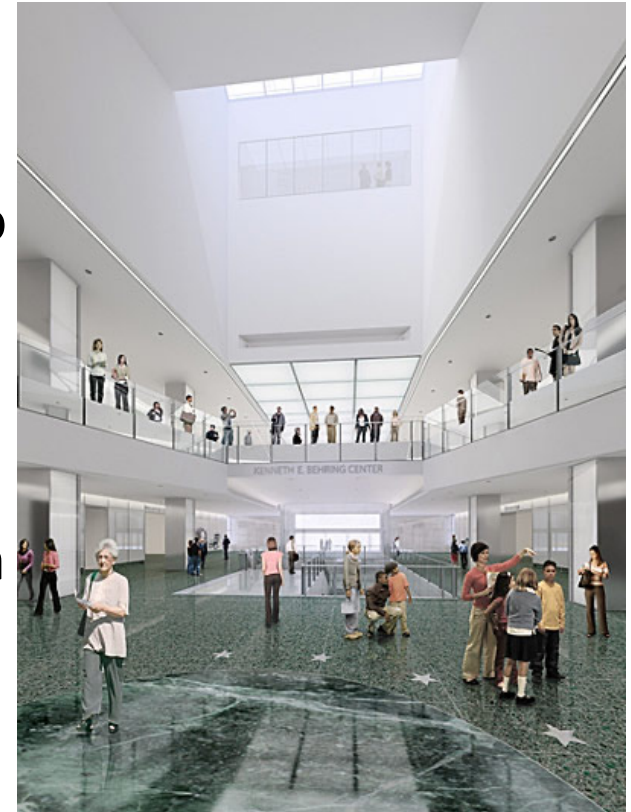
Combining with data logger results, students will calculate energy savings by Excel (at the end of this section)

F. Lighting calculations

1. Equation and method of calculating lumens (zonal cavity formula)
2. Equation and method of calculating energy savings
3. Method of calculating skylight energy savings

Skylights

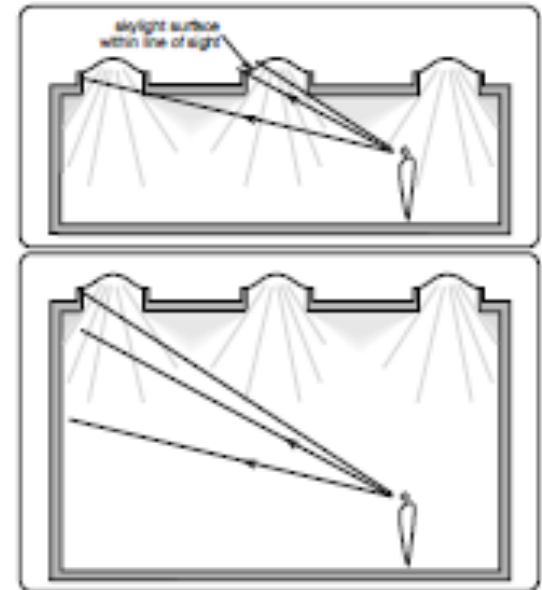
- Provide excellent lighting conditions to the interior of buildings
- Reduce the use of electric lighting, to save energy and reduce peak electric loads when combined with photocontrols
- Satisfy human needs for contact with outdoors
- Increase safety and security with highly reliable daytime lighting
- Provide emergency smoke vents



Americanhistory.si.edu

Considerations when designing skylights

- Visual and thermal comfort
- Seasonal and daily shifts in daylight availability
- Heat loss and heat gain
- Integration with the electric lighting system
- Choice of daylighting control strategy
- Integration with the roofing system
- Integration with the HVAC design
- Utility costs and peak electric demand
- Structural and safety concerns



How skylights save energy?

- Cons :
 - Provide adequate daylight to turn off electric lights
 - Add less heat to a space and reduce cooling
- Pros:
 - Allow more heat to escape through the roof
 - Increase cooling loads by letting more sun's heat in.
- The optimum balance is a function of the building design, the building operation, and the local climatic conditions.

Who need skylights?

- Buildings with large open areas.
 - retail stores and shopping malls
 - grocery stores
 - schools
 - single-story office buildings
 - manufacturing
 - warehouses
 - distribution centers
 - agricultural building



% of commercial buildings in California?

Retail buildings	18%
Grocery Stores	8.5%
Schools	8.5%
Small offices	5.0%
Warehouses	12%

Total	52%
-------	-----



Significant energy saving opportunities by skylights.

Related materials – Skylighting Guidelines

<http://www.energydesignresources.com/resources/publications/design-guidelines/design-guidelines-skylighting-guidelines.aspx>



http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/publications/pdfs/commercial_initiative/toplighting_final_report.pdf

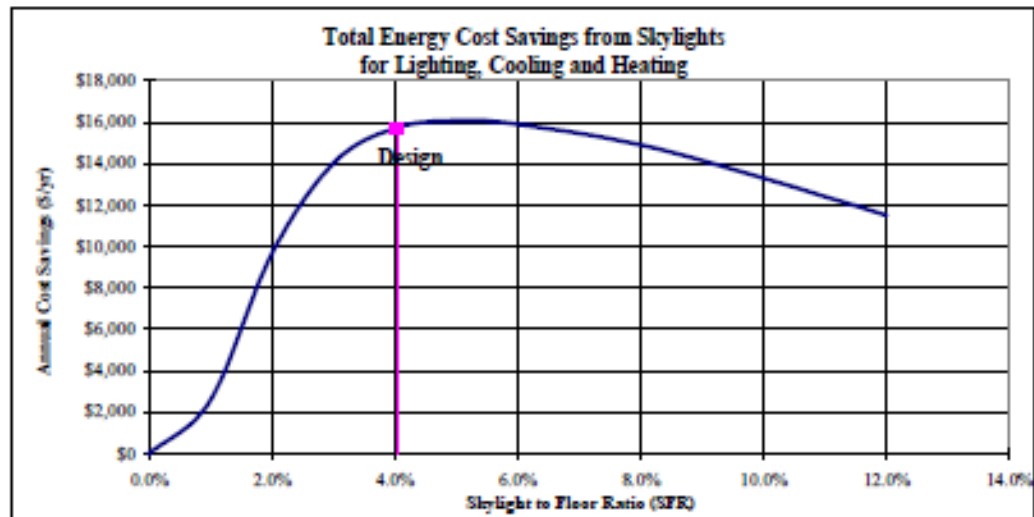


U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Building Technologies Program



SkyCalc – Skylight design tool

- Readily available data for most of California Climate Zones
- Built-in basic lighting calculations, energy cost analysis, and other useful information
- Makes skylight sizing quick and easy
- Accounts for:
 - Heating
 - Cooling
 - Lighting
 - Energy rates
 - Occupancy/use

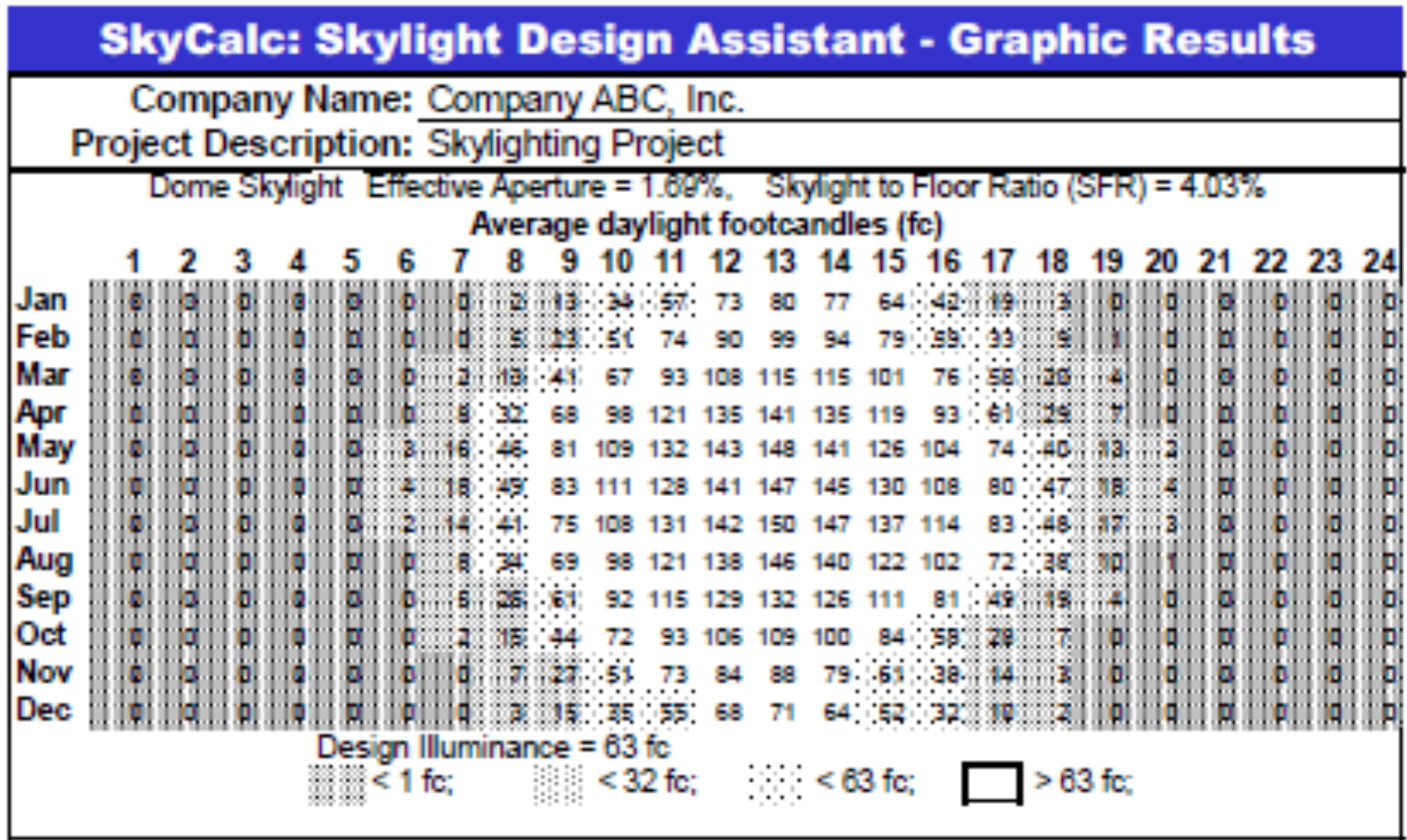


<http://www.energydesignresources.com/resources/software-tools/skycalc.aspx>

SkyCalc: example input characteristics

Characteristic	Value			
	Office	School	Warehouse	Big-Box Retail
Building				
Applicable Building Area	10,000 ft ²	10,000 ft ²	10,000 ft ²	50,000 ft ²
Ceiling Height	10ft ^a	10ft ^a	20ft	20ft
Wall Color	Off-White Paint; Reflectance = 80%			
Shelf/Partition Height	5ft	n/a	15ft	7ft
Shelf/Rack Width	n/a	n/a	8ft	6ft
Aisle/Cubicle Width	8ft	n/a	12ft	10ft
Cubical Length	8ft	n/a	n/a	n/a
Electric Lighting				
Lighting System	Open cell fluorescent	Open cell fluorescent	Industrial fluorescent	Industrial fluorescent
Lighting Level	31fc	59fc	24fc	63 fc
Power Density	1.02W/ ft ²	1.21W/ ft ²	0.84W/ ft ²	1.49W/ ft ²
Fixture Height	10ft	10ft	16ft	16ft
Lighting Control	3 level + off switching (90% of lights controlled) ^b			
Skylights				
Glazing Type	Acrylic			
Glazing Layers	Double Glazed			
Glazing Color	Prismatic over High White (VT=65%, SHGC=53%, U=0.81)			
Skylight Well				
Light Well Height	4ft ^a	4ft ^a	1ft	1ft
Well Color	White Paint			

SkyCalc: example input characteristics



BEST Center Curricula, Resources & Recordings

Academic Programs

Georgia Piedmont Technical College - Building Automation Systems

Milwaukee Area Technical College - Sustainable Facilities Operations

Laney College - Commercial HVAC Systems

City College San Francisco - Commercial Building Energy Analysis & Audits

Professional Development Materials, Presentations & Videos

National Institutes

Building Automation Systems Instructor Workshops

Webinars (e.g., BEST Talks)

Faculty Profile Videos

Reports & Case Studies

Marketing Resources

© 2013-2025 by BEST Center: NSF National Center for Building Technician Education is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial (CC BY-NC) 4.0 International.

To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

 CC BY-NC 4.0

Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0

