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Abstract: Green roofs are implemented to reduce the urban heat island effect; however, studies are limited to comparing the reduction in urban heat island effect before and after implementation, and the focus is on the structural stability of the building rather than urban heat island reduction. In this study, using the sky view factor (SVF) in ENVI-met, a 3D microclimate modeling program, urban spaces were classified as closed, semi-open, and open areas. Meanwhile, the green roof types were subdivided according to the vegetation coverage rates, which included grass, shrubs, and trees. The vegetation ratio was evaluated using ENVI-met to determine which of the 10 scenarios was most effective for each urban space. The thermal environment was most comfortable in semi-open areas. Therefore, the green roof scenario with 70% grass and 30% trees was effective in closed areas, 50% shrubs and 50% trees were best in semi-open areas, and 70% grass with 30% trees, or 30% grass and 70% trees, was best in open areas. This study provides a basis for creating green roof guidelines aimed at improving the urban thermal environment, as well as creating other green infrastructure elements in cities.

Keywords: ENVI-met; urban heat island; green roof; thermal environment; thermal comfort; vegetation ratio

1. Introduction

Due to rapid industrial development and increasing population density, cities are facing problems such as having a high building coverage ratio and large traffic volumes. These problems increase energy consumption and artificial heat, forming a unique climate called an urban heat island (UHI) [1]. The UHI effect is a phenomenon in which urban temperatures are higher than ambient temperatures, and photochemical reactions of pollutants form heat waves that make them vulnerable to the thermal environment [2–5]. If this phenomenon persists, it will promote thermal stress among urban residents, resulting in discomfort, as well as an increase in the mortality rates among the elderly and urban poor [6,7]. As urban areas continue to expand as the population increases, the UHI effect is accelerating; accordingly, research is being conducted to quantify and improve urban thermal environments [8–14].

In order to control the microclimate in an outdoor space, temperature and humidity should be used, but they are limited, so plans using urban spatial structures are needed [15]. In terms of urban planning, the typical way to prevent temperature rise is by blocking or absorbing solar radiation through the creation of green areas [16–19]. For example, the shading effect of trees, wind corridors, and evapotranspiration from plants all reduce net thermal radiation and increase latent heat, ultimately lowering sensible heat [20–25]. However, in cities with a lot of gray infrastructure, the physical environment of the city [26] and its economic, spatial, and temporal problems collide, making it impossible to realistically



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Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). create green areas. Therefore, efforts are being made to improve the thermal environment by utilizing green infrastructure (GI) as an alternative to gray infrastructure [27,28].

The concept of GI is widely and variously defined, but the first GI concept was defined in 2002 as a strategy for sustainable community development [27]. Since then, as natural environmental policies have developed due to changes in urban microclimates, the concept of GI has been redefined as a way to enhance the value of cities through a network of natural factors [28]. As such, GI is defined as the natural factors that can increase the value of a city; thus, GI classification according to the purpose of a particular study is required. GI elements that improve the urban thermal environment include trees, grass, shrubs, green roofs, green walls, and parks [29]. From the perspective of a city's physical environment, the city is categorized according to the types of buildings and roof surfaces, which account for 20% of all urban surfaces [30,31]. Thus, the need for GI elements that are particularly applicable to buildings is increasing. In particular, the implementation of green roofs is a new urban GI development strategy that improves the local environment by increasing the area in which vegetation can be planted in areas with a high density of buildings [32,33]. In addition to reducing the UHI effect, green roofs provide cities with increased social, environmental, and economic benefits due to several advantages such as improved rainwater management, the creation of urban habitats for plants and animals, improved air and water quality, and reduced building energy consumption costs [34-40]. As the density of buildings continues to rise due to increases in urban populations, the surface ratio of rooftops is also expected to proportionally increase. Therefore, the importance of green roofs is further increased [31]. However, most studies on the effect of green roofs on the thermal environment have focused on simple comparisons of the temperature and energy efficiency before and after green roof construction [41–45]. This is because the focus is generally on the structural stability of the buildings rather than on the urban environment as a whole, which has received comparably little attention.

Therefore, when conducting research on how to improve the thermal environment, the ratio of trees and grass should be considered simultaneously with geometric factors reflecting the physical environment of the building type and land cover and impermeable areas [26,39,46]. In addition, as the air temperature depends on the climate characteristics of the surrounding area, it is necessary to select a case site that can represent the city type rather than simply comparing the existence of green roofs or designing effective green roofs according to the building type. This study attempts to derive effective green roof designs for various urban thermal environments based on the urban area type and the composition of plant cover on the roof surface. The effect of the green roof on the thermal environment is quantitatively shown using the ENVI-met climate simulation software. The results of this study will not only confirm the relationship of green roofs with other GI, but also provide green roof design guidelines that consider the thermal environment rather than building management. In addition, it is expected that the thermal environment will be improved more effectively by designing green roofs according to the type of urban space.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Literature Review

ENVI-met is a three-dimensional (3D) microclimate modeling program that includes a soil model, a vegetation model, and a heat exchange model [47]. It supports a grid shape capable of spatial modeling and is able to numerically analyze detailed microclimate changes. In addition, it can determine microclimate changes in surrounding areas due to high-rise buildings and planting in urban areas. ENVI-met has the advantage of allowing the user to freely choose the conditions for factors such as vegetation, soil, and buildings, which allows analyses to be conducted according to the user's design plan [48].

Due to these advantages, ENVI-met has recently been used in research aiming to determine the positive effects of green roofs on the thermal environment [49–51]. Herath et al. [49] used ENVI-met to examine the thermal environment mitigation potential of green infrastructure. A total of six scenarios were devised based on combinations of green wall and green roof coverage ratios; the results showed that a combination of trees on curbsides, 50% green roofs, and 50% green walls, decreased the temperature by 1.90 °C, suggesting that such a strategic design was needed. Kim et al. [50] used ENVI-met to analyze the effects of roads, buildings, green areas, and open spaces on temperature and humidity. A total of five green roof scenarios were created: extreme, linear (longitudinal), linear (transverse), checkerboard, and unrealized rooftop gardens; a maximum reduction of -0.2 °C was achieved with the linear pattern (longitudinal). Huang and Chen [52] also analyzed the thermal environment using ENVI-met, and five scenarios were created by changing the packaging material and green coverage ratio. Finally, scenarios with green coverage ratios of 60% in streets, 80% in parks, and 100% for the roofs of public buildings resulted in a reduction effect of up to 2.00 °C [51].

However, it is difficult to determine whether the green coverage ratio alone adequately represents the effects on the thermal environment as a whole. The climate periodically changes, and UHIs can have different thermal environments depending on building qualities such as density, number of floors, and material.

Therefore, this study considered a case study site that represents a wide-area environment. The site was subdivided by calculating the sky view factor (SVF) through ENVI-met 3D modeling. The green roof scenario was also subdivided based on the ratios of grass and trees, and the type of green roof that was most effective for the building type was derived. These methods can provide practical guidelines that deviate from existing green roof construction plans that are not realistic, and it is expected that they can be used to effectively integrate urban types into more diverse cities by dividing them based on the SVF. Finally, the potential of the green roof, such as improving the thermal environment, was determined by examining the case site as a real space with various land-cover materials.

2.2. Simulation Methodology

2.2.1. Site Characteristics

In this study, Konkuk University in Gwangjin-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea was selected as the simulation area. It can be seen in Figure 1. This site is a university campus, which has good data accessibility due to the geographic information provided by the Seoul Metropolitan Government and Konkuk University. Additionally, air quality meters (smart-aircok outdoor type 1) measuring PM_{10} , $PM_{2.5}$, temperature, and humidity are installed across the campus, making it easy to obtain on-site information. The site is located in the central eastern part of Seoul, where high-rise buildings such as commercial facilities and residential and commercial complexes are concentrated, and it is surrounded by four-lane roads and has large residential and floating populations. Further, this area's commercial and residential facilities are located in all directions around the campus, and in particular, the Children's Park, a tourist attraction, is located to the north. In addition, lakes, forests, playgrounds, and roads are distributed on campus, so the types of land cover vary from waterfront, green area, and grasslands to asphalt pavement. The total area of the campus is $473,565 \text{ m}^2$, the total number of buildings used in the analysis was 48, the tallest building was 61.4 m, the shortest building was 2.2 m, and the building material was reinforced concrete [50].



Scale=100 Ð

Figure 1. Study site.

2.2.2. Simulation

The microclimate and thermal comfort of an urban space are evaluated by measurement and simulation. A considerable amount of time and money is invested in measuring the microclimate according to the complex spatial structure of the city [51]. However, use of the simulation model allows for the relatively easy implementation of the space and plan to be analyzed, enabling the situational analysis of the desired conditions [53].

Therefore, we implemented a quantitative approach using the simulation tool ENVImet, which can evaluate the cooling effect based on evaporation, vegetation, atmosphere, radiation, soil, and turbulence. Figure 2 shows the workflow of this study.

Figure 2. Work flow of 3D modeling using Rhino 6, Grasshopper, and simulation using ENVI-met 5.0.

For ENVI-met simulation, the building height and land-use status of Gwangjin-gu at the site of Konkuk University were modeled using Rhino 6. Grasshopper was used to determine the model domain settings. The model dimensions were set to $50 \times 65 \times 300$, and the grid cell (in meters) was set to $18.0 \times 18.0 \times 3.00$. Then, the surface materials were set. Buildings were made of concrete, lakes of water, roads of asphalt, parking lots of concrete, sidewalks of asphalt with red coating, and open spaces were defaulted. Details on the surface material settings are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Surface material settings.

	Buildings	Lakes	Roads	Parking Lots	Sidewalk	Open Spaces	Green Spaces
Materials	Concrete	Water	Asphalt	Concrete	Asphalt	Soil	2D Plant
Code	0100C1	0000WW	0100ST	0100PG	0100AR	010000	-
Albedo	-	0.00	0.20	0.50	0.50	0.200	-
Emissivity (%)	0.90	0.00	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.98	-
Specific Heat $(kcal/g \times °C)$	840.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-

The ENVI-met program "Spaces" was used to convert 2D models of the site into 3D models for thermal comfort analysis (Figure 3). Detailed scenarios were set up and green roofs were designated on a cell-by-cell basis. After that, detailed simulation meteorology was selected using ENVI-guide. Table 2 shows the parameter settings. The simulation date was set to 24 July 2021, when the average temperature was the highest among the temperatures from January to November 2021 [54], and a total of 24 hours were simulated from 00:00 to 24:00. Air temperature was set at 17–28 °C, relative humidity at 45–75%, wind speed at 2.00 m/s, wind direction at 87.2°, and roughness length at 0.010. The generated SIMX file was simulated in ENVI-core to derive the final output data.

Figure 3. Model data for the site using ENVI-space: (a) 2D modeling; (b) 3D modeling.

_	Build Type	Х, Ү	Average SVF (%)	Average Building Height (m)	Land Cover
1	Closed	(22,50), (32,40)	0.6	28.2	Asphalt
2	Semi-open	(9,29), (19,19)	0.7	32.6	Asphalt/Grass
3	Open	(23,27), (29,21)	0.9	28.0	Asphalt/Grass

Table 2. Building type and spatial characteristic classifications.

The UHI effect is mainly the result of urban geometry and land-cover type. Accordingly, to reduce the UHI effect, measures such as changing land-cover materials or forming wind corridors using geometric forms are emerging [11,12,24,26]. However, these measures are limited in terms of cost and time because changes in the geometry of land-cover materials and buildings require changes in the density, height, and other factors of the existing materials and buildings [52]. Therefore, in this study, green roofs were selected as the thermal environment improvement strategy.

Existing studies simply compare the thermal environmental effects before and after the installation of green roofs. In contrast, this study attempts to derive green roof scenarios that are effective for various urban types. Therefore, after classifying the build type according to the SVF ratio, the scenarios were constructed based on various ratios of grass, shrubs, and trees. The detailed simulation concept is shown in Figure 4. Extreme settings that included one tree with a green coverage rate of 100% were excluded because they were unrealistic, and the final scenarios consisted of 30%, 70%, and 0% green coverage rates. These settings were created in ENVI-space. Table 3 shows the detailed settings of the greenery created in these scenarios. The detailed setting including plant heights for the simulation was set to be an intensive green roof system based on the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport [55].

Figure 4. Green roof scenario settings.

Table 3. Details of the greenery considered in the constructed green roof scenarios.

Туре	Grass	Shrubs	Trees
Name	Grass avg. density	Hedge density	Tree density
Code	0100XX	0100H4	0000BS
Leaf type	Grass	Deciduous	Deciduous
Albedo	0.20	0.20	0.20
Plant height (m)	0.25	4.00	20.0

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Classification

This study categorized urban spaces to derive effective green roofs according to the types of buildings. SVF is effective for analyzing UHI phenomena and atmospheric temperature by reflecting the shape and the arrangement of buildings, as well as for determining building characteristics and road widths. SVF has a value of 0.0 to 1.0, and in general, the lower the value, the more radiant heat is absorbed and the speed of heat circulation and wind is hindered, contributing to the increase in atmospheric temperature [26]. In this study, the types of city spaces were classified into closed, semi-open, and open according to the SVF in the ENVI-met surface data. Figure 4 shows the SVF through ENVI-met and the SVF ratio for each classification. For the SVF ratio distribution of the closed urban area, the average was 0.6%; the ratios from 0.0 to 0.4 represent the ratios judged to be closed, and, as they made up about 40% of the area, it was determined as closed type (Figure 5b). In addition, the SVF ratio distribution of the semi-open urban area had an average of 0.7%, and the area was determined as semi-open type (Figure 5c). The ratio distribution of the open urban area had an average value of 0.9%, so it was determined as open type (Figure 5). Table 2 shows the coordinates, average SVF (%), average building height (m), and land-cover characteristics of each urban type.

Figure 5. Cont.

Figure 5. Sky view factor (SVF) ratios for each urban type. Closed area (1), semi-open area (2), open area (3). (a) Analysis of the SVF using ENVI-met. SVF ratios of the (b) closed, (c) semi-open, and (d) open urban types.

3.2. Thermal Environment Status

This study conducted simulations on air temperature, wind, and predicted mean vote (PMV) to analyze the thermal environments of the urban types. At this time, PMV is the

sense of heat felt by humans in seven stages and is the most commonly used thermal comfort evaluation index thus far [56]. Table 4 is a reconstruction of the table of Matzarakis et al. [56], showing the state of thermal comfort and physiological stress according to the PMV index.

PMV	Thermal Perception	Stage of Thermal Stress
	Very cold	Extreme cold stress
-3.5	Cold	Great cold stress
-2.5	Cool	Moderate cold stress
-1.5	Slightly cool	Slight cold stress
0.5	Comfortable	No thermal stress
1.5	Slightly warm	Slight heat stress
2.5	Warm	Moderate heat stress
3.5	Hot	Great heat stress
	Very hot	Extreme heat stress

Table 4. PMV as indicator for thermal perception and stage of thermal stress.

The simulations were conducted for 16:00, when the air temperature was the highest; the other settings are shown in Table 2. In addition, the ratio of grass, shrubs, and trees was set to analyze the thermal environment and the green roof pattern most effective for improving the thermal environment according to the urban type; the detailed settings are shown in Figure 4 and Table 3.

3.2.1. Unrealized-Green-Roof-Area (S0) Thermal Environment

In order to create a control group to determine the effect of green roofs by scenario, the thermal environment of the concrete roof without green roofs (S0) was analyzed. Figure 6 shows an analysis of the air temperature of S0. In the case of the closed urban area, the median temperature was 32.320 °C, the highest temperature was 32.460 °C, and the lowest temperature was 32.120 °C. In the case of semi-open areas, the median temperature was 32.085 °C, the highest temperature was 32.204 °C, and the lowest temperature was 31.970 °C. The average temperature of the open area was 32.324 °C, the maximum temperature was 32.405 °C, and the minimum temperature was 32.212 °C. Therefore, the air temperature was increased in closed spaces, and it improved with moderate space openness. Figure 7 shows how the wind speed changed according to the building density. For closed urban areas, the average wind speed was 5.823 m/s, the maximum speed was 8.141 m/s, and the minimum speed was 0.160 m/s. In semi-open areas, the average wind speed was 2.066 m/s, the maximum speed was 6.531 m/s, and the minimum speed was 0.028 m/s. In open areas, the average speed was 1.921 m/s, the maximum speed was 3.520 m/s, and the minimum speed was 0.001 m/s. In the case of closed areas with a high density of a buildings, the wind speed increased due to the formation of narrow spaces between the buildings. Figure 8 shows the results for PMV, which describes the thermal comfort. PMV for the closed urban areas averaged 1.824, with a maximum of 1.890 and a minimum of 1.343. In semi-open areas, the index averaged 1.650, with a maximum of 1.801 and a minimum of 0.991. In open areas, it averaged 1.606, with a maximum of 1.762 and a minimum of 1.032. These results indicate that all three urban types were under weak stress from high temperatures. In particular, the closed urban areas were under high-temperature thermal stress. In other words, the results for S0 showed that the thermal environment of the closed area was the worst, likely due to the relatively high wind speed due to the density of tall buildings, and the high air temperature due to artificial heat caused by buildings and land cover.

Potential Air Temperature

Figure 6. Distribution of the simulated air temperature results for thermal environments in which green roofs were not created (S0). (a) Closed urban area; (b) semi-open area; (c) open area.

Figure 8. Distribution of the simulated predicted mean vote results for thermal environments in which green roofs were not created (S0). (a) Closed urban area; (b) semi-open area; (c) open area.

3.2.2. Closed-Area Thermal Environment

Despite being in the same space, the thermal environment changed according to urban design factors such as the building density and the land cover. Therefore, this study attempted to find an effective green roof element for each thermal environment, with the results derived using ENVI-met simulation for each scenario. Changes in air temperature, wind speed, and PMV for each closed-area scenario are shown in Table 5, Table 6, Table 7, respectively. Among them, the scenarios in which the thermal environment changes were considerable compared to S0 were S4, S6, and S7. S4 is a scenario with 70% grass and 30% trees, and S6 is a scenario with 30% grass and 70% trees in which the temperature was

reduced on average by 1.001 $^{\circ}$ C compared to areas where green space was not created. The maximum wind speed of S4 and S6 was 8.143 m/s, an increase of 0.01 m/s compared to the existing scenario (S0). While the thermal aptitude of S6 remained unchanged, the thermal comfort of S4 increased by 0.008 compared to the existing scenario. In other words, in the case of the closed area, S4 was more effective than S6. The simulation results of S4 are shown in Figure 9. In the case of S7, in which there was a shrubs ratio of 70% and trees of 30%, the average temperature increased by 0.093 °C compared to the existing scenario (S0), the wind speed decreased by 0.027 m/s, and the PMV increased by 0.375, to indicate moderate high-temperature stress.

Table 5. Air temperature (°C) distribution for each scenario in the closed urban area.

	S 1	S2	S 3	S 4	S 5	S 6	S 7	S 8	S 9	S10
Median	32.320	32.320	32.320	31.319	32.320	31.319	32.227	32.320	32.320	32.320
Max	32.458	32.458	32.458	32.458	32.458	32.458	33.359	32.458	32.458	32.458
Min	32.120	32.120	32.120	32.119	32.120	32.119	33.045	32.120	32.120	32.120

Table 6. Wind speed (m/s) distribution for each scenario in the closed urban area.

	S1	S2	S 3	S 4	S 5	S 6	S 7	S 8	S 9	S10
Median	5.823	5.823	5.823	5.823	5.823	5.823	5.796	5.823	5.823	5.823
Max	8.141	8.141	8.141	8.143	8.141	8.143	8.117	8.141	8.143	8.141
Min	0.159	0.159	0.159	0.106	0.159	0.160	0.158	0.159	0.160	0.159

Table 7. PMV distribution for each scenario in the closed urban area.

	S1	S2	S 3	S4	S 5	S 6	S 7	S 8	S 9	S10
Median	1.824	1.824	1.824	1.832	1.824	1.824	2.199	1.824	1.824	1.824
Max	1.885	1.885	1.885	1.885	1.885	1.885	2.262	1.885	1.885	1.885
Min	1.343	1.343	1.343	1.507	1.344	1.344	1.689	1.343	1.344	1.343

Figure 9. Distribution of the (a) air temperature, (b) wind speed, and (c) PMV results for Scenario 4.

3.2.3. Semi-Open-Area Thermal Environment

The results for each scenario in the semi-open area are shown in Tables 8–10. The scenarios showing significant changes in the thermal environment were 50% for shrubs and grass, respectively (Figure 10). The scenario with a reduced thermal environment was S8, in which the average temperature, maximum temperature, and minimum temperature were all reduced by 0.002 °C compared to the existing scenario (S0). In the case of wind speed in S8, the average wind speed was increased by 0.001 m/s, but the minimum and maximum speeds were the same as in the existing scenario (S0). In the case of thermal comfort, the average was the same, but the maximum thermal comfort index decreased by

0.001 and the minimum thermal comfort index decreased by 0.002. In the case of S7, the thermal environment was deteriorated compared to the existing scenario (S0). The average temperature increased by 0.001 °C, the maximum temperature increased by 0.883 °C, and the minimum temperature increased by 0.002 °C. The average wind speed decreased by 0.006 m/s, with the maximum value decreasing by 0.013 m/s and the minimum by 0.009 m/s. As a result, thermal comfort also increased, with an average value of 0.379, a maximum value of 0.737, and a minimum value of 0.325.

	S 1	S2	S 3	S4	S 5	S 6	S 7	S 8	S 9	S10
Median	32.085	32.085	32.085	32.086	32.085	32.086	32.086	32.083	32.086	32.085
Max	32.204	32.305	32.204	32.205	32.204	32.205	33.087	32.202	32.205	32.204
Min	31.970	31.970	31.970	31.972	31.970	31.972	32.856	31.968	31.972	31.970

Table 8. Air temperature (°C) distribution for each scenario in the semi-open area.

Table 9. Wind speed (m/s) distribution for each scenario in the semi-open area.

	S 1	S2	S 3	S 4	S 5	S 6	S 7	S 8	S 9	S10
Median	2.066	2.066	2.066	2.096	2.066	2.096	2.060	2.067	2.096	2.101
Max	6.531	6.531	6.531	6.556	6.531	6.556	6.518	6.531	6.556	6.531
Min	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.018	0.028	0.018	0.019	0.028	0.018	0.028

Table 10. PMV distribution for each scenario in the semi-open area.

	S1	S2	S 3	S 4	S 5	S 6	S 7	S 8	S 9	S10
Median	1.650	1.652	1.650	1.650	1.665	1.665	2.029	1.650	1.665	1.650
Max	1.801	1.801	1.801	1.801	1.802	1.802	2.174	1.800	1.802	1.801
Min	0.991	0.990	0.991	0.991	0.992	0.992	1.316	0.989	0.992	0.991

Figure 10. Distribution of the (a) air temperature, (b) wind speed, and (c) PMV results for S8.

3.2.4. Open-Area Thermal Environment

The open urban area exhibited similar patterns as the closed area. Detailed information can be found in Tables 11–13. In the open area, S4, which had 70% grass and 30% trees, and S6, which had 30% grass and 70% trees, were found to be effective (Figure 11). In contrast, S7, which had 70% shrubs and 30% trees, resulted in the deterioration of the thermal environment. In the case of S4 and S6, the average temperature decreased by 0.004 °C and the maximum temperature decreased by 0.002 °C compared to the existing scenario (S0). In the case of wind speed, the average speed was 0.002 m/s and the maximum speed was 0.012 m/s. It can be seen that the thermal comfort was improved by an average value of 0.003 and a minimum value of 0.001. In the case of S7, the thermal environment deteriorated compared to the existing scenario (S0). The average temperature increased by 0.882 °C, the maximum temperature increased 0.887 °C, and the minimum temperature increased

by 0.893 °C. In the case of wind speed, the average speed decreased by 0.015 m/s and the maximum speed by 0.002 m/s. Thermal comfort was also deteriorated; the average value increased by 0.593, the maximum value by 0.5, and the lowest value by 0.666 compared to the existing scenario (S0), and these results suggest high temperature stress.

Table 11. Air temperature (°C) distribution for each scenario in the open area.

	S1	S2	S 3	S 4	S 5	S 6	S 7	S 8	S 9	S10
Median	32.324	32.324	32.324	32.320	32.324	32.320	33.206	32.324	32.324	32.324
Max	32.405	32.405	32.405	32.403	32.405	32.403	33.292	32.405	32.405	32.405
Min	32.218	32.218	32.218	32.212	32.218	32.212	33.105	32.218	32.217	32.218

	S1	S2	S 3	S 4	S 5	S 6	S 7	S 8	S 9	S10
Median	1.921	1.921	1.921	1.924	1.921	1.924	1.906	1.921	1.924	1.921
Max	3.518	3.519	3.518	3.532	3.518	3.532	3.512	3.519	3.532	3.518
Min	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.010	0.001	0.001

 Table 12. Wind speed (m/s) distribution for each scenario in the open area.

Table 13. PMV distribution for each scenario in the open area.

	S1	S2	S 3	S4	S5	S 6	S 7	S 8	S9	S10
Median	1.606	1.606	1.606	1.603	1.606	1.603	2.199	1.606	1.606	1.606
Max	1.762	1.762	1.762	1.762	1.763	1.763	2.262	1.762	1.763	1.762
Min	1.023	1.023	1.023	1.022	1.024	1.022	1.689	1.023	1.024	1.023

Figure 11. Distribution of the (a) air temperature, (b) wind speed, and (c) PMV results for S4 and S6.

3.2.5. Analysis of the Effects of Each Scenario

In the closed area, where the land cover was asphalt and the average building height was 28.2 m (SVF 0.0–0.4), green roofs with 70% grass and 30% trees were found to be the most effective. In the semi-open area, where the land cover consisted of asphalt, green spaces, and open spaces, the average building height was 32.6 m, and the SVF was 0.7, S8 with 50% shrubs and 50% trees was found to most effectively improve the thermal environment. In an open area with the building height average of 28 m, and the SVF was 0.9, green roofs with 70% grass and 30% trees, or 30% grass and 70% trees, were found to be the most effective. In the case of S7, which was set to 70% shrubs and 30% grass, the thermal environment deteriorated in closed, semi-open, and open areas. Table 14 shows the comparison between the highest value of each of the thermal environment variables among the significant scenarios in S1–S10 and the highest value of the existing scenario (S0). When the wind speed was faster than that in the existing scenario, the air temperature and PMV were slower than those in the existing scenario. Table 15 shows the results of the simulation using ENVI-core for each urban area type.

Area	Thermal Environment	S0-S4	S0-S6	S0-S7	S0–S8
	Air temperature (°C)	0.002	-	-0.899	-
Closed	Wind speed (m/s)	-0.002	-	0.024	-
	PMV	0.005	-	-0.372	-
	Air temperature (°C)	-	-	-0.783	0.002
Semi-open	Wind speed (m/s)	-	-	0.013	0
	PMV	-	-	-0.373	0.001
	Air temperature (°C)	0.002	0.002	-0.887	-
Open	Wind speed (m/s)	-0.012	-0.012	0.008	-
	PMV	0	-0.001	-0.5	-

Table 14. Maximum thermal environment reduction effect as a comparison between S0 and each significant scenario.

Table 15. Average values of each thermal characteristic by type of urban space.

	Land Cover	Average SVF (%)	Green Roof Type (%)	Air Temperature (°C)	Wind Speed (m/s)	PMV
Close	Asphalt	0.6	Grass: Trees = 70:30	31.319	5.823	1.832
Semi-open	Asphalt/Green	0.7	Shrubs: Grass = 50:50	32.083	2.067	1.650
Open	Asphalt/Green	0.9	Grass: Trees = 70:30 or 30:70	32.320	1.924	1.603

These results can be interpreted as effective green roof configurations in a form similar to that of semi-open areas, unless space is required by trees. When trees block solar radiation, they can cause space closures if you increase the density with trees, and can hinder heat circulation. In cities, long-wave radiative heat emitted from buildings is one of the factors that increases temperature; thus, heat dissipation due to sufficient circulation must be achieved. However, the lower the SVF, the less heat can be released, and the thermal environment worsens due to continuous circulation inside the city. To improve this, an appropriate green roof ratio should be created. In closed areas, the ratio of grass should be increased, and the ratio of trees should be decreased to make the roof spaces as open as possible. In semi-open areas, the ratio of grass should be increased, and using trees to form wind corridors should be applied to improve the thermal environment. Finally, open areas should likewise increase the ratio of shrubs or trees to create an intermediate SVF.

While previous studies have compared temperature based on existing green roofs compositions, this study analyzed distinctively the coverage rates of plant species that can maximize the heat-island-reduction effect by understanding urban spaces. Green roofs can be constructed to improve the thermal environment in two main ways. First, the SVF should be maintained at a median value of 0.4–0.7. In the scenario in which rooftop gardens were not created, the semi-open area had an average temperature of 32.085 °C, an average wind speed of 2.066 m/s, and a thermal comfort index of 1.650, indicating that the thermal environment was pleasant. This is deeply related to the thermal mechanism, and artificial heat emitted from the city must be circulated by the wind and moved elsewhere or released. In the case of closed areas, it is difficult to circulate artificial heat. In open areas, it is easy to release heat due to fast wind speed, but the temperature rises rapidly because solar radiation is absorbed without obstruction. Therefore, SVF should be set as 0.4–0.7 in order to induce heat circulation and prevent the direct absorption of solar radiation. Second, urban spaces that include closed or open areas should be converted to semi-open areas using shrubs and trees. For closed areas with an SVF ratio of 0.0-0.4 or more, it is effective to configure roofs with 70% grass and 30% trees. Using trees helps in heat circulation by creating wind corridors and minimizing the ratio of trees helps to avoid further space closures. In open areas, it is effective to configure trees so that their shade prevents solar radiation from directly reflecting off the building; this configuration should include 70%:30% ratio of grass to tree or vice versa.

4. Conclusions

The purpose of this study was to provide indications of the choice of green systems to be adopted according to the type of urban spatial structure rather than on building maintenance. Today's cities have been developed so high that no city can be classified as a single type; accordingly, there is a need to establish green roof construction plans designed for each type of city. The present study was conducted using ENVI-met 3D simulation of a university in Seoul, a space that can represent the city due to the various land uses in the surrounding area. Urban spaces were classified into three categories (closed, semi-open, and open) using SVF, which reflects geometric urban spatial structures such as building shape and arrangement, and road width characteristics. The methodology used can be applied anywhere by inputting the appropriate settings into ENVI-space.

As a result of measuring the space of the target site by dividing it into closed, semiopen, and open areas according to the degree of development, semi-open areas were the most comfortable urban type in the scenario in which no green roofs were included. Therefore, in the case of closed and open areas, it is necessary to use shrubs and trees to make the space as open as it is in semi-open areas; that is, the SVF should be 0.5–0.7. In semi-open areas, it is necessary to maintain the existing SVF, but avoid shrubs in preference of the wind speed control and shadow effects of trees; thus, trees and grass should be used to improve the thermal comfort of urban residents.

This study is from the perspective of a single GI—green roofs. Thus, it is necessary to conduct further studies on the urban thermal environment that consider surrounding factors such as wind, solar energy, and land cover, as well as interactions with other GI such as green walls. It is also necessary to understand the components of GI that will change depending on the characteristics of the building such as slab and pillar capacity. Therefore, the efficiency of GI is not completely known, as the effect of improving the thermal environment is insignificant when the only GI implemented is green roofs. That is, green roofs are certain to help improve the thermal environment, but when used alone, it is highly likely that the thermal environment will not be noticeably improved. Nevertheless, this study is differentiated from studies that unify urban structures to prove the effectiveness of green roofs through simple temperature comparisons, as it divides urban types into three categories to consider green roof compositions that can be applicable to other cities. Moreover, this study used an extreme-value approach to examine the thermal environment on the hottest day. This methodology was adopted to maximize the heat-island-reduction effect of green roofs by setting it to the maximum temperature, but there is a need to generalize it through thermal environment analysis at the average temperature in the future. In the future, a follow-up study on the proposed guidelines is needed in consideration of other GI factors that can be applied not only to green roofs, but also to cities.

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