THERMAL COMFORT INDEX

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Key words: bioclimatic index, thermal comfort, bioclimatic stress, meteorological parameters

Abstract: We are showing some bioclimatic indices (formulas or nomograms) for medical purposes, therapeutic tourism, sports, or regionalization. They are based on one, two, three or more different meteorological parameters.

Introduction

One of the important properties of the human body is the homoeothermie which means keeping constant internal body temperature (about 37.5°C). This property is achieved by thermoregulation mechanisms. The body produces heat in case of low temperature environment (e.g. chills, peripheral vasoconstriction, metabolic burning etc.) and gives off heat to the outside in case of too high temperature (e.g. sweating, convection, heat radiation).

This property is linked to the notion of thermal comfort. There is a narrow zone called the zone of neutrality, thermal indifference or thermal comfort when a human body, relatively healthy, easily dressed stand, not loose and does not receive heat. Thermal comfort depends on various parameters.

Such are the physical parameters: air temperature, moisture, air speed, pressure, light intensity. Important are and the organic parameters (age, gender, health status, genetic features (and national) and external parameters: the level of human activity, noise, type of clothing, social conditions (of work, housing, concern).

It has been found that the thermal comfort varies depending of its geographic position. Thus researchers have determined the boundaries of comfort, for England: 14.4 - 20.6°C, for USA: 20.2 - 26.7°C, for tropical regions: 23.3 - 29.4°C (for relative humidity 30-70 %). In the European temperate zone the thermal comfort is appreciated at 16.8°C - 20.8°C TEE.

TEE is equivalent effective temperature and is considered the temperature in °TEE felt by the human body in certain conditions: air temperature (in °C),

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moisture (relative% or tension of water vapor in mb or hPa), currents of air (m/s),
exposure to solar radiation (in °TEER) and other parameters as pressure,
precipitation, etc. (by purpose: tourism, therapeutic etc.)

In these circumstances, researchers have found it necessary to establish some
bioclimatic indices, which reflect the real feeling that the human body has in
different environmental conditions.

1. Indices based on a single element.

They are obtained directly from data from meteorological stations and give
some information on bioclimatic conditions.

Such temperature indices (also called thermal thresholds) are the summer days
(t.max. ≥ 25°C), which shows that during the day are comfortably, tropical days (t.
max ≥ 30°C) showing that the vast majority of day thermal conditions are
uncomfortable, restrictive for sick or elderly people, and hot days (t.max. ≥ 35°C)
when the majority of the population is recommended to reduce outdoor activity,
especially in the sun, when thermal discomfort is maximum.

British climatologists have discussed other temperature thresholds: 21°C,
24°C, 27°C, depending on the activity practiced on vacation (beach, picnic, tennis,
golf) (Smith, 1975) Wind indices (Escourrou, 1989, see Agostini et al.) indicates
that the speed of ≤3 - 4 m/s are recorded convenience, speed 5-9 m/s, require
protection, and to> 10 m/s health problems may occur at different affection (e.g.
from cardiac patients)

Indices of moisture refers to water vapor pressure (pulmonary stress index)
(Besancenot 1974, see Teodoreanu 2002), showing (relaxing) comfort (to between
7.5 and 11.6 hPa. At values ≤ 7.5 hPa, stress is dehydrated (hard) and at > 11.6 hPa
stress is moisturizer (emollient, depressing). If we take into account relative
humidity, comfort is ≈ 50% (30-70%). Below 30%, the air is dry, over 70-80%, the
air is humid, in both cases people can suffer with heart disease and lung. Using
average in drawing maps may serve the purpose of a bioclimatic regionalization.

Indices pressure refers to variation in space, depending in particular vertical
gradient of partial pressure of O₂. If it falls to ≤ 150 hPa (at an altitude of about
2700m) can lead to a state of discomfort for cardiac people or with hypertension,
etc. In exchange may recommend people with anemia, increase red blood cells and
hemoglobin and blood.

Atmospheric pressure variation over time, in meteorological instability
conditions,
is uncomfortable to large variations in short time: +/- 10 ... 15 hPa / 24h.

2. Indices based on temperatures and moisture.

Researchers from different countries have found that feeling cold or especially
heat, at the same degree of temperature is even higher, as the air humidity is higher.
They tried to put into the equation subjective feeling individual by a formula that includes temperature and humidity values (expressed as relative humidity, water vapor pressure or dew point). Based on empirical formulas established scales were developed effective temperature felt by the body under certain conditions of temperature and moisture. So they could give medical advice.

_Humidex index_ (heat index) (Masterton and Richardson 1979, after Agostini et al, 2005)

\[ H_a = T + 0.5555 \times (e^{-10}) \]

where:
- \( T \) = temperature \( ^\circ C \)
- \( e \) = water vapor pressure in the hPA

\( Hu \) (conventionally expressed in \( ^\circ C \)) < 25 - state of comfort,
> 35 - starts discomfort,
> 45 - unbearable restlessness,

at 54 is entering the danger zone for the human body

_Humiture Index_ (Winterling 1979, see Enache, 2001)

\[ Th = t_a + (t - 18) \]

where:
- \( t_a \) = air temperature
- \( t \) = dew point

_Apparent temperature_ (second, of Steadman, 1979) (Maheras, Balafoutis, 1992, Agostini, 2005)

\[ AT = 1.003Ta + 0.399Td - 4.358 \]

where:
- \( Ta \) = air temperature \( ^\circ C \)
- \( Td \) = dew point temperature \( ^\circ C \)

_Thom index_, (1958) for calculating the effective temperature

\[ TE = 0.4 \times (td + tw) + 4.8 \]

where:
- \( TE \) = effective temperature
- \( td \) = dry bulb temperature
- \( tw \) = wet bulb temperature

Comfort zone = around \( 20^\circ C \) (18-22\(^\circ \)C); at \( \geq 26.5^\circ C \) = thermal discomfort; at \( \geq 33^\circ C \)

(\( \rightarrow \) body temperature \( > 40^\circ C \) – possible for the sick, elderly a heat stroke if no action is taken)


\[ THI = T - [(0.55 - 0.0055 \times U \times 5) \times (T_{max} - 14.5)] \]

_Classes thermal comfort index after THI_ (from torrid… to extremely cold)

_Summer Index Simmer_ (Pepi, 1987)

\[ SSI = 1.98 \times [T - (0.55 - 0.0055 \times UR) \times (T - 58)] - 56.83 \]

where:
- \( T \) = dry bulb temperature (\(^\circ F\))
- \( RH \) = relative air humidity (%)
Being a summer show, scale of values goes from cool - comfortable to very warm, sultry

*Arakawa Index* DI= (Disconfort Index1960) (Agostini, 2005)
\[ DI_A = 0,81T + 0,01U(0,99T + 14,3) + 46,3 \]
(From difficult to bear the cold <55…to difficult to bear the heat >80)

*Comfort temperature-humidity index* (recommended by the National Meteorological Agency) (Dragotă, cf. *** 2003):
\[ ITU = (T + 32 \times 1.8) - (0.55 -0.0055 \times U) [(T \times 1.8 + 32) - 58] \]
(from comfort – alert - to the discomfort)

3. **Indices based on the values of temperature and wind speed.**

In bioclimatology it was found that wind is an important element in establishing the feeling of comfort or discomfort of the body. Thus at a low temperature, in the wind conditions, the sensation of cold increases. In contrast, to an elevated temperature, wind reduces the sensation of discomfort and increases the feeling of thermal comfort (obviously if the wind speed does not exceed the tolerability).

*Steadman Index* (1998) (felt real temperature, Te)
\[ Te = 1,41 - 1.162 + 0,98 \times T + 0,0124 \times V^2 + 0,185 (VT) \]
(It is a variation in *wind chill*) (from glacial, to comfortably .... ... until very hot)

*Wind chill* (wind chill index, gélivent, coetaneous stress, thermal-anemometers complex) (Siple and Passel 1945, see Besancenot, 1974 Escourrou, 1989 Teodoreanu, 2002) is expressed by the cooling capacity in kcal / m²h
\[ P (+ 10.45 10^{\sqrt{v} -v}) (33-Ta). \]

He presents three main types of stress levels: by triggering thermolysis summer (atonic-hypotonic), relaxing (with a cooling capacity from 300 to 900 kcal/m²h and hypertonic, by triggering thermogenesis winter.

This index, outside the actual values used in general and other indices for determining comfort (uncomfortable) heat felt at one time can be used by average monthly values for determining skin stress environment of a region, with purpose a regionalization bioclimatic.

4. **Thermal comfort (with three parameters)**

Given the complexity of atmospheric and influence on the human body, researchers have proposed various methods to determine the bioclimatic comfort or stress, formulas or nomograms that include major climatic parameters, particularly temperature, moisture and wind. *Formula Missenard* (cf. Krawszyk, 1975) renders effective temperature equivalent *TEE* felt by the human body to specific values of air temperature, humidity and wind speed:
Thermal comfort index

\[ T = \text{air temperature } ^\circ C \]

\[ \text{f} = \text{relative humidity}\% \]

\[ \text{v} = \text{wind speed m/s} \]

The results can be reported to comfort values on the next diagram where the comfort temperature is between 16.8 and 20.8\(^\circ\)TEE (after normal scale). Under 16.8\(^\circ\)TEE records discomfort by cooling, over 20.8\(^\circ\)TEE, uncomfortable heat.

Below are some examples of nomograms used in bioclimatic and aerotherapy and heliotherapy by physicians balneologist.

Such are the two nomograms Yaglou-Yakovenko (1927) (cf. Agostini 2005 and Baibakova et al, 1964). Determinations are with psychrometers, dry and wet thermometer and with anemometer for wind speed. (Fig.1)

Follows nomogram Seifert (1958), (see Teodoreanu, 2002) (Fig.2):
Fig. 2. Nomogram Seifert for 1 m/s. They are 10 in number, separately for specific wind speed values 0, 1, 2, 3 ... 9 m/s.

They are useful and nomograms Hentschel (cf. Licht, 1964) and domestic comfort nomogram (Givoni 1978, cf. Hufty, 2005) (Fig. 3)

Fig. 3. Nomograms Hentschel (1) and domestic comfort nomogram (2)

Tab. 1. Thermal comfort 20°TEE for different values of the main climatic parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T°C dry thermometer</th>
<th>T°C wet thermometer</th>
<th>U%</th>
<th>V m/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>63</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In these two nomograms thermal comfort area is marked (as in the diagram Yaglou-Yakovenko), so calculating thermal comfort is graphic.

Here for example the temperature of thermal comfort $20^\circ$TEE for different values of the main climatic parameters $t$, $u$ (wet thermometer and relative humidity) and $v$ (Teodoreanu et al, 1984) (Tab.1).

Further illustrate maps of comfort and discomfort by heating in Romania at the time of maximum heating of year (Teodoreanu, 2011) (Fig. 4)

![Maps of comfort and discomfort by heating in Romania](image)

Fig. 4. The mean number of days with thermal comfort (1) and heat discomfort(2), July at 13

It appears that the maximum number of days with thermal comfort of 10-12 days/month is in the hills between 300 and 700 m altitude. Above, in the mountains, this number decreases due to the low temperature and wind growing stronger; above approximately 1500 m, there is no thermal comfort only in some places exposed to the south and sheltered from the wind. Under this limit, in the lowlands, the number of days of comfort decreases in July, mainly due to high temperatures. The maximum number of days with discomfort in the middle of summer is in Bărăgan Plain, about 15 days per month. This number decreases with altitude up to 900-1000m when heat discomfort practically disappears.

![Average number of days with thermal comfort in Romania](image)

Fig.5. Average number of days with thermal comfort in Romania (Teodoreanu, 2011)
During the year, the mean number of days with thermal comfort varies with altitude in the Carpathian-Danubian region, from 0 (November to March) to 12 days in July at an altitude of about 600 m. In plain recorded two peaks thermal comfort, in May and September, 10-11 days, when air temperatures, moisture and atmospheric dynamics are moderated. (Fig.5)

Japanese researchers have developed a material for a planetary atlas of various human bioclimat based on various bioclimatic indices, with 32 maps to extremes months. (After Gregorcruz, Cena, 1967, in accordance Iwakuma, 1994). They considered $20^\circ$ TEE = boundary demarcation thermal comfort, moving between $20^\circ$ latitude N and $30^\circ$ lat. S in January, to the $40^\circ$ lat. N and $20^\circ$ lat. S, in July.

1. Thermal comfort by radiation ($^\circ$TEER)

Şeleihovski nomogram (1948) (cf. Baibakova and all., Teodoreanu, 2002) add to the comfort calculated according $t$, $u$, $v$, and total radiation values.

Solar radiation $\rho$, expressed in cal / cm$^2$min: $\rho = (1 - \alpha)$, where

$\alpha$ = albedo skin

$i$ = intensity of the direct radiation on the surface perpendicular to in cal / cm$^2$min.

For $i = 1$, to the pigmented skin $\alpha = 0.11$ and $\rho = 0.89$,
and to the unpigmented skin $\alpha = 0.28$ and $\rho = 0.72$.

Example discomfort or uncomfortable heat at $22^\circ$ C, depending on the humidity and wind, unpigmented skin (Tab.2)
Tab.2 Thermal comfort and discomfort (in TEE and TEER) when dry thermometer shows 22°C (c. = comfort, i.c. = discomfort by heat; i.r. = discomfort by cooling)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T°C wet bulb</th>
<th>U%</th>
<th>V m/s</th>
<th>°TEE</th>
<th>°TEER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22 i.c.</td>
<td>28 i.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22 i.c.</td>
<td>26.5 i.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19 c.</td>
<td>25.8 i.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20.8 c.</td>
<td>27 i.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18.5 c.</td>
<td>25.5 i.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17.2 c.</td>
<td>24.5 i.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19.5 c.</td>
<td>26 i.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18 c.</td>
<td>25 i.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17 c.</td>
<td>24 i.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19 c.</td>
<td>23 i.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17 c.</td>
<td>22 i.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16 i.r.</td>
<td>21 c.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Empirical Correlation: temperature 0°C - °TEE - °TEER.

It is established after Yaglou-Yakovenko basic scale (Teodoreanu, 1995).

Based on the relationship between the effective temperature in the shade and sun exposure felt they could establish a correlation empirical (under i = 1, unpigmented skin, moderate humidity, little wind) formulas are:

°TEE ≈ t°C - 6.4

°TEER ≈ °TEE + 6.1

°TEER ≈ t°C - 0.3

To note that the error is higher in wet or very dry air and wind over 2 m/s.


Monthly and annual bioclimatic average values are used for bioclimatic regionalization.

We give below the map Romania bioclimatic established after total values stress. (Fig.7)

From this map bioclimatic shown that stress is dependent on the relief. It is minimal (relaxing) in the hills, at altitudes between 400 and 800 m, where the temperature but also humidity and wind speed are moderate. The plain stress increases, mainly due to high summer temperatures and low winter temperatures, low moisture in summer and active dynamics all year. Doctors have called exciting – seeking this stress. At higher altitude, stress grows due to low temperatures, high humidity and high wind speeds. Stress bioclimatic mountain is called tonic - stimulant. Also there are differences between stress gradients, depending on the prevailing atmospheric circulation. Values are the largest in the eastern and
southern Romania, where is evident continental climate character, from Eastern European winter and warm southern air masses.

Fig. 7. Average annual total bioclimatic stress in Romania (Teodoreanu et al, 1984)

7. Other indices used for different purposes: tourism, aero-therapy, helio- and hydro-therapy

Air baths are based on $^0\text{TEE}$ (Mikhailov, 1961, cf. Baibakova, 1964). They depend on $^0\text{TEE}$ and on heat loss (cal / cm$^2$ sec), and they are cool ... cool, indifferent ... to very hot.

Sun bath are based on $^0\text{TEER}$ (Șeleihovski, 1948, cf. Baibakova, 1964, Teodoreanu, 2002)

Heart rhythm (Escourrou, 1989) using the heart rate, metabolism, $t_0\text{C}$, $U$ (hPa) the formula $\text{RC} = 0.029M + 22.4 + 1.26T + 0.53U$ where:

$\text{RC} = \text{heart rate (rhythm, the number of heart beats per minute)}$
$M = \text{metabolism (the calories produced by the body at rest, in time unit)}$
$T = \text{air temperature } ^0\text{C}$
$U = \text{water vapor tension in hPa}$

It is estimated that the index is indicating exactly when tachycardia.

Heart rate (Sutour, 1995 Teodoreanu 2011) in formula

$\text{Fc} = 0.116 M + 1.26t_0 0.525U + 22.4$ where:
$\text{Fc} = \text{heart rate (beats per minute)}$
$t_0 = ^0\text{C temperature}$
$U = \text{water vapor pressure (hPa)}$
$M = \text{metabolism (kcal / m}^2 / \text{h)}$

If adopted for M mean value of 150 kcal / m$^2$ / h, the formula becomes:
Thermal comfort index

\[ F_c = (0.116 \times 150) t^0 + 0.525 + 1.26 + 22.3 U \ i.e. \]
\[ F_c = 1.26 t^0 + U + 0.525 \times 39.8 \]

Formula was used to seaside resorts in France. In the Nordic resorts, the heart rate is kept within normal limits. In Mediterranean resorts, there is an acceleration of heart rate, which means a bioclimatic stress for the body tired, elderly or not adapted.

*Skin temperature as an index of comfort* (Kozlowska-Szczesna, 1985 quoted Twardosz, 1995): temperature (°C), forehead skin (T₁), of the chest (T₂), hand (T₃), thigh (T₄), the foot (T₅), after the formula:

\[ T_s = 0.07T₁ + 0.50T₂ + 0.05T₃ + 0.18T₄ + 0.20T₅ \]

Formula was used to Krakow in June 1993, establishing the relation between thermal sensations and skin temperature Tₛ from cold to very hot.

*Tonicity coefficient Kt* (Sutour, 1995), for spas, after the formula:

\[ Kt = \frac{I T_x - T_n}{P_m P_j N B} \]

where:

- \( I \) = duration of insolation (h)
- \( T_x \) and \( T_n \) = maximum and minimum temperatures (°C)
- \( P_m \) = rainfall (mm)
- \( P_j \) = number of days with precipitation
- \( H \) = relative humidity (%)
- \( N \) = cloud cover (in eighths of sky covered)
- \( V \) = average wind speed (m / s)
- \( B \) = number of days with fog

Classes after the index \( Kt \) for establishing tonicity resorts are: the resort sedative, calming resort ... stimulating, to even exciting

*Biomedical aggressive Index* (Rivolier et al, 1967, Gaceu, cf. *** 2003), which takes into account air humidity, amount and duration of rainfall, wind speed and sunshine duration, resulting in a value that indicates if the day is favorable or with aggressively weather

- *Enthalpy or the amount of calorific energy contained in an air mass* (Boer, cf. Hufty, 2005). Thermodynamic enthalpy is a quantity expressed by the internal energy of a substance and the product of pressure and volume. The formula is:

\[ i = 1.004 (t_w + 1555. e_i / P) \]

where:

- \( i \) = enthalpy in KJ.kg⁻¹
- \( t_w \) = wet bulb temperature
- \( e_i \) = absolute moisture saturation for ambient temperature
- \( P \) = atmospheric pressure. P and \( e_i \) have the same unit: mb, hPa, Pa, mmHg
On this basis, Brazol (1954), Gregorczuk and Cena (1967) conducted a global bioclimatic classification (especially suitable for hot climates) from the suffocating heat, hot, comfortable to ... cool


\[ I = (T_j + T_m + H_j) - (v_i + B_j + P_j + G_j + N_j) \]

where in order:
- air temperature, seawater temperature, the number of sunshine hours, number of days with rain.
- days with strong winds (> 16 m / s), days with nautical foggy, days with frost, and number of days with snow.

Charts and monthly curves were calculated for 16 French spas.


\[ I = (S + T + 5D) / 5 \]

where:
- S = duration of sunshine, hours
- T = average monthly temperature (in decimal degrees)
- D = duration of rainfall during the day

This reveals the optimal duration of tourist season and cures outdoors especially during the warm season.

Climatic balneary Index ICB (Burnet, 1963, Gaceu, cf.*** 2003, Sorocovschi, 2008)

\[ ICB = N / T \]

respectively the number of rainy days in the four months of summer season and t°C during that period.

The potential tourism of the region: high, satisfactory, low.

There are still many bioclimatic indices: Weather summer touristic index (Davis 1968, cf. Teodoreanu, 2002), Predicted 4 hours sweat rate index $P_4$SRI (Mc ARDL 1947), Index relative effort RSI, (Lee and Henschel, 1963), Fanger's effort equation, predicted mean vote, PMV, Weather classes (Baibalova et al, 1964, Teodoreanu, 2002), The equivalent blackbody temperature, $T_{eq}$ (Campbell, 1977) etc.

Conclusions

The big number of bioclimatic indices show that researchers trying to quantify in a single formula the relationship between climatic stress and the human body. But it is obvious that thermal comfort depends on many factors: geographical and physical parameters, but and the organic individual parameters and also social parameters.

Thermal comfort indices are generally characteristic for the warm season. For the cold season, are inserted besides wild chill parameters formula with special units of clothing (in units $\text{Clo}$)
Some different indices give complementary results and highlight certain aspects. Such thermal comfort and bioclimatic stress give results that converge in interpretation: when thermal comfort is great, bioclimatic stress is reduced and vice versa. (As shown in the Romania maps of comfort and stress)

This big number of bioclimatic indices show that does not exist a general planetary index for all of these conditions. We cannot establish a general formula, valid for any kind of geographical and weather conditions and thus to satisfy medical requirements for health or tourism.

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