The occupancy model evaluation unit 102 calculates the power consumption value corresponding to each occupancy model by executing a simulation for occupancy model selection using the past simulation target information output from the input condition extraction unit 101 and each of the occupancy models retrieved from the occupancy model storage unit 182, and outputs information showing the calculated power consumption values corresponding to the respective occupancy models to the occupancy model selection unit 103.

[0036] (Step S14)

First, the occupancy model selection unit 103 retrieves, from the power consumption record storage unit 183, the actual power consumption value of the facility in the simulation target area in a period equivalent to the simulation period corresponding to the past simulation target information. Next, the occupancy model selection unit 103 compares the retrieved actual power consumption value with the power consumption value corresponding to each occupancy model output from the occupancy model evaluation unit 102, and among the power consumption values corresponding to the respective occupancy models output from the occupancy model evaluation unit 102, outputs the occupancy model that corresponds to the power consumption value with the smallest error with respect to the retrieved power consumption value to the power consumption calculation unit 104.

[0037] (Step S15)

The power consumption calculation unit 104 calculates the power consumption value in the simulation target area during the simulation period by executing a simulation after occupancy model selection using the simulation target information output from the input condition storage unit 180 and the occupancy model output from the occupancy model selection unit 103.

errors between the occupancy model retrieved by the occupancy model evaluation unit 102 and the respective ones of the occupancy models output from the occupancy model storage unit 182, and outputs the occupancy model with the smallest error with respect to the occupancy model retrieved by the occupancy model evaluation unit 102 among the occupancy models output from the occupancy model storage unit 182. The occupancy model selection unit 103 selects an occupancy model with a relatively small difference with respect to the similar-power occupancy model as the selected occupancy model. An occupancy model thus selected is considered to be an occupancy model that would generate a simulation result relatively close to the actual power consumption value.

[0050] ***Description of operation***

Fig. 6 is a flowchart illustrating an example of the operation of the occupancy model selection apparatus 100 according to Embodiment 2. With reference to this drawing, the operation of the occupancy model selection apparatus 100 is described.

[0051] (Step S21)

First, the input condition extraction unit 101 uses simulation target information output from the input condition storage unit 180 to calculate the length of the simulation period corresponding to the simulation target information. Next, the input condition extraction unit 101 retrieves at least one pair of past simulation target information corresponding to a period equivalent to the simulation period of the same length as the calculated length of the simulation period and the power consumption value corresponding to the past simulation target information from the past input condition storage unit 181, and outputs information showing the retrieved pair to the input condition evaluation unit 105.

[0052] (Step S22)

180, among pieces of past simulation target information output from the past input condition storage unit 181, and outputs the retrieved similar simulation target information. Similar simulation target information is past simulation target information that indicates conditions similar to the conditions indicated by the simulation target information. The conditions indicated by the simulation target information can be conditions related to the size of an area and the level of the area, as specific examples.

[0077] (Similar input condition storage unit 184)

The similar input condition storage unit 184 accumulates the one or more pieces of similar simulation target information output from the similar input condition extraction unit 107 and outputs accumulated similar simulation target information.

[0078] The occupancy model evaluation unit 102 uses the similar simulation target information instead of past simulation target information.

[0079] ***Description of operation***

Fig. 10 is a flowchart illustrating an example of the operation of the occupancy model selection apparatus 100 according to the present embodiment. With reference to this drawing, the operation of the occupancy model selection apparatus 100 is described.

[0080] (Step S41)

The similar input condition extraction unit 107 retrieves one or more pieces of similar simulation target information for the simulation target information output from the input condition storage unit 180 among the pieces of past simulation target information output from the past input condition storage unit 181, and outputs the retrieved similar simulation target information to the similar input condition storage unit 184.