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A lighting system for photography support

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Key words : lighting, three point lighting, taking a picture, research support

This paper introduces support tools designed for photography beginners, to help them learn about lighting methods. We operate this system to obtain relevant parameters by actual shooting, based on an analysis of professional photographers' lighting skills. And furthermore, we set 3 levels of difficulty for the users.

In the first stage, users are asked to duplicate lighting effects shown in model photography. Then, users manipulate ordinary home lighting lamps according to relevant parameters displayed on a PC screen, and conduct real-time monitoring of changes shown on the screen, so that they can master the fundamental method 3-point lighting. In the second stage, through practicing more subtle lighting adjustments, users learn how to represent objects' surface features. In the third stage, with the help of photographic aids, users make flexible use of natural light to produce their expected photographic effects.

The support tools are written in Java on the JBuilder platform.

Finally, 12 users were invited to conduct photography using this system and then other 22 users were asked to evaluate the photos taken by 12 users subjectively. Evaluation results on this system proved its effectiveness.