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Uncertainty analysis of a pavement reflectance measurement system based on a gonio-photometer

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A pavement reflectance measurement system is established based on a gonio-photometer existing by changing a bracket to carry the road sample and luminance meter, adding a collimated light source to provide incident light. This automated system could finish the reflection measurement of a road sample in 4 h. An uncertainty budget of this measurement system is made and the combined standard uncertainty of $Q_0$ is 5.26%.

It is essential and necessary to acquire the road reflectance characteristics before designing a high quality lighting installation. The reflectance characteristics of the pavement have been measured by a lot of scientists since mid-1960s and expressed as a table of reduced luminance coefficients called the r-table. Figure 1 shows one standard r-table, C2, which is recommended by CIE (International Commission on Illumination).

Generally, measurement is taken under 1 degree observation angle which results from the 1.5-m height of a driver’s eyes looking at a point 86 m ahead from the driver’s position. Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF), which determines the distribution of reflected light under an illumination, can be used to describe the measured pavement reflection characteristics as:

$$q(\beta, \gamma) = \frac{L_p(\beta, \gamma)}{E_H},$$

where $\beta$ is the angle between vertical plane of incidence and vertical plane of observation, and $\gamma$ is the angle of incidence from the downward vertical. Point P is the test point and $L_p$ is the luminance of the point which can be measured by a luminance meter. $E_H$ is the horizontal illuminance at point P.

According to CIE report 66-1984, road surfaces can be characterized by just two parameters, known as $S_1$ and $Q_0$, $S_1$ is specular factor which is the relative strength of reflection at low incident angles compared to that at high incident angles. $Q_0$ is the average luminance coefficient which is calculated as the integral of the product of the luminance coefficient $q(\beta, \gamma)$ and the solid angle represented by $q$ divided by the solid angle of all of the measurements as:

$$Q_0 = \frac{\int q(\beta, \gamma) d\Omega}{\int d\Omega},$$

where $\Omega$ is the solid angle of the integration area defined by CIE document 30.2. The integration limits for the $Q_0$ calculation are $\beta=0^\circ$ to $180^\circ$ and $\tan(\gamma)=-4$ to 12. Substitute Eq. (1) into Eq. (2),

$$Q_0 = \frac{\int L_p(\beta, \gamma) d\Omega}{\int d\Omega}.$$
which influence the measurement of $Q_0$ is talked and an uncertainty budget is given. Finally, a combined standard uncertainty of 5.26% is obtained.

This measurement system is established based on a gonio-photometer by changing a bracket which can hold the road sample and an imaging luminance meter, adding a collimated light source to provide incident light. The gonio-photometer’s arms can rotate automatically and their angle resolutions are all under 0.01°.

The detection system is made up of an imaging luminance meter (CX-2A, Ever fine photo-e-info co. ltd) and a reflective mirror (mirror 3). Imaging luminance meter is held by the bracket with 1 degree observation angle. The light source system comprises a halogen lamp and two reflective mirrors (mirror 1 and 2). The halogen lamp used in this system is a 100-W quartz-tungsten-halogen lamp, which is collimated by a reflector and operated at a color temperature of 3000 K. The light beam is incident directly to mirror 1 and then reflected to mirror 2 and then to the sample which is placed on the bracket. The reflected light from the sample is incident to mirror 3 and then the luminance meter can detect the reflected light from mirror 3.

During the measurement, gonio-photometer’s arms rotate the luminance meter in $\beta$ plane from 0 to 180 degree and incident light in $\gamma$ plane with the range of $[0^\circ, 85.24^\circ]$. After gonio-photometer rotates to one measurement point, the detector records the luminance data and it can be saved automatically. The whole measurement procedure can be finished in 4 h.

The pavement reflectance, $Q_0$, is a function that relates to the illuminance falling onto it from a given direction to its contribution to the luminance that is reflected at 1 degree observation angle. Besides, lamp drift should be considered. Therefore, it can be expressed by

$$Q_0 = f(L, E, \gamma, \alpha, \varphi),$$

where $L$ represents luminance and $E$ is illuminance, $\gamma$ and $\alpha$ represent incident angle and observation angle, respectively. $\varphi$ represents lamp drift. According to the standard uncertainty assessment method recommended in GUM (Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement)\(^\text{[10]}\), the uncertainty of $Q_0$ is given by

$$u^2(Q_0) = \left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial L} \right|^2 u^2(L) + \left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial E} \right|^2 u^2(E) + \left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial \gamma} \right|^2 u^2(\gamma)$$
Illuminance measurement uncertainty is made up of two components: repeatability and position uncertainty. The linearity uncertainty of illuminance meter can be neglected, therefore, $u(E)$ is given by
\[
u^2(E) = u^2(E_r) + u^2(E_p),
\]
where $u(E_r)$ represents the repeatability of the illuminance meter. According to the method used in $u(L_r)$ evaluation, $u(E_r)$ is less than 0.01%. $u(E_p)$ is the relative standard uncertainty in illuminance measurement caused by position uncertainty. Its value is evaluated as less than 0.15%. Then, uncertainty in illuminance measurement is calculated equal to 0.15%.

The sensitivity coefficient of $u(E)$ is calculated assuming that the illuminance on the sample changes 1 percent. Therefore, $\Delta Q_0$ can be calculated by
\[
\Delta Q_0 = Q_0 - Q_0' = \frac{\sum_{\beta=0}^{180.10\gamma=0} L_p(\beta, \gamma) \cdot \Omega_{\beta, \gamma}}{E_H \cdot \Omega_0} - \frac{-\sum_{\beta=0}^{180.10\gamma=0} L_p(\beta, \gamma) \cdot \Omega_{\beta, \gamma}}{E_H \cdot \Omega_0}.
\]
(11)

Then, $c_2$ can be obtained to be equal to $2.869 \times 10^{-4}$/% by Eq. (4).

\[
c_2 \approx \frac{\Delta Q_0}{\Delta E} = \frac{\Delta Q_0}{1\%}.
\]
(12)

The standard uncertainty of incident angle, $u(\gamma)$, is evaluated equal to 0.1°.

The sensitivity coefficient of incident angle is given by
\[
c_3 \approx \frac{\Delta Q_0}{\Delta \gamma} = \frac{\Delta Q_0}{0.1\%}.
\]
(13)

Assuming incident angle changes 0.1 degree, the illuminance of tested point, $L_p''(\beta, \gamma)$, can be obtained by linear interpolation. Then $\Delta Q_0$ can be calculated as
\[
\Delta Q_0 = Q_0 - Q_0' = \frac{\sum_{\beta=0}^{180.10\gamma=0} L_p(\beta, \gamma) \cdot \Omega_{\beta, \gamma}}{E_H \cdot \Omega_0} - \frac{-\sum_{\beta=0}^{180.10\gamma=0} L_p(\beta, \gamma) \cdot \Omega_{\beta, \gamma}}{E_H \cdot \Omega_0}.
\]
(14)

Substitute Eq. (14) into Eq. (13), the sensitivity coefficient of 3.815 $\times 10^{-5}$/° can be easily obtained.

The standard uncertainty of observation angle, $u(\alpha)$, is given by the positioning of the illuminance meter and evaluated as 0.1°.

To calculate the sensitivity coefficient of $u(\alpha)$, we measured same sample trice in different observation angles (0.5°, 1°, and 1.5°) and $c_4$ is calculated equal to $1.361 \times 10^{-2}$/° by
\[
c_4 \approx \frac{\Delta Q_0}{\Delta \alpha} = \frac{\Delta Q_0}{0.5\%}.
\]
(15)

Lamp drift has to be considered because illuminance is measured at the beginning while luminance is measured during the whole test. Considering the vibration of power source, the relative standard uncertainty of light source drift is evaluated as less than 1%.

It is assumed that the luminance declines 1% when measurement is finished and that the luminance is falling uniformly during the test. Thus, the luminance of tested point $L_p''(\beta, \gamma)$ can be calculated by
\[
L_p''(\beta, \gamma) = L_p(\beta, \gammaj)/\left(1 - \frac{1% \times (20 \times (j-1)) + 1}{579}\right),
\]
(16)

where $i$ & $j$ represent the number of $\beta$ & $\gamma$, respectively. Then, $\Delta Q_0$ can be obtained by
\[
\Delta Q_0 = \frac{Q_0 - Q_0'}{Q_0} = \frac{\sum_{\beta=0}^{180.10\gamma=0} L_p(\beta, \gamma) \cdot \Omega_{\beta, \gamma}}{E_H \cdot \Omega_0} - \frac{-\sum_{\beta=0}^{180.10\gamma=0} L_p(\beta, \gamma) \cdot \Omega_{\beta, \gamma}}{E_H \cdot \Omega_0}.
\]
(17)

Subsequently, the sensitivity coefficient of lamp drift is equal to $-1.66 \times 10^{-2}$/% calculated by
\[
c_5 \approx \frac{\Delta Q_0}{\Delta \varphi} = \frac{\Delta Q_0}{1\%}.
\]
(18)

Sample position uncertainty needn’t to be considered in this measurement system, because the field of view of the illuminance meter is large enough to take a photo of the road sample, misalignment in the $x$, $y$, and $z$ directions does not influence $Q_0$ values any more. Besides, environment temperature is controlled by an air conditioner, thus the uncertainty of temperature also can be neglected.

Finally, substitute all the uncertainty components and sensitivity coefficients into Eq. (6), we can conclude that the measurement uncertainty of $Q_0$ is $1.51 \times 10^{-3}$. A typical sample’s $Q_0$ is 0.287, therefore the relative standard uncertainty of the system is about 5.26% and the relative expanded uncertainty is 10.5% ($k=2$). All the uncertainty components which were calculated above are listed in Table 1. From Table 1 we can find that the observation

<p>| Table 1. Uncertainty Budget of Pavement Reflectance Measurement |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Uncertainty</th>
<th>Standard Uncertainty</th>
<th>Sensitivity Coefficient</th>
<th>Uncertainty in $Q_0$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luminance Measurement</td>
<td>2.24%</td>
<td>$2.869 \times 10^{-4}$/%</td>
<td>6.42 $\times 10^{-4}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illuminance Measurement</td>
<td>0.1503%</td>
<td>$2.869 \times 10^{-4}$/%</td>
<td>4.31 $\times 10^{-5}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident Angle</td>
<td>0.1°</td>
<td>$3.815 \times 10^{-5}$/°</td>
<td>3.82 $\times 10^{-6}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation Angle</td>
<td>0.1°</td>
<td>$1.361 \times 10^{-2}$/°</td>
<td>1.36 $\times 10^{-3}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Source Drift</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>$-1.066 \times 10^{-2}$/%</td>
<td>$-1.07 \times 10^{-4}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Standard Uncertainty</td>
<td>1.51 $\times 10^{-3}$</td>
<td>Relative Standard Uncertainty</td>
<td>5.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Expanded Uncertainty</td>
<td>10.5% ($k=2$)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
angle is the most sensitive uncertainty component and contributes most to the overall uncertainty. This is due to that the reflectance of the mirror is angle sensitive. In order to improve the system uncertainty, mirror 3 can be removed. However, the bracket for the luminance meter needs much larger space to obtain adequate observation distance. Then the whole experimental apparatus needs to be rebuilt.

In conclusion, a brief description of a road surface reflectance measurement system is presented in this letter. The system is developed based on a gonio-photometer by changing a bracket and adding a collimated light source. The measurement uncertainty of this system is analyzed using standard GUM method. A relative standard uncertainty of 5.26% of the measurement system is obtained.

References
8. CIE 66-1984, “Road surfaces and Lighting (Joint CIE/PIARC publication)”.
9. CIE 141-2001, “Road surface and road marking reflection characteristics”.