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ERRORS OF NON-CONTACT TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENT

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Abstract. In recent years, there is a trend of improving the performance and efficiency of all existing measuring instruments due to a leap in technology. Almost every industry uses a variety of technologies that apply temperature control. Temperature of a heated body can be estimated by measuring the parameters of its thermal radiation, which are electromagnetic waves of different lengths. Temperature measurement is necessary for comfortable automatic control and management of production processes. The use of non-contact means makes it possible to measure the temperature of, firstly, moving objects, secondly, objects in inaccessible places, thirdly, to avoid damage to the measuring instruments when controlling large temperatures. High speed, the possibility of measuring temperature without disconnecting the object from the technological process, ensuring personnel safety, temperature measurement up to 3000 °C – these are the advantages of non-contact temperature measurement method. To obtain reliable values when measuring thermophysical quantities it is necessary to know the processes occurring in interaction of the measuring device or sensor with the object of measurement. These processes affect the magnitude of the measurement error, that is, magnitude of the result deviation from the true value of the measured parameter. This paper describes the errors of non-contact temperature measurement of pyrometers, namely total radiation pyrometer, partial radiation pyrometer, spectral ratio pyrometer, as well as shows the results of comparative calculations between them. Expressions for the evaluation of methodical errors of total radiation, partial radiation and spectral ratio pyrometers are given, as well as the results of comparative calculations of errors are shown.

Keywords: total radiation pyrometer, partial radiation pyrometer, spectral ratio pyrometer, pyrometer, non-contact temperature measurement, totally black body, methodical error

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ПОГРЕШНОСТИ БЕСКОНТАКТНОГО ИЗМЕРЕНИЯ ТЕМПЕРАТУРЫ

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Аннотация. В последнее время наблюдается тенденция улучшения характеристик и действенности всех существующих средств измерения за счет скачка развития технологий. Практически в каждой отрасли промышленности применяются разнообразные технологии, использующие контроль температуры. Температуру нагретого тела можно оценить путем измерения параметров его теплового излучения, которое представляет собой электромагнитные волны различной длины. Замер температуры необходим для комфортного автоматического контроля и управления производствами. Использование бесконтактных средств дает возможность осуществлять измерение температуры, во-первых, перемещающихся предметов, во-вторых, предметов, находящихся в малодоступных местах, в-третьих, избежать повреждения измерительных приборов при контроле больших температур. Высокое быстродействие, вероятность измерения температуры без отключения объекта от технологического процесса, обеспечение безопасности персонала, замер температуры до 3000 °C – это достоинства бесконтактного способа измерения температуры. Для получения достоверных значений при определении теплофизических величин необходимо знание процессов, происходящих при взаимодействии измерительного прибора или датчика с объектом измерения. Эти процессы оказывают влияние на величину погрешности замера, т. е. на величину отклонения результата от истинного значения измеряемой величины. В настоящей работе описаны погрешности бесконтактного измерения температуры с помощью пирометров, таких как пирометр суммарного излучения, пирометр частичного излучения, пирометр спектрального отношения, а также показаны результаты сравнительных расчетов между ними. Приведены выражения для оценки методических погрешностей пирометров суммарного излучения, частичного излучения и спектрального отношения, а также показаны результаты сравнительных расчетов погрешностей.

Ключевые слова: пиrometer суммарного излучения, пиrometer частичного излучения, пиrometer спектрального отношения, пиrometer, бесконтактное измерение температуры, абсолютно черное тело, методическая погрешность

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Non-contact temperature measurement is preferable for assessing the temperature of small, moving, and inaccessible objects, as well as in fast processes¹, that require rapid response. It is also suitable for temperatures above 1000 °C. In order to select the most appropriate non-contact temperature probe for a specific application, it is necessary to acquire a fundamental understanding of temperature measurements principles^{2, 3}.

A pyrometer serves as a non-contact temperature sensor that estimates the temperature of an object by detecting its naturally emitted thermal radiation [1; 2]⁴. There are several types of pyrometers available, including:

- total radiation pyrometer (TRP). This pyrometer records or employs the total radiation emitted by the heated body as a feedback signal to maintain the heat source temperature [3]⁵;
- partial radiation pyrometer (PRP). This pyrometer measures the energy within a specific spectral range by employing a filter;
- spectral ratio pyrometer (SRP). This pyrometer estimates the energy between two measured wavelengths, which is then converted into a temperature value [4]^{6, 7}.

Specifications of various pyrometers can be found in the provided table [5]^{8, 9}.

¹ Noncontact temperature measurement theory and application. *OMEGA Engineering*. URL: <https://www.omega.co.uk/temperature/z/noncontacttm.html> (Last accessed: 01.03.2023).

² HEITRONICS infrared pyrometers and thermometers. *Wintronics*. URL: <https://www.winton.com/Infrared/Guide-to-Infrared-Thermometers> (Last accessed: 01.03.2023).

³ Non contact temperature measurement. *TempSens*. URL: <https://tempsens.com/blog/non-contact-temperature-measurement> (Last accessed: 01.03.2023).

⁴ Пиrometer. История – энциклопедия «Wikipedia». URL: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyrometer> (Last accessed: 01.03.2023).

⁵ Пиrometer. Журналы и книги «ScienceDirect». URL: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/pyrometer> (Last accessed: 01.03.2023).

⁶ What is pyrometer: Working principle and its types. *ElProCus, an educational website on electronic projects for ECE and EEE students*. URL: <https://www.elprocus.com/what-is-pyrometer-working-principle-and-its-types/> (Last accessed: 01.03.2023).

⁷ What is radiation pyrometer? *Electrical Deck, platform for learning all about electrical and electronics engineering*. URL: <https://www.electricaldeck.com/2021/07/what-is-radiation-pyrometer-infrared-and-total-radiation-pyrometer.html> (Last accessed: 01.03.2023).

⁸ Pyrometers. General Specifications. URL: <https://files.stroyinf.ru/Data/61/6104.pdf> (Last accessed: 01.03.2023).

⁹ Pyrometers. Specifications. *Encyclopedia of Mechanical Engineering XXL*. URL: <https://mash-xxl.info/info/56776/> (Last accessed: 01.03.2023).

Pyrometers are calibrated using a blackbody (BB). In real-world applications, there may be differences between the actual temperature of the object and the readings obtained from the pyrometer [6; 7]. To account for this, corrections are applied to the pyrometer readings [8]. The total radiation pyrometer measures the radiation temperature T_R of the real body, which refers to the temperature of the blackbody at which it emits the same amount of energy across the entire wavelength range as the real body at its actual temperature T_A . The partial radiation pyrometer measures the brightness temperature T_B of the real body, indicating the temperature of the blackbody at which it emits the same amount of energy at a specific wavelength (or within a narrow wavelength range) as the real body at T_A . The spectral ratio pyrometer measures the color temperature T_C of the real body, representing the temperature of the blackbody at which the ratio of its spectral flux densities at wavelengths λ_1 and λ_2 is equivalent to that of the real body at T_A . The relationship between T_R and T_A is described by Stephan-Boltzmann's law, while the relationships between T_B and T_A , as well as T_B and T_A , are established by Planck's law [9; 10].

The systematic error of pyrometer temperature measurement is influenced by the blackness ε of the object. The blackness is determined by the chemical composition of the radiation source, its temperature, and the condition of its surface. The blackness value of a metal surface is affected by its oxidation level, with oxidized surface exhibiting higher blackness values compared to non-oxidized surfaces. Additionally, rough surfaces have higher ε value compared to smooth surfaces. It is important to note that the measurement of blackness is subject to some degree of error [11]^{10, 11, 12}.

The error associated with pyrometer measurements due to blackness can be estimated based on the following references [12 – 14]:

$$\Delta T_{R_{\Delta\varepsilon}} = -\frac{1}{4} T_A \frac{\Delta\varepsilon}{\varepsilon}; \quad (1)$$

$$\Delta T_{B_{\Delta\varepsilon}} = \frac{\Delta\varepsilon_{\lambda}}{\varepsilon_{\lambda}} \frac{\lambda T_A^2}{c_2}; \quad (2)$$

¹⁰ Blackbody Radiation. URL: <http://www.physics.rutgers.edu/~gersh/351/Lecture%202026.pdf> (Last accessed: 01.03.2023).

¹¹ Calibration of Pyrometers using Black Body. *Inst Tools*. URL: <https://instrumentationtools.com/calibration-of-pyrometers-using-black-body/> (Last accessed: 07.11.2022).

¹² Blackbody Radiation. URL: <https://ps.uci.edu/~cyu/p224/LectureNotes/lecture4/lecture4.pdf> (Last accessed: 01.03.2023).

Characteristics of pyrometers

Характеристики пирометров

Name	Property, UoM	Value
TRP	Temperature range, °C	-50 ... +2500
	Max basic error for temperature measurements:	
	up to 400 °C, °C	±4.0; ±6.0; ±8.0
	above 400 °C, %	±0.5; ±1.0; ±1.5; ±2.0
	Permissible instrument error for temperature measurements:	
	up to 400 °C, °C	±2.0; ±3.0; ±4.0
	above 400 °C, %	±0.25; ±0.50; ±0.60; ±1.00
	Portable pyrometer weight, kg, not more	1.5
	Portable pyrometer power consumption, W, not more	1.5
SRP	Temperature range, °C	-30 ... +4000
	Max basic error for temperature measurements:	
	up to 400 °C, °C	±4.0; ±6.0; ±8.0
	above 400 °C, %	±0.5; ±1.0; ±1.5; ±2.0
	Permissible instrument error for temperature measurements:	
	up to 400 °C, °C	±2.0; ±3.0; ±4.0
	above 400 °C, %	±0.25; ±0.50; ±0.60; ±1.00
	Portable pyrometer weight, kg, not more	1.8
	Portable pyrometer power consumption, W, not more	1.5
PRP	Temperature range, °C	+200 ... +3000
	Max basic error for temperature measurements:	
	up to 1000 °C, °C	±16.0; ±20.0
	above 1000 °C and up to 2000 °C, %	±1.0; ±1.5
	above 2000 °C, %	±1.5; ±2.0
	Permissible instrument error for temperature measurements:	
	up to 1000 °C, °C	±8.0; ±10.0
	above 1000 °C and up to 2000 °C, %	±0.5; ±1.0
	above 2000 °C, %	±1.0; ±1.5
	Portable pyrometer weight, kg, not more	2.0
	Portable pyrometer power consumption, W, not more	1.8

$$\Delta T_{C_{\Delta\varepsilon}} = \left(\frac{\Delta\varepsilon_{\lambda_1}}{\varepsilon_{\lambda_1}} - \frac{\Delta\varepsilon_{\lambda_2}}{\varepsilon_{\lambda_2}} \right) \frac{T_A^2}{c_2} \frac{\lambda_1\lambda_2}{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}. \quad (3)$$

We conducted an analysis using MS Excel to examine the relationship between the measurement error of the TRP at an actual temperature of 1273 K and the blackness measurement of the object, as expressed in equation (1).

Our findings indicate that as the blackness of the object increases, the error of the radiation pyrometer decreases (Fig. 1). It should be noted that the total radiation pyrometer exhibits the lowest systematic accuracy.

Results for equation (2) are presented in Figs. 2, 3, corresponding to effective wavelengths of 0.92 and 1.55 μm, respectively.

These figures illustrate that the error of the PRP decreases as the blackness of the object increases. Additionally, when measuring the same object, an PRP operating at a shorter wavelength demonstrates a smaller error compared to an instrument operating at a longer wavelength.

Let us analyze equation (3) at a temperature of 1000 K and spectral blackness values of 0.36 and 0.39 for the λ₁ and λ₂ wavelengths, respectively. Fig. 4 represent

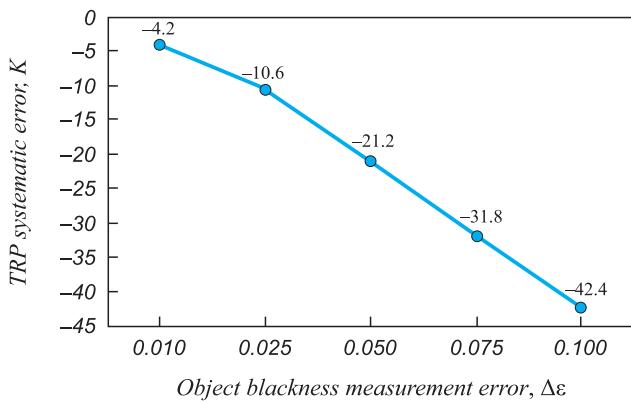


Fig. 1. Dependence of methodological error of PSI measurement on the error of determining blackness degree of the object

Рис. 1. Зависимость методической погрешности измерения ПСИ от ошибки определения степени черноты объекта

the relationship, which indicates that higher blackness results lower error for the SRP. It is important to note that even a small error in spectral blackness measurement can lead to significant measurement errors.

In certain cases, substantial systematic errors can arise due to the background heat radiation of the lining. This may occur in strand-type and continuous furnaces when the lining temperature is significantly higher than the metal temperature, causing the pyrometer to receive reflected heat radiation that is more intense than the radiation emitted by the metal.

Let us denote the metal temperature as T_m , its blackness as ε , and the lining temperature as T_{ln} . We will consider the equation for the radiation temperature in the presence of background radiation

$$\Delta T_R = T_m^4 \sqrt{\varepsilon + (1-\varepsilon) \frac{T_{ln}^4}{T_m^4}}. \quad (4)$$

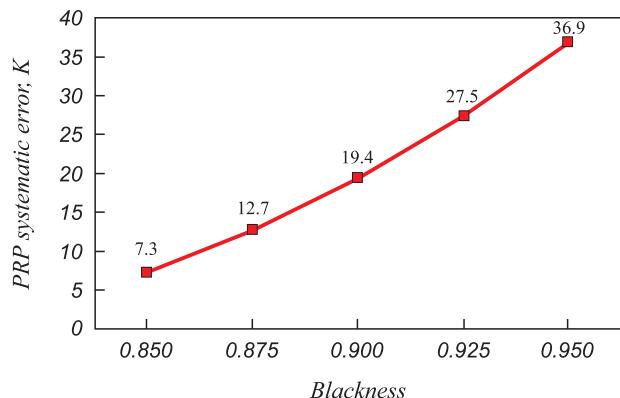


Fig. 3. Methodological error of PCI as a function of blackness degree at a wavelength of 1.55 μm

Рис. 3. Методическая погрешность ПЧИ в зависимости от степени черноты при длине волны 1,55 мкм

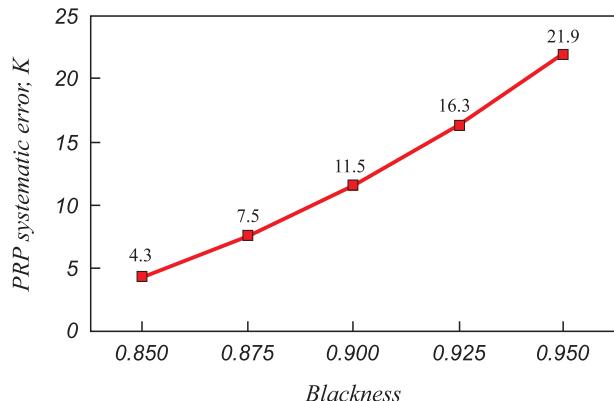


Fig. 2. Methodological error of PCI as a function of blackness degree at a wavelength of 0.92 μm

Рис. 2. Методическая погрешность ПЧИ в зависимости от степени черноты при длине волны 0,92 мкм

The results of estimations using the equation mentioned are presented in Fig. 5. It illustrates that as the lining temperature increases, the systematic error of the TRP also increases.

The relationship between the PRP systematic error and background radiation can be estimated according to references as [15; 16]

$$\frac{1}{T_C} = \frac{1}{T_m} - \frac{\lambda}{c_2} \ln \left\{ \varepsilon_\lambda + (1-\varepsilon_\lambda) \exp \left[-\frac{c_2}{\lambda} \left(\frac{1}{T_{ln}} - \frac{1}{T_m} \right) \right] \right\}. \quad (5)$$

The results obtained at the 0.92 μm effective wavelength are depicted in Fig. 6. It is evident that the systematic error of the PRP also increases with the lining temperature.

SRP systematic error, K as a function of the background radiation is estimated as

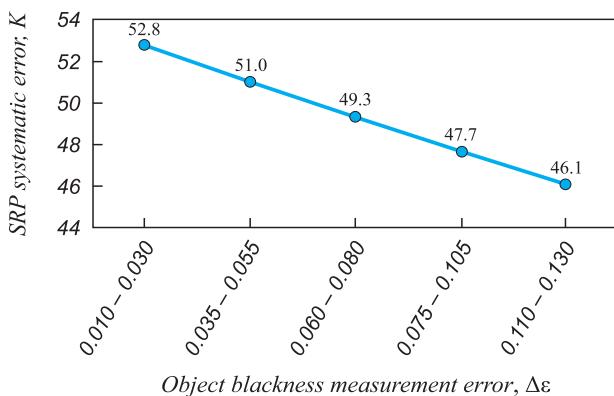


Fig. 4. Dependence of methodological error of SOA measurement on spectral blackness degree of the object

Рис. 4. Зависимость методической погрешности измерения ПСО от спектральной степени черноты объекта

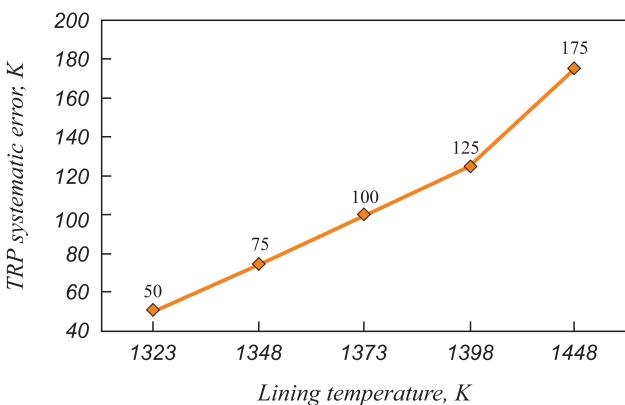


Fig. 5. Dependence of methodological error of PSI measurement on background radiation

Рис. 5. Зависимость методической погрешности измерения ПСИ от фонового излучения

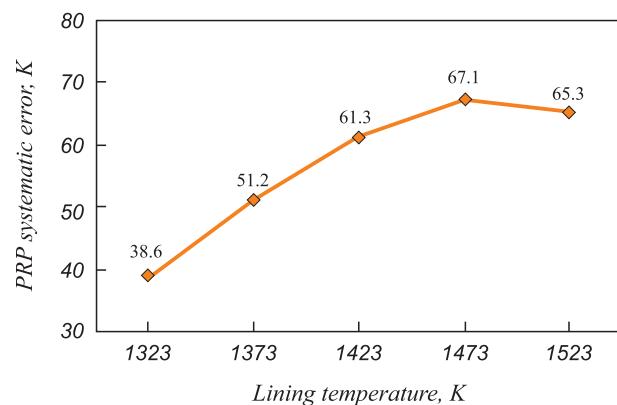


Fig. 6. Methodological error of PCI as a function of background radiation at a wavelength of 0.92 μm

Рис. 6. Методическая погрешность ПЧИ в зависимости от фонового излучения при длине волн 0,92 мкм

background radiation, such as shielding or blackening of the measured object, among others.

One approach to mitigate background radiation from the lining and ambient medium is to install a water-cooled lance in the line of sight of the pyrometer, positioned over the metal. This lance supplies a transparent gas, such as air or nitrogen, which helps to reduce the background radiation. However, it should be noted that such lances come with high operating costs and can significantly cool down the heat zone. As a result, this method is not commonly employed.

When the systematic error of non-contact temperature measurement is known, appropriate corrections can still be applied to obtain the actual temperature of the object, even if it is not possible to reduce the error itself.

CONCLUSIONS

Through the utilization of Planck's and Stephan-Boltzmann's laws, we have established the relationship between the actual temperature of the object and the readings obtained from the pyrometer, allowing us to assess the instrument's error.

The analysis demonstrates that the discrepancy between the actual temperature and the pyrometer readings increases with temperature. Particularly, for objects with low blackness values, this discrepancy can reach several tens of degrees, significantly affecting the accuracy of temperature measurements.

When selecting a specific pyrometer, it is crucial to consider its unique properties and the surrounding environmental conditions in order to minimize measurement errors.

Even in situations where it is not possible to completely eliminate or reduce systematic errors, knowing the error allows for appropriate corrections to be made, leading to more accurate temperature readings.

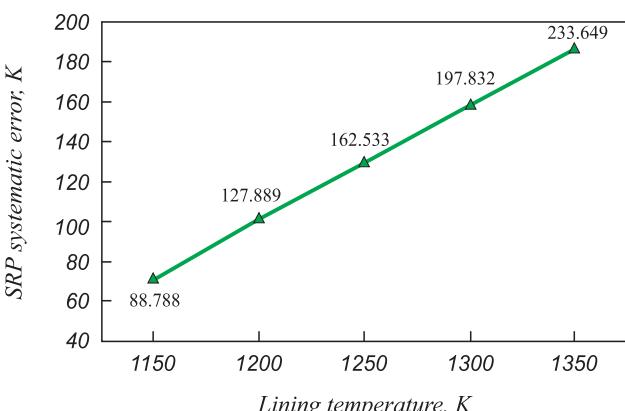


Fig. 7. Dependence of methodological error of SOA measurement on background radiation

Рис. 7. Зависимость методической погрешности измерения ПСО от фонового излучения

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