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COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ECLAIRAGE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ILLUMINATION  
INTERNATIONALE BELEUCHTUNGSKOMMISSION

# TECHNICAL REPORT

## PRACTICAL METHODS FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF REFLECTANCE AND TRANSMITTANCE

**CIE 130-1998**

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UDC: 535.345.1  
535.312  
535.361.1  
535.361.2

Descriptor: Regular transmittance  
Regular reflectance  
Diffuse transmittance  
Diffuse reflectance

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The International Commission on Illumination (CIE) is an organisation devoted to international co-operation and exchange of information among its member countries on all matters relating to the art and science of lighting. Its membership consists of the National Committees in 39 countries and one geographical area and of 11 individual members.

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1. To provide an international forum for the discussion of all matters relating to the science, technology and art in the fields of light and lighting and for the interchange of information in these fields between countries.
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1. De constituer un centre d'étude international pour toute matière relevant de la science, de la technologie et de l'art de la lumière et de l'éclairage et pour l'échange entre pays d'informations dans ces domaines.
2. D'élaborer des normes et des méthodes de base pour la métrologie dans les domaines de la lumière et de l'éclairage.
3. De donner des directives pour l'application des principes et des méthodes d'élaboration de normes internationales et nationales dans les domaines de la lumière et de l'éclairage.
4. De préparer et publier des normes, rapports et autres textes, concernant toutes matières relatives à la science, la technologie et l'art dans les domaines de la lumière et de l'éclairage.
5. De maintenir une liaison et une collaboration technique avec les autres organisations internationales concernées par des sujets relatifs à la science, la technologie, la normalisation et l'art dans les domaines de la lumière et de l'éclairage.

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Tous les quatre ans, une Session plénière passe en revue le travail des Divisions et des Comités Techniques, en fait rapport et établit les projets de travaux pour l'avenir. La CIE est reconnue comme la plus haute autorité en ce qui concerne tous les aspects de la lumière et de l'éclairage. Elle occupe comme telle une position importante parmi les organisations internationales.

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2. Grundnormen und Verfahren der Meßtechnik auf dem Gebiet der Lichttechnik zu entwickeln.
3. Richtlinien für die Anwendung von Prinzipien und Vorgängen in der Entwicklung internationaler und nationaler Normen auf dem Gebiet der Lichttechnik zu erstellen.
4. Normen, Berichte und andere Publikationen zu erstellen und zu veröffentlichen, die alle Fragen auf dem Gebiet der Wissenschaft, Technik und Kunst der Lichttechnik betreffen.
5. Liaison und technische Zusammenarbeit mit anderen internationalen Organisationen zu unterhalten, die mit Fragen der Wissenschaft, Technik, Normung und Kunst auf dem Gebiet der Lichttechnik zu tun haben.

Die Arbeit der CIE wird in 8 Divisionen, jede mit etwa 20 Technischen Komitees, geleistet. Diese Arbeit betrifft Gebiete mit grundlegendem Inhalt bis zu allen Arten der Lichtenwendung. Die Normen und Technischen Berichte, die von diesen international zusammengesetzten Divisionen ausgearbeitet werden, sind von der ganzen Welt anerkannt.

Tagungen werden alle vier Jahre abgehalten, in der die Arbeiten der Divisionen überprüft und berichtet und neue Pläne für die Zukunft ausgearbeitet werden. Die CIE wird als höchste Autorität für alle Aspekte des Lichtes und der Beleuchtung angesehen. Auf diese Weise unterhält sie eine bedeutende Stellung unter den internationalen Organisationen.

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This Technical Report has been prepared by CIE Technical Committee 2-14 of Division 2 "Physical measurement of light and radiation" and has been approved by the Board of Administration of the Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage for study and application. The document reports on current knowledge and experience within the specific field of light and lighting described, and is intended to be used by the CIE membership and other interested parties. It should be noted, however, that the status of this document is advisory and not mandatory. The latest CIE proceedings or CIE NEWS should be consulted regarding possible subsequent amendments.

Ce rapport technique a été préparé par le Comité Technique CIE 2-14 de la Division 2 "Mesures physiques de la lumière et des radiations" et a été approuvé par le Bureau d'Administration de la Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage, pour étude et application. Le document traite des connaissances courantes et de l'expérience dans le domaine spécifique indiqué de la lumière et de l'éclairage, et il est établi pour l'usage des membres de la CIE et autres groupements intéressés. Il faut cependant noter que ce document est indicatif et non obligatoire. Pour connaître d'éventuels amendements, consulter les plus récents comptes rendus de la CIE ou le CIE NEWS.

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*This guide is dedicated to the memory of the late Professor Jürgen Krochmann.*

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## Table of Contents

Summary .....	VII
Résumé .....	VII
Zusammenfassung .....	VIII
1. Scope.....	1
2. Definitions.....	1
2.1 Processes .....	1
2.1.1 Reflection .....	1
2.1.2 Transmission .....	1
2.1.3 Absorption .....	2
2.1.4 Regular reflection; specular reflection (Regular transmission; direct transmission) .....	2
2.1.5 Diffuse reflection (Diffuse transmission) .....	2
2.1.6 Mixed reflection (Mixed transmission).....	2
2.1.7 Isotropic diffuse reflection (Isotropic diffuse transmission) .....	2
2.1.8 Perfect reflecting diffuser (Perfect transmitting diffuser).....	2
2.1.9 Translucent medium.....	2
2.2 Characteristics .....	2
2.2.1 Reflectance ( $\rho$ ) (Transmittance ( $\tau$ )) .....	2
2.2.2 Regular reflectance ( $\rho_r$ ) (Regular transmittance ( $\tau_r$ )).....	2
2.2.3 Diffuse reflectance ( $\rho_d$ ) (Diffuse transmittance ( $\tau_d$ )).....	2
2.2.4 Radiance factor/Luminance factor ( $\beta$ ).....	3
2.2.5 Radiance/Luminance coefficient ( $q$ ).....	3
2.2.6 Absorptance ( $\alpha$ ) .....	3
3. Parameters affecting the characteristics .....	3
3.1 Spectral parameters.....	3
3.1.1 Spectral composition of the incident radiation .....	3
3.1.2 Integral characteristics .....	4
3.2 Geometric conditions .....	4
3.3 Thin and thick translucent samples .....	6
3.4 Other parameters.....	7
4. Measurement principles .....	7
4.1 Absolute and relative methods .....	7
4.2 Spectral and integral characteristics.....	7
4.2.1 Spectral method .....	7
4.2.2 Integral method .....	7
4.2.3 Photometer, radiometer, spectroradiometer .....	8
4.3 Spatial evaluation.....	8
4.3.1 Goniometers/goniophotometers.....	8
4.3.2 Practical methods.....	8
4.3.2.1 Methods using an integrating sphere .....	8
4.3.2.2 Directional methods .....	8
5. Measuring equipment .....	9
5.1 Components.....	9
5.2 Equipment for irradiation.....	9
5.2.1 Single and double beam .....	9
5.2.2 Geometric conditions .....	10
5.2.3 Spectral conditions .....	10
5.2.4 Polarization.....	10
5.2.5 Lamps.....	11
5.3 Equipment for detection .....	11
5.3.1 Irradiance/illuminance and radiance/luminance measurement .....	11
5.3.2 Radiometer/photometer head .....	11
5.3.3 Radiometer/photometer .....	12
5.3.4 Data recording.....	12
5.4 Monochromator.....	12
6. Integrating sphere.....	13

6.1	Measurement principles.....	13
6.2	Sphere theory .....	13
6.3	Substitution and comparison methods .....	14
6.4	Sphere coating.....	14
6.5	Sphere geometry .....	15
6.5.1	Diameters of the sphere and sample port.....	15
6.5.2	Ports .....	16
6.5.3	Radiometer/photometer head .....	18
6.5.3.1	Irradiance/illuminance measurement.....	18
6.5.3.2	Radiance/luminance measurement.....	19
6.5.4	Auxiliary lamp/auxiliary screen.....	19
6.5.5	Additional observations on sphere geometry.....	20
7.	Measurement of reflection characteristics using a sphere radiometer/photometer .....	21
7.1	Reflectance for directionally incident radiation .....	21
7.1.1	Introduction.....	21
7.1.2	Equipment for irradiation .....	21
7.1.3	Sphere geometry.....	21
7.1.3.1	Thin samples .....	21
7.1.3.1.1	Near-normal incidence.....	21
7.1.3.1.2	Other angles of incidence .....	22
7.1.3.2	Thick translucent samples .....	22
7.1.3.2.1	Near normal incidence .....	22
7.1.3.2.2	Other angles of incidence .....	22
7.1.4	Reflectance standards .....	23
7.1.5	Measurements and calculations .....	24
7.1.5.1	Thin samples .....	24
7.1.5.2	Thick translucent samples .....	24
7.1.6	Corrections in the case of mixed reflection .....	25
7.2	Diffuse reflectance .....	26
7.2.1	Samples with diffuse reflection only.....	26
7.2.2	Samples with mixed reflection.....	26
7.2.3	Diffuse reflectance standards.....	26
7.2.4	Measurements and calculations .....	27
7.2.4.1	Thin samples .....	27
7.2.4.2	Thick translucent samples.....	28
7.3	Reflectance for hemispherical irradiation .....	28
7.3.1	Surface reflecting materials.....	28
7.3.1.1	Integrating sphere method.....	28
7.3.1.2	Diffuse reflectance standards .....	30
7.3.1.3	Measurements and calculations .....	30
7.3.2	Thick translucent samples.....	30
7.3.2.1	Principle .....	30
7.3.2.2	Measurements and calculations.....	30
8.	Measurement of transmission characteristics using a sphere radiometer/photometer .....	31
8.1	Transmittance for directionally incident radiation .....	31
8.1.1	Absolute methods.....	31
8.1.2	Integrating sphere method .....	31
8.1.2.1	Sphere with small sample port .....	31
8.1.2.2	Sphere with large sample port.....	32
8.1.2.3	Measurement of transmittance as a function of the angle of incidence .....	33
8.1.3	Transmittance standards.....	33
8.1.4	Measurements and calculations .....	34
8.1.4.1	Small sample port.....	34
8.1.4.2	Large sample port.....	34
8.1.5	Corrections in the case of mixed transmission .....	35
8.2	Diffuse transmittance .....	37
8.2.1	Samples with diffuse transmission only .....	37
8.2.2	Samples with mixed transmission.....	37

8.2.3	Measurements and calculations .....	37
8.3	Transmittance for hemispherical irradiation.....	38
8.3.1	Equipment for irradiation .....	38
8.3.2	Integrating sphere method .....	39
8.3.3	Measurements and calculations .....	39
8.3.4	Calculation of $\tau_{\text{diff}}$ from measured values of $\tau(\varepsilon)$ .....	40
9.	Measurement of regular reflectance.....	41
9.1	Samples with regular reflectance only .....	41
9.1.1	Integrating sphere method .....	41
9.1.2	Illuminance ratio method .....	41
9.1.2.1	Absolute method.....	41
9.1.2.1.1	Method with double reflection (V-W method) .....	41
9.1.2.1.2	Goniometric method.....	42
9.1.2.2	Relative method.....	43
9.2	Samples with mixed reflection .....	45
9.2.1	Luminance ratio method.....	45
9.2.1.1	Relative method.....	45
9.2.1.2	Goniometric method .....	45
9.2.2	Integrating sphere method .....	45
10.	Measurement of regular transmittance .....	46
10.1	Samples with regular transmittance only .....	46
10.1.1	Integrating sphere method .....	46
10.1.2	Illuminance ratio method .....	46
10.2	Samples with mixed transmittance .....	47
10.2.1	Luminance ratio method.....	47
10.2.2	Integrating sphere method .....	48
11.	Measurement of absorptance.....	48
11.1	$4\pi$ method .....	48
11.2	Calculation from reflectance and transmittance .....	49
12.	Measurement of radiance/luminance factor and radiance/luminance coefficient .....	49
12.1	Radiance/luminance factor .....	49
12.1.1	Measurement geometry.....	49
12.1.2	Measurement with directional irradiation and observation.....	50
12.1.3	Measurement with diffuse irradiation and normal observation .....	51
12.1.4	Standards for radiance/luminance factor.....	52
12.2	Radiance/luminance coefficient.....	52
13.	Sources of error and corrections .....	52
13.1	General .....	52
13.2	Absolute and relative methods .....	52
13.3	Integral or spectral determinations .....	53
13.3.1	Possible sources of error in detectors.....	53
13.3.2	Possible additional sources of error with integral detectors .....	53
13.3.3	Possible additional sources of error with spectroradiometers .....	54
13.4	Geometrical considerations .....	54
13.4.1	Methods using an integrating sphere.....	54
13.4.2	Methods without an integrating sphere .....	55
14.	Characterization of the measuring equipment .....	55
14.1	Measurable quantities and required reference materials .....	55
14.2	Equipment for irradiation.....	55
14.3	Monochromator.....	56
14.4	Integrating sphere .....	56
14.5	Detector .....	56
14.6	Further information.....	56
15.	Bibliography .....	57



## PRACTICAL METHODS FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF REFLECTANCE AND TRANSMITTANCE

### SUMMARY

The characteristics of materials related to their reflection and transmission properties are defined in accordance with the International Lighting Vocabulary and other relevant CIE publications.

The parameters affecting these characteristics and the principles of measurement involved, which are the same whether the measurement is made in terms of spectral or weighted (e.g. luminous) characteristics, are specified.

Methods, using an integrating sphere, are recommended for the measurement of

- reflectance for directional  $\rho$ ,  $\rho(\varepsilon)$  and hemispherical  $\rho_{\text{dif}}$  incidence of radiation,
- diffuse reflectance  $\rho_{\text{d}}$ ,
- transmittance for directional  $\tau$ ,  $\tau(\varepsilon)$  and hemispherical  $\tau_{\text{dif}}$  incidence of radiation,
- diffuse transmittance  $\tau_{\text{d}}$ .

Specific methods are also recommended for the measurement of

- regular reflectance  $\rho_{\text{r}}$ ,
- regular transmittance  $\tau_{\text{r}}$ ,
- radiance/luminance factor  $\beta$  (radiance/luminance coefficient  $q$ ).

The absorptance  $\alpha$  can either be measured directly or calculated from the measured values of reflectance and transmittance. Both procedures are described.

The principal measurement errors are examined and, where possible, methods for their elimination indicated.

## METHODES PRATIQUES DE MESURE DES FACTEURS DE REFLEXION ET DE TRANSMISSION

### RESUME

Les caractéristiques des matériaux qui se réfèrent à leurs propriétés de réflexion et de transmission des rayonnements optiques sont définies en conformité avec le Vocabulaire International de l'Eclairage et autres publications de la CIE sur le même sujet.

Les paramètres pouvant affecter les caractéristiques susdites et les principes de mesure sont spécifiés, ces principes étant les mêmes qu'il s'agisse de mesures de caractéristiques spectrales ou intégrales (lumineuses par exemple).

Des méthodes de mesure faisant usage d'une sphère intégratrice sont recommandées pour les déterminations

- du facteur de réflexion sous incidence directionnelle  $\rho$ ,  $\rho(\varepsilon)$  et hémisphériques  $\rho_{\text{dif}}$ ,
- du facteur de réflexion diffuse  $\rho_{\text{d}}$ ,
- du facteur de transmission sous incidence directionnelle  $\tau$ ,  $\tau(\varepsilon)$  et hémisphériques  $\tau_{\text{dif}}$ ,
- du facteur de transmission diffuse  $\tau_{\text{d}}$ .

Des méthodes de mesure particulières sont recommandées pour les déterminations

- du facteur de réflexion régulière  $\rho_{\text{r}}$ ,
- du facteur de transmission régulière  $\tau_{\text{r}}$ ,
- du facteur de luminance  $\beta$  (ou du coefficient de luminance  $q$ ), ces grandeurs pouvant être énergétiques ou lumineuses.

Le facteur d'absorption  $\alpha$  peut être mesuré directement ou calculé à partir des mesures des facteurs de réflexion et de transmission. Les deux procédures sont décrites.

Les erreurs de mesure les plus importantes et, dans la mesure du possible, des méthodes pour les éliminer, sont indiquées.

## **PRAKTISCHE METHODEN FÜR REFLEXIONS- UND TRANSMISSIONSMESSUNGEN**

### **ZUSAMMENFASSUNG**

Die Eigenschaften von Materialien in bezug auf ihre Reflexion und Transmission werden in Übereinstimmung mit dem Internationalen Wörterbuch der Lichttechnik und den entsprechenden CIE Publikationen definiert.

Es werden die Parameter, die diese Eigenschaften und Meßverfahren beeinflussen, angegeben, wobei die Verfahren zur Messung der spektralen und integralen (z.B. lichttechnischen) Eigenschaften gleich sind.

Meßmethoden, die eine Ulbricht-Kugel benutzen, werden empfohlen für

- Reflexionsgrad bei gerichtetem,  $\rho$ ,  $\rho(\varepsilon)$  und diffusem  $\rho_{\text{dif}}$  Strahlungseinfall,
- Grad der gestreuten Reflexion  $\rho_{\text{d}}$ ,
- Transmissionsgrad bei gerichtetem  $\tau$ ,  $\tau(\varepsilon)$  und diffusem  $\tau_{\text{dif}}$  Strahlungseinfall,
- Grad der diffusen Transmission  $\tau_{\text{d}}$ .

Spezielle Meßmethoden werden empfohlen für

- Grad der gerichteten Reflexion  $\rho_{\text{r}}$ ,
- Grad der gerichteten Transmission  $\tau_{\text{r}}$ ,
- Strahldichte/Leuchtdichtefaktor  $\beta$  (Strahldichte/Leuchtdichtekoeffizient  $q$ ).

Der Absorptionsgrad  $\alpha$  kann entweder direkt gemessen werden oder aus den gemessenen Reflexions- und Transmissionsgraden errechnet werden. Beide Verfahren werden beschrieben.

Es werden auch die häufigsten Meßfehler und, so weit wie möglich, Methoden zu ihrer Beseitigung angeführt.

## 1. SCOPE

The CIE has published four Technical Reports which are basic documents for this Publication:

- International Lighting Vocabulary [1];
- Radiometric and Photometric Characteristics of Materials and their Measurement [2];
- Absolute Methods for Reflection Measurements [3];
- A Review of Publications on Properties and Reflection Values of Material Reflection Standards [4].

The reflection and transmission properties of materials in the wavelength range of optical radiation, particularly light, are important in many fields. This report deals mainly with the wavelength range  $200 \text{ nm} < \lambda < 3\,000 \text{ nm}$ . These properties are characterized by reflectance and transmittance with their regular and diffuse components, and radiance/luminance factor.

Different methods are described in the literature for the measurement of these characteristics and the results may differ according to the method used. It is, therefore, necessary to standardize one or more methods for the measurement of each defined quantity, designed to keep systematic errors as small as possible. This is the only way to ensure that the results of measurements, obtained with different instruments are comparable.

This CIE Technical Report sets out to define recommended methods for measuring the most important characteristics of reflection and transmission in industrial laboratories and to describe both the measurement geometry and the radiometric/photometric specification of the equipment used for irradiation and detection.

Absolute measurements of diffuse reflectance and measurements of the gonioradiometric/goniophotometric properties of materials are outside the scope of this publication. They are the subject of the work of other CIE Technical Committees.

Measurements on retroreflecting materials are also not treated here [5] and only a few brief notes, for guidance, are given on luminescent materials [2].

## 2. DEFINITIONS

The definitions relating to materials which are given in this Technical Report apply to optical radiation and particularly to visible radiation. The characteristics used for the description of these properties are generally expressed in terms of radiant, luminous or spectral quantities, but can also relate to other spectral weighting functions (see 3.1.2).

The definitions given here are taken from the International Lighting Vocabulary [1]. Where additional explanatory notes not in the ILV have been added, these are indicated by an asterisk \*.

### 2.1 Processes

#### 2.1.1 Reflection

Process by which radiation is returned by a surface or a medium, without change of frequency of its monochromatic components.

Note 1: Part of the radiation falling on a medium is reflected at the surface of the medium (surface reflection); another part may be scattered back from the interior of the medium (volume reflection).

Note 2: The frequency is unchanged only if there is no Doppler effect due to the motion of the materials from which the radiation is returned.

#### 2.1.2 Transmission

Passage of radiation through a medium without change of frequency of its monochromatic components.