Copernicus FICE 2025

Training on

In situ Ocean Colour Above-Water Radiometry towards Satellite Validation

GUM general metrological framework

Agnieszka Bialek National Physical Laboratory agnieszka.bialek@npl.co.uk





6-20 July 2025 Venice, Italy



Outline



- Methodology and resources
- Basic uncertainty concepts
- Absolute calibration measurement equation
- Above water radiometry measurement equation

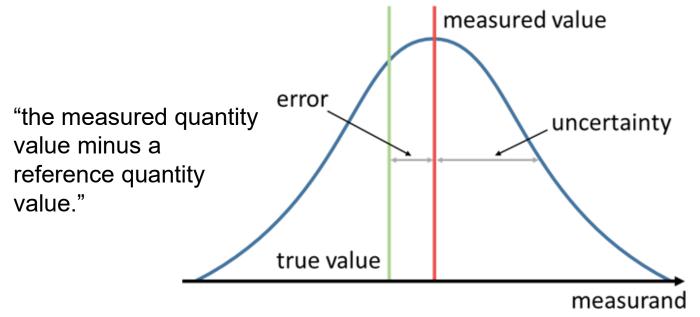


Methodology and resources

Methodology and resources



The International Vocabulary of Metrology (VIM)

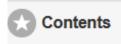


"a non-negative parameter characterizing the dispersion of the quantity values being attributed to a measurand, based on the information used."

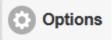


the intergovernmental organization through which Member States act together on matters related to measurement science and measurement standards.





[VIM3] 2.26 measurement uncertainty uncertainty of measurement, uncertainty



non-negative parameter characterizing the dispersion of the <u>quantity values</u> being attributed to a <u>measurand</u>, based on the information used



Notes

NOTE 1 Measurement uncertainty includes components arising from systematic effects, such as components associated with <u>corrections</u> and the assigned quantity values of <u>measurement standards</u>, as well as the <u>definitional uncertainty</u>. Sometimes estimated systematic effects are not corrected for but, instead, associated measurement uncertainty components are incorporated.

NOTE 2 The parameter may be, for example, a standard deviation called <u>standard measurement uncertainty</u> (or a specified multiple of it), or the half-width of an interval, having a stated <u>coverage probability</u>.

NOTE 3 Measurement uncertainty comprises, in general, many components. Some of these may be evaluated by <u>Type A evaluation of measurement</u> <u>uncertainty</u> from the statistical distribution of the quantity values from series of <u>measurements</u> and can be characterized by standard deviations. The other components, which may be evaluated by <u>Type B evaluation of measurement uncertainty</u>, can also be characterized by standard deviations, evaluated from probability density functions based on experience or other information.

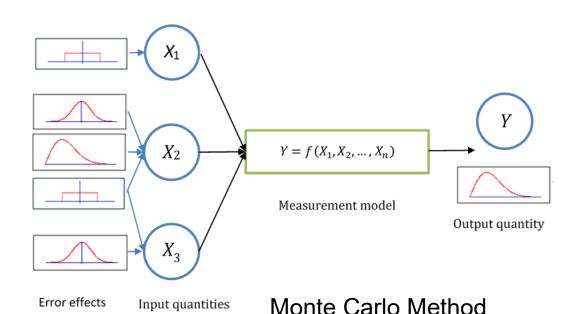
NOTE 4 In general, for a given set of information, it is understood that the measurement uncertainty is associated with a stated quantity value attributed to the measurand. A modification of this value results in a modification of the associated uncertainty.

https://jcgm.bipm.org/vim/en/2.26.html

Methodology and resources



 the Guide to the expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM) and its supplements



$$u^{2}(y) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} c_{i}^{2} u^{2}(x_{i}) + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j=i}^{N} c_{i} c_{j} u(x_{i}, x_{j}),$$

The Law of Propagation of Uncertainties

International des
Poids et

the intergovernmental organization through which Member States act together on matters related to measurement science and measurement standards.

Monte Carlo method









"In mathematics, as in physics, so much depends on chance, on a propitious moment."

Stanislaw Ulam Source: Adventures of a Mathematician , Third Edition (1991)

QA4EO Home https://qa4eo.org/







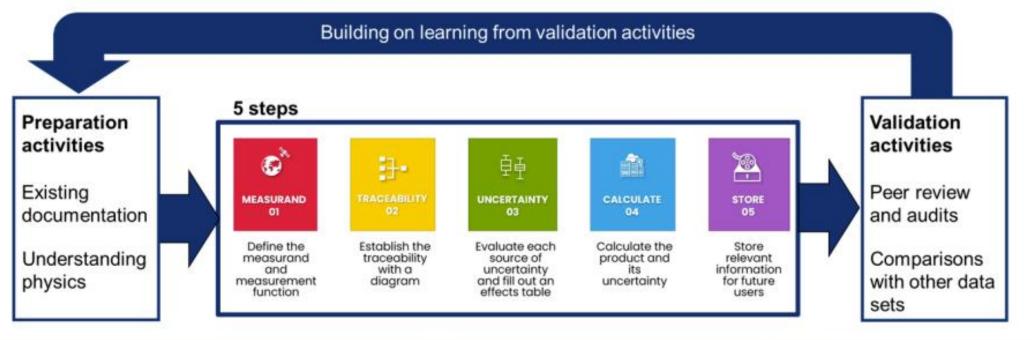


Figure 2 An iterative framework for the CEOS Five Steps

Methodology and resources

• FIDUCEO (FIDelity and Uncertainty in Climate data record

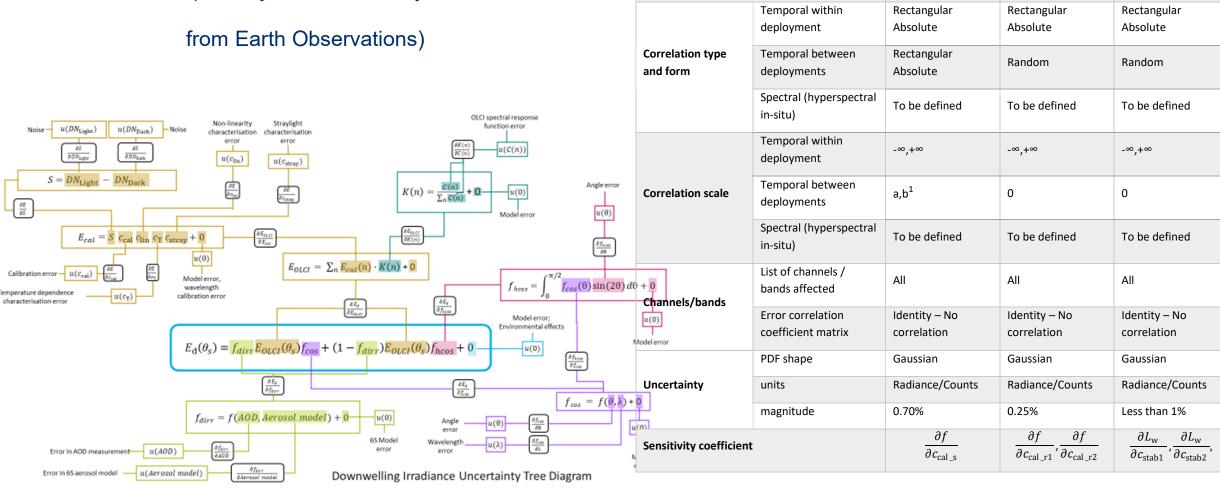


Table descriptor

Name of effect

Affected term in measurement function

Instruments in the series affected

Detector

calibration

systematic error

 $c_{\operatorname{cal},z_1}, c_{\operatorname{cal},z_2},$

ΑII

 $c_{\text{cal},z_1,t}$, $c_{\text{cal},z_2,t}$

Detector

error 1. 2

ΑII

 $c_{\text{cal},z_1}, c_{\text{cal},z_2},$

 $c_{\text{cal},z_1,t}, c_{\text{cal},z_2,t}$

calibration random

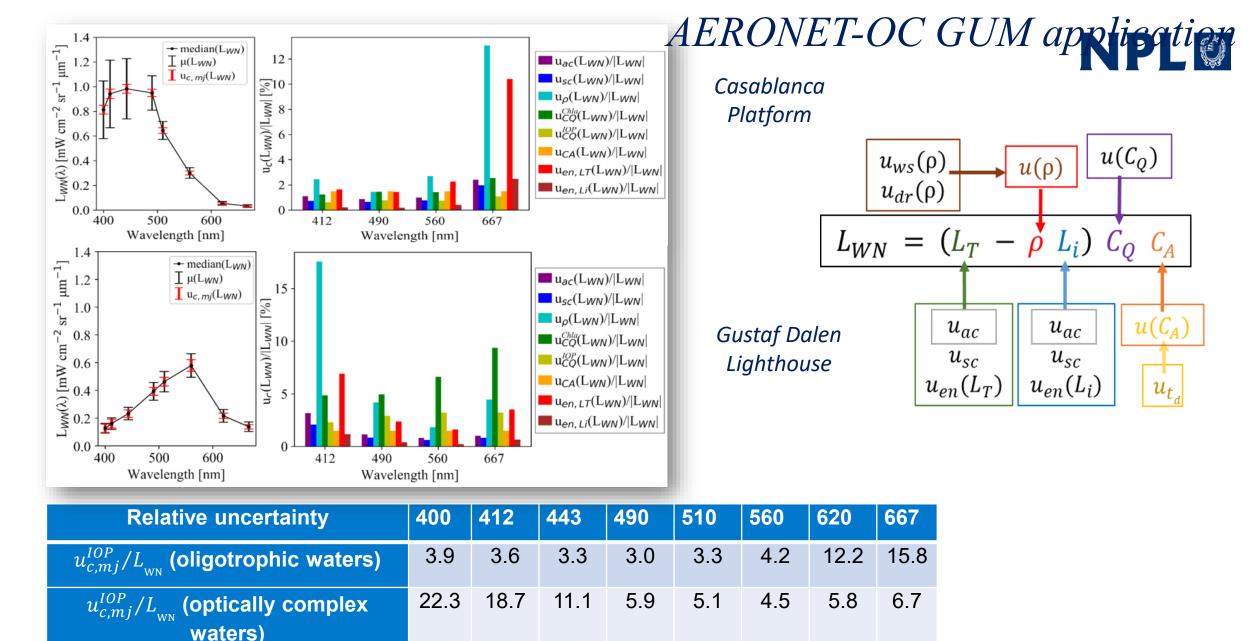
Detector

ΑII

calibration stability

model error 1.2

 $c_{\text{stab},z_1}, c_{\text{stab},z_2}$



Cazzaniga, I., & Zibordi, G. (2023). AERONET-OC L_{WN} Uncertainties: Revisited. Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology, 40(4), 411-425.



CoMet Toolkit

The **CoMet Toolkit** (Community Metrology Toolkit) is an open-source software project to develop Python tools for the handling of error-covariance information in the analysis of measurement data.

```
import xarray as xr
import obsarray
from punpy import MeasurementFunction, MCPropagation
# read digital effects table
ds = xr.open_dataset("digital_effects_table_gaslaw example.nc")
# Define your measurement function inside a subclass of MeasurementFunction
class IdealGasLaw(MeasurementFunction):
    def meas function(self, pres, temp, n):
        return (n *temp * 8.134)/pres
# Create Monte Carlo Propagation object, and create MeasurementFunction class
# object with required parameters such as names of input quantites in ds
prop = MCPropagation(10000)
gl = IdealGasLaw(prop, xvariables=["pressure", "temperature", "n moles"],
                 yvariable="volume", yunit="m^3")
# propagate the uncertainties on the input quantites in ds to the measurand
# uncertainties in ds y (propagate ds returns random, systematic and structured)
ds y = gl.propagate ds(ds, store unc percent=True)
```



Basic uncertainty concepts

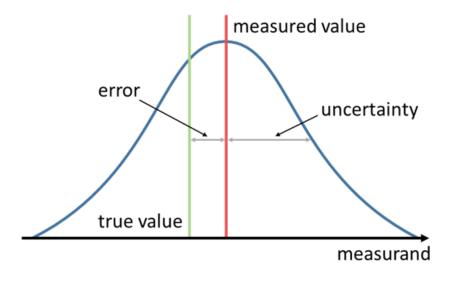


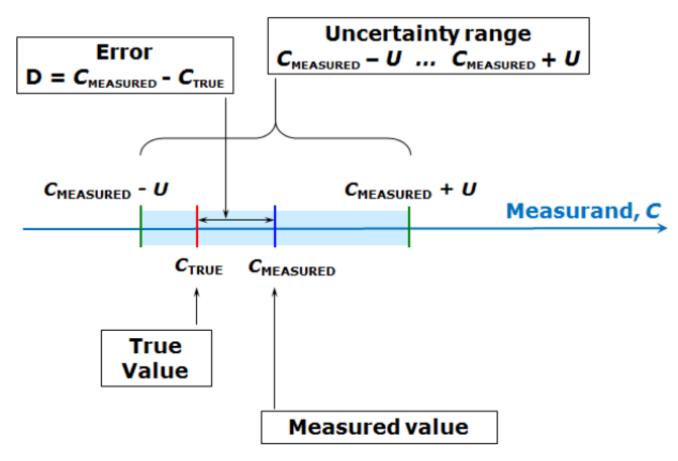
Error

S the same as

Uncertainty







https://sisu-vana.ut.ee/measurement/introduction-concept-measurement-uncertainty



ESTIMATION OF MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY IN CHEMICAL ANALYSIS



Search



2. THE ORIGIN OF MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY

Course introduction

- 1. The concept of measurement uncertainty (MU)
- 2. The origin of measurement uncertainty

Self-test 2

- 3. The basic concepts and tools
- 4. The first uncertainty quantification
- 5. Principles of measurement uncertainty estimation
- 6. Random and systematic effects revisited
- 7. Precision, trueness, accuracy
- 8. Overview of measurement uncertainty estimation approaches
- 9. The ISO GUM Modeling approach
- 10. The single-lab validation approach
- 11. Comparison of the approaches
- 12. Comparing measurement

Brief summary: Explanation, on the example of pipetting, where measurement uncertainty comes from. The concept of **uncertainty sources** – effects that cause the deviation of the measured value from the true value – is introduced. The main uncertainty sources of pipetting are introduced and explained: repeatability, calibration, temperature effect. Explanation of random and systematic effects is given. The concept of **repeatability** is introduced.

The first video demonstrates how pipetting with a classical volumetric pipette is done and explains where the uncertainty of the pipetted volume comes from.



https://sisu-vana.ut.ee/measurement/origin-measurement-uncertainty

Uncertainty vs. error



Uncertainty:

Describes the spread of a probability distribution i.e. standard deviation

Error:

- The result of measurement imperfections
- From random and systematic effects

Correction

- Where an error is known, it can be corrected by applying a correction
- There will always be an unknown residual error

Consistency in terminology is important!

Systematic and random effects:



EFFECT

- Calibration of reference
- Alignment
- Noise
- Lamp current setting
- Lamp current stability
- Temperature sensitivity

- SYSTEMATIC
- Yes
- If not realigned
- No
- Probably if constant
- Probably not
- Depends on how much temperature is changing

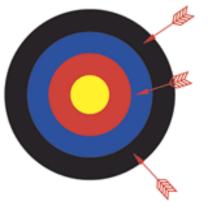
lamp measured 5 times



Effects are random or systematic depending on the measurement process itself

Measurement Uncertainty: Accuracy and Precision





Poor precision, poor accuracy



Accuracy ⇒ qualitative term relating the mean of the measurements to the true value

Precision ⇒ represents the spread of the measurements



Good precision, poor accuracy



Good precision, good accuracy



Situation	Random effects	Systematic effects	Uncertainty
1.	Strong	Strong	High
2.	Strong	Weak (or absent)	Medium
3.	Weak	Strong	Medium
4.	Weak	Weak (or absent)	Low

Scheme 2.1. The influence of random and systematic effects on measurement uncertainty.

https://sisu-vana.ut.ee/measurement/origin-measurement-uncertainty

What is not a measurement uncertainty?



- Mistakes made by operators are not measurement uncertainties. They should not be counted as contributing to uncertainty. They should be avoided by working carefully and by checking work.
- Accuracy (or rather inaccuracy) is not the same as uncertainty. Unfortunately, usage of
 these words is often confused. Correctly speaking, 'accuracy' is a qualitative term (e.g. you
 could say that a measurement was 'accurate' or 'not accurate'). Uncertainty is quantitative.
 When a 'plus or minus' figure is quoted, it may be called an uncertainty, but not an
 accuracy.
- Errors are not the same as uncertainties (even though it has been common in the past to use the words interchangeably in phrases like 'error analysis').
- Statistical analysis is not the same as uncertainty analysis. Statistics can be used to draw all kinds of conclusions which do not by themselves tell us anything about uncertainty. Uncertainty analysis is only one of the uses of statistics.

Basic concepts



Uncertainty

Type A

Type B

Expanded

Standard

Coverage factor

Absolute

Relative

Effects of the errors

Systematic

Random

Correction

Uncertainty types



There are two methods for estimating uncertainties:

Type-A:

uncertainty estimates using statistics i.e. by taking multiple readings and using that information

Type-B:

uncertainty estimates from any other information, e.g. past experience, calibration certificates, etc.

Confidence intervals



• Uncertainty is given with respect to a given confidence interval:

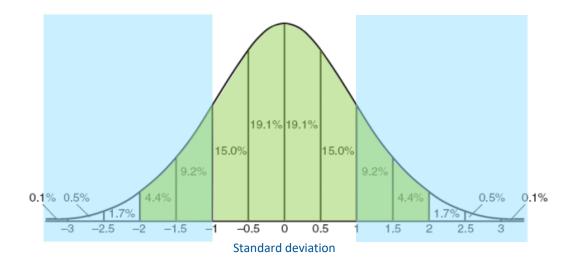
$$u(y) = 3 \text{ cm}$$

at the 68.2% coverage probability (1σ or k=1)

at the 95.4% confidence level

$$u(y) = 6 \text{ cm}$$

at the 95.4% coverage probability (2σ or k=2)



Uncertainty expression



Relative uncertainty:

5 mW m⁻² nm⁻¹ , u = 0.2 %

i.e. uncertainty expressed as a percentage

Absolute uncertainty:

5 mW m⁻² nm⁻¹ u = 0.01 mW m⁻² nm⁻¹ i.e. uncertainty expressed in the native measurement units

Standard deviation



- Describes the spread of the sample values about the mean
- A measure of the precision of the sample values
- The standard deviation is formalised as: $\sigma =$

$$\sqrt{\frac{(x_1 - \bar{x})^2 + (x_2 - \bar{x})^2 + (x_3 - \bar{x})^2 + (x_4 - \bar{x})^2 \dots + (x_n - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}}$$

Sigma (lowercase) – used to denote the standard deviation



Standard uncertainty associated with the mean for small number of repeats

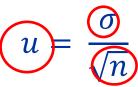
$$u_{\text{light,mean}}^2 = \frac{N-1}{N-3} \left(\frac{s_{\text{light}}}{\sqrt{N}} \right)^2.$$

N=5, s*1.41 N=10, s*1.13 N=25, S*1,04

Standard uncertainty associated with the mean



- Tells us about the uncertainty associated with an average
- Expressed as u(y): uncertainty associated with variable 'y'
- Standard uncertainty is a margin whose size can be thought of as ± one standard deviation



Standard uncertainty associated with the mean

Standard deviation or spread of the results: Uncertainty associated with a single value

Number of samples



First order Taylor series approximation uncorrelated input quantities version

$$u_c^2(y) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}\right)^2 u^2(x_i)$$

THE LAW OF PROPAGATION OF UNCERTAINTIES



$$u_c^2(y) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}\right)^2 u^2(x_i)$$

Sensitivity Coefficients

Common derivatives



Common Derivatives

Polynomials

$$\frac{d}{dx}(c) = 0 \qquad \frac{d}{dx}(x) = 1 \qquad \frac{d}{dx}(cx) = c \qquad \frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1} \qquad \frac{d}{dx}(cx^n) = ncx^{n-1}$$

From: http://tutorial.math.lamar.edu/

Simple case



$$V_{\rm S} = V_{\rm light} - V_{\rm dark}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x) = 1$$

$$\frac{\partial V_{\rm S}}{\partial V_{\rm light}} = 1 \qquad \frac{\partial V_{\rm S}}{\partial V_{\rm dark}} = -1$$

Very simple case
One minute of light radiometer readings
Followed by one minute of dark readings

Simple case

$$V_{\rm S} = V_{\rm light} - V_{\rm dark}$$
 $\frac{\partial V_{\rm S}}{\partial V_{\rm light}} = 1$ $\frac{\partial V_{\rm S}}{\partial V_{\rm dark}} = -1$

$$u_c^2(V_S) = 1^2 u^2(V_{light}) + (-1)^2 u^2(V_{dark})$$

 $u_c^2(y) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}\right)^2 u^2(x_i)$ Physical Laboratory

Absolute uncertainty

$$u(V_S) = \sqrt{u^2(V_{light}) + u^2(V_{dark})}$$

Relative uncertainty

$$\frac{u(V_S)}{V_S} = \sqrt{\frac{u^2(V_{light}) + u^2(V_{dark})}{(V_{light} - V_{dark})^2}}$$

Exercise 1



Calculate standard uncertainty of an instrument signal and report it as relative uncertainty.

Inputs in DN:

$$\overline{V}_{\text{light}} = 33031.00, s(V_{\text{light}}) = 2.19, N = 360$$

$$\overline{V}_{\text{dark}} = 32773.83, s(V_{\text{dark}}) = 2.16, N = 360$$

Where: V is arithmetic mean and s is standard deviation

Type A or Type B?

Exercise 1



Calculate standard uncertainty of an instrument signal and report it as relative uncertainty.

$$\frac{u(V_S)}{V_S} = \sqrt{\frac{u^2(\overline{V}_{light}) + u^2(\overline{V}_{dark})}{(\overline{V}_{light} - \overline{V}_{dark})^2}}$$

! Note to evaluate Type A uncertainty you need repeated observation

$$u^{2}(x) = s^{2}\left(\overline{x}\right) = \frac{s^{2}\left(x_{i}\right)}{n}$$

is experimental standard deviation of the mean

Exercise 1



Calculate standard uncertainty of an instrument signal and report it as relative uncertainty.

Inputs in DN:

$$\overline{V}_{\text{light}} = 33031.00, s(V_{\text{light}}) = 2.19, N = 360$$

$$\overline{V}_{\text{dark}} = 32773.83, s(V_{\text{dark}}) = 2.16, N = 360$$

Where: V is arithmetic mean and s is experimental standard deviation

Results exercise 1



	Mean		Number of readings	Absolute uncertainty (Type A) Standard deviation of the mean		
Light [DN]	33031.000	2.190	360	0.115		
Dark [DN]	32773.830	2.160	360	0.114		
Measurements result and its combined standard uncertainty $k = 1$						
Signal [DN]		9		Relative uncertainty $\frac{u(V_{\rm s})}{V_{\rm s}}$		
257.	170 DN	0.162	DN	0.1 %		

Exercise 1 concussions



It might be easy to derive sensitivity coefficients from partial derivation

$$\frac{\partial V_{\rm S}}{\partial V_{\rm light}} = 1$$

Once derived then a ready solution can be used in the future

$$V_{\rm S} = V_{\rm light} - V_{\rm dark} \qquad u(V_{\rm S}) = \sqrt{u^2(V_{\rm light}) + u^2(V_{\rm dark})}$$

- Every measurement uncertainty can be expressed as absolute or relative, and converted from one to another. This is just more convenient to use one or the other for same type of calculations
- Type A uncertainty evaluation, is valid only for a very large number of repeated observation and uses standard deviation of the mean as a standard uncertainty
- THIS IS NOT THE CASE FOR TYBE B UNCERTAINTY EVALUATION

Sensitivity coefficients cheat sheets



Summation in quadrature for addition and subtraction

$$e = a + b - c$$
,

Combined uncertainty =
$$\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + \dots etc}$$
.

Summation in quadrature for multiplication or division

$$A = L \cdot W$$
,

$$\frac{u(A)}{A} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{u(L)}{L}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{u(W)}{W}\right)^2} \ .$$

Sensitivity coefficients cheat sheets



Squared value

$$Z^2$$
,

$$\frac{2u(Z)}{Z}$$

Summation in quadrature for more complicated function

$$P = \frac{V^2}{R},$$

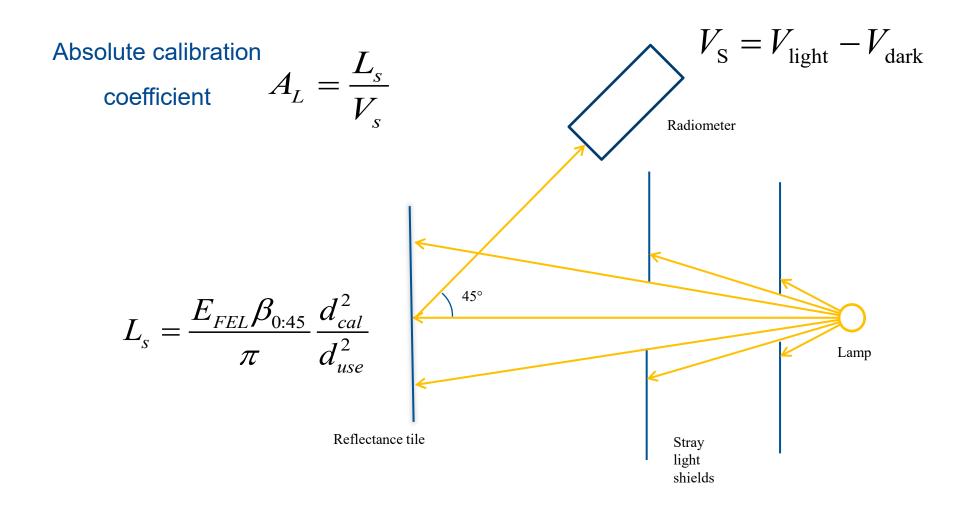
$$\frac{u(P)}{P} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{2u(V)}{V}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{u(R)}{R}\right)^2} \ .$$



Absolute calibration measurement equation

Calculation equation





Sources of uncertainty





Calibration certificate
Lamp additional effects

- Ageing
- Alignment
- Current stability



Calibration certificate

Diffuser additional effects

- Ageing
- Uniformity



Distance accuracy



Random noise

Instrument additional effects

- Stability (drift)
- Room stray light

Measurement equations



$$L_{\mathrm{s}} = \frac{E_{\mathrm{FEL}} \beta_{0:45}}{\pi} \frac{d_{\mathrm{cal}}^2}{d_{\mathrm{use}}^2}$$

$$L_{\rm s} = \frac{E_{\rm FEL}\beta_{\rm 0:45}}{\pi} \frac{d_{\rm cal}^2}{d_{\rm use}^2} K_{\rm lamp_stab} K_{\rm align} K_{\rm current} K_{\rm diff_stab} K_{\rm unif}$$

$$V_{\rm S} = V_{\rm light} - V_{\rm dark}$$

$$V_{\rm S} = V_{\rm light} K_{\rm light_stab} + K_{\rm stray} - V_{\rm dark} K_{\rm dark_stab}$$

Calibration certificate



Remember calibration certificates almost always quote uncertainties at k = 2!

Rectangular uncertainty distributions



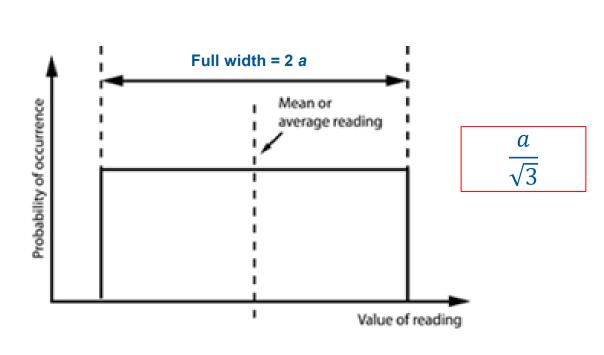
Resolution of distance measuring instrument = 0.1 mm



Measurement distance = 500.0 mm

Uncertainty associated with distance measurement = $(0.05 / 500) / \sqrt{3} = 0.006 \%$

Uncertainty in irradiance from distance measurement = 2 × 0.006 % = 0.012 %



Measurement equation: where to stop



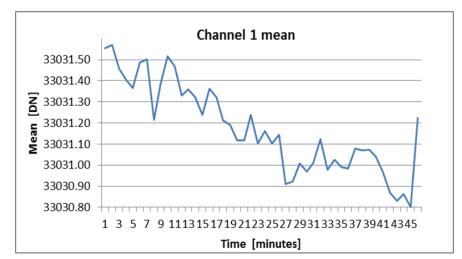
Room stray light negligible

Difference between detector dark reading and measurement with detector FOV obscured smaller than standard deviation of individual dark runs



No instrument drift
 in controlled lab environment

0.7 DN change during45 minute constant run



$$V_{\rm S} = V_{\rm light} K_{\rm light_stab} + K_{\rm stray} - V_{\rm dark_stab}$$

Uncertainty budget



Symbol	Uncertainty component	Size of effect	Correction applied?	Residual uncertainty	Divisor	Sensitivity coefficient	Uncertainty associated with final value due to effect
$u(E_{\rm FEL})$	Ref. lamp irradiance	1.5 %	N	1.5 %	2	1	0.75 %
$u(\beta_{0:45})$	Tile radiance factor	2.0 %	N	2.0 %	2	1	1.00 %
$u(d_{\mathtt{use}})$	Lamp distance (500 mm)	0.05 mm	N	0.01 %	√3	2	0.012 %
$u(K_{\mathrm{align}})$	Lamp alignment	0.15 %	N	0.15 %	1	1	0.15 %
$u(K_{l_stab})$	Light reading stability	negligible	N	negligible			negligible
$u(K_{d_{stab}})$	Dark reading stability	negligible	N	negligible			negligible
$u(K_{\text{lamp_stab}})$	Lamp stability	0.083 %	N	0.083 %	√3	1	0.048 %
$u(K_{\text{diff_stab}})$	Diffuser stability	0.125 %	N	0.125 %	√3	1	0.072 %
$u(K_{stray})$	Stray light in lab	negligible	N	negligible			negligible
$u(K_{current})$	Lamp current (8.000 A)	0.004 A	N	0.25 % in <i>I</i> , or 0.99 % in <i>E</i> _{FEL} at 600 nm	√3	1	0.572 % (at 600 nm)
$u(K_{\text{unif}})$	Radiance uniformity	1.50 %	N	1.50 %	√3	1	0.866 %
Combined standard uncertainty							1.63 %
Expanded uncertainty (k=2)							3.3 %

Uncertainty budget





Uncertainty evaluation type?

Type B – information form calibration certificates!

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Coverage factor?
Probability distribution?

k = 2, Gaussian

Uncertainty budget 2. Calculation equation



Uncertainty evaluation type?

Type B – information form calibration certificates

Type A – repeated measurements

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Absolute uncertainty

Relative uncertainty

Uncertainty budget



- 3. Sources of uncertainty
- 4. Measurement equation (all components with assigned size of effect)
- 5. Sensitivity coefficient

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Uncertainty budget

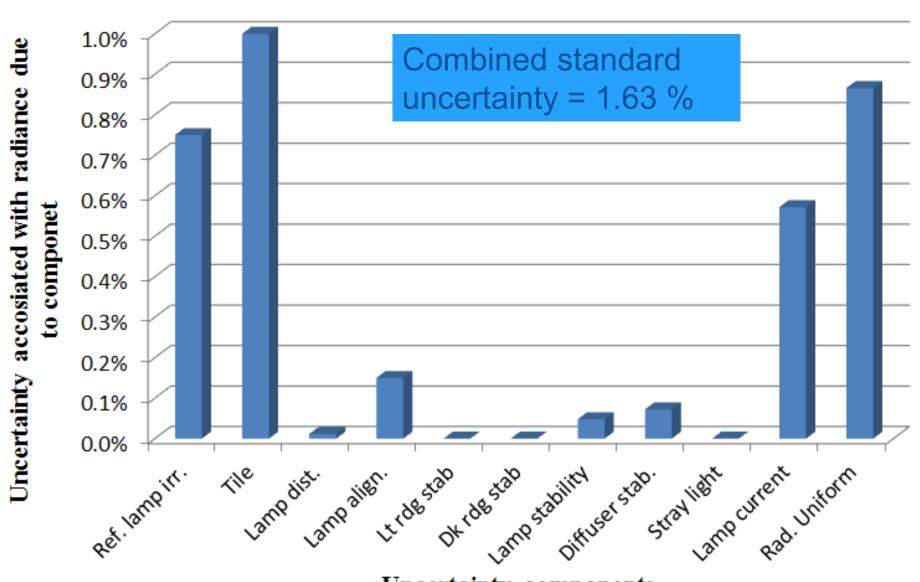


- 6. Assigning Uncertainties
- 7. Combining your uncertainties

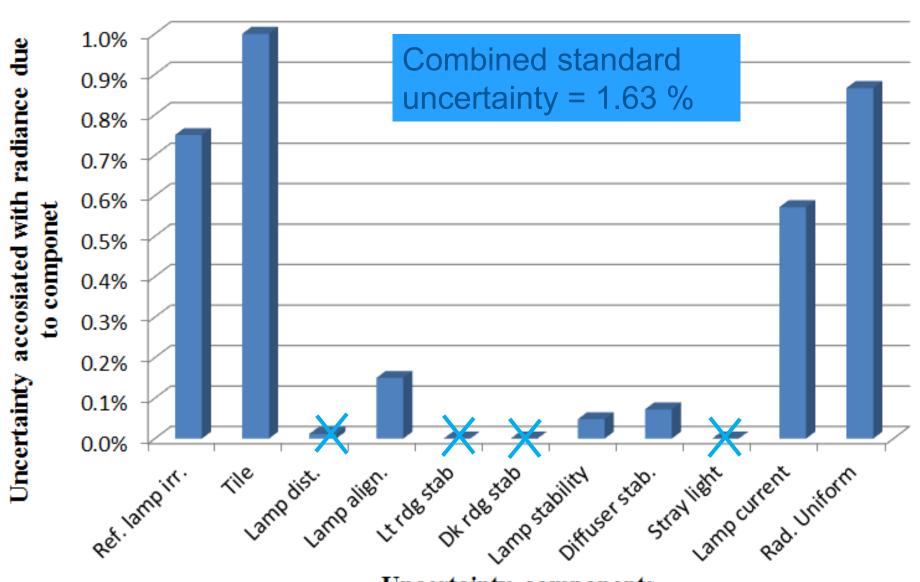
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$u(K_{\text{unif}})$	Radiance uniformity	1.50 %	N	1.50 %	√3	1	0.866 %
	Combined standard uncertainty						
Expanded uncertainty (k=2)							3.3 %

8. Expanding your uncertainties

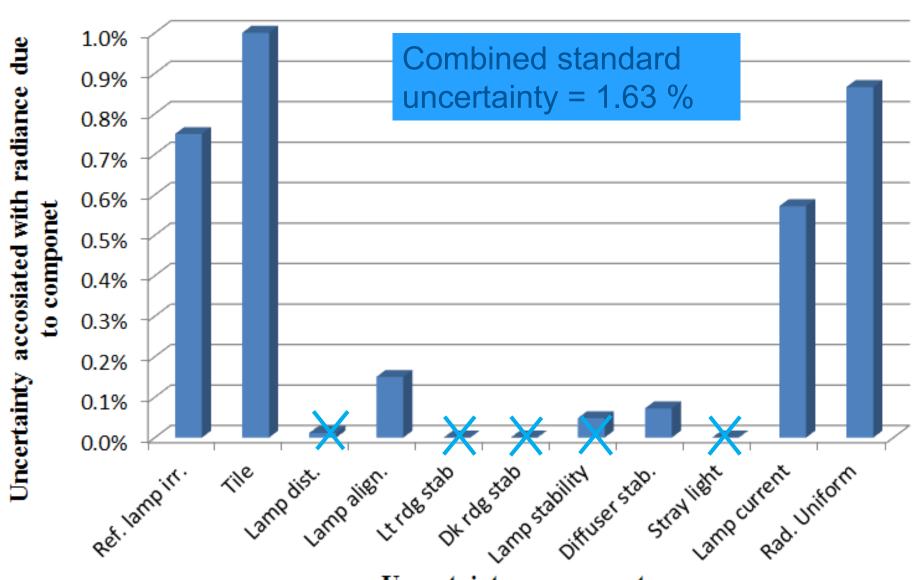




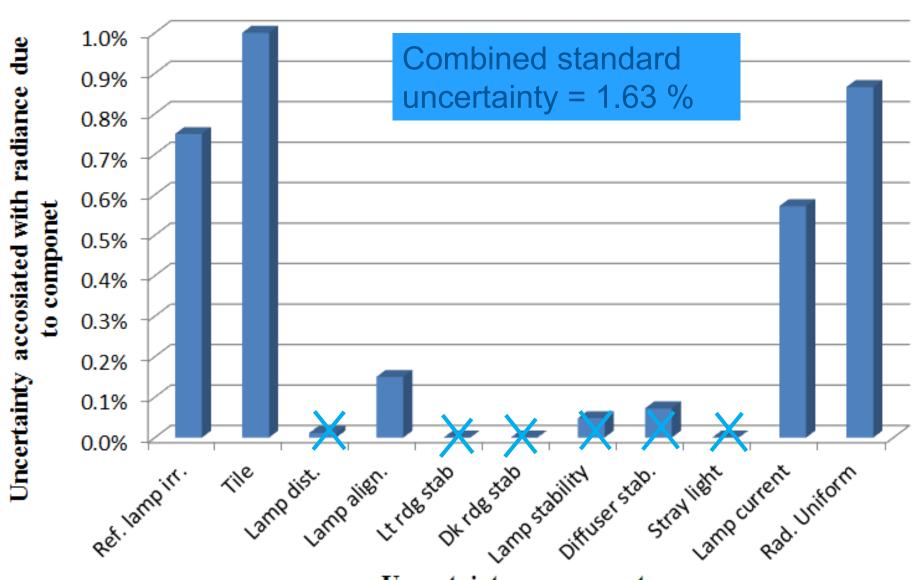




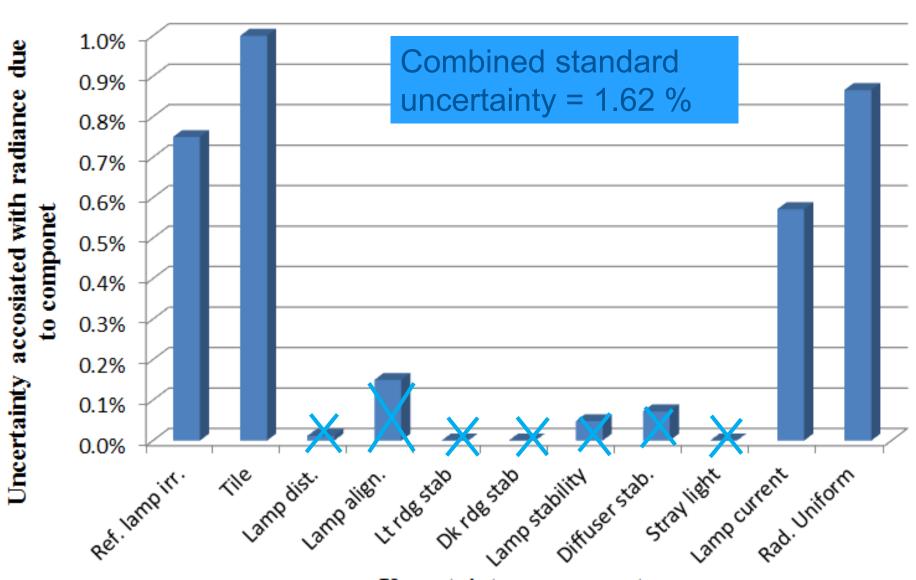












Uncertainty components



Above water radiometry measurement equation

LPU example for water leaving radiance



$$u_c^2(y) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}\right)^2 u^2(x_i)$$

$$y = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)$$

$$L_w = L_t - \rho * L_i$$

We assume uncertainty in all inputs components are due to random effects, thus there is no error correlation. We assume that uncertainty in all inputs components have Normal distribution.

Sensitivity coefficients



$$\frac{\partial L_w}{\partial L_t} = 1,$$

$$\frac{\partial L_w}{\partial \rho} = L_i,$$

$$\frac{\partial L_w}{\partial L_i} = \rho,$$

$$L_w = L_t - \rho * L_i$$

Combined uncertainty



$$u(L_w) = \sqrt{1^2 \cdot u(L_t)^2 + L_i^2 \cdot u(\rho)^2 + \rho^2 \cdot u(L_i)^2}$$

All uncertainties here are expresses as an absolute uncertainty

LPU example for Remote sensing reflectance



$$\frac{\partial R_{rs}}{\partial L_w} = \frac{1}{E_s}$$

$$\frac{\partial R_{rs}}{\partial E_s} = -\frac{L_w}{E_s^2},$$

$$R_{rs} = \frac{L_w}{E_s},$$

$$u(R_{rs}) = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{E_s}\right)^2 \cdot u(L_w)^2 + \left(-\frac{L_w}{E_s^2}\right)^2 \cdot u(E_s)^2}$$

Remote sensing reflectance as relative uncertainty



$$u(R_{rs}) = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{E_s}\right)^2 \cdot u(L_w)^2 + \left(-\frac{L_w}{E_s^2}\right)^2 \cdot u(E_s)^2}$$

Divide both sites of equation by R_{rs}



Relative uncertainty in remote sensing reflectance

$$\frac{u(R_{rs})}{R_{rs}} = \sqrt{\frac{\left(\frac{1}{E_s}\right)^2 \cdot u(L_w)^2}{R_{rs}^2} + \frac{\left(-\frac{L_w}{E_s^2}\right)^2 \cdot u(E_s)^2}{R_{rs}^2}}$$



Relative uncertainty in remote sensing reflectance

$$\frac{u(R_{rs})}{R_{rs}} = \sqrt{\frac{\left(\frac{1}{E_s}\right)^2 \cdot u(L_w)^2}{\left(\frac{L_w}{E_s}\right)^2} + \frac{\left(-\frac{L_w}{E_s^2}\right)^2 \cdot u(E_s)^2}{\left(\frac{L_w}{E_s}\right)^2}}$$



Relative uncertainty in remote sensing reflectance

$$\frac{u(R_{rs})}{R_{rs}} = \sqrt{\frac{u(L_w)^2}{(L_w)^2} + \frac{u(E_s)^2}{(E_s)^2}}$$

Remote sensing reflectance cheat sheet



$$R_{rs} = \frac{L_t - \rho L_i}{E_s}$$

$$u_{rel}(L_r) = \sqrt{u_{rel}(\rho)^2 + u_{rel}(L_i)^2}$$

$$u_{asb}(L_w) = \sqrt{u_{abs}(L_t)^2 + u_{abs}(L_r)^2}$$

$$u_{rel}(L_w) = \sqrt{\frac{u_{abs}(L_t)^2 + u_{abs}(L_r)^2}{L_w^2}}$$

$$u_{rel}(R_{rs}) = \sqrt{u_{rel}(L_w)^2 + u_{rel}(E_s)^2}$$

Take home message



So called sum of squares for relative (%) uncertainty estimation is correct only for equations with multiplications and divisions as mathematical operations.

It works for additions and substations as well but then uncertainties as absolute, thus in the same units and input components.

It doesn't work directly for equation where both multiplication and addition occurs such as L_w .



Congratulation!

I finished and you survived ;-)