### ВИМІРЮВАННЯ ГЕОМЕТРИЧНИХ ВЕЛИЧИН MEASUREMENTS OF GEOMETRIC QUANTITIES

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### Comparative analysis of the accuracy requirements of the equipment for determining the mean integral refractive index of air using different realizations of the gradient method

P. Neyezhmakov, O. Prokopov, T. Panasenko, A. Shloma

National Research Centre "Institute of Metrology", Myronosytska Str., 42, 61002, Kharkiv, Ukraine pavel.neyezhmakov@metrology.kharkov.ua

#### Abstract

The speed of propagation of electromagnetic waves in the Earth's atmosphere differs from the speed of their propagation in a vacuum, which is one of the main factors that have a significant impact on the accuracy of long distance measurement. This influence is taken into account in long distance measurement with the correction for the mean integral group refractive index of air, which depends on such meteorological parameters as temperature, atmospheric pressure and relative air humidity.

The purpose of this work is to compare the accuracy requirements for equipment designed to measure temperature, pressure, and relative humidity required to determine the above correction by the gradient method using the Euler-Maclaurin quadrature formula (hereafter, the Euler-Maclaurin method) and the formula based on Hermite interpolation polynomials (hereafter, the Hermite method). The requirements for the uncertainty of measurements carried out with the sensors of meteorological parameters, allowing to find the mean integral group refractive index of air, providing length measurements of the baselines of up to 5 km with an expanded uncertainty of not more than 1 mm, are established.

Keywords: atmosphere; mean integral group refractive index of air; laser long distance measurement.

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#### 1. Introduction

Interest in the problem of increasing the accuracy of long distance measurement is explained by the widespread use of distance measuring equipment in geodesy, geophysics, geodynamics, navigation, large-scale construction, etc.

The main uncertainty in length measurement of baselines arises due to insufficiently accurate estimation of the mean integral refractive index of air  $\overline{n}$ . The works [1–2] analyze the potential accuracy of the methods for determining the value of  $\overline{n}$ , based on an approximate representation of continuous values by functions measured at discrete points of the integration interval. It is known from geometrical optics that the general relation for  $\overline{n}$  is determined by the formula [3]:

$$\overline{n} = \frac{1}{L} \int_{\sigma} n(\sigma) d\sigma, \qquad (1)$$

where  $\sigma$  is the coordinate along the signal path, the shape of which is determined by the ray equation of geometric optics and is described by the equation of the curve along which the integral (1) is taken;  $n(\sigma)$ is the refractive index of air at a point with a coor-

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dinate  $\sigma$ ; *L* is the length of the signal path connecting the end points of the path under consideration (since the refractive curvature of the signal path for the baselines of up to 5 km is negligible, we further assume that this length corresponds to the length of the straight line to be measured connecting the end points of the baseline).

#### 2. Method

Estimates of the accuracy of the equipment for determining  $\overline{n}$  (further  $\overline{n}_{EM}$ ) by the gradient method when using the Euler-Maclaurin quadrature formula in (1) were performed in [2]. Here is a brief derivation of the analytical expressions of the gradient method based on the substitution of Hermite interpolation polynomials in (1) [4–5] followed by finding  $\overline{n}$  (further  $\overline{n}_{E}$ ) and determining the requirements for the accuracy of measuring sensors. We will estimate the value  $\overline{n}_{E}$  under the following conditions: the values of the function  $n(\sigma)$  are calculated in N+1 points; the values of the first derivatives of this function  $n'(\sigma)$  are determined only at two end points, where  $\sigma = \sigma_0 = 0$ ,  $n(0) = n_0$ ,  $n'(0) = n_0'$  and  $\sigma = \sigma_N = L$ ,  $n(L) = n_L$ ,  $n'(L) = n'_L$ .

After performing simple transformations, we get the following expression:

$$\overline{n}_{E} = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot n(\sigma_{i}) + A_{00} \cdot n_{0} + A_{N0} \cdot n_{L} +$$

$$+ A_{01} \cdot n_{0}' + A_{N1} \cdot n_{L}' + R_{E},$$
(2)

where  $A_i$ ,  $A_{00}$ ,  $A_{N0}$ ,  $A_{01}$ ,  $A_{N1}$  are coefficients calculated for the original formula (1) and described in detail in [4];  $R_E$  is the remainder corresponding to the integral of the remainder of the Hermite interpolation.

To obtain a relation expressing the gradient of the refractive index of air, along the ray coordinate  $n'(\sigma)$  in the measurands, we represent it in the form:

$$n'(\sigma) = \frac{dn}{d\sigma} = (\vec{l}, \nabla n) = \frac{\partial n}{\partial x} \sin z +$$

$$+ \frac{\partial n}{\partial z} \cos z = g_c \sin z + g_v \cos z.$$
(3)

Here  $\hat{l}$  is the unit vector tangent to the ray trajectory;  $\nabla n$  is the gradient of the refractive index;  $g_G$ and  $g_V$  are projections  $\nabla n$  on the X-axis and the Zaxis, respectively; z is the apparent zenith angle of the ray. Using (3), we find the values  $n'_0$  and  $n'_L$ :

$$n_0' = \frac{dn_0}{d\sigma_0} = \frac{\partial n_0}{\partial x} \cdot \sin z_0 + \frac{\partial n_0}{\partial z} \cdot \cos z_0 =$$
(4)

$$= g_{c_0} \cdot \sin z_0 + g_{v_0} \cdot \cos z_0,$$
  

$$n'_{L} = \frac{dn_{L}}{d\sigma_{L}} = \frac{\partial n_{L}}{\partial x} \cdot \sin z_{L} - \frac{\partial n_{L}}{\partial z} \cdot \cos z_{L} =$$
  

$$= g_{cL} \cdot \sin z_{L} - g_{vL} \cdot \cos z_{L},$$
(5)

 $z_0$  and  $z_L$  are z values at the endpoints of the baseline;  $g_{G0}$  and  $g_{V0}$  are the values of  $\nabla n$  projections at the starting point;  $g_{GL}$  and  $g_{VL}$  are the values of  $\nabla n$ projections at the end point of the baseline.

After substituting (4) and (5) into expression (2), we get:  $1^{N-1}$ 

$$\overline{n}_{E} = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^{L} A_{i} \cdot n_{1} + A_{00} \cdot n_{0} + A_{N0} \cdot n_{L} + A_{01} \cdot (g_{G0} \cdot \sin z_{0} + g_{V0} \cdot \cos z_{0}) + A_{N1} \cdot (g_{GL} \cdot \sin z_{L} - g_{VL} \cdot \cos z_{L}) + R_{E}.$$
(6)

In conditions under which the remainder in formula (6) can be neglected, the uncertainty of finding  $\overline{n}_{E}$  is determined by the total contribution of the following uncertainties

$$u_{\overline{n}}^{2} = u_{\overline{n}T}^{2} + u_{\overline{n}p}^{2} + u_{\overline{n}h}^{2} + u_{\overline{n}g}^{2}, \qquad (7)$$

where  $u_{\bar{n}T}$ ,  $u_{\bar{n}p}$ ,  $u_{\bar{n}h}$ ,  $u_{\bar{n}g}$  are the uncertainties associated with the measurement uncertainty, respectively, of temperature, pressure, relative humidity and refractive index gradient. Uncertainties associated with inaccurate measurements of the angles of arrival of the signal at the end points, according to the estimates made, turn out to be negligible and are not taken into account in (7). Let's obtain analytical expressions for the listed uncertainties. We assume that the temperature values are measured both at the end points and at all intermediate points of the baseline, and the atmospheric pressure and relative humidity values are measured only at the end points of the baseline, which allows using linear interpolation of the form  $p_i = p_0 + \left(\frac{p_N - p_0}{N}\right) \cdot i$ , (similarly for *h*). In this case, the relations  $\frac{\partial n}{\partial p_0} = \frac{\partial n}{\partial p_i} \cdot \frac{\partial p_i}{\partial p_0}$  and  $\frac{\partial n}{\partial p_N} = \frac{\partial n}{\partial p_i} \cdot \frac{\partial p_i}{\partial p_N}$  are valid. After applying simple mathematical operations to (6), the corresponding relations will have the form:

$$u_{\bar{n}T}^{2} = \frac{u_{T}^{2}}{L^{2}} \left(\frac{\partial n}{\partial T}\right)^{2} \cdot \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i}^{2} + A_{00}^{2} + A_{N0}^{2}\right),$$
(8)

$$u_{np}^{2} = \frac{u_{p}^{2}}{L^{2}} \left(\frac{\partial n}{\partial p}\right)^{2} \left[ \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{i}{N}\right) + A_{00}\right)^{2} \right] + \left[ \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \frac{i}{N} + A_{N0}\right)^{2} \right],$$

$$u_{nh}^{2} = \frac{u_{h}^{2}}{L^{2}} \left(\frac{\partial n}{\partial h}\right)^{2} \left[ \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{i}{N}\right) + A_{00}\right)^{2} \right] + \left[ \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \frac{i}{N} + A_{N0}\right)^{2} \right],$$
(9)
$$(10)$$

where  $\frac{\partial n}{\partial T}, \frac{\partial n}{\partial p}, \frac{\partial n}{\partial h}$  are the partial derivatives of the refractive index of air with respect to temperature, pressure and relative humidity calculated using the Siddor formula [6];  $u_T, u_p, u_h$  are the uncertainties of measurement results of temperature, pressure and humidity, respectively, at the points of determining their local values.

In turn, the uncertainty of the gradient of the refractive index of air is determined by the contribution of the uncertainties of the horizontal and vertical projections of the gradient at the ends of the baseline, namely:

$$u_{\overline{ng}}^{2} = u_{\overline{ng}G0}^{2} + u_{\overline{ng}V0}^{2} + u_{\overline{ng}GL}^{2} + u_{\overline{ng}VL}^{2}.$$
 (11)

Calculating the corresponding partial derivatives in formula (6) and assuming that  $u_{gG0} = u_{gV0} = u_{gGL} = u_{gVL} = u_g$ , we get the following:

$$u_{\bar{n}g}^2 = \frac{u_g^2}{L^2} \cdot (A_{01}^2 + A_{N1}^2).$$
(12)

After substituting (8), (9), (10) and (12) in (7), the final relation for the value  $u_{\bar{n}}^2$  will take the form:

Table 1

Euler–Maclaurin method	Hermite method	Temperature range
14.2521 Pa < <i>u</i> <sub>p</sub> < 16.4764 Pa	14.2521 Pa < <i>u</i> <sub>p</sub> < 16.4764 Pa	
$0.0417 < u_h < 0.690$	$0.0417 < u_h < 0.690$	-15°C <t< +25°c<="" td=""></t<>
$0.0361 \text{ °C} < u_{\mathrm{T}} < 0.0474 \text{ °C}$	$0.0361 \text{ °C} < u_{\mathrm{T}} < 0.0474 \text{ °C}$	
$u_{\rm g}$ =3.5495×10 <sup>-6</sup> 1/km	$u_{\rm g}$ =2.244×10 <sup>-6</sup> 1/km	for the baseline of 1 km

Ta	bl	e	2

Euler–Maclaurin method	Hermite method	Temperature range
14.2521 Pa < <i>u</i> <sub>p</sub> < 16.4764 Pa	14.252 Pa < <i>u</i> <sub>p</sub> < 16.476 Pa	
$0.0417 < u_h < 0.690$	$0.0417 < u_h < 0.690$	-15°C <t< +25°c<="" td=""></t<>
$0.0546 \ ^{\circ}\text{C} \le u_{\text{T}} \le 0.0717 \ ^{\circ}\text{C}$	$0.0538 \text{ °C} < u_{\text{T}} < 0.0706 \text{ °C}$	
$u_{\rm g}$ =2.271×10 <sup>-6</sup> 1/km	$u_{\rm g}$ =2.981×10 <sup>-6</sup> 1/km	for the baseline of 5 km

$$u_{\bar{n}}^{2} = \frac{u_{T}^{2}}{L^{2}} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial n}{\partial T}\right)^{2} \cdot \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i}^{2} + \sum_{i=0,N} A_{i0}^{2}\right) + \frac{u_{p}^{2}}{L^{2}} \left(\frac{\partial n}{\partial p}\right)^{2} \cdot \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{i}{N}\right) + A_{00}\right)^{2} + \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \frac{i}{N} + A_{N0}\right)^{2}\right] + \frac{u_{h}^{2}}{L^{2}} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial n}{\partial h}\right)^{2} \cdot \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{i}{N}\right) + A_{00}\right)^{2} + \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \frac{i}{N} + A_{N0}\right)^{2}\right] + \frac{u_{h}^{2}}{L^{2}} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial n}{\partial h}\right)^{2} \cdot \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{i}{N}\right) + A_{00}\right)^{2} + \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \frac{i}{N} + A_{N0}\right)^{2}\right] + \frac{u_{g}^{2}}{L^{2}} \cdot \left(A_{01}^{2} + A_{N1}^{2}\right),$$
(13)

where  $u_g$  is the uncertainty with which the values of the gradient of the refractive index at the endpoints of the baseline are determined.

Let us present the working relationships for calculating the uncertainties of the sensors of meteorological parameters allowing to set the accuracy requirements for different weather conditions. We suppose that the first three terms in the sum do not exceed 30% of the value of the total sum of expression (13), while the share of the latter will be 70% (this assumption is due to the fact that the methods and means for measuring g are less developed than those for measuring the values T, p, h).

$$u_T = \sqrt{\frac{0.1 \cdot 10^{-14}}{\left(\frac{1}{L^2} \left[ \left(\frac{\partial n}{\partial T}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_i^2 + \sum_{i=0,N} A_{i0}^2\right) \right]},$$
(14)

$$u_{p} = \sqrt{\frac{0.1 \cdot 10^{-14}}{\frac{1}{L^{2}} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial n}{\partial p} \right)^{2} \cdot \left[ \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \left( 1 - \frac{i}{N} \right) + A_{00} \right)^{2} + \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \frac{i}{N} + A_{N0} \right)^{2} \right] \right]}, (15)$$

$$u_{h} = \sqrt{\frac{0.1 \cdot 10^{-14}}{\left[\left(\frac{\partial n}{\partial h}\right)^{2} \cdot \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i}\left(1 - \frac{i}{N}\right) + A_{00}\right)^{2} + \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} A_{i} \cdot \frac{i}{N} + A_{N0}\right)^{2}\right]\right]}, (16)$$

$$u_g = \sqrt{\frac{0.7 \cdot 10^{-14}}{\frac{1}{L^2} (A_{01}^2 + A_{N1}^2)}}.$$
 (17)

#### 3. Results

The results of calculations performed using formulas (18) – (21) for the Hermite method were compared with the results of calculations using the corresponding formulas used in [1] for the Euler–Maclaurin method. The calculations were carried out for the following climatic conditions: atmospheric pressure P = 760 mm Hg, range of relative humidity variation  $0.3 \le h \le 0.8$ , length of the baseline L=1 km; 5 km (for a uniform distribution of points at which measurements are taken). It is shown that the measurement uncertainties of the meteorological parameters  $u_p$ ,  $u_h$  and  $u_T$  should be in the following intervals: for N=1 (see Table 1); similarly for N=4 (see Table 2).

#### 4. Conclusion

From a comparison of the data given in Tables 1, 2, it follows that for the realization of the gradient method based on the use of Hermite polynomials, it is necessary to provide a higher accuracy in measuring the local temperature values along the baseline. Thus, the accuracy requirements for temperature sensors turn out to be more stringent when using Hermite interpolation polynomials than for the Euler-Maclaurin quadrature formula.

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## Порівняльний аналіз вимог до точності апаратури для визначення середньоінтегрального показника заломлення повітря за допомогою різних реалізацій градієнтного методу

П.І. Неєжмаков, О.В. Прокопов, Т.А. Панасенко, А.І. Шлома

Національний науковий центр "Інститут метрології", вул. Мироносицька, 42, 61002, Харків, Україна pavel.neyezhmakov@metrology.kharkov.ua

#### Анотація

Наразі зусилля геофізиків, геодезистів та метрологів різних країн спрямовані на підвищення точності вимірювань, що здійснюються з використанням електромагнітних хвиль. Вимірювання відстаней за допомогою лазерної віддалеметрії забезпечують міліметрову точність на великих дистанціях, ще більша точність необхідна в майбутньому.

Швидкість поширення електромагнітних хвиль у земній атмосфері відрізняється від швидкості їх поширення у вакуумі, що є одним з основних чинників, який впливає на точність віддалемірних вимірювань. Вплив атмосфери на вимірювальний процес знижує точність усіх видів вимірювань. Цей вплив враховується у віддалеметрії за допомогою поправки на середньоінтегральний груповий показник заломлення повітря, який залежить від таких атмосферних параметрів, як температура, атмосферний тиск і відносна вологість повітря. Для оцінки їх впливу на результати вимірювань необхідно реєструвати ці величини на ділянках базисної лінії, що підлягає вимірюванню. Рішення на сучасному науково-технічному рівні проблеми врахування впливу атмосфери залишається постійно актуальним завданням і є одним з основних шляхів підвищення точності результатів спостережень.

Метою цієї роботи є порівняльний аналіз вимог до точності апаратури, призначеної для вимірювання температури, атмосферного тиску і відносної вологості повітря, необхідних для визначення зазначеної поправки градієнтним методом за допомогою квадратурної формули Ейлера-Маклорена (далі метод Ейлера-Маклорена) і формули, заснованої на інтерполяційних многочленах Ерміта (далі метод Ерміта). Встановлено вимоги до невизначеності вимірювань, що здійснюються за допомогою давачів метеопараметрів, що дозволяє знайти середньоінтегральний груповий показник заломлення повітря, який забезпечує вимірювання довжин трас до 5 км із розширеною невизначеністю не більше 1 мм.

Ключові слова: атмосфера; середньоінтегральний груповий показник заломлення повітря; лазерна віддалеметрія.

# Сравнительный анализ требований к точности аппаратуры для определения среднеинтегрального показателя преломления воздуха с помощью различных реализаций градиентного метода

П.И. Неежмаков, А.В. Прокопов, Т.А. Панасенко, А.И. Шлома

Национальный научный центр "Институт метрологии", ул. Мироносицкая, 42, 61002, Харьков, Украина pavel.neyezhmakov@metrology.kharkov.ua

#### Аннотация

Скорость распространения электромагнитных волн в земной атмосфере отличается от скорости их распространения в вакууме, что является одним из основных факторов, оказывающих существенное влияние на точность дальномерных измерений. Это влияние учитывается в дальнометрии с помощью поправки на среднеинтегральный групповой показатель преломления воздуха, который зависит от таких атмосферных параметров, как температура, атмосферное давление и относительная влажность воздуха. Целью настоящей работы является сравнительный анализ требований к точности аппаратуры, предназначенной для измерения температуры, давления и относительной влажности воздуха, необходимых для определения указанной поправки градиентным методом с помощью квадратурной формулы Эйлера-Маклорена (далее метод Эйлера-Маклорена) и формулы, основанной на интерполяционных многочленах Эрмита (далее метод Эрмита). Установлены требования к неопределенности измерений, осуществляемых с помощью датчиков метеопараметров, позволяющей найти среднеинтегральный групповой показатель преломления воздуха, обеспечивающий измерения длин трасс до 5 км с расширенной неопределенностью не более 1 мм.

Ключевые слова: атмосфера; среднеинтегральный групповой показатель преломления воздуха; лазерная дальнометрия.

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