

Investigation of Thermal Response Model for Solar Irradiance Absolute Radiometer

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Abstract

Solar Irradiance Absolute Radiometer (SIAR) is a cavity-type electrical substitution radiometer for transferring the World Radiance Reference (WRR). In order to shorten the measurement period, and ensure the measurement precision, the cavity temperature response model is experimentally investigated and corrected. The thermodynamic equation of cavity temperature is solved. Based on the analysis of non-equivalent in optical and electrical heating, the cavity temperature response model is corrected to a double exponential form. The simulation result analyzes the origin of the temperature pulse. A new characteristic parameter, named as non-equivalent response time, is proposed and measured. The cavity temperature response characteristic of SIAR is improved by the compensation of the temperature pulse. Comparison experiment results illustrate that the temperature pulse can be compensated by inserting a delay time, and the cavity temperature response model is simplified to a single exponential form. Thus, SIAR with large thermal time constant can adopt shorter measurement period, meanwhile measurement precision is 0.07%. The investigation of non-equivalent response time is important for the radiant calibration of SIAR. This correction method can also be used to optimize the on-orbit calibration method of Total Solar Irradiance Monitor (TSIM).

Keywords: Absolute radiometer; Thermal response model; Non-equivalent; Radiant calibration

1. Introduction

Total Solar Irradiance (TSI) study is necessary to understand different contributions to global climate changes [1-4]. Increasing number of Total Solar Irradiance Radiometers (TSIRs) has conducted long-term high-precision measurement on space platforms since 1978 [5-7]. The amplitude of the variation is 0.1% during an 11-year solar cycle [8]. The Total Solar Irradiance Monitors (TSIMs), developed by Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics (CIOMP) for China Meteorological Administration (CMA), have been operated on the Feng Yun satellites (FY-3A and FY-3B) for long-term TSI measurement [9-10]. TSI measurement data is in good agreement with the measurement data in the same period. TSIM/FY-3C was launched on 2014 [11]. Measurement mode adopts solar-tracking to replace wide-view scanning, in order to improve effective measurement time and measurement accuracy. The tracking accuracy is superior to 0.3° [12].

In order to calibrate different TSIRs, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) established World Radiance Reference (WRR) [13]. WMO conducts International Pyrheliometers Comparison (IPC) every five years. TSIMs' traceability to WRR can be obtained by ground-based radiant calibration. CIOMP commenced the development of absolute radiometers since last century 60's. Solar Irradiance Absolute Radiometer

(SIAR), developed by CIOMP, has attended IPC for three times [14]. The absolute deviation between SIAR-2a and WRR is only 0.00042, and measurement precision is superior to 0.080% [15]. SIAR can be used as transfer detector for calibrating TSIMs.

SIAR is a cavity-type electrical substitution radiometer. The solar irradiance is absorbed by a cavity, resulting in a temperature rise. When the temperature rise is reappeared by an equivalent electrical power, the solar irradiance can be achieved by precisely measuring the equivalent electrical power. Under the heating of optical or electrical power, the cavity temperature response curve conforms to a single exponential form [16]. The τ is thermal time constant. The time of 10τ is needed to recover equilibrium state. SIAR adopts the method of dynamic forecast compensated electrical power [15]. Measurement process is consisted of radiant observation and electrical calibration. In radiant observation, the radiant power and the compensated electrical power are both provided to the cavity in order to maintain the thermal equilibrium state. According to the single exponential model, the equilibrium temperature can be forecasted by the temperature variation at the initial phase of radiant observation. Then the compensated electrical power is corrected by the forecasted equilibrium temperature, in order to ensure that the total heating powers of radiant observation and electrical calibration are both approximated to 75mW. This method significantly shortens the measurement period because the equilibrium state can be quickly recovered. After several corrections, the total heating powers of radiant observation and electrical calibration are gradually approaching. Therefore, the cavity temperature should be constant during measure process. But practical application finds that there are fixed temperature pulses at the initial phase of radiant observation and electrical calibration. The temperature pulse destroys equilibrium state, and forces SIAR to extend measurement period. The investigation shows that each SIAR has a different temperature pulse.

In order to attend the IPC-XII, the fourth generation of SIAR is improved in both electrical and mechanical design. The characteristic parameter of SIAR mainly contains the thermal time constant, which represents the cavity temperature response speed. The thermal time constant is depended on the heat capacity and heat conductivity. Limited by the manufacturing technology, each SIAR has different thermal time constants. Therefore the optimum measurement periods are different. At present, the measurement period of 90 seconds is generally used in IPC. Due to the impact of the temperature pulse, SIAR with large thermal time constant cannot adopt the measurement period of 90 seconds. Thus, the investigation and compensation of temperature pulse is necessary. In this paper, the cavity temperature response model is corrected according to the investigation of heat conduction structure. A new characteristic parameter, named as non-equivalent response time, is proposed and measured. The temperature pulse is compensated by inserting a delay time. The cavity temperature response curve is significantly optimized. Then the time of recovering equilibrium state is shortened. Thus SIAR with large thermal time constant can adopt small measurement period, meanwhile, the measurement precision is improved.

2. Correction of Cavity Temperature Response Model

2.1. Detector Structure of SIAR

SIAR is a cavity-type electrical substitution radiometer. The primary cavity and the reference cavity are connected with the heat sink by thermal links as shown in Figure1. When the shutter is open, radiant power is absorbed in primary cavity, resulting in a temperature rise. The thermocouple outputs a voltage, which is entitled as temperature voltage. The sampling code of temperature voltage represents the cavity temperature in practical measurement. The temperature variation of heat sink is compensated by the dual cavity inter-compensating structure^[17]. The electrical power is loaded on the primary cavity by an electrical heater. The radiant power is obtained by accurately measuring the equivalent electrical power.

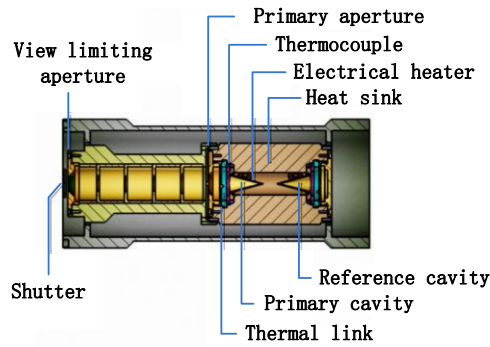


Figure 1. The Detector Structure of SIAR

2.2 Establishment of Cavity Temperature Response Model

The heat conduction structure of SIAR belongs to the problem of single temperature sensor. According to the centralized parameter method, the primary cavity and heat sink are simplified to mass points [18-19], which have no relationship with spatial coordinates as shown in Figure2. The cavity temperature is $T_C(t)$, and the heat sink temperature is $T_H(t)$.

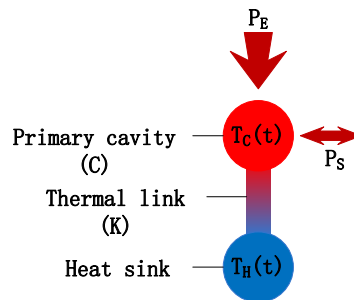


Figure 2. One Dimensional Heat Conduction Structure

The thermodynamic equation for cavity temperature is as follows

$$\frac{dT_C(t)}{dt} = \frac{\varphi}{\rho c}, \quad (1)$$

Where ρ is the material density, c is the specific heat, and φ is the generating heat of heat source in unit time per unit volume. The φ contains three parts: the power transferred from cavity to heat sink (φ_1); the heating power (φ_2); the radiant heat between cavity and shutter (φ_3). They are respectively expressed by

$$\varphi_1 V = -[T_C(t) - T_H(t)] / R, \quad (2)$$

$$\varphi_2 V = P, \quad (3)$$

$$\varphi_3 V = P_S, \quad (4)$$

Where V is the volume of cavity, R is the thermal resistance of thermal link, P is heating power, and P_S is the radiant power between cavity and shutter. Under the heating of electrical power (P_E), the thermodynamic equation is obtained by Eq.1 to Eq.4, and depicted by

$$C \frac{dT_C(t)}{dt} = K[T_H(t) - T_C(t)] + P_E + P_S, \quad (5)$$

Where $C=V\rho c$ is the total heat capacity of cavity, $K=1/R$ is the heat conductivity of thermal link. According to the Planck's law, P_S is calculated by

$$P_S = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\omega_h} \left(\frac{\sigma \varepsilon T_C^4}{\pi} - \frac{\sigma \varepsilon T_S^4}{\pi} \right) \cos \theta \sin \theta d\theta d\psi, \quad (6)$$

Where T_S is the shutter temperature, $\sigma=5.670 \times 10^{-8} \text{W}/(\text{m}^2\text{K}^4)$ is Stephan Boltzmann constant, ε is the radiation intensity of shutter and primary cavity, and ω_h is half view field. The temperature difference between primary cavity and heat sink is expressed by

$$T_d(t) = T_C(t) - T_H(t) \quad (7)$$

Due to the temperature of heat sink is constant, Eq.5 is derived as

$$C \frac{dT_d(t)}{dt} + KT_d(t) = P_E + P_S \quad (8)$$

When $t=0$, the cavity temperature is T . Then Eq.8 can be solved. The transient temperature response model accords with single exponential model, which is expressed by

$$T_d(t) = T_0 + (T - T_0) e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}, \quad (9)$$

Where $\tau=C/K$ is thermal time constant, T_0 is equilibrium temperature, and depicted by

$$T_0 = (P_E + P_S) / K \quad (10)$$

When $t \rightarrow \infty$, Eq.9 is rewritten as

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T_d(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T_0 (1 + e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}) = T_0 \quad (11)$$

Thus when heated by a constant power, cavity temperature response has a single exponential form as shown in Eq.9. Generally, the temperature at the time of 10τ is used as the equilibrium temperature. The time for recovering equilibrium state is depended on the thermal time constant, which is a characteristic parameter of SIAR.

2.3. Correction of Cavity Temperature Response Model

The single exponential model is established on the assumption that the primary cavity and heat sink are both mass points. But the cavity temperature response process is complex in practical heating process. According to the qualitative analysis of heating mode, the cavity temperature response model is corrected.

2.3.1 Cavity Manufacture Technology

The cavity is manufactured by electrical accumulation method with silver material. Electrical heater is covered inside cavity wall as shown in Figure3. The inside surface of cavity is coated with a specular reflecting black paint^[20]. The outside of cavity is painted with gold to be used as protective layer. Through multiple reflecting, the 99.96% of radiant power is absorbed by black paint, and transformed to cavity temperature rise. Considering heating mode and surface, radiant and electrical heating is non-equivalent.

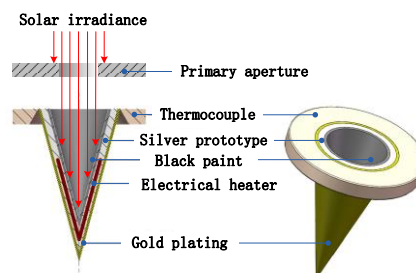


Figure 3. The Structure of Cavity

2.3.2. Non-Equivalent Response Time

The radiant power is transformed by black paint, but the electrical power is transformed by electrical heater. Due to the different heat conduction modes, the radiant and electrical heating have different heat conductivities. K has an inversely-proportional relationship with τ . Thus radiant and electrical heating have different thermal time constants. Under the heating of electrical power, cavity temperature is balanced to T firstly. Then under radiant and electrical heating, the cavity temperature response can be obtained by the linear accumulation of Eq.9, and expressed by

$$T_d(t) = T_{E0} + (T - T_{E0})e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_E}} + T_{O0} + (0 - T_{O0})e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_O}}, \quad (12)$$

Where τ_E is the thermal time constant of electrical power, τ_O is the thermal time constant of radiant power, T_{E0} is the equilibrium temperature of electrical power, T_{O0} is the equilibrium temperature of radiant power.

Eq.12 is the double exponential model of cavity temperature response. The difference between thermal time constants is named as non-equivalent response time (a), which is expressed as

$$a = \tau_E - \tau_O. \quad (13)$$

Based on LabVIEW, the double exponential model of cavity temperature response is established according to Eq.12. The cavity temperature response is simulated as shown in Figure4. The radiant power and electrical power are constant. The cavity temperature responses are different under diverse non-equivalent response times. Simulation results illustrate that non-equivalent response time leads to the temperature pulse of cavity temperature response. Meanwhile, temperature pulse has a proportional relationship with non-equivalent response time. Thus, the non-equivalent response time is an important characteristic parameter of SIAR. The non-equivalence between radiant and electrical heating is the reason of temperature pulse. The double exponential model is more accurate in practical measurement.

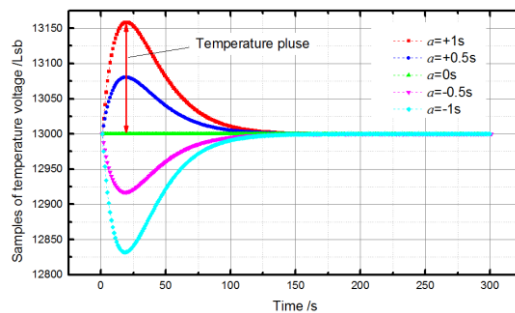


Figure 4. The Simulation Result of Cavity Temperature Response under Diverse Non-Equivalent Response Times

3. Measurement of Non-Equivalent Response Time

The fourth generation of SIAR is improved in both electrical and mechanical design. Limited by manufacture technology, each SIAR has a different thermal time constant and non-equivalent response time. The thermal time constant and non-equivalent response time are experimentally measured after assembly.

3.1. Measurement Process

Radiant source adopts halogen tungsten lamp, which has a power stability superior to 0.1%. In the first place, radiant power (P_O) is repeatedly measured by SIAR in order to

obtain the equivalent electrical power (P_E). Then the sampling frequency of SIAR is improved from 1Hz to 5Hz. Under radiant power heating, the rise and decline curves of cavity temperature response are respectively measured. Afterwards, under radiant power heating, the rise and decline curves of cavity temperature response are respectively measured. Finally, thermal time constants are obtained by fitting cavity temperature response curves, and non-equivalent response time is calculated.

3.2. Measurement Result

SIAR-4A, SIAR-4B, SIAR-4C and SIAR-4D are respectively measured. The first 20 samples of rise and decline curves are shown in Figure 5. Both in rise and decline processes, the response speeds of the electrical power are slower than the radiant power. There is a delay value (t) between the two cavity temperature response curves. Meanwhile the delay value is identical in the rise and decline processes. Each SIAR has a diverse delay value. The measurement results of thermal time constant, non-equivalent response time and delay value are shown in Table 1. Experiment results illustrate that the non-equivalent response time is the reason of temperature pulse, and corresponds to the delay value of cavity temperature response curves. Thus, the non-equivalent response time is an important characteristic parameter of SIAR.

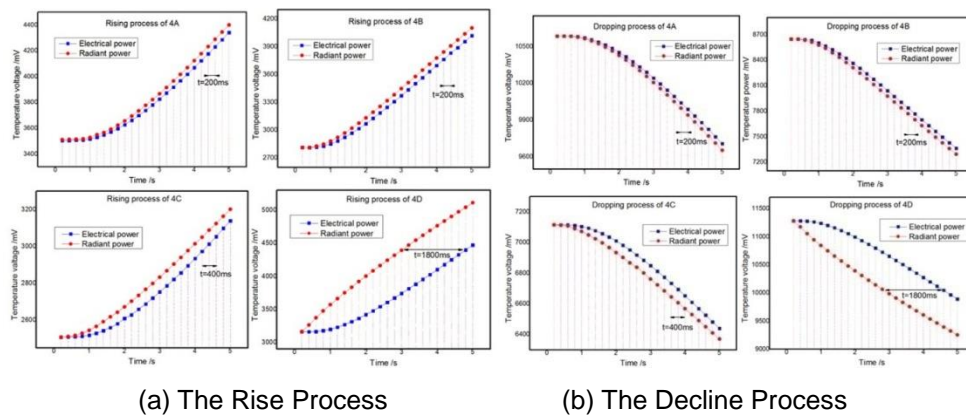


Figure 5. The First 20 Samples of Cavity Temperature Response Curves

Table 1. Measurement Results of Non-Equivalent Response Time

SIAR	Thermal time constant		Non-equivalent response time	Delay value
	τ_O/s	τ_E/s		
4A	18.54	18.60	0.08	0.2
4B	14.17	14.24	0.07	0.2
4C	16.09	16.54	0.45	0.4
4D	16.54	17.23	0.69	1.8

4. Measure Method Optimization for SIAR

4.1 Principle of dynamic forecast compensated electrical power

Before measurement, the sensitivity (S) is calculated by self-test [16]. S represents the relationship between cavity temperature and electrical power. Then under preheating of electrical power (P_H), cavity obtains an equilibrium temperature (T_H).

Shutter is opened in radiant observation. Radiant power (P_O) is absorbed by primary cavity. Meanwhile a compensated electrical power (P_E) is loaded on primary cavity in order to maintain thermal equilibrium state. Prof. Bing-xi Yu assumes that cavity temperature response curve accords with single exponential model [15]. Then according to

the cavity temperatures ($T(t_1)$ and $T(t_2)$) at the initial phase, the equilibrium temperature (T_O) of P_O and P_E can be calculated by

$$T_O = \frac{T(t_2) - e^{\frac{-(t_2-t_1)}{\tau}} T(t_1)}{1 - e^{\frac{-(t_2-t_1)}{\tau}}} \quad (14)$$

In order to obtain the same equilibrium temperature with T_H in radiant observation, the sum of P_O and P_E should be equal to P_H . Thus P_E is corrected by P_{E1} , which is calculated by

$$P_{E1} = P_E + (T_H - T_O) \times S \quad (15)$$

Then under the heating of P_O and P_{E1} , the equilibrium temperature of radiant observation is T_{O1} .

Shutter is closed in electrical calibration. Cavity is only heated by the electrical power (P_{E2}), which is equal to P_H

$$P_{E2} = P_H \quad (16)$$

Then the equilibrium temperature of electrical calibration is T_{E2} . Thus P_O is depicted as

$$P_O = P_{E2} - P_{E1} + (T_{O1} - T_{E2}) \times S \quad (17)$$

In practical measurement, the sum of P_O and P_{E1} is quite approaching to P_H after several correcting. Thus cavity temperature should be constant in measure process. But there are fixed temperature pulses at the initial phases of radiant observation and electrical calibration as shown in Figure6. According to the analysis of Section 2.3, the reason of temperature pulse is that the response speed of SIAR to radiant power is faster than electrical power. Thus under the heating of P_O and P_{E1} , the double exponential model of cavity temperature response is more accurate.

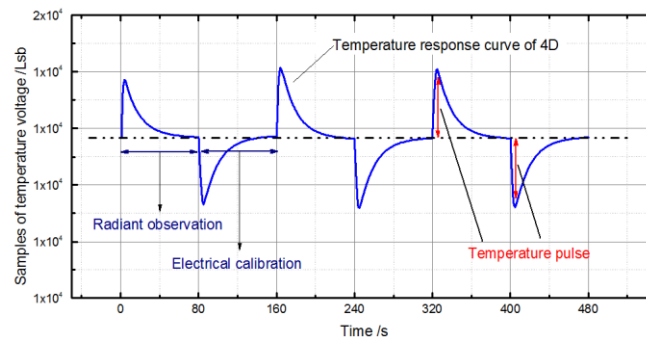


Figure 6. Temperature Pulses Exist in the Initial Phases of Radiant Observation or Electrical Calibration

4.2 Correction Method Principle

In order to compensate the temperature pulse, the measure process is improved as follows. At the initial phase of radiant observation, the electrical power is reduced first. Then shutter is opened after a period of time, and the radiant power is loaded on the primary cavity. At the initial phase of electrical calibration, the electrical power is increased first. Then shutter is closed after the same period of time. Therefore, a delay time (t_c) is inserted into the measure process. The insertion of delay time is equivalent to move the cavity temperature response curve of radiant power to the right. The movement distance is t_c . When $t_c=t$, cavity temperature response curves are rapidly coinciding as shown in Figure7. Thus, the delay time can compensate the difference of cavity temperature response speed. The temperature pulse can be eliminated. Therefore, the cavity temperature response curve in measure process is corrected.

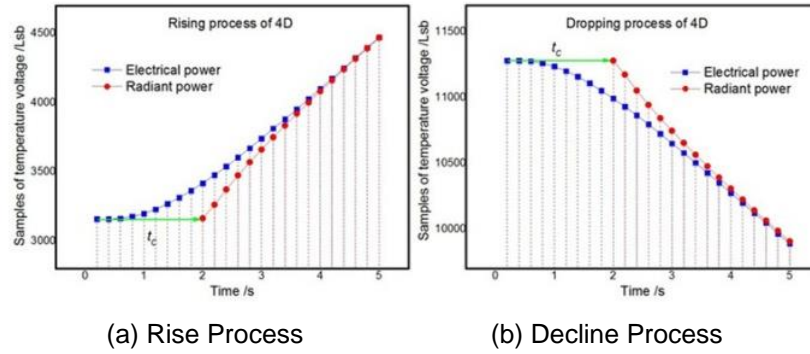


Figure 7. The Compensation of Cavity Temperature Response Speed Difference

Meanwhile, according to the measurement result of Section 3.2, the delay value corresponds to non-equivalent response time. Thus, the insertion of delay time is also equivalent to increase τ_o . Then Eq.12 is depicted as

$$T_d(t) = T_{E0} + (T - T_{E0})e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_E}} + T_{O0} + (0 - T_{O0})e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_o+a}} \quad (18)$$

When the non-equivalent response time accords with Eq.13, the double exponential model of cavity temperature response curve is simplified as

$$T_d(t) = T_{E0} + T_{O0} + (T - T_{E0} - T_{O0})e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_o+a}} \quad (19)$$

Thus, the delay time can compensate non-equivalent response time. The cavity temperature response curve is simplified to the single exponential model. Then, the accuracy of equilibrium temperature forecast is improved.

4.3. Comparison Experiments

The measurement result of non-equivalent response time illustrates that SIAR-4D not only has a large thermal time constant ($\tau \approx 17s$), but also has a big non-equivalent response time. When measurement period is set to 90s (measurement periods of radiant observation and electrical calibration are respectively 45s), cavity temperature cannot achieve equilibrium state because of the temperature pulse. Meanwhile, there is a big difference between the equilibrium temperatures of radiant observation and electrical calibration. Therefore, the measurement precision is reduced.

4.3.1. Improvement of Cavity Temperature Response

When the non-equivalent response time is measured, the cavity temperature response can be improved by inserting t_c . The measurement period is set to 160s (the measurement periods of radiant observation and electrical calibration are respectively 80s). Then a series of t_c is inserted in the measurement process of SIAR-4D. The radiant power of halogen tungsten lamp is repeatedly measured. A series of cavity temperature response curves are obtained as shown in Figure8. Experiment results illustrate that the temperature pulse is declining along with the increasing of t_c . The time of recovering equilibrium state is shortened. When the delay time is equivalent to the delay value, the temperature pulse is the minimum, and the time of recovering equilibrium state is the shortest (only needs 35s). When $t_c=0s$, the time of recovering equilibrium state needs 70s at least. Experiment result illustrates that the delay value is compensated by the delay time. The elimination of temperature pulse shortens the time of recovering equilibrium state. Thus, the SIAR with big thermal time constant also can adopt little measurement period.

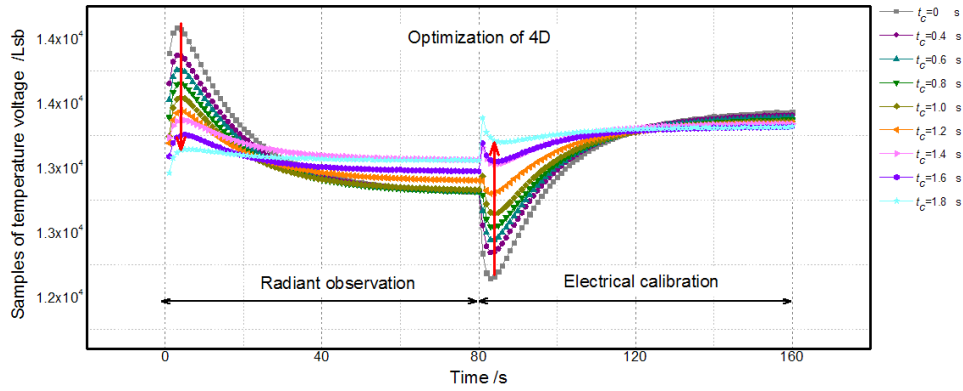


Figure 8. Measurement Period Optimization of SIAR-4D

Meanwhile experiment result in Figure8 also illustrates that the difference of equilibrium temperatures is gradually decreasing with increasing the delay time. Therefore, the accuracy of equilibrium temperature forecast is improved.

The measurement period of SIAR-4D is set to 90s, which is generally used in IPC. The measurement periods of radiant observation and electrical calibration are respectively 45s. Then delay time is respectively set to 1.8s or 0s. The radiant power of halogen tungsten lamp is repeatedly measured as shown in Figure9. Experimental result illustrates that measurement accuracy is improved from 0.13% to 0.07%. Because that the insertion of delay time shortens the time of recovering equilibrium state, and the accuracy of equilibrium temperature forecast is improved.

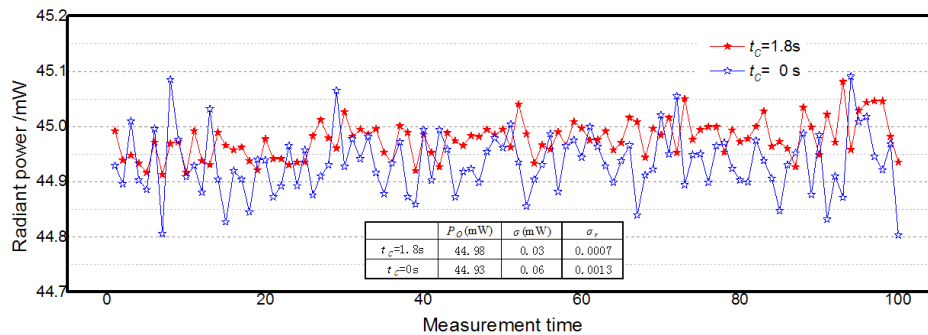


Figure 9. Measurement Result Comparison

4.3.2. Uncertainty Analysis

The electrical power is obtained by measuring the voltage code of electrical heater. Electrical power is depicted as

$$P_E = \frac{D^2 V_S^2}{D_S^2 R} \quad (19)$$

Where V_S is the reference voltage of AD, D_S is the code of reference voltage, R is the resistance of electrical heater. According to Eq.17 and Eq.19, the radiant power is expressed as

$$P_O = \frac{(D_2^2 - D_1^2) V_S^2}{D_S^2 R} + \Delta \times S \quad (20)$$

Where $\Delta = T_{O1} - T_{E1}$ is the difference of equilibrium temperatures, D_2 is the sampling code of heat voltage in electrical calibration, D_1 is the sampling code of heat voltage in

radiant observation. The absolute uncertainty of SIAR is calculated by

$$\begin{aligned}
 u^2 &= \left(\frac{\partial P_O}{\partial D_2}\right)^2 u^2(D_2) + \left(\frac{\partial P_O}{\partial D_1}\right)^2 u^2(D_1) + \left(\frac{\partial P_O}{\partial V_S}\right)^2 u^2(V_S) + \left(\frac{\partial P_O}{\partial D_S}\right)^2 u^2(D_S) + \left(\frac{\partial P_O}{\partial R}\right)^2 u^2(R) + \left(\frac{\partial P_O}{\partial \Delta}\right)^2 u^2(\Delta) + \left(\frac{\partial P_O}{\partial S}\right)^2 u^2(S) \\
 &= \left(\frac{2V_S^2 D_2}{D_S^2 R}\right)^2 u^2(D_2) + \left(\frac{2V_S^2 D_1}{D_S^2 R}\right)^2 u^2(D_1) + \left(\frac{2V_S(D_2^2 - D_1^2)}{D_S^2 R}\right)^2 u^2(V_S) + \left(\frac{2(D_2^2 - D_1^2)V_S^2}{D_S^3 R}\right)^2 u^2(D_S) + \left(\frac{(D_2^2 - D_1^2)V_S^2}{D_S^2 R^2}\right)^2 u^2(R) + S^2 u^2(\Delta) + \Delta^2 u^2(S)
 \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

According to the uncertainty components listed in Table.2, the absolute uncertainty (u) of SIAR is 0.028mW, and relative uncertainty (u_r) is 0.06%. If the confidence factor (k) is 2, $2u_r=0.12\% > 0.07\%$. Thus the optimization of SIAR can shorten measurement period, and can guarantee the measure accuracy.

Table 2. Uncertainty Components of SIAR

Parameter	Value	Absolute uncertainty
D_1 /Lsb	12173	1.5
D_2 /Lsb	12151	1.5
D_S /Lsb	32767	1.5
V_S /V	5.1287	0.0001
R / Ω	852.89	0.02
Δ /Lsb	10	3
S /mW/Lsb	7.014×10^{-3}	4.7×10^{-5}
P_O /mW	44.98	0.028

5. Conclusion

The fourth generation of SIAR is improved in both electrical and mechanical design, and adopts the measurement method of dynamic forecast compensated electrical power. There is a temperature pulse in the initial phase of radiant observation or electrical calibration. The temperature pulse increases the time of recovering equilibrium state. Thus the SIAR with big thermal time constant cannot adopt the measurement period of 90 second, which is generally used in IPC.

In this paper, the double exponential model of cavity temperature response is established. Simulation result illustrates that double exponential model is more accurate in practical measurement. A new characteristic parameter, named as non-equivalent response time, is proposed and experimentally measured. Experimental result illustrates that the non-equivalent response time is the origin of temperature pulse, and corresponds to a delay value of cavity temperature response curves. The temperature pulse is corrected by the method of inserting a delay time in measurement process. The insertion of delay time can compensate the non-equivalent response time. The time of recovering equilibrium state is shortened. The cavity temperature response model is simplified into a single exponential form. The accuracy of equilibrium temperature forecast is improved. Therefore, SIAR with large thermal time constant can adopt shorter measurement period, meanwhile measurement precision is 0.07%. Thus, The investigation of non-equivalent response time is important for the radiant calibration of SIAR. This correction method can also be used to optimize TSIMs for on-orbit measurement.

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