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## Optics and photonics — Measurement of reflectance of plane surfaces and transmittance of plane parallel elements

*Optique et instruments d'optique — Méthode de mesure de la réflectance des surfaces planes et de la transmittance des éléments à plan parallèle*

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# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>4 Symbols and units</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>5 Test sample</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>6 Measuring apparatus</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>7 Test conditions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
7.1 Dispersive type spectrophotometer.....	5
7.1.1 General.....	5
7.1.2 Optical radiation source.....	5
7.1.3 Monochromator.....	6
7.1.4 Detection system.....	6
7.1.5 Numerical correction.....	6
7.2 Fourier-transform type spectrophotometer.....	6
7.2.1 General.....	6
7.2.2 Optical radiation source.....	6
7.2.3 Interferometer.....	7
7.2.4 Detection system.....	7
7.2.5 Numerical correction.....	7
<b>8 Test procedure</b> .....	<b>8</b>
8.1 Measurement of reflectance.....	8
8.1.1 General.....	8
8.1.2 Direct measurement of regular reflectance.....	8
8.1.3 Relative measurement of regular reflectance.....	9
8.1.4 Measurement of relative reflectance.....	10
8.2 Measurement of transmittance.....	10
8.2.1 Regular transmittance.....	10
8.2.2 Internal transmittance of an optical plate.....	11
<b>9 Common sources of error</b> .....	<b>11</b>
9.1 General.....	11
9.2 Monochromator wavelength uncertainty, reproducibility and spectral resolution.....	11
9.3 Interferometer wavenumber uncertainty, reproducibility and spectral resolution.....	12
9.4 Fluctuation of the incident flux.....	12
9.5 Parallelism of the sample.....	12
9.6 Monochromator stray optical radiation.....	12
9.7 Linearity of the detection system.....	13
9.8 Inter-reflections.....	13
9.9 Misalignment of the sample.....	13
9.10 Monochromator baseline reproducibility.....	13
9.11 Beam divergence.....	13
<b>10 Test report</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Annex A (informative) Spectrophotometers</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Refractive index of synthetic fused silica</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>20</b>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 172, *Optics and photonics*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Fundamental standards*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition ISO 15368:2001 which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- Throughout the document, descriptions of the use of Fourier transform spectrometer instruments have been expanded and added where appropriate to an equivalent level as those of monochromator instruments.
- Throughout the document, the term “light” has been replaced with “optical radiation” to reflect that this standard’s spectral range extends beyond the visible.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

Measurements of reflectance and transmittance using spectrophotometers are the most fundamental methods for the characterization of optical components. Since the spectrophotometric methods are basic and normal, they are extensively used and provide measurement data over a wide range of wavelengths.

This document describes the measurement of reflectance and transmittance using spectrophotometers which provides data with high reproducibility and repeatability.

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# Optics and photonics — Measurement of reflectance of plane surfaces and transmittance of plane parallel elements

## 1 Scope

This document provides rules for the measurement of the spectral reflectance of plane surfaces and the spectral transmittance of plane parallel elements using spectrophotometers.

The transmittance  $\tau$  and the reflectance  $\rho$  of optical components are generally divided into two parts as follows:

$$\tau = \tau_r + \tau_d \quad (1)$$

$$\rho = \rho_r + \rho_d \quad (2)$$

where

$\tau_r$  is the regular (specular) transmittance;

$\tau_d$  is the diffuse (scattered) transmittance;

$\rho_r$  is the regular (specular) reflectance;

$\rho_d$  is the diffuse (scattered) reflectance.

NOTE Wherever the Greek letters are mistakable,  $T$  and  $R$  can be used.

This document applies only to measurements of the regular transmittance and the regular reflectance; it does not apply to those of the diffuse transmittance and the diffuse reflectance.

This document is applicable to test samples, which are coated or uncoated optical components without optical power.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 80000-7:2019, *Quantities and units — Part 7: Light and radiations*

ISO 9211-1:2018, *Optics and optical instruments — Optical coatings — Part 1: Definitions*

IEC 60050-845:1987, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary — Chapter 845: Lighting*

ISO 10110-8, *Optics and optical instruments — Preparation of drawings for optical elements and systems — Part 8: Surface texture*

ISO/IEC Guide 98-3:2008, *Uncertainty of measurement -- Part 3: Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 80000-7:2019, ISO 9211-1, IEC 60050-845 and ISO/IEC Guide 98-3:2008 (JCGM 100:2008), and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

**3.1 transmittance**  
<for incident radiation of given spectral composition, polarization and geometrical distribution> ratio of the transmitted radiant or luminous flux to the incident flux in the given conditions

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-845, 845-04-59]

**3.2 regular transmittance**  
ratio of the regularly transmitted part of the (whole) transmitted flux to the incident flux

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-845, 845-04-61]

**3.3 internal transmittance**  
ratio of the radiation flux reaching the internal exit surface of the layer to the flux that enters into the layer after crossing the entry surface

**3.4 reflectance**  
<for incident radiation of given spectral composition, polarization and geometrical distribution> ratio of the reflected radiant or luminous flux to the incident flux in the given conditions

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-845, 845-04-58]

**3.5 regular reflectance**  
ratio of the regularly reflected part of the (whole) reflected flux to the incident flux

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-845, 845-04-61]

**3.6 relative reflectance**  
ratio of the reflected flux off a sample to that off a reference.

### 4 Symbols and units

For the purposes of this document, the following symbols and units apply.

$\lambda$	wavelength, expressed in nanometres
$i$	angle of incidence, expressed in degrees
$p, s$	state of polarization
$\tau$	transmittance
$\tau_r$	regular transmittance



$\tau_i$	internal transmittance
$\rho$	reflectance
$\rho_r$	regular reflectance
$\rho_{r-rel}$	relative regular reflectance

## 5 Test sample

The storage, cleaning and preparation of a test sample shall be carried out in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer on the test sample for normal use.

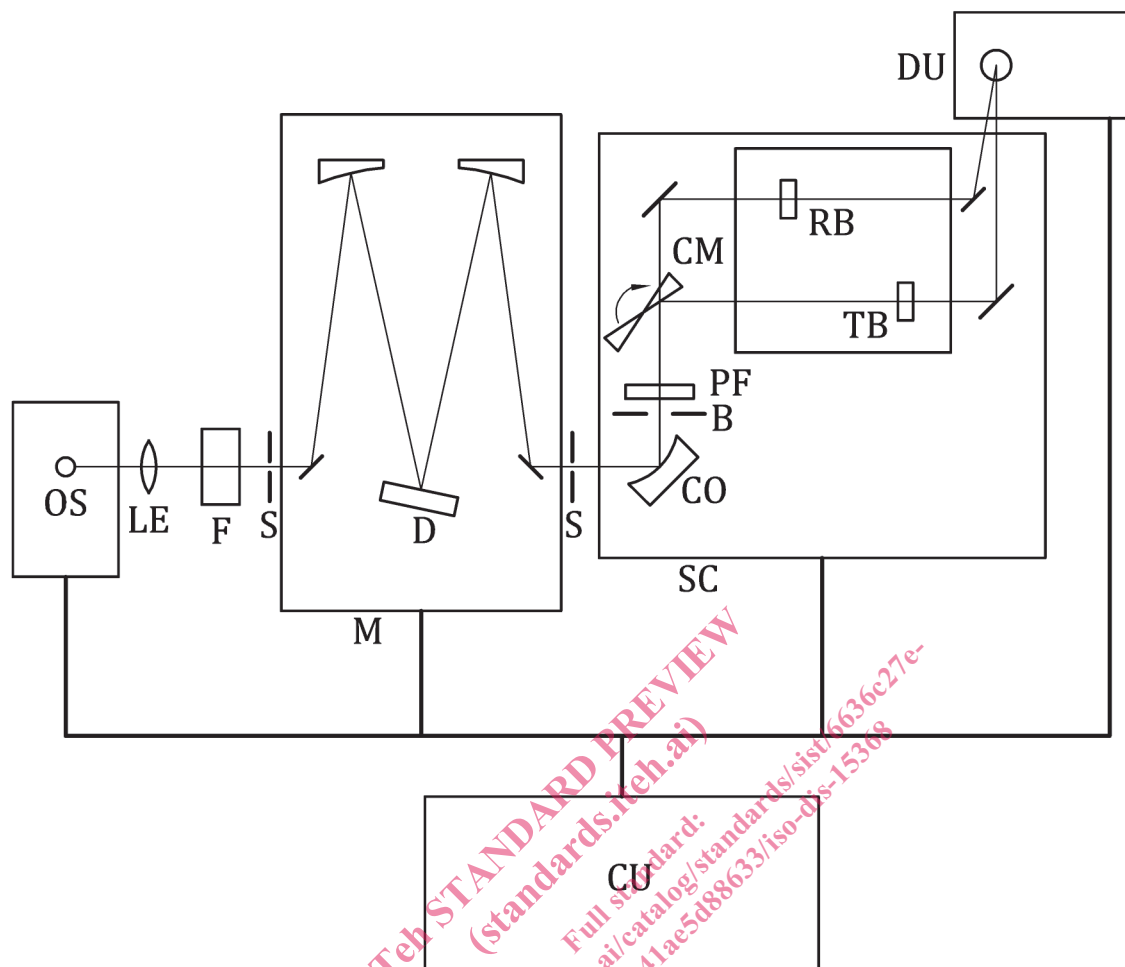
The wavelength, angle of incidence and state of polarization shall correspond to those specified by the manufacturer for the use of the test sample.

## 6 Measuring apparatus

For the measurements specified in this document, a spectrophotometer is required. [Figure 1](#) shows an example of a double beam, dispersive type spectrophotometer. [Figure 2](#) shows an example of a single beam, interferometer type Fourier-transform spectrophotometer (FTS). Both types consist of an optical radiation source, a spectral unit, a sample compartment, a detector unit and a control unit.

Details of the apparatus are described in [Annex A](#).

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**Key**

- OS Optical radiation source
- LE Lense
- F Filterbox
- S Slit
- D Dispersive element
- M Monochromator
- SC Sample compartment
- CO Collecting optics

- B Baffle
- PF Polarization filter
- CM Chopper mirror
- TB Test beam
- RB Reference beam
- DU Detector unit
- CU Control unit

**Figure 1 — Standard arrangement of a dispersive spectrophotometer**