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Standard Terminology of Solar Energy Conversion¹

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1. Scope

- 1.1 This terminology pertains to the conversion of solar energy into other forms of energy by various means, including thermal absorption (i.e., solar thermal) and the photovoltaic effect (i.e., photovoltaics).
- 1.2 This terminology also pertains to instrumentation used to measure solar radiation.
- 1.3 This terminology also pertains to glass for solar energy applications.
- 1.4 Fundamental terms associated with electromagnetic radiation that are indicated as derived units in Standard **IEEE/ASTM SI 10** are not repeated in this terminology.
- 1.5 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

- [C162 Terminology of Glass and Glass Products](#)
- [C1048 Specification for Heat-Strengthened and Fully Tempered Flat Glass](#)
- [C1651 Test Method for Measurement of Roll Wave Optical Distortion in Heat-Treated Flat Glass](#)
- [D1003 Test Method for Haze and Luminous Transmittance of Transparent Plastics](#)
- [D1245 Practice for Examination of Water-Formed Deposits by Chemical Microscopy](#)
- [D4865 Guide for Generation and Dissipation of Static Electricity in Petroleum Fuel Systems](#)
- [D5544 Test Method for On-Line Measurement of Residue After Evaporation of High-Purity Water](#)
- [D7236 Test Method for Flash Point by Small Scale Closed Cup Tester \(Ramp Method\)](#)
- [E349 Terminology Relating to Space Simulation](#)
- [E490 Standard Solar Constant and Zero Air Mass Solar Spectral Irradiance Tables](#)
- [E491 Practice for Solar Simulation for Thermal Balance Testing of Spacecraft](#)
- [E927 Specification for Solar Simulation for Photovoltaic Testing](#)
- [E948 Test Method for Electrical Performance of Photovoltaic Cells Using Reference Cells Under Simulated Sunlight](#)
- [E816 Test Method for Calibration of Pyrheliometers by Comparison to Reference Pyrheliometers](#)
- [E1021 Test Method for Spectral Responsivity Measurements of Photovoltaic Devices](#)
- [E1036 Test Methods for Electrical Performance of Nonconcentrator Terrestrial Photovoltaic Modules and Arrays Using Reference Cells](#)
- [E1125 Test Method for Calibration of Primary Non-Concentrator Terrestrial Photovoltaic Reference Cells Using a Tabular Spectrum](#)
- [E1171 Test Methods for Photovoltaic Modules in Cyclic Temperature and Humidity Environments](#)
- [E1362 Test Method for Calibration of Non-Concentrator Photovoltaic Secondary Reference Cells](#)
- [E1462 Test Methods for Insulation Integrity and Ground Path Continuity of Photovoltaic Modules](#)
- [E2236 Test Methods for Measurement of Electrical Performance and Spectral Response of Nonconcentrator Multijunction Photovoltaic Cells and Modules](#)
- [E2527 Test Method for Electrical Performance of Concentrator Terrestrial Photovoltaic Modules and Systems Under Natural Sunlight](#)

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E44 on Solar, Geothermal and Other Alternative Energy Sources and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E44.01 on Terminology and Editorial.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](#), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](#). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

[F1863 Test Method for Measuring the Night Vision Goggle-Weighted Transmissivity of Transparent Parts](#)
[G113 Terminology Relating to Natural and Artificial Weathering Tests of Nonmetallic Materials](#)
[G130 Test Method for Calibration of Narrow- and Broad-Band Ultraviolet Radiometers Using a Spectroradiometer](#)
[G138 Test Method for Calibration of a Spectroradiometer Using a Standard Source of Irradiance](#)
[G167 Test Method for Calibration of a Pyranometer Using a Pyrheliometer](#)
[G173 Tables for Reference Solar Spectral Irradiances: Direct Normal and Hemispherical on 37° Tilted Surface](#)
[G197 Table for Reference Solar Spectral Distributions: Direct and Diffuse on 20° Tilted and Vertical Surfaces](#)
[IEEE/ASTM SI 10 American National Standard for Metric Practice](#)

2.2 *ISO Standard*:³

[ISO 9060 Specification and Classification of Instruments for Measuring Hemispherical Solar and Direct Solar Radiation](#)

2.3 *WMO Document*:⁴

[WMO-No. 8 Guide to Meteorological Instruments and Methods of Observation, Seventh ed., 2008, World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\), Geneva](#)

3. Adjectives for Electromagnetic Radiation

3.1 Properties and quantities associated with electromagnetic radiation vary with:

- 3.1.1 The direction and geometric extent (solid angle) over which the incident or exitant flux, or both, is evaluated, and
- 3.1.2 The relative spectral distribution of the incident flux and the spectral response of the detector for exitant flux.

3.2 Adjective modifiers can be used to indicate the geometric, spectral, and polarization conditions under which radiometric properties and quantities are evaluated. The adjectives defined in this Terminology are: **conical, diffuse, direct, directional, hemispherical, luminous, normal, and spectral**.

3.3 For reflectance and transmittance, the direction and geometric extent of both the incident beam and exitant beam must be specified.

3.4 For emittance, only the exitant beam need be specified, and for absorptance, only the incident beam need be specified.

3.5 Radiometric properties also vary with the polarization of the incident flux and the sensitivity to polarization of the collector-detector system for flux incident or exitant at angles greater than about 15° from normal.

3.6 An instrument used for solar energy measurements or a solar energy receiver will usually determine the directions and geometric extents, such as a pyranometer, a pyrheliometer, or a flat-plate solar thermal collector.

4. Terminology

ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION AND OPTICS

absorptance, n —ratio of the absorbed radiant or luminous flux to the incident flux. **E349**

absorption, n —transformation of radiant energy to a different form of energy by interaction with matter. **E349**

aerosol, n —any solid or liquid particles, with a nominal size range from 10 nm to 100 μm, suspended in a gas (usually air). **D5544**

aerosol optical depth, AOD, n —a measure of the **extinction** caused by **aerosols** in the atmosphere relative to the **zenith** and modeled with Ångström's **turbidity** formula.

³ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse, CP 56, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.org>.

⁴ Available from World Meteorological Organization, <http://www.wmo.int>.

DISCUSSION—

Although it varies with wavelength, it is common to report aerosol optical depth at a single wavelength only, especially 0.5 μm.

air mass, AM, n —relative optical mass (see **optical mass, relative**) calculated using the density of air as a function of altitude.

$$AM \approx I_s / I_z = \sec \theta_z, \text{ for } \theta_z \leq 1 \text{ rad (60°)} \quad (1)$$

DISCUSSION—

Eq 1 is a simple approximation of the **optical mass, relative** (see Eq 5) that uses the ratio of the path length along the sun vector (I_s) to the path length along the zenith (I_z) (see **sun vector, zenith, and zenith angle, solar**). Other solutions are more complicated and take factors such as refraction and local air pressure into account.

DISCUSSION—

The abbreviation **AM** is also commonly used to refer to a particular standard solar spectral irradiance, such as those in Standard **E490**, Tables **G173**, and Table **G197**. Thus, **AM0** can indicate the extraterrestrial spectral irradiance table in Standard **E490**, and **AM1.5** the hemispherical spectral irradiance table in Tables **G173**. Using AM1.5 in this way is discouraged because air mass is but one of many variables that modify solar spectral irradiance such as clouds, aerosol scattering, and water vapor absorption; note that both Tables **G173** and Table **G197** use an air mass value of 1.5, but differ greatly. The distinction between a spectral irradiance and a path length ratio should be made clear whenever these abbreviations are used.

air mass one, AM_{1,n}—a relative optical mass (see **optical mass, relative**) that is equal to one. Because of the way in which relative optical mass is defined, AM1 always denotes a vertical path at sea level.

air mass, optical—see **optical mass, relative**.

air mass, pressure corrected, AM_{p,n}—an approximation of **air mass** for locations above sea level that uses the ratio of the local barometric pressure P , to the standard sea level atmospheric pressure $P_0 = 101.325$ kPa (see **Eq 2**).

$$AM_p \approx \frac{P}{P_0} AM \quad (2)$$

air mass ratio—see **optical mass, relative**.

air mass, relative optical—see **optical mass, relative**.

air mass zero, AM_{0,n}—the absence of atmospheric attenuation of the solar irradiance at one astronomical unit from the sun. **E491**

albedo—discouraged in favor of the preferred term, **reflectance**.

angle of incidence, rad or °, n —the angle between a ray and the normal vector to the plane on which the ray is incident; especially the angle between the sun vector and the normal vector.

angle of reflection, rad or °, n —the angle between the direction of propagation of a reflected ray and the normal vector to the surface of interest at the point of reflection.

angle of refraction, rad or °, n —the angle between the direction of propagation of a refracted ray and the normal vector to the interface of interest at the point of refraction.

altitude angle, solar—see **elevation angle, solar**.

attenuation—see **extinction**.

azimuth angle, solar, ψ [rad or °], n —the angle between the line of longitude (or geographical meridian) at the location of interest and the horizontal component of the **sun vector**. By convention, the azimuth angle is positive when the sun is east of the line of longitude and negative when it is west of the line of longitude.

beam, n —of **radiant energy**, a collection of rays confined to a specific path.

blackbody, Planckian radiator, n —a thermal radiator which completely absorbs all incident radiation, whatever the wavelength, the direction of incidence, or the polarization. This radiator has, for any wavelength, the maximum spectral concentration of radiant exitance at a given temperature. **E491**

Bouguer's Law, n —an expression of the **extinction** of radiation in a medium that states the intensity exponentially decreases due to both scattering and absorption as it passes through the medium (see **Eq 3**), where τ_λ is the wavelength-dependent **extinction optical thickness**. The ratio of I to I_0 is equal to the atmospheric transmittance, T , and τ_λ is equal to the summation of the extinction optical thicknesses associated with each individual scattering or absorption process $\tau_{i\lambda}$.

$$I = I_0 \exp(-\tau_\lambda) = I_0 \exp\left(-\sum_{i=1}^n \tau_{i\lambda}\right) \quad (3)$$

DISCUSSION—

Bouguer's Law is also known as Lambert's Law or Beer's Law.

circumsolar diffuse radiation—see **radiant energy, circumsolar**.

conical, adj—describing a solid angle larger than an infinitesimal element and less than a hemisphere (2π sr); the geometry of the solid angle must be described in context.

diffuse, adj—describing **radiometric quantities**, indicates flux propagating in many directions, as opposed to a collimated beam.

diffuse, adj—describing **solar irradiance**, the global hemispherical irradiance minus the direct beam irradiance.

diffuse, adj—describing **reflectance**, the directional hemispherical reflectance minus the specular reflectance.

DISCUSSION—

Diffuse has been used in the past to refer to hemispherical collection (including the specular component) or irradiation, with equal radiance for all directions over a hemisphere. This use is deprecated in favor of the more precise term **hemispherical**.

diffusion, *n*—change of the spatial distribution of a beam of radiation when it is deviated in many directions by a surface or a medium. **E349**

direct, *adj*—describing solar radiation, a collimated beam.

directional, *adj*—of or relating to a direction in space.

DISCUSSION—

For optical properties, over an infinitesimal solid angle, the property is assumed constant. The variation in optical property with respect to changing azimuth (counter-clockwise) and incidence angle (from the surface normal), with respect to a reference mark on a sample, is the directional response.

elevation angle, solar, α [rad or °], *n*—the complement of the solar zenith angle, i.e. $\pi/2 - \theta_z$ radians. See **zenith angle, solar**.

emission, *n*—release of radiant energy. **E349**

emissive power—discouraged in favor of the preferred term **radiant exitance**.

emittance, ϵ , *n*— for a sample at a given temperature, ratio of the radiant flux emitted by a sample to that emitted by a blackbody radiator at the same temperature, under the same spectral and geometric conditions of measurement.

extinction, *n*—the attenuation of radiant energy from an incident beam by the processes of molecular absorption and scattering caused by atmospheric constituents.

DISCUSSION—

Scattering by air molecules can be modeled with **Rayleigh scattering**, and scattering by aerosols with Ångstrom's **turbidity** formula. Absorption processes are modeled with tables of measured absorption coefficients versus wavelength.

extinction coefficient, monochromatic, $k_{i\lambda}$ [dimensionless], *n*—a measure of the **extinction** caused by a particular atmospheric constituent (see **Bouguer's Law** and **extinction optical thickness, monochromatic**).

extinction optical depth, monochromatic, [dimensionless], *n*—the product of the **extinction coefficient** $k_{i\lambda}$ for a particular atmospheric constituent times the path length to the top of the atmosphere, m_r , see **extinction optical thickness, monochromatic** and **optical mass, relative**.

DISCUSSION—

Optical depth is sometimes used synonymously with optical thickness, but the preferred distinction between the two is that optical thickness refers to the extinction along the entire path through the atmosphere rather than the vertical path.

extinction optical thickness, monochromatic, $\tau_{i\lambda}$ [dimensionless], *n*—the product of the **extinction coefficient** $k_{i\lambda}$ for a particular atmospheric constituent times the path length through atmosphere, see **Bouguer's Law** and **Eq 4**, in which m_{act} is the **optical mass, actual**.

$$\tau_{i\lambda} = k_{i\lambda} \cdot m_{act} \quad (4)$$

hemispherical, *adj*—describing half of a sphere, i.e. a 2π sr solid angle.

incident angle—see **angle of incidence**.

index of refraction, *n*—the numerical expression of the ratio of the velocity of light in a vacuum to the velocity of light in a substance. **D1245**

infrared radiation, *n*—radiation for which the wavelengths of the monochromatic components are greater than those for visible radiation, and less than about 1 mm. **E349**

irradiance, E [$\text{W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$], *n*—at a point on a surface, radiant flux incident per unit area of the surface; the derived unit **heat flux density, irradiance** in Standard **IEEE/ASTM SI 10**.

irradiance, spectral, E_λ or $E(\lambda)$ [$\text{W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{nm}^{-1}$ or $\text{W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \mu\text{m}^{-1}$], *n*—the irradiation at a specific wavelength over a narrow narrow bandwidth, or as a function of wavelength; also, the derivative with respect to wavelength of irradiance.

DISCUSSION—

Spectral irradiance is commonly reported in tabular form as pairs of wavelength and irradiance values, as in Standard E490, Tables G173, and Table G197; see **spectral**.

DISCUSSION—

Following the normal SI rules for compound units (see Standard IEEE/ASTM SI 10), the units for spectral irradiance, the derivative of irradiance with respect to wavelength $dE/d\lambda$, would be $\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$. However, to avoid possible confusion with a volumetric power density unit and for convenience in numerical calculations, it is common practice to separate the wavelength with a compound unit. Compound units are used in Standard E490, Tables G173, and Table G197.

irradiance, total, $E_T[\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}]$, n —the integration over all wavelengths of spectral irradiance, or the solar irradiance measured with a pyranometer or a pyrhelimeter.

irradiation, n —application of radiation to an object. **E349**

irradiation—at a point on a surface, see **radiant exposure**.

isotropic radiant energy— see **radiant energy, isotropic**.

local zenith—see **zenith**.

luminous, adj—referring to a radiometric quantity, weighted according to the spectral luminous efficiency function $V(\lambda)$ of the CIE (1987). **D1003**

monochromatic radiation, n —radiation characterized by a single frequency. By extension, radiation of a very small range of frequency or wavelength that can be described by stating a single frequency or wavelength. **E349**

normal, adj—describing a direction that is perpendicular to a surface.

normal vector, n —the upward-pointing vector normal to the plane of a receiver.

optical depth—see **extinction optical depth, monochromatic**.

optical mass, actual, m_{act} [dimensionless], n —the line integral along the **sun vector** of the density (ρ) of a substance as a function of altitude between a point in the atmosphere (0) and the vacuum of space (∞); in atmospheric transmittance calculations, the densities are normalized with units of $(\text{length})^{-1}$ (see Eq 5).

$$m_{act} = \int_0^{\infty} \rho ds \quad (5)$$

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/9d608536-6174-44a8-916f-dfd02d4918/astm-e772-13>

DISCUSSION—

The word “air” has been avoided in this definition because direct solar radiation is attenuated not only by air molecules but also by additional constituents such as aerosols and water vapor. Thus, it is possible to calculate water vapor mass as well as air mass using this equation. Optical masses are occasionally reported with units of km.

optical mass, relative, m_r [dimensionless], n —the ratio of the actual optical mass (see **optical mass, actual**, m_{act}) to the line integral along the **zenith** of the density of a substance as a function of altitude (ρ) between a point in the atmosphere (0) and the vacuum of space (∞) (see Eq 6).

$$m_r = m_{act} \int_0^{\infty} \rho ds \quad (6)$$

optical thickness—see **extinction optical thickness, monochromatic**.

polarization, n — with respect to optical radiation, the restriction of the magnetic or electric field vector to a single plane. **G138**

polarization, parallel, n —a plane of polarization parallel to the plane of incidence, reflectance, or transmittance.

polarization, perpendicular, n —a plane of polarization perpendicular to the plane of incidence, reflectance, or transmittance.

polarization, plane of, n —by convention, the plane containing an electromagnetic wave’s electric vector.

radiance, $\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}$, n —the SI derived unit **radiance** in Standard IEEE/ASTM SI 10.

radiant emissive power—see **radiant exitance**.

radiant energy, $Q[\text{J}]$, n —energy in the form of photons or electromagnetic waves.

radiant energy, atmospheric, $Q[\text{J}]$, n —the portion of terrestrial radiation that is emitted by the atmosphere.

radiant energy, blackbody, J, n —radiant energy emitted by a (laboratory) blackbody, or radiant energy having that spectral distribution. See **Planck's law** in Practice **E491**.

radiant energy, circumsolar, J, n —radiation scattered by the atmosphere so that it appears to originate from an area of the sky immediately adjacent to the sun. Often referred to as the solar aureole, its angular extent is generally directly related to the aerosol optical depth.

radiant energy, effective nocturnal, J, n —energy transfer required to maintain a horizontal upward-facing blackbody surface at the ambient air temperature, in the absence of solar irradiance.

radiant energy, infrared—see **infrared radiation**.

radiant energy, isotropic, J, n —diffuse radiant energy that has the same radiance in all directions.

radiant energy, terrestrial, J, n —radiant energy emitted by the earth, including its atmosphere.

radiant exitance at a point on a surface, $M[W \cdot m^{-2}], n$ —quotient of the radiant flux leaving an element of the surface containing the point, by the area of that element. **E349**

radiant exitance—see **radiant exitance at a point on a surface**.

radiant exitance, emitted—see **radiant exitance at a point on a surface**.

radiant exposure, $H[J \cdot m^{-2}], n$ —at a point on a surface, time integral of irradiance.

radiant flux, $\Phi[J/s], n$ —the SI derived quantity **power, radiant flux** in Standard **IEEE/ASTM SI 10**.

radiant flux, net, W, n —difference between downward and upward (total solar and terrestrial) radiant flux; net flux of all radiant energy across an imaginary horizontal surface.

radiant flux, net terrestrial, W, n —difference between downward and upward terrestrial radiant fluxes; net flux of terrestrial radiant energy.

radiant power—see **radiant flux**.

radiation, n —(1) emission or transfer of energy in the form of electromagnetic waves or particles. (2) the electromagnetic waves or particles. **E349**

radiation coefficient, n —the quotient of the net radiant exitance of a blackbody (full radiator), by the temperature difference between the blackbody and the surroundings with which it is exchanging radiation. **E349**

Rayleigh scattering, n —a model of molecular scattering in the atmosphere in which the **monochromatic extinction coefficient** varies as the wavelength raised to the negative fourth power. **Eq 7** is an approximation for dry air using wavelengths in μm .

$$k_{r\lambda} = 0.008735\lambda^{-4.08} \quad (7)$$

reflectance, n —ratio of the reflected radiant or luminous flux to the incident flux. **E349**

reflection, n —return of radiation by a surface without change of frequency of the monochromatic components of which the radiation is composed. **E349**

reflection angle—See **angle of reflection**.

reflectivity, n —reflectance of a layer of material of such a thickness that there is no change of reflectance with increased thickness. **E349**

DISCUSSION—

Reflectivity is a property of a material and reflectance is a property of a sample of the material, with no restriction on thickness or surface topography.

refraction, n —change in the direction of propagation of radiation determined by change in the velocity of propagation in passing from one medium to another medium with a different index of refraction.

refraction angle—see **angle of refraction**.

refraction index—see **index of refraction**.

reradiation, n —loss of energy by radiation from a surface previously heated by absorption.

spectral, *adj*—referring to radiometric quantities, for monochromatic radiation at a specified wavelength (or frequency), or, by extension, for radiation within a narrow wavelength band about a specified wavelength. **E349**

DISCUSSION—

When applied to a property, spectral is indicated by the subscript λ following the symbol for the quantity, as $L_\lambda = dL/d\lambda$; at a specific wavelength, it is indicated by the subscript λ with the wavelength in parentheses, as L_λ (500 nm).

sun vector, n —the vector pointing from the location of interest (usually a point on the Earth’s surface in solar energy applications) to the center of the sun’s disk.

DISCUSSION—

Because of the curvature of the Earth, and because of the refraction due to density variations with altitude, the sun vector varies along the path a beam of solar radiation follows from the top of atmosphere to the ground.

total irradiance—see **irradiance, total**.

transmission, n —passage of radiation through a medium without change of frequency of the monochromatic components of which the radiation is composed. **E349**

transmission coefficient—see **extinction coefficient**.

transmittance, T [dimensionless], **n** —ratio of the transmitted radiant or luminous flux to the incident flux. **E349**

turbidity, n —an empirical expression of **aerosol optical depth** that uses Ångström’s wavelength-dependent formula (see Eq 8).

$$k_{\omega} = \beta \lambda^{-\alpha} \quad (8)$$

DISCUSSION—

In Eq 8, α and β are called the Ångström turbidity parameters and λ is the wavelength. The units of α and β are such that the units of k_{ω} are dimensionless. With wavelength units of μm , β is commonly called the “turbidity” because it varies more than α , which tends to stay fairly constant.

ultraviolet radiation, n —radiation for which the wavelengths of the monochromatic components are smaller than those for visible radiation and more than about 1 nm. **E349**

visible radiation, n —any radiation capable of causing a visual sensation. **E349**

zenith, n —the upward-pointing vector normal to the Earth’s surface at the location of interest (usually a point on the Earth’s surface in solar energy applications).

zenith angle, solar, θ_z [rad or °], **n** —the angle between the **zenith** and the **sun vector**.

INSTRUMENTATION

absolute cavity pyrhelimeter—see **self-calibrating absolute cavity pyrhelimeter**.

absolute cavity radiometer—see **self-calibrating absolute cavity pyrhelimeter**.

bolometer, n —instrument for measuring irradiance. Its principle is based on the variation of electrical resistance, with the incoming radiation of one or both of the resistance elements which comprise the instrument, as a result of temperature changes.

cavity radiometer—see **self-calibrating absolute cavity pyrhelimeter**.

edge-stress meter—see **polarimeter, edge-stress**.

field pyrhelimeter, n —pyrhelimeters that are designed and used for long-term field measurements of direct solar radiation. These pyrhelimeters are weatherproof and therefore possess windows, usually quartz, at the field aperture that pass all solar radiation in the range from 0.3 to 4- μm wavelength. **E816**

full width at half maximum, $FWHM$ [nm or μm], **n** —in a bandpass filter, $FWHM$ is the interval between wavelengths at which transmittance is 50 % of the peak, frequently referred to as bandwidth. **G130**

grazing-angle surface polarimeter—see **polarimeter, grazing-angle surface**.

international pyrhelimetric scale—see **World Radiometric Reference**.

net pyrgeometer—see **pyranometer, net**.

net pyrradiometer— see **pyranometer, net**.

photometer, n —a device that measures luminous intensity or brightness by converting (weighing) the radiant intensity of an object using the relative sensitivity of the human visual system as defined by the photopic curve. **F1863**

- polarimeter**, *n*—an instrument used to measure the rotation of the plane of polarization of polarized light passing through an optical structure or sample.
- polarimeter, edge stress**, *n*—a specialized **polarimeter** for measuring residual edge stress in annealed, heat-strengthened, or thermally tempered flat glass. Used as a non-destructive method of characterizing strength and relative frangibility of glass.
- polarimeter, grazing-angle surface**, *n*—a specialized **polarimeter** for measuring residual surface stress in annealed, heat-strengthened, or thermally tempered flat glass. Used as a non-destructive method of characterizing strength and relative frangibility of glass.
- polarimeter, photoelastic**, *n*—a **polariscope** adapted for quantitative measurement of optical retardation, birefringence, or stress and strain using photoelastic analysis techniques.
- polariscope**, *n*—an optical device consisting of a light source, mutually perpendicular polarizing elements, and generally equipped with one or more retardation plates for qualitative observations of relative optical retardation by color differentiation. **C162**
- primary standard pyrheliometers**, *n*—pyrheliometers, selected from the group of absolute pyrheliometers (see **self-calibrating absolute cavity pyrheliometer**). **E816**
- pyranometer**, *n*—a radiometer with a hemispherical field-of-view (i.e. a 2π sr solid angle) used to measure the total solar radiant energy incident upon a surface per unit time per unit area. This energy includes the direct radiant energy, diffuse radiant energy, and reflected radiant energy from the background.
- pyranometer, field**, *n*—a pyranometer meeting World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Second Class “moderate quality” or better (that is, “Good Quality” or “High Quality”) First Class specifications, described in WMO-No. 8, appropriate to field use, and typically exposed continuously.
- pyranometer, net**, *n*—an instrument for measuring the difference between the irradiance falling on the top and bottom of a horizontal surface.
- pyranometer, reference**, *n*—a pyranometer (see also ISO 9060), used as a reference to calibrate other pyranometers, which is well-maintained and carefully selected to possess relatively high stability and has been calibrated using a pyrheliometer. **G167**
- pyranometer, spherical**, *n*—instrument for measuring the solar flux falling from a 4π sr solid angle onto a spherical surface.
- pyrgeometer**, *n*—an instrument for measuring infrared atmospheric irradiance at wavelengths greater than 3000 nm on a horizontal upward facing black surface at the ambient air temperature.
- pyrheliometer**, *n*—a radiometer used to measure the direct or beam solar irradiance incident on a surface normal to the sun’s rays.
- pyrheliometer, compensated**, *n*—pyrheliometer based on the comparison of the heating of two identical metal strips, one exposed to a solar radiant energy, the other to a joule effect.
- pyrheliometer, field*—see **field pyrheliometer**.
- pyrheliometer, primary standard*—see **primary standard pyrheliometers**.
- pyrheliometer, reference*—see **reference pyrheliometer**.
- pyrheliometer, secondary standard*—see **secondary standard pyrheliometer**.
- pyrheliometer, self-calibrating absolute cavity*—see **self-calibrating absolute cavity pyrheliometer**
- pyrheliometer, secondary reference**, *n*—a pyrheliometer essentially meeting the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) “High Quality” specifications as described in WMO-No. 8, but not having self-calibrating capability.
- pyrradiometer, spherical**, *n*—instrument for measuring total flux incident from a 4π sr solid angle onto a spherical surface.
- radiometer**, *n*—a general class of instruments designed to detect and measure radiant energy. **G113**
- radiometer, broad-band**, *n*—a relative term generally applied to radiometers with interference filters or cut-on/cut-off filter pairs having a FWHM between 20 and 70 nm and with tolerances in center (peak) wavelength and FWHM no greater than ± 2 nm. **G130**
- radiometer, narrow-band**, *n*—a relative term generally applied to radiometers with interference filters with FWHM ≤ 20 nm and with tolerances in center (peak) wavelength and FWHM no greater than ± 2 nm. **G130**
- radiometer, wide-band**, *n*—a relative term generally applied to radiometers with combinations of cut-off and cut-on filters with FWHM greater than 70 nm. **G130**

- radiometry**, *n*—measurement of the quantities associated with radiation. **E349**
- reference pyr heliometer**, *n*—pyr heliometers of any category serving as a reference in calibration transfer procedures. They are selected and well-tested instruments (see Table 2 of ISO 9060), that have a low rate of yearly change in responsivity. The reference pyr heliometer may be of the same type, class, and manufacturer as the field radiometers in which case it is specially chosen for calibration transfer purposes and is termed a secondary standard pyr heliometer (see ISO 9060), or it may be of the self-calibrating cavity type (see **self-calibrating absolute cavity pyr heliometer**). **E816**
- reflectometer**, *n*—an instrument for the measurement of quantities pertaining to reflection. **E349**
- refractometer**, *n*—an optical instrument used to measure the index of refraction of an unknown sample.
- roll-wave gauge**, *n*—instrument used to monitor and quantify roller wave surface distortion, typically present in thermally tempered flat glass processed in a horizontal roller-hearth tempering furnace. **C1651**
- secondary standard pyr heliometer**, *n*—pyr heliometers of high precision and stability whose calibration factors are derived from primary standard pyr heliometers. This group comprises absolute cavity pyr heliometers that do not fulfill the requirements of a primary standard pyr heliometer. **E816**
- self-calibrating absolute cavity pyr heliometer**, *n*—a radiometer consisting of either a single- or dual-conical heated cavity that, during the self-calibration mode, displays the power required to produce a thermopile reference signal that is identical to the sampling signal obtained when viewing the sun with an open aperture. The reference signal is produced by the thermopile in response to the cavity irradiance resulting from heat supplied by a cavity heater with the aperture closed. **E816**
- spectrophotometer**, *n*—instrument for measuring the ratio of two spectral radiometric qualities. **E349**
- spectroradiometer**, *n*—an instrument for measuring the radiant energy of a light source at each wavelength throughout the spectrum. **G138**
- strain viewer*—see **polariscope**.
- sunphotometer**, *n*—a narrow-band radiometer (see **radiometer, narrow-band**) that measures relative direct solar intensity at a number of discrete wavelengths that are selected for determination of atmospheric optical depths due to constituents, especially aerosol scattering and molecular absorption by water vapor and ozone.
- sun radiometer*—see **sunphotometer**.
- World Radiometric Reference**, *WRR, n*—the mean of a selected group of at least four World Metrological Organization (WMO) self-calibrating absolute cavity pyr heliometers maintained at the World Radiation Center, Physical Meteorological Organization, Davos (WRC/PMOD) at Davos, Switzerland. The WRR is accepted as representing the physical units of total solar irradiance with an uncertainty of 0.3 % and a confidence of 99 %.

DISCUSSION—

As of 1970 the WRR replaced the “International Pyr heliometric Scale of 1956, IPS56”, the “Smithsonian Pyr heliometric Scale of 1913, SI13” and the “Angstrom Scale of 1905, A05”, as follows: $WRR/IPS56 = 1.026$, $WRR/SI13 = 0.977$, and $WRR/A05 = 1.026$. See WMO-No. 8, Section 7.1.2.2.

SOLAR ENERGY – GENERAL

absorber, *n*—that part of a solar collector whose primary function is to absorb radiant energy and transform it into another form of energy.

DISCUSSION—

A thermal absorber usually possesses a solid surface through which energy is transmitted by thermal conduction to the transfer fluid; however, the transfer fluid itself can be the absorber in the case of an optically transparent container and a “black liquid”. A photovoltaic absorber converts part of the incident solar flux into electrical energy, and part to thermal energy.

albedo—discouraged in favor of the preferred term, **reflectance**.

altazimuthal mount, *n*—a supporting device that facilitates tracking of the sun and allows rotation about horizontal and vertical axes. It can be used to aim equipment such as heliostats, concentrating collectors, exposure specimens, or radiometers.

apparent solar time, *apt[h], n*—the hours of the day (i.e. time) as computed from the position of the sun (see **solar noon**).

auxiliary energy subsystem, *n*—*in solar energy applications*, equipment using nonsolar energy sources to supplement or backup the output provided by a solar energy system.

cloud cover, *n*—that portion of the sky which is covered by clouds, usually expressed in tenths of sky covered.

collector cover (glazings)—see **cover plate, collector**.

collector, concentrating, *n*—a solar collector that uses reflectors, lenses, or other optical elements to redirect and focus concentrate the solar irradiance on the collector aperture onto an absorber of which the surface area is smaller than the collector aperture area.

collector, flat plate, *n*—a ~~noneconcentrating~~ non-concentrating solar collector in which the absorbing surface is essentially planar.

collector, line-focus, *n*—a concentrating solar collector that ~~econcentrates~~ focuses the solar flux in one dimension only.

collector, point focus, *n*—a concentrating collector that focuses the solar flux to a point, i.e. in two dimensions.

collector, tracking, *n*—a solar collector that moves so as to follow the apparent motion of the sun during the day, rotating about one axis or two orthogonal axes.

concentration ratio—see **concentration ratio, geometric** and **concentration ratio, photovoltaic**.

concentration ratio, geometric, *n*—of a concentrating solar thermal collector, the ratio of the collector aperture area to the absorber area.

concentration ratio, photovoltaic, *n*—the total irradiance at the front surface of a ~~concentrator cell~~ photovoltaic cell intended for use inside a concentrating collector, divided by $1000 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$.

DISCUSSION—

The $1000 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ value of the denominator in this ratio is equal to the total irradiance from the **standard reporting conditions** defined for performance measurements made with respect to the Tables **G173 reference spectral irradiance distribution** (see Test Methods **E948** and **E1036**). Because this value is defined as “one-sun”, the normalization changes the total irradiance into a multiplicative factor corresponding to the magnitude of the concentration, which is sometimes referred to as the “number of suns”.

concentrating collector—see **collector, concentrating**.

concentrator, *n*—an optical device (lenses or mirrors) that, as part of a solar collector, receives the unconcentrated solar irradiance over a large area aperture and redirects and focuses (concentrates) it to a smaller area (the receiver).

cover plate, collector, *n*—a sheet of transparent (or translucent) glazing placed above the absorber in a solar collector, to provide thermal and environmental protection.

design life, *n*—the period of time during which a system or component is expected to perform its intended function, without significant degradation of performance and without requiring major maintenance or replacement.

direct radiation, *n*—radiation received from a small solid angle centered on the sun’s disk, on a given plane (see ISO 9060). That component of sunlight is the beam between an observer, or instrument, and the sun within a solid conical angle centered on the sun’s disk and having a total included planar field angle of 5 to 6° (see also Test Method **E816**).

direct beam radiation—see **direct radiation**.

direct solar radiation—see **direct radiation**.

equatorial mount, *n*—a sun-tracking mount, usually clock-driven, whose axis of rotation is parallel to that of the earth’s axis of rotation.

exposure racks, at-latitude, *n*—racks that hold specimens at an inclination angle equal to the latitude of the rack location, facing the equator.

flat plate collector—see **collector, flat plate**.

Fresnel lens, circular, *n*—a sheet of transparent material into which concentric grooves have been formed in such a pattern that light will be focused as with a lens. (Focusing mirrors of similar design are also available.)

Fresnel lens, linear, *n*—a sheet of transparent material into which parallel grooves have been formed in such a pattern that light will be focused as by a cylindrical lens. (Focusing mirrors of similar design are also available.)

Fresnel-reflector system, *n*—flat mirrors arranged in an array such that they reflect onto a target, the illuminated area of which simulates the shape and size of the flat mirror. (Such an array simulates the ray-tracing of a parabolic trough of the same aperture angle.)

heliostat, *n*—a reflector that is mechanically positioned so that solar flux is reflected onto a stationary receiver or target.