Goddard Laser for Absolute Measurement of Radiance for Instrument Calibration in the Ultraviolet to Short Wave Infrared

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Introduction

• Purpose
• Absolute radiometric scale
• Calibration scheme
• Narrow linewidth tunable sources

Light source \rightarrow \text{radiometry} \rightarrow \text{prelaunch calibration for instruments}
Purpose

• Narrow linewidth, high spectral bandwidth sources provide higher signal and dynamic range, improved wavelength and radiance accuracy over broadband lamp based techniques
• More straightforward measurement and data interpretation – flat field, full signal level
• Enables more science, reduced mission lifetimes & cost
Absolute radiometric scale

Radiance: power per unit area per unit solid angle \( L = \frac{P}{A \cdot \Omega} \)

Spectral radiance: radiance per unit wavelength \( L_{\lambda} = \frac{L}{\Delta \lambda} \)

Greatest uncertainty is in optical power \( P \)

Area and solid angle are both traceable to meters

Optical power measured with electrical substitution radiometer and traceable to electrical units of measure

Narrow linewidth source eliminates error due to convolution of source spectrum with radiometer responsivity
POWR
Primary Optical Watt Radiometer

NIST Facility

→

Stabilized laser source is used to transfer radiometric scale from POWR to portable transfer radiometer via another standard radiometer

LTD-11 #107 transfer radiometer

Sensor vendor facility

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LTD-11 #107 transfer radiometer

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Sphere Monitor

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Satellite/airborne sensor
Tunable sources

Desired properties:

• **Radiometrically stable**

• Wavelength range covering the solar spectrum, 300 to 2500 nm

• Signal level comparable to maximum reflected solar radiance (snow and cloud cover at high sun angles)

• Linewidth \(\ll\) instrument under test

• Portability, minimal setup and facility infrastructure requirements

• Time efficiency: automated wavelength tuning, synchronized tuning with shutter cycling, instrument data collects

• Reliability: critical path operations

Solar spectrum

[Graph showing irradiance vs. wavelength for the solar spectrum]

Lamp/monochromator
Titanium sapphire
Dye
Tunable diode
Optical parametric oscillator
Sources setup for JPSS-2

Dye
570 to 680 nm

Ti:sapphire
680 to 1000 nm

OPO
Second harmonic: 360 to 570 nm
Signal and idler: 720 to 2000 nm

Joint Polar Satellite System 2
Visible and Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite calibration

Combination of tunable sources covering 360 to 2000 nm
Custom LBO OPO

NIR-OPO 680-1100 nm + 1200-2200 nm

SWIR-OPO 1080-1400 nm + 540-700 nm
Real time display + recording of wavelength, radiance, shutter state, and OPO parameters

Light and dark dwell time

Scan wavelength interval

Automated tuning via parameter look up table
Example calibration data

VIIRS band M2 showing electronic crosstalk with other bands
Quasi-CW & CW sources

Comparing OPO and CW lasers used for VIIRS band M7 calibration.

Integrating sphere provides temporal and spatial averaging with characteristic time on the order of nanoseconds.

Comparison of 80 MHz prf OPO and continuous wave Ti:sapphire laser used as sources for VIIRS band M7 calibration.
• Deeper UV coverage
• Improved operation near degeneracy and water vapor absorption lines
• More repeatable wavelength steps, order of 0.1 nm
• Long term stability and decreased operator intervention during scans
• More power
Summary, acknowledgements

Broad band optical parametric oscillator developed covering 360 to 2000 nm
Automated scanning
Demonstrated portability without realignment
Ability to support critical path instrument calibration

Support
GOES-R
NPP
SAGE III – ISS
Landsat
PACE Ocean Color Instrument
CLARREO Pathfinder
Joint Polar Satellite System

Technical Support
Based on design work and built with assistance from the late Keith Lykke, NIST