



Leica Absolute Distance Meter

Technology Days at NASA/MSFC May 22-23, 2002

Ron Eng NASA/MSFC 256-544-3603 ron.eng@msfc.nasa.gov





- Used during SBMD and NMSD tests for radius of curvature measurements.
- Time of flight ranging device.
- +/- 2mm accuracy.
- 1.5 to 50 meters range.
- Works best with diffuse targets.
- Compact.
- Inexpensive.







- Remote measurement device to be located at or near ROC.
- Absolute distance measurement or ranging device.
- 1 micron measurement resolution.
- Better than 25 microns measurement accuracy.
- Better than 25 microns measurement repeatability.
- Greater than 50 meters range.
- Specular surface and corner cube.
- Fast sample rate.
- Compact.
- Easy to use.

Leica laser tracker









ADM on hexapod

Х





Ranging system principle

X

Distance D, is determined by measuring the phase angle between the transmitted sine wave and the received sine wave.

The relationship between phase angle $\phi_{\rm r}$,time delay $t_{\rm r}\,$,and modulation frequency f_0 ,is:

$$t_{\rm r} = \phi_{\rm r}/2\pi f_0$$

$$D = C t_r / 2 = C \phi_r / 4\pi f_0$$

 $D_0 = N_0 C / 2f_0$



IR laser diode 780nm (1mW max output)

Visible laser diode for pointing

Polarization modulation

External modulation with LiTaO₃ crystal @700-900 MHz

Differential signal detection

Detection of the same signal (same phase position)

```
Frequency Shift ==> 0° Phase
```

Minimal measurement distance 1.5 m due to minimum bandwidth of 150 MHz

Maximum measurement range 50 m

Distance measurement resolution 1 μm

Distance measurement accuracy better than 50 µm.

400 x 120 x 40 mm (L x H x T)

2 kg



ADM schematic





ADM - Modulation methods





ADM - Beam Pass and Phase Control







Systematical influencing of the refraction indices $n_{\rm e}$ and $n_{\rm o}$ of the crystal High frequency with enough power

Optimized modulation voltage ==> enough modulation strength



Back - Coupling (same phase)





Synthesizer for flexible and defined frequency movement Very short reaction time

Very small frequency steps (system resolution)













ADM - Differential Signal Detection





Using difference method to sample along a minimum position, the intensity values will follow a line









Х

Measurement flow and distance calculation







Accuracy depends on refractive index of air between the ADM and the target.

Refractive Index

- T = air temperature in degrees Celsius
- P = pressure in millimeters of Mercury
- R = relative humidity in percent

$$N_{Gr} = 0.3889479 \cdot P \cdot \left[\frac{1 + 10^{-6} \cdot P \cdot (0.817 - 0.0133 \cdot T)}{1 + 0.0036610 \cdot T}\right] - 556.68 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot R \cdot 10^{\frac{7.5 \cdot T}{T + 237.3}} + 0.6609$$



Limitations are related to:

Bandwidth of the modulator of 150 MHz

Modulation frequency







ADM Measurement

Refraction = 1.00027529886

A = -49849.00000

Dist. [m]	С	K [um]	P [um]	f [Hz]	M [m]	SD [um]
20.465532	124	-3	2	840019528	20.465532	0.000000000
20.465532	124	0	1	840019472	20.465532	0.000000000
20.465534	125	-1	2	840019472	20.465532	1.168007728
20.465534	124	-1	2	840019472	20.465533	1.168007728
20.465534	124	-1	2	840019472	20.465533	1.118282261
20.465532	123	-3	2	840019528	20.465533	1.087356019
20.465532	123	-3	2	840019528	20.465532	1.066240300
20.465534	124	0	2	840019416	20.465533	1.081365031
20.465534	123	-1	1	840019472	20.465533	1.092571186
20.465534	124	0	2	840019416	20.465533	1.054326627
20.465534	124	0	2	840019416	20.465533	1.000222061
20.465534	124	0	2	840019416	20.465533	0.996080337



Repeatability test

S.D. of 30 measurements to a corner cube <25 um

S.D. of 30 measurements to a mirror <50 um

Relative accuracy test

20 distance measurements to a corner cube, compare distance with LTD500, deviation ΔD <25 um

20 distance measurements to a mirror, compare distance with LTD500, deviation ΔD <50 um



Х

Acceptance test methods (continue)

ADM offset determination (LTD500 required)

3 distances to be measured from both directions with LTD500

3 distances to be measured from both directions with ADM

Deviation between (D1 + D2) and D3 < 35 um





Absolute distance accuracy test (LTD500 required) Measure 3 distances between 3 points with LTD500 Measure 3 distances between 3 points with ADM Deviation between (D1 + D2) and D3 < 35 um



/

	Requirements	ADM s/n 166	ADM s/n 406
Repeatability to corner cube	S.D. < 25 um	< 1.3	< 1.8
Repeatability to mirror	S.D. < 50 um	< 3.5	< 2.7
Relative accuracy to corner cube	∆D < 25 um	< 1.1	< 1.8
Relative accuracy to mirror	∆D < 50 um	< 19	< 35
Absolute distance accuracy	∆D < 35 um	< 21	< 36





ADM measurements are very accurate and repeatable for corner cubes.

Performed cryo deformation test of Gr-Ep reaction structure with ADM.

Software interface is easy to use.

May have problem measuring to Be mirror due to polarization properties or scatter.

Currently have no method to calibrate the ADM in house.

Demo is available on Friday during tour at XRCF. Demonstrate relative accuracy with a HP DMI.