SOLARPACES GUIDELINE FOR HELIOSTAT PERFORMANCE TESTING - RELEASE V1.0

Marc Röger¹

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The SolarPACES Task III Heliostat Working Group currently works on three guidelines:

- Heliostat Wind Load Design Guideline to improve and unify heliostat wind load design methods as a basis for a heliostat specific engineering code
- Heliostat Field Acceptance Guideline to measure the performance of an industrial-sized field

Heliostat Performance Testing Guideline









Motivation for SolarPACES Task III Heliostat Working Group

- The heliostat field is a significant investment factor
- It is a long-term investment
- It is of big extent and any correction or malfunctioning is expensive
- It is a crucial component in the energy conversion chain
- Yearly plant output strongly depends on its optical quality
- Quality assurance and final acceptance tests of heliostats and fields are necessary for control of subcontractors and warranty claims

1. Objective Heliostat Performance Testing Guideline

Objective of Guideline

- Enable comparison of single heliostats on an objective, scientific, but practical level
- Homogenize content of test certificates of different qualification centers
- Facilitate bankability of heliostats

Content of Guideline

- Parameter list with definitions to describe heliostats and their performance
- Measurement techniques to derive the parameters

Solar Power and Chemical Energy Systems IEA Technology Collaboration Programme

SolarPACES Guideline for Heliostat Performance Testing

> Draft Version 1.0 26.04.23

Edited by Marc Röger DLR, Institute of Solar Research



2. History and Status of Guideline

- 2008: First national drafts
- From 2012: International input as part of SolarPACES Task III meetings
- From 2012: Dissemination to Task-III heliostat working group (actual almost 60 members)
- From 2012: Review feedback from
 - more than 14 international institutions
 - more than 30 scientists
- From 2018 First draft releases and applications in R&D and industry:
 - RELEASE_v0991: 22.08.18
 - RELEASE_v0995: 09.10.20
 - RELEASE_v1.0: 30.05.23
- Currently being put into the IEC-TC-117 62862-4-3 technical committee

Thank you to all actively participating institutions, scientists and industrial engineers.





Heliostat Performance Testing Guideline

Content of Guideline



Solar

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- Definition of coordinate systems
- General Definitions
 - Mirror Panel
 - Concentrator
 - Heliostat
 - Concentrator Surface Normal (=given in CCS), also called Heliostat Normal (=given in HCS or GCS)
 - Concentrator Elevation and Azimuth
- Definitions of Angular Deviations
- Naming Convention for Angular Deviations



3. Definitions Angular Errors/Deviations





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4. Methodology OLD METHOD: Measure Beam Shape/Quality with BCS system



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We get values like

- Total Beam Dispersion σ_{TotBeamDisp}
- "90°-cone power angle"
- Flux profiles
- Etc.

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4. Methodology OLD METHOD: Measure Beam Shape/Quality with BCS system

The Total Beam Dispersion $\sigma_{TotBeamDisp}$ as measured on target

- does not describe the heliostat properties properly,
- because it depends on
 - Astigmatism,... (day of time / year / location of heliostat)
 - Meteorological parameters (sunshape, scattering)

We would need the beam quality σ_{BO}







For that reason, the <u>guideline</u> is based on the following approach:

- Define ideal shape (paraboloidal / spherical / flat / ...)
- Measure the slope deviations SD in horizontal and vertical direction, e.g. by deflectometry / photogrammetry / laser radar in one elevation. Result: SD matrices (in relation to ideal shape, 1)





For that reason, the <u>guideline</u> is based on the following approach:

- Define ideal shape (paraboloidal / spherical / flat / ...)
- Measure the slope deviations SD in horizontal and vertical direction, e.g. by deflectometry / photogrammetry / laser radar in one elevation. Result: SD matrices (in relation to ideal shape, 1)
- Measure the shape deformation to account for deformation with different elevation angles (2) and temperatures (3) (future: wind (4)), e.g. by photogrammetry.







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4. Methodology Beam Quality by Shape Measurement and Raytracing

For that reason, the guideline is based on the following approach:

- Define ideal shape (paraboloidal / spherical / flat / ...)
- Measure the slope deviations SD in horizontal and vertical direction, e.g. by deflectometry / photogrammetry / laser radar in one elevation. Result: SD matrices (in relation to ideal shape, 1)
- Measure the shape deformation to account for deformation with different elevation angles (2) and temperatures (3) (future: wind (4)), e.g. by photogrammetry.

el.ref



• High-fidelity raytracers provide any other parameter (e.g. $\sigma_{TotBeamDisp}$, σ_{BQ} , flux profiles, 90deg-cone power angle, etc.)







Detailed Simulation of Solar Flux Possible by Using Deflectometry Data

See. e.g. Belhomme, B., Pitz-Paal, R., Schwarzbözl, P., and Ulmer, S. (June 10, 2009). "A New Fast Ray Tracing Tool for High-Precision Simulation of Heliostat Fields." ASME. J. Sol. Energy Eng. August 2009; 131(3): 031002. https://doi.org/10.1115/1.3139139

Heliostat Performance Testing Guideline





Heliostat Measurement Essential Parameters (Class-1)

Additional descriptive parameters (Class-2)

The essential parameters (class-1) are *mandatory* to describe heliostat performance according to this guideline. In general, all these parameters must be given for comprehensive description of the heliostat performance. **70 parameters**

Additional descriptive parameters (class-2) as part of an extended list deliver additional, but not essential information. They may be additionally given. 84 parameters



Only valid for specific Conditions, Simulation Input **Beam shape parameters (class-3)** can be derived from class-1 parameters by *raytracing*, or are *not easily measurable under defined conditions* in industrial practice. Essential parameters should be preferred to define heliostat performance instead. However, beam shape parameters can be additionally used for their *illustrative character*.

21 parameters

Total 175 parameters, but only 70 parameters needed

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Appendix A: Heliostat Performance Parameters: Terms/Definitions and Measurement

A.1 Essential Parameters (class-1)

	n Parameter Name (Symbol)	Value Example	Unit	Variable Type	Typical Range	Definition	Technique for Derivation of Parameter	Provided by (Lab/Man)
						HELIOSTAT CONFIGURATION		
	HelioConfig.CoordinateSys.GCS GCS	(xecs, yecs, zecs)	-	string	-	Please describe the global coordinate system in the measurement report in detail. Usually it is defined like that: Right-handed coordinate system describing positions of tower, receiver and heliostats, with x being oriented east, y north and z vertical up for the northern hemisphere, and x being oriented west, y south and z vertical up. The origin has to be defined. Usually the origin is on the north-south symmetry plane of the solar field at tower ground level, either in the aperture plane of the receiver or in the case of a cylindrical receiver in its central axis at ground level.	-	IQual
3	HelioConfig.CoordinateSys.HCS HCS	(XHCS, YHCS, ZHCS)	-	string	-	Please describe the heliostat coordinate system in the measurement report in detail. Usually it is defined like that: Right-handed local cartesian coordinate system defined for each heliostat which does not move with the concentrator movement, with <i>z</i> being the vector pointing south for the northern hemisphere (<i>z</i> pointing north for the southern hemisphere) or, alternatively, pointing to the tower (must be defined!), and <i>y</i> being the vertical axis. The origin could be the intersection of the two tracking axes.		IQual
;	HelioConfig.CoordinateSys.CCS CCS	(xees, yees, Zees,) -	string	-	Please describe the concentrator coordinate system in the measurement report in detail. Usually it is defined like that: Right-handed local cartesian coordinate system on the concentrator which moves with concentrator elevation and azimuth with <i>z</i> being the concentrator surface normal pointing away from the mirror surface and <i>y</i> being the vertical axis projected into the concentrator plane (for elevations in the range between 0 and <90°). The origin has to be defined. It should be on the concentrator central axis so that the lowest <i>z</i> value of the reflective surface is close to zero and the rest of the <i>z</i> values are positive. For other concentrator shapes (e.g. rotation symmetric) differing systems, e.g. polar coordinates, using the index CCS can be used.	-	IQual
	4 HelioConfig.CoordinateSys.AS AS	(ax1, ax2)	-	string	-	Please describe the concentrator coordinate system in the measurement report in detail. Usually it is defined like that: Coordinate system on the heliostat which moves with the concentrator (tracking axis 1 and tracking axis 2) as system axes. For perfectly mounted T-type heliostats, $ax1$ corresponds to the azimuth (yxc), and $ax2$ to the elevation (xcc) which moves with the rotation around ax1. The axes are not necessarily perpendicular.	-	IQual
	5 HelioConfig.General.Type	T-shape	-	string	-	Construction principle [T-shape / carousel / sloped axes heliostat /steel frame / bubble enclosed / rotating field / ganged heliostats (multiple mirror panels) / venetian blinds / yoke / shared support / dual module drive / etc.]	specified by manufacturer	Man/IQual
	6 HelioConfig.Conc.Outline	rectang.	-	string	-	Outline of concentrator [rectangular / round / pentagonal / hexagonal / etc.]	specified by manufacturer	Man/IQual
	7 HelioConfig.Conc.Dimension	[6.6; 6.7]	m	single vector	0 to 100	Concentrator size in $[x; y]$ direction (rectangular outline) or diameter (round outline) or [min; max] diameter (rotationally symmetric outline) or other description via edge lengths (other outlines)	(Laser) distance meter, tape measure, etc.	Man/IQual
1	8 HelioConfig.Conc.ReflectiveArea	40.1	m²	single	0 to 250	Reflective aperture area of concentrator (excluding gaps between mirror panels)	(Laser) distance meter, tape measure, etc.	Man/IQual
1	9 HelioConfig.Panel.Outline	rectang.	-	string		Outline of reflective mirror panel [rectangular / round / triangular / pentagonal / hexagonal / etc.]	specified by manufacturer	Man/IQual

Appendix A: Heliostat Performance Parameters: Terms/Definitions and Measurement

A.1 Essential Parameters (class-1)

n P	arameter Name (Symbol)	Value Example	Unit Variable Type	e Typical Range	Definition				Technique for Derivation of Pa	rameter	Provided by (Lab/Man)	DLR
					<u>HELIOSTAT C</u>	ONFIGURAT	ION					
					Please describe th	e global coordina	te system in the	measurement report in det	ail.			
1 H G	lelioConfig.CoordinateSys.GCS CS	(xacs Defin zacs) CO	ition of par ncenti	ameter ator s	ize in [x; y	[]	orie rier igir eith in it	Technique for deri (Laser) dis	vation of parameter stance meter, ta	ape	Provided by whom?	/lan.
2 H H	IelioConfig.CoordinateSys.HCS ICS	dir (x _{HCS} dia ^(x_{HCS}) ma	ection meter [x] diai	(recta (roun meter	ingular ou d outline) (rotationa	lline) o or [min lly	r nin ded l; ew nort po gin	measure,	etc.		IQual. = Inde Qualification	ependent 1
з Н С	lelioConfig.CoordinateSys.CCS CS	de: (xcs (ot	scription her ou	on via tlines)	edge leng	Iths	vste ded trat entr e d alu s. Fo ar c				Man. – man	
4 н Par	lelioConfig.CoordinateSys.AS AS	(ax1, ax2)	- string		Value Example	e concentrator co defined like that ncentrator (tract I T-type heliostats L Init	ordinate system Coordinate system ing axis 1 and tr <i>ax1</i> correspon	n in the measurement reportem on the heliostat which acking axis 2) as system axest ds to the azimuth (y+cs), and the azimuth (y+cs), azimuth (y+cs), and the azimuth (y+cs), azimuth	t in s. For ax2 Typical Range		lQual	
He	elioConfig.Cc	onc.Dir	nensio	on	[6.6; 6.7]	m	Sing	le vector	0-100		Man/IQual	
6 H	lelioConfig.Conc.Outline	rectang.	- string		Outline of concent	rator [rectanguis	r / round / pent	agonal / hexagonal / etc.]	specified by manufacturer		Man, IQual	
7 н	lelioConfig.Conc.Dimension	[6.6; 6.7]	m single vector	0 to 100	Concentrator size or [min; max] dian edge lengths (othe	in [x; y] direction neter (rotationally er outlines)	(rectangular ou symmetric out	lline) or diameter (round ou line) or other description via	tline) (Laser) distance meter, tape me	asure, etc.	Man/IQual	
8 H	lelioConfig.Conc.ReflectiveArea	40.1	m ² single	0 to 250	Reflective aperture	e area of concent	rator (excluding	gaps between mirror panels	s) (Laser) distance meter, tape me	asure, etc.	Man/IQual	
9 H	lelioConfig.Panel.Outline	rectang.	- string		Outline of reflectiv hexagonal / etc.]	e mirror panel [re	ectangular / rou	nd / triangular / pentagonal	/ specified by manufacturer		Man/IQual	

n		Parameter Name (Symbol)	Value Example	Unit	Variable Type	Typical Range	Definition	Technique for Derivation of Parameter	Provided by (Lab/Man)
		÷							
	20	Optics.Conc.NominalShape	parabolic	-	string	-	Design target curvature shape of complete concentrator including canting information [flat / parabolic / spherical / special heliostat canting (if e.g. yearly energy output computer-optimized canting)]. Numeric values are given in Optics.Conc.NominalShapeNumericValue.		Man
	21	Optics.Conc. NominalShapeNumericValue	[55] or [25;1500] or matrices	m	single vector, matrix	0 to 9999 or NaN (flat)	Design target curvature radius in case of spherical, focal length in case of parabolic, 9 or NaN in case of flat; for a conc. with adjustable focus give [min; max] range; for t) special heliostat canting ideal shape should be described by matrices x[m;n], y[m;n], z[m:n]		Man
	22	Optics.Conc. HelioRefOrientationTemp	[az=0°; el=30°; T=20°C]	÷	string	-	Azimuth / elevation angle and heliostat temperature for which the SD data is valid; measurement without significant wind influences. In case, there are no limitations, [<i>az</i> =0°; <i>el</i> =30°; <i>T</i> ~20°C] should be used. In case azimuth angle has no influence of shape (standard T-heliostat), the azimuth value can be omitted.		IQual
	23	Optics.Conc.SD_SamplingRate	1000	value s/m2	single	>100	Average sampling Rate used for the slope deviation measurement. Must be higher than 100 data points/m2.	Divide total number of measurement points by total measured surface; the measurement should be homogeneously distributed on the measured surface	IQual
	24	Optics.Conc.SD_ShareEvalSurf	97	%	single	95-100%	Share of evaluated surface of total reflective surface; must be higher than 95%.	Area in which the surface error is evaluated (see Optics.Conc.SD_2D) divided by total HelioConfig.Conc.ReflectiveArea	IQual
	25	Optics.Conc.SD_2D SD20	sR: 1.46 RMS: 2.06 (100%)	mrad	string	<3 mrad	Rayleigh Parameter sR and RMS for 2D slope deviations of real concentrator compared to surface generated using the Optics.Conc.NominalShape for whole measured surface, applying over the whole heliostat surface a ROBUST least squares optimization for the orientation of measured data to the nominal geometry. Minimum recommend resolution 100 data points/m2; minimum evaluated surface (> 95%); Low wind speeds (<normaloperation) and="" excessive="" no="" temperature<br="">gradients. The measurement uncertainty of the slope deviation-RMS value has to be given (should be below 0.2 mrad). Definition of slope deviations, see SolarPACES draft guideline "Measurement and Assessment of Mirror Shape for Concentrating Solar Collectors". Give values for whole measured surface. Write in parentheses "100%", that means that all measured values (not necessarily whole reflective surface) are considered for the RMS (sR) value. Coordinate System: CCS.</normaloperation)>	The heliostat surface slopes can be measured directly by deflectometry or by measuring 3-D coordinates of the heliostat surface, using photogrammetry, laser radars, etc. While deflectometry directly gives slopes as a result, the 3-D measurement technique results have to be processed via tringualation and calculation of normal vectors. Slope deviations are calculated in reference to the nominal normal vectors defined in parameters Optics.Conc.NominalShape and Optics.Conc.NominalShapeNumericValue while orienting the two data clouds with a ROBUST least square method or similar. The minimum recommend resolution is 100 data points/m2 for photogrammetry, the other techniques should use their potential for higher resolution. The minimum evaluated surface must be higher than > 95% of the heliostat surface. The measurement uncertainty of the slope deviation matrix entries has to be given. Locally, they should be below 0.5 mrad. The uncertainties for the RMS of the slope deviation of the whole concentrator should be below 0.2 mrad. A separate measurement report must be created where all the necessary details of the measurement procedure, evaluation and accuracies is given. Note: SD _{2D,RMS} can be	IQual

n	Value Variable Typical Parameter Name (Symbol) Example Unit Type Range Definition		Technique for Derivation of Parameter	Provided by (Lab/Man)
20	Optics.Conc.NominalShape: parabolic	oncentrator including canting cial heliostat canting (if e.g. yearly]. Numeric values are given in	specified by manufacturer	Man
21	Optics.Conc.NominalShapeNumericVa	lue: [55] or matrices	specified by manufacturer	Man
22	Optics.Conc.HelioRefOrientation: [az=	Inclinometer, protractor	IQual	
23	Optics.Conc.SD_SamplingRate: 1000	values/m ²	Divide total number of measurement points by total measured surface; the measurement should be homogeneously distributed on the measured surface	IQual
24	Optics.Conc.SD_ShareEvalSurf: 97%	ited surface of total reflective surface; must be higher than 95%.	Area in which the surface error is evaluated (see Optics.Conc.SD_2D) divided by total HelioConfig.Conc.ReflectiveArea	IQual
25	Rayleigh compare measured Optics.Conc.SD_2D: sR: 1.56; RMS: 2 Solar Col "100%", surface) :	Parameter sR and RMS for 2D slope deviations of real concentrator I to surface generated using the Optics.Conc.NominalShape for whole surface, applying over the whole heliostat surface a ROBUST least squares .06 mrad (100%) .06 mrad (100%) Rectors". Give values for whole measured surface. Write in parentheses hat means that all measured values (not necessarily whole reflective re considered for the RMS (sR) value. Coordinate System: CCS.	The heliostat surface slopes can be measured directly by deflectometry or by measuring 3-D coordinates of the heliostat surface, using photogrammetry, laser radars, etc. While deflectometry directly gives slopes as a result, the 3-D measurement technique results have to be processed via tringualation and calculation of normal vectors. Slope deviations are calculated in reference to the nominal normal vectors defined in parameters Optics.Conc.NominalShape and Optics.Conc.NominalShapeNumericValue while orienting the two data clouds with a ROBUST least square method or similar. The minimum recommend resolution is 100 data points/m2 for photogrammetry, the other techniques should use their potential for higher resolution. The minimum evaluated surface must be higher than > 95% of the heliostat surface. The measurement uncertainty of the slope deviation matrix entries has to be given. Locally, they should be below 0.5 mrad. The uncertainties for the RMS of the slope deviation of the measurement report must be created where all the necessary details of the measurement procedure, evaluation and accuracies is given. Note:	IQual

SD_{2D,sR}=1/sqrt(2)*SD_{2D,RMS}. Note: The parameter SD_{2D,RMS} can be

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Testing Guideline

Heliostat Performance

Content of Guideline





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	(class-3)	26

7. Reporting

Photo or simplified scheme of general heliostat configuration



Heliostat manufacturer name	HeliostatFactory
Name of heliostat model	FOCUS
Serial number(s) or other identifier(s)	PX5
Total number of heliostats investigated	1
Name and address of testing laboratory	R&D Testing Center, Street Name, City, Country
Testing location	Heliostat Testing Platform, 52428 Jülich, Germany
Date of testing period	30.05.23 - 15.08.23
Date of erection of heliostat	01.04.22
Reference to guideline version	SolarPACES Heliostat Performance Guideline v1.0 from 30.05.23
Report format	This report and data CD
Date, signature and stamp of independant qualification	

organization/company

n	Full Parameter Name (Symbol)	Value	Unit	Meas. Technique	Measurement Report
	HELIOSTAT CONFIGURATION				
1	HelioConfig.CoordinateSys.GCS	see report		Laser dist.meter	Hel_Main.pdf
2	HelioConfig.CoordinateSys.HCS	see report	2 - 2	Laser dist.meter	Hel_Main.pdf
3	HelioConfig.CoordinateSys.CCS	see report	-	Laser dist.meter	Hel_Main.pdf
4	HelioConfig.CoordinateSys.AS	see report		Laser dist.meter	Hel_Main.pdf
5	HelioConfig.General.Type	T-shape	-	Laser dist.meter	Hel_Main.pdf
6	HelioConfig.Conc.Outline	rectang.	-	Laser dist.meter	Hel_Main.pdf
7	HelioConfig.Conc.Dimension	[6.6; 6.7]	m	Laser dist.meter	Hel_Main.pdf
8	HelioConfig.Conc.ReflectiveArea	40.1	m²	Laser dist.meter	Hel_Main.pdf
9	HelioConfig.Panel.Outline	rectang.	-		+
10	HelioConfig.Panel.Dimension	[3.0; 1.1]	m	Laser dist.meter	Hel_Main.pdf
11	HelioConfig.Panel.Number	[2; 6]	-		
12	HelioConfig.Panel.Type	glass mirror panels			-
13	HelioConfig.Panel.Material	silver coated glass	-	-	-
14	HelioConfig.Axes.Alignment	[az. axis vert.; el. axis horiz.]		×	2
15	HelioConfig.Axes.HeightOfSecondaryAxis	2.14	m	Laser dist.meter	Hel_Main.pdf
16	HelioConfig.Axes.DistanceAx1Ax2	0.15	m	Laser dist.meter	Hel_Main.pdf
17	HelioConfig.Axes.DistanceConcToSecondaryAxis	0.10	m	Tape meter	Hel_Main.pdf
18	Optics.Panel.CurvatureMounted	flat		-	-
19	Optics.Panel.CurvatureMethod	tensionless	-		
20	Optics.Conc.NominalShape	parabolic			
21	Optics.Conc.NominalShapeNumericValue	[55] or [25;1500] or matrices	m		
22	Optics.Conc.HelioRefOrientationTemp	[az=0°; el=30°; T=20°C]	-	Inclinometer, TC	Hel_Shape.pdf
23	Optics.Conc.SD_SamplingRate	1000	values/m2	(+)	Hel_Shape.pdf
24	Optics.Conc.SD_ShareEvalSurf	97	%	•	Hel_Shape.pdf
25	Optics.Conc.SD_2D	sR: 1.46 RMS: 2.06 (100%)	mrad	Deflectometry	Hel_Shape.pdf
26	Optics.Conc.SD_2D*	sR: 1.09 RMS: 1.54 (98%)	mrad	Deflectometry	Hel_Shape.pdf
27	Optics.Conc.SD_2DHighFraction	sR: 6.95 RMS: 9.83 (2%)	mrad	Deflectometry	Hel_Shape.pdf



An Excel template is part of the guideline as main test report in tabular form with links to appended data, measurement report pdfs, graphs.

Further data:

- Data format (in case of matrices, e.g.)
- Graphical form (in case of matrices, vectors, e.g.)
- Detailed measurement reports





Conclusion & Outlook



Heliostat Performance Testing Guideline

- Is focused on prototype validation & qualification.
- It has proven its practicability in several applications in R&D since 2018.
- Version 1.0 is released.
- Currently, the content is **transferred to the IEC-TC-117-62862 Part 4-3**:

"Technical requirements and design qualification of heliostats for solar power tower plants".

- The guideline, containing more details, shall supplement the IEC standard.
- A future 2nd version may include parameters and tests to describe the heliostat tracking behavior and the increase in concentrator slope deviations under windy conditions.

Heliostat Field Acceptance Guideline

• As national draft, is being launched into the **international review** (heliostat working group).

More details in manuscript: Röger, M., Schlichting, T., Blume, K., Guidelines for heliostat testing, Proceedings of SPIE - The International Society for Optical Engineering, 2023, to be published under https://www.spiedigitallibrary.org/



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