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FOR ACCURATE RADIOMETRIC MEASUREMENTS**

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SIMPLIFIED HYPERSPECTRAL CAMERA CALIBRATION FOR ACCURATE RADIOMETRIC MEASUREMENTS

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Abstract

Hyperspectral imaging has enhanced radiometric and colorimetric analysis of complex scenes by offering a continuous spectrum for every pixel in the entire scene. Nevertheless, hyperspectral image acquisition and spectral calibration still remain a challenging task. We propose a simplified methodology to enable accurate and reliable characterisation of a commercial hyperspectral camera and spectral calibration of its output data. A calibration coefficient was determined for the spectral acquisition range (400 nm-1000 nm) and native resolution (every 2,7 nm) to transform the raw hyperspectral data into spectral radiance in SI units ($W \cdot m^{-2} \cdot sr$ per nm). This calibration curve, along-with a linear relation between exposure values and corresponding raw radiance values, was used to automatically determine exposure values that might over/under expose the camera sensors. Different spectral resolutions were also tested to minimize the data size and maintain spectral accuracy. These characterisations and the spectral calibrations were validated under LED and fluorescent sources within a 2300 K-6500 K range of correlated-colour temperatures.

Keywords: Hyperspectral imaging, Spectral calibration, Exposure setting

1 Introduction

In physical sciences and especially in lighting engineering, spectral analysis holds a high importance as it offers a non-invasive method to analysis object properties, ranging from their radiometric content, colorimetric appearance, reflectance properties etc. (Amani et al., 2018; Baret et al., 1987; Scotter, 1990; Shlaer et al., 1942). A spectroradiometer captures the spectral radiances of a point target within the spectral range of the acquisition system. This methodology is efficient as long as we treat simple point objects. When an entire scene has to be analysed, spectral measurement of every object in the scene is not practical owing to the time constraints and the absence of spatial features (Ariana et al., 2006). In this scenario, imaging is helpful as it allows us to analyse every object in relation to its surrounding objects, which impacts the visual perception of a certain object (Zheng et al., 2018). The major drawback of traditional imaging is the absence of detailed spectral information in narrow wavelength regions of the objects, for each pixel (point target); the only information available is in the broad wavelength (RGB) (Taghizadeh et al., 2011). This information is not sufficient in all the situations and there is an increasing need to be able to measure the spectral content of complex scenes with an acceptable accuracy.

Hyperspectral imaging provides a good solution for these concerns as it combines spectroscopy and traditional imaging offering the best of the two methodologies. Originally developed for remote sensing (Goetz et al., 1985), the current usage ranges from food quality analysis (Sun, 2010) to classification of forest tree species (Hycza et al., 2018), medical imaging (Duan et al., 2019; Gawad et al., 2019) and temperature and radiation emission studies (Zheng et al., 2019).

A hyperspectral camera captures spectral information within a particular wavelength range (UV, NIR, VIS or a mix) for each spatial target in the scene which in turn depends on the spatial resolution of the camera. A hyperspectral image has three dimensions, $[R \ C \ W]$; where R and C denote the pixel array (row and columns, e.g. 2560×1440 pixels) and W denotes the wavelength dimension (>30 bands generally). Current hyperspectral technology does not allow simultaneous capture of the entire spectrum for every pixel position in the scene, i.e. either the

spectral information is stacked band by band for every pixel in the scene or multiple line by line complete spectral captures are combined to create the entire field of view. The earlier methodology of creating a hypercube involved capturing the same scene sequentially for changing wavelengths, common examples include Liquid Crystal Tuneable Filters (LCTFs) and Acousto-optic Tuneable Filters (AOTFs) (Lewis et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2018). This methodology provided a good spatial resolution and focussed images but had a smaller spectral resolution. The second approach is called 'push broom technology', where the spectral measurement is done for every point in the scene with the help of a relative motion between the camera and the scene, either a conveyer belt (moving sample) or rotary motor (moving camera) (Shi et al., 2018). These types of hyperspectral cameras are able to capture scenes with an improved spectral resolution (as high as every 1,3 nm).

Despite all the benefits of hyperspectral imaging, for good quality imaging, this technology is still extremely expensive, large in size and difficult to operate for non-experts. Apart from that there are many parameters that need to be mastered for a proper hyperspectral image. The major camera parameters that can affect the result include the spatial resolution, the spectral resolution, the exposure value, the frame rate and the lens focalisation. This article will mainly focus on exposure values (which in turn depends on frame rate and luminance levels of the scene), the choice of spectral resolution and the calibration of raw radiance data of the hyperspectral camera. A hyperspectral output is usually in raw units defined by the camera manufacturer which requires calibration to produce radiance in SI units. This step is important not just for calibrating the radiance hypercube but also for characterising a typical hyperspectral output.

2 Material and setup

2.1 Instruments

A push broom hyperspectral camera named FX10 manufactured by SPECIM® was used for scene acquisition. It is composed of a CMOS sensor with a spectral resolution of 5,5 nm (FWHM) and a lens with an f number of 1,7. The camera operates in the visible-near infra-red region of the spectrum (~400 nm-1000 nm). It was mounted on a rotary scanner to capture the scene.

Two spectroradiometers manufactured by JETI® were used for measuring the spectral radiances and the luminance values (of the sources and the objects): the Specbos 1211UV and the Specbos 1501. A chroma-meter (Konica Minolta, CL 200A) was also placed in the centre of the scene to measure horizontal illuminance levels.

The Macbeth chart with 24 color patches was used for colorimetric measurements and a Spectralon white standard was used as the reference. In the article, the Macbeth Color Chart will be named as MCC followed by a number (to identify the color) and the Spectralon will be named as RW.

2.2 Scene acquisition setup

The captures were taken in a white light booth with a uniform reflectance ($\rho=0.81$), a polycarbonate diffuser was placed at the ceiling of the light booth to uniformly distribute the light, this configuration was used for testing low to medium radiance levels. A temporary elevated block was added inside the light booth and the diffuser was removed for spectral calibration to increase the available light levels for measurements, this configuration was used for working at high radiance levels, see **Figure 1**. The booth was lit either by an incandescent source or by three spectrally tuneable 7-channel LED projectors (SourceFour LED, Lustr+ from the ETC Company) which were mixed to provide an equal energy spectrum (EES) and Full boosted spectrum (FS, all 7 LEDs at maximum intensity). We also had a set of four fluorescent sources though they were not inside the light booth and were used solely for validating the calibration. The spectral radiance of the three sources used for the calibration, and measured in the light booth on a reference white standard are plotted in **Figure 2**.

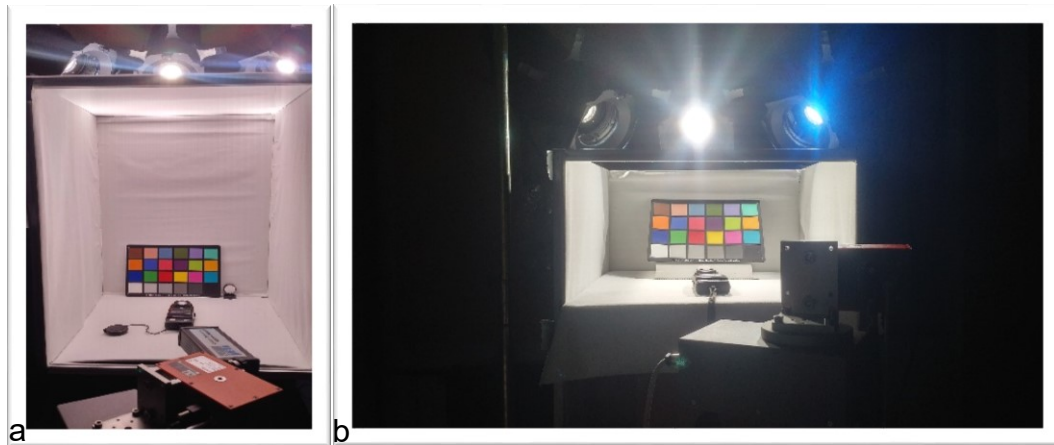


Figure 1 – a: Low radiance level configuration; b: High radiance level configuration

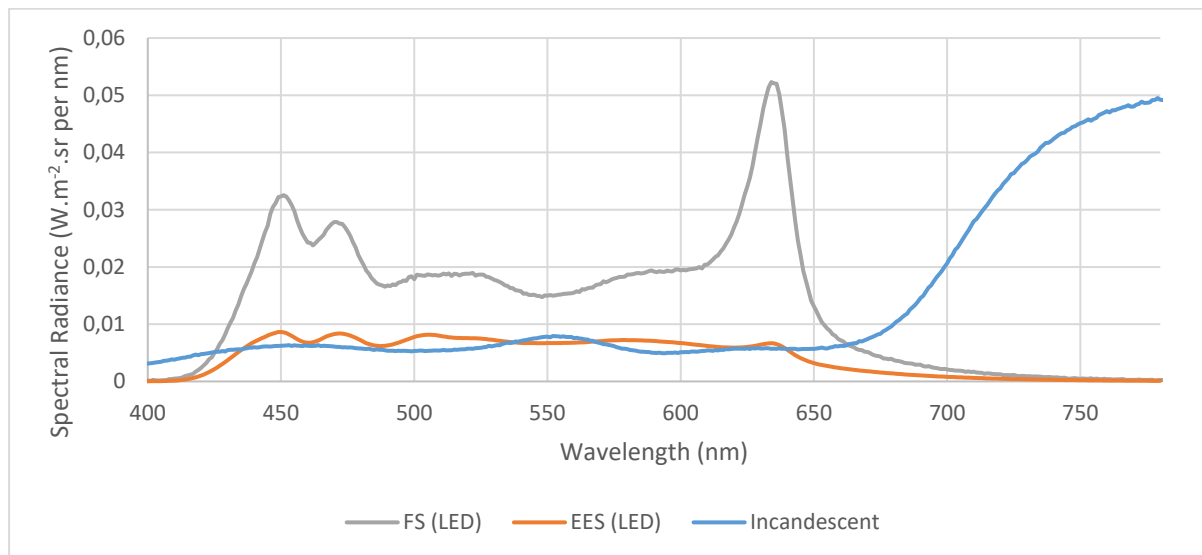


Figure 2 – Spectral radiances of light booth luminary sources

2.3 Hyper spectral data extraction

The spectroradiometer is equipped with a laser pointer which marks the spot being measured. Our hyperspectral camera generates a preview image of the captured scene which can be used to identify the approximate position of the spectroradiometer. A Matlab script was written using the inbuilt *imellipse* function to extract the hyperspectral data for the desired position in the preview image. This script was used to extract the radiance measurements for the MCC and the RW whenever needed.

3 Spectral radiance calibration curve

3.1 Calibration under incandescent light

The raw hyperspectral captures from the camera are in arbitrary units thus their spectral data do not match real radiances (the peaks and shapes are different). That is why, the raw data needs to be calibrated for spectral accuracy. To calibrate the raw radiance output of the hyperspectral camera the target scene was composed of MCC and RW illuminated with an incandescent lamp as a reference calibration source. The capture was done in the high radiance level configuration of the light booth. The spectral radiance calibration curve was determined for the entire spectral range of the camera (~400 nm-1000 nm) and a spectral resolution of 2,7 nm with a fixed exposure value of 40 ms.

The raw radiance values obtained on the reference white with the hyperspectral image were divided with the corresponding reference spectral radiance measured with the spectroradiometer (interpolated linearly to match the spectral resolution of the hyperspectral camera). The calibration was repeated three times and the three calibration curves were averaged to finally achieve the calibration curve in **Figure 3**.

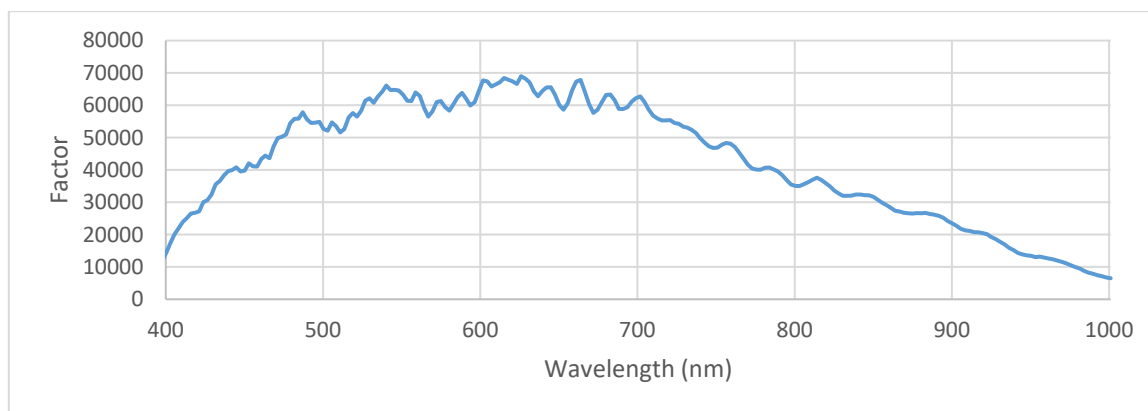


Figure 3 – Radiance calibration curve obtained with the incandescent source

3.2 Validation

The spectral radiance calibration curve obtained with the incandescent source was tested on EES in the high radiance level configuration of light booth with hyperspectral captures taken at 40 ms, 20 ms and 10 ms of exposure values. The spectral radiances on the RW obtained with the three captures were compared with the spectral radiance obtained from the spectroradiometer (**Figure 4**). The average mean square error for the three calibrated spectral radiances was $7 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W.m}^{-2}.\text{sr}$ per nm.

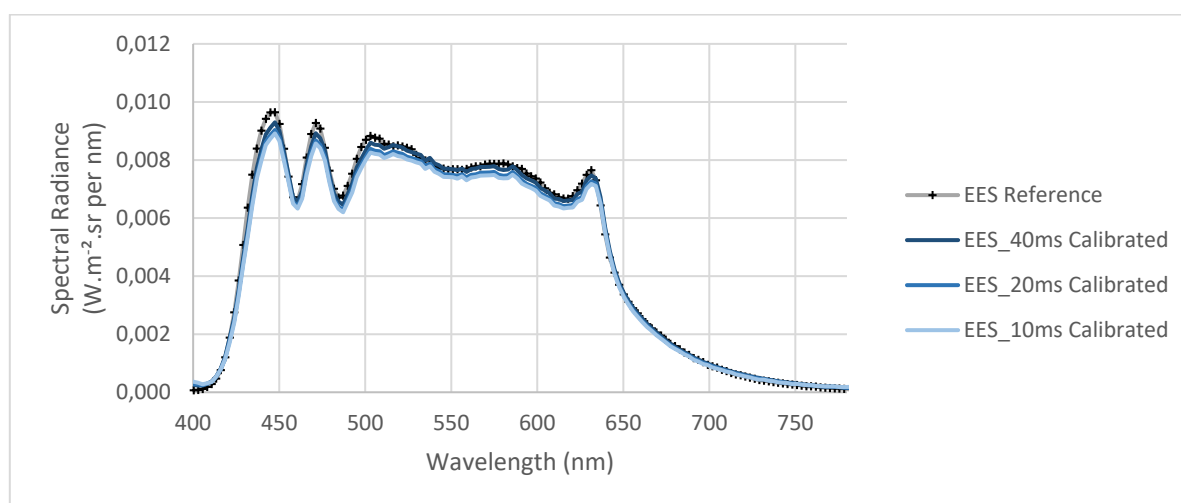


Figure 4 – Verification of spectral accuracy of the calibration curve determined under the incandescent source

This calibration curve was further verified on fourteen different sources comprising of nine LED sources and five fluorescent sources of different color temperatures ranging from 2316 K to 6589 K. The Low/Medium radiance level configuration of light booth was used for all these captures where the RW and the MCC (1-24) were used as targets. The reference spectral measurements were done with the spectroradiometer for the 24 MCC samples and the RW.

The mean and maximum color difference calculated (ΔE_{ab}) on the 24 color samples of MCC and on the RW are given in the **Table 1**.

Table 1 – Reproduction accuracy of the calibration curve- Summary

S.No	Lamp_type	CCT (K)	ΔE_{ab}		Luminance	Illuminance
			Mean	Max	On RW (cd.m^{-2})	Lux
1	Fluorescent	2895	5,3	11,3	160	910
2	Fluorescent	3629	5,1	7,7	92	527
3	Fluorescent	4106	5,2	8,7	159	1325
4	Fluorescent	4749	5,1	7,2	97	558
5	Fluorescent	5776	5,1	7,1	99	552
6	LED	2316	6,9	15,1	550	1796
7	LED	2535	3,9	9	551	1795
8	LED	2704	4,1	9,9	544	1797
9	LED	3009	3,6	9,4	548	1794
10	LED	4009	2,2	4,8	551	1795
11	LED	5017	2	4,3	553	1796
12	LED	5108	2,7	5,3	847	-
13	LED	5896	2,5	4,5	500	-
14	LED	6589	1,9	3,5	554	1795
Mean			3,9	7,7		

4 Influence of measurement parameters

4.1 Minimum luminance levels for hyperspectral capture

In order to properly characterise the hyperspectral camera, it is important to understand its limitations related to luminance levels. Luminance levels which can be measured with a spectroradiometer might not be measurable by a hyperspectral camera because of a significant amount of noise. By increasing the camera exposure values, relatively cleaner hyperspectral captures are possible but with an elevated risk of noise.

To test the minimum luminance levels measurable with our camera, the Low/Medium radiance level configuration of light booth was illuminated with EES with a progressive increase in light levels (nine levels) by adjusting the intensity channel of the LED projector (measured luminance level from $0,4 \text{ cd.m}^{-2}$ to $61,2 \text{ cd.m}^{-2}$ on MCC 19 (top-left white square); measured illuminance levels from 3 lux to 409 lux at centre of light booth). The frame rate was set to 5 Hz. The exposure value was set to 100 ms. Hyperspectral captures were taken for each luminance level on the grey-white and RGBYCM Macbeth squares (MCC 13-MCC 24).

The hyperspectral captures were calibrated and then tone-mapped with the iCAM06 algorithm. The following parameters were fixed: the overall contrast, p was set to 0,75 (default value for indoor scenes) and the surround factor parameter, gamma value was set to 1,5 (dim surround), (Kuang et al., 2007). The images were then visually analysed for overall image quality and amount of noise, **Figure 5** (due to space constraints only eight out of nine images are shown).

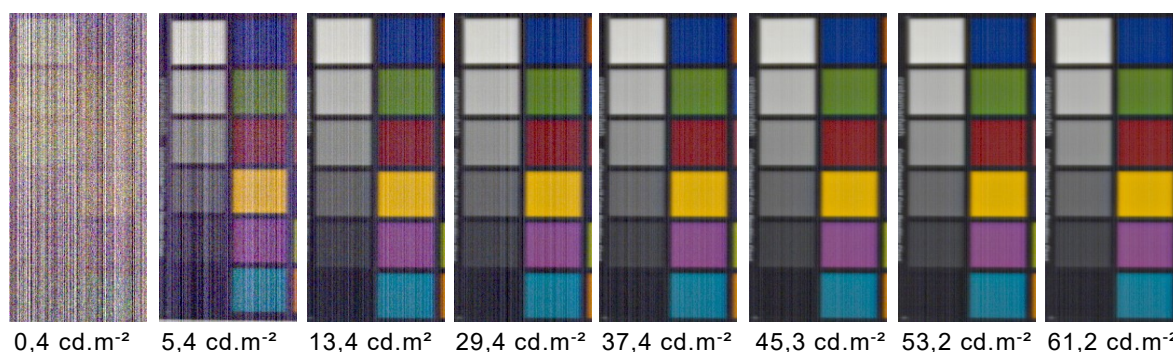


Figure 5 – From left to right, hyperspectral images at 100 ms for increasing luminance levels

As it can be seen in the figure, hyperspectral images for luminance above 50 cd.m^{-2} are visually similar with minute differences on coloured patches. Below 50 cd.m^{-2} the noise distortions decrease with an increase in luminance.

Thus it can be assumed that hyperspectral captures with luminance conditions higher than 50 cd.m^{-2} (on white samples) and illuminance values higher than $\sim 360 \text{ lux}$ can be rendered for visual reproduction but with a pre identified elevated exposure value.

4.2 Appropriate exposure value (ms) for different luminance levels

A spectroradiometer adjusts automatically the exposure value for each spectral capture depending on the luminance conditions, unfortunately this is not the case with hyperspectral captures. With a hyperspectral camera there is a constant risk to over or under-expose the camera lens under extreme luminance conditions (too bright or too dark). The exposure value needs to be adjusted for different luminance conditions and for a non-expert in photography this can be difficult.

To solve this problem, we developed a utility tool in MS Excel which can predict the over/under exposure of the hyperspectral camera depending on the spectral radiance of the luminary source. Hyperspectral captures were done in the high radiance level configuration of the light booth for luminance values ranging from 0 cd.m^{-2} to 2791 cd.m^{-2} under the EES LED source with increasing exposure values of 5-10-20-40-80 ms.

Hyperspectral captures were also done under the incandescent source for a fixed luminance level of 537 cd.m^{-2} with exposure values changing from 1-5-10-20-30-40-50-60-70-80 ms.

These measurements helped us in identifying:

- The exposure values which saturate the camera and are identifiable with a flat line in the EES spectral curve, thus it gave us the upper limit of the radiance values measurable by the hyperspectral camera.
- The exposure values which under-expose the hyperspectral camera and have radiance values comparable to the noise measured for a scene with 0 cd.m^{-2} (dark), thus it gave us the lower limit of exposure values for a particular scene.
- A linear relation between the exposure values and corresponding raw radiance values for incandescent source, identified by an equation with 40 ms as the reference exposure value.

Using the linear relationship between the different exposure values and the raw radiance values from step (c) and the radiance calibration coefficient (paragraph 3.2), we were able to model a raw hyperspectral radiance curve from a spectral curve measured with a spectroradiometer. Using the upper and lower limits of the raw radiance values from steps a and b, we can identify the possible exposure values that could over/under expose the hyperspectral camera.



Figure 6 – Spectral radiance plots for increasing luminance levels and exposure values on Spectralon under EES LED source

As can be seen in **Figure 6** (c-d), the saturation for the camera lens is clearly identifiable with a flat spectral radiance plot starting for 80 ms of exposure value for the luminance levels of 2739 cd.m^{-2} and 2791 cd.m^{-2} . This saturating radiance value was identical for all over exposed exposure values and equal to 3820 raw radiance units. To be on the safer side, the upper limit was defined as 90% of the saturated raw radiance value, thus a capture measuring raw radiance more than 3438 unit was determined as over exposed. From the spectral radiance plot of the dark capture **Figure 6** (a), we identified the noise measured by the camera and set a value 10% higher than the highest noise value (1,43 raw unit) as the lower limit (thus 1,58 raw unit) for a properly exposed capture.

From the hyperspectral captures under the incandescent source with a fixed luminance value of 537 cd.m^{-2} and increasing exposure values (1 ms-80 ms), we identified a linear relationship between the radiance values for different exposure values while setting the radiance values from 40 ms of exposure as the base. These linear equations, the radiance calibration curve and the upper/lower limits of exposure values enabled us to develop a utility tool in MS Excel to automatically identify correct exposure values for the spectral radiance measured with a spectroradiometer. This tool was validated on captures done under EES, FS and Incandescent sources with exposure values of 10-20-40 ms, see **Figure 7**.

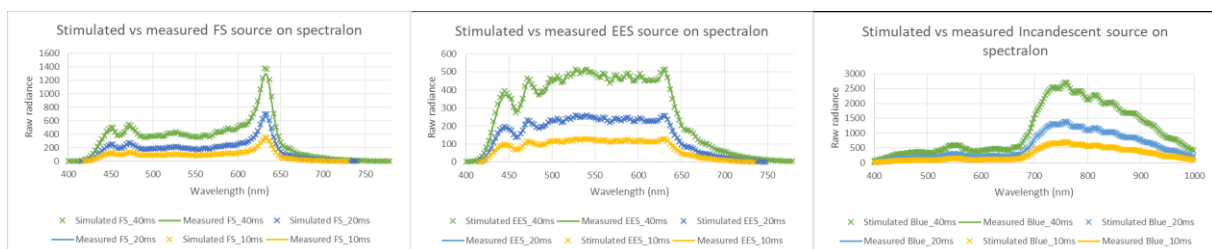


Figure 7 – Validation of automatic exposure calculation tool

4.3 Influence of spectral resolution on hyperspectral measurements

Our hyperspectral camera offers different binning options which enable us to change the spectral and spatial resolution of measurements. The spatial binning was set to be native (1024 pixels) to obtain the best image quality possible. By changing the spectral resolution, it is possible to obtain hyperspectral images every 1,3 nm; 2,7 nm; 5,4 nm and 10,8 nm. The resolution of 1,3 nm is in fact an interpolation of the native resolution of 2,7 nm, thus it was not taken in consideration. The resolution of 10,8 nm was too low and could lead to significant loss in spectral information (Schanda, 2007) and thus was not considered as well.

To test the influence of the spectral resolution, two hyperspectral captures of MCC (1-24) and RW in the original light booth were taken for the two spectral resolutions (2,7 nm and 5,4 nm) under the FS source ($Y=461 \text{ cd.m}^{-2}$). With the help of Matlab, raw radiance values for the coloured samples of MCC (1-18) were extracted of the two hyperspectral images and were calibrated with the calibration coefficient.

The raw spectral data were not completely superposed for the two binning options tested (2.7 nm and 5,4 nm) for the 18 coloured patches of MCC and RW, see **Figure 8** (only for RW). A detailed analysis of the obtained spectral radiances and ΔE_{ab} as compared to the spectroradiometer measured spectral radiances for the MCC (1-18) and RW are presented in **Table 2**.

Table 2 – Spectral accuracy comparison for two spectral resolutions

Resolution	Mean ΔE_{ab}	Max ΔE_{ab}	MSE ($\text{W.m}^{-2}.\text{sr per nm}$)
Binning 2	5,1	8,5	$5,24 \times 10^{-7}$
Binning 4	3,4	8,5	$2,63 \times 10^{-7}$

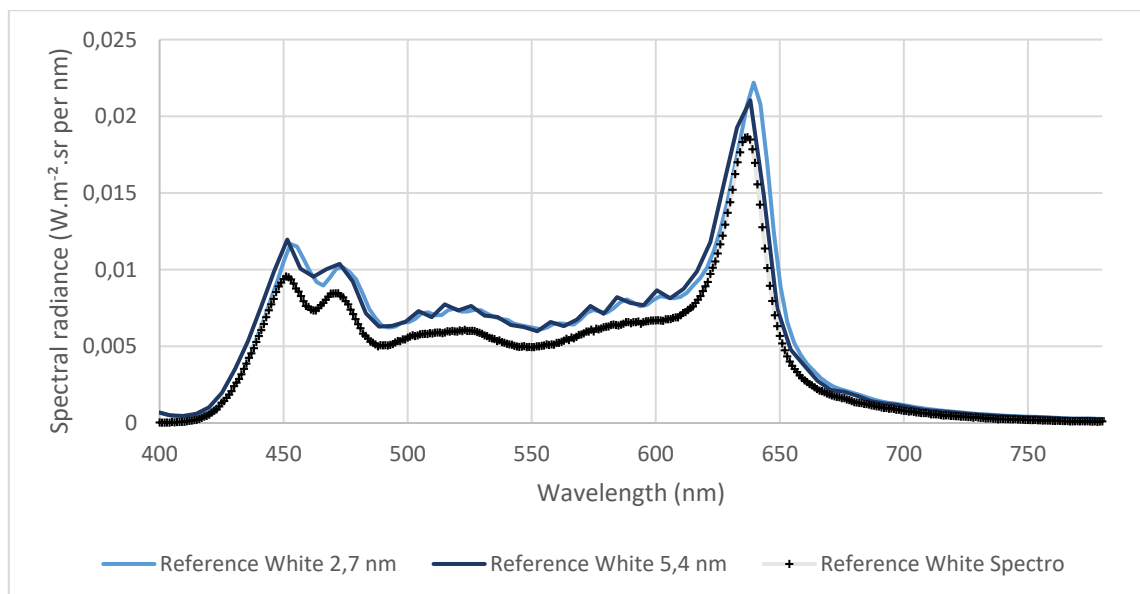


Figure 8 – Spectral binning options and effects on spectral radiance values

This analysis suggests that a spectral binning of 5,4 nm has an accuracy similar to a binning of 2,7 nm for hyperspectral captures, and since hyperspectral captures with a step size of 5,4 nm take half the space as compared to step size of 2,7 nm, by using a lower resolution we can reduce data consumption.

5 Conclusion

This study identified various issues associated with hyperspectral imaging and was able to provide solutions which enable proper image capture and characterisation of our hyperspectral camera. The major part of the study was related to spectral calibration of the hyperspectral data to reflect radiance values in SI units. We were able to identify a radiance factor curve for the entire spectrum range (~400 nm-1000 nm) captured by the camera. This calibration curve when applied on other hyperspectral captures gave us a mean ΔE_{ab} value of 3,3; across a range of colour temperatures, two type of sources (LED and fluorescent), 24 patches of MCC and RW. For simple colour patches, ΔE_{ab} less than 2 is deemed to be visually indistinguishable for non-expert observers (Mokrzycki and Tatol, 2011). It is to be noted that for a complex scene the colour perception changes in relation to the surrounding environment (Webster, 2015), chromatic adaptation (K. Shevell, 1982; Shevell and Humanski, 1988), shape and size of the colour in question (M. Stone, 2012). It has been identified that a ΔE_{ab} less than 6 can be considered as non-perceivable difference for complex images (Hordley et al., 2004; Meyer, 1988).

We also identified that for a spectral resolution of 5,4 nm, a hyperspectral image capture will render results with an accuracy similar to the one obtained with a resolution of 2,7 nm. Since a capture with a resolution of 5,4 nm reduces the data size by half while staying close to the CIE minimum spectral resolution guidelines (~5 nm) (CIE 15:2004, 2004), the binning of 4 is a safe choice for our camera.

There are two important criteria for hyperspectral camera measurements for proper visual representation: exposure value and focussing (Shirvaikar, 2004). They are important because they cannot be easily corrected with post processing. Most of the automatic exposure calculation methods currently in use employ gradient training methods (Shim et al., 2014) or rely on multiple captures with different exposures to correct the image for a particular ROI (Nourani-Vatani, Navid and Roberts, Jonathan M, 2007). Both methods are out of scope for this study and too complicated to apply on an already manufactured hyper spectral camera. The automatic identification of exposure value proposed in this article reduces the risks of over exposed or under exposed images without modifying the camera framework or adding heavy post-processing.

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