



ARTICLE

Determination of Reflected Temperature in Active Thermography Measurements for Corrosion Quantification of Reinforced Concrete Elements

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ABSTRACT

This paper sums up the determining analysis of the measuring location of T_{refl} using a thermocouple during the thermography tests. Laboratory temperature distribution testing methods, analysis of value and location of T_{refl} measurement are explained in this paper. The heat source is two halogen lamps of 500 watts each fitted at a distance of 30–50 cm. Noises appearing during testing of thermography are corrected with measured T_{refl} value. The results of thermogram correction of corroded concrete surfaces using T_{refl} values are displayed in this paper too. The concrete surface temperature results of quantitative image processing method are compared to the experimental test results. The results showed good accuracy, which was seen from most errors <3% and the maximum error is <5%. The end of paper, explained of application T_{refl} value to the corroded reinforced concrete thermogram.

KEYWORDS

Reflected temperature; active thermography; quantitative analysis; reinforced concrete corrosion

Nomenclature

IRT	Infrared thermography
NDT	Non destructive test
T_{refl}	Reflected temperature ($^{\circ}C$)
T_i	Initial temperature ($^{\circ}C$)
Q_c	Heat transfer by conduction process
Q_v	Heat transfer by convection process
Q_i	Heat process from internal indoor
Q_m	Heat process from equipment indoor
Q_s	Heat transfer from solar
h_c	Heat transfer coefficient ($Watt\ m^{-2}\cdot K^{-1}$)
v	Wind speed (ms^{-1})
W_{tot}	Total energy ($Watt\ m^{-2}$)
T_{obj}	Surface temperature ($^{\circ}C$)
T_{atm}	Athmosperic temperature ($^{\circ}C$)
T_{amb}	Ambient temperature ($^{\circ}C$)
d_{obj}	Distance object to heat source (m)



d_{lamp}	Distance between the lamp axles (m)
t_{heat}	Heating time (s)
d_{cam}	Distance IR camera to object (m)
T_{tc}	Thermocouple temperature data ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

1 Introduction

Rebar corrosion can be detected by determining the temperature distributions on the concrete surface using an infrared camera [1]. Influences of rebar corrosion is to reduce its cross-sectional area and thermal coefficient of reinforced concrete around the rebar [2–4]. IRT has proven to be an important technique in NDT because it can quickly inspect a large area in real time [5]. Some studies thermography NDT methods for corrosion of reinforced concrete use qualitative techniques for processing thermogram [6–9]. Active thermography has been established as a method for quality monitoring [10].

Thermography is an imaging technique that uses the infrared radiation to create a thermal image. Due to changes induced in the thermal conductivity of materials, the superficial temperature pattern of a defected component can reveal delamination, voids, insertions, moisture, or changes in material continuity when heated [11]. Active thermography has emerged as an attractive and reliable technique for non-destructive testing [12,13]. Active infrared thermography method requires an external source of energy to induce a temperature difference between defective and nondefective areas in the specimen under examination [14,15]. The temperature due to volumetric heating increases approximately linearly during the heating stage, faster than surface heating [16]. Additionally, when using artificial thermal excitation sources, the problem with non-uniform heating occurs [17].

The image produced by infrared camera is interpreting of heat energy received by infrared camera thermal sensors still contains noise. Internal heat gain is because of the appliances, people, and lighting. Meanwhile, exterior heat gain is due to heat conduction, heat radiation, and heat gain because of ventilation. Outside air temperature affects the heat transfer process in the room, through conduction mechanism in the wall [18]. When active thermography testing is carried out indoor, the effect of heat source radiation to variations room temperature will be dominant, meanwhile, room temperature fluctuations will continue to occur. As a result, there is difficulty in finding the measurement location of reflected temperature (T_{refl}) value as a correction factor [4]. The reflected temperature is an important factor for performing accurate IR temperature measurements [19]. The emissivity of the object and the reflected temperature has but the very high influence on the temperature measurement [20]. The environmental temperature is often a reasonable estimate of reflected temperature [21], as long as no sources of a large amount of light or heat are near the object [22]. There is no mathematical model that would accurately describe the value of T_{refl} in every case. For this reason, to minimize the influence of T_{refl} on the value of T_{obj} , the value of T_{refl} should always be measured [23].

This study aims to determine the installation position of the thermocouple around the heat source, when active thermography testing uses a halogen lamp as a heat excitation source. The thermocouple measurement result is the reflected temperature (T_{refl}) value at the time of the thermography test. Based on the accuracy of the experimental tests, it is concluded that this research shows satisfactory results. At the end of the paper, some thermograms of corroded concrete surfaces before and after correction are also shown.

2 Reflected Temperature (T_{refl}) by Thermography Method

The amount of radiation received by an infrared camera sensor is also be affected by the transmission factor (τ), temperature (T_{atm} , in K), and the object's emissivity (ε_{obj}). The total radiation per unit area (W_{tot} , in Wm^{-2}) received by the infrared camera sensor is a combination of object radiation and environment (atmosphere). The total radiation received by the camera like Eq. (1) [24,25].

$$W_{tot} = \varepsilon_{obj} \cdot \tau \cdot \sigma (T_{obj})^4 + (1 - \varepsilon_{obj}) \tau \cdot \sigma (T_{refl})^4 + (1 - \tau) \cdot \sigma (T_{atm})^4 \quad (1)$$

where σ is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant (ca $5,67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-4}$). The transmittance of the atmosphere is estimated using the relative humidity and the distance from the object to the camera [21]. The atmospheric transmission is close to 1.0 when the survey distance is small (e.g., the typical distance from approximately 3–5 m). So the temperature of the object (T_{obj}) only requires the measurement of emissivity and reflected temperature. In most cases, T_{refl} is the same as the atmospheric temperature (T_{atm}) for an object with high emissivity [24]. According to the handbook from FLIR Camera, T_{refl} is the same as T_{amb} [26], so T_{refl} can be written as Eq. (2) [4].

$$T_{refl} = \sqrt[4]{\frac{W_{tot} - \varepsilon_{obj} \cdot \sigma \cdot T_{obj}^4}{(1 - \varepsilon_{obj}) \cdot \sigma}} \quad (2)$$

where T_{refl} is reflected temperature (K), T_{obj} is object surface temperature (K), W_{tot} is total radiation per unit area (Wm^{-2}) and σ is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant (ca $5,67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ Wm}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-4}$).

3 Material and Methods

Room temperature is related to the amount of heat running in and out of the room (heat gain). The heat gains vary over the 24 h of the day, as the solar intensity, occupancy, lights and appliances keep on varying with time [27]. Factors that affect the amount of room temperature during the irradiation process include external and internal factors. External factors that will change the temperature in the laboratory include water temperature, the wall, and temperature transmission. Internal factors that affect the room temperature come from computer equipment, tools, lighting, and humans. Those factors change simultaneously, so to accommodate them, one must measure the room temperature as initial (T_i) at the start of the measurement process.

Internal heat gain is caused by appliances, people, and lighting. Meanwhile, exterior heat gain is due to heat conduction, heat radiation, and heat gain because of ventilation. Outside air temperature affects the heat transfer process in the room, through conduction mechanism in the wall [18]. When using the infrared thermography camera inside the buildings, the characteristics of the place have to be considered [28].

This research uses a 1000-watt halogen lamp as a heat source. The optimum irradiation is generated at a 10 cm distance with a varied height between 200 Wm^{-2} to 1200 Wm^{-2} [29]. Heat transfer occurs through radiation, conduction, and convection mechanisms. The amount of heat transfer caused by convection depends on the heat transfer coefficient. Based on the research of James Oliver Smith [30], testing points expose to the heat source or “exposed area” according to the following equation:

$$h_c = 6, 22 + 8, 73 v^{0,652} \quad (3)$$

where h_c is heat transfer coefficient ($\text{Wm}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$) and v is wind speed (ms^{-2}). As indoor, so $v = 0$, then $h_c = 6,22 \text{ (Wm}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1})$.

3.1 Tests Setup and Temperature Measurements

Room temperature measurements were carried out using a thermocouple data logger that was placed using the grid method every 10 cm. The two 500-watt halogen lamps are placed parallel to each other, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The laboratory room site plan as described in Fig. 2.

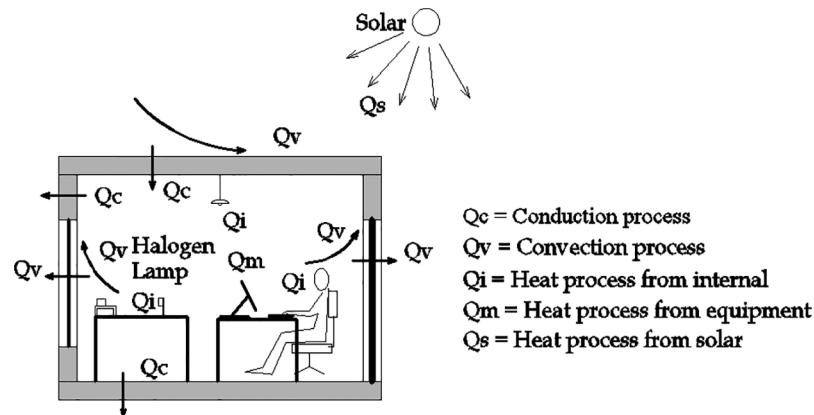


Figure 1: Heat exchange heating process at thermography active in the room

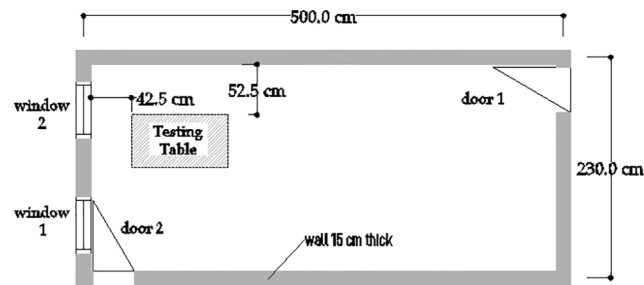


Figure 2: Laboratory room site plan

3.2 Specimens Parameter Sample

The T_{atm} value in this study used a value is 30.6°C as the initial temperature during testing (T_i). The others variable is distance camera ($d_{cam} = (30 + d_{obj})$ cm); the lamp axles (d_{lamp}) are 30 and 35 cm. To represent the test on normal strength concrete, a test object with a strength 20 MPa and dimensions of $10\text{ cm} \times 10\text{ cm} \times 15\text{ cm}$ was made and placed at a distance (d_{obj}) is 30, 40, and 50 cm in front of the heat source, as shown in Figs. 3 and 5. The code of samples used in this research is displayed in Table 1. The thermal camera uses a FLIR E8-XT with 240×360 pixels. Thermal acquisition uses the sequence recording method at a speed of 8 fps. Temperature measurement of the concrete surface during the heating phase used 2 (two) thermocouples installed on the concrete surface and then used as a reference.

Tests carried out at $t_{heat} = 800\text{ s} - 1800\text{ s}$ with time intervals of 50 s were all carried out three times. The T_{refl} values location analysis had been validated by experimental testing. These analysis are based on the contour of the temperature distribution at a distance of 10 cm from the face of the halogen lamp.

4 Results and Discussions

4.1 Change of the Surfaces Temperature

The temperature of the concrete surface changes significantly until $t = 800\text{ s}$, and then the change in the concrete surface temperature is linear until the heating phase is complete. This is caused by the maximum temperature bulb material of halogen lamp is maintained at 550°C when it is on. This condition makes the room temperature and the concrete surface are stable when the temperature of the halogen lamp reaches its peak. Based on this phenomena, so curve fitting analysis carried out by linear regression from $t_{heat} = 800 - 1800\text{ s}$ (end of exposure).

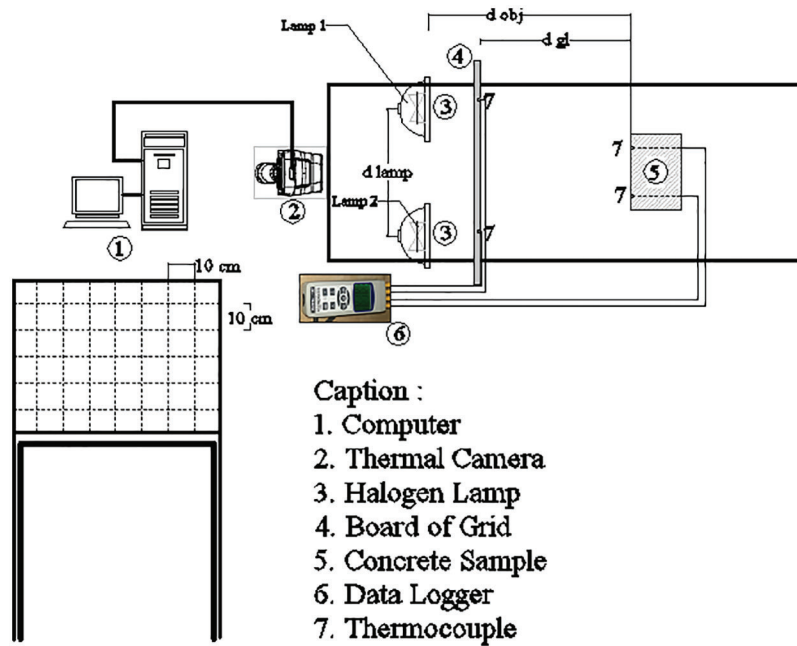


Figure 3: Testing the distribution of room temperature using the grid method

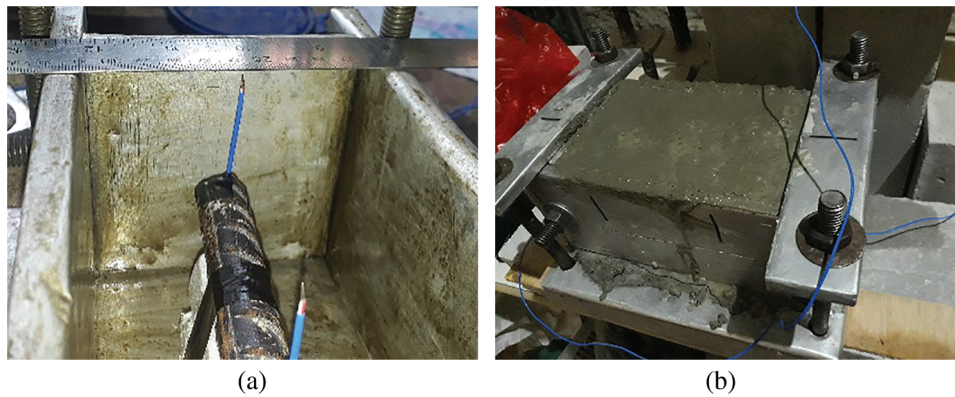


Figure 4: Thermocouple installation in the test concrete a) before b) after molding

Based on the curve-fitting results, the dominant deviation residual distribution was at the start of the exposure until 800 s and then smaller, as shown in Fig. 6. Besides, based on measurement data, the results show an increase in the concrete surface temperature proportionally with the irradiation time. It means that the peak surface temperature of the concrete occurs at the end of the irradiation time. Based on the results, a linear curve fitting achieved residual value (R^2) = 98% as shown in Fig. 7.

The magnitude of the concrete surface temperature is affected by the distance between the concrete test temperature and the heat source. It means the effect of halogen lamp radiation on room temperature changes is dominant at a distance of 0.3 to 0.5 m, and therefore the convection effect on thermal transfer can be neglected.



Figure 5: Testing concrete surface temperature used thermography and thermocouple method

Table 1: Test code samples by the test object distance parameter

Code	d_{cam} (cm)	d_{obj} (cm)	d_{lamp} (cm)
T60-30	60	30	30
T70-30	70	40	30
T80-30	80	50	30
T60-35	60	30	35
T70-35	70	40	35
T80-35	80	50	35

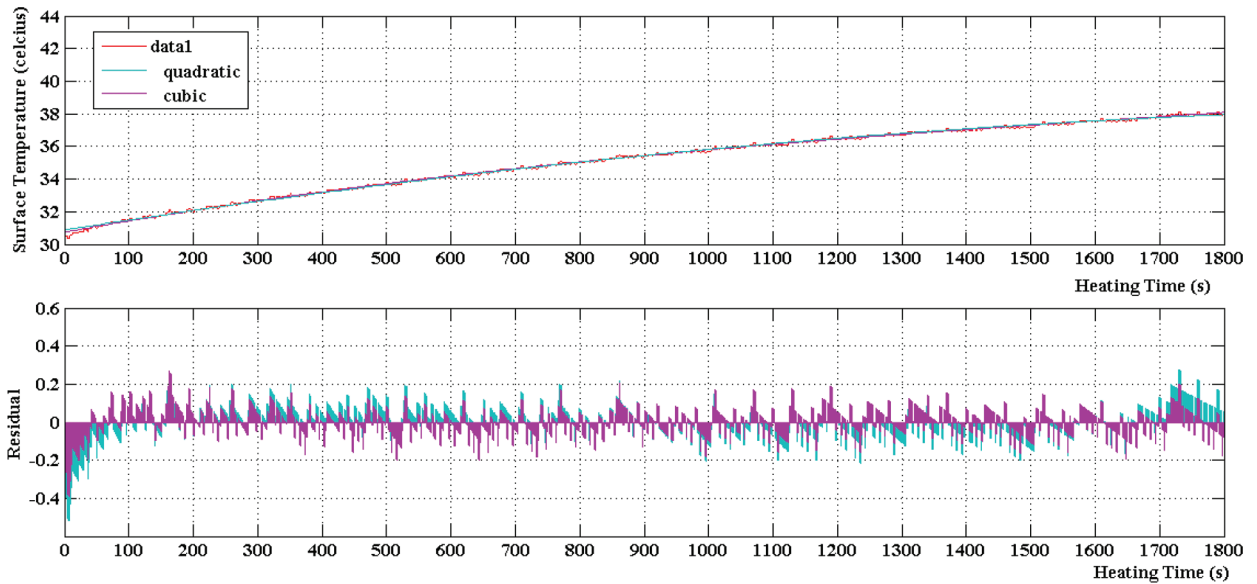


Figure 6: Temperature concrete surface and error distribution of curve fitting results during heating phase

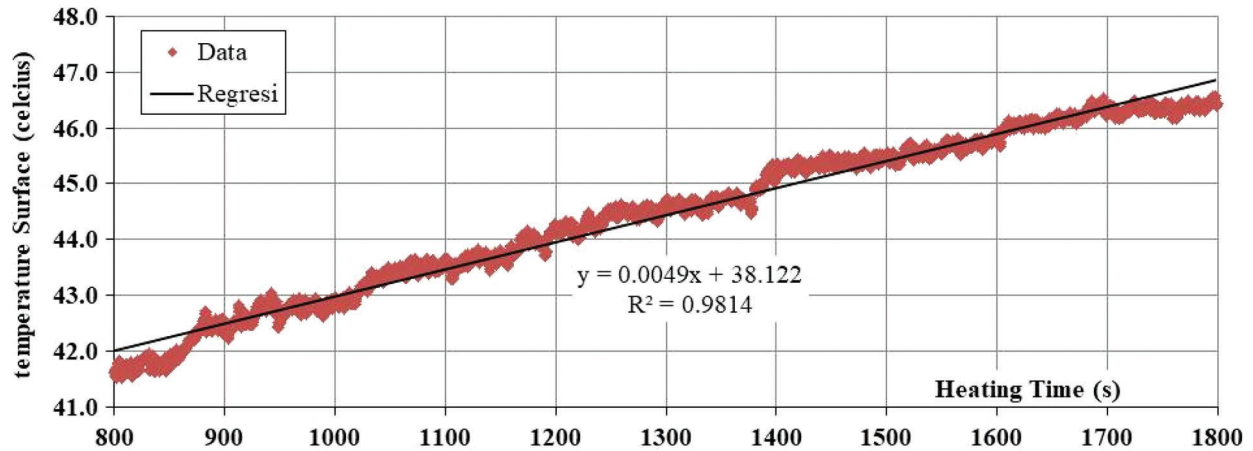


Figure 7: Concrete temperature at heating time 800–1800 s

4.2 T_{refl} Value Results

The reflected temperature (T_{refl}) value was calculated based on the results of the curve-fitting analysis of the concrete surface temperature with the exposure time (t_{heat}) = 800–1800 s. The curve-fitting of T_{refl} value process is done by Matlab software. The value of T_{refl} is proportional to t_{heat} . The atmosphere that appears between the test object and the IR camera causes noise to always occur at the measured surface temperature, as shown in Fig. 8 [4]. These affect the values of τ and T_{refl} in Eq. (1), thus resulting in changes in the value of T_{obj} .

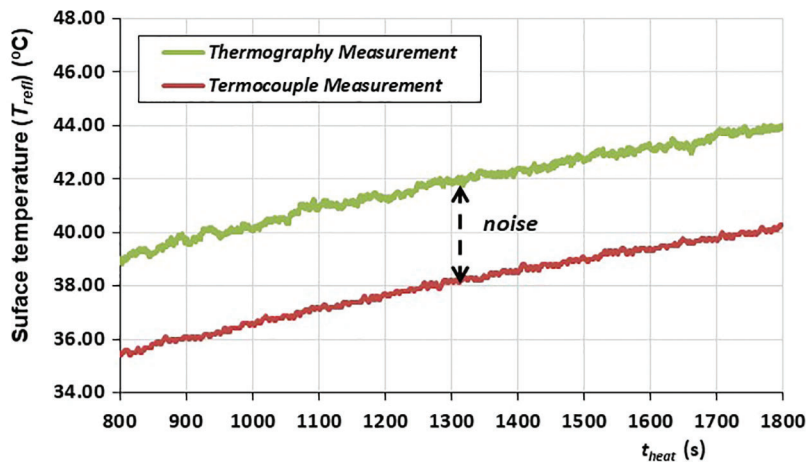


Figure 8: Noise between thermography with thermocouple measurement on surface temperature (T_{surf})

In this research, T_{th} is the concrete surface temperature as measured by the thermographic method, while the results of thermocouple measurements are denoted by T_{tc} . According to Stefan Boltzmann's law, the heat energy of an object is proportional to the fourth power of the absolute temperature. So the total radiation (W_{tot}) received by the IR sensor is $\epsilon_{obj} \sigma T_{tot}^4$. The actual object surface temperature (T_{obj}) is obtained by thermocouple measurement (T_{tc}), then $T_{obj} = T_{tc}$. Therefore, T_{refl} in Eq. (2) becomes as follows.

$$T_{refl} = \sqrt[4]{\frac{\varepsilon_{obj} \cdot \sigma \cdot T_{th}^4 - \varepsilon_{obj} \cdot \sigma \cdot T_{tc}^4}{(1 - \varepsilon_{obj}) \cdot \sigma}} \quad (4)$$

where T_{tc} and T_{th} are the surface temperature of the concrete results of the thermocouple test and the thermographic method, respectively. The results of the analysis of the T_{refl} value are shown in Figs. 9 and 10 [4]. The results of the analysis show that it increases at T60-30 and is smaller than at T70-30 or T80-30. This phenomenon occurs because the distance between the object to the heat source (d_{obj}) affects the magnitude of free space between the heat source and the object. In addition, the radiation process from halogen lamps will continue, so the concrete surface will continue to absorb heat energy.

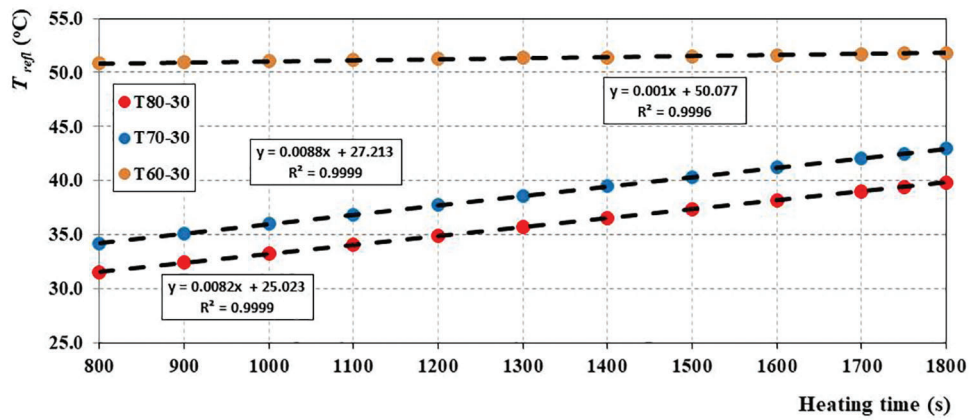


Figure 9: T_{refl} during the heating phase at several d_{cam} and $d_{lamp} = 30$ cm

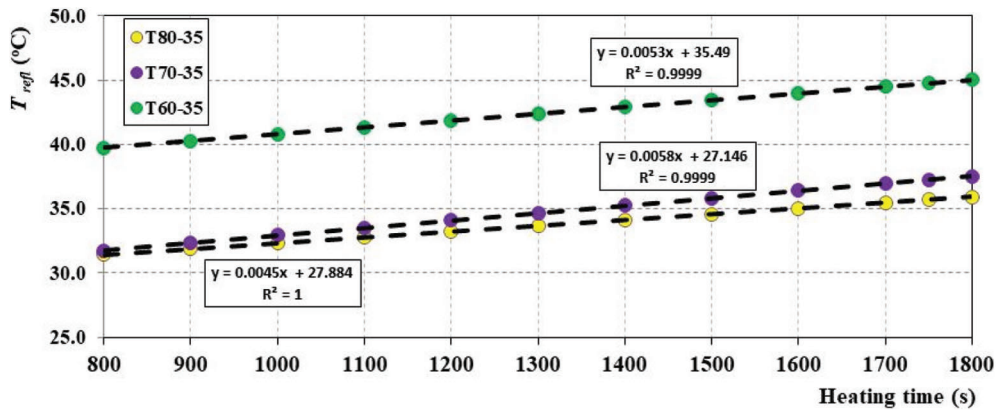


Figure 10: T_{refl} during the heating phase at several d_{cam} and $d_{lamp} = 35$ cm

4.3 T_{refl} Location Based on Heating Time

T_{refl} location analysis emphasizes the vertical distance above lamps 1 and 2 to the temperature contour lines at T_{refl} value, which was 10 cm in front of the lamp (heat source) for object distances (d_{cam}) of 60, 70, and 80 cm. The average location, according to the analysis of the T_{refl} test point, of every heating time is shown in Figs. 11 and 12. The results of the T_{refl} location analysis are used to determine where the thermocouple lies and where its value would be used for noise correction in thermogram quantitative analysis [4].

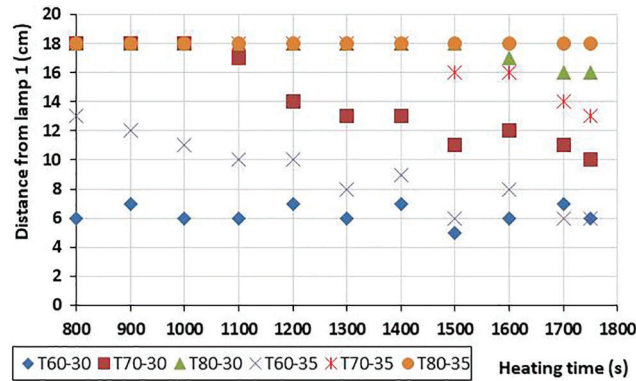


Figure 11: T_{refl} position of upper side from Lamp 1 at several d_{cam} and d_{lamp}

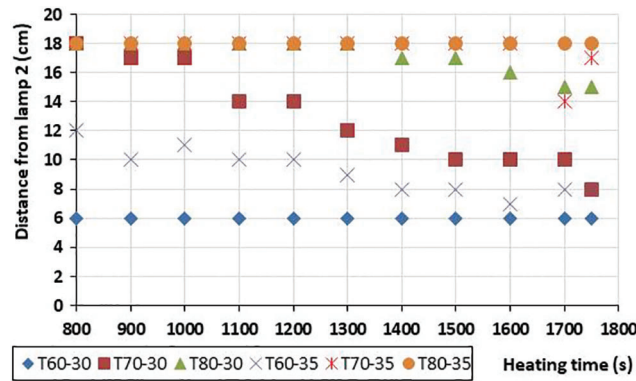


Figure 12: T_{refl} position of upper side from Lamp 2 at several d_{cam} and d_{lamp}

The analysis results for the T_{refl} locations at T60-30 were closer than the others. It is acceptable, as lighting illuminance is inversely proportional to the square of the object's distance from the light source. The closer the object is to the lamp, the smaller the gradient of room temperature distribution in the concrete. The increase in the room temperature is followed by a rise in the surface temperature of the concrete. These phenomena make the T_{refl} position constant for the irradiation time from $t=800$ to 1800 s. T_{refl} layout is 6 cm above the lamp for T60-30, T70-30 cm is quite varied (7 to 18 cm), and the T80-30 cm camera is at a distance of 18 cm. But T_{refl} layout will change if d_{lamp} is 35 cm [4].

4.4 Experimental Results

This test will determine the accuracy of the concrete surface temperature resulting from the thermogram analysis using the T_{refl} value when compared to the measurement with a thermocouple. The T_{refl} value used to remove noise because of atmospheric conditions by Eq. (1), so T_{obj} as [24]:

$$T_{obj} = \sqrt[4]{\frac{W_{tot} - (1 - \varepsilon_{obj}) \cdot \sigma (T_{refl})^4}{\varepsilon_{obj} \cdot \sigma}} \quad (5)$$

Two thermocouples were installed on an objects that was used to measure surface temperature (T_{tc}) throughout the experimental testing. Meanwhile, two others were installed at the top of each halogen lamp to measure T_{refl} . Thermocouples to measure T_{refl} were mounted at 10 cm in front of the halogen lamp and measured at vertical distance according to the results of the analysis of the T_{refl} location on the

contour line of the room temperature distribution [4]. Based on the trend line of change equation of concrete surface temperature, room temperature (T_{refl}) and heating time (t), at $t = i$ and t expression as t_{heat} , so

$$T_{obj}(i) = \sqrt[4]{\frac{\varepsilon_{obj} \cdot \sigma \cdot T_{th}^4(i) - (1 - \varepsilon_{obj}) \cdot \sigma \cdot (T_{refl})^4}{\varepsilon_{obj} \cdot \sigma}} \quad (6)$$

Based on Fig. 13, we can show the temperature shift of the concrete surface before and after it has been corrected.

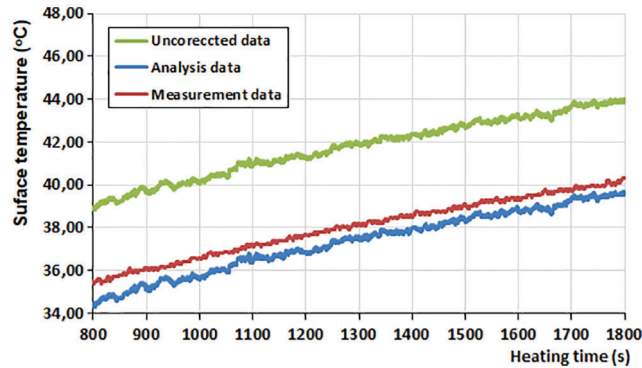


Figure 13: Surface temperature of concrete before and after noise correction

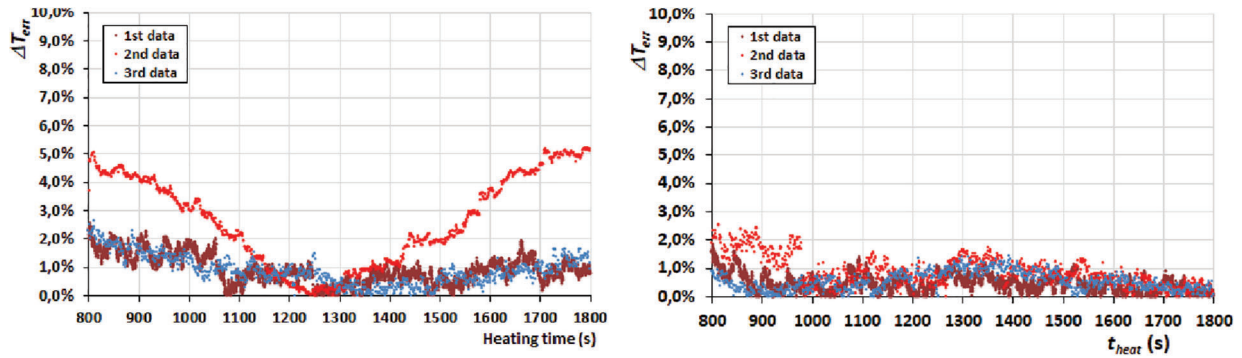
Error of analysis written as:

$$\Delta T_{err}(i) = \left[\frac{T_{obj}(i) - T_{tc}(i)}{T_{tc}(i)} \right] \times 100\% \quad (7)$$

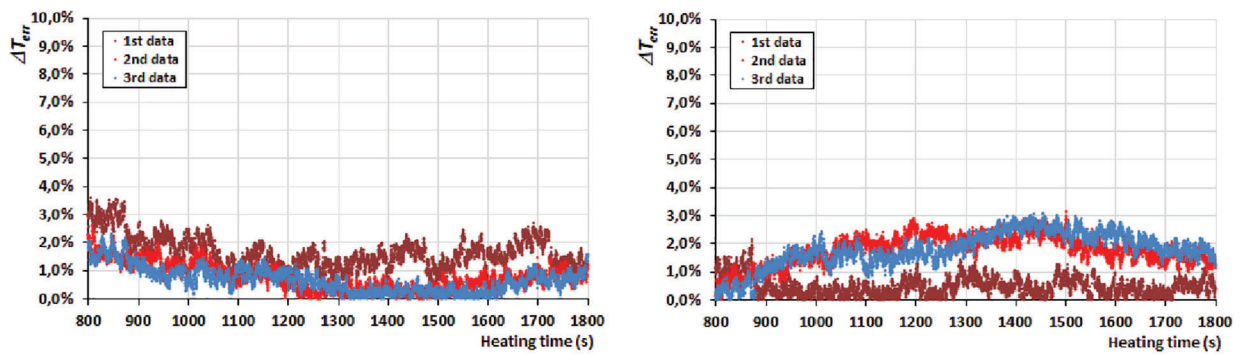
The results of the error analysis can be seen below. The results analysis shows good accuracy, as can be seen from the average ΔT_{err} error percentage is $<5\%$ as shown in Fig. 14.

The application of the Trefl value to the corroded reinforced concrete thermogram is shown in the Fig. 15.

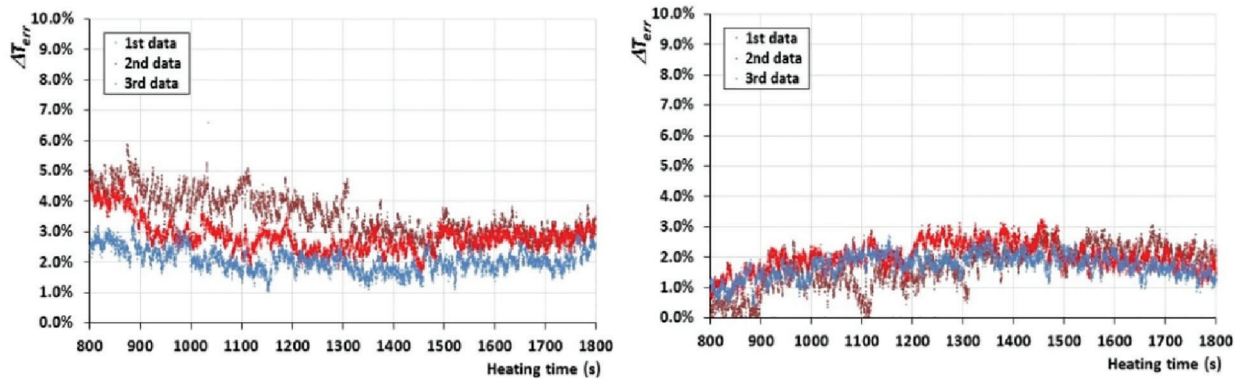
Based on Fig. 15, the difference between the original thermogram (Image a) and the corrected thermogram (Image b), as illustrated in Image c, shows the thermal contrast. This is the effect of the rebar in the concrete, causing variations in the thermal properties of the part. Of course, this will facilitate quantifying reinforcement corrosion, although it still requires other image processing.



(a) ΔT_{err} at point Sp1 and Sp2 on T60-30



(b) ΔT_{err} at point Sp1 and Sp2 on T70-30



(c) ΔT_{err} at point Sp1 and Sp2 on T80-30

Figure 14: The percentage of ΔT_{err} at heating phase at several d_{cam} and d_{lamp}

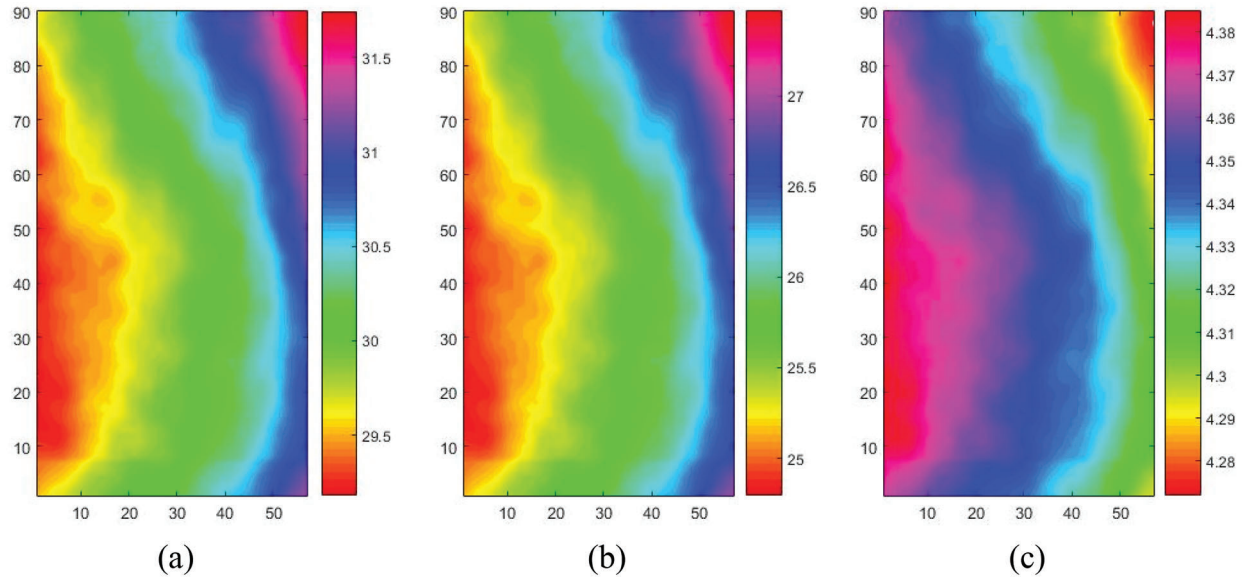


Figure 15: The thermogram difference between original (a), corrected (b) and intensity of the difference (c) at $t_{heat} = 530,333$ s

5 Conclusion

The T_{refl} values and the location of the thermocouple installation are analyzed in such a way that the temperature value is the same as the T_{refl} value. The factors d_{obj} , d_{cam} , and d_{lamp} influence this issue. T_{refl} reaches its maximum at $d_{obj} = 30$ cm, $d_{cam} = 60$ cm, and $d_{lamp} = 30$ cm. Measurement of T_{refl} can be done using a thermocouple placed 6 cm above lamps 1 and 2. While for $d_{cam} = 70$ cm, the location of the thermocouple installation is quite variable. It can be mounted at 18 cm from the top side of Lamps 1 and 2. However, according to some results for $d_{cam} = 80$ cm, it must be mounted outside the grid. Regarding the variation in d_{obj} , d_{cam} and d_{lamp} content during the tests, the following was observed:

1. The install location of the thermocouple for measuring the reflected temperature (T_{refl}) is affected by the object distance and the lamp axle distance, and the camera distance factor has the same effect as object distance because both are linear.
2. This means that the effect of light radiation is sufficient to determine the position T_{refl} .
3. In general, the change in the value of T_{refl} is proportional to the heating time (t_{heat}), for the various variables studied.

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