# Paper: Elimination of Gyro Drift by Using Reversal Measurement

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We aim to realize a large-scale straightness evaluation using a gyro. It detects tangential angles to evaluate a profile without any references. However, fluctuations of angular signal, called gyro drift, are considered a major contributor of error. We adopted a reversal measurement for eliminating the drift. The reversal measurement has been widely used for eliminating stable error from ancient. Here, we periodically performed reversal measurements for eliminating drift of a commercially available fiber optic gyro (FOG) unit. As a result, an angle could be derived with a standard deviation of 0.4 mrad for 1 hour of repeated measurements with an interval of 60 s, even though the gyro has a drift of several mrad/h including the effects of the Earth's rotation. This indicates that the reversal measurement is effective in reducing the drift.

**Keywords:** gyro, drift, rate offset, reversal measurement, straightness

# 1. Introduction

Large particle accelerators ranging in size from several hundred meters to several tens of kilometers have been operated and planned for advanced industrial applications and experiments for high energy physics [1–6]. Their components must be aligned with high accuracy to obtain their expected performance. It follows that their alignment should be evaluated with sufficient accuracy on the order of sub-mm or better for all dimensions in their primary mechanical alignment stage [7–11]. However, an evaluation accuracy better than 0.1 mm for an object larger than 100 m is fairly challenging [12, 13].

Straightness evaluation by detecting tangential angles of a profile [14–19] is considered advantageous for large objects because it is not affected by transferring locus of the straightness detector. The locus, usually used as a reference, should be defined accurately; however, it becomes difficult to maintain the accuracy over a long distance. We have evaluated the straightness of a 71-m-long section of our linear particle accelerator (linac) by using a precise inclinometer with a reproducibility of less than 49  $\mu$ m [20]. We have also demonstrated the straightness evaluation for a distance up to 206 m and showed that this method is valid for evaluating large objects [21]. However, the method using an inclinometer can be applied only for evaluating straightness in a vertical plane because it uses the direction of gravity as a reference. It also introduces error caused by the Earth's roundness, which cannot be ignored when evaluating an object longer than 100 m with an accuracy better than 1 mm.

We aim to expand this method into the evaluation of straightness in the horizontal plane and to eliminate the error caused by the Earth's roundness. An autocollimator has been widely used for evaluating straightness without being affected by gravity [14, 16, 18, 19]; however, its evaluation distance is limited with a maximum length of approximately 100 m by its measurement beam range. On the other hand, gyros can detect angles without any references. It follows that gyros can detect angles without being affected by gravity and that they have no limitation in their evaluation distance. Furthermore, sensitive gyros can resolve angles on the order of  $\mu$  rads. However, even the most stable gyro has 0.01 deg/hour of fluctuation in its angular signal, which we call gyro drift or gyro rate offset. This value is not acceptable for detecting tangential angles with uncertainties smaller than several  $\mu$ rads, which is necessary for evaluating the straightness with an uncertainty smaller than 1 mm [20, 21].

Here, we adopt a reversal measurement [22] for eliminating the drift. The reversal measurement is usually used to eliminate stable error; however, we consider that its use can be expanded to eliminate drift by conducting the measurement at a sufficient rate to avoid drift changes and periodically to follow the drift change.

# 2. Principles

# 2.1. Reversal Measurement Using a Gyro

**Figure 1** shows an analysis model for reversal measurements using a gyro. The gyro periodically turns  $\pi$  rad with an interval  $\Delta t$  around an axis perpendicular to

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**Fig. 1.** Basic concept for eliminating the gyro drift by means of reversal measurements.

the gyro axis, around which the gyro is sensitive where  $\phi$  is the gyro rotation angle. Angles  $\theta(t)$  and  $\theta(t + \Delta t)$  detected by the gyro at times *t* and  $t + \Delta t$  before and after the reversal are expressed as:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}(t) = \boldsymbol{\theta}_r + \boldsymbol{\theta}_o + d(t) \quad . \quad (1)$$

and

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}\left(t+\Delta t\right) = -\boldsymbol{\theta}_r + \boldsymbol{\theta}_o + d\left(t+\Delta t\right), \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad (2)$$

respectively. In these equations,  $\theta_r$  and  $\theta_o$  are the angles of the object and the offset angle of the gyro, respectively, and d(t) and  $d(t + \Delta t)$  are the gyro drift at times t and  $t + \Delta t$ , respectively.

The angle of the object  $\theta_r$  can be derived by:

$$\theta_r = \frac{\theta(t) - \theta(t + \Delta t)}{2} - \frac{d(t) - d(t + \Delta t)}{2} \dots \quad (3)$$

If the reversal is conducted at a sufficient rate compared to the drift, the difference  $d(t) - d(t + \Delta t)$  converges to zero, and the angle to be measured  $\theta_r$  will be obtained as:

$$\theta_r = \frac{\theta(t) - \theta(t + \Delta t)}{2}.$$
 (4)

This is the basic concept for eliminating the gyro drift by means of reversal measurements.

# 2.2. Effects of the Earth's Rotation

The Earth rotates once a day, which corresponds to an angular velocity (rate)  $\omega$  of 73  $\mu$ rad/s. This rotation cannot be ignored when detecting angles with a resolution of  $\mu$ rad. **Fig. 2** shows a rotation model of the Earth where point *p* is the location of the gyro, whose latitude is  $\alpha$ . The *z*-axis is defined along the normal line for the horizontal plane *P* at point *p*. The *s*-axis is defined on the horizontal plane with a deflection angle  $\beta$  from the meridian of point *p*. The *z* and *s* components  $\omega_z$  and  $\omega_s$  for the angular velocity of the Earth's rotation  $\omega$  are expressed as:

$$\omega_s = \omega \cdot \cos \alpha \cdot \cos \beta, \quad \ldots \quad \ldots \quad \ldots \quad \ldots \quad (6)$$

respectively.



Fig. 2. Effects of the Earth's rotation.



Fig. 3. Reversal measurements considering the effects of the Earth's rotation  $r_g$  and the gyro rate offset  $r_o$ .

**Figure 3** shows an analysis model considering the effects of the Earth's rotation  $r_g$  together with the gyro rate offset  $r_o$ . The gyro rate offset is an offset for the angular velocity (rate) of the gyro and is comparable to  $r_g$  for fairly precise gyros.

The angles  $\theta(t)$  and  $\theta(t + \Delta t)$  detected by a gyro before and after reversal at times t and  $t + \Delta t$  are expressed as:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}\left(t\right) = \boldsymbol{\theta}_r + \boldsymbol{\theta}_o + \left(r_o + r_g\right) \cdot t + d\left(t\right) \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad (7)$$

and

$$\theta(t + \Delta t) = -\theta_r + \theta_o + r_o(t + \Delta t) \cdot t + r_g(\Delta t - t) \cdot t + d(t + \Delta t), \quad . \quad . \quad (8)$$

respectively.

Here, the gyro drifts d(t) and  $d(t + \Delta t)$  consist of components except linear functions of *t*, because the linear component of the drift is included in the rate offset  $r_o$  and

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Fig. 4. FOG unit enclosed by four aluminum plates.

the angle offset  $\theta_o$ .

The angle of the object  $\theta_r$  can be derived as:

$$\theta_r = \frac{\theta\left(t\right) - \theta\left(t + \Delta t\right)}{2} + \frac{\left(r_o + r_g\right) \cdot \Delta t}{2} - r_g \cdot t, \quad (9)$$

assuming that the reversal measurement is conducted at a sufficient rate, that is to say  $d(t) \approx d(t + \Delta t)$ .

If the location and direction of the gyro compared to the Earth were stable within each period of reversal, the effects of the Earth's rotation  $r_g$  would be constant. Then, the second term on the right hand side of Eq. (9)  $(\{(r_o + r_g) \cdot \Delta t\}/2)$  would be constant and would not affect the evaluated straightness because it is a slope component for the straightness. The third term, which is proportional to time *t*, can be compensated with the relations expressed in Eqs. (5) and (6), with known  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , or by deriving  $r_g$  and  $r_o$ , as mentioned below.

## 3. Expermiments

We used a commercially available fiber optic gyro (FOG) unit, TA4265 N1510 (size:  $65 \times 130 \times 85$  mm; mass: < 1.5 kg; range:  $\pm 180$  deg; operation cycle: 100 Hz; drift: 3 deg/h-rms; Tamagawa Seiki Co., Ltd.). It has one sensitive direction around the axis perpendicular to its bottom face. In this paper, we refer to this as the gyro axis. In order to use the gyro for detecting the angle around a horizontal axis, we enclosed the gyro in a four-sided aluminum box, as shown in **Fig. 4**.

All measurements described here were performed on an optical surface plate attached to a granite table in an air-conditioned room with a room temperature of  $23 \pm 1$  deg.

### 3.1. Drift Measurements

We confirmed the stability of the gyro by monitoring an angle signal for a long period. The gyro was placed on the surface plate with its bottom face down, as shown in **Fig. 4**, where the gyro is sensitive for an angle around the vertical axis.



**Fig. 5.** (a) Drift of the angular output of the FOG unit and (b) Deviation from the approximation line.

**Figure 5(a)** shows an angle signal as a function of time, which expresses the drift of the FOG unit. **Fig. 5(b)** shows a deviation from its least squares approximation line, which is the drift d(t) and  $d(t + \Delta t)$  to be eliminated in Eqs. (7) and (8). It has a high frequency component with a width of approximately  $\pm 5$  mrad, which can be eliminated by low pass filtering. The remaining lower frequency component is the target to be eliminated by the reversal measurement. **Fig. 5(b)** also shows a simple running average for the deviation, which corresponds to the lower frequency component to be eliminated. It is estimated to be several mrad/h after 2 hours of warming up and is expected to be reduced to several  $\mu$ rad/s by adopting the appropriate low pass filter.

### 3.2. Reversal Measurements

We performed reversal measurements in order to confirm their potential for eliminating the gyro drift. The gyro was set on the surface plate with its side facing down, as shown in **Fig. 6**, where the gyro has angle sensitivity around the horizontal axis.

The latitude of the gyro  $\alpha$  was 36 deg, and the deflection angle  $\beta$  of the gyro's sensitive axis was 5 deg from the meridian. The reversal measurement was done manually with an interval  $\Delta t$  of 60 s. The side face of the enclo-



Fig. 6. Setup for the reversal measurement.

 Table 1. Experimental conditions.

| α          | Latitude of the gyro             | 36 deg    |
|------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| β          | Deflection angle of the gyro     | 5 deg     |
|            | sensitive axis from the meridian |           |
| $\Delta t$ | Reversal interval                | 60 s      |
| ω          | Angular velocity (rate) of the   | 73 µrad/s |
|            | Earth's rotation                 |           |

sure maintained constant contact with the surface plate to avoid unnecessary angular change in the sensitive direction of the gyro. The experimental conditions are summarized in **Table 1**.

**Figure 7** shows the angle detected by the gyro for the successive 60 reversal measurements performed over about an hour.

## 4. Discussion

The differences between the angles detected before and after reversal:

$$\theta(t) - \theta(t + \Delta t) = 2\theta_r - (r_o + r_g) \cdot \Delta t + 2r_g \cdot t + d(t) - d(t + \Delta t) \quad . \quad . \quad (10)$$

and

$$\theta(t + \Delta t) - \theta(t + 2\Delta t) = -2\theta_r - (r_o - r_g) \cdot \Delta t - 2r_g \cdot t + d(t + \Delta t) - d(t + 2\Delta t) \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad (11)$$

are derived from Eqs. (7) and (8). They indicate that the angular velocity caused by the Earth's rotation  $r_g$  can be derived from their time-proportional components  $2r_g \cdot t$  and  $-2r_g \cdot t$  because the drift terms d(t),  $d(t + \Delta t)$ , and  $d(t + 2\Delta t)$  in Eqs. (10) and (11) are defined without the timeproportional component.

On the other hand, the difference between the angles detected one reversal cycle apart:

is also derived from Eqs. (7) and (8). This indicates that



**Fig. 7.** Angle detected by the gyro for 60 reversal measurements.



**Fig. 8.**  $\theta(t) - \theta(t + \Delta t)$  derived from the measurements.

the rate offset of the gyro  $r_o$  can be derived from its offset component  $-2\Delta t \cdot r_o$  because the drift terms d(t) and  $d(t+2\Delta t)$  in Eq. (12) are also defined without the time-constant component.

**Figure 8** shows the differences between the angles detected before and after the reversal  $\theta(t) - \theta(t + \Delta t)$  and  $\theta(t + \Delta t) - \theta(t + 2\Delta t)$ , which is derived from the measurements expressed by **Fig. 7**. The slopes of each upper and lower side, expressed by dashed lines in **Fig. 8**, express  $2r_g \cdot t$  and  $-2r_g \cdot t$ , respectively. It follows that the effects of the Earth's rotation  $r_g$  can be derived to be  $-55 \pm 15 \mu rad/s$ , where  $15 \mu rad/s$  is the standard deviation for each reversal. This is similar to 59  $\mu rad/s$  derived from the relation expressed by Eq. (6) using the measurement conditions, where the altitude  $\alpha = 36$  deg and the deflection angle  $\beta = 5$  deg. The difference in the plus/minus sign between these values is caused by the definition of the experimental coordinates.

**Figure 9** shows the difference between the angles detected one cycle apart  $\theta(t) - \theta(t + 2\Delta t)$ , which is also derived from the measurements expressed by **Fig. 7**. The offset of the graph, expressed by the dashed line in **Fig. 9**, corresponds to  $-2\Delta t \cdot r_o$ . It follows that the rate offset of the gyro  $r_o$  can be derived to be  $61 \pm 39 \ \mu$ rad/s, where 39  $\mu$ rad/s is the standard deviation for each reversal.

**Figure 10** shows the angle of the object  $\theta_r$  to be detected. It was obtained by substituting the derived  $r_g$  and  $r_o$  into the relation expressed in Eq. (9). The angle

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**Fig. 9.**  $\theta(t) - \theta(t + 2\Delta t)$  derived from the measurements.



**Fig. 10.**  $\theta_r$  derived from the measurements.

was derived to be  $9.1 \pm 0.4$  mrad, where 0.4 mrad is the standard deviation for all of the measurements performed over about an hour. Considering that the gyro drift to be eliminated is several mrad/h (cf. Fig. 5(b)), this expresses that the reversal measurement is effective for reducing the effects of the gyro drift. The periodical dips shown in Fig. 10 circled by dotted lines seem to be spurious by the transition in each reversal.

The results derived from the experiment are summarized in **Table 2**.

# 5. Conclusions

We considered adopting the reversal measurement for eliminating the gyro drift in order to realize a straightness evaluation based on tangential angle detection without being affected by gravity.

We used a commercially available FOG unit (size:  $65 \times 130 \times 85$  mm; mass: < 1.5 kg) for evaluating the validity of the reversal measurements in reducing the gyro drift. The drift to be eliminated was measured and estimated to be several mrad/h from the measurement.

We periodically performed reversal measurements with an interval of 60 s and derived an angle with a standard deviation of 0.4 mrad for all of the measurements performed over about an hour. This indicates that the reversal measurement is effective in reducing the effects of the several mrad/h of gyro drift.

Table 2. Experimental results.

| rg         | Effect of the Earth's rotation | $-55\pm15~\mu$ rad/s    |
|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| $r_o$      | Gyro rate offset               | $61 \pm 39 \ \mu rad/s$ |
| $\theta_r$ | Angle of the object            | $9.1\pm0.4$ mrad        |

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