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CHAIN SURVEYING

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MATILI TECHNICAL

2023

MATILI TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

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CHAIN SURVEYING

This is the simplest and oldest form of land surveying of an area using linear measurements only. It can be defined as the process of taking direct measurement, although not necessarily with a chain.

EQUIPMENTS USED IN CHAIN SURVEYING

These equipments can be divided into three, namely

1.Those used for linear measurement.

(Chain, steel band, linear tape)

2.Those used for slope angle measurement and for measuring right angle (Eg. Abney level, clinometer, cross-staff, optical squares)

3.Other items (Ranging rods or poles, arrows, pegs etc).

CHAIN:-

The chain is usually made of steel wire, and consists of long links joined by shorter links. It is designed for hard usage, and is sufficiently accurate for measuring the chain lines and offsets of small surveys

CHAINS

Chains are made up of links which measure 200mm from centre to centre of each middle connecting ring and surveying brass handless are fitted at each end. Tally markers made of plastic or brass are attached at every whole meter position or at each tenth link. To avoid confusion in reading, chains are marked similarly form both end (E.g. Tally for 2m and 18m is the same) so that measurements may be commenced with either end of the chain

THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAINS USED IN TAKING MEASUREMENT NAMELY

Engineers chain

Gunters chain

STEEL BANDS:

This may be 30m, 50m or 100m long and 13mm wide. It has handles similar to those on the chain and is wound on a steel cross. It is more accurate but less robust than the chain. The operating tension and temperature for which it was graduated should be indicated on the band.

TAPES:

Tapes are used where greater accuracy of measurements are required, such as the setting out of buildings and roads. They are 15m or 30m long marked in metres, centimeter and millimeters. Tapes are classified into three types;

TAPES

(1) Metallic tape: This is a cloth tape having very fine brass or cropper wires woven into it. Thus, the tape is prevented from stretching and twisting and hence, when these tapes are used, the results are more accurate than those of cloth tapes. The metallic tape having lengths of 20 m, 30 m, and 50 m are available in metal or plastic case fitted with a winding device.

Fig.1.11 Metallic Tape

TAPES

(2) Steel tape: A steel tape is made from steel ribbon of width varying from 6 mm to 10 mm. It is available in lengths of 1 m, 2 m, 10 m, 20 m, 30 m, and 50 m. It is used for accurate work. It is a very delicate instrument and hence, it should be periodically cleaned and oiled to maintain it in good working condition. It is provided with a ring or some such arrangement at the outer end for facilitating its withdrawal. The steel tapes are accommodated sometime in a non-corrosive metal case.

Fig.1.12 Steel Tape

TAPES

(3) Invar tape: This tape is to be used for survey work of the highest precision. The invar is an alloy of steel (64%) and nickel (36%). It possesses a very low coefficient of thermal expansion of about 0.000000122 for one degree centigrade. It is 6 mm in width and it is available in lengths of 30 m, 50 m and 100 m. it is wound on a metal wheel. It is very expensive and delicate. Hence, it is to be used only on very important works.

Fig.1.13 invar tape

TAPES

Linen or Linen with steel wire woven into the fabric;

These tapes are liable to stretch in use and should be frequently tested for length. They should never be used on work for which great accuracy is required.

Fibre Glass Tapes: These are much stronger than lines and will not stretch in use.

Steel tapes: These are much more accurate, and are usually used for setting out buildings and structural steel works. Steel tapes are available in various lengths up to 100m (20m and 30m being the most common) encased in steel or plastic boxes with a recessed winding lever or mounted on open frames with a folding winding lever.

ARROWS:

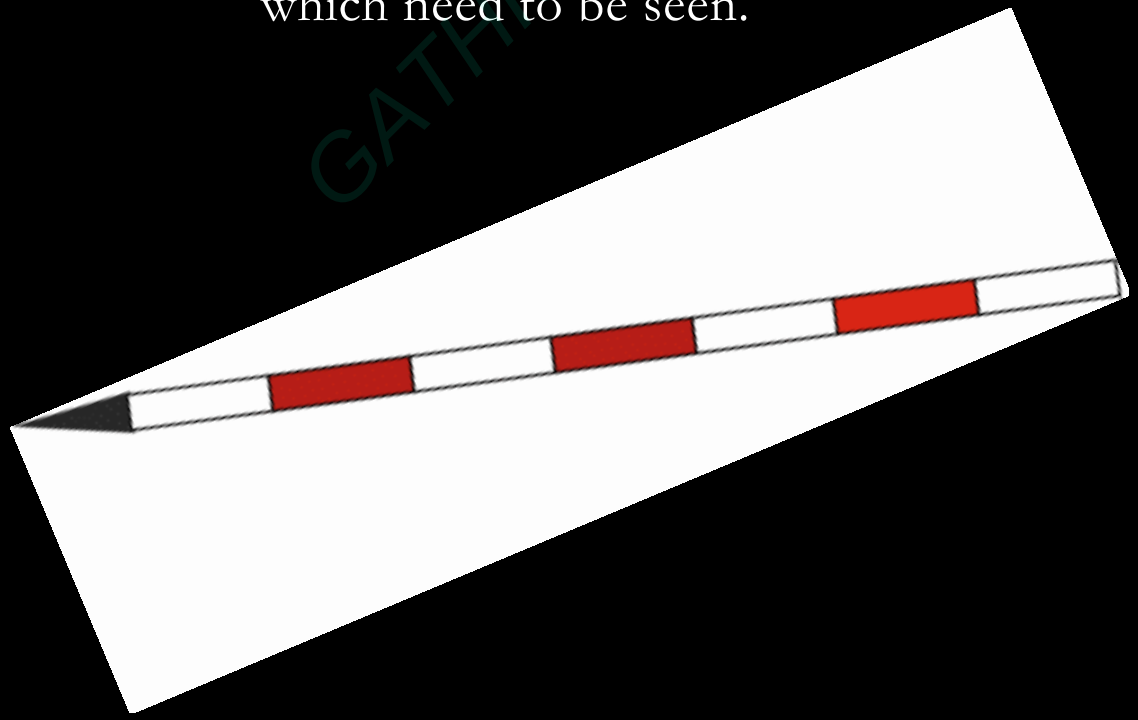
Arrow consists of a piece of steel wire about 0.5m long, and are used for marking temporary stations. A piece of coloured cloth, white or red ribbon is usually attached or tied to the end of the arrow to be clearly seen on the field.

PEGS

Pegs are made of wood 50mm x 50mm and some convenient length. They are used for points which are required to be permanently marked, such as intersection points of survey lines. Pegs are driven with a mallet and nails are set in the tops.

RANGING ROD

These are poles of circular section 2m, 2.5m or 3m long, painted with characteristic red and white bands which are usually 0.5m long and tipped with a pointed steel shoe to enable them to be driven into the ground. They are used in the measurement of lines with the tape, and for marking any points which need to be seen.



OPTICAL SQUARE:

This instrument is used for setting out lines at right angle to main chain line. It is used where greater accuracy is required. There are two types of optical square, one using two mirrors and the other a prism

The mirror method is constructed based on the fact that a ray of light is reflected from a mirror at the same angle as that at which it strikes the mirror.

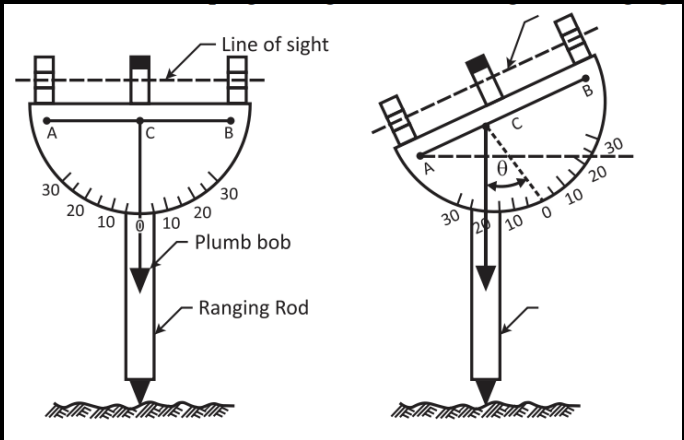
The prism square method is a simplified form of optical square consisting of a single prism. It is used in the same way as the mirror square, but is rather more accurate.

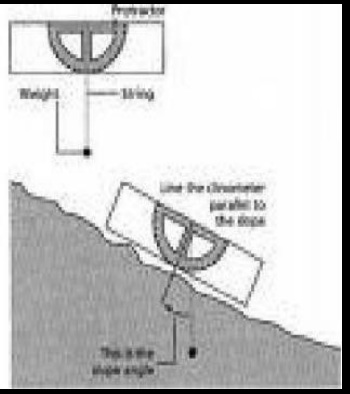
CROSS STAFF:

This consists of two pairs of vanes set at right angle to each other with a wide and narrow slit in each vane. The instrument is mounted upon a pole, so that when it is set up it is at normal eye level. It is also used for setting out lines at right angle to the main chain line.

CLINOMETER

This instrument is used for measuring angles of ground slopes (slope angle). They are of several form, the common form is the **WATKINGS CLINOMETER,** which consist of a small disc of about 60mm diameter. A weighted ring inside the disc can be made to hang free and by sighting across this graduated ring angle of slopes can be read off. It is less accurate than abney level.





ABNEY LEVEL

This instrument is generally used to obtaine roughly the slope angle of the ground. It consists of a rectangular, telescopic tube (without lenses) about 125mm long with a graduated arc attached. A small bubble is fixed to the vernier arm, once the image of the bubble is seen reflected in the eyepiece the angle of the line of sight can be read off with the aid of the reading glass.

Fig. 1.22 Abney Level

NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS IN USING CHAIN SURVEYING INSTRUMENTS

After use in wet weather, chains should be cleaned, and steel tapes should be dried and wiped with an oily rag.

A piece of colored cloth should be tied to arrow (or ribbon – attached) to enable them to be seen clearly on the field.

Ranging rods should be erected as vertical as possible at the exact station point.

The operating tension and temperature for which steel bands/tapes are graduated should be indicated.

Linen tapes should be frequently tested for length (standardized) and always after repairs.

Always keep tapes reeled up when not in use.

GENERAL PROCEDURE IN MAKING A CHAIN SURVEY

Reconnaissance: Walk over the area to be surveyed and note the general layout, the position of features and the shape of the area.

Choice of Stations: Decide upon the framework to be used and drive in the station pegs to mark the stations selected.

Station Marking: Station marks, where possible should be tied - in to a permanent objects so that they may be easily replaced if moved or easily found during the survey. In soft ground wooden pegs may be used while rails may be used on roads or hard surfaces.

GENERAL PROCEDURE IN MAKING A CHAIN SURVEY

Witnessing: This consists of making a sketch of the immediate area around the station showing existing permanent features, the position of the stations and its description and designation. Measurements are then made from at least three surrounding features to the station point and recorded on the sketch.

The aim of witnessing is to re-locate a station again at much later date even by others after a long interval.

Offsetting:- Offsets are usually taken perpendicular to chain lines in order to dodge obstacles on the chain line.

Sketching the layout on the last page of the chain book, together with the date and the name of the surveyor, the longest line of the survey is usually taken as the base line and is measured first.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING A SURVEY LINES/OFFSETS

During reconnaissance, the following points must be borne in mind as the criteria to provide the best arrangement of survey lines,

Few survey lines: the number of survey lines should be kept to a minimum but must be sufficient for the survey to be plotted and checked.

Long base line: A long line should be positioned right across the site to form a base on which to build the triangles.

Well conditioned triangle with angles greater than 30 and not exceeding 150: It is preferable that the arcs used for plotting should intersect as close as 90o in order to provide sharp definition of the stations point.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING A SURVEY LINES/OFFSETS

Check lines: Every part of the survey should be provided with check lines that are positioned in such a way that they can be used for off- setting too, in order to save any unnecessary duplication of lines.

Obstacles such as steep slopes and rough ground should be avoided as far as possible.

Short offsets to survey lines (close feature preferably 2m) should be selected: So that measuring operated by one person can be used instead of tape which needs two people.

Stations should be positioned on the extension of a check line or triangle. Such points can be plotted without the need for intersecting arcs.

RANGING

Ranging:

Ranging involves placing ranging poles along the route to be measures so as to get a straight line. The poles are used to mark the stations and in between the stations.

RANGING

Methods of Ranging

There are three methods of ranging are as under;

1. Direct ranging
2. Indirect ranging
3. By Line Ranger

1.12.1.1 Direct Ranging:

If the both distant stations are visible. The intermediate ranging rods are fixed in line by direct observation from any end stations, the process is called direct ranging.

RANGING

Procedure:

Assume that A and B are two end stations of survey line, where two ranging rods are already fixed. It is required to fix ranging rod at intermediate point C on survey line so that A, B and C are the same straight line.

The surveyor position himself approximately 2m behind station A and looking station B, direct the assistant to move ranging rod to the right or left until three ranging rods appear to be exactly in the same straight line. To check vertically of rods, the surveyor bends down and looks through bottom of rods.

The ranging will be perfect, when three ranging rods coincide and appear as single rod. When the surveyor is satisfied, signal the assistant to fix ranging rod on ground.

DIRECT

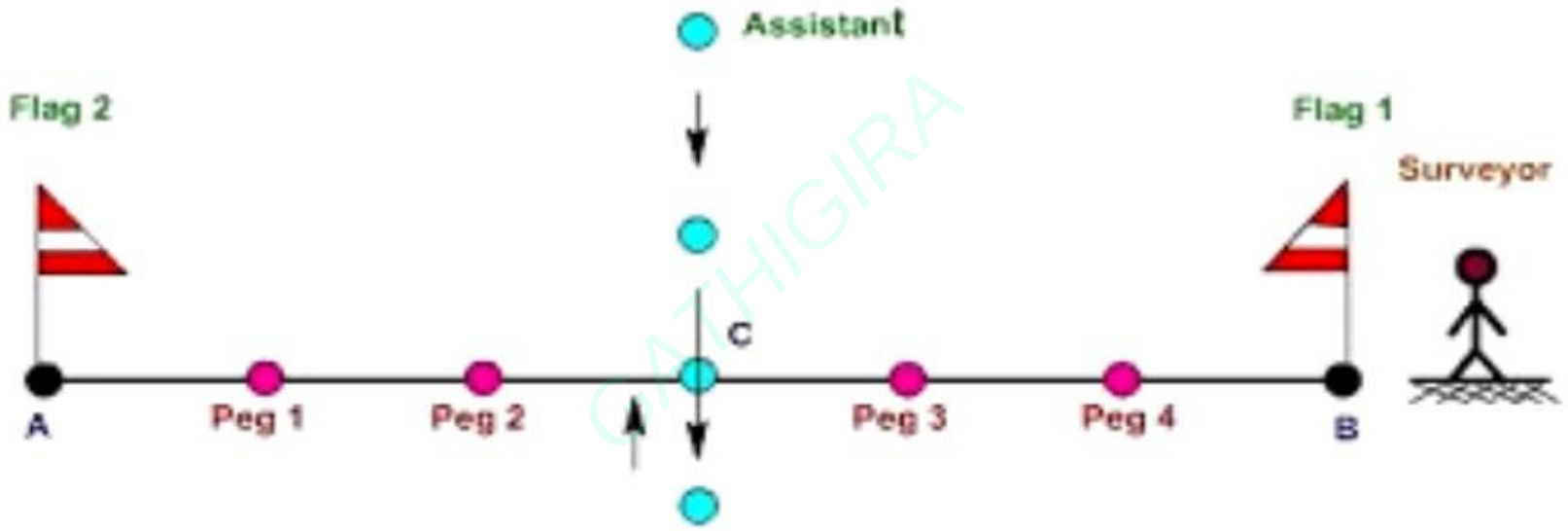


Figure 1.27 Direct Ranging

1.12.1.2 Indirect Ranging

Due to intervening high ground, hill, or end station are not visible to each other than indirect ranging may be resorted.

Procedure:

Let A and B are two station which are not visible due to intervening high ground and it is required to fix intermediate points M and N between them.

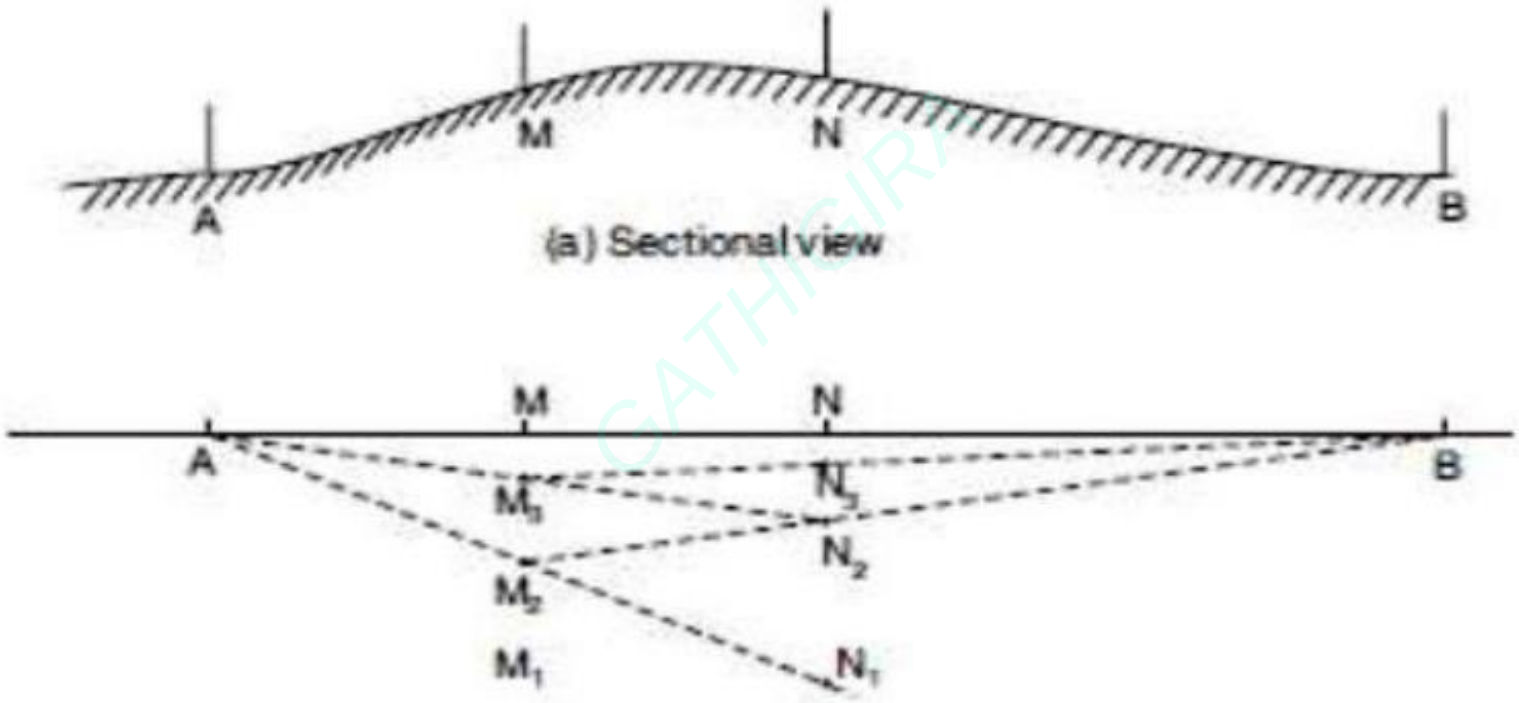
Two chainman take up positions at M_1 and$N_1$with ranging rods in their hands, and one surveyor at A and other at B.

Chainman at M_1 stands with his face towards B so that he can see ranging rod at $N_1$and B. Similarly, chainman at N_1 stand with his face towards A, so that he can see ranging rod at$M_1$and A.

The chainman at M_1 directs at N_1 to come to the position of N_2, similarly the chainman at N_1 directs at M_1 to come to the position of M_2, so that N_2, M_2 and A are in the same straight line.

This procedure is continuing until final position of M and N which are

INDIRECT



LINE

1.12.1.3 Ranging by Line Ranger

Let there be two stations A and B on a survey line and C be the intermediate point to be established in line with A and B.

The surveyor stands approximately in line with A and B and brings the instrument to his eye level. The instrument is turned so that the surveyor sees the image of one of the ranging rods, say at A, through the upper prism. The surveyor then moves forward or backward, i.e. at right angle to the survey line AB until he observes the image of ranging rod at B through the lower prism.

LINE

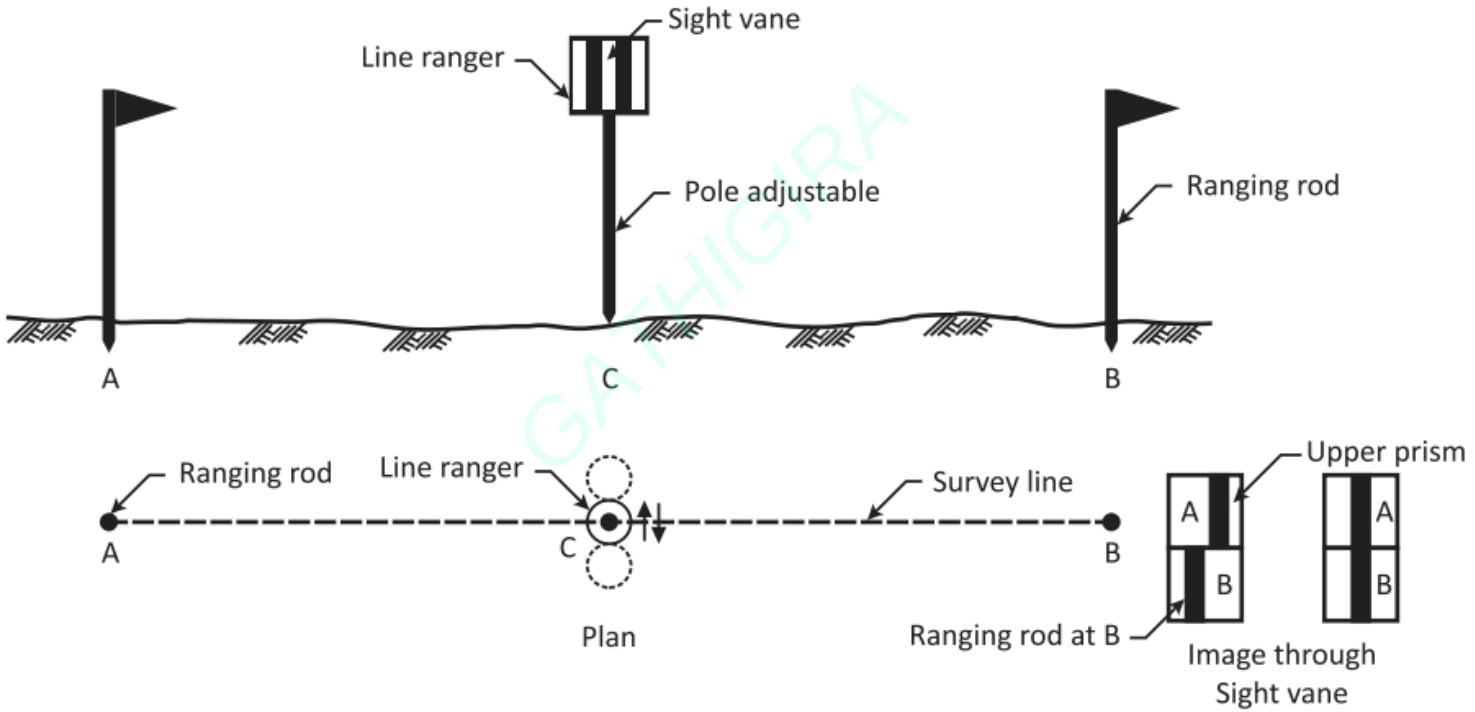


Fig.1.30 Ranging by Line Ranger

CORRECTION

1- Correction for standard length

Before using a tape, the actual length is ascertained by comparing it with a standard tape. If the actual tape length is not equal to the standard value, a correction will have to be applied to the measured length of the line.

$$C_a = \frac{L'}{L} = \frac{L \pm e}{L}$$

Where C_a = correction for absolute length of tape

e = error in tape length,

= measured length- standard length

L' = measured length of tape

L = standard length of tape

CORRECTION

4- Correction for temperature

The tape length due to change in the temperature while taking the measurements. The temperature correction therefore, needs to be made is given by:

$$C_t = \alpha (T_m - T_0) L$$

Where T_m = mean temperature during measurement

T_0 = temperature at which tape was standardized

α = coefficient of thermal expansion of material

= 0.0000035/°C for steel

= 0.000000122/°C for invar

L = measured length (in m)

This correction is positive, if the temperature during measurement is more than the standard temperature, and negative, if the temperature during measurement is less than the temperature at which the tape was standard.

ERRORS IN SURVEYING

Surveying is a process that involves observations and measurements with a wide range of electronic, optical and mechanical equipment some of which are very sophisticated.

Despite the best equipments and methods used, it is still impossible to take observations that are completely free of small variations caused by errors which must be guided against or their effects corrected.

GROSS ERRORS

These are referred to mistakes or blunders by either the surveyor or his assistants due to carelessness or incompetence.

On construction sites, mistakes are frequently made by in – experienced Engineers or surveyors who are unfamiliar with the equipment and method they are using.

These types of errors include miscounting the number of tapes length, wrong booking, sighting wrong target, measuring anticlockwise reading, turning instruments incorrectly, displacement of arrows or station marks etc.

Gross errors can occur at any stage of survey when observing, booking, computing or plotting and they would have a damaging effect on the results if left uncorrected.

Gross errors can be eliminated only by careful methods of observing booking and constantly checking both operations.

SYSTEMATIC OR CUMULATIVE ERRORS

These errors are cumulative in effect and are caused by badly adjusted instrument and the physical condition at the time of measurement must be considered in this respect. Expansion of steel, frequently changes in electromagnetic distance (EDM) measuring instrument, etc are just some of these errors.

Systematic errors have the same magnitude and sign in a series of measurements that are repeated under the same condition, thus contributing negatively or positively to the reading hence, makes the readings shorter or longer.

SYSTEMATIC OR CUMULATIVE ERRORS

This type of error can be eliminated from a measurement using corrections (e.g. effect of tension and temperature on steel tape).

Another method of removing systematic errors is to calibrate the observing equipment and quantify the error allowing corrections to be made to further observations.

Observational procedures by re-measuring the quantity with an entirely different method using different instrument can also be used to eliminate the effect of systematic errors

RANDOM OR COMPENSATING ERRORS

Although every precaution may be taken certain unavoidable errors always exist in any measurement caused usually by human limitation in reading/handling of instruments.

Random errors cannot be removed from observation but methods can be adopted to ensure that they are kept within acceptable limits.

In order to analyze random errors or variable, statistical principles must be used and in surveying their effects may be reduced by increasing the number of observations and finding their mean. It is therefore important to assume those random variables are normally distributed.

REF

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SURVEY HANDBOOK

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