



Article Influence of Tilting Angle on Temperature Measurements of Different Object Sizes Using Fiber-Optic Pyrometers

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Abstract: This article presents a new model of optical power gathered by a fiber-optic pyrometer when there is a tilting angle between the fiber longitudinal axis and the vector perpendicular to the tangent plane of the emitted surface. This optical power depends on the fiber specifications, such as the diameter and the numerical aperture (NA), as well as the object parameters, including its diameter, emissivity, and tilting angle. Some simulations are carried out using other pyrometers from the literature without tilting to validate the model. Additional simulations with different optical fibers, object sizes, and distances at different tilting angles allow us to describe the behavior of the pyrometer when the object is smaller than the optical fiber field of view (the light cone defined by its NA). The results show that for a finite surface object, the power collected by the optical fiber is affected by changes in the tilting angle, greater tilting lesser gathered power, and reaching the maximum power when the field of view of the fiber covers up the entire object, as expected. On the other hand, additional equations are presented to describe the maximum tilting angle, and distance that allow the maximum power gathered for a determined object diameter and fiber, avoiding temperature measurement errors.



1. Introduction

Temperature measurement is essential in order to understand natural phenomena and many industrial processes [1]. To measure temperature over a large range above 1000 °C, techniques that need contact with the object, such as thermocouples, can be used. However, their installation is difficult or nearly impossible if any of the parts are in motion, and they have slow response times [2]. Another choice is to employ non-contact methods, such as Raman thermometry, infrared (IR) thermography with cameras, or pyrometry. IR cameras require the use of lenses and the existence of a viewing angle that allows measurement [3]. In addition, uncertainty when it comes to knowing the value of the object emissivity negatively affects the precision of this technique [4]. In the case of Raman thermography, exposure times are usually high and require the excitation of the sample in addition to processing the received signal [5]. The spatial resolution of this method depends on the size of the laser spot exciting the sample [6]. Two-color fiber-optic pyrometry, in addition to allowing rapid acquisition [7], high spatial resolution [8], and precision [9], can be used in environments with difficult access and in extreme conditions, highlighting designs without discrete optics that limit their performance [10]. A fiber-optic pyrometer allows temperature measurements without considering the effect of emissivity if at least two spectral bands are used, as in two-color fiber-optic pyrometers. Using two close spectral bands in combination with filters can reduce insertion losses and measurement errors [11,12]. Fiber-optic pyrometry is used in multiple applications, such as machining processes [13], rock friction monitoring [14], combustion engines [15], cutting with electrical



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Copyright: © 2023 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). discharges [16], bioengineering [17], etc. [18]. One benefit of this technology is its high spatial resolution, which relies on the size of the optical fiber employed and the distance between it and the target being measured [8]. For the first time, a standard single mode fiber (SMF) was used in [10], with a theoretical maximum spatial resolution of 16 μ m for a target surface at 25 μ m. A model to quantify the recovered radiation's dependency on the object's position and size is shown in [8]. Another author included the effect of a tilting angle between the normal to the emitting target and the axis of the fiber for an optical fiber field of view smaller than the object but not in the opposite case [19]. The tilting angle can be presented in applications where the object size is finite and smaller than the field of view. For example, in [20], a fiber-optic two-color pyrometer measured in situ nanoparticle cloud formation during the combustion of single micron-sized iron particles. However, the angle between micro-particle and fiber-optic was not considered. In another study [21], a two-color pyrometer measured the temperature of small, falling samples in a microgravity materials processing experiment. This work examines the advantage of tilting the collecting fiber to increase the time that the falling particle remains in the fiber field-of-view. Fiber-optic pyrometry monitors the conditions of burst of nuclear fuel claddings to prevent potential nuclear accidents. Different uncertainties on temperature measurements in small areas are analyzed in [22] but without the tilting effect. Some tests of fiber-optic pyrometers with high-spatial resolution rely on measurements with an optical fiber field of view smaller than the object [23].

In this work, a new model is presented that considers an angle between the axis of the fiber and the normal to the emitting target, regardless of the relationship between the size of the object and the field of view of the fiber, including when the object is smaller than the field of view for the first time. All the previous models present only the study of emitting targets of different sizes but without tilting angles, and the only one found with a tilting angle describes objects greater than the field of view of the fiber. Our model offers a practical advantage in situations where the alignment of the fiber is not precisely controlled or when, due to the usage, alignment drift exists, allowing the determination of the collected power and temperature of the object within a precision range, or inversely the tilting angle responsible for the mismatch in temperature. A software program that implements the model simulates and validates the pyrometer's behavior and design parameters for different cases. Equations to find the permitted maximum tilting and distances and to avoid measurement errors are derived.

2. Theoretical Background and Modeling

This section presents the mathematical-geometric model of a fiber-optic pyrometer, which unlike those previously reported [8,19], includes an angle between the normal to the emitting target and the axis of the fiber for any target size. Initially, we provide a summary of the previous model [8] as a reference for the calculation process. Subsequently, we present a new model with the tilting angle and the new integration limits.

2.1. Fiber-Optic Pyrometer Aligned with Target Surface

The model presented in [8] describes the light collected by a fiber-optic pyrometer from a circular target in which the center is aligned with the fiber axis, and the angle between the normal to the target and the fiber axis is zero degrees (see Figure 1).

This model includes two steps. First, it calculates the fiber coupled differential power $(P_{d\lambda,dST})$ due to a differential element of the target surface (dS_T) . This is done by integrating the spectral radiance (Lambertian type) over the solid angle differentials generated by the surface resulting from the intersection of the two circles in the fiber end plane. One defined by the radius of the fiber core (r_F) , and another one defined by the cone projection of light from the differential element of the target to the end plane of the fiber, with radius $r_{\beta max}$. The cone half angle is the maximum acceptance angle of the optical fiber (β_{max}) , given by:

$$\beta_{max} = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{NA}{n_0} \right) \tag{1}$$



where *NA* is fiber-optic numerical aperture, and n_0 is external medium refractive index.

Figure 1. Schematic of a fiber-optic pyrometer aligned with the target surface, showing the model variables. Adapted from [24].

Then, the coupled spectral power is given by:

$$P_{d\lambda,dS_T} = \iint_{A_F \cap A_{\beta max}} L(\lambda,T) cos(\beta) dA$$
(2)

where $L(\lambda, T)$ is the spectral radiance of the emitting target, λ is the wavelength, T is the absolute temperature, β is the angle that the normal to dS_T forms with each solid angle differential generated by the intersection of the circles, and dA is the solid angle differential (see Figure 1 and [8]).

After expressing the differential area (dA) in terms of the radial (u) and azimuthal (δ) cylindrical coordinates, the resulting expression is as follows [8]:

$$P_{d\lambda,dS_T} = \int_{u=u_{min}}^{u_{max}} \int_{\delta=\delta_{min}}^{\delta_{max}} L(\lambda,T) \frac{u t^2}{\left(t^2 + u^2\right)^2} d\delta du$$
(3)

where *t* is the distance from the object plane to the fiber end plane, and u_{min} , u_{max} , δ_{min} , and δ_{max} are the integration limits.

To define the integration limits, the distance between the centers of both circles and the relationship between r_F and $r_{\beta max}$ must be considered. This distance corresponds to the radial position (*r*) of the differential element (dS_T), which is measured from the center of the emitting object surface. Based on the relationship between r_F and $r_{\beta max}$, three integration cases can be distinguished. Once the appropriate case is selected, the radial position specifies the limits of u_{min} , u_{max} , δ_{min} , and δ_{max} regardless of its azimuthal position due to the symmetry of the resulting configuration with respect to this angle.

Finally, to find the total coupled spectral power, (3) is integrated over the entire surface of the emitting target (S_T) [8].

Table 1 lists the variables described in the text and used in Figure 1 with their meanings, along with those shown afterwards in Figure 2.

| Variable | Meaning | Variable | Meaning | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| dS _T | Differential element of target surface | r_T | Radius of the target | |
| r _F | Optical fiber (OF) core radius | β | Angle between the normal to dS_T and the vector from dS_T to each solid angle differential in the intersection of the circles with radii r_F and $r_{\beta max}$ or $r'_{\beta max}$ | |
| r _{βmax} , r' _{βmax} * | Radius of the circle defined by the cone projection of the light, due to OF NA , from dS_T on the fiber end plane | dF | Differential element of area of circle with radius $r_{\beta max}$ or $r'_{\beta max}$ | |
| t, t' * | Minimum distance from dS_T to fiber end plane on each model | и | Radial coordinate of each differential element of area <i>dF</i> | |
| r | Radial coordinate of dS_T on the plane of the target | δ | Azimuthal coordinate of each differential element of area <i>dF</i> | |
| r' | Distance between the centers of the circles with radii r_F and $r_{\beta max}$ or $r'_{\beta max}$ | θ | Angle between the fiber axis and the normal to the emitting target surface | |
| φ, φ | Azimuthal coordinate of dS_T on the plane of the target on each model | r _{NA} | Radius of the circle defined by the optical fiber field of view due numerical aperture, on the target plane | |
| φ' | Angle between r' and x' axis on the fiber end plane | β_{max} | Maximum acceptance angle of OF | |

Table 1. List of variables of models and their meanings.

* The variables t, t' and $r_{\beta max}$, $r'_{\beta max}$ with and without apostrophe (new and previous model respectively), are defined in the same way but they are calculated differently.

2.2. Fiber-Optic Pyrometer with a Tilting Angle to Target Surface

Now, the circular emitting target has its center aligned to the axis of the fiber, but the target has a non-zero tilting angle, denoted as theta (θ). It is the angle between the fiber axis and the normal to the emitting target surface (see Figure 2). This angle changes the equations of the previous model. However, the general procedure remains the same, i.e., calculating the fiber-coupled spectral powers ($P_{d\lambda,dST}$) due to each target differential (dS_T), and summing up all of those powers.

To account for the tilting angle, a new Cartesian coordinate system is introduced, with the x and y axes laying in the plane of the target surface, passing the x axis through the nearest and farthest points from the target to the fiber end plane, and the z axis normal to the target surface, as depicted in Figure 2.

Now, the shortest distance between the differential element dS_T and the end plane of the fiber is not constant for all differentials dS_T , unlike in [8]. The new distance t' depends on the radial and azimuthal coordinates of the differential and is given by:

$$t' = t + \Delta t = t + r \cos(\varphi) \sin(\theta) \tag{4}$$

where *t* is the distance from the fiber-end plane to the plane that passes through the center of the target and is parallel to the fiber-end plane, *r* and φ are the radial and azimuthal coordinates in the plane of the target, and θ is the target tilting angle.



Figure 2. Schematic of the fiber-optic pyrometer with a tilting angle showing the model variables.

To find $P_{d\lambda,dST}$, it is necessary to calculate $cos(\beta)$. This value is obtained from the scalar product between the unit normal vector of the target surface \hat{V}_N , with the unit vector defined from the differential dS_T to the differential element of solid angle dA, named \hat{V}_{dS_T-dA} . These unit vectors are expressed over a new Cartesian coordinate system (x', y', z'), defined by rotating the *x*-*y* plane of the Cartesian coordinate system (x, y, z), an angle of $-\theta$, using the *y* axis, which now coincides with y' (see Figure 3). The unit vector normal to the target surface is given by:

$$\hat{V}_N = \sin(\theta) \ \hat{x}' + \cos(\theta) \ \hat{z}' \tag{5}$$



Figure 3. Cartesian coordinate systems (x', y', z') and (x, y, z), and their relationship.

The unit vector from dS_T to dA, is given by:

$$V_{dS_T - dA} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{u^2 + t'^2}} \Big[u \cos(\delta) \, \hat{x'} + u \sin(\delta) \, \hat{y'} + t' \hat{z'} \Big] \tag{6}$$

where u and δ are the radial and azimuthal coordinates of the differential element of area that defines the solid angle differential dA over the cylindrical coordinate system.

The scalar product of (5) with (6) results in $cos(\beta)$ given by:

$$\cos(\beta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{u^2 + t'^2}} \left[u \cos(\delta) \sin(\theta) + t' \cos(\theta) \right]$$
(7)

After replacing (7) in (2) and expressing dA as a function of $d\delta$ and du, it is found that the spectral power coupled to the fiber by dS_T is given by:

$$P_{d\lambda,dS_T} = \int_{u=u_{min}}^{u_{max}} \int_{\delta=\delta_{min}}^{\delta_{max}} L(\lambda,T) \frac{\left[u\cos(\delta)\sin(\theta) + t'\cos(\theta)\right]t'u}{\left(t'^2 + u^2\right)^2} d\delta du \tag{8}$$

where $L(\lambda,T)$ is the spectral radiance of the emitting target object, and u_{min} , u_{max} , δ_{min} , and δ_{max} , the integration limits.

2.3. Limits of Integration

To determine the integration limits, it is necessary to compare r_F , the circle of light projected by the dS_T on the fiber end plane, and the distance between the centers of both circles, as in the previous model.

Since each differential element dS_T is now at a different distance t' depending on its position in the emitting target (see (4)), the projected circle by this element in the fiber end plane has a radius $r'_{\beta max}$ given by:

$$r'_{\beta max} = t' \times tan(\beta_{max}) \tag{9}$$

where β_{max} is the optical fiber maximum acceptance angle.

The distance between the centers of the circles with radii r_F and $r'_{\beta max}$, defined in the end plane of the fiber, is different from the radial position of the differential element dS_T . This new distance r' is given by:

$$r' = \sqrt{\left(r\cos(\varphi)\cos(\theta)\right)^2 + \left(r\sin(\varphi)\right)^2} \tag{10}$$

The distance r' and the relationship between r_F and $r'_{\beta max}$, defines the intersection area of these circles and allows selection of the integration case. These are the integration of circles, arcs and circles, or just arcs, as in [8]. Now, each dS_T differential has its respective integration case and integration limits.

The integration limits of u for (8) are shown in Table 2, where each cell specifies the limits that this variable has according to its integration case. When integrating circles and arcs, the integral is divided into the sum of two integrals, each one with their respective u_{min} and u_{max} integration limits.

Table 2. Integration limits of *u* for each dS_T .

| | | $0 < r' < r_F - r'_{\beta max}$ | $r_F - r'_{\beta max} < r' < r_F$ | | $r_F < r' < r_F + r'_{\beta max}$ |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Int. Sit. | Circum. | Circum. | Arcs | Arcs |
| r′ _{βmax} < r _F | u _{min} | 0 | 0 | r_F-r^\prime | $r'-r_F$ |
| | u _{max} | r′ _{βmax} | r _F - r' | r' _{ßmax} | r′ _{βmax} |

| | | $0 < r' < r_F - r'_{\beta max}$ | | $r_F - r'_{\beta max} < r' < r_F$ | | $r_F < r' < r_F + r'_{\beta max}$ |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| $r_F < r'_{\beta max} < 2r_F$ | Int. Sit. u _{min} u _{max} | $\begin{array}{c} Circum.\\ 0\\ r_F-r' \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} Arcs \\ r_F - r' \\ r_F + r' \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} Circum.\\ 0\\ r_F-r' \end{array}$ | Arcs r _F - r' r' _{βmax} | $\begin{array}{l} Arcs \\ r'-r_F \\ r'_{\beta max} \end{array}$ |
| $2r_{\rm F} < r'_{\beta max}$ | Int. Sit. u _{min} u _{max} | $\begin{array}{c} \text{Circum.} \\ 0 \\ r_F - r' \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} Arcs \\ r_F - r' \\ r_F + r' \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} Arcs \\ r'-r_F \\ r'+r_F \end{array}$ | | $\begin{array}{l} Arcs \\ r'-r_F \\ r'_{\beta max} \end{array}$ |

Table 2. Cont.

The integration limits δ_{min} and δ_{max} , in (8), for the circumference integration case, are 0 and 2π respectively, as in [8]. For arcs, the integration limits δ_{min} and δ_{max} , are given by:

$$\delta_{min} = \varphi' + \pi - \delta_i \tag{11}$$

$$\delta_{max} = \varphi' + \pi + \delta_i \tag{12}$$

Figure 4 shows the geometry used to calculate these limits. They depend on two angles: the first is the half difference of the limits of integration δ_i , and the second is the angle (φ') between the vector r' and the x'-axis. δ_i was already defined in [8] as:

$$\delta_i = \frac{1}{2} \left(\delta_{max} - \delta_{min} \right) = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{r'^2 + u^2 - r_F^2}{2r'u} \right)$$
(13)



Figure 4. Geometry of the fiber end plane used to calculate the delta limits δ_{min} and δ_{max} , in the arc integration situation.

The angle φ' , is given by:

$$\varphi' = Arg \left[r \cos(\varphi) \cos(\theta) + j r \sin(\varphi) \right]$$
(14)

where Arg[] is the phase of the complex number between square brackets. This function is used to avoid the ambiguity of $tan^{-1}()$ for angles between $\pi/2$ and $3\pi/2$. In (14), the real and imaginary parts are the r' components over the x' and y' axes, respectively.

Finally, we must integrate (8) over all the contributions of the differential elements of the target surface (S_T), and the spectral power gathered by the fiber ($P_{d\lambda}$), is given by:

$$P_{d\lambda} = \int_{S_T} P_{d\lambda, dS_T}(r, \varphi, \theta) dS_T = \int_{r=0}^{r_T} \int_{\varphi=0}^{2\pi} P_{d\lambda, dS_T}(r, \varphi, \theta) r d\varphi dr$$
(15)

For a circular target object, the integration limits are 0 and r_T , for r, and 0 and 2π for φ . r_T is the circular target radius.

3. Simulations

In this section, we present simulations of the new model coded in MATLAB script. To validate the model, a study of the effects of a tilting angle on the gathered power for different target sizes and distances to the fiber end plane is presented. We also derive closed equations for the maximum allowed tilting angle to avoid changes in the power coupled to the optical fiber and for the critical distance, as in [8], versus the tilting angle. In these simulations, we consider a target emissivity of 1 and wavelength bands of 1460–1700 nm, unless otherwise stated.

3.1. Model Validation (Tilting Angle of 0°)

First, we consider an optical fiber with 0.29 NA and 100 μ m core diameter, a target of 200 μ m diameter, as in [25]. The temperature and the wavelength band are 2000 °C and 800–1700 nm, respectively. Figure 5 shows the simulations.



Figure 5. Power gathered by the pyrometer vs. distances to the target at 2000 °C, using our script with a tilting angle $\theta = 0^{\circ}$.

Second, we consider an optical fiber with 0.275 NA and 62.5 μ m core diameter, targets of 5, 10, 50, and 100 μ m diameter, as in [8]. The temperature is 1000 °C. Figure 6 shows the simulations. In both Figures 5 and 6, the results agree in power levels and shape for all distances, including the critical distance where the power gathered starts to decrease, with those reported in [8].



Figure 6. Power gathered by the pyrometer vs. distances to the target at 1000 °C, using our script with a tilting angle $\theta = 0^\circ$, for different target sizes from 5 to 100 µm diameter.

3.2. Tilting Angle Effects on Power Gathered by the Pyrometer

We first analyze the power gathered at a fixed distance from the center of the target to the fiber end of 100 μ m, when changing the target diameter, for four tilting angles θ (0, 15, 30, 45°) (see Figure 7). We consider an optical fiber with 0.29 NA and 100 μ m core diameter and targets of 5, 10, 50, and 100 μ m diameter. The target temperature is 1000 °C. Then, we analyze the power gathered in the same conditions but for an optical fiber with 62.5 μ m core diameter at a fixed target distance of 150 μ m (see Figure 8). As we can see in Figures 7 and 8, when you increase the object size, no matter which is the angle, the gathered power increases monotonically up to the same maximum value but with different slopes depending on target size. This maximum is the power gathered by the optical fiber when the object covers its entire field of view (the light cone defined by its *NA*).



Figure 7. Coupled power vs. target diameter, at 1000 $^\circ$ C placed at 100 μ m. Optical fiber with 0.29 NA and 100 μ m core.



Figure 8. Coupled power vs. target diameter at 1000 °C placed at 150 μ m. Optical fiber with 0.275 NA and 62.5 μ m core. Tilting angles: 0, 15, 30, and 45°.

As the tilting angle increases, the object diameter required to achieve the maximum gathered power increases. The greater diameter fiber gathers more power, as expected.

We examine the impact of the tilting angle on a fixed target size of 250 μ m diameter when varying the distance to the target (see Figure 9), while using the same fiber and temperature as in Figure 8. Similarly, the effect is studied for a fixed target size of 100 μ m diameter using an optical fiber with 0.14 NA and 9 μ m core, as shown in Figure 10.



Figure 9. Coupled power vs. target-fiber distance at 1000 $^{\circ}$ C and a fixed target diameter of 250 μ m, Optical fiber with 0.275 NA and 62.5 μ m core. Tilting angles: 0, 15, 30, and 45 $^{\circ}$.

As we can see in Figures 9 and 10, the power gathered by the fibers decreases monotonically for any tilting angle but with different slopes from a maximum value as the distance from the target to the fiber increases. This maximum is the coupled power of an object covering the entire field of view of the optical fiber. For a tilting angle of $\theta = 0^\circ$, the greatest distance where this happened was called the critical distance [8]. For larger tilting angles, the critical distance to have maximum power decreases. The fiber with the greater diameter and *NA* gathers more power, as expected.



Figure 10. Coupled power vs. target-fiber distance at 1000 °C and a fixed target diameter of 100 μ m, Optical fiber with 0.14 NA and 9 μ m core. Tilting angles: 0, 15, 30, and 45°.

Both sets of simulations show that when the field of view of the fiber is fully covered by the object, the collected power remains constant regardless of the object's tilting angle, as expected [19]. Furthermore, the model is still valid for surfaces with reliefs other than a plane, with the condition that of each dS_T of the object surface, there are no rays that reflect on the surface of the object that can be coupled to the fiber.

3.3. Maximum Tilting Angle to Avoid Measurement Errors

The power gathered can be different depending on the tilting angle (θ) (see Figures 7–10), despite having the same emissivity, wavelength band, optical fiber, etc. Therefore, a misalignment between the fiber end plane and target surface can introduce errors to the temperature measurement of a fiber-optic pyrometer. For instance, with a 100 µm target diameter and a standard multimode fiber (MMF), as shown in Figure 9, the maximum power of 1.67 µW ($\theta = 0^\circ$) is achieved at a target-fiber distance less than 200 µm when the target temperature is 1000 °C. However, if the tilting angle θ changes to 15, 30, and 45° at a target fiber distance of 400 µm, the collected power by the fiber decreases to 1.58, 1.5, and 1.34 µW, respectively, resulting in full-scale output errors of 5, 10, and 20%, respectively, and a maximum temperature error of around 50 °C. To prevent these errors, it is crucial to determine the maximum angle (θ) at which the target can be tilted while maintaining the maximum power collection at a specific distance.

From our simulations, we show that the power collected by the fiber is independent of the angle θ if the diameter of the target is large enough to be fully illuminated by the maximum acceptance cone of the optical fiber, with angle β_{max} . This phenomenon can be easily explained by utilizing the optical principle of reversibility. Nevertheless, there exists a maximum angle, denoted as θ_{max} , beyond which, by applying the reversibility of the optical rays, the target stops being illuminated by the fiber, as depicted in Figure 11. Specifically, this limit is reached when:

$$r_x + r_F = r_T \times \cos(\theta_{max}) \tag{16}$$

where r_F is the radius of the fiber, r_T is the radius of the emitting target, and r_x is given by:

$$r_x = (t + r_T \sin(\theta_{max})) \times \tan(\beta_{max}) \tag{17}$$

where *t* is the distance from the axis of the fiber in its end plane, to the center of the target.



Figure 11. Geometry used to find the maximum tilting angle θ_{max} to keep the maximum gathered power.

Substituting (17) in (16), and solving for θ_{max} , it is found that:

$$\theta_{max} = \cos^{-1} \left[\frac{r_F}{r_T} \cos(\beta_{max}) + \frac{t}{r_T} \sin(\beta_{max}) \right] - \beta_{max}$$
(18)

Equation (18) gives the maximum admissible tilting angle, for a specific fiber size and *NA* and target diameter. Figure 12 shows the θ_{max} versus distance between the target and the fiber for a target of 250 µm diameter and a multimode fiber (MMF) with 0.275 NA and 62.5 µm core. As shown in Figure 12, at larger distances, θ_{max} decreases, eventually reaching 0 degrees at a critical distance described in [8].



Figure 12. Maximum angle θ_{max} to avoid errors vs. target-fiber distance for optical fiber with 0.275 NA and 62.5 µm core, and a circular target of 250 µm diameter.

3.4. Critical Distance as a Function of Tilting Angle

As can be seen in Figures 9 and 10, the distance where the maximum power leave to be gathered (critical distance t_c) is different for each tilting angle (θ). This critical distance

as a function of θ , can be found using Equations (16) and (17), changing θ_{max} by θ , and solving for *t* results λ in:

$$t_c = \frac{r_T \cdot cos(\theta + \beta_{max}) - r_F \cdot cos(\beta_{max})}{sin(\beta_{max})}$$
(19)

Finally, to verify the model experimental measurements will be carried out in future works using small targets as those reported in [23].

4. Conclusions

In this paper, a model of a fiber-optic pyrometer with a tilting angle has been proposed. The model describes pyrometers with different types of optical fibers (in terms of core diameter and numerical aperture) and for objects with different sizes placed at variable tilting angles and distances. It calculates the optical power gathered by the optical fiber. To do so, the power gathered by the optical fiber due to each differential element of the target dS_T , is first calculated, and then all these differential powers are added.

The target emissive object is a surface of circular shape, with its center aligned with the axis of the optical fiber, at a known distance and size. The tilting angle is measured between the normal to the object and the fiber-optic axis. The tilting angle changes some parameters of a previously reported model [8], such as the minimum distance between the fiber end plane and each dS_T (t'), the radius of the light projected on the fiber end plane by each dS_T ($r'_{\beta max}$), and the distance between the center of the optical fiber and the center of circle with radius $r'_{\beta max}$ (r'). This breaks the symmetry with respect to the azimuthal angle (φ) of each dS_T , resulting in a change in the calculation algorithm and the respective integration limits. The model is described in detail, a script is implemented, and simulations are performed to verify the model.

Simulations are conducted to investigate the effect of tilting angles on the power gathered by the optical fiber when measuring the object temperature. It is observed that if the object completely covers the fiber's field of view, the gathered power remains constant, regardless of the tilting angle, as expected [19]. This behavior can be explained by the optical principle of reversibility. Furthermore, the simulations revealed that larger tilting angles require objects of greater size and closer distances to achieve the same optical power. For instance, for a 100 μ m diameter target at 400 μ m distance and 1000 °C, using a standard MMF, the gathered power for tilting angles of 15, 30, and 45° is reduced with full-scale output errors of up to 20%. Such tilting can introduce measurement errors of up to 50 °C. To avoid these errors, an equation is derived to determine the maximum allowed tilting angle for a specific distance. An equation describing the critical distance, where the fiber gathered the maximum power, as a function of the tilting angle (θ), is also derived.

Author Contributions: S.V. developed the mathematical model, performed some calculations, and was the main contributor who wrote the paper; A.T. produced the figures, ran simulations, calculated errors, and revised the paper; C.V. led the team, proposed the idea, methodology, study cases, wrote some analyses, and revised the paper. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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