

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



**Fibre optic sensors –
Part 1-1: Strain measurement – Strain sensors based on fibre Bragg gratings**



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IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



**Fibre optic sensors –
Part 1-1: Strain measurement – Strain sensors based on fibre Bragg gratings**

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Strain sensors based on fibre Bragg gratings****FOREWORD**

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International Standard IEC 61757-1-1 has been prepared by subcommittee SC 86C: Fibre optic systems and active devices, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

CDV	Report on voting
86C/1322/CDV	86C/1353/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61757 series, published under the general title *Fibre optic sensors*, can be found on the IEC website.

This International Standard is to be used in conjunction with IEC 61757-1:2012.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

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INTRODUCTION

It has been decided to restructure the IEC 61757 series, with the following logic. From now on, the sub-parts will be renumbered as IEC 61757-*M-T*, where *M* denotes the measure and *T*, the technology.

The existing part IEC 61757-1:2012 will be renumbered as IEC 61757 when it will be revised as edition 2.0 and will serve as an umbrella document over the entire series.

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FIBRE OPTIC SENSORS –

Part 1-1: Strain measurement – Strain sensors based on fibre Bragg gratings

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61757 defines detail specifications for fibre optic sensors using one or more fibre Bragg gratings (FBG) as the sensitive element for strain measurements. Generic specifications for fibre optic sensors are defined in IEC 61757-1:2012.

This standard specifies the most important features and characteristics of a fibre optic sensor for strain measurements based on use of an FBG as the sensitive element, and defines the procedures for their determination. Furthermore, it specifies basic performance parameters and characteristics of the corresponding measuring instrument to read out the optical signal from the FBG. This standard refers to the measurement of static and dynamic strain values in a range of frequencies.

A blank detail specification is provided in Annex B.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050 (all parts), *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

IEC 60068-2 (all parts), *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests*

IEC 60793-2, *Optical fibres – Part 2: Product specifications – General*

IEC 60874-1, *Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Connectors for optical fibres and cables – Part 1: Generic specification*

IEC 61300-2 (all parts), *Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Basic test and measurement procedures – Part 2: Tests*

IEC 61757-1:2012, *Fibre optic sensors – Part 1: Generic specification*

IEC 62129-1, *Calibration of wavelength/optical frequency measurement instruments – Part 1: Optical spectrum analyzers*

IEC 62129-2, *Calibration of wavelength/optical frequency measurement instruments – Part 2: Michelson interferometer single wavelength meters*

IEC TS 62129-3, *Calibration of wavelength/optical frequency measurement instruments – Part 3: Optical frequency meters using optical frequency combs*

IEC TR 61931, *Fibre optic – Terminology*

ISO/IEC Guide 99, *International vocabulary of metrology — Basic and general concepts and associated terms (VIM)* Terms and definitions

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the definitions given in IEC 61757-1:2012, the IEC 60050 series, IEC TR 61931, ISO/IEC Guide 99 (VIM), as well as the following apply.

NOTE Long period gratings, non-uniform gratings, angled gratings, and FBG in polarization maintaining fibre are not considered.

3.1

FBG

fibre Bragg grating

phase diffraction grating integrated in optical single-mode silica-based fibres, according to category B of IEC 60793-2, to selectively reflect a very narrow range of wavelengths while transmitting others

Note 1 to entry: To achieve this characteristic, periodically spaced zones in the fibre core are altered to have different refractive indexes slightly higher than the core.

3.2

FBG strain sensor

device that uses one or more fibre Bragg gratings (3.1) as a sensitive element for strain measurements

Note 1 to entry: Different configurations are possible (see 5.2).

3.3

λ_B

Bragg wavelength

wavelength of the FBG (3.1), generally corresponding to the Bragg reflection peak or transmission minimum without applied strain under reference ambient conditions

Note 1 to entry: If referred to as an FBG strain sensor (see 3.2), it refers to the configuration prior to its installation.

3.4

λ_0

reference wavelength

wavelength response of an FBG after installation or at the beginning of measurement to the affecting loading and ambient conditions

3.5

R_{FBG}

FBG reflectivity

ratio of the incident optical power P_0 to the reflected optical power P_{λ_B} at Bragg wavelength λ_B

Note 1 to entry: The power transmitted to the FBG strain sensor is less than the incident (input) optical power due to losses in the fibre at the connector and even in the grating. The definition of the FBG reflectivity should therefore use the incident optical power P_0 (see formulas in 7.4.2.) that represents the measurable part at the connector of a fibre optic sensor.

Note 2 to entry: P_0 depends on the measurement device and has no absolute characteristic value. From the user's point of view, the reflectivity is important if operational or installation conditions exist that influence the reflective characteristic.

3.6

transmission loss of an FBG sensor

loss of power of the transmitted optical signal passing along the optical fibre, the fibre Bragg grating and the components to connect an FBG strain sensor outside the FBG spectrum

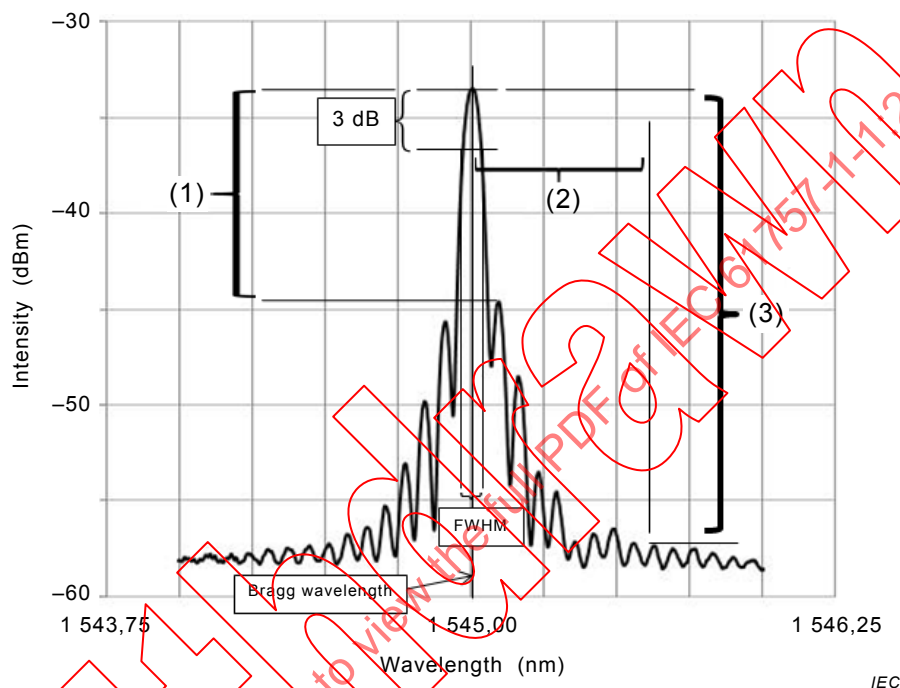
Note 1 to entry: When considering transmission loss in an FBG sensor configuration, all parts that contribute to the reduction of power, for example transmission losses due to joining and connecting techniques, have to be considered. The transmission spectra of the grating can show a reduction of the grating transmissivity due to influences on grating performance. Such propagation losses in the grating should be considered separately. The entry only applies to wavelength multiplexed FBG strain sensors double-ended for in-series connection.

3.7

FBG spectral width

FWHM of the reflection peak or transmission minimum at Bragg wavelength

Note 1 to entry: FWHM of an FBG spectrum is the wavelength range of the spectrum over which the amplitude is greater than 50 % (3 dB) of its reflectance maximum value at λ_B (see Figure 1).



Key

- (1) Difference in intensity between Bragg peak and largest side-lobe (called relative side-lobe level)
- (2) Recorded spectral distance (see 3.12) from the maximum value of one or both sides of the Bragg wavelength
- (3) FBG signal-to-noise ratio SNR_{FBG} for (2)

Figure 1 – Characteristics of the Bragg grating reflectance spectrum

3.8

side-lobes

reflection peaks aside the Bragg wavelength peak of an FBG spectrum

Note 1 to entry: Side-lobes are also called side modes.

Note 2 to entry: Side-lobes shall be considered according to conditions of use (see Figure 1 and Clause A.2).

3.9

relative side-lobe level

ratio of the maximum value of the amplitude of the specified field component in a side-lobe to the maximum value in a reference lobe

Note 1 to entry: The reference lobe of an FBG is the peak power at the Bragg wavelength λ_B ; peak power of the largest side-lobe in the FBG spectrum is the related field component (see Figure 1).

Note 2 to entry: Relative side-lobe level is usually expressed in decibels.

3.10**width level**

relative amplitude difference between a local maximum and a specified amplitude, at which a spectral feature is evaluated for a two sided threshold crossing for purposes of defining that local maximum as either a fundamental peak or as a side-lobe

Note 1 to entry: The width level is applied as an evaluative relative threshold to a local maximum.

Note 2 to entry: Width level is expressed in decibels.

3.11**peak width**

width over which a local maximum exhibits a two-sided spectrum crossing over a threshold defined by the width level parameter

Note 1 to entry: The quantity FBG spectral width is defined as the spectral width of the FBG fundamental mode and will be equal to or greater than the peak detection algorithm's peak width requirement when the width level is defined as 3dB.

Note 2 to entry: The peak width requirement is applied in conjunction with the width level parameter to distinguish fundamental peaks from side-lobes in an array spectrum where side-modes may be at an absolute amplitude higher than adjacent fundamental peaks.

Note 3 to entry: Peak width is expressed in nanometres.

3.12**SNR_{FBG}****FBG signal-to-noise ratio**

ratio of the maximum amplitude of the Bragg wavelength peak to that of the coexistent side-lobe amplitude at a wavelength distance of 1 nm under unloaded conditions

Note 1 to entry: SNR_{FBG} shall not be confused with the side-lobes of an FBG caused by the inscription process and depending on the grid number, grid distance Λ and the change in the refractive index of the FBG. Noise is generated by the measurement device; side-lobes are generated during inscription of the grating and have great importance for the use of an FBG as strain sensor (see Figure 1 and 3.7).

Note 2 to entry: The value "1 nm" is still valid even if the central wavelength of an FBG is extended to the visible range.

Note 3 to entry: FBG signal-to-noise ratio is expressed in decibels.

3.13**FBG strain sensitivity**

ratio of the relative change in wavelength $\Delta\lambda/\lambda_0$ for a given strain change $\Delta\varepsilon$ defined by the equation

$$\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} = (1 - p)\Delta\varepsilon$$

Note 1 to entry: FBG strain sensitivity describes the response of an FBG to uniaxial strain deformation $\Delta\varepsilon$ of the grating area. The strain response is represented by the photo-elastic coefficient p . For practical use, the gauge factor k is introduced as a linear approximate for $(1 - p)$. In this case, the sensitivity can be considered as a linear function for a uniformly non-integrated stretched grating area (see 7.6), i.e. only the optical fibre and coating are deformed.

Note 2 to entry: Frequently, this term is defined, for practical reasons, as the peak shift ($\Delta\lambda$ in nm) over the introduced strain change ($\Delta\varepsilon$ in $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}$) related to a specified reference wavelength λ_0 .

Note 3 to entry: Strain sensitivity can be superimposed by temperature-induced deformation of the optical fibre.

Note 4 to entry: If the strain sensitivity gets a non-linear characteristic because of the set-up of for example a strain transducer, higher order terms may be used. The calibration function and the parameters have to be defined.

3.14

k

gauge factor

ratio of the relative change in wavelength $\Delta\lambda/\lambda_0$ to a mechanical strain $\Delta\varepsilon$ introduced to an FBG strain sensor and expressed by the dimensionless gauge factor k measured by the manufacturer

$$k = \frac{\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0}}{\Delta\varepsilon}$$

Note 1 to entry: The gauge factor k is used by manufacturers to express the strain response of their products.

Note 2 to entry: The gauge factor k considers all influences of the FBG strain sensor on the strain sensitivity. It can vary with the selected structural form of the strain sensor (e.g. Bragg grating fibre with special protecting layer or FBG strain gauge) and therefore has to be distinguished from the strain sensitivity of the Bragg grating in the optical fibre (see 3.13).

Note 3 to entry: The gauge factor k for an FBG strain sensor assumes a linear characteristic. Considering the whole measurement system (sensor, device, cabling), it can be separately defined for the components of the measurement system. It is only valid for defined conditions. In the case of a non-linear characteristic (e.g. by creeping effect in the strain transfer), the gauge factor k is considered as linear within a defined permissible error.

3.15

gauge length

length within which a strain will cause a change in the measured value of the FBG strain sensor

Note 1 to entry: The gauge length depends on the FBG strain sensor configuration, see 5.2.

3.16

minimum operating radius of curvature

minimum radius that an FBG may be bent without change of the specified performance parameters

3.17

FBG sensor strain range

maximum strain range that the FBG can measure being excited according to the stated mechanical conditions without change of the specified performance parameters

Note 1 to entry: This could include axial tensile strain and compression.

Note 2 to entry: Outside the range, the FBG strain sensor may not be physically damaged, but the specified measurement performance may be affected.

3.18

Λ

FBG period

distance between the periodically varying refractive index zones (grating planes) in the fibre and expressed by Λ

Note 1 to entry: The FBG period defines the Bragg wavelength (see 3.3) by the equation

$$\Lambda = \frac{\lambda_B}{2 \cdot n_{\text{eff}}}$$

3.19

fatigue behaviour

change in sensor properties as a result of sinusoidal load alternation under reference ambient conditions

Note 1 to entry: The relevant sensor properties specifying fatigue behaviour are the zero point displacement (see 3.20) and the change in the reflection spectrum of the FBG strain sensor as a function of the number of load cycles.

3.20

zero point

initial value of a measurement cycle to which all following measurement values are referred

Note 1 to entry: The zero point is also called null set.

Note 2 to entry: The zero point shall be recorded for all types of measurements (static, dynamic). In case of off-line measurements, where recording devices are switched-off or disconnected, continued measurement shall be referable to the zero point.

3.21

temperature influence to an FBG strain sensor

change in Bragg wavelength (3.3) of an FBG strain sensor subject to thermal excitation only

Note 1 to entry: The temperature-induced strain is observed as an apparent strain.

Note 2 to entry: The term "temperature sensitivity" is not used because it refers to temperature measurement, whereas the characteristic here considered is related to "temperature compensation" of the signal.

3.22

birefringence

optical property of an optically anisotropic material having orientation-dependent refractive indices that leads to different propagation velocities of light in different propagation directions

Note 1 to entry: Birefringence is a property of optical materials.

Note 2 to entry: For fibre optic sensors, the term "birefringence" is correctly used when optical fibres with birefringent property are used, for example panda or bow-tie fibres.

3.23

polarization dependence

dependence which occurs when transverse loading causes a fibre's nominally circular cross section to become elliptical with the result of splitting the back-reflected Bragg spectra into two unequally reflected or transmitted waves which produces a double peak in the spectra

Note 1 to entry: Polarization dependence of Bragg wavelength can also occur during writing of the fibre Bragg grating if the writing laser is not correctly focused in the centre of the core but is instead focused on one side in the cladding. In this case, asymmetry in the refractive index of the glass due to asymmetry of the expose is created.

Note 2 to entry: Polarization dependence of Bragg wavelength can also lead to measurement uncertainty of Bragg wavelength, spectral width and FBG reflectivity.

4 Symbols

For the purposes of this document, the following symbols apply.

h	thickness of the deformed object of measurement
I_{ref}	optical power intensity of the reference fibre
k	gauge factor k
l, L	length
L_0	original length of the object of measurement
L_1	length of the object of measurement after deformation
L_F	length of the free fibre inside a strain transducer
L_G	length between the anchoring points of the FBG strain sensor to the object of measurement (gauge length)
n	refractive index of the waveguide
n_{eff}	effective refractive index of the Bragg grating (see 5.1)

p_{ϵ}	effective photo-elastic constant
p	photo-elastic constant
P_0	incident optical power
P_{λ_B}	optical power of the FBG
R_{FBG}	reflectivity of the FBG
R_{ref}	reflectivity of the FBG reference fibre
s	distance of the fibre sensor from the surface of the object of measurement
SNR_{FBG}	signal-to-noise ratio of the FBG
T	temperature
$\bar{x}$	mean value
x_i	i^{th} measured value
X	physical parameter (e.g. temperature, strain or pressure)
α	thermal expansion coefficient of the fibre material
α_{gm}	thermal expansion coefficient of the load-carrying material of the strain gauge
α_{sp}	thermal expansion coefficient of the test sample
$\Delta\lambda$	$\Delta\lambda = \lambda - \lambda_0$, FBG peak wavelength shift under the given strain $\Delta\epsilon$
ϵ	strain (here always observed in the direction of the fibre axis)
ϵ_a	strain applied to the test sample
$\epsilon_{\text{n_eff}}$	temperature-induced strain (thermal output)
ϵ_{OF}	flexural strain at the surface of the object of measurement
ϵ_{OSS}	strain measured by an applied FBG strain sensor (for bent objects of measurement, see 7.6.2)
ϵ_p	strain at the surface of a flexural beam
$\epsilon_{p'}$	strain of a flexural beam measured with an attached sensor of finite thickness
ϵ_s	apparent strain
λ_0	reference wavelength
λ_B	Bragg wavelength
Λ	FBG period
ξ	thermo-optical coefficient
φ	logarithmic strain

5 Structure and characteristics

5.1 Fibre Bragg grating (FBG)

Fibre Bragg gratings are phase diffraction gratings inscribed into optical waveguides. They are frequently produced using UV-light (e.g. by an excimer laser at 248 nm). The fibre is exposed to an interference pattern of this UV radiation. UV photosensitive processes then produce changes in the refractive index of the fibre core which is susceptible to these. The interference pattern is an image in the fibre core of a periodically changing refractive index. Incident and transported light along the fibre is additively superposed for a certain wavelength at these points (constructive interference); this spectral part of the incident light is reflected. In the transmitted light, this wavelength (denoted Bragg wavelength λ_B) is attenuated according to FBG reflectivity. Figure 2 shows the principle of a fibre Bragg grating in an optical waveguide.

The value of the reflected Bragg wavelength λ_B is determined from the Bragg condition:

$$\lambda_B = 2 \cdot n_{\text{eff}} \cdot \Lambda \quad (1)$$

According to Equation (1), the Bragg wavelength λ_B of the FBG depends on the effective refractive index of the FBG and the FBG period Λ . The spectral width of the Bragg wavelength peak is essentially determined by the number of grating periods and the magnitude of the refractive index modulation.

According to Equation (1), the FBG is susceptible to changes in the FBG period and in the effective refractive index, which may essentially be affected by changes in strain and temperature. The Bragg wavelength λ_B changes (is "shifted") with changes in the FBG period Λ , or with changes in the effective refractive index n_{eff} .

The wavelength is shifted to higher values when the glass fibre grating is placed in tension or the temperature increases. The opposite process occurs for compression and a temperature decrease. These effects on the quantities n_{eff} and Λ are described in Equation (2):

$$\frac{1}{\lambda_B} \frac{\partial \lambda_B}{\partial X} = \frac{1}{n_{\text{eff}}} \frac{\partial n_{\text{eff}}}{\partial X} + \frac{1}{\Lambda} \frac{\partial \Lambda}{\partial X} \quad (2)$$

where

X is a physical parameter (e.g. temperature, strain, or pressure)

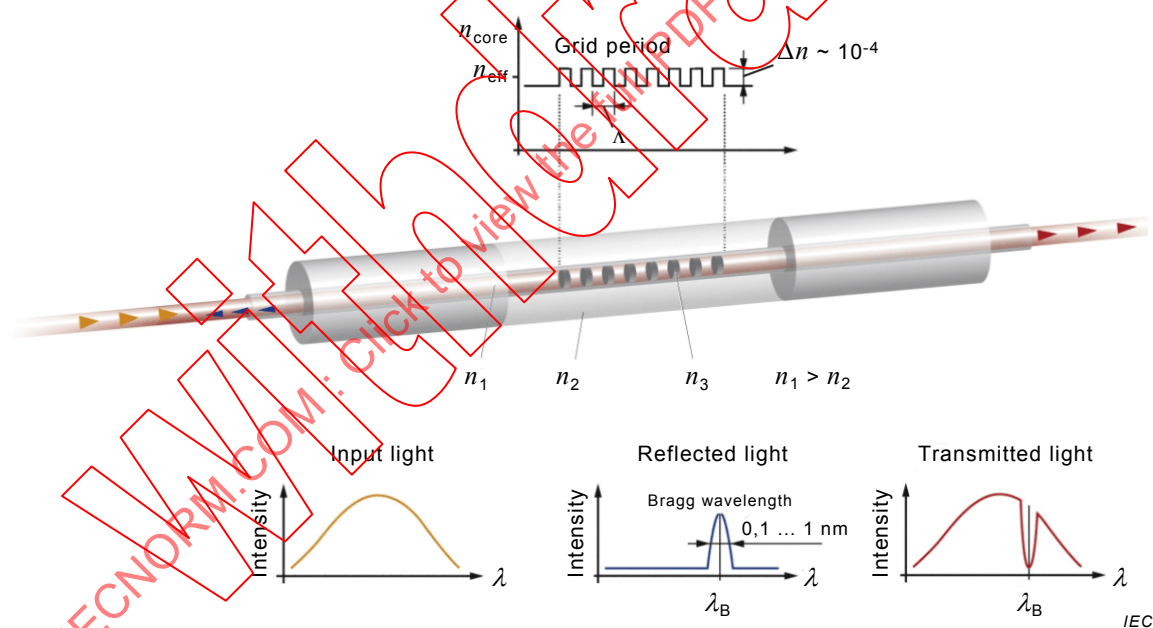


Figure 2 – Operation principle of a fibre Bragg grating in an optical waveguide

Fibre Bragg gratings are employed in strain measurements in such a way that only the changes in strain along the fibre axis and temperature changes are relevant (the effect of the temperature as a perturbing term is treated in 7.12).

It follows that the general variation of the Bragg wavelength is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\lambda_B = & 2 \cdot \left(\Lambda \frac{\partial n_{\text{eff}}}{\partial L} + n_{\text{eff}} \frac{\partial \Lambda}{\partial L} \right) \cdot \Delta L \\ & + 2 \cdot \left(\Lambda \frac{\partial n_{\text{eff}}}{\partial T} + n_{\text{eff}} \frac{\partial \Lambda}{\partial T} \right) \cdot \Delta T\end{aligned}\quad (3)$$

The first term in Equation (3) describes the effect resulting from the mechanical deformation ($\partial\Lambda/\partial L$) and the elasto-optical reaction ($\partial n_{\text{eff}}/\partial L$) of the optical waveguide. The second term in Equation (3) describes the temperature effect on the quantities n_{eff} and Λ .

The term ($\partial\Lambda/\partial T$) describes the effect of the thermal expansion of the Bragg grating on the grating period Λ . The thermal effect on the refractive index of the optical fibre, on the other hand, is expressed by the term ($\partial n_{\text{eff}}/\partial T$).

In practice, the effects of strain and temperature are approximately described by the linear relationship:

$$\frac{\Delta\lambda_B(\varepsilon, T)}{\lambda_B} = (1 - p_\varepsilon) \varepsilon + (\alpha + \xi) \Delta T \quad (4)$$

Customary FBG, which are subject to both thermal and mechanical variations, react to these combined effects with a resultant change in the Bragg wavelength. The measured wavelength change does not permit discrimination between the variations in strain or in temperature; special measures are required to separate the two values (see 7.12).

Since each Bragg grating integrated as a sensor in a fibre can have its own resultant Bragg wavelength different from the others, by using wavelength-division multiplexing, several temperature or strain sensors may be identified and read-out in an optical fibre. Figure 3 shows an example of sensor signals (Bragg wavelengths) from a sensor fibre with numerous sequential arranged Bragg gratings (FBG array).

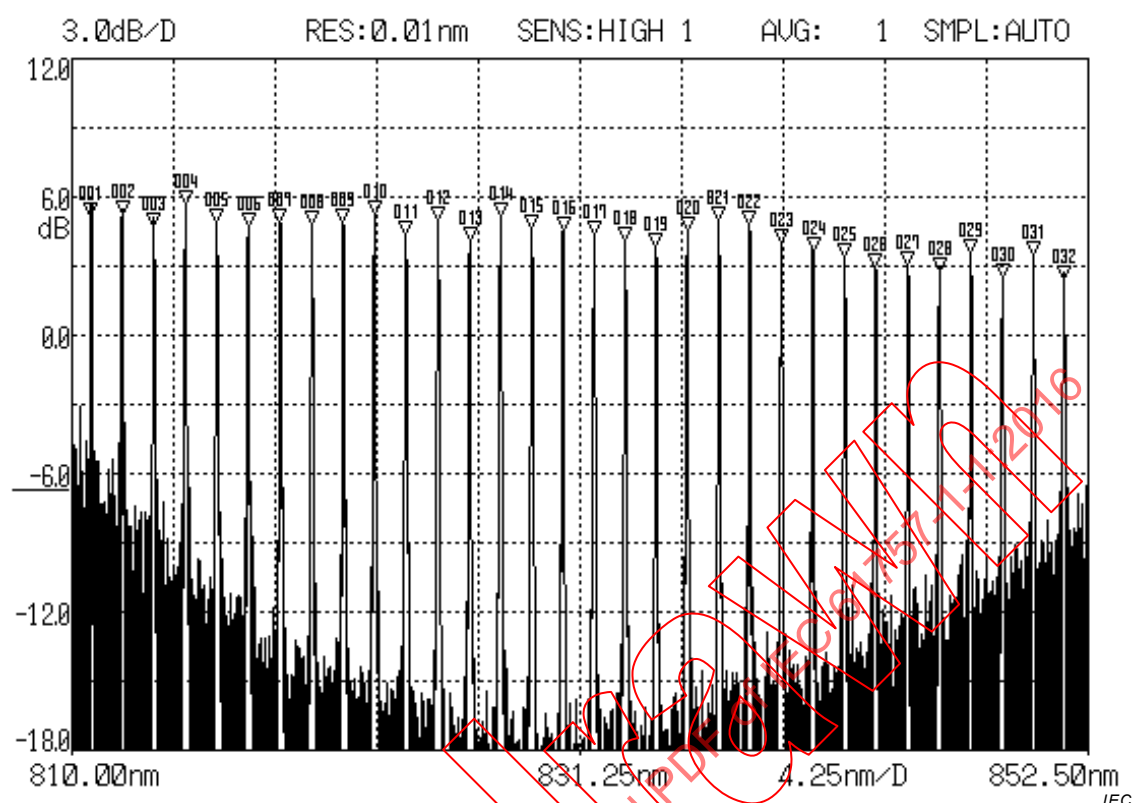


Figure 3 – Reflection spectrum of a fibre Bragg grating array

To characterize the FBG, the following parameters shall generally be measured and reported (see Figure 1):

- length of the fibre Bragg grating (FBG);
- Bragg wavelength in nm (see 3.3 and 7.2);
- reflectivity in % (see 3.5 and 7.4);
- FBG spectral width (FWHM) in nm (see 3.7 and 7.3);
- relative side-lobe level in dB (see 3.9).

Additional characteristics shall be reported upon request of the customer:

- fibre type according to IEC 60793-2;
- full spectrum;
- material parameters of the cladding material;
- operating temperature range (see 7.10);
- stability under environmental influences;
- type of inscription process (e.g. inscribed before coating, during drawing process, recoated, inscribed through the coating);
- signal-to-noise ratio in dB (see 3.12);
- grating profile (e.g. uniform or apodized)
- polarization induced uncertainty of Bragg wavelength in pm (see Annex C);
- polarization induced uncertainty of FBG reflectivity in % (see Annex C);
- polarization induced uncertainty of FBG spectral width in pm (see Annex C);
- distance between consecutive FBGs of an FBG array;
- accuracy of the markers indicating the position of the FBG in the fibre;

- pre-tensioning of the FBG strain sensor;
- water resistance capability.

5.2 FBG strain sensor configuration

The FBG strain sensor can be made of various materials and with various forms:

- as a segment of optical fibre with one or more FBG strain sensor/s (in the following denoted Bragg grating fibre). Several successively arranged FBG are also called an FBG array;
- as an FBG strain sensor where the connecting fibres of the FBG element are fixed to the object of measurement at anchoring surfaces/points of defined distance (commonly called an extensometer or strain transducer);
- as an FBG embedded in a protective material which constitutes a transition zone between the sensor element and the object of measurement. The transition zone is usually flat or planar, commonly called an FBG strain gauge, a patch or a pad.

The manufacturer should define the length used for the determination of the gauge factor. In case of an extensometer or strain transducer (see Figure 4), the gauge length is defined between the two attachment points (L_G in the Figure 4); however, in the set-up of many strain transducers, the fibre is glued to the anchors, which have a size of some millimetres or centimetres. The free fibre length L_F might be different from L_G ; this leads to a problem in calibration. Users should know which length for calibration was used by the manufacturer.

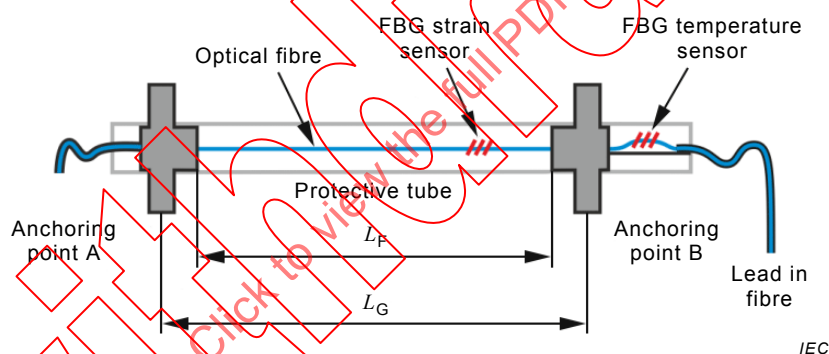


Figure 4 – Gauge length between two attachment points

5.3 Measuring point and installation

The procedure of bonding of the FBG strain sensor to a structural component and its coupling to a photonic device is called an FBG strain sensor installation. Independently of the particular material and form, the FBG strain sensor is attached to or embedded in the object of measurement in one of the following ways:

- continuous structural contact: the FBG strain sensor and the object to be measured have friction-locked bonding on a continuous surface; the FBG strain sensor is intended to measure the averaged strain or one component of the strain experienced by the object at the continuous surface;
- discontinuous structural contact: the FBG strain sensor and the object to be measured have friction-locked bonding at distinct anchoring surfaces/points (set of anchoring surfaces/points) with a non-bonded gap in between; the FBG strain sensor is intended to measure the averaged strain or one component of the strain experienced between the anchoring surfaces/points.

The connecting leads or cables exiting the FBG strain sensor have to be placed so that neither the object of measurement is obstructed nor the measurement signal interfered with.

5.4 Gauge length

The gauge length is the length of an object of measurement over which the sensor gathers information. In the case of a strain sensor, it is the length within which a strain will cause a change in the measured value of the FBG strain sensor. The gauge length depends on the FBG strain sensor configuration.

In the case of a point-wise fixed FBG strain sensor (by gluing, welding, clamping at distinct anchoring surfaces/points), the gauge length is determined by the measuring distance L between the two attachment points or sequence of points on the surface.

For an FBG strain gauge, the gauge length is the length over which the applied strain is averaged, converted and measured. This gauge length is usually not the same as the fibre Bragg grating length.

5.5 Strain and reference strain

The strain ε , which is commonly quoted in strain metrology, is termed technical strain and describes the extension or contraction ΔL , referred to its original length L_0 , of an object of measurement when subjected to a known mechanical or thermal stress.

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta L}{L_0} \quad (5)$$

When measuring consecutive deformations resulting from multiple loadings, diverse reference systems may be required to calculate the strain. The strain components are referred to the respective initial length of the object of measurement established after previous loading. This strain value is designated the logarithmic or "true" strain φ , and for small variations in strain it is approximately calculated as:

$$\varphi = \int_{L_0}^{L_1} \frac{dl}{l} = \ln \frac{L_1}{L_0} \quad (6)$$

The FBG within the FBG strain sensor registers the strain applied to the element via the protective coating, the supporting material or the bonding medium. The strain measured by FBG strain sensor can be affected by the plastic/inelastic behaviour of such materials.

When Bragg grating fibres are used, inadequate strain transfer can lead to deviations. In consequence, an incorrect strain response by the object of measurement occurs.

5.6 Reference wavelength

Diverse evaluation methods and different devices result in different wavelengths being recorded for the same filter function of the Bragg grating. In the context of this standard, therefore, the result of the wavelength measurement after installation of the FBG strain sensor with the specified device will be denoted the reference wavelength λ_0 .

The reference wavelength does not necessarily have the same value as the Bragg wavelength specified by the manufacturer of the FBG. Because of the very small difference between the reference wavelength and the Bragg wavelength, either wavelength value may be used in the following equations without introducing significant error.

If the reference wavelength is measured when the measurement cycle is started, this wavelength measurement can be considered as the zero point measurement value (see 3.20).

5.7 Stability behaviour

5.7.1 Drift and creep

Stability, in general, is the ability of a measurement system to maintain its metrological characteristics and meet other specifications over the intended time of operation. Stability, in the context of this standard, describes the property of the applied FBG strain sensor to keep its optical characteristics constant over a period of use determined by the objectives, or to show only a small permissible deviation.

Variations in the measured value might occur:

- when the materials concerned are subject to long-term stress (creep);
- without loading stress (zero point drift).

This may be caused by the slow progress of chemical or physical degradation within the materials used (e.g. ageing), or by a change in the initial physical conditions (e.g. temperature or humidity).

Creep is a quantity that depends on the materials employed, the set-up of the sensor and the type of operation, and can only be determined experimentally. According to current experience, the error contribution as a consequence of creep remains irrelevant within the scope of the given uncertainty of measurement for the gauge factor k , when the bonding material prescribed by the manufacturer is used.

Drift is a slow change of the metrological characteristics of the measurement system. The drift error of an FBG strain sensor is negligibly small, according to the state of the art; hence for this standard, no further specification is required. However, if drifts are generated by for example, a modified production process or inadequate recoating material, the drift should be stated.

5.7.2 Shape stability of the Bragg grating peak

For correct operation, no significant variations in the shape of the spectral response should occur. The spectral response and stability of an FBG element depend on the manufacturing process and subsequent treatment of the grating. During further processing of the FBG into an FBG strain gauge, or an FBG strain sensor, variations can occur in the spectral response, which may lead to deterioration of the required stability characteristics in consequence. A spectrum is acceptable when the side-lobe maxima are at least 5 dB below the main peak. The specification of the FBG applies to the condition of the FBG strain sensor on delivery.

5.7.3 Hysteresis

Hysteresis in material science describes a particular material behaviour whereby the material does not return to its original state, or does so following a time delay, once the input load has been removed. This means that the output value for an elasto-plastic deformation behaviour does not depend only on the input value but also on rate-dependent processes.

When the strain (or temperature) changes, the silica-based FBG's peak commonly shifts without showing hysteresis effect. Coatings of silica-based FBG strain sensors, or protective material in which FBG strain sensors are embedded and constitutes a transition zone between the sensor element and the object of measurement (according to 5.2), may cause hysteresis effects. If hysteresis occurs for repeated or cyclic conditions within the specified operation range of the sensor, the amount of hysteresis should be described.

5.8 Test specimen

Here, flexural beams, plates or other objects are designated as test specimens upon which the FBG strain sensors are installed in order to determine and verify their properties. The

concept "standard test specimen" is used in connection with calibration and testing. For the general description of measuring procedures, the concept "object of measurement" is used.

5.9 Indication of the measured values

The variations in the Bragg wavelength induced in the FBG are scanned by a connected measuring device (measured values) and processed for metrological use (result of measurement). It is customary for the measuring device to supply the optical input signal for the sensor and also to record the sensor response signal.

5.10 Zero point related measurement

The concepts "zero point measurement" and static or quasi-static measurement, respectively, denote all measurements where the measured value refers to an initial value (the zero point, see 3.20).

The following influencing factors shall also be considered:

- drift in the measuring instrument;
- method of evaluation:
diverse evaluation methods (measuring devices) can result in different offset quantities with respect to the zero point. In case of replacement of the measuring device, the zero point offset between the old and the new instrument should be determined correspondingly;
- creep of the applied sensor.

The scanning procedure of the FBG strain sensors shall take place in a route neutral manner, so that the characteristics of the connecting leads and of the optical connectors or splices do not affect the zero point. Nevertheless, intermittent zero point checking is recommended.

5.11 Non-zero point related measurement

For non-zero point related or periodic dynamic measurement, the measured values are not referred to a fixed initial value. This only applies to the amplitude measurement of a periodic oscillation.

5.12 Production set

An FBG set is a batch of FBG produced in the same manufacturing process.

5.13 FBG strain sensor standard type

An FBG strain sensor standard type is a batch of FBG strain sensors with identical physical properties (geometrical dimensions, manufacturing process, materials used, post-processing, Bragg wavelength).

5.14 FBG strain sensor series

A series is a batch of FBG strain sensors for which the materials used and the manufacturing processes are identical, but which may show differences in their Bragg wavelength or dimensions.

6 Features and characteristics to be reported

6.1 Construction details and geometrical dimensions

The features to be quoted shall be referred to the appropriate sensor configuration according to 5.2. The pertinent configuration shall be named.

The geometrical data for length, width, height and distance of the sensitive element from the object of measurement, as well as the relevant dimensions for assembly, shall be reported by the manufacturer.

6.2 Configuration of the FBG strain sensor

The configuration of the FBG strain sensor according to 5.2 shall be reported by the manufacturer. If more than one configuration is reported, features and characteristics measured according to Clause 7 shall be given for every configuration.

6.3 Temperature and humidity range

The manufacturer shall report the temperature and humidity ranges for storage, installation and operation.

6.4 Connecting requirement

It shall be indicated whether or not the sensor is supplied with an optical connector. If a connector is used, the type shall be indicated according to IEC 60874-1. The smallest radius permitted for laying the connecting leads shall be stated. When the sensor is connected to the leading cable, compatibility regarding the diameter of the mode field shall be ensured. Splice losses occur through faulty matching. If there are splice losses, the producer shall inform about the fibre parameters and this additional attenuation. If the FBG strain sensor can be operated from one side only, the manufacturer shall mark the side to be used for the connection. This can be the case when FBG arrays with a high reflectance are employed.

7 Features and characteristics to be measured

7.1 Sampling and statistical evaluation

7.1.1 Sampling

The following sampling methods shall be used according to the intended scope of testing:

- random sampling;
- type testing;
- series testing;
- individual sample testing.

Many of the FBG strain sensor properties can only be determined on an installed sensor. A statistical evaluation shall be performed in this case. The number of sample sensors as well as the date of the evaluation should be noted.

7.1.2 Random sampling

The requirement for performing random sampling is the assumption that the characteristic follows a Gaussian distribution. All sensors chosen for characteristics testing shall belong to the same production set. A significant number of samples (at least five) shall be selected. The result of a random sampling test is valid for one production set.

7.1.3 Type testing

The type test is a random sampling test as in 7.1.2. Here, the result of testing at least five specimens of this type is declared valid for all production sets.

7.1.4 Series testing

The series test is a random sampling test as in 7.1.2 whereby the result is determined for a single specimen out of a sensor series and declared valid for the whole series.

7.1.5 Individual sample testing

Here, each specimen of a sensor series or just a prototype of a unique FBG strain sensor shall be tested.

7.1.6 Reporting the measuring result

The result of the series tests, type tests and random sampling tests is expressed as the arithmetic mean value with its corresponding standard deviation. The form of the statement of the standard deviation shall be specified.

If sensors X_1 to X_n are tested, then the characteristic is quoted as the mean value $\bar{x}$ of the n determined values x_1 to x_n of the sensors.

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \quad (7)$$

The standard deviation (of the individual value) is given by:

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \quad (8)$$

7.1.7 Sample conditioning

The sensors selected for testing shall be allowed to reach equilibrium with the environment in which the test shall be performed; exposure of at least 6 hours in such environment should be adopted anyway.

7.1.8 Ambient test conditions

All tests shall be performed at specified temperature and relative humidity conditions; values of parameters and their tolerance shall be reported.

7.1.9 Required type of test for individual characteristics

The required type of test for individual characteristics is given in Table 1.

Table 1 – Required type of test for individual characteristics

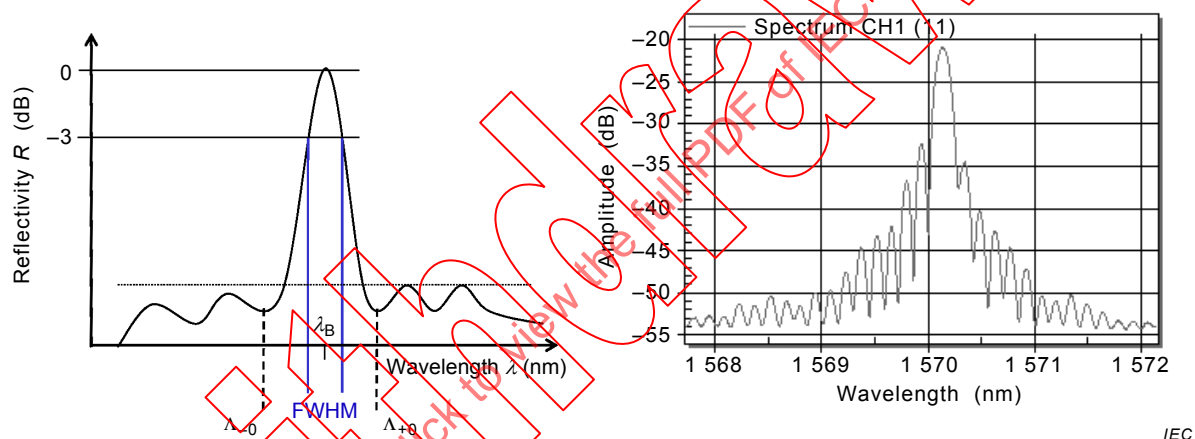
Design-specific features and characteristics	Type of test
Operating temperature and humidity ranges	Series test
Bragg wavelength	Individual sample test
FBG spectral width	Series test
Reflectivity	Type test
FBG strain sensitivity	Random sampling test
FBG gauge factor	Random sampling test
Maximum strain range at ambient conditions (see 7.1.8)	Series test
Fatigue behaviour	Series test
Minimum operating radius of curvature	Series test
Temperature-induced strain response	Random sampling test

7.2 Bragg wavelength λ_B

7.2.1 General

The following characteristics of an FBG spectrum shall be measured as requested by this standard or on request of the customer:

- Bragg (peak) wavelength in nm;
- FBG spectral width in nm;
- FBG reflectivity in %;
- relative side-lobe level in dB;
- FBG signal-to-noise ratio in dB;
- λ_{+0} , λ_{-0} , first poles (minima) of the Bragg grating reflection peak (see Figure 5);
- polarization induced uncertainty of Bragg (peak) wavelength;
- polarization induced uncertainty of FBG spectral width;
- polarization induced uncertainty of reflectivity.



NOTE The value λ_B follows from the mathematical algorithm of the device. The spectral resolution, the scan rate and software-implemented filters of the device determine the precision of the peak wavelength.

Figure 5 – Reflection spectrum of a FBG [calculated (left) and measured spectrum (right)]

7.2.2 Measuring procedure

For FBG with a lower reflectivity ($R_{\text{FBG}} < 50\%$), the Bragg wavelength shall be measured in reflection. For FBG with a higher reflectivity ($R_{\text{FBG}} > 90\%$) on the other hand, it shall be measured in transmission. In fact, for highly reflecting FBG ($R_{\text{FBG}} > 90\%$), the maximum of the Bragg wavelength peak becomes progressively more difficult to determine exactly. In this case, the transmission minimum shall be used for Bragg wavelength measurement. For intermediate values of reflectivity, either configuration can be used.

Alternatively, in case of a symmetrical spectral response, the Bragg wavelength shall be calculated as the arithmetic mean, for example between the two points of the 3 dB drop-off (see Figure 5).

All measurements shall be performed when the FBG strain sensor is unbent. The Bragg wavelength of the FBG shall be measured with sufficient spectral resolution and reported. The measurement method used and the corresponding uncertainty (spectral resolution) should be reported. In case of polarization effects, special measurements have to be carried out (see Annex C).

7.2.3 Evaluation

No particular evaluation is necessary.

7.2.4 Reporting

The measured or calculated Bragg wavelength and the measurement procedure shall be reported. On customer request, the typical FBG spectrum shall also be reported.

7.3 FBG spectral width

7.3.1 Measuring procedure

The FBG spectrum of the FBG strain sensor shall be measured with sufficient spectral resolution. The measurement shall be performed when the FBG strain sensor is unbent.

Because local inhomogeneous variations in the state of strain within the FBG can cause spectral width to change, strain measurements have to consider this possibility. Changes in the spectral width can occur when they are used as FBG strain sensors. The causes for a variation in spectral width can be found

- in the installation itself, where different forces (strain states) were introduced;
- where delamination occurs;
- when an effective inhomogeneous strain occurs at the measuring point.

The constancy of the spectral width has important influence on the measurement uncertainty when using mathematical evaluation principles for λ_B determination. The spectral width can be affected by different influencing quantities, for example temperature, maximum possible strain and continuous oscillation behaviour.

The spectral width can also be strongly influenced by the state of polarization of the illuminating optical source if birefringence exists in the fibre at the location of the FBG. Taking measurements of the spectral width for a range of polarization states of the optical source often provides strong indication of the condition of the sensor.

Although polarization dependence may result from either inhomogeneity during the original manufacture of the FBG, inhomogeneous bonding of the FBG into the strain sensor device or inhomogeneous bonding of the strain sensor device to the host structure, all should be considered undesirable and will degrade measurement accuracy (see 5.7).

7.3.2 Evaluation

The measured FBG spectrum shall be evaluated according to the definition (see 3.7 and Figure 1 and Figure 5). The spectral width shall be determined from a reflection spectrum, whereby the difference of the two wavelength values at the 3 dB drop-off is taken from both sides of the reflection maximum. Alternatively, the transmission spectrum shall be used with appropriate spectrum evaluation.

7.3.3 Reporting

The typical spectral width shall be reported. On customer request, the FBG spectrum shall also be reported.

7.4 FBG reflectivity

7.4.1 Measuring procedure

The FBG spectrum of the FBG strain sensor shall be measured with sufficient spectral resolution. The measurement shall be performed when the FBG strain sensor is unbent.

7.4.2 Evaluation

The measured FBG spectrum shall be evaluated according to the definition (see 3.5):

$$R_{\text{FBG}} = \frac{P_{\text{FBG}}}{P_0} \times 100 \% \quad (9)$$

$$R_{\text{FBG}} = \frac{P_0 - P_{\lambda_B}}{P_0} \times 100 \% \quad (10)$$

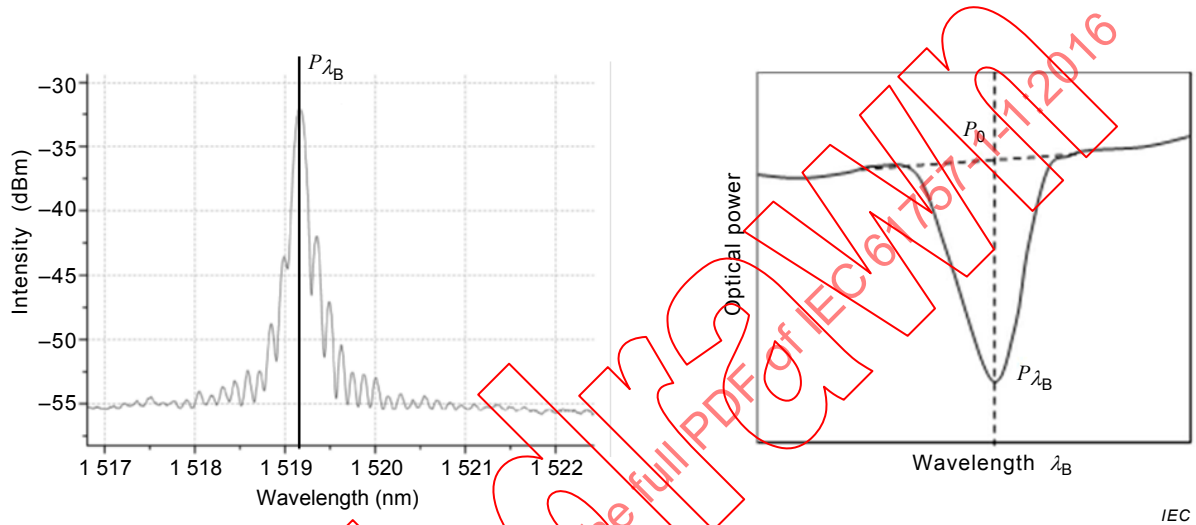


Figure 6 – Determination of R_{FBG} from the FBG reflection spectrum (left, Equation (9)) and transmission spectrum (right, Equation (10))

7.4.3 Reporting

The typical reflectivity shall be reported. On customer request, the FBG spectrum shall also be reported.

7.5 FBG Strain sensitivity

7.5.1 General

The strain sensitivity describes precisely the response of the FBG strain sensor to the applied strain. The functionality may be non-linear. The strain sensitivity is commonly determined by tensile strain test. The sample has to be loaded by uniaxial tensile strain using appropriate tools to uniformly stretch a fibre segment with the fibre grating on it. Tensile test provides the exact strain characteristics of an FBG loaded by uniaxial strain. For calibration procedures, the resolution of the reference measurement system should be at least 5 times better than the specified measurement resolution of the sensor under test. It has to be ensured that the measurement uncertainty of the reference measurement system allows excluding systematic measurement deviations. If the measurement uncertainty of the testing facility is worse, it shall be documented.

The elongation of the specimen under test may be measured by a precise extensometer, for example Fabry-Perot or another type of interferometer. It is also common to use a reference strain gauge applied to the surface of the test specimen at a place where sample deformation is the most representative of FBG deformation. This method, however, suffers from strain transfer error that might be caused by choice of an inappropriate method of fixing, primarily the adhesive. The use of a physically and application-independent reference system such as image correlation or speckle pattern interferometric system is recommended. Optical

non-contact measurement methods allow the measurement of surface displacements of all parts of the applied sensor (sensor with coating, fixing material, sample material). The choice of the optical method depends on the requirements with respect to strain range, strain resolution, and environmental conditions.

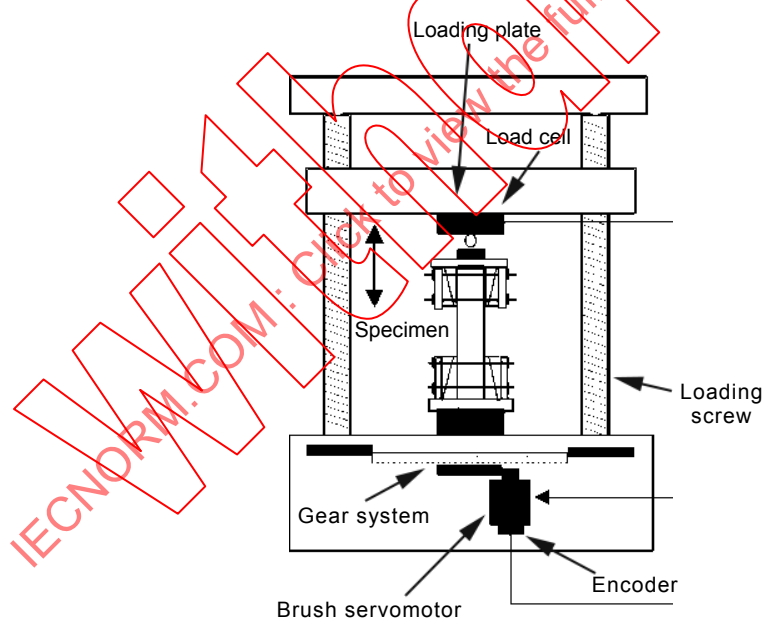
Strain sensitivity ascertainment can also be used to determine the gauge factor k of strain sensor samples (see 7.6). If the strain sensor is attached to a material to be evaluated, and if the tensile test facility is equipped with a measurement system (e.g. digital image correlation system or a system based on speckle interferometry that is physically independent of the evaluation methodology to determine the strain response), influences of involved materials such as coating, adhesive, etc. on the strain sensitivity characteristics can be evaluated.

Particularly in the case of long-term strain measurements, determination of the strain sensitivity should consider the influence of temperature and humidity effects. Testing under combined mechanical, thermal and environmental loads is recommended.

7.5.2 Tensile test set-up

A test sample clamped in a load-bearing facility that introduces uniaxial tensile strain (see Figure 7) shall be used for determination of the strain sensitivity. The sensor under test shall be installed centrally (applied sensors on a sample, test piece) in the principal direction of stress. The sample should be well-aligned and fixed in grips which allow the force-application axis to coincide with the strain direction of the sensor to be characterized. The grips shall not introduce bending in the sample during loading.

Tensile testing machine shall meet the requirements of a corresponding standard, for example ASTM E8/E8M or ISO 7500-1.



IEC

Figure 7 – Example set-up of a tensile test facility

If special types of FBG strain sensors are to be used, for example long gauge length types, other set-ups may be used for the tensile test facility. The operation principle and the standard uncertainty of that facility should be documented and provided upon request.

7.5.3 Measuring procedure tensile test

The strain sensitivity shall be determined by applying uniaxial strain to the sensor sample. The strain range should be varied in at least 5 equidistant steps from the minimum to the

maximum strain specified for the sensor. This should be performed in at least three stretch and release measurement cycles.

Reference ambient conditions shall prevail during the measurement with a temperature stability of at least $\pm 0,5$ K to avoid temperature-induced change of the sample's Young-modulus. The temperature stability has to be improved if special requirements for the sensors to be tested are present. After proper storage, the FBG strain sensor shall be installed on the standard test specimen or in the testing device under standard conditions, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

The installation conditions (type of bonding) for the determination of the strain sensitivity shall be mechanically identical to the installation conditions for the operation of the sensor.

7.5.4 Evaluation

The strain change $\Delta\epsilon$ shall be determined from the measurements of length and change in length. This is done according to Equation (5). The strain sensitivity is calculated according to 3.13 as:

$$\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} = (1 - p) \cdot \Delta\epsilon \quad (11)$$

The FBG strain sensitivity is often a function with a complex shape (particularly at the extremes of temperature or strain). The FBG strain sensitivity represented by $(1 - p)$ need not be the same as the gauge factor, because the gauge factor is only a linear approximation to the FBG strain sensitivity that only considers the response for the FBG strain sensor over a narrow (manufacturer specified) operating range.

7.5.5 Reporting

The strain sensitivity characteristics (functional correlation between relative change in wavelength $\Delta\lambda/\lambda_0$ and the introduced strain $\Delta\epsilon$) as well as the measurement procedure shall be reported.

7.6 Gauge factor k

7.6.1 General

Gauge factor k is introduced as a linear approximate for practical use. In concrete terms, the strain sensitivity of any strain sensor needs not to be linear but can deviate from a linear function. For an easy statement of the strain measurement result, the gauge factor is used under defined conditions. The use of the gauge factor has been established in past decades. Manufacturers provide it for their strain sensor products and define for specified application conditions an uncertainty for which the gauge factor is valid. The manufacturer has to ensure the stability of the gauge factor for all specified conditions and that all specified environmental and long-term influences on the strain sensitivity are within the uncertainty band of the gauge factor.

Common practice to determine the gauge factor k of strain sensor products is the four-point bending test. Depending on the availability of the testing facility, both the four-point bending test method and the tensile test method can be used. Specific requirements concerning the material onto which the sensor is installed have to be considered for the choice of testing method.

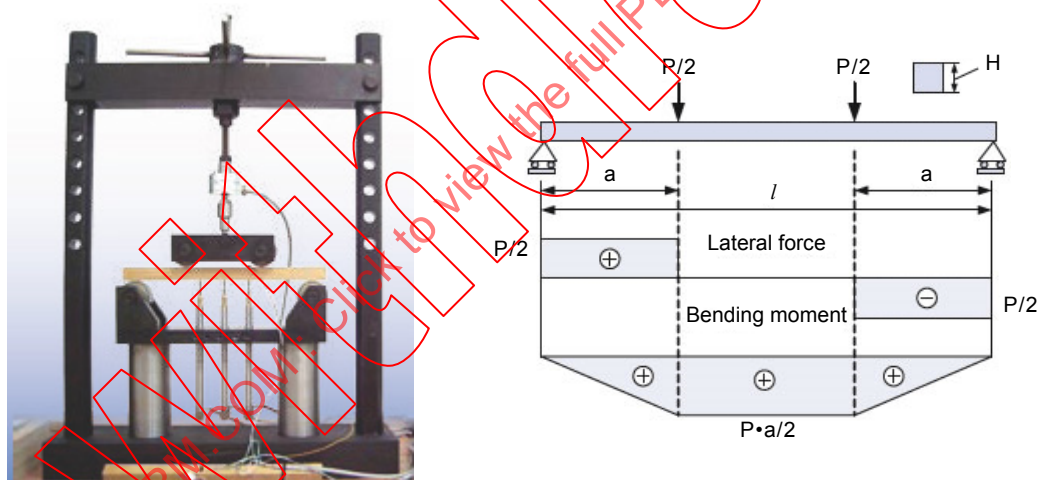
Particularly in the case of long-term strain measurements, determination of the gauge factor k should also consider temperature and humidity effects. Testing under combined mechanical, thermal and environmental loads is recommended. The determination of gauge factor k should

be referred to a strain sensitivity measurement to define permissible error. This uncertainty band takes into account deviations from the strain sensor characteristics.

7.6.2 Bending test set-up

A flexural beam shall be used for the measurement of the gauge factor k of applied strain sensors. The sensor under test shall be installed on the beam in the principal direction of stress. A four-point bending test set-up should be used to provide linear strain and stress distribution in the middle of the beam and constant bending moment between the inner points of load application. This avoids inhomogeneities in the beam material influencing the sensor due to changing bending moment. The sensors shall be installed centrally on the flexural beam. Appropriate test facilities are proposed by ISO 14125.

Bending shall be generated by controlled displacement, and not by using weights, in order to avoid creep effects of the flexural beam. The loading device (see Figure 8) shall be rigid. As little torsion as possible shall be generated in the flexural beam. The strain ε_a to be induced into sensor under test shall be in the strain range between $-1\,000\ \mu\text{m/m}$ and $+1\,000\ \mu\text{m/m}$, where a tolerance of $\pm 100\ \mu\text{m/m}$ is permitted; whereas the strain limits should be chosen according to the material of the flexural beam. The strain shall remain in the permissible elastic range, which is 70 % of yield strength ($R_{P0,2}$) for metallic materials. The yield strength of other materials shall be defined according to relevant standards, for example ISO 527-4 or ASTM D3039/D3039M, or has to be defined by tests. The strain ε_a shall be determined with a measurement uncertainty of 0,5 % at maximum. Within the operating range of the flexural beam, the strain shall not exceed an uncertainty value of 0,5 %.

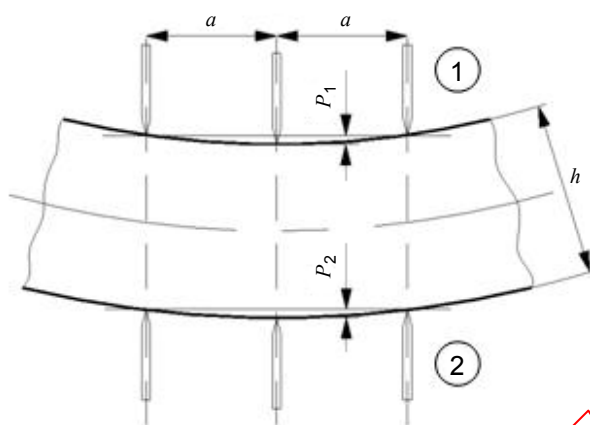


IEC

Figure 8 – Test layout (left) for the 4-point bending test with scheme of lateral force and bending moment curves (right)

Test facilities should allow introducing static strain over several load steps.

The bending of the flexural beam shall be measured by a displacement measurement (see Figure 9).



Key

- (1) Surface under compression
- (2) Surface in tension

Figure 9 – Determination of the strain via displacement measurement

The surface strain for the measurement on the concave side of the flexural beam can be expressed as:

$$\varepsilon_p = \frac{h}{\frac{a^2}{p_1} + p_1 + h} \quad (12)$$

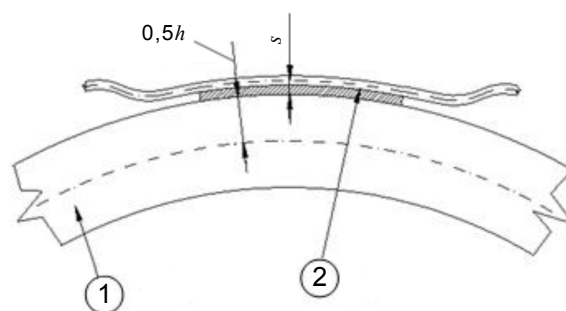
The surface strain for the measurement on the convex side of the flexural beam can be expressed as:

$$\varepsilon_p = \frac{h}{\frac{a^2}{p_2} + p_2 - h} \quad (13)$$

Because the FBG strain sensor is placed at a distance s from the surface of the flexural beam (see Figure 10), the measured strain ε_{OSS} in the FBG shall be corrected.

The corrected strain ε_p' at the flexural beam is given by:

$$\varepsilon_p' = \frac{0,5 \cdot h}{0,5 \cdot h + s} \cdot \varepsilon_{OSS} \quad (14)$$



IEC

Key

$0,5h$ distance of the flexural beam surface from the neutral axis

s distance of the sensor from the surface

(1) flexural beam with marked neutral axis

(2) sensor under test attached on the surface

Figure 10 – Whole-surface applied sensor on a bended flexural beam

7.6.3 Measurement procedure

The gauge factor k of an FBG strain sensor shall be determined in one of the following ways:

- applying strain to a flexural beam upon which the sensor under test is installed, or
- attaching the sensor under test at two points with a distance of L_0 which are displaced axially relative to each other during the measurement.

Load can be introduced continuously or step-wise. Step-wise load introduction is recommended to avoid changes in the strength properties of the tensile test sample or the beam material. The number of load steps has to be defined according to the load range that the sensor has to perform. The strain range should be varied in at least 5 equidistant steps from the minimum to the maximum strain specified for the sensor. This should be performed in at least three stretch and release measurement cycles. Approaching and constant controlling the load steps should be displacement-controlled to avoid creep effects.

Reference ambient conditions shall prevail during the measurement, with a temperature stability of at least $\pm 0,5$ K to avoid temperature-induced change of the sample's Young-modulus. The temperature stability has to be improved if special requirements for the sensors to be tested are present. After proper storage, the FBG strain sensor shall be installed on the standard test specimen or in the testing device under standard conditions, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

The installation conditions (type of bonding) for the determination of the gauge factor k shall be mechanically identical to the installation conditions for the operation of the sensor.

The sensor under test shall be subjected to prior loading at least three times alternately in positive and negative directions. The prior-load shall produce a level of strain that lies by at least 10 % over the strain used for the measurement of the gauge factor k . If a sensor cannot be loaded in a negative direction, then only positive prior-load should be applied.

The flexural beam with the FBG strain sensor shall be adjusted to the zero position; the measured value λ_0 shall be recorded.

A positive strain of $1\,000\ \mu\text{m/m} \pm 100\ \mu\text{m/m}$ shall be generated.

The measured values $\left| \frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} \right|_{\text{pos}}$ and ε_{pos} shall be recorded. The test specimen shall be unloaded and the value λ_0 recorded again.

A negative strain of $-1\,000\ \mu\text{m/m} \pm 100\ \mu\text{m/m}$ shall be generated.

The measured values $\left| \frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} \right|_{\text{neg}}$ and ε_{neg} shall be recorded. The test specimen shall be unloaded and the strain as well as the value λ_0 shall be recorded again for the purpose of a plausibility check.

Testing the gauge factor for negative strain can be waived if the sensor design is not suitable for the determination of negative loading.

If the FBG strain sensor is also usable for negative strain, then the gauge factor k shall be determined for the negative strain range as well. The nominal strain shall have a value of $1\,000\ \mu\text{m/m} \pm 100\ \mu\text{m/m}$.

7.6.4 Evaluation

If the reference strain is to be determined by a displacement measurement, then the strain shall initially be determined from the measurements of length and change in length. This is done according to Equation (5).

If a bending strain is applied, initially the distance of the Bragg gratings from the surface shall be corrected. The mean value shall be calculated from these corrected values.

The gauge factor k for FBG that behave symmetrically with regard to positive and negative strain is determined using the following expression:

$$k = \frac{\left| \frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} \right|_{\text{pos}} + \left| \frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} \right|_{\text{neg}}}{|\Delta\varepsilon|_{\text{pos}} + |\Delta\varepsilon|_{\text{neg}}} \quad (15)$$

7.6.5 Reporting

The strain gauge factor k and the measurement procedure shall be reported.

7.7 Maximum strain range at room temperature

7.7.1 General

Maximum strain range is reached when one of the following criteria apply:

- the gauge factor k of the FBG strain sensor under the appropriate strain deviates by more than the specified uncertainty;
- the largest side-lobe in the spectrum does not lie at least 5 dB below the Bragg peak (see (1) in Figure 1);
- the spectrum shows a structure no longer amenable to evaluation.

7.7.2 Test set-up

The same test methods as recommended for measurement of strain sensitivity should be used (see 7.5) to determine the maximum strain range at room temperature.

A flexural beam or a tensile strain test sample with known strain behaviour shall be used to generate a defined strain. In the main stress axis, the strain ε_R shall be adjustable between $-100\,000\ \mu\text{m/m}$ and $+100\,000\ \mu\text{m/m}$, where a tolerance of $\pm 2\,000\ \mu\text{m/m}$ is permitted. The uncertainty of the set strain shall have a maximum value of 1 %. The strain shall continuously be adjustable. Load can be introduced continuously or step-wise. In case of continuous loading, the strain rate shall be adjusted in such a way that changes in the strength properties of the tensile test sample or the beam material are avoided. Step-wise load introduction is recommended to avoid changes in the strength properties of the sample or the beam material. In case of stepwise loading, strain steps should be adjusted at least in steps of $5\,000\ \mu\text{m/m}$. Within the operating range of the flexural beam or the tensile strain test sample, the strain shall have a variation $\leq 0,5\ \%$.

7.7.3 Measuring procedure

After proper conditioning, the FBG strain sensor shall be installed on the flexural beam or the tensile strain test sample under standard conditions according to the manufacturer's instructions. The installation on the beam shall be carried out such that the FBG strain sensor can be compressed and tensioned. If the FBG strain sensor is only suitable for positive strain, then the FBG strain sensor shall only be loaded in the positive strain direction, or the tensile test method shall be used.

The sensors shall be connected to the measuring instrument, and the zero points and spectra shall be recorded.

The test specimen shall be deformed continuously or progressively in steps, until the specified strain is achieved. Within this range, the abort criterion with regard to spectral changes may not be reached. The positive and negative strain at the beam or the tensile strain at the tensile test specimen shall be calculated based on a mechanics equation for deflected flexural beams, or measured separately using a reference measuring procedure according to 7.5.

If the testing equipment is not able to achieve a strain under which the abort criterion is reached, the maximum strain value obtained in the test shall be reported as maximum strain.

7.7.4 Evaluation

By transforming Equation (11), the expression for the strain ε is obtained:

$$\Delta\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta\lambda / \lambda_0}{k} \quad (16)$$

In case of using a flexural beam to determine the strain in surface-attached FBG strain gauge, the thickness of the fixing material that causes a distance of the FBG strain sensor from the bent surface of the object of measurement shall be taken into account. The bending strain ε_{OF} of the object of measurement is then estimated by using the following formula (see 7.5 and Figure 11)

$$\varepsilon_{OF} = \frac{0,5 \cdot h}{0,5 \cdot h + s} \varepsilon_{OSS} \quad (17)$$

7.7.5 Reporting

The maximum strain range determined using the recommended bonding technique shall be reported. The FBG strain sensor spectrum for the unloaded state and for the maximum strain range shall be reported on customer request.

7.8 Fatigue behaviour

7.8.1 Test set-up

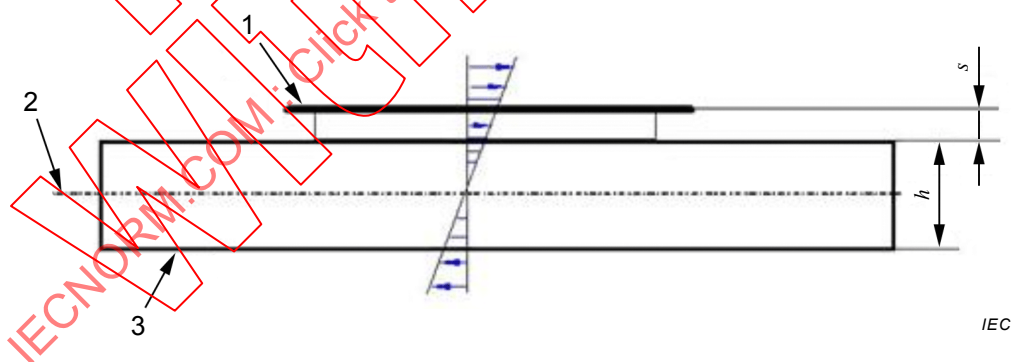
An apparatus shall be used which can generate a sine-shaped alternating load with locally constant strain. The strain amplitude shall be adjustable.

For surface-applied sensors, the local constancy of the strain over the usable bending surface shall be $\leq 5\%$ of the amplitude. During the experiment the variation in strain levels shall be $\leq 5\%$ of the set amplitude. The apparatus shall keep the mechanical zero point stable throughout the whole period of the experiment to $\leq 1\%$ of the set strain amplitude.

7.8.2 Measuring procedure

The measuring procedure is as follows:

- The FBG strain sensor shall be installed on the test specimen under standard conditions according to the manufacturer's instructions. The test conditions shall be recorded.
- The test specimen with FBG strain sensor shall be dynamically loaded either by uniaxial tensile testing or 4-point bending. At the beginning of the test, the zero points and spectra shall be recorded.
- The test specimen shall be burdened by a sinusoidal load of appropriate amplitude and frequency. The amplitude, frequency and number of load cycles shall be recorded. Throughout the entire experiment, the load amplitude shall be kept constant. A temperature measurement, or a suitable compensation, shall ensure that thermally induced zero point displacements do not occur or are taken into account.
- Up to the maximum number of load changes, the test shall be interrupted after certain loading cycles in order to assess the quality of the spectrum and the variation in the zero point. Typically after 10, 30, 100, 300, 1 000, 3 000, 10 000, 30 000, ... up to 10^7 load cycles, the intermediate measurements should be performed. It shall be checked whether the sensor still correctly measures the time dependent strain behaviour (amplitude and function).



Key

- 1 FBG strain sensor
- 2 neutral axis of strain
- 3 test specimen

Figure 11 – Test specimen with applied FBG strain sensor

7.8.3 Evaluation

Fatigue strength is given when the measured amplitude, after a certain number of load cycles, is reproduced such that its value varies during the experiment only within the gauge factor k tolerance. Fibre fracture is a failure criterion.

The zero point variation is determined as a function of the number of load cycles and the level of strain under constant experimental conditions.

7.8.4 Reporting

Loading conditions and the number of load cycles achieved shall be reported.

7.9 Minimum operating radius of curvature

7.9.1 Measuring procedure

The FBG strain sensor shall be placed in the loading equipment and bent at a given radius (e.g. using a tube of known diameter). If the structure of the sensor permits (e.g. for FBG strain gauge), the test shall be performed in the direction of the fibre and at 90° to it. During testing, the sensor shall exhibit an acceptable spectrum according to 5.1 and Figure 1. After the test, the FBG strain sensor shall be examined visually for delamination, and the spectrum shall be measured and checked for significant distortion. If the sensor is still fully operational after this test and recognizably undamaged, then the given radius shall be reported as the smallest radius of curvature. The test should be repeated at least three times.

NOTE Significant spectral distortion is present if the implemented evaluation algorithm of the used measurement instrument is no longer able to determine the one-to-one Bragg wavelength after these bending tests.

7.9.2 Evaluation

This experiment requires no specific evaluation.

7.9.3 Reporting

The smallest radius of curvature for which the FBG strain sensor is still functional shall be reported as the minimum operating radius of curvature.

7.10 Temperature and humidity ranges

7.10.1 General

FBG strain sensors have temperature and humidity limits which shall not be exceeded to ensure safe operation. One should distinguish between temperature and humidity ranges for

- storage and transport,
- installation,
- operation.

Temperature and humidity limits are a consequence of the fact that FBG strain sensors consist of materials that show degradation effects due to temperature and humidity influences (Bragg gratings, polymer and other synthetic materials). Thus, FBG strain sensors are suitable to only a limited extent. The individual temperature and humidity ranges are defined as follows

- for storage and transport:

Temperature and humidity range for storage and transport is the range in which the non-applied, delivered, packed FBG strain sensor can be stored for at least one year after delivery. In this period of time, the technical specification shall not vary.

- for installation:

Temperature and humidity range for installation is the range in which the FBG strain sensor can be installed and the specifications according to the data sheet are maintained. Professionally performed installation is a prerequisite.

- for operation:

Temperature and humidity range for operation is the environmental range in which the FBG strain sensor installed according to the manufacturer's instructions can operate, and its specifications stated in the data sheet are maintained for the period of operation.

7.10.2 Measuring procedure

The test to determine the temperature and humidity range for storage and transport shall be carried out in an appropriate climate chamber at the lower and upper limits of the specified ranges for a period of at least 1/10 of the designated lifetime of the sensor or an adequate ageing technique. The FBG strain sensor shall then be tested by measuring and evaluating the FBG spectrum under load within the specified strain range.

The test to determine the temperature and humidity range for installation shall be carried out in an appropriate climate chamber at the lower and the upper limits of the specified ranges. The FBG strain sensor shall be installed on a test sample according to the specification, with appropriate bonding material recommended by the manufacturer, at the lower and the upper limits of the specified ranges. The FBG strain sensor shall then be tested by measuring and evaluating the FBG spectrum under load within the specified strain range.

The test to determine the temperature and humidity range for operation shall be carried out in an appropriate climate chamber at the lower and the upper limits of the specified ranges. The FBG strain sensor shall be installed on a test sample with appropriate bonding material recommended by the manufacturer. The test shall be carried out for a period of 1/10 of designated lifetime for short term use; in case of long-term sensor use, accelerated test under elevated conditions according to the IEC 61300-2 series and IEC 60068-2 series for a period of two months shall be carried out. The FBG strain sensor shall then be tested by measuring and evaluating the FBG spectrum under load within the specified strain range.

NOTE This is a simple proof test of the specified data by the manufacturer. This test cannot substitute specific durability tests for specific applications (e.g. long-term monitoring of a bridge).

7.10.3 Evaluation

No particular evaluation is necessary.

7.10.4 Reporting

The determined temperature and humidity ranges and related test conditions for storage, installation, and operation shall be reported.

7.11 Other environmental influences

Other environmental influences such as radiation (e.g. sun exposure or exposure to γ -radiation), biological or chemical attacks might affect the sensing characteristics of the fibre Bragg grating. This could occur by changing the transmission characteristics of the fibre, by changing the material characteristics of the coating used, or could lead to ageing effects.

If these environmental influences are relevant, corresponding measuring procedures have to be applied, and the behaviour has to be clarified.

7.12 Temperature-induced strain response

7.12.1 General

Temperature-induced strain usually occurs in FBG strain sensors because they can have quite complex structures whose material can undergo thermally induced deformations, and thus cause the Bragg grating to experience a strain.

The effect of a thermal influence on the intrinsic spectral response of an FBG is described in 3.18 and 5.1, Equation (4). The temperature-induced strain response of an FBG strain sensor is determined by

- the thermal expansion of the material forming the complex sensor structure, and
- the change in refractive index of the FBG with temperature.

Both contributions affect the Bragg wavelength of the FBG and consequently the strain indicated by the recording device. This leads to a zero point error. In order to add the two contributions together, conversion into wavelength or strain is necessary. The sum of temperature gradient and thermal expansion results in the apparent strain ε_s :

$$\varepsilon_s = (\alpha_{gm} \cdot \Delta T) + \xi \cdot \frac{\Delta T}{k} + \alpha \cdot \frac{\Delta T}{k} \quad (18)$$

The first term in the sum describes the expansion of the load-transferring material of the complex sensor due to the effect of temperature. The second term describes the temperature-induced strain and is denoted ε_{neff} . The temperature-induced strain is fibre-specific and has a typical value of $7,8 \times 10^{-6} \cdot K^{-1}$ (valid for wavelengths in the range of 1 550 nm and standard single-mode glass fibre, e.g. SMF 28). The thermal expansion α of the bare fibre material (third term in Equation (18)) can be neglected. However, for silica fibre in any plastic coating, the thermal expansion could rise substantially with temperature due to the temperature dependency of the thermal expansion coefficient; and for most polymers, Young modulus drops even faster with temperature. In fact, temperature effects of FBG strain sensors will be strongest at low temperatures and gradually reduced at elevated temperatures. The magnitude of this effect depends on the type of polymer and its glass transition temperature.

Considering thermal expansion details, it is possible to represent the apparent strain for many standard applications as a relative change in wavelength:

$$\frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda_0} = k \cdot (\alpha_{gm} \cdot \Delta T) + \xi \cdot \Delta T \quad (19)$$

For a strain measurement, the measured values obtained shall be corrected to achieve the final result. The indication at the recording device is the sum of the apparent strain and the mechanically induced strain. Usually, the aim of the measurement is the mechanically induced strain. In order to obtain this, the apparent strain shall be subtracted from the recorded strain values.

7.12.2 Test set-up

The temperature-induced strain is determined in a temperature chamber, an oven or a thermostat in the expected temperature range without introducing strain. The leading cable shall be suitable for the required temperatures. FBG strain sensor should be attached in the way as common for later installation. Materials with a well-known coefficient of thermal expansion and an adequate temperature correction for this material should be used.

The thermal coefficient of expansion of the FBG strain sensor material shall be known or specified by the manufacturer.

The required equipment for the temperature measurement of the test specimen shall have an uncertainty better than 0,2 K.

7.12.3 Measuring procedure

At least five FBG strain sensors shall be investigated. The number of test samples as well as the temperature steps shall be reported. The number of test specimens shall be reported. The temperature steps should be chosen adequate to the temperature range, and the number of cycles should be recorded.

The FBG strain sensor located in an appropriate temperature-controlled unit is heated to the highest temperature. Next, the temperature shall be varied either in progressive steps or linearly in such a way that thermal equilibrium is reached before the measured strain value is recorded. At temperatures between 0 °C and 100 °C, condensation on the sample shall strictly be avoided. It is recommended that the measurements be carried out at decreasing temperatures. The temperature and Bragg wavelength change of the FBG strain sensor shall be recorded during this process.

7.12.4 Evaluation

The temperature-induced strain $\varepsilon_{n\text{eff}}$ is simplified according to the relation:

$$\varepsilon_{n\text{eff}} = \frac{\left(\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} \right)}{k} - \alpha_{\text{gm}} \cdot \Delta T \quad (20)$$

Here, α_{gm} is the coefficient of thermal expansion of the load-transferring material of the FBG strain sensor.

The mean value and the standard deviation shall be determined from the individual measured values. For the complete statement of the measured result, the mean value and the standard deviation are required.

7.12.5 Reporting

The temperature-induced strain shall be reported with its tolerance value and represented analytically or graphically. For linear functions, the statement of a coefficient is permitted.

7.13 Proof test and lifetime considerations

7.13.1 General

Long-term grating stability and thus reliable strain sensor function can have serious implications, given potential applications that are critical to optical fibre sensors. The term "lifetime" (or better "service life") describes usually the period of time during which a machine, tool, or device can be operated properly within the specified performance. The service life ends with the failure of the considered object. The term "failure rate" is alternatively used for "lifetime" of an FBG strain sensor to express its reliable function for the intended use under defined operating conditions.

The service life is determined by a number of optical, mechanical and environmental influences:

- Optical influences: regardless of any pretreatment prior to UV excitation of the optical fiber, some thermal decay of the grating occurs over time, even at room temperature. The extent to which this decay occurs depends on the fibre and grating type, whereas all grating types written in non-hydrogenated fibre are stable at room temperature over many years. The presence of hydrogen may lead to an increase of the optical loss in the FBG and reduce the optical transmissivity. One approach to stabilize the grating, called

accelerated ageing, is to pre-anneal the grating at a temperature that exceeds the anticipated serviceable temperature of the grating strain sensor.

- Mechanical influences: these can be divided into two main categories:
 - a) intrinsic cause, determined by the glass strength in the elastic region (without considering any flaws or defects);
 - b) extrinsic causes, initiated by damages during the manufacturing process of the fibre (flaws, micro cracks on the surface) or during preparation for use as strain sensors (mechanical damaging of surface protecting layers).
- Environmental influences: these can lead to attacks during storage and operation, for example by aggressive media, UV radiation, temperature shocks that can act as sources of stress fracture, breaking the material bonds and causing failure of the FBG strain sensor.

For FBG strain sensor use, manufacturers set in their specifications limits in strain and physical loading to exclude damaging mechanical influences – and thus to ensure the expected FBG service life.

In order to ensure the expected service life without getting early failure (infant mortality) due to physical defects that influence the mechanical performance, the FBG strain sensor should be proof tested by using mechanical test methods to weed out large flaws.

If a lifetime (quantified in days, months, years) of an FBG under a constant or varying service stress under well-defined environmental conditions is to be estimated, accelerated ageing experiments are required to evaluate the long-term grating reliability and/or the fatigue behaviour accurately. However, it is not possible to quantify the expected lifetime exactly because of its probabilistic nature due to statistically distributed defects.

7.13.2 Measuring procedure

In order to avoid infant mortality of FBG strain sensor samples, proof tests should be applied according to IEC 60793-1-30.

In order to estimate the lifetime of an FBG strain sensor, static and/or dynamic strength tests according to IEC 60793-1-31 or IEC 60793-1-33, depending on the intended use, should be made.

Design of the testing machines, the samples preparation and strain rates are proposed by IEC 60793-1-30, IEC 60793-1-31 and IEC 60793-1-33. In case of intended axial tensile loading of FBG, tensile strength of FBG strain sensor samples should be applied according to IEC 60793-1-31 to get statistical data on fibre strength. In order to estimate the failure probability (or survival probability) for FBG under complex loading condition, dynamic and static tests according to IEC 60793-1-33 should be applied. These tests provide values of the stress corrosion parameter n used for reliability and lifetime calculations in IEC TR 62048.

7.13.3 Evaluation

Testing results should be evaluated by means of statistical quality control distribution methods. In literature, two approaches have emerged for analyzing and predicting grating decay using accelerated ageing data: the ageing curve and the power-law approaches. Both are based on similar physical principles, using probabilistic methods.

The power-law approach for empirically derived crack growth is considered the most reasonable experimental procedures to represent the fatigue behaviour. The expected lifetime is expressed in terms of measurable parameters. The measuring procedures are based on static and/or dynamic fatigue tests described in IEC TR 62048 developed for optical glass fibres in telecommunication. Because the strength values in glass fibre Bragg gratings are statistically distributed, a two-parameter Weibull probability distribution is preferably used to describe the survival (or failure) behaviour of the FBG strain sensors. IEC TR 62048

describes how the parameter n and B are obtained from the fatigue testing results. Service lifetime or service failure rate can then be calculated from the determined failure probability or survival probability.

From Weibull's empirical law, the flaw distribution is given by the equation:

$$\log\left(\ln\frac{1}{1-F(\sigma)}\right) = n\log\left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma_0}\right) \quad (21)$$

$F(\sigma)$ is the cumulative failure probability and is defined as the probability of breakage below stress level σ ; therefore, $1 - F(\sigma)$ is the probability of survival. For a group of N samples, the cumulative probability of failure is calculated by $F = (i - 0,5)/N$, where $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N$. Equation (21) represents the coordinates of the axes of the Weibull curve. The slope of the curve is called the Weibull shape parameter n , which represents the sharpness of the distribution and is used in lifetime models of optical fibres. Using these parameters, the lifetime can be calculated depending on the applied testing method for various stress levels σ as a function of failure probability F (see IEC TR 62048).

7.13.4 Reporting

For proof tested FBG strain sensors, the maximum stress or strain for which the sensor works reliably shall be stated.

If lifetime was calculated/estimated, the applied testing method (proof testing, static or dynamic fatigue testing) should be reported. The mechanical load limits ensuring the expected lifetime shall be specified. Lifetime can be stated for defined mechanical and environmental conditions.

8 Recommendations for use of FBG measuring instruments

In order to characterize FBG strain sensors, measuring devices shall be employed that will determine the variation in the Bragg wavelength with sufficiently high accuracy. Demands on the accuracy of measuring devices depend on demands on the quality standard by FBG strain sensor type. In this respect, it shall be distinguished between highly sophisticated and less sophisticated devices (e.g. based on tuneable laser and optical filter, using optical spectrum analyzer, optical wavelength and power meter). Devices shall be calibrated according to the manufacturer's instructions, to other recognized suitable calibration methods, or to appropriate calibration methods proposed by IEC 62129-1, IEC 62129-2 or IEC TS 62129-3. Stability, linearity, sampling rate of the spectrum and SNR of the measurement device shall be of adequate high performance.

In case of suspected polarization effects, it is recommended to verify these polarization effects by using polarization measuring equipment.

For a better assessment of applied FBG strain sensors or any FBG strain sensor configuration according to 5.2, an optical measurement unit should indicate or record the complete spectrum of the reflection or transmission signal. From this data, the Bragg wavelength, the reflectivity and the spectral width (see 7.2 through 7.4) may then be determined. The spectral resolution of the measurement unit is of particular significance. It is affected by the spectral width of the light source (e.g. for a laser, FWHM) or by the spectral resolution of the monochromatic device.

In order to be able to compare measuring results of different measuring devices, information about the sampling and calculation method used should be available.

Annex A (informative)

Further properties of FBG strain sensors

A.1 General

In this standard, all the essential characteristics and features relevant to metrological practice have been taken into account. The user has therefore been given the opportunity, for proper installation, to reliably operate the measuring site and to evaluate results correctly.

In addition, there are further properties of sensors that shall be considered for particular parameters and under special conditions. These include:

- wavelength drift;
- creep;
- $k(\varepsilon)$;
- $k(T)$;
- the effect of nuclear radiation;
- UV resistance;
- resistance to micro-biological and chemical attacks.

The manufacturer of the fibres shall exclude drift processes. For appropriately produced FBG, drift processes are of minor importance. They can simply be detected by a zero point measurement at an elevated temperature.

The optical signal of the fibre Bragg grating can be influenced by mechanical effects on the connecting leads. Thus, for embedment, or for situations where large transverse forces act on the fibres, polarization effects may occur. Polarization effects lead to zero point displacements that become significant for the zero point related measurement of small strains.

Specific application conditions for FBG strain sensors, for example embedment of the FBG strain sensor into orthotropic composite structures, can lead to perturbation of the FBG spectra due to transverse pressure influences. Such perturbations have to be avoided by, for example special design of the sensor coating. If this is not possible, the amount of perturbation has to be estimated, considered and evaluated.

In order to decide whether a strain transducer is applicable under specific situations, the epoxy used and the coating material should be noted.

A.2 Extended explanation of FBG side-lobes for different conditions of use

Side-lobes shall be considered for two different conditions:

- a) for a single FBG used as sensor, where it can be assumed that the wavelength of the fundamental peak is calculated as the arithmetic mean between the two points, 3 dB down from the maximum power (see Figure 1), and
- b) for an array of FBGs, where each peak can be at a very different power level, with some fundamental peaks from one FBG below the level of side modes on other FBGs.

Condition 1: Single FBG strain sensor

Side-lobes can be defined as any feature of the FBG reflection spectrum (see Figure A.1) that