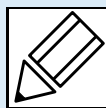
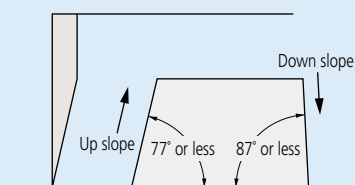


Quick Guide to Precision Measuring Instruments



Contracer (Contour Measuring Instruments)

Traceable Angle

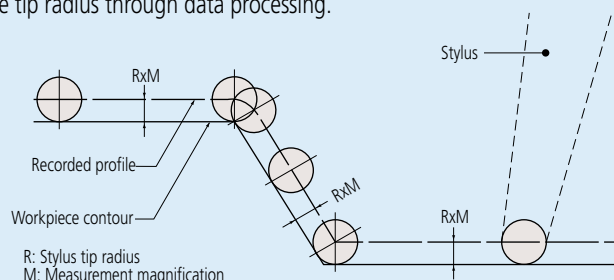


The maximum angle at which a stylus can trace upwards or downwards along the contour of a workpiece, in the stylus travel direction, is referred to as the traceable angle. A one-sided sharp stylus with a tip angle of 12° (as in the above figure) can trace a maximum 77° of up slope and a maximum 87° of down slope. For a conical stylus (30° cone), the traceable angle is smaller. An up slope with an angle of 77° or less overall may actually include an angle of more than 77° due to the effect of surface roughness. Surface roughness also affects the measuring force.

For model CV-3200/4500, the same type of stylus (SPH-71: one-sided sharp stylus with a tip angle of 12°) can trace a maximum 77° of up slope and a maximum 83° of down slope.

Compensating for Stylus Tip Radius

A recorded profile represents the locus of the centre of the ball tip rolling on a workpiece surface. (A typical radius is 0.025 mm.) Obviously this is not the same as the true surface profile so, in order to obtain an accurate profile record, it is necessary to compensate for the effect of the tip radius through data processing.

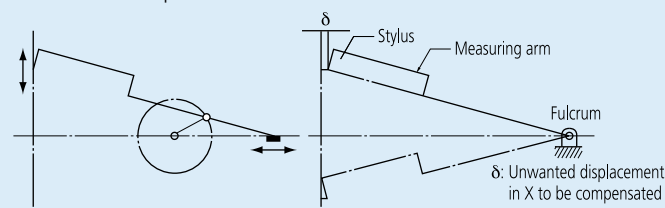


If a profile is read from the recorder through a template or scale, it is necessary to compensate for the stylus tip radius beforehand according to the applied measurement magnification.

Compensating for Arm Rotation

The stylus is carried on a pivoted arm so it rotates as the surface is traced and the contact tip does not track purely in the Z direction. Therefore it is necessary to apply compensation in the X direction to ensure accuracy. There are three methods of compensating for arm rotation.

- 1: Mechanical compensation
- 2: Electrical compensation



- 3: Software processing. To measure a workpiece contour that involves a large displacement in the vertical direction with high accuracy, one of these compensation methods needs to be implemented.

Accuracy

As the detector units of the X and Z axes incorporate scales, the magnification accuracy is displayed not as a percentage but as the linear displacement accuracy for each axis.

Overload Safety Cutout

If an excessive force (overload) is exerted on the stylus tip due to, perhaps, to the tip encountering a too-steep slope on a workpiece feature, or a burr, etc., a safety device automatically stops operation and sounds an alarm buzzer. This type of instrument is commonly equipped with separate safety devices for the tracing direction (X axis) load and vertical direction (Y axis) load.

For model CV-3200/4500, a safety device functions if the arm comes off the detector mount.

Simple or Complex Arm Guidance

In the case of a simple pivoted arm, the locus that the stylus tip traces during vertical movement (Z direction) is a circular arc that results in an unwanted offset in X, for which compensation has to be made. The larger the arc movement, the larger is the unwanted X displacement (δ) that has to be compensated. (See figure, lower left.) The alternative is to use a complex mechanical linkage arrangement to obtain a linear translation locus in Z, and therefore avoid the need to compensate in X.

Z axis Measurement Methods

Though the X axis measurement method commonly adopted is by means of a digital scale, the Z axis measurement divides into analog methods (using a differential transformer, etc.) and digital scale methods.

Analog methods vary in Z-axis resolution depending on the measurement magnification and measuring range. Digital scale methods have fixed resolution.

Generally, a digital scale method provides higher accuracy than an analog method.