

Article

# Accordance of Light Scattering from Design and De-Facto Variants of a Daylight Redirecting Component

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**Abstract:** For the systematic development of a small-scale daylight-redirecting louver system the impact of manufacturing on light scattering characteristics has to be quantified, localized and understood. In this research, the accordance of the measured scattering distributions of a de-facto production sample *V1* with the computed predictions based on its design geometry *V2* are quantified for selected incident light directions. A metric describing the global accordance of distributions is adapted to quantify their overall difference. A novel metric of local accordance allows further analysis. A particular low global accordance between *V1* and *V2* is found for an incident elevation  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$ . To test the hypothesis that this result can be explained by observed geometric deviations, a simulation model *V3* replicating these is compared to the design. The hypothesis is supported by the resulting high degree of accordance. The low local accordance for individual outgoing light directions indicates geometric non-uniformity of the sample *V1*. This method has been found useful for product development and quality assurance. Beyond their application in the proposed method, global and local accordance have potential applications in all fields of light scattering measurements.

**Keywords:** daylight redirection; BSDF; light scattering; simulation; goniophotometry; manufacturing deviation; quality assurance

## 1. Introduction

Side-lit office buildings typically suffer from overly bright perimeter zones and steep light falloff. Large-area windows lead to high solar gains [1]. Integrated in modern facades (Daylight Redirecting Components (DRCs)) such as micro-structured films, laser-cut panels, prismatic glazing or specifically profiled louvers address this problems possibly in combination with low energy glazing and dynamic sun shading. Daylight Redirecting Components (DRCs) can increase Daylight Autonomy (DA) and reduce direct sun for energy efficiency. They provide evenly distributed daylight for visual comfort and prevent glare. They achieve this by retro-reflecting high altitude sunlight to the outside and redirecting a portion of incoming light to the ceiling thereby illuminating deep zones of the room. In contrast to artificial lighting, Daylight Redirecting Components (DRCs) provide illumination that is correlated to the spectral, temporal and spatial dynamics of actual daylight.

Daylight Redirecting Components (DRCs) are complex optical systems with characteristics that are challenging to plan and design. These characteristics determine the Daylight Redirecting Component (DRC)'s performance under actual circumstances (local weather, orientation, built environment, office layout).

### 1.1. Goniophotometric Measurement of Bidirectional Scattering Distribution Function (BSDF)

Determining the light distribution of a Daylight Redirecting Component (DRC) under different sky conditions requires the knowledge of its BSDF. The BSDF is a set of hemispherical luminous coefficients defined by paired source and scatter directions [2,3]. The latter relates to light distribution in the interior, while the former relates to the acceptance of light from different sky regions.

The BSDF is measured by recording light reaching a receiver from a sample under known illumination for combinations of source and scatter directions. The BSDF is defined for an infinitesimal surface area and an infinitely large set of directions, but can only be measured by a discrete subset of these. The effects of sampling and averaging are inherent in any BSDF measurement and define a characteristic instrument signature [4,5]. This signature depends on the following factors:

- The continuous function is measured for a finite number of directions, typically given as pairs of source (or incident) and scatter (or receiver) directions  $\theta_i, \phi_i$  and  $\theta_s, \phi_s$ .
- Due to the finite extents of receiver and source, the BSDF is averaged over their respective areas.
- The measured BSDF, which is defined for an infinitesimal surface element, is averaged over the observed surface area, i.e., the sampling aperture.

The instrumentation for such measurements is implemented as scanning or imaging goniophotometers [6]. Most available BSDF databases are based on imaging devices in academic environments [7]. The directional resolution of imaging devices is typically low compared to scanning instruments [8]. The directional resolution further depends on the scatter direction and cannot be configured [9].

Scanning goniophotometers implement the set of directions by mechanical movement or rotation of the sample (or source) and the receiver. The directional resolution is independent of source and scatter direction and can be configured according to the characteristics of a sample. In practice, the directional resolution is limited by the accuracy and speed of the mechanics, which has been addressed by improved designs [10].

### 1.2. Simulation of Daylight Redirecting Components

Lighting simulation provides cost-effective means to predict the performance of Daylight Redirecting Components (DRCs) under actual circumstances e.g., local weather, orientation, built environment or office layout. It is helpful to select suitable Daylight Redirecting Components (DRCs) in planning, to adjust their parameters and to combine them with appropriate glazing. Simulation can support the further development of Daylight Redirecting Components (DRCs) themselves while the comparison to measurement can help to find deviations of production samples from the intended design.

Before the integration of the photon mapping extension, *Radiance* was exclusively based on a backward raytracing algorithm [11]. While backward raytracing is well suited to calculate the light distribution in architectural scenes and provides the necessary tools to generate artificial skies or integrate measured weather data, and suitable material models etc., it is less able to simulate the complex reflections of a detailed geometry as the chosen Daylight Redirecting Component (DRC). The statistic probability of a sample ray hitting the DRC within the specular lobe is too low to resolve the small-scale curved geometry. Inaccuracies are unavoidable in simulations of practical calculation periods.

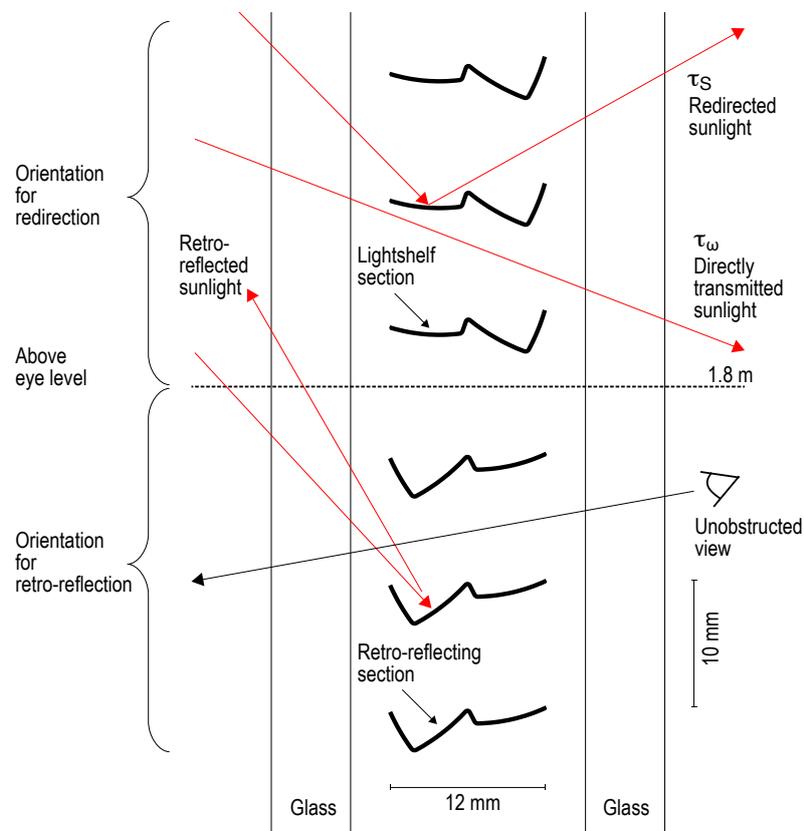
The photon map extension recently integrated into the *Radiance* suite adds a pre-computation step to the standard backward raytracing algorithm [12,13]. This extension makes use of geometric models and supports the advanced built-in reflection- and transmission-models in *Radiance* to describe the optical properties of the surfaces comprising the Daylight Redirecting Component (DRC). Its *forward* raytracing algorithm is capable of calculating such complex and detailed DRCs in a reasonable amount of time while the *backward* raytracing is still used to calculate the irradiance on the room surfaces. The result is a *bidirectional* ray-tracer that allows to simulate a DRC represented by a 3D geometric model

and the architectural scene in a single procedure. The accuracy of the photon mapping algorithm is generally noted [14,15] and the utilisation of the algorithm with geometric modelling has been examined [16].

For the comparison of simulation results with measured data the measurement setup can be reproduced in the simulation environment. Such a setup is denoted as *Virtual Goniophotometer*. An earlier study utilised a commercial forward ray-tracer to simulate Venetian blinds in comparison to goniophotometric measurements. It provided an error estimate for the comparison but was limited in directional resolution [17]. Similar setups have further been used to compare scattering models with measurements and to cross-validate BSDF data [18–20]. In the previous work it was partly necessary to resample the directional data for comparison as the data sources differed in directional resolution, the instrument's properties were unknown or the simulation environment limits the options. Resampling implies a loss of information and would considerably reduce the directional resolution of the scanning goniophotometer and suppress the instrument's signature. As a further consequence some characteristics of the Daylight Redirecting Component (DRC)'s scattering behaviour might be lost.

### 1.3. The Daylight Redirecting Component

The Daylight Redirecting Component (DRC) (RETROLuxTherm 12 mm [21]) is a small-scale louver system intended for integration into double glazing (Figure 1). The slats are 12 mm deep and 10 mm apart. In the provided sample they were held by a rectangular frame. The system has no moveable parts and is protected from dust and damage by the glazing. It is optimised for visual transmission (55%–62%), providing an unobstructed view to the outside including the ground.



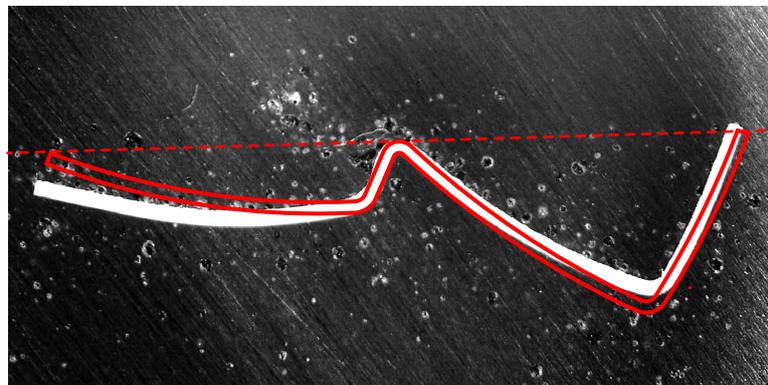
**Figure 1.** Geometry and optical mechanisms of the DRC (patented by H. Köster). The orientation above eye level is assessed in this study.

The top face of the slats is a highly reflective mirroring material, the lower side is covered with white paint of high reflectance. The profile of the slats combines two sections: one forms a light shelf reflecting incoming light upwards into the room for indirect lighting from the ceiling. The other section is designed to retro-reflect light from altitudes above  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$ . The slats are typically mounted in two orientations: above eye level ( $h = 1.8$  m) the light shelf section points outwards and is the active part. Below eye level the retro-reflecting section points outwards and is therefore active. Only the upper orientation is assessed in this study.

The geometry of the DRC is affected by a set of configurable parameters but also by unknown variables. The DRC's design has two adjustable parameters: the distance between the slats and their tilt angle. Tolerances in the exact positioning and inclination of the slats can be expected due to their loose, stress-free mounting in the frame. The impact of the manufacturing of the slats by cold-forming and their material properties are unknown.

The performance data published by the manufacturer is derived from measurements of the actual product, as he is aware that the manufacturing process leads to small geometric deviations from the intended design (Figure 2). Accordingly, the following assessment includes three different geometric variants of the exemplary DRC:

1. A production sample of the slats and their mounting frame were provided by the manufacturer (V1).
2. The intended design represented by construction drawings (V2).
3. A variant incorporating known geometric deviations (V3). It is based on a physical cross-section of a single slat taken from the production for quality assurance. An overlay reveals that the geometry of this slat deviates from the design (Figure 2). A further deviation is revealed by visual inspection of the production sample: The inclination of the slats is altered as result of a (probably systematic) deformation near their ends. This could be related to holes punched into the slats at their junction with the mounting frame.



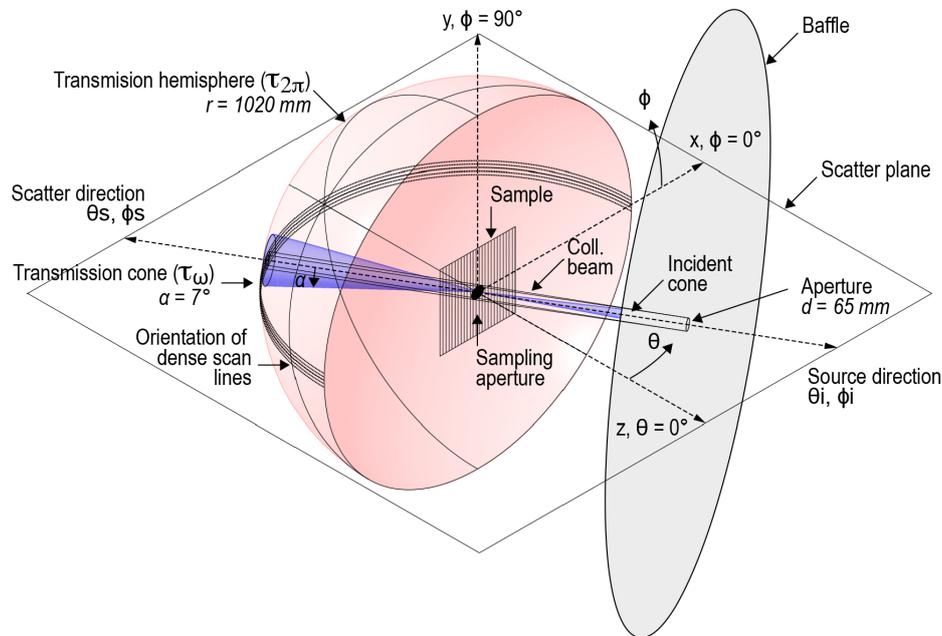
**Figure 2.** Cross-section of a production sample of the slats provided by the manufacturer with an overlay showing the *design* geometry. Note that the endpoints and the apex in the middle of the profile are collinear in the design but not so in the de-facto section. Also note that the curvature of the profiles slightly diverge (Source: H. Köster).

## 2. Objectives

This study aims to find, quantify and explain differences between transmission characteristics measured on the cold-formed, small-scale louver system and predictions based on its design. Its results shall contribute to product development and quality assurance. This leads to the following research questions:

1. How can high-resolution BSDFs of DRCs be qualitatively and quantitatively compared?

2. What is the difference between the BSDF of the production sample (V1) and the BSDF of the exemplary DRC's design geometry (V2)?
3. To what extent do the observed geometric deviations (V3) contribute to the differences between these BSDFs?



**Figure 3.** Schema of the Virtual Goniophotometer (VGP) and the geometry of the measured properties. Note that the light is emitted by a distant light source that is only defined by a direction and a central angle. The beam is formed by a baffle with an aperture.

### 3. Method

#### 3.1. Comparing High Resolution BSDF

Measurements or simulations will result in sets of irradiance values for the same measurement points on the sensor sphere. These values represent the amount of light directed from the centre of the sampling aperture to each sensor point  $(\theta_s, \phi_s)$ . The values in these sets are proportional to the light emitted from the illumination system of the physical or virtual goniophotometer (Figure 3). To compare the results, the power of the respective reference beam  $P_i$  is calculated from  $n$  samples of  $E_{s,j}$  and their corresponding solid angles  $\Omega_{s,j}$  [10]:

$$P_i = \sum_{j=1}^n E_{s,j} \Omega_{s,j}, \quad j \in [1, n] \quad (1)$$

The reference beam measurements and calculations are conducted for a range of source directions:  $\theta_i = 30^\circ, 35^\circ, 40^\circ, 45^\circ$  and  $50^\circ$  (with invariant  $\phi_i = 0^\circ$ ). By dividing each of the  $n$  measurements by  $P_i$ , the Differential Scattering Function (DSF) and the BSDF can then be calculated for each combination of  $(\theta_i, \phi_i)$  and  $(\theta_s, \phi_s)$ :

$$BSDF_j = \frac{DSF_j}{\cos \theta_{s,j}} = \frac{E_{s,j}}{P_i \cdot \cos \theta_{s,j}} \quad (2)$$

As Equation (2) shows the definition of the BSDF includes a division by  $\cos \theta_{s,j}$ . For  $\theta_s = 90^\circ$  and  $\theta_s = 270^\circ$  this corresponds to a division by zero, resulting in an exaggeration of irregularities in this area. Therefore the Differential Scattering Function (DSF)—in all other aspects equal to the BSDF—is a

more appropriate measure to describe the scattering characteristics of a measured sample, and chosen as basis for this comparison.

### 3.2. Qualitative Comparison of BSDF Data

The Differential Scattering Function (DSF) can be visualised and qualitatively compared in projections of the transmission hemisphere or in 2-dimensional sections through the *scattering plane*. The latter is defined for transmission in the sample directions  $\theta_s = 90^\circ$  to  $\theta_s = 270^\circ$  and  $\phi_s = \phi_i$ . Good qualitative accordance is achieved when all relevant features of the scattering characteristic are represented at similar directions and have similar proportions.

### 3.3. Comparison Metrics for Directionally Resolved BSDF

The comparison of BSDFs imposes two main challenges. First, to quantify the overall accordance of two distributions, a global metric has to integrate all observed local deviations into a single value; Second, to explain the differences between two BSDFs, deviations must be localized and therefore the directional resolution be maintained.

Among the existing metrics for *global accordance* over the hemispherical distribution [22,23], a quality index is proposed for applications in the characterization of light sources [24]:

$$f_{A,B} = 100 \left( 1 - \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^n (DSF_{A,j} - DSF_{B,j})^2}}{\sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^n (DSF_{A,j} + DSF_{B,j})^2}} \right) \quad (3)$$

The metric has been designed to compare measurements of luminaires with different goniophotometers of identical construction. A perfect match would result in  $f_{A,B} = 100\%$ . This metric is symmetric with respect to over- and underestimated values. The metric was selected on account of this symmetry and adapted as a novel metric for the comparison of BSDFs. Because the original designation might be misleading in this context, it is henceforth referred to as *global accordance* ( $f_{A,B}$ ).

To complement the *global accordance* by a metric for the accordance of a pair  $DSF_A, DSF_B$  in the transmission hemisphere, resolved by direction  $j$ , a new metric  $f_{j,A,B}$ —referred as *local accordance*—is proposed:

$$f_{j,A,B} = 100 \left( 1 - \left| \frac{DSF_{A,j} - DSF_{B,j}}{DSF_{A,j} + DSF_{B,j}} \right| \right) \quad (4)$$

To relate global accordance to scattering behaviour that is significant for the intended purpose of the exemplary DRC two integrals are computed: the conical-hemispherical transmittance  $\tau_{2\pi}$ , i.e., the integral of the DSF over all sample directions (total transmission), and the biconical transmission  $\tau_\omega$  [25] (direct transmission, see Figure 3). The latter was calculated as the integral of the DFS at the sample directions  $\theta_s = \theta_i + 180^\circ \pm 7^\circ$  including the part of the collimated beam that is not obstructed by the sample (for nomenclature see [3,4]).

To quantify the deviations from the simulations to the measurements of conical-hemispherical transmittance  $\tau_{2\pi}$ , and biconical transmission  $\tau_\omega$  the percentage error ( $\delta_{A,B}$ ) is calculated from these integrals:

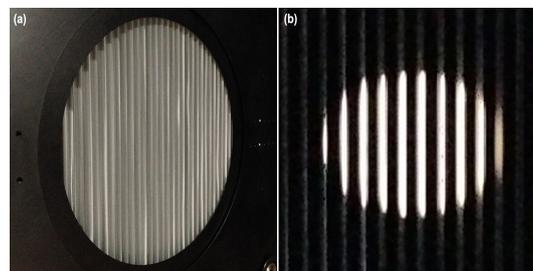
$$\delta_{A,B} = 100 \cdot \left| 1 - \frac{\tau_A}{\tau_B} \right| \quad (5)$$

### 3.4. Measuring the BSDF of the Production Sample

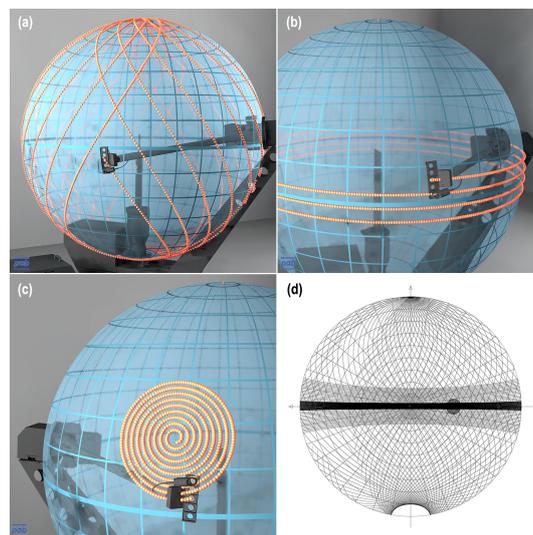
The scanning goniophotometer setup consists of an illumination system and a robotic arm that moves a sensor on a virtual sphere ( $r = 1020$  mm) around the sample [10]. A sample holder allows

the rotation of the sample relative to the optical bench of the illumination system for each source direction  $\theta_i = 0^\circ\text{--}180^\circ$  (automatic) and  $\phi_i = 0^\circ\text{--}360^\circ$  (manual). For any source direction the robotic arm allows high-resolution measurements of scatter directions (typically  $n > 250,000$ ) in the transmission hemisphere ( $\theta = 90^\circ\text{--}270^\circ$ ,  $\phi = 0^\circ\text{--}360^\circ$ ). The measurement routine includes a measurement without a sample to characterise the illumination system, referred to as *reference beam*.

DRCs such as the exemplary that exhibit a visible geometry and therefore non-uniformity require the adjustment of the sampling aperture [26,27]. It must be set large enough relative to the the scale of the sample that the averaged BSDF is representative for the entire sample. Therefore the illumination system is focused at infinity to provide a *collimated beam*, allowing the maximum sampling aperture ( $d \approx 65$  mm) to cover the largest possible number of slats (approx. 8, see Figure 4). Furthermore, the directional resolution and scan patterns have to match the DRC's characteristics [8]. Therefore three scanning paths are combined: (1) interleaving circles covering the transmission hemisphere in a grid at low resolution; (2) dense parallel circles to capture details in the distribution orthogonally oriented to the linear shadow pattern caused by the slats to avoid interference; and (3) a spiral pattern to measure the reference beam and directly transmitted light at high resolution (Figure 5).



**Figure 4.** Non-uniformity of the sample exposed in grazing light (a); Measured area (*sampling aperture* illuminated by the *collimated beam* from the light source) for  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$  (b).

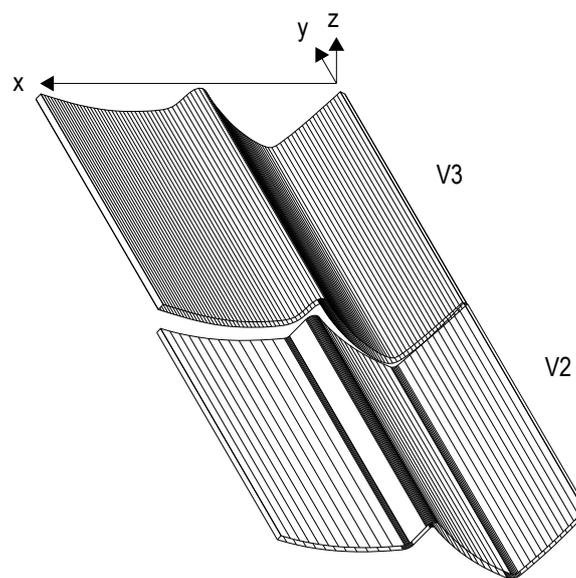


**Figure 5.** The goniophotometer's scan paths: A continuous movement of the detector describes a sphere around the sampling aperture and captures all scattering directions (a); It is refined by a set of densely offset orbits parallel to the orientation of the slats, covering up- and downward deflected light (b); To resolve directly transmitted light, the detector moves on a spiral pattern around the expected peak direction (c); Measurements resulting from paths a-c are combined as illustrated by the projection of the effective set of detector positions on the transmission hemisphere for one incident direction (d). (Image courtesy (a–c): pab advanced technologies Ltd.)

Due to the geometry of the optical bench and the sample holder, the measurements are carried out with the sample rotated by  $90^\circ$  from its normal mounting orientation (Figure 4). The rotation of the sample leads to an unpredictable inclination of the slats which are normally fixed by their weight. The slats are fixed (Blu-Tack) for the measurement but with limited accuracy. The number of slats in the sample aperture is comparably low. Therefore the measurement results are of limited constancy as they cannot compensate for these irregularities. Preliminary tests have shown deviations around 10% for total transmission over different measurement sessions when the sample has to be remounted.

### 3.5. Modelling the Design for Simulation of the BSDF

To gain a BSDF from the design (V2), a simulation model is prepared that represents its geometry (Figure 6). For comparability the reflection characteristics of the model's surfaces are chosen according to the finishes of the production sample.



**Figure 6.** Two variants of the geometric models showing different inclination and profile. First, the model based on the design geometry and inclination (V2); Second, the model incorporating the shape and inclination of the slats as gathered from the manufacturing process (V3). Note the tessellation of the models.

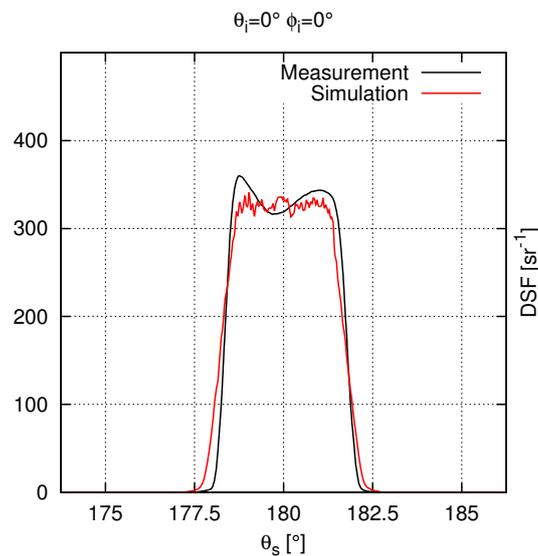
A general problem of geometric modelling of small-scale macro-structured DRCs similar to the exemplary is tessellation. The small slats have a complex curved geometry that is precisely shaped for its purpose. For raytracing, curved geometry is typically converted to flat surfaces by tessellation. This conversion reduces the number of angles under which the incoming light is reflected leading to visible banding and loss of detail in the distribution of light.

The sample shows two finishes. (1) The top surface is a highly reflective aluminium front-side mirror; (2) The bottom side is coated with a glossy white paint. Both were represented in the simulation by the Dür-Ward scattering model [28]. In this model the reflection characteristic is defined by six parameters: direct-hemispherical (total) reflection for three colour channels, the ratio of specular to total reflection and two roughness parameters that shape the width of the specular reflection in two orthogonal directions for anisotropic reflection. Total and specular reflection were derived from goniophotometric measurements. As colour is not addressed in this study the three parameters were set to the same values. The roughness parameters were set to zero.

### 3.6. Implementation of a Virtual Goniophotometer (VGP) with Photon Mapping in Radiance

To gain comparable data a Virtual Goniophotometer (VGP) is designed to model the high resolution scanning goniophotometer that is utilised for the measurements in adequate detail. This includes its illumination system, its scanning paths and resolution that form its *instrument signature*. The accuracy of its replication is critical in this approach.

The illumination system is modelled as a distant light source and a baffle (Figure 3). The angle of the light-source and the size of the aperture in the baffle ( $d = 65$  mm) is adjusted to shape a beam with similar characteristic to the beam used in the measurements. Note that the collimated beam in the real goniophotometer is almost perfectly parallel light while the light source definition in Radiance implies an angle ( $\alpha = 0.5^\circ$ ) leading to visible fall-off at the edges of the illuminated area. The degree of accordance is visible in a comparison of the DSF profiles of the reference beams (Figure 7). The illumination system of the physical goniophotometer exhibits a central area with a diameter of  $d \approx 3^\circ$  with some non-uniformity of the Halogen filament. The edge shows a fall-off and some stray-light at the bottom. The reference beam of the simulation setup exhibits noise in the central area and the expected fall-off. The lower end of its peak is formed by small bias in the photon density estimate. The illumination system of the goniophotometer is closely approximated by this setup.



**Figure 7.** Comparison of the illumination systems for measurement and simulation at  $\theta_i = 0^\circ$ .

Virtual sensors are positioned at the same distance as in the measurements and in identical directions. This is achieved by reading the directions of the corresponding measurements from their data files. A direct comparison of measured and computed BSDF is therefore possible without re-sampling.

To replicate the detector signal in the BSDF measurement, the illuminance around the sampling aperture is computed with *Radiance photon mapping* in two steps:

1. The photons are emitted from the virtual light source and forwarded by the raytracing algorithm until they are absorbed by the sample or hit the spherical receiver surface (Figure 3). The location and energy of the photons are stored in the photon map.
2. The calculation of the irradiance at a sensor points as an estimate of photon density around the sensor points by a nearest neighbour search for the photons stored in the map.

The diameter of the search radius depends on the local photon density and is regulated by the selected *bandwidth*, i.e., the number of photons to search for. The setting of this bandwidth is a compromise between *noise*—if the bandwidth is too low—and a *bias*—if the bandwidth is too high.

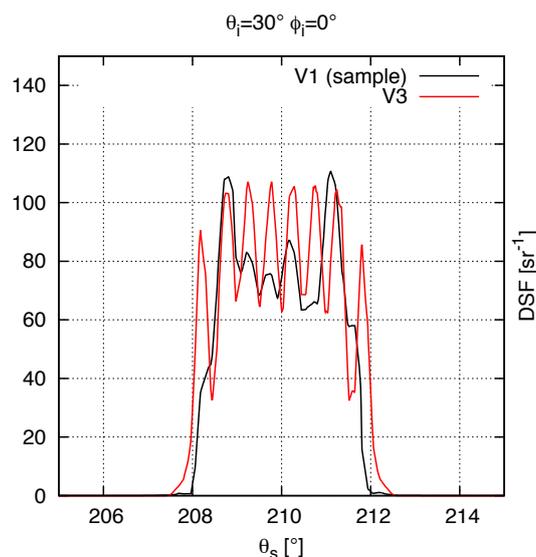
Noise will manifest in fluctuations of the BSDF for adjacent directions. Bias will reduce the contrast along illumination gradients. A suitable setting for this parameter depends on the total number of emitted photons. The relevant parameters of the simulation with *Radiance* [12] are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Simulation parameters applied in the implementation of a Virtual Goniophotometer in Radiance.

Command	Parameter	Description	Value
<i>mkpmap</i>	-ap <i>pmap</i> $N_p$	Photon map file <i>pmap</i> , target photon count $N_p$	$N_p$ = 8,000,000
	-apo <i>pmod</i>	Modifier <i>pmod</i> of photon port at aperture	
	-aps <i>rmod</i>	Modifier <i>rmod</i> of spherical receiver surface	
<i>rtrace</i>	-ap <i>pmap</i> $k$	Photon map file <i>pmap</i> , lookup bandwidth $k$	$k$ = 2000
	-am $r_{max,0}$	Initial maximum photon search radius $r_{max,0}$	$r_{max,0}$ = 0.009
	-ab $N_b$	Ambient bounces, set to $-1$ irradiance is exclusively calculated from the photon map	$N_b$ = $-1$

The variation of the search radius implies a difference between measurement and simulation. The physical sensor is fixed in size but in the simulation the search radius is a function of local photon density. However, effects from the differences in the detector system are not observed. The instruments signature is closely replicated as shown in Figure 7.

The impact of the relative location of the sampling aperture on the sample in the physical and the virtual setup is tested by comparing simulations repeated with 0.25 mm increments orthogonal to the slats with the measurements. The result with the best spatial accordance is chosen (Figure 8).



**Figure 8.** Biconical (direct) transmission: Measurements *V1* (black) and model *V3* (red) for  $\phi_i = 0^\circ$  and  $\theta_i = 30^\circ$ . The measurements show irregularities resulting from the non-uniformity of the sample and the reference beam.

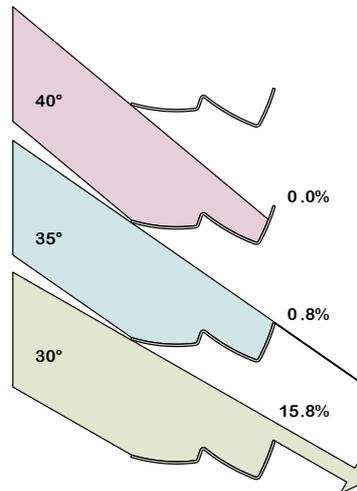
Finally the BSDFs of the design geometry are calculated from the simulation results and compared to the measured BSDFs of the production sample applying the selected metrics.

### 3.7. Contribution of the Observed Geometric Deviations to the Differences between BSDFs

The simulation procedure is repeated for a model (*V3*) that includes the known geometric deviations. A comparison to the measured BSDFs of the production sample is expected to show a high accordance if the known geometric deviations from the design geometry (*V2*) contribute significantly to the different transmission characteristics of the production sample (*V1*).

Modelling variant *V3* requires finding the tilt angle of the slats caused by the deformation near their ends. It is estimated by geometric analysis and goniophotometric measurements: The slats block

direct light above a certain altitude (Figure 9). This angle is defined by the distance between the slats and the inclination of the slat's profile. Goniophotometric measurements repeated with a  $1^\circ$  increment for the altitude ( $\theta_i$ ) reveal that this angle differs by  $4^\circ$  from the design geometry. The resulting model can be seen in Figure 6.



**Figure 9.** Geometric estimation of direct transmission through the louver system in its design geometry (V2) at selected incident angles.

## 4. Results

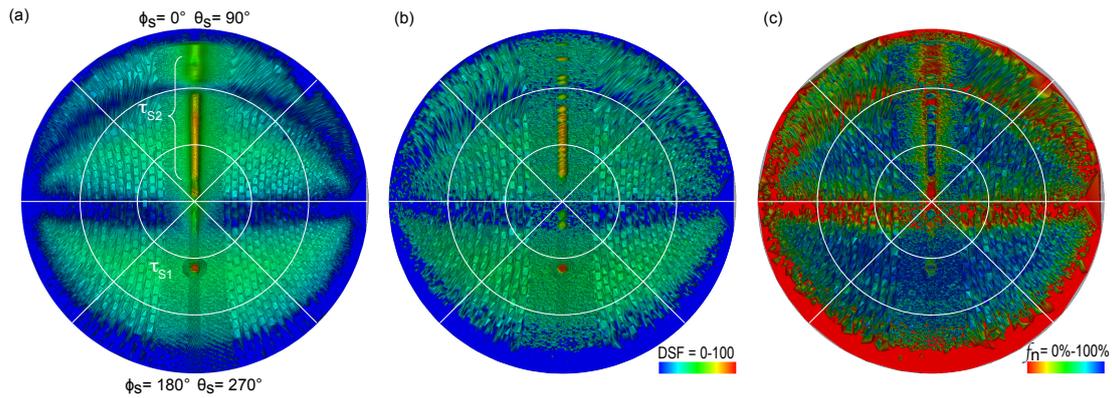
### 4.1. Directional Comparison of BSDF Data

The directional distribution of the measured and calculated DSF can be seen in Figure 10a,b. The plots reveal a similar diffuse background in the hemisphere. Prominent features such as ridges and peaks appear in a similar topology, but along the scattering plane the simulation results show noise in areas of diffuse reflection and multiple differentiated peaks where the measurements show a continuous ridge.

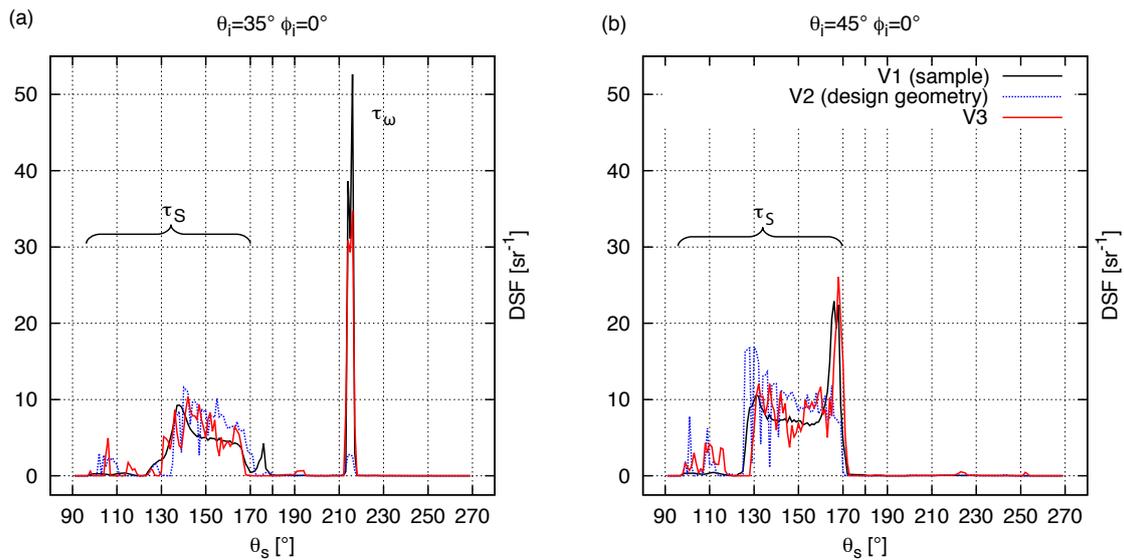
Sections through the scattering plane (Figure 11) reveal differences and similarities in more detail:

- For  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$  a prominent peak ( $\tau_\omega$ ) at  $\theta_s = 215^\circ$  shows the light that can directly pass the louvers at this angle. The measurements and the simulation results from the V3 show a similar height of this peak, while the simulation results from the design geometry (V2) show a significantly lower peak. Between  $\theta_s = 130^\circ$ – $170^\circ$  the light that is reflected to the ceiling ( $\tau_s$ ) results in a high ridge similar for all measurements and simulation results.
- For  $\theta_i = 45^\circ$  the prominent peak is absent since direct light is blocked by the system at this angle. The ridge between  $\theta_s = 130^\circ$ – $170^\circ$  ( $\tau_s$ ) is higher compared to the results for  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$  and similar for all measurements and simulation results. However, near the edges of the ridge at  $\theta_s \sim 130^\circ$  and  $\theta_s \sim 170^\circ$  the results from V3 fit the measurements more closely.
- For sample directions  $\theta_s = 90^\circ$ – $130^\circ$  the simulations show visibly higher DSF.

Detailed plots of the area around the direct peak reveal a fairly regular fluctuation of the DSF for the simulation of V3 but irregular results in the measurements (V1). Significant differences can be observed at the edges of this peak (Figure 8).



**Figure 10.** DSF (logarithmic) for  $\phi_i = 0^\circ$  and  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$  in the transmission hemisphere: (a) The measurement  $V1$  and (b) the simulation  $V3$  show prominent features such as the directly transmitted ( $\tau_\omega$ ) or the redirected light ( $\tau_S$ ) in the same topology. The diffuse background has a similar form but is obscured by noise in the simulation. The measurement shows a continuous ridge along  $\phi_i = 0^\circ$  while in the simulation tessellation is manifested in discrete peaks; (c) This leads to areas of lower local accordance ( $f_{j,A,B}$ ) along the ridge. The lowest local accordance is reached for very low DSF where the simulation is affected by noise.



**Figure 11.** Linear section in the scattering plane: Measurements  $V1$  (black), model  $V2$  (design geometry, blue) and model  $V3$  (red) for  $\phi_i = 0^\circ$  and for  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$  (a) and  $\theta_i = 45^\circ$  (b).

#### 4.2. Comparison of Conical-Hemispherical and Biconical Transmission

The conical-hemispherical transmission for all measured ( $\tau_{2\pi,V1}$ ) and simulation results ( $\tau_{2\pi,V2}$ ,  $\tau_{2\pi,V3}$ ) decreases from  $\theta_i = 30^\circ$  to  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$ , then continuously increases to  $\theta_i = 50^\circ$  (Table 2). The difference between measured and simulated results is lower than 13% but different for the models  $V2$  and  $V3$ . While the first show values lower than the measurements  $V1$  at  $\theta_i = 30^\circ$  and  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$  and higher values for  $\theta_i = 40^\circ$ – $50^\circ$ , the latter shows generally higher values.

Biconical transmission is shown for  $\theta_i = 30^\circ$  and  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$  (Table 3). For other source directions biconical transmission is blocked by the DRC. The simulation results for the design geometry ( $\tau_{\omega,V2}$ ) are significantly lower than the measurements ( $\tau_{\omega,V1}$ ) especially for  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$ . The simulation results for  $V3$ , on the other hand, are higher than the measurements.

**Table 2.** Conical-hemispherical transmission for measurements  $\tau_{2\pi,V1}$  and simulation results  $\tau_{2\pi,V2}$  and  $\tau_{2\pi,V3}$ .

$\theta_i$	30°	35°	40°	45°	50°
$\tau_{2\pi,V1}$	0.370	0.339	0.424	0.466	0.479
$\tau_{2\pi,V2}$	0.324	0.317	0.454	0.506	0.539
$\tau_{2\pi,V3}$	0.408	0.348	0.473	0.514	0.522
$\delta_{2\pi,V2,V1}$	13%	6%	7%	9%	13%
$\delta_{2\pi,V3,V1}$	10%	3%	12%	10%	9%

**Table 3.** Biconical transmission for measurements  $\tau_{\omega,V1}$  and simulation results  $\tau_{\omega,V2}$  and  $\tau_{\omega,V3}$ .

$\theta_i$	30°	35°
$\tau_{\omega,V1}$	0.239	0.085
$\tau_{\omega,V2}$	0.172	0.010
$\tau_{\omega,V3}$	0.272	0.109
$\delta_{\omega,V2,V1}$	28%	88%
$\delta_{\omega,V3,V1}$	14%	28%

#### 4.3. Global and Local Level of Accordance

The level of global accordance  $f_{A,B}$  for the models is between 65%–84% except for model V2 at  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$ . It is generally higher for V3 as for V2 (Table 4).

**Table 4.** Global accordance of models V2 and V3 with the measurements (V1) expressed in  $f_{A,B}$ . The global accordance of the reference beams ( $f_{RB}$ ) of the physical and virtual (VGP) illumination system is given for comparison.

$\theta_i$	0°	30°	35°	40°	45°	50°
$f_{V2,V1}$	–	75%	20%	68%	65%	66%
$f_{V3,V1}$	–	84%	74%	70%	71%	74%
$f_{RB}$	92%	–	–	–	–	–

The local accordance  $f_{j,A,B}$  is low for the lowest DSF. This extends to the diffuse background where lower accordance is achieved for lower DSF. Along the ridge the accordance is low in gaps between peaks in the simulation and at the edges of these peaks (Figure 10c).

## 5. Discussion

The directionally resolved comparison (Figure 10) shows that the scattering behaviour of the models (V2, V3) resembles the production sample (V1) in many details while some differences have to be explained:

- The ridge from redirected light ( $\tau_s$ ) is continuous in the measurements. In both simulations this ridge consists of separated peaks. This is a visible effect from the tessellation of the geometric models: the light is reflected in a few discrete directions depending on the number of surfaces (Figure 10). Tessellation is challenging for complex optical components of a small scale that leads to huge magnifications. This challenge is characteristic for DRCs that are meant to be mounted into double glazing.
- The DSF at the end of the ridge ( $\theta_s = 90^\circ$ – $130^\circ$ ) in the measurements is lower than the DSF in both simulations. This is a result of the shadowing from the sample holder (Figure 11).

The range of percentage errors  $\delta_{2\pi,A,B}$  for conical-hemispherical transmission is similar for both models (3%–13%). This range is similar to earlier findings (an average of 8%) for a similar comparison [17].

The design geometries' lower conical-hemispherical transmission  $\tau_{2\pi,V2}$  for  $\theta_i = 30^\circ$  and  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$  can be related to its significantly lower  $\tau_{2\pi,V2}$  for biconical transmission at these source directions. Both can be explained by the preliminary revealed deviation of the slats' inclination ( $\Delta\alpha \sim 4^\circ$ ) of the production sample (V1) compared to this geometry (V2). The biconical transmission is largely determined by obstruction and the latter is correlated with the inclination of the slats relative to the source direction. The results show that this affects the conical-hemispherical transmission as well.

The remaining differences of biconical transmission for V3 may be partially explained by the irregularities of the measured sample (V1) visible in Figure 8. The difference between the physical and the virtual illumination system will contribute as well (Figure 7). The profile of the slats may vary in production. The sections provided by the manufacturer (V2) might not fit the measured production sample (V1). Therefore a residual deviation in the inclination or the geometry of the slats cannot be ruled out.

The level of global accordance of  $f_{A,B} \leq 84\%$  and  $f_{RB} = 92\%$  is low compared to results that are referred as "good" ( $\geq 98\%$ ) or "very good" ( $\geq 99\%$ ) in the literature [24]. This rating is related to a comparison of measurements of the same luminaires with identical goniophotometers, but the results for the reference beams  $f_{RB} = 92\%$  are expected to be in this range. The non-uniform illumination of the sample aperture in the measurement and the small offset of the physical illumination system, and to a lower degree the noise in the simulation are potential causes for the limited global accordance (Figure 7).

Effects of these deviations are visible in the directional distribution of  $f_{j,A,B}$  as well. They are aggravated by effects of the model's tessellation and noise in the simulation and the measurements. The geometric differences of the models and the sample are not similarly visible but manifest in the results for the global accordance ( $f_{A,B}$ ). The model V3 is closer to the measured sample than the design geometry (V2), especially for  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$ , where  $f_{V2,V1} = 20\%$ . These results correlate well with the integrated values of biconical and conical-hemispherical transmission. This shows that the metric correlates with the actual difference in scattering behaviour. The non-uniformity of the physical sample visible in Figures 4 and 8 is likely to contribute significantly to the general low level of global accordance.

## 6. Conclusions and Broader Impact

Two metrics have been introduced into the comparison of BSDFs. Global accordance  $f_{A,B}$  has been applied in the field of daylighting for the first time, and allows to detect and assess deviations of production samples from the intended design. Its correlation to the percentage error for integrated biconical transmission makes it an indicator for deviations significant for the performance DRCs. Local accordance  $f_{j,A,B}$  has been proposed as a novel metric. Its application allows to localize deviations of BSDFs, supporting the analysis of the sources for unexpected transmission characteristics of DRCs.

The two metrics have been successfully applied in conjunction with the comparison of biconical and directional-hemispherical transmission to quantify and explain the impact of manufacturing processes on the transmission characteristics of the small-scale louver-system.

While the general topology of features over the transmission hemisphere match in all BSDFs, the results show that the BSDF from the production sample and the design geometry differ significantly if quantified by the metrics: The maximum percentage error for biconical transmission  $\delta_{\omega,V1,V2}$  is 88% and the minimal global accordance  $f_{V1,V3}$  is 20%, both occurring at  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$ .

The contribution of the known geometric deviations is significant. Variant (V3) and (V1) resemble each other more closely ( $\delta_{\omega,V1,V3} = 28\%$  and  $f_{V1,V3} = 74\%$  for  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$ ). The remaining differences can be partly explained by effects from the non-uniformity of the sample (Figures 4 and 8). A more closer inspection of this effect is complicated by the superimposed non-uniformity of the illumination system in the measurements.

The limited accordance of the reference beam between simulation and measurement of  $f_{RB} = 92\%$  is a restriction for this kind of comparison. Another is the noise in lower BSDF values from the simulation (Figure 10) as are the effects from tessellation (Table 5).

**Table 5.** Overview significant results: global accordance  $f_{V2,V1}$  and biconical transmission  $\delta_{\omega,V2,V1}$  for  $\theta_i = 35^\circ$  show significant differences between the BSDF of the design geometry and the production sample. The results are better for the comparison of the production sample (V1) with the model (V3) that includes the observed small geometric deviations. The result from the comparison of the virtual and physical reference beams shows the maximal level of global accordance.

	Global Accordance ( $f$ )	Biconical Transmission Error ( $\delta_{\omega}$ )
V2 vs. V1	20%	88%
V3 vs. V1	74%	28%
Reference beams	92%	–

The comparison of BSDFs can serve as a useful tool in the product development of DRCs to understand the effects of geometric deviations on light distribution. In combination with the integration of photon mapping into *Radiance*, the proposed method can be utilised for the assessment of geometric models for simulation. This can lead to a straight-forward method of performance prediction for DRCs with known accuracy. Global and local accordance as metrics for the comparison of BSDFs have the potential for a range of applications in other fields of light scattering measurements.

## 7. Further Research

To understand the remaining deviations in more detail further research is needed, therefore the actual geometry of the DRC system has to be known. Without that knowledge other influencing factors are difficult to quantify. This leads to the challenge of measuring fragile and small-scale samples in detail. In this study the inclination of the slats in V3 had to be derived from indirect measurements as it was impossible to measure it directly.

The observed differences are related to the performance of the DRC in Climate-Based Daylight Modelling (CBDM). The deviation in biconical transmission is expected to lead to a deviation in Annual Sunlight Exposure (ASE) calculation and therefore in the prediction of spatial Daylight Autonomy (sDA) [29]. Also informative would be the calculation of Daylight Glare Probability (DGP) for the assessment of visual comfort [30]. Quantifying the impact on performance would help to understand the potential of an improved production process with respect to energy savings and visual comfort.

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