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Novel Optical Systems Design and Optimization X

**R. John Koshel
G. Groot Gregory**
Editors

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Contents

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| vii | <i>Conference Committee</i> |
| ix | <i>Introduction</i> |

SESSION 1 OPTICAL DESIGN

- 6668 02 **Direct methods for freeform surface design (Invited Paper)** [6668-02]
R. A. Hicks, Drexel Univ. (USA)
- 6668 03 **Automated transfer of optical tolerances from CAD programs to optical codes** [6668-03]
M. S. Boren, R. C. Juergens, Raytheon Missile Systems (USA)
- 6668 04 **Optical modeling activities for NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST): IV. Overview and introduction of MATLAB based toolkits used to interface with optical design software** [6668-04]
J. M. Howard, NASA Goddard Space Flight Ctr. (USA)
- 6668 05 **Wavefront and caustic surfaces of refractive laser beam shaper** [6668-05]
D. L. Shealy, Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham (USA); J. A. Hoffnagle, IBM Almaden Research Ctr. (USA)

SESSION 2 'REDUCED' OPTICS

- 6668 06 **Broadband endoscopic imaging through a single fiberoptic channel** [6668-07]
A. Kano, College of Optical Sciences, Univ. of Arizona (USA) and Univ. of Arizona (USA);
J. Koshel, College of Optical Sciences, Univ. of Arizona (USA); A. F. Gmitro, College of
Optical Sciences, Univ. of Arizona (USA) and Univ. of Arizona (USA)
- 6668 07 **Arc-section annular folded optic imager (Invited Paper)** [6668-08]
E. Tremblay, Univ. of California, San Diego (USA); R. Stack, R. Morrison, Distant Focus Corp.
(USA); J. Ford, Univ. of California, San Diego (USA)
- 6668 08 **A study of LED light-linear device for light guide plate applications** [6668-09]
C.-H. Chien, Z.-P. Chen, Tatung Univ. (Taiwan)

SESSION 3 OPTICS EDUCATION I

- 6668 09 **Creating scientific and technical talent through educational outreach** [6668-10]
D. E. Diggs, J. G. Grote, J. Fielding, Air Force Research Lab. (USA); K. W. Jones, L. C. Jenkins,
Aeronautical Systems Ctr., U.S. Air Force (USA); I. L. Turner, Freescale Semiconductor, Inc.
(USA)

- 6668 0A **Professional development in photonics: the advanced technology education projects of the New England Board of Education (Invited Paper)** [6668-11]
J. Donnelly, Three Rivers Community College (USA); F. Hanes, New England Board of Higher Education (USA); N. Massa, Springfield Technical Community College (USA)

SESSION 4 HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES IN OPTICAL DESIGN

- 6668 0B **Evidence supporting the primacy of Joseph Petzval in the discovery of aberration coefficients and their application to lens design (Invited Paper)** [6668-12]
A. Rakich, LBT Observatory (USA); R. Wilson, European Southern Observatory (Germany)
- 6668 0C **The earliest history of computer-aided optical design on large computers: the previously classified work by James G. Baker 1945-1954 (Invited Paper)** [6668-13]
K. P. Thompson, Optical Research Associates (USA)

SESSION 5 OPTICS EDUCATION II

- 6668 0D **Hands-on optics: an informal science education initiative** [6668-14]
A. M. Johnson, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County (USA); S. M. Pompea, National Optical Astronomy Observatory (USA); E. G. Arthurs, SPIE (USA); C. E. Walker, R. T. Sparks, National Optical Astronomy Observatory (USA)
- 6668 0E **Teaching lens, optical systems, and opto-mechanical systems design at the Irvine Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT)** [6668-15]
V. V. Doushkina, MetroLaser, Inc. (USA) and Optics Institute of Southern California (USA); D. M. Silberman, Optics Institute of Southern California (USA), Physik Instrumente L.P. (USA), and Irvine Ctr. for Applied Competitive Technologies (USA)
- 6668 0F **A course in illumination engineering** [6668-16]
R. J. Koshel, Lambda Research Corp. (USA) and College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (USA)
- 6668 0G **Art + technology in optics educational outreach programs** [6668-17]
D. M. Silberman, Optics Institute of Southern California (USA) and Physik Instrumente L.P. (USA)
- 6668 0H **Finding science is fun in a 'Magic Show of Light' from *Optical Demonstrations on an Overhead Projector* for elementary school students** [6668-18]
J. J. Lones, Adroit Engineering (USA); N. K. Maltseva, St. Petersburg State Univ. of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics (Russia); K. N. Peterson, Clarenceville School District Board of Education (USA)

SESSION 6 OPTICAL SYSTEMS AND APPLICATIONS

- 6668 0I **High numerical aperture line scanning system** [6668-19]
R. Liang, Carestream Health, Inc. (USA)

- 6668 OJ **Space imaging optical guidance for ground vehicle** [6668-20]
A. Akiyama, Kanazawa Technical College (Japan); N. Kobayashi, Kanazawa Institute of Technology (Japan); E. Mutoh, Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. (Japan); H. Kumagai, Tamagawa Seiki Co., Ltd. (Japan); H. Yamada, Kanazawa Technical College (Japan); H. Ishii, Nihon Univ. (Japan)
- 6668 OK **Volume holographic beam splitter for hyperspectral imaging applications** [6668-21]
J. D. Matchett, R. I. Billmers, E. J. Billmers, M. E. Ludwig, RL Associates, Inc. (USA)
- 6668 OL **A dual channel lens for simultaneous VIS and SWIR imaging in harsh radiation environments** [6668-22]
S. Dets, Mattson Technology Canada (Canada) and resOptica Technologies (Canada)

SESSION 7 OPTICS FOR MOBILE SYSTEMS

- 6668 ON **Design issues for semi-passive optical communication devices** [6668-25]
I. Glaser, Holon Institute of Technology (Israel)
- 6668 OO **Micro-lens maker equation of a CMOS image sensor** [6668-26]
Y. Wu, OmniVision Technologies, Inc. (USA)
- 6668 OP **Zoom lens design of mobilephone camera with global-explorer optimization** [6668-28]
C.-Y. Hung, J.-L. Chern, National Chiao-Tung Univ. (Taiwan)

POSTER SESSION

- 6668 OQ **The study of diffraction optical element applied to resonant cavity LED** [6668-24]
S.-H. Chang, Far East Univ. (Taiwan); T.-C. Liang, H.-S. Huang, National Kaohsiung First Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan)
- 6668 OR **Variable focus photographic lens without mechanical movements** [6668-30]
J. Chen, R. Peng, S. Zhuang, Univ. of Shanghai for Science and Technology (China)
- 6668 OS **Structural design of a lens component with prespecified aberration targets by evolutionary algorithm** [6668-32]
S. Chatterjee, L. N. Hazra, Univ. of Calcutta (India)
- 6668 OT **Novel microscopy in arbitrary step digital holography** [6668-33]
C.-Y. Lin, National Central Univ. (Taiwan); G.-L. Chen, M.-K. Kuo, National Defense Univ. (Taiwan); C.-C. Chang, Ming Dao Univ. (Taiwan); H.-F. Yau, National Central Univ. (Taiwan)
- 6668 OU **The design of a noble VCSEL with DOE** [6668-34]
T.-C. Liang, National Kaohsiung First Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan); S.-H. Chang, Far East Univ. (Taiwan); H.-S. Huang, National Kaohsiung First Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan)
- 6668 OV **Innovative global approach for high-performance low-cost integral field unit (IFU)** [6668-35]
S. Vivès, E. Prieto, Lab. d'Astrophysique de Marseille (France); Y. Salaun, Winlight Optics (France)

6668 0W **Design of a wavelength-tunable light source using an acousto-optic tunable filter** [6668-37]
H. Hall, M. Bridges, Carestream Health, Inc. (USA); S. Leavesley, J. P. Robinson, Purdue Univ.
(USA)

Author Index

Conference Committee

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Session Chairs

- 1 Optical Design
Jannick P. Rolland, College of Optics & Photonics, University of Central Florida (USA)
- 2 'Reduced' Optics
Joseph M. Howard, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (USA)

- 3 Optics Education I
Donn M. Silberman, PI Physik Instrumente L.P. (USA), Optics Institute of Southern California (USA), and Irvine Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (USA)
- 4 Historical Perspectives in Optical Design
G. Groot Gregory, Optical Research Associates (USA)
- 5 Optics Education II
Donn M. Silberman, PI Physik Instrumente L.P. (USA), Optics Institute of Southern California (USA), and Irvine Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (USA)
R. John Koshel, Lambda Research Corporation (USA) and College of Optical Sciences, The University of Arizona (USA)
- 6 Optical Systems and Applications
Andrew Rakich, LBT Observatory (USA)
- 7 Optics for Mobile Systems
Rongguang Liang, Carestream Health, Inc. (USA)

Introduction

This year in San Diego, California, we held the Tenth Conference of Novel Optical Systems Design and Optimization. The conference was well attended, with papers ranging from optical design to education and history to mobile optics. This year there were seven oral sessions and one poster session. The primary focus of the conference was “reduced optics” and optics education. The seven oral sessions had the following titles: optical design, ‘reduced’ optics, optics education I and II, historical perspective in optical design, optical systems and applications, and optics for mobile systems. These oral sessions ranged over one and a half days of the entire 2007 Optics and Photonics Symposium.

The conference started with a session of optical design, presenting such topics as freeform surfaces for imaging design, CAD and mathematical analysis software integration into optical codes, and laser beam shaping. The next session on reduced optics presented how to reduce the size of an optical system while maintaining performance. This year there were two sessions on optics education ranging the whole gamut from primary school to graduate education, continuing education, and outreach. Sandwiched between the two education sessions was a session on the history of optical design. On the second day were two sessions. The first presented specific optical systems and how they were applied to solve challenging problems such as imaging in harsh radiation environments. Novel optical system design and optimization ended with three papers on mobile optics – i.e., optical systems in cell phones and smart cards.

There were a number of invited papers over the duration of the conference:

- A discussion by Andrew Hicks from Drexel University about direct method for determining freeform imaging surfaces;
- A paper given by Eric Tremblay of the University of California, San Diego, about the ability to fold optical systems in an arc-sectioned annular pattern to reduce the overall length of the optical system (see paper 6668-08);
- Judy Donnelly of Three Rivers Community College gave a paper on professional development in photonics, with a project under the auspices of the New England Board of Education funded by the National Science Foundation;
- A history talk by Andrew Rakich of EOS Space Systems about Joseph Petzval and how he may have been the originator of aberration theory, and;
- A second history talk by Kevin Thompson of Optical Research Associates about the classified optical design of James Baker in the 40s and 50s. He was the first user of large computers for such work.

As can be seen, the invited topics covered a large range of the field of optical design and engineering. It indicates that the optical design community is still working on challenging problems, and also that the range of fields calling on optical engineering is increasing. This breadth led to lively and interesting discussions following each paper. Additionally, these discussions were carried into the hallways following each session. In conclusion, the Novel Optical Systems Design and Optimization Conference continues building upon previous years. It is expected that next year's conference will maintain this growth.

Our thanks go to those who helped make this conference a success, especially the authors, audience, SPIE staff, and program committee. The authors alone made this conference an unqualified success. The audience built upon this success by being active and asking engaging questions. The SPIE staff ensured that everything ran smoothly before, during, and after the meeting. The program committee provided excellent assistance to ensure the quality of the content while also presiding over a number of the sessions. It was composed of Jyh-Long Chern, Alexander Epple, Joseph Howard, Scott Lerner, Rongguang Liang, Andrew Locke, Paul Manhart, Richard Pfisterer, Andrew Rakich, Jannick Rolland, Jose Sasian, David Shealy, Donn Silbermann, Marija Strojnik-Scholl, Kevin Thompson, and Mary Turner.

Next year we will return for the eleventh iteration of this conference. The chairs will remain for only one more iteration as Groot Gregory and John Koshel – at least one new chair will be part of the twelfth Novel Optical Conference. The planning for Novel Optical Systems Design and Optimization XI in 2008 is already underway, so please start planning submissions, questions, and attendance. The planned focus topics are optical design with software post-processing of the images, a look back and forward at zoom systems, and liquid optics. If you would like to assist with the 2008 or later conference please contact one of us. We look forward to seeing you in 2008!

R. John Koshel
G. Groot Gregory