Nonimaging Optics: Efficient Design for Illumination and Solar Concentration IX

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Editors

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Proc. of SPIE Vol. 8485 848501-2
Contents

vii  Conference Committee
ix  Introduction

SESSION 1  THERMODYNAMIC BASIS OF NONIMAGING OPTICS

8485 02  Thermodynamically efficient solar concentrators (Invited Paper) [8485-1]
R. Winston, Univ. of California, Merced (United States)

SESSION 2  NONIMAGING OPTICS FOR CONCENTRATOR PHOTOVOLTAICS

8485 04  Practical implementation of a planar micro-optic solar concentrator [8485-3]
K. Baker, Univ. of California, San Diego (United States); J. Karp, Univ. of California, San
Diego (United States) and Pacific Integrated Energy (United States); J. Hallas, Univ. of
California, San Diego (United States) and GE Global Research (United States); J. Ford, Univ.
of California, San Diego (United States)

8485 05  Beam-steering array optics designs with the SMS method [8485-4]
W. Lin, Univ. Politécnica de Madrid (Spain); P. Benítez, J. C. Miñano, Univ. Politécnica de
Madrid (Spain) and Light Prescriptions Innovators, LLC (United States)

SESSION 3  GRADIENT-INDEX OPTICS

8485 06  Nanolayered polymer diffusive spectral filters [8485-5]
J. Bortz, N. Shatz, SAIC (United States)

8485 07  Planar single-element gradient-index solar lenses for concentrator photovoltaics [8485-6]
P. Kotsidas, V. Modi, Columbia Univ. (United States); J. M. Gordon, Ben-Gurion Univ. of the
Negev (Israel)

8485 08  Design of spherical symmetric gradient index lenses (Invited Paper) [8485-7]
J. C. Miñano, Univ. Politécnica de Madrid (Spain) and Light Prescriptions Innovators, LLC
(United States); D. Grabovičkić, Univ. Politécnica de Madrid (Spain); P. Benítez, Univ.
Politécnica de Madrid (Spain) and Light Prescriptions Innovators, LLC (United States);
J. C. González, A. Santamaría, Univ. Politécnica de Madrid (Spain)

SESSION 4  NOVEL APPLICATIONS AND FUNDAMENTAL LIMITS

8485 09  On the challenge of flux concentration at grazing incidence for neutrons and x-rays
(Invited Paper) [8485-8]
B. Khaykovich, D. Liu, G. Resta, D. E. Moncton, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
(United States); M. V. Gubarev, NASA Marshall Space Flight Ctr. (United States)
Spatial coherence of sunlight: first direct measurement [8485-9]
H. Mashaal, A. Goldstein, D. Feuermann, J. M. Gordon, Ben-Gurion Univ. of the Negev (Israel)

Thermal analysis in a solar pumped laser for Mg energy cycle [8485-10]
B. Bagheri, S. Uchida, The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan)

Improvement of luminescent solar concentrators using liquid crystal polymer [8485-11]
M. N. Ricketts, Univ. of California, Merced (United States)

Solar receiver with integrated optics [8485-12]
L. Jiang, R. Winston, Univ. of California, Merced (United States)

SESSION 5 NONIMAGING OPTIMIZATION PROCEDURES

Implementation of the linear programming algorithm for freeform reflector design [8485-13]
C. Canavesi, The Institute of Optics, Univ. of Rochester (United States); W. J. Cassarly, Synopsys, Inc. (United States); J. P. Rolland, The Institute of Optics, Univ. of Rochester (United States)

Optimization of LED-based non-imaging optics with orthogonal polynomial shapes [8485-14]
P. Brick, OSRAM Opto Semiconductors GmbH (Germany); C. Wiesmann, OSRAM AG (Germany)

Free-form glass reflectors for non-trivial illumination applications with extended sources [8485-15]
T. Heßling, U. Geyer, A. Hellwig, M. C. Hübner, Auer Lighting GmbH (Germany)

Irradiance tailoring with two-sided Fresnel-type freeform optics [8485-16]
A. Bruneton, RWTH Aachen Univ. (Germany); A. Bäuerle, RWTH Aachen Univ. (Germany) and Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology (Germany); M. Traub, R. Wester, Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology (Germany); P. Loosen, RWTH Aachen Univ. (Germany) and Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology (Germany)

Reverse radiance: a fast, accurate method for determining luminance [8485-17]
K. E. Moore, R. F. Rykowski, S. Gangadhara, Radiant Zemax, LLC (United States)

SESSION 6 DAYLIGHTING

Using multimode interference in visible spectrum transmission [8485-18]
A. J.-W. Whang, K.-Y. Chen, W.-N. Chen, National Taiwan Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan)

Sollektor: progress in fiber optic daylighting [8485-19]
H. Poisel, K. Hofbeck, M. Bloos, M. Lippenberger, Univ. of Applied Sciences (Germany); S. Schütz, A. Kist, Bavarian Optics GmbH (Germany)
Embedded microstructures for daylighting and seasonal thermal control [8485-20]
A. Kostro, M. Geiger, N. Jolissaint, M. A. Gonzalez Lazo, J.-L. Scartezzini, Y. Leterrier,
A. M. Schüler, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)

A new device for dynamic luminance mapping and glare risk assessment in buildings
[8485-21]
Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)

SESSION 7 ILLUMINATION OPTICS

Fiber optic illumination by laser activated remote phosphor [8485-23]
U. Hartwig, Osram AG (Germany)

Optical design using luminance in ray data sets [8485-25]
J. Muschaweck, OSRAM AG (Germany)

Primary optics for efficient high-brightness LED colour mixing [8485-26]
A. Cvetkovic, R. Mohedano, Light Prescriptions Innovators Europe, S. L. (Spain); O. Dross,
Philips Research (Netherlands); M. Hernandez, Light Prescriptions Innovators Europe, S. L.
(Spain); P. Benitez, J. C. Miñano, Univ. Politécnica de Madrid (Spain) and Light Prescriptions
Innovators, LLC (United States); J. Vilaplana, J. Chaves, Light Prescriptions Innovators
Europe, S. L. (Spain)

POSTER SESSION

Optical design of wavelength selective CPVT system with 3D/2D hybrid concentration
[8485-29]
N. Ahmad, T. Ijiro, N. Yamada, Nagaoka Univ. of Technology (Japan); T. Kawaguchi,
T. Maemura, H. Ohashi, Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. (Japan)

High-performance illumination module of RGB LEDs pico-projector with dual double side
micro lens array [8485-30]
C.-C. Chen, Instrument Technology Research Ctr. (Taiwan); H.-C. Wu, M.-L. Wu, National
Central Univ. (Taiwan); Y.-C. Cheng, W.-Y. Hsu, Instrument Technology Research Ctr.
(Taiwan)

Optical characteristic of the light guide plate with microstructures engraved by laser
[8485-34]
T.-C. Teng, National Taiwan Normal Univ. (Taiwan); M.-F. Kuo, Coretronic Corp. (Taiwan)

Author Index
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Narkis Shatz, SAIC (United States)

Session Chairs

1 Thermodynamic Basis of Nonimaging Optics
   Jeffrey M. Gordon, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Israel)

2 Nonimaging Optics for Concentrator Photovoltaics
   Narkis Shatz, SAIC (United States)

3 Gradient-Index Optics
   Hans Philipp Annen, Concentrator Optics GmbH (Germany)

4 Novel Applications and Fundamental Limits
   Juan Carlos Miñano, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain) and Light Prescriptions Innovators LLC (United States)

5 Nonimaging Optimization Procedures
   Pablo Benítez, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain) and Light Prescriptions Innovators LLC (United States)
6 Daylighting
Daniel Feuermann, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Israel)

7 Illumination Optics
William J. Cassarly, Synopsys, Inc. (United States)
Introduction

Welcome to the 2012 Nonimaging Optics conference. The first conference convened in 1991, so this represents our 21st year.

The conference had more submissions and more attendees than in the recent past, which is a good indicator of the vitality of the field. From the beginning, the subject was differentiated from classical optics. In the first book on nonimaging optics in 1978, the great Walter T. Welford of Imperial College London inserted the Stefan-Boltzmann law of radiation by a black body on page one. When an optics book starts with a thermodynamic relation, you know something interesting is going to happen, and it has! From the beginning, concepts like maximum etendue, concentration, and thermodynamic efficiency were common themes. The connections between information and entropy inspire the design of optimal nonimaging optics devices. And that is why the fusion of the science of light (optics) with the science of heat (thermodynamics), is where much of the excitement is today.

So on behalf of Jeffrey Gordon and myself, please enjoy the next two days of exciting new contributions to this vibrant field of nonimaging optics.

Roland Winston
Jeffrey M. Gordon