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# ***Novel Optical Systems Design and Optimization XII***

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

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# Contents

vii	Conference Committee
ix	Introduction

---

## SESSION 1 DESIGN IN COMPUTED IMAGING I

---

7429 02	<b>Low-complexity digital filter geometry for spherical coded imaging systems</b> [7429-01] G. Feng, Ricoh Innovations, Inc. (United States); M. Shoaib, Princeton Univ. (United States); M. D. Robinson, Ricoh Innovations, Inc. (United States)
7429 03	<b>Optimality of pupil-phase profiles for increasing the defocus tolerance of hybrid digital-optical imaging systems (Invited Paper)</b> [7429-02] T. Vettenburg, Heriot-Watt Univ. (United Kingdom); A. Wood, N. Bustin, Qioptiq Ltd. (United Kingdom); A. R. Harvey, Heriot-Watt Univ. (United Kingdom)
7429 04	<b>Depth of field extension in a low power microscope objective</b> [7429-03] P. Mouroulis, B. E. van Gorp, H. A. Bender, E. E. Bloemhof, J. Nichols, S. Douglas, Jet Propulsion Lab. (United States)
7429 05	<b>Depth perception with a rotationally symmetric coded camera</b> [7429-04] C.-C. Chang, National Central Univ. (Taiwan) and Industrial Technology Research Institute (Taiwan); Y.-L. Chen, C.-W. Chang, Industrial Technology Research Institute (Taiwan); C.-C. Lee, National Central Univ. (Taiwan)
7429 06	<b>Infrared image guidance for ground vehicle based on fast wavelet image focusing and tracking</b> [7429-05] 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)

---

## SESSION 2 ILLUMINATION

---

7429 07	<b>Chromatic perception of non-invasive lighting of cave paintings</b> [7429-06] J. Zoido, D. Vazquez, A. Álvarez, E. Bernabeu, Univ. Complutense de Madrid (Spain); Á. García, Univ. Politécnica de Madrid (Spain); J. A. Herraiz, M. del Egido, Instituto del Patrimonio Historico Español (Spain)
7429 08	<b>Efficient measurement of large light source near-field color and luminance distributions for optical design and simulation (Invited Paper)</b> [7429-07] H. Kostal, D. Kreysar, R. Rykowski, Radiant Imaging, Inc. (United States)
7429 09	<b>A beam splitter of natural light guiding system based on dichroic prism for ecological illumination</b> [7429-08] Y.-C. Li, Y.-Y. Chen, A. J.-W. Whang, National Taiwan Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan)

- 7429 0A **Design and optimization of dot pattern in illumination lightpipe of natural light guiding system** [7429-09]  
Z.-Y. Lee, Y.-Y. Chen, A. J.-W. Whang, National Taiwan Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan)

---

### SESSION 3      MODELING

---

- 7429 0C **Overview of the SMS design method applied to imaging optics** [7429-14]  
J. C. Miñano, P. Benítez, W. Lin, Univ. Politécnica de Madrid (Spain); F. Muñoz, LPI (United States); J. Infante, A. Santamaría, Univ. Politécnica de Madrid (Spain)
- 7429 0D **Raytrace assisted analytical formulation of Fresnel lens transmission efficiency** [7429-12]  
A. Davis, Reflexite (United States)
- 7429 0E **Design, analysis, and fabrication of a really bad lens** [7429-13]  
A. W. Greynolds, Ruda-Cardinal Inc. (United States)
- 7429 0F **Optimization of optics with micro diffractive optical element via a hybrid Taguchi genetic algorithm** [7429-11]  
T.-K. Liu, Y.-C. Fang, B.-W. Wu, National Kaohsiung First Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan); J. MacDonald, The Univ. of Reading (United Kingdom); J.-H. Chou, National Kaohsiung First Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan); C.-M. Tsai, Kun Shan Univ. (Taiwan); H.-C. Lin, W. T. Lin, National Kaohsiung First Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan)

---

### SESSION 4      SYSTEMS

---

- 7429 0G **Flight miniature Risley prism mechanism** [7429-16]  
C. S. Clark, S. Gentile, Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Ctr. (United States)
- 7429 0H **Collection optics for imaging spectroscopy of an electric arc shock tube** [7429-17]  
R. B. Greenberg, ELORET Corp. (United States); B. A. Cruden, J. H. Grinstead, NASA Ames Research Ctr. (United States); D. Yeung, Sierra Lobo Corp. (United States)
- 7429 0I **Laser despeckled image** [7429-18]  
M. Tilleman, Elbit Systems of America, Inc. (United States)
- 7429 0J **Speckle interferometric sensor to measure low-amplitude high frequency ocular microtremor (OMT)** [7429-19]  
J. P. Ryle, Univ. College Dublin (Ireland) and SFI Strategic Research Ctr. in Solar Energy Conversion (Ireland); M. Al-Kalbani, Mercer's Institute for Research on Ageing (Ireland) and St. James's Hospital (Ireland); U. Gopinathan, Instrument Research and Development Establishment (India); G. Boyle, D. Coakley, Mercer's Institute for Research on Ageing (Ireland) and St. James's Hospital (Ireland); J. T. Sheridan, Univ. College Dublin (Ireland) and SFI Strategic Research Ctr. in Solar Energy Conversion (Ireland)
- 7429 0K **Analysis of required shape of flexible sensor for different lens focus** [7429-20]  
D. Shaw, S.-P. Cuo, C. W. Lin, National Tsing Hua Univ. (Taiwan)

---

**SESSION 5      DESIGN IN COMPUTED IMAGING II**

---

- 7429 OL      **Ray tracing, wavefronts, and caustics: use of Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensor for analyzing light propagation** [7429-21]  
S. Bosch, S. Vallmitjana, C. Ferran, Univ. de Barcelona (Spain)
- 7429 OM      **Spherical coded imagers: improving lens speed, depth-of-field, and manufacturing yield through enhanced spherical aberration and compensating image processing (Invited Paper)** [7429-22]  
M. D. Robinson, G. Feng, D. G. Stork, Ricoh Innovations, Inc. (United States)
- 7429 ON      **A technique to remove image artefacts in optical systems with wavefront coding** [7429-23]  
M. Demenikov, A. R. Harvey, Heriot-Watt Univ. (United Kingdom)

---

**SESSION 6      EDUCATION**

---

- 7429 OP      **Case study findings of PHOTON problem-based learning (PBL) with high school photonics outreach programs** [7429-25]  
J. Hilliard-Clark, P. Gilchrist, S. Allgood, North Carolina State Univ. (United States)
- 7429 OQ      **Restarting a high school photonics program** [7429-26]  
B. K. Belcher, Plainfield High School (United States); J. Donnelly, Three Rivers Community College (United States)
- 7429 OR      **Teaching photonics technology students to think: methods** [7429-27]  
G. B. Beasley, J. Yeatman, Central Carolina Community College (United States)
- 7429 OS      **An optics first year experience course for community college students** [7429-28]  
J. Donnelly, Three Rivers Community College (United States)

---

**POSTER SESSION**

---

- 7429 OT      **A spherical catadioptric telescope system based on Cooke corrector group** [7429-29]  
J. Zhang, Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics (China) and Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); Y. Kang, W. Liu, Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics (China)
- 7429 OW      **Depth of field estimation: theory, experiment, and application** [7429-32]  
R. H. Abd El-Maksoud, L. Wang, J. M. Sasian, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); V. S. Valencia, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States) and Authenti-Corp (United States)
- 7429 OX      **Optical design of endoscopic shape-tracker using quantum dots embedded in fiber bundles** [7429-34]  
J. Eisenstein, R. Gavalis, P. Y. Wong, C. G. L. Cao, Tufts Univ. (United States)
- 7429 OZ      **Development of tissue multi-slice laser reflectance imaging system** [7429-36]  
J. Indumathi, M. Singh, Vellore Institute of Technology Univ. (India)

- 7429 10     **Structural design of optically compensated zoom lenses using genetic algorithm** [7429-37]  
S. Pal, L. N. Hazra, Univ. of Calcutta (India)
- 7429 11     **Illumination scheme for high-contrast contactless fingerprint images** [7429-38]  
L. Wang, R. H. Abd El-Maksoud, J. M. Sasian, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); V. S. Valencia, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States) and Authenti-Corp (United States)
- 7429 13     **PDV and shock physics: application to nitro methane shock-detonation transition and particles ejection** [7429-40]  
P. A. Frugier, P. Mercier, J. Bénier, J. Veaux, M. Debruyne, C. Rion, E. Dubreuil, CEA DAM Ile de France (France)
- 7429 14     **Study on the reversibility of the diffraction light path** [7429-42]  
W. Zhang, L. Wan, Guangxi Univ. (China); Y. Liu, Guangxi Univ. (China) and Bijie College (China); J. Dong, X. Shen, Guangxi Univ. (China)
- 7429 15     **A novel contactless aliveness-testing (CAT) fingerprint sensor** [7429-43]  
L. Wang, R. H. Abd El-Maksoud, J. M. Sasian, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); W. P. Kuhn, Opt-E (United States); K. Gee, Authenti-Corp (United States); V. S. Valencia, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States) and Authenti-Corp (United States)
- 7429 16     **Optical-fiber vortex-shedding flowmeter based on white-light interference** [7429-44]  
D. Zhao, H. Wu, B. Jia, Fudan Univ. (China); Y. Zhi, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)

*Author Index*

# Conference Committee

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     **Joseph M. Howard**, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (United States)



## Introduction

This year in San Diego, California, we held the twelfth conference of Novel Optical Systems Design and Optimization. The conference was well attended and began with a session on Design in Computed Imaging and ended in a joint session with Current Developments in Lens Design and Optical Engineering. This year there were seven oral sessions and one poster session. The primary focus of the conference was the field of optical design for computed imaging sessions. The seven oral sessions had titles of: Design in Computed Imaging I and II, Illumination, Modeling, Systems, Education, and the Invited (joint) Session. These oral sessions covered one-and-a-half days of the entire Optics + Photonics 2009 meeting. Note that the joint session proceedings papers are contained in the Current Developments in Lens Design and Optical Engineering X volume.

The Design in Computed Imaging sessions predominately focused on coding methods to address defocus, depth of field, and image artifacts. The Illumination session presented investigations of lighting, source measurement, and day-lighting. The Modeling session tackled new methods of designing imaging optics, while the Systems session looked at the optics in a number of optical systems. The Education session, which may be spun out into its own conference in the near future, looked at optics from the primary to college levels. The joint session had three invited speakers to introduce the audience to new ways that optical design is and can be a factor in our daily lives.

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

- A discussion by Tom Vettenburg from Heriot-Watt University (United Kingdom) using phase masks to increase defocus tolerance in digital imaging systems
- A paper given by Dirk Robinson, Guotong Feng, and David Stork about spherically coded imaging to improve lens performance
- Jay Enoch of the University of California, Berkeley gave a paper on the history of imaging optics, showing their use thousands of years ago
- Ken Rockwell presented insights from the non-optical design community on what is practical and what is not
- Yongtian Wang gave a talk about display systems for mixed (i.e., real and virtual concurrently) applications.

As can be seen, the invited topics covered a large breadth 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 to build 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 on their own 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.

Next year, we will return for the thirteenth iteration of this conference. The chairs will remain for as Groot Gregory and John Koshel. The planning for Novel Optical Systems Design and Optimization XIII in 2010 is already under way, so please start planning submissions, questions, and attendance. Focus themes are being decided at this time. If you would like to assist with the 2010 or later conference, please contact one of us. We look forward to seeing you in 2010!

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