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Andrew Forbes
Todd E. Lizotte
Editors

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Contents

- vii *Conference Committee*
- ix *Introduction*
- xi *Optical design dependence on technology development (Plenary Paper) [7428-01]*
I. A. Neil, ScotOptix (Switzerland)

SESSION 1 THEORY AND DESIGN

- 7430 02 **Transverse and axial beam shaping in the non-paraxial domain** [7430-01]
S. M. Kuebler, CREOL, The College of Optics and Photonics (United States) and Univ. of Central Florida (United States); T. G. Jabbour, CREOL, The College of Optics and Photonics (United States)
- 7430 03 **Achromatic refractive beam shaping optics for broad spectrum laser applications** [7430-02]
A. Laskin, Molecular Technology GmbH (Germany)
- 7430 05 **Improvements to optical performance in diffractive elements used for off-axis illumination** [7430-04]
K. Welch, A. Fedor, D. Felder, J. Childers, T. Emig, Tessera North America (United States)
- 7430 06 **Diffractive laser beam shaping for holography** [7430-05]
K. Kanzler, A. Stockham, MEMS Optical, Inc. (United States)

SESSION 2 NON-DIFFRACTING AND VORTEX BEAMS I

- 7430 08 **Polynomial Gaussian beams** [7430-07]
F. S. Roux, CSIR National Laser Ctr. (South Africa)
- 7430 09 **Numerical calculation of arbitrary Helmholtz-Gauss beams** [7430-08]
C. López-Mariscal, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States);
J. C. Gutiérrez-Vega, Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)
- 7430 0A **Superpositions of higher-order Bessel beams and nondiffracting speckle fields** [7430-09]
A. Dudley, CSIR National Laser Ctr. (South Africa) and Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa);
R. Vasilyeu, B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus); A. Forbes, CSIR National Laser Ctr.
(South Africa) and Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa); N. Khilo, P. Ropot, V. Belyi, N. Kazak,
B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus)

SESSION 3 NON-DIFFRACTING AND VORTEX BEAMS II

- 7430 0C **Accelerating vortices in Airy beams** [7430-11]
M. Mazilu, J. Baumgartl, T. Čižmár, K. Dholakia, Univ. of St. Andrews (United Kingdom)

- 7430 0D **Diffraction of plane waves by apodized finite-radius spiral phase plates of integer and fractional topological charge** [7430-12]
H. Garcia-Gracia, J. C. Gutiérrez-Vega, Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)
- 7430 0E **Bessel-like beams with z-dependent cone angles** [7430-13]
V. N. Belyi, B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus); A. Forbes, CSIR National Laser Ctr. (South Africa) and Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa); N. S. Kazak, N. A. Khilo, P. I. Ropot, B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus)
- 7430 0F **Generation and propagation of high-order Bessel vortices in linear and non-linear crystals** [7430-14]
V. N. Belyi, N. A. Khilo, B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus); A. Forbes, CSIR National Laser Ctr. (South Africa) and Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa); A. A. Ryzhevich, B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus)
- 7430 0G **Application of orbital angular momentum in optical measurement** [7430-15]
J. Lin, Nanyang Technological Univ. (Singapore); X.-C. Yuan, Nankai Univ. (China)

SESSION 4 ADAPTIVE BEAM SHAPING

- 7430 0H **Dynamic MEMS-based linear (1D) diffusers for laser beam homogenizing and beam shaping** [7430-16]
J. Masson, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland); A. Bich, SUSS MicroOptics SA (Switzerland); W. Noell, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland); R. Voelkel, K. J. Weible, SUSS MicroOptics SA (Switzerland); N. F. De Rooij, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)
- 7430 0I **Dynamic array spot shaping for laser micro machining** [7430-17]
A. Bich, K. J. Weible, R. Voelkel, SUSS MicroOptics SA (Switzerland); M. Zimmermann, Bayerisches Laserzentrum GmbH (Germany); I. Harder, N. Lindlein, Univ. of Erlangen (Germany); J. Masson, R. Bitterli, W. Noell, T. Scharf, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)

SESSION 5 RESONATORS

- 7430 0L **Beam shaping in laser resonators and coherent laser arrays: an overview and current state of the art (Invited Paper)** [7430-19]
J. R. Leger, M. Khajavikhan, B. Tiffany, Univ. of Minnesota (United States)
- 7430 0M **Intra-cavity flat-top beam generation** [7430-20]
I. A. Litvin, CSIR National Laser Ctr. (South Africa) and Univ. of Stellenbosch (South Africa); A. Forbes, CSIR National Laser Ctr. (South Africa) and Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)
- 7430 0O **Paint stripping with high power flattened Gaussian beams** [7430-22]
A. Forbes, Klydon Ltd. (South Africa) and CSIR National Laser Ctr. (South Africa); N. C. du Preez, Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa); V. Belyi, L. R. Botha, CSIR National Laser Ctr. (South Africa)

- 7430 OP **Some applications of binary Diffractive Optical Elements (Invited Paper)** [7430-23]
K. Aït-Ameur, Ctr. de Recherche sur les Ions (France); N. Passilly, Institut Femto-ST (France);
M. Fromager, E. Cagniot, Ctr. de Recherche sur les Ions (France)

SESSION 6 APPLICATIONS

- 7430 OQ **High resolution x-ray imaging microscope for diagnostics of inertial confinement fusion (Invited Paper)** [7430-24]
H. Maury, P. Troussel, Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (France); J. P. Champeaux, Univ. Paul Sabatier (France)
- 7430 OS **Advanced testing requirements of diffractive optical elements for off-axis illumination in photolithography** [7430-26]
J. E. Childers, T. Baker, T. Emig, J. Carriere, M. D. Himel, Tessera North America (United States)
- 7430 OT **355 nm diffractive beam shaper: modes and mechanism of failure and its impact on operational lifetime** [7430-27]
T. E. Lizotte, Hitachi Via Mechanics USA, Inc. (United States)
- 7430 OU **Adaptation of an existing diffractive mono-mode beam shaping design to compensate a wavelength change** [7430-28]
K. J. Weible, SUSS MicroOptics SA (Switzerland); T. E. Lizotte, Hitachi Via Mechanics USA, Inc. (United States)
- 7430 OV **Vacuum isostatic micro/macro molding of PTFE materials for laser beam shaping in environmental applications: large scale UV laser water purification** [7430-29]
T. Lizotte, O. Ohar, Pivotal Development Co. LLC (United States)

SESSION 7 ULTRA-FAST PULSE SHAPING

- 7430 OW **Supercontinuum airy beams** [7430-30]
J. E. Morris, M. Mazilu, J. Baumgartl, T. Čižmár, K. Dholakia, Univ. of St. Andrews (United Kingdom)
- 7430 OX **Femtosecond pulse duration as a tool for controlling high fluence of laser filament in air** [7430-31]
E. P. Silaeva, O. V. Tverskoy, V. P. Kandidov, Lomonosov Moscow State Univ. (Russian Federation)
- 7430 OY **Pulse compression with volume holographic transmission gratings recorded in Slavich PFG-04 emulsions** [7430-32]
A. Villamarín, Univ. de Zaragoza (Spain); Í. Sola, Univ. de Salamanca (Spain); J. Atencia, M. V. Collados, Univ. de Zaragoza (Spain); I. Arias, Univ. de Salamanca (Spain); C. Mendez, Ctr. de Láseres Pulsados Ultracortos Ultraintensos (Spain); O. Varela, B. Alonso, J. Rodríguez, Univ. de Salamanca (Spain); M. Quintanilla, Univ. de Zaragoza (Spain); L. Roso, Ctr. de Láseres Pulsados Ultracortos Ultraintensos (Spain)

POSTER SESSION

- 7430 0Z **Rotary solitons in elliptical photonic lattices** [7430-35]
A. Ruelas, S. López-Aguayo, J. C. Gutiérrez-Vega, Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)
- 7430 10 **Intracavity generation of longitudinal dependant Bessel like beams** [7430-36]
I. Litvin, CSIR National Laser Ctr. (South Africa) and Univ. of Stellenbosch (South Africa);
N. Khilo, B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus); A. Forbes, CSIR National Laser Ctr. (South Africa) and Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa); V. Belyi, B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus)
- 7430 11 **Investigation of local spatial spectra of Bessel light-beams** [7430-38]
V. N. Belyi, N. S. Kazak, N. A. Khilo, B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus); A. Forbes, CSIR National Laser Ctr. (South Africa) and Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa); P. I. Ropot, B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus)
- 7430 12 **Free-form lens for laser level system** [7430-39]
Y.-D. Chen, Y.-H. Chen, National Taiwan Univ. (Taiwan); W.-Y. Hsu, National Applied Research Labs. (Taiwan); G.-D. Su, National Taiwan Univ. (Taiwan)
- 7430 13 **Propagation of Whittaker-Gaussian beams** [7430-40]
D. Lopez-Mago, Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico); M. A. Bandres, California Institute of Technology (United States); J. C. Gutiérrez-Vega, Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)
- 7430 14 **Study of temperature sensing in a novel fattened electric arc induced LPFG** [7430-41]
R. I. Mata-Chávez, J. M. Estudillo-Ayala, R. Rojas-Laguna, E. Vargas-Rodríguez, Univ. de Guanajuato (Mexico); A. Martínez-Rios, I. Torres-Gómez, D. Monzón-Hernandez, Optical Research Ctr. (Mexico); M. Trejo-Duran, J. R. Pérez-Chimal, Univ. de Guanajuato (Mexico)
- 7430 15 **Influence of grating shapes on diffraction properties of ultrashort pulse beam by local volume holographic grating** [7430-42]
Z. Hu, Shanghai Normal Univ. (China); L. Liu, Y. Zhi, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China); Y. Tang, Shanghai Normal Univ. (China)
- 7430 18 **Laser beam shaping: donut mode formation by interference** [7430-46]
L. Kreminska, C. Corder, V. Engquist, O. Golovin, Univ. of Nebraska at Kearney (United States); P. Hansen, H. Batelaan, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln (United States); A. I. Khizhnyak, MetroLaser, Inc. (United States); G. A. Swartzlander, Jr., Rochester Institute of Technology (United States)

Author Index

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Session Chairs

- 1 Theory and Design
Fred M. Dickey, FMD Consulting LLC (United States)

- 2 Non-Diffracting and Vortex Beams I
Vladimir N. Belyi, B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus)
- 3 Non-Diffracting and Vortex Beams II
Filippus S. Roux, CSIR National Laser Center (South Africa)
- 4 Adaptive Beam Shaping
Andreas Bich, SUSS MicroOptics SA (Switzerland)
- 5 Resonators
Aleksis V. Kudryashov, Moscow State Open University (Russian Federation)
- 6 Applications
Kurt J. Kanzler, MEMS Optical, Inc. (United States)
- 7 Ultra-Fast Pulse Shaping
Todd E. Lizotte, Hitachi Via Mechanics USA, Inc. (United States)

Introduction

At the end of the day on August 4th, we completed the tenth conference on Laser Beam Shaping (LBSX 2009) at the Annual Optics + Photonics Conference in San Diego, CA. This is a major milestone for the conference, whose success is due in no small part to the prescience of the inaugurating chairs, Dr. Fred Dickey, Scott Holswade, and Prof. David Shealy, who oversaw the first conference and sustained it during its first eight years.

Over the past ten years we have been able to witness the evolution of Laser Beam Shaping from its initial footholds in telecom and laser printing to its broader applications in laser resonators, laser materials processing and biomedical applications.

As we move forward it will be vital that the Laser Beam Shaping Conference adjust its focus in harmony with the natural evolutionary state of Laser Beam Shaping technologies; nevertheless we need to be mindful and vigilant to the guiding principle, that no matter if you come from academia or industry, this conference should allow for the building of strong relationships with one another by introducing, cultivating and testing new ideas as well as an introduction to real world applications.

It is essential that we all participate to drive and maintain Laser Beam Shaping technology to promote innovation that will ultimately bring forward new solutions to the marketplace. As always we will take a fresh look at old processes, take calculated risks and push the envelope. This drive is not an individual act, but a partnership between all of us to understand that sometimes simple participation and sharing of new ideas and concepts can translate into new business opportunities for all.

We look forward to many more years and thank you for supporting the first ten.

Todd E. Lizotte
Andrew Forbes

