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Ronald E. Meyers
Yanhua Shih
Keith S. Deacon
Editors

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Contents

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

QUANTUM IMAGING I

- 7815 02 **Soft-metric-based information reconciliation techniques for QKD (Invited Paper)** [7815-01]
M. Mondin, Politecnico di Torino (Italy); F. Daneshgaran, California State Univ. (United States); M. Delgado, F. Mesiti, Politecnico di Torino (Italy)
- 7815 03 **Infrared two-color ghost imaging using entangled beams (Invited Paper)** [7815-02]
C. C. Kim, G. Kanner, Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems (United States)
- 7815 06 **Quantum ghost imaging (Invited Paper)** [7815-05]
R. E. Meyers, K. S. Deacon, U.S. Army Research Lab. (United States); Y. Shih, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County (United States)

QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY I

- 7815 08 **Study on noise reduction in up-conversion single photon detectors (Invited Paper)** [7815-07]
L. Ma, O. Slattery, X. Tang, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States)
- 7815 09 **Controlled placement of single photon sources for quantum integration (Invited Paper)** [7815-08]
E. Waks, C. Ropp, R. Probst, Z. Cummins, R. Kumar, Univ. of Maryland, College Park (United States); A. Berglund, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States); S. Raghavan, J. Fourkas, B. Shapiro, Univ. of Maryland, College Park (United States)

QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY II

- 7815 0A **Upconversion as a tool for characterization and preparation of photonic quantum states (Invited Paper)** [7815-09]
K. A. O'Donnell, Ctr. de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (Mexico); A. B. U'Ren, Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- 7815 0C **Impurities in diamond: a new revival for quantum optics (Invited Paper)** [7815-34]
S. Castelletto, I. Aharonovich, C. H. Su, S. Prawer, The Univ. of Melbourne (Australia)

ENTANGLEMENT

- 7815 0D **Quantum random number generator using photon-number path entanglement (Invited Paper)** [7815-11]
O. Kwon, Y.-W. Cho, Y.-H. Kim, Pohang Univ. of Science and Technology (Korea, Republic of)

- 7815 OE **How can we minimize errors in a linear-optics quantum gate?** [7815-37]
T. Nagata, R. Okamoto, M. Tanida, Hokkaido Univ. (Japan) and Osaka Univ. (Japan);
H. F. Hofmann, Hiroshima Univ. (Japan); S. Takeuchi, Hokkaido Univ. (Japan) and Osaka
Univ. (Japan)
- 7815 OH **Efficient photon pair sources based on silicon-on-insulator microresonators (Invited Paper)**
[7815-15]
J. Chen, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States) and Univ. of
Maryland, College Park (United States); Z. H. Levine, National Institute of Standards and
Technology (United States); J. Fan, A. Migdall, National Institute of Standards and
Technology (United States) and Univ. of Maryland, College Park (United States)

QUANTUM IMAGING II

- 7815 OI **Quantum ghost imaging experiments at ARL (Invited Paper)** [7815-17]
R. E. Meyers, K. S. Deacon, U.S. Army Research Lab. (United States)
- 7815 OJ **Towards improved end-to-end system efficiency of photon pair systems (Invited Paper)**
[7815-18]
A. Ling, J. Fan, A. Migdall, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States)
and Univ. of Maryland, College Park (United States)
- 7815 OL **Ghost imaging in reflection: resolution, contrast, and signal-to-noise ratio (Invited Paper)**
[7815-20]
N. D. Hardy, J. H. Shapiro, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States)

QUANTUM COMMUNICATIONS

- 7815 OO **Towards high-rate quantum key distribution using quantum frames (Invited Paper)** [7815-23]
X. Mo, I. Lucio Martinez, P. Chan, Univ. of Calgary (Canada); S. Hosier, SAIT Polytechnic
(Canada); W. Tittel, Univ. of Calgary (Canada)
- 7815 OP **Quantum stream cipher beyond the Shannon limit of symmetric key cipher and the
possibility of experimental demonstration (Invited Paper)** [7815-24]
O. Hirota, T. Iwakoshi, M. Sohma, F. Futami, Tamagawa Univ. (Japan)

QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE

- 7815 OR **Analogue factoring algorithm based on polychromatic interference** [7815-40]
V. Tamma, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County (United States); A. Garuccio, Univ. degli
Studi di Bari (Italy); Y. Shih, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County (United States)
- 7815 OT **Graph state secret sharing in higher-dimensional systems (Invited Paper)** [7815-26]
B. Fortescue, A. Keet, Univ. of Calgary (Canada); D. Markham, LTCI-CNRS, Telecom
ParisTech (France); B. C. Sanders, Univ. of Calgary (Canada)
- 7815 OU **Hybrid information processing (Invited Paper)** [7815-27]
B. C. Jacobs, The Johns Hopkins Univ. (United States)

- 7815 0V **Phase transitions in systems of interacting photons: quantum optics, quantum information, condensed matter and the Jaynes-Cummings-Hubbard model (Invited Paper)** [7815-28]
A. D. Greentree, The Univ. of Melbourne (Australia)

POSTER SESSION

- 7815 11 **Narrow-band photon pairs generated from spontaneous parametric down conversion in a Bragg-grating enhanced waveguide (Invited Paper)** [7815-12]
L. Yan, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County (United States); L. Ma, X. Tang, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States)
- 7815 12 **Review of representative free-space quantum communications experiments (Invited Paper)** [7815-22]
A. Tunick, T. Moore, K. Deacon, R. Meyers, U.S. Army Research Lab. (United States)
- 7815 13 **Storage and retrieval of thermal light in warm atomic vapor** [7815-38]
Y.-W. Cho, Y.-H. Kim, Pohang Univ. of Science and Technology (Korea, Republic of)
- 7815 14 **Effects depolarizing quantum channels on BB84 and SARG04 quantum cryptography** [7815-39]
Y.-C. Jeong, Y.-S. Kim, Y.-H. Kim, Pohang Univ. of Science and Technology (Korea, Republic of)

Author Index

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- 3 Quantum Technology II
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- 4 Entanglement
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Keith S. Deacon, U.S. Army Research Laboratory (United States)
- 5 Quantum Imaging II
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Keith S. Deacon, U.S. Army Research Laboratory (United States)
- 6 Quantum Communications
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- 7 Quantum Information Science
Ronald E. Meyers, U.S. Army Research Laboratory (United States)
Keith S. Deacon, U.S. Army Research Laboratory (United States)
- 8 Quantum Information, Imaging, and Technology
Ronald E. Meyers, U.S. Army Research Laboratory (United States)
Keith S. Deacon, U.S. Army Research Laboratory (United States)

Introduction

It is my pleasure to write the foreword to the proceedings of the very successful and very exciting SPIE Quantum Communications and Quantum Imaging VIII conference, which was held in San Diego, California, 2, 4–5 August 2010. This is actually the ninth of our ongoing series of international conferences at the SPIE annual Optics + Photonics meeting providing new theoretical and experimental results and insights into the fundamentals of quantum communications and imaging science and technology. The purpose of this conference is to bring together scientists performing fundamental research in quantum communications and quantum imaging for the benefit of both. Distinguished scientists from many countries presented state-of-the-art scientific papers on quantum communications and quantum imaging and stimulated lively discussions with audience participants. This conference is known for the spirited insightful discussions, which continue after the presentations and after the sessions.

Scientific highlights included research on the role of the quantum properties in quantum imaging as well as experimental methods for quantum imaging with entanglement and incoherent thermal sources; In particular, the concept natural nonfactorizability of the ghost imaging two-photon amplitude correlations was explored. It leads to experiments in compressive turbulence-free ghost imaging. Other research demonstrated quantum imaging methods to overcome imaging aberrations. In addition, man-made compressive quantum inspired ghost imaging was explored with pseudo random micro-pixel illumination and pseudo-randomly displace Bessel beam illumination and using compressive sensing. Analysis was presented that indicates various types of ghost imaging exhibit higher signal to noise ratios than conventional laser radars. Quantum communications was reviewed in the conference and new fiber and free-space technologies were presented for achieving high speed quantum communications. Research was presented on high speed and high security quantum encryption and quantum key distribution methodologies and their expanding role with national programs in bringing increased communications security and bandwidth. For the first time it was shown that light can factor numbers having values over one-million and determine primes. New fundamental relations in quantum properties of thermal light were presented and experimentally verified with determination of Bell states of thermal light. With regards to new sources of radiation we found that diamonds are achieving a greatly increased capability as single photon sources. It was also demonstrated how slow light can be used to achieve memory of thermal light photon statistics. Research in superresolution is achieving unprecedented subwavelength resolution. The close relation between quantum communications and quantum imaging continues to be demonstrated by important scientific and technological achievements.

I would like to thank Professor Yanhua Shih of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and Keith Deacon of the Army Research Laboratory for helping to organize the conference and for providing high standards and achievement in quantum imaging and quantum science. In particular, I would like to thank Keith Deacon for helping chair the sessions. A debt is due to each on the program committee for providing recommendations and contacts of those who attended.

I look forward to meeting all of our participants at our next SPIE Quantum Communications and Quantum Imaging conference, 21–25 August 2011 in San Diego, California.

**Ronald E. Meyers
Yanhua Shih
Keith S. Deacon**