Testing Curved Surfaces and Lenses

- 1. Test Plate
- 2. Twyman-Green Interferometer (LUPI)
- 3. Fizeau (Laser source)
- 4. Shack Cube Interferometer
- 5. Scatterplate Interferometer
- 6. Smartt Point Diffraction Interferometer
- 7. Sommargren Diffraction Interferometer
- 8. Measurement of Cylindrical Surfaces
- 9. Star Test
- 10. Shack-Hartmann Test

Classical Fizeau Interferometer



Twyman-Green Interferometer (Spherical Surfaces)



Fizeau Interferometer-Laser Source (Spherical Surfaces)



Shack Interferometer



Ref: R. V. Shack and G. W. Hopkins, Opt. Eng. 18, p. 226, March-April 1979

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Shack Interferometer



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8.2.6 Scatterplate Interferometer

The scatterplate interferometer illustrated in Fig. 8.2.6-1 for the testing of a spherical mirror gives fringes of constant contour just as does the LUPI; however, its operation does not depend on the knowledge of the quality of auxiliary optics. Due to the common path feature of the interferometer, the light source can be either a laser, or more commonly, a white light source such as a zirconium arc or tungsten bulb with a Wratten spectral filter. The light source is focused onto a pinhole, which is then reimaged onto the surface under test. A scatterplate a few millimeters in diameter is placed at the center of curvature of the mirror under test. Part of the light illuminating the scatterplate will pass unscattered to focus directly on the mirror surface, while part of the light will be scatterplate back on itself--inverted, of course.



Fig. 8.2.6-1 Scatterplate interferometer for testing concave mirror.

Fig. 8.2.6-2 shows a photo of a scatterplate interferometer where the light source is a helium neon laser.



Fig. 8.2.6-2 Scatterplate Interferometer

The light transmitted through the scatterplate the second time can be divided into four categories dependent upon the influence of the scatterplate on the transmitted light: (1) unscattered-unscattered, (2) unscattered-scattered, (3)scattered-unscattered, and (4) scattered-scattered. The unscattered-unscattered light will produce a bright or hot spot in the interferogram, while the scattered-scattered beam will reduce the fringe contrast. If a laser source is used the scattered-scattered beam will give a high-frequency speckle pattern across the interferogram. The interference of the unscattered-scattered and scattered-unscattered beams gives fringes of constant contour that are just the same as those produced by a LUPI. Tilt in the interference fringes is introduced by lateral translation of the scatterplate, while longitudinal translation controls the amount of defocus. Fig. 8.2.6-3 shows 3 typical interferograms obtained using a scatterplate interferograms to change the amount of tilt and defocus.



Fig. 8.2.6-3 Scatterplate interferograms of parabolic mirror.

The scatterplate interferometer is a very simple device, having a minimum of quality components. The most critical part of the instrument is the scatterplate itself, which can easily be made. The basic procedure for making a scatterplate is to expose a photographic plate to a speckle pattern produced by illuminating a piece of ground glass with a laser beam. Since the scatterplate must have inversion symmetry, two superimposed exposures to the speckle pattern must be made, where the plate is rotated 180° between the exposures. To ensure that the scatterplate illuminates the surface under test as uniformly as possible, during the making of the scatterplate the solid angle subtended by the illuminated piece of ground glass, as viewed from the photographic plate should be bleached to yield-a phase scatterplate. The exposure, development, and bleaching should be controlled so that the scatterplate scatters 10 to 20% of the incident light.

Fig. 8.2.6-4 shows a high magnification photograph of a scatterplate. This scatterplate was made for operation at a wavelength of 10.6 microns so the detail making up the scatterplate was large enough to easily observe through a microscope. Note the inversion symmetry of the structure making up the scatterplate.

Lateral Displacement Introduces Tilt



Longitudinal Displacement Introduces Defocus





Fig. 8.2.6-4 High magnification photograph of a scatterplate.

The advantages of the scatterplate interferometer are that the instrument is simple and inexpensive, requires no accessory optics, and because the interferometer has a common path, it is less sensitive to vibration and turbulence. If an incoherent source is used as the light source, the coherent noise (extraneous fringes), normally associated with using a laser as the light source, is absent. The disadvantages are that the hot spot can cause a loss of fringes for a small portion of the interferogram and the twice-scattered beam will cause the interferogram to have somewhat lower contrast than can be obtained using a LUPI.

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Scatterplate Interferograms



647.1 nm



520.8 nm



476.2 nm



All λ 's except red



Absorptive scatterplate



568.2 nm, rotating ground glass



520.8 nm, rotating ground glass



476.2 nm, rotating ground glass

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Phase-Shifting a Scatterplate Interferometer



- Scatterplate has inversion symmetry
- Scatterplate is located at center of curvature of test mirror
- Direct-scattered and scattered-direct beams produce fringes

Separating Test and Reference Beams

- Difficult to separate spatially
 - Both test and reference traverse nearly the same path
- If test and reference have orthogonal polarization then phase-shifting is possible

Birefringent Scatterplate Makes Phase-Shifting Possible

- Scatterplate is made of calcite
- Oil matches ordinary index of calcite
- Scattering is polarization dependent



Scatterplate Production

Generated using six step process

- 1. Clean substrate
- 2. Spin coat with Photoresist
- 3. Expose
 - Holographic
 - Photomask
- 4. Develop
- 5. Etch with 37% HCl Diluted 5000/1 in DI
- 6. Remove Photoresist



System Layout



Phase-Shifted Fringe Pattern



Surface Measurement Using Phase-Shifting Scatterplate Interferometer



Measurement Comparison

Scatterplate

WYKO 6000





Summary Phase-Shifting Scatterplate

- Birefringent scatterplate makes phaseshifting possible
- For this example
 - Accuracy ≈ 0.035 waves peak-to-valley
 - Repeatability ≈ 0.003 waves RMS
- Performance limited by liquid crystal retarder

8.2.7) Point-Diffraction Interferometer (Smartt)

The point diffraction interferometer (PDI) is basically a two-beam interferometer in which a reference beam is generated by the diffraction from a small pinhole in a semitransparent coating. The operation of the interferometer is described in the paper "Infrared point-diffraction interferometer".

The major disadvantage of the PDI is that the amount of light getting through the pinhole, and hence the amount of light in the reference beam, depends upon the position of the pinhole. That is, the contrast of the interference fringes depends upon the amount of aberration and upon the amount of tilt introduced into the interferogram. Typically, the amount of tilt in the interferogram can be changed by 5 to 7 fringes before the fringe contrast becomes unacceptable.

Smartt Point Diffraction Interferometer





Operation of Smartt point diffraction interferometer.



Point diffraction interferometer used to test a lens.



Typical interferogram obtained using PDI.



Typical test setups.

Point Diffraction Interferometer

Wavefront Measurement



Generates "synthetic reference wave" from point diffracting element

Polarization PDI Construction

Finite Conducting Grids "wire grid polarizer"





Single Layer PDI Example



Focused Ion Beam Milling

Polarization PDI Multilayer Design



Instantaneous Phase-Shifting PDI



Synthetic reference wave is p-polarized Transmitted test beam is s-polarized Wavefront can be measured in a single shot!!!

Air Flow Measurement



Simultaneous Interferograms

Phase Map





Cylindrical Surface Test

- Need cylindrical wavefront
 - Reference grating: Off-axis cylinder
 - Cylinder null lens: Hard to make
- Direct measurement No modifications to interferometer
- Concave and convex surfaces
- Quantitative phase measurement

Cylinder Null Lens Test Setup



Cylinder Grating Test Setup



8.2.10) Star Test

Ref: Chapter 11 of Malacara

The careful visual examination of the image of a point source formed by a lens being evaluated is one of the most basic and important tests that can be performed. The interpretation of the image in terms of aberrations is to a large degree a matter of experience, and the visual examination of a point image should be a dynamic process. The observer probes through focus and across the field to determine the type, direction, and magnitude of aberrations present. For ease of carrying out the test, the magnifying power should be such that the smallest significant detail subtends an easily resolvable 10 to 15 minutes of arc at the eye. It is also important that the numerical aperture of the viewing optics is large enough to collect the entire cone of light from the optics under test.

If the lens being tested is perfect, the image of a point source as seen at best focus is called the Airy disk. The Airy disk consists of a bright circular core surrounded by several rings of rapidly diminishing brightness. The diameter of the central core is equal to $2.44\lambda f$ #, where f# is the f/number of the converging light beam. Note that in the visible, the diameter of the central core is approximately equal to the f# in microns. The central core contains approximately 84% of the total amount of light, while the total amount of light contained within the first, second, and third rings is approximately 91%, 94%, and 95%, respectively. If the microscope is moved back and forth along the axis, the image will be seen to go in and out of focus. The change in the pattern is rather complex, consisting first of a redistribution of light from the core to the rings, then with larger focus shifts the diameter of the image will appear to grow. A perfect image will appear totally symmetrical on opposite sides of focus as shown in Fig. 8.2.10-1.

Spherical aberration, coma, and astigmatism are also easily observed using the star test. The presence of spherical aberration is most easily inferred by examination of the symmetry of the image through focus. As one focuses on the image, starting from well inside the marginal image plane and moving toward paraxial focus, the following set of images shown in Fig. 8.2.10-3 is noted for undercorrected spherical. First, a diffuse, fairly uniform blur is seen. As the region of the marginal focus is approached, the beginning of the outer spherical caustic is reached. Here, a "hollow" or ring image is observed. Next, the ring diminishes in size and intensity and gives way to a core with a rather bright set of surrounding diffraction rings. Eventually, the size of this structure reaches a minimum and then becomes a small, intense core surrounded by a diffuse halo. Beyond the paraxial plane a growing diffuse flare is observed. The best focus (minimum spot size) occurs at ³/₄ the distance from paraxial to marginal focus. The minimum spot size is ¹/₄ the spot size at paraxial focus.

Off-axis images are complex. Almost always, a mixture of coma and astigmatism of various orders is obtained. For third-order coma, the image looks much as indicated in Fig. 8.2.10-5, while the line foci for third-order astigmatism appears as indicated in Fig. 8.2.10-6. Fig. 8.2.10-7 shows the diffraction pattern for third-order astigmatism in the neighborhood of the circle of least confusion.

It is useful to obtain a rough estimate of the geometrical spot size produced by the different aberrations. Let ΔW be the maximum aberration for third-order spherical, coma, and astigmatism and f# be the f/number of the converging light beam. At paraxial focus, the blur radius ε_y , for third order spherical is given by

$$\varepsilon_y = 8f \# \Delta W_{sph}$$

The minimum radius of the blur due to third-order spherical would be 1/4 of this.

The tangential coma, ε_y , is given by

$$\varepsilon_v = 6f \# \Delta W_{coma}$$

The sagittal coma is 1/3 this value and the width of the coma image is 2/3 of this.

The length of the line focus for astigmatism is given by

$$2\varepsilon_v = 8f^{\#}\Delta W_{ast}$$

The blur for astigmatism halfway between the sagittal and tangential focus would be $\frac{1}{2}$ of this value.

Therefore, the minimum spot diameter for third-order spherical, the width of the coma image (2/3 the tangential coma), and the diameter of the blur for astigmatism that falls halfway between the sagittal and tangential focus are all given by

$$d=4f\#\Delta W$$

where again ΔW is the maximum wavefront aberration due to third-order spherical, coma, or astigmatism at the edge of the pupil.

It is of interest to look at the ratio of geometrical blur to the Airy disk diameter.

$$\frac{Geometrical Blur Diameter}{Airy Disk Diameter} = \frac{4 f \# \Delta W}{2.44 \lambda f \#} = 1.64 \left(\frac{\Delta W}{\lambda}\right)$$

That is, the ratio of the geometrical blur diameter to the Airy disk diameter is approximately equal to 1.64 times the amount of aberration in units of waves.

The star test is very useful for detecting chromatic aberration. The testing is carried out by observing the color changes in the image as the focal position is varied toward and away from the lens. In a perfectly apochromatic system a symmetrical "white" image is obtained for all focal positions. Chromatic aberration provides an image whose color is a function of focal position. In moving away from the lens through the paraxial focal plane, a sequence of images is observed. Well away from focus, a white flare is observed. As the blue focus is reached, the color balance is seen to change as blue light appears to be removed from the flare and is concentrated in a core. Farther away from the lens a similar color effect is observed as the foci for green and red are reached. For overcorrected color, the colors appear in the opposite order.

The chromatic errors in an off-axis image are most spectacular in visual testing. The lateral separation of the images in red and blue light gives directly the amount of lateral chromatic aberration. If the red image is found to lie at a greater distance from the axis than the blue image, negative or undercorrected lateral color is present, while for overcorrected lateral color, the blue image is a greater distance from the axis than the red image.

The following pictures are from "Atlas of Optical Phenomena" by Cagnet, Francon, and Thrierr.



Fig. 8.2.10-1. Diffraction by a circular aperture as a function of defocus for no aberration



Airy Disk



1 wave defocus

Less than 1 wave defocus









Paraxial Focus

Small distance inside paraxial focus



Moderate distance from marginal focus

Immediate neighborhood of marginal focus

Fig. 8.2.10-4. Diffraction by a circular aperture in the presence of third-order spherical aberration.



6λ





1λ

Fig. 8.2.10-5. Diffraction by a circular aperture in the presence of third-order coma.









 0.23λ

Fig. 8.2.10-6. Diffraction by a circular aperture in the presence of astigmatism.









 0.23λ

Fig. 8.2.10-7. Diffraction by a circular aperture in the presence of astigmatism in the neighborhood of the circle of least confusion.

Shack-Hartmann Test

The Shack-Hartmann test is essentially a geometrical ray trace that measures angular, transverse, or longitudinal aberrations from which numerical integration can be used to calculate the wavefront aberration.

Figure 1 illustrates the basic concept for performing a classical Hartmann test. A Hartmann screen, which consists of a plate containing an array of holes, is placed in a converging beam of light produced by the optics under test. One or more photographic plates or solid-state detector arrays are placed in the converging light beam after the Hartmann screen. The positions of the images of the holes in the screen as recorded on the photographic plates or detector arrays give the transverse and longitudinal ray aberrations directly. It should be noted that if a single photographic plate or detector array is used, both the hole positions in the screen and the distance between the screen and plate must be known, while if two photographic plates or detector arrays are used, only the distance between the plates or detector arrays need be known.

One advantage of the Hartmann test for the testing of telescope mirrors is that effects of air turbulence will average out. Air turbulence will cause the spots to wander, but as long as the integration time is long compared to the period of the turbulence the major effect will be for the spots to become larger, and as long as the centroid of the spots can be accurately measured the turbulence will not introduce error in the measurement. The holes in the Hartmann screen should be made large enough so diffraction does not limit the measurement accuracy, but not so large that surface errors are averaged out.



Fig. 1. Classical Hartmann test. Single photographic plate: must know (a) hole positions in screen, (b) distance between screen and plate. Multiple photographic plates: must know the distance between plates.

Figure 2 shows the results for testing a parabolic mirror at the center of curvature. Note that the detectors must be kept away from the caustic or much confusion can result. Once the transverse or longitudinal aberration is determined, the wavefront aberration can be determined.



Outside Position



Fig. 2. Hartmann test of parabolic mirror near center of curvature.

Shack modified the Hartmann test by replacing the screen containing holes with a lenslet array. In typical use the beam from the telescope is collimated and reduced to a size of a few centimeters and impinges on a lenslet array that focuses the light onto a detector array as shown in Figure 3. The positions of the various focused points give the local slope of the wavefront. Figure 4 shows photos of a Shack-Hartmann lenslet array.



Fig. 3. Shack-Hartmann lenslet array measuring slope errors in an aberrated wavefront.

	and a
108µm	

Fig. 4. Photos of a Shack-Hartmann lenslet array.

The Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensor is widely used in adaptive optics correction of atmospheric turbulence. Figure 5 shows a movie of the focused spots from the Shack-Hartmann test dancing around due to atmospheric turbulence.



Fig. 5. Movie made using Shack-Hartmann test to measure atmospheric turbulence.

WaveScope[™] Wavefront Sensor System WFS-01 Table Top Optical Wavefront Sensor

Adaptive Optics Associates, Inc.

Adaptive Optics Systems (AOS) Group

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617 864-0201 Tel. 617 864-1348 Fax. WFS-01 Features
Replaces interferometers & beam profilers
Insensitive to vibration
Measures surfaces from millimeters to meters in diameter
Works with monochromatic and white light
Measures tilts up to 430 λ P-V @ 632.8nm
Absolute accuracy < λ/20 @ 632.8nm
Relative accuracy < λ/50 @ 632.8nm
Powerful and easy to use analysis software

Wavefront Sensor System Model

Applications

- External source measurements
- Laser beam profiler
- Lens testing
- Plane, spherical and aspheric mirror testing
- Precision mechanical component testing
- Atmospheric and fluid turbulence tests
- Quality and process control

Introducing WaveScope

WaveScope is a new generation of wavefront sensor. It incorporates innovations and knowledge gained by Adaptive Optics Associates (AOA) in its two decades of experience in the field of wavefront sensing. WaveScope uses a modified Shack-Hartmann technique to geometrically measure optical wavefronts.

WaveScope can perform the same measurements traditionally made by beam profilers and interferometers, but unlike interferometers, WaveScope does not require a coherent monochromatic source and is vibration insensitive. WaveScope calculates all common optical parameters using powerful software developed from AOA's WaveLab product. Since WaveScope needs no internal light source, it can directly measure the characteristics of your laser, light source or optical system.

WaveScope's dynamic range can be tailored to your requirements as WaveScope is unique in its ability to accommodate aberrations of many hundreds of waves P-V that are normally outside the range of interferometers and other wavefront sensors. This allows you to measure diverse optical systems, from high quality astronomical mirrors to consumer optics and precision metal or ceramic components. In quality and process control situations you can use signals derived from WaveScope to control manufacturing processes. WaveScope can also form the heart of an adaptive optics system. With the addition of simple fore-optics, the wavefront at any pupil within an optical train can be measured. Collimated and point source laser diode references are available as options.



Proven Performance

WaveScope has been developed from AOA wavefront sensors that have been used for several years by some of the world's most prestigious research institutions and optical companies, these include: US Air Force; French Atomic Energy Commission; Japanese Atomic Energy Research Institute; Japanese Central Research Laboratories; Contraves, Inc. and NASA. An AOA wavefront sensor helped fix the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) by verifying the performance of the corrective optics. Today NASA continues to use our system in its benchmark tests of optical systems for HST.

Customized Solutions and Decades of Experience

As a manufacturer of electro-optical instruments since 1978, AOA has the experience and technical staff to solve your wavefront sensing problems. If your requirements exceed those of our standard products, we will work with you to provide customized solutions: WaveScope can easily be tailored to your application. We can provide modified optics and CCD cameras that increase the dynamic range to thousands of waves P-V, increase the accuracy to better than one hundredth of a wave, or extend the operating wavelength from the near IR to the vacuum UV. For fast processes, high speed CCD cameras are available. Whatever your measurement needs WaveScope and AOA can provide a solution.

How it Works

WaveScope uses a modified Shack-Hartmann technique to measure the gradient of a wavefront. A two-dimensional Monolithic Lenslet Module (MLM) divides the incoming wavefront into an array of spatial samples called subapertures. L ight from these subapertures is brought to a focus behind the array on a CCD camera. The lateral position of the focus spots depends on the local tilt of the wavefront. By measuring the positions of the spots, the gradients of the incoming wavefront can be calculated. In conventional Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensors when the local tilt is large enough to move the focus spot into the field of the next subaperture, an ambiguity arises as to the origin of the spot. This severely limits the dynamic range of the measurement. WaveScope resolves this ambiguity by moving the camera to trace the path of the spots during calibration. This is why WaveScope can measure aberrations of many hundreds of waves with fractional wave accuracy. Additionally, the ability to move the camera allows imaging of the entrance pupil at the lenslet array, which provides an invaluable aid in alignment.

WaveScope System Diagram



WaveScope Ordering Information

WaveScope System

WFS-01

Visible light wavefront sensor with 3 MLMs, controller, CCD camera, computer and 17" color monitor.

WFS-01 Options: WFS-01-VM WFS-01-CM-P WFS-01-CM-JD WFS-01-CM-ZD

BW RS-170 video monitor Color printer Jaz™ drive Zip™ drive

Reference Sources RS-01

RS-02

Collimated fiber coupled 635nm laser diode source Fiber optic point source 635nm laser diode source

Specifications WFS-01 WaveScope System

Optical interface Input Pupil Shape Wavefront Sampling

Wavelength of Operation Maximum Measurable Tilt Absolute Accuracy (Gradient) Relative Accuracy (Repeatability) Operating Voltage Measurements:

Displays

Peak power for modules

Computer power Monitor power Optical module size/weight Electronics module size 1 cm Collimated beam Circular, Square or Obscured 20 x 20, 32 x 32, and 72 x 72 MLM subapertures

400-900 nm 430 λ P-V @ 632.8 nm better than λ /20 @ 632.8 nm better than λ /50 @ 632.8 nm 100-120 & 200-240VAC @50/60Hz OPD, MTF, PSF, fringes, encircled energy, zernike, legendre, hermite, chebychev, monomials, seidel aberrations, wavefront gradients and beam profiles

Gradients, wire grids, color images and contours, plots and text

150 W approximate (with stage moving)

720 W maximum 204 W 54.2 cm x 15.3 cm x 17.2 cm, 17 kg 14.6 cm x 34.6 cm x 24.7 cm, 12 kg

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