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# Principles and Applications of Fourier Optics



# Principles and Applications of Fourier Optics

**Robert K Tyson**

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# Contents

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Preface</b>  | <b>ix</b>  |
| <b>Author biography</b>   | <b>x</b>   |
| <b>1 Theory of optical propagation and diffraction</b>            | <b>1-1</b> |
| 1.1 The Helmholtz equations                                       | 1-1        |
| 1.1.1 The wave equation in the time domain                        | 1-1        |
| 1.2 The integral theorem of Helmholtz and Kirchhoff               | 1-3        |
| 1.2.1 The Kirchhoff boundary conditions                           | 1-4        |
| 1.2.2 The Fresnel–Kirchhoff diffraction formula                   | 1-4        |
| 1.3 The Rayleigh–Sommerfeld formulation of diffraction            | 1-5        |
| References  | 1-6        |
| <b>2 Fourier analysis and linear systems</b>                      | <b>2-1</b> |
| 2.1 Fourier transforms and Fourier analysis                       | 2-1        |
| 2.2 Fourier analysis in two dimensions                            | 2-1        |
| 2.3 Fourier transform theorems                                    | 2-3        |
| 2.3.1 Linearity   | 2-3        |
| 2.3.2 Similarity  | 2-3        |
| 2.3.3 Shifting  | 2-3        |
| 2.3.4 Parseval’s theorem  | 2-4        |
| 2.3.5 Convolution   | 2-4        |
| 2.3.6 Autocorrelation   | 2-4        |
| 2.3.7 Inverse Fourier transform                                   | 2-5        |
| 2.4 Separable functions   | 2-5        |
| 2.4.1 Functions with circular symmetry: Fourier–Bessel transforms | 2-5        |
| 2.5 Useful functions and Fourier transform pairs                  | 2-7        |
| 2.6 Linear systems  | 2-10       |
| 2.6.1 Linearity and the superposition integral                    | 2-10       |
| 2.6.2 Invariant linear systems and transfer functions             | 2-11       |
| References  | 2-12       |
| <b>3 Fresnel and Fraunhofer diffraction and wave optics</b>       | <b>3-1</b> |
| 3.1 Diffraction at the boundary of an aperture                    | 3-1        |
| 3.1.1 Limiting evanescent waves                                   | 3-2        |
| 3.1.2 Effects of an aperture on the angular spectrum              | 3-3        |
| 3.1.3 Nonmonochromatic waves                                      | 3-4        |

|          |  |            |
|----------|--|------------|
| 3.2      | The Fresnel approximation                                    | 3-4        |
| 3.2.1    | When does the approximation hold?                            | 3-6        |
| 3.2.2    | Intensity as the physically measured quantity                | 3-6        |
| 3.3      | Fresnel diffraction calculations                             | 3-7        |
| 3.3.1    | Fresnel diffraction by a square aperture                     | 3-7        |
| 3.3.2    | Fresnel number   | 3-8        |
| 3.4      | The Fraunhofer approximation                                 | 3-8        |
| 3.4.1    | A rectangular aperture                                       | 3-9        |
| 3.4.2    | Circular aperture  | 3-10       |
| 3.4.3    | Thin sinusoidal amplitude grating                            | 3-12       |
| 3.4.4    | Thin sinusoidal phase grating                                | 3-13       |
|          | References   | 3-14       |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Fourier transforms and optics</b>                         | <b>4-1</b> |
| 4.1      | Fourier transforming properties of lenses                    | 4-1        |
| 4.2      | Coherence and Fourier transforming                           | 4-3        |
| 4.2.1    | Input placed against the lens                                | 4-4        |
| 4.2.2    | Input placed in front of the lens                            | 4-5        |
| 4.2.3    | Input placed behind the lens                                 | 4-6        |
| 4.3      | Monochromatic image formation                                | 4-6        |
| 4.3.1    | The impulse response of a positive lens                      | 4-6        |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Imaging systems and aberrations</b>                       | <b>5-1</b> |
| 5.1      | Coherent image formation and the amplitude transfer function | 5-2        |
| 5.2      | Incoherent image formation and the optical transfer function | 5-3        |
| 5.3      | Aberrations and their effects                                | 5-6        |
| 5.4      | Resolution   | 5-7        |
|          | References   | 5-8        |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Enabling applications</b>                                 | <b>6-1</b> |
| 6.1      | Manipulating light   | 6-1        |
| 6.1.1    | Refractive and reflective devices                            | 6-1        |
| 6.1.2    | Diffraction devices  | 6-2        |
| 6.2      | Incoherent optical processing                                | 6-3        |
| 6.2.1    | Spectral imaging   | 6-4        |
| 6.2.2    | Nulling interferometry                                       | 6-5        |
| 6.2.3    | Snapshot spectral imaging                                    | 6-6        |

|          |  |            |
|----------|--|------------|
| 6.3      | Optical coherence tomography                                     | 6-8        |
| 6.3.1    | Time-domain OCT  | 6-8        |
| 6.3.2    | Frequency domain OCT   | 6-10       |
| 6.3.3    | Industrial and medical applications                              | 6-10       |
| 6.4      | Optical testing  | 6-10       |
| 6.4.1    | Collimation testing  | 6-10       |
| 6.4.2    | Alignment  | 6-11       |
| 6.4.3    | Wavefront testing  | 6-11       |
| 6.4.4    | Non-destructive materials testing                                | 6-12       |
| 6.5      | Optical information processing                                   | 6-13       |
| 6.5.1    | Superresolution  | 6-14       |
| 6.6      | Spatial filtering and propagation                                | 6-14       |
| 6.6.1    | Fractional Fourier transform                                     | 6-14       |
| 6.6.2    | Propagation studies  | 6-17       |
| 6.7      | Spatial filters  | 6-20       |
| 6.8      | Optical correlators  | 6-20       |
| 6.8.1    | The VanderLugt matched filter                                    | 6-21       |
| 6.8.2    | Joint transform correlator                                       | 6-23       |
|          | References   | 6-24       |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Practical applications</b>                                    | <b>7-1</b> |
| 7.1      | Pattern recognition and encoding                                 | 7-1        |
| 7.2      | Image hiding and image encryption                                | 7-2        |
| 7.2.1    | Image hiding with a joint transform correlator and hologram      | 7-4        |
| 7.2.2    | Image hiding with variations of the fractional Fourier transform | 7-6        |
| 7.3      | Image processing and restoration                                 | 7-6        |
| 7.3.1    | Image formation  | 7-6        |
| 7.3.2    | Deconvolution: restoration of the object                         | 7-7        |
| 7.3.3    | Using <i>a priori</i> information                                | 7-8        |
| 7.3.4    | Spatially filtering images                                       | 7-8        |
| 7.3.5    | Phase imaging  | 7-13       |
| 7.3.6    | Schlieren  | 7-14       |
| 7.4      | Holography   | 7-17       |
| 7.4.1    | Introduction   | 7-17       |
| 7.4.2    | Types of holograms   | 7-17       |



|       |  |      |
|-------|--|------|
| 7.4.3 | Mathematical principles                  | 7-17 |
| 7.4.4 | Applications                             | 7-19 |
| 7.4.5 | Further applications of holography       | 7-19 |
| 7.5   | Fourier optics in optical communications | 7-21 |
| 7.5.1 | Fiber optics transmission                | 7-21 |
| 7.5.2 | Free-space optical communications        | 7-22 |
|       | References                               | 7-24 |

# Preface

‘All of optics is Fourier optics!’ While this statement may not be literally true, when there is one basic mathematical tool to explain light propagation and image formation, with both coherent and incoherent light, as well as thousands of practical everyday applications of the fundamentals, Fourier optics is worth studying. This book contains five chapters with a summary of the principles of Fourier optics that have been developed over the past hundred years and two chapters with summaries of many applications over the past fifty years, especially since the invention of the laser. It is not necessary to take a new tack in explaining the principles. I have drawn liberally from the descriptions and notation of the authors of the classic texts on the topic, namely Professor Joseph V Goodman of Stanford University and Professor Jack D Gaskill of the University of Arizona. For applications that have evolved recently and are being reported even as this book goes to press, I have attempted to maintain the consistent notation and definitions of the early chapters, but deferred to the notation of the recent researchers where consulting the original papers with different notation would be confusing. This book is intended as a series of guideposts to improve our world through the applications of Fourier optics.

Robert K Tyson, PhD  
Charlotte, NC, USA

# Author biography

## Robert K Tyson

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Robert K Tyson is an associate professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Charlotte. He has a bachelor's degree in physics from the Pennsylvania State University and MS and PhD degrees in physics from West Virginia University. Following his formal education, he worked in the aerospace industry for 20 years designing optical systems and supporting technology for strategic-defense high-energy laser weapon systems. He is the author of seven books on adaptive optics at various reading and interest levels. Dr Tyson joined the faculty of UNC Charlotte in 1999.