

Wolfgang Osten (Ed.)

# Fringe 2013

7<sup>th</sup> International Workshop  
on Advanced Optical Imaging  
and Metrology



Springer

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Wolfgang Osten  
Editor

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7th International Workshop on Advanced  
Optical Imaging and Metrology

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*Editor*

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# Preface

25 years ago it was a joint idea with Hans Rottenkolber to organize a workshop dedicated to the discussion of the latest results in the automatic processing of fringe patterns. This idea was promoted by the insight that automatic and high precision phase measurement techniques will play a key role in all future industrial and scientific applications of optical metrology. A couple of months later more than 50 specialists from East and West met in East Berlin, the capital of the former GDR, to spend 3 days with the discussion of new principles of fringe processing. In the stimulating atmosphere the idea was born to repeat the workshop and to organize the meeting in an Olympic schedule. And thus meanwhile 24 years have passed and we have now already the 7<sup>th</sup> Fringe workshop.

However, such a workshop is always embedded in a dynamic environment. Therefore the main topics of the previous events were always adapted to the most interesting subjects of the new period. In 1993 the workshop took place in Bremen and was dedicated to new principles of optical shape measurement, setup calibration, phase unwrapping and nondestructive testing, while in 1997 new approaches in multi-sensor metrology, active measurement strategies and hybrid processing technologies played a key role. 2001, the first meeting in the 21st century, was focused to optical methods for micro-measurements, hybrid measurement technologies and new sensor solutions for industrial inspection. In 2005 the fifth workshop was organized for the first time in Stuttgart, the capital of the state of Baden-Württemberg and the center of a region with a long and remarkable tradition in machine construction, vehicle manufacturing and optics. The topics in 2005 were extended to include resolution enhanced technologies and principles of wide-scale 4D optical metrology. For the Fringe 2009 we decided to stay in this region but to make a slight shift of the conference place from Stuttgart to Nürtingen. Nürtingen - a lovely medieval village - offers everything needed for a good conference: a nice conference hotel, attractive surroundings and a stimulating atmosphere. The topics have undergone a refreshment again: digital wavefront engineering and sensor fusion.

For the *FRINGE 2013* we meet again in Nürtingen. This brings back a moment of stability for the workshop. However, we extended the scope markedly by accentuating the bridge between optical imaging and metrology. While the previous workshops were dedicated to optical metrology, the scope of the Fringe 2013 was extended to include advanced technologies in both disciplines, optical imaging and

optical metrology. On the one hand, optical imaging and optical metrology are self-standing topics with a long tradition. On the other hand, the current trends in both disciplines show increasing dynamics stimulated by many fascinating innovations such as high resolution microscopy, 3D imaging and nano-metrology. Consequently, both are getting even younger every day and are stimulating each other more and more. Thus, the main objective of the workshop was to bring experts from both fields together and to bridge between these strongly related and emerging fields. New topics are computational imaging, model-based reconstruction, compressed sensing, solutions to inverse problems, multimodality, in-line performance and remote technologies. This extended scope was honored again by a great response to our call for papers. Leading scientists from all around the world submitted more than 200 papers. This enormous response demanded a strong revision of the papers to select the best out of the overwhelming number of excellent papers. This hard job had to be done by the program committee since there is a strong limitation of the number of papers which can be presented and discussed during our workshop without having to deal with parallel sessions – a lasting feature of the Fringe workshops.

The papers presented in this workshop are summarized under 5 topics:

1. New methods and tools for the generation, acquisition, processing, and evaluation of data in optical imaging and metrology,
2. Application-driven technologies in optical imaging and metrology,
3. High dynamic range solutions in optical imaging and metrology,
4. Hybrid technologies in optical imaging and metrology, and
5. New optical sensors, imaging and measurement systems.

As in the former workshops, each topic is introduced by an acknowledged expert who gives an extensive overview of the topic and a report of the state of the art. The classification of all submitted papers into these topics was again a difficult job which often required compromises. We hope that our decisions will be accepted by the audience. On this occasion we would like to express our deep thanks to the international program committee for helping us to find a good solution in every situation.

The editor would like to express his thanks to all the authors who spent a lot of time and effort in the preparation of the papers. My appreciation also goes to Dr. Eva Hestermann-Beyerle and Birgit Kollmar from Springer Heidelberg for providing again excellent conditions for the publication of these proceedings. My deep thanks is directed to the members of the ITO staff. The continuous help given especially by Valeriano Ferreras Paz, Katharina Bosse-Mettler, Katja Costantino, Christina Hübl, Heiko Bieger, Erich Steinbeißer and Tobias Böttcher was the basis for making a successful *FRINGE 2013*. Finally, our special thanks and appreciation goes to all friends and colleagues for sharing with us again the spirit of the Fringe workshop.

Looking forward to *FRINGE 2017*.  
Stuttgart, September 2013  
Wolfgang Osten

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## **Honorary Lecture**

### **Holography Viewed from the Perspective of the Light Field Camera**

Given by:

**Joseph W. Goodman**  
Stanford  
(USA)

## **Key Note**

### **Invisibility, Perfect Imaging and More – Where Optics Meets Magic**

Given by

**Tomáš Tyc**  
Brno  
(Czech Republic)

# Comparison of Digital Holography and Transport of Intensity for Quantitative Phase Contrast Imaging

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## 1 Introduction

Extracting quantitative phase information has received increased interest in many fields where either phase imaging or structure retrieval is an issue, such as optical testing, bio-medical imaging and materials science. In the past couple of decades, digital holography (DH) has emerged as a front-runner for phase imaging by providing quantitative phase measurements of the wave field with high accuracy and in near real-time [1]. However, DH systems need a highly coherent light source, suffer phase aberration, ambiguity and unwrapping problems, and cannot offer the highest spatial resolution. Recently, however, direct phase retrieval from intensity measurements using the Transport-of-Intensity Equation (TIE) [2, 3] has gained increasing attention. A minimum of two measurements of the spatial intensity of the optical wave in closely spaced planes perpendicular to the direction of propagation are needed to reconstruct the spatial phase of the wave by solving a second-order differential equation, i.e., with a non-iterative deterministic algorithm. In this paper, these two quantitative phase imaging methods: DH and TIE are introduced and compared. Two samples: a regular array of micro-bumps fabricated on Si substrate based on laser induced non-ablative texturing and a refractive quartz microlens array from SUSS MicroOptics were tested by DH and TIE. The results were compared and the merits and limitations of each method are discussed.

## 2 Basic Principles

There are different configurations in DH, including off-axis Fresnel, Fourier, image plane, in-line, Gabor, and phase-shifting DH. In this work, we only discuss the off-axis DH since it simultaneously provides an amplitude and a phase-contrast image on the basis of a single hologram. In both transmission and

reflective setups for DH, a coherent laser beam is split into two parts – the reference beam illuminates the CCD directly. The object beam either passes through or reflects off the sample and interferes with the reference beam at the CCD plane with a small angle to generate the off-axis hologram. The intensity distribution recorded by the camera can be written as

$$I_H(x, y) = |O|^2 + |R|^2 + RO^* + R^*O \quad (1)$$

$R(x, y)$  and  $O(x, y)$  are the reference and object waves respectively, \*denotes the complex conjugate. The hologram is sampled by the CCD array and then transferred into a computer as an array of numbers. Filtering the hologram's two-dimensional Fourier spectrum can eliminate the virtual image and the zero-order term. The diffracted field, including amplitude and phase distribution at the image plane is then numerically propagated from the hologram plane using Fresnel transform, convolution, or angular spectrum methods.

The TIE uses only object field intensities at multiple axially displaced planes without any interference with a separate reference beam. The experimental setup for TIE typically involves a  $4f$  imaging system. By translating the camera or the object, multiple intensity images at different image distance can be obtained. Due to its non-interferometric nature, the illumination can be quasi-monochromatic and partially-coherent. TIE determines the object-plane phase from the first derivative of intensity in the near Fresnel region [3]

$$-k \frac{\partial I(x, y)}{\partial z} = \nabla \cdot [I(x, y) \nabla \varphi(x, y)] \quad (2)$$

Where  $k$  is the wave number.  $\nabla$  is the gradient operator over  $(x, y)$ .  $z$  denotes position along the optics axis perpendicular to the  $x$ - $y$  plane. If  $I(x, y) > 0$  and  $\varphi(x, y)$  is continuous in a region with smooth boundaries, the solution to TIE is unique. That is, the phase can be uniquely determined by solving TIE with  $I(x, y)$  and  $\partial I(x, y)/\partial z$ . Experimentally, the intensity is easy to obtain and the intensity derivative is estimated by finite differences between two close separated images. Then the phase can be obtained by solving the TIE by treating it as a modified Poisson equation or expanding it into a complete set of Zernike polynomials.

### 3 Results Analysis and Comparison

Two samples: a regular array of micro-bumps fabricated on Si substrate based on laser induced non-ablative texturing and a refractive quartz microlens array from SUSS MicroOptics were tested by DH and TIE (using ordinary bright field microscope). The results are shown in Fig. 1. For both transmission and reflection samples, the focus stacks used for TIE (a, f), off-axis holograms (b, g), the phases

recovered by TIE (c, h) and DH (d, i) are shown. For better quantitative analysis, the plot along a typical line across the samples (e, j) was shown as well. Good overall agreement is seen at the first glance. It should be noted that the phase recovered by TIE is continuous, without  $2\pi$  jumps [2], and the phase displayed is digitally rewrapped for better comparison. No need for unwrapping is an advantageous feature of TIE, but remember that it does not mean TIE could eliminate the  $2\pi$  ambiguous problem since it inherently assumes the phase is continuous. A small tilt in background can be observed in Fig. 1(d) because of the off-axis carrier is not completely removed during the spectrum centering process. A low spatial frequency non-uniformity is also noticed in TIE results, even with regularization and boundary treatments. Bearing in mind that a brutal application of the TIE algorithm without caring about problems in the solution of the TIE, the influence of noise, and boundary conditions may lead to an unusable result, which is most likely the ones shown in Fig. 2. Another difference visible is the TIE seems to generate a smoother and less noisy result than DH. One important reason for this is TIE uses partially coherent light while DH uses laser so suffers from the laser speckle noise. From the technique itself, some factors may also affect the phase resolution and noise, e.g. in DH, using smaller filtering window can improve the smoothness while reduce phase resolution. In TIE, similar smoothing effects also exist implicitly but the contributing factors are much more complex.

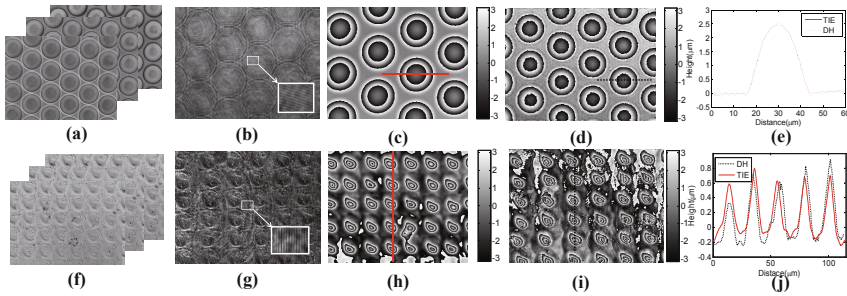


Fig. 1 Experimental comparison of TIE and DH

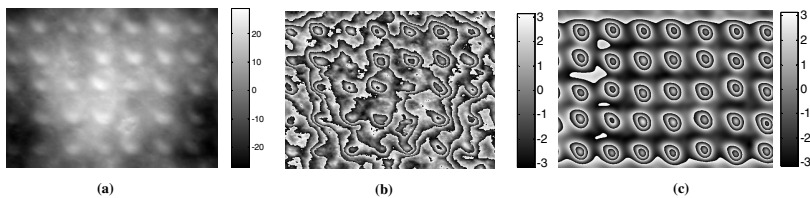


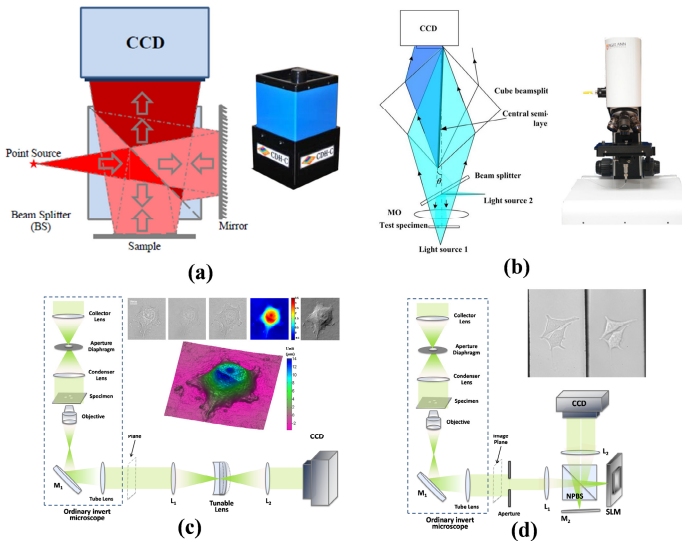
Fig. 2 Experimental results as examples when TIE is not properly used

## 4 Advantages, Limitations and Improvements

The real strength of the off-axis DH is that it can obtain the phase map from single exposure, so the camera itself only limits the acquisition rate. Besides, if the camera quantization effect is the only quantity that limits phase measurement, the phase measurement resolution is less than  $\pi/100$ . However, this theoretical axial resolution cannot be achieved since there are many other factors that may cause errors between the original object wavefront and the reconstructed object wavefront [4]. In off-axis DH, a carrier frequency is introduced and spatial filtering is required, which of course has adverse effect on the phase spatial resolution. Theoretically, if an objective is used and the magnification is chosen in such a way that the smallest imaged structures pass the Abbe criterion and are adequately represented by the image-recording device, this problem can be avoided. However, practically it is quite difficult to achieve such high phase resolution because of the speckle produced by the impurities on the optics and parasitic reflections from the various surface in the system. The coherent noise is a major impediment to achieve a high-quality quantitative phase map. The only two ways to alleviate the problem of coherent noise is 1) using minimum optical elements and keep them pristine. 2) decreasing the coherence length of the illumination source (e.g. the compact digital hologscope shown in Fig. 3(a) contains only single beam splitter and uses low-coherent laser diode). Another notorious error source in DH is phase aberration, i.e. the difference in the curvatures between the experimental reference beam and the idealized numerical reconstruction beam. The phase aberration can be physically compensated by introducing a curvature-matching objective lens or a position-adjustable lens, though a precise alignment of all the involved optical elements are required [5]. Alternatively, numerical phase aberration compensation needs to be applied during the holographic reconstruction procedure [6]. Finally, another important factor for studying dynamic phenomena using DH is the temporal stability. Since DH is based on two-beam interference, air fluctuations, mechanical vibrations of optical components may affect the stability and reproducibility of the DH system. Using a common path configuration [7] can compensate effectively the optical path difference (OPD) due to mechanical vibrations and the phase curvature aberration can be automatically cancelled (Fig. 3(b)).

The greatest strength of TIE is its non-interferometric nature, which makes phase reconstruction possible with partially coherent beam from ordinary microscopes. Benefiting from the Köhler illumination and the aberration-optimized optics in a commercial microscope, the diffraction limited intensity images with spatial uniformity can be easily obtained. Besides, it is inherently common path, which ensures stability. However, the TIE method is not trouble free. Quite different from the DH, wherein the phase is encoded in sinusoidal fringes (therefore the relation between captured intensity and phase is linear to a certain degree), in TIE, the phase is determined solely by the intensity distribution and longitudinal intensity derivative (estimated by finite difference). Actually, considering the object with a uniform amplitude distribution for simplicity, the phase is directly related to the defocused intensity, wherein the phase contrast increases quadratically with

the phase spatial frequency [8]. Because of the lower amplification of low-frequency phase structure in the free-space propagation, the TIE is very sensitive to errors in the low-frequency components of the intensity data, especially when the defocus distance is chosen too small (see examples shown in Figs. 2(a-b)). Experimentally, using a larger defocus distance can increase the low spatial frequency signal over the noise in the intensity difference, and thus helpful to reduce the cloud-like low frequency artifacts. Nevertheless, the breakdown of the linear approximation in the derivative estimation induces nonlinear errors and reduces the phase resolution (see Fig. 2(c)) [9]. To obtain a compromise between non-linearity error and the low-frequency noise, there exists an optimal defocus distance which is dependent on both the maximum physically significant frequency of the object and the noise level. Nevertheless, the knowledge of these two aspects is not known in advance. The contradiction can be solved by using more intensities captured at different defocus distances [10], but extra intensity measurements prolong the acquisition time. Another issue in TIE is it must be solved with appropriate boundary conditions. The FFT-based Poisson method provide simple and fast numerical solution, but it implies periodic boundary conditions for the object, which is often in contradiction to the experiment, leading to the artifacts at the image boundaries. Finally, to acquire the images with slight defocus, either the camera or the object has to be manually or mechanically translated, which inevitably slows down the acquisition speed and thereby limits its applicability to static objects. To address this difficulty, we presented two novel experimental setup for TIE based on a tunable lens or SLM, which can yield high-speed, real-time TIE phase imaging without any manual or mechanical operation (Figs. 3(c) and (d)).



**Fig. 3** (a) Compact digital hologscope. (b) Common-path digital hologscope. (c) Tunable lens TIE system. (d) Single-shot TIE system based on SLM.

## 5 Conclusions and Discussions

Partially coherent imaging is more difficult to analyze since its transfer function is actually four-dimensional. However, by imposing some assumptions on the illumination and for small propagation distance, it can then be simplified to two-dimension. Of course, TIE also works under coherent illumination, as a deterministic phase retrieval method. By introducing TIE to DH, the continuous phase map can be directly obtained by using intensity images reconstructed from DH. Meanwhile, the tilt and quadratic phase aberration can be effectively eliminated.

Despite a relatively short history, DH has demonstrate its effectiveness and gained exponentially increased applications not only in optical physics and engineering, but also in diverse areas such as microbiology, medicine, particle analysis, MEMS and microsystem metrology. Phase imaging using the TIE has also gained increasing attention recently. Admittedly, limitations of the TIE technique (in particular, the high sensitivity to low frequency noise, the effect of coherence and defocus distance, proper treatment of boundary conditions) remain challenging problems. Nevertheless, TIE still shows its unique advantages and demonstrates it is really a competing and alternative method to DH rather than just being a complementary technique for phase retrieval where DH cannot be employed.

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**Appendix**  
**New Products**



The application of high resolution cameras require high resolution fringe projection systems. HOLOEYE offers a wide range of microdisplays with resolutions up to 1920x1080 (HDTV) pixel. Panel sizes range from 1.8" down to 0.177". Even microdisplays with high frame rates up to 180 Hz are available.

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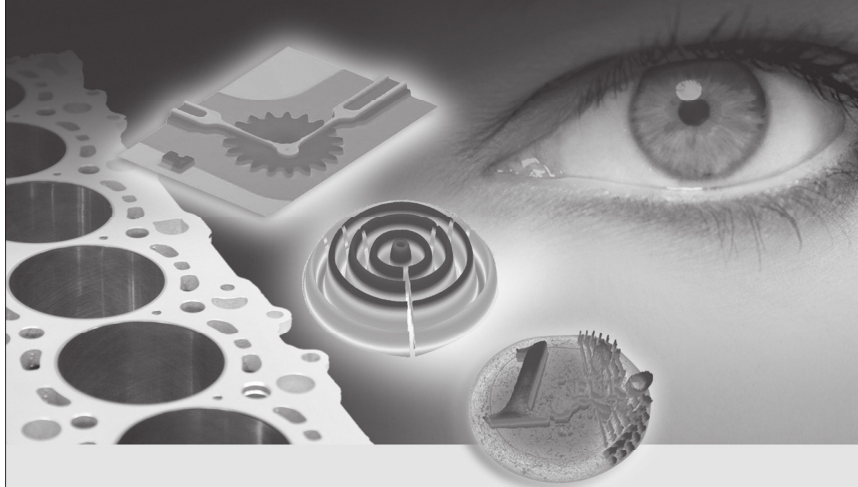


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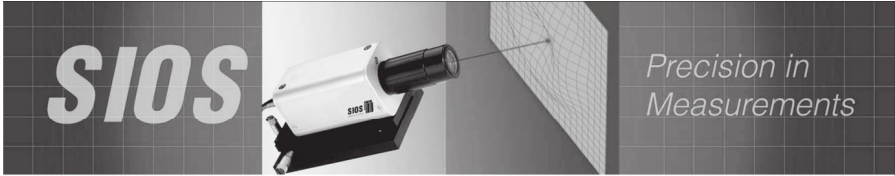
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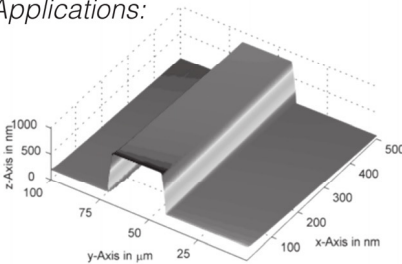
**0,1 nm**

in a measuring range of

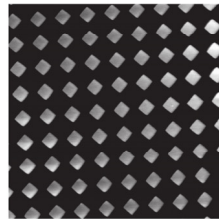
**25 mm x 25 mm x 5 mm**

Various probe systems can be implemented, e.g. Scanning Probe Microscopes, Atomic Force Microscopes, Autofocus and Fixfocus Systems, White Light Interferometers, capacitive and inductive 3D probe systems.

Applications:



Step height calibration



Pitch calibration

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