Aberrations of the Eye: Implications to vision, eye growth, and imaging

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Outline

- Background optics of the eye
- Monochromatic wavefront errors (aberrations) and image quality
- Chromatic aberration in the eye
- Measurements and correction of aberrations
- Importance to vision, eye growth, high resolution imaging

Optics of the Eye



Aberrations of the Eye

- Monochromatic aberrations -
 - blur when rays away from the axis focus differently than near axial rays (*spherical aberration, coma, astigmatism*)
 - Image curvature & distortion (*field curvature and distortion*)
- Chromatic aberration
 - difference in focus of rays of different colours
 - focus differently due to $n(\lambda)$
 - Dependence of monochromatic aberrations on λ

Spherical Aberration



Factors Affecting the Eye's Image Quality

- GRIN of lens and aspheric surfaces

 Age, accommodation, rearing conditions
- Misalignment of components
- Tear film
- Pupil size
- Field angle

Gradient Refractive Index Optics of the Lens of the Eye



Excellent Optics: the Fish Lens

Courtesy of J. Sivak

In vitro Laser Scanning of the Crystalline Lens

Glasser and Campbell, 1998



Methodology for Determining the GRIN Profile of the Lens



Refractive Index Profile of the Human Crystalline Lens



Isoindicial Surfaces of the GRIN Model



Campbell and Piers

Model of

Scans of 10 and 66 Year Old Lenses

Glasser and Campbell, 1998 Unstretched 10 year old lens (focal length = 34.16 mm)



Unstretched 66 year old lens (focal length = 71.29 mm)



Focal length of the older lens is too long for near vision

Accommodation in a Young Lens



Reproduced from Koretz, J.F., and Handelman, G.H., (1988), Scientific American

Monochromatic Aberrations and Image Quality

Optics of the Eye



Note components are normally misaligned

Monochromatic Wavefront Error



Wavefront Aberration and Point Spread Function (PSF)

Actual wavefront may vary from this ideal.



PSF's as a Function of Pupil Size

Diffraction-limited eye





Example of aberrated eye From Marcos









6 mm

Monochromatic Aberrations and Vision

- Monochromatic aberrations reduce effects of chromatic aberrations
- Determines contrast sensitivity at intermediate spatial frequencies
- Reduces resolution at lower light levels with larger pupils

Chromatic Aberration of the Eye

Longitudinal Chromatic Aberration



Chromatic fringing: Eye has lower sensitivity to red and blue fringes Usually corrected in commercial lenses with achromatic doublets of two different refractive indices

Longitudinal Chromatic Aberration: Eye Models



Bradley, 1992

- Water eye model gives a similar curve
- Crystalline lens dispersion responsible for deviation

Longitudinal Chromatic Aberration





Longitudinal Chromatic Aberration Visual Effects



Because of V(λ) curve, effect of LCA (Longitudinal) on image contrast is equivalent to ~0.2 D of defocus (Thibos, 1991)

Chromatic Difference of Magnification (CDM)



• Use the principal ray to define the image size, depends on stop position, dispersion

- Eye's pupil decentered
- CDM will increase linearly with field angle
 - •Also called Lateral CA, Transverse CA

CDM Increases in Periphery







Centered Eye: LCA and CDM



increases linearly with field angle

Chromatic Aberration and Vision





 For a centered pupil, CDM is predicted as 67 sec of arc, < 1% but within acuity limit

- Nasal pupil decentration neutralises CDM, averages 30 sec but variable
- CDM very sensitive to pupil decentration, sign flips
- Increases if pupil in front of the eye

Attempts to Correct CDM

- CDM variable with pupil size, pupil centre shifts up to 0.6 mm with pupil size; CDM sign changes at larger pupils
- Without precise centration, induced CDM cancels advantage of LCA correction (Carmen design)
- Powell lens has relatively low CDM when decentered
- Diffractive corrections of positive power partially compensate chromatic aberration
- Contact lens or IOL- effects of decentration lower, lens CDM important
- LCA is constant across individuals, CDM is variable

CDM and Chromostereopsis



Perception of a difference in depth arises from CDM (TCA) See Simonet and Campbell

Imperfect Optics Protect against Chromatic Blur

- McLellan, 2002
- When monochromatic aberrations are corrected, chromatic degradation more visible
- Chromatic correction could provide a larger benefit than monochromatic correction alone (Yoon, 2002)
- In presence of monochromatic aberrations, MTF less sensitive to wavelength



Figure 2 MTF area. a, Area under the MTF (arbitrary units) as a function of wavelength for a theoretical model eye with LCA only and for three subjects with measured wave aberrations. b, Mean MTF area for all three subjects when defocus is set to optimize area at 550 nm (solid line) and when each wavelength is individually optimized (dashed line). The dashed line shows that MTF area at any single wavelength can be improved further by correcting focus at that wavelength.

Aberrations and Eye Growth

- Net aberrations change with rearing conditions
- Monochromatic and chromatic aberrations could provide signals to eye growth
- A match of image blur to cone sampling provides a stop signal to growth in the chick eye

Irradiance on the Cichlid Retina in Differing Rearing Conditions



Chick Model of Normal Development and Myopia





Optical Blur and Cone Resolution





Retinal blur after response to the goggle for eyes with and without goggles calculated from measured aberrations and defocus. During accommodative fluctuations, there is a clear, visible signal to the direction of defocus, primarily from astigmatism. Scale bars are 15arcmin.

Correction of Monochromatic Aberrations for High Resolution Imaging

Measurement of Wavefront Error



Hartmann-Shack Images

Ideal case







Typical Wavefront Error



Sample Human Wavefront & PSF

Wavefront



Point Spread Function (PSF)



Correction of Blur of the Eye's Optics



Important to light activated therapies

Imaging - correction in both directions

Adaptive Optics Correction of the Eye



Imaging Cones with Adaptive Optics





Uncorrected

Corrected

AO Corrected Imaging for Monitoring Diabetic Retinopathy



AO-Corrected Images for Monitoring Diabetic Retinopathy



Cone densities of controls (left) differed from patients (right)

Amyloid Deposits as a Biomarker of Alzheimer's disease



Primary Pathology AD

Acknowledgements

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Students and Postdoc Openings

 Graduate student and Postdoctoral positions for Physics, Biophysics and Vision Science students

Chromatic Aberration Correction

Table 15.3	Details of an achromatizing lens of the Carman
design	

Spectral line Wavelength (nm)	h 404.7	d 587.6	750
Refractive indices Positive component Negative components	1.63776 1.65120	1.62041 1.62049	1.61417 1.61076
Back vertex power	1.86 D	-0.01 D	+(),471)
Effective power at cornea $(d = 12 \text{ mm})$	1.82 D	~0.01 D	+0.48 D
Eye's ΔK (experimental)	1.70 D	0	+0.58 D
Residual ∆K	+0.12 D	+0.01 D	+0.10 D
Chromatic difference of magnification	0.963 (-3.7%)	1	1.011 (+1.1%)

Powell lens is better

0.4 mm misalignment of achromatising lens cancels the effect of LCA correction (Zhang)

AO and Increased Pupil Allows Resolution of more Cones in Chick with Age



AO Corrected Imaging for Monitoring Diabetic Retinopathy



AO Corrected Images for Monitoring Blood Flow in a Human Eye



Optical Blur and Cone Resolution

As optical blur reduces to match cone resolution, axial elongation stops



PRESENTATION TITLE