



Optical Instruments from Ancient Times to the Present



Opticks:

Session 3 Golden Age

OLLI at Illinois Spring 2022

D. H. Tracy

Replica of Newton's 3rd Reflecting Telescope (*ca* 1672)

Course Outline



- 1. Beginnings: Optics in the Ancient World and the Middle Ages; Mirrors and Lenses
- Renaissance and Pre-Renaissance developments. The eye. Early telescopes
 & microscopes. Art and Optics.
- Newton's contributions leading to 18th and 19th Century developments in Optical instruments.
- 4. Modern Optics and the methods used to design and build them. Lasers, fiberoptics, holograms, space telescopes, semiconductor lithography, gravity wave detectors, and the camera in your cell phone.

More Craft than Science





The Law of Reflection Was Known Since Ancient Times



The Law of Reflection Was Known Since Ancient Times



Hero of Alexandria ca 10-70 CE















The Law of Refraction Was Harder



45°



The Law of Refraction Was Harder



45°



Why Early Lens Instruments Were Poor









Why Early Lens Instruments Were Poor









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Why Early Lens Instruments Were Poor: 2 Main Issues







2 Chromatic Aberration





Why Early Lens Instruments Were Poor: 2 Main Issues



Stopping Down May Help



Real Lens with Reduced Aperture









LILILILI T ÎFF 11 111 FE Trinity College, Cambridge 1 × 5. Newton earns BA 1665

Bubonic V The Great Plague of London 1665-1666







Woolsthorpe Manor 60 miles North of Cambridge MS

11

Cambridge Closes, Newton Sent Home One project Newton started in 1666 was to try to grind **aspherical lenses** to eliminate spherical aberration...

...but he soon got diverted onto a tangent.

"in the beginning of the Year 1666 ... I procured me a Triangular glass-Prisme, to try therewith the celebrated Phenomena of Colours."



Stourbridge Fair Held every September in Cambridge

Vendors from all over Europe



The First Experiment









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The First Experiment



Refractive Index Varies with Color

Newton called it *"Differential Refrangibility"* We call it *"Dispersion"*

5





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Some time later, perhaps 1668...



Newton's Experimentum Crusis: Artist's Simplified Version



Newton's 'Experimentum Crusis': Artist's Simplified Version













When I understood this, I left off my aforefaid Glass works; for I saw, that the perfection of Telescopes was hi herto limited, not so much for want of glasses truly figured according to the prescriptions of Optick Authors, (which all men have hitherto imagined,) as because that Light it self is a Heterogeneous mixture of differently refrangible Rays. So that, were a glafs to exactly figured, as to collect any one fort of rays into one point, it could not collect those also into the fame point, which having the fame Incidence upon the same Medium are apt to suffer a diff rent refraction. Nay, I wondered, that seeing the difference of refrangibility was so great, as I found it, Telescopes should arrive to that perfection they are now at. For, measuring the refractions in one of

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'A Letter of Mr. Isaac Newton, Professor of the Mathematicks in the University of Cambridge; containing his New Theory about Light and Colors'

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society Feb 19, 1672

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Giving up on Lenses for Telescopes due to Chromatic Aberration, Newton turns to **Mirrors**



Giving up on Lenses for Telescopes due to Chromatic Aberration, Newton turns to Mirrors



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Giving up on Lenses for Telescopes due to Chromatic Aberration, Newton turns to Mirrors





First Prototype built in 1668

Second Version shown to Royal Society late 1671







All 3 had basically the same optical design, but structure was refined. Replica of Newton's 3rd Reflecting Telescope (~1672)







Tiny size amazed the Royal Society

> Replica of Newton's 3rd Reflecting Telescope (~1672)



Ray Trace Model of Newton's 2nd Telescope







Modern high resolution image of Jupiter with the 4 Galilean moons.

 (\cdot)

Sky & Telescope (2019)

The computed image Newton could have seen if he fabricated the optics accurately...



Newton 2nd Telescope 2/19/2022 Object height is 0.1000 degrees. Field position: 0.0000 (deg) Center: chief ray- No Relative Illumination Image size is 0.0648 W x 0.0554 H (direction cosines)

Zemax Zemax OpticStudio 16 SP2

Newton_OLLI.zmx Configuration 1 of 1

Joshna Khoader

e (2019)

3/14/2022

xmz.Ilo_noreveN Σ το Σ ποίτεγυρίτοΟ	Center: chieł ray- Wo Relative III enitarian (senizon corinec) H +220.0 x W 8+30.0 zi esiz egamI
X6m9Z Z92 ði ořbujčořigO x6m9Z	Mewton Znd Telescope 2/19/2022 Object height is 0.1000 degrees. Field position: 0.000.0 (deg)
znoiternedA noitstrion: Diffraction Aberrations	



e (2019)

Joshna Khonder

His image was inverted, so we have to flip this to compare with original.



znoitsinedA noitsshift :noits[umi2 spsml

Zoom in ...



"...and by degrees so far perfected an instrument ... by which I could discern Jupiter's 4 Concomitants, and showed them diverse times to two others of my acquaintance."

Newton's letter to Royal Society Feb 6, 1672

Brighten the image ...

Note chromatic aberration, due to refractive eyepiece lens.





Finally, after showing his second Telescope to the Royal Society, Newton publishes his Experiments on Color

3 Results:

- Newton is elected to the Royal Society
- Starts a spirited exchange with critics, especially Robert Hooke.
- The controversy sends him into a funk

'A Letter of Mr. Isaac Newton, Professor of the Mathematicks in the University of Cambridge; containing his New Theory about Light and Colors'

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society Feb 19, 1672 13 Pages Opticks 3





Robert Hooke 1635-1703 *London* Polymath Curator of Experiments at Royal Society





MICROGRAPHIA: OR SOME Physiological Descriptions OF MINUTE BODIES MADE BY MAGNIFYING GLASSES. WITH OBSERVATIONS and INQUIRIES thereupon. By R. HOOKE, Fellow of the ROYAL SOCIETY.

Non polfis oculo quantum contendere Linceus, Non tamen ideireo contemnas Lippus inungi. Horat. Ep. lib. 1.



LONDON, Printed by Jo. Martyn, and Ja. Alleftry, Printers to the ROYAL SOCIETY, and are to be fold at their Shop at the *Bell* in S. Paul's Church-yard. M DC LX V.

1665

Over 30 years later, after nemesis Hooke dies, Newton publishes Optiks in 1704



But Newton made a serious mistake ... he thought that all optical media had the *same* dispersion



What if we combined a *Convex* Crown Glass lens with a *Concave* Flint Glass lens?





The Invention of the Achromatic Lens



Chester Moore Hall English Lawyer and Amateur Optician

- Hall came up with the idea of the Achromat in 1729
- He needed

•

- a **Crown** glass (+) lens
- a Flint glass (-) lens
- Wanted to keep the invention secret.
- So he ordered each from a <u>different</u> Optician!
- But each Optician subcontracted the job to the same craftsman, one
 George Bass, who figured it out.



Bass later told an Instrument maker, John Dolland, about it. Dolland patented the Achromat in 1758 What about Spherical Aberration?

1. Use non-Spherical Surfaces Hard!

2. Use more Spherical surfaces

Eyepieces of the 17th Century





Adding more spherical surfaces could reduce or minimize spherical aberration...





Eyepieces of the 17th Century









Joseph von Fraunhofer 1787-1826 (age 39) Optical Instrument Manufacturer & Scientist Accidental

Vertically integrated manufacturer:

- Glass making
- Lens grinding
- Optical design
- Instrument design







Joseph von Fraunhofer 1787-1826 (age 39) Optical Instrument Manufacturer & Scientist

Vertically integrated manufacturer:

- Glass making
- Lens grinding
- Optical design
 - Instrument design

Need *accurate* Refractive Index measurements for glass

Theodolite

Fraunhofer's Institute



The Prism Spectroscope



One light source Fraunhofer used to measure index was a Sodium lamp...



>

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The Prism Spectroscope









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The Prism Spectroscope







Collimator



The surviving ones appear to be missing the collimator section. But he must have used one....

Fraunhofer Gesellschaft



Artistic Imagining of Fraunhofer demonstrating his Spectroscope

> ...without a Collimator or Source!



Then in 1814 Fraunhofer directed Sunlight into his Spectroscope



These dark lines are now called 'Fraunhofer Lines'

... although Wollaston first saw some of them in 1802

There are thousands of them



There was no photography –

so Fraunhofer drew and colored the spectrum he saw by hand



He tabulated over 500 of the dark lines, and gave names to many of them


Then he compared the Solar spectrum to the Sodium Lamp Spectrum



Then he used several lines to measure Refractive Index of his glasses



Then he used several lines to measure Refractive Index of his glasses



Fraunhofer's 1824 "Dorpat Refractor"

9.5 Inch (24 cm) Objective 4 m Focal Length

Used to discover Neptune

now at University of Tartu Estonia



"Merz and Mahler" 11 Inch Refractor 1848

Cincinnati Observatory



The race to bigger telescopes was on.







Newall Refractor 25 Inch Built 1862-1870

Installed in Gateshead, England

Donated to Cambridge University ~1885

Used until 1930's

Now in Athens

"Merz and Mahler" 11 Inch Refractor 1848 Cincinnati Observator





Newall Refractor 25 Inch Built 1862-1870

Installed in Gateshead, England

Donated to Cambridge University ~1885

Used until 1930's

Now in Athens

Yerkes Refractor 40 inch (102 cm) 19 m Focal Length 1897

Yerkes Observatory Williams Bay, WI *U of Chicago*





Yerkes Refractor 40 inch (102 cm) 19 m Focal Length 1897

Yerkes Observatory Williams Bay, WI *U of Chicago*





Yerkes Refractor 40 inch (102 cm) 19 m Focal Length 1897

Yerkes Observatory



40" Achromatic Doublet made by Alvan Clark & Sons in Massachusetts 500 Lb



Albert visits the Yerkes Refractor

May 6, 1921



The UI 12 Inch Refractor 15 ft Focal Length

1896

Achromatic Doublet (Flint in Front!)



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Jack Sparrow used state-of-the-art Refractive optics...

Pirates of the Caribbean (Disney 2003) Johnny Depp and Geoffrey Rush



Pirates of the Caribbean (Disney 2003) Johnny Depp and Geoffrey Rush

Most refractors were small terrestrial telescopes

at first constructed from cardboard tubes covered with Vellum



Most refractors were small terrestrial telescopes

then, from mid-18th century, of brass tubing

Dolland Terrestrial Refractor (19th Century)

HeritageAuctions.com

9-Draw Brass-Mahogany Terrestrial Telescope

Brass Pocket Telescope

Sworders Auction House

Terrestrial Refracting Telescope



Terrestrial Refracting Telescope



... and reduce the excessive length of the terrestrial telescopes?





and so on.

Roof Mirror





Roof Mirror



Roof Mirror: A Better Version





A Pair of Porro Prisms performs an Inversion



Terrestrial Refracting Telescope: A Compact Erector



Two of these make a Pair of Binoculars



But plenty of Binoculars were built the old-fashioned way



Galilean Opera Glasses

Greivenkamp & Steed, Proc SPIE Vol 8129 (2011)

But plenty of Binoculars were built the old-fashioned way



1817 Invention of the Kaleidoscope

καλός	εἶδος	σκοπέω
kalos	eidos	skopeō
"beautiful"	"shape"	"to examine



David Brewster Scottish Physicist (1781 – 1868)







TO all to whom these presents shall come, &c.





1817 Invention of the Kaleidoscope

eidos

"shape"



καλός

kalos

"beautiful"

David Brewster Scottish Physicist (1781 - 1868)



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How a simple 90° Kaleidoscope Works



How a simple 90° Kaleidoscope Works


How a simple 90° Kaleidoscope Works



How a simple 90° Kaleidoscope Works



Brewster's "Lenticular Stereoscope" (1849)





ca 1870 Museo Scienza e Tecnologia Milano

Stereo pair cards existed. Brewster's innovation was to add lenses to make viewing much less painful.

Immediate sensation, 250 thousand units sold!

Brewster's "Lenticular Stereoscope" (1849)





Brewster's "Lenticular Stereoscope" (1849)



M&GIC L&NTERN



Christiaan Huygens 1629-1695 Dutch Physicist

> Built and demonstrated a Magic Lantern *ca* 1659



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M&GIC L&NTERN



Christiaan Huygens 1629-1695 Dutch Physicist

> Built and demonstrated a Magic Lantern *ca* 1659





MAGIC LANTERN





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Adding a retro-mirror doubles the brightness.



Wall

MAGIC LANTERN



Christiaan Huygens 1629-1695 Dutch Physicist

> Built and demonstrated a Magic Lantern *ca* 1659



M&GIC L&NTERN



Christiaan Huygens 1629-1695 Dutch Physicist

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M&GIC L&NTERN

Oldest surviving Magic Lantern? 1720 or earlier

Jan van Musschenbroek Dutch Instrument Maker

Museum Boerhaave Leiden

from collection of Prof Gravesande 3/14/2022





from Willem Gravesande's 1720 book Physices Elementa Mathematica

MAGIC LANTERN

Oldest surviving Magic Lantern? 1720 or earlier

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from collection of **Prof Gravesande** 3/14/2022

de

Luikerwaal



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from Willem Gravesande's 1720 book Physices Elementa Mathematica

MAGIC LANTERNS EVOLVE







1886

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www.magiclantern.org.uk/

MAGIC LANTERNS EVOLVE





What About Newton's Reflecting Telescopes?





Newton's Solution built in 1668 Gregorian James Gregory (Scottish) 1663 *Optica Promota*

Proposed, not built





James Short

Edinburgh Instrument Maker

Made over 1300 Telescopes mid 1700's Mostly Gregorian ...including several large Gregorians, up to 19.5″

Opt





James Short Edinburgh Instrument Maker

Made over 1300 Telescopes mid 1700's Mostly Gregorian

... including se large Gregor up to 19. **Binocular Version** *ca* 1760

Opt

4.5 inch Gregorian Reflector (1737)

Inventor of the Cassegrain Design:

Laurent Cassegrain

Catholic Priest Chartre Region

(*ca* 1629-1693

Idea came to light only via another author who had heard about it, referred to originator only as M. Cassegrain.

?



A.B.C.D. cit un fort I uyau, dans le fonde duquel il y a un grand Miroir concave C.D. percé en son milieu E. F. est un Miroir convexe disposé de telle maniere, eu égard à sa convexité, qu'il reflé-chit les especes, qu'il reçoit du grand Miroir, vers le trou E, où il y a un Oculaire au travers L'avantage que je trouve en cét Instru-ment sur celuy de M. Newton, est premiere-ment

Journal des Scavans (1672)

Meet the Herschels: German-British Astronomers



Brother & Sister

They built over 60 complete Reflecting Telescopes and hundreds of mirrors, from 6 inch to 49 inch diameter, beginning in 1774



They worked their way up to a 20 Foot Focal Length Reflector by 1783

~ 18 " Diameter

A new Off-Axis design was used, now called Herschel-Lomonsov





The Great Forty-Foot Telescope constructed from 1785-89 at the Herschel Observatory in Slough, England

49 inch Speculum Mirror

Built using government grant funds.

It was a public sensation....

...but not very useful for Astronomy



The Great Forty-Foot Telescope constructed from 1785-89 at the Herschels' Observatory in Slough, England

> 49 inch Speculum Mirror Tin-Copper-Arsenic

It was a public sensation....

...but not very useful for Astronomy

Their first 49" mirror was too thin and floppy, but was stored carefully and has survived.







Leviathan of Parsonstown, Rosse 6 ft Telescope: 1845



William Parsons 3rd Earl of Rosse Birr Castle County Offaly, Ireland

Used for serious astronomy, visited by astronomers worldwide. Could rotate East-West only slightly.



Leviathan of Parsonstown, the Rosse 6 ft Telescope: 1845





Late 17th Century Compound Microscopes *Primitive Optics*

Compound Monocular Tripod Microscope (circa before 1686)

> English Tripod Microscope made and sold by John Yarwell in the 1680s. The microscope is constructed of lignum vitae, pasteboard, and goldtooled leather.

Joseph Campani Italian Screw-Barrel Microscope (circa 1680s) Great Double Microscope (circa late 1600s)

John Marshall's









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- Laws of Reflection and Refraction
- Aberrations
- Newton
- Achromatic Lenses
- Fraunhofer
- Refractor Telescopes
- Toys
- Magic Lantern Projectors
- Reflector Telescopes
- Microscopes