

# Optical Engineering

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## **Some Minor Changes in Optical Engineering**

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I can't believe we're almost halfway through 2013. It sure seems like time flies by faster and faster each year. I know that I joked about time a number of editorials ago using Fermat's principle, but I can also quote William Penn on the subject: "Time is what we want most, but what we use the worst." There's a funnier reference that I don't know who to attribute to: "If time is money, then all ATMs are time machines!" This month I am thinking about time because I have been Editor of *Optical Engineering* for three and a half years and it feels like yesterday that I accepted the assignment.

At *Optical Engineering*, we are using time (not in the worst way) to improve the journal. The journal staff and I are currently working on making the scope of *Optical Engineering* more well defined. If you look on the journal website, you will find a new description of the scope:

### Imaging Components, Systems, and Processing

- Acquisition, Tracking, and Pointing
- Adaptive Optics
- Cameras
- Focal Planes and Imaging Detectors
- Human Vision
- Infrared and Electro-Optical Systems
- Image Quality and System Performance
- Image Processing for Optical Engineering
- Laser Radar
- Machine Vision and Pattern Recognition
- Millimeter Wave and Terahertz Technologies
- Multispectral and Hyperspectral Technologies
- Pattern Recognition
- Persistent Surveillance Systems
- Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Systems
- Target Acquisition Systems
- Telescopes (Ground-Based, Airborne, and Space-Based)
- Three-Dimensional Imaging, Visualization, and Display Tracking
- Unconventional Imaging and Wavefront Sensing
- Video and Display Technologies
- Virtual Reality

### Instrumentation, Techniques, and Measurement

- Active and Passive Signatures

- Astronomical Instrumentation
- Atmospheric Propagation
- Compressive Sensing
- Biometric Technologies
- Diffractive Optics
- Fourier Optics and Optical Signal Processing
- Holography
- Interferometry
- Photonic Integration
- Physical Optics Measurements
- Metrology
- Modeling and Simulation
- Nondestructive Characterization of Materials
- Radiometry
- Spectroscopy

### Optical Design and Engineering

- Astronomical and Space Optical Systems
- Illumination and Nonimaging Optics
- Optics and Lens Design
- Optical Countermeasures
- Optical System Design
- Optical Fabrication
- Optical System Alignment
- Optical and System Testing
- Optomechanics
- Thin Films
- Unmanned Systems Technology
- Zoom Lenses

### Lasers, Fiber Optics, and Communications

- Beam Control
- Fiber Lasers
- Fiber Optics
- Fiber Optic Sensors
- Fiber Optic Communications
- Free Space Communications
- High Power Lasers
- Lasers and Laser Optics
- Laser Applications
- Laser Packaging
- Nonlinear Optics
- Quantum Optics and Photonics
- Semiconductor Lasers
- Slow Light
- Ultrafast Optics
- Vertical External Cavity Surface-Emitting Lasers

### Materials, Photonic Devices, and Sensors

- Detector Materials
- Integrated Optics
- Laser Materials
- Liquid Crystal and LED Technology and Devices
- Ocean and Atmospheric Sensing and Monitoring
- Optical Components
- Optical Computing and Optical Storage
- Optical Materials
- Optical Sensors
- Optoelectronic Integrated Circuits

Optoelectronic Materials and Devices  
Photonic Devices  
Chemical and Biological Sensors  
Smart Materials Smart Structures and Integrated Systems  
X-Ray, Gamma Ray, and Particle Technologies

This scope provides a number of improvements. First, there are now five major categories under which papers will be published. This reduces the number of papers that may seem to be misplaced in the table of contents when the papers could fall under more than one category. Second, the subcategories provide the potential author with more information to decide whether *Optical Engineering* is an appropriate journal for their work. Third, the subcategories provide good alignment with previously published journal papers, as well as better alignment between *Optical Engineering* and SPIE's conference structure. There are more subcategories now than there were topics in the previous scope description.

Fourth, the new scope should provide a more appropriate structure for the recruitment of special sections, review papers, and tutorial papers.

I have been working closely with the journal staff to redefine the scope to further improve the service that *Optical Engineering* provides to the optical engineering community. In the next few weeks, I will be working with the editorial board to develop a structure to support this new scope. Hopefully this will ultimately help improve journal downloads, impact factor, and time to publication. It is our desire to provide you with the best journal possible for the publication of your most important work in optical engineering. This way, you won't waste time thinking about other less appropriate journals.

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Editor