

Design of Freeform Imaging Systems: Mathematical Model and Numerics

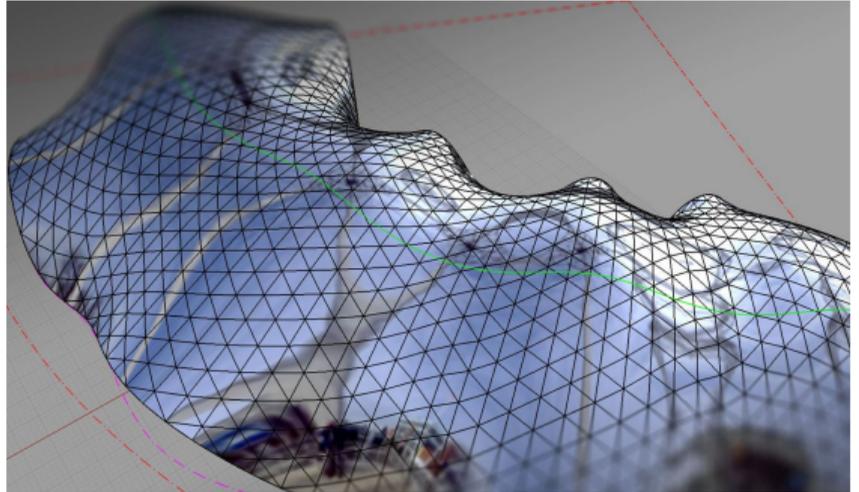
Dutch-Flemish SCS Spring Meeting (June 13, 2025)

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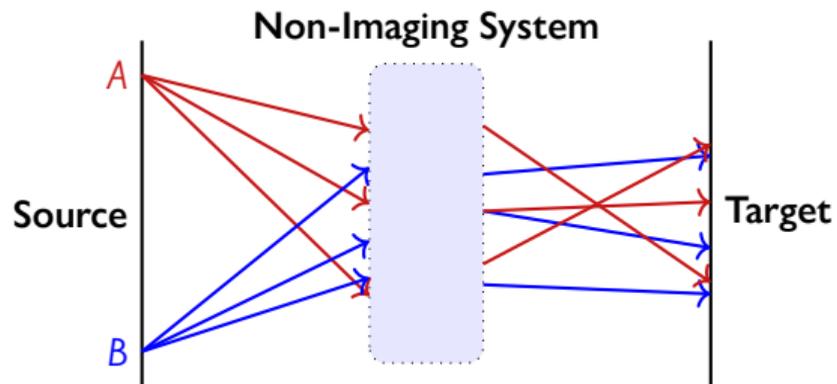
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A freeform surface.

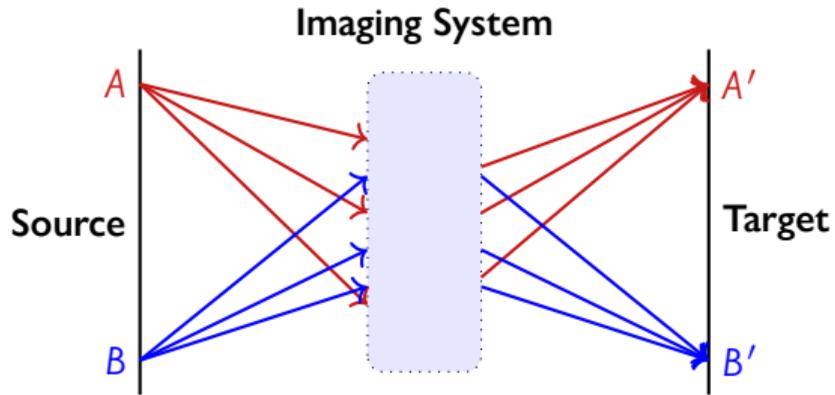
Non-Imaging vs. Imaging Optics



Goal: Transfer energy from source to target



Nonimaging vs. Imaging Optics



Goal: Form a perfect image of the source in the target



Aberrations

Aberrations are small deviations from a perfect image



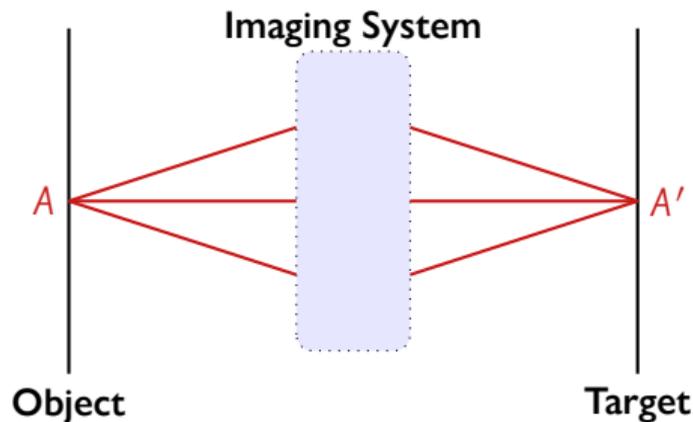
Figure: A perfect image



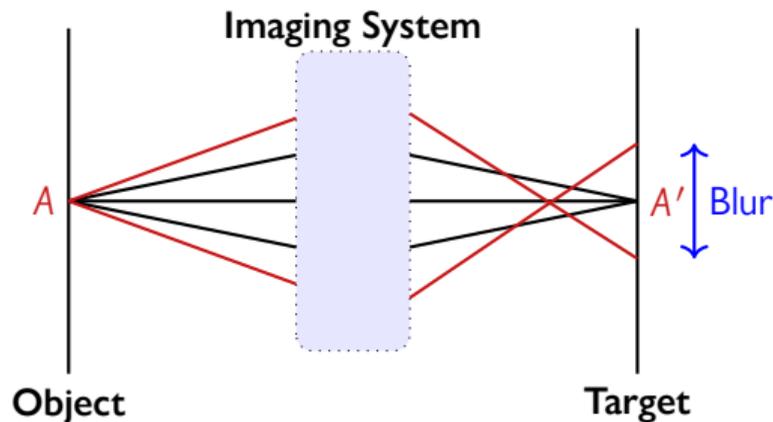
Figure: An aberrated image

Aberrations

Aberrations are small deviations from a perfect image



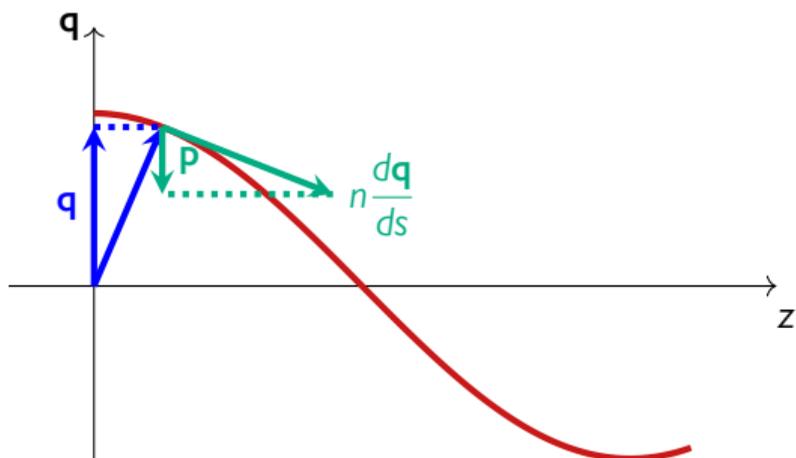
(a) Ideal image formation



(b) Image formation in reality

Goal: Minimize the spot size for all object points

Mathematical Description



A ray is fully characterized by phase-space variables

1. Position: $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{R}^2$
2. Momentum: $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{R}^2$

► Phase Space:

Source coordinates	$(\mathbf{q}_s, \mathbf{p}_s)$
Target coordinates	$(\mathbf{q}_t, \mathbf{p}_t)$

► Optical Map:

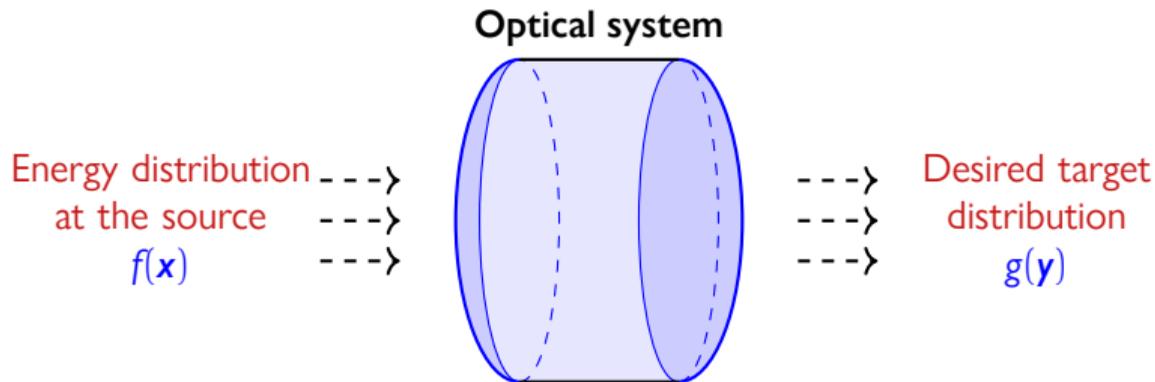
$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_t \\ \mathbf{p}_t \end{bmatrix} = \mathcal{M} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_s \\ \mathbf{p}_s \end{bmatrix}$$

► Ideal Imaging: $\mathcal{M} : (\mathbf{q}_s, \mathbf{p}_s) \rightarrow (\mathbf{q}_t, \mathbf{p}_t)$ is linear

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_t \\ \mathbf{p}_t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_s \\ \mathbf{p}_s \end{bmatrix}$$

A, B, C, and D are 2×2 constant matrices

Inverse Methods in Nonimaging Optics



- ▶ **Goal:** Compute freeform optical elements
- ▶ **Optical Map:** $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{x})$
- ▶ **Energy Conservation:** $\int_A f(\mathbf{x}) d(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{m(A)} g(\mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{y} = \int_A g(\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{x})) |\det(D\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{x}))| dx$
- ▶ **Monge-Ampère Equation:** $\det(D\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{x})) = \pm \frac{f(\mathbf{x})}{g(\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{x}))}$

Aim

Design freeform reflectors for 3D imaging systems using inverse methods from nonimaging optics

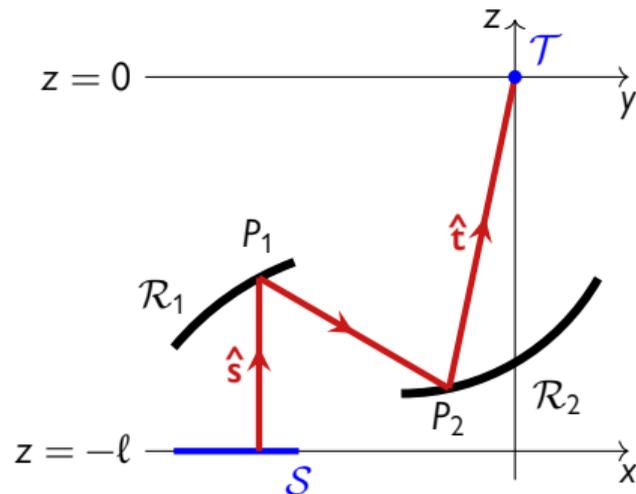
How?

Global energy conservation such that an imaging condition is satisfied

Mathematical Model

A Double-Reflector System

- ▶ **First Reflector:** $\mathcal{R}_1 : z = -\ell + u(\mathbf{x})$
- ▶ **Second Reflector:** $\mathcal{R}_2 : r = -w(\hat{\mathbf{t}}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{t}}$
- ▶ **Optical Path Length:** $V = u(\mathbf{x}) + |P_1 P_2| + w(\hat{\mathbf{t}})$
- ▶ **Reduced Optical Path Length:** $\beta = V - \ell$
- ▶ **Cost Function:** $u_1(\mathbf{x}) + u_2(\mathbf{y}) = c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$
 $u_1(\mathbf{x}) = \log \left(-u - \frac{|\mathbf{x}|^2}{2\beta} + \frac{V+\ell}{2} \right)$
 $u_2(\mathbf{y}) = \log \left(\frac{1}{w} - \frac{2|\mathbf{y}|^2}{\beta(1+|\mathbf{y}|^2)} \right)$
 $c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \log \left(\frac{1}{1+|\mathbf{y}|^2} \left(1 + \frac{2\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y}}{\beta} + \frac{|\mathbf{x}|^2 |\mathbf{y}|^2}{\beta^2} \right) \right)$



► **Energy Conservation:**

For any subset $\mathcal{A} \subseteq Q_s \times P_s$ and image set $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq Q_t \times P_t$

$$\iint_{\mathcal{A}} L_s(\mathbf{q}_s, \mathbf{p}_s) d\mathbf{q}_s d\mathbf{p}_s = \iint_{\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{A})} L_t(\mathbf{q}_t, \mathbf{p}_t) d\mathbf{q}_t d\mathbf{p}_t$$

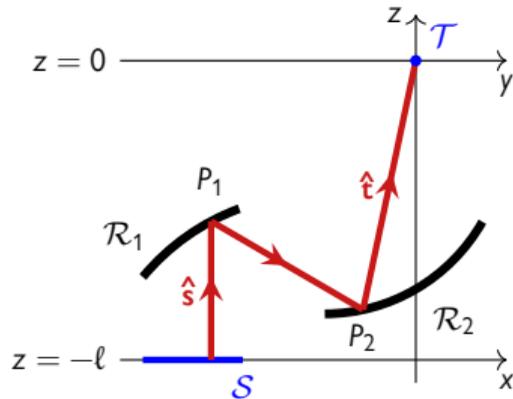
► $L_s(\mathbf{q}_s, \mathbf{p}_s) = f(\mathbf{q}_s)\delta(\mathbf{p}_s)$ and $L_t(\mathbf{q}_t, \mathbf{p}_t) = g(\mathbf{p}_t)\delta(\mathbf{q}_t)$

► Consider the mapping $\tilde{\mathbf{m}}(\mathbf{q}_s) = \mathbf{p}_t$. Then, for any subset $\tilde{\mathcal{A}} \subseteq Q_s$ and image set $\tilde{\mathbf{m}}(\tilde{\mathcal{A}}) \subseteq P_t$

$$\int_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}} f(\mathbf{q}_s) d\mathbf{q}_s = \int_{\tilde{\mathbf{m}}(\tilde{\mathcal{A}})} g(\mathbf{p}_t) d\mathbf{p}_t$$

► Substitute the mapping $\tilde{\mathbf{m}}$

$$\det(D\tilde{\mathbf{m}}(\mathbf{q}_s)) = \pm \frac{f(\mathbf{q}_s)}{g(\tilde{\mathbf{m}}(\mathbf{q}_s))}, \quad \text{Transport Boundary Condition: } \tilde{\mathbf{m}}(\partial Q_s) = \partial P_t$$



► **Optical Map for Ideal Imaging:**

$\mathcal{M} : (\mathbf{q}_s, \mathbf{p}_s) \rightarrow (\mathbf{q}_t, \mathbf{p}_t)$ is a linear map

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_t \\ \mathbf{p}_t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_s \\ \mathbf{p}_s \end{bmatrix}$$

► \mathcal{M} is symplectic, i.e.,

$$\det(\mathcal{M}) = |\partial(\mathbf{q}_t, \mathbf{p}_t) / \partial(\mathbf{q}_s, \mathbf{p}_s)| = 1$$

► Using $\mathbf{p}_s = \mathbf{0}$ and $\mathbf{q}_t = \mathbf{0}$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{m}}(\mathbf{q}_s) = \mathbf{p}_t, \quad \mathbf{p}_t = C\mathbf{q}_s$$

$$\det(C) = \det(B)^{-1} = \det(D\tilde{\mathbf{m}}(\mathbf{q}_s))$$

► **Condition for Rotational Symmetry:**

$$C = \pm kI_{2 \times 2}$$

$$\det(C) = k^2$$

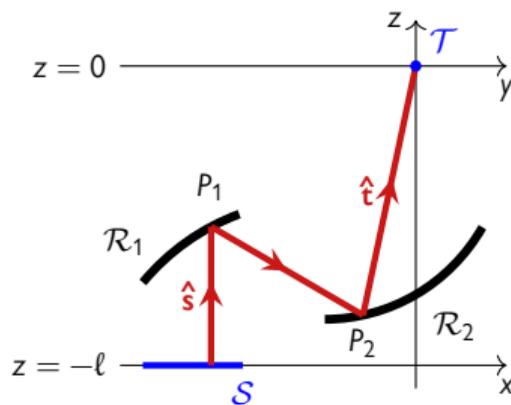
► Using energy conservation and rotational symmetry

$$\det(D\tilde{\mathbf{m}}(\mathbf{q}_s)) = \frac{f(\mathbf{q}_s)}{g(\tilde{\mathbf{m}}(\mathbf{q}_s))} = k^2$$

► Optical map:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{m}}(\mathbf{q}_s) = \pm k\mathbf{q}_s$$

$\tilde{m} : Q_s \rightarrow P_t$	$\det(D\tilde{m}(\mathbf{q}_s)) = \frac{f(\mathbf{q}_s)}{g(\tilde{m}(\mathbf{q}_s))}$
$m : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$	$\det(Dm(\mathbf{x})) = \frac{f(\mathbf{x})}{g(m(\mathbf{x}))} \frac{(1 + m(\mathbf{x}) ^2)^3}{4(1 - (m(\mathbf{x}) ^2))}$



- **Optimal Transport Formulation:** The transport relation $u_1(\mathbf{x}) + u_2(\mathbf{y}) = c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ has infinitely many solutions, but we restrict ourselves to a c-convex pair

$$u_1(\mathbf{x}) = \max_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{T}} [c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) - u_2(\mathbf{y})] \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{S}$$

$$u_2(\mathbf{y}) = \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{S}} [c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) - u_1(\mathbf{x})] \quad \forall \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{T}$$

- ▶ **Transformation to Polar Coordinates:** $m^* : \omega \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$, $m^*(\zeta) = \mathbf{y}$, where $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}(\zeta)$, $\zeta = (r, \vartheta)$
- ▶ The transport relation $\tilde{u}_1(\zeta) + u_2(\mathbf{y}) = \tilde{c}(\zeta, \mathbf{y})$ has infinitely many solutions, but we restrict ourselves to a c-convex pair

$$\tilde{u}_1(\zeta) = \max_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{T}} [\tilde{c}(\zeta, \mathbf{y}) - u_2(\mathbf{y})] \quad \forall \zeta \in \omega$$

$$u_2(\mathbf{y}) = \max_{\zeta \in \omega} [\tilde{c}(\zeta, \mathbf{y}) - \tilde{u}_1(\zeta)] \quad \forall \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{T}$$

▶ **First Reflector:**

Differentiate $\tilde{u}_1(\zeta) + u_2(\mathbf{y}) = \tilde{c}(\zeta, \mathbf{y})$ and substitute $\mathbf{y} = m^*(\zeta)$

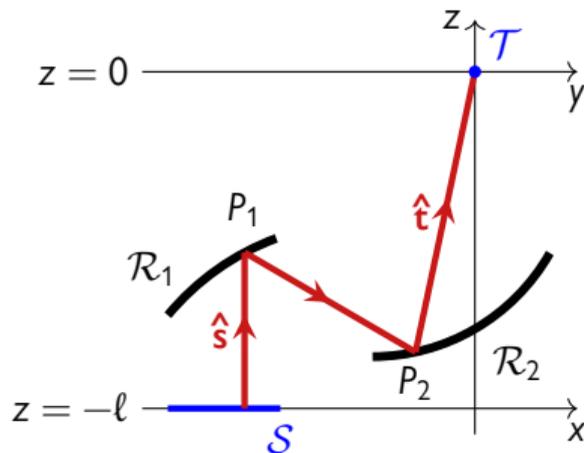
$$\frac{\partial \tilde{u}_1}{\partial r} = \frac{\pm 2kr}{\pm kr^2 + \beta(1 + \sqrt{1 - (kr)^2})}$$

Solve ODE for u_1 and find $u(\zeta)$

▶ **Second Reflector:**

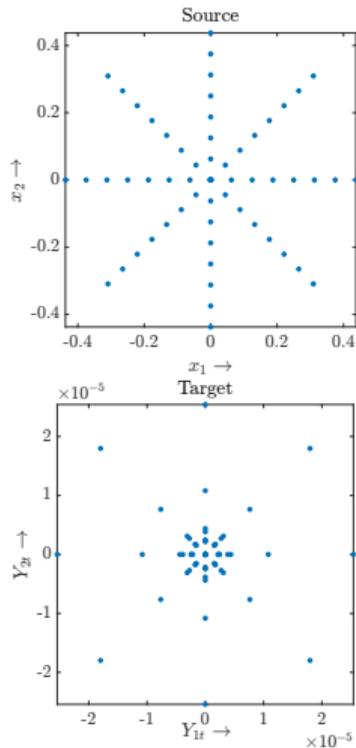
We have $u_2(m^*(\zeta)) = \tilde{c}(\zeta, m^*(\zeta)) - \tilde{u}_1(\zeta)$

Compute u_2 and subsequently w

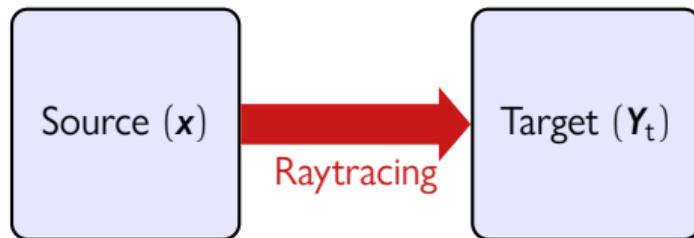


Verification with Raytracing

Quantifying Aberrations



Scatter plots



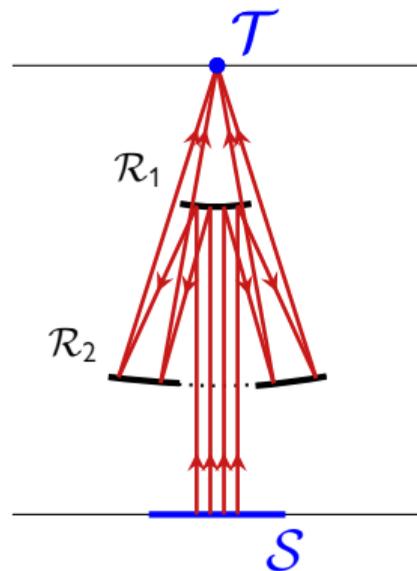
$$\text{Size of the spot} = \text{RMS spot size} = (\text{Var}[Y_t])^{1/2}$$

Calculating Inverse Freeform Imaging Reflectors

For an imaging system: $\frac{f}{g} = k^2$

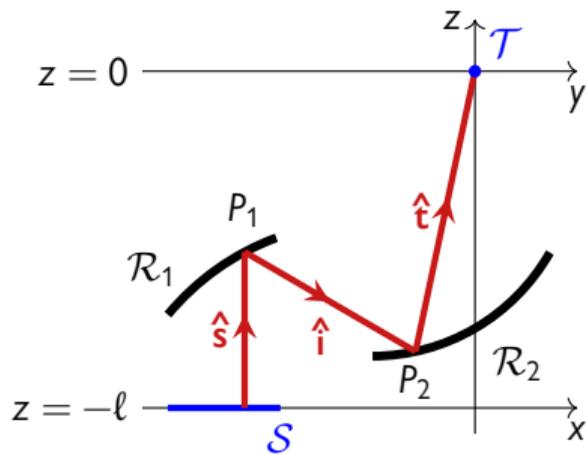
What is the value of k^2 ?

1. A Schwarzschild telescope minimizes aberrations
2. Raytrace ω , and find the corresponding \mathcal{T}
3. With global energy conservation, find $f/g = k^2$
4. Compute the optical map $m^* : \omega \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$
5. Compute the inverse freeform reflectors

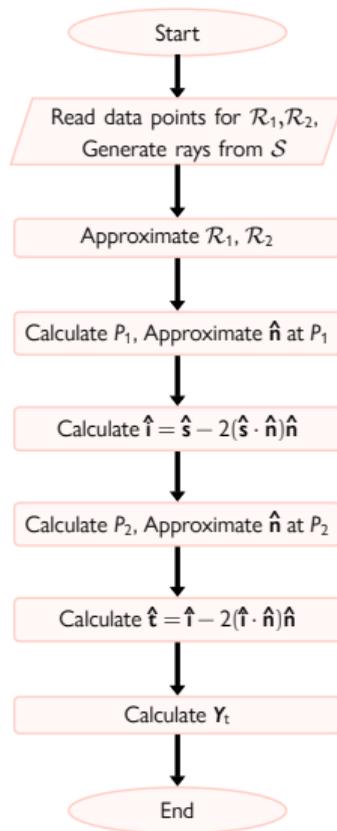


A Schwarzschild telescope

Raytracing



Requirement: Use a coarse grid to approximate reflectors and their partial derivatives as smooth functions



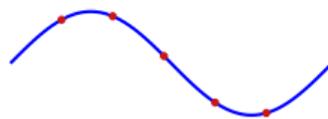
B-Spline Quasi-Interpolation for Raytracing

- ▶ **Quasi-Interpolants:** For a real-valued function $f \in \mathcal{B}_d$, where the \mathcal{B}_d is the bivariate space of polynomials of total degree at most d ,

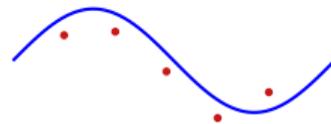
$$Q_d[f](x, y) = \sum_{s=1}^n \sum_{r=1}^n \lambda_{rs}(f) B_{r,d,\xi}(x) B_{s,d,\mu}(y),$$

where

1. $B_{r,d,\xi}(x)$ is the r^{th} B-spline of degree d defined on an open knot sequence $\xi = \{\xi_r\}_{r=1}^{n+d+1}$ in the x -direction
 2. $B_{s,d,\mu}(y)$ is the s^{th} B-spline of degree d defined on an open knot sequence $\mu = \{\mu_s\}_{s=1}^{n+d+1}$ in the y -direction
 3. n is the total number of B-splines
 4. $\lambda_{rs}(f)$ are coefficients depending on known values of f
- ▶ **Partial Derivatives:**
 $D_x[f](x, y) = \sum_{s=1}^n \sum_{r=2}^n c_{rs}(f) B_{r,d-1,\xi}(x) B_{s,d,\mu}(y)$
 $D_y[f](x, y) = \sum_{s=2}^n \sum_{r=1}^n c_{rs}(f) B_{r,d,\xi}(x) B_{s,d-1,\mu}(y)$



(a) B-Spline interpolation



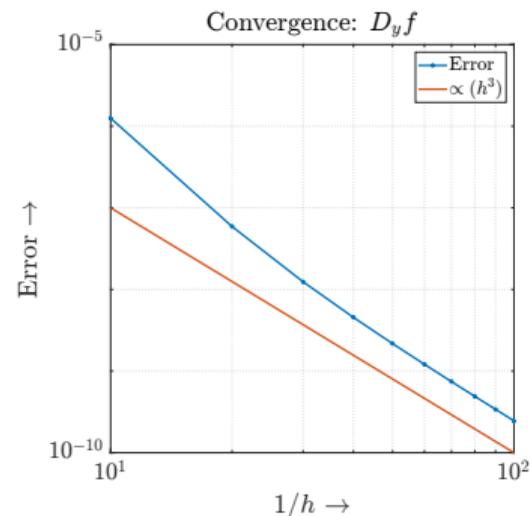
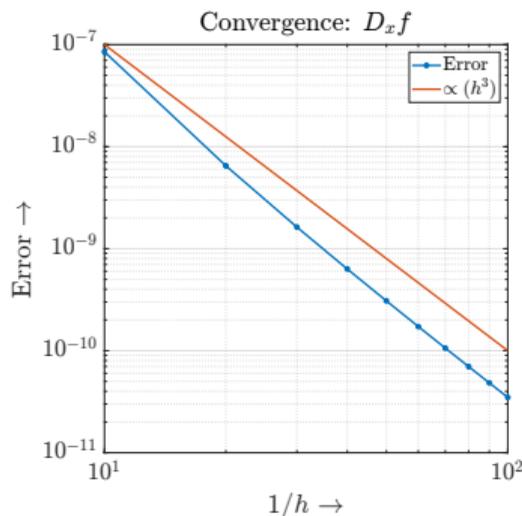
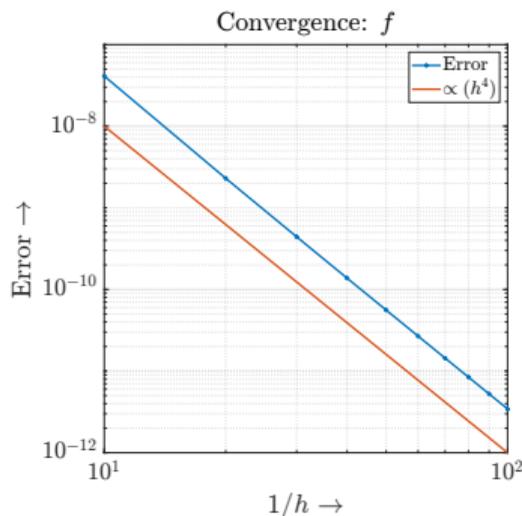
(b) Quasi-interpolation

Advantages

- ▶ **Local Method:** $\lambda_{rs}(f)$ are linear combinations of the values of f at points in the neighborhood of the support of the B-splines
- ▶ Does not depend on huge data sets
- ▶ **Direct Method:** Built directly without solving any systems of linear equations
- ▶ Low computational cost
- ▶ Flexibility and simplicity of constructing tailor-made approximation schemes

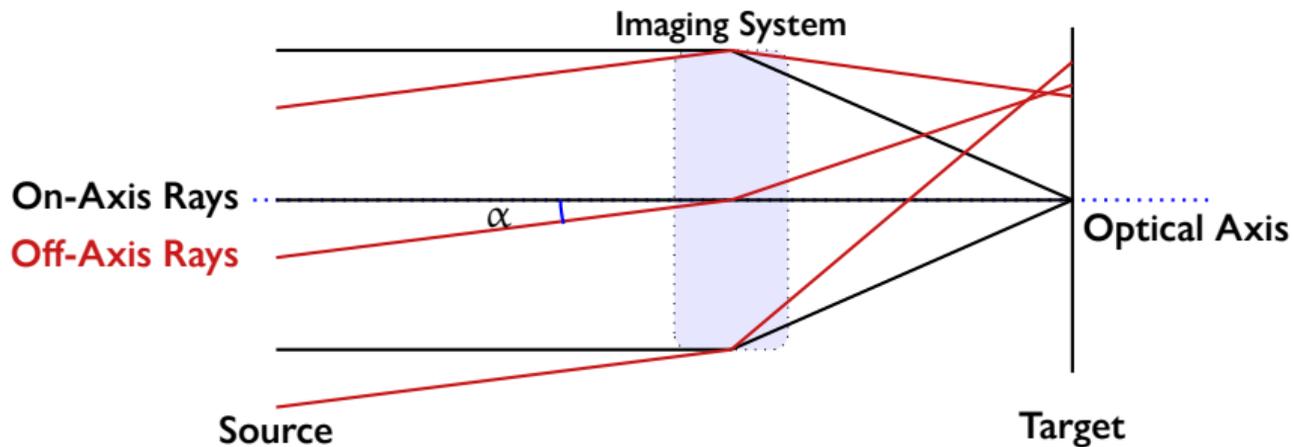
► **Approximation Order:** Let $h = \max(h_x, h_y)$, where $h_x = \max(\xi_{r+1} - \xi_r)$, $h_y = \max(\mu_{s+1} - \mu_s)$

1. Function: $\|f - f_0\| = \mathcal{O}(h^{d+1})$
2. First-order derivative: $\|Df - Df_0\| = \mathcal{O}(h^d)$



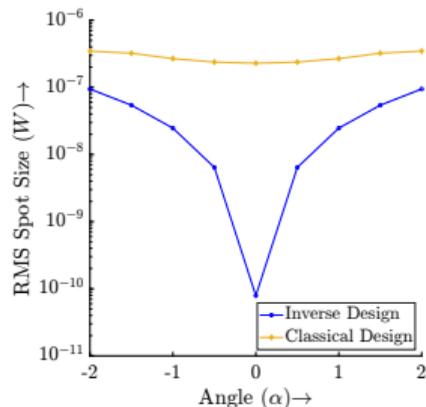
Approximate $f(x, y) = \cos(xy) + \sinh(x) + \exp(xy)$, $(x, y) \in [0, 0.5] \times [0, 0.5]$ using $d = 3$, $B_{r,3,\xi}(x)$, $B_{s,3,\mu}(y)$

Numerical Results



Goal: Compare RMS spot sizes of on-axis and off-axis rays for classical and inverse designs

Numerical Results



Comparison of RMS spot sizes

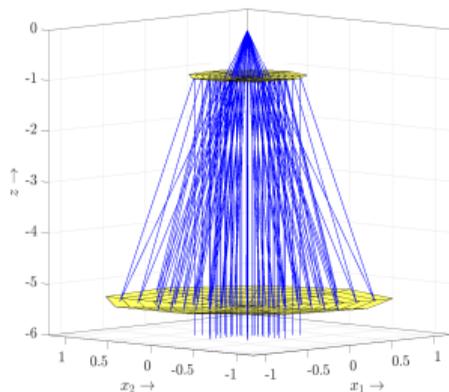
Table: RMS spot sizes for different angles

Angle	0°	±2°
Inverse Design	7.417e – 11	9.075e – 08
Classical Design	1.386e – 07	3.461e – 07

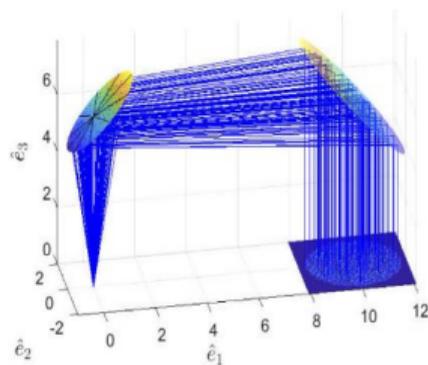
Spot sizes for inverse freeform design are smaller than the classical design for both on-axis and off-axis rays

Concluding Remarks

- ▶ Inverse methods for the design of nonimaging systems can be adapted for imaging systems by choosing suitable energy distributions
- ▶ Inverse freeform design is superior to the classical design
- ▶ Inverse design can be a good starting point for optimization
- ▶ Extend the method to folded optical systems



(a) On-axis system



(b) Folded system

<https://martijna.win.tue.nl/Optics/>