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**Arun K. Majumdar
Christopher C. Davis**
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Contents

vii	<i>Conference Committee</i>
ix	<i>Introduction</i>

SESSION 1 FSO SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

- 7814 02 **Performance of a 10 Gbps QoS-based buffer in a FSO/RF IP network (Invited Paper)** [7814-01]
R. Peach, G. Burdge, F. Reitberger, C. Visone, M. Oyler, C. Jensen, J. Sonnenberg, Harris Corp. (United States)
- 7814 03 **Pointing performance of an aircraft-to-ground optical communications link** [7814-02]
M. W. Regehr, A. Biswas, J. M. Kovalik, M. W. Wright, Jet Propulsion Lab. (United States)
- 7814 04 **Non-line-of-sight link performance study for indoor visible light communication systems** [7814-03]
Z. Dong, K. Cui, G. Chen, Z. Xu, Univ. of California, Riverside (United States)
- 7814 05 **Molecular inspired models for prediction and control of directional FSO/RF wireless networks** [7814-04]
J. Llorca, S. D. Milner, C. C. Davis, Univ. of Maryland, College Park (United States)
- 7814 06 **Wireless optical network for a home network** [7814-05]
O. Bouchet, P. Porcon, France Télécom, Cesson-Sévigné (France); J. W. Walewski, S. Nerreter, Siemens AG (Germany); K.-D. Langer, L. Fernández, J. Vučić, Fraunhofer-HHI (Germany); T. Kamalakis, G. Ntogari, I. Neokosmidis, Univ. of Athens (Greece); E. Gueutier, Apside (France)

SESSION 2 INDOOR OPTICAL WIRELESS AND NON-LINE-OF-SIGHT FSO COMMUNICATION

- 7814 07 **Experimental demonstration of non-line-of-sight ultraviolet communication channel characteristics** [7814-06]
G. Chen, Z. Xu, Univ. of California, Riverside (United States); B. M. Sadler, U.S. Army Research Lab. (United States)
- 7814 08 **Gigabit class high-speed indoor optical wireless: system design, challenges and results** [7814-07]
D. O'Brien, Univ. of Oxford (United Kingdom); H. Le Minh, Northumbria Univ. (United Kingdom); G. Faulkner, Univ. of Oxford (United Kingdom); M. Wolf, L. Grobe, J. Li, Technische Univ. Ilmenau (Germany); O. Bouchet, France Telecom R&D (France)
- 7814 09 **Performance of non-line-of-sight ultraviolet communication receiver in ISI channel** [7814-08]
L. Wang, Q. He, Z. Xu, Univ. of California, Riverside (United States); B. M. Sadler, U.S. Army Research Lab. (United States)

- 7814 0A **Energy scavenging sensors for ultra-low power sensor networks** [7814-09]
D. C. O'Brien, J. J. Liu, G. E. Faulkner, P. Vachiramon, S. Collins, S. J. Elston, Univ. of Oxford (United Kingdom)

SESSION 3 FADE MITIGATION, CODING, AND NETWORKING

- 7814 0C **Aperture averaging in a laser Gaussian beam: simulations and experiments** [7814-12]
R. Barrios, F. Dios, J. Reolons, A. Rodriguez, Univ. Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain)
- 7814 0D **Performance measures in acousto-optic chaotic signal encryption system subject to parametric variations and additive noise** [7814-13]
M. R. Chatterjee, Univ. of Dayton (United States); A. K. Ghosh, The Univ. of Oklahoma, Tulsa (United States); M. A. Al-Saedi, Univ. of Dayton (United States)
- 7814 0E **Free space optical sensor network for short-range applications** [7814-14]
N. Agrawal, S. D. Milner, C. C. Davis, Univ. of Maryland, College Park (United States)

SESSION 4 OPTICAL TURBULENCE CHARACTERIZATION AND BEAM PROPAGATION I

- 7814 0H **Turbulence strength and temporal correlation in a terrestrial laser communication link** [7814-16]
J. A. Anguita, J. E. Cisternas, Univ. de Los Andes (Chile)
- 7814 0I **Coupling turbulence-distorted wave front to fiber: wave propagation theory perspective** [7814-17]
M. Charnotskii, Zel Technologies, LLC (United States) and NOAA/Earth System Research Lab. (United States)
- 7814 0J **Portable daytime differential image motion sensor for atmospheric turbulence characterization** [7814-18]
M. Belen'kii, T. Brinkley, D. Bruns, L. DiRuscio, H. Runyeon, V. Rye, L. Angell, Trex Enterprises Corp. (United States); D. Haddock, S. Hammel, M. Lasher, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (United States)
- 7814 0K **Comparing the Log-Normal and Gamma-Gamma model to experimental probability density functions of aperture averaging data** [7814-19]
D. T. Wayne, R. L. Phillips, L. C. Andrews, T. Leclerc, P. Sauer, Univ. of Central Florida (United States); J. Stryjewski, Computer Sciences Corp. (United States)

SESSION 5 OPTICAL TURBULENCE CHARACTERIZATION AND BEAM PROPAGATION II

- 7814 0O **Channel estimation for free-space optical communications: preliminary experimental results and analysis** [7814-23]
C. N. Reinhardt, Y. Kuga, J. Ritcey, A. Ishimaru, Univ. of Washington (United States); S. Hammel, D. Tsintikidis, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Ctr., San Diego (United States)

- 7814 0P **Field measurements and comparisons to simulations of high energy laser propagation and off-axis scatter** [7814-24]
S. T. Fiorino, R. M. Randall, R. J. Bartell, J. D. Haiducek, M. F. Spencer, S. J. Cusumano, Air Force Institute of Technology (United States)
- 7814 0Q **Estimating turbulence in images** [7814-25]
M. van Iersel, A. M. J. van Eijk, TNO Defence, Security and Safety (Netherlands)
- 7814 0R **Gaussian beam propagation in maritime atmospheric turbulence: long term beam spread and beam wander analysis** [7814-26]
I. Toselli, B. Agrawal, Naval Postgraduate School (United States); S. Restaino, Naval Research Lab. (United States)

SESSION 6 COMPONENTS AND SYSTEM DESIGN AND ANALYSIS I

- 7814 0S **Coherent beam combining and optical space-time division multiple access** [7814-27]
W. Miniscalco, Raytheon Co. (United States); S. A. Lane, Air Force Research Lab. (United States); K. Fisher, S. Waite, M. Howlett, I. Smith, Raytheon Co. (United States)
- 7814 0T **Beam queuing for aeronautical free space optical networks** [7814-28]
K. Karras, D. Marinos, P. Kouros, Technological Educational Institute of Piraeus (Greece)
- 7814 0U **Free-space optics based sensor network design using angle-diversity photodiode arrays** [7814-29]
A. K. Ghosh, S. Kunta, P. Verma, R. C. Huck, The Univ. of Oklahoma, Tulsa (United States)
- 7814 0V **Evaluating M-ary PSK multiple-subcarrier modulation over FSO links using aperture averaging** [7814-30]
C. Ben Naila, A. Bekkali, K. Kazaura, K. Wakamori, M. Matsumoto, Waseda Univ. (Japan)

SESSION 7 COMPONENTS AND SYSTEM DESIGN AND ANALYSIS II

- 7814 0Y **Air-to-ground lasercom system demonstration design overview and results summary** [7814-33]
F. G. Walther, S. Michael, R. R. Parenti, J. A. Taylor, MIT Lincoln Lab. (United States)
- 7814 0Z **Comparisons of C_n^2 measurements and power-in-fiber data from two long-path free-space optical communication experiments** [7814-34]
R. R. Parenti, S. Michael, J. M. Roth, T. M. Yarnall, MIT Lincoln Lab. (United States)

POSTER SESSION

- 7814 10 **Control loop analysis of the complex axis in satellite laser communications** [7814-35]
W. Lu, L. Liu, J. Sun, Y. Zhou, Y. Wu, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)
- 7814 11 **Design and fabrication of optical 90° hybrid by birefringent crystals for coherent receiver in free-space optical communication system** [7814-36]
Y. Zhi, Y. Zhou, J. Sun, L. Liu, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)
- 7814 12 **Self-homodyne interferometric detection in 2×4 optical hybrid for free-space optical communication** [7814-37]
Y. Zhi, Y. Zhou, J. Sun, A. Yan, Z. Luan, L. Liu, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)
- 7814 14 **Propagation study of 850nm/58 GHz hybrid municipal system** [7814-39]
O. Wilfert, Brno Univ. of Technology (Czech Republic); V. Kvicera, Czech Metrology Institute (Czech Republic); Z. Kolka, Brno Univ. of Technology (Czech Republic); M. Grabner, Czech Metrology Institute (Czech Republic); O. Fiser, Institute of Atmospheric Physics (Czech Republic)
- 7814 15 **On decoding (31, 16, 7) quadratic residue code up to its error correcting capacity with bit-error probability estimates** [7814-40]
T.-C. Lin, P.-Y. Shih, W.-K. Su, T.-K. Truong, I-Shou Univ. (Taiwan)

Author Index

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- 1 FSO System Performance
Arun K. Majumdar, Naval Air Warfare Center (United States)
Christopher C. Davis, University of Maryland, College Park (United States)
- 2 Indoor Optical Wireless and Non-Line-of-Sight FSO Communication
Dominic C. O'Brien, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)
Arun K. Majumdar, Naval Air Warfare Center (United States)
- 3 Fade Mitigation, Coding, and Networking
Michael C. Roggemann, Michigan Technological University (United States) and Pacific Defense Solutions (United States)
Aleksandr V. Sergejev, Michigan Technological University (United States)
- 4 Optical Turbulence Characterization and Beam Propagation I
Stephen M. Hammel, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, San Diego (United States)
Mikhail S. Belen'kii, Trex Enterprises Corporation (United States)
- 5 Optical Turbulence Characterization and Beam Propagation II
Alexander M. J. van Eijk, TNO Defence, Security and Safety (Netherlands)
Christopher C. Davis, University of Maryland, College Park (United States)
- 6 Components and System Design and Analysis I
Frederick G. Walther, MIT Lincoln Laboratory (United States)
Arun K. Majumdar, Naval Air Warfare Center (United States)
- 7 Components and System Design and Analysis II
Anjan K. Ghosh, The University of Oklahoma, Tulsa (United States)
Chedlia Ben Naila, Waseda University (Japan)

Introduction

This volume contains the papers submitted and accepted as full manuscripts following presentation at the Free-Space Laser Communications X conference. The papers in this volume also include papers that deal with imaging through the turbulent atmosphere, especially in the marine layer. Free space optical (FSO) communication is now a mature field, but many exciting fundamental and technological challenges remain to improve its performance in a range of scenarios. The data rates provided by FSO links continue to increase in both long and short range applications. The performance of communication networks containing such links in addition to directional and omnidirectional RF connections continues, however, to present research challenges. Military applications of FSO technology, including the simultaneous use of directional RF communication links involving long range links, with mobile and airborne platforms, remains an area of active research and development. Very long range terrestrial links through the atmosphere can experience severe scintillation caused by atmospheric turbulence, which presents significant challenges in beam pointing and leads to deep fades. Some questions remain regarding how much the performance of FSO links through atmospheric turbulence can be improved with adaptive optics, and how these improvements depend on the length of the link. The performance of free space links can also be improved by forward error correction, interleaving, and packet-level correction codes. Clever transceiver implementations, new beam profiles, and the right modulation schemes can also improve link performance. Non-line-of-sight links using solar blind UV radiation scattered from transmitter to receiver open interesting communication scenarios. There continues to be great interest in modeling the optical channel through the atmosphere for both low and high power lasers. All these issues are addressed in papers published in this volume.

The use of FSO communications in indoor spaces for secure communications and sensor networking over short ranges is attracting attention as a non-interfering alternative to RF communications, and several papers address this important area of research and development. A number of papers describe novel transceiver and sub-system designs for FSO communications, both terrestrial and from ground to space. At a fundamental level, several papers address measurements of the effects of the atmosphere on propagating beam waves, where atmospheric properties can be measured, and correlated with theoretical models describing phenomena such as obscuration, beam wander, scintillation and image motion.

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