VCSEL System Design in High-Volume Applications

EPIC Online Technology Meeting on VCSEL Technology and Applications

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VCSEL System Design in High-Volume Applications General Design Task



GOAL: smart & small dot projector modules





Light Source

Beam parameters •



Beam Delivery

- Dot size
- (Angular spread)
- Depth of focus ٠

- Diffractive Optics
- Dot number
- Dot density •
- Efficiency •
- Energy distribution (uniformity)

Dot Pattern

- Requirement regarding
 - Spatial distribution of dots
 - Energetic distribution of dots
- Acceptance of distortion

Number of • emitters

VCSEL System Design in High-Volume Applications Common Products: Edge Emitter Based





VCSEL System Design in High-Volume Applications Why VCSEL-Based Solutions?



- Higher power chips / arrays available (>100s of mW, + pulsed operation)
- Wavelength stability
 - 0.3nm/K (EE) vs. 0.06nm/K
 - Higher sensitivity
 - Narrow spectral linewidth
- Simplified module design
 - Top-looker (VCSEL)
 - Side-looker (EEL)
- Direct projection possible
- Comparably lower cost at higher powers



Technologies compared: VCSEL / LED / edge-emitting laser, image courtesy of VIXAR, http://vixarinc.com/technology (May 12, 2020)

VCSEL System Design in High-Volume Applications Conceptual Setup VCSEL





Dot Pattern Replication of VCSEL array image at detector plane→ field multiplication



Image of VCSEL Array without DOE

VCSEL Array + MLA

- Collimation of each VCSEL emitter separately by a corresponding micro-optical element → e.g. Micro-lens Array (MLA)
- Micro-optical elements could be stacked directly to the VCSEL array
- Flexible access to new design concepts

- Diffractive Optical Elements DOE (+ Fourier Lens)

- DOE act as an optical grating
- Angular spread dependent on period
- FoV dependent on feature sizes/gradients of the profile
- Energetic distribution dependent on the height profile of the period
- Optional Fourier lens provides initial angular spread (transformation of spatial coordinate of beam to parabasal direction)

VCSEL System Design in High-Volume Applications Compensation of Tesselation Effects





- Tesselation effects originate from the finite extend of the VCSEL source and depend on the working range
- The tesselation effects can be compensated at a specific working distance (geometrical considerations), which is shown above at an exemplary optimal working distance of 600 mm
- For other distances, the effect is still existent

VCSEL System Design in High-Volume Applications Additional Considerations



- Arrangement of VCSEL offers flexibility regarding point cloud
- Distance used for separation
- Focal length of micro lenses
 → definition of divergence
- Small / low divergence on system level
 → good collimation for good point separation
- Custom design of VCSEL arrays required
 → Cooperation of Optical Design, VCSEL
 manufacturer & software providers
 promises best results



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VCSEL System Design in High-Volume Applications Use Cases

- Applications (non-exhaustive)
 - Face ID
 - Gesture recognition / 3D Sensing
 - Distance sensing / automation control
 - (Industrial) LIDAR / Robotics
 - Driver monitoring
 - Collision avoidance
 - Heating systems
- Jabil designs for high volume manufacturing
 - Illumination for Driver monitoring camera
 - Light source for 270° ToF camera
 - Flood light illumination for 3D sensing devices







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THANK YOU



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