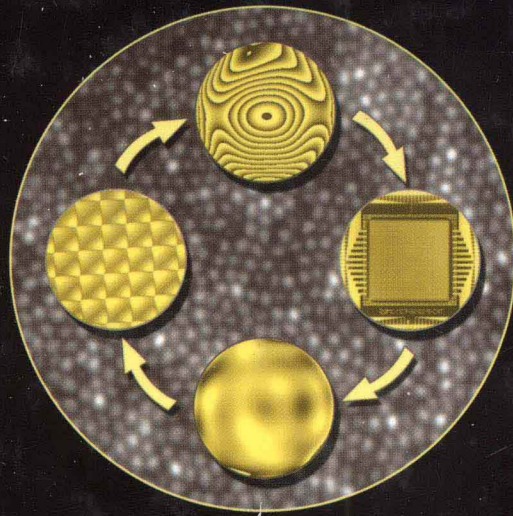


Adaptive Optics for Vision Science



EDITED BY

JASON PORTER,
HOPE QUEENER, JULIANNA LIN,
KAREN THORN, and ABDUL AWWAL

Leading experts present the latest technology and applications in adaptive optics for vision science

Featuring contributions from the foremost researchers in the field, *Adaptive Optics for Vision Science* is the first book devoted entirely to providing the fundamentals of adaptive optics along with its practical applications in vision science. The material for this book stems from collaborations fostered by the Center for Adaptive Optics, a consortium of more than thirty universities, government laboratories, and corporations.

Although the book is written primarily for researchers in vision science and ophthalmology, the field of adaptive optics has strong roots in astronomy. Researchers in both fields share this technology and, for this reason, the book includes chapters by both astronomers and vision scientists.

Following the introduction, chapters are divided into the following sections:

- Wavefront Measurement and Correction
- Retinal Imaging Applications
- Vision Correction Applications
- Design Examples

Readers will discover the remarkable proliferation of new applications of wavefront-related technologies developed for the human eye. For example, the book explores how wavefront sensors offer the promise of a new generation of vision correction methods that can deal with higher order aberrations beyond defocus and astigmatism, and how adaptive optics can produce images of the living retina with unprecedented resolution.

An appendix includes the Optical Society of America's Standards for Reporting Optical Aberrations. A glossary of terms and a symbol table are also included.

Adaptive Optics for Vision Science arms engineers, scientists, clinicians, and students with the basic concepts, engineering tools, and techniques needed to master adaptive optics applications in vision science and ophthalmology. Moreover, readers will discover the latest thinking and findings from the leading innovators in the field.

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Adaptive Optics for Vision Science

Principles, Practices, Design, and Applications

Edited by

**JASON PORTER, HOPE M. QUEENER, JULIANNA E. LIN,
KAREN THORN, AND ABDUL AWWAL**



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Front cover art: In an adaptive optics system, a lenslet array (left circle) is used to measure an aberrated wavefront (top circle) that is then corrected by a deformable mirror (right circle) to produce a flattened wavefront (bottom circle). Lenslet array and deformable mirror images are courtesy of Adaptive Optics Associates, Inc. and Boston Micromachines Corporation, respectively.

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Adaptive Optics for Vision Science

Foreword

The rationale for this handbook is to make adaptive optics technology for vision science and ophthalmology as broadly accessible as possible. While the scientific literature chronicles the dramatic recent achievements enabled by adaptive optics in vision correction and retinal imaging, it does less well at conveying the practical information required to apply wavefront technology to the eye. This handbook is intended to equip engineers, scientists, and clinicians with the basic concepts, engineering tools, and tricks of the trade required to master adaptive optics-related applications in vision science and ophthalmology.

During the past decade, there has been a remarkable expansion of the application of wavefront-related technologies to the human eye, as illustrated by the rapidly growing number of publications in this area (shown in Fig. F.1).

The catalysts for this expansion have been the development of new wavefront sensors that can rapidly provide accurate and complete descriptions of the eye's aberrations, and the demonstration that adaptive optics can provide better correction of the eye's aberrations than has previously been possible. These new tools have generated an intensive effort to revise methods to correct vision, with the wavefront sensor providing a much needed yardstick for measuring the optical performance of spectacles, contact lenses, intraocular lenses, and refractive surgical procedures. Wavefront sensors offer the promise of a new generation of vision correction methods that can correct higher order aberrations beyond defocus and astigmatism in cases where these aberrations significantly blur the retinal image.

The ability of adaptive optics to correct the monochromatic aberrations of the eye has also created exciting new opportunities to image the normal and diseased retina at unprecedented spatial resolution. Adaptive optics has strong roots in astronomy, where it is used to overcome the blurring effects of atmospheric turbulence, the fundamental limitation on the resolution of

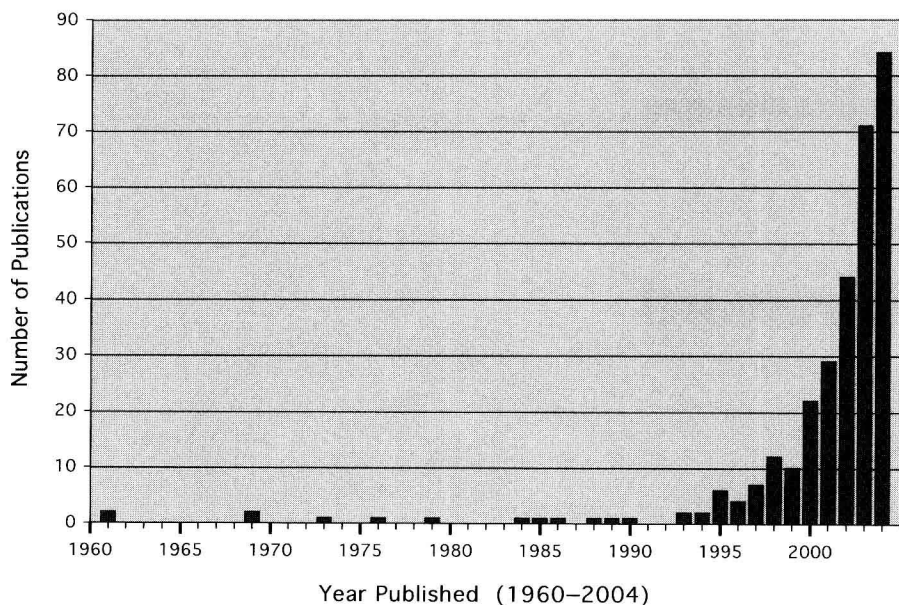


FIGURE F.1 Number of publications listed in PubMed (National Library of Medicine) that describe work where wavefront sensors were used to measure the full wave aberration of the human eye. Types of wavefront sensors included in this graph: Shack–Hartmann, spatially resolved refractometer, crossed-cylinder aberroscope, laser ray tracing, scanning slit refractometer, video keratography, corneal topography, phase retrieval, curvature sensing, and grating-based techniques.

ground-based telescopes. More recently, adaptive optics has found application in other areas, most notably vision science, where it is used to correct the eye's wave aberration. Despite the obvious difference in the scientific objectives of the astronomy and vision science communities, we share a technology that is remarkably similar across the two applications.

Recognizing this, together with Jerry Nelson and other colleagues, we created a center focused on developing adaptive optics technology for both astronomy and vision science. The Center for Adaptive Optics, with headquarters at the University of California, Santa Cruz, was founded in 1999 as a National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center. Initially under the leadership of Jerry Nelson and more recently of Claire Max, the Center for Adaptive Optics is a consortium involving more than 30 affiliated universities, government laboratories, and corporations. The Center has fostered extensive new collaborations between vision scientists and astronomers (who very soon discovered they were interested in each others' science as well as their technology!). This handbook is a direct result of the Center's collaborative energy, with chapters contributed by astronomers and vision scientists alike.

We wish to thank all of the contributors for generously sharing their expertise, and even their secrets, within the pages of this book. Especially, we congratulate Jason Porter, lead editor, and Hope Queener, Julianna Lin, Karen Thorn, and Abdul Awwal, coeditors, for their tireless dedication to this significant project.

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pleasure to work for one of the pioneers in the fields of vision science and adaptive optics. Finally, I would like to thank the National Science Foundation and the Center for Adaptive Optics for not only supporting this project but for also supporting and continuing the long tradition of vision scientists and astronomers working together to better science, health, and technology.

JASON PORTER

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HOPE M. QUEENER

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