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Newsletter

Holography

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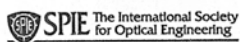
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Holography

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SPIE—The International Society for Optical Engineering, P.O. Box 10, Bellingham, WA 98227-0010 USA.
Phone: (1) 360/676-3290. Fax: (1) 360/647-1445.

European Office: Contact SPIE International Headquarters.

In Japan: c/o O.T.O. Research Corp., Takeuchi Bldg. 1-34-12 Takatanobaba, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan.
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Characterization of bleached holograms

Optimization of the processing of bleached silver halide holograms is not an easy task because the processing consists of two consecutive steps, the developing and the bleaching. Since both processes are nonlinear, it is difficult to determine the influence of the processing on the quality of the hologram quantitatively.

As for amplitude holograms, in early holography the density/exposure or amplitude transmittance/exposure functions were used for the evaluation of the imaging properties of nonlinearly recorded holograms. Some authors derived other characteristics from the above functions. Pennington and Harper¹ proposed the use of optical density difference against average optical density function to characterize the recording of silver halide absorption holograms. Lin² introduced the use of the square root of the diffraction efficiency against bias exposure and fringe visibility curves (Lin-curves) of plane wave holograms.

To characterize bleached holograms, Lin-curves were usually used, or the diffraction efficiency was related to the average optical density before bleaching. Van Renesse and Bouts³ related the square root of the diffraction efficiency of the phase grating to the effective electrical polarizability of the silver salt molecules. Ward and L. Solymar⁴ used the refractive index modulation versus optical density modulation characteristics. However, the direct measurement of the refractive index modulation across the hologram by interference microscopy can be applied only for gratings of relatively low spatial frequency.

We characterized the processing of bleached silver halide holograms in another way. The square root of the diffraction efficiency (σ) of the bleached hologram was directly related to the amplitude of the optical density modulation obtained at the development step.

Agfa 8E75HD was chosen as recording material. AAC as developer and R9 as (solvent-type) bleach. Pairs of plane wave holograms at $\lambda = 632.8$ nm with an interbeam angle of 45° , at seven values of fringe visibility, namely at $V = 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 0.9, 0.95$ and 1.0 were recorded. Twelve hologram pairs at exposures ranging from $10 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$ to $1.6 \text{ mJ}/\text{cm}^2$ were recorded at each visibility. One element of each pair of holograms was developed with AAC developer and fixed with non-hardening Kodak

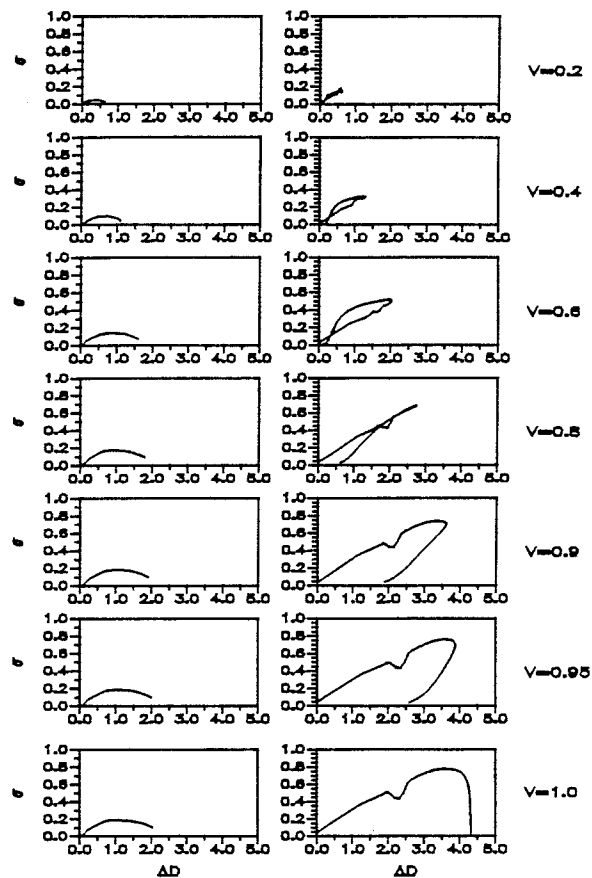


Figure 1. Square root of the diffraction efficiency of absorption (left column of graphs) and phase (right column) holograms as a function of the amplitude of the modulation of the optical density created at the development step. Fringe visibility is indicated right of each row.

F24 fixer. The other element of the hologram pair was also developed using AAC, and was bleached in an R9 solvent bleach without a fixation step.

After all the holograms were processed, the optical density of the absorption holograms and diffraction efficiency of the phase holograms were measured.

The amplitude of the density modulation (ΔD) as a function of the bias exposure (E_0) at each fringe visibility (V) was calculated via fitting an analytical function to the measured density vs. exposure data and substituting the minimum and maximum exposures. The Lin-curves of the final phase hologram were obtained directly from the diffraction efficiency measurement and were fitted by an analytical function⁵. Then the desired $\sigma(\Delta D)$ characteristics were derived from the $\Delta D(E_0, V)$ curves and the Lin-curves ($\sigma(E_0, V)$).

The square root of the diffraction efficiency,

as a function of the amplitude of the density modulation for both absorption and phase holograms, is shown in Figure 1. The curves for the case of absorption holograms were calculated using previous results.⁶ The characteristics of the amplitude holograms can be seen on the left and those of the corresponding phase holograms (recorded under identical conditions) on the right. Fringe visibility on recording is indicated on the extreme right of each row. The difference in their $\sigma(\Delta D)$ characteristics is striking. Since absorption holograms⁶ were exposed only up to $50 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$, ΔD is monotonically increasing up to about 2.1, and there is no turning point in the graph. The $\sigma(\Delta D)$ characteristics of the phase holograms are completely different. There is a turning point in them, except of that at $V = 1.0$. The turning points are around the maxima of the $\sigma(E_0, V)$ function (not shown here). These curves at each visibility follow a more or less straight line with a quasi-uniform slope (ranging from 0.25 to 0.3) almost up to the turning point. The second part of the graphs (after the turning point) is not straight. The figure suggests that the falling part of $\sigma(\Delta D)$ nearly retraces the rising part close to $V = 0.8$, so this characteristic is quasi-linear over the whole exposure range. The dip in the graphs of the phase holograms discernible from $V = 0.8$ onwards corresponds to a bias exposure $E_0 = 70 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$, that is about the inflexion point of the density vs. bias exposure curves.

It is felt that these characteristics may help in the optimization of the processing of bleached holograms. Various combinations of developers (catechol and pyrogallol) and bleaches (R9, R10 and EDTA) have recently been compared, and experiments with other silver halide materials are also planned.

I. Bányász, I. Pascual, A. Beléndez and A. Fimia

Contact:

I. Bányász

Dpto. Interuniversitario de Optica Universidad de Alicante

Apdo. 99, E-03080 Alicante, Spain

Phone: +34 65 90 35 09 or

+34 65 90 37 91

Fax: +34 65 90 37 91

E-mail: istvan@aclis.labopti.ua.es

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Meeting Calendar

1998

ODS—Optical Data Storage Topical Meeting 1998

10-13 May

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Optical Data Storage Topical Meeting

10-13 May

Aspen, CO USA

SPIE to publish proceedings. Contact: Lorenda Wieder or Suzanne Gerhart, OSA, 2010 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036-1023. Phone: (1) 202/223-8130. Fax: (1) 202/416-6100. E-mail: lwieder@osa.org or sgerha@osa.org

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29 June-3 July

Moscow, Russia

SPIE is a cosponsor. Contact: Prof. Nikolai Koroteev, Faculty of Physics and International Laser Ctr., M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State Univ., Moscow 119899, Russia. Phone: 795/939-1225 or 939-3093. Fax: 795/939-3113. E-mail: icono98@comsim1.ilc.msu.su Web: www.ilc.msu.su/icono/icono.html

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Characterization of bleached holograms

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Enlarging holograms under white light

(continued from p. 7)

persion of light it will be necessary to obtain a significant increase on the number of lines/mm with which the screens are made in order to allow a larger audience. To bring color images to the public, it will also be necessary to find a new process to obtain bright diffraction at one third of the visible spectrum bandwidth.

J. J. Lunazzi

Physics Institute
Campinas State University
C.P.6165
Campinas-SP- Brazil 13083-100
E-mail: lunazzi@digicron.com
URL: www.digicron.com/lunazzi

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