Lecture 38: WED 22 APR
Optics: Images
Optical Instruments: the human eye

The human eye consists of a variable-geometry lens (crystalline) which produces a real image on a “screen” (retina) which is transmitted to the brain via the optical nerve.

The crystalline automatically adjusts itself so we see well any object placed between infinity and a distance called “near point” (about 25cm for a typical 20 year old). The “image distance” is the eye diameter~2cm.
If lenses are very close, the compound lens has $1/f \approx 1/f_1 + 1/f_2$
Corrective Glasses

A farsighted person needs a convergent lens.

A nearsighted person needs a divergent lens.

The “power” of a lens is measured in **dioptres**: \( P = \frac{1}{f} \) where \( f \) is in m. Glasses with -6D are divergent glasses with \( f = -\frac{1}{6} \) m = -17 cm

The dioptres add! Two lenses have \( \frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{f_1} + \frac{1}{f_2} \rightarrow D = D_1 + D_2 \)
Magnifying lens

The magnification of an object is $m = \frac{i}{p} \approx \frac{i\theta}{h}$, but $i =$ eye diameter.

Maximum magnification: $m \approx \frac{2\text{cm}}{25\text{cm}}$ (!?)

We’d like to make $p$ smaller (move the object closer). We use a magnifying lens to produce a (larger) image than our eye can see:

Angular magnification (different from lateral): $m_\theta = \frac{\theta'}{\theta}$.

$$\theta = \frac{h}{25\text{cm}} \quad \theta' \approx \frac{h}{f} \quad m_\theta = \frac{25\text{cm}}{f}$$
Microscope:

To increase the magnification of a lens, one wants to have a short focal length. That means small radii of curvature (very curved lens). This, in turn implies a lot of aberration (one is immediately out of the thin lens approximation). A solution to this is obtained by combining two lenses. The resulting device is called microscope.

Object O is magnified by the objective:

\[ m = -\frac{i}{p} \]

And its image is magnified by the eyepiece:

\[ m_\theta = \frac{25\text{cm}}{f} \]

Total magnification:

\[ M = mm_\theta = -\frac{s}{f_{ob}} \frac{25\text{cm}}{f_{ey}} \]
Telescope:

Telescopes are arrangements of lenses that improve vision of objects very far away. They are configured like a microscope. However, the objective forms an image essentially at its focus, and therefore the eyepiece’s focus has to be placed at that same point.

The magnification is given by the ratio $\theta_{ey}/\theta_{ob}$, and since

$$\theta_{ob} = h'/f_{ob} \quad \theta_{ey} = h'/f_{ey}$$

$$m = -\frac{f_{ob}}{f_{ey}}$$

Refracting telescopes are of limited use (chromatic aberration). Reflecting telescopes built with mirrors are preferred in astronomy.
Example

The world’s largest refracting telescope is at the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago at Williams Bay, Wisconsin. The objective has a diameter of 102cm and a focal length of 19.5m. The focal length of the eyepiece is 10cm. What is its magnifying power?

\[ m = -\frac{f_{ob}}{f_{ey}} = -\frac{19.5m}{0.1m} = -195 \]

Why so large (102cm)? Because the larger the objective, the more light it gathers.
Reflective telescopes

Keck observatory (Mauna Kea, Hawaii) and the Hale-Bopp comet.

Largest optical telescope, composed of 36 (!) hexagonal mirror segments performing as a single mirror 10m wide.