

Contents

1. Manufacture and test procedures	1
1.1 Introduction and acknowledgements	1
1.2 Grinding, polishing and figuring technology	1
1.2.1 Background of optical surface working	1
1.2.2 Lapping techniques	2
1.3 Test technology	46
1.3.1 General aspects of test technology development	46
1.3.2 Interferometers	46
1.3.3 Test procedures other than interferometry	74
1.3.4 Null (compensation) systems	76
1.3.5 Test systems for Cassegrain secondary mirrors	86
1.3.6 Test methods for large flats	101
2. Sensitivities, alignment of telescopes and test procedures in function	105
2.1 Sensitivities	105
2.1.1 Decentering errors	105
2.1.2 Despace errors	109
2.2 Alignment and adjustment of telescopes	111
2.2.1 General theoretical principles of telescope alignment	111
2.2.2 General set-up situation and definition of the aims of alignment	122
2.2.3 Alignment at the prime focus of telescopes with field corrector	130
2.2.4 Alignment of Schmidt telescopes	130
2.2.5 Field correctors at the Cassegrain focus	131
2.3 Test methods and image analysis of telescopes in function	131
2.3.1 Classical qualitative methods	131
2.3.2 “Pupil plates”: geometrical assessments of defocused star images	133
2.3.3 Hartmann-based techniques	144
2.3.4 Curvature sensing: the Roddier test	161
2.3.5 Other methods of testing the optical quality of telescopes in function	166

3. Modern telescope developments:	
pupil segmentation and techniques to reduce mass	169
3.1 Evolution and revolution in telescope optics	169
3.2 Examples of modern projects using the technologies	
of Table 3.3	175
3.2.1 Direct segmentation with a filled aperture	175
3.2.2 Separate telescopes with monolithic primaries	
on a single mount (MMT-type indirect segmentation)	186
3.2.3 Other large telescope projects	
using lightweighted monolithic blanks	192
3.2.4 Projects with thin-meniscus flexible primaries,	
controlled actively, or of stiff composites	199
3.3 Blank production for new technology telescopes	216
3.3.1 General considerations and physical properties	216
3.3.2 Glass ceramic blank production	223
3.3.3 Fused quartz (silica) blank production	225
3.3.4 Modern blank production	
with BSC (borosilicate) glass (Pyrex)	227
3.3.5 Modern blank production in metal	231
3.3.6 Compacted powder, sintered	
or vapour-deposited materials for blanks	238
3.3.7 Lightweight composite materials for blanks	240
3.3.8 Liquid mirror telescopes (Hg)	240
3.4 Mirror support systems in modern telescopes	242
3.4.1 The basic laws of axial supports for mirrors	242
3.4.2 Modern work on the theory of mirror supports:	
axial support solutions	253
3.4.3 Lateral (radial) supports for mirrors	259
3.4.4 Mirror handling	272
3.5 Active optics control systems	274
3.5.1 Introduction and definitions	274
3.5.2 The principles of the ESO active optics system,	
as developed for the 3.5 m NTT	279
3.5.3 Operational results for the ESO 3.5 m NTT	
and conclusions from its performance	291
3.5.4 Extension of the active optics system	
to the ESO 8 m VLT	298
3.5.5 Other active optics developments in current projects	304
3.5.6 Conclusions on the current state of development	
and future potential of active optics in telescopes	313
3.6 Local environmental aspects of telescopes	314
3.6.1 Definition of “local air” and its importance	314
3.6.2 Recent evolution in telescope enclosures	
and “local air” error measurements	
in functioning telescopes	318

3.6.3	Other recent investigations by laboratory experiment or theory: mirror seeing	327
3.6.4	Further work on “dome seeing” in general	338
3.6.5	General conclusions on local air seeing and enclosures .	343
3.7	Optical data of the major ground-based telescope projects using new technology	345
4.	Image quality specification and optical efficiency criteria..	349
4.1	Classical specification criteria: geometrical angular or wavefront aberration	349
4.2	Specifications for modern ground-based telescope projects ...	353
4.3	Optical efficiency criteria	367
5.	Atmospheric optics, adaptive optics, telescope quality for interferometry	373
5.1	Atmospheric optics	373
5.1.1	Atmospheric refraction and atmospheric dispersion ...	374
5.1.2	Atmospheric turbulence (“seeing”).....	376
5.2	Adaptive optics	396
5.2.1	Definitions and aims: active and adaptive optics	396
5.2.2	The principles of adaptive optics	398
5.2.3	Practical systems for adaptive optics in astronomical telescopes	403
5.2.4	Limitations of the isoplanatic patch: artificial reference sources	409
5.2.5	Adaptive optics for the ESO VLT and experimental correction results (COME-ON and COME-ON PLUS systems)	413
5.2.6	Adaptive optics using laser reference sources for military purposes applicable to astronomy	416
5.3	Site selection in height	418
5.4	High resolution imaging apart from adaptive optics	420
5.4.1	Michelson interferometry	420
5.4.2	Speckle interferometry	421
6.	Mirror Reflecting Coats: Production and Cleaning.....	423
6.1	Introduction: evolution to the current situation.....	423
6.2	Modern perspectives for reflecting coatings	430
6.2.1	Multi-coat enhancement of reflecting coats.....	430
6.2.2	Silver reflecting coat with single protecting coat and other recent developments	434
6.2.3	Cleaning and maintenance of reflecting coats.....	442
6.2.4	Summary.....	448

7. Adapters and beam combination aspects, baffles	449
7.1 Adapters	449
7.1.1 Background of adapter development	449
7.1.2 The adapter for the ESO 3.5 m NTT (Nasmyth focus)	450
7.1.3 The adapters for the VLT 8 m unit telescopes	456
7.1.4 Beam combination aspects	458
7.1.5 Mountings and field rotation	459
7.2 Baffles	459
8. Maintenance and operation of telescope optics	469
8.1 Ground-based telescopes	469
8.2 Space telescopes	474
Appendix: Mathematical symbols	475
References	477
List of figures	499
List of tables	515
Name index	519
Subject index	525

Reflecting Telescope Optics II

Manufacture, Testing, Alignment, Modern Techniques

Wilson, R.N.

1999, XVIII, 557 p. 133 illus., 3 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-540-60356-6