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Photoelectron Statistics

With Applications to Spectroscopy and Optical Communication

With the recent great expansion in optics and laser applications, several new areas of research have emerged, among which are: the theory of coherence, photon statistics, speckle phenomenon, statistical optics, atmospheric propagation, optical communications, and light-beating and photon-correlation spectroscopy. A factor common to these overlapping subjects is their basic dependence on the treatment of light as a randomly fluctuating excitation. Moreover, they all necessitate a thorough understanding of the phenomenon of light detection and the additional randomness it introduces. My objective in writing this book is to provide a unified and general presentation of a basic theoretical background central to these areas. This book has a threefold purpose: to present a systematic treatment of the statistical properties of optical fields, to develop methods for determining the statistics of the photoelectron events that are generated when such fields are intercepted by photodetectors, and to examine methods of estimating unknown field parameters from measurements of the photoelectron events. Emphasis is placed on the photoelectron measurements that yield information pertinent to spectroscopy and optical communication. Although some books that treat the theory of coherence and the statistical properties of light are available, the vast body of information central to problems of photoelectron statistics and its applications is scattered in various professional journals and conference proceedings.

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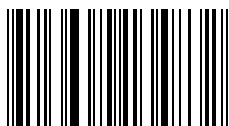
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