

Research Article

Optical Spatial Filter to Suppress Beam Wander and Spatial Noise Induced by Atmospheric Turbulence in Free-Space Optical Communications

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We propose an optical spatial filter (OSF) method to suppress beam wander and spatial noise effects. Signal from random displacements of the focus spot around the optical axis within the constricted area is collected. This method advantageously suppresses fluctuations in signal intensity. The OSF consists of a pinhole and cone reflector. The pinhole produces Fresnel diffraction on the focus spot. The cone reflector provides directed reflectance onto the pinhole for random focus spot displacements due to beam wander. The calculations of signal power are based on fluctuations of signal intensity that are minimized by the circular aperture function of the pinhole and the cosine of the reflectance angle from the cone reflector. The method is applied to free-space optical communications at a wavelength of $1.55\ \mu\text{m}$ with an atmospheric chamber to provide optical propagation media. Based on calculations, the beam wander angles that can be received by the OSF are from 14.0° to 28.0° . Moreover, based on experiment, the OSF with a pinhole diameter of $20.0\ \mu\text{m}$ and cone reflector diameter of $1.5\ \text{mm}$ produces signal power of $-15.3\ \text{dBm}$. Both calculations and experiment show that the OSF enhances the received signal power in the presence of turbulence.

1. Introduction

Free-space optical (FSO) communications are a class of prospective telecommunication technologies capable of supporting satellite-, terrestrial-, high altitude-, and mobile terminal-platforms that have been developed worldwide, recently [1–4]. However, atmospheric turbulence can cause severe problems that degrade FSO performance, such as decreased signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and increased bit-error-rate (BER) [5, 6]. Turbulence causes optical propagation phenomena such as diffraction, scattering, absorption, and beam spreading that attenuate or diffuse the FSO signal through stochastic processes. The FSO experiences spatial noise or random movement of hot spots around the center of the focus spot in the receiver plane [7]. Turbulence also produces beam wander that fluctuates the angle-of-arrival on the receiver lens, leading to random movements of the focus spot [8]. Beam wander and spatial noise are turbulence effects on optical propagation that become major factors in fluctuating signal intensity.

Several methods have been developed to overcome turbulence effects. These are spatial-diversity [9], time-diversity [10], cooperative diversity [11], optical amplification [12], photo sensor design [13], and adaptive optics [14]. The aforementioned methods have several common drawbacks, such as a high complexity and decreased bit-rate-capacity processing. For example, spatial-diversity involves transmission or reception of multiple beams to produce high signal intensity with minimum noise and requires complex electronics to achieve equal gain combining. Time-diversity uses a complex of decoding techniques to receive redundant signals over a period of time. Thus, spatial- and time-diversity use complex signal processing that risk decreasing the bit-rate-capacity if signal intensity fluctuations are not minimized beforehand. However, since these methods use direct- or fiber-detection to retrieve signals, optics suppressing beam wander and spatial noise may be implemented before the receiver plane [15] to minimize signal intensity fluctuations.

Beam wander and spatial noise cannot be treated as separate and independent processes, since they both occur

in the focus spot [16, p. 201]. They increase with propagation path length and turbulence level to cause signal intensity fluctuations. Thus, under atmospheric turbulence, signal power often drops below the prescribed threshold level of receiving photodetectors (PD). In order to address fluctuation of signal intensity, beam wander and spatial noise must be treated as an integrated process. An optical method of correcting for beam wander and spatial noise may be implemented at the focus spot before signal detection by PD. Optical signal pre-processing methods have the advantages of fast response, low-cost, and simplicity over other methods. They do not limit bit-rate-capacity processing. They can also be implemented to optimize amplification method that commonly uses erbium-doped fiber amplifier (EDFA).

We propose an OSF as the optical method to suppress beam wander and spatial noise effects before the signal is received by PD. In [15], an optical method based on a Fourier optics filter pinhole was developed to suppress spatial noise. However, this method did not address beam wander and spatial noise simultaneously. For example, it could not solve the misalignment of the incoming signal caused by beam wander. Considering this limitation, the OSF proposed here is designed to suppress beam wander and spatial noise effects simultaneously. This suppression is achieved by acquiring signal within a small area, while random displacement of the focus spot may be collected in this region. This concept of the OSF has the advantage of suppressing fluctuation of signal intensity. Hence, PD receives minimal signal intensity fluctuation, amplifying signal power rather than noise. The OSF is composed of a cone reflector and pinhole and implemented at the focus spot. Furthermore, calculations of signal power based on the mean signal intensity from the OSF under the influence of turbulence effects are carried out. In order to confirm our calculations, an experiment of the OSF implemented in an FSO system is also carried out, where the optical signal propagates through turbulent media. For analysis, the signal power resulting from the OSF is compared to that of a direct-detection (DD) method through calculations and experiment.

2. The Optical Spatial Filter: Pinhole and Cone Reflector

The configuration of the OSF optical system is shown in Figure 1. It is composed of four planes: a transmitter plane \mathbf{X}_{-2} , a receiver lens plane \mathbf{X}_{-1} , the OSF plane \mathbf{X}_0 , and a receiver plane \mathbf{X}_1 . The origin $z_0 = 0$ is located at \mathbf{X}_0 . Optical propagation from \mathbf{X}_{-2} to \mathbf{X}_{-1} in the $+z$ direction is subject to atmospheric turbulence. Fluctuation of signal intensity at \mathbf{X}_{-1} is mainly caused by beam wander and spatial noise effects. Beam wander is the fluctuation of the incident beam angle-of-arrival at the receiver lens \mathbf{X}_{-1} that leads to random displacement of the focus spot around the optical axis. Spatial noise is the fluctuation of phase distribution that occurs during optical propagation leading to random movement of hot spots around the center of the focus spot. Incident light is focused by the receiver lens at \mathbf{X}_{-1} onto the pinhole of the OSF. The mean irradiance of focus spot coincident with

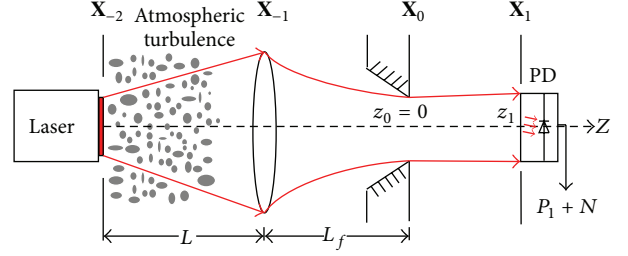


FIGURE 1: Optical system configuration of the OSF for suppression of beam wander and spatial noise effects induced by atmospheric turbulence.

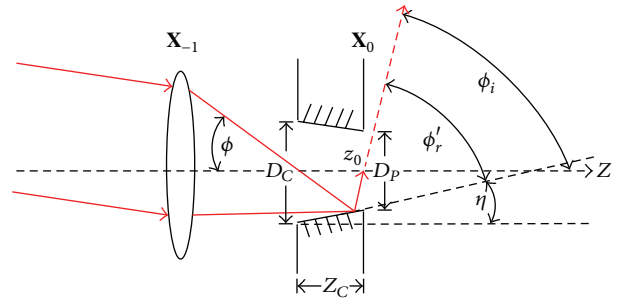


FIGURE 2: Cone reflector of the OSF for suppression angle of beam wander. Incoming angle ϕ produces incident angle ϕ_i at the output of the pinhole.

the pinhole following atmospheric turbulence [16, page 459] is given below:

$$\langle I_0(\mathbf{r}_0, 0) \rangle = \frac{W_G^2}{W_0^2} \text{SR} I_{-1}^0(0, -L_f) \exp\left(-\text{SR} \frac{2r_0^2}{W_0^2}\right), \quad (1)$$

where $\langle \cdot \rangle$ denotes mean value, \mathbf{r}_0 is the radial coordinate of the pinhole on \mathbf{X}_0 , $I_{-1}^0(0, -L_f)$ is the free-space irradiance, W_G is the effective aperture radius of receiver lens, W_0 is the focus spot radius, and SR is the Strehl ratio. The pinhole radius is $0 \leq r_0 \leq D_P/2$, where D_P is the pinhole diameter, as shown in Figure 2. The Strehl ratio SR is formulated as $1/(1 + 1.63\sigma_R^{12/5}(L) \Lambda_{-1})$, where term $\sigma_R^{12/5}(L)$ is the Rytov variance for propagation path length L and Λ_{-1} is the effective beam parameter. Based on [16], $\sigma_R^{12/5}(L) = (1.23C_n^2 k^{7/6} L^{11/6})^{6/5}$ and $\Lambda_{-1} = 2L/kW_{-1}^2$, where W_{-1} is the incident light radius on the receiver lens and $k = 2\pi/\lambda$ is the wave number. In (1), $\langle I_0(\mathbf{r}_0, 0) \rangle$ is the mean signal intensity, modulated by beam wander and spatial noise effects.

Beam wander and spatial noise effects degrade signal intensity $\langle I_1 \rangle$. Thus, PD produces less signal power P_1 and amplifies noise. In order to suppress spatial noise, the OSF includes a pinhole at \mathbf{X}_0 to control diffraction. It produces

a near-field Fresnel diffraction distribution on \mathbf{X}_1 at z_1 . The mean signal intensity at z_1 [17] is

$$\begin{aligned} \langle I_1(\mathbf{r}_1, z_1 \approx 0) \rangle &= \frac{1}{4} \frac{W_G^2}{W_0^2} \text{SR} I_{-1}^0(0, -L_f) \exp\left(-\text{SR} \frac{2r_0^2}{W_0^2}\right) \\ &\times \left[1 - 2 \cos(\nu) J_0(\nu) + J_0^2(\nu)\right], \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where J_0 is a Bessel function of the first kind and $\nu = [2\pi(D_P/2)/\lambda z_1]r_1$. In (2), spatial noise on the focus spot is suppressed by the last term $[1 - 2 \cos(\nu)J_0(\nu) + J_0^2(\nu)]$.

A cone reflector reflects incoming beams wandering with angle ϕ , as shown in Figure 2. It has a radial mirror with diameter D_C , width Z_C , and tilt angle η . Incoming angle ϕ , under atmospheric turbulence, is random. The radial mirror reflects an incoming focus spot deflected at ϕ , into complementary angle ϕ' . This produces an incident angle ϕ_i with respect to optical axis Z at the output of the pinhole at \mathbf{X}_0 . ϕ_i is given by

$$\phi_i = \phi' + \eta = \phi + 2\eta = \phi + 2 \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{D_C - D_P}{2Z_C}\right), \quad (3)$$

where η is tilt angle of the cone reflector with respect to the optical axis Z . ϕ in (3) ranges from ϕ_{\min} to ϕ_{\max} given by

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{\min} &= \phi^0 + \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{(1/2)(D_G - D_P)}{L_f}\right), \\ \phi_{\max} &= \phi_{\min} + \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{(1/2)(D_G - D_C)}{L_f - Z_C}\right), \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where ϕ^0 is the maximum angle of the focus spot unaffected by turbulent atmosphere, D_G is the hard diameter of the receiver lens, and L_f is the length of the focus spot. Thus, the cone reflector reflects randomly displaced focus spot to be reflected onto pinhole diameter. Accounting for angle of incidence ϕ_i in (3), $I_1(\mathbf{r}_1, z_1 \approx 0)$ in (2) should be multiplied by $\cos(\phi_i)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle I_1(\mathbf{r}_1, z_1 \approx 0, \phi_i) \rangle &= \frac{1}{4} \frac{W_G^2}{W_0^2} \text{SR} I_{-1}^0(0, -L_f) \exp\left(-\text{SR} \frac{2r_0^2}{W_0^2}\right) \cos(\phi_i) \\ &\times \left[1 - 2 \cos(\nu) J_0(\nu) + J_0^2(\nu)\right]. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Assuming that \mathbf{X}_0 and \mathbf{X}_1 are almost coincident, such that $z_0 \approx z_1$ and $\mathbf{r}_0 \approx \mathbf{r}_1$, the PD receives instantaneous signal intensity $I_1(\mathbf{r}_1, z_1 \approx 0, \phi_i)$ from the pinhole. The PD receives the fundamental component of the diffracted intensity to produce optimum signal power P_1 . The mean signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \langle P_1(\mathbf{r}_1, z_1 \approx 0, \phi_i) \rangle &= \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{W_G^2}{W_0^2} \text{SR} I_{-1}^0(0, -L_f) \exp\left(-\text{SR} \frac{2r_0^2}{W_0^2}\right) \cos(\phi_i) B, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where B is the circular aperture function of pinhole

$$\begin{aligned} B &= \frac{r_1^2}{2} - \left[\frac{2A^2 r_1^2}{3} \cos(Ar_1) J_0(Ar_1) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{A^2 r_1^2 \sin(Ar_1) - Ar_1 \cos(Ar_1)}{3} J_1(Ar_1) \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\frac{A^2 r_1^2}{2} (J_0^2(Ar_1) + J_1^2(Ar_1)) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

$A = [2\pi(D_P/2)/\lambda z_1]$ is the spatial frequency of the focus spot within the pinhole diameter and J_1 is the Bessel function of the second kind.

In comparison to the DD method, which, as stated in [16, p. 459], suffers from degrading signal power with atmospheric turbulence, $\langle P_1 \rangle$ in (6) has minimal fluctuation of signal intensity. This is due to B and $\cos(\phi_i)$ in (5). B modulates and limits spatial noise on the area of the pinhole. Thus, spatial noise is confined to a limited area. $\cos(\phi_i)$ compensates for fluctuations of signal intensity caused by random displacement of the focus spot. Due to these operations, signal intensity $\langle I_1 \rangle$ received by the PD increases. The pinhole operates as a low-pass filter to spatial noise, while the cone reflector compensates for signal intensity that would otherwise be lost to beam wander. The reflection from cone reflector guides randomly displacement light to the pinhole. Through this, the OSF suppresses beam wander and spatial noise simultaneously to minimize fluctuations in signal intensity.

3. Experimental Setup

In this experiment, FSO with full-duplex transmission operates at wavelength $\lambda = 1.55 \mu\text{m}$, as shown in Figure 3, at a 1 Gbps bit-rate with on-off keying modulation. A box of turbulence simulator (BTS) acts as an atmospheric chamber, as shown in Figure 4 [18, 19], that provides turbulent media for optical propagation in the FSO. The BTS has dimensions of $4.0 \text{ m} \times 0.5 \text{ m} \times 0.5 \text{ m}$ and operates by mixing flows of a high-to-cold temperature-gradient. Steam at $T_1 = 100^\circ\text{C}$ and low-speed and cold air at $T_2 = 16^\circ\text{C}$ and $6.0\text{--}8.0 \text{ m/s}$ are allowed to combine inside; the flows are broken by ailerons inside of the BTS. These processes produce turbulent media that affects the optical propagation of the forward-directed signal within the BTS. In order to avoid interference in the optical propagation, backward-directed signal that is conditioned in non-turbulent media is separated from forward-directed signal.

In the experiment, $W_{-2} = 0.015 \text{ m}$ is the transmitted light radius from laser source, $W_{-1} \cong 0.15 \text{ m}$, and $W_0 = 500 \mu\text{m}$. The signal is transmitted with power P_{-2}^0 of +16.5 dBm from beam collimator BC-2 to receiver lens-2, as shown in Figure 3. The receiver lens has $D_G = 0.05 \text{ m}$ and $L_f = 0.1 \text{ m}$. P_{Th} of -25.0 dBm is the threshold level of the PD. The optical power meter (OPM) is used to measure signal power P_1 .

The OSF has $D_C = 1.5 \text{ mm}$ and $Z_C = 2.0 \text{ mm}$. It is designed with various pinhole diameters of $50.0 \mu\text{m}$, $40 \mu\text{m}$, $30 \mu\text{m}$, and $20 \mu\text{m}$ for D_{P1} , D_{P2} , D_{P3} , and D_{P4} , respectively.

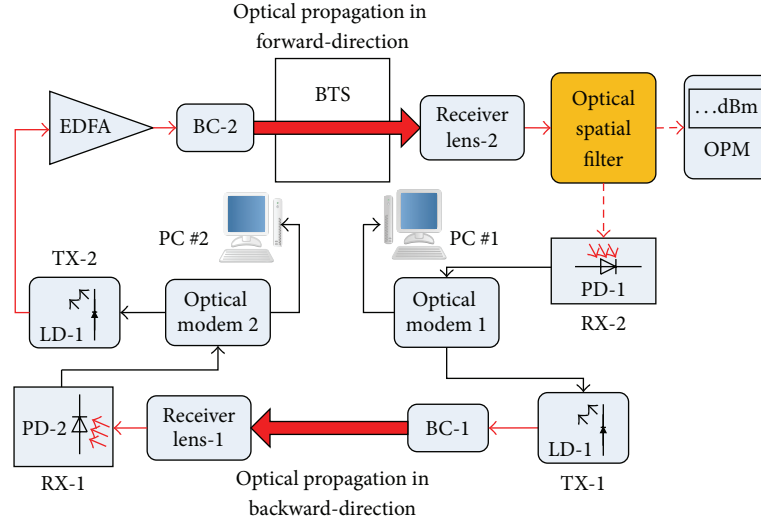


FIGURE 3: Full-duplex transmitting FSO operating at a wavelength of $1.55 \mu\text{m}$ and a data rate of 1 Gbps of data rate with turbulent media produced by the BTS.

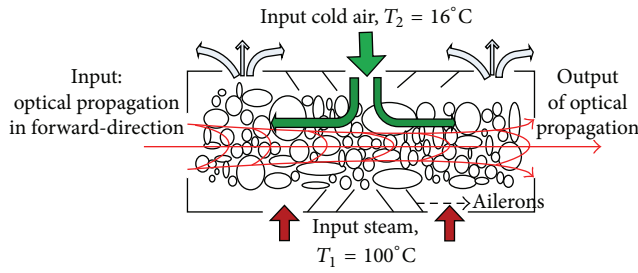


FIGURE 4: Box of turbulence simulator (BTS) providing turbulent media to affect forward-directed optical propagation.

Based on (3), tilt angles η are 19.9° , 20.0° , 20.2° , and 20.3° for D_{P1} , D_{P2} , D_{P3} , and D_{P4} , respectively. Since the different values of η are low for all D_p , the range of beam wander angles that can be received by the cone reflector is 14.0° to 38.0° , according to (4). The cone reflector guides random angles ϕ within that range onto the pinhole. The OSF is made of silver in order to produce optimum reflection at $1.55 \mu\text{m}$ [20]. The OSF is installed at $z_0 = 0$ on \mathbf{X}_0 . The PD is installed at \mathbf{X}_1 at the output of the OSF, where $z_1 \approx 0$. Hence, the PD receives the fundamental component of diffracted light from the pinhole of the OSF.

4. Results and Discussion

Calculated signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ for the OSF and DD methods is shown in Figure 5. Based on the experiment, signal power from the laser source at \mathbf{X}_{-2} in the absence of turbulence media of the BTS, $P_{-2}^0 = +16.5 \text{ dBm}$, is chosen as a reference for the analysis. The calculations are based on the value of the index structure of strong turbulence, $C_n^2 = 5 \times 10^{-13} \text{ m}^{-2/3}$. Considering (4) and the parameters of the OSF, beam wander angles of 18° , 28° , and 38° are chosen for ϕ_1 , ϕ_2 , and

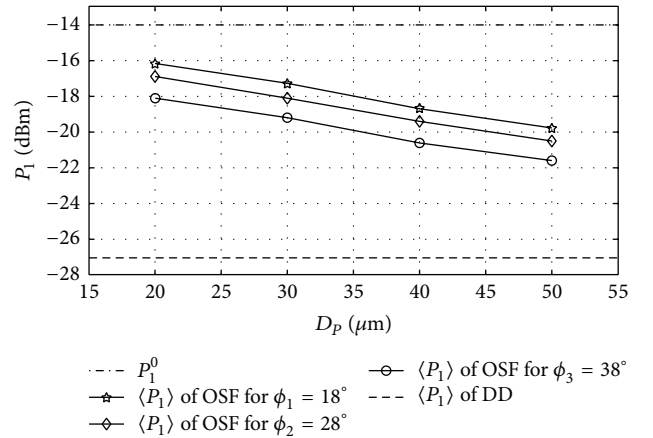


FIGURE 5: OSF signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ versus pinhole diameter D_p for beam wander angles $\phi_1 = 18.0^\circ$, $\phi_2 = 28.0^\circ$, and $\phi_3 = 38.0^\circ$, where $\langle P_1 \rangle = -27.0 \text{ dBm}$ is the power in the DD method and $P_1^0 = -14.0 \text{ dBm}$ is the signal power in the absence of atmospheric turbulence.

ϕ_3 , respectively, in the calculations. The properties of the optical propagation and optical system are set based on the experiment.

As shown in Figure 5, signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ degrades significantly in the DD method, falling below P_{Th} . Relative to $P_1^0 = -14 \text{ dBm}$, signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ in the DD method is not too low to be detected by the PD after the signal intensity I_0 is modulated by beam wander and spatial noise. However, for the OSF, signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ exceeds P_{Th} . Figure 5 shows that signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ of the OSF is greater for all D_p than that of the DD method. It also shows that signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ is higher for the OSF in the case of beam wander angles ϕ_1 , ϕ_2 , and ϕ_3 . Considering values of ϕ^0 , ϕ_{min} , and ϕ_{max} in the experiment, it can be known that ϕ of 28.0° to 38.0° is the range of beam

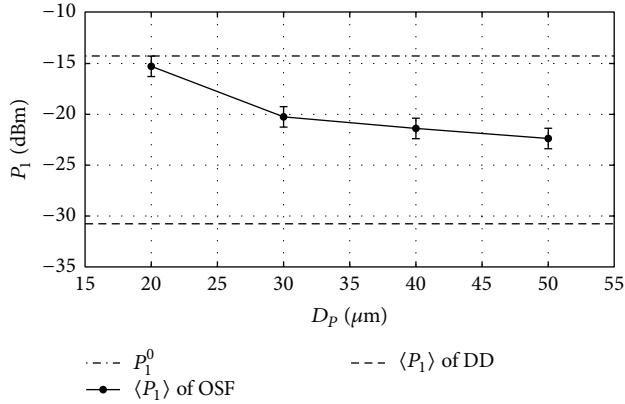


FIGURE 6: Experimentally signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ versus pinhole diameter D_p for the DD and the OSF methods, where $\langle P_1 \rangle = -31.0$ dBm is from DD method and $P_1^0 = -14.0$ dBm is signal power in the absence of atmospheric turbulence.

wander angles that can be received by the cone reflector and be reflected onto the pinhole. Beam wander angles ϕ of 14.0° to 27.0° directly reach the pinhole without reflection off the cone reflector. Thus, the OSF receives beam wander angles in the range of 14.0° to 38.0° . The term of $\cos(\phi_i)$ in (5) compensates for signal intensity $\langle I_1 \rangle$ that would otherwise be lost to beam wander. Signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ is higher for the OSF at ϕ_2 and ϕ_3 than for the DD method. Moreover, signal power is produced highest by the OSF at ϕ_1 . Figure 5 shows that the OSF suppresses fluctuations of signal intensity as D_p gets smaller. Based on (5), the circular aperture function of pinhole B filters spatial noise through localization to a small area. Thus, the circular aperture function of B works best for smaller pinhole diameters, as seen in (7).

As shown in Figure 6, the DD method produces lower signal power in the presence of turbulent media, $\langle P_1 \rangle = -31.0$ dBm, well below P_{Th} . Turbulent media of the BTS induces beam wander and spatial noise in the forward-directed optical propagation. This random process leads to fluctuation of signal intensity I_0 . Hence, average signal intensity $\langle I_0 \rangle$ decreases. Moreover, this condition leads to performance degradation such that the PD minimizes signal power and maximizes noise. The OSF suppresses beam wander and spatial noise effects, as shown in Figure 6. Signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ is well above P_{Th} . Moreover, $\langle P_1 \rangle$ for the OSF is higher for all D_p than it is for the DD method, even approaching P_1^0 . $\langle P_1 \rangle$ from the OSF is -22.4 dBm, -21.4 dBm, -20.3 dBm, and -15.3 dBm for D_{P1} , D_{P2} , D_{P3} , and D_{P4} , respectively. Beam wander and spatial noise effects are effectively suppressed by the cone reflector and pinhole to enhance $\langle I_1 \rangle$, as stated in (5). Spatial noise created by optical propagation through turbulence is filtered out by the pinhole. Therefore within the limited area of the pinhole, spatial noise is limited. Meanwhile, random displacement of the focus spot is minimized by the cone reflector. Thus, off-axis light is collected within the pinhole, as well. Between the pinhole and cone reflector signal intensity fluctuation is optimally suppressed. Turbulence effects are stochastic and independent processes that cause random beam wander.

The cone reflector suppresses beam wander, minimizing the effects of misalignment of light collected by the PD.

By experiment, as shown in Figure 6, different values of D_p tend to produce the same value of signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$. This is particularly true for D_{P1} , D_{P2} , and D_{P3} . In the experiment, the BTS produces turbulence with a scale or level that has random variations. We assume that, for D_{P4} , the turbulence level is not different than for the other pinhole diameters, so D_{P4} produces the highest signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$. Thus, calculation and experiment show a similar trend of smaller pinholes better suppressing of signal intensity fluctuations. Moreover, the OSF, for all pinhole diameters, minimizes signal intensity fluctuations $\langle I_1 \rangle$ and maximizes signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ relative to the DD method.

Based on the results of calculations and experiment, as shown in Figures 5 and 6, the OSF enhances signal intensity $\langle I_1 \rangle$ that was degraded significantly by turbulence effects in the DD method. Beam wander and spatial noise effects are suppressed by the cone reflector and pinhole. Through this suppression, greater signal intensity I_1 is received by the PD. By (5), fluctuation of signal intensity caused by beam wander and spatial noise effects can be minimized, as well. Relative to signal power in the absence of turbulent media in the experiment, $P_1^0 = -14.0$ dBm, the OSF improves over the DD method, producing higher signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$. Thus, the OSF better suppresses fluctuation of signal intensity $\langle I_0 \rangle$, relative to the DD method.

According to the experiment, the OSF produces greater signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ than the DD method by 8.6 dB, 9.6 dB, 10.7 dB, and 15.7 dB for D_{P1} , D_{P2} , D_{P3} , and D_{P4} , respectively. The OSF enhances signal intensity $\langle I_1 \rangle$ to produce higher signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ by suppressing beam wander and spatial noise effects induced by optical propagation through turbulence media. It keeps signal power $\langle P_1 \rangle$ above P_{Th} , ensuring signal detection over noise. The OSF localizes the acquisition of focus spot to the small area of the pinhole in order to filter spatial noise. Thus, fluctuation of signal intensity caused by spatial noise is limited to the small area of pinhole, as well. The pinhole causes Fresnel diffraction, as in the circular aperture function, B , of (5). The pinhole filters spatial noise but can also decrease signal intensity $\langle I_1 \rangle$, as shown in (2). The cone reflector compensates for signal intensity loss by collecting the displaced focus spot onto the pinhole. Thus, fluctuation of signal intensity is minimized within the pinhole diameter. In order to optimize pinhole operation for suppression of spatial noise, the ratio of pinhole diameter D_p and the space between the OSF and the PD, z_1 , should satisfy $(D_p/2) = \lambda z_1/4r_1$.

The tilt angle of the cone reflector, η , plays an important role in reflecting randomly displaced focus onto the pinhole. Based on (3), dimensions of cone reflector must be such that $2 \tan^{-1}(D_C - D_p/2Z_C)$ minimizes ϕ_i . Hence, the maximum possible η is limited by the requirement that $\tan^{-1}(D_C - D_p/2Z_C) < \phi$, since ϕ cannot be $\pi/2$ in FSO. Based on (4), the range of ϕ_{min} to ϕ_{max} can be maximized by choosing optimum parameters of D_C , D_p , Z_C , and L_f , allowing for greater ϕ . Thus, larger ϕ for strong turbulence levels can be collected onto the pinhole, further enhancing signal intensity. Thus, random displacement of the focus spot from the PD that

limits the DD method under turbulence can be minimized by our method.

The OSF is a competitive method to be implemented in optical amplification. For example, for erbium-doped fiber amplifiers (EDFA) used in FSO, noise can decrease SNR and increase BER [21]. Since the focus spot is directly input into the EDFA in the forward-relaying scheme, beam wander and spatial noise effects are amplified with the signal. Thus, the signal gain by EDFA is not optimized over noise. SNR by EDFA degrades, since maximum noise is also amplified, even in the saturated region of the amplification process. Thus, the OSF can be implemented before the EDFA to suppress beam wander and spatial noise effects before amplification. Integrating OSF and EDFA should minimize signal intensity fluctuations and maximize signal. Furthermore, higher signal power can be produced by EDFA with minimal noise. By this scheme, the signal intensity will be maximized over noise. Hence, SNR should increase and BER should decrease.

5. Conclusions

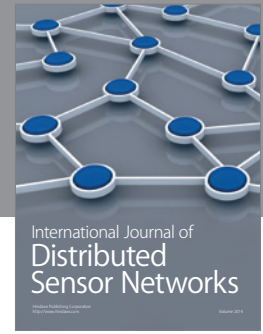
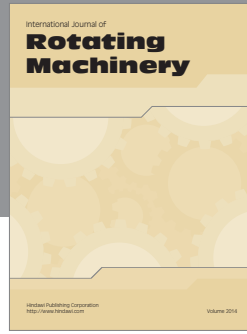
The suppression of beam wander and spatial noise effects by the OSF has been demonstrated by calculation and experiment. The OSF produces higher signal power in the presence of turbulence than the DD method does. Suppression of beam wander and spatial noise effects is optimized by smaller pinhole diameters for the OSF. The OSF suppresses beam wander and spatial noise effects simultaneously, greatly decreasing signal intensity fluctuations over the DD method. Thus, the OSF produces higher average signal intensity (I_1) than DD method.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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