

XI. STROBOSCOPIC RESEARCH

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RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The goal of our work with electronic flash is twofold. First, there is an intense desire to know more about the fundamental processes that occur in flash lamps so that faster, brighter, special lamps can be designed for all sorts of performance. Second, there is an unending demand for electronic flash sources to help obtain data and radiation for all sorts of research and production problems. To properly design the flash equipment, the designer must go into the problem at hand so that he can obtain useful important data in an efficient or accurate manner.

At the time when this is being written (December 1960) there is intense interest in the laser device. We are furnishing flash lamps that are specially designed for good optical coupling to the ruby crystal.

There is also interest in photographing small, high-velocity particles such as those that will be encountered by space ships. The duration required for this photography is approximately 10^{-8} second. Some work has been accomplished with such a short flash, and further work is underway.

During the past eight years, we have worked on many applications of electronic flash-lighting equipment to underwater research with partial financial help from the National Geographic Society and interested individuals. This work will be greatly stimulated by the addition of a pressure-testing facility in Room 20D-009, M. I. T. We have assisted with the photographic devices for both existing bathyscaphes, and we are helping with the design of new photographic gear for the new French bathyscaphe that is being built for ultimate depths.

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