LEDs and Doped Polymer Light Guides for Efficient Illumination and Colour Engineering

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B.Sc(Hons). (University of Technology) 2001

A dissertation submitted for the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
in
Applied Physics

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY of TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

2005

Certificate of Authorship/Originality

I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree, nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and in the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

C. A. Deller

June 2005

Acknowledgments

Professor Geoff Smith was my supervisor throughout the duration of this project. He suggested the basic concepts of this research work, and imparted some theoretical knowledge. He suggested the importance of investigating the variation of refractive index with wavelength in TRIMM systems. He also provided editing assistance and suggestions during the writing of this thesis.

Jim Franklin derived the theory of deviation of a TRIMM sphere, and assisted with the basic concepts of spherical trigonometry and probability functions. He also suggested the method for measuring TRIMM concentration in matrix materials, and the method for measuring ‘luminous flux half angle’ of the LEDs.

All of the experimental and simulated results presented in this thesis are my own work.

I developed all computer programs, using Mathematica®software. This was no small feat since I had previously received very little relevant training, having attempted only short, rudimentary programming exercises. I therefore do not claim that the coding style is the most elegant that has ever been written.

Tony Hoggard provided the use of his (higher speed) PCs and printers for running of some computer simulations. The staff of the Applied Physics Department at UTS were always supportive and helpful. My children Simone, Stacey, Bethany and Brendan, and husband Rick gave me leave of absence, especially to attend an overseas conference.

My husband Richard Pope gave me much emotional and practical support, and kept encouraging me to “get that PhD finished”.

My mother gave invaluable support, especially during my undergraduate degree when the children were younger and I was a sole parent. She lived to attend my Honours graduation ceremony, and to see me hooked up with a nice bloke. She did not live to see me married on 25th January 2004, or to see me complete my PhD. Fay Hoggard passed away on 3rd April 2003. I miss you Mum.

Preface

Parts of this Thesis have appeared in the following articles, published in Journals and Conference Proceedings:

C. A. Deller, G. B. Smith, J. Franklin, “Colour mixing LEDs with short microsphere doped acrylic rods”, *Optics Express*, **12** (15), 3327-3333, 2004.

J. C. Jonsson, G. B. Smith, C. Deller, A. Roos, “Directional and angle-resolved optical scattering of high-performance translucent polymer sheets for energy efficient lighting and skylights”, *Applied Optics* **44** (14), 2745-2754, 2005.

C. A. Deller, G. B. Smith, J. B. Franklin, “Uniform white light distribution with low loss from coloured LEDs using polymer doped polymer mixing rods”, *in Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 5530: Fourth International Conference on Solid State Lighting*, 231-240, 2004

C A Deller, J B Franklin, G B Smith, “Monte Carlo ray tracing in particle-doped light guides”, *accepted for publication in Journal of Lighting Research and Technology.*

C. A. Deller, J. Franklin, “Optimising the length of doped polymer light mixers”, in *Proceedings of the Australian Institute of Physics 16th Biennial congress*, 84-87, 2005.

C. Deller, G. B. Smith, J. Franklin, E. Joseph, “The integration of forward light transport and lateral illumination of polymer optical fibre”, in *Proceedings of the Australian Institute of Physics 15th Biennial congress*, Vol 5192, 307-309, Causal Productions, Sydney, 2002.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments ii

Glossary of Symbols and Acronyms viii

List of Figures and Tables xii

Abstract xviii

Introduction 1

CHAPTER 1 Technology Background 5

1.1 Light guides for illumination 5
1.1.1 Daylighting 5
1.1.2 Large core polymer optical fibres 6
1.1.3 Applications of POF 8
1.1.4 PMMA light guides 9
1.2 Light source colour and efficiency 9
1.2.1 Correlated Colour Temperature (CCT) 9
1.2.2 Colour Rendering Index (CRI) 9
1.2.3 Luminous efficacy 10
1.3 LEDs 10
1.3.1 Advantages and applications 10
1.3.2 Light extraction 11
1.3.3 Disadvantages 12
1.3.4 Phosphor white LEDs 12
1.4 White by RGB; uniform illuminance and colour mixing 14
1.4.1 Mixing rods and uniform illuminance 14
1.4.2 White light by combining RGB sources 14
1.4.3 RGB LED applications 15
1.5 Lamps and reflectors 16
1.5.1 Lamp reflectors and coupling 17
1.6 Source coupling into light guides 17
1.6.1 Lamps 17
1.6.2 POF illuminators 18
1.6.3 Coupling LEDs into light guides 18
1.7 Side-scattering light guides 19
1.7.1 POF side-scattering 19
1.7.2 Backlighting 19

CHAPTER 2 Background Theory 21

2.1 Single particle scattering 21
2.1.1 Rayleigh scattering 22
2.1.2 Rayleigh-Gans scattering 22
2.1.3 Very large spheres 23
2.1.4 Spheres with relative refractive index close to 1 23
2.2 Single particle scattering: TRIMM spheres 24
2.2.1 Fresnel reflection from a TRIMM sphere 24
2.2.2 Ray deviation by a TRIMM sphere 26

2.2.3 Deviation formula and the geometric limit 28
2.2.4 Effect of varying μ on distribution of deviation angles 29
2.2.5 Derivation of the probability density distribution of the deviation 30
2.2.6 Mean ray deviation by a single sphere 31
2.3 Multiple TRIMM spheres 32
2.3.1 Angular spread of light after multiple interactions 33

CHAPTER 3 TRIMM micro-spheres and matrix materials: measurements 37

3.1 Introduction 37
3.1.1 TRIMM systems studied 37
3.2 Imaging spheres and determination of particle size 39
3.2.1 TRIMM dispersed in matrix material 39
3.2.2 Solitary TRIMM particles 40
3.2.3 Particle size distribution of TRIMM 42
3.3 Experimental measurement of refractive index 42
3.3.1 Conventional methods 42
3.3.2 Immersion method of refractive index measurement 43
3.3.3 Abbe refractometer for measuring refractive index of liquids 43
3.3.4 Abbe refractometer and the immersion method: experimental procedure 44
3.3.5 Uncertainties of measurement: immersion method and Abbe refractometer 46
3.4 Refractive index variation with wavelength 47
3.4.1 Ellipsometer measurements of TRIMM rods 47
3.4.2 Variation of μ with wavelength 49
3.5 TRIMM particle concentration in a light guide matrix 52
3.5.1 Determination of linear TRIMM particle concentration in matrix material 52
3.5.2 Mass fraction calculations and TRIMM concentration 55

CHAPTER 4 Monte Carlo ray tracing in particle-doped light guides 58

4.1 Introduction 58
4.1.1 Background 59
4.2 Ray tracing with added scatterers 60
4.2.1 Ray propagation geometry 60
4.2.2 Defining new ray direction: spherical trigonometry 61
4.3 Ray tracing in cylindrical guides 63
4.3.1 Previous methods: undoped light guides 63
4.3.2 Particle-doped cylindrical light guides: wall intercept 64
4.3.3 Particle-doped cylindrical light guides: wall reflection 65
4.4 Discussion 67

CHAPTER 5 LEDs: Measurements and source modelling for ray tracing simulations 68

5.1 Introduction 68
5.1.1 Modelling of LED sources 69
5.1.2 Current standards and measurement problems 70
5.2 Experimental measurements 71
5.2.1 Luminous flux half angle measurements 71
5.2.2 Luminous flux half angle results 72
5.2.3 Photogoniometer measurements 73
5.2.4 Photogoniometer Results 74
5.3 LED source models 75
5.3.1 Empirical LED source model 75

5.3.2 Cumulative probability density distributions for LED sources in Monte Carlo modelling . . 77
5.3.3 Empirical cumulative probability density function 78
5.3.4 Individual LED measurement-based cumulative functions. 78
5.4 Discussion 80

CHAPTER 6 Colour mixing LEDs with TRIMM-doped PMMA rods. 81

6.1 Introduction 81
6.2 Colour space 82
6.3 Experiment 82
6.3.1 TRIMM-doped PMMA rods 82
6.3.2 PMMA rod with TRIMM diffuser sheet 84
6.4 Computer modelling simulations 86
6.4.1 Source models: Trimm-doped PMMA rods 86
6.4.2 Source models: PMMA rod with TRIMM diffuser sheet 86
6.4.3 Modelling method for projected combined RGB light output 87
6.5 Colour mixing calculations 88
6.6 Results 91
6.6.1 TRIMM-doped PMMA rods 91
6.6.2 PMMA rod with TRIMM diffuser sheet 95
6.7 Discussion: colour mixing 97

CHAPTER 7 Variables affecting uniform colour mixing. 98

7.1 Effect of varying μ with wavelength on colour mixing 98
7.2 Colour mixing modelling: smoothed vs measured LED profiles 100
7.2.1 Introduction 100
7.2.2 Colour mixing of LEDs: comparison of empirical and measurement-based source distributions 101
7.2.3 Results 101
7.2.4 Discussion 102
7.3 Geometrical effects: source distribution and size, and rod aspect ratio 103
7.3.1 Angle of incidence and rod aspect ratio 104
7.3.2 LED model: geometrical effects from aspect ratio, and source size effects 104
7.3.3 Effect of modelled source size on colour maps. 106
7.4 Rotational symmetry and statistical analysis of end-light distribution 107
7.4.1 Rotational symmetry results for PMMA rod + diffuser sheet. 108
7.5 Comparison: square and round mixers 110
7.5.1 Discussion 112
7.6 LED array 112
7.6.1 Configuration of source LED array. 112
7.6.2 Ray tracing simulations 114

CHAPTER 8 Fresnel losses, wall transmittance and side-light distributions 119

8.1 Fresnel reflectance and ray propagation in light guides 119
8.1.1 Fresnel reflection curves for the PMMA/air boundary 119
8.2 Modelling: Fresnel reflectance vs Fresnel neglected 121
8.2.1 Effect of TRIMM concentration on wall and end losses. 122
8.2.2 Effect of angle-of-incidence variation on wall and end losses 123
8.3 Effect of varying μ on wall and end loss. 124
8.3.1 μ and TRIMM concentration. 124
8.3.2 Wall transmittance of PMMA rod: constant μ vs varied μ *126*

8.4 TRIMM losses, measured and modelled, for rod + diffuser sheet 126
8.4.1 Discussion 128
8.5 TRIMM-doped rods: side-emitting ray modelling 128
8.5.1 Simulation results 132
8.6 Other TRIMM system losses 133
8.6.1 Square vs circular cross-section 133
8.6.2 LED array 134

CHAPTER 9 Flexible polymer optical fibre 136

9.1 Introduction 136
9.1.1 Applications of flexible polymer light guides 136
9.2 Research aims: initial investigation of POF 137
9.3 Illuminator and filter characterisation 137
9.3.1 Spectral response of filters 138
9.3.2 Light distribution exiting illuminator manifold 139
9.4 Side-scattered integrated luminance with propagation distance 140
9.4.1 Falloff of side-scattered light with propagation distance 140
9.4.2 Relationship of falloff with TRIMM concentration 142
9.4.3 Colour variation with propagation distance 144
9.4.4 Effect of fibre bending on side-light variation 145
9.4.5 Diameter variation 145
9.4.6 Photometer measurements and addition of end reflector 147
9.5 Photogoniometer illuminance measurements of side-light 149
9.5.1 Side-light scattered in the general propagation direction (‘forward scattering’) 149
9.5.2 Side-light scattered perpendicular to the general propagation direction 151
9.6 Internal light distribution model 152

CHAPTER 10 Further Work and Applications 154

10.1 Applications of TRIMM 154
10.1.1 Mixing rods 154
10.1.2 Step safety lights 155
10.1.3 Refrigerators 155
10.1.4 Recently patented RGB mixer 156
10.1.5 Spectrally tunable solid state calibration source 156
10.1.6 Commercial interest 156
10.2 Further improvements in efficiency 157
10.3 Optimising colour and efficacy of RGB LEDs 157
10.4 μ vs λ dependence and side-scattering POF 158
10.5 Computer Simulations 158
10.6 Conclusion 158

Bibliography 159

Appendix 172

Appendix 1 Principles of the Abbe Refractometer 172
Appendix 2 Cosine Rule for sides. (a) spherical triangles (b) planar triangles 174
Appendix 3 Cumulative probability density functions 174
Appendix 3.1 Functions for cumulative probability curve for empirical LED fit 174
Appendix 3.2 Functions for cumulative probability curve based on LED measurements 174
Appendix 4 Simplified ray tracing flow chart 177
Appendix 5 Computer Program 177

Glossary of Symbols and Acronyms

(X, Y, Z)	direction cosines of a ray
(x_0, y_0, z_0)	Cartesian coordinates of the starting point of a ray, or the starting point for propagation in a new ray direction
(x_1, y_1, z_1)	next interaction point of a ray (particle or guide wall)
(X_i, Y_i, Z_i)	CIE tristimulus values
(x_i, y_i, z_i)	CIE colour coordinates for a pixel of the output light distribution
$(x_{LED}, y_{LED}, z_{LED})$	CIE colour coordinates for a LED
a	axial particle number (the number of particles intercepted by a straight line drawn through a TRIMM-doped light guide, parallel to the optic axis)
CCD	charge coupled device
CCT	colour correlated temperature
CIE	Commission Internationale de L'Eclairage
CRI	colour rendering index
EPA	1-ethoxy-2-propyl acetate
ESEM	environmental scanning electron microscope
F	exponential decrease of side-scattered output light with distance along a TRIMM-doped light guide
$f(\delta)$	the probability density distribution of the deviation $\delta(h)$
h	impact ratio, $h = H/r$. h is independent of sphere radius.
H	perpendicular separation distance (of a ray impacting a sphere) from the parallel ray passing through a sphere's centre ($H = r-\lambda$ at the geometric limit)

HID	high intensity discharge (lamp)
i	projection of l' onto the x-y plane
I	light intensity (or in some cases, luminance)
IR	infra-red
l	propagation length of a ray between two particular particles
L	Length of a light guide (generally in cm)
LCD	liquid crystal display
LED	light-emitting diode
l'	length from a particle to the light guide wall, if the wall is intercepted before the following particle is reached
m	relative refractive index (usually the ratio of particle refractive index to that of the matrix in which the particles are dispersed)
m_f	mass fraction (of spheres in a matrix)
MMA	methylmethacrylate (monomer)
NA	numerical aperture (of a light guide)
n_i	refractive index of component i, such as TRIMM sphere or light guide matrix
p	average path length travelled by a ray between particle interactions
$P(h)$	the integrated probability density distribution (for unit TRIMM sphere radius)
$P(\theta)$	cumulative probability density function (for empirical LED source models)
PMMA	polymethylmethacrylate
POF	(flexible) polymer optical fibre
r	radial distance of (x_0, y_0, z_0) from the z-axis in the x-y plane (ray tracing context)
r	particle radius (e.g. of a TRIMM sphere)
R	radius of a cylindrical light guide
R	Fresnel reflectance

RGB	red, green, blue
RI	refractive index
$S(\lambda)$	spectral power distribution (of a LED)
SPD	spectral power distribution
SRF	source radial fraction (position of a LED at the entrance end of a mixing rod, relative to the optical axis the rod)
T	transmittance
TIR	total internal reflection
TRIMM	transparent refractive index matched micro-particles
UTS	University of Technology Sydney
UV	ultraviolet
V_f	volume fraction (of particles in a matrix)
$\bar{\Sigma}$	mean half-cone angular spread of light in the cross-sectional plane of a light guide
α	reflection angle of a ray from the light guide wall in the x-y plane (ray tracing context)
α	linear particle density (number of particles per metre intercepted by a straight line drawn through a TRIMM-doped light guide, parallel to the optic axis)
χ	'glancing angle' between a ray and the wall of a cylindrical light guide
χ_n	angle between a ray and the normal to the light guide wall
δ	semi-cone angular component of a ray's deviation, relative to the previous direction of the ray
$\bar{\delta}$	mean deviation angle of the probability density distribution of the deviation $f(\delta)$
δ_{geom}	deviation angle at the geometric limit

δ_m	median deviation angle of the probability density distribution of the deviation $f(\delta)$
$\delta(h)$	general expression for deviation angle of a ray impacting a TRIMM sphere, in terms of the impact ratio h
ε_1	azimuth component of a ray deviation
ε_2	difference (in angle) between ϕ_2 and ϕ_1
ϕ	azimuth component of a ray rotated about the z-axis, with $\phi = 0$ at the x-axis
ϕ_1	initial ϕ component of a ray (within a light guide)
ϕ_2	ϕ component of a ray after angular deviation by a particle
$\phi_{reflect}$	new ϕ direction after reflection from the light guide wall
ϕ_t	ϕ in the translated reference frame (rotated by τ)
ϕ_{tr}	reflected ϕ in the translated reference frame
γ	angle between r and the x-axis
φ	azimuth angle of a ray relative to the plane containing both r and the z-axis
λ	wavelength of light
m	difference of the relative refractive index m from 1
θ	semi-cone angle of a ray with the z-axis (light guide axis) within the matrix of the light guide
θ_1	initial θ direction of a ray (within a light guide)
θ_2	θ direction of a ray after angular deviation by a particle
θ_s	angle-of-incidence of a ray impacting a TRIMM sphere
τ	angle between R and the x-axis

List of Figures and Tables

CHAPTER 1 Technology Background 5

Figure 1-1. Injection and transmission of light in POF. The grey region is the cladding. 6

CHAPTER 2 Background Theory 21

Figure 2-1. Scattering regimes for the visible electromagnetic spectrum, for increasing particle size 21

Figure 2-2. Angle of incidence of a ray with a sphere, related to the impact distance *h*. 25

Figure 2-3. (a) Fresnel reflectance (average of parallel and perpendicular polarisation states) from a TRIMM sphere vs angle of incidence with a sphere's surface. Curves are shown for PMMA matrix ($\mu = 0.0114$) and flexible polymer optical fibre (POF) matrix ($\mu = 0.0182$). (b) Fresnel reflectance curves for $\mu = 0.0114$. 25

Figure 2-4. Angular deviation of a ray when it strikes a TRIMM sphere. Note that δ is actually a 3 dimensional change in ray direction. 27

Figure 2-5. Ray deviation angle by a single sphere, as a function of the sphere impact point *h* (calculated using eqn 2-7) for $\mu = 0.0114$ and $\mu = 0.0182$) 28

Figure 2-6. (a) impact parameter *h* at the geometric limit, defined as one wavelength's distance from the sphere's edge, for $\lambda = 590$ nm, for various values of sphere diameter. (b) correlation between *h* and the angle-of-incidence of a ray with the surface of a sphere. 29

Figure 2-7. Frequency of deviation angles upon encountering a TRIMM particle, for (a) $\mu = 1.011$ (b) $\mu = 1.018$. Distributions were obtained using computer ray tracing simulations. 30

Figure 2-8. The probability density distribution of the deviation, f(δ), for $\mu = 0.0114$. δ is marked with an x. 31

Figure 2-9. Angular deviation of a single ray striking a TRIMM sphere of unit radius. 31

Figure 2-10. a) Variation of mean deviation, δ,with μ, as per eqn 2-12. b) Variation of δ with μ, when δ is expressed as a multiple of μ. 32

Table 2-1. Summary of deviation statistics for the TRIMM materials studied ($\lambda = 590$ nm). 32

Figure 2-11. half-cone angular spread, Σ, for a single ray launched at normal incidence after propagating through a TRIMM-doped rod with axial particle number, *a*. 34

Figure 2-12. a) Critical length vs TRIMM linear particle density α for $\mu = 0.0114$ and $\mu = 0.0182$. b) Monte Carlo modelled wall exited rays as a function of z /Lcrit (fraction of total guide length), for $\alpha = 2000$, for the same two μ values. 35

Figure 2-13. a) Ray trace for $\mu = 0.0114$. b) Ray trace for $\mu = 0.0182$. ($\alpha = 2000$). 36

CHAPTER 3 TRIMM micro-spheres and matrix materials: measurements 37

Figure 3-1. Optical micrograph of TRIMM spheres in 9 mm POF, with Teflon® jacket stripped, at the axis of maximum sphere concentration. 39

Figure 3-2. Optical micrograph of TRIMM spheres in a 'granule'. 40

Figure 3-3. Optical microscope image of TRIMM spheres chemically isolated from granules. 41

Figure 3-4. Micrographs of TRIMM Plex 1002F spheres, as imaged by an ESEM. 41

Figure 3-5. Particle size frequency distribution for 296 TRIMM spheres chemically isolated from granules, and 209 "Plex 1002F" spheres, as measured from micrographs. 42

Table 3-1. Chemicals used for the immersion method of TRIMM and matrix materials 45

Figure 3-6. Real part of refractive index vs wavelength from ellipsometry measurements of 3 samples of '15K' TRIMM-doped PMMA rod. Modelled fits for estimates of dispersion curves for PMMA matrix, TRIMM material and average of both materials are shown as bold lines. Measured values of a PMMA sheet material and TRIMM spheres by the immersion method (described in Section 3.3.4) are also shown (crosses). 48

Figure 3-7. a) Transmittance measurements of 10 cm TRIMM-doped PMMA rods, normalised to a 1 cm reference, made using a spectrophotometer. Corresponding transmittance simulated for each concentration by ray tracing are shown by coloured diamonds. b) μ vs λ for 100K rod, calculated using a combination of transmittance shown in a) and ray tracing simulated transmittance results. (μ is higher than expected for TRIMM and matrix alone, due to impurities contained in the extruded rods.) c) μ vs λ as calculated from the estimated curves based on ellipsometer data shown in Figure 3-6. 51

Table 3-2. Measurement of axial particle number *a* for TRIMM rods 54

Figure 3-8. Geometry for derivation of the volume fraction of TRIMM particles in a guide 55

Figure 3-9. Mass concentration of TRIMM vs path length (*p*) between TRIMM spheres. Both graphs show the same data; the lower is scaled for low concentrations of TRIMM. 57

CHAPTER 4 Monte Carlo ray tracing in particle-doped light guides 58

Figure 4-1. Geometry of ray propagation in a particle-doped light guide 61

Figure 4-2. Cross-section showing the use of spherical geometry to redefine ray direction after TRIMM deviation 62

Figure 4-3. a) Geometry of a circular light guide b) projection onto x-y plane 64

Figure 4-4. Circular reflection geometry in the x-y plane a) Case 1 b) Case 2 66

CHAPTER 5 LEDs: Measurements and source modelling for ray tracing simulations 68

Figure 5-1. LED semi-cone angles at which integrated light output is 50% and 25% of maximum. 72

Table 5-1. LED luminous flux half angle results 73

Figure 5-2. Photogoniometer measurement geometry 73

Figure 5-3. Photogoniometer measurements of intensity with angle (arbitrary units, from photodetector output), from normal (0×) to 20× , for ‘Alpha’ and ‘Beta’ triads of RGB LEDs. 74

Figure 5-4. Measured angular distribution of the source LEDs. a) Alpha group. b) Beta group. 75

Figure 5-5. Geometry of source emission from source LED 76

Figure 5-6. (a) Empirical model of LED intensity profile *I(θ)*, shown with the measured photogonometer intensity profile on which it is based, that of the 5 mm ‘Beta red’ LED. (b) Empirical model of LED intensity profile *I(θ)*, compared with photogoniometer angular intensity scans of 3 mm red green and blue LEDs 77

CHAPTER 6 Colour mixing LEDs with TRIMM-doped PMMA rods 81

Figure 6-1. a) Experimental setup, showing (from left): alignment laser, LED array, acrylic mixing rod, frosted glass screen and the translational stage with photometric detector. b) 1931 CIE diagram showing the 3 mm LED source chromaticity coordinates, and the coordinates of the computer monitor’s phosphors. Inset: 3 mm LED array. 83

Figure 6-2. 3 mm LED spectral power distributions (normalised to maximum intensity values) 84

Table 6-1. 1931 CIE coordinates of the 3 mm source LEDs, and of the Dell computer monitor phosphors 84

Figure 6-3. Spectral power distribution of selected 5 mm LEDs, normalised to arbitrary maximum intensity. a) Alpha group b) Beta group 85

Table 6-2. 1931 CIE coordinates and peak wavelength of the source LEDs, as measured using a spectrometer. 85

Figure 6-4. a) experimental setup: LED array, mixing rod, frosted glass screen. b) photograph of Beta LEDs and clear PMMA rod, ~20 cm from the rod exit surface, at an off-axis angle to avoid excessive over-exposure. TIR from the rod surfaces is visible. c) modelled clear rod exit end surface illumination of modelled Beta LEDs. 86

Figure 6-5. Source configurations for ray tracing simulations, to scale. a) 3 mm triad set-up. b) 5 mm (Alpha and Beta) triad set-up. 'x' marks the coordinates of source points, using same coordinate system as for Figure 4-1 and Figure 4-3 (*z*-axis into the page). The filled circles correspond to the modelled source area for each LED. The dotted circles correspond to actual lens diameter of the LEDs used in experiments. The outer circle is the perimeter of the light guide in each case. 87
Figure 6-6. Projected light distribution onto a predefined screen for ray tracing model. This creates pixellated data from a single LED after ray trace through a mixing rod. 88
Figure 6-7. Flowchart describing the calculation of colour output from RGB LEDs and a mixing rod. 90
Figure 6-8. a) Modelled output colour mix falling on detector 10 cm from end of 10 cm acrylic rod. Pixel size is 1 mm. Source diameter is 2 mm. b-e) Photographs of experimental results modelled in a), taken at varying viewing angles. 91
Figure 6-9. a) Modelled illuminance falling on detector 10 cm from end of the undoped 10 cm acrylic mixing rod. Source diameter is 2 mm. b) Cross-section through the centre of a), showing computed R, G and B components, and the total in black. c) Corresponding measured illuminance. 92
Figure 6-10. Output colour falling on detector 10 cm from end of 10 cm long 15K rod. Pixel size is 1 mm. a) Measured horizontal strip through the centre, converted to *RGB* colour space. b) modelled strip, using source diameter of 2 mm. 92
Figure 6-11. Projected light 10 cm from the end of 100K rods. a-c) 10 cm rod length. a, b) photographed results, c) computer simulation. d-h) 8.84 cm rod length. d) photographed results. f) computer simulation. g, h). measured and modelled strips through center cross-section. e) CIE coordinates corresponding to g) and h). 93
Figure 6-13. Chromaticity coordinates; a) CIE x, b) CIE y for simulations 1 cm from the end of the three 10 cm mixing rods shown in Figure 6-11(a-c) 94
Figure 6-14. a,b) Output colour distribution transmitted through the frosted glass screen 15 cm from the end of the clear PMMA rod. a) modelled. b) photographed. c,d) Modelled *CIE* coordinates of a horizontal strip through the centre of the screen. c) *CIE x* d) *CIE y* 95
Figure 6-15. a,b) Output colour distribution transmitted through the frosted glass screen 15 cm from the end of the PMMA rod +TRIMM diffuser sheet. a) modelled. b) photographed. c,d) Modelled *CIE* coordinates of a horizontal strip through the centre of the screen. c) *CIE x* d) *CIE y* 96

CHAPTER 7 Variables affecting uniform colour mixing 98

Table 7-1. Values of matrix and TRIMM refractive index adopted for the 3 mm RGB LEDs, for constant and varied μ 99
Figure 7-1. Simulated colour output for μ **constant with LED wavelength**. a) at the exit surface (0 cm from the end of a 10 cm 15K TRIMM-doped rod). b) 1 cm from the rod's end. c) 10 cm from the rod's end. d) 100 cm from the rod's end. 99
Figure 7-2. Simulated colour output for μ **varied with LED wavelength**. a) at the exit surface (0 cm from the end of a 10 cm 15K TRIMM-doped rod). b) 1 cm from the rod's end. c) 10 cm from the rod's end. d) 100 cm from the rod's end. 100
Figure 7-3. Light output from polymer mixing rod. a) Simulation 1, using a common empirically modelled LED source. b) Simulation 2, using individual measurement-based LED sources. c) Photographed experimental result. (Screen widths are 120 mm.) 102
Figure 7-4. Illuminance (rays per pixel) modelled at the exit end of an undoped light guide 10 cm in length and 2 cm in diameter. A 'flat-top' source model with θ_{max} set to launch rays that reflect half way along the light guide was used. A spike results in the output intensity. 100,000 initial rays were launched from a point source located at the centre of the guide input end. 104

Figure 7-6. LED diffusion maps modelled 10 cm from the exit end of an undoped POF light guide 10 cm in length and 2 cm in diameter, using the LED smoothed empirical source model. 1 million initial rays were launched. a) point source. b) 3 mm diameter source. 106

Figure 7-7. a) Measured colours in a horizontal strip through the centre of screen 10 cm from the end of the TRIMM-doped rod shown in Figure 6-8, which has been converted to RGB via calculations. b-d) modelled strip, using source diameters of 1, 2 and 3 mm, respectively. 107

Figure 7-8. a) Schematic showing entrance end of mixing rod, with relative positions of the LEDs to the rod axis (centre) and rod radius. b) Pixels in a simulated 'screen' are sorted into radial 'bins' for analysis of rotational symmetry of output light distribution. 108

Figure 7-9. a,b) analysis of simulated ray tracing data projected onto a screen 15 cm from the end of the 6 cm clear PMMA rod, with Alpha Red LED as the source. a) Average rays per pixel in a 'radial bin' vs radial distance from the centre of the screen (see Figure 7-9(b)). b) std deviation/average rays per pixel in a 'radial bin' vs radial distance from screen centre. c,d) similar analysis for PMMA rod with TRIMM diffuser sheet. Outlying point in modelled data is due to the very small number of rays hitting screen edge. 109

Figure 7-12. Possible configurations of 5 mm LEDs positioned at the entrance of a 3 cm diameter TRIMM mixing rod. a) single central LED, total = 19 LEDs. b) innermost ring of 3 LEDs, total = 21 LEDs. c) innermost ring of 3 LEDs, total = 27 LEDs. 113

Figure 7-13. Geometrical configuration of source LEDs for mixing, showing inner, middle and outer rings of LEDs sharing the same SRF. 113

Figure 7-14. Rotational symmetry check of detector output of LEDs from the array pictured in Figure 7-13, 10 cm from the output end of TRIMM mixing rod. a-b) An LED from the inner ring of the array, 5.2 mm radially from the rod axis (coloured purple in Figure 7-13). c-d) An LED from 2nd ring of the array, 8.8 mm radially from the rod axis (coloured light green in Figure 7-13). 115

Figure 7-15. Simulated colour output 10 cm from TRIMM mixer rod end, for individual rings of the LED mixer array shown in Figure 7-13. a) inner ring, SRF = 0.35 b) middle ring, SRF = 0.59 c) outer ring, SRF = 0.7. LED arrays and colour output are displayed as viewed with the *z*-axis into the page. 116

Figure 7-16. Configuration of RGB in the 19 LED array for uniform colour output from the TRIMM-doped mixer. 117

Figure 7-17. 19 LED array simulated colour output after ray tracing through the TRIMM mixer. a) exit surface of rod. b) 1 cm from rod end. c) 10cm from rod end. d) 100 cm from rod end. 117

CHAPTER 8 Fresnel losses, wall transmittance and side-light distributions 119

Figure 8-1. Fresnel reflection with angle-of-incidence, for a) rod to air (affecting ray transmittance out of rod), b) air to rod (affecting coupling of LED source rays into rod) for PMMA matrix. (n_1 = 1.49) 121

Table 8-1. Effect of applying Fresnel reflection to the internal surfaces of a TRIMM-doped light guide (POF; μ = 0.0182, p = 2 mm, length = 10 cm, diameter = 2 cm) used as a mixer. 122

Figure 8-2. Comparison of percentage of end-reflected rays, with and without Fresnel reflection, for a 10 cm long, 2 cm diameter POF guide, with varying TRIMM separation (p). Percentage of wall-exited rays (with Fresnel reflection included) are also shown (μ = 0.0182). 123

Figure 8-3. Effect of varying angle-of-incidence of launched rays (in air), for varying TRIMM concentration, on (a) wall loss (as a percentage of initial rays), (b) end-reflected loss (as a percentage of rays remaining in the light guide) (μ = 0.0182). 123

Figure 8-4. Effect of TRIMM sphere separation *p* on (a) wall loss, (b) end-reflected loss, for 3 different values of μ. 124
Table 8-2. Rays 'lost' by refraction out of the light guide wall as a percentage of the number of rays initially entering the rod, for ray tracing modelling shown in Figure 7-1 and Figure 7-2. 125
Figure 8-5. Schematic of PMMA rod + TRIMM diffuser sheet, showing surfaces at which transmittance is recorded, or reflected losses occur. The values shown are the simulated results shown in Table 8-3. 126
Table 8-3. Simulated and measured transmittance results and reflected losses, as a percentage of the incident light, for Alpha group LEDs, for 6 cm PMMA mixing rod with and without TRIMM diffuser. *measurement has higher uncertainty (see text). 126
Figure 8-6. Simulated wall-exited rays from TRIMM mixing rods, in forward and reverse directions, binned into 1 cm increments along the length of the light guides. a) 100K 10 cm light guide. b) 15K 10 cm light guide. c) 15K 20 cm light guide. 129
Figure 8-7. Simulated angular distribution of wall exited rays from TRIMM mixing rods, for a 1 cm interval, sorted into 5× bins. 0× corresponds to the wall normal. a) 100K 10 cm light guide, 10th interval. b) 15K 10 cm light guide, 10th interval. c) 15K 20 cm light guide, 12th interval. 130
Figure 8-8. 2D schematic illustrating the 'end effect' for a 15K rod. Critical ray angles are marked with dotted lines. 132
Table 8-4. Comparison of transmittance and loss between LED array and Alpha triad array mixers 133

CHAPTER 9 Flexible polymer optical fibre 135

Figure 9-1. Illuminator configuration, showing metal halide light source, UV / IR blocker, coloured filters, and manifold positions. 137
Figure 9-2. Transmission spectra of the coloured filters for the illuminator (halide discharge source). 137
Figure 9-3. Angular distribution of light exiting the Poly Optics POF illuminator manifold, for 12 mm and 18 mm aperture sizes. 138
Figure 9-4. Measurements of side-scattered integrated luminance from POF using Oriel integrating sphere and photo-diode detector. The light source is the Poly Optics illuminator. 139
Figure 9-5. a) Integrated luminance vs distance along the light guide for 2000 ppm, 200 ppm and undoped 9 mm diameter POF, showing an exponential falloff of side-scattered intensity with distance from the (orange) light source. b) Log$_{(e)}$ integrated luminance vs distance along light guide to the centre of the integrating sphere, for 390 ppm 9 mm diameter POF. Results are shown for each of the illuminator's coloured filters. 140
Table 9-1. 'Falloff slope' *F* (x 10^3) for 9 mm diameter TRIMM-doped POF. 141
Figure 9-6. Log$_{(e)}$ integrated luminance vs propagation distance for 9 mm POF, for four TRIMM granule concentrations, using the green illuminator filter. Inset: Relationship of falloff *F* with TRIMM concentration for the same data. 142
Table 9-2. Power relationship of 'Falloff slope' with TRIMM granule concentration for 9 mm diameter POF. 143
Figure 9-7. Comparison of the log$_{(e)}$ integrated luminance measurements of 14 mm diameter 100 ppm POF, with the corresponding diameter variations of the fibre from average. 145
Figure 9-8. Schematic showing how diameter variation along a light guide can cause additional light to escape through the wall (Ray 1) or cause a decrease in side-light output (Ray 2). θ_{c1} is the critical angle for a light guide with uniform diameter; θ_{c2} is the critical angle for a wall sloped due to decreasing fibre diameter; θ_{c3} is the critical angle for a wall sloped due to increasing fibre diameter. 145

Figure 9-9. Comparison of integrating sphere and photometer illuminance measurements of a 2 m long 9 mm diameter 200 ppm POF; source is the illuminator with the green filter. Integrating sphere measurements with an end reflector are also shown. Measurements are normalised at a distance of 110 cm from the source end of the guide. 147
Figure 9-10. Photogoniometer set-up for POF directional scattering measurement. 148
Figure 9-11. 'Side scattered' luminance (light escaped through the guide walls) of 200 ppm 9 mm diameter POF, at 80 cm along the guide from the source. 0° is the forward propagation direction. Measurements are shown for Teflon®-clad and Teflon®-stripped exposed sections of 5 cm, 2.5 cm and 1 cm in length. The light source was the illuminator with the clear filter. 149
Table 9-3. Angle (from horizontal forward direction) of maximum luminance, θ_{max}, for 200 ppm, 9 mm diameter POF, as measured by a photogoniometer. Light source is illuminator with clear filter. 150
Figure 9-12. Normalised ray frequency vs θ for various distances along a 1 cm x 1 cm square light guide. The internal angular distribution becomes constant beyond 250 cm. Average path increment between spheres, p = 3.5 mm. Initial incidence angle 0 - 20° in air. 100,000 rays were launched. 151

Abstract

This project involves the study of optical properties of polymers doped with TRIMM (transparent refractive index matched micro-particles), and their uses in light guides. The refractive index difference between dopant and host material is small (<0.02), so forward transmittance is high, and losses due to backscattering are negligible. Flexible polymer optical fibre (POF) and polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) rods are being incorporated into an increasing range of lighting and light mixing applications. For energy efficient mixing of red, green and blue (RGB) light-emitting diodes (LEDs) to produce white light and a range of other colours, light is transmitted from the end of a light guide ("end-light"). A major problem here is solved, namely the achievement of uniform illumination, simultaneously with low losses from scattering. Light output from RGB LEDs is shown to be completely mixed by short TRIMM-doped light guides. Alternatively, long lengths of TRIMM-doped POF can be used for "side-light". The concentration of TRIMM for these is chosen such that light is emitted from the side walls of the guide to give even illumination along its length.

A geometrical method of ray tracing in particle-doped rectangular and cylindrical light guides is derived, and Monte Carlo ray tracing simulations performed for undoped and TRIMM-doped light guides. The evolution of the distribution of ray angles, internal and external to a light guide, with propagation distance are studied. Computer simulations of angular distribution of light emitted from the wall of POF agree with measurements performed using a photogoniometer.

Simulations and measurements of light output intensity and colour from RGB LED arrays when projected from the end of a mixing rod, are also presented. Colour calculations agree with photometric measurements of RGB LED output from clear and TRIMM-doped PMMA mixing rods. Results of transmittance measurements and computer simulations show that light losses are almost entirely due to Fresnel reflectance from the entrance and exit surfaces of the rods.

Photogoniometer measurements of the angular distribution of light from LEDs are used as a basis for LED source models used in ray tracing simulations. Results of an investiga-

tion comparing the effect of using a smoothed LED source model instead of measurement-based models on simulated light output distributions are presented. The light output from LEDs can have sudden peaks in intensity at certain angles, resulting in distinctive patterns with clear colour separation, after mixing in clear polymer mixing rods. These caustic patterns are eliminated by using TRIMM-doped mixing rods, with a transmittance of ~90% after Fresnel losses, which can be readily reduced.