

Generalization of Zernike polynomials for regular portions of circles and ellipses

J. A. Díaz¹, Chelo Ferreira², J. L. López³, Rafael Navarro⁴, Ester Pérez Sinusía²

SUMMARY

Zernike polynomials are commonly used to represent the wavefront phase on circular optical apertures, since they form a complete and orthonormal basis on the unit circle. Here, we present a generalization of this Zernike basis for a variety of important optical apertures. On the contrary to ad hoc solutions, most of them based on the Gram-Smith orthonormalization method, here we apply a diffeomorphism that transforms the unit circle into an angular sector of an elliptical annulus. In this way, other apertures, such as ellipses, rings, angular sectors, etc. are also included as particular cases. This generalization, based on in-plane warping of the basis functions, provides a unique solution and what is more important, it guarantees a reasonable level of invariance of the mathematical properties and the physical meaning of the initial basis functions. Both, the general form and the explicit expressions for most common, elliptical and annular apertures are provided.

Keywords: Zernike polynomials, aberration expansion, diffraction theory, wave-front sensing

AMS Classification: 33, 42C05, 33C90, 78A10, 78A45

References

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¹Departamento de Óptica
Universidad de Granada
18071 Granada
jadiaz@ugr.es

²Departamento de Matemática Aplicada
Universidad de Zaragoza, IUMA
50009 Zaragoza
cferrei@unizar.es, ester.perez@unizar.es

³Departamento de Ingeniería Matemática e Informática
Universidad Pública de Navarra
31006 Pamplona
jl.lopez@unavarra.es

⁴ICMA, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Universidad de Zaragoza
50009 Zaragoza
rafaelnb@unizar.es