

consistency in the subordination of algebra to words and diagrams in the expositions of most topics. The scope is reasonably conventional, starting with optics as applied electromagnetism, two chapters on ray optics, then polarization (lovingly done), interference and diffraction in reasonable detail and introductions to more-advanced topics – Fourier optics, coherence, quantum, lasers, holography and non-linear optics. What is less conventional is the enormous range of applications which are discussed in sufficient detail to bring the subject alive, and the skilled manner in which these are woven into the narrative.

The second edition differs from the first in (many) small details, rather than at any radical level. There are many more end-of-chapter problems, representing a very useful resource for teachers in all undergraduate years. Some of the material could also be helpful in the early stages of postgraduate education, whether in physics or in electrical engineering.

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ERRATUM

Shijun Jiang and Biyue Liu, *Opt. Quantum Elec.* **20** (1988) 23.

On page 25 the title of Table 2 should read “B-values for the fundamental (LP_{01}) mode of parabolic profile fibre”.