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(G*) (POS-25) The importance of instrument effects on light polarization when imaging retinal biomarkers of brain diseases

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Introduction

Understanding how the polarization states of light are affected by the optical components in a confocal scanning light ophthalmoscope (CSLO) is essential for the development of a novel retinal polarimetry imaging instrument, to be used in in vivo retinal imaging for the detection of protein biomarkers of brain diseases. We measured, modeled, and investigated compensation of the changes in light polarization upon interaction with mirrors, lenses and beam splitters in the instrument.

Methods

The influence of different beam splitters (BS) on different states of polarized light (including linear, circular, and elliptical) was measured experimentally, using a standard Stokes polarimeter. The polarization states were measured without and with the components in the light path ($\lambda=633\text{nm}$). Interactions with polarized light were calculated from measurements. Additional effects of other previously used CSLO components, as a function of angle of view, were modeled using polarization ray tracing in CODE V, an optical design software package.

Results

The non polarizing BS, mirrors and lenses have a significant ($p_{\text{adj}} < 0.05$) but relatively small effects on polarized light states. The dichroic BS (which separates different wavelengths) had a much larger effect, systematically reversing the handedness of light ($p_{\text{adj}} < 0.05$). We discuss how the larger effects can be compensated and polarization states optimized when using polarized light to create visible retinal biomarkers of brain diseases.

Conclusions

To make retinal biomarkers of interest more visible, the large effects of dichroic beam splitters on the polarization states of light need to be compensated during measurements [1]. Other optical components have smaller effects which can be accounted for following the measurements.

References

[1] Bélanger, E., Turcotte, R., Daradich, A., Sadetsky, G., Gravel, P., Bachand, K., De Koninck, Y., & Côté, D. C. (2015). Maintaining polarization in polarimetric multiphoton microscopy. *Journal of Biophotonics*, 8(11-12), 884–888. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jbio.201400116>

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Keyword-2

Neurodegenerative diseases

Keyword-3

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