

Holography: An Overview

Jayashree Pradhan*

Department of Microbiology, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

PERSPECTIVE

Holography is a technology that allows you to record and reconstruct a wavefront. Holography is most recognised for its use in creating three-dimensional images, but it can also be used for a variety of other things. Any sort of wave can theoretically be turned into a hologram. A hologram is created by superimposing a second wavefront (usually referred to as the reference beam) onto the wavefront of interest, resulting in an interference pattern that can be recorded on a physical medium. It is diffracted to produce the original wavefront when only the second wavefront lights the interference pattern. Holograms can also be created using a computer by modelling the two wavefronts and digitally combining them. To reconstruct the wavefront of interest, the generated digital image is printed onto a suitable mask or film and lit by a suitable source.

Holography is comparable to sound recording in that it encodes a sound field made by vibrating matter such as musical instruments or vocal cords so that it can be replayed later without the presence of the original vibrating matter. However, it is even more similar to Ambisonic sound recording in which any listening angle of a sound field can be reproduced in the reproduction. Holography is comparable to sound recording in that it encodes a sound field made by vibrating matter such as musical instruments or vocal cords so that it can be replayed later without the presence of the original vibrating matter. The hologram is recorded using a laser light source that is exceedingly pure in colour and orderly in composition in laser holography. Various setups and holograms can be created, but they all include the interaction of light coming from opposite directions, resulting in a minuscule interference pattern that is photographed on a plate, film, or other medium. The laser beam is usually split into two parts, one of which is known as the object beam and the other as the reference beam. By sending the object beam via a lens, it is magnified and used to illuminate the subject. The recording medium is where this light will strike it after being reflected or scattered by the subject. The topic's position is chosen with this in mind, as the medium's edges will eventually act as a window through which the subject can be seen. The reference beam is magnified and directed directly onto the medium, where it interacts with the light from the subject to produce the correct interference pattern. Holography, like traditional photography, necessitates the use of a suitable exposure time in order to properly impact the recording medium. Unlike traditional photography, the light source, optical elements, recording medium, and subject must all remain immobile relative to each other during the exposure, to within a fourth of the wavelength of the light, or the interference pattern will be blurred and the hologram will be ruined. Holography, like traditional photography, necessitates the use of a suitable exposure time in order to properly impact the recording medium. Unlike traditional photography, the light source, optical elements, recording medium, and subject must all remain immobile relative to each other during the exposure, to within a fourth of the wavelength of the light, or the interference pattern will be blurred and the hologram will be ruined. That is only conceivable with living beings and some fragile materials if a very intense and extremely brief pulse of laser light is employed, a dangerous process that is only done in scientific and industrial laboratory settings.

Exposures ranging from a few seconds to several minutes are common, with a much lower-powered continually functioning laser. Artists saw the medium's potential early on and acquired access to science facilities to create their work. Although some holographers consider themselves both an artist and a scientist, holographic art is frequently the outcome of partnerships between scientists and artists. Other than recording images, holography can be used for a variety of purposes. Holographic data storage is a method of storing high-density information inside crystals or photopolymers. Because many electronic items include storage devices, the capacity to store huge volumes of data in some type of medium is critical. Due to the diffraction-limited size of the writing beams, current storage techniques such as Blu-ray Disc have reached the limit of feasible data density. Holographic storage has the potential to become the next generation of popular storage media. The volume of the recording media is employed instead of simply the surface, which is an advantage of this method of data storage. While previous holographic data storage models have relied on "page-based" storage, in which each recorded hologram carries a considerable amount of data, new research into the usage of submicrometresized "microholograms" has yielded numerous viable 3D optical data storage systems.

While this kind of data storage cannot achieve the high data speeds of page-based storage, the tolerances, technological obstacles, and cost of manufacturing a commercial device are all substantially lower. Static holography produces a permanent hologram by repeatedly recording, developing, and reconstructing. There are

Correspondence to: Jayashree Pradhan, Department of Microbiology, Utkal University, India, E-mail: jayashree.k@gmail.com

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Pradhan J

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also holographic materials that don't require any development and can record a hologram in a matter of seconds. This enables the use of holography to execute some simple all-optical processes. Because the procedure is conducted in parallel on the entire image, the amount of processed data can be very large (terabits/s). This compensates for the fact that the recording time, which is on the order of a microsecond, is still somewhat long when compared to an electrical computer's processing time. A dynamic hologram's optical processing is likewise far less versatile than electronic processing. On the one hand, the operation must always be performed on the entire image, and on the other hand, the only operations a hologram may execute are multiplication and phase conjugation.