

Research on Presbyopia Optometry Method Based on Diopter Regulation and Charge Couple Device Imaging Technology

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ABSTRACT: *With the development of photoelectric technology and single-chip microcomputer technology, the objective (automatic) optometry technology is becoming more and more mature. This paper proposed a presbyopia optometry method based on diopter regulation and CCD (Charge Couple Device) imaging technology and, in the meantime, designed the light path of the measurement system. This method projects a test figure to the eye ground of tested eye and then the reflected image from eye ground is detected by CCD. At last the image is automatically identified by computer by which the far point and near point diopter are determined and thus the glasses parameter is calculated. This is a full automatic objective optometry method, which eliminates subjective factors of the tested subject. This method can acquire the glasses parameter of presbyopia accurately and quickly, and can be used to measure the glasses parameter of hyperopia, myopia and astigmatism.*

Keywords: Visual optics, Diopter regulation, CCD devices, Image identification

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1. Introduction

Human eyes as a biological optic system, has multiple states such as emmetropia, hyperopia, myopia and astigmatism, which varies from person to person. Besides from emmetropia, all the states negatively influences definition of human eyes when seeing things, which is called vision deficiency (also called diopter abnormality)[1]. Vision deficiency is normally adjusted by optometry besides from surgery, laser operation and drug therapy. In the recent decade, as the photoelectric technology and single-chip microcomputer technology developed, the objective (automatic) optometry has become more and more mature. It can completely eliminate the subjective factors of the tested subject and acquire the glasses parameter accurately and quickly.

CCD was invented by Bell Laboratory in late 1960s. It is a special semiconductor which consists of lots of independent light sensors; the sensors are normally in matrix arrangement [2-4]. At first, CCD was used as a new PC storage circuit, but soon it had lots of other potential applications, including signal and image (light sensitivity of silicic) management [5]. Photosensitive element of most digital cameras is CCD.

Presbyopia occurs when we get older; it is caused by the variation of physiological function. Conventional optometry applies optic insertion and try-on on the basis of estimation according to age and experiential data [6]. Up to now, there is no objective measuring method. This paper proposed a method measuring the near and far point on the basis of diopter regulation principle and then designed an objective optometry unit of optical system based on CCD imaging technology.

2. Diopter Regulation of Human Eyes And Imaging Property of Presbyopia

Human eye automatically adjusts focal length when observing objects at different distance to make the image projected on retina, thus we can see things clearly. The automatic adjustment of focal length is what we call diopter regulation [7]. The diopter regulation range is the difference between far point diopter and near point diopter, which varies as the age grows. Far point diopter is the reciprocal of the furthest distance (the unit m) human eyes can see clearly when entirely relaxed. The furthest distance emmetropic eye can project clear image on retina, when relaxed, is infinity, hence the far point diopter is 0; the furthest distance myopic eye can see clearly is - 2m, hence the near point diopter is - 0.5. Near point diopter is the reciprocal of the nearest distance human eye can see with the maximum regulation [8]. The near point distance of emmetropic human eye of 20 years old is - 100mm thus the near point diopter is - 10, and as the far point distance is infinity the maximum regulation range is 10 diopter.

When emmetropic eye become presbyopia, the far point distance does not change and stays as infinity, so the relevant far point diopter is 0; whereas the near point distance become further and the absolute value of relevant near point diopter decreases, thus the regulation range narrows. The near point distance of emmetropic human eye of 50 years old is - 400mm of which the relevant near diopter is - 2.5, thus the regulation range is 2.5 diopter. The narrowing of regulation range is the symptom of presbyopia, and is a physiological phenomenon which relates to age, so all the aged suffer from presbyopia.

Imaging property of presbyopia refers to figure 1. The image of the object point at infinity forms image on retina (expressed as fine solid line); image of the object point at finite distance forms image at F point behind retina (expressed as light ray with arrow) and form light spot on retina, hence the image is blurry. If we install a convex lens before the eye, the object point at infinite distance forms clear image on retina (dash line). The convex lens is the presbyopic glasses as we usually say which replaces the crystalline lens of presbyopic and has the function of embossment, thereby presbyopic adjustment is realized.

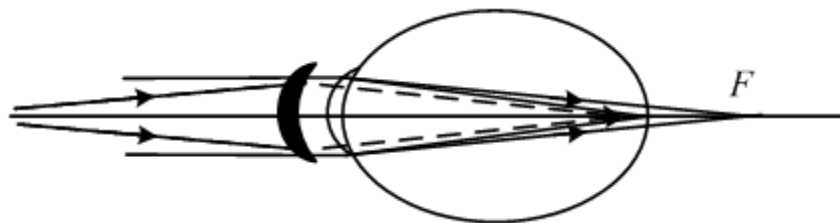


Figure 1. Imaging property of presbyopic

Since presbyopic is characterized by narrowing of regulation range, and diopter regulation range is the difference between far point and near point, we can acquire the presbyopic glasses parameter by measuring the far point diopter and near point diopter of the eye and applying clinical experiential formula of ophthalmology [9].

Near point of presbyopic becomes further and normally object can be observed clearly when placed further. But if the object is small and placed too far even beyond the distinguish ability extremity, we can not see it clearly neither. So, in order to read and observe normally, we have to adjust presbyopic with glasses.

3. The Correlation Between Far Point And Near Point Diopter And Presbyopic Diopter

Regulation range (ability) of human eye is the difference between far point and near point diopter, that is $\Delta D = D_Y - D_J$ [10, 11]. Clinical experience thinks, when $\Delta D \geq 3D$, the presbyopic symptom of human eye is void or slight; and when $\Delta D < 3D$, the presbyopic symptom is severe [12]. The regulation range of emmetopia eye of 48 years old is 3D, so normally; people older than 48 years have to wear glasses to adjust presbyopia. In clinic, presbyopia diopter (glasses diapoter) is defined as

$$DL = DJ - D_0 + \Delta D/3 \quad (1)$$

In the equation, D_0 is the diopter relevant with reading distance which is normally $-m/3$, thus $D_0 = -3D$.

Figure 2 diagrammatizes equation (1) vividly and clearly: when human eye is relaxed, it can see object at far point P_Y clearly, and with some regulation ability it can see the object at P_1 (P_1 is within the regulation range), then adjust with glasses (diapoter value is DL), the eye can see the object at reading point P_0 clearly. Here, near point P_J is beyond P_0 .

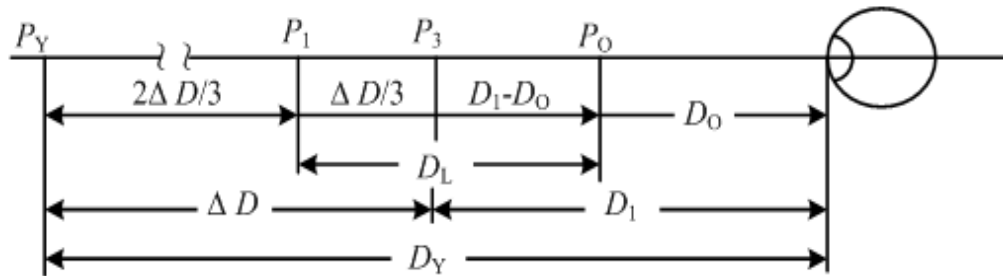


Figure 2. Diagram of presbyopia adjustment

In equation (1), the configuration of $\Delta D/3$ is reasonable, it is clinical experiential data of ophthalmology and its value is $1/3$ of the remaining regulation ability (ΔD). Its physical meaning is: when adjust presbyopia applying glasses, we have to make sure we can invoke $2/3$ of the remaining regulation ability. If presbyopia reads without applying regulation ability but directly adjust with glasses from P_Y to P_0 , the eye senility may be accelerated as ciliaris and crystalline lens are at dormant state for a long time. On the contrary, if we invoke all the regulation ability, our eyes get tired easily.

If an eye has lost all the regulation ability, which means $\Delta D = 0$, its far point coincides with near point, and the equation of presbyopia changes from equation (1) to:

$$DL = DJ - D_0 \quad (2)$$

The physical meaning of equation (2) is: the far point of the relaxed eye is directly adjusted from P_Y (also P_J) to P_0 with glasses.

4. Optical System And The Measurement of Far Point And Near Point of Human Eye

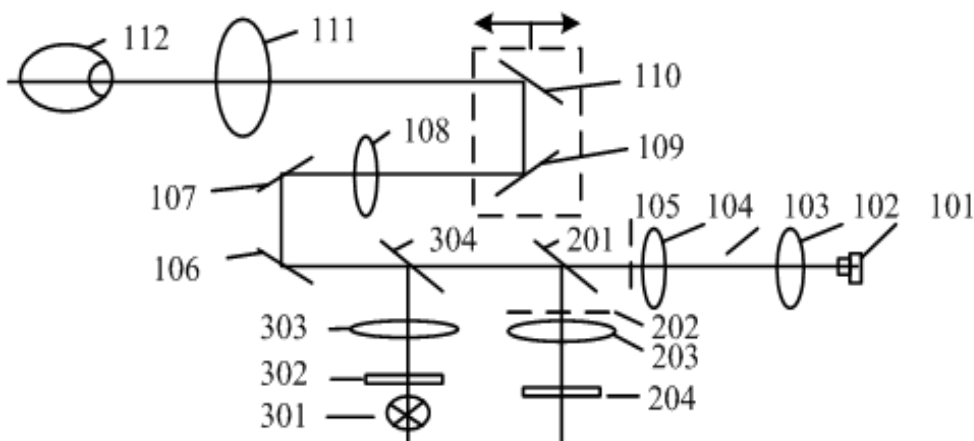


Figure 3. Optical system

The optical system shown in figure 3 can measure far point diopeter and near point diopeter, and can also directly measure hyperopia, myopia and astigmatic degree. In the figure, sequence 100 is projected light path, sequence 200 is measurement light path and sequence 300 is fixation light path. Near-infrared source 101 lights up diaphragm 105 and forms ringlike image then entered eyeball 112. To emmetropic eyes, the image may be projected on retina and reflects there; then the image goes back through the previous pathway and reflects on spectral 201; after that, the image refracts to diaphragm 202 which eliminates stray lights and form ringlike image on area array CCD; the image has fixed diameter. If the tested eye is abnormal eye, the scanner consists of 109 and 110 compensates the light and still projects the ringlike image on retina; then we get ringlike image of the same diameter and the compensation amount of the scanner is the diopeter of far point and near point. If tested eye is astigmatic, the image on CCD will be ellipse and we can get astigmatic degree and axial angle parameter from the length, minor axis and gradient of the ellipse.

In fixation light path, fixation vision image 302 is shined by visible light source 301, then it reflects on splitter 304 and refract to tested eye. Tested eye stare at fixation vision image and regulate diopeter as the scanning of the scanner to get clear vision of fixation vision image, thus we can get the diopeter of far point and near point. The process is shown in figure 4.

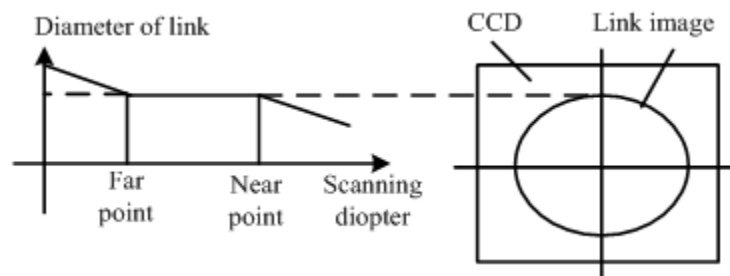


Figure 4. The correlation between scanning diopeter and diameter of ringlike image

Figure 4 shows: (1) As scanning is performed beyond the regulation range of the tested eye, the tested eye can not see things clearly and can not follow the fixation vision image, thus the diopeter value is fixed and focal length of optical system changes during the scanning (or scanning diopeter) which leads to the variation of diameter of ringlike image on CCD.

(2) Between far point and near point, the scanning is within the regulation range of tested eye. As the eye can clearly see things and it can regulate during the scanning when follow fixation vision image, the diopeter value changes during this process. The diopeter value variation of tested eye neutralizes the scanning diopeter, so the diameter of the ringlike image on CCD stays the same.

The far point and near point of tested eye are at the two scanning positions where the diameter of ringlike image changes. At this time, the scanning diopeter is the far point diopeter and near point diopeter of the tested eye [13, 14]. Substitute the acquired far point and near point diopeters in equation (1) we get the presbyopia diopeter. Characteristics of the ringlike image are recognized by the Single Chip Microcomputer, and the whole process is performed by the system automatically and tested object can not feel.

5. Conclusions

To sum up, we get three conclusions from this paper.

- (1) It forms a full-automatic objective presbyopia optometry method by measuring the far point and near point diopeter and calculating the presbyopia diopeter applying scientific computing method.
- (2) Through the analysis of the optical system, we find this method competent for measuring the glasses parameter of hyperopia, myopia and astigmatism. A machine applying this method serves several purposes.
- (3) As the existed full-automatic objective optometry unit used for measuring myopia, hyperopia and astigmatism only needs the tested eye to be relaxed but no diopeter regulation is required, it accomplishes the whole measurement within 1 second. The presbyopia method of this paper which based on human eye diopeter regulation and CCD imaging technology needs a bit more

time. It costs some time for the tested eye to focus on the fixation vision image and regulate the diaphragm during the scanning. So it needs in-depth research and experiment to determine the scanning time. However, this uncertainty does not alter the validity and feasibility of the principle of this method.

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