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Terahertz Beam Shaping with Diffractive Optics for medical applications with examination of scattering effects

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Terahertz (THz) radiation has emerged as a promising tool for non-invasive medical diagnostics, particularly in the context of skin cancer detection, owing to its sensitivity to water content and tissue composition. Skin tissue phantoms — controlled, repeatable models of biological tissue — provide a practical foundation for developing and validating THz-based diagnostic techniques prior to in vivo testing. Since scattering plays a critical role in the interaction of THz radiation with such heterogeneous biological media, a time domain spectroscopy together with specially designed in-reflection setup was used. Additionally for samples that are scattering not only spectroscopy but also a holographic approach was adopted to examine and characterize these scattering effects with high precision.

In case of in-reflection system diffractive optical elements (DOEs) offer compact and flexible solutions for THz beam shaping, enabling miniaturization of the optical setup [1]. For the holographic method a 4-step phase shifting algorithm was used to extract the phase information properly. The reconstruction methods allow determination of changes in the refractive index and absorption coefficient of the examined samples, supporting the characterization of tissue-mimicking phantoms for future THz diagnostics for dermatological applications.

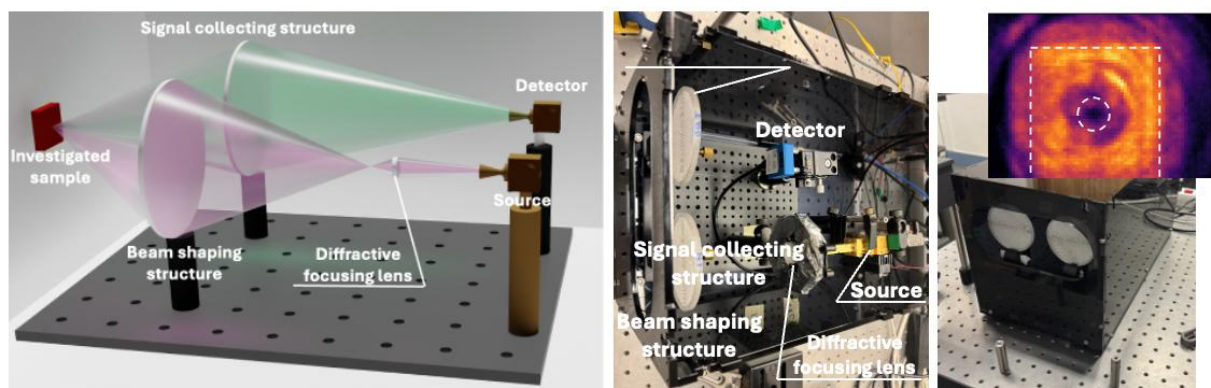


Fig. 1. Scheme of the in-reflection setup with it's photograph inside a demonstrator and exemplary scan.

REFERENCES

- [1] A. Siemion; *Journal of Infrared, Millimeter, and Terahertz Waves* **40** (2019) pp. 477–499.