

# "INVERSE ILLUMINATION METHOD FOR CHARACTERIZATION OF CPC CONCENTRATORS"

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<sup>5</sup>EURAC, Bolzano (I)

# OUTLINE

Introduction

The "direct" method of optical characterization

The "inverse" method of optical characterization

Applications of the "inverse" method

- \* Half-Truncated CPC (HT-CPC)

- \* Truncated and Squared CPC (TS-CPC)

Conclusions

# INTRODUCTION

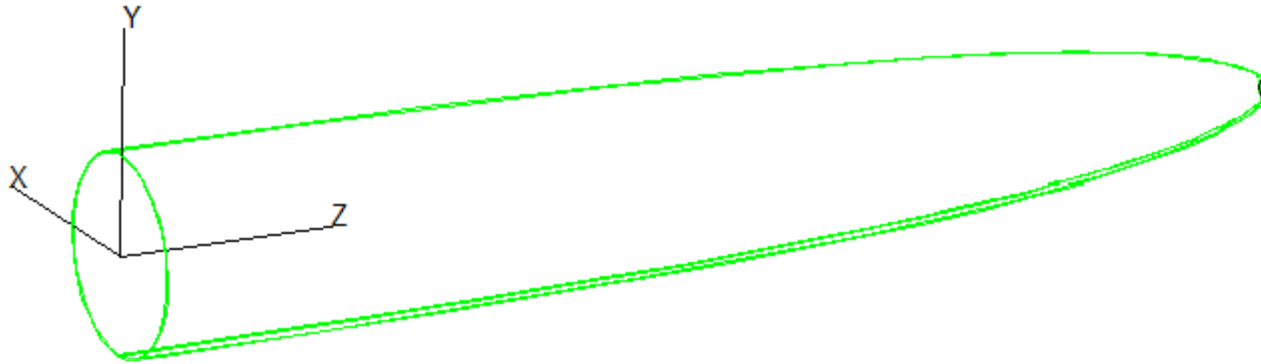
CPC concentrators have been widely used as secondary collectors for Solar Concentration Systems.

Their specific characteristics is the ability to attain the maximal optical acceptance for a given level of optical concentration.

Real CPC systems, however, may suffer from mechanical defects introduced during the realization stage.

A quick method is therefore needed to assess the actual acceptance and energy transfer efficiency in correspondence of beams incoming under different impinging angles.

## A version of an ideal 3D-CPC



ideal cpc

$r(\text{out}) = 5 \text{ mm}$

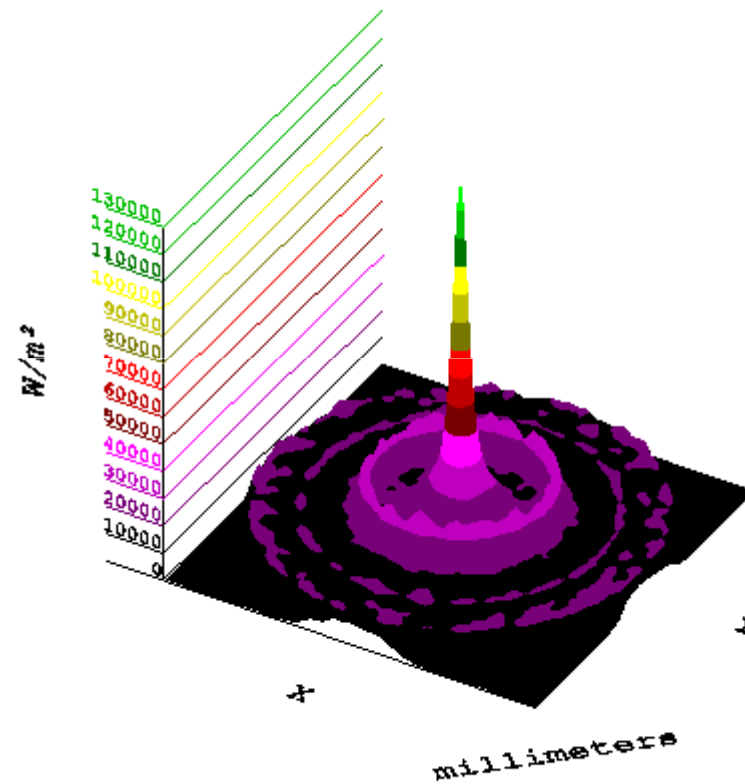
Axis tilt =  $5^\circ$

$r(\text{in}) = 57.4 \text{ mm}$

$L = 712.9 \text{ mm}$

... and its target illumination profile for normal irradiance

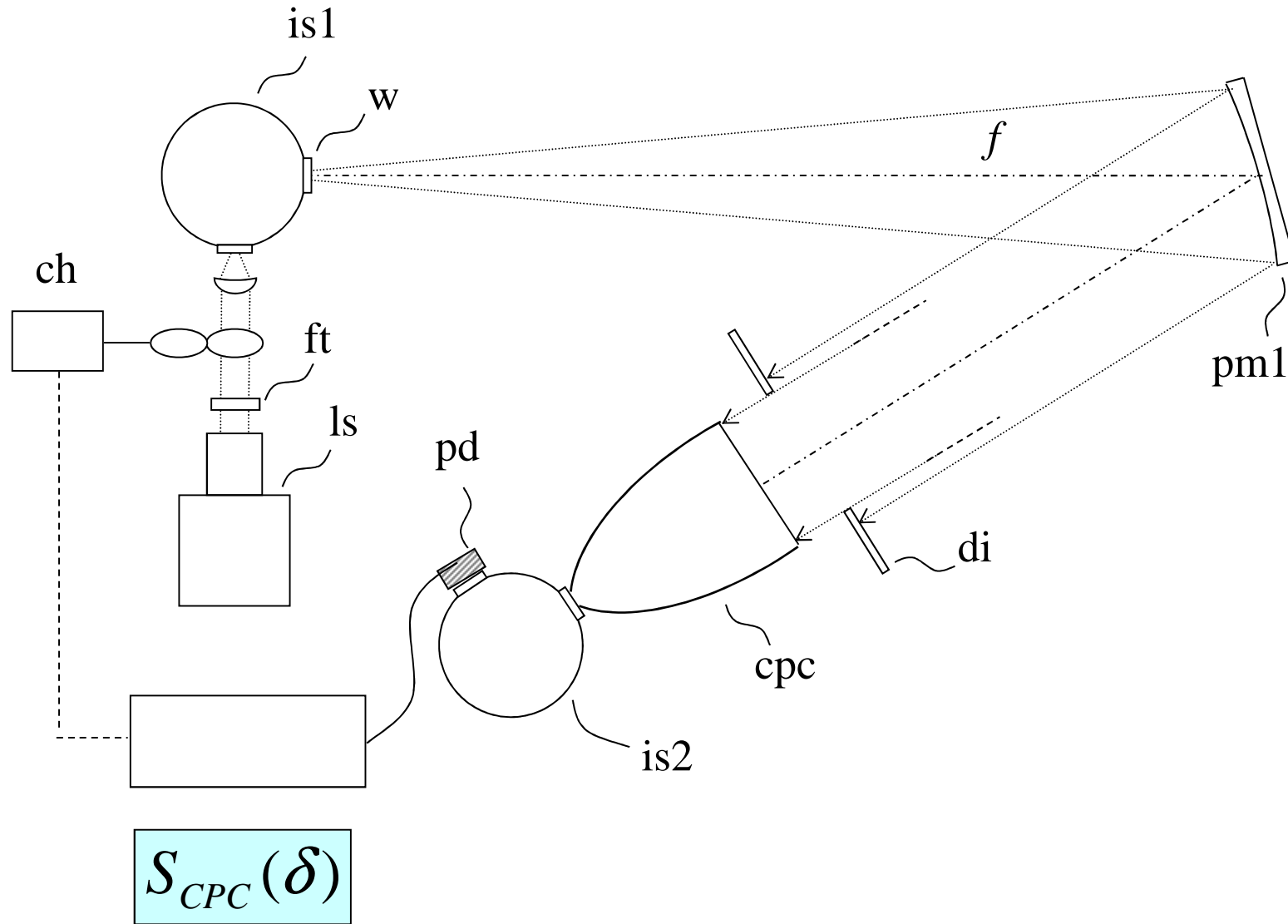
Total - Irradiance Map for Absorbed Flux  
Object 2 Surface 1



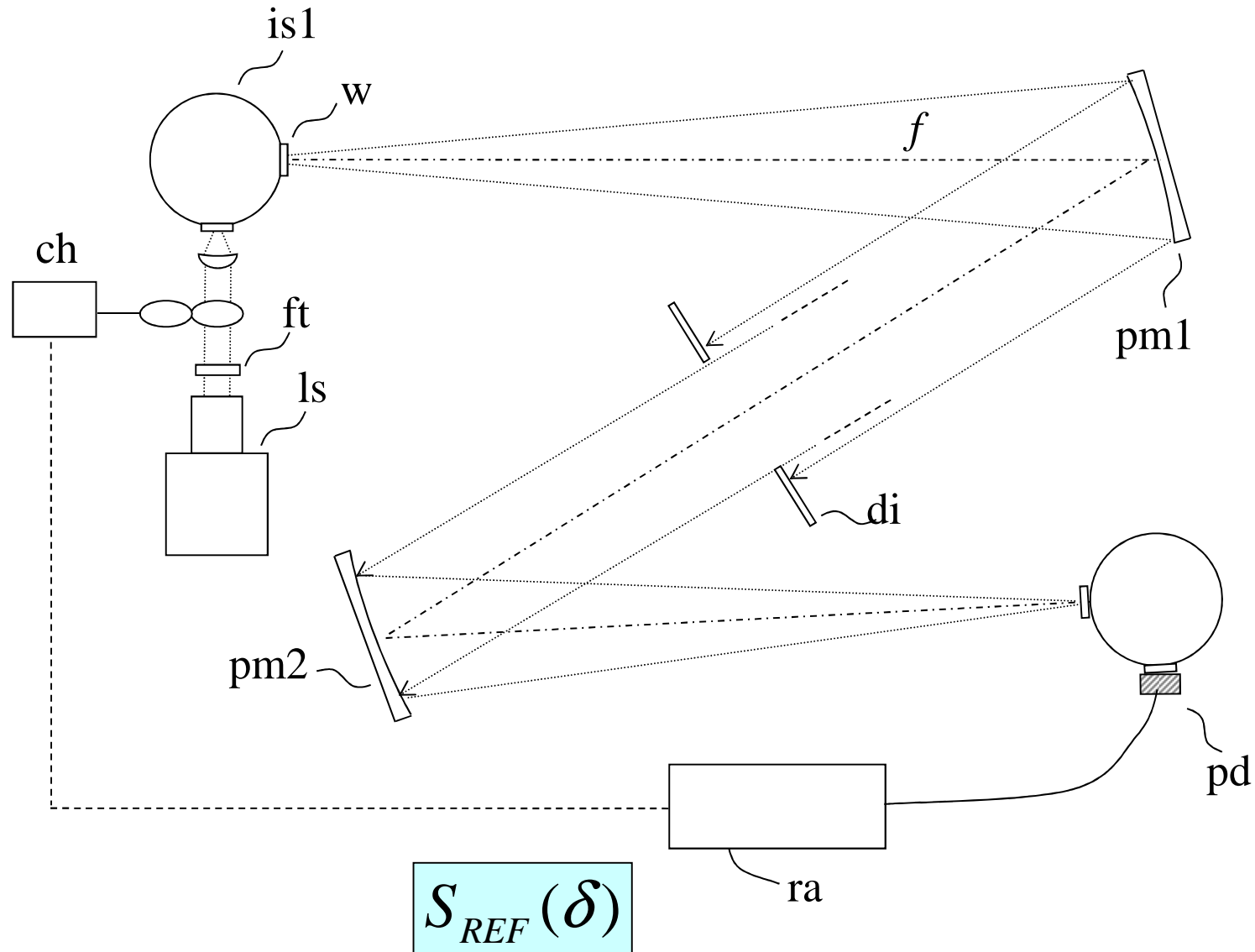
Irradiance Min:2.5392e-008  $W/m^2$ , Max:1.285e+005  $W/m^2$ , Ave:8680.3  $W/m^2$ ,  
RMS:7121.5, Normalized Flux:0.86803 49954 Incident Rays

DIRECT METHOD FOR OPTICAL  
CHARACTERIZATION  
OF SOLAR CONCENTRATORS

# Measurement of input flux



# Measurement of output flux

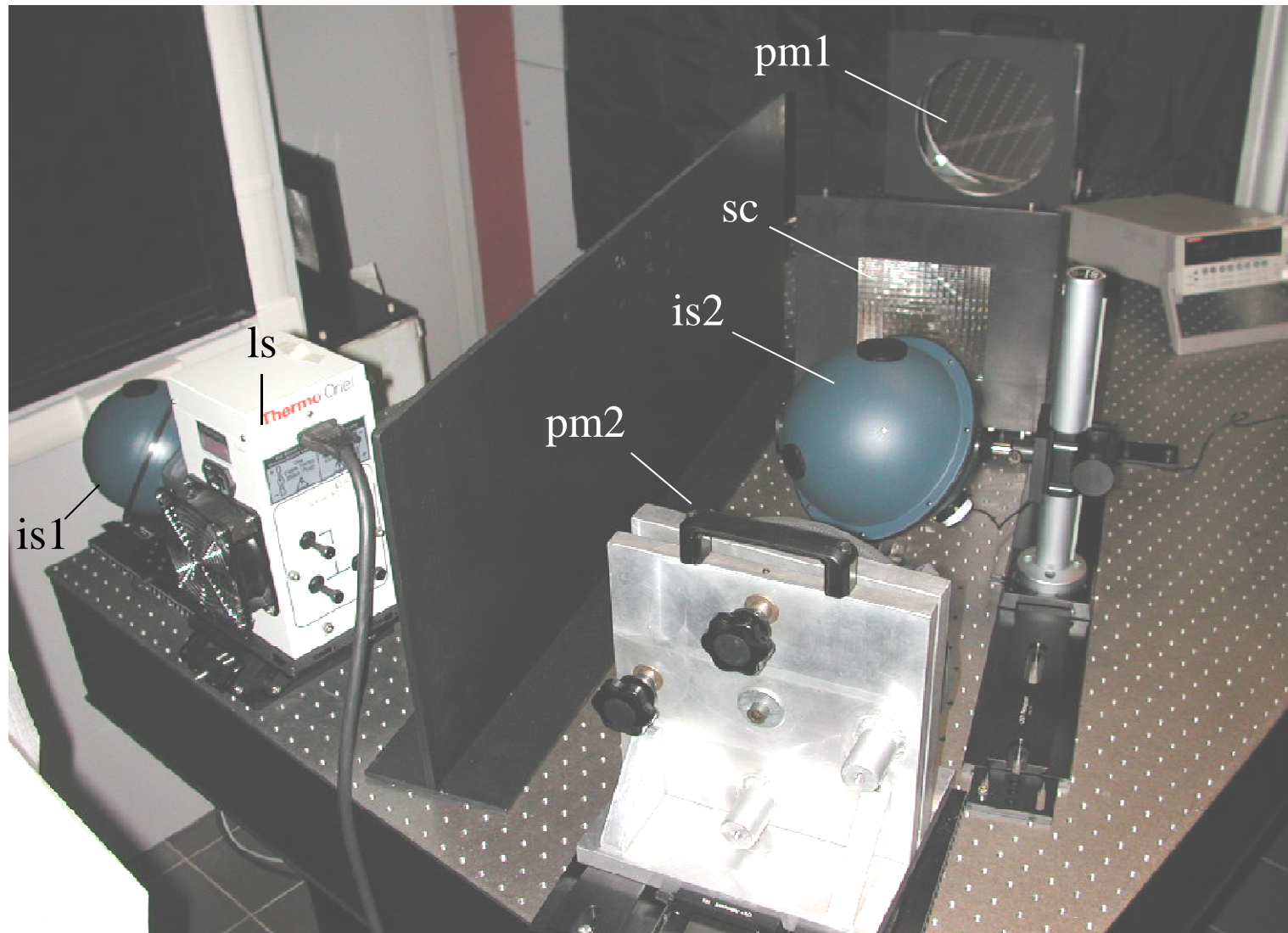




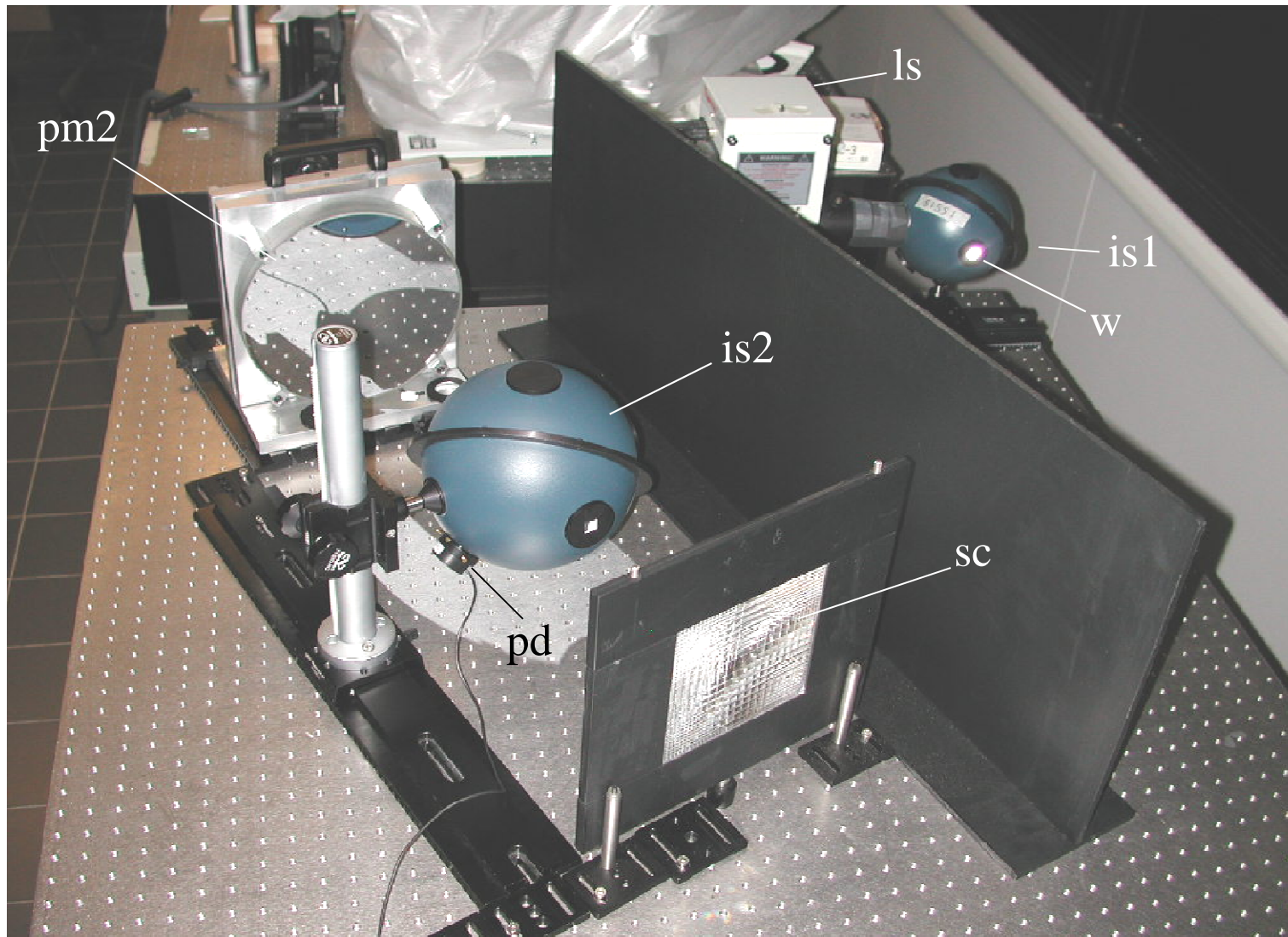
Optical efficiency as function  
of incidence angle  $\delta$

$$\eta(\delta) = S_{CPC}(\delta) \cdot \frac{R_{pm}}{S_{REF}}$$

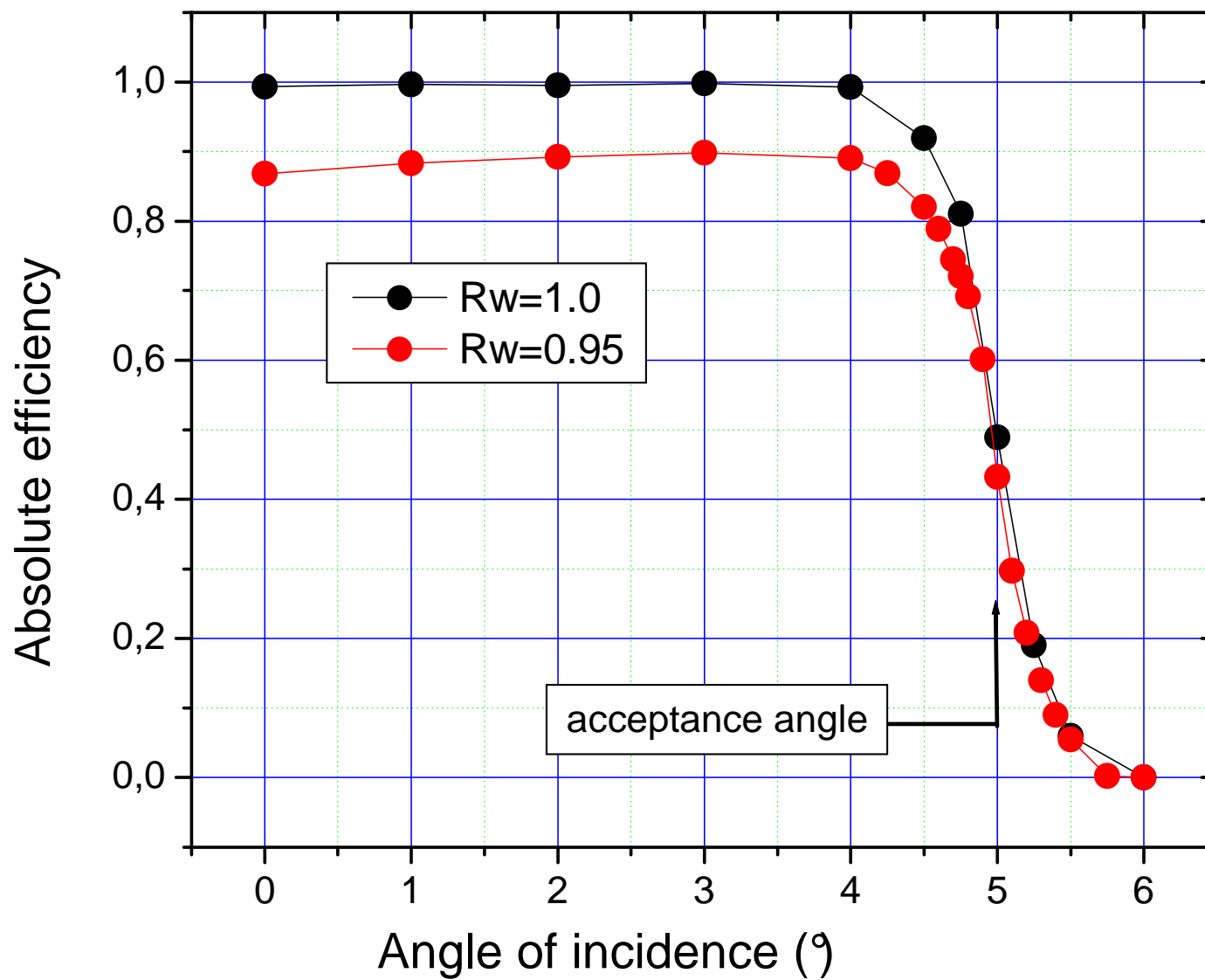
# The optical apparatus



# The optical apparatus



# The optical efficiency



## Average number of reflections

$$R_w = 1.0 \quad (\text{constant with } \delta)$$

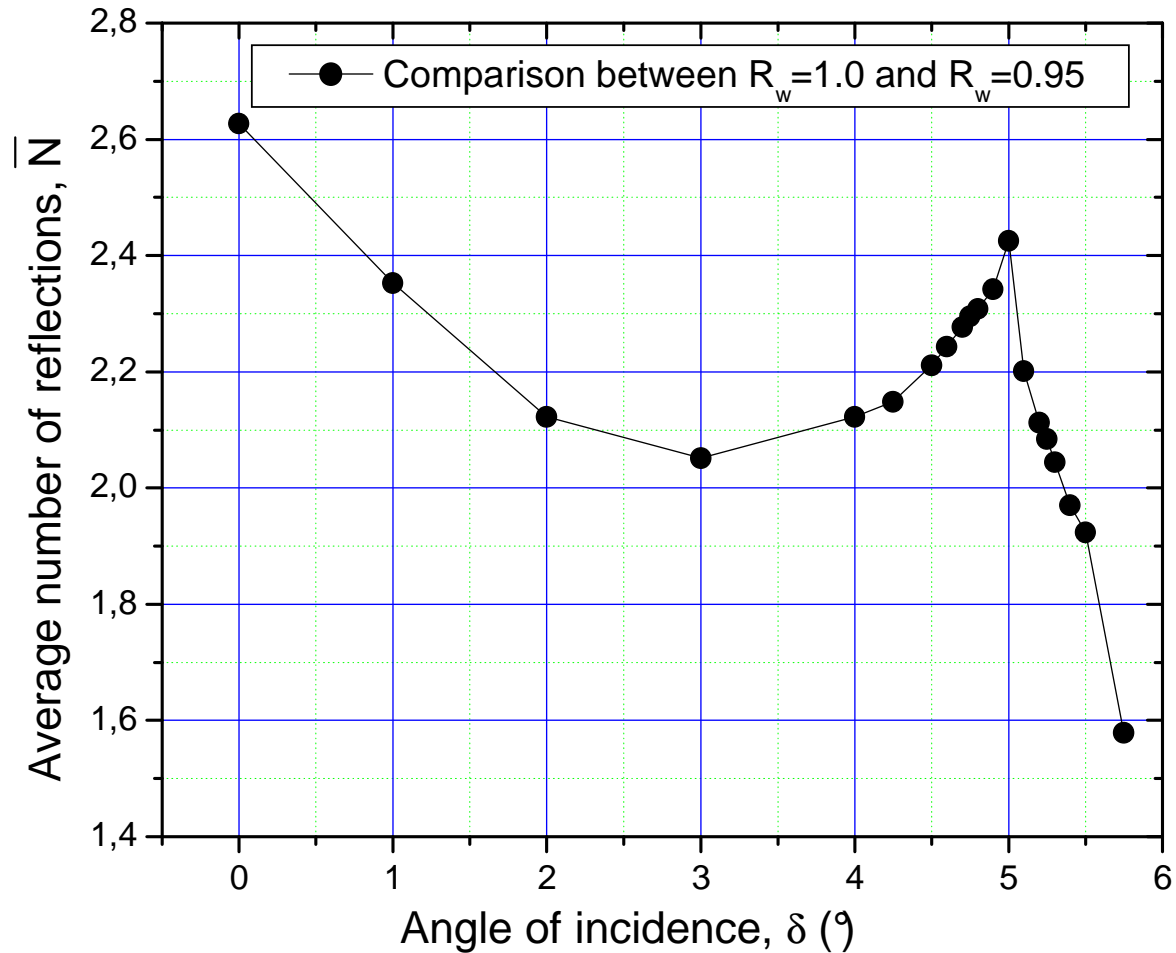
$$\eta(\delta) = \Phi_{out}(\delta) / \Phi_{in}$$

$$R'_w = 0.95 \quad (\text{constant with } \delta)$$

$$\eta'(\delta) = \Phi'_{out}(\delta) / \Phi_{in} = \Phi_{out}(\delta) \cdot (R'_w)^{\bar{N}(\delta)} / \Phi_{in}$$

$$\bar{N}(\delta) = \frac{1}{\ln R'_w} \cdot \ln \frac{\eta'(\delta)}{\eta(\delta)}$$

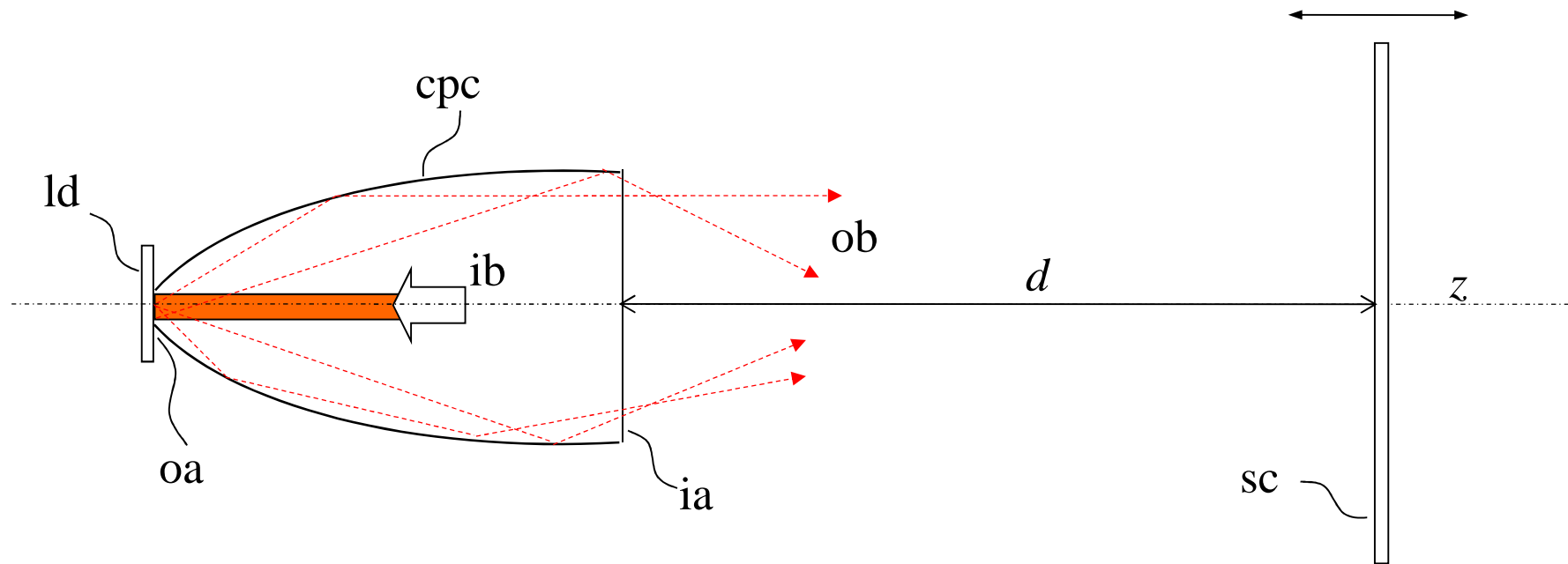
# Average number of reflections



Obtained by comparison between output flux of CPC at  $R_w=1$  and  $R_w=0.95$

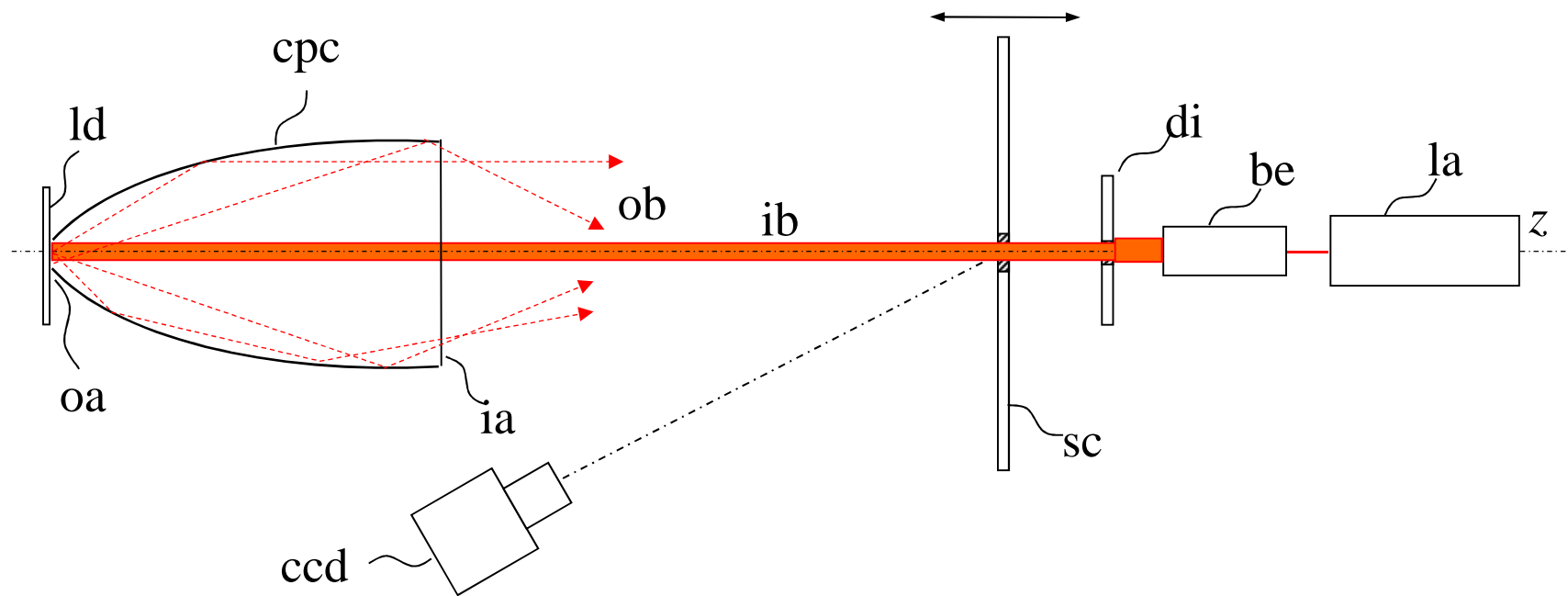
INVERSE METHOD FOR OPTICAL  
CHARACTERIZATION  
OF SOLAR CONCENTRATORS

# The basic principle



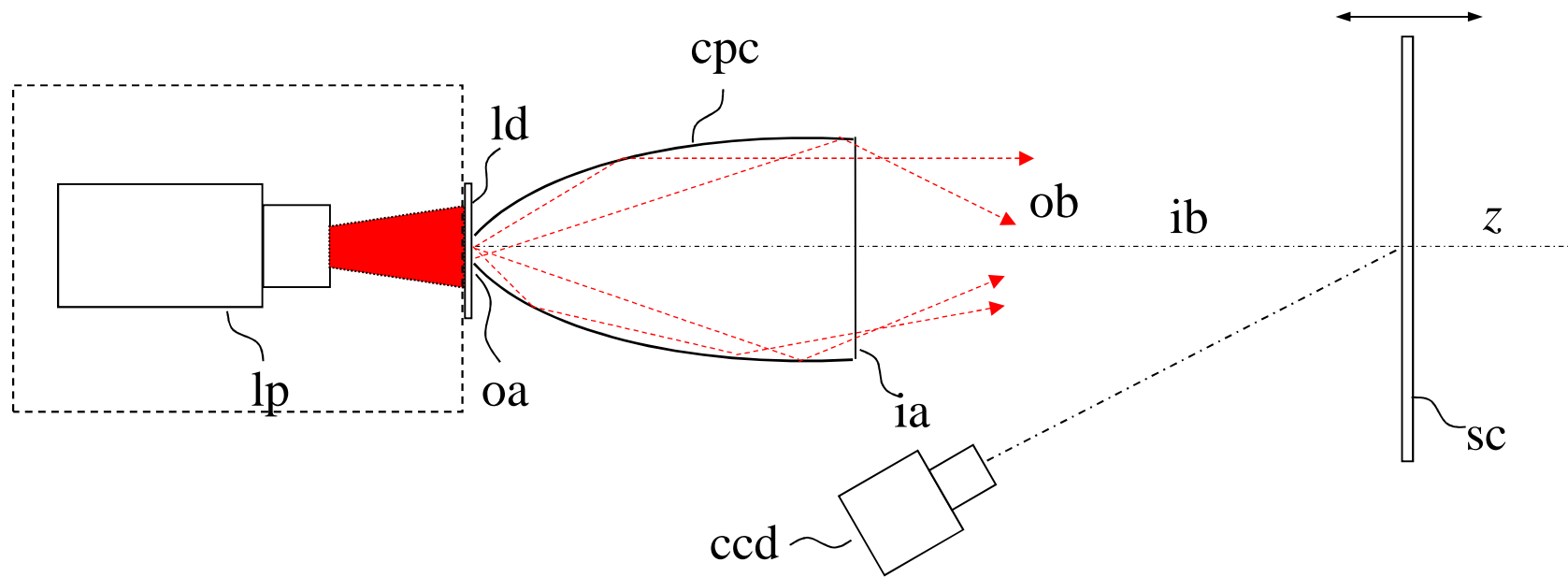


# Experimental set-up



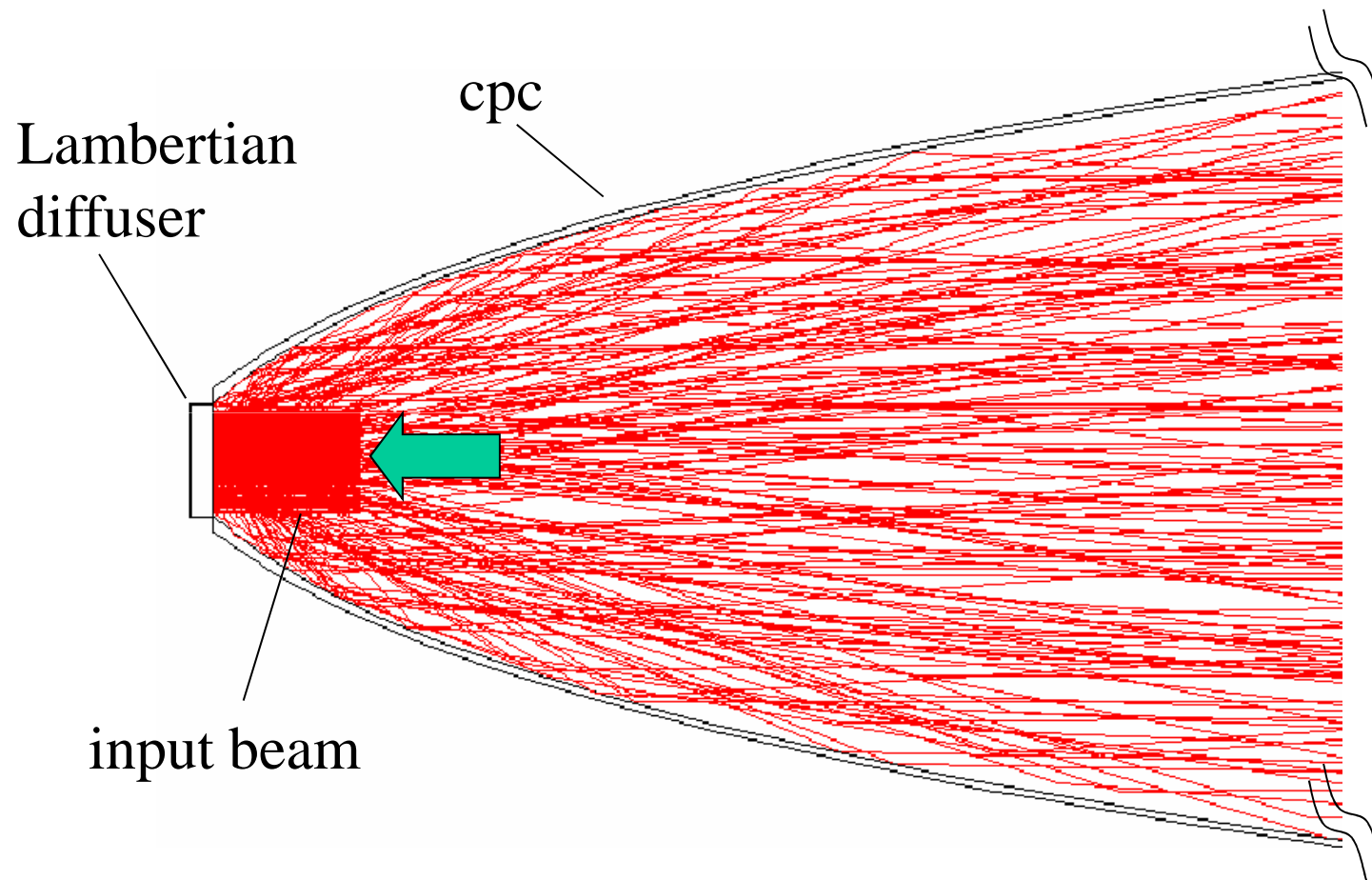
Illumination from the front side

# Experimental set-up



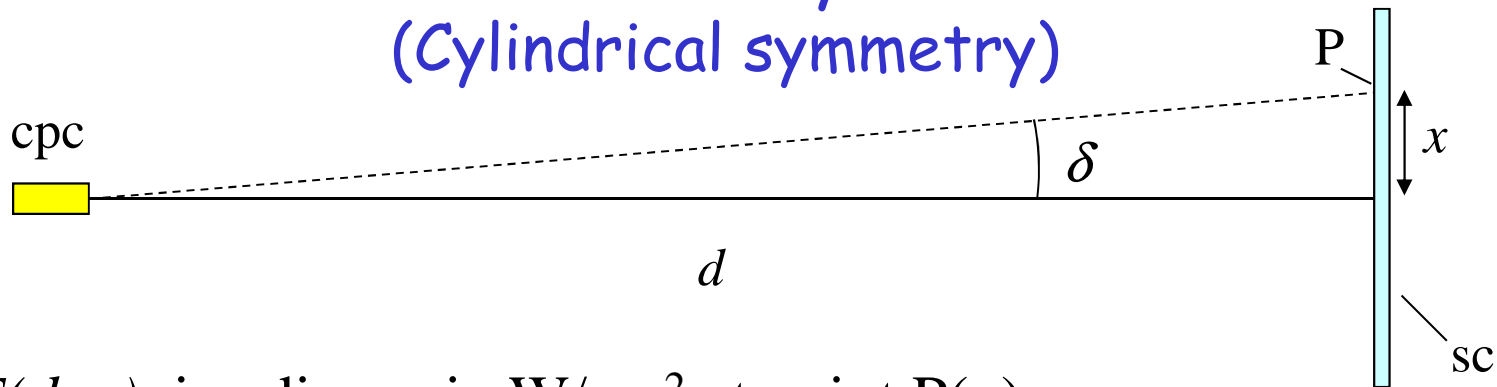
Illumination from the back side

# Example of raytracing with TracePro®



THEORY OF  
INVERSE METHOD

# Theory (Cylindrical symmetry)



$E(d, x)$ : irradiance in  $\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  at point  $P(x)$

$L(\delta)$ : radiant intensity

$$L(\delta) = L(d, x) = E(d, x) \cdot \frac{r^2}{\cos^2 \delta} = E(d, x) \cdot \frac{d^2}{\cos^4 \delta}$$

$L_{rel}(\delta)$ : relative radiance

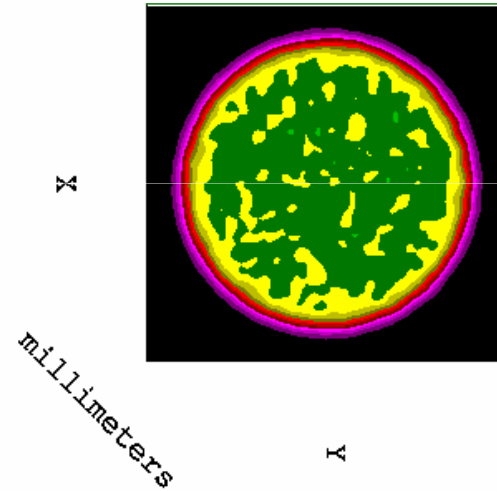
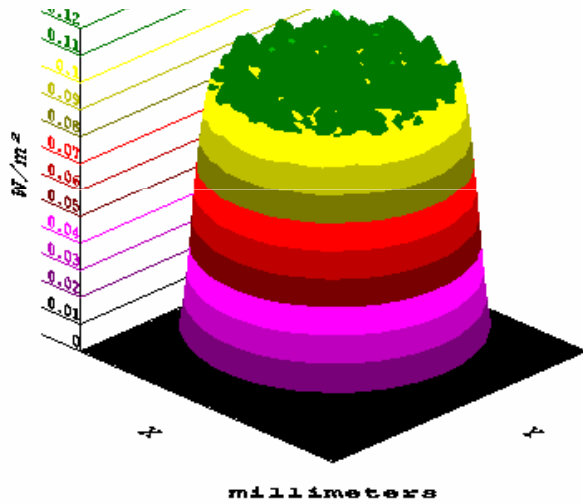
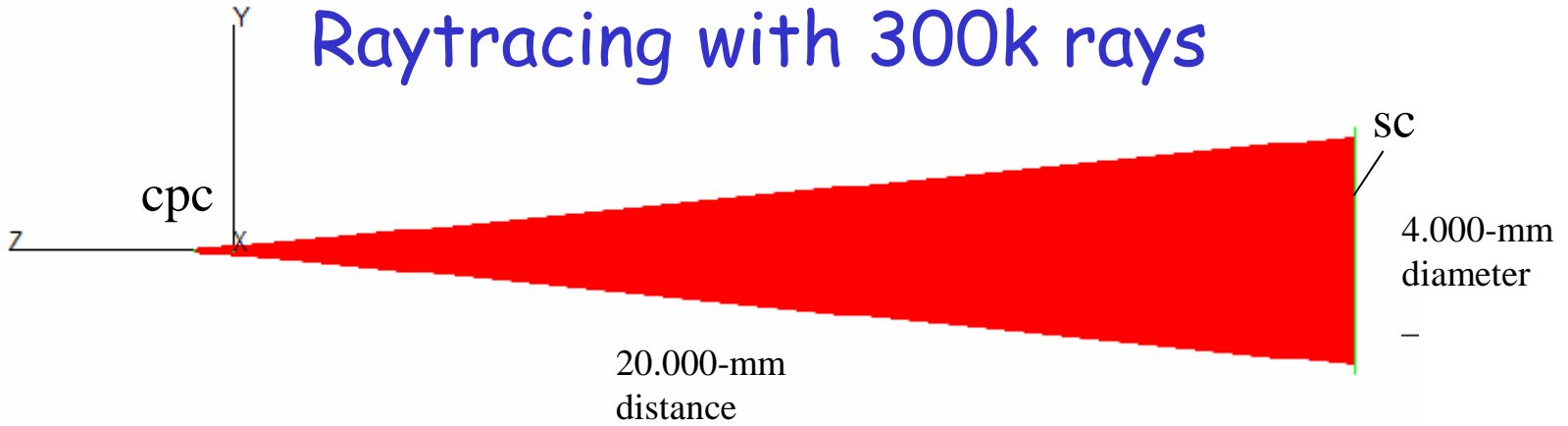
$$L_{rel}(\delta) = \frac{L(\delta)}{L(0)} = \frac{E(d, x)}{E(d, 0)} \cdot \frac{1}{\cos^4 \delta} = E_{rel}(d, x) \cdot \frac{1}{\cos^4 \delta}$$

# Theory

$$L_{rel}(\delta) = \eta_{rel}(\delta)$$

$\eta_{rel}(\delta)$  = relative optical efficiency of CPC concentrator

# Raytracing with 300k rays

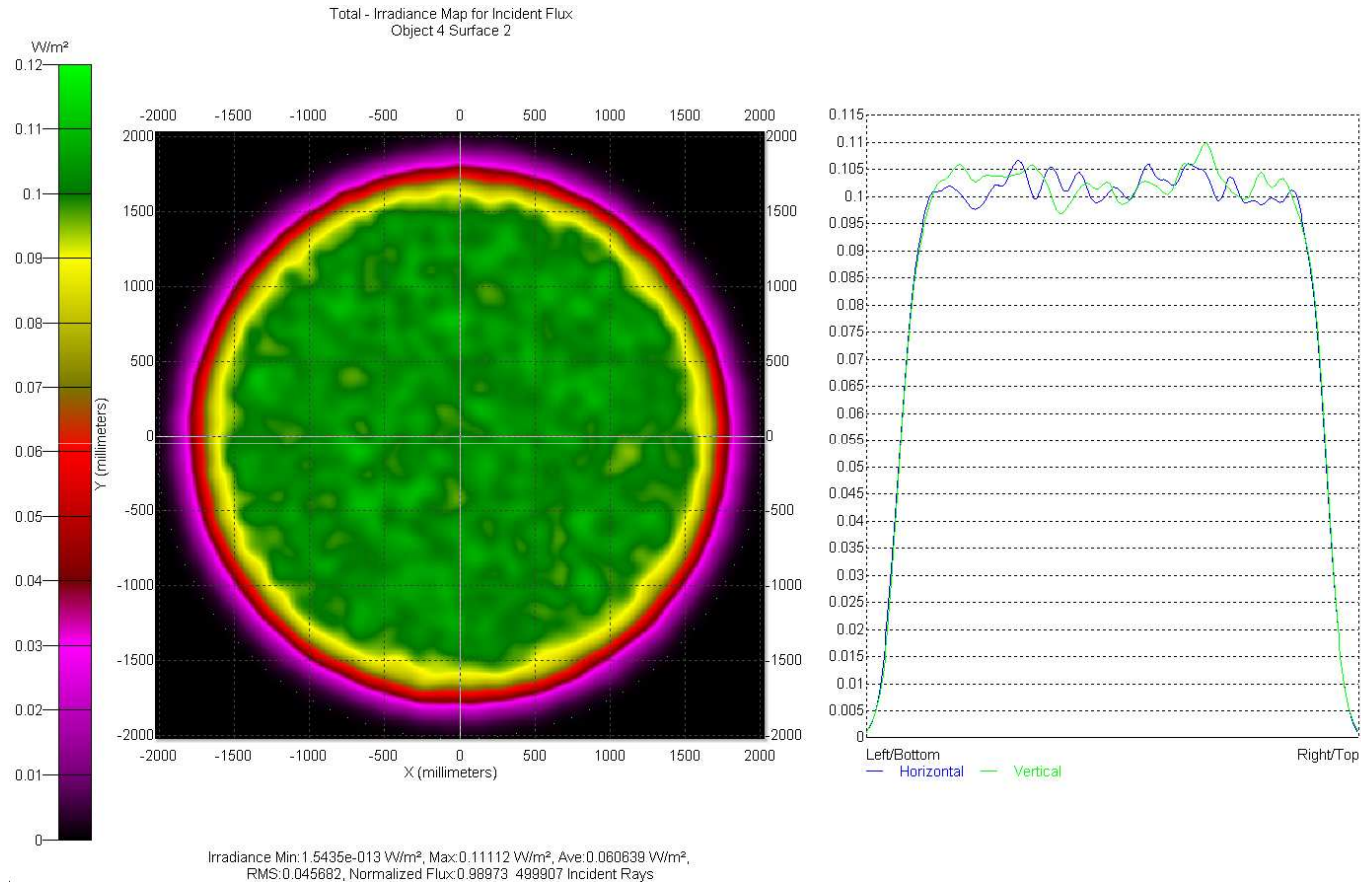


Irradiance Min:2.5208e-015 W/m<sup>2</sup>, Max:0.11119 W/m<sup>2</sup>, Ave:0.051136 W/m<sup>2</sup>,  
RMS:0.047289, Normalized Flux:0.99 300000 Incident Rays

Irradiance Min:2.5208e-015 W/m<sup>2</sup>, Max:0.11119 W/m<sup>2</sup>, Ave:0.051136 W/m<sup>2</sup>,  
RMS:0.047289, Normalized Flux:0.99 300000 Incident Rays

Irradiance distribution on the screen at large distance

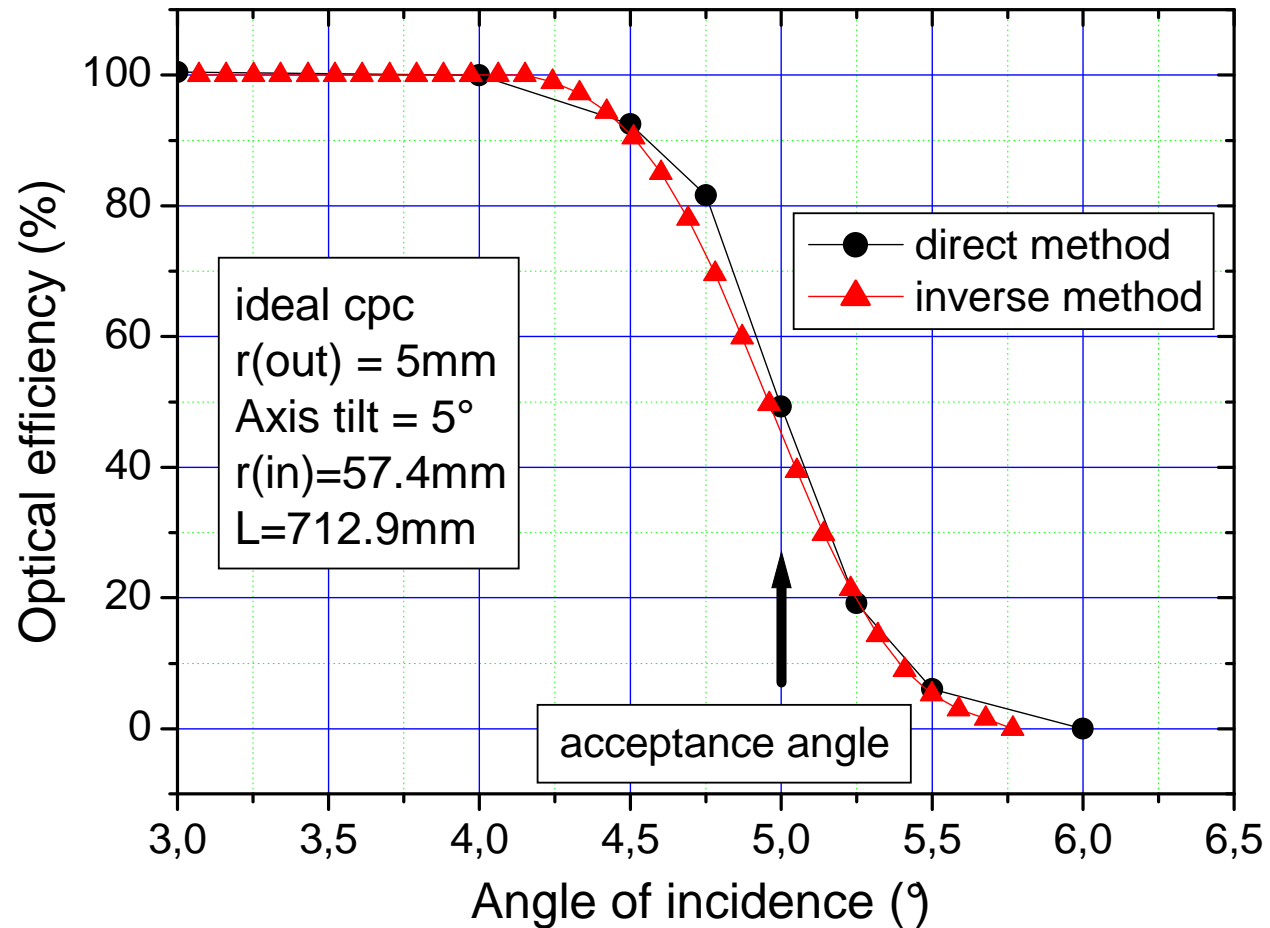
# Irradiance distribution



Irradiance map (left) and x/y profile (right) (500k rays)



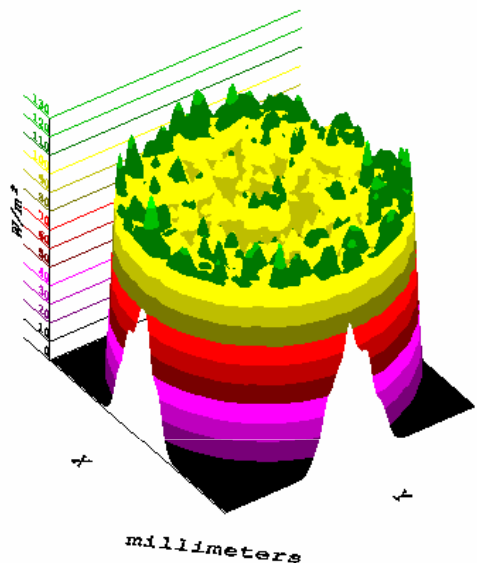
# Optical efficiency



Comparison between direct and inverse method

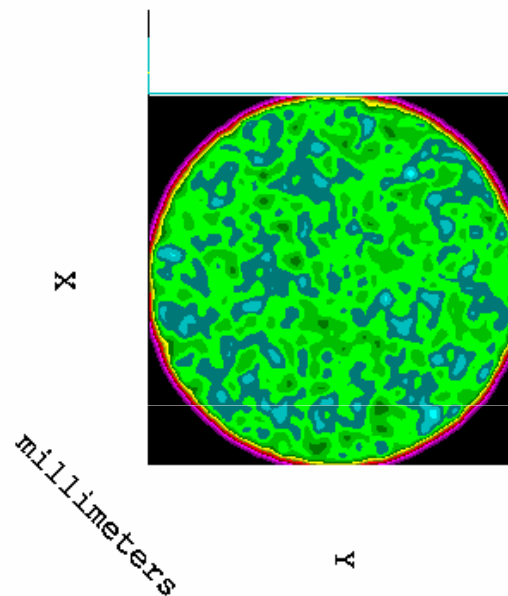
# Irradiance distribution

Total - Irradiance Map for Absorbed Flux  
Object 3 Surface 2

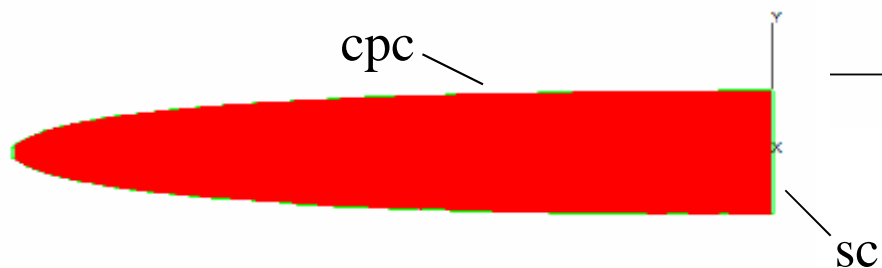


Irradiance Min:1.8876e-009 W/m², Max:126.03 W/m², Ave:74.863 W/m²,  
RMS:37.248, Normalized Flux:0.98556 100000 Incident Rays

Total - Irradiance Map for Absorbed Flux  
Object 2 Surface 1



Irradiance Min:7.7066e-010 W/m², Max:156.74 W/m², Ave:99.585 W/m²,  
RMS:49.69, Normalized Flux:0.0099585 100000 Incident Rays



Screen faced directly on the CPC aperture

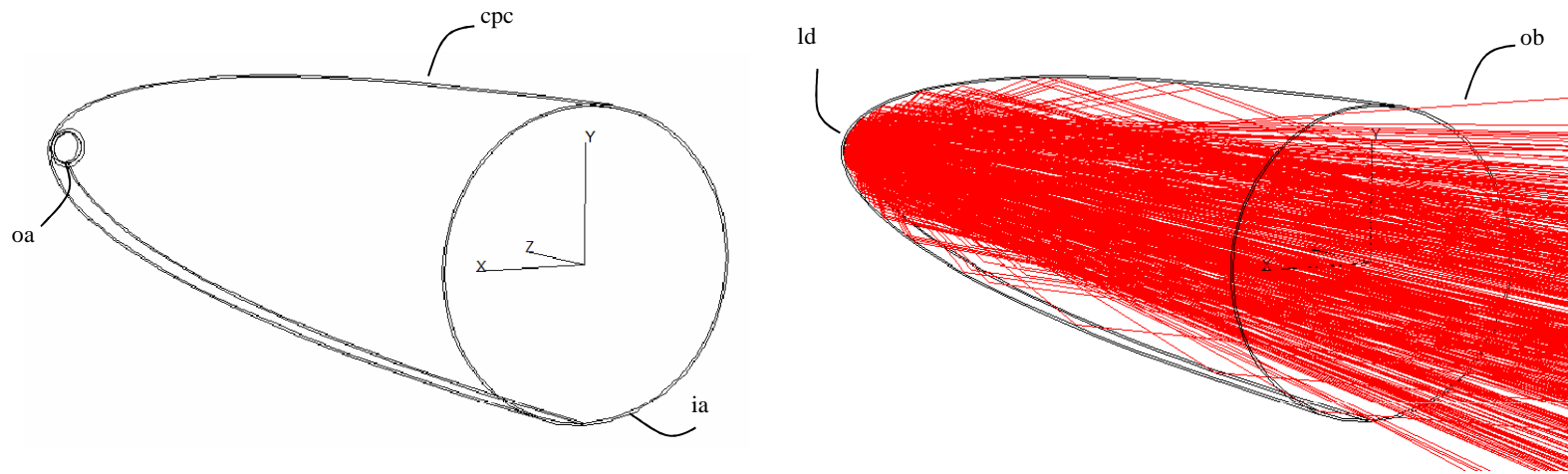
# APPLICATIONS

Half-Truncated CPC (HT-CPC)

Inverse analysis

Simulations with TracePro

# Half-Truncated CPC (HT-CPC)



HT-CPC

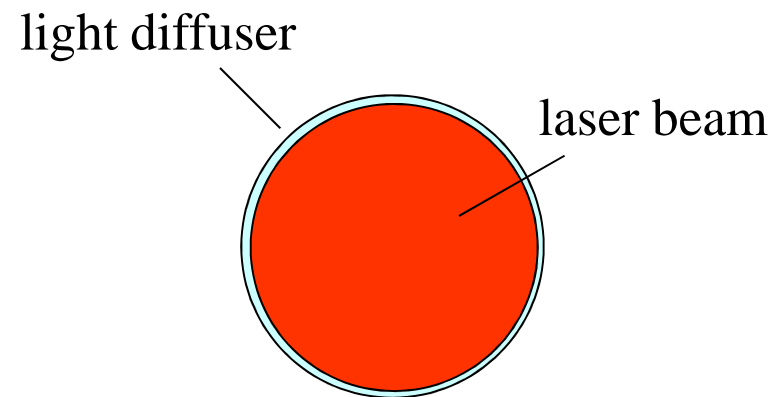
$r(\text{out}) = 5 \text{ mm}$

Axis tilt =  $5.1^\circ$

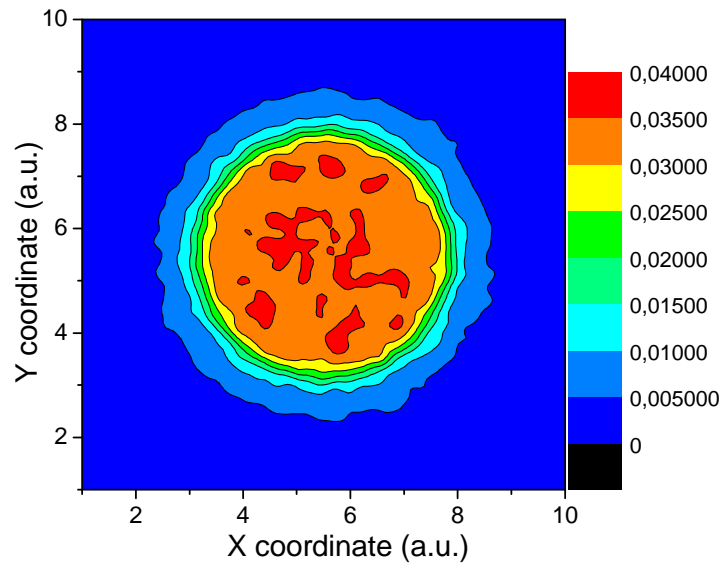
$r(\text{in}) = 52 \text{ mm}$

$L = 358 \text{ mm}$

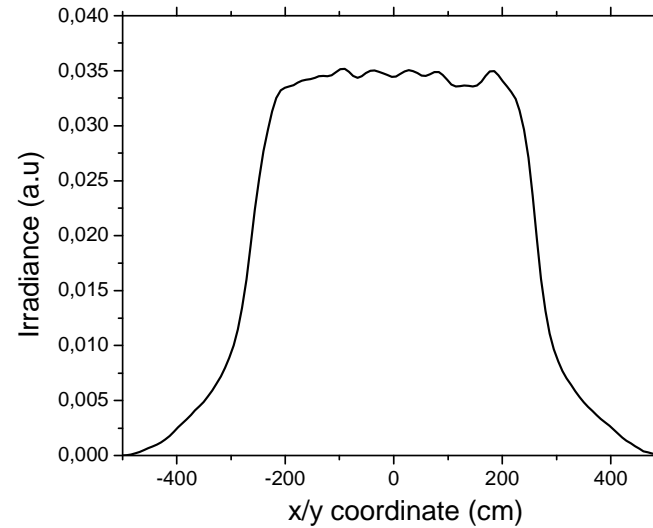
Centered laser beam  
diffuser totally illuminated  
Screen at large distance



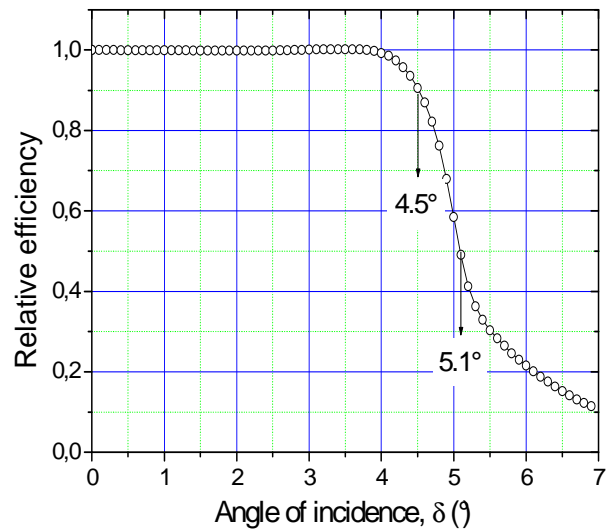
# Inverse analysis (HT-CPC)



Irradiance surface



Irradiance x/y profile

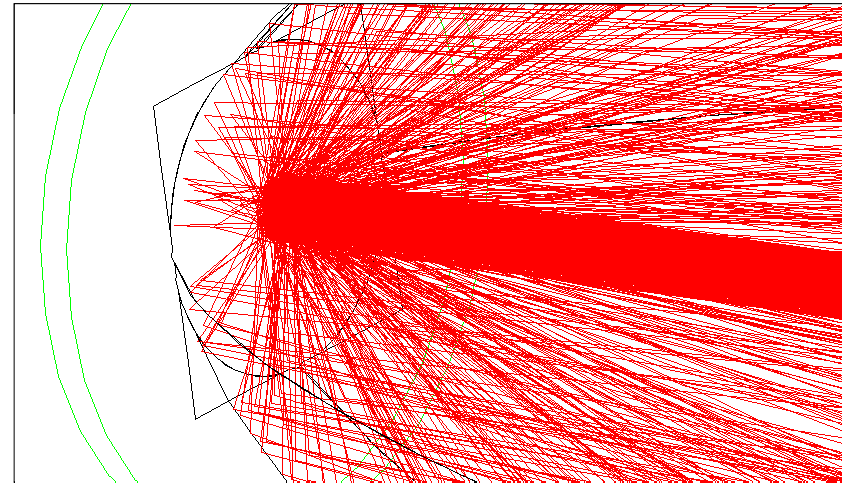
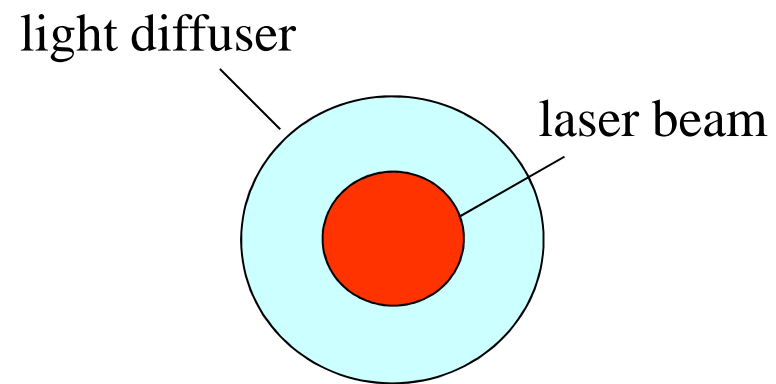


Relative efficiency

Acceptance angle:

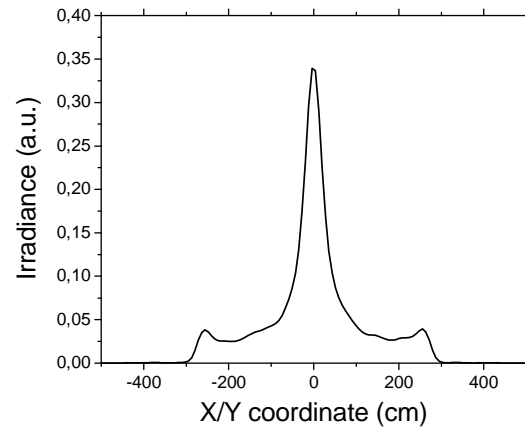
4,5° (90% Efficiency)  
5,1° (50% Efficiency)

# Centered laser beam with variable cross section

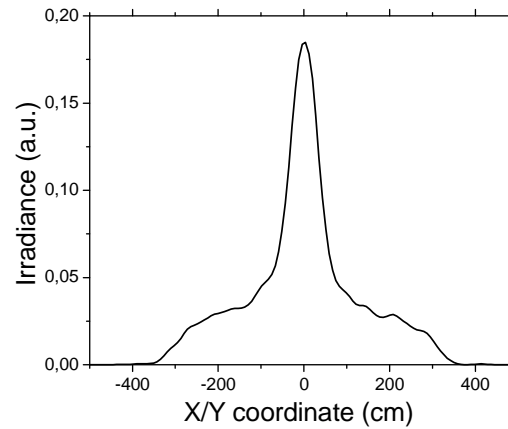




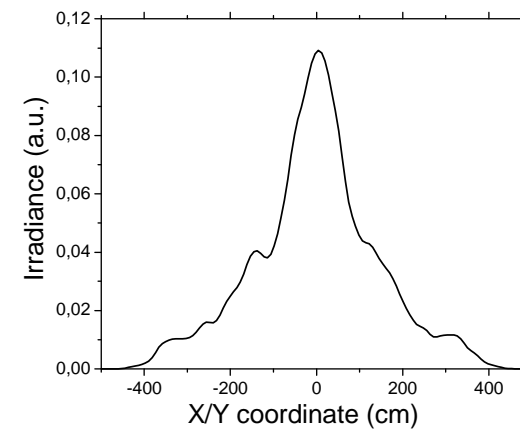
# Inverse analysis (HT-CPC)



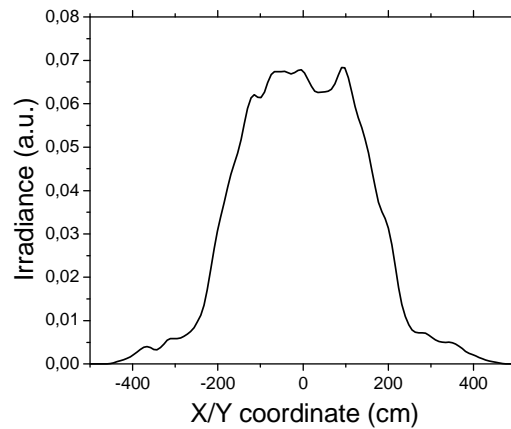
$R= 0.05$  mm



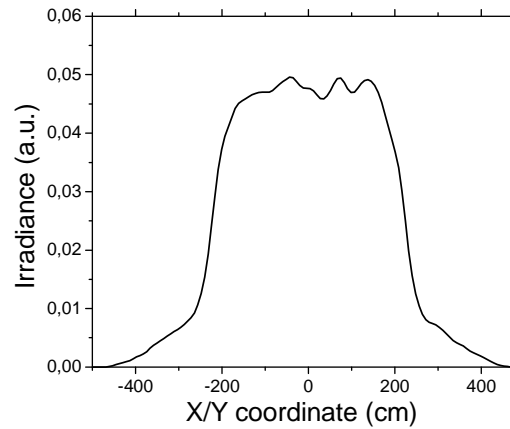
$R= 0.5$  mm



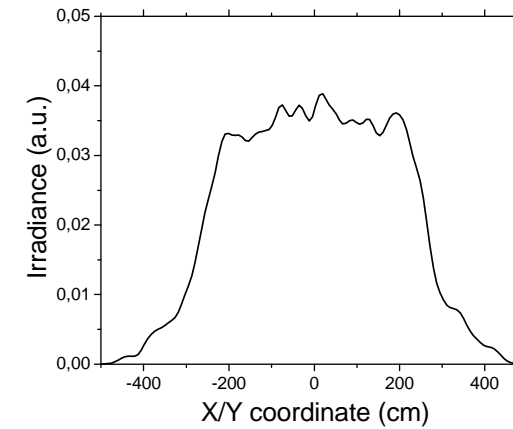
$R= 1.0$  mm



$R= 2.5$  mm

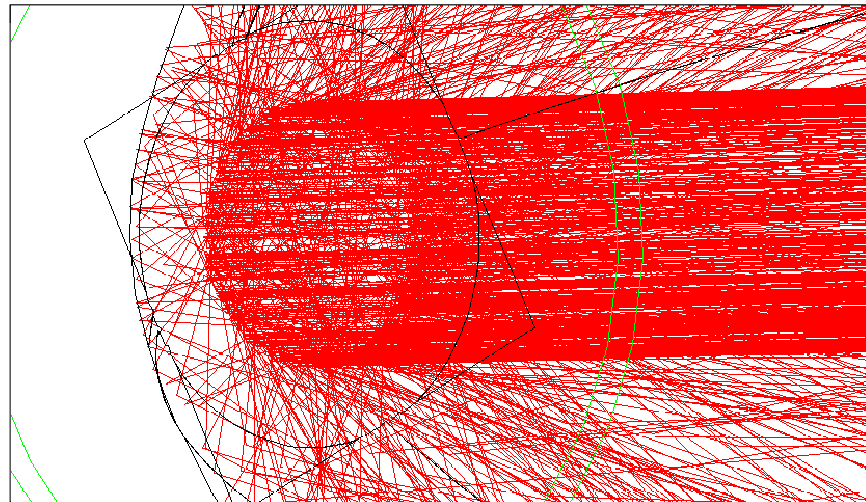
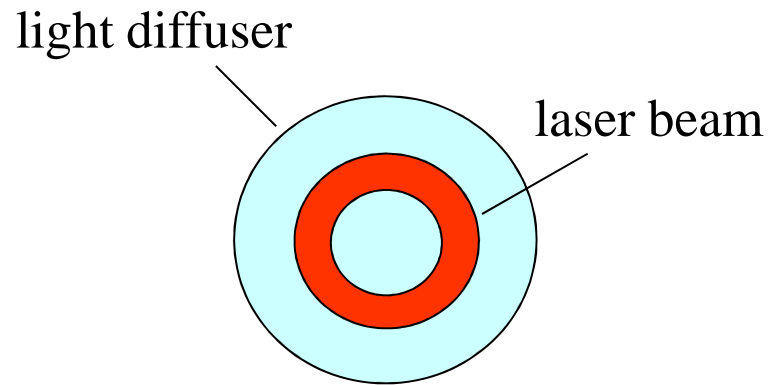


$R= 3.5$  mm

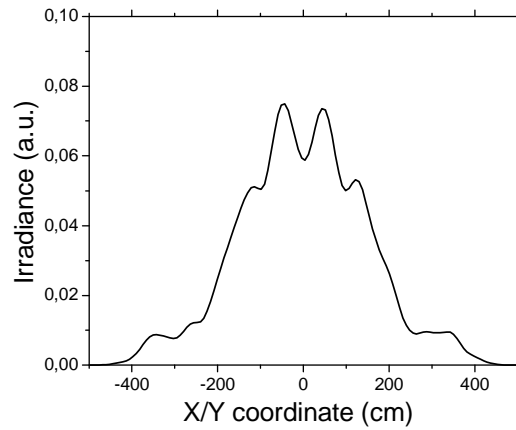


$R= 5.0$  mm

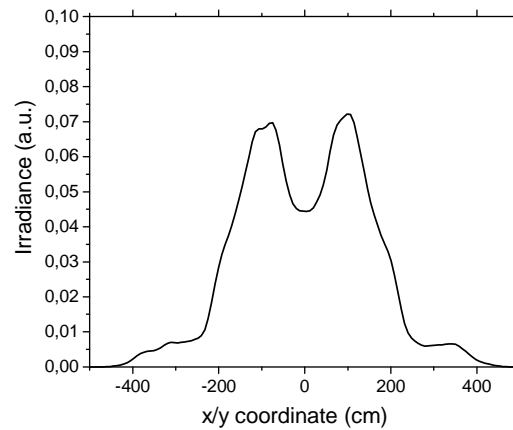
Centered laser beam with  
shape of annulus and  
variable internal radius  
(constant area =  $3.14 \text{ mm}^2$ )



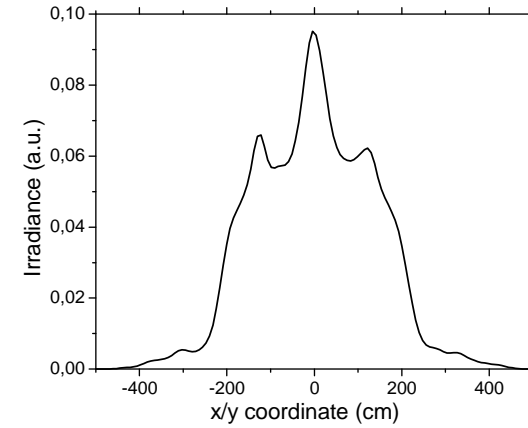
# Inverse analysis (HT-CPC)



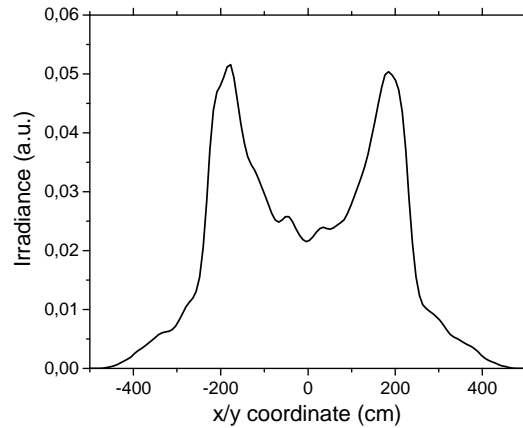
$R= 0.5$  mm



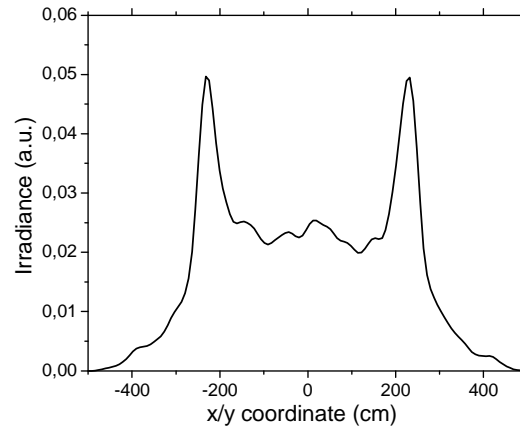
$R= 1.0$  mm



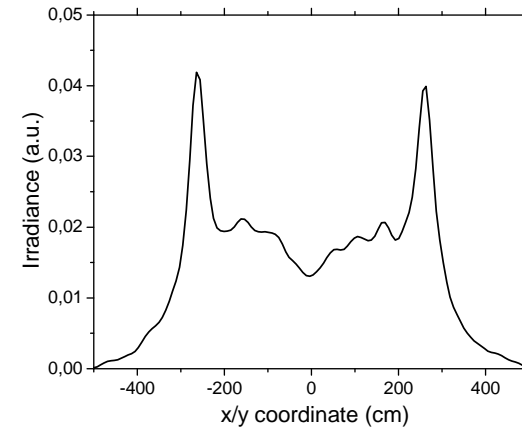
$R= 2.0$  mm



$R= 3.0$  mm

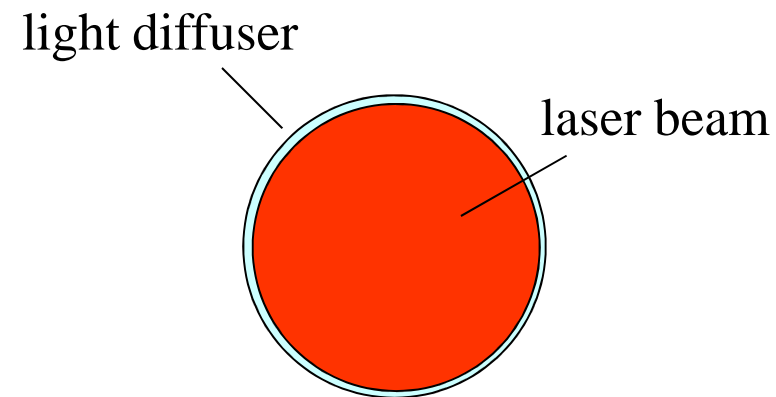


$R= 4.0$  mm



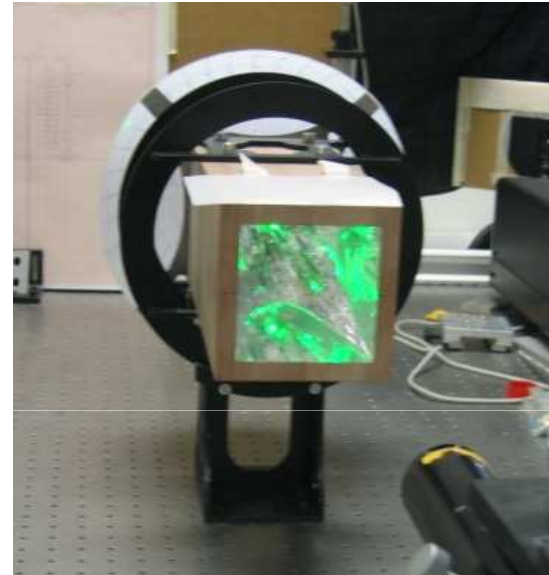
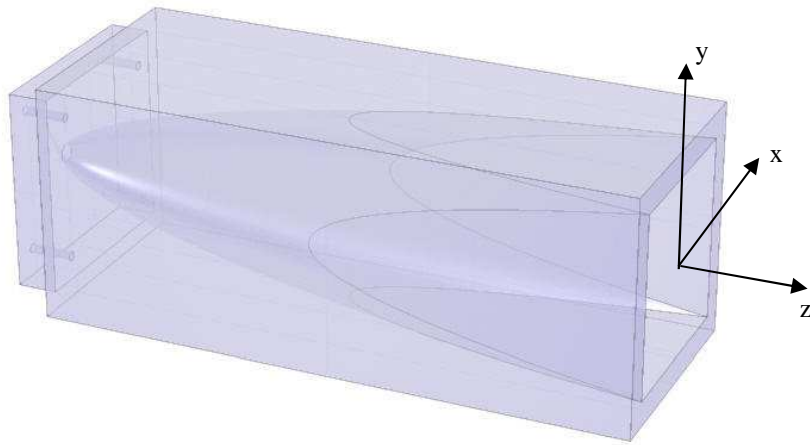
$R= 4.9$  mm

Centered laser beam  
Diffuser totally illuminated  
Screen at variable distance



.....

# Truncated and Squared CPC (TS-CPC)



TS-CPC

$r(\text{out}) = 5 \text{ mm}$

$l(\text{in}) = 100 \text{ mm}$

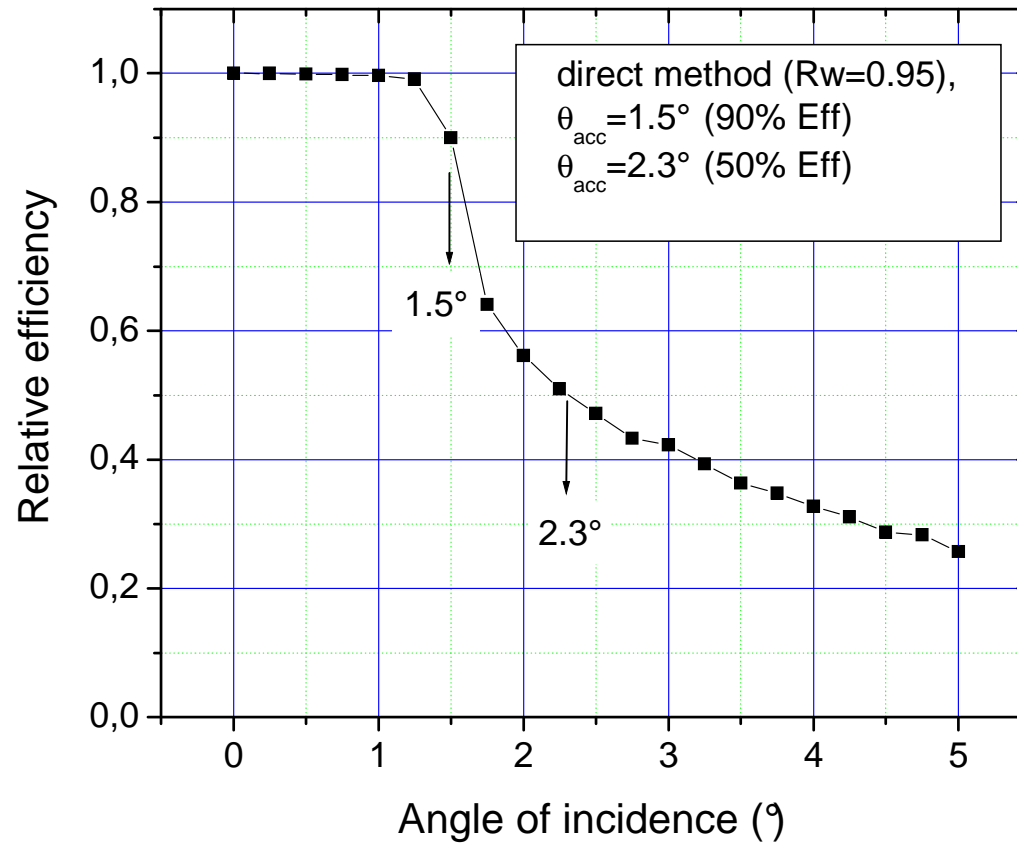
$L = 350 \text{ mm}$

# Truncated and Squared CPC (TS-CPC)

Direct analysis

Simulations with TracePro

# Truncated and Squared CPC (TS-CPC)



Acceptance angle:

1.5° (90% Efficiency)  
2.3° (50% Efficiency)

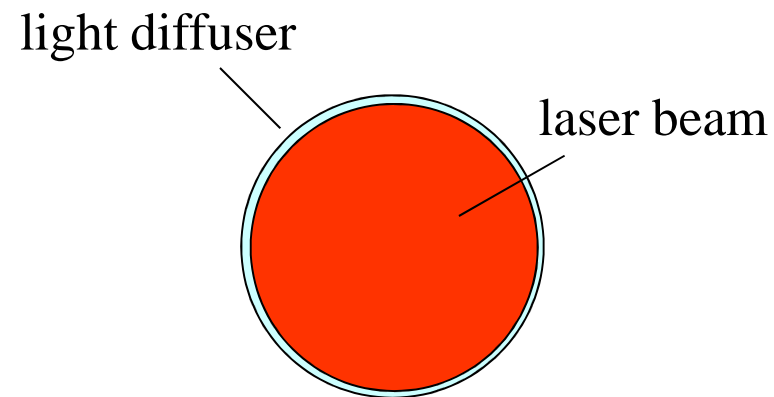


Truncated and Squared CPC (TS-CPC)

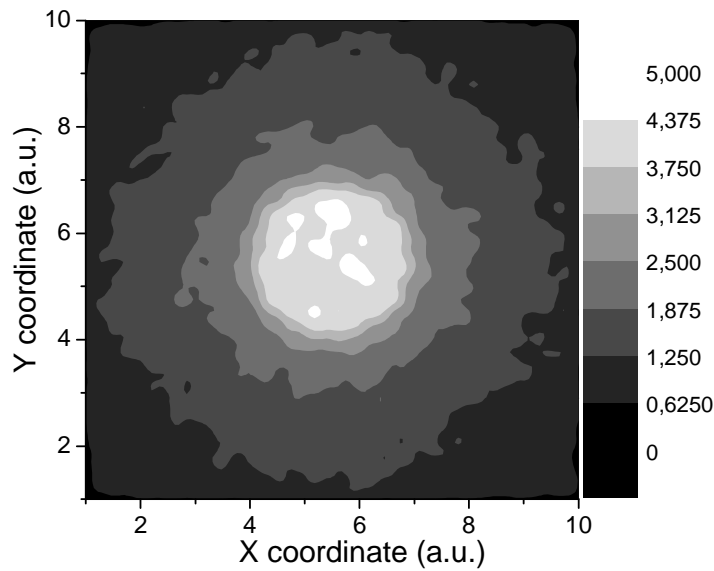
Inverse analysis

Simulations with TracePro

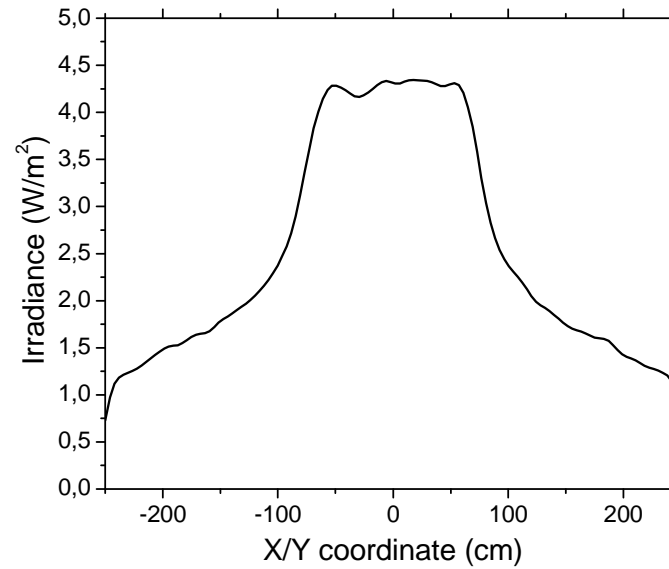
Centered laser beam  
diffuser totally illuminated  
Screen at large distance



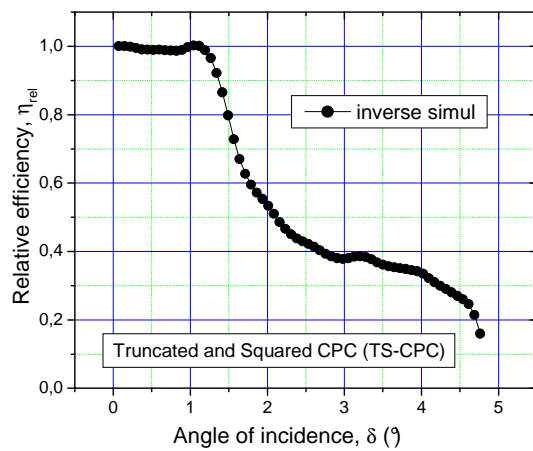
# Inverse analysis (TS-CPC)



Irradiance surface



Irradiance x/y profile

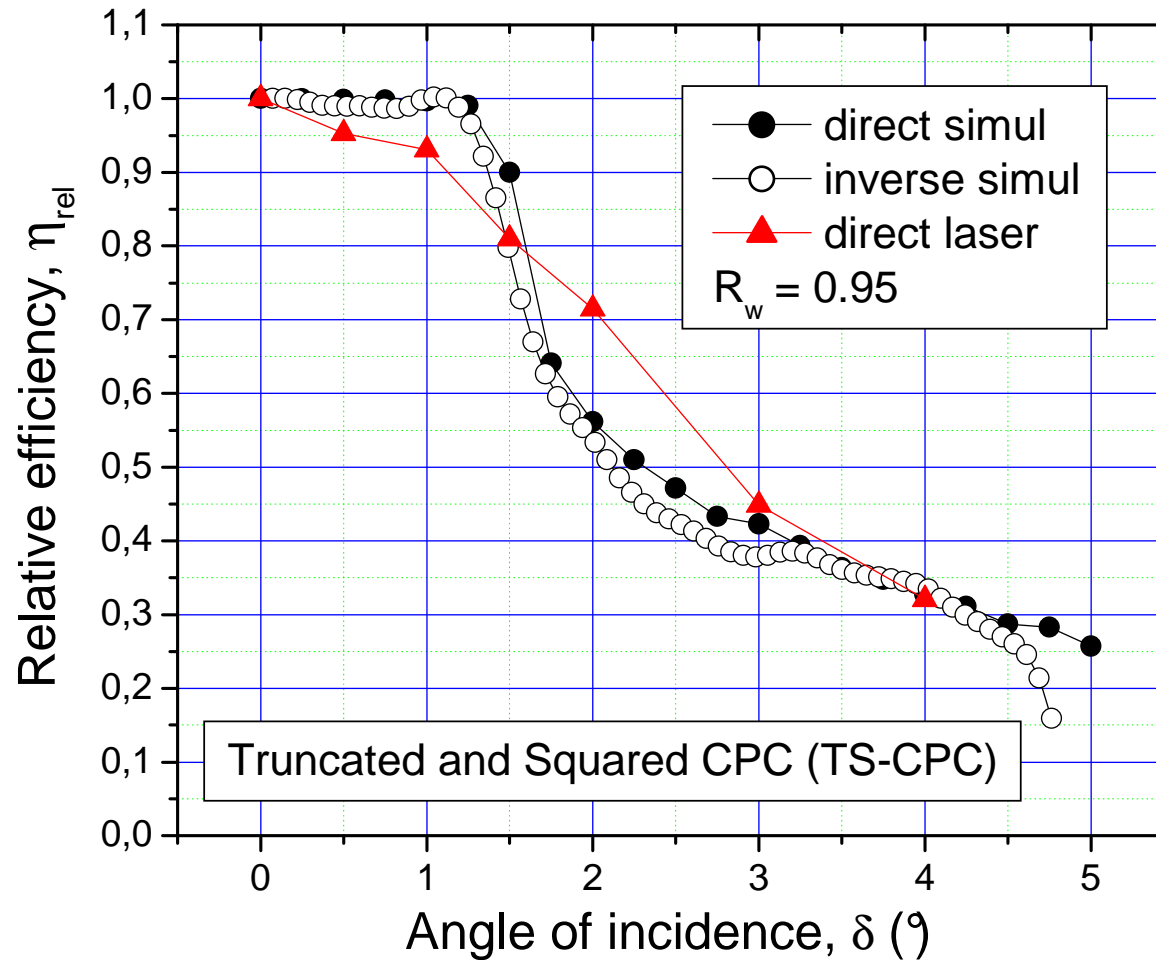


Relative efficiency

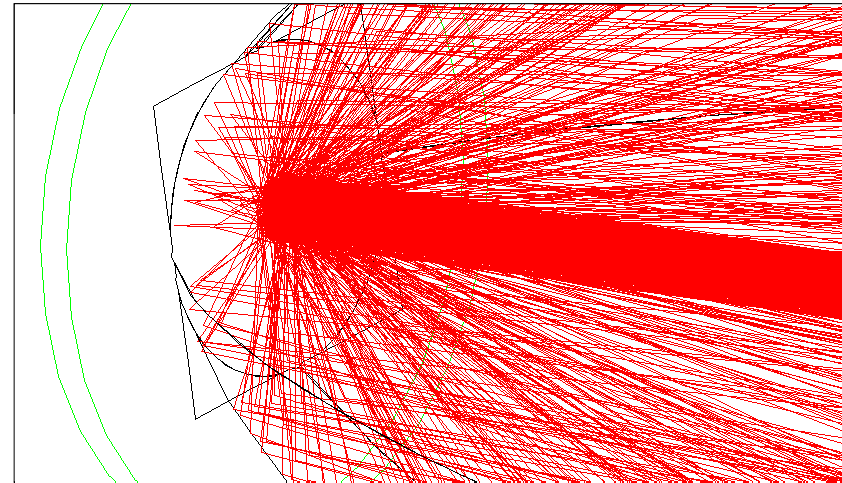
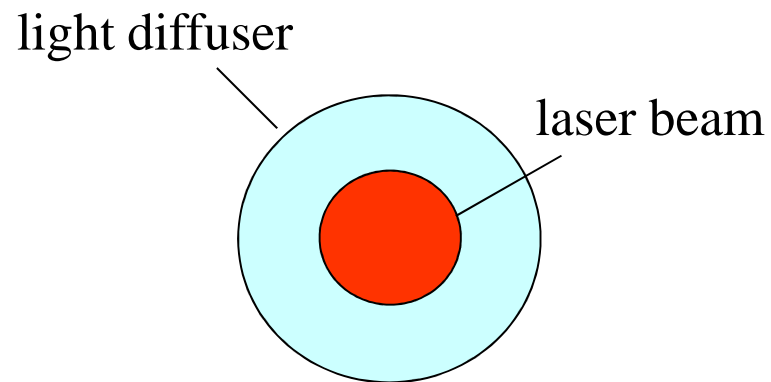
Acceptance angle:

1.4° (90% Efficiency)  
2.1° (50% Efficiency)

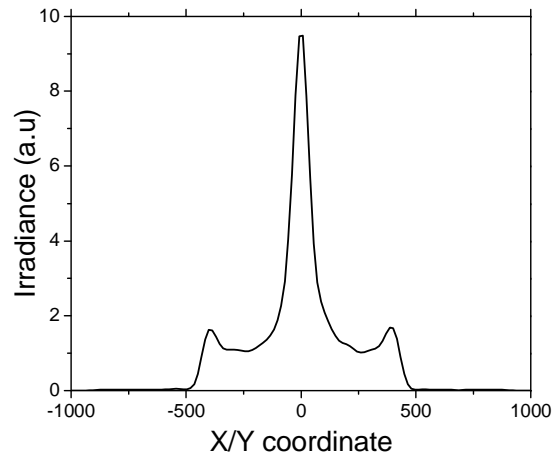
# TS-CPC - Comparison between direct and inverse methods



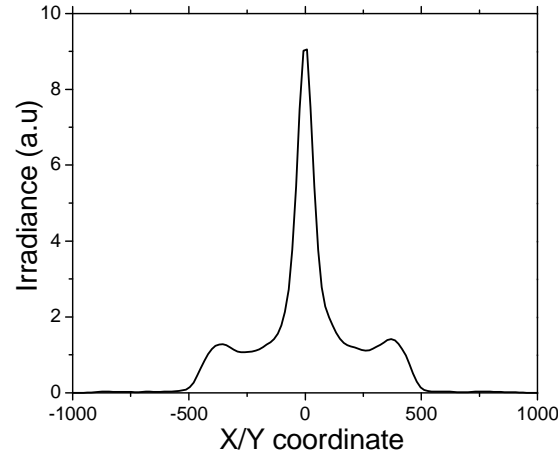
# Centered laser beam with variable cross section



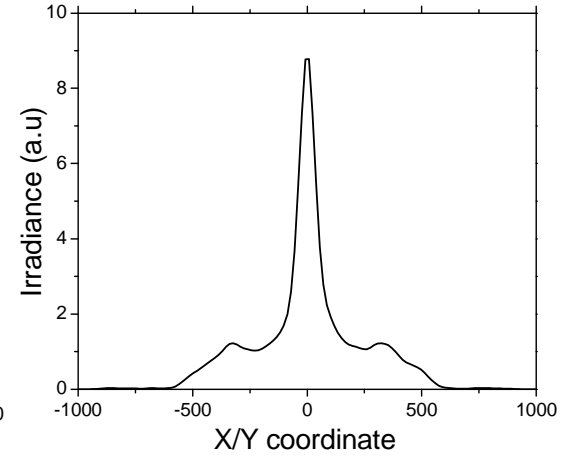
# Inverse analysis (TS-CPC)



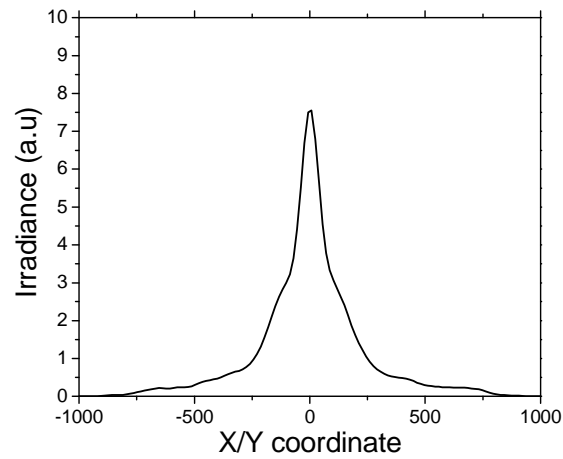
$R=0.05$  mm



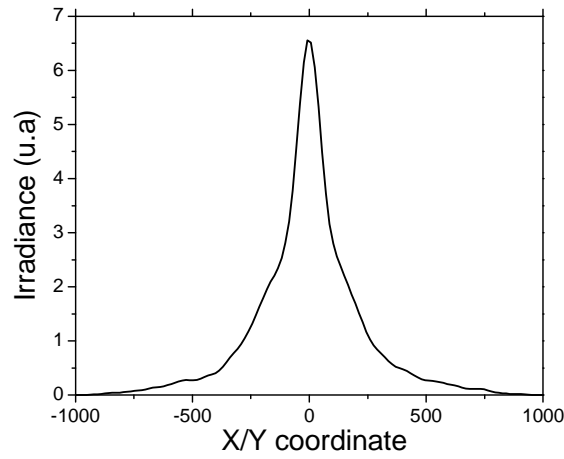
$R=0.5$  mm



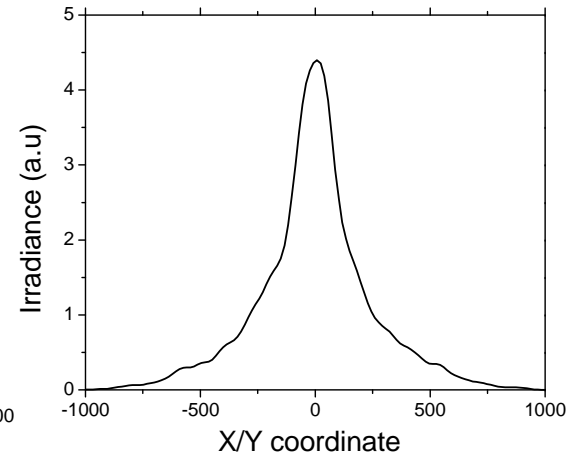
$R=1.0$  mm



$R=2.5$  mm

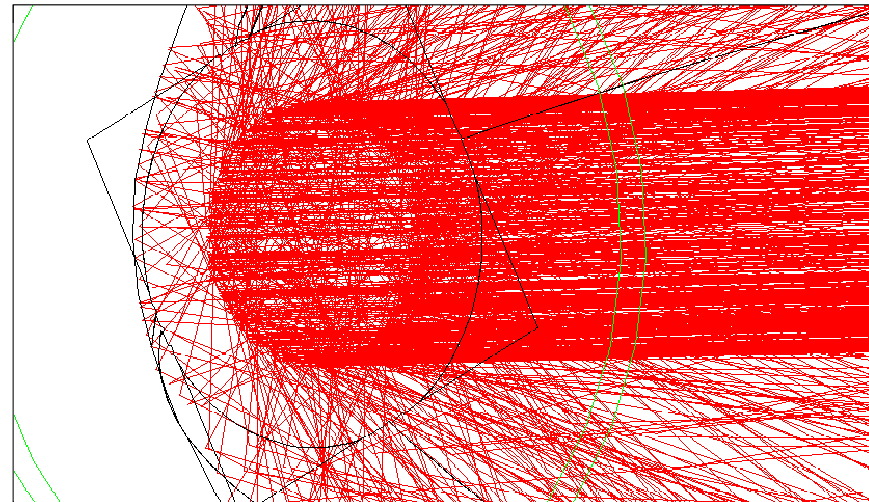
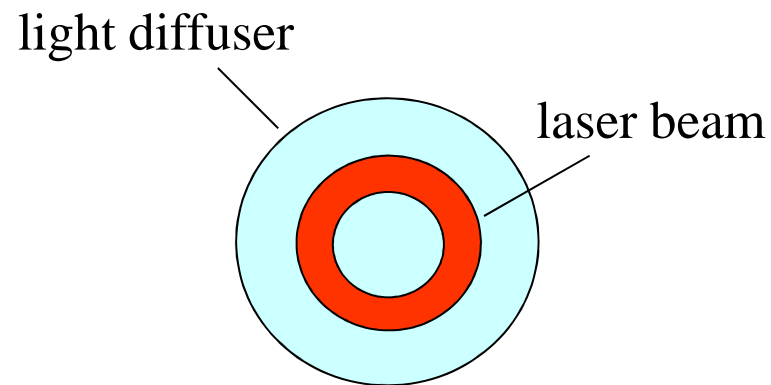


$R=3.5$  mm

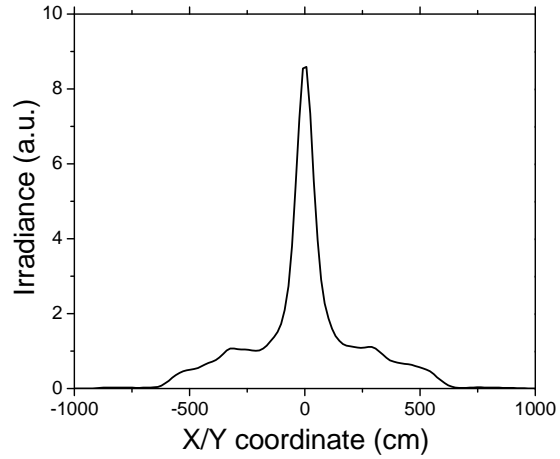


$R=5.0$  mm

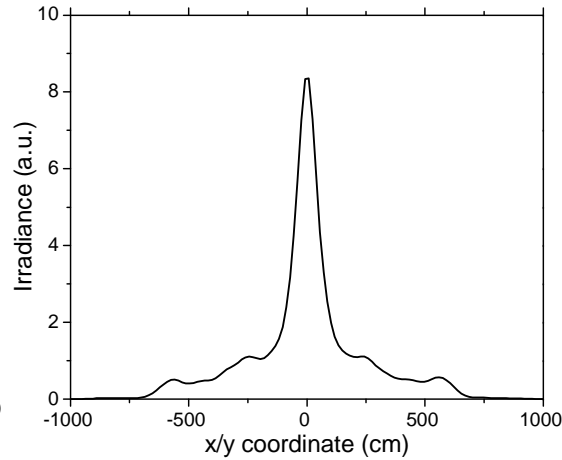
Centered laser beam with  
shape of annulus and  
variable internal radius  
(constant area =  $3.14 \text{ mm}^2$ )



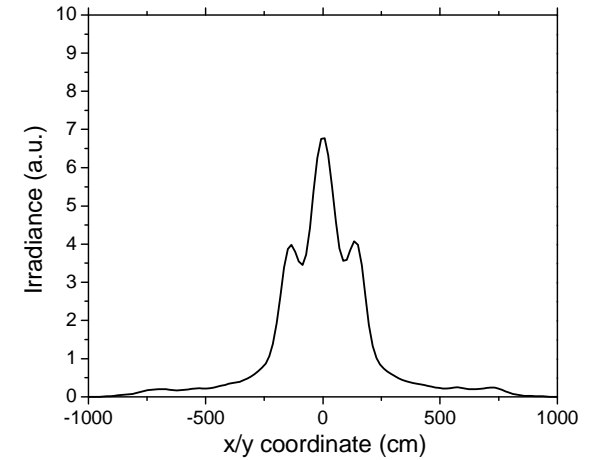
# Inverse analysis (TS-CPC)



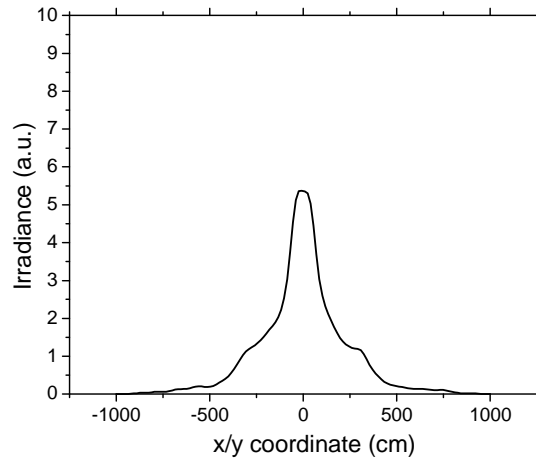
$R = 0.5$  mm



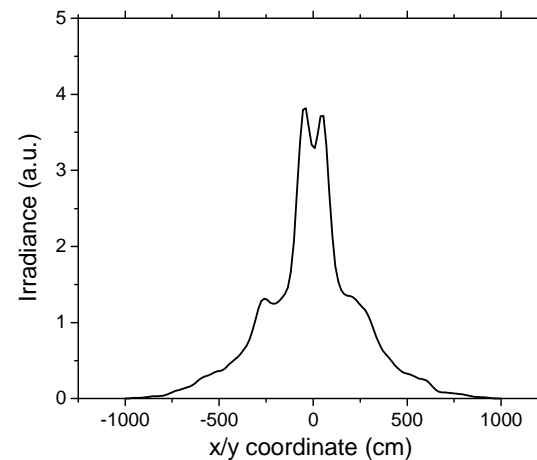
$R = 1.0$  mm



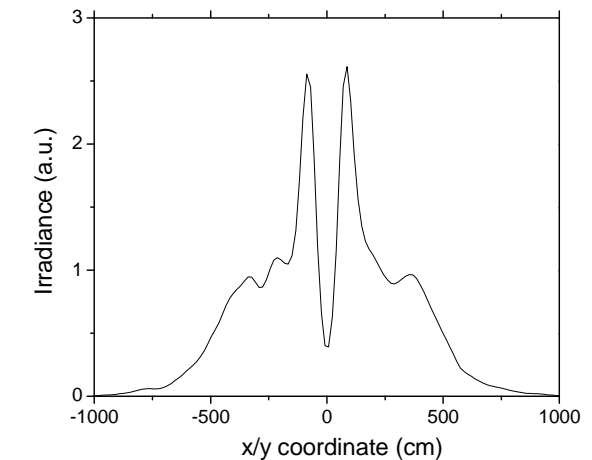
$R = 2.0$  mm



$R = 3.0$  mm



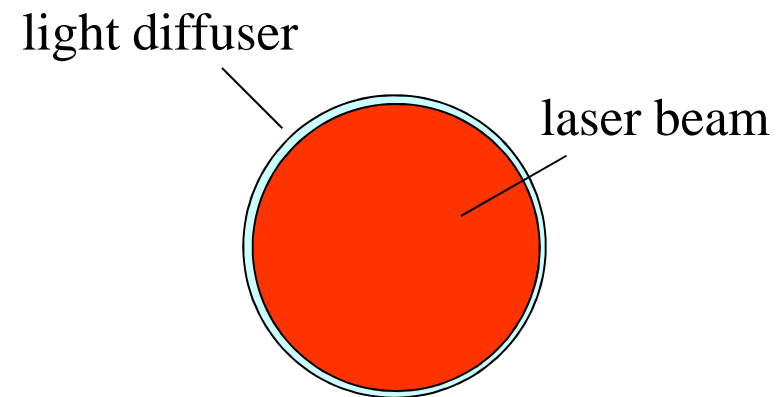
$R = 4.0$  mm



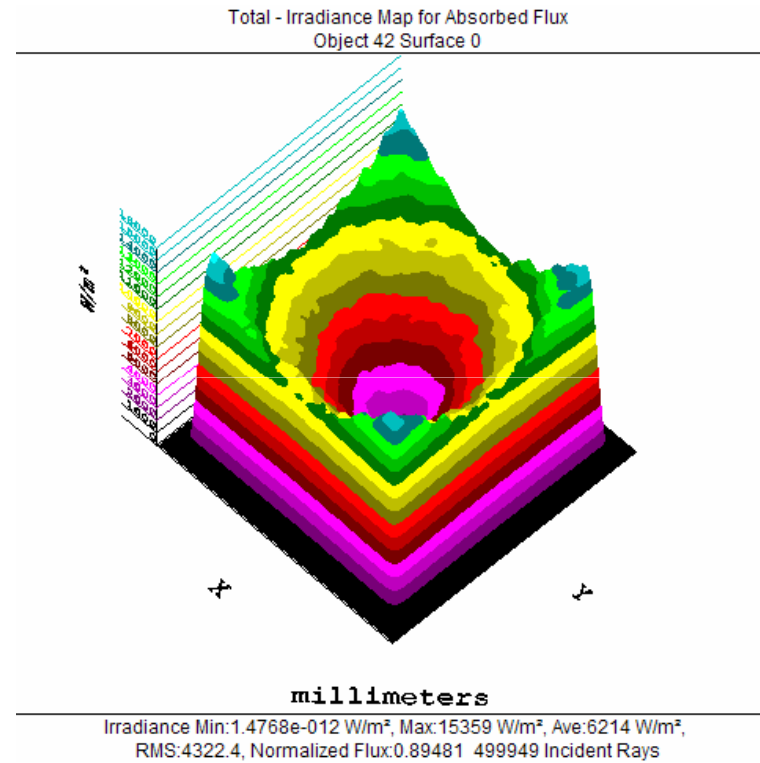
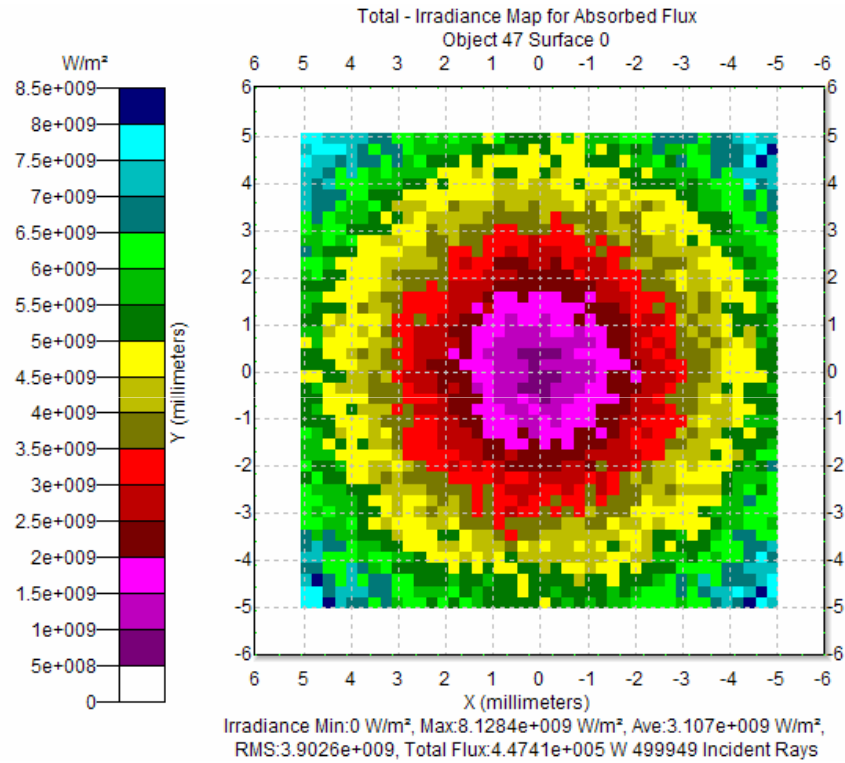
$R = 4.9$  mm



Centered laser beam  
Diffuser totally illuminated  
Screen at variable distance

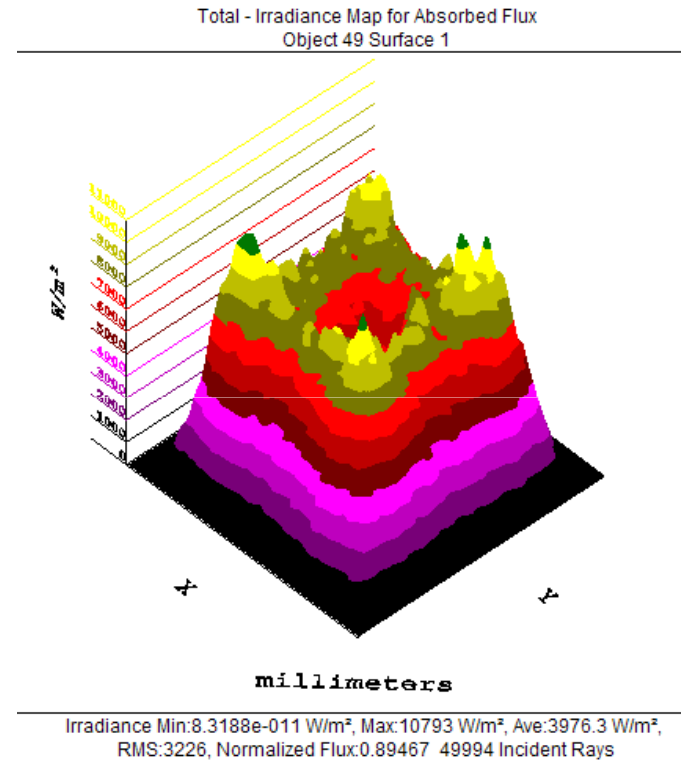
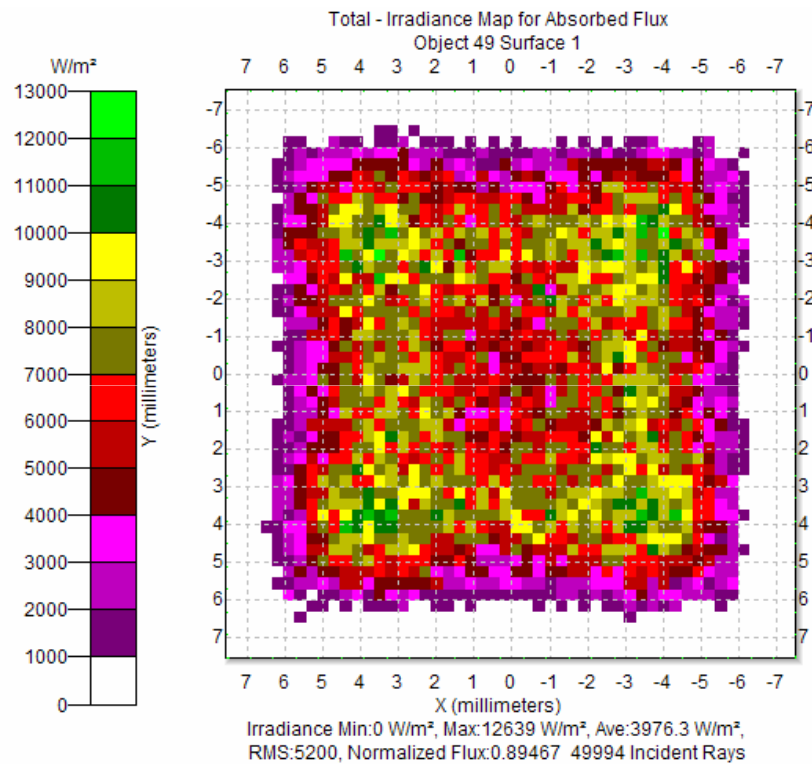


# Inverse analysis (TS-CPC)



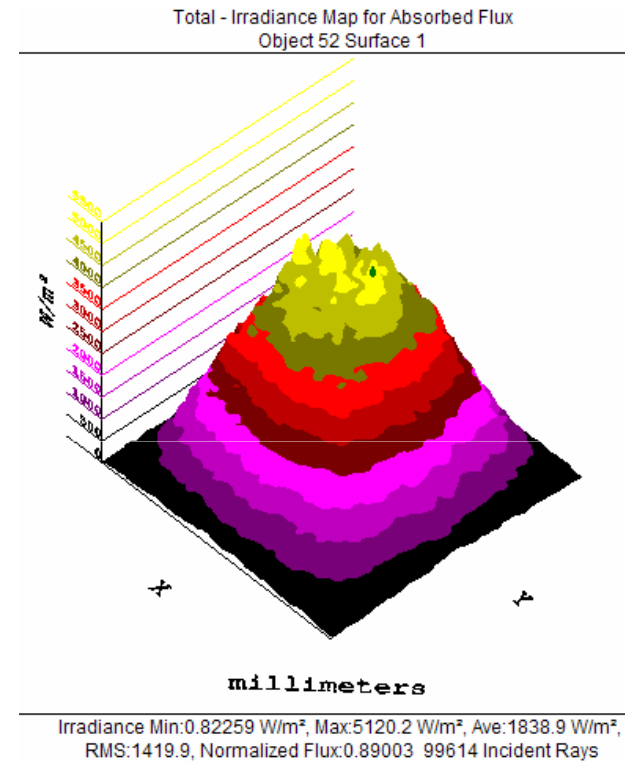
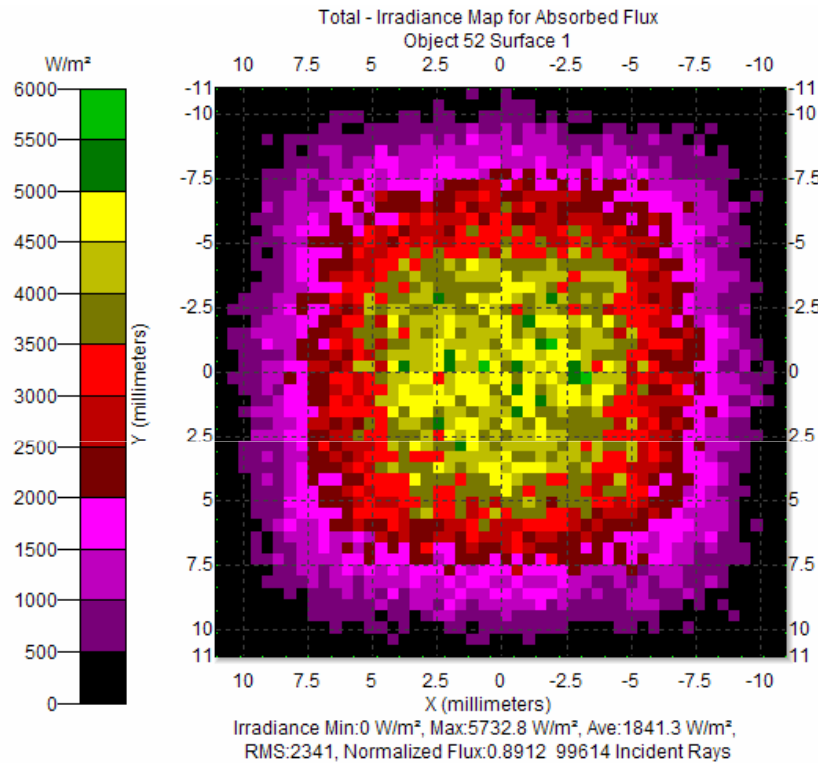
$$d = 0 \text{ cm}$$

# Inverse analysis (TS-CPC)



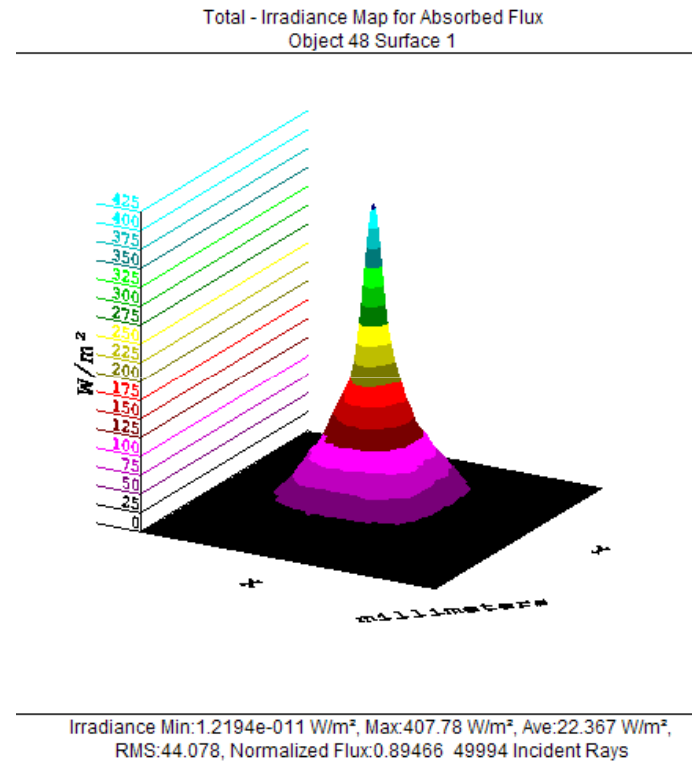
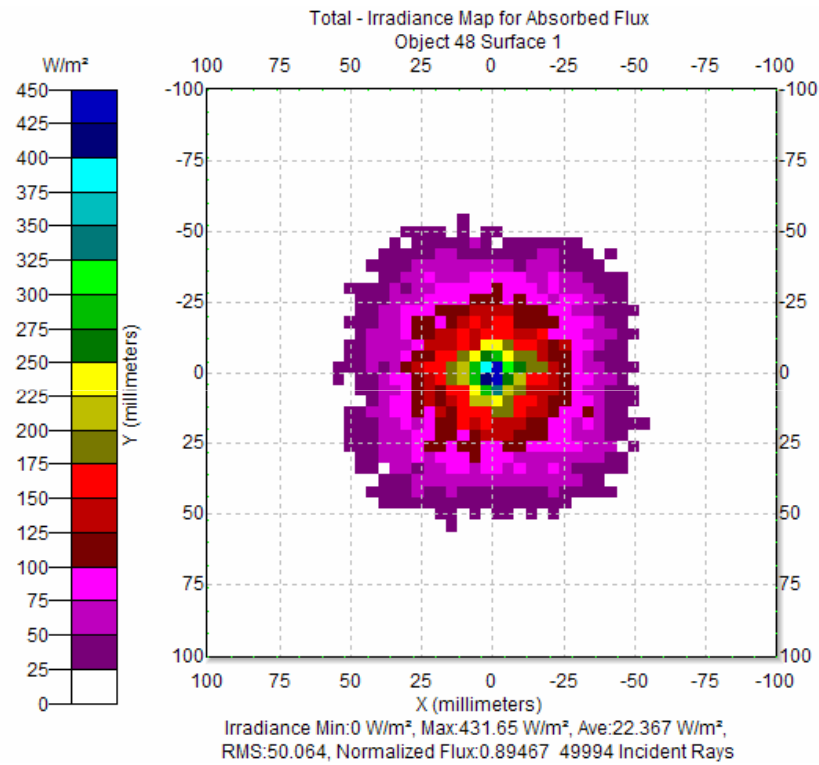
$$d = 10 \text{ cm}$$

# Inverse analysis (TS-CPC)



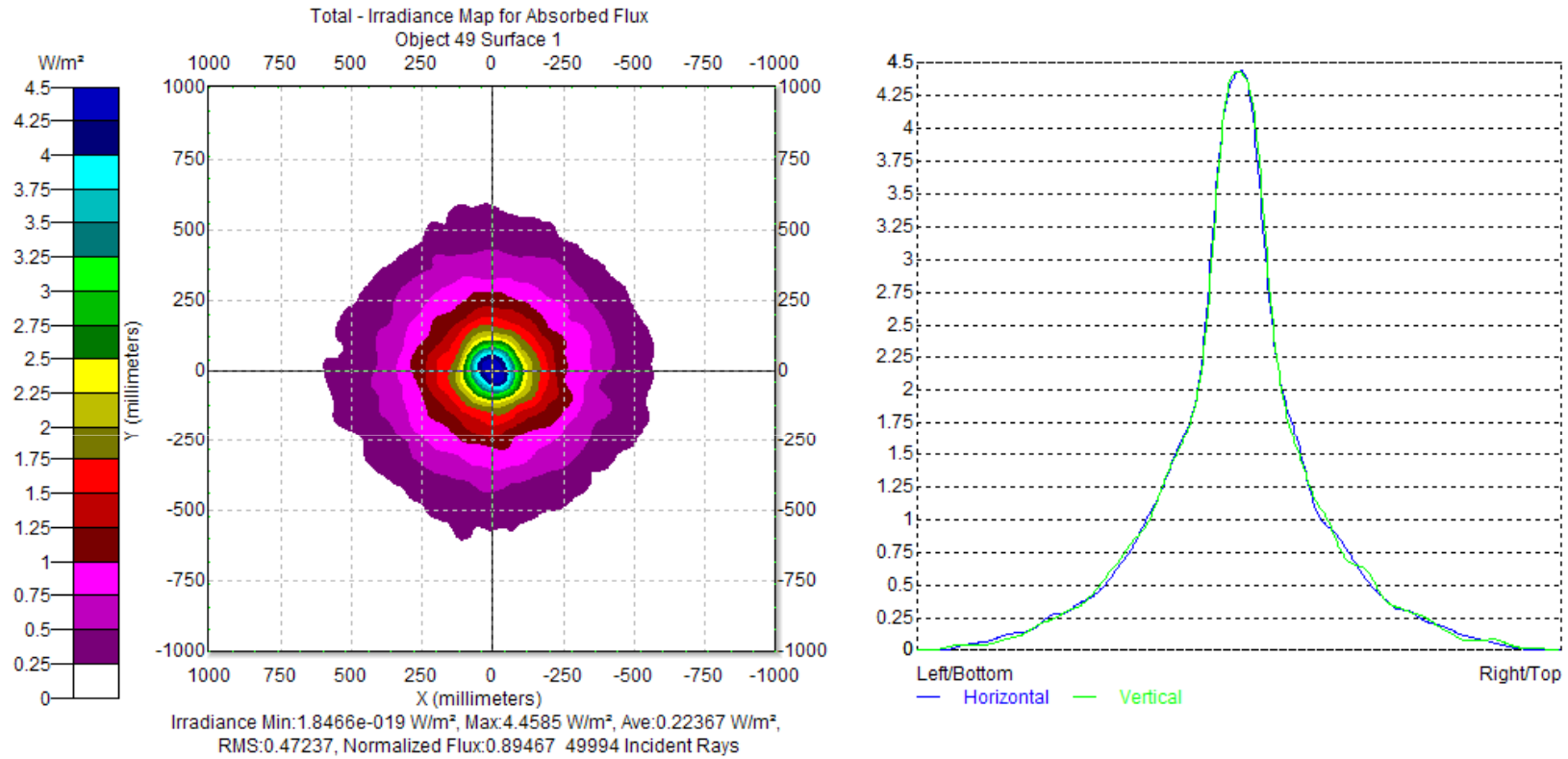
$d = 40 \text{ cm}$

# Inverse analysis (TS-CPC)



$$d = 300 \text{ cm}$$

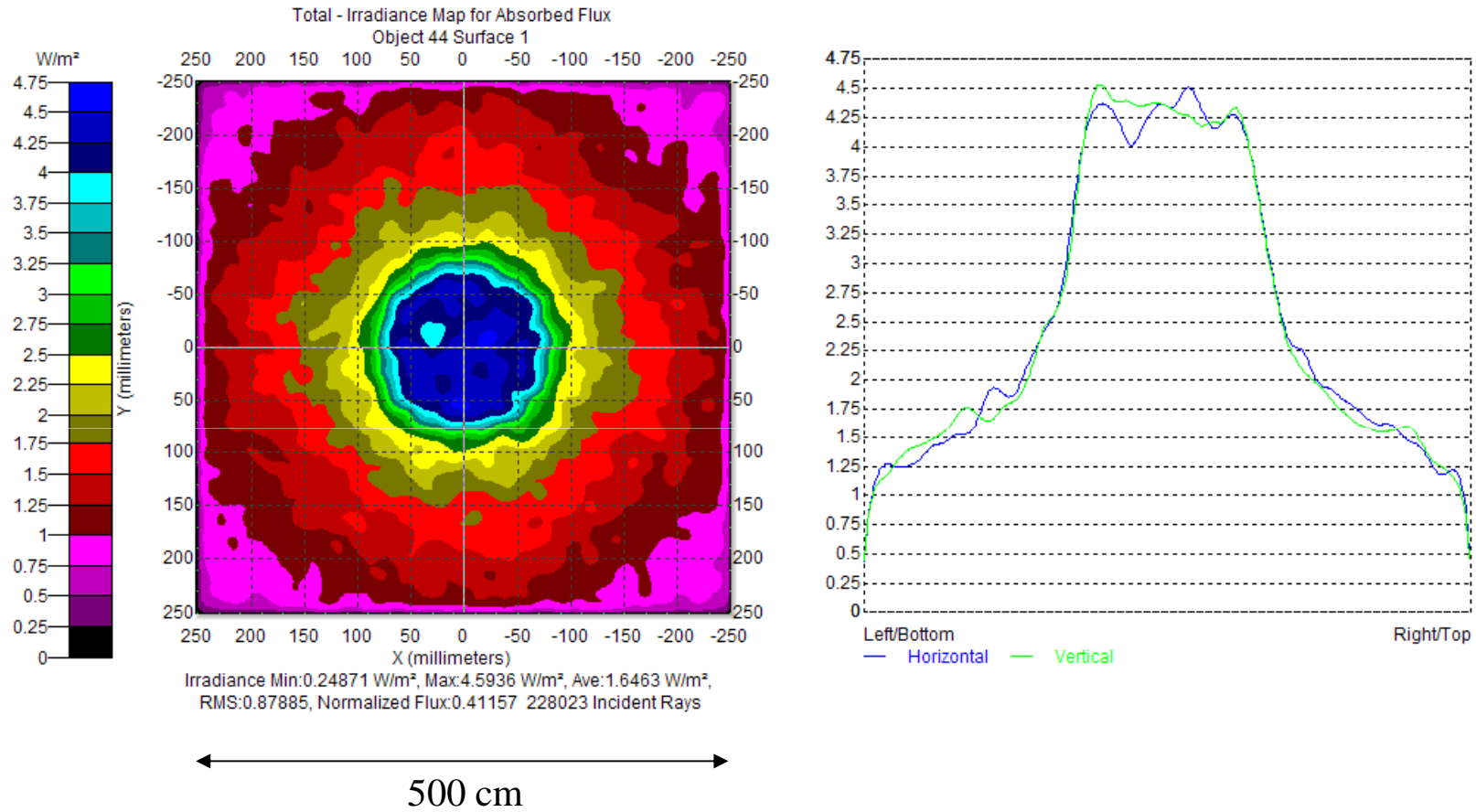
# Inverse analysis (TS-CPC)



← 2000 cm →

$$d = 3000 \text{ cm}$$

# Inverse analysis (TS-CPC)



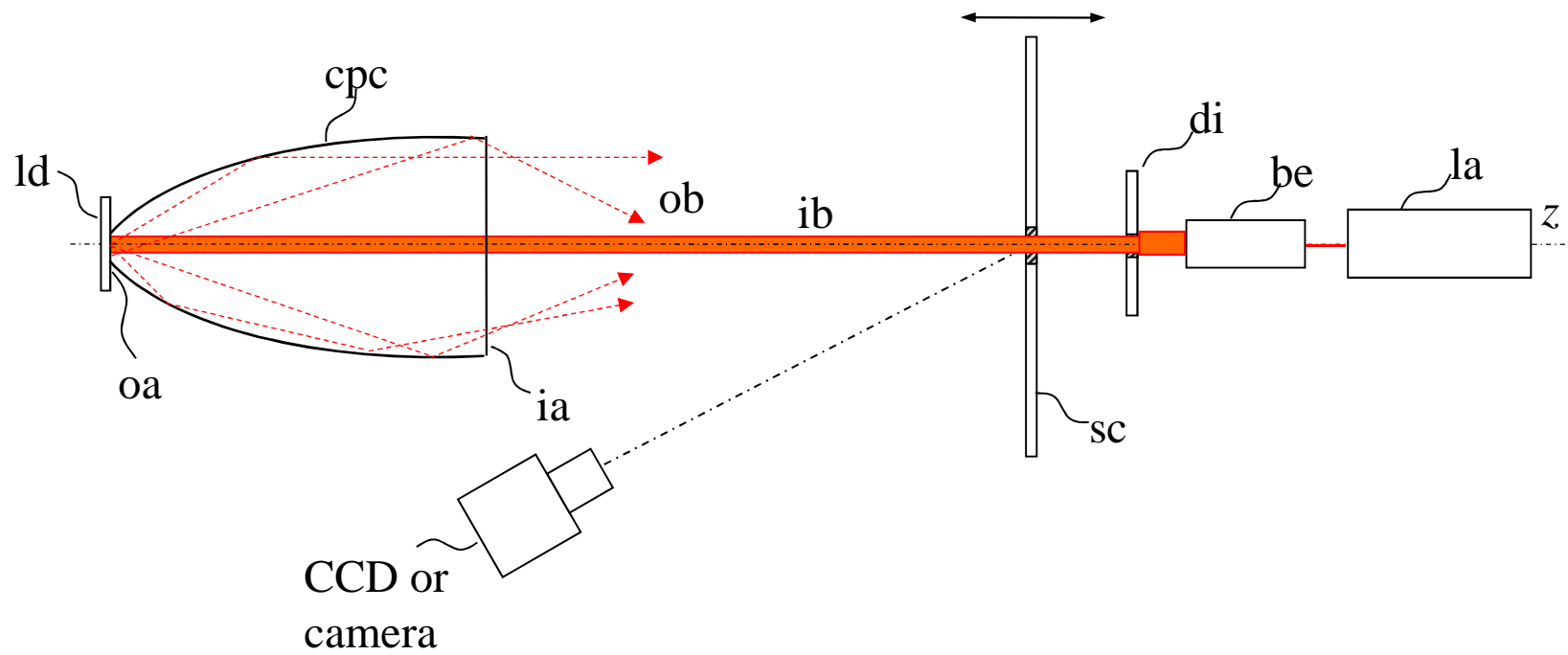
$$d = 3000 \text{ cm}$$

# Truncated and Squared CPC (TS-CPC)

Inverse analysis

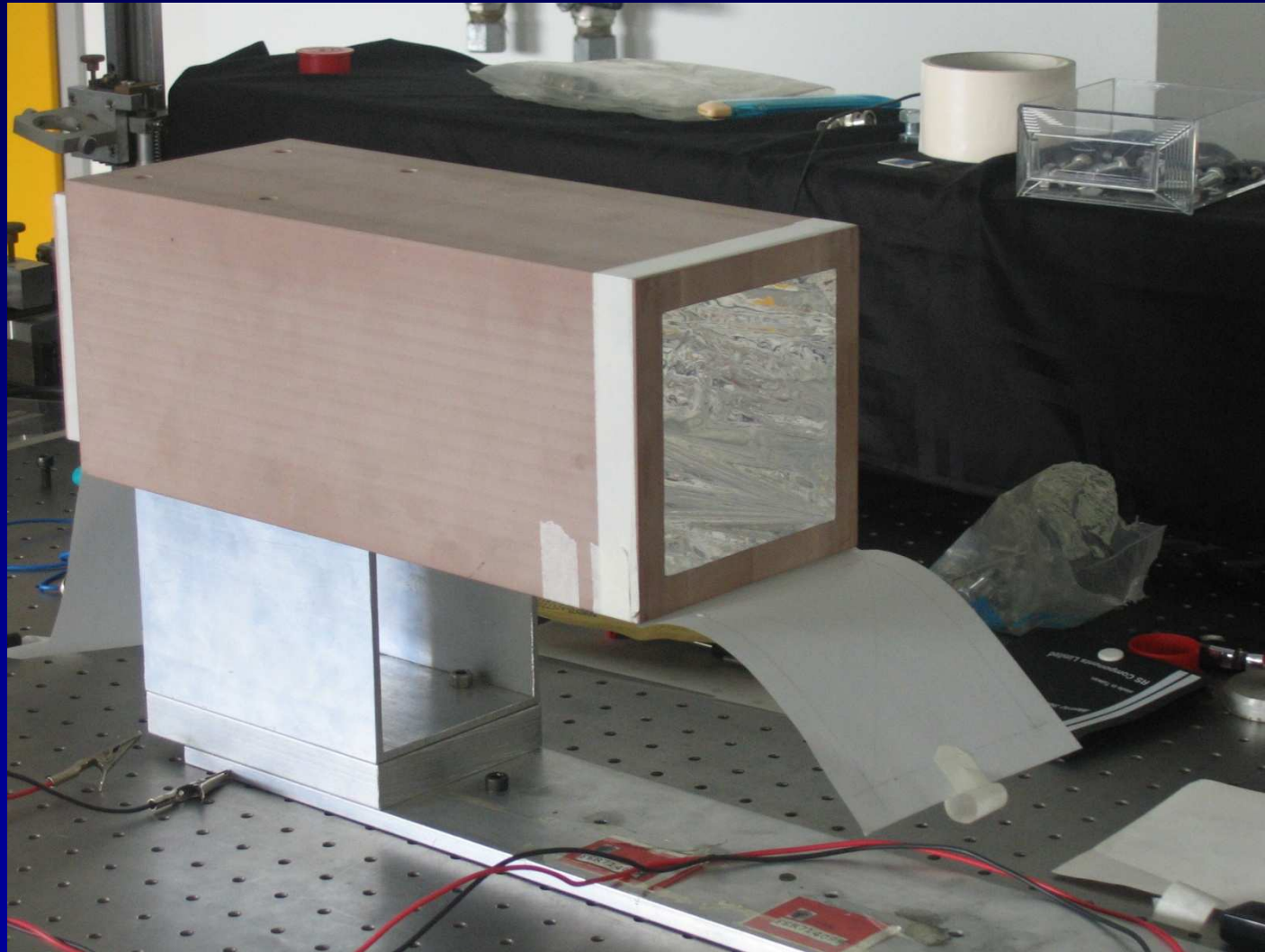
Experiments

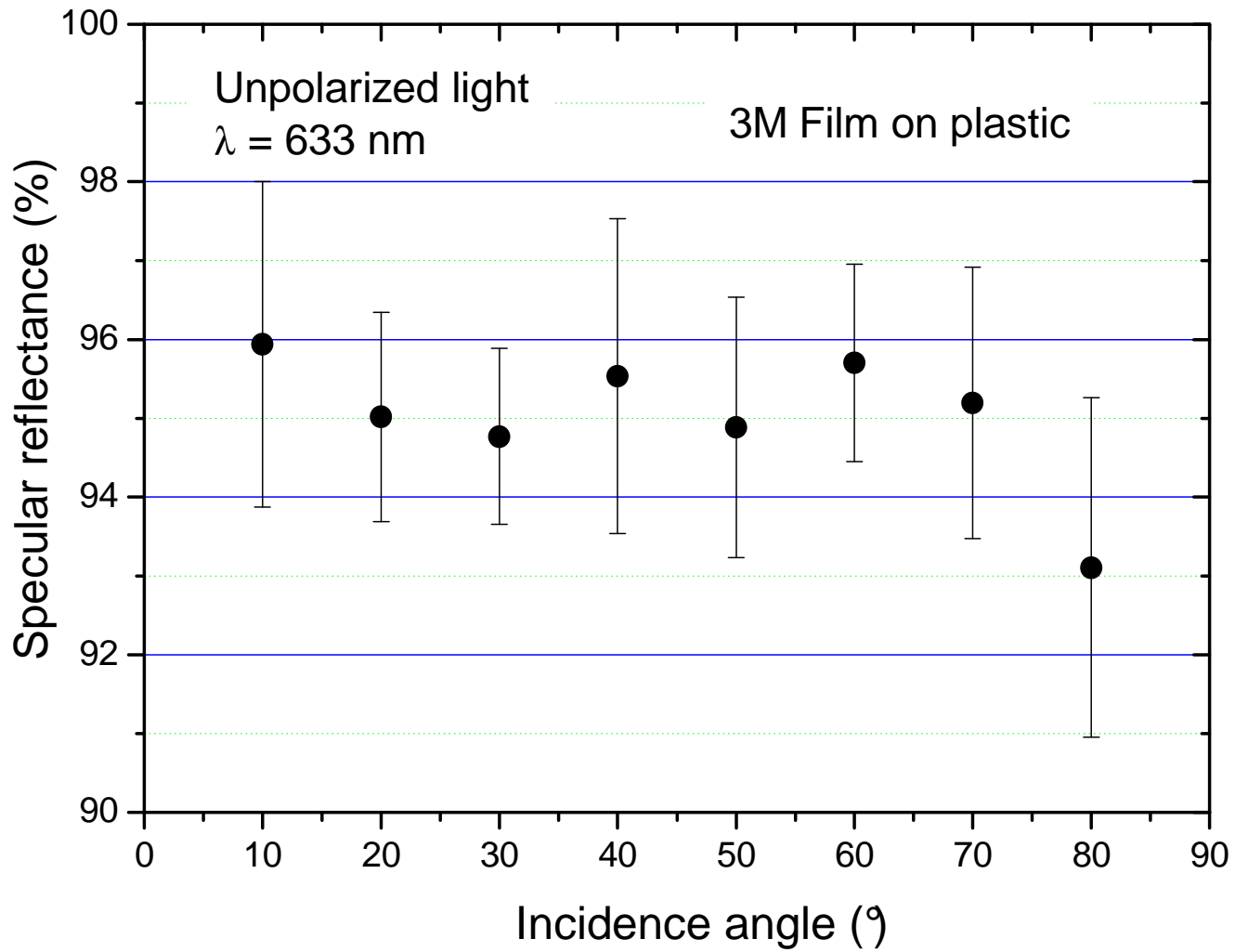




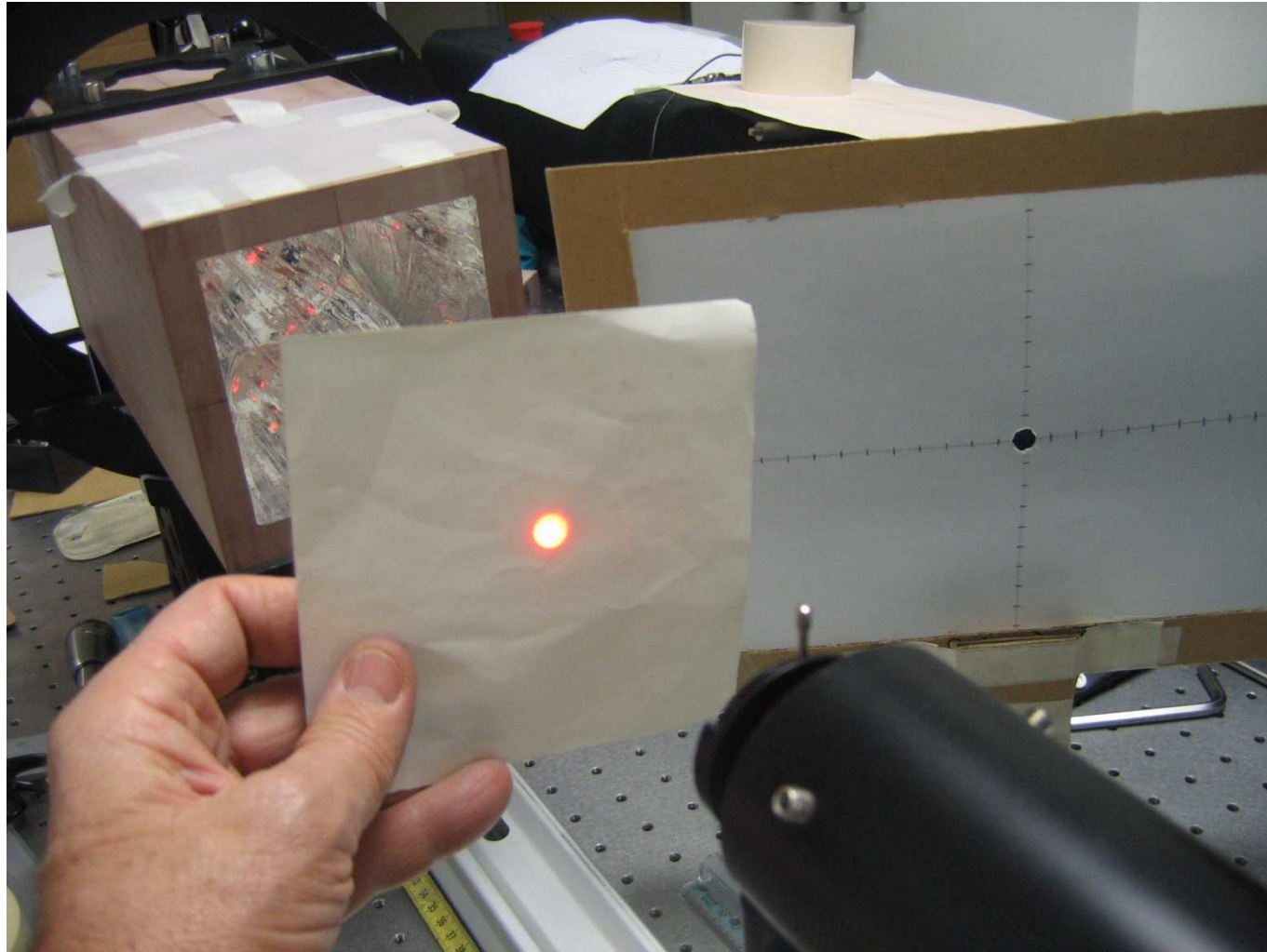
Experimental set-up

# Truncated and Squared CPC (TS-CPC)

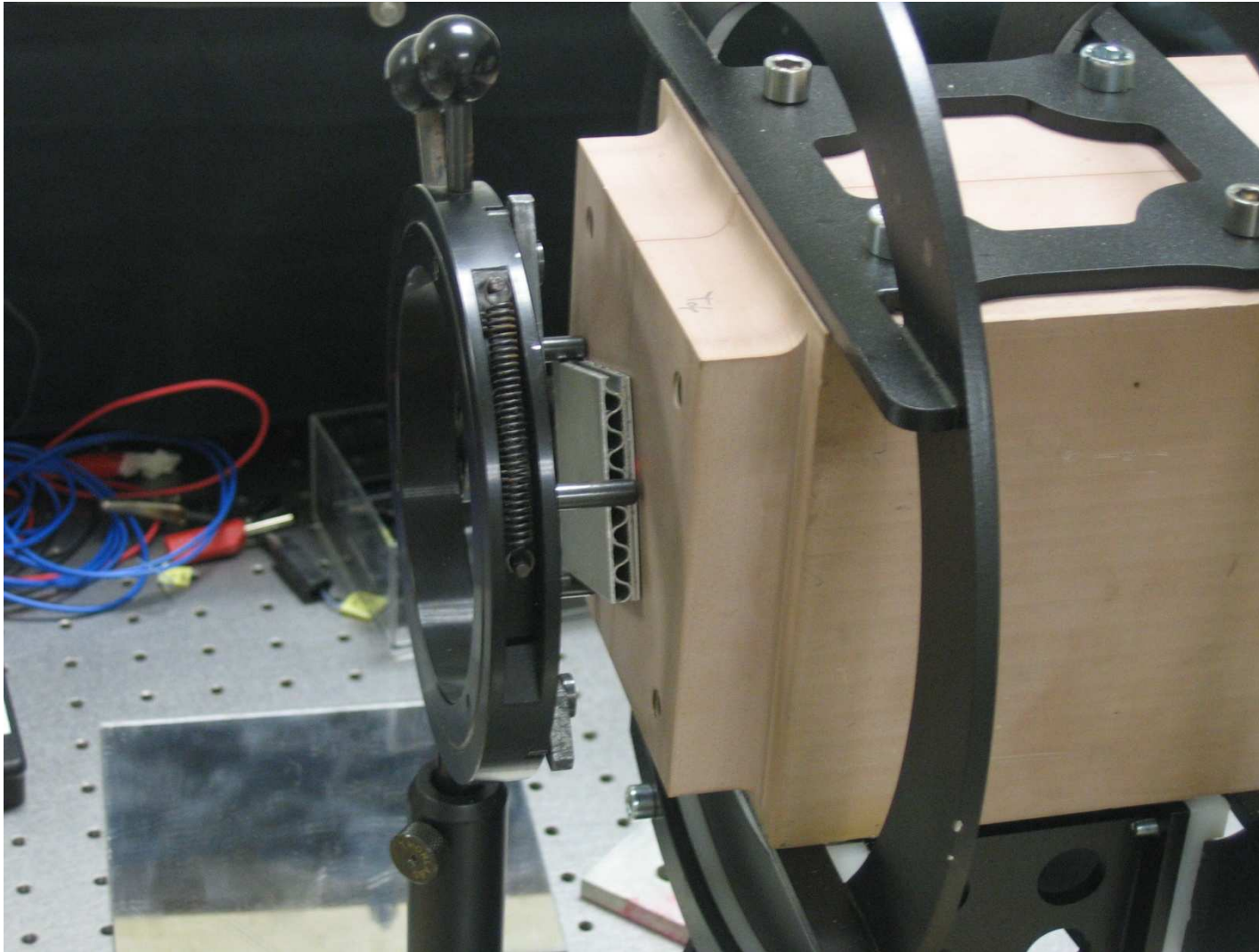




Average Reflectance of 3M film:  $95 \pm 1\%$



Preparation of the expanded laser beam

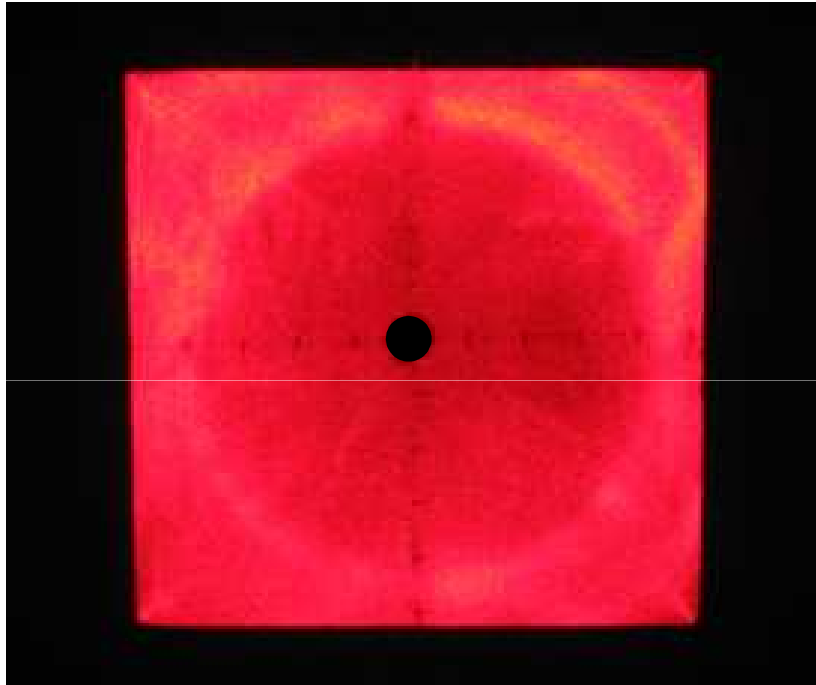


A light diffuser is faced to the exit window on the back of the cpc

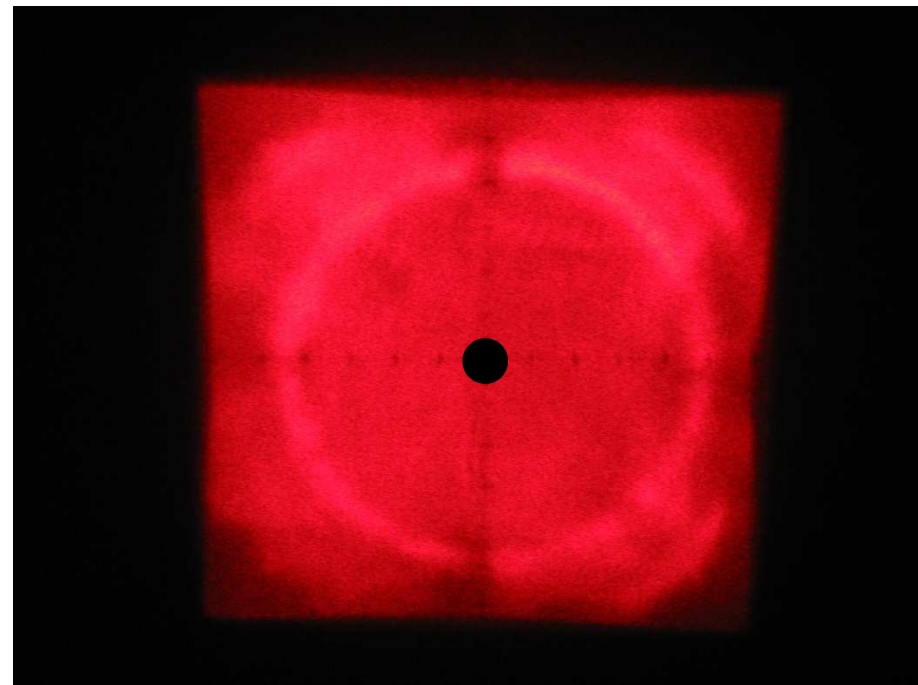


Light diffused by the cpc is projected on the screen

## Digital camera measurements on the backreflected beam



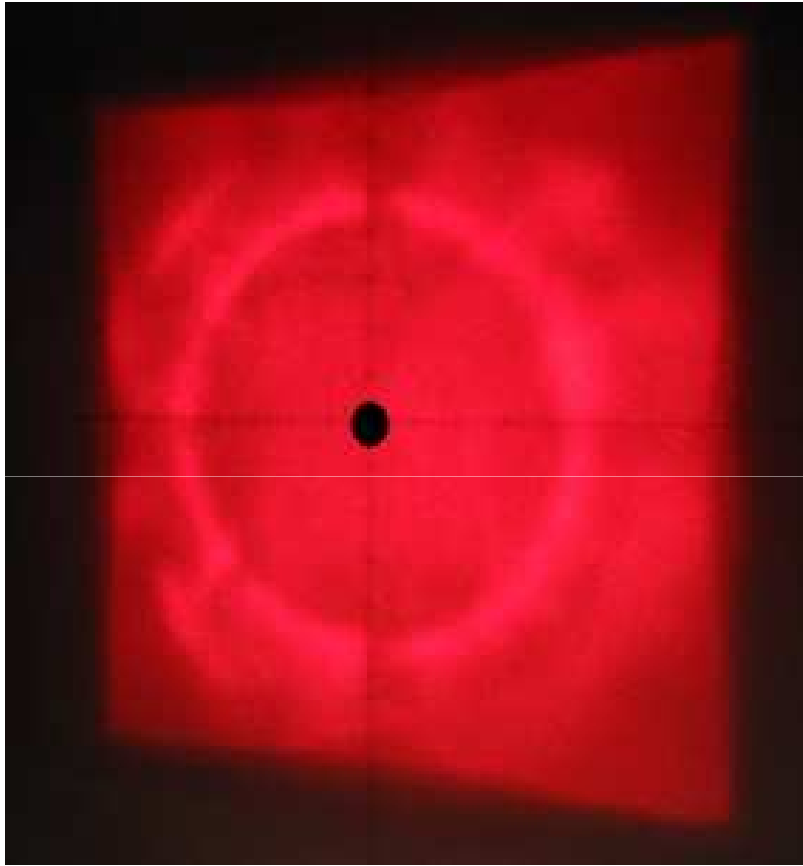
0 cm distance



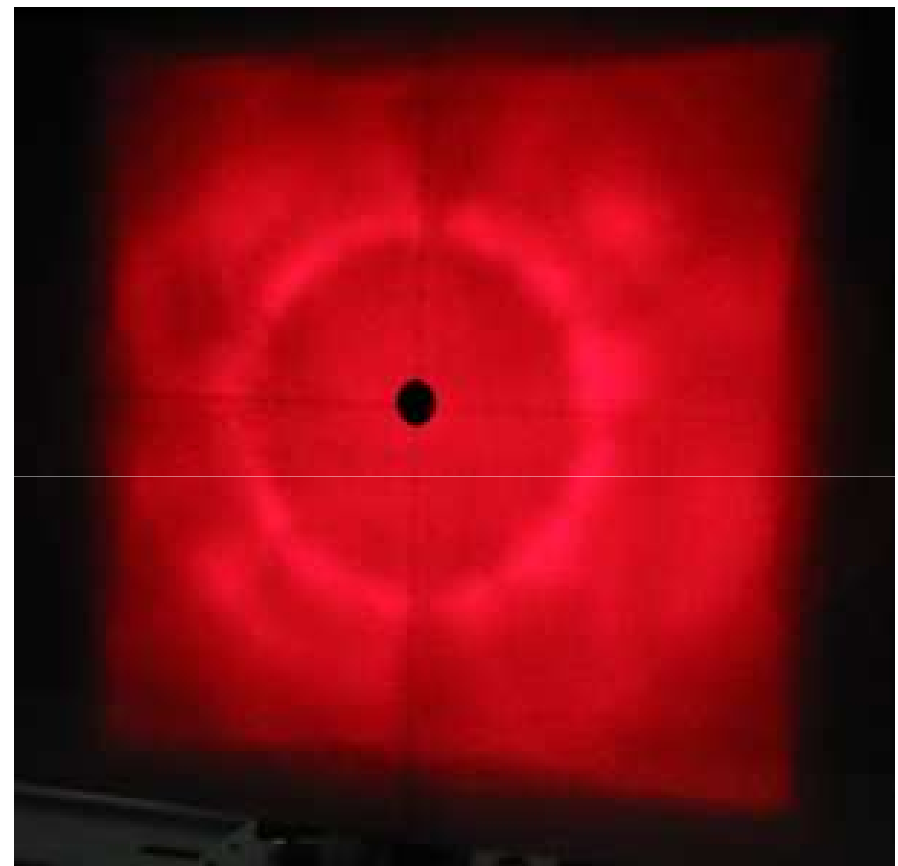
10 cm distance

Non expanded laser beam

# Digital camera measurements on the backreflected beam



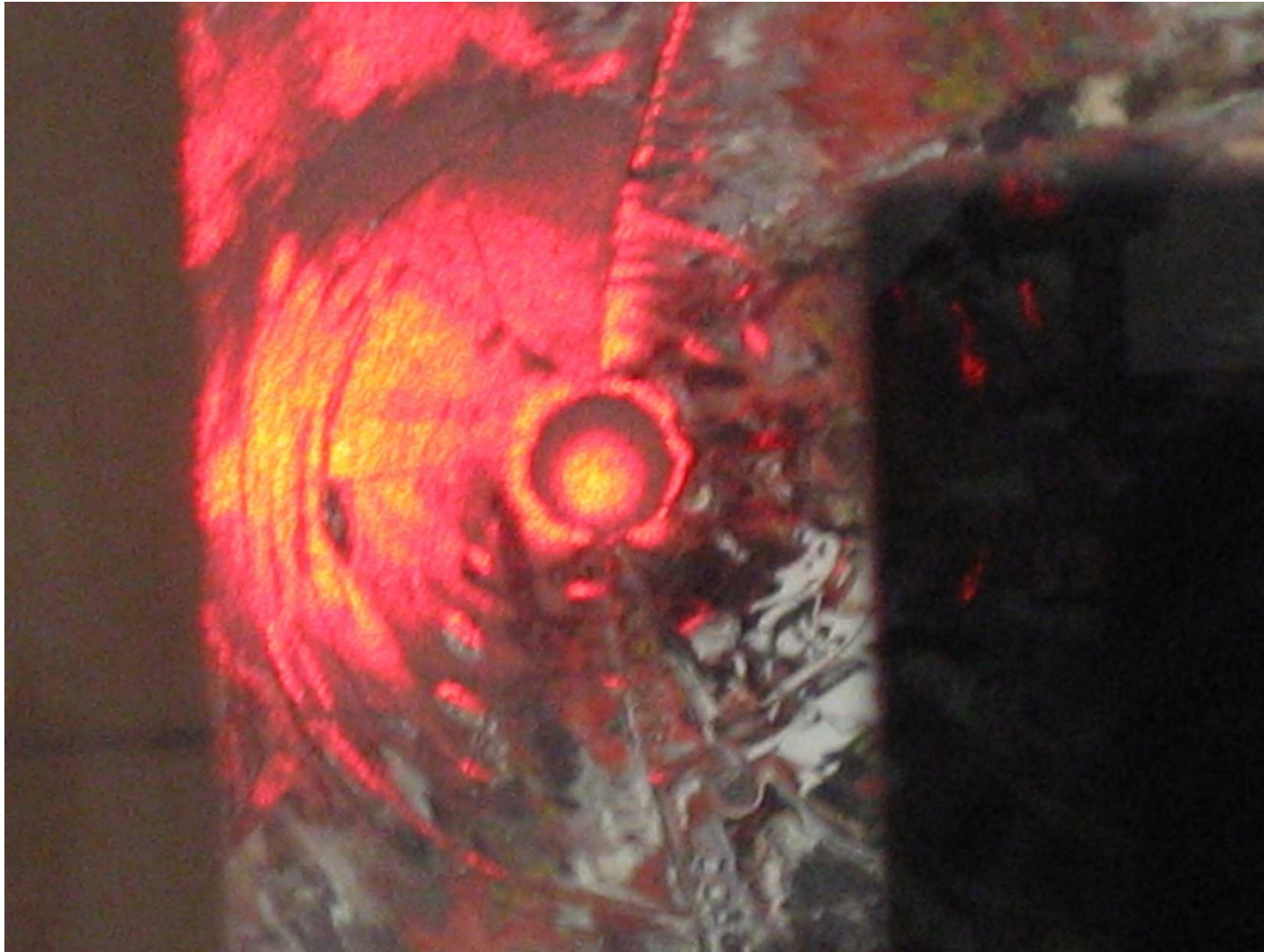
20 cm distance



40 cm distance

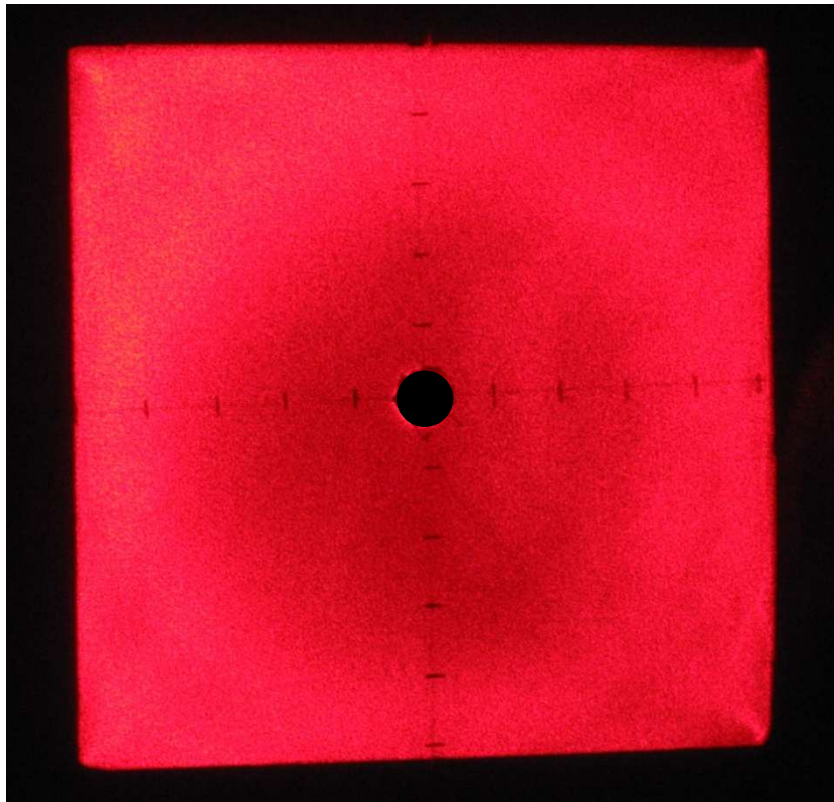
Non expanded laser beam



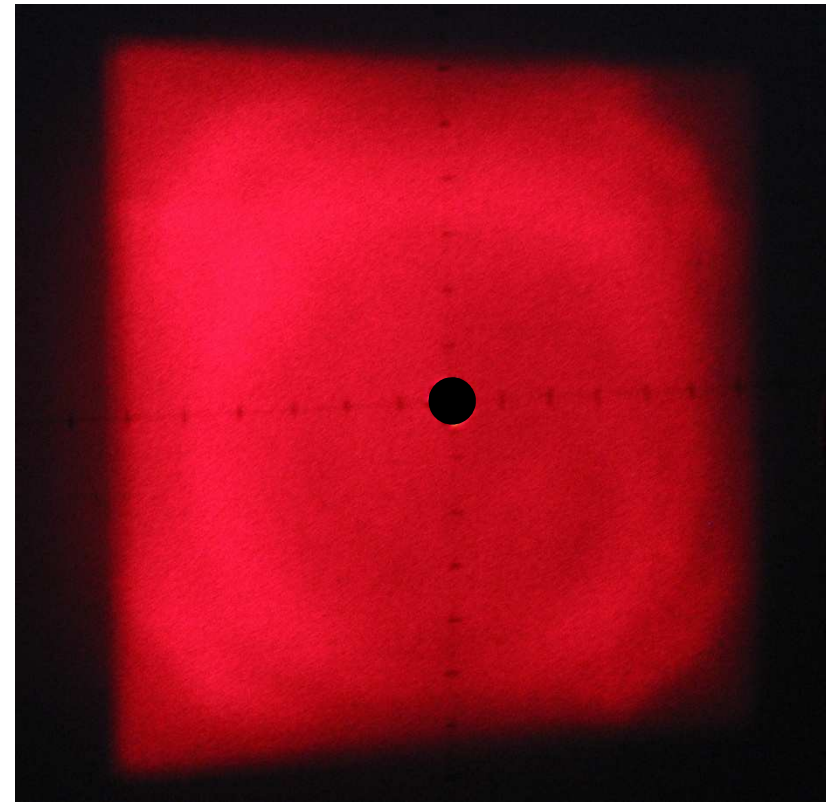


Light diffuser totally illuminated by the expanded laser beam.

# Digital camera measurements on the backreflected beam



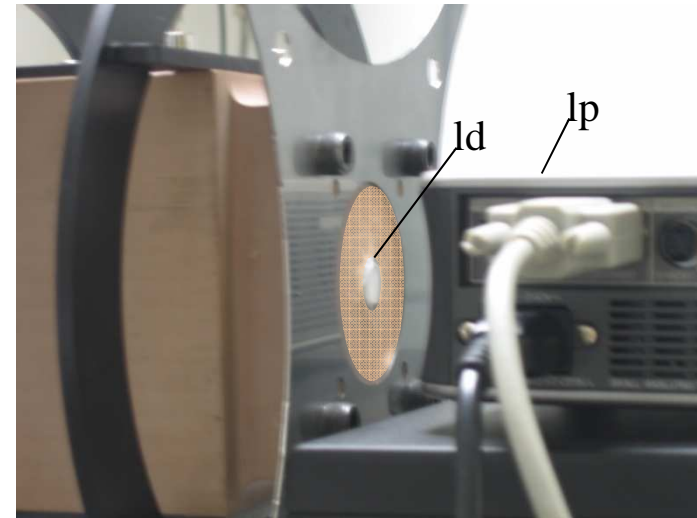
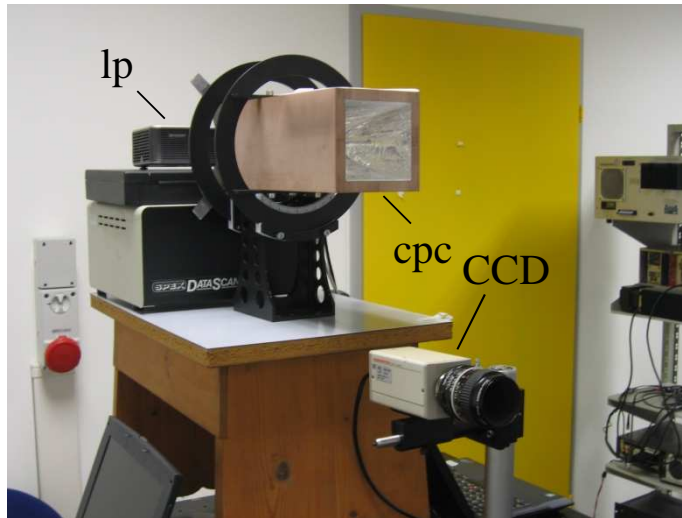
0 cm distance



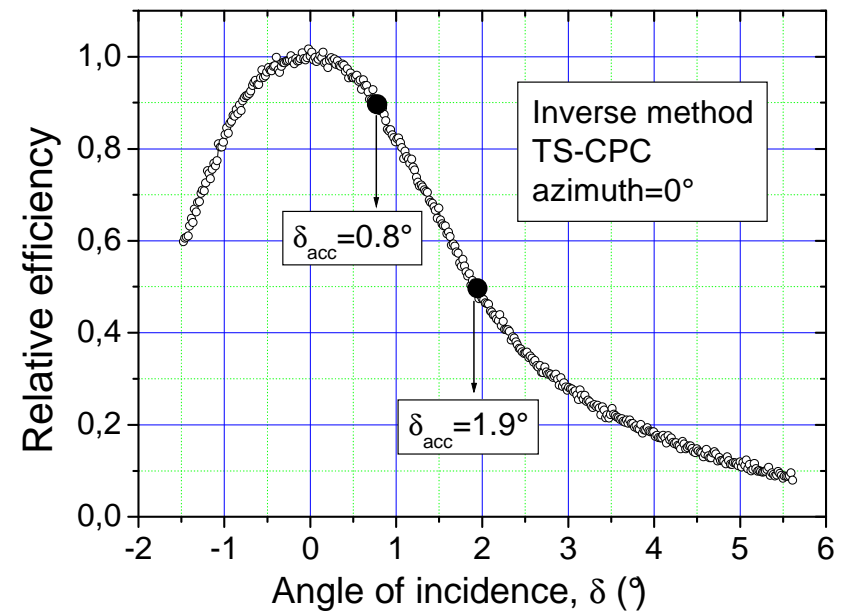
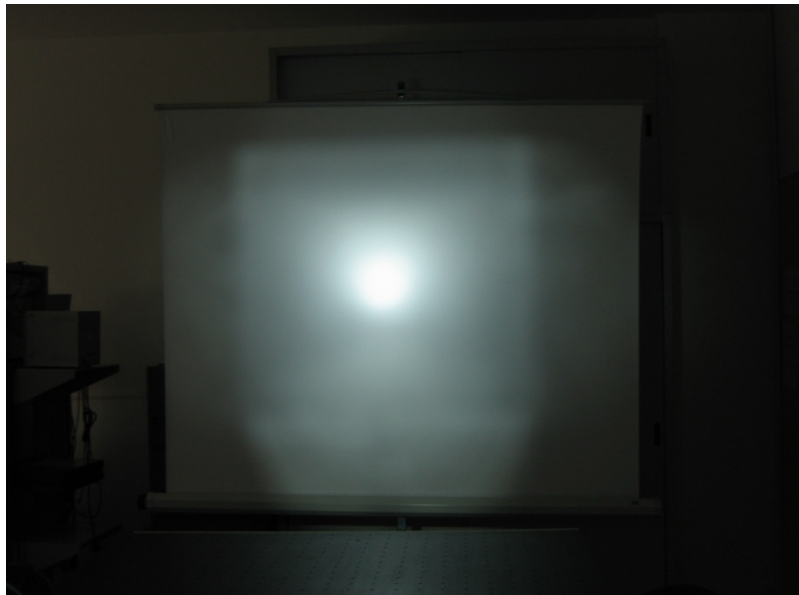
20 cm distance

Expanded laser beam

# Truncated and Squared CPC (TS-CPC)



A semitransparent diffuser is used to produce the Lambertian light source



## Summary of results

Method		Ideal 3D-CPC		TS-CPC		HT-CPC	
		90% Eff	50% Eff	90% Eff	50% Eff	90% Eff	50% Eff
Direct	Simul	4.5°	5.0°	1.5°	2.3°	4.5°	5.1°
	Exp			1.1°	2.8° (laser)		
Inverse	Simul	4.5°	5.0°	1.4°	2.1°	4.5°	5.1°
	Exp			0.8°	1.9°		

The experimental inverse method applied by using a semitransparent diffuser underestimates the acceptance angles because the light source is far to be lambertian. Also the laser method gives only an approximate estimation of acceptance angles.

# CONCLUSIONS

We have introduced a new method of characterization of solar concentrators, called ILLUME.

The experimental setup is very simple to realize, requiring only a laser or a lamp and a digital camera or a CCD

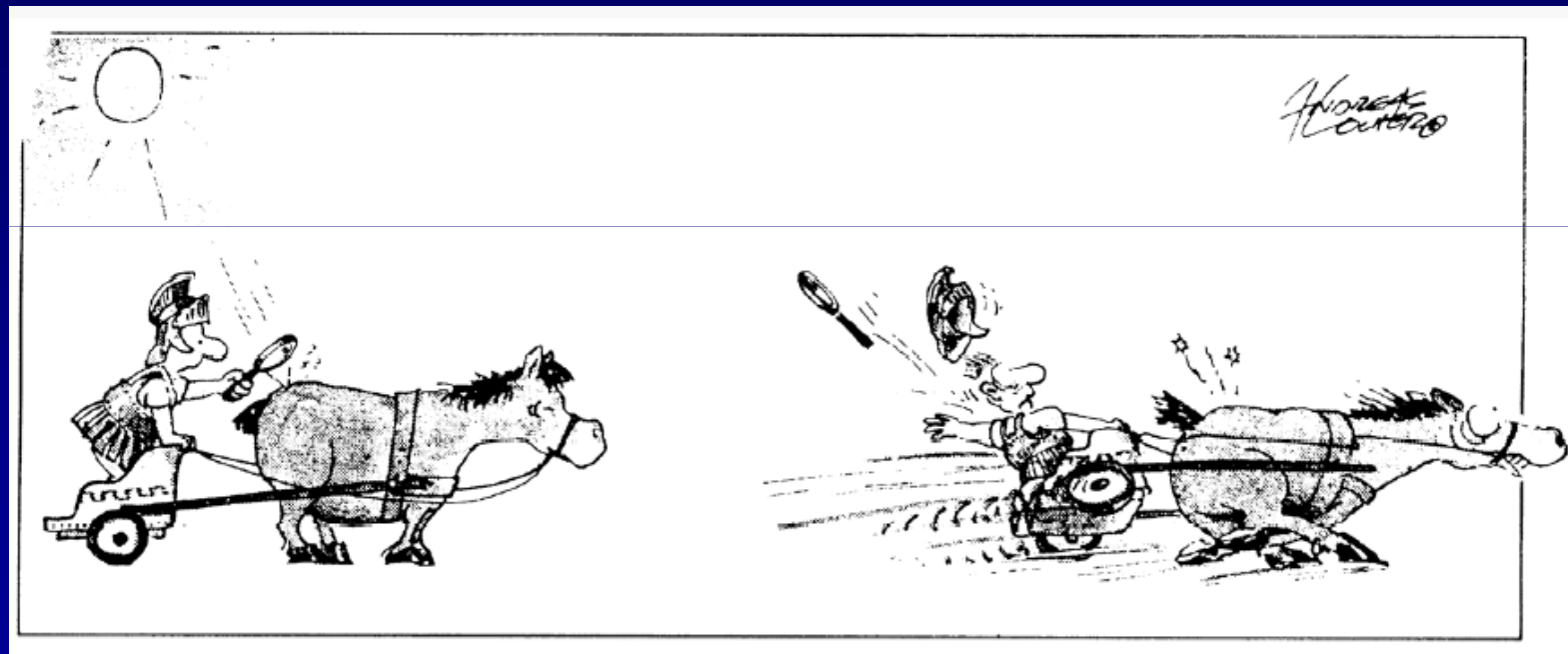
A single simulation or a single experimental measurement is sufficient to determine the relative optical efficiency and the acceptance angle of the concentrator.

We have tested the ILLUME method on different types of nonimaging concentrators.

In all cases, optical efficiency and acceptance angle were consistent with conventional methods of characterization.

# The end

# Thanks



Solar concentration in ancient Rome