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Optical Specifications

Introduction

The performance of an optical component is determined by a wide variety of factors other than its material, basic shape, and parameters like focal length and aberration. In this section we will discuss other critical factors that go into specifying an optical component. For example, how do you measure the distortion of a wave passing through an optic; how do you measure centration error (the deviation between the optical and mechanical axis of a lens or system); and how do you measure and specify surface quality and accuracy.

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