

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An optical system comprising:
 - at least one lens element configured to receive incident light;
 - at least one beam splitter optically coupled to the at least one lens element, wherein the at least one beam splitter is configured to separate the incident light into at least a first portion having a first photon flux and a second portion having a second photon flux, wherein the first photon flux is at least an order of magnitude greater than the second photon flux;
 - a first image sensor configured to receive the first portion of the incident light;
 - a second image sensor configured to receive the second portion of the incident light;and
 - a controller comprising at least one processor and a memory, wherein the controller is configured to execute instructions stored in the memory so as to carry out operations, the operations comprising:
 - causing the first image sensor to capture a first image of the first portion of the incident light according to first exposure parameters; and
 - causing the second image sensor to capture a second image of the second portion of the incident light according to second exposure parameters.
2. The optical system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise determining an extended dynamic range image based on the first image and the second image.
3. The optical system of claim 1, wherein the at least one beam splitter comprises a partially-silvered mirror or glass having an anti-reflection coating.
4. The optical system of claim 1, wherein the at least one beam splitter comprises a dichroic optical element or a frequency selective surface.
5. The optical system of claim 1, wherein the incident light comprises light emitted from a temporally-varying photon flux source.
6. The optical system of claim 5, wherein the raster display or the flashing display comprises a traffic signal or an automotive indicator.

7. The optical system of claim 1, further comprising at least one optical element, wherein the at least one optical element is arranged along an optical path between the at least one beam splitter and at least one of the first image sensor or the second image sensor, wherein the at least one optical element comprises at least one of: an optical attenuator, a spatial filter, or a lens.

8. The optical system of claim 1, wherein the first exposure parameters comprises a first exposure time and the second exposure parameters comprise a second exposure time, wherein the first exposure time is at least an order of magnitude shorter than the second exposure time.

9. The optical system of claim 1, wherein the at least one beam splitter comprises a first beam splitter and a second beam splitter, wherein the at least one beam splitter is further configured to separate the incident light into a third portion having a third photon flux, wherein the second photon flux is at least an order of magnitude greater than the third photon flux.

10. The optical system of claim 9, further comprising a third image sensor, wherein the operations further comprise:

causing the third image sensor to capture a third image of the third portion of the incident light according to third exposure parameters; and

determining a bracketed extended dynamic range image based on the first image, the second image, and the third image.

11. The optical system of claim 10, wherein at least one of the first image sensor, the second image sensor, or the third image sensor has at least one of: a different spectral response, a different spatial resolution, or a different readout rate with respect to the other image sensors.

12. A method comprising:

receiving incident light via at least one lens element;

separating, by at least one beam splitter, the incident light into at least a first portion having a first photon flux and a second portion having a second photon flux, wherein the first photon flux is at least an order of magnitude greater than the second photon flux;

causing a first image sensor to capture a first image of the first portion of the incident light according to first exposure parameters; and

causing a second image sensor to capture a second image of the second portion of the incident light according to second exposure parameters.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising determining an extended dynamic range image based on the first image and the second image.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one beam splitter comprises a partially-silvered mirror or glass having an anti-reflection coating.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one beam splitter comprises a dichroic optical element or a frequency selective surface.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the incident light comprises light emitted from a raster display or a flashing display, wherein the raster display or the flashing display comprises a traffic signal.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one optical element is arranged along an optical path between the at least one beam splitter and at least one of the first image sensor or the second image sensor.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein the first exposure parameters comprises a first exposure time and the second exposure parameters comprise a second exposure time, wherein the first exposure time is at least an order of magnitude shorter than the second exposure time.

19. The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one beam splitter comprises a first beam splitter and a second beam splitter, wherein separating the incident light further comprises separating the incident light into a third portion having a third photon flux, wherein the second photon flux is at least an order of magnitude greater than the third photon flux.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

causing the third image sensor to capture a third image of the third portion of the incident light according to third exposure parameters; and

determining a bracketed extended dynamic range image based on the first image, the second image, and the third image.