



# Optical Communications Rules of Thumb

*By John Lester Miller, Ed Friedman*

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We are taking the unique “rules of thumb” format that drove the authors’ previous Photonics Rules of Thumb, and creating a new volume for the Optical telecommunications field. Rules of thumb are short-cuts, tricks, and methods that industry vets have developed through long years of trial and error. These books share such rules with less experienced readers, who find such information incredibly valuable.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"They Learned This Stuff The Hard Way, August 25, 2000 Reviewer: Phil Hobbs (see more about me) from Briarcliff Manor, New York USA I'm a great fan of lore books as opposed to textbooks or reference books. Lore books are the ones that contain the things that many people in the field may know, but which they had to learn the hard way, and I like them because they help me learn the easy way! Miller and Friedman have written a fun and very useful lore book, which has helped a lot of electro-optics people (including me) stay out of some nasty potholes. The book is inexpensive, and if you're building or specifying electro-optical systems of any sort, you should own it.

#### From the Back Cover

### INSTANT EXPERTISE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Nothing beats experience. That's what *Optical Communications Rules of Thumb* gives you: 250 never-before-collected rules based on the authors' cumulative decades of experience in the field—rules they often learned the hard way—but that you don't have to.

These rules of thumb provide instant expertise--the ability to make quick and accurate judgments on the workability of proposals or proposed design changes, and the grounding to think on your feet in meetings. Just as importantly, they assist in the design process itself, giving you a feel for what will go and what won't, quick ways to verify your intuitions, and a firm base in optical and related sciences on which to build.

More than a set of tools offering mastery of the nearly lost art of expert approximation, *Optical Communications Rules of Thumb* provides scientific erudition and practical engineering know-how. Covering optical communications from attenuation and amplifiers to SONET and systems, this is a truly unique work that can save endless hours of engineering toil.

#### About the Author

**John Lester Miller** earned a B.S. in Physics at the University of Southern California in 1981; participated in physics, math, and engineering graduate studies at Cal State Long Beach and the University of Hawaii; then earned an M.B.A. in technology management from Regis University in 1989. He chairs the SPIE session on advanced infrared technology and frequently referees papers for electro-optical journals. He is now a senior program director and general manager of the Portland office of the Research Triangle Institute. Previously, he has held positions as Chief Scientist, Director of Advanced Technologies, Program Manager, Functional Manager, Lead Engineer, and Electro-Optical Engineer with FLIR Systems (Portland), Lockheed Martin (Denver, Utica, and Orlando), University of Hawaii's NASA IRTF (Hilo), Rockwell International (Seal Beach), and Mt. Wilson's Palomar Observatories (Pasadena) and Griffith Observatory (Los Angeles). He has published more than 30 papers on optical sciences and is author of *Principles of Infrared Technology* and the co-author of the previous edition of this book. He has several patents pending in optical technologies.

John's experience includes leading efforts on telecom optical performance monitors, laser communication systems, surveillance systems, cameras, laser imaging systems, fiber optics, environmental and weather monitoring sensors, and image processing. John was the technical lead for FLIR Systems' telecom endeavors. John and his wife, Corinne Foster, split their time between Lake Oswego and Bend Oregon.

**Ed Friedman** earned a B.S. in Physics at the University of Maryland in 1966 and a Ph.D. in cryogenic physics from Wayne State University in 1972. He started his career in the field of ocean optics and subsequently developed system concepts for remote sensing of the atmosphere and climate. After completing studies related to the design of spacecraft and instruments for the measurement of the radiation balance of the Earth, he was appointed a visiting scientist in the climate program at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. Subsequent employers included The Mitre Corporation, Martin Marietta, Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation, and the Boeing Company, where he serves as a Technical Fellow in the Lasers and Electro-Optics Division.

In the last eight years, he has concentrated on the development of mission concepts and technologies for astrophysics and space science. While at Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation, he was Chief Technologist of the Civil Space business unit. Recent areas of interest include the use of space-based interferometers to create detailed maps of stellar positions and the use of coronagraphic methods for detection of planets in distant solar systems. He and his Ph.D. student were recently awarded a patent for a novel method of alignment and phasing of large, deployed Earth-viewing optics. He has been a patent reviewer for the journal *Applied Optics* and an editor for the journal *Optical Engineering*. He recently retired after ten seasons as a member of the National Ski Patrol. He and his wife Judith live in the mountains west of Boulder, Colorado.

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