



ePIC pfRICH Aerogel

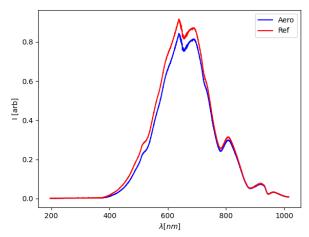
Matt Posik Temple University

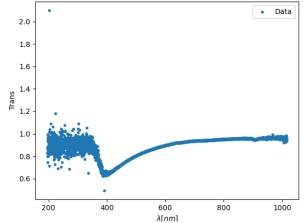
Transmittance Measurements: Halogen Lamp

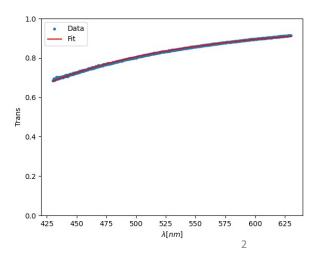




- □ Replace fix frequency LEDs with halogen lamp for continuous coverage
 - Slightly shorter measurement time
 - Continuous spectra allows better fitting uncertainties
 - Minimum wavelength limited to about $450 \ nm$





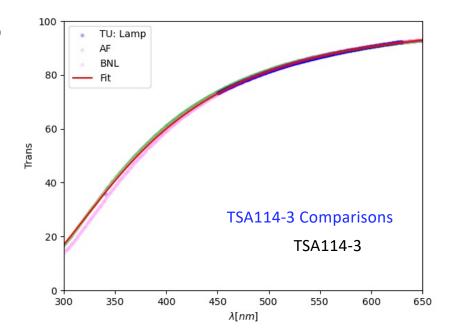


pfRICH General Meeting: August 28th ,2025

Transmittance Measurements: Halogen Lamp



- ☐ Compare transmittance measurements to halogen lamp results
 - Good agreement between other validation measurements
 - Fit of halogen data yields comparable fit results as other measurements with better fit uncertainties compared to TU LED measurements
 - Halogen data can be extended to $\lambda=340~\mathrm{nm}$ LED data point



Transmittance Measurements: Halogen Lamp



lacksquare Better constraints provided by fits

TSA114-3 fit result comparisons

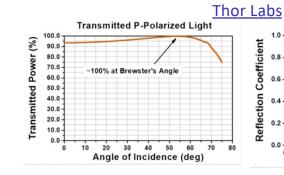
Source	A [%]	Β [μm ⁸]	C [µm ⁴]	$T [\lambda = 400 nm, \%]$
Aerogel Factory	$99.05 \pm 6 \times 10^{-2}$	$9.14 \times 10^{-6} \pm 2.51 \times 10^{-7}$	$4.56 \times 10^{-3} \pm 2.17 \times 10^{-5}$	61.2
BNL	$99.77 \pm 9 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.25 \times 10^{-5} \pm 4.26 \times 10^{-7}$	$4.82 \times 10^{-3} \pm 3.37 \times 10^{-5}$	59.25
TU (LED)	99.55 ± 1.60	$7.64 \times 10^{-6} \pm 7.07 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.87 \times 10^{-3} \pm 5.47 \times 10^{-4}$	59.99
TU (Lamp)	$99.87 \pm 8 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.41 \times 10^{-28} \pm 8.96 \times 10^{-11}$	$5.10 \times 10^{-3} \pm 7.66 \times 10^{-8}$	60.56
TU (LED + Lamp)	$99.61 \pm 2 \times 10^{-4}$	$6.36 \times 10^{-6} \pm 3.5 \times 10^{-12}$	$4.92 \times 10^{-3} \pm 6.71 \times 10^{-9}$	59.97

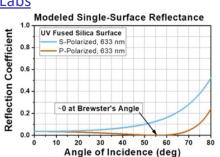
Refractive Index: Brewster's Angle Approach

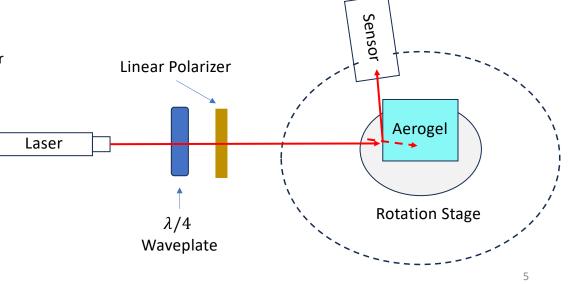


- ☐ Determine refractive index from Brewster's angle:
 - $n_{aero} = n_{air} \tan(\theta_B)$
 - θ_B from minimum reflected P-wave polarization
- ☐ Reference beam via beam splitter could be added
- ☐ Can mimic setup used in reflectivity measurements at BNL
 - e.g. rotation stage / arms
- Funding would be needed to put system together

n_{aero}	$ heta_B [deg.]$
1.040	46.12
1.041	46.15







Brewster's Angle: Setup



☐ <u>Laser</u>

4.0-5.0 mW (4.5 mW typ.)

■ Power Stability: 2%

■ Beam Diam: 3mm

■ Beam Divergence: -6 mrad

Photosensor

■ 50nW – 50mW (200nm-450nm)

Resolution 1nW

■ Linearity: ±0.5%

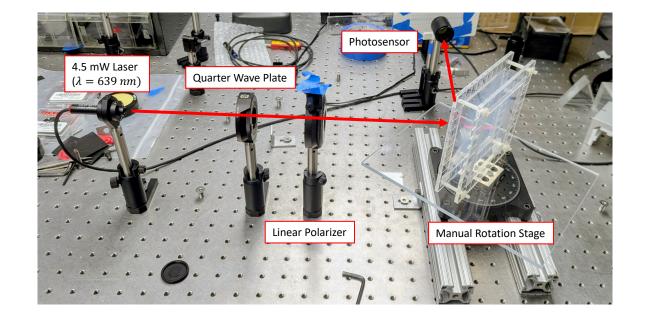
Measurement Uncertainty:

❖ 200nm-270nm: ±7%

❖ 280nm-439nm: ±5%

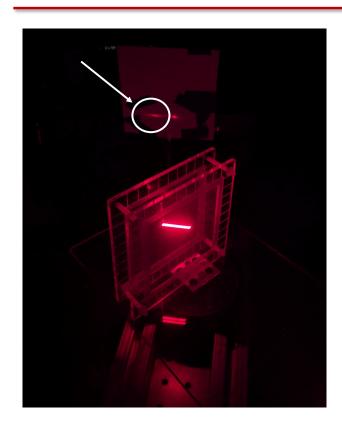
❖ 440nm-980nm: ±3%

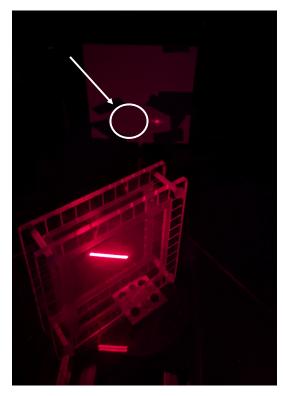
❖ 981nm-1100nm: ±7%



Brewster's Angle: Aerogel TSA 114-3









Disappearance of spot reflected from aerogel front surface when angle of incidence is at Brewster's angle

Refractive Index: Aerogel TSA 114-3



☐ Refractive Index Measurements (via deflection through corner)

 \triangleright Aerogel Factory: 1.0377 @ $\lambda = 405 nm$

ightharpoonup TU: 1.0358 – 1.0409 @ λ = 403 nm

The refractive index for a given Brewster's angle

n	$\theta_B [deg.]$
1.0000	45.0
1.0176	45.5
1.0355	46.0
1.0538	46.5

TSA 114-3 aerogel tile @ $\lambda = 639 nm$

Incident Angle [deg.]	Reflected Power [μW]
40	0.170
41	0.108
42	0.077
43	0.055
44	0.035
45	0.01 (spot not visible)
46	0.01 (spot not visible)
47	0.025
48	0.053
49	0.096
50	0.142

Brewster's Angle: Improvement



- ☐ More precision is needed on measuring Brewster's angle if approach is to be used in QA
 - Angle of incidence precision needed: $\Delta n = 0.001 \Rightarrow 0.52 \text{ mrad} \approx 0.03^{\circ}$
 - ightharpoonup Replace manual rotation stage with 1^o tick marks with high precision automated rotational stage
 - More careful alignment of polarization axes
 - > Currently using back and front face of linear polarizer to align polarization axis perpendicular to the table and cross calibrate to find horizontal axis.
 - Automate sensor positioning to measure reflected light.
 - > Currently manually position at appropriate location. How to automate?
 - Beam spot moves by about 7 mm/deg

Precision Rotational Stage





Thor Labs HDR50

> \$3,340



Thor Lab Controller BSC201

> \$1,754

Stage Specifications		
Translation and Motion Parameters		
Travel	360° Continuous Rotation	
Speed ^{a,b}	50 °/sec (Max)	
Acceleration ^b	80 °/sec2 (Max)	
On-Axis Load Capacity	50 kg (110 lbs)	
Drive Mechanism	Worm Drive	
Gear Ratio	66:1	
Homing Sensor	Hall Effect, Non-Contact	
Stage Bidirectional Repeatability	±350 µrad	
Stage Bidirectional Accuracy	±820 μrad	
Minimum Incremental Motion	0.8 µrad	
Homing Bidirectional Repeatability	±203 μrad	
Axis Wobble	65 µrad	
Torque	6 N•m (Max)	
Physical Specifications		
Platform Size	Ø3.86" (Ø98.0 mm)	
Central Aperture	SM2 (2.035"-40) Threaded	
Platform Mounting Holes	Four 8-32 (M4)	
Dimensions	7.46" x 4.55" x 1.73" (189.4 mm x 115.5 mm x 44.0 mm)	
Weight	3.34 lbs (1.52 kg)	
Attached Cable Length	0.5 m	
Included Extension Cable	PAA613, 3 m Long	
Operating Temperature Range	5 °C to 40 °C	
Humidity	80% RH at 31 °C (Max)	

a. The max speed is only achievable as long as the max torque is not exceeded. b. Measured Using a $\underline{\sf BSC201}$ Controller

Motor Specifications			
Motor Type	2-Phase Stepper		
Step Angle	1.8° (200 Major Steps per Revolution)		
Micro-Stepping	2048 Micro-Steps per Major Step (Total of 409,600 Micro-Steps per Revolution)		
Rated Phase Current	0.85 A		
Resistance / Phase	3.6 Ω		
Inductance / Phase	4.6 mH		