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(54) **PROFILOMETRY SYSTEMS AND METHODS
BASED ON ABSORPTION AND OPTICAL
FREQUENCY CONVERSION**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

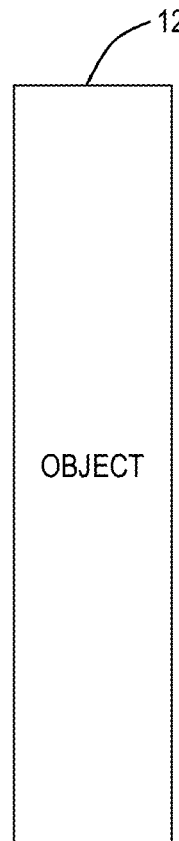
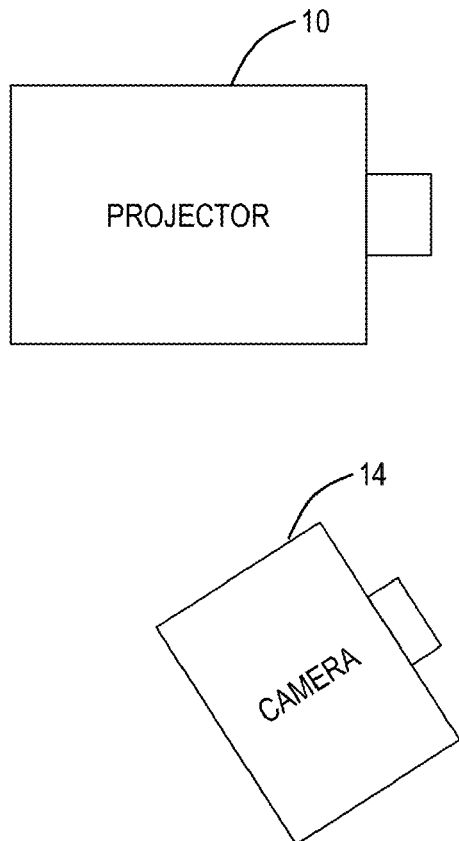
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(60) Provisional application No. 61/837,431, filed on Jun.
20, 2013.

The present disclosure provides novel measurement techniques based on moiré techniques and optical frequency conversion. For example, in the IR realm, the configuration can be any moiré configuration, the detector is an IR detector, and the light source can be at any wavelength. The optical configuration, the detector, and the type of light source depend on the physical properties of object/scene and the parameter(s) to be measured.



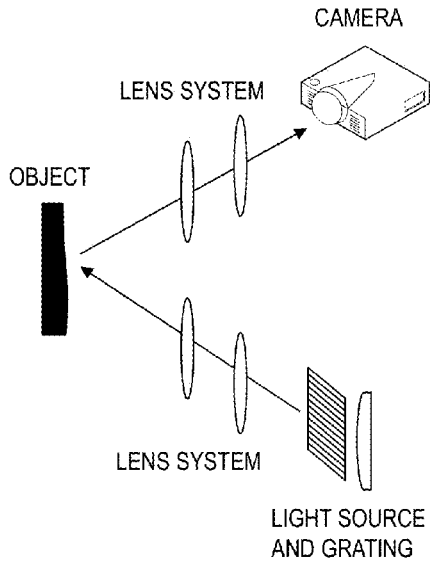


FIG. 1a

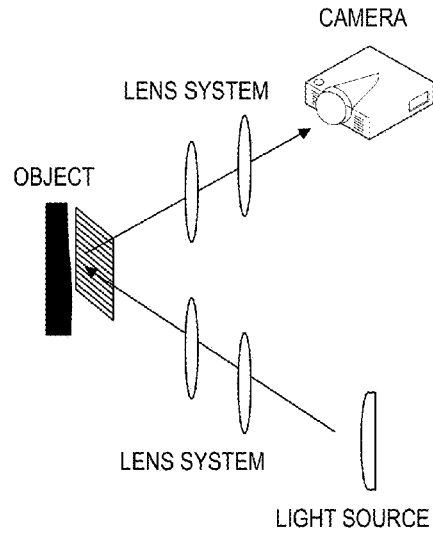


FIG. 1b

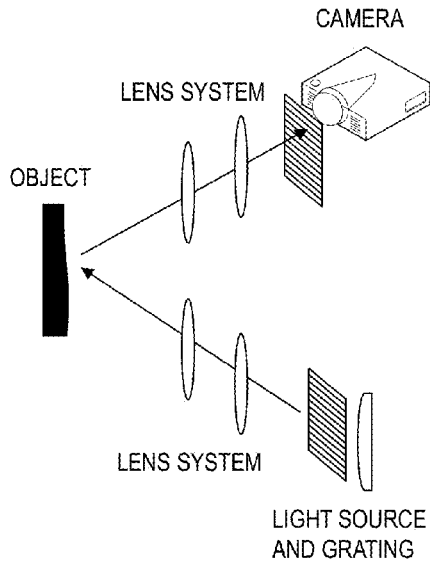


FIG. 1c

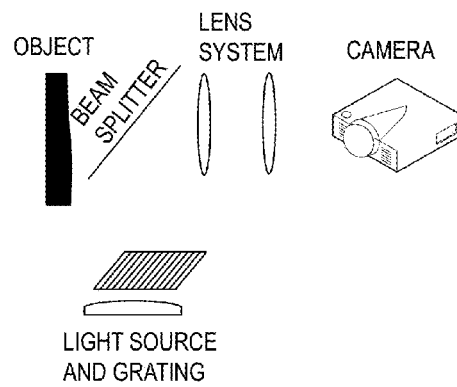


FIG. 1d

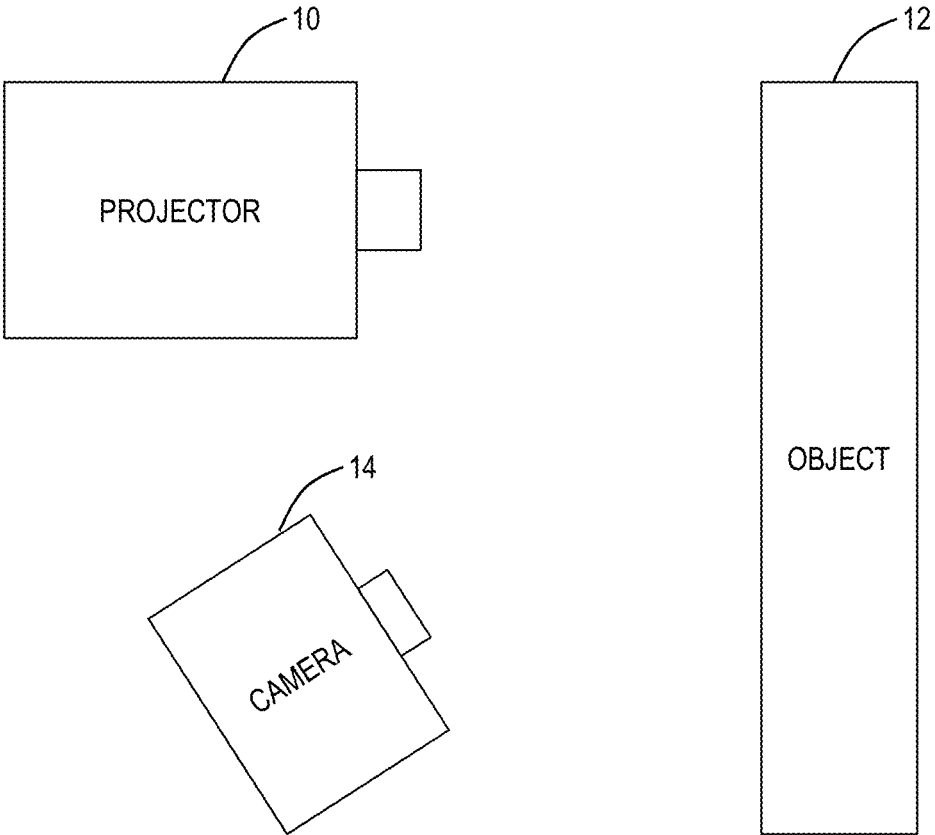


FIG. 2

FIG. 3a

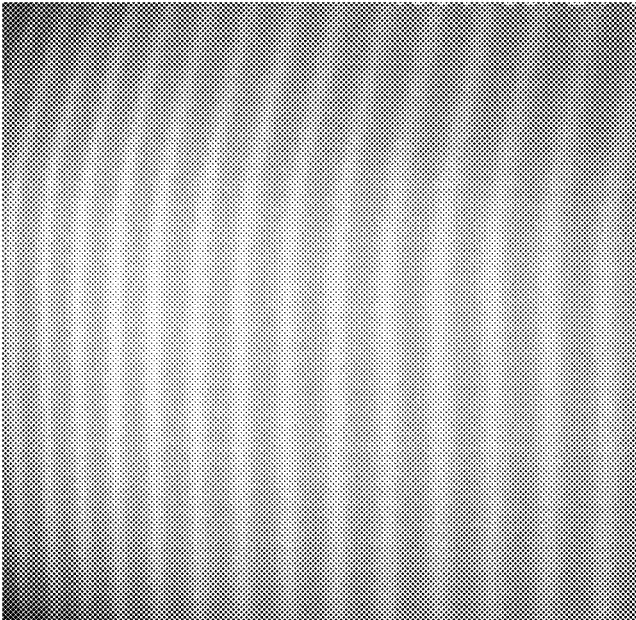
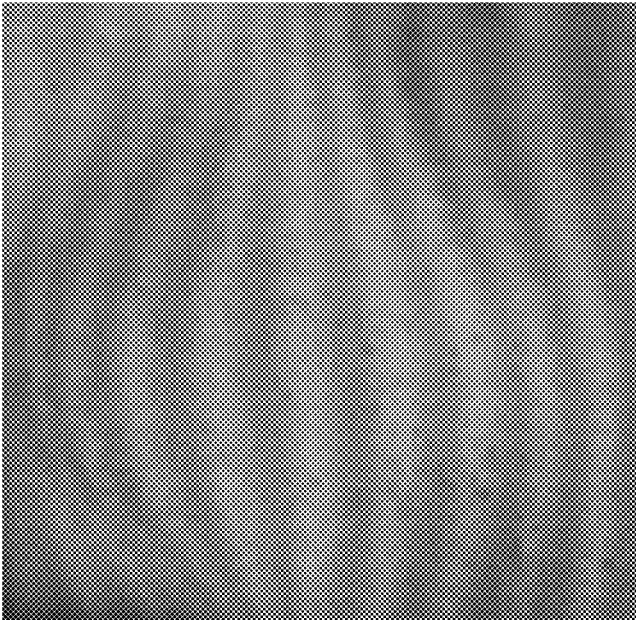


FIG. 3b



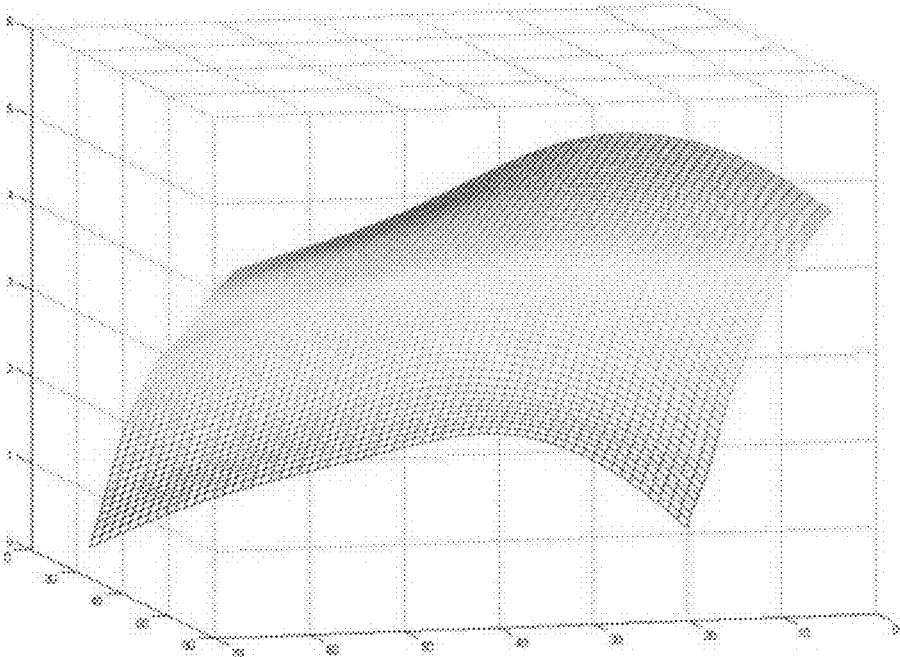
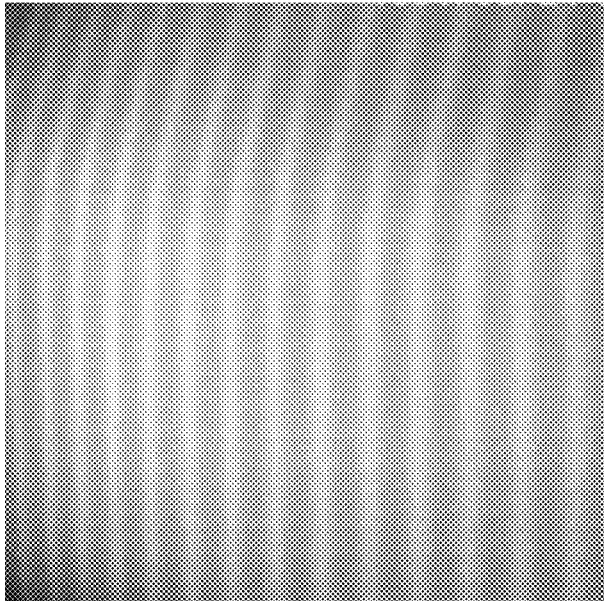


FIG. 4a

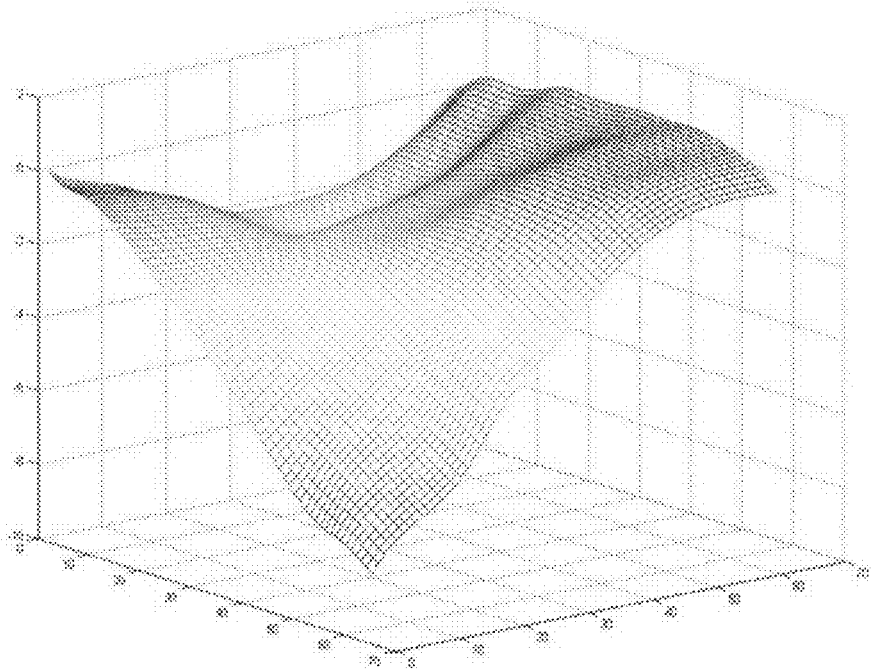
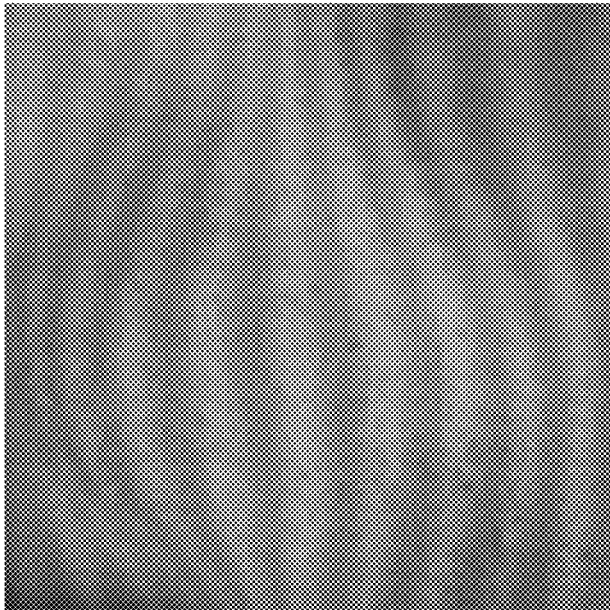


FIG. 4b

**PROFILOMETRY SYSTEMS AND METHODS
BASED ON ABSORPTION AND OPTICAL
FREQUENCY CONVERSION**

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION**

[0001] The present patent application/patent claims the benefit of priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/837,431, filed on Jun. 20, 2013, and entitled "PROFILOMETRY BASED ON ABSORPTION AND OPTICAL FREQUENCY CONVERSION," the contents of which are incorporated in full by reference herein.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0002] The present disclosure relates generally to the optical and profilometry fields. More specifically, the present disclosure relates to profilometry systems and methods based on absorption and optical frequency conversion.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0003] Moiré techniques are optical methods for form and surface measurement and characterization. They can be used to measure in-plane deformation and strain, as well as out-of-plane deformation and profilometry. In-plane measurements are usually performed by attaching a grating to an object and then measuring the deformation of the grating. Out-of-plane measurements are usually based on illuminating the object with structured light, which is typically a straight-line grating, and measuring the deformation of reflected light from the object. In both cases, the reflected light can be summed or multiplied by another grating to form a moiré fringe pattern, or the deformation can be measured directly.

[0004] There are different moiré techniques, including fringe projection, shadow moiré, projection moiré, and reflection moiré. These are illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0005] In fringe projection, a fringe pattern (e.g. parallel lines) is projected onto the object and the projected fringe pattern is captured from another angle. The fringe pattern will be distorted according to the profile of the object. The distance between contours of acquired fringe pattern depends on the pitch of projected fringe pattern and the parameters of fringe projection setup. By analyzing the acquired fringe pattern and knowing the parameters of the fringe projection setup, the profile of the object is calculated.

[0006] Shadow moiré uses a grating in front of the object. A collimated light passes through the grating and makes a shadow of the grating on the object. This shadow is captured from different angles through the grating, which produces a moiré pattern.

[0007] Projection moiré uses two different gratings, instead of one, one in front of a collimated light source and the other one in front of a camera. The profile of the object is calculated from the moiré pattern and the parameters of the projection moiré setup.

[0008] Reflection moiré uses one grating in front of the light source. The structured light is reflected back from a specular object and captured by the camera. The deformation of the structured light (i.e. grating) is related to the slope distribution of the object profile.

[0009] What are still needed in the art, however, are profilometry systems and methods that can be used with very bright or very dark objects, with extreme levels of reflection

or no reflection, using ultraviolet (UV), visible, near infrared (NIR), or infrared (IR) light and heat, or visible or UV light and fluorescence.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0010] In various exemplary embodiments, the present disclosure provides novel measurement techniques based on moiré techniques and optical frequency conversion. For example, in the IR realm, the configuration can be any moiré configuration, the detector is an IR detector, and the light source can be at any wavelength. The optical configuration, the detector, and the type of light source depend on the physical properties of object/scene and the parameter(s) to be measured.

[0011] In one exemplary embodiment, the present invention provides a profilometry system, comprising: a radiation source for delivering radiation of a given wavelength to an object; and a detector operable for detecting resulting radiation reflected or emitted from the object; wherein a frequency of the resulting radiation is converted due to the absorption and emission of radiation by the object. Optionally, the radiation source comprises an IR radiation source and the detector comprises an IR detector. Optionally, the radiation source comprises a short wavelength (SW) radiation source, such as a UV, visible, or NIR light source and the detector comprises an IR detector. Optionally, the radiation source comprises a SW light source and the detector comprises a SW light detector and an IR detector. Optionally, the radiation source comprises a SW light source and an IR source and the detector comprises a SW light detector and an IR detector. Optionally, the delivered radiation induces fluorescence in the object. Optionally, the detector images the object at a fluorescence wavelength. Optionally, the detector images the object at a fluorescence wavelength and an original wavelength simultaneously. Optionally, the detector images the object at a fluorescence wavelength and an original wavelength successively. Optionally, the detector images the object at a fluorescence wavelength and an IR wavelength. Optionally, two detectors image the object at a fluorescence wavelength and an original wavelength, which is the SW, respectively. Optionally, two detectors image the object at a fluorescence wavelength and an IR wavelength, respectively. Optionally, two detectors image the object at a SW wavelength and an IR wavelength, respectively.

[0012] In another exemplary embodiment, the present invention provides a profilometry method, comprising: providing a radiation source for delivering radiation of a given wavelength to an object; and providing a detector operable for detecting resulting radiation reflected or emitted from the object; wherein a frequency of the resulting radiation is converted due to the absorption and emission of radiation by the object. Optionally, the radiation source comprises an IR radiation source and the detector comprises an IR detector. Optionally, the radiation source comprises a SW light source and the detector comprises an IR detector. Optionally, the radiation source comprises a SW light source and the detector comprises a SW light detector and an IR detector. Optionally, the radiation source comprises a SW light source and an IR source and the detector comprises a SW light detector and an IR detector. Optionally, the delivered radiation induces fluorescence in the object. Optionally, the detector images the object at a fluorescence wavelength. Optionally, the detector images the object at a fluorescence wavelength and an original wavelength simultaneously. Optionally, the detector

images the object at a fluorescence wavelength and an original wavelength successively. Optionally, the detector images the object at a fluorescence wavelength and an IR wavelength. Optionally, two detectors image the object at a fluorescence wavelength and an original wavelength, which is the SW, respectively. Optionally, two detectors image the object at a fluorescence wavelength and an IR wavelength, respectively. Optionally, two detectors image the object at a SW wavelength and an IR wavelength, respectively.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] The present invention is illustrated and described herein with reference to the various drawings, in which like reference numbers are used to denote like system components/method steps, as appropriate, and in which:

[0014] FIG. 1 is a series of schematic diagrams illustrating moiré techniques—(a) fringe projection, (b) shadow moiré, (c) projection moiré, and (d) reflection moiré;

[0015] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating an experimental setup for an IR-moiré technique with fringe projection in accordance with the present disclosure;

[0016] FIG. 3 illustrates a fringe pattern for two objects using the IR-moiré technique of the present disclosure—(a) folded black cardboard and (b) egg holder-shaped object; and

[0017] FIG. 4 illustrates a reconstructed profile for two objects from fringe patterns acquired using the IR-moiré technique of the present disclosure—(a) folded black cardboard and (b) egg holder-shaped object.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0018] Again, in various exemplary embodiments, the present disclosure provides novel measurement techniques based on moiré techniques and optical frequency conversion. For example, in the IR realm, the configuration can be any moiré configuration, the detector is an IR detector, and the light source can be at any wavelength. The optical configuration, the detector, and the type of light source depend on the physical properties of object/scene and the parameter(s) to be measured. The profilometry systems and methods of the present disclosure can be used with very bright or very dark objects, with extreme levels of reflection or no reflection, using SW or IR light and heat, or visible or UV light and fluorescence.

[0019] The present disclosure provides novel systems and methods using moiré techniques and optical frequency conversion due to the absorption and emission process of the object to be measured. A detector array then selectively collects a signal at this new frequency or collectively gathers a signal at the excitation, as well as the emission and reflection wavelength. Two distinct examples are provided herein below.

[0020] Referring specifically to FIG. 2, in the first example, light from a light source **10** is used to illuminate an object **12** and generate heat (in the IR region of the optical spectrum), which is then observed using an IR camera **14**. In the second example, emitted light from the light source **10** induces fluorescence in the object **12**, which fluorescent signal is in turn observed by the camera **14**. This is beneficial in cases where there is very low or no reflected light from the surface of the object **12**. This is true for optical dark surfaces.

[0021] The configuration for the IR-moiré of the present disclosure is the same as a conventional moiré technique.

Therefore, the schemes that are illustrated in FIG. 1 are some examples that are equally applicable here.

[0022] The light source **10** for IR moiré can be an IR source (e.g. and IR projector, like the DLP Light Commander Development Kit) or a source at another wavelength that can be absorbed by the object and converted into the heat (e.g. a conventional projector). The projected fringe pattern then can be captured using the IR camera **14** or the like (for example a Tamarisk **320** IR camera).

[0023] If a source out of the IR spectrum range is used as the light source **10** (e.g. UV, visible, or NIR light), part of the incident light on the surface of the object will be converted to heat (i.e. IR radiation), which will be detectable using an IR camera **14**.

[0024] The amount of light absorption, or the percentage of absorbed light that is converted into heat, and the distribution of heat on the surface of the object as a function of time have to be considered to project proper fringe patterns, acquire proper moiré patterns, and calculate the accurate profile of the object.

[0025] This technique can be combined with a conventional moiré technique to acquire a profile of the object with the aid of combined techniques.

[0026] To show the feasibility of the IR-moiré technique, the following experiment was conducted. A conventional projector in the visible wavelength range was used to project the fringe pattern. The heat generated by the absorbed light emitted IR light (i.e. heat) that was captured by the IR camera. FIG. 3 shows the captured fringe pattern for a folded black cardboard (a) and an egg holder-shaped object (b).

[0027] As is seen, the projected patterns are formed on the object and then captured using the IR camera. Since the formed fringe patterns are the same as the acquired fringe patterns in conventional moiré techniques, the same fringe analysis can be used to calculate the profile of the object. FIG. 4 shows the calculated profiles from the acquired fringe patterns.

[0028] Depending on the mechanism of the fringe formation in IR-moiré techniques, the fringe analysis techniques for conventional moiré techniques might need some modifications or some new fringe analysis techniques might be needed.

[0029] For some dark objects, it is impossible to measure their profile using visible light as a result of high absorption in the visible spectrum. We can use an IR-moiré technique that uses a SW light source to generate an IR wavelength at the object to measure the profile of dark objects using IR wavelengths.

[0030] The configuration for fluorescent-moiré is the same as other moiré systems. Therefore, the schemes that are shown in FIG. 1 are some examples of fluorescent-moiré technique configurations.

[0031] The light source for fluorescent-moiré can be at any wavelength, from x-ray to deep IR, which can be absorbed by the object and induces excitation and fluorescence emission. The projected fringe pattern then can be captured using a camera that is sensitive to a fluorescent signal. The original light that is reflected back from the object may or may not be filtered out.

[0032] The amount of light absorption, percentage of absorbed light that is converted into a fluorescent signal, and the secondary excitation effect (the fluorescence caused by the new frequency down converted signal on the regions that originally were not exposed to light) have to be considered to

project a proper fringe pattern, acquire a proper moiré pattern, and calculate the accurate profile of the object.

[0033] Again, this technique can be combined with a conventional moiré technique to acquire a profile of the object with the aid of combined techniques.

[0034] Although the present disclosure is illustrated and described herein with reference to preferred embodiments and specific examples thereof, it will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that other embodiments and examples may perform similar functions and/or achieve like results. All such equivalent embodiments and examples are within the spirit and scope of the present disclosure, are contemplated thereby, and are intended to be covered by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A profilometry system, comprising:
 - a radiation source for delivering a radiation pattern of a given wavelength to an object; and
 - a detector operable for detecting a resulting radiation pattern reflected or emitted from the object;
 wherein a frequency of the resulting radiation is converted due to the absorption and emission of radiation by the object.
2. The profilometry system of claim 1, wherein the radiation source comprises an IR radiation source and the detector comprises an IR detector.
3. The profilometry system of claim 1, wherein the radiation source comprises a short wavelength light source and the detector comprises an IR detector.
4. The profilometry system of claim 1, wherein the radiation source comprises a short wavelength light source and the detector comprises a short wavelength light detector and an IR detector.
5. The profilometry system of claim 1, wherein the radiation source comprises a short wavelength light source and an IR source and the detector comprises a short wavelength light detector and an IR detector.
6. The profilometry system of claim 1, wherein the delivered radiation causes fluorescence in the object.
7. The profilometry system of claim 6, wherein the detector captures the pattern at a fluorescence wavelength.
8. The profilometry system of claim 7, wherein the detector captures the pattern at a fluorescence wavelength and an original wavelength simultaneously.
9. The profilometry system of claim 7, wherein the detector captures the pattern at a fluorescence wavelength and an original wavelength successively.
10. The profilometry system of claim 7, wherein the detector captures the pattern at a fluorescence wavelength and an IR wavelength.
11. The profilometry system of claim 6, wherein two or more detectors capture the pattern:
 - at a fluorescence wavelength and a short wavelength, respectively; or
 - at a fluorescence wavelength and an IR wavelength, respectively.

12. The profilometry system of claim 1, wherein two or more detectors capture the pattern:

at a short wavelength and an IR wavelength, respectively.

13. The profilometry system of claim 1, wherein the captured patterns are combined to form a pattern with enhanced dynamic range.

14. A profilometry method, comprising:

providing a radiation source for delivering a radiation pattern of a given wavelength to an object; and

providing a detector operable for detecting a resulting radiation pattern reflected or emitted from the object;

wherein a frequency of the resulting radiation is converted due to the absorption and emission of radiation by the object.

15. The profilometry method of claim 14, wherein the radiation source comprises an IR radiation source and the detector comprises an IR detector.

16. The profilometry method of claim 14, wherein the radiation source comprises a short wavelength light source and the detector comprises an IR detector.

17. The profilometry method of claim 14, wherein the radiation source comprises a short wavelength light source and the detector comprises a short wavelength light detector and an IR detector.

18. The profilometry method of claim 14, wherein the radiation source comprises a short wavelength light source and an IR source and the detector comprises a short wavelength light detector and an IR detector.

19. The profilometry method of claim 14, wherein the delivered radiation causes fluorescence in the object.

20. The profilometry method of claim 19, wherein the detector captures the pattern at a fluorescence wavelength.

21. The profilometry method of claim 20, wherein the detector captures the pattern at a fluorescence wavelength and an original wavelength simultaneously.

22. The profilometry method of claim 20, wherein the detector captures the pattern at a fluorescence wavelength and an original wavelength successively.

23. The profilometry method of claim 20, wherein the detector captures the pattern at a fluorescence wavelength and an IR wavelength.

24. The profilometry method of claim 20, wherein two or more detectors capture the pattern:

at a fluorescence wavelength and a short wavelength, respectively; or

at a fluorescence wavelength and an IR wavelength, respectively.

25. The profilometry method of claim 14, wherein two or more detectors capture the pattern:

at a short wavelength and an IR wavelength, respectively.

26. The profilometry method of claim 14, wherein the captured patterns are combined to form a pattern with enhanced dynamic range.

* * * * *