



Lectures Notes on Optical Design using Zemax OpticStudio

Lecture 27

Zemax **Programming** **Language**

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```
# First ZPL Macro Program  
print "Hello Zemax"
```

```
# numeric variable  
F = 5  
print "Value of F is ",F
```

```
# string variables  
a$ = "centi"  
b$ = "meter"  
c$ = a$ + b$  
print a$  
print b$  
print c$
```

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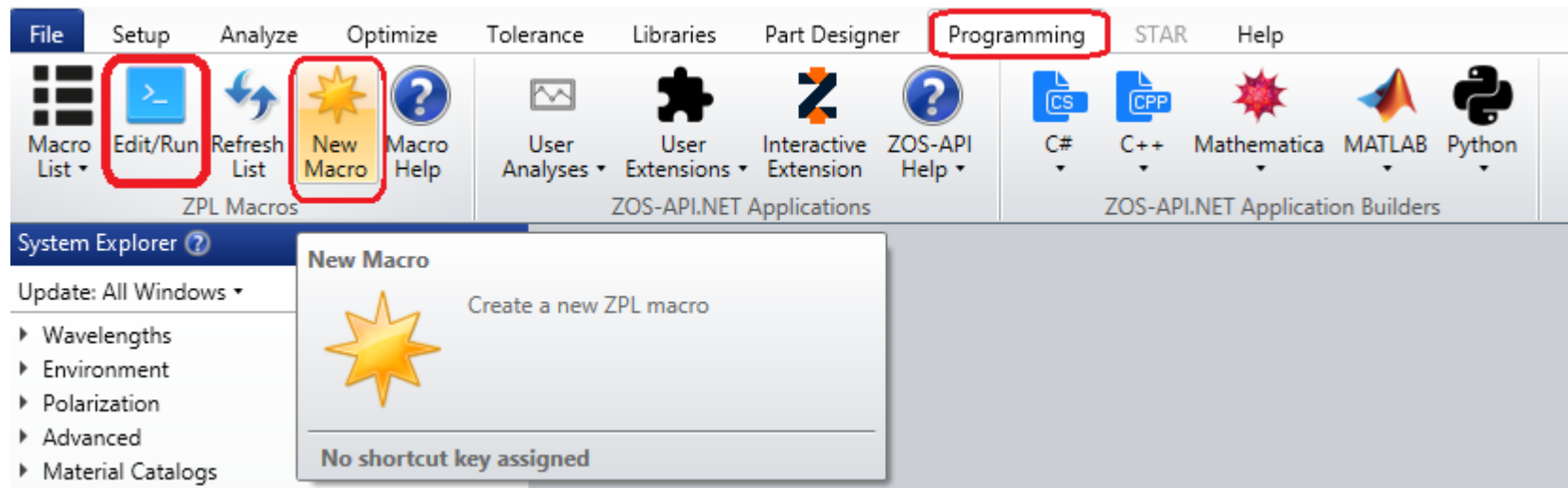
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Introduction

- Zemax is a powerful tool for optical design, but sometimes designers need extra features for special tasks. To help with this, Zemax includes the Zemax Programming Language (ZPL).
- ZPL is a simple programming language, similar to BASIC, that lets users create their own custom functions.
- ZPL file is also known as **Macro** file.
- A detailed guide for ZPL can be in [Appendix 4](#) at the course web page.

Example 1: How to Edit / Run Macro Files



```
TestMacro.ZPL

# First ZPL Macro Program
print "Hello Zemax"

# numeric variable
F = 5
print "Value of F is ",F

# string variables
a$ = "centi"
b$ = "meter"
c$ = a$ + b$
print a$
print b$
print c$
```

```
1: Text Viewer

Executing C:\Users\optikpc\Documents\Zemax\MACROS\TestMacro.ZPL.
Hello Zemax
Value of F is 5.0000
centi
meter
centimeter
|
```

Example 2: Ray Tracing and Getting Detector Data

Consider the following system and a merit function:

Source Gaussian

Beam Size = 5 mm

Position = 10 mm

Standart Lens

Material = PMMA

Thickness = 6 mm

Radius2 = -100 mm

Edge1=Edge2=Clear1=Clear2=20 mm

Detector Rectangle

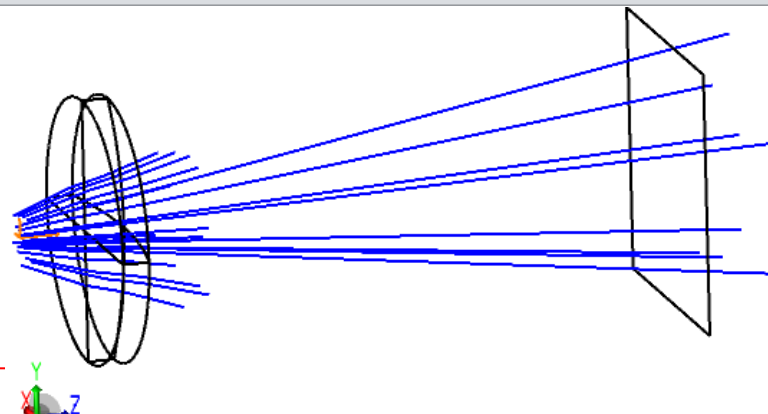
X-HW = Y-HW = 20

X-pix = Y-pix = 250

Non-Sequential Component Editor

Update: All Windows

</



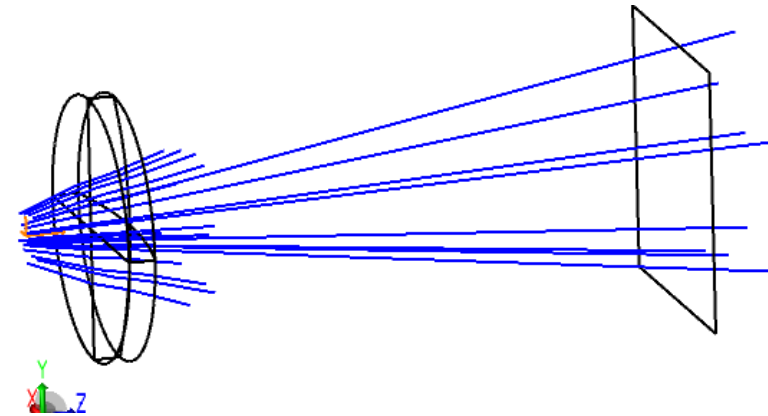
Merit function to read total power on detector:

Merit Function Editor

Wizards and Operands

Merit Function: 0

	Type	Surf	Src#	Splt?	Scat?	Pol?	IgEr?		Target	Weight	Value	% Contrib
1	NSDD	1	0	0	0	0	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2	NSTR	1	0	1	0	1	1.000		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
3	NSDD	1	3	0	0	0	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.322	0.000



The same operation can be done using ZPL macro as follows:

```
example2.ZPL

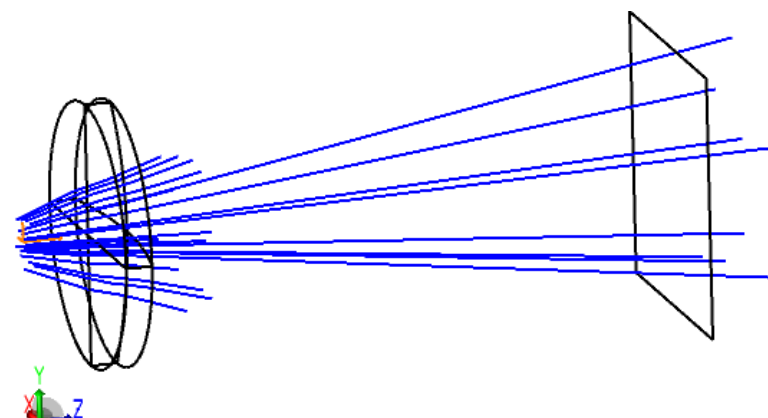
clear = NSDD(1,0,0,0)
NSTR 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1
totalPower = NSDD(1,3,0,0)
print "Total power on detector = ",totalPower
```

```
2: Text Viewer

Settings

Executing C:\Users\optikpc\Documents\Zemax\MACROS\example2.ZPL.
Total power on detector = 0.3215
```

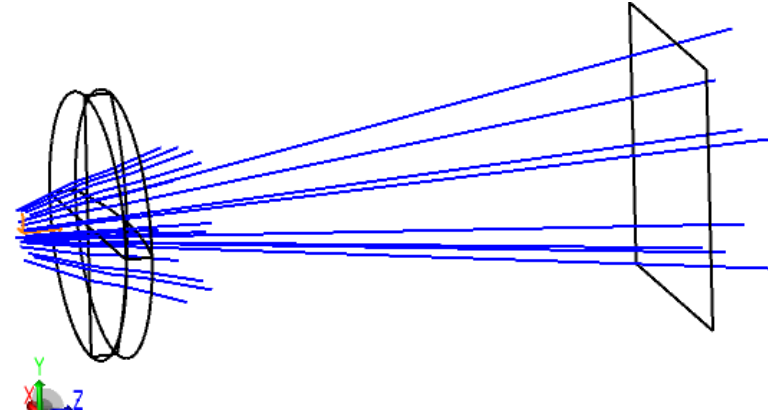
```
example2.ZPL
#####
2 # example2.zpl
3 # This is written in details
4 #####
5 true  = 1
6 false = 0
7
8 SplitNSCRays = true
9 Polarization = false
10 Scattering   = false
11 IgnoreErrors = true
12 RandomSeed   = false # false means "set seed from computer timer"
13
14 # clear all detectors
15 clear = NSDD(1,0,0,0)
16
17 # start rays tracing with options above
18 NSTR 1, 0, SplitNSCRays, Polarization, Scattering, IgnoreErrors, RandomSeed
19
20 # compute total power and rms spot size
21 TotalPower = NSDD(1,3, 0,0)
22 RmsRadius  = NSDD(1,3,-9,0)
23
24 format 9.6
25 print "Total power on detector = ",TotalPower
26 print "RMS spot size           = ",RmsRadius
27
```



```
2: Text Viewer
Settings
Executing C:\Users\optikpc\Documents\Zemax\MACROS\example2.ZPL.
Total power on detector = 0.321546
RMS spot size           = 15.637509
```

Example 3: More Settings

In this macro example,
we'll use the same setup (as in Example2)
Source Gaussian -> Std.Lens -> Detector Rectangle



we'll see three keywords:

SETSYSTEMPROPERTY code, value1, value2

SETNSCPARAMETER surface, object, parameter, value

SETNSCPOSITION surface, object, code, value

and two control statements:

IF (expression)

(commands)

ELSE

(commands)

ENDIF

FOR variable, start_value, stop_value, increment

(commands)

NEXT


```
example3.ZPL
#####
# example3.zpl
# In this macro we use the same setup (as before)
# Source Gauss -> Std.Lens -> Detector Rectangle
#####

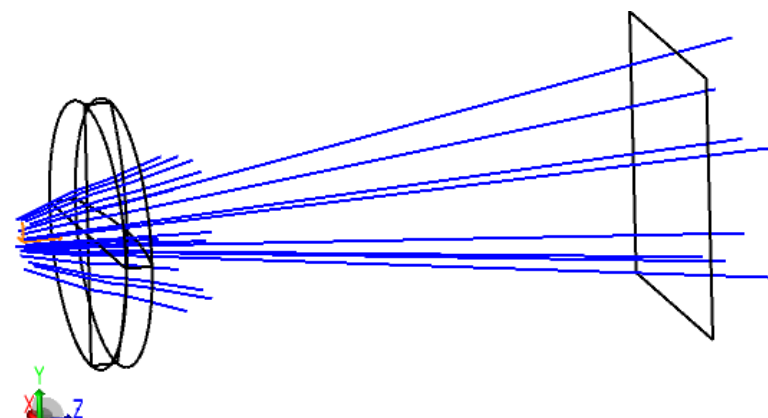
# set system wavelength
Wavelength = 1.0 # um
code = 202
SETSYSTEMPROPERTY code, 1, Wavelength

# set number of rays
NumberOfRays = 100000
sourceObject = 1
SETNSCPARAMETER 1, sourceObject, 2, NumberOfRays

print "Wavelength      = ",Wavelength
print "Number of rays = ",NumberOfRays
if (NumberOfRays >= 1e6)
    beep
    print "Number of rays desired is too high!"
    print "Analysis may take a while"
endif

startVal = 20
endVal   = 50
stepSize = 5

for zpos,startVal,endVal,stepSize
    SETNSCPOSITION 1, 3, 3, zpos # set detector z-position
    cleanUp = NSDD(1,0,0,0)
    NSTR 1,0,1,0,1,1
    power = NSDD(1,3,0,0) # optical power
    rms   = NSDD(1,3,-9,0) # rms value
    print "zpos = ", zpos, " power = ", power, " rms = ",rms
next
```



```
2: Text Viewer
Settings
Executing C:\Users\optikpc\Documents\Zemax\MACROS\example3.ZPL.
Wavelength      = 1.0000
Number of rays = 100000.0000
zpos = 20.0000 power = 0.9218 rms = 9.5158
zpos = 25.0000 power = 0.9086 rms = 10.7303
zpos = 30.0000 power = 0.8837 rms = 11.7428
zpos = 35.0000 power = 0.8471 rms = 12.5550
zpos = 40.0000 power = 0.8017 rms = 13.1993
zpos = 45.0000 power = 0.7509 rms = 13.6952
zpos = 50.0000 power = 0.6991 rms = 14.0920
```

Example 4: Getting Detector Data

In this macro example,
we'll use the same setup (as in Example2)

* NSDD operand to get detector data as follows:

NSDD (1,Det,Pix,Data)

Det = detector number (for our case 3)

Pix = pixel number (from 0, 1, 2, ..., #number of pixels)

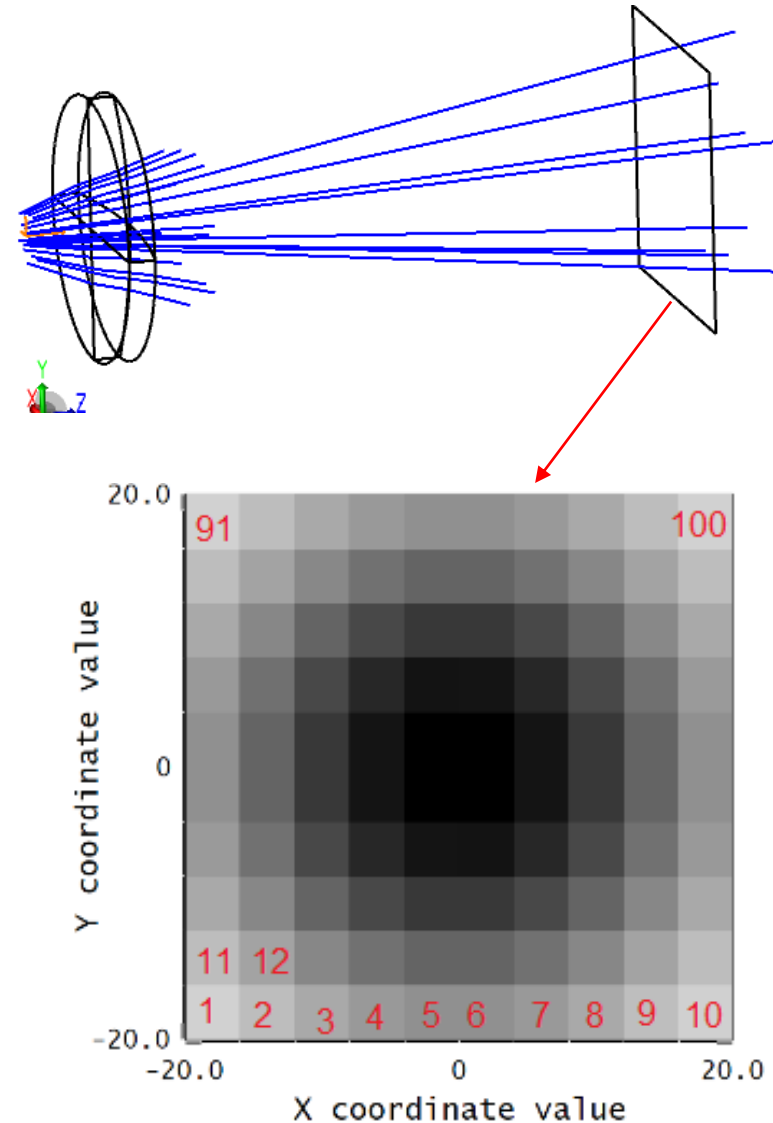
Data = 0 power (flux), Data = 1 power/area (irradiance), ...

* PRINT can not only output messages to the display,
but also output messages to files using keyword OUTPUT.

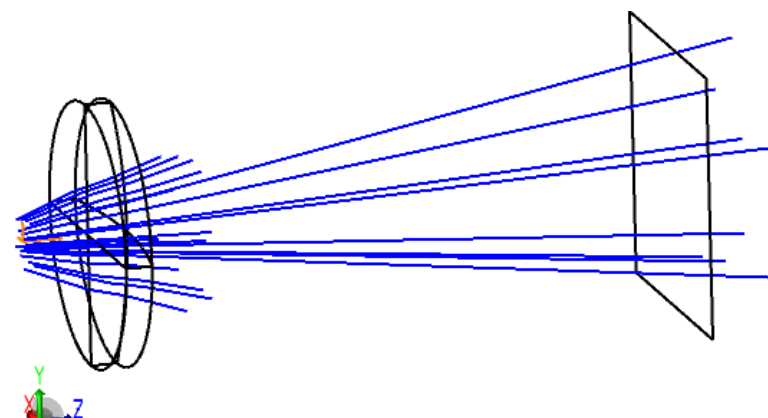
OUTPUT SCREEN

OUTPUT filename\$

OUTPUT filename\$, APPEND



```
example4.ZPL
1 #####
2 # example4.zpl
3 # In this macro we use the same setup (as before)
4 # Source Gauss -> Std.Lens -> Detector Rectangle
5 #####
6 # set number of rays
7 NumberOfRays = 100000
8 sourceObj = 1
9 SetNSCParameter 1, sourceObj, 2, NumberOfRays
10 # set detector properties (we have 10x10 matrix)
11 npixx = 10
12 npixy = 10
13 xhw = 20
14 yhw = 20
15 detectorObj = 3
16 SetNSCParameter 1, detectorObj, 1, xhw
17 SetNSCParameter 1, detectorObj, 2, yhw
18 SetNSCParameter 1, detectorObj, 3, npixx
19 SetNSCParameter 1, detectorObj, 4, npixy
20
21 npix = npixx*npixy # total # of pixels
22 ps = 2*xhw/npixx # pixel size
23
24 file$ = "C:\Users\optikpc\Desktop\output.txt"
25 print "Data will be written to ",file$
26 output file$
27 print "number of pixels = ", npix
28 print "size of one pixel = ", ps
29 print
30 format 12.5 EXP # scientific format
31 # clear all detectors and start ray tracing
32 clearDet = NSDD(1,0,0,0)
33 NSTR 1,0,1,0,1,1
34
35 # print out detector data (power/area) for each pixel
36 for pix,1,npix,1
37     intensity = NSDD(1,3,pix,1)
38     print "pix = ", pix," value = ",intensity
39 next
40
```



3: Text Viewer

Settings

Executing C:\Users\optikpc\Documents\Zemax\MACROS\example4.ZPL.
Data will be written to C:\Users\optikpc\Desktop\output.txt

output - Not Defteri

Dosya Düzen Biçim Görünüm Yardım

number of pixels = 100.0000
size of one pixel = 4.0000

pix = 1.00000E+00	value = 1.44436E-02
pix = 2.00000E+00	value = 2.02603E-02
pix = 3.00000E+00	value = 2.63612E-02
pix = 4.00000E+00	value = 3.15129E-02
pix = 5.00000E+00	value = 3.42456E-02
pix = 6.00000E+00	value = 3.42276E-02
pix = 7.00000E+00	value = 3.14818E-02

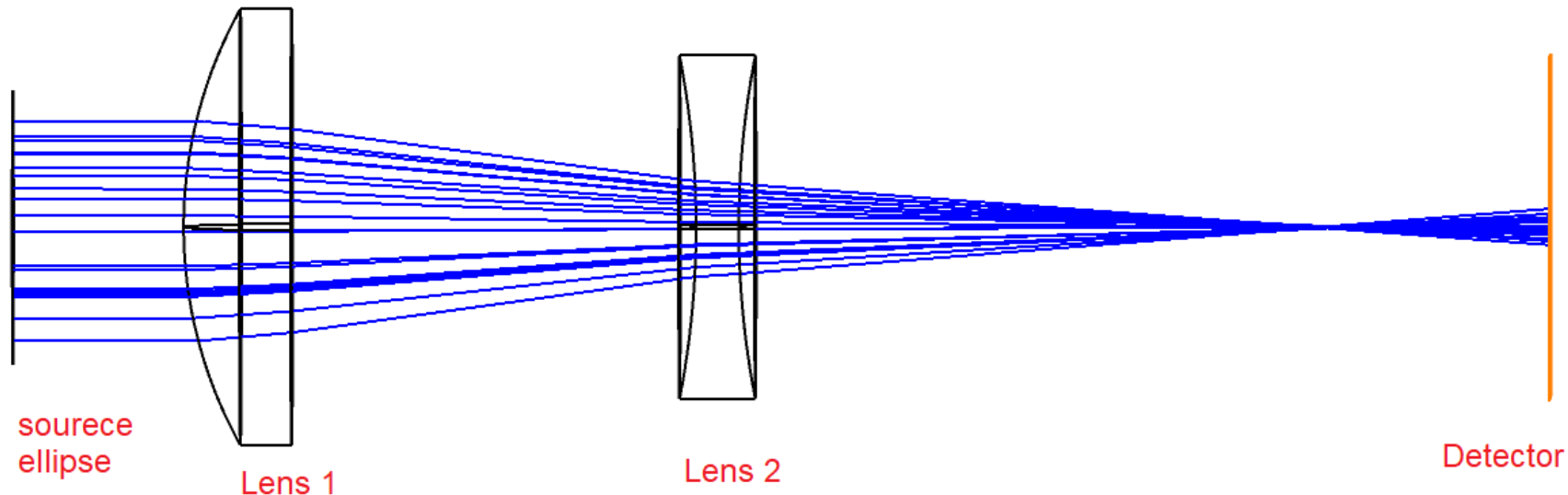
St 1, Stn 1 100% Windows (CRLF) UTF-16 LE

Example 5: Setup Optical Sys. in Macro

In this macro example, we'll setup a system using a macro file.

We will use the following keywords (surface=1 for all NSC objects):

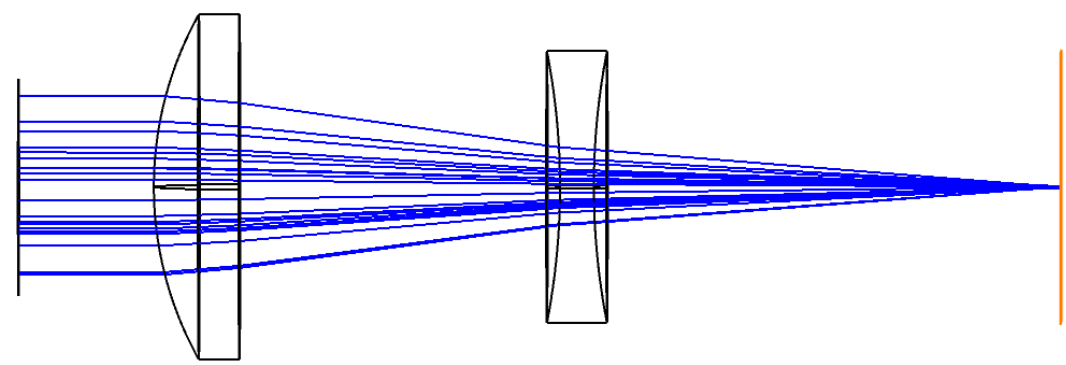
INSERTOBJECT	surface, object
SETNSCPROPERTY	surface, object, code, face, value
SETNSCPARAMETER	surface, object, parameter, value
SETNSCPOSITION	surface, object, code, value
SETSYSTEMPROPERTY	code, value1, value2



```
example5.ZPL
#####
# example5.zpl
# This macro first creates a system including:
# SourceEllipse+Lens1+Lens2+Detector
# Then, finds the detector's z-pos to get min rms size.
# See source web page to download this macro file.
#####
# object 1 (Source Ellipse)
print "Setting source ellipse"
SetNSCProperty 1,1,0,0, "NSC_SRCE"
SetNSCParameter 1,1,1,2e1 # #of layout rays
SetNSCParameter 1,1,2,1e4 # #of analysis rays
SetNSCParameter 1,1,3,0.1 # source power
SetNSCParameter 1,1,6,8.0 # x-half width
SetNSCParameter 1,1,7,8.0 # y-half width

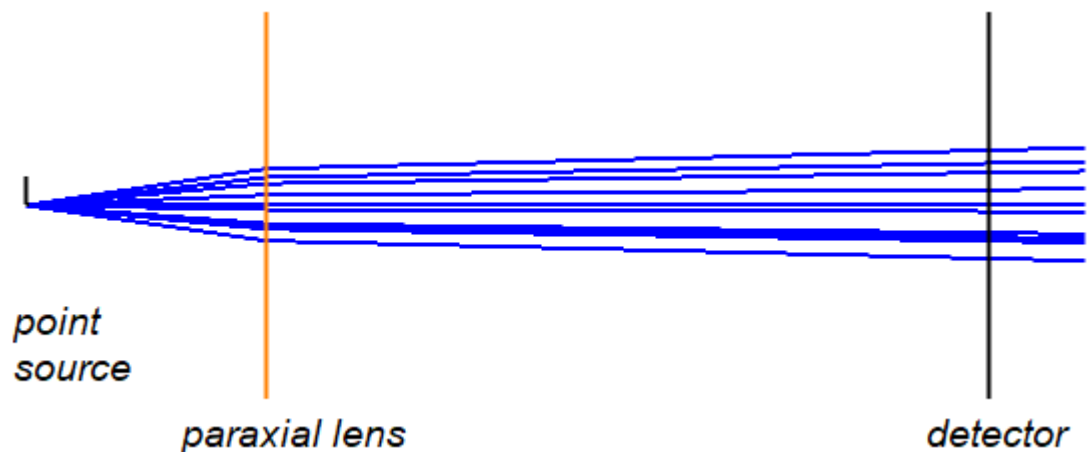
# object 2 (standart lens1)
print "Setting lens 1"
InsertObject 1,2
SetNSCProperty 1,2,0,0, "NSC_SLEN"
SetNSCProperty 1,2,4,0, "N-BK7"
SetNSCPosition 1,2,3,10.000 # z-pos
SetNSCParameter 1,2,1,25.940 # radius1
SetNSCParameter 1,2,3,12.700 # clear1
SetNSCParameter 1,2,4,12.700 # edge1
SetNSCParameter 1,2,5, 6.320 # center thickness
SetNSCParameter 1,2,6, 0.000 # radius2
SetNSCParameter 1,2,8,12.700 # clear2
SetNSCParameter 1,2,9,12.700 # edge2

# object 3 (standart lens2)
print "Setting lens 2"
InsertObject 1,3
SetNSCProperty 1,3,0,0, "NSC_SLEN"
SetNSCProperty 1,3,4,0, "N-BK7"
SetNSCPosition 1,3,3, 40.000 # z-pos
SetNSCParameter 1,3,1,-52.103 # radius1
SetNSCParameter 1,3,3, 10.000 # clear1
SetNSCParameter 1,3,4, 10.000 # edge1
SetNSCParameter 1,3,5, 2.500 # center thickness
SetNSCParameter 1,3,6, 52.103 # radius2
SetNSCParameter 1,3,8, 10.000 # clear2
```



```
1: Text Viewer
Settings
Executing C:\Users\optikpc\Documents\Zemax\MACROS\example5.ZPL.
Setting source ellipse
Setting lens 1
Setting lens 2
Setting detector
Optimizing to find best focus ...
x pos = 50.0000 rms_min = 1.8274
x pos = 51.0000 rms_min = 1.7668
x pos = 52.0000 rms_min = 1.6853
x pos = 53.0000 rms_min = 1.6273
x pos = 54.0000 rms_min = 1.5607
x pos = 55.0000 rms_min = 1.4845
x pos = 56.0000 rms_min = 1.4210
x pos = 57.0000 rms_min = 1.3566
x pos = 58.0000 rms_min = 1.2829
x pos = 59.0000 rms_min = 1.2180
x pos = 60.0000 rms_min = 1.1532
x pos = 61.0000 rms_min = 1.0850
x pos = 62.0000 rms_min = 1.0200
x pos = 63.0000 rms_min = 0.9523
x pos = 64.0000 rms_min = 0.8819
x pos = 65.0000 rms_min = 0.8120
x pos = 66.0000 rms_min = 0.7465
```

Example 6: Solve Type as ZPL Macro



```
example6.ZPL
#####
# example6.zpl
# Solve Type as ZPL Macro
# To get position/parameter
#   NPOS(surface, object, code)
#   NPAR(surface, object, parameter)
# Setup:
#   Source point -> Paraxial lens -> Detector
#####
# z-position of source point
z = NPOS(1,1,3)
# cone angle of source point
a = NPAR(1,1,6)
# to set position of the lens w.r.t. source
zLens = 5*(z+a)/2
SolveReturn zLens
```

Non-Sequential Component Editor

Update: All Windows

Object 2 Properties

Configuration 1/1

	Object Type	Comment	Ref Object	Inside Of	X Position	Y Position	Z Position	Tilt About X	Tilt About Y	Tilt About Z	Material	X Half Width	Y Half Width	X Focal Length	Y Focal Length	Par 5(used)	Par 6(ur
1	Source Point		0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-	10	1E+04	1.000	0	0	10.
2	Paraxial Lens		0	0	0.000	0.000	25.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		20.000	20.000	30.000	30.000		
3	Detector Rectangle		0	0	0.000	0.000	100.000	Z position solve on object 2				20.000	20.000	100	100	0	

Solve Type: ZPL Macro

Macro: example6