

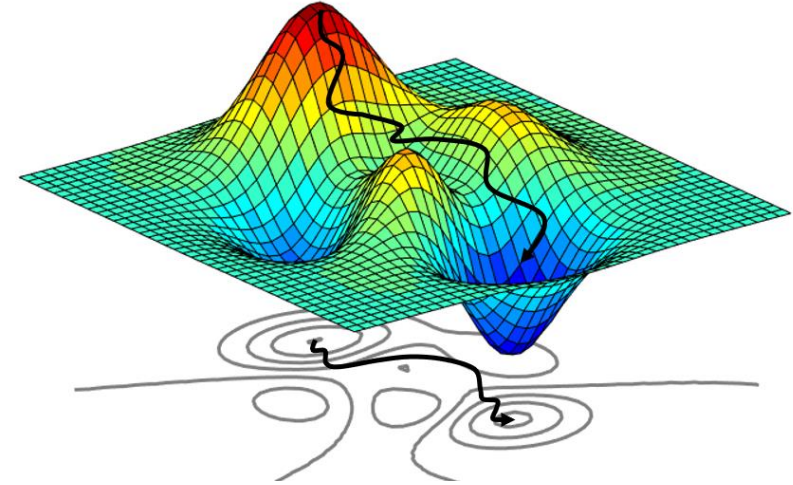


# Lectures Notes on Optical Design using Zemax OpticStudio

## Optimization

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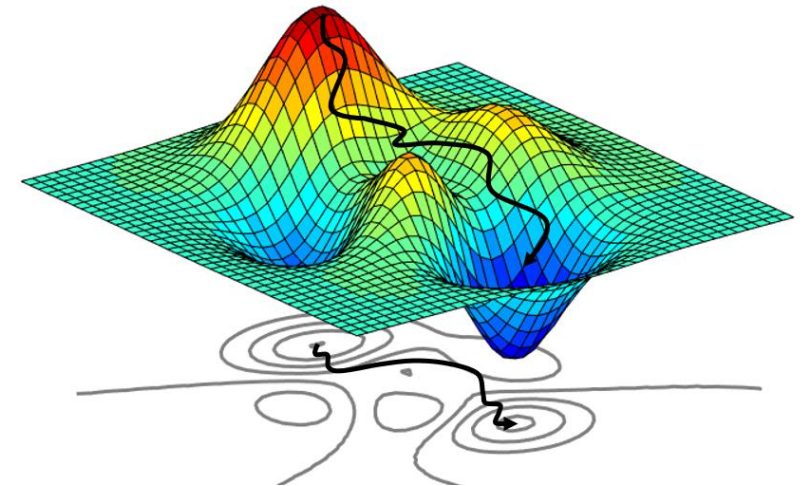
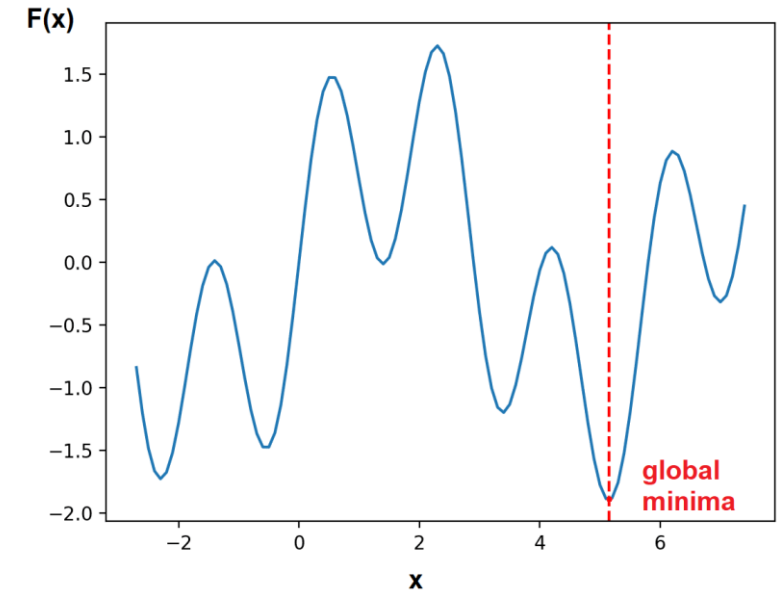
**Apr 2024**

# What is Optimization?

- Optimization is an operation to find minimum or maximum value of a function,  $F(x)$ . Here,  $F(x)$  is called the **merit function**.
- $F'(x) = 0$  where  $F(x)$  is optimum.  
If  $F''(x) > 0$  then  $F(x)$  min.  
If  $F''(x) < 0$  then  $F(x)$  is max.
- Function can have multivariable  
 $F = F(x_1, x_2, \dots)$

To find optimum location of function we may use iterative techniques such as Newtonian Method:

$$\mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{H}_i^{-1} \nabla F_i$$



# Optimization in Zemax

- In Zemax **merit function** (MF) is partially constructed by user.
- To determine new targets **operands** are used. The job of Zemax is to reach target values for each operand using numerical methods. So, the main goal is to minimize the MF.
- MF definition definition:

$$MF^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N W_i (V_i - T_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^N W_i}$$

N = Number of operands

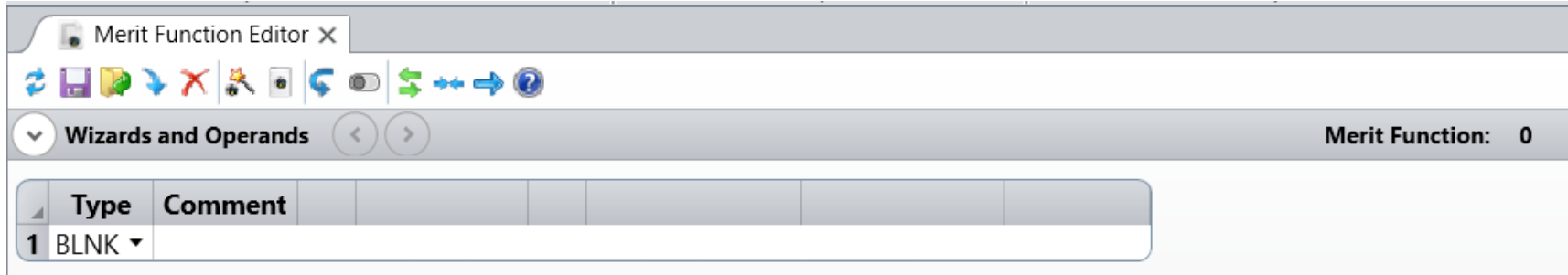
$W_i$  = Weight of the operand

$V_i$  = Current value of operand

$T_i$  = Target value of operand

# Merit Function Editor (MFE)

- To setup MF, Merit Function Editor is used.
- **Optimize -> Merit Function Editor (MFE).**
- The usage is similar to LDE.



# List of Operands

- Operands are strings made up of 4 letters.
- Using Help Menu, you can list all of the operands used in optimization:

## Optimization Operands (Alphabetically)

This section provides a detailed description of each operand, listed alphabetically in a single table.

NAME	Description
ABCD	The ABCD values used by the grid distortion feature to compute generalized distortion. See "Grid Distortion". The re defined by Ref Fld. The wavelength number is defined by Wave. Data is 0 for A, 1 for B, 2 for C, and 3 for D. See also
ABGT	Absolute value of operand greater than. This is used to make the absolute value of the operand defined by Op# grea
ABLT	Absolute value of operand less than. This is used to make the absolute value of the operand defined by Op# less tha
ABSO	Absolute value of the operand defined by Op#.
ACOS	Arc cosine of the value of the operand defined by Op#. If Flag is 0, then the units are radians, otherwise, degrees.
AMAG	Angular magnification. This is the ratio of the image to object space paraxial <a href="#">chief ray</a> angles at the wavelength defi <a href="#">non-paraxial systems</a> .
ANAC	Angular aberration radial direction measured in image space with respect to the centroid at the wavelength defined defined as: $\epsilon = \text{SQRT}[(l-l_c)^2 + (m-m_c)^2]$ where l and m are the x and y direction cosines of the ray and the c subscript indicates the centroid. See "Hx, Hy, Px,
	Angular aberration radius measured in image space at the wavelength defined by Wave with respect to the primary quantity is defined as:

# Frequently used Operands

WFNO	<b>Working F-Number</b> operatörü kullanıldığı optimizasyonda sistemin f sayısını hedeflenen değere götürmeye çalışır.
EFFL	<b>Effective Focal Length</b> operandı kullanıldığı optimizasyondaki optik sistemin odak uzaklığını hedeflenen değere götürmeye çalışır.
CTGT	<b>Center Thickness Greater Than</b> operandı ile seçilen bir yüzeyden sonraki merkez uzaklığını istenilen değerden büyük tutmaya çalışan operanddır.
CTVA	<b>Center Thickness Value</b> operandı tanımlanan yüzeyin anlık merkez uzaklığını belirlemek için kullanılır.
OPLT	<b>Operand Less Than</b> komutu ile sistemde daha önce tanımlanan operandların değerleri ayarlanabilir.
OPGT	<b>Operand Greater Than</b> komutu ile sistemde daha önce tanımlanan operandların değerleri ayarlanabilir.
MXSD	<b>Maximum SemiDiameter</b> operandı ile bir yüzeyin alabileceği maksimum çap belirlenebilir.
MNSD	<b>Minimum SemiDiameter</b> operandı ile bir yüzeyin alabileceği minimum çap belirlenebilir.
TOTR	<b>Total Track (length)</b> operandı ile sistemin boyu hedeflenen değere doğru zorlanabilir.
ABSO	<b>Abosute Value</b> bir operand değerlerinin mutlak değerlerinin hesaplanmasında kullanılır.
DIFF	<b>Difference</b> iki operand değerinin farkının bulunmasında kullanılır.
SUMM	<b>Sum of two operands</b> iki operand değerinin toplanmasında kullanılır.

# Merit Function Wizard

- Easiest way to setup MF is to use **Optimization Wizard**
- It will be activated when you click on **Apply** or **OK** buttons.

The screenshot shows the 'Merit Function Editor' window with the 'Optimization Wizard' tab selected. The window title is 'Merit Function Editor x'. The toolbar includes icons for file operations, undo, redo, and help. The 'Wizards and Operands' section shows the 'Optimization Wizard' tab. The 'Current Operand (1)' section is active. The 'Optimization Function' section has a 'Criterion' dropdown set to 'Wavefront', 'Spatial Frequency' set to 30, 'X Weight' set to 1, 'Y Weight' set to 1, 'Type' dropdown set to 'RMS', and 'Reference' dropdown set to 'Centroid'. The 'Pupil Integration' section has 'Gaussian Quadrature' selected, 'Rings' set to 3, 'Arms' set to 6, and 'Obscuration' set to 0. The 'Boundary Values' section has 'Glass' and 'Air' checkboxes, with 'Min' and 'Max' values set to 0 and 1e+03 respectively, and 'Edge Thickness' set to 0. The 'Start At' section has a value of 1. The 'Overall Weight' is set to 1. The 'Configuration' dropdown is set to 'All' and the 'Field' dropdown is set to 'All'. The 'Assume Axial Symmetry' checkbox is checked, 'Ignore Lateral Color' is unchecked, and 'Add Favorite Operands' is unchecked. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'OK', 'Apply', 'Close', 'Save Settings', 'Load Settings', and 'Reset Settings'.

Merit Function Editor x

Wizards and Operands Merit Function: 0

Optimization Wizard

Current Operand (1)

Optimization Function

Criterion: Wavefront

Spatial Frequency: 30

X Weight: 1

Y Weight: 1

Type: RMS

Reference: Centroid

Pupil Integration

☒ Gaussian Quadrature

☐ Rectangular Array

Rings: 3

Arms: 6

Obscuration: 0

Boundary Values

☐ Glass Min: 0 Max: 1e+03 Edge Thickness: 0

☐ Air Min: 0 Max: 1e+03 Edge Thickness: 0

Start At: 1

Overall Weight: 1

Configuration: All

Field: All

Assume Axial Symmetry: ☒

Ignore Lateral Color: ☐

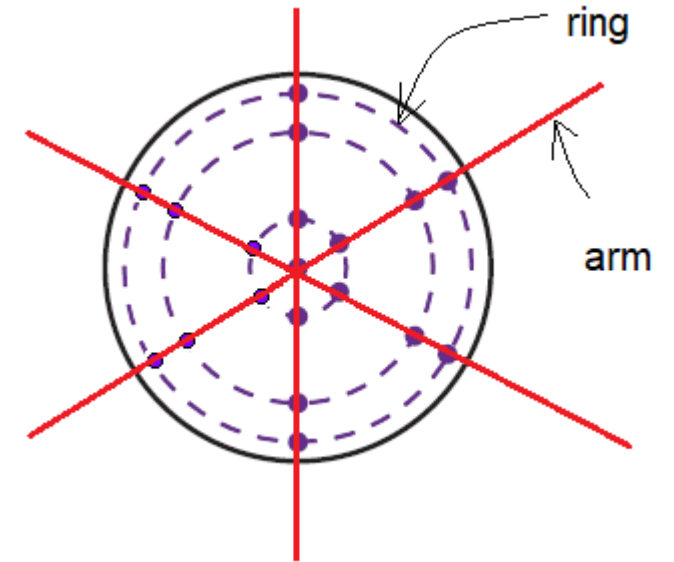
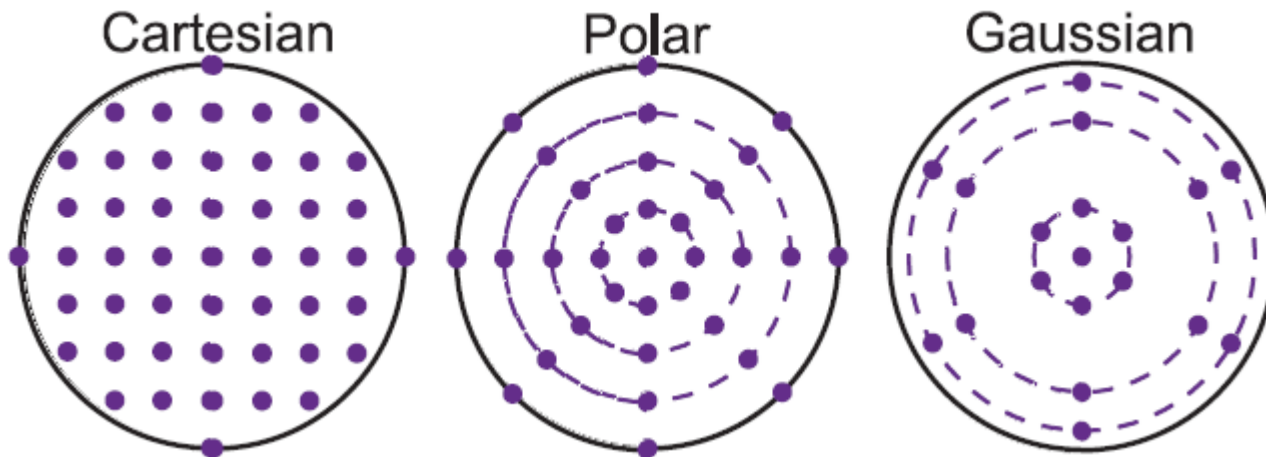
Add Favorite Operands: ☐

OK Apply Close Save Settings Load Settings Reset Settings

# Pupil Sampling

Pupil sampling defines the number and the distribution of the rays traced through the pupil and is critical for optimization.

Common pupil sampling methods:

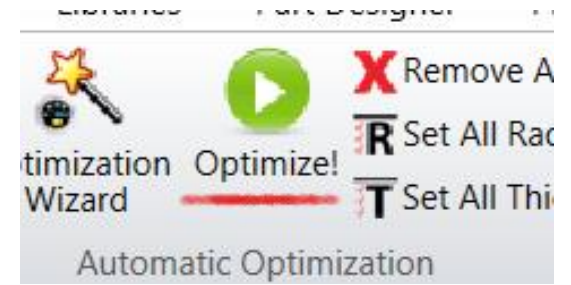


*Gaussian quadrature (GQ) sampling uses a very small number of skew rays at very specific pupil coordinates and weightings. GQ sampling returns a mathematically exact integral of the pupil with fewer rays and provides higher sampling near the edge. GQ is the fastest sampling for the majority of cases.*

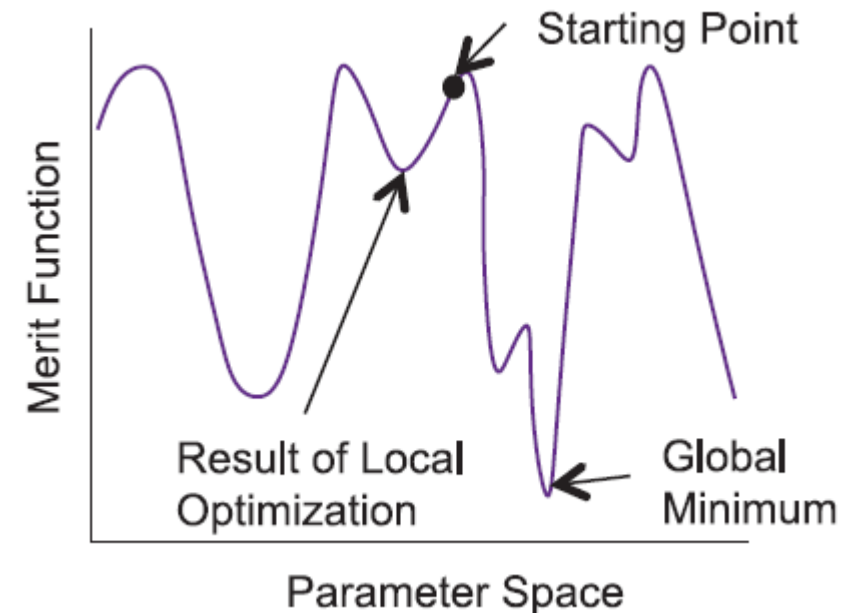


# Local Optimization

- This is the the simple optimization technique. The algorithm usually falls to a local minimum and stops quickly.
- To start Local Optimization, click on **Optimize** button under Optimization tab.

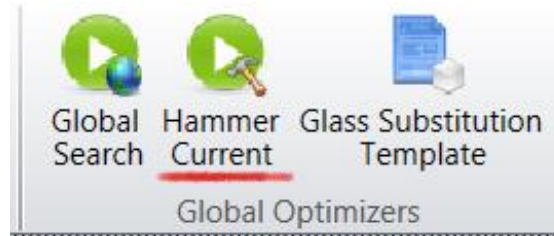


*Local optimization uses gradient search to find the nearest merit function minimum and moves “downhill.” Global optimization attempts to find the global minimum by allowing both uphill and downhill movement in the merit function. However, global optimization can require extensive computation time.*



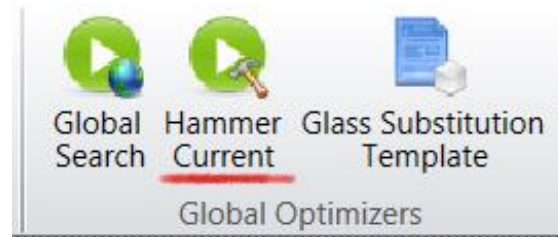
# Hammer Optimization

- Hammer Current uses better **algorithm** to minimize MF.
- It allows you to change the glass type as well.
- It is useful for the complex optical system design.



# Global Search

- Global Search, is an advanced search method to get global minimum of MF. See help.



# Variable Solves

- To minimize MF, optimization tool has to change value of radius or thickness. To do that, we need to define **variables** in Zemax.
- After you double click on any radius or thickness value, you can assign variable to this parameter. If a cell is assigned as variable you will see letter '**V**' on the right.
- Keyboard short cut to set a cell as variable is **CTRL + Z**

nt	Radius		Thickness	
	Infinity		Infinity	
	15,000	V	20,000	V
	Infinity		-	

# Glass Selection

- The material (glass) can also be variable. To to that, material on has to be assigned as Substitute. Glass is directly taken from Material Catalog.
- This option only works for Hammer Optimization.



Thickness	Material	Coating	C
Infinity	BK7	S	
0,000	LF7	S	
-			

# Basic Optimization Examples

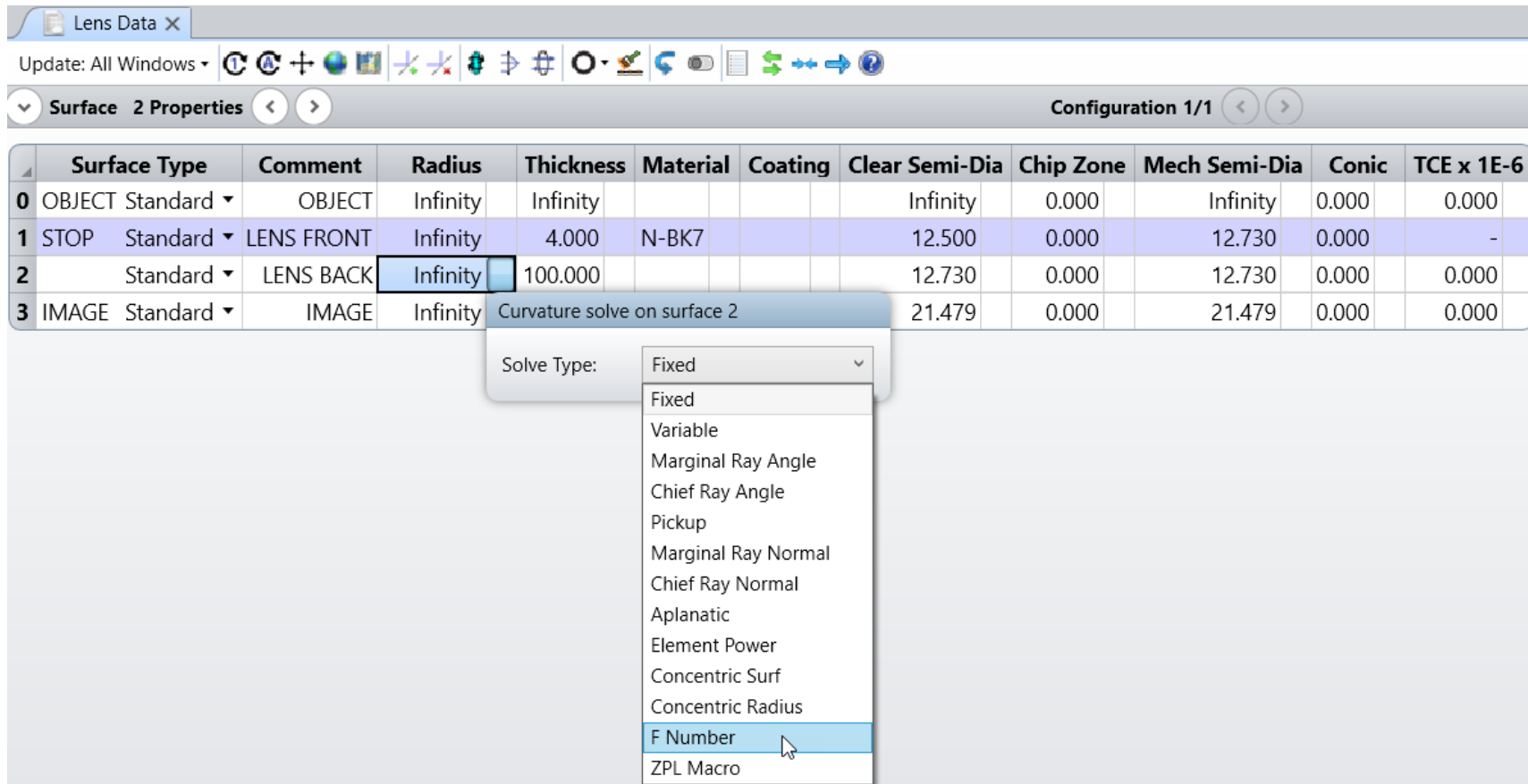
## Example 1: Single Lens Design (via f/#)

We will design and optimize an F/4 singlet lens made of N-BK7 glass.

The final design solution shall meet the following specifications and constraints:

Specification	Constraint
Focal Length	100 mm
Semi-Field of View (SFOV)	5 degrees
Wavelength	632.8 nm (HeNe)
Center Thickness of singlet	Between 2 mm and 12 mm
Edge Thickness of singlet	Larger than 2 mm
Optimization criteria	RMS Spot Size averaged over FOV
Object location	At infinity

Click on second surface of the lens and select **F Number**.  
Since  $f = 100$  mm, Diameter (ENPD) is automatically computed as  
 $D = f/(f/\#) = 100/4 = 25$  mm.



The screenshot shows the 'Lens Data' window with a table of lens surfaces. The table has columns: Surface Type, Comment, Radius, Thickness, Material, Coating, Clear Semi-Dia, Chip Zone, Mech Semi-Dia, Conic, and TCE x 1E-6. Surface 2 is selected, and a context menu is open over it, showing 'Solve Type' and a list of options including 'F Number'.

	Surface Type	Comment	Radius	Thickness	Material	Coating	Clear Semi-Dia	Chip Zone	Mech Semi-Dia	Conic	TCE x 1E-6
0	OBJECT Standard ▾	OBJECT	Infinity	Infinity			Infinity	0.000	Infinity	0.000	0.000
1	STOP Standard ▾	LENS FRONT	Infinity	4.000	N-BK7		12.500	0.000	12.730	0.000	-
2	Standard ▾	LENS BACK	Infinity	100.000			12.730	0.000	12.730	0.000	0.000
3	IMAGE Standard ▾	IMAGE	Infinity				21.479	0.000	21.479	0.000	0.000

Curvature solve on surface 2

Solve Type: Fixed ▾

- Fixed
- Variable
- Marginal Ray Angle
- Chief Ray Angle
- Pickup
- Marginal Ray Normal
- Chief Ray Normal
- Aplanatic
- Element Power
- Concentric Surf
- Concentric Radius
- F Number**
- ZPL Macro



Set Radius of first surface, center thickness and distance between image plane and last surface of the lens are variables.

Lens Data X													
Update: All Windows													
Surface 0 Properties Configuration 1/1													
	Surface Type	Comment	Radius	Thickness	Material	Coating	Clear Semi-Dia	Chip Zone	Mech Semi-Dia	Conic	TCE x 1E-6		
0	OBJECT Standard	OBJECT	Infinity	Infinity			Infinity	0.000	Infinity	0.000	0.000		
1	STOP Standard	LENS FRONT	Infinity V	4.000 V	N-BK7		12.500	0.000	12.640	0.000	-		
2	Standard	LENS BACK	-51.509 F	94.864 V			12.640	0.000	12.640	0.000	0.000		
3	IMAGE Standard	IMAGE	Infinity	-			9.363	0.000	9.363	0.000	0.000		

- In MFE, setup the following configurations and click on **Apply** button.
- Then, press **Start** button to start local optimization.  
(Variables will be calculated automatically)

Merit Function Editor

Wizards and Operands Merit Function: 0

**Optimization Wizard**

Current Operand (1)

**Optimization Function**

Criterion: Spot

Spatial Frequency: 30

X Weight: 1

Y Weight: 1

Type: RMS

Reference: Centroid

**Pupil Integration**

☒ Gaussian Quadrature

☐ Rectangular Array

Rings: 3

Arms: 6

Obscuration: 0

**Boundary Values**

☒ Glass Min: 2 Max: 12 Edge Thickness: 2

☐ Air Min: 0 Max: 100 Edge Thickness: 0

Start At: 1

Overall Weight: 1

Configuration: 1

Field: All

Assume Axial Symmetry: ☒

Ignore Lateral Color: ☐

Add Favorite Operands: ☐

OK Apply Close Save Settings Load Settings Reset Settings

Type	Comment
1 BLNK	

## Example 2: Single Lens Design

Using Zemax, design the following singlet:

- EFFL 90 mm (for d-line)
- F/# 4
- FOV  $2^\circ (\pm 1^\circ)$
- WAVE F, d, C Visible
- GLAS SF2
- DIAMETER 26 mm
- ct [4 mm, 8 mm]
- MASS Max 12 g

Find the radius of curvatures of the lens such that it is optimized for smallest RMS spot size averaged over the field of view at the given wavelength.

	Surface Type	Comment	Radius	Thickness	Material	Clear Semi-Dia	Chip Zone	Mech Semi-Dia	Conic	Coating	TCE x 1E-6
0	OBJECT Standard ▾		Infinity	Infinity		Infinity	0.000	Infinity	0.000		0.000
1	STOP Standard ▾		Infinity	0.000 V		12.500	0.000	12.500	0.000		0.000
2	(aper) Standard ▾		100.000 V	5.000 V	SF2	13.000 U	0.000	13.000	0.000		-
3	(aper) Standard ▾		-100.000 V	80.000 V		13.000 U	0.000	13.000	0.000		0.000
4	IMAGE Standard ▾		Infinity	-		2.826	0.000	2.826	0.000		0.000

	Comment	X Angle (°)	Y Angle (°)	Weight	VDX	VDY	VCX	VCY	TAN
1		0.000	0.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2		0.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

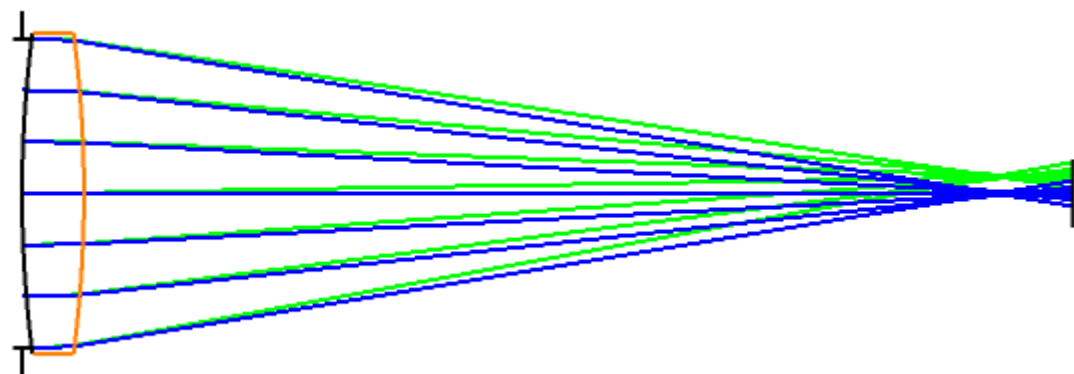
Wavelength Data

	Wavelength (μm)	Weight	Primary		Wavelength (μm)	Weight	Primary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 0.486	1.000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 0.588	1.000	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 0.656	1.000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	23 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	24 0.550	1.000	<input type="radio"/>

F, d, C (Visible) ▾
Select Preset
Decimals: Use Editor Preference ▾

Minimum Wave: 0.486
Maximum Wave: 0.656
Steps: 4 ▾
Gaussian Quadrature

Close
Save
Load
Sort ?



Merit Function Editor

Wizards and Operands

Merit Function: 0.306069285112129

Optimization Wizard

Current Operand (1)

Optimization Function

Image Quality: Spot

Spatial Frequency: 30

X Weight: 1

Y Weight: 1

Type: RMS

Reference: Centroid

☐ Max Distortion (%): 1

☐ Ignore Lateral Color

Optimization Goal

☒ Best Nominal Performance

☐ Improve Manufacturing Yield

Weight: 1

Pupil Integration

☒ Gaussian Quadrature

☐ Rectangular Array

Rings: 3

Arms: 6

Obscuration: 0

Boundary Values

☒ Glass

Min: 4

Max: 8

Edge Thickness: 2

☐ Air

Min: 0

Max: 1e+03

Edge Thickness: 0

Start At:

Overall Weight: 1

OK

Apply

Close

Merit Function Editor

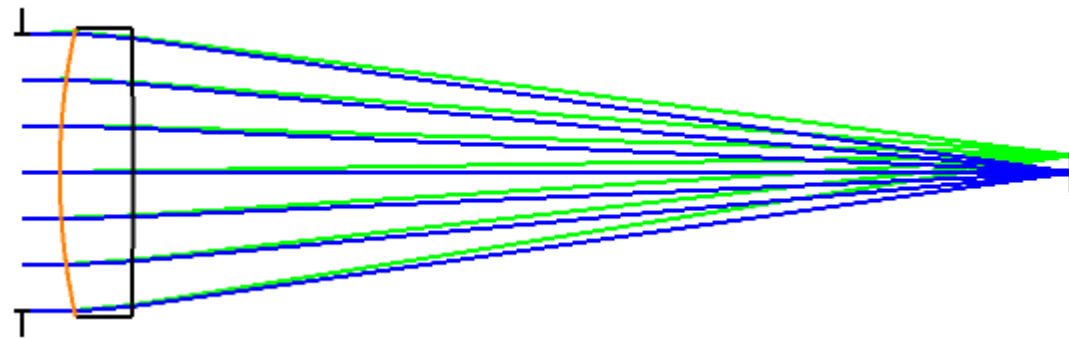
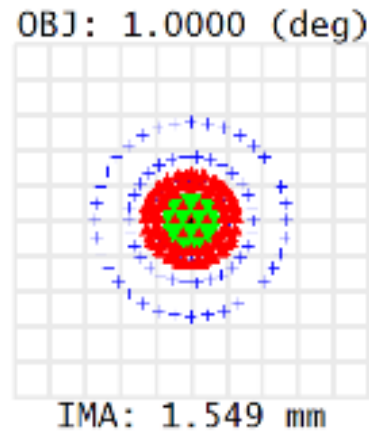
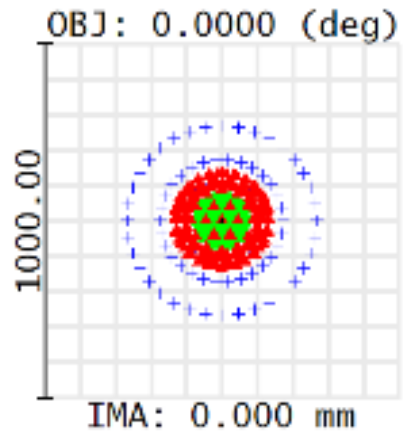
Wizards and Operands

Merit Function: 2.99842926885653

	Type		Wave	Hx	Hy	Px	Py		Target	Weight	Value	% Contrib
1	EFFL		2						90.000	1.000	77.964	93.234
2	TMAS	2	3		0				0.000	0.000	8.510	0.000
3	OPLT	2							12.000	1.000	12.000	0.000
4	DMFS											
5	BLNK	Sequential merit function: RMS spot x+y centroid X Wgt = 1.0000 Y Wgt = 1.0000 GQ 3 rings 6 :										
6	BLNK	Default individual glass thickness boundary constraints. No air constraints.										
7	MNCG	1	1						4.000	1.000	4.000	0.000
8	MXCG	1	1						8.000	1.000	8.000	0.000
9	MNEG	1	1	0.000	0				2.000	1.000	2.000	0.000
10	MNCG	2	2						4.000	1.000	4.000	0.000
11	MXCG	2	2						8.000	1.000	8.000	0.000
12	MNEG	2	2	0.000	0				2.000	1.000	2.000	0.000
13	MNCG	3	3						4.000	1.000	4.000	0.000
14	MXCG	3	3						8.000	1.000	8.000	0.000

## Optimized Lens:

	Surface Type	Comment	Radius	Thickness	Material	Clear Semi-Dia	Chip Zone	Mech Semi-Dia	Conic	Coating	TCE x 1E-6
0	OBJECT Standard ▾		Infinity	Infinity		Infinity	0.000	Infinity	0.000		0.000
1	STOP Standard ▾		Infinity	3.406 V		12.500	0.000	12.500	0.000		0.000
2	(aper) Standard ▾		59.593 V	6.585 V	SF2	13.000 U	0.000	13.000	0.000		-
3	(aper) Standard ▾		-2553.551 V	84.832 V		13.000 U	0.000	13.000	0.000		0.000
4	IMAGE Standard ▾		Infinity	-		1.825	0.000	1.825	0.000		0.000



Element surf	2 to 3	Volume cc	Density g/cc	Mass g
		3.108016	3.860000	11.996942
Total Mass:				11.996942

## Example 3: Simple Concave Mirror Design

Using Zemax design the following mirror:

- Aperture  $D = 100$  mm
- $f = 150$  mm

(a) Determine the Radius of Curvature [Ans:for mirrors:  $R = 2f = 300$  mm]

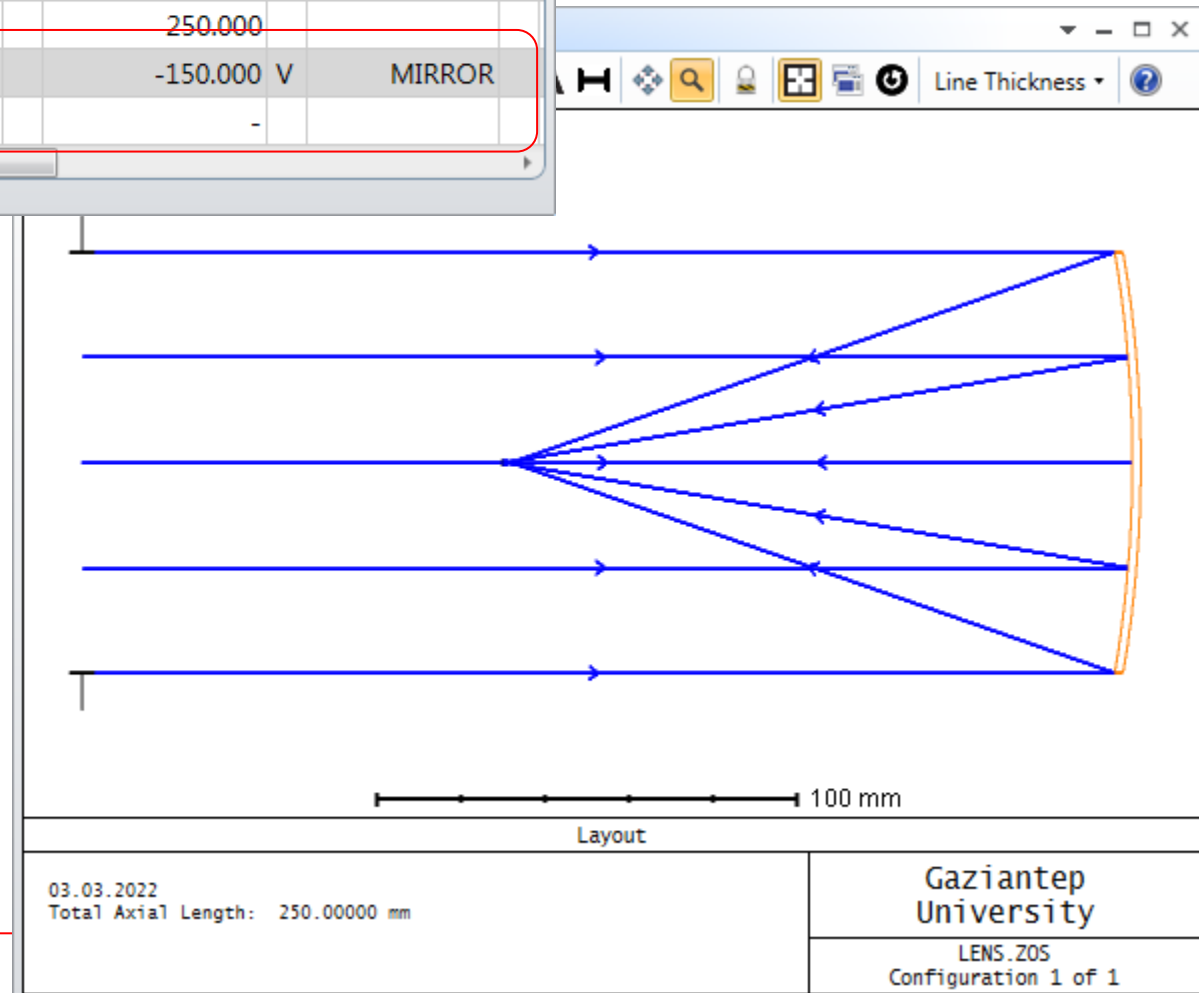
(b) Find distance between mirror and the image plane where we have the smallest spot size.

Lens Data

Update: All Windows

Surface 1 Properties Configuration 1/1

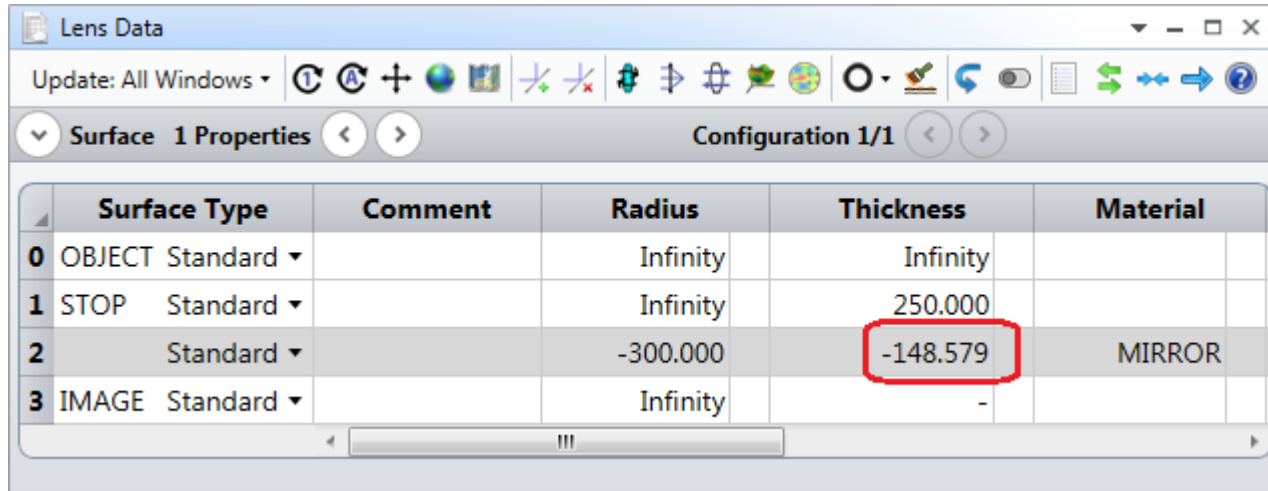
	Surface Type	Comment	Radius	Thickness	Material
0	OBJECT Standard		Infinity	Infinity	
1	STOP Standard		Infinity	250.000	
2	Standard		-300.000	-150.000 V	MIRROR
3	IMAGE Standard		Infinity	-	



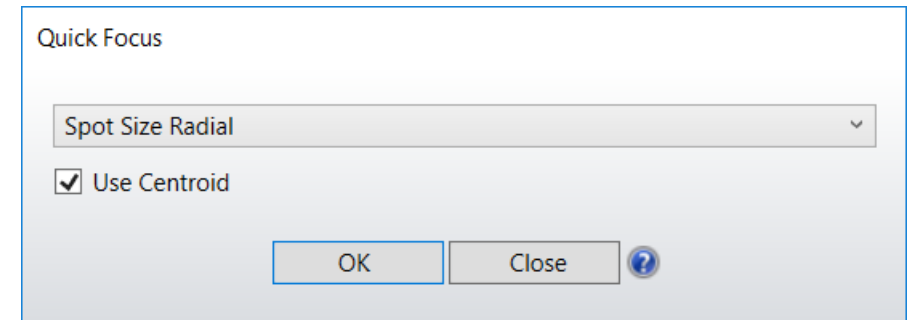


# Quick Focus

Open the Quick Focus dialog by selecting **Adjust...Quick Focus**.  
The targeted "best focus" will depend on the criterion selected.



	Surface Type	Comment	Radius	Thickness	Material
0	OBJECT Standard ▼		Infinity	Infinity	
1	STOP Standard ▼		Infinity	250.000	
2	Standard ▼		-300.000	-148.579	MIRROR
3	IMAGE Standard ▼		Infinity	-	



Quick Focus

Spot Size Radial ▼

☒ Use Centroid

OK Close ?

The smallest spot (best focus) is obtained at 148.579 mm from the mirror.  
(Not 150 mm). Please compare standart spot diagrams.

# Parabolic Mirror

Spherical mirrors results in spherical aberrations. Only parabolic surfaces can focus parallel rays to single point. We can change the surface of a spherical mirror to a parabolic one by putting **-1** for conic constant. (*We will see the meaning of -1 later*).

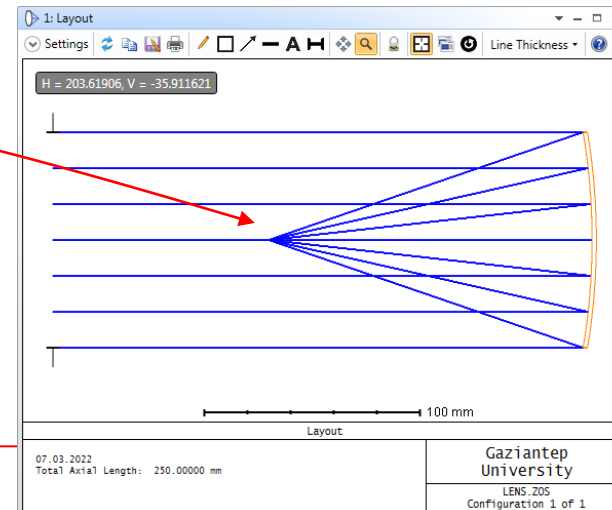
Lens Data

Update: All Windows

Surface 3 Properties Configuration 1/1

	Surface Type	Comment	Radius	Thickness	Material	Coatin	Clear Se	Chi	Me	Conic
0	OBJECT Standard		Infinity	Infinity			0.000	0.0...	0.0..	0.000
1	STOP Standard		Infinity	250.000			50.0...	0.0...	50...	0.000
2	Standard		-300.000	-150.000	MIRROR		50.0...	0.0...	50...	-1.000
3	IMAGE Standard		Infinity	-			2.84...	0.0...	2.8..	0.000

In this case, we observe a perfect focus.



## Example 4: Plano-Hyperbolic Collimator

Figure below shows a plano-hyperbolic collimator made from N-BK7 glass. It is used to collimate a laser diode whose beam divergence is 150 mrad and wavelength is 633 nm.

- (a) Determine the proper diameter of the collimating lens.
- (b) Find the radius of curvature and the conic constant of the aspherical surface to collimate the light properly. (Hint: the system is afocal)

