



Contribution ID: 38 Contribution code: THP06

Type: Poster Presentation

An ultra-stable, 3-axis goniometer for precise angular positioning for optical metrology of X-ray mirrors

Thursday 18 September 2025 16:40 (1 hour)

Deterministic polishing requires optical metrology instruments capable of accurately measuring X-ray mirrors with slope errors < 50 nrad rms. To improve the performance of the Diamond-NOM slope profiler*, we have developed an ultra-stable, 3-axis rotation stage to orient the mirror under test**. The goniometer employs a spherical air-bearing, actuated by three piezo-walkers via flexure struts. This provides high stiffness, zero friction, and minimal parasitic errors. Linear interferometers provide positional feedback to the piezo actuators for fast, closed-loop control of 3D angles. Temperature controllers and forced air stabilisation minimise thermal drifts. FEA and dynamic modelling optimised all components via mechatronic principles. The goniometer can accommodate X-ray mirrors up to 500 mm long and 10 kg in mass. It has an angular range of ± 10 mrad in 3 orthogonal directions, a minimal incremental step of < 100 nrad, and thermal drift of ~ 100 nrad over 30 minutes. Shielding of heat sources reduces air turbulence for probing autocollimators or laser beams. The system is controllable via EPICS to enable dynamical synchronisation with other motion stages and detectors.

Footnotes

* “Diamond-VeNOM: a high-speed slope profiler for characterising X-ray mirrors”, I-T. Nistea et al, Proc. SPIE 12695, 126950A (2023) <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2688134>

** “Diamond goniometer: ultra stable goniometer”, J. Kelly, Precision Motion Systems & Control workshop, Euspen conference, Netherlands, Nov 2022

Funding Agency

Diamond Light Source Ltd

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Session Classification: Thursday Poster Session

Track Classification: PRECISION MECHANICS: Nano-positioning