

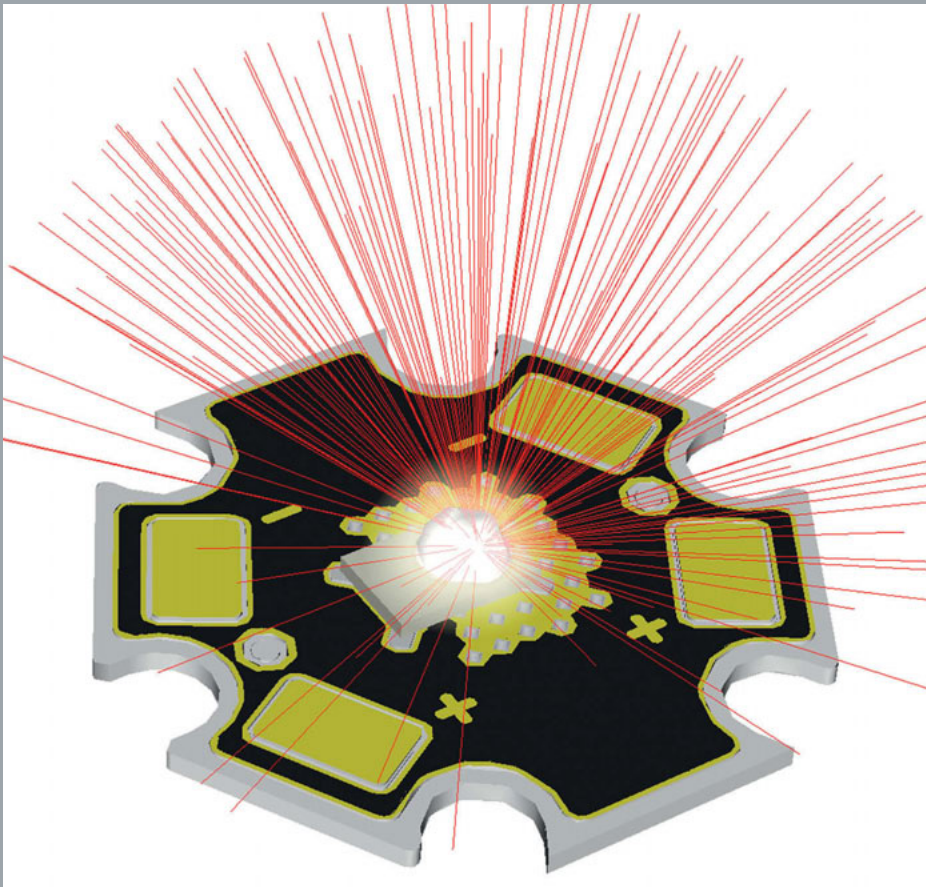


Steinbeis Transfer Center  
Applied Lighting Technology

# International **Light** **Simulation Symposium 2012**

## **ILISIS 2012**

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> of March 2012; Nuremberg, Germany



## **Proceedings**







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# Speakers' Contributions



# Rayfiles for non-sequential raytracing

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## Abstract

Rayfiles are a common option to model the nearfield and farfield properties of light sources in optical design software. Especially for the design of secondary optics for LEDs, rayfiles are a useful tool to describe the emission characteristics without modelling the inner details of the light source. Most non-sequential raytracing programs offer an interface for rayfiles. Unfortunately there is no standardized rayfile format today, but a huge variety of incompatible formats encoding almost the same information. In this paper we discuss and compare different rayfile formats. We suggest a new generalized rayfile format which allows flexible and unambiguous storage of ray data. The new format has the capability to serve as a new standard ray data format.

## 1 What are rayfiles and which information do they contain?

In most optical designs the exact representation of light sources plays an important role. For the design of optical elements close to the light source, optical designers need detailed information about the near field emission characteristics. In such cases, farfield emission data only is not sufficient.

One possibility for light source modelling, and LED modelling in particular, are so-called rayfiles. Rayfiles represent the emission of the light source, e.g. an LED, by a number of rays. Shown in the rayfile are a few thousand up to several million rays exiting the light source. Each ray is described at least by three coordinates defining its start point, three coordinates specifying the propagation direction and the ray power:  $(x, y, z, l, m, n, \phi)$ . Rayfiles offer a possibility to describe the near-field and