

Interdisciplinary Instrumentation Colloquium

Using Optical Metrology to Reconstruct Mechanical Sound Recordings

Speaker: Carl Haber
Physics Division, LBNL

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Time: 4:00 PM sharp

Place: LBNL, Building 50 Auditorium
(directions at <http://InstrumentationColloquium.LBL.gov>)

Prior to 1950 nearly all sound recordings were made on mechanical media such as wax, foil, shellac, lacquer, and plastic. Some of these older recordings contain material of great historical value or interest, but are damaged, decaying, or now considered too delicate to play. Archives seek to preserve and also create broad access to their collections.

An ongoing effort at Berkeley Lab has applied methods of optical metrology and image processing to reconstruct sound stored on these mechanical carriers. Of note is the IRENE project which will provide an optical scanning system to the Library of Congress. This talk will focus on technical aspects of optical sound reconstruction as practiced at the Lab.

Presentations (pdf files) and dates of future colloquia are posted at
<http://InstrumentationColloquium.LBL.gov>

Suggestions for speakers and topics are welcome. Please contact
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