

Toyota production system an integrated approach t Full Version

Toyota Production System an integrated approach toward manufacturing excellence has revolutionized the way industries approach production, efficiency, and quality management. This comprehensive methodology, often abbreviated as TPS, is not just a set of practices but a philosophy that emphasizes continuous improvement, respect for people, and waste reduction. As one of the most influential manufacturing frameworks in the world, the Toyota Production System has inspired countless organizations to optimize their operations and achieve operational excellence. This article delves into the core principles of the Toyota Production System, exploring its integrated approach, key components, benefits, and implementation strategies.

Understanding the Toyota Production System (TPS)

Origins and Evolution

The Toyota Production System was developed post-World War II by Taiichi Ohno, Eiji Toyoda, and other Toyota engineers who sought to improve manufacturing efficiency amid resource constraints. Inspired by American supermarket inventory management and lean manufacturing principles, TPS evolved through decades into a comprehensive approach that balances quality, cost, and flexibility.

Core Philosophy

At its heart, TPS is driven by the pursuit of eliminating waste (muda), irregularities (mura), and unevenness (muri). Its ultimate goal is to deliver maximum value to customers through streamlined processes and high-quality outputs.

The Integrated Approach of the Toyota Production System

Key Principles

The integrated approach of TPS encompasses several core principles that work synergistically:

- Just-in-Time (JIT) Production
- Jidoka (Automation with a Human Touch)
- Continuous Improvement (Kaizen)
- Respect for People

- Standardized Work
- Visual Management

Holistic System Design

Instead of isolated practices, TPS integrates tools, techniques, and philosophies to form a cohesive system. This systemic integration ensures that improvements in one area positively influence others, creating a seamless production flow.

Core Components of the Toyota Production System

1. Just-in-Time (JIT)

JIT is fundamental to TPS, aiming to produce only what is needed, when it is needed, and in the amount needed. This reduces inventory costs and enhances responsiveness.

Key Elements of JIT:

- Pull system (Kanban)
- Small batch production
- Continuous flow

2. Jidoka (Automation with a Human Touch)

Jidoka emphasizes quality at the source by enabling machines and workers to detect defects and halt production automatically, preventing defective products from proceeding down the line.

Features of Jidoka:

- Autonomous machine stop
- Built-in quality checks
- Empowered workers to stop the process when issues arise

3. Continuous Improvement (Kaizen)

Kaizen fosters a culture where all employees are encouraged to identify inefficiencies and suggest improvements regularly.

Kaizen Practices Include:

- Regular team meetings
- Problem-solving workshops
- Standardized improvement procedures

4. Respect for People

TPS recognizes that engaged and motivated employees are vital to system success, promoting teamwork, training, and respect.

5. Standardized Work

Establishing best practices ensures consistency, quality, and safety, serving as a baseline for continuous improvement.

6. Visual Management

Using visual cues such as charts, labels, and color codes helps monitor processes, identify issues instantly, and facilitate communication.

Implementation of the Toyota Production System

Steps Toward Adoption

Implementing TPS requires a cultural shift and commitment across all levels of an organization.

Key Steps Include:

- Leadership Commitment
- Employee Engagement and Training
- Mapping Current Processes (Value Stream Mapping)
- Identifying Waste and Bottlenecks
- Designing Future State Processes
- Continuous Monitoring and Improvement

Challenges in Implementation

While TPS offers substantial benefits, organizations may face challenges such as resistance to change, lack of understanding, or resource constraints. Overcoming these requires persistent leadership, clear communication, and patience.

Benefits of the Toyota Production System

Operational Advantages

- Reduced waste and inventory costs
- Improved quality and reliability
- Increased flexibility to respond to customer demands
- Shorter lead times

Financial Benefits

- Lower production costs
- Higher profit margins
- Better resource utilization

Cultural and Strategic Benefits

- Fostering a culture of continuous improvement
- Empowering employees
- Enhancing customer satisfaction and loyalty

Case Studies and Real-World Applications

Automotive Industry

Toyota's implementation of TPS has enabled it to become one of the world's leading automakers by streamlining production and maintaining high quality standards.

Other Sectors

Manufacturing, healthcare, software development, and service industries have adopted TPS principles to optimize workflows, reduce waste, and improve service quality.

Comparing TPS with Other Lean Methodologies

Lean Manufacturing

While often used interchangeably, lean manufacturing is a broader philosophy that includes TPS as

a foundational component.

Differences:

- TPS is specific to Toyota's practices.
- Lean encompasses a set of tools and principles applicable across industries.

Six Sigma

Six Sigma focuses on reducing variation and defects through statistical methods, complementing TPS's waste reduction focus.

Conclusion: The Power of an Integrated Approach

The Toyota Production System's integrated approach exemplifies how combining principles like JIT, Jidoka, Kaizen, and visual management can create a resilient, efficient, and quality-oriented manufacturing environment. Its success lies in its systemic nature where each component supports and enhances others, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and respect for people.

Organizations adopting TPS must understand that it is not merely a set of tools but a holistic philosophy that requires commitment, cultural change, and leadership. When integrated effectively, TPS leads to significant operational efficiencies, cost savings, and a sustainable competitive advantage.

Embracing the Toyota Production System's integrated approach can serve as a blueprint for organizations worldwide seeking to excel in quality, efficiency, and customer satisfaction in today's dynamic market landscape.

Toyota Production System: An Integrated Approach to Manufacturing Excellence

The Toyota Production System (TPS) stands as one of the most influential and widely studied frameworks in manufacturing history. Developed by Toyota Motor Corporation in the mid-20th century, TPS revolutionized the automotive industry and provided a blueprint for lean manufacturing practices across various sectors. Its integrated approach to production, emphasizing efficiency, quality, and continuous improvement, has cemented its status as a benchmark for operational excellence. This article delves into the origins, core principles, components, and global influence of TPS, providing a comprehensive analysis suitable for academic review and professional understanding.

Introduction to the Toyota Production System

The Toyota Production System is not merely a set of isolated tools or techniques but a holistic philosophy that integrates multiple strategies to optimize manufacturing processes. It emerged as a response to post-World War II resource scarcity and the need for efficient, flexible, and high-quality production methods. Over decades, TPS has evolved into an integrated approach that balances waste reduction, respect for people, and continuous improvement.

At its core, TPS aims to eliminate waste (muda), reduce variability, and streamline workflow, enabling Toyota to produce vehicles with high quality and at competitive costs. Its influence extends beyond automotive manufacturing, inspiring lean practices across industries such as healthcare, software development, and service operations.

Historical Development of TPS

The origins of TPS trace back to Taiichi Ohno, Shigeo Shingo, and Eiji Toyoda, who were instrumental in shaping Toyota's manufacturing philosophy in the 1940s and 1950s. Recognizing the inefficiencies of traditional mass production systems, they sought to develop a system that could produce high-quality vehicles with minimal waste and optimal resource utilization.

Key milestones include:

- The introduction of Just-In-Time (JIT) production, emphasizing producing only what is needed, when it is needed.
- The development of jidoka (automation with a human touch), enabling machines to detect faults and halt production to prevent defective outputs.
- The integration of continuous improvement (kaizen) as a cultural cornerstone.

Over time, TPS was formalized into a comprehensive system that combines these elements into a cohesive methodology.

Core Principles and Philosophy of TPS

The success of TPS hinges on its foundational principles, which include:

- Elimination of Waste (Muda): Identifying and removing activities that do not add value.
- Continuous Improvement (Kaizen): Encouraging ongoing, incremental enhancements.
- Respect for People: Valuing employees' insights and fostering a participative culture.
- Just-In-Time Production: Synchronizing production with demand to reduce inventory and lead times.
- Jidoka (Automation with a Human Touch): Ensuring quality at the source and empowering

workers to stop production when defects occur.

These principles underpin a holistic approach that aligns operational practices with organizational culture.

Key Components of the Toyota Production System

TPS comprises several interrelated components, each designed to support the overarching goals of efficiency and quality.

1. Just-In-Time (JIT)

JIT aims to produce only what is needed, in the quantity needed, and when it is needed. This approach minimizes inventory costs and enhances flexibility. Its core elements include:

- Pull System: Production is driven by actual customer demand rather than forecasted schedules.
- Kanban: Visual signals (cards or electronic signals) that trigger production and movement of materials.

2. Jidoka (Autonomation)

Jidoka ensures that problems are detected immediately, preventing defective products from moving downstream. It involves:

- Autonomous machines capable of detecting faults.
- Workers empowered to halt production to address issues.
- Quality at the source, reducing rework and scrap.

3. Standardized Work

Standardized work defines the most effective sequence of operations, ensuring consistency and enabling continuous improvement. It involves:

- Documented procedures.
- Clear work instructions.
- Regular reviews and updates based on improvements.

4. Continuous Flow and Heijunka

Flow refers to smoothing production to avoid bottlenecks, while heijunka (production leveling) balances workload to prevent uneven workloads and inventory build-up.

5. Respect for People and Teamwork

Empowering employees through training, involvement in problem-solving, and fostering a culture of mutual respect.

Implementation of TPS: Methodologies and Tools

Implementing TPS requires a systematic approach, often involving a series of steps and tools designed to identify waste and optimize processes.

Lean Tools and Techniques

Some of the most prominent tools include:

- 5S: Workplace organization?Sort, Set in order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain.
- Value Stream Mapping: Visual analysis of all steps in a process to identify waste and areas for improvement.
- Kaizen Events: Focused workshops aimed at addressing specific issues rapidly.
- Poka-Yoke: Error-proofing devices to prevent mistakes.
- Andon: Visual alert systems indicating production status or problems.

Phases of Implementation

- Assessment: Analyzing current processes and waste.
- Training: Educating employees on TPS principles.
- Pilot Projects: Testing improvements on a small scale.
- Full-scale Deployment: Phased rollout across the organization.
- Sustaining Gains: Continuous monitoring and refinement.

Challenges and Criticisms of TPS

While TPS has achieved remarkable success, it is not without challenges:

- Cultural Change: Requires deep organizational shifts and employee buy-in.
- Supply Chain Dependencies: JIT relies heavily on reliable suppliers; disruptions can halt

production.

- Overemphasis on Efficiency: Risk of neglecting innovation or worker well-being if misapplied.
- Scalability: Adapting TPS to different industries or larger organizations can be complex.

Critics argue that rigid adherence to TPS principles may lead to vulnerabilities, especially in volatile markets or complex supply chains.

Global Influence and Adaptations

The principles of TPS have transcended Toyota's borders, inspiring the lean manufacturing movement worldwide. Notable adaptations include:

- Lean Manufacturing: A broad application of TPS principles across diverse sectors.
- Lean Six Sigma: Combining waste reduction with statistical quality control.
- Agile and Continuous Delivery: Software development methodologies influenced by lean principles.

Many firms have tailored TPS tools to their specific contexts, emphasizing the universal applicability of its core philosophies.

Case Studies and Real-World Applications

- Healthcare: Hospitals applying JIT and standardized workflows to reduce patient wait times.
- Aerospace: Boeing's adoption of lean principles for assembly line improvements.
- Electronics: Samsung's implementation of lean tools to optimize supply chains.

These examples underscore TPS's versatility and effectiveness in diverse environments.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of the Toyota Production System

The Toyota Production System exemplifies an integrated approach to manufacturing that balances efficiency, quality, and respect for people. Its core principles—elimination of waste, continuous improvement, and respect—form a cultural foundation that has transformed industries worldwide. While challenges in implementation remain, the TPS's adaptable framework continues to serve as a model for organizations seeking operational excellence.

As industries face ever-increasing demands for agility and quality, the TPS's emphasis on holistic, systemic thinking offers valuable lessons. Its legacy endures not just as a set of tools but as a philosophy that champions ongoing improvement and respect for every stakeholder in the

production ecosystem.

Question What are the core principles of the Toyota Production System (TPS)? The core principles of TPS include Just-In-Time production, Jidoka (automation with a human touch), continuous improvement (Kaizen), eliminating waste (Muda), and respecting people to enhance overall efficiency and quality. How does the Toyota Production System integrate lean manufacturing concepts? TPS is the foundation of lean manufacturing, integrating principles like waste reduction, continuous flow, pull systems, and respect for employees to streamline processes and maximize value for customers. What role does 'Kaizen' play in Toyota's integrated approach to production? Kaizen, or continuous improvement, encourages all employees to regularly identify and implement small, incremental changes to enhance quality, efficiency, and safety within the production system. How does the Toyota Production System ensure quality control during manufacturing? TPS employs Jidoka, which allows machines and workers to detect defects early, stop production if necessary, and address issues immediately, ensuring high quality and reducing defects. In what ways does an integrated approach to TPS improve overall operational efficiency? An integrated approach combines waste elimination, quality management, and employee involvement, leading to faster production cycles, reduced costs, higher quality, and greater flexibility in meeting customer demands. What are the challenges companies face when implementing the Toyota Production System as an integrated approach? Challenges include cultural resistance, the need for comprehensive training, sustaining long-term commitment, adapting principles to different industries, and ensuring continuous engagement across all organizational levels.

Related keywords: Toyota Production System, lean manufacturing, just-in-time, kaizen, jidoka, continuous improvement, waste reduction, takt time, standardized work, quality management

Integrated Optics Pdf

Understanding Integrated Optics PDF: A Comprehensive Guide

Integrated optics PDF refers to portable, downloadable documents that provide in-depth insights into the field of integrated optics. These PDFs serve as valuable resources for students, researchers, engineers, and industry professionals seeking detailed information about the principles, design, applications, and advancements in integrated optics technology. As the demand for miniaturized and efficient optical systems grows, understanding the content within these PDFs becomes essential for staying ahead in photonics innovation.

What Is Integrated Optics?

Definition and Overview

Integrated optics involves the integration of optical devices on a single chip, similar to how integrated circuits work in electronics. It encompasses the design, fabrication, and application of various optical components such as waveguides, modulators, detectors, and lasers, all embedded within a compact platform.

Historical Development

- **1960s:** Emergence of waveguide technologies.
- **1980s:** Development of planar lightwave circuits (PLCs).
- **2000s:** Integration with electronics for photonic-electronic systems.
- **Present:** Advanced integration techniques enabling complex optical systems on chips.

Importance of Integrated Optics PDFs

Integrated optics PDFs are crucial for several reasons:

- Providing comprehensive theoretical background and practical guides.
- Sharing latest research findings and technological advancements.
- Offering tutorials, design methodologies, and case studies.
- Supporting educational initiatives and professional development.

Key Topics Covered in Integrated Optics PDFs

Fundamental Principles of Integrated Optics

Understanding how light propagates within integrated waveguides, principles of total internal reflection, and mode propagation.

Materials Used in Integrated Optics

- Silica (SiO₂)
- Lithium niobate (LiNbO₃)
- Silicon-on-insulator (SOI)
- Polymer-based materials

Waveguide Design and Fabrication

Techniques such as photolithography, etching, and deposition processes used to fabricate precise waveguide structures.

Device Integration and System Design

Methods to combine lasers, modulators, detectors, and other components into functional systems.

Applications of Integrated Optics

- Telecommunications: high-speed data transmission
- Sensors: biosensing, environmental monitoring
- Quantum computing: photon-based qubits
- Medical devices: minimally invasive imaging tools

How to Find and Use Integrated Optics PDFs

Sources for Integrated Optics PDFs

- **Academic Journals:** IEEE Xplore, Optics Express, Journal of Lightwave Technology
- **Educational Websites:** university repositories, research institution portals
- **Conference Proceedings:** SPIE, OSA meetings
- **Open Access Platforms:** ResearchGate, arXiv

Tips for Effective Use

- Identify your specific area of interest within integrated optics.
- Download PDFs from reputable sources to ensure accuracy.
- Use keywords like "integrated optics," "photonic circuits," "waveguide design," and "optical device fabrication" for targeted searches.
- Take notes and highlight key concepts for future reference.
- Stay updated with the latest publications to remain current on emerging trends.

Benefits of Using Integrated Optics PDFs for Research and Development

- **Comprehensive Knowledge:** PDFs compile extensive data, diagrams, and explanations in one accessible format.

- **Cost-Effective Learning:** Many PDFs are freely available, reducing the need for expensive textbooks.
- **Reference Material:** Serve as reliable sources for academic papers, project proposals, and presentations.
- **Rapid Updates:** Access to the latest research findings and technological breakthroughs.

Future Trends in Integrated Optics

Emerging Technologies Highlighted in PDFs

- Silicon photonics for mass production of optical chips.
- Integration of quantum photonic devices.
- Development of flexible and wearable integrated optical sensors.
- Advances in nonlinear integrated optics for signal processing.

Challenges and Opportunities

While integrated optics PDFs provide a wealth of knowledge, the field faces challenges such as fabrication precision, material limitations, and integration complexity. However, ongoing research documented in these PDFs offers solutions and innovative approaches, opening new pathways for optical communications, computing, and sensing technologies.

Conclusion

The **integrated optics PDF** is an indispensable resource for anyone involved in the field of photonics. By offering detailed, well-organized, and accessible information, these PDFs facilitate knowledge dissemination, foster innovation, and support the development of next-generation optical systems. Whether you are a student beginning your journey in integrated optics or a seasoned researcher pushing the boundaries of photonics technology, leveraging these PDFs can significantly enhance your understanding and productivity.

As integrated optics continues to evolve rapidly, regularly exploring new PDFs ensures you stay informed about the latest research, design strategies, and application breakthroughs. Embrace these resources to contribute effectively to the advancing world of integrated photonics and optical engineering.

Integrated Optics PDF: An In-Depth Review of Design, Fabrication, and Applications

The realm of integrated optics has revolutionized the way we manipulate and utilize light within compact, chip-scale devices. With advancements in fabrication techniques and material science,

integrated optical components have become integral to telecommunications, sensing, biomedical diagnostics, and quantum information processing. To facilitate widespread understanding and dissemination of knowledge, comprehensive technical documentation such as integrated optics PDF (Portable Document Format) files serve as vital resources for researchers, engineers, and students alike. This article delves into the multifaceted world of integrated optics, with an emphasis on the significance, content structure, and utility of integrated optics PDFs, as well as exploring the core concepts, design principles, fabrication techniques, and emerging trends in the field.

The Significance of Integrated Optics PDF in Scientific Communication

In the rapidly evolving landscape of photonics, the dissemination of detailed, accurate, and accessible information is crucial. PDFs serve as standardized, portable, and easy-to-distribute formats for technical papers, tutorials, standards, and design manuals. An integrated optics PDF encapsulates extensive knowledge ranging from foundational theories to experimental results making it an indispensable resource for the community.

Why PDFs are the Preferred Format for Integrated Optics Documentation

- Universality and Accessibility: PDFs can be accessed across diverse devices and operating systems without format incompatibility.
- Preservation of Formatting: Complex equations, figures, and tables maintain their integrity.
- Ease of Distribution: Digital sharing facilitates rapid dissemination of new findings and protocols.
- Archival Stability: PDFs serve as long-term repositories of technical knowledge, ensuring information remains accessible over time.

Core Topics Covered in Integrated Optics PDFs

An effective integrated optics PDF typically encompasses several key sections, each contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the subject.

- Introduction and Background
 - Overview of integrated optics
 - Historical development and milestones
 - Comparison with bulk optics and fiber optics
- Fundamental Principles of Integrated Optics

- Waveguide theory
- Modal analysis
- Light propagation mechanisms
- Material properties and refractive index profiles

- Design and Simulation Techniques

- Waveguide geometries
- Numerical methods (Finite Element Method, Beam Propagation Method)
- Optimization strategies for coupling efficiency, bandwidth, and loss reduction

- Fabrication Processes

- Material deposition methods (chemical vapor deposition, sputtering)
- Lithography techniques (photolithography, electron-beam lithography)
- Etching processes (reactive ion etching, wet etching)
- Integration of active and passive components

- Characterization and Testing

- Optical losses measurement
- Mode profile analysis
- Spectral response evaluation
- Reliability and stability assessments

- Applications and Case Studies

- Optical communications and switching
- Sensors and biosensors
- Quantum photonic circuits
- Nonlinear optics applications

- Emerging Trends and Future Directions
 - Integration with silicon photonics
 - Photonic integrated circuits (PICs)
 - Hybrid integration approaches
 - Programmable and reconfigurable photonic systems
- Standards and Guidelines
 - Design rules
 - Industry standards for fabrication and testing
 - Safety and environmental considerations

Deep Dive: The Role of PDFs in Advancing Integrated Optics Research

Facilitating Knowledge Sharing

Integrated optics PDFs often include detailed schematics, simulation data, and experimental results that are critical for reproducibility and peer validation. Researchers rely on these documents to build upon existing designs, avoid redundant experimentation, and accelerate innovation.

Supporting Education and Training

Educational institutions utilize comprehensive PDFs to train students in integrated optics, covering theoretical foundations and practical fabrication techniques. The inclusion of annotated figures, step-by-step procedures, and problem sets enhances learning outcomes.

Enabling Standardization and Compliance

Industry standards are frequently documented in PDF formats, guiding manufacturers and designers in maintaining quality, safety, and interoperability. These documents ensure consistency across devices and applications.

Key Components of an Effective Integrated Optics PDF

To maximize utility, an integrated optics PDF should include the following components:

- Clear Abstract and Objectives: Summarize the scope, significance, and primary contributions.
- Detailed Methodology: Describe design parameters, simulation setups, fabrication steps, and testing procedures.
- High-Quality Figures and Diagrams: Visual aids such as cross-sectional schematics, mode profiles, and device layouts.
- Comprehensive Data Tables: Performance metrics, loss measurements, and material properties.
- References and Further Reading: Curated list of relevant literature for in-depth exploration.
- Supplementary Material: Appendices, source code, and design files when applicable.

Challenges and Limitations in Creating Integrated Optics PDFs

While PDFs are invaluable, there are challenges associated with their creation and use:

- Complexity of Content: Highly technical documents require meticulous editing to avoid errors.
- File Size: High-resolution images and extensive data can lead to large files, impacting download and sharing.
- Version Control: Ensuring that users access the latest, most accurate documents requires diligent updating.
- Accessibility: PDFs must be optimized for screen readers and accommodate diverse user needs.

Future Perspectives: Enhancing the Utility of Integrated Optics PDFs

Emerging technologies and practices promise to improve how integrated optics knowledge is documented and disseminated:

- Interactive PDFs: Incorporating hyperlinks, embedded videos, and interactive simulations for enhanced understanding.
- Open Access Repositories: Centralized platforms hosting comprehensive collections of integrated optics PDFs to promote open science.
- Standardized Metadata: Use of metadata tags to facilitate searchability and indexing.
- Integration with Data Repositories: Linking PDFs to datasets, design files, and simulation codes to promote transparency and reproducibility.

Conclusion

The integrated optics PDF is a cornerstone resource in the ongoing development and dissemination of knowledge within the photonics community. From foundational theories to cutting-edge

applications, these documents encapsulate complex information in a portable, accessible format that fosters collaboration, innovation, and education. As the field advances toward more integrated, miniaturized, and versatile photonic systems, the role of well-crafted PDFs—rich in technical detail and clarity—will remain pivotal in shaping the future of integrated optics research and industry.

By understanding the structure, utility, and potential improvements of integrated optics PDFs, researchers and practitioners can better leverage these resources to push the boundaries of what is possible with light on a chip.

Question What is an integrated optics PDF and what information does it typically contain? An integrated optics PDF is a comprehensive document that provides detailed information about integrated optical devices, including design principles, fabrication processes, performance metrics, and applications. It serves as a valuable resource for researchers and engineers working in photonics. **Answer** Where can I find the latest research papers or technical documents on integrated optics in PDF format? The latest research papers on integrated optics can be found on academic repositories such as IEEE Xplore, ResearchGate, and university library portals. Many organizations also publish technical PDFs on their official websites or through industry conferences. How do I effectively utilize an integrated optics PDF for designing optical components? To effectively utilize an integrated optics PDF, review sections on device principles, fabrication techniques, and performance data. Cross-reference design equations and simulation results, and use the provided references for deeper understanding or further research. Are there open-source PDFs or downloadable resources available for learning integrated optics? Yes, many open-access PDFs and downloadable resources are available through academic websites, institutional repositories, and open-access journals. Websites like arXiv.org and university course pages often provide free PDFs related to integrated optics. What are the key topics covered in a typical integrated optics PDF? A typical integrated optics PDF covers topics such as waveguide design, material properties, fabrication processes, device fabrication, optical coupling, modulation techniques, and applications in telecommunications and sensing. How can I use an integrated optics PDF to stay updated with current trends and advancements? Regularly reviewing the latest PDFs from reputable sources, following recent publications and technical reports, and participating in online forums or webinars can help you stay informed about current trends and advancements in integrated optics.

Related keywords: integrated optics, photonic integrated circuits, waveguide design, optical communication, photonics engineering, optical devices, integrated photonics, optical waveguides, photonic systems, light propagation

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