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(54) ROTATING PRISM SCANNING DEVICE AND METHOD FOR SCANNING
DREHPRISMA-ABTASTEINRICHTUNG UND ABTASTVERFAHREN
DISPOSITIF DE BALAYAGE À PRISMES ROTATIFS ET PROCÉDÉ DE BALAYAGE

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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of scanning devices, in particular optical scanning devices. More specifically, the present invention relates to a technique and a device for setting up a path, such as an optical path, in a desired direction.

[0002] Many applications require a scanner, such as an optical scanner, capable of steering a light beam in a desired direction. Many applications furthermore require a beam, such as a laser beam, to be aimed and focused at a distant target. For instance, in some LIDAR-systems (Light Detection and Ranging-systems), a focused laser-beam is scanning an area in the space in front of the LIDAR-system.

[0003] It is known to use a pair of so-called Risley prisms (may also be known as dual prism or dual wedge scanners) for scanning a collimated light beam across a substantially two-dimensional (spherical) plane in front of the pair of Risley prisms. A pair of Risley prisms comprises two prisms having a common axis of rotation around which axis each of the two prisms can be rotated independently, whereby the beam may be positioned in a desired position within a substantially two-dimensional (spherical) plane.

[0004] US 4,822,974 discloses a system for drilling or cutting holes with a laser that provides independent control of the beam angle and displacement from the system axis. US 4,061,415 discloses a radiation deflecting system comprising a second wedge mounted for rotation about a fixed axis and a first wedge mounted for rotation about an axis which nutates about the fixed axis of rotation. The two wedges are counterrotating and have the same rate of rotation, thereby achieving a linear scanning motion.

[0005] It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved scanning system and an improved method for scanning. In particular, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved device, an improved system and an improved method for setting up an optical path in a desired direction, e.g. towards a point on a substantially two-dimensional (spherical) plane. More in particular, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved device, an improved system and an improved method for steering or controlling a focused light beam across a substantially two-dimensional (spherical) plane.

[0006] According to the present invention, the above-mentioned and other objects are fulfilled by a system according to claim 1.

[0007] Furthermore, according to the present invention, the above-mentioned and other objects are fulfilled by a method for scanning according to claim 10.

[0008] Provision of a method wherein the first value, e.g. an angle value and/or an angular velocity and/or angular acceleration, and the second value, e.g. an angle value and/or an angular velocity and/or angular acceleration, is selected may enable selection of a desired optical path and/or selection of a desired scanning pattern.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] The above and other features and advantages of the present invention will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art by the following detailed description of exemplary embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 schematically illustrates a cross section of a first embodiment of a device used in the present invention,

Fig. 2 schematically illustrates a cross section of parts of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 schematically illustrates a cross section of parts of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1 and an optical device,

Fig. 4 schematically illustrates a cross section of a second embodiment of a device used in the present invention,

Fig. 5 schematically illustrates a cross section of a third embodiment of a device used in the present invention,

Fig. 6 schematically illustrates three embodiments of a controller device connected to a first drive and a second drive, respectively, of a device according to the present invention, and

Fig. 7 schematically illustrates an embodiment of a method for scanning according to the present invention.

[0010] The figures are schematic and simplified for clarity, and they may merely show details which are essential to the understanding of the invention, while other details may have been left out. Throughout, the same reference numerals are used for identical or corresponding parts.

[0011] It should be noted that in addition to the exemplary embodiments of the invention shown in the accompanying drawings, the invention may be embodied in different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and sufficient, and will fully convey the concept of the invention to those skilled in the art.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] The present invention relates to a scanning system, and a method for scanning.

[0013] The scanning device in the system according
to the present invention is adapted for setting up an optical path and/or steering or controlling the direction of an optical path. An optical path is a path that light may follow for instance during propagation towards and/or away from the scanning device. Light may be infrared, visible, and/or ultraviolet light. The optical path comprises a first optical path part extending from the first surface and away from the first deflector. The first optical path part forms a first optical angle with the first surface. The optical path comprises a second optical path part extending between the second surface and the third surface. The second optical path part forms a second optical angle with the second surface and a third optical angle with the third surface, respectively. The optical path comprises a third optical path part extending from the fourth surface and away from the second deflector. The third optical path part forms a fourth optical angle with the fourth surface.

Preferably, the optical path furthermore comprises a fourth optical path part extending between the first surface and the second surface. Preferably, the fourth optical path part abuts the first surface such that the first optical path part and the fourth optical path part form a continuous path. Furthermore, the fourth optical path part preferably abuts the second surface such that the second optical path part and the fourth optical path part form a continuous path.

Preferably, the optical path furthermore comprises a fifth optical path part extending between the third surface and the fourth surface. Preferably, the fifth optical path part abuts the fourth surface such that the third optical path part and the fifth optical path part form a continuous path. Furthermore, the fifth optical path part preferably abuts the third surface such that the second optical path part and the fifth optical path part form a continuous path.

The first optical path part, the second optical path part, the third optical path part, the fourth optical path part, and the fifth optical path part may form a continuous path.

In a device in a system according to the present invention, the first optical angle and the second optical angle are substantially equal. Distortion of a focussed light beam that goes through a deflector, e.g. the first deflector and/or the second deflector, is diminished if the angle of incidence of the incident part of the light beam is substantially equal to the angle of departure of the corresponding departing part of the light beam, i.e. if the light beam pass through the deflector at the angle of minimum deviation for the relevant deflector. In a device in a system according to the present invention, the third optical angle and the forth optical angle are substantially equal. According to the present invention, the first optical angle and the second optical angle are substantially equal; while also the third optical angle and the forth optical angle are substantially equal. Thus, minimum deflection within both the first deflector and the second deflector are obtained simultaneously. A minimum deflection is in particular an advantage if an embodiment is intended to be used for steering or controlling a finite focussed laser beam, due to a diminished distortion of the focus.

The first optical path part is substantially parallel with the first axis. Preferably, the first optical path coincides with a part of the first axis. The second optical path part is substantially parallel with the second axis. Preferably, the second optical path coincides with a part of the second axis.

The first surface angle of the scanning device according to the present invention may be given by approximately

$$90^\circ - \arcsin \left( n_1 \cdot \sin \left( \frac{\alpha_1}{2} \right) \right),$$

where $n_1$ is the refractive index of the first deflector, and $\alpha_1$ is the first deflector angle. Note that a refractive index is frequency dependent, thus the preferred first surface angle may also depend on the relevant wavelength or range of wavelength. However, a deflector, such as the first deflector and/or the second deflector, may comprise a coating for at least partly to diminish the wavelength dependency in at least one range of wavelengths. The first surface angle of the scanning device according to the present invention may be between about 50° to about 85°, such as between about 60° to about 80°, preferably about 67°.

The second surface angle of the scanning device according to the present invention may be given by approximately

$$90^\circ - \arcsin \left( n_1 \cdot \sin \left( \frac{\alpha_1}{2} \right) \right),$$

where $n_1$ is the refractive index of the first deflector, and $\alpha_1$ is the first deflector angle. The second surface angle may be between about 50° to about 85°, such as between about 60° to about 80°, preferably about 67°. The first surface angle and the second surface angle are preferably substantially equal.

The third surface angle may be given by approximately

$$90^\circ - \arcsin \left( n_2 \cdot \sin \left( \frac{\alpha_2}{2} \right) \right),$$

where $n_2$ is the refractive index of the second deflector, and $\alpha_2$ is the second deflector angle. The second surface
The frame angle may be given by approximately

\[ 2 \cdot \arcsin \left( n_1 \cdot \sin \left( \frac{\alpha_1}{2} \right) \right) - \alpha_1, \]

where \( n_1 \) is the refractive index of the first deflector, and \( \alpha_1 \) is the first deflector angle. The frame angle may have any value above 1°, such as between about 1° to about 60°, such as between about 20° to about 40°, preferably about 31°. In some embodiments, the frame angle is between about 5° to about 35°, preferably about 15°.

Preferably, the frame angle is larger than 5°, such as larger than 10°, 15°, 20°, 25°, or 30°. A larger frame angle may enable that a larger area may be scanned. Thus, a preferred frame angle may be a compromise between the above-mentioned aspects of facilitating rotation and enabling a desired area for scanning.

Preferably, the frame angle is larger than 5°, such as larger than 10°, 15°, 20°, 25°, or 30°. A larger frame angle may enable that a larger area may be scanned. Thus, a preferred frame angle may be a compromise between the above-mentioned aspects of facilitating rotation and enabling a desired area for scanning.

In the present invention, the first deflector is arranged for deflecting a light beam being substantially parallel with the first axis of rotation and being incident on the first surface, such that the deflected light beam departs from the second surface in a direction being substantially parallel with the second axis of rotation.

In the present invention, the first deflector is arranged for deflecting a light beam being substantially parallel with the second axis of rotation and being incident on the first surface, such that the deflected light beam departs from the second surface in a direction being substantially parallel with the first axis of rotation.

The second frame of the scanning device according to the present invention is preferably rotatably connected to the first frame such that rotation of the second frame around the second axis is provided. The second frame of the scanning device according to the present invention may be coupled to the first frame, such that the rotation of the first frame around the first axis may influence the rotation of the second frame around the first axis. An arrangement for rotation of a frame, e.g. the first frame or the second frame, may for instance be provided by one or more bearings, such as ball bearings or roller bearings. The rotation of the first frame around the first axis may affect the rotation of the second frame around the second axis, e.g. by a constant factor.

A scanning system according to the present invention may comprise a control device connected to the first drive and the second drive via at least one control connection, whereby the control device is arranged for controlling the first drive and the second drive, individually. A specific orientation of the second optical path part may be obtained by means of the control device.

A scanning system according to the present invention may comprise a light detector adapted to detect light from the first surface. The optical device comprises a light source adapted to emit a light beam towards the first surface. The light source comprises a laser. The optical device furthermore comprises a focusing element. The light beam emitted by the light source (or from the optical device) is a finite focused laser beam. The scanning system according to the present invention is used for steering or controlling the finite focused laser beam. In some embodiments, the at least one optical device comprises a LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging).

Preferably, the optical device is adapted to emit the light beam towards the first surface and detect light arriving from the first surface substantially simultaneously. More specifically, light from the at least one optical device may be emitted through the scanning device according to the present invention and towards an object in front of the scanning device and reflected back through the scanning device.

A scanning system according to the present invention may be used for steering or controlling the optical path. Steering or controlling the optical path may for instance comprise choosing a first angular position for the first frame and choosing a second angular position for the second frame. Alternatively or additionally, steering or controlling the optical path may include performing a scanning motion. A scanning motion may for instance be a particular coordinated rotation of the first frame around the first axis and/or the second frame around second axis, respectively, over time. The first value and/or the second value may be an angular position, an angular velocity (or speed), or an angular acceleration. In a preferred embodiment, a first angular velocity (or speed) and/or first angular acceleration is chosen for the first frame and a second angular velocity (or speed) and/or second angular acceleration is chosen for the second frame. For instance, the second frame may rotate with a slightly higher or lower angular velocity (or speed) and/or
A system according to the present invention may be placed at, on, or near a wind turbine park/farm. Additionally, a first axis and a second axis are illustrated in Fig. 2, schematically illustrating a cross section of some parts of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1. The parts illustrated in Fig. 2 include the first deflector 6 and the second deflector 10 along with the first axis 12 and the second axis 14. Furthermore, Fig. 2 illustrates two arrows 13, 15, which indicate that the first axis 12 and the second axis 14, respectively, are axes of rotation. Although, the arrows 13, 15 only illustrate one direction of rotation each, any direction of rotation may be possible. Preferably, the first deflector 6 is made of a material having a refractive index that is higher than the surroundings for wavelengths visible light and/or infra-red light and/or ultraviolet-light. The surroundings may be air. The first deflector 6, illustrated in Fig. 2, has the shape of a wedge-like member which is cut from a cylindrical member, e.g. a circular cylinder. In an embodiment, the first deflector 6 and/or the second deflector 10 has the shape of a cylindrical wedge. The first deflector 6 has a first surface 20 and a second surface 22. The first surface 20 and the second surface 22, respectively, are situated in planes perpendicular to the plane of the illustrated cross section. The first surface 20 and the second surface 22 are non-parallel, i.e. they form a first deflector angle 24, such that light passing the first deflector 6 changes direction. Likewise, the second deflector 10 preferably has the shape of a wedge-like member which is cut from a cylindrical member, e.g. a circular cylinder. The second deflector 10 has a third surface 28 and a fourth surface 30. The third surface 28 and the fourth surface 30, respectively, are situated in planes perpendicular to the plane of the illustrated cross section. It is important that the third surface 28 and the fourth surface 30 are non-parallel, i.e. that they form a second deflector angle 32, such that light passing the second deflector 10 changes direction. The second deflector 10 is made of a material having a refractive index that is higher than the surroundings for visible light and/or infra-red light and/or ultraviolet-light. The surroundings may be air. In the illustrated embodiment, the first deflector 6 and the second deflector 10 are substantially identical.

The first axis 12 forms a first surface angle 26 with the first surface 20, and a frame angle 34 with the second axis 14. Further, the second axis 14 forms a second surface angle 36 with the second surface 22, and a third surface angle 37 with the third surface 28. The angle between an axis and a surface is defined as the smallest angle. The first axis 12 and a second axis 14 are illustrated by two lines, respectively.
optical path 60.

Thus, during a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12, the first surface angle 26 remains constant.

The device 2 is adapted for setting up an optical path. Fig. 3 illustrates an optical device 62, e.g. a device comprising an emitter and a detector. An embodiment of a scanning device, e.g. the device 2, and an optical device, e.g. the device 62, constitute an embodiment of a scanning system according the present invention. The optical path 60 comprises a first optical path part 64 extending from the first surface 20 and away from the first deflector 6. The first optical path part 64 forms a first optical angle 66 with the first surface 20. The angle between a path and a surface is defined as the smallest optical angle. The optical path 60 furthermore comprises a second optical path part 68 extending between the second surface 22 and the third surface 28. The second optical path part 68 forms a second optical angle 70 with the second surface 22 and forms a third optical angle 72 with the third surface 28, respectively. Furthermore, the optical path 60 comprises a third optical path part 74 extending from the fourth surface 30 and away from the second deflector 10. The third optical path part 74 forms a fourth optical angle 76 with the fourth surface 30. A point (not shown) on the third optical path part 74 at a desired distance from the device 2, is referred to as the aim of the optical path 60.

The first optical path part 64 is substantially parallel with the first axis 12 since it implies that the first optical angle 66 is constant during a rotation of the first deflector 6 around the first axis 12. Furthermore, the second optical path part 68 is substantially parallel with the second optical angle 14 since it implies that the second optical angle 70 equals the second surface angle 36 and the third optical angle 72 equals the third surface angle 38. It may furthermore be an advantage that the first optical path part 64 substantially coincides with a part of the second axis 14 since it may diminish distortion of the optical path 60 during rotation of the first deflector 6. Likewise, it may be an advantage that the second optical path part 68 substantially coincides with a part of the second optical axis 14 since it may diminish distortion of the optical path 60 during rotation of the first deflector 6 and/or the second deflector 10. Due to the deflector angles 24, 32 and the refractive index(es) of the deflectors 6, 10 being different from the surroundings, a desired optical path 60 is set by setting the rotational position of the deflectors accordingly.

In order to be adapted for rotating the deflectors 6, 10 individually, the device 2, illustrated in Fig. 1, comprises a number of actuating means as explained in the following. The device 2 comprises a first drive 16 coupled to the first frame 4. The first drive 16 is adapted for controlling the rotation of the first deflector 6 around the first axis 12. The first drive 16 comprises a first motor 40 that is fixed to the base 38. The first motor 40 may drive a first wheel 58 which controls the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 due to the gearing connection 52. Thus, Individual control of the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 is provided by the first drive 16. Due to the connection between the first frame 4 and the second frame 8, the first drive 16 furthermore controls the rotation of the second frame 8 around the first axis 12.

Furthermore, the device 2 comprises a second drive 18 coupled to the second frame 8. The second drive 18 is adapted for controlling the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14. The second drive 18 comprises a second motor 46 which is fixed to the base 38. The second motor 46 may drive a second wheel 48 which controls the rotation of a coupling part 50 around the first axis 12 due to the gearing connection 52. The coupling part 50 is rotatably connected to the base 38 through bearings 54. The coupling part 50 is connected to the second frame 8 by means of a first wheel 56 and a second wheel 58. The first wheel 56 is a first angled gearwheel which is fixed to the coupling part 50. The second wheel 58 is a second angled gearwheel which is fixed to the second frame 8. Note that a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 may affect, e.g. by a constant factor, the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14. However, a similar rotation of the coupling part 50 may cancel out that effect. Thus, individual control of the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14 is provided by the second drive 18. However, knowledge of the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 may be an advantage.
[0055] Thus, by controlling the first drive 16 and the second drive 18, an optical path may be set in a desired direction and/or a desired scanning motion may be carried out.

[0056] In an embodiment (not illustrated), the second drive 18 is fixed to the first frame 4. Thus, the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 may not influence the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14. Thus, individual control of the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14 is provided by the second drive 18.

[0057] Note that an aim (focus point) of the optical path 60 may correspond to more than one setting of the angular positions of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 and the second frame 8 around the second axis 14, respectively. Thus, it may be an advantage to coordinate the rotational position of the first frame 4 and the second frame 8, respectively. Preferably, the coordination is carried out by a control device (see Fig. 6).

[0058] Fig. 4 schematically illustrates a cross section of a second embodiment of a device 102 in a system according to the present invention. The device 102 is adapted for setting up an optical path (see for instance the dotted line in Fig. 3), which optical path may be set to point in a desired direction, i.e. the device 102 is adapted for deflecting light towards and/or from a desired direction.

[0059] The device 102 comprises a first frame 4 supporting a first deflector 6. Furthermore, the device 2 comprises a second frame 8 supporting a second deflector 10. Additionally, a first axis 12 and a second axis 14 are illustrated by two dotted lines, respectively. Some angles of interest are illustrated in more detail in Fig. 2 as explained above. Fig. 2 schematically illustrates a cross section of some parts of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 4.

[0060] The first frame 4, illustrated in Fig. 4, encloses the first deflector 6. The dotted lines 27 indicate some parts of the first frame 4 situated above or below the plane of the cross section illustrated in Fig. 4. The first frame 4 has a first opening 21 and a second opening 23, allowing light to pass to the first deflector 6 through any of the openings 21, 23 and from the first deflector 6 through any of the openings 21, 23. A part of the first frame 4 closest to the first opening 21 forms a tubular-like member having a centre around the first axis 12. Furthermore, a part of the first frame 4 closest to the second opening 23 forms a tubular-like member having a centre around the second axis 14. Further, part of the first frame 4 forms part of a sphere.

[0061] Furthermore, the first frame 4 is arranged for rotation around the first axis 12. The first frame 4 is rotatably connected to a base 38. The rotatable connection comprises a protrusion 29 in the first frame 4, which protrusion 29 fits into a corresponding recess 31 in the base 38. The rotatable connection provided by the protrusion 29 and the recess 31 enables rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 while substantially preventing displacement of the first frame 4 along the first axis 12 in relation to the base 38. Due to the first frame 4 supporting the first deflector 6, a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 causes an identical rotation of the first deflector 6 around the first axis 12. Thus, during a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12, the first surface angle 26 remains constant.

[0062] The second frame 8 is arranged for rotation around the second axis 14. The second frame 8 is rotatably connected to the first frame 4. The rotatable connection comprises a recess 33 in the first frame 4, in which recess 33 a protrusion 35 in the second frame 8 fits. The rotatable connection provided by the recess 33 and the protrusion 35 enables rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14, while substantially preventing displacement of the second frame 8 along the second axis 14, in relation to the first frame 4. Consequently, the frame angle 34 and the second surface angle 36 will remain constant during a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 and during a rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14. Furthermore, a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 will result in a rotation of the second frame 8 around the first axis 12 and therefore also a rotation of the second axis 14 around the first axis 12. During a complete revolution of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12, the second axis 14 will outline a cone having the first axis 12 as the centre.

[0063] The device 102 is adapted for setting up an optical path. Fig. 3 illustrates an optical path 60 (the dotted line) set by the first deflector 6 and the second deflector 10. See the description of Fig. 3 above.

[0064] In order to be adapted for rotating the deflectors 6, 10 individually, the device 102, illustrated in Fig. 4, comprises a number of actuating means as explained in the following. The device 102 comprises a first drive 16 coupled to the first frame 4. The first drive 16 is adapted for controlling the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12. The first drive 16 comprises a first motor 40 that is fixed to the base 38. The first motor 40 may drive a first wheel 42 which controls the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 due to the gearing connection 44. Thus, individual control of the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 is provided by the first drive 16. Due to the connection between the first frame 4 and the second frame 8, the first drive 16 furthermore controls the rotation of the second frame 8 around the first axis 12.

[0065] Furthermore, the device 102 comprises a second drive 18 coupled to the second frame 8. The second drive 18 is adapted for controlling the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14. The second drive 18 comprises a second motor 46 which is fixed to the base 38. The second motor 46 may drive a second wheel 48 which controls the rotation of a coupling part 50 around the first axis 12 due to the gearing connection 52. The coupling part 50 is rotatably connected to the base 38 through the first frame 4. The coupling part 50 is con-
Thus, by controlling the first drive 16 and the second drive 18, an optical path may be set in a desired direction and/or a desired scanning motion may be carried out. Therefore, a similar rotation of the coupling part 50 may cancel out that effect. Thus, individual control of the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14 is provided by the second drive 18. However, knowledge of the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 may be an advantage.

Note that an aim (focus point) of the optical path 60 correspond to more than one setting of the angular positions of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 and the second frame 8 around the second axis 14, respectively. Thus, it may be an advantage to coordinate the rotational position of the first frame 4 and the second frame 8, respectively. Preferably, the coordination is carried out by a control device. Fig. 5 schematically illustrates a cross section of a third embodiment of a device 202 in a system according to the present invention. The device 202 is adapted for setting up an optical path (see for instance the dotted line in Fig. 3), which optical path may be set to point in a desired direction, i.e. the device 202 is adapted for deflecting light towards and/or from a desired direction.

The device 202 comprises a first frame 4 supporting a first deflector 6. Furthermore, the device 202 comprises a second frame 8 supporting a second deflector 10. Additionally, a first axis 12 and a second axis 14 are illustrated by two lines, respectively.

Some angles of interest are illustrated in more detail in Fig. 2 as explained in the following. Fig. 2 schematically illustrates a cross section of some parts of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 5.

The first frame 4, illustrated in Fig. 5, encloses the first deflector 6. The first frame 4 has a first opening 21 and a second opening 23, allowing light to pass to the first deflector 6 through any of the openings 21, 23 and from the first deflector 6 through any of the openings 21, 23. The illustrated first frame 4 forms an elbow-like bend 25. The part of the first frame 4 closest to the first opening 21 forms a tubular-like member having a centre around the first axis 12. Further, the part of the first frame 4 closest to the second opening 23 forms a substantially tubular-like member having a centre around the second axis 14.

Furthermore, the first frame 4 is arranged for rotation around the first axis 12. The arrangement for rotation comprises a number of first bearing suspensions 5. Through the bearing suspensions 5, the first frame 4 is rotatably connected to a base 38. Due to the first frame 4 supporting the first deflector 6, a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 causes an identical rotation of the first deflector 6 around the first axis 12. Thus, during a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12, the first surface angle 26 remains constant.

The second frame 8 is arranged for rotation around the second axis 14. The arrangement for rotation comprises a second bearing suspension 9, through which second bearing suspension 9 the second frame 8 is rotatably connected to the first frame 4. Consequently, the frame angle 34 and the second surface angle 36 will remain constant during a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 and during a rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14. Furthermore, a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 will result in a rotation of the second frame 8 around the first axis 12 and therefore also a rotation of the second axis 14 around the first axis 12. During a complete revolution of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12, the second axis 14 will outline a cone having the first axis 12 as the centre. The device 202 is adapted for setting up an optical path. Fig. 3 illustrates an optical path 60 (the dotted line) set by the first deflector 6 and the second deflector 10. See description of Fig. 3 above.

In order to be adapted for rotating the deflectors 6, 10 individually, the device 202, illustrated in Fig. 5, comprises a number of actuating means as explained in the following. The device 202 comprises a first drive 16 coupled to the first frame 4. The first drive 16 is adapted for controlling the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12. The first drive 16 comprises a first belt 17. The first belt 17 is included in the illustrated cross section for illustrative purposes. Preferably, the first drive 16 comprises a motor (not illustrated) for rotating the first belt 17. The first belt 17 controls the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12. Thus, individual control of the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 is provided by the first drive 16. Due to the connection between the first frame 4 and the second frame 8, the first drive 16 furthermore controls the rotation of the second frame 8 around the first axis 12.

Furthermore, the device 202 comprises a second drive 18 coupled to the second frame 8. The second drive 18 is adapted for controlling the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14. The second drive 18 comprises a second belt 19. The second belt 19 is included in the illustrated cross section for illustrative purposes. Preferably, the second drive 18 comprises a motor (not illustrated) for rotating the second belt 19. The second belt 19 controls the rotation of a coupling part 50 connected to the second frame 8 by means of a first wheel 56 and a second wheel 58. The first wheel 56 is a first gearwheel which is fixed to the coupling part 50. The second wheel 58 is a second gearwheel which is fixed to the second frame 8. Note that a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 may affect the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14. However, a similar rotation of the coupling part 50 may cancel out that effect. Thus, individual control of the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14 is provided by the second drive 18. However, knowledge of the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 may be an advantage.
around the first axis 12. The coupling part 50 is rotatably connected to the base 38 through bearings 54. The coupling part 50 is connected to the second frame 8 by means of a first wheel 56 and a second wheel 58. The first wheel 56 is a first angled gearwheel which is fixed to the coupling part 50. The second wheel 58 is a second angled gearwheel which is fixed to the second frame 8. Note that a rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 may affect the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14. However, a similar rotation of the coupling part 50 may cancel out that effect. Thus, individual control of the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14 is provided by the second drive 18. However, knowledge of the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 may be an advantage.

[0078] Thus, by controlling the first drive 16 and the second drive 18, an optical path may be set in a desired direction and/or a desired scanning motion may be carried out.

[0079] In an embodiment (not illustrated), a part of the second drive 18 is fixed to the first frame 4. Thus, the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 may not influence the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14. Thus, individual control of the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14 is provided by the second drive 18.

[0080] Note that an aim (focus point) of the optical path 60 may correspond to more than one setting of the angular positions of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 and the second frame 8 around the second axis 14, respectively. Thus, it may be an advantage to coordinate the rotational position of the first frame 4 and the second frame 8, respectively. Preferably, the coordination is carried out by a control device (see Fig. 6).

[0081] Fig. 6 schematically illustrates three embodiments showing a control device 80 connected to a first drive 16 and a second drive 18 respectively, of a device, e.g. 2, 102, 202, in a system according to the present invention. In some embodiments of a device, e.g. 2, 102, 202, the rotation of the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 may influence the rotation of the second frame 8 around the second axis 14. Thus, it may be an advantage that one control device 80 controls both the first drive 16 and the second drive 18. Furthermore, since a single aim (focus) of an optical path may correspond to more than one combination of rotational positions of the first frame and the second frame, it may be an advantage that one control device 80 controls both the first drive 16 and the second drive 18. The control connection 82 may be adapted for digital control.

[0082] Fig. 7 schematically illustrates an embodiment of a method 90 for scanning according to the present invention. The method 90 comprises providing a scanning system (not shown in Fig. 7) according to the invention. The method for scanning comprises a number of steps or events. A step or an event may refer to at least a part of a process to be carried out and is not necessarily restricted to a step or an event to be carried out isolated from other steps or events. A first step 92 comprises selection of a first value and a second value. A selected value may be an angle value (angular position) and/or an angular velocity and/or an angular acceleration. A second step 94 comprises rotating the first frame 4 around the first axis 12 according to the selected first value and rotating the second frame 8 around the second axis 14 according to the selected second value. The first value and the second value may be chosen such that at least one of the first frame and the second frame are rotated around their respective axis.

Claims

1. A scanning system comprising a scanning device (2) comprising a first frame (4) supporting a first deflector (6) for deflecting light, the first deflector (6) having a first surface (20) and a second surface (22), the first surface (20) and the second surface (22) forming a first deflector angle (24), the first frame (4) being arranged for rotation around a first axis (12), the first axis (12) forming a first surface angle (26) with the first surface (20), and a second axis (14) forming a second surface angle (36) with the second surface (22), and forming a first deflector angle (24) with the first axis (12), forming a first surface angle (26) with the first surface (20), and a first surface angle (36) with the second surface (22), wherein the first frame (4) being rotatably connected to a base (38) for rotation around the first axis (12) and the second frame (8) being arranged for rotation around the first axis (12), the scanning device (2) further comprising a first drive (16) coupled to the first frame (4) for controlling the rotation of the first frame (4) around the first axis (12), and a second drive (18) coupled to the second frame (8) for controlling the rotation of the second frame (8) around the second axis (14), such that individual control of the rotation of the first frame (4) around the first axis (12) and the rotation of the second frame (8) around the second axis (14) is provided, the device (2) being adapted for setting up an optical path (60), the optical path (60) comprising a first optical path part (64) extending from the first surface (20) and away from the first deflector (6), the first optical path part (64) forming a first optical angle (66) with the first surface (20), a second optical path part (68) extending between the second surface (22) and the third surface (28),
the second optical path part (68) forming a second optical angle (70) with the second surface (22) and forming a third optical angle (72) with the third surface (28), respectively, and
a third optical path part (74) extending from the fourth surface (30) and away from the second deflector (10), the third optical path part (74) forming a fourth optical angle (76) with the fourth surface (30), wherein
the first optical path part (64) is substantially parallel with the first axis (12),
the second optical path part (68) is substantially parallel with the second axis (14),
the first optical angle (66) is substantially equal to the second optical angle (70), and the fourth optical angle (76) is substantially equal to the third optical angle (72),
the scanning system comprising at least one optical device (62),
the at least one optical device (62) comprising a light source adapted to emit a light beam towards the first surface (20),
the light source comprising a laser,
the at least one optical device (62) comprising a focusing element,
the light beam emitted from the at least one optical device (62) being a finite focused laser beam,
the scanning system being configured for steering or controlling the finite focused laser beam.

2. A scanning system according to claim 1, wherein the first optical path part (64) coincides with a part of the first axis (12) and the second optical path part (68) coincides with a part of the second axis (14).

3. A scanning system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the frame angle (34) is between about 1° to about 60°, such as between about 20° to about 40°, preferably about 31°.

4. A scanning system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the frame angle (34) is less than 42°, such as less than 40°, such as less than 35°.

5. A scanning system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the frame angle (34) is larger than 5°, such as larger than 10°, such as larger than 15°.

6. A scanning system according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising a control device (80) connected to the first drive (16) and the second drive (18) via at least one control connection (82), whereby the control device (80) is arranged for controlling the first drive (16) and the second drive (18), individually.

7. A scanning system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one optical device (62) comprises a light detector adapted to detect light from the first surface.

8. A scanning system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the optical path (60) is set such that a light beam propagating along the optical path (60) and passing through the first deflector (6) will pass through the first deflector (6) at the angle of minimum deviation for the first deflector (6).

9. A scanning system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the optical path (60) is set such that a light beam propagating along the optical path (60) and passing through the second deflector (10) will pass through the second deflector (10) at the angle of minimum deviation for the second deflector (10).

10. A method (90) for scanning with a scanning system according to any of the preceding claims, the method for scanning comprising

- selecting (92) a first value,
- rotating (94) the first frame around the first axis according to the first value,
- selecting (92) a second value, and
- rotating (94) the second frame around the second axis according to the second value.

11. A method (90) according to claim 10 the method comprising using a scanning system according to claim 7 and illuminating an area in front of the scanning system with the light beam from the light source such that at least a part of the light is reflected from the area, and detecting at least a part of the reflected light from the area using the light detector.

12. Use of a scanning system according to any of the claims 1 - 9, or a method according to claim 10 for measuring or estimating wind speed, velocity of wind, wind direction, or any combination thereof.

Patentansprüche

1. Abtastsystem umfassend eine Abtasteinrichtung (2) umfassend einen ersten Rahmen (4), welcher einen ersten Deflektor (6) zur Lichtablenkung unterstützt, wobei der erste Deflektor (6) eine erste Oberfläche (20) und eine zweite Oberfläche (22) aufweist, wobei die erste Oberfläche (20) und die zweite Oberfläche (22) einen ersten Deflektorkreis (24) bilden, wobei der erste Rahmen (4) zum Drehen um eine erste Achse (12) herum ausgebildet ist, wobei die erste Achse (12) einen ersten Deflektorkreis (24) bilden, und einen zweiten Rahmen (8), welcher einen zweiten Deflektor (10) zur Lichtablenkung unterstützt, wobei der zweite Deflektor (10) eine dritte Oberfläche (28)
und eine vierte Oberfläche (30) aufweist, wobei die dritte Oberfläche (28) und die vierte Oberfläche (30) einen zweiten Deflektorwinkel (32) bilden, wobei der zweite Rahmen (8) zum Drehen um eine zweite Achse (14) herum ausgebildet ist, wobei die zweite Achse (14) einen Rahmenwinkel (34) mit der ersten Achse (12), einen zweiten Oberflächenwinkel (36) mit der zweiten Oberfläche (22) und einen dritten Oberflächenwinkel (37) mit der dritten Oberfläche (28) bildet, wobei der erste Rahmen (4) mit einer Basis (38) zum Drehen um die erste Achse (12) herum drehbar verbunden ist, und der zweite Rahmen (8) zum Drehen um die erste Achse (12) herum ausgebildet ist, wobei die Abtasteinrichtung (2) ferner umfasst einen mit dem ersten Rahmen (4) verbundenen ersten Antrieb (16) zur Steuerung der Drehung des ersten Rahmens (4) um die erste Achse (12) herum, und einen mit dem zweiten Rahmen (8) verbundenen zweiten Antrieb (18) zur Steuerung der Drehung des zweiten Rahmens (8) um die zweite Achse (14) derart herum, dass eine individuelle Steuerung der Drehung des ersten Rahmens (4) um die erste Achse (12) herum und der Drehung des zweiten Rahmens (8) um die zweite Achse (14) herum vorgesehen ist, wobei die Einrichtung (2) zur Herstellung einer optischen Weglänge (60) ausgebildet ist, wobei die optische Weglänge (60) umfasst einen ersten optischen Weglängenteil (64), welcher sich von der ersten Oberfläche (20) und in Richtung weg von dem ersten Deflektor (6) erstreckt, wobei der erste optische Weglängenteil (64) einen ersten optischen Winkel (66) mit der ersten Oberfläche (20) bildet, einen zweiten optischen Weglängenteil (68), welcher sich zwischen der zweiten Oberfläche (22) und der dritten Oberfläche (28) erstreckt, wobei der zweite optische Weglängenteil (68) einen zweiten optischen Winkel (70) mit der zweiten Oberfläche (22) bzw. einen dritten optischen Winkel (72) mit der dritten Oberfläche (28) bildet, und einen dritten optischen Weglängenteil (74), welcher sich von der vierten Oberfläche (30) und in Richtung weg von dem zweiten Deflektor (10) erstreckt, wobei der dritte optische Weglängenteil (74) einen vierten optischen Winkel (76) mit der vierten Oberfläche (30) bildet, wobei der erste optische Weglängenteil (64) zur ersten Achse (12) im Wesentlichen parallel ist, der zweite optische Weglängenteil (68) zur zweiten Achse (14) im Wesentlichen parallel ist, der erste optische Winkel (66) dem zweiten optischen Winkel (70) im Wesentlichen entspricht, und der vierte optische Winkel (76) dem dritten optischen Winkel (72) im Wesentlichen entspricht, und das Abtastsystem mindestens eine optische Einrichtung (62) aufweist, die mindestens eine optische Einrichtung (62) eine Lichtquelle aufweist, welche zum Aussenden eines Lichtstrahls gegen die erste Oberfläche (20) ausgebildet ist, die Lichtquelle einen Laser aufweist, die mindestens eine optische Einrichtung (62) ein Fokussierelement aufweist, der von der mindestens einen optischen Einrichtung (62) ausgesandte Lichtstrahl ein finiter, fokussierter Laserstrahl ist, das Abtastsystem dazu ausgebildet ist, den finiten, fokussierten Laserstrahl zu steuern oder kontrollieren.

2. Abtastsystem nach Anspruch 1, wobei der erste optische Weglängenteil (64) mit einem Teil der ersten Achse (12) zusammenfällt, und der zweite optische Weglängenteil (68) mit einem Teil der zweiten Achse (14) zusammenfällt.

3. Abtastsystem nach einem der vorgehenden Ansprüche, wobei der Rahmenwinkel (34) zwischen etwa 1° bis etwa 60°, wie beispielsweise etwa 20° bis etwa 40°, vorzugsweise etwa 31°, beträgt.

4. Abtastsystem nach einem der vorgehenden Ansprüche, wobei der Rahmenwinkel (34) kleiner als 42°, wie beispielsweise kleiner als 40°, wie beispielsweise kleiner als 35°, ist.

5. Abtastsystem nach einem der vorgehenden Ansprüche, wobei der Rahmenwinkel (34) größer als 5°, wie beispielsweise größer als 10°, wie beispielsweise größer als 15°, ist.

6. Abtastsystem nach einem der vorgehenden Ansprüche, welches ferner eine über mindestens eine Steuerungsverbindung (82) mit dem ersten Antrieb (16) und dem zweiten Antrieb (18) verbundene Steuereinrichtung (80) aufweist, wobei die Steuereinrichtung (80) zur individuellen Steuerung des ersten Antriebs (16) und des zweiten Antriebs (18) ausgebildet ist.

7. Abtastsystem nach einem der vorgehenden Ansprüche, wobei die mindestens eine optische Einrichtung (62) einen Lichtdetektor aufweist, welcher zur Detektion von Licht aus der ersten Oberfläche ausgebildet ist.

8. Abtastsystem nach einem der vorgehenden Ansprüche, wobei die optische Weglänge (60) derart eingestellt ist, dass ein Lichtstrahl, welcher sich entlang der optischen Weglänge (60) fortpflanzt und durch den ersten Deflektor (6) passiert, durch den ersten Deflektor (6) um den Winkel der minimalen Ablenkung für den ersten Deflektor (6) passieren wird.
9. Abtastsystem nach einem der vorgehenden Ansprüche, wobei die optische Weglänge (60) derart eingestellt ist, dass ein Lichtstrahl, welcher sich entlang der optischen Weglänge (60) fortzupflanzen und durch den zweiten Deflektor (10) passiert, durch den zweiten Deflektor (10) um den Winkel der minimalen Ablenkung für den zweiten Deflektor (10) passieren wird.

10. Verfahren (90) zum Abtasten mit einem Abtastsystem nach einem der vorgehenden Ansprüche, wobei das Abtastverfahren umfasst
- Auswählen (92) eines ersten Werts,
- Drehen (94) des ersten Rahmens um die erste Achse herum gemäß dem ersten Wert,
- Auswählen (92) eines zweiten Werts, und
- Drehen (94) des zweiten Rahmens um die zweite Achse herum gemäß dem zweiten Wert.

11. Verfahren (90) nach Anspruch 10, welches Verfahren die Verwendung eines Abtastsystems nach Anspruch 7 und
Beleuchten eines Bereichs vor dem Abtastsystem mit dem Lichtstrahl aus der Lichtquelle derart, dass mindestens ein Teil des Lichts von dem Bereich reflektiert wird, und
Detektion mindestens eines Teils des reflektierten Lichts von dem Bereich unter Verwendung des Lichtdetektors umfasst.


Revidicaciones

1. Système de balayage comprenant un dispositif de balayage (2) comprenant
un premier cadre (4) supportant un premier déflecteur (6) pour la déviation de la lumière, le premier déflecteur (6) présentant une première surface (20) et une deuxième surface (22), la première surface (20) et la deuxième surface (22) formant un premier angle de déviation (24), le premier cadre (4) étant agencé pour tourner autour d’un premier axe (12), le premier axe (12) formant un premier angle de surface (26) avec la première surface (20), et un deuxième cadre (8) supportant un deuxième déflecteur (10) pour la déviation de la lumière, le deuxième déflecteur (10) présentant une troisième surface (28) et une quatrième surface (30), la troisième surface (28) et la quatrième surface (30) formant un deuxième angle de déviation (32), le deuxième cadre (8) étant agencé pour tourner autour d’un deuxième axe (14), le deuxième axe (14) formant un angle de cadre (34) avec le premier axe (12), formant un deuxième angle de surface (36) avec la deuxième surface (22), et formant un troisième angle de surface (37) avec la troisième surface (28), le premier cadre (4) étant relié de manière rotative à une base (38) pour la rotation autour du premier axe (12) et le deuxième cadre (8) étant agencé pour la rotation autour du premier axe (12), le dispositif de balayage (2) comprenant en outre un premier dispositif d’entraînement (16) couplé au premier cadre (4) pour commander la rotation du premier cadre (4) autour du premier axe (12), et un deuxième dispositif d’entraînement (18) couplé au deuxième cadre (8) pour commander la rotation du deuxième cadre (8) autour du deuxième axe (14) si bien que la commande individuelle de la rotation du premier cadre (4) autour du premier axe (12) et de la rotation du deuxième cadre (8) autour du deuxième axe (14) est pourvue.
le dispositif (2) étant adapté pour la mise en place d’un trajet optique (60), le trajet optique (60) comprenant une première partie de trajet optique (64) s’étendant à partir de la première surface (20) pour s’éloigner du premier déflecteur (6), la première partie de trajet optique (64) formant un premier angle optique (66) avec la première surface (20), une deuxième partie de trajet optique (68) s’étendant entre la deuxième surface (22) et la troisième surface (28), la deuxième partie de trajet optique (68) respectivement formant un deuxième angle optique (70) avec la deuxième surface (22) et formant un troisième angle optique (72) avec la troisième surface (28), et une troisième partie de trajet optique (74) s’étendant à partir de la quatrième surface (30) pour s’éloigner du deuxième déflecteur (10), la troisième partie de trajet optique (74) formant un quatrième angle optique (76) avec la quatrième surface (30), la première partie de trajet optique (64) étant essentiellement parallèle au premier axe (12), la deuxième partie de trajet optique (68) est essentiellement parallèle au deuxième axe (14), le premier angle optique (66) étant essentiellement égal au deuxième angle optique (70), et le quatrième angle optique (76) étant essentiellement au troisième angle optique (72), le système de balayage comprenant au moins un dispositif optique (62), l’au moins un dispositif optique (62) comprenant une source de lumière adaptée pour émettre un faisceau de lumière vers la première surface (20), la source de lumière comprenant un laser, l’au moins un dispositif optique (62) comprenant un élément de focalisation, le faisceau lumineux émis à partir de l’au moins un dispositif optique (62) étant...
1. un faisceau laser concentré fini,
le système de balayage étant configuré pour contrôler ou commander le faisceau laser concentré fini.

2. Système de balayage selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la première partie de trajet optique (64) coïncide avec une partie du premier axe (12), et la deuxième partie de trajet optique (68) coïncide avec une partie du deuxième axe (14).

3. Système de balayage selon l’une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel la première partie de trajet optique (64) coïncide avec une partie du premier axe (12), et la deuxième partie de trajet optique (68) coïncide avec une partie du deuxième axe (14).

4. Système de balayage selon l’une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel l’angle de cadre (34) est compris entre environ 1 ° et environ 60°, tel que compris entre environ 20° et environ 40°, préférentiellement environ 31°.

5. Système de balayage selon l’une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel l’angle de cadre (34) est inférieur à 42°, tel qu’inférieur à 40°, tel qu’inférieur à 35°.

6. Système de balayage selon l’une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel l’angle de cadre (34) est inférieur à 42°, tel qu’inférieur à 40°, tel qu’inférieur à 35°.

7. Système de balayage selon l’une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel l’au moins un dispositif optique (62) comprend un détecteur de lumière adapté pour détecter la lumière provenant de la première surface.

8. Système de balayage selon l’une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le trajet optique (60) est défini de telle sorte qu’un faisceau lumineux se propageant le long du trajet optique (60) et passant par le premier déflecteur (6) passe par le premier déflecteur (6) à l’angle de déviation minimum pour le premier déflecteur (6).

9. Système de balayage selon l’une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le trajet optique (60) est défini de telle sorte qu’un faisceau lumineux se propageant le long du trajet optique (60) et passant par le deuxième déflecteur (10) passe par le deuxième déflecteur (10) à l’angle de déviation minimum pour le deuxième déflecteur (10).

10. Procédé (90) de balayage avec un système de balayage selon l’une quelconque des revendications précédentes, le procédé de balayage comprenant
- la sélection (92) d’une première valeur,
- la rotation (94) du premier cadre autour du premier axe selon la première valeur,
- la sélection (92) d’une deuxième valeur, et
- la rotation (94) du deuxième cadre autour du deuxième axe selon la deuxième valeur.

11. Procédé (90) selon la revendication 10, le procédé comprenant l’utilisation d’un système de balayage selon la revendication 7 et l’illumination d’une zone à l’avant du système de balayage avec le faisceau lumineux provenant de la source de lumière si bien qu’au moins une partie de la lumière est réfléchie de la zone, et la détection d’au moins une partie de la lumière réfléchie de la zone en utilisant le détecteur de lumière.

12. Utilisation d’un système de balayage selon l’une des revendications 1 à 9, ou d’un procédé selon la revendication 10 pour la mesure ou l’estimation de la vitesse du vent, de la vitesse du vent, de la direction du vent ou toute combinaison de celles-ci.
Fig. 5
Fig. 6
Fig. 7
REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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