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**Schlieren-interferometry with a simple adjustable Wollaston-like prism** MATTHEW BISS, GARY SETTLES, Penn State, SIMON SANDERSON, GE Security — We demonstrate that a simple polycarbonate prism, here referred to as a Sanderson prism (Rev. Sci. Instr. 76(11), 2005), behaves under mechanical loading identically to the classical Wollaston birefringent prism. By varying the load, the Sanderson prism is adjustable up to the yield point of the polycarbonate, providing a typical range of beam divergence angles  $\theta$  of 0-24 arcminutes. This range is thoroughly explored. The utility of the Sanderson prism for differential schlieren-interferometry at small  $\theta$  and standard interferometry at large  $\theta$  is demonstrated by using it in place of the knife-edge cutoff in large and small schlieren systems with laser or white-light illumination. A candle plume, the human thermal plume, and a small supersonic jet are used as example flows. Given the simplicity, adjustability, and low cost of the Sanderson prism, schlieren optics are easily converted to interferometry by applying it. Our exploration of differential interferometry at small  $\theta$  and of white-light interferometry with the Sanderson prism extends the original work cited above.

Prefer Oral Session  
 Prefer Poster Session

Gary Settles  
gss2@psu.edu  
Penn State

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