

Spreading optics in the society

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INTRODUCTION

The *USC-EPS Young Minds Section* was founded in 2014 in the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) and it is supported by the European Physical Society (EPS). The main goal of the *USC-EPS Young Minds Section* is to arouse people's interest in Optics. In order to attain this objective we developed several activities for different segments of the society. Activities like *Funny Light*, carried out at primary and secondary schools in Santiago de Compostela, or "*Unha Ollada ao ceo*" where Professor Salva Bará shows people what we can see in the night sky of our city.

USC-EPS activities during the International Year of Light 2015

School activities ("Funny Light")

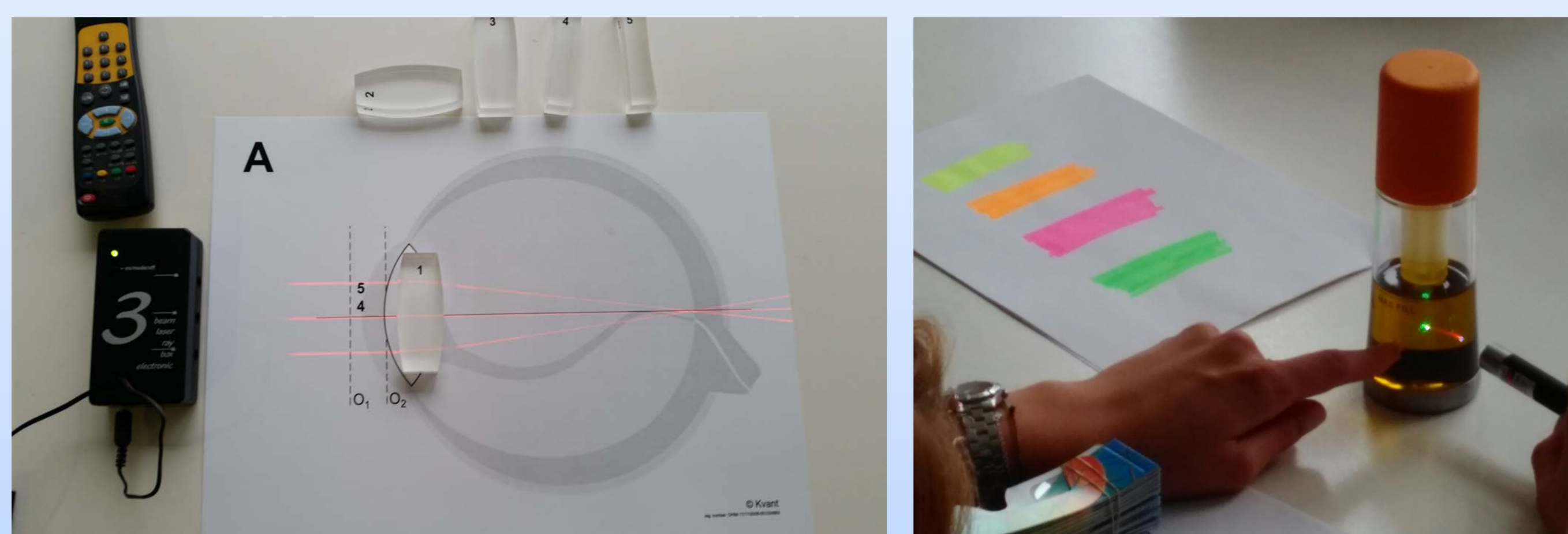


Figure 1: Experiments for kids were separated in 4 workshop: light and vision (a), interaction light-matter (b), polarization and light propagation. Our group has visited several schools this year.

Khet Contest

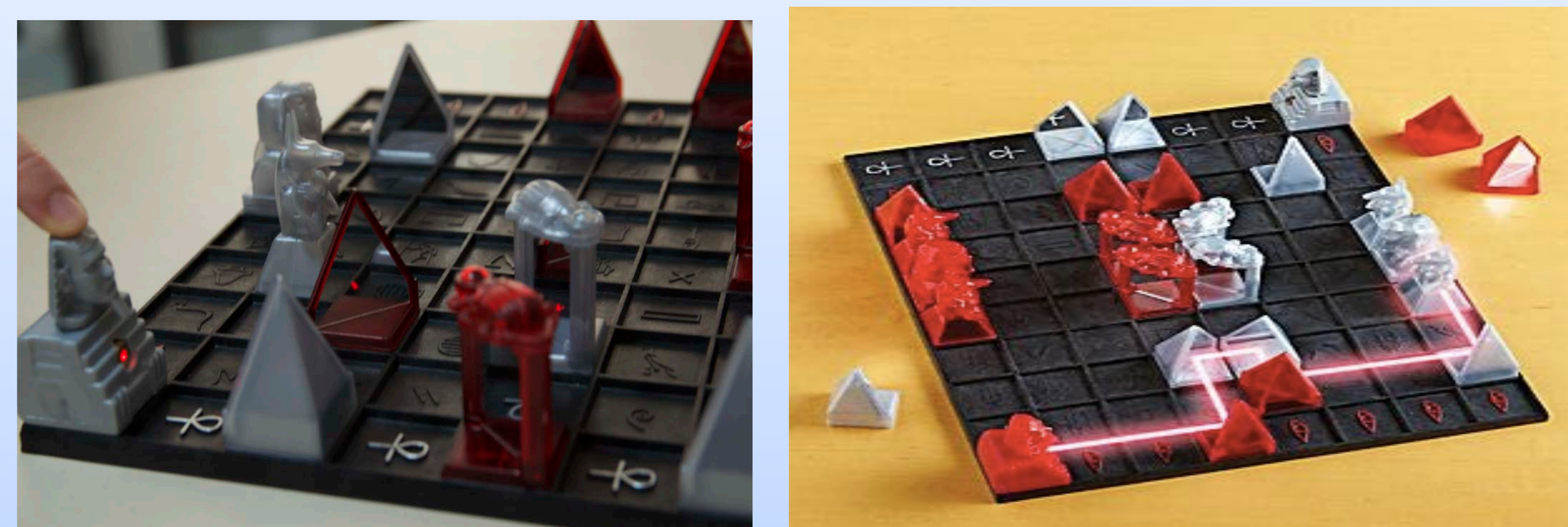


Figure 2: Khet is chess like board game that uses lasers for propagating the beam onto the opponent pieces. We organized a contest within University students.

Seminars on Optics

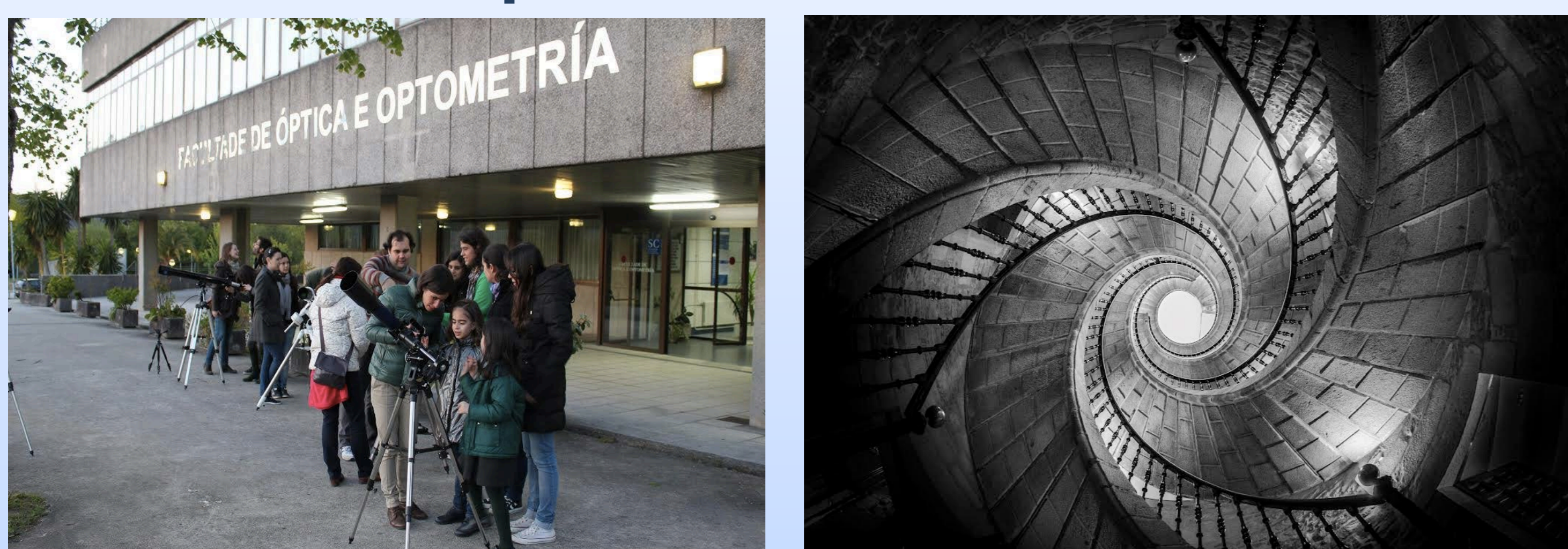


Figure 3: Astronomy or photography seminars allow us to give some expertise to anybody who is interested in that particular activity. Seminars consist in an introduction lecture and a practical workshop with telescopes or photography cameras.

Meet the light



Figure 3: Within the frame of the International Year of Light, our group collaborates with the Galician committee for the IYL carrying out some contest. Moreover, we will held a one-week activity where the awarded works will be shown. During this week, we will also organize lectures, optics experiments and demonstrations in the hall of the faculty and visits to the Optics and Photonics laboratories.

Conclusion

We think that the activities carried out by the *USC-EPS Young Minds Section* accomplish our main objective: to raise awareness in Optics. Over the following years we will perform new activities as well as older ones, which have had a broad acceptances by the attendees.

Acknowledgements

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