LENS F NUMBERS

"Experimenting With Light-Beam Communications" (April 1975) appears to contain an error. Author Forrest Mims states that the term f/number is used to define the ratio of diameter to focal length and is expressed as f/no, which is equal to d/fl, where d is the lens diameter and fl is the focal length. This part of the text should read, "The term f-number (this is the proper designation—not f/no) is used to define the ratio of focal length to lens diameter and is expressed as f-no equal to fl/d.

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You are correct. The f-no of a lens is equal to the focal length divided by the diameter of the lens. The formula d/fl is the divergence of the projected beam, or receiver field of view, in radians. —Author