A surface refractive index scanning system and method.

A surface refractive index scanning system and method. The invention relates to a surface refractive index scanning system for characterization of a sample. The system comprises a grating device for holding or receiving the sample, the device comprising at least a first grating region having a first grating width along a transverse direction, and a second grating region having a second grating width in the transverse direction. The first grating region and the second grating region are adjacent in the transverse direction, wherein the first grating region has a grating period \( \Lambda_1 \) in a longitudinal direction, and the second grating region has a grating period \( \Lambda_2 \) in the longitudinal direction, where the longitudinal direction is orthogonal to the transverse direction. A grating period spacing \( \Delta \Lambda = \Lambda_1 - \Lambda_2 \) is finite. Further, the first and second grating periods are chosen to provide optical resonances for light respectively in a first wavelength band and a second wavelength band, light is being emitted, transmitted, or reflected in an out-of-plane direction, wherein the first wavelength band and the second wavelength band are at least partially non-overlapping in wavelength. The system further comprises a light source for illuminating at least a part of the grating device with light at an illumination wavelength band. Additionally, the system comprises an imaging system for imaging the emitted, transmitted or reflected light from the grating device. The imaging system comprises an optical element, such as a cylindrical lens or a bended mirror, configured for focusing light in a transverse direction and for being invariant in an orthogonal transverse direction, the optical element being oriented such that the longitudinal direction of the grating device is oriented to coincide with the invariant direction of the optical element, and an imaging spectrometer comprising an entrance slit having a longitudinal direction oriented to coincide with the invariant direction of the optical element. The imaging spectrometer further comprises a 2-dimensional image sensor. The invention further relates to a method.