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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Michael F. Modest was born in Berlin and spent the first 25 years of his life in Germany. After receiving his Dipl.-Ing. degree from the Technical University in Munich, he came to the United States, and in 1972 obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, where he was first introduced to theory and experiment in thermal radiation. Since then, he has carried out many research projects in all areas of radiative heat transfer (measurement of surface, liquid, and gas properties; theoretical modeling for surface transport and within participating media). Since many laser beams are a form of thermal radiation, his work also encompasses the heat transfer aspects in the field of laser processing of materials.

For several years he has taught at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the University of Southern California, and for 24 years was a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Pennsylvania State University. Today Dr. Modest is the Shaffer and George Professor of Engineering at the University of California, Merced, the 10th campus of the University of California system, and the first newly established research university of the 21st century. He is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and an associate fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Dr. Modest and his wife Monika reside in Merced, CA.