Spectral Forest

"Drone Mountable Enclosure and Optics for Eco-Sensing Optical Spectrometer"

ME 486C Section 01 Team: Tyler Lerew, Torrey King, & Derrick Doan

Project Description

Build a robust hyperspectral VIS-NIR (Visible to near infrared wavelengths) spectrometer housing to record wavelengths of light reaching forest floor ranging from 400-1000 nm, it could help change the trajectory of forests research and conservation efforts.

Insights into plant health, leaf makeup and thickness, water concentrations in soil and in trees, temperature differences due to water conspiring up the tree, this data will be put into prediction models to analyze the forests' health

The unit will be placed in a specific understory position to continuously monitor a location. Later the device will be attached to a drone and can analyze the forest from above. The lab application is to view the optical and energy properties of semiconductors like energy transfer and light reflection and absorption

It will be 3D printed with stainless steel hardware inserted, 45-degree FOV, under 3lbs, fits within a 10x5x10in space, mountable onto a drone, weather resistant, operation range of 0-50 degrees C, and adequately protects sensitive internal components.

Sponsors: Alexander Shenkin (Assistant Research Professor) and Carlo da Cunha (Assistant Professor) – SICCS

Initial budget was \$500, this was later increased and will be discussed shortly

Deliverables

- Fall Semester:
- Initial design presentations, reports, and calculations
- Spring Semester:
- Hardware status updates 33%, 67%, and 100% checkpoints to keep us on track
- Finalized testing plan, Initial and final testing results presentations
- Registering and submitting our poster and presentation to UGRADs
- \blacktriangleright Final CAD packet collection of the entire CAD for the project
- Website checks
- Operation/ assembly manual to inform the client on how to use the device

Success Metrics

The device survives typical weather experienced in nature

Protects the optics and electronics

The accepted light range is 400- 1000nm

Within the drone's weight capacity of 3.6 lbs and can be mounted to a drone

Operates from 0-50 °C

Customer Requirements

Engineering Requirements

House of **Quality**

 123
 456
 78

 $\mathbf{1}$ \overline{c} $\overline{3}$ $\overline{4}$ $\overline{5}$ 6 $\begin{array}{c} 7 \\ 8 \end{array}$ $\overline{9}$

SOTA Design Description Airborne Prism Experiment (APEX) Imaging Spectrometer Attached to drone, hyperspectral data in 300 bands, spectral range of 380- 2500 nm and at a spatial ground resolution of 2-5 m. ASD FieldSpec 4 Standard-Res Spectroradiometer Portable, handheld, spectral range of 350-2500 nm, interchangeable contact probes and mug lights NASA HyMap Sensor **Four spectrometers in the interval** of 450-2450 nm, 2 major atmospheric water absorption windows, on-board bright source calibration system

Benchmarking

The state of the art (SOTA) designs, depicted on the left, utilize spectrometers that capture spectral data ranging from 350-2500 nm. The 3 pre-existing models use remote sensing to study forest ecosystems through biophysical and biochemical variables.

Tyler Lerew Literature Review

Breakdown of Sources

Sources list: -NEMA Enclosure Types -IP ratings -ONYX Material properties -Best filament for outdoor use -PETG vs. PC -All filaments -Filament densities -O-Ring Groove (Gland) Design Guide -Nothing Gets In: Waterproof Enclosure Design 101 (and IP68) -AS568 O-ring Size Chart -How to Calculate Force of Impact -Impact Force Calculator

Torrey King Literature Review

Breakdown of Sources

Some of these sources: -Edmund optics how to pages -Zemax support and guidance forum -UofA zemax course material -UofA optic mounting procedure -UofA lab laser safety -UAV-based hyperspectral remote sensing paper -Mozilla Developer Network: -html and css and javascript

Optics **Heat Transfer** \blacksquare Web Design \blacksquare other

Torrey King

Derrick Doan Literature Review

Breakdown of Sources

Sources list:

- Spectral Imaging
	- LiDAR 3D forest modeling
	- Linear predictive vegetation models
- Environmental Forces
	- Biophysical and Biochemical properties
- Cosine Correction
	- Lambert's Law
- Other
	- Pre-existing designs
	- Specifications and subsystems

Mathematical Modeling

- Free fall off table
- FEA on Mounting System

Torrey King

- •Heat Disbursement
- •Vent Flow
- •Optic Path

- Force on Mounting System
- •Cosine Correction

Mathematical Modelling Tyler

- Impact force and stress on housing if the unit is dropped, ensure no fracture to housing
	- Preliminary nylon housing mass estimate (101.6mm x 101.6 mm x 50.8mm): \sim 0.34 kg
	- \blacktriangleright Height of fall: 1.81 m
	- Height of bounce: 50.5 mm
	- Governing equation (Impact from a falling object): $F = \frac{mgh}{d}$
	- Stress equation: $\sigma = \frac{F}{A}$
	- u **Total force: 120.4 N**
	- u **Stress: 0.5 MPa**
	- **Ultimate Strength: 69 MPa**
- \blacktriangleright Can use this calculation later in the design process in FEA to ensure the unit is intact after a fall and design around this force to ensure internal components do not shift during impact

Engineering Calculations -Tyler

- FEA on camera mount attached to housing
- Purpose: design the housing to easily be attached to a standard camera mount and it will not fail when attached
- \blacktriangleright thrust = thrust-to-weight-ratio \times total drone weight
- u Aurelia X4 Standard
	- \blacktriangleright Payload up to 3.3 lbm
	- \blacktriangleright Total weight of drone with battery and housing attached = 10.68 lbs
	- Thrust to weight ratio = $2:1$
	- Thrust = 21.36 lbf
	- Strength of sleeve nut is 105 x 10^3 psi

Mathematical Modelling Torrey

- Electronics heat disbursement and internal temperature status
	- Using knowledge from: Bergman, T. L., & Lavine, A. (2017). Fundamentals of heat and mass transfer. John Wiley & Sons.
- Looking at edge case internal and external temperature states with over assumption of electrical and radiation inputs for the system.
- Found that in worst scenario designed for, internal chamber returns to operating temp. in roughly 40 seconds
- Assumptions:
- Print Material: k=0.9 rho=500 Cp=1000
- Air: k=26.3 P=1.1614 Cp=1.007 mu=184.6 v=15.89 alpha=22.5
- Battery capacity= 10050 mAh
- Voltage $= 3.7$ volts
- Airmass = 0.001213 kg
- specific heat capacity of air $=$ 1005 J/(kg*k)
- In-fill ignored, assuming a double wall system of print material

Engineering Calculations - Torrey

- Diffraction Grating Angle
 $m \lambda = d \sin(\theta)$
	- \blacktriangleright Maybe most important of the optic placement and alignment calculations
- \blacktriangleright The grating is what isolates each wavelength and allows for the detector to read location/intensity and not wavelength.
- Equation from Thorlabs, the company we sourced our grating from.

$$
\theta = \sin^{-1}(\frac{\lambda}{2d})
$$

$$
\lambda = \frac{1 - 0.4}{2} = 0.3
$$

 $d = 1.66$

 $\theta = 0.2124$ rad = 12.1718°

Mathematical Modelling Derrick

 \blacktriangleright Forces Applied When Flying

- \blacktriangleright Mass estimate (m): Drone (2kg) + Design (.34kg) = 2.34 kg
- Avg. Drone Speed (a): 45 mph = 20.13 m/s
- Gravity (g): 9.8 m/s^2
- Thrust (F) : 47.1 kg-m/s or N-s
- Weight (W): 22.93 kg-m/s^2 or N
- Ratio (F/W): 2.05 = High Climb Rate
- Measurements to be used when creating housing for system to resist movement from these forces (material, fasteners, hinges, etc.)

Engineering Calculations - Derrick

Cosine Correction - Making light spectrum spectrally flat across all arrays (Ex: eyes)

Figure 5: Cosine Corrector Example

Lambert's Law: L _θ = L ₀ x cos θ

Light Intensity at Angle **θ** = Light Intensity on Reflected Surface x Cosine of Oblique Angle **θ**

Derrick Doan 10/10/2023

Concept Generation and Selection

Black Box Model

- **No material change in or out of** the unit at any point during the process of the unit being used
- \triangleright No signal input, and the only output signal is internally in the process of data collection as well as a USB port that allows for the off-loading of the data collected
to be analyzed afterwards.
- Energy transfer is photons entering the aperture and then also radiation. This causes the production of heat to occur as well as the electrical components to do their thing.

Functional Model

- **Uses same energy transfer method** described in Black Box Model for recording spectral data
- \blacktriangleright It is important that the unit can reliably and easily dissipate heat to protect the internal electronics. It must do this within the constraints of size and weight to allow it to be drone mounted

Functional Decomposition

Concept Generation

Selection Criteria

Detector

- Linear Array
	- Cheapest with highest quality

Enclosure

- Rectangular
	- Easy to mount internal components

Aperture

- Wide FOV **Entrance** Lens
	- Allows largest amount of light in

Selection Criteria cont.

Pressure Equalization

- Vent
	- Ultrasonically welded filter membrane
	- IP67, 68. NEMA 3R, 4, & 4X
	- Max airflow: 16.6 $LPM/3.7cm²$ at 13.5 psi

O-ring

• Neoprene 70A, 1.39% stretch, 79% groove fill, 27% compression

Material Selection

- Polycarbonate
	- UV resistance
	- Strong
	- 3D printeable
	- 10-20 year life

Project management – Schedule

Fall Semester Schedule

Spectral Forest Gantt Chart

Spring Semester Schedule

Spectral Forest Gantt Chart

Derrick Doan Torrey King Tyler Lerew Everyone **All UGRAD**

Budget

- Total budget: \$5600
- Total spent on components: \$5323.41
- Total leftover: \$276.59
- We self-funded -2% or \$102.75
- u Chris Edwards' Space Grant Consortium funded ~98% of the project
- Any individual item under \$5000 can be purchased by the Space Grant
- Without this grant this project would be reduced to a DIY weekend project with the back of a CD used as a diffraction grating inside of a black carboard box

Design Validation and Prototyping

Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA)

6.1.1 Door Sealing

- \blacktriangleright Failure to seal the housing correctly or a breach in one of the walls will likely cause catastrophic failure if incident occurs when the unit is isolated in the forest
- \blacktriangleright Water -> humidity -> fog on mirrors
	- \blacktriangleright Water gets on electronics and ruins them
- Dust -> clouds mirrors
- Added an extra door that covers the mirrors with an O-Ring as a second layer of defense
- \blacktriangleright Increase cost of overall product for extra protection
- Festing: seal the box fully but with not components installed and submerge in water and watch for bubbles. Install thermistors and move the box to extreme temperatures and monitor the changes
- **Equipment and resources: Table, tub, freezer (can use personal one), thermistors, Arduino to read** thermistors,

6.1.2 Optics

- The optics in the system dictate whether the spectrometer records the proper spectral data per the client's requirements.
- **EXECUTE:** Weather Conditions (Internal and External)
	- \blacktriangleright Humidity, dust, heat, pressure, etc.
- **Example Improper Mounting**
	- **EXECUTE:** Incorrect spectral range, loss of light distribution, PCB not detecting light
- **EXECT:** Testing: Light distribution test(s), configuring angles and focal lengths to meet requirements.
- **Equipment and resources: Zemax software, USB-C data collection, Czerny-Turner method,**

Initial Prototyping

Optical Iterations

Enclosure Iterations

Final Hardware

Final Testing

Top level Testing Summary Table

Torrey King

Test 1: 3D Printed Fits

Relevant DRs CR3: Ease of access CR6: As light as possible ER8: Optics Secured

- Procedure:
	- Use Bambu Lab X1 Carbon printer to print features of interest, such as vents, mounts, and hardware, based on CAD models.
	- 2. Make necessary cuts to isolate features for testing without printing the entire model.
	- 3. Assess how components fit and align together, ensuring flush fits, sealed enclosure, and proper alignment.
	- 4. Record observations regarding the quality of fits and any necessary adjustments.
- Results:
	- Upon 1-2 iterations we could find the correct fit for each purchased and manufactured parts
	- Inform design decisions based on fitment observations.

Test 2: Laser Alignment

Relevant DRs

- CR5: Spectral Range of 400-1000nm
- CR8: Drone mountable in operation
- ER1: Long lifespan
- ER5: Optics designed for full range
- ER8: optics secured

Procedure:

- 1. Select a laser (Thorlabs PL252 4.5mW 639nm class 3R 3mm dia
- 2. Design a CAD model to center the laser onto the optic entrance and 3D print a mount using PLA.
- 3. Measure the off-center alignment of the laser at each lens point, both horizontally and vertically.
- 4. Progress through alignment steps, starting with the optic entrance and moving to internal mounts.
- Iterate adjustments of mounts as necessary for precision alignment.
- Record measurements and adjustments made during the alignment process.
- Results:
	- Laser aligned to correct location on detector
	- Some reflections but manageable

Test 3: Heat Test

Relevant DRs

CR1: Durable

- CR2: Semi-constant internal conditions
- CR4: environmentally sound
- ER1: Long lifespan
- ER2: Internal temp. controlled w/ vents
	- Procedure:
		- 1. Install three thermocouples to measure temperatures in the optic chamber, electronic cavity, and ambient temperature outside the enclosure.
		- 2. Use a standard house oven set to low temperature and a refrigerator/freezer to induce gradual temperature changes.
		- 3. Monitor temperature changes over time and observe the response of seals, vents, and polycarbonate material.

Results:

- Assess the enclosure's ability to withstand and regulate temperature changes.
- Ensure minimal impact on optic alignment and electronic functionality.
- Insights gained will inform the spectrometer's lifespan and performance under varying environmental conditions.

Test 4: Seal/Vent Test upon Submersion

Relevant DRs

- CR2: Semi-constant internal conditions
- CR4: Environmentally sound
- ER2: Internal temp. controlled w/ vents

ER4: Water and dust proof

Procedure:

- 1. Submerge the sealed enclosure in water for varying durations, from short-term to longer periods.
- 2. Assess water ingress by placing white paper inside the enclosure and observing any wetness.
- 3. Test the enclosure's resistance to dust and sand by exposing it to blowing sand/dirt using a leaf blower.
- 4. Evaluate the ingress of dust/sand/dirt and any potential damage to internal components.
- Results:
	- Submersion for roughly 10 seconds
	- Rain and dust are more than alright for success

Test 5: Flight/Drop for Optics

- Relevant DRs
- CR1: Durable
- CR4: Environmentally sound
- CR6: as light as possible
- CR7: as small as possible
- ER1: Long Lifespan
- ER4: Water and dust proof
- ER8: Optics secured
- Procedure:
	- 1. Prepare a sealed enclosure with optics securely positioned inside.
	- 2. Measure and record the height of the platform from which the drop will occur.
	- 3. Position the enclosure on the platform and release to simulate drops from specified heights.
	- 4. Repeat the test using different heights to ensure reliability.
	- 5. Assess the condition of optics and enclosure after each drop, noting any damage or weaknesses.
	- 6. Anticipate a range of results using equations related to impact force, material properties, and environmental factors.
- Results:
	- Shaking is survivable for lenses and mounts
	- For mid to high drops found errors in mounting technique, iterated and late found new design to be able to withstand expected drops.

Test 6: Destructive Test on Enclosure

- Relevant DRs
- CR1: Durable
- CR4: environmentally sound
- CR7: as small as possible
- ER1: Long lifespan
- ER4: Water and dust proof
- ER8: Optics secured
- Procedure:
	- 1. Simulate drops from different heights, starting with mild heights and progressing to more severe drops.
	- 2. Assess the damage to the enclosure after each drop, documenting any weaknesses or failures.
	- 3. Evaluate the enclosure's ability to withstand impacts and maintain structural integrity.
	- 4. Use theoretical calculations to predict potential damage based on material properties and impact forces.
- Results:
	- Withstands drops of table height and 6ft
	- Flight drops are unreliable in survival, may or may not succeed

Test 7: Spectrum Tube Color Calibration

Relevant DRs

CR2: Semi-constant internal conditions CR5: Spectral range of 400-1000nm CR9: Ambient operating range of 0.50° C ER5: Optics design for full range ER8: Optics Secured

Procedure:

- 1. Use spectrum tubes to emit predictable wavelengths and calibrate the spectrometer chip accordingly.
- 2. Build a calibration curve for wavelength density and location on the chip.
- 3. Ensure optics alignment is accurate at different temperatures to maintain functionality.
- 4. Collaborate with the EE team to finalize chip accuracy and data retention.
- \blacktriangleright Results:
	- To be determined

Future Work

REQUIRED

Would Be

Nice

• Calibrate CCD chip wavelength alignment via spectrum tube test

• Extend optic wavelength range into the infrared range by stacking another optic system with focus on the range 1000-2000nm

• Conduct study on replacing adjustable mounts with 3D printed holders to reduce overall weight

Thank you!

Questions?