THERMAL INFRA-RED COMPACT IMAGING SPECTROMETER: LABORATORY CHARACTERIZATION AND FIRST FLIGHTS



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Why is hyperspectral LWIR imaging useful to Earth scientists?





- Many targets of interest to Earth scientists have distinctive spectra at long-wave thermal infrared wavelengths (~8-14 mm)
- Imaging interferometry has the potential to characterize these targets at high spectral resolution, with high signal-to-noise
- TIRCIS (*Thermal Infra-Red Compact Imaging Spectrometer*) is a compact instrument designed for this purpose, specifically aimed at small- and micro-satellite platforms, funded by NASA' s ESTO IIP



TIRCIS - a Spatial Fourier Transform Spectrometer





TIRCIS prototype





TIRCIS optical design and IFOV





IFOV = 250 mrad; GIFOV = 120 m







TIRCIS spectral resolution





i. ~17 bands (8-14 mm) at DI ~ 0.35 mm

ii. ~48 bands (8-14 mm) at Dl ~ 0.13 mm

iii. ~64 bands (8-14 mm) at DI ~ 0.09 mm



TIRCIS spectro-radiometric performance at 44 cm⁻¹





TIRCIS spectro-radiometric performance at 44 cm⁻¹





TIRCIS spectro-radiometric performance at 44 cm⁻¹



Comparing the 44 cm⁻¹ and 8.7 cm⁻¹ interferometers





Comparing the 44 cm⁻¹ and 8.7 cm⁻¹ interferometers





Noisy, and increasingly noisy, at short and long wavelengths





FLIR Photon 320

Spectral resolution vs precision at 44 cm⁻¹ and 8.7 cm⁻¹





FLIR Photon 320

Flatter response can be obtained





Some initial results





Some results from first test flight







Simulating volcanic SO₂ gas measurements

Wavelength (µm)

8_{\$}

Work in progress is to invert W/m²/sr/mm to ppm.m

Gabrieli, A., Wright, R., Lucey, P.G., Garbeil, H., Pilger, E., Porter, J.N., & Wood, M. (2016). Characterization and initial field test of 8-14 μm thermal infrared hyperspectral imager for measuring SO₂ in volcanic plumes. *Bulletin of Volcanology*, 78, DOI: 10.1007/s00445-016-1068-6

Gabrieli, A., Porter, J., Wright, R., Lucey, P.G., (2017). Validation of the accuracy and precision of volcanic SO₂ path concentration retrievals from long-wave infrared hyperspectral images. In review.

Summary

- Imaging interferometry can provide high spatial, high spectral, and high temporal resolution (if incorporated into a constellation of microsatellites) image data for quantifying the chemical composition of Earth's surface and atmosphere
- TIRCIS can provide 17-50 spectral measurements in the 8-14 mm window, with peak SNR of 200-800:1 (at 30 °C)
- TIRCIS has a mass of 16 kg (not lightweighted), a volume of 28 cm × 36 cm × 56 cm, and a steady state power consumption of ~20 W, making it eminently consistent with integration into a microsatellite (e.g. 50 kg), or constellation of microsatellites.
- Thanks to ESTO IIP for support

