# Fiber Optic Sensing System (FOSS) Technology

A New Sensor Paradigm for Comprehensive Structural Monitoring and Model Validation throughout the Vehicle Life-Cycle

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# The FOSS Team

|       | Team member    | Field                         | <b>Contributions to FOSS</b>                                    |
|-------|----------------|-------------------------------|---|
|       | Patrick Chan   | Optics Engineer               | Optics Development, laser research and development              |
|       | Philip Hamory  | Electrical<br>Engineer        | Advanced System Algorithm<br>Development                        |
|       | Francisco Pena | Structures<br>Engineer        | Structural Test and Analysis                                    |
| 14000 | Allen Parker   | Electrical<br>Engineer        | Systems design & development, data processing and visualization |
| N A   | Anthony Piazza | Instrumentation<br>Specialist | Sensor characterization, application, & interpretation          |
|       | Lance Richards | Structures<br>Engineer        | Aircraft structures, strain measurement research                |

# **AFRC Structures Test and Analysis**

#### Structural Test and Analysis Products

- Experimental methods
  - Structural testing from coupon, subcomponent, component, qual-unit, flight component, full vehicle (for aircraft of all Mach no's, launch vehicles, spacecraft applications)
  - Ground testing (structural labs, wind tunnels, cryogenic labs)
  - Flight testing
  - Mechanical: Load frames, custom designed test setups, load introduction hardware, restraints,
  - Thermal: high & low temperature (radiant quartz lamps and cryogenic cooling, resp)
  - Aero
- Structural measurement methods
  - Strain (stress), temperature, displacement, load, heat flux, discrete, full-field
  - Strain gage technology, fiber optic sensors, load cells, LVDTs, potentiometers, TCs, digital image correlation, thermal imaging, Interferometry, Moire,
  - Experimental Stress Analysis, measurement uncertainty (temperature compensation methods)
  - Correlation of experimental / analytical results
  - · Collaborate with analysts to correlate experimental results with analytical predictions
  - Analytical, computational, empirical
    - Pre-test, pre-flight predictions
    - Validated structural analysis from coupon, subcomponent, component, qual-unit, flight component, full vehicle (for aircraft of all Mach no's, launch vehicles, spacecraft applications)
    - Collaborate with experimentalists to correlate real-time structural monitoring (comparison of structural performance vs analytical predictions)
    - Post-test, post flight, correlation of analytical/experimental results
      - Tuning of B/Cs, mat props, loads (mech/thermal, i.e applying measured data to analysis models)

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# NASA Focused Structural Health Monitoring



# Background and Inspiration

**Biological Inspiration of Fiber Optic Smart Structures** 

#### **One Square-Inch of Human Skin**

- Four yards of nerve fibers
- 600 pain sensors
- 1300 nerve cells
- 9000 nerve endings
- 36 heat sensors
- 75 pressure sensors
- 100 sweat glands
- 3 million cells
- 3 yards of blood vessels







| Smart Structure        | Human Body                   |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fiber Optic<br>Sensors | Pain, temp, pressure sensors |
| Piezo's, SMAs          | Muscles                      |
| IVHM, Smart<br>Systems | Brain                        |

#### Why Fiber Optic Sensors? One Of These Things (is Not Like The Others)



# Fiber Optic System Operation Overview

#### Fiber Optic Sensing with Fiber Bragg Gratings

- Immune to electromagnetic / radio-frequency interference and radiation
- Lightweight fiber-optic sensing approach having the potential of embedment into structures
- Multiplex 100s of sensors onto one optical fiber
- Fiber gratings are written at the same wavelength
- Uses a narrowband wavelength tunable laser source to interrogate sensors
- Typically easier to install than conventional strain sensors
- In addition to measuring strain and temperature these sensors can be use to determine shape





# How it Works: FBG OFDR Overview



#### Armstrong's FOSS Technology Current Capabilities

#### **Current system specifications**

| • | Fiber count                    | 16               |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------|
| • | Max sensing length / fiber     | 40 ft            |
| • | Max sensors / fiber            | 2000             |
| • | Total sensors / system         | 32000            |
| • | Max sample rate (flight)       | 100 sps          |
| • | Max sample rate (ground)       | 60 sps           |
| • | Power (flight)                 | 28VDC @ 4.5 Amps |
| • | Power (ground)                 | 110 VAC          |
| • | User Interface                 | Ethernet         |
| • | Weight (flight, non-optimized) | ) 27 lbs         |
| • | Weight (ground, non-optimize   | ed) 20 lbs       |
| • | Size (flight, non-optimized)   | 7.5 x 13 x 13 in |
| • | Size (ground, non-optimized)   | 7 x 12 x 11 in   |
| - |                                |                  |

# Environmental qualification specifications for flight system

- Shock
- Vibration
- Altitude
- Temperature

8g

1.1 g-peak sinusoidal curve 60kft at -56C for 60 min -56 < T < 40C





Ground System



**Predator -B in Flight** 

### Fiber Bragg Grating (FBG) Optical Frequency Domain Reflectometry (OFDR)

FBG-OFDR can dramatically improve structural and system efficiency for space vehicle applications by improving both affordability and capability by ...

- Providing >100x the number measurements at 1/100 the total sensor weight
- Providing validated structural design data that enables future launch systems to be lighter and more structurally efficient
- Reducing data system integration time and cost by utilizing a single small system for space / launch vehicles
- Increasing capability of measuring multiple parameters in real time (strain, temp., accel, liquid level, shape, applied loads, stress, mode shapes, natural frequencies, buckling modes, etc.)
- Providing an unprecedented understanding about system/structural performance throughout space craft and mission life cycle



ISS COPV strain & temp monitoring

### **FOSS Advantages to Conventional Strain Measurements**

- Unrivaled spatial density of sensors for full-field measurements
- Measurements immune to EMI, RFI and radiation
- Lightweight sensors
  - Typical installation is 0.1 1% the weight of conventional gage installations (based on past trade studies)
  - 1000's of sensors on a single fiber (up to 80 feet per fiber)
  - No copper wires
- With uniquely developed algorithms, these sensors can determine deformed shape and loads at points along the fiber for *real-time* feedback
- Great in high strain and fatigue environments
- Small fiber diameter
  - Approximately the diameter of a human hair
  - Unobtrusive installation
  - Fibers can be bonded externally or applied as a 'Smart Layer' top ply
- Single calibration value for an entire lot of fiber
- Wide temperature range
  - Cryogenic up to 500°F
  - Very linear thermal compensation



#### Fiber optic strain sensors



Strain sensor comparison



Strain gage

Fiber optic strain sensors

# **FOSS Sensor Technology Comparison**



# Fiber Optic Sensing Applications



# **Strain Sensing Applications**

### Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessel (COPV) Sensor Mapping – Surface Mounted Fiber





530 Surface strain measurements







### COPV Stiffness / Pressure Monitoring, Individual Sensor



Fiber line #8, FBG #97, Micro-strain & Pressure (psi) Vs. Time

Fiber line #8, FBG #97, Micro-strain Vs. Pressure (psi)



Pena, F., Strutner, S., Richards, W. L., Piazza, A., Parker, A. R. "Evaluatin of Embedded FBGs in Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessels for Strain Based Structural Health Monitoring", Proc. SPIE 2014-9059

# **COPV** Stiffness / Pressure Monitoring

- Expands previous studies performed by the Armstrong NNWG on the structural health monitoring techniques
  - Implementation of real-time finiteelement-like fringe plots
  - Further studies into stiffness/pressure monitoring as SHM parameter





Pena, F., Strutner, S., Richards, W. L., Piazza, A., Parker, A. R. "Evaluatin of Embedded FBGs in Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessels for Strain Based Structural Health Monitoring". Proc. SPIE 2014-9059

# Simulated Shield MMOD Testing with Fiber Optic Sensors

Utilize Fiber Optic Sensors on a simulated MMOD shield structure to monitor the response to hypervelocity impacts

Use Fiber Optic Sensors to determine:

- 1. If an impact occurred
- 2. When did the event occur
- 3. Where did the impact occur
- 4. Quantify Damage







## Fiber Optic Routing and Location of Sensors (as seen from back of plate)

A NASA New Technology Report (NTR) has been filed for the MMOD detection method described in this technical presentation and is therefore patent protected. Those interested in using the method should contact the NASA Fiber Optic Sensing System Subject Matter Experts for more information

# MMOD Impact Detection (Target 1)



#### Target 1

Projectile Diameter:0.99mmProjectile mass:0.0014gProjectile Velocity:7,100 m/s

Use Fiber Optic Sensors to determine:

- 1. If an impact occurred
- 2. When did the event occur
- 3. Where did the impact occur
- 4. Quantify Damage



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National Aeronautics and Space Administration

# MMOD Impact Detection (Target 2)



#### Target 2

Projectile Diameter:0.49mmProjectile mass:0.00017gProjectile Velocity:6,980 m/s

Use Fiber Optic Sensors to determine:

- 1. If an impact occurred
- 2. When did the event occur
- 3. Where did the impact occur
- 4. Quantify Damage



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### Strain Sensing NESC Composite Crew Module

- Four fibers were installed around the module's three windows and one hatch
- 3300 real-time strain measurements were collected at 30Hz as the module underwent 200%DLL pressurization testing
- Measured strains were compared and matched well to predicted model results
  - Project concluded:
    - "Fiber optics real-time monitoring of test results against analytical predictions was essential in the success of the full-scale test program."
    - "In areas of high strain gradients these techniques were invaluable."







**Inner Hatch FBG Strains, Max Pressure** 

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## In-Flight Strain Sensing Small Scaled UAV

- Four Fibers were installed on the aircraft wings on top and bottom of the Left and Right wing
- 2000 time strain measurements were collected at 20Hz during flight



## Current Project: <u>NESC Shell Buckling Knockdown Factor (SBKF)</u>



### Current Project: Shell Buckling Knockdown Factor (SBKF)



- FOSS Install goals
- Fibers installed on OML and IML surface
- Each fiber near 40 foot long
- FOSS rosette near each bolt interface plus a second rosette halfway between two bolts
- Nearly continuous axial measurements every 45° from top to bottom
- Five nearly continuous hoop measurements around the circumference of the cylinder
- No interference with existing conventional strain gage locations

## **Current Project:** Shell Buckling Knockdown Factor (SBKF)



Strains transformed to

principal directions

- Rosettes are installed in critically loaded areas
- Principle strain orientation and magnitude can be determined
- Distributed strain measurements could be used to verify proper load introduction into the test article



Strains in given

coordinate system

# **Shape Sensing Applications**

### **Two Strain-Based Deflection Methods**

#### **2D Shape Sensing Method**

- Uses structural strains to get deflection in one direction
- Fibers on top and bottom surface of a structure (e.g. wing)



#### **3D Shape Sensing Method**

- Uses strains on a cylindrical structure to get 3D deflections
- 3 fibers 120 apart on a structure or a lumen



### **Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles** Global Observer UAS - Aerovironment

Proof-load testing of components and large-scale structures





### 2D Shape Sensing Results Global Observer UAS



### **3D Shape Sensing** Prototype Quiet Spike Testing

- Fibers are installed on the prototype of 35ft quiet spike at Gulfstream in Savannah GA
- Performed tests to determined benefits of deploying FOSS on Low Boom Experimental Vehicle
- Installed a total of 5 fibers measuring strain at <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" increments (2,570 strain sensors)
- Deflection shape of the Quiet Spike evaluated through the 3D shape algorithm







### **3D Shape Sensing** Quiet Spike Testing Results – lateral deflection



Spike Length (in)

# 2D Shape + Twist Sensing

- Real-time algorithms enable vertical deflection and twist to be obtained from distributed strain measurements
- LabVIEW user interface allows the user to visualize an estimate of the full filed deformation
- A digital inclinometer is used to verify twist estimates





# Load Sensing

### Loads Calibration with conventional strain gage technology

Loads calibrations on A/C wings with conventional strain gages have been successfully performed for over 50 years

- Skopinsky and Aiken Loads Calibration Method allows engineers to obtain:
  - Lift or Shear Force
  - Bending Moment
  - Pitching Moment or Torque

#### Typical Conventional Loads Calibration requires:

- Dozens of metallic strain gages
  - One sensor per channel
  - Installed on interior load bearing structure of wing
  - Wing skins need to be removed
  - Installation time of approx. 4 to 8 hours per sensor
  - Finite point measurements
- Removal of ground-test-specific instrumentation prior to flight
  - Bulky sensor size restricts the use in high lift regions
- 16 channels of load actuators
  - Application of an array of mechanical loads to determine bending and torsional stiffness properties
- Limited Span-wise load sensing capabilities



**Conventional Loads Calibration Setup** 



Simplified Approach with FOSS

#### Investigations of Fiber Optic Sensing System (FOSS) for Distributed Load Calibration Methodology

#### **Technical Challenge:**

- Future projects require a method for monitoring the load distribution within aerospace structures
- Instrumentation weight and installation time of conventional strain gages limit the ability to monitor and control distributed loads within aerospace structures

#### **Current State-of-the-Art:**

- Fiber optic strain sensing (FOSS) technology is transitioning to an airworthy alternative to conventional strain gages and will change the approach to aircraft loads calibrations
- FOSS will open up new opportunities to monitor and facilitate control of future launch vehicles

#### **Potential Applications:**

- Improved understanding of distributed aerodynamic loading
- Optimized process for aircraft structural loads calibrations for monitoring and controlling flexible, high aspect ratio wings and rocket bodies
- A detailed understanding of the span-wise load distribution will be required for optimizing the aerodynamic performance of future aerospace structures





Helios Wing

In-flight breakup









Shape sensing for vehicle control 35

# Aircraft Vehicle Load Control

#### cFOSS 1.0 sUAS Flight system specifications (Convection)

- 4 Fiber system
- Total sensors: 4000
- Sample rate (max) 100 sps
- Weight 5 lbs
- Size 3 x 5 x 11in



- Autonomously Piloted Vehicle 3 (APV3)
  - Span: 12 ft
  - Max Takeoff Weight: 55 lbs
  - 22 control surfaces per wing
  - 2,000 fiber optic strain sensors on wings (top and bottom surfaces)



# **APV3 Segmented Control Surfaces**

- Segmented Control Surfaces

   (SCS) can be utilized to
   redistribute load in-board to reduce
   loads during high-g maneuvers
- FOSS strain and/or deflection measurements could be used with a flight controller to provide load alleviation control





### **Operational Load Estimation Method Applied Results With Flight Data**



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

### **Operational Load Estimation Method Applied Results With Flight Data**



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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# **Operational Load Estimation Method**

**Trusses and Moment Frames** 



Moment Frame Test Article with FOSS

Real-time display of FOSS data

Solar Array and truss structure

# **Operational Load Estimation Method**

#### **Truss and Moment Frames**



# **Operational Load Estimation Method**

#### Truss and Moment Frames



#### Preliminary OLEM Test Results on Moment Frame Test Article

| Test | Actual Force                                | Estimated Force | Difference | Actual Location | Calculated Location | Differenc |
|------|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------|
| (#)  | (lbf)                                       | (lbf)           | (%)        | (in)            | (in)                | e (%)     |
| 1    | 10.0  | 10.0            | 0.0%       | 67.5            | 67.5                | 0.0%      |
| 2    | 10.0  | 9.1             | -9.0%      | 60.5            | 61                  | 0.8%      |
| 3    | 10.0  | 9.0             | -10.0%     | 50.5            | 50.6                | 0.2%      |
| 4    | 5.0   | 5.4             | 8.0%       | 50.5            | 50.6                | 0.2%      |
| 5    | 10.0  | 10.3            | 3.0%       | 43              | 43.9                | 2.1%      |
| 6    | 5.0   | 5.0             | 0.0%       | 43              | 42.9                | -0.2%     |
| 7    | 5.0   | 4.8             | -4.0%      | 32.75           | 33.8                | 3.2%      |
| 8    | 10.0  | 9.0             | -10.0%     | 32.75           | 33.8                | 3.2%      |
| 9    | 10.0  | 8.9             | -11.0%     | 25.5            | 25.9                | 1.6%      |
| 10   | 5.0   | 5.1             | 2.0%       | 25.5            | 25.7                | 0.8%      |
|      | 15-<br>12.5-<br>10-<br>9 7.5-<br>5-<br>2.5- |                 |            |                 | Actual Load         |           |
|      | 0   | 1 2 3           | 4 5<br>T   | 6 7 8           | 9 10 11             |           |

Moment Frame Test Article with FOSS

# **HyFOSS**

### HyFOSS: What The Technology Does

- Hybrid fiber optic sensing system (HyFOSS) is a combination of two existing technologies both based on fiber Bragg gratings
- Technology #1: Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) allows for high speed (kHz) acquisition speed but low number of gratings per fiber
- Technology #2: Optical Frequency Domain Reflectometry (OFDR) allows for high spatial resolution (1000s of grating) but inherently low sample rates(<100Hz)</li>
- To combine the best of both technologies coupled on to the same fiber allows for high spatial resolution (lower sample rates) along the entire length of the fiber using OFDR as well as high sample rates at strategic points along the fiber using WDM



Example hyFOSS fiber layout
 High speed WDM sensor
 OFDR ¼" Spatial Resolution

# HyFOSS, Frequency Sweep Vibration Testing

Experimental setup

- Cantilever test article with discontinuous section properties.
- A Finite Element Model has been created to determine strain gage locations
- Aluminum wing plate structure is excited by an electrodyanamic shaker
- 7 Accelerometers are mounted to the structure to monitor structure mode shapes
- OFDR and WDM sensors (3) are bonded to the plate
- Test article is 36 inches long and 12 inches wide



WDM / High Speed Fiber Optic Sensor

#### **HyFOSS Sensor Installation**



- 100 Hz (OFDR)
 - 5,000 Hz (WDM)

### HyFOSS test – Fiber Optics & Accelerometer Frequency Sweep 475 Hz to 525 Hz



### Finite Element Output & 100 Hz Fiber Optic Sensors



#### **Dedicated High Speed Testing, Impact Test**



### Impact test, Strain Data time history





A NASA New Technology Report (NTR) has been filed for the Mode Shape and Acceleration Monitoring Method described in this technical presentation and is therefore patent protected. Those interested in using the method should contact the NASA Technology Transfer Program Office at NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center for more information

50

# **Isolating Mode Shapes**



# 1<sup>st</sup> mode strain distribution (4 Hz)



# 1<sup>st</sup> mode deflection comparisons (4 Hz)





# 2<sup>nd</sup> mode strain distribution (26.5 Hz)





#### 2<sup>nd</sup> mode deflection comparisons (26.5 Hz)



### Impact test, Accelerometer vs. High Speed Fiber Optics (5 modes) Test



$$\begin{aligned} x &= A_1 \cdot \sin(\omega_{n1}t + \phi_1) + A_2 \cdot \sin(\omega_{n2}t + \phi_2) \dots \\ \dot{x} &= \omega_{n1} \cdot A_1 \cdot \cos(\omega_{n1}t + \phi_1) + \omega_{n2} \cdot A_2 \cdot \cos(\omega_{n2}t + \phi_2) \dots \\ \ddot{x} &= -\omega_{n1}^2 \cdot A_1 \cdot \sin(\omega_{n1}t + \phi_1) - \omega_{n2}^2 \cdot A_2 \cdot \sin(\omega_{n2}t + \phi_2) \dots \end{aligned}$$

- Potential to revolutionize aerospace design and performance throughout the vehicle life-cycle
  - Design and development
  - Fabrication
  - Test and Evaluation
  - In-flight operation
  - Off-nominal flight
  - End of life-cycle decisions



# **Concluding Remarks**

#### FOSS Benefits

- Provides >100x the number measurements at 1/100 the total sensor weight
- Increases capability of measuring multiple parameters in real time (strain, temp., accel, liquid level, shape, applied loads, stress, mode shapes, natural frequencies, buckling modes, etc.)
- Provides comprehensive datasets to validate loads / dynamics models
- For most full-scale structural dynamics applications, FOSS sample rates (16,000 sensors at 100sps) are sufficient
- A single hybrid interrogation scheme that gleans the benefits of two different FBG sensing technologies, WDM and OFDR, has been developed and demonstrated
  - OFDR acquires higher density FOSS measurements (16,000) and lower speed (100Hz)
  - WDM acquires FOSS measurements at higher speed (35kHz) and lower density (~80/fiber)
- FOSS has the potential to "break the rules" for DFI; it can be used throughout loads/dynamics modeling effort (from ground to flight) by providing an unprecedented understanding about system/structural performance of LV/SC throughout the vehicle life cycle

### **Extra Slides**

## Fiber Bragg Gratings (FBGs)



# **OFDR**



### **WDM**

