INNOVATION HIGHLIGHT

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Chrisp Compact Visible-Near and Shortwave Infrared (VNIR/SWIR) Imaging Spectrometer (CCVIS)

Prototype of the Chrisp Compact VNIR/SWIR Imaging Spectrometer

MIT Lincoln Laboratory, in collaboration with NASA, developed an imaging spectrometer that maintains state-of-the-art optical and signal-to-noise performance in a unit that has a volume ten times smaller than that of other spectrometer designs. Coupled with a freeform telescope, the spectrometer can acquire spectral imagery over a wide area, enabling remote monitoring for atmospheric science, geology, and agriculture.

KEY FEATURES

- Compact optical form employs a doublet lens with a reflective back surface and a flat immersed grating to minimize volume and simplify optical alignment
- Grating facets optimize the optical efficiency and signal-to-noise ratio
- Optical form supports >3,000 spatial samples and the 380–2500 nm (VNIR/SWIR) spectral range
- Integrated on a small satellite or aircraft, the spectrometer can provide aerial imagery useful for planetary exploration, climate monitoring, or deforestation tracking

LINCOLN LABORATORY
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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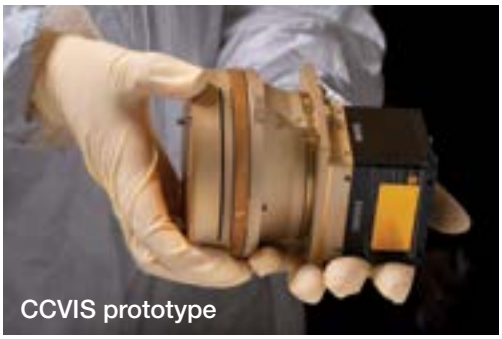
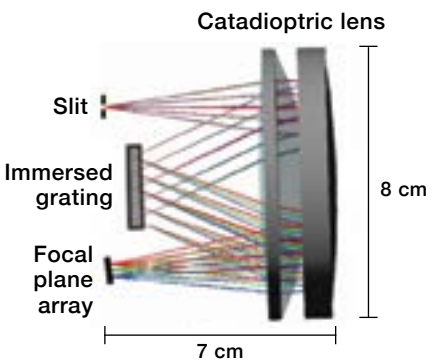
While high-performing, state-of-the-art imaging spectrometers have reached near-perfect aberration control and high signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs), the CCVIS maintains optimal performance in a package that has reduced size, weight, and power (SWaP).


CCVIS prototype

Advantages of the Chrisp Compact VNIR/SWIR Imaging Spectrometer (CCVIS)

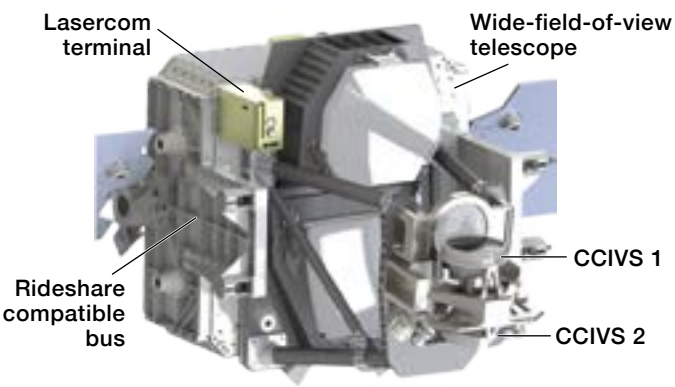
- CCVIS is rugged and suitable for use as a payload on small satellites and airborne systems, including uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- The CCVIS can be implemented as modules that, when coupled with a freeform telescope, may offer fields of view as large as 40 degrees or more.
- Local control of optical surfaces during design enables the highest degree of aberration control necessary for a spectrometer system capable of imaging over very wide fields of view. This control is enabled by Fast Accurate NURBS optimization code, which employs nonuniform rational basis-spline (NURBS) optical surfaces.
- The CCVIS flat grating is easier and faster to manufacture than the convex or concave gratings of other high-performing imaging spectrometers. The flat grating with dual-angle facets exploits grayscale lithography to produce 3D microstructures.

Optical form



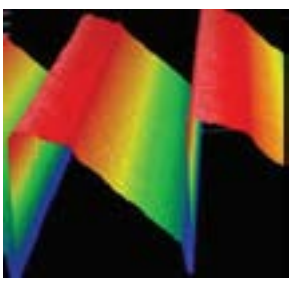
The catadioptric lens is a combination of refractive optics with a reflective back surface. The CCVIS is 11 times smaller than the nearest compact optical form that covers the same spectral range.

Implementation



The CCVIS modular design, when combined with an advanced telescope, enables wide-field implementation on ESPA-grande-class (Evolved Secondary Payload Adapter, version 2) small satellites.

Grating profile



Each dual-facet blazed diffraction grating has two planes, or blaze angles, designed to optimize the optical efficiency across the full spectral range.

INTERESTED IN ACCESSING THIS TECHNOLOGY?

Contact the MIT Technology Licensing Office
https://tlo.mit.edu/
tlo-inquiries@mit.edu 617-253-6966

INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH MIT LINCOLN LABORATORY?

https://www.ll.mit.edu/partner-us

Contact the Technology Ventures Office
tvo@ll.mit.edu

U.S. PATENT #9,689,744

More Information

M.P. Chrisp et al., "Development of a Compact Imaging Spectrometer Form for the Solar Reflective Spectral Region," *Applied Optics*, 59 (32), 10 Nov. 2020.

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