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Multifunctional frequency-modulated continuous-wave LiDAR for simultaneous 3D imaging and multi-parameter sensing

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1 **Multifunctional frequency-modulated**
2 **continuous-wave LiDAR for simultaneous 3D**
3 **imaging and multi-parameter sensing**

4
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17 **Abstract**

18 Traditional frequency-modulated continuous-wave (FMCW) light detection and
19 ranging (LiDAR) is primarily used for high-precision distance measurements in free
20 space. In this paper, a multifunctional FMCW LiDAR capable of high-precision

1 ranging and multi-parameter sensing is proposed. By detecting echo signals from both
2 free space and optical fibres, 3D imaging and the measurements of diverse physical
3 parameters, including environmental temperature, gas concentrations, and liquid
4 density, can be measured simultaneously. In an experiment, a target at 30 m was
5 imaged with an adjustable resolution spanning 0.3–1.2 cm. Meanwhile, the electrolyte
6 density and temperature of a battery were measured with accuracies of 3×10^{-5} g/mL
7 and 0.5 °C, respectively. The concentrations of the gases (C₂H₂, CO₂, and CH₄),
8 which are critical for monitoring thermal runaway of a battery, were measured with
9 detection limits of 0.07, 48, and 0.56 ppm, respectively. The proposed multifunctional
10 LiDAR exhibits significant application potential in fields such as new-energy vehicles
11 and spacecraft.

12 **Keywords:** Frequency modulated continuous wave; 3D imaging;
13 Multi-parameter sensing; New-energy vehicles

15 Introduction

16 In recent years, the rapid advancement of new-energy vehicles has increased the
17 demand for automatic driving systems (ADSs) and advanced driving assistant systems
18 (ADASs). Light detection and ranging (LiDAR), which offers high angular resolution,
19 a long detection range, and other advantages, is extensively utilised in ADSs and
20 ADASs. By measuring the time, frequency, and other properties of the echo signal,
21 LiDAR acquires the three-dimensional (3D) point-cloud data to enable the 3D
22 imaging of the target. Unlike conventional time-of-flight LiDAR,
23 frequency-modulated continuous-wave (FMCW) LiDAR employs linearly
24 frequency-modulated continuous light to interrogate its surroundings and measures
25 the difference in frequency between the echo signal and the local signal to determine
26 the distance¹⁻⁶. FMCW LiDAR technology has attracted the interest of researchers in

1 recent years owing to its high spatial resolution and resistance to background noise⁷⁻¹¹.
2 Ula et al. developed an FMCW LiDAR with high-spatial-resolution 3D imaging up to
3 460 μm using a vertical-cavity surface-emitting laser as a light source¹².
4 Riemensberger et al. proposed an FMCW LiDAR based on soliton combs, achieving
5 30 channels of parallel detection and significantly enhancing the measurement speed
6 of FMCW LiDAR¹³. This innovative design establishes a robust groundwork for the
7 practical application and advancement of this technology. Our team employed
8 inject-locking to generate a triangular linear frequency modulation and demonstrated
9 3D imaging and velocity measurement simultaneously¹⁴. Thus far, FMCW LiDAR
10 has a single function, limited to 3D imaging and velocity measurements. It cannot
11 sense environmental changes, which limits its applicability to ADSs.

12 By moving FMCW LiDAR technology from free space into optical fibres, optical
13 frequency-domain reflectometry (OFDR) can be achieved, which can be used in
14 sensing. Similar to FMCW, OFDR uses a linearly modulated continuous light source
15 for optical fibre measurement, and the positioning principles are the same. It has
16 unique advantages such as high spatial resolution and a large dynamic range^{6,15-17} and
17 has enabled the sensing of various measurands, including strain, temperature, pressure,
18 and gas concentration^{5,10,18-22}. It can be embedded into batteries for status monitoring.
19 Yu et al. measured both the in-plane temperature difference across the cell surface and
20 the movement of the hottest region of a lithium-ion battery during operation²³. Huang
21 et al. achieved a distributed measurement of the internal temperature gradient of a
22 battery with a spatial resolution of up to 0.65 mm and demonstrated its feasibility by
23 comparing it with the results of three implanted FBGs²⁴. Refractive index
24 measurements play a crucial role in determining the chemical changes that occur
25 during battery charging and discharging. Our team developed a
26 temperature-compensated distributed refractive index sensor using an etched
27 multi-core fibre in OFDR²⁵. A sensing length of 19 cm and spatial resolution of 5.3
28 mm were achieved in the experiment.

1 LiDAR imaging and environmental perception play crucial roles in new-energy
2 vehicles and automatic driving technologies. In this paper, a multifunctional FMCW
3 LiDAR system is proposed, which can be used for the 3D imaging of objects in free
4 space and simultaneous sensing of multiple parameters. In concept-proof experiments,
5 a plastic plate with a ‘HIT’ symbol placed 30 m away was imaged. A sulfuric acid
6 solution was used as a candidate for monitoring various aspects, such as temperature
7 and electrolyte density. Three mixed gases (C_2H_2 , CO_2 , and CH_4) were filled in a
8 multi-pass cell (MPC) to monitor gas leakage. This system can simultaneously
9 perform the key functions of the ADS and battery management of a new-energy
10 vehicle with only one demodulator. Thus, it has potential for widespread application
11 in the field of new-energy vehicles and is expected to provide a new integrated
12 solution for improving the safety of new-energy vehicles.

13 **Principle and setup**

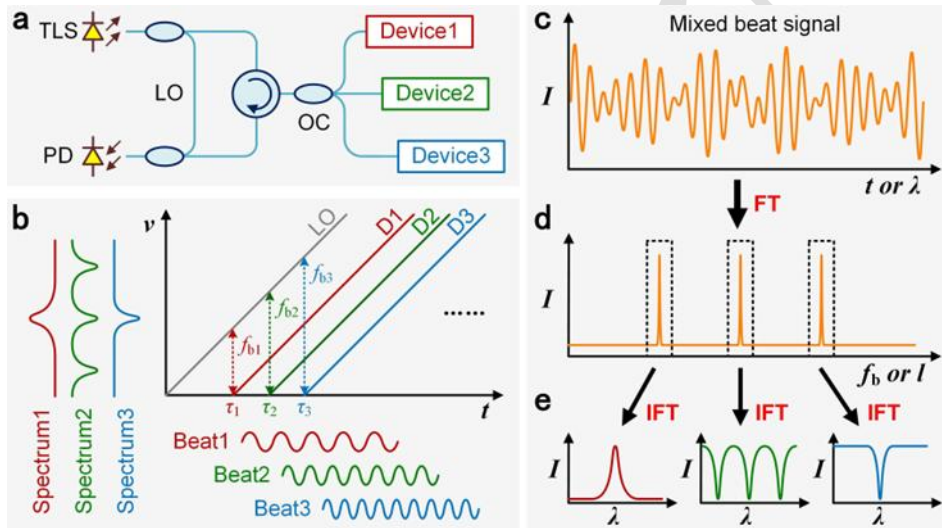
14 **A. Principle of the multifunctional FMCW LiDAR system**

15 Fig. 1 shows a schematic of the proposed multifunctional FMCW LiDAR
16 monitoring system. The basic configuration comprises a tuneable laser source (TLS),
17 a Mach–Zehnder interferometer (MZI), a photodetector (PD), and several devices
18 used for sensing and imaging, as shown in Fig. 1a. The frequency of the TLS is
19 linearly modulated with time, and the output beam of the TLS is divided into local
20 oscillator (LO) and probe beams. The probe beam is further divided into several parts
21 using an optical coupler (OC) and guided to different devices. The echo signals of
22 these devices mix with the LO beam to generate beat signals. As shown in Fig. 1b, the
23 spatial distances of these devices are different, which means that their frequency–time
24 curves are hysteretic to the LO beam with different time delays τ_1 , τ_2 , and τ_3 . Thus, it
25 generates beat signals Beat1, Beat2, and Beat3 with different beat frequencies f_{b1} , f_{b2} ,
26 and f_{b3} between the probe beams of different devices and the LO beam. These devices

1 have intrinsic reflection spectra carried by their beat signals. Finally, these beat
2 signals are received by the PD and can be expressed as

$$3 \quad I(t) = \left| E_{LO}(t) + \sum_{m=1}^M r_m E_{Pm}(t - \tau_m) \right|^2 \quad (1)$$

4 where E_{LO} is the electronic field of the LO beam, E_{Pm} is the electronic field of the m^{th}
5 reflected probe beam, r_m is the reflectivity of the m^{th} device, and τ_m is the time delay
6 of the m^{th} device. $\tau_m = 2nL_m/c$, where n is the refractive index, L_m is the distance of the
7 m^{th} device, and c is the speed of light in a vacuum.



8
9 **Fig. 1. Schematic of the proposed FMCW LiDAR monitoring system.** a, Basic configuration
10 of the LiDAR monitoring system. b, Frequency relationship of the LO and probe beams reflected
11 from different devices, which will generate beat signals of different frequencies and carry the
12 reflection spectra information. c–e, Signal demodulation process; the beat signals are separated in
13 the spatial domain using FT, and then the reflection spectra are reconstituted in the wavelength
14 domain using IFT.

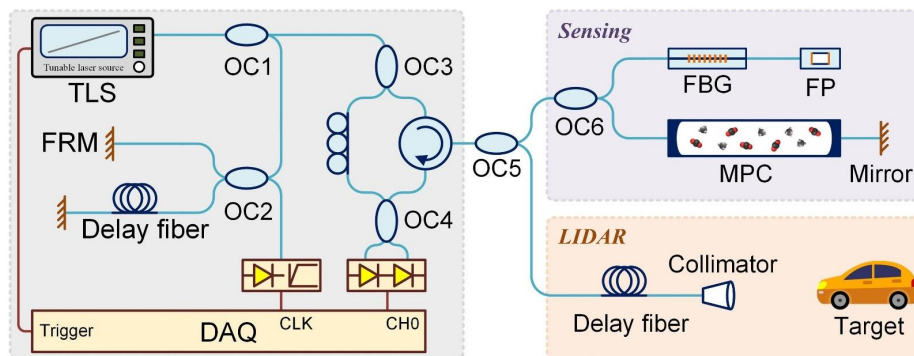
15 The signal demodulation process is illustrated in Figs. 1c–e. Mixed beat signals
16 with reflection spectra in the time (or wavelength) domain are received by the PD, as
17 shown in Fig. 1c. Using the Fourier transform (FT), beat signals with different beat
18 frequencies are separated in the frequency (or spatial) domain, as shown in Fig. 1d.

1 Meanwhile, the reflection spectra carried by the beat signals are separated from each
2 other. Subsequently, using a sliding window, the desired frequency components (as
3 indicated by the dotted-line windows) are selected for further demodulation. Using the
4 inverse Fourier transform (IFT) within the window, the reflection spectra of different
5 devices can be independently demodulated in the wavelength domain, as shown in Fig.
6 1e. The window width influences the detected spectral response, including the spectral
7 resolution and signal-to-noise ratio²⁶. For different devices, distinct window widths
8 are used to avoid spectrum leakage and reduce the Rayleigh scattering noise in optical
9 fibres. Because the different sensing devices are located at interval distances larger
10 than the window width of the selected data in the spatial domain, the observed
11 crosstalk between different devices is negligible. These reflection spectra can be
12 utilised for multi-parameter sensing. The relationship between the time and
13 wavelength domains can be expressed as $\lambda = c/(f_0 + \gamma t)$, where λ represents the
14 wavelength, f_0 is the initial frequency of the TLS, γ is the frequency-sweeping speed
15 of the TLS, and t is the sweeping time. The relationship between the frequency and
16 spatial domains can be expressed as $2nl = cf_b/\gamma$, where n is the refractive index of the
17 medium, l denotes the distance, and f_b represents the beat frequency.

18 B. Experimental setup

19 The experimental setup is shown in Fig. 2. The TLS (Santec, TSL-770, with a
20 linewidth of less than 60 kHz) generated a linear frequency-modulated light wave. An
21 auxiliary Michelson interferometer consisting of an optical coupler (OC2), a delay
22 fibre segment, and two Faraday rotating mirrors (FRMs) was used to eliminate
23 nonlinear phase noise during the frequency-sweeping process. The main MZI, which
24 consisted of two optical couplers (OC3 and OC4), a polarisation controller, and an
25 optical circulator, was used to produce the beat signal that depended on the location
26 and reflectivity. The beat signal was received by a balanced photodetector (BPD,
27 Fspotonics, PDB1008, with a bandwidth of 80 MHz) and recorded by a data

1 acquisition (DAQ) card (JYTEK, Pcie69834), whose sampling clock was provided by
 2 the auxiliary Michelson interferometer. Thus, according to Nyquist sampling theory,
 3 the maximum measurement distance is equal to half the length of the delay fibre in the
 4 auxiliary Michelson interferometer. At the beginning of the frequency-sweeping
 5 process, a trigger pulse was provided by the TLS to synchronise the DAQ card.



6

7 **Fig. 2. Sketch of the experimental setup.** TLS: tuneable laser source; OC: optical
 8 coupler; FRM: Faraday rotating mirror; DAQ: data acquisition; FBG: fibre Bragg
 9 grating; FP: Fabry-Perot; MPC: multi-pass cell.

10 To achieve multi-parameter sensing and 3D imaging simultaneously, the light
 11 from the optical circulator was divided into two segments by OC5. In the LiDAR
 12 imaging module, a collimator (Thorlabs, F810APC) with a numerical aperture of 0.24
 13 was used as the coaxial transceiver. A delay fibre (50 m) was placed before the
 14 collimator to remove the LiDAR reflection signal from the sensing reflection signal in
 15 the spatial domain. Additionally, we used a twin-axial galvanometer scanner to scan
 16 the illumination point of the laser beam on the target, which was positioned behind the
 17 collimator for target scanning. The voltage of the scanner was synchronously recorded
 18 by the DAQ card for data postprocessing, which is explained in detail in the next
 19 section.

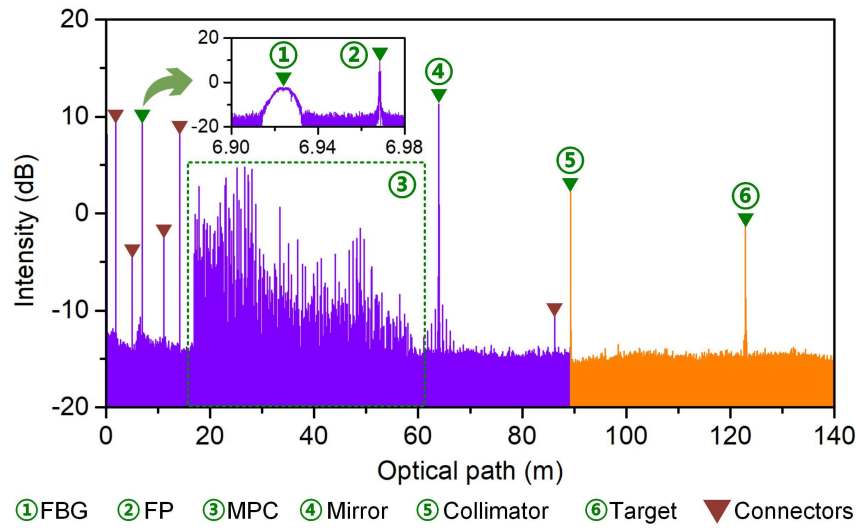
20 In the multiparameter sensing module, the solution density, temperature, and gas
 21 concentration were measured. For temperature measurement, an FBG with a full

1 width at half maximum (FWHM) of approximately 150 pm and reflectivity of
2 approximately 10% was utilised. An FP with an approximately 60- μm long open
3 cavity was used to measure the density of the sulfuric acid solution. The FBG and FP
4 probe were fabricated using femtosecond laser micromachining technology to achieve
5 a compact structure. An MPC with an optical path of approximately 41.76 m was used
6 to obtain the absorption spectrum. A gold-plated fibre mirror behind the MPC was
7 used to reflect the laser absorption spectrum signal and enable the gas concentration
8 measurements. The wavelength sweeping range of the TLS was 1510–1640 nm,
9 which enabled the multi-parameter sensing module to detect several characteristic
10 gases of battery thermal runaway, including C_2H_2 , CO_2 , and CH_4 . The other
11 parameters of the TLS were set as follows: speed of 100 nm/s and light power of 5
12 mW. The coupling rate of OC1, OC3, and OC6 was 99:1, whereas that of the other
13 couplers was 50:50. The length of the delay fibre in the auxiliary interferometer was
14 approximately 200 m. Consequently, the maximum measurement distance in the fibre
15 of the system was 100 m, which could also be increased using resampling
16 compensation methods. For long-distance FMCW systems, the problem of positioning
17 errors owing to thermal expansion effects must be addressed.

18 **Experimental results and discussions**

19 In proof-of-concept experiments, all optical devices were rigidly fixed on an
20 air-floating optical platform, and the auxiliary and main interferometers were enclosed
21 in passive optical modules to minimise structural resonance. The coupling ratios of
22 the optical couplers and delay fibre lengths for the different devices were flexibly
23 adjusted based on the intensity of the echo signals. Variable optical attenuators
24 (VOAs) were added appropriately to ensure that the other sensing modules were not
25 affected in this parallel structure. Fig. 3 shows the reflection intensity in the spatial
26 domain. The ambient temperature was room temperature, the gas concentrations of
27 C_2H_2 , CO_2 , and CH_4 in the MPC were 150, 55500, and 700 ppm, respectively, and the

1 FBG and FP sensing probe were immersed in a lead-acid battery. The purple line
2 represents the reflection signal of the sensing module, and the orange line represents
3 the reflection signal from the LiDAR module. To ensure the uniformity of length in
4 both the fibre and free space, we used an optical path, rather than distance, as the
5 horizontal axis. The spatial resolution was 9.5 μm , corresponding to a sweeping range
6 of 1510–1640 nm. The peaks marked in green were caused by different optical fibre
7 devices, whereas the peaks marked in brown were induced by the fibre connectors.
8 Notably, the reflected signals of several devices were separated in the spatial domain.
9 The multiple reflection peaks generated by the inherent structure of the MPC are
10 represented by the dashed green window. The reflection peaks inside the MPC were
11 approximately distributed at equal intervals, corresponding to the beat signal formed
12 by the reference light, with the weakly scattered light returning to the incident end^{27,28}.
13 Because the absorption intensity is proportional to the absorption optical path, we can
14 use different reflection peaks to demodulate the gas concentration, thereby enlarging
15 the dynamic range of gas concentration sensing²¹. For a gas with a very low
16 concentration, the mirror reflection peak behind the MPC can be utilised to
17 demodulate the signal. For the LiDAR module, the distance to the target can be
18 calculated from the optical path difference between the collimator and target
19 reflection peaks. The reflection spectra in the wavelength domain of the FBG, FP, and
20 MPC can be demodulated from their reflection peaks in the spatial domain using the
21 IFT, as shown in Fig. 4. In the IFT process, a rectangular window was used to select
22 the reflection peak, and the selection of the window width has been discussed in detail
23 in our previous work^{27,29,30}. An optimal value of the window width for different
24 devices must be determined to ensure the spectral resolution and signal-to-noise ratio.
25 The spectral resolution was improved to 1 pm by zero padding during the IFT.



1

2 **Fig. 3. Beat signal in the spatial domain.** The purple and orange lines represent
 3 sensing and LiDAR modules, respectively. The green peaks were generated using FBG,
 4 FP, MPC, mirror, collimator, and target, and the brown peaks were generated by fibre
 5 connectors.

6 Fig. 4a shows the normalised reflection spectrum of the FBG, which was
 7 approximately 2 cm wide. The Bragg wavelength (1549.748 nm) changed with the
 8 ambient temperature such that the temperature variation could be monitored. Fig. 4b
 9 shows the normalised reflection spectrum of the FP. The window of the FP was about
 10 100 μm wide, which was slightly larger than the reflection peak width. Several
 11 interference dips within the same period were observed in the spectrum, and their
 12 wavelengths varied depending on the density of the sulfuric acid solution. Thus, each
 13 dip could be used to monitor the solution density. Fig. 4c shows the transmission
 14 spectrum of the gas mixture of C_2H_2 , CO_2 , and CH_4 in the MPC. To ensure highly
 15 sensitive spectral sensing, we set the window width of the MPC to the base length
 16 (approximately 18 cm)²⁷. Abundant sharp absorption features come from overtone
 17 absorption bands of these three gases in the near IR wavelength region ($\nu_1+\nu_2$ for C_2H_2 ,
 18 $2\nu_1+2\nu_2+\nu_3$ and $\nu_1+4\nu_2+\nu_3$ for CO_2 , and $2\nu_3$ for CH_4). According to the Beer–Lambert
 19 law, gas absorbance is proportional to gas concentration; thus, the gas concentration
 20 can be evaluated by analysing the gas transmission spectrum.

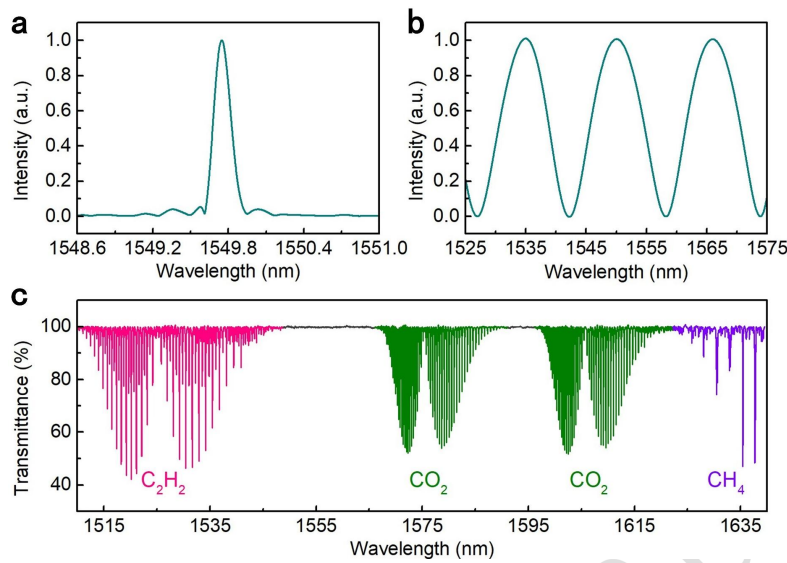
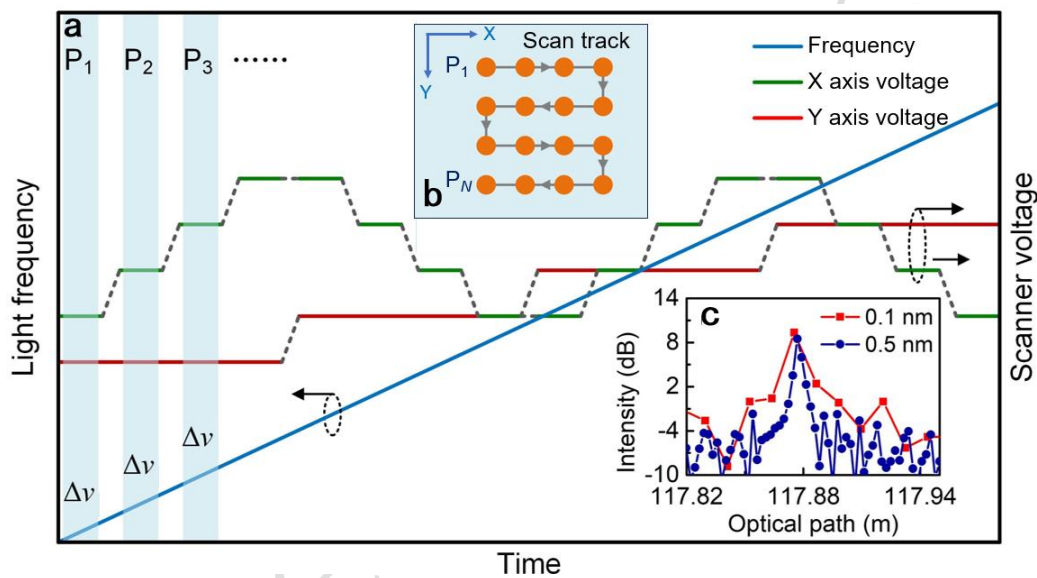


Fig. 4. Spectra in the wavelength domain of the FBG, FP, and MPC. **a**, Normalised reflection spectrum of the FBG, used for temperature sensing. **b**, Normalised reflection spectrum of the FP, used for solution density monitoring. **c**, Transmission spectrum of the gas mixture of C_2H_2 , CO_2 , and CH_4 in the MPC.

A. LiDAR 3D imaging

The target-scanning imaging process of the LiDAR imaging module is shown in Fig. 5. During the frequency-sweeping process, the position of the illuminating point of the laser beam is controlled using a galvanometer scanner. The solid blue line in Fig. 5a corresponds to the laser frequency tuning curve over the sweeping period. To improve the imaging speed, this period is divided into N segments with a frequency interval of $\Delta\nu$. Each segment of the signal, or of the laser output, is used to detect one pixel ($P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots, P_N$) of the target. By performing an FFT on each beat signal segment, we can obtain a reflection intensity map of the corresponding scan point. Fig. 5b shows the scan track of N imaging pixels. By adjusting the two-axis voltages of the galvanometer scanner (represented by the green and red curves in Fig. 5a), the illumination point follows a snake-like trajectory, as shown in Fig. 5b. With this method, N pixels can be imaged in a single laser frequency-sweeping period. The distance from the target is equal to the optical path difference between the reflection

1 peaks of the collimator and target. Fig. 5c illustrates the reflection peak of the target;
 2 the sweeping range of every segment is 0.1 nm (12.5 GHz), resulting in a range
 3 resolution of approximately 1.2 cm, represented by the red line. When the sweeping
 4 range of every segment is 0.5 nm (62.5 GHz), the range resolution is about 0.3 cm, as
 5 shown by the blue line. The SNR of the reflection peak remains unaffected by the
 6 sweeping range, and the range resolution can be tuned by adjusting the sweeping
 7 range of every segment.

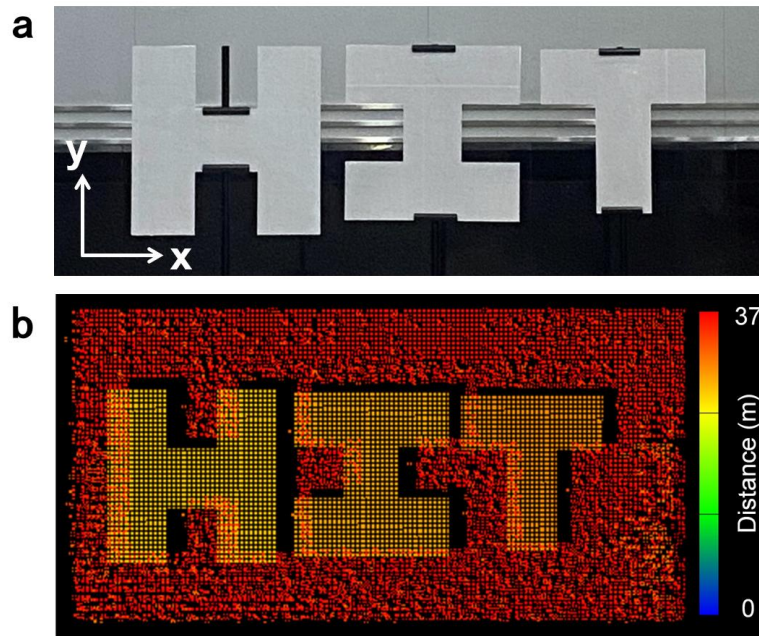


8

9 **Fig. 5. Sketch of the target-scanning imaging process within a laser**
 10 **sweeping period in the LiDAR imaging module. a,** Relationship between
 11 light frequency and scanner voltage versus sweeping time. **b,** Scan track of N
 12 imaging pixels. **c,** Comparison of the target reflection peaks at different
 13 sweeping ranges.

14 Experimentally, a plastic plate with the ‘HIT’ symbol was placed in front of a
 15 wall, as shown in Fig. 6a. The plastic plate was located approximately 30 m from the
 16 collimator, whereas the collimator was located approximately 37 m from the wall.
 17 The galvanometer scanner scanned the target with a resolution of 140×70 pixels, and
 18 the frequency-sweeping range of every segment was 12.5 GHz, corresponding to a
 19 range resolution of 1.2 cm. The 3D point-cloud image, shown in Fig. 6b, exhibited a
 20 high degree of consistency with the actual scene. Based on the number of pixels and

1 sweeping parameters of the TLS, the entire imaging area required eight laser
2 sweeping periods, corresponding to an imaging time of approximately 10 s.

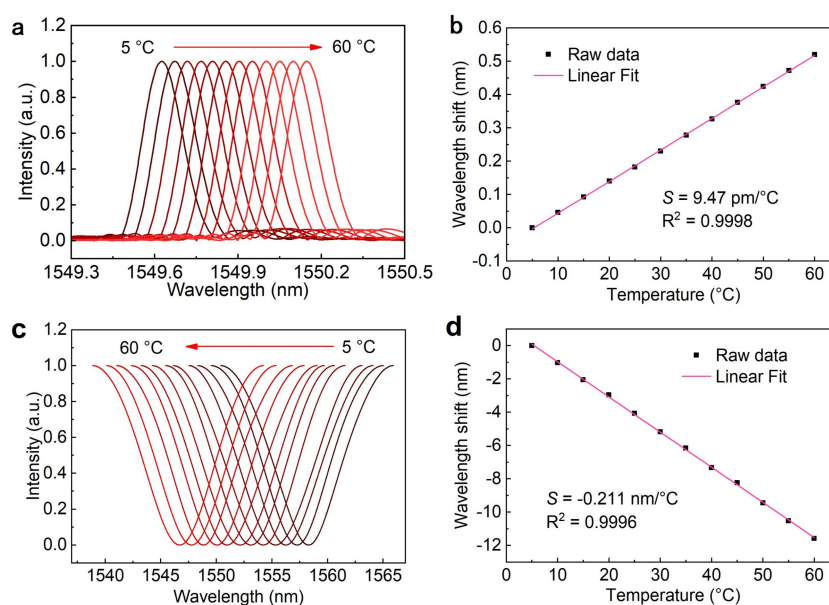


3
4 **Fig. 6. LiDAR imaging result of the imaging module. a, Actual scene. b,**
5 **3D point-cloud image.**

6 **B. Multi-parameter sensing**

7 In the experiment, the FBG and FP sensing probe were immersed in a sulfuric
8 acid solution to monitor the temperature. The temperature-sensing results are shown
9 in Fig. 7. With the temperature increasing from 5 to 60 °C, the normalised reflection
10 spectra of FBG were red-shifted. The Bragg wavelength shifted from 1549.627 to
11 1550.147 nm, as shown in Fig. 7a. The change in the Bragg wavelengths versus
12 temperatures could be fitted linearly, yielding a temperature sensitivity of 9.47 pm/°C
13 with a goodness of fit ($R^2 = 0.9998$), as depicted in Fig. 7b. Furthermore, a
14 temperature resolution of 0.5 °C was calculated based on the wavelength error. The
15 temperature change induced a variation in the refractive index of the solution;
16 therefore, a corresponding change in the optical path difference within the FP cavity
17 resulted in a shift in the FP interference spectra. For clarity, only one period of the FP

1 interference spectrum is shown in Fig. 7c. The FP interference spectrum blue-shifted
2 with increasing solution temperature, with the interference dip wavelengths shifting
3 from 1558.286 to 1549.696 nm. The change in interference dip wavelengths versus
4 temperature could also be fitted linearly, exhibiting a temperature cross-sensitivity of
5 $-0.211 \text{ nm}/^\circ\text{C}$ with a goodness of fitting of $R^2=0.9996$, as depicted in Fig. 7d.

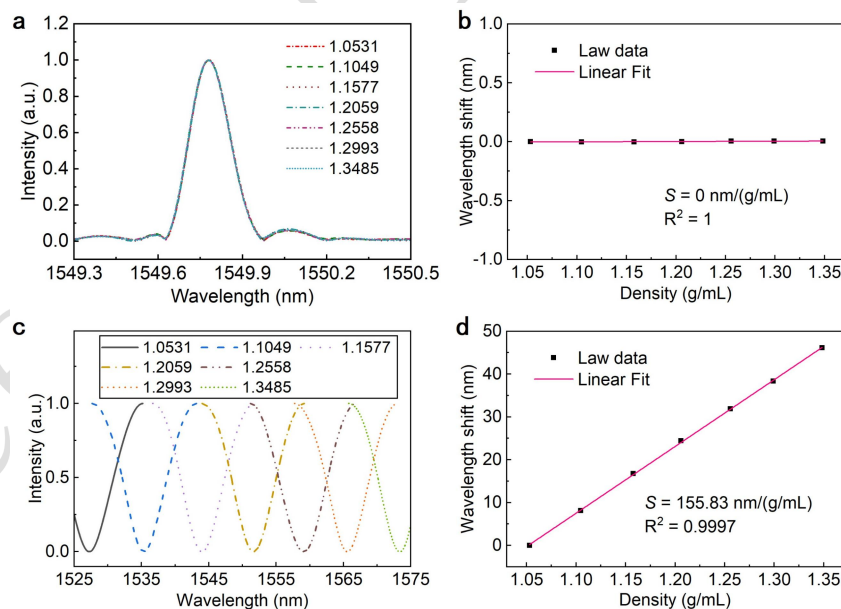


6

7 **Fig. 7. Solution temperature sensing results within the temperature**
8 **range of 5–60 °C. a,** Spectra of FBG reflection with different solution
9 temperatures. **b,** Linear fit results of Bragg wavelength shifts versus different
10 solution temperatures. **c,** FP interference spectra at different solution
11 temperatures. **d,** Linear fit results of interference dip wavelength shifts at
12 different solution temperatures.

13 At a constant temperature of 20 °C, with other experimental conditions the same
14 as in Figs. 3 and 4, we prepared a series of sulfuric acid solutions of different densities,
15 which were calibrated using a densimeter. The FBG and FP sensing probe were
16 sequentially immersed in these solutions. Fig. 8a shows the normalised reflection
17 spectra of the FBG at different solution densities ranging from 1.0531 to 1.3485 g/mL,
18 indicating that the Bragg wavelength remained unchanged. In other words, the Bragg
19 wavelength was insensitive to the solution density, as depicted by the linear fit in Fig.

1 8b. Fig. 8c shows the normalised interference spectra of the FP at different densities.
 2 The solution density was positively correlated with the refractive index^{31,32}. The
 3 principle of FP probe-based electrolyte density sensing is the refractive index
 4 measurement. As the density increases, the optical path difference increases, thereby
 5 reducing the free spectrum range (FSR). Correspondingly, the spectra exhibit red
 6 shifts with increasing solution density. As the solution density increased from 1.0531
 7 to 1.3485 g/mL, the interference-dip wavelength shifted from 1527.247 to 1573.374
 8 nm. The relationship between the change in the interference dip wavelength and the
 9 solution density can be linearly fitted. As shown in Fig. 8d, the density sensitivity was
 10 155.83 nm/(g/mL), with $R^2=0.9997$. The wavelength error was obtained through
 11 repeatability experiments, and the resolution of the solution density measurement was
 12 calculated as 3×10^{-5} g/mL. Note that the maximum wavelength shift was larger than
 13 the FSR of the interference spectrum. To avoid the cyclic ambiguity problem, the
 14 solution density should be monitored continuously.



15

16 **Fig. 8. Solution density sensing results within the density range of**
 17 **1.0531–1.3485 g/mL. a, Spectra of FBG reflection at different solution**
 18 **densities. b, Linear fit results of Bragg wavelength shifts at different solution**
 19 **densities. c, FP interference spectra at different solution densities. d, Linear**
 20 **fit results of interference dip wavelength shifts at different solution densities.**

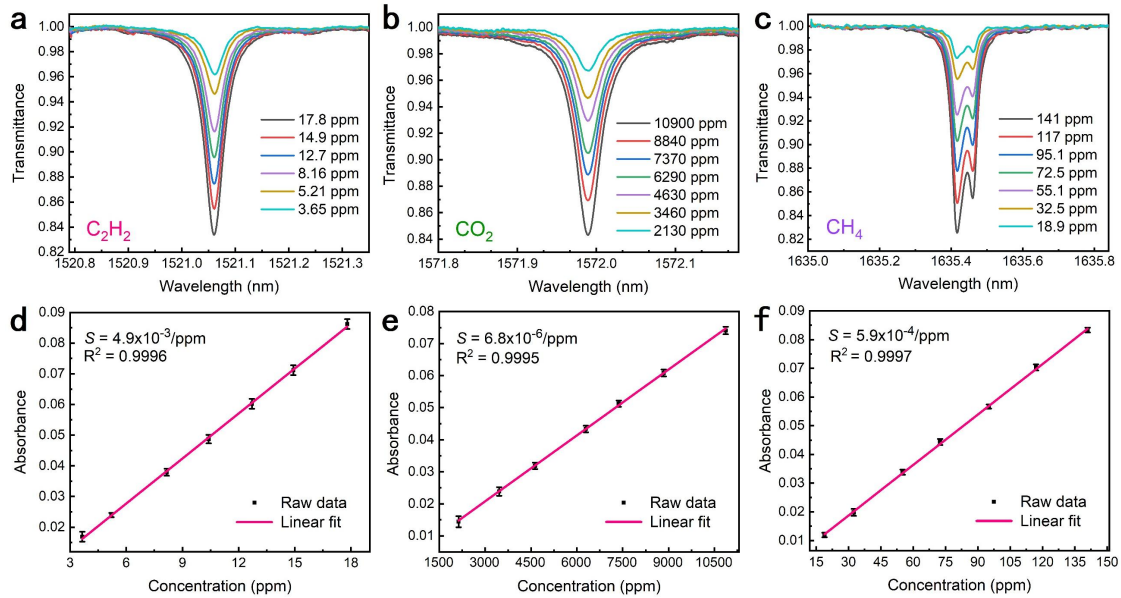
1 Because the FP interference spectrum is sensitive to both solution temperature
2 and density, the temperature disturbance affects the measurement accuracy of the
3 solution density. The FBG can be used not only to measure the solution temperature
4 but also to improve the accuracy of the density measurement by temperature
5 compensation. The compensation matrix can be calculated from the temperature and
6 density sensitivities of the FBG and FP sensing probes, which are expressed as

$$7 \quad \begin{bmatrix} \Delta\rho \\ \Delta T \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 155.83 & -0.211 \\ 0 & 9.47 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta\lambda_{\text{FP}} \\ \Delta\lambda_{\text{FBG}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

8 where $\Delta\rho$ (in g/mL) is the change in the solution density, ΔT (in °C) is the change in
9 the solution temperature, $\Delta\lambda_{\text{FP}}$ (in nm) is the wavelength shift of the FP interference
10 spectrum, and $\Delta\lambda_{\text{FBG}}$ (in nm) is the wavelength shift of the FBG reflection spectrum.

11 To demonstrate the capability of gas leak monitoring, we filled the MPC with
12 different concentrations of C₂H₂ (3.65–17.8 ppm), CO₂ (2130–10900 ppm), and CH₄
13 (18.9–141 ppm). The other experimental conditions were the same as shown in Figs. 3
14 and 4. For each gas, to guarantee measurement sensitivity, we selected a relatively
15 strong absorption line for concentration analysis. The retrieved transmission spectra of
16 these three gases are shown in Figs. 9a–c. Absorbance A , which is defined by $A=-\lg T$
17 (where T is the transmittance) and is proportional to gas concentration, was used as
18 the optical parameter for gas concentration sensing. The noise equivalent absorbance
19 for the current system was estimated to be 7×10^{-4} , according to which, the minimum
20 detectable concentrations for C₂H₂, CO₂, and CH₄ were 0.07, 48, and 0.56 ppm,
21 respectively. Figs. 9d–f show the scatter plots of gas absorbance versus concentration
22 for C₂H₂, CO₂, and CH₄, respectively. The R² values of the linear fitting were all
23 greater than 0.999, indicating high linearity of the system. According to the fitting
24 slopes, the measurement sensitivities for C₂H₂, CO₂, and CH₄ were 4.9×10^{-3} /ppm,
25 6.8×10^{-6} /ppm, and 5.9×10^{-4} /ppm, respectively. The discrepancy in the sensitivities to

1 these three gases resulted primarily from the difference in their absorption
2 cross-sections.



3
4 **Fig. 9. Results of gas concentration sensing.** Transmission spectra of C_2H_2
5 (a), CO_2 (b), and CH_4 (c) at different concentrations. Each spectrum is an
6 average of 20 measurement results. The linear fit results of gas absorbance
7 versus concentrations for C_2H_2 (d), CO_2 (e), and CH_4 (f). The error bar
8 is magnified 20 times for clarity.

9 Conclusion

10 In this paper, a multifunctional FMCW LiDAR system, which can
11 simultaneously achieve free-space 3D imaging and multi-parameter sensing, is
12 proposed. All the measurements are performed using a single laser sweep, signal
13 modulation, and data acquisition components. In proof-of-concept experiments, a
14 plastic character plate was imaged at 30 m with a horizontal resolution of 140×70
15 pixels and a range resolution of 1.2 cm. The imaging duration of a ‘HIT’ symbol was
16 approximately 10 s, which can be shortened by utilising a tuneable laser source with a
17 higher repetition rate, a fast spatial light modulation, or multiple collimators. By
18 measuring the spectra of the cascaded FBG, FP, and MPC, we can measure the

1 environmental temperature, gas concentration, and liquid density simultaneously. A
2 temperature resolution of 0.5 °C and density resolution of 3×10^{-5} g/mL are measured
3 by the FBG and FP sensing probe. In addition, the minimum detectable concentrations
4 for C₂H₂, CO₂, and CH₄ are evaluated to be 0.07, 48, and 0.56 ppm, respectively. The
5 excellent compatibility between the aforementioned ranging and sensing technologies
6 means that the performance of either technology is not compromised. Therefore, we
7 postulate that the optimal design of transceiver antennas and integration of additional
8 optical fibre sensors will enable the current system to achieve longer-range imaging,
9 monitoring of a greater number of physical quantities, and spatial multipoint or even
10 distributed condition monitoring. The introduction of stability upgrades (vibration
11 isolation, thermal control, etc.) is necessary to achieve higher measurement accuracy
12 in complex testing environments. Therefore, the proposed FMCW LiDAR provides
13 crucial additional capabilities for multi-parameter monitoring with potential
14 applications in new-energy vehicles and automatic driving systems.

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22 **Data availability**

23 The data supporting the plots and other findings of this study are available from the
24 corresponding author upon reasonable request.

25 **Conflict of interest**

26 The authors declare no competing interests.

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