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Special Section On Hyperspectral Imaging Systems

Miniaturized visible near-infrared hyperspectral imager for remote-sensing applications

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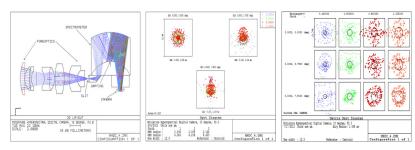
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Abstract

Abstract | Introduction | VNIR microHSI™ Optical Design | VNIR microHSI™ Performance Predictions | VNIR Results | Conclusions | References

Abstract. A new approach for the design and fabrication of a miniaturized hyperspectral imager is described. A unique and compact instrument has been developed by taking advantage of light propagation within bonded solid blocks of optically transmitting glass. The resulting series of micro-hyperspectral imaging (microHSITM) spectrometer has been developed, patented, and built as a visible near-infrared (VNIR) hyperspectral sensor capable of operating in the 400- to 1000-nm wavelength range. The spectrometer employs a blazed, convex diffraction grating in Offner configuration embedded within the optical blocks for ruggedized operation. This, in combination with fast spectrometer operation at f/2.0, results in high optical throughput. The resulting microHSITMVNIR spectrometer weighs 0.54 kg, including foreoptics and camera, which results in a 2 imesdecrease in spectrometer volume compared with current air-spaced Offner spectrometers. These instruments can accommodate custom, ruggedized foreoptics to adapt to a wide range of field-of-view requirements. These fast, telecentric foreoptics are chromatically corrected for wideband spectral applications. Results of field and laboratory testing of the microHSITM spectrometers are presented and show that the sensor consistently meets technical performance predictions.



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