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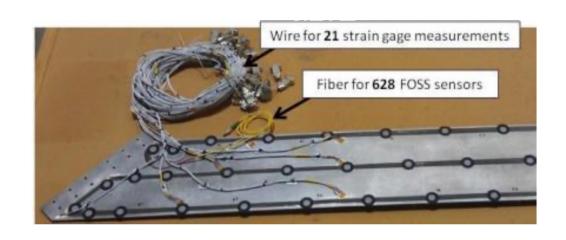
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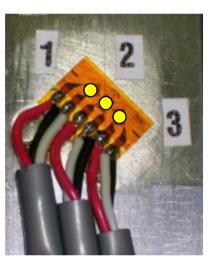


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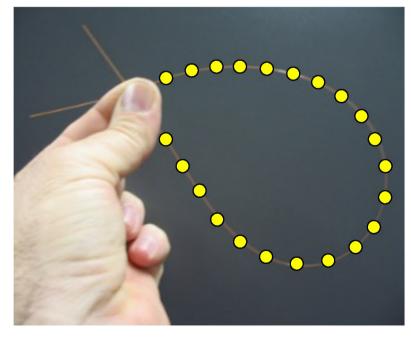




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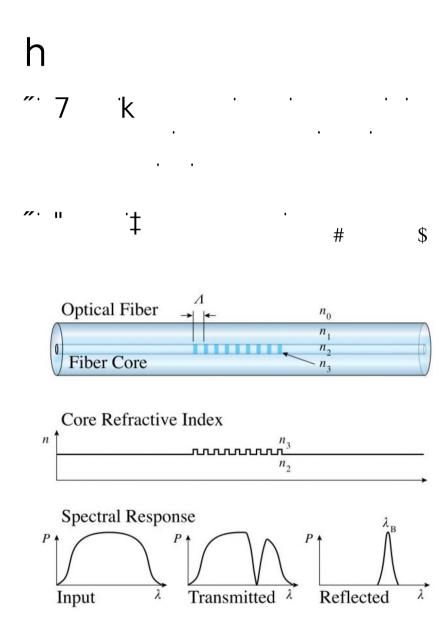


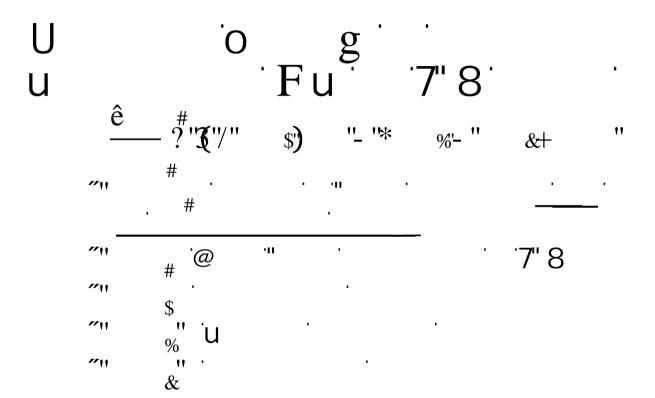
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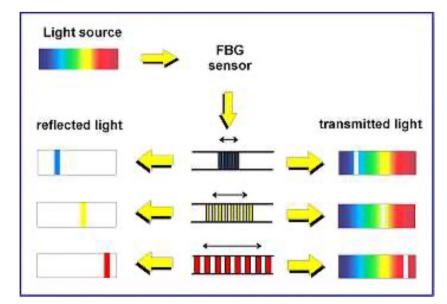


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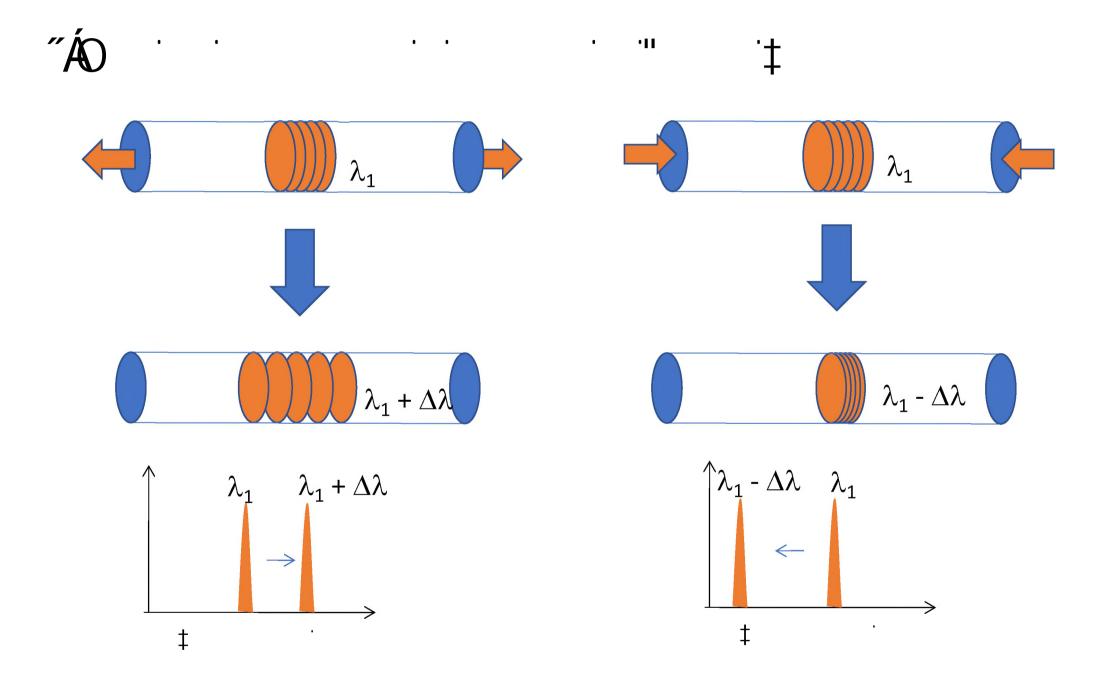






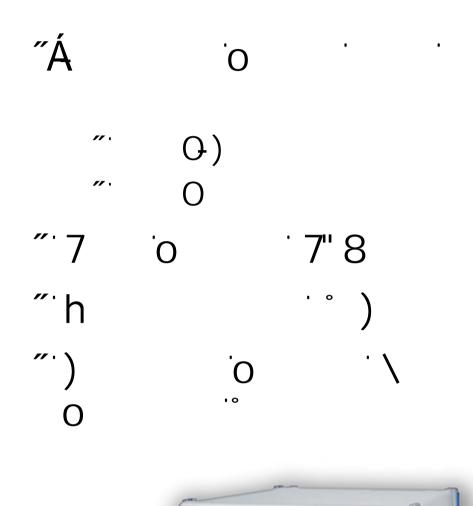
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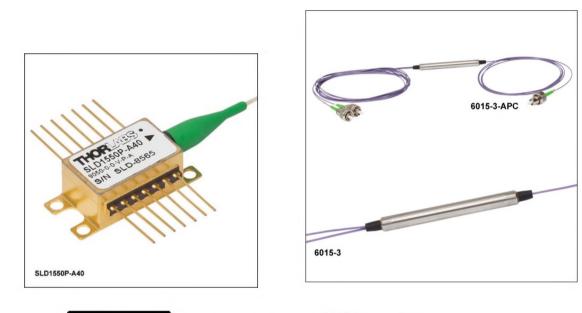


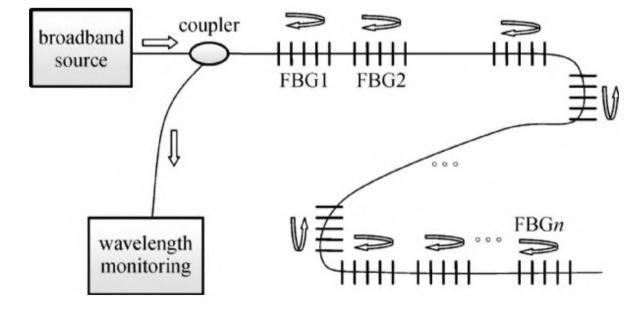








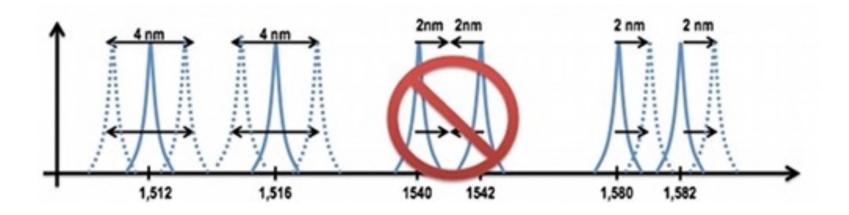






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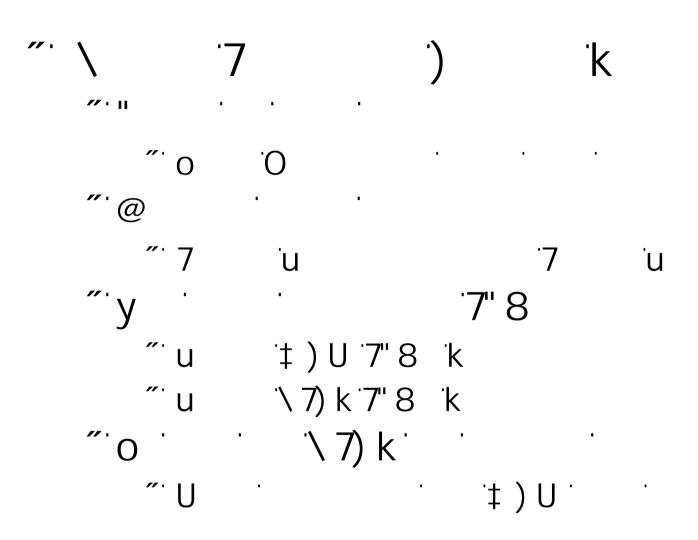




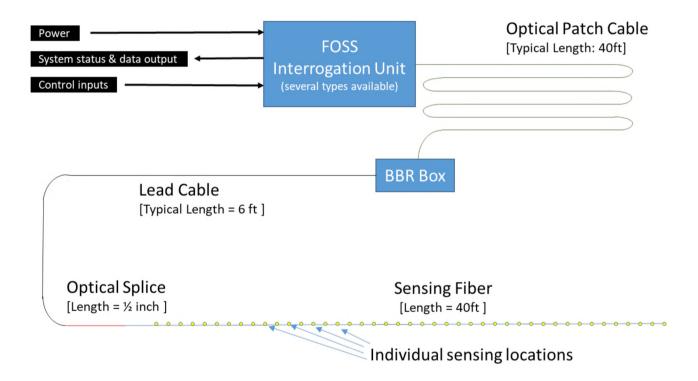


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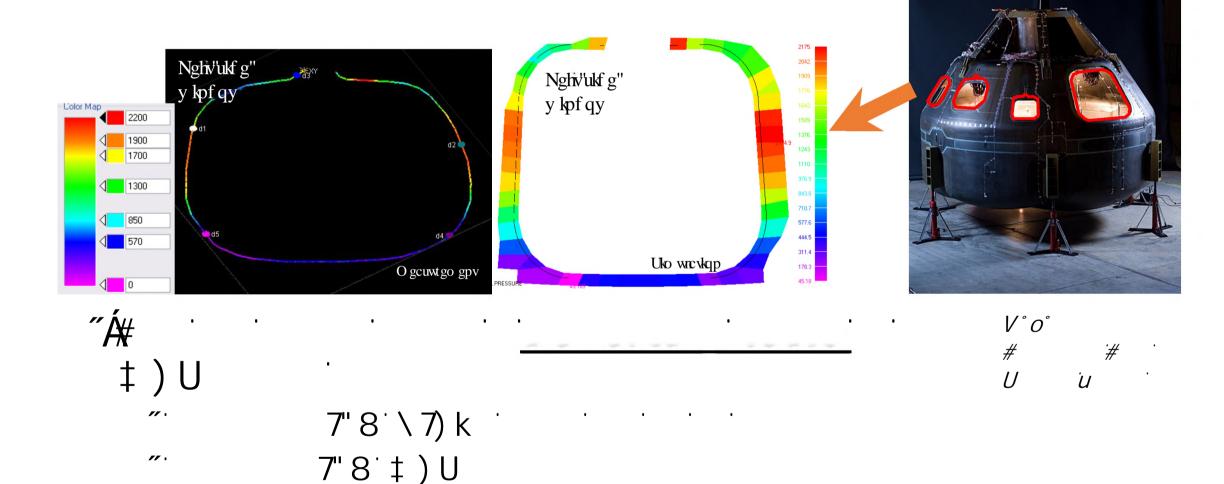


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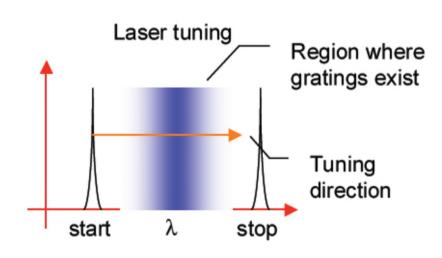
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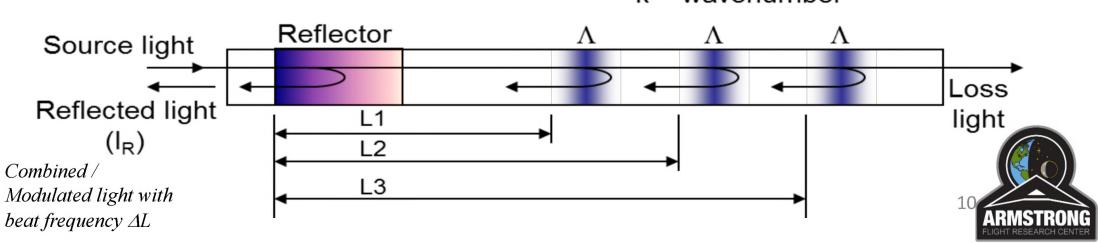
$$I_R = \sum_i R_i Cos(k2n_0 L_i) \qquad k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

R_i – spectrum of ith grating

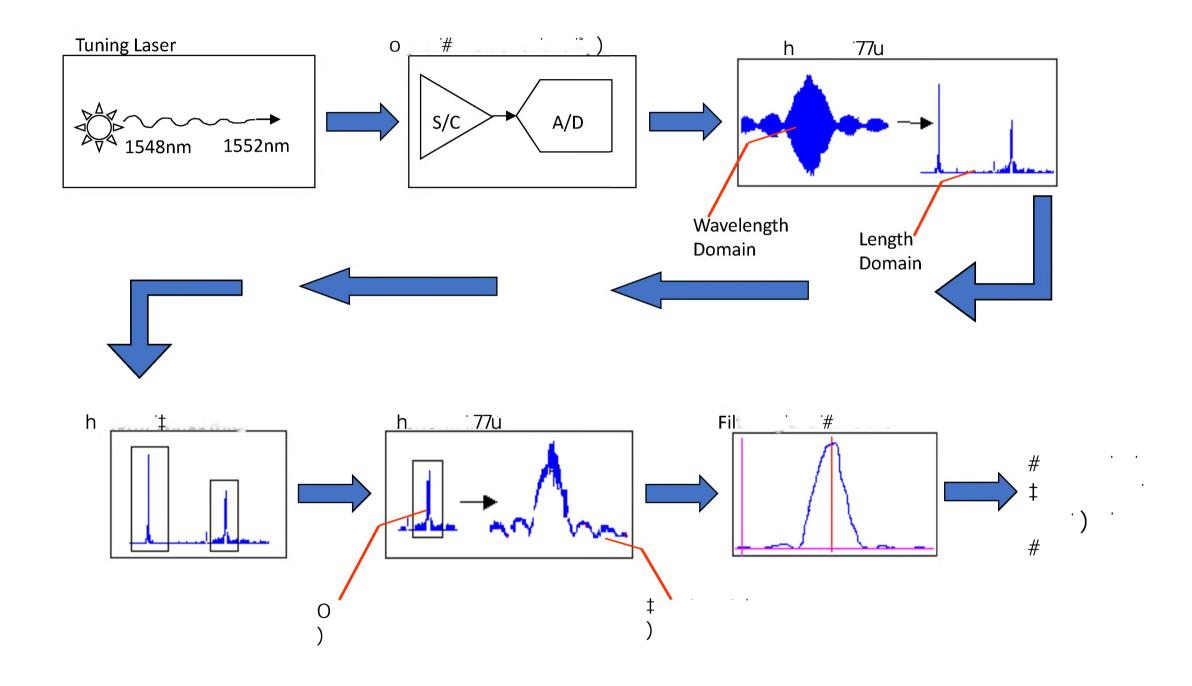
 $n_{\rm 0}$ – effective index

L – path difference

k – wavenumber



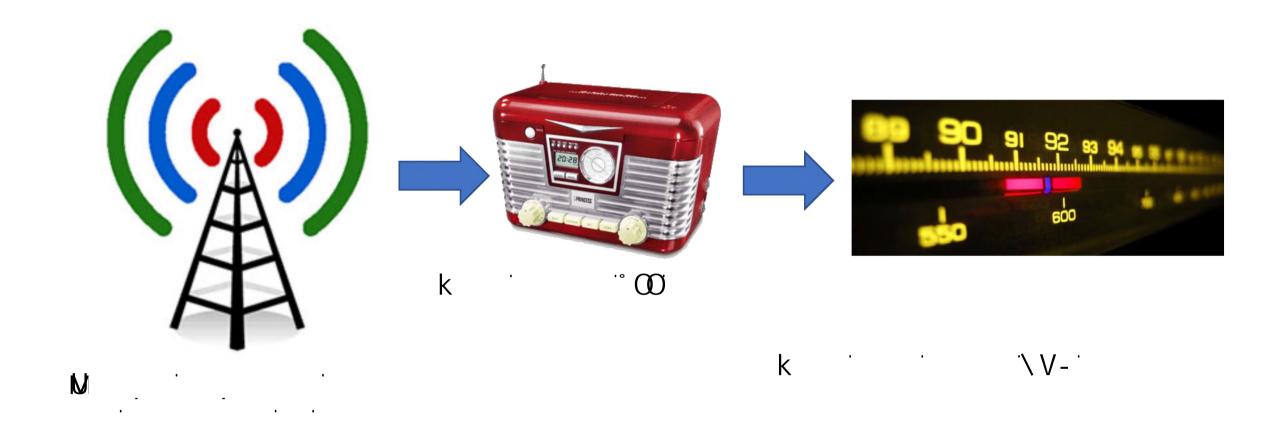






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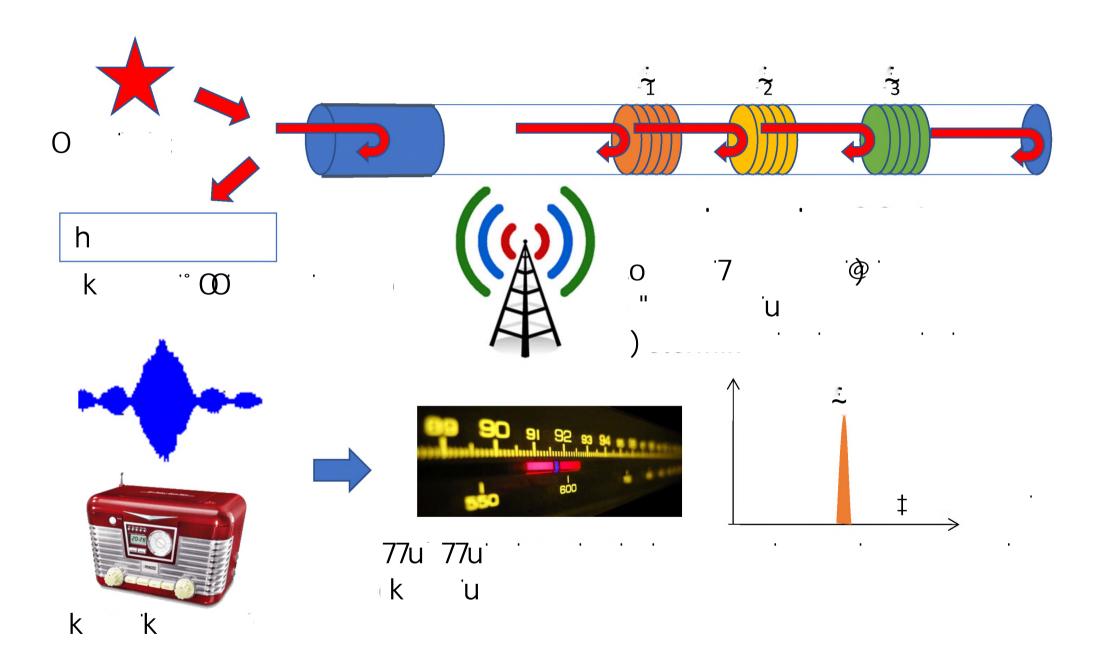






$\ddot{U}(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} x^2 + \frac{1}{2}$

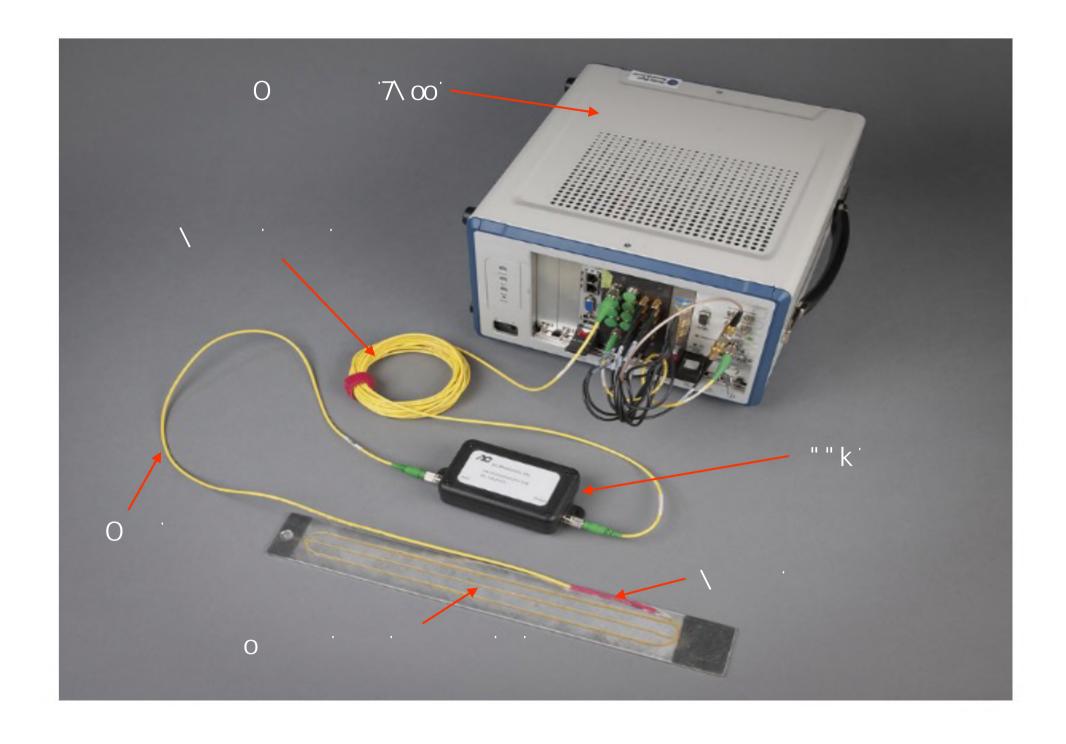






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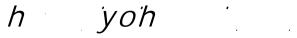


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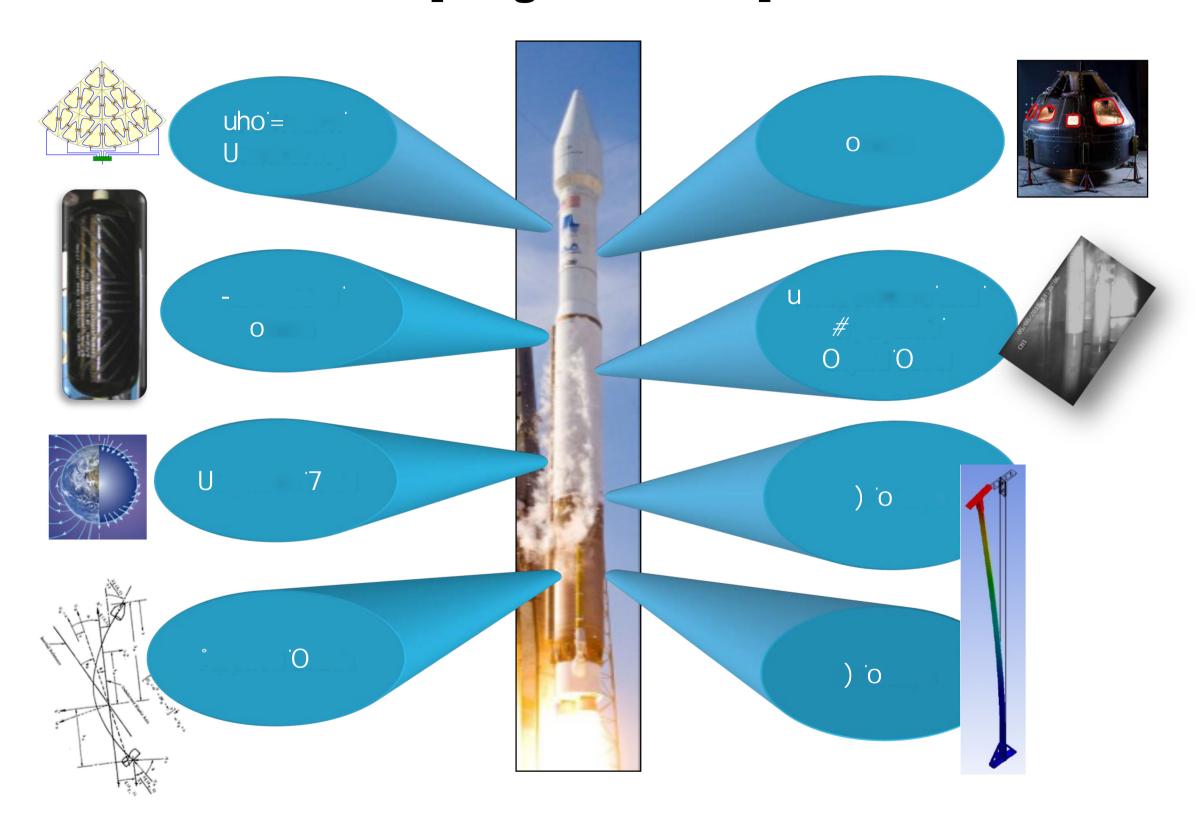






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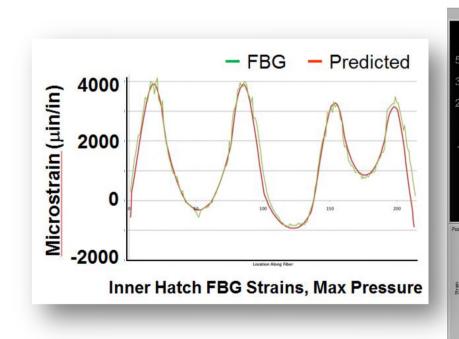


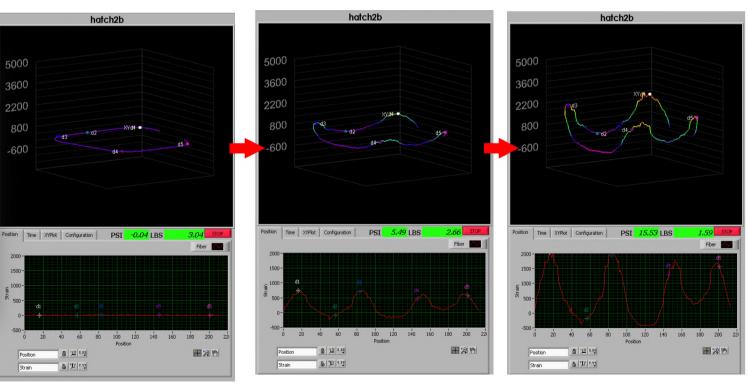
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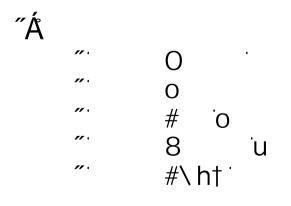




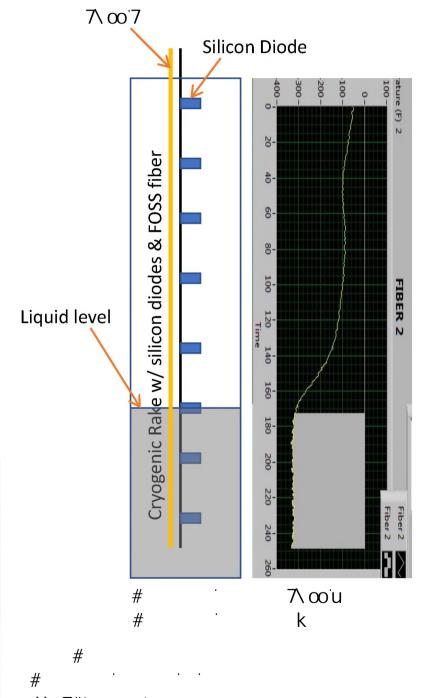
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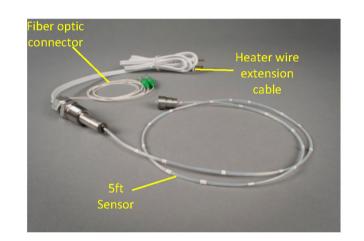




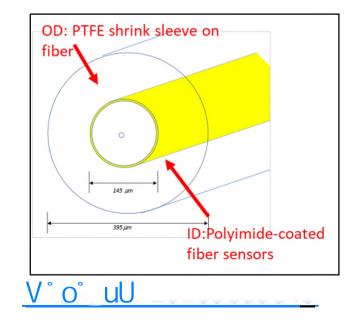








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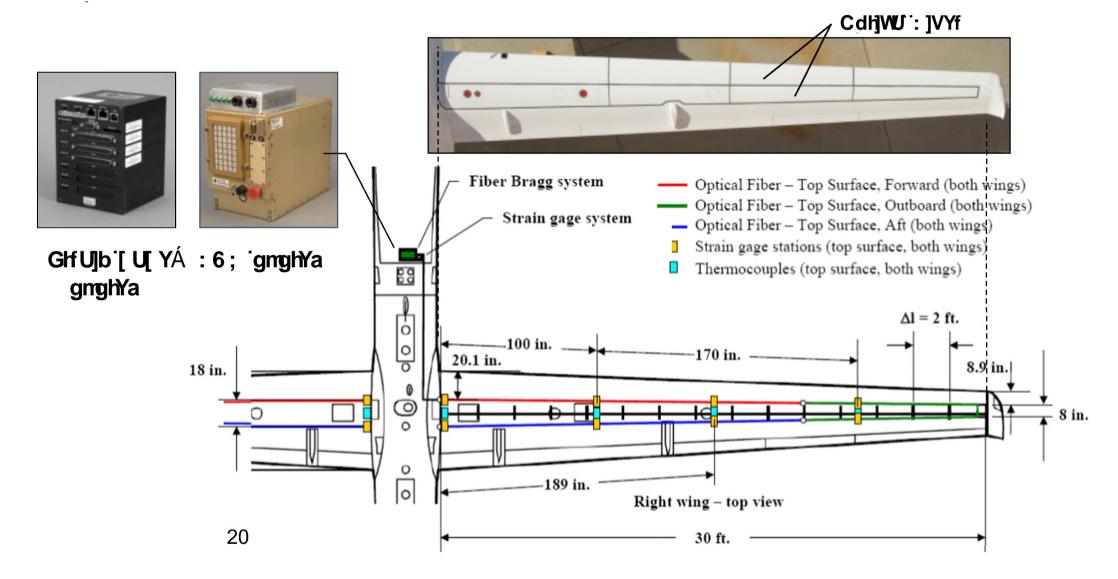




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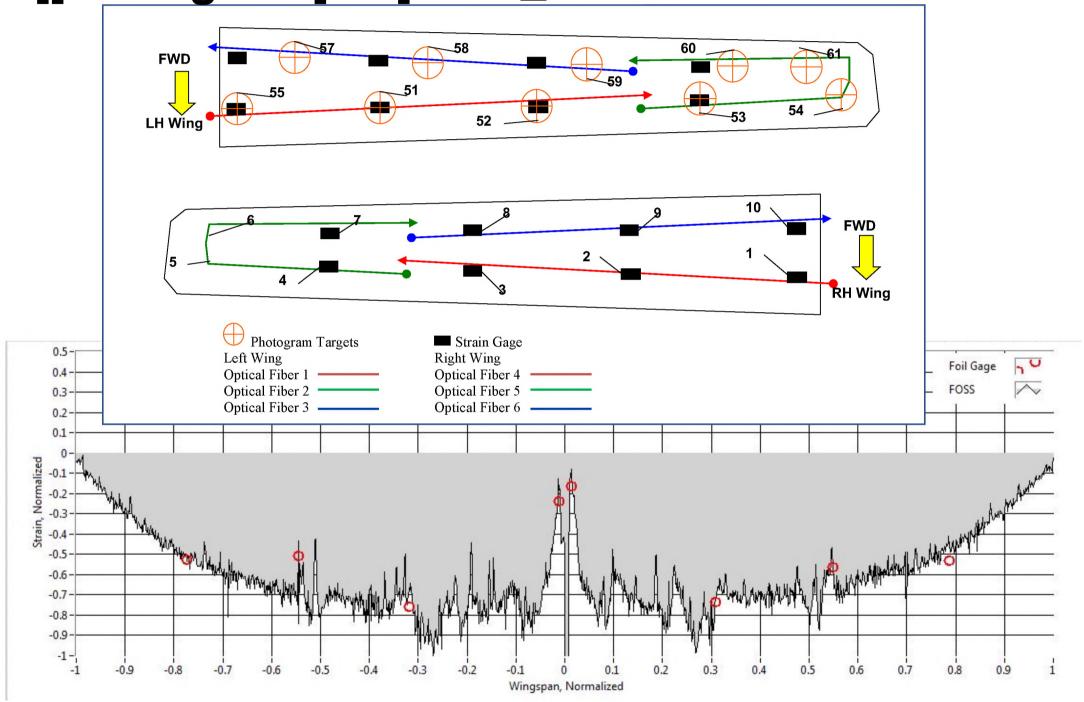
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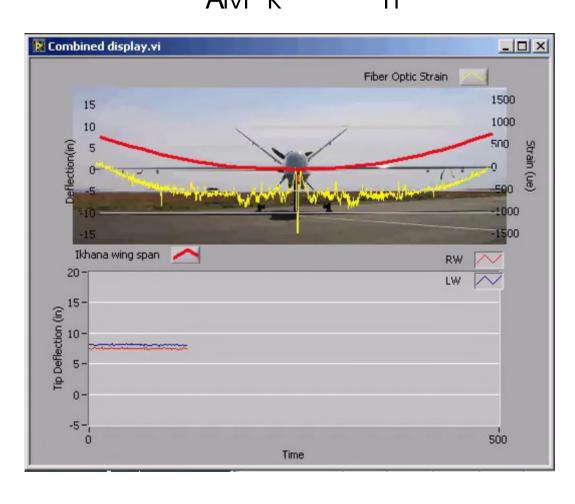
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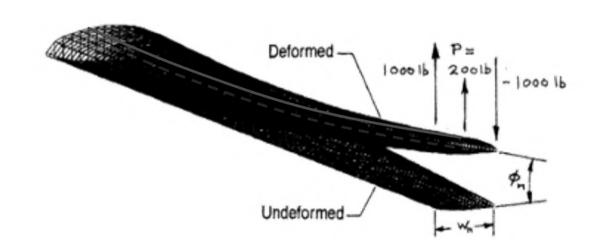






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Low-Earth Orbit Flight Test of an Inflatable Decelerator (LOFTID)

The Low-Earth Orbit Flight Test of an Inflatable Decelerator (LOFTID) is a public-private partnership between NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate and United Launch Alliance (ULA). The LOFTID project is poised to revolutionize the way NASA and industry deliver payloads to a planet's surface or into orbit, utilizing aerodynamic forces instead of propulsion. Since NASA's inception in 1958, the agency has relied heavily on retro-propulsion (rockets) and rigid heat shields to decelerate people, vehicles, and hardware during orbital entry, descent, and landing (EDL) operations.

After more than a decade of development of the Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (HIAD) technology, including two suborbital flight tests, the LOFTID orbital flight test is the next logical step. Return from orbit provides an entry environment relevant to many potential applications, paving the way for its use on future missions.

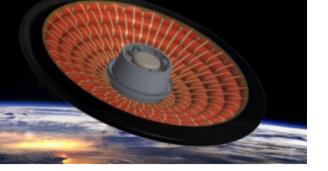
HIAD technology can enhance, and even enable, larger missions to higher elevations at Mars. It can also be applied at Earth, providing capability for International Space Station (ISS) down-mass, or even enabling return for free-flying orbital manufacturing. Recovery of spent launch vehicle assets for reuse, such as ULA's plan to recover their first stage booster, can reduce the overall cost of access to space.

Enabling Mass Efficient and Cost Effective Payload Delivery Solutions

For destinations with a sensible atmosphere, aerodynamics (specifically atmospheric drag) provides the most mass-effective way to decelerate a payload to a soft landing, or capture it into orbit. Larger aerodynamic decelerators, or aeroshells, provide more drag force, and therefore allow larger masses to be delivered to any elevation. HIAD overcomes packaging limitations of current rigid systems by utilizing inflatable soft-goods materials that can be stowed within the launch vehicle shroud. The aeroshell is deployed outside the atmosphere prior to atmospheric entry. HIAD technology enables a lower mass solution for slowing a spacecraft during EDL. Ultimately, increased payload mass fraction means cost savings.

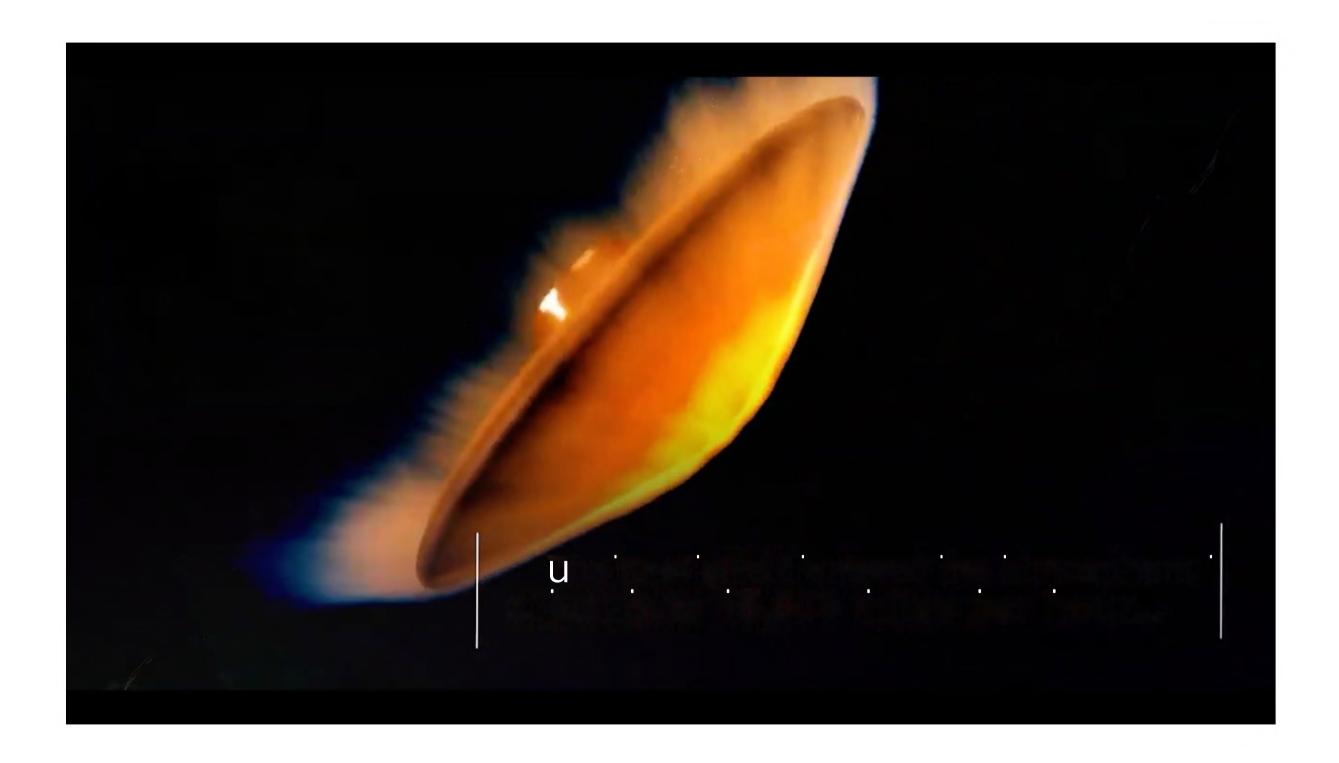
The Technology

Vehicles entering an atmosphere from outer space are traveling so fast that they create a high-energy pressure wave. This pressure wave entraps and rapidly compresses atmospheric gases, resulting in drag forces that decelerate the vehicle coupled with intense thermal loads that heat its surface. The HIAD design consists of an inflatable structure that maintains the aeroshell shape against the drag forces, and a protective flexible thermal protection system (FTPS) that withstands the thermal loading. The term "flexible" refers to the FTPS being foldable, packable, deployable, and tailorable as opposed to being stretchable.





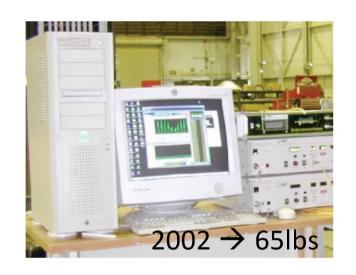


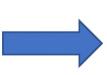




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