# Spectral Laser Elemental Analyzer

Group 1 Senior Design 2: Spring 2024



#### Project Scope

Develop a low-cost, high resolution, laser induced break-down spectroscopy system for the elemental analysis of in-organic samples.

#### The Team



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#### **Introduction**

The proposed system uses an Nd:YAG laser, which is focused through an optical system to strike a sample, generating plasma.

The light emission from the sample is guided into a Czerny-Turner spectrometer for diffraction and spectral analysis. The plasma bloom is detected by an IR sensor, which triggers the MCU to activate the CCD.

The diffracted light is directed to the CCD and the spectral data from the CCD is converted to digital form by an ADC. The spectral data is then displayed or transferred to an external device.



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#### Background and Motivations

- Laser induced break-down spectroscopy (LIBS) is a method that uses a laser pulse to generate plasma on a sample surface, from the plasma a spectrometer can be used for elemental analysis based on the emitted light.
- LIBS works by a process called atomic emission spectroscopy
- The use of a LIBS system employs measures to tackle both, cost and speed.
- Identifying and analyzing inorganic samples
- Design and build a LIBS system that is both cost effective and easy to use for students and institutions.
- Assist researchers and scientists in the exploration and understanding of space.



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#### **Goals**

- Create a laser system that will consistently generate a plasma plume.
- Create a LIBS system that produces measurement results with less than 10% variance over 5 samples.
- Use of the LIBS system to identify known inorganic sample within 90% accuracy.
- LIBS system is controlled digitally.
- Convert analog spectrometer data into digital form.
- Output analyzed results in under a minute.
- Powered by wall outlet.



#### Schematic Prototype:





# Engineering<br>Requirements





## Objectives: Laser system

- To create a lens system to extend the focal point of the beam
- Create a measurable amount of plasma.
- Design the system so it can be operated in a safe manner.







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#### Laser Selection

When selecting the laser for our project it needed to meet several criteria for our needs.

- The laser must create plasma
- Be within budget
- Be relatively transportable
- Be operated and maintained in a safe manner
- Be compatible with the system as a whole





The laser selected is the "**Q Switch ND YAG Laser Machine For Tattoo Removal"**



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### Laser Testing and Safety **Housing**

We have conducted several tests with our laser. The main criteria for the laser is that it will create plasma for the spectrometer to measure. The contraction of the con









### Objectives: Spectrometer **System**

- Determine the spectral range of the system.
- Choose a gradient that suits the spectral range and resolution.
- Create an optimal system for spectroscopy: Design a slit entrance, collimating mirror, and focusing mirror.
- Determine location in system for light to enter a fiber-optic cable to connect to the spectrometer.
- Select the correct detector array based on the needs for the system. (system of detector, pixel size, quantum efficiency, read-out noise).



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#### Spectrometer Design:

#### $\Phi = 30^\circ$

Optical performance, diffraction efficiency, and practical considerations.



#### Requirements:

- Determine spectral range Visible (400 700 nm)
- Geometry
- Diffraction grating
- Slit size
- Detector size

#### Key Design Concepts:

- Choose a geometry: 30-degree angle geometry
- Selection of grating -Blaze wavelength (500 nm)
- Reduce stray light
- Alignment considerations



#### Getting light efficiently to the spectrometer



56 cm B & W Tek Fiber Patch Cord SMA905-FC 600-micron core



#### Ocean Insight 74-Vis Collimating lens:

- Lens for visible-NIR (350-2500 nm)
- Focal length: 10 mm
- f/2 BK-7 glass





500 nm Blaze Wavelength: 600 Grooves/mm 80 **THORL** Absolute Efficiency (%) 70 60  $50 40 30 20 -$ Perpendicular 10 Average 500 nm Parallel 225 300 375 450 525 600 675 750 825 900 975 **Wavelength (nm)** 

Czerny Turner Spectrometer Diffraction grating:

- Plane ruled reflective grating
- 1200 lines per mm
- Blaze wavelength of 500 nm









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**Czerny Turner Crossed** Spectrometer: Concave mirrors

- Cost vs efficiency
- Protected aluminum







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Czerny Turner Spectrometer Concave mirrors: Focusing mirror and collimation mirror

- Edmund Optics
- Thor Labs

## Spectrometer calculations for Design:

Step Method of Creating a spectrometer system:

- Select Geometry: Φ
- Select diffraction grating
- Find diffraction angles
- Select a detector width
- Calculate Focal length of focus mirror
- Calculate focal length of collimation mirror
- Determine input slit size





Calculate focal length of focus lens/mirror:  $L_{\rm E}$  $L_{\rm D}$ cos( $\beta$ )  $L_{\rm F} = \frac{E}{G(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)}$ 

> Calculate focal length of collimation lens/mirror:  $L_c$  $cos(\alpha)$  $L_c = L_F \frac{\epsilon}{M \cos(\beta)}$

> > Calculate input slit width:  $w_{\text{slit}}$  $G \Delta \lambda L_c$  $w_{\text{slit}} =$  $cos(\alpha)$



### Spectrometer Sub-System Component Testing:







### Fiber coupling power





WWW.

1.205

OUT



#### CCD Spectral responce

#### 532 Green laser pointer Maria Communication and Hene Laser





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### Spectrometer Alignment









#### Objectives: Digital Control



**Detect Laser Firing Sequence Capture & Convert Spectral <b>Capture** & Convert Spectral

**Output Measurement Results** 

### Digital Controller Technology **Comparison**

- Sufficient speed 20 MHz 50 MHz
- Sufficient I/O Resources 19 or more
- Low Cost





### Spectral Emission Sensor Technology Comparison

- High Dynamic Range
- Sufficient Speed
- Low Cost





### Software Technology Comparison

- Portability
- Popularity in Data analysis







### MCU Comparison





### **CCD Comparison**









### Digital Control Core Systems Overview

- Laser Excitation **Detection**
- Driving CCD
- ADC Trigger
- External Data Transfer
- Data Organization





#### PCB Schematic





#### Laser Blast Detection Subsystem

- biased at 5V
- Delay between detection and system start is 84 ns









Liam Collins

### Spectral Emission Measurement Subsystem

- CCD 12 V Supply
- 5 Driving Control Signals
- 3.3 V to 5 V Logic Shift
- Op Amps offer per signal flexibility









### MCU Timer Wave Shaping

- Provides non-blocking waveform generation
- 2088 cycles needed for an entire integration







### MCU Selection Evolution

- Original MCU timers could only generate 2 complex waveforms. This could not create sufficient waveforms to accurately match the CCD's signal timing requirements
- Original MCU had limited options to trigger and sync timers
- An upgraded MCU of the same family was chosen to replace the old MCU. This MCU had sufficient complex timers and more options for triggering and syncing timers

Incorrect Original MCU Waveform: high duration when pulse is desired at each end



#### Old MCU timer triggering options



Upgraded MCU Waveform generation creating desired pulses and timing



#### New MCU timer triggering options



 $11.3.1$ From timer (TIMx, HRTIM) to timer (TIMx)



### Electrical systems **Testing**





#### Data Output Subsystem

- MCU provides onboard USB support
- Serial Py used to capture the CCD data
- Plotly used for initial graphing
- Pandas used to write CCD data to a .CSV file for data portability







#### PCB Design

- Six layer stack up
- Signal-Ground-5V-3V-Ground-Signal
- 5 mm component spacing for Hand solder
- 20 mil traces for signal and power
- 0 ohm disconnects for troubleshooting
- Signal test points for monitoring and breakout expansion





### Objectives: Powered **Systems**

- Determine power requirements.
- Compare DC power source technologies.
- Determine subsystem power requirements.
- Compare tradeoffs of voltage regulator technologies.
- Design power converters for subsystems.



#### Power Requirements

- **Power Supply of the Laser.**
- Q-switched Nd YAG laser requires 1 KW .
- Use the power supply that is included with th commercial laser.
- Safety and Time concern.
- **System Power Distribution table**





#### System Power Supply Comparison

- PCB Power Supply Sources
- WALL OUTLET (AC) VS DC
- DC batteries



#### Power Source Technology Comparison



- DC batteries have more Stability than the AC wall outlet
- DC batteries require Recharging and replacement.
- The Cost of DC batteries are too high



#### Power System Design

- Components power sources.
- Voltage Regulators
- CCD requires 12 V .
- 5 V voltage regulator will be used to supply CCD inputs and FT231XS-R.
- 3.3 V voltage regulator to supply the MCU.



### Voltage Regulator **Comparison**

- Switching VS Linear Voltage **Regulators**
- power efficiency noise, Cost, heat, and design complexity .
- Linear regulators have less noise output .and more heat output.
- Switching regulators have less heat output and high efficiency.

The noise issues produced by the switching regulator, we can overcome this by careful component placement and routing the PCB.





#### Switching Voltage Regulators

- MCU Voltage Regulator Schematic (3.3 V )
- CCD inputs and FT231 Voltage regulator Schematic (5V)
- LMR50410XDBVR
- lower output ripple voltage**.**
- high efficiency
- Low cost







#### Regulator Design

- Inductors perpendicular rotation to reduce magnetic coupling
- Space provided for additional thermal vias
- Prevent overheating.
- 0 ohm disconnects for each regulator output to test the regulators supply.





### Verified Engineering Requirements





#### Plasma Creation

Calculations for plasma creation with Peak Power

peak power is  $\frac{700 \text{ mJ}}{8 \text{ ns}} = 87.5 \text{ MW}.$ peak power is  $\frac{270 \text{ mJ}}{8 \text{ ns}} = 33.75 \text{ MW}.$ Intensity  $(W/cm^2) = \frac{87.5 \times 10^9 \text{ W}}{0.0001 \text{ cm}^2} \approx 8.75 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ Intensity  $(W/cm^2) = \frac{87.5 \times 10^9 \text{ W}}{0.0005 \text{ cm}^2} \approx 1.75 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 



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#### Plasma Creation



#### Plasma Creation









#### Results Output

One of the specification requirements for the system is that it displays results in no more that one minute.





### Results Output Testing



#### Results Output Testing

Average time to present data was 2.41s Liam Collins





#### Samples Stored

The specification regarding the number of samples stored in the system is required to be greater than or equal to five.



#### Sample Storage Specifications

Internal RAM of the MCU is 128KB the current program occupies 9.6 KB leaving 118.5 KB for data acquisition

With the ADC set to 12-bit and accounting for all 2087 CCD elements, using a 16-bit array allows for 28 samples to be stored before requiring transmission







#### Sample Storage Specifications

Continuous sample transmission allows for an extremely large number of samples to be stored, as long as the sampling delay exceeds approximately 5 seconds





#### Laser Blast Detection

The delay between detection of the laser blast and the start of the CCD integration sequence. The time between the diode excitation, and the MCU Starting the integration sequence of the CCD should be less than or equal to 1.6 us





#### Laser Blast Detection

The designed sub-system has an average delay of 0.890 us between diode excitation and the start of the CCD integration sequence.





Average





#### **Results**

- All subsystems functioning Independently
- Insufficient light entering system
- Combinations of different Light guides, Collimating lenses, and CCD integration times attempted
- More detailed coverage in the Demo video

#### Longer CCD Integration with new Light guide



Original CCD Integration with original Light guide



#### CCD and Spectrometer Test results Correct

Overall system Test results

532 Green laser pointer Maria Channel Hene Laser





#### Current and Projected Budget

We are using 3D printed components to hold the Optics for the laser and the Mirrors and Diffraction Grating for the Spectrometer

The final PCB has been implemented in the system

This budget Reflects the cost of research and development of the entire system





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#### Potential Future Work

- Aquire sponsorship
- Integrate new components
	- Faster & more sensitive **CCD**
	- Higher quality Collimating lens

#### Edmund Optics Collimator



Spectroscopy linear CCD Price: ~\$500

#### Hamamatsu S7031



#### Spectroscopy linear CCD Price: ~\$2000



#### Work Distribution:

 $\triangleright$  Benjamin Logan – Laser, alignment, focusing optical system.

- ➢ Faisal Abdullah Salim Al-Quaiti Power System (excluding laser).
- $\triangleright$  Liam Collins Digital control, sensors, and data output of system.
- $\triangleright$  Stephen Styrk Spectroscopy system and the sample emission optical guidance system.



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