



OPEN ACCESS

EDITED BY

Ben Urban,
Colgate Palmolive, United States

REVIEWED BY

Laura Sironi,
University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy
Shuang Chang,
Vanderbilt University, United States

*CORRESPONDENCE

Mark C. Pierce,
✉ mark.pierce@rutgers.edu

RECEIVED 17 December 2024

ACCEPTED 24 February 2025

PUBLISHED 17 March 2025

CITATION

Livecchi TT, Jacques SL, Pilvar A, Roblyer D and
Pierce MC (2025) Shortwave infrared spatial
frequency domain imaging for detection of
changes in tissue hydration.
Front. Photonics 6:1546952.
doi: 10.3389/fphot.2025.1546952

COPYRIGHT

© 2025 Livecchi, Jacques, Pilvar, Roblyer and
Pierce. This is an open-access article distributed
under the terms of the [Creative Commons
Attribution License \(CC BY\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). The use,
distribution or reproduction in other forums is
permitted, provided the original author(s) and
the copyright owner(s) are credited and that the
original publication in this journal is cited, in
accordance with accepted academic practice.
No use, distribution or reproduction is
permitted which does not comply with these
terms.

Shortwave infrared spatial frequency domain imaging for detection of changes in tissue hydration

Thomas T. Livecchi¹, Steven L. Jacques², Anahita Pilvar³,
Darren Roblyer^{3,4} and Mark C. Pierce^{1*}

¹Biomedical Engineering Department, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, NJ, United States, ²Department of Bioengineering, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, United States, ³Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Boston University, Boston, MA, United States, ⁴Department of Biomedical Engineering, Boston University, Boston, MA, United States

Introduction: Water and lipid content in biological tissues are important biomarkers for understanding physiological processes and diseases. Spatial frequency domain imaging (SFDI) provides a non-invasive method to quantify these components over a wide field of view. This study introduces an LED-based shortwave infrared (SWIR) SFDI system to measure tissue hydration.

Methods: The system was first validated using water-lipid dilutions of known concentrations. Subsequently, SWIR-SFDI was applied to *ex vivo* porcine skin undergoing desiccation to observe the relationship between reduced scattering and measured water content changes. Finally, the dorsal hand was imaged in three human subjects before and after exercise to assess changes in tissue induced by perspiration.

Results: For the water-lipid dilutions, the system accurately predicted chromophore concentrations, validating the approach. In the skin desiccation experiments, small decreases in water content led to pronounced reductions in the reduced scattering coefficient, whereas absorption showed limited sensitivity. *In vivo* results showed a marked decrease in reduced scattering following exercise, consistent with a loss of tissue hydration.

Discussion: The findings suggest that, under the specific circumstances tested here, the reduced scattering coefficient may be a more sensitive indicator of tissue hydration than absorption. This sensitivity to small changes in water content underscores the potential clinical utility of SWIR SFDI for non-invasive hydration assessment in biological tissues. This technique offers promising applications for clinical diagnostics and physiological monitoring.

KEYWORDS

shortwave infrared, tissue hydration, scattering, multi-spectral, exercise, perspiration, collagen

1 Introduction

Tissue hydration serves as a critical physiological parameter, often indicative of overall health. Common techniques for measuring skin hydration, such as electrical capacitance and transepidermal water loss (TEWL) measurements, face limitations due to sensitivity to external factors, lack of spatial resolution, and their inability to provide comprehensive information about deeper tissue water content (Dobrev, 2000; Qassem and Kyriacou, 2019; Taylor and Machado-Moreira, 2013). Confocal Raman spectroscopy and microscopy offer hydration assessment with depth profiling; however, these are restricted to the most superficial skin layers, reaching a maximum depth of approximately 60 μm (Sieg et al., 2006; Dabrowska et al., 2016). Near-infrared (NIR) optical imaging has emerged as a promising alternative, offering greater penetration (approximately 1.5–2.5 mm) and a broader field of view (Bashkatov et al., 2005). This approach has demonstrated effectiveness in detecting hydration changes in both *ex vivo* porcine skin and *in vivo* human skin, showing sensitivity to environmental factors and the effects of topical treatments (Mamouei et al., 2021; Egawa et al., 2011; Egawa et al., 2015; Qassem and Kyriacou, 2019; Attas et al., 2002a; Attas et al., 2002b).

Shortwave infrared (SWIR) light, spanning approximately 900–2000 nm, has gained recent attention for tissue imaging due to its deeper tissue penetration (approximately 2.5–3.5 mm) and capacity to reveal novel information through chromophore absorption at these wavelengths (Bashkatov et al., 2005; Zhao et al., 2020; Wilson et al., 2015). Absorption by water and lipids is notably higher in the SWIR range than in the NIR range, making SWIR an effective tool for assessing tissue hydration and lipid content (Segelstein, 1981; Nachabe et al., 2010; Allen et al., 2012; Pilvar et al., 2022; Zhao et al., 2020; Wilson et al., 2015). Applications of SWIR-based imaging and spectroscopy extend to tissue hydration, burn wound analysis, and lipid content measurement in response to dietary changes (Pilvar et al., 2022; Wilson et al., 2015; Mazhar et al., 2014). However, existing SWIR imaging techniques often face limitations due to small fields of view or lack of comprehensive optical property calculations, and none have specifically addressed perspiration mechanisms.

SWIR multispectral imaging offers high spatial and spectral resolution, with the potential to streamline spectral analysis through targeted wavelength selection, enabling the development of more portable and cost-effective systems. Spatial frequency domain imaging (SFDI) complements this by enabling simultaneous determination of tissue absorption and reduced scattering coefficients (Cuccia et al., 2005; Urban and Subhash, 2021; Urban et al., 2022c; Pilvar et al., 2022; Zhao et al., 2020; Bounds and Girkin, 2021; Applegate and Roblyer, 2017). While a set of absorption coefficients measured at different wavelengths can be converted to concentrations of chromophores with known molar extinction coefficients, the reduced scattering coefficient provides insights into tissue microstructure. Previous studies have demonstrated the capabilities of SFDI in the SWIR range using a tunable NIR-SWIR laser source, primarily focusing on absorption changes rather than scattering (Zhao et al., 2020; Pilvar et al., 2022).

This study introduces an LED-based SWIR-SFDI system designed to monitor physiological changes in tissue, with a focus

on hydration. The system's efficacy is evaluated through a series of experiments, beginning with validation of absorption and scattering calculations in phantoms, followed by *ex vivo* imaging of porcine skin undergoing dehydration, and concluding with *in vivo* assessments of human skin before and after exercise-induced perspiration.

2 Materials and methods

The SWIR-SFDI system (Figure 1) used two spatial frequencies, 0 mm^{-1} and 0.1 mm^{-1} , to determine tissue absorption and reduced scattering coefficients. The 0 mm^{-1} frequency corresponds to planar illumination (DC) while the 0.1 mm^{-1} frequency introduces a sinusoidal stripe pattern with alternating light and dark bands (AC). For both spatial frequencies, raw images were captured from a calibration phantom and the sample being measured.

The raw images were demodulated for each frequency, generating a DC image and an AC image as described in Equations 1, 2:

$$I_{\text{DC}} = I_{\text{ON}} - I_{\text{OFF}} \quad (1)$$

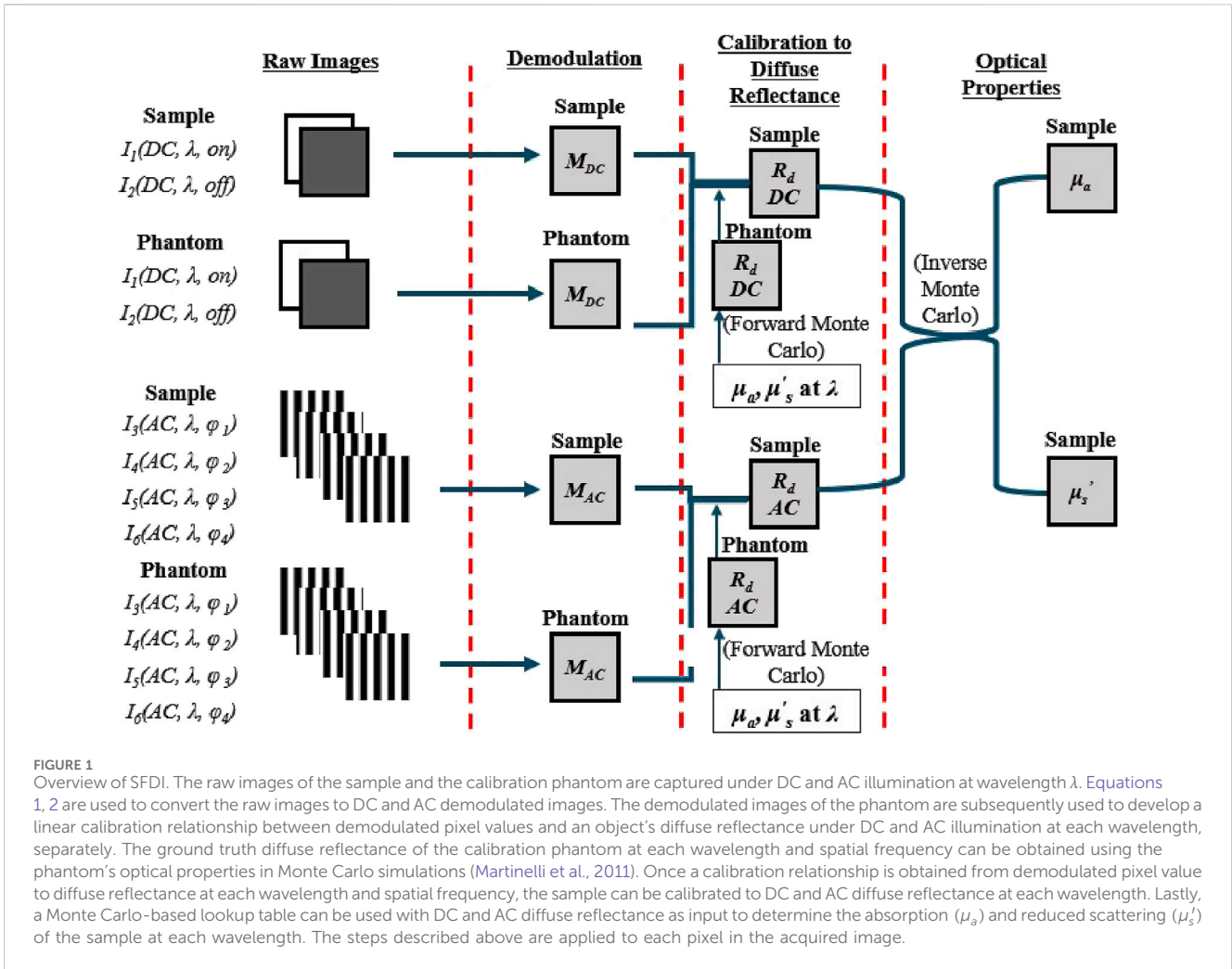
$$I_{\text{AC}} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(I_{\phi_2} - I_{\phi_4})^2 + (I_{\phi_1} - I_{\phi_3})^2} \quad (2)$$

In Equation 1, the DC demodulated image I_{DC} is derived from the difference between the light-on and light-off images, I_{ON} and I_{OFF} . Equation 2 computes the AC demodulated image I_{AC} using four phase-shifted images at 0-deg, 90-deg, 180-deg, and 270-deg: I_{ϕ_1} , I_{ϕ_2} , I_{ϕ_3} , and I_{ϕ_4} (Zuo et al., 2018).

A calibration phantom with established absorption and reduced scattering coefficients was utilized. These coefficients were input into a Monte Carlo simulation-based lookup table to determine the phantom's diffuse reflectance for both DC and AC frequencies (Martinelli et al., 2011). The lookup table was generated by computing the AC and DC diffuse reflectance for various combinations of absorption and reduced scattering coefficients using Monte Carlo simulations. This table is bidirectional: it allows for the determination of absorption and reduced scattering coefficients from AC and DC diffuse reflectance values, and conversely, the calculation of diffuse reflectance from the absorption and reduced scattering coefficients. Using the calibration relationship between demodulated pixel values and diffuse reflectance at each wavelength and spatial frequency, the sample's diffuse reflectance was determined and applied to the lookup table to calculate absorption and reduced scattering coefficients at each wavelength. Absorption coefficients were then used to calculate chromophore concentrations based on the known molar extinction coefficients of chromophores such as water and lipid (Segelstein, 1981; Allen et al., 2012).

2.1 Hardware and data processing

The system, depicted in Figure 2, incorporated LEDs at 970 nm, 1,050 nm, and 1,200 nm for both DC and AC illumination, controlled via a digital micromirror device (DMD). Diffuse reflectance was imaged using an InGaAs camera and optics. LED light is collimated, reflected off the DMD, polarized by a linear polarizer, and directed onto the sample. Reflected light from the



sample passes through an orthogonally-oriented polarizer before reaching the camera.

Calibration is performed using a 10% Intralipid (diluted from Sigma-Aldrich 20% Intralipid #68890-65-3) phantom with known absorption and reduced scattering coefficients at 970 nm, 1,050 nm, and 1,200 nm (Segelstein, 1981; Allen et al., 2012; Flock et al., 1992). Monte Carlo simulations were used to determine the phantom's AC and DC diffuse reflectance, enabling conversion of demodulated pixel values to diffuse reflectance (Martinelli et al., 2011).

The demodulated pixel values measured for the sample are converted to diffuse reflectance values based on demodulated pixel values measured in the calibration phantom with known reflectance (Equation 3).

$$R_{\text{Sample}} = R_{\text{Phantom}} \frac{M_{\text{Sample}}}{M_{\text{Phantom}}} \quad (3)$$

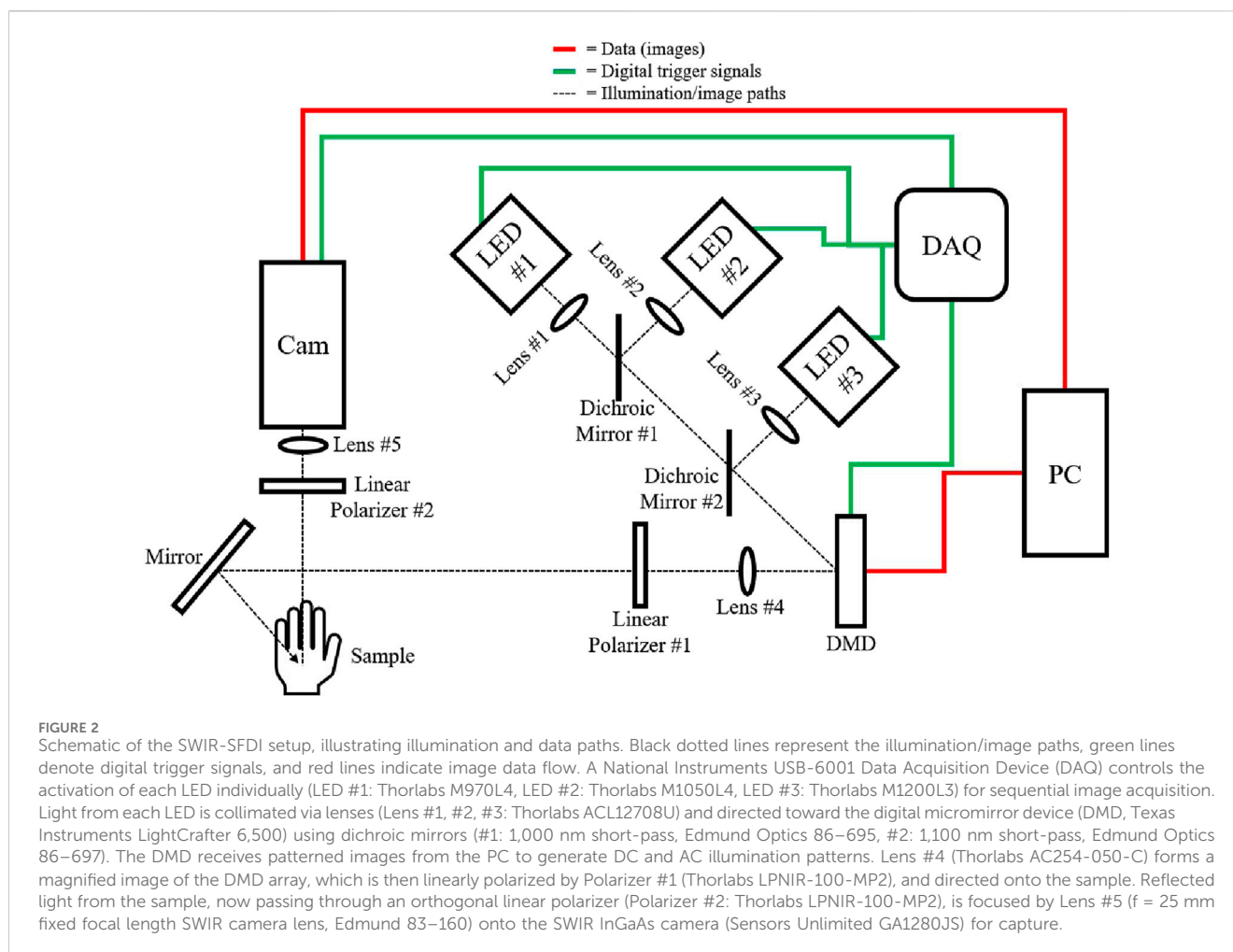
where M represents the demodulated pixel values and R denotes diffuse reflectance. The AC and DC reflectance values of the sample are then referenced against a Monte Carlo-generated lookup table, allowing the retrieval of absorption and reduced scattering coefficients. Using absorption values at the three wavelengths, water and lipid concentrations can be calculated with Equation 4.

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{a,970} &= \epsilon_{\text{H}_2\text{O},970} \cdot C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} + \epsilon_{\text{lipid},970} \cdot C_{\text{lipid}} \\ \mu_{a,1050} &= \epsilon_{\text{H}_2\text{O},1050} \cdot C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} + \epsilon_{\text{lipid},1050} \cdot C_{\text{lipid}} \\ \mu_{a,1200} &= \epsilon_{\text{H}_2\text{O},1200} \cdot C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} + \epsilon_{\text{lipid},1200} \cdot C_{\text{lipid}} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

In Equation 4, μ_a denotes the absorption coefficients at wavelengths 970 nm, 1,050 nm, and 1,200 nm, while ϵ represents the extinction coefficients for water and lipid at each corresponding wavelength. These specific wavelengths were chosen to target the unique features of the absorption spectrum of water and lipid. Each absorption coefficient is expressed as a weighted sum of the extinction coefficients of water and lipid, where the weights are the chromophore concentrations. The concentrations $C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ and C_{lipid} can be computed by solving the resulting system of equations, given the measured absorption coefficients and known extinction coefficients. These calculations are based on the extinction coefficients for water and lipid as described by Segelstein (1981) and Allen et al. (2012), respectively.

2.2 Intralipid dilutions

System accuracy in determining water and lipid concentrations was evaluated using samples with known water and lipid content. Solutions



were prepared (diluted from Sigma-Aldrich 20% Intralipid #68890–65–3) with lipid concentrations of 5%, 10%, 15%, and 20%, corresponding to water contents of 95%, 90%, 85%, and 80%. Water and lipid content percentages were initially evaluated based on 55.6 M as 100% water and 0.9 g/mL as 100% lipid [Zhao et al. \(2020\)](#).

2.3 *Ex vivo* porcine skin desiccation

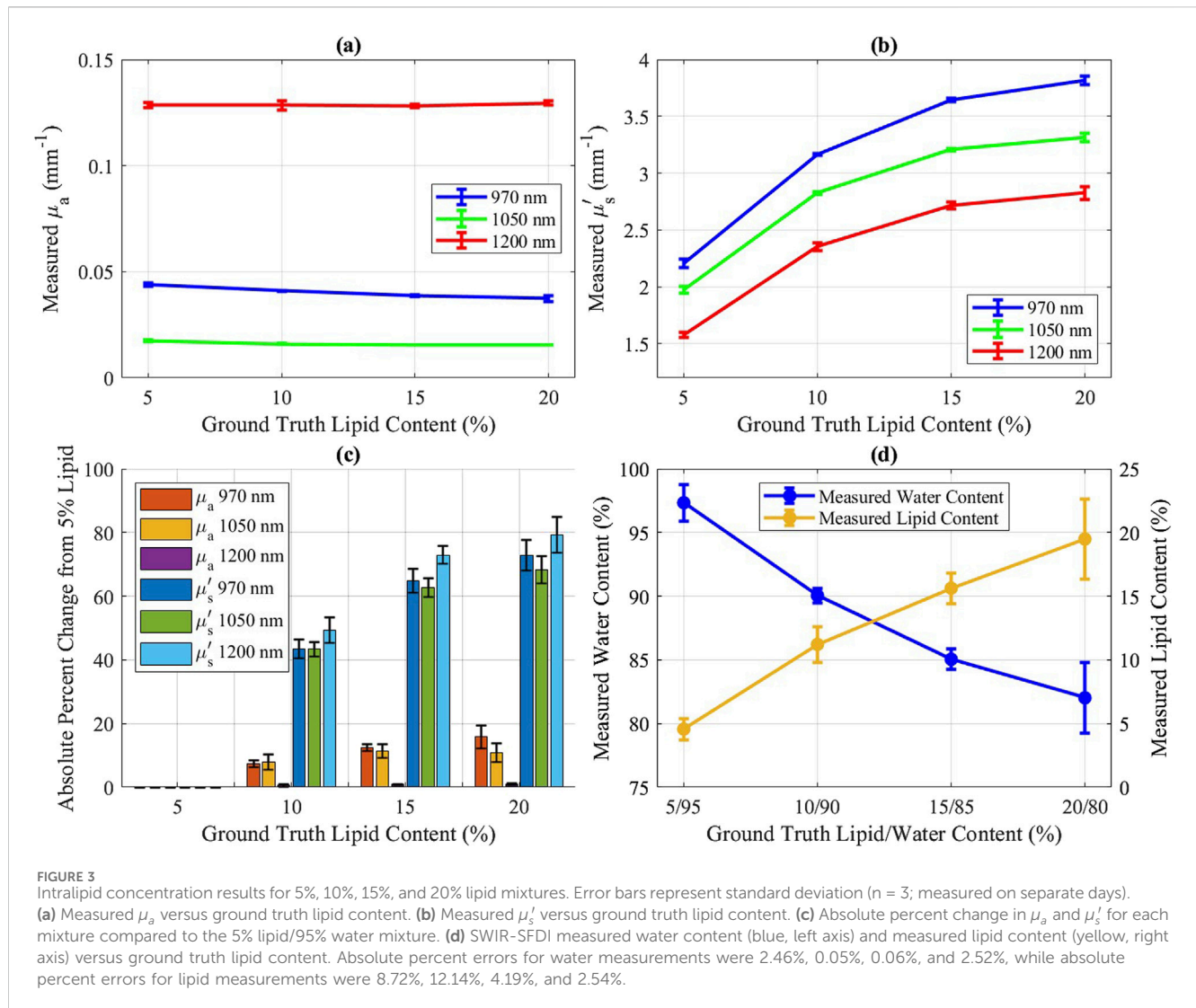
Three *ex vivo* porcine skin samples (Animal Technologies, Inc.), each approximately 50 mm × 50 mm and 4 mm thick, were initially imaged with SWIR-SFDI to capture baseline absorption and reduced scattering coefficients. All porcine tissue samples were sourced from a USDA-inspected abattoir, with full compliance to ante- and post-mortem veterinary inspection requirements. Samples were then left to desiccate at room temperature (25°C) over 3 hours, with imaging performed at 1-h intervals to monitor optical property variations due to dehydration.

To further control the desiccation for the remainder of the process, an electric vacuum oven was employed, maintaining approximately 30 mmHg and 30–40°C for a duration of 100 h, in line with established protocols ([Yu et al., 2011](#)). Mass changes

were precisely recorded using an analytical balance, providing reference measurements of water content loss to validate observed optical trends in absorption and scattering. These mass measurements served as quantitative ground truth, allowing for a direct link between water content reduction and changes in optical properties in the results.

2.4 *In vivo* tissue hydration

The SWIR-SFDI system's capability for *in vivo* tissue hydration assessment was tested by imaging the dorsal side of the hand for three subjects before and after a controlled exercise session. To establish baseline skin optical properties, subjects were imaged every minute over a 5-min resting period. During exercise, subjects jogged on a treadmill at four mph in a temperature-controlled (25°C) room for 10 min. Post-exercise imaging was performed every minute for 10 min. A phantom positioned within the imaging frame served as a reference to confirm that optical property changes measured by SWIR-SFDI were due to physiological effects and not due to instrument variability or drift. This experiment was performed twice for each subject, with each trial taking place on separate days.



3 Results

3.1 Intralipid dilutions

The measured optical properties of solutions with varying water and lipid are presented in Figures 3a, b. Absorption coefficients showed minor changes across dilutions, while reduced scattering exhibited greater sensitivity, with larger percent changes in reduced scattering observed between dilutions than in absorption (Figure 3c), indicating that reduced scattering is more responsive to changes in lipid and water content. Water and lipid concentrations were determined from the measured absorption coefficients, with results shown in Figure 3d.

3.2 Ex vivo porcine skin desiccation

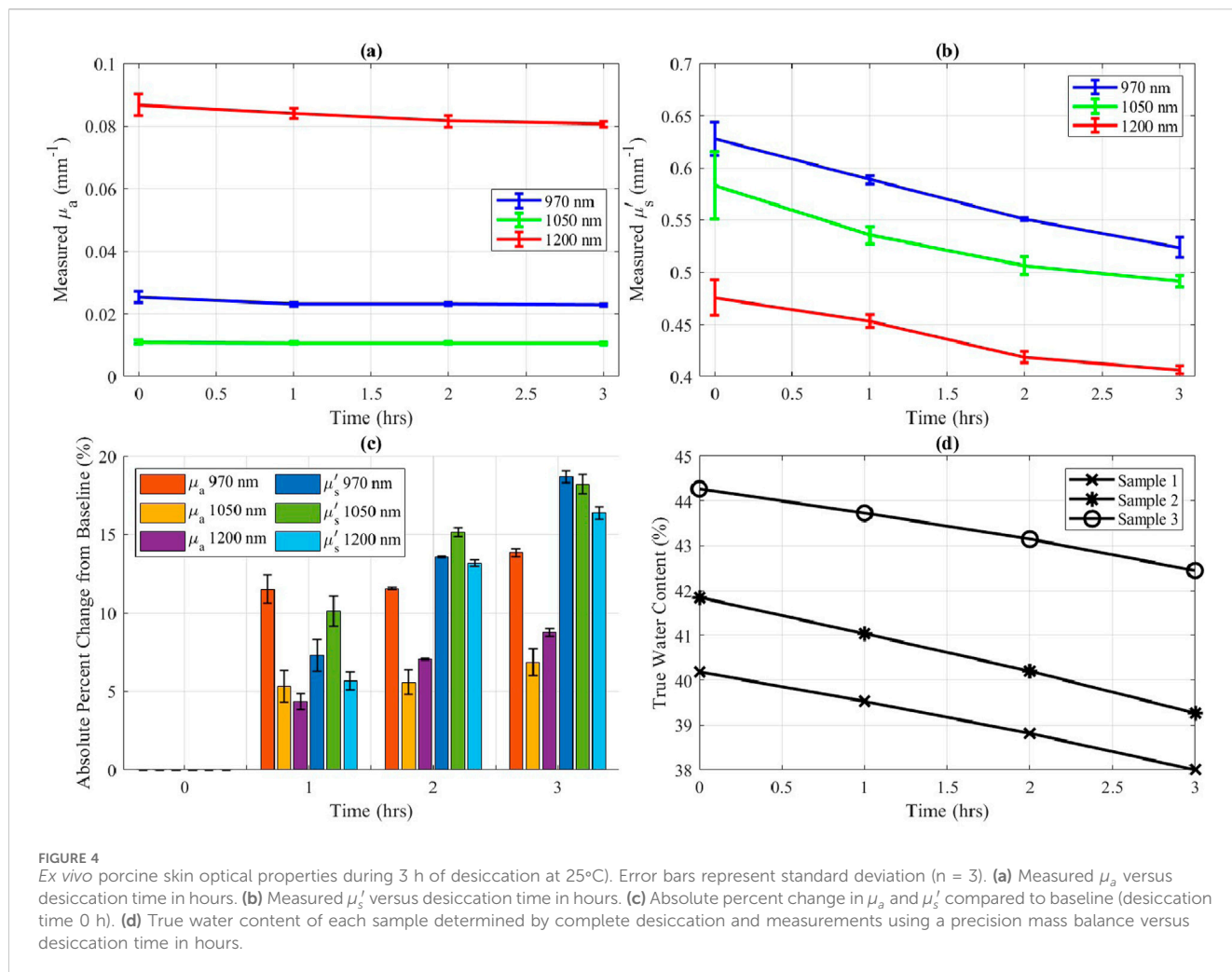
The desiccation experiment for ex vivo porcine skin samples provided insights into the sensitivity of optical properties to controlled water content changes. During the SWIR-SFDI

measurement period, analytical balance measurements indicated an approximate 2% decrease in water content per sample.

Figures 4a–c illustrate the trends of absorption and reduced scattering coefficients during the desiccation process. Reduced scattering (Figure 4b) displayed a clear, progressive decline as the true water content decreased (Figure 4d). Absorption coefficients, however, showed relatively minor fluctuations, suggesting that scattering is the more sensitive metric to assess tissue water content under these conditions.

3.3 In vivo tissue hydration

Subjects participating in the in vivo experiment exhibited distinct baseline optical property values, while demonstrating similar trends in changes across the study group. For each subject, all images were registered to ensure that measurements were taken from the same anatomical locations across the time points. A square region of interest measuring approximately 5 cm by



5 cm was selected, encompassing nearly the entire dorsal side of the palm, excluding the knuckles, fingers, and edges. This region was used to calculate the mean optical properties at each time point. Optical property values were consistent for each subject across repeated trials. Following exercise, reduced scattering coefficients decreased in all subjects and were measured consistently across both experimental sessions (Figures 5a–c, e). In contrast, absorption coefficients showed minimal variation post-exercise for subjects one and 3 (Figures 5f, h, j), but decreased for subject 2 (Figures 5g, i).

Additionally, the measurements of absorption and reduced scattering for the in-frame phantom remained steady throughout the experiment (Figures 5d, i), indicating that measured variations in optical properties among study participants can be attributed to exercise-induced factors, rather than instrument fluctuations. This decrease in reduced scattering due to exercise is further shown in Figure 6.

4 Discussion

This study highlights the potential of SWIR-SFDI to detect hydration-induced changes in dermal scattering properties,

offering a non-invasive approach to assess deep tissue dynamics. It is hypothesized that the observed decrease in tissue scattering after exercise is potentially due to a reduction in water content within the dermal layer, as water migrates towards the surface through the sweat ducts, a process driven by thermoregulatory mechanisms (Baker, 2016; Baker, 2019). The observed decrease in the reduced scattering coefficient following exercise is consistent with our findings from the *ex vivo* porcine skin desiccation experiments, which demonstrated a clear relationship between tissue hydration and reduced scattering. While systemic dehydration was not directly quantified in this study, the exercise protocol was designed to induce localized skin hydration changes through perspiration rather than whole-body dehydration. These findings are consistent with data from existing studies linking hydration status with scattering properties, where hydration generally increases scattering due to enhanced light interaction with expanded collagen bundles, while dehydration leads to a tighter arrangement of collagen fibers, reducing scattering (Urban et al., 2022a; Urban et al., 2022b; Rylander et al., 2006; Andriotis et al., 2018; Yu et al., 2011). The rapid return to baseline observed in Figure 5 further supports that the measured changes were due to transient water loss from the skin rather than prolonged systemic dehydration. While the percent

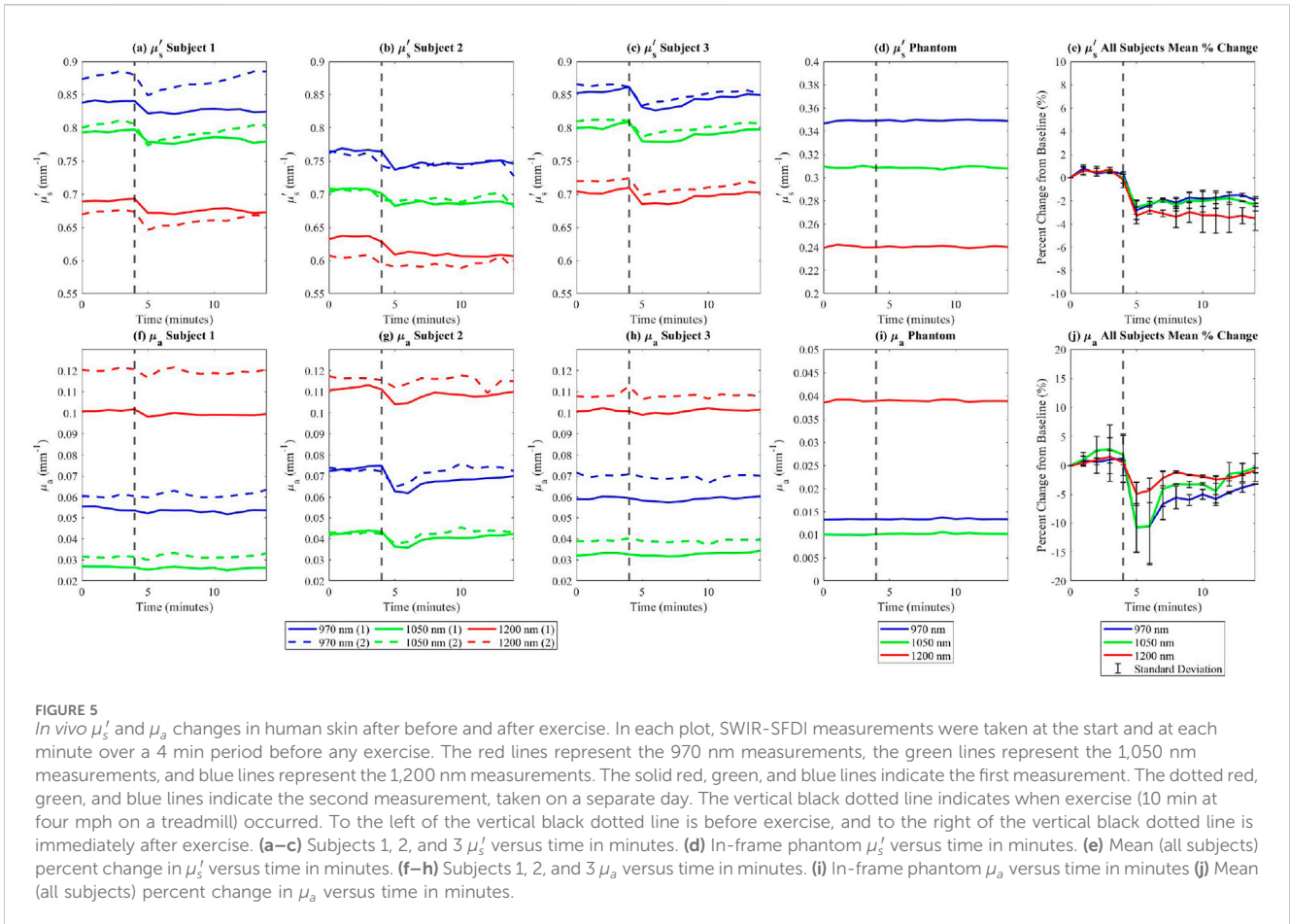


FIGURE 5

In vivo μ_s' and μ_a changes in human skin after before and after exercise. In each plot, SWIR-SFDI measurements were taken at the start and at each minute over a 4 min period before any exercise. The red lines represent the 970 nm measurements, the green lines represent the 1,050 nm measurements, and blue lines represent the 1,200 nm measurements. The solid red, green, and blue lines indicate the first measurement. The dotted red, green, and blue lines indicate the second measurement, taken on a separate day. The vertical black dotted line indicates when exercise (10 min at four mph on a treadmill) occurred. To the left of the vertical black dotted line is before exercise, and to the right of the vertical black dotted line is immediately after exercise. (a–c) Subjects 1, 2, and 3 μ_s' versus time in minutes. (d) In-frame phantom μ_s' versus time in minutes. (e) Mean (all subjects) percent change in μ_s' versus time in minutes. (f–h) Subjects 1, 2, and 3 μ_a versus time in minutes. (i) In-frame phantom μ_a versus time in minutes (j) Mean (all subjects) percent change in μ_a versus time in minutes.

changes in reduced scattering in Figure 5e showed consistent trends with low standard deviations, highlighting its reproducibility, the percent changes in absorption in Figure 5j exhibited higher standard deviations due to variation among subjects. To enhance the robustness of the findings, future work will include a larger subject cohort for a more comprehensive analysis of reproducibility. Direct hydration measurements, such as subject weight or urine specific gravity, were not included in this study; however, their potential value for future investigations is recognized, and their incorporation is noted as a consideration for refining the methodology in subsequent research.

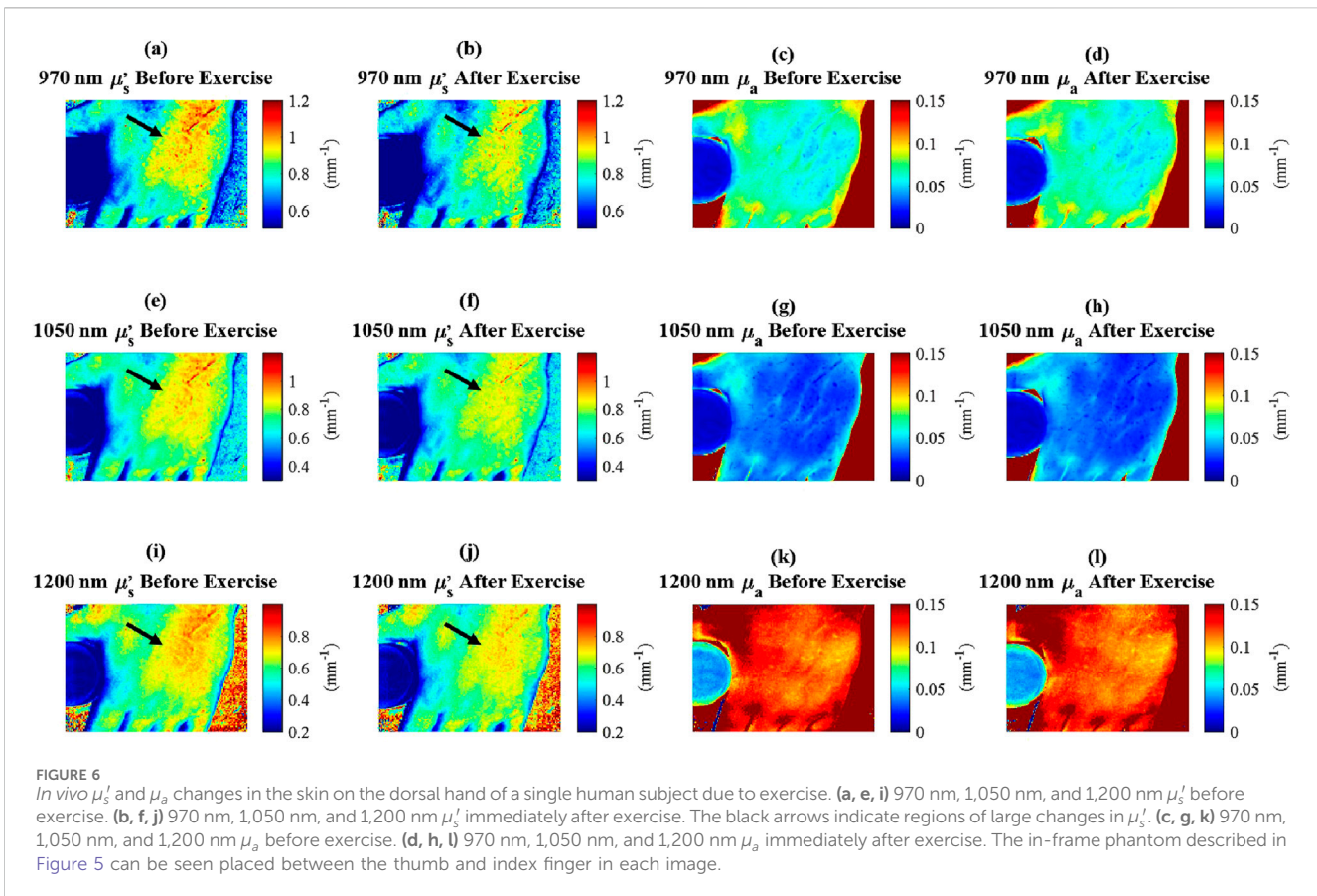
The use of SWIR wavelengths (970 nm, 1,050 nm, and 1,200 nm) is advantageous due to their unique sensitivity to scattering caused by submicron structures, such as those within collagen fibrils. At these wavelengths, the scattering efficiency is influenced by structures with dimensions comparable to the wavelength of light, making SWIR more sensitive to submicron variations than visible wavelengths, which are more sensitive to smaller, molecular-scale features. SWIR wavelengths offer sensitivity to refractive index mismatches caused by hydration-dependent changes in the interfibrillar matrix and, under certain optical property conditions, may provide deeper tissue penetration than NIR wavelengths (Zhao et al., 2020).

The expected changes in absorption during the room-temperature portion of the desiccation experiment, calculated using Beer’s law and ground truth water loss measurements,

averaged only 3.5%. These minimal absorption changes are consistent with the limited water loss expected during this phase and highlight the difficulty in detecting such subtle variations. This further justifies the focus on reduced scattering, which is potentially more sensitive to microstructural changes in the dermis and may provide a more reliable metric for assessing hydration-related tissue dynamics.

While collagen fibers themselves (1–10 μm in diameter) exceed the dimensions that directly scatter SWIR light, submicron features within the fibrils, such as variations in spacing and packing density, are hypothesized to contribute significantly to the overall scattering. These structural changes, potentially driven by water content alterations, may reduce refractive index mismatches in the matrix, leading to decreased scattering (Urban et al., 2022a; Urban et al., 2022b; Rylander et al., 2006; Andriotis et al., 2018; Yu et al., 2011). The ability of SWIR-SFDI to detect such microstructural reorganizations suggests its potential effectiveness in probing hydration-related changes that might be less discernible with visible or NIR wavelengths.

The deeper penetration of SWIR wavelengths allows for the interrogation of dermal layers beyond the epidermis, enhancing the ability to detect hydration-related changes that are not visible with superficial techniques. This depth sensitivity is crucial for understanding the underlying microstructural effects of hydration within the dermis and contributes to the ability of SWIR-SFDI to assess tissue hydration non-invasively.



Future work will focus on further refining this technique to assess real-time hydration changes and extend its application to clinical settings. In particular, the ability to monitor physiological changes, such as those associated with exercise, age, or pathological conditions affecting collagen, could offer valuable insights into skin health. Expanding measurement sites to include areas such as the inner wrist, inner bicep, and back of the knee—locations commonly used in hydration-related studies—may further enhance the assessment of regional hydration dynamics. Additionally, exploring the application of SWIR-SFDI for real-time monitoring of hydration-related skin conditions, including aging, dehydration, and fibrosis, could expand its utility in both clinical diagnostics and personal care research.

Data availability statement

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

Ethics statement

The studies involving humans were approved by the Rutgers University IRB #Pro202300008. The studies were conducted in

accordance with the local legislation and institutional requirements. The participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study. Ethical approval was not required for the study involving animals in accordance with the local legislation and institutional requirements because *Ex vivo* porcine skin samples were ethically sourced from a USDA-inspected abattoir, with full compliance to ante- and post-mortem veterinary inspection requirements. (Animal technologies, inc.).

Author contributions

TL: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Software, Supervision, Validation, Visualization, Writing—original draft, Writing—review and editing. SJ: Conceptualization, Software, Writing—original draft, Writing—review and editing. AP: Conceptualization, Software, Writing—original draft, Writing—review and editing. DR: Conceptualization, Software, Writing—original draft, Writing—review and editing. MP: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal Analysis, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Resources, Software, Supervision, Validation, Visualization, Writing—original draft, Writing—review and editing.

Funding

The author(s) declare that financial support was received for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article. TL and MP acknowledge funding from NIH/NIBIB through grant # 5R01EB018378. DR and AP gratefully acknowledge funding from the NIH NIBIB (Grant No. 1R21EB030197).

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

References

- Allen, T. J., Hall, A., Dhillon, A. P., Owen, J. S., and Beard, P. C. (2012). Spectroscopic photoacoustic imaging of lipid-rich plaques in the human aorta in the 740 to 1400 nm wavelength range. *J. Biomed. Opt.* 17, 061209. doi:10.1117/1.jbo.17.6.061209
- Andriotis, O. G., Desissaire, S., and Thurner, P. J. (2018). Collagen fibrils: nature's highly tunable nonlinear springs. *ACS Nano* 12, 3671–3680. doi:10.1021/acsnano.8b00837
- Applegate, M. B., and Roblyer, D. (2017). High-speed spatial frequency domain imaging with temporally modulated light. *J. Biomed. Opt.* 22, 076019. doi:10.1117/1.JBO.22.7.076019
- Attas, E. M., Sowa, M. G., Posthumus, T. B., Schattka, B. J., Mantsch, H. H., and Zhang, S. L. (2002a). "Skin hydration by spectroscopic imaging using multiple near-infrared bands," in *Biomedical vibrational spectroscopy II (SPIE)*, 4614, 79–88. doi:10.1117/12.460783
- Attas, M., Posthumus, T., Schattka, B., Sowa, M., Mantsch, H., and Zhang, S. (2002b). Long-wavelength near-infrared spectroscopic imaging for *in-vivo* skin hydration measurements. *Vib. Spectrosc.* 28, 37–43. doi:10.1016/s0924-2031(01)00143-6
- Baker, L. B. (2016). Sweat testing methodology in the field: challenges and best practices. *Sports Sci. Exch.* 28, 1–6.
- Baker, L. B. (2019). Physiology of sweat gland function: the roles of sweating and sweat composition in human health. *Temperature* 6, 211–259. doi:10.1080/23328940.2019.1632145
- Bashkatov, A. N., Genina, E. A., Kochubey, V. I., and Tuchin, V. V. (2005). Optical properties of human skin, subcutaneous and mucous tissues in the wavelength range from 400 to 2000 nm. *J. Phys. D Appl. Phys.* 38, 2543–2555. doi:10.1088/0022-3727/38/15/004
- Bounds, A. D., and Girkin, J. M. (2021). Early stage dental caries detection using near infrared spatial frequency domain imaging. *Sci. Rep.* 11, 2433. doi:10.1038/s41598-021-81872-7
- Cuccia, D. J., Bevilacqua, F., Durkin, A. J., and Tromberg, B. J. (2005). Modulated imaging: quantitative analysis and tomography of turbid media in the spatial-frequency domain. *Opt. Lett.* 30, 1354–1356. doi:10.1364/OL.30.001354
- Dabrowska, A. K., Adlhart, C., Spano, F., Rotaru, G. M., Derler, S., Zhai, L., et al. (2016). *In vivo* confirmation of hydration-induced changes in human-skin thickness, roughness and interaction with the environment. *Biointerphases* 11, 031015. doi:10.1116/1.4962547
- Dobrev, H. (2000). Use of cutometer to assess epidermal hydration. *Skin Res. Technol.* 6, 239–244. doi:10.1034/j.1600-0846.2000.006004239.x
- Egawa, M., Yanai, M., Kikuchi, K., and Masuda, Y. (2011). Extended range near-infrared imaging of water and oil in facial skin. *Appl. Spectrosc.* 65, 924–930. doi:10.1366/11-06251
- Egawa, M., Yanai, M., Maruyama, N., Fukaya, Y., and Hirao, T. (2015). Visualization of water distribution in the facial epidermal layers of skin using high-sensitivity near-infrared (nir) imaging. *Appl. Spectrosc.* 69, 481–487. doi:10.1366/14-07571r
- Flock, S. T., Jacques, S. L., Wilson, B. C., Star, W. M., and van Gemert, M. J. C. (1992). Optical properties of intralipid: a phantom medium for light propagation studies. *Lasers Surg. Med.* 12, 510–519. doi:10.1002/lsm.1900120510
- Mamouei, M., Chatterjee, S., Razban, M., Qassem, M., and Kyriacou, P. A. (2021). Design and analysis of a continuous and non-invasive multi-wavelength optical sensor for measurement of dermal water content. *Sensors* 21, 2162. doi:10.3390/s21062162
- Martinelli, M., Gardner, A., Cuccia, D., Hayakawa, C., Spanier, J., and Venugopalan, V. (2011). Analysis of single Monte Carlo methods for prediction of reflectance from turbid media. *Opt. Express* 19, 19627–19642. doi:10.1364/OE.19.019627

Generative AI statement

The author(s) declare that no Generative AI was used in the creation of this manuscript.

Publisher's note

All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

- Mazhar, A., Saggese, S., Pollins, A. C., Cardwell, N. L., Nanney, L., and Cuccia, D. J. (2014). Noncontact imaging of burn depth and extent in a porcine model using spatial frequency domain imaging. *J. Biomed. Opt.* 19, 086019. doi:10.1117/1.jbo.19.8.086019
- Nachabe, R., Hendriks, B. H., Desjardins, A. E., van der Voort, M., van der Mark, M. B., and Henricus, J. C. M. S. (2010). Estimation of lipid and water concentrations in scattering media with diffuse optical spectroscopy from 900 to 1600 nm. *J. Biomed. Opt.* 15, 037015. doi:10.1117/1.3454392
- Pilvar, A., Plutzky, J., Pierce, M. C., and Roblyer, D. (2022). Shortwave infrared spatial frequency domain imaging for non-invasive measurement of tissue and blood optical properties. *J. Biomed. Opt.* 27, 066003. doi:10.1117/1.jbo.27.6.066003
- Qassem, M., and Kyriacou, P. (2019). Review of modern techniques for the assessment of skin hydration. *Cosmetics* 6, 19. doi:10.3390/cosmetics6010019
- Rylander, C. G., Stumpp, O. F., Milner, T. E., Kemp, N. J., Mendenhall, J. M., Diller, K. R., et al. (2006). Dehydration mechanism of optical clearing in tissue. *J. Biomed. Opt.* 11, 041117. doi:10.1117/1.2343208
- Segelstein, D. J. (1981). *The complex refractive index of water*. Kansas City: University of Missouri. Ph.D. thesis.
- Sieg, A., Crowther, J., Blenkiron, P., Marcott, C., and Matts, P. J. (2006). "Confocal Raman microspectroscopy: measuring the effects of topical moisturizers on stratum corneum water gradient *in vivo*," in *Biomedical vibrational spectroscopy III: advances in research and industry (SPIE)*, 6093, 157–163.
- Taylor, N. A., and Machado-Moreira, C. A. (2013). Regional variations in transepidermal water loss, eccrine sweat gland density, sweat secretion rates and electrolyte composition in resting and exercising humans. *Extreme Physiology and Med.* 2, 4–30. doi:10.1186/2046-7648-2-4
- Urban, B. E., Jacques, S. L., and Subhash, H. M. (2022a). "Polarized light reflectance anisotropy measurement of hydrated and desiccated superficial porcine skin," in *Polarized light and optical angular momentum for biomedical diagnostics 2022 (SPIE)*, 11963, 48–53.
- Urban, B. E., Jacques, S. L., and Subhash, H. M. (2022b). Spectral imaging of normal, hydrated, and desiccated porcine skin using polarized light. *J. Biomed. Opt.* 27, 105001. doi:10.1117/1.jbo.27.10.105001
- Urban, B. E., and Subhash, H. M. (2021). Multimodal hyperspectral fluorescence and spatial frequency domain imaging for tissue health diagnostics of the oral cavity. *Biomed. Opt. Express* 12, 6954–6968. doi:10.1364/boe.439663
- Urban, B. E., Subhash, H. M., and Kilpatrick-Liverman, L. (2022c). Measuring changes in blood volume fraction during induced gingivitis of healthy and unhealthy populations using hyperspectral spatial frequency domain imaging: a clinical study. *Sci. Rep.* 12, 18357. doi:10.1038/s41598-022-23115-x
- Wilson, R. H., Nadeau, K. P., Jaworski, F. B., Tromberg, B. J., and Durkin, A. J. (2015). Review of short-wave infrared spectroscopy and imaging methods for biological tissue characterization. *J. Biomed. Opt.* 20, 030901. doi:10.1117/1.jbo.20.3.030901
- Yu, T., Wen, X., Tuchin, V. V., Luo, Q., and Zhu, D. (2011). Quantitative analysis of dehydration in porcine skin for assessing mechanism of optical clearing. *J. Biomed. Opt.* 16, 095002. doi:10.1117/1.3621515
- Zhao, Y., Pilvar, A., Tank, A., Peterson, H., Jiang, J., Aster, J. C., et al. (2020). Shortwave-infrared meso-patterned imaging enables label-free mapping of tissue water and lipid content. *Nat. Commun.* 11, 5355. doi:10.1038/s41467-020-19128-7
- Zuo, C., Feng, S., Huang, L., Tao, T., Yin, W., and Chen, Q. (2018). Phase shifting algorithms for fringe projection profilometry: a review. *Opt. Lasers Eng.* 109, 23–59. doi:10.1016/j.optlaseng.2018.04.019