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A spatially non-overlapping dual-wavelength 2D FBG for the measurement of temperature and strain

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This work designed a dual-wavelength 2D fiber Bragg grating (FBG) engraved on the single-mode fiber to measure the temperature and strain. The FBG is composed of two sub-gratings that are not overlapped spatially at the same location of the fiber core. Experiments showed that the temperature and strain sensitivities of this grating were separately measured to be 10.64 *p.m./°C* and 0.882,731 *p.m./με* at the central wavelength of 1,548 *nm*, and 10.74 *p.m./°C* and 0.916,080 *p.m./με* at the central wavelength of 1,550 *nm*. These coefficients constitute a coefficient matrix that can solve the problem of cross sensitivity between temperature and strain, which has been verified by varying central wavelengths caused by the synchronous change of temperature and strain.

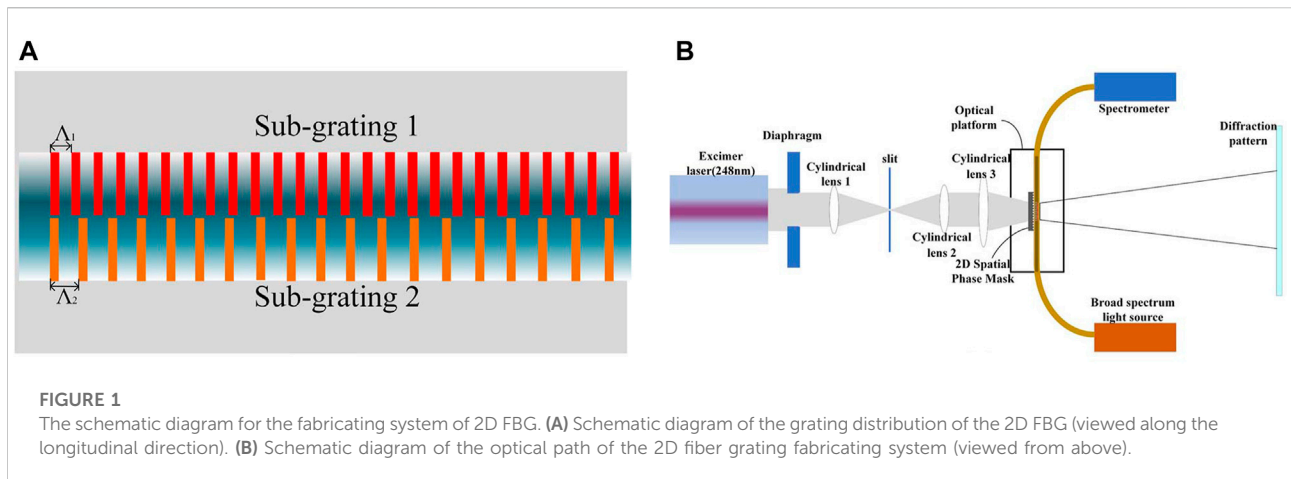
KEYWORDS

2D FBG, dual-wavelength grating, temperature, strain, cross sensitivity, spatially non-overlapping

1 Introduction

The reflection wavelength of a fiber Bragg grating (FBG) changes with physical quantities, such as temperature and strain. The former phenomenon originates from thermal expansion [1, 2] and thermo-optic effects [3, 4] while the latter one originates from photoelastic effect [5, 6]. FBG is a fiber optic sensor that has been most widely used to measure these physical quantities in optical communication and sensing fields because of its numerous advantages [7], such as small volume, low insertion loss, high sensitivity, strong anti-interference capability, easy coupling to optical fibers at a low loss, etc.

In practical application, it is a pressing problem to eliminate the cross sensitivity between temperature and strain [8–10]. The current solutions include reference to fiber gratings [11–13], the combination of different gratings [14–18], the fusion of fiber gratings with different cladding diameters [19–21], chirped fiber gratings [22], Fabry-Perot (FP)cavities [23–26], and microstructured fiber gratings [27–30]. Among these methods, referring to fiber gratings requires that the two gratings must have identical structures and parameters, raising higher requirements for fabricating. The combination of FBG with the long-period fiber grating (LPFG) can easily separate the variable



quantities of temperature and strain because the LPFG is highly sensitive to temperature and extremely insensitive to strain [31]. However, the LPFG has a larger bandwidth, which limits the measurement accuracy. Therefore, this combination is inapplicable to the large-scale wavelength division multiplexing system.

The chirped fiber gratings measure the strain and temperature based on the intensity of the reflected light, and for this reason, reference signals shall be provided to eliminate the fluctuation of light source power. The fusion of fiber gratings with different cladding diameters, as well as the methods of FP cavities and microstructured fiber gratings cannot be widely used because of the high requirements for their fabrication. Meanwhile, the overlapping dual-wavelength FBG [32, 33] is designed, which helps cope with the issue of cross sensitivity between temperature and strain from a new perspective. However, multiple exposures are needed to overlap the gratings of different periods at the same location, which complicates the fabricating process, and consequently, the consistency of these gratings cannot be guaranteed.

This work proposed a 2D FBG based on the 2D spatial mask to design a dual-wavelength grating that could be easily engraved with a compact structure, thus measuring the temperature and strain. The dual-wavelength 2D FBG was successfully engraved using the universal phase mask at one time, during which the two sub-gratings were highly consistent and therefore could be engraved repeatedly. The response of this grating to temperature and strain was measured experimentally, based on which a coefficient matrix for these two physical quantities was deduced. Experimental results demonstrate that the 2D FBG can be potentially used to solve the problem of cross sensitivity between temperature and strain.

2 Preparation of the 2D FBG

Using the 2D spatial phase mask with multiple periodic structures, the fabricating spots could have a dibit encoding

structure. When these spots acted on the fiber core to be engraved, the refractive indexes were modulated in both axial and radial directions of the core on the same scale, thus forming multiple sub-gratings that were parallel along the axial direction. This process concerned both axial and radial dimensions, which was known as the 2D FBG, as shown in Figure 1A.

As shown in Figure 1B, after passing through the 2D spatial phase mask, the ultraviolet beam from the excimer laser can emit the diffracted light with a spatial encoding structure. With near-field diffraction, the interference fringes of such light in various orders can be converged on the fiber core that is to be engraved. Then, the core medium with light sensitivity records the spatial intensity distribution of these fringes based on the fluctuation of refractive indexes, thus achieving the light-sensitive engraving of this core on a sub-wavelength scale. The 2D FBG with high consistency and stability was engraved by a single exposure of phase mask.

In this experiment, the 2D FBG was prepared with a 2D spatial phase mask that was 50 mm long. Using a mask encoded in 2D space, the 2D FBG was fabricated in the fiber core by ultraviolet photolithography. The KrF excimer laser (FPMLA-MLI-248 nm), with the pulse energy of 160 mJ and the repetition frequency of 30 Hz, was collimated through the cylindrical lens 1. The slit served as a spatial filter to control the widths of the light beam and cylindrical lens 2, forming a rectangular beam that passed through the cylindrical lens three and focused on the fiber core through the 2D spatial mask. The optical fiber to be engraved, with its coating removed, was clamped at an angle of 5° using the system installed on the mechanical stage. In this system, the 2D spatial phase mask composed of several periodic structures that were separated by one 1-μm gap was close to but not connected to the fiber (the distance between them was less than 1 mm). The horizontal gap of this mask was adjusted to make it evenly distributed in the center of the fiber core.

How the grating's reflection and transmission spectra evolved during the exposure was monitored in real-time using

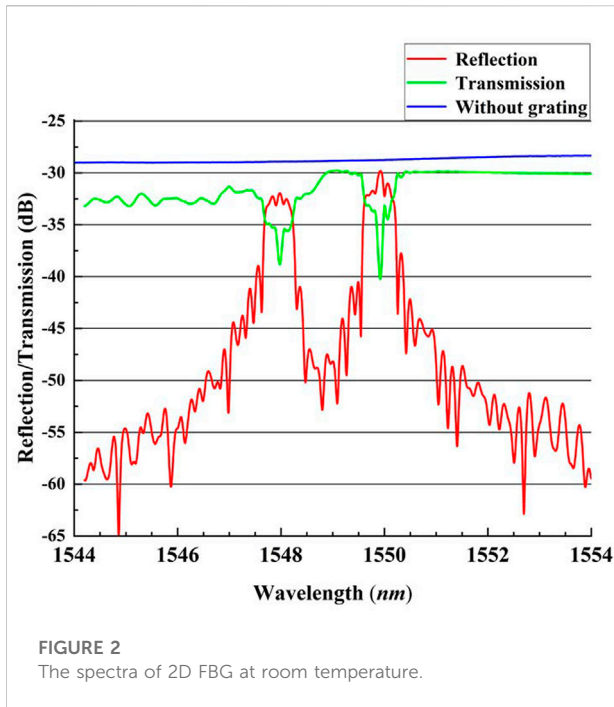


FIGURE 2 The spectra of 2D FBG at room temperature.

the amplified spontaneous emission (ASE) broadband light source (BBS, JF8143-C-band) and optical spectrum analyzer (OSA, ADVANTEST-Q8384). After being shaped and focused, the laser beam projected multiple periodic structures and their gaps onto the optical fiber to engrave a 2D FBG. If there was a small angle between the fiber axis and the septal line of the 2D spatial phase mask, a slope line could be observed on the screen placed behind the optical fiber in +1 and -1 diffraction fringes, in which case, the fiber should can be adjusted. To monitor the spectra of the 2D FBG during the fabricating process, this fiber's output end was connected to the OSA, and the other end was connected to the BBS. The fiber was adjusted vertically till these spectra were symmetrical, thus making the periodic structures symmetrically distributed on the fiber core. It is worth mentioning that this FBG preparation system in Figure 1B is a typical setting, in which the 2D spatial phase mask shall be designed specially and aligned more strictly in the vertical direction.

The spatial phase masks with their respective periods of 1,548.51 nm and 1,550.12 nm were adopted to engrave a 5 mm-long dual-wavelength 2D FBG with spectral characteristics on the single-mode fiber (SM28e). Figure 2 presents the spectrogram. In the above spectrogram, the central wavelengths which correspond to the maximum reflection were 1,548.062 nm and 1,550.015 nm, respectively, and the peak reflection intensity exceeded 85%. The uneven sub-peaks were caused by the alignment between the optical fiber and the mask's datum line, having no effect on the change of central wavelengths and exerting

little impact on the sensing of temperature and strain. Therefore, the fabricating technique shall be precisely designed and improved to realize the 2D FBG with smooth spectra.

3 Principles of the temperature and strain sensing

The central reflection wavelength of the FBG can meet the Bragg condition as Eq. 1 [34].

$$\lambda_{Brg} = 2n_{eff}\Lambda \tag{1}$$

where n_{eff} refers to the effective refractive index, and Λ is the grating period. When the strain and temperature change simultaneously in the 2D FBG, the Bragg condition can be expressed as Eq. 2. Where ϵ represents the strain magnitude of the grating and T represents the temperature of the environment where the grating is located.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_{Brg1} \\ \lambda_{Brg2} \end{bmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} n_{eff1}(\epsilon, T)\Lambda_1(\epsilon, T) \\ n_{eff2}(\epsilon, T)\Lambda_2(\epsilon, T) \end{bmatrix} \tag{2}$$

The change in the center wavelength can be expressed as Eq. 3.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta\lambda_{Brg1} \\ \Delta\lambda_{Brg2} \end{bmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} \Delta n_{eff1}\Lambda_1 + n_{eff1}\Delta\Lambda_1 \\ \Delta n_{eff2}\Lambda_2 + n_{eff2}\Delta\Lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} \tag{3}$$

As shown in Eq. 4, the relative change of the Bragg wavelength can be obtained by Equation (2)–(3).

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta\lambda_{Brg1}/\lambda_{B1} \\ \Delta\lambda_{Brg2}/\lambda_{B2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta n_{eff1}/n_{eff1} + \Delta\Lambda_1/\Lambda_1 \\ \Delta n_{eff2}/n_{eff2} + \Delta\Lambda_2/\Lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} \tag{4}$$

When the temperature varies under a constant strain, the central wavelength changes under thermal expansion and thermo-optic effects, based on which Eq. 5 [35] is obtained.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta\lambda_{Brg1}/\lambda_{Brg1} \\ \Delta\lambda_{Brg2}/\lambda_{Brg2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \end{bmatrix} \Delta T + \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{bmatrix} \Delta T \tag{5}$$

where α and ξ are thermal expansion and thermo-optic coefficients of the optical fiber, respectively.

When the strain varies at a constant temperature, the central wavelength changes under the photoelastic effect, thus obtaining Eq. 6 [16].

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta\lambda_{Brg1}/\lambda_{Brg1} \\ \Delta\lambda_{Brg2}/\lambda_{Brg2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - P_{e1} \\ 1 - P_{e2} \end{bmatrix} \Delta\epsilon \tag{6}$$

where P_e represents the photoelastic coefficient [36] of the optical fiber. In addition, there is the equation of $P_{e1} = P_{e2} = n_{eff}^2 [P_{12} - \nu(P_{11} + P_{12})]/2$ [16], in which P_{11} and P_{12} are photoelastic coefficients of the fiber core and cladding, respectively.

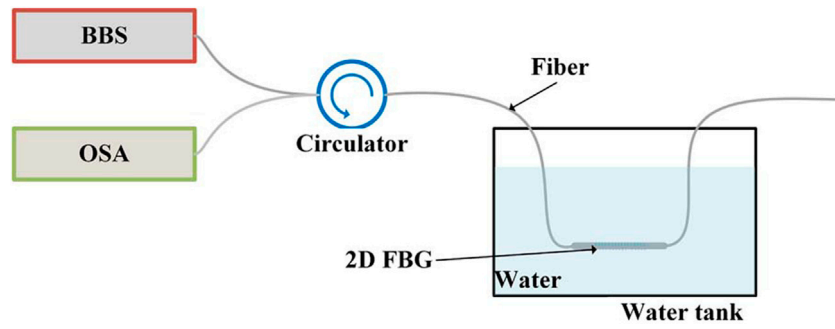


FIGURE 3
The schematic diagram for the fabricating system of 2D FBG.

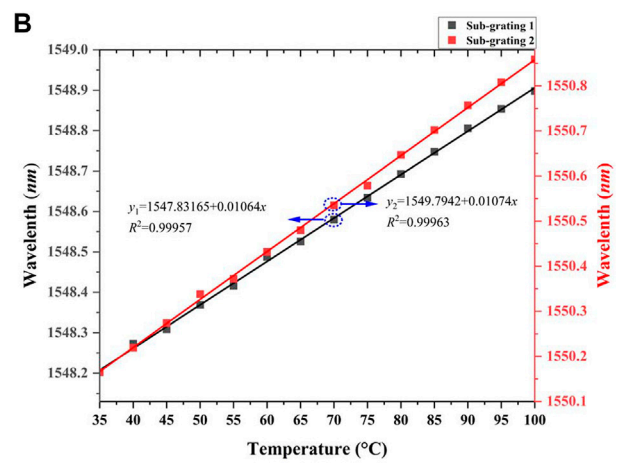
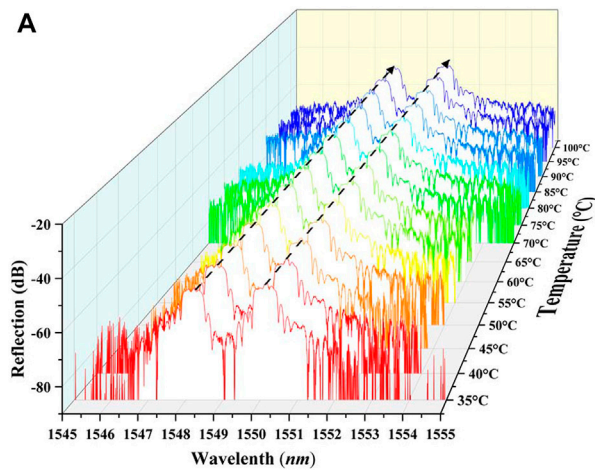


FIGURE 4
Results of the temperature sensing experiment. (A) Reflection spectra of 2D FBG at different temperatures. (B) The center wavelength and linear curve fitting results of the two sub-gratings of 2D FBG at different temperatures.

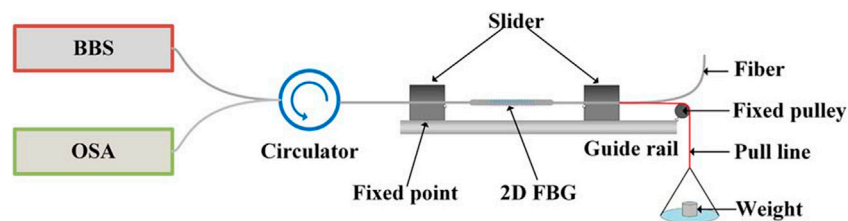


FIGURE 5
The schematic diagram for the strain sensing system.

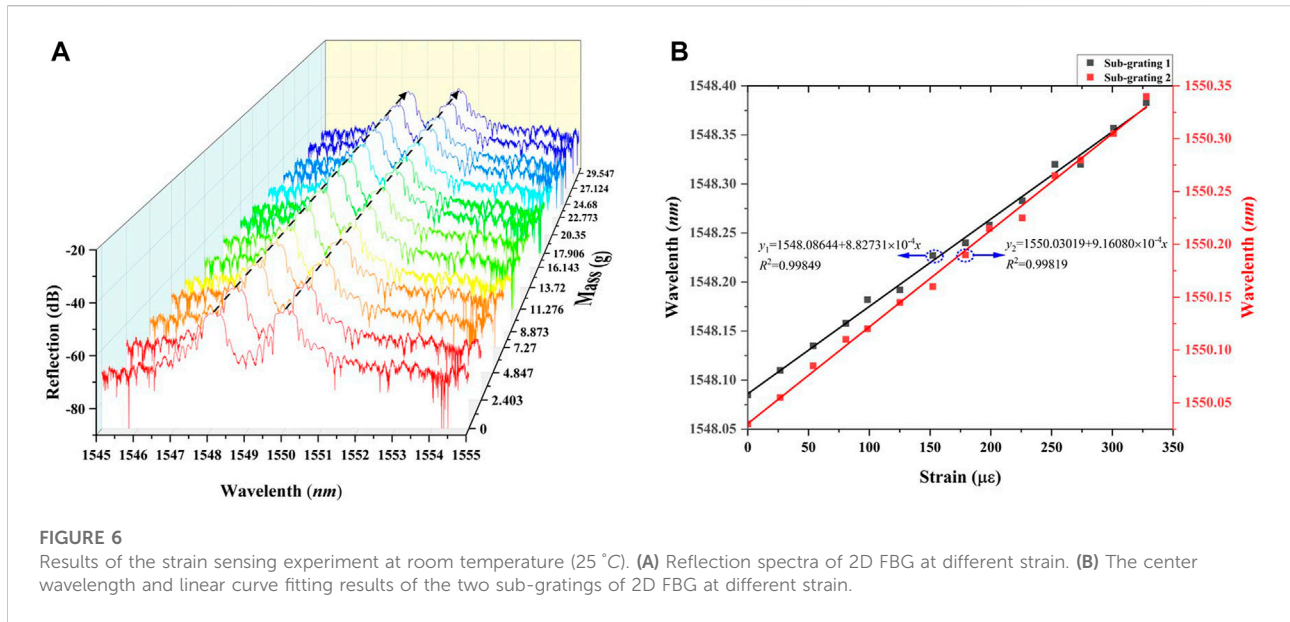


TABLE 1 Comparison between several methods for measurement of temperature and strain.

Ref	Kind of fiber	Configuration	KT (pm/°C)	$K\epsilon$ (pm/ $\mu\epsilon$)	Resolution
[38]	SMF-28	FBG polymer	49.8	not reported	1°C
[39]	SMF-28	Aerospace FBG	11.8	not reported	0.067°C
[30]	SMF-28	Multiplexed FBG	10	not reported	0.1°C
[40]	SMF-28	FBG with vortex beams	14.42	not reported	0.63°C
[26]	SMF-28	Two FBG cavity	14.4, 14.3	1.18,1.19	0.3°C, 21 $\mu\epsilon$
[17]	SMF-28,Er/Yb	Single FBG in different fiber	10.6,9.2	1.05,1.04	1.6°C, 8.5 $\mu\epsilon$
[41]	SMF-28	Tapered PS-LPFG	52, 38	1.2, 1.5	not reported
[42]	SMF-28	PS-FBG	10.3,-0.00228	1.23,0.00028	2.4°C,34.5 $\mu\epsilon$
[18]	SMF-28e,DCF	Single FBG in SMF and DCF	12.3,13.2	0.76,0.69	1.6°C,26.7 $\mu\epsilon$
[43]	SMF-28	LPFG and MZI	83,83	0,-2.6	not reported
[16]	SMF-28,SM-1500	FBG in two fibers	9.46, 10.92	1.11,1.07	3.3°C,12.5 $\mu\epsilon$
[44]	FMF	Diffraction between modes	8.9, 6.6	0.74, 1.2	1.72°C, 17.4 $\mu\epsilon$
[21]	B/Ge-codoped	Two types of FBG	7.37,10.02	1.074,1.075	0.54°C,4.4 $\mu\epsilon$
This work	SMF-28	2D FBG	10.64,10.74	0.88,0.92	0.93°C, 10.8 $\mu\epsilon$

When the strain and temperature change synchronously, the central wavelength of the FBG varies according to Eq. 7.

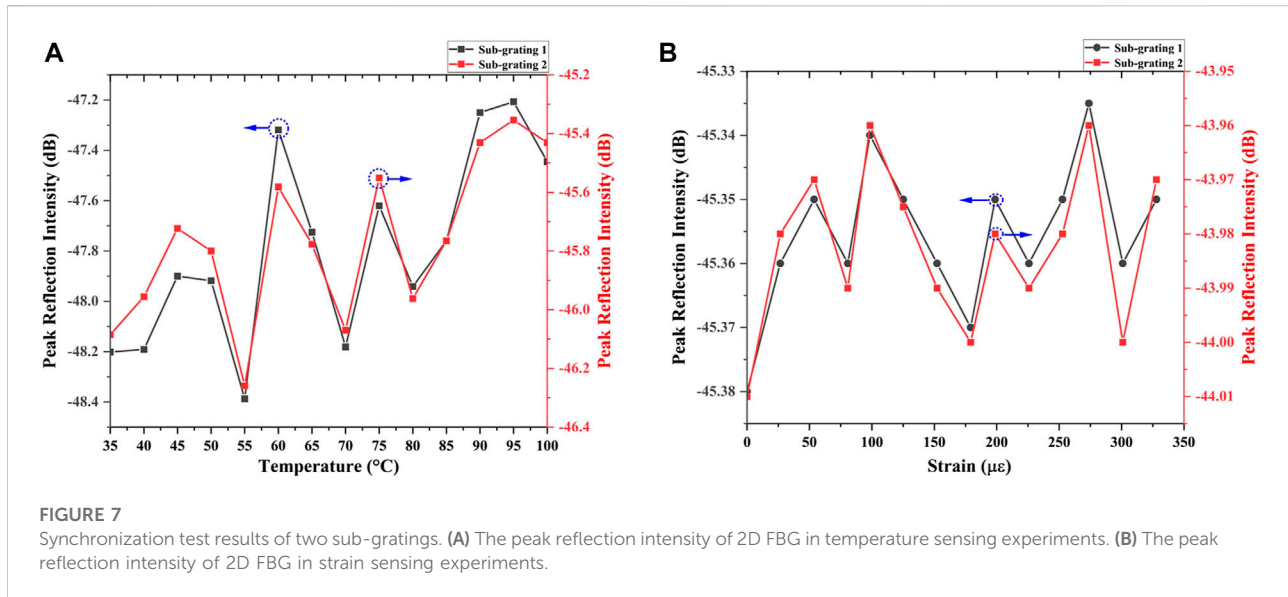
$$\Delta\lambda_{Brg}(\epsilon, T) = K_{\epsilon}\Delta\epsilon + K_T\Delta T \quad (7)$$

where K_{ϵ} and K_T are strain and temperature coefficients, respectively. The change of the central reflection wavelengths in both sub-gratings of the 2D FBG is expressed as Eq. 8.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta\lambda_{Brg1} \\ \Delta\lambda_{Brg2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} K_{\epsilon1} & K_{T1} \\ K_{\epsilon2} & K_{T2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta\epsilon \\ \Delta T \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

The coefficient matrix for the dual-wavelength grating was obtained by measuring the coefficients of temperature and strain during their respective variations. Therefore, the measured stress and temperature change can be obtained by analyzing the change of the central wavelength of the grating. It should be noted that the cross sensitivity between strain and temperature can only be eliminated under the following condition as Eq. 9 when the dual-wavelength grating is adopted.

$$\frac{K_{\epsilon1}}{K_{\epsilon2}} \neq \frac{K_{T1}}{K_{T2}} \quad (9)$$



3.1 Results and discussion

Herein, we measured the strain and temperature characteristics of the 2D FBG. Using the test system for temperature sensing performance in Figure 3, the light emitted from the BBS was transmitted into the 2D FBG through a fiber optic circulator, and the reflected light was sent out by this circulator into the OSA. The 2D FBG that was straightly fixed onto the surface of a sheet metal was placed in a water tank at constant temperatures which were measured at 5-degree intervals from 35 to 100°C.

As shown by the experimental results in Figure 4, the central wavelengths of both sub-gratings moved towards the long wavelength with increased temperatures. The data fitting curves indicated that the change of two wavelengths had a strong linear response to temperature, with the temperature sensitivity being 10.64 *p.m./°C* and 10.74 *p.m./°C*, and the value of R^2 being 0.99957 and 0.99963. According to Eq. 5, when α and ξ showed their respective values of $5.5 \times 10^{-7}/°C$ and $7 \times 10^{-6}/°C$ in the silica-based optical fiber [37], the temperature sensitivity of two sub-gratings should be 11.6 *p.m./°C* and 11.7 *p.m./°C* in theory, which were close to the above-measured values (10.64 *p.m./°C* and 10.74 *p.m./°C*). Thereinto, the error was primarily caused by the slight temperature fluctuation in the water tank and the limited measurement accuracy of the OSA.

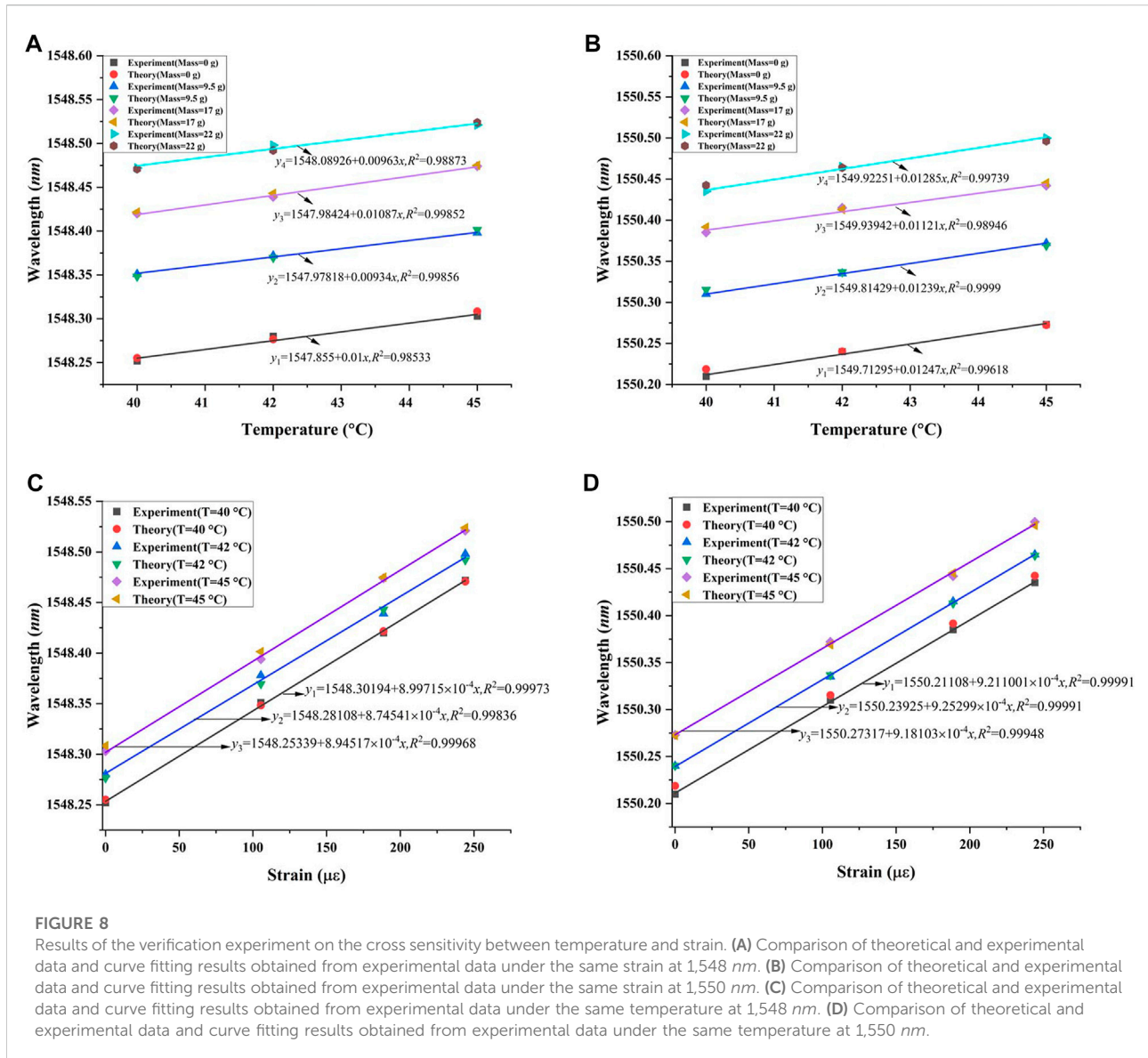
Figure 5 presents the test system for strain sensing performance. The 2D FBG was fixed onto two sliders on the horizontal guide rail, of which one was immovable and the other was slideable. The latter was connected to a mass block through a fixed pulley and moved by changing the mass of this block to cause the strain of the grating. In this process, the *SiO₂* had its Young's modulus of 72 *GPa*; the acceleration of gravity was set at

9.8 *g/cm³*; the strain was 110 $\mu\epsilon$ for every mass change of 10 *g* in the mass block. The strain response was measured using 0 ~ 13 weights successively, with each weight being about 2.5 *g*.

As shown in Figure 6, experimental results showed that the central wavelengths of both sub-gratings had a strong linear response to strain, during which the strain sensitivity was 0.882,731 *pm/με* and 0.916,080 *pm/με*, and the value of R^2 was 0.99849 and 0.99819. According to Eq. 6, when the photoelastic coefficients of the fiber core and cladding were set at $P_{11} = 0.121$ and $P_{12} = 0.27$ under the condition of $\nu = 0.17$, respectively [37], the theoretical strain sensitivity of two sub-gratings should be 1.2086 *pm/με* and 1.2101 *pm/με*.

In the experiment, the OSA with resolution 10 *p.m.* is employed, so the resolution of temperature and strain can reach 0.93°C and 10.8 $\mu\epsilon$, respectively. The comparison of the characteristics between several methods for measurement of temperature and strain among the published works is presented in Table 1. As can be seen from Table 1, most of the published works achieves simultaneous measurement of temperature and strain by increasing the types of optical fibers, the form of fiber gratings, adding photosensitive materials, and constructing interferometer structures. This proposed sensor is completed at one time in a single-mode fiber, the structure is compact and simple, the results are accurate and stable is relatively complicated.

The spectrogram also presents the intensity of the reflected light at the central wavelength under different temperatures and strains, as shown in Figure 7. It can be seen that the intensity response of both sub-gratings changes slightly with varying temperatures and strains, and the two sub-gratings fluctuate in consistent trends. This indicates that the temperature and strain only have a small impact on the reflection intensity of the grating, which further verifies the good synchronicity and high stability of both sub-gratings.



The above results indicate that this dual-wavelength grating can be used for the strain and temperature sensing, with its response to temperature and strain expressed as Eq. (10).

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta\lambda_{B1} \\ \Delta\lambda_{B2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.8827 & 10.64 \\ 0.9161 & 10.74 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta\varepsilon \\ \Delta T \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

based on which, Eq. 11 are deduced.

$$\begin{aligned} K_{\varepsilon 1}/K_{\varepsilon 2} &= 0.9636 \\ K_{T1}/K_{T2} &= 0.9907 \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

According to Eq. 8, this dual-wavelength grating meets the requirements of dual-parameter sensing and therefore can be used to cope with the cross sensitivity between temperature and strain in the sensing process. This result was verified by cooling

the grating region locally under constant strains, thus revealing the change of the central wavelength using different mass blocks (0 g, 9.5 g, 17 g, and 22 g) at 40°C, 42°C, and 45°C, respectively, as shown in Figure 8. The measured data in this experiment are in line with those calculated with a coefficient matrix, which validates that the 2D FBG can achieve the strain and temperature sensing simultaneously and improve the cross sensitivity between strain and temperature effectively. It is also noted that this grating, with a compact structure, can be engraved without multiple exposures and produced in bulk, showing great advantages in practical application.

During the verification, we revealed the temperature and strain responses at different central wavelengths based on the data of such wavelengths obtained from the OSA. As presented in

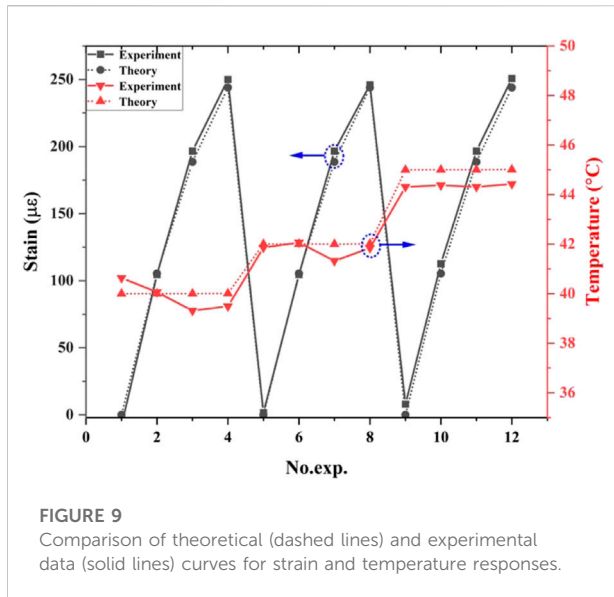


FIGURE 9
Comparison of theoretical (dashed lines) and experimental data (solid lines) curves for strain and temperature responses.

Figure 9, the demodulated curves for both responses in the experiment changed in the same way with the theoretical ones. The mean relative errors of temperature and strain responses were computed to be 3.476 and 1.087%, respectively, which separated the cross sensitivity between temperature and strain.

4 Conclusion

In summary, the spatially non-overlapping dual-wavelength 2D FBG engraved on the single-mode fiber in this work can be used to measure the temperature and strain simultaneously. Its temperature and strain coefficients are tested to be $10.64 \text{ pm}/^\circ\text{C}$ and $0.882,731 \text{ pm}/\mu\text{ε}$ at the central wavelength of $1,548 \text{ nm}$, and $10.74 \text{ pm}/^\circ\text{C}$ and $0.916,080 \text{ pm}/\mu\text{ε}$ at the central wavelength of $1,550 \text{ nm}$. Our experiments verify that using a coefficient matrix, it is feasible for this grating to eliminate the cross sensitivity between temperature and strain and achieve the simultaneous measurement of dual parameters. The values of temperature and

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strain responses inverted from this matrix during the simultaneous variation of both parameters have the mean relative errors of 3.476 and 1.087% with theoretical ones, respectively. Moreover, it is noted that this grating has a compact structure and can be engraved without multiple exposures and produced in bulk. Therefore, it is superior to existing fiber gratings in respect of dual-parameter sensing.

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Materials, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding authors.

Author contributions

ZC, PX, and XG contributed to conception and design of the study. ZC and JW organized the database. JW, XG, and LM performed the statistical analysis. ZC, PX, CC, and JZ wrote the first draft of the manuscript. ZC, JW, JZ, CC, and LM wrote sections of the manuscript. All authors contributed to manuscript revision, read, and approved the submitted version.

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.

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