

# **Smart Geotechnology Laboratory**

Room Z520e, Block Z

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering,

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University





### Introduction

The Smart Geotechnology Laboratory was established in 2021, and was set up for the development, calibration and deployment of innovative sensors in geotechnical and infrastructure projects. Some of the main equipment include an ultra-high resolution distributed optical fibre sensing instrument based on optical frequency domain reflectometry (OFDR) technology, fibre Bragg grating (FBG) sensors and a deformation and load-controlled tension/compression machine for calibration of new sensors. Some recent research projects include development of a patented effective earth pressure cell, installation of various types of fibre optic sensors for the monitoring of stonewall trees, masonry retaining walls and diaphragm walls in deep excavation projects.









MOI SM130-700 OPTICAL SENSING INTERROGATOR

For data acquisition of FBG sensors (4 channels, dynamic sensing in 100 Hz)



MOI SM130-700 4-CHANNEL OPTICAL SENSING INTERROGATOR

For data acquisition of FBG sensors (4 channels, dynamic sensing in 100 Hz)



MOI SM125-500 4-CHANNEL OPTICAL SENSING INTERROGATOR

For data acquisition of FBG sensors (4 channels, static sensing in 1 Hz)





MOI SM041-416
16-CHANNEL CHANNEL
MULTIPLEXER

Multiplex the channel of FBG interrgator from 4 Channels to 16 Channels.



FUJIKURA FSM-60S
SINGLE FIBER ARC FUSION SPLICER
SYSTEM

For optical fiber fusion and splicing



MOI SM125-500 DEMO (SNSIA9EB)
OPTICAL SENSING INTERROGATOR

For data acquisition of FBG sensors (4 channels, static sensing in 1 Hz)





SEMICON OSI-S DISTRIBUTED
OPTICAL FIBRE SENSING
INSTRUMENT

Static distributed optical fiber sensing system, capable of sensing strain along the optical fiber (sensing length up to 85 m with the spatial resolution up to 1 mm).



MOI SI255
DYNAMIC OPTICAL SENSING
INTERROGATOR

For data acquisition of FBG sensors (16 channels, dynamic sensing in 1000 Hz)



FURAKAWA S541A FIBER RECOATER

For fiber recoating





WINDOWS STRIPPER FOR 250UM FIBER

For fiber stripping



HICHANCE HC-CK103
Crack width detector instrument

For crack detection on the surface of concrete or rock



Fujikura CT08
Fiber Cleaver

For fiber cleaving





HS VISION MACRO VIS EOSENS
HIGH-SPEED VIDEO CAMERA

Capable of taking photos with the resolution of 1024\*768 in the frequency of 1000 Hz or slow motion videos.



MATEST S205-05N UNITRONIC COMPRESSION TENSILE FRAME MACHINE

Static distributed optical fiber sensing system, capable of sensing strain along the optical fiber (sensing length up to 85 m with the spatial resolution up to 1 mm)



### **Academic Staff**



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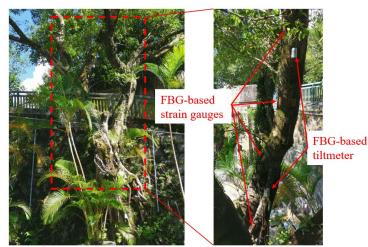


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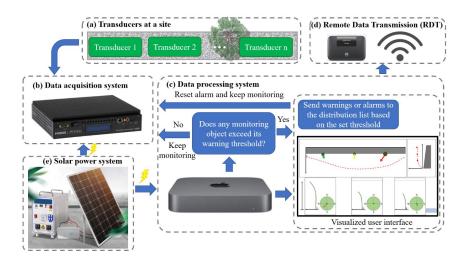


Measurement of tilt and strain of a stonewall tree

Development of FBG-based Smart Monitoring System for Masonry Retaining Walls, Stonewall Trees and Large Trees

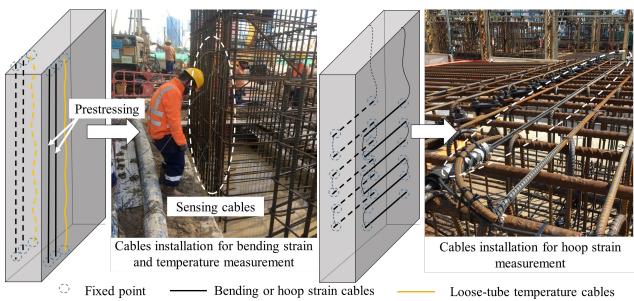


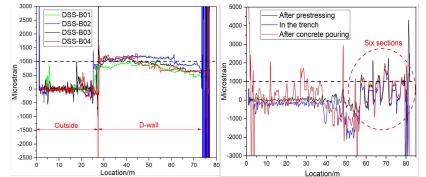
Distributed FBG sensor on wall for bulging deformation measurement



- > FBG-based transducers were developed to monitor the deflections of stonewall trees and masonry retaining walls.
- Warning messages could be automatically sent to a pre-assigned email list if the deflections exceed the pre-set thresholds.







Distributed strain data along the wall obtained by fibre optic sensing cables

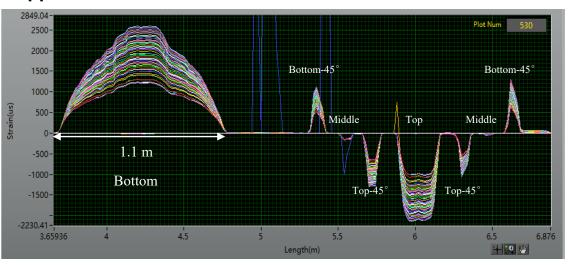
Application of OFDR in Measurement of Diaphragm Wall Deformation

> Fibre optic sensors were installed in diaphragm wall panels in the construction of a twin-cell 'peanut-shaped' cofferdam, where both the bending strains and hoop strains were measured. The OFDR technology allows continuous measurements of strains along the entire lengths of fibre optic cables.

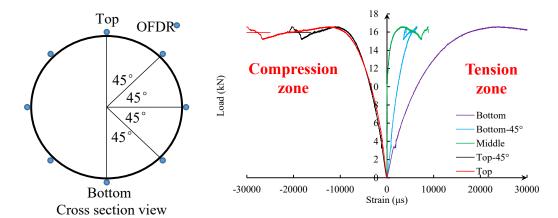


# Sensing cables

### **Application of OFDR in Measurement of FRP Tube Strain Distribution**



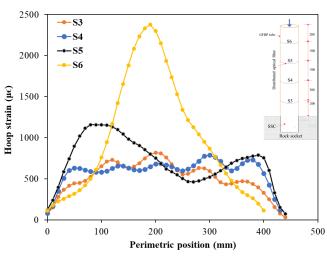
Distributed strain data obtained by fibre optic sensing cables.



> Fibre optic sensors were installed on the surface of FRP tube. In the four-point flexural test, the strain distribution in the tension zone and the compression zone was monitored.







Behavior of the model pile under cyclic loading at pile head

—FBG 1

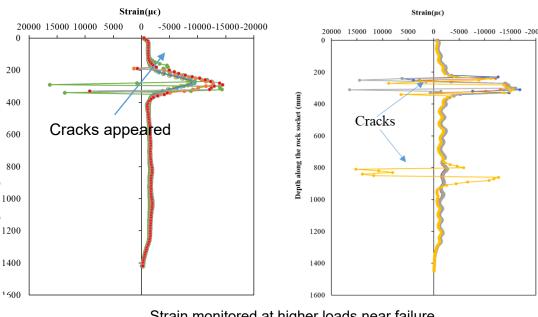
-1200

-400

-200



### Application of OFDR for monitoring the behavior of FRP-SSC piles



Strain monitored at higher loads near failure

- OFDR sensing technology was used for detecting cracks inside the concrete and debonding between FRP and concrete
- The strain distribution along the depth of the pile was monitored by OFDR and FBG sensors under static and cyclic loadings.



# Lab-in-charge and Technical Staff

### Lab-in-Charge



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