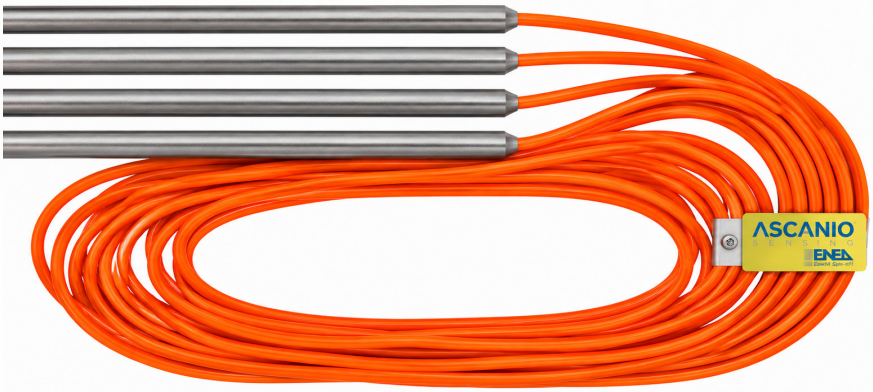
ASCANIO SENSING

FBG Repointing Strain Gauge

ENEA Spin-off

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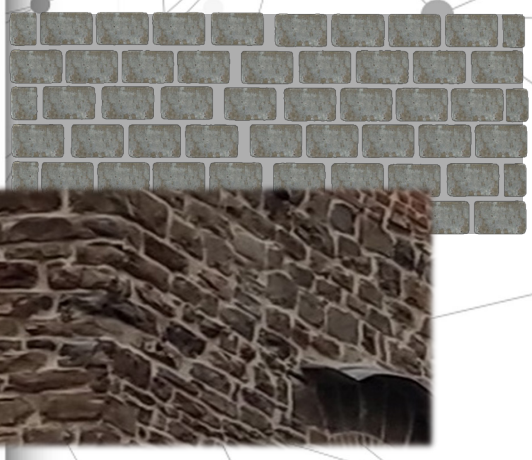
FBG Repointing Strain Gauge

The FBG Repointing Strain Gauge is a specialized fiber optic sensor specifically developed for strain monitoring in masonry restoration works, particularly during repointing interventions on exposed stone walls.
The sensor is based on the proven technology of the FBG Concrete Embeddable Strain Gauge, originally designed for direct embedding in poured concrete.
For repointing applications, a dedicated miniaturized design has been developed to allow installation within mortar joints while preserving the architectural and aesthetic integrity of historic masonry.The sensing element consists of a compact low-modulus barrel specifically sized to fit within repointed joints.
The Fiber Bragg Grating sensor is safely embedded within the barrel and kept in tight structural bond with the host material, ensuring accurate transfer of strain from the masonry to the optical sensing element.

The FBG Repointing Strain Gauge can be supplied with customized gauge lengths, optical cable lengths and protection systems. Multiple sensors can be connected in series to create distributed monitoring chains covering large wall sections.



Mortar joints repointing

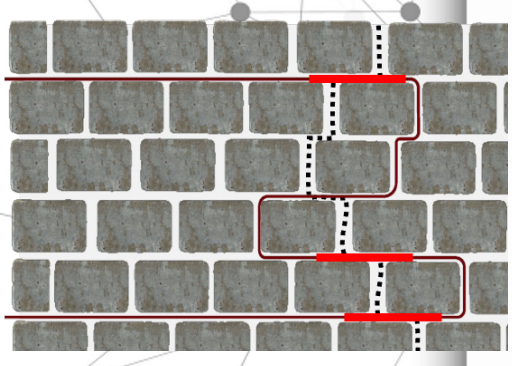


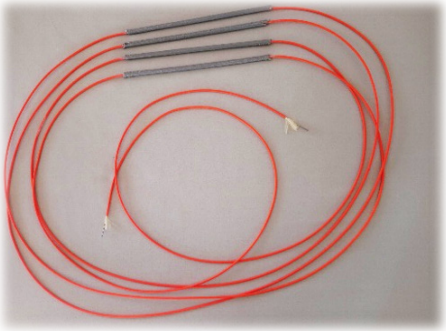
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APPLICATIONS

FBG Repointing Strain Gauges are optical strain sensors based on the Fibre Bragg Grating technology and offer many advantages with respect to the traditional (electrical) displacement/deformation sensors.

- long term stability for structural static monitoring (monitoring of foundation settling)
- immunity to e.m. noise (monitoring close to power lines)
- easy cabling (sensors can be connected in series)
- no power supply at the monitored point (passive conditioning of the optical signal)
- dynamic response (deformation and frequency monitoring–replacement of accelerometers)





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TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

- monitoring concrete walls
- monitoring bridge beams

AVAILABLE SERVICES

- support for monitoring system planning
- sensor installation and cabling
- data acquisition management

AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- built-in thermal deformation compensation
- multi-fibre pass-through optical cable
- chain-of-sensors on uninterrupted optical cable
- sensors with custom shape for bent rebars
- metallic shield and armoured optical cable

SPECIFICATIONS

- Range ±4000, ±6000 $\mu\varepsilon$ (1)
- Sensitivity 1 $\mu\varepsilon$
- Accuracy 1, 3, 5 $\mu\varepsilon$ (2)
- Geometry custom shape and size according to rebar geometry
- Cables custom length at both ends; custom armouring according to protection requirements

(1) Lower range may apply for array of sensors connected in-series
(2) Depends on data-acquisition system

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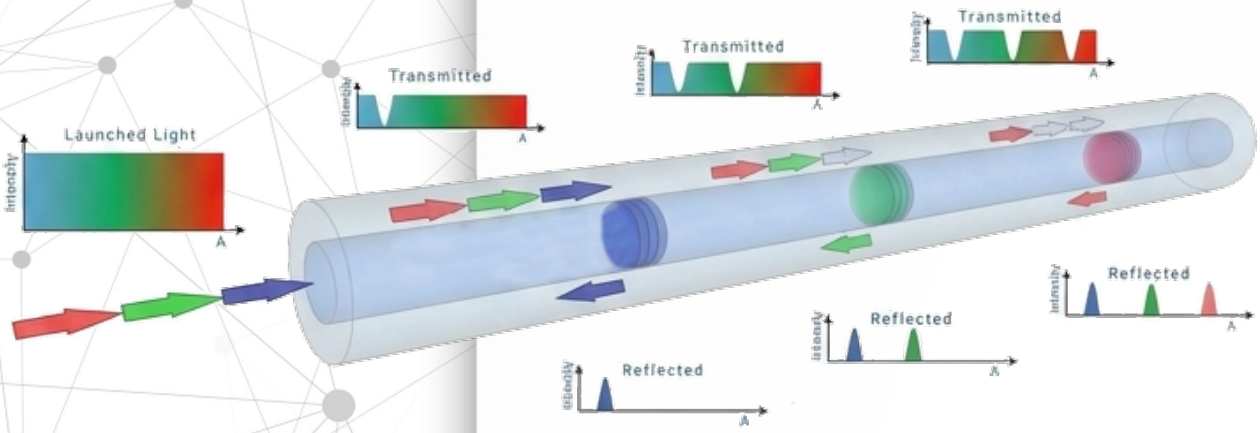
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FIBRE BRAGG GRATING (FBG)

Bragg gratings are produced by modulation of the refractive index of a small segment of an optical fibre, typically 10mm long. The short optical fibre segment corresponds to the sensor, while the optical fibre only delivers the signal of the sensor to the datalogger. Bragg gratings acts as reflection pass-band filters, as sketched in the figure.

A narrow and peaked band is reflected at the grating, while the other wavelength components propagates. Multiple Bragg grating can stay along one optical fibre, each tuned to reflect a well distinct peaked band. The peak wavelength reflected by each Bragg grating strongly depends on its temperature and tensional state: a variation of those two features causes a variation of the reflected peak wavelength.
The measurement of the reflected peak wavelength allows to measure the temperature and deformation variation occurring at the Bragg grating. Bragg gratings can thus be used as temperature or strain sensors by attaching them in thermal or structural contact with the object to be monitored. By use of special devices acting as transducers, Bragg gratings can measure a multiplicity of parameters, such as tilt, relative displacement, acceleration, humidity, ... and more.

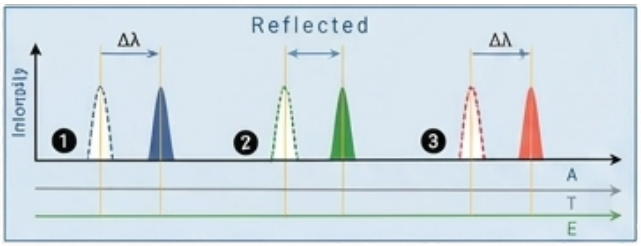
The signal of multiple Bragg gratings connected in-series along the optical fibre are all collected to the same channel of the datalogger and discriminated among each other by wavelength division multiplexing.



As the light propagates along the fibre, each Bragg grating reflects some narrow band peaked light.

Bragg gratings are tuned to reflect each a narrow band peaked at a different wavelength, so that all Bragg gratings can be interrogated. Each peak experiences a shift if the corresponding grating is subject to a temperature or a strain variation.

Temperature and strain measurement is thus encoded in wavelength shift measurement.



The top graph depicts the shift due to:
- Temperature / strain increase at grating 1 and 3
- Temperature / strain decrease at grating 2

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