

# Foreword

Laser is another discovery of great significance by humans after semiconductor and nuclear energy. By using the excellent properties of laser, including high coherence and narrow beam, people have applied the laser to active acquisition of target information, thus developing the laser detection technology, which has been widely applied to many fields. These include science research, deep space exploration, environmental monitoring, ocean exploration, forest survey, topographic mapping, and military domain. For example, it has been applied to the atmosphere, land, and ocean exploration in the geoscience field; to satellite-earth remote sensing, inter-satellite ranging, fragment detection, and space rendezvous and docking in the aerospace field; to detection of particulate matter, polluting components, visibility, and quietness in the environment and meteorology field; to the establishment of digital elevation models, topographic mapping, and forest stock investigation in the mapping and resource field; and reconnaissance and imaging, space surveillance, target measurement, obstacle avoidance, underwater target detection, and chemical/biological warfare agent detection in the military application domain.

According to the detection style, laser detection can be divided into direct detection and coherent detection. Direct detection directly transforms laser signal intensity into electrical signals, where the amplitude of the output from photoelectric detectors is directly proportional to the received optical power. Target information is contained in the signal amplitude and travel time. Coherent detection coherently mixes laser echo and local-oscillator (LO) signals on the detector and outputs intermediate frequency (IF) signals, in which target information is modulated. Relevant information on targets can be obtained by processing IF signals. Due to the introduction of LO signals, coherent detection improves the detection sensitivity and reduces the minimum detectable power. It can also acquire the phase and frequency variation of laser echoes, so laser coherent detection outperforms direct detection in terms of measurement accuracy. With advantages including high sensitivity, abundant detectable information characteristics, and high conversion gain,

it can achieve high-accuracy target detection and recognition. Given this, laser coherent detection has gotten more and more attention and become one of the research focuses all over the world. However, laser coherent detection systems feature complex structures and set a high requirement for the coherence of light sources. Additionally, the detection platform, the atmosphere in the transmission channel, and the target itself heavily affect the coherence of laser echoes and it is also difficult to extract target-modulated optical frequencies from weak signals. As a result, coherent detection has not been widely applied.

The author has been engaged in the research of target laser detection for a long time and has conducted a number of national and military research projects. Starting with airborne laser ranging, the author has studied laser direct detection, developed the first remote-sensing laser system for space use, that is, the laser altimeter on the lunar probe satellite Chang 'e-1, and then developed a 3D target laser imaging system. Meanwhile, the author leads a team to carry out in-depth research on laser coherent detection, accumulate abundant first-hand data, publish a series of papers, apply for a batch of patents, and develop experimental or application systems. This monograph was written by summarizing years of research achievements of the team in laser coherent detection, aiming to systematically expound theoretical methods of laser coherent detection oriented to target detection.

The monograph includes five chapters, laying emphases on discussing the theoretical methods and research achievements of laser coherent detection in atmospheric disturbance detection, ranging and velocity measurement, micro-Doppler-based detection, and synthetic aperture detection. Chapter 1 provides the theoretical foundation of laser coherent detection and mainly introduces the fundamentals, principles, main technology indexes and their characteristics, application situation, and typical systems of laser coherent detection. Chapter 2 introduces laser coherent detection of atmospheric disturbances and describes two aspects (atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and wind-field disturbances induced by moving targets) following the idea of detection principle, detection system, and experimental verification. Chapter 3 describes the chirped amplitude-modulated (AM) laser coherent detection of range and velocity and mainly introduces the principles, methods, and systems for ranging and velocity measurement of chirped AM lidars. Chapter 4 introduces laser coherent detection based on the micro-Doppler effect, and expounds its modeling as well as rapid extraction of micro-motion characteristics based on time-frequency analysis (TFA) and micro-motion parameter estimation based on the signal model. Focusing on synthetic-aperture laser coherent detection, chapter 5 describes laser coherent detection of synthetic aperture lidars (SALs) and introduces the detection principle, imaging algorithm, phase compensation algorithm, and experimental systems, and verification of SALs.

Research in the monograph was conducted by the author's team in the College of Electronic Countermeasures, National University of Defense Technology (former Electronic Engineering Institute of PLA) and Shanghai Institute of Technical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CSA). In the process, the research team was carefully guided and vigorously supported by experts including academicians Yongqi Xue, Guangcan Guo, Wei Huang, Lijun Wang, Wei Wang, Wenqing Liu,

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The monograph only represents the tip of a giant iceberg in the research of laser coherent detection and some problems remain to be further deeply studied. Due to the limited knowledge of the author, there might be inevitably some mistakes and flaws in the monograph. Comments from experts and readers are welcomed.

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# Contents

Preface .....	III
Foreword .....	V

## CHAPTER 1

Theoretical Basis of Laser Coherent Detection .....	1
1.1 Overview of Laser Detection .....	1
1.2 Principles of Laser Coherent Detection .....	2
1.2.1 Square-Law Characteristic of Photoelectric Detectors .....	3
1.2.2 Characterization of Laser Coherent Detection Signals .....	3
1.3 Signal-to-Noise Ratio of Laser Coherent Detection .....	5
1.3.1 Noise of Photoelectric Detectors .....	5
1.3.2 Signal-to-Noise Ratio of Coherent Detection .....	7
1.4 Coherence Efficiency of Laser Coherent Detection .....	9
1.4.1 Signal and LO Optical Fields .....	9
1.4.2 Coherence Efficiency Analysis .....	11
1.5 Basic Characteristics of Laser Coherent Detection .....	11
1.6 Overview of Typical Applications of Laser Coherent Detection .....	13
1.6.1 Laser Detection of Atmospheric Disturbances .....	13
1.6.2 Laser Ranging and Velocity Measurement .....	17
1.6.3 Laser Detection Based on the Micro-Doppler Effect .....	20
1.6.4 High-Resolution Synthetic Aperture Laser Imaging .....	23
References .....	27

## CHAPTER 2

Laser Coherent Detection of Atmospheric Disturbances .....	29
2.1 Fundamental Principles .....	29
2.1.1 Radar Equation for Laser Detection of Atmosphere .....	29
2.1.2 Fundamental Principles of Laser Coherent Atmospheric CO <sub>2</sub> Detection .....	32
2.1.3 Fundamental Principles of Laser Coherent Detection of Wind-Field Disturbances .....	39

2.2	Experimental System for Laser Coherent Detection of Atmospheric Disturbances . . . . .	42
2.2.1	Overall Structure of the Detection System . . . . .	42
2.2.2	Parameter Design of the Detection System . . . . .	46
2.2.3	Pulse Data Processing of Detection Echoes . . . . .	57
2.3	Laser Coherent Detection Experiments of Atmospheric Disturbances . .	62
2.3.1	Atmospheric CO <sub>2</sub> Detection Experiments . . . . .	62
2.3.2	Atmospheric Wind-Field Detection Experiments . . . . .	68
	References . . . . .	74

## CHAPTER 3

	Chirped AM Laser Coherent Detection of Range and Velocity . . . . .	77
3.1	Fundamental Principles . . . . .	77
3.1.1	Principle of Chirped AM Ranging . . . . .	79
3.1.2	Principle of Chirped AM Velocity Measurement . . . . .	79
3.2	Characteristics of Chirp Signals and De-Chirping . . . . .	80
3.2.1	Chirp Signals and Their Ambiguity Function . . . . .	80
3.2.2	Pulse Compression by a Matched Filter . . . . .	83
3.2.3	Frequency-Domain Pulse Compression of Chirp Signals . . . . .	84
3.2.4	Range-Velocity Coupling . . . . .	86
3.3	Balanced Coherent Detection . . . . .	87
3.4	Chirped AM Laser Coherent Detection Experiment of Range and Velocity . . . . .	88
3.4.1	Chirped AM Laser Heterodyne Coherent Detection Experiments of Range . . . . .	89
3.4.2	Chirped AM Laser Homodyne Coherent Detection Experiments of Range and Velocity . . . . .	95
	References . . . . .	102

## CHAPTER 4

	Laser Coherent Detection Based on the Micro-Doppler Effect . . . . .	103
4.1	Fundamental Principles of the Micro-Doppler Effect for Laser Detection . . . . .	103
4.1.1	Doppler and Micro-Doppler Effects . . . . .	103
4.1.2	Modeling of Echoed Photocurrent Signals in Target Vibration Detection . . . . .	105
4.1.3	Modeling of Echoed Photocurrent Signals of Targets with Multiple Scattering Points . . . . .	108
4.1.4	Influencing Factors of Characteristics of Laser Micro-Doppler Signals . . . . .	112
4.2	Target Micro-Doppler Signal Acquisition and Experimental System for Laser Coherent Detection . . . . .	119
4.3	Target Micro-Motion Feature Extraction Based on TFA . . . . .	121
4.3.1	TFA of Micro-Doppler Signals of Targets . . . . .	121

4.3.2	Decomposition of Time–Frequency Features of Multi-Component Signals Based on Curve Tracking . . . . .	125
4.3.3	Separation and Extraction of Time–Frequency Features of Micro-Motions Based on Empirical Mode Decomposition . . .	128
4.4	Micro-Motion Parameter Estimation Based on Signal Models . . . . .	132
4.4.1	Micro-Motion Parameter Estimation Using PF Based on SPM .	132
4.4.2	Micro-Motion Parameter Estimation Based on ML . . . . .	136
References	. . . . .	152

## CHAPTER 5

<u>Laser Coherent Detection Using Synthetic Aperture Technology . . . . .</u>		<u>155</u>
5.1	Fundamental Principles of SALs . . . . .	155
5.1.1	Intuitive Concept of Synthetic Aperture in Lidars . . . . .	155
5.1.2	Echo Signal Model of SALs . . . . .	157
5.1.3	Fundamental Principles of Coherent Mixing of Chirp Signals . .	160
5.2	SAL Imaging Algorithms . . . . .	162
5.2.1	R-D Imaging Algorithm . . . . .	162
5.2.2	Phase Gradient Autofocus Algorithm . . . . .	170
5.3	Laser Coherent Detection Experiments Using Synthetic Aperture Technology . . . . .	173
5.3.1	Structure of the Experimental System . . . . .	173
5.3.2	Data Processing Flow . . . . .	177
5.3.3	Analysis of Experimental Results . . . . .	178
References	. . . . .	194

