



# Thermal Spread Functions (TSF): Physics-Guided Material Classification

Aniket Dashpute<sup>1,2</sup>, Vishwanath Saragadam<sup>1</sup>, Emma Alexander<sup>2</sup>, Florian Willomitzer<sup>3</sup>,

Aggelos Katsaggelos<sup>2</sup>, Ashok Veeraraghavan<sup>1</sup>, Oliver Cossairt<sup>2</sup>

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# Heating & Cooling - Unique Plots!











Oakwood

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# Thermal Spread Functions



# Material Classification - Current practices

#### BRDF and Color/NIR based Classification Require large labeled datasets, Not robust enough





Figure 1: A typical photograph from a wood sample in the a) visible b) NIR part of the spectrum. The colorant is transparent to the NIR and intrinsic texture is observed.

Wang, Oliver, Prabath Gunawardane, Steve Scher, and James Davis. "Material classification using BRDF slices." In 2009 IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, pp. 2805-2811. IEEE, 2009.

Salamati, Neda, Clément Fredembach, and Sabine Süsstrunk. "Material classification using color and NIR images." In Proc. IS&T;/SID 17th Color Imaging Conference (CIC), no. CONF. 2009.

# Current practices

Spectral Imaging Only surface nature of material identified



Fig. 1 The proposed spectral imaging system.

#### Haptic Sensing Invasive - can change the scene



Fig. 1. Cross Section View of BioTAC Fingertip Tactile Sensor

Kerr, Emmett, T. Martin McGinnity, and Sonya Coleman. "Material classification based on thermal properties—A robot and human evaluation." 2013 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Biomimetics (ROBIO). IEEE, 2013.

Ibrahim, Abdelhameed F., Shoji Tominaga, and Takahiko Horiuchi. "Spectral imaging method for material classification and inspection of printed circuit boards." *Optical Engineering* 49.5 (2010): 057201.

## How are we solving it?





# **Thermal Spread Functions**

(a) Thermal Spread Functions: (top) Microfiber (bottom) Oakwood



(b) TSF (microfiber) sampled near center



#### How does it work?

Heat Equation with external heat source Absorption/Emission coefficient  $u_t = k \cdot u_{xx} + \epsilon' \cdot f$ 

Notations: 
$$u_t = \frac{\partial u_C}{\partial t}, \quad u_{xx} = \frac{\partial^2 u_C}{\partial x^2}$$

# Real values of diffusivity and emissivity



#### How do we solve this?

Heat Equation with external heat source Absorption/Emission coefficient  $u_t = k \cdot u_{xx} + \epsilon' \cdot f$ 

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Take time derivative of these curves



Take spatial 2D Laplacians of images

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### How do we solve it?



Differentiable Finite Differences (FD) Method for Inverse Heat Problem

# Classification and failure cases



TSF plotted at center pixel for nine materials

# Classification



# **Classification Results**



(a) Some of the materials used for experiments

4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
BlueTape	Cardboard	PVC	Pinewood	Plastic	Polyester	Wool	microfiber	Blackcard	Browntiss	Latex	Oakwood	Rosewood	Sandpaper	Velvet	Sponge
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(b) Confusion Matrix for classification on non-metals

# Classification Results

Features 2 18 50	65.6% 64.0%	<b>1497C</b> <b>756%</b> 82.8% <b>85.9%</b>	82.8% 84.4% 84.4%	MLF 76.6% 81.2% 85.9%
(a) Co	mparing accu	Iracies of d	lifferent cla	ssifiers
				* *

BlueTape	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cardboard	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PVC	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pinewood	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plastic	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polyester	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wool	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
microfiber	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackcard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Browntiss	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Oakwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0
Rosewood	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Sandpaper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
Velvet	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Sponge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
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(b) Confusion Matrix for classification on non-metals

## Conclusion

• The main contributions of our work are:



- Observing the Thermal Spread Functions (TSFs) and deriving initial temperature independent thermal factors to uniquely characterize a material
- Use of Finite Differences (FD) Method to solve the inverse heat problem for recovering parameters related to diffusion, absorption and emission
- Non-invasively recovering these properties and using them to classify materials