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# **Integrated communication–sensing–navigation– control for low-altitude digital-intelligent networks: architecture, enabling technologies, and experimental validation**

**Key words:** Low-altitude economy; Integrated sensing and communication; Airspace management; Uncrewed aerial vehicles; Cyber-physical system

Qixun ZHANG

E-mail: [zhangqixun@bupt.edu.cn](mailto:zhangqixun@bupt.edu.cn)

 ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0055-3062>

# Research background and challenges

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## ➤ **Rapid development of low-altitude economy**

The low-altitude economy (LAE) represents a strategic frontier in airspace resource utilization, rapidly evolving toward intelligent and coordinated operations. Central to this development are LAE networks (LAENets), which integrate uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs) with terrestrial digital systems. Beyond mere communication links, LAENets constitute the foundational digital infrastructure for dynamic airspace management and safety governance, with their maturity directly determining the LAE's commercial scalability.

## ➤ **Current system challenges**

- **Detection failures**

Low UAV detection rates in urban environments; low-RCS targets are difficult to discover

- **High latency**

Inter-system communication delays resulting in poor real-time performance

- **System fragmentation**

Communication, sensing, navigation, and control systems operate independently.

- **Cascade failures**

Communication disruptions triggering navigation breakdowns

# LADIN architecture: three-layer design

## ➤ Low-altitude digital-intelligent network

A novel architectural framework that, for the first time, establishes an end-to-end integrated communication, sensing, navigation, and control (CSNC) system, transcending the limitations of conventional fragmented systems.

### a. Infrastructure layer

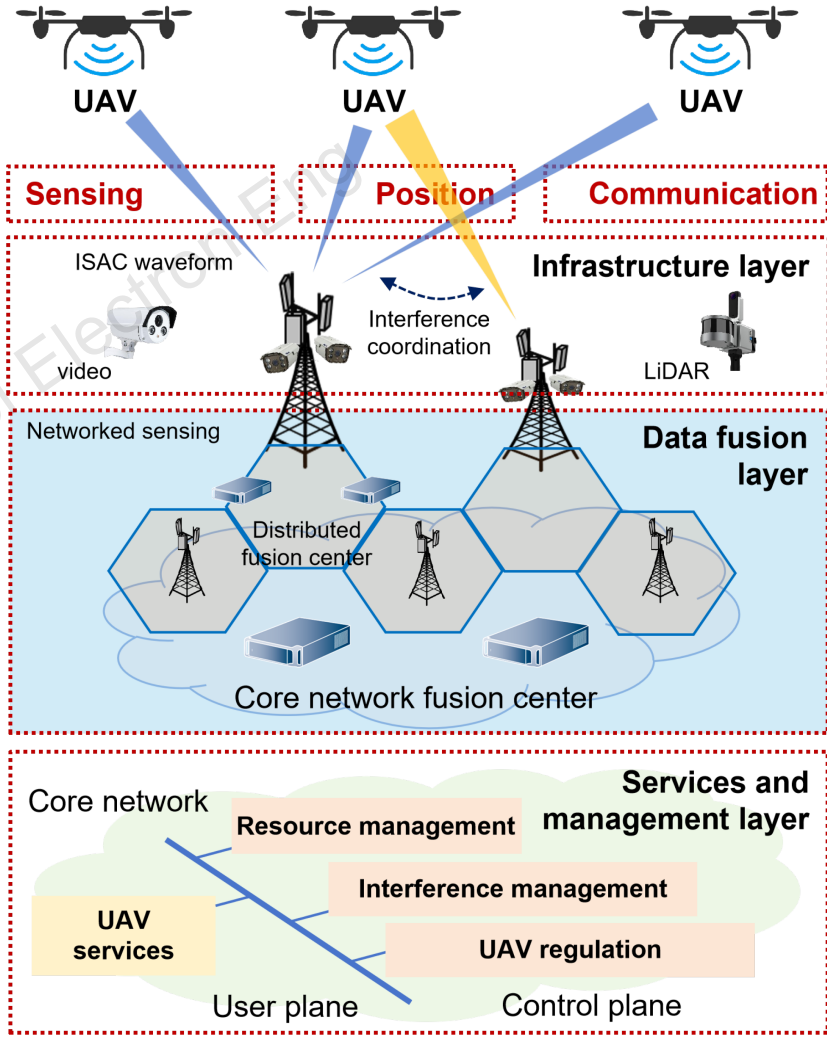
ISAC waveform design with reconfigurable RF front-ends, enabling dual-purpose hardware for simultaneous communication and sensing.

### b. Data fusion layer

Constructs USFS via pluggable back-projection adapters and spatiotemporal modeling, integrating ISAC, optical, and LiDAR data.

### c. Service & management layer

ISAC resource virtualization for intent-driven, closed-loop control responding to real-time feature space states.



# Infrastructure layer: ISAC waveform design

## ➤ Core innovation

Through innovative ISAC waveform design and reconfigurable RF front-ends, a single hardware unit simultaneously achieves high-speed data transmission and high-precision environmental sensing.

## ➤ Multi-dimensional resource allocation

- Time
- Frequency
- Power
- Space

## ➤ Signal processing

### • Range estimation

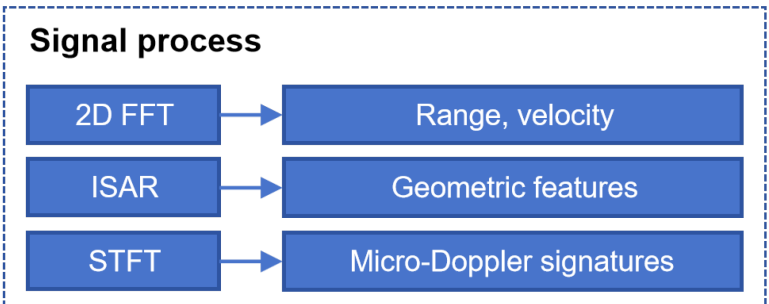
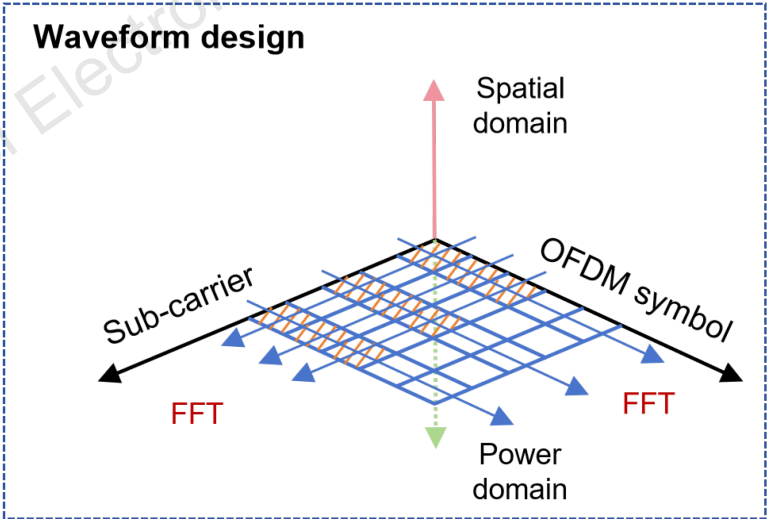
Subcarrier dimension FFT to extract distance information

### • Velocity estimation

Symbol dimension FFT to extract velocity information

### • High-resolution features

ISAR imaging and micro-Doppler analysis



# Data fusion layer: unified spatiotemporal feature space

## ➤ Core challenge & solution

Conventional fusion methods struggle with data-level heterogeneity and association ambiguity. Our approach reframes the challenge as a structured problem of model inversion through pluggable back-projection adapters.

## ➤ Pluggable back-projection adapters

- **Reverse projection**

Invert observation models to project heterogeneous data into unified multimodal space

- **Modal adapters**

ISAC: signal-to-spatial; Optical: perspective back-projection; LiDAR: geometric sampling

- **Unified space**

Discretized 3D grid with consistent coordinate system

## ➤ Spatiotemporal cognition & prediction



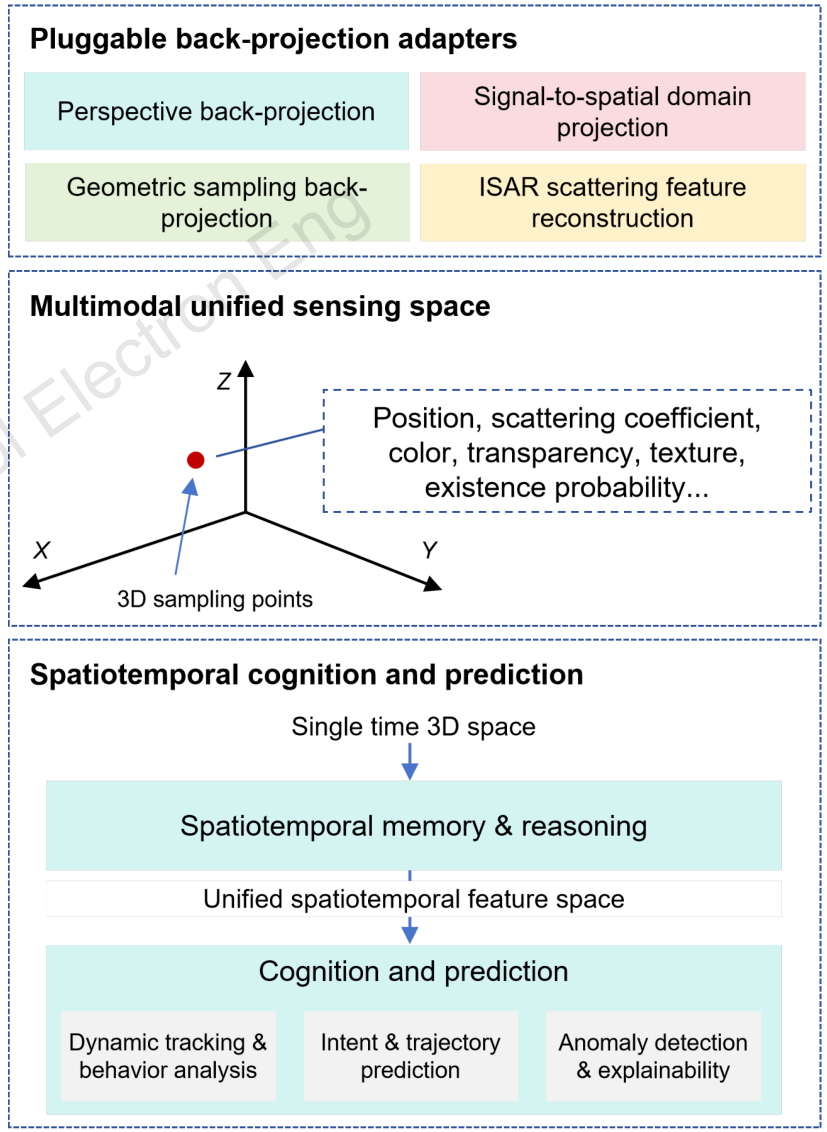
Dynamic tracking



Intent prediction



Anomaly detection



# Service & management layer: closed-loop intelligent control

## ➤ Core function

Transforms USFS situational information into actionable control policies, enabling real-time monitoring and proactive intervention.

## ➤ CUPS architecture principle

Establishes an independent UAV management network, separate from the public Internet, ensuring deterministic performance for critical functions.

- **Control plane**

Flight commands, conflict resolution, emergency interventions

- **User plane**

Mission data, video transmission, logistics data

## ➤ Core network functions

**UAMF**

Service & mission management

**UACF**

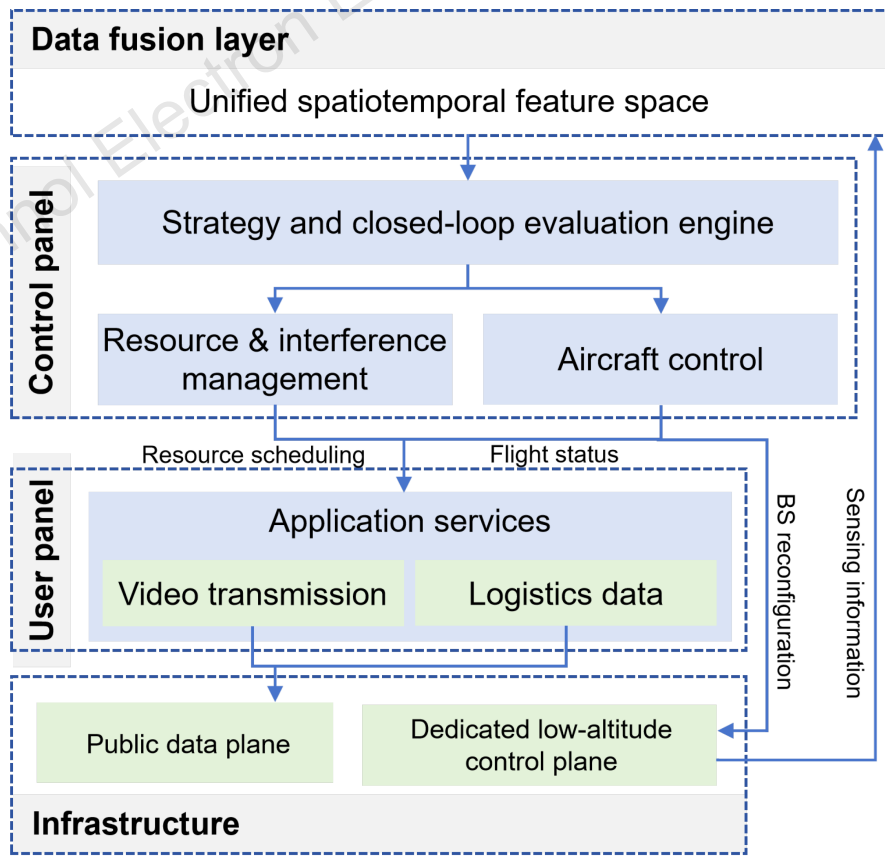
Flight command management

**UARF**

Radio resource management

**UAGF**

UAV access management



# Hardware testbed and experimental validation

## ➤ Multimodal hardware testbed

Platform embodies the three-layer LADIN structure, integrating 5G NR mmWave ISAC and optical vision subsystems via a unified LAN.

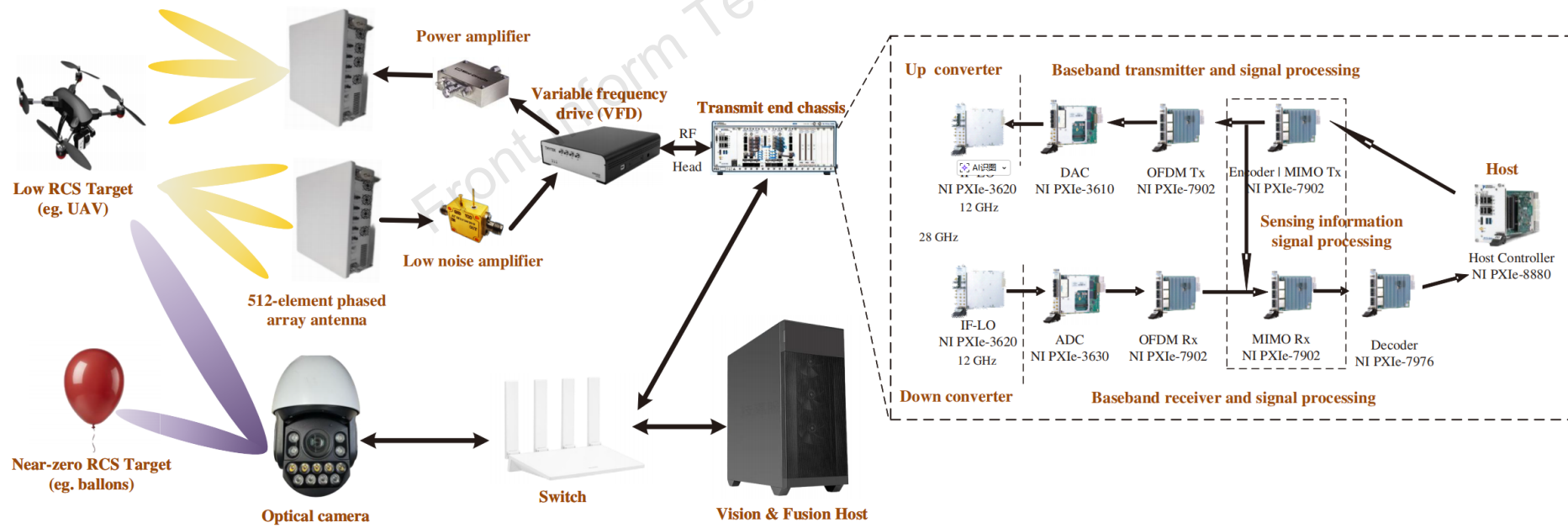
### ISAC subsystem

26 GHz, 800 MHz BW, 256-element array

### Vision subsystem

RGB optical camera, 30 Hz, YOLOv5x

ISAC Validation	Multi-Frequency Sensing	Multimodal Fusion
Lab validation of OFDM waveform, comparing PDSCH vs DMRS schemes	Field test of Sub-6 GHz and mmWave for continuous urban tracking	Vision-ISAC fusion for detecting near-zero RCS targets like balloons
<b>0.345 m</b> PDSCH RMSE	<b>Sub-6 GHz</b> 3.75 GHz <b>mmWave</b> 26 GHz	<b>ISAC</b> 0% <b>Fusion</b> 95%

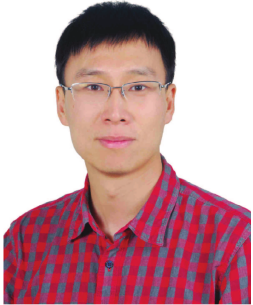


# Author Information

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**Jiapeng LI** received the B.S. degree in information and communication engineering from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), China, in 2022. He is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree at the Key Laboratory of Universal Wireless Communications, Ministry of Education. His research interests include hardware testbed design for integrated sensing and communication (ISAC) and target imaging and recognition technology in ISAC scenarios.



**Qixun ZHANG** received the B.Eng. degree in communication engineering and the Ph.D. degree in circuits and systems from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), China, in 2006 and 2011, respectively. He was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland (2006), and in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Houston, Texas (2019). He is currently a Professor with the School of Information and Communication Engineering, BUPT, and affiliated with the Key Laboratory of Universal Wireless Communications, Ministry of Education. His research interests encompass B5G/6G mobile communication systems, joint communication and sensing for autonomous vehicles, mmWave systems, cognitive radio and heterogeneous networks, game theory, and UAV communications. He is an active IEEE member and participates in ITU-R WP5A/5C/5D standards activities.



**Jinglin LI** received the Ph.D. degree in computer science and technology from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), China, in 2004. He is currently a Professor at BUPT, where he also serves as the Director of the Switching and Intelligent Control Research Center within the State Key Laboratory of Networking and Switching Technology. His research focuses on mobile Internet, Internet of Things, Internet of Vehicles, converged networks, and service enabling technologies.

# Author Information

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**Dingyou MA** received the B.Sc. degree in aerospace science and technology from Xidian University, China, in 2016, and the Ph.D. degree in electronics engineering from Tsinghua University, China, in 2022. Since July 2022, he has been a lecturer at the School of Information and Communication Engineering, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), with the Key Laboratory of Universal Wireless Communications, Ministry of Education. His research interests include communications signal processing, radar signal processing, and dual-function radar-communications systems.



**Zhiyong FENG** (Senior Member, IEEE) received the B.Eng., M.Eng., and Ph.D. degrees from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), China. She is currently a Professor at the School of Information and Communication Engineering, BUPT, and the Director of the Key Laboratory of Universal Wireless Communications, Ministry of Education, China. Her research interests include 5G/6G wireless network architecture and radio resource management, spectrum sensing and dynamic spectrum management for cognitive wireless networks, and universal signal detection and identification. She is the Vice Chair of the Information and Communication Test Committee of the Chinese Institute of Communications (CIC), the Associate Editor-in-Chief of China Communications, and a Technological Advisor to the International Forum on NGN (Next Generation Mobile Networks).