

<b>Title</b>	<b>Confocal Brillouin microscopy for three-dimensional mechanical imaging</b>
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<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Acoustically induced inelastic light scattering, first reported in 1922 by Brillouin<sup>1</sup>, allows non-contact, direct readout of the viscoelastic properties of a material and has widely been investigated for material characterization<sup>2</sup>, structural monitoring<sup>3</sup> and environmental sensing<sup>4</sup>. Extending the Brillouin technique from point sampling spectroscopy to imaging modality<sup>5</sup> would open up new possibilities for mechanical imaging, but has been challenging because rapid spectrum acquisition is required. Here, we demonstrate a confocal Brillouin microscope based on a fully parallel spectrometer—a virtually imaged phased array—that improves the detection efficiency by nearly 100-fold over previous approaches. Using the system, we show the first cross-sectional Brillouin imaging based on elastic properties as the contrast mechanism and monitor fast dynamic changes in elastic modulus during polymer crosslinking. Furthermore, we report the first <i>in situ</i> biomechanical measurement of the crystalline lens in a mouse eye. These results suggest multiple applications of Brillouin microscopy in biomedical and biomaterial science.</p>
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