Motion Compensation and Other Advanced CT Techniques

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Contents

- Motion compensation
- Photon counting CT
- Deep learning



for CT Systems Rotating Slow Compared to the Organ Motion Frequency



Motion Management for CBCT in IGRT







4D CBCT Scan with Retrospective Gating



Without gating (3D): Motion artifacts





With gating (4D): Sparse-view artifacts









varian

A Standard Motion Estimation and Compensation Approach (sMoCo)

 Motion estimation via standard 3D-3D registration



Has to be repeated for each reconstructed phase

4D gated CBCT

sMoCo











 Streak artifacts from gated reconstructions propagate into sMoCo results

varian

Li, Koong, and Xing, "Enhanced 4D cone-beam CT with inter-phase motion model," Med. Phys. 51(9), 3688–3695 (2007).



The Cyclic Motion Estimation and Compensation Approach (cMoCo)

- Motion estimation only between adjacent phases
- Incorporate additional knowledge
 - A priori knowledge of quasi periodic breathing pattern
 - Non-cyclic motion is penalized
 - Error propagation due to concatenation is reduced



Brehm, Paysan, Oelhafen, Kunz, and Kachelrieß, "Self-adapting cyclic registration for motioncompensated cone-beam CT in image-guided radiation therapy," Med. Phys. 39(12):7603-7618, 2012.



Artifact Model-Based MoCo (aMoCo)







Segmented Image

Virtual rawdata:

Measured data:



4D gated CBCT



4D Artifact Images

varian

Brehm, Paysan, Oelhafen, and Kachelrieß, "Artifact-resistant motion estimation with a patient-specific artifact model for motion-compensated cone-beam CT" Med. Phys. 40(10):101913, 2013.



Motion Estimation using a Patient-Specific Artifact Model



Patient Data – Results



varian

C = -200 HU, W = 1400 HU, displayed with 30 rpm. Patient data provided by Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY.





4D PET/MR Motion Compensation MR Results Patient s04

4D gated

4D cMoCo





MVFs



Rank, Heußer, Buzan, Wetscherek, Freitag, Dinkel, Kachelrieß. 4D respiratory motion-compensated image reconstruction of free-breathing radial MR data with very high undersampling. Magn Reson Med 77(3):1170-1183, 2017.

4D PET/MR Motion Compensation PET Results Patient s01

4D cMoCo



due to the high noise level of 4D gated PET, SUV_{mean} was systematically overestimated

C. Rank, T. Heußer, A. Wetscherek, M. Freitag, O. Sedlaczek, H.-P. Schlemmer, and M. Kachelrieß. Respiratory motion compensation for simultaneous PET/MR based on highly undersampled MR data. Med. Phys. 43(12):6234-6245, December 2016.









Data displayed as: Heart: 280 bpm Lung: 150 rpm







Data displayed as: Heart: 180 bpm Lung: 90 rpm







Data displayed as: Heart: 90 bpm Lung: 90 rpm







Data displayed as: Heart: 0 bpm Lung: 90 rpm







Data displayed as: Heart: 90 bpm Lung: 0 rpm





5D with Double Gating?

Double gating example:

Cardiac window width: 20%
Respiratory window width: 10%
Only 2% of all projections per reconstructed volume







Injection Techniques¹



Tail Vein Injection

Retro Bulbar Injection

¹ M. Socher, J. Kuntz, S. Sawall, S. Bartling, and M. Kachelrieß. The retrobulbar sinus is superior to the lateral tail vein for the injection of contrast media in small animal cardiac imaging. Lab. Anim. 48(2), pp. 105-113, February 2014.





Brehm, Sawall, Maier, and Kachelrieß, "Cardio-respiratory motion-compensated micro-CT image reconstruction using an artifact model-based motion estimation" Med. Phys. 42(4):1948-1958, 2015.





Brehm, Sawall, Maier, and Kachelrieß, "Cardio-respiratory motion-compensated micro-CT image reconstruction using an artifact model-based motion estimation" Med. Phys. 42(4):1948-1958, 2015.



Brehm, Sawall, Maier, and Kachelrieß, "Cardio-respiratory motion-compensated micro-CT image reconstruction using an artifact model-based motion estimation" Med. Phys. 42(4):1948-1958, 2015.



Brehm, Sawall, Maier, and Kachelrieß, "Cardio-respiratory motion-compensated micro-CT image reconstruction using an artifact model-based motion estimation" Med. Phys. 42(4):1948-1958, 2015.

7200 Projections



The images show a fixed respiratory and cardiac phase.

Brehm, Sawall, Maier, and Kachelrieß, "Cardio-respiratory motion-compensated micro-CT image reconstruction using an artifact model-based motion estimation" Med. Phys. 42(4):1948-1958, 2015.



3600 Projections



The images show a fixed respiratory and cardiac phase.

Brehm, Sawall, Maier, and Kachelrieß, "Cardio-respiratory motion-compensated micro-CT image reconstruction using an artifact model-based motion estimation" Med. Phys. 42(4):1948-1958, 2015.



720 Projections

3D CBCT

5D double-gated CBCT

5D Motion Compensation

The images show a fixed respiratory and cardiac phase.

Brehm, Sawall, Maier, and Kachelrieß, "Cardio-respiratory motion-compensated micro-CT image reconstruction using an artifact model-based motion estimation" Med. Phys. 42(4):1948-1958, 2015.







5D MR Motion Compensation Results Patient c12

5D

resp MoCo & card gated

3D motion average



5D

resp & card gated

5D MoCo resp & card MoCo r = 1, *c*-loop



dkfz.

total acquisition time: 1 min 55 s, radial undersampling = 36

5D PET/MR Motion Compensation Results Patient s04





Photon Counting CT





Requirements for CT: up to 10⁹ x-ray photon counts per second per mm². Hence, photon counting only achievable for direct converters.

Energy-Selective Detectors: Improved Spectroscopy, Reduced Dose?

Ideally, bin spectra do not overlap, ...



Spectra as seen after having passed a 32 cm water layer.



Energy-Selective Detectors: Improved Spectroscopy, Reduced Dose?

... realistically, however they do!



Spectra as seen after having passed a 32 cm water layer.



Existing Systems 2020

	Setup	Detector	Pixel size (mm²)	FOV	Thresholds	Acquisition	Extra
Philips Healthcare (preclinical) [1, 2, 3]	Preclinical	CdZnTe	0.5 × 0.5	16.8 cm	5 (30-98 keV)	2400 fps	
MARS Bioimaging (preclinical) [4, 5]	Preclinical MARS orthopaedic imaging- cooming soon	2 mm CdZnTe; five medipix3RX chips in a row (70 mm × 14 mm)	0.11 × 0.11	10 cm	8 (10-120 keV)	Scan time: 8 min for a sample with 30 mm diameter and 15 mm length	Charge summing mode
Siemens Somatom CounT [6]	Clinical, whole body	Dual-source CT with one PC detector of 1.6 mm CdTe	0.225 × 0.225 or 0.45 × 0.45 or 0.9 × 0.9	27.5 cm	4 (20-90 keV)	2304 fps 4608 fps	
KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm [7]	Table-top Translating detector	30 mm silicon strip	0.4 × 0.5	0.93 cm (need to translate the detector several times)	8	300 Mcps/mm ²	Edge-on design
Center for In Vivo Microscopy, Duke University, Durham (preclinical) [8, 9]	Preclinical Table-top	1 mm CdTe	0.15 × 0.15	~6.5 cm	4		
DKFZ (preclinical)	Preclinical	1 mm CdTe	0.15 × 0.15	~15 cm	4 (9-90 keV)	200 fps 100 Mcps/mm²	


Non-Proprietary Relevant PC Detectors

	Sensor	Pixel	Sensor Area	Bins	Acquisition	Features	
Medipix3RX ^{1,2}	Si or CdTe	55 µm	1.4 × 1.4 cm ²	2	61 Mcps/mm ²	Charge summing mode: half the number of thresholds, count rate reduced by a factor of 4 to 5	
		110 µm	3-side buttable	8	15 Mcps/mm ²		
Pixirad Module ³	CdTe 0.65 mm	55 µm	$3.1 \times 2.5 \text{ cm}^2$ 2-side buttable	2	200 fps 162 Mcps/mm ²	Hexagonal pixel	
Dectris Säntis ⁴	CdTe	150 µm	30.8 × 3.8 cm ²	4	200 fps 100 Mcps/mm ²		
Direct conver- sion XC Thor ⁵	CdTe 0.75 or 2.0 mm	100 µm	up to 5.12 × 40.0 cm ²	2	300 fps 200 Mcps/mm ²	Charge sharing correction	



Medipix



Säntis

XC Thor

- ¹ Ballabriga, et al. (2013). The medipix3RX: A high resolution, zero dead-time pixel detector readout chip allowing spectroscopic imaging. Journal of Instrumentation.
- ² Frojdh, et al. (2014). Count rate linearity and spectral response of the Medipix3RX chip coupled to a 300µm silicon sensor under high flux conditions. Journal of Instrumentation.
- ³ https://indico.cern.ch/event/284070/sessions/53910/attachments/524517/723391/Ravenna_Bellazzini1.pdf
- ⁴ Information provided by Dectris Ltd.
- ⁵ https://directconversion.com/product/xc-thor/





Diagnostic CT (Conventional Detector) of a Low Contrast Phantom



ORM

00

2D-Low-Contrast

Phantom

00

-20 HU

0

Photon Counting Detector CT of a Low Contrast Phantom



Same dose. At same spatial resolution (MTF) better image quality.



C = 0 HU, W = 80 HU





Siemens CounT CT System

Gantry from a clinical dual source scanner A: conventional CT detector (50.0 cm FOV) B: Photon counting detector (27.5 cm FOV)



Readout Modes of the CounT

PC-UHR Mode 0.25 mm pixel size

PC-Macro Mode 0.50 mm pixel size **El detector** 0.60 mm pixel size



Experimental CT, not commercially available.

Advantages of Photon Counting CT

- No reflective gap between detector pixels
 - Higher geometrical efficiency
 - Less dose
- No electronic noise
 - Less dose for infants
 - Less noise for obese patients

Counting

- Swank factor = 1 = maximal
- Higher weights on low energies = good for iodine contrast

Energy bin weighting

- Lower dose/noise
- Improved iodine CNR
- Smaller pixels (to avoid pileup)
 - Higher spatial resolution
 - Lower dose/noise at conventional resolution
- Spectral information on demand



Dark Image of Photon Counter Shows Background Radiation

18 frames, 5 min integration time per frame

Energy Integrating (Dexela)



C/W = 0 a.u./70 a.u.

Photon Counting (Dectris Santis)



C/W = 1 cnts/2 cnts

Accumulated Signal

Events per Frame

Dark current dominates. Readout noise only. Single events hidden!

No dark current. No readout noise. Single events visible!

C/W = 30 a.u./450 a.u.

DECTRIS

C/W = 3 cnts/8 cnts



Santis: 1 mm CdTe, 150 µm pixel size, 4 thresholds.

Photon Counting used to Maximize CNR

- With PC energy bins can be weighted individually.
- To optimize the CNR the optimal bin weighting factor is given by (weighting after log):

 $w_b \propto rac{C_b}{V_l}$

The resulting CNR is

$$CNR^2 = \frac{(\sum_b w_b C_b)^2}{\sum_b w_b^2 V_b}$$



• At the optimum this evaluates to $CNR^{2} = \sum_{b=1}^{B} CNR_{b}^{2}$



Energy Integrating vs. Photon Counting with 1 bin from 20 to 140 keV

Energy Integrating

PC minus El

Photon Counting



Images: C = 0 HU, W = 700 HU, difference image: C = 0 HU, W = 350 HU, bins start at 20 keV

Energy Integrating vs. Photon Counting with 4 bins from 20 to 140 keV

Energy Integrating

PC minus **EI**

Photon Counting



Images: C = 0 HU, W = 700 HU, difference image: C = 0 HU, W = 350 HU, bins start at 20 keV

Spatial Resolution

- Small electrodes are necessary to avoid pile-up.
- High bias voltages (around 300 V) limit charge diffusion and thus blurring in the non-structured semiconductor layer.
- Thus, higher spatial resolution is achievable.





Ultra-High Resolution on Demand

Energy Integrating CT (Somatom Flash)



Photon Counting CT (Somatom CounT in UHR-Mode)



Courtesy of Cynthia McCollough, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA.



Kachelrieß, Kalender. Med. Phys. 32(5):1321-1334, May 2005

All images reconstructed with 1024^2 matrix and 0.15 mm slice increment. C = 1000 HU W = 3500 HU



Data courtesy of the Institute of Forensic Medicine of the University of Heidelberg and of the Division of Radiology of the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)

PC-UHR, U80f, 0.25 mm slice thickness

± 214 HU

PC-UHR, U80f, 0.75 mm slice thickness

± 131 HU

PC-UHR, B80f, 0.75 mm slice thickness

± 53 HU

El, B80f, 0.75 mm slice thickness

± 75 HU

10% MTF: 19.1 lp/cm 10% MTF:17.2 lp/cm xy FWHM: 0.48 mm z FWHM: 0.40 mm CTDl_{vol}: 16.0 mGy

10% MTF: 19.1 lp/cm 10% MTF:17.2 lp/cm xy FWHM: 0.48 mm z FWHM: 0.67 mm CTDI_{vol}: 16.0 mGy

10% MTF: 9.3 lp/cm 10% MTF:10.5 lp/cm xy FWHM: 0.71 mm z FWHM: 0.67 mm CTDI_{vol}: 16.0 mGy

10% MTF: 9.3 lp/cm 10% MTF:10.5 lp/cm xy FWHM: 0.71 mm z FWHM: 0.67 mm CTDI_{vol}: 16.0 mGy

dkfz.

L. Klein, C. Amato, S. Heinze, M. Uhrig, H.-P. Schlemmer, M. Kachelrieß, and S. Sawall. Effects of Detector Sampling on Noise Reduction in a Clinical Photon Counting Whole-Body CT. Investigative Radiology, vol. 55(2), in press, February 2020.



Energy Integrating Detector (B70f)

Acquisition with EI:

- Tube voltage of 120 kV
- Tube current of 300 mAs
- Resulting dose of CTDI_{vol 32 cm} = 22.6 mGy

This is a 35% dose reduction. Up to 64% are possible using iodine.

Photon Counting Detector (B70f)

Acquisition with UHR:

- Tube voltage of 120 kV
- Tube current of 180 mAs
- Resulting dose of CTDI_{vol 32 cm} = 14.6 mGy

C = 50 HU, W = 1500 HU



MIP of low threshold images (20 keV)

Coronal

Sagittal

Scan 2







Scan at 60 kV of the late phase of iodine based contrast agent (iodine in the bladder). Part of the contrast agent was injected outside of the vessel (enhancement in the tail).



DECTRIS

MIP of iodine and bone

Coronal

Scan 1

Scan 2

DECTRIS

Sagittal



Energy thresholds at 20 and 32 keV. Iodine k-edge at 33 keV.

Possibility to unambiguously differentiate iodine and bone.

k-Edge Imaging

0 keV



140[']keV





Fully Connected Neural Network

- Each layer fully connects to previous layer
- Difficult to train (many parameters in W and b)
- Spatial relations not necessarily preserved



 $y(x) = f(W \cdot x + b)$ with $f(x) = (f(x_1), f(x_2), ...)$ point-wise scalar, e.g. $f(x) = x \vee 0 = \text{ReLU}$

Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

- Replace dense W in $y(x) = f(W \cdot x + b)$ by a sparse matrix W with sparsity being of convolutional type.
- CNNs consist (mainly) of convolutional layers.
- Convolutional layers are not fully connected.
- Convolutional layers are connected by small, say 3x3, convolution kernels whose entries need to be found by training.
- CNNs preserve spatial relations to some extent.









¹O. Ronneberger, P. Fischer, and T. Brox. U-net: Convolutional networks for biomedical image segmentation. Proc. MICCAI:234-241, 2015.

Generative Adversarial Network¹ (GAN)

 Useful, if no direct ground truth (GT) is available, the training data are unpaired, unsupervised learning

¹I. Goodfellow et al. Generative Adversarial Nets, arXiv 2014

Metal Artifact Reduction Example

 Deep CNN-driven patch-based combination of the advantages of several MAR methods trained on simulated artifacts

- followed by segmentation into tissue classes
- followed by forward projection of the CNN prior and replacement of metal areas of the original sinogram
- followed by reconstruction

Yanbo Zhang and Hengyong Yu. Convolutional Neural Network Based Metal Artifact Reduction in X-Ray Computed Tomography. TMI 37(6):1370-1381, June 2018.

Sparse View Restoration Example

Yo Seob Han, Jaejun Yoo and Jong Chul Ye. Deep Residual Learning for Compressed Sensing CT Reconstruction via Persistent Homology Analysis. ArXiv 2016.

64 view <mark>(</mark>9)

- Task: Reduce noise from low dose CT images.
- A conditional generative adversarial networks (GAN) is used
- Generator G:
 - 3D CNN that operates on small cardiac CT sub volumes
 - Seven 3×3×3 convolutional layers yielding a receptive field of 15×15×15 voxels for each destination voxel
 - Depths (features) from 32 to 128
 - Batch norm only in the hidden layers
 - Subtracting skip connection
- Discriminator D:
 - Sees either routine dose image or a generator-denoised low dose image
 - Two 3×3×3 layers followed by several 3×3 layers with varying strides
 - Feedback from *D* prevents smoothing.
- Training:
 - Unenhanced (why?) patient data acquired with Philips Briliance iCT 256 at 120 kV.
 - Two scans (why?) per patient, one with 0.2 mSv and one with 0.9 mSv effective dose.

Low dose image (0.2 mSv)

iDose level 3 reconstruction (0.2 mSv)

Denoised low dose image (0.2 mSv)

Normal dose image (0.9 mSv)

Deep Scatter Estimation

???

In real time?

Monte Carlo Scatter Estimation

- Simulation of photon trajectories according to physical interaction probabilities.
- 1 to 10 hours per tomographic data set Simulating a large number ries well approximat

suplete scatter distribution

Deep Scatter Estimation

Network architecture & scatter estimation framework

J. Maier, M. Kachelrieß et al. Deep scatter estimation (DSE). SPIE 2017 and Journal of Nondestructive Evaluation 37:57, July 2018. J. Maier, M. Kachelrieß et al. Robustness of DSE. Med. Phys. 46(1):238-249, January 2019.

Deep Scatter Estimation (DSE)

J. Maier, M. Kachelrieß et al. Deep scatter estimation (DSE). SPIE 2017 and Journal of Nondestructive Evaluation 37:57, July 2018. J. Maier, M. Kachelrieß et al. Robustness of DSE. Med. Phys. 46(1):238-249, January 2019.

Results on Simulated Projection Data

	Primary intensity	Scatter ground truth (GT)	(Kernel – GT) / GT	(Hybrid - GT) / GT	(DSE – GT) / GT
View #1			14.1% mean absolute	7.2% mean absolute	1.2% mean absolute
View #2			percentage error over all projections	error over all projections	error over all projections
View #3					
View #4				6.3	
View #5	C = 0.5, W = 1.0	C = 0.04, W = 0.04	C = 0 %, W = 50 %	C = 0 %, W = 50 %	C = 0 %, W = 50 %

DSE trained to estimate scatter from primary plus scatter: High accuracy

Reconstructions of Measured Data



C = 0 HU, W = 1000 HU

J. Maier, M. Kachelrieß et al. Deep scatter estimation (DSE). SPIE 2017 and Journal of Nondestructive Evaluation 37:57, July 2018. J. Maier, M. Kachelrieß et al. Robustness of DSE. Med. Phys. 46(1):238-249, January 2019.



A simple detruncation was applied to the rawdata before reconstruction. Images were clipped to the FOM before display. C = -200 HU, W = 1000 HU.

Truncated DSE^{1,2}



To learn why MC fails at truncated data and what significant efforts are necessary to cope with that situation see [Kachelrieß et al. Effect of detruncation on the accuracy of MC-based scatter estimation in truncated CBCT. Med. Phys. 45(8):3574-3590, August 2018].

¹J. Maier, M. Kachelrieß et al. Deep scatter estimation (DSE) for truncated cone-beam CT (CBCT). RSNA 2018. ²J. Maier, M. Kachelrieß et al. Robustness of DSE. Med. Phys. 46(1):238-249, January 2019.





KSE	Head	Thorax	Abdomen
Head	14.5	26.8	32.5
Thorax	16.2	18.5	19.4
Abdomen	16.8	22.1	17.8
All data	14.9	20.5	19.3

DSE	Head	Thorax	Abdomen
Head	1.2	21.1	32.7
Thorax	8.8	1.5	9.1
Abdomen	11.9	10.9	1.3
All data	1.8	1.4	1.4



TOP DOWNLOADED PAPER 2018-2019

CONGRATULATIONS TO Marc Kachelriess whose paper has been recognized as one of the most read in Medical Physics

WILEY

Values shown are the mean absolute percentage errors (MAPEs) of the testing data. Note that thorax and head suffer from truncation due to the small size of the 40×30 cm flat detector.

J. Maier, M. Kachelrieß et al. Deep scatter estimation (DSE). SPIE 2017 and Journal of Nondestructive Evaluation 37:57, July 2018. J. Maier, M. Kachelrieß et al. Robustness of DSE. Med. Phys. 46(1):238-249, January 2019.



Deep Dose Estimation



??? In real time?





Deep Dose Estimation (DDE)

- Combine fast and accurate CT dose estimation using a deep convolutional neural network.
- Train the network to reproduce MC dose estimates given the CT image and a first-order dose estimate.



J. Maier, E. Eulig, S. Sawall, and M. Kachelrieß. Real-time patient-specific CT dose estimation using a deep convolutional neural network, Proc. IEEE MIC 2018 and ECR Book of Abstracts 2019. Best Paper within Machine Learning at ECR 2019!

Results Thorax, tube A, 120 kV, no bowtie

CT image

First order dose

MC ground truth





	МС	DDE
48 slices	1 h	0.25 s
whole body	20 h	5 s

MC uses 16 CPU kernels **DDE uses one Nvidia Quadro P600** GPU

DDE training took 74 h for 300 epochs, 1440 samples, 48 slices per sample

Relative error



W = 40%

J. Maier, E. Eulig, S. Sawall, and M. Kachelrieß. Real-time patient-specific CT dose estimation using a deep convolutional neural network, Proc. IEEE MIC 2018 and ECR Book of Abstracts 2019. Best Paper within Machine Learning at ECR 2019!



C = 0%

Deep Cardiac Motion Compensation





Motion Compensation for Cardiac CT



J. Maier, S. Lebedev, E. Eulig, S. Sawall, E. Fournié, K. Stierstorfer, and M. Kachelrieß .Coronary artery motion compensation for short-scan cardiac CT using a spatial transformer network. Conference Program of the 6th International CT-Meeting, August 2020.







J. Maier, S. Lebedev, E. Eulig, S. Sawall, E. Fournié, K. Stierstorfer, and M. Kachelrieß .Coronary artery motion compensation for short-scan cardiac CT using a spatial transformer network. Conference Program of the 6th International CT-Meeting, August 2020.



Results Measurements, patient 1

Slice 1 Slice 2 Slice 3 Slice 4 No Correction PAMoCo Deep PAMoCo

J. Maier, S. Lebedev, E. Eulig, S. Sawall, E. Fournié, K. Stierstorfer, and M. Kachelrieß .Coronary artery motion compensation for short-scan cardiac CT using a spatial transformer network. Conference Program of the 6th International CT-Meeting, August 2020.

C = 1000 HU W = 1000 HU



Results Measurements, patient 2

Slice 1

Slice 2

Slice 3

Slice 4



J. Maier, S. Lebedev, E. Eulig, S. Sawall, E. Fournié, K. Stierstorfer, and M. Kachelrieß .Coronary artery motion compensation for short-scan cardiac CT using a spatial transformer network. Conference Program of the 6th International CT-Meeting, August 2020.

C = 1000 HU W = 1000 HU

Results Measurements, patient 3



J. Maier, S. Lebedev, E. Eulig, S. Sawall, E. Fournié, K. Stierstorfer, and M. Kachelrieß .Coronary artery motion compensation for short-scan cardiac CT using a spatial transformer network. Conference Program of the 6th International CT-Meeting, August 2020.

C = 1100 HU W = 1000 HU

Thank You

Job opportunities through DKFZ's international PhD or Postdoctoral Fellowship programs (www.dkfz.de), or directly through Marc Kachelriess (marc.kachelriess@dkfz.de).

Parts of the reconstruction software were provided by RayConStruct[®] GmbH, Nürnberg, Germany.