Introduction to Medical Imaging

Lecture 1: Overview

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Overall Concept



object



imaging device



data

imaging algorithm

reconstructed cross-sectional image



Imaging Modalities Overview



X-ray

metabolic tracer X-ray emission

sound waves

Anatomic vs Functional Imaging

A PET scan shows that you use it

History: X-Rays

Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen

- 8 November 1895: discovers X-rays.
- 22 November 1895: X-rays Mrs. Röntgen's hand.
- 1901: receives first Nobel Prize in physics

An early X-ray imaging system:

Note: so far all we can see is a projection across the patient:

History: Computed Tomography

The breakthrough:

acquiring many projections around the object enables the reconstruction of the 3D object (or a cross-sectional 2D slice)

CT reconstruction pioneers:

- 1917: Johann Radon establishes the mathematical framework for tomography, now called the Radon transform.
- 1963: Allan Cormack publishes mathematical analysis of tomographic image reconstruction, unaware of Radon's work
- 1972: Godfrey Hounsfield develops first CT system, unaware of either Radon or Cormack's work, develops his own reconstruction method.
- 1979 Hounsfield and Cormack receive the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Radon

Cormack Hounsfield

Computed Tomography: Concept

Computed Tomography: Past and Present

Image from the Siemens Siretom CT scanner, ca. 1975

• 128x128 matrix.

Modern CT image acquired with a Siemens scanner

• 512x512 matrix

Slice Viewer

3D Visualization

Reconstructed object enables:

- Enhanced X-ray visualization from novel views:
- Maximum Intensity (MIP) visualization:

• Shaded object display:

More Visualizations

Aortic Stent and Arterial Vessels

Cartotid Stenosis

Virtual Medicine

Virtual colonoscopy, endoscopy, arthroscopy

Virtual therapy and surgery planning

Training platform

History: Ultrasound

1942: Dr. Karl Theodore Dussik,

- transmission ultrasound investigation of the brain
- 1955: Holmes and Howry

• Subject submerged in water tank to achieve good acoustic coupling

image of normal neck

1959: Automatic scanner, Glasgow

twin gestation sacs (s) and bladder (B).

Ultrasound: Present

3D Ultrasound

Intravasular ultrasound

Doppler ultrasound

History: MRI

1946: Felix Bloch (Stanford) and Edward Purcell (Harvard) demonstrate nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)

- 1973: Paul Lauterbur (Stony Brook University) published first MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) image in Nature.
 - receives the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2003
- Late 1970's: First human MRI images conceived

Early 1980's: First commercial MRI systems available

1993: Functional MRI in humans demonstrated

MRI Concept

MRI measures the effects of magnetic properties of tissue

- these effects are tissue-specific
- also specific to blood perfusion / oxygenization (functional MRI)

MRI is very versatile (but also more expensive than CT)

T1-weighted density-weighted T2-weighted

slice viewer

Cardiac MRI

 measures the distortion of "tags" to assess motion of the heart tissue

Diffusion Tensor Imaging

- measures the diffusion of water
- allows the tracking of nerve fibers in the brain (white matter)

Functional MRI

- allows to assess brain activity during certain tasks
- valuable for brain functional studies, but also for surgery planning and diagnosis

A. Motor cortex activity with left finger tapping

MR Spectroscopy

• measures the distribution of chemicals in each "voxel" of the brain

MR Angiography

- magnetizes the bolus of blood, enhances vessels
- similar effects to X-ray angiography, but non-invasive

MR angiography

X-ray angiography

MR Microscopy

- can resolve volumes of down to 50 mm³ (clincial MR does 1mm³)
- use for small animal experiments (in place of distructive histology)

Credits

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