Motion Compensation in Positron Emission Tomography: Performance of a Clinical Integration at the PET centre Dresden-Rossendorf

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Institute of Radiopharmacy - PET centre • Dr. Jens Langner • www.fzd.de • Member of the Leibniz Association





- introduction of the FZD and its PET facility
- motivation for working on motion compensation
- motion tracking and quantification of patient motion
- why list-mode? solved problems with ECAT scanners
- event-based motion compensation, its challanges and performance
- methods for clinical integration
- conclusion / summary

Introduction - the FZD





- Established: 1992
- Employees: ≈ 750,
 ≈ 330 scientists (≈ 120 Ph.D. candidates)
- **Budget:** ≈ 61 Mio €
- Member of Leibniz Association
- 6 institutes and 6 large-scale facilities



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Introduction - PET centre





• Established: 1995

• In cooperation with the nuclear medicine department of the *Technical University Dresden*

• Head:

Prof. Dr. Dr. Jörg van den Hoff

interdisciplinary group:

radiochemistry biochemistry biology medicine computer science physics

facilities:

cyclotron radiochemical laboratories (GMP) human + small animal PET small animal MRI and CT human PET/MRI (in Q2/2010)

PET tracers:

16F-FDG, 18F-OMFD, 18F-FDOPA, NaF, 11C-Acetate, 15O-water (GMP), ...



Research focus - PET group

- radiotracer development
- preclinical and clinical PET studies in oncology and neurology
- characterization of selected parameters for PET-guided therapy response monitoring
- PET in radiation treatment planning
- quantitative evaluation of tracer kinetics
- multi-modality in vivo imaging
- PET in pharmaceutical research



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- quantitative evaluation of tracer kinetics
- multi-modality in vivo imaging
- PET in pharmaceutical research
- improvement of PET imaging:
 - optimized ROI delineation:
 e.g. automatic background dependent
 3D-ROI delineation and segmentation
 - utilization of list-mode data
 - motion compensation techniques



- PET is a functional method for imaging of biochemical and physiological processes *in vivo*
- provides absolute quantitative values for evaluation of metabolic processes
- current spatial resolution: \approx 5 mm (brain), \approx 8 mm (whole body)
- recent developments (e.g. PSF optimized reconstructions) demonstrate the feasibility of \approx 2 mm
- acquisition times of several minutes to hours are unavoidable (low signal/noise ratio, dynamic acquisitions, etc.)



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patient movement increasingly limits the achievable spatial resolution in PET ...



... and immobilizations are of limited help only



- 1. **Intra**-frame movement (dynamic + static acquisitions):
 - loss in resolution ("motion blurring")
 - reconstruction/image artifacts
 - systematic errors in quantitative evaluations
 (e.g. standardized uptake value SUV in FDG whole body)
- 2. **Inter**-frame movement (dynamic acquisitions):
 - incorrect registration between frames
 - (massive) systematic errors in time-activity-curves (TAC)
 - systematic errors in quantification of tracer kinetics



Motivation - Qualitative Consequences



Example: 18F-FDG PET



without motion

with patient motion

💤 Motivation - Quantitative Consequences



time-activity-curve (TAC)

💤 Motivation - many approaches...



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Motivation - ... but only a handful of paths



ECHNISCH



- motion compensation for brain acquisitions in PET
 - using the "raw data" (list-mode) of a PET scanner
 - using an external motion tracking device
 - focused on clinical usability

<u>Tasks</u>

- 1) motion tracking and quantification of motion
- 2) routine acquisition of list-mode data
- 3) development and optimization of an event-based motion compensation algorithm
- 4) methods for integration into clinical routine (e.g. graphical user interfaces)

🔁 Motion Tracking



- External motion tracking device (infrared video cameras - ARTtrack)
 - spatial resolution better than 1 mm
 - time resolution < 50 ms
 - output of all six degrees of freedom (3x translations, 3x rotations)





<u>Methods</u>:

- 1.Installation/Calibration: e.g. calibration with PET coordinate system
- 2. Development and evaluation of a suitable motion target
- 3. Integration into clinical routine



Motion Tracking - Target development



• **Problem**: motion target has to output the <u>true</u> patient motion.



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Motion Tracking - Target evaluation results





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 Problem: drawing conclusions on the <u>significance</u> of motion from the six degrees of freedom can be ambiguous



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- 1.apply the motion parameters to selected points on an imaginary sphere within the FOV (sphere approximates a human head \approx 20 cm diameter)
- 2. calculate the euclidean distance for each point





Motion Quantification - Example



Patient head movement analysis with significant motion (> 4 mm) selected:



10 sign.motion found on artifical head surface (r=100mm) 3 sign.motion found in mean striatum areas

Motion Quantification - Example





List-mode: Measuring principle of PET





 Registration of coincidences (events) between two detectors i.e. *Line-of-Response* (LOR)

PET acquisition - why list-mode?

- highest time and data resolution possible (raw data vs. compression of LORs with sinograms)
- allows to retrospectively change the framing scheme
- modification of coincidence data prior to image reconstruction (e.g. apply motion correction, list-mode based reconstructions, etc.)





- Direct access to list-mode data often limited or not supported at all (\approx 0.5 MB/s with an ECAT EXACT HR+)
 - no clinical usability due to long transfer times e.g. for a typical amount of 4-6 GB ≈ 3 hours



Method A:



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Method A:

- optimised data access by providing a different data access path (\approx 70 MB/s using dual-channel SCSI-RAID system)
 - \Rightarrow allows transfer < 1 min



Method B:





Method B:

- optocoupler-based adapter card to read out the list-mode data directly from an external data bus of ACS
 - receive coincidences in real-time during acquisition
 - ➡ apply motion correction or image reconstruction in real-time







- <u>Method</u>:
 - 1.spatial transformation of all registered events
 - 2.sorting events into sinograms
 - 3.apply standard reconstruction (e.g. OSEM)

- <u>complications</u>:
 - 1. detector normalisation
 - 2. LOR discretisation





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 "Loss" of events due to the transformation of LORs outside the field-of-view (FOV)

• Initial approach [1]:

 $f = \frac{\text{Acqtime}}{\text{Acqtime} - \text{Out-of-FOV-time}}$

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$$N_{\text{corrected}} = N_{\text{measured}} \cdot f$$

This approach does not always solve the problem:











Goal: *minimisation of Out-of-FOV factors*

• Original approach:

transformation of all events to acquisition start (**t**_{ref} = **0**)

- Optimised approach:
- 1. Analysis of motion data
- 2. Identify optimal reference time
 (tref = topt)
 - <u>condition</u>: position in which the patient has been most of the time
- 3. Transformation of all events to time $\boldsymbol{t_{ref}}$





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Z Results of optimized Out-of-FOV correction





Distribution of Out-of-FOV factors (boxplot)

- Noticable reduction of Out-of-FOV factors
- Noticable reduction of image artefacts

Results of optimized Out-of-FOV correction





qualitative comparison

- Noticable reduction of Out-of-FOV factors
- Noticable reduction of image artefacts



Qualitative Comparison



Z Results of MC - example patient data I



without motion correction



with motion correction

4344.67

concentration [Bq/cc]

0.0

male, 64 years

PET acquisition:

55 min emission

detected motion:

1,2 - 19,4 mm mean: 11,3 mm

M. Parkinson

F-18 DOPA

171 MBq i.v.

(27 frames)

differential diagnoses

10 min transmission



Transaxial

Transaxial

- better delineation of the striatum
- reduction of image artefacts

Results of MC - example patient data I



quantitative evaluation



Quantitative evaluation via a tracer kinetics analysis:

- standard procedure at our PET centre for *M. Parkinson* evaluation:
- 1.positioning of 8 region-of-interest (ROI) in the striatum + 1 ROI in the occipital lobe as a reference tissue
- 2.comparison of time-activity-curves (TAC); calculation of the tracer kinetics parameter R₀k₃ on the base of an *irreversible reference tissue two compartment model* (Patlak plot)

Results of MC - example patient data I

ak.txt















Clinical Integration - Motion report pages





- patient motion has a potentially high influence on the image quality and on the accuracy of a tracer kinetics analysis
- a quantitative motion compensation is possible, can be integrated into clinical routine and helps minimising or even eliminating motion related effects
- the quantification of patient motion via an external motion tracking device is independent from applying a motion correction and provides additional information for the evaluation of questionable image artifacts
- a motion correction can be an important factor for the possibility to perform certain studies (e.g. in case of long scan times)
- the amount of "lost scans" due to patient motion can be reduced in clinical routine
- parts of the methods have already been transferred to another centre (Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany)

Patient study underway...





- **912** clinically acquired brain scans incl. motion correction performed until today
 - 666 F18-DOPA (M. Parkinson)
 - 143 F18-FDG (M. Alzheimer)
 - 54 F18-OMFD (oncology)
 - 49 others
- <u>ToDo</u>:
 - 1) Evaluation of the image quality improvement
 - 2)Selection of suitable patient data for detailed analysis
 - 3) Evaluation of the changes in tracer kinetics due to the motion compensation

Who made it possible?

- Jörg van den Hoff
- Paul Bühler
- Frank Hofheinz
- Jens Langner
- Uwe Just
- Hagen Mölle
- Christian Pötzsch
- Edmund Will
- Sören Dittrich

- Bettina Beuthien-Baumann
- Liane Oehme

... and the city of Dresden



