#### Artifact Reduction Basic Short Course

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# This Presentation ...

- discusses pragmatic and efficient approaches to reduce artifacts, such as
  - beam hardening artifacts,
  - cone-beam artifacts,
  - scatter artifacts,
  - metal artifacts, ...
- does not discuss iterative reconstruction techniques that may be less susceptible to artifacts due to improved modeling
- does not discuss artifact avoidance techniques such as
  - special trajectories (to avoid cone-beam artifacts),
  - flying focal spot (to reduce sampling artifacts),
  - spectral shaping (to reduce beam hardening),
  - anti scatter grids or the iPMSE technique (to reduce scatter artifact),
  - beta blockers (to reduce motion artifacts), ...











### **More or Less Artifacts?**

#### Less artifacts due to

- new clinical CT detectors with extremely low electronic noise
- better x-ray tubes and spectral shaping in clinical CT
- improved anti-scatter grids in clinical CT
- shorter rotation times in clinical CT
- smaller detector pixels
- More artifacts due to

— ...

- more applications in flat detector CT
- low x-ray power in flat detector CT
- less efficient anti-scatter grids in flat detector CT
- long rotation times in flat detector CT
- flat detetors with significant flaws: afterglow, electronic noise, low absorption efficiency, low stability, low dynamic range, ...





In-plane resolution: 0.4 ... 0.7 mm Nominal slice thickness:  $S = 0.5 \dots 1.5$  mm Tube (max. values): 120 kW, 150 kV, 1300 mA Effective tube current: mAs<sub>eff</sub> = 10 mAs ... 1000 mAs Rotation time:  $T_{rot} = 0.25 \dots 0.5$  s Simultaneously acquired slices:  $M = 16 \dots 320$ Table increment per rotation:  $d = 1 \dots 183$  mm Scan speed: up to 73 cm/s Temporal resolution: 50 ... 250 ms









**Siemens Vectron** 

Toshiba Megacool Vi



Lell et al., Invest. Radiol. 50(9):629-644, September 2015



## 120 kV + 0 mm water with and without prefilter





## 120 kV + 320 mm water with and without prefilter





# **Beam Hardening**

- Measurement  $q = -\ln \int dE \, w(E) e^{-\int dL \, \mu(\boldsymbol{r}, E)}$
- Single material approximation:  $\mu(r, E) = f_1(r)\psi_1(E)$

$$q = -\ln \int dE \, w(E) e^{-p_1 \psi_1(E)}$$

 $\rightarrow$  cupping, first order BH artifacts  $\rightarrow$  cupping correction (water precorrection)

• Two material case:  $\mu(r, E) = f_1(r)\psi_1(E) + f_2(r)\psi_2(E)$ 

$$q = -\ln \int dE \, w(E) e^{-p_1 \psi_1(E)} - p_2 \psi_2(E)$$

 $\rightarrow$  banding artifacts, higher order BH artifacts  $\rightarrow$  higher order BH correction



# **First Order Beam Hardening**

#### 32 cm Water Phantom

#### **Phantom with Water Precorrection**



# **Analytical Cupping Correction**

- Know the detected spectrum, e.g.  $w(E) \propto E I(E) \left(1 - e^{-\mu_{\rm D}(E)} d_{\rm D}\right)$
- Assume the object to be decomposed as

such that  $q = -\ln \int dE w(E) e^{-\int dL p \psi(E)}$  with  $p = \int dL f(r)$ 

 $\mu(\boldsymbol{r}, E) = f(\boldsymbol{r})\psi(E)$ 

• Invert to get p = P(q)



# **Empirical Cupping Correction (ECC)**

 $\boldsymbol{n}$ 

 $\boldsymbol{n}$ 

Series expansion of the precorrection function

$$p = P(q) = \sum c_n P_n(q) = \sum c_n q^r$$

Go to image domain by reconstructing q<sup>n</sup>

$$f_n(\boldsymbol{r}) = \mathsf{X}^{-1} P_n(q) = \mathsf{X}^{-1} q^n$$

n

Find coefficients from

$$f(\boldsymbol{r}) = \mathsf{X}^{-1}p = \mathsf{X}^{-1}P(q) = \sum c_n f_n(\boldsymbol{r})$$





# **ECC Template Image**

$$c = \arg\min_{c} \int d^3 r w(r) (f(r) - t(r))^2$$

$$f(\boldsymbol{r}) = \sum_{n} c_{n} f_{n}(\boldsymbol{r})$$





#### **Results: Water Phantom**

#### Orig (Mean±4Sigma)



#### ECC (Mean±4Sigma)





### **Results: Mouse Scan**

#### No correction (Mean±4Sigma)



#### ECC (Mean±4Sigma)













#### **Higher Order Beam Hardening**



Image domain algorithms, such as the scaling method, do not account for higher order beam hardening effects. They can recover the attenuation correction factors (ACF) only to a first order of approximation.



## **Energy Dependence of Attenuation**





#### Many Materials (typically requires iterative BHC)

- Assume  $\mu(E, \mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i} \psi_i(E) g_i(\mathbf{r}) = \psi(E) \cdot g(\mathbf{r})$  Let  $q = \chi_g g = -\ln \int dE w(E) e^{-\psi(E)} \cdot \mathbf{p}$

with 
$$p_i = Xg_i = \int dL g_i(\boldsymbol{r})$$

 For beam hardening correction we need to recover  $g_i(r)$  for all materials present. Then we can convert to any desired  $E_0$  as

$$\mu(E_0,oldsymbol{r}) = \sum_i \psi_i(E_0) g_i(oldsymbol{r})$$



### **Iterative BHC**

with

initial water-precorrected CT image

(or rawdata)

desired BHC-corrected / CT image

 $X_f f = \overline{X_g g}$  $B_f f = B_g g = g - (1 - B_g)g$  $g = B_f f + (1 - B_g)g$ 

$$\mathsf{B}_{f} = \mathsf{X}^{-1}\mathsf{X}_{f}$$
$$\mathsf{B}_{g} = \mathsf{X}^{-1}\mathsf{X}_{g}$$

Numerically superior expressions:

$$g = f + (\mathsf{B}_f - \mathsf{B})f + (\mathsf{B} - \mathsf{B}_g)g$$
 with  $\mathsf{B} = \mathsf{X}^{-1}\mathsf{X}$ 

$$g^{(n+1)} = f + (\mathsf{B}_f - \mathsf{B})f + (\mathsf{B} - \mathsf{B}_g)g^{(n)}$$
 with  $g^{(0)} = f$ 

Shortcut: 
$$g^{(1)} = f + \mathsf{X}^{-1}(\mathsf{X}_f - \mathsf{X}_g)f$$



#### Phantom Measurements Spiral 64-Slice CT Scan at 120 kV



#### **Original Image**

**BHC Image** 

#### **Original minus BHC**



- BHC removes capping
- BHC removes dark streaks
- BHC recovers the true CT values

 $\rho_{\rm PE} = 0.93 \,\rho_{\rm W} = -70 \,\rm HU$   $\rho_{\rm HA400} = 1.27 \,\rho_{\rm W} = 270 \,\rm HU$ 



#### Patient Data Spiral 4-Slice CT Scan at 120 kV

**Original Image** 

**BHC Image** 

**Original minus BHC** 





# Empirical Beam Hardening Correction (EBHC)

#### Requirements/Objectives

- Empirical correction of <u>higher order</u> beam hardening effects
- No assumptions on attenuation coefficients, spectra, detector responses or other properties of the scanner
- Image-based and system-independent method

#### Overview of correction steps

- Forward project segmented bone volume to obtain artificial rawdata
- Pass the artificial rawdata through basis functions
- Reconstruct the basis functions
- Linearly combine the correction volumes and the original volume using flatness maximization



## **EBHC** Details

• Decomposition into an effective water-equivalent density  $\hat{f}_1(r)$  of the object and into an effective energy dependence  $\hat{\psi}_2(E)$  of a second material, e.g. bone

$$\mu(\mathbf{r}, E) = f_1(\mathbf{r})\psi_1(E) + f_2(\mathbf{r})\psi_2(E) = (f_1(\mathbf{r}) + f_2(\mathbf{r}))\psi_1(E) + f_2(\mathbf{r})(\psi_2(E) - \psi_1(E)) = \hat{f}_1(\mathbf{r})\psi_1(E) + f_2(\mathbf{r})\hat{\psi}_2(E).$$

Assuming water-precorrected data gives

$$\int dE \, w(E) e^{-p_0 \psi_0(E)} = \int dE \, w(E) e^{-\hat{p}_1 \psi_1(E)} - p_2 \hat{\psi}_2(E)$$

where  $\hat{p}_1$  and  $p_2$  are the line integrals through  $\hat{f}_1(r)$  and  $f_2(r)$ 



## **EBHC Details**

- We solve for  $\hat{p}_1(r)$  using a series expansion



• Empirically find  $c_{11}$  and  $c_{02}$  to correct initial image by flatness maximization



# **EBHC for Clinical CT**



![](_page_29_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_2.jpeg)

# **EBHC: Clinical CT vs. FD-CT**

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_3.jpeg)

# **Further Reading**

- Yunsong Zhao, and Mengfei Li. Iterative Beam Hardening Correction for Multi-Material Objects. PLoS ONE 10(12):1-13, December 2015.
- Hyoung Suk Park, Dosik Hwang, and Jin Keun Seo. Metal Artifact Reduction for Polychromatic X-ray CT Based on a Beam-Hardening Corrector. IEEE TMI 35(2):480-487, September 2015.
- Rune Slot Thing, Uffe Bernchou, Ernesto Mainegra-Hing, Olfred Hansen, and Carsten Brink. Hounsfield unit recovery in clinical cone beam CT images of the thorax acquired for image guided radiation therapy. Phys. Med. Biol. 61(15):5781-5802, July 2016.

![](_page_32_Picture_4.jpeg)

### **Scatter Artifact Reduction**

#### Several algorithmic methods found in the literature:

- Monte Carlo-based (slow but good)
- Convolution-based (fast, but not accurate)
- Simple subtraction methods (even faster, but less accurate)

#### Hardware-based methods

- Anti scatter grid
- Beam blockers
- Primary modulators

- ...

— ...

![](_page_33_Picture_10.jpeg)

## **Scatter Estimation**

#### **Monte Carlo-based**

Measured intensities (primary plus scatter)

#### **Convolution-based**

Measured intensities (primary plus scatter)

![](_page_34_Figure_5.jpeg)

\* Ohnesorge et al., Efficient scatter correction algorithm for third and fourth generation CT scanners, Eur. Radiol., 9, 563-569 (1999).

![](_page_34_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)

Phys. Med. Biol. 57(21):6849-6867, October 2012.
### Number of Calibration Steps





### **Number of Photons**



Monochromatic simulation study in clinical CT geometry Scatter simulation by Monte Carlo

N<sub>Ph,ref</sub>: Photon number for the low noise reference Monte Carlo simulation used for the uncorrected image

 $N_{cal} = 16$ 





### **Scatter Correction Results**



Measurements in cone-beam CT geometry

Reference image: Pure Monte Carlo scatter correction and EBHC for beam hardening.

Hybrid scatter correction (HSC): Monte Carlo simulation for only 16 projections and 100 times less photons than in the pure Monte Carlo correction.

Additionally the empirical beam-hardening correction (EBHC\*) method was applied to correct for beam-hardening artifacts.

\*Kyriakou, Y.; Meyer, E.; Prell, D.; Kachelrieß, M.; Empirical Beam Hardening Correction (EBHC) for CT, Med. Phys. 37, 5179-87 (2010).



# **Further Reading**

- Wei Zhao, Don Vernekohl, Jun Zhu, Luyao Wang, and Lei Xing. A model-based scatter artifacts correction for cone beam CT. Medical Physics 43 (1736), March2016.
- Ernst-Peter Rührnschopf and Klaus Klingenbeck. A General Framework and Review of Scatter Correction Methods in X-Ray Cone-Beam Computerized Tomography. Part 1: Scatter Compensation Approaches. Med. Phys. 38(7):4296-4311, July 2011.
- Ernst-Peter Rührnschopf and Klaus Klingenbeck. A General Framework and Review of Scatter Correction Methods in X-Ray Cone-Beam Computerized Tomography. Part 2: Scatter Estimation Approaches. Med. Phys. 38(9):5186-5199, September 2011.





# **Metal Artifacts are**



+ increased susceptibility to sampling artifacts and motion.



# **Metal Artifact Reduction (MAR)**

- Physics-based metal artifact reduction (not discussed here – my colleague Joscha Maier gave sufficient details on Wednesday) should comprise beam hardening correction, scatter correction, and corrections for the beam shape and sampling.
- MAR typically refers to inpainting the projection values that are influenced by the metal. This is a hollow projection problem and completely ignores the underlying physics.
- Detect metal contents
  - in image domain (very reliable, simple thresholding suffices)
  - in rawdata domain (not reliable, but many attempts)
- Inpaint the hollow projections
  - by simple interpolation
  - by sophisticated anisotropic methods
  - with or without normalization techniques.



# **Linear Interpolation MAR (LIMAR)**



# **Normalized MAR (NMAR)**



# Results and Comparison: Patient Data

#### Uncorrected

#### LIMAR





**NMAR** 



#### Patient with hip implants, Sensation 16, 140 kV, (C = 0 HU, W = 500 HU)

Meyer, Raupach, Lell, Schmidt, and Kachelrieß, "Normalized metal artifact reduction (NMAR) in computed tomography", Med. Phys. 37(10):5482-5493, 2012.



# Results and Comparison: Patient Data

#### Uncorrected

#### LIMAR





**NMAR** 



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### Results and Comparison: Patient Data

Uncorrected LIMAR NMAR

Patient dental fillings, slice 110, Somatom Definition Flash, pitch 0.9. Top row: (C = 100 HU, W = 750 HU). Bottom row: (C = 1000 HU, W = 4000 HU)

Meyer, Raupach, Lell, Schmidt, and Kachelrieß, "Normalized metal artifact reduction (NMAR) in computed tomography", Med. Phys. 37(10):5482-5493, 2012.



#### **FSMAR: Scheme**





#### **FSMAR: Results**

Uncorrected

LIMAR

**NMAR** 



Patient with spine fixation, Somatom Definition, (C=100/W=1000).

Meyer, Raupach, Lell, Schmidt, and Kachelrieß, "Frequency split metal artifact reduction (FSMAR) in computed tomography", Med. Phys. 39(4):1904-1916, 2012.



### **NMAR: Results**

#### Uncorrected

NMAR



#### Bone removal (with scanner software), (C=40/W=500).



Meyer, Raupach, Lell, Schmidt, and Kachelrieß, "Normalized metal artifact reduction (NMAR) in computed tomography", Med. Phys. 37(10):5482-5493, 2012.



# DECT

# and Pseudo Monochromatic Imaging

Pseudo monochromatic imaging is a linear combination of DECT  $f_L$  and  $f_H$ :  $f_{\alpha} = (1 - \alpha) f_L + \alpha f_H$ 



Original

DEMAR

#### **IMAR (FSNMAR)**<sup>1</sup>







 $\alpha$  = 1.61, *E* = 176 keV





Patient 3 100 kV



DEMAR not applicable since this is a single energy CT scan.



<sup>1</sup>Iterative metal artifact reduction (IMAR) is the Siemens product implementation of FSNMAR.



# **Further Reading**

- Maik Stille, Matthias Kleine, Julian Haegele, Jörg Barkhausen, and Thorsten M. Buzug. Augmented Likelihood Image Reconstruction. IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging 35(1), 158–173, July 2015.
- Webster J. Stayman, Yoshito Otake, Jerry L. Prince, Jay A. Khanna, and Jeffery H. Siewerdsen. Model-based tomographic reconstruction of objects containing known components. IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging 31(10), 1837–1848, October 2012.
- Yi Zhang, Yifei Pu, Jin-Rong Hu, Yan Liu, Ji-Liu Zhou. A new CT metal artifacts reduction algorithm based on fractional-order sinogram inpainting. J Xray Sci Technol. 19(3), 373-84, January 2011.



# **Cone-Beam Artifacts**











# **Cone-Beam Artifact Correction Method**

1. Reconstruct an image  $f^{(0)}$  from the rawdata p, e.g. by performing a filtered backprojection  $X^{-1}$ :

$$\mathbf{f}^{(0)} = \mathsf{X}^{-1}p$$

- 2. Apply a segmentation S to the reconstructed volume  $f^{(0)}$ :
- $f_S = Sf^{(0)} \longleftarrow prior \ knowledge \ enters \ here$ 3. Perform a forward projection and reconstruction of  $f_S$ :  $f^{(1)} = X^{-1}Xf_S$

 $\mathbf{f}_{\text{out:footo}} = \mathbf{f}_{\text{C}} - \mathbf{f}^{(1)}$ 

4. Subtract the volume  $f_S$  from the resulting volume  $f^{(1)}$ :

5. Remove the artifacts 
$$f_{artifacts}$$
 from the original volume  $f^{(0)}$ :

$$oldsymbol{f}_{ ext{final}} = oldsymbol{f}^{(0)} - oldsymbol{f}_{ ext{artifacts}}$$
 $oldsymbol{f}_{ ext{final}} = oldsymbol{f}^{(0)} - (oldsymbol{f}_S - X^{-1}Xoldsymbol{f}_S)$ 



### **Cone-Beam Artifact Correction Method**

- The method is less efficient without the segmentation step (but still shows positive effects)
- It is less efficient without data redundancies, e.g. in case of
  - short scans
  - shifted detector scans
- We demonstrate issues measuring a skull phantom in shifted detector geometry with a (simulated) small FOM (data truncation) flat detector CT.





# Weighting and Detruncation



Rawdata for preweighted shifted detector FDK

# Rawdata for postweighted shifted detector FDK (simple extrapolation)

Rawdata for postweighted shifted detector FDK (super extrapolation)

#### C = 3; W = 6

Note: Post weighting shifted detector recon is not exact in the midplane. But it may have favourable artifact behaviour.



# **FDK Preweight**



#### shifted detector scan 360°





Midplane



### FDK Preweight Cone-Beam Corrected



shifted detector scan 360°





Midplane



# **FDK Preweight**



#### shifted detector scan 360°





Midplane



# **FDK Postweight**



#### shifted detector scan 360°





Midplane



### **FDK Postweight Super Extrapolation**



shifted detector scan 360°





Midplane



### FDK Preweight Cone-Beam Corrected



shifted detector scan 360°





Midplane



### FDK Postweight Super Detruncation Cone-Beam Corrected



shifted detector scan 360°





Midplane



### **Further Reading**

- Dirk Schäfer, Michael Grass, and Peter van de Haar. FBP and BPF reconstruction methods for circular Xray tomography with off-center detector. Med. Phys. 38(7): S85-S94, July 2011.
- Jed D. Pack, Kai Zeng, Adam Budde, Zhye Yin, Bruno De Man. Mitigating cone-beam artifacts via shiftvariant data usage for large cone-angle scans. Conference Program of the 3rd International Conference on Image Formation in X-Ray Computed Tomography:307-310, June 2014.





# **Adaptive Detruncation Method (ADT)**



K. Sourbelle, M. Kachelrieß, and W.A. Kalender, "Reconstruction from truncated projections in CT using adaptive detruncation," Eur Radiol 15:1008–1014, 2005.



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## Example : 2 × 200 suppressed columns

(00/1000)

(09 / 20)

Original Original Original Original Original



## ADT corrected (clipped)



**Original – Corrected (clipped)** 

$$\label{eq:massed} \begin{split} \textbf{M} &= \textbf{0.5} \ \textbf{HU}, \ \sigma = \textbf{10.3} \ \textbf{HU} \\ \textbf{M} &= \textbf{1.5} \ \textbf{HU}, \ \sigma = \textbf{1.4} \ \textbf{HU} \end{split}$$

**Thank You!** 

This presentation will soon be available at www.dkfz.de/ct.

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<sup>®</sup> GmbH, Nürnberg, Germany.