

#### COMP9517: Computer Vision

Motion and Tracking Applications in Biomedical Imaging

# Topics

- Examples of change detection
  - Patient motion correction in angiography
- Examples of template matching
  - Cell motion correction in microscopy
  - Monomodal brain image registration
  - Multimodal medical image registration
- Examples of **optical flow** 
  - Heart tissue motion estimation
- Examples of object tracking
  - Particle tracking in molecular biology
  - Bayesian multitarget tracking method
  - Heart motion tracking and analysis
  - Tracking for neuron reconstruction
  - Object tracking in cell biology

#### **Example of Change Detection**

### **Digital Subtraction Angiography**

X-ray at time  $t_0$ 

X-ray at time  $t_0 + \Delta t$ 



Mask Image

Live Image

## **Digital Subtraction Angiography**

Live – Mask

**Contrast Stretched** 



Meijering et al., Radiology, 2001

## **Digital Subtraction Angiography**

Contrast Stretched

**Motion Corrected** 



Automatic motion correction here is a form of template matching

### **Examples of Template Matching**

#### **Cell Motion Correction**





Cell fixation by image postprocessing allows analysis of the internal changes over time

#### **Brain Image Registration**

To understand how the human brain develops from childhood to adulthood and to study developmental disorders we can use magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) at different ages and match the images to a template using automatic image registration techniques





### Multimodal Image Registration

Computed Tomography (CT)



Magnetic Resonance (MR)

Joint Visualization



Registration (alignment) of images from multiple imaging modalities (devices) allows joint visualisation which may provide additional information to the physician

#### **Example of Optical Flow**

#### Heart Tissue Motion Estimation



- Heart tissue cultured 6 days
- Mono-layer cardiomyocytes
- Phase-contrast microscopy
- Real-time imaging 24 fps

Since the images contain rich information it is easy to estimate local gradients with high accuracy so this is a perfect case for the optical flow method

 $\nabla f \cdot v = -f_t$ 

#### Heart Tissue Motion





#### Motion vectors visualised by direction (color) and magnitude (intensity)

### **Examples of Object Tracking**

#### Particle Tracking Problem



time



## **Bayesian Tracking**

Computing the degree of belief in the object state by taking into account all available evidence up to the current time point

- State:  $X_t = (r_t, v_t, a_t, s_t, I_t, ...)$  expressed as probability density  $P(X_t)$ Position, velocity, acceleration, shape, intensity, ...
- Evidence: a set of images or extracted features  $Y_t = \{y_0, \dots, y_t\}$



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#### **Bayesian Multitarget Tracking**

• Extend the state space to include the states of all targets

$$X_{t} = (X_{1;t}, X_{2;t}, \dots, X_{N;t})$$

$$X_{1;t} = (r_{1;t}, v_{1;t}, a_{1;t}, s_{1;t}, I_{1;t}, \dots)$$

$$X_{N;t} = (r_{N;t}, v_{N;t}, a_{N;t}, s_{N;t}, I_{N;t}, \dots)$$

Computational cost grows exponentially with the number of targets

• Use a mixture model of single-target probability densities

$$P(X_t | Y_t) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} w_{n;t} P_n(X_t | Y_t)$$

Requires heuristics to keep track of number of targets and identities



#### **Objective comparison of particle tracking methods**

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Particle tracking is of key importance for quantitative analysis of intracellular dynamic processes from time-lapse microscopy image data. Because manually detecting and following large numbers of individual particles is not feasible, automated computational methods have been developed for these tasks by many groups. Aiming to perform an objective comparison of methods, we gathered the community and organized an open competition in which participating teams applied their own methods independently to a commonly defined data set processes is particle tracking. Here, a 'particle' may be anything from a single molecule to a macromolecular complex, organelle, virus or microsphere<sup>12</sup>, and the task of detecting and following individual particles in a time series of images is often (somewhat confusingly) referred to as 'single-particle tracking'. As the number of particles may be very large (hundreds to thousands), requiring 'multiple-particle tracking'<sup>13–15</sup>, manual annotation of the image data is not feasible, and computer algorithms are needed to perform the task.

#### **Tracking Heart Motion in MRI**



### **Tracking Heart Motion in MRI**

Tracks

Strain



Smal & Meijering, Medical Image Analysis, 2012

#### **Neuron Reconstruction**





#### **Neuron Reconstruction**



#### **Neuron Reconstruction**



#### **Tracking for Neuron Reconstruction**



Radojevic & Meijering, Neuroinformatics, 2019

#### **Neuron Reconstruction Results**







# Cell Tracking

#### Popular segmentation methods

- Intensity thresholding
- Watershed segmentation
- Active contour fitting
- Level-set segmentation





Model: 
$$C(r) = \sum_{n} \mathbf{P}_{n} B(r-n)$$
  
Fitting:  $\hat{C} = \arg \min E(C)$ 

### Cell Tracking

Linking by contour model evolution



Dzyubachyk & Meijering, IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging, 2010

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## **Cell Tracking**



#### Coloured contours indicate the results of cell segmentation and indentification

#### An objective comparison of cell-tracking algorithms

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We present a combined report on the results of three editions of the Cell Tracking Challenge, an ongoing initiative aimed at promoting the development and objective evaluation of cell segmentation and tracking algorithms. With 21 participating algorithms and a data repository consisting of 13 data sets from various microscopy modalities, the challenge displays today's state-of-the-art methodology in the field. We analyzed the challenge results using performance measures

these processes. Imaging techniques, such as phase contrast (PhC) or differential interference contrast (DIC) microscopy, make cells visible without the need of exogenous markers. Fluorescence microscopy, on the other hand, relies on fluorescent reporters to specifically label cell components such as nuclei, cytoplasm or membranes. These labeled structures are then imaged in two or three dimensions by various imaging modalities, including widefield, confocal, multiphoton or light-sheet fluorescence microscopy.

#### **Cell Lineage Reconstruction**





#### Drosophila embryogenesis



#### **Cell Lineage Reconstruction**

Tracking each cell during Drosophila embryonic development



Keller et al., Nature Methods, 2014

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#### Plenty of challenges left !!!

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