

MR-guided RT: Commissioning and Quality Control

T. Stanescu, PhD, MCCPM

Medical Physicist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, UHN
Assistant Professor, Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto
Affiliated Faculty, Guided Therapeutics, Techna Institute, UHN



Disclosure

License agreement with Modus Medical Devices Inc. to develop a phantom for the quantification of MR image system-related distortions.

Topics for MR-guided RT system commissioning & QC

- MR data for RT planning and in-room guidance
 - Spatial accuracy: system/scanner-related distortions
 - Spatial accuracy: patient-induced (tissue susceptibility)
 - Quantification of motion
- MR-guided RT systems: design specific
 - RF noise
 - Magnetic field coupling
 - MR & radiation source: iso-to-iso registration
- System performance monitoring & Reporting
 - Database record: in-house, commercial, cloud solutions

MRI Guidance

MR data for RT planning and in-room guidance

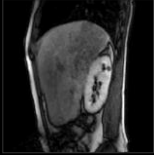
MR images suffer of intrinsic distortions → affect geometric accuracy

System | scanner - related:

- B0 field inhomogeneities
- Imaging gradients non-linearity

Patient | object - induced:

- Tissue magnetic susceptibility
- Chemical shift



- Organ motion present → 4D composite distortion field
- The distortions can be treated as separate problems
 - practically, no coupling b/w system and patient specific distortions

MRI Guidance

MR data for RT planning – System-related distortions


MR images suffer of intrinsic distortions → affect geometric accuracy

1. B0 field inhomogeneities

- High field homogeneity required for the static magnetic field
- Typical value: a few ppm in a 40-50 cm spherical volume

Siemens Espree 1.5T - B0 field homogeneity specs

Volume	Guaranteed	Typical
10 cm DSV	≤0.05 ppm	0.01 ppm
20 cm DSV	≤0.2 ppm	0.08 ppm
30 cm DSV	≤1 ppm	0.8 ppm
40 × 40 × 30 cm ³	≤2 ppm	1.2 ppm
45 × 45 × 30 cm ³	≤4 ppm	2.8 ppm
Standard deviation Vrms (Volume root-mean square) measured with highly accurate 24 plane plot method (20 points per plane).		
40 × 40 × 40 cm ³	≤5 ppm*	



- 70 cm bore
- 120 cm long

MRI Guidance

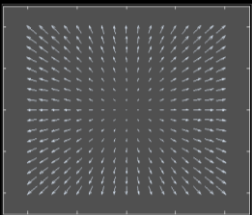
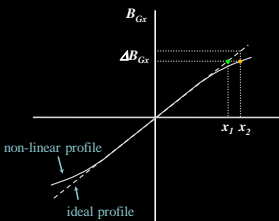
MR data for RT planning – System-related distortions

MR images suffer of intrinsic distortions → affect geometric accuracy

2. Gradient non-linearity

- Most significant source of geometric distortions

Distortion field magnitude ↑ with d-iso

The graph shows the magnetic field component B_{Gz} on the vertical axis and spatial coordinates x_j and x_2 on the horizontal axis. A dashed line represents the 'ideal profile' which is linear. A solid line represents the 'non-linear profile' which curves away from the ideal as distance from the center increases. The vertical distance between the two lines is labeled ΔB_{Gz} .

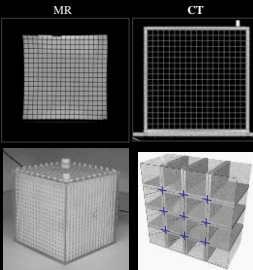
System-related distortions

acquire data → identify control point locations → determine 3D distortion → correct MR images → validate method

- unsharp mask and Gaussian blur
- adaptive thresholding
- 3D Gaussian blurring in x and y
- watershed: identify and analyze each dot
- center of mass: control points coordinates

JOURNAL OF APPLIED CLINICAL MEDICAL PHYSICS, VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1, WINTER 2010
Investigation of a 3D system distortion correction method for MR images
 Teodor Staneou,* Hans-Sonke Jans, Keith Wachowicz, Gino B. Falone
 Medical Physics, Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton, AB, Canada
 teodor@crosscancer.ca

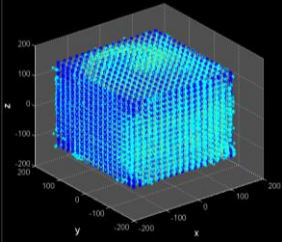
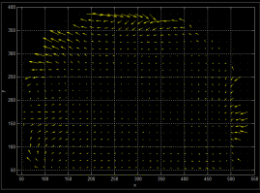
Received 16 October 2009; accepted 14 September 2009



System-related distortions

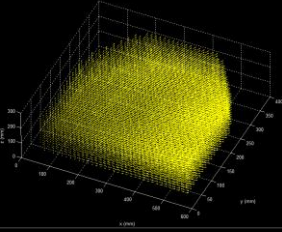
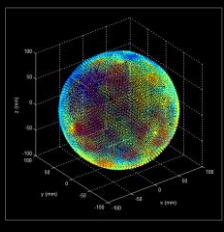
acquire data → identify control point locations → **determine 3D distortion** → correct MR images → validate method

- register CT+MR control points
- clean data - 3D polynomial fit
- determine 3D distortion field

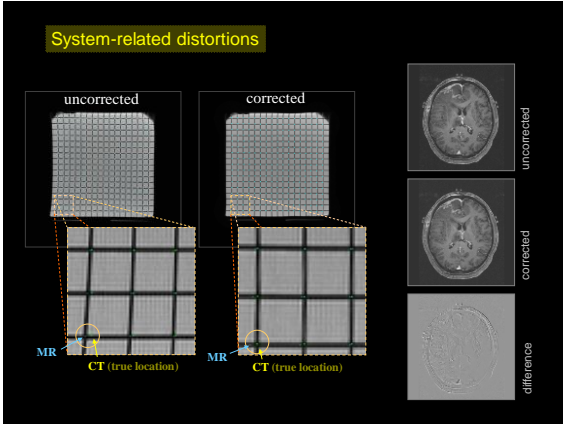



System-related distortions

3D distortion field (vectorial)

$\frac{\partial t}{\partial x}$ $\frac{\partial t}{\partial y}$ $\frac{\partial t}{\partial z}$ $\frac{\partial r}{\partial x}$ $\frac{\partial r}{\partial y}$ $\frac{\partial r}{\partial z}$



System-related distortions

Spherical harmonics analysis

A complete distortion correction for MR images:
I. Gradient warp correction

Simon J Doran¹, Liz Charles-Edwards², Stefan A Reinsberg²
 and Martin O Leach²

Phys. Med. Biol. 50 (2005) 1343-1361

$$B(r, \theta, \phi) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^n \left(\frac{r}{r_0}\right)^n P_{nm}(\cos \theta) [A_{nm} \cos m\phi + B_{nm} \sin m\phi]$$

- A_{nm}, B_{nm} are the spherical harmonic coefficients
- Provided by the manufacturer for a certain region of interest
- Example: 29 coeff for Gx and Gy | 7 coeff for Gz

System-related distortions

Hybrid technique: phantom measurements + harmonics analysis

Boundary measurements Derive field inside VOI

$\nabla^2 \delta v = 0$

Dirichlet problem:
 Laplace equation with boundary conditions

$$\Delta u(\mathbf{r}) = 0, \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{D}$$

$$u(\mathbf{r}) = g(\mathbf{r}), \mathbf{r} \in \partial \mathcal{D}$$

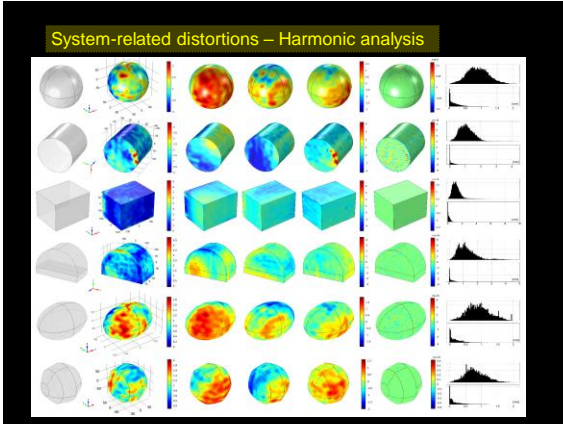
$$u: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

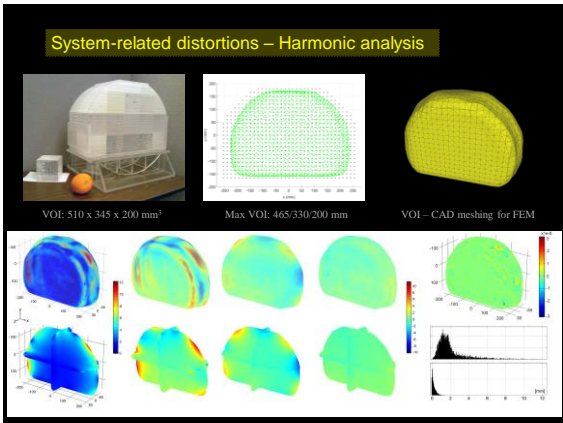
$$u \in C(\bar{\mathcal{D}}) \cap C^2(\mathcal{D}) \text{ where } \bar{\mathcal{D}} = \mathcal{D} \cup \partial \mathcal{D}$$

$$g \in C(\partial \mathcal{D}) \text{ is a continuous function}$$

- Use of the harmonic properties of the 3D distortion vector field
- Distortions are measured on the surface of the VOI
- Laplace's equation is solved to derive the full 3D field within the entire VOI

Med. Phys. 41 (11), November 2014
SU-F-3-154





System-related distortions MRI Guidance

Summary

- Manufacturers provide a 1st order correction (2D/3D)
 - Correction should be enabled in the protocols
- Detailed quantification of residual distortions needed
 - MR commissioning
 - Clinical implementation of clinical protocols
- Limited standardization and lack of user friendly solutions
 - Most of vendors offer phantoms with various features
 - In-house developments: reliability, efficient workflows
 - Routine monitoring, report & document

Patient-induced distortions

Tissue magnetic susceptibility (- mm)

Characterization of tissue magnetic susceptibility-induced distortions for MRI/RT

T. Starace
 Mod. Phys. 39 (12), December 2012
 Radiation Medicine Program, Princess Margaret Hospital, 610 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2M9;
 Canada and Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto, 610 University Avenue, Toronto,
 Ontario M5G 2M9, Canada

K. Wachowicz
 Division of Health Physics, Department of Oncology, University of Alberta, Cross Cancer Institute,
 11560 University Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 1Z2, Canada

D. A. Jaffray
 Radiation Medicine Program, Princess Margaret Hospital, 610 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2M9;
 Canada and Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto, 610 University Avenue, Toronto,
 Ontario M5G 2M9, Canada.

validation

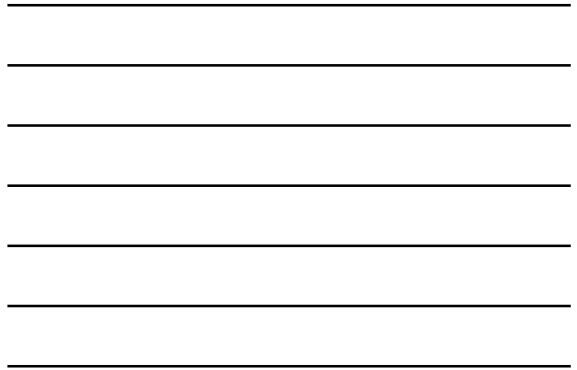
Numerical ans $\nabla \cdot (\mu \nabla \Phi_m) = 0$

Analytical solutions (quadratic geometries)

Experimental data (phantom data)

workflow

CT raw image image mask magnetic field geometric distortion



Patient-induced distortions

Tissue magnetic susceptibility (- mm)

Anatomical site	Structure	0.5 T (5 mT/m)						3.0 T (5 mT/m)			ppm offset
		Max distortion (ppm)	Mean distortion (ppm)	Range of distortion (ppm)	Max distortion (mm)	Mean distortion (mm)	Range of distortion (mm)	Max distortion (mm)	Mean distortion (mm)	Range of distortion (mm)	
Brain	Body	5.48	0.43	9.36	0.55	0.04	0.94	3.29	0.26	5.62	-5.81
	Bone	3.36	0.25	6.37	0.34	0.03	0.64	2.02	0.15	3.82	
Lung	Air cavities	5.66	0.82	9.96	0.57	0.09	1.60	3.40	0.55	5.98	
	Body	2.99	0.41	5.37	0.30	0.04	0.54	1.79	0.25	3.22	-6.79
Prostate	Bone	4.96	0.64	7.71	0.50	0.06	0.77	2.98	0.38	4.63	
	Lung	5.56	0.71	8.85	0.56	0.07	0.89	3.34	0.43	5.31	
Prostate (no air pockets)	Body	3.98	0.54	6.42	0.40	0.05	0.64	2.39	0.32	3.85	-6.07
	Bone	2.48	0.41	3.03	0.25	0.04	0.30	1.49	0.25	1.82	
Pelvis (air pockets)	Body	3.91	0.46	5.91	0.39	0.05	0.59	2.35	0.28	3.55	-6.12
	Bone	2.54	0.47	4.02	0.25	0.05	0.40	1.52	0.28	2.41	
Air pockets	Bone	4.85	0.68	7.27	0.49	0.07	0.73	2.91	0.41	4.36	



Organ / target motion: lung

MRI Guidance

Case study: lung patient, 10 bins 4D CT

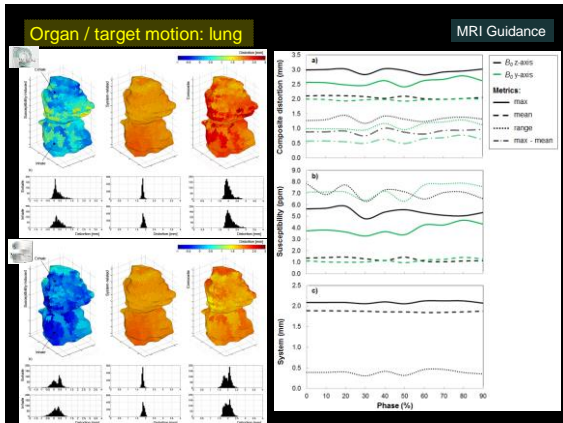
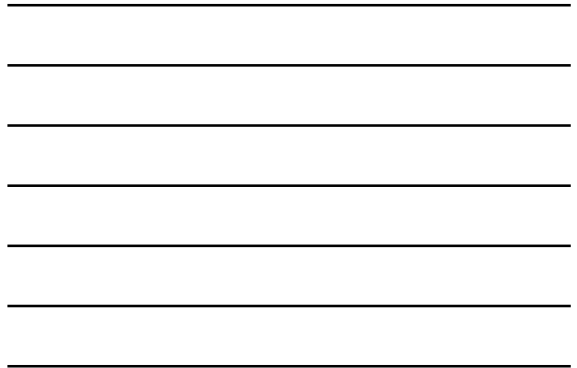
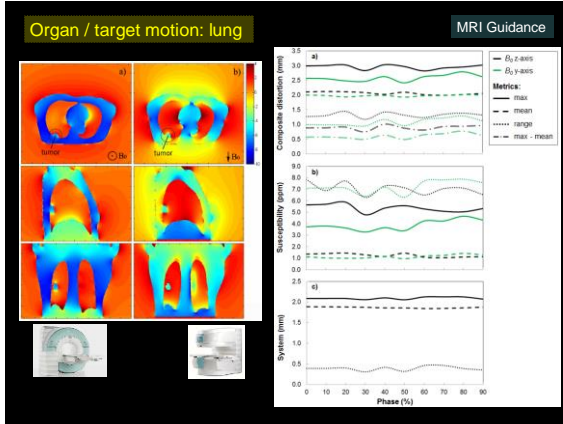
4D distortion field associated with organ motion:

- 2 independent steps

- System distortions**
 - register anatomy to 3D field
 - track dist as local target/organs move
 - static field - measured with phantom
- Magnetic susceptibility**
 - numerical methods
 - anatomy specific
 - dynamic distortion field

Total: combine contributions from 1 & 2





Organ / target motion: lung MRI Guidance

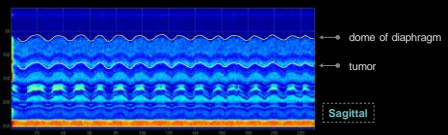
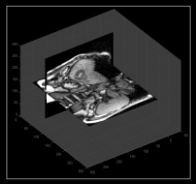
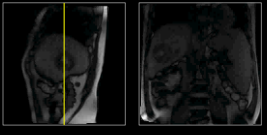
B0 z-axis		Scanner-related field		χ -induced	χ -induced field			Composite Field		
		[mm]	[ppm]		0.35 T	0.5 T	1.5 T	0.35 T	0.5 T	1.5 T
Exhale	max	2.13	5.29	0.37	0.53	1.59	2.11	2.11	2.82	
	mean	1.84	1.08	0.08	0.11	0.32	1.87	1.89	2.01	
	range	0.46	6.50	0.46	0.65	1.95	0.45	0.46	1.23	
Inhale	max	2.09	5.64	0.39	0.56	1.69	2.20	2.29	2.99	
	mean	1.89	1.36	0.10	0.14	0.41	1.92	1.94	2.10	
	range	0.40	7.85	0.55	0.79	2.36	0.50	0.58	1.27	

B0 y-axis		Scanner-related field		χ -induced	χ -induced field			Composite Field		
		[mm]	[ppm]		0.35 T	0.5 T	1.5 T	0.35 T	0.5 T	1.5 T
Exhale	max	2.13	4.24	0.30	0.42	1.27	2.15	2.18	2.62	
	mean	1.84	1.19	0.08	0.12	0.36	1.86	1.87	1.97	
	range	0.47	7.72	0.54	0.77	2.32	0.49	0.57	1.17	
Inhale	max	2.09	3.73	0.26	0.37	1.12	2.08	2.11	2.57	
	mean	1.89	1.13	0.08	0.11	0.34	1.90	1.91	2.00	
	range	0.40	7.11	0.50	0.71	2.13	0.39	0.43	0.99	



4D MRI Retrospective - 2D → 4D MRI Guidance

2-plane sync: motion info

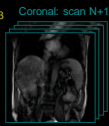
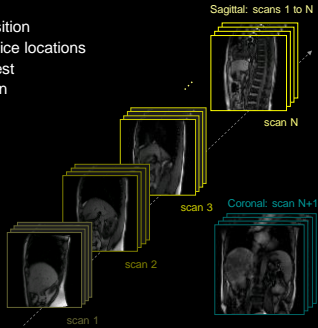
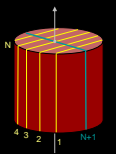


→ dome of diaphragm
→ tumor
Sagittal

4D MRI Retrospective - 2D → 4D MRI Guidance

Data acquisition

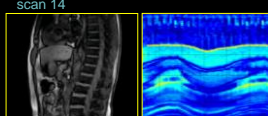
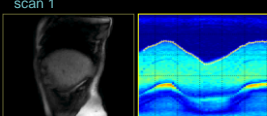
- 2D cine sagittal acquisition
- Multiple subsequent slice locations
- Cover volume of interest
- Additional coronal scan



Sagittal: scans 1 to N
scan N
scan 3
Coronal: scan N+1
scan 2
scan 1

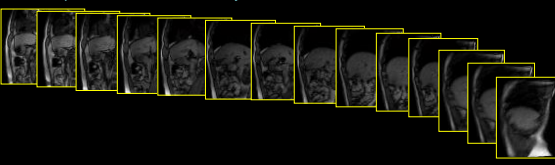
4D MRI Retrospective - 2D → 4D MRI Guidance

Organ motion curves & 4D data binning



scan 1 scan 14

Exhale phase – 3D volume, slice-by-slice



4D MRI Retrospective - 3D → 4D

MRI Guidance

- 3D fast acquisition with 4D image data sorting and reconstruction
- Similarity with 4D CBCT → potential solution for motion quantification

Strategies:

- Breathhold + multiple 3D acquisitions (< 15s) at diff respiratory phases
- Free breathing - Continuous acquisition + post processing

4D MRI Retrospective - 3D → 4D

MRI Guidance

- 3D fast acquisition with 4D image data sorting and reconstruction
- Similarity with 4D CBCT → potential solution for motion quantification

Strategies:

- Breathhold + multiple 3D acquisitions (< 15s) at diff respiratory phases
- Free breathing - Continuous acquisition (radial sampling) + post processing

4D MRI Dynamic

Strategies:

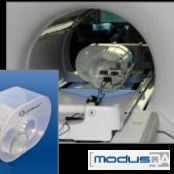
- Free breathing - Multiple 3D scans with ~s time sampling, low image resolution
- Sparse/parallel imaging 3D acquisitions, good temporal sampling (?)

QC of motion sequences: 2D/4D

MRI Guidance



- Motion Stage**
- Accuracy in reaching a fixed position: 0.1 mm
 - Minimum RMSD for dynamic motion with frequency = 1 Hz: 6.6%
 - Max speed: 30 mm/min
 - Max force: < 20 N
 - Max platform weight/load: 6 kg
 - Dimensions: 134 mm W X 72 mm H (90 mm with platform adapter)
 - Weight: 2.05 kg
 - Sample of motion: 50 mm (2.07")



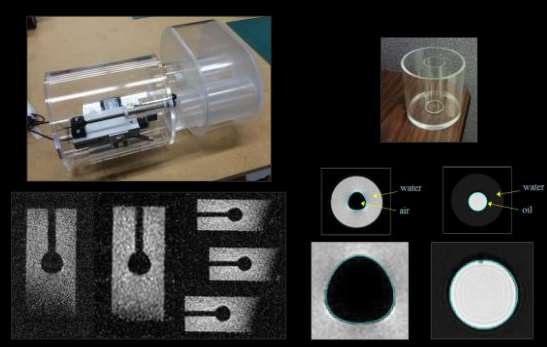
VITAL

modulim

CIRS

Phantom data analysis

MRI Guidance



Prototype provided by Modus Medical Devices

Phantom data analysis

MRI Guidance

BW (Hz/p)	130	401	694	1420
SNR (%)	100	53	41	26
Time (s)	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.5


→

Increased BW
Decreased SNR
Decreased Susceptibility effects → better geometric accuracy
Decreased acquisition time/frame → faster imaging

TurboFLASH - 1.9x 1.9 x 8 mm | FOV 300 | min TE/TR

Phantom data analysis

RadialVIBE:
FOV: 310x310
Voxel resolution 1.3 x 1.3 x 3.0
Mid/High BW
View sharing mode: golden angle, total acquisition time < 1 min



MRI Guidance

MR data for Treatment Delivery - Patient setup verification & Tracking/Gating

Aim: Reliable quantification and validation of methods used for organ motion assessment (real-time or retrospective data availability)

Strategies: 1D / 2D available, several proposed 4D techniques

Limitations and Challenges:

- Vendor implementation and application specific
- 4D motion - quantification of distortions still to be investigated
- Motion phantoms & QA methods still to be developed
- Motion data integration in clinical workflows

Which is the main contributor to the MR image distortion field for RT applications?

- 20% 1. MR main field (B0) inhomogeneity
- 20% 2. Chemical shift
- 20% 3. Tissue susceptibility
- 20% 4. Imaging gradient non-linearities
- 20% 5. Motion

Topics for MR-guided RT system Commissioning & QC

- System performance monitoring
- Open-source software for semi/auto-QC monitoring
 - ACR guidelines, AAPM, NEMA, etc.

- MR data for RT planning and in-room guidance
- MR image distortion: system/scanner-related
 - MR image distortion: susceptibility-induced
 - Quantification of motion

MR-guided systems: design specific

- RF noise
- Magnetic field coupling
- MR-radiation source system: iso-to-iso registration

Reporting

- Data base record: in-house, commercial, cloud solutions

MRI Guidance

MR-linac systems

Radiofrequency (RF) interference

- MR needs to be isolated | Collects weak signal from patient
- Linac is a significant source of RF

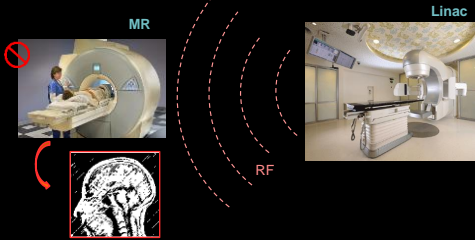


MRI Guidance

MR-linac systems

Radiofrequency (RF) interference

- MR needs to be isolated | Collects weak signal from patient
- Linac is a significant source of RF



MRI Guidance

MR-linac systems

Radiofrequency (RF) interference

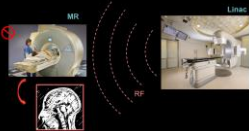
- MR needs to be isolated | Collects weak signal from patient
- Linac is a significant source of RF

Solutions:

- Relocate linac main RF sources in adjacent rooms
- Enclose linac head or MR in a Faraday cage

QC monitoring:

- MR scanner RF noise tests
- RF sniffer kit for troubleshooting



MRI Guidance

MR-linac systems

Magnetic field mutual interaction: MR magnet → Linac

- B0 fringe field of MR scanner reaching the Linac structure
- Linac performance affected | Beam output = f(fringe B-field)

MR

Linac waveguide

magnetic field (on all the time)

e⁻ in magnetic field

MRI Guidance

MR-linac systems

Magnetic field mutual interaction: MR magnet → Linac

- Linac is a large metallic structure, ferromagnetic components
- » MR imaging field homogeneity affected

MR

magnetic field

non-uniform

uniform

MRI Guidance

MR-linac systems

Magnetic field mutual interaction: MR magnet → Linac

- Linac is a large metallic structure, ferromagnetic components
- » MR imaging field homogeneity affected

Solutions:

- Passive and/or active shielding
- Physical separation

QC monitoring:

- Simulation environment: baseline, monitor perturbations
- MR: B0 mapping & Shimming
- Linac: treatment beam, imaging

MR

magnetic field

non-uniform

uniform

Princess Margaret MRgRT Project

QC monitoring:

- Simulation environment: baseline for B0 fringe field mapping
- Establish margins of tolerance for sub-components
 - MR scanner: active imaging field homogeneity
 - Linac: beam optimal specs
 - Couch: safety margins on pull forces, upgradability impact on MR

MR scanner on rails RF doors 6X TrueBeam linac

MR Simulation suite Zephyr patient transfer system Linac IGRT table

Princess Margaret MRgRT Project

QC monitoring:

- B0 mapping for testing system performance
- Direct measurements to ensure B-field decoupling
 - MR should stay within specs over time, all intended configurations
 - Negligible impact from hysteresis/residual B-field related effects
 - Measurements more often than for a standalone MR implementation

1st order harmonics tune-up

MR testing & commissioning

MRgRT: MR Shimming Study

Methods:

- Siemens service procedures: Phantom Shim & Phantom Shim Check
- B0 mapping technique: dual-echo GRE field mapping sequence
- **Metrics:** Brms, Bpp, FWHM water spectral peak

Results:

- Transient effects due to B-field priming of the environment
- The effects are reproducible
- MR shim stays within the specs outlined by Siemens/IMRIS

B0 mapping technique:

Phantom Magnitude Unwrapped phase Analysis Brms, Bpp

Phase

Dosimetry in magnetic field

- electron trajectories perturbed by the presence of $B_0 \rightarrow$ Lorentz force
- effect = $f(\text{KE}, B_0, \text{interface})$

Dosimetry in magnetic field

- electron trajectories perturbed by the presence of $B_0 \rightarrow$ Lorentz force
- effect = $f(\text{KE}, B_0, \text{interface})$

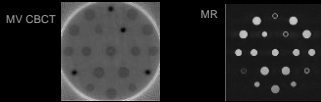
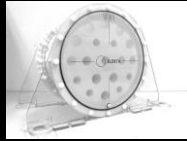
MR-to-Radiation source isocenter registration

- Cylindrical phantom filled with water
- Scribe lines for alignment to lasers
- Circular film between two halves of phantom
- Wrap-around film strip
- Once MLC accuracy is established, imaging this phantom provides information about MR-RT isocenter alignment
- Once RT isocenter is established, MR isocenter coordinate shift is implemented in software

Courtesy of Olga Green

MR-to-Radiation source isocenter registration

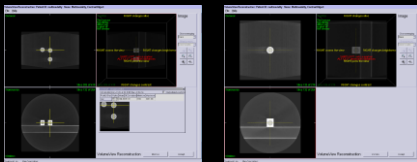
- Designed for Elekta's Atlantic system
- MR-to-MV alignment
- Ceramic, non-conductive markers for MV
- 3D analysis to locate markers
- Automatic co-registration MR/MV
- Testing done at UMC, Utrecht
- MR image res: 1x1x1 mm³
- MV image res: 0.5x0.5x0.5 mm³
- Analysis mean error: ~0.3 mm



Images & info courtesy of M. Sell, M. Luzzaro (Elekta)

MR-to-Radiation source isocenter registration

- Designed for IMRIS MR-linac system
- In collaboration with Modus Medical Devices
- MR-to-kV and MV alignment
- Daily QA
- 3D analysis to locate markers
- Automatic co-registration
- Ongoing testing



For MR-guided RT systems, which MR-related test is new and has to be added to the QC routine?

- 20% 1. Magnetic field drift
- 20% 2. Imaging-to-treatment isocenter co-registration
- 20% 3. Center frequency
- 20% 4. Image uniformity
- 20% 5. Ghosting

Topics for MR-guided RT system Commissioning & QC

- MR data for RT planning and in-room guidance
- MR image distortion: system/scanner-related
- MR image distortion: susceptibility-induced
- Quantification of motion

MR-guided systems: design specific

- RF noise
- Magnetic field coupling
- MR-radiation source system: iso-to-iso registration

System performance monitoring & Reporting

- Data base record: in-house, commercial, cloud solutions

Topics for MR-guided RT system Commissioning & QC

Data record and Reporting

In-house:

- AAPM 2015 presentation: TU-G-CAMPUS-I-15
 - Developed by J. Yung et al at MD Anderson
 - Semi-automatic QC program
 - Analyze and record measurements
 - Built on open-source software (Linux, Apache, MySQL, Python)
 - Analysis performed on 27 MR scanner: 1.5/3T, GE/Siemens
 - Tests: geometric accuracy/linearity, position accuracy, image uniformity, signal, noise, ghosting, transmit gain, center frequency, magnetic field drift

Topics for MR-guided RT system Commissioning & QC

Data record and Reporting

In-house / Commercial:

- AQUA
 - Developed at Princess Margaret (Toronto)
 - Initially aimed for linac QC
 - Can be configured to include MRI tests
 - Analysis is semi-automatic
 - Data record is manual
 - Allows for data trending, control charts
 - The software is currently developed by Acumyn (www.acumyn.com)

Topics for MR-guided RT system Commissioning & QC

Data record and Reporting

Commercial / Cloud:

- QUMULATE
 - Developed by Varian for linac QA
 - Store, visualize, manage QC data
 - Arbitrary tests can be configured
 - Potential platform for MRI
 - Monthly/annual fee for service
