# CT BASICS

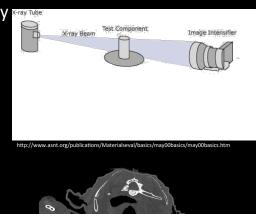
# Computed Tomography

- Overview of algorithm
- Rotation Number
- Common artifacts
  - Sample movement
  - Rotation mismatch
  - Ring artifacts
  - Dead pixels
  - Beam hardening
  - Scattering

- Sample Preparation
- Growing Regions of interest
- Data handling
- Dissemination
  - oVert
  - Morphosource

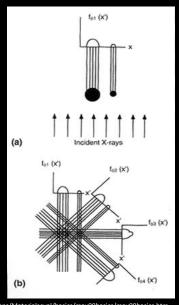
# CT Basics: Difference Between X-ray and CT

- Computed Tomography
  - "Tomos" = Section or slice
- Slices through a 3D density map
- Sequential X-ray Images in Complete Circle
- Computer Algorithm Creates 3D Volume



# CT Basics: Difference Between X-ray and CT

- CT Algorithm
  - 2D Projection Gray Values = Attenuation Measurement
    - · Location Specific
    - Values → Stored & Normalized To Others
    - For Every Pixel, Every Image, Whole Circle
  - Back-projection → 2D Cross Section Reconstruction

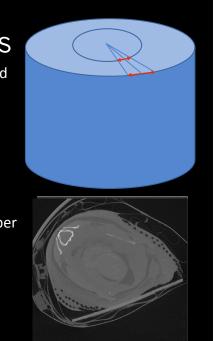


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# Number of rotations

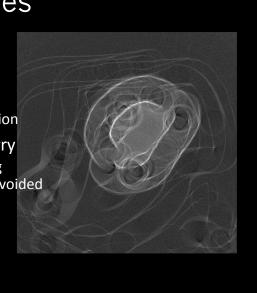
- CT algorithm uses a number of rotated images to reconstruct tomograms
- Each rotation move distal edge a specific distance
- Increasing the diameter of sample increases the travel of distal edge
- Algorithm will struggle to reconstruct the outer areas of the scan
- Increase the numbers of projections per 360° rotation
  - Decreases rotation angle per image
  - Decreases travel at distal edge

Projection number = 1.5 per pixel width



## Common issues

- Sample Movement
  - Sample moved during scan
- Center of rotation off
  - Incorrect location information
- Reconstruction seems blurry
  - Can be corrected for during reconstruction but better avoided



# Ring artifacts

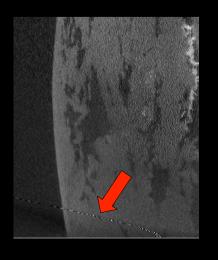
- Problem:
  - Poorly calibrated detector
- Solution
  - Add detector shift
  - Recalibrate detector Gain

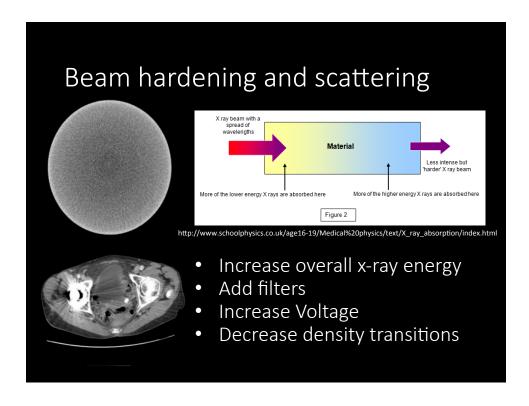


# Dead pixels

#### Dead pixels

- Problem:
  - Dead Pixels in Detector → White or Black Whole Scan
  - Reconstruction → Creates a saw shaped bowl artifact



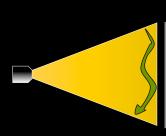


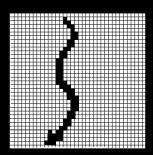
# Planning the scan

- What questions are you asking?
- What measurements will you need to take?
- How many specimens will you need to scan?
- Optimization
  - Resolution
    - · Spatial differentiation
  - Contrast
    - · Density differentiation
  - Noise Factor of Resolution and contrast
  - Speed

# Sample preparation

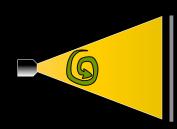
- Maximize the resolution of the scan
  - Square Detector plate
  - Efficient use of space
    - Cylindrical is better
    - Centralized position
  - Multi-scan used for odd shaped samples
- Specimen Must remain perfectly still!
  - Well secured
  - Must not dry out
- Minimize unnecessarily dense material
  - Ziploc bags instead of glass jars
  - Soda bottles and packing peanuts

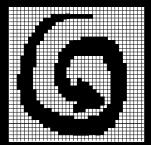




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# Single scans vs Burrito scanning

- Resolution vs throughput
- Increased post-processing to untangle specimens
- How to process Z-stacks?
- Some utility
  - Double scanning Frogs
  - Double output
  - Minimal additional processing
  - Easy to Reconstruct separately
  - No loss of resolution
  - Similar sized, square-ish specimens.





# Growing regions of interest

- Segmentation of volume data set
  - 'Regions of Interest' (ROI)
- Visualize individual sections of volume
- · Information of individual sections
  - Volume
  - Size
- Animation and articulation of multiple regions
- Export shapefiles (stl, obj, ply)
  - Morphometric packages

## **Data Handling**

- Archiving
  - Lots of files
  - Large amount of memory (several GB per scan)
  - Files are sensitive to renaming and moving
  - Good idea to have a system in place BEFORE you scan
- Important files
  - X-ray images (raw data)
  - Metadata files (raw data)
  - Tomograms
  - Proprietary Volume files
  - Mesh Files

