Virtual Patho-Histology at the GINIX 3D X-ray Microscope

Markus Osterhoff Institut für Röntgenphysik, Uni Göttingen

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Großgeräte

der physikalischen Grundlagenforschung



Virtual Patho-Histology at the GINIX 3D X-ray Micro

Markus Osterhoff



BMBF: 05KS7MG, 05K10MGA 05K13MG4, 05K16MG2 (STED), 05K16MGA (Nanosolar), 05K16MGB, 05K19MG2 (Neurotomo) DFG: SFB 755





GINIX









All our GINIX books



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Introduction

GINIX setup Holo-Tomo Methods & Algorithms & Al **Technical Progress, Scientific Results** STED Nanosolar Neurotomo Goodies from 100+ experiments **Preparing for the Future**



Introduction: GINIX setup

diode

beamstops

41 AD

flight path to detectors (5 m) front detector bench (0.5 m)





Introduction: holo-tomo – nano SAXS



Holo-Tomography

Full-field imaging technique

quantitative contrast

- electron density
- projected along optical axis
 - phase retrieval / inversion

cone-beam

- ► adjustable field of view
- zooming capability

holo-tomography

- combined with rotation axis
- ► 3D electron density

Scanning nano-SAXS

Raster-scanning technique

periodic structures

- ► super-structure
- ► length scales
- orientations

focused X-ray beam

fixed resolutionhigh dose

super resolution

quantify structures smaller than beam size







Introduction: holo-tomo

Control o

amanalian

Introduction: Methods & Algorithms Waveguide Alignment

Measurement

- ·

Pre-processing

Reconstructions

- - Segmentations

"Real" analysis: statistics on segmented objects

Introduction: Methods & Algorithms Waveguide Alignment

- ▶ pre-align via Laser
- goto intensity maximum
- rotate by hand
- before measurements: goto intensity maximum

Measurement

- ► hand-crafted macros
- modular macros // TODO
- semi-automatic pre-analysis scripts

Pre-processing

reading, cropping, masking
 flat-field correction

Reconstructions

Segmentations

"Real" analysis: statistics on segmented objects

Introduction: Methods & Algorithms Waveguide Alignment

- ▶ pre-align via Laser
- goto intensity maximum
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Measurement

- hand-crafted macros
- modular macros // TODO
- semi-automatic pre-analysis scripts

Pre-processing

- reading, cropping, masking
- ► alignment
- flat-field correction

Reconstructions

- holographic reconstruction (ill-posed)
- tomographic reconstruction (inverse Radon)
- \blacktriangleright \rightarrow grey values in cylinder \rightarrow 3D electron density distribution

Segmentations

- ► grey-value based
- ► local histogram
- ▶ gradients, edges etc.
- ► AI based: train by hand (e.g. drawing objects)

"Real" analysis: statistics on segmented objects

- ► cells' size, mass, shape, orientation, density
- distance to next neighbour, to other objects
- connectedness (neurons)
- compare histograms, CTRL vs. DISEASE / TREATMENT
- ...

Where AI could/might/does help Accelerator

 $\overline{\checkmark}$

Beamline / instrument

- ► design
- alignment

Measurement

- ► stability etc.
- data quality
- data rejection

Pre-processing

- ► image rejection
- ► alignment
- ► flat-field correction

Reconstructions

▶ holo, tomo
 ▶ incoming projection → tomo
 ☑

Segmentation

"Real" analysis

 \checkmark

 \checkmark

Introduction: Al

☑ design☑ operation

Beamline / instrument

- ► design
- alignment

Measurement

- ► stability etc.
- ► data quality
- data rejection

Pre-processing

- ► image rejection
- ► alignment
- flat-field correction

$\ensuremath{\boxdot} \ensuremath{\mathsf{Reconstructions}}$

► holo, tomo

 \blacktriangleright incoming projection \rightarrow tomo

 \square missing wedge

✓ Segmentation

- ☑ find pre-trained objects
- ☑ find user-trained objects
- fully automated pipeline
- pre-trained networks

✓ "Real" analysis

- ☑ compare histograms
- ☑ classify healthy/disease
- ► pre-clinical research
- diagnostic research

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Progress & Results: STED

depletion torus













fibre of interest

another kind of fibre



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Progress & Results: STED







Marten Bernhardt, Sarah Köster, Tim Salditt et al. Nature Communications, 2018

X-ray nano-SAXS



Progress & Results: Nanosolar



for hard X-rays @ 8...100 keV and 2D-focusing, ≤ 10 nm

(mo, Christian Eberl, Jakob Soltau, Jesper Wallentin, Hans-Ulrich Krebs et al.)







2D mapping of X-ray Beam Induced Currents

stepsize 20nm, scalebar 250nm, varying X-ray intensity (b), varying bias voltage (d)

Jakob Soltau et al. JSR 2021

















Jasper Frohn *et al*.: J Synchrotron Rad. 27, 1707–1719, 2020 3D virtual histology of human pancreatic tissue by multiscale phase-contrast X-ray tomography



Marius Reichardt et al.: eLife 10:e71359, 2021 3D virtual histopathology of cardiac tissue from Covid-19 patients based on phase-contrast X-ray tomography



Marius Reichardt et al.: 3D virtual histopathology of cardiac tissue from Covid-19 patients on phase-contrast X-ray tomography, eLife 2021.

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Marius Reichardt et al.: 3D virtual histopathology of cardiac tissue from Covid-19 patients on phase-contrast X-ray tomography, eLife 2021.





Marina Eckermann et al.: 3D virtual pathohistology of lung tissue from Covid-19 patients based on phase contrast X-ray tomography, eLife 2020.



M. Eckermann et al.: 3D virtual histology of the human hippocampus based on phase-contrast computed tomography, PNAS 2113835118, 2021

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Preparing for the Future



Preparing for the Future SIP Proposal 87

Holo-Tomography of Biological Tissue beyond the Current Limits

- Multi-Scale and high resolution voxel sizes ~ $5 \text{ nm} - 2 \mu \text{m}$ field of view ~ $10 \mu m - 5 mm$
- Compatibility with physiologic samples environments in-air, hydrated tissue; robotic sample exchange

PETRA IV Scientific Instrumentation Proposal Holo-Tomography of Biological Tissues beyond the Current Limits

Science Case

The unique potential of x-ray holo-tomography for high resolution three-dimensional (3d) analysis of biological samples is by now widely acknowledged [1-17]. This includes studies of biological cells in complex environments, small model organisms, tissues of animal models (diseases/control), and finally human biopsies and autopsies. Notably, 3d virtual histology has emerged as a powerful extension of classical histology, which for the last 100 years has been based on thin sections and light microscopy. 3d histology based on holo-tomography offers full 3d digitalization at an (isotropic) resolution better than with visible light, for large volumes, and without destructive slicing of the tissue. With a dedicated holo-tomography instrument, 3d virtual histology and histo-pathology could be exploited as a new tool for biomedical research, and possibly also for clinical diagnosis based on surgical biopsy punches. This will require a high degree of automation in all workflows from sample shipping, robotic handling, alignment, data recording, reconstruction to segmentation and classification based on artificial intelligence (AI). Such a project would greatly benefit research on cardiovascular, neurodegenerative, and infectious diseases (see Fig.1), and may enable to meet otherwise unsolvable fundamental challenges, such as the unraveling of the connectome in model animals and even the human brain, i.e. the mapping of neuronal circuits in special brain regions. A dedicated instrument could fully unlock the potential of holo-tomography by overcoming the persistent resolution and contrast limits of biological matter encountered today.



In many applications, the 3d structure has to be studied over multiple length scales. Taking human brain mapping as a highlight example, the instrument should at the same time be able to cover the neuronal cyto-architecture of a biopsy with a field of view of several mm's probed in parallel beam geometry, as well as zooms into regions of interest, with a resolution high enough to identify individual synapses. By achieving a resolution and image quality high enough to reconstruct neuronal circuits, holo-tomography would become an enabling tool for neuroscience. In principle, the projected brilliance of PETRA IV meets these requirements. However, a fully dedicated instrument for holo-tomography with advanced X-ray optics and detection, as well as optimized phase retrieval, reconstruction, and data handling strategies is equally important.

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- Energy range optimised for phase contrast 7 – 16 keV for unstained tissue 21 - 25 keV for larger biological specimens / material science
- Dose efficiency, high image quality waveguide-filtered illumination, hybrid pixelated detectors (~ Eiger 16M)

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- Dose efficiency, high image quality waveguide-filtered illumination, hybrid pixelated detectors (~ Eiger 16M)
- Phase retrieval and Reconstruction advanced iterative algorithms that overcome empty beam correction see Jakob Soltau
- Holistic design of control and data transfer live real-time reconstruction, standards, auto alignment processing pipeline from detector data to segmentation data

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Preparing for the Future



on the same glanks table as the sample tower. Changes of samples are carried out robotically.

Preparing for the Future



Figure 2: Proof-of-concept of super-resolution holography with pixel detectors: (left) Intensity in waveguide exit plane superimposed with SEM image (100nm scale bar), and phase reconstruction of waveguide illumination in the object plane showing a high-quality spherical phase profile which is used as a constraint in object phase retrieval. (right) Reconstruction of 50nm lines and spaces from a single holographic recording, using a pixel detector (EIGER X4M), and yielding a resolution of 11nm (FSC), roughly a factor of 3 smaller than the waveguide exit spot size (Soltau et al., published! Optica 8, 818-823, 2021)



Preparing for the Future

