超音波影像實驗室 Ultrasonic Imaging Laboratory

Primary Investigator Dr. Pai-Chi Li (李百祺博士)

Room 303 Department of Electrical Engineering National Taiwan University No.1, Sec.4, Roosevelt Road Taipei, Taiwan 106, R.O.C. TEL: + 886-2-23635251-303 Http:// land.ee.ntu.edu.tw

Ultrasonic Imaging Laboratory Members

Advisor: Dr. Pai-Chi Li Post-doc: 1 PhD Student: 8 Master Student: 5 Research Assistant: 2 Administration Assistant: 1



Pai-Chi Li (Professor, Senior Member of IEEE Society) Electrical Engineering National Taiwan University + 886-2-23635251-309 paichi@ee.ntu.edu.tw

PERSONAL EDUCATION

National Taiwan University	1983-1987	B.S.	Electrical Engineering
University of Michigan	1989-1990	M.S.	EE: Systems
University of Michigan	1991-1994	Ph.D.	EE: Systems

RESEARCH INTEREST

Signal and imaging processing, Ultrasonic medical imaging

WORK EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Associate InvestigatorHealth Research Institutes, Taiwan2001-present.Member of Technical StaffAcuson Corporation, U.S.A.1994-1997.

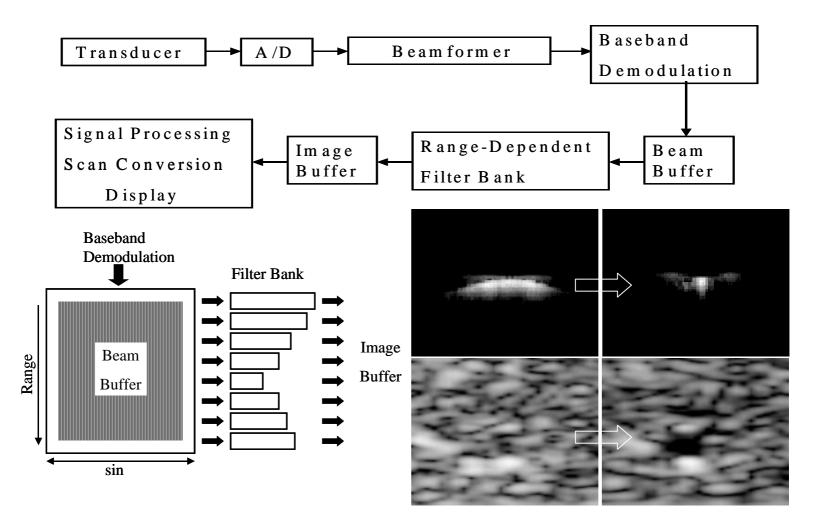
Present Programs Overview

- 1. Advanced Beamforming Technology
- 2. Ultrasonic Small Animal Imaging
- 3. Ultrasound Assisted Liposomal Therapy
- 4. Opto-Acoustic Imaging
- 5. Others

Advanced Beamforming Technology

Ultrasonic Synthetic Aperture Imaging

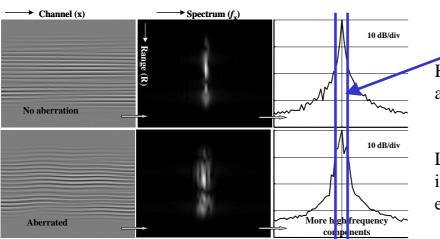
- Filter based synthetic focusing technique



M.-L. Li and P.-C. Li, "Filter Based Synthetic Transmit and Receive Focusing", Ultrasonic Imaging, Vol. 23, pp. 73-89, April, 2001.

Adaptive Imaging

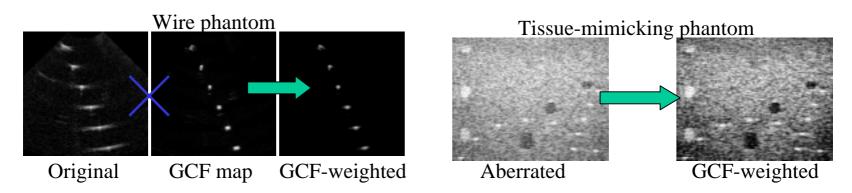
A generalized-coherence-factor (GCF) weighting technique is proposed.
 GCF = spectral energy within type - specified low frequency range



total spectral energy

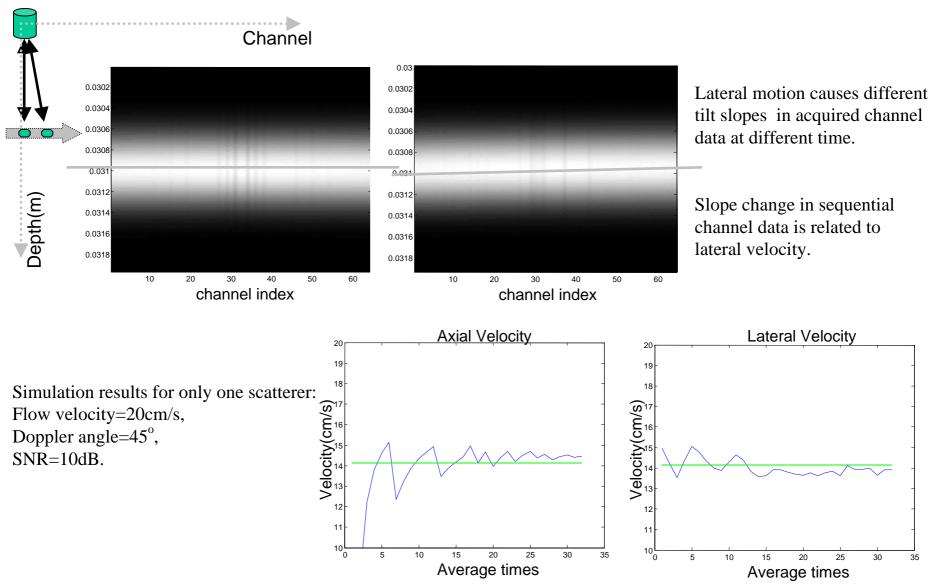
High GCF corresponds to good focusing quality and the image intensity should be maintained

Lower GCF should be used to reduce the image data because significant beamforming errors are present



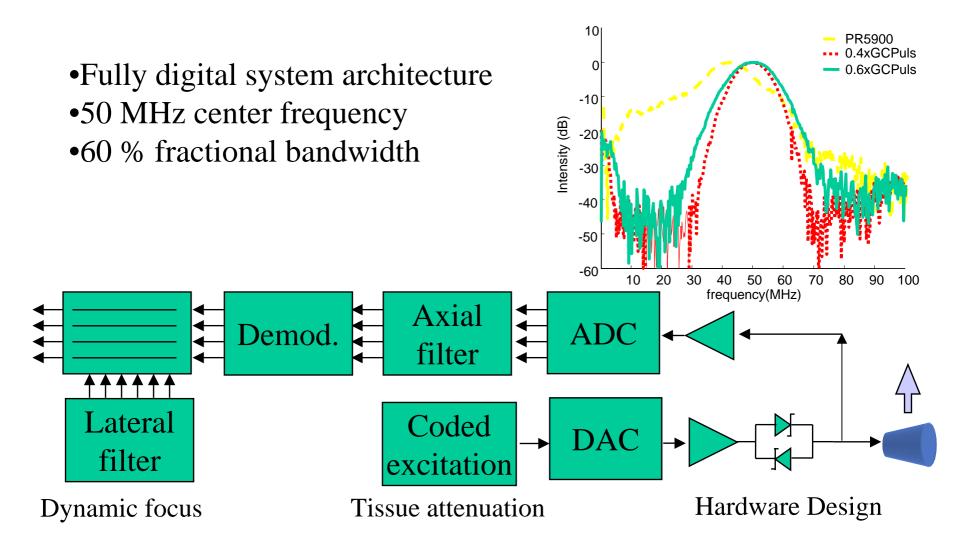
P.-C. Li and M.-L. Li, "<u>Adaptive Imaging Using the Generalized Coherence Factor</u>", IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics and Frequency Control, Vol. 50, No.2, pp. 128-141, February, 2003.

2-D Flow Estimation Using Channel Data

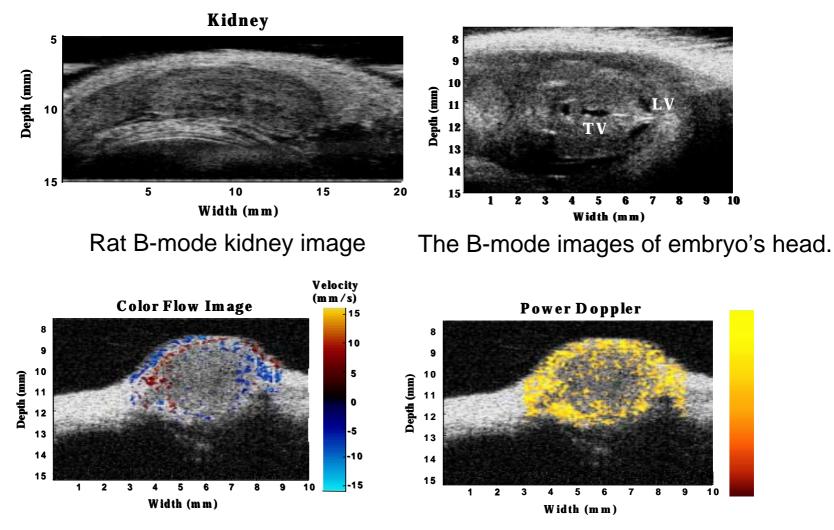


Ultrasonic Small Animal Imaging

High Frequency Ultrasonic Imaging System



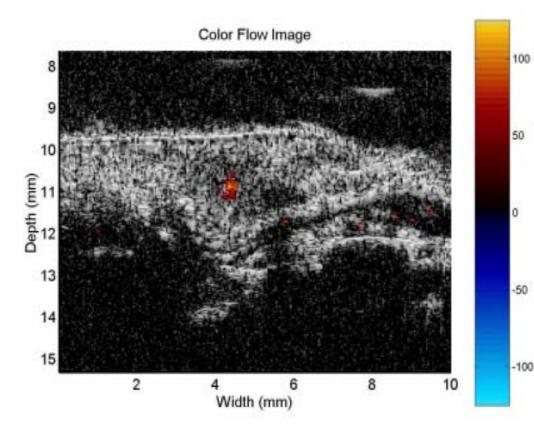
High Frequency Ultrasonic System: Rat



Rat Abdomen Tumor: Color Flow Image and Power Doppler.

High Frequency Ultrasonic System: Zebra-Fish

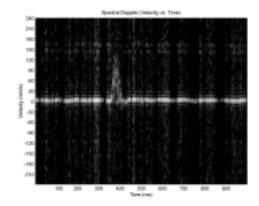
Color flow image of Zebra-Fish in 25 MHz



Zebra-Fish (3-5 cm)



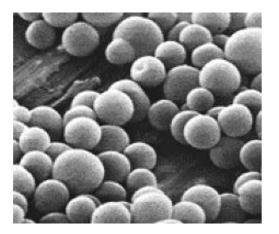
Spectral Doppler of heart



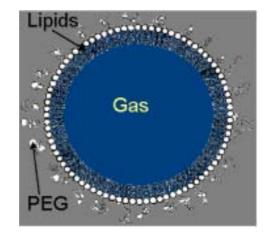
Ultrasound Assisted Liposomal Therapy

- Ultrasound contrast agents (UCAs) are shellencapsulated microbubbles
- UCAs are used to enhance backscattered echoes from blood (15-20 dB)

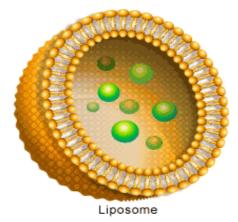
contrast agents



Contrast Agents (micorn)

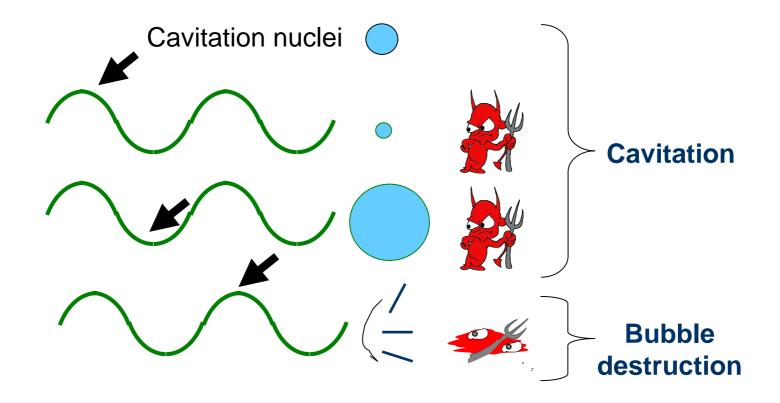


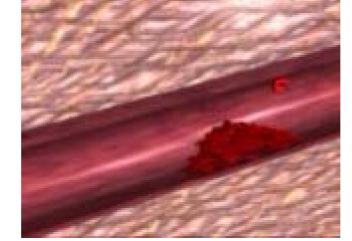
Liposomes (nano)



Not a drug vehicle

Mainly hydrophilic drug vehicle

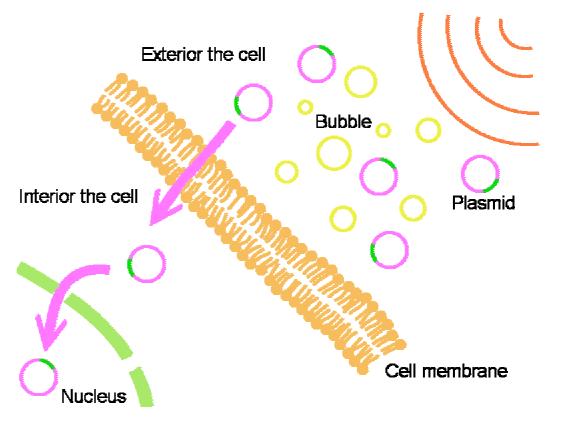




thrombus

Ultrasound on Gene Therapy

- Using Ultrasound, microbubbles, liposome and plasmid DNA to achieve gene transfer and gene expression
- Advantages :
 - Non-invasive
 - Target gene therapy
- Present works :
 - Mechanism research (cavitation, etc.)
 - Tumor inhibition and therapy



Opto-Acoustic Imaging

Opto-Acoustic Measurement of Blood Flow and Contrast Agent Fabrication

 Functional imaging. Ex : blood oxygen measurement.

Develop O.A. contrast agent to enhance the O.A. signal.

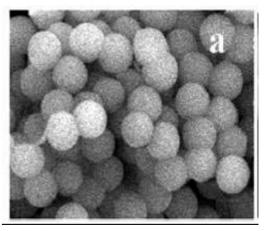
Current work:

1.Liposome (with dye Direct-81 red) as O.A. contrast gent

2.Gold nanoparticles as P.A. contrast agent



Liposome with dye (Direct-81 red)



Gold nanoparticles

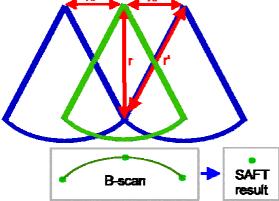
Improved Backward Opto-Acoustic Imaging Using Synthetic Aperture Focusing and Coherence Factor

•OA imaging was based on the different optical absorption coefficients in tissue.

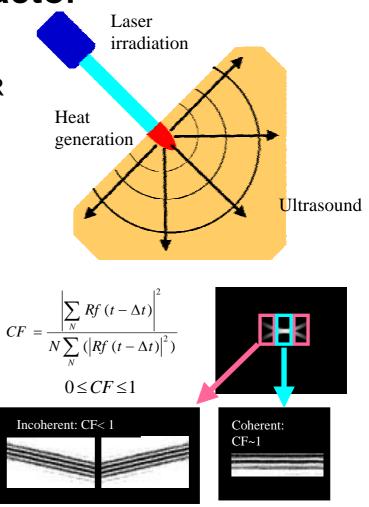
•OA imaging has poor lateral resolution and SNR due to the wide optical and acoustic radiation patterns.

 Backward OA 2-D imaging system has been built up.

•Both the lateral resolution and SNR were improved by using SAFT and CF weighting method.



Synthetic Aperture Focusing Technique



Coherent factor diagram

Cont'd

7.25

ີ ແມ່ 7.5

N7.75

8

8.25

7.25

(m 7.5) 7.75 N 7.75

8

8.25

7

8

Original image

9

9

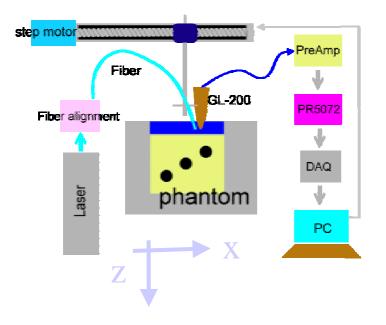
8

CF image

10

10 11 X (mm)

11



The OA B-mode image scan system

The original OA imaging of the hair phantom in milk medium (top left), the image after SAFT calculation (top right), the CF map (bottom left), the image after SAFT and CF weighting

7.25

7.5

7.75

8

7

8

8.25

7.25

7.5

7.75

8

12 ^{8.25} 7

12

SAFT image

8 9 10 SAFT+CF image

10 X (mm)

9

10 11

12

11 12

A Numerical Approach for Opto-Acoustic Ultrasound

• Governing Equations

$$\frac{\partial \rho'}{\partial t} + \rho_0 \nabla \cdot \vec{u} = -\rho' \nabla \cdot \vec{u} - \vec{u} \cdot \nabla \left(\rho' + \rho_0\right)$$

$$\rho_0 \frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla p = -\rho' \frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} - (\rho_0 + \rho') (\vec{u} \nabla) \vec{u} + \frac{1}{3} \mu \nabla (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}) + \mu \nabla^2 \vec{u}$$

$$\rho_0 T_0 \frac{\partial s}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \left(\kappa \nabla T' \right) + W$$

$$p - c_0^2 \rho' = \frac{c_0^2}{\rho_0} \frac{B}{2A} {\rho'}^2 + c_0^2 \left(\frac{\rho\beta T}{c_p}\right)$$
$$T' - \left(\frac{T\beta}{\rho C_p}\right)_0 p = \left(\frac{T}{C_v}\right)_0 s$$

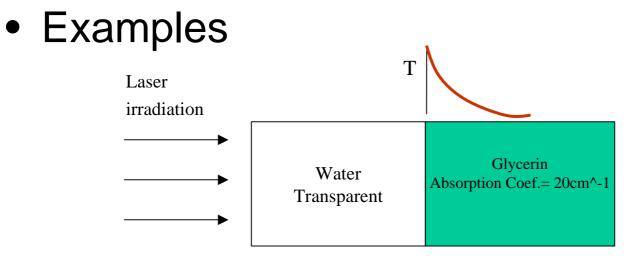
 $\rho': \text{ density deviation}$ $\overline{u}: \text{ particle velocity}$ T': temperature deviation $s: \text{ entropy deviation} \left(\frac{J}{kg} \cdot {}^{o}K\right)$ g p: acoustic pressure $W: \text{ heat generation function} \left(\frac{W}{m}^{3}\right)$ $\kappa: \text{ thermal conductivity} \left(\frac{W}{m} \cdot {}^{o}K\right)$ $\mu: \text{ viscousity} \left(\frac{kg}{m} \cdot s\right)$ $C_{p}, C_{v}: \text{ specific heats} \left(\frac{J}{kg} \cdot {}^{o}K\right)$ $\rho_{0}, T_{0}: \text{ ambient density & }$

•All spatial inhomogeneities are taken into consideration.

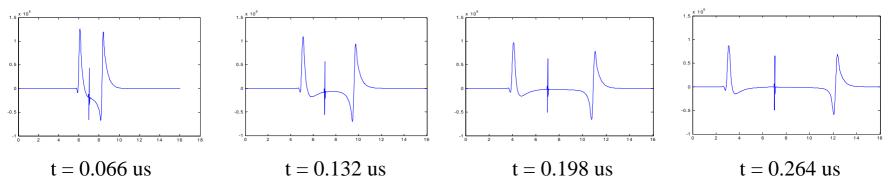
•Given the initial values of ρ', \bar{u}, s , all variables at the future time can be found using the finite-difference timedomain (FDTD) method

temperature distribution

Cont'd



OA waveforms at selected moments



Others Studies

Pspice Modeling of Ultrasound Transducer

- Model of an ultrasound single element transducer.
- •Low acoustic impedance, low acoustic quality factor and low dielectric constant of piezoelectric polymer is suitable to fabricate ultrasound transducer.
- Acoustic and electrical part of transducer can easily be varied and analyzed by using Pspice simulation.
- In future, transducer model can expand to a complete ultrasound system

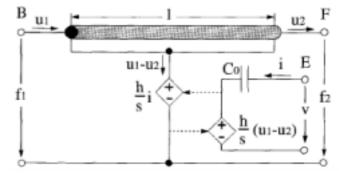


Fig. 1. Equivalent circuit for the thickness mode transducer

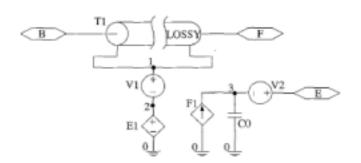
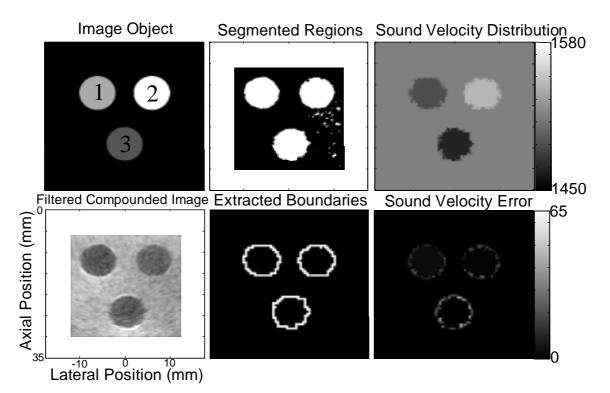


Fig. 2. Pspice subcircuit for thickness mode transducer

Computed Tomography Sound Velocity Reconstruction

- We proposed a method for incorporating the segmentation information of a Bmode image into the process of sound velocity reconstruction with limitedangle transmission tomography.
- The reconstructed sound velocities are accurate except at the boundaries.
- The sound velocity error are generally 1-3 m/s.
- Obtaining the sound velocity distribution is feasible with current B-mode imaging setup using linear arrays.



Combining High Frequency Ultrasound and Micro-PET System for Small Animal Imaging Study

- □ small animal model and tumor monitoring
- using high frequency ultrasound system to measure tumor growth curve and angiogenesis
 micro-PET study :
 - 1. principle of tumor [18F]FDG PET detecting
 - 2. principle of PET imaging
 - 3. micro-PET imaging and
- radiopharmacokinetic study registration, imaging fusion and to integrate the two imaging systems



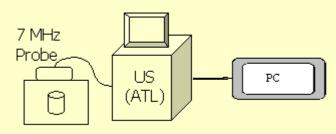






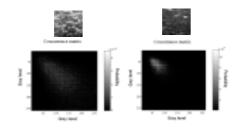
Liver Fibrosis Grade Classification Using B-mode Ultrasound 以二維超音波影像特徵作肝纖維化程度之分類

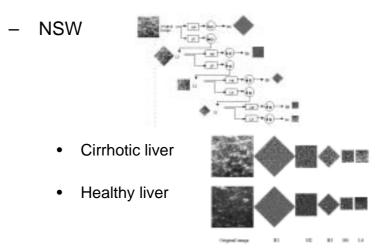
Experiment set-up



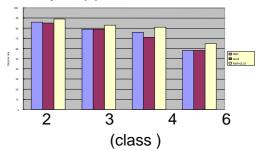
Liver in water tank

- Image feature extracted by gray level concurrence and non-separable wavelet transform
 - GLC (the energy of concurrence matrix of healthy liver is more concentrated then cirrhotic liver)





 The accuracy of different classes done by support vector machine



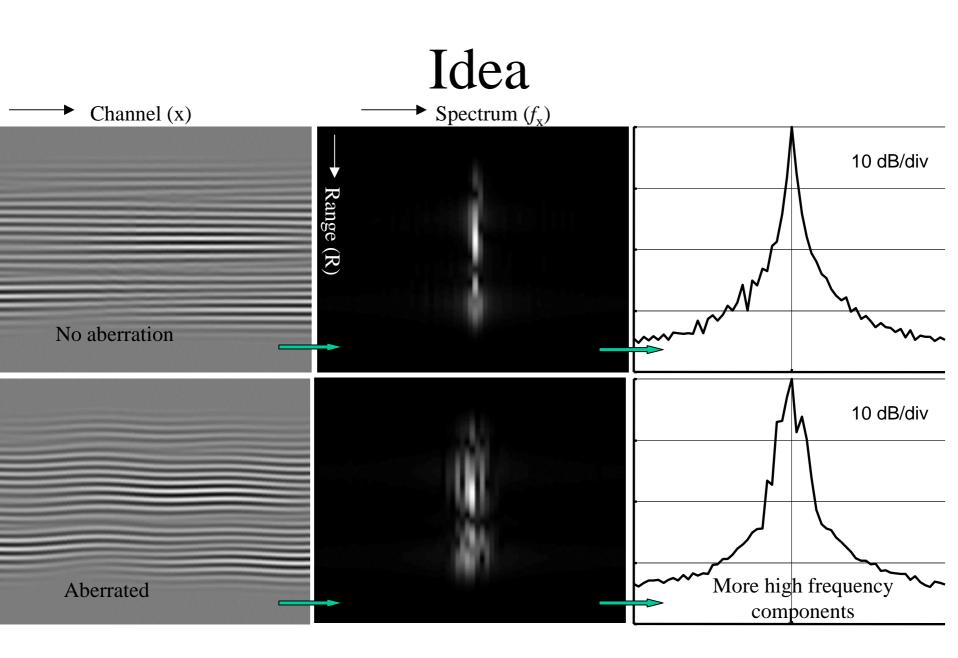
Previous Studies Overview

- 1. Adaptive Imaging
- 2. Ultrasonic Nonlinear Imaging
- 3. Ultrasonic Elastic Imaging
- 4. 3-D Ultrasonic Imaging
- 5. High Frequency Ultrasonic Imaging
- 6. Blood Flow Estimation Using Ultrasonic Contrast Agent

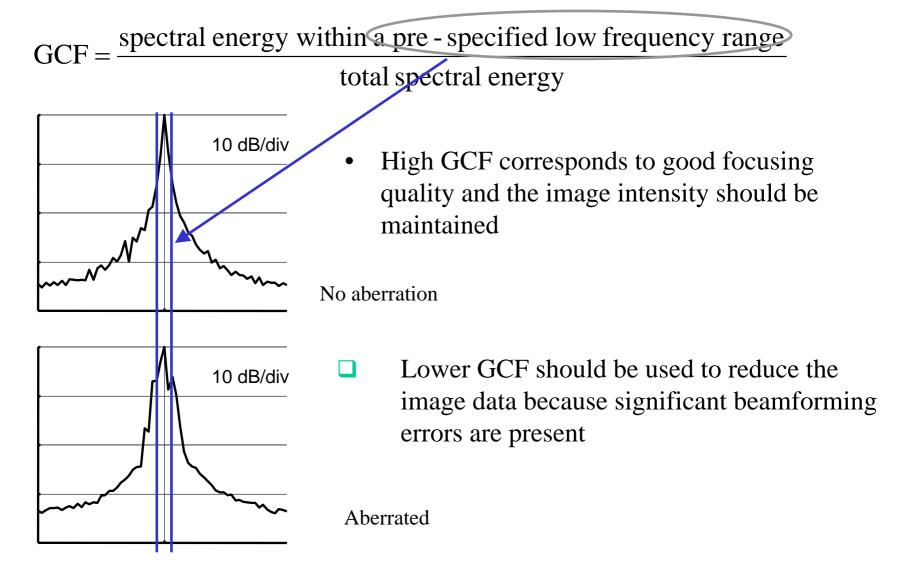
1. Adaptive Imaging

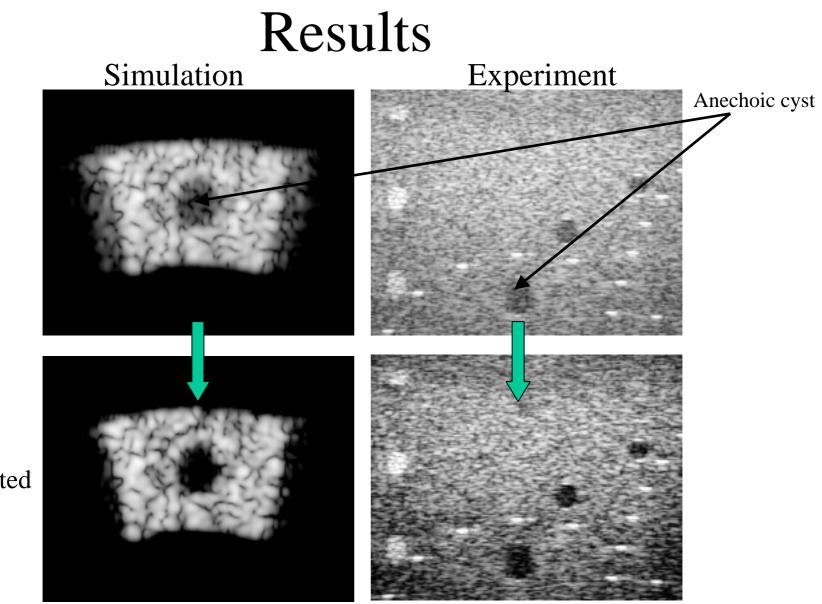
Adaptive Imaging

- A new adaptive imaging technique using generalized coherence factor (GCF) is proposed.
- GCF is derived based on the spectrum of the received array data along the array direction.
- GCF is an index of beamforming quality
- GCF is used as a weighting factor to the reconstructed image.



Generalized Coherence Factor





Aberrated

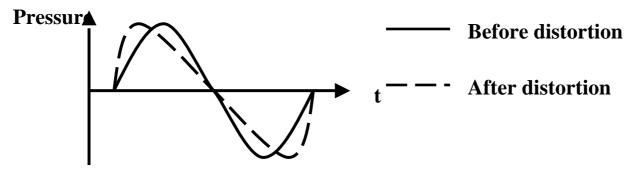
GCF Corrected

2. Ultrasonic Nonlinear Imaging

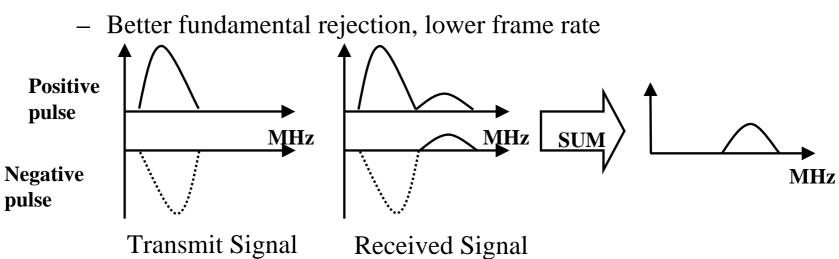
Ultrasonic Tissue Harmonic Imaging

• Tissue Harmonic

- the harmonic component generated from *finite amplitude distortion*

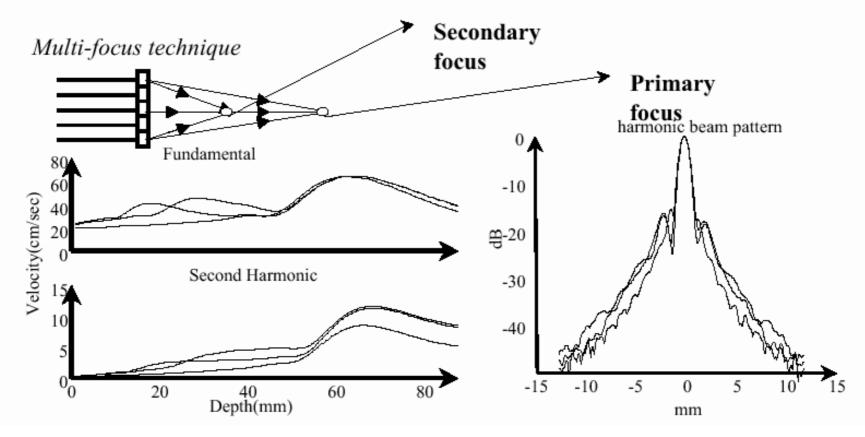


• Pulse Inversion



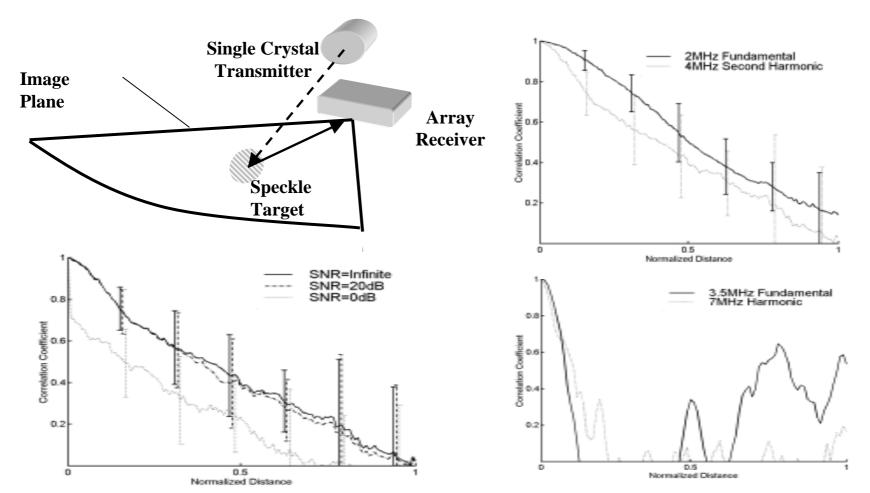
Ultrasonic Tissue Harmonic Imaging

- The Effect of Multi-focus Technique on Tissue Harmonic Image
- Effects of Harmonic Leakage on Tissue Harmonic Imaging



Ultrasonic Tissue Harmonic Imaging

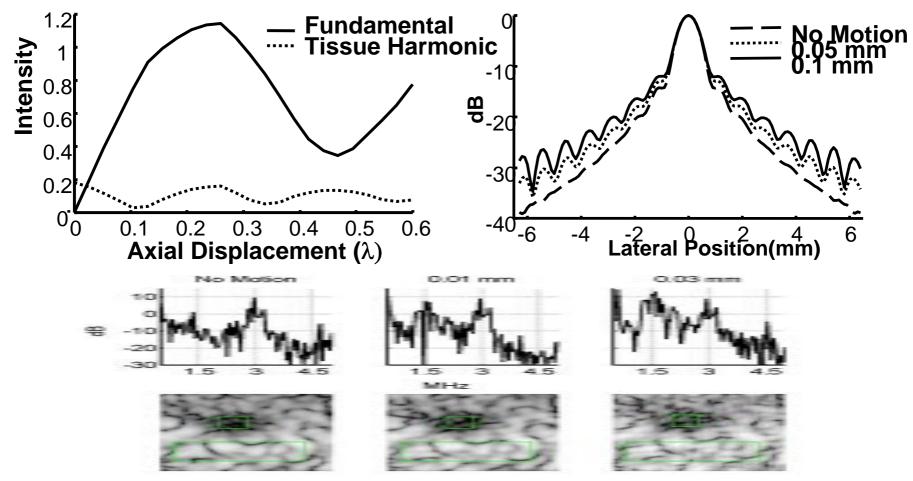
- Harmonic spatial covariance analysis
 - Effects of SNR
 - Effects of sound velocity inhomogeneities



Ultrasonic Tissue Harmonic Imaging

• Motion artifacts of Pulse Inversion Technique

- Effects of SNR
- Effects of sound velocity inhomogeneities



3. Ultrasonic Elastic Imaging

Ultrasonic elastic imaging

- Ultrasonic strain compounding image based on a fast speckle tracking algorithm
- Strain compounding technique
 - Improve contrast resolution of the image
 - Steps:

Obtain an uncompressed image as a basis

Applying an external force on the object yields deformation

Modify the deformation in the image plane

Average the modified and original images

2D fast speckle tracking algorithm

- Block Sum Pyramid
 - Take threshold: SADmin
 - Reduce the computations of SAD

Pyramid structure

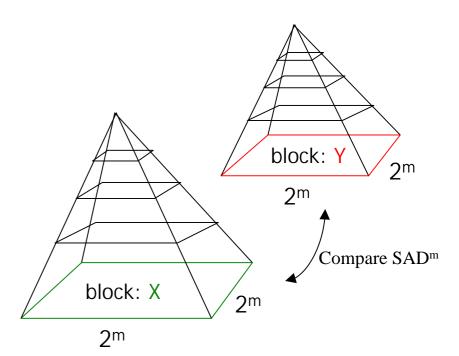
$$X^{m-1}(i, j) = X^{m}(2i - 1, 2j - 1) + X^{m}(2i - 1, 2j)$$

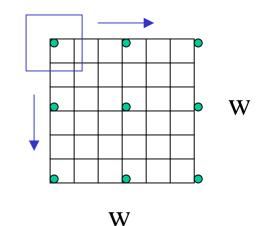
+ $X^{m}(2i,2j-1) + X^{m}(2i,2j)$

SAD^m(X,Y) = $\sum_{i=1}^{2^m} \sum_{j=1}^{2^m} |X^m(i,j) - Y^m(i,j)|$



- Reduce numbers of points to be searched
- We use 2 levels
- 1^{st} level: window size= w*w, 9 points
- 2^{nd} level: window size= $\frac{1}{2} * w * \frac{1}{2} * w$, all points





1st level

Results

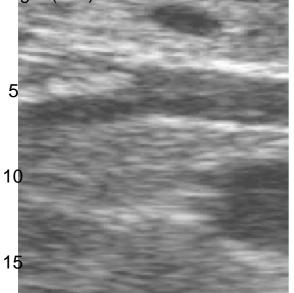
• Algorithm performance For 121 pixels

Language	FSA	BSPA	BSPA &	Ratio	
			Multilevel		
Matlab	27.14 (s)	14.17 (s)	7.64 (s)	3.6:2:1	
С	12.3 (s)	1.53 (s)	0.998 (s)	12:1.5:1	

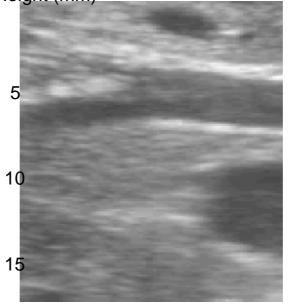
BSP & Multilevel algorithm is indeed not only faster than traditional algorithm, but also as accurate as traditional one.

• Compounding image

Height (mm)



Height (mm)



Liver SNR=0.1164 SNR ↑ Computing speed ♠



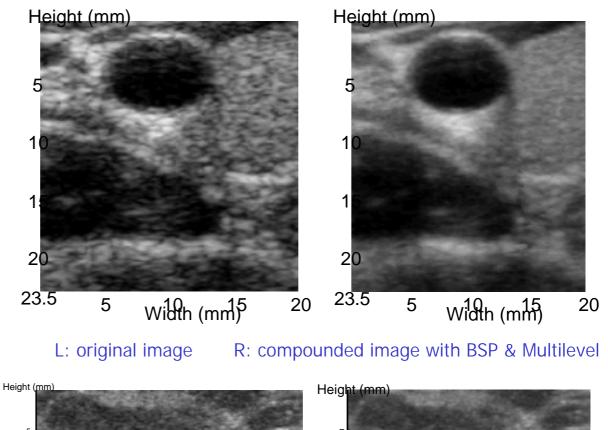
Width⁵(mm) R: compounding image with BSP & Multilevel

Cont'd

Thyroid SNR=0.9625 SNR ↑ Computing speed ↑

Breast SNR=0.1692 SNR ↑

Computing speed



10

15

20

25

30

10

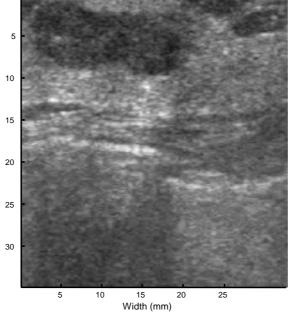
5

15

Width (mm)

20

25

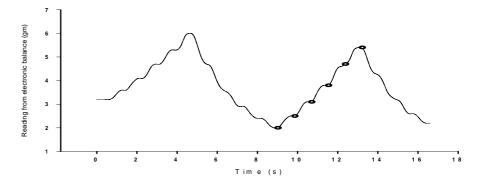


Young's Modulus Measurements of Human Liver and Correlation with Pathological Findings

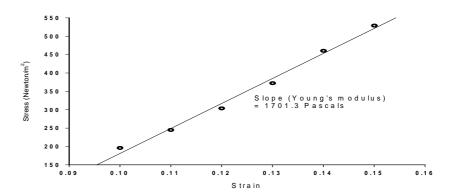
The Experimental Set-up



The Readings from Electrical Balance as a Function of Time



The Stress- Strain Curve

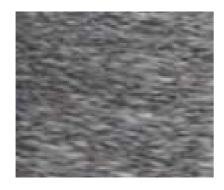


The Young's modulus of normal liver, cirrhotic liver and hepatic tumors

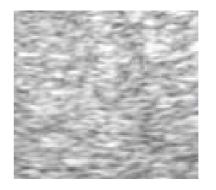
	Young's Modulus (Pascals)								
Liver parenchyma (mean value)			Hepatic tumors						
Normal	Cirrhosis	Cinthosis	Hepatocellular	Cholangio-	Focal	Hemangioma			
	(Fibrosis	(Fibrosis	carcinoma	carcinoma	nodular	(Emelianov			
	score: 4)	score: 5)			hyperplasia	et al. 1998)			
642.6	1106.4	1649.0	Smaller than	3003.7	1084.9	Larger than			
1083.6	2373.6	4930.7	normal liver	12098.1	2522.5	normal liver			
	Normal 642.6	Liver parenchyma (mea Normal Cirrhosis (Fibrosis score: 4) 642.6 1106.4	Liver parenchyma (mean value) Normal Cirrhosis Cirrhosis (Fibrosis (Fibrosis (Fibrosis score: 4) score: 5) 642.6	Liver parenchyma (mean value) Hepatic tumor Normal Cirrhosis Cirrhosis Hepatocellular (Fibrosis (Fibrosis carcinoma score: 4) score: 5) Smaller than	Liver parenchyma (mean value) Hepatic tumors Normal Cinthosis Cinthosis Hepatocellular (Fibrosis (Fibrosis carcinoma carcinoma score: 4) score: 5) score: 5) 3003.7	Liver parenchyma (mean value) Hepatic tumors Normal Cirrhosis Cirrhosis Hepatocellular Cholangio- Focal (Fibrosis (Fibrosis carcinoma carcinoma nodular score: 4) score: 5) scole: 5) hyperplasia 642.6 1106.4 1649.0 Smaller than 3003.7 1084.9			

Tissue characterization of Ultrasonic B-image

- Compare normal with cirrhotic liver
 - Statistical method
 - Conventional and non-separable wavelet decomposition method



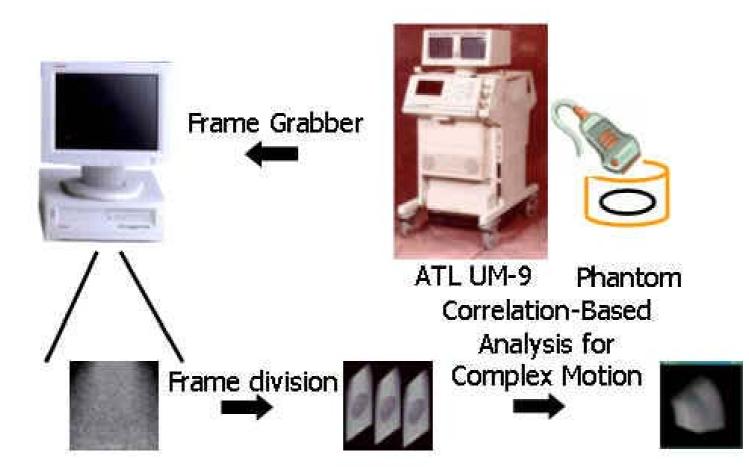
Normal liver



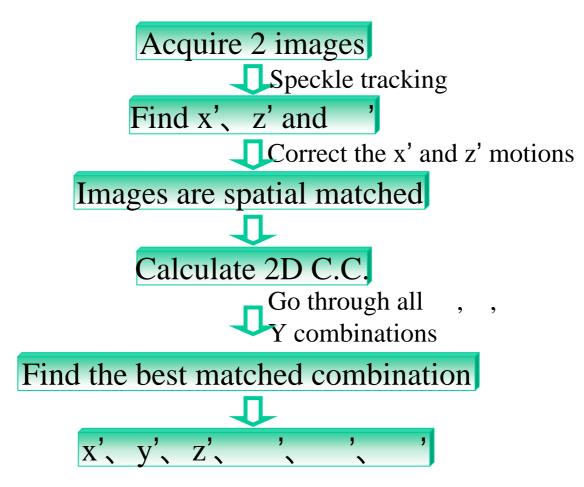
Cirrhotic liver

4. 3-D Ultrasound Imaging

A Free-Hand 3D Ultrasound Imaging System



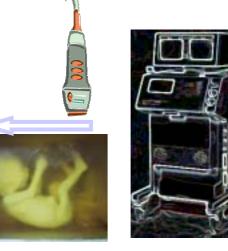
Correlation-Based Analysis for Complex Motion



A 3D System Integration

- Platform :
- Win NT、 OpenGL

Frame Grabber



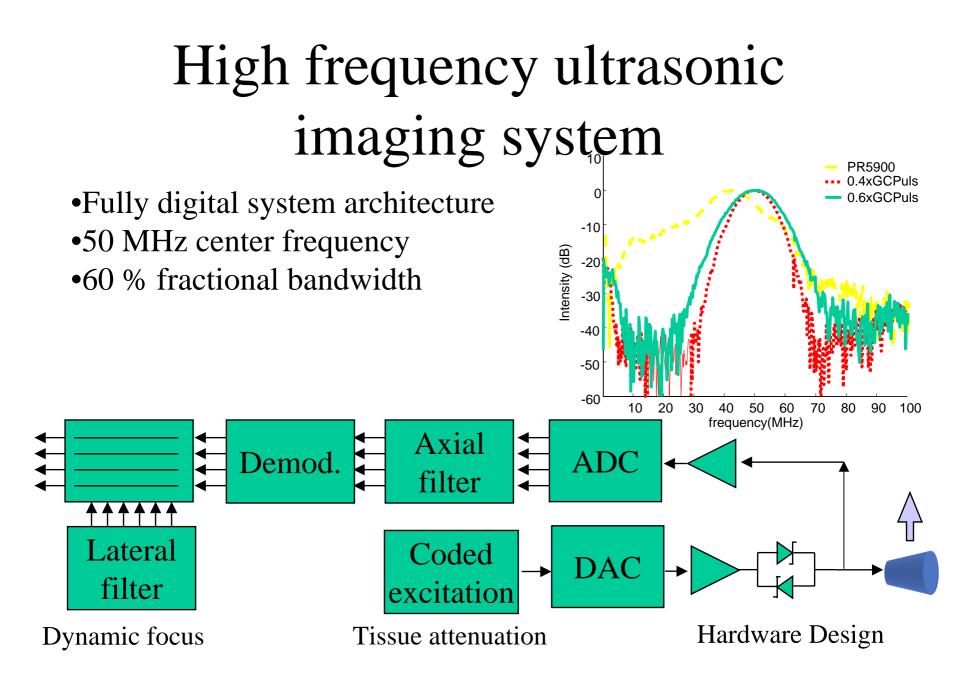
Baby Phantom ATL UM-9





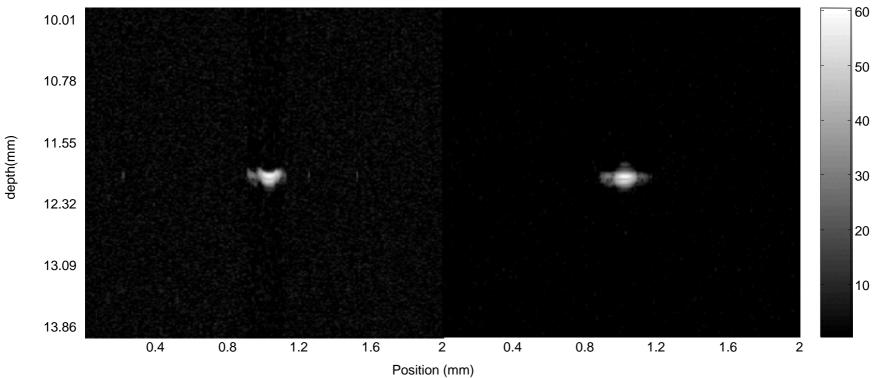


5. High Frequency Ultrasonic Imaging

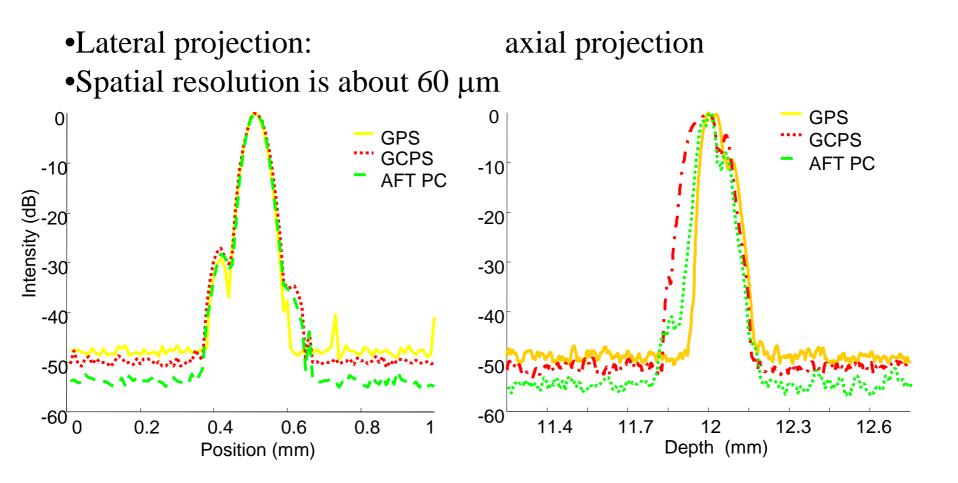


Wire phantom

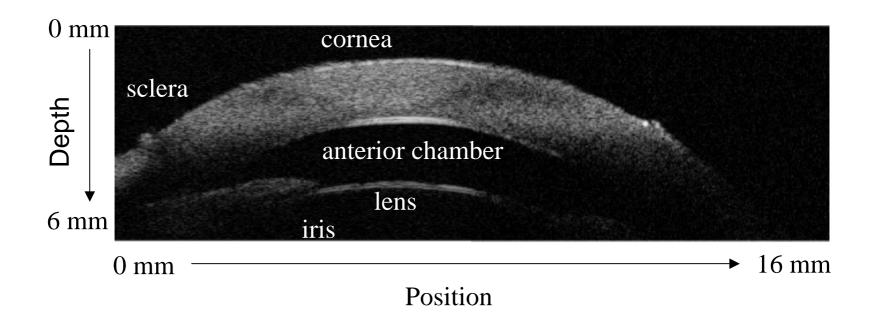
- 52um nylon wire phantom
- Gaussian Pulse
 Gaussian Chirp Pulse



Resolution test

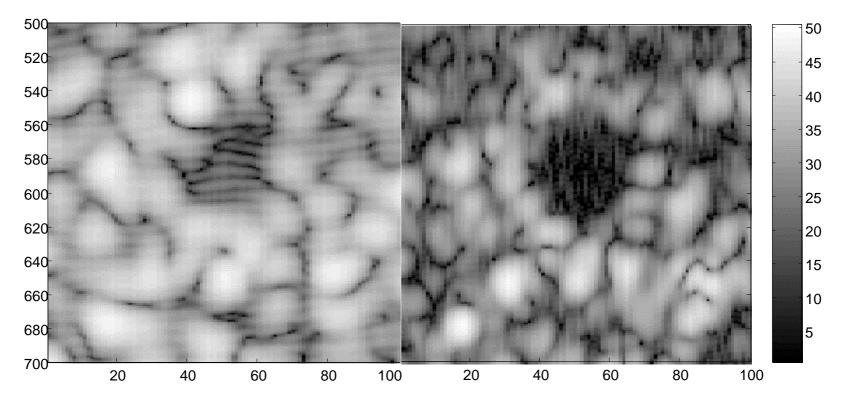


in-vitro pig eye image

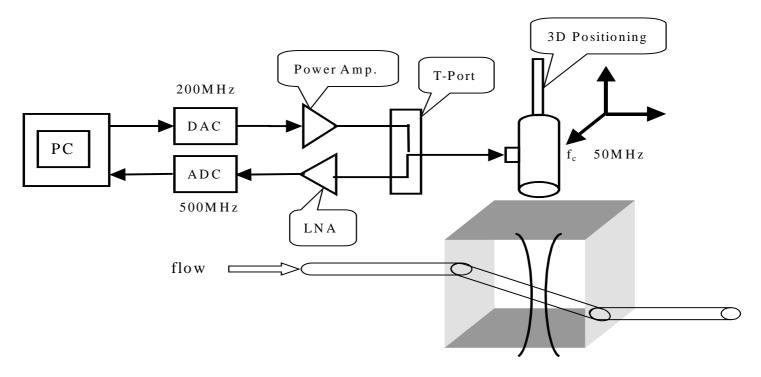


Tissue harmonic imaging

• Pulse inversion technique cancels fundamental signal

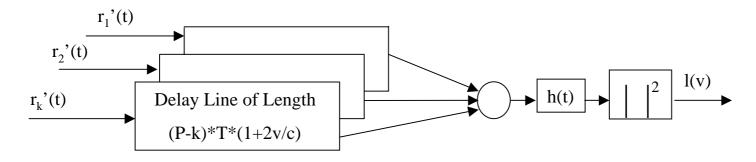


• 50MHz High Frequency Ultrasound : wideband transmitted signal (short transmitted pulse) and narrow lateral beamwidth better spatial and velocity resolution (down to mm/s), capable of estimating low velocities blood flow in small vessels.

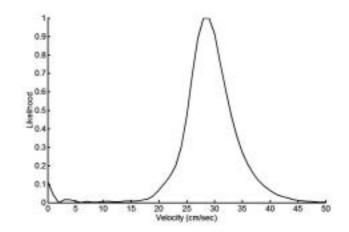


In-Vitro Flow Estimation : Autocorrelation Technique $R(t) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S(t+\tau) S^*(\tau) d\tau$ $R(t) = |R(t)|e^{j\theta(t)} \longrightarrow \bar{f} = \frac{\theta(T)}{2\pi T}$, T: PRI Depth (cm) Depth (cm) 10 20 50 Number of Samples Number of Samples

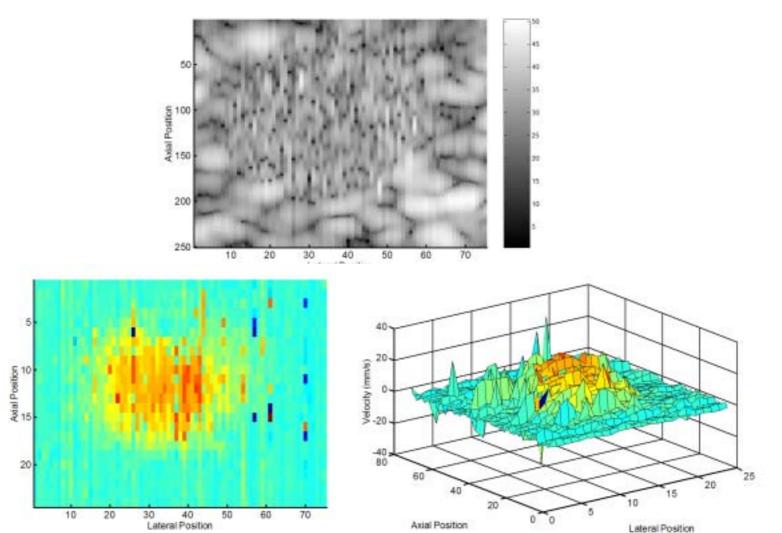
In-Vitro Flow Estimation : WMLE Technique



Bank of delay lines, and filter h(t) matched to the expected demodulated echo signals which correspond to various velocities. The maximum likelihood velocity is then given by the filter with the largest output.



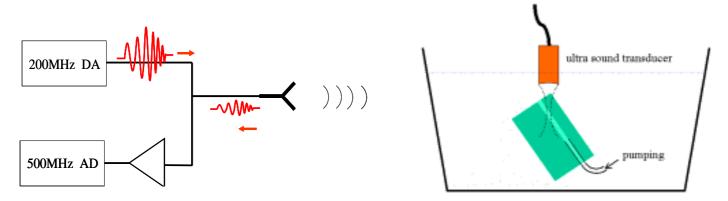
In-Vitro 2D Flow Data : 500µm diameter cyst, with maximum velocity 20mm/s



High Frequency Ultrasound Experiment 25~50MHz

Basic System Diagram

Flow System

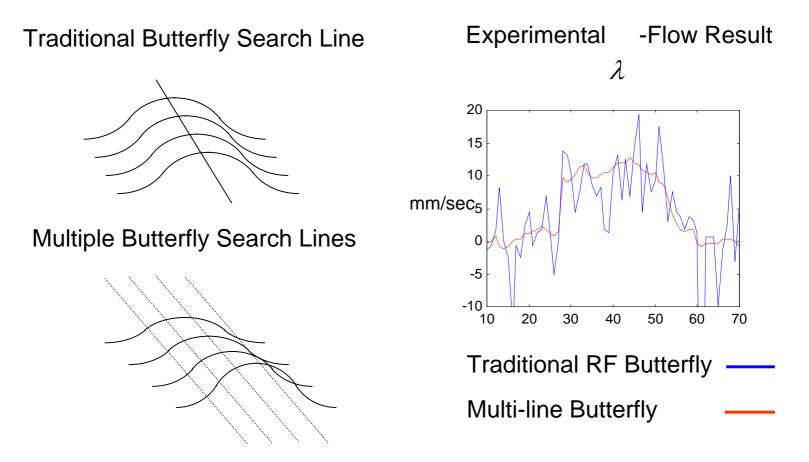


Experiment Condition

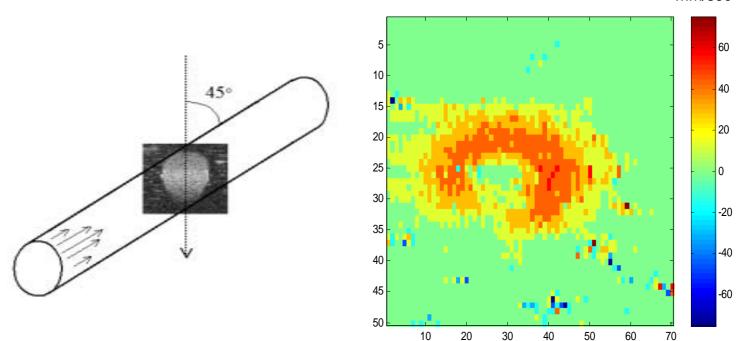
200MHz DA excite 25~50 MHz coded ultrasound wave 500MHz AD receiving Wide band ultrasound transducer Up to 20KHz PRF

High Frequency Flow Estimation

RF Butterfly Search (Multi-line)



High Frequency Flow Estimation Color Flow Image



mm/sec

High Frequency Harmonic Image 25MHz 300 µm Cyst image

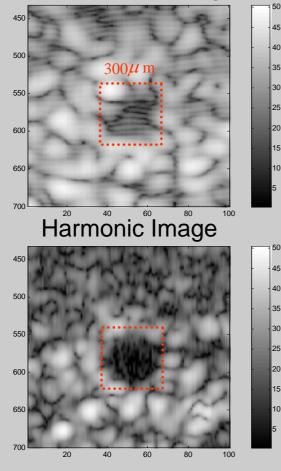
15

10

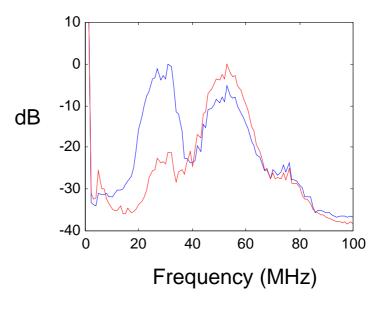
15

10

Fundamental Image

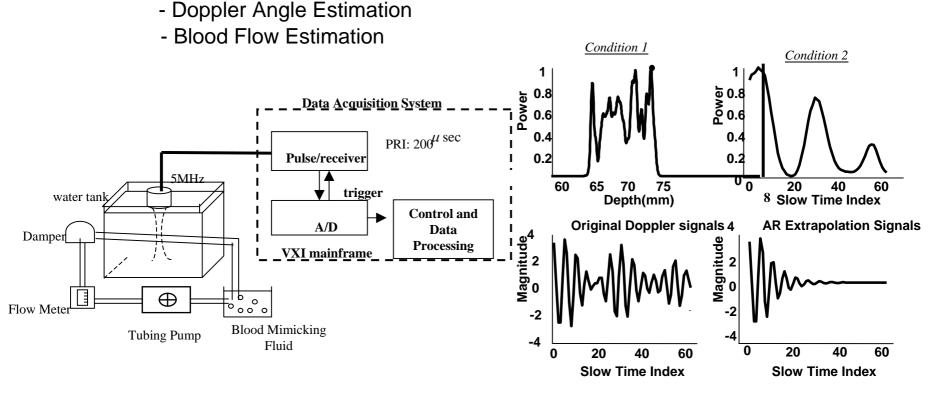






6. Blood Flow Estimation Using Ultrasonic Contrast Agent

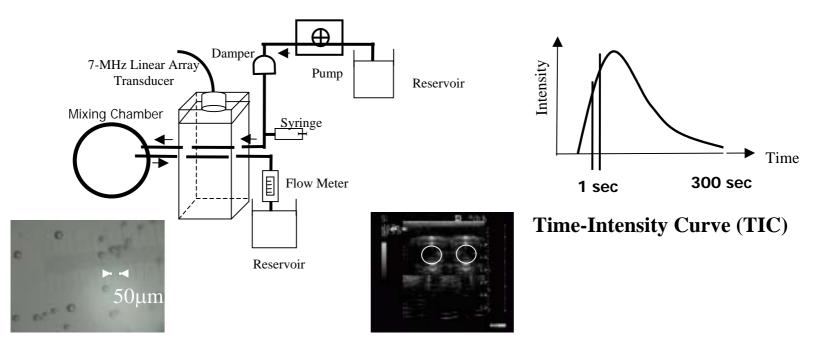
Doppler Blood Flow Estimation (I)



- 1. P.-C. Li, C.-J. Cheng and C.-C. Shen, "Doppler Angle Estimation Using Correlation", IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics and Frequency Control, Vol. 47, No. 1, pp. 188-196, 2000.
- 2. P.-C. Li, C.-J. Cheng and C.-K Yeh, "On the Velocity Estimation Using Speckle Decorrelation", IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics and Frequency Control, Vol. 48, No. 4, pp. 1084-1091, July, 2001.
- 3. C.-K. Yeh and P.-C. Li, "Doppler Angle Estimation Using AR Modeling", IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics and Frequency Control. June, 2002

Blood Flow Estimation Using Ultrasonic Contrast Agent

- Blood Flow Estimation (Indicator-Dilution Theory)
- Time-Vary Method

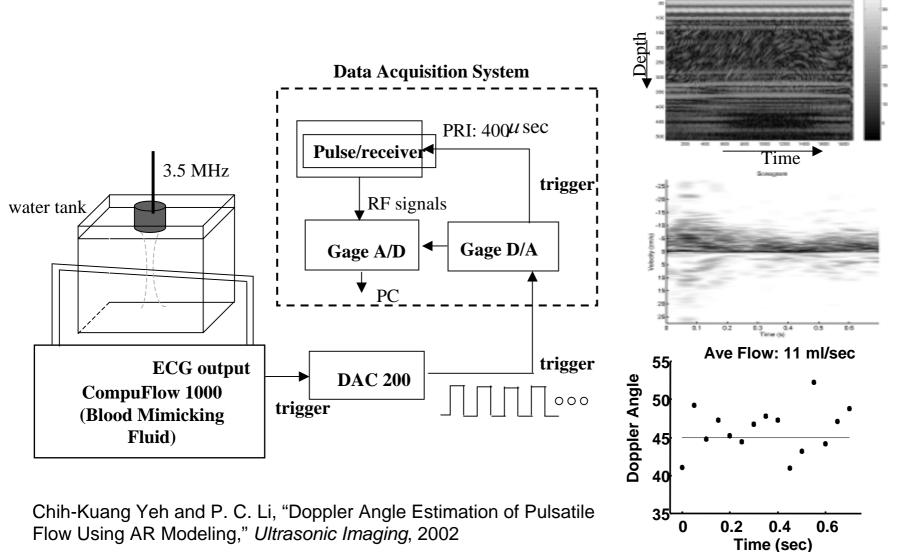


1. C.-K. Yeh S.-W. Wang and <u>P.-C. Li</u>, Feasibility Study on the Time-Intensity Based Blood Flow Measurements Using Deconvolution," *Ultrasonic Imaging*, vol. 23, pp. 90-105, April, 2001,

2. <u>P.-C. Li</u>, C.-K. Yeh and S.-W. Wang, "Time-Intensity Based Volumetric Flow Measurements: An In Vitro Study", Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology. vol. 28, no. 3, pp. 349–358, 2002

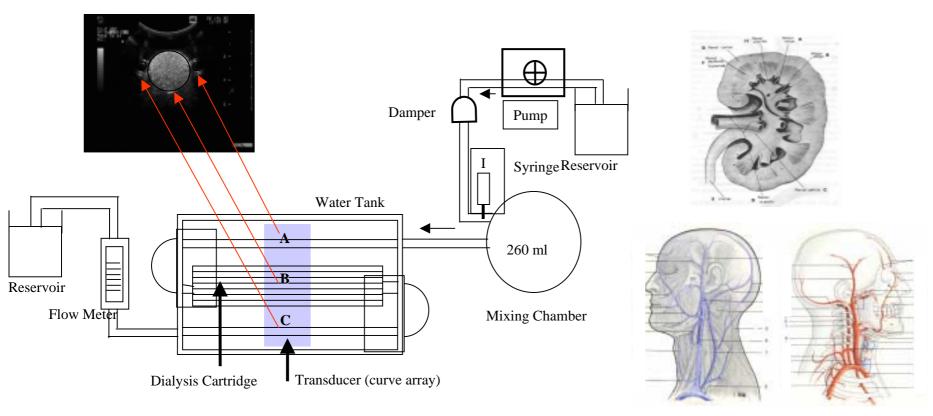
Doppler Blood Flow Estimation in Pulsatile Flow (II)

- Doppler Angle Estimation
- Blood Flow Estimation



Blood Flow Estimation Using Ultrasonic Contrast Agent

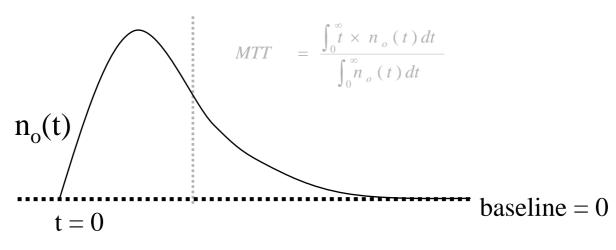
- Shadowing Effect
- Input and Output Time-Intensity Curves (IOTIC)



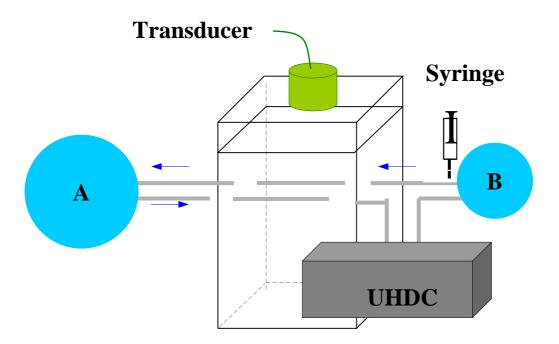
Chih-Kuang Yeh and P. C. Li, "Contrast specific ultrasonic flow measurements based on both input and output time intensities," *Ultrasound in Medical & Biology*, 2002

Assessment of Parameters in Pulsatile Flow using Ultrasound Contrast Agent

- Provide a model for the assessment of perfusion characteristics
- Dilution theory
 - MTT : mean transient time
 - theory : V/Q (ideal)
- LTI system \longrightarrow TV (time-varying)



Experimental setup

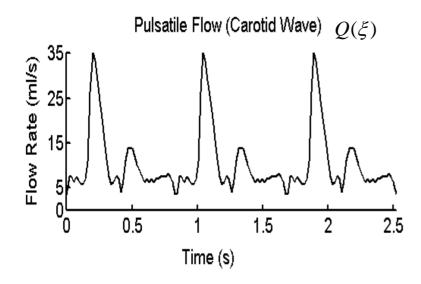


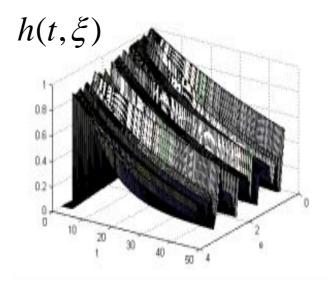
Simulation methods

Superposition theory :

 $I_o(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(t,\xi) I_I(\xi) d\xi$

$$h(t,\xi) = \begin{cases} 0 & t < \xi \\ e^{-Q(\xi)t/V} & t \ge \xi \end{cases}$$

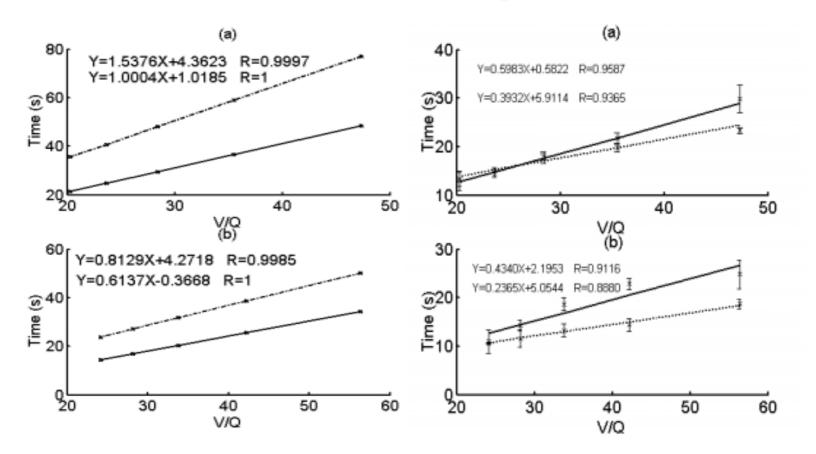




Results: the theoretical values & MTT

simulation result

experimental result



EQUIPMENT (1)





Panametrics Model 5900 PR (pulser / receiver)	1	200 MHz digital
GW Model GFG-813 (function generator)	1	
GW Model GFG-8016D (function generator)	1	
HP Model 54603B (oscilloscope)	1	60 MHz 附 probe X 4 power line X 1
Tektronix Model TDS 380 (oscilloscope)	1	Two channel / digital real-time / 400MHz / 2GS/s
TAIK Model TK-12001D (DC power supply)	1	
EPE Model EP-3000 (DC power supply)	1	
Cimarec Model SP46925 (stirrer/heater)	1	S/N:1069980822742
OHAUS Model IP12KS	1	
Microtime Model 51/52-E (WINICE)	1	S/N:A00I955172
Cole Parmer Model 07596-20 (damper)	1	
Cole Parmer Model 77021-60 (pumper)	1	
GaGe Model CompuGen 1100 (AFG)	1	ISA interface 1M RAM on board S/N: G00086 80 MHz
GaGe Model CompuScpoe 12100 (A/D)	1	PCI interface 1M RAM on board S/N: P10243 100 MHz
Amplifier Research LN1000A(LNA)	1	DC transformer
Amplifier Research P25A250A(PA)	1	
Signatec DAC200	1	User manual , CDX1,BNC to SMD cableX3
Signatec PDA500	1	User manual , CDX1
Signatec PMP8-A	1	User manual , CDX1
Panametrics HF cable	3	1 ft., 3 ft., 6ft.

EQUIPMENT (2): Transducer









EQUIPMENT (3): Commercial Ultrasound Machine





(SonoSite) (hand-carried ultrasound system)

(GE LOGIQ500)

EQUIPMENT (4): Phantom

Breast (I)



Breast (II)

Baby

EQUIPMENT (5)





(Digital Sonifier, BRANSON) Making Microbubbles (UHDC Flow System) Simulation Physical Pulsatile Flow

EQUIPMENT (6)



Degas Equipment