Optical Imaging Based on Photo-Acoustic Techniques

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There is more than light,...

## Opto-acoustic (Photo-acoustic) imaging: Imaging with optically generated ultrasound

# **Essentials of Imaging**

- Contrast mechanism
- Spatial resolution
- Sensitivity
- Wave generation and detection
- Image formation
- Sources of distortion
- Limitations

# Motivations for OA Imaging

- Thermoelastic effects.
- Contrast mechanism is based on optical differences. Major chromophores in VIS-NIR are hemoglobin and melanin.
- Acoustic propagation is used for reducing distortion effects.
- Combining advantages of optical and ultrasonic imaging.

# **Basic Principles of OA Imaging**

- Light absorption
- Irradiation and detection.
- Forward and backward modes
- Signal processing for compensating signal distortion.

# **Applications of OA Imaging**

- Breast imaging
  - Deep lying structures
  - Requiring good sensitivity
- Skin profiling
  - Detection and staging of cancer
  - Requiring good resolution
- Functional and molecular imaging
- Many more,...

#### **Time-Resolved Opto-Acoustic Detection**



# Absorbed Energy Distribution



# Laser-Induced Acoustic Waveform: Small Absorbing Sphere



## Sensitivity and Resolution

- Opto-acoustic signals are wide-band, ultrasonic transients.
- Sensitivity is spread over the bandwidth.
- Main parameter of transducer in OA imaging:  $\Delta S/\Delta f_{ac}$  (bandwidth specific sensitivity).
- Typical transducer materials: PZT, PVDF and Lithium Niobate.

# Outline

- Basics in acoustics:
  - Wave propagation
  - Scattering, attenuation and speckle
  - Fundamental limitation in image contrast
- Acoustic generation and detection
- Optical detection of ultrasonic displacement
- Optical generation by laser
- Applications:
  - OA imaging
  - Ultrasonic imaging

## Acoustic Wave Propagation

- A medium is required for a sound wave.
- Physical quantities to describe a sound wave: displacement, strain and pressure.
- Longitudinal (compressional) vs. shear (transverse).

• Longitudinal Wave:



• Shear Wave:



• Longitudinal Wave:



• Shear Wave:



# **Displacement and Strain**

- Displacement: movement of a particular point.
- Strain:
  - Displacement variations as a function of position.
  - Fractional change in length.
  - Deformation.
  - Can be extended to volume change.

### **Displacement and Strain**

• Compressional strain:

$$\delta W = \frac{\partial W}{\partial z} L \equiv SL$$
$$S \equiv \frac{\partial W}{\partial z}$$

• Shear strain:

$$S \equiv \frac{\partial V}{\partial Z}$$

## Stress (Pressure)

- Force per unit area applied to the object.
- Net force applied to a unit volume:

 $\partial T \mid \partial Z$ 



### Hooke's Law

- T=cS, where c is the elastic constant.
- Tensor representation:

| Tensor notation | Reduced notation |  |
|-----------------|------------------|--|
| XX              | 1                |  |
| уу              | 2                |  |
| ZZ              | 3                |  |
| yz=zy           | 4                |  |
| zx = xz         | 5                |  |
| xy = yx         | 6                |  |

### Hooke's Law (General Form)

$$\begin{bmatrix} T_1 \\ T_2 \\ T_3 \\ T_4 \\ T_5 \\ T_6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} c_{12} c_{13} c_{14} c_{15} c_{16} \\ c_{21} c_{22} c_{23} c_{24} c_{25} c_{26} \\ c_{31} c_{32} c_{33} c_{34} c_{35} c_{36} \\ c_{41} c_{42} c_{43} c_{44} c_{45} c_{46} \\ c_{51} c_{52} c_{53} c_{54} c_{55} c_{56} \\ c_{61} c_{62} c_{63} c_{64} c_{65} c_{66} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} S_1 \\ S_2 \\ S_2 \\ S_2 \\ S_2 \\ S_3 \\ S_4 \\ S_4 \\ S_5 \\ S_6 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Stress tensor symmetry: no rotation.
- Strain tensor symmetry: by definition.

### Hooke's Law (Isotropy)

$$\begin{bmatrix} T_1 \\ T_2 \\ T_3 \\ T_4 \\ T_5 \\ T_6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} c_{12} c_{12} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ c_{12} c_{11} c_{12} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ c_{12} c_{12} c_{11} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & c_{44} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & c_{44} 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & c_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} S_1 \\ S_2 \\ S_3 \\ S_4 \\ S_5 \\ S_6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$c_{11} = c_{12} + 2c_{44} = \lambda + 2\mu$$

• Lamé constants: and  $\mu$  (shear modulus).

#### **Common Elastic Constants**

• Young's modulus (elastic modulus, E):

$$T_{zz} = (\lambda + 2\mu) S_{zz} + \lambda (S_{xx} + S_{yy})$$
  
=  $\lambda (S_{xx} + S_{yy} + S_{zz}) + 2\mu S_{zz}$   
=  $\lambda \Delta + 2\mu S_{zz}$  ( : dilation )

$$E \equiv \frac{T_{zz}}{S_{zz}} = \frac{\mu(3\lambda + 2\mu)}{\lambda + \mu}$$

 $E \approx 3\mu$  for liquid and soft tissues

#### **Common Elastic Constants**

• Bulk modulus (reciprocal of compressibility, B):

$$B \equiv -\frac{\rho}{\delta V/V} = -\frac{\rho}{\Delta}$$

$$\rho \equiv -\frac{(T_{xx} + T_{yy} + T_{zz})}{3} = -B \cdot \Delta$$

$$B = \frac{3\lambda + 2\mu}{3}$$

#### **Common Elastic Constants**

 Poisson ratio (negative of the ratio of the transverse compression to the longitudinal compression, ):

$$\sigma \equiv -\frac{S_{_{YY}}}{S_{_{ZZ}}} = \frac{\lambda}{2(\lambda + \mu)}$$

• approaches to 0.5 for liquid and soft tissues.

• Electrical and mechanical analogy:



$$L\frac{d^2q}{dt^2} + R\frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{q}{C} = v(t) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad m\frac{d^2w}{dt^2} + r_m\frac{dw}{dt} + k_mw = f(t)$$

| Electrical |                   | Mechanical     |                          |
|------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| q          | charge            | W              | displacement             |
| i=dq/dt    | current           | U=dw/dt        | particle velocity        |
| V          | voltage           | f              | force (stress, pressure) |
| L          | inductance        | т              | mass                     |
| <i>1/C</i> | 1/capacitanc<br>e | $k_m$          | stiffness                |
| R          | resistance        | r <sub>m</sub> | damping                  |



• Newton's second law:  $A(p(z,t) - p(z + \delta z, t)) = (\rho \cdot \delta z \cdot A) \frac{\partial^2 w(z,t)}{\partial t^2}$   $\frac{\partial^2 w(z,t)}{\partial t^2} = (B/\rho) \frac{\partial^2 w(z,t)}{\partial z^2} \qquad c = \sqrt{B/\rho}$ 

 $W(Z,\omega) = W_1(\omega) e^{-j\omega z/c} + W_2(\omega) e^{j\omega z/c}$  $W(Z,t) = W_1(t - Z/C) + W_2(t + Z/C)$ 

 $U(Z,t) \equiv \partial W(Z,t) / \partial t$   $U(Z,\omega) = j\omega W(Z,\omega)$   $U(Z,\omega) = U_1(\omega) e^{-j\omega z/c} + U_2(\omega) e^{j\omega z/c}$   $p(z,\omega) = -\frac{B}{j\omega} \frac{\partial u(z,\omega)}{\partial z}$   $= Z_0(u_1(\omega) e^{-j\omega z/c} - u_2(\omega) e^{j\omega z/c})$ Characteristic impedance :  $Z_0 = \rho c$ 

#### Two Common Units

• Pa (Pascal, pressure) :

 $1 Pa = 1 N / m^2 = 1 Kg / (m \cdot sec^2)$ 

• Rayl (acoustic impedance) :

 $1 Ray I = 1 Pa / (m / sec) = 1 Kg / (m^2 \cdot sec)$ 

### **Reflection and Refraction**



$$Z(z,\omega) \equiv \frac{\rho(z,\omega)}{u(z,\omega)} = Z_0 \frac{U_1(\omega)e^{-j\omega z/c} - U_2(\omega)e^{j\omega z/c}}{U_1(\omega)e^{-j\omega z/c} + U_2(\omega)e^{j\omega z/c}}$$

# **Reflection and Transmission**

• 1D:

$$R_{c} = \frac{Z_{2} - Z_{1}}{Z_{2} + Z_{1}} (reflection)$$
$$T_{c} = \frac{2Z_{2}}{Z_{2} + Z_{1}} (transmission)$$

## Reflection

#### Hard Boundary

#### Soft Boundary



### Reflection

#### Low Density to High Density High Density to Low Density


# Reflection, Transmission and Refraction





# Refraction



#### Table IV Velocity and acoustic impedance of pertinent materials and biological tissues at room temperature (20-25°C)

|                                     | Velocity<br>(m/sec) | Impedance × 10 <sup>-</sup> °<br>(kg/m²-sec)° |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Warar                               | 1484                | 1.48  |
| Aluminum                            | 6420                | 17.00   |
| Aluminum                            | 343                 | 0.0004  |
| Air                                 | 2670                | 3.20  |
| Plexigias                           | 1550                | 1.61  |
| Blood                               | 1550                | 1.62  |
| Myocardium (perpendicular to noers) | 1450                | 1.38  |
| P3(                                 | 1570                | 1.65  |
| Liver                               | 1560                | 1.62  |
| Kidney<br>Skull bone                | 3360 (longitudinal) | 6.00  |

"Rayl is a unit commonly used for acoustic impedance. One rayl = 1 kg/m<sup>2</sup>-sec.

#### TABLE 9.3

#### REFLECTIVITY OF NORMALLY INCIDENT WAVES

| Materials at Interface         |     | Reflectivity |
|--------------------------------|-----|--------------|
| Brain-skull bone               |     | 0.66         |
| Fat-bone                       |     | 0.69         |
| Fat-blood                      |     | 0.08         |
| Fat-kidney                     |     | 0.08         |
| Fat-muscle                     |     | 0.10         |
| Fat-liver                      |     | 0.09         |
| Lens-aqueous humor             |     | 0.10         |
| Lens-vitreous humor            |     | 0.09         |
| Muscle-blood                   |     | 0.03         |
| Muscle-kidney                  |     | 0.03         |
| Muscle-liver                   |     | 0.01         |
| Soft tissue (mean value)-water | ť   | 0.05         |
| Soft tissue-air                | )   | 0.9995       |
| Soft tissue-PZT5 crystal       | × 1 | 0.89         |

# Scattering, Attenuation and Speckle

# Scattering

# Histology



# Reflection vs. Scattering



# Scattering

- (Specular) Relfection vs. (Rayleigh) Scattering.
- Angular scattering vs. Back-scattering.



### **Scatter Parameters**

- Scatter cross section (σ<sub>s</sub>):
   Total scattered power/Incident energy.
- Backscatter cross section ( $\sigma_b$ ).
- Backscatter coefficient (ε):
  - $-\sigma_b$  per unit volume of scatterers.
  - $-\varepsilon$  normalized to solid angle (*sr*<sup>-1</sup>).

# **Scattering Properties**

• Rayleigh scattering (ignoring secondary scattering):

 $\sigma_s \propto k^4 a^6$ 

- Determing factors:
  - Size and structure.
  - Cell, blood vessel and ductal network.
- Roughly Speaking:
  - Blood:  $f^4$ .
  - Myocardium:  $f^3$ .
  - Other soft tissue:  $f^{1.5-2.5}$ .

# **Scattering Properties**

| Frequency (MHz) | ε(mm <sup>-1</sup> )<br>heart tissue | ε(mm <sup>-1</sup> )<br>blood |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2.5             | 4.3×10-5                             | 0.5×10-6                      |
| 3.75            | 1.5×10-4                             | 2.6×10-6                      |
| 5.0             | 5.0×10-4                             | 8.2×10 <sup>-6</sup>          |



Figure 75 Backscattering coefficient of bovine tissues as a function of frequency.



**Figure 77** Integrated backscatter defined as the averaged backscatter coefficient over a frequency band relative to that from a flat reflector of canine myocardium measured *in vivo* as a function of cardiac cycle. (From Miller *et al.*, 1985).



- Sources of energy loss:
  - Reflection and scattering.
  - Relaxation.
- Relaxation:
  - Pressure change and volume change are not in phase.
  - Product of absorption and wavelength are roughly constant.
- Fundamental limitations of penetration:
  - Attenuation.
  - Safety requirements.



 $A \cdot I(z + \Delta z) = A \cdot I(z) - 2\beta A \cdot I(z) \Delta z$  $-\frac{\partial I(z)}{\partial z} = 2 \cdot \beta I(z)$  $I(z) = I_0 e^{-2\beta z}$  $\beta = \alpha f$ 

$$H(Z,f) = e^{-(\alpha f Z + \beta 2\pi f Z/c)}$$

$$I(z, f) = I_0 |H(z, f)|^2 = I_0 e^{-2\alpha fz}$$

$$-10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{I(z, f)}{I_0} \right) = 20 (\log_{10} e) \alpha fz = 8.69 \alpha fz$$

 $\alpha_{dB} = 8.69 \overline{\alpha_{nepers}}$  .

• Assuming a Gaussian signal:

 $\begin{aligned} \left|S_{t}(f)\right|^{2} &= e^{-(\frac{f-f_{0}}{\sigma})^{2}} \\ \left|S_{r}(R,f)\right|^{2} &= \left|S_{t}(f)\right|^{2} e^{-4\alpha Rf} = e^{-(\frac{f-f_{0}}{\sigma})^{2}-4\alpha Rf} \\ \left|S_{r}(R,f)\right|^{2} &= e^{-(\frac{f-f_{1}}{\sigma})^{2}} e^{-4\alpha R(f_{0}-\sigma^{2}\alpha R)} \\ f_{1} &= f_{0} - 2\sigma^{2}\alpha R. \end{aligned}$ 

## Attenuation on Pulse Shape

- Center frequency downshift → Lateral resolution decreases with depth.
- The downshift is proportional to:
  - Bandwidth<sup>2</sup>.
  - Attenuation coefficient.
- Absolute bandwidth is un-changed → Axial resolution is un-affected.
- Tradeoff between lateral and axial resolution.

### Table V Attenuation coefficients of biological tissues and pertinent materials

| Material                            | Attenuation coefficient<br>(np/cm at 1 MHz at 20°C) |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Air                                 | 1.38  |
| Aluminum                            | 0.0021  |
| Plexigias                           | 0.23  |
| Water                               | 0.00025   |
| Fat                                 | 0.06  |
| Blood                               | 0.02  |
| Myocardium (perpendicular to fiber) | 0.35  |
| Liver                               | 0.11  |
| Kidney                              | 0.09  |
| Skull bone                          | 1.30  |









## Speckle Formation

• Speckle results from coherent interference of un-resolvable objects.



## **Speckle Formation**

- In diagnostic ultrasound, the size of tissue micro-structures is often much smaller than a typical wavelength.
- Pulse-echo ultrasonic images are formed using the phase information.
- Speckle appears as brightness variations and obscure the underlying information.

# Speckle Noise



# Speckle Noise

- Coherent sum of random signals from sound scatterers in a resolution cell.
- Brightness variations are independent of tissue properties.
- Multiplicative noise.
- Fundamental limitation of contrast resolution.

# Speckle First-Order Statistics





Re 
$$\{A\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k=1}^{N} |a_k| \cos \theta_k$$
  
Im  $\{A\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k=1}^{N} |a_k| \sin \theta_k$   
 $p_{\text{Re}\{A\}.\text{Im}\{A\}} = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{\text{Re}\{A\}^2 + \text{Im}\{A\}^2}{2\sigma^2}}$   
 $\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^{N} \frac{|a_k|^2}{2}$ 

# Speckle First-Order Statistics

$$p_{I} = \frac{1}{2\sigma^{2}} e^{-\frac{I}{2\sigma^{2}}}$$

$$p_{E} = \frac{E}{\sigma^{2}} e^{-\frac{E^{2}}{2\sigma^{2}}}$$

$$SNR_{I} \equiv \frac{\langle I \rangle}{\sigma_{I}} = 1$$

$$SNR_{E} \equiv \frac{\langle I \rangle}{\sigma_{E}} = \frac{(\pi\sigma^{2}/2)^{1/2}}{((4-\pi)\sigma^{2}/2)^{1/2}} \approx 1.9$$

# Speckle First-Order Statistics

• On a log display:

$$D(dB) = f(I) \equiv 10 \log_{10}(\frac{I}{I_0})$$
$$D = f(\langle I \rangle) + (I - \langle I \rangle)f'(\langle I \rangle) + R$$
$$\sigma_D^2 \approx f'(\langle I \rangle)^2 \sigma_I^2 = \left(\frac{10}{\ln 10}\right)^2 \frac{\sigma_I^2}{\langle I \rangle^2}$$
$$\sigma_D \approx 4.34(dB) \quad \leftarrow \text{Fundamental Limitat}$$

lon of

Contrast Resolution

# Speckle Noise



Optoacoustic Imaging: Theory and Principles [15]

## **Optoacoustic Pressure Production**

$$p_{\mathbf{r}}(t) \approx \frac{\beta I_0 v_s}{4\pi C} \tau \frac{d}{dt} \oint_{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'|=v_s t} A(\mathbf{r'}) \frac{d\mathbf{r'}}{v_s t},$$

- A laser pulse that is short enough such that thermal diffusion can be ignored.
- A(r') is the fractional energy-absorption per-unitvolume of soft tissue at position r'.
- Integral of pressure waves over the surface of a sphere.
# Example: Uniformly Absorbing Sphere

• 5 mm radius.



# Image Reconstruction

- Objective: reconstruct  $A(\mathbf{r'})$  (contrast mechanism).
- Re-formulate as a Radon transform:

$$F_{\mathbf{r}}(t) \equiv \frac{4\pi C}{\beta I_0 \tau} t \int_0^t p_{\mathbf{r}}(t') dt' \approx \oint_{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}|/v_s=t} A(\mathbf{r}') d\mathbf{r}'$$

Projection

• Reconstruction  $\rightarrow$  3D inverse Radon transform.

# **3D Inverse Radon Transform**

- Taking second spatial derivative of the projection (i.e., the first temporal derivative of the pressure).
- Back-projection.
- Integration over all projection directions.

# Issues in Reconstruction

- If the distance is sufficiently larger than the object size, the spherical wave can be approximated as a planar wave.
- Due to the transducer's frequency response, filtered-backprojection is required.

$$p'_{\mathbf{r}}(t) = p_{\mathbf{r}}(t) * i_{\mathbf{r}}(t)$$



# Imaging Setup



# A Simulation Example



# Images of a Human Breast



Cancerous Mass (before)

Cancerous Mass (after)

# Other Imaging Geometries



Depth Profiling of Absorbing Soft Materials Using Photoacoustic Methods [24]

### **OAT Depicts Tissue Layered Structure**



Direct visualization of layered tissue structure  $\Delta Z \approx \Delta t Cs = 8 \text{ ns} \cdot 1.5 \,\mu\text{m/ns} = 12 \,\mu\text{m}$ 

#### **Confocal Opto-Acoustic Transducer**





#### **Confocal Opto-Acoustic Transducer**



Bandwidth 1+100 MHz
Resolution: 15 μm / 80 μm
Sensitivity: 2 μV/Pa
Depth of imaging: 2 mm

Laser pulse energy used: 10-100 µJ Wavelength: 760 nm - 355 nm Pulse duration: 10 ns *In vivo* Opto-Acoustic Imaging of Oral Cancer in Syrian Golden Hamsters

### Optoacoustic image and histology of normal pouch



## Optoacoustic image and H&E histology of very early cancer



### Optoacoustic image and H&E histology of carcinoma *in situ*.





## Optoacoustic image and histology of advanced stage of cancer



Sensitivity of Laser Opto-Acoustic Imaging in Detection of Small Deeply Embedded Tumors [4]

# Motivation

- Develop an imaging technique for low contrast, small tumors.
- Optical contrast mechanism (between normal tissue and tumor):
  - Absorption: blood content, porphyrins.
  - Scattering: micro-structures.





 1 - Nd: YAG Laser
2 - Optical Fiber
3 - Arc Array of
32 transducers
4 - Amplifier and Multiplexor
5 - Computer  Transducer Array: Sensitivity: Resolution: Data acquisition : Data processing and image formation: Image processing: Total time:

32 of 1mm 10 *µ*V/Pa 0.4 mm x 1 mm 16 sec 4 sec 15 sec 35 sec

#### Sensitivity of Tumor Detection



## Maximum Depth of Tumor Detection



## **Signal Processing Diagram**



### N - Shaped Optoacoustic Signals from Small Spheres



### **Optoacoustic Imaging Equation**



### **Image Reconstruction Algorithm**

Radial Backprojection

$$\xi(\vec{r}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} u_n (\left| \vec{r} - \vec{r}_n \right| / c_s) \left| \vec{r} - \vec{r}_n \right|$$

## **Image Processing**

Filtration of the entire image matrix,  $\xi_2(\vec{r})$ 

$$\xi_2(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int F_{\xi}(\vec{\omega}) H(\vec{\omega}) e^{i\vec{\omega}\vec{r}} d\vec{\omega}$$

$$F_{\xi}(\vec{\omega}) = \int \xi(\vec{r}) e^{-i\omega \vec{r}} d\vec{r} - Spatial \ FFT \ Spectrum$$
$$H(\vec{\omega}) = |\vec{\omega}| e^{-(|\vec{\omega}|/\sigma)^2} - Filter \ Transfer \ Function$$

#### **Gelatin Phantom**

Pulsed Laser Radiation 34 mm 28 mm # #2  $\mu_{a} = 1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ Gel Phantom  $\mu_{\rm eff} = 1.2 \, {\rm cm}^{-1}$ **Transducer Array** 

 2 spheres were embedded in phantom of 120-mm diameter.

 Light absorption coefficient of spheres : μ<sub>a</sub>=1.0 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

 Light attenuation coefficient of phantom: μ<sub>eff</sub>=1.2 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

#### **OA Image of Two Spheres in Gel Phantom**



Is Functional Opto-acoustic Imaging Possible?

# Structural and Functional Mouse Brain OA Imaging [18]



# Mouse Brain Structural Image


### Mouse Brain Functional Image



## **Blood Oxygenation Detection**

## Dual Wavelength Technique



## **Blood Oxygenation Detection**



## **Opto-acoustic Molecular Imaging**

# Gold Nanoparticles



# Gold Nanoparticles



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