

Intravital multiphoton microscopy Principles and challenges

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Multiphoton fluorescence excitation



Biophotonics Imaging Lab, Univ. Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Fluorescence can be stimulated by the absorption of one photon of a particular energy level.

Fluorescence can also be stimulated by the simultaneous absorption of multiple, low-energy photons

Multiphoton fluorescence excitation Requires an enormous density of photons



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Fluorescence can be stimulated by the absorption of one photon of a particular energy level.

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"Simultaneous" means within ~ 10 attoseconds $(10^{-17} \text{ seconds})$ Two-photon fluorescence excitation requires an enormous flux of photons

Multiphoton fluorescence excitation Requires an enormous density of photons



Dave Piston

Detectible two-photon fluorescence excitation requires peak power on the order of 200 GW/cm²

 \sim 300,000x the surface of the sun

For multiphoton microscopy, this power is provided by focusing powerful pulsed lasers through high NA objective lenses.

Photon density decreases with the 4th power of distance from the lens focus

- Two-photon absorption occurs ONLY in the sub-femtoliter volume at the focus

Multiphoton fluorescence excitation is restricted to the focus of a lens for microscopy



Multiphoton microscopy provides the capability to stimulate fluorescence in a specific sub-femtoliter volume in a sample -High resolution, 3D microscopy

Multiphoton fluorescence excitation using pulsed (mode-locked) lasers



Dave Piston

Pulsing laser illumination into ~100 femtosecond pulses at a rate of 80 MHz provides peak power sufficient for multiphoton excitation, but average power low enough to minimize damage.

(e.g. 28 mW average provides 200 GW/cm² peak with 0.8 NA objective)

Misconceptions about multiphoton fluorescence excitation – Pulsing the laser limits the volume of excitation



Pulses are actually ~ 45 microns long and ~ 4 meters apart

To be accurate, the pulses as displayed here should be ~ 5 miles apart

Making an image using multi-photon microscopy – point scanning



Zipfel et al., 2003



Göbel and Helmchen 2007



Two-photon action cross sections





Developmental Resource for Biophysical Imaging Optoelectronics, Cornell (Watt Webb and Warren Zipfel)



10 kD Rhodamine Dextran, 500 kD Fluorescein Dextrn Hoechst 33342

Dunn et al 2002

Fun facts about multiphoton microscopy

How frequently does multiphoton fluorescence excitation occur outside of a microscope?



Calculations made by Winfried Denk indicate that a molecule of rhodamine B exposed to direct sunlight will experience:

- A one-photon absorption around once per second.
- A two photon absorption once every 10,000 years.
- A three-photon absorption . . . never in the history of the universe.

Fun facts about multiphoton microscopy Relative time scales



100 fs is to 10 minutes as 10 minutes is to the age of the universe.

Rick Trebino, University of Georgia

Fun facts about multiphoton microscopy Relative time scales



- Fluorescence lifetimes are ~ 1 billion times the length of the virtual intermediate state
- At 80 MHz, the laser pulses are spaced ~ 3 fluorescence lifetimes apart (serendipitous)
- A fluorophore will be illuminated ~320 times during a 4 microsecond pixel dwell time

Fun facts about multiphoton microscopy

When the Titanium-sapphire laser is on, it's mostly off.



The sample is illuminated with 100 femtosecond pulses at a rate of 80 million times per second. Only 0.001% of the time

For sense of scale, this duty cycle is equivalent to a one second pulse occurring once a day.



Multiphoton microscope designs

Gregor Lab, Physics Princeton





Google search result

Nikon A1RMP

Complex Expensive Poorer resolution - 0.3 by 0.9 microns versus .21 by .75 microns





• IR light penetrates deeper, with less damage



- IR light penetrates deeper, with less damage
- Photobleaching only in the focal plane

Misconceptions about multiphoton fluorescence excitation -Multiphoton microscopy causes less photobleaching

Since only the focal plane is excited, image volumes can be collected without cumulative photodamage and photobleaching. Reimplanted hamster embryos develop normally after being imaged every 15 minutes for 24 hours.

However, the rate of photobleaching increases disproportionately with illumination, increasing with the third or even fourth power at high levels. Cellular toxicity increases abruptly at power levels above around 10 mW.



- IR light penetrates deeper, with less damage
- Photobleaching only in the focal plane
- Optical sectioning without an emission aperture - less loss to scattering





Centonze and White, 1998

- IR light penetrates deeper, with less damage
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 - **Optical sectioning** without an emission aperture - less loss to scattering

Why multi-photon microscopy? Deep-tissue imaging at high resolution





120 micron thick volume of mouse embryonic kidney -Carrie Phillips, Nephrology

Why multi-photon microscopy? Intravital microscopy



• Intravital microscopy provides submicron resolution and nanomolar sensitivity in under a second.

• Multiphoton microscopy has extended the reach of intravital microscopy to the scale of tissues and the functional components of organs.

Applications of intravital multiphoton microscopy in biomedical research

Brain function and pathology

- Neural development and activity Winfried Denk, Karel Svoboda
- Neural activity and blood flow in epilepsy Gyorgy Buzsaki
- Alzheimer's disease Brian Bacskai, Brad Hyman
- Astrocyte-neuron signaling Jan Nedergard
- Vascular function in the brain David Kleinfeld

Tumor biology

- Tumor cell dynamics and metastasis John Condelis, John Segal
- Angiogenesis/vascular function, gene expression Rakesh Jain

Immunology

- T-cell interactions and dynamics- Michael Dustin, Ullrich Von Andrian, Michael Cahalan
- Immune surveillance in the brain Fritjof Helmchen, W.B. Gan

Liver function

- Mitochondria and liver injury John Lemasters
- In vivo analysis of hepatobiliary transport H.S Lee

Kidney function

- Pathology and treatment of renal ischemia Bruce Molitoris
- Pathobiology of diabetes Katherine Kelly
- Mechanisms of renal septic injury Pierre Dagher
- Microvascular function in renal injury Tim Sutton
- Regulation of glomerular function Janos Peti-Peterdi

In vivo imaging of the kidney









microCT Toyota et al. 2004. Kid. Int.

Intravital microscopy of the kidney





Wide-field microscopy Steinhausen et al., 1963.



Wide field microscopy Edwards and Marshall, 1924 25



Multiphoton microscopy



Dynamic intravital microscopy of the kidney







Ruben Sandoval and Bruce Molitoris

Intravital microscopy of multiple kidney functions via intravenous injection of fluorescent probes

Simultaneous imaging of a rat injected with fluorescent dextrans and Hoechst 33342 reveals multiple processes

- glomerular filtration
- proximal tubule endocytosis
- tubular solute concentration
- tubular flow
- capillary blood flow
- vascular permeability
- apoptosis
- tubular sloughing



Dunn et al., 2002. AJP Cell. 283:C905-C916

Challenges of intravital microscopy

- Motion artifacts from respiration and heartbeat
- Slow image capture rate
- Limited depth at which useful images can be collected
- Discrimination of different fluors
- Introduction of fluorescent indicators

Motion artifacts in intravital microscopy





• Motion artifacts can obscure structures

Motion artifacts in intravital microscopy



- Motion artifacts can obscure structures
- Motion artifacts can confound quantitation

Vehicle





Motion artifacts in intravital microscopy



- Motion artifacts can obscure structures
- Motion artifacts can confound quantitation
- Motion artifacts complicate characterizing structural changes

Kang, Toma, Sipos, McCulloch and Peti-Peterdi. 2006. AJP Renal

Reducing motion artifacts in intravital microscopy -Immobilize the organ



75 images collected over 30 min







Reducing motion artifacts in intravital microscopy -Non-rigid image registration





Before

After

Presson, R., Brown, M., Sandoval, R., Dunn, K., Lorenz, K., Delp, E., Salama, P., Molitoris, B. and Petrache, I. Two-photon imaging within the murine thorax without respiratory and cardiac motion artifact. Am. J. Path. In press

Lorenz, K., Salama, P., Dunn, K. and E. Delp. Digital correction of motion artifacts in microscopy image sequences collected from living animals using rigid and non-rigid registration. Submitted

Challenges of intravital microscopy

- Motion artifacts from respiration and heartbeat
- Slow image capture rate

Single point scanning with a galvonometer One 512 by 512 frame per second



512 lines at 1 frame per second



128 lines at 4 frames per second



(Brown et al., 2001)

1 line at 512 lines per second

Single point scanning with a resonant scanner Calcium transients measured at 30 fps



Fan et al., 1999. Biophys. Journal 76:2412
Speed limits for multi-photon microscopy

30-fold higher frame rates require 30-fold shorter pixel dwell times which then requires 30 fold better signal. For most applications increasing the signal requires increasing the excitation.



Figure 1 – Image of renal capillary of a living rat collected at 1 frame per second (A) or 28 frames per second (B).

• In many applications of multiphoton microscopy, power is already limiting – you may not be able to extract more signal with more power - <u>30 fold increase</u> in signal requires 5.5 fold more power

- In many applications, multiphoton imaging is done at power levels very close to fluorophore saturation – you may not get proportional increases in signal
- Photobleaching increases at greater than the cube of power disproportionately more photobleaching than signal with more power

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BUT, FOR SYSTEMS WITH SUFFICIENT SIGNAL, RESONANT SCANNERS ARE CAPABLE OF QUANTIFYING DYNAMICS IN VIVO -TRY THE LEICA MULTIPHOTON SYSTEM

Multi-point scanning multiphoton microscopy



Andresen et al., 2001. Optics Letters 26:75

Andresen system incorporates temporal delay between adjacent foci, avoiding overlapping excitation in out-of-focus planes

Speed limits for multi-photon microscopy

- Multi-focal systems require that power be divided among multiple excitation points again, this presumes sufficient laser power
- Imaging onto a CCD results in scattered emissions being attributed to the wrong position in the image, increasing background and reducing resolution
- The system would thus be of limited utility for imaging deep into tissues, the conditions that justify multiphoton microscopy in the first place

Challenges of intravital microscopy

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Multiphoton microscopy Attenuation of signal with depth in the kidney



Glomeruli of most rats, mice are around 400 microns from the surface of the kidney

Cortico-medullary boundary is around 2 mm from the surface of the kidney



With a 60X NA 1.2 water immersion objective, signal attenuation prevents imaging deeper than around 100 microns in kidney of living rats

Multiphoton microscopy Attenuation of signal with depth in the kidney



Ruben Sandoval

Multiphoton microscopy Sources of signal attenuation of signal with depth



- Light absorption
- Light scattering
- Spherical aberration

Multiphoton microscopy

Light absorption as a source of signal attenuation with depth

Model light extinction as - $I_z = I_0 e^{-az}$

Where

 $I_z =$ intensity of light at depth z a = the absorption coefficient

For fluorescence excitation

Near infrared light, a = .05 to 2 cm⁻¹ in biological tissues So transmission attenuated by 50% in 0.35 - 14 cm But excitation is proportional to I², Excitation is attenuated by 75% in 0.35 - 14 cm

- Excitation reduced by 75% in ~ 3500 to 140,000 microns - not a big deal

Multiphoton microscopy

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For collection of fluorescence emissions

For 550 nm light, a = 4 to 20 cm⁻¹ in biological tissues so transmission attenuated to 50% in 350-1730 microns

Multiphoton microscopy

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Most investigators agree, absorption is seldom a significant issue in biological tissues, except in skin (melanin) and under blood vessels (hemoglobin)

Multiphoton microscopy Absorption of light by blood (hemoglobin)



For fluorescence excitation

 $a = 4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ at 780, - excitation attenuated by 75% at 1730 microns would lose < 1% over 10 micron capillary

For collection of fluorescence emissions $a = 250 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ at 550, transmission attenuated to 50% at 28 microns would lose ~20% under a 10 micron capillary

Multiphoton microscopy Absorption of light by blood (hemoglobin)



J Physiol 587.13 (2009) pp 3153-3158

Improved *in vivo* two-photon imaging after blood replacement by perfluorocarbon

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¹Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Zurich, 8091 Zurich, Switzerland ²Institute of Fluid Dynamics, ETH Zurich, 8091 Zurich, Switzerland ³Department of Physics and Fribourg Center for Nanomaterials, University of Fribourg, 1700 Fribourg, Switzerland

⁴ Université de Strasbourg, Institut Charles Sadron (CNRS), 23 rue du Loess, 67034 Strasbourg Cedex, France

Figure 2. Structural imaging of cortical astrocytes *in vivo* before and after PFC transfusion

A, two-photon image of astrocytes (SR101 staining) taken at a depth of 150 μ m before PFC transfusion. Shadows resulting from absorption and scattering by red blood cells disappear after PFC transfusion (D). B, C, E and F. Z-sections reconstructed from image stacks were taken at the location marked with the blue and yellow line in A and D. Astrocytes located below large vessels were not visible before PFC transfusion. Contrast has been optimized in each individual frame in the stack. G, depth penetration in the red channel was measured at fixed laser intensity before (dashed line) and after the transfusion (continuous line) below a big surface vessel about 50 μ m thick (thick lines) and in an open area without vessel at the surface (thin lines). All traces are averages over 4 stacks collected in 3 animals (± s.E.M. shaded area; average region of interest (ROI) is 800 pixels). All curves were normalized to the peak surface intensity measured in the open area before and after transfusion. The transfusion does not significantly change depth penetration in the open area (compare thin lines) but dramatically increases depth penetration below vessels (thick lines). H, same as in G for the green channel.

Model light extinction as - $I_z = I_0 e^{-sz}$

Where

 I_z = intensity of light at depth z s = the scattering coefficient



For fluorescence excitation

Near infrared light, $s = 5 - 100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in biological tissues So transmission attenuated by 50% in 70 to 1400 microns But excitation is proportional to I², Excitation attenuated by 75% in 70 to 1400 microns

Model light extinction as - $I_z = I_0 e^{-sz}$

Where

 I_z = intensity of light at depth z s = the scattering coefficient



For fluorescence excitation

Near infrared light, $s = 5 - 100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in biological tissues So transmission attenuated by 50% in 70 to 1400 microns But excitation is proportional to I²,

Excitation attenuated by 75% in 70 to 1400 microns

For collection of fluorescence emissions

For 550 nm light, s = 100 - 500 in biological tissues
So transmission attenuated by 50% in 15 - 70 microns
but even scattered emissions collected with non-descanned detectors



In most biological tissues there are effectively no ballistic emissions at 200 microns depth Consequently, fluorescence arises from a diffuse region whose diameter is 1.5X the focal depth Under these conditions, the collection angle is larger than the NA



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Alternatively – IR confocal microscopy – Both excitation and emissions are in the IR range, minimizing scattering and absorption Try the Olympus FV1200 IR confocal microscope

Multiphoton microscopy Refractive index mismatch and spherical aberration





A lens with spherical aberration focuses axial rays and peripheral rays to different points. Spherical aberration commonly results from refractive index mismatch.

Since the average refractive index of the kidney is ~1.4, we incur spherical aberration with either water immersion or oil immersion objectives

Multiphoton microscopy Spherical aberration and signal attenuation with depth

Two photon microscopy of fluorescent beads mounted in different media using an oil-immersion objective







75um 1.5 RI medium

Since fluorescence is quadratically related to illumination, broadening of the focus by spherical aberration seriously decreases multi-photon fluorescence excitation

Predominant source of signal attenuation in kidney tissues?





Young, Clendenon, Byars and Dunn. 2011. The effects of refractive index heterogeneity within kidney tissue on multiphoton fluorescence excitation microscopy. J. Microscopy.

Predominant source of signal attenuation in kidney tissues?



60X – Water immersion

1.34

1.40

1.47

1.48

.51

1.53

• Reduce scattering – give up and fix the kidney

Tissue clearing -Elimination of refractive index mismatch and scattering





Clendenon, Ferkowicz, Young, and Dunn. 2011. Deep Tissue Fluorescent Imaging in Scattering Specimens Using Confocal Microscopy. Microscopy and Microanalysis.

Tissue clearing and refractive index matching -Olympus Scaleview, Clarity







512 by 512 by 512 microns (water immersion objective)

Clarity – Chung et al., 2013. Structural and molecular interrogation of intact biological systems, Nature

- Reduce scattering (change research)
- Reduce optical aberrations



Objective lens correction collars



Spherical aberration correction lenses

Minimizing spherical aberration in living kidney – oil or water immersion objectives?



60X – Oil immersion

60X - Water immersion

Ruben Sandoval

Fluorescent beads in fixed kidney mounted in PBS



Young, Clendenon, Byars, Decca and Dunn. 2011. J. Microscopy

Minimizing spherical aberration in living kidney – Olympus silicone oil immersion objective

Olympus 25X, NA 1.05 Water immersion objective RI 1.3

Olympus 30X, NA 1.05 Silicone oil immersion objective RI 1.4



- Reduce scattering (change research)
- Reduce optical aberrations

Adaptive optics





Confocal microscope images of 1 micron fluorescent spheres located below 100 microns of kidney tissue before (A) and after (B) adaptive optics correction – Joel Kubby, UCSC

- Reduce scattering (change research)
- Reduce optical aberrations
- Jack up the laser? Up to a point . . .

Fundamental imaging depth limit in two photon microscopy

1194um



Imaging depth increases with labeling inhomogeneity, with decreasing pulse-width and with decreasing scattering anisotropy, but is ultimately limited by near-surface fluorescence - Theer and Denk, 2006

- Reduce scattering (change research)
- Reduce optical aberrations
- Jack up the laser? Up to a point . . .
- Longer wavelengths of light





Andresen et al., 2009. Infrared multiphoton microscopy: subcellular-resolved deep tissue imaging. Curr. Opin. Biotech.

- Reduce scattering (change research)
- Reduce optical aberrations
- Jack up the laser? Up to a point . . .
- Longer wavelengths of light
- Improve fluorescence collection



dsRed – factor of 13.4 better than Bialkali photocathode Webb group



COMBS, SMIRNOV, CHESS, MCGAVERN, SCHROEDER, RILEY, KANG, LUGAR-HAMMER, GANDJBAKHCHE, KNUTSON, and BALABAN (2011), Journal of Microscopy

- Reduce scattering (change research)
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- Jack up the laser? Up to a point . . .
- Longer wavelengths of light
- Improve fluorescence collection
- Invade the kidney "cut down", GRIN lens, micro-prisms



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Levene et al., 2004, J. Neurophysiol

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Conventional XY image in brain slice

XZ image in vivo with prism

Chia and Levene. 2009. Microprisms for in vivo multilayer cortical imaging. J. Neurophysio.

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Gosia Kamocka and George Rhodes
Challenges of intravital microscopy

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- Slow image capture rate
- Limited depth at which useful images can be collected
- Discrimination of different fluors

Exciting (and distinguishing) multiple fluors in multi-photon microscopy







Fluorescence crosstalk correction

• Linear unmixing via spectral detectors Effect of scattered light?



Fluorescence crosstalk correction

- Linear unmixing via spectral detectors Effect of scattered light?
- Subtracting a fixed percentage of one channel from another Quantitative?







Challenges of intravital microscopy

- Motion artifacts from respiration and heartbeat
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- Discrimination of different fluors
- Introduction of fluorescent probes

Sources of fluorescence contrast in intravital multiphoton microscopy













Adoptive transfer of fluorescent cells



Transgenic mice

Autofluorescence

Intravenously introduced probes

Further information

Websites

<u>http://www.drbio.cornell.edu/</u> - Watt Webb's laboratory
<u>http://www.microscopyu.com/</u> - a great general microscopy education website
<u>http://www.aecom.yu.edu/aif/intravital_imaging/introduction.htm</u> - John Condeelis's site
<u>http://</u>www.loci.wisc.edu - Laboratory for Optical and Computational Instrumentation

Reviews

Girkin, J. 2003. Optical physics enables advances in multiphoton imaging. J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 36:R250-R258.

Helmchen, F. and W. Denk. 2005. Deep tissue two-photon microscopy. Nature Methods 2:932-940

Hoover, E. and J. Squier. 2013. Advances in multiphoton microscopy technology. Nature Photonics. 7:93-101

Zipfel, W., R. Williams and W. Webb. 2003. Nonlinear magic: multiphoton microscopy in the biosciences. Nature Biotech. 21:1369-1377.