Modes of light microscopy Choosing the appropriate system

- Wide-field microscopy
- Confocal microscopy
- Multi-photon microscopy

Wide-field, inverted fluorescence microscope



Nikon MicroscopyU

Endosome migration in living cells – imaging a flat cell via wide field microscopy and a CCD



Some cells can be induced to be flat – the cytoskeleton of a fibroblast grown on a solid substrate



But most cells are 3-dimensional 3D rendering of E-cadherin and nuclei in polarized epithelial cells



Cells are 3-dimensional – the need for "optical sections"

Conventional microscope



Confocal microscope



Imaging 3-dimensional structures – conventional epifluorescence





Imaging 3-dimensional structures – Confocal microscopy





Serial confocal optical sections of the microtubule cytoskeleton of polarized epithelia





3-D rendering of the organization of microtubules in polarized epithelia – Bob Bacallao



Resolution of confocal microscopy is only ~ 1.4 times better – the big improvement lies in background rejection

Conventional microscope



Confocal microscope



Confocal microscopy builds an image by point scanning



Need to acquire one point at a time. This limits acquisition to \sim 1 frame/sec. Limited by number of photons per pixel.

Dave Piston. Vanderbilt

In a 1 second wide-field exposure all pixels are exposed (in parallel) for 1 second.

For a 1 second acquisition using a confocal microscope, each pixel is collected for less than 4 μ s, requiring 256,000 x higher incident intensity and 256,000 separate measurements.

Point imaging is fundamentally different from wide-field imaging and generally requires lasers, sensitive detectors, and fast computers. These key components became available for common use in the 1980's. Multi-color confocal microscopy - the apical recycling endosome is distinct from the trans-Golgi network



Simultaneous analysis of multiple parameters microtubules and chromosomes of a dividing epithelial cell – Ruben Sandoval



Subcellular distributions of internalized transferrin and Rab25 in living MDCK cells



Multicolor confocal microscopy



Image is built up through a raster scan requiring approximately 1 second

figure through the unknowing courtesy of the Integrated Microscopy Resource, Madison, Wisconsin

MRC-1024 Lightpath















568 nm Excitation











647 nm Excitation













Advantages of scanning by Acousto-optical tuneable filters (AOTFs)

- Modulate individual lines
- Sequential multicolor
- Blank retrace
- Continuous modulation
Spectral confocal microscopy – Zeiss LSM510-Meta detector system

32 channel Metadetector collects spectrum of each pixel

 deconvolution permits distinction of multiple, closely spaced fluorophores – linear unmixing

Zeiss LSM510-Meta detector system





Zeiss LSM510-Meta system – 20 channels of fluorescence



Ready, 512 x 512, 20 charvels , 12 bit , Raw image data , Display Zoom : 1/4 , Palette :







Zeiss 510 META linear unmixing of GFP and YFP



Original image

Image after linear unmixing

GFP versus autofluorescence

VC4 and VC5 motor neurons (green) + gut autofluorescence (red)



Imaged by David Miller



Removal of autofluorescence using spectral fitting and "unmixing"



Sam Wells, Vanderbilt

Practical confocal microscopy

- Image collection settings
- Objective choice

Practical confocal microscopy

Image collection settings
prioritizing the pinhole, PMT and laser power

Effect of pinhole diameter on image quality



Institut Jacques Monod

Effect of PMT Voltage on Signal, and Signal-to-Noise Ratio



Effect of Laser Power on Signal



Practical confocal microscopy

- Image collection settings
- Objective choice

Practical confocal microscopy

- Image collection settings
- Objective choice
 - Chromatic aberration

Axial chromatic aberration



Axial chromatic aberration



Chromatic aberration -F-Cy5 ratios and the Plan fluor 40



Single section (solid line)



Projection (dashed line)



Practical confocal microscopy

- Image collection settings
- Objective choice
 - Chromatic aberration
 - Spherical aberration

Spherical aberration



100x, Planapo, Oil immersion objective

60x, Planapo, Water immersion objective



Spherical aberration

Collar adjustment of the 60x water immersion objective



Collar adjustment of the 60x water immersion objective



Ruben Sandoval

Objective corrections require multiple lens elements



Corrections:

Color - Achromat, Apochromat Flat Field - Plan Immersion Media Cover Glass Polarization UV, IR transmission

The more correction that a lens uses, the less transmission

	Light collection efficiency 10 ⁴ x (NA ² /mag) ²	Corrections (# elements - transmission)
100X, Oil immersion, NA 1.4	3.84	Planapochromat 10 – 66%
40X, Oil immersion, NA 1.4	24.01	Plan-fluor 6 – 79%
60X, Oil immersion, NA 1.4	10.67	Planapochromat 10 – 66%
60X, Water immersion, NA 1.2	5.76	Planapochromat 10 – 66%
20X, Water immersion, NA .75	7.91	Plan-fluor 6 – 79%

	Light collection efficiency 10 ⁴ x (NA ² /mag) ²	Corrections (# elements - transmission)
100X, Oil immersion, NA 1.4	3.84	Planapochromat 10 – 66%
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Ask yourself –

Is correction for chromatic aberration important to you?

Confocal microscopy - 2-dimensional imaging detectors

Confocal microscopy builds an image by point scanning – and so is slow



Need to acquire one point at a time. This limits acquisition to \sim 1 frame/sec. Limited by number of photons per pixel.

Dave Piston, Vanderbilt



Spinning disk confocal microscope

- Spinning disk scans 1200 spots across a field at 30 Hz
- 360 Hz frame rate, we've collected at up to 40 Hz
 - Characterize rapid dynamics
- Signal to noise better than conventional confocal systems
 - Reduce illumination for reduced phototoxicity and photobleaching

Figure courtesy of Florida State Univ.

Transferrin labeled endosomes migrating around an MDCK cell – Perkin-Elmer/Yokagawa spinning disk video-rate confocal microscope



1100 time points collected at 11 fps over 100 seconds

Real-time movement of Rab25 around an MDCK cell – Perkin-Elmer/Yokagawa spinning disk confocal microscope



600 time points collected and displayed at 20 fps over 30 seconds

Living MDCK cells expressing GFP-tubulin and GFP-Rab7 – Perkin-Elmer/Yokagawa spinning disk video-rate confocal microscope



Axial resolution of the Ultraview and the Zeiss 510 confocal microscopes – 100x objectives



Axial resolution of the Ultraview and the Zeiss 510 confocal microscopes – 60x objectives



Ultraview system shows large linear range characteristic of CCD detectors



The Ultraview system for imaging living cells Rab25 in MDCK cells





Zeiss 510

PerkinElmer Ultraview

200 images collected at 2 frames per second, 0.13 micron pixels, 12 bit pixel depth

PerkinElmer Ultraview



Zeiss 510



	S/N - initial	S/N - final
Ultraview	56.5	54.2
Zeiss	22.0	14.2

Comparison of imaging performance –

Zeiss 510 versus PerkinElmer Ultraview

Images collected at 1.7 frames per second, 0.067 micron pixels, 12 bit pixel depth
Why is the Ultraview so good?

- 1/1200 the intensity less saturation
- Integrate 8 μ s x 360 per second vs. 4 μ s
- 2-fold higher quantum efficiency
- 360 breaks between illuminations
- Less digitizer and amplifier noise

Field imaging (Ultraview) versus point scanning confocal systems

- Field imaging detectors
 - CCDs are very clean, with wide dynamic range
 - Images can be collected rapidly
 - Different colors must be collected sequentially, or on different detector arrays
- Point scanning detectors
 - Multiple colors can be collected simultaneously
 - PMTs are noisier than CCD systems
 - Slow image acquisition and reasonable frame rates require very brief collection per pixel – high illumination and few photons

Multi-photon microscopy

3D imaging of kidney tissue by confocal microscopy



3D imaging of kidney tissue by 2-photon microscopy







What is "simultaneous"?

A two photon absorption once every 10,000 years.

A three-photon absorption ..., well actually never in the history of the universe.



What is "simultaneous"?

Multiple photons must arrive within the duration of the intermediate virtual state of the electron

~ 1 attosecond $(10^{-18} \text{ seconds})$

A one photon absorption around once per second.

A two photon absorption once every 10,000 years.

A three-photon absorption ..., well actually never in the history of the universes



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Winfried Denk calculated that a molecule of rhodamine B exposed to direct sunlight will experience:

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How to increase the probability of multi-photon absorption for multiphoton microscopy?

You could increase illumination 600,000 fold.

How is the probability of multi-photon absorption increased in multiphoton microscopy? – Photon crowding



Dave Piston, Vanderbilt

How is the probability of multi-photon absorption increased in multiphoton microscopy? – Photon crowding



Photon crowding in space

- the cross-sectional density of photons is highest at the focal point.

Photon

How is the probability of multi-photon absorption increased in multiphoton microscopy? – Photon crowding



Photon crowding in space

- the cross-sectional density of photons is highest at the focal point. Photon crowding in time

- laser emissions are pulsed into brief (~100 femtosecond) packets

Pulsed laser emissions provide for power sufficient for multiphoton absorption without photo-damage



• Pulsed laser provides low average power but peak power high enough for 2photon absorption

• Sample illuminated for only 8 one millionth of the pixel dwell time

One and two photon fluorescence excitation



One photon absorption is proportional to illumination

• Fluorescence is stimulated throughout the lightpath

Two-photon absorption is proportional to the squared power of illumination

• Photon density sufficient to excite fluorescence occurs only at the focal point

Fluorescence microscopy time



Benefits of Multi-Photon Microscopy



 no photobleaching in out-of-focus planes

figure through the unknowing courtesy of the Integrated Microscopy Resource, Madison, Wisconsin

Multiphoton photobleaching is limited to the focal point

Excitation Photobleaching Patterns



Figure courtesy of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory – Florida State University And Dave Piston, Vanderbilt Univ.

Benefits of Multi-Photon Microscopy



- no photobleaching in out-of-focus planes
- no emission aperture less loss to scattering

figure through the unknowing courtesy of the Integrated Microscopy Resource, Madison, Wisconsin

Multi-photon microscopy is less sensitive to light scatter by tissues – attenuation of signal



Image courtesy of Istituto Nazionale per la Fisica della Materia - Genoa

Benefits of Multi-Photon Microscopy



- no photobleaching in out-of-focus planes
- no emission aperture less loss to scattering
- IR light penetrates deeper, with less damage

figure through the unknowing courtesy of the Integrated Microscopy Resource, Madison, Wisconsin

Multi-photon Excitation Allows Deeper Imaging in Intact Tissue



Two-Photon Excitation

Dave Piston, Vanderbilt

Imaging complex structures – Kidney tubules of a newborn mouse kidney





Carrie Phillips, Nephrology and Pathology

Imaging complex structures – Kidney tubules of a newborn mouse kidney



Carrie Phillips, Nephrology and Pathology

Single optical section of neural network



Imaging complex structures – Neural network in mouse brain adapted to chronic alcohol



Feng Zhou, Anatomy and Cell Biology

Imaging complex structures – Segmentation of a single neuron



Feng Zhou, Anatomy and Cell Biology

Imaging complex structures – Neural network in mouse brain adapted to chronic alcohol



Feng Zhou, Anatomy and Cell Biology

Multiphoton imaging of kidney

3D imaging of newborn mouse kidney by 2-photon microscopy – Carrie Phillips



Imaging complex structures – Glomerulus of a newborn mouse kidney



Carrie Phillips, rendered by Anatomical Travel, Inc. www.anatomicaltravel.com

Imaging complex structures – branching tubulogenesis in an embryonic mouse kidney



Carrie Phillips, Nephrology and Pathology

140 micron thick volume of embryonic mouse kidney branching tubulogenesis – Carrie Phillips



... and real time rendering on a PC using Voxx software – Jeff Clendenon
Vital imaging by multiphoton microscopy

• The extended depth provided by multi-photon microscopy permits high-resolution imaging of the cells of living animals.

• The ability to image multiple fluorophores supports correlations of multiple proteins and physiological processes.

Experimental arrangement for intravital imaging of rat kidney



Anesthesia is provided via 1% halothane and low-flow oxygen. Fluorescent probes are administered via tail-vein injection. Blood gases are monitored via femoral artery.

Two-photon image of kidney of living rat injected with Hoechst, 500 Kd fluorescein dextran and 3 Kd Texas-Red dextran



– Ruben Sandoval and Katrina Kelly

Multiple functions apparent in images of kidneys of animals injected with large and small dextrans



• proximal tubule endocytosis

Multiple functions apparent in images of kidneys of animals injected with large and small dextrans



- proximal tubule endocytosis
- glomerular filtration

2-photon microscopy of glomerular filtration in a living rat



Hoechst-labeled nuclei, 500 Kd fluorescein dextran in blood, 3 Kd Texas-Red dextran in lysosomes and tubule lumens – Ruben Sandoval and Katrina Kelly

Multiple functions apparent in images of kidneys of animals injected with large and small dextrans



- proximal tubule endocytosis
- glomerular filtration
- tubular solute concentration

2-photon microscopy of tubular solute concentration in a living rat



Hoechst-labeled nuclei, rhodamine-albumin in blood, 3 Kd fluorescein dextran in lysosomes and tubule lumens – Ruben Sandoval and Katrina Kelly

Multiple functions apparent in images of kidneys of animals injected with large and small dextrans



- proximal tubule endocytosis
- glomerular filtration
- tubular solute concentration
- capillary blood flow

Imaging capillary blood flow by 2-photon microscopy



Rhodamine-albumin, 3K fluorescein dextran and Hoechst Imaging capillary blood flow (and proximal tubule autofluorescence) by 2-photon microscopy



500K fluorescein dextran and Hoechst

Practical multiphoton microscopy

Practical multiphoton microscopy

• Photobleaching

Multiphoton duorescence dye
Imaging multiple colors

Laser choices

Detector options

2 photon versus confocal microscopy POP go the endosomes



One photon image Two photon image at first, tenth, whatever scan Two photon image at fourth scan

Practical multiphoton microscopy

- Photobleaching
- Resolution

Deep tissue imaging by multi-photon microscopy



2 photon image collected 120 microns into kidney section

Imaging complex structures – Dendritic spines in mouse hippocampal neuron



Feng Zhou, Anatomy and Cell Biology

Practical multiphoton microscopy

- Photobleaching
- Resolution
- Multiphoton fluorescence dyes



2-photon cross sections are not necessarily predicted by single photon excitation spectra

BioRad

2-photon fluorescence excitation – 2-photon cross sections



Xu et al., BioImaging, 1996

Practical multiphoton microscopy

- Photobleaching
- Resolution
- Multiphoton fluorescence dyes
- Imaging multiple colors

Imaging complex structures – Comparing multiple probes in kidney tissue



Ruben Sandoval, Nephrology

Practical multiphoton microscopy

- Photobleaching
- Resolution
- Multiphoton fluorescence dyes
- Imaging multiple colors
- Laser choices

2-photon image volume of kidney of a living rat (before any fluorescence labeling)



2-photon image autofluorescence and Texas-Red gentamicin A tuneable laser is a good idea



820 nm excitation

860 nm excitation

Practical multiphoton microscopy

- Photobleaching
- Resolution
- Multiphoton fluorescence dyes
- Imaging multiple colors
- Laser choices
- Detector options

Signal attenuation with depth into fixed tissues -Multiphoton microscopy





Top view

Side view



Signal attenuation with depth in multiphoton microscopy

Live animal



Fixed tissue

Multi-photon microscopy is less sensitive to light scatter by tissues – attenuation of signal



Mouse Imaging Centre – The Hospital for Sick Children – University of Toronto

Sources of signal attenuation at depth

• Fluorescence emissions

- scattering
- refraction
 - spherical aberration

Red emissions

Green emissions



Use Red fluors – scattering decreases as the fourth power of wavelength

860 nm excitation

Two color 2-photon imaging of 13 day old embryonic mouse kidney



Non-descanned detectors collect scattered light more efficiently



Descanned PMT

Non-descanned PMT

Non-descanned detectors collect scattered light more efficiently



Descanned PMT

Non-descanned PMT

Sources of signal attenuation at depth

- Fluorescence emissions
 - scattering
 - refraction
 - spherical aberration
- Illumination
 - scattering
 - refraction
 - spherical aberration

Attenuation of illumination is reflected by lower photobleaching at depth



Attenuation of illumination – photobleaching rates

Live rat, 800 nm excitation, Hoechst

17ocbleach
Illumination attenuation decreases at longer wavelengths – light scatter decreases with wavelength



Signal attentuates with depth into kidneys, but can be regained with increased illumination



Signal attentuates with depth into kidneys, but can be regained with increased illumination



And, unlike confocal microscopy, scatter has minimal effect on resolution

Practical multiphoton microscopy

- Photobleaching
- Resolution
- Multiphoton fluorescence dyes
- Imaging multiple colors
- Laser choices
- Detector options
- Objective choice

Objectives for Multiphoton Microscopy

A new generation of microscope objectives is being developed that is optimized for infrared transmission, and designed for light collection rather than image formation.

The importance of high numerical aperture to 3d microscopy - XY planes of a kidney sample





20x, NA .75

60x, NA 1.2

The importance of high numerical aperture to 3d microscopy - XY planes of a kidney sample





20x, NA .75

60x, NA 1.2

Increase in the use of multiphoton microscopy since 1993



Increase in the use of multiphoton microscopy since 1993



Summary – Which system to choose?

• Do you need to image?

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- Do you need to image?
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Confocal or multi-photon?

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