Time-of-Flight Imaging lidar, single-photon imaging, non-line-of-sight imaging



CSC2529

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*slides adapted from Matt O'Toole, Gordon Wetzstein, Yannis Gkioulekas

transient imaging (a.k.a. femtophotography)



Raskar et al. [2011]

overview

- Time-resolved imaging
- Single-photon avalanche diodes (SPADs)
- Single-photon lidar
- Non-line-of-sight imaging
- Imaging through scattering media

echolocation



speed of sound in air: 343 meters / sec in water: 1480 meters / sec

Light takes 1.255 seconds to travel from the earth to the moon



speed of light in a vacuum: **299,792,458** meters / sec (Light travels approximation **1 MILLION** times faster than sound!)

transient imaging



speed of light in a vacuum: **299,792,458** meters / sec (Light travels approximation **1 MILLION** times faster than sound!)

direct and **indirect** time-of-flight sensors for transient imaging



Direct time-of-flight sensor



Indirect time-of-flight sensor

direct and indirect time-of-flight sensing



Direct time-of-flight sensor

Indirect time-of-flight sensor

direct and indirect time-of-flight sensing



Direct time-of-flight sensor













time → transient measurement

direct and indirect time-of-flight sensing





Direct time-of-flight sensor

Indirect time-of-flight sensor

direct and indirect time-of-flight sensing





Indirect time-of-flight sensor















optical coherence tomography	streak camera	single-photon avalanche diodes	time-of-flight cameras	avalanche photodiode
1 femtosecond	1 picosecond	100 picosecond	1 nanosecond	10 nanoseconds
(10 ⁻¹⁵ secs)	(10 ⁻¹² secs)	(10 ⁻¹⁰ secs)	(10 ⁻⁹ secs)	(10 ⁻⁸ secs)
quadrillion fps	trillion fps	10 billion fps	billion fps	100 million fps
1 micron	1 millimeter	10 centimeters	1 meter	10 meters
(10 ⁻⁶ meters)	(10 ⁻³ meters)	(10 ⁻¹ meters)	(10º meters)	(10 ¹ meters)

temporal resolu<u>tion</u>

frame rate

temporal resolution

frame rate

distance travelled

optical coherence	streak camera	single-photon	time-of-flight	avalanche
tomography		avalanche diodes	cameras	photodiode
1 femtosecond	1 picosecond	100 picosecond	1 nanosecond	10 nanoseconds
(10 ⁻¹⁵ secs)	(10 ⁻¹² secs)	(10 ⁻¹⁰ secs)	(10 ^{.9} secs)	(10 ⁻⁸ secs)
quadrillion fps	trillion fps	10 billion fps	billion fps	100 million fps
1 micron	1 millimeter	10 centimeters	1 meter	10 meters
(10⁻6 meters)	(10 ⁻³ meters)	(10 ⁻¹ meters)	(10º meters)	(10 ¹ meters)

temporal resolution

frame rate

distance travelled



temporal resolution

frame rate

distance travelled

optical coherence	streak camera	single-photon	time-of-flight	avalanche
tomography		avalanche diodes	cameras	photodiode
	ADD.	100 picosecond (10 ⁻¹⁰ secs)	1 nanosecond (10 ^{.9} secs)	10 nanoseconds (10 ⁻⁸ secs)
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temporal resolution

frame rate

distance travelled avalanche photodiode

10 nanoseconds (10⁻⁸ secs)

100 million fps

10 meters (10¹ meters)

optical coherence	streak camera	single-photon	time-of-flight	avalanche
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optical coherence streak camera single-photon time-of-flight tomography (k` 1 femtosecond (10⁻¹⁵ secs) (f) 100 million fps quadrillion fps (e)Gkioulekas et al. [2015] 1 micron (10⁻⁶ meters) (10⁻¹ meters)



temporal resolution

frame rate

distance travelled

spectrum of transient sensing technologies



spectrum of transient sensing technologies



spectrum of transient sensing technologies



(Sound Navigation and Ranging)

Seismic Imaging



- Time-resolved imaging
- Single-photon avalanche diodes (SPADs)
- Single-photon lidar
- Non-line-of-sight imaging
- Imaging through scattering media


regular image



transient image

Applications



Autonomous Navigation Image by Wikimedia Commons



Optical Communications Image by Siasat Daily



Image by LIDAR-America



Biomedical Imaging Image by Washington University



Space Station Docking Image by NASA



Consumer Electronics (2020 iPad Pro) Video by Tim Fields



Optical Communications Image by Siasat Daily Biomedical Imaging Image by Washington Universi Consumer Electronics (2020 iPad Pro) Video by Tim Fields 40





International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS)



• - Location of Lunar Retroreflector

single-photon avalanche diode (SPAD)



linear array of SPADs



scanning procedure

y (256 pixels)



x (320 pixels)

regular image

SPAD output

t (256 bins)

scanning procedure



scanning procedure





- Time-resolved imaging
- Single-photon avalanche diodes (SPADs)
- Single-photon lidar
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- Imaging through scattering media













Challenges

- 1. Light efficiency / photon sensitivity (determines range)
- 2. High-speed time stamping (determines accuracy)
- 3. Computational algorithms (determines range and accuracy)



1. Light efficiency / photon sensitivity (determines range)

- intensity of returned light falls off with 1/d², i.e. very quickly!
- emit as much light as possible *fundamentally limited by eye* safety (in most applications)
- detect as much light as possible, ideally individual photons



2. High-speed time stamping (determines accuracy)

- speed of light is ~300,000,000 m/s
- 1 m = 3.3 ns; 1 cm = 33 ps; 1 mm = 3.3 ps
- need picosecond-accurate time-stamping → usually highend electronics, but also done with ASICs, FPGAs



- 3. Computational algorithms (determines range and accuracy)
 - robust depth estimation from single photon per pixel!

Kirmani et al. "First-photon Imaging", Science 2014



conventional method

(Single-photon) Avalanche Photodiodes

Linear mode (i.e., avalanche photodiode or APD):

acts like a conventional photodiode with extremely high gain or amplification time resolution >300 ps – 10 ns

<u>Geiger mode</u> (i.e., single-photon avalanche photodiode **SPAD**): 500x more sensitive, i.e. single-photon sensitive

time resolution ~50 ps



Semiconductor devices



image by Princeton Lightwave

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Single-Photon Avalanche Diodes



Measurements





SPAD measurements (256 x 256 x 1536)

Intensity image (1024 x 1024)

Noisy <1 photon per pix., low spatial resolutior

clean, high spatial resolution

How to fuse information from both?

CNN Architecture for Depth Estimation (1 of 3) SPAD measurements only



CNN Architecture for Depth Estimation (2 of 3) Improved denoising by sensor fusion



CNN Architecture for Depth Estimation (3 of 3) Guided upsampling by sensor fusion



3x²

bicubic upsampling

Upsampled Depth

J G \mathfrak{C} **CNN** Architecture





scan rate: 20 Hz

lights on

(note: laser illumination is too weak to observe visually while scanning under ambient light)





SPAD measurements (20 Hz)

Average per spatial position 0.64 Signal Detections 0.87 Background Detections ⁶⁶



Intensity image



Log-matched filter



[Rapp and Goyal 2017]

Why is Deep Learning Useful Here?

- fusing complementary information from different sensors is not straightforward, but we can learn the mapping
- idea extends to other sensors: radar, thermal, ...
- inverse method is fully differentiable → can attach higher-level tasks, such as classification (car, pedestrian, biker, ...), and train end-to-end from photon counts to class label or control



- Time-resolved imaging
- Single-photon avalanche diodes (SPADs)
- Single-photon lidar
- Non-line-of-sight imaging (part 1)
- Imaging through scattering media

04.800 ns 1st bounce: 2.7 ns 3rd bounce: 4.3 ns



RAW histogram (10 FPS)


NLOS imaging system



hidden scene

wall



resolution: 128 x 128 area: 2 m × 2 m

scene photo











Dimensions: 2 m x 2 m x 1.5 m

Lindell et al., SIGGRAPH 2019







timestamp (nanoseconds)

confocal sampling

cthidden object

laser and detector focus on this point



lasers and detectors illuminate and image same points

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simplified NLOS mathematical modelenables efficient NLOS

reconstruction

equivalent to one-way propagation at half-speed

hidden object

confocal sampling

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$$\tau(x',y',t) = \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{1}{r_l^2 r^2} \delta(r_l + r - tc) \cdot \rho(x,y,z) \, dx \, dy \, dz$$
$$\tau = A \times \rho$$

NLOS image formation mode:



Backpropagation [Velten 12, Buttafava 15] Flops: $O(n^5)$ Memory: $O(n^3)$ Runtime: Approx. 10 min.

Iterative Inversion [Gupta 12, Heide 13] Flops: $O(n^5)$ per iter. Memory: $O(n^5)$ Runtime: > 1 hour

PROBLEM: A extremely large in practice (e.g., for n = 100, A has 1 trillion elements)

express image formation model as a 3D convolution, by:

1. confocalizing measurements

3D measurements

$$\tau(x',y',t) = \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{1}{r_l^2 r^2} \delta(r_l + r - tc) \cdot \rho(x,y,z) \, dx \, dy \, dz$$

express image formation model as a 3D convolution, by:

1. confocalizing measurements

3D measurements

2. performing a change of variables (set $z=\sqrt{u}$, $t=2\sqrt{v}/c$)

$$\tau(x',y',t) = \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{1}{r_l^2 r^2} \delta(r_l + r - tc) \cdot \rho(x,y,z) \, dx \, dy \, dz$$

 r_l

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2. performing a change of variables (set $z=\sqrt{u}$, $t=2\sqrt{v}/c$)

$$\tau(x',y',t) = \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{1}{r^4} \delta\left(2r - tc\right) \cdot \rho(x,y,z) \, dx \, dy \, dz$$

N

express image formation model as a 3D convolution, by:

1. confocalizing measurements

3D measurements

$$\tau(x',y',t) = \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{1}{r^4} \delta\left(2r - tc\right) \cdot \rho(x,y,z) \, dx \, dy \, dz$$

express image formation model as a 3D convolution, by:

1. confocalizing measurements

3D measurements

$$v^{3/2}\tau(x',y',\frac{2}{c}\sqrt{v}) = \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}}\delta\left((x'-x)^2 + (y'-y)^2 + u - v\right) \cdot \rho(x,y,\sqrt{u})dxdydu$$

express image formation model as a 3D convolution, by:

1. confocalizing measurements

3D measurements



Confocal NLOS image formation mode:

 $= \mathbf{a} *$

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{measurements} \\ n \times n \times n \end{array}$

blur kernel $n \times n \times n$

 $\frac{1}{n \times n \times n}$









O'Toole et al., Nature 2018



O'Toole et al., Nature 2018







measurements



Maximum Intensity Projection


Memory: $O(n^5)$

Runtime: > 1 hour



 Isotropic scattering (only diffuse o retroreflective objects)



- Time-resolved imaging
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$\nabla^2 \Psi - \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial t^2} = 0$

hidden object

confocal sampling

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image formation model $\Psi(x,z,t)$ $\Psi(x, z = 0, t)$ confocal measurements wavefield wall (z = 0) $\Psi(x, z, t = 0)$ Ζ hidden object Х



general solution (time reversal)

finite-difference timedomain method



1. approximate wave equation with finite differences

$$\frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial t^2} \approx \frac{\Psi_i^{n+1} - 2\Psi_i^n + \Psi_i^{n-1}}{(\Delta t)^2}$$

2. solve for previous timestep $\Psi_{i}^{n-1}=f\left(\Psi^{n},\Psi^{n+1}\right)$

3. repeatedly update Ψ at all grid cells

general solution (time reversal)

finite-difference timedomain method





3. repeatedly update Ψ at all grid cells





Captured Measurements



Lindell et al., SIGGRAPH 2019





Lindell et al., SIGGRAPH 2019

У



Express wavefield as function of measurement spectrum (plane wave decomposition) $\Psi(x, y, z, t) = \iiint \bar{\Phi}(k_x, k_y, f) e^{2\pi i (k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - ft)} dk_x dk_y df$ wavefield transform of measurements Set t=0 to get migrated solution $\Psi(x,y,z,t=0) = \iint \bar{\Phi}(k_x,k_y,f) e^{2\pi i (k_x x + k_y y + k_z z)} dk_x dk_y df$

Almost an inverse Fourier Transform!

Set t=0 to get migrated solution

$$\Psi(x,y,z,t=0) = \iiint \bar{\Phi}(k_x,k_y,f) e^{2\pi i (k_x x + k_y y + k_z z)} dk_x dk_y df$$

Almost an inverse Fourier Transform!

Use dispersion relation¹ to perform substitution of variables

$$f = v\sqrt{k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2}$$
$$\boxed{f \Rightarrow k_z}$$

¹Georgi, Howard. The physics of waves. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1993.

Use dispersion relation¹ to perform substitution of variables

$$f = v\sqrt{k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2}$$

$$f \Rightarrow k_z$$

Use dispersion relation¹ to perform substitution of variables

$$f = v\sqrt{k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2}$$

$$f \Rightarrow k_z$$





Use dispersion relation¹ to perform substitution of variables



The migrated solution is an inverse Fourier Transform!

$$\Psi(x,y,z,t=0) = \iiint \Phi(k_x,k_y,k_z) e^{2\pi i (k_x x + k_y y + k_z z)} dk_x dk_y dk_z$$



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Dimensions: 2 x 2 m Exposure: 180 min Reconstruction time: ~90 sec (CPU)



Lindell et al., SIGGRAPH 2019

Reconstruction Comparison

dimensions: 2 m x 2 m x 1.5 m



/Filtered Backprojection

hardware prototype



hardware prototype



real-time scanning



Framerate: 4 Hz Resolution: 32 x 32 Dimensions: 2 m x 2 m x 2 m Reconstruction time: ~1 s per frame

Lindell et al., SIGGRAPH 2019

Outlook

Directional Light-Cone Transform





hidden scene

Recovered surface

[Young et al., CVPR 2020]

Outlook

Keyhole NLOS Imaging



[Metzler et al., IEEE TCI 2021]



- Time-resolved imaging
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- Single-photon lidar
- Non-line-of-sight imaging (part 2)
- Imaging through scattering media



Challenges

- very few returning photons
- information is 'scrambled' by scattering







transport mean free path





Ballistic imaging



[Wang '91], [Redo-Sanchez '16], [Satat '18], ...

Ballistic imaging



[Wang '91], [Redo-Sanchez '16], [Satat '18], ...

Ballistic imaging



[Wang '91], [Redo-Sanchez '16], [Satat '18], ...

Diffuse Optical Tomography

2D



3D



[Hajihashemi '12]

[Satat '16]

Ballistic imaging



[Wang '91], [Redo-Sanchez '16], [Satat '18], ...

Diffuse Optical Tomography



Assumptions: - object at a distance behind scattering media - scattering media is static






hidden object



captured measurements $(0.6 \text{ m} \times 0.6 \text{ m} \times 3.3 \text{ ns})$

total acquisition time: 1 min. (60 ms/sample)





total acquisition time: 1 min. (60 ms/sample)

y





$$\phi(t, \mathbf{r_0}, \mathbf{r_1}) = \frac{c}{(4\pi Dct)^{3/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{r_1} - \mathbf{r_0}\|_2^2}{4Dct} - \mu_a ct\right)$$



$$I(t', \mathbf{r_1}, \mathbf{r_2}) = \int_{\Psi} \left[f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r_1}) f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r_2}) \delta(ct' - \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r_1}\| - \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r_2}\|) \right] d\mathbf{x}$$



$$I(t', \mathbf{r_1}, \mathbf{r_2}) = \int_{\Psi} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r_1}) f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r_2}) \delta(ct' - \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r_1}\| - \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r_2}\|) d\mathbf{x}$$



$$I(t', \mathbf{r_1}, \mathbf{r_2}) = \int_{\Psi} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r_1}) f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r_2}) \delta(ct' - \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r_1}\| - \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r_2}\|) d\mathbf{x}$$



$$I(t', \mathbf{r_1}, \mathbf{r_2}) = \int_{\Psi} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r_1}) f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r_2}) \delta(ct' - \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r_1}\| - \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r_2}\|) d\mathbf{x}$$



$$\phi(t, \mathbf{r_0}, \mathbf{r_1}) = \frac{c}{(4\pi Dct)^{3/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{r_1} - \mathbf{r_0}\|_2^2}{4Dct} - \mu_a ct\right)$$

Method



confocal: illuminate and image here

Method

Approximation:

Approximate measured light as scattering back to the same spot. ${f r_1}={f r_2}$

Error ~ (spot size)² / (2 * distance) << 1 cm



confocal: illuminate and image here

Method

Approximation:

Approximate measured light as scattering back to the same spot. ${f r_1=r_2}$

Error ~ (spot size)² / (2 * distance) << 1 cm

measurements

 $\hat{\tau}(t, \mathbf{r_0}) =$

 $\begin{aligned} \phi(t, \mathbf{r_0}, \mathbf{r_1}) * \phi(t, \mathbf{r_0}, \mathbf{r_1}) * I(t, \mathbf{r_1}, \mathbf{r_1}) \\ \text{diffusion kernels} \qquad \text{NLOS model} \end{aligned}$

Can use efficient NLOS inversion!



confocal: illuminate and image here







Hardware







measurements





measurements





reconstruction





reconstruction







traffic cones

reflective mannequin

diffuse letter



Lindell et al., Nat. Commun. 2020



Conclusion

- Time-resolved imaging + closed-form solution for imaging through scattering media
- future work
 - embedded, anisotropic media
 - priors, machine learning



concluding remarks

- Many applications for time-of-flight imaging
 - Lidar
 - Non-line-of-sight
 - Transient imaging
 - Imaging through scatter
- New capabilities through combining emerging sensors with computation!

Next time...

Representing & processing signals with neural networks





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