

Segment - User Manual



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Software platform v2.2 R6246

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1 Terms and conditions

1.1 Regulatory status

Segment may be used for either investigational off label use or commercial purposes. Please see license terms which license form that apply to you. Users are also required to investigate the regulatory requirements pertinent to their country or location prior to using Segment. It is in the users responsibility to obey these statues, rules and regulations.

1.2 Commercial usage of Segment

FDA approved versions of Segment are identified with a labelling upon start up displaying licence details and the FDA 510(k) number K090833. If your version does not display this information your version is not FDA approved and you need to contact Medviso AB to receive a such license.

Please note that there are features that are not included in the FDA approval. These functions are marked in this User Manual that they are only for investigational use.

1.3 Indications for use

Segment is a software that analyzes DICOM-compliant cardiovascular images acquired from magnetic resonance (MR) scanners. Segment specifically analyzes the function of the heart and its major vessels using multi-slice, multi-frame and velocity encoded MR images. It provides clinically relevant and reproducible data for supporting the evaluation of the function of the chambers of the heart such as left and right ventricular volumes, ejection fractions, stroke volumes, peak ejection and filling rates, myocardial mass, regional wall thickness, fractional thickening and wall motion. It also provides quantitative data on blood flow and velocity in the arterial vessels and at the heart valves. Segment is tested on MR images acquired from both 1.5 T and 3.0 T MR scanners. The data produced by Segment is intended to be used to support qualified cardiologist, radiologist or other licensed professional healthcare practitioners for clinical decision making. **It is a support**

CHAPTER 1. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

tool that provides relevant clinical data as a resource to the clinician and is not intended to be a source of medical advice or to determine or recommend a course of action or treatment for a patient.

1.4 Investigational purposes

None of the organizations/persons named in conjunction with the software can accept any product or other liability in connection with the use of this software for investigational purposes.

2 License Terms

The software can be used under three different license forms. More detailed information and pricing of the different license forms is given on Medviso AB homepage <http://www.medviso.com>.

2.1 Free or charge for non-commercial research

The software is free to use for non-commercial research or educational purposes if and only if you reference it properly and send full bibliographic information (such as Pubmed link) of your final work when published or accepted for publication. Details on how to reference the software are given in Chapter 42.

You may not use the software for clinical routine or commercial applications such as company paid pharmaceutical trials without contacting the author. Details about commercial/clinical use is given below. Note that the software is copyright and may not be redistributed/resold without permission of the author.

2.2 Clinical use

For clinical purposes medviso provides clinical software versions; Segment CMR for image analysis of Cardiac MR, and Segment CT for image analysis of Cardiac CT. In the clinical software packages you get additional features for clinical reporting, patient database and PACS connection. Please contact sales@medviso.com if you are interested in a clinical version of the software.

2.3 Commercial research (non-human images)

There is a license type for Segment that is intended for commercial R & D companies, or industry sponsored trials where the majority (more than 50%) of the funding comes from a commercial sponsor. Please contact sales@medviso.com if you are interested in a commercial version of Segment.

3 Acknowledgements

Even if this project started as a one man project, it has grown and it would never been possible without the help of many many people.

Financial support has been received from the Swedish Heart-Lung foundation, Swedish Research Council, local founds from Östergötland County, and Region of Scania.

I would like to acknowledge all the people that have put in feed back on usability and desired functionality, algorithm etc. Among others: Andreas Otto, Andreas Sigfridsson, Erik Bergvall, Erik Hedström, Henrik Haraldsson, Henrik Engblom, Håkan Arheden, Jan Engvall, Lars Wigström, Lisa Hård af Segerstad, Karin Markenroth Bloch, Marcus Carlsson, Martin Ugander, Mikael Kanski. Finally thank to you all Segment users in the research community that has inspired and contributed to the development.

Special thanks to code providers Erik Bergvall (core routines of strain analysis), Helen Soneson (strain analysis module, SPECT module, Image fusion module), Shruti Agarwal (refactory of strain analysis module), Jonatan Wulcan (Sectra Plugin module and general improvements), Johannes Töger (3D flow and volume tracking), Mårten Larsson (3D flow and kinetic energy).

Commercial development has been done by Jane Sjögren (improvements to general object segmentation, implementation of prototype based segmentation, CT functionality, and graphical seriesselector). General debugging and implementation of the new interpolated contours has been done by Johan Ugander and Erik Södervall. Report Module and general debugging have been performed by Nils Lundahl.

4 Rationale for the Software

Developing this software have required a lot of work. So what has the rationale been for producing new software where there are commercially available software packages that at least partially could do the same thing?

- At the time of writing the core of the program other existing software were simply not good enough.
- Existing software packages did not allow to store the segmentation and regions of interest in a flexible way.
- Existing software packages had no flexible exporting capabilities to allow full usage of automated delineation algorithms.
- A freely available software greatly facilitates and improves possibilities to do multi-center studies.
- There will be no company secrets we will always know, and be open and tell you exactly how things are implemented. This is crucial for doing good research.
- It can serve as a platform for experimenting and testing of various image processing ideas.
- It has been given very valuable experience of how to handle and develop a large scientific software package.

As the software grew in capabilities, there also started to be a commercial interest in the software. However, Segment will always be tightly coupled to cardiovascular research and continue to be freely available for research purposes. We hope that you will find the software useful in your research, and please do not hesitate to tell us what you think about it, and come with suggestions for improvements.

The software has been developed at:

- Home during late evenings and weekends.
- Linköping University, Sweden, Centre of Medical Image Science and Visualization & Department of Medicine and Care, Clinical Physiology (2002-2004).

CHAPTER 4. RATIONALE FOR THE SOFTWARE

- Cardiac MR Group, Lund University, Department of Clinical Physiology (2005-present).
- The company Medviso AB (2007-present).

5 How to Read This Manual

Technical documentation always face a certain dilemma: whether write for top-down or bottom-up learners. A top-down learner prefers to read or skim documentation, getting a large overview of how the system works; only then does she actually start using the software. A bottom-learner is a 'learn by doing' person, someone who just wants to dive into the software and figure it out as she goes, referring to book sections when necessary.

This documentation is biased towards top-down learners (And if you're actually reading this section, you're probably already a top-down learner yourself!) However, if you're a bottom-up person, don't despair. If you have patience enough to ready only one chapter then read Chapter 10. If you then get stuck you may use this manual to search for specific solutions. Most of the icons and pushbuttons in the software have tooltip strings attached to them. Simply point the mouse over a button and you will have feeling on what purpose it has.

If you do not want to read the manual at all, you can instead see the on-line video tutorials. They are available under the **Help** menu.

6 Conventions and Abbreviations

This chapter describes the typographic conventions and used abbreviations in this manual and in the program.

6.1 Typographic conventions

A	Key A at the keyboard.
Ctrl-A	Control key. Hold down Ctrl key and A simultaneously.
	Icon in toolbar.
*.mat	Filename extension.
C:/Program	Folder.
File	Menu, e.g. File menu.
File→Save As	Sub menu, e.g. under the File menu the item Save As is found.
	Push/Toggle button in the graphical user interface.
<input type="radio"/> Endocardium	Radiobutton in the graphical user interface.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single frame	Checkbox in the graphical user interface.

6.2 Trademarks

Below are some of the trademarks used in this manual.

- Segment is a trademark of Medviso AB.
- Segment DICOM Server is a trademark of Medviso AB.
- Sectra PACS is a trademark of Sectra Imtec AB, (<http://www.sectra.se>).
- Matlab is a trademark of the Mathworks Inc, (<http://www.mathworks.com>).

6.3 Abbreviations

2CH	Two chamber view
3CH	Three chamber view
4CH	Four chamber view

CHAPTER 6. CONVENTIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

3D	Three Dimensional
3D+T	Time Resolved Three Dimensional
AA	Ascending Aorta
ASW	Anterior Septal Wall Thickness
ARD	Aortic Root Diameter
BPM	Beats per minute
BSA	Body Surface Area
CMR	Cardiac Magnetic Resonance
CO	Cardiac Output
CT	Computed Tomography
DA	Descending Aorta
DE-MRI	Delayed Enhancement MRI
ED	End diastole
EDD	End Diastolic Dimension
EDL	End Diastolic Length
EDV	End Diastolic Volume
EF	Ejection Fraction
ES	End systole
ESD	End Systolic Dimension
ESL	End Systolic Length
ESV	End Systolic Volume
FWHM	Full Width Half Maximum
GUI	Graphical User Interface
HR	Heart Rate
LGE	Late Gadolinium Enhancement
LV	Left Ventricle
LVM	Left Ventricle Mass
MaR	Myocardium at Risk
MO	Microvascular obstruction
MB	Mega Byte
MIP	Maximum Intensity Projection
MPR	Multiplanar Reconstruction
MR	Magnetic Resonance
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
PET	Photon Emission Tomography
PER	Peak Ejection Rate
PDW	Proton Density Weighted
PFR	Peak Filling Rate

6.3. ABBREVIATIONS

PLW	Posterior Lateral Wall Thickness
PWV	Pulse Wave Velocity
ROI	Region Of Interest
RV	Right Ventricle
RVmaj	Right Ventricle Major Axis
RVmin	Right Ventricle Minor Axis
SPECT	Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography
SSFP	Steady State Free Precision
SV	Stroke volume
TOF	Time of Flight
VENC	Velocity Encoding limit

7 System Requirements

In this chapter the hardware requirements for the software are outlined. Possible bottlenecks are (in order of likelihood) lack of RAM memory, CPU speed, and I/O network or disk transfer rates.

7.1 Operating system

Segment is available both as a precompiled application and also a source code version. Precompiled versions are available for the following platforms:

- Microsoft Windows 64 bit platform. It will run on any of the following Windows: 2000, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8 and Windows 10.
- The Segment have been reported to run well on Mac using Parallels.

The source code version is available for the following platforms:

- Windows 64
- Linux 64

To run the source code format the recommended Matlab version is R2014a.

7.2 Hardware requirements

The list below are the recommended hardware requirements. To run a clinical versin of Segment you need at least the specifications indicated below.

- A fairly recent computer with 4 GB of memory or preferably at least 8 GB.
- Harddisk with at least 500 MB of available space. The program Matlab Compiler Runtime takes about 450 MB, another 20MB is taken by the program.
- Graphics card supporting both DirectX and OpenGL (hardware accelerated) is recommended. Systems with two screens is recommended for clinical usage of Segment.

We strongly recommend using SSD disk for reading data.

8 Installing and Uninstalling

The descriptions for first time installation is divided into two main sections, describing Windows standalone installation (section 8.1) and source code installation (section 8.2), respectively. The sections after that describes general settings that should be performed regardless of installation type.

8.1 Installation of Standalone version for Windows

This section is written for first time installation of Segment. For upgrading, see the Section 8.4. The program is written in Matlab, in order to run it you therefore need to install Matlab Compiler Runtime first. **Note** that to be able to perform these steps below you **need** to have administrator privileges on the machine. If you are using Windows Vista, then please also refer to Section 8.1.5.

8.1.1 Installing Matlab Compiler Runtime

If you have Matlab **and** Matlab Compiler Runtime (MCR) installed on your computer this step may not be necessary, provided that you have exactly the same version as used for compiling Segment. Currently Matlab Compiler Runtime R2014a is required. Download the file `MCR_R2014a_win64_installer.exe`. Exact name of the file depends on operating system you are installing to. Download the file to a suitable location (i.e your desktop or a temporary folder) and double-click it. Follow the instructions in Figures 1-4.

This step to install MCR Installer does only need to be performed once and should generally not be necessary when upgrading to a later version of the software.

Note: For some operating systems it is required to reboot the computer after installing the MCRInstaller. We therefore, **strongly** advise all users to reboot the computer after installing the MCRInstaller.

8.1.2 Installing Segment

Download the file (called something like `install_Segment_2px_Ryyyy.exe`, where 2px is the version number and Ryyyy is the revision number). Place

CHAPTER 8. INSTALLING AND UNINSTALLING

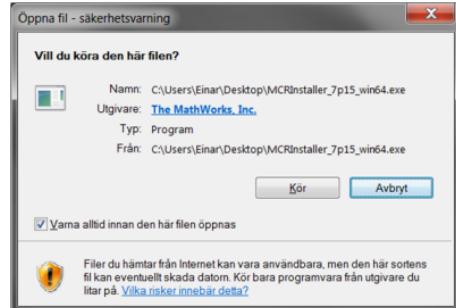


Figure 1: Click on Run or Kör.



Figure 2: Click on OK.

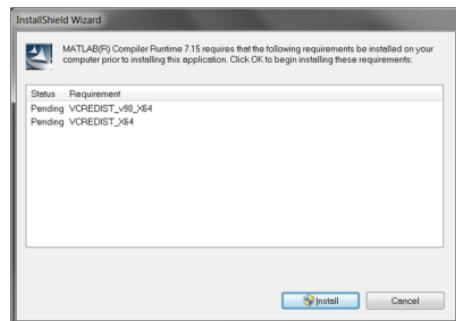


Figure 3: Click on Install.

8.1. INSTALLATION OF STANDALONE VERSION FOR WINDOWS

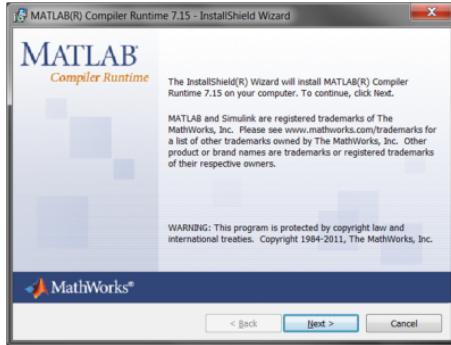


Figure 4: Click on **Next**.

the file where you easily can find it (i.e your desktop). When downloaded, double click on the file, and follow the instructions. You will be prompted if you want to install the program to the default location (`C:/Program Files` or `C:/Program` depending on operating system language). One advantage of installing to another location, where you have write access, is that you can thereafter install upgrades without being logged in as local administrator.

8.1.3 Verify installation of Segment

To start the program, double click the file `C:/Program Files/Segment/Segment.exe`, or your shortcut to it. When starting the software, the image in Figure 5 should be displayed. If it is not displayed, then the software is not correctly installed.

8.1.4 Create shortcut

Place a shortcut to the file `C:/Program Files/Segment/Segment.exe` at your desktop. Note that depending on your system locale, or if you have installed Segment to a non-default location this path may be different. Creating this short-cut is done by using the standard Windows file explorer to find the file, then right click on the file and select the option **Create a short-cut**. Move the created shortcut to your desktop.

8.1.5 Notes for Windows Vista users

You will need to run the application in administrator mode the first time you run Segment since the first time Segment is started some files are extracted.



Figure 5: Startup window for Segment.

This operation is blocked in user mode. The second time you run Segment you should be able to run in a user mode.

8.1.6 Network installation of Segment

For advanced users and system administrators, it is possible to make a network installation of Segment. Then you do not need to install MCRInstaller on each machine that is used to run Segment. Make a network installation of MCRInstaller. How to do this shown in this document.

www.mathworks.com/access/helpdesk/help/toolbox/compiler/f12-1000291.html

Thereafter place Segment in a network folder, and make sure that each user can find `Segment.exe`.

8.2 Installation for source code version

Please note that currently is not Linux 32 bit supported, but Linux 64 bit are supported. We will at a later stage also support Linux 32 bit, but it is

not easy trying to keep all platforms up to date.

Install Segment by:

1. Download .zip file (see download pages)
2. Unzip the file and store contents in directory.
3. Installation complete.

Starting by:

1. Start Matlab
2. Change directory to where you have unpacked Segment.
3. Type segment at Matlab command prompt.

8.3 License file

If you have received a license code (then your version is registered full version), then add your license by enter your license code in the installation process. You can also add your license code after installation by starting Segment and select **Generate License** under the **Help** menu in Segment. Please note that these operations may require that you run the software as Administrator (not only being logged in as Administrator). This is done by right clicking on the icon of the software and then select "Run as administrator". A third way of adding your license is to add a license file (named **code.lic**) to the same folder as where Segment is installed. If you do not have a license file then the program will run in 'Research only mode', fully functional where only a few options are disabled. You may then **not** use the software for commercial research or clinical routine.

8.4 Upgrading Segment

If your previous version used another MCR then you need to **first** replace your old Matlab Compiler Runtime. To see which version of Matlab Compiler Runtime is required, please see the table below.

Segment version	MCRInstaller
≤1.675	Matlab Compiler Runtime 7.6
1.8	Matlab Compiler Runtime 7.8
1.9	Matlab Compiler Runtime 7.15
2.0	Matlab Compiler Runtime 2014a
2.1	Matlab Compiler Runtime 2014a

If you need to upgrade MCR, follow the installation instructions in Section 8.1. It is **important** to uninstall the old MCR before installing a new one. When having problems installing or uninstalling the MCRInstaller, please consult Mathworks support pages, and search for **MCRInstaller**.

If you, as in most cases, do not need to upgrade MCR, simply download the Segment installation file and double click on it to install it, as described in Section 8.1.2. If you are running services for the Segment Server solution, then you need to stop and delete them prior to upgrading, please see Patient Database and PACS Communication Manual for details.

8.5 First time running Segment

Doubleclick the file `C:/Program Files/Segment/Segment.exe`, or your shortcut to it, to start the program. The first time it is started, it runs a setup process which can take a while, so be patient. To complete setup, set preferences and window positions as described in Sections 8.5.1 and 8.5.2.

8.5.1 Setting preferences

It is recommended to set the preferences of which folders to use to avoid browsing each time you want to load or save a file. It is invoked by using the Preferences on the main menu. Set Data, Export and CD folders.

The preferences are saved as a file `.segment_preferences.mat` in a folder that can be accessed by selecting Open Folder with Log Files from the Help menu. This preferences are specific for all users, however it is possible to set default preferences for all users starting to use the software by in the Advanced System and DICOM preferences click on `Save to all`. This preferences file will then be copied to the preferences path of every user that does not already have preferences saved. It will also override any PACS or Segment

8.5. FIRST TIME RUNNING SEGMENT

Server settings for all users on the machine. Please note that these operations may require that you run the software as Administrator (not only being logged in as Administrator). This is done by right clicking on the icon of the software and then select "Run as administrator".

Further details on how one customizes Segment is given in Customization Chapter in Segment Reference Manual.

8.5.2 Setting window positions

The position of the main window for Segment can be set by dragging the window to an optional position and size. The size and position will be saved so that next time Segment is launched the same position will be used. The window position can also be saved for the file loader, patient database module and PACS connection module, general segmentation module, fusion module, SPECT module and strain module. This feature is under development and eventually it will be possible to set the position for all windows, until then windows will pop up as an overlay in the middle of the window from which it was launched or in the middle of the main Segment window.

In case where one have switched to another monitor Segment may move outside the screen. In this case you could press Shift-Ctrl-R to reset GUI positions. This is also available under the File menu.

8.5.3 Patient database

We recommend that you start by using our example patient database. Download the file **Patientdatabase.zip** from Medviso AB homepage (<http://medviso.com/download2/>). The file is quite large (1.4 GB). Unpack the file and place the contents in a folder. In Segment you need to set the location of the patient database. Click on **Preferences** and click on **Advanced System and DICOM Settings**. A new user interface appears and click on **Database Folder**, select the folder where the file **patientdatabase.mat** resides.

8.5.4 PACS connectivity

Setting up PACS connection and Segment Server usually requires help from your local PACS support, and we recommend that contact us to setup a telephone / web-based video conference to make this process as smooth as

possible. The Patient Database and PACS Communication manual, and the Sectra PACS plugin manual is found at Medviso AB homepage (<http://medviso.com/products/cmr/>). The Sectra PACS plugin may require additional Microsoft Visual C++ components that can be downloaded from Medviso AB homepage (<http://medviso.com/download2/>).

8.6 Uninstallation

Essentially the uninstallation is similar for all versions.

8.6.1 Uninstalling for Windows

There is currently no uninstallation software available. Remove all files in the folder **C:/Program/Segment** or **C:/Program Files/Segment**. User preferences are stored in the **Application Data** and the subfolder **Segment** under each user account (Windows). To uninstall the Matlab Compiler Runtime, use the Windows functionality **Install or Remove Programs** in the control panel menu. Please note that if you are running services for the Segment Server solution, then you need to first stop and delete these services before uninstalling the software, as they otherwise will lock files that needs to be deleted. See Patient Database and PACS Communication Manual for details.

8.6.2 Uninstallation for source code

The uninstallation for the source code version is trivial, simply delete all Segment related files.

8.7 Trouble shooting

The absolutely most common problem is the failure to not login as a local administrator of the computer. The second most common mistake is not to read the installation instruction provided in this user manual or on the homepage.

To trouble shoot the installation you can see if the Segment installation program actually was successfully started by checking for the existence of .log files. Segment creates a log file during installation, this file is stored in the user folder (i.e **Documents and Settings/Username and Application Data** and the subfolder **Segment**). Note that this folder by default is hidden. If you have problems installing Segment, please send this log-file to

8.7. TROUBLE SHOOTING

`support@medviso.com` together with a description on what problems where encountered.

9 Loading Image Stacks

The best method to load and manage studies is by using the Patient Database Module, described in Segment Database Manual. For clinical use, we discourage the direct use of the DICOM loader since this is a sub optimal workflow in the clinical situation, instead please look at the Segment Database and PACS connection Manual.

The program can read DICOM, and also an internal file format. The internal file format (called `.mat` files) has the advantages that one file may contain several image stacks along with object contours and measurements, and it is also much faster and easier to load compared to loading DICOM files.

It is highly recommendable that when an image stack has been loaded from DICOM files to save the image stack(s) to the internal file format. This makes it then much easier to go back and reanalyse datasets if necessary. Note also that the internal file format requires much less storage space than the original DICOM files, mainly due to cropping of the images and to lossless compression.

How to browse your DICOM data in the easiest way is described in Section 9.1.6.

The file loading dialog box is started from the main menu, under **File**, or by clicking on the icon , or by pressing **Ctrl-0**. This brings up the file loader GUI shown in Figure 6.

The file loader process the selected directory and its subdirectories to find the number of files in that directory. Since this process takes some time this operation is cached, and creates a file called `folders.cache`. To recreate the cache, press . When reading from a CD-ROM it is recommendable to copy the CD-ROM to your hard drive if you will load most of the files on the CD-ROM, since random file access from CD is very slow and caching is not possible. For further details on how to import DICOM CD-ROM's, see Section 20.5.

CHAPTER 9. LOADING IMAGE STACKS

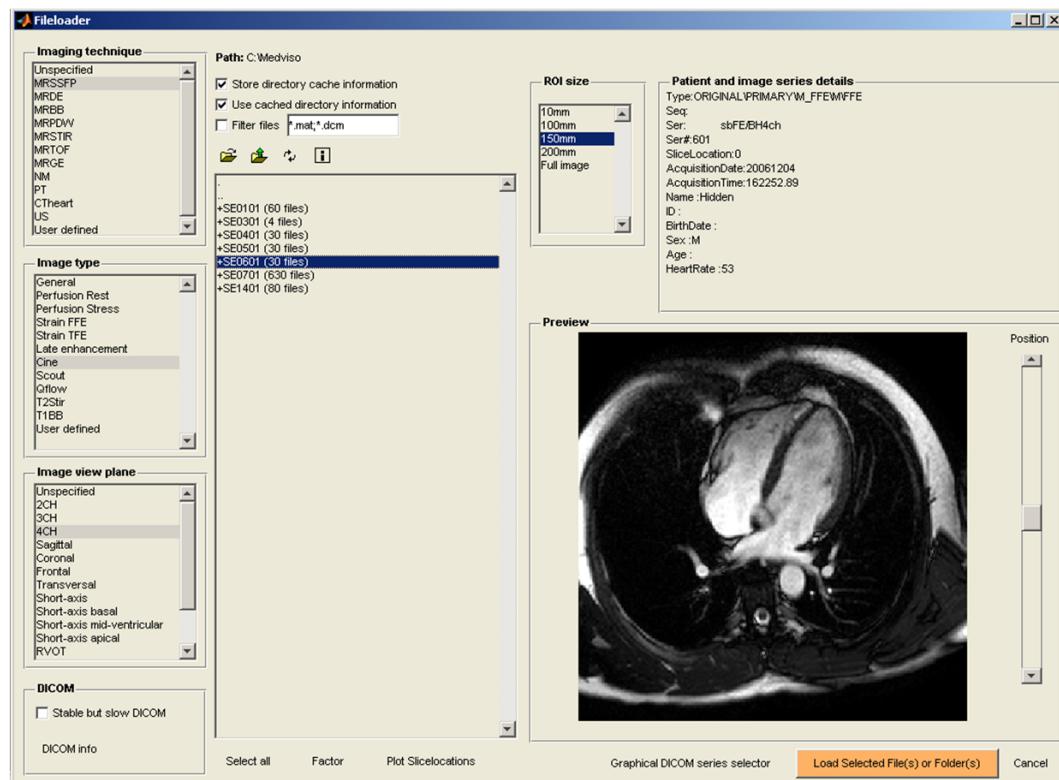


Figure 6: File loader GUI.

9.1 Loading DICOM files

9.1.1 Loading DICOM files

When loading MR DICOM files Segment assumes that the files are sorted so that each image series is stored into one folder. Each folder may then contain one or many DICOM files. This is illustrated in Figure 7.

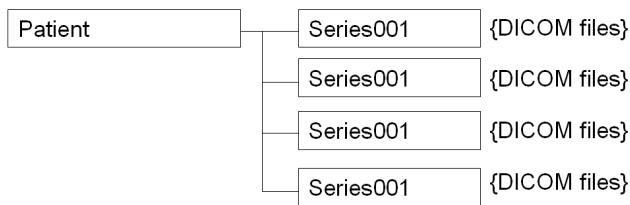


Figure 7: Files needs to be sorted so that each image series are stored into a separate folder.

If the files are not stored in this fashion then there is a sorting utility available described in Chapter 20. DICOM is a loosely structured file format and direct reading from DICOM files is slow. Currently the use of meta DICOM files is not supported (the DICOMDIR file is simply ignored).

9.1.2 Loading SPECT DICOM files

When loading SPECT DICOM files Segment assumes that the files are reconstructed into a short axis stack.

9.1.3 General loading DICOM files

You can either load each image series at a time or use a graphical tool to select what image stacks to load. The graphical series selector is described in Section 9.1.6. To load one image series at a time, start by selecting one folder.

To go up one directory level double click on ..., or click on the icon. To more easily get to a different folder, click on the **Browse** pushbutton. To go down one directory level double click on the folder name. Once selected one folder containing DICOM files a preview of one file in that folder is shown. To load the complete image stack, perform the following steps:

- Start by selecting the imaging technique in the top left corner of the GUI. The imaging technique sets the default segmentation parameters, and it is crucial that you select the correct imaging technique. For many scanners and sequence types this is identified automatically.
- When a valid file/folder is selected a preview of that dataset is displayed. Patient details and acquisition time are also shown.
- It is recommended, but generally not required to select **Image Type** and **Image View Plane**. This tells Segment what kind of image it is. This might be required for future analysis in some applications. It is also a good idea to label image stacks upon loading when for instance doing stress analysis to be able to safely differentiate baseline from stress exams. For research purposes it is possible to set free text name as **Image Type** and **Image View Plane**.
- Select the desired region of interest size. Usually for normal hearts 100mm is sufficient to cover the left ventricle. Enlarged ventricles will need 150mm or even more.
- Click **Load** to start the loading process. This brings up a red box in the preview image. Position this box with the mouse and left click to start the loading process. If you want to use a different size of ROI right click to abort loading operation. Then click again on the **Load** button.
- Once positioned the box, left click with the mouse to start loading the files.

Once all image files are loaded a dialog box opens where you need to confirm voxel spacing and timing details. How Segment interprets the DICOM information to calculate these parameters is described in Section 46.3. For users that do not use images from the three major vendors Siemens, Philips, or GE should read this section. Further technical details about how Segment interprets the DICOM files are given in the Segment Technical Manual.

If heart rate is not present in the DICOM file Segment tries to guess that based on the time increment and the number of time frames to get R-R interval. This will fail if your image sequence is for instance one image every heart beat.

9.1.4 Tips and tricks

Often the files are not stored exactly as prerequisites above, then there are many tips and tricks available.

- You may select several subfolders. Then the program loads all the files in the subdirectories. Each subdirectory must have the same number of files. This is the case for old Siemens files and Bruker Paravision DICOM files.
- You may select what DICOM files to load directly. Note however that the files need to form a valid image stack and the result may be incorrect if slices are missing etc. When you do this, always ensure that the files are sorted properly.
- It is possible to preview different files by the **Position** slider.
- To get detailed information about DICOM tags in the files press **DICOM info**.

9.1.5 Loading images from CD

When loading images from a CD it is highly recommended to import the files from the CD to your image data directory. This is done by using the utility described in Section 20.5.

9.1.6 Graphical image series selection

The graphical series selector tool is shown in Figure 8. While moving the mouse pointer over the image series more information on each image series is shown in the top of the graphical interface. Select which image series to load with left mouse button. Image series outlined in yellow are selected. It is also possible to group image series to one image stack. Image series that are to be grouped are selected by holding down the **Shift** key while mouse clicking, or by using the middle mouse button. Thereafter, press the push-button **Group Selected**. Grouped image series are shown with a green outline. Multiple image stacks can be selected for loading or grouping by clicking and dragging over the selection. When finished selecting image series, press **Load**. To speed up the process this operation the generation of the thumbnails is cached.

Note that when using this tool to load the image, then there is no cropping of the images done, and that is highly recommended to crop the images during

the image analysis process. Also note that if multiple directions is detected in the dicom folder all the different directions are loaded as separate image stacks.



Figure 8: Graphical image series selector.

9.1.7 DICOM - details

First of all remember that DICOM is not a well defined standard. I have tried hard to make Segment to work with DICOM files from different imaging device manufacturers. It is currently tried on General Electric MR-scanners, Siemens CT/MR/PET, and Philips MR scanners, Bruker MR, Suinsa PET. Furthermore various PACS manufacturer might 'corrupt' the files in different ways.

The DICOM reader does not support JPEG encoded images, or big endian DICOM files. However, when images are imported into the patient database or sorted by the DICOM sorter they are converted on the fly and can be read by Segment DICOM reader.

There are some short cuts taken in the fast loader:

- The spacing in time is assumed to be equal between all frames when loading time resolved images. This may be violated if the scanner rejects some beats in a perfusion image serie for instance.
- The spacing in slice is assumed to be equal between all slices when loading image stacks with multiple slices.
- When you have loaded a rotated image stack you need to tell Segment about it. It is done under **Image Tools** and **View Adjust and Image Details**. A rotated image stack is a set of slices that are rotated around a central axis. Then subsequent analysis will assume that the data is a rotated image stack. When you view the data in single slice view a cyan line are drawn with the rotational axis indicated. To get correct volume estimates it is crucial that this line co-incides with the true axis of rotation. To achieve this you may have to flip the image stack, see details in Section 17.7.

9.1.8 Unstructured files

Some systems (Siemens depending on platform version, or how you do it or what PACS you are using) outputs files in a completely unstructured way (all patients and all time frames, and all slices) are mixed into the same folder. In Segment there is a sorting utility that can be accessed on the main menu that can sort the files. This is described in Chapter 20.

9.2 Matlab format - details

Internal format used by the program. The image needs to be stored in the variable `im` or `setstruct`, and must be in single precision format. The dimensions must be x, y, t, z . If you do not have time resolved data make sure to make the temporal dimension singleton, i.e. always put in a 4D-array. It is possible to also give dimensions, and patient specific information as well as a preview image. To learn about this, load an image stack from DICOM

CHAPTER 9. LOADING IMAGE STACKS

images, and select **Save Both Image Stacks and Segmentation As** under the **File** menu. Then load the file in Matlab, and study the variables in the file. Details about the file format is given in the Segment Technical Manual.

10 Program Overview

This chapter provides an overview of the program. Another good method to get an overview of the program is to read the example in Chapter ???. Yet a good method is to view the on-line video tutorials. The tutorials are available under the Help menu.

An example of the main graphical user interface is shown in Figure 9. The major portion of the user interface is occupied by a viewing area where multiple image stacks can be visualized side by side. The current active image stack is outlined with an orange thick line. To make another image stack active, simply click on the image stack with the mouse pointer. A thumbnail image is shown for each loaded image stack. To view an image stack drag the thumbnail down to the main viewing area. To scroll through the thumbnails either use the slider or press **Ctrl** while scrolling with the mouse wheel.

The upper right corner is occupied with a reporting panel where quantitative details about the current image stacks are shown. There are two rows of icons. The top row contains icons that applies to all loaded image stacks, whereas the bottom row contains icons to applies to the current active image stack only.

Middle right part of the user interface is occupied by a volume curve and a time indicator. This graph area shows left ventricle volume versus time (red), left ventricle muscle volume (green), papillary muscle volume (blue). One easy method to adjust the displayed time frame is by clicking in this graph. You can also interactively drag which time frame that is taken as end diastole (ED) or end systole (ES). Just above the volume graph a list box with assumed long-axis motion is located. In this example the long-axis motion is automatically calculated under the assumption that the left ventricular mass is constant over time. The program selects the long-axis motion amplitude that best fits this assumption. Note that this auto detect should be disabled when manually drawing contours. For further details, see Section 12.1.2.

If the checkbox Single frame is selected then segmentation and other opera-

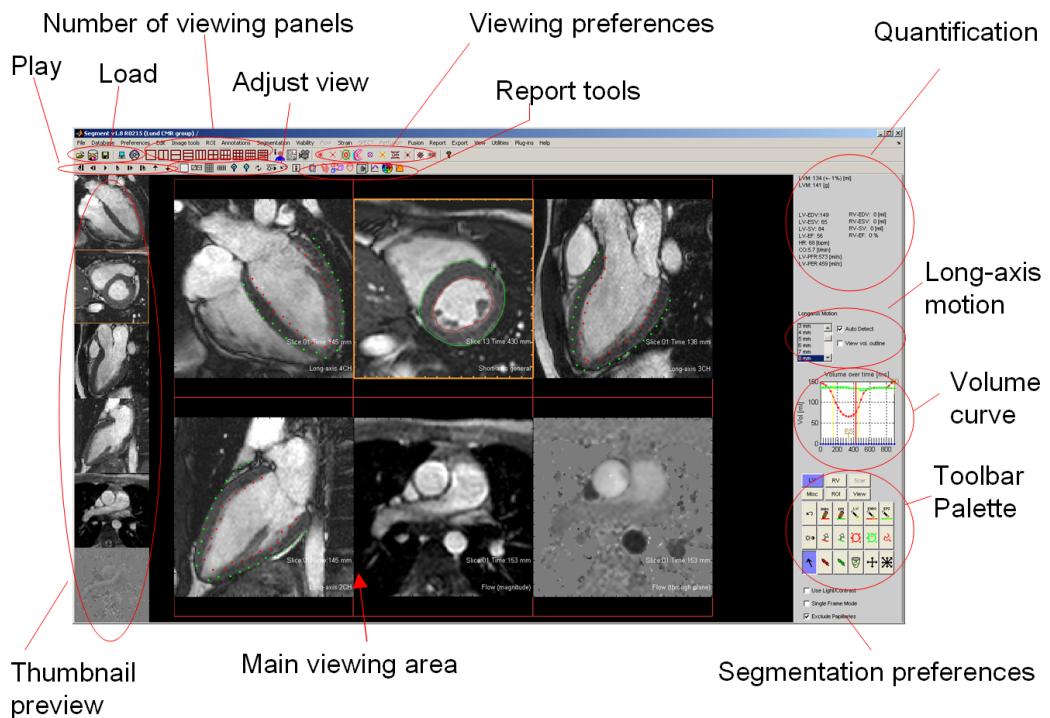


Figure 9: Main graphical user interface.

10.1. VIEWING IMAGE STACKS

tions such as translate, scale, and delete are only applied to the current time frame. To further make the user aware of this change of behavior the box around the currently selected image panel turns to white when single frame mode is selected.

10.1 Viewing image stacks

To view a non visible image stack simply drag the thumbnail to an image panel. Right clicking on the thumbnails brings up a context menu where more options are available. To view all loaded image stacks press **Shift-A**. Only one of the image stacks are active at the same time. Around the active image stack an orange rectangle is drawn, both in the main image drawing area, and around thumbnail image.

Image stacks can be viewed in four different modes; one slice view, montage view, montage view in rows, and m-mode view. The different modes are selected with the icons  (one slice),  (montage or all slices),  (montage view in rows), and  (m-mode view). Each of the different viewing modes will be described in details below. It is possible to view the same image stacks in different viewing modes simultaneously. The number of image panels can be selected by the icons          or under the View menu. The icon  views information about the patient. It also also possible to enter/adjust the patient information. Commonly this is used to add patient height to be able to calculate BSA.

The icon  brings up an interface for saving and loading user specified views. This allows users to save their favourite combination of stacks to view for use with any image set. It is also possible to associate each saved view with a specified hotkey. When loading a saved view for a new image set, Segment automatically looks for the best matches among the current image stacks, taking into account such properties as image type, view plane, time resolution, etc. This interface also enables the user to save and load specific contrast/brightness settings, in absolute values, which can also be assigned a hotkey.

The section  controls the visibility of

pins, contours from other image stacks, endo / epicardium contours, region of interests, delineated infarct regions, measures and annotations, center point, and image plane intersections, respectively. The icons and zooms in/out the current active image stack. The icon refreshes the screen which might be very useful since it also refreshed the GUI which under certain circumstances might 'hang' in case of calculations that went wrong. If the GUI seems irresponsible it is well worth to try refresh the screen. The icon resets the light/contrast setting. The icon automatically sets which sets contrast and brightness so that an upper and lower percentile of the intensities get saturated. The icon undo the latest contour editing command. The icon shows information about the current image stack.

10.2 Montage view

Figure 10 shows a screen-shot of the program in the most common view (montage view), selected by the icon . You can also switch between the montage view and the single slice view by using the hot key v. In the montage view all slices in an image stack are displayed. The slice(s) with a yellow box around are selected. Automated segmentation and many other operations are only applied to selected slices. Slices are selected by activating the tool , and by left mouse click on the desired slice and drag the mouse while the left button is hold down.

10.3 Montage row view

The montage row view is same as the montage row, but with the difference that the slices are shown to minimize the number of rows that are used to display the entire image stack.

10.4 One slice view

In one slice view only one single slice are shown at a time. You can then browse between slices by up/down arrow keys. Right and left keys displays next and previous time frames. In this view intersecting image planes that also are shown. The intersection are indicated with a white or an orange line. Orange line indicate intersection with the current active image panel.

10.4. ONE SLICE VIEW

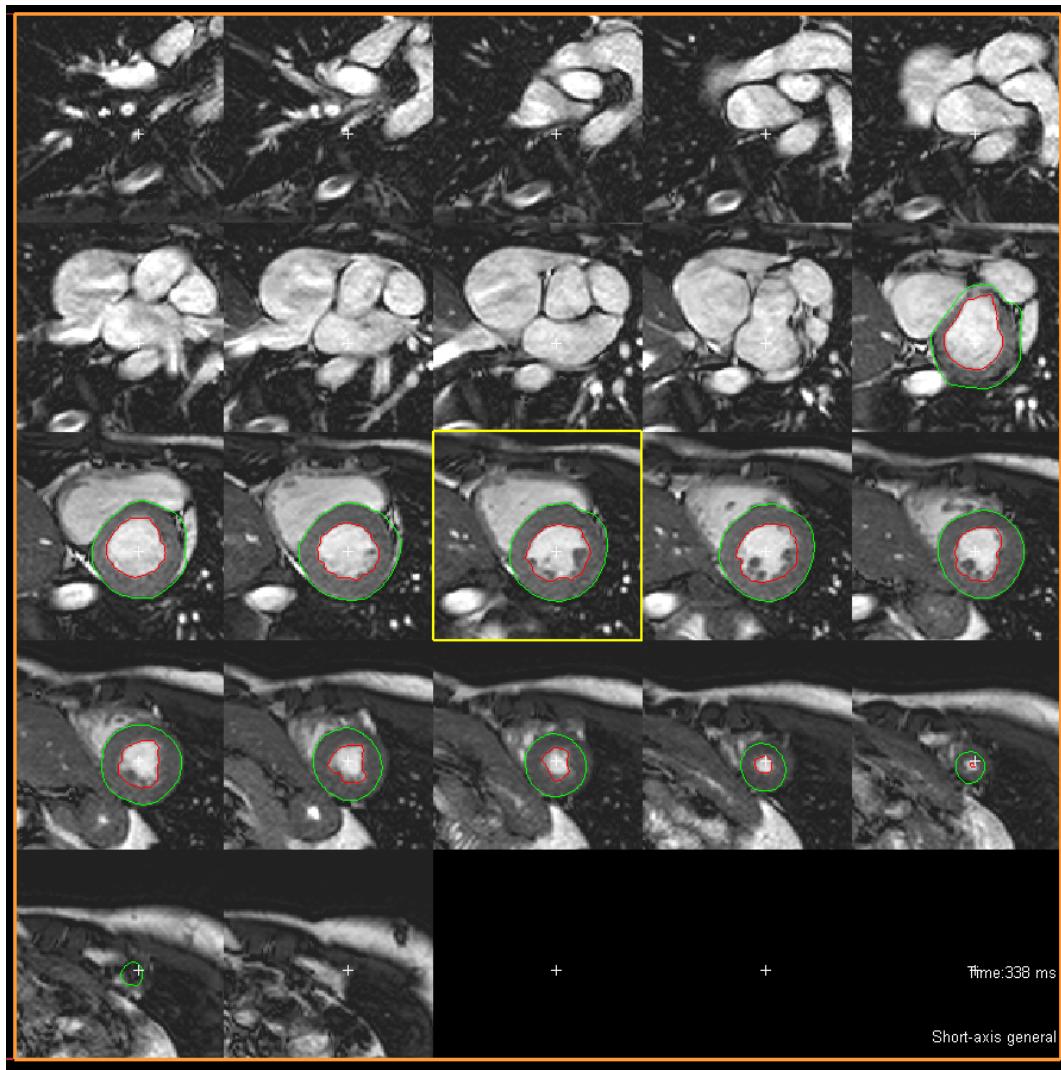


Figure 10: Screen-shot of the program showing an image stack in montage view.

To hide/view the plane intersections use the icon . In this view intersections with contours drawn in other image stacks are also shown. For instance if the short axis stack is segmented the contour will also be visible in the long axis image. This is illustrated in Figure 11. This is very useful to delineate structures that might be difficult to see in only one image plane. The contour intersections can be hidden by using the icon . The contour intersections are only visible in one slice view mode. Note that different breathing position may cause the image stack not to align properly.

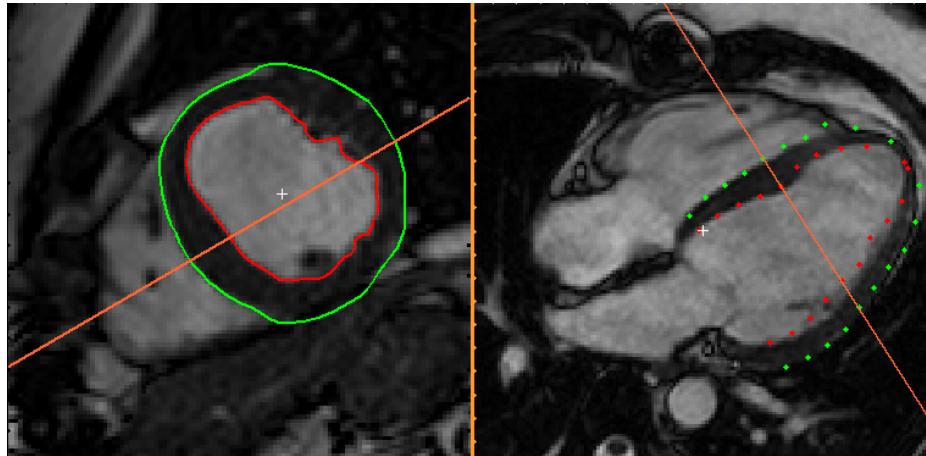


Figure 11: Contours are visible in other image stacks as dots. This is very useful to delineate structures that might be difficult to see in only one image plane.

10.5 M-mode view

Another viewing option is the (M-mode). Example of this view is shown in Figure 12. The viewing option is chosen by the icon .

In the image panel to the left one slice is displayed. To view a different slice use the up/down arrows on the keyboard. The right image panel a so called m-mode image is shown (the term comes from ultrasound motion-mode). This is a resampling of the left-image along the white line over time. The

10.5. M-MODE VIEW

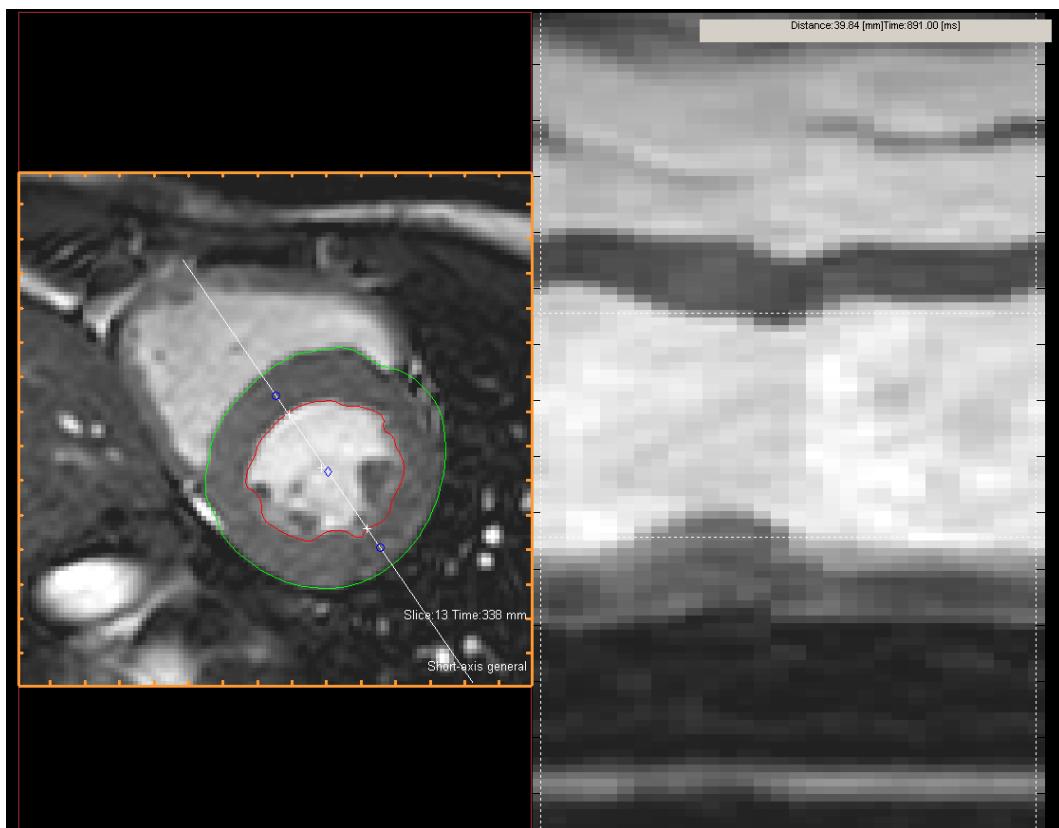


Figure 12: Screen-shot of the program showing an image stack in M-mode viewing mode.

resampling line can be moved and angled by left-clicking on the blue circles and dragging the mouse while the left mouse button is hold down. Along the lines there are two callipers shown as a white cross. The same callipers are showed in the right image as vertical white dotted lines. Distance between the two callipers is displayed under the m-mode image. To measure time events two time bars are shown in the m-mode image. These can be dragged with the mouse, and the time between them is shown above the m-mode image.

This viewing mode can also be used to make measurements. An example on how this can be used is given in Section 12.1.2.

10.6 Viewing velocity encoded image stacks

For velocity encoded images it is possible to view both the magnitude image and the corresponding velocity encoded image(s). In the thumbnails a white box is drawn around magnitude and phase image to indicate what image stacks belong to each other. For more details see Chapter 23, Flow Analysis.

10.7 Playing images as a cine-loop

In the main icon toolbar the  controls what time frame of the image sequence is displayed. The icon  (Shift-left) shows previous frame but applies to all visible image stacks. It displays the previous frame for the current image stack, and tries to find the corresponding time frame for all image stacks. The icon  (left) displays the previous time frame for the active image stack. You can also use left arrow button. The icon  plays the active image stack sequence as a cine loop. The icon  (right) shows the next frame for the active image stack. You can also use right arrow button to show the next frame. The icon  (Shift-right) performs the same operation as , but forward in time instead. Control and arrow keys show previous/next frame for all image stacks. The icon  increases the playback speed, and  decreases the speed. Another convenient method to quickly move between time frames is by clicking in the volume graph. Here you can also interactively drag which time frame is used as end diastole (ED) or end systole (ES). You can also switch between systole

and diastole by using the hot keys **d** and **s**, respectively. Yet another way to scroll between time frames is to use the mouse wheel and at the same to press **Shift**. The icon  allows the user to perform manual delineations while the current slice is played. This is very useful for a better understanding about for instance the papillary muscles.

10.8 Synchronizing image stacks

It is often required to synchronize image stacks in time and slice. This can be done by using the Shift-key. Shift-left/right key shows previous/next frame and synchronizes all visible image stacks in time. For image stacks that have different number of time steps the nearest time frame is shown. **Shift-S** and **Shift-D** toggles between systole and diastole in all visible image stacks.

10.9 Loading and storing images

The top left section of icons contains functionality to load and save image data. The first icon  opens a file loader GUI described in Chapter 9. The second icon  opens the patient database described Segment Database User Manual. The third icon  saves all the loaded image stacks to one file. The fourth icon  opens a connection to a PACS server, see Segment Database User Manual.

10.10 Tool palette

The tool palette is located at the lower right corner of Segment main graphical user interface. The tool palette have several modes in which different tools become available. The current mode is indicated as black text on blue background. The current active tool is indicated by displaying the tool in a darker gray color. Generally, with few exceptions all functions in the program only applies to selected slices. Selected slices are indicated with a yellow box in the montage view. The functionality of selecting slices can only be used in the montage view. An alternative to select slices is to use the short key **Ctrl-A** that selects all slices. To pan the image use the tool  and move the mouse.

CHAPTER 10. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

There are some general tools that are present in all tool modes, and these are:



Select slices or image stacks. This is the default tool.



Translate ROI's and contours or the whole image if no ROI or contour was clicked.



Change the size of ROI's and contours.



Undo last contour edit command.



Adjust brightness and contrast. Hold down the mouse button and move left/right to adjust contrast and up/down to adjust brightness of the current image stack. By holding down the **Shift** key while pressing the mouse button, the adjustments also affect every other image stacks in the current view, and sets the absolute values of their contrast and brightness to be equal to those of the active image stack. Contrast and brightness of the current image stack can also be adjusted without first clicking the icon, by instead using the middle mouse button.

10.10.1 Left ventricle tools

The left ventricle tools are shown in Figure 13. Colors are used to indicate endocardium (red) or epicardium (green).

On the first row (from left to right); is used for an interpolated contour mode to click out points to control the endocardial contour. To close the contour and interpolate a line between the points, shift click in the image. The points can interactively be dragged. The second tool is used to manually draw the endocardium. The third tool is to automatically re-

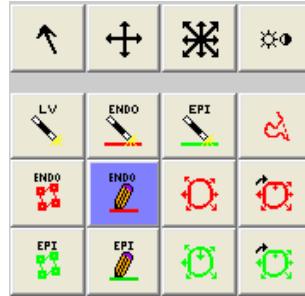


Figure 13: Left ventricular toolpalette.

fine the endocardium. The fourth tool puts endocardial pins that guides the automated segmentation. The fifth tool is to interactively drag the endocardium with the mouse.

On the second row is the same as the first row except that the tools applies to the epicardial contour instead of the endocardial contour.

On the third row (from left to right): The first icon automatically segments both endocardium and epicardium of the left ventricle. You need to ensure that the center '+' is in the middle of the ventricle and that all slices that covers the left ventricle are selected, see Chapter12. The second icon automatically segments the endocardium in the selected slices. The third icon automatically segments the epicardium of the selected slices. The fourth icon attempts to remove the papillary muscles. This can be used multiple times to successfully remove them. The last icon deletes the segmentation in the selected slices.

Generally, the space key can be used to toggle between the endo and epicardial tool counterparts.

10.10.2 Right ventricle tools

The right ventricle tool palette is shown in Figure 14. The icon is used to click out points in the interpolated contour tool for the right ventricle endocardium, and is used for the epicardium, respectively. The icon

is used to manually draw the right ventricle (RV) endocardium. The icon  is used to automatically delineate the RV endocardium. Note that the RV tool is not as automated as the LV tools. The icon  is used to refine the RV endocardium. The icon  is used to put RV endocardial pins for guiding the automated RV segmentation. The icon  is used to manually drag the RV endocardium. The icon  is used to manually draw RV epicardium.

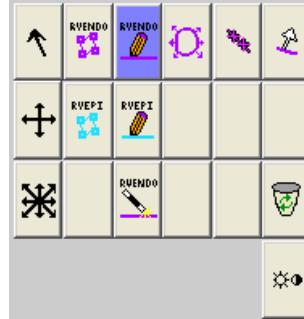


Figure 14: Right ventricular toolpalette.

10.10.3 Viability/Scar tools

The functions described in this section is in US only for off label use and for investigational use. The viability tool palette is shown in Figure 15.

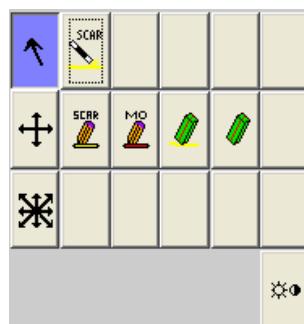


Figure 15: Viability toolpalette.

The icon  is used to automatically delineate infarct region on MR delayed

enhancement images. The icon is used to manually delineate infarction. The icon is used to manually delineate regions with microvascular obstruction. The icon manually removes infarction. The icon erase manual corrections of infarction. To show the manual interactions and regions of microvascular obstruction you need to press the key **o** to toggle the display.

10.10.4 Miscellaneous tool mode

The miscellaneous tool mode is shown in Figure 16.

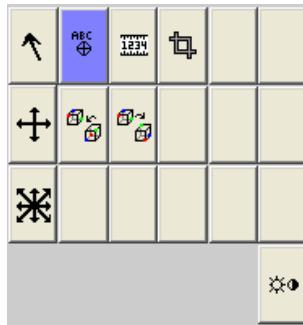


Figure 16: Miscellaneous mode toolpalette.

The icon is used to place annotation points. The icon is used to make length measurements. Left click with mouse at the starting point and hold mouse button down and move the mouse to end point. It is possible to interactively drag and refine measurements later. The icon is used to crop the current image stack. The icon is used to automatically crop all image stacks to focus on the heart, in order for it to work properly at least one time resolved short axis image stack is required. The icons and are used to rotate the image stack in 3D space. The icon allows you to find positions in 3D space for all visible image stacks.

10.10.5 ROI tool mode

The toolpalette for region of interest analysis (ROI) is shown in Figure 17.

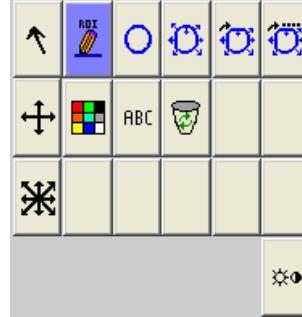


Figure 17: Region of interest mode toolpalette.

The first tool is used to manually delineate region of interests. The icon is used to automatically outline a vessel from scratch. Before using this place the center point (+) in the middle of the vessel. The icon refines a vessel. This is done in all time frames if the checkbox Single Frame mode is unchecked. The icon copies the ROI contour to next time frame and refines it. The icon tracks a ROI over the entire cardiac cycle. The icon selects current color to use to draw ROI's. The icon is used to name the current ROI.

10.11 View tool mode

This mode is useful for quickly picking different views of the image stacks. The toolpalette is shown in Figure 18.

The first icon shows cine images, shows both cine images and the corresponding short axis delayed enhancement images, shows cine, delayed enhancement and perfusion images, shows a stress display, shows a flow view with a magnitude and a phase contrast image to the right. This mode is subject for future improvements.

10.12 General view and reporting functionality

The report tool creates a full text and graphical report of all the measurements for all image stacks. The icon starts a movie recorder that

10.12. GENERAL VIEW AND REPORTING FUNCTIONALITY

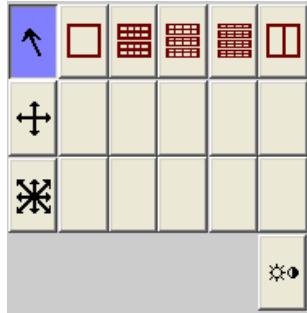


Figure 18: View mode toolpalette.

allows to store an image stack as an .avi movie. It is also possible to directly export a movie under the **Export** menu.

There are seven tools available to visualize or handle image stacks. Each of these starts separate graphical user interfaces to view and manipulate image data. They are all available as icons on the main menu. The icon starts the general segmentation tool described in Chapter 15. The icon starts a tool to do multiple planar reconstructions, described in Chapter 30. The icon starts the Image Fusion Module. The icon starts a three dimensional visualization tool, and an example of a such visualization is shown in Figure 19. The icon starts a volume rendering tool. This tool is under development and currently unavailable. The icon starts a tool to do regional wall motion per slice analysis described in Section 26.2. The icon starts a tool to do bullseye visualization of wall motion and infarct parameters. The last icon starts flow analysis tool, described in Chapter 23.

11 Image settings

11.1 Manually set image description

To manually set the image description for an image stack, right click on the thumbnail for the image stack. Then select **Select Image Description** in the context menu and define the image description.

11.2 Image description upon loading

The image description is automatically set in the loading process by comparing information from the DICOM tags with the information in the text file `imagedescription.txt`. You can manually update the text file to improve the automatical definition. This is done by open the text file, which is found in the folder where Segment is installed. Then manually update the text file according to the structure as defined in the first row in the text file and store the text file.

12 Segmentation of the Left Ventricle

Before starting to describe segmentation of the left ventricle it is of importance to define what we consider as the left ventricle.

12.1 Definition of the left ventricle

At a first thought it seems very easy to define what part of the heart should be included in the left ventricle. At a second thought the definition needs to be practical and repeatable. In the program the following decisions have been made.

12.1.1 Papillary muscles

By using the automatic LV segmentation algorithm, the papillary muscles are removed as much as possible (even if they are attached to the wall). Details on how to manually include/exclude the papillaries are given in Section 12.3.

12.1.2 Mitral annulus

Long-axis motion of the left ventricle is a very important component to achieve correct ejection fractions, and volumes. Long-axis motion is accounted for in the automatic LV segmentation algorithm. The long-axis motion direction is assumed to be orthogonal to the slice direction. The long-axis direction is shown in Figure 19. In the most basal LV slices the algorithm defines the LV segmentation with the long-axis motion in mind.

12.2 Automatic LV segmentation

12.2.1 Before the segmentation process

Before starting the automatic LV segmentation process, make sure that the basal-apex orientation is correct. The most basal slice should be in the upper left corner. If not then select **Image Tools**→**Flip z and x**, as described in detail in Chapter 17. Also make sure that correct **Image Type** is selected when loading the image stack (MR SSFP, CT...). This can also be set afterwards

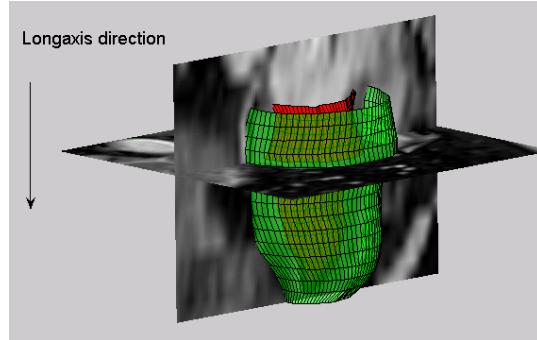


Figure 19: Three dimensional view of the left ventricle showing the long-axis direction.

by right-clicking on the image stack thumbnail image and select Set Image Description.

12.2.2 Automatic LV segmentation method

The default automatic LV segmentation method is to be applied on hearts of the similar size as human hearts (newborn to adults). For small animal hearts, please try the Alternative automatic LV segmentation method according to next section.

In order to start the automatic LV segmentation process click on in the LV mode. A new interface is open, according to Figure 20, where you select the slices to include in the segmentation and define middle of LV lumen according to the following steps:

- The most basal slice should be the most basal slice that have left ventricular myocardium at least in some part of the heart cycle. If long-axis image stacks are available, the slice selection can be reviewed in the long-axis views. In order for Segment to find the long-axis image stacks, the Image View Plane have to be defined as 2CH, 3CH or 4CH. The Image View Plane is defined by right click in the thumbnail preview and select Set Image Description.
- The next step is to ensure that the LV center cross is correctly defined in the middle of the LV lumen. This is done by review, and if needed adjust, the orange cross in the short-axis view. The center cross should

12.2. AUTOMATIC LV SEGMENTATION

be in the middle of the LV lumen for the midventricular slice and the placement in the basal and apical slices is irrelevant.

After the selection of LV slices and definition of LV center, the automatic LV segmentation is started by click on **Start LV segmentation**. The segmentation result from the automatic LV segmentation method is then displayed in the main interface for Segment. If needed, manually adjustment of the LV segmentation is performed in the main interface according to Section 12.3.

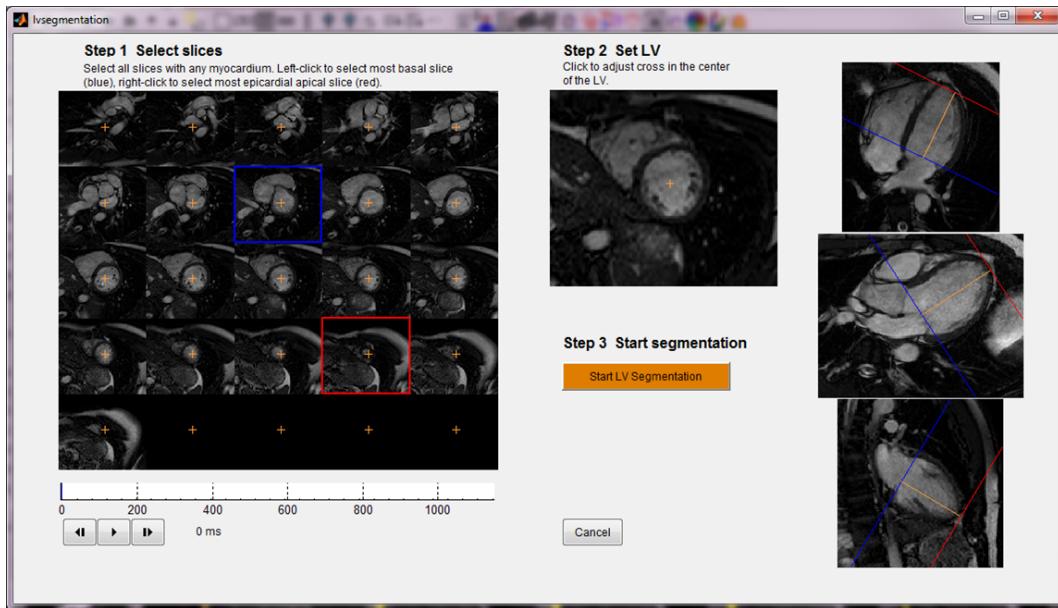


Figure 20: Interface for LV analysis.

12.2.3 Alternative automatic LV segmentation method

The Alternative automatic LV segmentation method is to prefer when doing LV segmentation in small animal images.

If the checkbox **Single Frame Mode** checkbox is checked, the LV sementation is only performed in the current time frame. It is recommended to uncheck the checkbox and do the LV segmentation in all time frames since this leads to better conditions for the segmentation algorithm. Steps to autosegment LV.

- In the main interface of Segment, move the white image center cross so it is inside LV lumen in all slices.
- Select all slices containing LV (selected slices are marked with a yellow frame around). The most basal slice should be the most basal slice that have left ventricular myocardium at least in some part of the heart cycle. If long-axis image stacks are available, the slice selection can be reviewed in the long-axis views by the intersection lines when viewing both short-axis and long-axis in different panels in Segment.

Then start the alternative automatic LV segmentation method by go to menu option **Segmentation - Left Ventricle Tools - Alternative Automatic LV Segmentation - Automatic LV Segmentation in Selected Slices**. The segmentation result from the alternative automatic LV segmentation algorithm is then displayed in the main interface for Segment.

AV-plane movement is automatically estimated and compensated for in the algorithm. If you would like to change the estimated AV plane movement, you can manually adjust it by go to menu option **Segmentation - Left Ventricle Tools - Alternative Automatic LV Segmentation - Set long-axis motion**. Note that this long-axis motion compensation is NOT included in the LV delination as showed as overlays to the images. The compensation only affects the LV volume measurements as presented in the result panel. By selecting AV plane movement (Long-axis motion) the LV volumes are updated automatically. If needed, manual adjustment of the LV segmentation is performed in the main interface according to Section 12.3.

12.3 Edit the segmentation result

Unfortunately the segmentation result is not always as one would desire. We have done as much as we possible can to implement and design a segmentation algorithm that is robust and accurate, but despite that the algorithm do fail in certain cases, and especially on the epicardial contour.

There are many implemented methods to manually edit the segmentation result. Different methods are good in different situations. I recommend to learn them all, and by experience learn in what situations the different types of manual interaction works best. If you experience that editing is a cumbersome task, then you are probably doing it the wrong way.

12.3. EDIT THE SEGMENTATION RESULT

When the segmentation fails completely, please check the following items:

- Double check that you selected the correct Image type (MR Gradient echo, MR SSFP, CT contrast etc) when you loaded the data. This is very important for the segmentation result. Right click in the thumbnail preview and select **Set Image Description** to do this.
- Double check that correct slices are selected for the LV segmentation and that a good LV center point is chosen.

There are several methods to manipulate the segmentation result. Each method have different applications where they work better, and it is a learning process to learn which tool to use in different situation.

12.3.1 Undo segmentation

To undo the latest segmentation operation select undo from the tools menu, or using the undo icon , or using the hot key **Ctrl-Z**.

12.3.2 Refine segmentation

Refine runs the segmentation algorithm a few iterations, and thus further refines the segmentation. This functionality is chosen by the two icons  and  for endocardium and epicardium, respectively. Note that the optimization is only run for the selected slices.

12.3.3 Propagate segmentation

An efficient way of handling erroneous slice is to copy the LV segmentation results from an adjacent slice. This is especially efficient in the more basal slices. The program copies the LV segmentation in selected slices and refines the position of the contours by a few iterations. To propagate a segmentation forward in time one time frame, press **Ctrl-F**. If the endocardial pen is selected , then the endocardium is propagated, and if the epicardial pen is selected , then the epicardium is propagated. The hot key **Ctrl-F** also applies to ROI's if the ROI pen  is selected. You can also use the tools  or  to propagate the endocardium or epicardium, respectively.

12.3.4 Expand or contract segmentation

If the shape of the contours is satisfactory but are inside or outside of the myocardial border, the tools    or  can be used to expand or contract, respectively, the contours. The tools are applied on selected slices and expand or contract the contour in a relative manner. If the checkbox Single Frame Mode is checked, then the tool is only applied in the current time frame, otherwise in all time frames.

12.3.5 Manually adjusting the contour by interpolation points

Manually correction of the contou by using interpolation points is probably the easiest way to make changes in the segmentation. This functionality is chosen by the two icons  and  for endocardium and epicardium, respectively. If there is LV segmentation in the selected slice, one left mouse click in the current slice will put interpolation points for the contour. If no LV segmentation is present in the current slice, a LV segmentation can be performed by the interpolation points by select  or  tool. Then add interpolation points by left mouse click and interpolate the contour by shift-click. The LV segmentation is then corrected by move the interpolation points by dragging with the left mouse button and hold it down. New interpolation points can be added by left mouse click in at the position where you like to add the point.

12.3.6 Manually drawing the contour

This functionality is chosen by the two icons  and  for endocardium and epicardium, respectively. Use the left mouse button and hold it down to manually draw the complete contour or correct an existing contour. If the checkbox Single Frame Mode checkbox is checked, then the segmentation is only performed in the current time frame, otherwise in all time frames. A quick method to toggle between drawing epicardium, and endocardium is to use the space button on the keyboard.

12.3.7 Translating the segmentation

The segmentation can be translated/dragged in each slice. This is done by using the icon  in the toolbar palette. Note that the usage of this translation is especially useful in conjunction with the import segmentation option

12.3. EDIT THE SEGMENTATION RESULT

in the main menu. Then a segmentation from one imaging technology can be overlaid an image of a different image stack if they were acquired using the same coordinate system. A practical application is doing the segmentation on cine gradient echo or cine SSFP images and overlay that result over late enhancement images. Under the segmentation menu it is possible to translate/move selected slices towards the base/apex.

12.3.8 Scale the segmentation

In some slices, and typically the apical slices scaling the segmentation can be very effective correction. Scaling can be done with the  tool. Scaling can often successfully be combined with the refine operation.

12.3.9 Manually include/exclude papillary muscles

One approach to remove papillary muscles is to perform a few iterations with the refine tools for the LV segmentation according to Section 12.3.2. The papillary muscles can also be included/excluded in the LV segmentation by using the manual drawing tools according to Section 12.3.6.

12.3.10 Removing segmentation result

The segmentation result can be removed with the right mouse click pop-up menu (shown in the place pin section above). These function are also available in the main menu under **Segmention**.

13 Segmentation of the Right Ventricle

The right ventricle is much more geometrically complex than the left ventricle. The walls are much thinner and there are more and complex trabeculation. This is one explanation that there are currently no really good automated tools to do segmentation of the right ventricle. This will be improved in future versions of Segment.

Currently what is available are the same basic functionality as for the left ventricle. For the mid ventricular slices the automated methods (manual draw+refine can be used).

At the current stage we do not recommend to do time resolved segmentation of the right ventricle since the drawing and edit tools are so poor. We would suggest to remove all RV segmentation except systole and diastole. An example of segmentation of the right ventricle is shown in Figure 21.

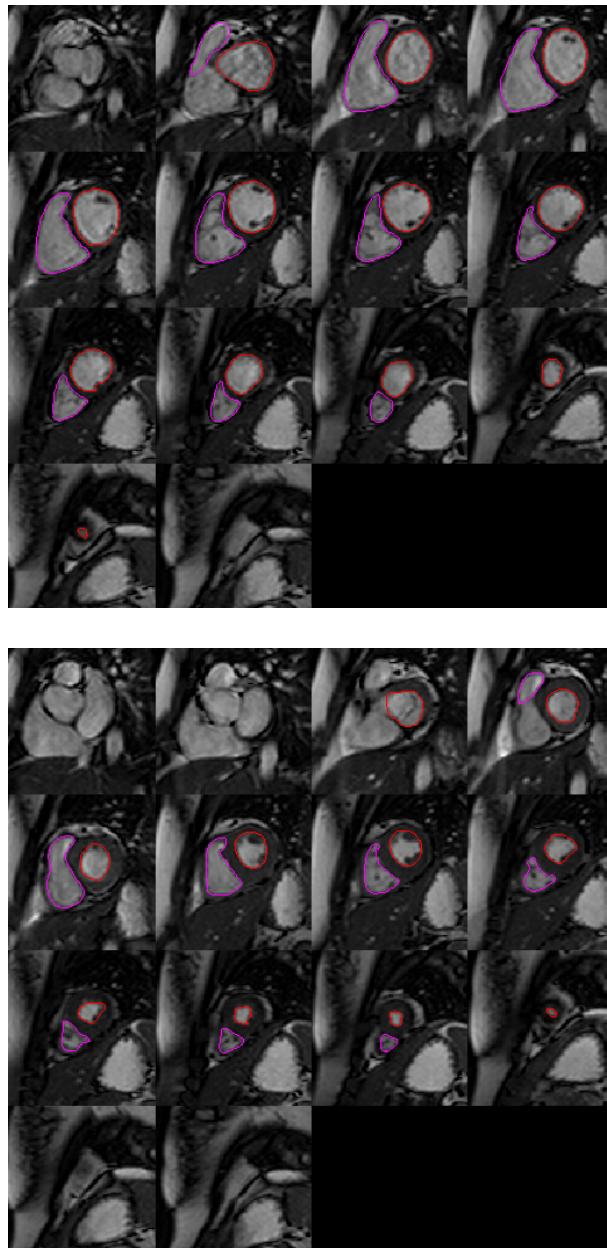


Figure 21: Top: Segmentation of the right ventricle in diastole in a short axis image stack. Bottom: Segmentation of the right ventricle in systole in the same short axis stack. Note the relative large long axis motion.

14 Segmentation of Long Axis Images

Segmentation of the left ventricle (as well as any other chamber) can be done by manually outlining the object in longaxis images. This is a fast alternative to manual drawing on short axis images.

Contours need to be present in at least two image stacks labeled 2CH, 3CH or 4CH to enable volume calculations. Please note that the image stacks needs to be labeled view the correct view. To label the images right-click on the thumbnails and select **Set Image Description**. Figure 22 illustrates the concept of segmentation in long axis images.

14.1 Click an image to show point location in all views

To provide a better estimation of the three dimensional volumes when drawing in longaxis images, there is a tool that allows the user to click an image to show the location of the clicked point in every active view. This tool  is found in the **Misc** toolbox.

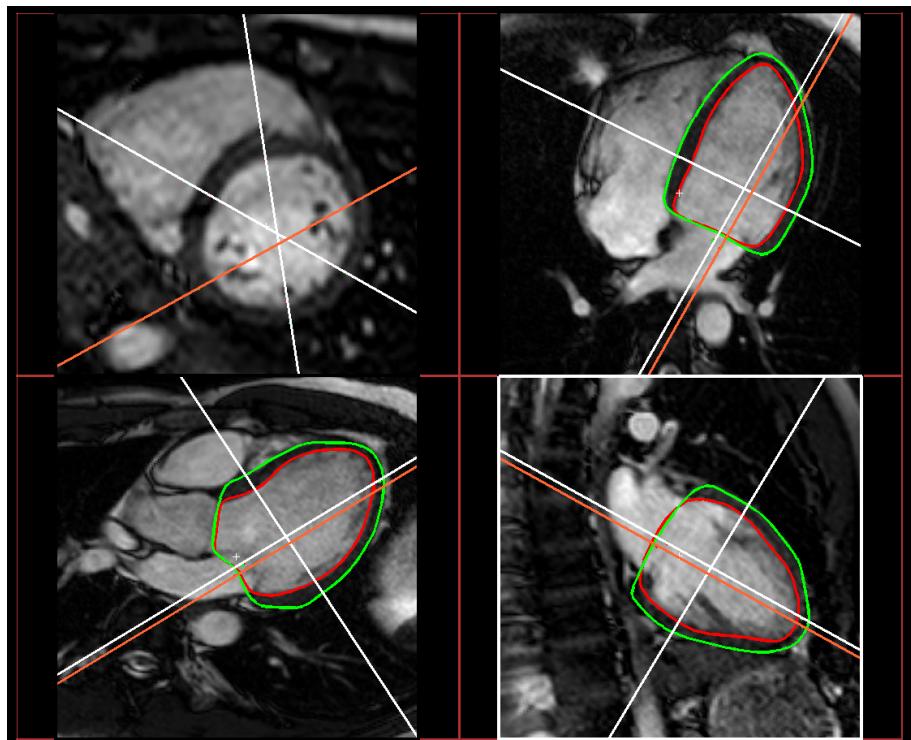


Figure 22: Illustration of the process of drawing segmentation in long axis images.

15 Segmentation of General Objects

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use. This module is useful for delineating complicated 3D anatomical objects. Since it is less specialized than the segmentation of the left ventricle, it is less automated.

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

Promising new techniques such as prototype based image segmentation [1] has been incorporated in this module, Section 15.9.

15.1 Viewing data

The graphical user interface is shown in Figure 23. There are three orthogonal views and one view of the speed image further described in Section 15.2.2. The slice position of the upper right image is shown as a red line in the two other slices. The leftmost lower image, and rightmost lower image are shown as green, and blue lines, respectively. When the selection tool  is active then by left click in any of the three orthogonal views the position of the image planes can be adjusted. There are four checkboxes that control how the data is displayed. When the checkbox as MIP is checked then the shown image is a MIP image (Maximum Intensity Projection). Note that contour overlay is not done in the MIP projection. The checkbox Interaction shows manual edits and region growing interactions. Placed seed points and added areas are shown in green and removed areas are shown in blue. The checkbox Selection shows the segmented object in red color. Finally, the checkbox Outline determines whether the object outline (displayed in yellow color) is shown or not.

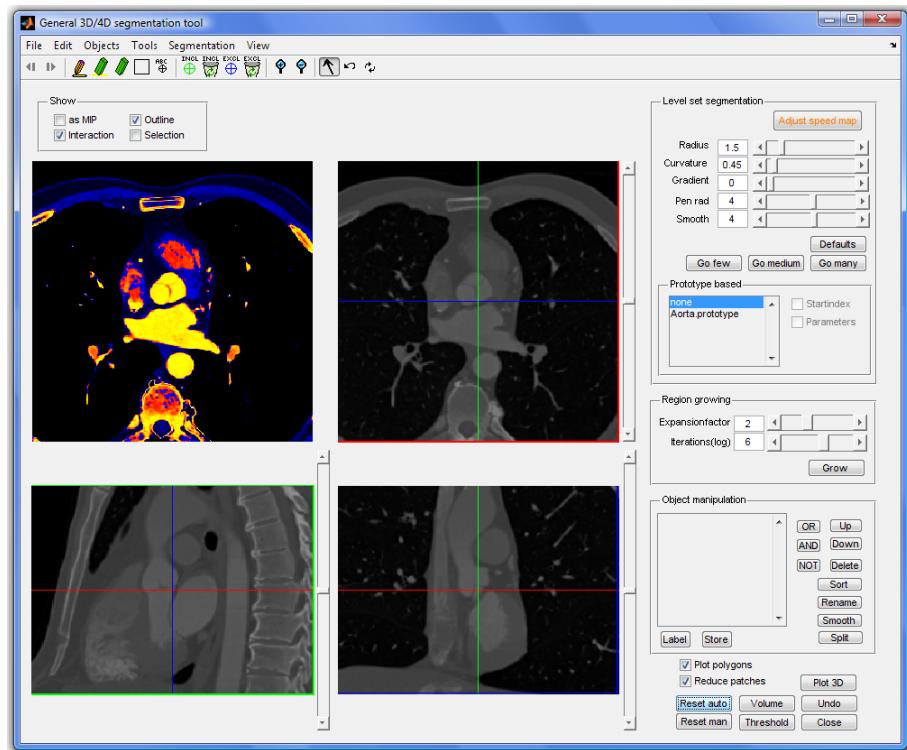


Figure 23: Graphical user interface for general object segmentation.

15.2 Level set segmentation

15.2.1 Algorithm

The algorithm is based on a very fast level set algorithm [2]. From a seed point or set of seed points the object is expanded outwards. The expansion is stopped at edges or regions with low signal intensities. The expansion is also penalized for large curvature, i.e. the algorithm favours object with low local curvature. The expansion (or contraction) is allowed to continue for a number of iterations. The key to the success of the algorithm lies in adjusting an appropriate expansion speed.

15.2.2 Optimizing expansion speed

Before adjusting the expansion speed you should draw some seed points. Image intensity for the seed points are used in the calculation of the expansion speed image, for details, see below. There is a separate graphical user interface to help adjusting the speed image calculation. This user interface is shown in Figure 24. In the upper left panel, an intensity histogram of the complete volume is shown. In the lower left panel a function that maps signal intensity to local expansion speed is shown. In the upper right image panel a magnitude slice is shown. Different slices can be selected by usage of the **Slice** slider. In the lower right image panel the corresponding speed image is shown. Bright red and yellow colors denote expansion, whereas dark and blue colors denote contraction. Four different speed mapping modes can be chosen; **Gaussian**, **Positive slope**, **Negative slope** and **Prototype shaped**. The **Gaussian** shape is useful when one want to delineate objects within a certain signal intensity range. One example is mapping certain Hounsfield units from CT images. In future versions of **Segment** it will be possible to store a set of speed mappings, and couple them to the normalized image values used in **Segment**. The **Positive slope** is useful to segment regions that are brighter than a certain image intensity, and the **Negative slope** is useful to segment regions that are darker than a certain image intensity. The **Prototype shaped** speed mapping mode is further described in Section 15.9. The mapping is ‘translated’ by adjusting the **Offset** slider. The default behavior is that the mean signal intensity is used as ‘zero’ level of the speed intensity mapping. This is useful since after selecting seed points only small adjustments of the **Offset** slider is the usually required. By unchecking the checkbox **Intensity from seed as offset** the ‘zero’ level will instead be 0.5. The slope of the map-

ping is adjusted by usage of the Width slider. When pleased with the settings on how the speed image is calculated press **Dismiss**.

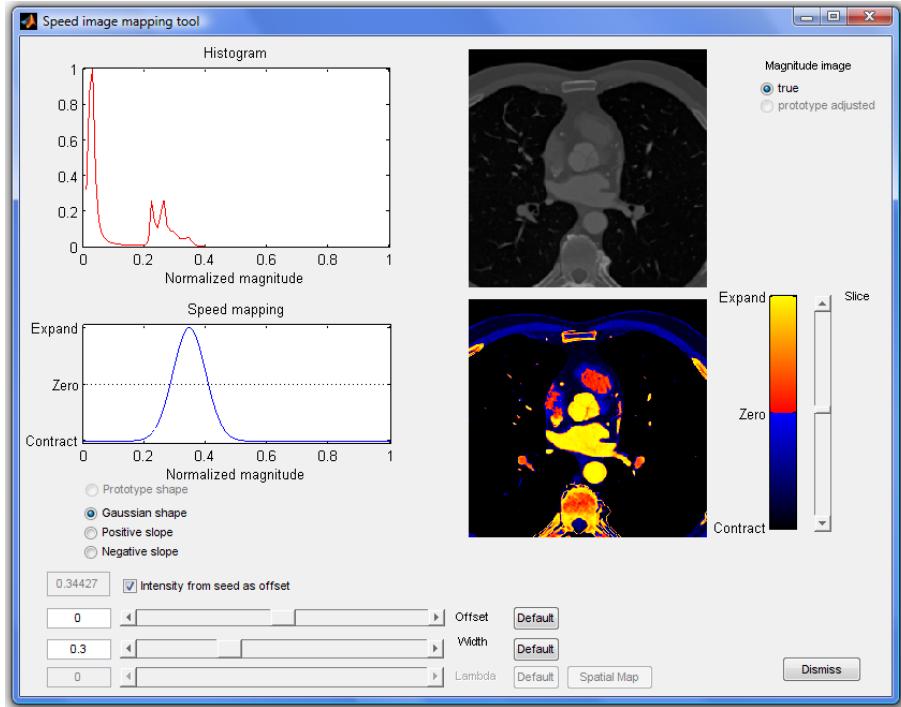


Figure 24: Graphical user interface to adjust speed image.

15.2.3 Start the segmentation tool

Start the segmentation process by first draw some seed points/regions by selecting the draw tool . The thickness of the pen can be adjusted by the slider pen radius. The pen draws a sphere of the radius set by the slider in all three or four dimensions, so you need to start to think and work three dimensionally. If the checkbox Manual interaction is checked then added regions with is colored in green and removed regions with the tool are colored blue. By using the tool it is possible to remove user interactions created with the two tools and , respectively.

15.3. MANUAL INTERACTION

After drawing some seed points adjust the speed image such as the desired object(s) is shown in a red or bright yellow color. This is described in detail in Section 15.2.2 above. The user interface is started by the **Adjust speed map**. This adjustment is rather critical for the final result, so do this step with care.

Start the segmentation algorithm by the pushbutton **Go few** (iterations). The smoothness of the final segmentation result can be adjusted by changing the algorithms penalty for curvature. This is done by the **Curvature** slider. Note that you can also smooth the segmentation result. This is described in detail in Section 15.6. The slider **Radius** control how large volume is used for curvature calculation. The slider **Gradient** control how sensitive to boundaries in the image the algorithm will be. Large value means the algorithm is more likely to stop expanding at boundaries. If the contour of the object expands as planned then continue with **Go medium** or **Go many** if necessary.

15.3 Manual interaction

You can manually edit the result by using the drawing tool  or the removal tool . For each voxel in the image volume manual corrections can be of three kinds; no change, i.e. no manual correction, or pixel included, or pixel removed. By using the tool  it is possible to draw a box in any of the three orthogonal views. This box can then be filled so that it is avoided in the delineation or included in the delineation. This is very useful when one wants to manually exclude large portions of the image stack from the segmentation. Interactions to edit the segmentation can also be done with region growing.

15.4 Region growing

Region growing is a tool for doing a new segmentation and/or automatically interact with existing segmentation by only placing one inclusion and/or exclusion point. The result from the segmentation is shown in the same way as the manual interaction and can therefore remove and add to an existing segmentation. If no segmentation exists this tool creates a new segmentation.

15.4.1 Algorithm

The algorithm is based on a level set segmentation but the expansion speed is automatically calculated from the inclusion and/or exclusion point and only one inclusion and/or exclusion object can be segmented at a time.

15.4.2 Start the segmentation tool

The segmentation is started by placing an inclusion and/or exclusion point in the image. This is done with the tools  and/or . The inclusion point should be used when a new segmentation or addition to an existing segmentation is the desired result. The exclusion point should be used when a part of an object shall be removed from an already existing segmentation. It is also advantageous to place both an inclusion and exclusion point in the image when a new segmentation is the desired result since it can give a better estimation of what intensities to include in and exclude from the segmentation. When the inclusion and/or exclusion point is placed in the image press the button **Grow**. To set a new inclusion and/or exclusion point use the tool once more and the old point will be removed. It is also possible to remove the inclusion and/or exclusion point with the function  and/or . If more iterations is desired use the iterations slider or push the grow button once more. If more intensity expansion is desired use the expansion slider to increase or decrease it. The expansion speed can be seen in the speed image view after pressing grow.

15.5 Object manipulation

When you are pleased with an object or part of an object you can store that to a quick pick-list by the pushbutton **Store**. With multiple stored objects you can perform binary operations on them to merge or combine objects in other ways by using the **OR**, **AND**, **NOT**. You can also rename objects by the using the pushbutton **Rename**, or sort them in the list by the buttons **Up** or **Down**. The pushbutton **Sort** sorts the object by decreasing volume.

If you have many objects it is possible to store them all under different names. This is done by the function **Label**. This label function can also be useful to detect if two objects are joined or not. The used connectivity is

6-connectivity.

If you have one object that you want to try to split into two objects, this can be done by choosing the object in the list and using the function **Split**. The function erodes the object to split it at its weakest point. After the object is split into two or more parts, the algorithm reconstructs the parts so that the effects of the erosion are removed. The new objects are stored into the list.

15.6 Smoothing objects

The object is internally stored by allocating one byte per voxel. If this byte contains a value over 128, then the voxel is inside the object, otherwise the voxel is outside the object. The algorithm is binary by construction, and each voxel is given either the value 255 or 0. The contour of the exported files are created by the marching cubes algorithm, and to create a smoother result smoothing of the object representation can be performed. The slider **Smooth** controls the radius of a smoothing filter. The value is the number of mm to the 30% signal intensity drop of the filter. You need to experiment with the filter setting to achieve proper smoothing. For undo history and storing objects only a binary representation is used, due to memory considerations. In the **Segmentation** menu there is an option to create a plot of the smoothing filter.

15.7 Viewing final result

By pressing the pushbutton **Plot 3D** the 3D image is plotted in a separate window that can be easily rotated and zoomed. There are two checkboxes that controls the view of the isosurface **Plot polygons** determines whether polygons are plotted or not, **Reduce patch** determines whether the number of polygons should be removed by 80%.

15.8 Tools

In the **Tools** menu, it is possible to import segmentation from ROI's, contours, myocardium, or scar data. It is also possible to export the segmentation into

STL files that can be loaded into 3D modelling softwares, or rapid prototyping softwares. In the STL export a polygon mesh is created as a isosurface of the from the level set function. It is recommended to smooth the model prior to the STL export.

15.9 Prototype based segmentation

The prototype based segmentation is a newly developed algortihm for introducing a priori information for a specific application to the level set method used in this tool. The prototype holds both spatial information to constrain the segmentation, seed points for initialisation of the segmentation and a speed mapping function. By the use of a prototype the general segmentation can be made nearly automatic. The main idea behind the algorithm is to rather model a constrain of the segmentation, stored as a spatial map, than to model the object to be segmented. For more detailes on the algorithm see [1].

A prototype can be generated for a specific application by Medviso AB please contact us at info@medviso.com to discuss your desired segmentation applications.

To start the prototype based segmentation a couple of landmarks, defined in the prototype, need to be set by the use of the point tool  . The landmarks can be set in any of the orthogonal view panels. The points shall also be named according to the information in the prototype. The specific prototype is chosen in the listbox in the panel **Prototype**. After the selection has been made calculations is done to align the prototype to the landmarks. When the calculations are done a light green outline is shown in the orthogonal view panels indicating the startindex of the segmentation which is used as seed points. Also the parameters radius, curvature and gradient has been set to an optimal value which was stored in the prototype. It is possible to not use the predefined startindex and/or parameters by unselecting the checkboxes **startindex** and **parameters** in the **Prototype** panel.

To adjust the speed image push the button **Adjust speed map**. The speed image for prototype based segmentation differs in several ways from the usual levelset segmentation. The image is automatically intensity adjusted which can be seen by the magnitude image being **Prototype adjusted**.The histogram

15.9. PROTOTYPE BASED SEGMENTATION

is calculated from the adjusted magnitude image. The speed mapping mode is **Prototype shaped**, and the shown function is a probabilistic function stored in the prototype. Finally the **Lambda** slider and edit are enabled, this controls the influence of the spatial map. The spatial map is an a priori mapping stored in the prototype which constrains the segmentation. The default value of the parameter lambda is also stored in the prototype. The speed image shown is calculated from the speed mapping and by subtracting the spatial map. If any adjustments need to be done it is possible to change the **Offset** and **Zero** level but firstly try to adjust the factor **Lambda** since the most important part of the prototype based segmentation is the spatial map. When pressing the button **Spatial map** the spatial map is shown in a separate window. When satisfied with the speed image, press **Dismiss**. To do the segmentation press either **Go few**, **Go medium** or **Go many**. If more iterations is desired it is possible to choose if the startindex from the prototype should be used as startindex should be used or not in the checkbox **Startindex**.

16 Save and Load Segmentation

A key feature in Segment is that all measurements and user interaction can be saved so that it is possible to go back and see how the analysis was done.

Saving and loading works differently in the Clinical mode or in the research mode. In the clinical mode then Ctrl-S automatically saves to the patient database, and in the research mode you will be prompted where to store the file. Loading operations in the clinical mode opens the patient database, whereas in the research mode it opens the file loader GUI.

16.1 Save images

Segment is able to save files in three different formats. One old and soon to be obsolete that stores only the image information of one single image stack, one that stores all image stack with all segmentation into one single file and one that stores all images stacks with all segmentation into one single file that is also a valid DICOM file. The second format is the most stable and is recommended when one observer is reviewing the images, and one would like to have the opportunity to go back and check how the analysis was made. If one needs to store the file in an environment which only accepts DICOM images, such as a PACS, one can use the third format.

16.1.1 Save both image stacks and segmentation to one file

This function saves both the image stacks and the segmentation to one file. This is the recommended way to save the images.

16.1.2 Save both image stacks and segmentation as

Same as above, but asks for a filename.

16.1.3 Save only segmentation

To save the segmentation results (including the measurements of mass, distance measurements, viability, and volumes etc), select the function **Save Segmentation** under the **File** menu (hot key is **Ctrl-S**). Then the program asks for a filename. The file extension should always be set to ***.seg**. Note

that the segmentation file also contains scar delineations, roi's for flow analysis etc. When comparing segmentation results for different observers it is usually better to store them as separate image files with segmentation. Note this function only saves the segmentation, **not** the images. This function is kept for backwards compatibility and may be dropped in future versions of Segment.

16.1.4 Save as DICOM

To save as DICOM file select **Special save** in the **File** menu. Then select **Save as Dicom**. You will be prompted for location and filename. Note that the file is saved as a DICOM file, but essentially it is an internal file format with a DICOM wrapper. It can not be used to load and study segmentations with other DICOM compliant softwares.

16.2 Load segmentation

To load a segmentation select **Load Segmentation** under the **File** menu. The current limitations of this operation is that you should not have removed / reordered any slices compared to when you saved the file. This limitation might be removed in the future. When loading some elementary error checking is done to ensure that the loaded segmentation indeed was done on the same image stack. To disregard this safety check see importing segmentation, below.

16.3 Importing segmentation result

The difference between loading and importing segmentation is that the error checking is disabled. This means that it is possible to load a segmentation from another dataset, and overlay that on the current image stack. This could be especially useful for instance with late enhancement image where the delineation can be performed on gradient echo and SSFP cine images, and then be overlaid on a late enhancement images. See Section 12.3 on details how to translate the segmentation loaded segmentation.

16.4 Hints

Setting the data path and export path in the preferences menu (see Chapter 29) saves a lot of work when frequently loading or saving images. When

16.4. HINTS

performing studies where the observer should be blinded to the identity of the patient, you can use the option to hide patient ID when loading the images. For more details see under Chapter 29.

17 Image Tools

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

There are numerous possibilities to manipulate image stacks. This chapter describes the tools found under the **Image tools** menu in the main menu. Many of these operations are not undoable. One workaround is to before applying the intended tool, right click on the image stack thumbnail and select duplicate image stack. By doing so you do not need to reload the image stack at least.

17.1 Crop image stack

This functionality is useful to crop the images to reduce memory requirement. This functionality is not available under the image tools menu, but as a tool in the tool palette . Note that this function is not undoable.

17.1.1 Autocrop all image stacks

There is also a functionality to automatically crop all image stacks. The icon for this  is found next to the crop icon.

17.2 Remove time frames

There are several suboptions to select exactly which time frames you wish to delete. Note that when you have removed time frames, you should also save the image volume since it is not possible to directly load the segmentation if it is stored as a separate **.seg** file. Note that this function is not undoable.

17.3 Remove slices

It is possible to remove all selected slices or all slices except the selected slices. When removing slices, note that you may not be able to import a segmentation to the current image stack since the number of slices will not

match. When removing slices and you want to use the data set later be sure to save the image stack. Note that this function is not undoable.

17.4 Fake in extra apical or basal slice

In some instances the most basal or the apical slice may be missing due to improper scan planning. This should be avoided and be reported back to the scanning operator. However, if it still occurs the image set might be possible to rescue the image stack with this operation. It inserts a copy of the basal or apical slice and the segmentation. The reason that this might work is that it might be possible to copy the delineation of the basal slice in end diastole to the second most basal slice in end systole.

17.5 Manipulate light/contrast

Once loading image data from DICOM files Segment internally converts the image data to the range [0..1]. The conversion factors are stored and the original pixel intensities can thus always be recovered.

17.5.1 Permanently apply light setting

When adjusting contrast and brightness the changes only affect the on screen appearance. With this option the current light setting is permanently applied to the image stack. This will then have impact on subsequent image quantification. Note that this functionality is not undoable.

17.5.2 Normalize image data

When loading image stacks from `.mat` files this check is not performed. Normalize image data will do this process. This process is currently not undoable even though all the required data is stored.

17.5.3 Invert colors

Invert colors remaps all pixels with the equation $s_{new} = 1 - s_{old}$, where s denotes pixel intensity. This functionality is undoable by repeating the operation.

17.5.4 Precompensation

This functionality might be useful for gradient echo MR images to minimize inflow artefacts. This option scales each time frame such as the mean image intensity is constant over time. Note that this function is not undoable.

17.5.5 View intensity mapping

Brightness and contrast settings are implemented so that the pixel intensity is remapped before being rendered. Currently this remapping function is a cropped linear function, but will be extended to a sigmoid function in future versions of Segment. This functionality plots the current intensity mapping.

17.5.6 View true image intensity

The function displays the current slice and time frame, and a color scale coupled to the original pixel values in the DICOM file.

17.6 Set colormap for current image stack

This function sets the used colormap for the selected image stack. Supported colormaps are shown in Figure 25.

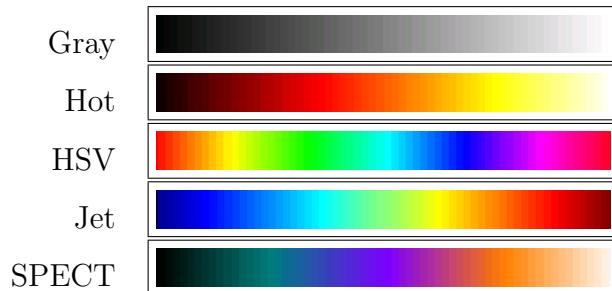


Figure 25: Colormaps.

17.7 Flip/Rotate image stack

By using this function it is possible to swap the direction of one axis. For instance if want to flip an image stack upside-down (apex/base) use `Flip z`.

`Flip x` corresponds to what one usually would call y-axis, and for a short axis image stack this would usually be frontal/dorsal, and `Flip y` corresponds to left/right. Note that to preserve a right hand coordinate system it is not possible to flip in one image direction alone. Therefore, a flip in x directions also flips in the z direction. The simple flip's above is possible to do when there is an existing segmentation. If you require to make rotations (flip between two axis) you must not have an existing segmentation. `Flip x&y` transposes the image, `Flip x&z` switch between basal/apical to up/down direction, and `Flip z&t` change between time frames and slices. The later option is very useful when loading non standard images. This option does not update coordinate axes so this might be dangerous to use if combining with non flipped image stacks. If you need to rotate image volume and maintain correct voxel dimensions, please use the multiplanar reconstruction (MPR) functionality described in Chapter 30. Note that currently the option to rotate 90 degrees right is not working properly.

17.8 Resample image stack

There are different methods to resample the original image stack.

17.8.1 Reformat multiplanar reconstruction)

This option invokes the multiple planar reconstruction tool described in Chapter 30.

17.8.2 Upsample/downsample image

By using this option it is possible to upsample or downsample the image stack. Note that resampling is only done in the in-plane direction. When downsample an appropriate anti-alias filter is applied. The used interpolation algorithm is bicubic interpolation. This functionality is not undoable.

17.8.3 Upsample/downsample slices

The number of slices can be upsampled or downsampled. This functionality is not undoable.

17.9 Add noise

By using this functionality it is possible to add noise Gaussian white noise to the current image stack. The amount of noise is regulated by the std of the noise.

17.10 Calculate temporal mean image

This function creates a new image stack that is the temporal mean of the current image stack.

17.11 Set current frame as first frame

This function shifts the time series (cyclic shift) such as the current time frame becomes the first time frame in the time series. Note that it only applies to selected slices.

17.12 View K-space

This menu option shows the k-space for the current frame and slice.

17.13 Set image description

By using this menu option the image type, image view plane and imaging technique is displayed and a menu is shown where new image descriptions can be selected. Image type and image view plane is used by Segment to find what image stacks to take measurements from. This applies to the utility to summarize multiple .mat files and the report sheet generator. Imaging technique is used to find segmentation parameters and are therefore critical for a good automated segmentation. For further details, see Section 12.3.

17.14 View Image details

This function copies the most important image details to the clipboard. It is the same as the icon .

17.15 View and adjust image details

By using this menu option it is possible to adjust image details. Parameters that can be adjusted are Slice thickness, Slice gap, Resolution in x direction, Resolution in y direction, and time increment.

17.16 View and adjust patient details

This menu option starts a graphical user interface where it is possibly to view/adjust: Patient Name, ID, birth date, acquisition date, age, height, weight, sex. The pushbutton **Apply to all** applies the changes to all image stacks that are loaded to memory. By entering height and weight, BSA is automatically calculated.

17.17 Remove subject identity

By using this menu option all patient data are removed from all image stacks. This is useful when sending data to a different center or for bug report purposes. This function is not undoable. Removed items are patient name, id, birth date, acquisition date, filename, and original filename.

17.18 Calculating image histogram

Image histogram can be calculated by using tools found under the ROI-menu. For further details, see Section 18.6.

18 Region of Interest Analysis

The region of interest (ROI) functionality can be used for a wide range of possibilities. To select the ROI mode you can use the hot key **Shift-F**.

You can label and color each ROI individually. For flow measurements each ROI can also be assigned with a sign that will be multiplied with the velocities inside the ROI. The default sign is positive. The following names of ROI's are reserved for various purposes:

- Remote ROI (used to implement 2SD from remote as described by [3]).
- Scar region ROI (used to implement 2SD from remote as described by [3]).
- Static tissue (used for concomitant field correction, described in Chapter 23).
- Aortic ascending flow
- Aortic descending flow
- Pulmonary artery
- Vena cava inf
- Vena cava sup
- Vena pulmonalis inf
- Vena pulmonalis sup
- Vena pulmonalis dex
- Vena pulmonalis sin
- Sinus coronarius
- Lung
- Heart

18.1 Creating ROI's

There are several possibilities to add ROI's. Perhaps the most intuitive method is to draw the ROI by using the . The ROI will be given the

same name, and color as the latest modified/drawn ROI. This is very useful if you would like to draw several ROI's of the same kind. Start by drawing the first ROI, name and color it. Thereafter you can continue to draw the remaining ROI's.

It is also possible to add fix sized ROI's by using the **Add fix size ROI** under the **ROI** menu. This will add a fix size ROI and you will be prompted to enter the diameter. This function applies to the current slice. Another approach is to add ROI's in the myocardium between the endocardium and epicardium. This is done by using the function **Add ROI's in sector (selected slices)**. You will be prompted for center angle, width in degrees, percent from the wall. Zero center angle corresponds to three o clock and counting counter clock-wise. This function only adds sectors in selected slices. An example of automatic ROI placement is shown in Figure 26.

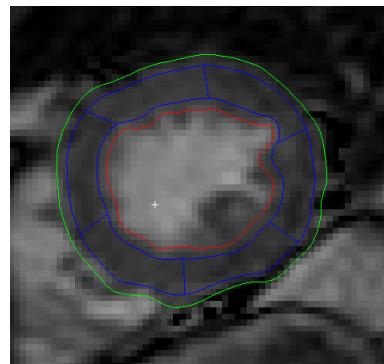


Figure 26: Automatic placement of ROI's inside the myocardium.

Another possibility to create ROI's is to convert the endocardial, epicardial or scar surface to a ROI. This is done by the option **Copy endocardium to a ROI**, **Copy epicardium to a ROI** or **copy scar to a ROI**. This only includes the selected slices.

18.2 Modifying and deleting ROI's

By right clicking on a ROI a pop-up menu appears where it is possible to:

- Delete ROI
- Set ROI label (change the name/function of the ROI).
- Set ROI color (change the color of the ROI).
- Copy ROI upwards
- Copy ROI downwards
- Copy ROI outline to all timeframes
- Refine ROI (for flow purposes, see Chapter 23).
- Switch ROI sign (useful for flow analysis).

18.3 Translating and scaling ROI's

ROI's are translated with the icon  and scaled with . Point on ROI contour and drag while mouse button kept down to adjust to correct position/size.

18.4 Deleting ROI's

Under the ROI menu it is also possible to Delete ROI, Delete ROI's Using Template, and Clear All ROI's. The first menu option deletes the current (last drawn or modified ROI). The second menu option deletes ROI's with a name matching a specified template. A menu of possible ROI's that can be deleted are shown.

18.5 ROI analysis

It is possible to plot and export the following parameters over time:

- Mean signal intensity
- Standard deviation of signal intensity
- ROI area
- ROI area based on pixels
- Minimal signal intensity
- Maximal signal intensity

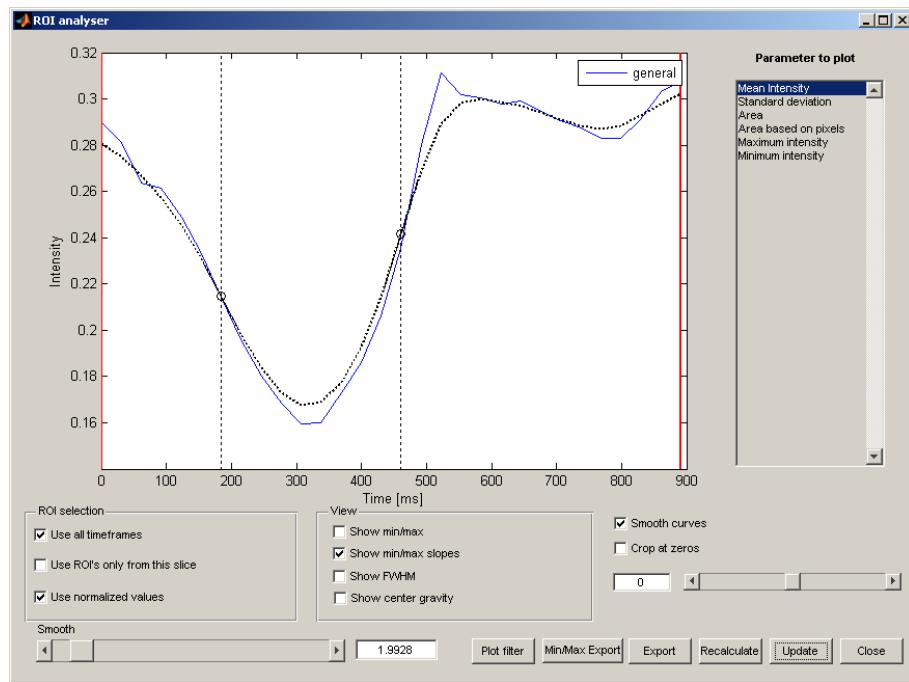


Figure 27: Graphical user interface for ROI analysis.

An example of the user interface is shown in Figure 27. In the ROI-selection panel the ROI's to plot can be selected. If the checkbox Use ROI's only from this slice is selected, then only ROI's in the current slice are shown. If the checkbox Use normalized values is selected the the values are shown in the Segment's own internal normalized representation. Otherwise the values are recalculated back to the pixel values in the DICOM files. In the View panel it is possible to select to plot min/max values, min/max slopes, or Full-Width-Half-Maximum (FWHM). If the checkbox Smooth curves is selected, then the curves are smoothed before slopes, and min/max values are calculated. The smoothing is applied is a Gaussian smoothing kernel. The smoothing parameter σ is adjustable with the slider, and the edit box. By using the Plot filter button it is possible to plot the filter in the temporal domain. Currently the filter is applied directly to the ROI curve. Finally, the Export button exports all parameters to the clipboard. The Max/Min Export button exports the values and timing of min/max, min/max slopes, and FWHM. Note that that when changing plotting options the plot is not updated until you click Update.

18.6 ROI histogram

This function plots the histogram of ROI(s). When initiated the program asks for a selection criteria on what ROI's to include. If no ROI's are present then the histogram for the whole image (current slice and time frame) is displayed. The most common percentiles are also calculated and exported to clipboard. An example is shown in Figure 28.

18.7 Multiple threshold analysis

This function calculates the number of pixels inside the ROI's above the selected threshold. Before starting the program prompts for start threshold, end threshold and number of levels. All curves are plotted at the same level. The offset of each curve is displayed. All numeric data are copied to clipboard. There is also a visual mode where the pixels above a certain threshold are color-coded. An example of the visual analysis is shown in Figure 29. You are also prompted whether to use the internal normalized image pixel values or the original data from the file. The non-normalized range can be found by plotting the image intensity mapping (found under **Image tools**). By

CHAPTER 18. REGION OF INTEREST ANALYSIS

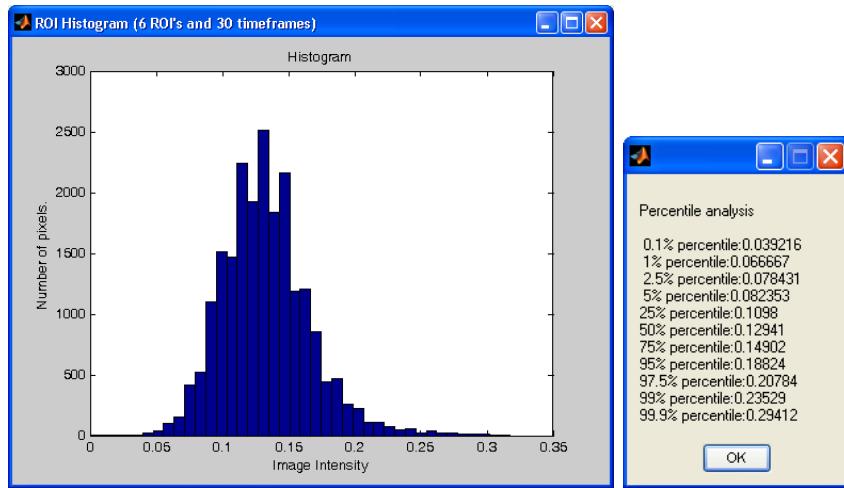


Figure 28: Example of ROI histogram.

selecting **Multiple threshold analysis - numeric** the same analysis is performed for each time frame and numeric values are exported to the clipboard.

18.7. MULTIPLE THRESHOLD ANALYSIS

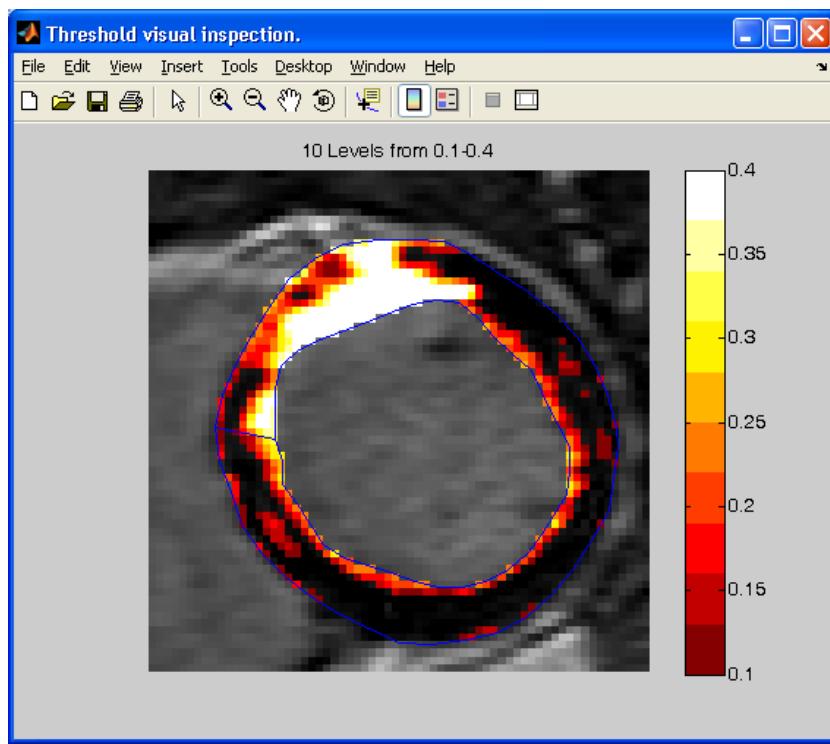


Figure 29: Example of multiple threshold analysis.

19 Measurements and Annotations

The whole software package Segment is designed for quantitative analysis and subsequently there are a rich variety of measurement tools available.

19.1 Length measurements

There are two possibilities to make length measurements. The easiest method is to use the measurement tool . To place a linear measurement, left click with the mouse, hold mouse button down and drag mouse to the desired location. Alternatively, or to place a measurement consisting of several line segments, hold down the **Shift** key while clicking to place end-points. Finish by clicking with **Shift** released. You are then asked to annotate and give the measurement a label. It is possible to refine the position of the measurement by click one of its end-points and drag that to the desired position. The measurement with its annotation is shown in Figure 30. Under the **Annotations** menu it is possible to clear or export all measurements to the clipboard. Measurements of ventricular wall thickness is best performed by using the tools for region wall motion analysis described in Chapter 26.

Another method to get distances (or timing intervals) by adding annotation points at different points in space and time. Annotation points are added with the icon  and export the coordinates and time points of the annotation points to Excel or another spread sheet program and there calculate the distance. Annotation points is also useful for marking anatomical landmarks etc. For further details, see Section 19.7.

19.2 Timing

By using the M-mode viewing mode it is possible to make measurements of both timing and distances. This is illustrated in Figure ??, on page ??.

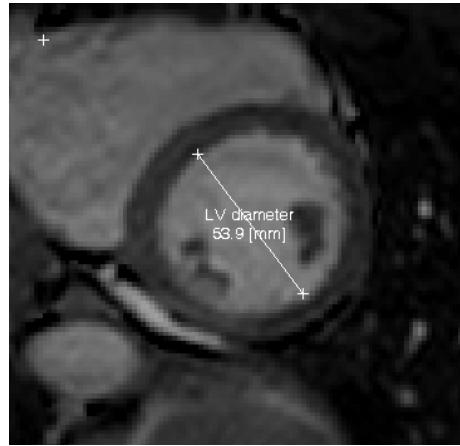


Figure 30: Example of a measurement of the left ventricle diameter.

19.3 Volumes

Volume of the left ventricle is displayed and updated as soon as you have delineated some slices. If the volume was calculated from segmentation in longaxis images, this is indicated in a line of text above. Volumes of ROIs can be derived by using the numeric multiple threshold analysis described in Section 18.7. One possible mistake when doing manual delineation of the left ventricle in only diastole and systole is the failure to indicate what time frames that are end-diastole and systole respectively. This will cause Segment not to show any volumes. Selecting diastole and systole can be done by interactively dragging ED and ES in the volume graph or using the Autodetect End systole and End diastole under the Edit menu.

19.4 Area

Area of ROI's can be derived by using the region of interest analysis tool in Chapter 18. In certain cases area can also be derived by dividing volumes by the slice thickness. The area of the ROI's is shown for each ROI in the one slice view. In the near future a general area tool will also be added to Segment.

19.5 Flow and volumes

Measurements of flows and volumes are covered in Chapter 23.

19.6 Signal intensity

Signal intensity can be measured by using the region of interest analysis tools described in Chapter 18.

19.7 Annotation and anatomical landmarks

Annotations are added with the  icon or under the Annotation menu. The points can either be stationary or time resolved (i.e have different positions in different time frames). The stationary points are marked with a bold font. To make a point timeresolved right click on it and select **Make point timeresolved** from the pop-up menu. Note that this operation is undoable. It is possible to **Clear All Annotation Points**, **Clear Annotation Points Using Template**, **Rename Annotations Using Template**, and **Export All Annotation Points**. When deleting or renaming using a template you are prompted for a template. The template must be an exact match since no wildcards are allowed.

To propagate the location of a time resolved point, press **Ctrl-F**. Note that you need to have the annotation tool  active when doing this.

20 Utilities

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

The differentiation between a utility and a function/feature is that the utility does not necessary apply to an image stack. Currently there are five utilities available.

20.1 Anonymize DICOM files (Recursively)

This function ask for a folder of DICOM files and replaces the patient name with a new name for all the DICOM files. Caution since it overwrites the existing DICOM files, and it is recommended to backup these files prior to running this function. The function change PatientName and removes patientID, DateofBirth, OtherPatientIDs, EthinicGroup, Occupation, AdditionalPatientHistory, PatientComments, InstitutionAddress, and InstitutionName.

20.2 Anonymize .mat files (Recursively)

This function takes a folder of .mat files and anonymize the files and change the patient name to the filename of the .mat file. This function is particularly useful when anonymizing a complete research study.

20.3 Clear segmentation from multiple .mat files

This utility is useful when one want to clear the segmentation from multiple .mat files at once. One particular example when it is useful is when a second observer should reanalyse all files. In such cases copy all files, rename them and run this function.

20.4 Sort Folder of DICOM files

This utility is useful when you have a large collection of DICOM files that are in a strange order. This is often the case from certain Siemens scanners. The program will sort them up in folders that are arranged as

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patientname+patientid, studydate+studyid, and series number. Each folder will contain sorted files according to instance number and trigger time.

The graphical user interface is shown in Figure 31.

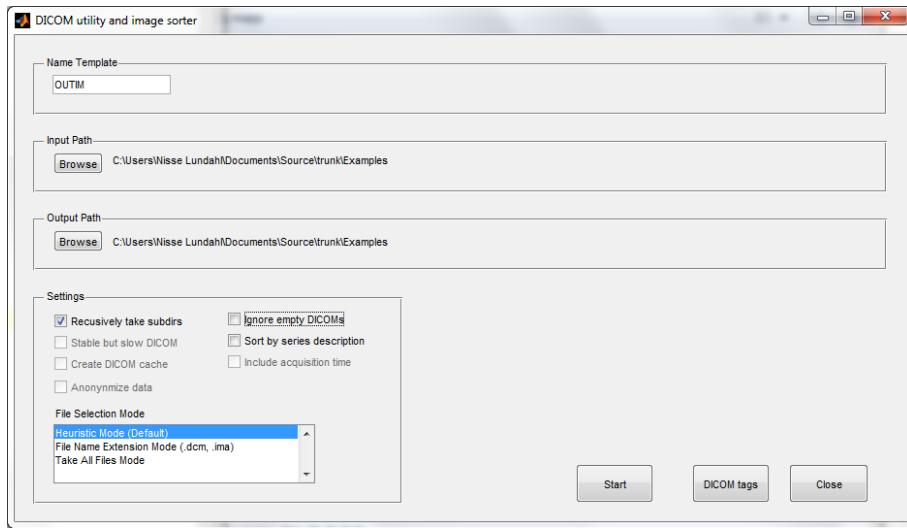


Figure 31: Graphical user interface for the DICOM sorter.

Start by selecting input and output folders/path/directories. If the checkbox Recursively take sub dirs is selected then the program will take all files below the selected input directory including its subdirectories. The input/output folders should preferably not overlap. Each file will be named according to the name template followed with a 5 digit number. The function DICOM tags asks for a filename and displays all DICOM tags in that particular file. The checkbox Stable but slow DICOM controls what DICOM interpreter is used in the sorting operation.

If you select the checkbox Create DICOM cache then the program will create cache files that are used when loading DICOM data into Segment. This will significantly speed up loading and is therefore recommended. For more details of caching of DICOM files, see Chapter 9.

The checkbox Ignore empty DICOMs allows the user to leave out files where the AcquisitionDate tag is either empty or broken, which is an indication of

20.5. COPY AND SORT IMAGES FROM CD TO DATA FOLDER

an empty file. If a series is broken up into parts with separate series numbers, Sort by series description sorts all files with the same series description into the same directory. If this is selected, Include acquisition time can be used to include acquisition time in filenames, thus making the time order of files in the series directory easy to follow.

20.5 Copy and Sort Images from CD to Data Folder

This function is ideal to use when you have images on a CD (structured or not) that you want to copy to your harddrive and subsequent analyze. This function assumes that you have set the location of your CD drive in the preferences (see Chapter 29). This function sorts and name the files in the same manner as the sorting utility. DICOM cache and thumbnails are also created.

20.6 Create DICOM cache for folders recursively

This function ask for a folder and creates DICOM cache files for all subdirectories. This functionality is highly useful when you have copied large sets of DICOM files to your local harddrive that you need to load into Segment. It takes a long time to run so a good idea is to start this function over lunch. Once this is done loading of your DICOM files will go much faster.

20.7 Create thumbnails preview recursively

Analog to creating of DICOM cache files but creates thumbnail preview for all subdirectories. Depending on the number of subfolders this function may also take quite long time to run.

20.8 Find patient details in .mat files

This utility allows to scan your entire harddrive (or network drive) for patient details in .mat files. Output is a list of all patients occurring in the directory tree. This feature is useful when you want to ensure that you have not stored any sensitive information on your local computer/laptop for instance. The output is an Excel file where each row .mat file with patient information.

20.9 Find patient details in DICOM files

Analog to the above function, but instead looks in all your DICOM files. The following heuristics is used to classify a file as DICOM or not:

- Files that ends with `.dcm`.
- Files that only contains digits and no extension.
- Files with name that contains more than 7 dots and the two first letters corresponds DICOM identification of an imaging modality.

The output of this function is an Excel file where each line is one unique patient identity and the number of files in which the patient name was found. Note that to be completely certain about the are no DICOM files with the patient details you need to count the number of files that are deleted / anonymized for each patient or simply run the function twice.

20.10 Export from multiple `.mat` files

This function summarize multiple `.mat` files into one summary. This is very useful for research studies. For instance by placing `.mat` files, one for each patient in one folder. It is possible to summarize all patient data into one Excel sheet. Note that each `.mat` file can contain several image stacks. The program automatically determines what image stack is for instance short-axis slices, and what image stack is viability images. If this automatic image stack detection fails it may be necessary to load the image stacks and select correct image type. For further details see Section 17.13. Currently the following data is outputted for each files; File name, Patient name, Patient ID, Age, Length, Weight, Sex, BSA, Heart rate, R-R interval, LVM in ml, LVM in g, EDV, ESV, EF, LVM from viability images, Scar percentage, Scar in ml measured on viability images. Furthermore, for each ROI in the image stack the name of the ROI and the total volume is reported. When EDV, and ES is not exported see Section 19.3 for hints.

20.11 Export Information from multiple `.mat` files

This function exports imaging information from multiple `.mat` files. Example on exported information is:

- `ImageType`

20.11. EXPORT INFORMATION FROM MULTIPLE .MAT FILES

- Image size
- Resolution
- Slice thickness and slice gap
- Time increment between
- Information whether the file contains infarct sizing, flow information, segmentation

21 Viability Analysis

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

The viability tools can be found under the **MR** menu in Segment. The method used for automated delineation of infarct is described in [4]. It uses a new paradigm in analyzing delayed contrast enhancement MRI. Instead of treating each pixel as dichotomously infarcted or not infarcted pixels are weighted with their signal intensity to compensate for partial volume effects [5]. The algorithm have been extensible validated against independent reference standards; TTC in animals 7 days after accute coronary occlusion, high resolution ex vivo MRI, and expert delineations in a multi-centre, multi-vendor cohort [4]. Please note that the presented algorithm is the only algorithm that is validated experimentally and in a multi-centre setting available (including all commercial alternatives).

The method delineates a larger area than would be outlined manually. It should be noted that even though it delineates a slightly larger area, this should not be compared to manual delineation, since the darker pixels are given a lower weight. As a graphical illustration of this a pink line is also shown in the weighted mode. An example of this is illustrated in Figure 32. This line graphically represent the corresponding non weighted area. Please note that this line is only provided for visual feed-back and should not be used for any quantification purposes.

The first step to do viability analysis of late gadolinium enhancement MRI (LGE) images is to delineate both endo- and epicardium. This can be done either manually or by a semiautomated method. In many cases however, it may be faster to manually draw the endo- and epicardial contours. Then select **Auto Delineate Viability (EWA method)** to delineate infarct. The automated delineated infarct is now shown with a yellow contour. After the delineation you can select the mode of operation. The default mode to use is the EWA scar delineation, although there are other options for specific research purposes (see below for details).

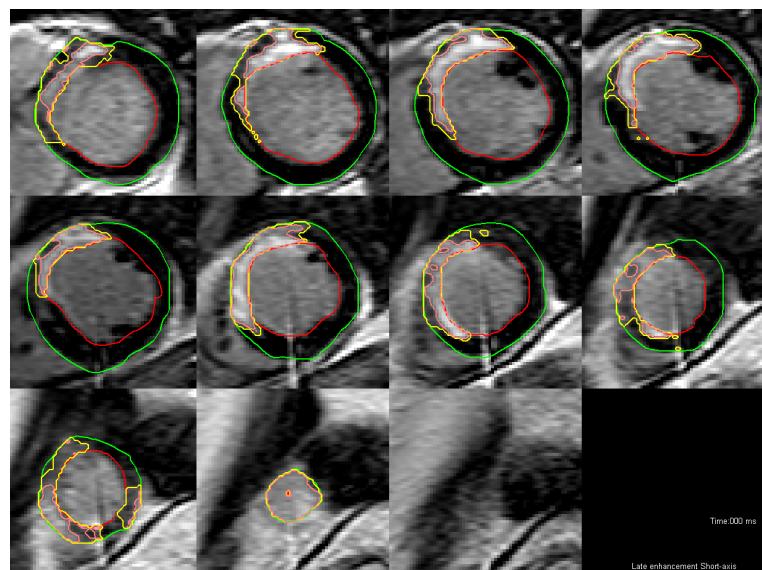


Figure 32: Example of scar delineation in the weighted mode. The yellow line denotes the complete affected area, and the pink line a graphical representation of the corresponding weighted area.

In the **Viability** menu you can select mode of operation, reset all scar delineation, reset user corrections, control visibility and automatic parameters. It is possible to add infarct regions by using the pen tool and remove infarcts with the rubber tool regardless of the mode of scar delineation. The tool removes the manual corrections made with the or . By default manually added scar regions shows up in green and manually deleted areas in blue. The tool is used to manually draw regions of microvascular obstruction. Microvascular obstruction is indicated in red. User interaction (and microvascular obstruction) can be showed/hided by clicking the key . Note when using the EWA method, regions with microvascular obstruction needs to be manually drawn if not automatically detected, since otherwise they are weighted incorrectly.

The following modes of scar delineations is available:

- **EWA method - Default.** Automatic scar delineation as described in [4].
- **Old weighted.** Automatic scar delineation as described in [5]. Kept only for backwards compability during ongoing research projects.
- **SD from remote.** Implementation of taking two 2-SD from remote myocardium as proposed by Kim *et. al* [6]. You need to place ROI's in the myocardium and label them ase 'remote'. Note that this method is not encouraged.
- **Otsu.** Implementation of Otsu method. No post-processing is performed. Note that this method is not encouraged.
- **EM algorithm.** Implementation of EM-algorithm. No post-processing is performed. Note that this method is not encouraged.
- **FWHM algorithm.** Implementation of FWEM-algorithm. No post-processing is performed. Details on FWHM implementation details is given in [4]. Note that this method is not encouraged.
- **Manual mode.** Manual drawing of hyper enhanced regions.

Each of the different methods are further described below.

21.1 Automatic mode (EWA method)

The automatic mode with EWA (Expectation Maximization, Weighted Intensity, *A* priori) is the default mode. This method has the ability to use a priori information on the vessel terrotori to aid the delineation. This is selected as a first step in a graphical user interface shown in Figure 33. If no assumption of affected vessel is to be used, then select No vessel assumption.

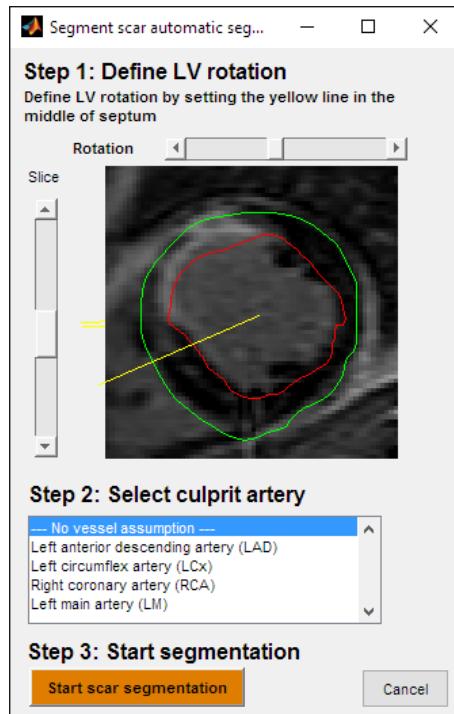


Figure 33: User interface to select vesselterrotori. First adjust sector rotation to point towards the mid point of septum. Secondly select known affected vessel. If this is not known or not applicable just select No vessel assumption.

In cases where the algorithm fails or make small mistakes manual corrections can be applied by using the tools and , respectively. Note that including extraneous black regions in the weighted method only marginally changes the result, since the infarct is weighted with pixel intensity. It may be necessary to manually mark regions of microvascular obstruction to get

these regions weighted correctly. If this is not performed the infarct will be weighted lower and the infarct mass will be incorrect.

21.2 Old weighted

The old weighted method is retained only for backwards compatibility during ongoing research projects. It will eventually be removed. Manual corrections are performed in the same manner as for the EWA algorithm.

21.3 Manual mode

In this manual mode the infarct area is not automatically updated and the only way to change the delineation is by doing manual interactions. If you want to start from scratch to manually draw your infarct regions, then first select **Clear all scar data**. This option also resets the viability mode to **Automatic mode** so you need to choose **Manual mode** before starting to draw the infarct regions.

21.4 SD from remote

It is possible to do scar delineation as proposed by Kim *et. al* where the infarct is determined as pixels with an image intensity that is higher than the mean plus two standard deviations from the mean in a non infarcted remote region. In the original method by Kim et al when one read the paper carefully they used two types of ROI's, both remote ROI's and also a scar region ROI in which the thresholding was applied. Therefore, the same approach is also applied in Segment.

To draw remote region use the ROI drawing tool  or Add ROI's in sector under the **ROI** menu. The latter option adds ROI's in a sector in selected slices with a position specified as an angle, the width as and angle and finally the distance from the endo- and epicardium as percentage of the wall thickness. This option automatically flags the ROI's to be remote regions, but if you use the ROI drawing tool  you need to manually flag that by right clicking on the ROI and select **Select ROI label** on the pop-up menu. When drawing a subsequent ROI the label of the ROI is copied from the last modified ROI so you only need to first draw one ROI, then label it and draw all remaining ROI's. If you do not draw a remote region in the

threshold for that slice is then intra/extrapolated from adjacent slices. Using the default viability options this approach will only set a threshold to the level set algorithm based on the drawn ROI's.

To draw the scar region ROI's (**Scar region ROI**) use the same approach as described above. It is often advantagous to first draw all the remote ROI's and then the scar ROI's since you do not need to alternate with labeling the ROI's.

21.5 EM algorithm

This mode is to be used only for evaluating different infarct quantification algorithms, especilly ex-vivo studies. In cases where it fails make necessary manual corrections by using the tools  and , respectively. It may be necessary to manually mark regions of microvascular obstruction to get these regions delineated.

21.6 Technical details

It is possible to control the parameter **Beta**, **Min volume**, **Standard deviation from remote**. The parameter **Beta** controls the smoothness 'curvature' forces on the level set surface and in practice it controls the smoothness of the result. The parameter **Min volume** controls the minimum size allowed for an infarct in ml. These parameters are not recommended to change and are further described in [7, 5]. The parameter **Standard deviations from remote** controls is the only variable that we recommend to change, and then for the **SD from remote method**.

21.7 Grayzone Analysis

Two different methods for Gray Zone analysis is provided in Segment. The two methods are the Weighted method and the ROI method.

21.7.1 Gray Zone default analysis

The menu item **Gray Zone Analysis - Default** enables the user to divide the scar area into core and grayzone based on the scar segmentation. The result is displayed in the image view as colored overlays of dark red (core) and

dark yellow (grayzone) pixels. The quantitative core and grayzone values are presented in a message box. It uses either EWA method or the old weighted algorithm depending whichever method was used for infarct quantification.

21.7.2 Gray Zone analysis by ROI method

The menu item **Gray Zone Analysis (ROI Method)** enables the user to divide the scar area into core and grayzone based on ROI segmentations and a user selected threshold. The result is displayed in the image view as colored overlays of dark red (core) and dark yellow (grayzone) pixels. The Grayzone Analysis GUI displays a histogram of the pixel intensities of the currently segmented scar volume. By dragging the red bar, the user can change the threshold for what identifies as grayzone (intensity values lower than that of the bar) and core (the remainder). The user can also change the threshold for scar segmentation, given as number of standard deviations from remote value, by clicking the **Increase** or **Decrease** buttons. After changing either of these thresholds, the values are recalculated by clicking the **Recalculate** button. The sizes of the core and grayzone volumes are calculated based on pixel volume and displayed in the GUI, and can be exported along with the threshold values by clicking the **Export** button.

22 Myocardium at Risk Analysis

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

There are two algorithms to quantify myocardial at risk (MaR) from MR images. There is also one tool to quantify MaR on SPECT images and this is described in Section 34.4.

The maR tools can be found under the MR menu in Segment. The first step to do MaR analysis of T2-weighted MRI (T2w-MRI) images is to delineate both endo- and epicardium. This can be done either manually or by a semi-automated method. In many cases however, it may be faster to manually draw the endo- and epicardial contours. Then select Auto Detect MaR to delineate MaR, see below for details. Depending on the number of timeframes either of the two methods below is selected. If there is only one time frame available, then MaR from T2-weighted images are chosen.

It is possible to add infarct regions by using the pen tool and remove infarcts with the rubber tool . The tool removes the manual corrections made with the or . By default manually added mar regions shows up in green and manually deleted areas in blue.

22.1 MaR from T2-weighted images

The method used for automated delineation of MaR from T2-weighted is described by Sjogren et al [8]. It uses an Expectation Maximization algorithm to calculate a probability of MaR based on intensity instead of using a threshold and models of the perfusion territories are used as a priori information to constrain the segmentation.

In the graphical user interface choose the culprit artery in the list box and rotate the yellow line to indicate the center of the septum and press OK. The automated delineation of MaR is now shown with a white contour. Note that you need to select culprit artery. The coronary perfusion distributions may be

different for different species and special care needs to be taken into account in such cases.

22.2 MaR from CE-SSFP images

Using contrast enhanced standard cine images acquired directly after contrast injection can be used to determine MaR, [9]. This technique is the technique recommended to use by Medviso AB as it has been shown to be more stable across vendors and in multi-centre setting compared to T2-weighted techniques [10]. The algorithm for automated MaR delineation from CE-SSFP images is developed by Tufvesson (maiden name Sjogren) [11]. The algorithm is based on expectation maximization (EM) and a vessel tree model for accurate segmentation. We recommend to use both systole and diastole images and that their result should be compared as in internal consistency check.

Just as for MaR from T2-weighted images you need to select a vessel model and ensure correct rotation with the yellow-line pointing towards the centre of septum.

23 Flow Analysis

This functionality may depend on your MRI scanner. Currently it has been tested using Siemens, Philips and GE scanners.

When flow image stacks are displayed, the screen should now similar to what is shown in Figure 34. On the left image panel the magnitude image is shown and on the right image panel the phase image is shown. When a flow image stack is selected a white frame around both the magnitude image and phase image is drawn in the thumbnail preview area. This helps to keep track of which phase images belongs to which magnitude images.

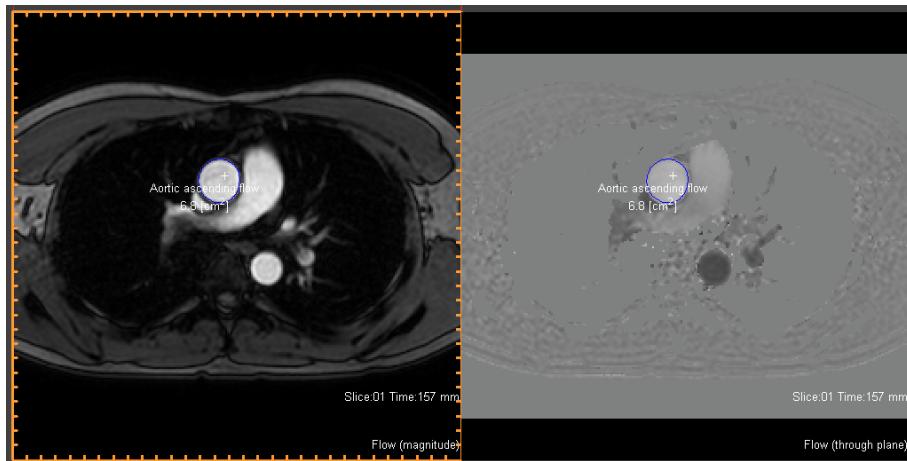


Figure 34: Example of main GUI in flow mode.

23.1 Automatic segmentation of flow ROI's

The suggested method is to select the ROI tool . Then draw a ruff outline of the vessel contour. Thereafter start the automated vessel tracking and refine. This is done by pressing **Ctrl-T**.

Another method to automatically segment a vessel is to drag the center cursor (white +) to the approximate center of the desired vessel and press **Ctrl-G**,

or Auto delineate a vessel under the Segmentation→ROI and Flow Tools menu. The vessel is automatically delineated and you are asked for an appropriate label. Deleting, renaming, recoloring the region of interest is described in Chapter 18. If you are not satisfied with the ROI there are two methods that can be applied.

23.1.1 Refine

Refine operation operates on the current time frame or all time frames depending on the checkbox Single frame mode. Short key for the refine function is **Ctrl-R**. You need to have the ROI pen active when using the hot key. Refine on all time frames is particularly useful if the vessel is fairly round and not too close to other surrounding tissue.

23.1.2 Refine and propagate

Start at the first time frame of the time series. If pleased with the result simply use the right arrow key on the keyboard to proceed to next time frame. When you find a time frame where you are not pleased with the segmentation use the ROI pen  to adjust the contour or use the refine option **Ctrl-R** with the checkbox Single frame mode enabled. Continue by propagating the contour by pressing **Ctrl-F**.

23.1.3 Shrink flow ROI

If the ROI is outside the vessel then it might be advantageous to shrink the ROI followed by one or more refine operations. Shrink flow ROI is found under the Segmentation menu and the submenu ROI and Flow tools.

23.2 Plotting the result of the flow analysis

The flow plotting utility is started by using the icon  or by using the function **Plot flow curves** under the **Flow** menu. An example of the graphical user interface is shown in Figure 35.

In the upper right area of the GUI you can select which parameter to plot. The volumes presented in Volume panel of the GUI represents flow integrated between the two vertical red bars. These bars can interactively be

23.2. PLOTTING THE RESULT OF THE FLOW ANALYSIS

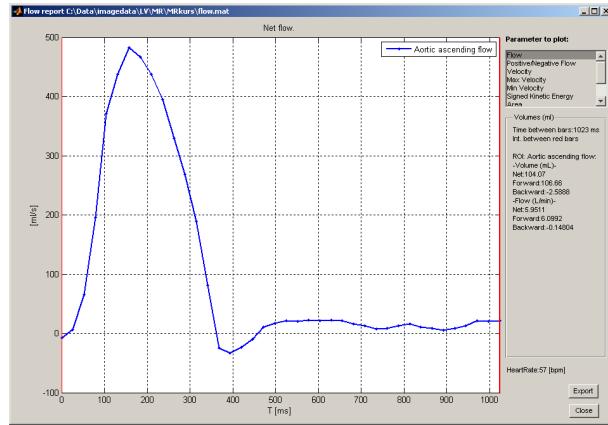


Figure 35: Example of flow plotting GUI. Plotting parameter can be selected in the upper right corner of the GUI. The flow integration is performed between the two red bars.

moved with the mouse to control the range of the integration. Forward volume is the volume of the flow integrated only over the time frames where the net flow is positive (forward). Backward volume is the volume of the flow integrated only over the time frames where the net flow is negative (backward). This should be contrasted to the flow parameter **Forward/Backward** that plots simultaneously the flow that goes forward and backward of the region of interest. Note that there can be significant backward flow in one time frame even though the net flow is forward in that very time frame. An example on the latter is shown in Figure 36. The sum of the two curves is the same as the net flow that is shown in Figure 35.

It is also possible to plot the Velocity over time, and this is shown in Figure 37. The 'error bars' denote the standard deviation of all pixels in the ROI of that particular time frame.

Another possibility is to plot the max or min velocity in the ROI over time. It is also possible to plot the radius and diameter over time. The radius are calculated as; what diameter need a circular vessel have to have the same area as the area of the ROI. The option **Signed Kinetic Energy** calculates the kinetic energy in the blood assuming standard density of the blood.

The final possibility is to plot a 3D profile of the velocity distribution of the vessel. This can be plotted for all time frames at once or only a single time frame that later can be stepped forward/backward in time. An example of the 3D plot is shown in Figure 38.

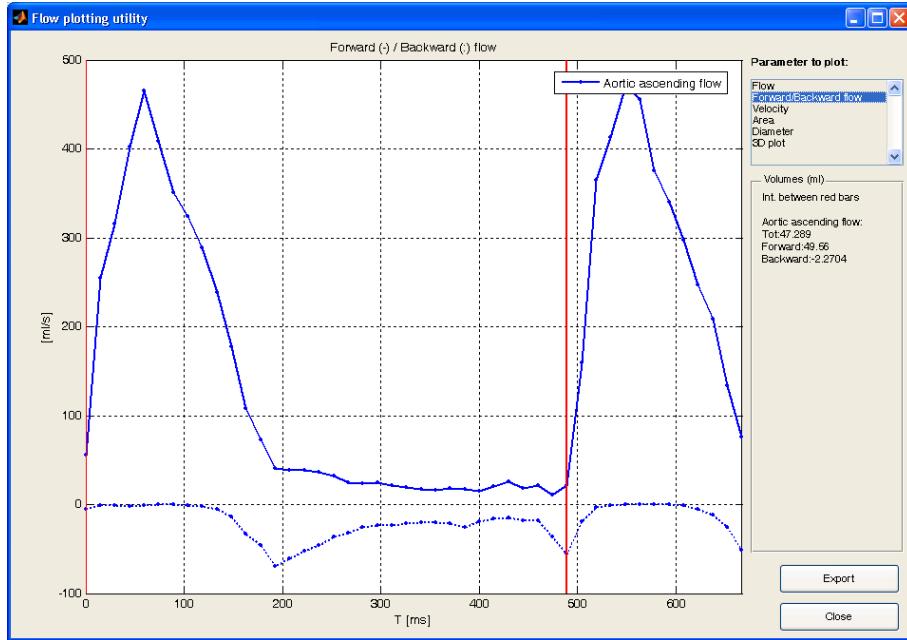


Figure 36: Example of plotting of backwards and forward flow simultaneously. The sum of the two curves will be the net flow showed in Figure 35.

23.3 Compensating for eddy current effects

To get accurate flow measurements it is important to compensate for concomitant field effects such as eddy currents, and Maxwell effects. Ideally Maxwell effects should be compensated for directly on the MRI scanner since it can be analytically calculated. Consult your MRI vendor for details about how this is implemented in your scanner. Note that when compensating for eddy current effects the image stack should not be cropped upon loading, since the algorithm need phase information of static tissue in the chest wall to function properly.

23.3. COMPENSATING FOR EDDY CURRENT EFFECTS

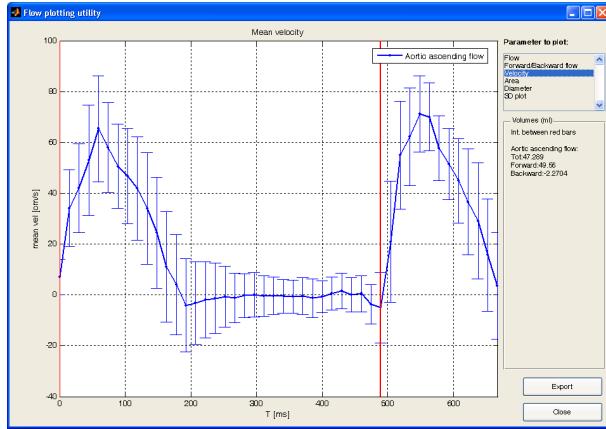


Figure 37: Example of plotting of velocity over time. The 'error' bars shown the standard deviation of the pixels within the ROI over time.

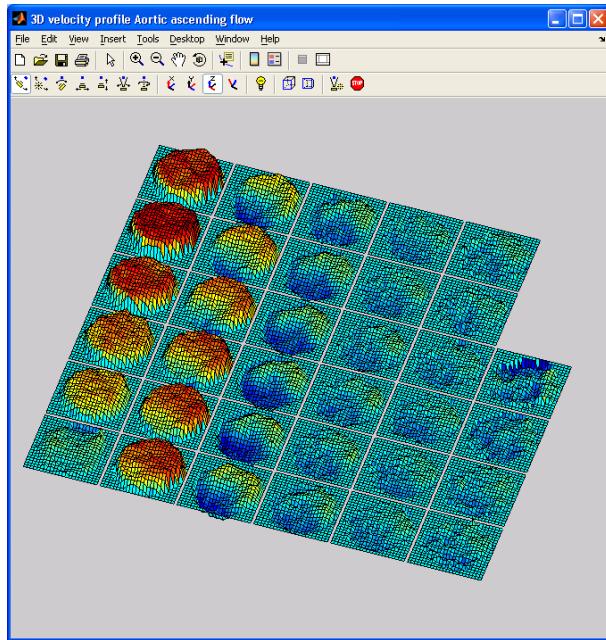


Figure 38: Example of plotting of a 3D profile of the velocity distribution.

The graphical user interface for compensating for eddy current effects is shown in Figure 39.

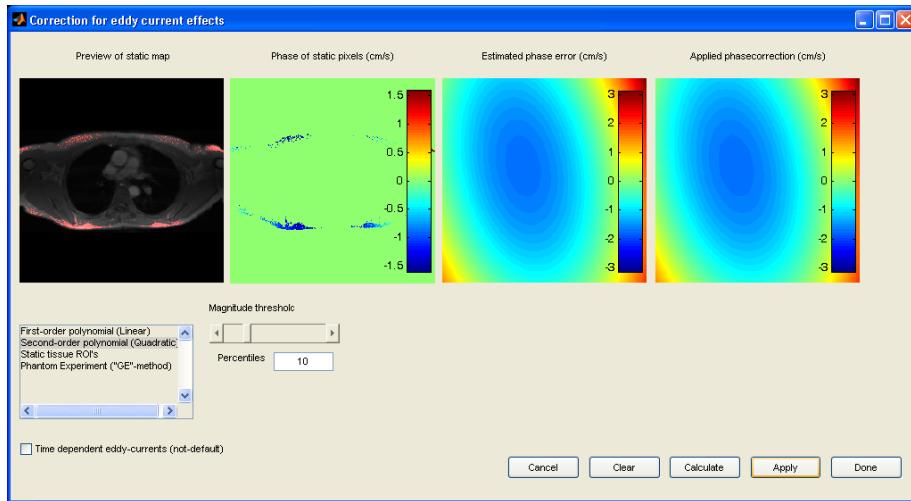


Figure 39: Example graphical user interface for compensating of concomitant field effects. In the left the identified static tissue is the displayed, and in the middle panel the corresponding phase for these pixels is shown, and in the right panel the resulting phase correction is shown.

You can select model order, and clear the phase correction. When you are pleased with the phase correction press **Apply** to proceed. The function automatically finds stationary parts in the image by selecting a percentage of the pixels whose standard deviation of the phase over time is smallest. The fraction of pixels taken can be controlled by the edit box **Percentile**. The image is divided into four quadrants and the algorithm to find stationary pixels is applied to each quadrant separately. This is done to ensure that there are about the same number of pixels from each quadrant. Pixels taken as stationary tissue are shown as red dots in the magnitude image. The **Magnitude** slider controls what magnitude the pixels need to have before being labeled as stationary. By selecting the mode of operation as **Static tissue ROI's** then ROI's that are labeled **Static tissue** are taken as stationary areas. This is particularly useful when doing phantom experiments, since the automated identification of static areas fails in cases with stationary flow.

The mode of operation **Phantom Experiment** (GE-method) automatically finds a flow image stacks that have the same scanning parameters this useful when a static tissue have been scanned in the same position as the patient as recommended by GE for eddy current compensation. For usage, see paper by Alex Chernobelsky *et al.* [12].

23.4 Phase unwrapping

In cases were the velocity in the blood is higher than the VENC the velocities can wrap around. Under certain conditions these phase wraps can be uncovered and phase unwrapping can be performed to retrieve the correct velocities. The graphical user interface for the phase unwrapping tool is shown in Figure 40.

The checkbox **Show ROI pixels** shows the pixels that are used in the ROI in a red color. This is useful when one want to know exactly what pixels are included in the ROI. The checkbox **Use magnitude mask** is used when one want to limit the automated phase unwrapping only in pixels that have a magnitude over a certain threshold.

23.4.1 Automated unwrapping

The automated phase unwrapping algorithm works on a pixel by pixel basis and operates along the temporal dimension. It looks for pixels where the phase appears to have wrapped once up and once down. Therefore the algorithm will fail for a biphasic velocity profile if phase wrapping occurs at both phases. Furthermore, it only considers single wrap arounds (i.e the phase is assumed to have wrapped once).

23.4.2 Manual unwrapping

There are four tools available,     . The tool  is used to pan the images. The second tool  wraps the pixel up at left mouse button clicks. The third tool  wraps the pixel down at left mouse button clicks. The fourth tool  is used to plot the phase of the current pixel over time. This is mainly useful for debugging purposes. It is possible to zoom the image by usage of the zoom icons   . Undo last operation is done by pressing **Ctrl-Z** or the icon .

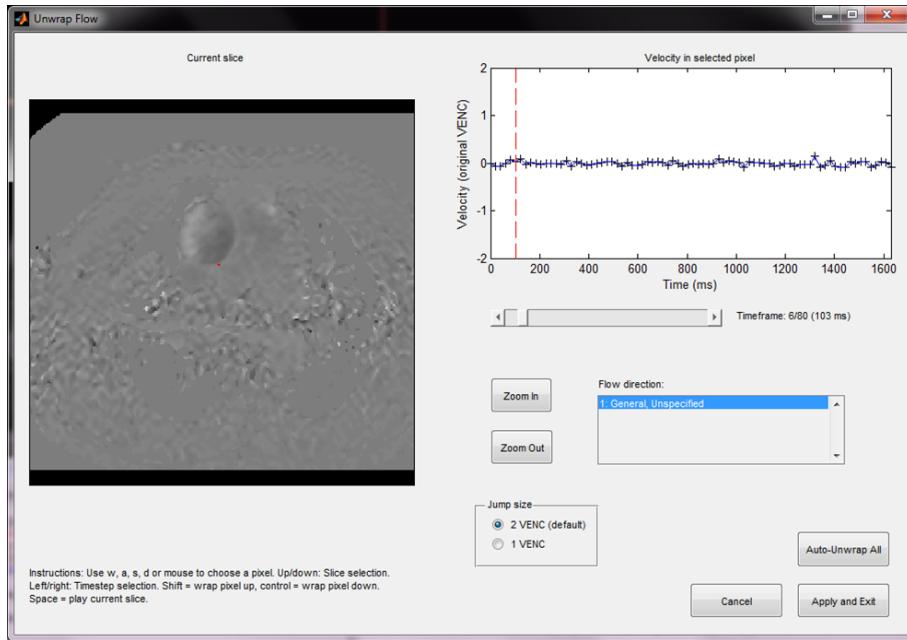


Figure 40: Example of the graphical user interface for phase unwrapping. The left image panel shows the original phase, and the right image panel shows the unwrapped phase. The long slider adjusts the current time frame.

23.5 Creating angio and velocity magnitude images

It is possible to create a so called angio image that is the magnitude image times the velocity magnitude. This is available under the **Flow** menu and **Create Angio**. If you have more than one velocity encoding direction it is possible to create a velocity magnitude image that is the square root of the sum of squares of all velocity directions (velocity magnitude).

23.6 Coupling magnitude and flow images

If magnitude and flow image stacks have been loaded into Segment without being coupled to each other, it is possible to couple them using the **Couple Magnitude/Phase Flow Image Stacks** from the **Flow** menu. Available magnitude and phase image stacks are then identified and coupled using heuristics.

24 Pulse Wave Velocity Analysis

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

An overview of the Pulse Wave Velocity module is shown in Figure 41. Upon launch, the module automatically finds the image stack that contains a measurement labelled **Aortic Length** and the two flow image stacks that contain ROI's labelled **Aortic ascending flow** and **Abdominal aorta**. The image on the left of the GUI shows the image containing the measurement. This measurement is displayed in yellow and the intersections with images containing flow are displayed as white lines. The plot on the right side shows the flow curves of the **Aortic ascending flow** ROI (in blue) and the **Abdominal Aorta** (in red). For each flow curve, the tangent of the upslope is calculated using a Gaussian smoothing function and displayed as a dashed line in the corresponding color. The sigma parameter of the smoothing function can be adjusted using the slider on the right of the plot.

Pulse wave velocity is calculated using the length of the **Aortic Length** measurement and the time between the upslopes of the flow curves. The time is measured as the temporal distance from the moment when the tangent of the **Aortic ascending flow** curve is equal to zero to the moment when the tangent of the **Abdominal Aorta** curve is equal to zero. This distance is displayed as a dotted portion of the black line along $y = 0$ in the plot. The values for aortic length, time between upslopes and calculated velocity are displayed in the GUI and can be exported to a spreadsheet by clicking the **Export** button.

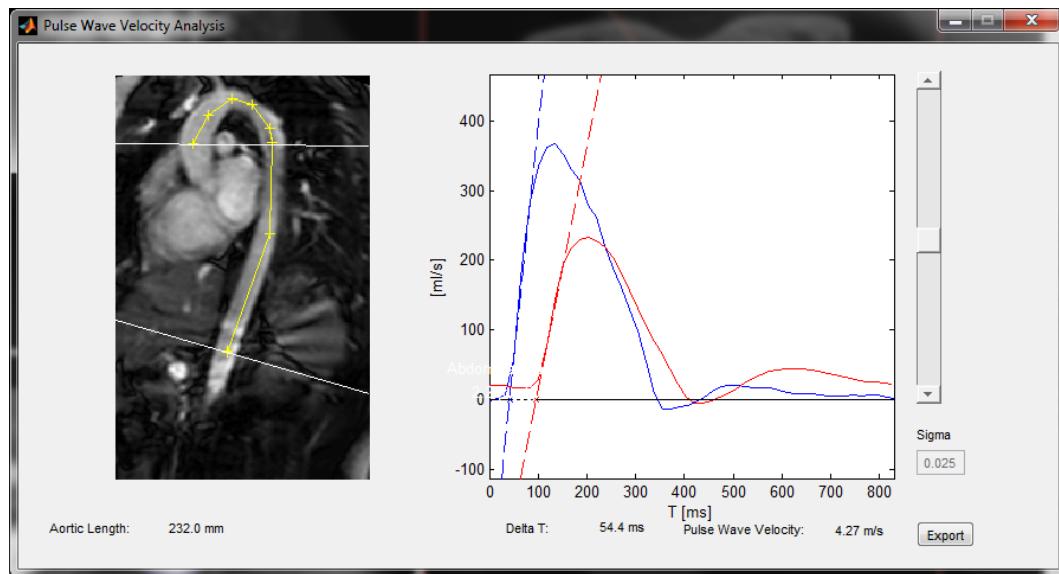


Figure 41: GUI for Pulse Wave Velocity Analysis. On the left is the image containing the measurement of Aortic Length. On the right is a plot of flow curves along with their respective tangents.

25 Stress Analysis

In earlier versions of Segment there were a special stress viewer available. This have been removed since it's functionality is now directly available in the normal viewing capabilities of Segment (synchronized viewing of several image stacks). It is possible to place four (or more) image stacks on the screen simultaneously and play them synchronized in the same speed by the icon . Other functionality in Segment that could be used to analyse stress images is the report per slice functionality, described in Section 26.2 which allows quantitative studies of wall motion abnormalities.

Further hints on doing stress analysis is to label your image stacks. Then it is easy for the viewer to see which image stack is stress and which is rest. This is done by right click on the image thumbnail and select **Set Image Type** in the pop-up menu.

26 Regional Wall Analysis

There are a number of different analysis options available to make regional wall analysis. Please note that for regional wall motion analysis the common clinical practice is to exclude the papillaries from the segmentation, for more information on how to include/exclude the papillaries, see Section 12.3.

There are three different visualization options available for wall motion analysis:

- Radial contraction versus time
- Report per slice (icon - Bullseye plots (icon 

26.1 Radial contraction versus time

In this option the regional contraction velocity per segment is plotted over time. On the y-axis on each plot is the slices (basal to apical), and on the x-axis is time. An example is shown in Figure 42.

26.2 Report per slice

It is possible to do regional wall motion analysis on a slice by slice basis. This tool is started by the icon Start Sector. How to place annotations, see Section 19.7.

CHAPTER 26. REGIONAL WALL ANALYSIS

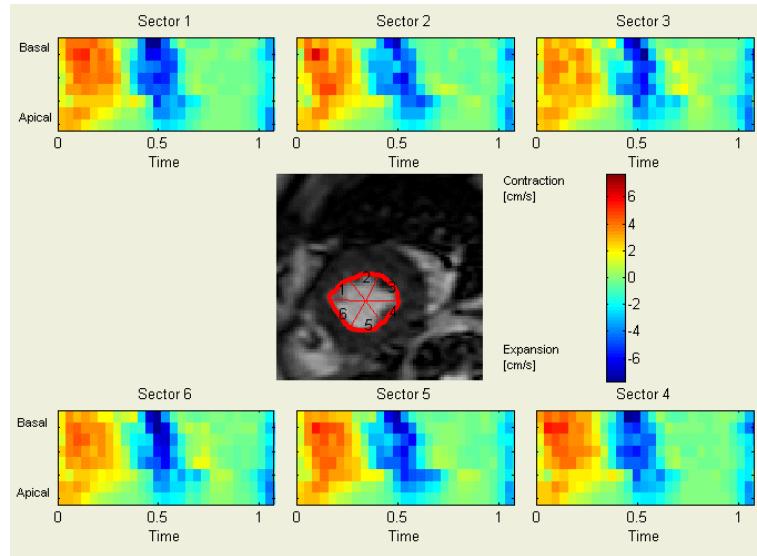


Figure 42: Radial velocity versus time in six sectors. Note the apical to basal gradient in the onset of the radial contraction.

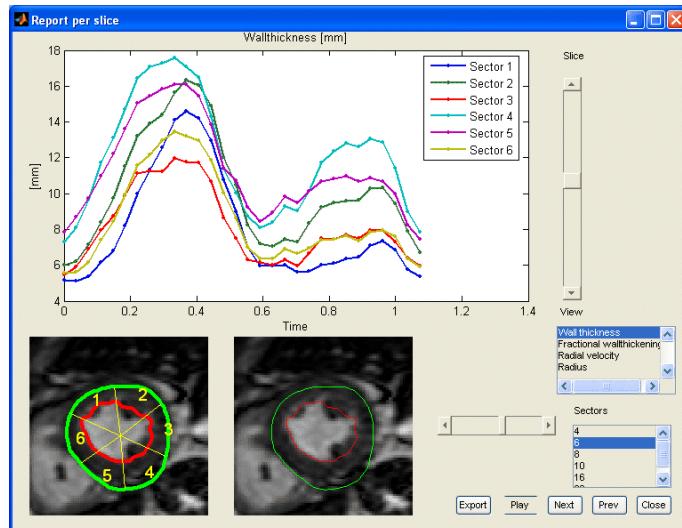


Figure 43: Wall thickness over time in a healthy subject.

27 LV Sphericity Analysis

LV sphericity can be calculated from the Report menu.

The sphericity of the left ventricle is defined as the maximum short-axis diameter divided by the length of the ventricle. This calculation is performed separately for ED and ES and for each of these timeframes, it is required that there exists LV endocardium segmentation in an open short-axis image stack, as well as an image stack containing a measurement labelled End Diastolic Length and End Systolic Length respectively.

The values of diameter and length of the ventricle and the calculated sphericity are displayed in a messagebox and copied to the clipboard, allowing the user to paste them into a spreadsheet.

28 Export Images and Results

There are many options to do batch exporting from multiple `.mat` files. Please see Chapter 20 for further details.

28.1 Export results to clipboard

These functions export results such as LV mass, ejection fraction, volumes etc, to the clipboard. Data is outputed in a format so that it directly can be pasted into Microsoft Excel (by usage of `Ctrl-V` in Excel) or other spread sheet softwares. When you need to export data from multiple files, it is strongly recommended to use the utility to summarize `.mat` files described in Section 20.10.

28.1.1 All stacks with header

This function exports the results of all image stacks and includes a header line above. Segment tries to use the image type to determine which image stacks are short axis cine images which are used for mass and ejection fraction, flow image stacks, delayed enhancement image stacks and so forth.

28.1.2 All stacks

Same as above but no header line is included in the output.

28.1.3 This stack with header

This function only outputs results from the current image stack and includes a header line.

28.1.4 This stack

Same as above but without including a header line.

28.2 Export volume curve to clipboard

The volume curve (both) endocardial volume, and epicardial volume is copied into two columns.

28.3 Export contour to clipboard

This function ask what contours to export and export the internal representation to the clipboard. You can currently chose to export LV endo-, epicardium, RV endo- and epicardium, respectively.

28.4 Export volume of contours per slice

This function export the volume of each contour per slice. Data is exported for all contours and all time frames. If you instead want to have the area per slice you can divide the result with the slice thickness in cm to get the area in cm^3 .

28.5 Export image

Using this option, only the current frame without segmentation is exported as a file. You need to select file format, and the following formats are supported: `.jpg`, `.bmp`, `.png` (portable network graphics), and `.tiff`. The recommended image format to use is `.png`.

28.6 Export screenshot

Using this option, the current frame including segmentation is exported as a file. The following image formats are supported: `.jpg`, `.bmp`, `.png` (portable network graphics), and `.tiff`. The recommended image format to use is `.png`. There is also an option to save the screenshot file to a PACS system.

When preparing images for publication it is often helpful to change the color of the contours to black/white and increase line width to increase visibility. This can be done under the preferences menu, see Chapter 29 for further details.

28.7 Export movies

Exporting movies can be done by either using the built-in movie recorder in Segment or by exporting the current image stack as a movie (**Export Movie**).

28.8 Movie Recorder

This is an experimental functionality that take screen captures and store them in a movie format. The movies can be done in two ways and either to .avi-files or a sequence of .png files (that later can be converted to different file formats). In future versions it will also be possible to export to animated .gif format. You can create movies of the main view, zoom view, 3D plot view, report per slice view. First select **Movie Recorder** under the **Export** menu. This brings up a user interface shown in Figure 44.

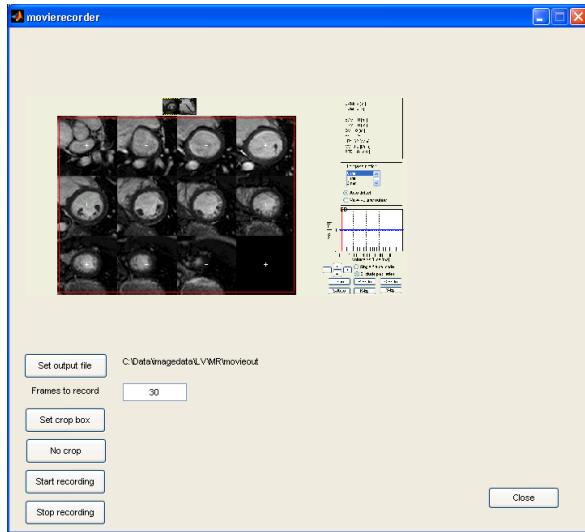


Figure 44: Movie Recorder GUI.

The movie recorder is when started unpopulated. To do a first screen capture force an image update by view next frame. You can now set a crop box (shown in Figure 44 as a red box), set number of frames to record, and start to record the movie. Usually you should set the number of frames to record to the same number of time frames as there are frames in the image stack. When all frames are recorded then a file selection pop up menu appears and where you can select storing options. When exporting to .avi files you need also to select a movie compressor, since all compressors might not be available on your computer. Personal experiences are that the cine-pak encoder are pretty stable.

29 Customizing Segment

This chapter describes how to customize Segment. It is recommended to set the preferences of which folders to use to avoid browsing each time you want to load or save a file. The GUI for setting preferences is shown in Figure 45. It is invoked by using the menu **Preferences** on the main menu.

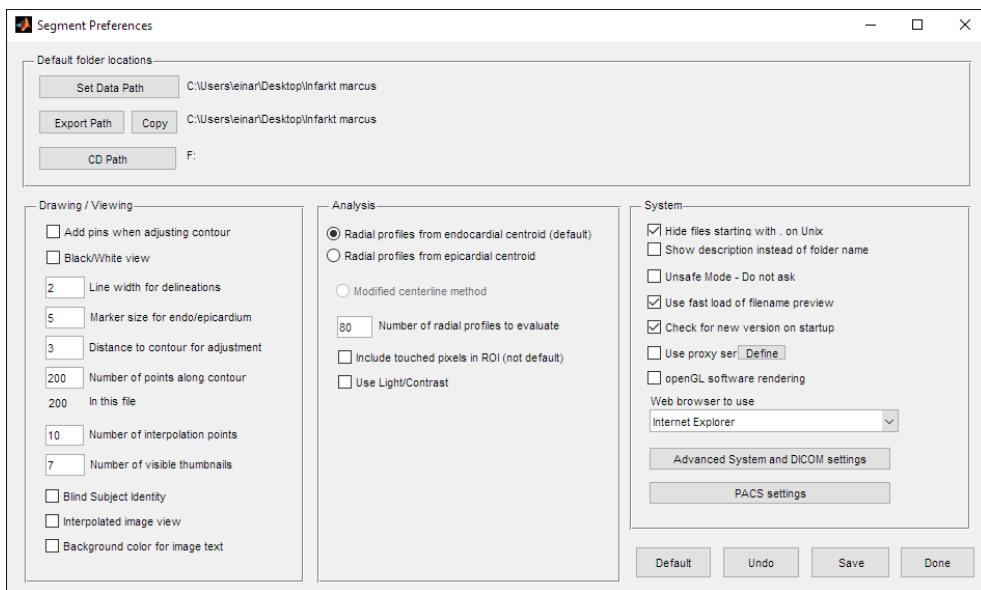


Figure 45: Preferences GUI.

There are four panels in total. The top most panels sets default folder locations for loading, and saving, respectively. It is also possible to indicate which drive / path that corresponds to your CD-drive. Then, the left most panel sets preferences for editing and drawing contours, the middle panel sets preferences for regional analysis, and the right most panel sets system preferences. The button **Advanced System and DICOM Settings** opens a new interface with settings for base image path for patient database, and DICOM communication parameters. The button **PACS Settings** opens an interface with settings for PACS communication.

The option **Add pins when adjusting contour** controls whether points should be placed when manually correcting a contour. This option should be checked when modifying time resolved images, but unchecked otherwise.

Black/White view plots the endocardium and epicardium with white lines. This is useful for making screen captures for illustrations that are not printed in color. The edit box **Line width for endo/epicardium** sets line width for the contours. This again is useful for making screen captures. Default line width is 1. The edit box **Distance to contour for adjustment** adjust how close to a contour one needs to click before this contour is activate. When using the interpolate tool it is recommended to set this to quite small, typically 1-2. The edit box **Number of Points Along Contour** sets the number of points that are stored along a contour for endocardium and epicardium. When using automated segmentation this value should be set to 80. When manually drawing complicated objects this can be set to a higher number. If the option **Blind Subject Identity** is checked then the program will not show patient info on screen this is useful for making screen shots etc for presentations. It is highly useful when doing research and the observer should be blinded to the patient identity. The edit box **Number of visible thumbnails** sets the maximum number of thumbnails visible. When the number of image stacks exceeds this number a slider will be visible to scroll through all the thumbnails.

The radio buttons **Radial profiles from endo/epicardial centroid** controls how regional wall measures are placed. The radio button **Modified centerline method** is reserved for future use when the modified centerline method will be implemented. The edit box **Number of radial profiles to evaluate** sets the number of radial spikes that are evaluated before sector means are calculated. For more details on how the regional parameters are calculated see Chapter 46. The checkbox **Include touched pixels in ROI** sets how the edge pixels of a ROI are treated. When selected all pixels that are touched by the ROI are included. The default behavior is to include only the pixels where the center of the pixel lies within the ROI.

The checkbox **Allow DICOM cache** allows creation of cache files for tags in DICOM files to be generated.

The web browser to be used can be chosen in the drop list by either choosing

29.1. IMAGE DESCRIPTION SETTINGS

a program if it is installed in the default location or choose other to browse for the program file to use for example select `chrome.exe`, or `firefox.exe`.

Customization of the Report Module is described in Chapter 40.

The `Use proxy server` checkbox allows for usage of a proxy server. When clicking the checkbox you are given a message indicating if there is a proxy server defined. If not, you are given a form in which you can specify a proxy server. The lower two fields are optional. There is also a define button in which you can specify your desired proxy server.

You can configure which OpenGL rendering to use via the checkbox `openGL software rendering`. If it is checked you are using OpenGL software, if not you are using the OpenGL hardware rendering.

29.1 Image description settings

The automatical definition of image description parameters upon loading is controlled by a parse file. A schematic view of the parse file is shown in Figure 46.

```
#Imaging technique
'output', 'string matched against sequence name', 'string matched against seriesdescription',
'string matched against modality', 'string matched against filename', matlab code

#Image type
'output', 'string matched against sequence name', 'string matched against seriesdescription',
'string matched against modality', 'string matched against filename', matlab code

#Image type
'output', 'string matched against sequence name', 'string matched against seriesdescription',
'string matched against modality', 'string matched against filename', matlab code
```

Figure 46: Schematic view of the parse file for image description settings.

Correctly defined image description parameters is important in the use of automatic analysis tools. The image description is divided into three parameters; Imaging technique, Image type and Image view plane. The definition of image description parameters is controlled by manually change the parse file

`imagedescription.txt` according to Figure 46. This make it possible to adjust the definition of image description parameters to different acquisition parameters settings. There are no limitations in the number of specifications below each image description parameter. An example of a parse file is shown in Figure 47, and is also helpful to study the default file `imagedescription.txt`. If you have questions, please contact `support@medviso.com` for further details.

```
#Image type
General,,,
Perfusion Rest,,rest,,,
Perfusion Rest,,,REST,
Late enhancement,,DE,,,
Late enhancement,,Viabilitetm3d,,,
Late enhancement,,3D viab,,,
Cine,,sbFE,,,isempty(SET(no).Flow)
Cine,,M2D,,,

#Image view plane
Unspecified,,,
2CH,,2ch,,,
3CH,,3ch,,,
4CH,,4ch,,,
Sagittal,,sag,,,
Coronal,,cor,,,
Frontal,,front,,,
Transversal,,trans,,,

#Imaging technique
Unspecified,,,
MRSSFP,,SSFP,,,
MRSSFP,,TF2d,,,
MRSSFP,,Fiesta,,,
MRDE,,DE,,,
MRDE,,psir,,,
NM,,,NM,,,
PT,,,PT,,,
CTheart,,,CT,,,
US,,,US,,
```

Figure 47: Example of a parse file for image description settings.

29.2 Advanced and DICOM Settings

The graphical interface for advanced settings is shown in Figure 48. The GUI is divided into four sections; Database settings and Segment Server settings; Report settings, Sending DICOM files; and DICOM interpretation. Please note that these operations may require that you run the software as Administrator (not only being logged in as Administrator). This is done by right clicking on the icon of the software and then select "Run as administrator".

In this section we will only describe Report settings and DICOM interpretations as the other settings are explained in conjunction with Segment Server documentation, and Patient Database Module which are described in the

Patient Database and PACS communication Manual.

The Reporter Settings adjust where the temporary reports are stored. By default this is done in a subfolder called **Report** in the folder where the Patient Database is located. The folder PAF report folder is a Swedish Client Patient Administrative Report and can be ignored.

The DICOM interpretation adjusts how Segment interprets DICOM files. The checkbox **Force 16 bit DICOM** enforces Segment to assume usage of 16 bit DICOM files, regardless what is stated in the file. This option is helpful when images looks like chessboard when read into Segment. For further details see about loading DICOM files in Chapter 9.

29.3 PACS Settings

PACS Settings are described in the Patient Database and PACS Communication Manual.

29.4 Technical details

On Windows platform, the preferences are stored under the local user folder and the subdirectory **Application Data/Segment**. This means that each user have can set their own preferences. It is possible to create a set of default settings by using the option **Save to all** where the preferences are saved to a file called **default_preferences.mat** in the folder where Segment is installed. This will also override all PACS and Segment Server settings for all users. In the preferences folder Segment also stores a log file for debugging purposes, and small temporary files that are used in the PACS communication batchdownload process.

CHAPTER 29. CUSTOMIZING SEGMENT

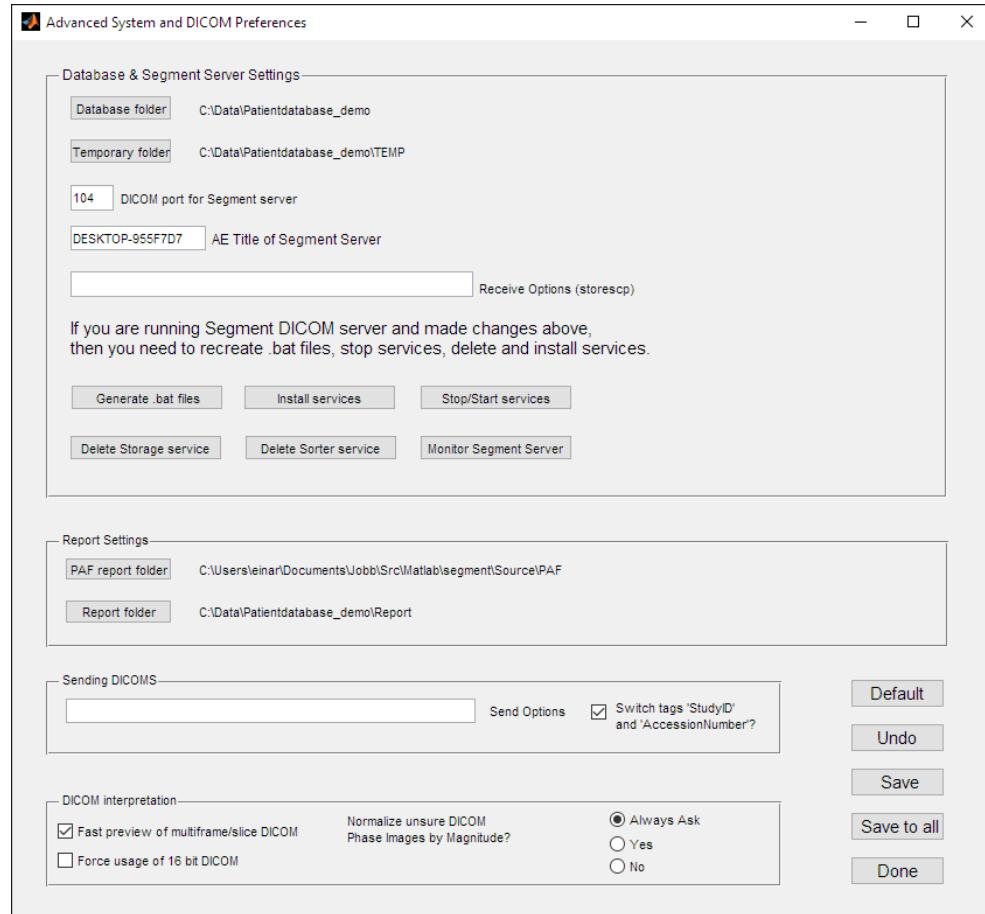


Figure 48: Advanced and DICOM Settings GUI.

30 Image Reformat (MPR)

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

It is possible to reformat an image stack along any axis. The main purpose of this tool is to be able to resample the data volume to short axis slices (if they are for instance scanned in an axial direction). The reformater can also be used to construct a long-axis image from a stack of short-axis slices. The user interface is shown in Figure 49.

One limitation with the multiplanar reconstruction is that it does not utilize the patient image coordinate system. This means that image stacks created with the reformater does not display image plane crossings. This will be addressed in future versions of Segment. Furthermore, the MPR routine does not currently support non-isotropical voxels (i.e voxels of dimension 3x4x8 mm). Voxels where x and y size are equal do work, i.e 3x3x8 mm works fine.

The functions are:

New cut

Resamples into parallel slices to the selected line. The cuts are also perpendicular to the viewing direction.

Previous cut

Backs up one level in the cut history. The current cut is not saved.

Done/Export

Exports the resample image stack back to Segment.

Play

Then this toggle button is selected then the image is played as a movie.

Close

Closes the dialog resampler without storing any information.

Parameter slice determines the slice distance in mm, and output determines

CHAPTER 30. IMAGE REFORMAT (MPR)

the output resolution in the new 'short-axis' plane.

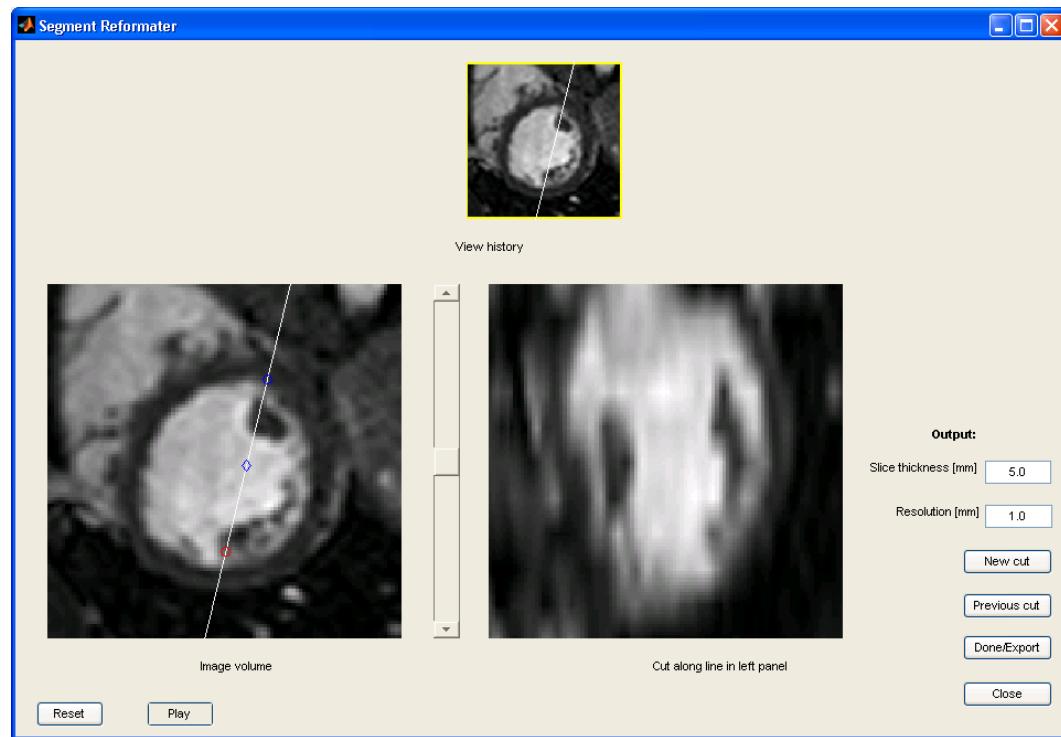


Figure 49: Image reformater GUI.

31 T2* Quantification Module

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

In magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, T1, T2 and T2* relaxation times represent characteristic tissue properties that can be quantified with the help of specific imaging strategies. The purpose of the T2* Module is to quantify T2* relaxation times in MR imaging. Quantification of T2* values follows the same underlying mathematical principles as T2, but gradient-echo (GRE) source images are used instead of spin-echo (SE) images.

T2* changes have been shown and quantified under pharmacological test in coronary artery disease [13], quantification of iron overload and of the heart and liver in Thalassaemia major [14].

T2* values can be quantified by varying GRE echo times.

31.1 Module overview

An overview of the T2* quantification module is shown in Figure 50. The top left image panel shows the magnitude images for the different echo times, adjustable with the echo time slider. The lower left panel allows zooming functionality, the lower middle panel allows to make regional restriction on what regions to quantify. There are three modes and in the first mode **Use only myocardium** the pixels inside the myocardium is included in the quantification. The second mode **Use only ROI** includes only pixels that are inside region of interests. In the last mode **Use full image** all pixels are included in the quantification. The delineation of ROI's and myocardium is taken from the first time frame in the image series. The right image panel shows the pixelwise T2* values.

CHAPTER 31. $T2^*$ QUANTIFICATION MODULE

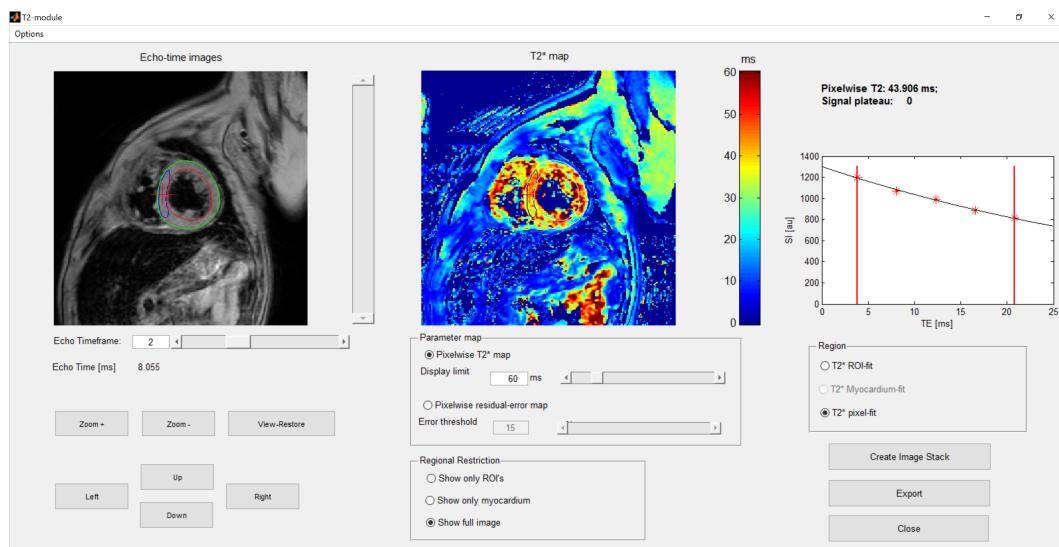


Figure 50: GUI for quantification of $T2^*$ values. The top left image panel shows the magnitude images for the different echo times, adjustable with the echo time slider. The right image panel shows the pixelwise $T2^*$ values.

The right lower panel shows the fittig curve over time. The mean T2* value is presented in the graph and the associated graph title. The region for the mean value calculation is according to the selection of the checkboxes to the right, either T2* ROI-fit or T2* pixel-fit. The T2* pixel-fit takes the T2* values according to the red cross in the right image panel.

T2* values can be exported to spreadsheet by using the **Export** button. To create the T2* image stack in the main GUI of Segment use the **Create Image Stacks** button.

31.2 Implementation

The detailed implementation of the T2* calculation is given in Chapter 46. In short the calculation is performed with standard exponential curve fitting that is calculated in the least square sense.

31.3 Validation

The module has been validated comparing to the open source software MRmap [15]. More validation details is available in a separate report from Medviso AB.

32 T2 Quantification Module

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

In magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, T1, T2 and T2* relaxation times represent characteristic tissue properties that can be quantified with the help of specific imaging strategies. The purpose of the T2 Module is to quantify T2 relaxation times in MR imaging. Quantification of T2 values corresponds to finding the time constant of the exponential signal decay of refocused spin-echo imaging.

T2 changes have been shown to correlate with water content [?].

T2 values can be quantified by varying spin-echo times.

32.1 Module overview

An overview of the T2 quantification module is shown in Figure 51. The top left image panel shows the magnitude images for the different echo times, adjustable with the echo time slider. The lower left panel allows zooming functionality, the lower middle panel allows to make regional restriction on what regions to quantify. There are three modes and in the first mode **Use only myocardium** the pixels inside the myocardium is included in the quantification. The second mode **Use only ROI** includes only pixels that are inside region of interests. In the last mode **Use full image** all pixels are included in the quantification. The delineation of ROI's and myocardium is taken from the first time frame in the image series. The right image panel shows the pixelwise T2 values.

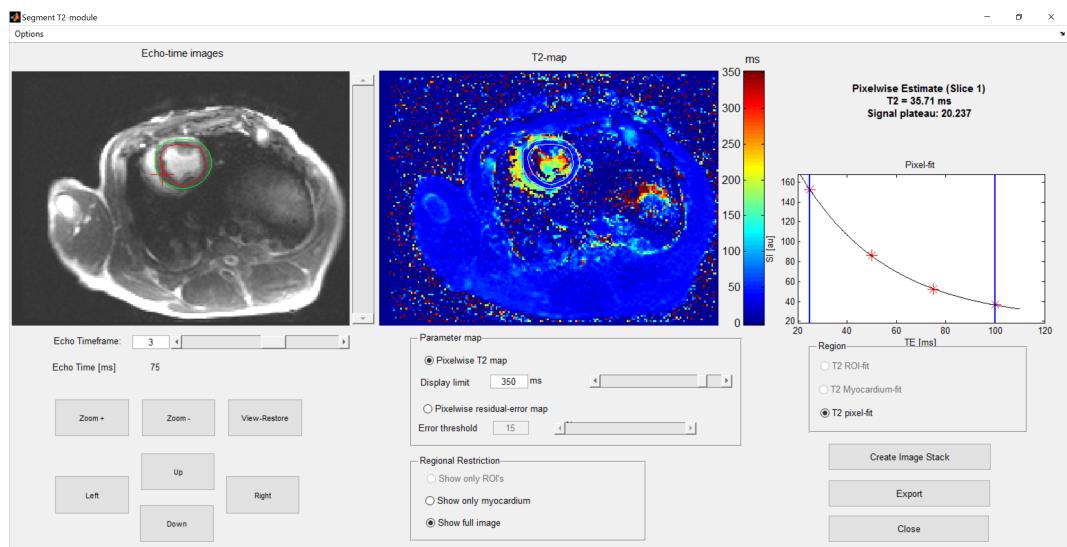


Figure 51: GUI for quantification of T2 values. The top left image panel shows the magnitude images for the different echo times, adjustable with the echo time slider. The right image panel shows the pixelwise T2 values.

The right lower panel shows the fitting curve over time. The mean T2 value is presented in the graph and the associated graph title. The region for the mean value calculation is according to the selection of the checkboxes to the right, either **T2 ROI-fit** or **T2 pixel-fit**. The T2 pixel-fit takes the T2 values according to the red cross in the right image panel.

T2 values can be exported to spreadsheet by using the **Export** button. To create the T2 image stack in the main GUI of Segment use the **Create Image Stacks** button.

32.2 Implementation

The detailed implementation of the T2 calculation is given in Chapter 46. In short the calculation is performed with standard exponential curve fitting that is calculated in the least square sense.

32.3 Validation

The module has been validated in an open access publication [?].

33 T1 Quantification Module

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

In magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, T1, T2 and T2* relaxation times represent characteristic tissue properties that can be quantified with the help of specific imaging strategies. The purpose of the T1 Module is to quantify T1 relaxation times in MR imaging. Quantification of T1 values corresponds to finding the time constant of the exponential regrowth of longitudinal relaxation MR-signal strength.

T1 values can be quantified by varying inversion- or saturation-times.

33.1 Module overview

An overview of the T1 quantification module is shown in Figure 52. The top left image panel shows the magnitude images for the different inversion/saturation times. The lower left panel allows zooming functionality, the lower middle panel allows to make regional restriction on what regions to quantify. There are three modes and in the first mode **Use only myocardium** the pixels inside the myocardium is included in the quantification. The second mode **Use only ROI** includes only pixels that are inside region of interests. In the last mode **Use full image** all pixels are included in the quantification. The delineation of ROI's and myocardium is taken from the first time frame in the image series. The right image panel shows the pixelwise T1 values.

CHAPTER 33. T1 QUANTIFICATION MODULE

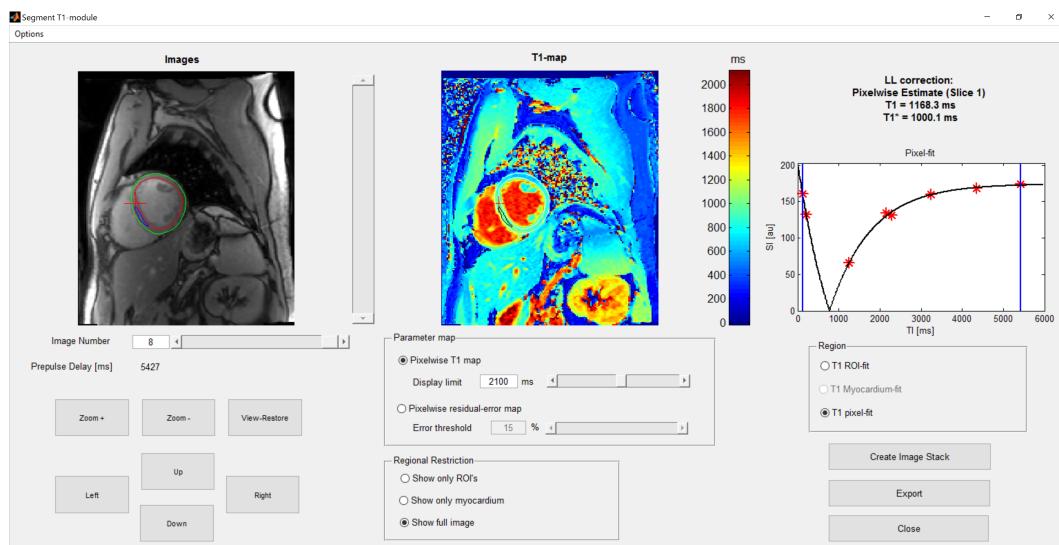


Figure 52: GUI for quantification of T1 values. The top left image panel shows the magnitude images for the different inversion/saturation times, adjustable with the inversion/saturation time slider. The right image panel shows the pixelwise T1 values.

The right lower panel shows the fitting curve over time. The mean T1 value is presented in the graph and the associated graph title. The region for the mean value calculation is according to the selection of the checkboxes to the right, either **T1 ROI-fit** or **T1 pixel-fit**. The T1 pixel-fit takes the T1 values according to the red cross in the right image panel.

T1 values can be exported to spreadsheet by using the **Export** button. To create the T1 image stack in the main GUI of Segment use the **Create Image Stacks** button.

33.2 Implementation

The detailed implementation of the T1 calculation is given in Chapter 46. In short the calculation is performed with standard exponential curve fitting that is calculated in the least square sense.

33.3 Validation

The module has been validated in an open access publication [?].

34 SPECT Analysis Module

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

The SPECT Analysis Module is work in progress and therefore are not all automatic analysis tools currently freely available. The SPECT analysis module can be used in both gated and non-gated image stacks for analysis of left ventricular mass and volumes, quantification of stress-induced ischemia, myocardial infarction and myocardium at risk. To use the automatic analysis tools, the **Imaging Technique** has to be defined as NM.

34.1 Visualization

In addition to the regular view of image stacks within Segment there are two visualization views specific for SPECT images. By using **Plot 2D View** under the **SPECT** menu a separate graphical user interface is opened with three short-axis slices (one basal, one midventricular and one apical slice) and horizontal and vertical long-axis projections. The user interface is shown in Figure 53. In the left panels the stress image stack are shown and in the right panels the rest image stack. For Segment to be able to identify the rest and stress image stack, the **Image Type** has to be defined as Perfusion Stress and Perfusion Rest, respectively. By using the + and - buttons in the lower panel the LV segmentation for each image stack can be manually corrected by include / exclude basal or apical SA-slices in the LV segmentation. For gated image stacks the visualization is time resolved and the left ventricular blood volume is illustrated as a curve over time to the right in the interface.

A three dimensional view of the counts within the LV myocardium is presented by using **Plot 3D Surface** under the **SPECT** menu. This will open a separate graphical user interface, shown in Figure 54.

34.2 Automatic segmentation of the left ventricle

The function **Auto Delineate LV** under the **SPECT** menu automatically segment the left ventricle in the current image stack. To use the function the

CHAPTER 34. SPECT ANALYSIS MODULE

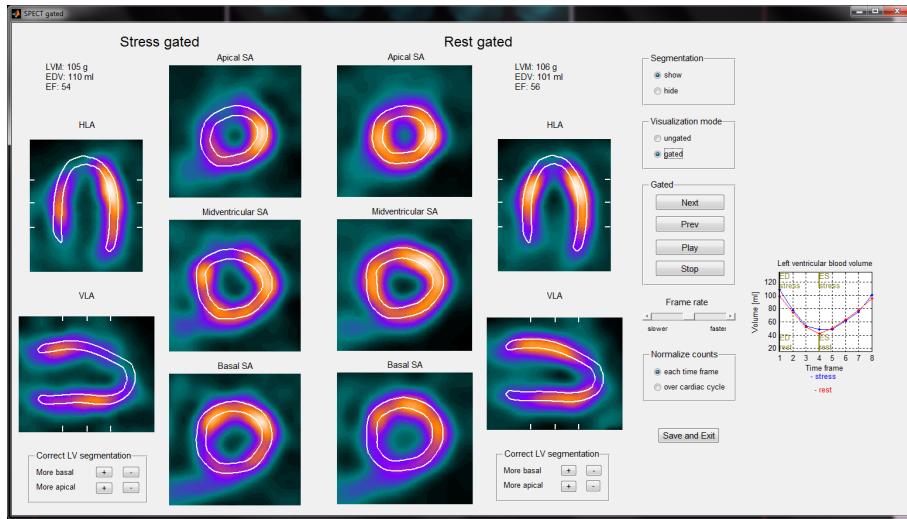


Figure 53: Graphical user interface of the 2 dimensional visualization for SPECT images.

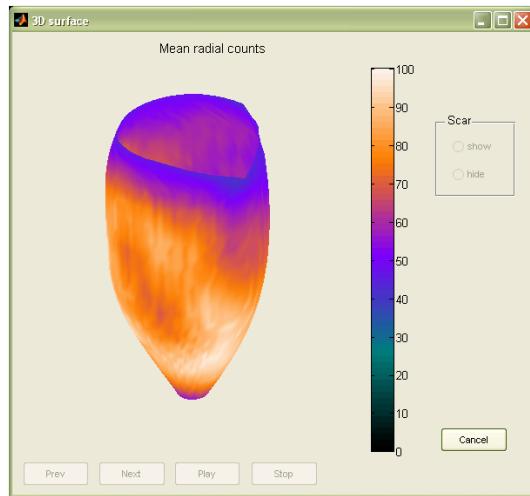


Figure 54: Graphical user interface of the 3 dimensional visualization for SPECT images.

34.2. AUTOMATIC SEGMENTATION OF THE LEFT VENTRICLE

image stack must fulfill the following requirements.

- The image stack need to be in short-axis projection.
- The "Number of points along the contour" must be greater than or equal to 50 (define in the Preferences menu).
- The slices have to be in the order basal to apex when go through the slices from the top to the bottom. If this requirement is not fulfilled use the function **Flip z** (also **Flip in x**) under **Flip & Rotate→Image tools**.
- The septal part of the heart have to be in the left side of the image.

A segmented left ventricle is shown in Figure 55. The endocardial segmentation is illustrated as red lines and the epicardial segmentation as green lines.

34.2.1 Manual corrections

If the results from the automatic left ventricular segmentation algorithm is not satisfying, the user can do manual corrections. This can be done in four ways:

- Crop the image stack using the icon  (find in the lower right panel in the main interface). If there are extra-cardiac activity this can affect the segmentation.
- Manually select short-axis slices for the LV segmentation. This is done by select the slices in question for the segmentation by using the icon  (find in the lower right panel in the main interface).
- Manually point out the center point of the left ventricle. Use the icon  (find in the lower right panel in the main interface) and place two points in the middle of the left ventricle in two different image slices. The program then adjust a center point line through all slices by adjusting a straight line to these two center points. It is important that it is just two points because otherwise the segmentation algorithm ignores them and automatically select center point.
- Manually change the finished segmentation with the pen for endocardium segmentation  and epicardium segmentation .

34.3 Automatic quantification of myocardium at risk

To perform automatic segmentation of the myocardium at risk (MaR) in the segmented left ventricle use the function **Auto Detect MaR** under the **Myocardium at Risk** and **SPECT** menu. The MaR in the SPECT image are defined as a region with low intensity. The intensity limit that define the perfusion defect are set by the MaR preferences, as described in the next section. An example of outlined MaR are shown in Figure 55. From the segmentation, the MaR is quantified by percentage extent, absolute volume in ml, severity of the defect and total perfusion deficit (TPD). The TPD value includes both extent and severity of the MaR and ranges between 0 (no perfusion defect) to 100 (severe perfusion defect in the whole LV).

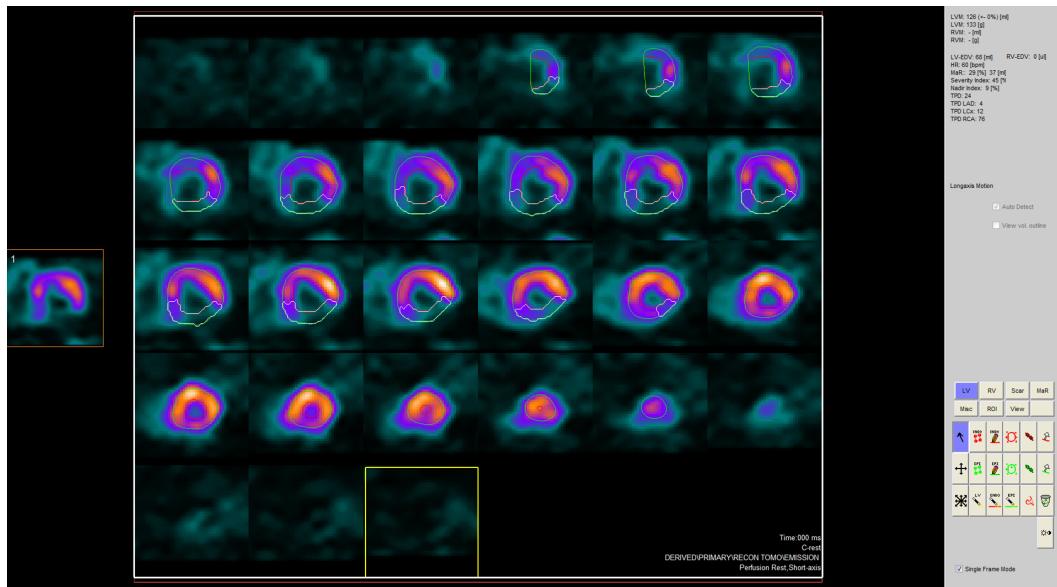


Figure 55: An example of a segmented left ventricle with myocardium at risk outlined. The red line is the endocardium, the green line the epicardium and the yellow line the perfusion defect.

34.3.1 Define RV center

In order to calculate the TPD value for each of the sections of the LV supplied by the three main coronary arteries (LAD, RCA, and LCx), the placement of

34.3. AUTOMATIC QUANTIFICATION OF MYOCARDIUM AT RISK

the right ventricle in relation to the left ventricle need to be defined. This is done by estimating the RV center straight to the left of the LV center. This estimation can then be corrected manually in the interface shown in Figure 56. The RV center definition is performed as one step in the quantification of myocardium at risk. In the interface, use the button "Set manually" to correct the RV center definition and the button "Confirm" when the RV center definition is satisfying.



Figure 56: The interface for definition of the right ventricular center point.

34.3.2 Set preferences

The MaR preferences are set by the function **Set MaR preferences** under the **Myocardium at Risk** and **SPECT** menu. The preferences are set for each image stack which make it possibly to have different preferences for different image stacks.

The MaR preferences interface is shown in Figure 57. The choice made in the upper panel determine the region for which the count calculations are done in. The two selections are ROI (the default value) and Image. The Image selection include all pixels in the image in the defect calculation while

the ROI selection only include the pixels within the LV segmentation in the calculations. The "Count Maximum" number is defining the percentile (the default value is 100%). The "Threshold" number is determined the percent of Count Maximum which defined a defect (the default value is 55%). All pixels with a count lower than this value are included in the MaR segmentation process. The "Minimum volume" number determined the smallest volume for a defect, expressed as percentage of the LVM (the default value is 10%). All defects with a volume smaller than this number are excluded from the MaR segmentation. The two selection for the subdivision of the LV used in the a priori model are the default model (based on normal coronary artery perfusion territories) and the standard 17-segment model. The choice in the lowest panel determine if the a priori model of the coronary distribution should be used in the MaR segmentation or not.

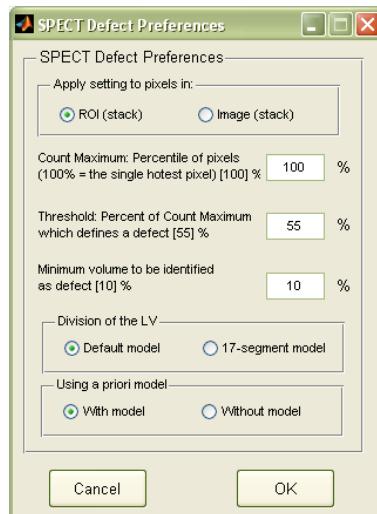


Figure 57: The MaR preferences interface.

34.3.3 Reset MaR

To reset the MaR quantification use the function **Reset MaR** under the **Myocardium at Risk** and **SPECT** menu. This function reset both the MaR segmentation and the MaR preferences for the current image stack.

34.4 Perfusion analysis

The automatic analysis of myocardial perfusion is work in progress and will be made freely available upon publication of these algorithms.

34.4.1 Automatic quantification of stress-induced ischemia and infarction

To perform automatic quantification of stress-induced ischemia and infarction both a rest and stress image stack need to be present. For Segment to be able to identify the rest and stress image stack, the **Image Type** has to be defined as Perfusion Stress and Perfusion Rest, respectively. The automatic quantification of stress-induced ischemia and infarction in SPECT images is performed by two steps. First, an image registration is performed between the rest and the stress image stacks. Secondly, segmentation and quantification of the perfusion defects is performed by using the rest and stress counts, the stress-rest count change and the rest wall thickening (if a gated rest image stack is present). The following sections describe the two steps.

Image registration

The image registration between the rest and the stress image stacks is performed by using the function **Auto Image Registration** under the **Perfusion** and **SPECT** menu. The registration method is based on statistical optimization and the result can therefore vary slightly each time registration is performed on the same image stacks. To only show the registration result, use the function **Show Image Registration** under the **Perfusion** and **SPECT** menu. Figure 58 shows the result by the automatic registration algorithm. From the interface, it is possible to manually correct the registration by using the tools to the right in the interface. To reset the manual corrections and go back to the automatic registration, use the button "Reset registration" in the interface. To continue with the automatic perfusion analysis, use the button "Perfusion analysis".

Segmentation and quantification

The quantification of stress-induced ischemia and infarction is performed by using the function **Auto Perfusion Analysis** under the **Perfusion** and **SPECT** menu. A pre-request to perform perfusion analysis is image registration

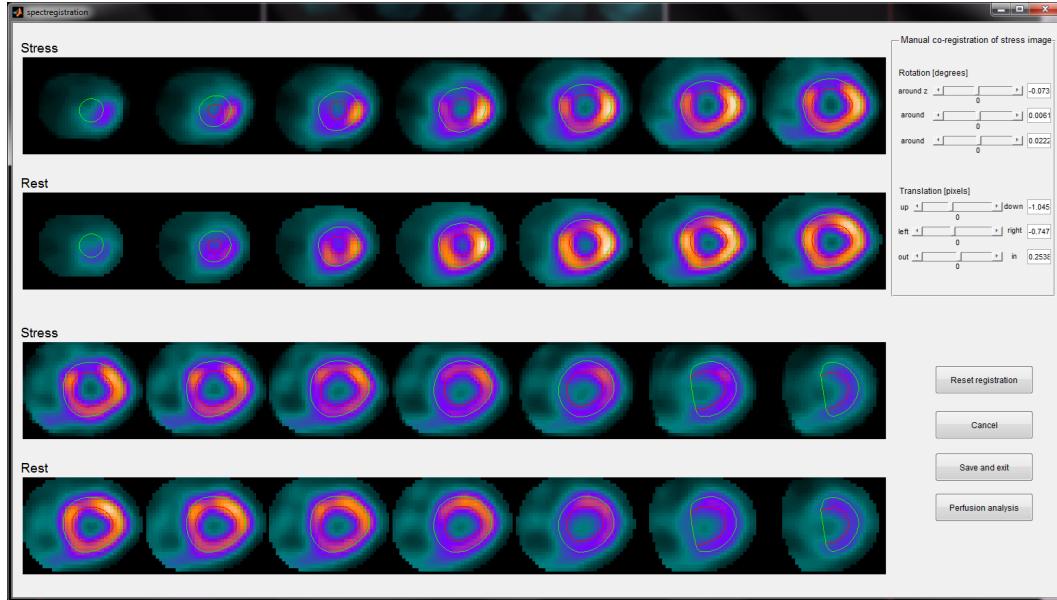


Figure 58: The rest-stress registration interface.

between rest and stress image stacks, as described in the previous section. Figure 59 illustrate the interface for showing the perfusion analysis result. The defect quantification is presented for both the rest and the stress study as well as for the stress-rest change. The rest defect is the quantification of myocardial infarction and the stress-rest change is the quantification of stress-induced ischemia. The defect quantifications are presented both as percentage extent of the LV, absolute volume in ml and by Total perfusion deficit (TPD). TPD is a measure of the perfusion defect including both the extent and the severity of the defect. It is presented for the whole LV as well as for each of the three coronary arteries (LAD, LCx, and RCA). To be able to calculate the TPD for LAD, LCx and RCA, the RV center need to be defined. This is done as described in the previous section "Define RV center".

34.4.2 Automatic quantification of stress perfusion defect

When there is only a stress MPS image stack present, the perfusion analysis tool (Auto Perfusion Analysis under the Perfusion and SPECT menu) can only

34.4. PERFUSION ANALYSIS

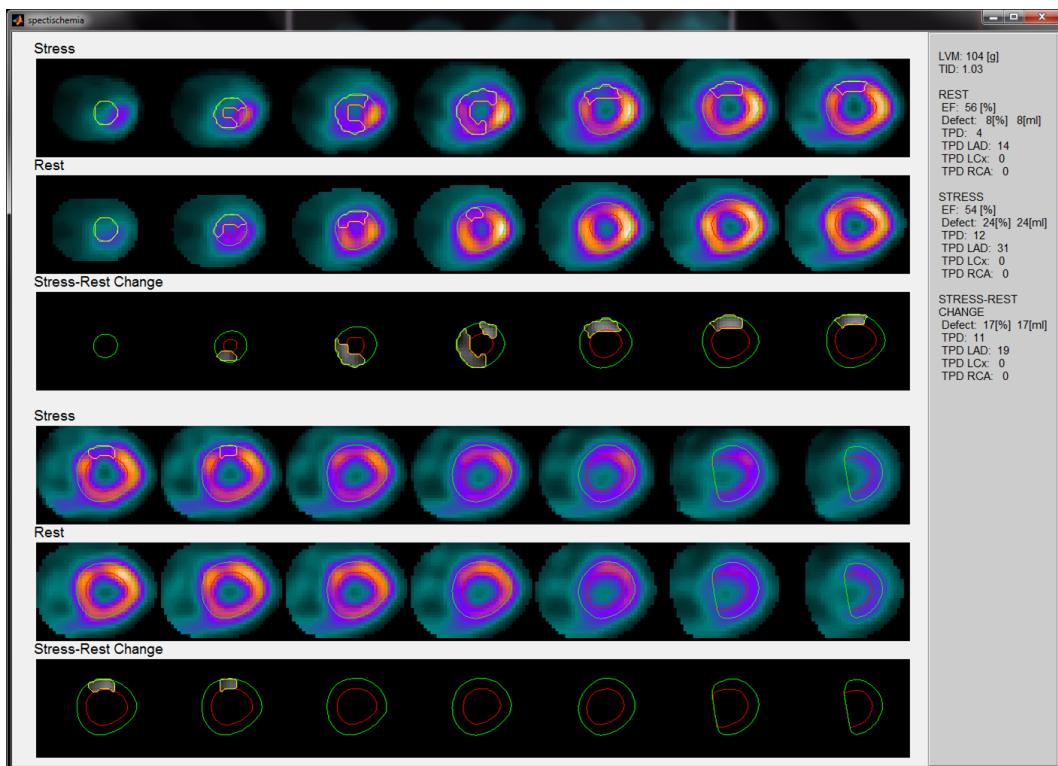


Figure 59: The perfusion analysis interface. The red line is the endocardium, the green line the epicardium and the yellow line the perfusion defect.

quantify stress perfusion defects. The automatic quantification is performed by using the counts in the stress image stack and the result is illustrated in an interface similar to the interface shown in Figure 59. The defect quantification is presented both as percentage extent of the LV, absolute volume in ml and by Total perfusion deficit (TPD). TPD is a measure of the perfusion defect including both the extent and the severity of the defect. It is presented for the whole LV as well as for each of the three coronary arteries (LAD, LCx, and RCA). To be able to calculate the TPD for LAD, LCx and RCA, the RV center need to be defined. This is done as described in the previous section "Define RV center".

34.4.3 Manual perfusion scoring

Segment provides an interface for manual scoring of tracer uptake and myocardial infarction. The interface is illustrated in Figure 60. The scoring is performed for each of the segments in the AHA 17 segment model. Summed scores are calculated for stress (SSS), rest (SRS) and stress-rest difference (SDS). There are two modes for the scoring, the first illustrating the rest and the stress ungated images and are for scoring of the tracer uptake. The scoring values should be between 0 and 4 as described to the right in the interface. The second scoring mode is found by choosing "gated" under the Visualization mode. This opens the interface for scoring the precens of myocardial infarction. For this pupose, the rest gated and ungated image stacks are used and the scoring values should be between 0 and 2 as described to the right in the interface.

34.4. PERFUSION ANALYSIS

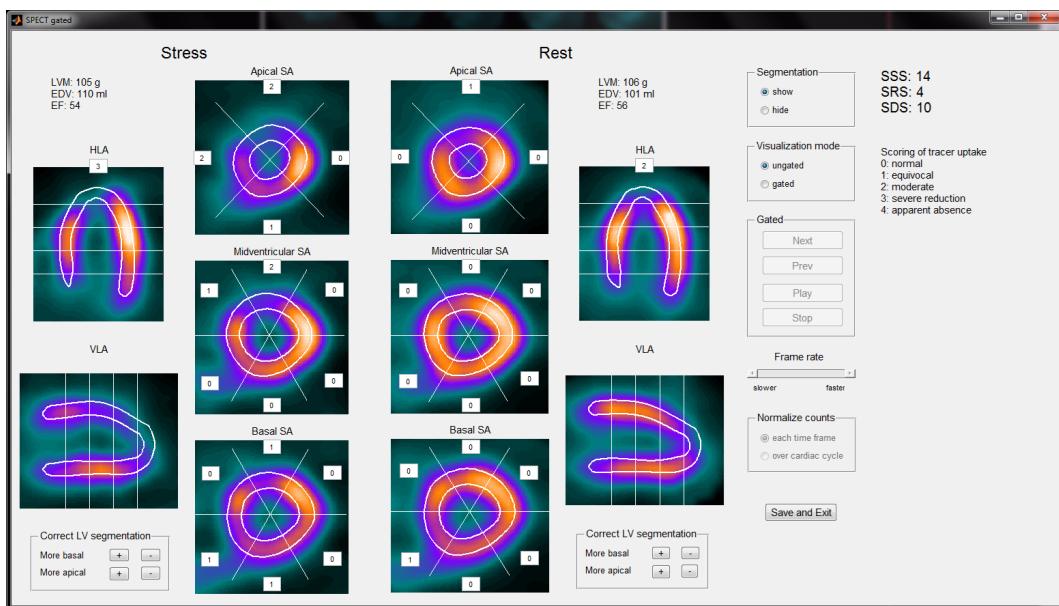


Figure 60: The perfusion scoring interface. The LV is divided into 17 segments according to AHA model.

35 Cardiac CT Module

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

Currently we are working on a Cardiac CT Module that will be useful for automated segmentation and image analysis of CT images. Currently this functionality is only available upon request.

In the module functionality for automatic segmentation of pericardial sac (whole heart CT), automatic identification of the coronary ostia, and automated bone segmentation. The automated segmentation of the pericardial sac will be highly useful for visualization of the coronary arteries in conjunction with the volume rendering module that is work in progress.

Please contact Medviso AB to get a demo of these features.

36 Strain Analysis Module

36.1 Strain analysis in cine or tagged images

The strain analysis module uses tagging MR images or cine MR images to calculate myocardial strain. The module has been developed in close collaboration with researchers at KU Leuven in Belgium.

36.1.1 Definition of Mean strain

In the Strain module the mean value of strain in the whole heart is defined as "Mean strain". This measures the same character as "Global strain" from echocardiography. We are not using the same nomenclature due to the slight differences in calculation methods. In echocardiography, "Global strain" is defined as $(L-L_0)/L_0$ with L the instantaneous length of the endo- or mid-myocardial contour and L_0 the length of the contour in end-diastole. In Segment, "Mean strain" is defined as the mean of all strain value within the entire LV wall.

36.2 Automatic strain analysis in short-axis image stacks

1. **Tagging:** The automatic strain analysis starts upon loading a tagged image stack. Segment identifies a tagged image stack according to the DICOM tag Series Description. The associated Series Description names can be customized by the user according to Section 11. Manually start the automatic strain analysis by Select Tagging Strain Short-axis under MR menu.

Cine: First perform LV segmentation. The automatic strain analysis starts by Select Feature Tracking Strain Short-axis under MR menu.

2. The strain analysis starts by cropping and upsampling of the image stack, if needed, as shown in Figure 61.
3. The automatic strain registration is then performed in the background. The progress is shown in a progressbar at the bottom of the main interface of Segment. During the registration process the user can perform segmentation.

Tagging: The segmentation should be performed in one of the first

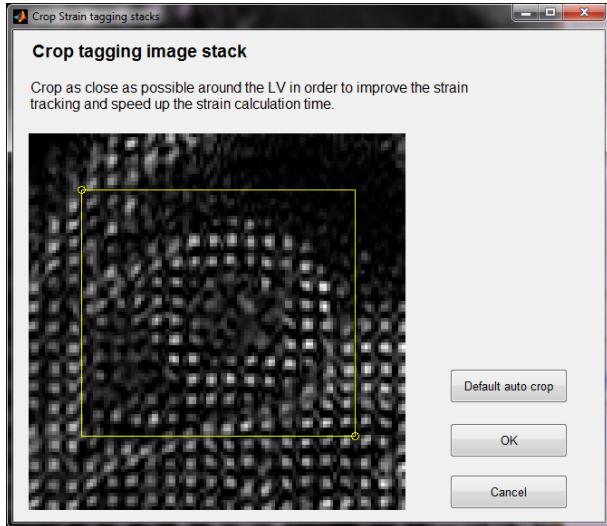


Figure 61: Strain cropping interface.

seven time frames in the tagged image stack, or potential cine image stack.

Cine: The segmentation should be performed in the first time frame in the cine image stack.

This time frame with segmentation will be the initial time frame for the strain tracking.

LV: Perform the LV segmentation according to Figure 62, using methods described in Chapter 12.

RV: Perform the RV segmentation according to Figure 62, using methods described in Chapter 13.

4. Ensure the end-diastole (ED) time frame is the first time frame (or close to). Since the first time frame will be the base for the strain calculation and strain will be defined as 0 in this time frame. You can correct this by in Segment go to the time frame representing end-diastole, then select Set First Timeframe at Current Timeframe in menu Edit.
5. **Tagging:** Start the strain module by selecting Tagging Strain Short-axis under MR menu (a). The Strain interface is shown (Figure 63).
Cine: Start the strain module by selecting Feature Tracking Strain Short-axis under MR menu (a). The Strain interface is shown (Figure

36.2. AUTOMATIC STRAIN ANALYSIS IN SHORT-AXIS IMAGE STACKS

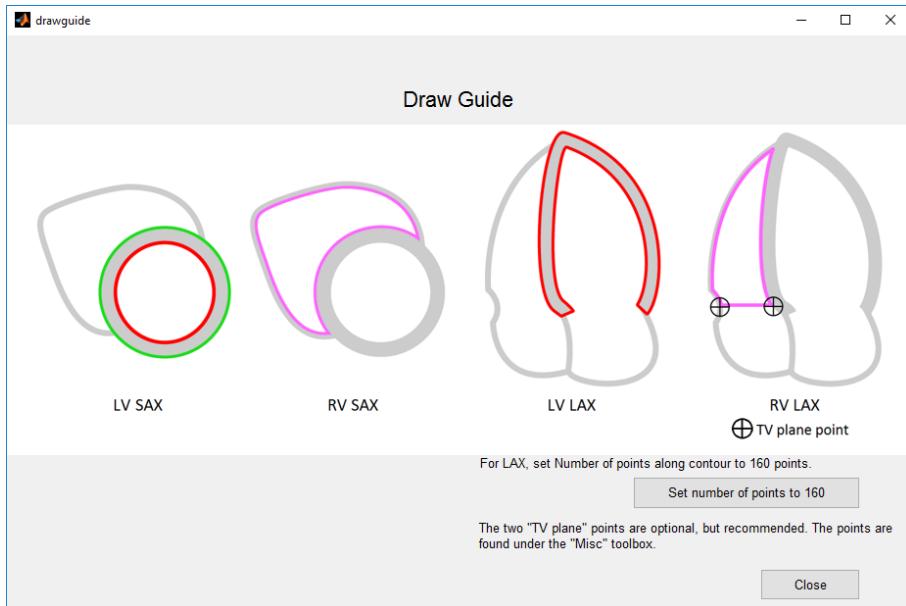


Figure 62: Strain drawing guidance.

63).

6. **LV:** Define LV rotation by setting the white line in the middle of the septum, using the slider, and press **Analyse** to run the myocardial strain quantification.
7. Verify the strain tracking by using the movie tools.
8. Strain over time and peak strain is shown in the figures to the right according to the selected parameters.
9. You can choose which segments to be presented in the graph with the radiobuttons below the graph.
10. If needed, manual correction can be performed by using the **Move Contour** arrows, or moving the LV segmentation interpolation points, in the initial time frame in the strain image stack. Then run the strain quantification again by select **Analyse**.

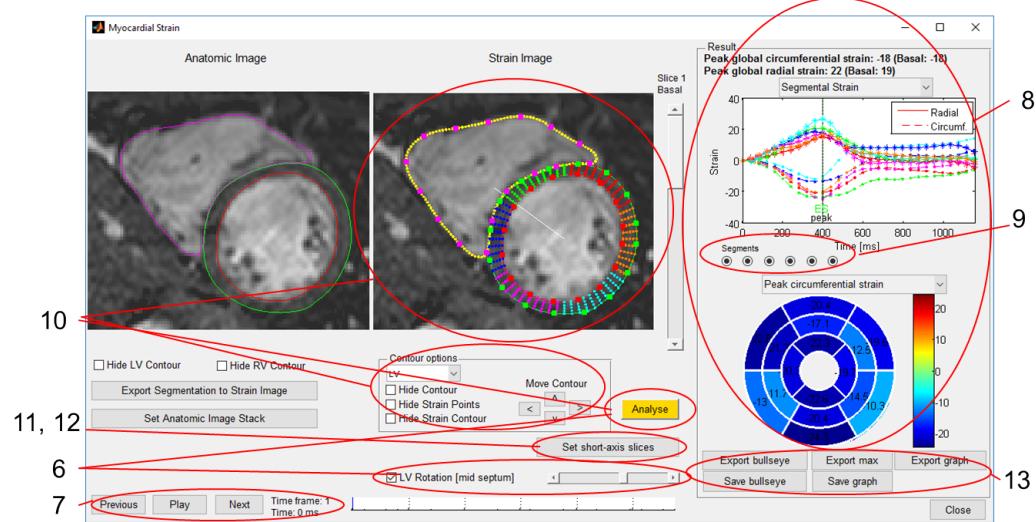


Figure 63: Strain analysis GUI.

11. Manually change the short-axis slices for the bullseye division by select Set short-axis slices.
12. **Tagging:** Manually change the initial time frame by select Set initial time frame.
13. Click on export buttons to export result to spreadsheet and save buttons to store graph and bullseye to image files.

36.2.1 Torsion

For short axis images torsion can be calculated. To derive torsion one must consider rotation, this is something that also is available in the strain gui, as well as segmental rotation and endocardial and epicardial rotation. Rotation is quantified as the mean angular distance for all the tracking points in a chosen group, from the current timeframe to the end diastolic timeframe. With torsion we consider the normalized rotational difference of the heart for the most basal and apical slices in data. The rotational difference is normalized with the mean radius divided by the slice distance along the longaxis. For details on how the torsion measure is obtained see section 46.14.

36.3. AUTOMATIC STRAIN ANALYSIS IN LONG-AXIS IMAGE STACKS

36.3 Automatic strain analysis in long-axis image stacks

1. **Tagging:** The automatic strain analysis starts upon loading a tagged image stack. Segment identifies a tagged image stack according to the DICOM tag Series Description. The associated Series Description names can be customized by the user according to Section 11. Manually start the automatic strain analysis by Select Tagging Strain Long-axis under MR menu.
Cine: The automatic strain analysis starts by Select Feature Tracking Strain Long-axis under MR menu.
2. Ensure that Image View Plane is set correctly (2CH, 3CH and 4CH), respectively. Otherwise set it according to Section 11.
3. The strain analysis starts by cropping and upsampling of the image stack, if needed, as shown in Figure 64.

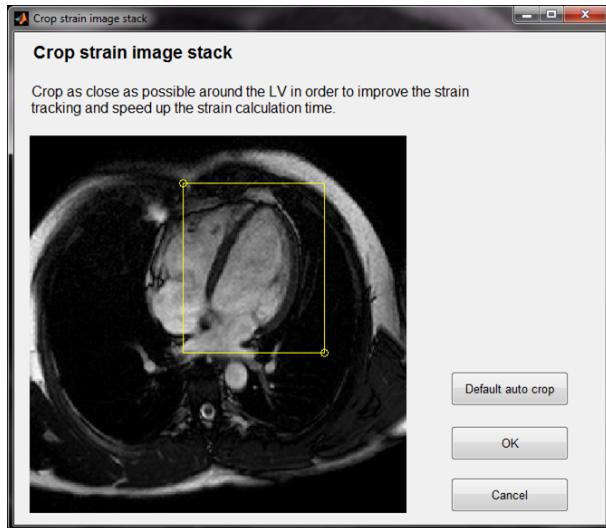


Figure 64: Strain cropping interface.

4. The automatic strain registration is then performed in the background. The progress is shown in a progressbar at the bottom of the main interface of Segment. During the registration process the user can perform segmentation. Before performing the segmentation, ensure

that the parameter Number of points along contour in Preferences is set to at least 160, in order to have a smooth segmentation.

5. **Tagging:** The segmentation should be performed in one of the first seven time frames in the tagged image stack, or potential cine image stack.

Cine: The segmentation should be performed in the first time frame in the cine image stack.

This time frame with segmentation will be the initial time frame for the strain tracking.

LV: Perform the LV segmentation according to Figure 65 by using the LV endo segmentation tools or in all three long-axis views.

RV: Perform the RV segmentation according to Figure 65 by using the RV endo segmentation tools or in the 4CH view. Set two annotation points to define the Tricuspidalis valve plane and name them TV plane. The annotation point tool is found under the Misc toolbox.

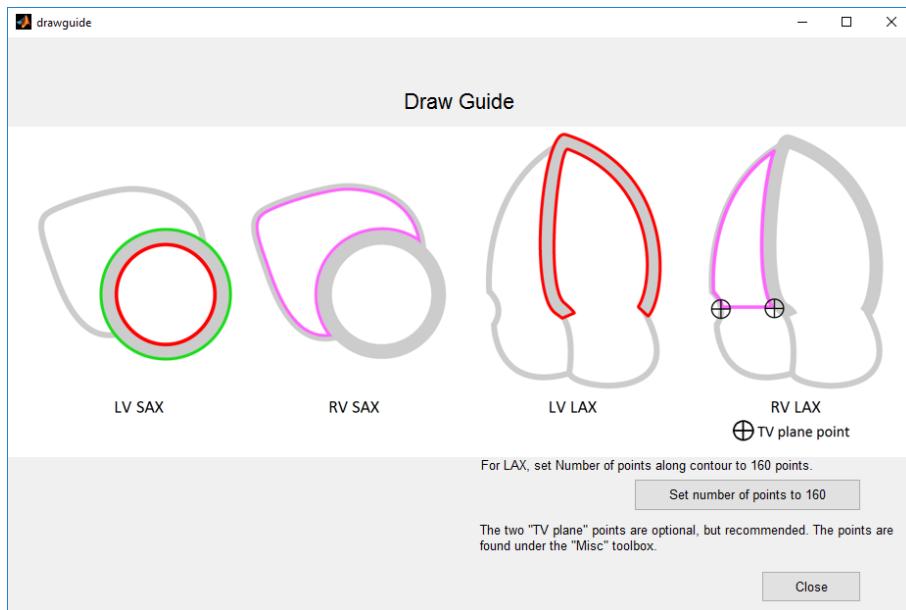


Figure 65: Strain drawing guidance.

36.3. AUTOMATIC STRAIN ANALYSIS IN LONG-AXIS IMAGE STACKS

6. Ensure the end-diastole (ED) time frame is the first time frame (or close to). Since the first time frame will be the base for the strain calculation and strain will be defined as 0 in this time frame. You can correct this by in Segment go to the time frame representing end-diastole, then select Set First Timeframe at Current Timeframe in menu Edit.
7. **Tagging:** Start the strain module by selecting Tagging Strain Long-axis under MR menu (a). The Strain interface is shown (Figure 66).
Cine: Start the strain module by selecting Feature Tracking Strain Long-axis under MR menu (a). The Strain interface is shown (Figure 66).

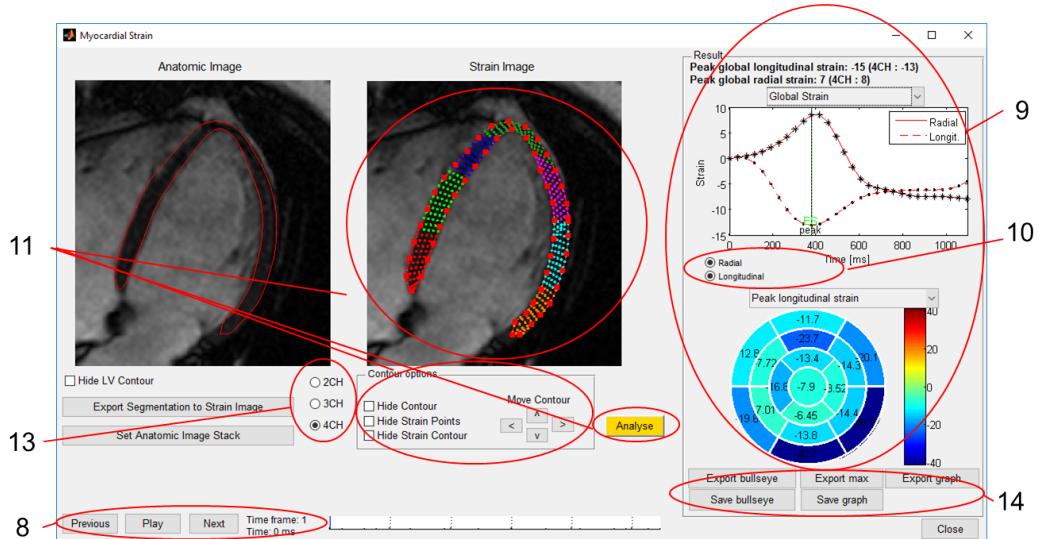


Figure 66: Strain analysis GUI.

8. Verify the strain tracking by using the movie tools.
9. Strain over time and peak strain is shown in the figures to the right according to the selected parameters.
10. You can choose which segments to be presented in the graph with the radiobuttons below the graph.

CHAPTER 36. STRAIN ANALYSIS MODULE

11. If needed, manual correction can be performed by using the **Move Contour** arrows, or moving the segmentation interpolation points, in the initial time frame in the tagging image stack. Then run the strain quantification again by select **Analyse**.
12. **Tagging:** Manually change the initial time frame by select **Set initial time frame**.
13. You can toggle between existing views by using the radiobuttons labeled with the chamber views.
14. Click on export buttons to export result to spreadsheet and save buttons to store graph and bullseye to image files.

36.4 Strain in Left atria

To perform strain analysis in the left atria use the RV endo tools. It is work in progress to add tools specific for left atrial strain, but meanwhile it works perfectly fine to use the RV endo tools to measure strain in the left atrial.

1. Start with manually perform left atria segmentation in the first time frame in the 4CH view using the  according to Figure 67.

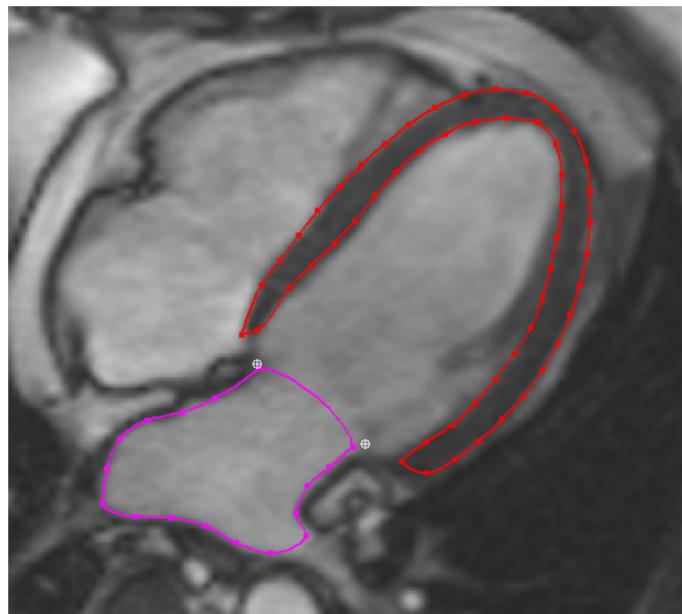


Figure 67: Segmentation of left atria to be used for strain analysis.

2. Ensure that **Image View Plane** is set correctly (4CH). Otherwise set it according to Section 11.
3. The automatic strain analysis starts by Select **Feature Tracking Strain Long-axis** under **MR** menu.
4. Start the strain module by selecting **Feature Tracking Strain Long-axis** under **MR** menu (a). The Strain interface is shown (Figure 68).
5. Verify the strain tracking by using the movie tools.

CHAPTER 36. STRAIN ANALYSIS MODULE

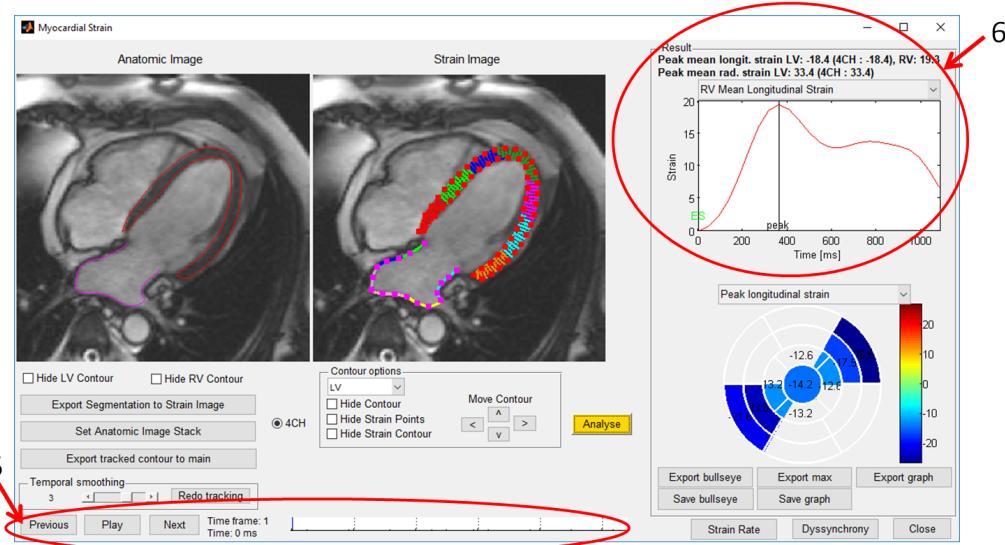


Figure 68: Strain analysis GUI.

6. Strain over time and peak strain is shown in the result panel to the right in the interface labeled with RV.

36.5 Hints for Strain analysis in small animal images

The Strain analysis module is known to work well for analysis of Strain in small animals. However, there are two things to consider:

1. **Time resolution** The time resolution should be good enough. If you have less than 15 time frames for the whole cardiac cycle it is recommended to upsample the image stack. In Segment you do that by Select **Upsample/Downsample Temporal** under menu **Resample image stack** under menu **Image tools**.
2. **Image resolution** The strain tracking in human hearts is optimal for a pixel resolution of 0.5 mm. If you have small animal hearts of for example say 5 times as small as human hearts, you need to upsample the image to a pixel resolution of 0.1 mm (0.5/5). In Segment you do that by Select **Upsample/Downsample Image (In Plane)** under menu **Resample image stack** under menu **Image tools**. Also crop the image properly before starting the Strain analysis. Crop it so you only have the LV and a little bit surrounding around the LV left in the image.

36.6 Erase strain data

Tagging: To erase the strain data, select **Clear Tagging Data** under MR menu (a).

Cine: To erase the strain data, select **Clear Feature Tracking Data** under MR menu (a)

37 Image Fusion Module

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

Details of this Fusion Module is given in Ugander et al [16].

The image fusion tool is used to compare and fuse one anatomical and one functional image stack. Currently the tool is restricted to rigid body translation and rotation.

An example of the fusion GUI is shown Figure 69. The leftmost panel is the anatomical image stack, the middle the functional image stack and the rightmost the fusion image stack.

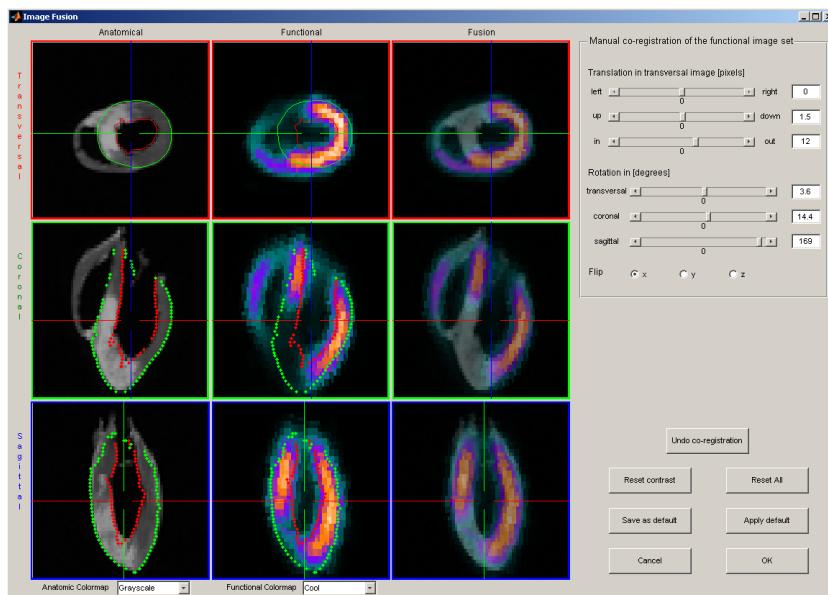


Figure 69: Example of the image fusion GUI.

To start the fusion tool select **Fusion of Two Image Stacks** under the **Fusion** menu. You will then be prompted for which anatomical and functional image stacks to fuse. You select by entering a number that are the same as the

thumbnail order (from left) in the main Segment GUI. If the anatomical image stack contains a segmentation this will be shown both in the anatomical and the functional image stack.

Below each image stack the user can manually select color map. The two selections are gray and cool and can be different for the two image stacks. To change the transparency in the fusion image stack hold the right mouse button down and move up or down. In the anatomical and functional image stack the right mouse button will change the brightness (up/down) and contrast (right/left). Click on the left mouse button define the current slice in the image stack. Same slices are always shown in anatomical and functional image stack. The arrow buttons on the desktop can then be used to step in the slices in the last clicked image. If the last click was in one of the co-registration sliders the arrow key buttons will change the position of the slider.

The manually co-registration of the functional image stack is done by changing the parameters in the right box in the GUI. The three sliders and editboxes on the top translate the image stack. The sliders and editboxes in the middle make a rotation in the image stack. The three radiobuttons below the sliders flip the image stack in x- y- and z-direction, respectively.

The **Undo co-registration** button undoes the last translation or rotation. It also undo the **Reset all** button. This button reset both co-registrations, colormaps, current slices, contrast and brightness in all image stack to the start values. The **Reset contrast** button only reset contrast and brightness in the anatomical and functional image stack, and the transparently in the fusional image stack to initial values.

If you need to fuse many data-sets with approximately the same parameter settings, the default buttons can be helpful. The **Save as default** button saves the current translation, rotation, flip and colormap choices. These settings are then available to use on another data-set. The settings are applied to the image stack by using the button **Apply default**.

When you are satisfied with the fusion use the **Ok** button. This results in a new image stack with image type "Fused" and contains the functional images

stack, with the anatomical image stack size, and the segmentation from the anatomical image stack. Example of such an image stack are shown in Figure 70. The parameter settings are also saved and the fusion GUI with the old parameter choices can be open again by select **Fusion of Two Image Stacks** under the **Fusion** menu when having an image with image type "Fused" selected. When an image stack with another type than "Fused" is selected, a new fusion GUI always open. Pushing the **Ok** button in the fusion GUI always result in a new fused image stack.

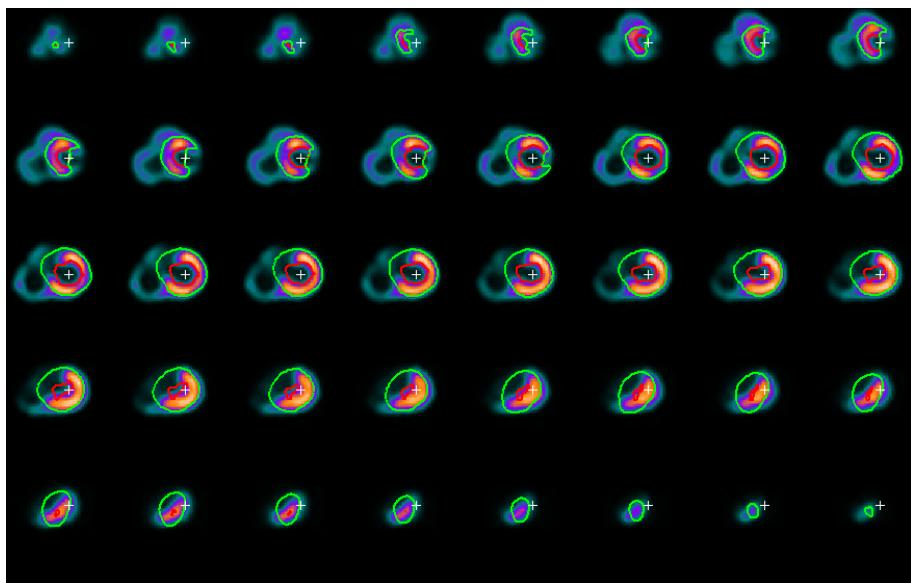


Figure 70: Example of a fused image stack.

38 Perfusion Analysis

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

The perfusion module is used for performing analysis of perfusion image stacks. Quotes between maximum upslopes of rest and stress images can be calculated for each sector of the myocardium.

38.1 Module overview

Before opening the perfusion analysis GUI, make sure to have one open image stack whose image type is set to Perfusion Rest and one whose image type is set to Perfusion Stress. An overview of the perfusion analysis GUI, as it appears when launched, is shown in Figure 71. From left to right, each image column contains Stress, Rest, Cine and LGE images respectively. Image slices are shown with the most basal at the top and the most apical at the bottom. If the perfusion stacks contain more than three slices, a scrollbar allows the user to toggle between them. Segmentation contours are shown, but can be disabled by unchecking the Contour box. The Rotate checkbox is used to set images in rotation mode. This causes the images to zoom in on the contour, and displays the borders for myocardial sectors as well as a horizontal yellow line from the center to the left of each image. By dragging this yellow line, the user can rotate the images to align them properly with the sector partition. When the mouse button is released, the line will rotate back to its original leftward position and drag the image with it.

The timebars below the Stress, Rest and Cine images enable the user to step in time. The Stress and Rest timebars each have one bar labelled **Start** and one labelled **End**. These are used to set the start and end points of motion correction. They also affect use of the playback functionality, which can be done one image at a time using the playback panel with buttons  and , or making Stress and Rest images play synchronously by using the **Play all** button.

CHAPTER 38. PERFUSION ANALYSIS

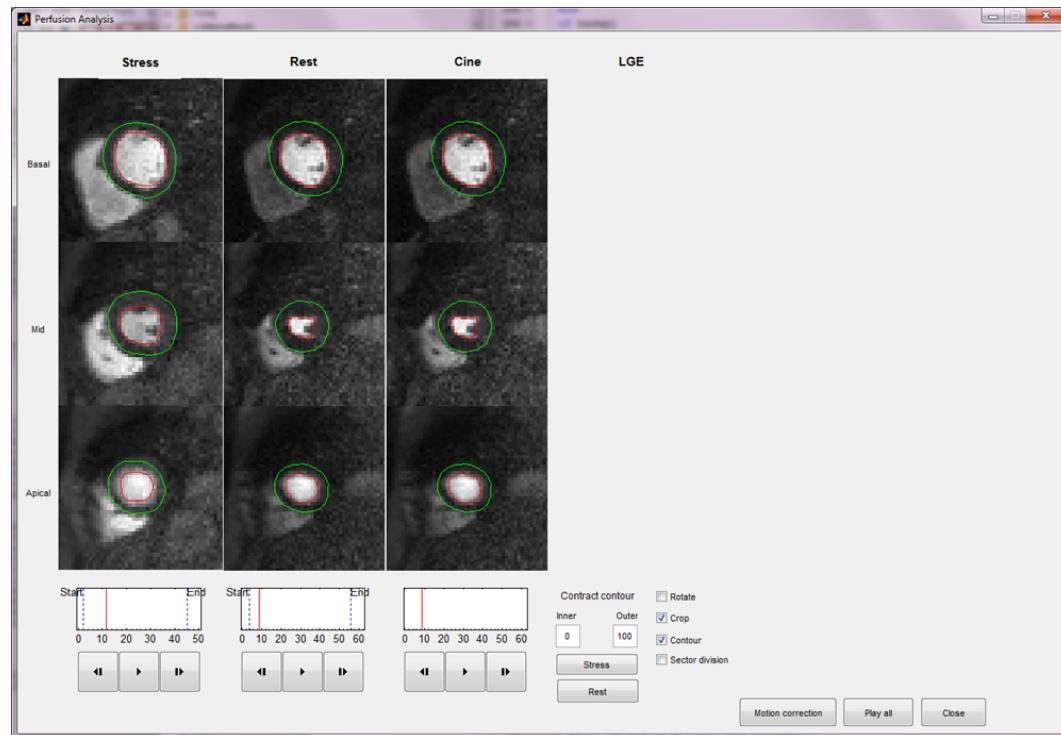


Figure 71: GUI for perfusion analysis.

38.1. MODULE OVERVIEW

Once an interval has been set using the **Start** and **End** bars and all slices of one timeframe have been outlined in both Stress and Rest image stacks, hit the **Motion correction** button to start the automatic motion correction. This process can take several minutes. The result is shown in Figure 72. If intensity from the right ventricle or elsewhere spills into the myocardium segmentation as a result of the motion correction, the contour of the respective image stack can be adjusted contraction percentages in the **Inner** and **Outer** textboxes and using the **Contract Contour** pushbuttons labelled **[Stress]** and **[Rest]**.

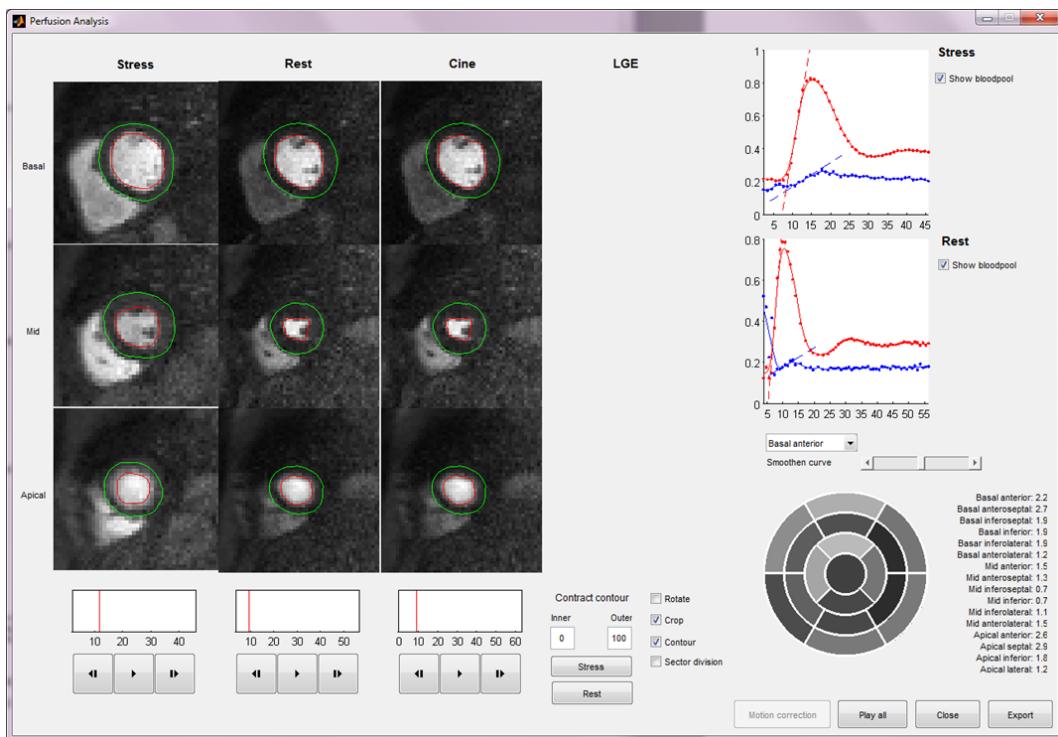


Figure 72: GUI for perfusion analysis after motion correction.

The two plots on the right side of the GUI show the upslope curves of the current sector (selected from the pop-up menu), which are calculated using a Gaussian filter on the measured values. The width of this filter can be adjusted using the slider labelled **Smoothen curve**, making the curve sharper or smoother. By checking the box **Show bloodpool**, a curve of the blood-

CHAPTER 38. PERFUSION ANALYSIS

pool is shown in red in the same plot. The bullseye plot below the curve plots displays the sectorwise quote between the maximum stress and rest upslopes, normalized with respect to the respective maximum upslopes of the bloodpool curves. The quote values are also shown in text next to the bullseye plot, and can be exported to a spreadsheet by clicking the **Export** button.

39 Native Bruker Reader Module

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

This module to load native Bruker files is a commercially available module to Segment. The structure (files and directory) of the Bruker Paravision file format is given in the Imaging Wiki:

<http://imaging.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/imaging/FormatBruker>

Some further details in the file format used in the Bruker Module is given in Section 39.1.

The reader is available under the **File** menu. The file loader GUI is shown in Figure 73.

The first step is to select the subject file. This file is usually called just **subject** or **subject.txt**. Then all available subject info is shown in the top left panel. A list of available studies are shown in the lower left panel. When selecting on study the image series (usually only one) are displayed. The **Load** will load the selected studies/series. To load many studies into one image stack, just select more studies in the lower left panel. Note that when loading many studies into one image stack each study needs to contain only one image serie.

The button **Dismiss** will close the file loader. The button **Clear** will clear the current subject to allow you to select another subject.

The following limitations apply to the Bruker reader:

- The reader is still experimental and all paravision features may not be implemented. If you are experience problems with the Bruker reader, please report them to support.medviso.com.

CHAPTER 39. NATIVE BRUKER READER MODULE

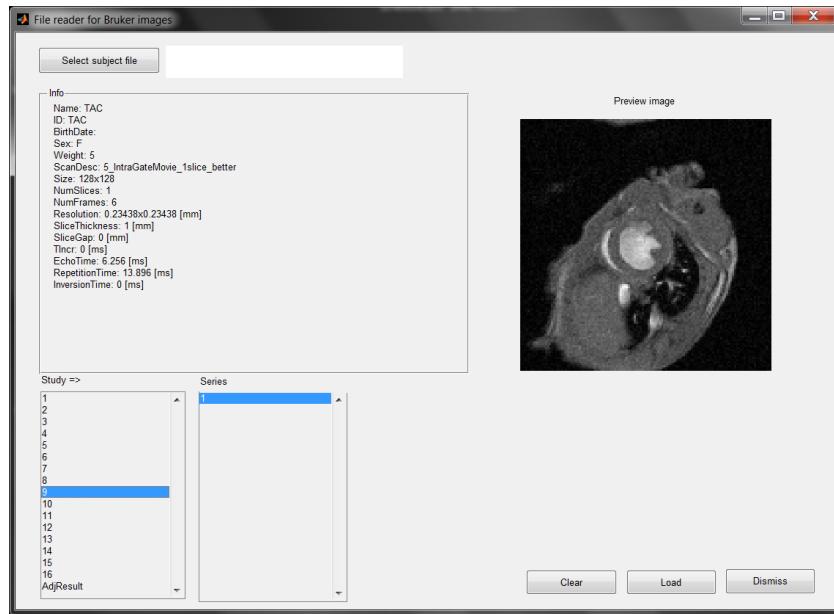


Figure 73: File GUI for loading bruker images.

- The reader does currently not read 3D coordinates, and thus the plane intersection features in Segment will not work.
- The reader does not read phase contrast images. Please let us know if this is a desired feature. We will need to have some example images since we do not have access to details about this.
- Timing (time increment between frames) may not be correctly calculated unless for IntraGate scanners. Timing information is taken from `EchoTime` and `RepetitionTime`, please see Section 39.1.7 for details.

39.1 Implementation details

In this section details on how Segment interprets the Bruker File format is given. An overview of the folder tree for a Bruker examination is given in Figure 74. This example examination contains two scans and where the first scan contains two series.

39.1. IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

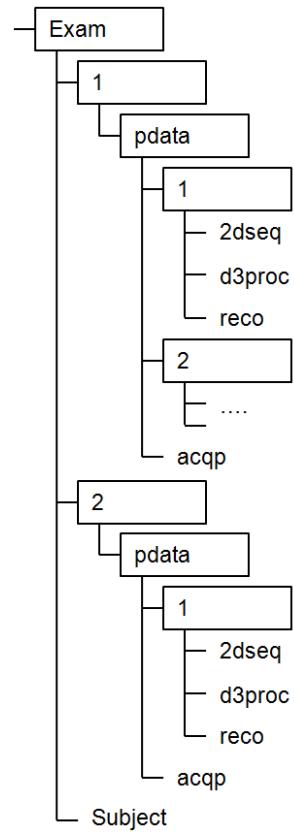


Figure 74: Example of file/folder tree for a Bruker examination. In this case the number of scans are two, and for scan 1 there are two series. Boxes represent folders and plain text without a box represent a file. Only the illustrated folders and files are read, all other files and folders are ignored.

39.1.1 Read files

The following files are read by the Bruker reader module (all other files are ignored):

- **subject** file. This file contains subject data common for the entire exam.
- **acqp** file. This file contains image acquisition information of the scan.
- **reco** file. This file contains information for the image serie.
- **d3proc** file. This file contains additional information for the image serie.
- **2dseq** file. This file contains the image data for each image serie.

Each file may have the optional ending **.txt**.

39.1.2 Parsing the subject file

The first step of loading Bruker files is to select a subject file. The following parameters are read from the subject file:

- **\$SUBJECT_id** is parsed to Patient ID.
- **\$SUBJECT_name_string** is parsed to Patient Name.
- **\$SUBJECT_dbirth** is parsed to Patient Birth Date.
- **\$SUBJECT_sex** is parsed to Patient Sex. Here the string **female** (not case sensitive) is mapped to F and male is mapped to M. All other strings are mapped to -.
- The patient age is not read from the subject file and is set to empty. Reason for not reading that is that we have not found files containing this information.

39.1.3 Parsing acqp file

The following data is read from this file:

- **\$ACQ_spatial_size**, from this vector the two first elements are taken as **YSize** and **XSize**, respectively.
- **\$ACQ_flip_angle** gives **FlipAngle**.

- `$ACQ_slice_thick` gives `SliceThickness`. Please note that this information is read as safe guard if the other files are missing. This value will be overwritten in most cases.
- `$ACQ_echo_time` give `EchoTime`.
- `$ACQ_repetition_time` give `RepetitionTime`.
- `$ACQ_trigger_delay` give `TriggerDelay`.
- `$ACQ_n_movie_frames` give the number of timeframes (`TSize`). Please note that is read as safe guard if the other files are missing. This value will be overwritten in most cases.
- `$NSLICES` gives the number of slices. Please note that is read as safe guard if the other files are missing. This value will be overwritten in most cases.
- `$ACQ_slice_orient` gives `ImageViewPlane`.
- `$ACQ_inversion_time` gives `InversionTime`.
- `$ACQ_scan_name` gives `SeriesDescription`.
- `$ACQ_method` gives `ImagingTechnique`.

39.1.4 Parsing reco file

The following elements are read from the `reco` file:

- `$RECO_size` gives the reconstruction size of the image (`YSize`,`XSize`), and if there are multiple slices also `ZSize`. If this vector only contains two elements, then `ZSize` is taken as the number of elements in the `$RECO_transposition`, otherwise it is taken as the third element of `$RECO_size`.
- From the element `$RECO_fov` the pixel size is taken. If this element contains three number then this information is divided with the number of slices to get `SliceThickness`.
- The number of images is extracted from the number of items in element `$RECO_globex`. From this the number of time frames `TSize` is calculated a number of images divided by the number of slices. If this is not a valid number of time frames, then the number of frames is set to 1. Please note that this information is updated when reading the `d3proc` file.

- The bit depth of the `2dseq` file is taken from the element `$RECO_wordtype`.

39.1.5 Parsing d3proc file

The following elements are read from the `d3proc` file:

- `$IM_SIX` gives `YSize`.
- `$IM_SIY` gives `XSize`.
- From the element `$IM_SIZ` and `$IM_SIT` a temporarily zsize and tsize are extracted. If this information does not match the previously extracted information for number of slices and number of timeframes, then the number of timeframes are calculated as zsize divided by the previously extracted number of slices (from the `reco` file). If the newly calculated number is not a valid number of timeframes, then the number of timeframes is taken from tsize.

39.1.6 Parsing IntraGate.info file

Depending on if the scanner is an IntraGate Bruker scanner, this file may exist. If it is existing, then the following information is read from the file:

- `par::heartrate` this element gives the heart rate of the subject (`HeartRate`).
- `par::heartsignalDuration` this element is combined with `par::heartframes` to get the time increment between each timeframe (`TIncr`).
- `par::heartframes` is checked against number of previously detected timeframes and an error is issued if there is a mismatch.

39.1.7 Reading timing information

Unless for the IntraGate scanner, the timing information (time increment between timeframes, `TIncr`) is taken as the repetition time (if present), and otherwise, taken as the echo time.

40 Report Module

This functionality is only available in the clinical/commercial version of Segment.

The report tool is a report generator is a tool to generate reports of a study. The tool is started by the icon  or under the Report menu. The graphical user interface is illustrated in Figure 75. The report can be generated in one of three formats:

- HTML format. The **Generate HTML report** is used to generate a HTML report, complete with images and plots. Each page can be printed and together they contain a detailed report of an exam. An example of the final output is given in Figure 76.
- JPEG format. A simplified graphic report, containing only text and tables, can be created using the **Send to PAF** button. This report is saved as a collection of JPEG files for easy upload to PAF. The output folder can be set in the **Advanced System and DICOM settings** under the Preferences menu.
- DICOM format. The simplified graphic report can also be saved as a collection of DICOM files and automatically uploaded to PACS by clicking the **Save to PACS** button.

Hospital logo, patient data, signature field and current date are automatically included in the report. The checkboxes are used to select which details of the analysis are to be included in the report. A checkbox is grayed out if data is unavailable.

- LV Analysis, this section contains a table of global LV parameters and, if the images are time-resolved, a volume curve.
- RV Analysis, this section contains a table of global RV parameters.
- Scar Analysis, this section contains a table of data from scar analysis and an image of scar delineation.
- MaR Analysis, this section contains a table of data from myocardium at risk analysis.

CHAPTER 40. REPORT MODULE

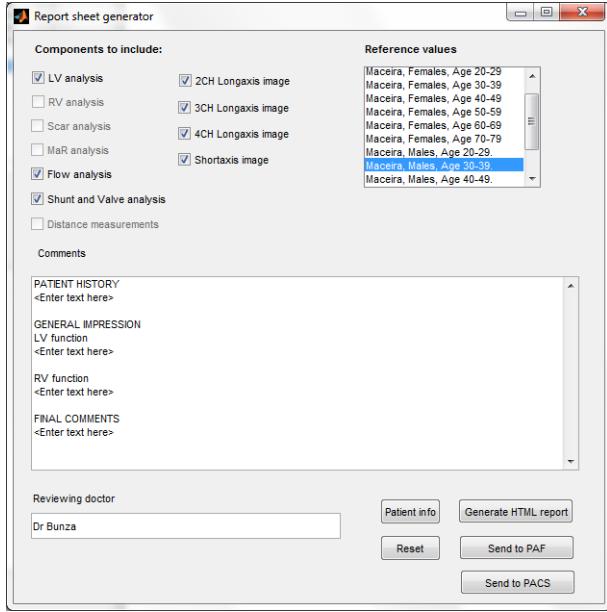


Figure 75: GUI for patient report generator.

- Flow Analysis, this section contains flow data from phase contrast images and a plot of net flow over time. If there are several image stacks containing different flow data, one section will be added for each such stack.
- Shunt and Valve analysis, this section contains the Qp/Qs ratio and regurgitant volumes and fractions for the mitralis and tricuspid, insofar as the data necessary for calculation is available.
- Distance measurements, this section contains a table that lists all distance measurements performed on the current set of image stacks.
- 2CH/3CH/4CH Longaxis Image, this section contains a user selection of longaxis images in end-diastole.
- Shortaxis Image, this section contains a montage view of all shortaxis image slices in end-diastole with delineations included.

40.1 Configuration

This section describes how the Report Module can be configured.

40.1.1 Hospital logo

This is an image header that is supplied by Medviso AB to each customer separately. Place this file in the folder where Segment is installed.

40.1.2 Reference values

Reference data used in LV and RV analysis can be selected from a listbox. If patient age and sex are present in the patient info, the listbox will automatically suggest a suitable set of reference values. If reference data is used in the report, patient values outside the range specified by the reference data will be marked in red. The name of the used reference data set will also be included in the report.

A directory contains each reference data set as a text file with the following structure:

```
Name: 'Maceira, Males, Age 30-39.' %Title to display in listbox.  
ImagingType: 'SSFP' %Describes used imaging type.  
LowerAgeBound: 30  
UpperAgeBound: 39  
Sex: 'M' %should be either M or F.  
LVM: [109 185]  
EDV: [121 204] %range  
...  
EDV_BSA: [66 101] %_BSA means normalized with BSA.  
...
```

40.1.3 Headings for textual report

There is also a large textbox where it is possible to enter free text comments on the study. This text is then stored together with the segmentation. A few formatting tricks can be used in this box:

- To divide the text into paragraphs, enter a blank line between the text blocks to be used as paragraphs.
- To start a paragraph with a headline in bold print, simply begin the paragraph with the text to be used as headline, then insert a new line where the text body is entered.

- To insert a super headline, do the same as above except that the text is entered in all upper-case letters. A super headline may be followed by a regular headline.

For simplification, standard text templates are supplied by Medviso AB. An example of such a template is the following:

PATIENT HISTORY
<Enter text here>

GENERAL IMPRESSION
LV function
<Enter text here>

RV function
<Enter text here>

FINAL COMMENTS
<Enter text here>

40.1.4 Reviewing doctor

The final textbox in the GUI allows for including the name of the doctor performing the analysis and generating the report. If entered, the name of the doctor appears by the logo image at the beginning and by the signature field at the end of the report.

40.1. CONFIGURATION

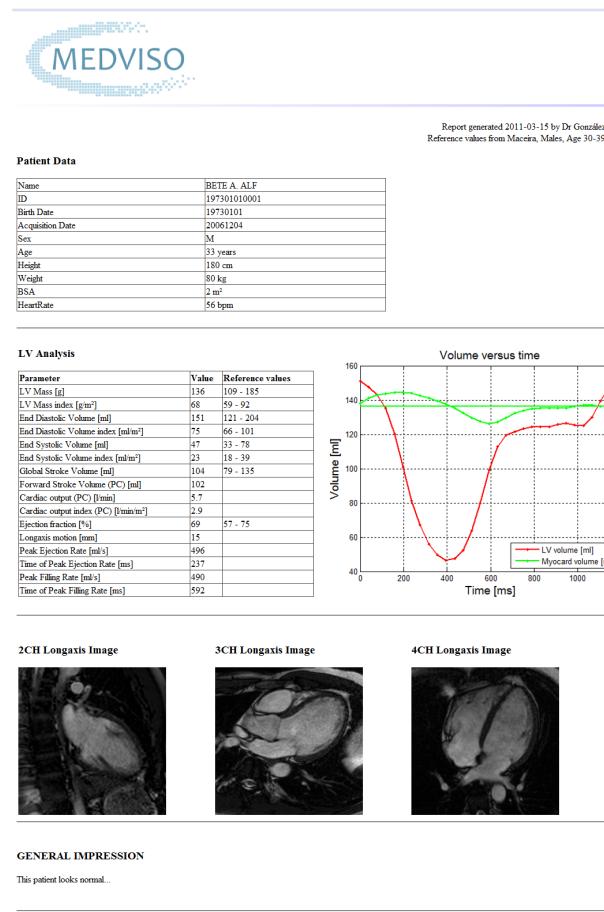


Figure 76: Example of a report.

41 Short Commands / Hot keys

This chapter describes the hot keys that can be used in Segment.

Stack navigation commands

Left arrow	Previous frame or pan left
Right arrow	Next frame or pan right
Up arrow	View next slice in basal direction
Down arrow	View next slice in apical direction
D	Go to end diastole
S	Go to end systole
Shift-D	Go to end diastole all visible image stacks
Shift-S	Go to end systole all visible image stacks
C	Start to play cine thumbnail
P	Start to play movie

Viewing commands

R	Refresh screen
H	Hide/show all contours and markers
V	Shift mode in panel between montage and one slice
Ctrl-A	Selects all slices
Shift-U	Unselect all slices
Shift-A	View all image stacks
Shift-1	View one image panel
Shift-2	View two image panels
Alt-2	View two image panels as rows
Shift-3	View three image panels
Alt-3	View three image panels as rows
Shift-4	View three image panels
Shift-6	View six image panels
Alt-6	View six image panels as rows
Shift-9	View nine image panels
Ctrl-1	One view

CHAPTER 41. SHORT COMMANDS / HOT KEYS

Ctrl-2	M-mode view
Ctrl-3	Montage view
Ctrl-4	Montage row view
Ctrl-5	Montage fit view
Ctrl-plu	Zoom in
Ctrl-minus	Zoom out

Segmentation commands

- LV -	
Ctrl-L	Perform fully automatic LV segmentation
Ctrl-M	Segment LV endocardium
Ctrl-Shift-M	Segment LV epicardium
Ctrl-R	Refine LV endocardium
Ctrl-Shift-R	Refine LV epicardium
Ctrl-F	Propagate LV endocardium forward and refine
Ctrl-Shift-F	Propagate LV epicardium forward and refine
Ctrl-U	Copy LV endocardium upwards and refine
Ctrl-Shift-U	Copy LV epicardium upwards and refine
Ctrl-D	Copy LV endocardium downwards and refine
Ctrl-Shift-D	Copy LV epicardium downwards and refine
Ctrl-E	Expand LV Endo
Ctrl-K	Contract LV Endo
Ctrl-Alt-E	Expand LV Epi
Ctrl-Alt-K	Contract LV Epi
Ctrl-V	Exclude papillary muscle from LV endocardium
Shift-Alt-R	Refine LV endocardium for Alternative LV segmentation method
- RV -	
Ctrl-Alt-M	Segment RV endocardium
Ctrl-Alt-R	Refine RV endocardium
Ctrl-Alt-F	Propagata RV endocardium forward, do not refine
Ctrl-Alt-U	Copy RV endocardium upwards and refine
Ctrl-Alt-D	Copy RV endocardium downwards and refine
- Flow -	
Alt-T	Track tool for Flow ROI
Alt-R	Refine Flow ROI
Alt-F	Propagate Flow ROI forward and refine
Ctrl-T	Plot flow

- General -

0	Smooth current segmentation
Ctrl-Z	Undo segmentation

Analysis commands

Alt-D	Set end diastole at current time frame
Alt-S	Set end systole at current time frame
Ctrl-B	Bullseye plot

Translation commands

Alt-A	Translate contours left (selected slices)
Alt-X	Translate contours right (selected slices)
Alt-W	Translate contours up (selected slices)
Alt-Z	Translate contours down (selected slices)
Shift-Alt-A	Translate contours and image left (selected slices)
Shift-Alt-X	Translate contours and image right (selected slices)
Shift-Alt-W	Translate contours and image up (selected slices)
Shift-Alt-Z	Translate contours and image down (selected slices)

Tool toggling commands

Space	Toggle tool in toolbar menu (depending on tool and mode)
Shift-L	Select LV mode
Shift-R	Select RV mode
Shift-F	Select ROI/Flow mode
Shift-V	Select Scar(Viability) mode
Shift-M	Select MaR mode
Shift-I	Select Misc mode
Shift-N	Select LV Endo pen
Shift-B	Select LV Epi pen
Shift-G	Select LV Endo interp
Shift-H	Select LV Epi interp

File menu commands

Ctrl-N	Load next .mat file
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CHAPTER 41. SHORT COMMANDS / HOT KEYS

Ctrl-O	Load image stack
Ctrl-P	Open patient data base
Ctrl-O (zero)	Reset GUI Position
Ctrl-S	Save all image stacks
Ctrl-W	Close current image stack
Ctrl-Shift-W	Close all image stacks
Ctrl-Q	Quit program

Mouse commands

Mouse wheel	Scroll through slices
Shift-Mouse wheel	Scroll through time frames
Ctrl-Mouse wheel	Scroll through visible thumbnails
Alt-Mouse wheel	Zoom
Left+Right mouse button	Pan / Windowing (dependent on selected tool)

42 How to Reference the Software

To be permitted to use the software for research purposes you need to reference the usage of the software properly, for more details see Chapter 2. This is very important since it is necessary that we can prove to granting organisations that this project returns scientific output and has a significant impact to the scientific community.

A reference should encompass both the name and version of the software, **and** a reference to at least one suitable scientific publication about that function in Segment. It should also be indicated that the software is free for research purposes, and the address homepage of the software (<http://segment.heiberg.se>).

You should reference the software differently depending on what part of the software that have been used. This list is subject to change after submitted papers are accepted. *Always* check the homepage for the latest information regarding this issue. In doubt please do not hesitate to contact the author, or place the generic Segment reference [17].

Note that referencing the software is mandatory also for short abstracts to scientific conferences. In case of shortage of space, please reference the software as something like:

... Images was analyzed using the freely available software Segment (<http://segment.heiberg.se>).

In extreme shortage of space, such as conferences where the word limit is < 350 words then reference may be omitted in the abstract text, but should be included in the oral presentation and / or poster.

The following list describes various usage of Segment and how it should be referenced. Note that this list is subject to change and you should before submission check the latest updated version. If in doubt, please do not hesitate to contact us.

- General usage of Segment should be reference [17]. This reference is the generic reference for the Segment project.
- Creating polar plots and bullseye analysis should be referred to as [18].
- ROI analysis as [17].
- Annotations as [17].
- General object segmentation [17].
- Automated and manual delineation of the left ventricle on MRI images to get LV volume, ejection fraction, etc, should be referenced as [19].
- Automated quantification of infarct size and transmurality should be referenced as [4] or [5] depending on what mode have been used. For all other methods the reference [4] should be used.
- Strain analysis using velocity encoded strain (module not publically available) should be referred to as [20]. Strain analysis using tagging or feature tracking is a commercial product and does not need to be references. If you want to refer to this, please contact us for guidance.
- Segmentation of myocardium at risk from T2 STIR imaging should be referred to as [8].
- Segmentation of myocardium at risk from cine delayed enhancement should be referenced to as [11], and [9].
- Measurement of endocardial extent should be referenced to as [21].
- Pulse wave velocity should be referred to as [22]
- Fusion data sets should be referred to as [16].
- T2* analysis should be referenced as [23]
- T1/T2 analysis should be referenced as [24]
- Perfusion analysis should be referenced as [25]. Note this reference might change in the future when publishing a more thourough validation study.
- Segmentation of the left ventricle in non gated SPECT images should be referenced to as [26].
- Segmentation of defect size of myocardial at risk from SPECT images should be referenced to as [27].
- Perfusion analysis from myocardial perfusion SPECT images as [28].

42.1. EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE FORMULATIONS

For the following sections of Segment there are papers in the pipeline and should for now be referenced by the following conference proceeding papers.

- Flow quantification should be referred to as [17].
- Gray Zone analysis should be referred to as [29]

42.1 Examples of possible formulations

- ... *left ventricular mass and ejection fraction was measured using Segment v2.2 R6246 (<http://segment.heiberg.se>) [30].*
- ... *Infarct size were determined using Segment v2.2 R6246 (<http://segment.heiberg.se>) [7].*
- ... *Image analysis was performed using the freely available software Segment v2.2 R6246 (<http://segment.heiberg.se>) [17].*

43 Support

The commercial license of Segment includes technical support by email. It also includes simple feature request such as specialized output formats. Furthermore a commercial licensee will be given a significant weight on how a bug report is prioritized. Bugs reported by users of commercial license are usually fixed within 1-2 days. The support is provided by Medviso AB.

With this said, we encourage all users to come with questions and feedback, but we do not guarantee that we will have time to answer your questions.

43.1 Submit bug report

When submitting a bug report it is very important to describe how to reproduce the bug and to provide the log file for the session. In many cases it is also necessary to provide some files that can be used to analyse the problem. It may either be .mat files or DICOM files when the problem is loading data into Segment.

To submit a bug report, select the function **Support Request** under the **Help - Support** menu. This will open the graphical user interface where you can describe the bug and attach log files and data such as .mat files or DICOM files. When all information is entered you press the **Send support request** and the description entered and the attached files are submitted to Medviso.

By changing the type you can also submit general questions or enhancement requests.

Hints to remember:

1. Even though the submitted files are encrypted your files should be anonymized. Anonymization of .mat files are available under either **Image Tools** menu or the **Utilities** menu. Anonymization of DICOM files are available under the **Utilities** menu.
2. Additional files to submit should be placed in a folder and the folder is then submitted.

3. Remember to name your files wisely, otherwise we will not be able to identify which file belongs to which support request.
4. Remember to mention the filename uploaded in your support question/request.

43.2 Data privacy policy

Medviso AB will strictly keep the data safe and **not** distribute it and any data or information from it (such as possible pulse-programming ideas, post-processing ideas, etc etc). Medviso will **not** utilize it for other purposes than debugging purposes or to answer the specific questions unless other is agreed upon. When the support case has been closed, then the data will be deleted. If you have questions, please contact support@medviso.com for further details.

43.3 General support issues

To get into contact with developers at Medviso AB, send email to support@medviso.com.

44 Segment User Community

As a result of the growing interest in Segment and as a response of numerous requests Medviso AB has started to form a user community web place. This initiative will be enlarged significantly as the members of the community both requests more and also expands the community. It is worth noting that in the user survey spring 2010, out of 169 answers 147 answered that they would follow the user community, and 45 answered that they would follow it often.

A preliminary start page of the user community can be found on the following Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Segment/119840021370285>.

It is the aim to be able to provide the following activities on the user community pages:

1. Participate in discussion forums. Currently forums for Developers discussion and tips and tricks, Feature requests, Segment and Mac.
2. Contribute and share own plug-ins. This feature is currently not available. If you have plug-ins that you want to share, please email them to support@medviso.com and we will manually upload the plug-in. Currently writing own plug-ins to Segment is documented in the Segment Technical Manual.
3. FAQ sections. Currently we are gathering FAQ in our support program. All (or almost all) support request will be made available in a searchable data base. Exceptions on when support requests are not included when the user request so in conjunction with classified projects.

Staff from Medviso AB will follow the user community page closely and monitor any incoming questions or uprising discussions.

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we should improve the user community, please send us an email to support@medviso.com.

45 Plugins

The functions described in this chapter is in US only for off label use and for investigational use.

In Segment it is possible to create own plugins and extensions. This is further described in [17] and the Technical Manual. Currently there are two plugins that are shipped with the stand-alone version of Segment.

45.1 Image Loader Plugin

The image loader plugin is used to load different kinds of images into segment. The plugin currently supports the following image formats.

- JPEG (*.jpg)
- PNG (*.png)
- TIFF (*.tif)

There are two different ways of loading images in the image loader plugin. The first way, called **Load single file**, loads a single image file in a new image stack. The second way, called **Load files from directory**, loads all files in a directory and places them in a single image stack. The images are ordered according to filename and placed in z-depth.

Some information, such as resolution, that exist in dicom files are not present in these general image formats. The image loader plugin will simply guess on default values for these values. Sometimes one can use the calibrate plugin to set the resolution to a correct value.

45.2 Image Calibration Plugin

Sometimes the correct resolution for an image stack isn't known. However if one knows the area of some region of the image beforehand one can calculate the correct resolution. This plugin helps one do that.

When loading the plugin one is presented with a red square. By moving the corners of the square one can select the region. One is also presented with a input box where it's possible to enter the area of this region. When

pressing the ok button the plugin calculate the correct resolution and updates the image stack accordingly. Note that this plugin assumes isotropic images.

46 Implementation Details

In this chapter a few implementation details are given. There are much more details that are interesting, but this is as far as we have got with the documentation. If you have specific questions, please do not hesitate to ask us.

46.1 Version handling

A proper version handling is employed when developing Segment. A detailed version history of Segment is found in the revision log of Segment SVN.

46.2 Numeric representations

All numbers are stored and used internally as double precision floating points with the following exceptions:

- Images are stored as single floats (normalized) or as integers (uint8), and then as they are stored in the DICOM files. Most functions in Segment will automatically convert the data to floats.
- Edge detection results are stored as integers (16 bits, 'normalized')
- Character strings are stored in 8bit ASCII format
- Infarct maps are stored as int8 (manual interaction), and uint8 (result).
- General segmentation tool store objects as levelset function with an uint8 representation where the zero levelset resides at 128.

Internally the image stack is normalized upon loading by a global maximum intensity such that all values are [0..1]. Offset and scaling is also calculated so that the image stack can be reconverted back to original signal intensities.

46.3 Loading data and interpretation of DICOM tags

This section describes how Segment interprets DICOM information to calculate important parameters suchs as geometric properties of the images.

CHAPTER 46. IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

- Number of slices. This is calculated from the presence of different slices based on the DICOM tags `ImagePosition` and `ImageOrientation`.
- Number of timeframes. This is based on dividing the total number of images with the number of slices.
- Time increment in ms between each timeframe. If uniform, this is based on the difference between the number of timeframes divided by largest and the smallest value of the DICOM tag `TriggerTime`. If the DICOM tag `TriggerTime` is not present then the DICOM tag `TR` is used as time increment. Note that this might depend on your k-space acquisition scheme so for scanners that do not report `TriggerTime` you really need to double check the estimated value of time increment. For perfusion and other image stacks with non-uniform time increment, this is calculated using differences in `AcquisitionTime`.
- Heart rate. The heart rate is taken from the DICOM tag `HeartRate` if present. Note that many vendors (including Siemens) does not specify this. As a fall back Segment tries to calculate the heart rate assuming full R-R intervall coverage by using of trigger time (i.e it does not work for prospective imaging series). For long image acquisitions where one image is taken approximately for each heart beat then the heart rate is taken as the time between start of image acquisition and end of image acquisition adjusted for the number of frames. Note that in many cases this heart rate calculation will fail. Heart rate can be adjusted under patient details. Note also that heart rate may vary between image stacks therefore do not press **Apply** for all when manually changing heart rate. Heart rate is not used in any calculation, instead time increment between image frames is used in all calculations.
- Slice thickness in mm. The slice thickness is taken from the DICOM tag `SliceThickness`. If this tag is not present then the information is taken from same DICOM tags as number of slices, and assuming slice gap to be 0.
- Gap between slices in mm. This is taken from the DICOM tag `Spacing BetweenSlices`.
- Pixelspacing in X-direction in mm (vertical direction in Segment). This is taken from the DICOM tag `PixelSpacing`.
- Pixelspacing in X-direction in mm (horizontal direction in Segment). This is taken from the DICOM tag `PixelSpacing`.

- Velocity encoding (VENC) in cm/s. For non velocity encoded images this should be 0. How this is interpreted involves proprietary information of different scanner vendor information.
- Rotated image stack. This should by default be false. If your image stack is rotated, then change this to true. Currently this parameter is not taken from information in the DICOM tags and the user needs to manually change this when loading rotated image stacks.
- Cyclic image. If the image stack is cyclic, i.e covers the whole heart cycle this should be true (default). For prospectively gated image series this should be false. This affects mainly the automated segmentation algorithm. Currently this information is not read from the DICOM information.

46.4 Volume calculations

The volume calculations are done by summing the area in each slice. The main reason for not using a more advanced volume integration method is that no one else is using that and therefore it might be difficult to compare the results. Segmentation (i.e. delineation of endocardium and epicardium) is stored on a sub-pixel accuracy and subsequent calculations are on a sub-pixel basis. For viability the classification into viable or scar is done on a pixel-wise basis and there the volume calculations are done by summing the number of pixels.

For the rotated image stacks the volume is given by a integration method. The volume contribution of each outline is given by :

$$\delta V = \frac{\pi}{2 * Z} \int y(s)^2 \text{sign}(y(s)) \frac{dy}{ds} ds \quad (1)$$

where the curve is given on a parametric representation $(x(s), y(s))$, Z is the number of slices in the rotated image stack. No long-axis compensation is performed for the rotated image stacks.

46.5 Mass calculations

When converting volume to mass the density is assumed to be 1.05 g/ml. Note that this number differs in the literature between 1.04 to 1.05. Further-

more, note that these numbers are valid for healthy myocardium ex-vivo, what happens in for instance infarcted regions is not shown in the literature. Therefore usually it is better to report volume instead of mass.

46.6 Calculation of BSA

The formula used is based on Mosteller.

$$BSA = \sqrt{\frac{w * h}{3600}} \quad (2)$$

where w is the body weight in kg, and h is height in cm.

46.7 Peak ejection/filling rate

When calculating peak ejection and peak filling rate the volume curve is differentiated using forward difference approximation. For cyclic datasets cyclic convolution is used for the calculation.

46.8 Wall thickness

Currently wall thickness is defined as the thickness along a radial spike from the endocardial or the epicardial center (depending on setting in the preferences. In the future I plan to also include the modified center line method. Note that the centers are calculated for each timeframe separately.

Wall thickening is defined as the wall thickness in end-systole minus the wall thickness in end-diastole. Note that it is possible to manually or automatically select what timeframes that are diastole or systole respectively.

Fractional wall thickening is defined as:

$$WT_f = \frac{WT - WT_{ED}}{WT_{ED}} \quad (3)$$

Where WT_f is fractional wall thickness and WT is wall thickness and WT_{ED} is wall thickness in end-diastole. In the bulls eye plot then fractional wall thickening is showed in end-systole.

46.9. CALCULATION OF REGURGITANT VOLUMES AND SHUNTS

46.9 Calculation of regurgitant volumes and shunts

The regurgitant fraction for the aortic valve and the pulmonary values are calculated as:

$$r = 100 \frac{v_{back}}{v_{forward}} \quad (4)$$

where r is regurgitant fraction, v_{back} is backward volume, and $v_{forward}$ is forward volumes. Backward volumes is taken as timeframes where the net flow is negative and integrated over the entire cardiac cycle.

The regurgitant fraction for the tricuspid and mitral valve are calculated as:

$$r = 100 \frac{SV - v_{forward}}{SV} \quad (5)$$

where r is regurgitant fraction, and SV is stroke volume for left or right ventricle, respectively. $v_{forward}$ is forward volume.

The Q_p/Q_s ratio is defined as

$$Q_p Q_s = \frac{Q_p}{Q_p} \quad (6)$$

where Q_p is the stroke volume of the pulmonary artery and Q_s is the stroke volume of the aortic artery.

46.10 Infarct size, extent and transmurality

Calculations of infarct sizes etc are based on 'counting' pixels, i.e. each pixel has a binary classification. There are two methods for regional analysis available, one are based where the percentage of the pixels that are inside the sector. The other method is based on radial spikes from the center (endo- or epicardial depending on setting in the preferences). The line between endocardium and epicardium is resampled in 50 steps and the percentage of infarcted pixels are counted.

Infarct extent is defined as the projected infarcted area on the endocardial surface [21].

$$I_{ext} = \sum_i \frac{T_i R_i}{R_i} \quad (7)$$

where I_{ext} is the infarct extent, T_i is the transmurality of sector i and R_i is the mean endocardial radius of sector i .

46.11 Number of SD from remote for Scar

The number of SD from remote for an existing scar segmentation is calculated by the function found in the main menu in Segment under MR menu **Viability** menu and then the menu option **Get SD from Remote**. The presented value is calculated by first calculate the mean and sd in the remote area ($Mean_{remote}$ and SD_{remote}). If there exist ROIs named **Remote ROI**, these regions define the remote area. Otherwise the whole myocardium except for the scar region defines the remote area. The presented SD from remote value is then calculated by

$$SDfromRemote = \frac{T_{optim} - Mean_{remote}}{SD_{remote}} \quad (8)$$

The optimal threshold value (T_{optim}) represent the optimal threshold for separating the remote and the scar regions based on the existing scar segmentation. This value is defined by an exhaustive search where the threshold is set to all intensities represented in the image stack. For each threshold, the number of missclassified pixels are counted (total of both missclassified remote pixels and missclassified scar pixels). The optimal threshold value is then defined as the threshold corresponding to the minimal number of missclassified pixels.

46.12 MR relaxometry calculations

The MR relaxometry calculation for T1/T2 mapping is given in the paper [31]. Implementation of the ADAPTS T2* mapping is given in the paper [23].

46.13 Pulse wave velocity

The implementation of the pulse wave velocity unit is described in the paper [32].

46.14 Torsion

In short axis cardiac images the heart muscle wall of the left chamber is well approximated by a circle. The method finds the axis of rotation, AoR, for the left chamber as the center of a circle fit to the tracking points generated by the segment strain module. For the circle fitting a least squares method is used.

46.14.1 Least squares circle fit

The circle is fitted by minimizing the global squared radial difference between all tracking points for all timeframes, (x_i, y_i) , $i = 1, \dots, N$ and a circle with radius $r = \sqrt{a}$ for each slice. For nicer calculations we make the tracking point cloud zero mean and define a new coordinate system

$$u = x - \frac{1}{N} \sum_i^N x_i, \quad v = y - \frac{1}{N} \sum_i^N y_i \quad (9)$$

The properties of the circle determining the fit is the radius r and center (u_c, v_c) . The circle equation we are going to work with is

$$f(u, v) = (u - u_c)^2 + (v - v_c)^2 - a = 0 \quad (10)$$

which yields the least squares expression we want to minimize.

$$M(a, u_c, v_c) = \sum_i^N f^2(u_i, v_i) = \sum_i^N ((u_i - u_c)^2 + (v_i - v_c)^2 - a)^2 = 0 \quad (11)$$

The minima is found by solving,

$$\frac{dM}{da} = 0 \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{dM}{du_c} = 0 \quad (13)$$

$$\frac{dM}{dv_c} = 0 \quad (14)$$

for all parameters of M . From (12) we get that

$$\frac{dM}{da} = 2 \sum_i^N f(u_i, v_i) \frac{df(u_i, v_i)}{da} = -2 \sum_i^N f(u_i, v_i) = 0. \quad (15)$$

Resulting in

$$\frac{dM}{da} = 0 \iff \sum_i^N f(u_i, v_i) = 0. \quad (16)$$

Then consider (13). As (13) (14) only differ in notation, any result for (13) is applicable to 14.

$$\frac{dM}{du_c} = 2 \sum_i^N f(u_i, v_i) \frac{df(u_i, v_i)}{du_c} = 4 \sum_i^N (u_i - u_c) f(u_i, v_i) \quad (17)$$

Since 16,

$$\frac{dM}{du_c} = 0 \iff \sum_i^N u_i f(u_i, v_i) = 0. \quad (18)$$

and the same goes for 14.

$$\frac{dM}{dv_c} = 0 \iff \sum_i^N v_i f(u_i, v_i) = 0. \quad (19)$$

expanding equation (18) yields

$$\frac{dM}{du_c} = \sum_i^N u_i (u_i^2 - 2u_i u_c + u_c^2 + v_i^2 - 2v_i v_c + v_c^2 a) = 0 \quad (20)$$

Define $S_u = \sum_i^N u_i$ and $S_v = \sum_i^N v_i$ then

$$\frac{dM}{du_c} = S_{u^3} - 2u_c S_{u^2} + u_c^2 S_u + S_{uv^2} - 2v_c S_{uv} + v_c^2 S_u - a S_u = 0 \quad (21)$$

In making the coordinates zero mean $S_u = 0$ we get the equation

$$u_c S_{u^2} + v_c S_{uv} = \frac{1}{2} (S_{u^3} + S_{uv^2}) \quad (22)$$

After doing the same for (19) we obtain the system

$$\begin{cases} u_c S_{u^2} + v_c S_{uv} = \frac{1}{2}(S_{u^3} + S_{uv^2}) \\ u_c S_{uv} + v_c S_{v^2} = \frac{1}{2}(S_{v^3} + S_{vu^2}) \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

which can be converted into a matrix equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} S_{u^2} & S_{uv} \\ S_{uv} & S_{v^2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_c \\ v_c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2}(S_{u^3} + S_{uv^2}) \\ \frac{1}{2}(S_{v^3} + S_{vu^2}) \end{bmatrix} \quad (24)$$

This gives us an easy way to get the least squares fitted circle center. For the center in the original (x, y) domain translate with the previously subtracted mean. Finally for the radius, expanding equation (16) and simplifying yields

$$a = u_c^2 + v_c^2 + \frac{S_{u^2} + S_{v^2}}{N}, \quad (25)$$

where

$$r = \sqrt{a}. \quad (26)$$

46.14.2 Angular discontinuity detection

After fitting a circle to each time frame with tracking points we can translate the points in each time frame so that the fitted circle center i.e the AoR is in origo. With this in place a polar coordinate change results in an approximate line like formation of the points, lets call it a worm. Who's movement along the θ axis is the rotation of the heart muscle. Here a problem arises. Since $\theta \in [-\pi, \pi]$, $\theta_t + \Delta\theta > |\pi|$ results in a sign change and the point appears at the lower limit if it passed the upper and vice versa. This needs to be mended if we are to measure angular distance from a starting point. This is done by examining

$$\Delta\theta_t = \theta_t - \theta_{t+1} \quad (27)$$

for each tracking point, adjusting the point with $\pm\pi$ (sign depends on border transition) if $|\Delta\theta_t| > 5$.

Torsion is then found as the difference between the rotation in a apical and a basal slice normalized with the distance along the long axis of the heart between the slices and the mean radius.

46.15 Longaxis volumes

Volumes can be calculated using segmentation from longaxis images. The algorithm begins with automatically locating images labeled 2CH, 3CH and 4CH that contain segmentation. If the same kind of segmentation is found in two such images, the volume is calculated by rotating each segmentation area one full revolution around the axis of intersection and taking the mean of these volumes. If there are three images that contain the same segmentation, the volumes are calculated as described above for each pair of images, and the mean of these three values is used.

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