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1. Overview

P2ROUD = Preclinical PROspective Undersampling in multiple Dimensions

P2ROUD is a software utility and graphical user interface to reconstruct MRI acquisition from data with k-space undersampling in one or more dimensions acquired with an MR Solutions preclinical MRI system.

2. Contact

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3. Disclaimer

The software has been extensively tested using mouse and rat data acquired with an MR Solutions preclinical 7.0T/24cm system.

However, this does not warrant the functions contained in the program will meet your requirements or that the operation of the program will be uninterrupted or error-free.

In case of questions or issues, please contact Gustav Strijkers or Bram Coolen.



4. Installation notes

Software download

Matlab source code and a Windows standalone version (using the free Matlab runtime engine) can be downloaded from github:

<https://github.com/Moby1971?tab=repositories>

Installation of the Windows standalone version

P2ROUD_app_installer.exe

Will install the Matlab runtime engine and the P2ROUD program.

Bart toolbox download

The advanced reconstruction options in P2ROUD require the Bart reconstruction toolbox, which can be downloaded from:

<https://mrirecon.github.io/bart/>



Bart toolbox installation in OSX with MacPorts

(1) Install Xcode from the Mac App Store

```
$ xcode-select --install
```

(2) Install MacPorts (<http://www.macports.org/>)

It is recommended to install a newer version of gcc from MacPorts

(3) Install packages

```
$ sudo port install fftw-3-single
$ sudo port install gcc12
$ sudo port install libpng
$ sudo port install openblas
$ sudo port install flock
$ sudo port install gmake
```

(4) Make

```
$ CC=gcc-mp-12 gmake
$ sudo gmake install
```

Bart toolbox installation in OSX with HomeBrew

(1) Install Xcode from the Mac App Store

```
$ xcode-select --install
```

(2) Install HomeBrew

```
$ /bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/HEAD/install.sh)"
```

(3) Install packages

```
$ brew install --cask gcc-arm-embedded
$ brew install libpng
$ brew install fftw
$ brew install openblas
$ brew install gmake
$ brew install llvm libomp
```

(3) Make

```
$ CC=gcc MACPORTS=0 make
$ sudo make install
```



Bart toolbox installation in Windows 11

(1) Install the Windows subsystem for Linux

Start a windows powershell as administrator and run the following command:

```
Enable-WindowsOptionalFeature -Online -FeatureName Microsoft-Windows-Subsystem-Linux
```

A system restart will be needed.

For more information, see:

<https://pureinfotech.com/install-wsl-windows-11/>

(2) Download Ubuntu Linux

Open PowerShell

To see a list of available Linux distributions for download, enter:

```
wsl -l -o
```

Install a Linux distribution:

```
wsl --install -d <distribution name>
```

You will be asked to create a user account the first time you start a Linux command prompt.

(3) Upgrade to WSL2 if needed

(see e.g. <https://pureinfotech.com/install-wsl-windows-11/> on how to upgrade).

(4) Upgrade the Linux distribution

```
$ sudo apt-get update
$ sudo apt-get dist-upgrade
```

(5) Install Bart prerequisites

```
$ sudo apt-get install make gcc libfftw3-dev liblapacke-dev libpng-dev gfortran
```

(6) Download Bart

```
$ wget https://github.com/mrirecon/bart/archive/v0.9.00.tar.gz
```

(7) Build Bart

```
$ tar xvfz v0.9.00.tar.gz
$ cd bart-0.9.00
$ make
$ sudo make install
```



(8) Build Bart with GPU support (highly recommended)

- Install NVIDIA and CUDA software in windows
(<https://docs.nvidia.com/cuda/wsl-user-guide/index.html>)

- Install CUDA toolkit in wsl2:
(<https://developer.nvidia.com/cuda-downloads>)

```
$ wget https://developer.download.nvidia.com/compute/cuda/12.8.0/
  local_installers/cuda_12.8.0_570.86.10_linux.run
$ sudo sh cuda_12.8.0_570.86.10_linux.ru
```

- Set some parameters (a bit messy, but it worked)

```
$ export CUDA=1
export CUDA_BASE=/usr/local/cuda-12.8
export CUDA_LIB=lib64
export GPUARCH_FLAGS="-arch=sm_61"
export PATH=$CUDA_BASE/bin:$PATH
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=$CUDA_BASE/$CUDA_LIB:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH
export CPATH=/usr/local/cuda-12.8/targets/x86_64-linux/include:$CPATH
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/usr/local/cuda-12.8/targets/x86_64-linux/lib:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH
export PATH=/usr/local/cuda-12.8/bin:$PATH
export CUDA_HOME=/usr/local/cuda-12.8
export CUDA_TOOLKIT_ROOT_DIR=$CUDA_HOME
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH="$CUDA_HOME/extras/CUPTI/lib64:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH"
export LIBRARY_PATH=$CUDA_HOME/lib64:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH
export LDFLAGS="-L/usr/lib/gcc/x86_64-linux-gnu/13 $LDFLAGS"
```

- Make

```
$ make -j$(nproc) CUDA=1 CUDA_BASE=$CUDA_BASE CUDA_LIB=$CUDA_LIB GPUARCH_FLAGS="$GPUARCH_FLAGS"
```

- Test

```
$ make utest_gpu
```

Required Python modules for Deep Learning noise suppression (beta)

It is highly recommended to have a GPU and CUDA for speed.

- Install conda in wsl2

(<https://docs.conda.io/projects/conda/en/latest/user-guide/install/linux.html>)

```
$ sudo apt-get update
$ sudo apt install python
$ sudo apt install python-is-python3
$ sudo apt install python3-pip
$ sudo apt install unzip
$ pip install tensorboard tensorboard-data-server imageio matplotlib
  matplotlib-inline opencv-python scikit-image pillow h5py torch
  torchvision torchmetrics tqdm pandas scipy opencv-python interval
  unzip nibabel tensorboard
```



6. Running the software

Running in Matlab 2025a

The P2ROUD software can be started from its root directory from the command line.

```
>> p2roud
```

Additional licenses may be required.

```
MATLAB  
Image Processing Toolbox  
Parallel Computing Toolbox  
Signal Processing Toolbox
```

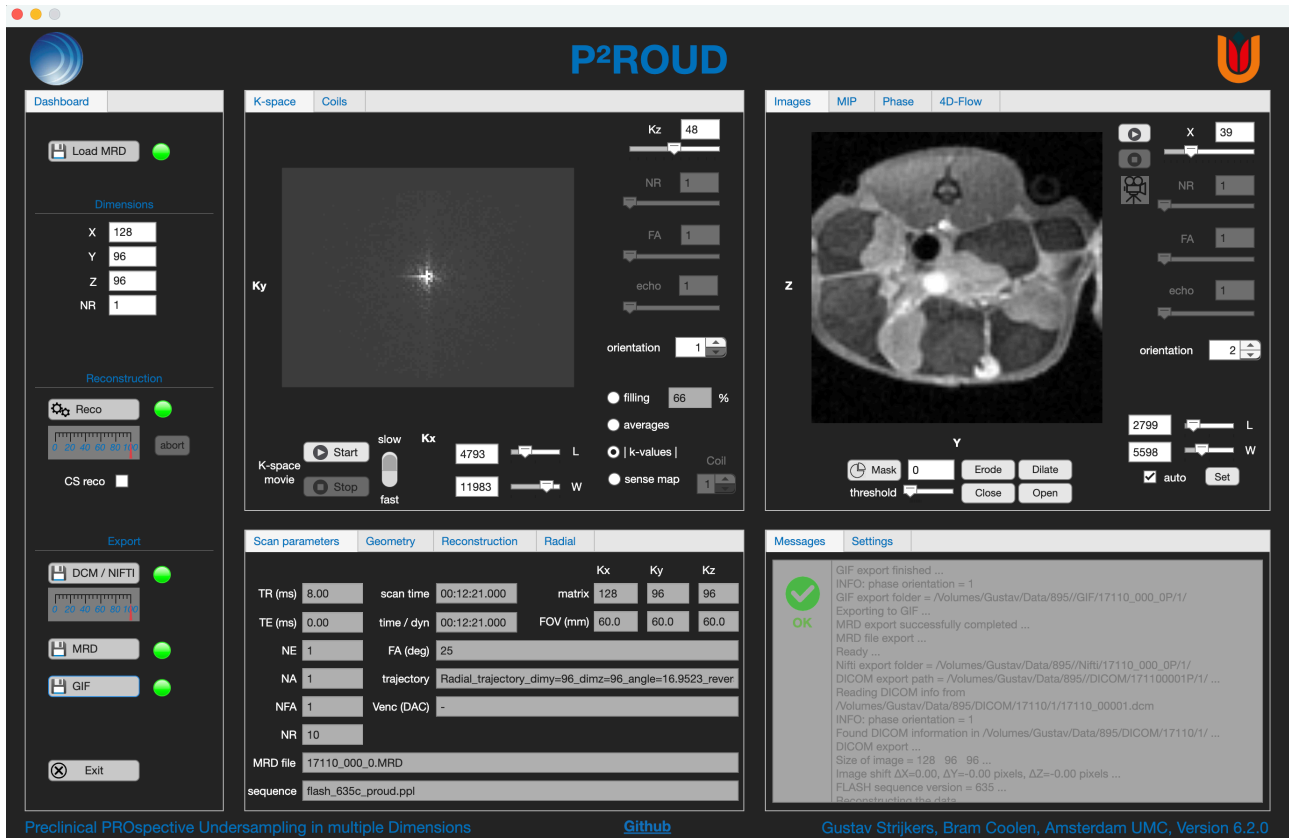
Running the Windows standalone

The Windows standalone version can be run from the start menu or the desktop icon.



6. Basic operation

The P2ROUD program operates from a single window with 5 panels.



Panel 1: Dashboard

This panel contains the task buttons and parameters that control the reconstruction process. The dashboard tasks need to be completed from top to bottom. A green light next to the task indicates that the task has been completed. When the light is yellow the task is busy. Red indicates not completed yet.

Panel 2: K-space / Coils

This panel shows the raw k-space data.

Panel 3: Scan parameters / Geometry / Reconstruction / Radial

This panel displays the relevant acquisition, geometry, reconstruction and radial reconstruction parameters.

Panel 4: Images / MIP / Phase / 4D-flow


After reconstruction is completed this panel shows the reconstructed images.

Panel 5: Messages / Settings

Program status, messages, and app settings.



Step 1: Loading data

Press  Load MRD to import load the MRD raw data file.

P2ROUD in principle can reconstruct any spin-echo, fast-spin echo, and gradient-echo data (except epi).

However the program is particularly designed to reconstruct undersampled data with user-defined undersampling pattern (e.g. SENSE, random undersampling, pseudo-spiral or radial).

For data acquired with multiple receivers (phased-array RF coil) select 1 of the MRD files.

Relevant acquisition parameters will be shown in panel 3.

k-space trajectory

Currently there are 2 options to include a user-defined k-space trajectory in the FLASH (version 635e) sequence.

(1) 2D-data

pe1-order = 3 ("LUT")

The k-space points for the 1st phase-encoding direction (views) are provided in the views-table in the sequence.

(2) 3D-data

pe1-order = 4 ("exLUT")

The k-space points for the 1st and 2nd phase-encoding directions (views and views2) are provided in a text file (*.txt) as a list of points without comma separation.

For example:

```
-48      (views      k-point 1)
0        (views2     k-point 1)
-47      (views      k-point 2)
0        (views2     k-point 2)
-46      .
1        .
-45      .
.
.
etc...
```

(3) Undersampled 2D- and 3D-data

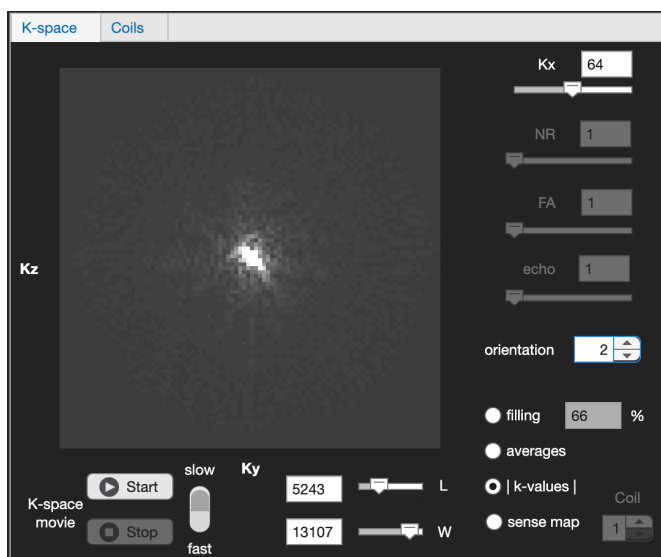
pe1-order = 5 ("nrLUT")

In /function/trajectories matlab and python code for making trajectories can be found.



Step 2: Inspecting k-space

The raw k-space data is displayed in panel 2.

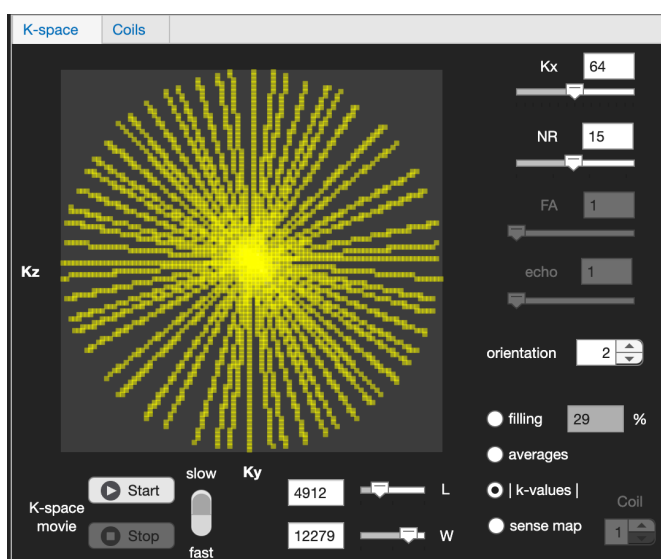


The window displays either the acquired k-space points (**filling**), the number of averages per k-point (**averages**), or the absolute value of k-space (**|k-values|**). The percentage of k-space points acquired is indicated (66% for this dataset).

The sliders step through the 3rd k-space dimension, slices, repetitions (**NR**), flip angles (**FA**) and echoes (**Echo**), if applicable. You can toggle the orientation with the toggle buttons.

Step 3: Displaying the k-space trajectory

Press **Start** to start an animation of the k-space trajectory. An example for a pseudo-radial k-space trajectory is shown below




Press **Stop** to stop the animation. Press



to toggle between fast and slow animation speed.



Step 4: Fourier transform reconstruction

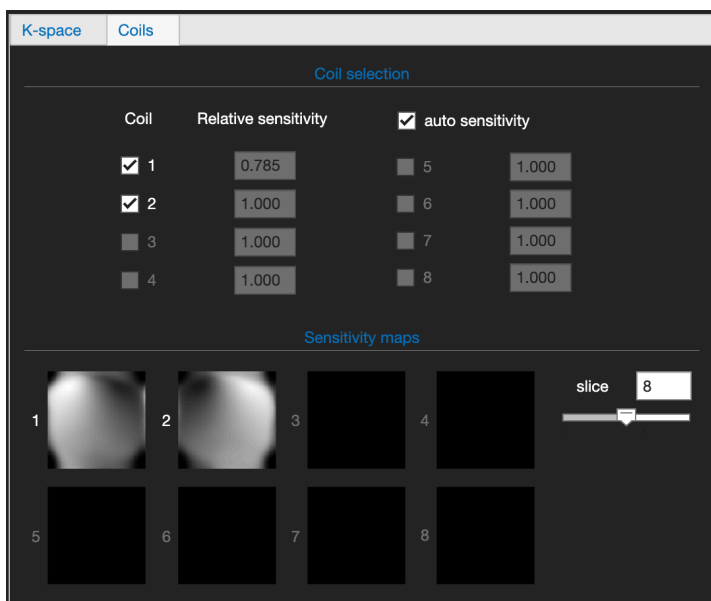
For a first quick inspection of the reconstructed images, a Fourier transform reconstruction of the data can be done by pressing  .



The spatial dimensions of the reconstructed data can be increased or decreased, which will result in zero-padding or cropping of k-space.

Step 5: Coils panel

For acquisitions performed with a phased-array coil the **Coils** panel gives access to the different channels. Here coils can be checked/unchecked to be considered/omitted in the reconstruction. Relative coil sensitivities can be changed or automatically determined by checking the Auto sensitivity checkbox.



Coil	Relative sensitivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> auto sensitivity	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	0.785	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	1.000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	1.000	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	1.000
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	1.000	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	1.000
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	1.000	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	1.000



Step 6: Reconstruction

Checking the **CS reco** box gives access to the Compressed Sensing (CS) reconstruction parameters.

The CS regularization parameters are:

- (1) **WVxyz**
Wavelet regularization parameter in the spatial (x, y, and z) dimensions.
- (2) **TVxyz**
Total variation constraint in the spatial dimensions.
- (3) **LRxyz**
Locally Low Rank constraint in the spatial dimensions.
- (4) **TVtime**
Total variation constraint in the dynamics (repetitions / **NR**) dimension.

The spatial dimensions of the reconstructed data can be increased or decreased. The number of repetitions (**NR**) can also be changed to undersample or average data in the dynamics dimension.

Pressing  will start the CS reconstruction with the BART toolbox.

If the BART toolbox is not available CS reconstruction will be done using a CS algorithm implemented in Matlab, which can be very slow for large datasets.

Several (experimental) denoising algorithms are available.
DeRing applies a Gibbs ringing suppression filter.



Reconstruction of radial scans

The *Radial* tab gives access to advanced reconstruction parameters for radial (2D / 3D) scans.

Scan parameters		Geometry		Reconstruction		Radial	
Gradient delays				Corrections		ZTE	
calibration	<input type="checkbox"/>	abort		center echo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	dead time (µs)	14.0
ring method	<input type="checkbox"/>			phase correction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	shift (samples)	4
Gx delay	0.00000			amplitude correction	<input type="checkbox"/>	full echo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gy delay	0.00000			density correction	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Gz delay	0.00000			Tukey filter	<input type="checkbox"/>		
data offset	4						

Tick the *calibration* checkbox for automatic adjustment of the gradient delays. When the *ring method* checkbox is ticked, the RING method described by Rosenzweig et al. is used [Rosenzweig, S., Holme, H. C. M. & Uecker, M. Simple auto-calibrated gradient delay estimation from few spokes using Radial Intersections (RING). *Magn Reson Med* 81, 1898–1906 (2019)]. When *ring method* is unchecked, a recursive image-based gradient delay optimization is performed. The latter method is much slower.

With *center echo* checked, the echoes are centered before reconstruction.

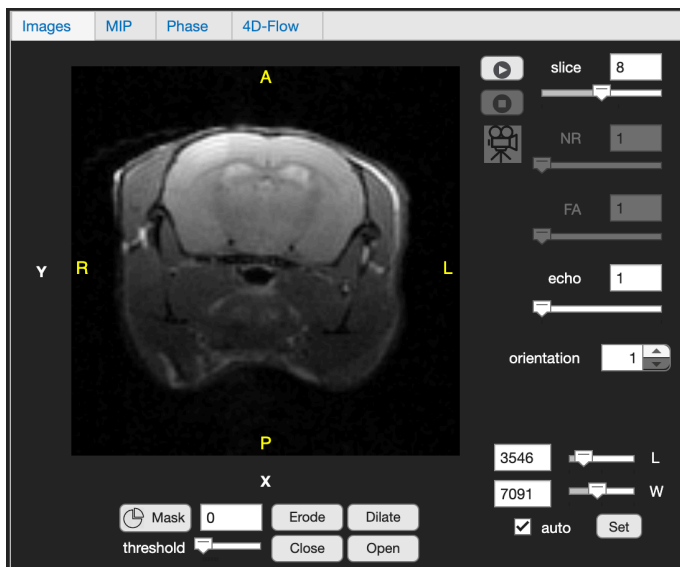
Phase correction performs a phase correction of the echoes before reconstruction.

Density correction performs a 2D or 3D density correction in k-space to account for non-uniform sampling. This setting only applies to reconstructions with *Bart*.





Step 7: Viewing the reconstructed images

After reconstruction the MR images are displayed in panel 4.

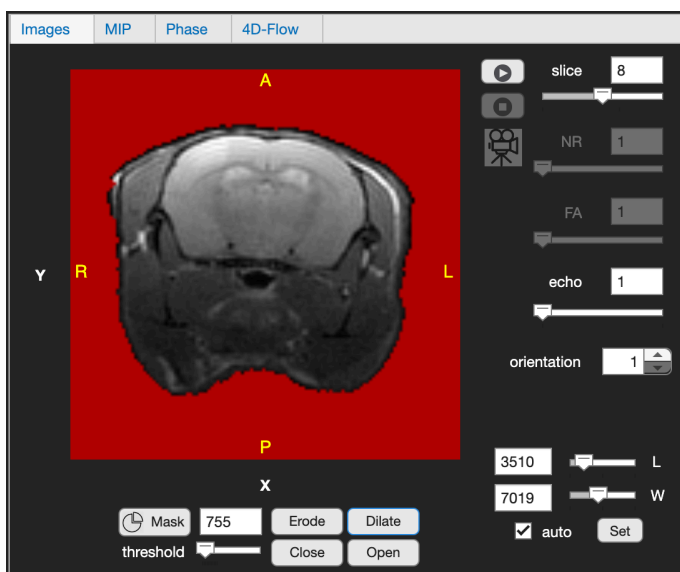


The image orientation can be changed by pressing the **Orientation** toggle buttons.

Image intensity can be adjusted with the **Level** and **Window** sliders. Checking **Auto level** will result in automatic intensity adjustment.

Press  to start a movie of images as function of the dimension / parameter shown next to the camera icon .

Images can be segmented (on the basis of a threshold) by pressing .



Use the threshold slider or morphological operations to fine-tune the segmentation.



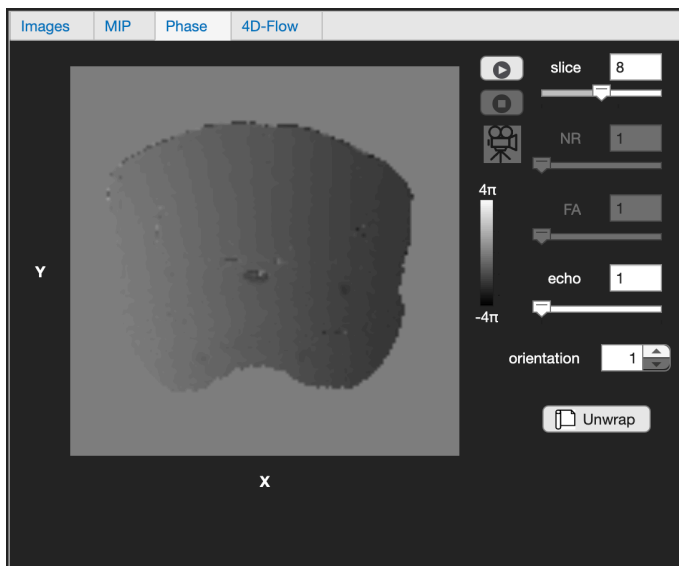
Maximum intensity projection (MIP)

In the *MIP* tab a maximum intensity projection is shown. The MIP can be rotated and animated using the available sliders and buttons.



Phase images

The phase tab shows the phase images.



Phase can be unwrapped by pressing the  Unwrap button.



Step 8: Image export

There are several ways to export the images.



(1) **DCM / NIFTI**

Exports the data in Dicom format for further processing in 3rd party software. The program searches for the Dicom information. If this information is not found, tags will be generated by the program itself. In the latter case the correct image position and orientation information are lost.

After Dicom exports data will be converted into NIFTI format for further processing in 3rd party software.

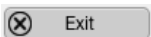
(3) **MRD**

The data will be stored as a new MRD data file in the same directory as the input MRD file. If the program finds an input rpr file, also a new rpr file will be generated. Additionally, when the program runs on the scanner computer, data will be reconstructed by the scanner software and new SUR files will be placed in the data directory for viewing and planning of next scans in the MR Solutions preclinical software.

(4) **GIF**

The data will be exported as (animated) gif files.

Step 9: Exit

Press  to shut down the program.



Credits

- BART toolbox and compressed sensing algorithms

<https://mrirecon.github.io/bart/>

Michael Lustig, David Donoho, John M. Pauly, Sparse MRI: The application of compressed sensing for rapid MR imaging, *Magn Reson Med* 58, 1182-1195 (2007).

- Automatic gradient delay estimation algorithm

Rosenzweig, S., Holme, H. C. M. & Uecker, M., Simple auto-calibrated gradient delay estimation from few spokes using Radial Intersections (RING). *Magn Reson Med* 81, 1898–1906 (2019)

- Gibbs ringing suppression

Kellner, E, Dhital B., Kiselev VG and Reiser, M., Gibbs-ringing artifact removal based on local subvoxel-shifts. *Magn Reson Med*, 76(5), 1574-1581.

- NUFFT

<https://web.eecs.umich.edu/~fessler/>

- Phase unwrapping

M. A. Herráez, D. R. Burton, M. J. Lalor, and M. A. Gdeisat, "Fast two-dimensional phase-unwrapping algorithm based on sorting by reliability following a noncontinuous path", *Applied Optics*, Vol. 41, Issue 35, pp. 7437-7444 (2002),

H. Abdul-Rahman, M. Gdeisat, D. Burton, M. Lalor, "Fast three-dimensional phase-unwrapping algorithm based on sorting by reliability following a non-continuous path", *Proc. SPIE 5856, Optical Measurement Systems for Industrial Inspection IV*, 32 (2005).