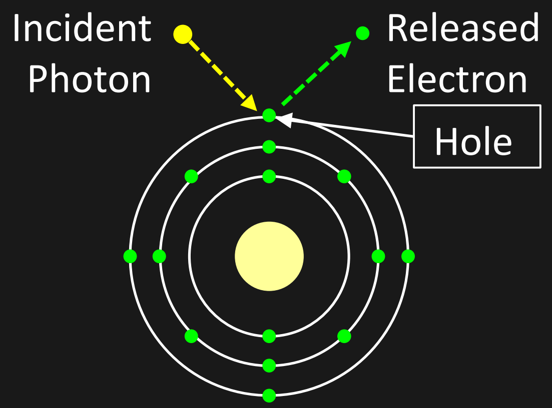
Photons to images

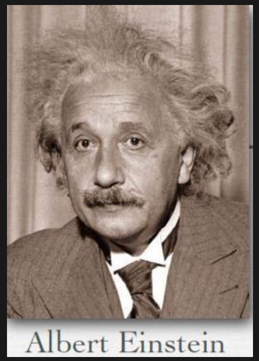
January 3, 2018

Digital imaging pipeline

Photons to electrons

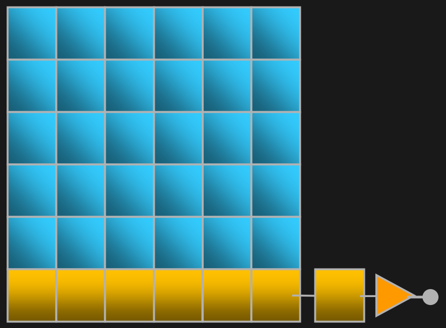


Silicon Atom

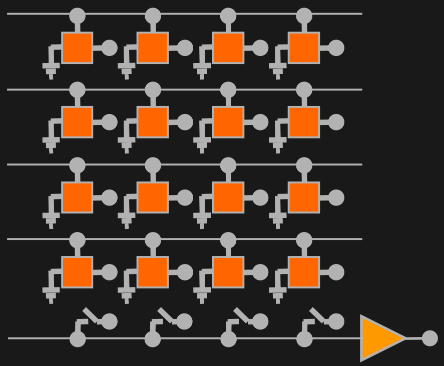


Electrons to voltage conversion

CCD

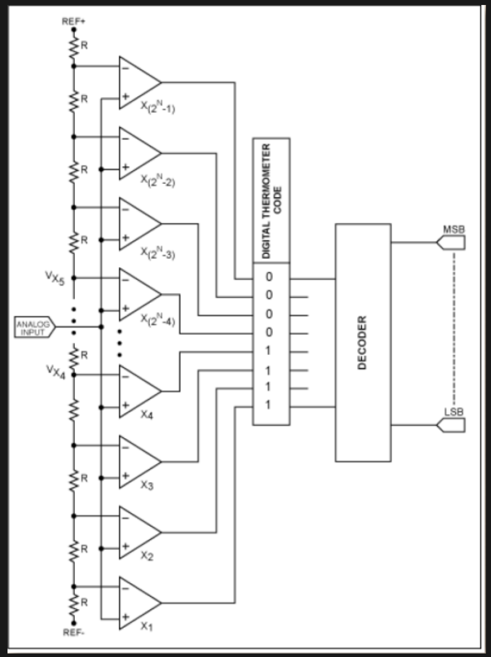


CMOS

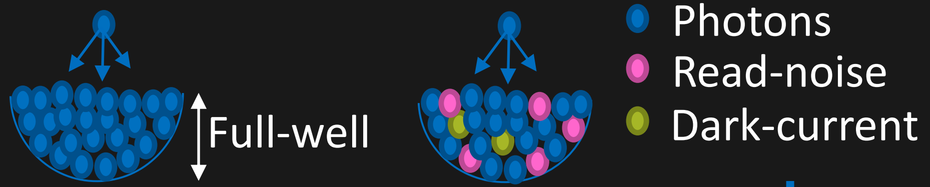


Voltages to gray levels

ADC



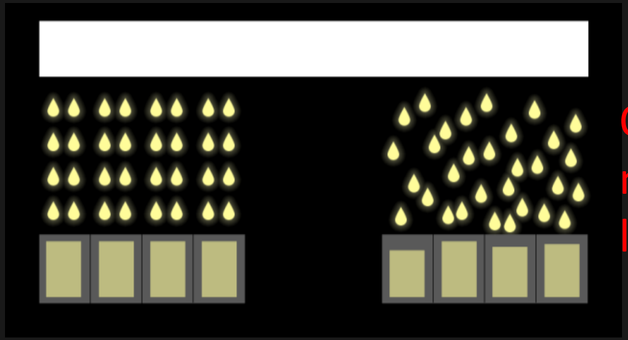
Sources of noise



Photons to electrons

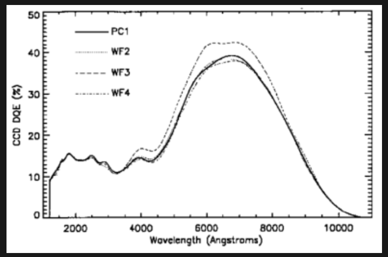
1. Photon shot noise

Expectation Reality



Quantum nature of light

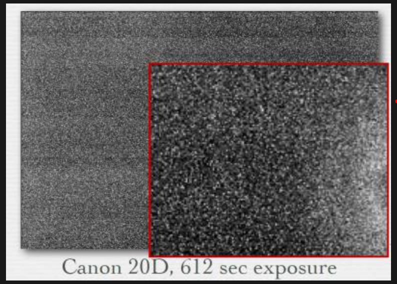
2. Quantum Efficiency



$$QE = \frac{\#electrons}{\#photons}$$

Electrons to voltage conversion

1. Dark current noise



Thermally generated electrons

2. Full-well capacity

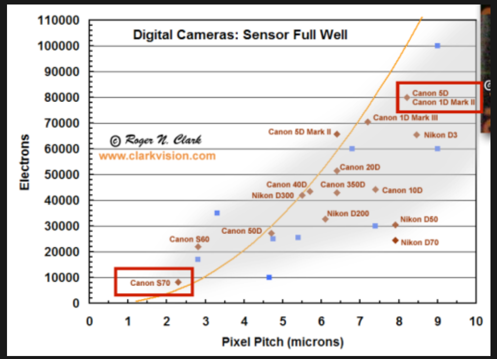
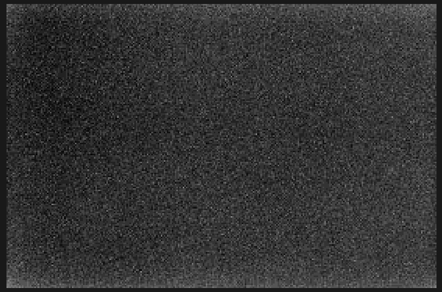


Image saturation

Voltages to gray levels

1. Read noise



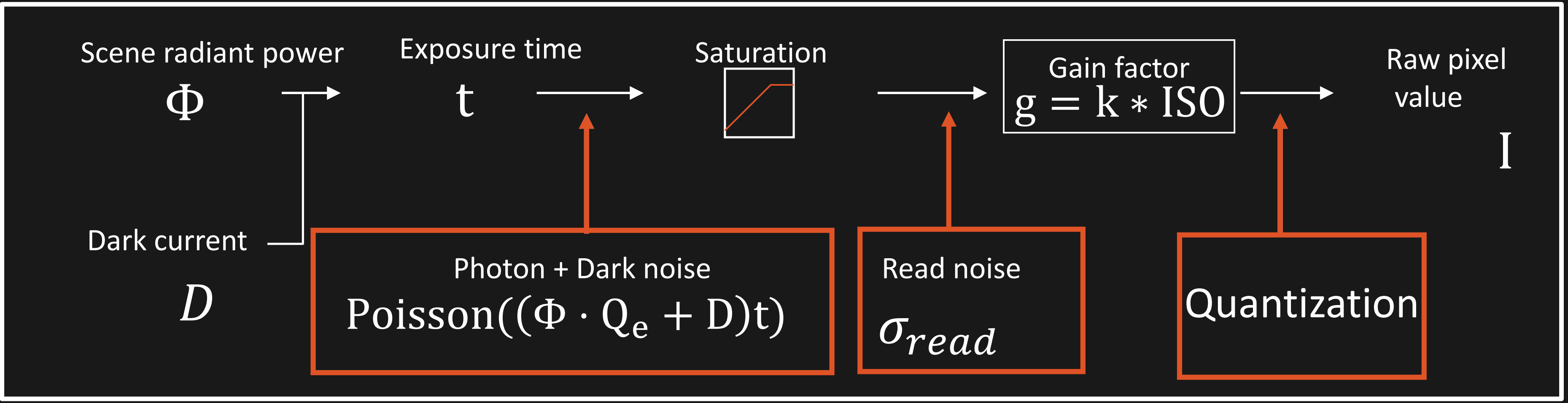
Thermal noise in read-out circuitry

2. Systematic noise

- Fixed-pattern noise
- Pixel readout non-uniformity
- Hot-pixels

Ignore for now

Per-pixel noise model



linear image formation:

Saturation level/Full-well

$$I = g * \left(\min\left(\mathrm{Poisson}\left((\Phi \cdot Q_e + D)t\right), I_{max}\right) + n\right)$$

Gain

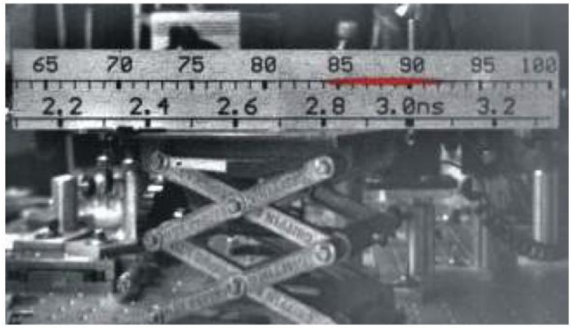
Noise (Read)

Intensified CCD camera (ICCD): 4 Picos

Single-photon sensitivity

Stanford Computer Optics

Temporal Resolution: 200 ps

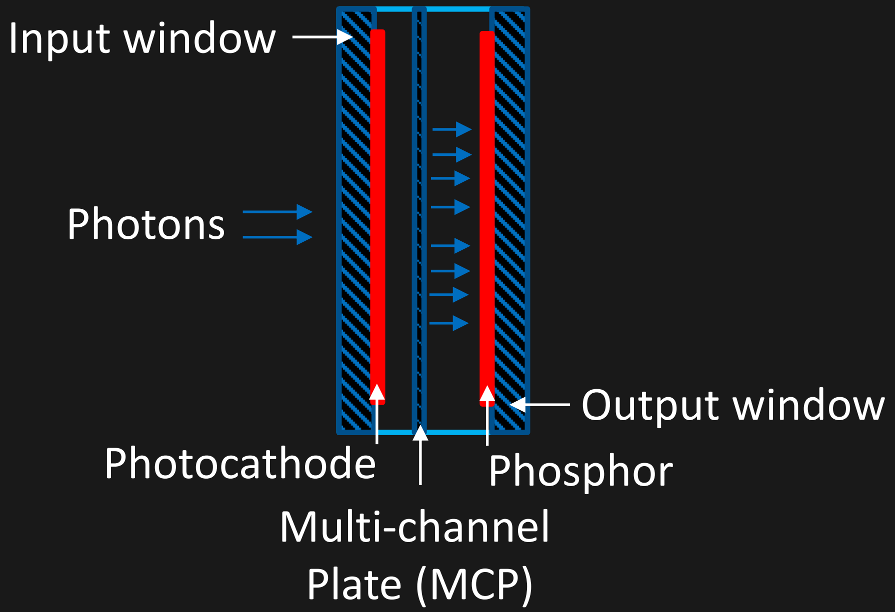


The image shows the distance a femtosecond laser pulse moved along a ruler while the shutter of the 4 Picos camera was open. This distance is a direct measure of the flat top, single shot gating time.

Example image: Shows that the laser moved approximately ~ 200 ps.

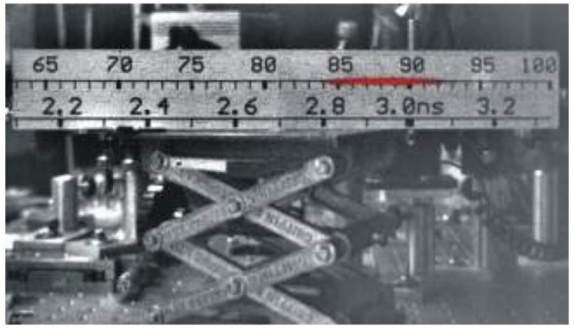
Intensified CCD camera (ICCD): 4 Picos

Intensifier



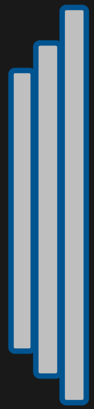
- **Photocathode:** 50% (peak)
- **MCP** : 1000 × electron multiplication
- **Phosphor** : 180 photons per electron

Stanford Computer Optics



The image shows the distance a femtosecond laser pulse moved along a ruler while the shutter of the 4 Picos camera was open. This distance is a direct measure of the flat top, single shot gating time.

CCD



- High-dynamic range : 12 bits
- High TE cooling ($-40°C$): Low-dark current

Intensifier specification

- Quantum-efficiency : $50\ \%$
- MCP (amplification) : $1000\ \times$
- Phosphor-efficiency : 180 photons per electron

- Dark-current : $0.2\,\frac{\text{electrons}}{\text{pix}}/\text{sec}$

CCD specification

- Resolution : 1360×1024
- Dynamic-range : 12 bit
- Pixel-Size (μm) : 4.7×4.7

- Quantum-efficiency : $40\ \%$
- Dark-current : $0.2\,\frac{\text{electrons}}{\text{pix}}/\text{sec}$
- Read-noise : 7 electrons
- Full-well : $500{,}000\ e^{-}$
- Quantization-bits : 12 bits

Pseudocode: Forward-model

$[\text{outputImage}] = \text{ScatteringMedium}\ (\text{PSF}, \text{reflectivity})$

PSF : 2D-Point-spread function in $\frac{\text{photons}}{\text{unit-time}}$

reflectivity : Scene-reflectivity in $[0,1]$

outputImage: Output-image in $\frac{\text{photons}}{\text{unit-time}}$

$\text{outputImage} = \text{imfilter}(\text{PSF}, \text{Reflectivity}, \text{'same'});$

$[\text{intensifiedOutput}] = \text{ICCDIntensifier}\ (\text{outputImage})$

outputImage : Image incident on intensifier in $\frac{\text{photons}}{\text{unit-time}}$

intensifiedOutput: Intensified output-image in $\frac{\text{photons}}{\text{unit-time}}$

q_e : 0.5 (Quantum-efficiency of intensifier in $\frac{\text{electrons}}{\text{photons}}$)

dc : 0.2 (Dark-current in $\frac{\frac{\text{electrons}}{\text{pixel}}}{\text{second}}$)

mcp : 1000 (Amplification of electrons)

pe : 180 (Phosphor-screen efficiency in $\frac{\text{photons}}{\text{electrons}}$)

$\text{intensifiedOutput} = \text{poisson}(\text{outputImage} \times q_e + \text{dc} \times \Delta t) \times \text{mcp} \times \text{pe}$

$[\text{imagePixels}] = \text{CCDSensor}\ (\text{intensifiedOutput}, \text{x})$

intensifiedOutput : Intensified output-image in $\frac{\text{photons}}{\text{unit-time}}$

outputImage : Output-image in $\frac{\text{photons}}{\text{unit-time}}$

q_e : 0.4 (Quantum-efficiency of sensor in $\frac{\text{electrons}}{\text{photons}}$)

dc : 0.2 (Dark-current in $\frac{\frac{\text{electrons}}{\text{pixel}}}{\text{second}}$)

rn : 7 (Read-noise in $\frac{\text{electrons}}{\text{pixel}}$)

fw : 500,000 (Full-well capacity in $\frac{\text{electrons}}{\text{pixel}}$)

g : x (Gain-factor decided by which image saturates)

nb : 12 (Number of bits in bits)

$$\text{imageInElectrons} = \text{poisson}(\text{intensifiedOutput} \times q_e + \text{dc} \times \Delta t)$$
$$\text{imageInElectrons} = \min(\text{imageInElectrons}, \text{fw})$$
$$\text{imageInElectrons} = \text{AWGN}(\text{imageInElectrons}, \text{rn}^2)$$
$$\text{imageInVolts} = \text{imageInElectrons} \times \text{g}$$
$$\text{imageInPixels} = \text{binarize}(\text{imageInVolts}, \text{nb})$$

Example forward-model

$\text{TotalNumberPhotons} = 1e9$

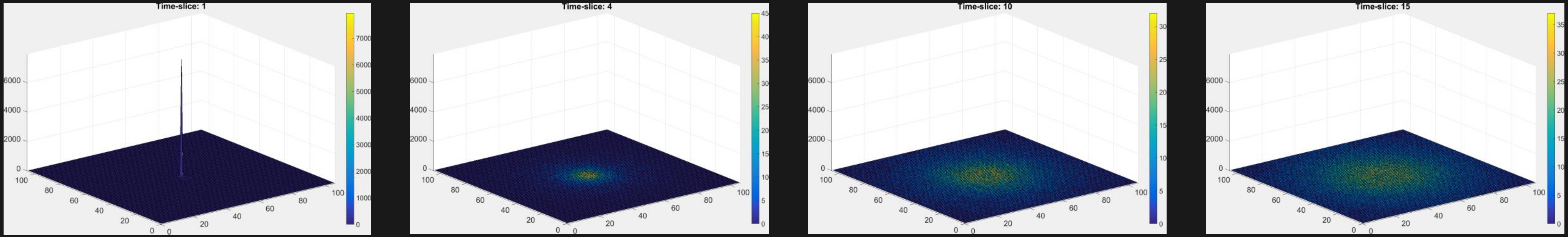
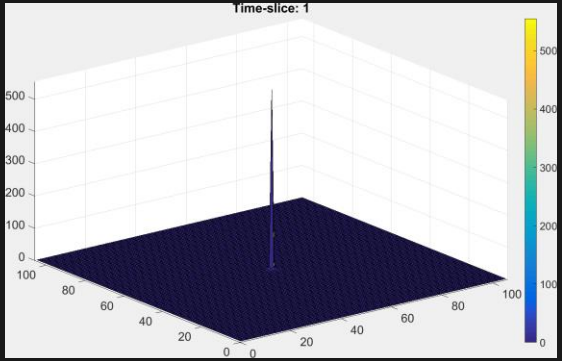


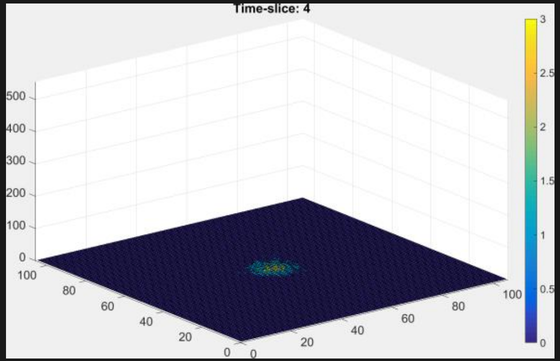
Image saturates at slice 5 itself.

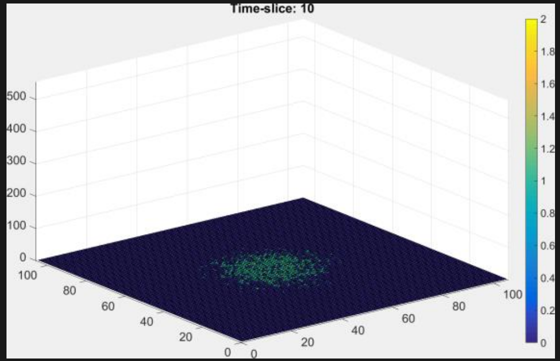
Intensifier-gain	1
Desired-saturated image	10
Achieved-saturated image	5

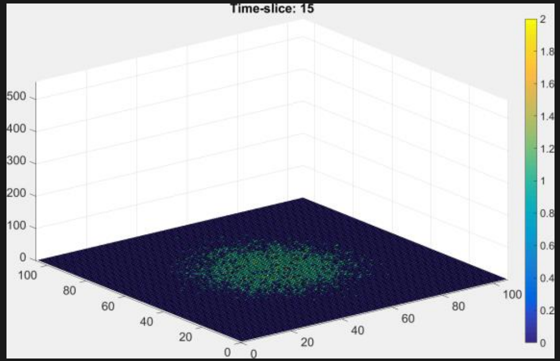
Example forward-model

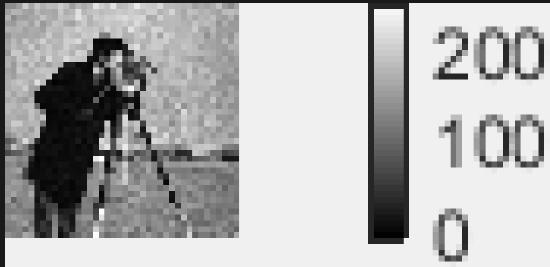
$$\text{TotalNumberPhotons} = 1e7$$

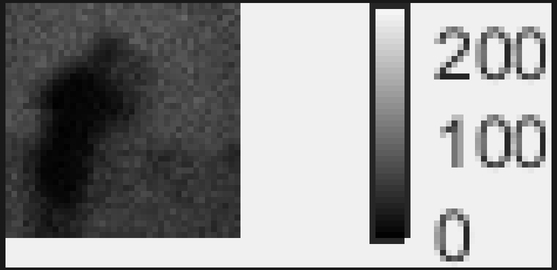


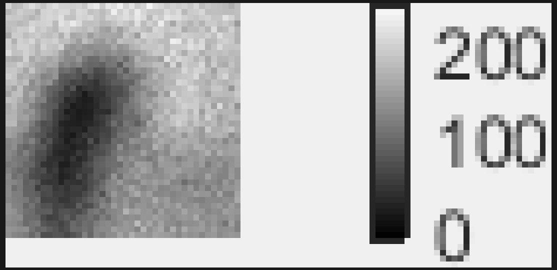












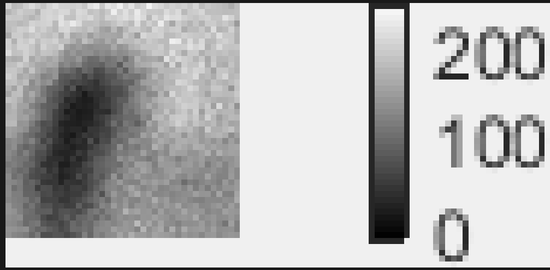
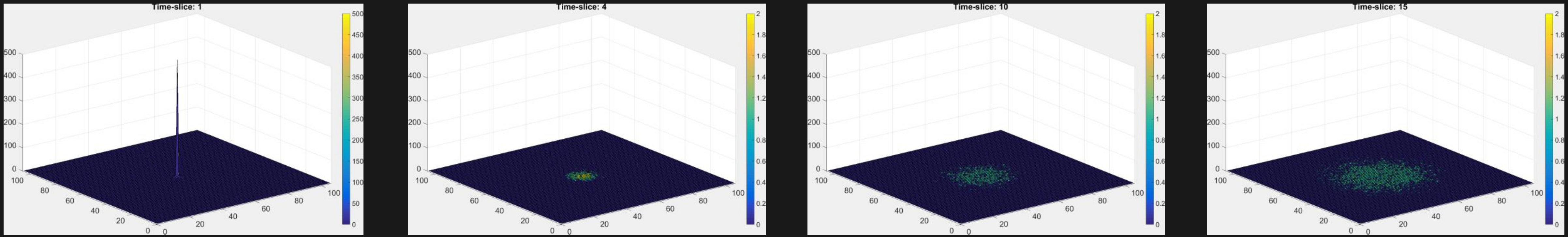


Image saturates at slice 11.

Intensifier-gain	21
Desired-saturated image	10
Achieved-saturated image	11

Example forward-model

$\mathrm{TotalNumberPhotons} = 0.9e7$



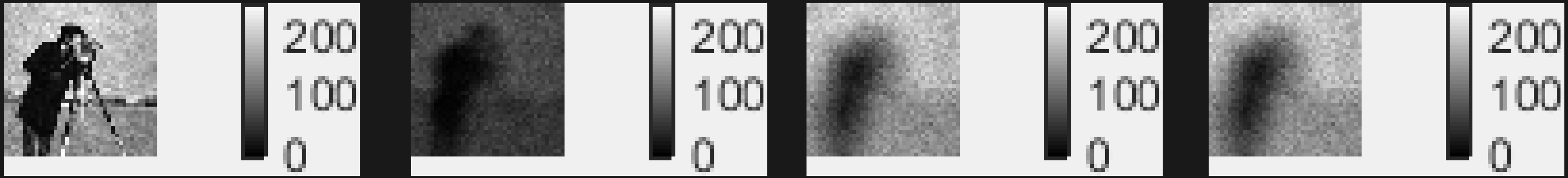


Image saturates at slice 11.

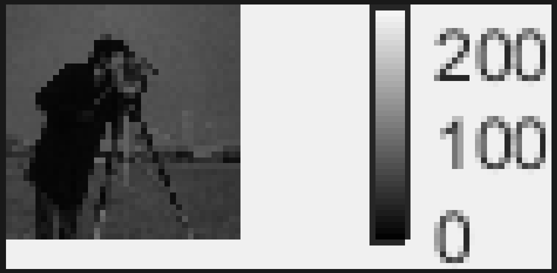
Intensifier-gain	24
Desired-saturated image	10
Achieved-saturated image	11

Intensifier gain

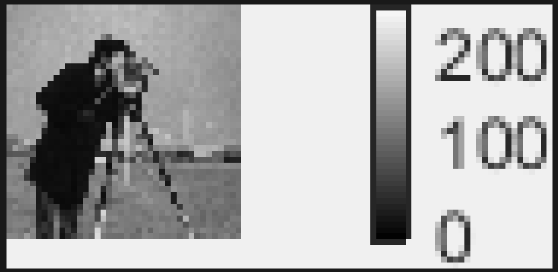
$\text{TotalNumberPhotons} = 1e8$

Increasing the intensifier-gain saturates the image more quickly (in time) but the quality of the slice-1 seems to improve.

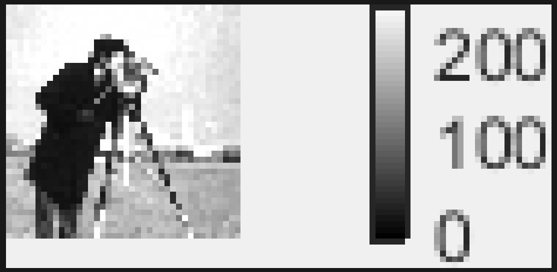
Intensifier gain = 1
Saturated image= 8



Intensifier gain = 2
Saturated image= 5



Intensifier gain = 3
Saturated image= 1



Intensifier gain = 4
Saturated image= 1