Registering Medical Volumes

Registering medical volumes is a common tasks for both clinical applications and research studies. This script provides a workflow you can use for registering medical volumes. If you need to register medical images, continue through the course to learn how to use the Registration Estimator App.

Import the Data

Files

Use the controls below to select the T1_3T_2018 and the T1_7T_2020 folders located inside the MRI Images. They are inside the Data folder provided with the course files.

Run this section after selecting for image folders.

```
Name A

Diff T1_3T_2018

Diff T1_7T_2020

vol3TFolder = "";

vol7TFolder = "";
```

Import the data using the medicalVolume function.

```
vol3T = medicalVolume(vol3TFolder)
vol7T = medicalVolume(vol7TFolder)
```

Examine the metadata

Look at the metadata properties above for each volume. The resolution and plane mapping are different. Registration works best when the geometries of the volumes are the same.

Visualize the volumes

Notice that the 7 Tesla volume covers a smaller portion of the body while the 3 Tesla volume includes the neck and shoulders.

```
orthosliceViewer(vol3T)
orthosliceViewer(vol7T)
```

Resample One Volume

It is usually necessary to ensure your volumes have the same plane mapping and voxel spacing before registration. If they do not, use the resample function to resample the voxels to the same geometry. Here, we resample the 3 Tesla volume to the geometry of the 7 Tesla. Often the choice of which volume to resample doesn't matter. In this example, resampling the 3 Tesla volume helps because it removes the neck and shoulders so that both volumes will only include the head.

```
resampled3T = resample(vol3T, vol7T.VolumeGeometry)
```

Visualize the resampled volume

Visualize a slice of the volumes you will register. The volumes are not aligned, but the resampling has brought them much closer together. You can see that there is both rotation and translation between the two images. Less obvious is that there is also scale, which is usually the case the images are acquired at different resolutions. This means you'll need a similarity transformation.

Because the resampled 3 Tesla volume is better positioned, we'll use it as the fixed volume and the 7 Tesla volume as the moving volume for registration.

```
img1 = extractSlice(resampled3T, 64, "transverse");
img2 = extractSlice(vol7T, 64, "transverse");
imshowpair(img1, img2, "montage")
```

Register the Volumes

To use the imregister function, you must create an optimizer and a metric with the imregconfig function. These objects include properties you can adjust if necessary to improve the registration. The default settings are a good starting point and often work well. Use the multimodal option because the images were acquired with very different machines.

The code below generates a new 3D array, newVoxe1s that is 7 Tesla volume registered to the resampled 3 Tesla volume.

```
[optimizer,metric] = imregconfig("multimodal");
newVoxels = imregister(vol7T.Voxels, resampled3T.Voxels, "similarity", optimizer,
metric);
```

Create a new volume with the registered data

The imregister does not create a medicalVolume object, but the metadata associate with the volume is important. Create a new medicalVolume that is a copy of the original. Then, replace the Voxels property with the new registered voxels.

```
registered7T = vol7T;
registered7T.Voxels = newVoxels;
```

View results

Visualization is an important part of evaluating your results. Use the controls below to compare slices in different planes. The volumes are well aligned!

```
sliceNum = 64;
plane = "transverse";
imgResampled3T = extractSlice(resampled3T, sliceNum, plane);
img7Treg = extractSlice(registered7T, sliceNum, plane);
imshowpair(imgResampled3T, img7Treg)
```

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