

Convert ecat file to nii+json

Siemens ecat (.v) files version 7+ can be converted to nifti (.nii) and accompanying json (.json) file in a [BIDS](#) compliant fashion.

Usage

```
meta = get_SiemensHRRT_metadata('TimeZero', 'XXX', 'tracer', 'XXX', 'Radionuclide', 'XXX', ...  
                                'Radioactivity', XXX, 'InjectedMass', XXX, 'MolarActivity', XXX);  
fileout = ecat2nii({ecatfile1, ecatfile2, ecatfile3}, {meta}, 'gz', false, 'sifout', true);
```

Metadata

Following BIDS, there are a few mandatory metadata information that must be provided manually - simply because this cannot be retrieved from the ecat header information. By default `TimeZero` and a few radiochemistry information must be passed along. Other parameters should be set in the accompanying text file (because those are defaults unlikely to change) but can also be passed as arguments in.

Syntax	Description
TimeZero	Time zero to which all scan and/or blood measurements have been adjusted to
TracerName	Name of the tracer compound used
TracerRadionuclide	Radioisotope labelling tracer
InjectedRadioactivity	Total amount of radioactivity injected into the patient
InjectedMass	Total mass of radiolabeled compound injected into subject
MolarActivity	Molar activity of compound injecte

Once this metadata is generated, this is passed along to the `ecat2nii.m` function which will add scanner specific information and save this as a json file.

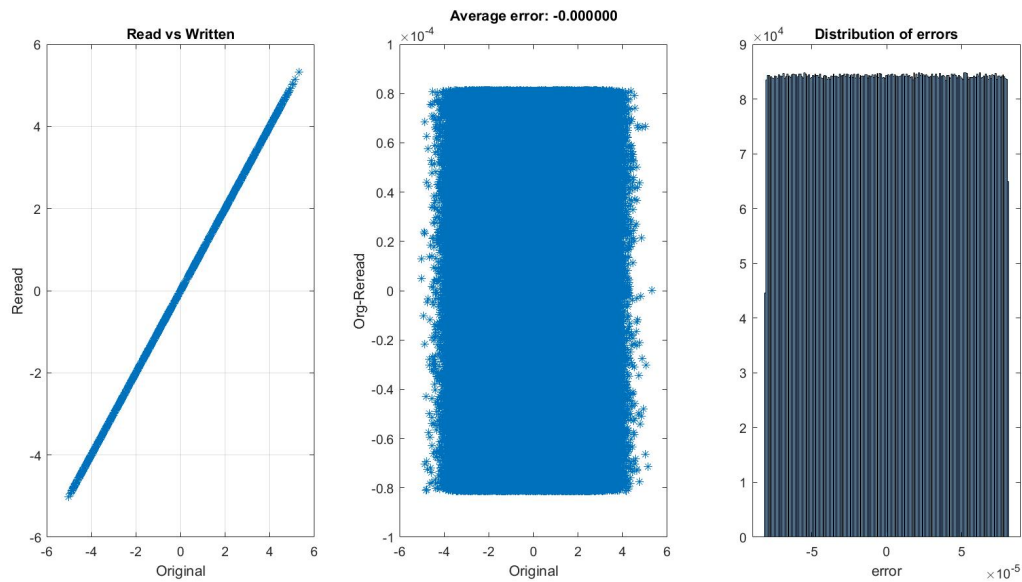
nifti

We read the ecat file, rescale the data to 16 bits, round, multiply by the scanner calibration factor, and use the Matlab nifti write function (little endian).

Testing

'Rounding' errors

`niftiwrite_test.m` is a simple test, creating random data, that are rescaled and saved as nifti - reread and the difference between the generated data and reread data plotted. This shows that the rescaling method used, creates small errors (up to 0.0008 for a simulated data range of 256, i.e. 0.0003125%).



Precision

`ecat2nii_test.m` is meant to run on actual data. Because acquired data are already scaled by the manufacturer (for instance in the 12 bits range) and then we rescaled in 16 bits, round and multiply by the dose calibration factor, many small [quantization errors](#) occur. In addition, because the [representation of floating points is the densest around zero](#) it also means, with real data, most errors are concentrated around zero (see bottom left subplot below). With real data, we observed most errors around 0 with a maximum ± 13 out of a 884410 data range values, i.e. 0.0015% (bottom right subplot below) staying constant across all data frames (top right subplot), although more small (positive) errors occur when there is more signal (see e.g. avi file for a DASB pet scan).

