



Spatio–Angular Microscopy

PhD Thesis

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## Preface

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# Nomenclature

- $\beta$  Transversal magnification of an objective  $\beta = f_{\text{TL}}/f$ , for Zeiss lenses the magnification  $\beta$  is written on the objective and the focal length of the tube lens is defined as  $f_{\text{TL}} = 164.5 \text{ mm}$ , page 16
- $\mathcal{E}$  Etendue, information capacity, light gathering capacity or space-bandwidth product; its value is related to the number of point spread functions that can be resolved in the field., page 24
- $\Omega$  Excitation dose in  $\text{J}/(\text{cm}^2 \text{stack})$ , page 12
- $\Phi_e$  Radiant flux of excitation light in watts, page 12
- $\mathbf{r} = (r_x, r_y, r_z)^T$  Three-dimensional spatial coordinate, page 18
- $\mathbf{r}_t = (r_x, r_y)^T$  Transversal two-dimensional spatial coordinate, page 18
- $\mathbf{v} = (v_x, v_y, v_z)^T$  Three-dimensional spatial frequency, page 18
- $\mathbf{v}_t = (v_x, v_y)^T$  Transversal two-dimensional spatial frequency, page 18
- $\tilde{u}(\mathbf{v})$  Fourier transform of scalar field as a function of spatial frequencies, page 18
- $u(\mathbf{r})$  Scalar field as a function of spatial coordinates, page 18
- ADU analog-to-digital unit, page 30
- chief ray Ray from the periphery of the field through the center of the entrance aperture, page 16
- EM-CCD Electron multiplying charge-coupled devices, page 28
- entrance aperture Projection of the limiting aperture of the optical system into object space, page 16
- Ewald sphere Transfer function of free space, page 19
- I<sup>2</sup>M Image interference microscopy (Gustafsson et al. 1999)., page 23

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LED light emitting diode, page 49

marginal ray Axial ray through the periphery of the entrance aperture, page 16

# preface

add herbert gross to acknowledgements

hoffentlich kommen bessere prototypen nach mir

die programmierung verschiedenster hardware war ein wesentlicher aspekt ich  
habe mir ein beispiel an mikromanager genommen profitiert habe

ich hoffe dass diese arbeit einen grundstein legt. und dass jemand der damit  
beginnen will leichter den einstieg findet daher alle meine software auf github

die komplexitaet und stabilitaet wird zwar nicht erreicht das war aber nicht  
das ziel

ich wollte schnelles prototyping

# 1. Introduction

?<sec:intro>  
my device In this work I discuss a modification of a fluorescence microscope that minimizes the toxic effects of the excitation light.

phototoxicity In the following introductory chapter I describe what phototoxicity is and how it comes about. Then I give an example of how it influences biological observations in a developing *C. elegans* embryo and describe how this particular biological system can be used to evaluate and compare the phototoxicity of different microscopes.

cameras Later in this chapter I give an overview of image formation in the wide-field microscope and I describe its principle limitations regarding resolution and depth discrimination. Furthermore I discuss the two most important current image detector technologies — electron multiplying charge-coupled devices (EMCCD) and scientific complementary metal–oxide–semiconductor (sCMOS).

Regardless of whether it is the picture of earth captured by an orbiting satellite, the x-ray motion picture of a running dog or the time-lapse recording of a blooming flower. Images capture our imagination and they are a good starting point to develop new models and theories.

This is particularly true for microscopy. Only after people became aware of microorganisms by direct observation, medieval quack could finally be overcome and modern medicine based on the scientific method flourished instead.

Even today — with electron microscopes, magnetic resonance tomography and sequencing machines — optical microscopy still is an indispensable tool for research of living organisms.

Fluorescence microscopy is of particular importance: It enables the scientist to selectively label a particular type of molecule in living cells and observe how they perform their biological function.

Besides localizing molecules it is possible to measure physical quantities inside of the sample. There are, for example, fluorescent labels that report membrane potentials or viscosity inside of cells.

Finally, it is even possible to exert a controlling function with the excitation light: There are compounds that locally release chemicals when illuminated and

## 1. Introduction

there are genetically encoded ion channels that can be switched by light (Boyden et al. 2005).

However, the excitation light introduces unnatural and potentially deleterious energy into the specimen. If the exogenous light harms the observed organism in any way, this effect is called phototoxicity.

There are a number of techniques that can reduce phototoxicity: Two photon excitation, controlled light exposure, selective plane illumination, highly inclined and laminated optical sheet, and oblique plane microscopy. I introduce them in chapter 2. These techniques have different pros and cons and not all are equally suited for a specific problem, e.g. selective plane illumination is very effective, but it needs two perpendicular lenses and can not be used for multiwell plates or to observe the liver of a living, adult mouse.

In this work I present an approach that makes use of modern display and camera technology. We only modify the microscope's illumination path, the space around objective lens and specimen remains as accessible as in any conventional wide-field microscope.

### 1.1. Phototoxicity in life sciences and the model organism

#### *C. elegans*

:intro-phototoxicity) The partner in our project who is responsible for decisions related to life sciences and biology is Institut Pasteur (Paris, FR). They work on infectious diseases.

In order to motivate the importance of phototoxicity, I would like to portray an elegant drug screening experiment which I have seen on one of my visits in Paris: An automatic microscope continuously images a cell culture in multiwell plates. These cells carry a pathogen. The pathogen, the nuclei of the cultured cells and the membranes of the cells are each stained with a different fluorophore. The cells in each well of the plates are exposed to a different chemical.

A chemical is considered a hit and will be investigated during further trials, when the time lapse images show that the culture cells stay healthy and the number of pathogens decrease. As neither people nor animals come to harm, this screening experiment is an impeccable method to systematically understand and hopefully heal certain diseases. However, this experiment does not work very well, if the excitation light — and not the drug — kills the pathogens. The effect of phototoxicity should therefore be minimized.

Now one would hardly develop a microscope and directly test it with dangerous

## 1. Introduction

pathogens. As part of our collaboration, the Institut Pasteur therefore developed a safe biological test system that is relatively easy to maintain (Stiernagle 2006) and allows to test the phototoxicity of various microscopes (Tinevez et al. 2012).

The basis of the system is the embryo of the organism *C. elegans*. These are small invertebrates. The adult form is approximately 1 mm long. Their anatomy and development are comparatively simple and have been well characterized (Sulston and Horvitz 1977; Durbin 1987).

We use embryos of a genetically modified strain<sup>1</sup> that expresses eGFP tagged histones (enhanced green fluorescent protein, excitation maximum 488 nm, emission maximum 509 nm). Histones are incorporated into the chromatin during cell divisions, i.e. the nuclei of our worms fluoresce green. The mother worm passes a sufficient amount of these proteins into the cytoplasm of the embryo. In the beginning of its development the embryo entirely relies on this reserve of histones. Only in a much later stage — certainly not during the first few hours, that we observe — it will form its own histones.

Figure 1.1 compares time-lapse experiments on three different *C. elegans* embryos with varying excitation intensities.

The lineage tree of two developing *C. elegans* embryos is the same. With all other factors being equal, particularly if the temperature is constant at  $21 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ , two different embryos will develop at the same speed from egg to fertile adult in three and a half days.

At the beginning of the experiment, embryos are removed from their mothers at an identical stage, before any cellular divisions have occurred. Then a z-stack of the egg with 41 slices and one micron z-sampling is obtained every two minutes.

The columns in Figure 1.1 depict three different embryos whose development was imaged according to this protocol for two hours and 38 minutes with different excitation powers.

The figure displays the maximum intensity projections of the z-stacks. In order to make the cell nuclei visible in all images, I normalized the data to the same range. As can be guessed from the photon shot noise, the upper left image contains the least number of fluorescence photons, and the upper right the most.

An analysis of the time-lapse data show that one hour into the experiment the embryo with the highest excitation dose (right) has stopped developing and its fluorophores are strongly bleached. Some cells even turned apoptotic and went into programmed cell death.

After two hours and 38 minutes the experiment was stopped and the embryo

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<sup>1</sup>Our strain has WormBase ID AZ212 (Praitis et al. 2001).

## 1. Introduction

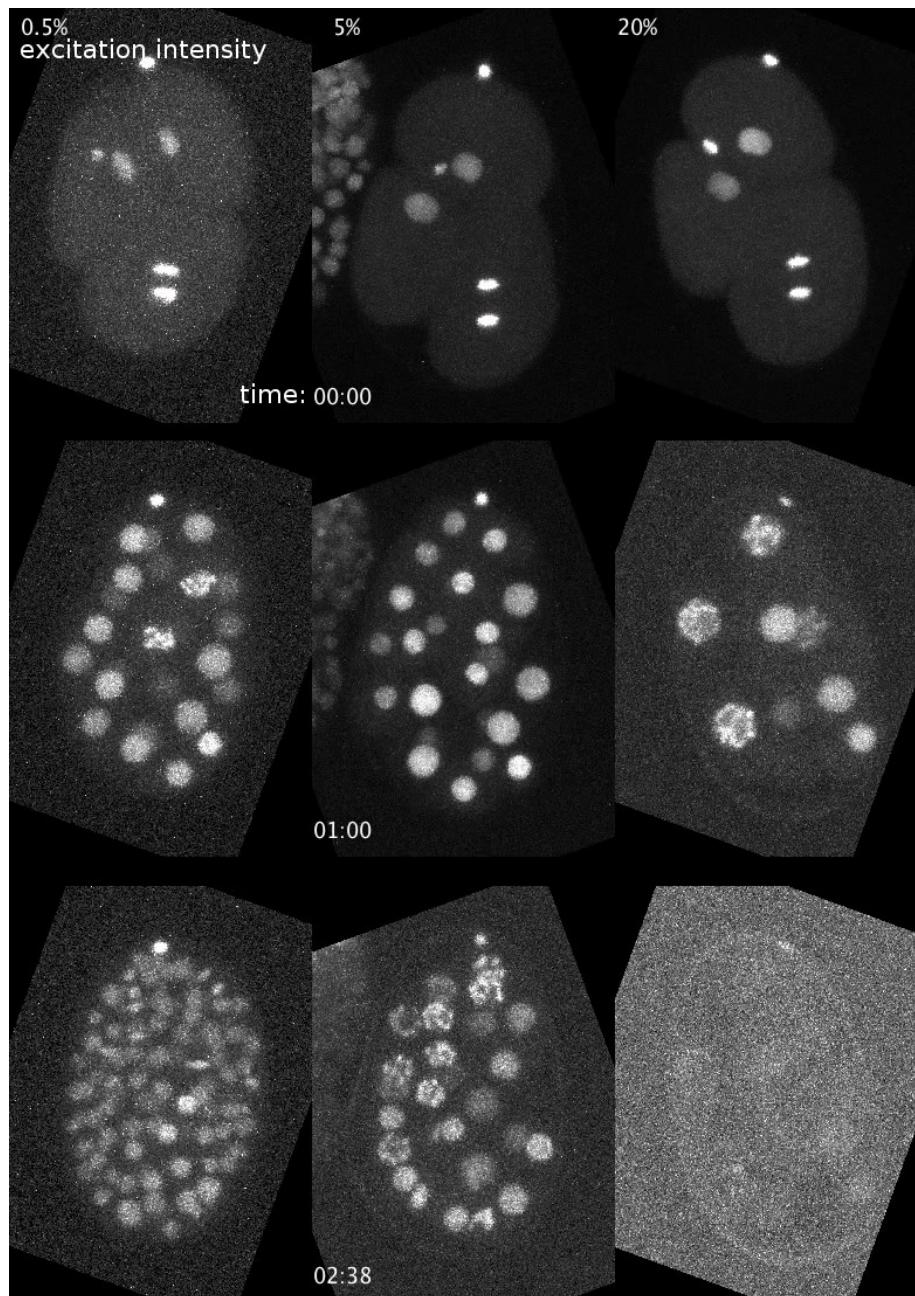


Figure 1.1.: Phototoxic effects while imaging the embryonal development of three *C. elegans* embryos (strain AZ212, histone-2B tagged with eGFP) with different excitation intensities. The embryo with lowest excitation dosage (left) develops fastest. The embryo with the highest dosage (right) ceases development and nearly all fluorophores are bleached after the experiment. Images by J.-Y. Tinevez (Institut Pasteur, Paris, FR).

{fig:celegans-devel}

which was exposed to the lowest dose (left) has developed the largest number of cells. The middle embryo ceased developing while the right embryo died even

## 1. Introduction

earlier and nearly all its fluorophores are bleached at the end of the experiment.

In Figure 1.2 I reproduce quantitative data from Tinevez et al. (2012). Each data point in this graph corresponds to a two hour time-lapse imaging experiment of a *C. elegans* embryo in a wide-field microscope. From a very low excitation up to a certain threshold dose the development is not affected by the light and approximately 50 cells develop during the two hours.

For a dose above the threshold the development is slowed due to phototoxicity and the number of cells at the end of the experiment decreases.

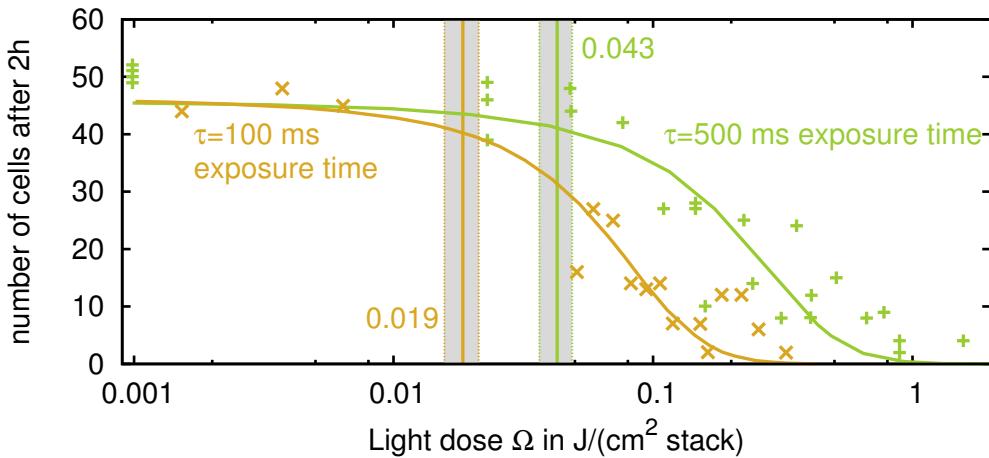


Figure 1.2.: Longer exposure times are less phototoxic. Each data point corresponds to one embryo that developed under a particular excitation dose for two hours. The solid lines are sigmoidal fits to the data. Also indicated are the two phototoxicity thresholds given by the inflection point of the sigmoid and their 95% confidence intervals. This data was provided by J.-Y. Tinevez (Institut Pasteur, Paris, FR) and is also published in Tinevez et al. (2012).

The orange data points in the diagram correspond to a per slice integration time  $\tau$  of 100 ms and for the green data the integration time is five times higher.

The dose  $\Omega$  on the x-axis is calculated as

$$\Omega = \frac{\Phi_e n \tau}{A}, \quad (1.1)$$

with integration time  $\tau$ , area  $A$  of the illuminated field, the number of slices  $n = 41$  and radiant flux  $\Phi_e$  of the excitation light, as measured in the pupil.

Naively one would assume that it should not make any difference if the excitation light dose is administered with 100 ms or 500 ms exposures but these data show that a longer exposure time and low intensity are less phototoxic.

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These results agree with an earlier study in tobacco plants (Dixit and Cyr 2003). They investigate cell death a few days after illumination and find that there is a threshold dose below which no phototoxicity can be detected, and that this threshold decreases with light intensity. Dixit and Cyr show that the damage is caused by reactive oxygen species and they explain the shift of the phototoxicity threshold by the limited capacity of the cells' scavenging system for those radicals. They also predict the existence of redox-sensitive checkpoints in the mitotic division cycle.

In summary this section describes how to measure phototoxicity with biological specimen. The next section gives an overview of the underlying photophysics and the rest of this work describes our attempt to build a microscope with reduced phototoxic footprint.

### 1.2. Photophysical principles of phototoxicity

(sec:photophysics)

energy levels

Here I give a short overview of fluorescence of molecules in order to introduce the terms photobleaching and phototoxicity.

A fluorophore is a molecule that can absorb and subsequently emit light. During the absorption of a photon the molecular orbital transitions from the electronic ground state  $S_0$  to an excited state  $S_1$ . The lifetime of the excited state  $S_1$  is in the order of a few nanoseconds. A Jablonski diagram, as depicted in Figure 1.3, summarizes information about the energy levels of a molecule and possible transition processes.

The majority of known stable and bright fluorophores absorb and emit in the wavelength range between 300 nm and 700 nm. Photons at the high energy end of this range can excite molecules into higher energy levels  $S_n$ , ( $n > 1$ ) than the first excited state; these states are unstable and hardly return to the ground state  $S_0$ . On the other side of the spectrum: a molecule that absorbs in the near-infrared ( $> 700$  nm) has a low-lying excited singlet state  $S_1$  and therefore potentially increased reactivity and a high probability for a non-radiative transfer back into the ground state  $S_0$  (Sauer et al. 2011).

The term *Stokes' shift* describes the frequency shift between the absorbed and emitted photon; the energy difference is lost as heat to the fluorophore molecule and surrounding solvent. For the practical implementation of fluorescence microscopes this is significant, as it enables to separate excitation and emission light with a dichroic beam splitter.

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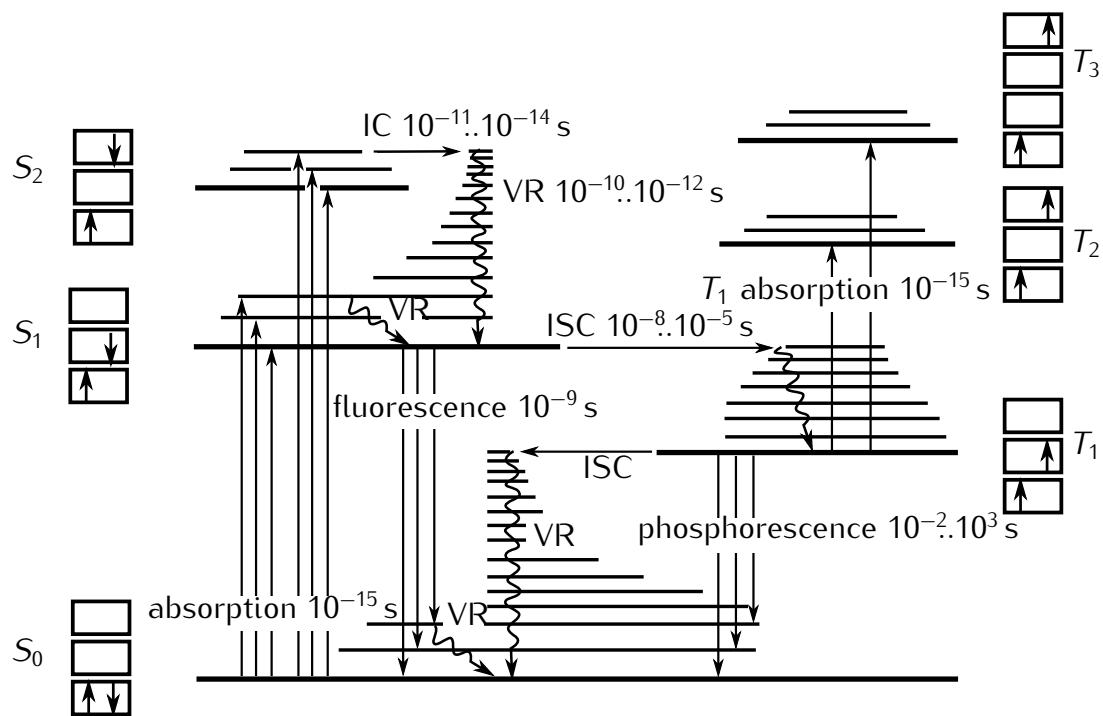


Figure 1.3.: The Jablonski energy level diagram of an illustrative fluorescent molecule. The boxes depict orbitals, up and down arrows symbolize the spin of the outer electrons. Fat horizontal lines represent electronic states. Thinner lines indicate vibro-rotational states. Various processes are shown with their typical time scales. VR = vibro-rotational relaxation, ISC = intersystem crossing, IC = internal conversion (inspired from Haken and Wolf 2006).

(fig:flu-level)

The excitation probability of a fluorescence molecule depends on the orientation of its dipole axis relative to the plane of vibration of the excitation field. Especially if the molecule is not rigidly bound to a bigger structure or embedded in a viscous solvent it will reorient its dipole during the fluorescence lifetime and emit the fluorescence photon in a random direction. We use this in the next section to describe image formation in the fluorescence microscope.

The triplet states  $T_n$  play an important role in photobleaching. Pure electronic absorption of one photon has no effect on the spin of an electron and therefore the transition from singlet states  $S_n$  into the triplet state  $T_n$  should not occur. However, interaction with the nuclei can mediate this spin transition. Therefore, in fluorophores this transition has a small probability, resulting in long lifetimes of the triplet state  $T_1$ .

Deschenes and Bout (2002) show that excitation of higher triplet states  $T_n$  is the predominant reactive process for photobleaching in vacuum. In particular they

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measured that one rhodamine 6G molecule *in vacuum* can emit more than  $1 \times 10^9$  photons before it bleaches, if the excitation intensity is low enough ( $\sim 1 \text{ W/cm}^2$ ) to prevent decay over triplet states.

In normal atmosphere the prolonged lifetime of the triplet state  $T_1$  makes it highly likely for the fluorophore to react with molecular oxygen  $\text{O}_2$ . Oxygen is abundant and has a triplet ground state  $^3\Sigma$  with two unpaired electrons of parallel spin in its  $\pi^*$ -orbitals (see Figure 1.4).

(Bernas et al. 2004)

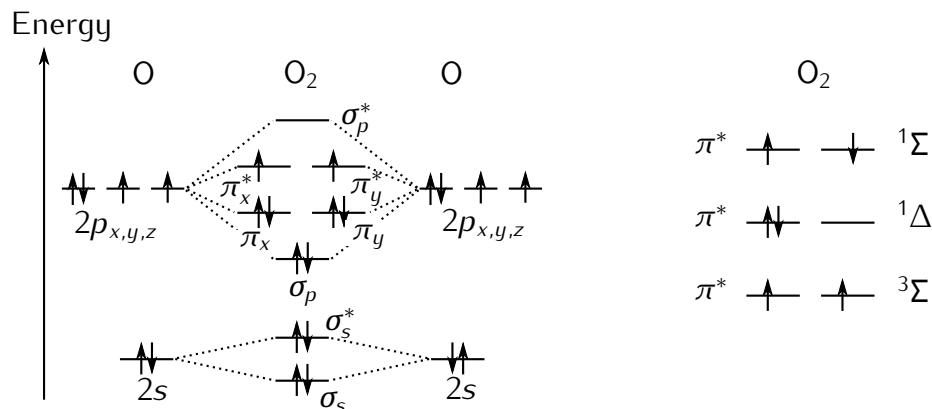


Figure 1.4.: **left:** Schematic that depicts how the orbitals of the oxygen molecule are formed from the atomic orbitals. **right:** Molecular oxygen has the lowest energy in its triplet state  $^3\Sigma$  where the spins of the two outer  $\pi^*$ -electrons are parallel. Inspired from van de Linde (2011).

{fig:oxygen}

If a ground-state oxygen molecule comes into physical contact with a  $T_1$  fluorophore, the energy of the latter can be transferred by an electron exchange energy transfer mechanism in which the orbitals directly interact with each other (Haken and Wolf 2006, p. 438 and van de Linde 2011).

During this reaction, which is also known as triplet-triplet annihilation, two forms of singlet oxygen form in competition: The lower energy state  $^1\Delta$  and the short-lived, higher energy state  $^1\Sigma$  that immediately ( $T_{1/2} \sim 10^{-9} \text{ s}$ ) sends out a 1268 nm photon and decays into  $^1\Delta$ .

The resulting singlet oxygen  $^1\Delta$  is very reactive. In a typical specimen it diffuses only a few tens of nanometres until it reacts with another molecule.

(FIXME 2000 greenbaum measures oxygen production, bernas 2004 anoxia gfp)

Nowadays many methods are known to reduce photobleaching: Substitute oxygen with noble gases or remove it enzymatically (Sauer et al. 2011, p. 89), depopulate the triplet state by adding reducing as well as oxidizing agents to the solvent (Vogelsang et al. 2008) or couple a triplet quencher directly to the

## 1. Introduction

fluorophore (Sauer et al. 2011, p. 19). For fixed samples it helps to change the solvent or polymer.

In living specimen these techniques may reduce photobleaching, but they can also have a detrimental effect on the biological system itself. Removing oxygen will quite certainly have a negative effect. In order to reduce phototoxicity it makes sense to think about the light management in the microscope.

### 1.3. Conventional microscopes

The wide-field fluorescence microscope does not excite fluorophores of the specimen in an optimal way. In this section I outline how these microscopes work and explain how out-of-focus blur severely limits their performance. I introduce the terms point spread function, optical transfer function and etendue.

#### 1.3.1. Ray-optical description of a large-aperture lens

A microscope, is a device that collects light coming from one plane and forms a magnified image on a camera. Figure 1.5 b) shows a schematic representation of the detection path of a wide-field microscope.

The main components are an objective lens with focal length  $f$  and a tube lens TL1 with focal length  $f_{TL} > f$ . Sample, lenses and camera are arranged in double-telecentric configuration, i.e. the sample is located in the front focal plane of the objective, the tube lens is at distance  $f_{TL}$  behind the pupil (i.e. the back focal plane of the objective) and the camera is in the focal plane behind the tube lens.

Light from the sample is collimated by the objective lens and re-imaged by the tube lens. The lateral magnification  $\beta$  is given by the ratio of the focal lengths of the two lenses:

$$\beta = \frac{\overline{O'P'}}{\overline{OP}} = \frac{f_{TL}}{f}. \quad (1.2)$$

Note that in Figure 1.5 b) I represent the objective lens as a single element. This is a simplification.

In the paraxial limit ray-tracing calculations for a thick lens or even several consecutive lens elements can be simplified by bending the ray only at one place — at the principal plane.

## 1. Introduction

perfect imaging and  
high-aperture

Microscope objectives must collect light from a large aperture in order to produce a high resolution image. This is a fact I will support shortly using the wave-optical model. Unfortunately the large ray angles in the objective prevent its simplified description using principal planes, but an analysis using the eikonal theory (Haferkorn and Richter 1984) shows

that an optical system that fulfills the Abbe sine condition allows perfect imaging even for widespread ray bundles.

$$\beta = \frac{n \sin \alpha}{n' \sin \alpha'} \quad (\text{Abbe sine condition}) \quad (1.3)$$

This condition ensures that the focal length, a quantity which is usually defined only for paraxial rays, is equal for all angles. This in turn means that such a lens carries out a Fourier transform from the front to the back focal plane with linear scaling. Note that a lens with a non-linear distortion in the back focal plane will fail to produce an image that is similar to the object.

aplanatic sphere

It turns out that ray bending in a high-aperture lens system that fulfills the Abbe sine condition can be simplified to a one bend at a single surface, quite similar to the utilization of principal planes in paraxial optics. For a high-aperture system this surface is no longer a plane. Instead it is a sphere with radius  $nf$  and called *aplanatic sphere*. I depict this surface as two circle segments with bold red strokes on the lenses in Figure 1.5 b).

In addition to the Abbe sine condition microscope lenses are also corrected for spherical aberration and linear coma (Gross et al. 2005). Then the coma rays are symmetric around the chief ray, the wavefront and point spread function are approximately invariant for small field sizes (in first order). This ensures that the imaging conditions are invariant for small regions of the field plane and allows to express image formation with linear systems theory.

### 1.3.2. Wave-optical theory for image formation in a fluorescence microscope

wave optics

In the following I want to describe how the image on the camera is formed. For this we have to use wave theory because close to the image rays intersect, invalidating ray-optical predictions. As both, wave-optical and ray-optical theory, are very much related, we can give a useful interpretation of the aplanatic surface for wave optics.

plane waves

The underlying Maxwell equations and the wave equation are linear and we can

## 1. Introduction

represent propagating solutions (evanescent solutions are neglected) of the wave equation as a superposition of the elementary solution — the monochromatic, plane waves described by wave vector  $\mathbf{k}$ :

$$u(\mathbf{r}, t) = u \exp(i(\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r} - \omega t)), \quad \mathbf{r} = (r_x, r_y, r_z), \quad \mathbf{k} = (k_x, k_y, k_z), \quad |\mathbf{k}| = 2\pi \underbrace{n/\lambda_0}_{1/\lambda}, \quad (1.4)$$

with vacuum wavelength  $\lambda_0$ , refractive index  $n$  and wavelength  $\lambda$  in the immersion medium.

The accurate treatment of high-aperture optics would in fact require a vectorial calculation of the image for a fluorophore with a particular dipole orientation. Subsequently these images should be averaged to account for random fluorophore orientations, but as I do not need quantitative expressions I limit myself to the simpler scalar problem which provides qualitatively similar results.

Ewald sphere

Assuming that the excited fluorophores in the sample give rise to a monochromatic electromagnetic field — I simplify the problem by omitting the complication that fluorophores emit photons in a wavelength range — then using the spatial frequency vector  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{k}/(2\pi)$  we can expand the three-dimensional, stationary field amplitude distribution  $u(\mathbf{r})$  into its spatial frequency spectrum  $\tilde{u}(\mathbf{v})$ :

$u(\mathbf{r}) :$	$\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$	field distribution in sample space
$u'(\mathbf{r}') :$	$\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$	field distribution in image space
$S(\mathbf{r}) :$	$\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	distribution of fluorophores in sample space
$I'(\mathbf{r}') :$	$\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	intensity distribution in image space
$\tilde{u}(\mathbf{v}) :$	$\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$	spatial frequency spectrum of field in sample space
$a(\mathbf{r}) :$	$\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$	amplitude point spread function
$\tilde{a}(\mathbf{v}) :$	$\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$	amplitude transfer function, generalized aperture
$h(\mathbf{r}) =  a(\mathbf{r}) ^2 :$	$\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	intensity point spread function
$\tilde{h}(\mathbf{v}) :$	$\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$	optical transfer function

Table 1.1.: Overview of the functions that are used in this section.

:widefield-functions)

$$u(\mathbf{r}) = \mathcal{F}(u(\mathbf{v})) := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \tilde{u}(\mathbf{v}) \exp(2\pi i \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{v}) d^3 v \quad (1.5)$$

Where  $\mathcal{F}$  denotes the Fourier transform operation. I will use several functions in this section. See Table 1.1 for a listing of their names.

Since we have assumed a monochromatic field and the length  $|\mathbf{v}|$  of the spatial frequency vector is the inverse of the wavelength ( $n/\lambda_0$ , in the material of refractive index  $n$ ), the support (denoted 'supp') of this spectrum  $\tilde{u}(\mathbf{v})$  is limited to the surface

## 1. Introduction

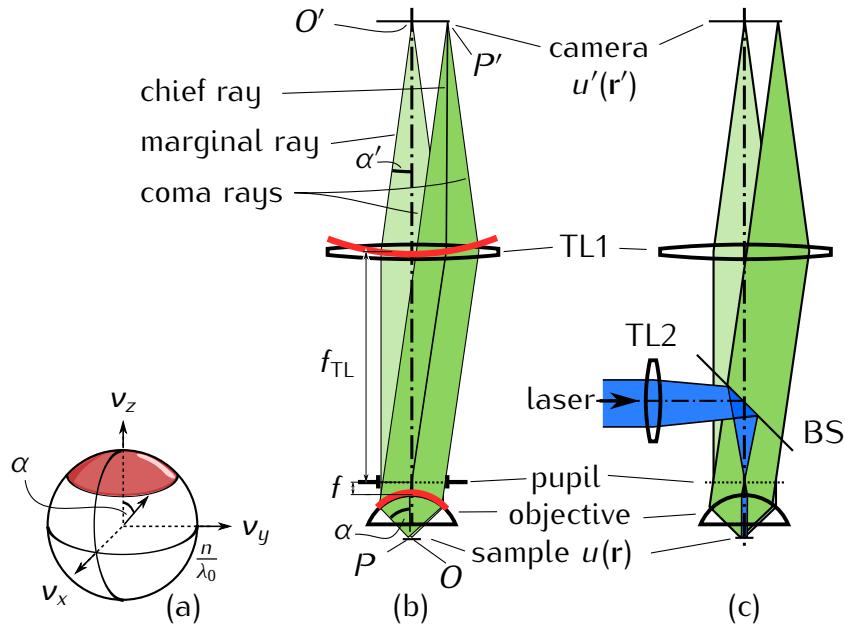


Figure 1.5.: a) Segment of the three-dimensional frequency spectrum of the light from the sample that is collected by the objective lens is highlighted in red on the Ewald sphere. b) Schematic of the detection path of a modern microscope. The sample is in the front focal plane of the objective. The detection tube lens TL1 forms a magnified image on the camera. The aplanatic spheres for objective and tube lens are indicated in red. c) Parallel laser epifluorescence excitation. The excitation tube lens TL2 focuses a laser into the pupil of the objective. The beam is reflected by a dichroic beam splitter (BS) towards the objective. An extended area in the specimen is illuminated. Fluorescence light returns through the objective, is transmitted through BS and forms an image on the camera.

widefield-microscope)

of a sphere of radius  $n/\lambda_0$ :

$$\text{supp } \tilde{u}(\mathbf{v}) = \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : |\mathbf{v}| = n/\lambda_0\}. \quad (1.6)$$

This sphere is the transfer function of free space, and is also called Ewald sphere. Scaling the Ewald sphere with  $f\lambda_0$  gives the aplanatic surface of the lens. Note that the  $x$ -component of the marginal ray (in the  $xz$ -plane) corresponds to the spatial frequency component  $v_x = n \sin \alpha$  in object space and  $v'_x = n' \sin \alpha'$  with  $n' = 1$  in image space. The transversal spatial frequency components are related due to the Abbe sine condition (1.3):

$$\beta = v_x/v'_x, \quad \beta = v_y/v'_y. \quad (1.7)$$

## 1. Introduction

The transfer function  $\tilde{a}(\mathbf{v})$  of the lens is defined by complex values on the Ewald sphere (McCutchen 1964):

$$\tilde{a}(\mathbf{v}) = P(\mathbf{v}_t) \exp\left(\frac{2\pi i}{\lambda} W(\mathbf{v}_t)\right) \delta\left(|\mathbf{v}| - \frac{n}{\lambda_0}\right) \text{step}(v_z), \quad (1.8)$$

$$\text{step}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}, \quad (\text{Heaviside step function}) \quad (1.9) \quad [\text{eq:unit-step}]$$

with the Dirac delta function  $\delta$ , transversal spatial frequency vector  $\mathbf{v}_t = (v_x, v_y)^T$ , and the real valued pupil function  $P(\mathbf{v}_t)$  and wavefront error  $W(\mathbf{v}_t)$ . McCutchen calls the three-dimensional function  $\tilde{a}(\mathbf{v})$  the generalized aperture.

For this discussion I set  $W(\mathbf{v}_t) = 1$ , i.e. there is no wavefront aberration and the lens is diffraction limited. Furthermore, I use a uniform, solid cylinder as pupil function  $P(\mathbf{v}_t)$  in order to limit the size of the calotte (or cap) of the Ewald sphere that is defined by the acceptance angle  $\alpha$  of the objective<sup>2</sup>:

$$P(\mathbf{v}_t) = \text{step}\left(|\mathbf{v}_t| - \frac{n \sin(\alpha)}{\lambda_0}\right), \quad (1.10)$$

with the Heaviside step function as defined in equation (1.9). In general  $P(\mathbf{v}_t)$  can assume values between 0 and 1 in order to account for apodization due to natural vignetting or angle-dependent Fresnel reflection losses on the lenses. I ignore such effects in this discussion. Also, just as the objective lens, the tube lens can be described by its generalized aperture but I assume that the tube lens maintains a diffraction limited wavefront of the full angular range. For this discussion, the full microscope is readily described by the generalized aperture of just its objective lens.

Multiplication of the angular frequency spectrum  $\tilde{u}'(\mathbf{v})$  with the generalized aperture  $\tilde{a}(\mathbf{v})$  gives the angular frequency spectrum of the amplitude in the image:

$$\tilde{u}'(\mathbf{v}') = \tilde{u}'(\mathbf{v}/\beta) = \tilde{u}(\mathbf{v}/\beta) \cdot \tilde{a}(\mathbf{v}/\beta). \quad (1.11)$$

Note that I use the transversal magnification  $\beta$  to scale the arguments of the functions, so that the result is given in image space spatial frequencies<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup>Note that this expression is only valid for  $\alpha \in [0, \pi/2]$ . An expression for  $\tilde{a}(\mathbf{v})$  encompassing the full range  $[0, \pi]$  for  $\alpha$  must contain two functions of each  $P$  and  $W$ , in dependence on whether the spatial frequency vector  $\mathbf{v}$  is directed in or against the direction of the optical axis. This is necessary to express the transfer function of a 4Pi or  $l^nM$  microscope.

<sup>3</sup>Unfortunately my notation is slightly problematic here. I assume that z-sampling occurs by

## 1. Introduction

According to the convolution theorem this multiplication in frequency space corresponds to a convolution in the domain of spatial coordinates  $\mathbf{r}$  of the field distribution  $u(\mathbf{r})$  and an amplitude point spread function  $a(\mathbf{r}) = \mathcal{F}(\tilde{a}(\mathbf{v}))$  that describes the imaging of the objective lens:

$$u'(\mathbf{r}') = u'(\beta\mathbf{r}) = (u \otimes a)(\mathbf{r}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(\boldsymbol{\varrho}) a(\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\varrho}) d^3\boldsymbol{\varrho} \quad (1.12)$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\varrho}$  is a spatial coordinate and the lateral magnification  $\beta = \mathbf{r}'/\mathbf{r}$  transforms between image space  $\mathbf{r}'$  and object space  $\mathbf{r}$ . This result shows that the three-dimensional amplitude distribution of the image is linearly related to the amplitude distribution in the sample.

A focal plane detector can only measure the intensity  $I'$  which depends non-linearly on the amplitude of the field  $u'$ . However, the fluorophores act as independent sources and their phases vary randomly with respect to each other. Each fluorophore gives rise to its coherent image  $h(\mathbf{r}')$  (Goodman 1968):

$$h(\mathbf{r}') = |a(\mathbf{r}')|^2. \quad (1.13)$$

The three-dimensional intensity distribution  $I'(\mathbf{r}')$  in image space can then be obtained by incoherently adding the individual images of the fluorophores:

$$I'(\mathbf{r}') = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S(\boldsymbol{\varrho}) h(\mathbf{r}' - \boldsymbol{\varrho}) d^3\boldsymbol{\varrho} \quad (1.14)$$

$$= (S \otimes h)(\mathbf{r}') \quad (1.15)$$

where  $S(\boldsymbol{\varrho})$  represents the three-dimensional fluorophore distribution and  $\boldsymbol{\varrho}$  is the spatial coordinate in image space.

It is useful to discuss the Fourier transform of the intensity point spread function  $h$ . This is the three-dimensional optical transfer function of the microscope and describes how well different spatial frequencies are transmitted:

$$\tilde{h}(\mathbf{v}') = \mathcal{F}(a(\mathbf{r}') a^*(\mathbf{r}')) = \tilde{a}(\mathbf{v}') \otimes \tilde{a}^*(-\mathbf{v}'). \quad (1.16) \boxed{\text{eq:otf}}$$

The product of the amplitude point spread function  $a(\mathbf{r}')$  and its complex conjugate corresponds to an auto-correlation of the amplitude transfer function in spatial frequency space. Note that the complex conjugation of the second factor  $a^*(\mathbf{r}')$

---

stepping the sample through the object space while the camera is fixed in the focal plane of the tube lens. Therefore the axial coordinates  $r_z$  and  $r'_z$  in object and image are identical.

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results in an inversion of the argument of  $\tilde{a}^*(-\mathbf{v}')$ .

This expression allows a geometric interpretation of the support of the optical transfer function  $\tilde{h}(\mathbf{v}')$  (Gustafsson and Agard 1995). Equation (1.16) describes a convolution of two spherical caps whose open sides are facing each other. The entire covered volume somewhat resembles a torus with vanishing internal diameter. Figure 1.6 depicts a  $v_x v_z$ -cross-section for two different aperture angles  $\alpha$ . The lateral  $\Delta v_x$  and axial  $\Delta v_z$  extent of the optical transfer function can

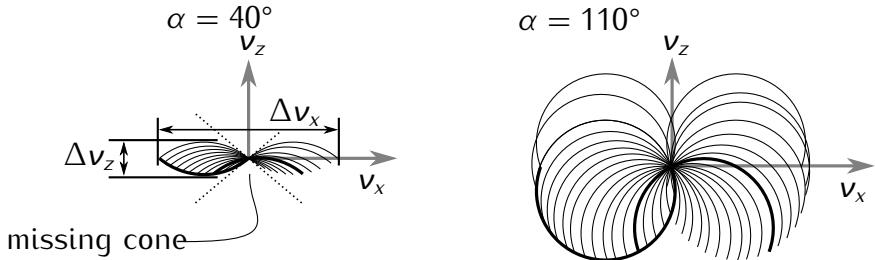


Figure 1.6.: Schematic depicting  $v_x v_z$ -cross sections of the support of optical transfer function  $\tilde{h}$  for microscope objectives with different collection angles. **left:** Objectives, that only collect light that is directed into one half space, have the missing cone problem. **right:** Optical transfer function for fictional objective with larger collection angle and no missing cone.

(fig:missing-cone)

be expressed in terms of wavelength  $\lambda_0$ , immersion index  $n$  and aperture angle  $\alpha$ :

$$\Delta v_x = \begin{cases} 4n \sin(\alpha)/\lambda_0 & 0 \leq \alpha \leq \pi/2 \\ 4n/\lambda_0 & \pi/2 < \alpha < \pi \end{cases}, \quad \Delta v_z = 2 \frac{n}{\lambda_0} (1 - \cos \alpha), \quad (1.17)$$

resolution

(FIXME verify with rainers book chapter) allow to give lower bounds for the resolution that can be obtained using a well corrected objective:

$$\Delta d_x = \frac{2}{\Delta v_x} = \frac{\lambda_0}{2n \sin \alpha}, \quad \Delta d_z = \frac{2}{\Delta v_z} = \frac{\lambda_0}{n(1 - \cos \alpha)}. \quad (1.18) \quad \boxed{\text{eq:resolut}}$$

In order to sample the bandwidth limited signal in the image plane correctly, the pixel pitch  $p_x$  of the camera must be smaller than half of the resolution:  $p_x < \beta \Delta d_x / 2$  (Nyquist criterium). A similar relation holds true for the  $z$ -sampling:  $p_z < \Delta d_z / 2$ . Too large a sampling period will result in aliasing artifacts.

Note that the axial resolution  $\Delta d_z$  is substantially worse than the lateral resolution  $\Delta d_x$  in normal microscope with a collection aperture  $\alpha < \pi/2$  that is restricted to only one half-space.

Additionally the optical transfer function of such a microscope is empty in a

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cone shaped region around the axis above and below the origin. This means that in a conventional wide-field microscope it is impossible to bring into focus a (defect-free) fluorescent plane because low spatial frequencies do not attenuate with defocus (Neil et al. 1997). This effect is also called “missing cone problem” (Streibl 1984).

It is instructive to look at a microscope, that is not hampered by the missing cone problem: In image interference microscopy ( $I^2M$ ) two opposing microscope objectives collect light from the sample and the two detection beam paths are brought to interference using a beam splitter on a focal plane detector. This configuration substantially increases the collection angle, improves the  $z$ -resolution and fills the missing cone but puts stringent requirements on the optical path difference between the two interferometer arms, i.e. this device is very sensitive to sample-induced aberrations and in practice, with fluorophores that emit in a broad wavelength range, this method only works for samples which are only a few microns thick (Gustafsson et al. 1999).

Light from the focal plane interferes constructively on the detector, light emitted at  $\lambda/4$  distance away from the focal plane interferes destructively, light that is emitted at several wavelengths distance from the focal plane contributes as an incoherent sum to the detected signal. Therefore a  $z$ -stack of a fluorescent plane captured with two opposing lenses compared to just one lens will give a signal that is four times as bright in focus, shows damped oscillations (because of the finite spectral band emitted by the fluorophores) when going away from focus and has twice the brightness out-of-focus. This means the axial location of the fluorescent plane can be measured in  $I^2M$  but there is still background signal (Gustafsson and Agard 1995).

The reason for this background signal is conservation of energy from plane to plane. A light ray that started in a certain object point does not stop in the corresponding image point. Therefore most out-of-focus light is added incoherently as a background to the detected signal. Structured illumination can be used to remove this out-of-focus light (FIXME reference to confocal and structured illumination sections).

### 1.3.3. Illumination in a wide-field epifluorescence microscope

As mentioned in section 1.2, fluorescence photons are essentially emitted in all directions by a typical, (nearly) independent of the original illumination direction. Therefore it is possible and convenient to use the objective for excitation as well

## 1. Introduction

as detection. This mode of microscopy is called epifluorescence (Greek:  $\varepsilon\pi\iota$ ; on, above). In this configuration usually only a small percentage of the excitation light returns due to scattering or reflection. This simplifies the separation of fluorescence light from excitation light and parts of opaque specimen can be imaged.

The blue beam in Figure 1.5 c) depicts a parallel laser that is focused into the pupil of the objective by tube lens TL2. The beam is reflected at a dichroic beam splitter (BS). This is a glass plate that has been coated with dielectric layers. The refractive index, thickness and sequence of the layers are designed so that the excitation light is reflected towards the objective. Excitation light, that is scattered or reflected in the sample and returns through the objective is reflected towards the light source. However, lower energy fluorescence light returning from the objective is transmitted towards the camera. Behind the objective the beam is parallel and illuminates the specimen. The field of view is the demagnified diameter of the laser beam before TL2.

### Non-uniformity due to coherent interference

Note that tiny dirt particles in the excitation beam path can cause coherent interference and produce unwanted non-uniformities in the illumination. As a remedy the spatial coherence of the laser is sometimes reduced. Incoherent light emitting diodes, mercury or xenon arc lamps are often used instead of lasers. In the latter case a band pass filter selects the useful part of the spectrum of the excitation lamp upstream of the dichroic beam splitter.

### The space-bandwidth product of a microscopic lens

(sec:etendue) A useful quantity in optics is the etendue  $\mathcal{E}$ . For a microscope objective its value is related to the number of point spread functions that can be resolved in the field. Therefore this quantity is also called information capacity, light gathering capacity or space-bandwidth product. For a high-aperture lens, the etendue is given by

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{\pi}{4} (D_{\text{field}} \text{NA})^2, \quad (1.19) \text{?eq:high-ap}$$

with the numerical aperture NA and the field diameter  $D_{\text{field}}$ . The typical image diameter for Zeiss microscopes is 25 mm. For a 63 $\times$  oil-immersion objective with NA = 1.4 this corresponds to a field diameter of  $D_{\text{field}} = 0.4$  mm and an etendue

## 1. Introduction

of  $\mathcal{E} = 0.27 \text{ mm}^2/\text{sr}$ , where 'sr' denotes steradian, the SI unit of solid angle.

### 1.3.4. Phototoxicity in conventional microscopes

When imaging living specimen we should distinguish between useful and unnecessary excitation. Taking into account the detection capabilities of objective lenses we should maximize the ratio of in-focus to out-of-focus fluorescence. The epifluorescent wide-field and confocal microscope surely do not represent an optimum in this regard.

In chapter ?? I will introduce other microscopy techniques that are more considerate of where to deposit excitation power within the specimen.

### 1.3.5. Conclusion

In this section I introduced a theoretical model that describes image formation in a wide-field microscope. For well-corrected, diffraction-limited lenses this process is linear in intensity and three-dimensionally shift-invariant. In order to predict the image of a three-dimensional sample it is sufficient to know the image of a single point source.

By investigating this point spread function and its Fourier transform it is possible to give the simple relationships in equations (1.18) for the best possible resolution. Furthermore I describe the missing cone problem, a limitation inherent in all lenses that only collect light from one half-space.

## 1.4. Image detectors in wide-field microscopy

?<sec:ccd-intro>

- describe ccd
- characterization/calibration
- noise
- compare with scmos

### 1.4.1. Introduction

detection

Nowadays, all wide-field microscopes use Si-based cameras to measure and digitize the intensity pattern in the intermediate image. The semiconductor surface is patterned with a two-dimensional array of PIN photodiodes. Light photons can be absorbed in their depletion region and generate free charge

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carriers. In each diode an intensity-dependent charge is collected during the exposure time.

There are basically two different technologies to measure and digitize this charge:

Charge-coupled  
devices (CCD)

In the passive-pixel sensor, columns of diodes form a linear row of capacitors. By applying a sequence of different voltages to each of three adjacent capacitors, the charge can be transported line by line from the sensor — therefore, this technology is known as charge-coupled device (CCD). An additional row of similar capacitors (denoted horizontal shift register) on one side of the array pushes the carriers into a charge amplifier. This consists of a much smaller capacitor, the read node, and a field-effect transistor amplifying its voltage, which linearly depends on the charge in the read node (Pawley 2006).

active-pixel sensor

In the active-pixel sensor, each photodiode is surrounded by its own transistors for read-out and reset. The two-dimensional array is addressed with an access enable wire which is shared by pixels of a line and an output wire, which is shared by pixels of a column. In the simplest case (with three in-pixel transistors) start of integration and readout occurs one line at a time (rolling shutter).

When I started this work, passive CCD sensors were the state of the art with regards to sensitivity and speed in wide-field microscopy. Now, however, faster and cheaper active-pixel sensors that provide comparable or better noise performance, become commercially available.

```
snr(s,ib,qe,fn,nr,m) := (qe*s)/sqrt(fn*fn*qe*(s+ib)+(nr/m)^2);
f(s,ib,qe,fn,nr,m):=snr(s,ib,qe,fn,nr,m)/snr(s,ib,1,1,0,1);
assume(m>0);
limit(f(s,ib,qe,fn,nr,m),s,inf);

sqrt(qe)/fn
```

- effects to look out for
- signal pickup fft of dark image to see periodic offset fluctuations
- gain fluctuations have multiplicative influence more of a problem for scmos
- not clear how frequent recalibration will be required
- heating during read can lead to offset drift
- make sure all the charge is transported out
- light source brightness fluctuation
- room light

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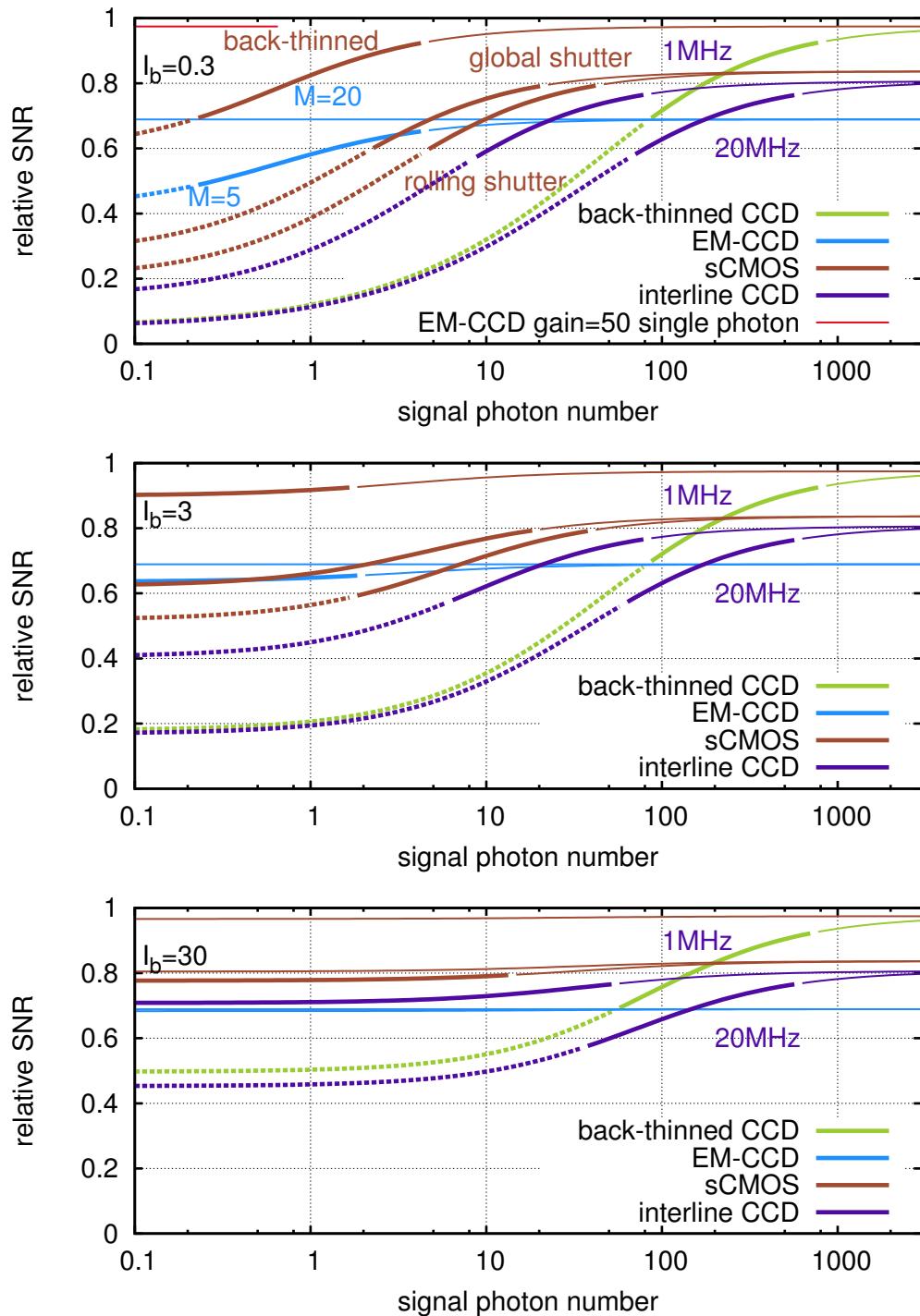


Figure 1.7.: Camera snr. dotted line for lowest light level, where  $N_r$  is the dominant noise; thin line indicates high light region where quantum efficiency and excess noise factor  $F_n$  matter

?`(fig:camera-snr)`?

### 1.4.2. Charge-coupled devices

- for a long time ccd were the method of choice

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Charge-coupled devices are semiconductor devices that contain a 2D grid of capacitors, formed by at least three groups of electrodes (phases). Cycling the voltage on these electrodes allows to push charges, which has been accumulated under the capacitors (registers) into their neighbours. into read out logic.

- $\sim 6\text{ V}$  charge transfer

Forty years of development lead to imaging devices with remarkable charge transfer efficiency, high quantum efficiency (up to 95% with back illumination) and very low dark currents. Until ten years ago the performance of CCD imagers in the low light regime was limited by the noise of the read out amplifier (a few electrons per pixel rms<sup>4</sup>).

- quantum efficiency, probability of a photon being absorbed and contributing to final signal

- depends on area
- backside illuminated

Since the millennium we have electron multiplying CCD (EM-CCD) technology, which allows comparably good performance at low photon numbers (Mackay et al. 2001; Robbins et al. 2003) and moderate read out speeds (tens of MHz). EM-CCDs contain a row of additional registers in front of the read out circuit. There, one of the three phases is clocked with a much higher voltage (up to 46 V) then is needed purely for charge transfer. The large electric fields cause charge carriers to be accelerated to sufficiently high velocities, so that additional carriers are generated by impact ionization. The charge multiplication chance per transfer is small ( $\sim 1\%$ ) but by using several hundred registers a substantial gain in the number of carriers can be achieved. In microscopy we usually work with gains of up to 300.

$$\text{solve}((1 + x)^{536.0} = 1000, x), \text{numer}; x = .0129710061$$

- significant power consumption
- Higher gains are possible but limit the dynamic range.
- maximum charge handling capacity with linear response: 400000 (e2v 2004)
- gain depends on temperature

The charge amplification helps to push the read noise from  $\sim 40$  electrons rms to significantly below 1 electron rms — in effect creating a sensor limited only by the photon noise. However, the multiplicative nature of the gain leads to a perceived reduction in the quantum efficiency of the sensor (excess noise factor), i.e. an image with 100 photons/pixel without gain will look like the same image at only 50 photons/pixel with EM-gain (see Appendix ??).

---

<sup>4</sup>root mean square

## 1. Introduction

- multiplication of charge: secondary electrons are generated via an impact-ionization process
  - enables ultra-low-light detection at high operation speeds (10 MHz, maybe 17MHz)
  - amplification process generates excess noise (Robbins et al. 2003), (Mackay et al. 2001) outlines the operation of the EM-CCD
  - multiplicative noise
  - photon counting mode
  - cic is a problem
  - thermal effects lead to generation of charge in a ccd
  - for long integration times dark current must be prevented by deep cooling (needs vacuum)
    - clock-induced charge for very fast frame rates
- (Robbins et al. 2003)

$$\text{SNR} = \frac{\text{QE} \cdot S}{\sqrt{F_n^2 \cdot \text{QE} \cdot (S + I_b) + (N_r/M)^2}} \quad (1.20)$$

quantities in photons: signal  $S$ , background  $I_b$ , quantum efficiency QE, EM-gain  $M$ , excess noise factor  $F_n$ , read noise  $N_r$  in e/px

$S + I_b$  is the standard deviation

- high gain  $M$  eliminates readout noise  $N_r$
- adapted from (Hamamatsu 2012)

camera	$f_{\text{read}}$ [MHz]	QE	$N_r$ [e/px]	$F_n$	$M$
back-thinned CCD	1	0.95	9	1	1
EM-CCD	10	0.95	9	$\sqrt{2}$	5 and 20
sCMOS global shutter	400	0.70	$1.3 \cdot 1.41$	1	1
sCMOS rolling shutter	400	0.70	1.3	1	1
back-thinned sCMOS	—	0.95	0.7	1	1
interline CCD	20	0.65	6.5	1	1
interline CCD	1	0.65	2.4	1	1
EM-CCD single photon	10	0.95	9	1	50

Table 1.2.: camera parameters.

?(tab:cam-param)?

- poisson noise

$$f(k; \lambda) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!} \quad (1.21)$$

- variance equal to mean

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- mean variance plot

### 1.4.3. Read noise characterization of cameras

In order to characterize a camera we captured sequences of images that contain a light pattern as displayed in Figure 1.8. The pattern is smooth and non-uniform. The images were produced in a fluorescence microscope. The light source is a

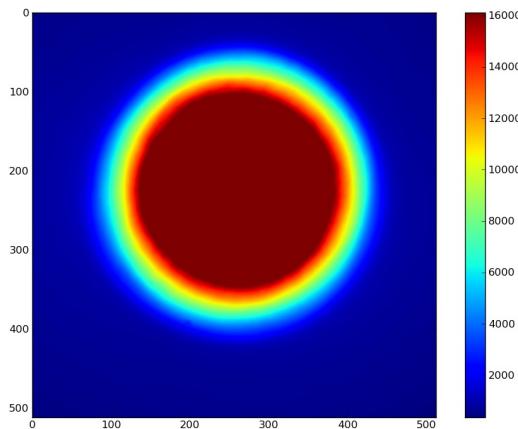


Figure 1.8.: Image of a defocused area on a fluorescent plane sample. Several such images (20) are captured and variance in each pixel is plotted against the intensity to find the correspondence between reported ADU and detected photoelectrons.

(fig:calib-pic)

DPSS laser with 473 nm wavelength. It illuminates a circular area of the sample, which is a green fluorescent plane. A FITC filter cube and a 10 $\times$  objective were used. The sample was adjusted to be slightly out-of-focus in order to obtain a smooth intensity gradient in the image.

The light source is stable and the relative standard deviation of the illumination intensity is typically < 0.2% for the calibration time.

A sequence (20) of such images can be used to determine the mapping between analog-to-digital units (ADU) and the number of detected photoelectrons. This method is based on the known relation between the mean number of Poisson distributed photons and its variance.

For the calibration a 2D histogram of the per pixel variance image and the per pixel mean of the image stack is plotted. Then the slope of the resulting point cloud is determined.

The top left diagram of Figure 1.9 contains such a 2D histogram. It was obtained

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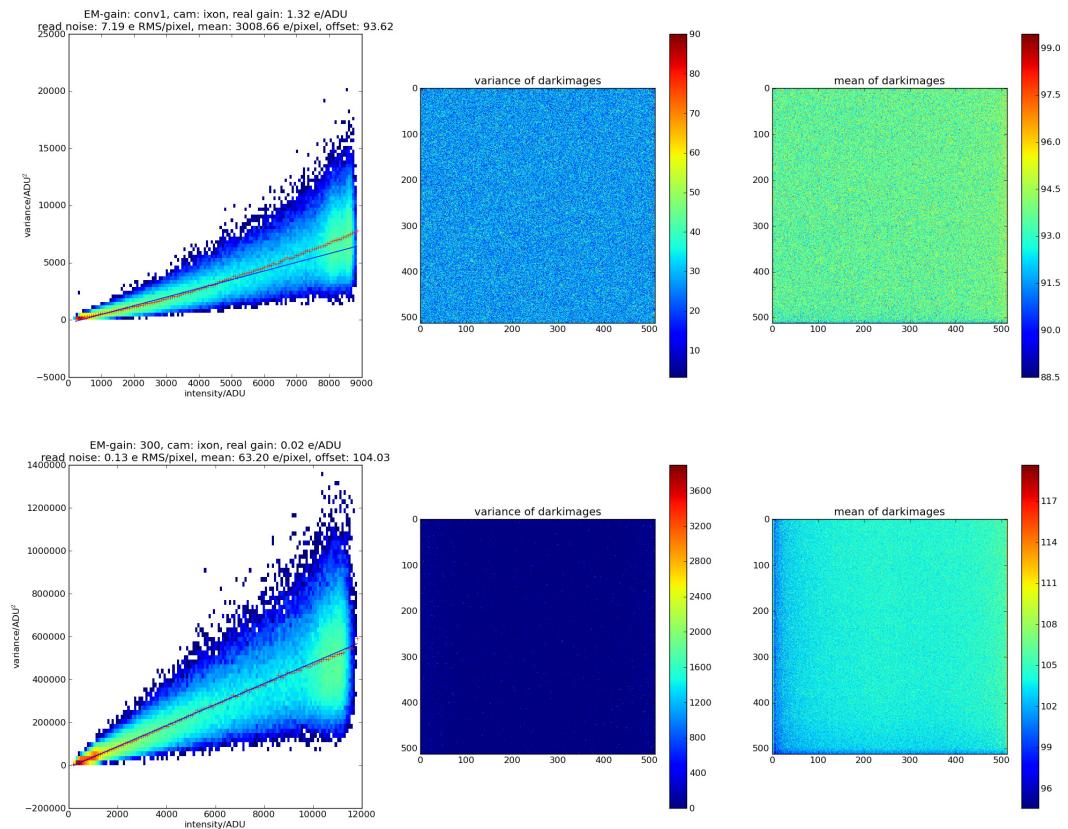


Figure 1.9.: **top:** Conventional readout of an Andor iXon3 camera. **bottom:** readout with an EM-gain setting of 300 on the same camera with identical sample. **left:** 2D histogram of per pixel variances against binned intensities. **middle:** variance of 20 dark images. **right:** mean of 20 dark images.

`{fig:ixon}`

## 1. Introduction

by conventional readout at 3MHz of our Andor IXon3 camera (head: DU-897D-CS0-#BV). The variances are collected in 64 intensity bins and their averages are plotted as red crosses. The blue line is the result of a linear fit to the first 60% of the red crosses. Its slope gives the real gain of the camera that can be used to convert ADU into photoelectrons (here 1.32 e/ADU).

The following figures show corresponding measurements using the EM readout mode with varying EM-gain. It is followed by one last measurement with conventional readout to verify, that the fluorophores did not bleach too much during the experiment.

The camera was cooled to  $-75^{\circ}\text{C}$ . In order to prevent overexposure of the sensor a preliminary image with a short integration time of 10 ms was acquired. Then, using this image, the integration time was for the experiment was set such that a maximum of 10000 ADU would occur (in the function `~GetSaturationExposure`). An internal shutter in the camera was closed (`SetShutter`) to obtain the dark images. The process was automated using an Andor Solis Basic program which is listed below.

The square root of the mean of the variance of the dark images was converted into a read noise in electrons per pixel using the real gain.

Table 1.3 summarizes the calibration results. The average of the dark images (in ADU) is given in the column offset. The read noise in conventional mode is approximately 8 electrons per pixel rms. The column mean' contains the average number of photoelectrons per pixel in the illuminated image normalized by the integration time. The rows conv1 and conv2 with conventional readout (without EM-gain) contain approximately the same number. This proves that no significant bleaching occurred during the experiment.

The EM-gain process introduces multiplicative noise in the signal. Its effect on the photoelectron statistics is the same as lowering the quantum efficiency of the sensor. Dividing values of the column 'mean' from EM readouts by the same value from the conventional readout gives the *excess noise factor*. Its value is smaller than one and describes the apparent reduction of the quantum efficiency.

```
ib = 0.3
nr = 9
nr_scmos = 1.3*1.41
nr_interline = 6.5
fn =sqrt(2)
qe = .95
```

## 1. Introduction

```

qe_interline = .65
qe_scmos = .7

plot f(x,ib,qe,1,nr,1) w l title "back-thinned CCD" ls 1, f(x,ib,qe,fn,nr,1)

```

gain <sub>software</sub>	$1/(M \cdot M_{\text{pre}})$ [e/ADU]	$N_r$ [e/px]	mean [e/px]	offset [ADU]	exposure [s]	mean' [e/(px s)]	$1/F_n$
conv1	1.3165	7.189	3008.66	93.62	0.2016	14923	0.981
50	0.1160	0.486	260.05	103.23	0.0289	8995	0.591
60	0.0984	0.406	225.46	103.26	0.0249	9054	0.595
70	0.0841	0.349	190.52	103.49	0.0212	8983	0.591
80	0.0729	0.305	165.24	103.17	0.0186	8907	0.586
90	0.0680	0.288	150.54	103.34	0.0161	9368	0.616
100	0.0611	0.262	128.47	103.35	0.0136	9427	0.620
110	0.0550	0.241	121.11	103.73	0.0129	9409	0.619
120	0.0510	0.228	113.71	103.50	0.0120	9498	0.624
130	0.0465	0.211	106.66	103.63	0.0112	9541	0.627
140	0.0433	0.201	96.95	103.77	0.0101	9564	0.629
150	0.0405	0.192	89.68	103.79	0.0093	9671	0.636
160	0.0380	0.183	87.24	103.87	0.0090	9656	0.635
170	0.0359	0.175	81.56	104.17	0.0084	9739	0.640
180	0.0339	0.169	79.80	104.00	0.0081	9863	0.648
190	0.0321	0.163	74.00	104.26	0.0075	9806	0.645
200	0.0305	0.158	72.57	104.03	0.0073	9878	0.649
210	0.0292	0.155	69.44	104.22	0.0070	9944	0.654
220	0.0280	0.150	67.69	104.08	0.0068	9971	0.656
230	0.0268	0.147	65.63	104.03	0.0065	10057	0.661
240	0.0257	0.188	63.90	104.05	0.0063	10131	0.666
250	0.0244	0.140	62.52	104.15	0.0062	10026	0.659
260	0.0237	0.137	62.86	104.18	0.0062	10078	0.663
270	0.0229	0.135	63.17	103.94	0.0062	10130	0.666
280	0.0221	0.133	63.64	104.21	0.0062	10204	0.671
290	0.0214	0.130	63.38	104.15	0.0062	10162	0.668
300	0.0205	0.128	63.20	104.03	0.0062	10133	0.666
conv2	1.5953	8.768	8198.86	93.30	0.5291	15496	1.019

Table 1.3.: Comparison of read noise for different EM-gain settings (first column) of the Andor IXon3. The value mean' estimates the number of photoelectrons the detector would have seen with 1s integration time and is used to calculate the excess noise factor in the last column. In EM-mode the fastest readout speed was used 10MHz with vertical shift speed of 1.7  $\mu$ s.

{tab:ixon-table}

## 1. Introduction

### 1.4.4. Comparison with other cameras

The values of the EM-gain parameter in the camera software are in general not easily related to the actual amplification factor happening in the EM registers of the chip (changes with temperature and ages during the sensors life).

In order to compare different EM-CCD cameras we first convert the EM-gain parameter setting into the real EM-gain. For this, we divide the real gain (gain) of the respective EM readout to the real gain of the conventional readout.

Figure 1.10 shows some calibrations on older cameras (Andor Ixon2 (head: DU-897E-CS0-#BV, sensor: E2V Tech CCD97 512 × 512, pixel pitch 16 μm, cooled to  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and Photometrics Cascade II (sensor: E2V CCD97, 512 × 512, pixel pitch 16 μm, cooled to  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) which were performed using the DIPimage function cal-readnoise (Lidke et al. 2005). The real EM-gain of the Andor Ixon2 is  $0.67/0.062 = 10.8$  and it has 0.46 e rms/pixel readnoise. The real EM-gain of the Cascade II is  $1.6/0.14 = 11.4$  with 1.13 e rms/pixel read noise. Approximately the same real gain is obtained with the Ixon3 at EM-gain 50:  $1.32/0.12 = 11.0$  with a read noise of 0.49 e rms/pixel. So the two Andor cameras show the same performance.

(e2v 2004)

### 1.4.5. sCMOS

pixel in ccd ist passiv cmos ist aktiv

column parallel readout sony exmor

exmor r additionally back illuminated (only works for small sensors)

- typically two rolling shutters
- global shutter increases read noise by a factor of 1.41
- non-destructive read
- dual amplifiers enable good low signal performance but high full well capacity at the same time at the expense of non-uniform gain

(Coates et al. 2009)

## 1. Introduction

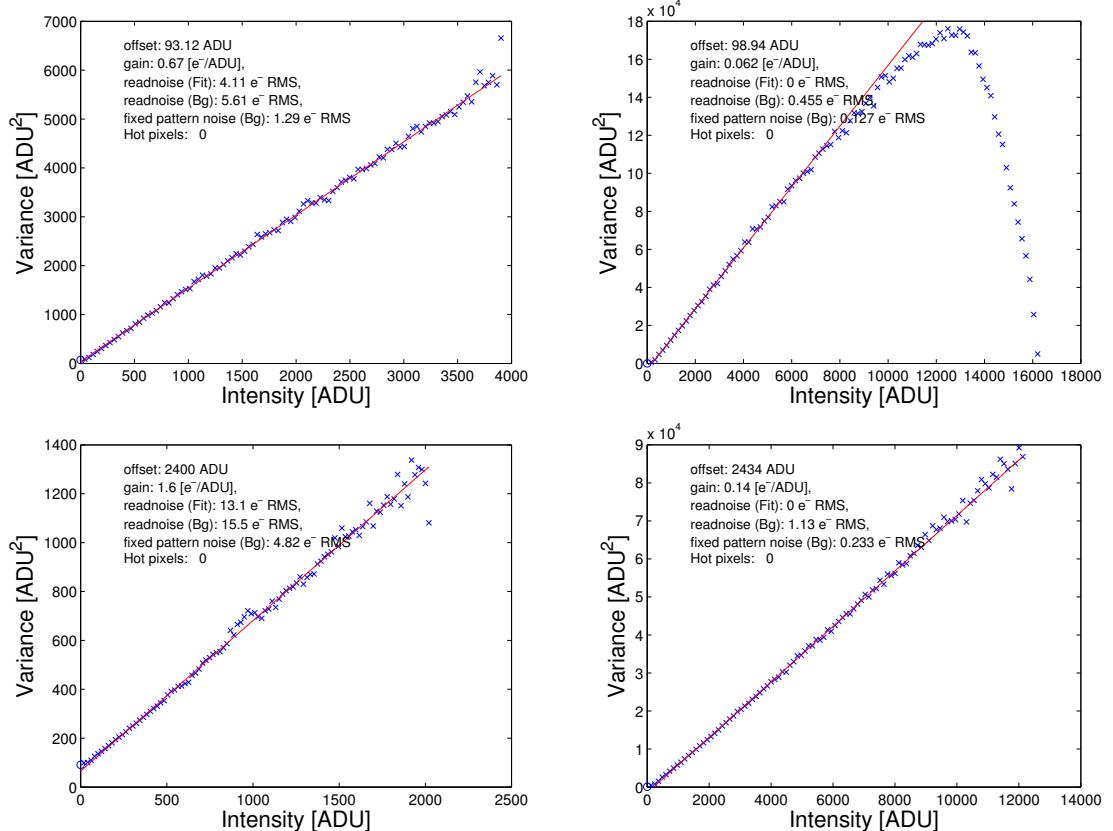


Figure 1.10.: **top:** Andor Ixon2 **left:** Normal readout with preamp 5 and 1 MHz readout rate. **top right:** EM-gain 100 preamp 5. **bottom:** Cascade II **left:** Normal readout at 5 MHz mean = 254.82 e/pixel. **right:** EM-gain 3000 at 10 MHz, mean = 122.08 e/pixel, therefore the excess noise factor is 0.48.

{fig:old-cams}

## 2. Methods of controlling illumination patterns

<sec:illum-patterns> 2.0.6. 2-photon laser scanning fluorescence microscopy

?<sec:2-photon>? If the laser intensity in the focal spot of a confocal microscope is sufficiently high, then two infrared photons can be absorbed within  $\sim 5\text{ fs}$  and excite the same electronic state.

In this regime, the fluorescence emission increases quadratically with laser intensity. This non-linearity confines the excitation volume to the vicinity of the focal plane (Denk et al. 1990). Fluorophores outside of this region are not excited. Therefore this method produces sectioned images by default and there is no need for a detection pinhole.

As an additional benefit infrared light is scattered less than visible light of half the wavelength. This increases penetration depth and image quality. Photodamage outside of the focal volume is unlikely and phototoxicity is much lower, compared to the single-photon confocal microscope, when z-stacks are acquired.

However, the phototoxicity within the focal volume is higher and techniques like ultramicroscopy (section ??) with single-photon excitation are preferable, when low overall phototoxicity is a requirement.

### 2.1. programmable array

Caarls et al. (2011)

# 3. The concept of spatio-angular microscopy

?<sec:concept> Here I introduce the spatio-angular microscope. First I explain the concept of its illumination system using exemplary fluorophore distributions, that occur in typical specimen.

Then I describe some decisions we faced during the initial design phase concerning the arrangement of optical components. Furthermore, I position our method among known approaches of light control for microscopy. Of all published techniques for excitation illumination control, the light field microscope (Levoy et al. 2006) comes closest to our approach. I explain differences between both techniques and discuss their respective pros and cons. I address the peculiarities and limitations of the hardware components in chapters 4 (optics) and 6 (micromirror based pupil plane SLM). Initially, the details would be detrimental to clarity.

The effective use of the spatio-angular microscope, requires more knowledge about the specimen than a conventional or a SPIM microscope (Huisken et al. 2004). Ideally, the distribution of refractive index and fluorophores in the specimen should be known. If these parameters were precisely known, there would be no need for an image in the first place. However, while imaging a known specimen, sufficiently good predictions of these parameters can often be made. The higher the accuracy of these prognoses, the greater the reduction in phototoxicity will be.

The computer-based selection of appropriate illumination masks requires the prediction, or at least an approximate estimation, of the three-dimensional distribution of light in the specimen.

In the last part of this chapter, I describe the computational control loop in our spatio-angular microscope and touch topics of image processing.

## 3.1. Motivation

In order to introduce the basic idea underlying the spatio-angular microscope, I consider the distribution of excitation light in the object of a conventional

### 3. The concept of spatio-angular microscopy

fluorescence microscope: Figure 3.1 a) schematically illustrates the side view of the excitation beam path through objective lens and object in a confocal microscope. A parallel beam with a circular cross-section (this cross-section is not shown in the illustration) passes through the lens. The lens focuses the light in its focal plane.

Between lens and focal plane the light rays form a convergent circular cone. If refractive index variations in the object are negligible, the light distribution below the plane of focus forms a cone as well, due to symmetry. Assuming a non- or weakly absorbing specimen, the energy of the light in the circular cross-sections of the cone remains constant<sup>1</sup>.

<sec:ray-valid> The fluorescent bead (1), in the focus, would therefore be excited significantly more than the bead (2) outside the focal plane. Also shown is the light distribution in the intermediate image plane.

The image of the in-focus bead (1) is sharp, i.e. its emanating fluorescence light is concentrated on an area as small as possible and positioned exactly on the detection pinhole. Conversely, the image of the out-of-focus bead (2) is blurred and its fluorescence light is distributed over a large area.

While only a tiny proportion of the light emitted by the out-of-focus bead contributes to the detection signal of the confocal microscope—and therefore hardly affects the image quality, with respect to overall phototoxicity of the full confocal system—it would be better to prevent the excitation of the out-of-focus bead in the first place.

The scheme in Figure 3.1 b) demonstrates how the light cone would have to be manipulated in order to exclude the out-of-focus bead (4). The expected fluorescence image in the intermediate image plane then contains only information from the in-focus bead (3).

Viewed from the in-focus bead (3) the change in illumination corresponds to a restriction of the light angles. Such control can be exerted well through a mask in the other focal plane of the objective lens (also denoted back focal plane or pupil plane).

---

<sup>1</sup>The ray-model is valid in large parts of Figure 3.1 a), but not everywhere. The Law of Malus–Lupin states that rays and wavefronts are equivalent as long as rays do not intersect (caustic), or (FIXME formulas?) a strong intensity gradient occurs. Thus the ray-model is valid almost everywhere in the cone, except for a region with a distance of a few wavelengths to the edge, and the focus itself. While the wave-optical treatment of these areas is possible, it is computationally much more expensive than ray tracing. Wave-optical effects either lead to blurring in a length scale of a few wavelengths or intensity fluctuations due to interference. If necessary, we can use heuristics to find an upper bound for the local intensity from ray tracing results. For this reason we exclusively employ the ray-model in this work.

### 3. The concept of spatio-angular microscopy

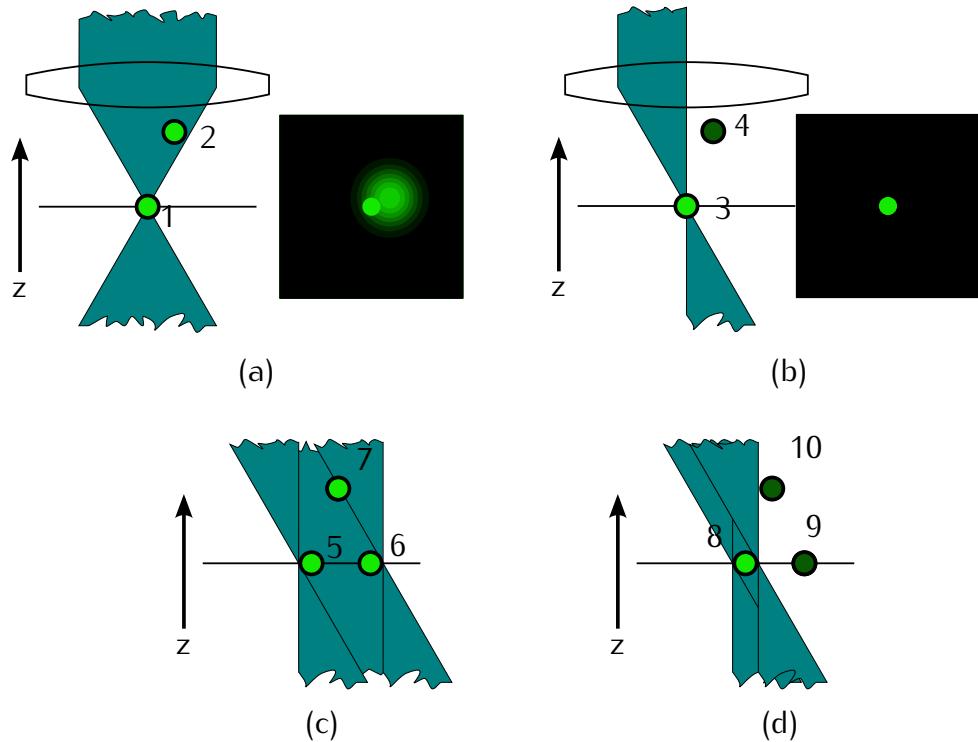


Figure 3.1.: **(a)** Two fluorescent beads are illuminated by all angles that the objective can deliver. The sharp image of the in-focus bead is deteriorated by blurry fluorescence of the out-of-focus bead (2). **(b)** Angular control allows selective illumination of the in-focus bead (3), and results in a better image on the camera. **(c)** Angular control, however, is insufficient, when an extended in-focus area is illuminated. **(d)** Then, simultaneous spatial and angular control allows sequential excitation of the in-focus beads, while excluding the out-of-focus bead (10).

`<fig:hourglass-all>`

Thus it is useful and possible to equip a confocal microscope with angular control. However, in our project we set out to build a wide field microscope in order to benefit from the speed and quantum efficiency of modern cameras.

I now turn to the task of bringing angular control to the wide field microscope. Figure 3.1 c) shows a configuration of the specimen with two in-focus beads (5) and (6), and one out-of-focus bead (7). The angular illumination control is ineffective for this arrangement of beads. If both in-focus beads, (5) and (6), are exposed simultaneously, i.e. an extended light source illuminates the entire field, then the out-of-focus bead (7) is always excited.

Only by separate illumination of the in-focus beads (8) and (9), as shown in Figure 3.1 d), angular control regains its function. For this reason a wide field system with angular control, using a mask in the pupil, requires an additional mask conjugate to the field. Therefore, we call our method spatio-angular microscopy.

### 3. The concept of spatio-angular microscopy

"Spatial" refers to the illumination control in the field and "angular" refers to the control in the pupil plane.

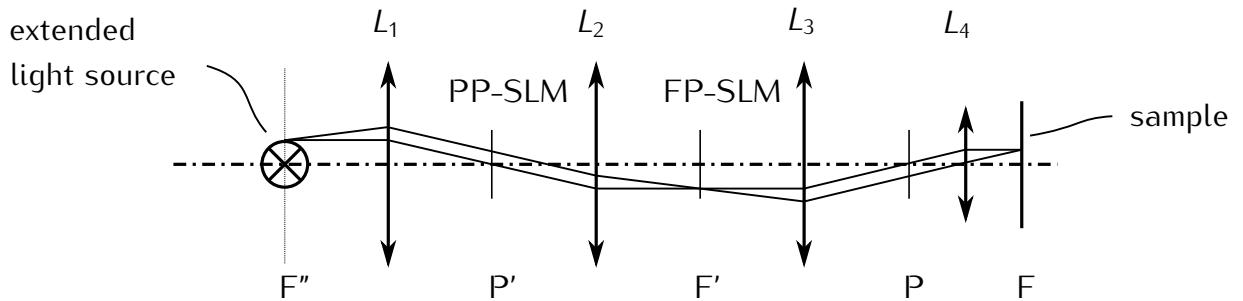


Figure 3.2.: Simplified schematic of the illumination system in our spatio-angular microscope. A homogeneous extended light source delivers light from the left. It is imaged by lenses  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  into the intermediate image  $F'$ . Then the tubelens  $L_3$  and the objective  $L_4$  form an image of  $F'$  in the sample plane  $F$ . We use two spatial light modulators (SLM) to control the spatial and angular light distribution in the specimen—the focal plane SLM in  $F'$ , and the pupil plane SLM in  $P'$ .

(fig:memi-simple)

Figure 3.2 shows the optical path through our prototype in a simplified form. From the left side, an extended light source illuminates the system. A sequence of telecentric lenses  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$ ,  $L_3$  and the objective lens  $L_4$  image the light source from  $F''$  into the front focal plane (indicated by  $F$ , for field). The etendue (see page 24 for its definition) of the light source must be large enough to simultaneously fill both, the pupil  $P$  as well as the field  $F$ .

In each of the two planes  $P'$  and  $F'$  we place a spatial light modulator (SLM) that allows to control the intensity of the transmitted light.

Looking at the scheme in Figure 3.2, one might argue that we could save a lens, if we placed the pupil plane SLM into  $P$  instead of  $P'$ . There are three reasons why this is neither possible, nor beneficial: First, the pupil of modern high-performance objective lenses is typically not accessible. Second, the detection path for fluorescent light should contain as few optical components as possible and we can definitely not afford it to be blocked by a SLM. Third, the two masks induce non-linear, and therefore difficult to predict, filtering of spatial frequencies. An analysis requires consideration of partial spatial coherence, but it should be clear (FIXME) that only the downstream<sup>2</sup> SLM will always deliver a good image, mostly independent of the state of the SLM upstream.

Considering the fact that the image of the focal plane SLM is most important to us, we decided to place it downstream of the pupil plane SLM. The focal plane

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<sup>2</sup>Downstream regarding the propagation direction of the excitation light.

### 3. The concept of spatio-angular microscopy

SLM may disturb the image of the pupil plane SLM in P, but we can always produce very fine, high-contrast structures in the sample F.

The ability to achieve high resolution in the field is the main difference between our approach and Levoys light field microscope. In the light field microscope, the density of the microlenses noticeably limits the resolution. As opposed to our system, the light field microscope allows to control the angle of incidence in all field positions independently. But, additionally to the reduced focal plane resolution, this requires a single high-resolution SLM with a comparatively low refresh rate. We use two small SLMs, which can each achieve 1 kHz frame rate and enable interesting experiments, e.g. optogenetic control of neuron activities.

Furthermore, structured illumination with high resolution patterns allows us to circumvent the missing cone problem of the widefield microscope. Later I will show that depth discrimination improves with higher resolution patterns (FIXME ref).

## 3.2. An imaging protocol with spatio-angular illumination control

### 3.2.1. Description of an exemplary biological specimen

I now refer to the *C. elegans* test sample for phototoxicity that I introduced in section 1.1. As I will discuss in later (FIXME) chapters, so far I did not reach the point of being able to image the development of a real embryo. Key problems are the low light throughput of the illumination system and the length of time necessary to update images on the focal plane display. Nevertheless, I always kept this example in mind while I was developing the control software for our microscope.

During the first few hours, the embryo develops confined within the constant volume of its egg, which has an ellipsoidal shape, extends 40 to 60 microns and can be readily observed using a 63 $\times$  objective lens. Cell divisions occur every few minutes. During development the nuclei get smaller and more dense. In order to track the fate of all individual cells it is sufficient, to capture one stack per minute with 41 layers and a z-step of 1 micron.

### 3. The concept of spatio-angular microscopy

#### 3.2.2. Preparation of living embryo samples

For an experiment a hermaphrodite worm is cut and the embryos are placed on an agarose pad, so that they stay immobile during imaging. This procedure is explained<sup>3</sup> in Hope (1999). Of these embryos, the experimentor chooses a young specimen, that has not yet divided. We avoid to use fluorescence excitation for this step. The undivided embryos can be distinguished using the less phototoxic differential interference contrast (DIC) imaging mode.

#### 3.2.3. Sectioning through structured illumination

To get an estimate of the initial distribution of the fluorophores in the embryo I obtain the very first stack with structured illumination and no angular control. I use this method to avoid the missing cone problem of the widefield microscope. Perhaps for our particular task of finding the position of one nucleus within the egg, widefield images would be just sufficient. However, for our spatio-angular method, knowledge about the fluorophore distribution is very important and therefore we built our microscope such that we can obtain optical sections.

We compared conventional structured illumination using max–min (FIXME) reconstruction with laser and LED illumination. Although LED illumination resulted in excellent optical sections, the reconstruction of laser illuminated images contained artifacts.

- (FIXME muss das vielleicht in appendix?) In einem ersten Entwicklungsschritt, bevor InVision uns den Prototyp fuer das spatio-angulare Mikroskop zur Verfuegung stellte, setzten wir einen SLM in die Zwischenbildebene. Auf dem SLM wurden vier Streifenmuster angezeigt und Wir verglichen einen 70mW 473nm DPSS laser mit 470nm LED Beleuchtung (CoolLED).

Therefore, we decided to implement HiLo (see Appendix FIXME). With this algorithm, we obtain artifact-free optical sections, regardless of the illumination source. As another advantage the HiLo method increases acquisition speed, because only two raw images per slice are necessary.

wir haben artefakte in der max-min rekonstruktion beobachtet, wenn wir ein grobes streifenmuster (8 forthdd slm pixel periode) mit laser beleuchtet haben

- irgendwann hat rainer das erklaert aber ich kann mich nicht mehr dran erinnern aber es waere cool, wenn ich die story bringen koennte

---

<sup>3</sup>Note that Murray et al. (2006) describes an improvement of this protocol that prevents squeezing the embryos too much.

### 3. The concept of spatio-angular microscopy

- grobes gitter heisst im amplitudenbild: einige ordnungen (nicht nur 3) gehen durch die bfp
- irgendwie kam es dadurch im intensitaetsbild zu einigen hoehere ordnungsstermen
- bei LED (extended source) werden die weggemittelt, bei laser nicht
- ein bisschen kopfzerbrechen bereitet mir noch der bias
- im paper habe ich das nicht verstanden [2011 mertz Optically sectioned in vivo imaging with speckle illumination HiLo microscopy]
  - aber ich habe ihr java imagej plugin decompiled bekommen und koennte versuchen ihre implementierung zu verstehen (andererseits ist mir das jetzt ziemlich egal)
  - unter equation 10: The first two terms are variance contributions of shot noise. Filtering has the effect of reducing noise variance and is taken into account with the integral term. This bias must thus be subtracted from  $\sigma^2$  prior to the evaluation of C. We have also not considered the effects of pixelation in the CCD camera. If the pixel size is non-negligible ..

#### 3.2.4. Computer model for the integration of a priori knowledge about the biological events

Given an initial measurement of the fluorophore distribution of the embryo, I employ a computational algorithm to find good illumination conditions for subsequent stack acquisitions. An important requirement is that the computer can estimate, which areas of the sample should be protected from illumination.

For our test system, the *C. elegans* embryo, it is a promising approach to represent its three-dimensional fluorophore distribution by a simple model: Spheres encompassing the nuclei, indicate regions with fluorophores. When in focus, the spheres are the source of useful, informative fluorescence signal, but should be protected against exposure when out of focus.

As I mentioned earlier, there are also unused histones with fluorophores outside of the nuclei. The images reveal that they occur in the cytoplasm at a much lower concentration than in the nuclei. Fluorophores in the cytoplasm have a smaller phototoxic effect, because any radicals they produce are much less likely to reach the DNA and therefore inflict substantially less damage. In the following my goal is to protect only out-of-focus nuclei from exposure. The regions in between are used to bring the light in.

During observation, the nuclei, i.e. the centers of the spheres, move slowly

### 3. The concept of spatio-angular microscopy

within the embryo. For small periods of time we can describe this movement using a vector field of growth velocities.

A cell division announces itself by a change of the fluorophore distribution of the nucleus due to chromatin condensation and spindle formation. Therefore, whenever the computer detects such changes in the images, in one of the following time steps an additional sphere should be introduced to account for the new daughter cell.

So far I have implemented a simple algorithm, to convert a time series of image volumes from a confocal microscope into a sphere model (Santella et al. 2010). One of our project partners (Jean-Yves Tinevez, <http://fiji.sc/wiki/index.php/TrackMate>) developed a more sophisticated plug-in for ImageJ, that provides the lineage tree and snapshots of the developing cells (see Figure 3.3). Before our microscope can

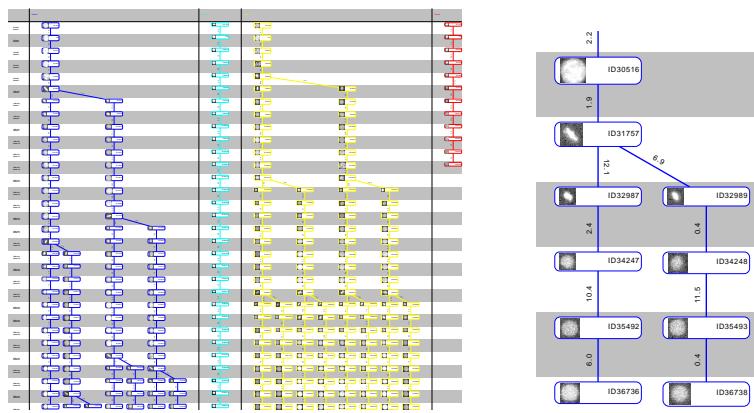


Figure 3.3.: A detail of a lineage tree visualized in TrackScheme. An image of each nucleus is shown in each time step. Note how the elongated structure before cell division events. (FIXME ask jean-yves if i can use this, add time axis)

(fig:trackmate)

be used for our biological problem, the computer model has to be extended so that it reliably tracks the movement of nuclei. Overlooking any nucleus would prevent this nucleus from being imaged in later acquisitions and would be a setback for the experiment. Estimating the vector field of growth velocities helps to track nuclei more robustly and allows to predict their positions for the next exposure.

Currently we have not implemented programs that would fulfill the requirements for imaging a developing embryo. However, in the following text I assume that the described position predictions were available and I discuss how I determine masks for the focal plane and pupil plane SLM.

Murray et al. (2006)

TODO FIXME Bernhard Kauslers work is nice <http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/>

### 3. The concept of spatio-angular microscopy

Live-cell microscopy image analysis for the study of zebrafish embryogenesis  
[http://hci.iwr.uni-heidelberg.de/publications/mip/techrep/kausler\\_12\\_discr](http://hci.iwr.uni-heidelberg.de/publications/mip/techrep/kausler_12_discr)  
A Discrete Chain Graph Model for 3d+t Cell Tracking with High Mis detection  
Robustness  
(FIXME read this)

#### 3.2.5. Illumination optimization by means of raytracing

I now discuss a method to find both SLM masks for image acquisitions with minimal phototoxicity. First I define a mask for the focal plane SLM:

From the predicted arrangement of spheres we select in-focus nuclei by intersecting the model with a planar surface. I then define focal plane SLM masks to selectively illuminate each of the in-focus nuclei, by drawing a bright disk in the appropriate position.

Based on such a mask, we can determine which angles can illuminate the in-focus target nucleus, without exposing out-of-focus nuclei.

As I already explained at the beginning of this chapter on page 38, ray-optical theory suffices to describe the light distribution within the sample.

I connect the periphery of an out-of-focus nucleus with a point inside the in-focus target. This defines a circular cone of rays, that are propagated through the objective lens. Their intersection with the pupil plane results in a figure that still very much resembles a circle—I found that already seven rays lead to good representation of its perimeter. An algorithm computes these figures for every out-of-focus nucleus and for a few in-focus targets points within the bright areas of the focal plane pattern. In this manner I construct the desired mask for the pupil plane SLM.

In order to trace the rays into the pupil, I need the design parameters of the objective lens (vertex position, curvature and material for all surfaces). Unfortunately, these rarely are publicly available for high-performance objective lenses. Nevertheless, in chapter (FIXME) I use a simpler model of the objective lens, that requires only three parameters: focal length, refractive index of the immersion medium and numerical aperture. These are always known.

Additionally, I have adapted the model for non-index-matched embedding of the specimen. This problem occurs when the embryo is illuminated with an oil immersion objective, using HILO (FIXME ref). It should be noted, however, that good image quality of the embryo can only be achieved with an objective lens that has the same immersion index as the embryo. Otherwise data from 20 microns

### 3. The concept of spatio-angular microscopy

within the sample will be severely deteriorated by spherical aberrations.

# 4. Device 1: prototype for spatio-angular illumination

{sec:dev1}

In the preceding chapter I showed the underlying concept of our cmmore specific problems spatio-angular microscope. Here I discuss additional details that are important for the practical implementation.

I explain the beam path, electronic synchronization of the displays with other components and an algorithm to transform the coordinate system of the camera pixels into the coordinate system of the focal plane SLM.

The pupil plane SLM was specifically developed for our project by cmMMA details later our partner Fraunhofer IPMS (Dresden, DE). Therefore I dedicate chapter 6 on page 57 to this device.

## 4.1. Description of the optical components

So far we have only shown the beam path for transmissive displays (in Figure 3.2). Such SLM only have a very low transmission in practice. Therefore we use reflective displays in our prototype.

In Figure 4.1 I adjusted the beam path accordingly. This schematic also depicts the optics we use to adapt light from the laser to fill the etendue of our system. The light source enters the system from the bottom left. The optic components are color corrected and have anti-reflex coating for wavelengths in the range from 400 nm to 700 nm.

The system successively illuminates the pupil plane SLM—a grayscale micromirror array developed by our project partner Fraunhofer IPMS Dresden—and the focal plane SLM, a commercial binary liquid crystal on silicon display.

I gathered some of the following details from the documents that were created during the development of our prototype and are classified as confidential. I have summarized the key decisions here and the relevant project partners have agreed to the publication (FIXME not finished).

#### 4. Device 1: prototype for spatio-angular illumination

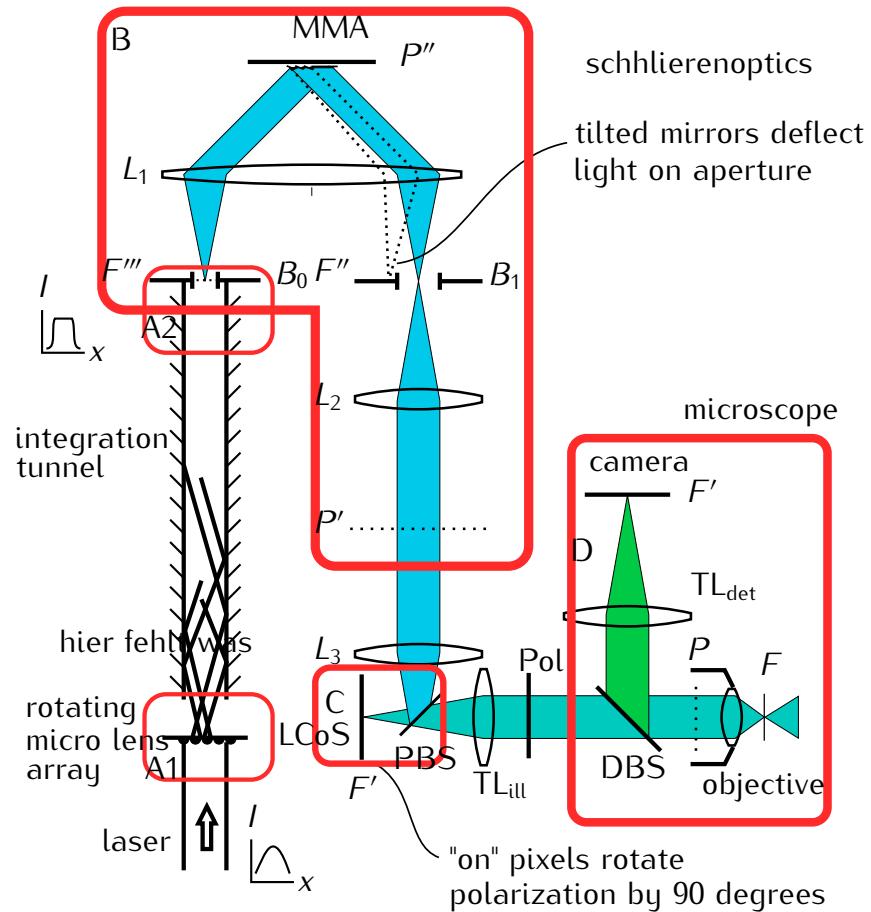


Figure 4.1.: Schematic of the light path through our microscope. Laser light enters from the lower left, is scrambled and homogenized to illuminate the pupil plane SLM in  $P''$  and the focal plane SLM in  $F'$ .  $F$  is the field plane in the sample and its primed versions are conjugated planes.  $P$  is the pupil of the objective.  $B_0$  and  $B_1$  are adjustable circular apertures. PBS is a polarizing beam splitter. DBS is a dichroic beam splitter. The red boxes delimitate subsystems of the illumination system: A: light scrambling and homogenization, B: Fourier-optical filter to provide intensity modulating pupil plane SLM. C: Polarization based intensity modulator as focal plane SLM. D: Wide-field fluorescence microscope with detection path. (FIXME finish diagram, don't use B twice)

`(fig:memi-real)`

## 4. Device 1: prototype for spatio-angular illumination

### 4.1.1. Ensuring homogeneous illumination

A quantitative evaluation of our experiments (FIXME ref sec:results) with different illumination patterns is simplified when both pupil plane SLM and focal plane SLM are uniformly illuminated.

We use either a laser<sup>1</sup> or an light emitting diode (LED) as the light source in our experiments. Below we discuss optical measures that attain homogeneity of the illumination of both displays.

The LED<sup>2</sup> we use has a large active area. Due to etendue mismatch a relatively large amount of its produced light will never reach the sample. But it is easy to achieve a homogeneous illumination. Moreover, the LED can be quickly switched on and off electronically<sup>3</sup>.

Unlike an LED, a laser delivers light of considerably higher spectral radiance ( $\text{W}/(\text{sr m}^2\text{m})$ ). Thus it is in principle possible to use the laser as a highly efficient light source for our system. Unfortunately, the high spectral and spatial coherence of a laser often lead to high-contrast fluctuations of the irradiance and we have to compensate for this by time averaging.

When using the Laser, we send its parallel Gaussian beam into a bundle<sup>4</sup> of randomly distributed fibers. This randomizes the light distribution at the bundle output and also broadens the illumination angles.

A relay system (A1) images the circular output of the fiber bundle onto the entrance of a light pipe. This relay system contains a rotating microlens array<sup>5</sup>. It is driven by a motor with the axis of rotation being displaced from the optical axis. This time-varying element allows to reduce speckle.

Both, the fiber bundle and microlens array, increase the etendue of the laser illumination to the optimum value, which is given by one of our SLM as discussed below in 1.3.3 (FIXME ref).

The light pipe is a hollow mirror-integrator tunnel with quadratic cross-section and depicted in Figure 4.2. The mixing effect of the tunnel can be understood by considering the irradiance in the plane of the tunnel output as it would occur

---

<sup>1</sup>Lasever LSR473H, diode-pumped solid state laser, output power 600mW,  $\lambda = 473 \text{ nm}$

<sup>2</sup>Huey Jann HPB8-48KBD, wavelength  $(463 \pm 1) \text{ nm}$ , brightness 35 lm, view angle 120°, FIXME TODO: Flaeche messen

<sup>3</sup>The DPSS Laser doesn't allow fast direct electronic switching at full power. We have to use an acousto-optic modulator connected with the additional expense of its optical alignment (FIXME siehe spaetere ref section).

<sup>4</sup>Fiber bundle with circular cross-section (Loptek, Berlin, DE), 1.1 mm diameter and 2 m length. The beam broadening is 3° and increases, when the bundle is bent (Ipp et al. 2009).

<sup>5</sup>Array of cross-oriented cylindrical lenses on both sides with a pitch of 0.5 mm resulting in an effective focal length of 6.9 mm (LIMO, Dortmund, DE).

#### 4. Device 1: prototype for spatio-angular illumination

without tunnel.

Drawing the outline of the square cross-section into this irradiance map selects the light that directly reaches this plane. Surrounding this outline with the four squares that touch its edges selects the light that will reach the output plane after one reflection. The irradiance maps from neighbouring squares are mirrored and added to the direct illumination. Depending on the numerical aperture of the input light, more reflections may occur — resulting in the addition of irradiance from next-nearest-neighbours and so forth.

This improves the uniformity of the light distribution in the output plane without altering the numerical aperture of the light. The more subregions are superimposed, the better will be the uniformity. Assuming  $N$  subregions were overlaid and their contributions were statistically independent, then according to the central limit theorem the standard deviation of the irradiance is proportional to  $1/\sqrt{N}$  (Koshel 2012).

However, we also align the source distribution to be rotationally symmetric about the optical axis and obtain an even more uniform output than this prediction because positive and negative slopes from different subregions compensate in the superposition (also Koshel (2012)).

In our system the side length of the cross-section of the tunnel is 2.5 mm and its length of 250 mm ensures enough reflections for homogeneous illumination. A relay system magnifies the tunnel output to 4 mm  $\times$  4 mm in the plane F''.

We thought about using the output of the tunnel directly, without the additional relais system, but then the length of the tunnel would have been prohibitively long.

Regarding the two relay systems the optical designer at In-Vision commented (FIXME ref D8.9) that these have not been optimized for prefect imaging but for the transport of the homogeneous light distribution. The system A1 at the tunnel entrance has to transfer the illumination from the round fiber end to the square tunnel entrance. The engineer designed a good quality system with only two lenses (and the microlens array). At the other end (A2 in Figure 4.1) five elements carry the light from the tunnel exit into F''.

During the planning phase we also considered a homogenization design based on a fly's eye condensor (two consecutive microlens arrays). According to simulations performed by In-Vision, this, however, would have been more difficult to adjust than the tunnel. In particular the system would have been more dependent on illumination wavelength.

In summary the following points are important in order to achieve homogeneous

#### 4. Device 1: prototype for spatio-angular illumination

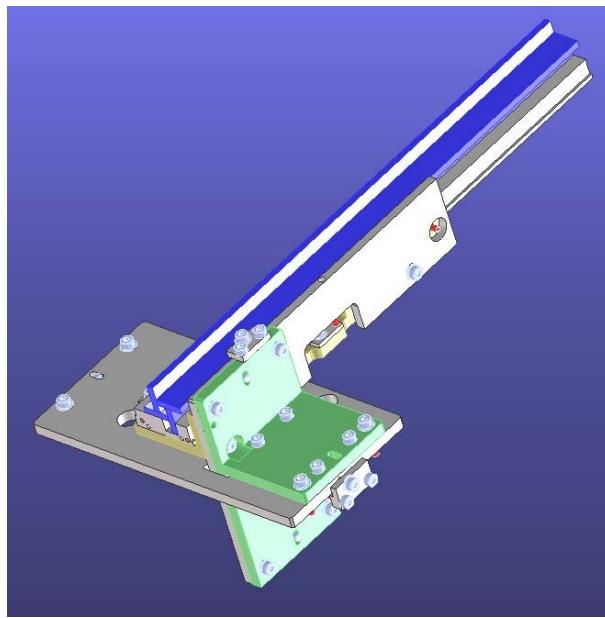


Figure 4.2.: Hollow mirror-integrator tunnel with a quadratic cross section of 2.5 mm side length and 250 mm length.

(fig:integrator-rod)

illumination of focal and pupil plane with the tunnel:

- The image of the end of the bundle should properly cover the tunnel entrance. Especially the corners of the tunnel should not be darker than the center. Inhomogeneous illumination at the tunnel entrance leads to inhomogeneous illumination of the pupil plane SLM.
- The end of the fibre bundle must be adjusted in four axes (centering and angle).
- The focal length of the microlenses should be chosen shorter than predicted by pure etendue calculation. In order to compensate inevitably occurring microchipping on the edges of the cemented glass mirrors.

##### 4.1.2. Fourier optical filter for contrast generation on pupil plane SLM

The micromirror array, which we use as a pupil plane SLM consists of torsion mirrors that modulate the phase of the light (for a more detailed description see ref FIXME). In order to modulate the intensity we use the Fourier filter shown in Figure 4.1 B.

The lens L1 has two purposes: First, it images the field mask B0 into the field stop B1. Second, the plane P'' with the phase SLM is imaged to infinity.

## 4. Device 1: prototype for spatio-angular illumination

With undeflected micromirrors, the SLM has no significant effect and works like a plane mirror. Both planes  $F''$  and  $P'$  are then homogeneously illuminated.

If the left half of the micromirrors are tilted, then they direct the light along the dashed line in Figure 4.1. This light is absorbed by the field stop  $B1$  and therefore missing in  $P'$ , i.e. the right side in  $P'$  is dark. The total radiant flux ( $W$ ) through the beam stop in  $F''$  decreases while the transmitted irradiance ( $W/m^2$ ) remains homogeneous.

In the real system, the lens  $L1$  consists of four elements.

### 4.1.3. Relay optics between pupil plane and focal plane SLM

The lenses  $L2$  and  $L3$  form a double-telecentric relay system with magnification 2 and image  $F''$  onto the focal plane SLM in  $F'$ . At the same time these lenses make sure that the pupil plane SLM is imaged to infinity.

The relay system ensures that the pixels of the focal plane SLM are at the resolution limit, while the pupil plane SLM fills the pupil.

In addition, the relay system enables a simpler mechanical realization and good contrast. It would already be difficult to accommodate the focal plane SLM and polarization beam splitter in  $F''$  — including an adjustable aperture would probably not be feasible at all.

### 4.1.4. Contrast generation on focal plane SLM using polarization

The SLM we use to control the focal plane illumination is a ferroelectric liquid crystal on silicon device (ForthDD WXGA R3, UK). Depending on if a pixel is off or on, the returning light either retains the polarization of the input light or rotates it by 90 degrees.

From this, a polarization beam splitter generates a binary intensity contrast (see Figure 4.1 C).

We opted for a wire-grid polarization beam splitter (Moxtek PBF02C, Orem, UT, US) because they ensure a high enough optical quality, good contrast and the plate causes less back reflections than a beam splitter cube.

- ignacio moreno 2009 operational modes of a ferroelectric lcos (FIXME)

The s-polarized component of the incoming light is reflected towards the SLM. Active pixels of the SLM rotate the polarization of light by 90 degrees and then passes through the beam splitter as p-polarization in the direction of the microscope. There is a supplementary cleanup analyzer in the beam path.

#### 4. Device 1: prototype for spatio-angular illumination

It would also be conceivable to arrange SLM and beam splitter differently, so that the light coming from the SLM is *reflected* towards microscope. In this case, however, unwanted bending of the beam splitter's surface will deteriorate the image quality of the focal plane SLM. Therefore, we use the beam splitter in transmission.

The beam splitter plate makes the overall optics slightly assymmetric and thus induces mainly astigmatism and lateral color (ref FIXME D8.9). The plate is thin enough (thickness 0.7 mm), so that the design remains diffraction limited.

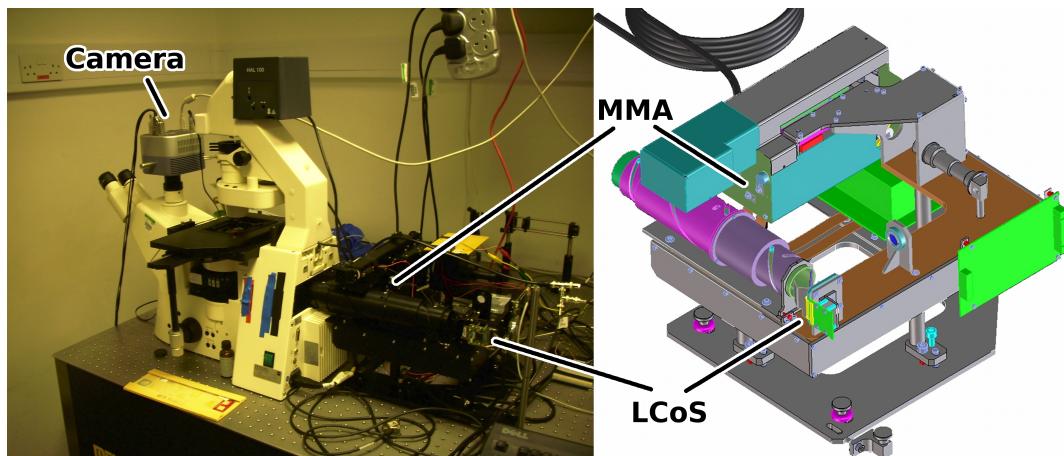


Figure 4.3.: The wide field epi-fluorescence microscope with attached illumination head. The positions of the two spatial light modulators (pupil plane SLM: micromirror array (MMA) and focal plane SLM: liquid crystal on silicon display (LCoS)) are indicated. Drawing by Josef Wenisch (In-Vision, Austria).

tup-photo-blueprint)?

##### 4.1.5. Thoughts about the etendue

##### 4.1.6. Variable telescope as tube lens

Microscope objectives come with various pupil diameters. The last lens  $TL_{ill}$  in our illumination system has been designed as a variable zoom objective, that maps the pupil plane SLM from  $P''$  with variable magnification to  $P$ .

Unlike conventional zoom telescopes we use three movable lens groups to guarantee that the image of the pupil plane SLM remains stationary and simultaneously focal plane SLM stays imaged into infinity while changing the magnification.

- email mit erhard ipp - Du gehst jetzt also mit linear polarisiertem Laser direkt in den Lichtmischtunnel? - Ja. Der Laser wird an zwei Metall-Spiegeln

#### 4. Device 1: prototype for spatio-angular illumination

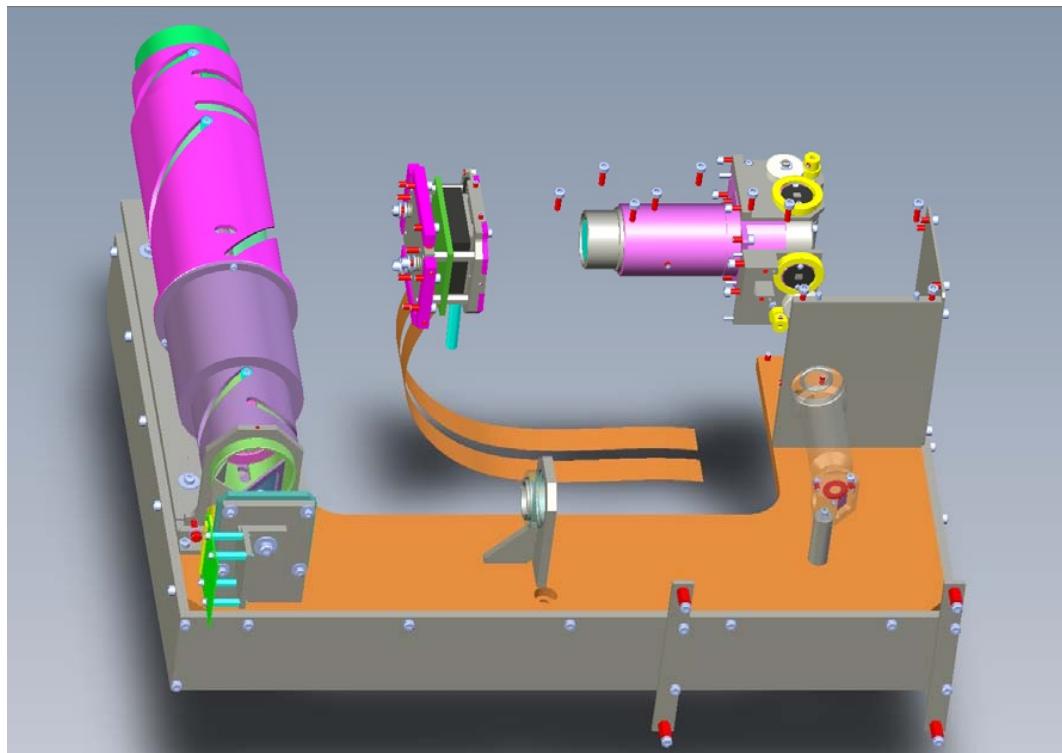


Figure 4.4.: only lenses7

i-setup-only-lenses)?  
M1 und M2) reflektiert. Vor dem Mikrolinsenarray messe ich - (1.885+/-0.005) mW ohne Polarisator, (1.580+/-0.001) mW mit Polarisator in Maximalstellung und - (27.26+/-0.01) uW mit Polarisator in Minimumstellung. Der Kontrast ist  $1.8e-3/27e-6=70:1$ .

#### 4.2. Electronic control of the component

Both spatial light modulators can run at most with 50% duty cycle. Therefore it is necessary to synchronize the displays. Their controllers allow to upload several hundred frames of image data before an experiment and keep them in local storage. Images can then be selected by fast function calls over USB (LCoS) or Ethernet (MMA).

The camera (Clara, Andor PLC, Belfast, Northern Ireland) as the slowest device is chosen as the master. The camera provides two TTL outputs. The output "fire" is high while the camera is integrating. The output "shutter" goes high 1 ms before "fire" and provides enough time ( $> 850 \mu s$ ) for the MMA controller to tilt and let the mirrors settle.

The LCoS controller can display its images only for certain discrete times (20 ms,

#### 4. Device 1: prototype for spatio-angular illumination

10 ms, 5 ms, 200  $\mu$ s) and it is not straight forward to change this via USB interface. Therefore we always work with a fixed LCoS display time of 20 ms. The “fire” output of the camera also switches the laser on using an acousto-optic modulator (AOM).

When the z-stage is used, the camera is stopped until the stage has reached its target position.

(FIXME bring both these images into the appendix)

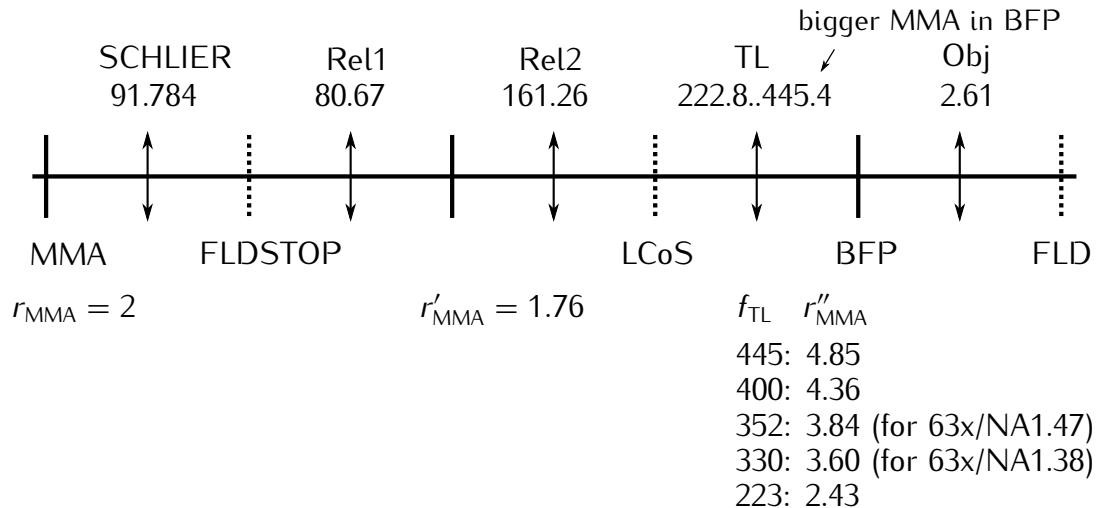


Figure 4.5.: Schematic of the lenses in the MEMI system and their focal lengths. The focal length  $f_{\text{TL}}$  of the tube lens can be varied. This allows to scale the second intermediate image  $r''_{\text{MMA}}$  of the micro mirror array to fit the back focal plane of different objectives. Dimensions in mm.

?(fig:memi-sketch)?

## 5. optimization of the spatio-angular illumination patterns

?<sec:optimization>?

## 6. mma as an intensity modulator

`(sec:mm)`

## 7. experimental results with spatio-angular microscope (device 1)

?<sec:results>?

## 8. discussion

?<sec:discussion>

- zuerst habe ich dvi lcos mit mma verbaut, das hat leider nur gelegentlich funktioniert
  - urspruenglich war geplant folgendes system einzusetzen: Biological applications of an LCoS-based programmable array microscope (PAM)
  - dann habe ich usb lcos eingesetzt, damit geht es immer, ist aber langsamer und deutlich weniger nuetzlich zum experimentieren
  - ausserdem ist die ettendue des beleuchtungssystems arg eingeschraenkt mit einem 63x objektiv (NA=1.47) wird nur ein feld mit 40 um durchmesser beleuchtet
    - deshalb untersuchten wir einen anderen weg zur kontrasterzeugung und lernten dabei dass ein interferometrischer ansatz sehr wohl geeignet ist, die ettendue zu erhoehen
    - einschraenkungen in der realisierbaren optik (freier durchmesser der nomarski prismen) fuehrte zu nicht ganz ueberzeugenden bildern
    - ein piston mma wuerde zu deutlich besseren ergebnisse fuehren
    - ein weiterer ansatz fuer spatio-angular beleuchtung wurde mit einer holographischen methode verfolgt
    - dabei lernten wir dass die qualitaet des verwendeten phasenmodulators zu wuenschen uebrig laesst
    - einfacherer ansatz mit nur einem display, erfordert daher weniger optik und elektronik
      - loest jedoch nicht das problem geringer ettendue (die moegliche ettendue muss ich mir genauer ueberlegen, sie haengt mit der anzahl der pixel des displays und den grating konstanten zusammen, die dargestellt werden koennen, da das system off-axis betrieben werden muss, wird die ettendue geviertelt)
      - Im Nachhinein muss man sagen, dass es Zielfuehrender gewesen waere, und unsere Aufgabe erheblich vereinfacht haette, wenn wir beide SLM vom gleichen Typ verwendet haetten. Es handelte sich aber um einen Prototypen und er war in den ersten Jahr des Projektes noch nicht verfuegbar. Das Projekt wird von Pasteur und Fraunhofer, diesmal unter Verwendung zweier ihrer SLM, weitergefuehrt.
      - Leider wird dieser Ansatz unerwartet nicht das wesentliche Prob-

## 8. discussion

lem der kleinen Ettendue bereinigen und der neue Prototyp wird noch immer nicht die interessantesten Experimente erlauben. Es ist ganz einfach so, dass es einfacher waere, ein biologisch Relevantes Experiment zu designen, wenn das Beleuchtungssystem auch die volle Ettendue heutiger Mikroskopobjektive ausschoepft.

- kameras sind zur zeit an einem wendepunkt. vermutlich wuerde man heutzutage eine sCMOS benutzen, dann sollte man aber auf die triggereigenschaften achten
  - arduino war nuetzlich um die elektronische triggerung ohne grossen aufwand umzusetzen (der hauptaufwand war oft nicht die zeitsteuerung, sondern eine ordentliche galvanische entkopplung der displays, die ist auch wichtig)
  - da unterscheiden sich die hersteller ohnehin sehr stark, bei dem dvi display war es erforderlich, testpunkte vom board abzugreifen und ueber adum zu entkoppeln, bei neueren varianten des usb boards kann man mittlerweile einfach einen stecker anstecken
    - man kann relativ viel aufwand bei der rekonstruktion von optisch geschnittenen bildern betreiben, fuer das reale problem ist die vermeidung von artefakten dann oft doch nicht so wichtig (z.b. beads oder nuklei lokalisieren)
    - transmission ist nicht ausreichend um wuermer zu untersuchen
    - vergleiche die folgenden displays:
      - holoeye (erwaehne triggerversuche, kalibrationsmessungen von uebertragungsfunktion und interpixel cross talk, hamamatsu)
      - forthdd (frage sie vielleicht, ob sie mir im nachhinein doch noch information geben)
        - ti dmd (sehr gute dokumentation, sehr viele funktionen; gut waere, wenn ich ein programm auf dem lokalen arm prozessor laufen lassen koennte, was die vollen 4000fps aus runlength (oder irgendwie komprimierten) daten vom usb aus erzeugen koennte
          - deflection angle defines f/# number of projection lens and therefore etendue, for good contrast f/# shouldn't be smaller than f/2.8
          - mma (naja)
          - hilo ist nicht unbedingt notwendig, ziemlich kompliziert und brauch fudge factor
            - high density fluorophore labelling for the shorter wavelength fluorophore (better signal noise)

## 9. outlook

?<sec:outlook>

- den algorithmus zur beleuchtungsoptimierung kann man noch deutlich verbessern
  - gleichzeitige beleuchtung mehrerer nuklei
  - andere objektstrukturen (z.b. zylinder, axone)
- 2010 hermann cuntz: One Rule to Grow Them All: A General Theory of Neuronal Branching and Its Practical Application
  - modell wie neuronen wachsen um axon oder dendritendichte vorherzusagen
  - voxels05\_final
  - eine genaue analyse einiger probleme mit wellenoptischer partiell kohärenter theorie steht noch aus und waere interessant (nach wichtigkeit)
    - partiell kohärente simulation des mma im schlierenoptischen system
    - sind graulevel vorteilhaft?
    - wuerde ein mma, bei dem alle spiegel in dieselbe richtung kippen die ettendue verdoppeln?
      - partiell kohärente simulation des mma im shearing interferometrischen system
      - was ist die maximale ettendue eines wollaston prisms?
      - holographie methode mit extended source
      - Denkbar waere auch ein scannendes konfokales Mikroskop, dass an die Beleuchtungswinkel an jedem Punkt kontrolliert (siehe fig:hourglass-all-b). Bisher wurden in der Literatur nur Systeme beschrieben, die die Phase des Beleuchtungslicht in der Pupille ändern (FIXME ref). Eine Adaption dieser Systeme zu einem spatio-angularen ist naheliegend und ich schlage vor, derartige Systeme auch untersucht werden sollten. Die Kombination von CLEM, einem Ringdetektor (vielleicht mit UZI) koennte die Bildgebung im Inneren lebender Organe (z.B. Gehirn) verbessern.

# A. EM-CCD camera calibration

## A.1. Andor Basic code listing for automatic image acquisition

```
c:basic-acquisition)?' This is code for the Basic interpreter in Andor Solis
function ~GetSaturatingExposure()
    SetKineticNumber(1)
    exp=.01
    SetExposureTime(exp)
    run()
    m=maximum(#0,1,512)
    GetSaturatingExposure=exp*10000/(m-100)
    CloseWindow(#0)
return
name$ = "C:\Users\work\Desktop\martin\20111111\scan-em3\xion_"
print("start")

SetOutputAmp(1)
print("conv_start")
exp= ~GetSaturatingExposure()
print(exp)
SetExposureTime(exp)
SetKineticNumber(20)
SetShutter(0,1)
run()
save(#0,name$ + "conv1_dark.sif")
ExportTiff(#0, name$ + "conv1_dark.tif", 1, 1, 0, 0)
CloseWindow(#0)
CloseWindow(#1)

SetShutter(1,1)
run()
save(#0,name$ + "conv1_bright.sif")
ExportTiff(#0, name$ + "conv1_bright.tif", 1, 1, 0, 0)
CloseWindow(#0)
CloseWindow(#1)

SetOutputAmp(0)
SetShutter(1,1)
for i = 40 to 300 step 10
    SetGain(i)
    exp=~GetSaturatingExposure()
    print(exp)
    SetExposureTime(exp)
    SetKineticNumber(20)
    SetShutter(0,1)
    run()
```

## A. EM-CCD camera calibration

```
    save(#0,name$ + str$(i) + "_dark.sif")
    ExportTiff(#0, name$ + str$(i) + "_dark.tif", 1, 1, 0, 0)
    CloseWindow(#0)
    CloseWindow(#1)
    SetShutter(1,1)
    run()
    save(#0,name$ + str$(i) + "_bright.sif")
    ExportTiff(#0, name$ + str$(i) + "_bright.tif", 1, 1, 0, 0)
    CloseWindow(#0)
    CloseWindow(#1)
next

SetOutputAmp(1)
print("conv_end")
exp= ~GetSaturatingExposure()
print(exp)
SetExposureTime(exp)
SetKineticNumber(20)
SetShutter(0,1)
run()
save(#0,name$ + "conv2_dark.sif")
ExportTiff(#0, name$ + "conv2_dark.tif", 1, 1, 0, 0)
CloseWindow(#0)
CloseWindow(#1)

SetShutter(1,1)
run()
save(#0,name$ + "conv2_bright.sif")
ExportTiff(#0, name$ + "conv2_bright.tif", 1, 1, 0, 0)
CloseWindow(#0)
CloseWindow(#1)
```

## A.2. Python code listing for the read noise evaluation

```
thon-readnoise-eval)?#!/usr/bin/env python
# ./ti.py /media/backup/andor-ultra-ixon/martin/20111111/scan-em3/ ultra 2700
import sys
import os

import matplotlib
matplotlib.use('Agg')

from pylab import *
from libtiff import TIFFfile, TIFFimage
from scipy import stats

seterr(divide='ignore')

folder = sys.argv[1]
cam = sys.argv[2]
gain = sys.argv[3]

def readpics(gain,cam='ixon_',isdark=False):
    print 'loading ', os.path.join(folder,cam) + '_' + gain + '_bright.tif'
```

## A. EM-CCD camera calibration

```

fg=TIFFfile(os.path.join(folder,cam) + '_' + gain + '_bright.tif')
bright,bright_names=fg.get_samples()
bg=TIFFfile(os.path.join(folder,cam) + '_' + gain + '_dark.tif')
dark,dark_names=bg.get_samples()
return (bright[0],dark[0])

(f,b) = readpics(gain=gain, cam=cam)

bg=mean(b, axis=0)
v=var(f, axis=0)
i=mean(f, axis=0)

ny,nx=64,128
H,y,x=histogram2d(v.flatten(),i.flatten(),bins=[ny,nx],
                    range=[[0,v.max()], [0,i.max()]])
extent = [x[0], x[-1], y[0], y[-1]]
acc=zeros(x.shape, dtype=float64)
accn=zeros(x.shape, dtype=int64)
s=nx/i.max()
for ii,vv in nditer([i,v]):
    p=round(ii*s)
    acc[p]+=vv
    accn[p]+=1

fig=figure(figsize=(24, 8), dpi=300)
hold(False)
title('bal')
subplot(1,3,1)
imshow(log(H), extent=extent,
       aspect='auto', interpolation='none', origin='lower')
hold(True)
ax=x[nonzero(accn)]
ay=acc/accn
ay=ay[nonzero(accn)]
l=round(.6*len(ax))
bx=ax[0:l]
by=ay[0:l]
plot(ax,ay,'r+')
slope,intercept,rval,pval,stderr=stats.linregress(bx,by)
plot(ax,polyval([slope,intercept],ax))
xlabel('intensity/ADU')
ylabel(r'variance/ADU$^2$')
real_gain=1/slope # unit electrons/ADU
read_noise=sqrt(var(b))*real_gain # electrons RMS per pixel
mean_elecs=(mean(f)-mean(b))*real_gain # photoelectrons electrons per pixel
print gain, cam, real_gain, read_noise, mean_elecs, mean(b), rval, pval, stderr
tit='EM-gain: %s, cam: %s, real gain: %.2f e/ADU\n'
read noise: %.2f e RMS/pixel, mean: %.2f e/pixel, offset: %.2f'
% (gain, cam, real_gain, read_noise, mean_elecs, mean(b))
title(tit)
subplot(1,3,2)
imshow(var(b, axis=0))
title('variance of darkimages')
colorbar()
subplot(1,3,3)
imshow(mean(b, axis=0))
title('mean of darkimages')
colorbar()

```

## A. EM-CCD camera calibration

```
show()  
fig.savefig(cam+'_'+gain+'.png')
```

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