

Contents

1 General image characteristics, data acquisition and image reconstruction	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Specificity, sensitivity and the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve	2
1.3 Spatial resolution	5
1.3.1 Spatial frequencies	5
1.3.2 The line spread function	6
1.3.3 The point spread function.	7
1.3.4 The modulation transfer function	8
1.4 Signal-to-noise ratio	10
1.5 Contrast-to-noise ratio	12
1.6 Image filtering	12
1.7 Data acquisition: analogue-to-digital converters	15
1.7.1 Dynamic range and resolution	16
1.7.2 Sampling frequency and bandwidth	18
1.7.3 Digital oversampling	19
1.8 Image artifacts	20
1.9 Fourier transforms	20
1.9.1 Fourier transformation of time- and spatial frequency-domain signals	21
1.9.2 Useful properties of the Fourier transform	22
1.10 Backprojection, sinograms and filtered backprojection	24
1.10.1 Backprojection	26
1.10.2 Sinograms	27
1.10.3 Filtered backprojection	27
Exercises	30
2 X-ray planar radiography and computed tomography	34
2.1 Introduction	34
2.2 The X-ray tube	36
2.3 The X-ray energy spectrum	40

2.4	Interactions of X-rays with the body	42
2.4.1	Photoelectric attenuation	42
2.4.2	Compton scattering	43
2.5	X-ray linear and mass attenuation coefficients	45
2.6	Instrumentation for planar radiography	47
2.6.1	Collimators	48
2.6.2	Anti-scatter grids	48
2.7	X-ray detectors	50
2.7.1	Computed radiography	50
2.7.2	Digital radiography	52
2.8	Quantitative characteristics of planar X-ray images	54
2.8.1	Signal-to-noise	54
2.8.2	Spatial resolution	57
2.8.3	Contrast-to-noise	58
2.9	X-ray contrast agents	59
2.9.1	Contrast agents for the GI tract	59
2.9.2	Iodine-based contrast agents	60
2.10	Specialized X-ray imaging techniques	61
2.10.1	Digital subtraction angiography	61
2.10.2	Digital mammography	62
2.10.3	Digital fluoroscopy	63
2.11	Clinical applications of planar X-ray imaging	64
2.12	Computed tomography	66
2.12.1	Spiral/helical CT	67
2.12.2	Multi-slice spiral CT	68
2.13	Instrumentation for CT	68
2.13.1	Instrumentation development for helical CT	69
2.13.2	Detectors for multi-slice CT	70
2.14	Image reconstruction in CT	71
2.14.1	Filtered backprojection techniques	71
2.14.2	Fan beam reconstructions	73
2.14.3	Reconstruction of helical CT data	73
2.14.4	Reconstruction of multi-slice helical CT scans	74
2.14.5	Pre-processing data corrections	74
2.15	Dual-source and dual-energy CT	75
2.16	Digital X-ray tomosynthesis	76
2.17	Radiation dose	77
2.18	Clinical applications of CT	80
2.18.1	Cerebral scans	80
2.18.2	Pulmonary disease	81
2.18.3	Liver imaging	81
2.18.4	Cardiac imaging	82
	Exercises	83

3	Nuclear medicine: Planar scintigraphy, SPECT and PET/CT	89
3.1	Introduction	89
3.2	Radioactivity and radiotracer half-life	91
3.3	Properties of radiotracers for nuclear medicine	92
3.4	The technetium generator	93
3.5	The distribution of technetium-based radiotracers within the body	96
3.6	The gamma camera	97
3.6.1	The collimator	97
3.6.2	The detector scintillation crystal and coupled photomultiplier tubes	100
3.6.3	The Anger position network and pulse height analyzer	103
3.6.4	Instrumental dead time	106
3.7	Image characteristics	108
3.8	Clinical applications of planar scintigraphy	109
3.9	Single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT)	110
3.10	Data processing in SPECT	112
3.10.1	Scatter correction	112
3.10.2	Attenuation correction	114
3.10.3	Image reconstruction	115
3.11	SPECT/CT	116
3.12	Clinical applications of SPECT and SPECT/CT	117
3.12.1	Myocardial perfusion	117
3.12.2	Brain SPECT and SPECT/CT	120
3.13	Positron emission tomography (PET)	121
3.14	Radiotracers used for PET/CT	123
3.15	Instrumentation for PET/CT	124
3.15.1	Scintillation crystals	125
3.15.2	Photomultiplier tubes and pulse height analyzer	127
3.15.3	Annihilation coincidence detection	127
3.16	Two-dimensional and three-dimensional PET imaging	129
3.17	PET/CT	130
3.18	Data processing in PET/CT	131
3.18.1	Attenuation correction	131
3.18.2	Corrections for accidental and multiple coincidences	131
3.18.3	Corrections for scattered coincidences	133
3.18.4	Corrections for dead time	134
3.19	Image characteristics	134
3.20	Time-of-flight PET	135
3.21	Clinical applications of PET/CT	137
3.21.1	Whole-body PET/CT scanning	137

3.21.2 PET/CT applications in the brain	137
3.21.3 Cardiac PET/CT studies	139
Exercises	139
4 Ultrasound imaging	145
4.1 Introduction	145
4.2 Wave propagation and characteristic acoustic impedance	146
4.3 Wave reflection, refraction and scattering in tissue	149
4.3.1 Reflection, transmission and refraction at tissue boundaries	149
4.3.2 Scattering by small structures	152
4.4 Absorption and total attenuation of ultrasound energy in tissue	153
4.4.1 Relaxation and classical absorption	154
4.4.2 Attenuation coefficients	155
4.5 Instrumentation	156
4.6 Single element ultrasound transducers	157
4.6.1 Transducer bandwidth	159
4.6.2 Beam geometry and lateral resolution	161
4.6.3 Axial resolution	163
4.6.4 Transducer focusing	163
4.7 Transducer arrays	165
4.7.1 Linear arrays	166
4.7.2 Phased arrays	167
4.7.3 Beam-forming and steering via pulse transmission for phased arrays	168
4.7.4 Analogue and digital receiver beam-forming for phased arrays	171
4.7.5 Time-gain compensation	172
4.7.6 Multi-dimensional arrays	173
4.7.7 Annular arrays	174
4.8 Clinical diagnostic scanning modes	175
4.8.1 A-mode scanning: ophthalmic pachymetry	175
4.8.2 M-mode echocardiography	175
4.8.3 Two-dimensional B-mode scanning	176
4.8.4 Compound scanning	177
4.9 Image characteristics	178
4.9.1 Signal-to-noise	178
4.9.2 Spatial resolution	178
4.9.3 Contrast-to-noise	179
4.10 Doppler ultrasound for blood flow measurements	179
4.10.1 Pulsed wave Doppler measurements	181
4.10.2 Duplex and triplex image acquisition	182

4.10.3 Aliasing in pulsed wave Doppler imaging	184
4.10.4 Power Doppler	186
4.10.5 Continuous-wave Doppler measurements	186
4.11 Ultrasound contrast agents	187
4.11.1 Microbubbles	187
4.11.2 Harmonic and pulse inversion imaging	190
4.12 Safety guidelines in ultrasound imaging	191
4.13 Clinical applications of ultrasound	193
4.13.1 Obstetrics and gynaecology	193
4.13.2 Breast imaging	194
4.13.3 Musculoskeletal structure	194
4.13.4 Echocardiography	195
4.14 Artifacts in ultrasound imaging	196
Exercises	197
5 Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)	204
5.1 Introduction	204
5.2 Effects of a strong magnetic field on protons in the body	205
5.2.1 Proton energy levels	206
5.2.2 Classical precession	209
5.3 Effects of a radiofrequency pulse on magnetization	211
5.3.1 Creation of transverse magnetization	212
5.4 Faraday induction: the basis of MR signal detection	213
5.4.1 MR signal intensity	214
5.4.2 The rotating reference frame	214
5.5 T ₁ and T ₂ relaxation times	215
5.6 Signals from lipid	219
5.7 The free induction decay	220
5.8 Magnetic resonance imaging	221
5.9 Image acquisition	223
5.9.1 Slice selection	223
5.9.2 Phase encoding	226
5.9.3 Frequency encoding	228
5.10 The k-space formalism and image reconstruction	229
5.11 Multiple-slice imaging	231
5.12 Basic imaging sequences	233
5.12.1 Multi-slice gradient echo sequences	233
5.12.2 Spin echo sequences	234
5.12.3 Three-dimensional imaging sequences	237
5.13 Tissue relaxation times	239
5.14 MRI instrumentation	241
5.14.1 Superconducting magnet design	241

5.14.2	Magnetic field gradient coils	244
5.14.3	Radiofrequency coils	247
5.14.4	Receiver design	250
5.15	Parallel imaging using coil arrays	252
5.16	Fast imaging sequences	254
5.16.1	Echo planar imaging	255
5.16.2	Turbo spin echo sequences	256
5.17	Magnetic resonance angiography	257
5.18	Functional MRI	259
5.19	MRI contrast agents	261
5.19.1	Positive contrast agents	261
5.19.2	Negative contrast agents	263
5.20	Image characteristics	264
5.20.1	Signal-to-noise	264
5.20.2	Spatial resolution	265
5.20.3	Contrast-to-noise	266
5.21	Safety considerations – specific absorption rate (SAR)	267
5.22	Lipid suppression techniques	267
5.23	Clinical applications	268
5.23.1	Neurological applications	268
5.23.2	Body applications	269
5.23.3	Musculoskeletal applications	270
5.23.4	Cardiology applications	271
	Exercises	273
	<i>Index</i>	283