Variability in FEM mesh geometry

Andy Adler¹, William R.B. Lionheart²

¹Systems and Computer Engineering, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada ²School of Mathematics, University of Manchester, U.K.

Simulating with FEMs



Coarse (1411 elems) Fine (1941 elems)

What's the problem?

Correct simulation: remesh at each target



What's the problem?

Images are awful

2000 elements





Unless you use fine FEMS

10000 elements





But it's worse in 3D





What's causing this?

- Due to mapping of anisotropic conductivity
- A particular FEM geometry maps the (potentially anisotropic) conductivity tensors onto the system matrix
- Change in geometry projects tensor differently
- Result: slightly different *anisotropic content* into the simulated voltages.
- Reconstruction can't explain anisotropy, so projects it as noise/artefacts

How can we fix it?

- The problem is that the reconstruction can't vary the geometry to explain anisotropy.
- What if we allow the reconstruction to 'jiggle' the vertex locations?

Formulation

 $\Delta \hat{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{c} \mathbf{J}_{c}^{t} \left(\mathbf{J}_{c} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{c} \mathbf{J}_{c}^{t} + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{n} \right)^{-1} \mathbf{y} & \text{standard} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{c} \mathbf{J}_{c}^{t} \left(\mathbf{J}_{c} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{c} \mathbf{J}_{c}^{t} + \mathbf{J}_{m} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{m} \mathbf{J}_{m}^{t} + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{n} \right)^{-1} \mathbf{y} & \text{proposed} \end{cases}$

- J_c Jacobian (Sensitivity) to Δ conductivity
- J_m Jacobian (Sensitivity) to Δ position
- Σ_{c} Image element covariance (Prior)
- Σ_n Channel noise variance



Discussion

- We think we can explain an effect that has bugged us for several years
- This may be significant. Especially for absolute imaging, and for 3D solvers



	Announcing EIDORS v3.4	
	Version	Lines of
		Code
1999	1.0 (2D)	1314
2002	2.0 (3D)	3715
2005	3.0	10685
2006	3.1	14850
2007	3.2	18127
2008	3.3	23437
2010	3.4	36554

