

This code is distributed as accompanying software for the article *Fast, single-molecule localization that achieves theoretically minimum uncertainty* by Carlas S. Smith, Nikolai Joseph, Bernd Rieger & Keith A. Lidke.

1 General Concept

This code performs a maximum likelihood estimate of particle position, emission rate (photons/frame), and background rate (photons/pixels/frame). The found values are used to calculate the Cramer-Rao Lower Bound (CRLB) for each parameter and the CRLBs are returned along with the estimated parameters. The input is one or more identically sized images, each of which is assumed to contain a single fluorophore. Since the maximum likelihood estimate assumes Poisson statistics, images must be converted from arbitrary ADC units to photon counts.

Because of the parallel nature of the GPU computation, maximum fits/second will be achieved when the number of input images exceeds 1000 (this is GPU card dependent). Therefore, for fitting it is desirable to preprocess the data so that all desired fits are arranged in a single 3D data stack. This code does not provide preprocessing functions.

Additional estimates of σ_{PSF} , σ_{PSF_x} and σ_{PSF_y} , or z can also be performed. CRLBs are not calculated when fitting σ_{PSF_x} and σ_{PSF_y} . The example code given here demonstrates fitting of only particle position, emission rate (photons/frame), and background rate (photons/pixels/frame).

The low level code is provided as a MATLAB-mex file. Fitting must be performed inside the MATLAB environment. At this time, the Windows 32-bit and 64-bit XP and Vista OSs are supported. Furthermore, we provide a Linux64 compatible mex-file.

2 Installation

2.1 MATLAB

The provided scripts use Matlab (<http://www.mathworks.com>). No additional toolboxes are required.

2.2 GPU setup

To use GPU code, an NVIDIA 8000 series or newer graphics card must be installed as the primary display driver. Both the CUDA Driver and the CUDA Toolkit must be installed. These can be obtained here:

http://www.nvidia.com/object/cuda_get.html

2.3 Windows Vista registry modification

If you are using Vista, you may want to change the display timeout value in the Windows Registry. The default value is 2 seconds, meaning that the card might be reset by Windows before completing fitting on large data sets. This should NOT be necessary to run the example code.

Warning: Messing with the windows registry can cause complete failure of your operating system. If you're not sure what you are doing, get help from someone (who knows what they are doing). We take no responsibility for any results of this action.

Following the article:

http://www.microsoft.com/whdc/device/display/wddm_timeout.msp
in

HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\GraphicsDrivers

create a DWORD named 'TdrDelay'. (rightclick→new→DWORD) Give it a suitable value, 10 is fine, meaning 10 seconds. This can be set longer if you still have timeout issues. Reboot.

2.4 DIPimage

The example code uses functions from the DIPimage Toolbox that simplifies coding. DIPimage is a freely available image processing toolbox for MATLAB:

<http://www.diplib.org/>

An installer for Windows is available. The example code is annotated such that a typical user should be able to modify this to accommodate other or no image processing toolboxes.

3 Using GPUgaussMLE.m

The example code should run correctly when it is located in your current MATLAB working directory or path. The main example code is in the script TestGPUgaussMLE.m.

4 Terms of use

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