## **Super-resolution microscopy**

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## Outline

- Introduction
  - Resolution in optical microscopy
  - PSF and image formation
  - Diffraction limit
- Super-resolution techniques
  - STED concept, examples
  - PALM/STORM concept, examples
  - SIM concept, examples
- Comparison between SR approaches, applications, pros and cons

10.0 s

#### Fluorescence microscopy

#### LOW INVASIVE

no harsh preparation suitable for live cell imaging

#### **HIGHLY SPECIFIC**

labels highlight objects of interest



ZEISS LSM 880 with Airyscan: Mitosis in HeLa Kyoto EB3 EGFP Carl, Zeiss

## Super resolution microscopy



#### Spatial resolution and Imaging approaches



# Excitation and detection approaches in fluorescence microscopy



# Excitation and detection approaches in fluorescence microscopy







## Diffraction limit in optical microscopy



## **Diffraction limit**



Real object



Diffraction limited image



## Numerical Aperture (N.A.)



## Numerical Aperture (N.A.)

 $NA = n(sin \Theta)$ **Higher NA**  $\rightarrow$ **Obtaining more light**/ Θ More structural information n  $\rightarrow$ **Higher resolution** 

**Diffraction** limit

$$d = rac{\lambda}{2n\sin heta} = rac{\lambda}{2\mathrm{NA}}$$

real object

High NA

Low NA







### Can we go beyond the diffraction limit?

$$d=rac{\lambda}{2n\sin heta}=rac{\lambda}{2\mathrm{NA}}$$
 Shorter wavelength Higher NA

## The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2014



Photo: Matt Staley/HHMI Eric Betzig Prize share: 1/3



Photo: Wikimedia Commons, CC-BY-SA-3.0

Stefan W. Hell Prize share: 1/3



Photo: K. Lowder via Wikimedia Commons, CC-BY-SA-3.0

#### William E. Moerner

Prize share: 1/3



# Single molecule localization methods STORM/PALM

### STORM/PALM microscopy overview



Xu at al., Actin, spectrin and associated proteins form a periodic cytoskeleton structure in axons, Science 339 452-456 (2013)

- Wide field technique (camera acquisition)
- Resolution is only limited by labelling quality
- Require careful image reconstruction, especially for multicolour colocalization









~ 30 Å

#### Single molecule localization



#### Fitting Single-Molecule Pixel Data to a Gaussian Function



http://zeiss-campus.magnet.fsu.edu/articles/superresolution/palm/practicalaspects.html

#### Single molecule localization



Conventional fluorescence microscopy: fluorophores too close to resolve Multiple rounds of stochastic activation and localisation of individual molecules Single molecule image Centroid localisation Computer rendered superresolution image

#### STochastic Optical Reconstruction Microscopy (STORM)/ Photo-Activated Localization Microscopy (PALM)



http://zeiss-campus.magnet.fsu.edu/articles/superresolution/palm/practicalaspects.html



#### STochastic Optical Reconstruction Microscopy (STORM)/ Photo-Activated Localization Microscopy (PALM)



Resolution depends on **LOCALIZATION PRECISION** and **MOLECULAR DENSITY** of fluorescent probes in the specimen.

# Importance of molecular density for resolution for PALM/STORM

Localized Molecule Density in Single-Molecule Superresolution Imaging



http://zeiss-campus.magnet.fsu.edu/articles/superresolution/palm/practicalaspects.html

# Single Molecule Localisation Microscopy summary

#### **PROS:**

- Outstanding resolution performance up to 10 nm
- Ideal for single molecule co-localisation
- Quantitative data

#### **CONS:**

- Long acquisition times
- Fitting algorithms
- Need of specific dye
- Labelling density is crucial for high resolution

## STED

### STED microscopy overview



Actin filaments in resting T-cell taken on Leica STED system at WIMM image courtesy M.Fritzsche

- Confocal microscopy based super-resolution technique (laser scanning)
- Reduces the effective PSF dimensions, so resolution is only limited by sample degradation
- Does not require subsequent image reconstruction











### **Resolution in STED microscopy**



### Resolution is defined by the STED beam intensity!

Harke et al 2008, Optics Express

### STED image example



# **ST**imulated **E**mission **D**epletion (STED) summary

#### **PROS:**

- Confocal based good penetration depth, 3D imaging
- Resolution can be tuned by STED beam power
- No image post processing is needed

#### **CONS:**

- High resolution require high laser intensity not suitable for prolonged imaging
- Small improvement in z-resoluton compare with confocal
- Beams alignment is critical

## Structured Illumination microscopy

### SIM microscopy overview



- Wide field technique (camera acquisition)
- Resolution is limited by the ¼ of imaging wavelength
- Requires careful image reconstruction

Actin filaments in activation RBL taken on custom built TIRF-SIM system at KIR

### Moiré Interference



# Numerical Aperture (NA) of objective and resolution



# Real space (x,y) $\xrightarrow{FFT}$ Frequency space (k<sub>x</sub>,k<sub>y</sub>)









# Real space (x,y) $\xrightarrow{FFT}$ Frequency space (k<sub>x</sub>,k<sub>y</sub>)





# Real space (x,y) $\xrightarrow{FFT}$ Frequency space (k<sub>x</sub>,k<sub>y</sub>)

### Structured Illumination doubles the resolution



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## Widefield



SIM angle 1



SIM angle 2



SIM angle 3



## SIM reconstructed





#### angle 2





#### **Cut-off frequency**





#### SIM raw data



#### SIM reconstructed

# Structured Illumination Microscopy summary

#### **PROS**:

- Wide field based approach very fast acquisition times, ideal for life cell imaging
- Low illumination powers
- No need for specific dye

#### **CONS:**

- Post processing is necessary
- Only moderate resolution improvement up to 90nm

## Summary



Schermelleh at al. A guide to super-resolution fluorescence microscopy. J Cell Biol. 2010 Jul 26;190(2):165-75

#### **Microtubules in Drosophila macrophages**





Wegel et. al., Scientific Reports 6, : 27290 (2016)

# Comparison of the three super-resolution techniques

	SIM	STED	SMLM
Resolution	•		
Separated structures		•	•
Densely packed 3D structures	•		• ?
Unknown structures			
Image reconstruction issues	•	•*	
Sample preparation			
Ease of multi-colour imaging	•		
Cost of purchase and system complexity	•	•	•

Green, good; yellow, medium; red, problematic. \*The resolution gain in STED is achieved by optical methods so no reconstruction is strictly needed, however use of image contrast enhancement techniques such as deconvolution can introduce artefacts