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Research from University of California, Physics Department yields new data on neuroscience

(Science Letter Via Thomson Dialog NewsEdge)

Data detailed in "MPScope: a versatile software suite for multiphoton microscopy" have been presented. According to recent research published in the Journal of Neuroscience Methods, "MPScope is a software suite to control and analyze data from custom-built multiphoton laser scanning fluorescence microscopes. The acquisition program MPScan acquires, displays and stores movies, linescans, image stacks or arbitrary regions from up to four imaging channels and up to two analog inputs, while plotting the intensity of regions of interest in real-time."



"Bidirectional linescans allow 256 x 256 pixel frames to be acquired at up to 10 fps with typical galvanometric scanners. A fast stack mode combines movie acquisition with continuous z-focus motion and adjustment of laser intensity for constant image brightness. Fast stacks can be automated by custom programs

running in an integrated scripting environment, allowing a 1 mm(3) cortical volume to be sampled in 1 billion voxels in approximately 1 h. The analysis program MPView allows viewing of stored frames, projections, automatic detection of cells and plotting of their average intensity across frames, direct frame transfer to Matlab, AVI movie creation and file export to ImageJ," wrote Q.T. Nguyen and colleagues, University of California, Physics Department.

The researchers concluded: "The combination of optimized code, multithreading and COM (Common Object Model) technologies enables MPScope to fully take advantage of custom-built two-photon microscopes and to simplify their realization."

Nguyen and colleagues published their study in the Journal of Neuroscience Methods (MPScope: a versatile software suite for multiphoton microscopy. Journal of Neuroscience Methods, 2006;156(1-2):351-9).

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The publisher's contact information for the Journal of Neuroscience Methods is: Elsevier Science BV, PO Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, Netherlands.

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