Technical Report On the Implementation of Non-Rigid Registration using Fluid Dynamics

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1 Preface

Fluid dynamics based registration was first introduced by Christensen [5]. Later Bro-Nielsen et al. [4] suggested speedups of the computational costly method by using digital filters. I implemented the registration approach using different solvers for the solution of the core problem of the fluid-dynamics based registration – the solution of the Navier-Stokes-Equation. The implementation is available [9] under the terms of the GNU General Public License [1]

This documentation comes in the hope that it is helpful, but I do not promise, that it is error-free nor that it is complete. Please address comments to <wollny@cns.mpg.de>.

2 A short Outline of the Method

In the following, an image is given as a mapping $I : \Omega \to V$ from its coordinate domain $\Omega \in \mathbb{R}^3$ to its intensity range $V \in \mathbb{R}$. Given a coordinate $\vec{x} \in \Omega$, and the intensity of the image I at this coordinate $I(\vec{x})$, the ordered pair $(\vec{x}, I(\vec{x}))$ is referred to as a voxel (volume element). Using a transformation $T : \Omega \to \Omega$, an image can be changed according to $I_T := I(T(\vec{x}))$. The set of all these transformations is called the *transformation space* Γ .

In this paper, the transformations correspond to spatial displacements of voxels and are described in the so-called *Eulerian reference frame*. Here the voxels are tracked by their position: A voxel originates at time $t_0 = 0$ at coordinate $\vec{x} \in \Omega$. As it moves through Ω , the displacement of a voxel $(\vec{x}, I(\vec{x}))$ at time t is given as a vector $\mathbf{u}(\vec{x}, t)$. The set of the displacements of all voxels of an image is called a displacement field over domain Ω , and its value at time t is denoted as $\mathbf{u}(t)$. The corresponding transformation T can be given coordinate-wise:

$$T_t(\vec{x}) := \vec{x} - \mathbf{u}(\vec{x}, t) \,\forall \, \vec{x} \in \Omega.$$
(1)

The concatenation of transformations is then given as

$$T_1 \circ T_2 := \vec{x} - \mathbf{u}_1(\vec{x} - \mathbf{u}_2(\vec{x})) - \mathbf{u}_2(\vec{x}), \tag{2}$$

The focus of the registration of one (study) image $S : \Omega \to V$ to another (reference) image $R : \Omega \to V$ is to find a transformation $T_{min} \in \Gamma$ that minimizes a given cost function $F(R, S_T)$ describing the similarity between transformed study image S and reference image R in conjunction with an energy normalization (smoothness) term E(T) that enforces topology preservation:

$$T_{\min} := \arg\min_{T \in \Gamma} \left(F(R, S_T) + \kappa E(T) \right).$$
(3)

 κ is a Lagrangian multiplier to balance between registration accuracy and transformation smoothness. Minimizing (3) can be done in terms of its first order derivative:

$$\kappa \frac{\partial}{\partial T} E(T) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial T} F(T, S, R).$$
(4)

In the non-rigid registration software I use the sum of squared differences as a cost function:

$$F_c(T, S, R) := \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \left[R(\vec{x}) - S(T(\vec{x})) \right]^2 d\vec{x},$$
(5)

and fluid dynamics as smoothness measure.

Then the first order derivative of the cost function (5) can be used to estimate a deforming force:

$$\mathbf{f}(\vec{x},t) := -[S(T(\vec{x},t)) - R(\vec{x})] \nabla S|_{T(\vec{x},t)},$$
(6)

and with $\kappa = 1.0$, this force (6), and fluid dynamics energy regularisation, (4) can be written as

$$\left(\mu\nabla^2 + (\mu + \lambda)\nabla(\nabla \cdot)\right)\mathbf{v}(\vec{x}, t) = -\mathbf{f}(\vec{x}, \mathbf{u}(\vec{x}, t)).$$
(7)

In order to solve the registration problem, (7) is solved for constant time, and the deformation field $\mathbf{u}(t)$ is updated from the estimated velocity field using a time integration step with step-width Δt :

$$\mathbf{u}(\vec{x}, t + \Delta t) := \mathbf{u}(\vec{x}, t) + \Delta t \left[\mathbf{v}(\vec{x}, t) - \nabla \mathbf{u}(\vec{x}, t) \mathbf{v}(\vec{x}, t) \right].$$
(8)

The solution of the registration problem is summarized in algorithm 1

3 Solving the PDE

Solving PDE (7) is done on a discretization $\widehat{\Omega}$ of the continuous domain Ω .

Christensen's original approach uses *successive over-relaxation* (SOR) [8, pp.866-869] [7, 2, 6] (Algorithm 2).

As an improvement, an adaptive update scheme (SORA) is used in my implementation. In each SOR iteration $\vec{v}_{i,j,k}$ depends on the 19 values with indices

$$\kappa \in \mathfrak{S} := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} i \\ j \\ k \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} i \pm 1 \\ j \\ k \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} i \\ j \pm 1 \\ k \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} i \\ j \\ k \pm 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} i \pm 1 \\ j \pm 1 \\ k \pm 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} i \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} i \pm 1 \\ j \pm 1 \\ k \pm 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} i \pm 1 \\ j \\ k \pm 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} i \end{pmatrix} \right\}, \quad (9)$$

only. An adaptive update is now introduced, using an threshold

$$\hat{r} := \begin{cases} 0 & m = 1\\ \overline{r}^{(m)} \cdot \frac{\overline{r}^{(m)}}{\overline{r}^{(m-1)}} \cdot \frac{1}{m^2} & otherwise \end{cases},$$
(10)

with

$$\overline{r} := \frac{1}{X \cdot Y \cdot Z} \sqrt{\sum \|\vec{r}_{i,j,k}\|^2},\tag{11}$$

to decide, which elements to update during the iterative solution of (7) (Algorithm 3).

Another approach to solve (7) is the *minimal residuum algorithm* (MINRES) [2], a variant of *conjugated gradients* also suitable for indefinite matrices as they arise when discretizing (7) (Algorithm 4).

Finally Bro-Nielsen approach is based on folding the input force f(6) with the impulse response of the Navier-Stokes-operator (Section 4.3).

4 Mathematical Derivations

4.1 Discretizing the Navier-Stokes-Equation

$$\mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} + (\mu + \lambda) \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) = -\mathbf{f}$$
(12)

$$\mu \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) \mathbf{v} + (\mu + \lambda) \left(\begin{array}{cc} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} & \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} & \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial z} \\ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} & \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} & \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y \partial z} \\ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial z} & \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y \partial z} & \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \end{array} \right) \mathbf{v} = -\mathbf{f}, \tag{13}$$

For the *x*-component of (13) we may write:

$$\mu\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}\right)v^{(x)} + (\mu + \lambda)\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v^{(y)}}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 v^{(z)}}{\partial x \partial z}\right) = -f^{(x)},\tag{14}$$

$$(2\mu+\lambda)\frac{\partial^2 v^{(x)}}{\partial x^2} + \mu\left(\frac{\partial^2 v^{(x)}}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v^{(x)}}{\partial z^2}\right) + (\mu+\lambda)\left(\frac{\partial^2 v^{(y)}}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 v^{(z)}}{\partial x \partial z}\right) = -f^{(x)}.$$
(15)

Discretizing this using numerical derivatives based on finite differences [8, pp. 186-189] yields

$$\frac{(2\mu+\lambda)}{h^2} \left(v_{i+1,j,k}^{(x)} + v_{i-1,j,k}^{(x)} - 2v_{i,j,k}^{(x)} \right) + \\
\frac{\mu}{h^2} \left(v_{i,j+1,k}^{(x)} + v_{i,j-1,k}^{(x)} - 2v_{i,j,k}^{(x)} + v_{i,j,k+1}^{(x)} + v_{i-1,j,k-1}^{(x)} - 2v_{i,j,k}^{(x)} \right) + \\
\frac{(\mu+\lambda)}{4h^2} \left(v_{i+1,j+1,k}^{(y)} - v_{i-1,j+1,k}^{(y)} + v_{i-1,j-1,k}^{(y)} - v_{i+1,j-1,k}^{(y)} \right) + \\
\frac{(\mu+\lambda)}{4h^2} \left(v_{i+1,j,k+1}^{(z)} - v_{i-1,j,k-1}^{(z)} + v_{i-1,j,k-1}^{(z)} - v_{i+1,j,k-1}^{(z)} \right) = -f^{(x)}$$
(16)

With shortcuts $a = \frac{\mu}{h^2}$, $b = \frac{\mu + \lambda}{h^2}$ follows,

y- and z- components can be obtained in a similar manner. With $\hat{\mathbf{f}} := \frac{1}{(6a+2b)} \mathbf{f}$, writing (12) in its discretized representation yields a linear system

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v} = \hat{\mathbf{f}}.\tag{18}$$

4.2 SOR update

Substituting $c = \frac{a+b}{6a+2b}$, $d = \frac{a}{6a+2b}$, $e = \frac{b}{4(6a+2b)}$ we obtain:

$$\mathbf{p} = \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i,j,k} + c \left(\mathbf{v}_{i-1,j,k}^{(m+1)} + \mathbf{v}_{i+1,j,k}^{(m)} \right) + d \left(\mathbf{v}_{i,j-1,k}^{(m+1)} + \mathbf{v}_{i,j+1,k}^{(m)} + \mathbf{v}_{i,j,k-1}^{(m+1)} + \mathbf{v}_{i,j,k+1}^{(m)} \right)$$
(19)

Setting $\mathbf{v} := (rst)^T$ we may write

$$q_{x} = e \quad \left(s_{i-1,j-1,k}^{(m+1)} + s_{i+1,j+1,k}^{(m)} - s_{i-1,j+1,k}^{(m+1)} - s_{i+1,j-1,k}^{(m+1)} + t_{i-1,j,k-1}^{m} + t_{i+1,j+1,k}^{m+1} - t_{i-1,j,k+1}^{m+1} - t_{i+1,j,k-1}^{m+1}\right), q_{y} = e \quad \left(r_{i-1,j-1,k}^{(m+1)} + r_{i+1,j+1,k}^{(m)} - r_{i-1,j+1,k}^{(m)} - r_{i+1,j-1,k}^{(m+1)} + t_{i,j-1,k-1}^{(m)} + t_{i,j-1,k+1}^{(m)} - t_{i,j-1,k+1}^{(m+1)} - t_{i,j+1,k-1}^{(m+1)}\right), q_{z} = e \quad \left(r_{i-1,j,k-1}^{(m+1)} + r_{i+1,j,k+1}^{(m)} - r_{i-1,j,k+1}^{(m)} - r_{i+1,j,k-1}^{(m+1)} + s_{i,j-1,k+1}^{(m)} - r_{i,j-1,k+1}^{(m+1)} - r_{i,j+1,k-1}^{(m+1)} + s_{i,j-1,k+1}^{(m)} - s_{i,j-1,k+1}^{(m+1)} - s_{i,j+1,k-1}^{(m+1)}\right),$$
(20)

hence for the residual vector

$$\mathbf{r}_{i,j,k} = \omega \left(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q} - \mathbf{v}_{i,j,k}^m \right), \tag{21}$$

and the SOR update of $\mathbf{v}_{i,j,k}$ is given by

$$\mathbf{v}_{i,j,k}^{(m+1)} = \mathbf{v}_{i,j,k}^{(m)} + \mathbf{r}_{i,j,k}.$$
(22)

4.3 **Convolution filter**

The linear operator of PDE (7) Λ is defined as:

$$\Lambda := \mu \nabla^2 + (\mu + \lambda) \nabla (\nabla \cdot) \tag{23}$$

and its eigenvalues are [5]:

$$\kappa_{1,i,j,k} = -\pi^2 (2\mu + \lambda)(i^2 + j^2 + k^2),$$

$$\kappa_{2,i,j,k} = \kappa_{3,i,j,k} = -\pi^2 \mu (i^2 + j^2 + k^2),$$
(24)

with associated eigenvectors:

$$\phi_{1,i,j,k}(\vec{x}) = \sqrt{\frac{8}{i^2 + j^2 + k^2}} \begin{pmatrix} i \ scc_{i,j,k}(\vec{x}) \\ j \ csc_{i,j,k}(\vec{x}) \\ k \ ccs_{i,j,k}(\vec{x}) \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\phi_{2,i,j,k}(\vec{x}) = \sqrt{\frac{8}{i^2 + j^2}} \begin{pmatrix} -j \ scc_{i,j,k}(\vec{x}) \\ i \ csc_{i,j,k}(\vec{x}) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\phi_{3,i,j,k}(\vec{x}) = \sqrt{\frac{8}{(i^2 + j^2)(i^2 + j^2 + k^2)}} \begin{pmatrix} ik \ scc_{i,j,k}(\vec{x}) \\ jk \ csc_{i,j,k}(\vec{x}) \\ -(i^2 + j^2) \ ccs_{i,j,k}(\vec{x}) \end{pmatrix},$$
(25)

where $\vec{x} \in \Omega$,

$$scc_{i,j,k}(\vec{x}) = \sin(i\pi x)\cos(j\pi y)\cos(k\pi z),$$

$$csc_{i,j,k}(\vec{x}) = \cos(i\pi x)\sin(j\pi y)\cos(k\pi z),$$

$$ccs_{i,j,k}(\vec{x}) = \cos(i\pi x)\cos(j\pi y)\sin(k\pi z),$$
(26)

and

$$\Gamma_{i,j,k} = 2^{\operatorname{sign}(i) + \operatorname{sign}(j) + \operatorname{sign}(k)}.$$
(27)

By introducing a filter width parameter w > 0, $w \in \mathbf{N}$, which spawns a filter of size 2w + 1, and with the shortcut:

$$\alpha_{i,j,k} = \frac{8}{\pi^2 \mu (2\mu + \lambda)(i^2 + j^2 + k^2)^2 \Gamma_{i,j,k}}$$
(28)

the components of the impulse response $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^{3\times 3}$ of the linear operator Λ can be written as [3]:

$$\Theta^{x}(\mathbf{y}) = \sum_{i,j,k=0}^{2w} \alpha_{i,j,k} \operatorname{scc}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y}_{c}) \begin{pmatrix} (\mu i^{2} + (2\mu + \lambda)(j^{2} + k^{2}))\operatorname{scc}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}_{c}) \\ -(\mu + \lambda)ij \operatorname{csc}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}_{c}) \\ -(\mu + \lambda)ik \operatorname{ccs}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}_{c}) \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\Theta^{y}(\mathbf{y}) = \sum_{i,j,k=0}^{2w} \alpha_{i,j,k} \operatorname{csc}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y}_{c}) \begin{pmatrix} (\mu j^{2} + (2\mu + \lambda)(i^{2} + k^{2}))\operatorname{csc}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}_{c}) \\ -(\mu + \lambda)jk \operatorname{ccs}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}_{c}) \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\Theta^{z}(\mathbf{y}) = \sum_{i,j,k=0}^{2w} \alpha_{i,j,k} \operatorname{scc}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y}_{c}) \begin{pmatrix} (\mu j^{2} + (2\mu + \lambda)(i^{2} + k^{2}))\operatorname{csc}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}_{c}) \\ -(\mu + \lambda)jk \operatorname{csc}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}_{c}) \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\Theta^{z}(\mathbf{y}) = \sum_{i,j,k=0}^{2w} \alpha_{i,j,k} \operatorname{scc}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y}_{c}) \begin{pmatrix} (\mu j^{2} + (2\mu + \lambda)(i^{2} + k^{2}))\operatorname{csc}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}_{c}) \\ -(\mu + \lambda)jk \operatorname{csc}_{i,j,k}(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}_{c}) \end{pmatrix},$$
(29)

with $\mathbf{y}_c = (0.5, 0.5, 0.5)^T$ and $\mathbf{y} \in \{y_{r,s,t} = (\frac{r}{d}, \frac{s}{d}, \frac{t}{d})^T | r, s, t \in [-d, d] \cap \mathbf{Z}\}.$

5 Algorithms

5.1 Main Registration Algorithm

This algorithm is implemented in the files vfluid/vfluid.(cc|hh).

Using the time step parameter $d \in [d_{\min}, d_{\max}]$ an adaptive control of the integration time step is achieved. $[d_{\min}, d_{\max}]$ should be chosen to permit a smooth but steady deformation, and $\Delta d \ll d_{\max} - d_{\min}$ is used to re-adjust d during the registration.

Algorithm 1 non rigid registration based on fluid dynamics

```
d := d_{\max}, i = 0, \mathbf{u}(0) = 0, T := T_0, \hat{S} := S(T)
calculate mismatch m_i by . (5)
repeat
   i := i + 1
   calculate \mathbf{f}(t_i) (6)
   solve the linear PDE. (7) for velocity \mathbf{v}(t_i) and force \mathbf{f}(t_i)
   label:
   choose \Delta t = \frac{d}{|\vec{x} - \nabla \vec{u}(\vec{x})\mathbf{v}(\vec{x})|}
   if \min_{\vec{x}} \det(\mathbf{I} - \nabla(u(\vec{x}) - \Delta t * (v(\vec{x}) - \nabla u(\vec{x})v(\vec{x})))) < 0.5 then
       T_{\vec{u}} := \vec{x} - \vec{u}(\vec{x})
       T := T \circ T_{\vec{u}}, \hat{S} := S(T), \mathbf{u} := 0
   end if
   \vec{u}(\vec{u}) \leftarrow \vec{u}(\vec{x}) + \Delta t * (v(\vec{x}) - \nabla u(\vec{x})v(\vec{x}))
   calculate mismatch m_i using (5)
   if m_i > m_{i-1} and d > d_{\min} then
       d := \max(d - \Delta d, d_{\min})
       goto label
   end if
   d := \min(d + \Delta d, d_{max})
until m_i > m_{i-1}
T := T \circ \vec{u}(t_{i-1})
T is the transformation minimizing the cost function (5)
```

5.2 Successive Over-Relaxation

This algorithm is implemented in vfluid/sor_solver.(cc|hh).

Algorithm 2 SOR

```
\hat{\mathbf{f}} = \frac{\mathbf{f}}{6a+2b}, select values for maxsteps and \varepsilon, set initial \mathbf{v}
repeat
   for k := 1 to Z step 1 do
      for j := 1 to Y step 1 do
         for i := 1 to X step 1 do
             calculate \mathbf{p}_{i,j,k} as given in (19) { 24 FLOPs }
             calculate \mathbf{q}_{i,j,k} as given in (20) { 24 FLOPs }
             calculate \mathbf{r}_{i,j,k} as given in (21) { 9 FLOPs }
             update \mathbf{v}_{i,j,k} as given in (22) { 3 FLOPs }
             r := r + ||\mathbf{r}_{i,i,k}||^2 6 FLOPs
         end for
      end for
   end for
   { one iteration needs O(66n) FLOPs }
   if step=1 then
      r_{init} := r
   end if
until steps \geq maxsteps or r < \varepsilon * r_{init}
```

5.3 Adaptive Update

This algorithm is implemented in vfluid/sor_solver.(cc|hh).

Algorithm 3 SORA

1. $\hat{r} := 0, m := 1$

- 2. calculate the first iteration over the full domain as given in Algorithm 2, and the residue $r_{i,j,k} = \|\mathbf{r}_{i,j,k}\|$
- 3. if $r_{i,j,k} \ge \hat{r}$ mark $v^* \in \Im$ as to be updated in the next iteration
- 4. $r_{old} := r, r := \sum_{i,j,k} r_{i,j,k}$
- 5. set threshold \hat{r} as given in (10)
- 6. in sub-sequential iterations *m* of Algorithm 2 update $v_{i,j,k}$ and $r_{i,j,k}$ only at marked positions, update the marks as given in step 3, and threshold \hat{r} as given in step 5.

5.4 The Minimum Residual Algorithm

This algorithm is implemented in vfluid/cg_solver. (cc hh) and mia/cg.hh.

Algorithm 4 MINRES

select values for maxsteps and ε set initial \mathbf{v}_0 $\mathbf{r}_0 = \mathbf{f} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_0$ $\overline{\mathbf{r}}_0 = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{r}_0$ $\mathbf{p}_0 = \mathbf{r}_0, \, \overline{\mathbf{p}}_0 = \overline{\mathbf{r}}_0, \, \gamma_0 = \overline{\mathbf{r}}_0 * \mathbf{r}_0$ repeat $\mathbf{h_k} = \mathbf{Ap_k} \{ O(51n) \text{ FLOPs } \}$ $\alpha_k = \frac{\gamma_k}{\overline{\mathbf{p}}_k * \mathbf{h_k}} \{ O(2n) \text{ FLOPs } \}$ $\mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{k}+1} = \mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{k}} + \alpha_k \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{k}} \{ O(2n) \text{ FLOPs } \}$ $\mathbf{r_{k+1}} = \mathbf{r_k} - \alpha_k \mathbf{h_k} \{ \textit{ O(2n) FLOPs } \}$ $\overline{\mathbf{r}}_{k+1} = \overline{\mathbf{r}}_k - \alpha_k * (\mathbf{A} * \overline{\mathbf{p}}_k) \{ O(53n) \text{ FLOPs } \}$ $\gamma_{k+1} = \overline{\mathbf{r}}_k * \mathbf{r}_k \{ O(2n) \text{ FLOPs } \}$ $\beta_k = \frac{\gamma_{k+1}}{\gamma_k}$ $\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{k}+1} = \mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{k}+1} + \beta_k * p_{\mathbf{k}} \{ O(2n) \text{ FLOPs } \}$ $\overline{\mathbf{p}}_{\mathbf{k}+1} = \overline{\mathbf{r}}_{\mathbf{k}+1} + \beta_k * \overline{p}_{\mathbf{k}} \{ O(2n) \text{ FLOPs } \}$ until steps $\geq maxsteps$ or $|\mathbf{r}_{k+1}| > \varepsilon |\mathbf{r}_0|$ { one iteration needs O(117n) FLOPs }

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