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Non-rigid MR-CT Image Registration

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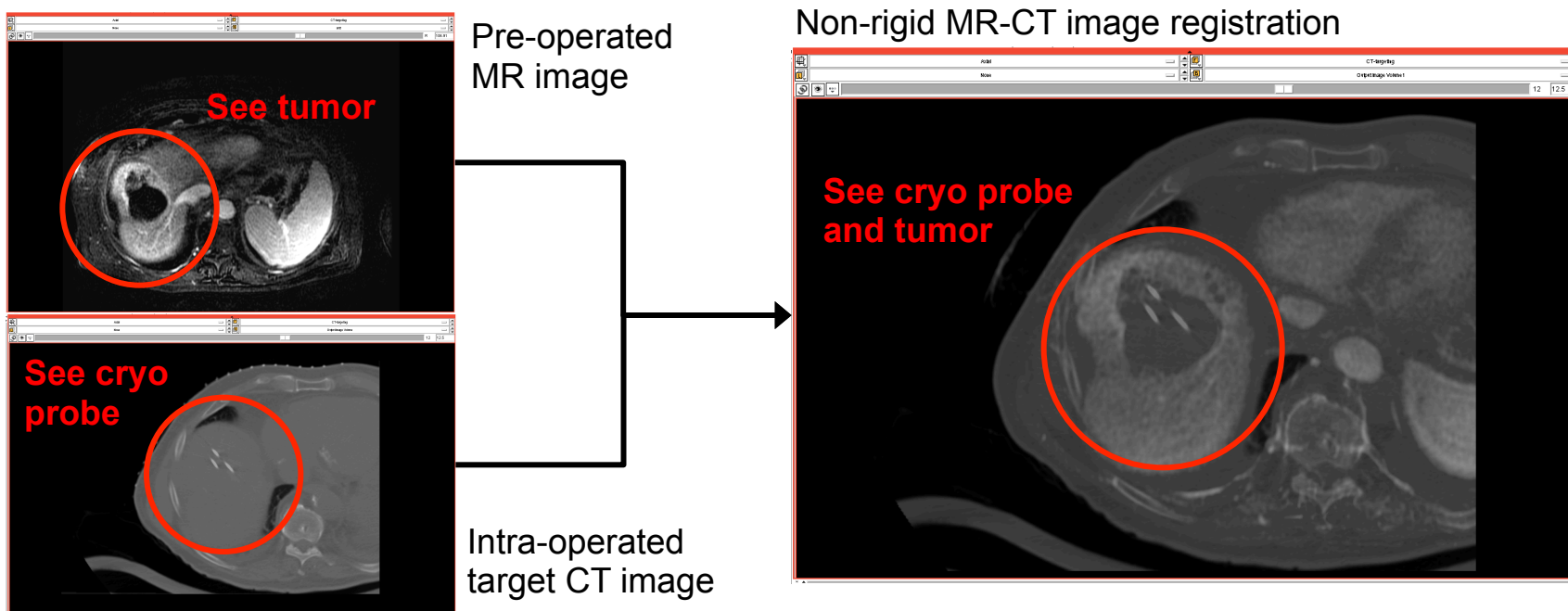
617-963-4336

NA-MIC Tutorial Contest: Summer 2011



Learning Objective

- This tutorial demonstrates how to perform MR-CT and CT-CT non rigid registrations.
- The case study is liver tumor cryoablation





Material

This tutorial requires the installation of the **Slicer3.6 release** from source files. They are available at the following locations:

Slicer3.6 Build Instruction page

http://www.slicer.org/slicerWiki/index.php/Slicer3:Build_Instructions

1. After building Slicer3.6, command “make edit_cache” at “[install folder]/Slicer3.6-build/Modules”.
2. Select “ON” of “BUILD BrainsFitlGT” on cmake screen editor.

```
BUILD BRAINSFitlGT OFF
BUILD_BRAINSTOOLS ON
BUILD_DOCUMENTATION OFF
BUILD_SHARED_LIBS ON
BUILD_TESTING ON
```

3. Press “c” then press “g” to generate new CMakeLists.txt.
4. After command “make”, you can use BrainsFitlGT module.



Material

This tutorial dataset is available at:

http://www.slicer.org/slicerWiki/index.php/Slicer3:Build_Instructions



Platform

- This tutorial was developed and tested on an Intel MacBook Pro (2.3 GHz Core i7, 4GB).



Overview

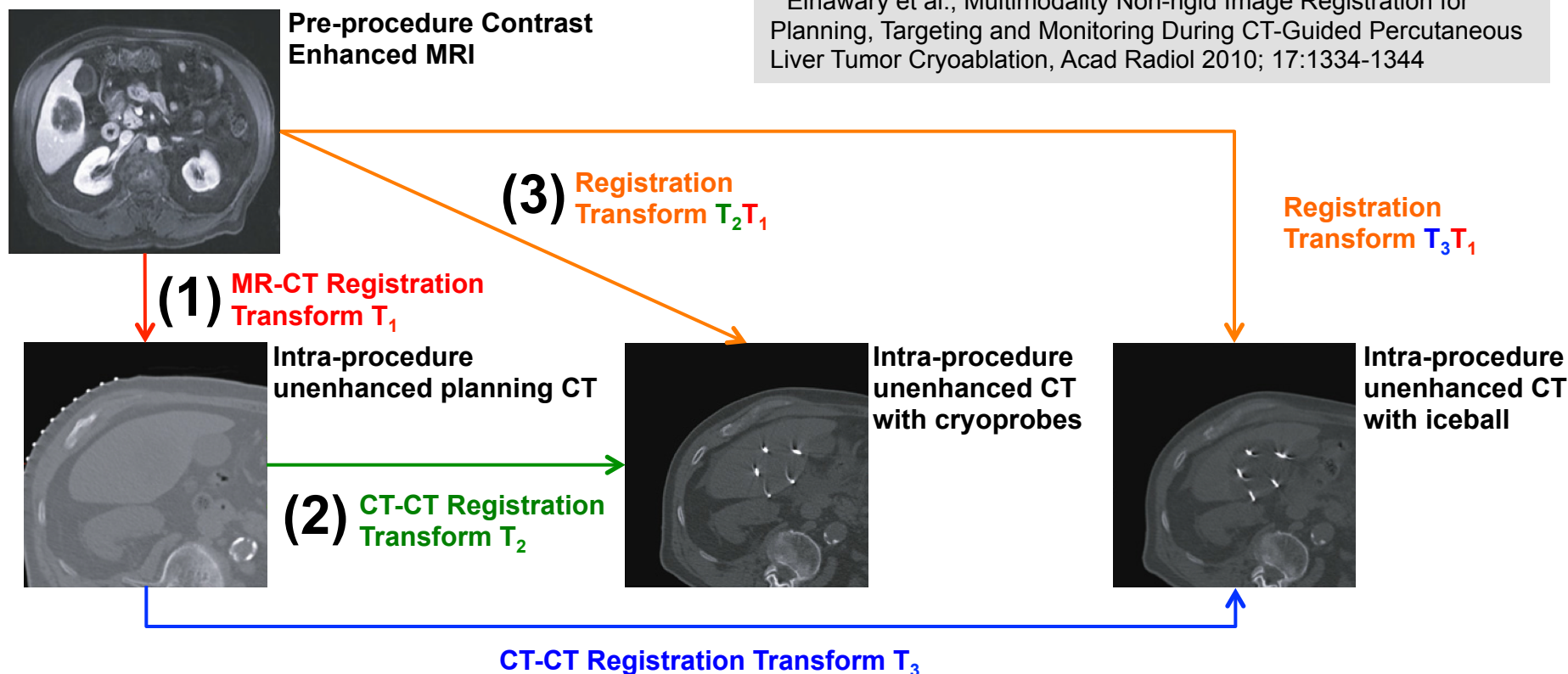
- CT-guided liver tumor cryoablation: clinical background
- Preparing contrast enhanced MR image and label data
- Preparing CT image and label data
- Performing non-rigid registration
- Applying the result B-spline transform to MR-intra-CT registration
- Saving your work



Registration Between MR and CT Images

In cryoablation, there are mainly three registration tasks as follows.

* Elhawary et al., Multimodality Non-rigid Image Registration for Planning, Targeting and Monitoring During CT-Guided Percutaneous Liver Tumor Cryoablation, Acad Radiol 2010; 17:1334-1344





Strategy Overview

- To accomplish each task, the plan will be as follows.

STEP:	A	B	C	D
Process:	Masking	Contrast Enhancement	Non-rigid Registration	Bspline Waping
Modules:	Edit	N4ITK MR Bias Correction	BRAINSFitIGT	BRAINS Resample
Task (1) Input:	t2ax.nrrd	t2ax.nrrd t2ax-label.nrrd	t2ax-N4.nrrd t2ax-label.nrrd CT-plan.nrrd CT-plan-label.nrrd	t2ax-REG.nrrd
Output:	t2ax-label.nrrd	t2ax-N4.nrrd	t2ax-REG.nrrd T1.tfm	
Task (2) Input:	CT-plan.nrrd		CT-plan.nrrd CT-plan-label.nrrd CT-intra.nrrd CT-intra-label.nrrd	
Output:	CT-plan-label.nrrd		CT-plan-REG.nrrd T2.tfm	
Task (3) Input:	CT-intra.nrrd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Tutorial dataset * Mask data * Deformed image * Bspline transformation matrix 		t2ax-REG.nrrd T2.tfm CT-intra.nrrd
Output:	CT-intra-label.nrrd			MR-CT-intra.nrrd



Tutorial Format

Each slide has some information, that is, **task number**, **step**, **input** and **output** as follows.

(1) A 1. Load MR image
Input: t2ax.nrrd

1. Click on the "Add Volume" button
2. Select "t2ax.nrrd" from the tutorial dataset.
3. Check "Centered"
4. Click "Apply"

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to accomplish this task, the plan will

STEP:	A	B
Process:	Masking	Contrast Enhancement
Modules:	Edit	N4ITK MR Bias Correction
Input:	t2ax.nrrd	t2ax.nrrd
Output:	t2ax-label.nrrd	t2ax-label.nrrd
Task (2)	CT-plan.nrrd	CT-plan-label.nrrd

Figure of the previous Page



(1) STEP:A

Mask of MR Image

Objective:

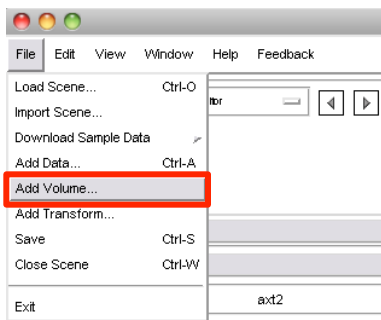
To make a mask file (t2ax-label.nrrd) which decides a region of non-rigid registration



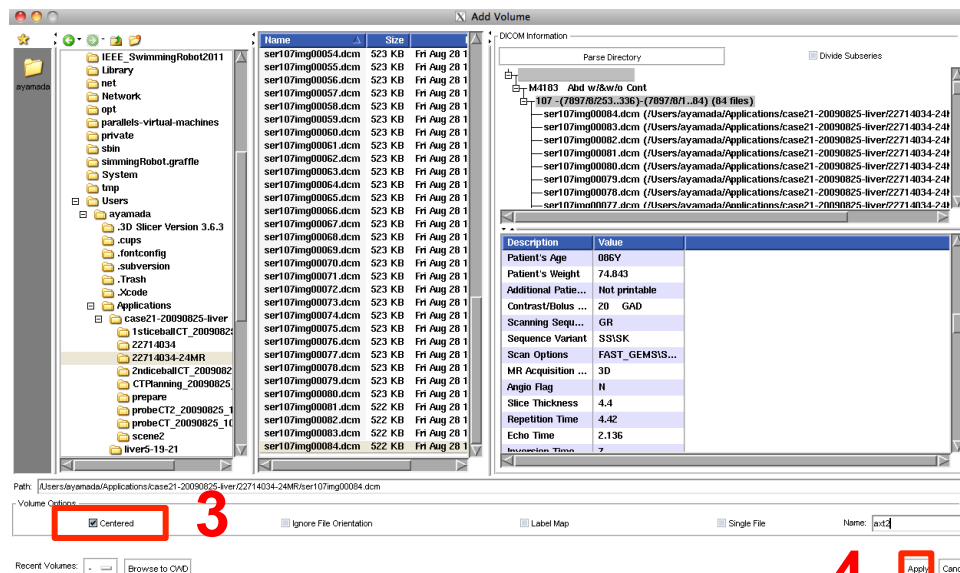
(1)-A-1. Load MR image

Input: t2ax.nrrd

1. Click on the “Add Volume” button



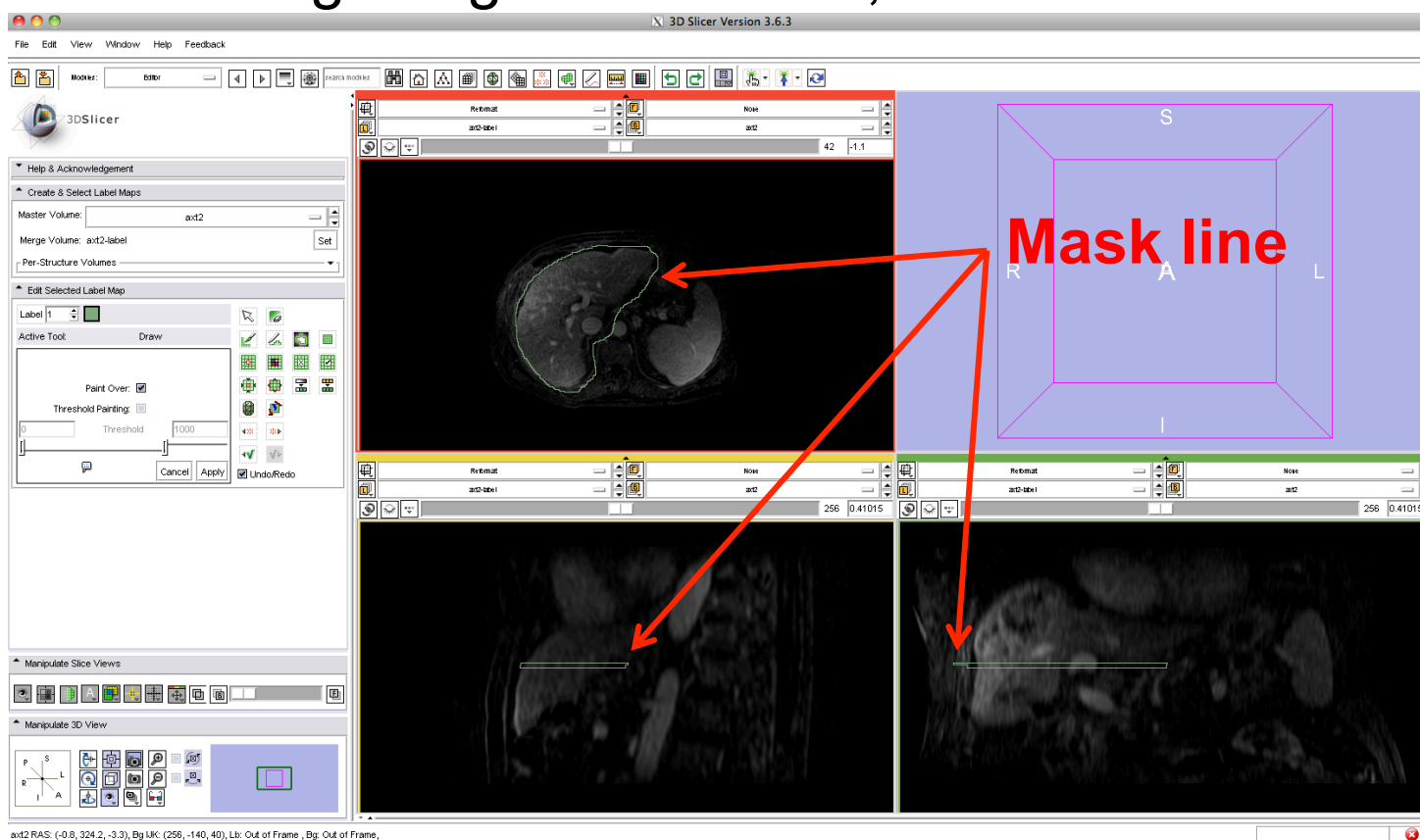
2. Select “t2ax.nrrd” from the tutorial dataset.
3. Check “Centered”
4. Click “Apply”





(1)-A-2. Segmentation of Liver

To decide non-rigid registration area, the liver will be masked

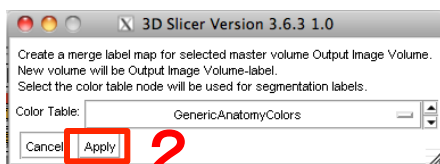




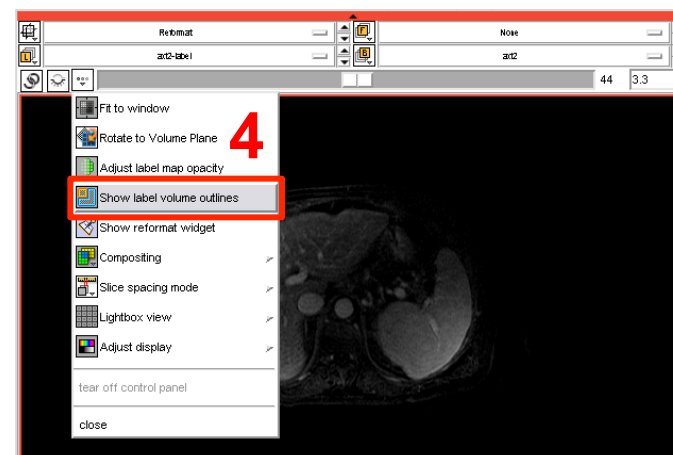
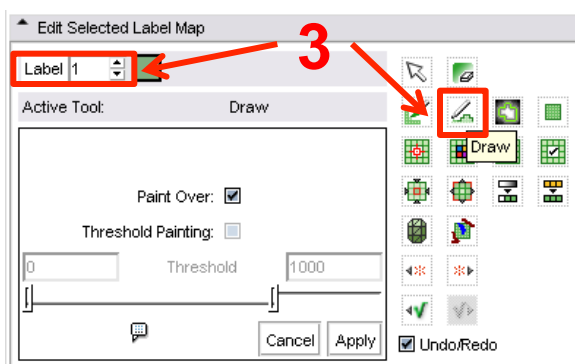
(1)-A-3. Preparation

Output: t2ax-label.nrrd (made automatically when Editor is worked)

1. Go to the “Editor” module
2. Click “Apply” on the small window about Color table
3. Select “Draw” button of the module pane to segment liver with label 1
4. Select “Show label volume outline” to confirm the segmented area easily

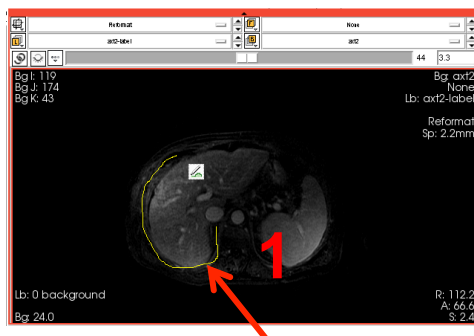


3. Select “Draw” button of the module pane to segment liver with label 1

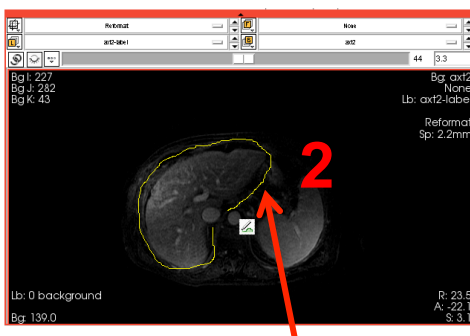




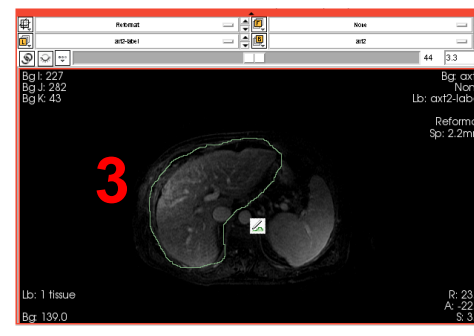
(1)-A-4. Segmentation of Liver



1. Draw the line by freehand with left click of mouse around the liver



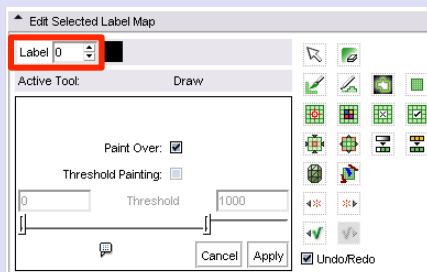
2. Draw the line continuously around the liver



3. Double click the right button of the mouse near the start point for closing the line

Tips!

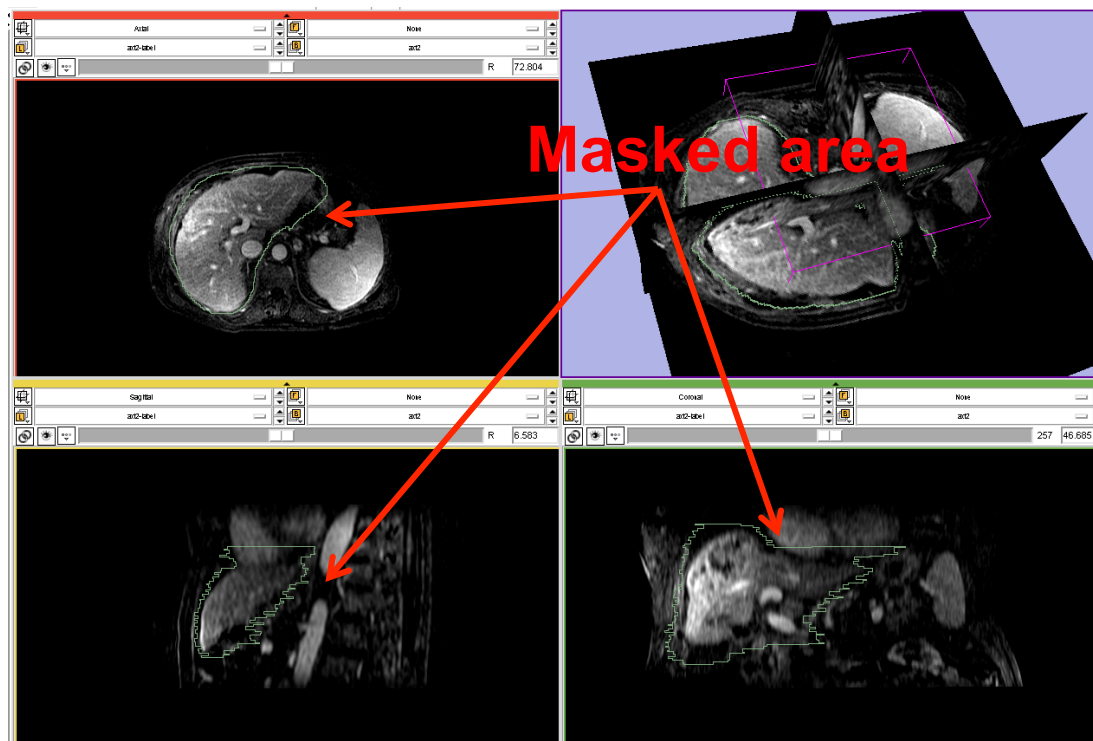
If line is not good, delete the line by surrounding the new line with label 0





(1)-A-5. Segmentation of Liver

4. Get segmentation for each slice image showing liver and check the segmentation by using other planes





(1) STEP:B

Make Contrast Enhanced MRI

Objective:

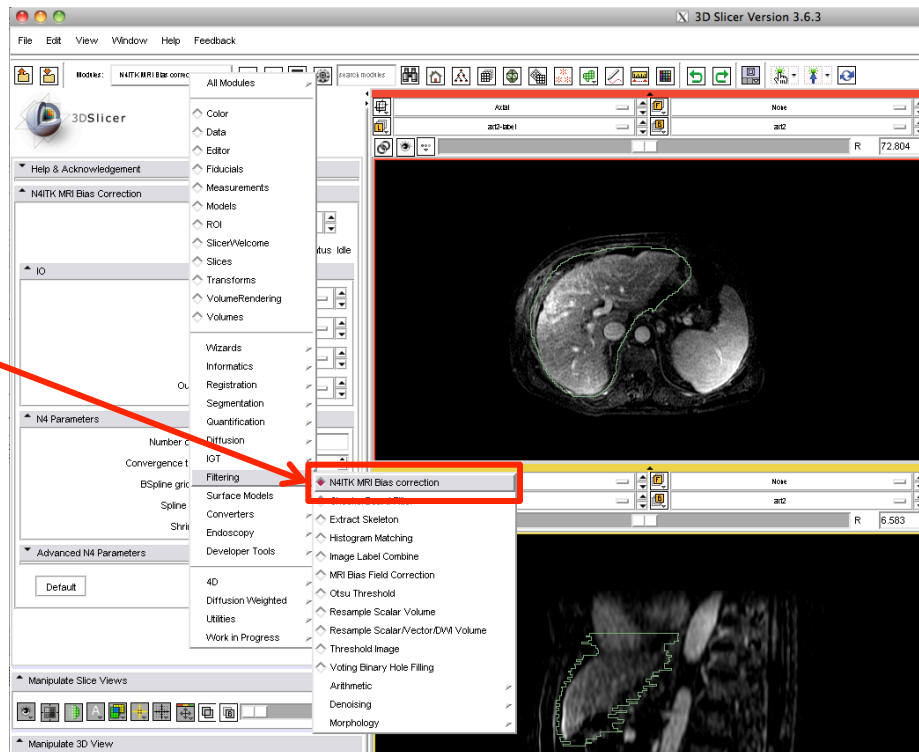
To make a contrast enhanced MR image (t2ax-N4.nrrd)



(1)-B-1. MR Bias Correction

To obtain contrast enhanced MRI, “N4ITK MR Bias Correction” module is introduced.

1. Go to the “N4ITK MR Bias Correction” module from “Filtering” category of module list

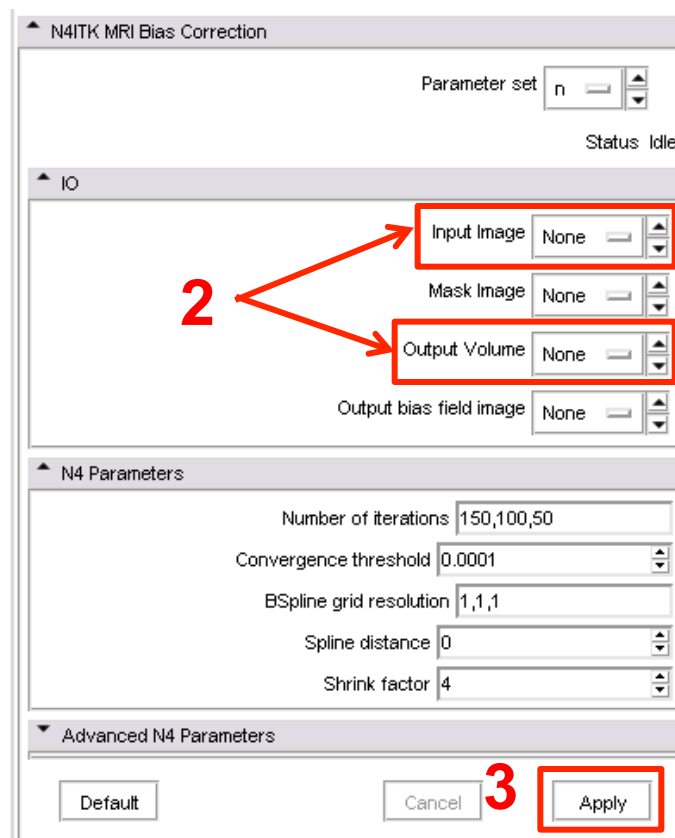




(1)-B-2. Contrast Enhancement

Input: t2ax.nrrd and t2ax-label.nrrd, Output: t2ax-N4.nrrd

- Parameters: Input image = t2ax, Mask image = t2ax-label, Output volume = create new volume and name it “t2ax-N4”
- Click “Apply”
- Save the t2ax-N4.nrrd and t2ax-label.nrrd in the working directory
- Close Slicer3





(2) STEP:A

Mask of Planning-CT Image

Objective:

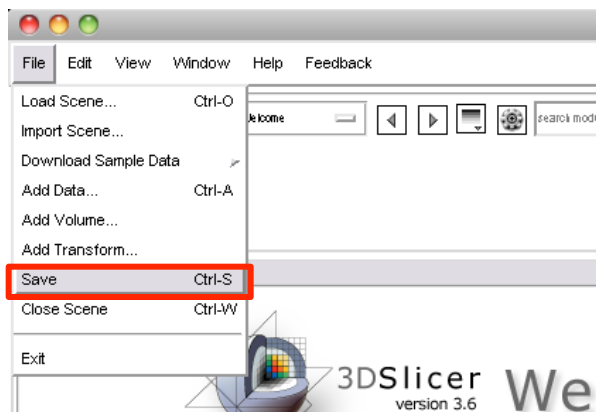
To make a mask file (CT-plan-label.nrrd) which decides a region of non-rigid registration



(2)-A. Segmentation of Liver

Input: CT-plan.nrrd, Output: CT-plan-label.nrrd, CT-plan.mrml

1. Operate the **STEP: A** for planning-CT image. Load “**CT-plan.nrrd**” from the dataset. Label data will be “**CT-plan-label**” automatically.
2. Save “CT-plan-label.nrrd” and Scene file as “CT-plan.mrml”. Click on the “Save” button.



3. Close Slicer3



(1) STEP:C

Non-rigid Registration

Objective:

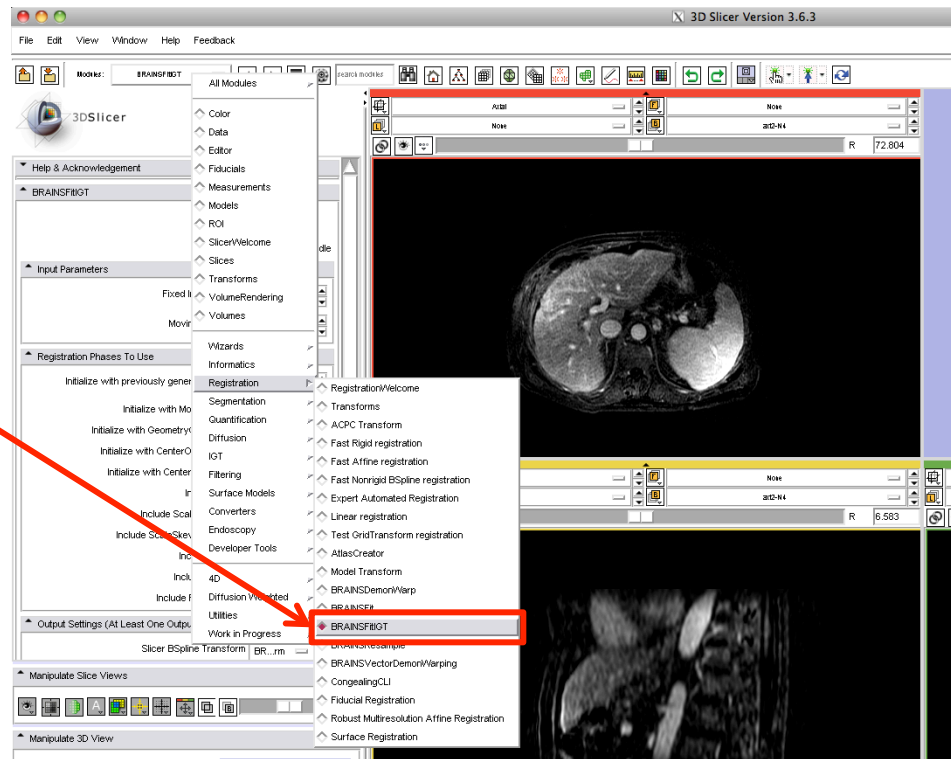
To obtain a warped image (t2ax-REG.nrrd) and B-spline transform matrix (T1.tfm)



(1)-C-1. Non-rigid Registration

By using the image and label data obtained the process so far, non-rigid registration will be obtained.

1. Go to the “BRAINSFitIGT” module from “Registration” category of module list

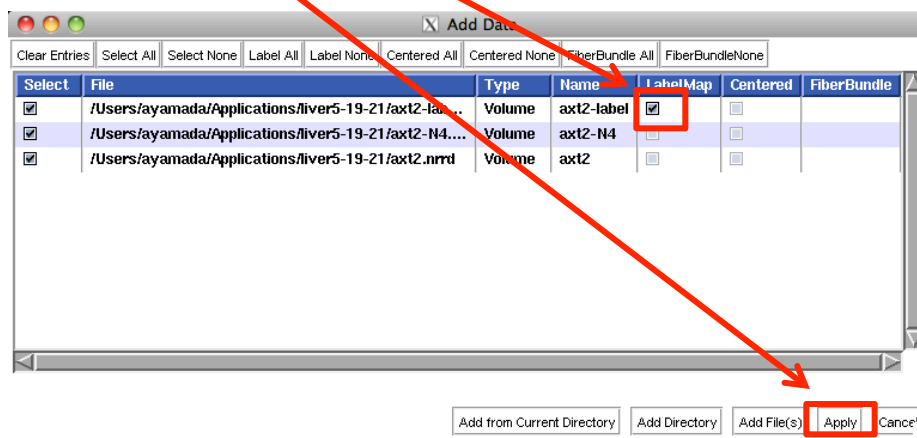
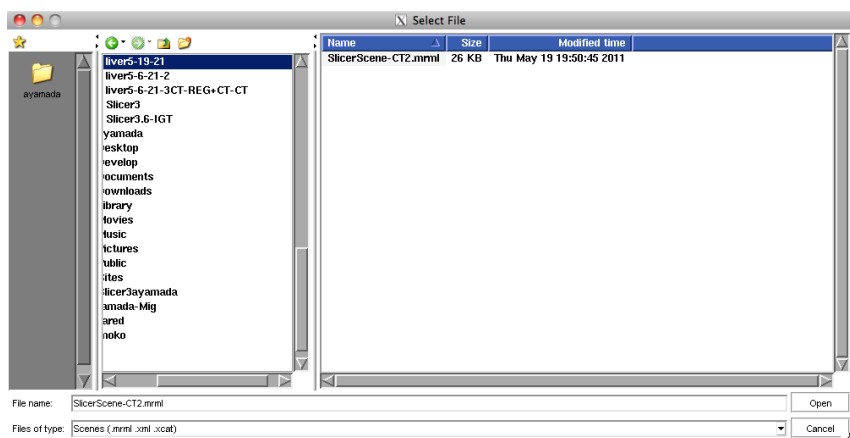




(1)-C-2. Preparation Step

Input: CT-plan.mrml, t2ax-N4.nrrd and t2ax-label.nrrd

2. Start Slicer3
3. Click on the “Load Scene” and load CT-plan.mrml
4. Click on the “Add Data” and select t2ax-N4.nrrd and t2ax-label.nrrd. For the t2ax-label.nrrd, check “LabelMap” check box and click on the “Apply”



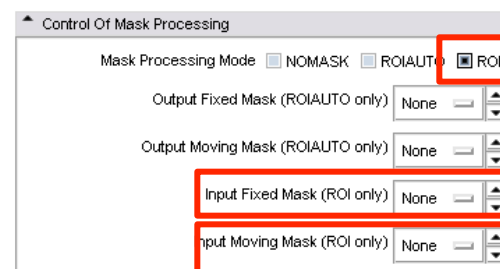
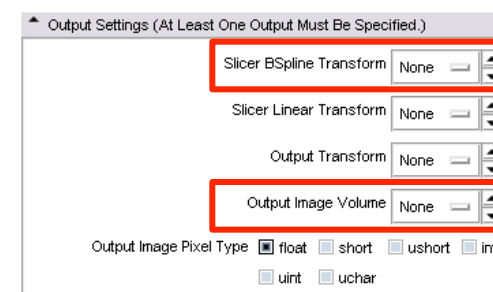
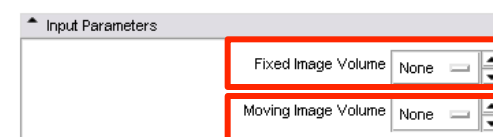


(1)-C-3. Registration Step

Input: CT-plan.nrrd, t2ax-N4.nrrd, CT-plan-label and t2ax-label

Set “BRAINSFitIGT” module parameters as follows

1. Set Fixed image volume = “CT-plan”,
Moving image volume = “t2ax-N4”
2. Set BSpline transform = create a new transform and name it “T1” and Output image volume = create a new volume and name it “t2ax-REG”
3. Set Input fixed mask = “CT-plan-label”,
Input moving mask = “t2ax-label”.
Check “ROI” of Mask Proceeding

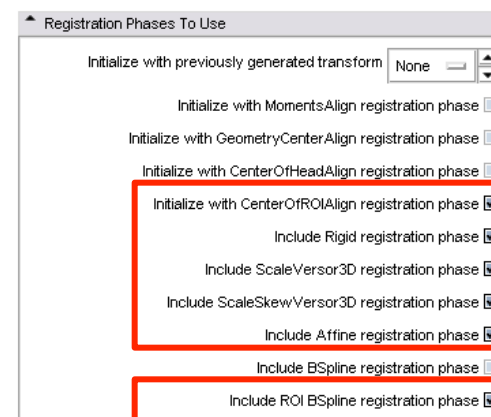




(1)-C-4. Registration Step

Output: T1 and t2ax-REG

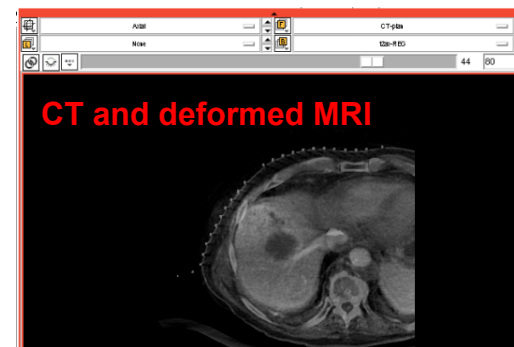
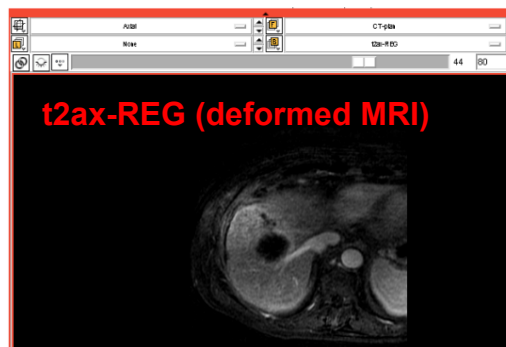
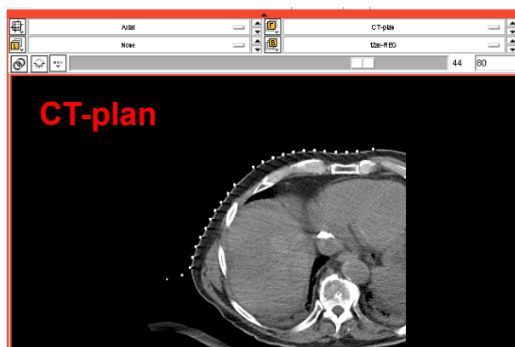
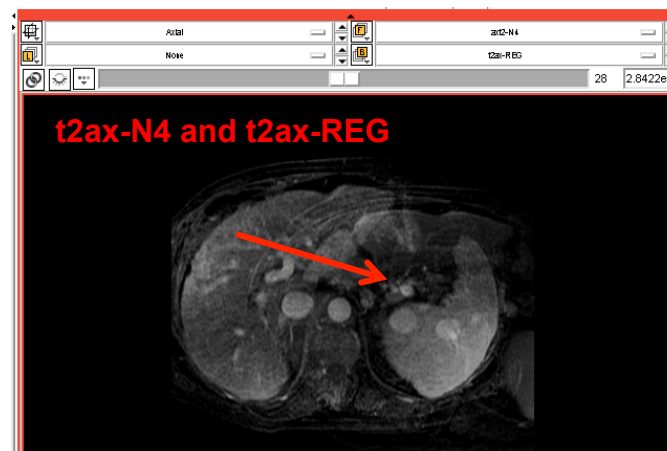
4. Check “Initialize with CenterOfROIAlign registration phase”, “Include Rigid registration phase”, “Include ScaleVersor3D registration phase”, “Include ScaleSkewVersor3D registration phase”, “Include Affine registration phase” and “Include ROI BSpline registration phase”
5. Click “Apply”
6. After about 39 sec (on the test environment), you can see the moved and deformed t2ax-N4 image as “t2ax-REG”.





(1)-C-5. Result

1. Select “t2ax-REG” at Background layer and “t2ax-N4” at Foreground layer. The deformation can be seen.
2. Select “t2ax-REG” at Background layer and “CT-plan” at Foreground layer. You can see that the shape of the liver on MRI was deformed and fitted the liver on CT image.

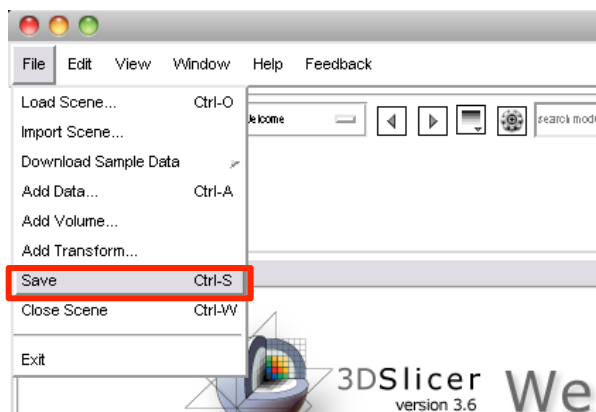




(1)-C-6. Save the scene

Output: T1.nrrd, t2ax-REG.nrrd and t2ax-REG.mrml

1. Save “T1.nrrd” and “t2ax-REG.nrrd” and this scene as “t2ax-REG.mrml”. Click on the “Save” button.



3. Save these files in the working directory and close Slicer3



(3) STEP:A

Mask of Intra-CT Image

Objective:

To make a mask file (CT-intra-label.nrrd) which decides a region of non-rigid registration



(3)-A. Load intra-CT image

Input: CT-intra.nrrd, Output: CT-intra-label, CT-intra.mrml

To obtain non rigid registration between MR and intra-CT images, CT-CT registration transform T_2 will be obtained in Task 2.

1. Operate the **STEP: A** for intra-CT image. Load “**CT-intra.nrrd**” from the dataset. Label data will be “**CT-intra-label**” automatically.
2. Save “CT-intra-label.nrrd” and Scene file as “CT-intra.mrml”. Click on the “Save” button.
3. Close Slicer3



(2) STEP:C

Non-rigid Registration

Objective:

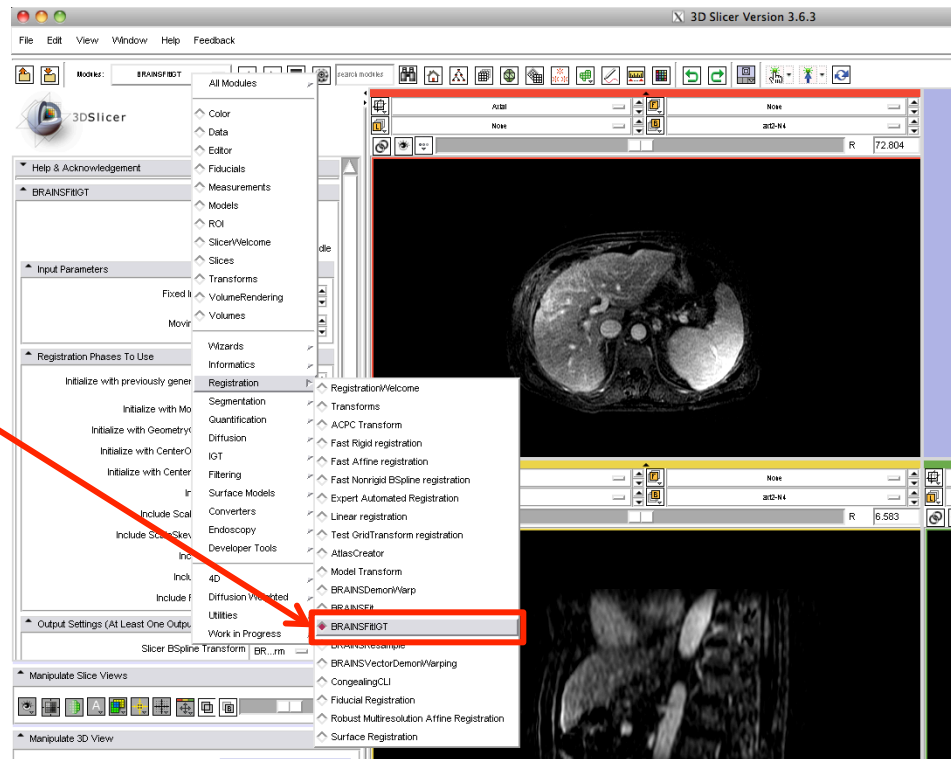
To obtain a warped image (CT-plan-REG.nrrd) and B-spline transform matrix (T2.tfm)



(2)-C-1. Non-rigid Registration

By using the image and label data obtained the process so far, non-rigid registration will be obtained.

1. Go to the “BRAINSFitIGT” module from “Registration” category of module list

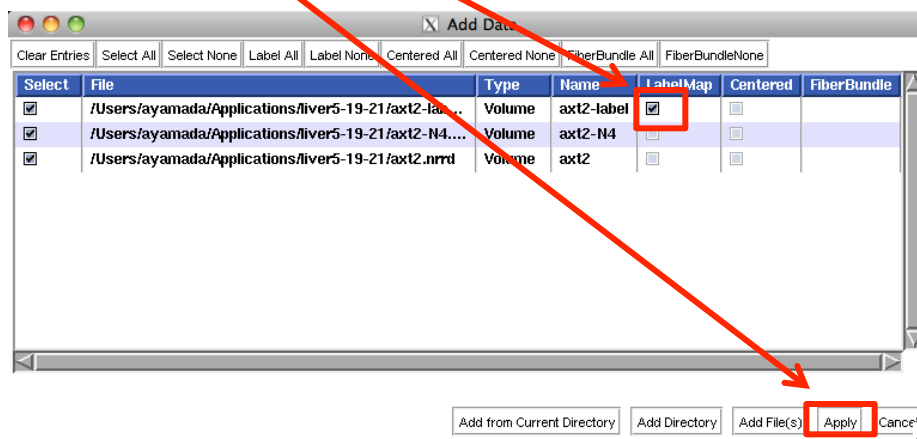
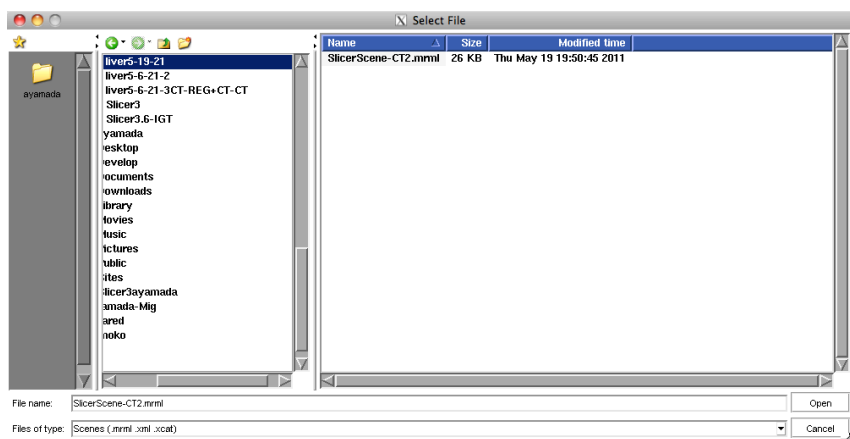




(2)-C-2. Preparation Step

Input: CT-intra.mrml, CT-plan.nrrd and CT-plan-label.nrrd

2. Start Slicer3
3. Click on the “Load Scene” and load CT-intra.mrml
4. Click on the “Add Data” and select CT-plan.nrrd and CT-plan-label.nrrd. For the CT-plan-label.nrrd, check “LabelMap” check box and click on the “Apply”



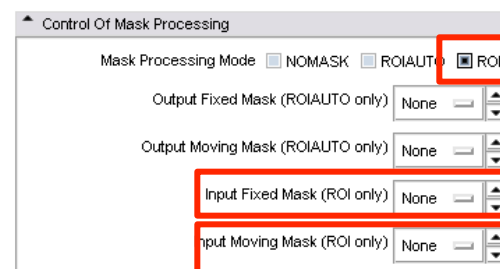
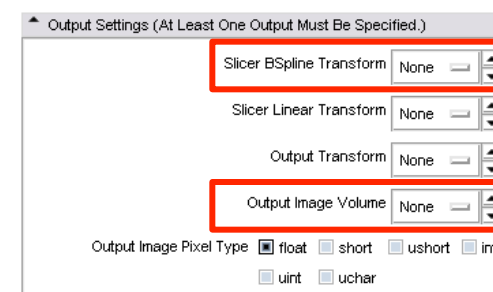
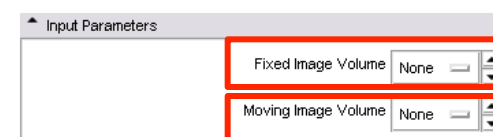


(2)-C-3. Registration Step

Input: CT-intra.nrrd, CT-plan.nrrd and CT-plan-label

Set “BRAINSFitIGT” module parameters as follows

1. Set Fixed image volume = “CT-intra”,
Moving image volume = “CT-plan”
2. Set BSpline transform = create a new transform and name it “T2” and Output image volume = create a new volume and name it “CT-plan-REG”
3. Set Input fixed mask = “CT-intra-label”,
Input moving mask = “CT-plan-label”.
Check “ROI” of Mask Proceeding

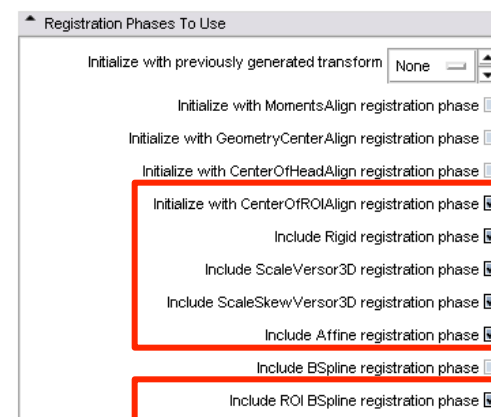




(2)-C-4. Registration Step

Output: T2 and CT-plan-REG

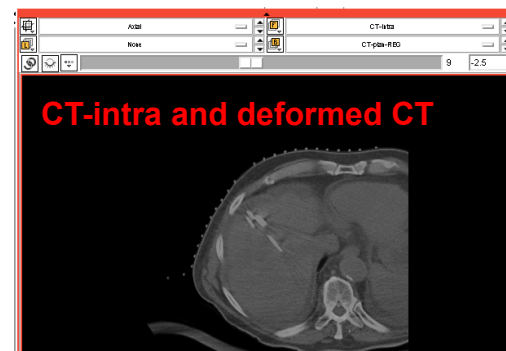
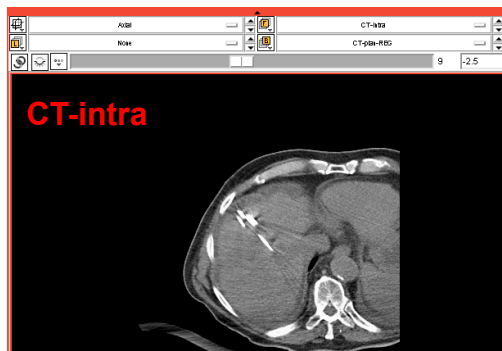
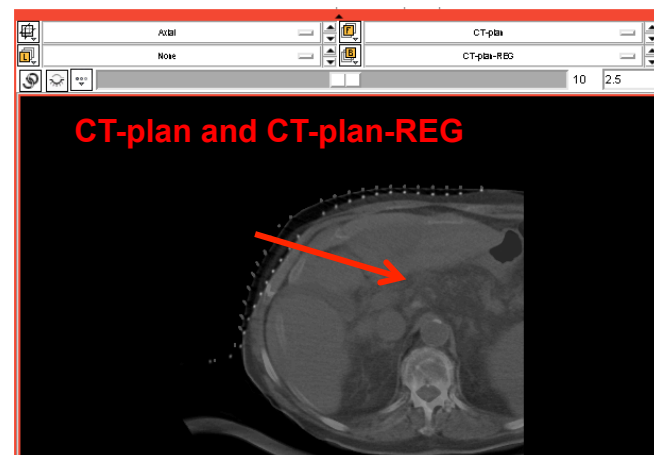
4. Check “Initialize with CenterOfROIAlign registration phase”, “Include Rigid registration phase”, “Include ScaleVersor3D registration phase”, “Include ScaleSkewVersor3D registration phase”, “Include Affine registration phase” and “Include ROI BSpline registration phase”
5. Click “Apply”
6. After about 23 sec (on the test environment), you can see the moved and deformed CT-plan image as “CT-plan-REG”.





(2)-C-5. Result

1. Select “CT-plan-REG” at Background layer and “CT-plan” at Foreground layer. The deformation can be seen.
2. Select “CT-plan-REG” at Background layer and “CT-intra” at Foreground layer. You can see that the shape of the liver on CT-plan was deformed and fitted the liver on CT-intra image.

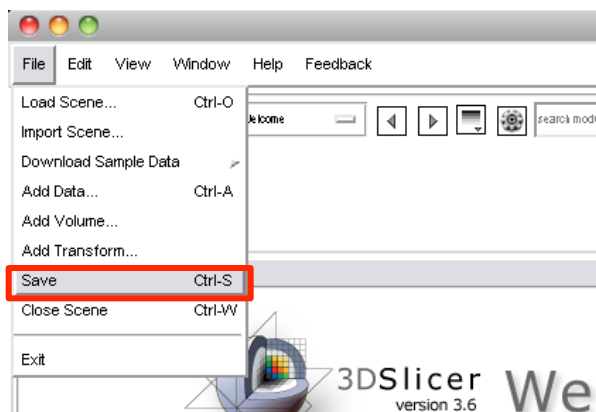




(2)-C-6. Save the scene

Output: T2.nrrd, CT-plan-REG.nrrd and CT-intra-REG.mrml

1. Save “T2.nrrd” and “CT-plan-REG.nrrd” and this scene as “CT-intra-REG.mrml”. Click on the “Save” button.



3. Save these files in the working directory and close Slicer3



(3) STEP:D

MR-Intra-CT Image Registration

Objective:

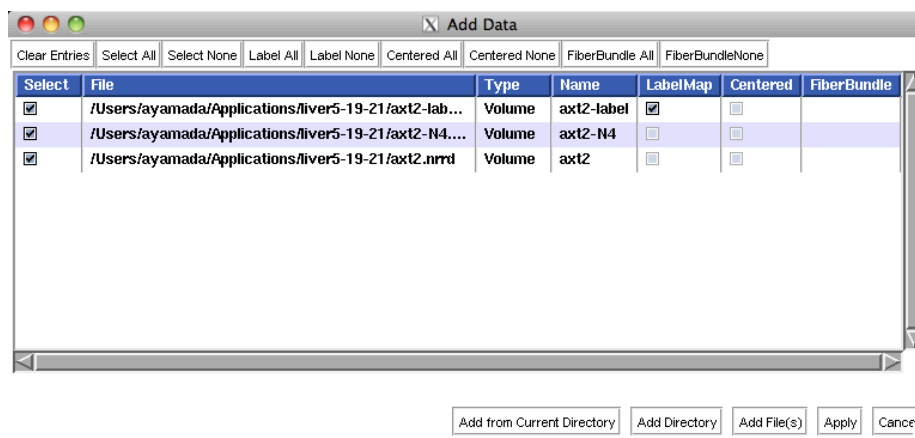
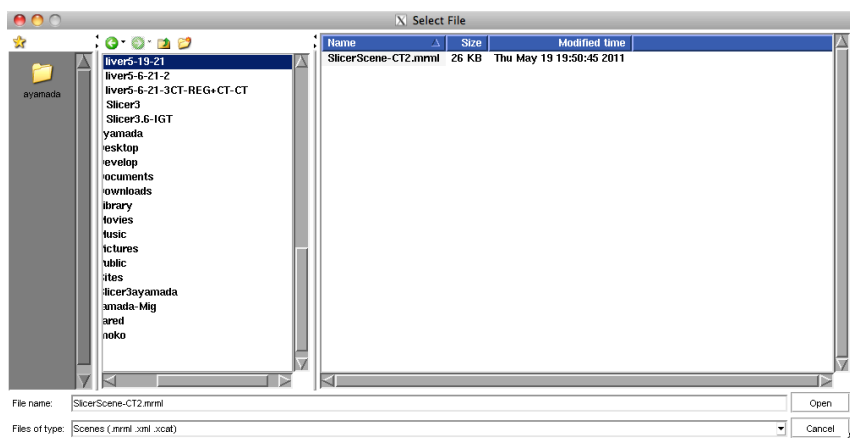
To obtain a warped image (MR-CT-intra-REG.nrrd) by using t2ax-REG.nrrd, CT-intra.nrrd and T2.tfm.



(3)-D-1. Preparation Step

Input: CT-intra.mrml, t2ax-N4.nrrd t2ax-REG.nrrd and T2.tfm

1. Start Slicer3
2. Click on the “Load Scene” and load CT-intra.mrml
3. Click on the “Add Data” and select t2ax-N4.nrrd, t2ax-REG.nrrd and T2.tfm. Click on the “Apply”

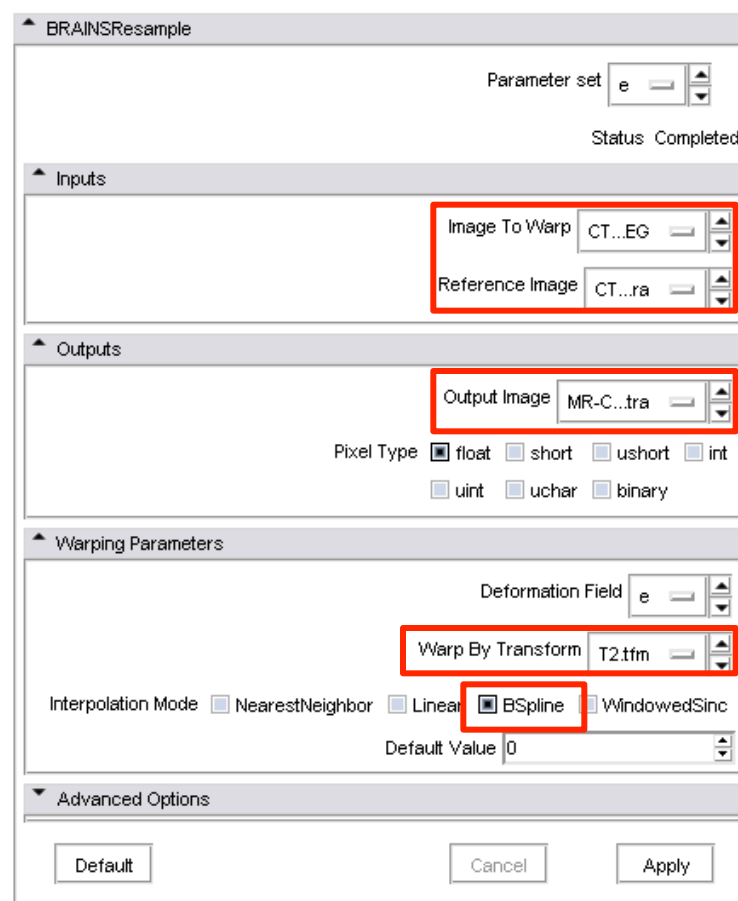




(3)-D-2. BSpline Warping

Input: t2ax-REG.nrrd, CT-intra.nrrd, T2.tfm, Output: MR-CT-intra.nrrd

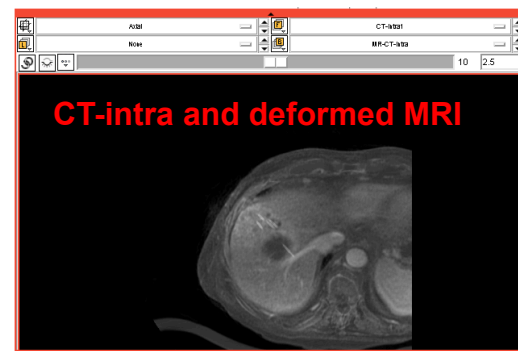
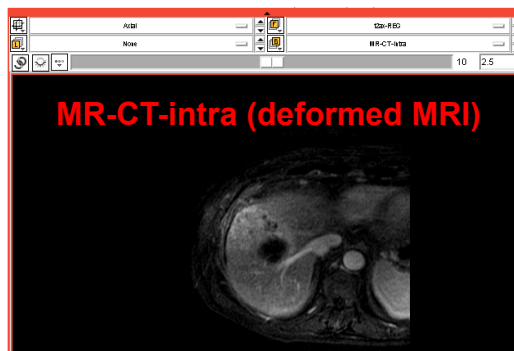
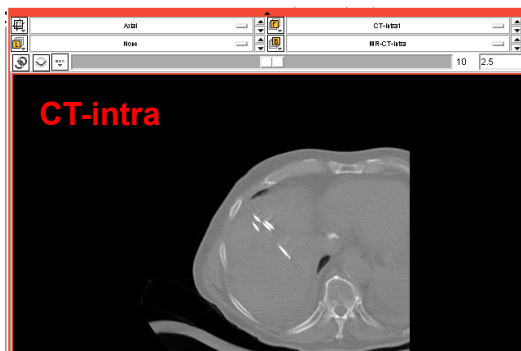
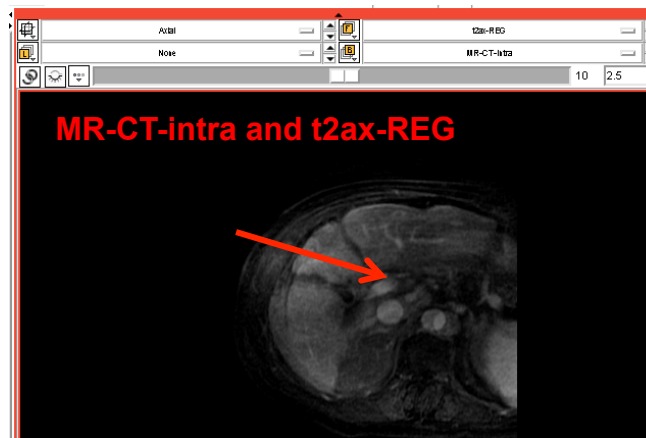
1. Go to BRAINSResample module
2. Set Image To Warp = “t2ax-REG”, Reference Image = “CT-intra”, Output Image = create a new volume and name it “MR-CT-intra”, Warp By Translation = “T2.tfm”.
3. Check “BSpline” of Warping Parameters
4. Click “Apply”
5. After about 6 sec (on the test environment), you can see the moved and deformed t2ax-REG image as “MR-CT-intra”.





(3)-D-3. Result

1. Select “MR-CT-intra” at Background layer and “t2ax-REG” at Foreground layer. The deformation can be seen.
2. Select “MR-CT-intra” at Background layer and “CT-intra” at Foreground layer. You can see that the shape of the liver of MR-CT-intra was deformed and fitted the liver on CT-intra image.





Conclusion

- 3D Slicer with BRAINSFitIGT module allows performing non-rigid image registration.
- 3D Slicer with BRAINSResample module allows performing non-rigid image deformation using B-spline transform matrix.
- In cryoablation of liver case, the distance between cryoprobe on CT image and tumor on MR image can be confirmed easily by using the non-rigid MR-CT image registration.



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