Physical and Statistical Models for Optical Imaging of Food Quality

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Why inspect food quality?

- Consumers expect
 - Large diversity of food products
 - Uniformly high quality



- Fulfillment of both culinary and nutritional demands
- Highest food safety standards

• We need efficient quality assessment and inline process control.

Why optical imaging?

- Food appearance carries information on
 - Size, shape, and color (obviously)
 - Organoleptic parameters (flavor, taste)
 - Texture, stability, and mouthfeel
 - Moisture content and storability
 - Ingredients: amounts of constituents

• Computer vision sensors enable noninvasive inline monitoring of food appearance.

Optical imaging methods

Multispectral imaging



Pushbroom

Acousto-Optic Tuneable Filter (AOTF)

Optical imaging methods

Grating-based X-ray imaging







Example: biscuit quality

a. Biscuit with water drop in the centre (sRGB)b. Spectrally extracted water absorption map



c. Predicted %Moisture from 8 spectral image features versus the %Moisture from evaporation device.

Example: biscuit quality

- Normalized canonical discriminant analysis for measuring
 Vellow/red - higher b
 - browning index







bluish - conforming

- glazing vs. non-glazing



darker gray – glazing lighter gray – non-glazing

Example: meat study with DMRI









Example: meat study with DMRI

- Both instruments discriminate between raw and cooked meat.
- Problems in using a colorimeter:
 - Integrates over large surface patch (misses variations).
 - Light penetration depth too large (not good for bright red meat at early days of display).
 - No spectroscopy.
- Computer vision systems solve these problems.





colorimeter

projector

Example: Salami study with DuPont

• Salami fermentation process after production.



Example: Salami study with DuPont

- Statistical meat color scale
 - Darker blue is fresh meat
 - Yellow and orange represent fermented meat



Hyperspectral imaging





Example: milk fermentation

 Spectroscopy for measuring scattering and absorption properties.



Example: milk fermentation

Statistical profile analysis for estimating viscosity



Physical model for particle sizing based on optical properties



Grating-based X-ray imaging

- When we need to investigate subsurface features.
- Three contrast mechanisms are used in grating-based imaging: Absorption: Attenuation of beam.

Refraction (Phase contrast): Transverse shift of beam. **Scattering** (Dark field): Broadening of beam.



Example: heated meat products

• Evaluating heat induced changes of microstructure and cooking loss.





Example: detecting foreign objects

Combined multimodal intensity and texture features give best detection results.



Conclusion

- Optical imaging is very useful when moving toward more and better automation in food quality control.
- Choice of instrument is important:
 - VideometerLab is good for detecting spectroscopic differences between different sample regions.
 - Static light scattering (SLS) is good for detecting emulsion differences in seemingly similar substances.
 - Grating-based X-ray imaging is good for detecting foreign objects or subsurface/volumetric features.

Credits

- Camilla Himmelstrup Trinderup (postdoc, DTU Compute)
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- Sara Sharifzadeh (PhD, DTU Compute Alumna)
- Knut Conradsen (Professor, DTU Compute)
- Anders Bjorholm Dahl (Head of Image Section, DTU Compute)
- Bjarne Ersbøll (Head of Statistics Section, DTU Compute)
- Rasmus Larsen (Head of Department, DTU Compute)
- Research projects: CIFQ and NEXIM

Thank you for your attention

• Computing milk appearance using light scattering by fat and protein particles.



