K3: Advancing Electron-Counting Cryo-EM



Paul Mooney Gatan, Inc. October 31, 2017









"Electron-counting cryo-electron microscopy*"





More degrees of freedom means more particles.

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Movie courtesy of John Rubinstein

Higher resolution demands more particles.

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L.A. Baker et al./Journal of Structural Biology 169 (2010) 431-437

Better motion correction and dose weighting mean more *frames*.

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Throughput



K3 Camera Framerate – 1500 fps



K3 Sensor – 23.6 Mpixels



 \rightarrow **1.65 times** the throughput of the K2 camera (pixels/frame)

K3 Sensor – Throughput







 \rightarrow 6.2 times the raw sensor throughput of the K2 camera (pixels/s)





Cryo-EM methods leverage Electron-Counting DQE



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Coincidence Loss Causes Lowering of DQE



Li et al, Nature Methods (2013) Figure 1b.

(Based on fit to curve at left)

Chiu, et al, JSB 2015

K2 200kV DQE is higher at low spatial frequency





High resolution being achieved at 200kV

2.6 Å at 200 kV without image filtering or phase plate





What is the Best Magnification and Binning?

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K2-XP DQE at 2 e/pix/s



- * 300 kV energy-filtered Krios structures from Merk et al, Cell, 2016
- ** 200 kV Talos Arctica density map from Herzik et al, Nat. Meth., 2017
- *** 300 kV energy-filtered Krios structure, Hong Zhou (private communication)

Data Size Reduction

constant temporal sampling

FFI

• Variable sub-frame exposure time.



Framerate based on specimen speed and resolution content

iFFT

Motion correction • Anti-aliased binning G

And resolving conformational states demands better DQE







Realtime DQE



Coincidence Loss – Exposure Time Tradeoff



The spatial side of counting speed.

200 counters/mm²



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Improving SNR with Correlated Double Sampling



(same-contrast images of 200 keV electrons from K3 camera prototype)

Lower read noise allows lower counting threshold



Summary of Tradeoffs Between DQE and Throughput

Correlated double sampling

Coincidence loss vs. detection SNR

Framerate

Coincidence loss vs. Exposure time

Magnification

DQE vs particles/frame



K3's larger area and higher read rate can be spent on all of these flexibly according to the needs of the project.

Correlated Noise

- Motion correction algorithms deal with it as this figure illustrates.
- Improvements to correction software in 2012 (in response to this result) eliminated the problem shown here.
- Further improvements coming through reduction of time from reference to sample.



Li et al. 2013 Nature Methods, figure 2.

Looking forward: Platform integration



In Summary, K3 will provide:

- Electron counting cryo-EM for a wider base of users through accelerated workflow and 200kV performance.
- Reduced read noise and fixed pattern noise.
- Flexibility to further optimize use of speed and size for the DQE needed for a given experiment.



Thank you for listening!

And thanks to the teams that worked to put the K3 together, especially Peter Denes and his group at LBNL,



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