Implementation of an Open Data Format for CT Projection Data

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Lack of access to projection data from patient CT scans is a major limitation for development and validation of new reconstruction algorithms. To meet this critical need, this work developed a standardized and vendor-neutral format (extended DICOM) for CT projection data.

**Purpose**
Lack of access to projection data from patient CT scans is a major limitation for development and validation of new reconstruction algorithms. To meet this critical need, this work developed a standardized and vendor-neutral format (extended DICOM) for CT projection data.

**Methods**

- **Tag**
  - (0008,0070) Manufacturer
  - (0018,0060) KVP
  - (0018,1157) X-ray Tube Current Array
  - (7029,1010) Number of Detector Rows
  - (7029,1011) Number of Detector Columns
  - (7029,1002) Detector Element Transverse Spacing
  - (7029,1006) Detector Element Axial Spacing
  - (0018,9311) Spiral Pitch Factor
  - (7031,1001) Detector Focal Center Angular Position Array
  - (7031,1002) Detector Focal Center Axial Position Array
  - (7031,1003) Detector Focal Center Radial Distance Array
  - (7031,1031) Constant Radial Distance
  - (7031,1033) Detector Central Element
  - (7033,100B) Source Angular Position Shift Array
  - (7033,100C) Source Axial Position Shift Array
  - (7033,100D) Source Radial Distance Shift Array
  - (7033,1013) Number of Source Angular Steps
  - (7037,1009) Type of Projection Data

**DICOM header:**
Acquisition parameters

**DICOM image:**
Attenuation info.

**Validation**
Images reconstructed from vendor’s projection data and from our vendor-neutral projection data were consistent in terms of CT number, noise, and high contrast resolution.

**Discussion**

- **Challenge**
The formats of CT projection data are distinctly different and proprietary for each manufacturer.
As a result, accessing patient projection data from commercial CT scanners has always been difficult.

- **Our solution to the challenge**
A vendor-neutral format for CT projection data has been developed.
A library of patient projection data using this format is under construction, which will include cases from a range of acquisition techniques and patients.

- **Validation of our solution**
Images reconstructed from vendor’s projection data and from our vendor-neutral projection data were consistent in terms of CT number, noise, and high contrast resolution.

- **Potential applications**
Head-to-head comparisons of reconstruction algorithms with patient data, such that more rapid consensus on better-performing algorithms can be reached and clinically adopted.

Determination of the dose reduction potential: With the open format, quantum noise can be added to patient projection data to simulate lower dose acquisitions.