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► **To cite this version:**

Henri Der Sarkissian, Jeanpierre Guédon, Pierre Tervé, Nicolas Normand, Imants Svalbe. Evaluation of 3D Discrete Angles Rotation Degradations for Myocardial Perfusion Imaging. 25th Annual Congress of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine, Oct 2012, Milan, Italy. Springer-Verlag, European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, 39 (2), pp.S502-S502, 2012. hal-01133250

HAL Id: hal-01133250

<https://hal.science/hal-01133250v1>

Submitted on 18 Mar 2015

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EVALUATION OF DISCRETE ANGLES ROTATION DEGRADATIONS FOR MYOCARDIAL PERFUSION IMAGING

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

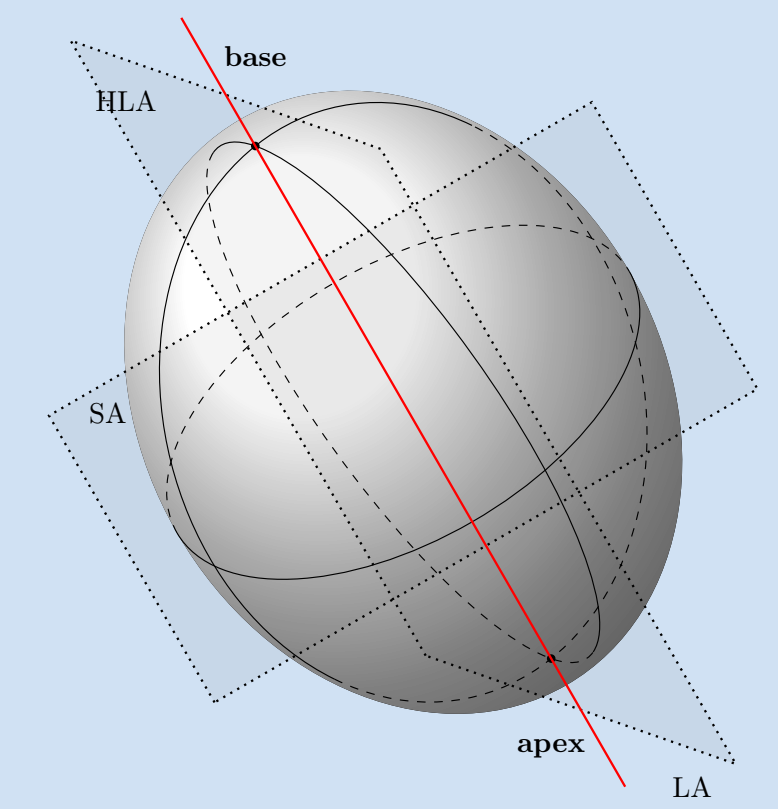
For myocardial perfusion imaging, the tomographic transaxial cardiac volume must be reoriented in the standard views for inter-patient comparison and diagnosis accuracy, as advised by the EANM guidelines.

The volume is then resampled and displayed in the standard HLA, VLA and SA axis.

Rotation of digital images defined on discrete grid introduce image degradation and artifact arising from the lack of perfect match between continuously rotated grid and the original one. As a result, every rotation has to be considered cautiously and be held in the manner to minimize the quantification error.

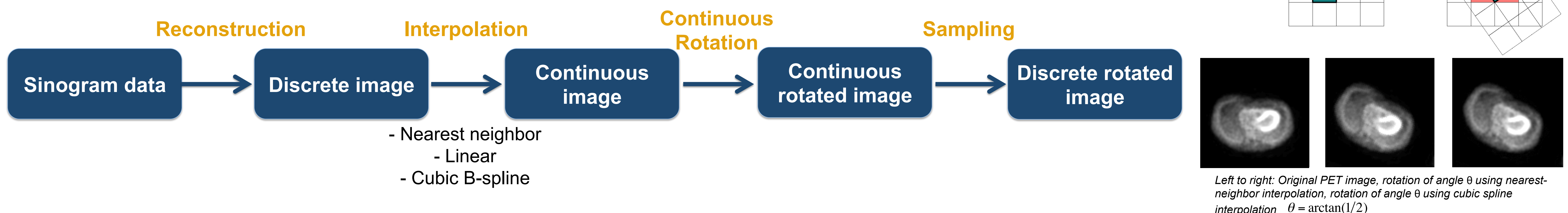
The goal of this poster is :

- 1) to compare existing rotation algorithms for nuclear medicine images (with their specific spectral content),
- 2) to use a novel method (Svalbe) both based on discrete angle rotation and image sampling to ensure an one-to-one pixel mapping,
- 3) to measure rotation operator defaults using the same discrete angles for all tested methods.

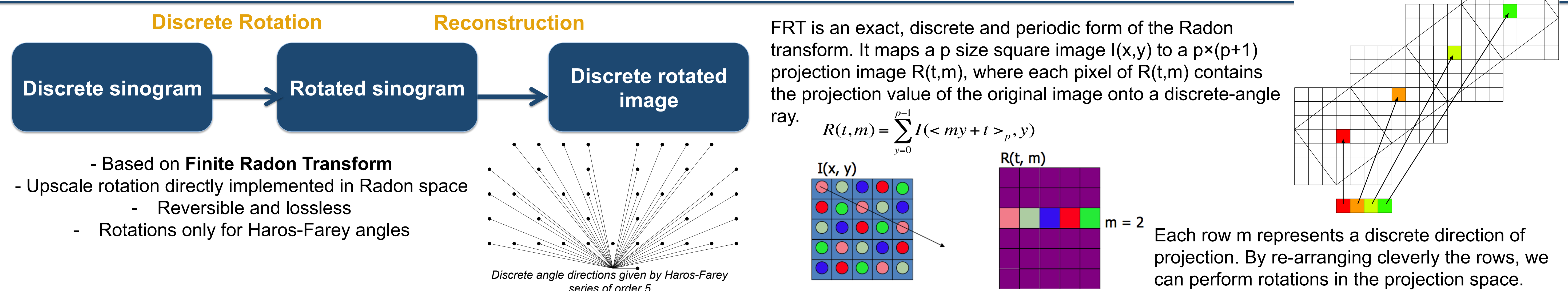


SUBJECTS & METHODS

Continuous rotation of a 2D image



Discrete rotation of a 2D image



Experiments

2 kind of experiments are used :

- 1) kN rotations of $2\pi/N$ angle. $2\pi/N$ is chosen to be a discrete angle. This scheme is only used for continuous rotations (c.f. Table 1),
- 2) Rotation of angle (p_1, q_1) , followed by (p_2, q_2) . The resulting image is then rotated one last time by the global reverse angle $(p_1 p_2 - q_1 q_2, q_1 p_2 + p_1 q_2)$. This scheme is tested for continuous and discrete rotations (c.f. Table 2).

Error measurement using 2 metrics

Mean Square Error (MSE) – the L^2 norm of error image : $MSE = \frac{1}{PQ} \sum_{x=0}^{P-1} \sum_{y=0}^{Q-1} (I(x,y) - I'(x,y))^2$

Peak Signal to Noise Ratio (PSNR) :

$$PSNR = 20 \log\left(\frac{255}{\sqrt{MSE}}\right)$$

RESULTS

Table 1: kN rotations of $2\pi/N$

Method	PET				CT			
	8 Rotations of 45°		80 Rotations of 45°		8 Rotations of 45°		80 Rotations of 45°	
	MSE	PSNR	MSE	PSNR	MSE	PSNR	MSE	PSNR
Nearest	24.90	34.17	24.90	34.17	145.41	26.50	145.41	26.50
Bilinear	25.29	34.10	98.55	28.19	155.29	26.22	326.36	22.99
Cubic B-spline	20.64	34.98	20.92	34.93	115.17	27.52	139.64	26.68
High order (Spline 7)	21.93	34.72	71.57	29.58	116.87	27.45	267.27	23.86

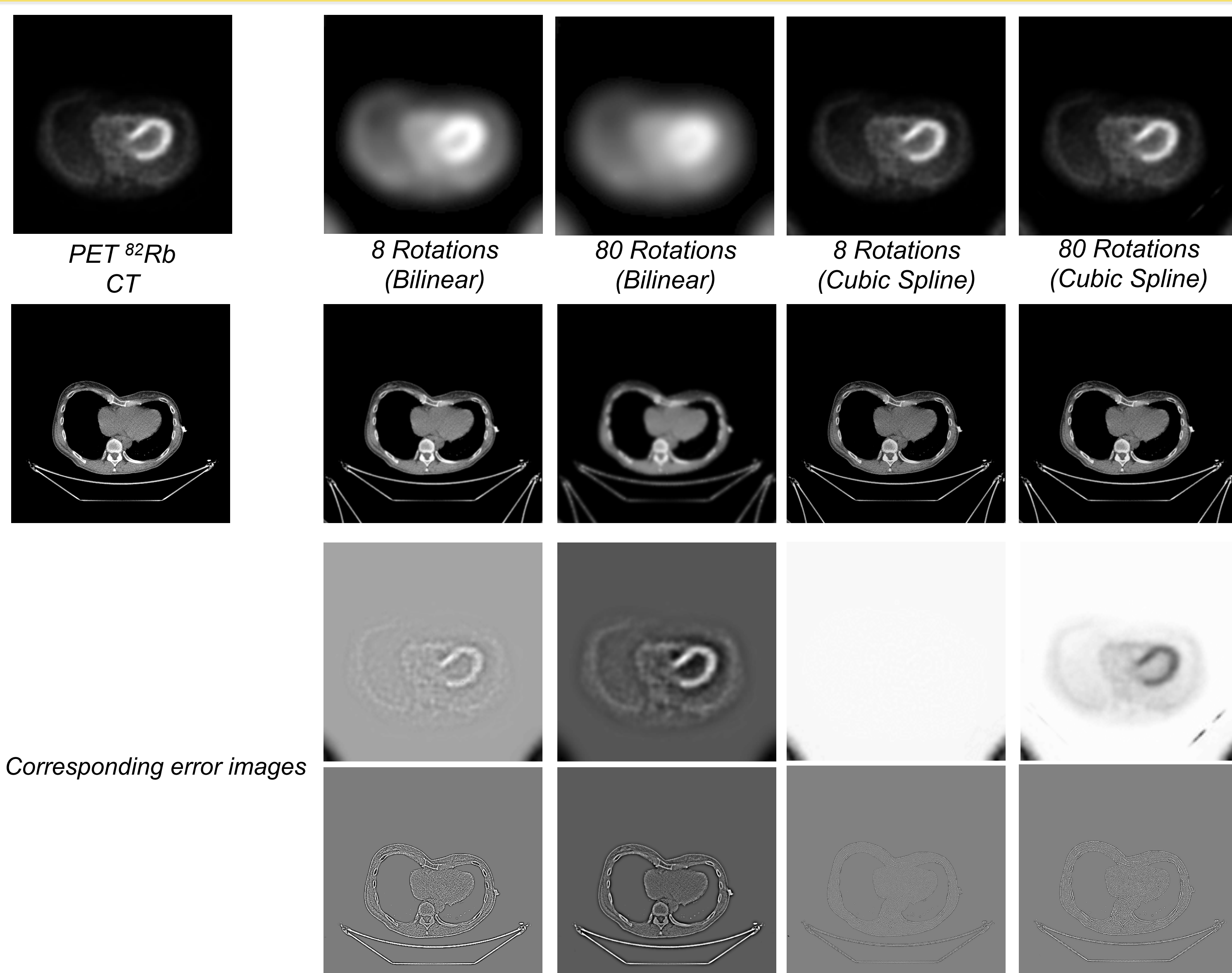
For continuous rotations, cubic spline seems to give the best results. Even higher order spline give worse results. We discourage the use of bilinear interpolation since it blurs dramatically the image. We also discourage the use of even degree splines, as for example SP2 which gives rise to strong aliasing artifacts.

Table 2: Rotation of angle (1,1) followed by (2,1) and reverse rotation by (1,-3)

Method	PET		CT	
	MSE	PSNR	MSE	PSNR
Nearest	10.18	38.05	162.29	26.03
Bilinear	1.14	47.56	98.85	28.18
Cubic B-spline	0.01	66.55	82.12	28.99
Discrete FRT rotation	0.08	59.10	146.65	26.47

The discrete FRT-based rotation does not give the best MSE values, but it does not introduce any blur. Moreover, the original pixel intensities are preserved thus the rotation is totally reversible and lossless, which is very appreciable for quantitative analysis based on pixel intensity.

Some drawbacks, like the magnification of image size increases memory usage and the periodic sampling of FRT needs a specific mapping to achieve discrete rotation from real acquisition.



CONCLUSION

The key points of our method are:

- The method is fully discrete so no assumption is made about an underlying continuous model, making it fast, exact and reversible
- It is performed into a discrete projection space, close to the data acquisition space. Thus no tomographic reconstruction has to be made prior to reorientation, minimizing the smoothing effects of interpolation.

Future work: Effects of both reconstruction and reorientation have to be assessed simultaneously. For this purpose, we need estimators of left ventricle orientation directly into the projection space.