FlowRec

Name of software: *FlowRec* – software for reconstruction of the intracellular flows

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Description: The software allows us to compute the vector field of intracellular movements from *bright-field time-lapse microscopy raw image* series primarily. The basis of the method is detection of speeded-up robust features (SURF) and assembling them into trajectories. Two components of motion – direct and Brownian – are separated by an original method based on minimum covariance estimation. The Brownian component gives a spatially resolved diffusion coefficient. The directed component yields a velocity field, and, after fitting the vorticity equation, estimation of the spatially distributed viscosity.

Requirements: MATLAB2019b or future release, Computer Vision Toolbox, Image Processing Toolbox, Optimization Toolbox, non-mandatory: Instrument Control Toolbox (used for better progress reporting).

Input parameters (see Osteoblast.m and Hepatocyte.m as examples):

- Bayer configuration of the camera Bayer filter, can be 'grayscale' for already pretreated images
- pxsiz size of pixel projected on a field, in nm
- wsize flow reconstruction window, now deprecated
- met metric threshold for detection of the SURF features, can be in [1..+inf), default
 100
- alive limit (in frames) for keeping the track which is not observed in computer memory, default is 1, better not to change
- mlen the minimal length (in time domain, in frames) of the track which we save, default 12
- delay period of image acquisition, in ms
- reduce factor by which we reduce the image resolution, better to keep it >= 3, default 4
- input folder with the input images
- workdir folder for intermediate and final results, can occupy a few GB of space

How to use it: See the examples Osteoblast.m and Hepatocyte.m. In the first run, the software will ask you to annotate a few images manually (can be configured, see 3rd argument of SqueeshyMask in the examples), and then it automatically interpolate the contour.

Output: vispro.mat, will be stored in the workdir folder after finishing of the process. For content see the examples.

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