Contents

Colophon **ii**

Preface **v**

1 Introduction **1**
1.1 Studying Intracellular Dynamics 1
1.2 Fundamental Limitations in Microscopy 3
1.3 Tracking in Fluorescence Microscopy 6
1.3.1 Image Preprocessing 6
1.3.2 Object Localization 6
1.3.3 Solving the Correspondence Problem 8
1.3.4 Probabilistic Methods for Tracking 11
1.4 Analyzing Tracking Results 13
1.5 Thesis Outline 15

2 Quantitative Comparison of Spot Detection Methods in Fluorescence Microscopy **17**
2.1 Introduction 18
2.2 Detection Framework for Fluorescence Microscopy 19
2.2.1 Image formation 19
2.2.2 Detection Framework 22
2.3 Detection Methods 23
2.3.1 Noise Reduction 23
2.3.2 Unsupervised Signal Enhancement 25
2.3.3 Supervised Signal Enhancement 29
2.3.4 Signal Thresholding and Performance Measures 32
2.4 Experimental results 33
2.4.1 Evaluation on Synthetic Image Data 33
2.4.2 Evaluation on Real Image Data 46
2.5 Discussion and Conclusions 50

3 Particle Filtering for Multiple Object Tracking in Dynamic Fluorescence Microscopy Images: Application to Microtubule Growth Analysis **53**
3.1 Introduction 54
3.2 Microtubule Growth Analysis 57

3.3 Tracking Framework . . . 58
3.3.1 Nonlinear Bayesian Tracking . . . 58
3.3.2 Particle Filtering Methods . . . 59
3.3.3 Multi-Modality and Mixture Tracking . . . 60
3.4 Tailoring the Framework . . . 61
3.4.1 State-Space and Dynamic Model . . . 61
3.4.2 Object Interactions and Markov Random Field . . . 63
3.4.3 Observation Model and Likelihood . . . 63
3.4.4 Hierarchical Searching . . . 66
3.4.5 Measurement Gating . . . 67
3.4.6 Data-Dependent Sampling . . . 68
3.4.7 Clustering and Track Management . . . 69
3.4.8 Initialization and Track Initiation . . . 70
3.5 Experimental Results . . . 71
3.5.1 Evaluation on Synthetic Data . . . 71
3.5.2 Evaluation on Real Data . . . 77
3.6 Discussion and Conclusions . . . 80

4 Multiple Object Tracking in Molecular Bioimaging by Rao-Blackwellized Marginal Particle Filtering 85
4.1 Introduction . . . 86
4.2 Probabilistic Tracking Framework . . . 88
4.2.1 Particle Filtering Approach . . . 88
4.2.2 Multiple Object Tracking . . . 89
4.2.3 Dynamics Models . . . 90
4.2.4 Observation Model . . . 92
4.2.5 Track Management . . . 93
4.3 Incorporating Multiple Dynamics . . . 94
4.4 Applying Marginalization Concepts . . . 95
4.4.1 Filtering Distribution Marginalization . . . 96
4.4.2 Data-Dependent Sampling . . . 96
4.4.3 Rao-Blackwellization Approach . . . 97
4.5 Algorithm Overview . . . 98
4.6 Experimental Results . . . 100
4.6.1 Considered Objects . . . 100
4.6.2 Synthetic Data Experiments . . . 101
4.6.3 Real Data Experiments . . . 104
4.7 Discussion and Conclusions . . . 109

5 Microtubule Dynamics Analysis using Kymographs and Variable-Rate Particle Filters 113
5.1 Introduction . . . 114
5.2 Methods . . . 115
5.2.1 *In Vitro* Microtubule Dynamics Model . . . 115
5.2.2 Imaging Technique and Kymographs . . . 116
5.2.3 Edge Preserving Smoothing . . . 118

5.2.4 Variable-Rate Particle Filtering 120
5.2.5 Multiscale Trend Analysis 125
5.3 Experimental Results 126
5.3.1 Evaluation on Synthetic Data 126
5.3.2 Evaluation on Real Data 131
5.4 Discussion and Conclusions 131

6 Summary **133**

Bibliography **137**

Samenvatting **147**

PhD Portfolio **151**

Publications **153**

Curriculum Vitae **155**