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Standard Practice for <u>Fan Beam Computed Tomographic (CT) Examination¹</u>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E1570; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

- 1.1 This practice is establishes the minimum requirements for computed tomography (CT), which (CT) examination of test objects using fan beam systems (systems that generate one or a few CT cross sectional slices at a time). The examination may be used to nondestructively disclose physical features or anomalies within a test object by providing radiological density and geometric measurements. This practice implicitly assumes the use of penetrating radiation, specifically X-ray and γ -ray.
- 1.2 CT systems utilize a set of transmission measurements made along paths through the test object from many different directions. Each of the transmission measurements is digitized and stored in a computer, where they are subsequently reconstructed by one of a variety of techniques. A treatment of CT principles is given in Guide E1441.
- 1.2 CT is broadly applicable to any material or test object through which a beam of penetrating radiation passes. The principal advantage of CT is that it provides densitometric (that is, radiological density and geometry) images of thin cross sections through an object without the structural superposition in projection radiography.
- 1.3 There are areas in this practice that may require agreement between the purchaser and the supplier, or specific direction from the cognizant engineering organization. These items should be addressed in the purchase order or the contract. Generally, the items are application specific or performance related, or both.
- 1.4 This practice describes procedures for performing CT examinations. Techniques and applications employed with CT are diverse. This practice is to address the general use of not intended to be limiting or restrictive. Refer to Guides E1441 and E1672CT technology and thereby facilitate its use. that provide additional information and guidance on CT fundamentals and tradeoffs in designing or purchasing a CT system, or both.
- 1.5 Units—The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

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- 1.6 This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety safety, health, and healthenvironmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. For specific safety statements, see Section 8, NBS Handbook 114, and Federal Standards 21 CFR 1020.40 and 29 CFR 1910.96.
- 1.7 This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

E1316 Terminology for Nondestructive Examinations

E1441 Guide for Computed Tomography (CT) Imaging

E1672 Guide for Computed Tomography (CT) System Selection

E1695 Test Method for Measurement of Computed Tomography (CT) System Performance

E2339 Practice for Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE)

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E07 on Nondestructive Testing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E07.01 on Radiology (X and Gamma) Method.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.



E2767 Practice for Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE) for X-ray Computed Tomography (CT) Test Methods

2.2 NIST Standard:

ANSI N43.3 General Radiation Safety Installations Using Non-Medical X-Ray and Sealed Gamma Sources up to 10 MeV³ 2.3 Federal Standards:⁴

21 CFR 1020.40 Safety Requirements of Cabinet X Ray Systems

29 CFR 1910.96 Ionizing Radiation

2.2 ASNT Documents:³

SNT-TC-1A Recommended Practice for Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing

ANSI/ASNT-CP-189 Qualification and Certification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel

2.5 *Military Standard*:

MIL-STD-410 Nondestructive Testing Personnel Qualification and Certification⁴

2.3 AIA Standard:⁴

NAS-410 Certification and Qualification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel

2.4 ISO Standards:⁵

ISO 9712 International Standard for Nondestructive Testing Personnel Qualification and Certification

ISO 15708-1:2017-02 International Standard for Non-destructive Testing - Radiation Methods for Computed Tomography - Part 1: Terminology

ISO 15708-2:2017-02 International Standard for Non-destructive Testing - Radiation Methods for Computed Tomography - Part 2: Principles, Equipment and Samples

ISO 15708-3:2017-02 International Standard for Non-destructive Testing - Radiation Methods for Computed Tomography - Part 3: Operation and Interpretation

ISO 15708-4:2017-02 International Standard for Non-destructive Testing - Radiation Methods for Computed Tomography - Part

4: Qualification

2.5 SMPTE Standard:⁶

SMPTE RP 133 Specifications for Medical Diagnostic Imaging Test Pattern for Television Monitors and Hard-Copy Recording Cameras

3. Terminology

- 3.1 *Definitions*—For The definitions of terms used in this guide, refer to relating to CT, that appear in Terminology E1316 and Annex A1 in Guide, shall apply to the terms used in this E1441.practice.
 - 3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:
- 3.2.1 digital driving level (DDL), n—for computer graphics display boards, the digital value that corresponds to a particular monochrome grayscale level.

https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/06b6ea64-aa47-46ea-b363-c9dca3e99299/astm-e1570-19

3.2.1.1 Discussion—

A particular DDL "drives out" a particular visible shade of gray. For example, in an 8-bit display, a DDL assumes 256 values from 0 to 255.

- 3.2.2 effective energy, n—the equivalent monoenergetic energy for a polyenergetic CT system; thus, the actual, polyenergetic CT system yields the same measured attenuation coefficient for an examination object as a theoretical, monoenergetic CT system at the effective energy.
- 3.2.3 fan beam, n—a beam of radiation that is restricted to one dimension in linear extent with a thickness limited to the detector height.
- 3.2.4 purchaser, n—as used within this document, the purchaser of computed tomographic services refers to the entity that requires the computed tomographic services; the purchaser may be a part of the same organization as the supplier, or an outside organization.

³ Available from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 1070, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1070, http://www.nist.gov.

⁴ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, http://dodssp.daps.dla.mil.

³ Available from American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT), P.O. Box 28518, 1711 Arlingate Ln., Columbus, OH 43228-0518, http://www.asnt.org.

⁴ Available from Aerospace Industries Association of America, Inc. (AIA), 1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1700, Arlington, VA 22209-3928, http://www.aia-aerospace.org.

⁵ As used within this document, the supplier of computed tomographic service refers to the entity that physically provides the computed tomographic services. The supplier may be a part of the same organization as the purchaser, or an outside organization. Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO Central Secretariat, BIBC II, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland, http://www.iso.org.

⁶ As used within this document, the purchaser of computed tomographic services refer to the entity that requires the computed tomographic services. The purchaser may be a part of the same organization as the supplier, or an outside organization. Available from Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE), White Plains Plaza, 445 Hamilton Ave Ste 601, White Plains, NY 10601-1827, https://www.smpte.org.



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4. Summary of Practice

- 4.1 Requirements in this practice are intended to control the reliability and quality of the CT images.
- 4.2 CT systems are made up of a number of subsystems; the function served by each subsystem is common in almost all CT scanners. Section 7 describes the following subsystems:
 - 4.2.1 Source of penetrating radiation,
 - 4.2.2 Radiation detector or an array of detectors,
 - 4.2.3 Mechanical scanning assembly, and
 - 4.2.4 Computer system including:
 - 4.2.4.1 Image reconstruction software/hardware,
 - 4.2.4.2 Image display/analysis system,
 - 4.2.4.3 Data storage system, and
 - 4.2.4.4 Operator interface.
 - 4.3 Section 8 describes and defines the procedures for establishing and maintaining quality control of CT services.
- 4.4 The extent to which a CT image reproduces an object or a feature within an object is influenced by spatial resolution, statistical noise, slice plane thickness, and artifacts of the imaging system. Operating parameters should strike an overall balance between image quality, inspection time, and cost. These parameters should be considered for CT system configurations, components, and procedures. The setting and optimization of CT system parameters is discussed in Section 9.
- 4.1 Methods for the measurement of CT system performance are provided in Section This practice is organized as follows: 10 of this practice.
 - 4.1.1 Section 7 describes CT Equipment;
- 4.1.2 Section 8 describes the minimum requirements of a CT examination; Section 9 describes the CT system performance requirements; and
 - 4.1.3 Section 10 describes the documentation for an archive of the CT examination.

5. Significance and Use

- 5.1 This practice is applicable establishes the basic parameters for the systematic assessment of the internal structure of a material or assembly using CT technology. This practice may be used for review by system operators, or to prescribe operating procedures for new or routine test objects application and control of fan-beam CT examinations. This practice is written so it can be specified on the engineering drawing, specification, or contract. It will require a detailed procedure delineating the technique or procedure requirements and shall be approved by the Cognizant Engineering Organization (CEO).
- 5.2 This practice provides the basis for the formation of a program for quality control and its continuation through calibration, standardization, reference The requirements in this practice shall be used when placing a CT system into NDT service and establishing a baseline of system performance measures. Monitoring the system performance over time shall be performed, including calibration procedures, performance measurements, and system maintenance in accordance with Section 9samples, inspection plans, and procedures.

6. Basis of Application

- 6.1 The following items are subject to contractual agreement between the parties using or referencing this standard.
- 6.2 This practice provides the approach for performing CT examinations. Supplemental information covering specific items where agreement between supplier and purchaser are necessary is required. Generally the items are application specific or performance related, or both. Examples include: system configuration, equipment qualification, performance measurement, and interpretation of results. Personnel Qualification
- 6.2.1 If specified in the contractual agreement, personnel performing examinations to this standard shall be qualified in accordance with a nationally or internationally recognized NDT personnel qualification practice or standard such as ANSI/ASNT-CP-189, SNT-TC-1A, NAS-410, ISO 9712, or a similar document and certified by the employer or certifying agency, as applicable. The practice or standard used and its applicable revision shall be identified in the contractual agreement between the using parties.
 - 6.3 Procedures and Techniques—The procedures and techniques to be utilized shall be as specified in the contractual agreement.
- 6.4 Reporting Criteria/Acceptance Criteria—Reporting criteria for the examination results shall be in accordance with Section 10 unless otherwise specified. Since acceptance criteria are not specified in this standard, they shall be specified in the contractual agreement.



7. System Configuration Equipment

- 7.1 Many different CT system configurations are possible and it is important to understand the advantages and limitations of each. possible. It is important that the optimum system parameters be selected for each examination requirement, through a careful analysis of the benefitsuser understands the advantages and limitations of the available systemeach (see Guide E1441 components). The provider and the chosen system configuration user of the system should be fully aware of the capabilities and limitations of each system proposed.
- 7.2 Radiation Sources—While the CT systems may utilize either gamma-ray or X-ray generators, the latter is used for most applications. For a given focal spot size, X-ray generators (that is, X-ray tubes and linear accelerators) are several orders of magnitude more intense than isotope sources. Most X-ray generators are adjustable in peak energy and intensity and have the added safety feature of discontinued radiation production when switched off; however, the polychromaticity of the energy spectrum from an X-ray source causes artifacts such as beam hardening (the anomalous decreasing attenuation toward the center of a homogeneous object) in the image if uncorrected.
- 7.2.1 X-rays produced from electrical radiation generators have focal spot sizes ranging from a few millimetres down to a few micrometres. Reducing the focal spot size reduces geometric unsharpness, thereby enhancing detail sensitivity. Smaller focal spots permit higher spatial resolution, but at the expense of reduced X-ray beam intensity.
- 7.2.2 A radioisotope source can have the advantages of small physical size, portability, low power requirements, simplicity, and stability of output. The disadvantages are limited intensity and limited peak energy.
- 7.2.3 Synchrotron Radiation (SR) sources produce very intense, naturally collimated, narrow bandwidth, tunable radiation. Thus, CT systems using SR sources can employ essentially monochromatic radiation. With present technology, however, practical SR energies are restricted to less than approximately 20 to 30 keV. Since any CT system is limited to the inspection of samples with radio-opacities consistent with the penetrating power of the X-ray employed, SR systems can in general image only small (about 1 mm) objects.
- 7.2 Radiation Detection Systems—The detection system is a transducer that converts the transmitted radiation containing information about the test object into an electronic signal suitable for processing. The detection system may consist of a single sensing element, a linear array of sensing elements, or an area array of sensing elements. The more detectors used, the faster the required scan data can be collected; but there are important tradeoffs to be considered. All CT systems have four major subsystems: radiation source, radiation detectors, mechanical handling system, and computer system. The following represents the requirements on each subsystem for a CT examination.
- 7.2.1 <u>Source Setup—A single detector provides the least efficient method of collecting data but entails minimal complexity, eliminates detector cross talk and detector matching, and allows an arbitrary degree of collimation and shielding The radiation source shall be selected to provide the maximum signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), contrast to noise ratio (CNR), and contrast sensitivity while maintaining the necessary spatial resolution. See Guide E1441 to be implemented for a detailed discussion.</u>
- 7.2.2 <u>Radiation Detection Systems—Linear arrays have reasonable sean times at moderate complexity, acceptable cross talk and detector matching, and a flexible architecture that typically accommodates good collimation and shielding. Most commercially available CT systems employ a linear array of detectors. The detection system may consist of a single sensing element, a linear array of sensing elements, or a two-dimensional array in an area detector. The more detectors used, the faster the required scan data can be collected; but there are important tradeoffs to be considered.</u>
 - 7.2.2.1 The detector cannot be operated without computing hardware and software for image acquisition.
- 7.2.2.2 The acquisition software shall be capable of acquiring images projection by projection from the detector and integrating, or averaging frames, or both.
 - 7.2.2.3 The acquisition software shall perform an image calibration to correct the inhomogeneities of the detector.
- 7.2.2.4 Users shall comply with the detector manufacturers' requirements of temperatures and humidity conditions for both operation and shipping.
- 7.2.2.5 The detector shall be calibrated using the manufacturers' recommendation both for frequency of calibration and the method used. Other calibration methods are allowed as long as approved by the CEO.
- 7.2.2.6 The user shall ensure that all exposures are within the linear operating range of the detector, using either information obtained from the manufacturer or data obtained by the user/CEO.
- Note 1—Collimation (the restriction of the possible paths for radiation by placement of absorbing material) near the radiation source is used to limit the radiation beam to correspond to the general shape of the detection apparatus. In some cases, further collimation near the detector bank or for each detector is used to determine the thickness of the slice and to reduce or eliminate scattered radiation from that which will ultimately be measured.
- 7.2.3 <u>Manipulation/Handling System—An area detector provides a fast method of collecting data but entails the transfer and storage of large amounts of information, forces tradeoffs between cross talk and detector efficiency, and creates serious collimation and shielding challenges. The manipulation system has the function of holding the test object and providing the necessary range of motions to position the test object between the radiation source and detector. Two types of scan motion geometries are most common: translate-rotate motion and rotate-only motion.</u>
- 7.2.3.1 Users shall comply with the handling system manufacturers' requirements of weight, size, temperatures, and humidity conditions for both operation and shipping.

- 7.2.3.2 The handling system shall be calibrated using the manufacturers' recommendation both for frequency of calibration and the method used. Other calibration methods are allowed as long as approved by the CEO.
- 7.2.3.3 The user shall ensure that all exposures are within the fan-beam envelope of the source-handling system, using either information obtained from the manufacturer or data obtained by the user/CEO.
- 7.2.4 Computer System(s)—The computer system provides the Operator Interface and performs the tasks of acquisition, reconstruction, visualization, and storage. The system shall have the necessary storage and device interfaces to work with the system provided.
- 7.4 Manipulation System—The manipulation system has the function of holding the test object and providing the necessary range of motions to position the test object between the radiation source and detector. Two types of scan motion geometries are most common: translate-rotate motion and rotate-only motion.
- 7.4.1 With translate-rotate motion, the object is translated in a direction perpendicular to the direction and in the plane of the X-ray beam. Full data sets are obtained by rotating the test object between translations by the fan angle of the beam and again translating the object until a minimum of 180 degrees of data have been acquired. The advantage of this design is simplicity, good view-to-view detector matching, flexibility in the choice of scan parameters, and ability to accommodate a wide range of different object sizes including objects too big to be subtended by the X-ray fan. The disadvantage is longer scan time.
- 7.4.2 With rotate-only motion, a complete view is collected by the detector array during each sampling interval. A rotate-only scan has lower motion penalty than a translate-rotate scan and is attractive for industrial applications where the part to be examined fits within the fan beam and scan speed is important.
- 7.4.3 In volume CT, a complete data set for the entire part is acquired in at least one rotation. This allows for much faster data acquisition, as the data required for multiple slices can be acquired in one rotation.
- 7.5 Computer System—CT requires substantial computational resources, such as a large capacity for image storage and archival and the ability to efficiently perform numerous mathematical computations, especially for the back-projection operation. Computational speed can be augmented by either generalized array processors or specialized back-projection hardware. The particular implementations will change as computer hardware evolves, but high computational power will remain a fundamental requirement for efficient CT examination. A separate workstation for image analysis and display often is appropriate.
- 7.6 Image Reconstruction Software— The aim of CT is to obtain information regarding the nature of material occupying exact positions inside a test object. In current CT scanners, this information is obtained by "reconstructing" individual cross-sections of the test object from the measured intensity of X-ray beams transmitted through that cross-section. An exact mathematical theory of image reconstruction exists for idealized data. This theory is applied although the physical measurements do not fully meet the requirements of the theory. When applied to actual measurements, algorithms based on this theory produce images with blurring and noise, the extent of which depends on the quantity and quality of the measurements.
- 7.6.1 The simplifying assumptions made in setting up the theory of reconstruction algorithms are: (1) cross sections are infinitely thin (that is, they are planes), (2) both the source focal spot and the detector elements are infinitely small (that is, they are points), (3) the physical measurements correspond to total attenuation along the line between the source and detector, and (4) the radiation is, or can be treated as, effectively monoenergetic. A reconstruction algorithm is a collection of step-by-step instructions that define how to convert the measurements of total attenuation to a map of linear attenuation coefficients over the field of view.
- 7.6.2 A number of methods for recovering an estimate of the cross section of an object have evolved. They can be broadly grouped into three classes of algorithms: matrix inversion methods, finite series-expansion methods, and transform methods. See Guide E1441 for treatment of reconstruction algorithms.
- 7.6.3 If the test object is larger than the prescribed field of view (FOV), either by necessity or by accident, unexpected and unpredictable artifacts or a measurable degradation of image quality can result.
- 7.3 Image Display—The An additional key element of the CT system is the function of the image display is display, specifically to convey derived information (that is, an image) of the test object to the system operator. For manual evaluation systems, the displayed image is used as the basis for accepting or rejecting the test object, subject to the operator's interpretation of the CT data.
- 7.3.1 Generally, CT image display requires a special graphics monitor; television image presentation is of lower quality but may be acceptable. Most industrial systems utilize color displays. These units can be switched between color and gray-scale presentation to suit the preference of the viewer, but it should be noted that gray-scale images presented on a color monitor are not as sharp as those on a gray-scale monitor. The use of color permits the viewer to distinguish a greater range of variations in an image than gray-scale does. Depending on the application, this may be an advantage or a disadvantage. Sharply contrasting colors may introduce false, distinct definition between boundaries. While at times advantageous, unwanted instances can be corrected through the choice of color (or monochrome) scale. The image display shall meet the following requirements as a minimum. Alternate image displays or requirements may be used with CEO approval.
- 7.3.1.1 The minimum brightness as measured off the image display screen at maximum Digital Driving Level (DDL) shall be 250 cd/m2.
- 7.3.1.2 The minimum contrast as determined by the ratio of the screen brightness at the maximum DDL compared to the screen brightness at the minimum DDL shall be 250:1.



- 7.3.1.3 The image display shall be capable of displaying linear patterns of alternating pixels at full contrast in both the horizontal and vertical directions without aliasing.
 - 7.3.1.4 The display shall be free of discernable geometric distortion.
 - 7.3.1.5 The display shall be free of screen flicker, characterized by high frequency fluctuation of high contrast image details.
- 7.3.1.6 The image display shall be capable of displaying a 5 % DDL block against a 0 % DDL background and simultaneously displaying a 95 % DDL block against a 100 % background in a manner clearly perceptible to the user. An image display test pattern, in accordance with the requirements of SMPTE RP 133, shall be configured for the system display resolution and aspect ratio. Alternate test patterns may be used provided they include the features described in SMPTE RP 133 required to perform the quality tests specified in this practice.
- 7.3.1.7 The monitor shall be capable of discriminating the horizontal and vertical low contrast (1 %) modulation patterns at the display center and each of the four corner locations.
- 7.4 Data Storage Medium—Storage—Many CT applications require an archival-quality record of the CT examination. This could be in the form of raw data or reconstructed data. Therefore, formats and headers of digital data need to be specified so information can be retrieved at a later date. Each archiving system has its own specifics as to image quality, archival storage properties, equipment, and media cost. Computer systems are designed to interface to a wide variety of peripherals. As technology advances or needs change, or both, equipment can be easily and affordably upgraded. The examination record archiving system should be chosen on the basis of these and specific requirements as to archival storage properties, equipment, and media cost and other pertinent parameters, as agreed upon by the supplier and purchaser of CT services. The reproduction quality of the archival method should be sufficient to demonstrate the same image quality as was used to qualify the CT system. Storage of images to the DICONDE standard Practices E2339 and E2767 is recommended.
- 7.9 Operator Interface—The operator interface determines much of the function of the rest of the CT system. The control panel and image display system are the two significant subsystems affected. The control software, hardware mechanisms, and interface to a remote data workstation if applicable, are among those controlled by this interface. Override logic, emergency shutdown, and safety interlocks are also controlled at this point. There are three types of operator interfaces.
- 7.9.1 A simple programming console interface, where the operator types in commands on a keyboard. While being less "user friendly," this type can offer the greatest range of flexibility and versatility.
- 7.9.2 The dedicated console with specific function buttons and relatively rigid data and processing features. These systems are usually developed explicitly for standardized, nonvarying examination tasks. They are designed to be "functionally hardwired" for efficient throughput for that program. Medical CT equipment is often of this type.
- 7.9.3 A graphical user interface employing a software display of the menu or windowing type with means such as a pointing device for entering responses and interacting with the system. This approach has the advantage of being able to combine the best features of the other two types of operator interfaces.
- 7.10 Automation—A variation among CT systems is the extent to which users can create, modify or elaborate image enhancement or automated evaluation processes. The level of sophistication and versatility of a user command language or a "learning mode" is an important consideration for purchasers and suppliers who expect to scan a variety of objects or to improve their processes as they gain experience with CT.

8. Documentation

- 8.1 Documentation of the examination protocol shall cover the following:
- 8.1.1 Equipment Qualifications—The following system features shall be included:
- 8.1.2 Test Object Scan Plan—A listing of test object(s), scan parameters and performance measurements to be extracted from the image(s).
 - 8.1.2.1 Data Acquisition Parameters—A listing of radiation source and detector-related variables include the following:
 - (1) Source energy,
 - (2) Intensity, current, Rad output or equivalent,
 - (3) Integration time, number of pulses or equivalent,
 - (4) Source spot size or isotope source size,
 - (5) Source filtration,
 - (6) Source collimation,
 - (7) Detector filtration,
 - (8) Detector collimation.
 - (9) Source-to-axis distances,
 - (10) Source-to-detector distance,
 - (11) Detector gain factor, gain range, or equivalent,
 - (12) Sampling parameters (linear increment, angular increment or equivalent),
 - (13) Number of detectors or channels,
 - (14) Scan mode, that is, translate-rotate or rotate only,