### Applications of Image Processing and Registration in Medical Imaging: Breast Imaging

Thomas R. Nelson, Ph.D. Professor of Radiology and Bioengineering UC San Diego tnelson@ucsd.edu Applications of Image Processing and Registration in Medical Imaging

### Strategic Organization of Image Processing



Applications of Image Processing and Registration in Medical Imaging

### Anatomic

- Intensity
- Shape
- Speckle pattern

### Functional

- Motion
- Temporal variation
- Tissue properties





### BENG 280B Comparative Biomedical Imaging

. Spring Quarter 2009

### Course website: http://webct6web.ucsd.edu

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Application of biomedical imaging to the measurement of structure, function, and dynamics of organ systems from the microscopic to the organ level. Emphasis on detailed evaluation and comparison of specific imaging modalities.



### ickground:

- One in 6 women will develop breast cancer
- Early detection is the most important factor for survival
- Most cancers arise in dense ductal tissue
- Mammography is the "gold standard" but dense breasts are a challenge
- Volume imaging (bCT or VBUS) improves lesion localization
- Precision localization improves biopsy results, especially for small lesions
- Robotic devices may provide more precise device placement





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### Building a Breast Imaging Machine

Breast CT - Design / Construction System Modules Acquisition Reconstruction Breast Ultrasound - Design / Construction System Modules Acquisition Reconstruction Mammogram Simulation Classification & Extraction Compression Tissue Parameter Estimation Image-Guided Robotic Biopsy

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### **Breast Imaging**

- Tomographic slices
- Pendant breast
  less discomfort
  - better resolution







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### System Control Modules

- interface all sub-systems to master control
- position synchronization
- control timing
- control x-ray on
- interlocks
- acquisition control



- X-ray tube & power supply
  - 100 kVp 6.4 mA ---> 0.7 kW generator
  - 0.4 mm × 0.4 mm focal spot
  - Be window
  - water cooled heat exchanger
  - high voltage cables
  - grounding rod







### X-ray detector

- Solid-state Cs(I)
- TFT detector
  - 1x1: 2048 x 1536
    - 0.194 mm pixels
    - 60 frames per second
  - 2x2: 1024 x 768
    - 0.388 mm pixels
    - 30 frames per second
  - 2x4: 1024 x 384
    - Dual Gain Mode
    - 30 frames per second



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### Gantry motion

- motor control (angle & motion)
- interface with x-ray
- interface with detector
- support x-ray tube
- support detector
- precise angular control



Kollmorgen Servo Motor DDR D081M 13.0 ft-lb continuous torque 32.0 ft-lb peak torque



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Data acquisition and analysis

- $\cdot$  acquire images through  $2\pi$  geometry
- incorporate system calibration parameters
- correct images errors
  - non-linearity
  - pixel drop-out
- perform weighted back-projection algorithm
- correct slices to CT numbers
- provide image orientation
- provide image position





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### Patient support

- provide comfortable support for patient
- provide close access to chest wall
- support weight of large patients





















Breast CT voxels are 16x Smaller Than Mammography



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### **Spatial Resolution**



influence of reconstruction matrix















CTA0415 - DCIS



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### Design Strategy:

- Image pendant breast
- Use clinical US scanner with high frequency probe
- Stabilize breast without compression
- Automate scan acquisition
- Integrate with breast CT scanner

### Performance Parameters Evaluated:

- Spatial and contrast resolution
- Image acquisition time
- Image compounding and speckle reduction
- Volumetric data display
- Evaluate series of test objects
- Evaluate volunteers







### Results:

- Scan acquisition fully automated
- Scan time 18 sec at 20°/sec
- Pendant geometry provides good visualization of entire breast
- Slice reconstruction time < 100 ms using GPU
- Volume reconstruction time < 5 sec using GPU
- Slice images compare favorably with Breast CT
- Spatial resolution ~ 1 mm
- Volume breast data reviewed on volume workstation















### Low Contrast Test Objects

VBUS Scan



Urethane (CIRS, Norfolk, VA) Test Object

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### Volume Breast Ultrasound









Standard

VBUS - V

VBUS - H

bCT





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Primary challenges to simulate mechanical compression of the breast:

- describe the mechanical properties of breast tissue
  - tissues present
  - proper classification
  - mechanical coefficients for each tissue
- select the appropriate numerical model
- describe the contact between the
  - compression paddle and the breast skin
  - mammography unit and the breast skin



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Fat

- Numerical Compression Methods:
- Evaluated various approaches to compression
  - Forward approach Finite Element Analysis
  - Inverse approach registration / transform



Numerical Compression Methods: Finite Element Analysis

- Challenges
  - Mesh generation
  - Mesh complexity
  - Computational time
- Benefits
  - Accurate simulation
  - Results may be generalized for rapid computation
  - Physical parameters may be extracted from solution

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### Methods

- Finite Element Analysis
- Challenges
  - Computational time
  - Mesh generation
  - Mesh complexity



 Use techniques of Garboczi et.al. to solve the equations in a random linear elastic material, subject to an applied macroscopic strain, using the finite element method.



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### Simple Compression - Breast (segmented)



Breast(segmented) (Young's Modulus – skin 90 kPa, Gland 10 kPa, Fat 1 kPa, Meduim 1 kPa)



• Droplet on Plane Surface:





100 facet polygon

• Incorporating gravity and surface contact energy

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- Surface is fit by tetrahedral elements
  - Used voxel data threshold value
- Mesh is generated by marching tetrahedra algorithm
  - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marching\_tetrahedrons
  - G. M. Treece, R. W. Prager, and A. H. Gee. Regularised marching tetrahedra: improved iso-surface extraction. Computers and Graphics, 23(4):583--598, 1999

- Interior treated as incompressible fluid
  - volume preserved
- Chest wall vertices remain in a plane
- Impose various constraints
  - Pointwise:
    - Fixed vertices
    - Level set constraints
    - One-sided constraints
      - nonpositive or non negative vertex function
  - Global:
    - Volume constraint
- Apply compression









their compression displacement

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### (IWD Interpolation).

- One of the most commonly used methods to interpolate a series of scatter points.
- Assumption: interpolated value is most influenced by nearby points and less by more distant points.
- The simplest form of IWD Interpolation is "Shepard's method"
  - D. Shepard, A two-dimensional interpolating function for irregularly spaced data. Proc. ACM. nat. Conf., 517--524, 1968





### before compression

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### Applications of Image Processing and Registration in Medical Imaging

### Building a Breast Imaging Machine

### Breast CT - Design / Construction

System Modules

Acquisition

Reconstruction

Breast Ultrasound - Design / Construction

System Modules

Acquisition

Reconstruction

### Mammogram Simulation

Classification & Extraction Compression

Tissue Parameter Estimation

Image-Guided Robotic Biopsy

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### Sound speed and attenuation:

- Measure time delay (spatial shift) of reflections from back wall
  - delay represents relative change in speed from baseline as sound propagates through different materials
- Time delay converted into per view time delay line
  - no delay equals baseline sound speed
  - shift towards transducer represents shorter time delay
  - shift away from transducer represents longer time delay



time delay = 2 \* x / v x = distance (m) v = speed of sound assumed by US machine (m/s)





### Sound Speed and Attenuation







reflection

speed-of-sound attenuation

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### Sound Speed and Attenuation



reflection

speed-of-sound

attenuation

### Conclusions:

- Possible to produce sound speed images with clinical scanners
- Work remains in improving resolution and accuracy
- With further technical improvements may provide sufficient information to assist in improved tissue characterization
  - potential contributions to improving cancer DX



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Minimally-Invasive Image-Guided Breast Cancer Detection and Biopsy

### Fibro-Glandular Breast with Tumor







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Minimally-Invasive Image-Guided Breast Cancer Detection and Biopsy









P0003 (VBUS) - P0133 (bCT



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