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Takeyoshi Dohi Ron Kikinis (Eds.)

# Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention – MICCAI 2002

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## Preface

The fifth international Conference in Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention (MICCAI 2002) was held in Tokyo from September 25th to 28th, 2002. This was the first time that the conference was held in Asia since its foundation in 1998. The objective of the conference is to offer clinicians and scientists the opportunity to collaboratively create and explore the new medical field. Specifically, MICCAI offers a forum for the discussion of the state of art in computer-assisted interventions, medical robotics, and image processing among experts from multi-disciplinary professions, including but not limited to clinical doctors, computer scientists, and mechanical and biomedical engineers. The expectations of society are very high; the advancement of medicine will depend on computer and device technology in coming decades, as they did in the last decades.

We received 321 manuscripts, of which 41 were chosen for oral presentation and 143 for poster presentation. Each paper has been included in these proceedings in eight-page full paper format, without any differentiation between oral and poster papers. Adherence to this full paper format, along with the increased number of manuscripts, surpassing all our expectations, has led us to issue two proceedings volumes for the first time in MICCAI's history. Keeping to a single volume by assigning fewer pages to each paper was certainly an option for us considering our budget constraints. However, we decided to increase the volume to offer authors maximum opportunity to argue the state of art in their work and to initiate constructive discussions among the MICCAI audience.

It was our great pleasure to welcome all MICCAI 2002 attendees to Tokyo. Japan, in fall, is known for its beautiful foliage all over the country. The traditional Japanese architectures always catches the eyes of visitors to Japan. We hope that all the MICCAI attendees took the opportunity to enjoy Japan and that they had a scientifically fruitful time at the conference. Those who could not attend the conference should keep the proceedings as a valuable source of information for their academic activities.

We look forward to seeing you at another successful MICCAI in Toronto in 2003.

July 2002

DOHI Takeyoshi and Ron Kikinis

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# Table of Contents, Part I

## Robotics – Endoscopic Device

Using an Endoscopic Solo Surgery Simulator for Quantitative Evaluation of Human-Machine Interface in Robotic Camera Positioning Systems .....	1
<i>A. Nishikawa, D. Negoro, H. Kakutani, F. Miyazaki, M. Sekimoto, M. Yasui, S. Takiguchi, M. Monden</i>	
Automatic 3-D Positioning of Surgical Instruments during Robotized Laparoscopic Surgery Using Automatic Visual Feedback .....	9
<i>A. Krupa, M. de Mathelin, C. Doignon, J. Gangloff, G. Morel, L. Soler, J. Leroy, J. Marescaux</i>	
Development of a Compact Cable-Driven Laparoscopic Endoscope Manipulator .....	17
<i>P.J. Berkelman, P. Cinquin, J. Troccaz, J.-M. Ayoubi, C. Létoublon</i>	
Flexible Calibration of Actuated Stereoscopic Endoscope for Overlay in Robot Assisted Surgery .....	25
<i>F. Mourgues, È. Coste-Manière</i>	
Metrics for Laparoscopic Skills Trainers: The Weakest Link! .....	35
<i>S. Cotin, N. Stylopoulos, M. Ottensmeyer, P. Neumann, D. Rattner, S. Dawson</i>	
Surgical Skill Evaluation by Force Data for Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Training System .....	44
<i>Y. Yamauchi, J. Yamashita, O. Morikawa, R. Hashimoto, M. Mochimaru, Y. Fukui, H. Uno, K. Yokoyama</i>	
Development of a Master Slave Combined Manipulator for Laparoscopic Surgery – Functional Model and Its Evaluation .....	52
<i>M. Jinno, N. Matsuhira, T. Sunaoshi, T. Hato, T. Miyagawa, Y. Morikawa, T. Furukawa, S. Ozawa, M. Kitajima, K. Nakazawa</i>	
Development of Three-Dimensional Endoscopic Ultrasound System with Optical Tracking .....	60
<i>N. Koizumi, K. Sumiyama, N. Suzuki, A. Hattori, H. Tajiri, A. Uchiyama</i>	
Real-Time Haptic Feedback in Laparoscopic Tools for Use in Gastro-Intestinal Surgery .....	66
<i>T. Hu, A.E. Castellanos, G. Tholey, J.P. Desai</i>	
Small Occupancy Robotic Mechanisms for Endoscopic Surgery .....	75
<i>Y. Kobayashi, S. Chiyoda, K. Watabe, M. Okada, Y. Nakamura</i>	

## Robotics in Image-Guided Surgery

Development of MR Compatible Surgical Manipulator toward a Unified Support System for Diagnosis and Treatment of Heart Disease .....	83
<i>F. Tajima, K. Kishi, K. Nishizawa, K. Kan, Y. Nemoto, H. Takeda, S. Umemura, H. Takeuchi, M.G. Fujie, T. Dohi, K. Sudo, S. Takamoto</i>	
Transrectal Prostate Biopsy Inside Closed MRI Scanner with Remote Actuation, under Real-Time Image Guidance .....	91
<i>G. Fichtinger, A. Krieger, R.C. Susil, A. Tanacs, L.L. Whitcomb, E. Atalar</i>	
A New, Compact MR-Compatible Surgical Manipulator for Minimally Invasive Liver Surgery .....	99
<i>D. Kim, E. Kobayashi, T. Dohi, I. Sakuma</i>	
Micro-grasping Forceps Manipulator for MR-Guided Neurosurgery .....	107
<i>N. Miyata, E. Kobayashi, D. Kim, K. Masamune, I. Sakuma, N. Yahagi, T. Tsuji, H. Inada, T. Dohi, H. Iseki, K. Takakura</i>	

Endoscope Manipulator for Trans-nasal Neurosurgery, Optimized for and Compatible to Vertical Field Open MRI .....	114
<i>Y. Koseki, T. Washio, K. Chinzei, H. Iseki</i>	

A Motion Adaptable Needle Placement Instrument Based on Tumor Specific Ultrasonic Image Segmentation .....	122
<i>J.-S. Hong, T. Dohi, M. Hasizume, K. Konishi, N. Hata</i>	

## Robotics – Tele-operation

Experiment of Wireless Tele-echography System by Controlling Echographic Diagnosis Robot .....	130
<i>K. Masuda, N. Tateishi, Y. Suzuki, E. Kimura, Y. Wie, K. Ishihara</i>	
Experiments with the TER Tele-echography Robot .....	138
<i>A. Vilchis, J. Troccaz, P. Cinquin, A. Guerraz, F. Pellisier, P. Thorel, B. Tondu, F. Courrèges, G. Poisson, M. Althusser, J.-M. Ayoubi</i>	

The Effect of Visual and Haptic Feedback on Manual and Teleoperated Needle Insertion .....	147
<i>O. Gerovichev, P. Marayong, A.M. Okamura</i>	

Analysis of Suture Manipulation Forces for Teleoperation with Force Feedback .....	155
<i>M. Kitagawa, A.M. Okamura, B.T. Bethea, V.L. Gott, W.A. Baumgartner</i>	

Remote Microsurgery System for Deep and Narrow Space –  
Development of New Surgical Procedure and Micro-robotic Tool ..... 163  
*K. Ikuta, K. Sasaki, K. Yamamoto, T. Shimada*

Hyper-finger for Remote Minimally Invasive Surgery in Deep Area ..... 173  
*K. Ikuta, S. Daifu, T. Hasegawa, H. Higashikawa*

## **Robotics – Device**

Safety-Active Catheter with Multiple-Segments Driven  
by Micro-hydraulic Actuators ..... 182  
*K. Ikuta, H. Ichikawa, K. Suzuki*

A Stem Cell Harvesting Manipulator with Flexible Drilling Unit  
for Bone Marrow Transplantation ..... 192  
*K. Ohashi, N. Hata, T. Matsumura, N. Yahagi, I. Sakuma, T. Dohi*

Liver Tumor Biopsy in a Respiring Phantom with the Assistance  
of a Novel Electromagnetic Navigation Device ..... 200  
*F. Banovac, N. Glossop, D. Lindisch, D. Tanaka, E. Levy, K. Cleary*

Non-invasive Measurement of Biomechanical Properties  
of *in vivo* Soft Tissues ..... 208  
*Lianghao Han, Michael Burcher, J. Alison Noble*

Measurement of the Tip and Friction Force Acting on a Needle  
during Penetration ..... 216  
*H. Kataoka, T. Washio, K. Chinzei, K. Mizuhara, C. Simone,  
A.M. Okamura*

Contact Force Evaluation of Orthoses for the Treatment  
of Malformed Ears ..... 224  
*A. Hanafusa, T. Isomura, Y. Sekiguchi, H. Takahashi, T. Dohi*

Computer-Assisted Correction of Bone Deformities  
Using A 6-DOF Parallel Spatial Mechanism ..... 232  
*O. Iyun, D.P. Borschneck, R.E. Ellis*

## **Robotics – System**

Development of 4-Dimensional Human Model System for the Patient  
after Total Hip Arthroplasty ..... 241  
*Y. Otake, K. Hagio, N. Suzuki, A. Hattori, N. Sugano, K. Yonenobu,  
T. Ochi*

Development of a Training System for Cardiac Muscle Palpation ..... 248  
*T. Tokuyasu, S. Oota, K. Asami, T. Kitamura, G. Sakaguchi,  
T. Koyama, M. Komeda*

Preliminary Results of an Early Clinical Experience with the Acrobot™ System for Total Knee Replacement Surgery .....	256
<i>M. Jakopec, S.J. Harris, F. Rodriguez y Baena, P. Gomes, J. Cobb,     B.L. Davies</i>	
A Prostate Brachytherapy Training Rehearsal System – Simulation of Deformable Needle Insertion .....	264
<i>A. Kimura, J. Camp, R. Robb, B. Davis</i>	
A Versatile System for Computer Integrated Mini-invasive Robotic Surgery .....	272
<i>L. Adhami, È. Coste-Manière</i>	

Measurements of Soft-Tissue Mechanical Properties to Support Development of a Physically Based Virtual Animal Model .....	282
<i>C. Bruyns, M. Ottensmeyer</i>	

## Validation

Validation of Tissue Modelization and Classification Techniques in T1-Weighted MR Brain Images .....	290
<i>M. Bach Cuadra, B. Platel, E. Solanas, T. Butz, J.-Ph. Thiran</i>	

Validation of Image Segmentation and Expert Quality with an Expectation-Maximization Algorithm .....	298
<i>S.K. Warfield, K.H. Zou, W.M. Wells</i>	

Validation of Volume-Preserving Non-rigid Registration: Application to Contrast-Enhanced MR-Mammography .....	307
<i>C. Tanner, J.A. Schnabel, A. Degenhard, A.D. Castellano-Smith,     C. Hayes, M.O. Leach, D.R. Hose, D.L.G. Hill, D.J. Hawkes</i>	

Statistical Validation of Automated Probabilistic Segmentation against Composite Latent Expert Ground Truth in MR Imaging of Brain Tumors .	315
<i>K.H. Zou, W.M. Wells III, M.R. Kaus, R. Kikinis, F.A. Jolesz,     S.K. Warfield</i>	

A Posteriori Validation of Pre-operative Planning in Functional Neurosurgery by Quantification of Brain Pneumocephalus .....	323
<i>É. Bardinet, P. Cathier, A. Roche, N. Ayache, D. Dormont</i>	

Affine Transformations and Atlases: Assessing a New Navigation Tool for Knee Arthroplasty .....	331
<i>B. Ma, J.F. Rudan, R.E. Ellis</i>	

Effectiveness of the ROBODOC System during Total Hip Arthroplasty in Preventing Intraoperative Pulmonary Embolism .....	339
<i>K. Hagio, N. Sugano, M. Takashina, T. Nishii, H. Yoshikawa, T. Ochi</i>	

Medical Image Synthesis via Monte Carlo Simulation .....	347
<i>J.Z. Chen, S.M. Pizer, E.L. Chaney, S. Joshi</i>	
Performance Issues in Shape Classification .....	355
<i>S.J. Timoner, P. Golland, R. Kikinis, M.E. Shenton, W.E.L. Grimson, W.M. Wells III</i>	
<b>Brain-Tumor, Cortex, Vascular Structure</b>	
Statistical Analysis of Longitudinal MRI Data:	
Applications for Detection of Disease Activity in MS .....	363
<i>S. Prima, N. Ayache, A. Janke, S.J. Francis, D.L. Arnold, D.L. Collins</i>	
Automatic Brain and Tumor Segmentation .....	372
<i>N. Moon, E. Bullitt, K. van Leemput, G. Gerig</i>	
Atlas-Based Segmentation of Pathological Brains Using a Model of Tumor Growth .....	380
<i>M. Bach Cuadra, J. Gomez, P. Hagmann, C. Pollo, J.-G. Villemure, B.M. Dawant, J.-Ph. Thiran</i>	
Recognizing Deviations from Normalcy for Brain Tumor Segmentation ...	388
<i>D.T. Gering, W.E.L. Grimson, R. Kikinis</i>	
3D-Visualization and Registration for Neurovascular Compression Syndrome Analysis .....	396
<i>P. Hastreiter, R. Naraghi, B. Tomandl, M. Bauer, R. Fahlbusch</i>	
3D Guide Wire Reconstruction from Biplane Image Sequences for 3D Navigation in Endovascular Interventions .....	404
<i>S.A.M. Baert, E.B. van der Kraats, W.J. Niessen</i>	
Standardized Analysis of Intracranial Aneurysms	
Using Digital Video Sequences .....	411
<i>S. Iserhardt-Bauer, P. Hastreiter, B. Tomandl, N. Köstner, M. Schempershöfe, U. Nissen, T. Ertl</i>	
Demarcation of Aneurysms Using the Seed and Cull Algorithm .....	419
<i>R.A. McLaughlin, J.A. Noble</i>	
Gyral Parcellation of the Cortical Surface	
Using Geodesic Voronoï Diagrams .....	427
<i>A. Cachia, J.-F. Mangin, D. Rivière, D. Papadopoulos-Orfanos, I. Bloch, J. Réglis</i>	
Regularized Stochastic White Matter Tractography	
Using Diffusion Tensor MRI .....	435
<i>M. Björnemo, A. Brun, R. Kikinis, C.-F. Westin</i>	

Sulcal Segmentation for Cortical Thickness Measurements .....	443
<i>C. Hutton, E. De Vita, R. Turner</i>	

Labeling the Brain Surface Using a Deformable Multiresolution Mesh .....	451
<i>S. Jaume, B. Macq, S.K. Warfield</i>	

## Brain – Imaging and Analysis

New Approaches to Estimation of White Matter Connectivity in Diffusion Tensor MRI: Elliptic PDEs and Geodesics in a Tensor-Warped Space .....	459
<i>L. O'Donnell, S. Haker, C.-F. Westin</i>	

Improved Detection Sensitivity in Functional MRI Data Using a Brain Parcelling Technique .....	467
<i>G. Flandin, F. Kherif, X. Pennec, G. Malandain, N. Ayache, J.-B. Poline</i>	

A Spin Glass Based Framework to Untangle Fiber Crossing in MR Diffusion Based Tracking .....	475
<i>Y. Cointepas, C. Poupon, D. Le Bihan, J.-F. Mangin</i>	

Automated Approximation of Lateral Ventricular Shape in Magnetic Resonance Images of Multiple Sclerosis Patients .....	483
<i>B. Sturm, D. Meier, E. Fisher</i>	

An Intensity Consistent Approach to the Cross Sectional Analysis of Deformation Tensor Derived Maps of Brain Shape .....	492
<i>C. Studholme, V. Cardenas, A. Maudsley, M. Weiner</i>	

Detection of Inter-hemispheric Asymmetries of Brain Perfusion in SPECT .....	500
<i>B. Aubert-Broche, C. Grova, P. Jannin, I. Buvat, H. Benali, B. Gibaud</i>	

Discriminative Analysis for Image-Based Studies .....	508
<i>P. Golland, B. Fischl, M. Spiridon, N. Kanwisher, R.L. Buckner, M.E. Shenton, R. Kikinis, A. Dale, W.E.L. Grimson</i>	

Automatic Generation of Training Data for Brain Tissue Classification from MRI .....	516
<i>C.A. Cocosco, A.P. Zijdenbos, A.C. Evans</i>	

The Putamen Intensity Gradient in CJD Diagnosis .....	524
<i>A. Hojjat, D. Collie, A.C.F. Colchester</i>	

A Dynamic Brain Atlas .....	532
<i>D.L.G. Hill, J.V. Hajnal, D. Rueckert, S.M. Smith, T. Hartkens, K. McLeish</i>	

Model Library for Deformable Model-Based Segmentation of 3-D Brain MR-Images . . . . .	540
<i>J. Koikkalainen, J. Lötjönen</i>	

Co-registration of Histological, Optical and MR Data of the Human Brain . . . . .	548
<i>É. Bardinet, S. Ourselin, D. Dormont, G. Malandain, D. Tandé, K. Parain, N. Ayache, J. Yelnik</i>	

## Segmentation

An Automated Segmentation Method of Kidney Using Statistical Information . . . . .	556
<i>B. Tsagaan, A. Shimizu, H. Kobatake, K. Miyakawa</i>	

Incorporating Non-rigid Registration into Expectation Maximization Algorithm to Segment MR Images . . . . .	564
<i>K.M. Pohl, W.M. Wells, A. Guimond, K. Kasai, M.E. Shenton, R. Kikinis, W.E.L. Grimson, S.K. Warfield</i>	

Segmentation of 3D Medical Structures Using Robust Ray Propagation . . . . .	572
<i>H. Tek, M. Bergtholdt, D. Comaniciu, J. Williams</i>	

MAP MRF Joint Segmentation and Registration . . . . .	580
<i>P.P. Wyatt, J.A. Noble</i>	

Statistical Neighbor Distance Influence in Active Contours . . . . .	588
<i>J. Yang, L.H. Staib, J.S. Duncan</i>	

Active Watersheds: Combining 3D Watershed Segmentation and Active Contours to Extract Abdominal Organs from MR Images . . . . .	596
<i>R.J. Lapeer, A.C. Tan, R. Aldridge</i>	

## Cardiac Application

Coronary Intervention Planning Using Hybrid 3D Reconstruction . . . . .	604
<i>O. Wink, R. Kemkers, S.J. Chen, J.D. Carroll</i>	

Deformation Modelling Based on PLSR for Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Perfusion Imaging . . . . .	612
<i>J. Gao, N. Ablitt, A. Elkington, G.-Z. Yang</i>	

Automated Segmentation of the Left and Right Ventriles in 4D Cardiac SPAMM Images . . . . .	620
<i>A. Montillo, D. Metaxas, L. Axel</i>	

Stochastic Finite Element Framework for Cardiac Kinematics Function and Material Property Analysis . . . . .	634
<i>P. Shi, H. Liu</i>	

## XXVIII Table of Contents, Part I

Atlas-Based Segmentation and Tracking of 3D Cardiac MR Images Using Non-rigid Registration . . . . .	642
<i>M. Lorenzo-Valdés, G.I. Sanchez-Ortiz, R. Mohiaddin, D. Rueckert</i>	
Myocardial Delineation via Registration in a Polar Coordinate System . . . . .	651
<i>N.M.I. Noble, D.L.G. Hill, M. Breeuwer, J.A. Schnabel, D.J. Hawkes, F.A. Gerritsen, R. Razavi</i>	
Integrated Image Registration for Cardiac MR Perfusion Data . . . . .	659
<i>R. Bansal, G. Funka-Lea</i>	
4D Active Surfaces for Cardiac Analysis . . . . .	667
<i>A. Yezzi, A. Tannenbaum</i>	
A Computer Diagnosing System of Dementia Using Smooth Pursuit Oculogyration . . . . .	674
<i>I. Fukumoto</i>	
Combinative Multi-scale Level Set Framework for Echocardiographic Image Segmentation . . . . .	682
<i>N. Lin, W. Yu, J.S. Duncan</i>	
Automatic Hybrid Segmentation of Dual Contrast Cardiac MR Data . . . . .	690
<i>A. Pednekar, I.A. Kakadiaris, V. Zavaletta, R. Muthupillai, S. Flamm</i>	
Efficient Partial Volume Tissue Classification in MRI Scans . . . . .	698
<i>A. Noe, J.C. Gee</i>	
In-vivo Strain and Stress Estimation of the Left Ventricle from MRI Images . . . . .	706
<i>Z. Hu, D. Metaxas, L. Axel</i>	
Biomechanical Model Construction from Different Modalities: Application to Cardiac Images . . . . .	714
<i>M. Sermesant, C. Forest, X. Pennec, H. Delingette, N. Ayache</i>	
Comparison of Cardiac Motion Across Subjects Using Non-rigid Registration . . . . .	722
<i>A. Rao, G.I. Sanchez-Ortiz, R. Chandrashekara, M. Lorenzo-Valdés, R. Mohiaddin, D. Rueckert</i>	
<b>Computer Assisted Diagnosis</b>	
From Colour to Tissue Histology: Physics Based Interpretation of Images of Pigmented Skin Lesions . . . . .	730
<i>E. Claridge, S. Cotton, P. Hall, M. Moncrieff</i>	
In-vivo Molecular Investigations of Live Tissues Using Diffracting Sources . . . . .	739
<i>V. Ntziachristos, J. Ripoll, E. Graves, R. Weissleder</i>	

Automatic Detection of Nodules Attached to Vessels in Lung CT by Volume Projection Analysis .....	746
<i>G.-Q. Wei, L. Fan, J.Z. Qian</i>	
LV-RV Shape Modeling Based on a Blended Parameterized Model .....	753
<i>K. Park, D.N. Metaxas, L. Axel</i>	
Characterization of Regional Pulmonary Mechanics from Serial MRI Data .....	762
<i>J. Gee, T. Sundaram, I. Hasegawa, H. Uematsu, H. Hatabu</i>	
Using Voxel-Based Morphometry to Examine Atrophy-Behavior Correlates in Alzheimer's Disease and Frontotemporal Dementia .....	770
<i>M.P. Lin, C. Devita, J.C. Gee, M. Grossman</i>	
Detecting Wedge Shaped Defects in Polarimetric Images of the Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer .....	777
<i>K. Vermeer, F. Vos, H. Lemij, A. Vossepoel</i>	
Automatic Statistical Identification of Neuroanatomical Abnormalities between Different Populations .....	785
<i>A. Guimond, S. Egorova, R.J. Killiany, M.S. Albert, C.R.G. Guttmann</i>	
Example-Based Assisting Approach for Pulmonary Nodule Classification in 3-D Thoracic CT Images .....	793
<i>Y. Kawata, N. Niki, H. Ohmatsu, N. Moriyama</i>	
<b>Author Index .....</b>	801

## Table of Contents, Part II

### Tubular Structures

Automated Nomenclature Labeling of the Bronchial Tree in 3D-CT Lung Images .....	1
<i>H. Kitaoka, Y. Park, J. Tschirren, J. Reinhardt, M. Sonka,     G. McLennan, E.A. Hoffman</i>	
Segmentation, Skeletonization, and Branchpoint Matching – A Fully Automated Quantitative Evaluation of Human Intrathoracic Airway Trees .....	12
<i>J. Tschirren, K. Palágyi, J.M. Reinhardt, E.A. Hoffman, M. Sonka</i>	
Improving Virtual Endoscopy for the Intestinal Tract .....	20
<i>M. Harders, S. Wildermuth, D. Weishaupt, G. Székely</i>	
Finding a Non-continuous Tube by Fuzzy Inference for Segmenting the MR Cholangiography Image .....	28
<i>C. Yasuba, S. Kobashi, K. Kondo, Y. Hata, S. Imawaki, M. Ishikawa</i>	
Level-Set Based Carotid Artery Segmentation for Stenosis Grading .....	36
<i>C.M. van Bemmel, L.J. Spreeuwiers, M.A. Viergever, W.J. Niessen</i>	

### Interventions – Augmented Reality

PC-Based Control Unit for a Head Mounted Operating Microscope for Augmented Reality Visualization in Surgical Navigation .....	44
<i>M. Figl, W. Birkfellner, F. Watzinger, F. Wanschitz, J. Hummel,     R. Hanel, R. Ewers, H. Bergmann</i>	
Technical Developments for MR-Guided Microwave Thermocoagulation Therapy of Liver Tumors .....	52
<i>S. Morikawa, T. Inubushi, Y. Kurumi, S. Naka, K. Sato, T. Tani,     N. Hata, V. Seshan, H.A. Haque</i>	
Robust Automatic C-Arm Calibration for Fluoroscopy-Based Navigation: A Practical Approach .....	60
<i>H. Livyatan, Z. Yaniv, L. Joskowicz</i>	

Application of a Population Based Electrophysiological Database to the Planning and Guidance of Deep Brain Stereotactic Neurosurgery .....	69
<i>K.W. Finnis, Y.P. Starreveld, A.G. Parrent, A.F. Sadikot,     T.M. Peters</i>	

An Image Overlay System with Enhanced Reality for Percutaneous Therapy Performed Inside CT Scanner .....	77
<i>K. Masamune, G. Fichtinger, A. Deguet, D. Matsuka, R. Taylor</i>	
High-Resolution Stereoscopic Surgical Display Using Parallel Integral Videography and Multi-projector .....	85
<i>H. Liao, N. Hata, M. Iwahara, S. Nakajima, I. Sakuma, T. Dohi</i>	
Three-Dimensional Display for Multi-sourced Activities and Their Relations in the Human Brain by Information Flow between Estimated Dipoles .....	93
<i>N. Take, Y. Kosugi, T. Musha</i>	

## Interventions – Navigation

2D Guide Wire Tracking during Endovascular Interventions .....	101
<i>S.A.M. Baert, W.J. Niessen</i>	
Specification Method of Surface Measurement for Surgical Navigation: Ridgeline Based Organ Registration .....	109
<i>N. Furushiro, T. Saito, Y. Masutani, I. Sakuma</i>	
An Augmented Reality Navigation System with a Single-Camera Tracker: System Design and Needle Biopsy Phantom Trial .....	116
<i>F. Sauer, A. Khamene, S. Vogt</i>	
A Novel Laser Guidance System for Alignment of Linear Surgical Tools: Its Principles and Performance Evaluation as a Man–Machine System .....	125
<i>T. Sasama, N. Sugano, Y. Sato, Y. Momoi, T. Koyama, Y. Nakajima, I. Sakuma, M. Fujie, K. Yonenobu, T. Ochi, S. Tamura</i>	
Navigation of High Intensity Focused Ultrasound Applicator with an Integrated Three-Dimensional Ultrasound Imaging System .....	133
<i>I. Sakuma, Y. Takai, E. Kobayashi, H. Inada, K. Fujimoto, T. Asano</i>	
Robust Registration of Multi-modal Images: Towards Real-Time Clinical Applications .....	140
<i>S. Ourselin, R. Stefanescu, X. Pennec</i>	
3D Ultrasound System Using a Magneto-optic Hybrid Tracker for Augmented Reality Visualization in Laparoscopic Liver Surgery .....	148
<i>M. Nakamoto, Y. Sato, M. Miyamoto, Y. Nakamjima, K. Konishi, M. Shimada, M. Hashizume, S. Tamura</i>	
Interactive Intra-operative 3D Ultrasound Reconstruction and Visualization .....	156
<i>D.G. Gobbi, T.M. Peters</i>	

Projection Profile Matching for Intraoperative MRI Registration Embedded in MR Imaging Sequence .....	164
<i>N. Hata, J. Tokuda, S. Morikawa, T. Dohi</i>	
<b>Simulation</b>	
A New Tool for Surgical Training in Knee Arthroscopy .....	170
<i>G. Megali, O. Tonet, M. Mazzoni, P. Dario, A. Vascellari, M. Marcacci</i>	
Combining Volumetric Soft Tissue Cuts for Interventional Surgery Simulation .....	178
<i>M. Nakao, T. Kuroda, H. Oyama, M. Komori, T. Matsuda, T. Takahashi</i>	
Virtual Endoscopy Using Cubic QuickTime-VR Panorama Views .....	186
<i>U. Tiede, N. von Sternberg-Gospas, P. Steiner, K.H. Höhne</i>	
High Level Simulation & Modeling for Medical Applications – Ultrasound Case .....	193
<i>A. Chihoub</i>	
Generation of Pathologies for Surgical Training Simulators .....	202
<i>R. Sierra, G. Székely, M. Bajka</i>	
Collision Detection Algorithm for Deformable Objects Using OpenGL .....	211
<i>S. Aharon, C. Lenglet</i>	
Online Multiresolution Volumetric Mass Spring Model for Real Time Soft Tissue Deformation .....	219
<i>C. Paloc, F. Bello, R.I. Kitney, A. Darzi</i>	
Orthosis Design System for Malformed Ears Based on Spline Approximation .....	227
<i>A. Hanafusa, T. Isomura, Y. Sekiguchi, H. Takahashi, T. Dohi</i>	
Cutting Simulation of Manifold Volumetric Meshes .....	235
<i>C. Forest, H. Delingette, N. Ayache</i>	
Simulation of Guide Wire Propagation for Minimally Invasive Vascular Interventions .....	245
<i>T. Alderliesten, M.K. Konings, W.J. Niessen</i>	
Needle Insertion Modelling for the Interactive Simulation of Percutaneous Procedures .....	253
<i>S.P. DiMaio, S.E. Salcudean</i>	
3D Analysis of the Alignment of the Lower Extremity in High Tibial Osteotomy .....	261
<i>H. Kawakami, N. Sugano, T. Nagaoka, K. Hagio, K. Yonenobu, H. Yoshikawa, T. Ochi, A. Hattori, N. Suzuki</i>	

Simulation of Intra-operative 3D Coronary Angiography for Enhanced Minimally Invasive Robotic Cardiac Intervention .....	268
<i>G. Lehmann, D. Habets, D.W. Holdsworth, T. Peters, M. Drangova</i>	

Computer Investigation into the Anatomical Location of the Axes of Rotation in the Normal Knee .....	276
<i>S. Martelli, A. Visani</i>	

## Modeling

Macroscopic Modeling of Vascular Systems .....	284
<i>D. Szczerba, G. Székely</i>	

Spatio-temporal Directional Filtering for Improved Inversion of MR Elastography Images .....	293
<i>A. Manduca, D.S. Lake, R.L. Ehman</i>	

RBF-Based Representation of Volumetric Data: Application in Visualization and Segmentation .....	300
<i>Y. Masutani</i>	

An Anatomical Model of the Knee Joint Obtained by Computer Dissection .....	308
<i>S. Martelli, F. Acquaroli, V. Pinskerova, A. Spettol, A. Visani</i>	

Models for Planning and Simulation in Computer Assisted Orthognathic Surgery .....	315
<i>M. Chabanas, C. Marecaux, Y. Payan, F. Boutault</i>	

Simulation of the Exophthalmia Reduction Using a Finite Element Model of the Orbital Soft Tissues .....	323
<i>V. Luboz, A. Pedrono, P. Swider, F. Boutault, Y. Payan</i>	

A Real-Time Deformable Model for Flexible Instruments Inserted into Tubular Structures .....	331
<i>M. Kukuk, B. Geiger</i>	

Modeling of the Human Orbit from MR Images .....	339
<i>Z. Li, C.-K. Chui, Y. Cai, S. Amrith, P.-S. Goh, J.H. Anderson, J. Teo, C. Liu, I. Kusuma, Y.-S. Siow, W.L. Nowinski</i>	

Accurate and High Quality Triangle Models from 3D Grey Scale Images ..	348
<i>P.W. de Bruin, P.M. van Meeteren, F.M. Vos, A.M. Vossepoel, F.H. Post</i>	

Intraoperative Fast 3D Shape Recovery of Abdominal Organs in Laparoscopy .....	356
<i>M. Hayashibe, N. Suzuki, A. Hattori, Y. Nakamura</i>	

## Statistical Shape Modeling

Integrated Approach for Matching Statistical Shape Models with Intra-operative 2D and 3D Data . . . . .	364
M. Fleute, S. Lavallée, L. Desbat	
Building and Testing a Statistical Shape Model of the Human Ear Canal . . . . .	373
R. Paulsen, R. Larsen, C. Nielsen, S. Laugesen, B. Ersbøll	
Shape Characterization of the Corpus Callosum in Schizophrenia	
Using Template Deformation . . . . .	381
A. Dubb, B. Avants, R. Gur, J. Gee	
3D Prostate Surface Detection from Ultrasound Images	
Based on Level Set Method . . . . .	389
S. Fan, L.K. Voon, N.W. Sing	
A Bayesian Approach to <i>in vivo</i> Kidney Ultrasound Contour Detection	
Using Markov Random Fields . . . . .	397
M. Martín, C. Alberola	
Level Set Based Integration of Segmentation and Computational Fluid Dynamics for Flow Correction in Phase Contrast Angiography . . . . .	405
M. Watanabe, R. Kikinis, C.-F. Westin	
Comparative Exudate Classification Using Support Vector Machines and Neural Networks . . . . .	413
A. Osareh, M. Mirmehdi, B. Thomas, R. Markham	
A Statistical Shape Model for the Liver . . . . .	421
H. Lamecker, T. Lange, M. Seebass	
Statistical 2D and 3D Shape Analysis Using Non-Euclidean Metrics . . . . .	428
R. Larsen, K.B. Hilger, M.C. Wrobel	
Kernel Fisher for Shape Based Classification in Epilepsy . . . . .	436
N. Vohra, B.C. Vemuri, A. Rangarajan, R.L. Gilmore, S.N. Roper, C.M. Leonard	
A Noise Robust Statistical Texture Model . . . . .	444
K.B. Hilger, M.B. Stegmann, R. Larsen	
A Combined Statistical and Biomechanical Model for Estimation of Intra-operative Prostate Deformation . . . . .	452
A. Mohamed, C. Davatzikos, R. Taylor	

## Registration – 2D/D Fusion

”Gold Standard” 2D/3D Registration of X-Ray to CT and MR Images . . . . .	461
D. Tomažević, B. Likar, F. Pernuš	

## XVIII Table of Contents, Part II

- A Novel Image Similarity Measure for Registration  
of 3-D MR Images X-Ray Projection Images ..... 469  
*T. Rohlfing, C.R. Maurer Jr.*

- Registration of Preoperative CTA and Intraoperative Fluoroscopic Images  
for Assisting Aortic Stent Grafting ..... 477  
*H. Imamura, N. Ida, N. Sugimoto, S. Eiho, S. Urayama,  
K. Ueno, K. Inoue*

- Preoperative Analysis of Optimal Imaging Orientation in Fluoroscopy  
for Voxel-Based 2-D/3-D Registration ..... 485  
*Y. Nakajima, Y. Tamura, Y. Sato, T. Tashiro, N. Sugano,  
K. Yonenobu, H. Yoshikawa, T. Ochi, S. Tamura*

## Registration – Similarity Measures

- A New Similarity Measure for Nonrigid Volume Registration  
Using Known Joint Distribution of Target Tissue:  
Application to Dynamic CT Data of the Liver ..... 493  
*J. Masumoto, Y. Sato, M. Hori, T. Murakami, T. Johkoh,  
H. Nakamura, S. Tamura*

- 2D-3D Intensity Based Registration of DSA and MRA –  
A Comparison of Similarity Measures ..... 501  
*J.H. Hipwell, G.P. Penney, T.C. Cox, J.V. Byrne, D.J. Hawkes*

- Model Based Spatial and Temporal Similarity Measures  
between Series of Functional Magnetic Resonance Images ..... 509  
*F. Kherif, G. Flandin, P. Ciuciu, H. Benali, O. Simon, J.-B. Poline*

- A Comparison of 2D-3D Intensity-Based Registration  
and Feature-Based Registration for Neurointerventions ..... 517  
*R.A. McLaughlin, J. Hipwell, D.J. Hawkes, J.A. Noble, J.V. Byrne,  
T. Cox*

- Multi-modal Image Registration by Minimising Kullback-Leibler Distance . 525  
*A.C.S. Chung, W.M. Wells III, A. Norbash, W.E.L. Grimson*

- Cortical Surface Registration Using Texture Mapped Point Clouds  
and Mutual Information ..... 533  
*T.K. Sinha, D.M. Cash, R.J. Weil, R.L. Galloway, M.I. Miga*

## Non-rigid Registration

- A Viscous Fluid Model for Multimodal Non-rigid Image Registration  
Using Mutual Information ..... 541  
*E. D'Agostino, F. Maes, D. Vandermeulen, P. Suetens*

Non-rigid Registration with Use of Hardware-Based 3D Bézier Functions . . . . . 549  
*G. Soza, M. Bauer, P. Hastreiter, C. Nimsky, G. Greiner*

Brownian Warps: A Least Committed Prior for Non-rigid Registration . . . . . 557  
*M. Nielsen, P. Johansen, A.D. Jackson, B. Lautrup*

Using Points and Surfaces to Improve Voxel-Based Non-rigid Registration . 565  
*T. Hartkens, D.L.G. Hill, A.D. Castellano-Smith, D.J. Hawkes,  
C.R. Maurer Jr., A.J. Martin, W.A. Hall, H. Liu, C.L. Truwit*

Intra-patient Prone to Supine Colon Registration  
for Synchronized Virtual Colonoscopy . . . . . 573  
*D. Nain, S. Haker, W.E.L. Grimson, E. Cosman Jr, W.W. Wells,  
H. Ji, R. Kikinis, C.-F. Westin*

Nonrigid Registration Using Regularized Matching Weighted  
by Local Structure . . . . . 581  
*E. Suárez, C.-F. Westin, E. Rovaris, J. Ruiz-Alzola*

Inter-subject Registration of Functional and Anatomical Data  
Using SPM . . . . . 590  
*P. Hellier, J. Ashburner, I. Corouge, C. Barillot, K.J. Friston*

## Visualization

Evaluation of Image Quality in Medical Volume Visualization:  
The State of the Art . . . . . 598  
*A. Pommert, K.H. Höhne*

Shear-Warp Volume Rendering Algorithms Using Linear Level Octree  
for PC-Based Medical Simulation . . . . . 606  
*Z. Wang, C.-K. Chui, C.-H. Ang, W.L. Nowinski*

Line Integral Convolution for Visualization  
of Fiber Tract Maps from DTI . . . . . 615  
*T. McGraw, B.C. Vemuri, Z. Wang, Y. Chen, M. Rao, T. Mareci*

On the Accuracy of Isosurfaces in Tomographic Volume Visualization . . . . . 623  
*A. Pommert, U. Tiede, K.H. Höhne*

A Method for Detecting Undisplayed Regions in Virtual Colonoscopy Its  
Application to Quantitative Evaluation of Fly-Through Methods . . . . . 631  
*Y. Hayashi, K. Mori, J. Hasegawa, Y. Suenaga, J. Toriwaki*

## Novel Imaging Techniques

3D Respiratory Motion Compensation by Template Propagation . . . . . 639  
*P. Rösch, T. Netsch, M. Quist, J. Weese*

XX Table of Contents, Part II

An Efficient Observer Model for Assessing Signal Detection Performance of Lossy-Compressed Images .....	647
<i>B.M. Schmanske, M.H. Loew</i>	
Statistical Modeling of Pairs of Sulci in the Context of Neuroimaging Probabilistic Atlas .....	655
<i>I. Corouge, C. Barillot</i>	
Two-Stage Alignment of fMRI Time Series Using the Experiment Profile to Discard Activation-Related Bias .....	663
<i>L. Freire, J.-F. Mangin</i>	
Real-Time DRR Generation Using Cylindrical Harmonics .....	671
<i>F. Wang, T.E. Davis, B.C. Vemuri</i>	
Strengthening the Potential of Magnetic Resonance Cholangiopancreatography (MRCP) by a Combination of High-Resolution Data Acquisition and Omni-directional Stereoscopic Viewing .....	679
<i>T. Yamagishi, K.H. Höhne, T. Saito, K. Abe, J. Ishida, R. Nishimura, T. Kudo</i>	
<b>Author Index .....</b>	<b>687</b>