

REAL TIME 3D SURFACE IMAGING FOR THE ANALYSIS OF RESPIRATORY MOTION DURING RADIOTHERAPY

U. Johnson¹, D. Landau², J. LindgrenTurner³, N. Smith³, I. Meir³, R. Howe³, H. Rodgers², S. Davit² & C. Deehan¹.

¹Department of Physics, St Thomas' Hospital, London, UK
²Department of Radiotherapy, St Thomas' Hospital, London, UK
³Vision RT Ltd, London, UK

Purpose / Objective:

With the introduction of advanced treatments such as Conformal Radiotherapy (CRT) and Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT), the effects of respiratory motion are now becoming increasingly significant during all stages of the radiotherapy process from target definition and planning through to patient set-up and treatment delivery. The purpose of this study is to record movements resulting from respiration using real-time 3D surface imaging to determine metrics with which the motion can be quantified, and to thus measure the extent to which breathing varies both according to anatomical site and from patient to patient.

Materials/ Methods:

AlignRT, a video based real-time 3D surface imaging system, was used to record 3D sequences of surface data of the torso region over 10-15 second periods at 3 frames/second. Sequence data was acquired from 14 patients in the intended treatment position during CT simulation. In order to analyse the data, software tools were developed to extract transverse contours through the thorax, abdomen and pelvis, for all recorded frames for each patient. For each contour, 3 points were monitored (mid-line and 6-7.5cm Lt & Rt of mid-line). The change in the Y coordinates (AP) of these points was measured and output. These points were plotted against time along both transverse and sagittal contours. Amplitudes, periods and phase shifts were compared across the contours and from patient to patient.



Fig 1. AlignRT Cameras in CT Simulator room at St Thomas' Hospital

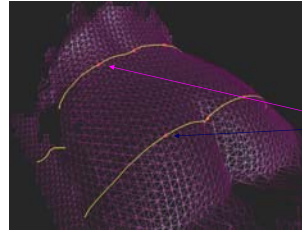


Fig 2. Prone Pelvis Patient.

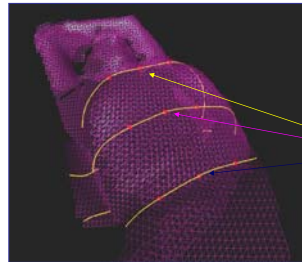


Fig 3. Thorax Patient

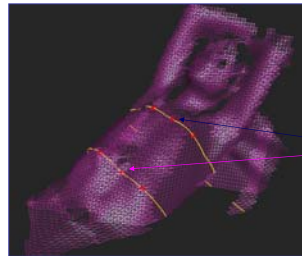


Fig 4. Thorax Patient

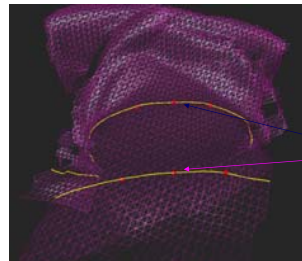
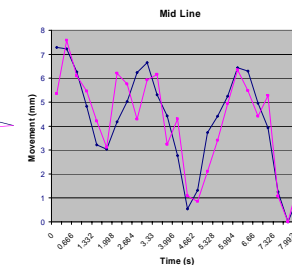
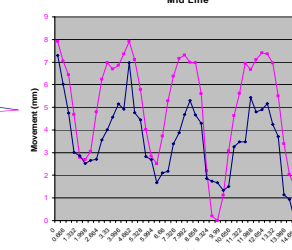
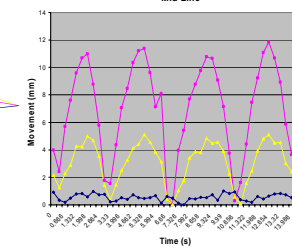
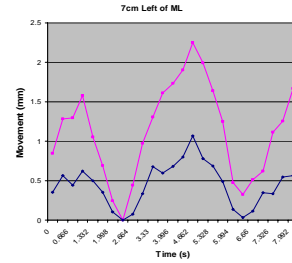


Fig 5. Supine Pelvis Patient



No observable phase shift from one anatomical site to another

Secondary Axes added to demonstrate sub-millimetre amplitude motion in phase with larger motion on abdomen

Results:

Table 1 shows the results from the various patients imaged. On some of the observed patients, part of the torso was obscured by clothing. Thoracic and abdominal contours were visible on seven patients, abdominal and pelvic contours were visible on five patients and all three contours were visible on two patients. Every patient had an observable respiratory signal. There was no measurable phase shift between the various contours monitored and the period of respiratory cycle for all patients ranged from 3s to 7s (mean 4.2s, SD 1.2s). With some of the pelvic contours sub-millimetre movements, of equivalent period and phase as significantly larger movements measured along abdominal and thoracic contours, were detected. With the exception of one instance where the thoracic contour moved more than the abdominal, the measured abdominal movements were larger than their thoracic counterparts. As expected, the amplitudes of the pelvic movements were consistently smaller than those across the other contours.

	Thorax	Abdomen	Pelvis
No of Contours	9	14	7
Max Amplitude (mm)	17.0	12.4	6.5
Mean (mm)	3.8	6.1	2.3
Std Deviation (mm)	3.3	3.3	1.8

Table 1. Results from all patients

Conclusions:

The above results demonstrate that respiratory motion can be effectively monitored using real time 3D surface imaging and that there is significant variation in the extent of motion both according to anatomical location and from patient to patient.

Work is planned to repeat the study on a larger patient group and to record cycles for longer periods at a higher frame rate. More advanced metrics which look at the overall deformation of the surface as opposed to monitoring individual points along a single dimension are also being devised. In addition, further work is planned to register real-time internal image data acquired from MR and CT, to 3D Surface data, in order to assess to extent of the correlation between the motion of internal organs and the external surface.