







Input Devices

Optical Trackers non-contact position measurement devices that use optical sensing to determine the real-time position/orientation of an object





Output Devices

The human senses need specialized interfaces

- graphics displays for visual feedback
- 3-D audio hardware for localized sound
- haptic interfaces for force and touch feedback
- low interest in smell feedback









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Output Devices – Haptic Interfaces

Comes from Greek Hapthai meaning the sense of touch





Virtual and Augmented Reality













Building of the Virtual Environment

- the real patients' images are processed in Moreler to distinguish the anatomical structures and to associate different chromatic scales to the organs
- the segmentation and classification phases are carried out in order to obtain information about the size and the shape of the organs







Segmentation, what is?

- > subdivision of an image into regions or constituent objects
- > subdivision level driven by the complexity of the problem to be solved
- > the process ends when the items have been isolated
- > by hand: partitioning process of the components through manual editing
- semi-automatic: recognition of structures of interest based on some parameters

Registration, what is?

- > comparison of information contained in images, thanks to their alignment
- choosing an anatomical area of interest, registration involves a series of CT and MRI images
- this step corresponds to a transformation matrix (phases of rotation and translation)

Data fusion - Vertebroplasty



Data fusion - Vertebroplasty



Virtual Reality in Medicine

- Computer Aided Surgery
- Diagnosis
- Pre-operative Planning
- Training
- Telesurgery
- Rehabilitation





Why simulation?

The training on virtual patients met the growing need for training in Minimally Invasive Surgery

Many of these procedures need to be learned by repetition; new and unusual surgical procedures can be practiced in a safe manner

A simulator incorporates both realistic graphics and the sense of touch (force feedback)





- to increase experience
- to increase patient safety
- to practice medical skills
- to plan the operative strategy

Simulations will be part of the new system of graduate medical education

NeuroTouch: A Virtual Simulator for Cranial Microneurosurgery Training

NeuroTouch is a virtual simulator with haptic feedback designed for the acquisition and assessment of technical skills involved in craniotomy-based procedures



Prototypes have been set up in 7 teaching hospitals across Canada for beta testing and validation and to evaluate integration of NeuroTouch into a neurosurgery training curriculum



Augmented Reality in Surgery

- Augmented Reality blends virtual and real in the real environment
- the basic idea is to provide a "X-ray vision"
- to use the high accuracy of medical images not only for diagnostics, but for the operation itself overlaying an image to the surgical field



Augmented Reality in Surgery

In order to have a perfect correspondence between virtual and real organs it is necessary to carry out an accurate registration phase that provides as result the overlapping of the virtual 3D model of the organs on the real patient

The registration phase is carried out just once at the beginning of the surgical procedure

the registration algorithm is based fiducial points







Hepatic Cancer

The Liver Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) consists in the placement of a needle inside the liver parenchyma to reach the centre of the tumour

When the lesion is reached, an array of electrodes is extracted from the tip of the needle and a RF current is injected in the tumour tissue in order to cause the tumour cell necrosis for hyperthermia





RFA Ablation of the Liver Tumour

With the superimposition of the virtual models of the patient's anatomy (liver, cancer, etc) exactly where are the real ones, it is possible to make the needle placement less difficult

In this way the surgery patient's risks and the surgery time should be reduced



AR in RFA Ablation of the Liver Tumour

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Gestural Touchless Interface



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Gestural Touchless Interface



Wearable Touch-Free Control

Myo - Wearable Gesture Control from @thalmic Labs

The Myo gesture control armband reads your muscle activity so you can have a touch-free control with gestures and motion

- hand gestures are detected by proprietary EMG muscle sensors containing three-axis gyroscope, three-axis accelerometer, three-axis magnetometer
- > communication via bluetooth





