



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE OF AUTOMATED CORONARY
ARTERIAL TREE CENTER-LINE EXTRACTION,
STENT LOCALIZATION AND TRACKING**

FARSAD ZAMANI BOROUJENI

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**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE OF
AUTOMATED CORONARY ARTERIAL TREE
CENTER-LINE EXTRACTION,
STENT LOCALIZATION AND TRACKING**

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ARTERIAL TREE CENTER-LINE EXTRACTION,
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By

FARSAD ZAMANI BOROUJENI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

December 2012

To my family:

My respectable parents who share their lives with me, my dear wife, Shiva, whose infinite support, incredible understanding and ultimate kindness are immeasurable, and my small son, Faraz, to whom I owe a lot of attention and weekend activities.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Supervisor: Associate Professor Rahmita Wirza O.K. Rahmat, PhD

Faculty: Computer Science and Information Technology

Stent placement is a common procedure in Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty which helps many patients to avoid emergency heart bypass surgery or heart attack. In this procedure, a stent is implanted at the narrowing part of an artery to keep its lumen open allowing blood to flow normally through the artery. A potential risk of this treatment is the inaccurate placement of the stent (geographic miss), which could result in serious complications for the patient such as development of new stenotic lesions, increasing the likelihood of blood clot formation and the need for revascularization.

Over the last decade, many algorithms have been developed to address this problem. However, most of them either fail to meet the demanding requirements of real-time assistant systems or to provide quantitative analysis for verification of stent placement

task. In this research work, we report on new contributions to the major parts of a computer assisted stent positioning system.

The first contribution is automatic detection of seed points which serve as a prerequisite step for centerline extraction algorithm. The solution consists of an algorithm for automatic collection of candidate seed points using efficient grid line searching mechanism and a validation method which uses local geometric and intensity based features as effective validation rules to discriminate between the actual seed point and false alarms. The experimental results show that combining the advantages of the geometric based validation and contrast based filtering as well as avoiding large quantization errors, lead to significant enhancement in the performance of the seed point detection algorithm in terms of balancing between the precision and recall.

The second contribution is related to the robust and accurate extraction of centerlines for all vessel segments of the arterial tree in the angiogram images. This problem is addressed by proposing an accurate and robust centerline extraction method. Starting at each detected seed point, the centerline extraction method utilizes eigenvalues and eigenvectors of Hessian matrix for the pixels located on a semi-circular scanning profile for robust estimation of the next centerline point. The experimental validations show that the use of Hessian matrix results in significant improvement in the robustness of the tracing algorithm.

The stent localization and tracking in angiogram image sequence is the topic of the third contribution. The proposed method combines special fast filtering, region of interest

processing and graph based trajectory analysis approach to localize and track the radio-opaque markers of the stent in fluoroscopic frame sequences. The most interesting finding was that the validation of the potential markers prior to building tracks of marker pairs, causes the landmark detection process to avoid dealing with a large number of outliers and misdetections. In total, the current study found that the proposed algorithms outperform their well-established existing counterparts indicating their suitability to be adopted in practical computer assisted stent positioning systems.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**MENINGKATKAN PRESTASI PENGEKSTRAKAN GARIS-TENGAH
PEPOHON ARTERI, PENYETEMPATAN DAN PENGESANAN STENT
SECARA AUTOMATIK**

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Penempatan stent adalah prosedur biasa dalam perkutanus transluminal Angioplasti Koronari yang membantu ramai pesakit untuk mengelakkan kecemasan pembedahan pintasan jantung atau serangan jantung. Dalam prosedur ini, stent diimplan di bahagian penyempitan arteri untuk memastikan lumen terbuka membenarkan darah mengalir melalui arteri. Satu potensi risiko rawatan ini adalah penempatan stent yang tidak tepat, yang boleh mengakibatkan komplikasi yang serius bagi pesakit seperti pembangunan lesi stenotik yang baharu, meningkatkan kemungkinan pembentukan darah beku dan keperluan untuk revaskularisasi. Penempatan stent adalah prosedur biasa dalam perkutanus transluminal Angioplasti Koronari yang membantu ramai pesakit untuk mengelakkan kecemasan pembedahan pintasan jantung atau serangan jantung. Dalam prosedur ini, stent diimplan di bahagian penyempitan arteri untuk memastikan lumen terbuka membenarkan darah mengalir yang biasanya melalui arteri. Satu potensi risiko

rawatan ini adalah penempatan stent yang tidak tepat, yang boleh mengakibatkan komplikasi yang serius bagi pesakit seperti pembangunan lesi baru stenotik, meningkatkan kemungkinan pembentukan darah beku dan keperluan untuk revaskularisasi.

Lebih sedekad yang lalu, banyak algoritma telah dibangunkan untuk menangani masalah ini. Walau bagaimanapun, kebanyakannya sama ada gagal untuk memenuhi keperluan mendesak sistem pembantu masa sebenar atau untuk menyediakan analisis kuantitatif bagi pengesahan tugas penempatan stent. Dalam penyelidikan ini, kami melaporkan suatu sumbangan baharu kepada bahagian utama sistem kedudukan stent berbantuan komputer.

Sumbangan pertama adalah pengesanan automatik bagi titik benih yang berfungsi sebagai langkah prasyarat bagi algoritma pengekstrakan garis-tengah. Penyelesaian terdiri daripada algoritma untuk koleksi calon titik benih automatik menggunakan mekanisme pencarian garis grid yang cekap dan kaedah pengesahan yang menggunakan tempatan ciri-ciri geometri dan kaedah validasi yang menggunakan geometri tempatan dan intensiti berasaskan ciri-ciri pengesahan yang berkesan untuk membezakan antara titik benih sebenar dan penggera palsu. Keputusan eksperimen menunjukkan bahawa menggabungkan kelebihan validasi berasaskan geometri dan kontras berasaskan penapisan serta mengelakkan kesilapan pengkuantuman yang besar, membawa kepada peningkatan yang ketara dalam prestasi algoritma pengesanan titik benih dari segi mengimbangi antara ketepatan dan ingatan.

Sumbangan kedua adalah berkaitan dengan pengekstrakan garis-tengah yang mantap dan tepat untuk semua segmen vesel pohon arteri dalam imej angiogram. Masalah ini ditangani dengan mencadangkan suatu kaedah pengekstrakan garis-tengah yang tepat dan mantap. Bermula pada setiap titik benih yang dikesan, kaedah pengekstrakan tengah menggunakan eigen dan vektor eigen matriks Hessian piksel yang terletak di profil pengimbasan separuh bulat untuk anggaran teguh titik tengah yang berikut. Validasi ujikaji menunjukkan bahawa penggunaan hasil matriks Hessian dalam peningkatan yang ketara dalam keteguhan algoritma mengesan.

Penempatan stent dan pengesanan dalam jujukan imej angiogram merupakan topik bagi sumbangan ketiga. Kaedah yang dicadangkan menggabungkan penapisan khas cepat, kawasan rantau kepentingan pemprosesan dan graf analisis trajektori berasaskan pendekatan untuk membatasi dan mengesan petanda radio-legap stent dalam urutan bingkai fluoroskopi. Penemuan yang paling menarik ialah bahawa validasi petanda yang berpotensi sebelum membina trek penanda berpasangan, menyebabkan proses pengesanan mercu tanda untuk mengelakkan berurusan dengan sebilangan besar titik terpencil dan kegagalan pengesanan. Secara keseluruhan, kajian semasa mendapati bahawa algoritma yang dicadangkan mengatasi saingan-saingan yang sedia ada dan menunjukkan kesesuaian mereka untuk diguna pakai dalam praktikal sistem kedudukan stent berbantuan komputer.

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December 2012

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 14 Dec 2012 to conduct the final examination of **Farsad Zamani Boroujeni** on his thesis entitled “**Improving Performance of Automated Coronary Arterial Tree Center-Line Extraction, Stent Localization and Tracking**” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at University Putra Malaysia or other institution.

FARSAD ZAMANI BOROUJENI

Date: 14 December 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ix
APPROVAL	x
DECLARATION	xii
LIST OF TABLES	xvii
LIST OF FIGURES	xviii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxii
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Overview	1
1.2 Motivation and Importance of the Study	4
1.3 Problem Statement	5
1.4 Research Objectives	8
1.5 Research Scope	9
1.6 Research Contributions	10
1.7 Outline of the Thesis Structure	11
2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	13
2.1 Introduction	13
2.2 Fluoroscopic Imaging	15
2.3 Cardiac Catheterization and Coronary Interventional Procedures	17
2.3.1 Cardiac Catheterization	18
2.3.2 Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)	19
2.3.3 Guide-Wire Navigation	20
2.4 Properties of Cardiac X-ray Images	22
2.4.1 Spatial Resolution	24
2.4.2 Temporal Resolution	25
2.4.3 Image Blur	26
2.4.4 Image Noise	27
2.5 Cardiovascular Image Analysis	28
2.5.1 Vessel Segmentation Based on Pixel Processing	30
2.5.2 Direct Exploratory Centerline Extraction	33
2.5.3 Object Detection and Motion Tracking	38
2.6 Summary	48

3	LITERATURE REVIEW	49
3.1	Introduction	49
3.2	Segmentation Approaches	50
3.2.1	Image Enhancement Approaches	51
3.2.2	Artery Segment Extraction Methods	52
3.2.3	Image Segmentation Methods	61
3.3	Device Localization and Tracking Approaches	62
3.3.1	Roadmapping	62
3.3.2	Guide-Wire Segmentation and Tracking	63
3.3.3	Stent Marker-Balls Localization and Tracking	66
3.4	Conclusion	69
3.5	Summary	70
4	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	72
4.1	Introduction	72
4.2	Research Steps	73
4.3	Research Framework	74
4.3.1	Diagnostic Phase	76
4.3.2	Device Navigation Phase	80
4.3.3	Image Registration Phase	81
4.4	Implementation	82
4.5	Data Collection and Dataset Preparation	85
4.5.1	Clinical Dataset	86
4.5.2	Synthetic Dataset	88
4.6	Experimental Design	91
4.6.1	Performance Evaluation for the Seed Point Detection Algorithm	94
4.6.2	Performance Evaluation for the Centerline Extraction Algorithm	95
4.6.3	Performance Evaluation for Stent Marker-Ball Detection and Tracking Algorithm	97
4.7	Summary	99
5	AUTOMATIC SEED POINT DETECTION ALGORITHM	101
5.1	Introduction	101
5.2	The Proposed Algorithm	102
5.2.1	Grid Sampling and Boundary Point Collection	105
5.2.2	Boundary Point Validation	106
5.2.3	Vessel Direction Estimation	114
5.3	Results and Discussion	115
5.3.1	Performance Measures	116
5.3.2	Parameter Tuning for Optimal Performance	118
5.3.3	Experimental Results for Performance Evaluation	125
5.4	Conclusion	131
5.5	Summary	132

6	ARTERIAL TREE EXTRACTION	133
6.1	Introduction	133
6.2	The Proposed Algorithm	137
6.2.1	Detection of the True Vessel Points	139
6.2.2	Semi-Circular Scanning Profile	143
6.2.3	Selecting the Correct Vessel Point	145
6.2.4	Method for Updating the Tracing Direction	148
6.2.5	Adaptation of Step Size Schema	150
6.2.6	Preventing Repetitious Traces	154
6.2.7	The Stopping Criteria	156
6.3	Results and Discussion	158
6.3.1	Performance Measures	159
6.3.2	Parameter Tuning for Optimal Performance	165
6.3.3	Experimental Results for Algorithm Validation	171
6.3.4	Experimental Results for Performance Evaluation	177
6.4	Conclusion	182
6.5	Summary	183
7	STENT LOCALIZATION AND TRACKING	184
7.1	Introduction	184
7.2	Detection of the Stent Markers	186
7.3	Filtering False Detections and Spurious Marker-Balls	190
7.4	Object Matching and Data Association Analysis	193
7.4.1	Appearance Confidence Score	197
7.4.2	Rigid Object Constraints	198
7.4.3	Common Motion Constraints	199
7.4.4	Total Confidence Score	200
7.5	Tracking the Stent Marker-Balls in a Sequence of Angiogram Images	202
7.6	Dynamic Template Update	204
7.7	Results and Discussion	205
7.8	Execution Time	210
7.9	Conclusion	211
7.10	Summary	211
8	CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORKS	213
8.1	Conclusions	213
8.2	Observed Limitations and Future Works	216
	REFERENCES	218
	APPENDIX A	233
	APPENDIX B	240
	APPENDIX C	249
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	251