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TRACKING ELDERLY ALZHEIMER’S PATIENT WITH RADIO FREQUENCY LOCALIZATION SYSTEM

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By

MOHD FADHIL BIN ABUHAN

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia
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TRACKING ELDERLY ALZHEIMER’S PATIENT WITH
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MOHD FADHIL BIN ABUHAN

December 2012

Chair: Associate Professor Abdul Rashid bin Mohamed Shariff, PhD
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Humans are sometimes affected by Alzheimer Disease (AD) when aging. AD has major implications on patient safety and care. The elderly Alzheimer’s patient encounters risk of losing all of their memory capability and are unable to live a normal life accordingly. The short memory problem may lead the patients to wander aimlessly and this may lead them to danger. Hence, the Alzheimer’s patients need to be closely monitored to ensure their safety. Some Alzheimer’s patient would be sent by their family to a day care center for day care. The caregivers in day care center have a tough job in monitoring closely the many Alzheimer’s patients at the day care center because of the limited number of caregivers on duty. A motivation of this research is to reduce the caregiver burden. In this research, an assistive technology tools called Alzheimer’s Real Time Location System (ARTLS) was developed to fulfill the research objectives of developing Alzheimer’s Real Time Location System (ARTLS) using Active RFID Localization System (ARFIDLS), to understand spatial movement to enhance the monitoring and care management of the residents and lastly to determine the level of
suitability of the ARFIDLS in accommodating the AD. The research methodology is implementing ARFIDLS in accommodating the ARTLS functions. The ARTLS is implemented on several Alzheimer’s patients who are residents at the Alzheimer’s day care center. After a successful system implementation on the residents, an analysis on the resident’s visiting area zone and movement sequence pattern percentage is held for determining residents’ daily routine and behavior problems of wandering aimlessly. An analysis of the system performance and system suitability for tracking the Alzheimer patient also been carried out in this thesis. From the research analysis, the residents visiting frequency to each visit area zone is known. it was found also that the residents had a high percentage of movement sequence pattern disagreement. These demonstrate that the residents are wandering aimlessly every day. A suitable selection criteria for radio frequency localization system in accommodating the ARTLS were determined in this thesis. As a general results, ARTLS relieves the caregiver’s burden and enhances residents’ safety by close monitoring of the wandering movements of the residents in real time. Hence, the care for residents will be more efficient and enhanced with better care management practice by the caregiver.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Sarjana Sains

MENGESAN PESAKIT TUA ALZHEIMER DENGAN SISTEM LOKASI RADIO FREKUENSI

Oleh
MOHD FADHIL BIN ABUHAN
Disember 2012

Pengerusi: Profesor Madya Abdul Rashid bin Mohamed Shariff, PhD
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untuk memenuhi objektif penyelidikan iaitu membangunkan sistem lokasi semasa Alzheimer (ARTLS) menggunakan sistem lokasi identifikasi aktif radio (ARFIDLS), untuk menganalisis pergerakan pesakit yang boleh membantu dalam pengurusan penjagaan pesakit yang lebih baik dan akhir sekali untuk menentukan tahap kesesuaian ARFIDLS dalam menampung penyakit Alzheimer. Metodologi kajian yang digunakan adalah menggunakan ARFIDLS yang sesuai dalam menampung ARTLS. ARTLS telah digunakan keatas beberapa pesakit Alzheimer yang berada di pusat jagaan harian Alzheimer. Selepas sistem berjaya digunakan ke atas pesakit, analisis ke atas kawasan zon yang dilawati pesakit dan corak urutan pergerakan pesakit diadakan untuk menentukan rutin harian dan masalah tingkah laku merayau tanpa tujuan oleh pesakit. Analisis ke atas prestasi sistem dan kesesuaian system dalam menjejaki pesakit Alzheimer juga dijalankan dalam tesis ini. Daripada analisis kajian, frekuensi lawatan pesakit ke kawasan zon lawatan diketahui. Didapat juga bahawa pesakit mempunyai peratusan yang tinggi bagi corak urutan pergerakan yang tidak sama. Ini menunjukkan bahawa pesakit merayau tanpa tujuan setiap hari. Kriteria pemilihan yang sesuai untuk sistem lokasi radio frekuensi dalam menampung ARTLS diperjelaskan dalam tesis ini. Sebagai hasil umum, ARTLS melegakan beban penjaga dan meningkatkan keselamatan pesakit dengan pemantauan rapi pergerakan pesakit dalam masa nyata. Maka, penjagaan ke atas pesakit akan menjadi lebih efisen dan dipertingkatkan dengan perlaksanaan pengurusan penjagaan yang lebih baik oleh penjaga.
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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on date of viva voce to conduct the final examination of Mohd Fadhil bin Abuhan on his Master Science thesis entitled "Tracking elderly Alzheimer's patient with Radio Frequency Localization System" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science (GIS and Geomatic Engineering)

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DECLARATION

I declare that this 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 Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

MOHD FADHIL BIN ABUHAN

Date: 4 December 2012
TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT i
ABSTRAK iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS v
APPROVAL vii
DECLARATION ix
LIST OF FIGURES xiii
LIST OF TABLES xvii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS xvii

CHAPTER

1 INTRODUCTION
1.1 Introduction 1
1.2 Problem statement 3
1.3 Aim and Objectives 4
1.4 Scope of study 4
1.5 Outcome of the study 5
1.6 Thesis layout 5

2 LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1 Alzheimer’s Disease 6
2.1.1 Wandering 8
2.2 Real Time Location System (RTLS) 9
2.3 Radio Frequency Localization System 13
2.3.1 Active-Radio Frequency Identification Localization System (ARFIDLS) 13
2.3.2 Wi-Fi localization system 15
2.3.3 Satellite based tracking system 17
2.3.4 Location sensing techniques using radio frequency 19
2.3.5 Interference of radio frequency signals 20
2.3.6 Summary of radio frequency localization system 21
2.4 Non Radio Frequency Localization System 22
2.5 Study involving Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia with tracking system
2.5.1 A Predictive Location-Aware Algorithm for Dementia Care 23
2.5.2 Study on safety monitoring for people living with Alzheimer’s. 24
2.5.3 Study of ambulatory assessment of lifestyle factors for Alzheimer’s Disease and related Dementia. 25
2.5.4 Study of behaviour patterns on dementia patient 26
2.5.5 A case study of electronic tracking system implemented on Alzheimer’s patient
2.5.6 Study of behaviour patterns observation on Alzheimer genetic deposited laboratory mice using RFID tracking framework
2.5.7 ALZ-MAS case study

3 METHODOLOGY
3.1 Background of the study area
3.2 Medical research ethics committee approval
3.3 Study duration
3.4 Residents selected for the study
3.5 Alzheimer’s Real Time Location System (ARTLS)
   3.5.1 Localization system selection criteria in accommodating ARTLS
   3.5.2 ARFIDLS in accommodates the ARTLS
3.6 ARTLS deployment
   3.6.1 Communication network and power network deployment
   3.6.2 System hardware deployment
   3.6.3 System software deployment
      3.6.3.1 System setup
      3.6.3.2 Calibration process
3.7 Data preparation process
   3.7.1 Initial spatial data preparation
   3.7.2 Resident information data preparation
3.8 Tag deployment
3.9 Monitoring of patient movement in real time and patient movement pattern history
3.10 Spatial movement data collection
3.11 Data cleaning
3.12 Data analysis

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
4.1 Demographic profile
4.2 Residence visiting frequency analysis
4.3 Percentage of movement sequence pattern disagreement analysis
   4.3.1 Analysis on patient movement sequence pattern based from medical perspectives.
4.4 Analysis on selection criteria’s for ARTLS technology suitability.
4.5 Analysis on system performance
   4.5.1 Accuracy analysis
   4.5.2 Signal strength analysis
4.6 Challenges and problems
5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
5.1 Conclusions 83
5.2 Future works 84

BIBLIOGRAPHY 86
APPENDICES 90
BIODATA OF STUDENT 96
# LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>RTLS components</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>RTLS wristband with compact tag</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>A comparison of commonly used RTLS technologies that offer different implementation options and levels of precision</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>RTLS architecture and its components using infrared and RFID in locating patients and assets</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>RFID Active Tag</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Structure of WiFi indoor localization system</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Reference functional architecture of the system</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>Architecture of the low cost GPS tracking solution</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>Interference occur to radio wave signals against obstruction</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>Structure of the proposed solution for dementia care</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>Escort system overview</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>VALMA system components.(smartphone, headset, accelerometers and ankle straps)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.13</td>
<td>Electronic tracking device (GPS receiver + GPRS mobile phone)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>Photo of the SNE in the Behavioural Biology</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>Sensor positioning in the first floor of the Santísima Trinidad Residence of Salamanca, Spain</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>Number of nurses before and after the implementation of the ALZ MAS prototype at the Santísima Trinidad</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1 Taman Seputeh Alzheimer day care center
3.2 Day care center floor plan
3.3 Taman Seputeh Alzheimer day care center residents and caregivers blinded at outdoor recreational area
3.4 ARTLS architecture deployed in Alzheimer’s day care center.
3.5 Purelink tags and reader
3.6 Purelink RTLS System architecture
3.7 System deployment process
3.8 Communication and power supply network deployed at the day care center.
3.9 Triangulation technique
3.10 Reader deployment placements at roof trusses at the day care center.
3.11 Tags detected represent by black dot by two readers
3.12 Ten selected tags for the fingerprinting was placed accordingly on the body
3.13 Receiver anchorage
3.14 Reference tags installed on the tracking area wall
3.15 Successful calibration of point position is highlighted as green point.
3.16 Calibration process flow
3.17 Installing patient information data in system database
3.18 Tags insert in the pocket pants
3.19 Tags cover modified

3.20 The real time monitoring on several patient with end user application software interface

3.21 Procedure steps for monitoring the resident’s movement in real time.

3.22 Tagged residents history movement sequence

3.23 Unreliable data to be removed for cleaning process 1

3.24 Unreliable data to be removed for cleaning process 2

3.25 Day care center area divided into 10 visiting place zone

3.26 Relationship movement sequence pattern between visited visiting area identification numbers

4.1 Taman Seputeh Alzheimer’s Day Care Center residents demographic

4.2 Total visiting frequencies to the visiting area zone by the residents involved throughout the 5 days of tracking.

4.3 Residents movement sequence patterns disagreement percentage between day x and day y
# LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Summary of radio frequency localization system advantages</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Reader specification</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Tags specification</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Barthel index of daily living activities</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Visiting place zone identification number</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Movement sequence patterns</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Example of resident A movement sequence patterns</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>disagreements calculation between day 2 and day 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Information gathered from questionnaire session</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Residents behaviour problems and time of wandering</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Spatial movement sequence by the resident A within 10 am until 11 am</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Resident A visiting frequencies for five days of tracking.</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>The resident highest and lowest area visited and visit frequency to toilet</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Movement sequence pattern disagreement percentage</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>based on visiting frequency of visited area by the residents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Spatial movement sequence by the resident A within 10 am until 11 am</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for 5 days tracking (noise data included)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AD</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALZ-MAS</td>
<td>Alzheimer Multi Agent System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTLS</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Real Time Localization System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARFIDLS</td>
<td>Active Radio Frequency Identification Localization System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Global Positioning System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNSS</td>
<td>Global Navigation Satellite System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAT</td>
<td>Hierarchical Addressing Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAURA</td>
<td>Localization and Ubiquitous Monitoring of Patients for Health Care Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Network Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN</td>
<td>Personal Area Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMS</td>
<td>Personal Monitoring System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLTS</td>
<td>Personal Localization and Tracking System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFID</td>
<td>Radio Frequency Identification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSS</td>
<td>Receive Signal Strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTLS</td>
<td>Real Time Localization System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UWB</td>
<td>Ultra Wide Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Identification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JerryTS</td>
<td>Jerry Tracking System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOA</td>
<td>Time of Arrival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOM</td>
<td>Tracking Objects Moving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wi-Fi</td>
<td>Wireless Fidelity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WLAN</td>
<td>Wireless Local Network</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Nowadays, elderly aged 60 and over is a fast growing age group. This is due to life expectancy of those age group is increasing by years. According to World Health Organization (2002), in between the years 1970 and 2025, a growth of about 223% or 694 million elderly is expected globally. It is also expected by year 2025, elderly aged 60 years old and above will total up to 1.2 billion people and by year 2050 this will be up to 2 billion people. 80% of these elderly populations are expected to come from the developing countries.

The rising number of elderly also contributes to the rising of number of chronic disease affecting the elderly. As the chronic disease number rises, the number of patients with Alzheimer Disease (AD) also rises. Alzheimer’s disease is a disease that can lead a person to gradually lose his basic abilities to live the daily life accordingly. The basic abilities include the short and long term memory, orientation, judgement, thinking and concentration (Gruetzner, 2001). One of the effects of AD is the patients safety is in jeopardy as the patients tend to wandering aimlessly in worst scenario.

It was reported by Prince et al. (2011), 36 million people worldwide are estimated to be affected by AD. The numbers will double every 20 years to 66 million by 2030 and 115 million by 2050. Low and middle income countries have high increases of AD numbers with 58% and expected to rise
up to 71% by 2050. Malaysia is listed as the middle income country and thus Malaysia is an aging country that has many elderly Alzheimer’s patient.

According to Department of Statistics Malaysia (2010), the total population in Malaysia based on 2010 census is 28.3 million. World Health Organization (2012), reported that the elderly aged 60 years old and above make up to 8% of Malaysia’s population, and the annual growth rate from 2000 until 2010 of this group was 1.9%. According to World Health Organization (2009), Malaysian life expectancy at 60 years old is 18 years. This means that on average, the elderly can live up to 18 years old.

The prevalence rate of dementia or AD in Malaysia was at 14.3% based on population study of 2,980 people Malaysian communities aged 60 years and over (Hamid et al., 2010). According to World Health Organization (2008), about 28 elderly out of 1,965,462 elderly aged 60 years and above in Malaysia is estimated to have died due to AD and other dementia.

Elderly Alzheimer’s patients and their caregivers will encounter extreme challenges as the disease progresses deteriorate with time. Many challenges must be faced such as the cost of AD care. The quality of life such as the ability to socialize with others for both patients and caregivers also diminishes. For the community and the country, the AD is a public health problem that may affect the economy and advancement of the nation.

This enormous public health problem needs to be surmounted wisely. The elderly Alzheimer’s patients face many problems and need to be assisted by the caregiver for their life survival. Monitoring the movements of the Alzheimer’s patients by the caregiver is very important.
Some Alzheimer’s patients are sent by the primary caregiver such as the patient’s family members to the Alzheimer day care center for day care to reduce the primary caregiver’s burdens. The Alzheimer day care center may have problems with giving close care services to their residents. The day care center cannot always give good and close care services to the residents because the number of day care center personnel are outnumbered by the entire residents in the day care center. So, the crucial measure in helping the caregiver in caring the patient closely is by providing an assistive technology for the caregiver to monitor closed the patients in real time. This is the gap that can be filled and can help to improve the quality of life of the caregiver and the AD patient.

A tracking system meant for real time monitoring in preventing the Alzheimer’s day care center residents from danger which can be a solution in reducing these caregiver burdens. The tracking system should be suitable to support the residents and not interfere with the resident’s daily routine and privacy.

**Problem statement and motivation**

Alzheimer’s disease (AD) is a public health problem. The elderly Alzheimer’s patient will encounter a memory problem that inhibits the patient to live alone. The memory problems will lead the elderly patient to wander about without causes and endanger their life (Faucounau et al., 2009). According to World Health Organization (2008), deaths causes by AD and other dementia is estimated 539,947 people while in the South East Asia region it is about 40,807 people. As the death toll cases by AD is rising, so is the cost for AD
care. It was reported also by WHO (2009), the total expenditure on health per capita for Malaysia in 2009 is USD 677 million and this is 4.8% of Malaysia’s gross domestic product.

For Alzheimer's patient survival, the patient needs to be closely monitored by their caregivers. Maybe for one patient, the caregiver can control the situation. But for the outnumbered day care center caregivers, the care would be tough and would be a major burden to the caregivers. The caregiver needs an assistive technology tools to reduce their caregiver burdens in monitoring the residents safety.

1.2 Aim and Objectives
The aim of this study is to develop the ARTLS and implement it at the Alzheimer's day care center. Patient movement data will be analysed to check for conformance and randomness of movements. Our study objectives are as follows.

1. To develop Alzheimer's Real Time Location System (ARTLS) using Active RFID Localization System (ARFIDLS).
2. To understand spatial movement to enhance the monitoring and care management of the residents.
3. To determine the level of suitability of the ARFIDLS in accommodating the Alzheimer patient.

1.4 Scope of study
The study is implemented using existing Active Radio Frequency Identification Localization System (ARFIDLS). The study area is at the
Alzheimer’s Taman Seputeh Day Care Center, Kuala Lumpur. Analysis of the AD patients frequency of visits within the day care center is analyzed.

1.5 Outcome of the study

The Alzheimer’s Real Time Location System helps reduce the caregiver burdens. The spatial movement analysis gives benefit to the caregiver in enhancing the care management quality and improving the caregiver and patients quality of life.

1.6 Thesis layout

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter, Chapter 1 is an introduction of the study. In Chapter 2, a literature review of the AD, RTLS, and Active Radio Frequency Localization System (ARFIDLS) is provided. In Chapter 3, a study methodology for implementation of the tracking system, data collection and data analysis is provided. In Chapter 4, results of resident’s spatial movement, data analysis and discussion regarding the challenges during study is provided. Finally, chapter 5 concludes our present work and suggests possible future work.
Bibliography


