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**Automatic Method for the Detection of Fully Developed Speckle Patterns in B-scan Images to Perform a 3D Reconstruction Using Only Image Content Information from Freehand Sensorless Images**

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**PURPOSE**

To develop a computerized tool for guiding prostatic biopsy by fusing information from freehand sensorless US and pre-biopsy MRSI images.

**METHOD AND MATERIALS**

MR Spectroscopic Imaging (MRSI) has been shown to provide a structural and metabolic evaluation of prostate cancer location, aggressiveness and staging. On the other hand, ultrasound imaging (US) is commonly used in order to guide the biopsy of the suspicious area, with the difficulty of being unable to exactly localize the area of interest seen in the pre-biopsy MRSI.

A novel and robust reconstruction of a 3D volume using sensorless freehand US images is presented, based on an improved method for detecting speckle regions and obtaining correlation measures between them in adjacent B-scans. The alignment between such reconstructed 3D US volume with the MRSI forms the basis for a fast and accurate method for 2D/3D correspondence of a given US B-scan (2D) to its MRSI position (3D) in real time during biopsy.

The new speckle detection methodology is based on extracting optimally discriminant low order speckle statistics and simultaneously estimating the decompression factor of the data. Instead of using a specific statistical distribution, the alternative approach here used is to describe speckle based on statistical features directly computed from the amplitude moments of the US image, which leads to a two-class pattern recognition problem.

**RESULTS**

As an initial evaluation, different experiments have been carried out to validate the speckle detection framework. From a total of 8 different sets of 4000 samples simulating speckle and non-speckle data, R-S features have been computed as a function of the power of the statistical moment ( $v$ ). For the  $v_{opt}$  value, we obtained 91% of correct classification, with a lower accuracy for the other  $v$  values. The proposed algorithm has been later tested using prostatic and liver US images.

**CONCLUSION**

The study shows the feasibility of using MRSI and freehand sensorless US registered images to guide prostate biopsy.

**CLINICAL RELEVANCE/APPLICATION**

A deep change to the diagnostic approach of prostate cancer, since a more accurate procedure to sample a suspicious target can be performed, instead of the current method of blinded multiple biopsies.

**Disclosures:**

**Nothing to disclose:** Robert Marti

**Nothing to disclose:** Joan Vilanova  
**Nothing to disclose:** Jordi Freixenet  
**Nothing to disclose:** Joaquim Barceló  
**Nothing to disclose:** Montserrat Arzoz  
**Nothing to disclose:** Joan Marti

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