



Biomechanics Applied to Computer Assisted Surgery

2005

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C o n t e n t s

Bony Structures Modeling

- Biomechanics of vertebral cement augmentation: Risk of adjacent fractures following vertebroplasty _____ 1
Gamal Baroud and Christianne Vant
- Finite element modelling of osteoarticular system and surgical assistance: A review on previous and recent approaches _____ 15
W. Skalli and V. Lafage
- Deformable modeling of the cervical spine for neurosurgical navigation _____ 27
Sascha Seifert, Oliver Burgert, Rüdiger Dillmann and Uwe Spetzger
- Biomechanical study of a pathologic lumbar functional spinal unit and a possible surgical treatment through the implant of an interspinous device _____ 39
R. Contro, V. Dallolio, G. Franzoso, D. Gastaldi and P. Vena
- Preoperative movement study for a forearm with pathologically deformed ulna using the finite element method _____ 53
G. Kullmer and H.A. Richard
- How the evaluation of patient-related bone properties and kinematics predictive models can improve the computer assisted planning of shoulder surgery _____ 67
Jérôme Briot, Pierre Mansat, Michel Mansat and Pascal Swider
- Identification of critical zones around dental implants using finite element simulations _____ 79
Aïssa Mellal and John Botsis
- Mechanobiological modelling of the bone remodelling process _____ 101
M. Doblaré and J.M.García-Aznar

Patient-specific finite element modelling to monitor the mechanical evolution of complex skeletal reconstructions ————— 125
F. Taddei, M. Manfrini and M. Viceconti

Soft Tissue Modeling

Techniques to correct for soft tissue deformations during image-guided brain surgery ————— 153
Michael I. Miga, Tuhin K. Sinha and David M. Cash

Brain-shift correction with the boundary element method ————— 177
Olivier Ecabert and Jean-Philippe Thiran

Basic experiments and finite element analysis of soft tissues ————— 193
Aly A. Farag, Hongjian Shi, Rachid Fahmi and Michael J. Voor

Automatic Finite Elements mesh generation from planar contours of the brain: An image driven, “Bobby” approach ————— 209
Marek Bucki and Yohan Payan

A three-dimensional finite element analysis of stress distribution in a coronary atherosclerotic plaque: *In-vivo* prediction of plaque rupture location ————— 225
Jacques Ohayon, Gérard Finet, François Treyve, Gilles Rioufol and Olivier Dubreuil

Computational modeling of abdominal aortic aneurysms: An assessment of rupture potential for presurgical planning ————— 243
Aleksandr D. Shkolnik, Christine M. Scotti, Cristina H. Amon and Ender A. Finol

Computational analyses of intravascular stents ————— 261
Lorenza Petrini, Francesco Migliavacca, Silvia Schievano Gabriele Dubini and Ferdinando Auricchio

Soft tissue prediction in computer assisted maxillofacial surgery planning ————— 277
S. Zachow, M. Weiser, H.-C. Hege and P. Deuflhard

Biomechanics applied to computer-aided diagnosis: Examples of orbital and maxillofacial surgeries ————— 299
Payan Yohan, Luboz Vincent, Chabanas Matthieu, Swider Pascal Marecaux C. and Boutault F.

Rheological characterisation of human soft tissues. Application to the simulation of gynaecological surgery ————— 311
Paccini, A., Tillier, Y., Delotte, J., Durand-Reville, M. and Chenot, J.L

On the modelling of cruciate ligaments: A continuum approach	327
<i>Georges Limbert and John Middleton</i>	
Finite Element based biomechanical modeling in image guided procedures	347
<i>R. Cormack, S Haker and CM Tempany</i>	
Electromechanical modeling of the heart for therapy planning	361
<i>M. Sermesant, H. Delingette and N. Ayache</i>	

INTRODUCTION

Biomechanics applied to computer-assisted surgery: an overview

This review book tries to gather results provided by research teams that have developed biomechanical models of human anatomical structures in the framework of computer-assisted surgery (CAS). The CAS community is quite recent in the context of Computer Science since the pioneer works date from the 80's. Orthopaedics was mainly the first clinical domain addressed by these pioneer CAS applications. The reason for this was probably that bones were the human body structures which were considered as the most easily includable into a CAS application: they were assumed to be rigid, i.e. with a fixed 3D geometry, they were strongly identifiable onto Computer Tomography exams, and their relative position during surgery was easily tractable by fixing *rigid bodies* onto their external surface (these rigid bodies being tracked with the use of an optical device for example).

Biomechanicians were first asked to work onto CAS applications when orthopaedic surgeons were looking for tools able to predict risks of fractures. In that case, bony structures could no more be considered as rigid but on the contrary had to be modelled as a deformable continuum with a non-homogeneous distribution of the internal stresses. The first part of this book gathers some works proposed in this context of CAS applied to bony structures. It covers classical orthopaedic pathologies, such as those affecting the spine (Baroud *et al.*, Skalli and Lafage, Seifert *et al.*, Contro *et al.*), the forearm (Kullmer and Richard) or the shoulder (Briot *et al.*). The bone remodelling process is also an important activity that can be studied through biomechanics in order to assist surgeons (Mellal and Botsis, Doblaré and García-Aznar).

More recently, arguing that most of the human body is made of soft tissues that can move as well as deform during surgical gestures, biomechanicians have worked even more closely with the CAS community. Indeed, sophisticated biomechanical models had to be developed to try to predict the way soft tissues are supposed to deform during surgery. By sophisticated models, we mean models that permit in most cases to take into account the geometrical (*large deformation* hypotheses) and/or the mechanical non linearities (with a non-linear constitutive behaviour of the tissues). The second part of this book aims to gather some representative works carried out in this domain, focusing onto the brain (Miga *et al.*, Ecabert and Thiran, Farag *et al.*, Bucki *et al.*), the coronaries and vessels (Ohayon *et al.*, Shkolnik *et al.*, Petrini *et al.*), the face

(Zachow *et al.*, Payan *et al.*), the uterus (Pacini *et al.*), the ligaments (Limbert and Middleton), the prostate (Cormack *et al.*) and the heart (Sermesant *et al.*). In addition, two “transversal” papers focus on methods to automatically generate patient-specific Finite Element models (Taddei *et al.*, Payan *et al.*).

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