





Modelling of the patient-specific shape variation of the human mandible with Statistics on Structures

Stefan Raith¹, Sebastian Wolff², Timm Steiner³, Frank Hölzle³, Horst Fischer¹







1 Department of Dental Materials and Biomaterials Research

RWTH Aachen University Hospital Pauwelsstraße 30 52074 Aachen 2 **Dynardo Austria** Wagenseilgasse 14 A-1120 Vienna 3 Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery RWTH Aachen University Hospital

Pauwelsstraße 30 52074 Aachen Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung







Indications for osteosynthesis treatments



- Mandible fractures (A) are stabilized with small osteosynthesis plates
- Cystic bone atrophy (B) or tumors (C) make bone removal necessary Research questions:
 - -> how to dimension optimal osteosynthesis plates (WOST 2013)
 - -> how to shape the missing part (e. g. for 3-D printing of bone replacements)





Reconstruction with bone transplants and osteosynthesis plates

and a start



- Plates are bent inter-operatively in a tedious and time consuming procedure
- Plastic deformations are weakening the material and may cause plate fractures when chewing forces are acting
- Reconstruction with autologous bone transplants cause defects elsewhere
- Transplant bone shapes are predefined and don't match the mandible shape





Clinical problems: plate factures



Could in future the bone replacement be 3-D printed with synthetic biomaterials? What shapes would be required to fill the defect area in an optimal way?





Problem Setting:

explicit variability of the shape of the mandible bone in between different patients

- Complex hape of the mand 'le bore - S'ers para et s'are ces ary to esc e its appendit ont!
 - Geometric evaluations are more difficult than at the simpler shaped tube bones in orthopedics
 - Evaluations should be standardized and reproducible
 - large data sets make automation necessary





Data base of the study presented here: 63 human mandibles







- Volumetric images of CT scans
 - Resolution 0,35 x 0,35 x 0,33 mm
- Semiautomatic segmentation



- Artifacts due to metallic structures need to be removed manually
- Triangulated surface data of the mandible bone
 - 63 data sets in the present study





Random field model

- Approximate a random design with
 - mean value +
 - linear combination of deterministic "scatter shapes" multiplied with random coefficients ("amplitudes")



- Accurately resembles
 - Statistical moments (mean, standard deviation...)
 - Spatial correlations (anisotropic, inhomogeneous...)
- Geometry variations defined by x,y,z vector field
- x,y,z considered in cross-correlation (correlation among different locations in space and at the same time among different directions)





Relation of Random Field Models to Human Data





How can these geometries be evaluated with Statistics on Structures?





Challenge: no consistent mesh topology



• Completely different mesh topology





Standard mesh for mandible geometry

- Manually generated
 - According to mean values of a previous study (WOST 2013)



- Coarse mesh
 - 555 Vertices
- Symmetrical shape
- Topological edge flow







Standard mesh for mandible geometry

- Manually generated
 - According to mean values of a previous study (WOST 2013)



- Coarse mesh
 - 555 Vertices
- Symmetrical shape
- Topological edge flow









Standard mesh for mandible geometry

- Based on the coarse mesh
- Mesh refinement
 - $\sim factor 16$
 - 8649 Nodes
- Subsequent mesh projections towards segmented geometries
- Topological edge flow is conserved







Topological edge flow



- Edge definition that follows anatomical shapes
- Important guidelines for surgeons
- Only feasible with quadrilaterals instead of triangles





How can we adjust the standard shape to the individual mandibles?







- Two step procedure:
 - geometry adjustment of coarse geometry
 - Iterative refinement and projection operations







Mesh Morphing with "Laplacian Surface Editing"

• Sorkine, Olga, et al. "Laplacian surface editing." *Proceedings of the 2004 Eurographics/ACM SIGGRAPH symposium on Geometry processing*. ACM, 2004.



- Morphing of mesh with consistent topology
- Allows modifications of fine meshes in real time
- Small features are protected
- Adaptation to the task of mandible meshing





Mesh morphing with "laplacian surface editing"



- Movement with
 - Master nodes (red)
 - Slave nodes (blue)



- Acting on the coarse mesh (with 555 nodes)
- Fast procedure
 - 2 to 3 minutes per mandible





Mesh morphing with "laplacian surface editing"



- Movement with
 - Master nodes (red)
 - Slave nodes (blue)



- Acting on the coarse mesh (with 555 nodes)
- Fast procedure
 - 2 to 3 minutes per mandible





Moving the landmark points to the matching individual positions



- Manual adjustement of standard master nodes to individual geometry
- First positioning of the master nodes
- and then fine tuning of the structure with slave nodes





Mesh projection



- Cascade of mesh modifications
 - Implemented with so called "shape modifiers" in Blender



- Subsequent use of
 - Normal displacement
 - Shrink-wrap projection
 - Subdivision surface
 - Smoothing
 - Heuristic definition of optimal settings





Mesh projection



- Cascade of mesh modifications
 - Implemented with so called "shape modifiers" in Blender



- Subsequent use of
 - Normal displacement
 - Shrink-wrap projection
 - Subdivision surface
 - Smoothing
 - Heuristic definition of optimal settings





Comparison of segmented geometries and standardized representations







Comparison of segmented geometries and standardized representations





average deviation : 0.031 mm maximal mean deviation: 0.042 mm





Optimal orientation of all mandible meshes: *Generalized Procrustes Analysis*

• J.C. Gower: Generalized procrustes analysis. Psychometrika 40: 33–51, 1975



- Optimal Adjustment of:
 - Translation
 - Rotation
- Both are set to a previously unknown common mean in an iterative procedure
- B. Horn: Closed-form solution of absolute orientation using unit quaternions. J Otical Soc Am 4: 629–642, 1987





Statistical Analysis with **Statistics on Structures**





- scatter shapes
- local variations
- local accuracies, etc





Interpretation of anthropometric variation as scattering input parameters







- In Blender a possibility for user interaction was implemented to provide direct access to all possible deformations (programed in *Python*)
- Standard deviations are shown for the purpose of orientation





Visualization of scatter shapes



shape[1]	43.4607 %
shape[2]	54.4139 %
shape[3]	63.2348 %
shape[4]	68.7726 %
shape[5]	73.4525 %
shape[6]	77.0157 %
shape[7]	80.0189 %





Amplitudes to match desired shapes



• Calculation of amplitudes that are suitable for best matches between standard geometry and actual mandible shapes





Visualization of amplitudes from **SoS**







Visualization of amplitudes from **SoS**





Stefan Raith - Dental Materials and Biomaterials Research Head: Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Horst Fischer





Calculation of unknown shapes for surgical reconstructions

- Overview on experimental settings
 - whole collective of 63 mandibles
 - training set of 60 mandibles for statistical analysis
 - 3 mandibles that are not in that training set are chosen as target geometries for reconstructions
- 5 different example defects on each test mandible







Reconstruction targets







Example Reconstructions







Example Reconstructions







Comparison of reconstructions three different example mandibles







deviation in mm

Good and Bad Examples for Reconstructions



- Accuracy correlates with defect size
- Upper jaw may be taken into account
- Further Manual adjustments are possible
 - -> statistically valid shapes







Conclusions and Outlook

- Workflow has shown to be applicable to the complex geometry of the human mandible
- Statistical shape analysis with SoS was feasible
- Reconstructions based on the given data are possible
 Extensions of the data base may improve the method
- Variety of application of the newly available statistical data in biomechanics and bioengineering
- Laplacian Surface Edition may in future be used for other (technical) application
 - Deformation of volumetric finite element meshes
 - Shape checking needs to be implemented (positive Jacobian)





Outlook: Mechanical Simulations in the presented process chain



Variation in bone geometry is essential for the biomechanical boundary conditions and the resulting stress distributions

Thank you for your attention

Contact: Stefan Raith Dental Materials and Biomaterials Research Pauweisstraße 30 D-52074 Aachen Tel.: +49(0)241 80-89812 sraith@ukaachen.de