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A Point Selection Method in 3D for Computer-Aided Liver Surgery Planning

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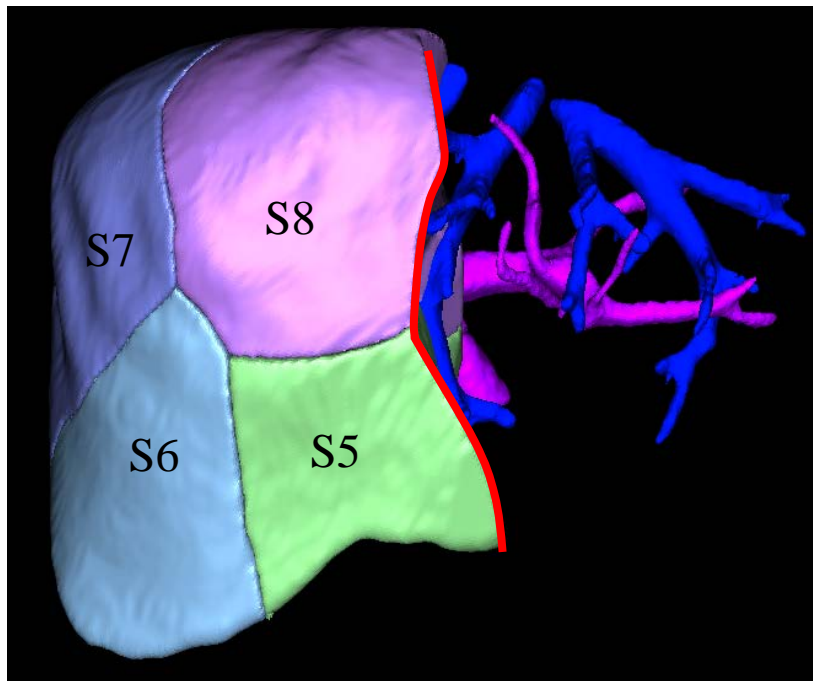
Agenda

- **Introduction**
 - **Background**
 - **Objectives**
- **Point Selection Method Development**
- **Evaluation & Results**
- **Discussion**

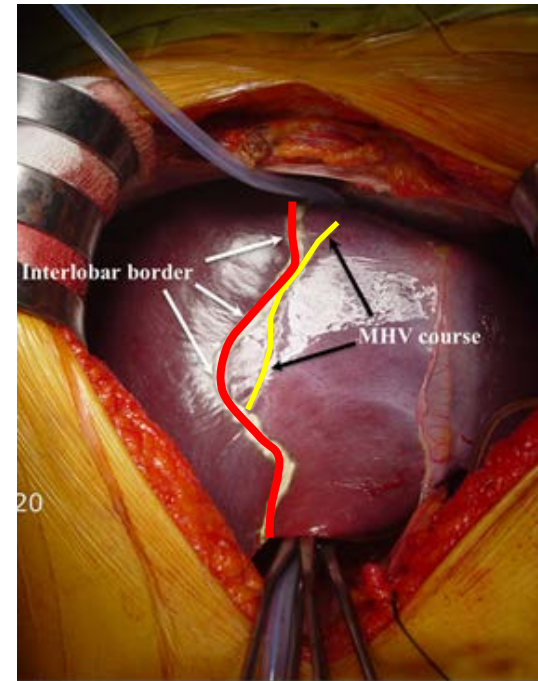
Computer-Aided Liver Surgery Planning (1/2)

- Preoperative **division of the liver** into segments based on **vessel structure** in 3D for decision of a **cutting line** for safe liver surgery

Virtual cutting line (red)



Surgical cutting line (red)



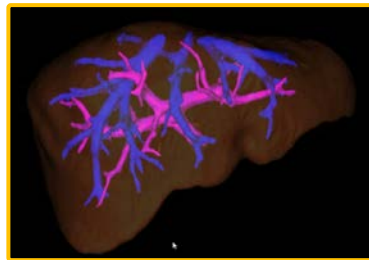
Computer-Aided Liver Surgery Planning (2/2)

- Procedure of computer-aided liver surgery planning
 - S1. Extraction of the liver and vessels from CT images
 - S2. Skeletonization of liver vessel
 - S3. **Root point selection** for identification of vessel branches for approximation of liver segments
 - S4. Division of the liver into segments based on the identified vessel branches

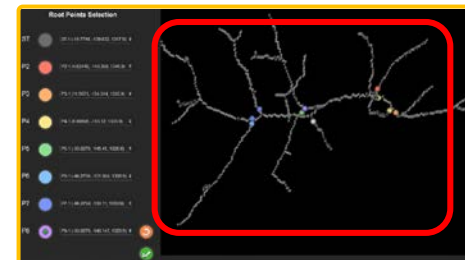
CT images



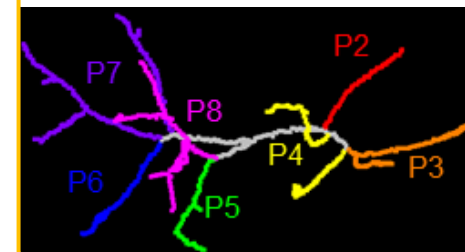
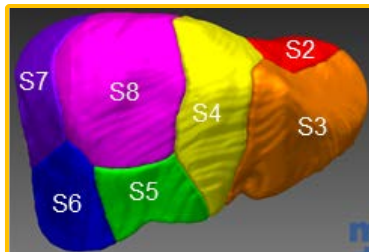
Extraction of the liver and vessels



Root point selection from skeletonized vessel for vessel branch identification



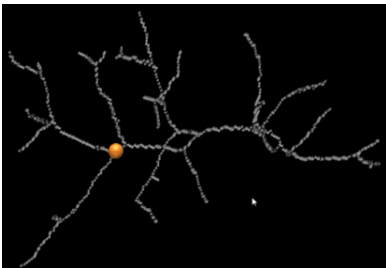
Division of the liver into segments



Issues of Existing Point Selection Methods

- Point selection methods
 1. Selection of a point over 2D CT slice
 - **Indirect** & **difficult** to know which point to select due to a lack of perception of 3D structure of the skeletonized vessel in the 2D CT view
 2. Selection of a point in 3D
 - **Direct** but **difficult** to correctly pick a point in 3D using the mouse

Target point to select

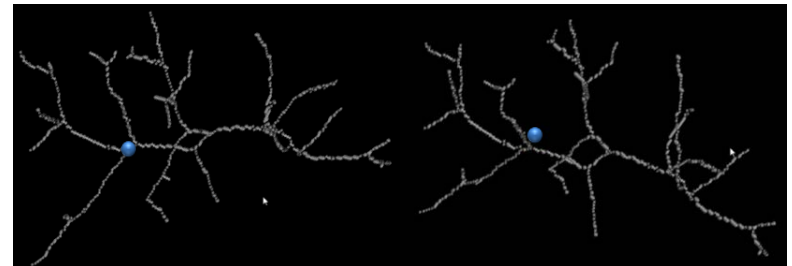


Point selection in 2D



Overlaid view of skeletonized vessel (red) with CT images

Point selection in 3D

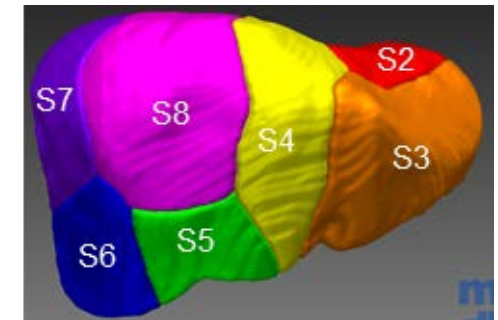
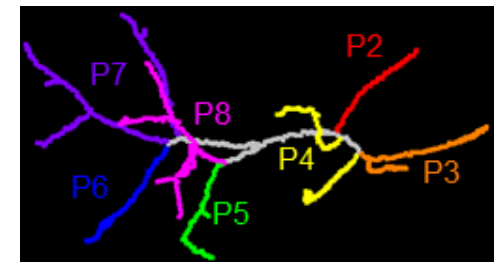
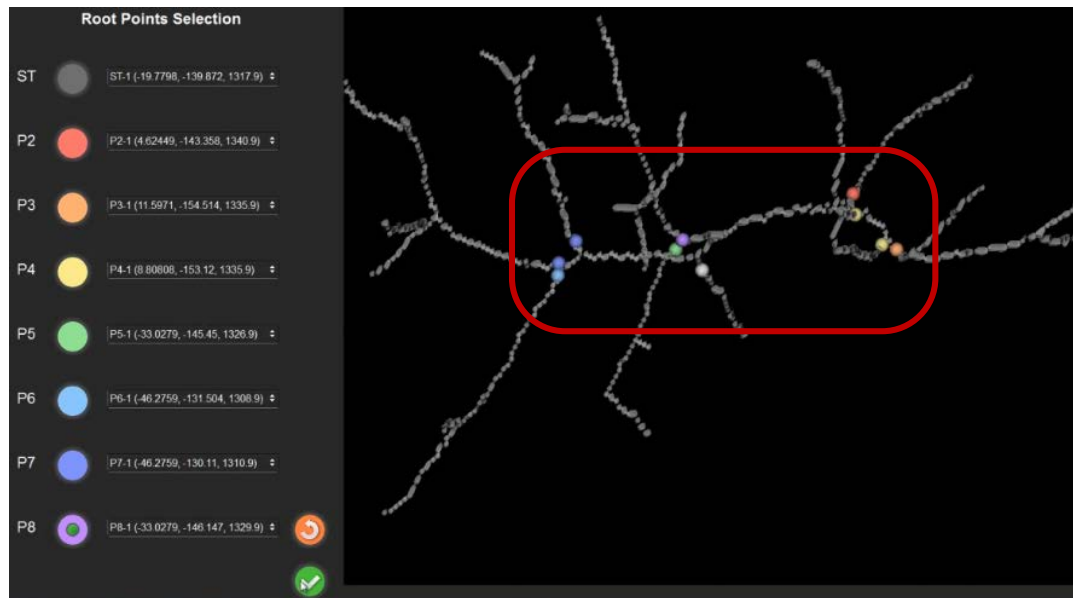


Picked point (blue) in one view

Picked point (blue) in another view

Objective of the Study

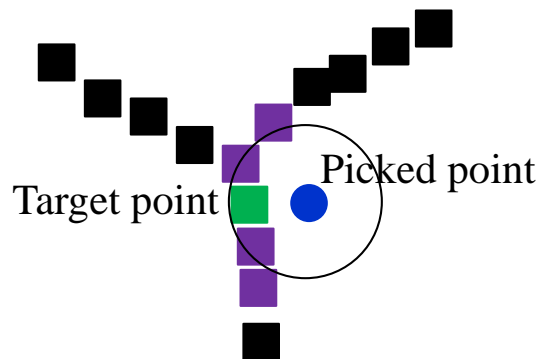
- To develop and evaluate a method for **correct selection of a target point** on a skeletonized vessel tree in 3D using the mouse for liver surgery planning



Development of the 3D Point Selection Method

- A **local searching method** developed for correct selection of a point on the skeletonized vessel tree
 - S1. Pick a point **over the target point area**
 - S2. Search neighbors of the picked point
 - S3. Identify the neighbor points located on the skeletonized vessel tree
 - S4. Find the point having the **smallest distance from the picked point** among the identified points, which will be the target point

$$P_j = \text{Target point} \quad \text{if} \quad D(P_j) = \min_{i=1, \dots, N} \{D(P_i)\}$$



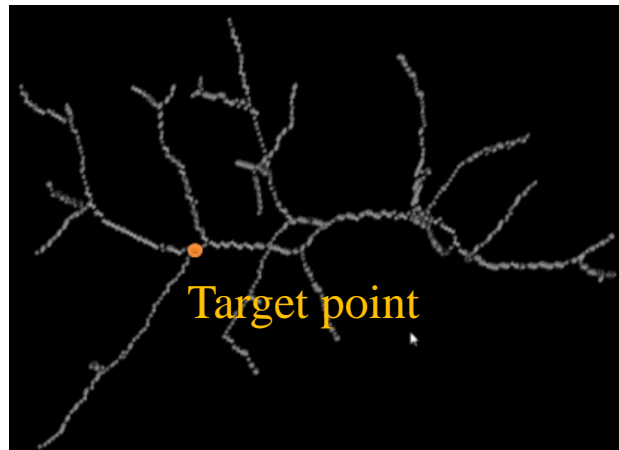
Where $D(P_i)$ = Distance between P_i and the picked point
 $P_i \in V$ = Identified neighbor points on a vessel tree V around the picked point

Demo of the Point Selection Method



Evaluation Methods (1/2)

- Participants
 - 3 graduate students (2 males and 1 female), aged 31.0 years
- Task
 - Pick a point in 3D by the mouse from a skeletonized vessel tree in two conditions:
 1. **With** the proposed local searching method
 2. **Without** the proposed local searching method



Evaluation Methods (2/2)

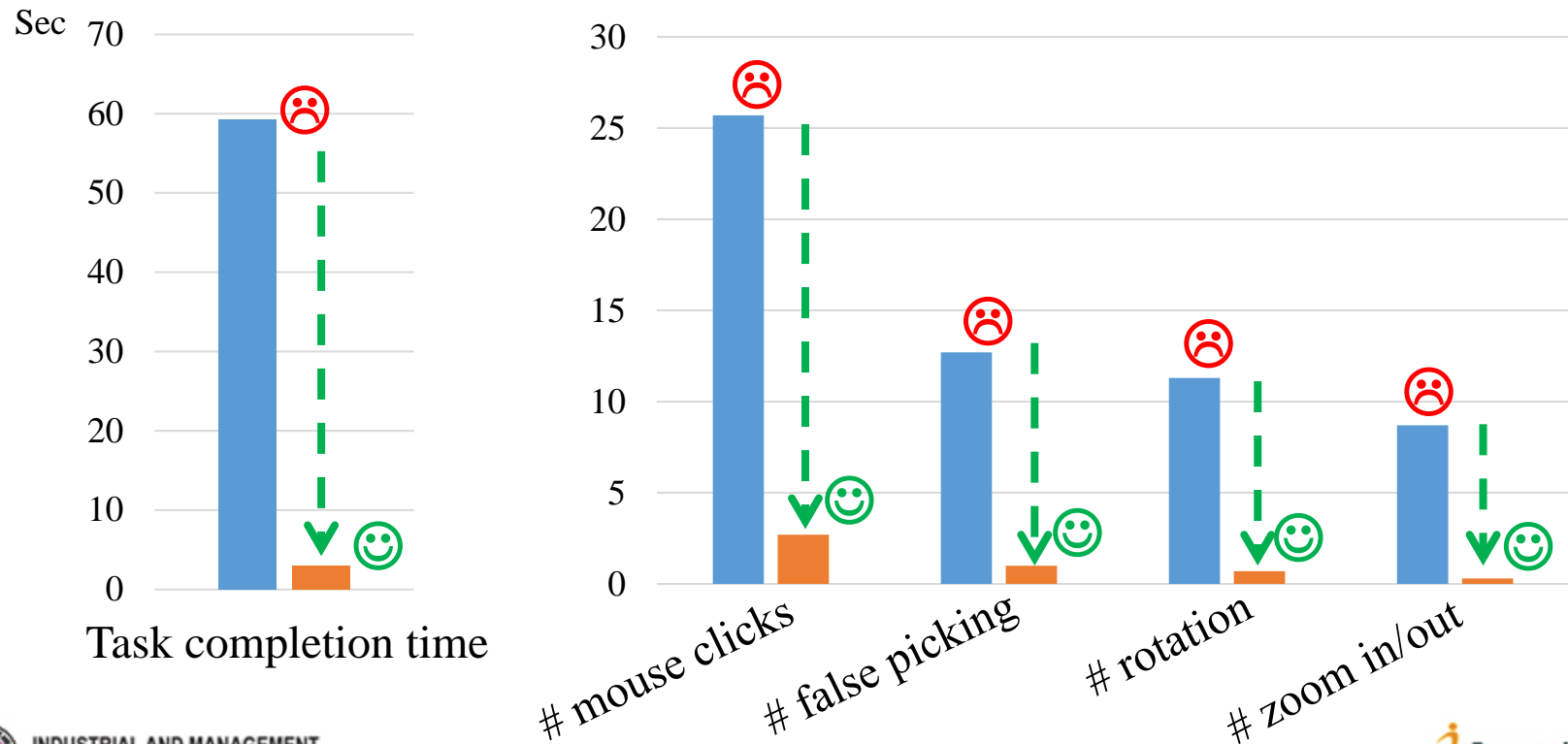
- Apparatus
 - The **point selection task was performed** using our developed liver surgery planning software **Dr. Liver™** on a computer with an Intel i7 CPU of 3.20 GHz and a RAM of 32.0 GB.
- Measures
 - Task completion time
 - Number of mouse clicks
 - Number of operations
 1. Number of false picking before picking the right point
 2. Number of rotations of the vessel tree
 3. Number of zoom in/out
- Measurement method
 - All measures were automatically recorded by Dr. Liver.

Results

- Point picking using the proposed local searching method **significantly outperformed** that without using the proposed method in all the five measures.

■ Without the proposed local searching method

■ With the proposed local searching method



Discussion (1/2)

- The developed local searching method **dramatically facilitate a point selection task in 3D** for computer-aided liver surgery planning.
- Selection of a 3D point with the local searching method outperformed that without the local searching method in terms of
 - Task completion time: 3.0 ± 1.6 sec, **20 times faster**
 - Number of mouse clicks: 2.7 ± 1.2 , **reduced by 89%**
 - Number of operations
 1. Number of false picking: 1.0 ± 0.8 , **reduced by 92%**
 2. Number of rotation: 0.7 ± 0.5 , **reduced by 94%**
 3. Number of zoom in/out: 0.3 ± 0.5 , **reduced by 97%**
- The developed local searching method can be **applied to any task in which a selection of a point in 3D** is involved.
 - e.g., picking up a 3D landmark from scanned body data for anthropometric product design.

Discussion (2/2)

- An extended evaluation of the proposed method with surgeons is needed.
- The local searching method can be extended with **more intelligence** in 3D root point selection of a vessel branch by incorporating an **automatic method for identification of a bifurcation point**.

Q & A

Thank you for your attention!

