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2006

## **A clinically valid simulator with tactile sensing to train specialists to perform cochlear implantation**

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**A Clinically Valid Simulator with Tactile Sensing  
to Train Specialists to perform  
Cochlear Implantation**

by

**Catherine Angela Todd**

***B. Eng. Electrical (Hons.)***

**This thesis is submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for award of the  
PhD degree from the University of Wollongong, Australia**

**School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering  
Faculty of Informatics**

**June, 2006**

*“I saw the angel in the marble  
and carved until I set him free.”*

~ Michelangelo (1475 - 1564)

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that I, Catherine Angela Todd, am the sole author of this dissertation. I declare that the material contained within this thesis is my own work and that referenced work is appropriately cited. I also declare that I am not aware of any similar work undertaken prior to the submission of this thesis.

Catherine Angela Todd

June 2006

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Catherine Angela Todd

June 2006



# ABSTRACT

Cochlear implantation is a maximally invasive surgical procedure aimed at overcoming human inaudibility and providing the sensation of sound to thousands of severely deaf recipients worldwide. Specialists require extensive training to perform the surgery, yet traditional approaches such as cadaver dissection and device insertion can prove costly. Alternative training schemes have not been developed, however surgical simulators that offer force feedback during anatomical model manipulation may provide the answer.

In the work, a novel approach to medical education is presented. It combines haptic technology and computer visualisation to recreate cochlear implantation in a virtual environment. The surgical simulator provides visual and haptic rendering during cochlear implant insertion into a virtual model of the human Scala Tympani. As the user inserts the sub-sampled array into a three-dimensional, reproducible representation of the Scala Tympani, collisions between the electrode and Scala Tympani walls are detected. In response, real-time forces are delivered back through the haptic device in a closed loop control system.

Insertion studies are performed to evaluate the cochlear implant insertion process. Electrode array trajectories and output forces are monitored during device insertion into a synthetic model of the Scala Tympani. The force, torque and position data produced from the experiments are used in the final stage of work for simulator validation.

A three-dimensional, surface description of the human Scala Tympani is derived from measured data and parameterised for future reproduction. It is visualised in a virtual environment, the Reachin Application Programming Interface, where visual and haptic rendering is implemented to make the insertion process interactive. Algorithms are

produced and program optimisations performed to enable real-time, dynamic manipulation of the environment. Real world physical attributes are added to the Scala Tympani surfaces and electrode carrier to make the scene more realistic.

System validation is performed by statistical and qualitative comparisons between the force profiles produced from the simulation and experimentation. The results are presented and evaluated in terms of overall system performance.

The thesis offers unique approaches for simulator design, development and validation. The significant contributions of the work are reported, as are the benefits, with recommendations for future system enhancements.

## THESIS PUBLICATIONS

1. C. Todd and F. Naghdy, “Virtual Cochlear Implantation”, to be presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Cochlear Implants, Hofburg, Vienna, Austria, 2006.
2. C. Todd and F. Naghdy, “Cochlear Implant Insertion: A Virtual Approach for Medical Education”, presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual International Meeting on Medical Simulation (IMMS 2006), pp 564-567, San Diego, California, United States of America, Society for Medical Simulation, 2006.
3. C. Todd and F. Naghdy, “Virtual Cochlear Implant Insertion for Medical Education”, presented at World Haptics Conference (WHC 2005), Piza, Italy, IEEE Computer Society, 2005.
4. C. Todd and F. Naghdy, “Parametric Model of the Scala Tympani for Haptic-Rendered Cochlear Implantation”, presented at Medicine Meets Virtual Reality 13 (MMVR 2005), pp 564-567, Long Beach, California, United States of America, IOS Press, Netherlands, 2005.
5. C. Todd and F. Naghdy, “Visual and Haptic Rendering of the Temporal Bone for Cochlear Implant Surgery”, presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Multiconference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics (SCI 2004), Orlando, Florida, United States of America, International Institute of Informatics and Systemics, 2004.

6. C. Todd, F. Naghdy and Stephen O’Leary, “Geometric Modeling of the Temporal Bone for Cochlear Implant Simulation”, presented at SPIE Medical Imaging (SPIE 2004), vol. 5367, pp 482-490, San Diego, California, United States of America, Proceedings of SPIE (SPIE, Bellingham, WA), 2004.
7. C. Todd and F. Naghdy, “Visual and Haptic Rendering of Temporal Bone Surgery”, presented at 3<sup>rd</sup> IFAC Symposium on Mechatronic Systems (IFAC 2004), pp 487-492, Manly, Australia, IFAC (Computer Proceedings), 2004.
8. C. Todd, F. Naghdy and S. O’Leary, “Geometric Modelling of a Haptic Rendered Computer Simulator for Cochlear Implantation”, presented at the Second International Conference on Computational Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems (CIRAS 2004), pp PS01-3-03, Singapore, National University of Singapore (Computer Proceedings), 2004.
9. C. Todd and F. Naghdy, “Force Application during Cochlear Implant Insertion: An Analysis for Improvement of Surgeon Technique”, IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, (submitted to, February 2006).

# Table of Contents

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	i
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	iii
<b>THESIS PUBLICATIONS</b> .....	v
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	vii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b> .....	xiii
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b> .....	xix
<b>LIST OF EQUATIONS</b> .....	xx
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b> .....	xxi
<b>CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
1.1 Overview.....	1
1.2 The Human Cochlea.....	3
1.3 Cochlear Implantation.....	6
1.4 Insertion Studies.....	10
1.4.1 Insertion Trauma.....	10
1.4.2 Implant Position.....	11
1.4.3 Damage to the Implant.....	12
1.5 Surgical Training Schemes.....	13
1.6 Surgical Simulation.....	14
1.7 Objectives of the Work.....	16
1.8 Thesis Scope.....	18

<b>CHAPTER 2. BACKGROUND</b>	21
2.1 Introduction	21
2.2 Anatomical Visualisation Pipeline	22
2.2.1 Image Acquisition and Registration	23
2.2.1.1 Histological Sectioning	24
2.2.1.2 Computed Tomography (CT)	27
2.2.1.3 Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	30
2.2.2 Segmentation	33
2.2.3 Three-Dimensional Reconstructions of Temporal Bone Anatomy	35
2.2.3.1 Surface-Rendering	35
2.2.3.2 Volume-Rendering	37
2.3 Virtual Rendering of the Cochlea	41
2.4 Animation of Surgical Procedures involving the Cochlea	42
2.5 Haptic Rendering	47
2.5.1 Haptic Feedback in Closed-Loop Control	47
2.5.2 System Design Constraints	48
2.5.3 Benefits of a Haptic-Rendered Surgical Simulator	50
2.6 Existing Surgical Simulators with Haptic Feedback	50
2.6.1 Temporal Bone Dissection	52
2.6.2 Soft Tissue Manipulation	56
2.6.3 Device Insertions	61
2.7 Significance of the Work	67
<b>CHAPTER 3. INSERTION FORCE ANALYSIS</b>	70
3.1 Insertion Force Studies	70

3.2	Background.....	71
3.3	Insertion Techniques: Contour™ Electrodes.....	74
3.4	Insertion Force Measurement.....	77
3.4.1	Model of the Human Scala Tympani.....	78
3.4.2	Experimental Procedure.....	79
3.5	Coefficient of Friction Measurement.....	82
3.6	Results.....	85
3.6.1	Insertion Force Output and Electrode Trajectories.....	85
3.6.2	Coefficients of Friction.....	88
3.7	Validation of Results.....	91
3.8	Discussion of Results.....	93
3.8.1	Effect of the Platinum Stylet.....	94
3.8.2	Contribution of Frictional Force to Insertion Force.....	95
3.8.3	Electrode Trajectories and Positioning during Insertion.....	97
3.8.4	Summary of Surgeon Technique.....	98
3.9	Overview of Analysis.....	99
3.10	Selection of SIT for Simulation.....	100
3.11	Limitations of the Experimentation.....	101

## **CHAPTER 4. GEOMETRIC MODELLING**

	<b>OF THE HUMAN COCHLEA.....</b>	<b>103</b>
4.1	Introduction.....	103
4.2	Stages for Simulator Development.....	104
4.3	Existing Work.....	105
4.4	Model Development from CT.....	109

4.4.1	Image Acquisition and Registration.....	109
4.4.2	Image Processing and Segmentation in Analyze.....	110
4.4.3	Three-Dimensional Reconstruction in Analyze.....	114
4.4.4	Surface Rendering of the Cochlea.....	116
4.4.5	Model Validation and Shortcomings.....	120
4.5	Model Development from Measured Data.....	122
4.5.1	ST Model Design.....	122
4.5.1.1	Parameterisation of the Model.....	128
4.5.2	FEM of the ST in ANSYS.....	133

## **CHAPTER 5. VISUAL AND HAPTIC RENDERING**

	<b>OF THE INSERTION.....</b>	<b>140</b>
5.1	Introduction.....	140
5.1.1	Reachin API.....	141
5.1.2	Hardware.....	143
5.2	Simulator Realisation.....	144
5.2.1	Preliminary Visualisation and Interaction.....	144
5.2.2	Dynamic Environment.....	147
5.2.3	Contour and Stylet Mobility.....	148
5.2.4	Surgical Tools.....	150
5.2.5	Stylet Withdrawal.....	151
5.2.6	Scene Magnification.....	154
5.2.7	Collision Detection and Response: Stability Issues.....	156
5.2.8	Program Optimisations.....	159
5.2.8.1	Polygon Reduction of the ST Surface.....	160



5.2.9	Physical Properties of the ST and Contour Models.....	170
5.2.9.1	Physical Properties of the ST.....	170
5.2.9.2	Physical Properties of the Contour Array.....	172
5.2.10	Haptic Rendering during Full Electrode Insertion.....	175
5.2.11	Overall System.....	180
<b>CHAPTER 6.</b>	<b>SIMULATOR VALIDATION.....</b>	<b>183</b>
6.1	Simulator Force and Position Results.....	183
6.2	Curve Fitting.....	186
6.3	Analysis of Simulation Results.....	192
6.4	Comparison between Simulated and Experimental Results.....	195
<b>CHAPTER 7.</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK.....</b>	<b>211</b>
7.1	Overview.....	211
7.2	Benefits of the Work.....	212
7.3	Evolution in Surgical Simulation.....	212
7.4	Cochlear Implant Insertion Studies.....	213
7.5	Geometric Model of the Human ST.....	214
7.6	Real-time Visual and Haptic Rendering of CI Insertion.....	215
7.7	System Validation.....	216
7.8	Major Contributions of the Work.....	217
7.9	Current Constraints and Future Work.....	218
7.9.1	Contour Collision Response Algorithm.....	219
7.9.2	Insertion Force Measurement.....	219
7.9.3	Virtual Cochlear Model.....	222

7.9.4	Stylet Withdrawal in the Simulation.....	223
7.9.5	Surgeon Evaluation.....	224
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>		<b>225</b>
<b>APPENDIX: Control Programs.....</b>		<b>238</b>
A	Cochlear Surface Extraction: VTK/Python.....	238
B	Cochlear VRML Surface Visualisation in the Reachin API.....	241
C	Cochlea Rotation and Translation.....	242
D	Custom Object Nodes.....	243
E	Insertion Scene.....	250
F	Make File.....	263
G	Cochlear Builder.....	265
H	Carrier Movement.....	266
I	Stylet Withdrawal.....	267
J	Spline Derivation.....	277
K	Spline Function Coefficients.....	279
L	Spline Function Value X, Y.....	280

## List of Figures

Fig. 1.1	A cross-section of the cochlea, captured in a transverse plane [2].....	4
Fig. 1.2	The cochlear spiral, located deep within the inner ear [13].....	5
Fig. 1.3	Nucleus® 24 Contour™ electrode.....	7
Fig. 1.4	The three-dimensional cochlear spiral, with an electrode array inserted into the Scala Tympani (ST) chamber [26].....	7
Fig. 2.1	The Visualisation Pipeline.....	23
Fig. 2.2	A digitised histological section of the ear of a moustached bat [63]....	26
Fig. 2.3	Two-dimensional CT image of middle and inner ear structures [70]...	29
Fig. 2.4	MRM of the temporal bone region [63].....	32
Fig. 2.5	Axial image of the temporal bone with segmented structures differentiated by colour [71].....	34
Fig. 2.6	Surface-rendered image of the temporal bone and adjacent anatomy [71].....	37
Fig. 2.7	Two-dimensional image of a three-dimensional temporal bone volume projected via ray-casting [68].....	39
Fig. 2.8	Volume-rendering of the temporal bone (white) with surface-rendering of the inner ear structures (coloured) [70].....	40
Fig. 2.9	Finite Element (FE) volume model of the cochlea in ANSYS [95].....	40
Fig. 2.10	An endoscopic view of the cochlear apical turn and the modiolus [68].....	43
Fig. 2.11	Virtual endoscopy: picture shows a CI and a two-dimensional image slice superimposed on the rendered scene [71].....	44

Fig. 2.12	A transparent rendering of a CI insertion [69].....	46
Fig. 2.13	Haptic interface as part of a closed-loop control system.....	48
Fig. 2.14	The Ohio Supercomputer Centers' surgical simulator for temporal bone dissection [181].....	53
Fig. 2.15	University of Hamburg's temporal bone dissection simulation [74]....	54
Fig. 2.16	Simulator of temporal bone drilling, with irrigation and suction, developed at the Centre for Advanced Studies, Research and Development, Sardinia, Italy [125].....	56
Fig. 2.17	Deformation of the liver [164].....	59
Fig. 2.18	Soft-tissue cutting to reveal the stomach [164].....	61
Fig. 2.19	A virtual catheter insertion, with stereo viewing and force feedback [144].....	64
Fig. 2.20	A virtual cholecystectomy [127].....	67
Fig. 3.1	Electrode trajectories (SIT and AOS insertions) and force profiles for a typical SIT, partial stylet withdrawal and an AOS insertion.....	75
Fig. 3.2	Nucleus® 24 Contour Advance™ electrode.....	77
Fig. 3.3	A two-dimensional depiction of frictional force at point, i, along the ST inner wall.....	78
Fig. 3.4	Test rig for measurement of insertion force.....	81
Fig. 3.5	A Standard CSEM Tribometer (CSM Instruments), University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.....	84
Fig. 3.6	Summary of results: average insertion forces with first standard deviation for the Contour Practice (P), Contour 24 (C) and Contour Advance (CA) electrodes for the SIT, Partial withdrawal (Partial) and AOS insertion methods.....	88

Fig. 3.7	Averages and first standard deviations for starting (start) and dynamic (dyn) coefficients of friction between silicone/Teflon interface, for different configurations: rough disc (R), smooth disc (S), dry (D) and wet (W) conditions, with rectangular (C) and spherical (E) silicone geometries.....	89
Fig. 3.8	A coefficient of friction result for silicone sphere geometry on a rough disc immersed in lubricant (10% bathox, 90% distilled water solution).....	90
Fig. 4.1	Diagram showing the stages of simulator development including model design, implementation and system validation.....	105
Fig. 4.2	An original image slice of the temporal bone in Analyze.....	112
Fig. 4.3	A processed image of the temporal bone scan slice, including vertebrae and cheekbone components.....	113
Fig. 4.4	Human temporal bone volume produced in Analyze.....	115
Fig. 4.5	Two-dimensional image slice from temporal bone volume.....	115
Fig. 4.6	The Segmentation Window for interactive user semi-automatic threshold-based feature extraction of the cochlea (denoted by an arrow).....	117
Fig. 4.7	The GUI for surface extraction of the cochlea from 2D images, generated using VTK and Python.....	118
Fig. 4.8	A three-dimensional model of the cochlea constructed in VTK.....	120
Fig. 4.9	A surface representation of the cochlea which is visually and haptically rendered in the Reachin API.....	121
Fig. 4.10	A 2D diagram of the ST (RW to turn 2.63; turns 0.25 to 1 marked), with measurements of ST radii, IW and OW lengths, percentage	

	lengths and RW site.....	123
Fig. 4.11	Cross-section of the ST, at radius R from the modiolar axis.....	126
Fig. 4.12	A cochlear cast showing intra-cochlear tilt [199].....	127
Fig. 4.13	Three-dimensional ST surface reconstruction produced in ANSYS....	134
Fig. 4.14	Finite Element Mesh produced from ST surface area in ANSYS.....	135
Fig. 4.15	Cross-section data plotted in ANSYS along the Helico-spiral Approximation [7] to produce a surface reconstruction of the ST.....	136
Fig. 4.16	Cross-section data plotted in ANSYS along the Archimedian spiral [8] to produce a surface reconstruction of the ST.....	137
Fig. 4.17	A surface description of the Nucleus® 24 Contour™ with stylet, created in ANSYS.....	138
Fig. 5.1	The system hardware for the simulator, including a 6DOF haptics device, custom framework for tool and stylus co-location, and stereo viewing.....	144
Fig. 5.2	Model of the ST and BM structures shown in Reachin API scene (note the additional surfaces at the apex, representing the helicotrema).....	146
Fig. 5.3	Simulator GUI in the Reachin API with the ST, BM, electrode carrier and stylet. A top and front view of the scene.....	146
Fig. 5.4	Simulator GUI with the ST, BM, electrode carrier and stylet, as well as tweezers and force/position display.....	147
Fig. 5.5	An illustration of the <i>fieldOfView</i> ( $\theta$ ) field of the <i>Viewpoint</i> node.....	155
Fig. 5.6	A modified version of the Nucleus® 24 Contour™ electrode produced in ANSYS.....	157
Fig. 5.7	The sub-sampled silicone carrier at the GUI, in the Reachin API.....	158

Fig. 5.8	A line set (spline) approximation (produced in ANSYS) for the physical representation and haptic rendering of the ST in the Reachin API.....	161
Fig. 5.9	The ST shown prior to polygon reduction in the VIZup GUI.....	163
Fig. 5.10	The ST surface result for a 95% polygon reduction in VIZup.....	165
Fig. 5.11	The GUI for the simulation in the Reachin API, produced by application of the optimisation techniques for mesh generation (visual) and polygon reduction (haptics).....	169
Fig. 5.12	Carrier sample points act as springs about the carrier longitudinal axis, on which each point's centre of gravity lies.....	173
Fig. 5.13	The sub-sampled carrier being fully inserted into the ST.....	177
Fig. 5.14	Overall flow diagram of the simulator, from geometric model development to virtual cochlear implantation.....	181
Fig. 6.1	A typical force profile produced in Excel, showing output force (N) from a simulated insertion plotted against insertion displacement (mm).....	186
Fig. 6.2	TableCurve 2D GUI showing a Least-Squares B Spline fitted to the dataset of points representing output force as a function of insertion distance along the ST.....	187
Fig. 6.3	TableCurve 2D GUI showing the spline produced by the Least-Squares B Spline option which replaces the original set of data points.....	188
Fig. 6.4	TableCurve 2D GUI showing the spline produced by the Least-Squares B Spline option and a list of equations below the graph that represent the spline.....	190

Fig. 6.5	The ST opening is translated 2.661mm to make the position of the RW and hence the start of an insertion at 0mm in the z-direction.....	191
Fig. 6.6	A spline representing force versus distance data for a simulated insertion.....	192
Fig. 6.7	The average output force data during a virtual insertion, from 0mm to a depth of 16.5mm, sampled at 0.1mm intervals.....	194
Fig. 6.8	The average output force data during a physical (experimental) insertion, from 0mm to a depth of 16.5mm, sampled at 0.1mm intervals.....	196
Fig. 6.9	The differences between average values for force output from the experimental and virtual insertion studies.....	199
Fig. 6.10	The average output force profile for an implantation which is produced by combining the datasets from the experimental and simulator results.....	207
Fig. 6.11	TableCurve 2D GUI showing the final spline approximation of the combined dataset of the experimental and simulator results superimposed onto the sampled data from Figure 6.10.....	208
Fig. 6.12	TableCurve 2D GUI showing the final spline approximation of the combined dataset of the experimental and simulator results.....	209



## List of Tables

Table 3.1	Profilometry test results.....	90
Table 4.1	IW and OW lengths [9], percentage lengths [9] and cochlear radii [11] for the length of the OC.....	124
Table 4.2	Percentage lengths, cross-section width and height from RW to apex,	129
Table 4.3	Values calculated for cochlear radii.....	130
Table 4.4	Final coordinates defining the cross-sections of the three-dimensional, parametric model of the human ST.....	131
Table 5.1	Summary of results for the polygon reduction of the ST surface in VIZup.....	164

## List of Equations

(1)	Coefficient of Friction ( $\mu$ ).....	83
(2)	Force due to Friction ( $F_{F\_TOT}$ ).....	95
(3)	Normal Force ( $F_n$ ).....	95
(4)	Archimedean Spiral.....	107
(5)	Logarithmic Spiral.....	107
(6)	Helico-spiral Approximation.....	108
(7)	Cochlear Height Parameter ( $z$ ).....	108
(8)	Electrode Trajectory Template ( $\Theta \geq 100^\circ$ ).....	109
(9)	Electrode Trajectory Template ( $\Theta < 100^\circ$ ).....	109
(10)	Area of Parabola ( $Area_{parabola}$ ).....	125
(11)	Total Area of ST Cross-section ( $Area_{tot}$ ).....	125
(12)	Percentage ST Width ( $W\%$ ).....	129
(13)	Percentage ST Radius ( $R\%$ ).....	130
(14)	Cochlear Radii ( $R_i$ ).....	130
(15)	Fourier Series Polynomial $9 \times 2$ .....	189
(16)	Difference in the standard error of the mean ( $se(diff)$ ).....	198
(17)	Upper and Lower Confidence Intervals ( $CI_{95}$ ).....	198

## List of Abbreviations

$F_F$	Force Due to Friction
$F_{in}$	Input Force
$F_n$	Normal Force
$\mu$	Coefficient of Friction
3D	Three Dimensional
API	Application Programming Interface
AOS	Advance Off- Stylet
BM	Basilar Membrane
CI	Cochlear Implant
CP	Cochlear Partition
CT	Computed Tomography
DOF	Degree of Freedom
ENT	Ear, Nose and Throat
FEM	Finite Element Model
GUI	Graphical User Interface
IW	Inner Wall
MFS	Method of Finite Spheres
MIP	Maximum Intensity Projection
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MRM	Magnetic Resonance Microscopy
OC	Organ of Corti
OSL	Osseous Spiral Lamina

OW	Outer Wall
ROI	Region of Interest
RW	Round Window
SFM	Scanning Force Microscopy
SIT	Standard Insertion Technique
SM	Scala Media
ST	Scala Tympani
SV	Scala Vestibuli
VBA	Visual Basic for Applications
VE	Virtual Endoscopy
VRML	Virtual Reality Modelling Language
VTk	Visualization Toolkit