Haptic Training Simulators Design Approach

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Context of medical training

- Learning from the patient poses ethical problems due to the associated risks
- So, currently, medical training emphasizes observation over hands-on practice
- However, mastering the dexterity of surgical instruments demands practice!

How learning medical gestures efficiency without any risk for the patient?

One solution is to propose new training simulators based on Virtual Reality, combining:

- **Numerical simulation** replicating organ behavior during their interactions with each other and medical instruments
- Haptic device simulating sensations experienced during the procedure
- Didactic software providing tailored learning scenarios (including scoring, progression, evaluation)



HelpMeSee - cataract



HRV - dental

Lap Mentor - laparoscopy

Approach comparable to that of simulation for air pilots

A necessary multidisciplinary approach



Haptic Training Simulator - Design Process



Haptic Training Simulator - Architecture



Haptic component

Numerical component

Illustration of HTS Context of medical training at gestures of childbirth

Medical objectives

- Acquire the right gestures for forceps extraction during childbirth
 - Understand the intended gesture
 - Prevent any harm to the tissues of the parturient and the fetus
- Be prepared to do this, to reduce the necessity for cesarean sections
- Operate effectively in delicate contexts
 - $\circ\;$ Where the parturient is conscious, where the husband is present



Results - A childbirth simulator based on VR



LIRIS, lab. TIMC-IMAG, CAOR ARMINES **3D simulation in real-time**



Lab. Ampère, CAOR ARMINES
Custom haptic device





All4Tech, HRV, LSE, Lyon Sud maternity, midwifery school of Grenoble (France) **Didactic software**

Scientific issues

• Simulating and visualizing the behavior of organs in real-time

• Validation through clinical acknowledgements and comparison with accurate simulations

Proposing an adequate haptic device rendering kinesthetic sensations
 Feelings tested by obstetricians

Ensuring the stability of the complete solution
 Loop between Numerical model, Haptic interface, and Trainee

Challenges for the numerical simulation

- Simplifying the models (geometric / biomechanical / boundary conditions) while maintaining sufficient realism for training purposes
- Evaluating errors related to the approximation of the numerical model (comparing with reality is challenging)
- Being fast (and stable...) for interaction with the haptic device



To find the adequate compromise between accuracy / execution time / stability

Challenges for the haptic component

- Replicating usual medical tools for **easier immersion** and **reusability** of acquired skills
- Rendering realistic forces and variable stiffness
 - with small magnitudes (insertion of a catheter in a ventricle, for instance)
 - with hard contacts (collision with bones)
- Using and mixing adequate actuators (Electric/Pneumatic/Rheological...)
- Managing the coupling with the Numerical Simulation
 - with different sampling periods (and without vibrations)
 - \circ $\;$ with fast, stable and robust control laws





The complete childbirth simulator with a coupling between numerical and haptic components



Difficulties and limits

- The difficulty lies in ensuring that users do not merely learn to operate the simulator
- Rather, the simulator must facilitate learning & training the authentic procedure
- It is imperative that the simulator aids in:
 - Appropriating the correct gesture
 - Analyzing encountered situations
 - Acquiring the necessary dexterity for the procedure

"We have to learn how to operate a real patient and not to operate the simulator."

To conclude on Haptic Training Simulators interests

- Expected interests of such simulators
 - Acceleration of the learning process
 - Improvement of physiological knowledge
 - Implementation of new methods of gesture evaluation
 - Setting up new gestures
- In the near future, for medical simulators: "specific patient"
 - Training before risky operations
 - Pre-operative diagnosis / prediction to assess risks
 - Help during the intervention

To conclude on HTS design & development

A long development process... to obtain a simulator that improves training of gestures

First validation :

• Simulation & haptics

Second validation :

- Integration of relevant learning scenarios
- The simulator must be able to reproduce these scenarios
- Management of common & rare situations: morphology, pathology, gesture to be performed

Third validation :

- Test campaign with practitioners
- Evaluation of the simulator's contribution for learning & training

... but it's worth the effort

Thank you for your attention

Speaker



Any questions?



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