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### SYSTEM AND METHOD RELATED TO REGISTRATION FOR A MEDICAL PROCEDURE

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#### Abstract

Techniques related to registration for a medical procedure include a medical system having one or more processors. The one or more processors are configured to perform operations including determining an initial registration between a probe device space and an imaging device space, the probe device space being associated with a probe device coupled to the medical system, the imaging device space being associated with an imaging device coupled to the medical system; receiving imaging data from the imaging device; generating a predicted projection of the probe device relative to the image data based on the initial registration; and updating the initial registration by comparing the predicted projection to an actual projection of the probe device in the image data to generate a first registration between the probe device space and the imaging device space

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## **Background/Summary**

**RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001]** This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/620,081, filed Dec. 16, 2021, which is a U.S. National Stage patent application of International Patent Application No. PCT/US2020/039391, filed Jun. 24, 2020, the benefit of which is claimed, and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/866,209, filed Jun. 25, 2019. The disclosures of these related applications are incorporated by reference herein.

### **TECHNICAL FIELD**

[0002] The present disclosure is directed to systems for performing a medical procedure and more particularly to systems and methods for registering anatomic model to real-time image data during a medical procedure.

### **BACKGROUND**

[0003] Medical robotic systems such as teleoperational systems used in performing minimally invasive surgical procedures offer many benefits over traditional open surgery techniques, including less pain, shorter hospital stays, quicker return to normal activities, minimal scarring, reduced recovery time, and less injury to tissue. Consequently, demand for such medical teleoperational systems is strong and growing.

[0004] Examples of medical teleoperational systems include the da Vinci® Surgical System and the da Vinci® STM Surgical System from Intuitive Surgical, Inc., of Sunnyvale, Calif. Each of these systems includes an operator's console, a patient-side cart, a high performance three-dimensional (“3-D”) vision system, and Intuitive Surgical's proprietary EndoWrist® articulating instruments, which are modeled after the human wrist. When added to the motions of manipulators holding the surgical instruments, these articulating instruments allow at least six degrees of freedom of motion to their end effectors, which is comparable to or even greater than the natural motions of open surgery.

[0005] Minimally invasive medical techniques are intended to reduce the amount of tissue that is damaged during medical procedures, thereby reducing patient recovery time, discomfort, and harmful side effects. Such minimally invasive techniques may be performed through natural orifices in a patient anatomy or through one or more surgical incisions. Through these natural orifices or incisions an operator may insert minimally invasive medical instruments (including surgical, diagnostic, therapeutic, or biopsy instruments) to reach a target tissue location. To assist with reaching the target tissue location, the location and movement of the medical instruments may be correlated with pre-operative or intra-operative images of the patient anatomy. With the image-guided instruments correlated to the images, the instruments may navigate natural or surgically created passageways in anatomic systems such as the lungs, the colon, the intestines, the kidneys, the heart, the circulatory system, or the like. However, registering the anatomic model generated from pre-operative or intra-operative images to real-time image data provided by an imaging device may be computational expensive and time consuming, and the registration quality (e.g., accuracy, completeness, validity, consistency) may not be satisfactory, which may cause uncertainty in the image-guided procedure.

[0006] Accordingly, it would be advantageous to provide improved registration for performing image-guided procedures.

## SUMMARY

[0007] The embodiments of the invention are best summarized by the claims that follow the description.

[0008] In some embodiments, a medical system includes one or more processors. The processors are configured to perform operations comprising: receiving image data associated with an anatomic feature of a patient from a first imaging device, the image data associated with a first imaging device space; obtaining probe data associated with the anatomic feature from a second imaging device, the probe data associated with a second imaging device space; registering the probe data to the image data to generate a first registration between the second imaging device space and the first imaging device space; registering an anatomic model associated with the anatomic feature to the probe data to generate a second registration between a model space of the anatomic model and the second imaging device space; and generating a third registration between the model space and the first imaging device space based on the first registration and the second registration.

[0009] In some embodiments, a method includes receiving image data associated with an anatomic feature of a patient from a first imaging device, the image data associated with a first imaging device space; obtaining probe data associated with the anatomic feature from a second imaging device, the probe data associated with a second imaging device space; registering the probe data to the image data to generate a first registration between the second imaging device space and the first imaging device space; registering an anatomic model associated with the anatomic feature to the probe data to generate a second registration between a model space of the anatomic model and the second imaging device space; and generating a third registration between the model space and the first imaging device space based on the first registration and the second registration.

[0010] In some embodiments, a non-transitory machine-readable medium comprises a plurality of machine-readable instructions which when executed by one or more processors associated with a medical device are adapted to cause the one or more processors to perform any of the operations or methods described herein.

[0011] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory in nature and are intended to provide an understanding of the present disclosure without limiting the scope of the present disclosure. In that regard, additional aspects, features, and advantages of the present disclosure will be apparent to one skilled in the art from the following detailed description.

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## Description

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] FIG. 1A is a schematic view of a teleoperated medical system in a surgical frame of reference, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure; FIG. 1B is a perspective view of patient side systems, according to one example of principles described herein.

[0013] FIGS. 2A, 2B, and 2C are simplified diagrams of a system for registering an anatomic model to image data provided by an imaging device during a medical procedure according to some embodiments.

[0014] FIGS. 3A, 3B, and 3C are simplified diagrams of image data captured from imaging devices configured as depicted in FIGS. 2A-2C according to some embodiments.

[0015] FIG. 4A is a flow chart illustrating a method for performing registration of an anatomic model to a patient anatomy in an image-guided surgical procedure or a portion thereof according to some embodiments; FIG. 4B illustrates an anatomic model with identified target probe areas according to some embodiments; FIG. 4C illustrates estimated target probe areas corresponding to the identified target probe areas in image data according to some embodiments; and FIG. 4D is a display illustrating a registered anatomic model superimposed on image data according to some

embodiments.

[0016] FIG. 5 is a flow chart illustrating a method for automatically determining an activation status of the probe device according to some embodiments.

[0017] FIG. 6A is a flow chart illustrating a method for registering probe data to the image data in an image-guided surgical procedure according to some embodiments.

[0018] FIG. 6B is a display illustrating a projection of the probe device on image data during registering probe data to the image data according to some embodiments.

[0019] FIG. 7 is a flow chart illustrating a method for performing registration of an anatomic model to probe data in an image-guided surgical procedure according to some embodiments.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0020] For the purposes of promoting an understanding of the principles of the present disclosure, reference will now be made to the embodiments illustrated in the drawings, and specific language will be used to describe the same. It will nevertheless be understood that no limitation of the scope of the disclosure is intended. In the following detailed description of the aspects of the invention, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the disclosed embodiments. However, it will be obvious to one skilled in the art that the embodiments of this disclosure may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well known methods, procedures, components, and circuits have not been described in detail so as not to unnecessarily obscure aspects of the embodiments of the invention.

[0021] Any alterations and further modifications to the described devices, instruments, methods, and any further application of the principles of the present disclosure are fully contemplated as would normally occur to one skilled in the art to which the disclosure relates. In particular, it is fully contemplated that the features, components, and/or steps described with respect to one embodiment may be combined with the features, components, and/or steps described with respect to other embodiments of the present disclosure. In addition, dimensions provided herein are for specific examples and it is contemplated that different sizes, dimensions, and/or ratios may be utilized to implement the concepts of the present disclosure. To avoid needless descriptive repetition, one or more components or actions described in accordance with one illustrative embodiment can be used or omitted as applicable from other illustrative embodiments. For the sake of brevity, the numerous iterations of these combinations will not be described separately. For simplicity, in some instances the same reference numbers are used throughout the drawings to refer to the same or like parts.

[0022] The embodiments below will describe various instruments and portions of instruments in terms of their state in three-dimensional space. As used herein, the term “position” refers to the location of an object or a portion of an object in a three-dimensional space (e.g., three degrees of translational freedom along Cartesian X, Y, Z coordinates). As used herein, the term “orientation” refers to the rotational placement of an object or a portion of an object (three degrees of rotational freedom—e.g., roll, pitch, and yaw). As used herein, the term “pose” refers to the position of an object or a portion of an object in at least one degree of translational freedom and to the orientation of that object or portion of the object in at least one degree of rotational freedom (up to six total degrees of freedom). As used herein, the term “shape” refers to a set of poses, positions, or orientations measured along an object.

[0023] Aspects of the invention are described primarily in terms of an implementation using a computer-aided medical system such as a da Vinci® Surgical System commercialized by Intuitive Surgical, Inc. of Sunnyvale, California. Knowledgeable persons will understand, however, that inventive aspects disclosed herein may be embodied and implemented in various ways, including robotic and, if applicable, non-robotic embodiments and implementations. Implementations on any surgical systems such as the da Vinci® Surgical Systems are merely exemplary and are not to be considered as limiting the scope of the inventive aspects disclosed herein. For example, any reference to surgical instruments and surgical methods is non-limiting as the tools, systems, and

methods described herein may be used for animals, human cadavers, animal cadavers, portions of human or animal anatomy, tissue removed from human or animal anatomies (with or without return to a human or animal anatomy), non-surgical diagnosis, industrial systems, and general robotic or teleoperational systems. As further examples, the instruments, systems, and methods described herein may be used for non-medical purposes including industrial uses, general robotic uses, sensing or manipulating non-tissue work pieces, cosmetic improvements, imaging of human or animal anatomy, gathering data from human or animal anatomy, setting up or taking down systems, training medical or non-medical personnel, and/or the like. Additional example applications include use for procedures on tissue removed from human or animal anatomies (without return to a human or animal anatomy) and for procedures on human or animal cadavers. Further, these techniques can also be used for medical treatment or diagnosis procedures that include, or do not include, surgical aspects.

[0024] Referring to FIG. 1A of the drawings, a teleoperated medical system for use in, for example, medical procedures including diagnostic, therapeutic, or surgical procedures, is generally indicated by the reference numeral **10** and operates within a surgical environment having a surgical frame of reference coordinate system, XS, Y S, ZS. As will be described, the teleoperated medical systems of this disclosure are under the teleoperated control of an operator. In alternative embodiments, a teleoperated medical system may be under the partial control of a computer programmed to perform the procedure or sub-procedure. In still other alternative embodiments, a fully automated medical system, under the full control of a computer programmed to perform the procedure or sub-procedure, may be used to perform procedures or sub-procedures. As shown in FIG. 1A, the teleoperated medical system **10** generally includes a teleoperated assembly **12** mounted to or near an operating table T on which a patient P is positioned. The teleoperated assembly **12** may be referred to as a patient side cart. A medical instrument system **14** and an endoscopic imaging system **15** are operably coupled to the teleoperated assembly **12**. An operator console **16** allows an operator O (e.g., a surgeon or other type of clinician) to view images of or representing the surgical site and to control the operation of the medical instrument system **14** and/or the endoscopic imaging system **15**. A supplemental imaging system **17** including a minimally invasive image capture probe **19** may be used with the medical instrument system **14** and endoscopic imaging system **15** as will be described below. Together with the patient side cart, the supplemental imaging system **17** may be known as a patient side system. The endoscopic imaging system **15** provides images of the external surfaces of anatomic structures within the surgical environment. The supplemental imaging system **17** may be an internal imaging system such as an ultrasound, x-ray, or gamma imaging system capable of imaging beyond the external surface of the anatomic structures.

[0025] The operator console **16** may be located at an operator's console, which is usually located in the same room as operating table T. It should be understood, however, that the operator O can be located in a different room or a completely different building from the patient P. The operator console **16** includes left and right eye displays for presenting the operator O with a coordinated stereo view of the surgical site that enables depth perception. The console **16** further includes one or more input control devices which cause the teleoperated assembly **12** to manipulate one or more instruments or the endoscopic imaging system. The input control devices can provide the same degrees of freedom as their associated instruments **14** to provide the operator O with telepresence, or the perception that the input control devices are integral with the instruments **14** so that the operator has a strong sense of directly controlling the instruments **14**. To this end, position, force, and tactile feedback sensors (not shown) may be employed to transmit position, force, and tactile sensations from the instruments **14** back to the operator's hands through the input control devices. The control device(s) may include one or more of any number of a variety of input devices, such as hand grips, joysticks, trackballs, data gloves, trigger-guns, hand-operated controllers, voice recognition devices, touch screens, body motion or presence sensors, and the like. In some

embodiments, the control device(s) will be provided with the same degrees of freedom as the medical instruments of the teleoperated assembly to provide the operator with telepresence, the perception that the control device(s) are integral with the instruments so that the operator has a strong sense of directly controlling instruments as if present at the surgical site. In other embodiments, the control device(s) may have more or fewer degrees of freedom than the associated medical instruments and still provide the operator with telepresence. In some embodiments, the control device(s) are manual input devices which move with six degrees of freedom, and which may also include an actuatable handle for actuating instruments (for example, for closing grasping jaws, applying an electrical potential to an electrode, delivering a medicinal treatment, and the like).

[0026] The teleoperated assembly **12** supports and manipulates the medical instrument system **14** while the operator **O** views the surgical site through the console **16**. An image of the surgical site can be obtained by the endoscopic imaging system **15**, such as a stereoscopic endoscope, which can be manipulated by the teleoperated assembly **12** to orient the endoscope **15**. An electronics cart **18** can be used to process the images of the surgical site for subsequent display to the operator **O** through the operator console **16**. The number of medical instrument systems **14** used at one time will generally depend on the diagnostic or surgical procedure and the space constraints within the operating room among other factors. The teleoperated assembly **12** may include a kinematic structure of one or more non-servo-controlled links (e.g., one or more links that may be manually positioned and locked in place, generally referred to as a set-up structure) and a teleoperated manipulator. The teleoperated assembly **12** includes a plurality of motors that drive inputs on the medical instrument system **14**. These motors move in response to commands from the control system (e.g., control system **20**). The motors include drive systems which when coupled to the medical instrument system **14** may advance the medical instrument into a naturally or surgically created anatomical orifice. Other motorized drive systems may move the distal end of the medical instrument in multiple degrees of freedom, which may include three degrees of linear motion (e.g., linear motion along the X, Y, Z Cartesian axes) and in three degrees of rotational motion (e.g., rotation about the X, Y, Z Cartesian axes). Additionally, the motors can be used to actuate an articulable end effector of the instrument for grasping tissue in the jaws of a biopsy device or the like.

[0027] The teleoperated medical system **10** also includes a control system **20**. The control system **20** includes at least one memory and at least one processor (not shown), and typically a plurality of processors, for effecting control between the medical instrument system **14**, the endoscopic system **15**, the operator console **16**, and monitors on the electronics cart **18**. The control system **20** may also receive and process images from the supplemental imaging system **17**. The electronics cart **18** may house components of the endoscopic imaging system **15**, the supplemental imaging system **17**, the control system **20** as well as monitors and processors for processing and displaying captured images.

[0028] The control system **20** also includes programmed instructions (e.g., a computer-readable medium storing the instructions) to implement some or all the methods described in accordance with aspects disclosed herein. While control system **20** is shown as a single block in the simplified schematic of FIG. **1A**, the system may include two or more data processing circuits with one portion of the processing optionally being performed on or adjacent the teleoperated assembly **12**, another portion of the processing being performed at the operator console **16**, and the like. Any of a wide variety of centralized or distributed data processing architectures may be employed. Similarly, the programmed instructions may be implemented as a number of separate programs or subroutines, or they may be integrated into a number of other aspects of the teleoperated systems described herein. In one embodiment, control system **20** supports wireless communication protocols such as Bluetooth, IrDA, HomeRF, IEEE 802.11, DECT, and Wireless Telemetry.

[0029] In some embodiments, control system **20** may include one or more servo controllers that

receive force and/or torque feedback from the medical instrument system **14**. Responsive to the feedback, the servo controllers transmit signals to the operator console **16**. The servo controller(s) may also transmit signals instructing teleoperated assembly **12** to move the medical instrument system(s) **14** and/or endoscopic imaging system **15** which extend into an internal surgical site within the patient body via openings in the body. Any suitable conventional or specialized servo controller may be used. A servo controller may be separate from, or integrated with, teleoperated assembly **12**. In some embodiments, the servo controller and teleoperated assembly are provided as part of a teleoperated arm cart positioned adjacent to the patient's body.

[0030] The teleoperated medical system **10** may further include optional operation and support systems (not shown) such as illumination systems, steering control systems, irrigation systems, and/or suction systems. In alternative embodiments, the teleoperated system may include more than one teleoperated assembly and/or more than one operator console. The exact number of manipulator assemblies will depend on the surgical procedure and the space constraints within the operating room, among other factors. The operator consoles may be collocated, or they may be positioned in separate locations.

[0031] FIG. **1B** is a perspective view of one embodiment of a teleoperated assembly **12** and an accessory system **17** which may, together, be referred to as a patient side system. The teleoperated assembly **12** shown provides for the manipulation of three surgical tools **26** (e.g., instrument systems **14**) and an imaging device **28** (e.g., endoscopic imaging system **15**), such as a stereoscopic endoscope used for the capture of images of the site of the procedure. The imaging device may transmit signals over a cable **56** to the electronics cart **18**. Manipulation is provided by teleoperative mechanisms having a number of joints. The imaging device **28** and the surgical tools **26** can be positioned and manipulated through incisions or natural orifices in the patient so that a kinematic remote center is maintained at the incision to minimize the size of the incision. Images of the surgical site can include images of the distal ends of the surgical tools **26** when they are positioned within the field-of-view of the imaging device **28**.

[0032] The teleoperated assembly **12** includes a drivable base **58**. The drivable base **58** is connected to a telescoping column **57**, which allows for adjustment of the height of the arms **54**. The arms **54** may include a rotating joint **55** that both rotates and moves up and down. Each of the arms **54** may be connected to an orienting platform **53**. The orienting platform **53** may be capable of 360 degrees of rotation. The teleoperated assembly **12** may also include a telescoping horizontal cantilever **52** for moving the orienting platform **53** in a horizontal direction.

[0033] In the present example, each of the arms **54** connects to a manipulator arm **51**. The manipulator arms **51** may connect directly to surgical tools **26**. The manipulator arms **51** may be teleoperable. In some examples, the arms **54** connecting to the orienting platform are not teleoperable. Rather, such arms **54** are positioned as desired before the operator begins operation with the teleoperative components.

[0034] Accessory system **17** may provide one or more functionalities that augment and/or complement the functionalities provided by surgical tools **26**. Accessory system **17** includes an accessory **19** to provide the one or more additional functionalities. Accessory **19** may be a minimally invasive instrument sized for insertion into the surgical environment. Examples of accessories and their functionalities are discussed in greater detail below with reference to FIGS. **2A-7**. Accessory **19** may include an endoscopic imaging system.

[0035] Endoscopic imaging systems (e.g., systems **15**, **19**, and/or **28**) may be provided in a variety of configurations including rigid or flexible endoscopes. Rigid endoscopes include a rigid tube housing a relay lens system for transmitting an image from a distal end to a proximal end of the endoscope. Flexible endoscopes transmit images using one or more flexible optical fibers. Digital image-based endoscopes have a "chip on the tip" camera design in which a distal digital sensor such as a one or more charge-coupled device (CCD) or a complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) device acquire image data. Endoscopic imaging systems may provide two-

or three-dimensional images of the endoscopic field of view (i.e. the imaging area) to the viewer. Two-dimensional images may provide limited depth perception. Three-dimensional stereo endoscopic images may provide the viewer with more accurate depth perception. Stereo endoscopic instruments employ stereo cameras to capture stereo images of the field of view of the patient anatomy. An endoscopic instrument may be a fully sterilizable assembly with the endoscope cable, handle and shaft all rigidly coupled and hermetically sealed.

[0036] FIGS. 2A-2C are simplified diagrams illustrating a system **200** for registering an anatomic model to image data captured by an imaging device according to some embodiments. FIGS. 3A-3C are simplified diagrams illustrating image data **300** from imaging device **210** of system **200** as depicted in FIGS. 2A-2C respectively, according to some embodiments. In some embodiments, image data **300** may be displayed to an operator via a display of console **16** during a medical procedure.

[0037] Referring to the example of FIGS. 2A and 3A, a system **200** includes an imaging device **210** associated with an imaging area or a field of view **215**. According to some embodiments, the imaging device **210** may generally correspond to an endoscope, such as an endoscope **15**. The system **200** further includes a probe device **220**. According to some embodiments, the probe device **220** may generally correspond to an accessory, such as accessory **19**, a drop-in accessory, or the like. In some embodiments, probe device **220** includes an imaging device (e.g., an ultrasound probe) that uses a different imaging modality than imaging device **210**, or the like.

[0038] System **200** may further include a medical instrument **230** with an end effector **235**. According to some embodiments, medical instrument **230** may generally correspond to any of instruments **14**. In some embodiments, end effector **235** may provide a mechanical, magnetic, or other type of gripping functionality (e.g., jaws) capable of gripping probe device **220**.

[0039] As shown in the example of FIGS. 2A and 3A, an anatomic feature **240** is located within field of view **215** of imaging device **210**. Anatomic feature **240** may include or correspond to a target of a medical procedure. For example, anatomic feature **240** may correspond to an organ (e.g., a kidney) that is being operated on during the medical procedure.

[0040] As shown in the example of FIGS. 2A and 3A, a probe device **220** is located within field of view **215** of imaging device **210**. The probe device **220** may correspond to a drop-in device that is available for use during the medical procedure.

[0041] Referring to the example of FIGS. 2B and 3B, in some embodiments, an operator may control medical instrument **230** to grip and manipulate probe device **220**.

[0042] Referring to the example of FIGS. 2C and 3C, the operator may scan anatomic feature **240**, or a portion thereof, using probe device **220** by controlling medical instrument **230**. The probe device **220** may generate probe data by scanning the anatomic feature **240**.

[0043] Referring to FIGS. 4A-7, in some embodiments, system **200** may use the probe data generated by a probe device **220** to register an anatomic model with image data **300** generated by an imaging device. FIG. 4A is a simplified diagram of a method **400** for registering an anatomic model to image data using probe data from the probe device **220** during a medical procedure. FIG. 4B illustrates an anatomic model with identified target probe areas. FIG. 4C is a display illustrating estimated target probe areas corresponding to the identified target probe areas in image data. FIG. 4D is a display illustrating a registered anatomic model superimposed on image data according to some embodiments. FIG. 4D illustrates a display where image data **300** is augmented to include an anatomic model superimposed on an anatomic feature **240** of image data **300** using the registration. FIG. 5 illustrates a method **500** for automatically detecting activation of a probe device for providing the probe data according to some embodiments. FIG. 6 illustrates a method **600** for registering probe data to image data according to some embodiments. FIG. 7 illustrates a method for registering an anatomic model to the probe data according to some embodiments.

[0044] FIG. 4A is a flowchart illustrating a method **400** for using the probe data generated by a probe device scanning anatomic feature **240** to register an anatomic model with image data **300**



during a medical procedure. The method **400** is illustrated in FIG. **4A** as a set of operations or processes **410** through **490**. Not all of the illustrated processes **402** through **490** may be performed in all embodiments of method **400**. Additionally, one or more processes that are not expressly illustrated in FIG. **4A** may be included before, after, in between, or as part of the processes **402** through **490**. In some embodiments, one or more of the processes may be implemented, at least in part, in the form of executable code stored on non-transitory, tangible, machine-readable media that when run by one or more processors (e.g., the processors of control system **20**) may cause the one or more processors to perform one or more of the processes.

[0045] At process **402**, an anatomic model **245** associated with the anatomic feature **240** is received. The anatomic model **245** is associated with a model space. In some embodiments, the anatomic model **245** is determined based on pre-operative data (e.g., using pre-operative CT scans) and/or inter-operative data model of the anatomic feature **240**. In various embodiments, the anatomic model **245** may be a 2D or 3D model and may include various anatomic feature information of the anatomic feature **240**. The anatomic feature information may include for example, a vasculature of the anatomic feature **240**, particular blood vessel bifurcation(s) in the vasculature, speed and direction of blood flow of the vessels, etc.

[0046] At process **410**, image data is obtained using an imaging device of system **200**. The image data is associated with an imaging device space. In the example of FIGS. **2A-3C**, imaging device **210** may be used to obtain image data **300** of a surgical site of a patient. The imaging device **210** records a concurrent or real-time image of a surgical site including the anatomic feature **240** and provides the image data to a processor (e.g., the processors of control system **20**). The image data may be provided to an operator through one or more displays of medical system **10**, such as one or more displays of console **16**. The concurrent image may be, for example, a two- or three-dimensional image captured by an endoscope (e.g., endoscope **15**) positioned within the surgical site.

[0047] At process **420**, an activation status of a probe device is determined. In the examples of FIGS. **2A-3C**, the activation status of the probe device **220** (e.g., an ultrasound probe) may be determined. In an example, the probe device **220** may be a drop-in accessory that lacks independent movement capabilities. The probe device **220** is referred to as being in an activated state when it is controllable by an operator and is referred to as being in an inactivated state when it is not controllable by the operator. In an example, an operator may control a medical instrument **230** with an end effector **235** to grip the probe device **220**, and then control the probe device **220** by controlling the medical instrument **230**. In that example, the probe device **220** is in an activated state. In another example, the probe device **220** is not controlled by any instruments controllable by the operator. In that example, the probe device **220** is in an inactivated state. In some embodiments, an operator may manually indicate the activation status (e.g., activated state or inactivated state) of the probe device **220** (e.g., using operator console **16**). In some alternate embodiments, as discussed in detail with reference to FIG. **5** below, the activation status of the probe device **220** may be automatically determined. In some embodiments, at process **420**, if it is determined that the probe device **220** has an activated state, the method **400** may proceed to processes **430** through **490** for receiving probe data from the probe device **220** and performing a registration from an anatomic model to imaging data based on the probe data. In some embodiments, at process **420**, if it is determined that the probed device **220** has an inactivated state, the method **400** may wait until it is detected that the probe device **220** is in an activated state.

[0048] At process **430**, the processors of control system **20** obtains the probe data from the probe device. In some embodiments, probe device **220** records a concurrent or real-time image of a surgical site including the anatomic feature **240** (e.g., by scanning the anatomic feature **240**), and provides the probe data to a processor (e.g., the processors of control system **20**). The probe data is associated with a probe device space. The probe data may be provided to an operator through one or more displays of medical system **10**, such as one or more displays of console **16**. In an example

where the probe device **220** is an ultrasound device, the probe data includes ultrasound data. In various embodiments, the field of view of the probe device **220** may have a three-dimensional pyramidal frustum shape, a conical frustum shape, a slice-of-pie shape, or some other shape. In some embodiments, the probe device **220** provides a field of view that is different from the field of view of the imaging device **210**.

[0049] In some embodiments, at process **430**, the probe device **220** may scan the entire surface of the anatomic feature **240**. Alternatively, in some embodiments, process **430** may use processes **440** and **450** to obtaining local probe data at particular local probe areas of the anatomic feature **240**, which may reduce scanning time without affecting registration accuracy. Referring to FIG. **4B**, at process **440**, target probe areas **246** and **248** are determined based on anatomic feature elements (e.g., particular blood vessel bifurcation(s) in the vasculature, speed and direction of blood flow of the vessels, etc.) of the anatomic feature **240**. Probe data from these probe areas **246** and **248** may be used for more accurate registration between the probe data and the anatomic model **245** (e.g., using feature-based registration in image processing algorithms to map those anatomic feature elements in the probe data and the anatomic model **245**). In some embodiments, the processor may determine, based on the anatomic model **245** and its anatomic feature element information, whether a 2D model (e.g., a cross section) or a 3D model from probe data of a particular probe area is used for improved registration between the probe data and the anatomic model **245**. In an example, the processor determines that probe area **246** includes a single blood vessel bifurcation, and a 2D model from probe data is suitable for the registration. In another example, the processor determines that probe area **248A** includes a plurality of blood vessel bifurcations, and a 3D model from probe data is suitable for the registration.

[0050] Referring to FIG. **4C**, at process **450**, the processor may provide instructions to the operator to move the instrument **230** toward the estimated probe areas **246** and **248** shown in image data, such that the probe device **220** scans the estimated probe areas **246** and **248** in the image data **300**. The estimated probe areas **246** and **248** correspond to the target probe areas **246** and **246** of the anatomic model **245** respectively, and may be generated based on a registration (e.g., a less accurate registration without using any probe data) between the anatomic model **245** and the image data **300**. In some embodiments, the instructions may indicate whether the probe data is collected for a 2D model or a 3D model. In the example of a 2D model (e.g., for estimated probe area **246B**), the instruction may include a probe device direction/orientation aligned with the 2D cross-section direction which is aligned with the probe device direction/orientation. In the example of a 3D model (e.g., for estimated probe area **248B**), the instruction may include a plurality of probe device direction/orientations such that the collected probe data is sufficient for 3D reconstruction of the probe area.

[0051] At process **460**, the probe data is registered to the image data to generate a first registration. Various image registration algorithms may be used, including for example, intensity-based registration, feature-based registration, registration with linear transformation models, registration with non-rigid transformation models, etc. Process **460** may generate a first registration (e.g., a first transformation model) between the probe device space and the imaging device space. An example registration process of process **460** is described in detail below with reference to FIGS. **6A** and **6B**. In some embodiments, after the registration process of registering the probe data to the image data is completed, a computer-aided design (CAD) model of the probe device **220** may be superimposed on the image data in one or more displays of medical system **10**, such as one or more displays of console **16** based on the first registration. For example, the location of the CAD model of the probe device **220** on the image data may be determined based on the first registration. In some embodiments, the probe data (e.g., an ultrasound image/video) may be superimposed (with or without the CAD model of the probe device **220**) on the image data in the display based on the first registration.

[0052] At process **470**, the anatomic model is registered to the probe data to generate a second

registration. Various image registration algorithms may be used, including for example, intensity-based registration, feature-based registration, registration with linear transformation models, registration with non-rigid transformation models, etc. Process **460** may generate a second registration (e.g., a second transformation model) between the probe device space and the imaging device space. In some embodiments, a full scan of the anatomic feature **240** by the probe device is performed. In such embodiments, reconstruction (2D or 3D) of the entire anatomic feature is performed based on the full scan. For example, 3D reconstruction may be performed using both the probe data and the depth map from the image data **300**. Such a full scan may be time-consuming and computationally expensive.

[0053] Alternatively, as described in detail below with reference to FIG. 7, in some embodiments, only partial scanning of the anatomic feature **240** by the probe device **220** (e.g., probe areas **246**, **248**) is needed for the registration. Probe data from each of the probe areas may be used for either 2D or 3D registration. In an example, a 2D image from probe data of probe area **246** may be used to register probe data with the 3D anatomic model (e.g., using cross sections of the 3D anatomic model). In another example, a 3D model from probe data of probe area **248** may be used to register probe data with the 3D anatomic model.

[0054] In various embodiments, various types of anatomic feature information may be determined using the probe data from the probe device **220**, which may be used to improve the second registration. In some examples, those types of information from the probe data may not be available from the image data from the imaging device **210**. For example, the probe device **220** provides ultrasound images of the anatomic feature **240** with color doppler, which may provide blood flow information of the vessels of the anatomic feature **240** (e.g., by superimposing colors on the image to indicate speed and direction of blood flow in the vessel). In some embodiments, the anatomic model (e.g., a 3D model including blood flow information of the vessels) may be registered to the probe data by matching those types of information (e.g., blood flow information of the vessels) in the anatomic model and the probe data. In some embodiments, the registration is performed by registering a 3D anatomic model with a 2D image (e.g., a cross section including one or more vessels) of the probe data.

[0055] At process **480**, the anatomic model is registered to the image data to generate a third registration. The third registration may be generated using the first registration and second registration. By incorporating the rich information provided by the probe device, accuracy of the third registration between the anatomic model and the image data is improved. In an example, at process **480**, a third registration (e.g., a third transformation model) between the model space associated with the anatomic model and the imaging device space associated with the image data is determined by combining the first registration (e.g., the first transformation model) and the second registration (e.g., the second transformation model). In an example, the anatomic model is registered to the image data by transforming the anatomic model using the second registration. That transformed anatomic model in the probe device space is then registered to the image data by transforming the transformed anatomic model in the probe device space to the imaging device space using the first registration.

[0056] At process **490**, the registered anatomic model using the third registration is displayed with the image data on one or more displays of medical system **10**, such as one or more displays of console **16**. Referring to the example of FIG. 4D, an anatomic model **245** is superimposed on the image data **300** in a display based on the third registration between the model space and the imaging device space. In some embodiments, one or more procedures (e.g., surgical, diagnostic, therapeutic, or biopsy procedure(s)) are performed (e.g., by an operator using a medical instruction) on the anatomic feature based on the third registration (e.g., based on the registered anatomic model).

[0057] FIG. 5 is a simplified diagram of a method **500** for automatically detecting activation of a probe device according to some embodiments. According to some embodiments consistent with

FIG. 4A, method **500** may generally correspond to process **420** of method **400**.

[0058] At process **510**, one or more probe activity signals associated with activities of the probe device are received. In some embodiments, the probe activity signals may include a variety of signals that are correlated with activity or inactivity of the probe device. For example, the probe activity signals may include one or more of the following: the pose of the medical instrument; the grasping position of the end effector of the medical instrument (e.g., certain poses and grasping positions may be correlated with the operator gripping the probe device with the medical instrument); the probe data (e.g., the presence or absence of reflections in ultrasound probe data may be used to distinguish whether the probe device is interacting with air, tissue, or another material); instrument kinematics; the orientation of the probe device relative to standard or valid orientations of the probe device when being gripped by the medical instrument; or the like.

[0059] At process **520**, activation status of the probe device is determined automatically based on the probe activity signals. Various activation status determination algorithms may be used to determine the activation status of the probe device. In an example, at process **530**, the activation status is determined by comparing the probe activity signals to predetermined activation thresholds. In that example, a processor may determine that the probe device is in an activated status if the probe activity signals exceed the predetermined thresholds, and determine that the probe device is in an inactivated status if the probe activity signals do not exceed the predetermined thresholds. In another example, at process **540**, trained decision trees are used to determine the activation status of the probe device. In yet another example, at process **550**, a neural network model (e.g., a machine learning model) may be used to determine the activation status of the probe device. In some embodiments, a processor may further determine that the probe device is in an activated status after determining that the probe device (e.g., an ultrasound probe) touches the target anatomic feature.

[0060] At process **560**, the automatically determined activation status of the probe device is provided by the processor (e.g., the processors of control system **20**). In some embodiments, detection of an activation status (e.g., when switching between an activated status and an inactivated status) may cause a probe device activation status message to be displayed to the operator through a display system. In some embodiments, if it is determined that the probe device **220** has an activated state, the method **400** may proceed to processes **430** through **490** for receiving probe data from the probe device **220** and performing a registration from an anatomy model to imaging data based on the probe data. In some embodiments, if it is determined that the probe device **220** has an inactivated state, the method **400** may wait until it is detected that the probe device **220** is in an activated state.

[0061] Referring to the example of FIG. 6, illustrated is a simplified diagram of a method **600** for registering probe data to image data according to some embodiments. According to some embodiments consistent with FIG. 4A, method **600** may generally correspond to process **440** of method **400**. As described in detail below, an initial registration between the probe device space and the imaging device space may be determined based on the kinematics of the imaging device and medical instrument controlling the probe device, and the initial registration may be fine-tuned based on the probe device information in the image data.

[0062] At process **610**, an initial registration from the probe device space to the imaging device space is estimated based on kinematics of the imaging device and/or the medical instrument, and a projection of a probe device relative to the image data is predicted based on the initial registration. In some embodiments, the initial registration includes an initial transformation with one or more initial transformation parameters (e.g., translative parameters, scale parameters, etc.). The initial registration, including its registration parameters, may be determined based on the kinematics of the imaging device (e.g., the endoscope), the kinematics of the medical instrument, and the position and orientation of the probe device relative to the medical instrument (e.g., determined based on a pose of the end effector of the medical instrument gripping the probe device).

[0063] Referring to FIG. 6B, a predicted projection **650** of the probe device based on the initial registration from the probe device space to the imaging device space is illustrated. In an example, the predicted projection **650** of the probe device corresponds to an expected outline that the probe device is expected to occupy in the image data (e.g., endoscope image) based on the initial registration.

[0064] At process **620**, the predicted projection **650** of the probe device is compared to an actual projection of the probe device in the image data. An image alignment algorithm (e.g., 2D or 3D image alignment algorithms) may be used to align the predicted projection **650** with the actual projection of the probe device **220** (e.g., an actual outline of the probe device) in the image data.

[0065] At process **630**, the initial registration (including its registration parameters) is updated based on the comparison of the predicted projection of the probe device to match the actual projection of the probe device. In an example, a registration update algorithm iteratively updates the one or more registration parameters such that the predicted projection of the probe device based on the updated registration match the actual projection of the probe device. In an example, an optimizer may be used to generate a registration that minimizes a similarity metric (e.g., providing a scalar value that describes the similarity) between the predicted projection **650** and the actual projection of the probe device **220**.

[0066] At process **640**, the probe data is registered to the image data based on the updated registration (including its updated registration parameters).

[0067] FIG. 7 is a simplified diagram of a method **700** for registering the anatomic model to the probe data according to some embodiments. According to some embodiments consistent with FIG. 4A, method **700** may generally correspond to process **460** of method **400**. As discussed in detail below, in method **700**, a partial scan, instead of a full scan, of the entire anatomic feature may be performed to register the anatomic model to the probe data, which reduces computational time, provides a quicker feedback to an operator, and saves computational power.

[0068] At process **710**, one or more target attributes (e.g., probe areas **246** and/or **248**) of the anatomic feature is identified based on the anatomic model. In an example, a target attribute may include one or more segmented features, also referred to as anatomic feature elements (e.g., a vasculature of the kidney, particular blood vessel bifurcation(s) in the vasculature, etc.), of the anatomic feature based on the anatomic model.

[0069] At process **720**, probe data of the particular portions (e.g., probe areas **246** and/or **248**) of the anatomic feature are obtained (e.g., by instructing an operator to scan the probe areas) using the probe device. 2D or 3D image of the probe areas from probe data are used to identify corresponding target attributes in the probe data and the anatomic model. Various image processing algorithms may be used to map the features in the probe data and the anatomic model.

[0070] At process **730**, the anatomic model is registered to the probe data based on the target attribute(s) as identified in the probe data and the corresponding target attribute in the anatomic model.

[0071] Some examples of processors may include non-transient, tangible, machine readable media that include executable code that when run by one or more processors may cause the one or more processors to perform the processes of methods **400-700**. Some common forms of machine readable media that may include the processes of methods **400-700** are, for example, floppy disk, flexible disk, hard disk, magnetic tape, any other magnetic medium, CD-ROM, any other optical medium, punch cards, paper tape, any other physical medium with patterns of holes, RAM, PROM, EPROM, FLASH-EPROM, any other memory chip or cartridge, and/or any other medium from which a processor or computer is adapted to read.

[0072] Although illustrative embodiments have been shown and described, a wide range of modification, change and substitution is contemplated in the foregoing disclosure and in some instances, some features of the embodiments may be employed without a corresponding use of other features. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize many variations, alternatives, and

modifications. Thus, the scope of the invention should be limited only by the following claims, and it is appropriate that the claims be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the scope of the embodiments disclosed herein.

## Claims

1. A medical system, comprising: one or more processors configured to perform operations comprising: determining an initial registration between a probe device space and an imaging device space, the probe device space being associated with a probe device coupled to the medical system, the imaging device space being associated with an imaging device coupled to the medical system; receiving imaging data from the imaging device; generating a predicted projection of the probe device relative to the image data based on the initial registration; and updating the initial registration by comparing the predicted projection to an actual projection of the probe device in the image data to generate a first registration between the probe device space and the imaging device space.
2. The medical system of claim 1, wherein comparing the predicted projection to the actual projection comprises: aligning the predicted projection with the actual projection.
3. The medical system of claim 1, wherein a second predicted projection of the probe device based on the first registration matches the actual projection of the probe device.
4. The medical system of claim 1, wherein the first registration minimizes a similarity metric between a second predicted projection of the probe device based on the first registration and the actual projection of the probe device.
5. The medical system of claim 1, wherein the actual projection of the probe device comprises an outline of the probe device in the image data.
6. The medical system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise: identifying one or more anatomic features in an anatomic model; determining a probe area associated with the one or more anatomic features; and providing one or more instructions to a user to position the probe device to obtain a scan of the probe area.
7. The medical system of claim 1, wherein the initial registration is determined based on kinematics of the imaging device and kinematics of an instrument controlling the probe device.
8. The medical system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise: registering an anatomic model to probe data received from the probe device based on an anatomic feature found in both the probe data and the anatomic model to generate a second registration between a model space of the anatomic model and the probe device space; transforming, based on the second registration, the anatomic model to the probe device space to generate a first transformed anatomic model; and transforming, based on the first registration, the first transformed anatomic model to the first imaging device space to generate a second transformed anatomic model.
9. The medical system of claim 8, wherein the operations further comprise: providing, on a display, a visual representation of the second transformed anatomic model.
10. The medical system of claim 1, wherein the probe device is an accessory device lacking independent movement capabilities.
11. The medical system of claim 1, further comprising: a manipulator configured to control the probe device by controlling an end effector to grip the probe device.
12. The medical system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise: updating the initial registration to generate the first registration in response to determining that the probe device is in an activated state.
13. A method comprising: determining an initial registration between a probe device space and an imaging device space, the probe device space being associated with a probe device coupled to a medical system, the imaging device space being associated with an imaging device coupled to the medical system; receiving imaging data from the imaging device; generating a predicted projection

of the probe device relative to the image data based on the initial registration; and updating the initial registration by comparing the predicted projection to an actual projection of the probe device in the image data to generate a first registration between the probe device space and the imaging device space.

**14.** The method of claim 13, wherein comparing the predicted projection to the actual projection comprises: aligning the predicted projection with the actual projection.

**15.** The method of claim 13, wherein the first registration minimizes a similarity metric between a second predicted projection of the probe device based on the first registration and the actual projection of the probe device.

**16.** The method of claim 13, wherein the actual projection of the probe device comprises an outline of the probe device in the image data.

**17.** The method of claim 13, further comprising: identifying one or more anatomic features in an anatomic model; determining a probe area associated with the one or more anatomic features; and providing one or more instructions to a user to position the probe device to obtain a scan of the probe area.

**18.** The method of claim 13, further comprising: identifying one or more anatomic features in an anatomic model; determining a probe area associated with the one or more anatomic features; and controlling the probe device using a manipulator, to scan the probe area.

**19.** The method of claim 13, further comprising: registering an anatomic model to probe data received from the probe device based on an anatomic feature found in both the probe data and the anatomic model to generate a second registration between a model space of the anatomic model and the probe device space; transforming, based on the second registration, the anatomic model to the probe device space to generate a first transformed anatomic model; and transforming, based on the first registration, the first transformed anatomic model to the first imaging device space to generate a second transformed anatomic model.

**20.** A non-transitory machine-readable medium comprising a plurality of machine-readable instructions which when executed by one or more processors associated with a medical device are adapted to cause the one or more processors to perform a method comprising: determining an initial registration between a probe device space and an imaging device space, the probe device space being associated with a probe device coupled to a medical system, the imaging device space being associated with an imaging device coupled to the medical system; receiving imaging data from the imaging device; generating a predicted projection of the probe device relative to the image data based on the initial registration; and updating the initial registration by comparing the predicted projection to an actual projection of the probe device in the image data to generate a first registration between the probe device space and the imaging device space.

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