**Outline**

Page

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1**  **2** | **Specific Aims**  **Human Health Significance** | | 4  5 |
|  | 2.1 | Etiology of stroke and the role of atherosclerotic plaque | 5 |
|  | 2.2 | Clinical carotid ultrasound and plaque characterization | 5 |
|  |  | 2.2.1 Defining vulnerable plaque | 5 |
|  |  | 2.2.2 Plaque characterization with other methods and imaging modalities . . . . | 5 |
|  |  | 2.2.3 Plaque characterization with diagnostic ultrasound | 5 |
|  | 2.3 | High frequency ultrasound on carotid plaque | 5 |
|  | 2.4 | Transcranial Doppler for monitoring microembolic events | 5 |
| **3** | **Novel motion estimation with hierarchical Naive Bayesian multilevel adaptive** | |  |
|  | **estimation** | | 6 |
|  | 3.1 | Prior motion tracking algorithms | 6 |
|  |  | 3.1.1 Kernel based tracking | 6 |
|  |  | 3.1.2 Multilevel image registration techniques | 6 |
|  | 3.2 | The hierarchical Naive Bayesian estimator | 6 |
|  |  | 3.2.1 Theory | 6 |
|  |  | 3.2.2 Application in other fields | 6 |
|  |  | 3.2.3 Application to image motion tracking | 6 |
| **4** | **Validation of motion tracking algorithm with simulated and phantom data** | | 7 |
|  | 4.1 | Simulated data | 7 |
|  |  | 4.1.1 Mechanical model | 7 |
|  |  | 4.1.2 Acoustic model | 7 |
|  | 4.2 | Phantom model | 7 |
|  | 4.3 | Performance | 7 |
|  |  | 4.3.1 Accuracy | 7 |
|  |  | 4.3.2 Precision | 7 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **5** | 4.3.3 Robustness  4.3.4 Stability  4.3.5 Computational efficiency  **Application of the novel strain imaging algorithm to *in vivo* plaques** | | Page  7  7  7  8 |
|  | 5.1 | Strain images | 8 |
|  | 5.2 | Cardiac cycle waveforms | 8 |
|  | 5.3 | Combination of normal strains and shear strain into single strain index | 8 |
|  |  | 5.3.1 Maximum principal strain | 8 |
|  |  | 5.3.2 Maximum shear strain | 8 |
|  |  | 5.3.3 Total strain energy | 8 |
|  |  | 5.3.4 Distortional energy | 8 |
|  | 5.4 | Compounding of beam steered strain images | 8 |
|  |  | 5.4.1 Registration | 8 |
|  |  | 5.4.2 Strain index consistency | 8 |
|  |  | 5.4.3 Changes in images and waveforms relative to non-compounded images . . | 8 |
| **6** | **High-frequency 3D ultrasound characterization** | | 9 |
|  | 6.1 | Collection and analysis of 3D radiofrequency data | 9 |
|  |  | 6.1.1 VisualSonics Vevo 770 system | 9 |
|  |  | 6.1.2 Volume concatenation, storage, and processing | 9 |
|  |  | 6.1.3 Scan conversion | 9 |
|  | 6.2 | Reference phantom development and characterization | 9 |
|  |  | 6.2.1 Phantom design | 9 |
|  |  | 6.2.2 Attenuation characterization | 9 |
|  |  | 6.2.3 Phase velocity characterization | 9 |
|  |  | 6.2.4 Absolute backscater measurement | 9 |
|  | 6.3 | Backscatter analysis | 9 |
|  | 6.4 | Attenuation estimation | 9 |
|  |  | 6.4.1 Water-tissue segmentation | 9 |
|  |  | 6.4.2 Spectral difference estimation | 9 |
|  |  | 6.4.3 Spectral shift estimation | 9 |
|  |  | 6.4.4 Hybrid estimation | 9 |
| **7** | **Transcranial Doppler detection of microemboli** | | 10 |
|  | 7.1 | Methods to increase robustness of unstable data | 10 |
|  |  | 7.1.1 Examination room protocol | 10 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7.1.2 Post processing software design  7.2 Results  **8 Effectiveness of ultrasonic strain imaging algorithm to detect high risk plaque** . . | | | 3  Page  10  10  11 |
|  | 8.1 | Histological classification | 11 |
|  |  | 8.1.1 Registration methods | 11 |
|  |  | 8.1.2 Strain imaging results | 11 |
|  |  | 8.1.3 Backscatter results | 11 |
|  | 8.2 | Transcranial Doppler | 11 |
|  | 8.3 | Symptomatic/Asymptomatic status | 11 |
|  | 8.4 | MRI indices of neural atrophy and ischemia | 11 |
|  | 8.5 | Neuropsychological assessment | 11 |
| **9** | **Summary and Conclusions** | | 12 |