Filip Vanhavere – 02/10/2023

Computational dosimetry as a tool to optimize staff radiation protection during interventional procedures

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Belgian Nuclear Research Centre

Occupational exposure staff in interventional procedures

- Among highest doses for occupationally exposed professionals
 - Whole body doses (effective dose)
 - Eye lens doses
 - Extremity doses
 - Others... (brain, leg, heart,...)
- Many dosemeters needed (in theory) because of highly inhomogeneous field
 - Above and below lead apron
 - Eye lens
 - Ring



Personal Dosimetry: Inhomogeneous fields





12

10

8

6

2

Problems with individual dosimetry

- Workers don't like to wear dosimeter
- Workers especially don't like to wear more than one dosimeter
- Still not all parts of body covered
 - What if other parts of body need dosimetry in future (brain, heart,...)?
- Not always strict use of dosimeters:
 - Forgetting
 - Not correct place
- Personal dosimetry = 1 point measurement...





Uncertainties in personal dosimetry

- Risk is given by effective dose
 - Complicated system of operational quantities to estimate effective dose
 - $H_p(10)$ is only estimation of E
- No dosemeter is perfect for $H_p(10)$
 - Non-linearity, fading, ...
 - Energy and angular dependence....
- Not wearing correctly



Factor 1.5 in either direction for doses near the limit Factor 2.0 for lower doses (ICRP 75)

For ALARA: feedback on doses helps

- Active personal dosemeters (APD) give more feedback to worker
 - Often used as ALARA or alarm dosemeter
 - Mostly in combination with passive dosemeter as Dose-of-Record
- More feedback (on-line)
 - Better use and care on dosemeters by workers
 - Makes dosimetry more "useful"
- Use of APD will continue to increase
 - Smaller and more sensitive devices
- They do not always work in all fields...!

APDs also have limitations

- Dosemeter cost
- Potential lack of security of data storage
- Mass and size of dosemeter
- Battery type and life span
- Possibly poor low energy photon energy dependence
- Poor beta radiation response
- Sensitivity to electromagnetic fields (older models)
- Possibly saturation at high dose rates
- Poor behavior under pulsed radiation (instantenous dose rate)

Personal Dosimetry: what brings the future?

- More use of active personal dosemeter: direct feedback
- Suppose we can use Monte-Carlo simulations to calculate on-line all doses
- Advantages:
 - No more need for physical dosimeter
 - No more loosing dosimeters
 - No more need for operational quantities
 - No more worries for changing quantities/weighting factors
 - Doses to all organs can be known
 - Personalized dosimetry possible
 - Better accuracy possible
 - Faster feedback to workers (ALARA tool)



Exploiting most advanced technologies

Monte Carlo Simulations ← Human Computationa Models

Computer Vision Parallel CPU/GPU Computing

Machine Learning

Methodology: staff movement monitoring and radiation field mapping



RAF: Realistic Anthropomorphic Flexible Phantom

- Polygonal Mesh Boundary Representation
- Organ and tissue masses adjusted according to ICRP 89
- Computational model with 2900 tissues segmented
- Dosimetric validation in comparison with ICRP 116

Development and Validation of the Realistic Anthropomorphic Flexible (RAF) Phantom

Lombardo, Pasquale A.; Vanhavere, Filip; Lebacq, Anne L.; Struelens, Lara; Bogaerts, Ria Health Physics 😭 , Volume 114 (5) – Jan 1, 2018



Staff Motion Tracking



Animation of RAF phantom





Dose Simulations





Augmented reality visualization of the 3D distribution of the scattered radiation



Towards real time: how to accelerate the simulations

- Monte Carlo codes are highly parallelizable
- Use of GPU
- Neural Networks
 - Similar input and output as the MC simulations
 - Learns to predict the dose







Interventional Radiology Case

X-Ray spectrum

- Tube potential (kVp value)
- Tube current
- Added filtration
- Target material
- Voltage waveform

Tube Angulation

• C-arm projections

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Interventional Radiology and Cardiology Parameters					
Parameter	Range				
High Voltage	60-120 kVp				
Intensity	5-1000 mA				
Inherent filtration	3-6 mm Al _{eq}				
Additional filtration	0.2-0.9 mm Cu				
Energy range of scattered spectra	20 keV – 100 keV				



Input

- Radiation dose structured report (RDSR) extracted from the X-ray machine
- Time synchronization with tracking
- DAP meter for normalization



ISC: Restricted



Test at UZ-VUB - Brussels





Probability Density Function – Wrist Joints of doctor 1











Running Saving to: C:\Users\mahmo\Desktop

PODIUM Presentel Online Dostmetry Using computational Methods Concert

- Measurement of accumulated dose $H_p(10)$ of operators with Thermo EPD
- Estimation of dosimeter location by the tracking system





Results from CHU-Liège case 4

Validation Case		ļ	Simulations Accumulated <i>H</i> _p (10)		Measured EPD Accumulated <i>H</i> _p (10)	
EndoVasc CHU-Liège Case 4 (PCI)		se 4	39 µSv	,	23 μ	Sv
Event	FL1	FL2	FL3	FL4	FL5	
Time (s)	7	6	6	5	6	
RDSR DAP (μ Gy. m^2)	536.5	1655.2	1647.7	1347	1646.9	
mGy	47.6	217	216	177	216	
F6-REF (MeV/g/#)	6.55E-05	4.85E-05	4.85E-05	4.85E-05	4.85E-05	
F6-DOS (MeV/g/#)	3.25E-09	9.27E-10	9.27E-10	9.27E-10	9.27E-10	•
$H_p(10)$ (μ Sv)	2.36	4.84	4.81	4.73	4.81	
Event	FL6	FL7	FL8	FL9		
Time (s)	6	6	5	5		
RDSR DAP (μ Gy. m^2)	1647.1	1646.7	1496.8	1090.2	Total	
mGy	216	216	196	143	IOUAL	
F6-REF (MeV/g/#)	4.85E-05	4.85E-05	4.85E-05	9.13E-05		
F6-DOS (MeV/g/#)	9.27E-10	9.27E-10	9.27E-10	1.35E-09		
$H_p(10)$ (μSv)	4.81	4.81	5.24	2.46	39	

- Difficulties for comparison
 - Low doses
 - Exact dosemeter position is not known
 - Use of protection screens
- Strong dose gradient on the body

Placing a mini tag on the shield

- Transparent shield tracking using tags based on Ultra-Wide-Band (UWB) technology.
- 3D location and orientation could be recorded in real-time (100Hz)





Motion tracking – VUB procedure 1

Complete sequence



Improve extremity dosimetry in nuclear medicine

- High risk of exceeding legal doses of radiation in the extremities
- Accurate dosimetry is very hard for the hands
 - Higher exposures zones varies from one person to another
 - A single ring dosemeter is not enough to measure the whole hands dose
 - Wearing many ring dosimeters is uncomfortable
 - Multiple dosemeters will make dosimetry service more complex and expensive
- Solution: computational dosimetry?
 - Some specific challenges....





3D hand representation

- Animation techniques: Animation Rigging
 - Only the wrist uses the calculated position as a ground truth
 - Added restrictions to bone size and finger movements
 - The finger moves as a whole chain in the direction of the calculated position for the tips



Source tracking

• Syringe detection



Representing the phantom

- Mesh:
 - Set of 3D vertexes and edges that shapes different objects
 - Each object has a material attached
 - Easier to export from Unity to Gate
 - Less heavy on memory and hence faster loading times



Voxelized source and phantom

- Optimized IPP voxelization code for the hands
- GPU computing allows faster calculations
- Voxelization time < 1 second



Real case scenario: simulations of different steps during administration



Real case scenario: simulations of different steps during administration





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Visualisation of Monte Carlo output

- Dose output should be normalized to activity and branching ratio
- The output can be obtained for each individual region

- To be used for dosimetry purposes
- But also...
- To be used in an ALARA and training application!



Computational dosimetry can help in ALARA applications

- Also for medical applications
- Part of the future will be dosimetry without physical dosemeters
 - Although dosimeters still will exist for many applications
- Increasing contribution from AI and ML
- Important aspect of visualisation of radiation
 - Digital twin creation
 - ALARA and training tool



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