Crystal-Structure-Concept-Based Modeling of the Human Spinal Column Validated through 3-D-Bone Scanning

Syed Arif Kamal*, Maqsood Sarwar and *Muhammed Khalid Rajput*

SF Growth-and-Imaging Laboratory, Anthromathematics Group, Department of ¶Mathematics, University of Karachi, Karachi 75270, Pakistan; profdrakamal@gmail.com

Spinal column, being a 3-D structure, is not completely visualized in ordinary anteroposterior (AP) X rays, which show spinal projection in the frontal plane. Hence, such X rays do not display kyphosis or lordosis. 3-D-spinal models were able to generate full views from projections of spine in the frontal and the sagittal planes obtained from AP- and lateral-X-ray pictures or moiré topographs of patients in the attention position. A parabolic curve was generated from moiré measurements, $x = x(\xi)$, $y = y(\xi)$, $z = z(\xi)$, best fitted to discrete measurements performed at locations of 33 vertebrae of spinal column, ξ_i; $i = 1, \ldots, 33$ (cervical, thoracic, lumbar and sacral regions). Rotation of coördinate system through a suitable angle made the cross term (yz) vanish and represented curvatures as double the coefficients of squares of y and z. These curvatures were used to define degree of correction of spinal deformity (http://www.ngds-ku.org/Papers/J18.pdf). This 3-D-static model was used to study children's postures. The dynamic model was constructed by including spinal-column movements during a gait cycle, linking spinal column in the anatomical position to the first phase of gait cycle http://www.ngds-ku.org/Papers/J16.pdf through edge-based algorithm http://www.ngds-ku.org/pub/confabst0.htm#C42: — the procedure was repeated to link first phase to the second phase and so on. To construct a vertebral-level model, spinal column was visualized as a crystal structure http://www.ngds-ku.org/Presentations/BZU1.pdf — the center-of-mass of each vertebra was expressed in terms of positional coördinates in the body-coördinate system, just like *form factor* in crystallography. The surface structure of each vertebra could be studied using moiré fringe topography, which gives 3-D-coördinate information http://www.ngds-ku.org/Presentations/Moire.pdf and rasterstereography, which gives curvature information http://www.ngds-ku.org/Presentations/Rasterstereography.pdf — combined with rotational (in terms of Euler angles) as well as inter-vertebral-spacing information, such an analysis may be considered equivalent to *structure factor*, determined by crystallographers. In order to study the vertebrae of spinal column of a live human being (without cutting open to reach vertebral surface to study using stereophotogrammteric techniques), *bone-surface-structure scanning* was introduced on May 30, 2013 http://www.ngds-ku.org/Presentations/Backscatter.pdf by the first author and elaborated in the Syed Firdous memorial lecture http://www.ngds-ku.org/Presentations/Scan.pdf expanding upon the backscatter-body-scanning system, employed for passenger security screening at airports http://www.ngds-ku.org/Presentations/Security.pdf — increasing the intensity of backscatter-X rays enough to reach to the bone surface and projecting these X rays through a moiré http://www.ngds-ku.org/Papers/C68.pdf or a dotted-raster grid http://www.ngds-ku.org/Papers/J31.pdf vertebral surfaces could be studied by generating their height and curvature maps. In *grating-hologram-type-backscatter moiré* passive (post-recorded) correction (for misalignment or rotation) was possible. A projected-dotted-raster grid (X rays blocking raster patterns) generated 3-D-curvature map of the spinal column. Holographic images could be generated by recording and processing multiple images in the semi-circular angular range. As regards radiation damage, backscatter-X rays reflected off the bone surface and were not absorbed in its material, it was assumed that there would not be so much damage as from regular-X rays, provided eyes and gonads are, properly, shielded. Discretion is advised, while using these techniques in high-risk groups. Using techniques from physics (image projection/recording), computer science (edge-based and intensity-based algorithms) and information technology (image processing), sterophotogrammetric imaging of humans using moiré fringe topography, dotted-rastersetereography, raster stereophotogrammetry http://www.ngds-ku.org/Presentations/Anthroimaging.pdf edge-based moiré and edge-based dotted-raster have the potential to open up new horizons in 3-D imaging of human-skin, -bone and -organ surfaces (sectional-semicircular views) as well as their infinitesimal movements.

*Keywords***:** Human spinal column, static model, dynamic model, crystal-structure-based model, moiré fringe topography, dotted-rastersterography, backscatter-X-ray scanning

*Conflict of Interest Statement***:** No potential conflict of interest is identified for this work

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*PhD (Mathematical Neuroscience); MSc, BSc (Honors), *both summa cum laude*, University of Karachi; MA, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD, United States; MS, Indiana, Bloomington, IN, United States; Project Director, the NGDS Pilot Project; Director, SF Growth-and-Imaging Laboratory; Sessional Faculty, the Aga Khan University Medical College (1996-2006); Associated Professor in Orthopedic Surgery, Malmö General Hospital, Sweden (1988); Research Associate in Orthopedic Surgery, James Whitecomb Riley Hospital for Children, Indianapolis, IN, United States (1980); Summer Luncheon Seminar, 3-D Optical Imaging (for detection of scoliosis), Harvard-MIT Center for Biomedical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, United States and Member, Subject Committee for Physical Education, Health and Sport Sciences, National Testing Service, Islamabad, Pakistan • *paper mail***:** Professor and Chairman, Department of Mathematics, University of Karachi, PO Box 8423, Karachi 75270, Pakistan • *telephone***:** +92 21 9926 1300-15 ext. 2293 • *project URL***:** http://ngds-ku.org • *homepage***:** http://www.ngds-ku.org/kamal