

Evaluacija vlastitoga softwera za mjerenje površina u medicini i u stomatologiji

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Sažetak

Istraživanje je provedeno s ciljem da se utvrde mogućnosti računala i vlastite namjenske programske podrške za mjerenje površina, da se testira preciznost mjerenja površina s pomoću računala i usporedbi s konvencionalnim ručnim mjerenjem.

Glavna je značajka računalnog aranžmana mogućnost digitalizacije slike. Za tu se namjenu upotrebljava videokamera visoke rezolucije u sprezi s videokarticom i namjenskom programskom podrškom.

Likovi su precizno iscertani s pomoću računala i programskoga grafičkog paketa Corel Draw, a zatim izrezani ploterom-rezačem. Nakon računalnog načina mjerenja provedeno je i konvencionalno ručno mjerenje pomičnom kliznom mjerkom "Meba", s točnošću od 0,1 mm. Svaki geometrijski lik izmjeren je 10 puta.

Računalo omogućuje mjerenje nepravilnih objekata i trodimenzionalnih struktura kao što su npr. pacijentovo lice, sadreni modeli zubnih lukova, proteze, ortodontske naprave i sl. Takve strukture nije moguće mjeriti klasičnom (ručnom) metodom.

Razlika aritmetičkih sredina kod svih mjerenja pada u područje prihvaćanja nul-hipoteze, tako da treba prihvatiti hipotezu da za oba mjerenja nema signifikantne razlike u aritmetičkim sredinama mjerenja. Oba načina mjerenja, bez obzira na različite koeficijente varijabilnosti i veličine intervala pouzdanosti, ne razlikuju se znatno. Preciznost mjerenja površina s pomoću računala dovoljna je i gotovo jednaka kao kod konvencionalnoga ručnog mjerenja.

Ključne riječi: razvoj i evaluacija računalnog sustava, računalni software

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Uvod

Medicinski informacijski sustavi posljednjih se godina razvijaju u skladu s razvojem računalne tehnologije. Razvijeni su računalni sustavi koji omo-

gućuju usporedni rad u različitim medijima, što omogućava kombiniranje slike, zvuka, videa i pohranjenih podataka.

Uvođenjem takvih sustava uz sve djelotvornije operativne sustave (Windows, Unix, Linux, Win-

dows NT) otvorene su mogućnosti i za djelotvorniju obradu podataka u dijagnostici, planiranju terapije i u prognozi liječenja (1-8).

Katedra za ortodonciju Stomatološkog fakulteta u Zagrebu već nekoliko godina razvija cjelovit software koji uključuje izvršne programe za računaliziranu rendgenkefalometriju, gnatometriju, raščlambu ortodontske fotografije, s dodatnim mogućnostima raščlambe rtg snimke i primjenu u raznim stomatološkim i medicinskim disciplinama (oralnoj kirurgiji, parodontologiji, dentalnoj patologiji, anatomiji, kirurgiji, ortopediji itd.).

Ovakva cjelovita programska podrška za raščlambu slike, osim osnovnih postupaka i intervencija (promjene kontrasta, izoštravanje većeg ili manjeg područja, zumiranje, uvećanje, smanjenje) omogućuje i razne sofisticirane intervencije na digitaliziranoj slici, kao npr. automatsku detekciju rubova pojedinih struktura, određivanje gustoće pojedinih područja rtg snimke (densitometrija) i sl. (9-15).

U pripremi je i izradba softwarea za profilometriju i trodimenzionalnu metričku raščlambu kraniofacijalnih i dentalnih struktura. Osobito je interesantan dio programskoga paketa namijenjen za mjerenja dimenzija raznih digitaliziranih dvo- ili trodimenzionalnih struktura.

Jedna od glavnih prednosti računalnog aranžmana jest u tome što se digitalizacija obavlja s pomoću videokamere, tako da osim dvodimenzionalnih struktura (rendgenogram, ortodontska fotografija) omogućuje raščlambu i trodimenzionalnih struktura (pacijentovo lice, sadreni modeli zubnih lukova, proteza i sl.), što uglavnom nije moguće sustavima zasnovanim na scannerima.

Preciznost i djelotvornost metode za mjerenje dužina i kutova utvrđena je već prije (9), a sustav je omogućio i registracije i raščlambe pomaka za vrijeme djelovanja ortodontskih naprava (11,13).

Vrlo zanimljiva opcija mjerenja površina dvo- ili trodimenzionalnih struktura, ako se pokaže dovoljno preciznom, imat će još veću primjenu. U literaturi se spominju pokušaji mjerenja površine nepravilnih objekata, ali su često povezani s upotrebom vrlo skupe opreme, komplicirani i najčešće nedovoljno precizni (16,17).

Zbog svega navedenog postavljani su sljedeći ciljevi istraživanja:

- utvrditi mogućnosti tako kreiranog računalnog aranžmana i namjenskoga dijela softwarea (programske podrške) za mjerenje površina,
- testirati preciznost mjerenja površina s pomoću elektroničkoga računala i usporediti ju s konvencionalnim ručnim mjerenjem,
- mjerenja provesti na geometrijskim likovima poznate površine, ali dopunski provjeriti i mogućnost mjerenja površine zubnih lukova na sadrenim modelima, jezičnoga prostora na totalnim protezama i površine nekih nepravilnih struktura na rendgenogramima.

Materijal i postupci

Eksperimenti su provedeni na računalnom aranžmanu koji se sastoji od osnovnoga PC računala (Pentium II 400 MHz, 128 Mb RAM, 10,3 Gb Hdd, SVGA monitor 1024x768) uz namjensku programsku podršku koja je kreirana za ovo istraživanje. Sustavu je uz grafičku karticu pridodan i video adapter Ima Scan (Imagraph), S VHS rezolucije.

Glavna je značajka računalnog aranžmana mogućnost digitalizacije slike za čiju namjenu se upotrebljava videokamera visoke rezolucije u sprezi sa spomenutom videokarticom i vlastitom namjenskom programskom podrškom.

Performanse sustava omogućuju digitalizaciju u realnom vremenu, digitalizirana slika može se pohraniti u memoriju, a analizira se na dodatnom kolor monitoru "Sony Trinitron super fine pitch". Tako se naredbe i provedba programa odvijaju na jednom monitoru, a slika se analizira na drugome.

U ovom istraživanju provedena su dva mjerenja: pilotno i konačno. Provjera preciznosti računalnog sustava za mjerenje površina u pilotnom mjerenju provedena je na sljedećim geometrijskim likovima čije su vrijednosti bile cijeli brojevi: istostranični trokut ($a = 5$ cm), kvadrat ($a = 6$ cm) i pravokutnik ($a = 6$ cm, $b = 3$ cm). Likovi su precizno iscrtani s pomoću računala i programskog grafičkoga paketa Corel Draw 4,0, a zatim izrezani ploterom-rezačem. U konačnom mjerenju uzete su sljedeće dimenzije: trokut ($a = 5,3$ cm), pravokutnik ($a = 6,4$ cm, $b = 3,2$ cm); kvadrat ($a = 5,8$ cm); rotirani kvadrat ($a = 5,8$ cm).

Nakon računalnoga načina mjerenja provedeno je i konvencionalno ručno mjerenje pomičnom kli-

znom mjerkom "Meba", s točnošću od 0,1 mm. Svaki geometrijski lik izmjeren je 10 puta.

Eksperimentalni postupak mjerenja obavljen je na sljedeći način:

Geometrijski lik poznatih dimenzija na samoljepljivoj foliji postavljen je na ravnu podlogu, skupa s mjerilom od 100 mm i digitaliziran spomenutom videokamerom visoke rezolucije, te pohranjen u memoriju računala. Slika geometrijskoga lika analizira se na monitoru Sony, a programska se procedura provodi na VGA monitoru.

Prva faza obuhvaća kalibraciju, a zatim slijedi mjerenje površine geometrijskoga lika. Mjerenje se provodi vrlo jednostavno pomicanjem kursora mišem po ekranu, kojim se opišu konture geometrijskoga lika, na taj način zatvori površina, a program pohrani rezultat svakoga pojedinog mjerenja u tablicu.

Za svaki geometrijski lik mjerenje je ponovljeno 10 puta, kao i kod poredbenog ručnog mjerenja.

Osim spomenutih triju geometrijskih likova, zbog dodatne je provjere ponovno izmjerena površina istoga kvadrata, ali je digitaliziran tako da je na podlozi zarotiran za 45° (kvadrat).

Statistička obrada provedena je programskim paketom SPSS/win.

Rezultati i rasprava

Učinjena je osnovna sumarna statistička raščlamba (Tablice 1 i 2) između mjerenja likova klasične (ručne) i računalne metode.

Opcenito, točnost i pouzdanost metode za mjerenje dužina, kutova i površina važna je u postupku raščlambe i utvrđivanja veličine i vremena pomaka tijekom djelovanja ortodontskih naprava. Stupanj točnosti, preciznosti i pouzdanosti takvih mjerenja određuje veličinu njihove primjene. Također je važno utvrditi *interval pouzdanosti* pri pojedinom načinu mjerenja površina.

Tablica 1. Statistička raščlamba-ručno mjerenje

Table 1. Statistical analysis-manual measurement

Varijabla Variable	n	Srednja vrijed. Mean	s.d.	s.e.mean	min.	max.	Varijanca Variance
Rotirani kvadrat Rotated square	10	3416.400	8.017	2.535	3399.00	3422.00	64.267
Trokut Triangle	10	1224.300	5.034	1.592	1216.00	1230.00	25.344
Pavokutnik Rectangle	10	2070.400	7.090	2.242	2061.00	2080.00	50.267
Kvadrat Square	10	3435.000	12.824	4.055	3422.00	3457.00	164.444

Tablica 2. Statistička raščlamba-računalno mjerenje

Table 2. Statistical analysis-computer measurement

Varijabla Variable	n	Srednja vrijed. Mean	s.d.	s.e.mean	min.	max.	Varijanca Variance
Rotirani kvadrat Rotated square	10	3389.958	14.660	4.636	3371.38	3419.62	214.904
Trokut Triangle	10	1194.492	12.652	4.001	1181.73	1216.80	160.081
Pavokutnik Rectangle	10	2086.289	27.459	8.686	2022.81	2111.93	754.007
Kvadrat Square	10	3385.481	15.100	4.775	3371.66	3411.27	228.023

Usporedba točnosti i pouzdanosti tih dvaju načina mjerenja, kao i razlika u signifikantnosti (pouzdanosti) između obaju mjerenja (Tablica 1 i 2) prikazana je koeficijentom varijacije, intervalom pouzdanosti aritmetičke sredine pojedinih mjerenja, te testiranjem hipoteze o razlici između sredina dvaju mjerenja.

Kod svih mjerenja vidljivo je da su ručna mjerenja iskazana koeficijentima varijacije preciznija, jer je varijacija oko aritmetičke sredine mjerena razmjerno manja i to vjerojatno zato što je kod ručnoga mjerenja uključeno zaokruživanje na točnost 0,1mm. Usporedbom dobivenih podataka vidljivo je da se i X_{\min} i X_{\max} u svim mjerenjima nalaze unutar intervala pouzdanosti od 99%. Kako razlika aritmetičkih sredina kod svih mjerenja pada u područje prihvaćanja nul-hipoteze, treba prihvatiti hipotezu da za oba mjerenja nema signifikantne razlike u aritmetičkim sredinama mjerenja. Znači da se oba načina mjerenja, bez obzira na različite koeficijente varijacije i različite veličine intervala pouzdanosti, znatno ne razlikuju.

Svrha ovoga istraživanja nije bila dokazati veću preciznost računalnog mjerenja površine, već samo provjeriti mogu li se računalom mjeriti digitalizirane slike objekata u realnoj veličini s dovoljnom preciznošću, koja bi se što je više moguće približila ručnome mjerenju.

Pri tome treba istaknuti i sljedeće:

Vrijednosti pilotnog istraživanja promijenjene su zbog toga što se nakon ponovljenih mjerenja pomičnom mjerkom konačni rezultat mogao unaprijed predvidjeti. Iz tog su razloga uzeti geometrijski likovi s veličinom stranica na dvije decimale.

Naime, ispitivači su nakon mnogo godina uporabe pomične klizne mjerke rutinirani i u početku mnogo brži pri ručnome mjerenju. Često se događa i da se nenamjerno vrhovi mjerila postave u rupice na foliji, koje su ostale od prijašnjeg mjerenja. Slično se događalo, ali još izraženije, i kod mjerenja na sadrenim ili plastičnim modelima u bivšim istraživanjima (9).

Kod računalnoga mjerenja to naravno nije moguće, a preciznost mjerenja ovisi i o preciznosti miša kojim se služimo, te o rezoluciji monitora. Naime rezolucija grafičke (video) kartice često je veća od rezolucije monitora, što konkretno znači da se neki vrlo fini detalji mogu digitalizirati, oni uistinu jesu u memoriji računala, ali se ne mogu vidjeti na ekranu. Kako se ove raščlambe provode na ekranu, logično je da ono što se ne može vidjeti ne može se ni raščlaniti.

Treba komentirati i mogućnost vrlo preciznoga rada s mišem. Čini se da je položaj ruke pri radu s mišem ipak prilično neprirodan, i vrlo ga je teško postaviti u potpuno željeni položaj, osobito ako se želi mjeriti velikom preciznošću. Ne treba isključiti ni utjecaj električnoga voda kojim je miš povezan s

Tablica 3. Razlike između ručnog i računalnoga mjerenja

Table 3. Differences between manual and computer measurement

Varijabla Variable		n	Mean	Differ.	s.d.	c.v. (%)	t	df	p
Rotirani kvadrat Rotated square	Kompjutor Computer	10	3389.958	-26.442	14.600	0.43	-5.020	18	<0.001
	Ručno Manual		3416.400		8.017	0.23			
Trokut Triangle	Kompjutor Computer	10	1194.492	-29.808	12.652	1.06	-6.922	18	<0.001
	Ručno Manual		1224.300		5.034	0.41			
Pravokutnik Rectangle	Kompjutor Computer	10	2086.289	15.889	27.459	1.31	8.968	18	0.256
	Ručno Manual		2070.400		7.090	0.34			
Kvadrat Square	Kompjutor Computer	10	3385.481	49.519	15.100	0.45	-7.904	18	<0.001
	Ručno Manual		3435.000		12.824	0.37			

računalom, a koji stvara otpor pomicanju. Možda bi se trebalo služiti novijom verzijom miša u obliku olovke, osobito ako su bežični.

Ono što dodatno treba naglasiti jest da računalo omogućuje mjeriti nepravilne objekte i trodimenzionalne strukture, kao što su npr. pacijentovo lice, sadreni modeli zubnih lukova, proteze, ortodontske naprave i sl. Takve strukture nije moguće mjeriti klasičnom (ručnom) metodom.

Zaključci

Na temelju rezultata vlastita istraživanja može se zaključiti sljedeće:

- Mjerenje površina s pomoću elektroničkoga računala i vlastite namjenske programske podrške moguće je, vrlo je jednostavno i brzo provedivo.
- Preciznost mjerenja površina s pomoću računala dovoljna je i gotovo jednaka kao kod konvencionalnoga ručnog mjerenja.
- Računalno mjerenje ima mnogobrojne prednosti. Osim već uobičajenih mogućnosti pohrane podataka i njihove kasnije obrade i prezentacije, omogućuje mjeriti površine i na nepravilnim strukturama dvo- ili trodimenzionalnim strukturama.

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Evaluation of Original Software for Area Measurement in Medicine and Dentistry

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Summary

The aim of the study was to determine the possibilities of a computer system and original software application for area measurement and to test its precision by means of a computer, comparing it with conventional manual measurement. The purpose was not to prove greater precision of the computer measurement of areas, but only to check whether the computer could measure digitized images of life size objects with adequate precision, approaching as closely as possible manual measuring.

The main characteristic of the computer arrangement is the possibility of digitizing the image by means of a high-resolution video-camera together with video adapter and software application. The geometrical plane surfaces (equilateral triangle, square, rectangle and rotated square) were precisely drawn by means of the computer and graphics software package Corel Draw 4.0, and subsequently cut out with a plotter cutter. After the computer measurement, the conventional manual measurement was carried out with the sliding caliper "Meba", with 0.1 mm precision. Each geometrical plane surface was measured 10 times. Comparing the results it is evident that X_{min} and X_{max} in each measurement are within the interval of reliability of 99%. Although the difference between the mean at each measurement falls within the area of acceptable nul-hypothesis, it must be taken into consideration that for both measurements there was no significant difference between the means. Namely, both measurements, regardless of the different variability coefficient and different interval of reliability, do not differ significantly. The precision of area measurement by means of a computer is adequate and almost equal to conventional manual measurement.

Key words: computer systems development and evaluation, computer software

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Introduction

Medical information systems have been developing in accordance with the rapid development of

computer technology. Such computer systems have emerged which enable simultaneous work in different media, combining image, sound, video and stored data. By introducing such systems side by side

with operative systems of growing efficiency (Windows, UNIX, Linux, Windows NT), new possibilities have arisen for more efficient data processing in diagnostics, treatment planning and prognosis (1-8).

In recent years the Department of Orthodontics of the Zagreb School of Dentistry has been developing a comprehensive software which includes software applications for computerized roentgen-cephalometry, gnathometry, analysis of orthodontic photography, with additional possibilities for analyzing x-rays and application in various dental and medical disciplines (oral surgery, periodontology, operative dentistry, anatomy, surgery, orthopedics etc.). Such complete software for analysis of images, besides the basic procedures and interventions (changes of contrast, focusing a larger or smaller area, zooming, enlarging or reducing), also enables various sophisticated interventions on a digitized image, e.g. automatic detection of edges of particular structures, establishing the density of certain areas on the x-ray (densitometry) etc. (9-15).

Preparations are also under way for completing a software for profilometry and three-dimensional metric analysis of craniofacial and dental structures. Of particular interest is the part of the software intended for measuring dimensions of different digitized two- or three-dimensional structures. One of the main advantages of the computer arrangement being developed is that the digitalization is carried out by means of a video-camera, that in addition to two-dimensional (roentgenogram, orthodontic photograph) it also enables three-dimensional structures (patient's face, plaster casts of dental arches, dentures etc.), which, essentially, is not possible with systems based on scanners.

Precision and efficiency of the method for measuring lengths and angles has been determined earlier (9), and the system has enabled the registration as well as analysis of tooth movement during orthodontic treatment (11,13).

This very interesting option of area measurement of two- or three-dimensional structures, if proved precise enough, will find yet another significant application. In literature there are references to attempts at measuring areas of irregular objects, but this often requires the use of very expensive equipment, is complicated and usually not precise enough (16,17).

The aims of this research are therefore:

- To determine the possibilities of such a computer arrangement and original software application for area measurement.
- To test the precision of area measurement by means of a computer and compare with conventional manual measurement.
- To conduct measuring on geometrical plane surfaces whose areas are unknown, but to additionally check the possibility of measuring areas of dental arches on plaster casts, the lingual area on total dentures and areas of some irregular structures on roentgenograms.

Material and methods

Experiments were conducted on a computer arrangement which consisted of a basic PC (Pentium II 400 MHz, 128 Mb RAM, 10.3 Gb Hdd, SVGA monitor 1024x768) and software designed for this research. In addition to the VGA graphics adapter, the system was also enhanced by the video adapter Ima Scan (Imagraph) with S VHS resolution.

The main characteristic of the computer arrangement is the possibility of digitizing the image by means of a high-resolution video-camera together with the aforementioned video adapter and original software application.

The performance of the system enables digitalization in real time, the digitized image can be stored in the memory, and is analyzed on the additional color monitor "Sony Trinitron super fine pitch". Thus the commands and software realization takes place on one monitor, while the image is analyzed on a second monitor.

As a part of the research two measurements were made: the pilot measurement and the final one. The basis for check out the precision of computer area measurement in the pilot research were the geometrical plane surfaces whose values were "full" numbers: equilateral triangle ($a = 5$ cm), square ($a = 6$ cm), and rectangle ($a = 6$ cm, $b = 3$ cm). The plane surfaces were precisely drawn by means of the computer and graphics software package Corel Draw 4.0, and subsequently cut out with a plotter-cutter.

In the final research the dimensions of geometrical plane surfaces were changed: equilateral trian-

gle ($a = 53$ mm), square ($a = 58$ mm) and rectangle ($a = 64$ mm, $b = 32$ mm). After the computer measurement the conventional manual measurement procedure were taken with the sliding caliper "Me-ba" with 0.1 mm precision. Each geometrical plane surface was measured 10 times.

The experimental measurement procedure by means of the computer was performed in the following way:

The geometrical plane surface was set upon a flat base together with a 100 mm scale and digitized with the video-camera. The plane surface image was analysed on a video-monitor Sony, while the software procedure was conducted on the VGA monitor. The first phase includes calibration, followed by area measurement of the geometrical plane surface. The measurement is conducted by a simple movement of the mouse and cursor across the monitor screen which circumscribes the contours of the geometrical plane surface, thus closing the area, while the software stores the result of each individual measurement in the table. For each geometrical plane surface the measurement is conducted 10 times as in the comparative manual measurement. Besides the three geometrical plane surfaces, for the purpose of additional verification, the area of the same square was measured, but was digitized by a 45° rotation on the base. Statistical analysis was carried out by the software package SPSS/win.

Results and discussion

A basic summary statistical analysis was completed (Table 1 and 2) between measurement of plane surfaces by conventional and computer methods. The precision and reliability of the method of length, angles and area measurement is very important for analysing movement and time of movement during therapy by orthodontic appliances. The degree of precision and reliability of these measurements determines the significance of its usage. It is also very important to determine the interval of reliability for each area measurement. The comparison of reliability between these two measurements and the difference in significance between the two measurements (Table 1 and 2) is shown by variability coefficient, interval of reliability of the mean of each measurement and testing the hypothesis of the dif-

ferences between the measurements. It is obvious that the manual measurements done by coefficient of variability are more precise, because the variation between the mean is relatively less, probably due to the fact that manual measurements involve the nearing of numbers to 0.1 mm precision.

Comparing the results it is evident that X_{\min} and X_{\max} in each measurement are within the interval of reliability of 99%. Although the difference between the mean at each measurement falls within the area of acceptable nul-hypothesis, it must be taken into consideration that for both measurements there is no significant difference between the mean. Namely, both measurements, regardless of the different variability coefficient and different interval of reliability, do not differ significantly.

This is probably due to the already mentioned possibility of computer registration carried out with 0.01 mm precision and the very careful work of the researcher during the process of analysis of this particular geometrical plane surface, however unintentionally.

The purpose of this research was not to prove greater precision of computer measurement of areas, but only to check whether the computer could measure digitized images of objects in life size with adequate precision, approaching as closely as possible manual measuring.

Therefore, the following should also be emphasized:

The values of the pilot research have been changed because after the repeated measurement by sliding calliper the results should have been predicted. Therefore, the geometric plane surfaces with dimensions shown by two decimals have been taken.

The investigators were much more skillful with the sliding calliper at the beginning for they have been applying it for many years. It often happens that quite unintentionally the tips of the scales are placed in foil's holes, still remaining from the previous measurements. There was a similar occurrence, even more pronounced, in earlier research with measurements on plaster casts of dental arches (9). With computer measurements this, of course, is not possible, and the precision of measurement depends also on resolutions of both mouse and monitor. Namely, the graphics (video) adapter's resolution is often higher than the resolution of the monitor, what

means that some fine details can be digitized, they exist in computer's memory, but cannot be seen on the monitor. Although these analyses are done on the monitor, logically, what cannot be seen cannot be analysed. The possibility of accurate work with the mouse should also be commented upon. It seems that the position of the hand while working with the mouse is rather unnatural, and it is difficult to put it in the required position, especially if high-precision measuring is required. The effect of the electrical cable which connects the mouse and the computer creating resistance to movement should also not be excluded. Perhaps new versions of the mouse in the form of a pen should be used, especially if they are cordless.

What should also be stressed is that the computer enables measurement of irregular objects and three dimensional structures such as the patient's face, plaster casts, dentures, orthodontic appliances

etc. It is impossible to measure these structures by conventional (manual) method.

Conclusions

Based on the above the following conclusions can be drawn:

- Area measurement by means of the computer and original software application is possible, simple and easily carried out,
- The precision of area measurement by means of a computer is adequate and almost equal to conventional manual measurement,
- Computer measurement has many advantages. In addition to the possibility of storing data and their later processing and presentation, it also enables area measurement of irregular two- or three-dimensional structures.