Tissue mapping

A computer used to take satellite images of Earth now analyses complex medical scans of the human body

The same computer used to create vivid satellite images of Earth is now analyzing complex medical images of the human body. Michael Vannier, a radiologist at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, has shown that the LANDSAT image-processing computer can recognize specific body tissues and realistically color-code them in cross-sectional photographs of the head, chest and abdomen.

Such computer analysis partially resolves a major problem in the promising new field of body scanning known as NMR, nuclear magnetic resonance.

Although NMR images incorporate vast anatomical and physiological information, their extreme complexity makes interpretation difficult. But when NMR scans were fed into the LANDSAT computer, it analyzed them just as if they were earthly landscapes and reduced a series of complex, realistic color composite.

The LANDSAT computer program examines all the photos, notes the contrasts, eliminates redundancies, combines them into a composite image, and assigns realistic color to the various components.

Like a satellite, the NMR scanner can produce a multitude of pictures with different spectral characteristics. "And that's precisely what the problem has been with NMR," Vannier explains. "Everyone is asking, 'How do we interpret this data?' At the same slice level in the human body, we receive multiple pictures that have similarities but different contrasts. In applying satellite technology, we've been able to critically examine these contrasts and exploit them to produce realistic composite images."

To make those images as real as possible, Vannier and other Mallinckrodt radiologists are collaborating with engineers from NASA's Kennedy Space Center and the University of Florida at Gainesville. The technology transfer project began one year ago.

A former NASA engineer himself, Vannier saw the obvious opportunities for cross-over applications once he realized that NMR images are really quite similar to satellite pictures.

LANDSAT takes photographs in several segments of the light spectrum — hence the term multispectral. For example, when the satellite takes a picture of Chicago from more than 100 miles out, it actually takes several — green, red and infrared.

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To make those images as real as possible, Vannier and other Mallinckrodt radiologists chose colors for the composites very carefully. "These pictures look like you just lifted a slice right out of the human body," says Vannier.

Vannier and other team members have collaborated on more than 30 patient-studies so far, producing color composites for many of them at NASA's satellite image computer in Gainesville.

"From analyzing body scans, we've also discovered that many organs and types of tissue have distinct signatures, just as landscape features do," says Vannier. "Recognizing those 'signatures' enables the computer to separate wheat fields from corn fields, or bone from muscle."

The computer breaks the NMR scan into hundreds of tiny squares and then searches the image square by square for any signature of interest to the radiologist. The capacity lets Vannier create tissue maps of the human body.

The LANDSAT computer also has artificial intelligence which permits it to learn from its successes and failures. The 100th body map it creates should be more precise than the first.

"No one can mentally assimilate NMR images the way this computer can," says Vannier.

He says the tissue maps will help radiologists and other physicians see the precise outline of a particular organ or collection of tissues, and make possible earlier diagnoses in a wide range of disorders.

Vannier provides an example: "By teaching the computer the signature for a blood clot in the brain, we can ask it to show us every part of the image in which that signature can..."
Harvard mathematics professor to deliver Roever lectures in geometry

Philip A. Griffiths, professor of mathematics at Harvard University, will deliver the William H. Roever Lectures in Geometry to be held Jan. 9-13. Griffiths will speak on "Differential Systems and Isometric Embeddings" during the daily sessions which begin at 4 p.m. in Room 101 Lopata Hall.

The Roever lecture series was established fast year as the first named lectures in the Department of Mathematics.

The lecture series is funded by William A. and Frederick H. Roever in memory of their father, who specialized in the study of descriptive geometry. Established last year, it is the first named lecture series in the Department of Mathematics.

William H. Roever graduated from MIT in 1915 with a BA in mechanical engineering. He taught astronomy here for two years before studying at Harvard University, where he earned an MA and a PhD. He returned to WU in 1908 as an assistant professor of mathematics, and in 1912 he became chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy. He retired as professor emeritus in 1944, but continued to teach until his death in 1951 at age 76.

400 students expected to attend Latin Day

The conquests and personality of Alexander the Great is the theme of the second annual Latin Day at WU, which will attract more than 400 high school Latin students and their instructors.

Latin Day II, which is sponsored by WU's Department of Classics, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 5, in Edison Theatre.

Kevin Herbert, chairman of the classics department, and Cygnus F. S. Clair, a Latin instructor at Parkway West Junior High School, will present illustrated lectures and a feature film on the life of Alexander the Great, starring Richard Burton.

For more information, contact Herbert at 889-5123.

LANDSAT—continued from p. 3

be found. Within a couple of seconds, the computer searches the entire image, coloring any area that has the hematology signature.

In the next few months Vannier will turn his attention to converting the LANDSAT computer program so that it can operate on the computers that are part of the NMR system.

There is every indication that it should work," he says. "We can't expect everybody to run to a NASA image processing center with their NMR samples. If this technique is to be evaluated in a comprehensive manner, it will have to be converted to a form compatible with NMR computers. Then all NMR centers will have a chance to put it to the test." 

Social work faculty job satisfaction surveyed

According to a national survey of social work faculty, black social work faculty members — particularly is to be low rated and receive less job satisfaction than their white counterparts.

Black faculty members also believe they have a poorer job future than their white associates, according to the survey conducted by Larry E. Davis. WU associate professor of social work and psychology.

Davis said the purpose of the survey was to examine the qualitative job experiences of faculty in predominantly white schools of social work.

The survey was an attempt to assess how blacks and whites perceive themselves being responded to as faculty members by their students and colleagues," he added.

The clearest message the survey data conveys is that the black female faculty member, relative to other faculty members, appears to be the "underdog" in social work education, he said.

Davis said a great deal of comparative research has dealt with the quantitative aspects of employment, such as how many minorities and women in faculty are in the field and how they are faring with regards to salary and graduation." Davis said. "Yet, it is somewhat surprising that social work, a field so often criticized for being 'soft' and perhaps overly concerned with social and emotional issues, has not given more attention to the relative aspects of employment.

In conducting the survey, Davis was interested in responses to questions like, 'Overall, how are you treated by students, faculty and staff?' and 'How satisfied are you with your position?' rather than quantitative responses to questions like, 'How much are you paid?' and 'What degree do you hold?'

The survey questionnaire was sent to 540 black and 350 white faculty members who worked at predominantly white institutions. The questionnaire was returned by 153 blacks (35 percent) and 114 whites (35 percent). The number of male and female respondents was almost evenly divided.

Davis focuses on responses to three survey questions in his report on the survey, titled "Black and White Social Work Faculty: Perceptions of Respect, Satisfaction, and Job Permanence." He has been invited to present the paper at the Council on Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting in Detroit, Mich., in March.

Davis said his findings suggest that the perceived quality of work experiences of social work faculty vary significantly according to race, gender and the possession of tenure.

In relation to respect from others, it appears that black female members perceive themselves as receiving less respect than their white colleagues. Neither gender nor tenure seems to have any significant effect on the amount of professional respect felt, Davis found.

In relation to job satisfaction, however, it appears that black faculty members are less satisfied than their white colleagues, but gender plays an important role. The survey found that black women faculty members were significantly less satisfied than their fellow black male faculty members.

The white female faculty members, on the other hand, closely resemble their white male counterparts with respect to satisfaction with their jobs. The possession of tenure improves the job satisfaction of all faculty, white and black, male and female.

In predicting future job permanence of these social work faculty, Davis said both race and gender are important indicators. "Significantly greater numbers of black faculty than white are either definitely leaving or are uncertain as to their future plans. Of those with plans to leave, it is the black female who reported having the highest proportion of any group "

Larry E. Davis with definite plans to leave, and the lowest proportion of any group with plans to remain in their present positions.

Davis cautioned that because of the small sample size of the study, the conclusions drawn must be guarded. But he feels the findings suggest that this area of research warrants further exploration.

"I hope that the findings of this study will serve to stimulate the enhancement of teaching environments so that these environments resemble less those elements of society we oppose, and more the society we advocate," Davis said.

Jones—continued from p. 1

come. What Alice Hanson has accomplished can be described only in terms of superlatives.

"[Her] work has changed and will continue to change the course of history as we understand it."—Kenneth A. Lohf, librarian for the Rare Books and Manuscripts Collection at Columbia University, wrote that the papers "will complement our already strong holdings in [colonial] economics and thereby strengthen our resources for research.

Jones is immediate past president of the Economic History Association, an international organization. She became professor emeritus at WU in July 1977.
Marc D. Smith, assistant professor of health care administration, presented a paper, titled “An Interventional Model of the Quality of Maintenance Therapy for End-Stage Renal Disease,” to the Council of Nephrology Social Workers at the 33rd annual meeting of the National Kidney Foundation in Washington, D.C. Smith also moderated a panel on “Research in Social Work Practice: Strategies for the Assessment of ESLRD Patients and Programs” at the meetings.

Kien Strommen, associate dean of the School of Fine Arts, will exhibit his woven sculpture from Jan. 21 through Feb. 26 at the Timothy Burns Gallery, 593 N. Euclid Ave., second floor. Strommen binds strips of canvas on poles and into ropes to form free-standing sculptural forms, forcing the traditional painted canvas out from the wall and eventually to the floor. Two examples are on exhibit through Jan. 29 in the Faculty Show, Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall. A preview reception for Strommen’s show is from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22.

Sarantis Symeonoglou, associate professor of art and archaeology, lectured on “A New Perspective on the Sculptures of the Temple of Zeus at Olympia” at the 12th International Congress of Classical Archaeology Sept. 5-11, in Athens, Greece. Symeonoglou also presented a paper in late September on “The Founding of Athens.” He spoke at a seminar, titled “City Structures, Urbanism and Literature in Greece and Rome,” organized by the Department of Classics at Princeton University.

Have you done something noteworthy? Have you presented a paper? Won an award? Been named to a committee or elected an officer of a professional organization?

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Local executives on loan through consortium

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Saturday, Dec. 17
10 a.m.-4 p.m. School of Fine Arts Ceramics Sale, Bixby Gallery.

Sunday, Dec. 18
6 p.m. Interdenominational Vesper Service with Paul Million, dir., WU Protestant Center. Graham Chapel.

Saturday, Jan. 14
9 a.m. Personal Computing Education Center Short Course, “Using Interactive Computing with MUSIC — Faculty and Student Orientation.” Free to WU community. (Also Sat., Jan. 21, noon to 3 p.m.) For registration and class location, call 889-5530.

Tuesday, Jan. 17
10 a.m. Personal Computing Education Center Short Course, “Introduction to Computing Facilities.” Free to WU community. For registration and class location, call 889-5530.

Friday, Jan. 20
*3:30 p.m. Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship Meeting, Green Stuffs Line, Wohr Center.

CALENDAR registration and class location, call 889-5330.

Sat., Jan. 21, noon to 3 p.m.) For registration

Computing with MUSIC — Faculty and Student

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Thursday, Dec. 15


Friday, Dec. 16


2 p.m. McDonnell Lab, for Psychosocial Research Seminar, “Conscience and Explanation.” Galen Fletcher, Philosophy Dept., St. Louis U. 111 Ends.

Monday, Dec. 19

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Thursday, Jan. 5
9:30 a.m. Latin Day for area high school students. Speakers include: Kevin Herbert, chair, WU classics dept., and Cyrus F. St. Clair, assistant prof. of geological sciences, U. of Tenn. at Knoxville. 102 Wilson.

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Tuesday, Jan. 10

Thursday, Jan. 19

8 p.m. Department of History Lecture, “Mythical Mexico.” Carlos Fuentes, WU Visiting Professor in Literature and History, Menberg Auditorium.

Saturday, Jan. 21

EXHIBITIONS

“American Indian Art.” Through Jan. 8. Gallery of Art, print gallery. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, 1-5 p.m. weekends.

Cadets and Surveillance.” Through Jan. 8. Gallery of Art, lower west gallery. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, 1-5 p.m. weekends.


“Faculty Show.” Through Jan. 29. Gallery of Art, lower gallery. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, 1-5 p.m. weekends.


“Life and Land in 19th-Century Europe.” Through April 22. Gallery of Art, lower gallery. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, 1-5 p.m. weekends.

“The Sculpture of Baroness Yrsa Von Leistner.” Jan. 15 to Feb. 5. Bixby Gallery. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, 1-5 p.m. weekends.

FILMS

Friday, Dec. 16
7 and 9:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, “The Paper Chase.” $2. Brown Hall Aud. (also Dec. 17, same times, Brown.)

Friday, Jan. 20
7 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, “’Gone With the Wind.” $2. Brown Hall Aud. (Also Sat., Jan. 21, and Sun., Jan. 22, same time, Brown.)

SPORTS

Thursday, Jan. 19
10:30 p.m. Hockey, WU Hockey Club vs. St. Louis U. Affton Rink.

Saturday, Jan. 21
5:30 p.m. Women’s Basketball, WU vs. Rockhurst College. Francis Gym.

7:30 p.m. Men’s Basketball, WU vs. UM-NSL. Francis Gym.

Calendar Deadline
The deadline to submit items for the Jan. 26-24 calendar of the Washington University Record is Jan. 12. Items must be typed and state time, date, place, nature of event, sponsor and admission cost. Incomplete items will not be printed. If available, include speaker’s name and identification and the title of the event, also include your name and telephone number. Address items to King McElroy, calendar editor, Box 1142.

A spear-bearing warrior from the terra-cotta army of Emperor Ch’in Shin Huang Ti, buried almost 22 centuries ago, in Shan, China, is one of many curiosities to be shown in Raphael Green’s

China,” Raphael Green,

Europe.” The show, said the sale has become a

The sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday,

Tulsa, Okla.; Thomas K. Lattig, Brook, Texas; John G. Hosterman, College Station, Texas; David A. Rosenzweig, City, Okla.; Angela K. Hogan, Ben-

As Air Force ROTC cadets, the

Betty Sue Blackmore, WU classics dept., and Cyrus F. St. Clair, assistant prof. of geological sciences, U. of Tenn. at Knoxville. 102 Wilson.

WU Hockey Club vs. St. Louis U. Affton Rink.

Hispanic, who enjoy working with people and have a sense of commitment, as well as warmth and leadership potential, are encouraged to apply.

Completed applications and all

Students for South-40 dorms

Applicants for the 1984-85 resident advisor staff are now available at the Residential Life Center, the Cage in Wohr Center, and the Resource Desk in Mallinckrodt Center. Individuals who enjoy working with people and have a sense of commitment, as well as warmth and leadership potential, are encouraged to apply.

For more information, call 889-6500.

BELLEVILLE, Ill.

Air Force ROTC cadets, the

Student pottery
to be sold in Bixby Gallery

Several hundred pieces of pottery, glass and other art objects will be on sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, in Bixby Hall’s gallery. The pieces were made and will be sold by students in the School of Fine Arts.

David Hershey, associate professor of art and faculty coordinator for the show, said the sale has become a popular annual event. “Several people are very regular in attendance year after year,” he said. “We usually have people waiting at the door for us to open.”

He said prices were “reasonable,” ranging from a couple of dollars to $40 or $50 — depending on the object. “Profits are shared between the school and the student participants.”

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