## 科技部補助專題研究計畫成果報告 期末報告

## 基於唾液影像樣式辨識之女性排卵期預測行動照護系統研發 (A03)

計畫類別:個別型計畫

計 畫 編 號 : MOST 103-2629-E-040-001-執 行 期 間 : 103年08月01日至104年07月31日 執 行 單 位 : 中山醫學大學醫學資訊學系

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報告附件:出席國際會議研究心得報告及發表論文

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3.「本報告」是否建議提供政府單位施政參考:否

中華民國 104 年 10 月 14 日

中 文 摘 要 : 預測女性排卵期可應用在避孕、受孕、疾病診斷和不孕症治療。以 往預測女性排卵期常用方法,大都需要藉助專業知識或精密設備輔助才能採集檢測。近年研究發現,在排卵前雌激素分泌達高峰時,乾燥後的唾液會呈現出典型羊齒狀結晶(Ferning),唾液結晶會隨著生理週期而發生明顯的規律性變化,隨著排卵期的接近,分為無羊齒狀結晶、部分羊齒狀結晶以及典型羊齒狀結晶。正確辨識女性是否處於排卵期,除了可幫助女性更加了解自己的身體,更在避孕、計畫生育、治療疾病、降低青少女意外懷孕等方面具有重要的正向幫助。

本計畫規劃以兩年期程執行,由中山醫學大學醫學資訊學系、中山醫學大學附設醫院婦產部與中山醫學大學醫學社會暨社會工作學系共同合作研發【基於唾液影像樣式辨識之女性排卵期預測行動照護系統】。本研究為第一年計畫,首先收集唾液影像樣本集,並設計影像處理技術進行唾液影像樣式自動辨識演算法的開發驗證。基於收集的120張唾液樣本集,本計畫研發的唾液影像樣式自動辨識演算法可以將整體準確率由原本55%提升達92%。

中文關鍵詞:排卵、羊齒狀結晶、唾液影像、樣式自動辨識演算法

英文摘要: Predict woman 's ovulation can sterility treatment, diagnose certain diseases and avoid undesired pregnancies. Most previous methods require sophisticated equipment or medical expertise aided to collect data for predicting woman's ovulation period. Saliva ferning is a recent technique that monitors woman 's saliva and looks for patterns related to ovulation. With different ovulation approaches, the saliva ferning will be divided into non-crystalline fern crystals, partially crystalline and typical ferning crystals. Correctly identify women's ovulation period not only help women understand their bodies, but also have important positive help in contraception, birth control, treatment of disease, and reducing unwanted pregnancies of teenagers.

This study is the first year project. It is a joint cooperative research by the department of medical informatics of CSMU, the department of obstetrics and gynecology of CSMU hospital and the department of medical sociology and social work to develop a pattern recognition algorithm for woman 's ovulation prediction using saliva images. Saliva is inspected under a microscope for crystallization patterns. First, we collect saliva images. Then, we propose an image-processing algorithm for automatic recognize the most important features in saliva images. Based on 120 saliva images, the proposed pattern recognition algorithm can predict woman 's ovulation from 55% up to 92% in overall accuracy.

英文關鍵詞: ovulation, ferning, saliva image, pattern recognition algorithm

#### 中文摘要

預測女性排卵期可應用在避孕、受孕、疾病診斷和不孕症治療。以往預測女性排卵期常用方法, 大都需要藉助專業知識或精密設備輔助才能採集檢測。近年研究發現,在排卵前雌激素分泌達高峰時, 乾燥後的唾液會呈現出典型羊齒狀結晶(Ferning),唾液結晶會隨著生理週期而發生明顯的規律性變化, 隨著排卵期的接近,分為無羊齒狀結晶、部分羊齒狀結晶以及典型羊齒狀結晶。正確辨識女性是否處 於排卵期,除了可幫助女性更加了解自己的身體,更在避孕、計畫生育、治療疾病、降低青少女意外 懷孕等方面具有重要的正向幫助。

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關鍵詞:排卵、羊齒狀結晶、唾液影像、樣式自動辨識演算法

**Abstract** 

Predict woman's ovulation can sterility treatment, diagnose certain diseases and avoid undesired

pregnancies. Most previous methods require sophisticated equipment or medical expertise aided to collect

data for predicting woman's ovulation period. Saliva ferning is a recent technique that monitors woman's

saliva and looks for patterns related to ovulation. With different ovulation approaches, the saliva ferning will

be divided into non-crystalline fern crystals, partially crystalline and typical ferning crystals. Correctly

identify women's ovulation period not only help women understand their bodies, but also have important

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informatics of CSMU, the department of obstetrics and gynecology of CSMU hospital and the department of

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#### 一、 前言

近年來因女性主義意識、性解放觀念、青少年發育早熟、色情媒體誘惑與藥物毒品濫用等因素影響,性觀念與性行為逐漸開放,導致青少年時期即擁有性經驗的比率逐年攀升,因而青少女懷孕的人數也日益增加。青少女懷孕的總數,並無精確的官方統計,只能藉由粗估的數據來推測(謝佩娟,2009),從報章媒體的「九月墮胎潮」、「未婚媽媽棄嬰」、「青少女意外產子」等相關報導,都顯示青少女意外懷孕的問題值得社會大眾的重視,提供女性正確的性健康教育是當務之急。

預測女性排卵期的技術可應用在避孕、受孕、疾病診斷和不孕症治療。希望懷孕的女性,可透過排卵期預測提高懷孕機會。不孕的夫妻,可藉由預測排卵期的時間,在適當時機行房,增加受孕機率。朱彥柔(2008)研究指出,避孕者對於選擇避孕方式的考量有:簡單方便、不需花錢、不傷身體、可及性,因此許多女性選擇安全期計算(無需醫療器具介入)的避孕方式。甚至在多數情況下,男性很少承擔起避孕的責任,即便參與避孕的過程,也是以一種被動的型態參與,例如避免在女性排卵的危險期時發生性行為。種種現象突顯女性是否掌握自己身體內部的變化,運用正確、準確的監測方法,詳實記錄自己的排卵生理週期。

以往預測女性排卵期常用方法,大都需要藉助專業知識或精密設備輔助才能採集檢測。研究發現, 在排卵前雌激素分泌達高峰時,乾燥後的唾液會呈現出典型羊齒狀結晶(Ferning),唾液結晶會隨著生 理週期而發生明顯的規律性變化,隨著排卵期的臨近有所不同,分為無羊齒狀結晶、部分羊齒狀結晶 以及典型羊齒狀結晶。

#### 二、 研究目的

近年研究發現(徐仙等,2000; Galati et al., 1994),在雌激素影響下,唾液中的蛋白質、氯化鈉及水分的含量發生變化,在排卵前雌激素分泌達高峰時,使得乾燥後的唾液呈現出典型羊齒狀結晶(Ferning),唾液結晶會隨著月經週期的變化而發生明顯的規律性變化。本研究的目的是收集唾液影像樣本集,繼之結合影像處理技術來萃取唾液影像的良好特徵,進而達到自動辨識能力來預測女性排卵期,最後將相關研發成果進行一個唾液影像即時分析系統開發,期能提供一個簡便易行、具可靠性、並在臨床輔助支援或避免青少女意外懷孕上有很高實用性的方法。

#### 貳、文獻探討

以下針對 (1)常用排卵預測法、(2)羊齒狀結晶影像、(3)唾液結晶相關研究與專利、(4)影像處理技術於羊齒狀結晶之識別研究,分別說明如下:

- (1). 常用排卵預測法(鳳霞、林維,2005)
  - (a) 黃體素(Luteinizing Hormone, LH)值檢測:可用血液及尿液兩種方法檢測。

血液黃體素值檢測:於月經週期第8天開始每天抽血檢查LH值,在排卵週期中,卵子早期血液LH濃度較低,約2~30lv/L;卵子晚期達20~40lv/L;排卵前達高峰40~200lv/L,又稱為LH峰值,LH峰值與排卵日一致者達42.2%,次日排卵者佔54.6%,約97%的排卵發生在血液LH峰值後的24Hr內,是一種可靠的診斷方法。

尿液黃體素值檢測:尿液 LH 的峰值一般較血液 LH 峰值晚 3~6Hr,尿液 LH 值是用來間接測量血液 LH 值,與血液的 LH 值測定標準相同。

- (b) 基礎體溫法(Basal Body Temperature, BBT):在排卵前的基礎體溫通常低於 36.70。C 接近排卵日時,動情素分泌量達最高峰並造成基礎體溫下降。排卵後,濾泡受到腦下垂體前葉製造的黃體生成素的作用,蛻變成黃體並合成黃體素,導致基礎體溫上升。3~0.60。C,此種雙峰的基礎體溫型態即為排卵的特徽。若出現單峰的基礎體溫型態通常表示無排卵,透過每個月詳實記錄基礎體溫的變化,女性可以了解自身排卵週期。
- (c) 子宮頸黏液觀測(Cervical Mucus): 1972 年 Insler 學者(Insler et al., 1972)建立了子宮頸黏液評分法(如表 1 所示)評價卵巢功能以及預測排卵。該方法採用子宮頸外口型態、黏液量、拉絲度、結晶進行綜合評分,0~3 分: 功能不全; 4~7 分: 功能不良; 8~10 分: 功能良好; 10~12 分功能優秀,表示排卵期即將發生。以子宮頸粘液觀察法測定排卵期,首先要對避孕對象進行訓練指導。觀察子宮頸粘液每天需要數次,一般可利用起床後,洗澡前或小便前的機會用手指從陰道口取黏液檢查,觀察手指上的黏液外觀、黏稠程度以及用手指做拉絲反應等幾方面檢查。這樣經過 3 個以上月經週期的觀察,就可以掌握自身的子宮頸黏液分泌規律和排卵期(國家網路醫院, 2004)。
- (d) 超音波:從體內透過超音波直接觀察卵子的型態、大小、變化來診斷排卵的方法。女性自然排卵週期第 5~7 天,可檢出一细小卵子,排卵在卵巢的外周,第 8~12 天發展成優勢卵子,直徑可達 10mm 或更大,80%以上每週期只有一個卵子產生,優勢卵子的生長速度為每天 2~3mm的速度增大,發展為成熟卵子。一個成熟的卵子須包含的條件是卵子直徑>17~18mm 且卵子位於卵巢的邊緣邊界清晰、透亮度好等等。

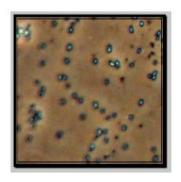
农 I msici 」 占填和极叶力公					
評分項目	0	1	2	3	
宮頸外口型態	關閉	裂隙	略開	張開	
黏液量	無	少許	滴狀	黏液豐富	
拉絲度		輕度,黏液線條拉到 自子宮頸口至陰道 口 1/4 處			
結晶	無	少許纖維結構	部份羊齒狀結晶	典型羊齒狀結晶	

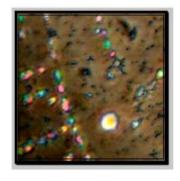
表 1 Insler 子宮頸黏液評分法

資料來源: Insler et al. (1972)

- (e) 抽血檢查:在女性身上,孕酮在月經週期中排卵前的時期都是低濃度,小於 2ng/ml。在排卵後的黃體期增加到大於 5ng/ml。如果懷孕,在懷孕初期濃度會維持在黃體期濃度。等到孕酮開始由胎盤供應,濃度會增加到 100-200ng/ml (維基百科,2013)。透過檢查血液中的孕酮成分可判斷排卵週期或者懷孕狀態。
- (f) 唾液羊齒狀結晶觀察法(Saliva Ferning Test):需要一個手持式顯微鏡以及可以觀察唾液結晶的 載玻片。取唾液樣本,並讓它乾燥於載玻片上。使用手持顯微鏡觀察唾液的羊齒狀結晶模式。 羊齒狀結晶模式(如圖 1)發展隨著排卵期的臨近有所不同,分為無羊齒狀結晶、部分羊齒狀結 晶以及典型羊齒狀結晶,典型羊齒狀模式的結果表示排卵即將發生。

綜合以上幾種排卵預測法做比較(如表 2 所示),本研究採用的唾液羊齒狀結晶觀察法,擁有簡單方便、非侵入性、可及性、可重複性等優點。







沒有羊齒狀結晶

部分羊齒狀結晶

典型羊齒狀結晶

圖 1 羊齒狀結晶模式 (資料來源:本研究整理)

表 2 常用排卵預測法綜合比較表 (資料來源:本研究整理)

排卵預測法	設備	檢測方法	結果判讀
血液黃體素值 檢測	醫院提供 抽血設備	到醫院抽血檢查	需要專業醫事人員判讀
尿液黃體素值 檢測	尿液 LH 排卵試紙	以尿液 LH 排卵試 紙檢測	由尿液排卵試紙呈現結 果判讀
基礎體溫法	高精度溫度計	每日記錄 體溫變化	透過每個月詳實記錄基 礎體溫的變化判讀
子宮頸黏液觀測	無	每日觸摸 觀察變化	需要專業醫事人員解讀 或者透過每日觸摸觀察 累積約三個月經週期的 經驗即可判讀
超音波	醫院提供 超音波設備	到醫院做超音波 檢查	需要專業醫事人員判讀
血液孕酮檢查	醫院提供 抽血設備	到醫院抽血檢查	需要專業醫事人員判讀
唾液羊齒狀 結晶觀察法	手持式顯微鏡 及放置唾液結 晶的載玻片	以手持式顯微鏡 觀察唾液結晶	由羊齒狀結晶模式判讀

#### (2). 羊齒狀結晶影像

女性生理週期(Female Reproductive Cycle, FRC)受到神經內分泌機轉的控制,週期從第一天月經來潮開始算起,大體上可分為表 3 中的幾個階段,每個階段的長短因人而異(鍾芬芳等,2003)。表 3 中的天數取的是平均值 28 天,月經階段區分為月經期、濾泡期與黃體期(李從業等,1995)。從濾泡期變成黃體期的那一天,即為排卵日。

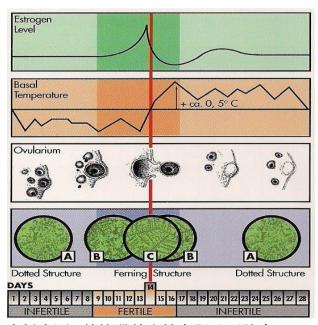
表 3 月經階段

階段名稱	天數(月經來潮為第一天)
月經期	1~5
濾泡期	6~14
黄體期	15~28

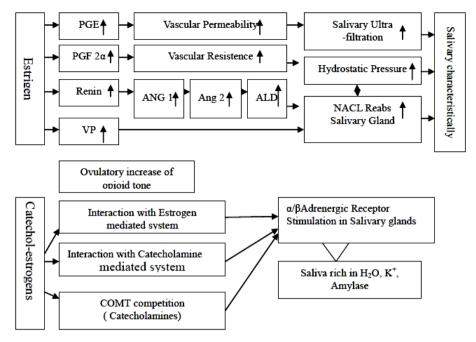
資料來源:李從業等(1995)

在正常月經週期中,女性在進入濾泡期後,隨著雌激素的上升,子宮頸黏液塗片逐漸出現羊齒狀結晶,其形態從沒有羊齒狀結晶,到出現線狀的部分羊齒狀結晶,直到雌激素上升到最高峰,會由濾泡期進入到黃體期,成年女性會從卵巢內排出一個成熟的卵子,卵子存活的這段期間(約 12~24 小時)也稱為排卵期,會使唾液結晶出現典型的羊齒狀結晶(雌激素與月經週期對應如圖 2 所示,其中 A 為無羊齒狀結晶 B 為部分羊齒狀結晶 C 為典型羊齒狀結晶),此時期又稱為受孕期,在此時行房,會大幅增加受孕機率。排卵後羊齒狀結晶逐漸減少,一般排卵後 2 天即不再出現。如持續出現典型羊齒狀結晶,說明雌激素過高。如持續出現無羊齒狀結晶或僅有部分羊齒狀結晶,多為雌激素過低。

圖 3 顯示為唾液羊齒狀結晶作用機轉,包含(1)Estrogen actions:排卵將至時,受 Estrogen 刺激、增加唾液腺 NaCl 再吸收 Reabs、產生羊齒狀結晶,同時透過 PGE、Vassopresin 、及 Aldosterone 作用,使唾液中水分增加。(2)Opioid action system:MC 週期波動,濾泡期 Opioid 張力下降、排卵時增加。The opioids, LHRH, somatostatin 刺激 VP 分泌。(3)Catecholamine action:透過和 Estrogen 及 Catecholamine 調節系統作用與 COMT 競爭,刺激唾液腺的 adrenergic receptors,增加唾液中 H2o、K+、Amylase。



資料來源: 英特醫藥生技有限公司臉書(2013) 圖 2 雌激素與月經週期對應圖



資料來源:麥迷姆唾液排卵微型鏡檢器網站(2013) 圖 3 羊齒狀結晶作用機轉

#### (3). 唾液結晶相關研究

唾液羊齒狀結晶觀察法(Saliva Ferning Test)從 20 年前就有許多學者投入研究,在 1994 年以 Galati 教授為首的小组在義大利羅馬大學產科中心展開了研究(Galati et al., 1994)。對 328 名婦女觀察唾液羊齒狀結晶圖像,並用陰道超音波圖像檢查她們的實際排卵狀況。研究结果發現超音波圖像與羊齒狀結晶圖像在排卵的相互關聯率為 98%。2000 年徐仙等學者(徐仙等,2000),將 32 名婦女蒐集唾液及子宮頸黏液,觀察樣本結晶分級,並對兩者與排卵的關係進行對比分析。結果證實月經週期子宮頸黏液出現羊齒狀結晶,同時唾液中的羊齒狀結晶也會同步出現,兩者檢查結果的符合率為 100%。Galati 與徐仙等學者的研究證實了唾液羊齒狀結晶觀察法是有良好可靠性、並在臨床輔助診斷有很高的實用性的方法。

在 2002 年美國美國食品藥品管理局(U.S. Food and Drug Administration, FDA)核准以唾液測試排卵的測試器,將唾液排卵測式儀器認定為可幫助受孕安全且有效的工具。而後許多唾液檢測排卵儀器便應運而生。麥迷姆唾液排卵微型鏡檢器,FDA 核准字號 K013582/A003(英特醫藥生技有限公司臉書,2013)便是其中之一。英特醫藥生技有限公司對麥迷姆唾液排卵微型鏡檢器做了臨床的試驗(麥迷姆唾液排卵微型鏡檢器網站,2013)。藉由分析唾液觀察羊齒結晶決定病人排卵日。由超音波追蹤 Follicles 大小及子宮內膜結構及厚度決定排卵日期。並以超音波當 Gold Standard,比較兩羊齒結晶結果。共收錄71 婦女進行 213 週期檢測,每個週期為第8至20天,每位婦女選三個不同時間點進行測試。共做了麥迷姆唾液測試、子宮內膜結晶與超音波測試結果的比較(如表4與表5所示)。當雌激素(E2)的值越高,麥迷姆唾液測試出現結晶狀況越好。排卵一致性達90%,陽性結晶的百分比率高則濾泡愈大。結果為在排卵時,唾液羊齒結晶與卵泡變大正相關。

#### (4). 影像處理技術於羊齒狀結晶之辨識研究

經文獻搜尋目前僅有一篇運用影像處理技術於羊齒狀結晶之自動辨識研究的論文發表。 Perkowski et al.(1990)提出以 Hough 轉換應用到影像處理技術於識別子宮頸黏液的羊齒狀結晶模式, 其影像處理方法如圖 4 所示。它輸入的樣本圖片為灰階的圖片,經過直方圖等化、中值濾波、Sobel 邊緣偵測、二值化、標籤化、細化、Hough 轉換等步驟得到影像的六個特徵值(如圖 4 所示),再透 過高斯分類器辨識出羊齒狀結晶模式。由於 Perkowski et al.(1990)提出之影像處理技術特別針對灰階照片的子宮頸黏液影像所設計之方法,而本研究則針對現行通用之智慧型手機進行拍攝的全彩照片的唾液影像進行自動辨識。

表 4 超音波與麥洲姆測試比較結果

Ultrasound						GANC	)P Test			
size	Total			-	+ ++		+	+++		
Foll(mm)	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
>10	56	26.3	36	67.9	9	17.3	7	12.5	4	7.7
11~17	67	31.4	9	17	27	51.9	18	32.1	13	25
18~25	69	32.4	6	11.3	13	25	23	41.1	27	51.9
Ovulation	21	9.9	2	3.8	3	5.8	8	14.3	8	15.4
total	213	100	53	100	52	100	56	100	52	100

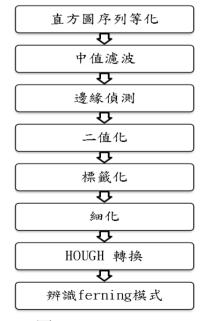
Chi-square=63.539, p<0.001; Pearson R=0.37, p<0.01 Spearman R=0.371, p<0.01

資料來源:麥迷姆唾液排卵微型鏡檢器網站(2013)

表 5 雌激素濃度、濾泡大小及結晶相關性

E2 level	Falliala siza (mm)	Saliva	ry Ferni	Total(0/)	
E2 level	Follicle size (mm)	+	++	+++	Total(%)
<130 pg/ml	10; N=56	16.07%	12.55%	7.10%	35.7(25/56)
>150 pg/ml	11~17; N=67	40.30%	47.90%	19.40%	86.5(58/67)
>300 pg/ml	18~25; N=69	18.80%	59.60%	39.10%	91(63/69)
Ovulation	N=21	N=3	N=8	N=8	90(19/21)

資料來源:麥迷姆唾液排卵微型鏡檢器網站(2013)



特徴值	描述
F1	全部的線
F2	較長的線
F3	較短的線
F4	平行的線
F5	較長的線的比率=F2/F1
F6	平行線的比率=F4/F1

圖 4 Perkowski et al.(1990)影像處理流程與辨識使用特徵值

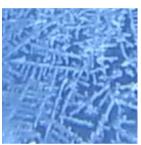
#### **參、研究方法**

由手機雖可直接拍攝出影像,但無法顯示出唾液影像特徵,須搭配 50 倍以上倍數的手持式放大鏡使用。若要進一步辨識出唾液影像當中是否有羊齒狀結晶,則須開發適當的影像特徵辨釋識演算法。

#### (1). 唾液影像特徵模式

圖 5 分別是 60 倍微型顯微鏡與 100 倍光學顯微鏡下之典型的羊齒狀結晶模式,圖 6 則是部分羊齒狀結晶,而圖 7 是沒有羊齒狀結晶模式。由上述圖中可觀察到,三種的羊齒狀結晶模式係由不同長度和不同方向的線條組合而成。故要能自動辨識出唾液影像當中是否有羊齒狀結晶,最重要的特徵是萃取影像中的線狀特徵。

- (a) 典型的羊齒狀結晶模式:它有主要的很直很長的枝幹,以及一些較短小的分枝。此時極可能 即將排卵或正在排卵中。
- (b) 部分羊齒狀結晶模式:只能約略的看出有線條的樣子,無明顯的分枝。雌激素濃度漸漸升高, 但卵泡並未大到成熟。
- (c) 沒有羊齒狀結晶模式:則是由無組織、非結晶型、無一定方向的點所構成。此時雌激素濃度 低、卵泡小沒有排卵現象。



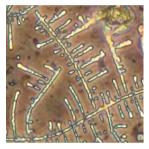
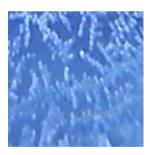


圖 5 典型羊齒狀結晶(60x;100x)



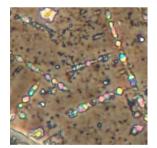
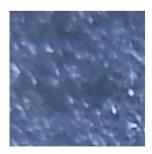


圖 6部分羊齒狀結晶(60x;100x)



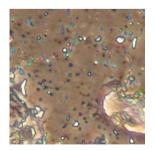


圖 7沒有羊齒狀結晶模式(60x;100x)

#### (2). 唾液影像處理方法

影像處理的步驟是為了找出樣本圖像中可能的點和線,將之與背景分離出(Perkowski et al., 1990)。 保留影像中重要的資訊去除不需要的成分。最後留下的重要特徵再去做門檻值的計算才有意義。本研 究擬使用的影像處理相關技術說明如下:

- (a) RGB To Gray: 將影像轉換成灰階色彩空間取出灰階之 Value 值做計算。
- (b) RGB To HS:將影像轉換成 HSV 色彩空間取出 HSV 之 Value 值做後續處理。本研究將原始 RGB 的彩色影像轉換到 HSV 色彩空間進行分析。因為最基本的色彩空間 RGB 影像色彩很容易受光源強弱的影響,直接對 RGB 色彩空間做影像分析容易產生錯誤,因此通常會將 RGB 轉換到比較不受光源影響的色彩空間上,RGB 色彩空間的缺點就是其三個分量之間有很高的關聯性,HSV 色彩空間的好處是每一個分量彼此是不相關的,這樣的作法可以降低光線對影像的影響,避免因強光而增加影像處理的困難度,例如對影像進行處理時可能會將強光部分誤認為白色,透過 HSV 色彩空間轉換即可除去不必要的誤判情形。
- (c) 均值濾波:為了去除影像中出現的雜訊,可使用均值濾波器(Mean Filter)。均值濾波是擷取問 圍其他像素灰階的平均值做為該像素的灰階值,並對影像的邊緣沒有很大的破壞。
- (d) 中值濾波:為了去除圖像中經常出現的胡椒與鹽的雜訊。中值濾波是一種非線性數字濾波技術,利用空間旋積清潔圖像中的點雜訊,並在圖像的邊緣沒有很大的破壞。
- (e) 高增幅濾波:在影像中,使用高增幅濾波可將影像的邊緣加強,使得銳利的物體邊緣或線條 特徵將被強調出來。
- (f) 邊緣偵測:索貝爾濾波器(Sobel Filter)是一種高通濾波器,使用空間一階導數來增強高頻的空間訊號,在影像中,這些高頻訊號通常代表較銳利的物體邊緣或線條特徵。透過索貝爾濾波器影像中線條的特徵將被強調出來。坎尼邊界偵測(Canny Edge Detection)使用高斯濾波器得到平滑影像,再應用微分濾波器計算邊緣強度和方向,由參數決定邊緣偵測器的大小來得到邊緣的細節程度。拉普拉斯算子邊緣偵測(Laplace Operator Edge Detection)被定義為歐幾里得空間中函數梯度的二階微分運算元,通常利用拉普拉斯運算子的零交叉點為梯度極大值的特性來定位邊緣。
- (g) 二值化:二值化是圖像分割的一種方法。在二值化圖像的時候,我們設定一個閥值,把大於 閥值的像素灰階設為灰階極大值,把小於閥值的像素設為灰階極小值,從而實現二值化。這 將產生一個只有黑色和白色(0或255的像素值)圖像。
- (h) 關閉運算:形態學的關閉運算是先做影像之膨脹運算,再作影像之侵蝕運算,其功用在於可以補影像中之小洞及將一些斷線連接起來。
- (i) 細化:這個步驟的目的是降低影像複雜度,經過細化處理,最後我們得到的是圖片上的線條 變成只有一個像素寬的線條。
- (j) 辨識:判斷唾液影像樣本類別是屬於 no-fern、partial-fern 或者 full-fern。

#### (3). 唾液影像資料收集

本研究蒐集健康女性之唾液檢體再以手持式放大鏡及手機照相功能即能獲取唾液影像,期能透過本研究開發影像處理方法達到自動辨識能力來預測女性排卵期。受試者閱讀過受試者同意書,同意並簽名後,本計畫研究人員會對受試者做生理週期調查。經過基礎評估後,符合納入/排除條件標準之受試者,將會發給受試者,載玻片、夾鏈袋、棉花棒以及保鮮盒。採集唾液檢體的期間為月經結束後三天算起七天。每日早晨,受試者將唾液檢體放置於載玻片上,並用夾鍊袋及保鮮盒妥善保存。本研究所採集之唾液檢體,在採集後約14天後,樣本即會自動風化銷毀無法辨識。本計畫已通過中山醫學大學附設醫院人體試驗委員會之審查,通過編號CSMUHIRB#CS13204。

- (a). 招募方式
  - 本研究徵求35名女性自願受試者。招募期間2014~2015年,每位受試者收取7天的唾液檢體。
- (b). 納入條件

- 1.受試者閱讀過受試者同意書且簽名同意。
- 2.受試者在納入試驗前三次月經週期正常。
- 3.受試者必須年滿 20 歲低於 45 歲。

#### (c). 排除條件

- 1. 自覺有婦科病徵者、或經期不規律者。
- 2. 受試者懷孕或需要餵乳之母親。
- 3. 罹患口腔疾病者、罹患卵巢疾病者。
- 4. 受試者正在使用的藥物可能影響生理週期。

本研究最後成功收集 120 張唾液樣本集,這些地真資料(Ground Truth)是經過排卵試紙驗證或專業人士判定,其中 no-fern 有 45 張、partial-fern 有 45 張、full-fern 有 30 張,如表 6 所示。

表 6 唾液影像樣本集

Full Ferning	Partial Ferning	No Ferning	Total
30 samples	45 samples	45 samples	120 samples

#### 肆、結果與討論

本研究影像處理程式撰寫是使用 Matlab 進行實現,演算程序可自動計算每張樣本圖片的特徵值進而對該唾液影像進行自動辨識之分類效能評估。分類準確率(%)計算公式如下所示。

## 準確率(%) = 分類成功個數 待分類總個數

本研究實作 Perkowski et al.(1990)的方法於全彩照片的唾液影像進行自動辨識測試(黃詩涵、林靜儀、曾明性(2013)),測試結果不佳,故本計畫設計不同的影像處理技術來開發準確率較高的唾液影像羊齒狀結晶之自動辨識技術,進行以下四種實驗。

#### 一、實驗一

本實驗首先比較六種基礎影像處理程序的效能,分別為 Gray + Sobel、Gray + Histogram Equalization + Sobel、Gray + Median filter + Sobel、Gray + Median filter + Mean filter + Sobel、Gray + Mean filter + Median filter + Sobel、Gray + Mean filter + Median filter + Sobel、其影像辨識結果如表 7 所示。

Procedure	Accuracy (%)
Gray + Sobel	40.0
Gray + Histogram Equalization + Sobel	34.1
Gray + Median filter + Sobel	57.5
Gray + Mean filter + Sobel	61.6
Gray + Median filter + Mean filter + Sobel	55.0
Gray + Mean filter+ Median filter + Sobel	62.5

表 7 實驗一的分類結果

表 7 為實驗一利用 120 張唾液影像進行整體訓練測試結果,其分類準確率前三名依續為 Gray + Mean filter + Median filter + Sobel 法為最高可達 62.5%準確率、而 Gray + Mean filter + Sobel 法可達到 61.6%準確率次之、Gray + Median filter + Sobel 法可達到 57.5%準確率更次之。

表 8 顯示實驗一的最佳影像處理程序 Gray + Mean filter + Median filter + Sobel 的分類效能,分類矩陣結果顯示此法可達到 40 張 no-fern 影像有 5 張誤判為 partial-fern、45 張 partial-fern 影像有 3 張誤判為 no-fern, 31 張誤判為 full-fern、30 張 full-fern 影像有 4 張誤判為 no-fern,有 2 張誤判為 partial-fern。

	Actual class					
		No Ferning	Partial Ferning	Full Ferning		
class	No Ferning	4 0	3	4		
	Partial Ferning	5	11	2		
	Full Ferning	0	31	24		

表 8 實驗— Gray + Mean filter + Median filter + Sobel 的分類矩陣

#### 二、實驗二

本實驗主要比較三種邊緣偵測演算法的效能,分別為 Sobel、Prewitt、Canny,並進行人工優化參數法的優劣比較,其影像辨識結果如表 9 所示。

 Edge detection method
 Threshold range
 Accuracy (%)

 Sobel
 0.02~0.07
 71.0~75.0

 Prewitt
 0.02~0.07
 71.0~75.0

 Canny
 [0.1, 0.4]~[0.5, 0.8]
 39.0~66.7

表 9 實驗二的分類結果

表 9 為實驗二利用 120 張唾液影像進行整體訓練測試結果,其分類準確率 Sobel 法與 Prewitt 法相同可達 75%, Canny 法僅達 66.7%次之。

表 10 顯示實驗二進行人工優化參數法的最佳影像處理程序 Gray + Mean filter + Median filter + Sobel 的分類效能,分類矩陣結果顯示此法可達到 45 張 no-fern 影像全部被準確分類、45 張 partial-fern 影像有 2 張誤判為 no-fern, 28 張誤判為 full-fern、30 張 full-fern 影像全部被準確分類。

	Actual class					
		No Ferning	Partial Ferning	Full Ferning		
Predicted	No Ferning	45	2	0		
class	Partial Ferning	0	15	0		
	Full Ferning	0	28	30		

表 10 實驗二 Gray + Mean filter + Median filter + Sobel 的分類矩陣

#### 三、實驗三

本實驗主要比較三種平均濾波法遮罩大小的效能,分別為 3x3、5x5、7x7,並進行人工優化參數法的優劣比較,其影像辨識結果如表 11 所示。

Method	Accuracy (%)
Mean filter [3x3]	80.0
Mean filter [5x5]	88.3
Mean filter [7x7]	86.0

表 11 實驗三的分類結果

表 11 為實驗三利用 120 張唾液影像進行整體訓練測試結果,其分類準確率前三名依續為 Mean filter [5x5]法為最高可達 88.3%準確率、而 Mean filter [7x7]法可達到 86%準確率次之、Mean filter [3x3]法可達到 80%準確率更次之。

表 12 顯示實驗三進行人工優化參數法的最佳影像處理程序 Gray + Mean filter [5x5] + Median filter + Sobel 的分類效能,分類矩陣結果顯示此法可達到 45 張 no-fern 影像全部被準確分類、45 張 partial-fern 影像有 2 張誤判為 no-fern, 11 張誤判為 full-fern、30 張 full-fern 影像有 1 張誤判為 partial-fern。

表 12 實驗三 Gray + Mean filter [5x5] + Median filter + Sobel 的分類矩陣

	Actual class					
		No Ferning	Partial Ferning	Full Ferning		
Predicted	No Ferning	45	2	0		
class	Partial Ferning	0	32	1		
	Full Ferning	0	11	29		

#### 四、實驗四

本實驗主要比較四種中值濾波法遮罩大小的效能,分別為 3x3、5x5、6x 6、7x7,並進行人工優化參數法的優劣比較,其影像辨識結果如表 13 所示。

 Method
 Accuracy (%)

 Median filter [3x3]
 88.3

 Median filter [5x5]
 90.8

 Median filter [6x6]
 91.7

 Median filter [7x7]
 90.0

表 13 實驗四的分類結果

表 13 為實驗四利用 120 張唾液影像進行整體訓練測試結果,其分類準確率前三名依續為 Median filter [6x6]法為最高可達 91.7%準確率、而 Median filter [5x5]法可達到 90.8%準確率次之、Median filter [7x7]法可達到 90%準確率更次之。

表 14 顯示實驗四進行人工優化參數法的最佳影像處理程序 Gray + Mean filter [5x5] + Median filter [6x6] + Sobel 的分類效能,分類矩陣結果顯示此法可達到 45 張 no-fern 影像全部被準確分類、45 張 partial-fern 影像有 3 張誤判為 no-fern, 5 張誤判為 full-fern、30 張 full-fern 影像有 2 張誤判為 partial-fern。

表 14 實驗四 Gray + Mean filter [5x5] + Median filter [6x6] + Sobel 的分類矩陣

		al class		
Predicted class		No Ferning	Partial Ferning	Full Ferning
	No Ferning	45	3	0
	Partial Ferning	0	32	2
	Full Ferning	0	5	28

圖 8~圖 12 顯示在沒有羊齒狀結晶模式下經實驗四一系列唾液影像處理最佳程序後之結果,圖 13~圖 17 顯示在部分羊齒狀結晶模式下經一系列唾液影像處理後之結果,圖 18~圖 22 顯示在部分羊齒狀結晶模式下經一系列唾液影像處理後之結果。



圖 8 沒有羊齒狀結晶模式

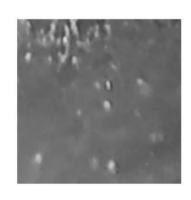


圖 9 灰階色彩轉換結果

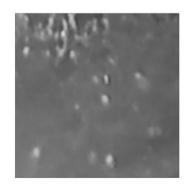


圖 10 應用 mean 濾波結果

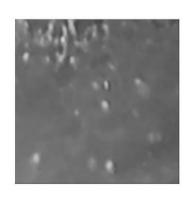


圖 11 應用 median 濾波結果



圖 12 應用 sobel 邊緣偵測結果



圖 13 部份羊齒狀結晶模式



圖 14 灰階色彩轉換結果



圖 15 應用 mean 濾波結果 圖 16 應用 median 濾波結果

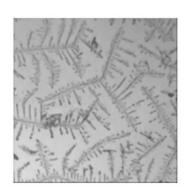




圖 17 應用 sobel 邊緣偵測結果



圖 18 典型羊齒狀結晶模式



圖 19 灰階色彩轉換結果



圖 20 應用 mean 濾波結果 圖 21 應用 median 濾波結果

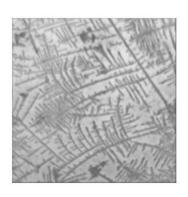




圖 22 應用 sobel 邊緣偵測結果

#### 伍、結論與建議

正確辨識女性是否處於排卵期,除了可幫助女性更加了解自己的身體,更在避育、計畫生孕、治療疾病等方面皆有重要的正向幫助。

首先,本研究基於實驗室等級的 100 倍光學顯微鏡下之 100 張唾液樣本成像,使用影像處理及資料探勘方法,發展一套唾液影像樣式辨識系統以進行女性排卵期之預測。本篇論文共提出三種演算法進行效能比較,最佳可獲致 84%的準確率(Wu et al., 2015),論文全文詳附錄。

繼之,本計畫持續藉由整合 50 倍手持式放大鏡與手機照相機,可直接獲取感興趣區域(ROI)的 唾液影像樣本,共 120 張唾液樣本成像。基於影像處理程序最佳化,本研究開發出一套唾液影像類別 自動辨識模式,整個過程在數秒內即可完成。本研究的辨識演算法經訓練測試結果顯示分類正確率可達 92%。本研究開發的方法具有簡單、快速、經濟、可重複性、易於掌握且無副作用等優點。

未來,可以將本研究開發的唾液影像樣式自動辨識模式,應用到手持式設備或是雲端技術上,期 能在使用及應用上,更為方便輕易地被社會大眾接受,造福更多人群。

未來,並將收集更多唾液樣本進行辨識模式參數調校,以開發出更準更快的辨識系統,並進行 App 個人化功能加值開發,提供更多智慧生活的優質服務。

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## 附錄

Wu, H. C., Lin, C. Y., Huang, S. H., Tseng, M. H. (2015). An intelligent saliva recognition system for women's ovulation detection, Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence LNCS/LNAI 9011, 614-623.

# An Intelligent Saliva Recognition System for Women's Ovulation Detection

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Abstract. This study presents using image processing and data mining approaches to develop a saliva image automatic recognition system for woman's ovulation prediction. Detect woman's ovulation can sterility treatment, diagnose certain diseases and avoid undesired pregnancies. Saliva ferning test is a technique that monitors woman's saliva and looks for patterns related to ovulation. We use a digital camera with a 100-time microscope to take saliva images. In the proposed method, six important features in dried saliva images are automatically extracted by employing some image processing techniques at first, and an intelligent system is developed by using the decision tree J48 algorithm for the detection of ovulation. In this study, the result of the best classification accuracy is 84% in 100 saliva samples. The proposed method has very important aspects of human, medical and economical. In addition, the proposed system can detect woman's ovulation more safe, natural, convenient and efficient.

Keywords: Image processing · Data mining · Ovulation · Saliva ferning

#### 1 Introduction

A reliable method of predicting ovulation can effectively help a woman ascertain fertility period for pregnancy as well as for right of autonomy for birth control. An automatically diagnostic system for monitoring various personal physiological conditions has a urgent demand for the prediction of ovulation for women.

Generally, a woman's menstrual cycle lasts from 27 to 30 days, while menstruation lasts from 3 to 7 days and fertile period lasts about six days. It would be too late to test based upon detection of ovulation on the ending day of ovulation. Also, it is not useful in determining the fertility time for planning. In recent years, most people used advanced predictions is a urine test, which focus on the concentration of luteinizing hormone (LH) and can detect ovulation before 1-2 days. The defect of urine test is not sufficient to detect the entire fertile period of three to six day. There are many other methods for predicting a woman's ovulation, for example, measuring a woman's body

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temperature (Basal Body Temperature, BBT) which increases with estrogen's rise to detect fertile times. It has been demonstrated that shortly after menstruation begins the body temperature decreases until ovulation starts, and after that the temperature increases. During the menstruation period, the vaginal secretions also becomes increasingly viscous and to peak at the fertile period. Many methods are based on certain properties of cervical mucus which contains a lot of information related to the female's fertility and not only the ovulation. These body temperature and cervical mucus measurements methods are not reliable in determining fertile periods for personal operating and misjudging. Other ovulation prediction methods include a blood test and a urine test for detecting a surge on estrogen-related hormone. These tests can detect whether the woman is at ovulation instead of providing signal of impending ovulation. [1]

Saliva is a complicated body fluid containing several different electrolytes including potassium chloride, salts of sodium and non-electrolyte parts including proteins, enzymes, and immunoglobulins. In recent, some investigates [2,3] found that saliva ferning is a newer symptom that has high correlation with ovulation. They suggested that saliva ferning test is a newer technique that can monitor female saliva and look for patterns related to ovulation and fertility.

To reduce the aged problem, several international and national organizations support research on fertility detection and periodic abstinence methods. An interesting research is on finding new devices, chemical kits, computer programs and methods that would be more accurate and convenient to use while asserting the ovulation and fertility conditions. The ferning test is a microscope-based method. It is relatively inexpensive and is used, especially in less developed countries, as the most reliable clinical ovulation test [4].

To our knowledge there are no reports on image processing and data mining techniques to be applied to the enhancement and recognition of full-color saliva ferning patterns. The present study is then a first attempt to develop an intelligent system to automatic detection and prediction of woman's ovulation based on the digital saliva ferning test.

## 2 Background Research

#### 2.1 Ovulation Detection

During each menstrual cycle, the structure and possibly the function of genital organs and ovaries are modulated by cyclic hormonal changes of the demonstrated hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian axis [5]. Some variations can be evaluated by basal body temperature (BBT), ferning examination, ultrasound, particularly trans-vaginal sonography alone or combined with the three-dimensional (3D) ultrasound and Doppler technique [6]. The day of ovulation is designated either as the day of maximum follicular growth, or as the day of follicle rupture [7]. The numerous methods of hormonal tests to predict ovulation [11] are all retrospective. Hormones used to measure in blood have been now estimated in saliva, though the quantities are comparatively less [8]. Hence, saliva is considered as the best non-invasive source for chemical and biochemical study [9].

Research indicates that saliva is a very good source for both hormones and enzymes and their levels changed in accordance with the phases of menstrual cycle [10].

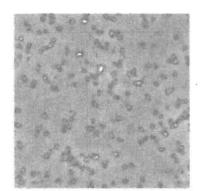
Perkowski et al. [4] reported initial experiments with a micro-computer system that totally automates the image processing and decision making processes of the ferning test on gray-level cervical mucus image. Kuo [1] presented an algorithm in the micro-processor that analyzes the gray-level saliva image and calculates pixel density of dark image of salt contents to translate into a density index value for establishing a trend curve for predicting ovulation.

#### 2.2 Saliva Ferning Test

Galati et al. [2] performed the saliva ferning test on 328 women using the Saliva Tester and confirmed ovulation by using a trans-vaginal ultrasonography. Their result showed that the correlation rate is 98% between ultrasound images and saliva ferning images. Xu et al. [3] confirmed that the cervical mucus of the menstrual cycle appears fern crystals, while the saliva fern crystals also occur synchronously. Their result also indicated that the correlation rate is 100% between the cervical mucus ferning test and the saliva ferning test.

The saliva ferning test is a newer method for determining the ovulation that based by visual examination of a woman's dried saliva. The term "ferning" is used because of the similarity of the patterns of ferns. The method is based on observations of crystallized salt pattern in dried saliva, which is referred as ferning patterns. Some research results relate the crystallization pattern to increases in the chloride content, changes in ionic strength and/or the content of sodium or potassium in the saliva. Corona [12] indicated that saliva crystallization appears when the blood folliculin level has reached a certain height that coincides with the third or fourth day before ovulation. The crystallization pattern is visible under 100-fold magnification of a saliva sample on a slide. The crystallization lasts until 3 or 4 days after ovulation, when the presence of lutein inhibits the crystallization. At fertile times, microscopic viewing of dried saliva reveals a structure of salt distribution pattern that starts to form chains. This method of examination of saliva offers a reliable way to determine fertility. [1]

Saliva ferning displays crystal patterns, looks like ferns, and can be classified into three different types, named "No Ferning", "Partial Ferning" and "Full Ferning". During infertile stage of menstrual cycle, the saliva should not exhibit any crystallization or ferning patterns. As fertility increases, the ferning patterns should begin to develop and become more significant. Based on 100 times microscope full-color images, an example of saliva ferning patterns is shown in Fig. 1 to Fig. 3. During infertile stage of the cycle, "No Ferning" patterns with only dots are present as shown in Fig. 1. During the transitional stage of the cycle, Figure 2 shows "Partial Ferning" patterns that small fern-like crystals start to appear in isolated areas. Immediately before and during ovulation, more intense ferning will be apparent as displayed in Fig. 3.



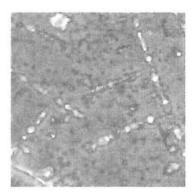


Fig. 1. 100x image of no ferning patterns Fig. 2. 100x image of partial ferning patterns



Fig. 3. 100x image of full ferning patterns

#### 2.3 Data Mining and Decision Tree

In medicine and the delivery of health services, large volumes of data have been collected routinely in the activity of day-to-day management. An important research area has been developed called data mining for mining helpful information and useful knowledge from these large data sets. [13]

Data mining is defined as the process of extracting unknown predictive information from large amounts of raw data. It can also be the procedure of extracting unseen knowledge from large databases. Data mining is more intuitive and increases insight beyond data warehousing. Most hospitals collect, refine and deduce massive medical data. An application of data mining in a hospital will serve as a guide to discovery intrinsic tendencies and trends in patient's historical records. It will also take into account statistical analyses, classifications and predictions of data.

Data mining methods can be employed rapidly on existing hardware and software platforms to improve the usefulness of existing data resources, and can be combined with new products and systems, as they become part of the system. Some usefulness results can be discovered by applying data mining tools to provide answers to many different kinds of predictive demands. There are many jobs associated with data mining such as regression, clustering, classification and association rule mining. [13]

Decision trees are popular and powerful techniques for prediction and classification jobs. In medical applications, both the ability to clarify the cause of a decision and the accuracy of a classification are equally necessary. The advantage of decision networks, decision trees can generate clear prediction rules. Rules can promptly be expressed so that humans can straightforwardly realize them and they can be employed directly in applications. Decision trees also can deliver a clear suggestion of which subjects are most important for classification or prediction.

The purpose of decision tree learning is to generate a model that classifies the value of a decision variable based on some input variables. The decision tree is a type of classifier that has a tree structure form, where each node is either a leaf node or a decision node. Each decision node specifies some test to be completed on a single attribute-value, with one branch and sub-tree for each possible outcome of the test. Each leaf denotes a value of the decision variable given the values of the input variables expressed by the path from the root to the leaf. A decision tree can be applied to categorize a new case by starting at the root of the tree and moving through it until a leaf node, which delivers the classified class of the new case. [13]

In this paper, the J48 algorithm developed in Weka software was applied to build up an intelligent system for automatic classification on saliva ferning images.

#### 3 Material and Methods

#### 3.1 Data Collection

We prospectively enrolled patients who had undergone physicians diagnose in the obstetrics and gynecology clinic of a 1,312-bed academic urban tertiary-care referral center because of clinical symptoms.

A trained worker interviewed these subjects aged between 20-45 years old for eligibility and invited them to participate in the examination day. Subjects were included if (1) unable to answer questions from investigator; (2) with consciously gynecological symptoms or irregular menstruation; (3) during pregnancy or breastfeeding need; (4) suffering from ovarian disease or oral disease; (5) using drugs that may affect the menstrual cycle.

After being approved by Institutional Review Board (IRB), the study was completely de-identified to all subjects and all subjects signed written informed consent before participation. This study collected 100 dried saliva samples from 5 different women volunteers during various reproductive phases. Of the 100 samples, 32 were no ferning, 27 partial ferning, and 41 full ferning cases, respectively.

#### 3.2 Methods

To develop a saliva image automatic recognition system for woman's ovulation prediction, three algorithms were proposed in this study based on the different complex level of image processing. The process of analyzing the full-color saliva image and the prediction of ovulation includes six steps in the proposed Algorithm 1 as demonstrated in Fig. 4, eight steps in the proposed Algorithm 2 as showed in Fig. 5, and nine steps in the proposed Algorithm 3 as exhibited in Fig. 6, respectively. All proposed algorithms in this paper were developed in MATLAB software.

#### Algorithm 1

Figure 4 shows the proposed Algorithm 1 in this study, it is a flow chart of image processing for calculating dark pixel density and for the detection of woman's ovulation. Algorithm 1 comprises six steps: (1) Capturing a digital image of a dried saliva sample. (2) Transforming a full-color saliva image into an image with 256 gray-scale values. (3) Using median filter to cleans-up the spot noise in the image, without much destruction of the edges in the image. (4) Applying high-boost filter to emphasize high frequency components representing the image details as sharpening features while still keeping the low frequency components representing the basic form of the signal. In this case, the low spatial frequency components (global, large black background and bight areas) are suppressed while the high spatial frequency components (the texture of the fur and the whiskers) are enhanced. (5) Binarizing the image. This produces a black and white (0 or 255 pixel value) image. A threshold value is requested from the user, or is selected automatically. This threshold is used to set the new pixel value, if below or equal to the threshold the pixel will get a value of 0 black), if greater, the pixel will get a value of 255 (white). The threshold value changes from image to image and is decided based on the amount of edge information and noise that results from the procedures [4]. (6) Calculating density of dark pixel in the saliva image. The density of dark pixels is the ratio of the number of dark pixels to the number of total pixels in the image area [1]. The number of all pixels in the image area is the sums of the number of dark pixels and the number of white pixels.

#### Algorithm 2

Figure 5 demonstrates the proposed Algorithm 2 in this paper; it is a flow chart of image processing for calculating dark pixel density and for the detection of woman's ovulation. We increase two steps in Algorithm 2 that comprises eight steps. Two additional steps are (1) Thinning the image to get one pixel wide lines. This procedure will take a binary image (0 or 255 only pixel values) and reduce the width of a line (or area) to a 1 pixel wide line. (2) Using the Hough transformation to find lines in the saliva image.

#### Algorithm 3

Figure 6 displays the proposed Algorithm 3 in this article; it is a flow chart of image processing for extraction line features and decision tree for the detection of woman's ovulation. Two new steps are employed in Algorithm 3 that comprises nine steps. Two new steps are (1) Extracting six line features of the saliva image. Six features include total lines, long lines, short lines, parallel lines, percentage of long line, and percentage of parallel lines [4]. (2) Building a decision tree classifier based on J48 of Weka software.

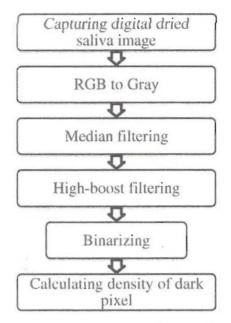


Fig. 4. Algorithm 1 for the detection of woman's ovulation

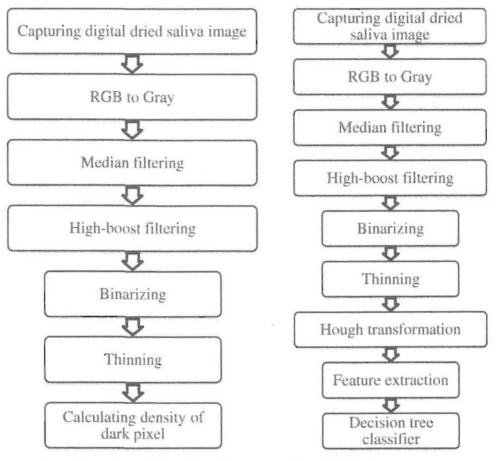


Fig. 5. Flowchart of Algorithm 2

Fig. 6. Flowchart of Algorithm 3

#### 4 Results and Discussion

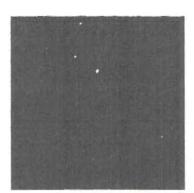
After capturing digital full-color saliva images, every image first has to be transferred into an image with 256 gray-level values. A series of image processing then were performed to distinguish between possible line points and a background, which applied median filter, high-boost filter, and binarizing procedure. The results of applying binarizing procedure were shown in Figures 7 through 9 for no ferning, partial ferning and full ferning patterns, respectively.

After applying binarizing procedure on the selected image, thinning procedure was performed in the proposed Algorithm 2 and Algorithm 3. Figures 10 to 12 demonstrated that corresponding results for no ferning, partial ferning and full ferning patterns, respectively. By using the proposed image processing, one can found that the line-like features have been successful recognition, which represents the full ferning, partial ferning and no ferning characteristics.

Table 1 listed the overall accuracy of three proposed algorithms; one can see that the proposed Algorithm 3 has the best classification rate 84%. The corresponding accuracy for the proposed Algorithm 2 and Algorithm 1 is 65% and 60%, respectively. Although calculating the density of dark pixels is a simpler method for monitoring and predicting ovulation, but its performance was not enough well for the need of clinical application. By integrating the data mining approach - decision tree J48 algorithm with appropriate image processing subroutines can great improve the performance of the proposed system for woman's ovulation prediction in this paper.

Table 1. Overall accuracy of three proposed algorithms

Approach	Description	Accuracy
Algorithm 1	Binarizing + dark pixel density	60%
Algorithm 2	gorithm 2 Binarizing + thinning + dark pixel density	
Algorithm 3	Binarizing + thinning + Hough transform + decision tree	84%



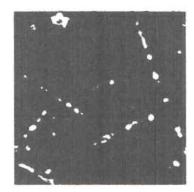


Fig. 7. Result of applying binarizing on Fig. 1 Fig. 8. Result of applying binarizing on Fig. 2





Fig. 9. Result of applying binarizing on Fig. 3 Fig. 10. Result of applying thinning on Fig. 7





Fig. 11. Result of applying thinning on Fig. 8 Fig. 12. Result of applying thinning on Fig. 9

#### 5 Conclusions and Future Work

Based on image processing techniques and decision tree analysis, an intelligent saliva recognition system for women's ovulation detection has been developed in this paper. The proposed system can provide an easy, economical, and efficient way to detect ovulation automatically, which can helpful determine a woman's fertility period for birth control as well as for pregnancy.

Future directions for our work include the following two points. First, collection larger sample size is important to further enhance the performance of our proposed algorithms. Second, development of a home diagnosis system on smartphones for the predicting of ovulation for women is needed in future study.

Acknowledgments. This paper was supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan, R.O.C., under grants MOST 103-2629-E-040-001.

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## 科技部補助專題研究計畫出席國際學術會議心得報告

日期:104年10月13日

計畫編號	MOST 103-2629-E-040-001		
計畫名稱	基於唾液影像樣式辨識之女性排卵期預測行動照護系統研發(A03)		
出國人員 姓名	曾明性	服務機構 及職稱	中山醫學大學醫資系教授
會議時間	104年3月22日 至 104年3月25日	會議地點	Bali, Indonesia
會議名稱	7th Asian Conference on Intelligent Information and Database Systems (ACIIDS 2015)		
發表題目	An intelligent saliva recognition system for women's ovulation detection		

#### 一、參加會議經過

Asian Conference on Intelligent Information and Database Systems (ACIIDS)是亞太地區資訊學門重要的國際學術研討會,本年度(2015)為第七屆會議,由印尼 Bina Nusantara University 主辦。這次會議的目的是提供一個國際學術論壇,讓產官學研各界專家分享在智慧型系統和資料庫系統的最新發展與應用。

本會議徵文範圍包含三大領域: Intelligent Information Systems、Intelligent Database Systems、Tools and Applications。本次會議共收到來自 40 個國家共 332 篇論文投稿,至少經過兩位以上的 International Reviewers 同儕審查機制,最後僅 117 篇論文獲得接受發表。本人論文題目為: An intelligent saliva recognition system for women's ovulation detection,投稿到 Intelligent Information Systems 領域,並獲審查通過接受口頭發表。

#### 二、與會心得

本研討會係由 Bina Nusantara University, Indonesia and Wroclaw University of Technology, Poland with IEEE Indonesia Section and IEEE SMC Technical Committee on Computational Collective Intelligence 共同舉辦。本次會議舉辦 地點在 Bali Dynasty Resort 飯店,屬五星級飯店。本次會議雖僅 117 篇論文接受 發表,但研討主題涵蓋相當廣泛包括: semantic web, social networks and and information recommendation systems; text processing retrieval: intelligent database systems; intelligent information systems; decision support and control systems; machine learning and data mining; multiple model approach to machine learning; innovations in intelligent systems and applications; bio-inspired optimization techniques and their applications; machine learning in biometrics and bioinformatics with applications; advanced data mining techniques and applications; collective intelligent systems for e-market trading, technology opportunity discovery collaborative learning; intelligent information systems in security and defense; analysis of image, video and motion data in life sciences; augmented reality and 3D media; cloud based solutions; internet of things, big data and cloud computing; and artificial intelligent techniques and their application in engineering and operational research •

本次會議包含4場的 Keynote Speakers、32場的 Sessions、2場的 Poster Session, 本人論文 An intelligent saliva recognition system for women's ovulation detection 安排在 Session: Innovations in Intelligent Systems and Applications 進行口頭發表。論文發表後有三位外國學者提出問題討論:地真資料(Ground Truth) 如何取得、論文演算法如何獲取唾液影像的樣式特徵(Pattern Feature)、是否進行各種邊緣偵測演算法(Edge Detection Algorithms)對唾液影像判識效能比較?這些問題都非常有意義,讓本人在科技部計畫成果報告中得以更加充實。

#### 三、建議

參與國際會議可以增廣見聞,讓吾人貼近獲知國際上相關學者最新研究議題, 建議科技部能持續提供參與國際學術會議的經費補助。

## 四、攜回資料名稱及內容

1. Conference Program Guide 紙本一份。2. 論文全文(Intelligent Information and Database Systems, 7th Asian Conference, ACIIDS 2015, Bali, Indonesia, March 23-25, 2015, Proceedings, Part I. Editors: Nguyen, Ngoc Thanh, Trawiński, Bogdan, Kosala, Raymond (Eds.))紙本一份。

#### 五、發表論文全文(詳成果報告附錄)

# 科技部補助計畫衍生研發成果推廣資料表

日期:2015/10/13

科技部補助計畫 計畫主

計畫主持人: 曾明性

計畫編號: 103-2629-E-040-001- 學門領域: 性別主流科技計畫

計畫名稱: 基於唾液影像樣式辨識之女性排卵期預測行動照護系統研發(A03)

無研發成果推廣資料

103年度專題研究計畫研究成果彙整表 計畫主持人:曾明性 計畫編號:103-2629-E-040-001-計畫名稱:基於唾液影像樣式辨識之女性排卵期預測行動照護系統研發(A03) 備註(質化說明 量化 : 如數個計畫共 實際已達成|預期總達成|本計畫實 單位 同成果、成果列 成果項目 數(被接受數(含實際 際貢獻百 為該期刊之封面 或已發表) 已達成數) 分比 故事...等) 期刊論文 100% 研究報告/技術報告 1 1 100% 篇 論文著作 1 0 100% 研討會論文 0 專書 0 100% 章/本 0 0 100% 申請中件數 專利 件 0 0 100% 已獲得件數 國內 0 0 100% 件數 件 技術移轉 0 0 100% 千元 權利金 1 碩士生 100% 0 0 博士生 100% 參與計畫人力 人次 (本國籍) 0 0 100% 博士後研究員 0 0 專任助理 100% 0 1 80% 期刊論文 |投稿中 0 0 100% 篇 研究報告/技術報告 論文著作 1 1 100% 研討會論文 專書 0 0 100% 章/本 0 0 申請中件數 100% 專利 件 0 0 100% 已獲得件數 國外 0 0 100% 件 件數 技術移轉 0 0 100% 權利金 千元 0 0 碩士生 100% 0 博士生 0 100% 參與計畫人力 人次 (外國籍) 博士後研究員 0 0 100% 0 專任助理 100% 其他成果 無 (無法以量化表達之 成果如辦理學術活動 、獲得獎項、重要國

	成果項目	量化	名稱或內容性質簡述
科教處計畫加	測驗工具(含質性與量性)	0	
	課程/模組	0	
	電腦及網路系統或工具	0	
	教材	0	
	舉辦之活動/競賽	0	
填	研討會/工作坊	0	
月日	電子報、網站	0	
	計畫成果推廣之參與(閱聽)人數	0	

## 科技部補助專題研究計畫成果報告自評表

請就研究內容與原計畫相符程度、達成預期目標情況、研究成果之學術或應用價值(簡要敘述成果所代表之意義、價值、影響或進一步發展之可能性)、是否適合在學術期刊發表或申請專利、主要發現或其他有關價值等,作一綜合評估。

1.	請就研究內容與原計畫相符程度、達成預期目標情況作一綜合評估 ■達成目標 □未達成目標(請說明,以100字為限) □實驗失敗 □因故實驗中斷 □其他原因
	說明:
2.	研究成果在學術期刊發表或申請專利等情形: 論文:■已發表 □未發表之文稿 □撰寫中 □無專利:□已獲得 ■申請中 □無技轉:□已技轉 ■洽談中 □無其他:(以100字為限) 本年度計畫經費補助下,共發表2篇期刊論文(其中1篇是SCI論文,1篇是EI論文),3篇國內研討會論文。
ດ	<b>社从留外上外 从外创建 计太阳继续上工 在几四面上用下留外上应用历</b> 丛

- 3. 請依學術成就、技術創新、社會影響等方面,評估研究成果之學術或應用價值 (簡要敘述成果所代表之意義、價值、影響或進一步發展之可能性)(以 500字為限)
  - 3. 請依學術成就、技術創新、社會影響等方面,評估研究成果之學術或應用價值(簡要敘述成果所代表之意義、價值、影響或進一步發展之可能性),如已有嚴重損及公共利益之發現,請簡述可能損及之相關程度(以500字為限)

學術成就:本研究首先收集唾液影像樣本集,並設計影像處理技術進行唾液影像樣式自動辨識演算法的開發驗證。基於收集的120張唾液樣本集、影像處理程序最佳化,本計畫研發的唾液影像樣式自動辨識演算法可以將整體準確率由原本55%提升達92%。本研究開發的方法具有簡單、快速、經濟、可重複性、易於掌握且無副作用等優點。未來,可以將本研究開發的唾液影像樣式自動辨識模式,應用到手持式設備或是雲端技術上,期能在使用及應用上,更為方便輕易地被社會大眾接受,造福更多人群。

社會影響:預測女性排卵期可應用在避孕、受孕、疾病診斷和不孕症治療。正確辨識女性是否處於排卵期,除了可幫助女性更加了解自己的身體,更在避孕、計畫生育、治療疾病、降低青少女意外懷孕等方面具有重要的正向幫助。