

DESCRIPTION

3 DIAGNOSIS SUPPORT PROGRAM

6 Technical Field

 $[0001]$

The present invention relates to a technique to
9 analyze an image of a human body and display analysis
results.

12 Background Art

 $[0002]$

When a doctor diagnoses a lung by dynamic state
15 images of the chest, important is observation of
time-series chest dynamic state images in which a
subject is photographed in a natural breathing state.
18 A spirometer with which it is easy to acquire
physiological data, an RI (Radio Isotope) inspection,
a simple X-ray photography with which it is possible
21 to obtain morphological data, CT (Computed Tomography),
and so on, are known as a method of evaluating lung
functions. However, it is not easy to acquire both
24 physiological data and morphological data efficiently.
[0003]

In recent years, a method is attempted in which
27 dynamic state images of the chest of a human body are
photographed by making use of a semiconductor image

sensor, such as an FPD (Flat Panel Detector) and used
for a diagnosis. For example, Non Patent Literature 1
3 has disclosed a technique to generate a difference image
indicating a difference in signal value between a
plurality of frame images making up a dynamic state
6 image and to find and display a maximum value of each
signal value from the difference image.

[0004]

9 Further, Patent Literature 1 has disclosed a
technique to extract a lung field area from each frame
image of a plurality of frame images indicating the
12 dynamic state of the chest of a human body and divide
the lung field area into a plurality of small areas,
and to perform an analysis by associating the divided
15 small areas to each other between the plurality of frame
images. With this technique, a feature amount
indicating the movement of the divided small area is
18 displayed.

Citation List

21 Patent Literature

[0005]

PTL 1: Japanese Patent No. 5874636

24 Non Patent Literature

[0006]

NPL 1: "Basic Imaging Properties of a Large Image
27 Intensifier-TV Digital Chest Radiographic System"
Investigative Radiology: April 1987; 22: 328 - 335.

Summary of Invention

3 Technical Problem

[0007]

However, only by displaying the maximum value of
6 the difference value between frames for each pixel of
the dynamic state image as in the technique described
in Non Patent Literature 1, it is not easy for a doctor
9 to grasp the state of a disease. Further, only by
displaying the feature amount as in the technique
described in Patent Literature 1, it is also not
12 sufficient to grasp the state of a disease.
Consequently, it is desirable to display images in
accordance with the state of respiration and lung blood
15 vessels. That is, it is desirable to grasp the
breathing state and the entire dynamic state of blood
vessels of a human body, which is a subject, and based
18 on respiration, blood vessels of the heart and the hilum
pulmonis portion, or the waveform or frequency of blood
flows, to display images indicating the movement
21 corroborated by those.

[0008]

The present invention has been made in view of the
24 aforementioned circumstances and has an object to
provide a diagnosis support program capable of
displaying the movement of an area whose shape changes
27 for each respiration or for each heartbeat. More
specifically, it has an object to generate images that

assist a diagnosis by calculating numerical values that
assist a diagnosis by digitizing the concordance rate
3 or another non-concordance rate for the waveform and
Hz already acquired for new target data to be measured
and further by turning these numerical values into
6 images.

Solution to Problem

9 [0009]

(1) In order to achieve the above-described object,
the present application has taken steps as follows.
12 That is, a diagnosis support program according to an
aspect of the present invention is a diagnosis support
program that analyzes images of a human body and
15 displays analysis results, and causes a computer to
execute processing of acquiring a plurality of frame
images from a database that stores the images;
18 processing of specifying a respiratory cycle based on
pixels in a specific area in each of the frame images;
processing of detecting a lung field based on the
21 specified respiratory cycle; processing of dividing the
detected lung field into a plurality of block areas and
calculating a change in image in a block area in each
24 of the frame images; processing of performing a Fourier
analysis of a change in image in each block area in each
of the frame images; and processing of displaying each
27 image after the Fourier analysis on a display.

[0010]

(2) Further, a diagnosis support program according to an aspect of the present invention is a diagnosis support program that analyzes images of a human body and displays analysis results, and causes a computer to execute processing of acquiring a plurality of frame images from a database that stores the images; processing of specifying a blood vessel beat cycle of a subject; processing of specifying a respiratory cycle based on pixels in a specific area in each of the frame images; processing of detecting a lung field based on the specified respiratory cycle; processing of dividing the detected lung field into a plurality of block areas and calculating a change in image in a block area in each of the frame images; processing of performing a Fourier analysis of a change in image in each block area in each of the frame images based on the specified blood vessel beat cycle; and processing of displaying each image after the Fourier analysis on a display.

[0011]

(3) Further, a diagnosis support program according to an aspect of the present invention is a diagnosis support program that analyzes images of a human body and displays analysis results, and causes a computer to execute processing of acquiring a plurality of frame images from a database that stores the images; processing of specifying a blood vessel beat cycle of a subject; processing of dividing an analysis range that is set for each of the frame images into a plurality

of block areas and calculating a change in image in a
block area in each of the frame images; processing of
3 performing a Fourier analysis of a change in image in
each block area in each of the frame images based on
the specified blood vessel beat cycle; and processing
6 of displaying each image after the Fourier analysis on
a display.

[0012]

9 (4) Further, a diagnosis support program according
to an aspect of the present invention specifies a
respiratory cycle of a subject based on a movement of
12 a diaphragm, a movement of a thorax, or other pieces
of data including a spirogram.

[0013]

15 (5) Further, a diagnosis support program according
to an aspect of the present invention specifies a blood
vessel beat cycle of the subject based on measurement
18 results by other modality devices including an
electrocardiogram or a pulsimeter, and alternatively,
extracts a movement of a diaphragm and a thorax and
21 specifies a respiratory cycle of a subject based on an
image of a diaphragm and an image of a thorax at least
included in each of the frame images, detects a lung
24 field based on the specified respiratory cycle,
specifies a position of a heart, a position of a hilum
pulmonis, and blood vessel cycles of a main lung blood
27 vessel and a large blood vessel from the detected lung
field, and specifies a blood vessel beat cycle based

on a change in image of each specified region.

[0014]

3 (6) Further, a diagnosis support program according
to an aspect of the present invention calculates a
relative position relationship between an inside of a
6 lung field and blood vessels based on the specified
respiratory cycle and specifies a shape of a lung of
a subject as a standard lung and specifies a dynamic
9 state of a blood flow of the subject as a standard blood
vessel area.

[0015]

12 (7) Further, a diagnosis support program according
to an aspect of the present invention divides a lung
field into a plurality of block areas by plotting a
15 plurality of points in accordance with a fixed rule on
opposing contours of a lung field and by connecting
opposing points by a segment.

18 [0016]

 (8) Further, in a diagnosis support program
according to an aspect of the present invention, the
21 processing of performing a Fourier analysis
Fourier-transforms an image in each block area in each
of the frame images and performs inverse Fourier
24 transform by extracting only waveforms substantially
indicating a respiratory cycle or a blood vessel beat
cycle from a waveform after Fourier transform.

27

Advantageous Effects of Invention

[0017]

According to an aspect of the present invention,
3 it is made possible to display a movement of an area
whose shape changes for each respiration or for each
heartbeat. That is, by calculating numerical values
6 that assist a diagnosis and further by turning these
numerical values into images, it is made possible to
generate images that assist a diagnosis. As a result
9 of this, it is made possible to visualize a difference
between a normal movement and an abnormal movement and
to visually recognize the difference, and therefore,
12 this is appropriate for the field of the image medical
practice.

15 Brief Description of Drawings

[0018]

FIG. 1A is a diagram illustrating an outline
18 configuration of a diagnosis support system according
to the present embodiment.

FIG. 1B is a diagram illustrating an example of
21 a division method of a lung area.

FIG. 1C is a diagram illustrating an example of
a division method of a lung area.

24 FIG. 1D is a diagram illustrating an example of
a division method of a lung area.

FIG. 1E is a diagram illustrating an example of
27 a division method of a lung area.

FIG. 1F is a diagram illustrating an example of

a division method of a lung area.

FIG. 1G is a diagram illustrating an example of
3 a division method of a lung area.

FIG. 1H is a diagram illustrating an example of
a division method of a lung area.

6 FIG. 2A is a diagram illustrating a change in
intensity in a specific block and results of performing
a Fourier analysis thereof.

9 FIG. 2B is a diagram illustrating Fourier
transform results of extracting frequency components
close to a heartbeat and a change in intensity of the
12 frequency components close to the heartbeat obtained
by performing inverse Fourier transform thereof.

FIG. 2C is a diagram schematically illustrating
15 a change rate of a lung.

FIG. 3 is a flowchart showing an outline of a
respiratory function analysis according to the present
18 embodiment.

FIG. 4 is a flowchart showing an outline of a lung
blood flow analysis according to the present
21 embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a flowchart showing an outline of another
blood flow analysis according to the present
24 embodiment.

Description of Embodiments

27 [0019]

First, the basic concept of the present invention

will be explained. In the present invention, for movements that can be captured so as to repeat in a fixed
3 cycle in respiration and biological movements of blood vessels and others in a human body, a fixed iteration or a fixed movement (routine) on the time axis in the
6 entire or partial range is captured as a wave and measured.

[0020]

9 For measurement results of a wave, (A) a form of the wave itself or (B) intervals (Hz) of the wave are used.

12 [0021]

Waves that are linked similarly during the same period of time may exist. For example, in the case of
15 respiration, an approximation as follows may be considered.

(average of change in density in a rough area) $\approx$
18 (change in thorax) $\approx$ (movement of diaphragm) $\approx$ (lung function inspection $\approx$ (thoracoabdominal respiration sensor)

21 [0022]

By using any of these pieces of data or data obtained by combining these pieces of data, it is made
24 possible to extract an image with higher accuracy. At this time, there is a case where calculation is mutually performed a plurality of times. In this case, the
27 artifact for the results is removed again and extraction of the function is performed by extracting from the

extracted waveform of new data, the data waveform that becomes the first base, the waveform of another modality
3 and the like, the waveform of the ambience, and the waveform of a plurality of times. At this time, the number of times may be one or more.

6 [0023]

Here, when base data is created, by a plurality of modalities (for example, two or more of a fixed
9 density, volumetry, movement of a thorax, movement of a diaphragm, spirometry, and thoracoabdominal respiration sensor) or a plurality of times of waveform
12 measurement of the same respiratory cycle, the mutual component extraction is complemented for each other, and thereby, accuracy is improved. Due to this, it is
15 made possible to reduce the artifact and to improve the accuracy based on a fixed prediction of a line and the like.

18 [0024]

Further, fluctuations in axis, width, range, and Hz due to the mutual component extraction and the width
21 are estimated. That is, by a plurality of times of superimposition, the axis setting of Hz is averaged and the optimum range of the axis, width, range, and Hz is
24 calculated by the variance. At this time, there is a case where Hz (noise) of another behavior is extracted and if its wave exists, the degree in which the wave
27 is not included is measured relatively.

[0025]

By the above, it is made possible to obtain master data. For the above-described master data, a new target
3 desired to be measured is extracted in a fixed width
and range of the waveform of the above-described master
data and Hz of the wave. For example, only respiration
6 is extracted or extraction is performed in the width
and range as the framework of the degree of blood vessel
extraction. Note that this waveform and the width of
9 Hz are determined relatively and comprehensively based
on statistics by using the waveform element in another
function, the artifact, such as noise, the waveform of
12 another modality deemed to have another conformity, the
reproducibility performed a plurality of times, and so
on. Then, adjustment and experience are required (it
15 is also possible to apply machine learning). The reason
is that while the width and range are extended, the
element of another function begins to enter, if the
18 width and range are too narrow, the element of the
function itself is eliminated, and therefore, as to the
range, adjustment is necessary. For example, in the
21 case where there is data of a plurality of times, it
is easy to specify the range, concordance width between
Hz and measurement, and so on.

24 [0026]

Next, for the data of the new target desired to
be measured, by digitizing the waveform originally
27 captured and the concordance rate or another
non-concordance rate for Hz, the numerical values that

assist a diagnosis are calculated. For example, it is made possible to apply to a diagnosis auxiliary device
3 by measuring the waveform matching rate of the master disease and calculating the concordance rate of the disease waveform as well as removing noise in the
6 pulsimeter and stethoscope.

[0027]

Further, for the data of the new target desired
9 to be measured, by turning the waveform originally captured and the concordance rate or another non-concordance rate for Hz into images, the images that
12 assist a diagnosis are calculated. For example, the difference between the normal deglutition and that of a patient is visualized and the difference between the
15 behavior conventionally performed and that currently performed is displayed. For example, a change, a difference, and so on, in how to move one's feet in
18 walking and swing.

[0028]

The extracted amount of change is visualized and
21 extracted as an image. This is the respiratory function analysis and the blood vessel analysis to be explained below. Then, the change rate of the thorax and the
24 diaphragm is visualized. At this time, there is a case where the artifact for the results is excluded again and extraction of the function is performed by
27 extracting from the extracted waveform of new data, the data waveform that becomes the first base, the waveform

of another modality and the like, the waveform of the
ambience, and the waveform of a plurality of times.

3 [0029]

Further, there is a case where the feature amount
is grasped by those from which the change components
6 extracted from other than the above are excluded. For
example, when the movement of the abdominal intestinal
tract is grasped, an attempt is made to extract the
9 movement of the abdominal intestinal tract by excluding
the influence of respiration and the influence of blood
vessels from the abdomen.

12 [0030]

Further, by correcting the image (CT, MRI, special
roentgenography, PET/scintigraphy, and so on) that
15 requires a fixed photographing time by the change rate
due to the extraction, a clearer and more accurate image
is provided. This is effective in, for example,
18 correction of the ascending aorta heart, correction of
the heart figure, correction in fluctuations in the
bronchial tube, evaluation of the surroundings of the
21 thorax, and photographing in the state where breath
cannot be held (several minutes are required for a
patient and photographing).

24 [0031]

Hereinafter, an embodiment of the present
invention will be explained with reference to the
27 drawings. FIG. 1A is a diagram illustrating an outline
configuration of a diagnosis support system according

to the present embodiment. This diagnosis support system exhibits a specific function by causing a computer to execute a diagnosis support program. A basic module 1 includes a respiratory function analysis unit 3, a lung blood flow analysis unit 5, an another blood flow analysis unit 7, a Fourier analysis unit 9, a waveform analysis unit 10, and a visualization/digitization unit 11. The basic module 1 acquires image data from a database 15 via an input interface 13. In the database 15, for example, images by DICOM (Digital Imaging and COmmunication in Medicine) are stored. An image signal output from the basic module 1 is displayed on a display 19 via an output interface 17. Next, the function of the basic module according to the present embodiment will be explained.

[0032]

[Respiratory cycle analysis]

In the present embodiment, based on the following indexes, the respiratory cycle is analyzed. That is, the respiratory cycle is analyzed by using at least one of density/intensity in a fixed area within the lung field, the movement of the diaphragm, and the movement of the thorax. Further, it may also be possible to use the data obtained from the range consisting of fixed volume density/intensity measured in a region where permeability of X-ray (further, a plurality of kinds of modality, such as CT and MRI) is high and obtained by other measurement methods, such as spirogram. Note

that it is desirable to improve accuracy of data by
comparing the analysis results for each respiration and
3 analyzing the tendency from a plurality of pieces of
data.

[0033]

6 [Blood vessel beat analysis]

In the present embodiment, based on the following
indexes, the blood vessel beat is analyzed. That is,
9 the heart/position of hilum pulmonis/main blood vessel
are specified from the measurement results of other
modalities, such as an electrocardiogram and a
12 pulsimeter, or the lung contour, and the blood vessel
beat is analyzed by using a change in density/intensity
of each region. Further, it may also be possible to
15 analyze a change in density/intensity of a target region
by manually performing plotting on an image. Note that
it is desirable to improve accuracy of data by comparing
18 the analysis results for each beat and analyzing the
tendency from a plurality of pieces of data.

[0034]

21 [Lung field identification]

From the database (DICOM), images are extracted
and the lung contour is automatically detected by using
24 the above-described respiratory cycle analysis results.
For this automatic detection of the lung contour, it
is possible to use the technique known conventionally.
27 For example, it is possible to use the technique
disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. S63-240832

or Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. H2-250180.

[0035]

3 Next, the lung field is divided into a plurality
of block areas and a change in each block area is
calculated. Here, it may also be possible to determine
6 the size of the block area in accordance with the
photographing speed. In the case where the
photographing speed is slow, it becomes difficult to
9 specify a corresponding region in a frame image next
a certain frame image, and therefore, the block area
is made large. On the other hand, in the case where the
12 photographing speed is fast, the number of frame images
per unit time is large, and therefore, it is made
possible to follow even when the block area is small.
15 Further, it may also be possible to calculate the size
of the block area in accordance with which timing of
the respiratory cycle is selected. Here, there is a
18 case where it is necessary to correct a deviation in
the lung field area. At this time, the movement of the
thorax, the movement of the diaphragm, and the position
21 relationship of blood vessels of the entire lung field
are identified, and further, the relative position of
the lung contour is grasped, and evaluation is made
24 relatively based on the movement. Note that, when the
block area is too small, there is a case where a flicker
occurs in the image. In order to prevent this, it is
27 necessary for the block area to have a fixed size.

[0036]

[Creation of block area: first method]

A method of dividing the lung field into a plurality of block areas will be explained. As illustrated in FIG. 1B, a first method is a method of dividing the lung transversely by plotting points in the vertical direction of the lung. By the first method, for example, it is possible to find the distance on the mediastinum side of the lung and the distance on the outside of the lung and to plot points obtained by equally dividing the distances, respectively. Then, division is performed by determining the enlargement ratio of the mediastinum side and the outside. Note that, in the lung, the diaphragm side moves more than the pulmonary apex side, and therefore, it may also be possible to plot points whose size becomes smaller toward the diaphragm side. Further, in FIG. 1B, it may also be possible to divide the lung into a plurality of rectangular (square) block areas by additionally drawing lines (dot lines) in the vertical direction. Due to this, it is made possible to represent the movement of the lung more accurately.

[0037]

[Creation of block area: second method]

A second method is also a method of dividing the lung transversely, but as illustrated in FIG. 1C, parallel lines are drawn between the pulmonary apex and the end portion of the diaphragm (or the vicinity thereof) in the area of the lung and a plurality of points

is plotted therebetween. Then, at the portions facing each other, the enlargement ratio is determined and
3 division is performed. In the second method, the length of the curved portion of the lung is not calculated, and therefore, there is a merit that the amount of
6 calculation is small. Further, as illustrated in FIG. 1B, it may also be possible to divide the lung into a plurality of rectangular (square) block areas by
9 additionally drawing lines (dot lines) in the vertical direction.

[0038]

12 [Creation of block area: third method]

A third method is a method of dividing the lung vertically by plotting points in the transverse
15 direction of the lung as illustrated in FIG. 1D. With the third method, for example, it is possible to find the distance on the mediastinum side of the lung and
18 the distance on the outside of the lung and to plot points obtained by equally dividing the distances, respectively. Then, at the portions facing each other,
21 the enlargement ratio is determined and division is performed. Note that, in the lung, the diaphragm side moves more than the pulmonary apex side, and therefore,
24 it may also be possible to plot points whose size becomes smaller toward the diaphragm side. Further, as illustrated in FIG. 1B, it may also be possible to
27 additionally draw lines in the transverse direction so as to divide the lung into a plurality of rectangular

(square) block areas.

[0039]

3 [Creation of block area: fourth method]

 A fourth method is also a method of dividing the
lung vertically, but as illustrated in FIG. 1E, parallel
6 lines are drawn in the vertical direction of the
pulmonary apex and in the vertical direction of the end
portion of the diaphragm (or the vicinity thereof) in
9 the area of the lung and a plurality of points is plotted
therebetween. Then, at the portions facing each other,
the enlargement ratio is determined and division is
12 performed. In the fourth method, the length of the
curved portion of the lung is not calculated, and
therefore, there is a merit that the amount of
15 calculation is small. Further, as illustrated in FIG.
1B, it may also be possible to additionally draw lines
in the transverse direction to as to divide the lung
18 into a plurality of rectangular (square) block areas.

[0040]

 [Creation of block area: fifth method]

21 In a fifth method, as illustrated in FIG. 1F, a
tangent line at the pulmonary apex portion and a tangent
line at the diaphragm are drawn and the intersection
24 of the tangent lines is determined to be a center point
and the lung is divided by segments drawn from a straight
line (for example, a plumb line) including the point
27 at fixed angle intervals. With the fifth method,
depending on how to determine the center point, the

division method becomes close to the transverse
division of the lung or becomes close to the vertical
3 division of the lung. Further, as illustrated in FIG.
1B, it may also be possible to additionally draw lines
in the vertical direction or in the transverse direction
6 so as to divide the lung into a plurality of rectangular
(square) block areas.

[0041]

9 [Creation of block area: sixth method]

A sixth method is a method in which creation of
block areas is considered three-dimensionally. As
12 illustrated in FIG. 1G, it may also be possible to cut
the lung in a plurality of planes perpendicular to a
straight line connecting the pulmonary apex (or hilum
15 pulmonis) and the diaphragm end portion. Further, in
the diaphragm, the trunk portion side moves more than
the body surface side, and therefore, it can be said
18 that the spring coefficient of the diaphragm differs
depending on the position. Consequently, as
illustrated in FIG. 1H, it may also be possible to divide
21 the lung by sets of points (planes) at which the amount
of displacement accompanying the movement of the
diaphragm is equal. Further, as illustrated in FIG. 1B,
24 it may also be possible to additionally draw lines in
the vertical direction or in the transverse direction
so as to divide the lung into a plurality of rectangular
27 (square) block areas.

[0042]

Next, the artifact is removed and image data is interpolated. That is, if a bone or the like is included within the analysis range, the bone or the like appears as noise, and therefore, it is desirable to remove the noise by using a noise-cut filter. In an X-ray image, within the lung field area, X-rays easily permeate on the periphery of the position where neither blood vessel nor bone exists, and therefore, the X-ray image becomes black. That is, the pixel value of the X-ray image becomes high. On the other hand, at the position where a blood vessel and a bone exist, it is hard for the X-rays to permeate, and therefore, the X-ray image becomes white. That is, the pixel value of the X-ray image becomes low. This also applies to the other CT and MRI. Here, from the results of the above-described respiratory cycle analysis, it is made possible to interpolate data by using a value in the same phase based on the waveform per respiration and to remove the artifact.

[0043]

[Fourier analysis]

Based on the respiratory cycle and the blood vessel beat cycle analyzed as described above, a Fourier analysis is performed for the value of density/intensity in each block area and the amount of change thereof. FIG. 2A is a diagram illustrating a change in intensity in a specific block and results of performing a Fourier analysis thereof. FIG. 2B is a

diagram illustrating Fourier transform results of extracting frequency components close to a heartbeat and a change in intensity of frequency components close to the heartbeat obtained by performing inverse Fourier transform thereof. For example, when the change in intensity in a specific block is Fourier-transformed (Fourier analysis), the results as illustrated in FIG. 2A are obtained. Then, by extracting frequency components close to the heartbeat from the frequency components illustrated in FIG. 2A by using, for example, a band-pass filter, the results as illustrated on the right side in FIG. 2B are obtained. By performing inverse Fourier transform for the results, it is possible to obtain the change in intensity in conformity with the change in heartbeat as illustrated on the left side in FIG. 2B.

[0044]

Note that it is possible to use an AR method (Autoregressive Moving average model) so that calculation is performed in a short time when performing Fourier transform. As the AR method, mention is made of a method of using a Yule-walker equation or a Kalman filter in an autoregressive moving average model and by using Yule-walker estimates derived by the method, a PARCOR method, and a least squares method, it is possible to complement the calculation. Due to this, it is made possible to acquire an image close to a real-time image, to assist the calculation, and to

correct the artifact at a higher speed. Due to such a Fourier analysis, it is made possible to extract and
3 display the nature of an image in each block area.

[0045]

[Waveform analysis]

6 For the blood vessel, the brain wave, and what is recognized as a fixed waveform in other inspections, a waveform analysis is performed. The movement
9 repeated in a fixed state, such as the movement of the foot, is included. For example, in the case of the lung, a difference between left and right is compared.
12 Further, by superimposing Hz of the movement performed repeatedly, whether the same tendency exists is analyzed. By comparing waveform data, the concordance
15 rate of two pieces of data is calculated. Then, the data after a Fourier analysis is compared.

[0046]

18 [Visualization/digitization]

The results of the above-described analysis are visualized and digitized. As the standard uptake, the
21 value is displayed relatively/logarithmically by taking the average value of the measured density/intensity in the entire area of the lung field
24 as 1. Further, because only the direction of the blood flow is employed, the change in a specific direction is cut out. Due to this, it is made possible to take
27 out only data of a significant method. By using the lung field identification results, pseudo colorization is

performed following the change in analysis range. That is, in accordance with a specific shape (minimum, maximum, mean, median) fitted to the phase, the analysis results of each individual (subject) are fitted to a relative area. Further, a plurality of analysis results is changed into a specific shape/phase that can be compared. Furthermore, when the standard lung is created, by using the results of the above-described respiratory cycle analysis, the relative position relationship within the lung field is calculated. Note that the standard lung is created by using a line obtained by comprehensively averaging the thorax lines, the density, the diaphragm, and so on, of a plurality of patients. When the standard lung is created, in the case of the lung blood flow, it is possible to measure the distance radially from the hilum pulmonis to the lung end portion. Further, in the case of respiration, it is necessary to perform correction in accordance with the movement of the thorax and the diaphragm. Furthermore, it may also be possible to compositely perform calculation by taking into consideration the distance from the pulmonary apex. Note that, in the present embodiment, the way the entire diaphragm moves is acquired in advance and the necessary movement of the diaphragm is made use of in accordance with the measurement of each region. That is, for the hertz of the movement of the entire diaphragm, respiration synchronization and blood vessel synchronization are

taken.

[0047]

3 After the standard lung is created, it is made
possible to digitize and present the conformity, the
concordance rate, and the non-concordance rate.
6 Further, it is possible to display a deviation from the
normal state. According to the present embodiment, by
performing a Fourier analysis, it is made possible to
9 discover a possibility of a new disease, to compare with
oneself in the normal state, to compare one's hand and
foot, and to compare one's hand and foot on the opposite
12 side. Further, it is made possible to grasp which
portion is abnormal in moving one's foot and in
deglutition by digitizing the conformity. Furthermore,
15 it is made possible to determine whether a person in
the disease state has changed after a fixed time elapses
and in the case where the person has changed, to compare
18 the states before and after the change.

[0048]

 As illustrated in FIG. 2C, it is made possible to
21 grasp how many percents the lung differs in the human
body when the standard lung is taken to be 100 and to
display the change rate. Further, it is also possible
24 to grasp a difference for part of the lung in addition
to the entire lung. Furthermore, by performing
"Variation classification", it is also possible to
27 specify the standard blood flow. That is, it is made
possible to specify the respiratory cycle, to calculate

the relative position relationship of the blood vessels,
and to specify the blood flow dynamic state of a subject
3 as the standard blood flow.

[0049]

Due to this, a comparison between a patient and
6 another patient and digitization are enabled. Further,
a comparison between the normal lung or normal blood
vessel and the typically abnormal pulmonary function
9 or abnormal blood flow and digitization are enabled.
Furthermore, as a relative evaluation of the pulmonary
function and the lung blood flow at different times of
12 a patient, it is made possible to use the standard lung
and the standard blood flow. It is possible to use the
standard lung and the standard blood flow such as these
15 as the indexes at the time of evaluation by applying
those morphologically to a patient as the standard lung
and the standard blood flow by collecting the typical
18 examples of various types of typical patients and
healthy persons. Next, the operation of each module
according to the present embodiment will be explained.

21 [0050]

[Respiratory function analysis]

First, the respiratory function analysis will be
24 explained. FIG. 3 is a flowchart showing an outline of
the respiratory function analysis according to the
present embodiment. The basic module 1 extracts images
27 of DICOM from the database 15 (step S1). Here, at least
a plurality of frame images included within one

respiratory cycle is acquired. Next, in each acquired
frame image, by using the density (density/intensity)
3 at least in a fixed area within the lung field, the
respiratory cycle is specified (step S2). By fitting
a periodic function to this respiratory cycle, the range
6 of the lung field is specified.

[0051]

It is also possible to specify the respiratory
9 cycle by using the movement of the diaphragm and the
movement of the thorax. Further, it may also be
possible to use the data obtained from the range
12 consisting of fixed volume density/intensity measured
in a region where permeability of X-ray is high and
obtained by other measurement methods, such as
15 spirogram.

[0052]

Next, in FIG. 3, the lung field is automatically
18 detected (step S3). In the automatic detection of the
contour of the lung, there is a case where fluctuations
occur for each frame image, but by interpolating each
21 frame image based on the respiratory cycle specified
at step S2, the lung contour in each frame image is
specified. Next, the detected lung field is divided
24 into a plurality of block areas (step S4). Then, a
change in each block area in each frame image is
calculated (step S5). Here, the value of the change
27 within each block area is averaged and represented as
one piece of data. Next, for the value of

density/intensity in each block area and the amount of change thereof, a Fourier analysis is performed based
3 on the above-described respiratory cycle (step S6). Due to this, it is made possible to extract and display the nature of the image in each block area.

6 [0053]

Next, noise is removed from the results obtained by the Fourier analysis (step S7). The operation at
9 step S5 to step S7 described above is performed once or more times and whether the processing is completed is determined (step S8). In the case where the
12 processing is not completed, a transition is made to step S5 and in the case where the processing is completed, the results obtained by the Fourier analysis are
15 displayed on the display as a pseudo color image (step S9). Further, a white and black image may be displayed. By repeating a plurality of cycles as described above,
18 it is made possible to improve the accuracy of data.

[0054]

[Lung blood flow analysis]

21 Next, the lung blood flow analysis will be explained. FIG. 4 is a flowchart showing an outline of the lung blood flow analysis according to the present
24 embodiment. The basic module 1 extracts images of DICOM from the database 15 (step T1). Here, at least a plurality of frame images included within one heartbeat
27 cycle is acquired. Next, based on each acquired frame image, the blood vessel beat cycle is specified (step

T2). As described above, the blood vessel beat cycle is specified, for example, based on measurement results
3 by other modalities, such as an electrocardiogram and a pulsimeter, or by specifying the heart/hilum pulmonis position/main blood vessel from the lung contour, and
6 the blood vessel beat is analyzed by using a change in density/intensity of each region.

[0055]

9 Next, in FIG. 4, the respiratory cycle is specified by the above-described method (step T3) and the lung field is automatically detected by using the
12 respiratory cycle (step T4). In the automatic detection of the lung contour, there is a case where fluctuations occur for each frame image, but by
15 interpolating each frame image based on the respiratory cycle specified at step T3, the lung contour in each frame image is specified. Next, the detected lung field
18 is divided into a plurality of block areas (step T5). Then, a change in each block area in each frame image is calculated (step T6). Here, the value of the change
21 within each block area is averaged and represented as one piece of data. Next, for the value of density/intensity in each block area and the amount of
24 change thereof, a Fourier analysis is performed based on the above-described blood vessel beat cycle (step T7). Due to this, it is made possible to extract and
27 display the nature of the image in each block area.

[0056]

Next, noise is removed from the results obtained by the Fourier analysis (step T8). The operation at
3 step T6 to step T8 described above is performed once or more times and whether the processing is completed is determined (step T9). In the case where the
6 processing is not completed, a transition is made to step T6 and in the case where the processing is completed, the results obtained by the Fourier analysis are
9 displayed on the display as a pseudo color image (step T10). Further, a white and black image may be displayed. Due to this, it is made possible to improve the accuracy
12 of data.

[0057]

[Another blood flow analysis]

15 Next, another blood flow analysis will be explained. It is also possible to apply an aspect of the present invention to the blood flow analysis of the
18 aorta, the abdominal blood vessel, the head internal carotid artery, and so on. FIG. 5 is a flowchart showing an outline of another blood flow analysis according to
21 the present embodiment. The basic module 1 extracts images of DICOM from the database 15 (step R1). Here, at least a plurality of frame images included within
24 one beat cycle is acquired. Next, based on each acquired frame image, the blood vessel beat cycle is specified (step R2). As described above, the blood
27 vessel beat cycle is specified, for example, based on measurement results of other modalities, such as an

electrocardiogram and a pulsimeter, or by specifying
the heart/hilum pulmonis position/main blood vessel
3 from the lung contour, and the blood vessel beat is
analyzed by using a change in density/intensity of each
region.

6 [0058]

Next, the analysis range is set (step R3) and the
set analysis range is divided into a plurality of block
9 areas (step R4). Then, the value of the change within
each block area is averaged and represented as one piece
of data. Next, for the value of density/intensity in
12 each block area and the amount of change thereof, a
Fourier analysis is performed based on the
above-described blood vessel beat cycle (step R5). Due
15 to this, it is made possible to extract and display the
nature of the image in each block area.

[0059]

18 Next, noise is removed from the results obtained
by the Fourier analysis (step R6). The operation at
step R5 and step R6 described above is performed once
21 or more times and whether the processing is completed
is determined (step R7). In the case where the
processing is not completed, a transition is made to
24 step R5 and in the case where the processing is completed,
the results obtained by the Fourier analysis are
displayed on the display as a pseudo color image (step
27 R8). Further, a white and black image may be displayed.
Due to this, it is made possible to improve the accuracy

of data.

[0060]

3 Note that, in the case where consideration is given
three-dimensionally as described above, by measuring
the respiration rate, the cardiac output, and the center
6 bloodstream by different devices, it is made possible
to measure the "partial pulmonary ventilation", the
"lung bloodstream", and the "blood flow rate" in each
9 section from those rates. In the case where measurement
of the respiration rate, the cardiac output, and the
blood flow on the center side is enabled by another
12 modality or the like as quantitative measurement, it
is made possible to estimate the estimated function
amount by the amount of one frame, its rate, and the
15 amount of change rate in the area. That is, in the case
of the respiratory function analysis, estimation of the
pulmonary ventilation is enabled by the respiration
18 rate, in the case of the lung blood flow analysis,
estimation of the lung bloodstream is enabled by the
cardiac output (lung blood vessel output), and in the
21 case of another bloodstream analysis, estimation of the
estimated bloodstream (rate) in the branched blood
vessel extracted from the bloodstream (rate) on the
24 center side is enabled.

[0061]

As explained above, according to the present
27 embodiment, it is made possible to evaluate the image
of a human body although there are several problems in

other modalities, such as CT and MRI, by the photographing method at the present point in time. At least, as to the X-ray moving image device using a flat panel detector, it is possible to perform calculation favorably on the whole by the already existing facility device and the introduction cost is low. Further, in the X-ray moving image device using a flat panel detector, it is made possible to perform inspection of a subject in a simple manner. Furthermore, as to the lung blood flow, screening of the lung thrombus obstruction is enabled. For example, in the X-ray moving image device using a flat panel detector, by executing the diagnosis support program according to the present embodiment before performing CT, it is possible to exclude wasteful inspections. Further, the inspection is simple, and therefore, it is made possible to discover a highly emergent disease in an earlier stage and to deal with it with priority. Furthermore, in other modalities, such as CT and MRI, it is made possible to perform an elaborated diagnosis in each area.

[0062]

Further, it is also possible to apply the present invention to various blood vessels, for example, to screening of cervical blood flow narrowing and also to blood flow evaluation and screening of great vessels. Further, as to the pulmonary respiration data, the present invention is effective as the partial function

inspection of the lung and it is made possible to use
the present invention for the pulmonary function
3 inspection. Alternatively, identification of the
disease, such as COPD and pulmonary emphysema, is also
enabled. Further, it is also made possible to apply the
6 present invention to grasp the properties and condition
before and after an operation. Furthermore, by
performing a Fourier analysis of the respiratory cycle
9 and the blood flow cycle and removing the waveform of
respiration and the waveform of the blood flow in the
X-ray image of the abdomen, it is made possible to
12 observe the abnormality of the other biological
movements, for example, the intestinal tract ileus.

[0063]

15 Note that the present international application
is based upon and claims the benefit of priority of the
prior Japanese Patent Application No. 2016-141658,
18 filed on July 19, 2016, the entire of which are
incorporated herein by reference.

21 Reference Signs List

[0064]

- 1 basic module
- 24 3 respiratory function analysis unit
- 5 lung blood flow analysis unit
- 7 another blood flow analysis unit
- 27 9 Fourier analysis unit
- 10 waveform analysis unit

	11	visualization/digitization unit
	13	input interface
3	15	database
	17	output interface
	19	display
6		

CLAIMS

3 1. A diagnosis support program that analyzes images
of a human body and displays analysis results, the
program causing a computer to execute:

6 processing of acquiring a plurality of frame
images from a database that stores the images;

processing of specifying a respiratory cycle based
9 on pixels in a specific area in each of the frame images;

processing of detecting a lung field based on the
specified respiratory cycle;

12 processing of dividing the detected lung field
into a plurality of block areas and calculating a change
in image in a block area in each of the frame images;

15 processing of performing a Fourier analysis of a
change in image in each block area in each of the frame
images; and

18 processing of displaying each image after the
Fourier analysis on a display.

21 2. A diagnosis support program that analyzes images
of a human body and displays analysis results, the
program causing a computer to execute:

24 processing of acquiring a plurality of frame
images from a database that stores the images;

processing of specifying a blood vessel beat cycle
27 of a subject;

processing of specifying a respiratory cycle based

on pixels in a specific area in each of the frame images;
processing of detecting a lung field based on the
3 specified respiratory cycle;
processing of dividing the detected lung field
into a plurality of block areas and calculating a change
6 in image in a block area in each of the frame images;
processing of performing a Fourier analysis of a
change in image in each block area in each of the frame
9 images based on the specified blood vessel beat cycle;
and
processing of displaying each image after the
12 Fourier analysis on a display.

3. A diagnosis support program that analyzes images
15 of a human body and displays analysis results, the
program causing a computer to execute:

processing of acquiring a plurality of frame
18 images from a database that stores the images;

processing of specifying a blood vessel beat cycle
of a subject;

21 processing of dividing an analysis range that is
set for each of the frame images into a plurality of
block areas and calculating a change in image in a block
24 area in each of the frame images;

processing of performing a Fourier analysis of a
change in image in each block area in each of the frame
27 images based on the specified blood vessel beat cycle;
and

processing of displaying each image after the Fourier analysis on a display.

3

4. The diagnosis support program according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

6

a respiratory cycle of a subject is specified based on a movement of a diaphragm, a movement of a thorax, or data of a spirogram.

9

5. The diagnosis support program according to claim 2 or 3, wherein

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a blood vessel beat cycle of the subject is specified based on measurement results by other modality devices including an electrocardiogram or a pulsimeter, and alternatively, a movement of a diaphragm and a thorax is extracted and a respiratory cycle of a subject is specified based on an image of a diaphragm and an image of a thorax at least included in each of the frame images, a lung field is detected based on the specified respiratory cycle, a position of a heart, a position of a hilum pulmonis, and blood vessel cycles of a main lung blood vessel and a large blood vessel are specified from the detected lung field, and a blood vessel beat cycle is specified based on a change in image of each specified region.

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6. The diagnosis support program according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

a relative position relationship between an inside
of a lung field and blood vessels is calculated based
3 on the specified respiratory cycle, and a shape of a
lung of a subject is specified as a standard lung and
a dynamic state of a blood flow of the subject is
6 specified as a standard blood vessel area.

7. The diagnosis support program according to any of
9 claims 1 to 3, wherein

a lung field is divided into a plurality of block
areas by plotting a plurality of points in accordance
12 with a fixed rule on opposing contours of a lung field
and by connecting opposing points by a segment.

15 8. The diagnosis support program according to any of
claims 1 to 3, wherein

the processing of performing a Fourier analysis
18 Fourier-transforms an image in each block area in each
of the frame images and performs inverse Fourier
transform by extracting only a waveform substantially
21 indicating a respiratory cycle or a blood vessel beat
cycle from a waveform after Fourier transform.