Digital Radiographic Analysis References:

1. Practicing Chiropractors Committee on Radiology Protocols, Chapter II - Chiropractic Guideline for Spine Radiography for the Assessment of Spinal Subluxation in Children ad Adults, B - Position on Computerized Analysis of Radiographs: The Current PCCRPI Guideline Panel considers computer assisted radiographic analysis to be a reliable and valid procedure for spinal analysis.

   Loss of motion segment integrity is defined as an antero-posterior motion or slipping of one vertebra over another greater than 3.5mm for a cervical vertebra...or a difference in the angular motion of two adjacent motion segments greater that 11 degrees in response to spine flexion and extension. From page 109, Table 71. DRE Impairment Category Differentiators...The more objective and important differentiators are marked with an asterisk; the physician should use these to determine the highest impairment category.
   5.*Loss of Motion Segment Integrity
   From page 110, Table 73. DRE Cervicothoracic Spine Impairment categories* DRE Impairment category IV- b
   Loss of motion segment integrity - 25% impairment of the whole person.

3. Chiropractic Rehabilitation Course at CMCC, Stanley Kaplan, D.C., Module on the use of the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment: Dr. Kaplan stated to the first class of the Chiropractic Rehabilitation Course at CMCC that there's no point discussing loss of motion segment integrity without a digitizer because you have to measure two films down to 3.5mm which is impossible to do without a computer for the purpose of Impairment rating.

4. ACCR Guidelines for Diagnostic Imaging and Radiology Practice Parameters.
"The use of radiographic mensuration is sometimes practiced. In these instances, the radiographic analysis may be a component of the clinical examination in the detection of the vertebral subluxation complex. ...The standard of care in diagnostic imaging is that all studies are viewed for interpretation by the practitioner or radiologist to obtain the maximum level of diagnosis which is achievable based on the type of study performed."

5. ACCR Position Statement on Computer Assisted Mensuration for Postural Analysis of Radiographs. Presented with 0 references. 
"Computer assisted analysis of radiographs may be useful for the demonstration of roentgenometrics and for the purpose of mensuration as reported in the scientific literature."

6. Council on Chiropractic Practice, Clinical Practice Guideline, Number 1, Vertebral Subluxation in Chiropractic Practice, p39, 1998. (195 Peer reviewers in 12 countries, approved by the Canadian Chiropractic Awareness Council). Radiographic and Other Imaging: ...It is common for lines of mensuration to be drawn on radiographs to assess subluxation and alignment. These procedures may be done by hand, or the chiropractor may utilize computerized radiographic digitization procedures. Rating: Established, Evidence: E, L.

...the chiropractor may utilize computerized radiographic digitization procedures. Rating: Established, Evidence: E., L.

Conclusions: "In connection with biplanar studies the roentgenological index points or anatomical landmarks have been marked and digitized and the x, y and z coordinates of these landmarks have been calculated by computer technique."

Materials and Methods: "...the contours were digitized into the computer."

Method: "The radiographs were analyzed using a computer assisted method to calculate segmental motion parameters such as rotations, translations and centers of rotation."

Clinical Features: "These X-rays were read manually (with a template) and with computer-assisted digitization. Computerized analysis also measured misalignments at the levels of L4-L5."

12. Eriksen, K.: Correction of Juvenile Idiopathic Scoliosis After Primary Upper Cervical Care: A Case Study. CRJ
X-ray Analysis: "...or computer aided digitization, to measure misalignments of the upper cervical spine."

"To summarise, a new protocol for documenting segmental motion of segments C0/C1-C6/C7 is presented and validated. Measurements are based on lateral flexion-extension radiographic views taken in normal clinical settings using computer-aided, objective algorithms."

"Methods: Three examiners digitized 30 radiographs twice. All interclass coefficients estimates for interobserver and intraobserver reliability were in the range 0.7-1.0."


"Lumbar Modeling with an Ellipse: The radiographs were digitized and analyzed using a system composed of a digitizer (GP-9, purchased from Science Accessories Corp., Shelton, CT, USA) and a personal computer. Least Squares Elliptical Modeling: The average least-squares errors, 1-3mm. are approximate to or below the expected inaccuracy of the radiographic measurement, indicating that the lumbar curvature can be indeed be closely approximated with a portion of an ellipse."


22. Kasai, T., Takaaki, I., Katoh, S., Miyake, R., Tsubo, M.: Growth of the Cervical Spine with Special Reference to Its Lordosis and Mobility. SPINE, 21(18), 1996. Subject and Methods: "The functional lateral radiographs were analyzed using image analyzing software (National Institutes of Health image)...."

23. Kristjansson, E., Jonsson, H., Is the Sagittal Configuration of the Cervical Spine changed in women with chronic whiplash syndrome? A Comparative Computer-Assisted Radiographic Assessment. JMPT 2002:25:550-5. "Setting: Radiography Department at a university hospital. Measurement Technique: The radiographs were scanned into a computer and burned onto CD-ROM discs. A software program, NUDD (Kine Co. Reyjavik, Iceland), was used to mark the desired points on the radiographs. Discussion: In addition, the Harrison posterior tangent method has been found to be more accurately depict cervical curvature than the more commonly applied Cobb method. Therefore, the standing position and the Harrison method are recommended for future studies."

"Methods: Three examiners digitized each of 30 radiographs twice. All interclass coefficients estimates for interobserver and intraobserver reliability were in the range 0.7-1.0."

Study Design: "Thirty lateral cervical radiographs were digitized twice by three examiners to compare reliability of the Cobb and posterior tangent methods."
Conclusion: A reliability analysis of cervical angles generated from radiographic posterior vertebral body angles indicates that the majority of intraclass and interclass correlation coefficients are in the high range..."

Design: Digitized measurements from lateral cervical radiographs of four different shapes were used to calculate axial loads and bending moments on the vertebral bodies of C2-C7.

Materials and Methods: Digitized points were used to create posterior body tangent lines on each vertebra...

"From the multitude of x-ray reliability studies, which show a good to high degree of inter and intraexaminer reliability, it is obvious that line drawing analysis on plain film radiographs is one of the most investigated topics in the literature."

Abstract: "The radiographs were analyzed on a digitizing tablet linked to a computer, using preset points to indicate the motion of the vertebrae."

Abstract: "We conclude that radiographic digitization is a reliable and reproducible method of determining vertebral body dimensions that is suitable for evaluating radiographs obtained at different clinical sites and for comparison with normal data."

Methods and Materials: "During the high speed film evaluation, the positions of the balls were determined with an accuracy of +/- 0.1mm by means of a digitizer and an analyzing program."

28. Osterhouse, M., Tepe, R., Kettner, N., McVey, M., Reliability of the Penning Method for Cervical Intersegmental Motion Assessment: A Pilot Study; Journal of the Neuromusculoskeletal System, Vol. 10, No.2, Summer 2002 p53 "Computer-assisted evaluation may have the potential for higher reliability, but it requires a computer, software and a film digitizer. This represents a financial burden for the average clinician."


Conclusion: "An x-ray analysis system has been designed which makes use of a sonic digitizer to gather information on the location of radiographic landmarks and computer programs to calculate listings for misalignment."

31. Owens, E.F., Hosek, R.: Structure Location Errors in an upper Cervical X-
Conclusion: "An x-ray analysis system has been designed which makes use of a sonic digitizer to gather information on the location of radiographic landmarks and computer programs to calculate listings for misalignment."

Methods: "These were digitized to provide geometric relationships between an anatomic coordinate system and the corresponding marker steel balls."

Methods: "The geometric relationships of the LEDs to the vertebral bodies were established with lateral radiographs. Using specially developed computer programs, relative intervertebral motions in the form of three Euler angles and the translations were calculated at C4-C5, C5-C6, and C6-C7."

Conclusions: "Based on the study of three qualities of lumbar spine functional radiographs, two qualities of digitizers, four spinal levels, and the use of a computer assisted method of kinematic analysis of lateral radiographic views, the following conclusions may be drawn.
1. Re-digitizing the same radiographic pair results in very small errors ...
"

Patients and Methods: "A graphic digitizer (Digi-Pad; Ortho-Graphic, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT) connected to a microcomputer was used. ... The interobserver variability was within one standard deviation."

Measurement Methods: "The measurements of the roentgenographs were made in all cases using a Summagraphics digitizer in conjunction with an Infoton teletype terminal with CRT display, remotely on line with a Xerox Sigma 6 computer."
Discussion: "Perhaps more interesting is the ability for hardware interfacing with new and existing devices such as x-ray scanners/digitizers and ROM measuring devices."

"Results: **Calculations of intra- and interobserver variability for the measurement of spondylololisthesis, disk space height, disk space angle and vertebral body measurements showed that the technique is extremely reliable.**"

"These methods are based on the digitization of radiographs and the computerization of the analysis. The results of the evaluation protocol for SpineView software demonstrated that this was a reliable and reproducible measurement method."

Methods: "...measured for each nasium film using a digitizer tablet and computer software."

Method: The examiners used both manual marking procedures as well as computer assisted analysis using the software program, "THE DOC!""...It is concluded that all aspects of the upper cervical marking procedures are reliable."

"Technique used to measure translation; Several studies have documented the accuracy of biplanar and computer-enhanced techniques in the laboratory and in vivo. However, biplanar techniques suffer from a complexity of measurement requiring computers and a sophisticated knowledge of mathematics that simply reduce their usefulness to the clinician."

Conclusions: "Multicenter studies in which different examiners will be measuring Cobb angles may consider using the computer as a measuring device to reduce intrinsic measurement errors."

Methods: Thoracic kyphosis was measured using the Cobb Method and the mean radius of curvature from computer-assisted digitizing of the vertebral contour."

Discussion: "Greater sensitivity with the computerized assessment of thoracolumbar curvature was achieved compared with the Cobb Method…indicates that radiographic evaluation of sagittal spinal curvature is improved with the use of computer-aided measurement."

Methods: "We used a back illuminated digitizing board (GTCO Corporation, Rockville, MD) and a transparent cursor with cross-hairs to register six points for each vertebra from T4 to L4 on an electronic grid that had a resolution of 0.1mm."

"We conclude that our method is both reliable and reproducible for the placement of points".

Abstract: "Given pre and post x-rays of the spine, a computer aided method to compute accurate spinal displacement during the pre and post x-ray period is developed"  

Abstract: "...a step-wise sequential method is developed for accurate x-ray measurement of the spine or other parts of the body for use on the digital computer."

Conclusion: "Therefore, the method to eliminate or reduce the human error in reading and analyzing the shadow image of x-rays is improved with use of computers."

Methods: "This research will focus on the upper-cervical spine and upgrading the Life Upper-Cervical X-ray Technique by developing a new computerized x-ray analysis routine."

Results and Conclusions: "This computerized x-ray software and technique which have been developed during the last two years, is based on the following software and techniques published during the last 33 years."


Conclusion: "Furthermore, the additional data presented here tend to suggest the concurrent validity of the computer-aided digitization method of analysis..."

Methods: The digitizing system was composed of a sonic digitizer (GP-9:Science accessories Corporation, Shelton, Conn.) and an IBM Compatible computer.

Conclusion: Most patient assessment methods used in chiropractic practice have a poor or unknown reliability. The one possible exception to the rule..."


Conclusion: As with other studies investigating the reliability of radiographic mensuration analyses, this study reports a high degree of intraexaminer and interexaminer reliability of the procedure.

Vertebral Measurements: "Films were digitized using a translucent digitizer (GTCCO Corporation, Columbia MD) and cursor."

58. Wiegand, Ray, Wilke,S.: Creating a biomechanical travel card that illustrates the segmental, regional and global organization of the spinal system.. 16th Annual Upper Cervical Conference, Nov. 20-21, 1999, Life University, Marietta, GA.
Methods: "We used an electromagnetic grid (9) to record the data points of specific osseous landmarks from a-p and lateral x-rays including cervical flexion and extension views."

59. Wiegand, Ray, Wilke,S.: Graphical Analysis and Frequency Distribution of Dysfunctional Motion Segments in the Cervical Spine Using Digital X-ray and
database Technologies. 13Th Annual Upper Cervical Conference, Nov. 16-17, 1996, Life University, Marietta, GA.

Results and Conclusions: "This computerized x-ray software and technique which have been developed during the last two years, is based on the following software and techniques published during the last 33 years."

60. Wiegand, Ray, Wilke, S.: Quantitative Assessment of form and function of the cervical spine in the sagittal plane. 16th Annual Upper Cervical Conference, Nov. 20-21, 1999, Life University, Marietta, GA.
Methods: "An electromagnetic grid was used to record the data points of specific osseous landmarks from the neutral, flexion and extension x-ray views."

"Computer algorithms will be used to transform digitized information from standard radiographs into true, accurate, three-dimensional coordinates. Using this system, Dr. Suh would like to establish the first "gold standard" for chiropractic biomechanical x-ray analysis."

Materials and methods: "Bilateral oblique and lateral radiographs were taken of the specimen to establish an anatomic coordinate system in each vertebra. These were digitized to provide geometric relationships between the anatomic coordinate system and the corresponding marker."

Statistics: "The data were measured and recorded from the views and were analyzed with BASE statistical software."

http://www.walkfortheunderdog.com/references.html