

# Multi-Physics and Multi-Fidelity Approaches for Digital Twin Integration

PhD in Design, Manufacturing and Operations Engineering

PhD Cycle XXXVII

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#### **Main Activities**

- PhD focus on CAE methodologies for interactive design dashboards
- Conducted in collaboration with Leonardo Labs, Turin, with on-site internship periods
- Some Other Collaborations:

University of Padova University of Napoli INAF RBF Morph Avio Dallara





## Summary

- Overview
- Radial Basis Functions (RBF)
- Multi-fidelity workflows
- Multi-physics analysis
- Shape parameters definition
- Real Time Design Dashboards:
  - Adjoint
  - Reduced Order Model (ROM)

#### **Overview**



# **RADIAL BASIS FUNCTIONS (RBF)**

### **Radial Basis Functions (RBF)**

- Given two heterogeneous domains  $\Omega_1$  and  $\Omega_2$ , RBFs are used to interpolate quantities from  $\Omega_1$  to  $\Omega_2$  using a proximity criterion;
- If *m* is the number of source points, the interpolation function can be expressed as:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \gamma_i \phi(\|c_i - x\|) + p(x)$$

Where:

$$p(x) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x_1 + \dots + \beta_{n+1} x_n$$

The unknowns of the system are the polynomial coefficients  $\beta_i$  and the weights  $\gamma_i$  of the radial basis functions. These can be determined by enforcing the following conditions:

$$f(c_i) = g_i$$
$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \gamma_i p(c_i) = 0$$

In matrix form:  $\begin{bmatrix} M & P \\ P^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} g \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ 

RBF	$\boldsymbol{\phi}(\boldsymbol{r})$
Spline type	$ r ^n$
Multiquadric	$\sqrt{1+r^2}$
Inverse multiquadric	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+r^2}}$
Inverse quadratic	$\frac{1}{1+r^2}$
Gaussian	$e^{-r^2}$

Typical radial functions







Interpolation using a linear poly-harmonic spline  $\phi(r) = r$  (top left) and a cubic poly-harmonic spline  $\phi(r) = r^3$  (top right). Interpolation using C2 Wendland functions with r=0.7 (bottom left) and r=0.4 (bottom right).

### **Radial Basis Functions (RBF)**

- Mapping FSI
- Shape parameters definition (Mesh Morphing)
- Response Surface Interpolation
- Connect multi-fidelity analysis



# **MULTI-FIDELITY WORKFLOWS**

- Multi-fidelity approaches enable the connection of models with varying levels of accuracy. The objectives of these approaches can be manifold:
  - To model in detail only specific areas of interest (sub-modelling, homogenization).
  - To connect different physical phenomena that require varying degrees of accuracy.
  - To link low-fidelity tools and analyses for preliminary design with high-fidelity numerical tools. For instance, combining analytical and numerical approaches to optimize the design process



Sub-Modelling example





CFD - ECM Coupling for electrical and thermal analysis



From analytic to FEM

- Shape Optimization of Frame Structures through a Hybrid Analytical-2D and Numerical-3D Approach
  - Workflow







- Shape Optimization of Frame Structures through a Hybrid Analytical-2D and Numerical-3D Approach
  - Step 1: Analytical Optimization Uniform Strength



Section A-A

 $-\sigma$ -trend of stress

 Shape Optimization of Frame Structures through a Hybrid Analytical-2D and Numerical-3D Approach

RBF Mesh Morphing

Automatic Creation of FEM Model \_\_\_\_\_

- Shape Optimization of Frame Structures through a Hybrid Analytical-2D and Numerical-3D Approach
  - Step 2: Numerical Optimization BGM
  - BGM approach is based on the observation that biological structures growth is driven by local level of stress.
  - Bones and trees' trunks are able to adapt the shape to mitigate the stress level due to external loads.
  - The process is driven by stress value at surfaces. Material can be added or removed according to local values.
  - Was proposed by Mattheck & Burkhardt in 1990.
  - Automatic optimization is accoplished connecting adjoint and BGM data from numerical simulation to mesh morphing tool.
  - Offset Surface shape modification allow to define for each node a displacement according to the local normal direction.
  - When using BGM data, the direction and amplitude of displacement is defined according to BGM stress data, considering the threshold stress value  $\sigma_{th}$  and the *d* maximum displacement:

$$S_{node} = \frac{\sigma_{node} - \sigma_{th}}{\sigma_{max} - \sigma_{min}} \cdot a$$





- Shape Optimization of Frame Structures through a Hybrid Analytical-2D and Numerical-3D Approach
  - Performance Factors:

Surface exploitation factor:  $f_1 = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n_s} (\sigma_{ISO} - \sigma_{VM})^2}}{n_s} \frac{1}{\sigma_{ISO}}$ 

Volume exploitation factor: 
$$f_2 = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n_V} (\sigma_{ISO} - \sigma_{VM})^2}}{n_V} \frac{1}{\sigma_{ISO}}$$

Energy factor:  $f_3 = \frac{E_d * 2E}{\sigma_{ISO}^2 V}$ 

- Shape Optimization of Frame Structures through a Hybrid Analytical-2D and Numerical-3D Approach
  - Testcase 1:



- Shape Optimization of Frame Structures through a Hybrid Analytical-2D and Numerical-3D Approach
  - Testcase 1:

Results



Surface exploitation factor

# **MULTI-PHYSICS ANALYSIS : FSI**

### **Multi-Physics Analysis : FSI**

Modal superposition vs two-way





Two-way FSI workflow

Modal superposition workflow



## **Multi-Physics Analysis : FSI**

- Modal superposition vs two-way
  - HIRENASD testcase: Modal Superposition
    - Phase 1: The vibration modes of the deformable parts, normalized with respect to mass, are computed through a FEM analysis.
    - Phase 2: The vibration modes are imported into the CFD model. This requires the introduction of a mesh morphing technique and a mapping algorithm to deform the CFD mesh according to the linear combination of the extracted modes.
    - Phase 3: The weights of each mode are estimated based on equilibrium considerations. The mesh is then deformed, and the aerodynamic variation is evaluated.
    - Mesh displacements:  $x_{CFD} = x_{CFD0} + \sum_m X_m q_m$ ,

Modal force: 
$$f_m = \sum_{i=1}^n X_{m,i} \cdot F_{CFD_i}$$
  
Modal weight:  $q_m = \frac{f_m}{\omega_m^2}$ 

#### First six vibration modes

![](_page_19_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_10.jpeg)

	Two-Way	Modal
CL	0.3395	0.3395
C <sub>D</sub>	0.0144	0.0144

## **Multi-Physics Analysis : FSI**

- Modal superposition vs two-way
  - HIRENASD testcase

Number of modes selection

![](_page_20_Figure_4.jpeg)

Displacements error for increasing number of modes

Comparison

$C_L, C_d$	comparison
------------	------------

	Two-Way Modal	
CL	0.3395	0.3395
C <sub>D</sub>	0.0144	0.0144

Tip Displacements comparison

	Two-Way	Modal
Disp [mm]	14.81	14.88

Tip displacements obtained as the number of modes considered varies, along with the percentage difference compared to the displacement obtained with two-way

# Modes	Displacements [mm]	Δ%
1 mode	15.94	/
2 modes	14.79	-7.21%
3 modes	14.81	-7.09%
4 modes	14.89	-6.59%
5 modes	14.88	-6.65%
6 modes	14.88	-6.65%

Time required

	Two-Ways	Modal
Time	4h 15min	59min

# SHAPE PARAMETERS DEFINITION

### **Shape Parameters Definition**

- Two main approaches can be used in numerical simulations to define shape parameters:
  - Parametric CAD

![](_page_22_Picture_3.jpeg)

OpenVSP CAD Example

Mesh morphing

![](_page_22_Picture_6.jpeg)

RBF Mesh Morphing example on a cube

![](_page_22_Picture_8.jpeg)

RBF Mesh Morphing example on NACA air intake

#### **Shape Parameters Definition**

- Hybrid methods
  - AeroSUV Method

![](_page_23_Picture_3.jpeg)

OPAM method

![](_page_23_Figure_5.jpeg)

### REAL TIME DESIGN DASHBOARD ADJOINT-BASED ROM-BASED

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### ROM-based

![](_page_25_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_6.jpeg)

## **Adjoint Method Background**

In general, the derivative of a function is defined using the concept of the limit of the incremental ratio:

 $\frac{df}{dx} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$ 

- This definition cannot be used in a numerical code, it must be discretized.
- The simplest technique for sensitivity calculation is finite differences. The method used in this thesis is the adjoint method.
- Let f be the objective function, which generally depends on both physical variables x and design variables α:

$$f = f(x, \alpha) \rightarrow \delta f_i = \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} \delta x_j + \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \alpha_k} \delta \alpha_k$$

• Considering the residuals of the governing equations, it must be verified that  $R(x, \alpha(x)) = 0$ 

 $\delta R = \left[\frac{\partial R}{\partial x}\right] \delta x + \left[\frac{\partial R}{\partial \alpha}\right] \delta \alpha = 0$ 

The problem can thus be reduced to a constrained optimization problem, where the goal is to minimize the objective function f, with the function R serving as the constraint. By introducing Lagrange multipliers and differentiating the auxiliary function, we obtain:

$$\delta f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \delta x + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \alpha} \delta \alpha - \lambda^T \left\{ \left[ \frac{\partial R}{\partial x} \right] \delta x + \left[ \frac{\partial R}{\partial \alpha} \right] \delta \alpha \right\} = \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} - \lambda^T \frac{\partial R}{\partial x} \right] \delta x + \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial \alpha} - \lambda^T \frac{\partial R}{\partial \alpha} \right] \delta \alpha$$

•  $\lambda$  is the added vector, and the values of its components are arbitrary. Therefore, a vector is chosen in such a way that the terms related to  $\delta x$  are cancelled, making the observable function dependent only on the external parameters:

$$\left[\frac{\partial R}{\partial x}\right]^T \lambda = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$$

This equation depends only on the derivatives with respect to the fluid dynamics variables. The solution to the adjoint problem, therefore, allows the calculation of the adjoint variables λ. Once these variables are known, it is then possible to construct the gradient using expression, which can be reformulated as follows:

$$\delta f = G \ \delta \alpha$$
 , with  $G = rac{\partial f}{\partial lpha} - \lambda^T \ rac{\partial R}{\partial lpha}$ 

![](_page_26_Figure_15.jpeg)

Shape sensitivity map for a cube for drag

#### Adjoint

- The goal of this work is to create a real-time adjoint-based design procedure that enables the definition of any shape parameter and provides a prediction of the variation in the monitored observable
- Adjoint Method can be used to estimate effects of shape variations on observables.
- Figure:
  - Orange Curve: Vary parameter amplification, modify mesh, evaluate observable via CFD analysis.
  - Blue Curve: Same amplifications, use adjoint method.
  - Observation: Blue curve is tangent to the objective function at the origin, representing the rate of mesh deformation as the parameter varies.
- Sensitivity:  $\frac{\delta\Psi}{\delta a} = \frac{\delta\Psi}{\delta x} \cdot \frac{\delta x}{\delta a}$

![](_page_27_Figure_9.jpeg)

#### Adjoint

AeroSUV Workflow

![](_page_28_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_4.jpeg)

Shape parameters definition

#### Adjoint

- AeroSUV Testcase
  - Velocity inlet: 50 m/s
  - 6 shape parameters

![](_page_29_Picture_5.jpeg)

CFD Mesh

![](_page_29_Figure_7.jpeg)

Adjoint shape sensitivity

![](_page_29_Picture_9.jpeg)

Comparison of baseline and optimized shape

	Cd
Baseline	0.3
Optimized	0.29 (-3.33%)

	Edge 1x	Edge 1z	Edge 2x	Edge 2z	Edge 3x	Edge 3z
Range	-1÷1	-1÷1	-1÷1	-1÷1	-1÷1	-1÷1
Sensitivity	0.04	-0.33	0.54	-0.9	0.2	0.1
Final Value	-0.12	1	-1	1	-0.6	-0.3

## **Reduced Order Model (ROM)**

- Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD) is a dimensionality reduction technique used to analyse complex data and identify the main modes of variation
- One of the most effective methods used alongside POD is SVD:

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ s_1 & \cdots & s_n \\ \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ u_1 & \cdots & u_n \\ \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \sigma_n \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ v_1 & \cdots & v_n \\ \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}^T = U \Sigma V^T$$

 The field solution X in the design space can then be approximated as a linear combination of r modes:

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^{r} \nu_i \sigma_i U_i$$

 r is a critical parameter that balances accuracy and compression while excluding noise. Generally, an energetic approach is used to select the number of modes, which corresponds to imposing the condition:

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{r} \sigma_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sigma_i^2} = 0.99$$

- Once the modes have been extracted and the optimal number of modes r has been selected, it is necessary to identify a correlation between the model's input parameters and the mode weights. The main methods used in literature are:
  - Genetic Aggregation Response surface (GARS)
  - Neural Network (NN)
  - Gaussian Regression
  - RBF network

![](_page_30_Figure_13.jpeg)

#### ROM

- Open Parametric Aircraft Model (OPAM)
- Workflow Proposal: Creation of advanced aerodynamics design dashboards.
- CAD modeler linked to CFD simulation results, real-time exploration of shape parameters' effects on aerodynamics.
- Case Study: OPAM (Open Parametric Aircraft Model), a simplified Boeing 787 model.
- Hybrid workflow: Combination of CAD parameterization and mesh morphing to generate DPs.
- **ROM** Development: Linking CFD analysis results to chosen parameterization.
- RSM for scalar quantities
- Exported as FMUs for easy management in any environment.
- VR Design Dashboard created in Unity environment, enables interaction with geometric model in an immersive and intuitive environment, MetaQuest 3 headset selected for tests.

![](_page_31_Figure_11.jpeg)

#### ROM

#### • Open Parametric Aircraft Model (OPAM): CFD Baseline

The following main options are configured:

- Steady-state simulation;
- Density-based solver;
- k-omega SST turbulence model;
- Air as an ideal gas with the Sutherland viscosity law;
- Inlet [pressure-far-field]: Mach equal to 0.7 inclined by  $\alpha = 0^{\circ}$
- Outlet [pressure-outlet]: Pressure and temperature standard (101325 Pa, 298 K)
- Side [pressure-far-field]: Same conditions as the Inlet.
- Symmetry [symmetry]: Symmetry plane.
- Plane [wall].
- The implicit Roe-FDS formulation with second-order discretization was em-ployed.

![](_page_32_Picture_14.jpeg)

CFD Mesh

Number of faces	4,979,888
Number of cells	957,205
Number of nodes	3,366,691
Min. Orthogonal Quality	1.50172e-01
Max. Aspect Ratio	1.38865e+02
у+	<10

Mesh Properties

#### ROM

#### • Open Parametric Aircraft Model (OPAM): DOE

- Out of the 53 model parameters, the 6 parameters are chosen
- A DOE consisting of 66 DPs was generated using the LHS

	Aspect R	Sweep	Alpha B	Camber B	Alpha T	Camber T
Range	8÷10	33 ÷ 37	-5÷-1	0.02 ÷ 0.06	-10 ÷ -6	0.02 ÷ 0.06
Baseline	9	35	-3	0.04	-8	0.04

Min Orthogonal Quality	DP
1.45437e- 01	baseline
8.80044e-02	1
9.94842e-02	10
9.51205e-02	20
1.02042e-01	30
1.02038e-01	40
9.15076e-02	50
9.12111e-02	60
5.18119e-02	65
9.16307e-02	66

![](_page_33_Picture_7.jpeg)

#### ROM

6.6

6.55

6.5

6.45

33

P2 wing sweep

**Open Parametric Aircraft Model (OPAM): RSM** 

	Observations	MSE	R
Train	40 (60%)	0.0001	0.9989
Validation	13 (20%)	0.0013	0.9829

Performance of RS for lift evaluation

6.64

6.62

6.6

6.58

6.56

6.54

6.52

6.5

	Observations	MSE	R
Train	40 (60%)	2.15 × 10⁻⁵	0.9989
Validation	13 (20%)	5.37 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.9765

![](_page_34_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_11.jpeg)

RS for lift evaluation

#### ROM

- Open Parametric Aircraft Model (OPAM): ROM
  - Mesh ROM

50% of the DPs were used for training

Six modes were selected

The error of the ROM evaluated by the software is less than 1%

Static Pressure ROM

50% of the DPs were used for training

Five modes were selected

The error of the ROM evaluated by the software is less than 5.1%.

![](_page_35_Figure_11.jpeg)

#### ROM

- Open Parametric Aircraft Model (OPAM): Optimization results
  - Better guided flow.
  - Reduced separation at the trailing edge.
  - Increased pressure on the lower surface enhances efficiency.
  - Reduced separation on the upper surface lowers drag.

	Aspect R	Sweep	Alpha B	Camber B	Alpha T	Camber T
Range	8÷10	33 ÷ 37	-5÷-1	0.02 ÷ 0.06	-10 ÷ -6	0.02 ÷ 0.06
Optimized	9.31	34.39	-2.93	0.025	-6.2	0.027

	Cl	Cd	Eff
Baseline	0.505	0.134	3.77
Optimized	0.535 (+6%)	0.129 (-4%)	4.15 (+10%)

![](_page_36_Picture_9.jpeg)

Comparison of baseline (black) and optimized shape (red)

![](_page_36_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_12.jpeg)

Comparison of baseline (left) and optimized shape (right)

![](_page_36_Figure_14.jpeg)

Comparison of pressure contours: baseline-upper (a), baseline-lower (b), optimized-upper (c) and optimized lower surface (d) 36

#### ROM

#### • Open Parametric Aircraft Model (OPAM): VR Dashboard

- ROMs loaded into interactive VR dashboard.
- Meta Quest 3 headset used for real-time exploration of CAD-based parameters.
- Geometry and pressure modes loaded into GPU memory at initialization.
- FMUs loaded into CPU for real-time updates of mode weights.
- Visualization Performance: stable at 60 frames per second.
- Parameter Menu activated by facing left-hand palm towards the camera.
- Sliders: Interacted with using index finger. Grabbing and dragging updates parameter values, geometry, and pressure field.
- Smaller Model: Manipulated by dragging with index finger and thumb.
- Updates both smaller and larger models with pressure field.

![](_page_37_Picture_12.jpeg)

Parameter name

Slider interface (left) and Three-dimensional interactive handles (right)

![](_page_37_Picture_15.jpeg)

### **Conclusions And Next Steps**

- Solid framework for integrating multi-physics and multi-fidelity analyses were developed and tested
- Hybrid workflows to link CAD and mesh were developed
- Design processes were studied to improve real-time data accessibility.
- Advanced techniques (ROMs, adjoint methods) and automated workflows enhance engineering design efficiency.

Transfer these workflows to industrial cases

#### **Publications And Conferences**

#### Journal papers:

- Development of a ROM-Based Workflow for Integrating CAD Editors with Aerodynamics in a Virtual Reality Dashboard: OPAM-1 testcase, Andrea Lopez, Marco E. Biancolini, Applied Sciences, Published, <a href="https://doi.org/10.3390/app15020846">https://doi.org/10.3390/app15020846</a>. Q1
- Advanced RBFs methods for mapping aerodynamic loads onto structures in high-fidelity FSI simulations, Andrea Chiappa, Andrea Lopez, Corrado Groth, Fluids, https://doi.org/10.3390/fluids9060137, Published. Q2
- Reduced-Order Model of a Time-Trial Cyclist Helmet for Aerodynamic Optimization through Mesh Morphing and Real-Time Interactive Visualization, Emanuele Di Meo, Andrea Lopez, Corrado Groth, Pier Paolo Valentini, Marco E. Biancolini, Fluids, Published. Q2

#### Book Chapters:

- An interactive design tool for NACA intakes based on high fidelity CFD simulations and Reduced Order Models, Andrea Lopez, Viola Rossano, Ubaldo Cella, Corrado Groth, Marco E. Biancolini, Springer, Accepted for publication.
- Human Body Models customization by advanced mesh morphing: parametric THUMS, Emanuele Di Meo, Emanuele Lombardi, Andrea Lopez, and Marco Evangelos Biancolini, Springer, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-63755-1\_22, Published.
- The role of high-fidelity Computer-Aided Engineering (CAE) multi-physics design within the research institutes of the National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF), Springer, Accepted for publication.

#### Conference Proceedings:

- EFFICIENT SHAPE OPTIMIZATION IN AERONAUTICS: INTEGRATING PARAMETRIC CAD AND MESH MORPHING FOR ENHANCED AERODYNAMIC PERFORMANCE, Andrea Lopez, Gianluca Magri, Ubaldo Cella, Giorgio Urso, Federico Della Barba & Marco E. Biancolini, ICAS 2024, Published, icas2024\_0824\_paper.pdf.
- Design And Optimization Of Aeronautical Components And Digital Twins Development, Andrea Lopez, Ubaldo Cella, Corrado Groth, and Marco E. Biancolini, AIAS 2023, 10.1088/1757 899X/1306/1/012025, Published.
- Shape Optimization of Frame Structures through a Hybrid Analytical-2D and Numerical-3D Approach, Andrea Lopez, Christian Iandiorio, Daniele Milani, Pietro Salvini, and Marco E. Biancolini, AIAS 2024, Published
- The multi-physics analysis and design of CUSP, a two CubeSat constellation for space weather and solar flares X-ray polarimetry, https://doi.org/10.1117/12.3018369, Published.
- The payload design of the CubeSat Solar Polarimeter (CUSP), for Space Weather and Solar flares X-ray polarimetry, AIAS 2024, Published

#### Industrial Magazines

Revolutionizing aerodynamic design with a VR-enabled workflow, Enginsoft

#### Workshops and Conferences:

- 4-month internship at Leonardo S.p.A.
- MISE workshop on Advanced Product Design.
- Workshop Digital Twin for Industry at BI-REX in Bologna.
- Workshop Simulation: Driving the Convergence to Electrification, an Automotive Perspective.
- **HxGN Live Conference**, Las Vegas.
- AIAS 2023 Conference, Genoa.
- AIAS 2024 Conference, Naples.
- ICAS 2024 Conference, Florence.

![](_page_40_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Thank you for your attention

PhD in Design, Manufacturing and Operations Engineering

PhD Cycle XXXVII

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