# Enabling the Medical Digital Twin of Human Airways by advanced mesh morphing and high-fidelity patient-specific simulations 

Prof. Marco E. Biancolini<br>Associate Professor at UTV<br>Founder at RBF Morph srl

rbf

## In silico?

## 

Moving the boundaries of in-silico cardiovascular analysis

## Agenda

- Who are we?
- rbfLAB @University of Rome Tor Vergata
- RBF Morph
- An overview on Digital Twin
- Medical Digital Twin in EC funded Research
- MeDiTATe
- Copernicus
- DiTAiD

- Advanced mesh morphing by RBF
- Parametric airways
- ROM and SSM
- Conclusions


## Who are we? rbfLAB

- Department of Enterprise Engineering. Research team rbfLAB, Machine Design Group, involved in national and international research projects.

- https://www.rbflab.eu/
- rbfLAB focus is on:


## rbf.LAB

- Structural and fluid dynamic shape optimization (automotive, nautical, aerospace, biomedical).
- Static and dynamic fluid structure interaction.
- Advanced use of RBF (image analysis of deformations, flow fields interpolation).
- Large-scale high-fidelity numerical simulations of flows in complex geometric configurations.
- Reduced Order Models and Digital Twins.


## Who are we? RBF Morph

- RBF Morph is an ISV, pioneer and world-leading provider of numerical morphing techniques and CAE solutions. Inception in 2008 as on-demand solution for a Formula 1 top team
- Start Up founded at the beginning of 2016 to grow the business of the advanced mesh morphing software RBF Morph
- Software line composed by RBF Morph Fluids, Standalone RBF Morph, RBF Morph Structures.
- Technical Partner of ANSYS Inc. since 2009 (OEM since 2012)
- Scale Up stage expanding the market and the offer


## http://www.rbf-morph.com/

- RBF Morph makes the CAE model parametric
- Shape parameters are driven by an orchestrator
- Shape parameters can be used to generate snapshots for real time Digital Twins (ROM/AI)
( (bf-morph)




## Who are we?

- Partnership between University of Rome "Tor Vergata" and RBF Morph: academic and industrial synergy
- Multi-sectoral CAE analysts, focused on high fidelity multi-physics problems
- Cutting edge technologies, academic research driven by industrial needs
- Privileged position: clear idea of the direction taken by industry, deep knowledge of the technologies available now and in the next future


## Digital Twin yesterday-today-tomorrow

- Digital Twins are nothing new. Today we talk about DT a lot. But we have experience of DT daily use. ABS / ESP in our car. The Prius Hybrid (year 2004)!
- The governing equations of the physics of the twin were previously written by hand and then embedded in the
 electronics. Software components made up of great skills (for example vehicle dynamics). Telemetry and racing strategies in Formula 1. Advanced control systems on board the products.
- Matlab Simulink

MathWorks ${ }^{*}$


## Digital Twin yesterday-today-tomorrow

- System integration according to standards (an example are the FMU defined according to the FMI protocol functional mockup interface)
- Generic purpose IIoT platforms are available
- Twinning of industrial assets intended for the optimization of service, performance and maintenance
- GE Predix
"Digital twin eliminates the guesswork when determining the best way to service critical physical assets-from engines to power turbines. Easy access to this unique combination of deep knowledge and intelligence about your assets paves the road to optimization and business transformation."

Colin Parris, Vice President GE Software Research

## Digital Twin yesterday-today-tomorrow

- Integration of high fidelity CAE (FEA, CFD, FSI) and system simulation ones (Modelica)
- Combination of AI, Machine Learning and numerical simulation (ROM)
- Hybrid twins combining historic Big Data (when available) with synthetic Big Data by simulation data fusion
- ANSYS Twin Builder



## Ansys

## Digital Twin



- A digital twin is a digital copy of an existing and working physical asset.
- It's connected with the actual state of the asset, remembers its history
- It allows to evaluate more about the current status of the asset. Can be used to forecast its evolution


## Functional Mock-Up Interface



## Digital Twin Consortium

## digital twin.

Founding Members
Ansys $\triangle$ Autodesk. Bentley Dell

https://www.digitaltwinconsortium.org/glossary/glossary.html

| WORKING GROUPS - | INITIATIVES - RE | INITIATIVES - |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Aerospace \& Defense | Definition of a Digital Twin |  |
| FinTech | Global Ecosystem Expansion |  |
| Healthcare \& Life Sciences | Glossary of Digital Twins |  |
| Infrastructure | Member Digital Marketplace |  |
| Manufacturing | Open Source |  |
| Natural Resources | Security \& Trustworthiness |  |
| Security \& Trustworthiness | Use Case Reference Library |  |
| Technology, Terminology \& Taxonomy (3T) | Value-Innovation-Platform (VIP) |  |

## Medical Digital Twin

- Human body is a very important physical asset!
- Medical engineering combines in silico approach with the in vivo and in vitro ones
- CFD simulation of cardiovascular systems, structural simulations of stress acting on prostheses and on tissues,
 aerodynamic simulation of airways.
- Patient digital twin (Medical Digital Twin) aims at an easy adoption of in silico results in the medical environment (translation).
- Numerical simulation requires high performance computing (HPC) to have real time usage compression methods (ROM, PCA) are key enablers to adopt digital twin in real time
- Medical digital twin requires the fusion of image data and digital images (interactive visualization), the definition of biomarkers and the presentation of the results with tools and language that can be easily understood by the medical staff.
- https://www.avicenna-alliance.com/



## Examples of Medical Digital Twin

- Aneurysms prevention and treatment (MeDiTATe project -The Medical Digital twin for aneurysm prevention and treatment)
- Shunting according to the mBTS (FF4EuroHPC project experiment - Cloud-Based HPC Platform to Support Systemic-Pulmonary Shunting Procedures)
- Patient specific airways treatment (FF4EuroHPC project experiment - Digital-Twin for Airflow and Drug Delivery in Human Airways)

- Patient specific spine surgery (Spinner Project SPINe: Numerical and Experimental Repair strategies)



## C. meDITATE

## THE MEDICAL DIGITAL TWIN FOR ANEURYSM PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

## Consortium



## PHILIPS



12 beneficiaries

- 3 academic
- 7 industrial
- 2 clinical centres

12 partners
8 countries
meditate

## Research Tracks

1. High fidelity CAE multi-physics simulation with RBF mesh morphing (FEM, CFD, FSI, inverse FEM).
2. Real time interaction with the Digital Twin by Augmented Reality, Haptic Devices and ROM.
3. HPC tools, including GPUs, and cloud-based paradigms for fast and automated CAE processing of clinical databases.

4. Big Data management for population of patients imaging data and high fidelity CAE twins.
5. Additive Manufacturing of physical mock-up for surgical planning and training.

## Early Stage Researchers

https://meditate-project.eu/early-stage-reserachers/


## Individual Research Projects

https://meditate-project.eu/phd-projects/

| ESR1 Interactive ROM to reshape the aneurysm | ESR2 Zero pressure shape definition for high fidelity FSI |  | ESR3 Custom FEM beam solver for stent deploy | ESR4 Advanced meshing for accurate Hifi GPU simulations |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PUMA (NTUA) ESR5 FSI coupling simulation accelerated with GPU |  | ESR7 Material models matched by FEA identification of image data | ESR8 Auxetic structures are modelled by nonlinear FEA | CFDNN <br> ESR9 CFD computed by Physics informed Machine Learning |
| ESR10 PIV validation of CFD simulations of phantoms | ESR11 FEM simulation of guided navigation | ESR12 RBF Mesh Morphing of patient specific vessels | ESR13 RBF predicted strain map on US images | ESR14 CFD digital twin to simulate US |

## The Anatomy and the Clinical Problem



## The surgery



How can we help the surgeon in making the decision to perform surgery or wait by providing the patient with a drug therapy?
[1] Leonard N.Girardi, MD, Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery


## Digital Twin and Real Time Simulation

Creating a workflow to go from images to simulation results in a few seconds


## Start Up Project LivGemini

## la Repubblica

L'innovazione di LivGemini basata sul Digital Twin vince la StartCup Lazio
di Gabriella Rocco


## LIVGEMINI

## FF4EuroHPC

## ) InSilicoTrials

 rbf
## Copernicus

## Cloud-based HPC platform to support systemicpulmonary shunting procedures

 This project has received funding from the European High-Performance ComputingJoint Undertaking Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No 951745 . The JU
receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation This project has received funding from the European High-Performance Computing
Joint Undertaking Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No 951745 . The JU
receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation This project has received funding from the European High-Performance Computing
Joint Undertaking Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No 951745 . The JU
receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and Germany, Italy, Slovenia, France, Spain.

Fondazione Monasterio la ricerca che cura

## RIIf CINECA



## The Problem

- Congenital heart diseases (CHDs) account for nearly one-third of all congenital birth defects and $7^{\text {th }}$ cause of death in children younger than 1 year in 2017.
- Without the ability to alter the prevalence of CHD, interventions and resources must be focused to improve survival and quality of life.
- The Modified Blalock Taussig Shunt (mBTS) is a common palliative operation on cyanotic heart diseases, but it is associated with significant mortality ( $\sim 7,2 \%$ ).



## 

- The Copernicus application aims to provide an interactive Medical Digital Twin (MDT) of the patientspecific district to support the surgery planning of mBTS under critical conditions.
- The procedure was designed considering advanced numerical means with the objective to deploy MDT within ~48hh.



## Proposed solution


rbf

Delft University of Technology

DiTAiD - A digital twin for airflow and inhaled drug delivery in human airways

## The digital twin

- The developed digital twin can:
$\checkmark$ Provide similar results compared to CFD simulations
$\checkmark$ Keeping a good level of detail
$\checkmark$ Provide patient specific results within minutes compared to weeks
- The digital twin is created by combining a large number of CFD simulations (snapshots) using Reduced Order Modelling (ROM) techniques

From lung scan to medical use


1) Scan of lungs

2) Extraction of lung shape parameters


3) Visualization and interpretation for medical use

## Lung geometry definition

## - Base geometry is obtained from literature

$\checkmark$ Constructed from several high-resolution CT scans of 47 year old healthy volunteer
$\checkmark$ The base geometry has been studied in multiple experimental and numerical studies
$\checkmark$ Includes up to the $4^{\text {th }}$ generation (note, human lungs go up to 23 generations)

- Identify relevant input parameters for the digital twin
$\checkmark$ Shape
$\checkmark$ Flow

Z. Zhang, C. Kleinstreuer and S. Hyun, "Size-change and deposition of conventional and composite cigarette smoke particles during inhalation in subject-specific airway model," Journal of Aerosal Science, vol. 46, pp. 34-52, 2012.
S. Kenjereš and J. L. Tjin, "Numerical simulations of targeted delivery of magnetic drug aerosols in the human upper and central respiratory system: a validation study," Royal Society Open Science, vol. 4, no. 12, p. 170873, 2017.


## Identify shape parameters

- Potentially a huge amount of shape parameters!
- Amount of input parameters is limited by assuming:
$\checkmark$ Circularity is kept constant
$\checkmark$ Only considered angle is the branching angle
$\checkmark$ Diameter follows a fixed ratio6 of $\mathrm{h}=\mathbf{0 . 7 9}$
- Mouth-throat part: 3 parameters
- Lower airways: $\mathbf{2 3}$ parameters
$\checkmark$ Generation 0 (trachea): 1L, 1D, 1A
$\checkmark$ Generation 1: 2L, 2A
$\checkmark$ Generation 2: 4L, 4A

T. Van de Moortele et al.; "Morphological and functional properties of the conducting human airways investigated by in vivo computed tomography and in vitro MRI"


| Generation | Diameter <br> [mm] | Length [mm] <br> Left |  | Right |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | | Branching |
| :---: |
| angle [deg] |

## Identify flow \& particle parameters

Physical parameters: 3 parameter
$\checkmark$ Flow rate varies between $15 \mathrm{~L} / \mathrm{min}$ and $120 \mathrm{~L} / \mathrm{min}$
$\checkmark$ Particle size varies between $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ and $10 \mu \mathrm{~m}$
$\checkmark$ Particle injection rate varies between $0 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}$ and $10 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}$

26 shape parameters and 3 physical parameter
29 input parameters in total


## Parametric study

- Design Of Experiments (DOE) table is generated:
$\checkmark$ For the 29 input parameters
$\checkmark$ Using the Latin Hypercube Sampling for optimal spacing $\checkmark$ Creating 1000 design points
- Fluent settings validated in literature
$\checkmark$ Steady state
$\checkmark$ RANS, transitional SST (4eq)
$\checkmark$ Particles are one-way coupled



## Results: Velocity



## Results: Particle deposition



## Radial Basis Functions background



## Radial Basis Functions background

- Radial Basis Functions (RBF) were introduced as interpolators of scattered data in sixties. Usually the interpolation is comprised of:
- A sum of weighted radial interactions
- A polynomial correction
- RBF are commonly used to interpolate a scalar function defined in a multi-dimensional $\operatorname{space}\left(\mathbb{R}^{n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\right)$



## Radial Basis Functions background



## Radial Basis Functions background



## Radial Basis Functions background

- The weights of the RBF are computed using regression/interpolation:
- From scalar values at source points
- From scalar values at fit points
- RBF fit (known as RBF training):
- Solving a linear system (interpolation)
- Using Least Squares



## Radial Basis Functions background

- RBF with global support
- Far field interactions
- Dense system of equations to be solved
- RBF with compact support
- Local interactions
- Sparse systems of equations to be solved

| RBF with global support | $\varphi(r)$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| Spline type $\left(R_{n}\right)$ | $r^{n}, n$ odd |
| Thin plate spline $\left(\right.$ TPS $\left._{n}\right)$ | $r^{n} \log (r), n$ even |
| Multiquadric (MQ) | $\sqrt{1+r^{2}}$ |
| Inverse multiquadric (IMQ) | $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+r^{2}}}$ |
| Inverse quadratic (IQ) | $\frac{1}{1+r^{2}}$ |
| Gaussian (GS) | $e^{-r^{2}}$ |
| RBF with compact support | $\varphi(r)=f(\xi), \xi \leq 1, \xi=\frac{r}{R_{\text {sup }}}$ |
| Wendland $\mathrm{C}^{0}(\mathrm{C} 0)$ | $(1-\xi)^{2}$ |
| Wendland $\mathrm{C}^{2}(\mathrm{C} 2)$ | $(1-\xi)^{4}(4 \xi+1)$ |
| Wendland $\mathrm{C}^{4}(\mathrm{C} 4)$ | $(1-\xi)^{6}\left(\frac{35}{3} \xi^{2}+6 \xi+1\right)$ |

$$
\varphi(r)=r
$$



$$
\varphi(r)=r^{3}
$$



## Radial Basis Functions background

- Scalar Function values $g_{s_{i}}$ known at sources $\boldsymbol{x}_{s_{i}}$

$$
s\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{\boldsymbol{s}_{i}}\right)=g_{s_{i}}, 1 \leq i \leq N
$$

- Orthogonality condition
- Linear polynomial

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{i} p\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{\boldsymbol{s}_{i}}\right)=0 \\
& h(\boldsymbol{x})=\beta_{1}+\beta_{2} x+\beta_{3} y+\beta_{4} z
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{i}=\sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{i} x_{k_{\mathrm{i}}}=\sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{i} y_{k_{\mathrm{i}}}=\sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{i} z_{k_{\mathrm{i}}}=0
$$

## Radial Basis Functions background

- Linear system to be solved for the computation of unknown coefficients
- System matrix
- Constraint matrix $\boldsymbol{P}_{\boldsymbol{s}}$

$$
\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\boldsymbol{M} & \boldsymbol{P}_{\boldsymbol{s}} \\
\boldsymbol{P}_{\boldsymbol{s}}^{\boldsymbol{T}} & 0
\end{array}\right)\binom{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}{\boldsymbol{\beta}}=\binom{\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{s}}}{0}
$$

- Interpolation matrix $\boldsymbol{M}$

$$
\begin{gathered}
\boldsymbol{P}_{s}=\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
1 & x_{s_{1}} & y_{s_{1}} & z_{s_{1}} \\
1 & x_{s_{2}} & y_{s_{2}} & z_{s_{2}} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
1 & x_{s_{N}} & y_{s_{N}} & z_{s_{N}}
\end{array}\right) \\
M_{i j}=\varphi\left(\left\|\boldsymbol{x}_{s_{i}}-\boldsymbol{x}_{s_{j}}\right\|\right), 1 \leq i \leq N, 1 \leq j \leq N
\end{gathered}
$$

## Radial Basis Functions for mesh morphing

- Radial Basis Functions (RBF) can be used to drive mesh morphing (smoothing) from a list of source points and their displacements.
- Surface shape changes (exact nodes control)
- Volume mesh smoothing.
- RBF are recognized to be one of the best mathematical tool for mesh morphing.

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
s_{x}(\boldsymbol{x})=\sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{i}^{x} \varphi\left(\left\|\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{x}_{s_{i}}\right\|\right)+\beta_{1}^{x}+\beta_{2}^{x} x+\beta_{3}^{x} y+\beta_{4}^{x} z \\
s_{y}(\boldsymbol{x})=\sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{i}^{y} \varphi\left(\left\|\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{x}_{s_{i}}\right\|\right)+\beta_{1}^{y}+\beta_{2}^{y} x+\beta_{3}^{y} y+\beta_{4}^{y} z \\
s_{z}(\boldsymbol{x})=\sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{i}^{z} \varphi\left(\left\|\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{x}_{s_{i}}\right\|\right)+\beta_{1}^{z}+\beta_{2}^{z} x+\beta_{3}^{z} y+\beta_{4}^{z} z
\end{array}\right.
$$

## Parametric airways

- Surface segmentation
- Hierarchical tree structure
- Full automatic morphing via Python script
- Stand Alone RBF Morph API
- Final volume morphing on the baseline CFD model (could be a different mesh)



## Parametric airways

- Offset to control the diameter


(b)


## Parametric airways

- Rotation and translation to control shape and lenghts

(c)



## Parametric airways

- Mesh statistics for explored shapes




## REAL-TIME SIMULATION



## REDUCED ORDER MODELING

- Using Static ROM Builder in Ansys Twin Builder /nsys

Geometrical Reduced
Full Reduced Order Order Model

- Considering 26 shape parameters.
- Based on grid transformations using radial basis function (RBF) mesh morphing.
- Executed on both surface and volume meshes.
- Correctly validated.
- Combining 26 shape parameters +3 physical parameters.
- Implemented for parameters of clinical interest:
- Accretion rate
- Pressure
- Turbulent kinetic energy
- Velocity
- Wall shear stress
- Partially validated.


## MODEL ORDER REDUCTION



## ROM ERRORS

(1) The Reduction Relative error represents the mean error projection of the vectors used to calculate the $r$ modes (SVD).


In other words, it is the error that is made in using a small number $r$ of modal components.
(2) The other error is the ROM relative error which is the difference between the high-fidelity snapshot $X_{r e f}$ and the ROM-built snapshot $X_{\text {ROM }}$.

$$
\text { ROM relative error }=\frac{\left\|X_{r e f}-X_{R O M}\right\|}{\left\|X_{\text {ref }}\right\|}
$$

(2)


ROM validation should be performed on the excluded snapshots using (2)

The ROM relative error therefore also takes projection errors into account.

## GEOMETRIC REDUCED ORDER MODEL(s)



The leave-one-out (LOO) cross-validation demonstrates that ROM is able to correctly represent new unseen shapes.



## Conclusions

- Medical Digital Twins are feasible today!
- The In Silico path, i.e. MDT driven by high fidelity simulations, is ready and requires
- Patient specific data (from images)
- State of the art multi-physics simulation
- Reduced order models and advanced mesh morphing
T



## $\infty$ Meta

- A clear business model is required
- Public funds are today the major resource
- Certification is complex
- We are moving in the right direction and there is mainstream focus on Medical Digital Twins



## Thank you!

## Prof. Marco Evangelos Biancolini

Machine Design Professor
Department of Enterprise Engineering «Mario Lucertini» University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
® biancolini@ing.uniroma2.it
(3) +390672597124

* https://www.rbf-morph.com/
(in https://www.linkedin.com/in/marcobiancolini/
(D) https://www.youtube.com/user/RbFMorph

TOR VERGATA
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA

