

FEA and CFD Mesh Morphing with Ansys RBF Morph

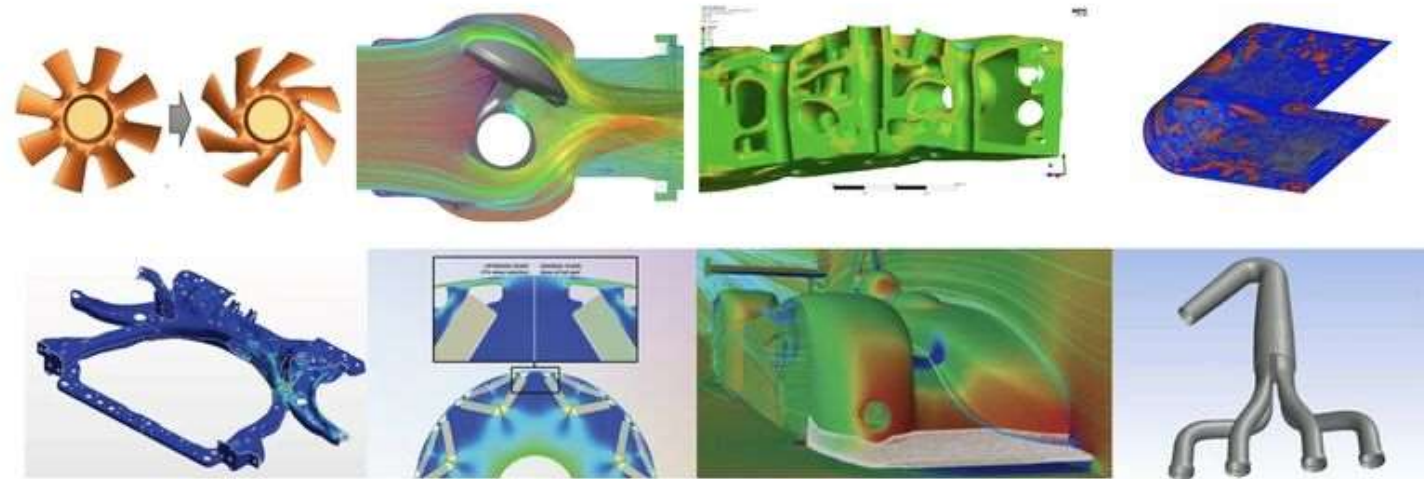
Wed, Feb 21, 2024 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM GMT

Marco Evangelos Biancolini
CTO and company founder



Outline

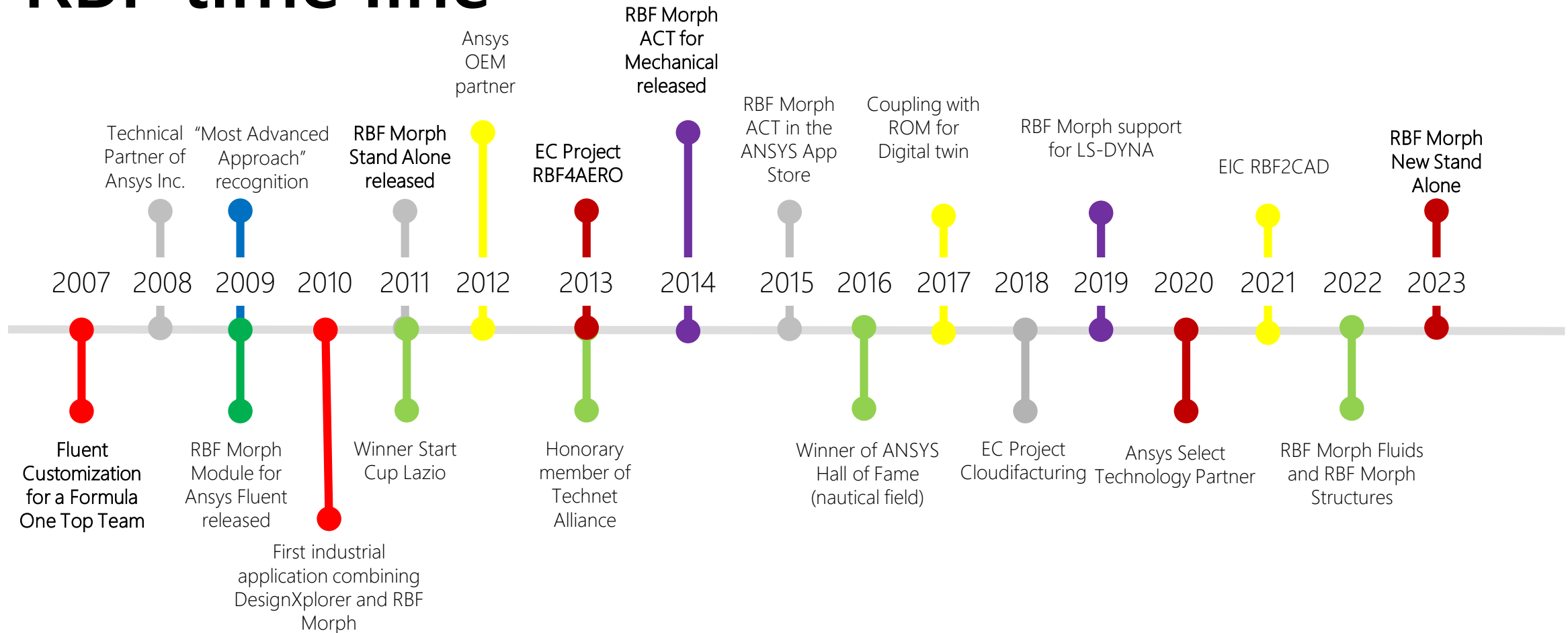
- A quick introduction of RBF Morph
- Main uses of RBF Morph
- Quick Hands-On
 - Ansys RBF Morph Structures
 - Ansys RBF Morph Fluids
- Mesh morphing examples for CFD and FEA applications
 - Aerospace
 - Healthcare
 - Automotive
 - Electronics
 - Oil&Gas
- Additional resources



www.rbf-morph.com

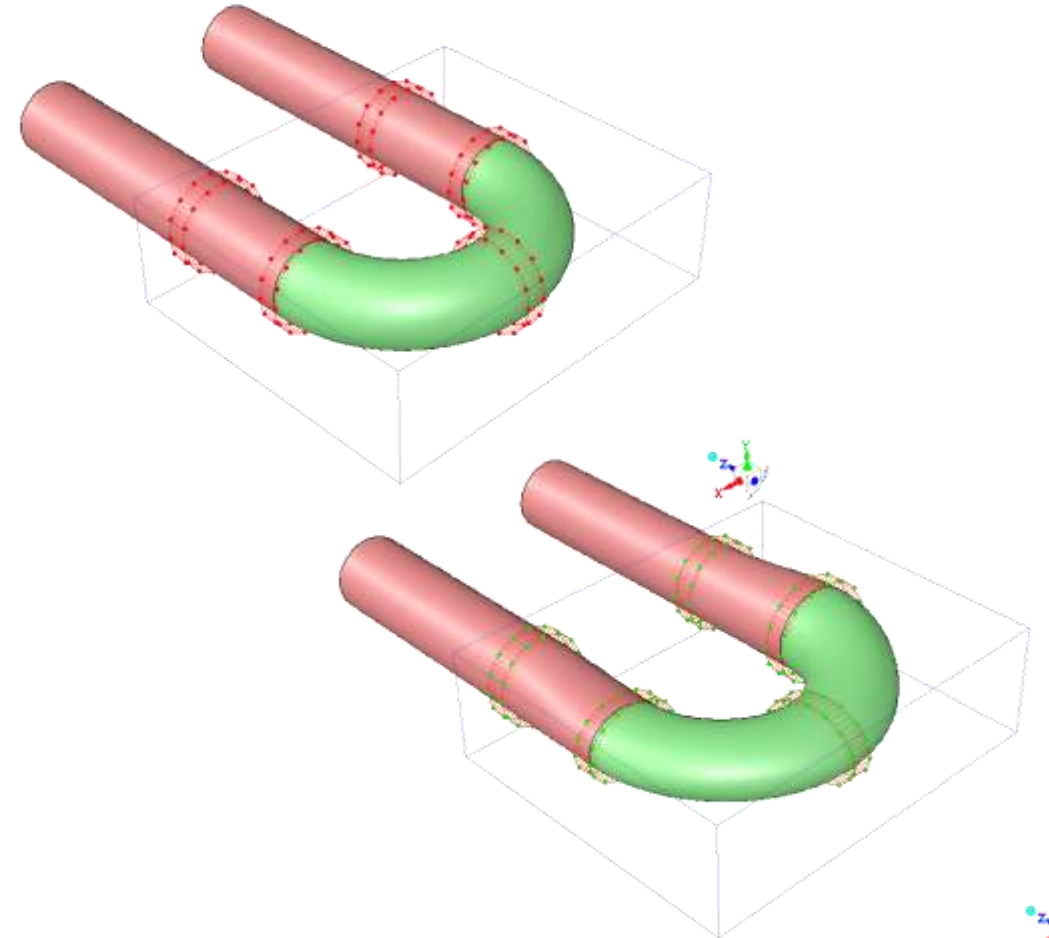
A quick introduction of RBF Morph

RBF time line



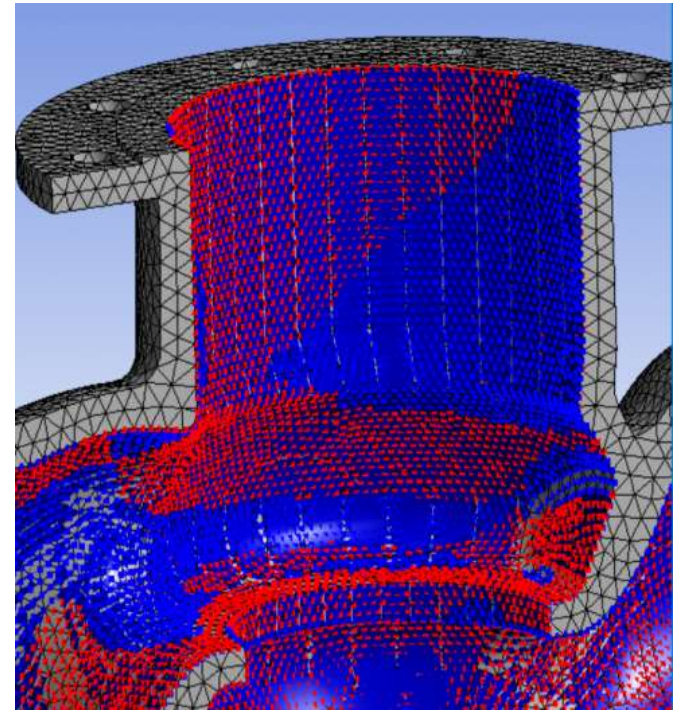
Shape parameterization strategy

- Geometric parameterization by **mesh morphing**
- The principle is to take the control on a set of point and to transfer the deformation to the whole mesh
- A **new shape** of the CAE model **ready to run**
 - for structural analysis in the FEA solver
 - for flow analysis in the CFD solver



Radial Basis Functions mesh Morphing

- We adopt **Radial Basis Functions** (RBF) to drive mesh morphing (smoothing) from a list of source points and their displacements
 - Surface shape changes
 - Volume mesh smoothing
- RBF are recognized to be one of the **best mathematical tool** for mesh morphing



$$\begin{cases} s_x(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^N \gamma_i^x \varphi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{s_i}\|) \\ s_y(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^N \gamma_i^y \varphi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{s_i}\|) \\ s_z(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^N \gamma_i^z \varphi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{s_i}\|) \end{cases}$$

Radial Basis Functions mesh Morphing

rbfTM

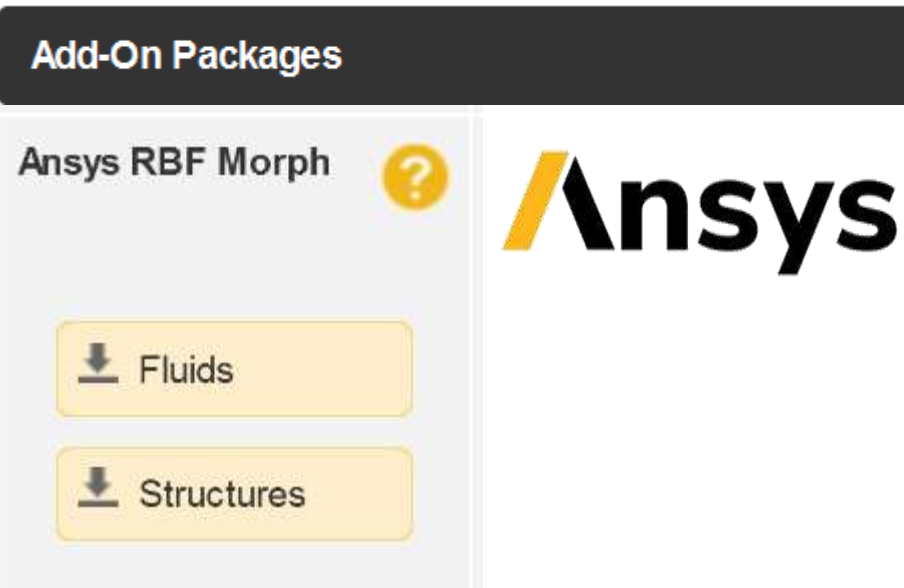


www.rbf-morph.com

- No re-meshing
- Can handle any kind of mesh
- Can be integrated in the CAE solver (FEM/CFD/FSI)
- Highly parallelizable
- Robust process
- The same mesh topology is preserved (adjoint/ROM)
- CAD morphing (iso-brep)

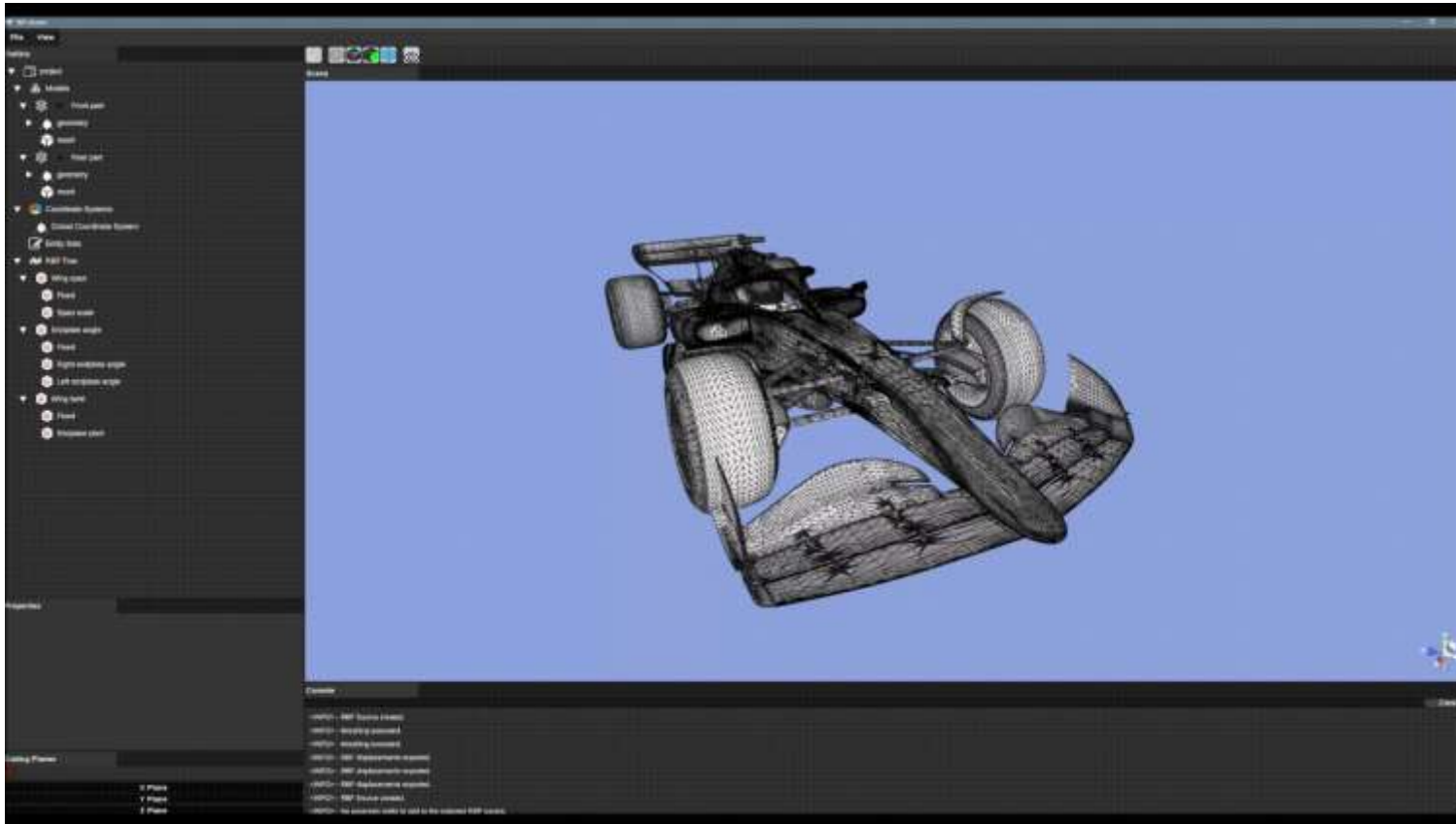
Ansys RBF Morph products

- An RBF mesh morphing solution fully embedded in Ansys
 - RBF Morph Fluids – an Add On for Fluent
 - RBF Morph Structures – an ACT App for Mechanical
- Full integration with **optiSLang** and **Twin Builder**
- Support for **LS-DYNA** and **APDL**



https://www.rbf-morph.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/RBFMorph_Brochure.pdf

RBF Morph Stand Alone



- To be released in 2024
- Read in STL, STEP
- Unity - OpenCascade
- Solver independent process that supports many mesh formats
- Scriptable via python

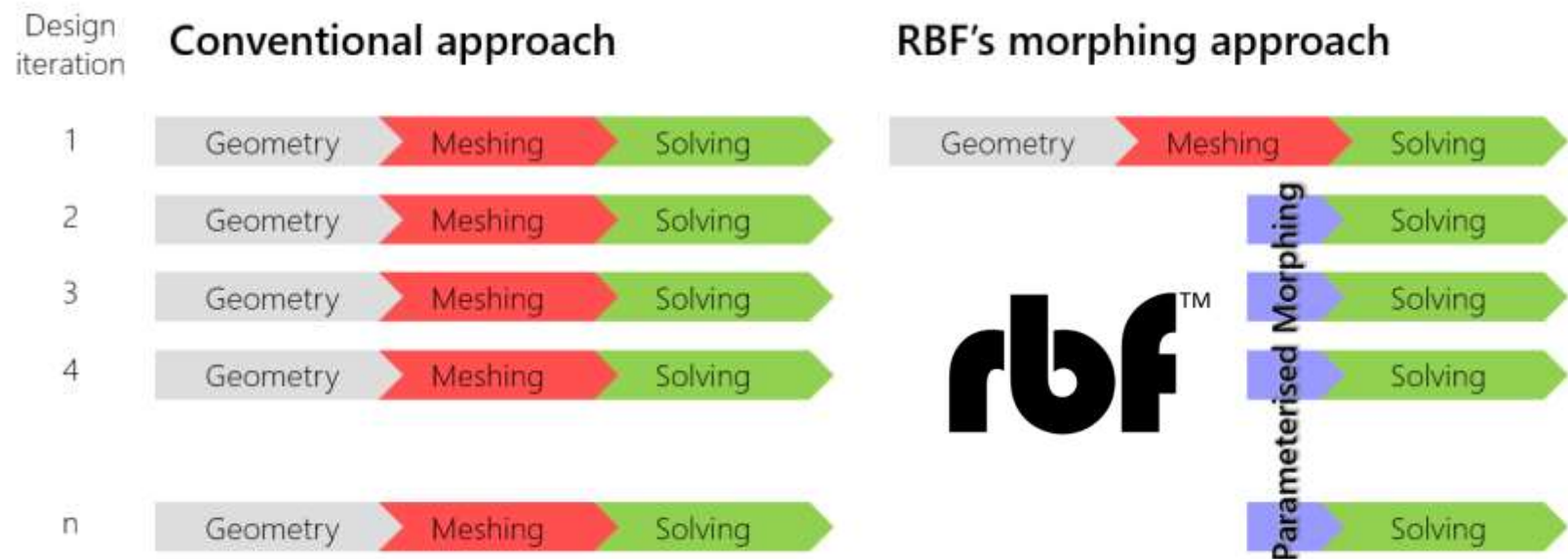
We make CAE models parametric

- 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**)

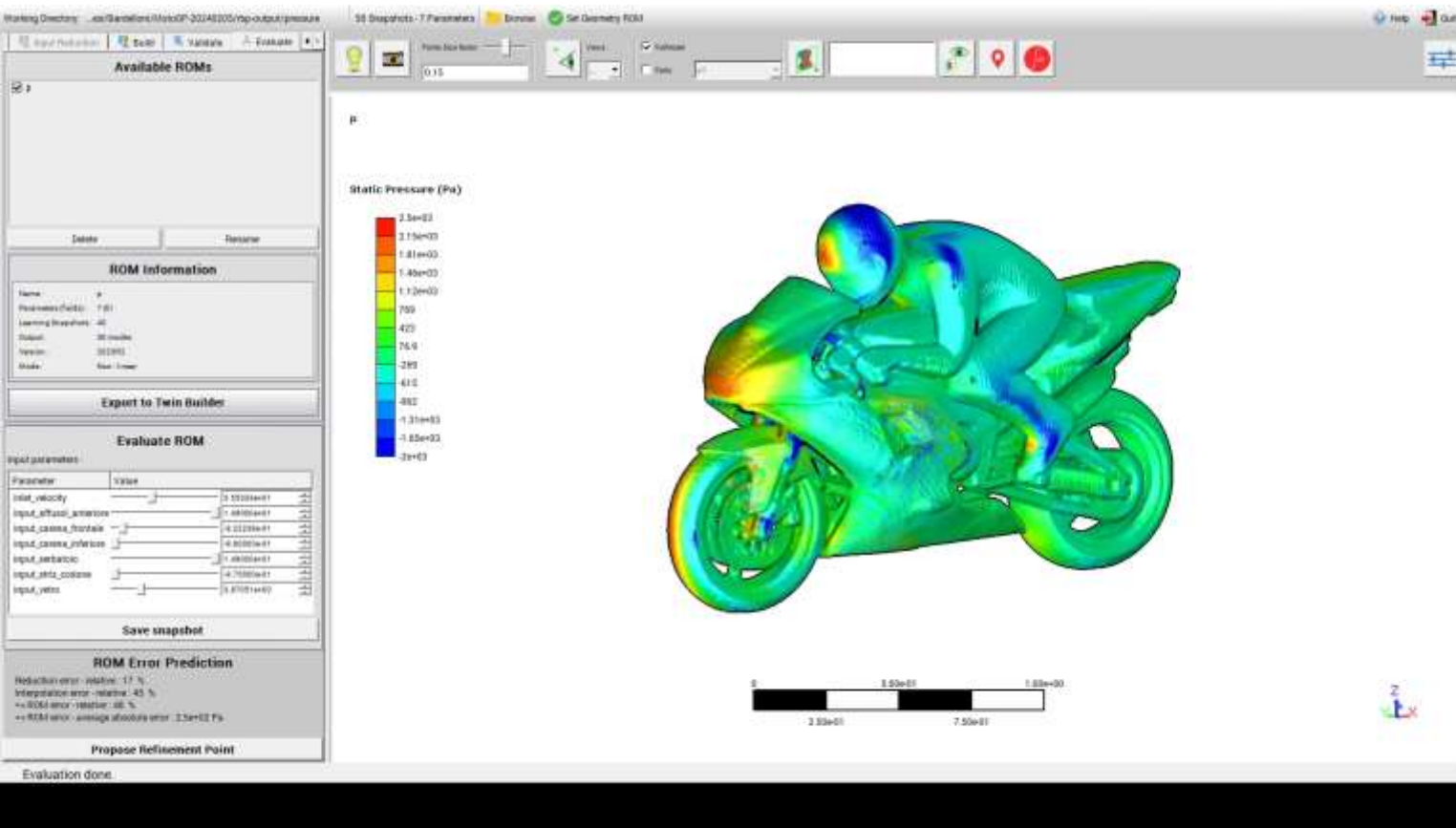


We make CAE models parametric

- Morphing is a **key enabler** for optimization and Digital Twins
- The turnaround time of the optimization is usually **reduced by a factor five** (weeks becomes days)



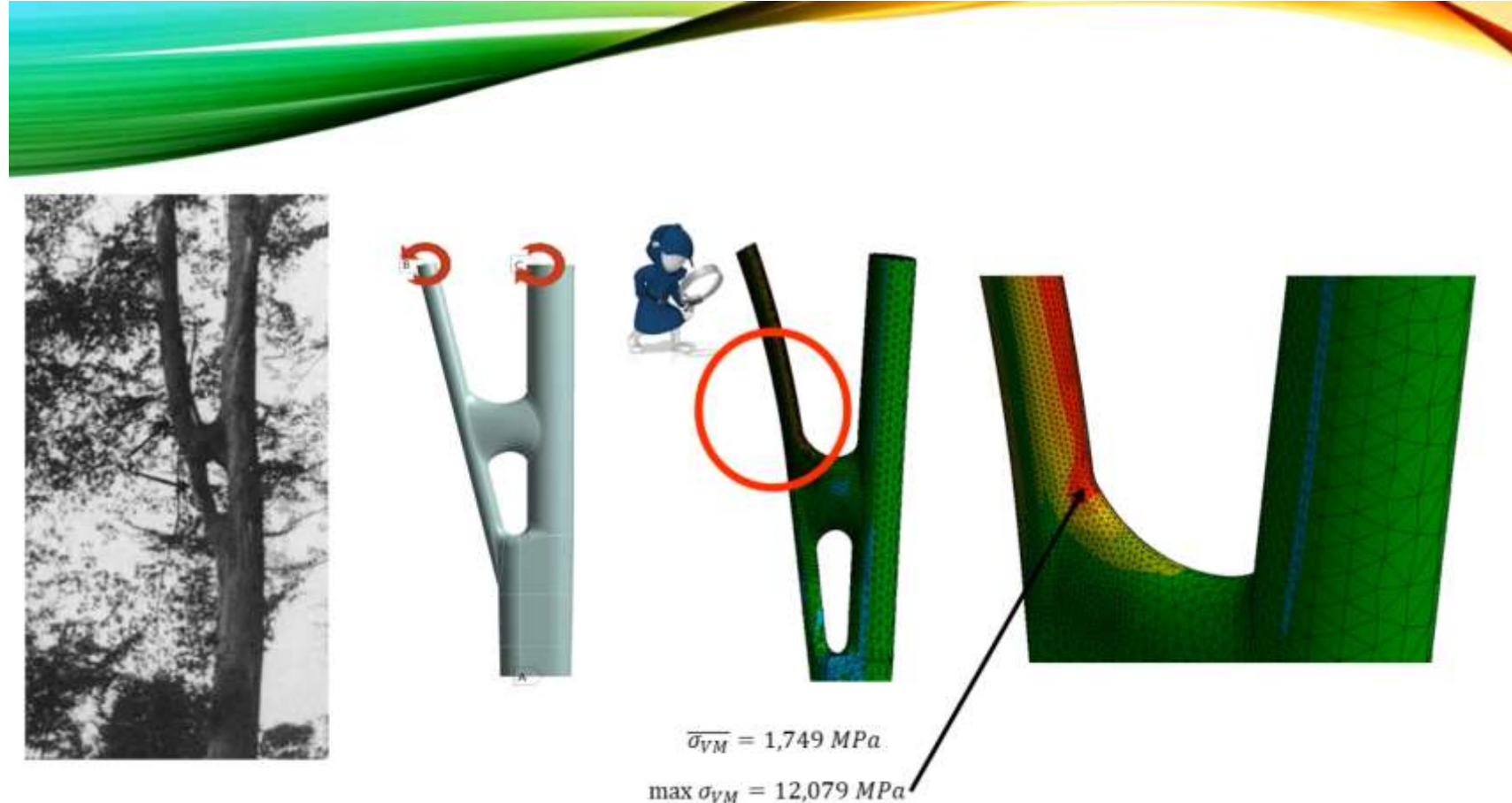
Coming soon - Interactive aero development in VR



- RBF Morph Fluids + Twin Builder + Fluent = FMU VR ready

Parameter-free shape optimization

- The new shape can be guided by the CAE solution itself (organic shapes)
 - Coupled with the **CFD adjoint solver**
 - **BGM** (Biological Growth Method) optimizer in **FEA solver**

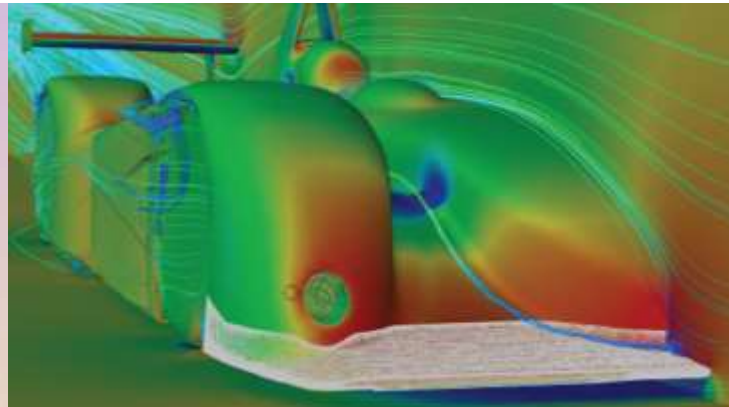
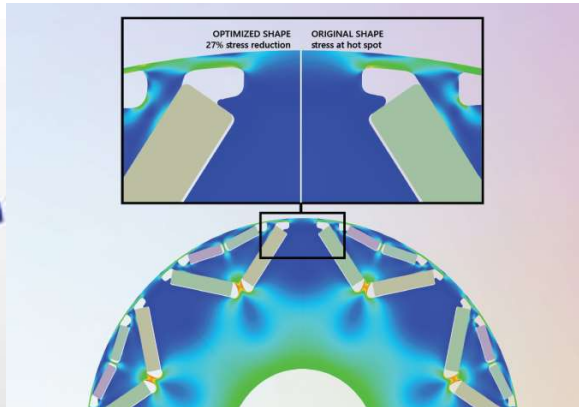
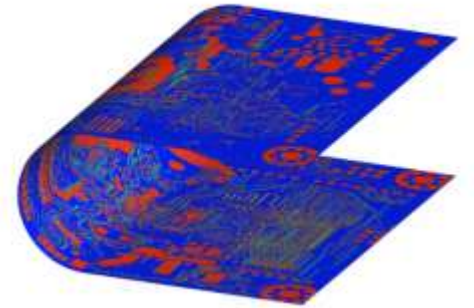
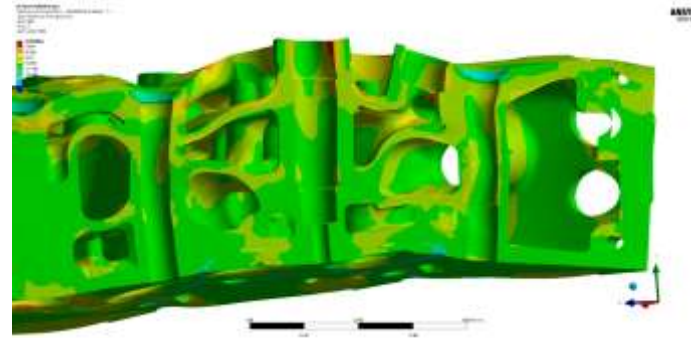
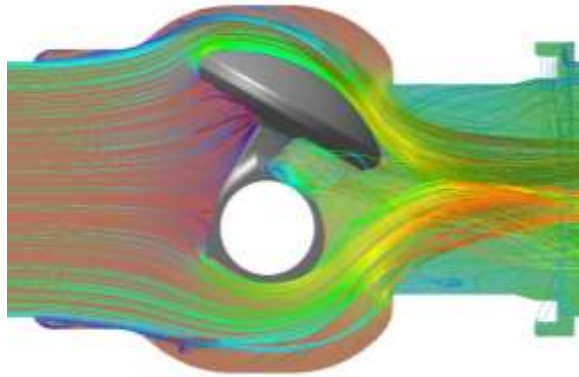
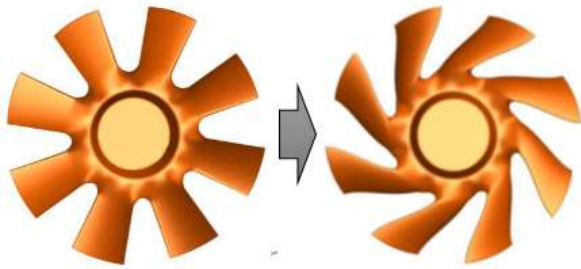


Main uses of RBF Morph

Main uses of RBF Morph

Usage	FEM	CFD	Orchestrator	AI
Automated and quick variable design space exploration.	✓	✓		
Optimization (Single physics or multi-physics). Shape optimization for stress reduction, mass reduction, fluid-structure interaction	✓	✓	✓	
Digital twin development (static ROMs)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lifing applications Simulate defects such as corrosion pits, spalling of material, erosion, chips, etc.	✓	✓		
Examine the effects of non-conformance and manufacturing variability	✓	✓		
Robust Design	✓	✓	✓	

Applications



RBF Morph usage at Nissan

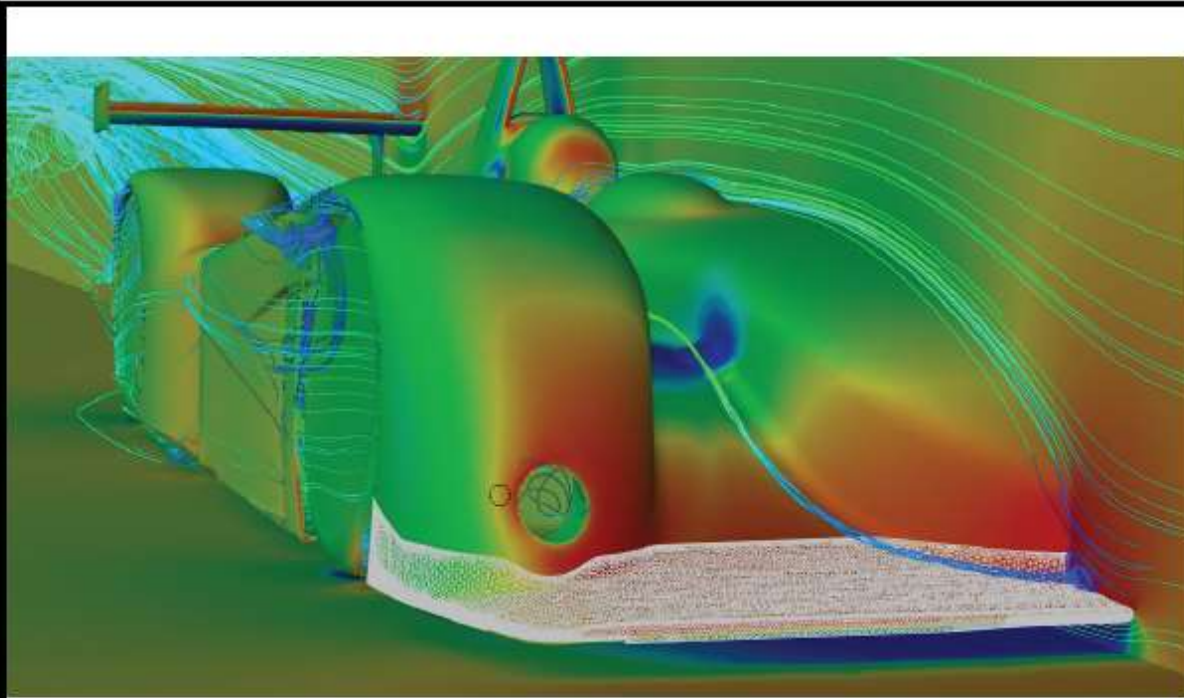


"We worked with RBF Morph to perform the structural optimization of the front chassis and suspension lower arms of a Nissan Micra. Our objective was an increase of driving comfort, achieved by controlling the lateral stiffness while acting on thickness and shape variation of subframe elements. RBF mesh morphing tools were essential to conduct different structural tests and finally achieve optimization".

CLAUDIO PONZO
Chassis Manager
Nissan Motor Corporation

<https://www.rbf-morph.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/FEA-Shape-Optimization-of-a-Nissan-Micra-Front-Subframe.pdf>

RBF Morph usage at Dallara



"FSI and multiphysics are key enablers for modern racing car development, where geometries are very complex and high accurate solutions are required. RBF Morph proved to be the driving tool for the FSI two-way coupled approach. It successfully faced our Morotспорт challenge, matching the FEM model displacement with the aero loads mapping in a simplified model of a Dallara Le Mans prototype car".

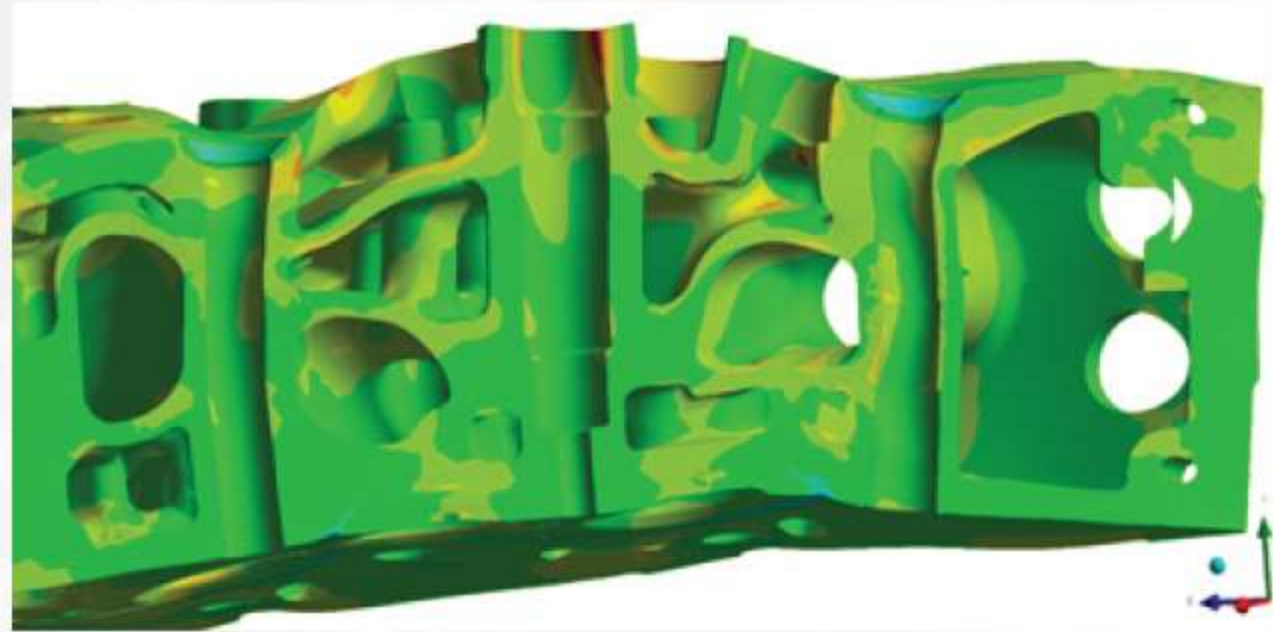
ELISA SERIOLI
Head of CFD Methodology
Dallara

<https://www.rbf-morph.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Two-Way-Coupled-Aeroelastic-Analysis-of-Dallara.pdf>

RBF Morph usage at Cummins

"Static structural FEA and fatigue analysis was carried on a combustion engine cylinder head assembly model. Design and analysis iterations, which are typically carried out manually since the complex casting topology makes geometry parameterisation nearly impossible, were simulated with the RBF Morph Biological Growth Method which allows for effective parameterisation of complex geometry at the mesh level. The outcome was excellent".

MARCEL SCHUBERT
Applied Mechanics Analytical, Technical Advisor
Cummins, Inc.

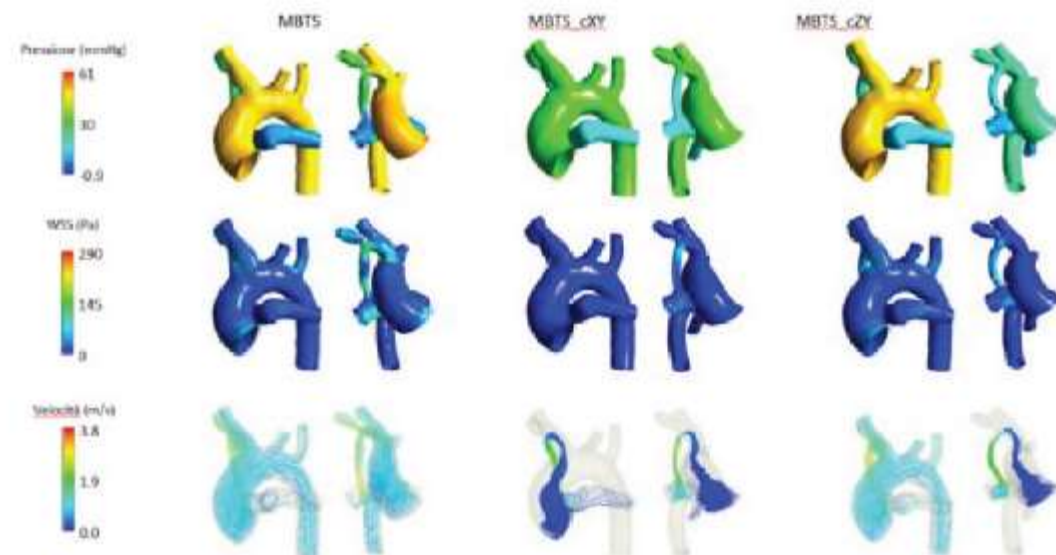


<https://www.rbf-morph.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Cylinder-Head-FEA-Shape-Optimisation.pdf>

RBF Morph usage at RINA

"We worked with RBF Morph and other partners on the Copernicus project, whose aim was to provide a medical digital twin of the patient to support the surgery planning of Modified Blalock Taussing Shunt under critical conditions. RBF Morph Fluids was key to complete the Copernicus workflow, and it helped increase the know-how on the application of radial basis function mesh morphing in the medical sector."

ALESSANDRO BOZZOLO
Industrial Design & CAE Manager
RINA

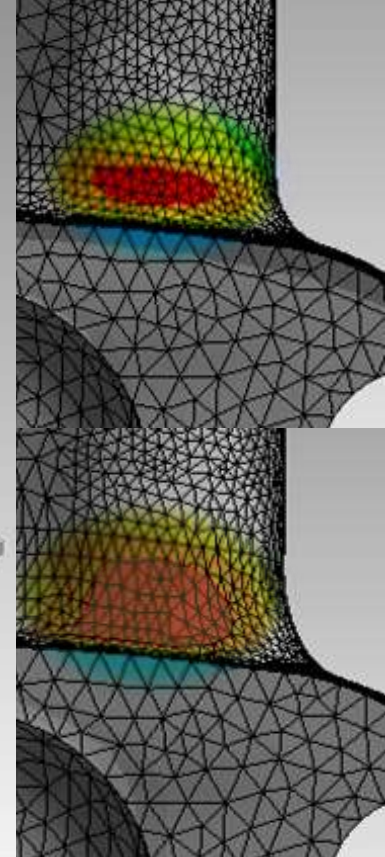
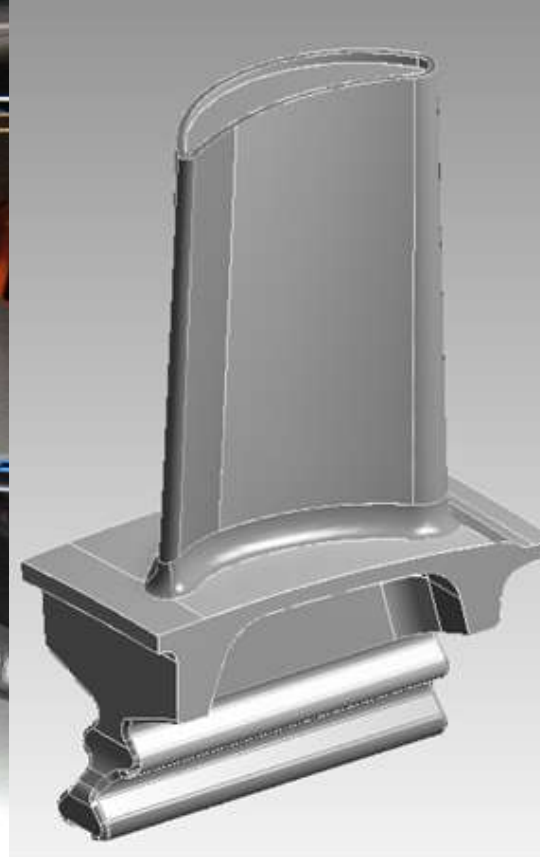
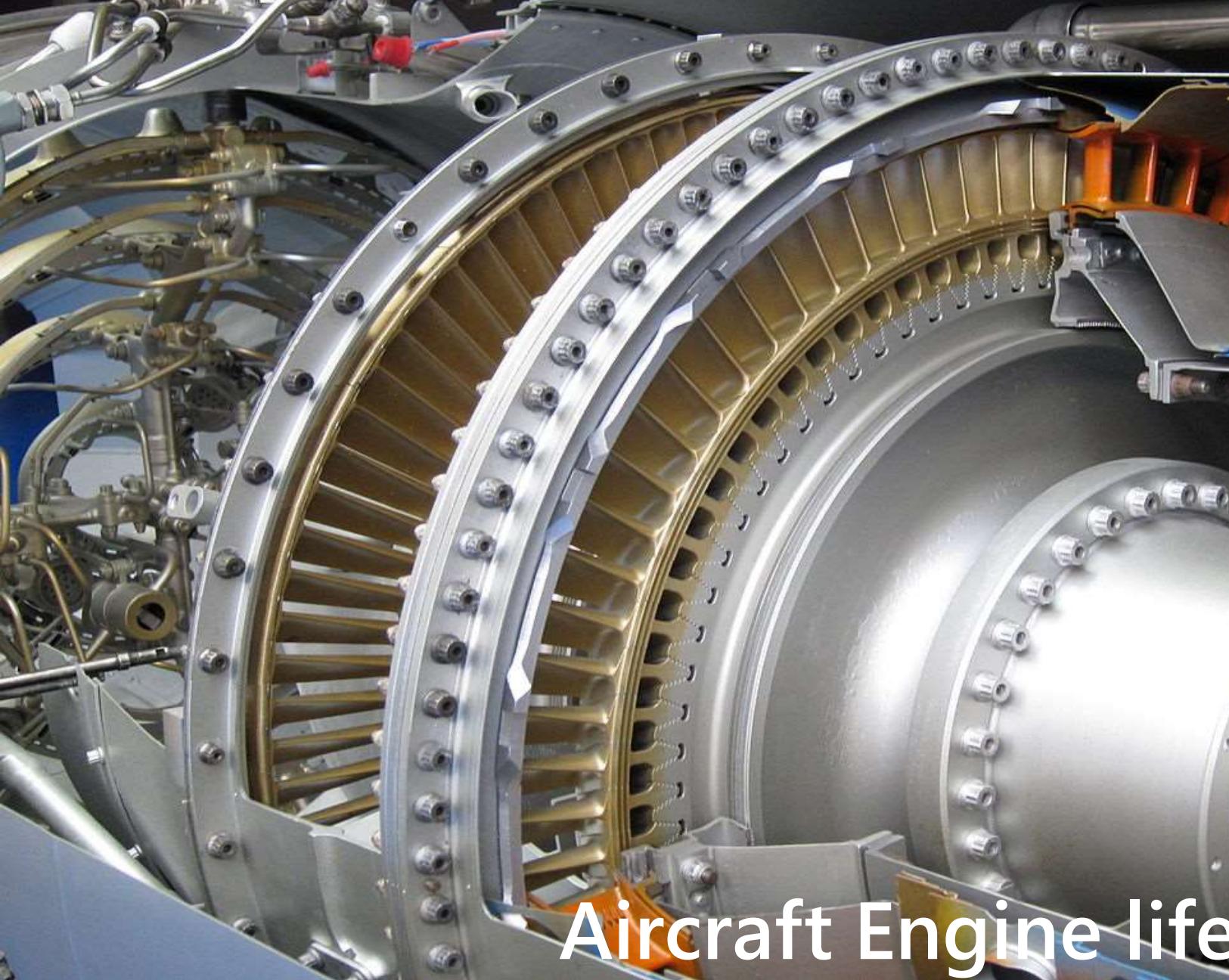


<https://www.rbf-morph.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/The-digital-twin-and-the-future-of-pediatric-surgery.pdf>

EU-funded research projects



Quick Hands-On



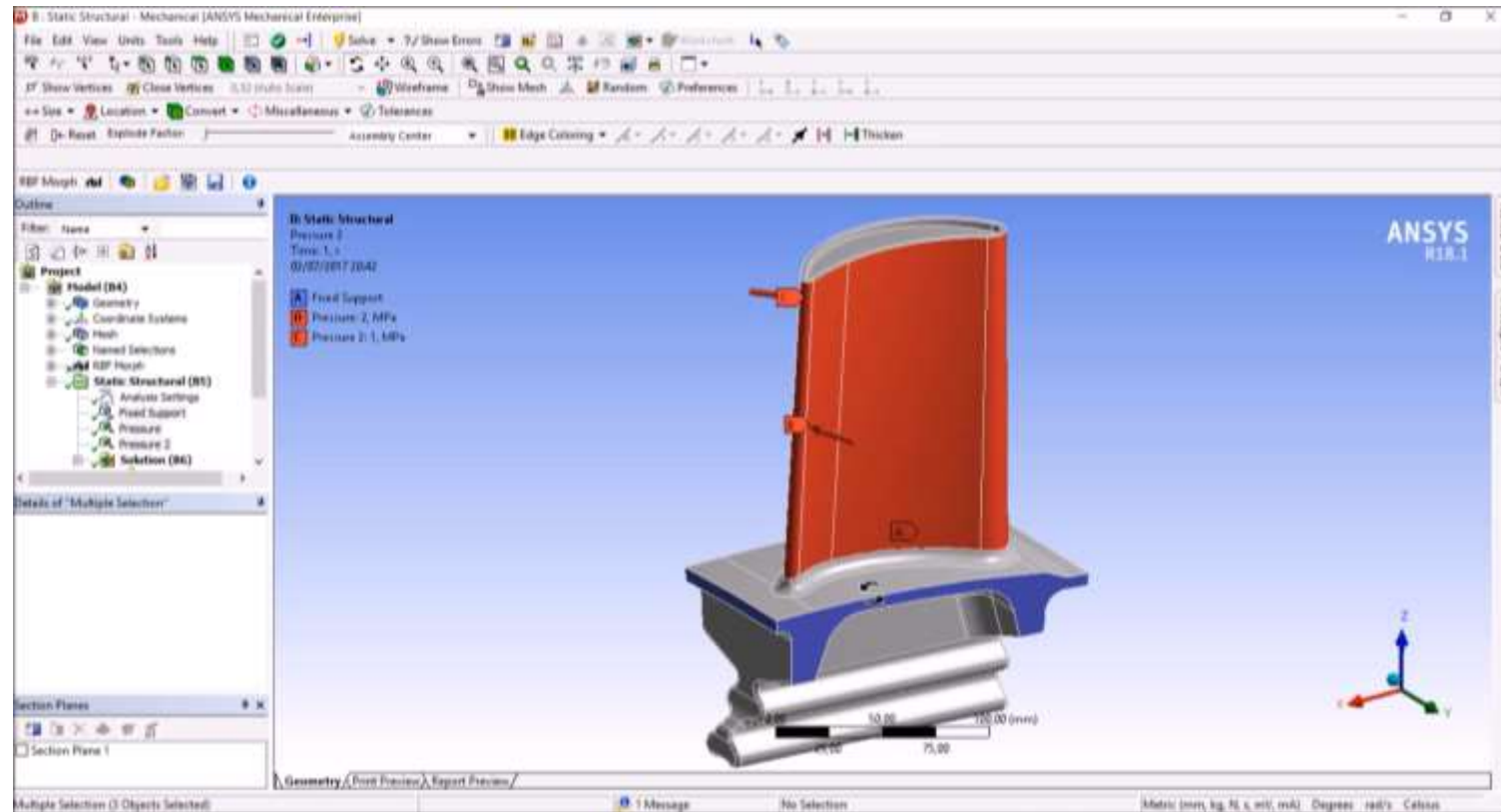
Aircraft Engine life extended!
25% stress reduction



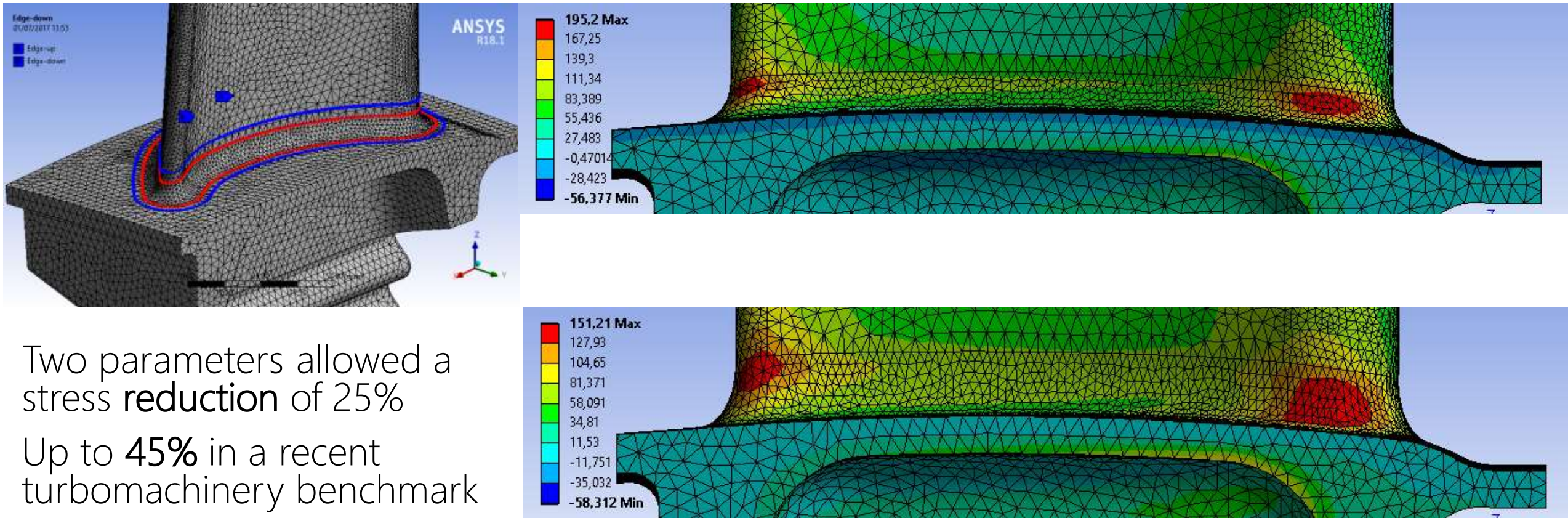
RBF Morph - www.rbf-morph.com

Parameter based mesh morphing (design points/snapshots)

- Morphing regions are identified and added to the tree (volume mesh)
- Surface are controlled by modifying two closed curves
- Design points are computed by changing the two parameters to achieve the optimal design

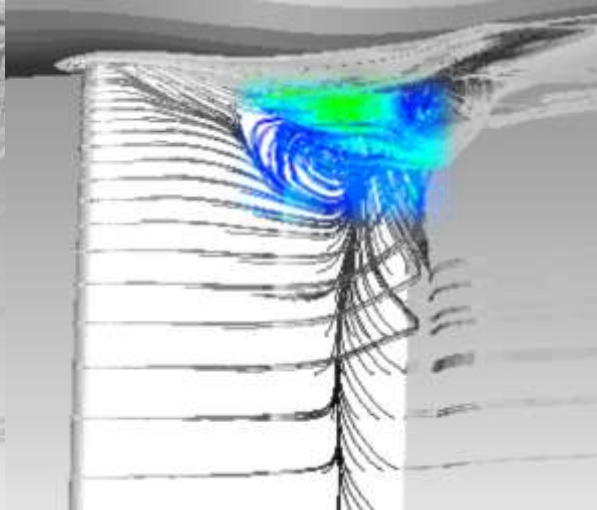
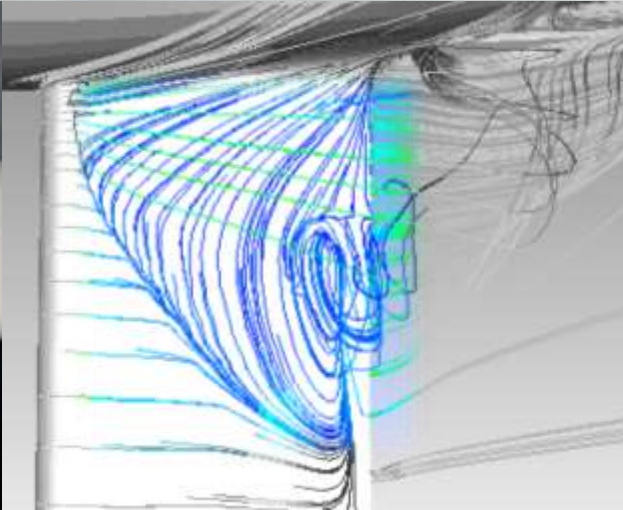


Blade fillet stress reduction



Two parameters allowed a stress reduction of 25%

Up to 45% in a recent turbomachinery benchmark




PIPISTREL

Glide further!

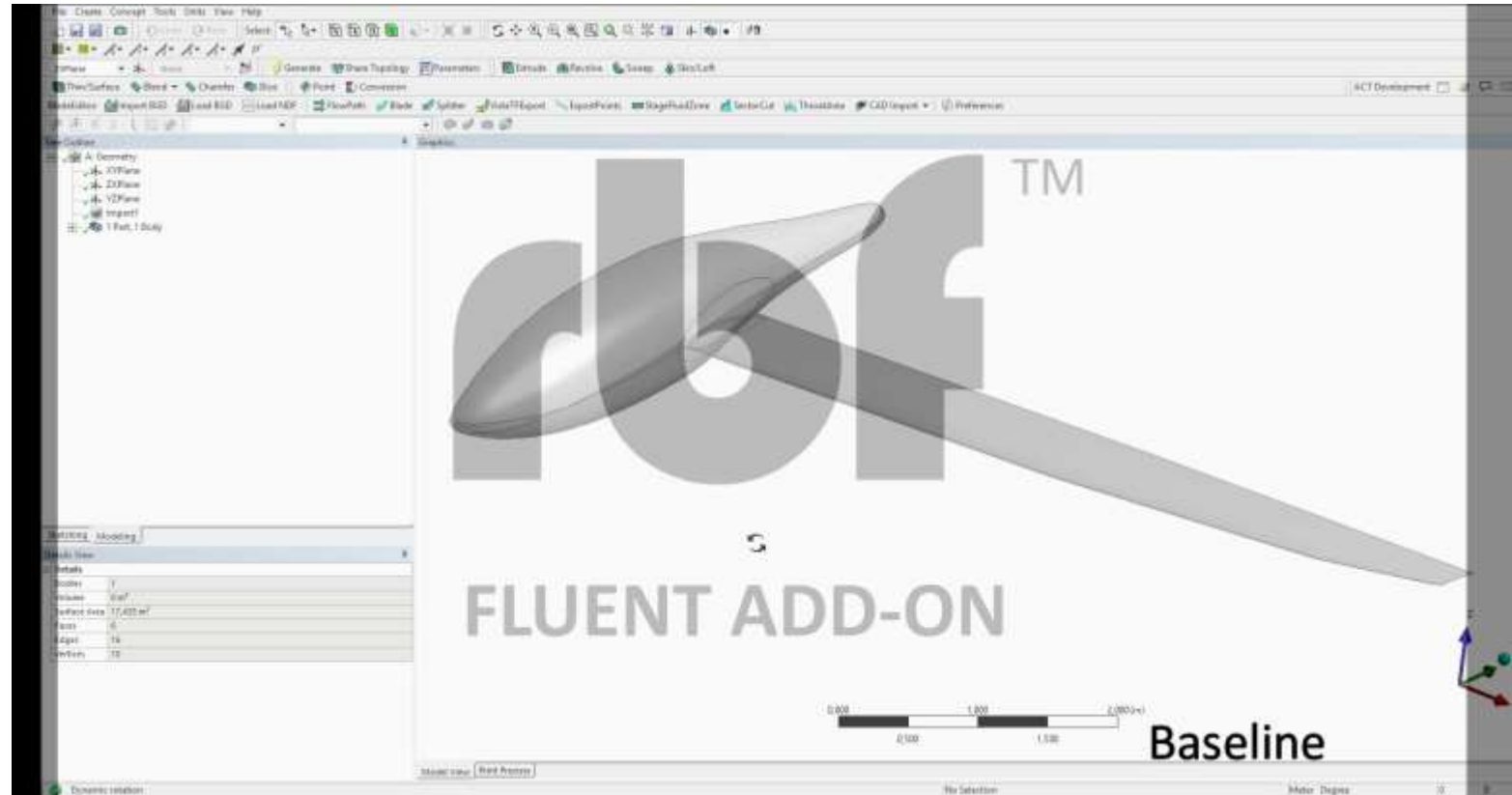
35% more wing efficiency



RBF Morph - www.rbf-morph.com

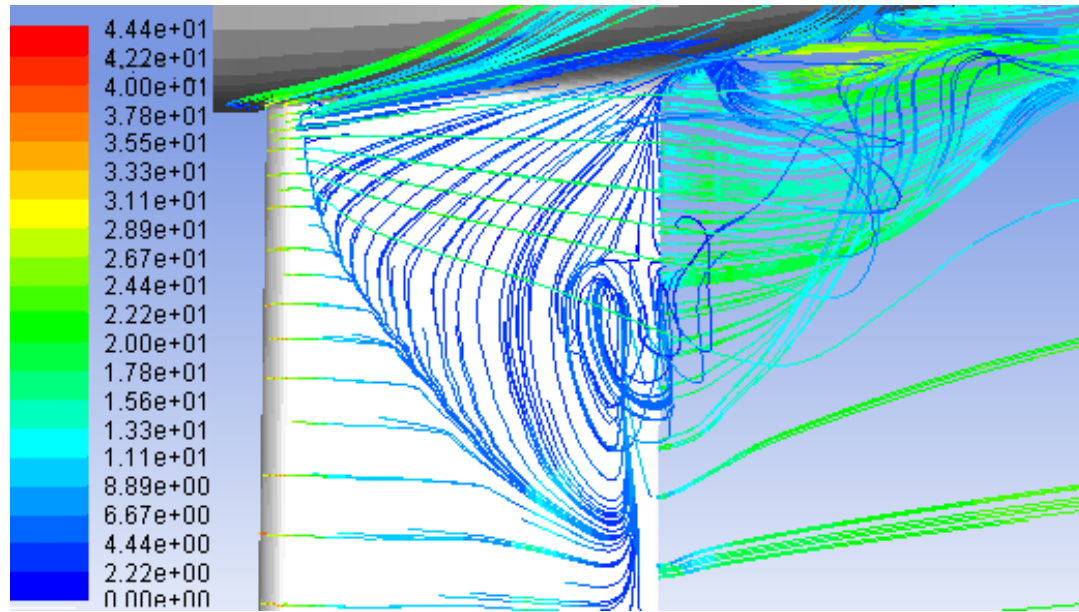
Parameter based mesh morphing (design points/snapshots)

- Morphing regions are identified by fluid zones or by user defined domains
- Surfaces are controlled by two sculpting tools (cylinders)
- Design points are computed by changing the **two parameters** to achieve the optimal design

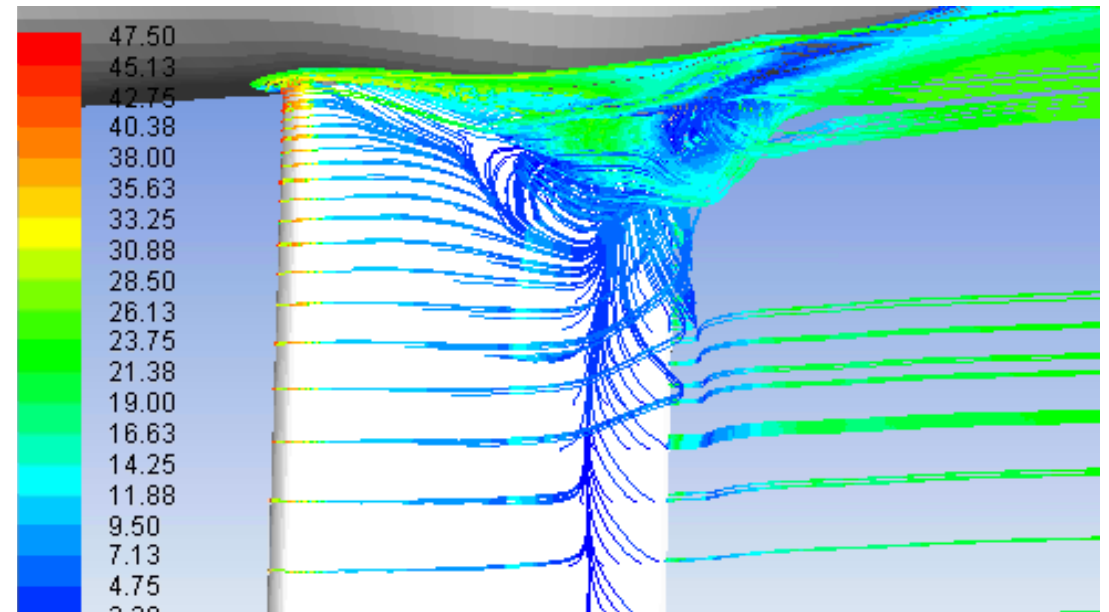


Glider optimization

Original design $E=14.9$



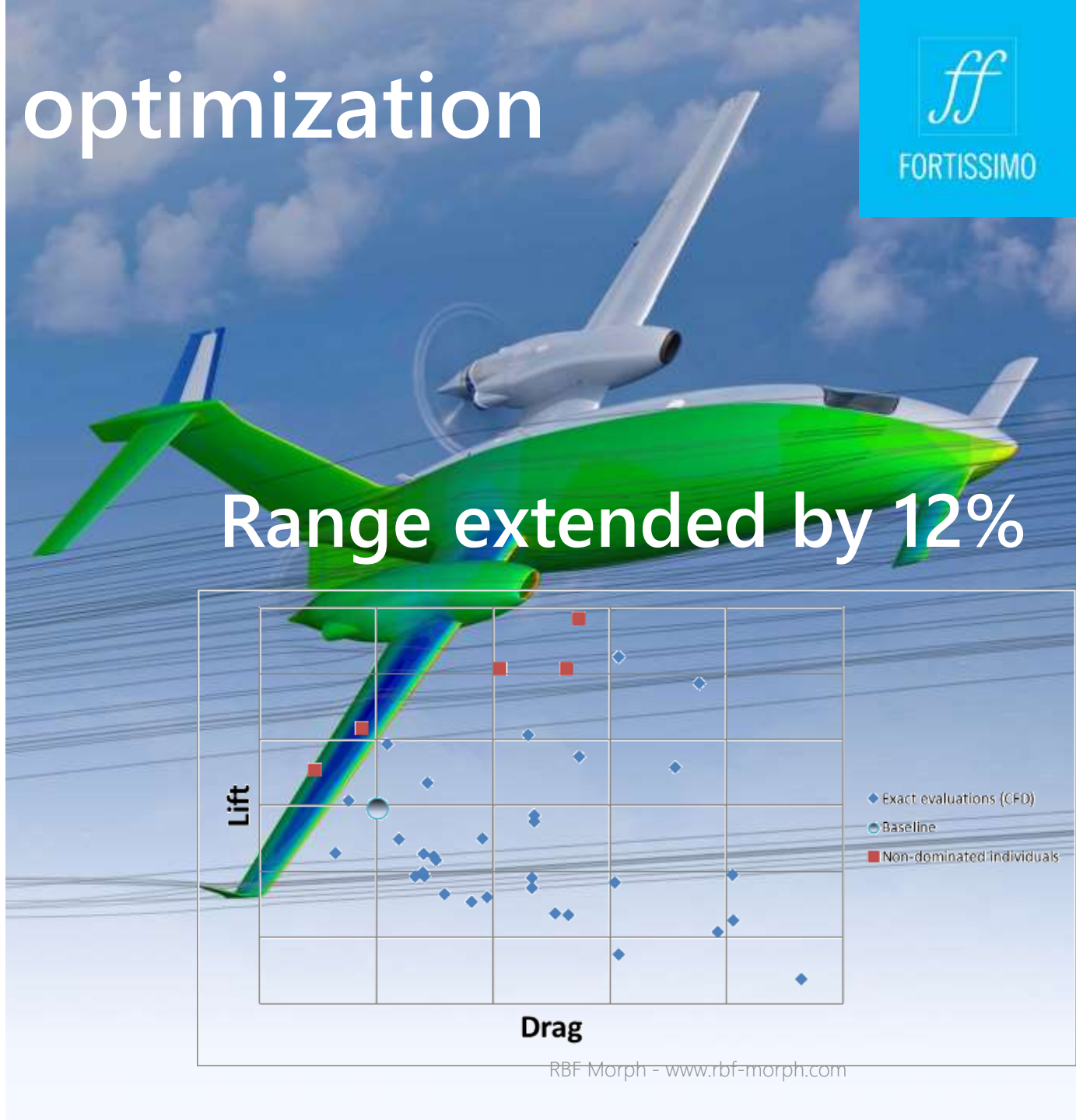
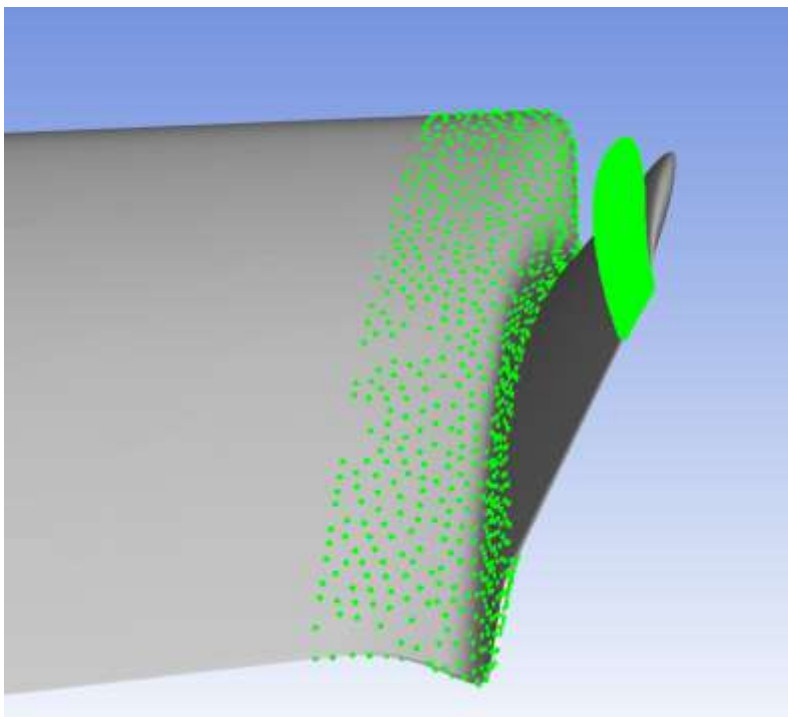
Optimal design $E=20.1$ (+35%)



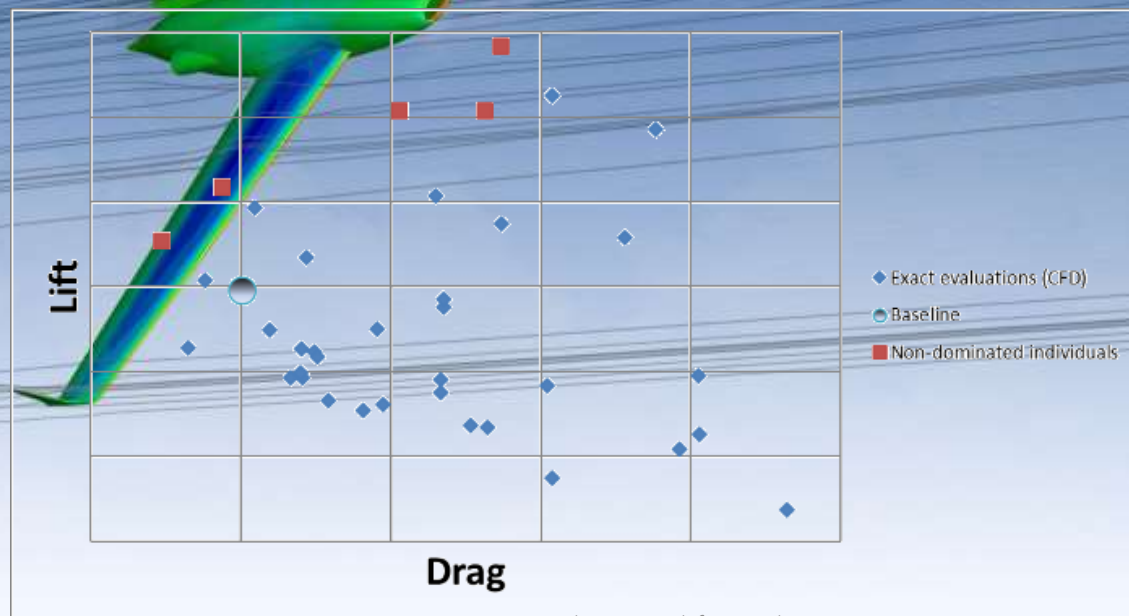
Mesh morphing examples for CFD and FEA applications

Aerospace

FSI winglet optimization



Range extended by 12%





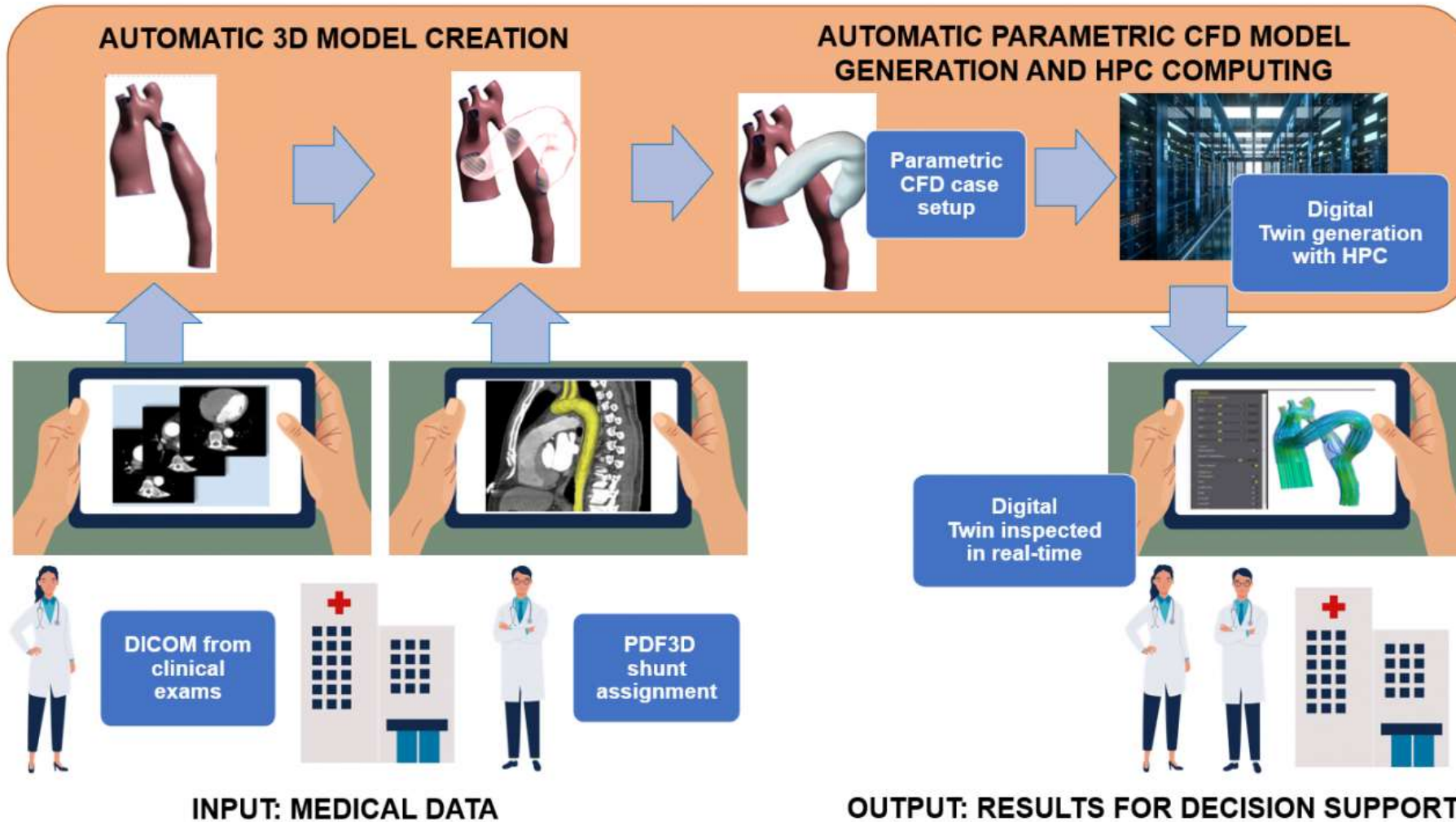
Alpha Electro Propeller

- Mesh morphing for shape **parametrization** of numerical grids (CFD/FEM)
- FSI based on mapping and modal superposition
- Performance of the **propeller** are optimised for the specific needs of **electric propulsion (+4% efficiency)**

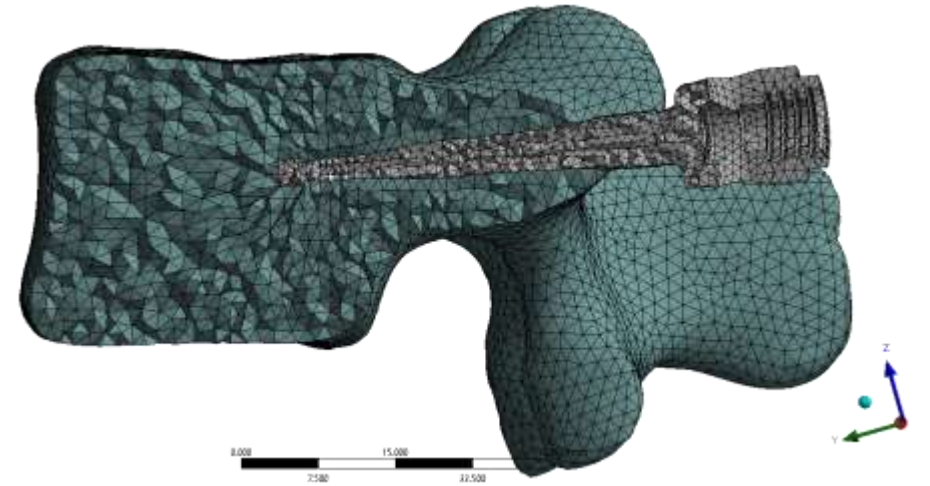
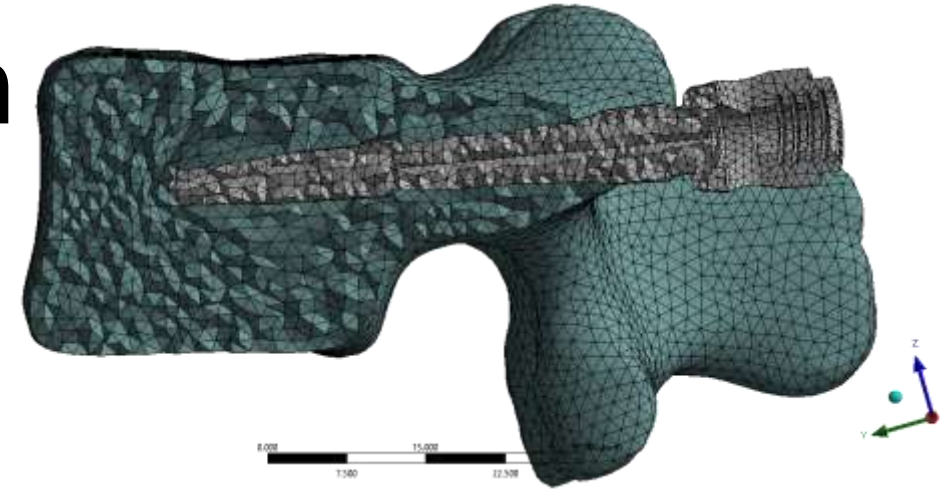


Healthcare

Medical Digital Twin Copernicus



Spine surgery Digital Twin



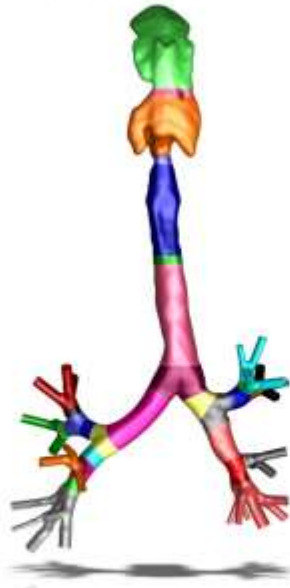
Medical Digital Twin DiTAiD



From lung scan to medical use



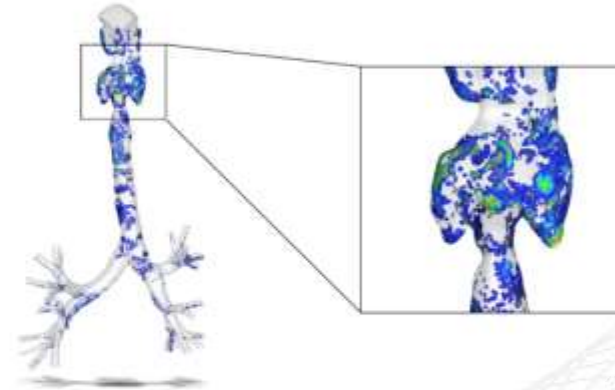
1) Scan of lungs



2) Extraction of lung shape parameters



3) Digital twin

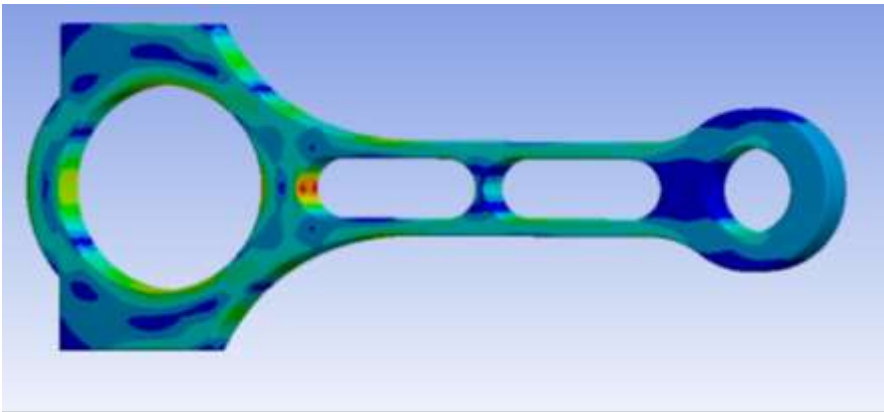
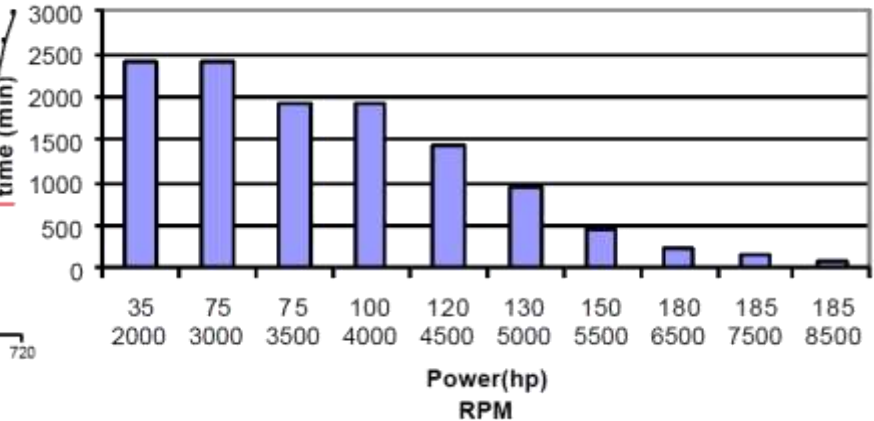
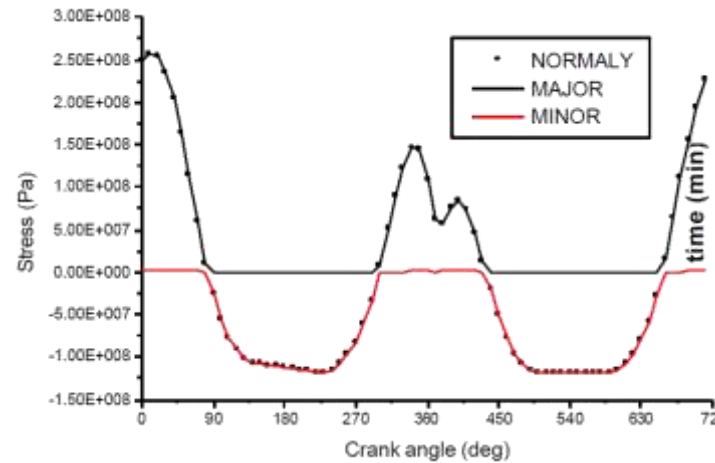
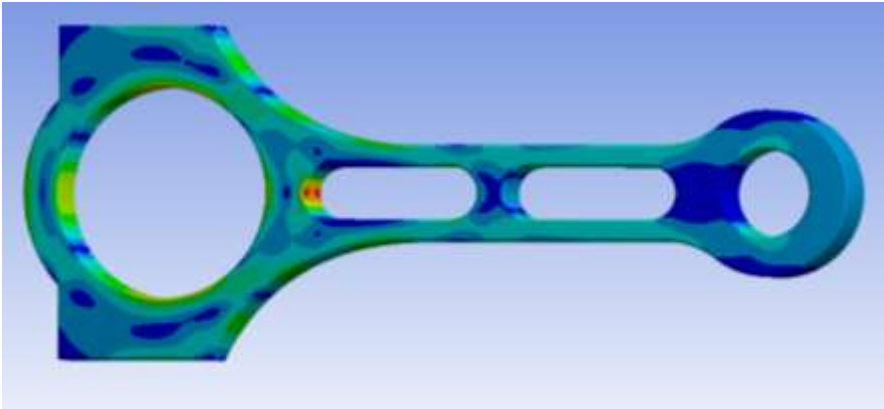


4) Visualization and interpretation for medical use



Automotive

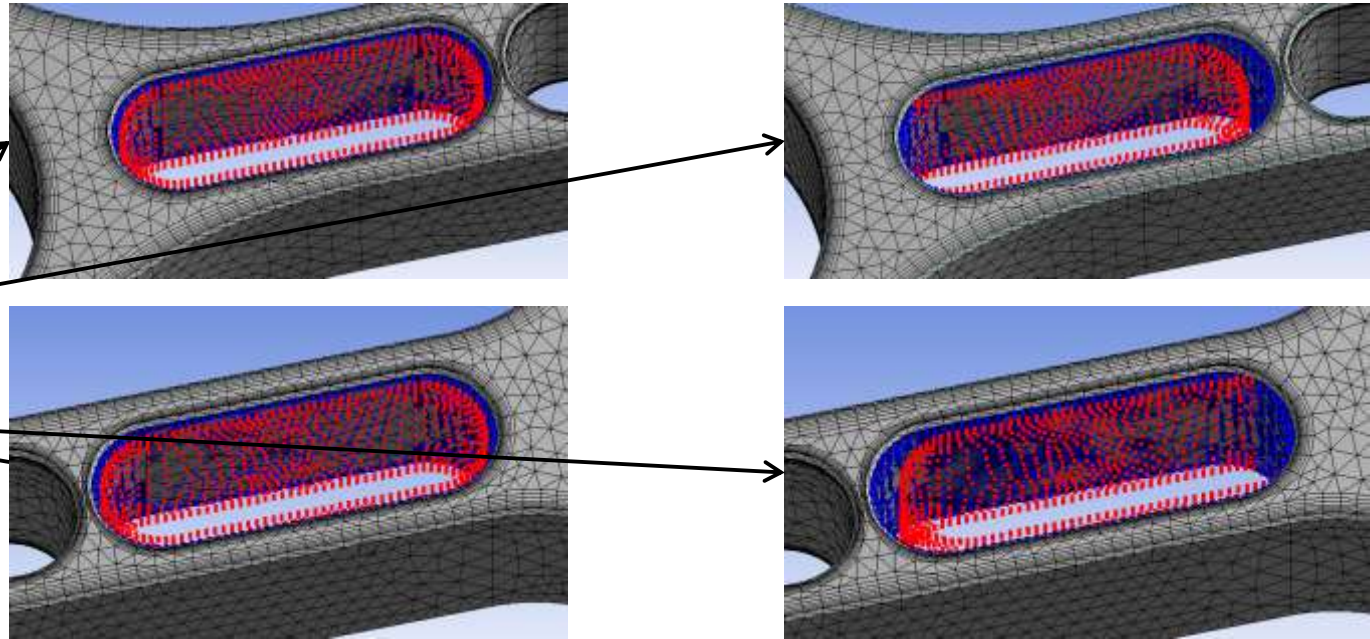
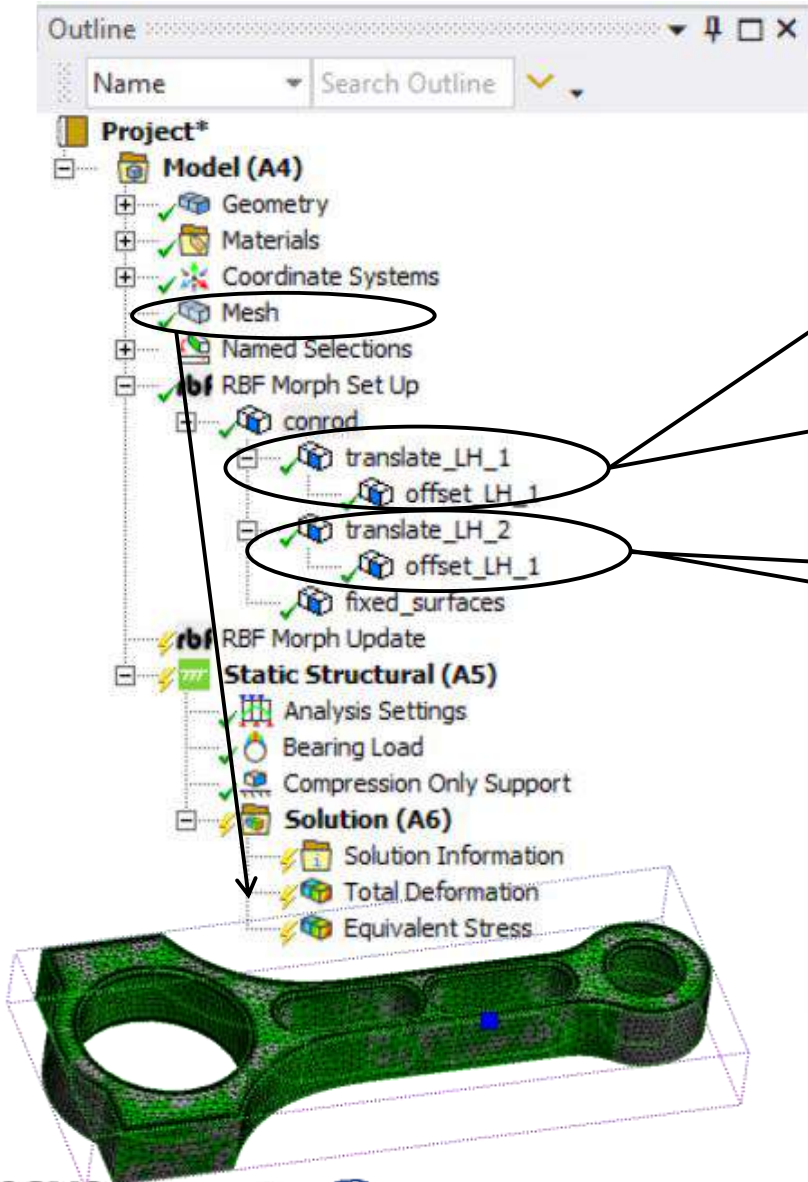
Connecting rod optimization



- Computed load history (kinematic analysis)
- Titanium Ti-6Al-4V (Grade 5)
- Cumulated damage map over the testing spectrum

https://www.rbf-morph.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/596_aias_2015_ottimizzazione-strutturale-mediante-mesh-morphing.pdf

Connecting rod optimization



- Offset+rigid translation for the holes
- Null movement for other surfaces

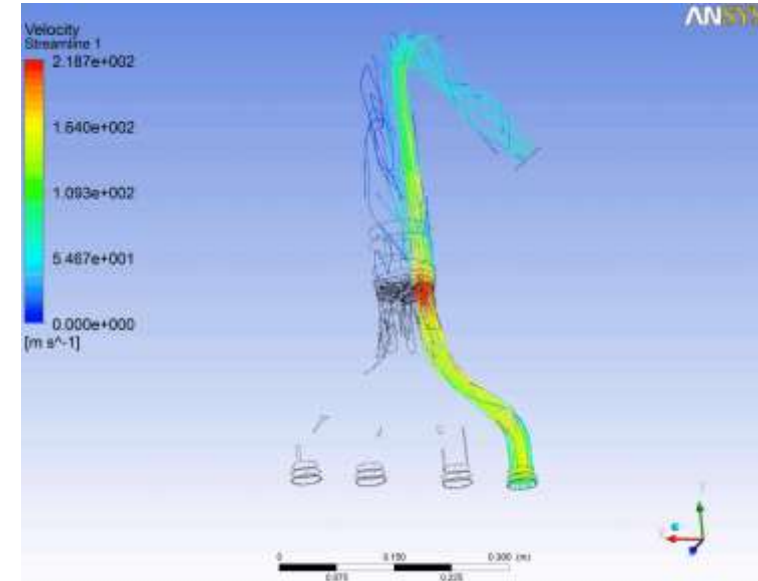
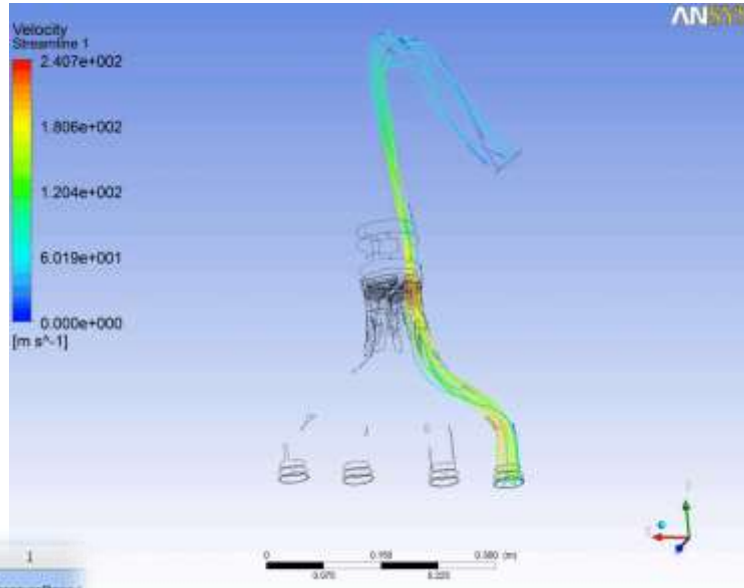
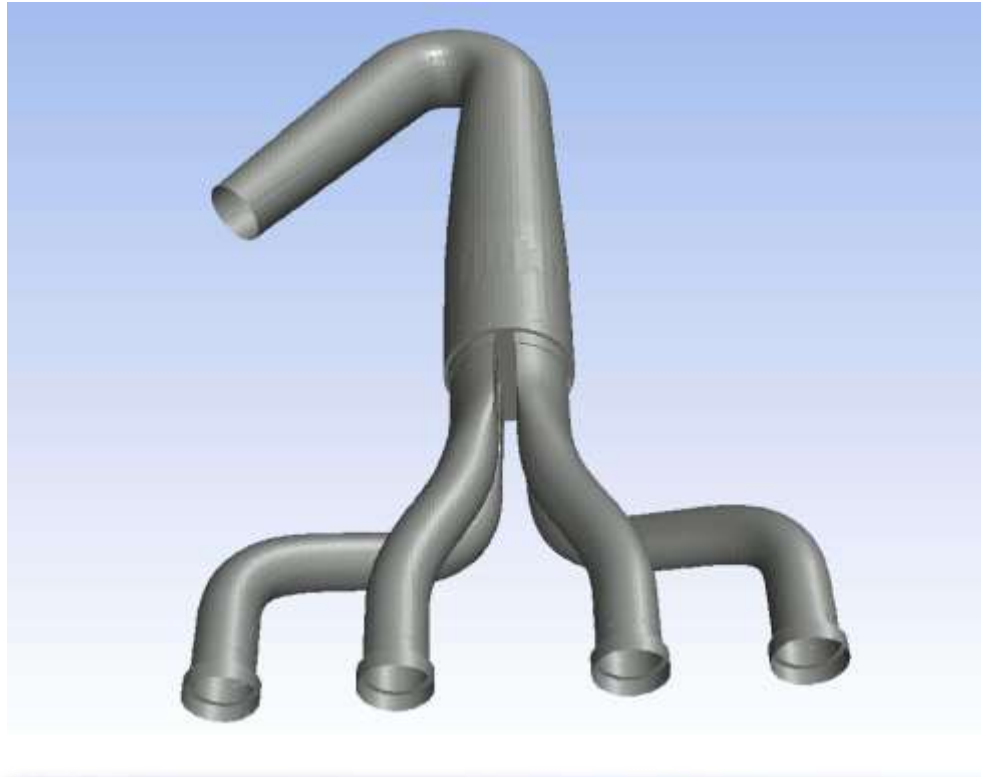
Connecting rod optimization

- Original design 358.7g

- Optimal design 334.4g (-6.7%)

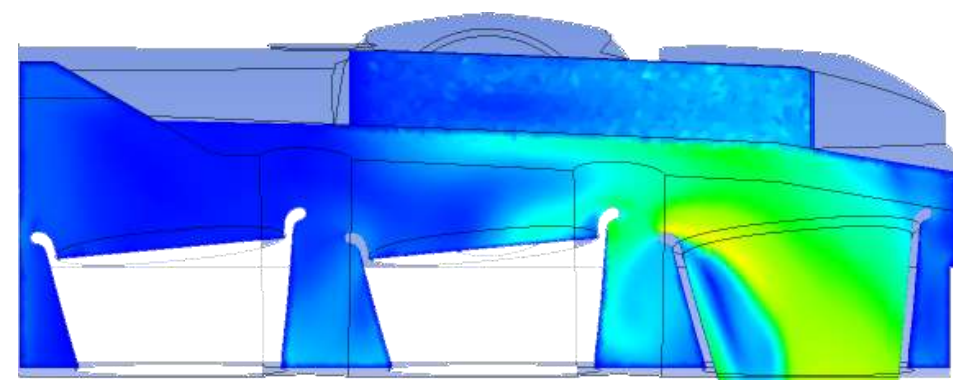


Exhaust manifold

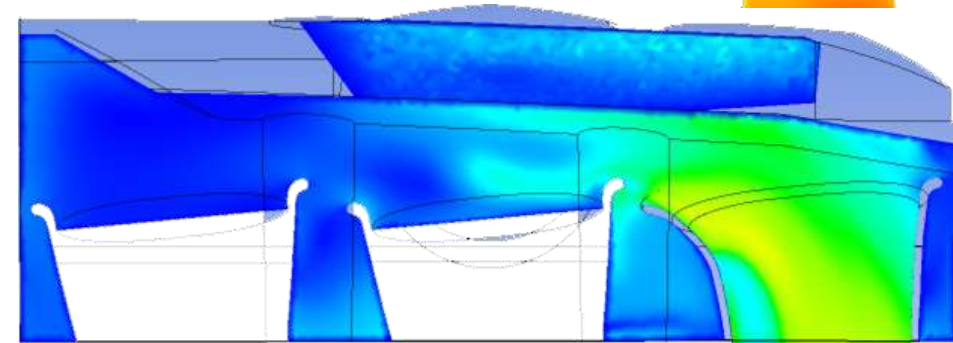


	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Name	P5 - Pipe1Curve1	P6 - Pipe2	P7 - Pipe4Curve1	P8 - Pipe3	P1 - PressureDrop1	P2 - PressureDrop2	P3 - PressureDrop3	P4 - PressureDrop4
2						Pa	Pa	Pa	Pa
3	Current	4	4	4	4	12892	11366	13028	16619
4	DP 1	3	3	3	3	12882	11247	13487	16731
5	DP 2	2	2	2	2	12897	11546	13554	16911
6	DP 3	1	1	1	1	13403	11477	13920	17666
7	DP 4	0	0	0	0	13555	11750	13967	17718

Balanced flow and 8% less pressure drop



Baseline

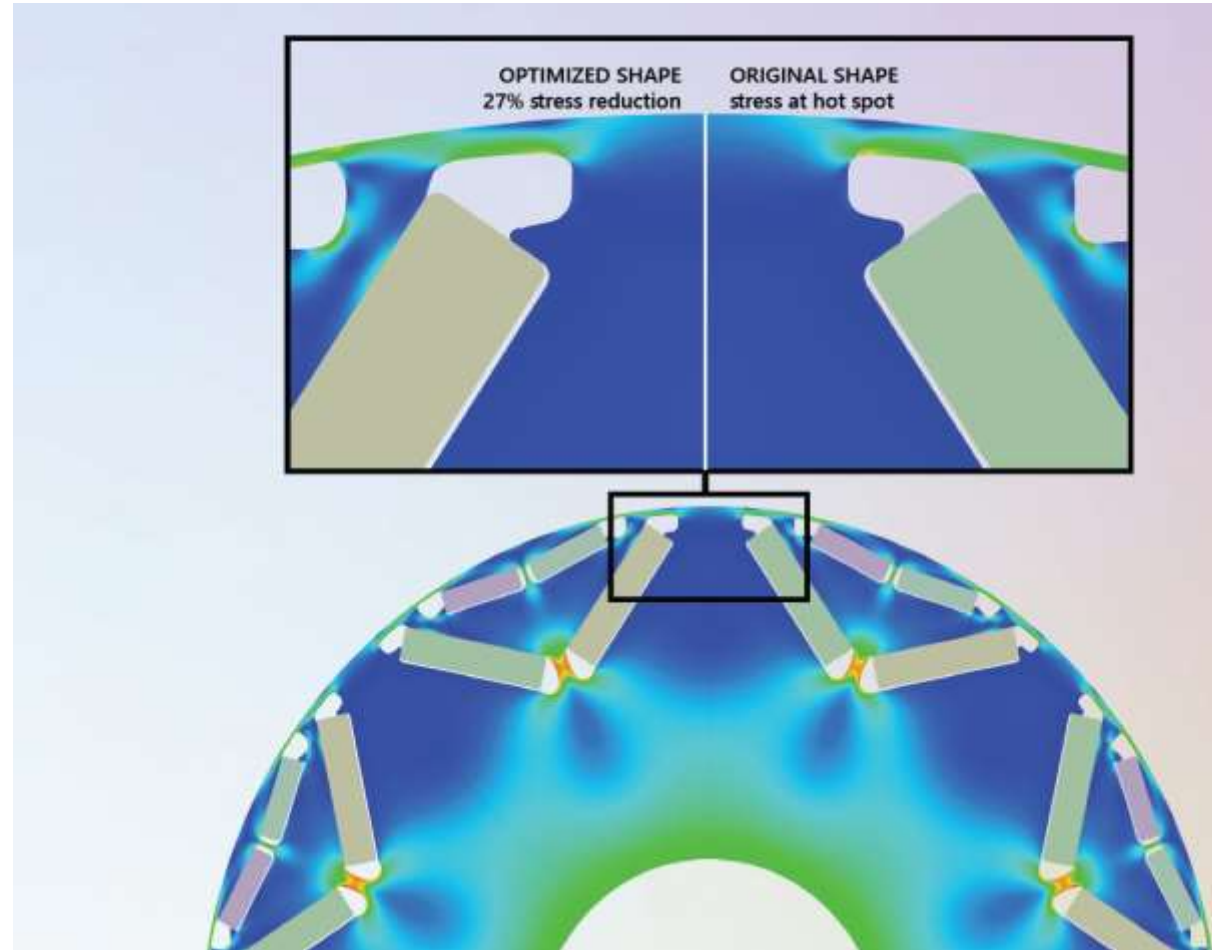


Optimized
-5.9% pressure drop

Lamborghini Aventador engine air box

Electric motor design

- Example of 2d shape optimization
- Hot spots mitigated after the EM calculation by Maxwell
- Biological Growth Method in Ansys Mechanical

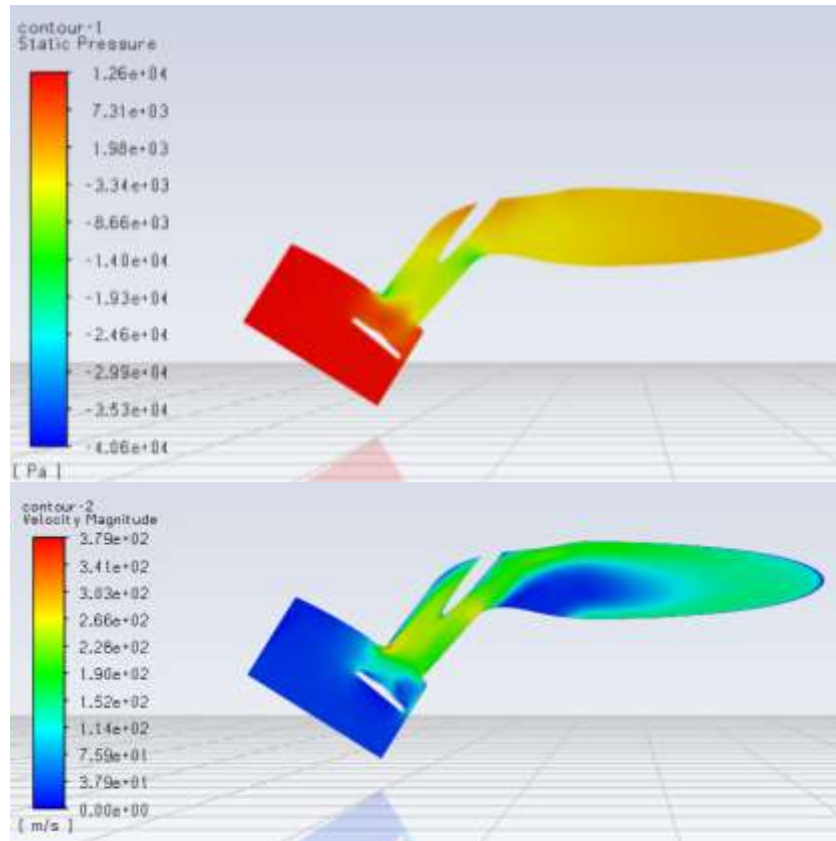


Engine head optimization

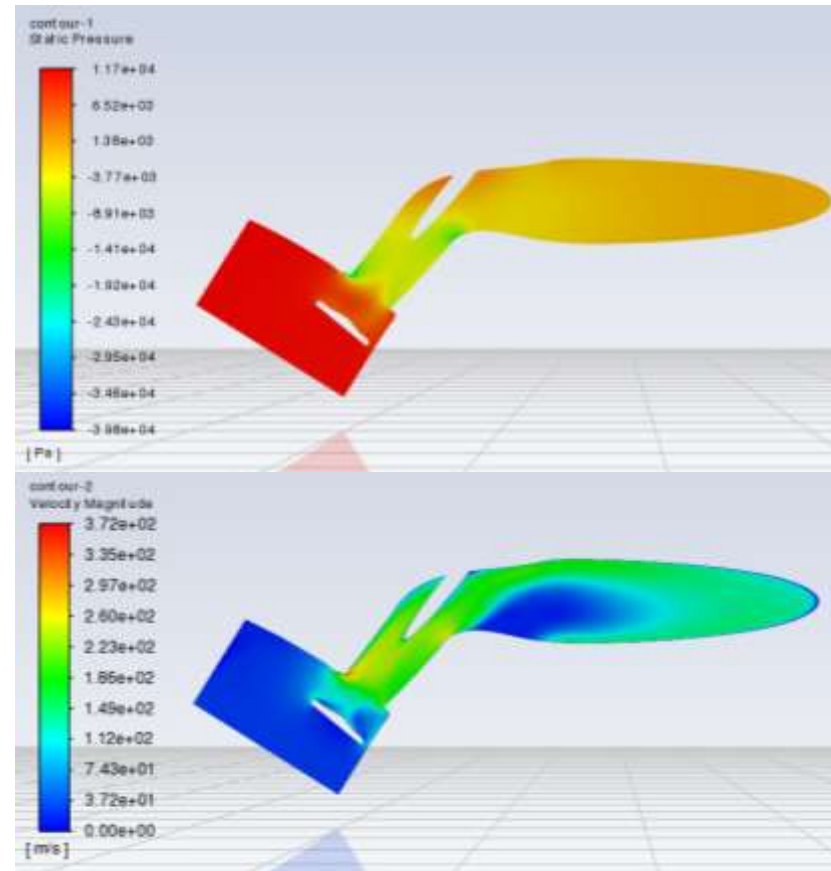
- Multi-physics problem
 - Thermal fatigue
 - Coolant circulation
 - Intake/exhaust ports
- KPI
 - Reliability – life
 - Engine performance



Pressure drop at exhaust

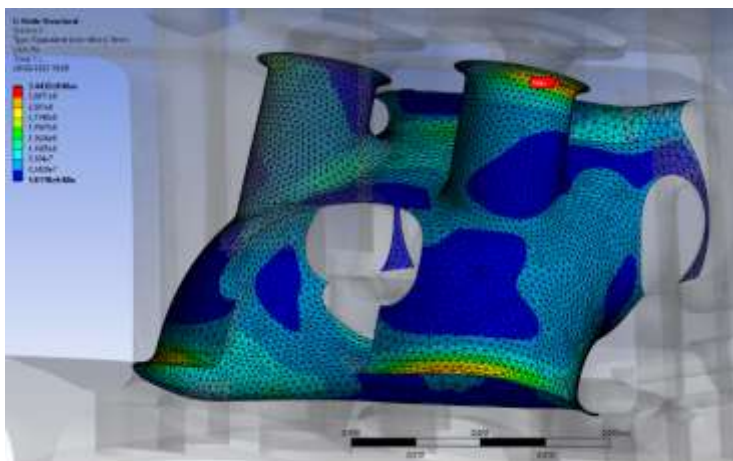


Baseline



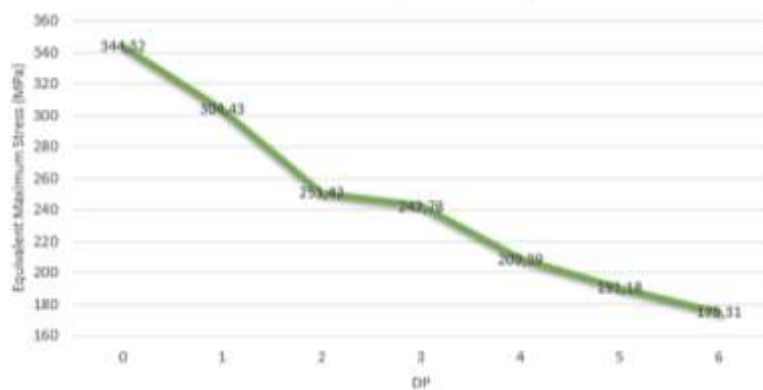
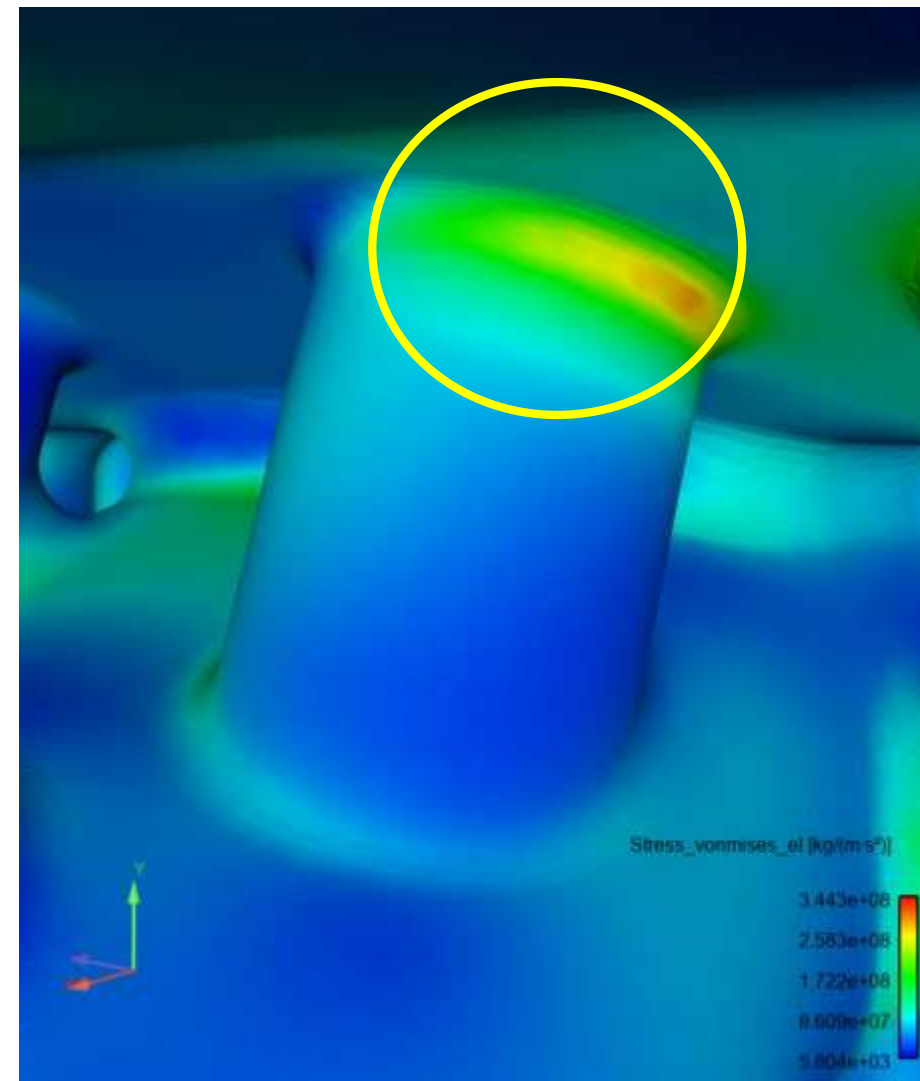
Optimized (-7.5%)

Hot spot stress at exhaust



Baseline

Optimized (-49%)



Structural Optimization of a wheel hub

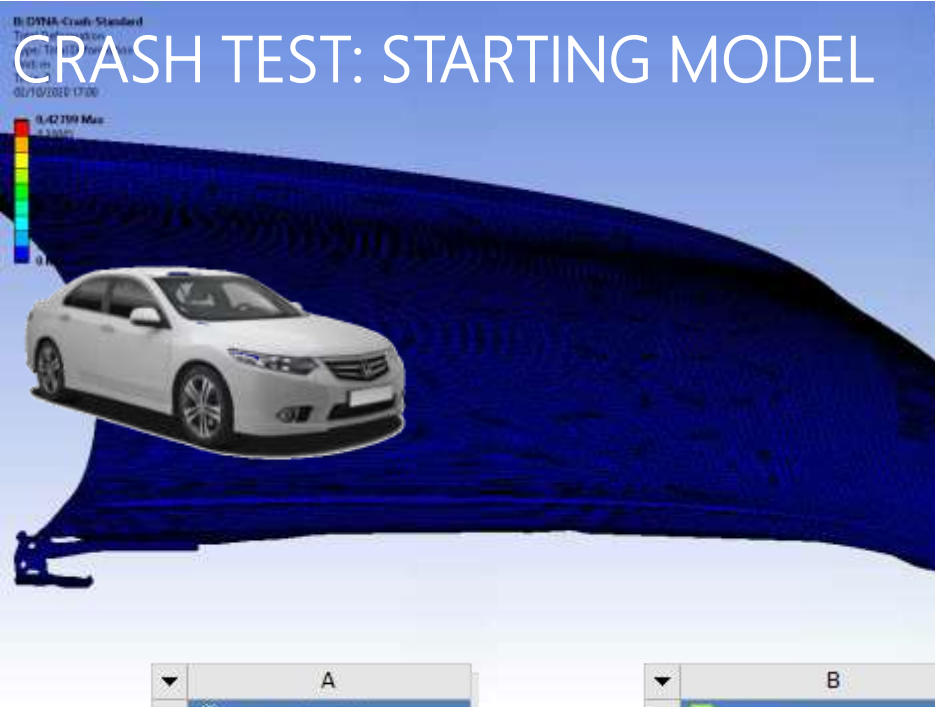


<https://www.enginsoft.com/expertise/a-natural-remedy-for-hot-spot-stresses.html>

Reuse the LS-DYNA model of a different car



CRASH TEST: STARTING MODEL



CRASH TEST: MORPHED MODEL



A	
1	External Model
2	Setup

Crash-test-with-wall



LS-DYNA

B	
1	LS-DYNA
2	Engineering Data
3	Model
4	Setup
5	Solution
6	Results

DYNA-Crash-Standard

C	
1	Mechanical Model
2	Engineering Data
3	Geometry
4	Model

Surface-Geometry-To-Morph

D	
1	LS-DYNA
2	Model
3	Setup
4	Solution
5	Results

DYNA-Crash-Morphed

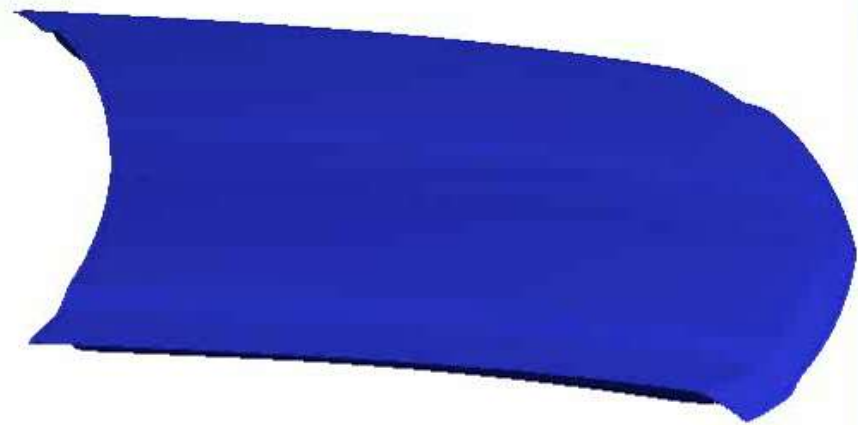
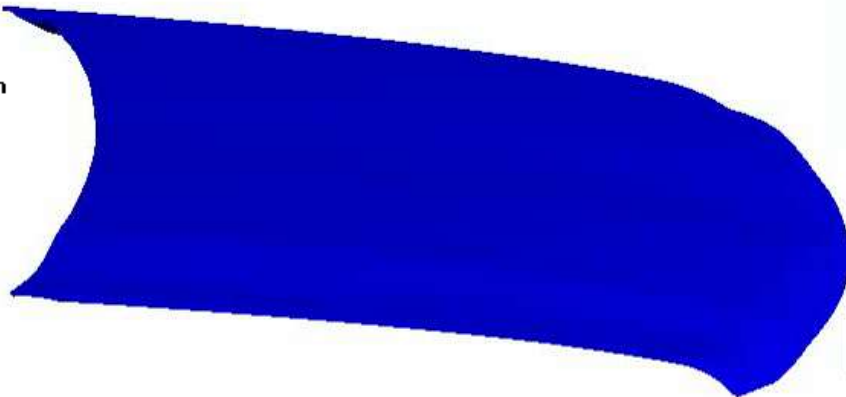
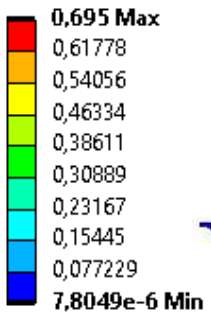
<https://www.rbf-morph.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/RBF-Morphand-LSDYNAintoAnsysWorkbenchandMechanical.pdf>

Reuse the LS-DYNA model of a different car

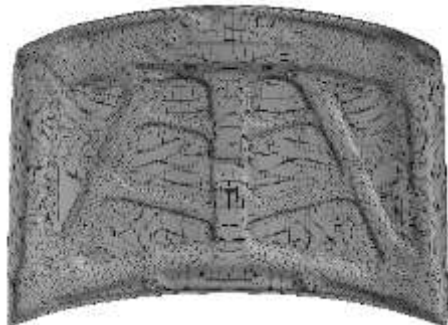


Ansys

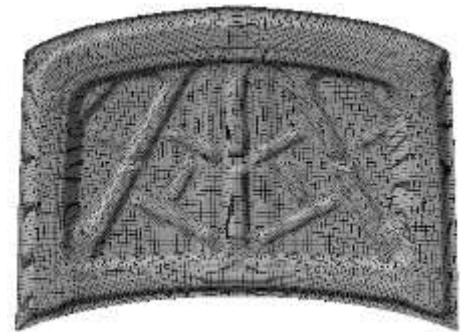
LS-DYNA



Maximum deceleration: 7.1 g



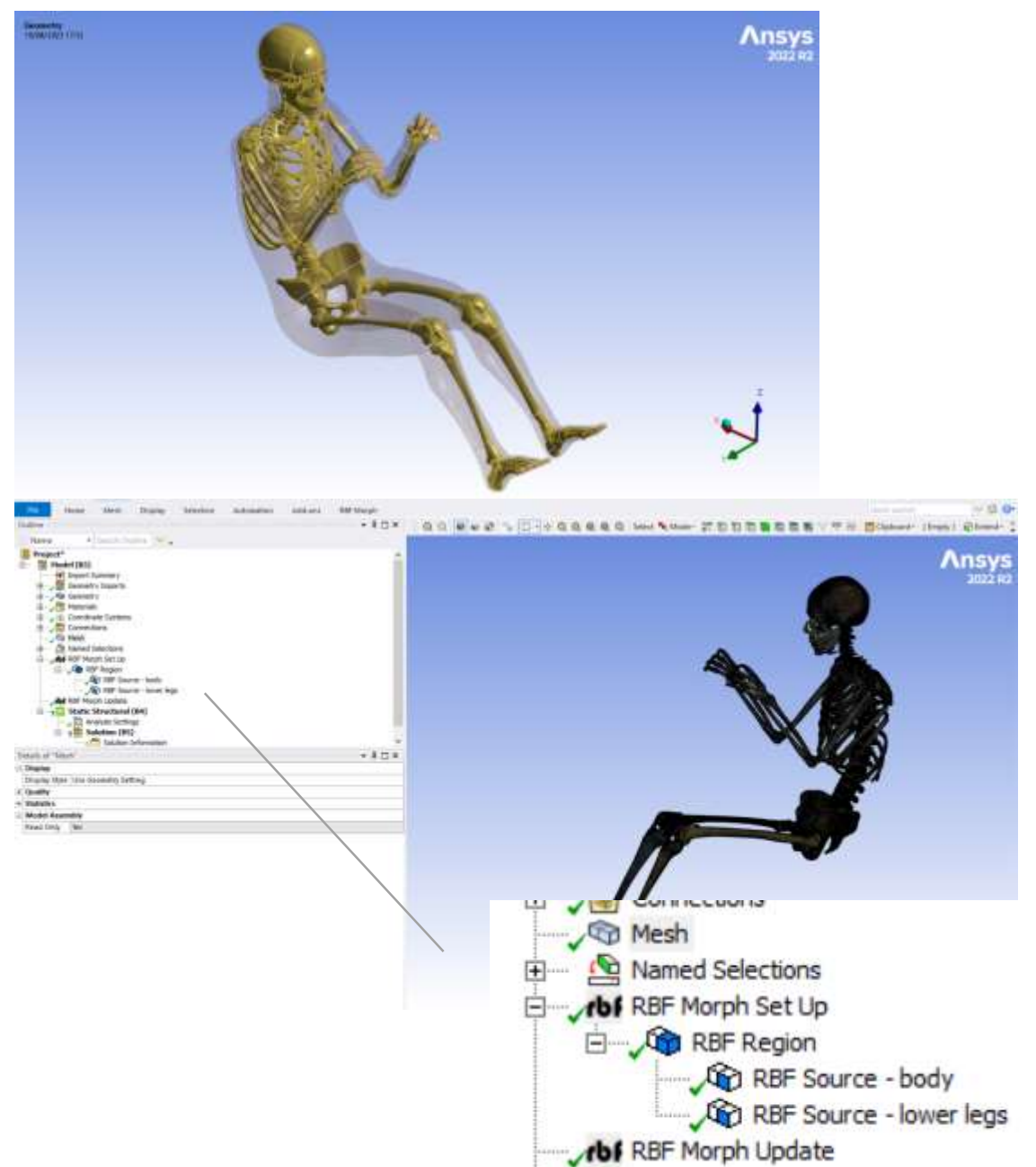
Maximum deceleration: 6.9 g



<https://www.rbf-morph.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/RBF-Morphand-LSDYNAintoAnsysWorkbenchandMechanical.pdf>

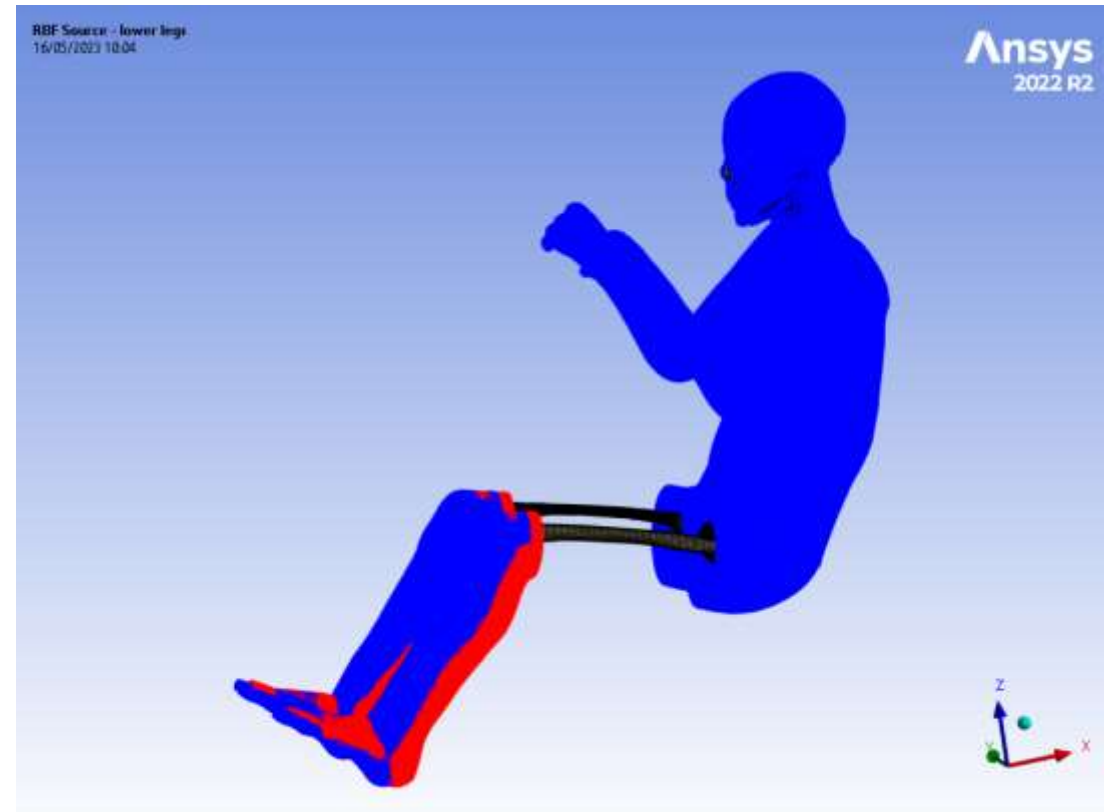
Parametric THUMS

- Total HUMan Model for Safety (THUMS)
<https://www.toyota.co.jp/thums/>
- RBF Sources (that could be nested) define the morphing action – we use here just the skin and the bones
- RBF Regions receive the final morphing (full .key file ready to run)



Parametric THUMS

- In this test we use the skin to control the morphing
- The lower legs and feet are moved along the upper legs direction
- Upper legs are shortened
- The process (66.000 RBF sources 273.000 nodes moved) takes less than 1 minute



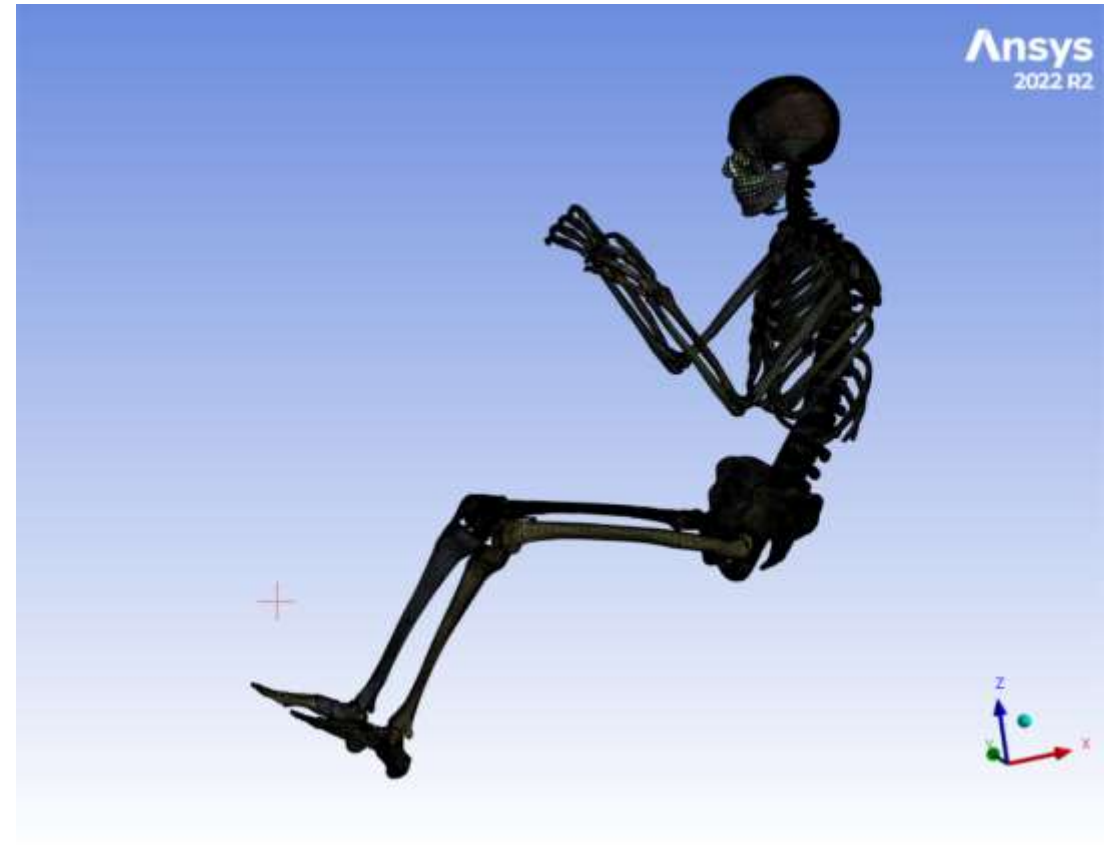
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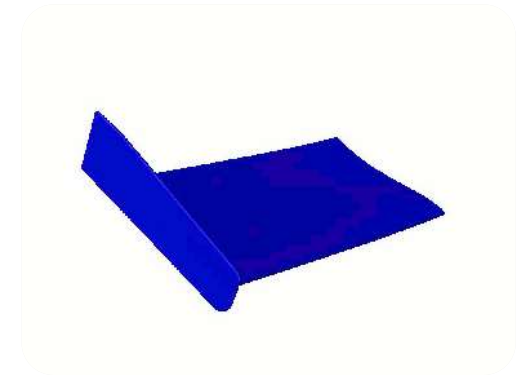
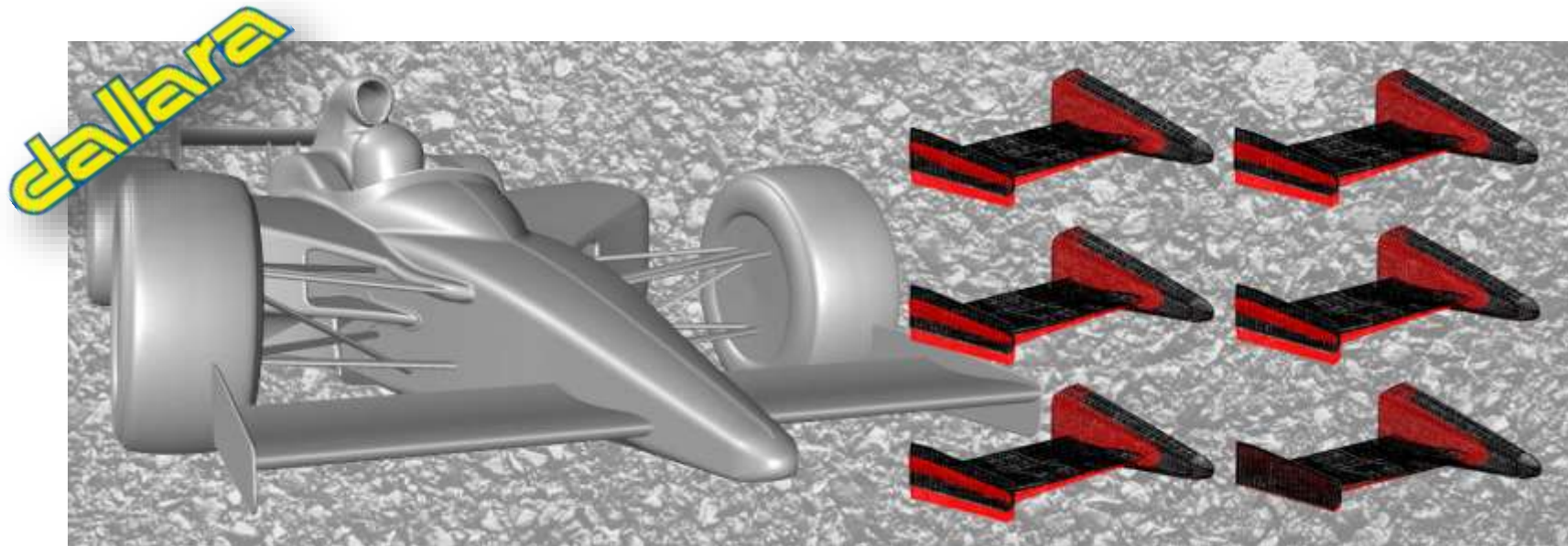


Parametric THUMS

- In this test we use the skin to control the morphing
- The lower legs and feet are moved along the upper legs direction
- Upper legs are shortened
- The process (66.000 RBF sources 273.000 nodes moved) takes less than 1 minute



FSI Example: Indy Race Car



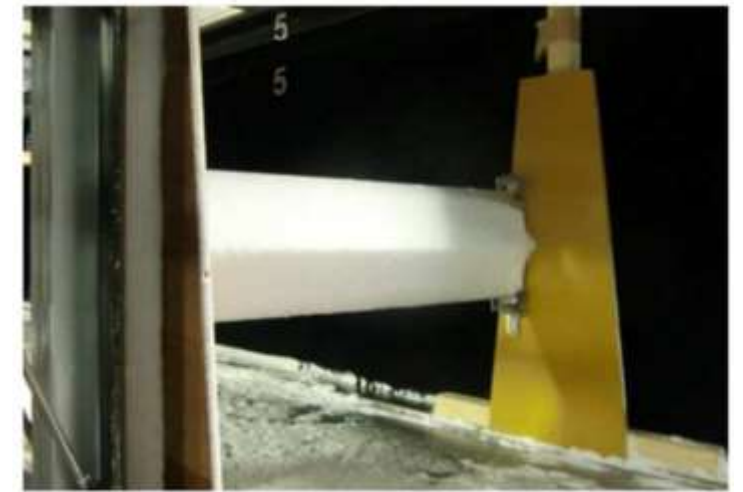
Modes used	Maximum displacement (mm)	Maximum error (%)
1	5.941	8.3
2	5.898	6.5
3	5.584	2.7
4	5.56	1.4
5	5.555	0

Transient pitching simulation - porpoising

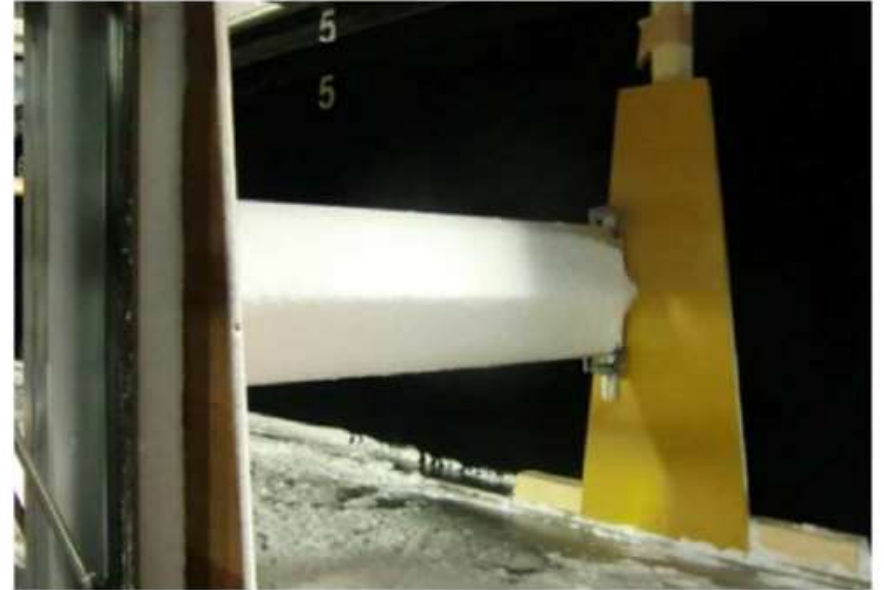
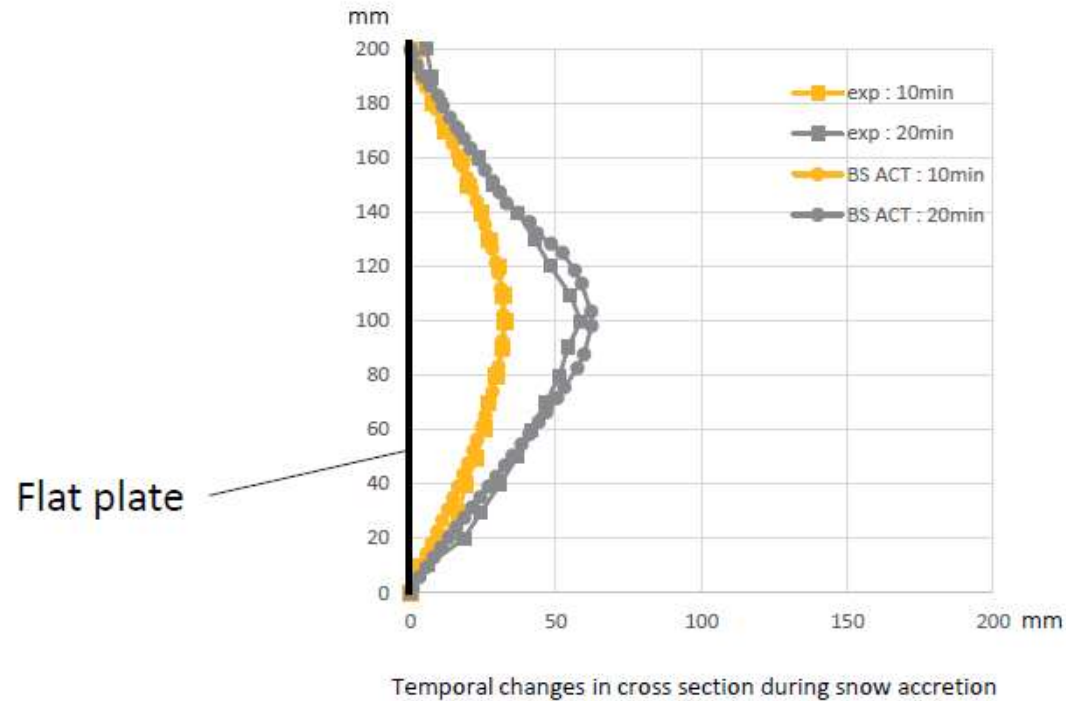


Snow accretion blowing

- Snow melting agent may be sprayed to prevent roads from freezing in cold regions
- Snow salt damage can lead to corrosion and rust on vehicle body and underbody
- The ability to predict snow adhesion patterns in CFD without field testing provides decision support for design changes early in the project



Snow accretion blowing



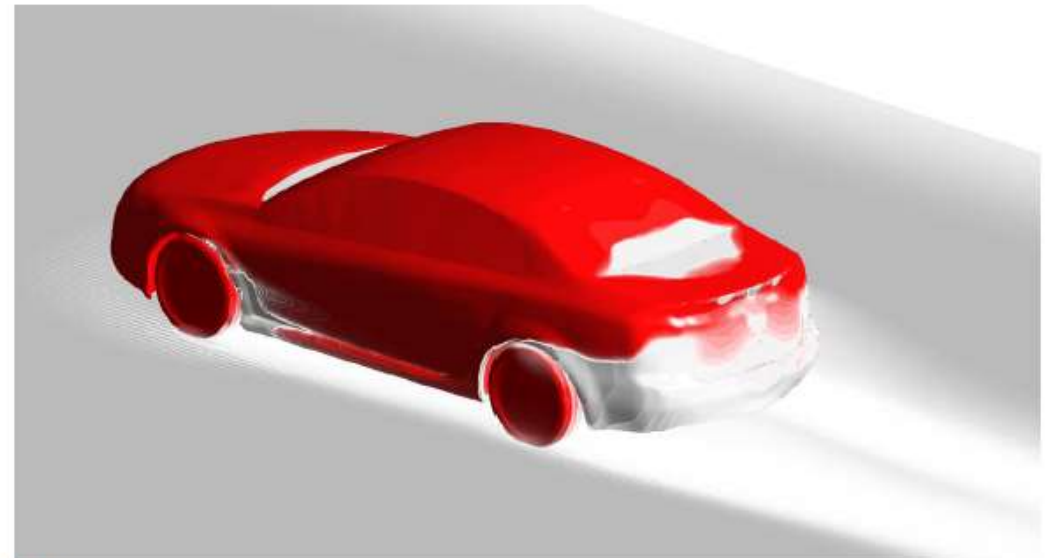
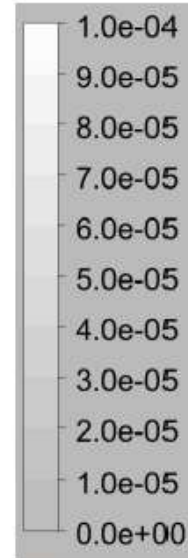
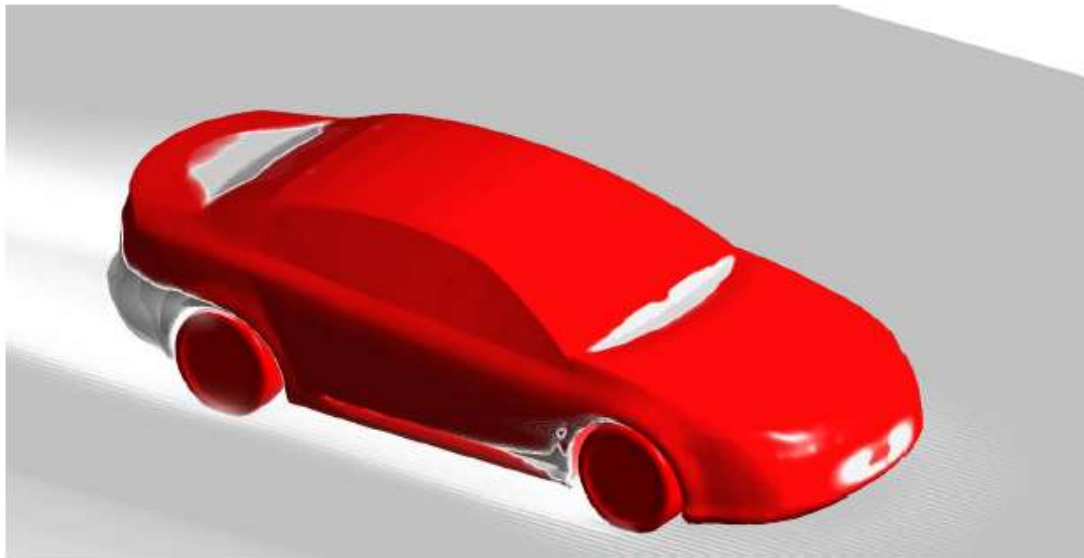
Experiment: snow accretion on flat plate

Snow accretion blowing



Snow contamination pattern on the rear of a Volvo S90 driven a distance of 100 km

- Snow contamination pattern after 15-minute solo driving

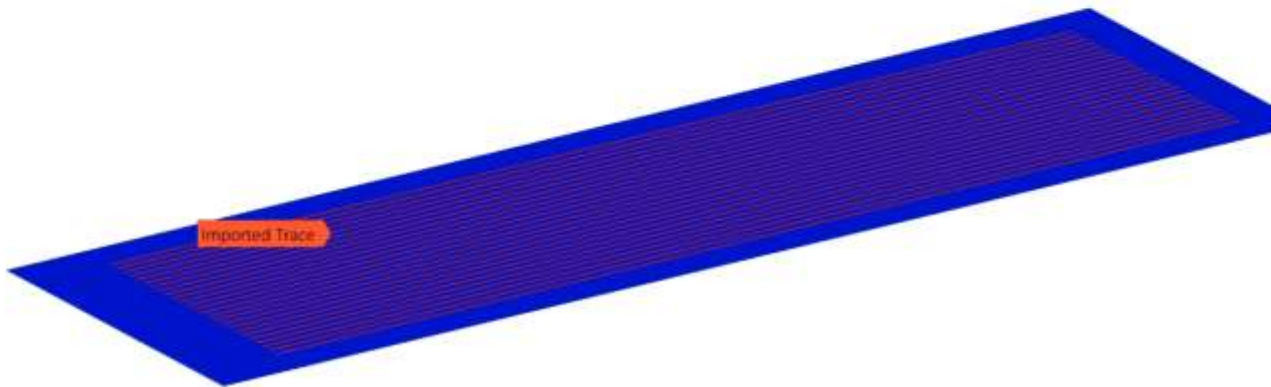
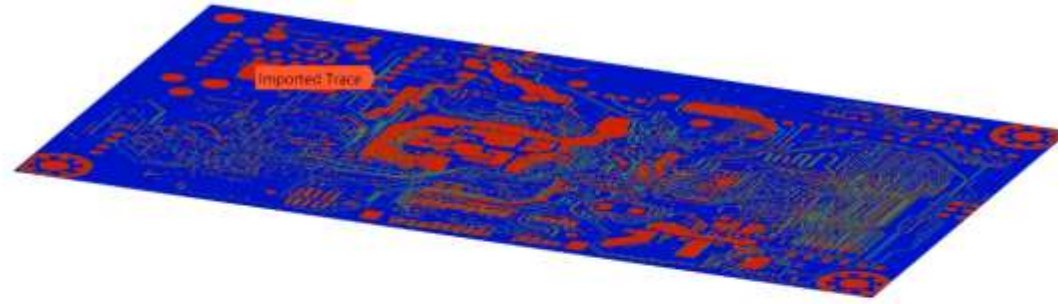


Thickness[m]

Electronics

Morph onto CAD shapes

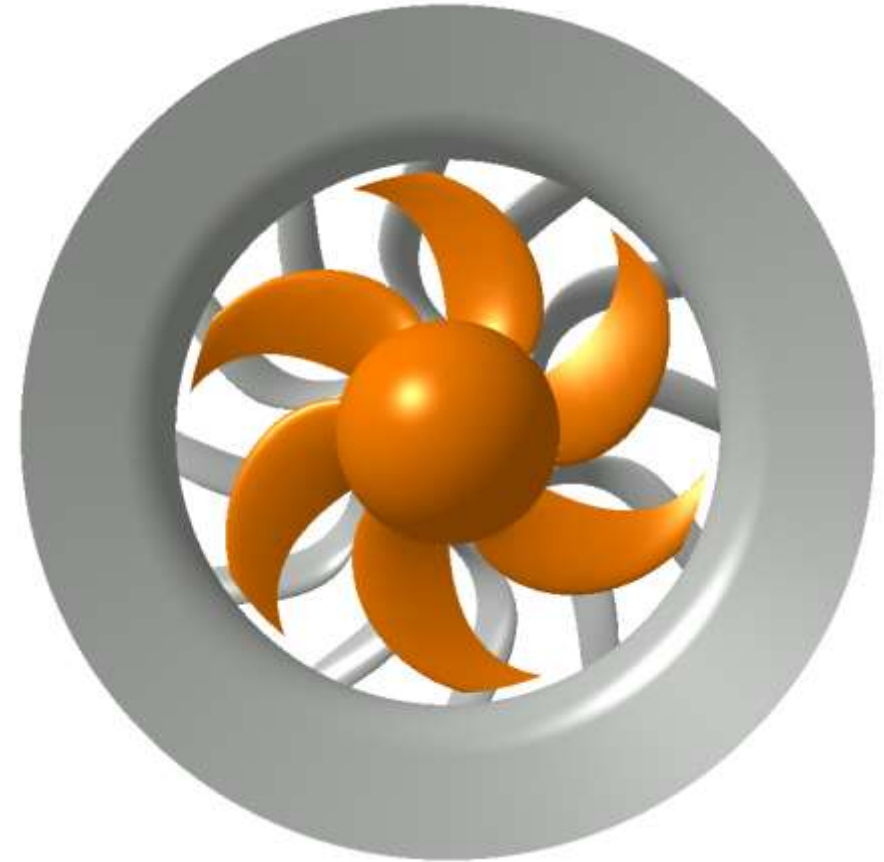
RBF Morph & Ansys Mechanical allow fast adaptation of Flexible PCBs onto the installation shape



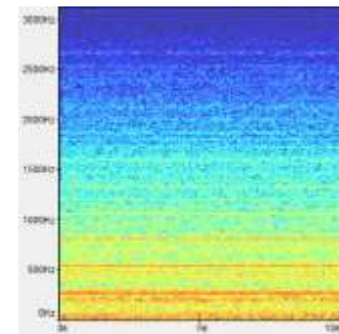
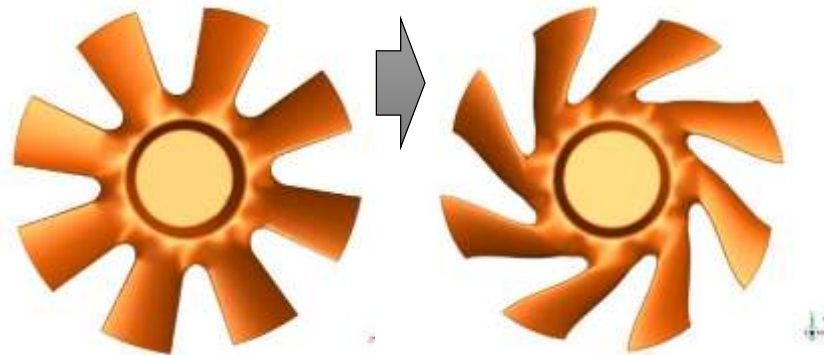
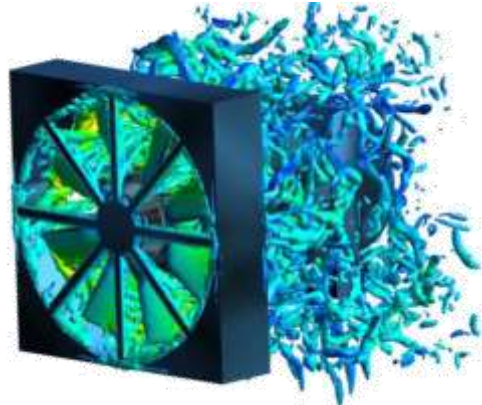
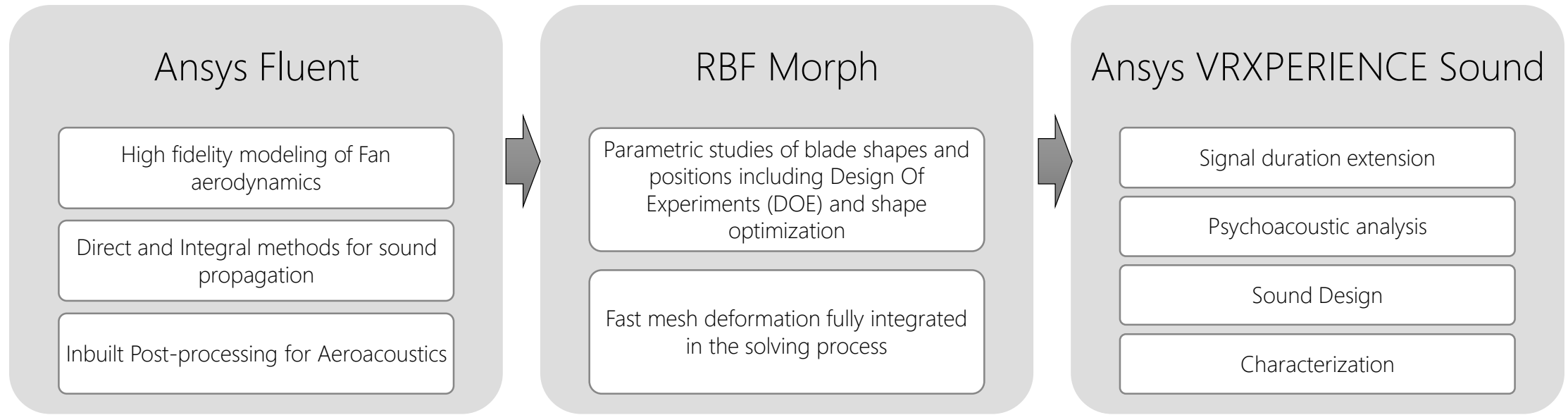
<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1757-899X/1038/1/012084>

Optimization of a propeller

- **Noise reduction** achieved thanks to the improved design
- Morphing in **cyclic symmetry**
- Set-up defined on a reference blade (6 shape parameters)
- Rotating surface interface preserved

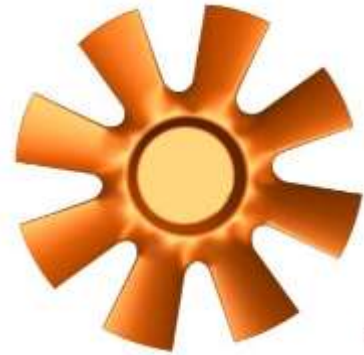


RBF mesh morphing for noise reduction

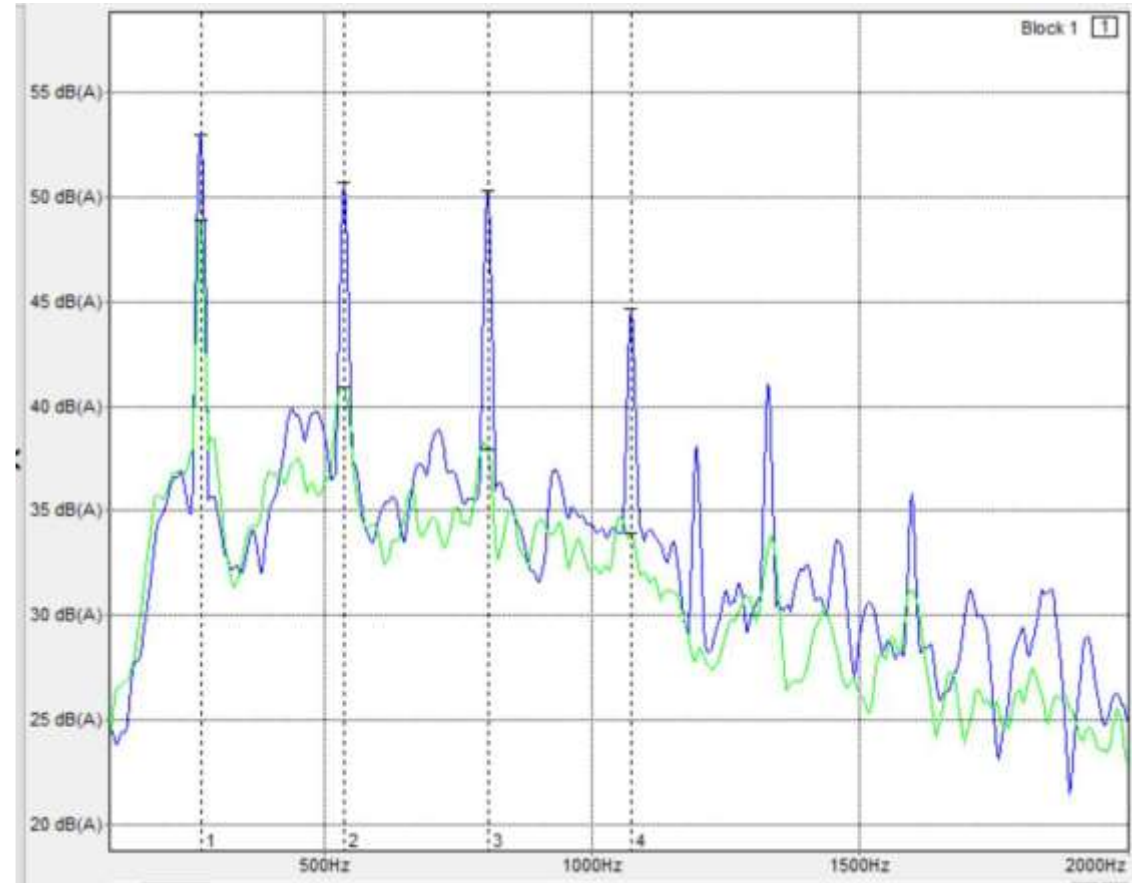


Noise reduction

Baseline

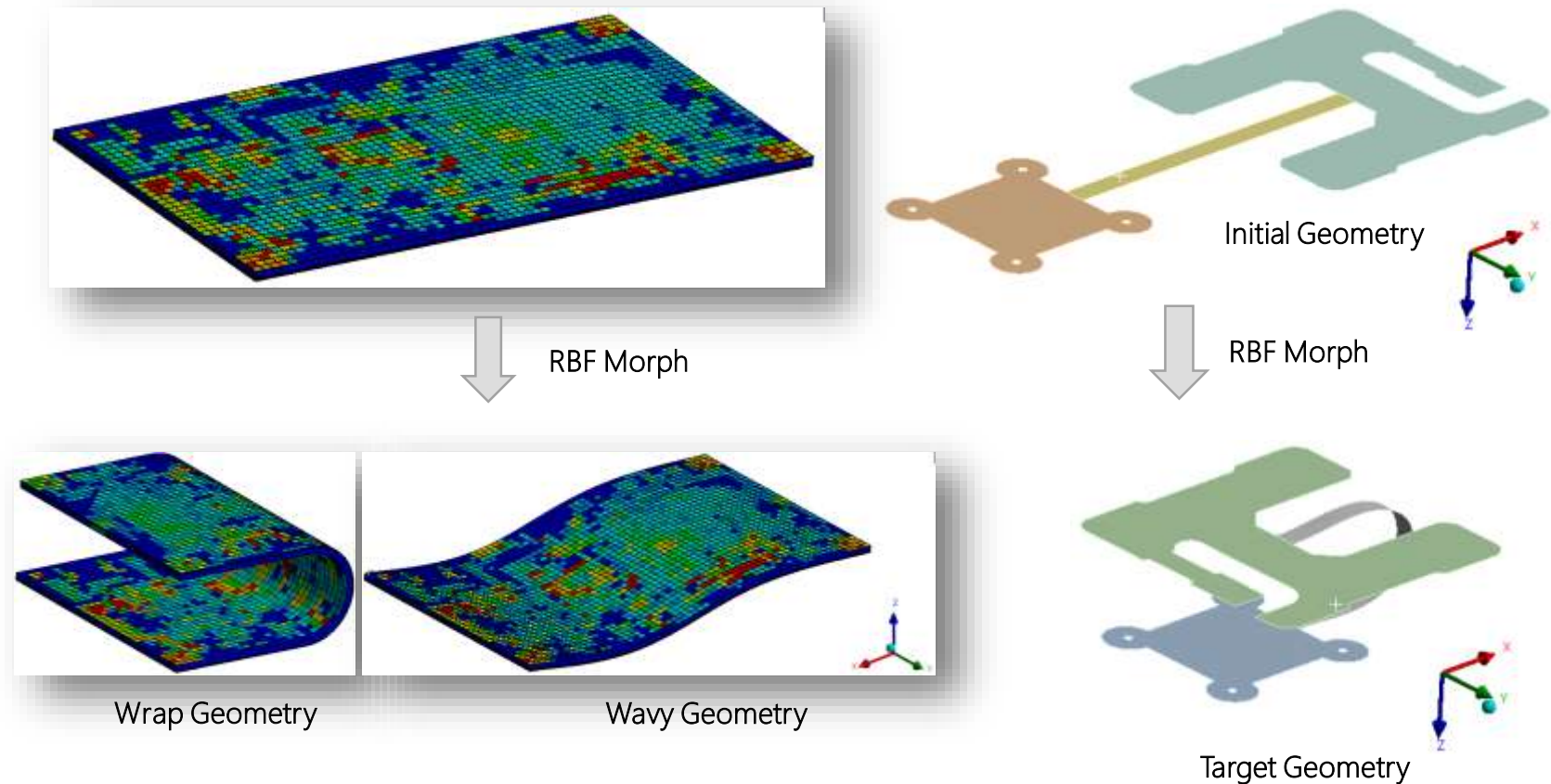


Optimized



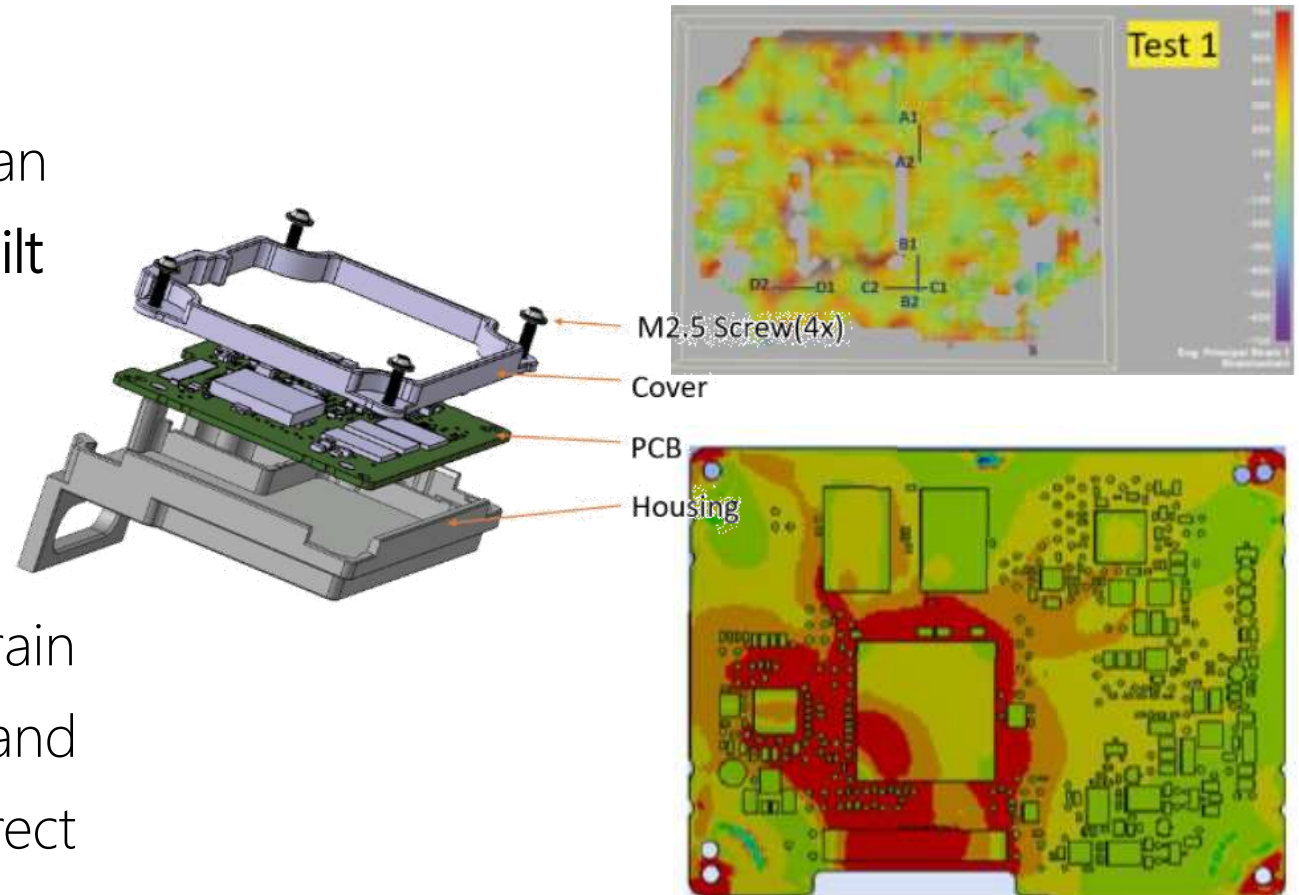
Flex/RigidFlex PCB

- Flex/RigidFlex PCB FEA model (shell, 3d, trace mapping) can be updated onto the **installation shape** and then used for subsequent structural analysis
- Full 3d models and layered shells are supported
- Trace mapping is properly updated



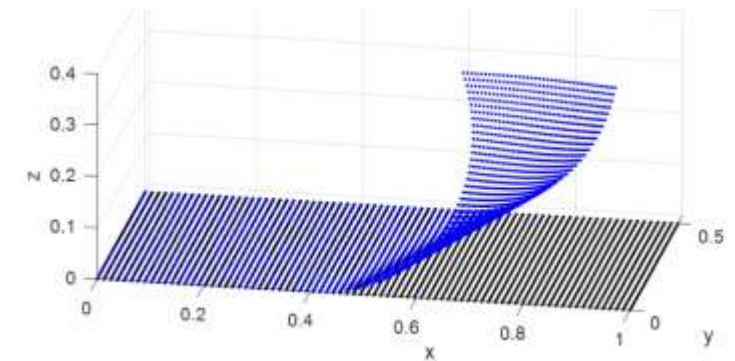
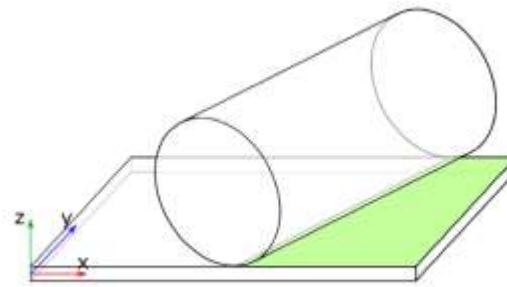
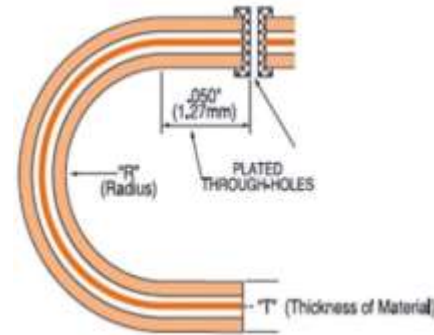
Flat PCB with planarity deviations

- Flat PCB with planarity deviations can be morphed to represent the **as built** shape and then mounted in the housing to assess the shape error induced loads
- Once the screws are tightened a strain (and stress) distribution is induced and predicted by FEA thanks to the correct representation of acquired board shape



Fast evaluation of low-cycle fatigue

- Fast evaluation of low-cycle fatigue (plasticity included) of prescribed radius FCB bend
- A full 3d model with all the layers is controlled by CAD
- The evolution is imported in MAPDL to accurately evaluate the stress-strain cycles in the material



An RBF Meshless Approach to Evaluate Strain Due to Large Displacements in Flexible Printed Circuit Boards

Oil & Gas

Thermal fatigue of a valve

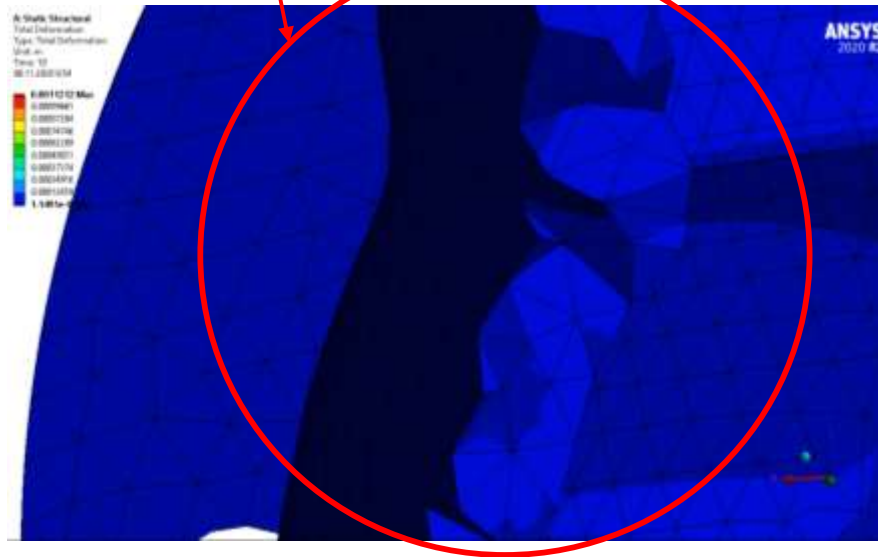
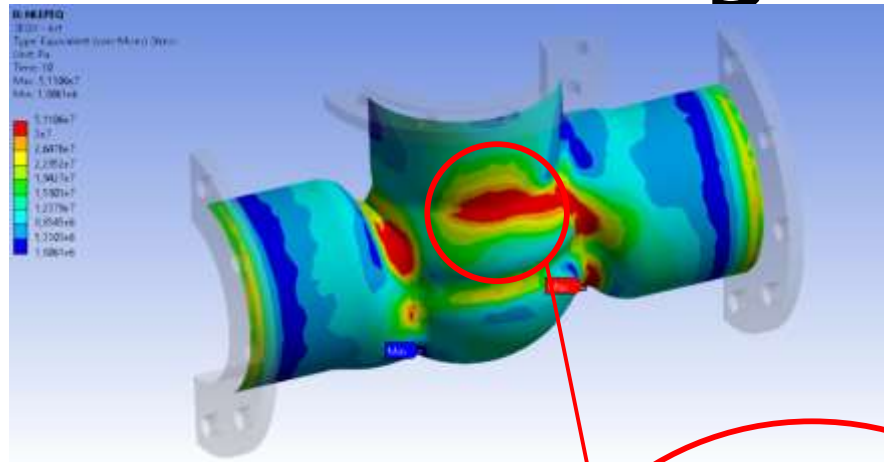
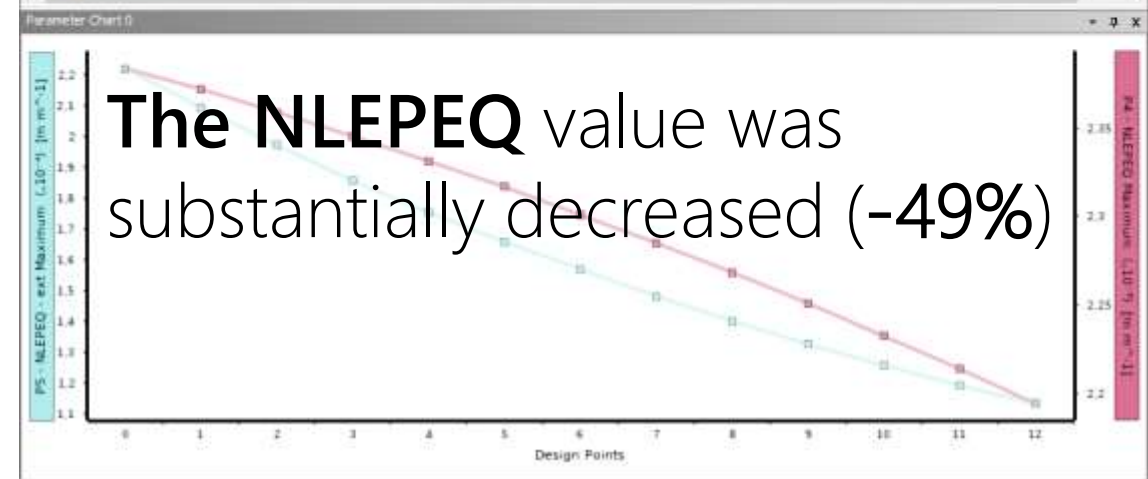


Table of Design Points

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Name	Update Order	P1 - RBF Morph Set Up Shape ID	P2 - SEQV Maximum	P3 - SEQV - ext Maximum	P4 - NLEPEQ Maximum	P5 - NLEPEQ - ext Maximum	Ret...	Retained Data	Note
2	Units			Pa	Pa	m m ⁻¹	m m ⁻¹			
3	DP 0 (Current)	1	0	1,940E+08	5,363E+07	0,0023835	0,00022191	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4	DP 1	2	1	1,542E+08	5,356E+07	0,0023788	0,00020926	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5	DP 2	3	2	1,532E+08	5,260E+07	0,0023588	0,00019708	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6	DP 3	4	3	1,528E+08	5,25E+07	0,0023452	0,00018557	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7	DP 4	5	4	1,524E+08	5,237E+07	0,0023311	0,00017529	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8	DP 5	6	5	1,526E+08	5,226E+07	0,0023166	0,00016586	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
9	DP 6	7	6	1,529E+08	5,214E+07	0,0023008	0,00015691	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10	DP 7	8	7	1,532E+08	5,202E+07	0,0022849	0,00014824	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11	DP 8	9	8	1,535E+08	5,188E+07	0,0022683	0,00014026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12	DP 9	10	9	1,537E+08	5,174E+07	0,0022509	0,00013278	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
13	DP 10	11	10	1,540E+08	5,159E+07	0,0022324	0,00012589	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
14	DP 11	12	11	1,543E+08	5,144E+07	0,0022139	0,00011936	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
15	DP 12	13	12	1,546E+08	5,126E+07	0,0021941	0,00011347	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

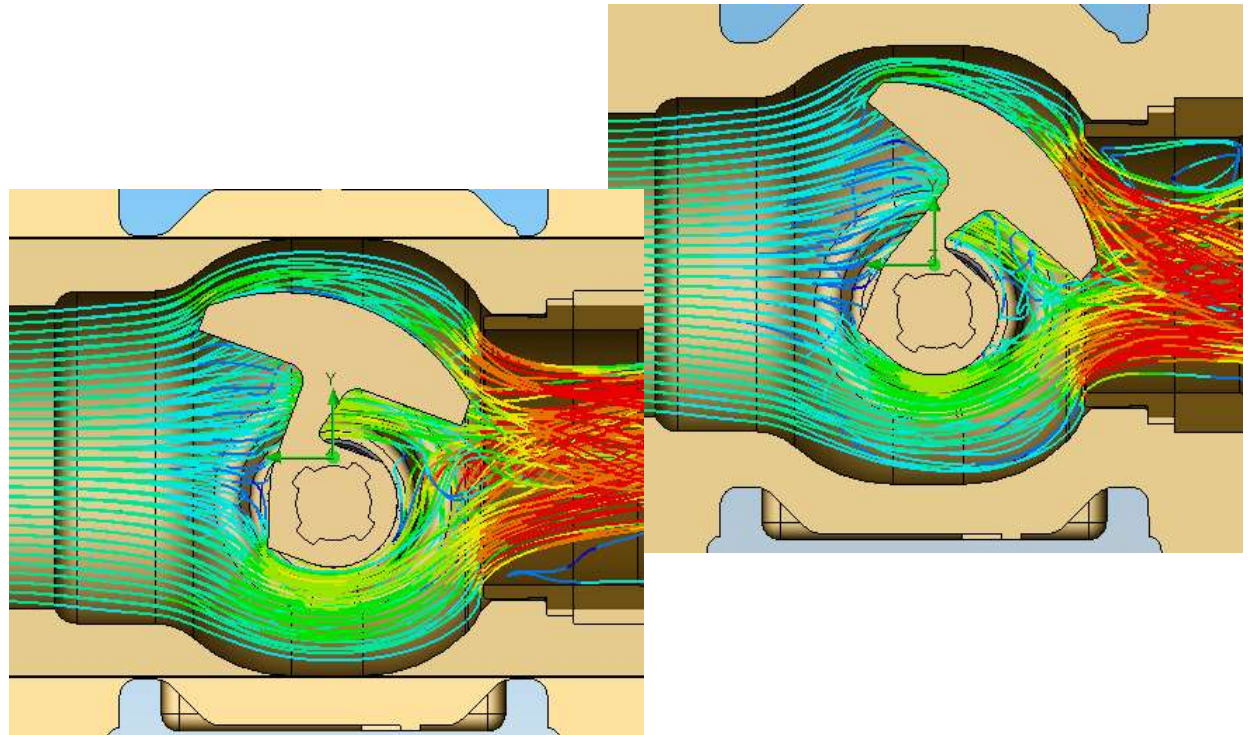
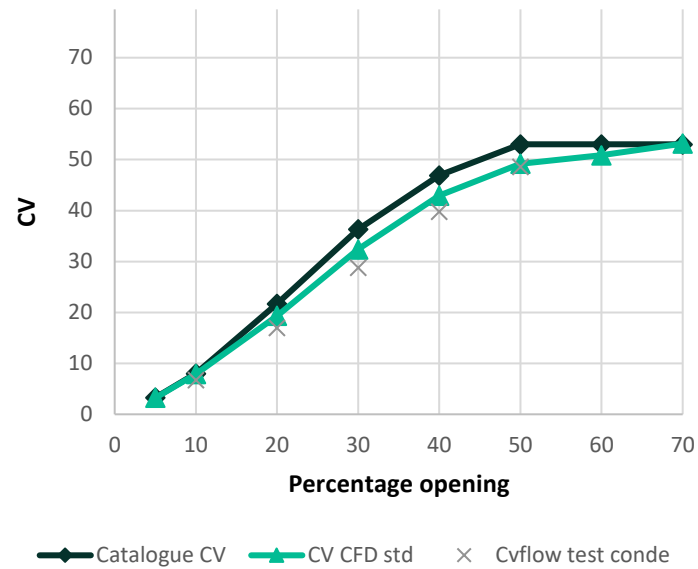


<https://www.rbf-morph.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CAE2020Aparameterlessshapeoptimizationprocessallowstoextendfatiguelifeof-structuralpartssubjectedtothermalfatigue.pdf>

Problem

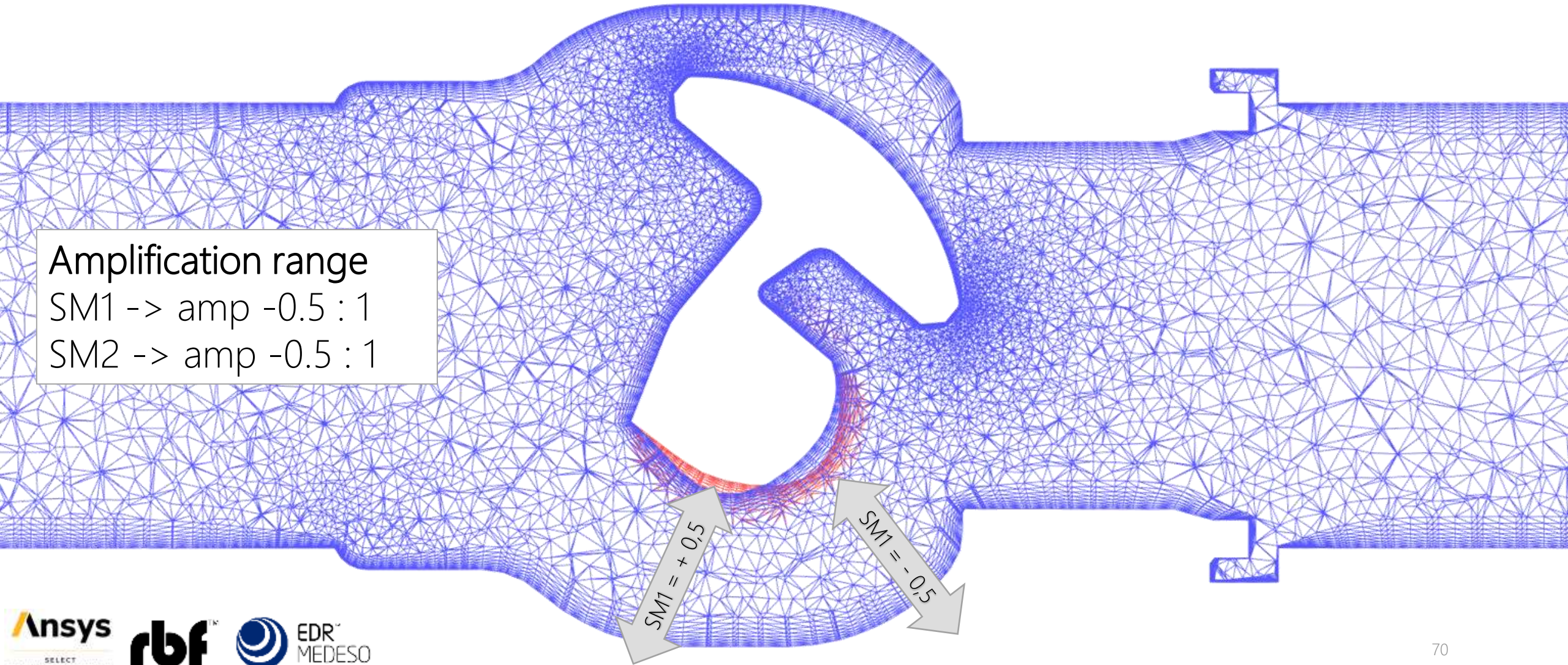
- The main object is the linearization of the Valve Coefficient with the opening angle

2in valve - Flow To Close

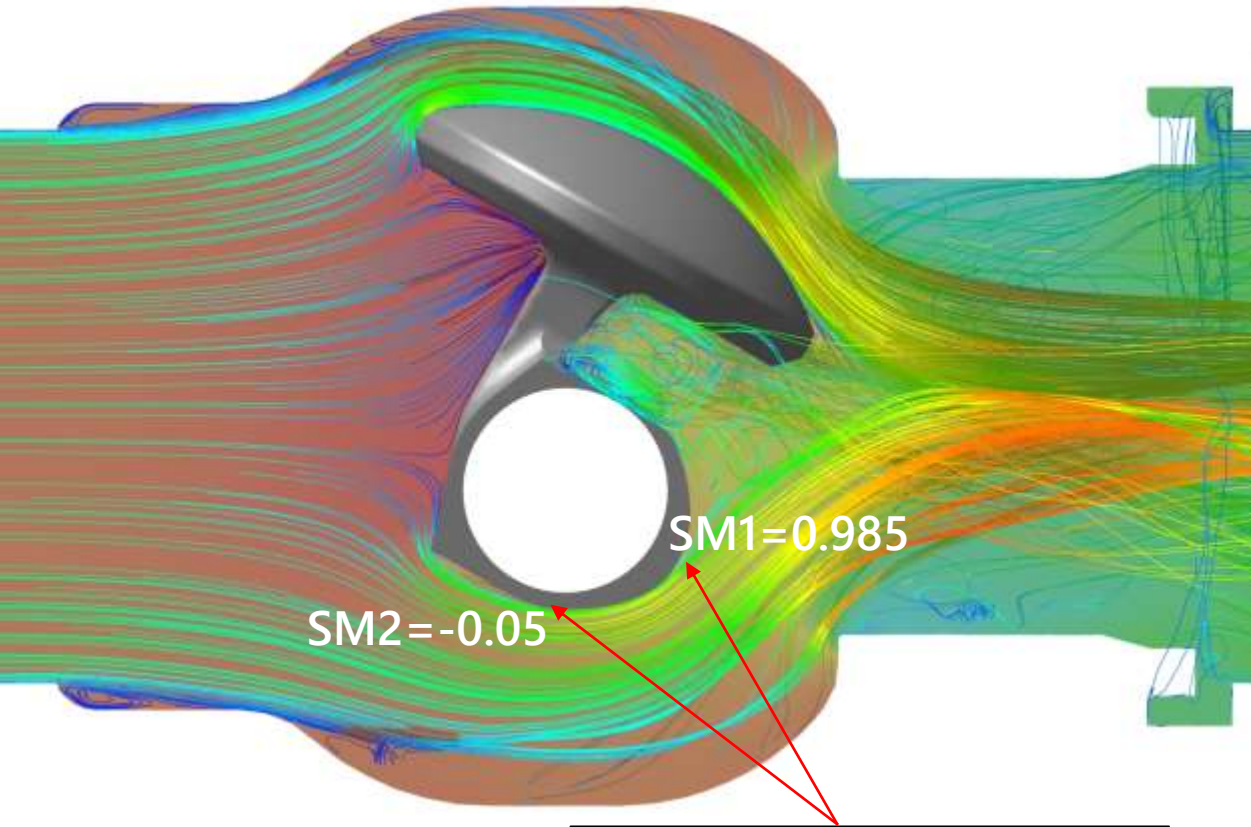


Example of morphing action

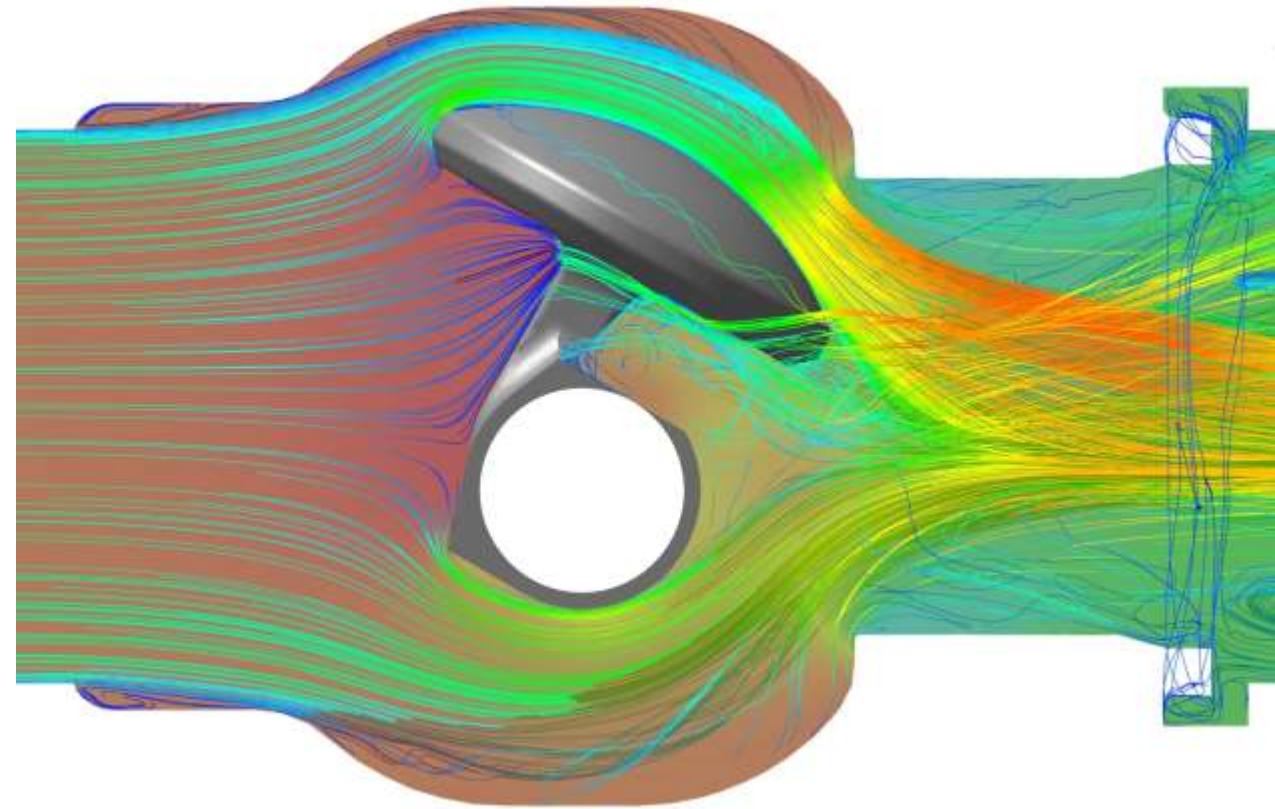
Amplification range
SM1 -> amp -0.5 : 1
SM2 -> amp -0.5 : 1



Solution of the optimization orchestrated by optiSLang

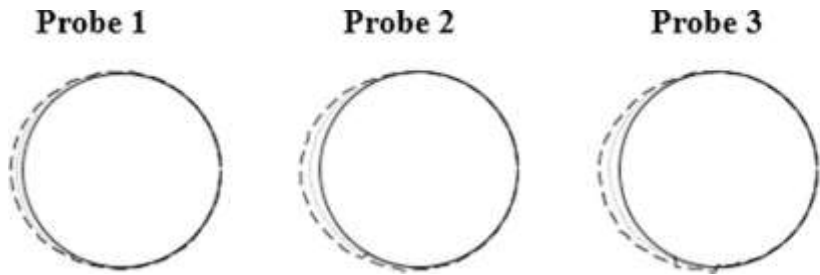


Optimized cam cross section

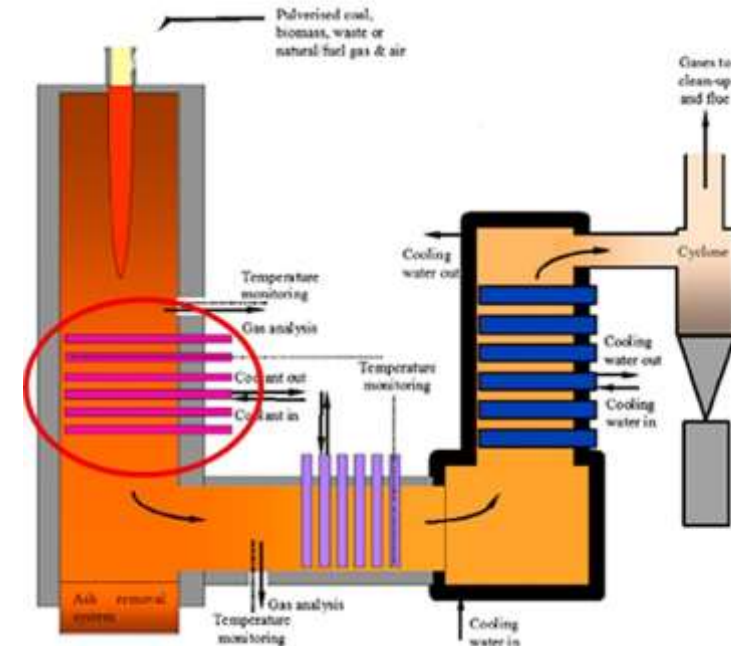
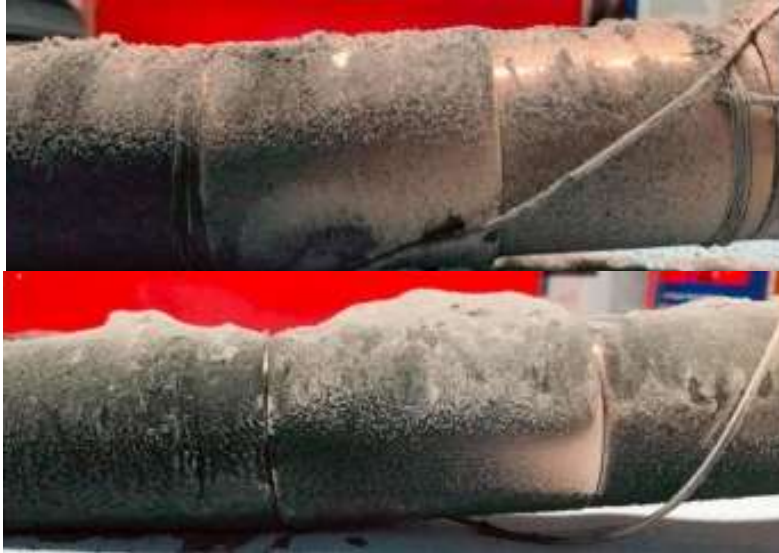
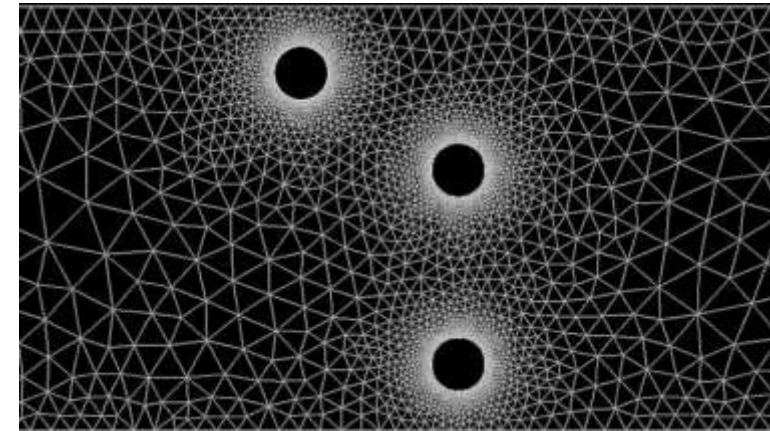


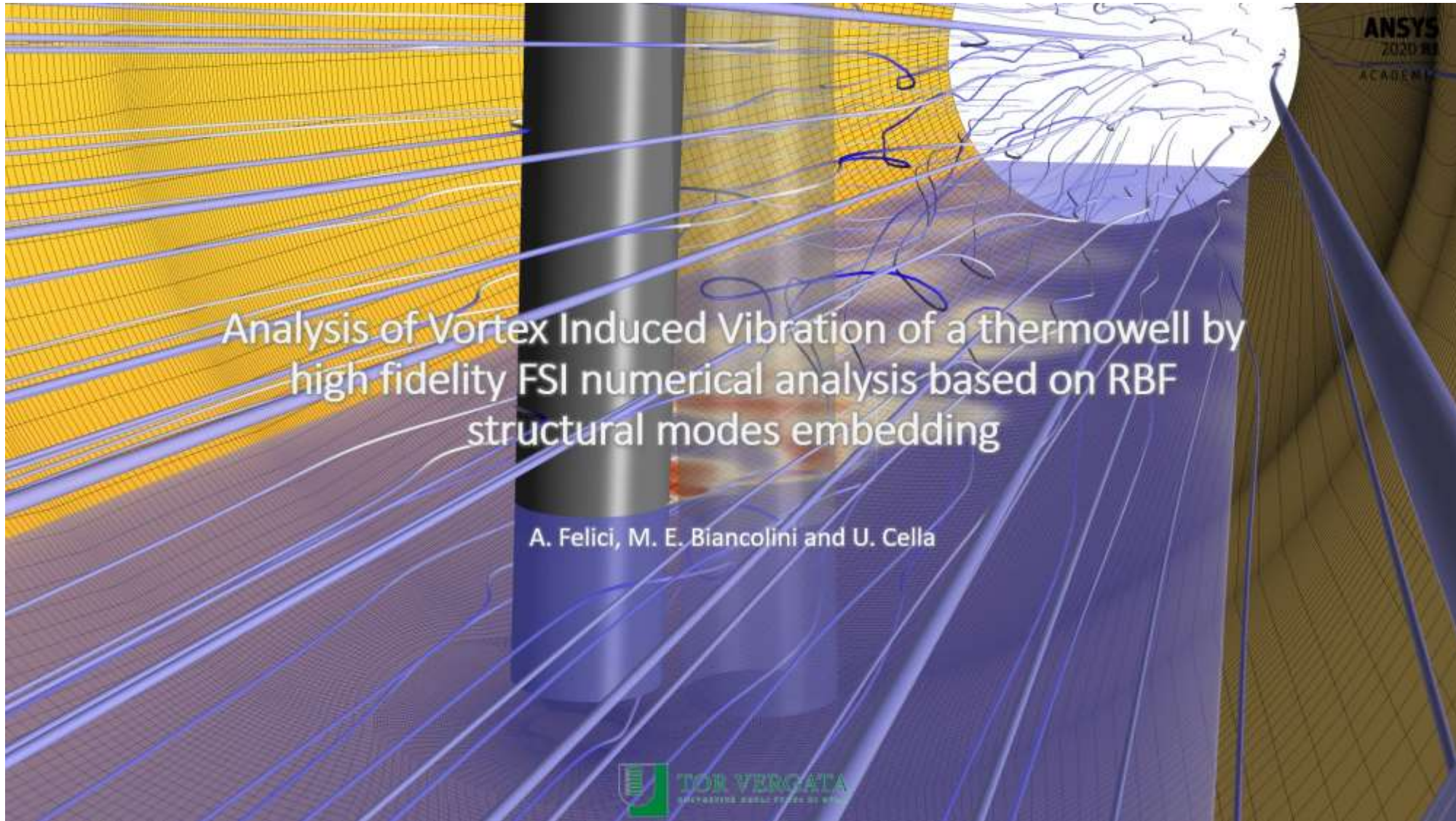
Original cam surface

Fouling of pipes in a pulverized fuel-fired combustor



— cylinder
 — t= 2.5 hrs
 - - - t= 5 hrs





Analysis of Vortex Induced Vibration of a thermowell by
high fidelity FSI numerical analysis based on RBF
structural modes embedding

A. Felici, M. E. Biancolini and U. Cella



Conclusions

- Advanced **mesh morphing** with RBF Morph has been demonstrated for Structural and Fluids applications
- Shape optimization, **parameter based or parameter free**, is available within Mechanical (MAPDL, LS-DYNA) and Fluent
- Snapshots for **reduced order models** and digital twin definition can be easily generated using as input shape parameters
- Mesh morphing can also be used for **morphing onto a prescribed target** (a new CAD variation, the actual manufactured shape captured by 3d scan)
- To learn more about the technology and how it can help your design visit our website
 - www.rbf-morph.com

Additional Resources

Additional Resources

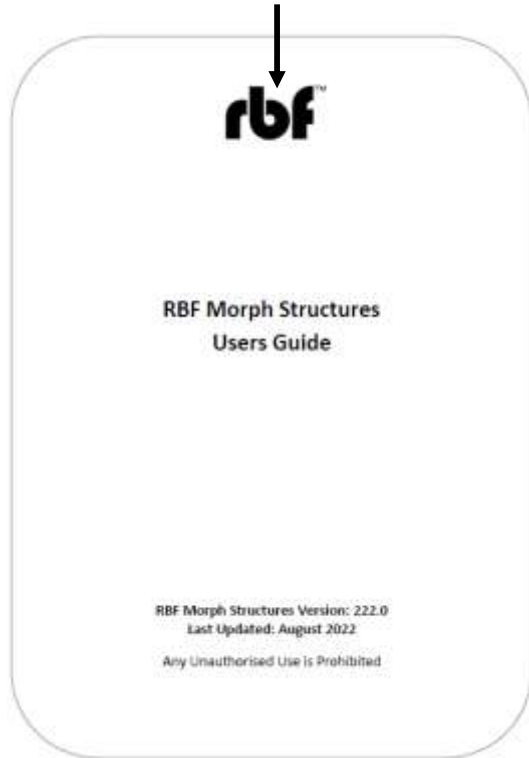
- In addition to the examples in this presentation, RBF Morph has comprehensive User Guide and extensive set of tutorials included in the download packages

Tutorials-V222.0

RBF-Morph-Structures-Release-Notes-V222.0.pdf

RBF-Morph-Structures-Tutorials-Guide-V222.0.pdf

RBF-Morph-Structures-Users-Guide-V222.0.pdf



Tutorial-01-conrod-V222.0.zip

Tutorial-02-optimization-automation-V212.0.zip

Tutorial-03-T-beam-V222.0.zip

Tutorial-04-bracket-V212.0.zip

Tutorial-05-CAD-projection-V212.0.zip

Tutorial-06-tapered-plate-V212.0.zip

Tutorial-07-BGM-V222.0.zip

Tutorial-08-ADPLSolve-V222.0.zip

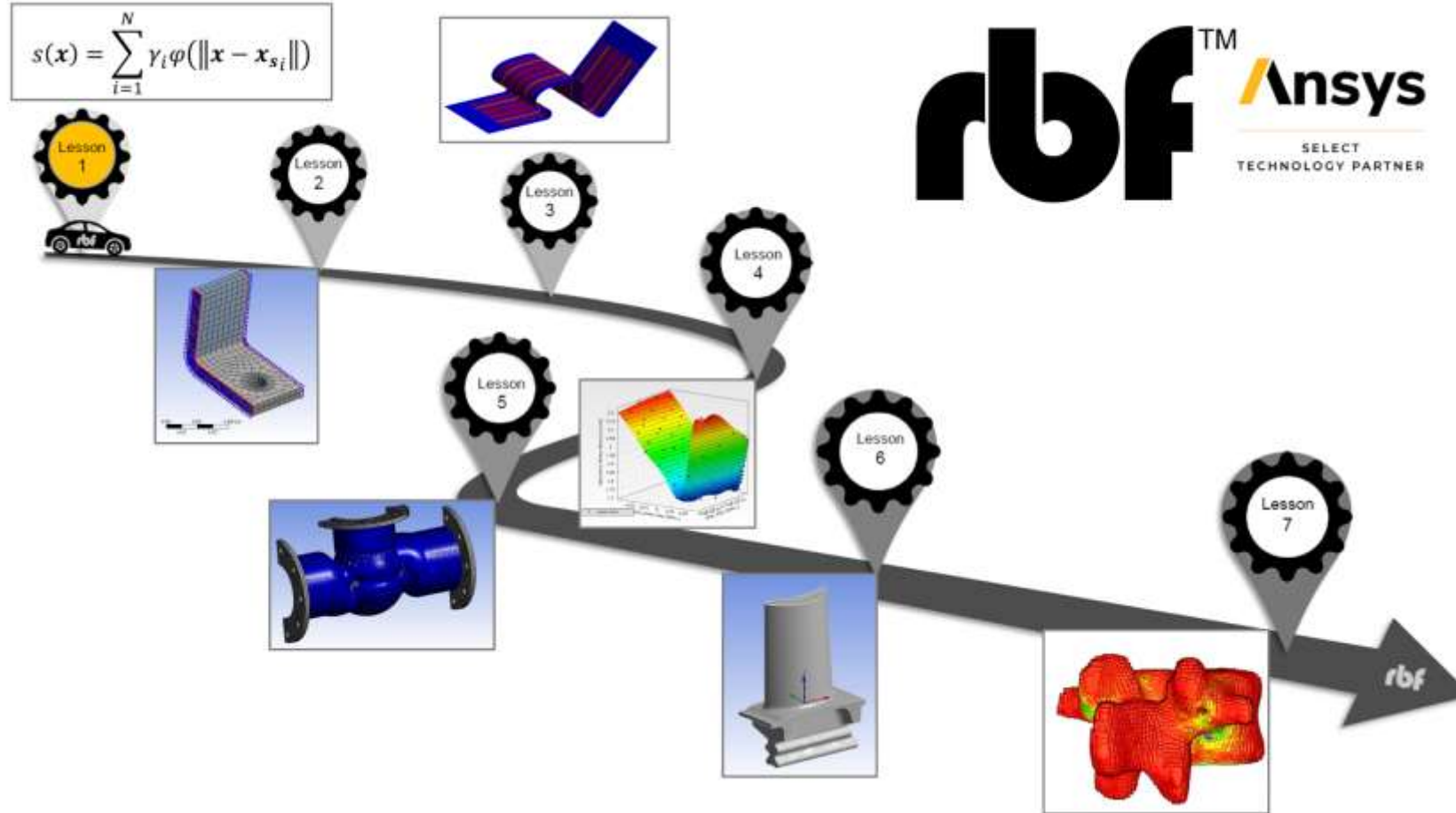
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Tutorial-10-APDL-BGM-V212.0.zip

Tutorial-11-Static-ROM-V221.0.zip

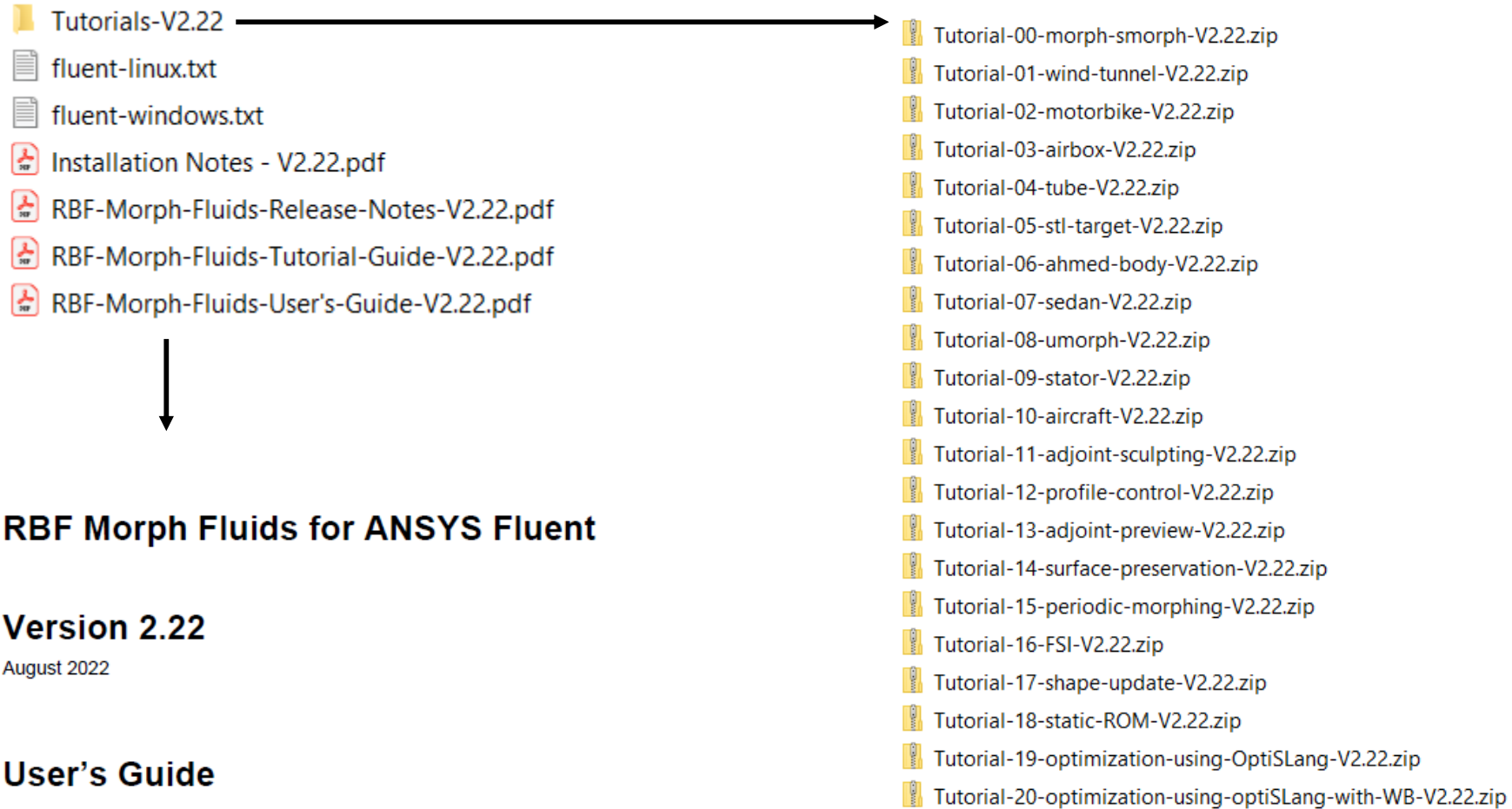
Additional Resources

- Ansys Learning Hub: Ansys RBF Morph Structures Getting Started (Self-paced Learning Available)
- <https://www.ansys.com/training-center/course-catalog/structures/ansys-rbf-morph-structures-getting-started>



Additional Resources

- In addition to the examples in this presentation, RBF Morph has comprehensive User Guide and extensive set of tutorials included in the download packages (ALH coming soon!)



RBF Morph Fluids for ANSYS Fluent

Version 2.22

August 2022

User's Guide

marco.biancolini@rbf-morph.com



[linkedin.com/company/rbf-morph](https://www.linkedin.com/company/rbf-morph)



[youtube.com/user/RbfMorph](https://www.youtube.com/user/RbfMorph)



rbf-morph.com

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