

# Physics-Based and Data-Driven-Based Algorithms for the Simulation of the Heart Function

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and  
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July 6, 2023

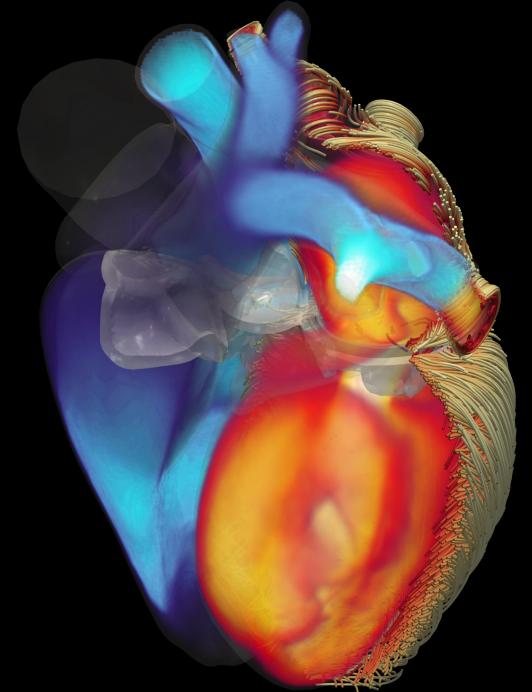


**EPFL**

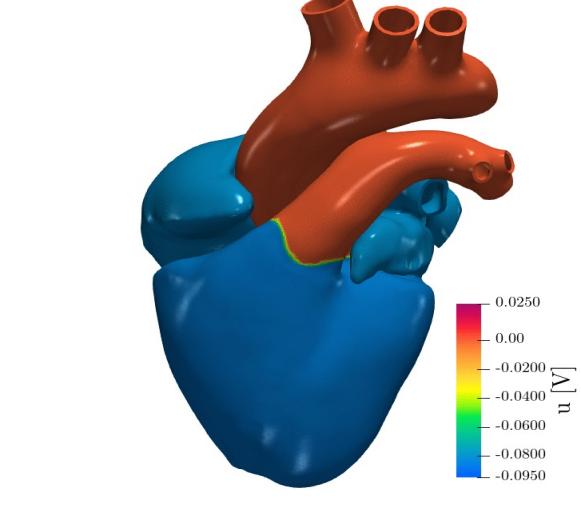
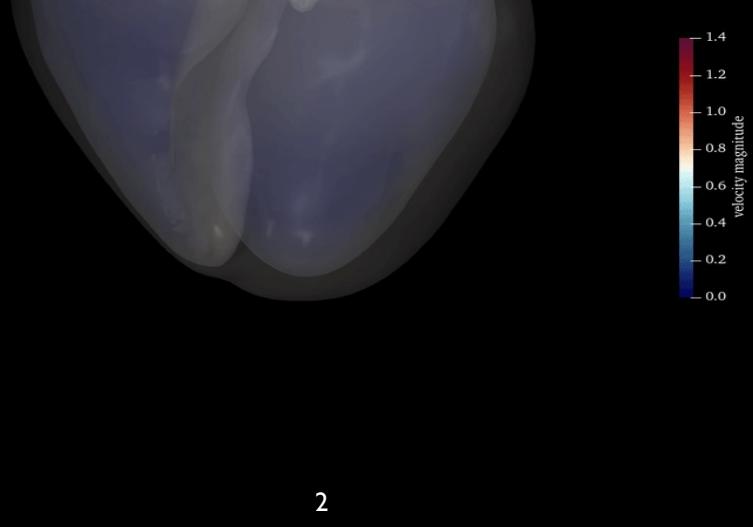
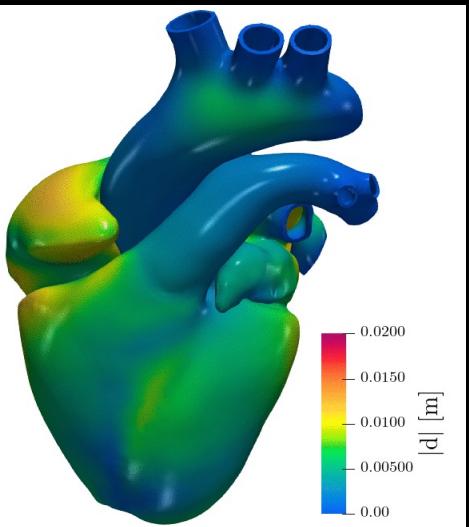
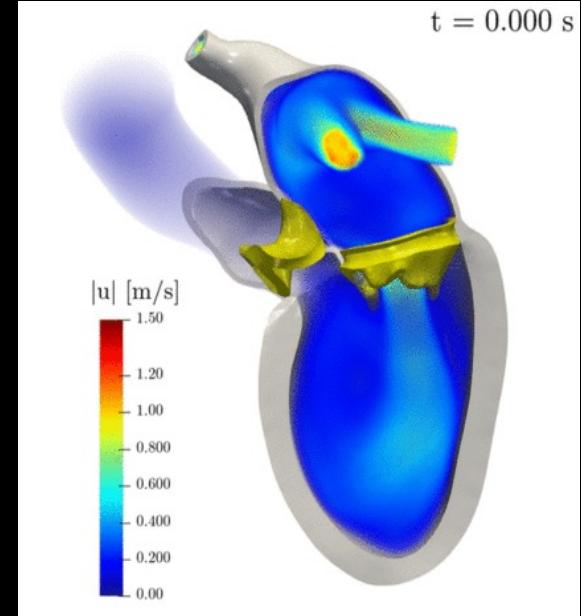
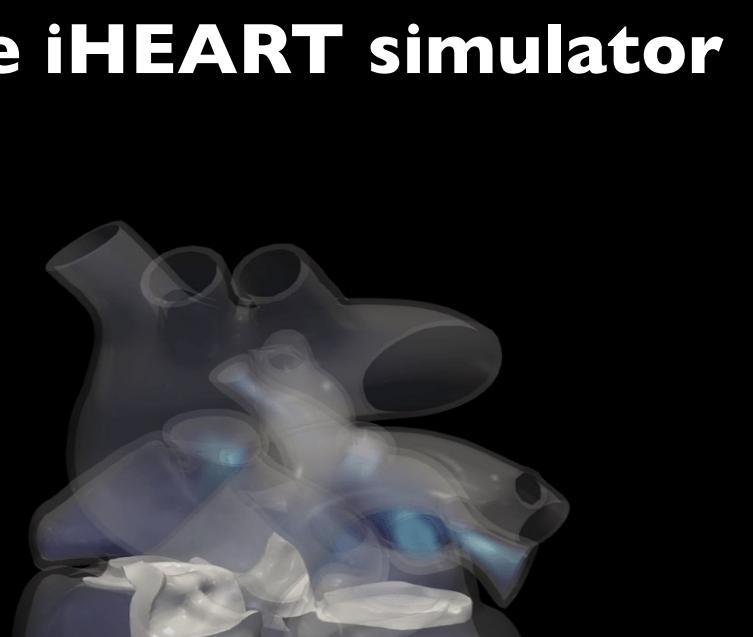
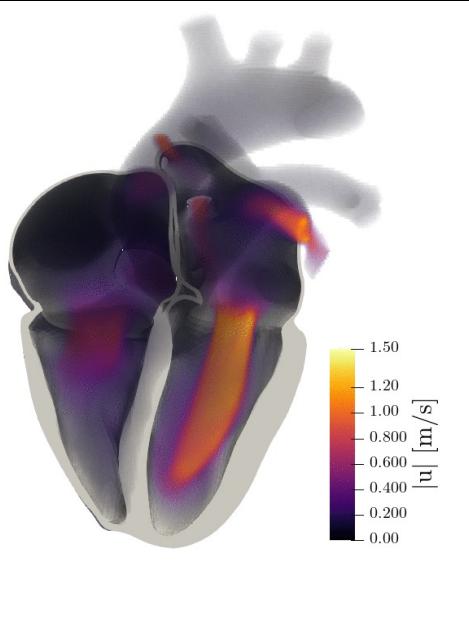
**MOX**



 **life<sup>x</sup>**



# the iHEART simulator



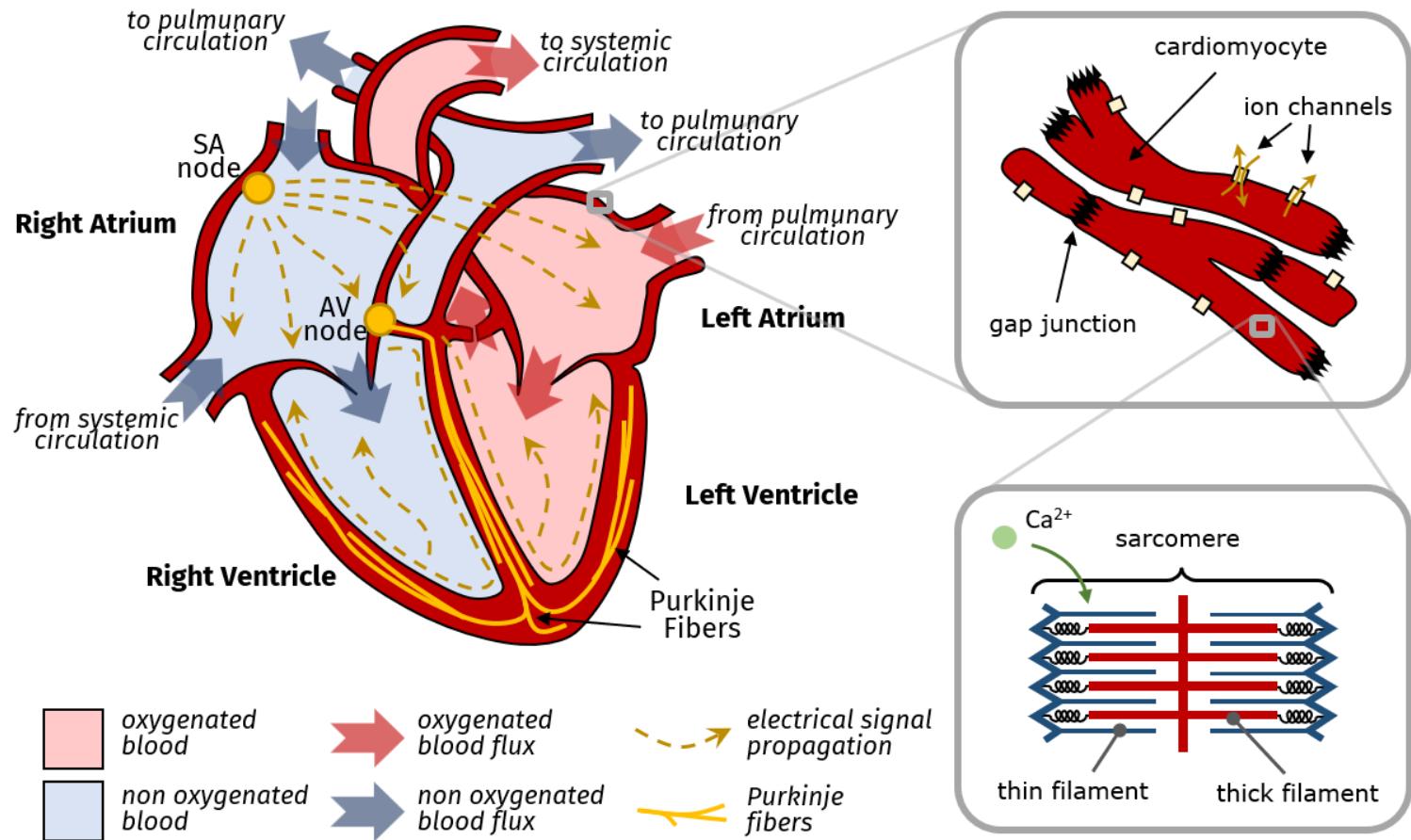
# Challenges in modeling the whole heart

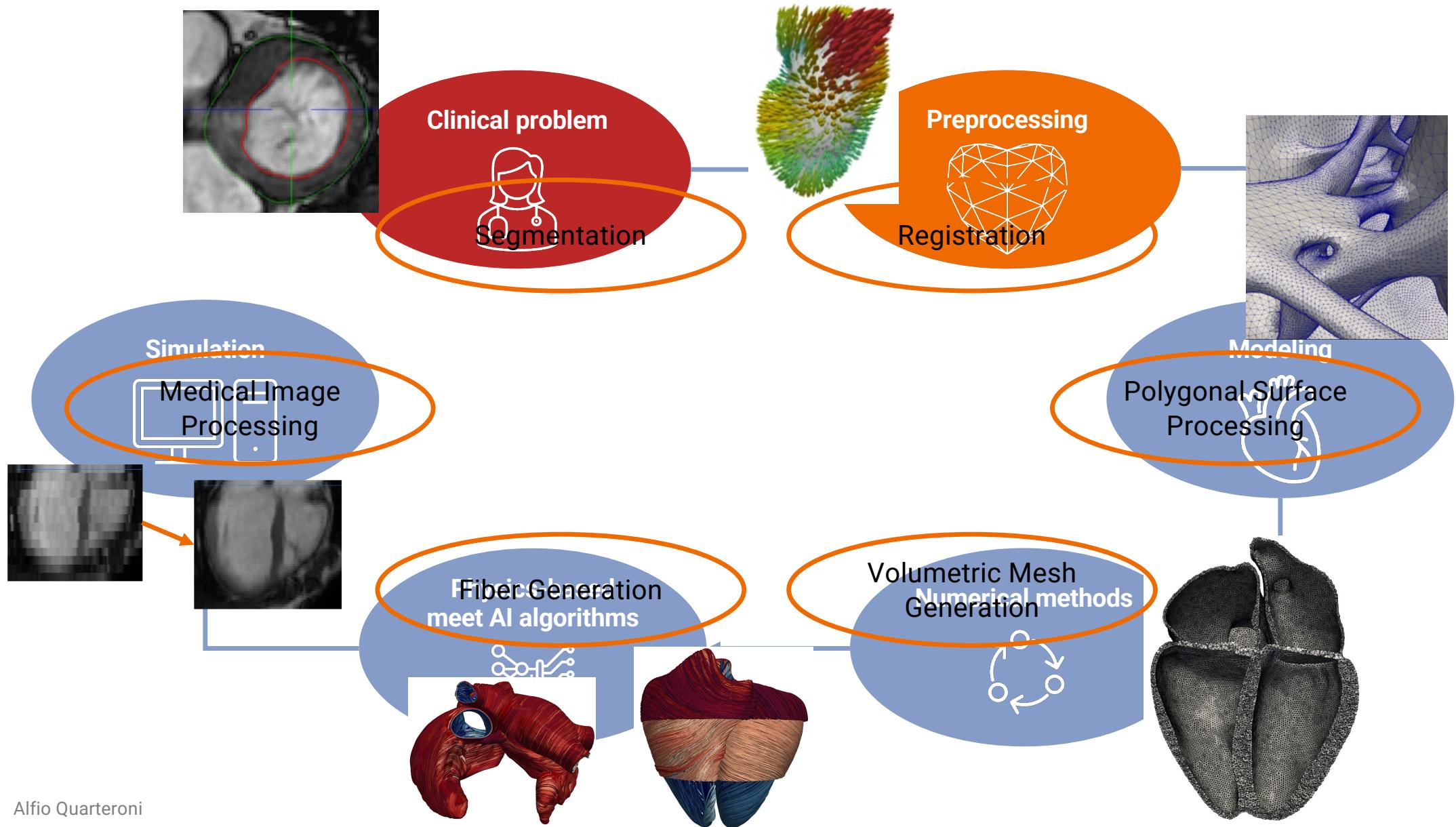
Multiphysics and multiscale processes

Complex interaction between each cardiac "physics"

Complex anatomy, but each cardiac compartment plays a crucial role in the heart function

Different models and parameters in the atria, ventricles, valves, vessels



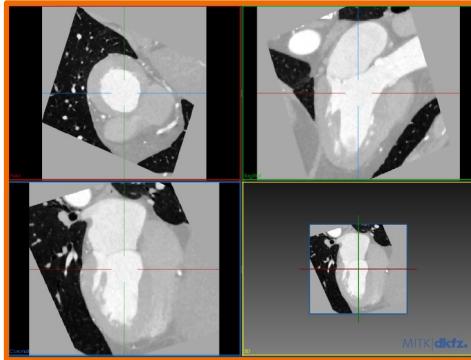


# Clinical data and how we use them

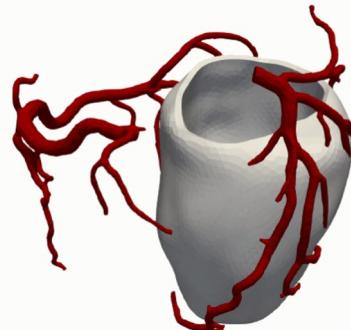


Preprocessing

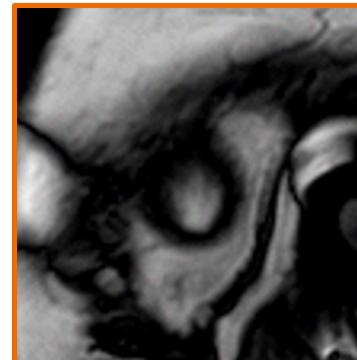
CT scans



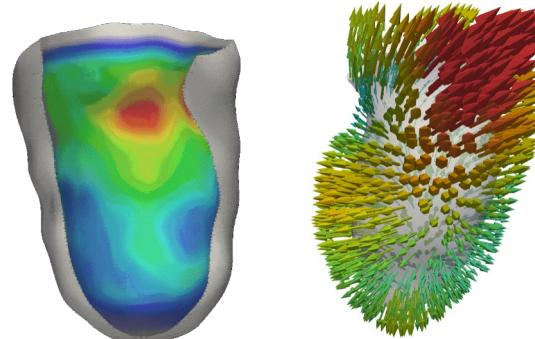
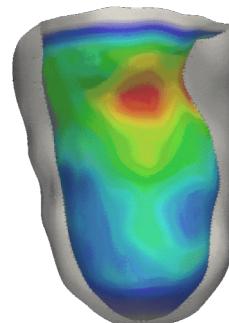
ventricles and coronaries  
reconstruction



cine MRI

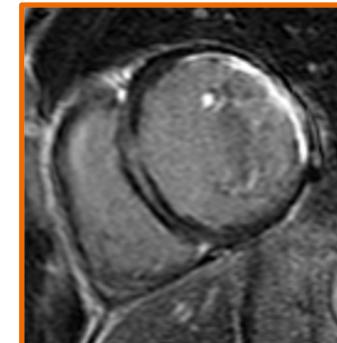


ventricular shape and motion



LGE MRI

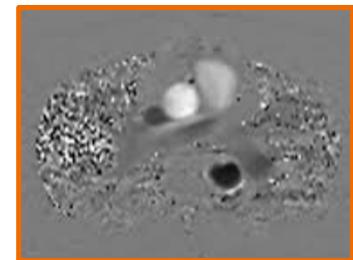
Late Gadolinium



scar and  
grey-zone  
patterns



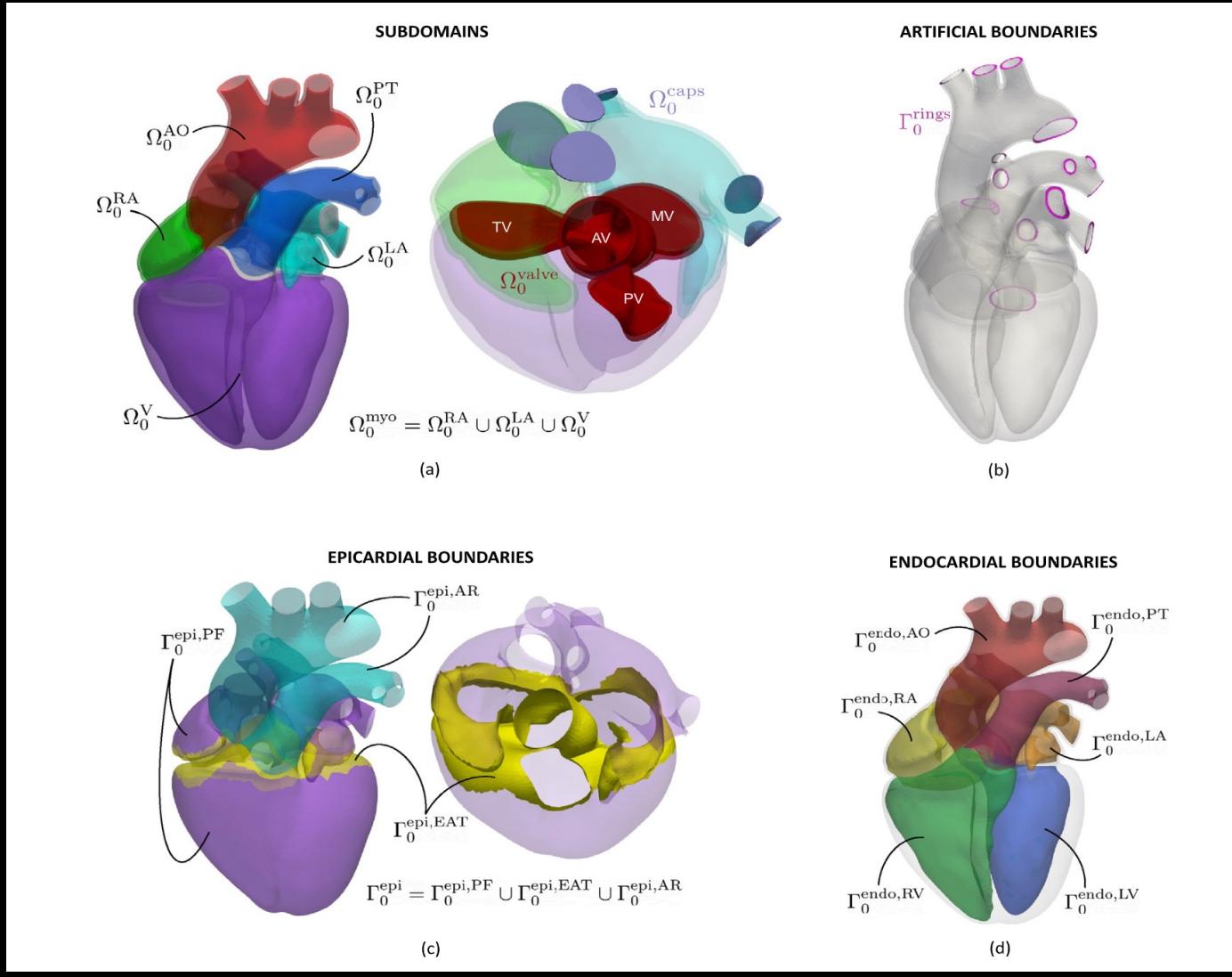
phase-contrast MRI



boundary  
conditions

I. Fumagalli, M. Fedele, C. Vergara, et al., *Computers in Biology and Medicine*, 2020  
M. Salvador, M. Fedele, P. Africa, et al., *Computers in Biology and Medicine*, 2021

# The Domain Boundaries

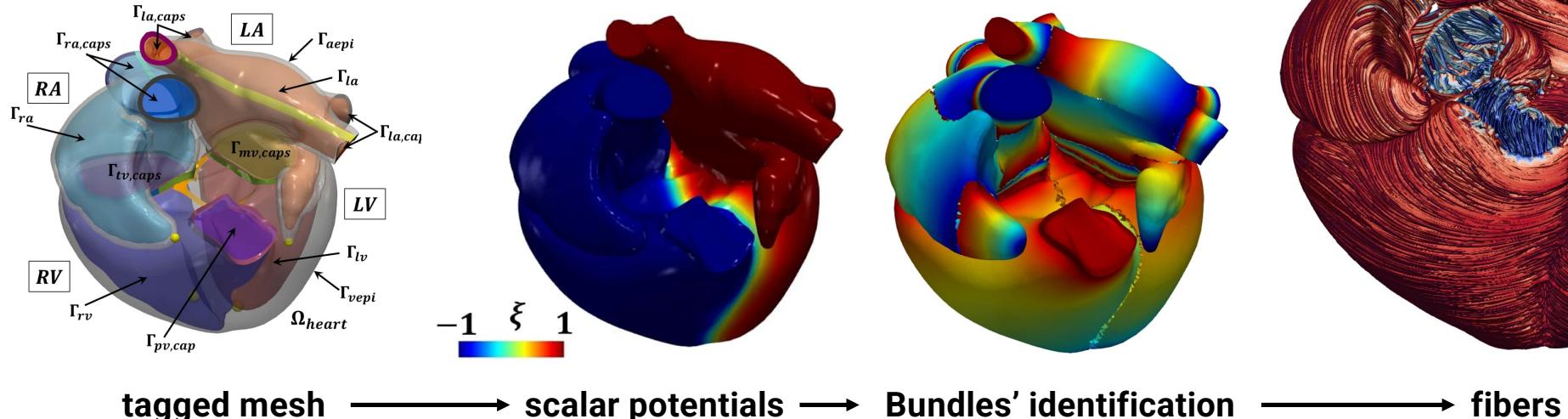




# Generation of cardiac fibers

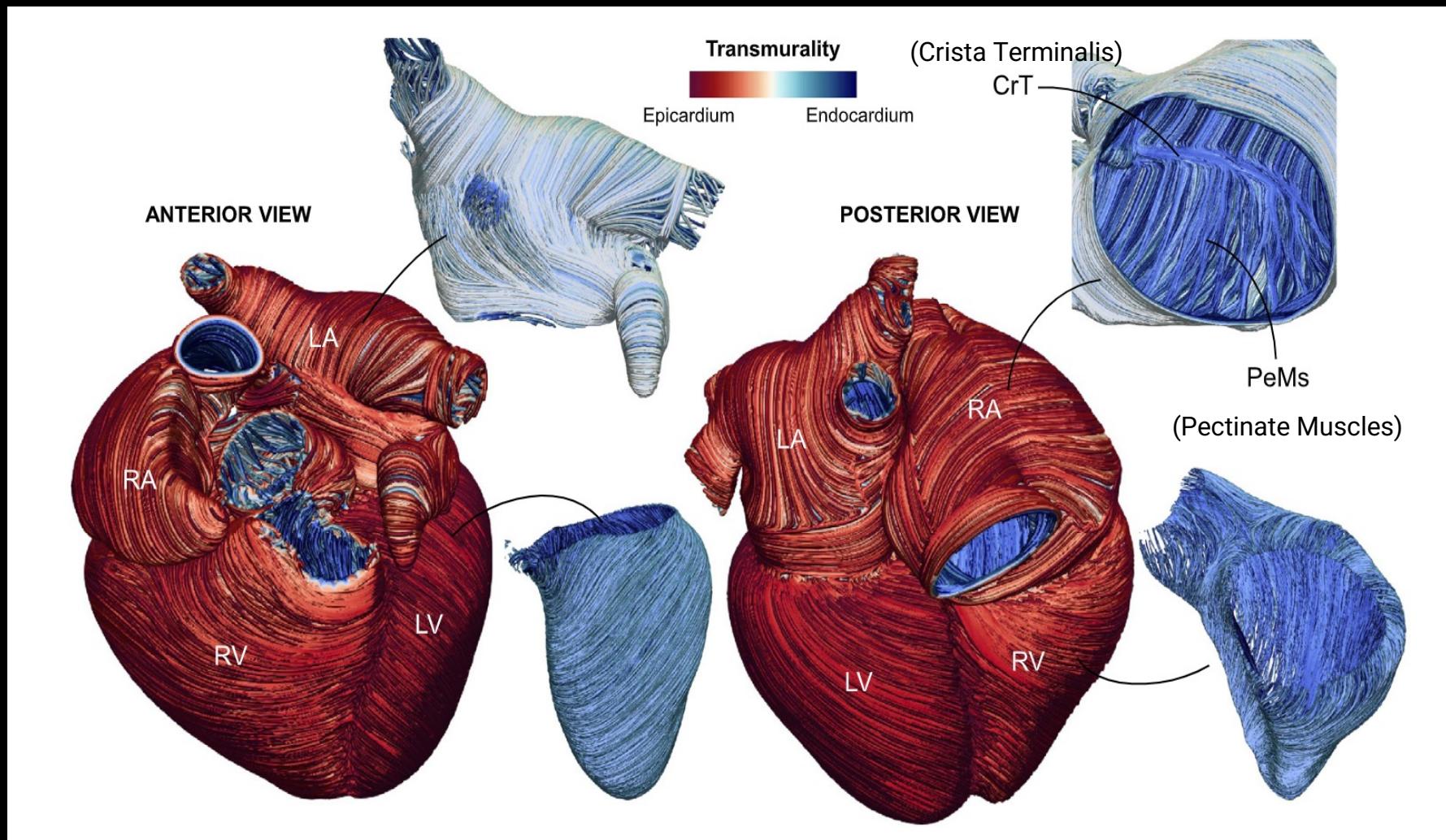
- fibers are **essential to ensure the cardiac function** (electrophysiology, active and passive mechanics)
- **Laplace-Dirichlet Rule Based** methods (LDRBMs)
- derived from **histological observations** and **DT-MRI data**

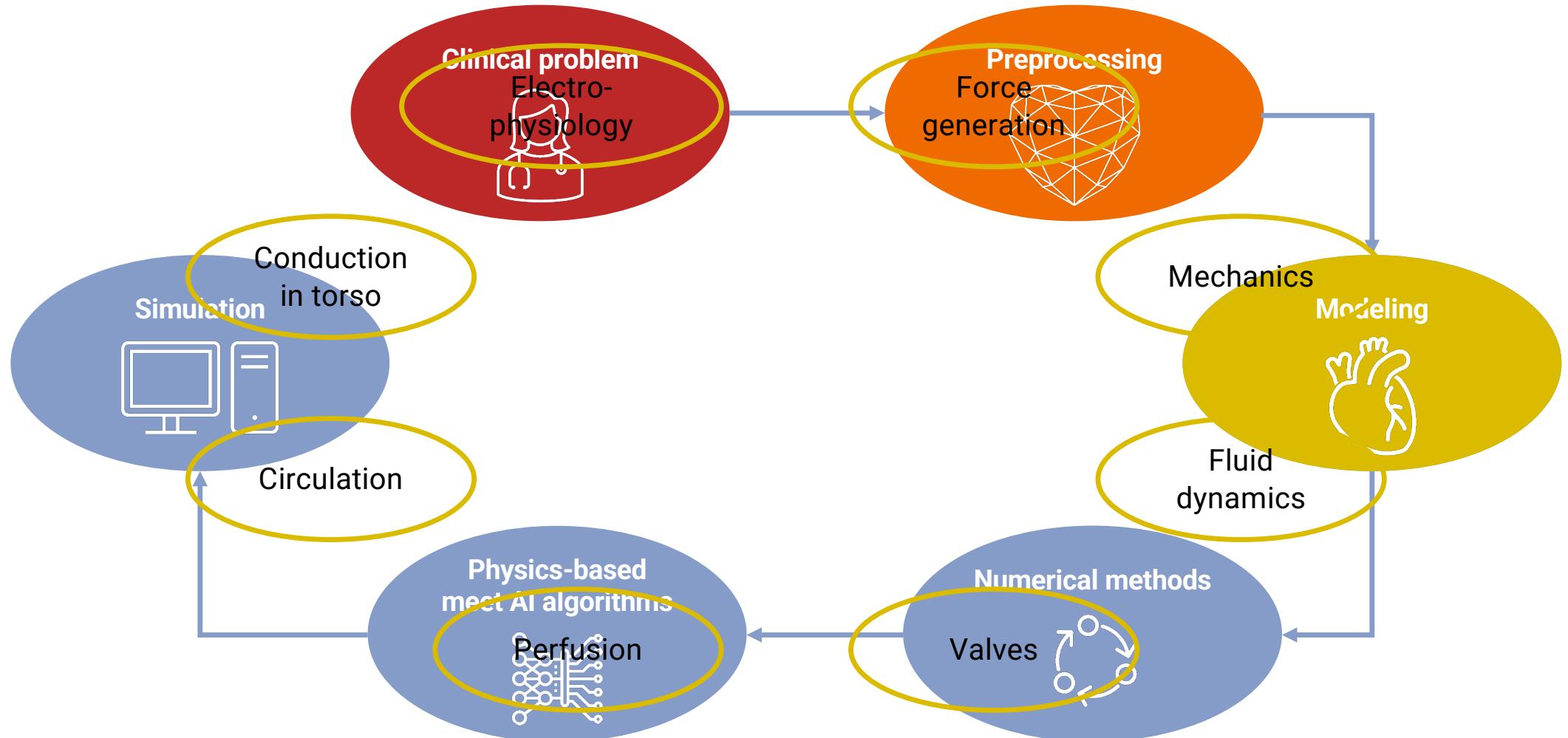
Preprocessing



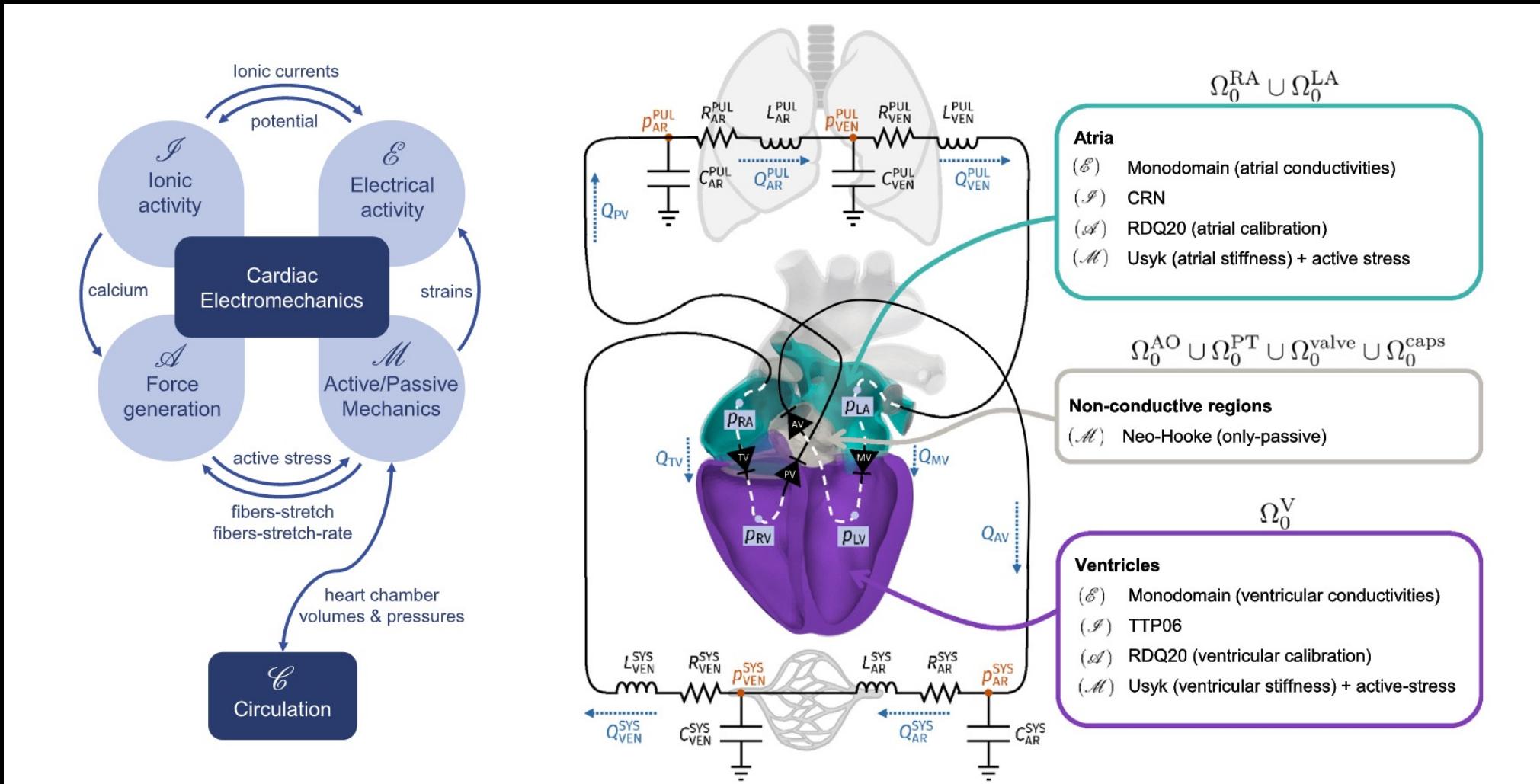
R. Piersanti, P. Africa, M. Fedele et al., *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 2021

# Transmurality





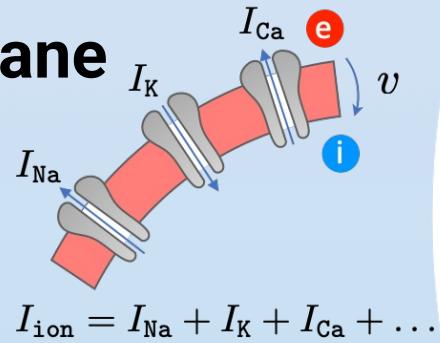
# The Electromechanics Model



# Multiscale modeling in cardiac electro-mechanics



## Cell membrane

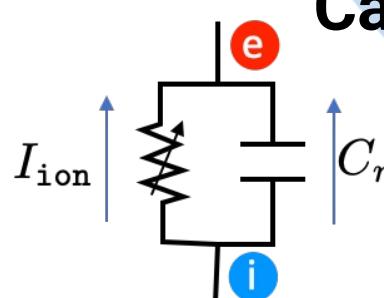
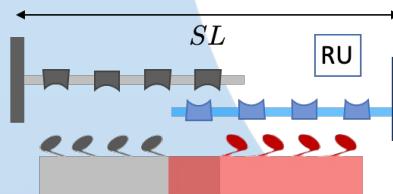


$$I_{\text{ion}} = I_{Na} + I_K + I_{Ca} + \dots$$

**M**

$$\frac{\partial s}{\partial t} = F_{\text{act}} \left( s, [\text{Ca}^+]_i, SL, \frac{\partial SL}{\partial t} \right)$$

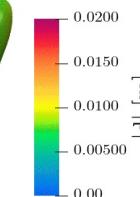
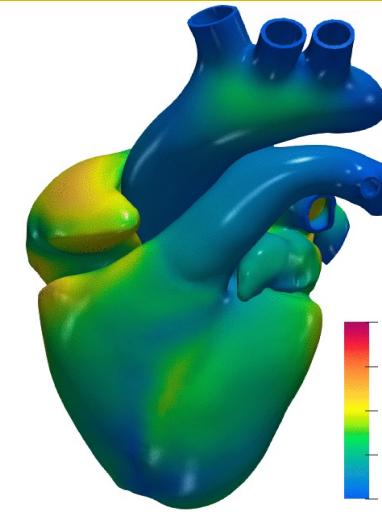
state of contraction



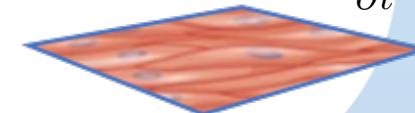
## Cardiomyocyte

Alfio Quarteroni

## organ



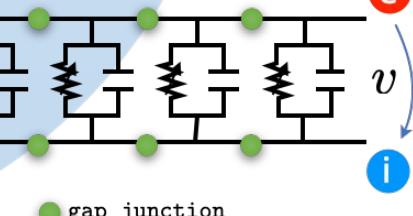
$$\rho_s \frac{\partial^2 d}{\partial t^2} - \nabla \cdot P_s(d, s) = 0$$



## Cardiac tissue

$$\chi \left( C_m \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + I_{\text{ion}} \right) - \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{D} \nabla v) = I_{\text{app}}$$

$$I_{\text{app}} \xrightarrow{C_m \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + I_{\text{ion}}} \begin{array}{c} \text{gap junction} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array}$$



**M**

**EP**



# The fluid dynamics model

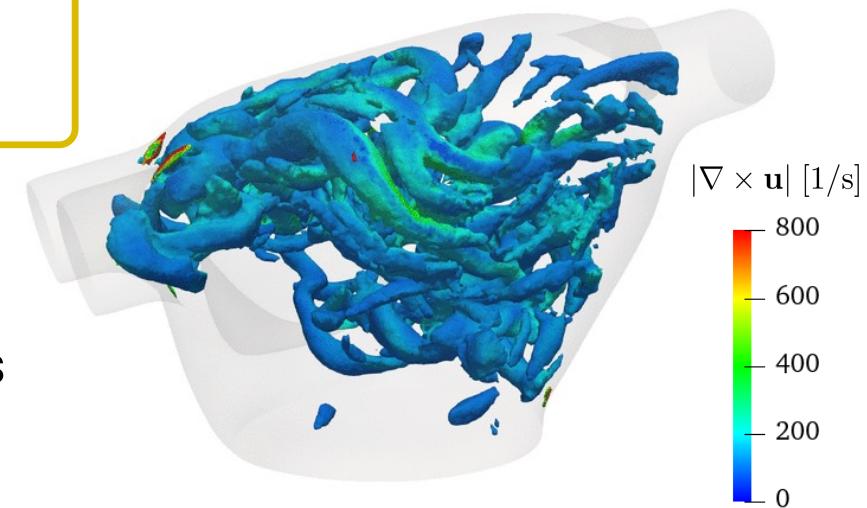
$$\begin{cases} -\nabla \cdot P_{ALE}(\mathbf{d}_{ALE}) = \mathbf{0} & \text{in } \hat{\Omega} \\ \mathbf{d}_{ALE} = \mathbf{d} & \text{on } \hat{\Sigma} \end{cases} \quad \mathbf{u}_{ALE} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{d}_{ALE}}{\partial t}$$

$$\begin{cases} \rho_f \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + ((\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_{ALE}) \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \right] - \nabla \cdot \sigma_f(\mathbf{u}, p) = \mathbf{0} & \text{in } \Omega \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \end{cases}$$

$$\sigma_f(\mathbf{u}, p) = \mu (\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T) - pI$$

**Unknowns**

$\mathbf{d}_{ALE}$  : domain displacement  
 $\mathbf{u}_{ALE}$  : domain velocity  
 $\mathbf{u}$  : blood velocity  
 $p$  : blood pressure



- blood modeled as **incompressible, Newtonian**
- **Arbitrary Lagrangian-Eulerian Navier-Stokes**
- **non-linear** domain displacement for robustness
- **VMS-LES** turbulence modeling

M. Fedele, E. Faggiano, L. Dede', et al., *Biomechanics and Modeling in Mechanobiology*, 2017  
A. Zingaro, I. Fumagalli, L. Dede', et al., *Discrete and Continuous Dynamical System – S*, 2022



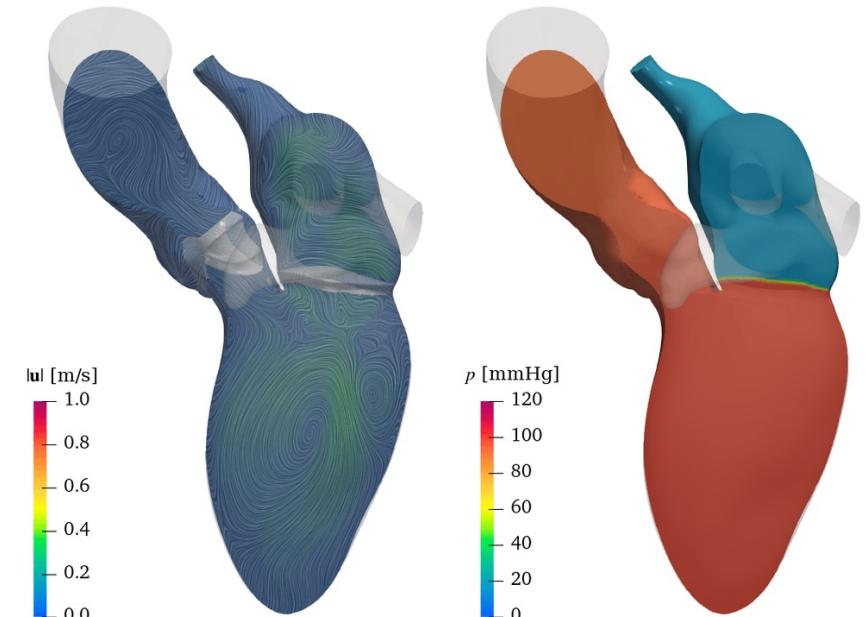
# Resistive Immersed Implicit Surface method for valves

$$\rho_f \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + ((\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_{ALE}) \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \right] - \nabla \cdot \sigma_f(\mathbf{u}, p) + \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}_{ALE}) = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}_{ALE}) = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{V}} \frac{R_k}{\varepsilon_k} \delta_{\varepsilon_k} (\varphi_k^t(\mathbf{x})) (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_{ALE} - \mathbf{u}_{\Gamma_k})$$

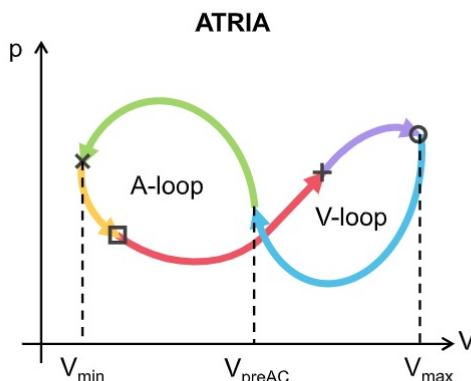
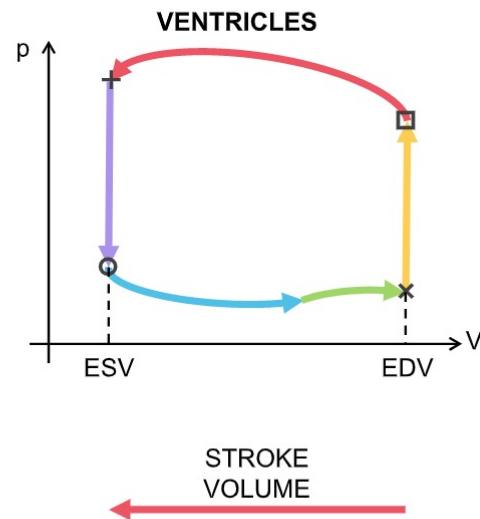
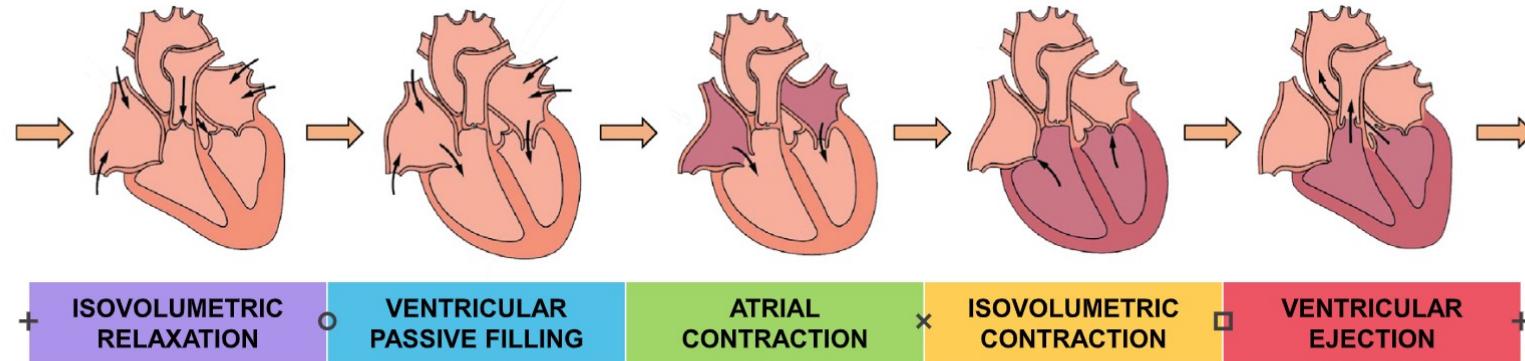
$\varphi_k^t$  distance from valve leaflets  
 $\delta_{\varepsilon_k}$  smeared Dirac delta function  
 $\varepsilon_k$  valve half-thickness  
 $R_k$  penalty (resistive) coefficient

- valve kinematics defined through  $(\varphi_k^t, \mathbf{u}_{\Gamma_k})$ :
  - pressure jump, or
  - **lumped-parameter valve model**
- **heartbeat phases and jets and vortices**  
induced by the valves correctly captured

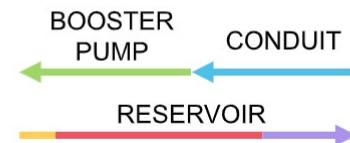


M. Fedele, E. Faggiano, L. Dede', et al., *Biomechanics and Modeling in Mechanobiology*, 2017  
 A. Zingaro, I. Fumagalli, L. Dede', et al., *Discrete and Continuous Dynamical System – S*, 2022

# The Five Atrio-Ventricular Phases



- MV/TV open
- ×
- AV/PV open
- +
- AV/PV close





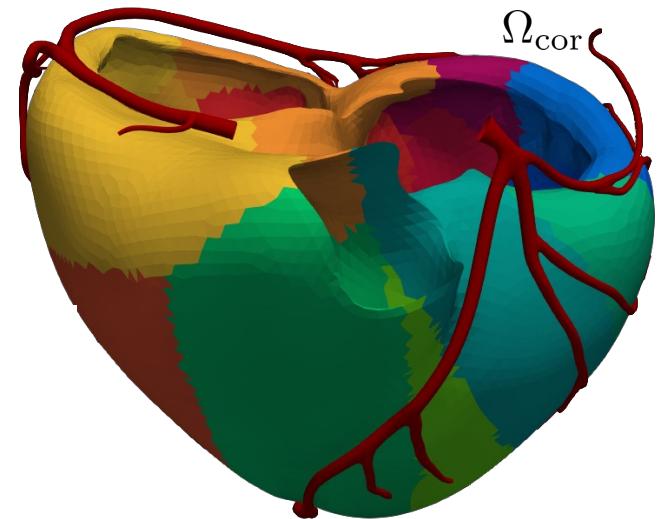
# The cardiac perfusion model

Modeling

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{NS}(\mathbf{u}, p) = \mathbf{0} \\ \\ \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{in } \Omega_{\text{cor}}$$

**Unknowns**

$\mathbf{u}$  : epicardial cor. velocity  
 $p$  : epicardial cor. pressure  
 $\mathbf{u}_{\text{myo}_k}$  :  $k$ -th compartment velocity  
 $p_{\text{myo}_k}$  :  $k$ -th compartment pressure



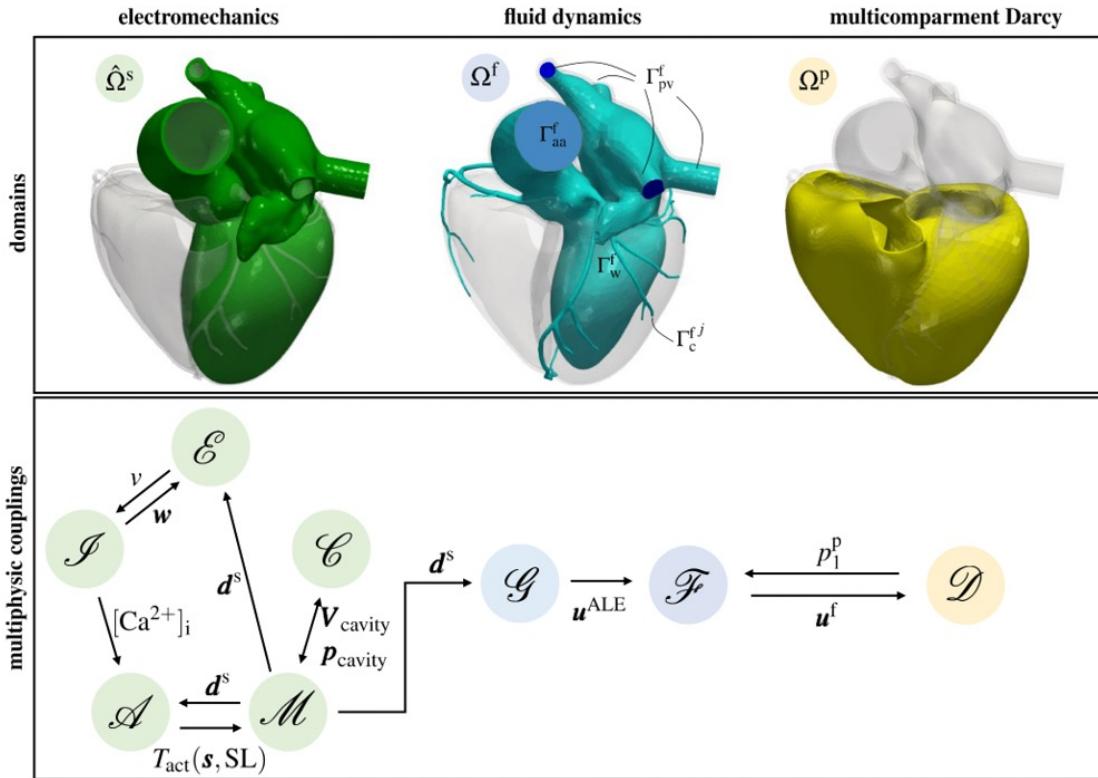
- proximal coronaries: **Navier-Stokes** (NS)
- intramural vessels: **multi-compartment Darcy**
- **two-way coupling** of flow rate and pressure

C. Michler, A.N. Cookson, R. Chabiniok et al., *International Journal of Numerical Methods in Biomedical Engineering*, 2013  
S. Di Gregorio, M. Fedele, G. Pontone et al., *Journal of Computational Physics*, 2021

# Electromechanics driven CFD-Darcy model for perfusion



Modeling



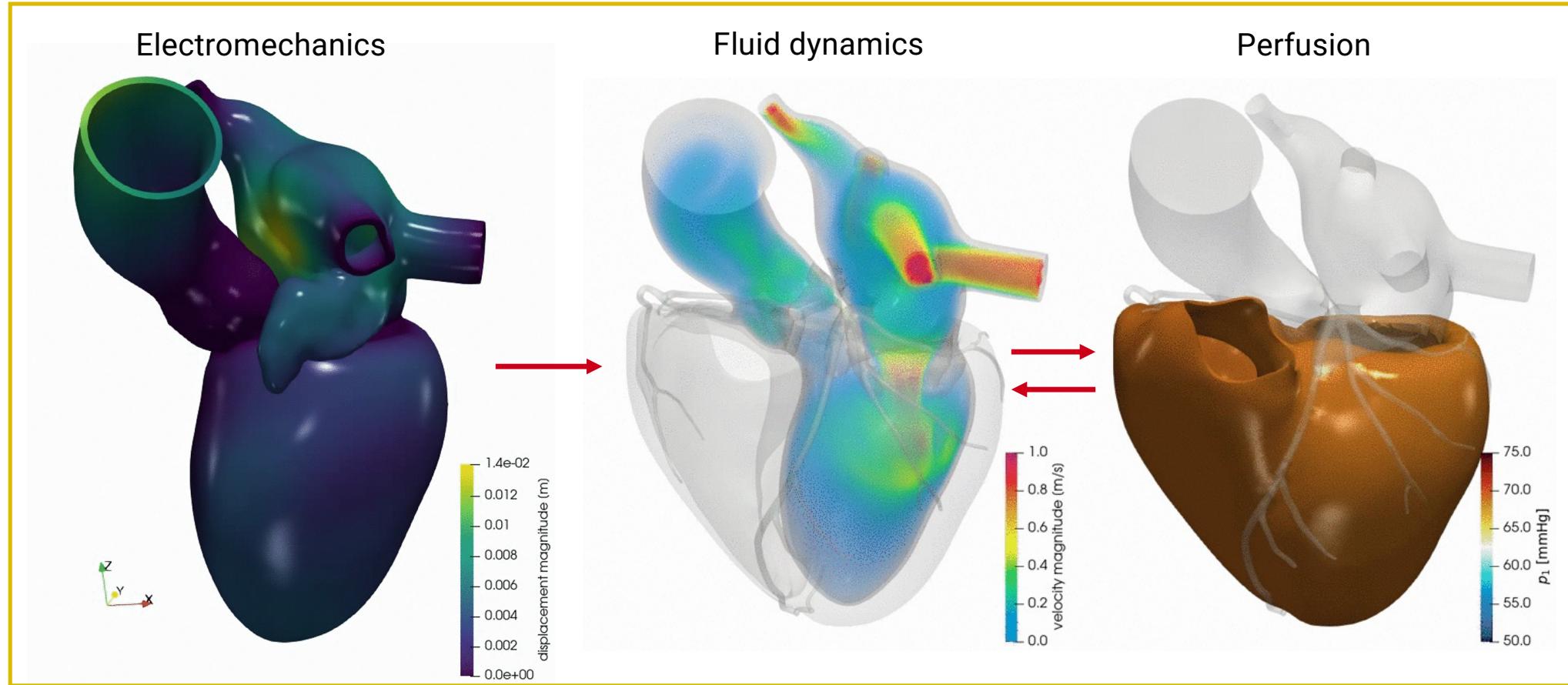
- Electromechanics of the left heart
- Blood fluid dynamics in left heart and large epicardial coronaries
- Valves modeled with RIIS method
- Multicompartment Darcy model for myocardial perfusion
- One-way EM-CFD
- Fully coupled CFD-Multicompartment Darcy

A. Zingaro, C. Vergara, L. Dede', F. Regazzoni, A. Quarteroni, arXiv (2023)

# Electromechanics driven CFD-Darcy model for perfusion



Modeling



A. Zingaro, C. Vergara, L. Dede', F. Regazzoni, A. Quarteroni, arXiv (2023)

Apr 2023

Alfio Quarteroni

27



# A lumped model for the circulatory system

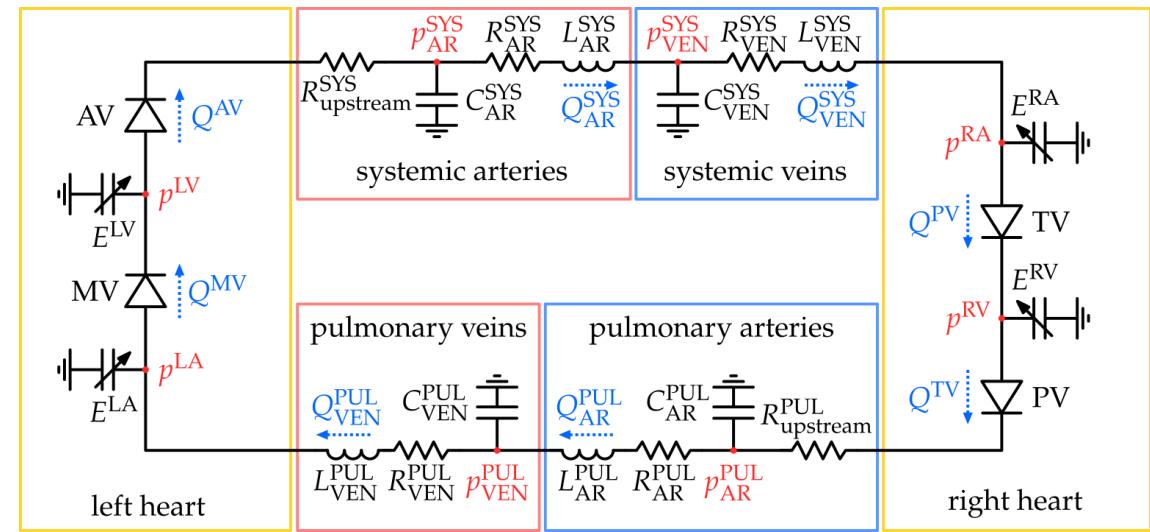
$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{circ}} \left( \mathbf{c}, \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{dt}, t \right) = \mathbf{0}$$

## Unknowns

$\mathbf{c}$  : Circulation state  
(pressure, flowrate,  
chamber volume)

## Modeling

- ordinary differential-algebraic system
- electric circuit analogy
- modular coupling with 3D models (either mechanics or fluid dynamics)



F. Regazzoni, M. Salvador, P. C. Africa, et al., *Journal of Computational Physics*, 2022

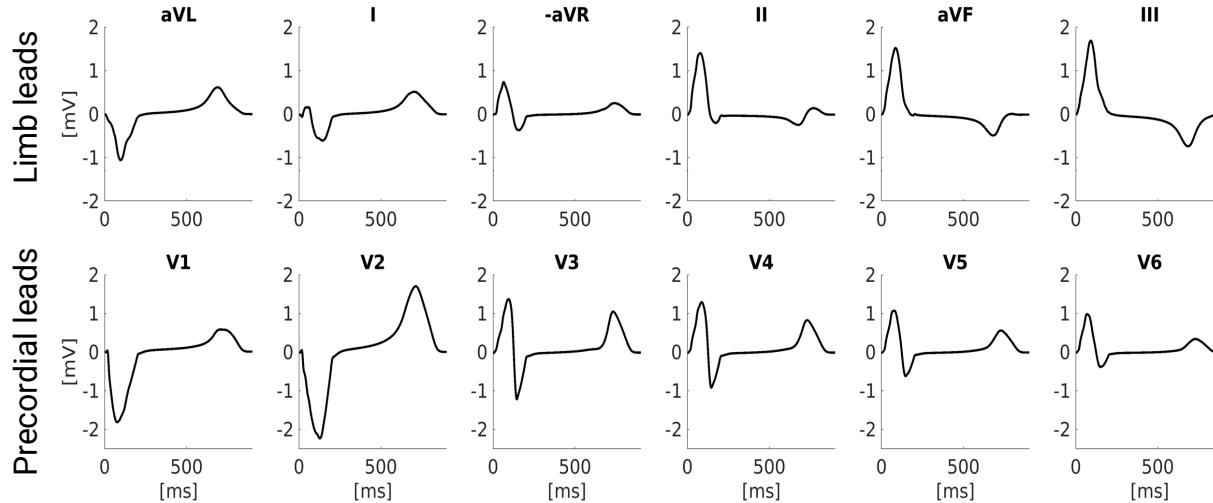
M. Hirschvogel, M. Bassilious, M. Jagschies, et al., *International Journal for Numerical Methods in Biomedical Engineering*, 2017

# Numerical generation of 12-lead ECG system



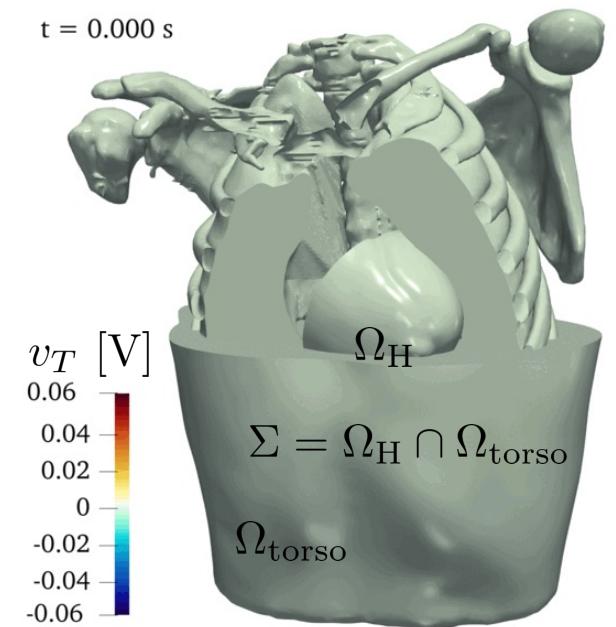
$$\begin{cases} \text{EP}(v, v_e) = 0 & \text{in } \Omega_H \\ -\nabla \cdot (D_T \nabla v_T) = 0 & \text{in } \Omega_{\text{torso}} \\ v_T = v_e & \text{on } \Sigma \\ D_T \nabla v_T \cdot \mathbf{n}_H = D_e \nabla v_e \cdot \mathbf{n}_H & \text{on } \Sigma \end{cases}$$

Modeling



**Unknowns**  
 $v_T$  : extra-cellular potential in torso

$t = 0.000 \text{ s}$



Minor inconsistencies in T-wave due to lack of ionic heterogeneity

M. Boulakia, S. Cazeau, M.A. Fernández, et al., *Annals of Biomedical Engineering*, 2010  
E. Zappon, et al., *MOX Report*, Politecnico di Milano, 2022

# The Integrated Mathematical Heart (the Core Equations)

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \mathbf{w}}{\partial t} = \mathbf{F}_{\text{ion}}^{\mathbf{w}}(v, \mathbf{w}) & \text{in } \Omega \\ \frac{\partial \mathbf{z}}{\partial t} = \mathbf{F}_{\text{ion}}^{\mathbf{z}}(v, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z}) & \text{in } \Omega \end{cases}$$

Cellular Ions' dynamics

$$\begin{cases} J\chi C_m \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} - \nabla \cdot (JF^{-1}D_i F^{-T} \nabla(v + v_e)) \\ \quad + J\chi I_{\text{ion}}(v, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z}) = J\chi I_{\text{app}}(\mathbf{x}, t) & \text{in } \Omega \\ -\nabla \cdot (JF^{-1}D_i F^{-T} \nabla v) - \nabla \cdot (JF^{-1}(D_i + D_e) \nabla v_e) = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \end{cases}$$

Cardiomyocytes Contraction

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{circ}} \left( \mathbf{c}, \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{dt}, t \right) = \mathbf{0}$$

External Circulation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \mathbf{s}}{\partial t} = \mathbf{F}_{\text{act}} \left( \mathbf{s}, [\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i, \text{SL}, \frac{\partial \text{SL}}{\partial t} \right) & \text{in } \Omega \\ \text{SL} = \text{SL}_0 \sqrt{I_{4f}} & \text{in } \Omega \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\text{act}}(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{s}) &= T_{\text{act}} \left( n_f \frac{F \mathbf{f}_0 \cdot \mathbf{f}_0}{\sqrt{I_{4f}}} + n_s \frac{F \mathbf{s}_0 \cdot \mathbf{s}_0}{\sqrt{I_{4s}}} + n_n \frac{F \mathbf{n}_0 \cdot \mathbf{n}_0}{\sqrt{I_{4n}}} \right) \\ T_{\text{act}} &= T_{\text{act}}(\mathbf{s}, \text{SL}), \quad I_{4i} = F \mathbf{i}_0 \cdot F \mathbf{i}_0 \quad i \in \{\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{n}\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\rho_f \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + ((\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_{ALE}) \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \right] - \nabla \cdot \sigma_f(\mathbf{u}, p) + \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}_{ALE}) = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}_{ALE}) = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{V}} \frac{R_k}{\varepsilon_k} \delta_{\varepsilon_k} (\varphi_k^t(\mathbf{x})) (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_{ALE} - \mathbf{u}_{\Gamma_k})$$

Valves Dynamics

$$\begin{cases} -\nabla \cdot P_{ALE}(\mathbf{d}_{ALE}) = \mathbf{0} & \text{in } \hat{\Omega} \\ \mathbf{d}_{ALE} = \mathbf{d} & \text{on } \hat{\Sigma} \end{cases} \quad \mathbf{u}_{ALE} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{d}_{ALE}}{\partial t}$$

$$\begin{cases} \rho_f \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + ((\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_{ALE}) \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \right] - \nabla \cdot \sigma_f(\mathbf{u}, p) = \mathbf{0} & \text{in } \Omega \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \end{cases}$$

$$\sigma_f(\mathbf{u}, p) = \mu (\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T) - pI$$

Blood Dynamics, Contraction & Relaxation

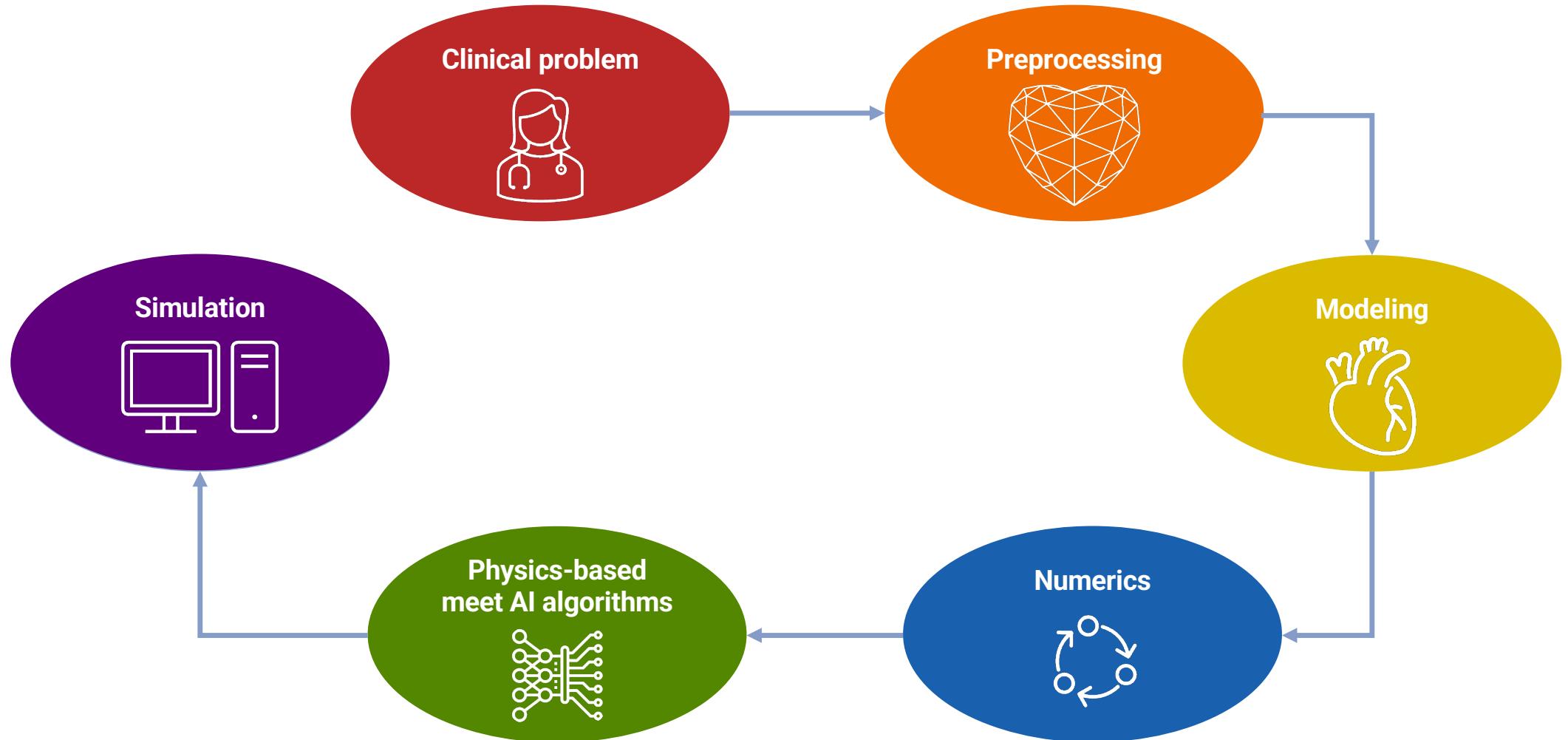
$$\rho_s \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{d}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla \cdot P_s(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

$$P_s(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{s}) = P_{\text{pas}}(\mathbf{d}) + P_{\text{act}}(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{s})$$

$$P_{\text{pas}}(\mathbf{d}) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}}{\partial F} \quad F = I + \nabla \mathbf{d}$$

ECG Reconstruction

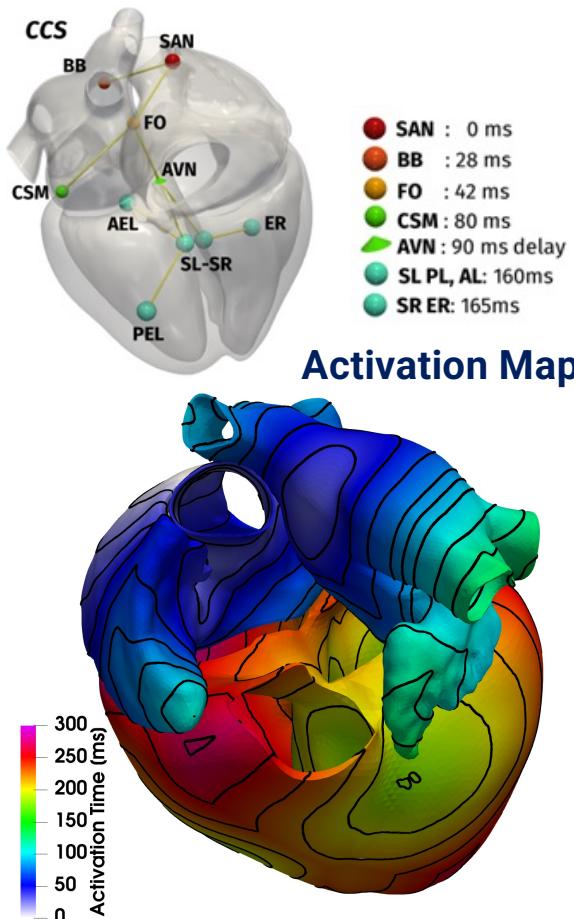
$$\begin{cases} EP(v, v_e) = 0 & \text{in } \Omega_H \\ -\nabla \cdot (D_T \nabla v_T) = 0 & \text{in } \Omega_{\text{torso}} \\ v_T = v_e & \text{on } \Sigma \\ D_T \nabla v_T \cdot \mathbf{n}_H = D_e \nabla v_e \cdot \mathbf{n}_H & \text{on } \Sigma \end{cases}$$



# Whole heart electrophysiology

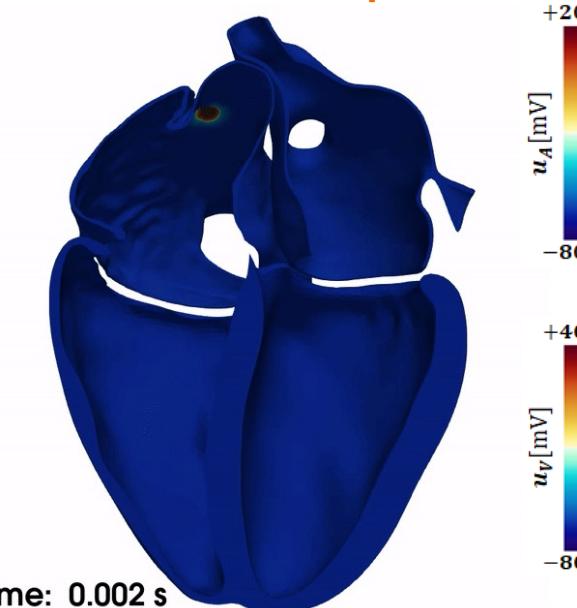


Simulation

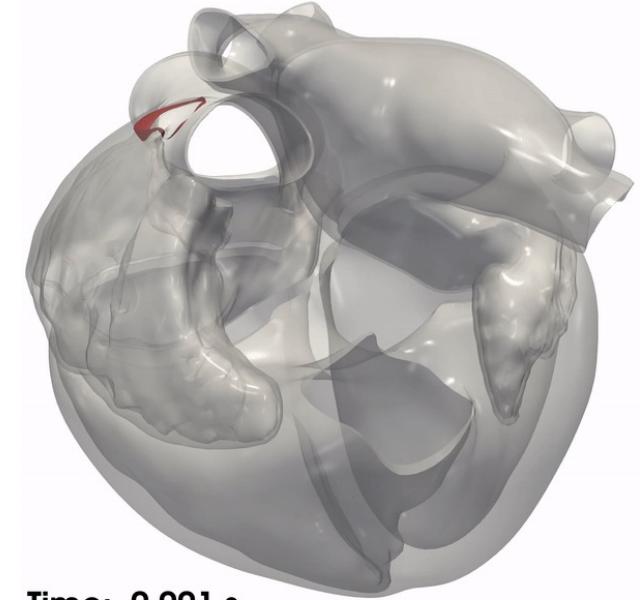


- Cardiac Conduction System (CCS) as a series of delayed stimuli
- Monodomain + TTP06 (ventricles) and CRN98 (atria)
- Whole heart fibers using LDRBM

Transmembrane potential

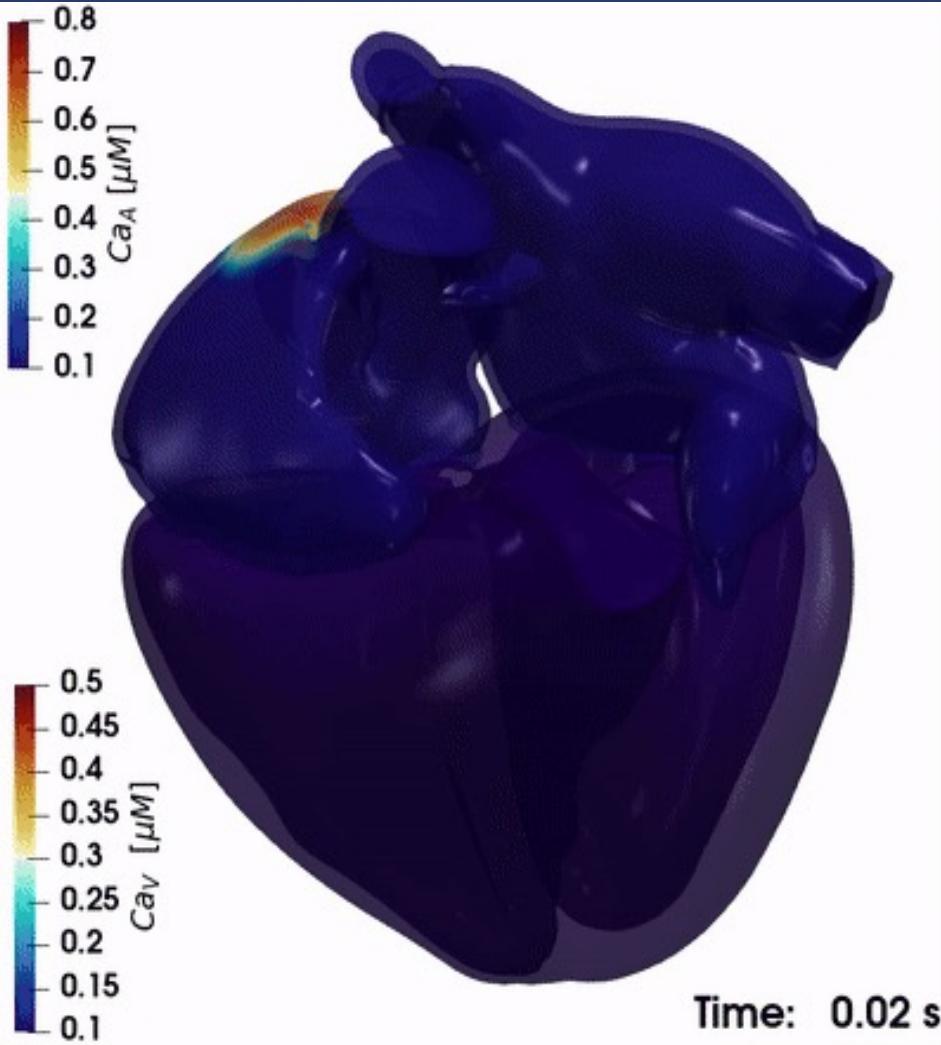


Wave front propagation

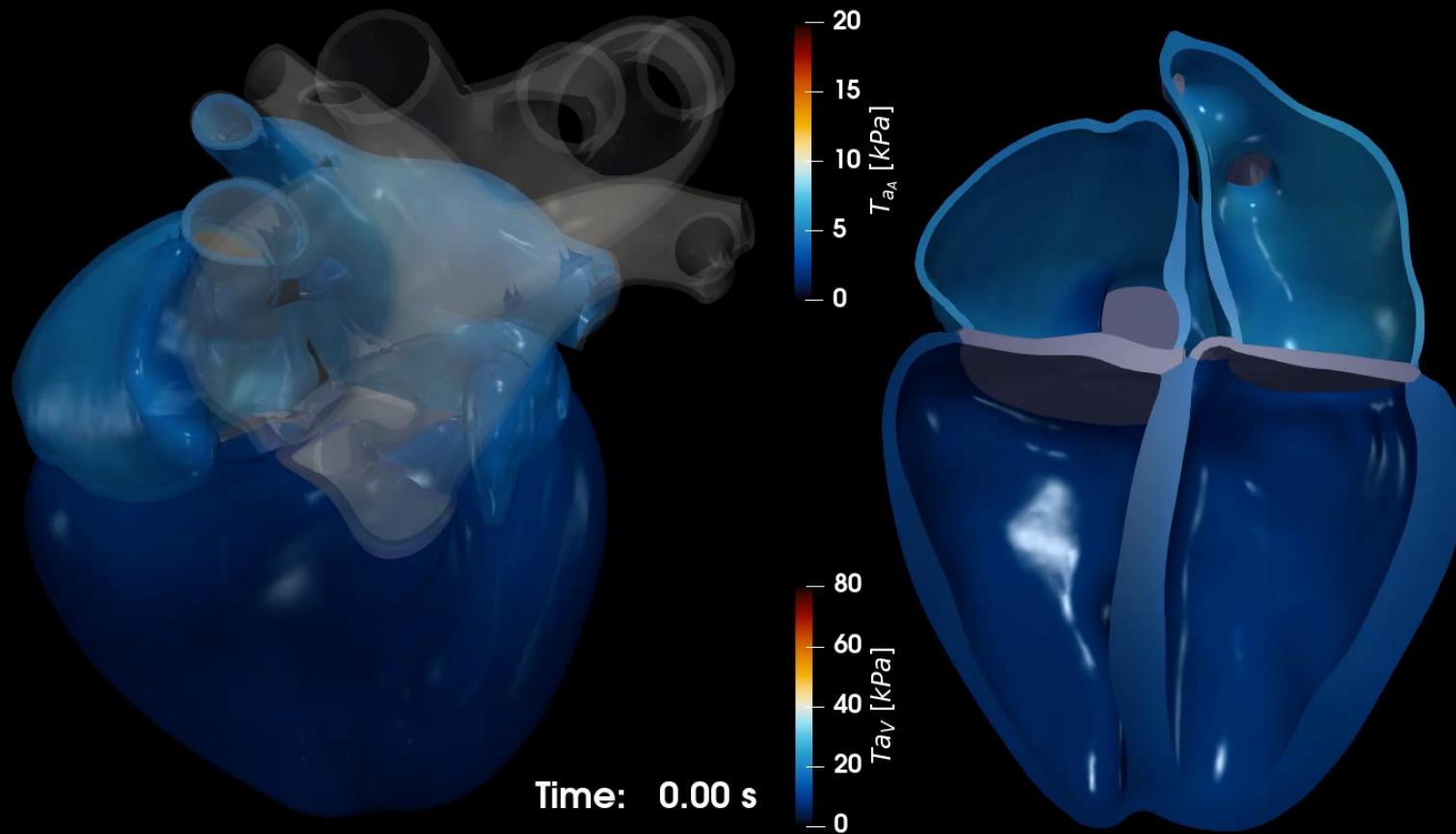


R. Piersanti, P. Africa, M. Fedele et al., Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering, 2021

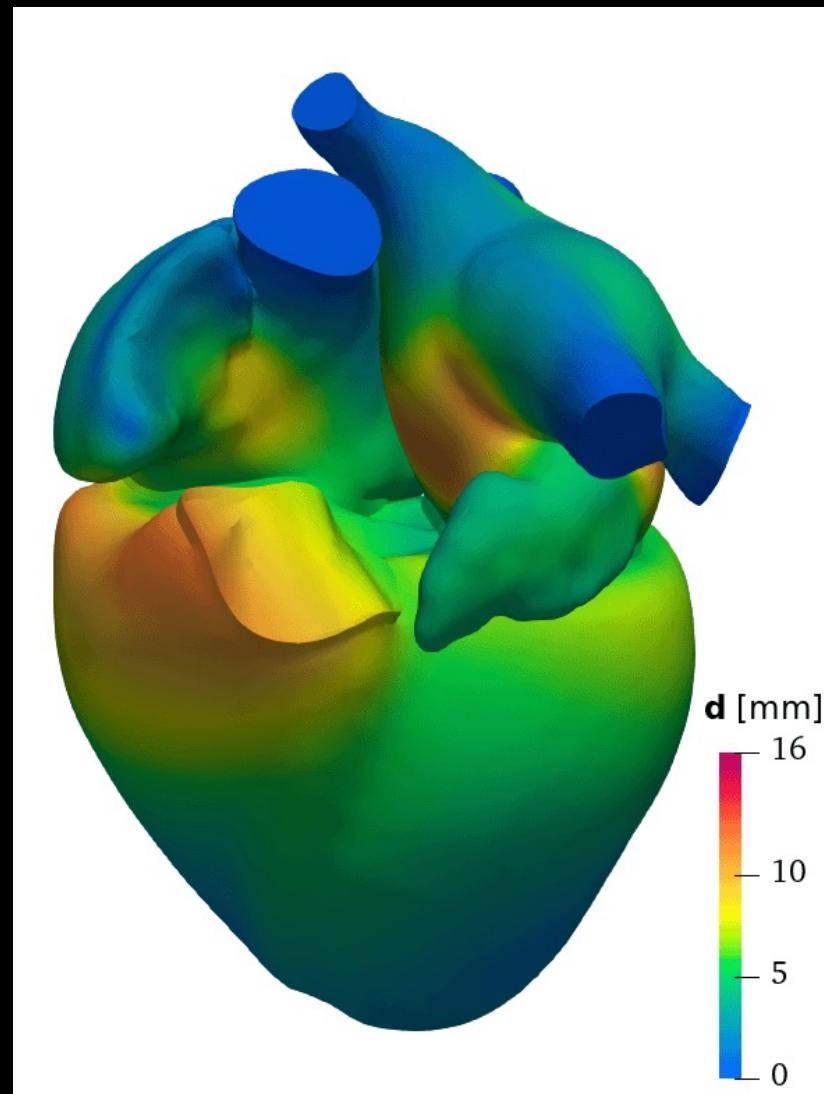
## Results: 4CH with tuned RQD20MF + improvements



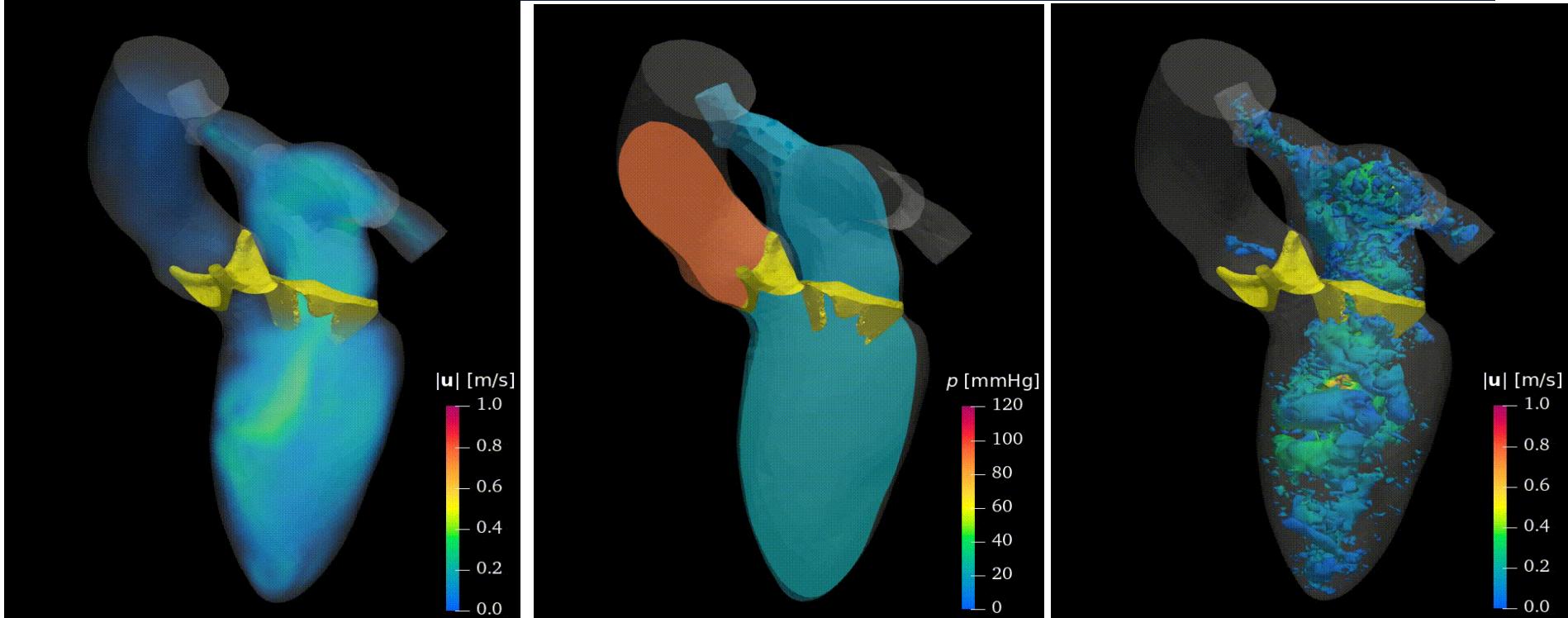
# The Active Tension



# The Displacement



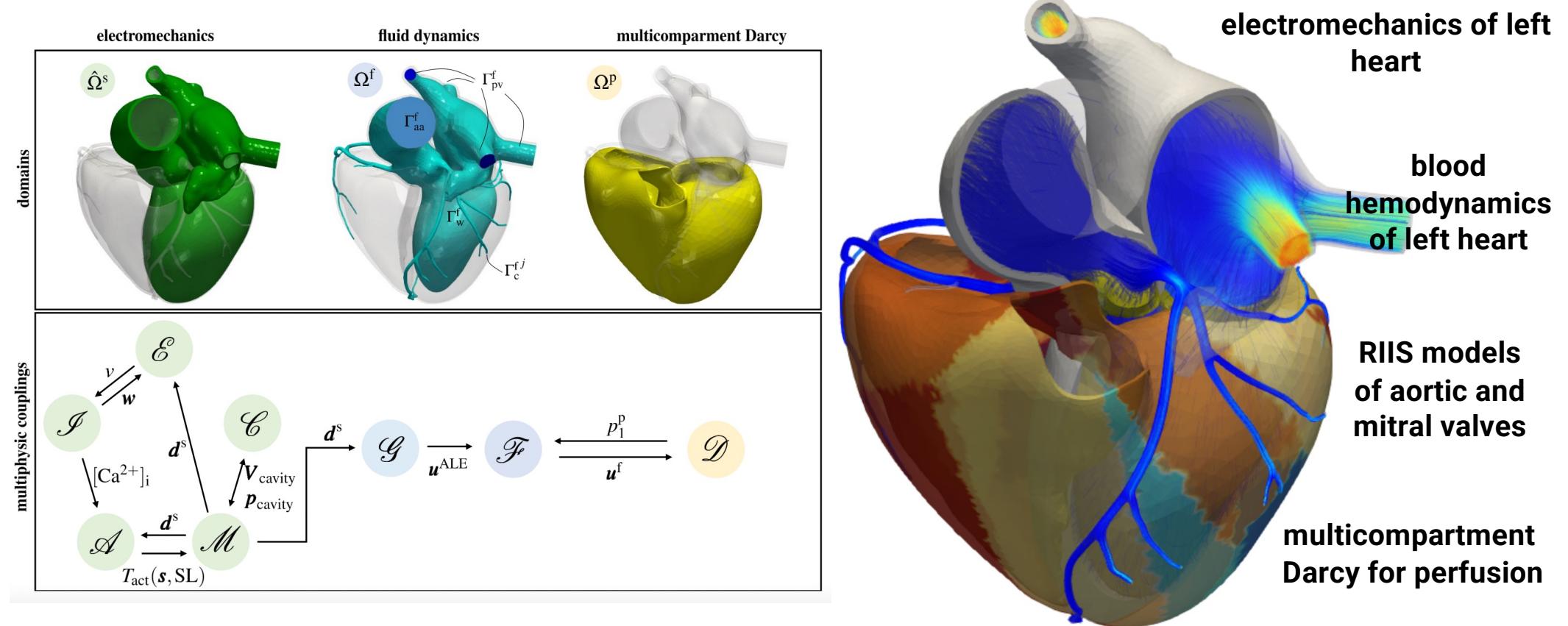
## Fluid dynamics of the left heart (A.Zingaro)



Q-criterion and velocity magnitude:

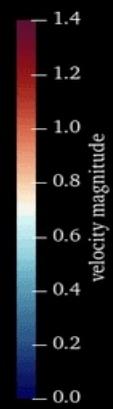
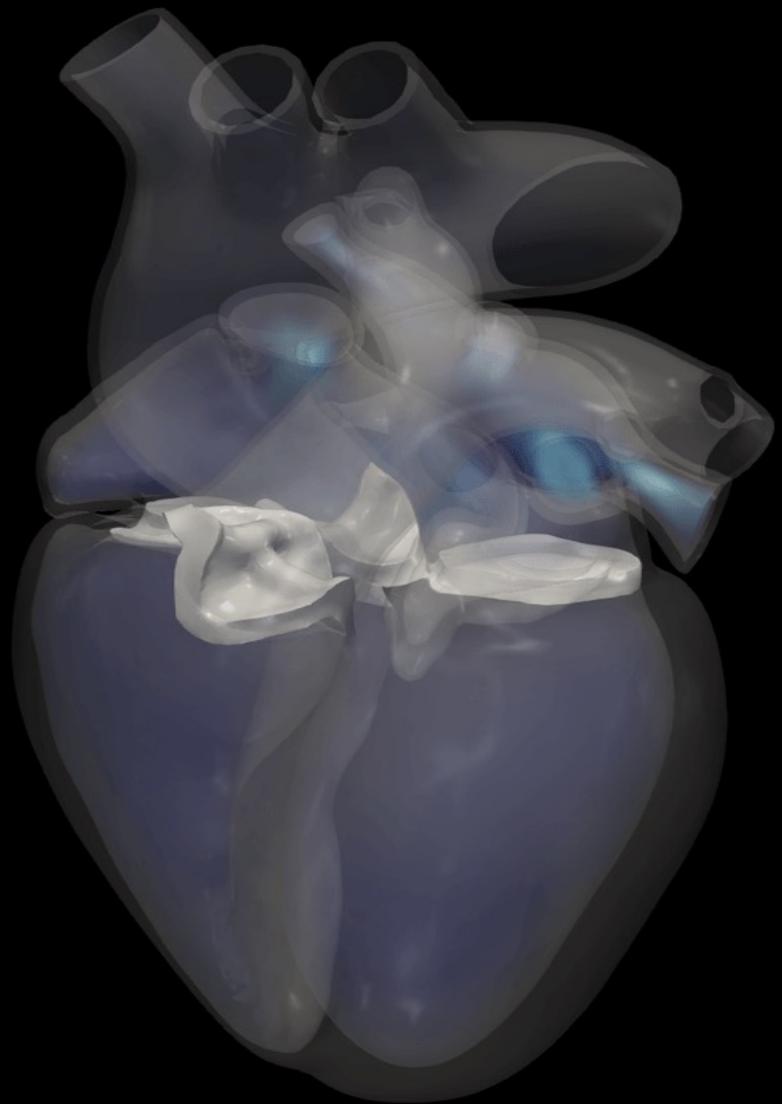
- when the mitral valve opens, high speed jets coming from the LA fill the LV.
- This produces the formation of a O-ring shaped vortex, a coherent structure rolling through the leaflets of the mitral valve.
- This big vortex breaks into smaller coherent structures filling the LV and moving towards the apex.
- As the systole begins, marked by the opening of the aortic valve, the structures are flushed out in the aorta.
- At the same time, new jets are entering in the LA, but weaker with respect to the ones observed in diastole.

# Electromechanics driven CFD-Darcy model for perfusion



A. Zingaro, C. Vergara, L. Dede', F. Regazzoni, A. Quarteroni, arXiv (2023)

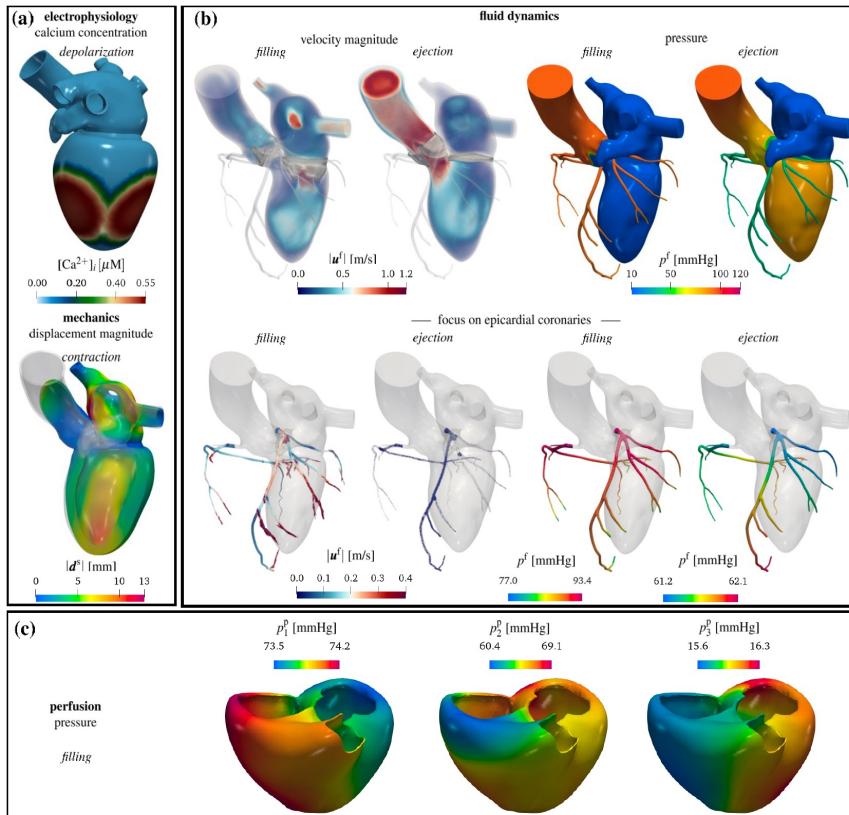
Time: 0.02 s



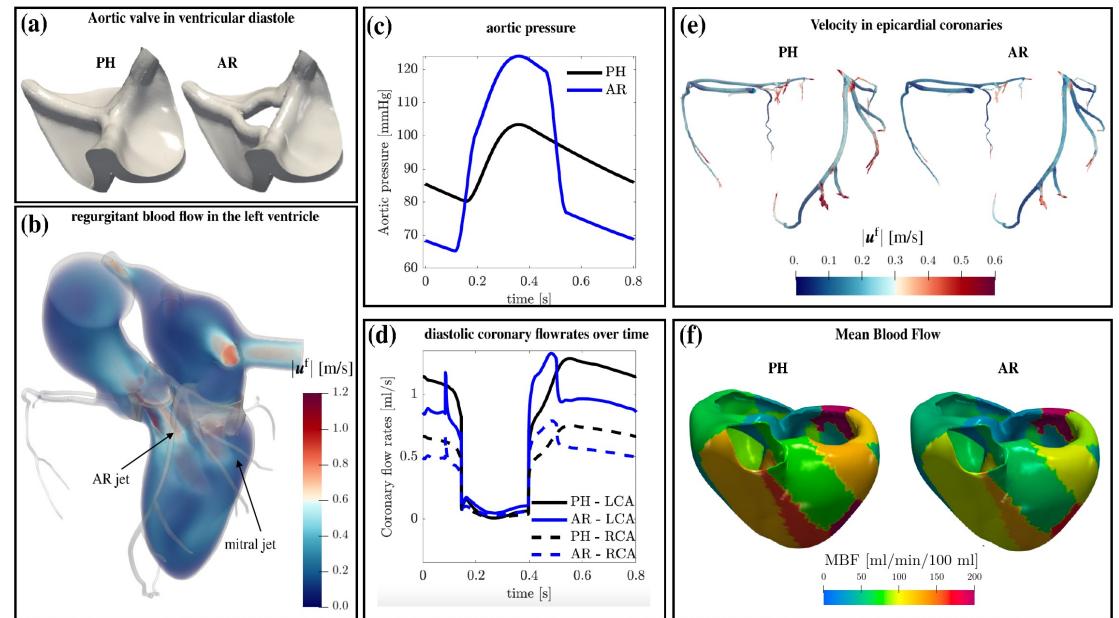
# Electromechanics driven CFD-Darcy model for perfusion



## A physiological simulation



## Consequences of aortic regurgitation (AR) on myocardial perfusion



Diastolic coronary blood flow stolen by the LV (due to AR)

Reduced MBF in AR case!

A. Zingaro, C. Vergara, L. Dede', F. Regazzoni, A. Quarteroni, arXiv (2023)

# A complete simulation of a single heartbeat

Requires at least 1.7M nodes, 20M degrees of freedom for PDEs, around 31M for ODEs, 16K timesteps: in total, 700B variables for the space-time solver on 1152 cores on the supercomputer GALILEO @ CINECA

Takes 4 hours

Costs about 2000 euros

Consumes 100kWh of energy

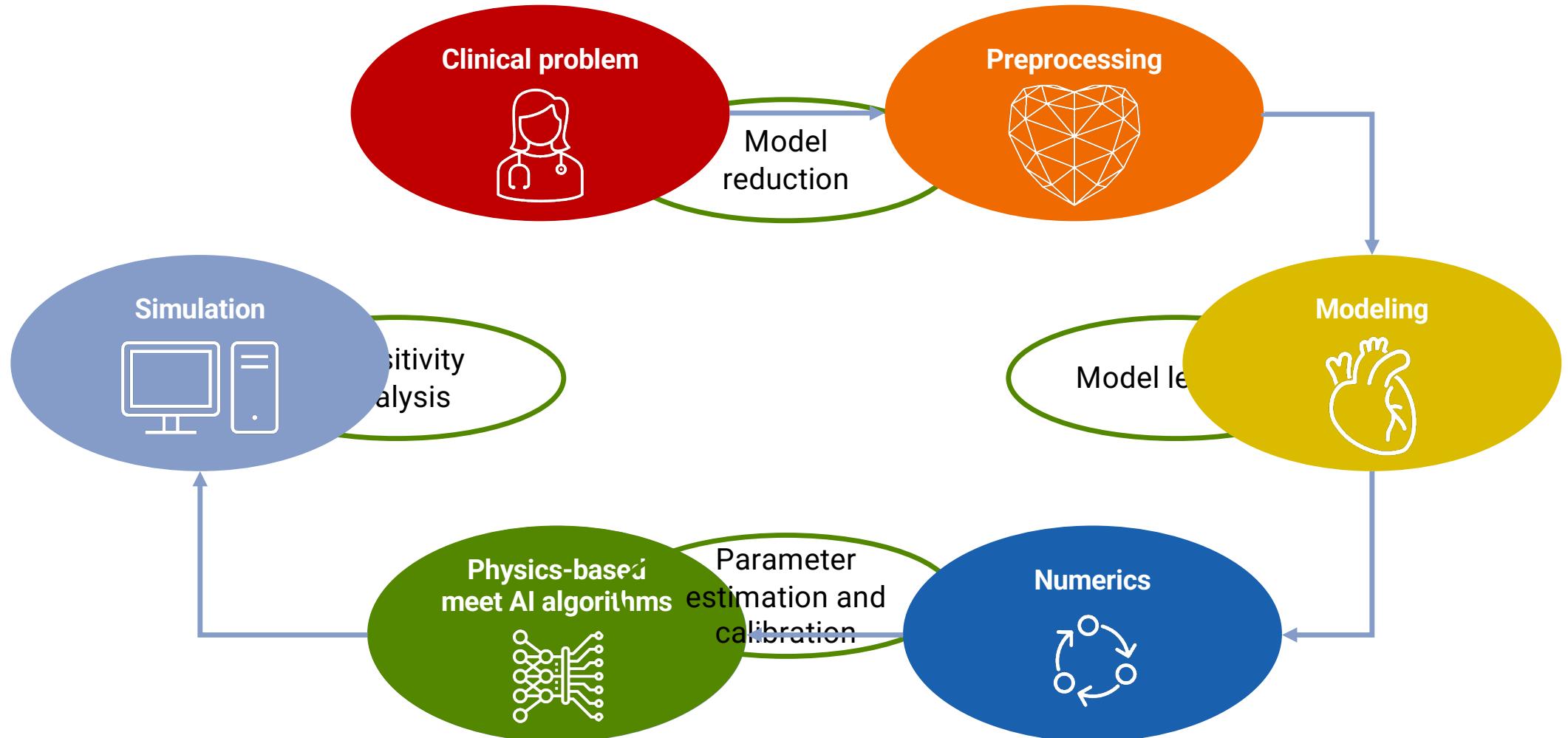
Produces 35kg of CO<sub>2</sub> (without accounting for the additional CO<sub>2</sub> produced for the cooling of the cluster)

Developing better models and  
more efficient and accurate  
numerical methods is of  
paramount importance

we need  
a **BETTER MATH**

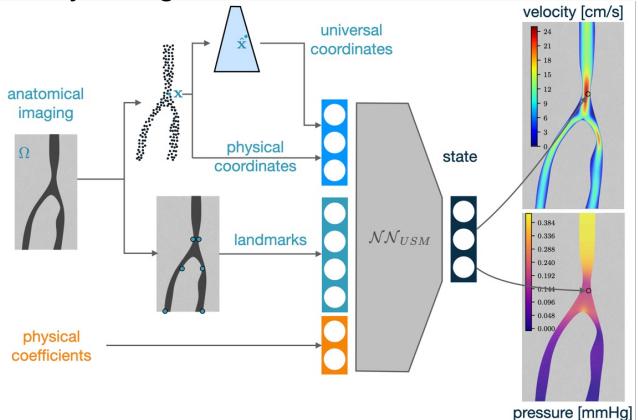


For a **SUSTAINABLE WORLD**



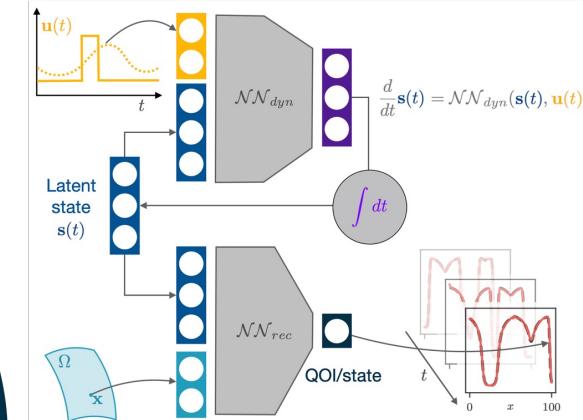
## Universal Solution Manifold Nets

USMNs approximate the solution of differential problems depending on physical and geometrical parameters. USMNs encode geometrical variability through scalar landmarks and universal coordinate systems.



## Latent Dynamics Nets

LDNets discover low-dimensional intrinsic dynamics of possibly non-Markovian dynamical systems, thus predicting the time evolution of space-dependent fields in response to external inputs.

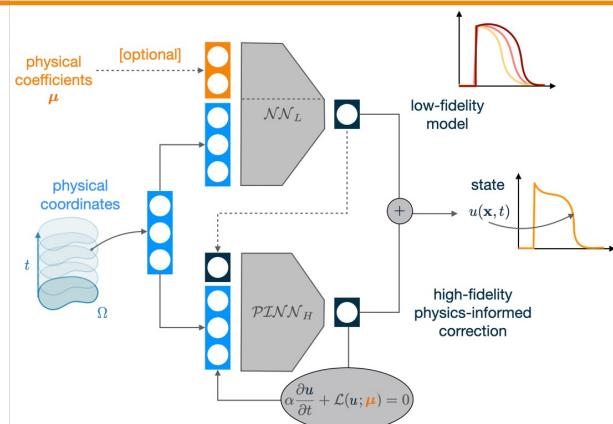


geometry

state

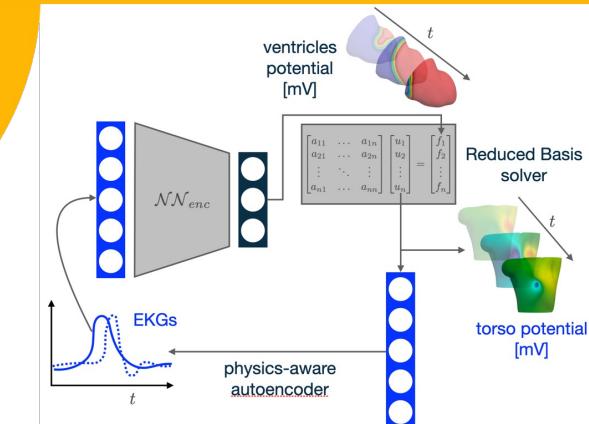
parameters

fields



MPINNs enable the estimation of **unknown parameters** starting from partial and noisy measurements, leveraging a low-fidelity guess with a correction provided by a second PINN, leveraging data and physics.

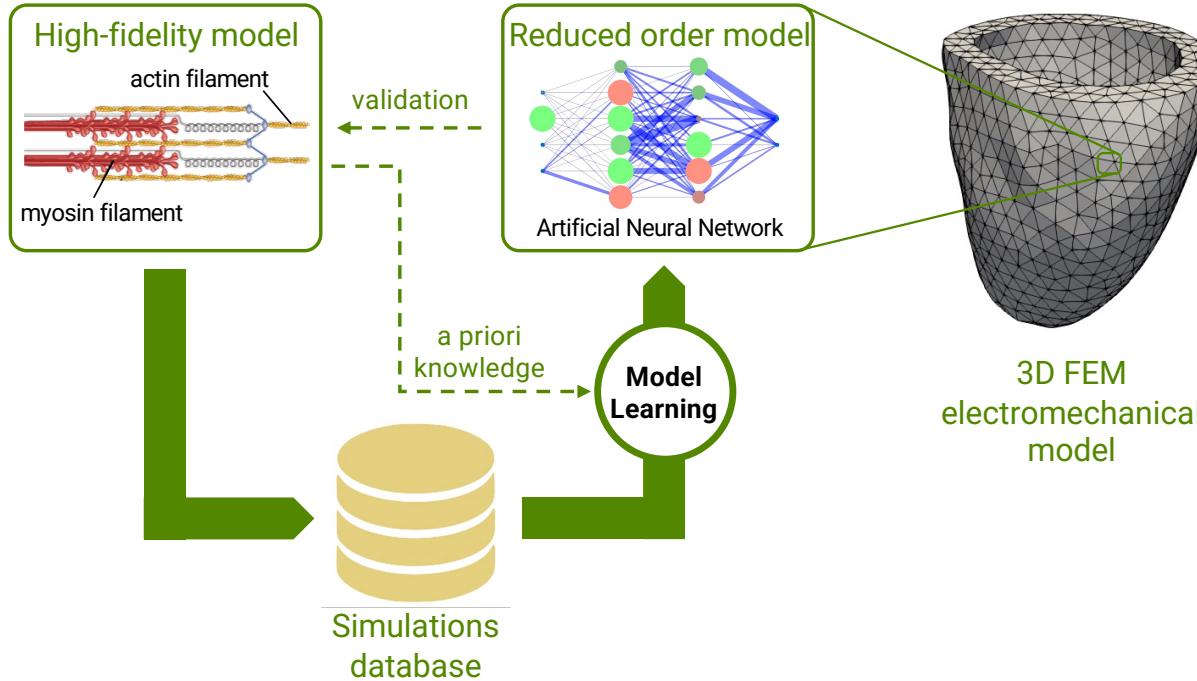
**Multi-fidelity PINNs**



RB-NNs employ tensorial reduced basis solvers into NN architectures to provide physically consistent approximations that enable solving **inverse problems** in limited/partial/noisy data regimes.

**Reduced Basis NNs**

# Learning the dynamics of active force generation



- ✓ 400x speedup (force generation model)
- ✓ 10x speedup (overall)
- ✓ 100x memory saving

## Accuracy

Indicator	HF-EM	ANN-EM	Relative error
Stroke volume (mL)	58.45	58.42	$5.64 \cdot 10^{-4}$
Ejection fraction (%)	43.03	43.01	$5.65 \cdot 10^{-4}$
Max pressure (mmHg)	112.5	112.3	$2.18 \cdot 10^{-3}$
Work (mJ)	739.2	737.2	$1.71 \cdot 10^{-3}$

## Computational time (20 cores)

	Ionic	Potential	Force gen.	Mechanics	Total
HF-EM	3.13 %	0.47 %	83.07 %	13.33 %	20h 18'
ANN-EM	41.21 %	4.80 %	2.54 %	51.45 %	2h' 03'

## Memory usage

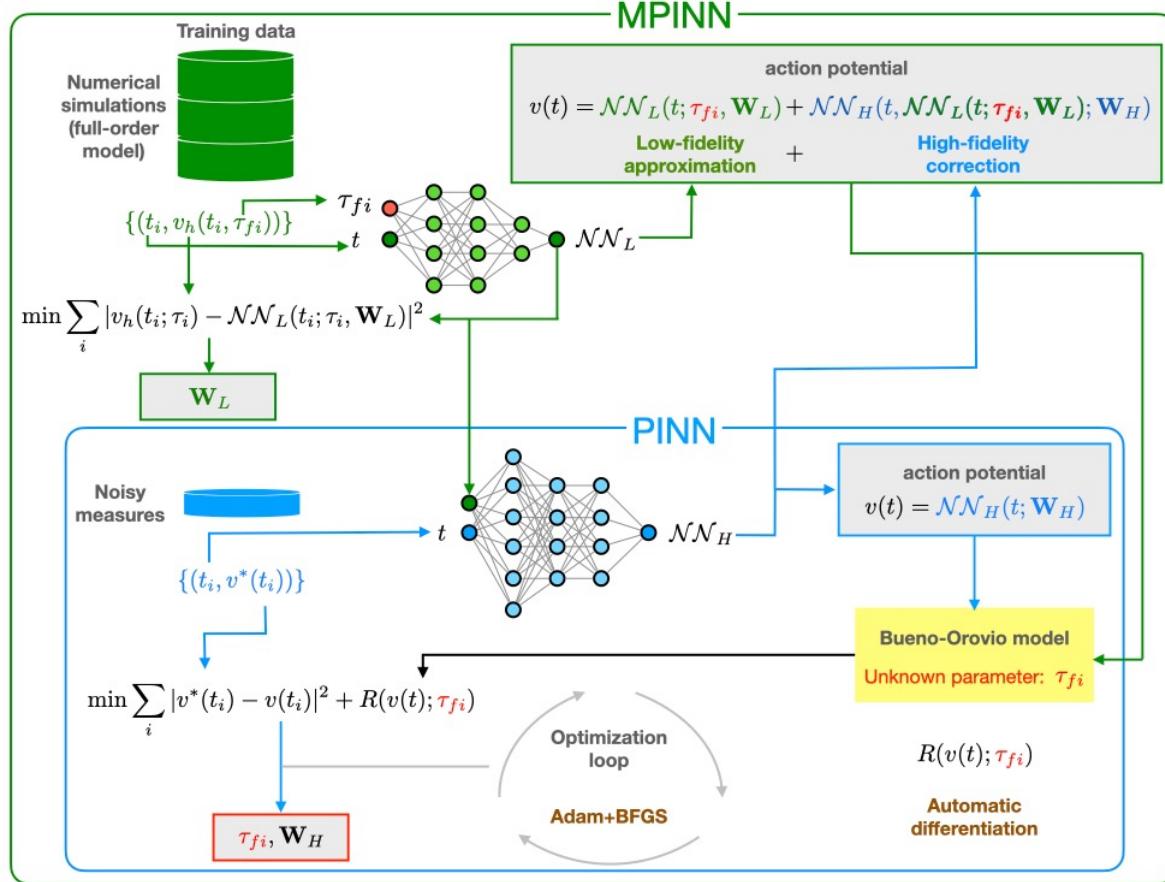
from 2198 (HF-EM) to 24 (ANN-EM) variables per nodal point

F. Regazzoni, L. Dede', A. Q., *Journal of Computational Physics*, 2019

F. Regazzoni, L. Dede', A. Q., *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 2020



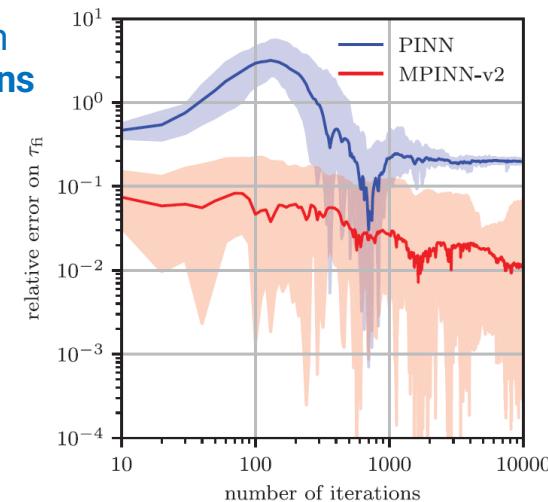
# Multi-fidelity PINNs for the estimation of ionic parameters



**Goal:** estimate the parameter  $\tau_{fi}$  of the Bueno-Orovio model (time constant of fast inward current) from transmembrane potential noisy measurements

**Method:** train a **multi-fidelity PINN** minimizing a loss function weighing:

- discrepancy from a low-fidelity model (e.g. a second ANN, trained on precomputed **numerical data**)
- discrepancy from **noisy observations**
- residual of the differential equations (**physics-informed**)

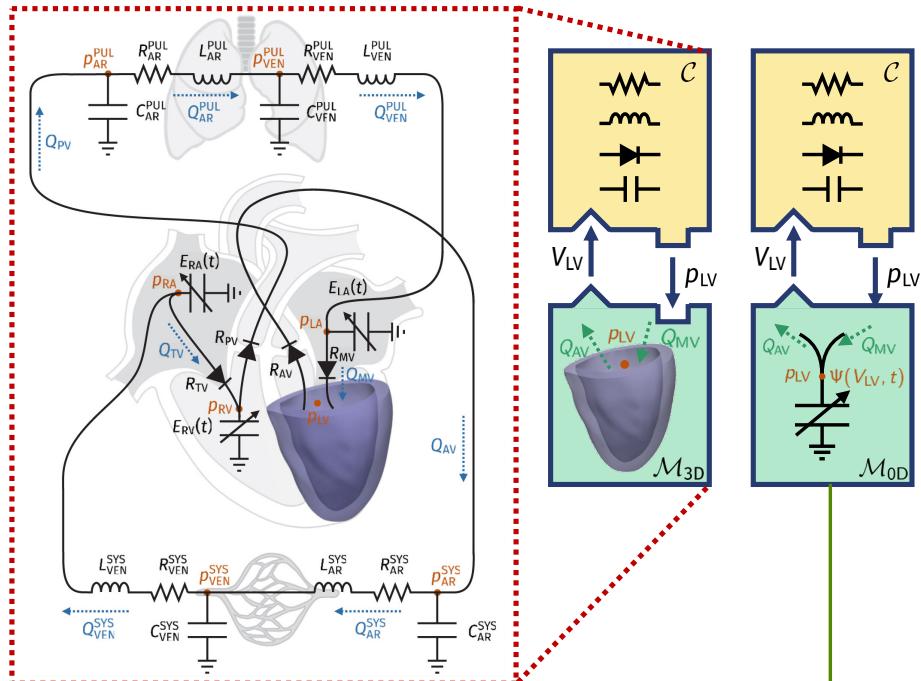


F. Regazzoni, S. Pagani, A. Cosenza, et al., *Rendiconti Lincei Matematica e Applicazioni*, 2021

# A data-driven emulator of cardiac chambers

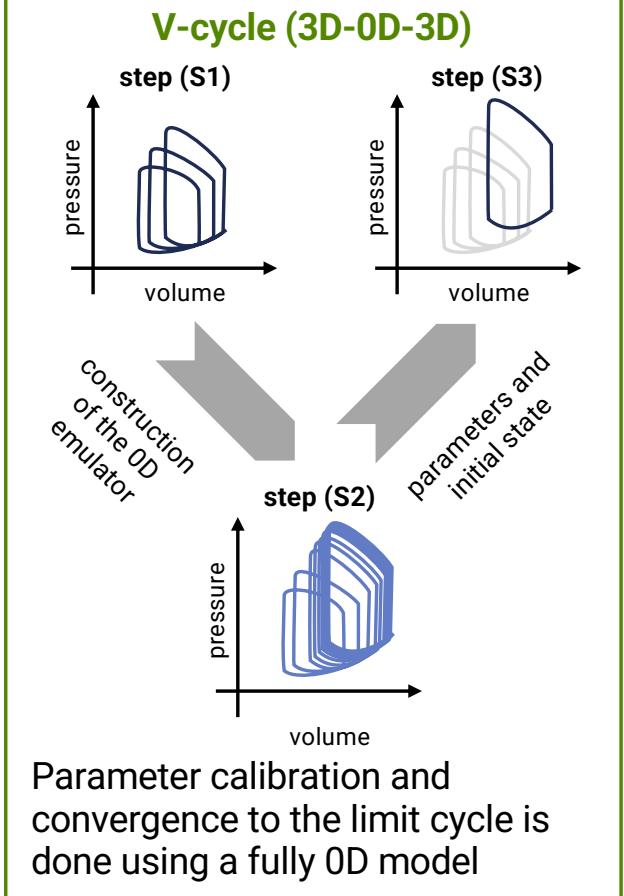
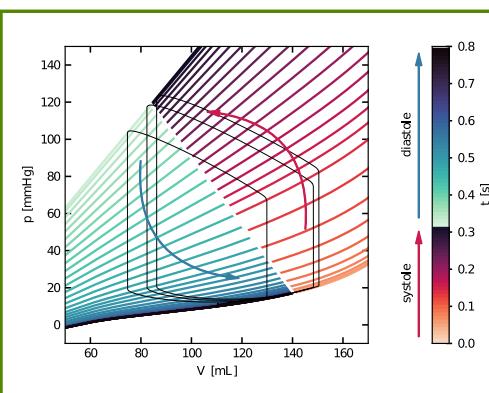


Physics-driven meet AI algorithms



**Challenge:** the numerical cost of cardiac EM models is very large, and several cycles are needed to reach the limit cycle

**Method:** we construct an emulator of the time-dependent pressure-volume relationship of each cardiac chamber, fitted from a few cycles obtained with the 3D-0D model



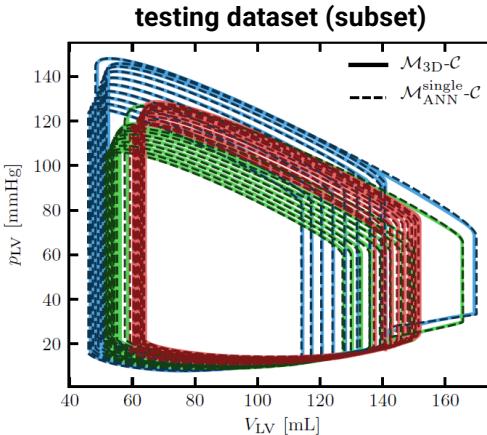
# ANN-based surrogate of the LV electromechanical function



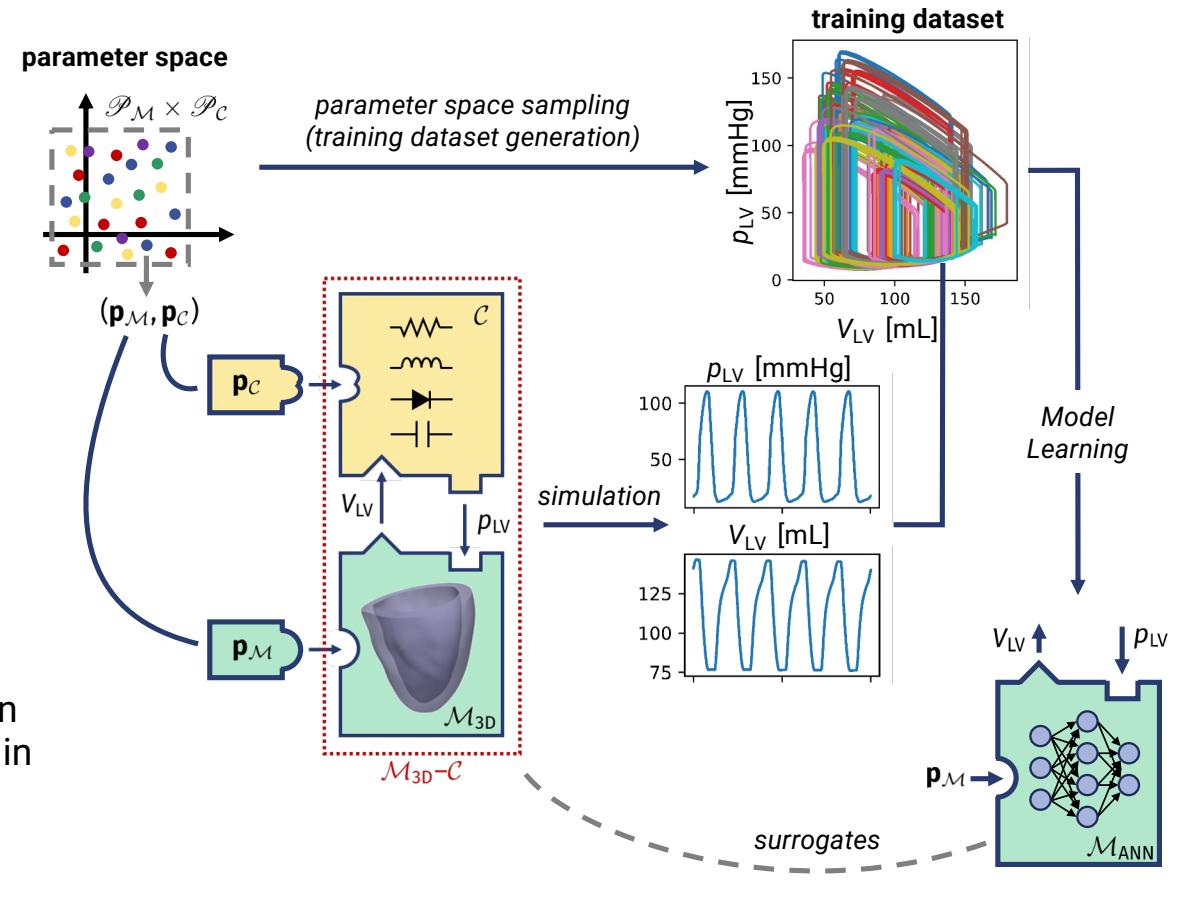
By means of **model-learning**, we construct a surrogate model of the LV electromechanical function, accounting for the dependence on **parameters**.

The model is trained from a set of 40 simulations obtained by sampling the parameter space.

The testing accuracy is remarkably good (relative error lower than 0.01)



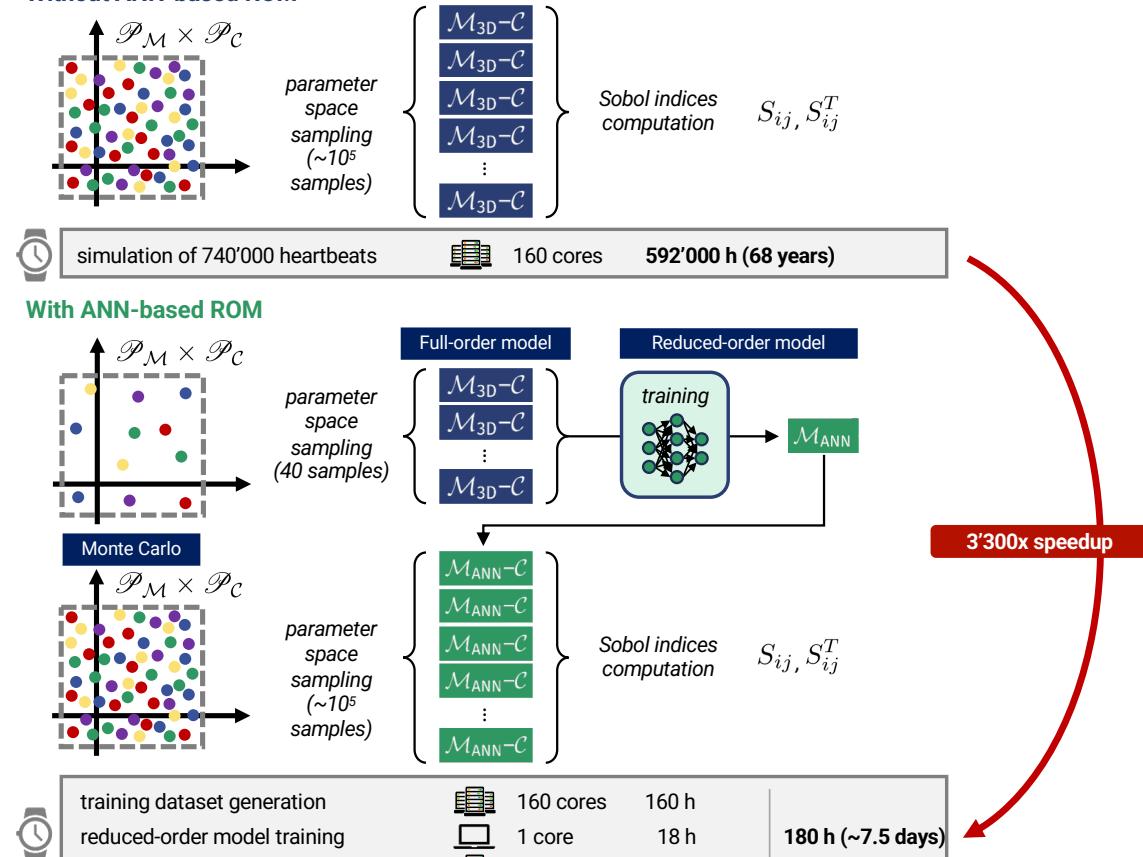
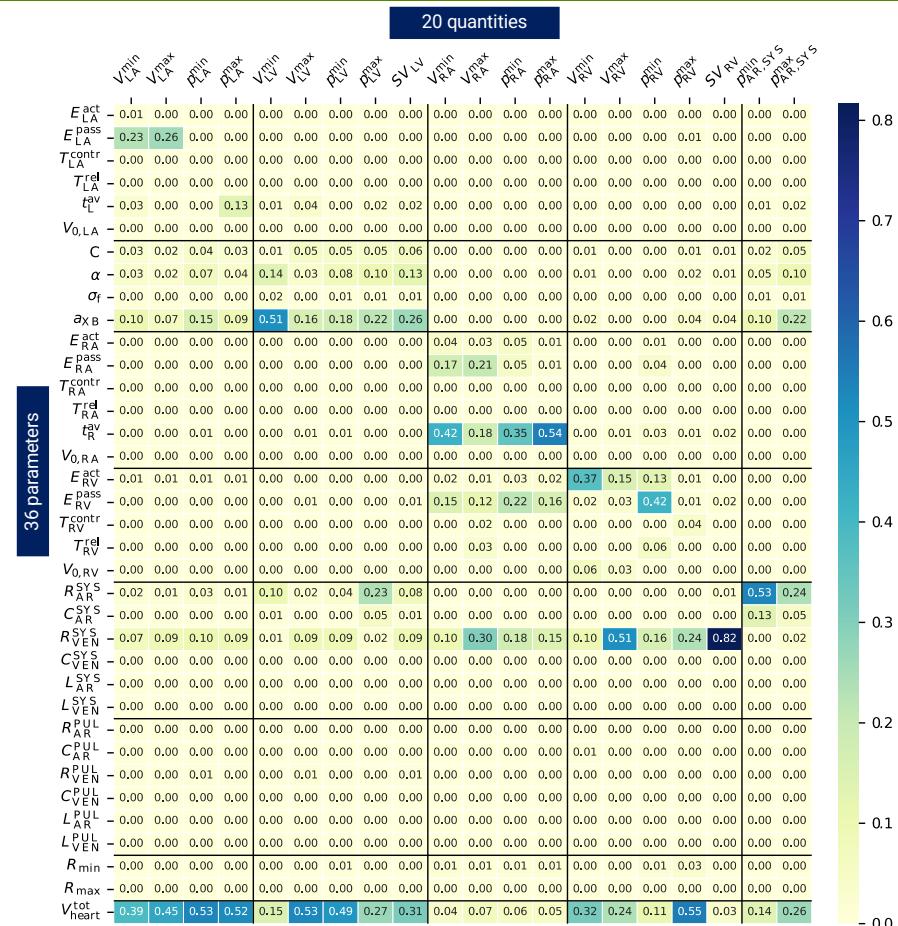
The surrogate model is reliable also for longer time-horizons than those considered in the training set!



F. Regazzoni, L. Dede', A. Q., *Journal of Computational Physics*, 2019

F. Regazzoni, M. Salvador, L. Dede', A. Q., *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 2022

# ANN-based surrogate model for global sensitivity analysis



# ANN-based surrogate model for Bayesian parameter estimation



$\mathcal{F}: \mathbf{p} \mapsto \mathbf{q}$  Parameters-to-Qols map

$\mathbf{q}_{\text{obs}} = \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{p}) + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$   $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(\cdot | \mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$   $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$  = noise covariance

$\pi_{\text{prior}}(\mathbf{p})$  Prior distribution (prior knowledge on the parameters)

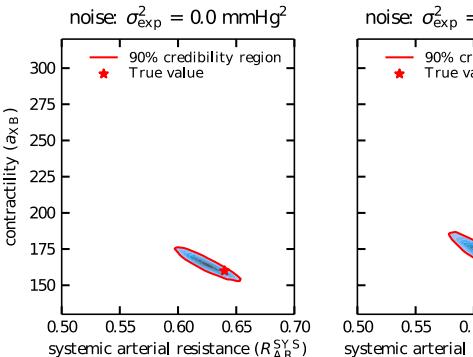
**Posterior distribution (evaluated through Monte Carlo Markov Chain):**

$$\pi_{\text{post}}(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{Z} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{q}_{\text{obs}} | \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{p}), \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \pi_{\text{prior}}(\mathbf{p})$$

## Test Case:

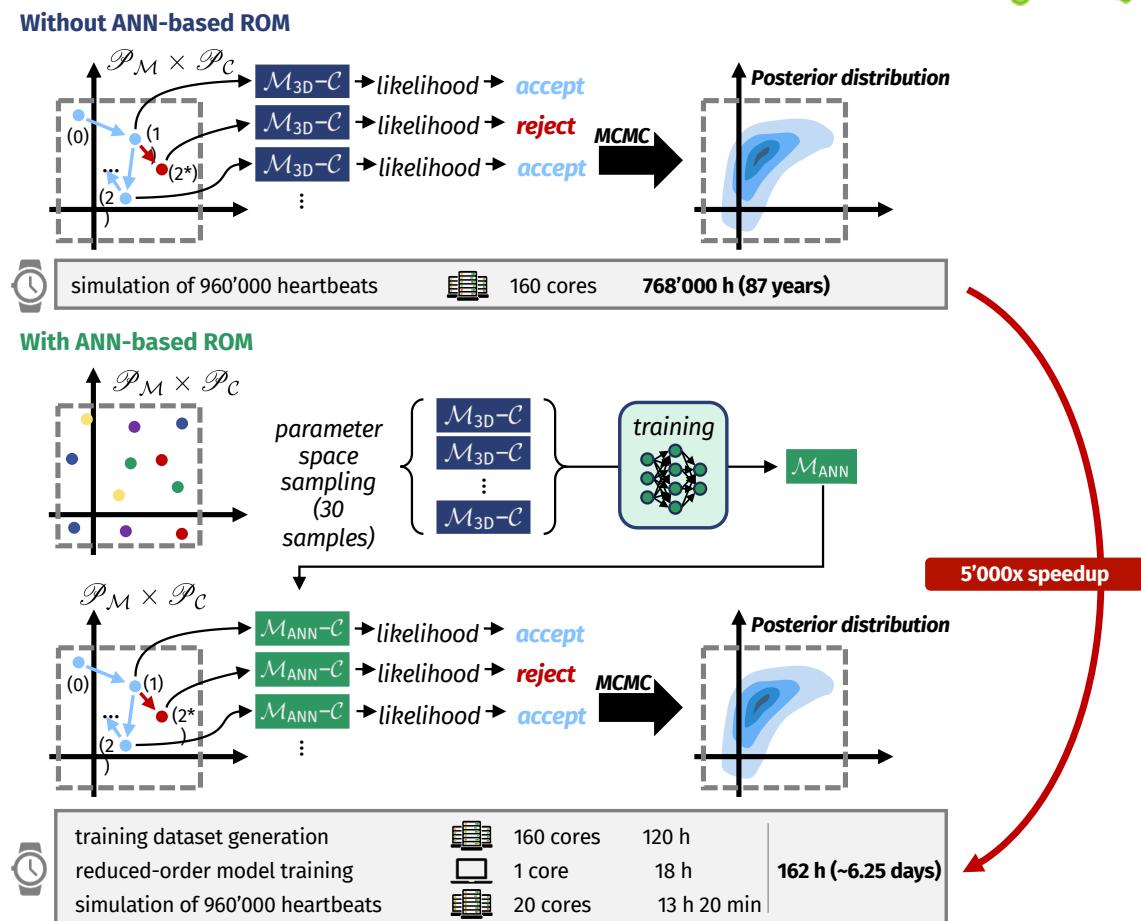
### Observed Qols:

- Maximum arterial pressures
- Minimum arterial pressures



### Unknown parameters:

- Myocardial contractility
- Systemic arterial resistance



F. Regazzoni, L. Dede', A. Q., *Journal of Computational Physics*, 2019

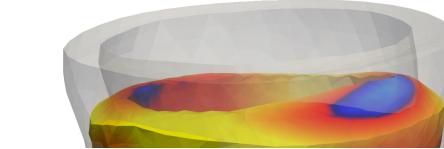
F. Regazzoni, M. Salvador, L. Dede', A. Q., *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 2022

# DL-enhanced physics-based ROMs for cardiac mechanics



## Full order: finite element method

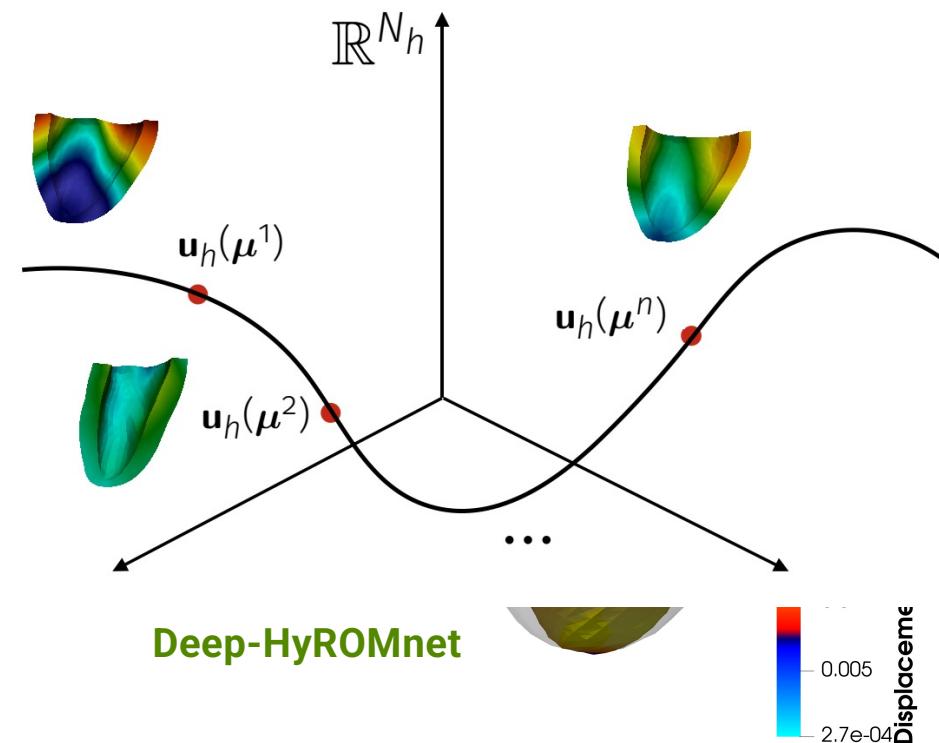
- high fidelity ✓
- many degrees of freedom ✗
- computationally demanding ✗



Full order model

## Galerkin ROM: projection on linear space

- physics-based ✓
- few degrees of freedom ✓
- still depends on high-fidelity dimension ✗



## Deep-HyROMnet: Galerkin-ROM with ANN

approximation of non-linear operators

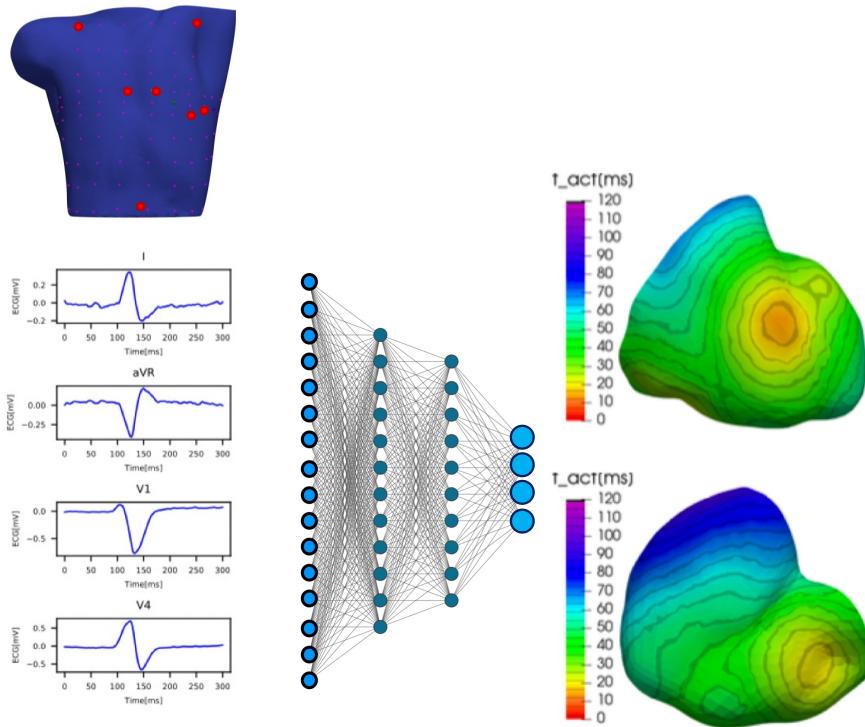
- physics-based ✓
- few degrees of freedom ✓
- independent of high-fidelity dimension ✓

L. Cicci, S. Fresca, S. Pagani et al., *Mathematics in Engineering*, 2022  
 L. Cicci, S. Fresca, A. Manzoni, *Journal of Scientific Computing*, 2022 (accepted)

# Physics-aware NN for inverse problems in electrophysiology

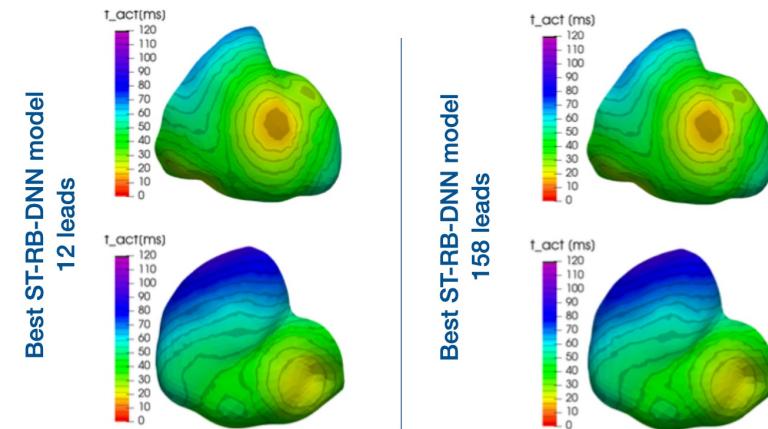


**Goal:** reconstruct the **ventricles electrical activity** from non-invasive recordings of the body surface potential (inverse problem of electrocardiography)



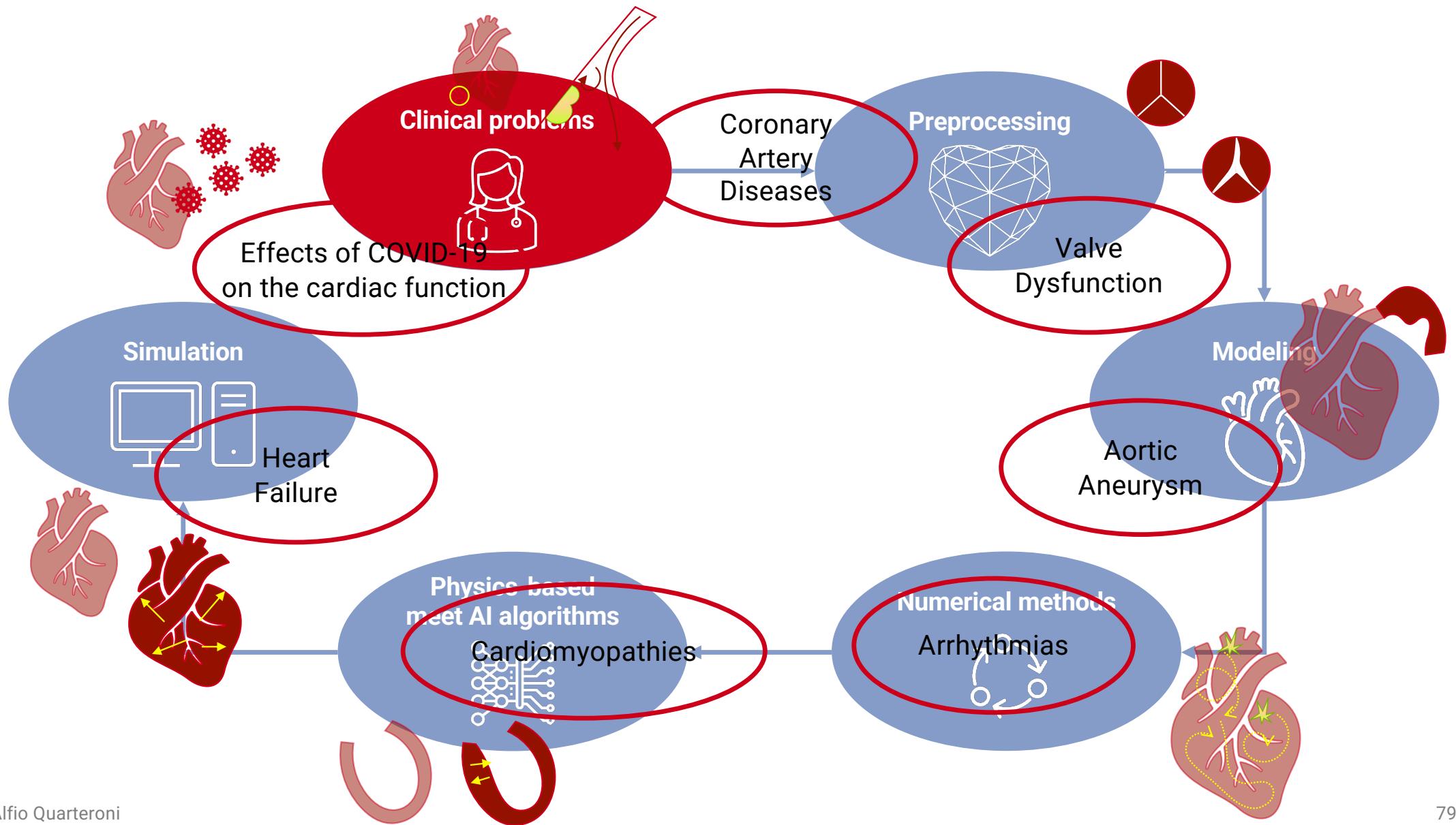
**Method:** train a physics-aware Neural Network (autoencoder) characterized by:

- **Physical awareness (I):** a projection based reduced-order model efficiently encodes the “forward map”
- **Generalization:** model performs well also in small data regimes.



**Results:** the physics-aware NNs reconstruct activation maps with a 4% mean relative error, requiring only **10 minutes training** on a regular laptop

R. Tenderini, S. Pagani, S. Deparis, A. Q., *SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing*, 2022



# Atrial fibrillation (AF)

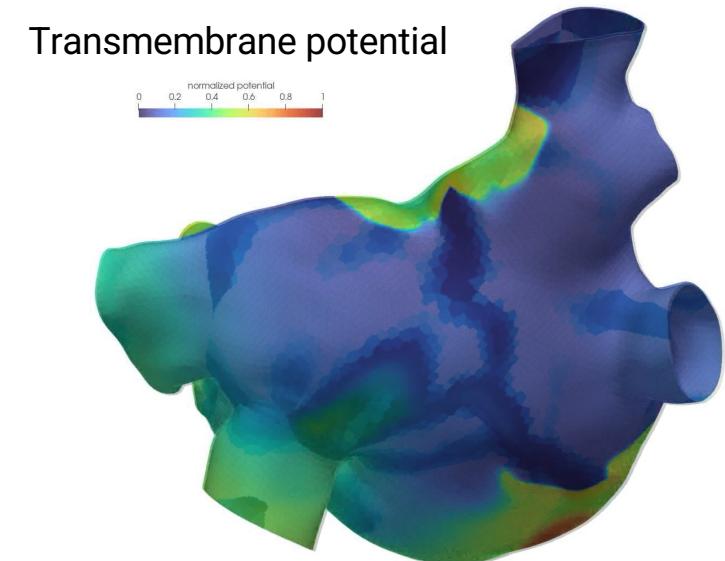
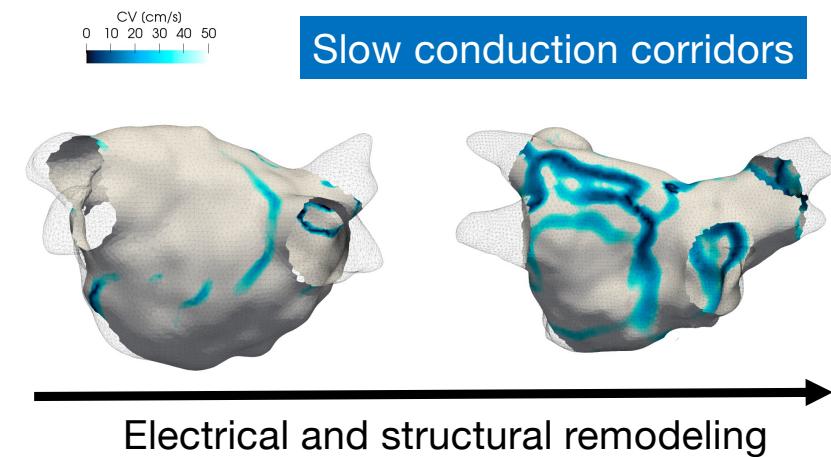


Clinical question: which are the mechanisms behind AF progression?

IRCCS  
**HUMANITAS**  
RESEARCH HOSPITAL

I.R.C.C.S. Ospedale  
San Raffaele

Simulation



- **slow conduction corridors** and **pivot points** quantitatively characterize **AF progression**
- Numerical simulations confirm the role of **slow conduction corridors** in **AF sustainment** (localized reentry anchoring)

A. Frontera, S. Pagani, L.R. Limite et al., JACC: Clinical Electrophysiology, 2022  
S. Pagani, L. Dede', A. Frontera et al., Frontiers in Physiology, 2021

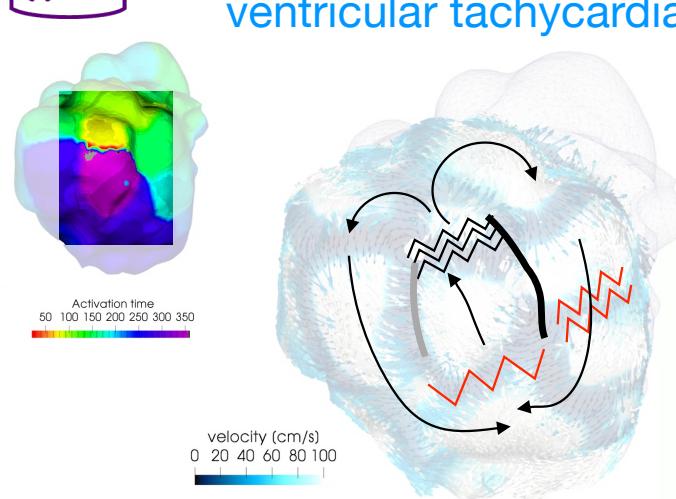
# Ventricular tachycardia



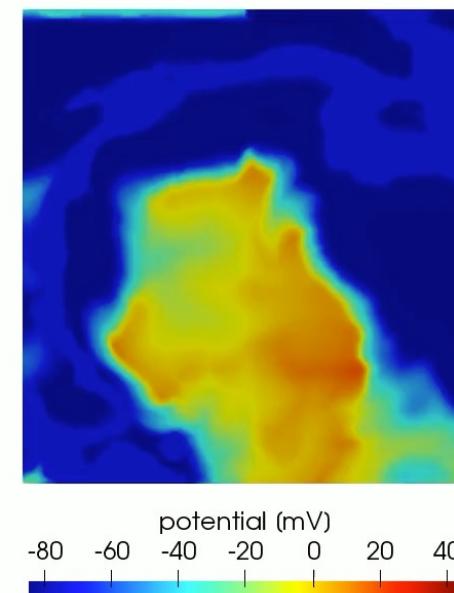
Simulation



Clinical question: which are the characteristics of VT circuits?



Functional line of block      Structural line of block  
Functional slow conduction      Structural slow conduction

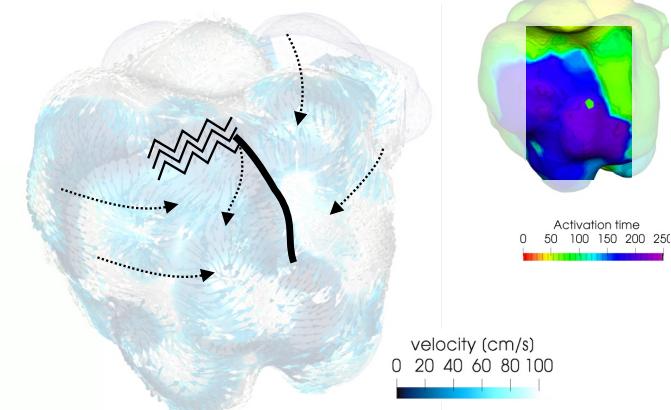


VT circuits contain both **functional** and **structural phenomena**

A. Frontera, S. Pagani, et al, Heart Rhythm, 2020

Alfio Quarteroni

sinus rhythm



**Functional phenomena**  
not visible in sinus rhythm  
**can be predicted by**  
**numerical simulations**

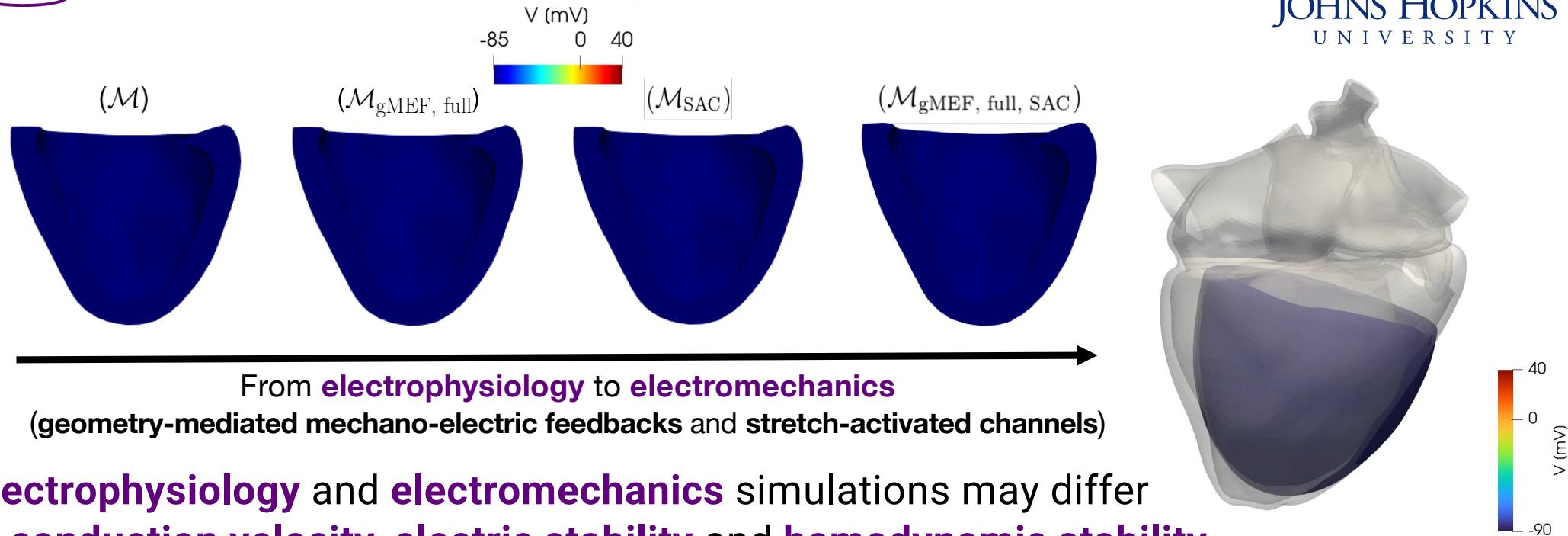
# Ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation



Clinical question: are ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation better simulated by accounting for mechanical deformation?



Simulation



**Electrophysiology** and **electromechanics** simulations may differ in **conduction velocity**, **electric stability** and **hemodynamic stability**

M. Salvador, M. Fedele, P.C. Africa et al., *Computers in Biology and Medicine*, 2021

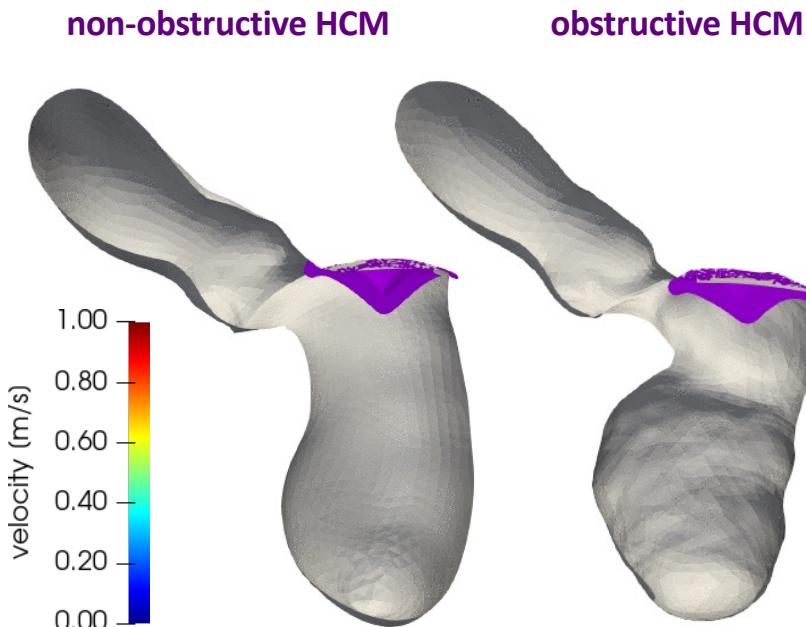
M. Salvador, F. Regazzoni, S. Pagani et al., *Computers in Biology and Medicine*, 2022

# Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)

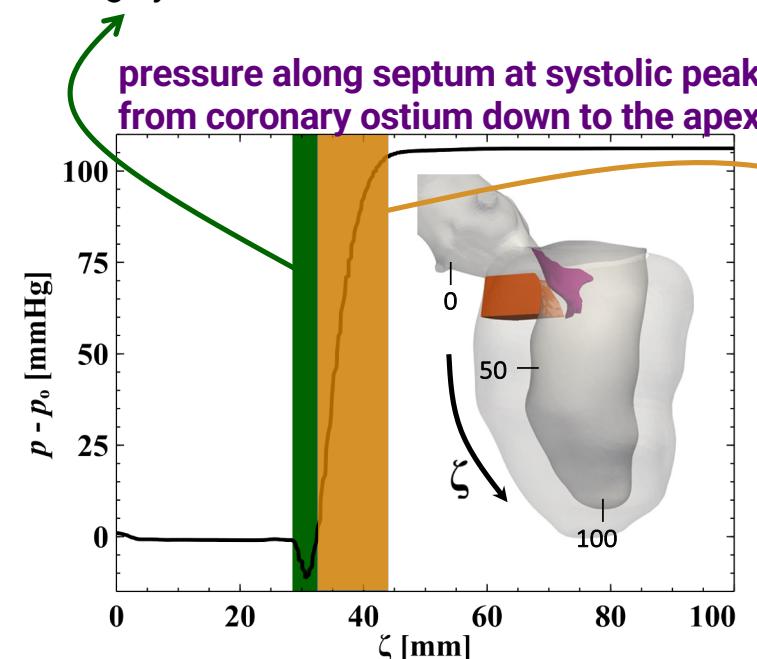


Clinical question: can CFD simulations guide obstruction assessment and pre-operative design of septal myectomy?

Simulation



Obstructive HCM-induced **Venturi effect**  
causing systolic anterior motion



Ospedale Luigi Sacco  
AZIENDA OSPEDALIERA - POLO UNIVERSITARIO

SISTEMA SANITARIO REGIONALE  
 AZIENDA OSPEDALIERA  
SAN CAMILLO FORLANINI

obstruction severity:  
**extent and amplitude of subaortic pressure gradient**  
**indication for surgical treatment: portion to remove by septal myectomy**

I. Fumagalli, M. Fedele, C. Vergara, et al., *Computers in Biology and Medicine*, 2020

I. Fumagalli, P. Vitullo, C. Vergara, et al., *Frontiers in Physiology*, 2022

Alfio Quarteroni

# Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI)



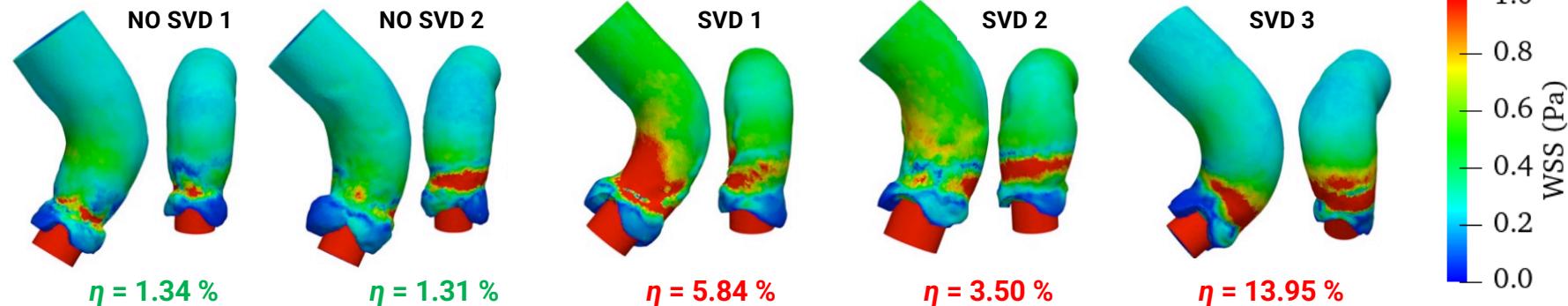
Clinical question: which are the predictive indicators of TAVI Structural Valve Deterioration (SVD)?



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Simulation

WSS at systolic peak



- Analysis based on **pre-implantation** data only
- **WSS stronger** and more **persistent** in **SVD** cases
- **$\eta$  index** discriminating SVD from NO-SVD, based on **Time-Averaged WSS (TAWSS) Critical Area (CA)**:

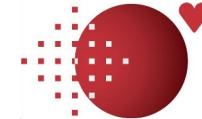
$$\eta = \frac{|CA|}{|\Gamma_{\text{wall}}|}, \text{ with } CA = \{\mathbf{x} \in \Gamma_{\text{wall}} : TAWSS(\mathbf{x}) > 0.5 \text{ Pa}\}$$

I. Fumagalli, R. Polidori, F. Renzi et al., *MOX Report*, Politecnico di Milano, 2022

# Estimating cardiac blood flow maps

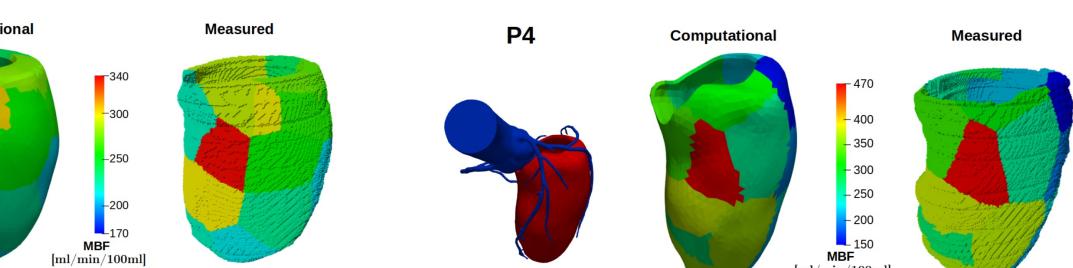
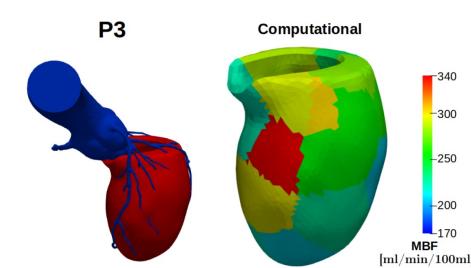
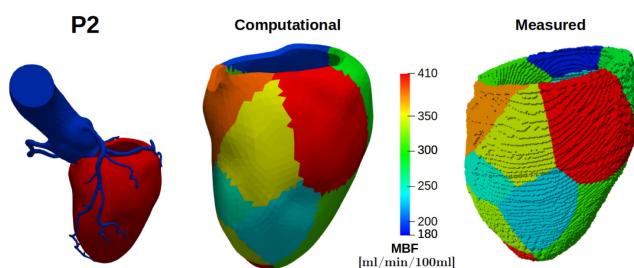
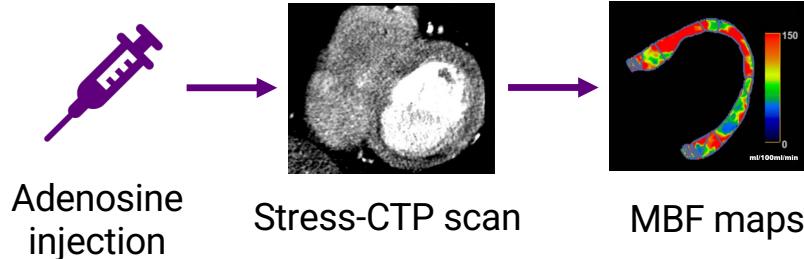


**Clinical question:** can we replace CT scans and stress protocols with a computational estimation of myocardial blood flow maps?



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Monzino**

**Clinical pipeline**



**Consistency tests:** calibration of **perfusion model** on available maps yields **excellent agreement**

**Ongoing:** calibration of patient-specific models based on **pressure data only** (no maps)

S. Di Gregorio, C. Vergara, G. Montino Pelagi et al., *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging* 2022

# Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI)



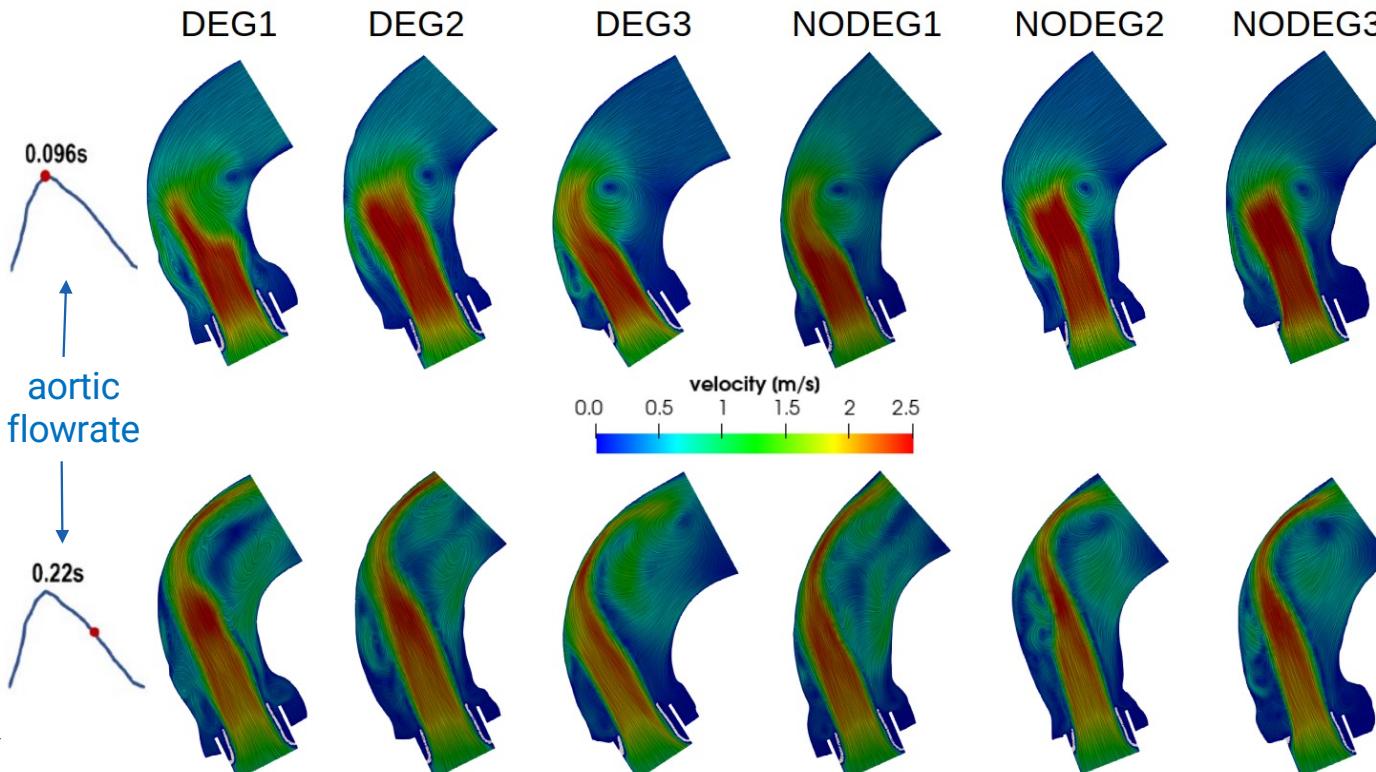
**Clinical question:** predict long-term durability of the implanted bio-prosthetic valve



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Monzino

Group of Dr. G. Pontone

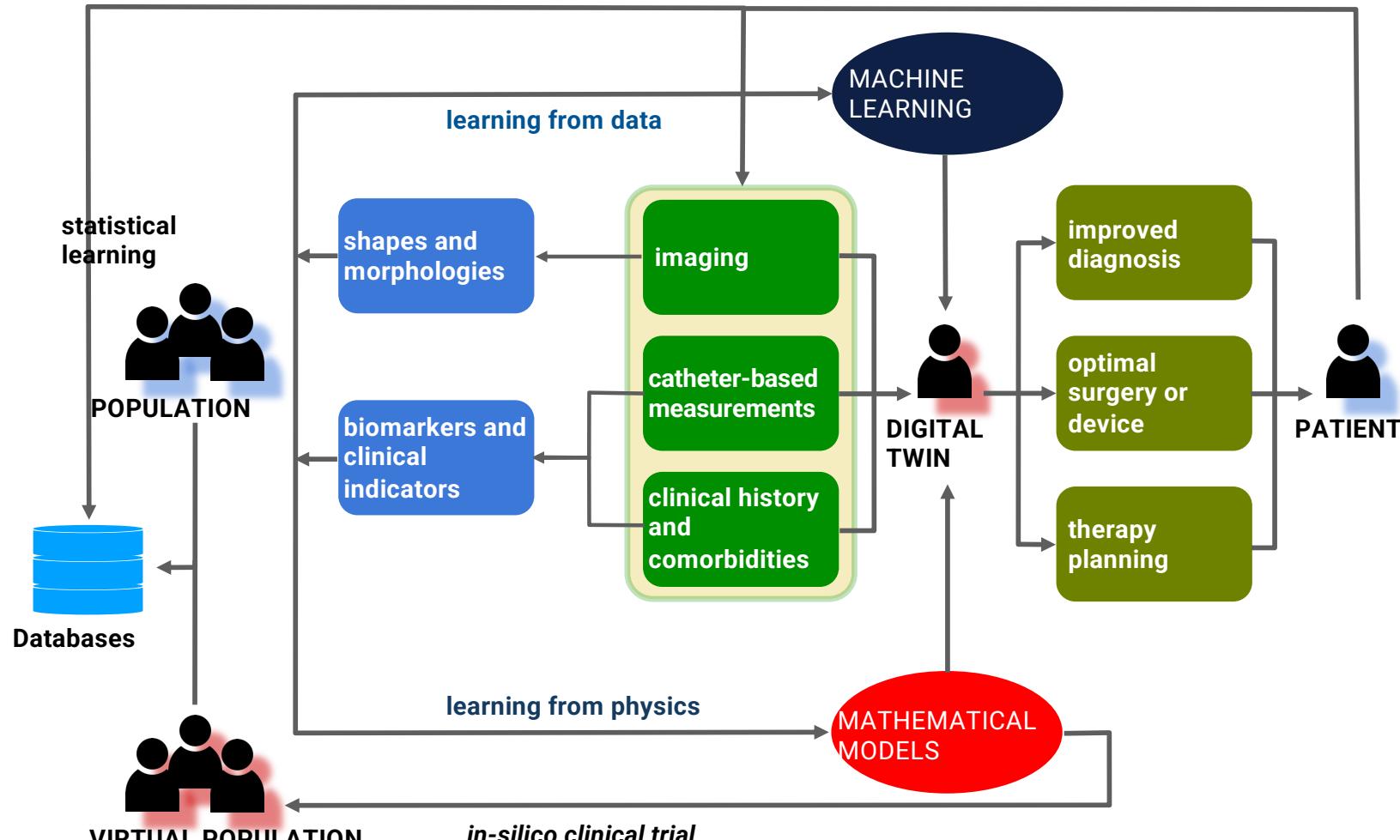
Simulation



## Study population

6 patients with **follow-up**:  
3 degenerated valves  
3 non-degenerated valves

**Blood velocity field in presence of TAVI valve**



THANK YOU  
from  
The iHEART simulator  
team

