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► **To cite this version:**

Levilly Sébastien, Jérôme Idier, Bonnefoy Félicien, Le Touzé David, Paul-Gilloteaux Perrine, et al.. Wall Shear Stress Quantification in the context of 4D Flow MRI Simulation on Carotids. Society for Magnetic Resonance Angiography conference, 31st Annual International Conference, Aug 2019, Nantes, France. hal-03466557

HAL Id: hal-03466557

<https://hal.science/hal-03466557v1>

Submitted on 6 Dec 2021

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Wall Shear Stress Quantification in the context of 4D Flow MRI Simulation on Carotids

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Context

4D flow PC-MRI on carotids:

- Acquisition time: 8-20 min
- Resolution: [1,0x1,0x1,0 mm³; 30ms]

Technological constraint:

Measurements are subjected to:

$$SNR \propto \log \left(K \times \frac{T_{\text{acquisition}}}{N_{\text{voxels}}^3} \right)$$

with K a system and patient linked constant.

- ➔ Low reliability of biomarkers values
- ➔ Wall Shear Stress [Boussel et al., 2009]

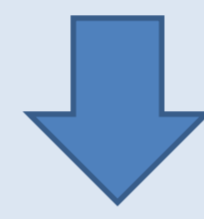
MRI-Quantif project objective:

Enhance biomarkers estimation reliability in 4D flow PC-MRI

Contribution:

Estimate the Wall Shear Stress (WSS) Vector in 4D Flow MRI context

Strategy: Inverse problems theory

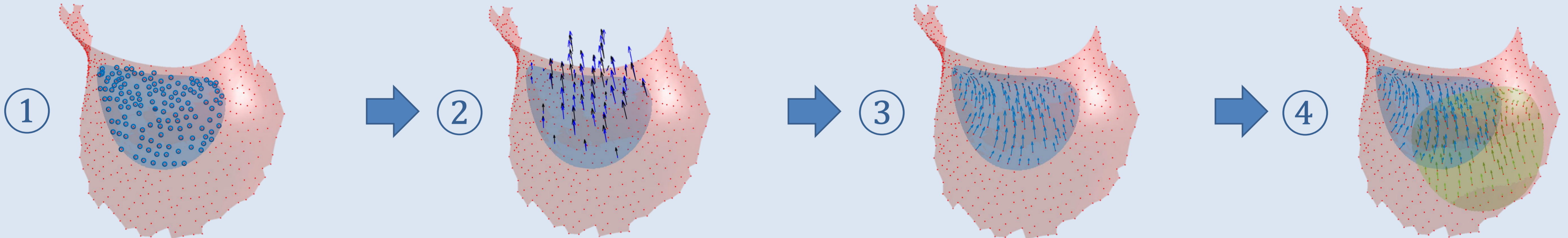


A priori knowledge on the vector field

State of the art

	Quantification without regularization	Quantification with regularization
Local Frame	Cylindrical frame [Barker et al., 2010]	Parabolic model [Petersson et al., 2012] Smoothing B-spline [Potters et al., 2014]
Whole domain	B-spline functions [Stalder et al., 2008] Sobel filters [Piatti et al., 2017]	5 th order polynomial [Köhler et al., 2001] Finite Element Model [Sotelo et al., 2016]

PaLMA (Parametric Local Morphology Algorithm)



- Fit a parametric surface around a point of interest in the local frame

$$z = S(x, y)$$

with S a third order polynomial

- Least-squares optimization

- Fit a "filtered" parametric model over the velocity data with a no-slip condition

$$\vec{V} = (z - S(x, y)) \times \vec{P}(x, y, z)$$

where \vec{P} is a 3D vector of 2nd order polynomials

- Least-squares optimization

- Compute the WSS on every points near the point of interest and repeat for all the vertices

$$\vec{\tau}_e = \mu(\nabla \vec{V} + \nabla \vec{V}^T) \cdot \vec{n}$$

- Projection of $\vec{\tau}_e$ on the surface

- Assess the WSS from the multiple estimations

$$\hat{\tau} = \underset{\vec{\tau} \in (\mathbb{R}^3)^3}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \sum \|\vec{\tau} - \vec{\tau}_e\|_H \right\}$$

with $\|\cdot\|_H$ the Huber norm of the vector norm

4D Flow MRI Simulation

- Application of a mean filter for the velocity
- Each voxel is divided into 216 smaller voxels
- Linear interpolation on this fine grid
- The filtered velocity is the mean of these 216 voxels
- Application of a centred Gaussian noise with a SNR of 20 dB (~ 4,5 % of the Venc) [Stalder et al., 2008]

$$\sigma = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \times \frac{V_{\text{enc}}}{SNR}$$

Carotid N°1

Carotid N°2

Results

$$SER_{\text{mag}} = 10 \times \log_{10} \left(\frac{\sum_j \|\vec{\tau}_{CFD,j}\|_2^2}{\sum_j \|\|\vec{\tau}_{CFD,j}\| - \|\hat{\tau}_j\|\|_2^2} \right)$$

$$SER = 10 \times \log_{10} \left(\frac{\sum_j \|\vec{\tau}_{CFD,j}\|_2^2}{\sum_j \|\vec{\tau}_{CFD,j} - \hat{\tau}_j\|_2^2} \right)$$

r is the Pearson's correlation

$$\bar{\theta} = \operatorname{mean} \left(\cos^{-1} \frac{\vec{\tau}_{CFD} \cdot \hat{\tau}}{\|\vec{\tau}_{CFD}\| \|\hat{\tau}\|} \right)$$

$$\theta_m = \operatorname{mediane} \left(\cos^{-1} \frac{\vec{\tau}_{CFD} \cdot \hat{\tau}}{\|\vec{\tau}_{CFD}\| \|\hat{\tau}\|} \right)$$

Carotid	Time	Algorithm	SER_{mag} [dB]	SER [dB]	r [%]	$\bar{\theta}$ [°]	θ_m [°]
N°1	∇ t	[Potters et al., 2014]	3,61	3,12	71,1	28,7	17,7
		PaLMA	6,69	5,52	78,5	25,4	14,7
N°1	systole	[Potters et al., 2014]	3,48	2,99	58,8	23,2	16,2
		PaLMA	6,76	5,44	69,1	19,4	13,4
N°2	∇ t	[Potters et al., 2014]	2,04	1,76	71,9	45,7	30,5
		PaLMA	4,60	3,51	76,9	46,8	31,2
N°2	systole	[Potters et al., 2014]	1,78	1,61	72,1	29,3	18,9
		PaLMA	4,69	3,93	76,3	28,1	17,6

Table: Mean performance of both PaLMA and [Potters et al., 2014] computed over 20 MRI simulations on 2 carotids with a SNR of 20 dBs.

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Conclusion

- Fast Wall Shear Stress computation for carotids (less than 5 min per carotid)
- WSS quantification improvement for different metrics
- Possible filter adaptation if the MRI point spread function is known
- Possibility to improve the velocity model with fluid mechanics constraints such as incompressibility.