

# **RBF Morph software**

## **How to reshape the CAE workflows by Radial Basis Functions mesh morphing**

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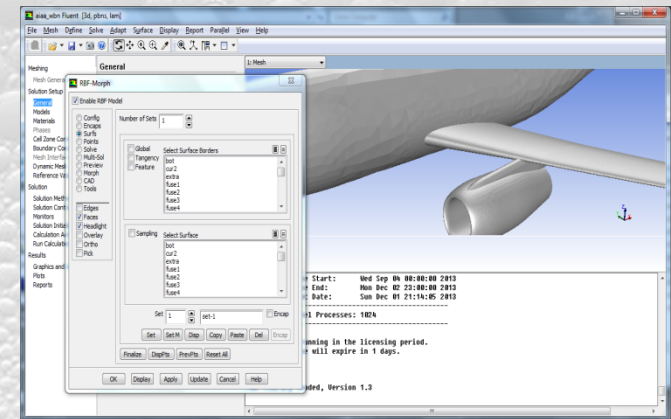
corrado.groth@students.uniroma2.eu

- Company Introduction
- RBF Morph Software Line
- Ongoing Researches
- Industrial Applications

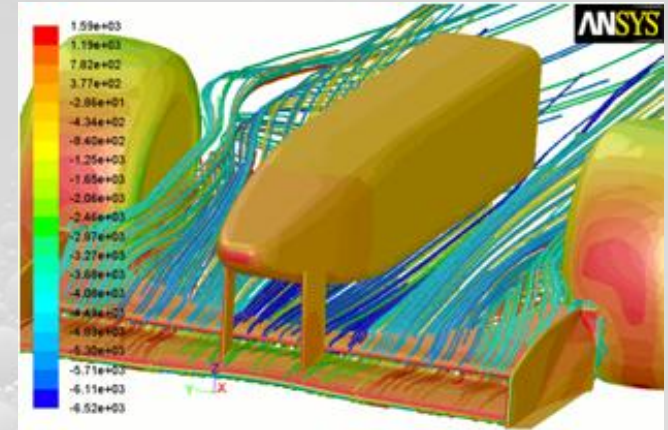


RBF Morph is a pioneer and world-leading provider of numerical morphing techniques and solutions conceived to efficiently handle **shape optimization studies** concerning most challenging industrial applications. We are an independent software-house and vendor. Our main product is RBF Morph<sup>TM</sup>, that is a unique morpher that combines a very **accurate control** of the geometrical parameters with an extremely **fast mesh smoothing** properly designed to be integrated in advanced computational optimization procedures.

The RBF Morph tool is currently available in the market mainly as add-on of the CFD commercial code ANSYS<sup>®</sup> Fluent<sup>®</sup>.



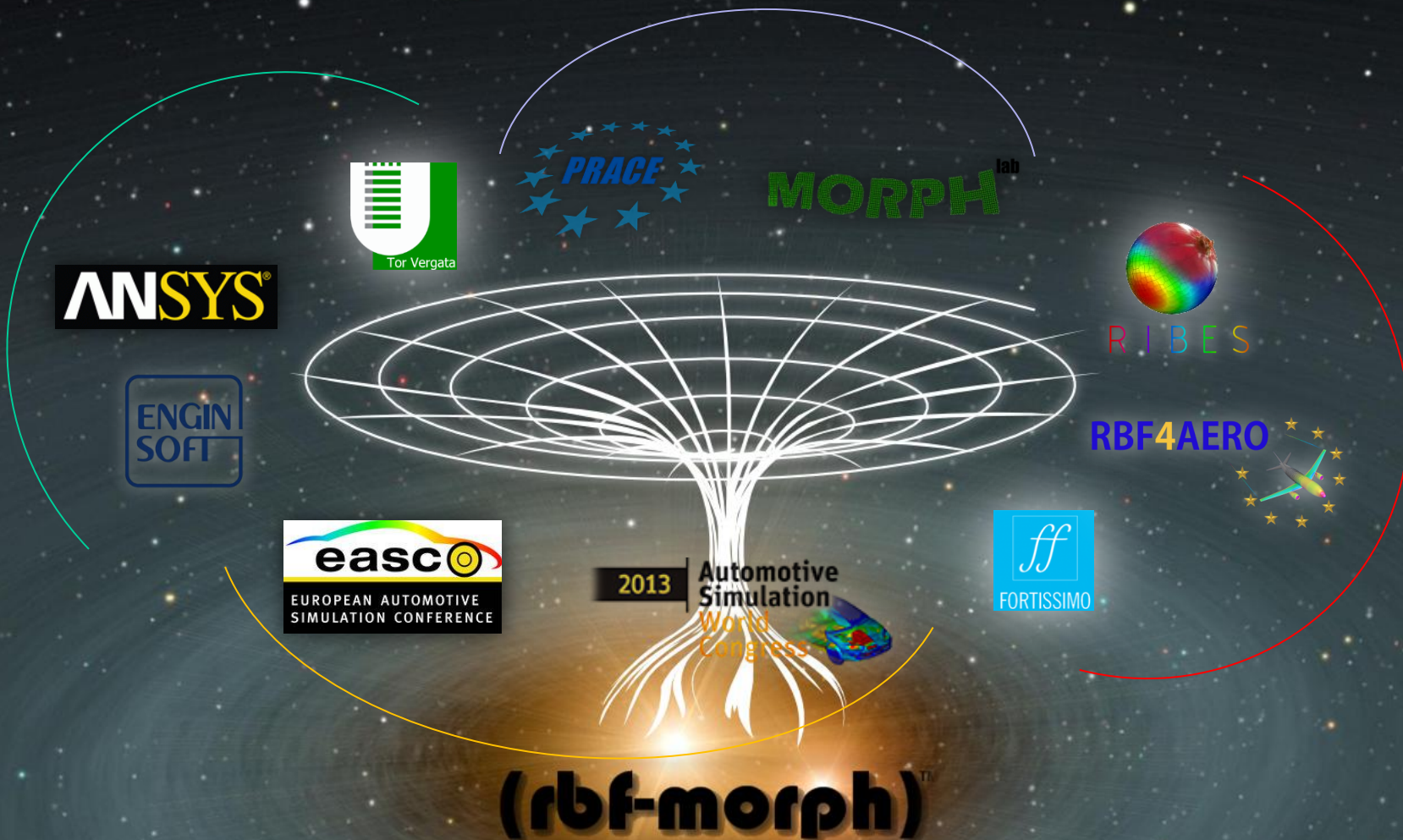
The RBF Morph tool had its inception in 2008 as on-demand solution for a **Formula 1** top team. The need was a novel technology able to change the shape of large CFD numerical models **as fast as possible**. The final result had been so good that the technology was packaged in a commercial software product and launched onto the market.



At present, Dr. Marco Evangelos Biancolini is the unique owner of the RBF Morph technology and, as Director, avails himself of the collaboration of several experts for the deliver of products and services.

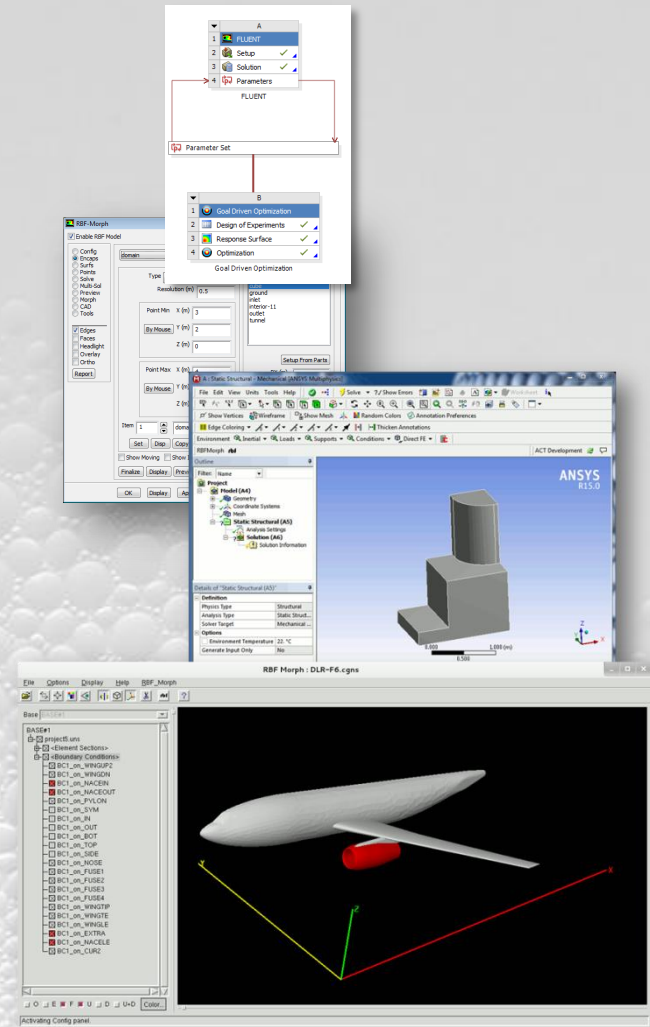
- Morphing-based numerical tools and services
- RBF Morph Milestones
  - ✓ 2008: tool implementation for Formula 1 top team consultancy activity
  - ✓ 2009: founded in Italy
  - ✓ 2009: Software Partner of ANSYS
  - ✓ 2009: at EASC **RBF Morph** won the *Most Advanced Approach Award Most Innovative Approach using Simulation Methods*
  - ✓ 2011: strategic partnership with Tor Vergata University (Rome)
  - ✓ 2012: OEM partner of ANSYS
  - ✓ 2013: beneficiary of an FP7 AAT Project RBF4AERO
  - ✓ 2013: at ASWC **RBF Morph** awarded for the *Best use of HPC*
  - ✓ 2013: Partner of Enginsoft
  - ✓ 2014: beneficiary of FP7 Project RIBES
  - ✓ 2014: beneficiary of FPT Fortissimo





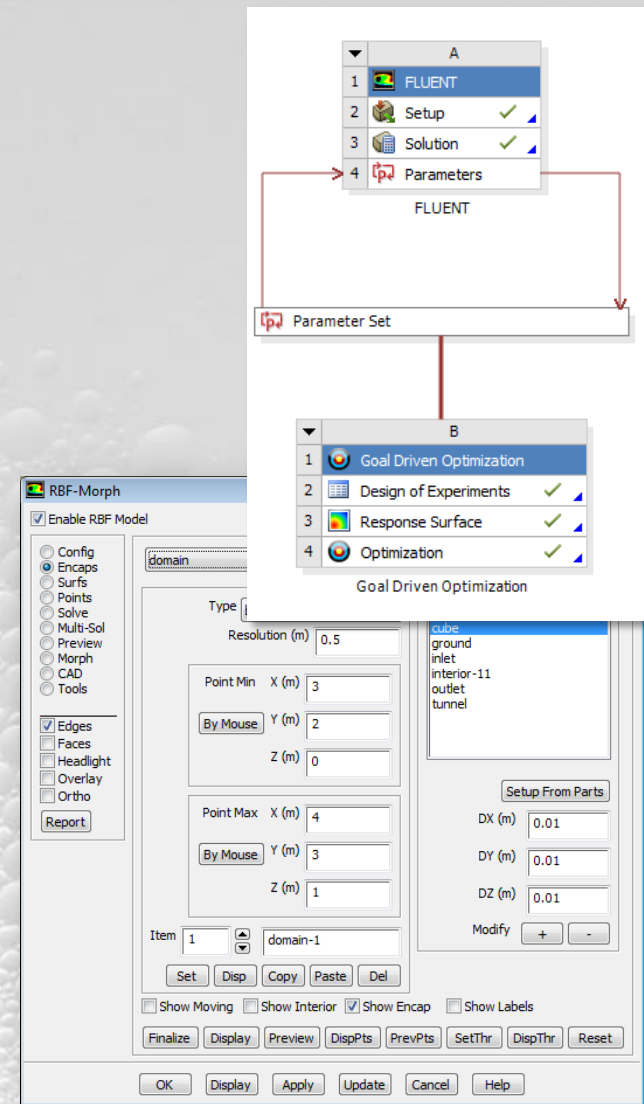
# **RBF Morph software line**

- Awarded mesh morphing software available as an add-on for **ANSYS Fluent** CFD solver
- HPC RBF **general purposes** library (state of the art algorithms, parallel, GPU)
- Stand alone morphing software + smoothing commands for different mesh formats
- ANSYS Mechanical **ACT module** (first release planned in June 2014)





- **Add on** fully integrated within **Fluent** (GUI, TUI & solving stage), **Workbench** and **Adjoint Solver**
- **Mesh-independent** RBF fit used for surface mesh morphing and volume mesh smoothing
- **Parallel** calculation allows to morph **large size** models (many millions of cells) in a short time
- Management of **every kind of mesh** element type (tetrahedral, hexahedral, polyhedral, etc.)
- Support of the **CAD re-design** of the morphed surfaces
- **Multi fit** makes the Fluent case truly parametric (only 1 mesh is stored)
- **Precision**: exact nodal movement and exact feature preservation (**RBF** are better than **FFD**)



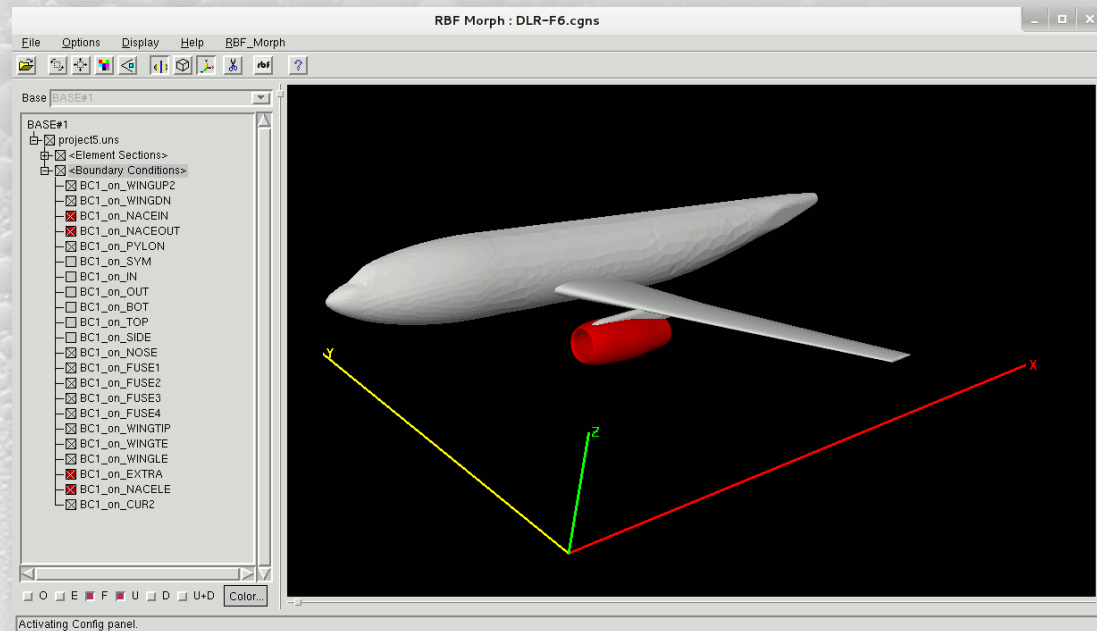
- Deeply integrated in ANSYS Mechanical: same look & feel, same interaction logic
- Nested in the usual Mechanical tree as an added object, shares its scoping tools for **geometrical** and **mesh elements** selections
- Written in **python** and **xml**, uses external RBF Morph core libraries
- Child **hierarchical logic** for complex morphings (two steps, three steps, ..., n steps setups)

The screenshot shows the ANSYS Mechanical interface with the RBF Morph module integrated. A toolbar at the top right contains icons for RBF Morph operations. The main window displays a 3D model of a mechanical part. A dialog box titled "Node selection" is open, showing the following details:

Node selection	
Scoping Method	Geometry Selection
Geometry	Apply Cancel
Definition	
delta_x	0
delta_y	0
delta_z	0.4

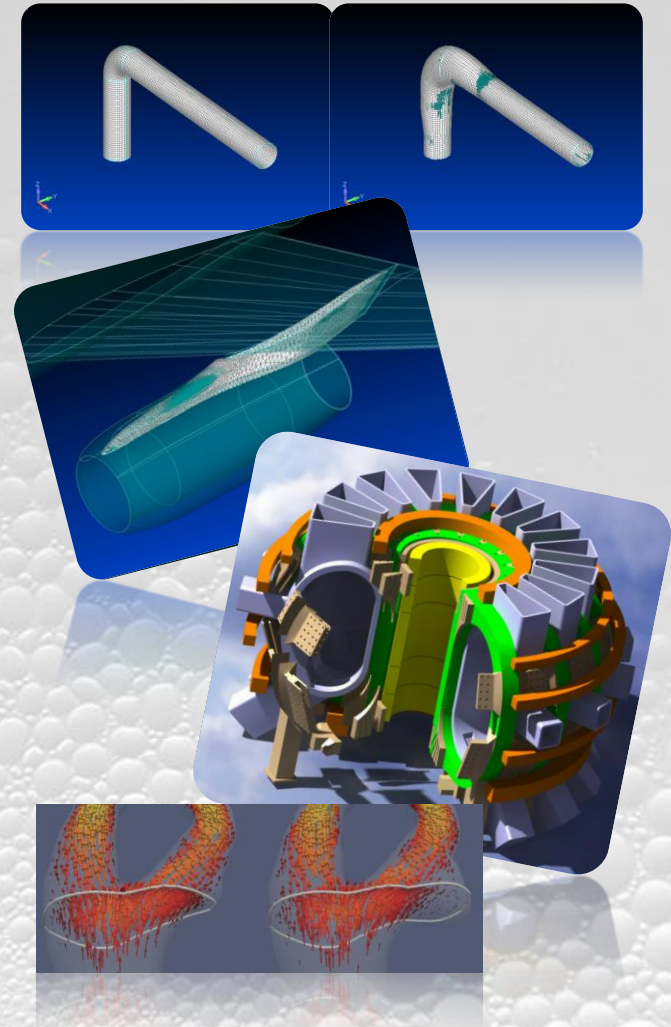
Arrows point from the dialog box to the RBF Morph toolbar and the software tree, indicating the integration of the module into the existing ANSYS Mechanical workflow.

- RBF solutions are fully compatible and **exchangeable** between add-on and standalone versions
- Support for STL and CGNS file formats. Selected morphed surfaces can be exported in STL format and **back to CAD** is possible via STEP files
- **Add-on-like** interface
- **Solver independent** process currently supports many mesh formats
- Functions **scriptable** via tcl
- Global supported bi-harmonic functions and  $C^0$ ,  $C^2$ ,  $C^4$  compact supported functions available



# Ongoing RBF Morph Researches

- RBF Morph and Adjoint coupling: Adjoint sculpting, Adjoint preview, Augmented DOE
- **STL** targeting, **CAD** controlled surfaces
- **Mesh to CAD** features
- Mapping of **magnetic** and **pressure** loads
- Interpolation of **hemodynamic** flow fields acquired *in vivo*
- Strain and **stress calculation** (experimental data, coarse FEM, isostatic lines)



- “Innovative Benchmark Technology for Aircraft Engineering Design and Efficient Design Phase Optimisation” –

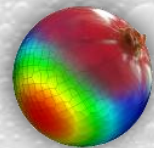
**ACP3-GA-2013-605396**

- [www.rbf4aero.eu](http://www.rbf4aero.eu)

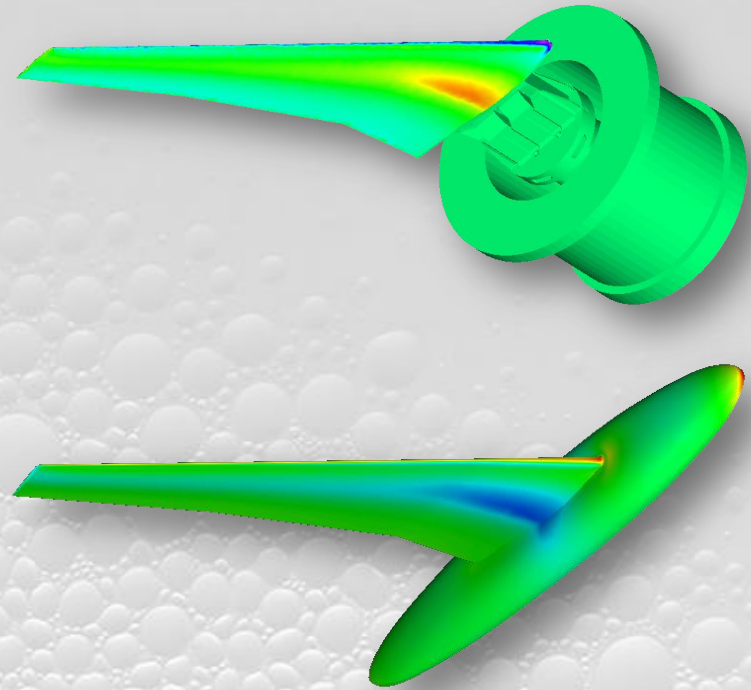


- Radial basis functions at fluid Interface Boundaries to Envelope flow results for advanced Structural analysis

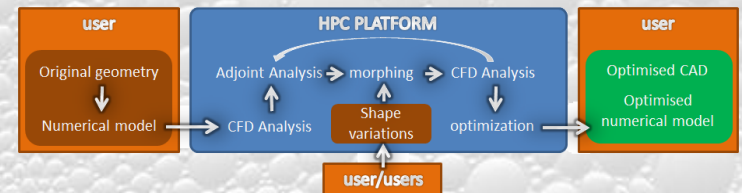
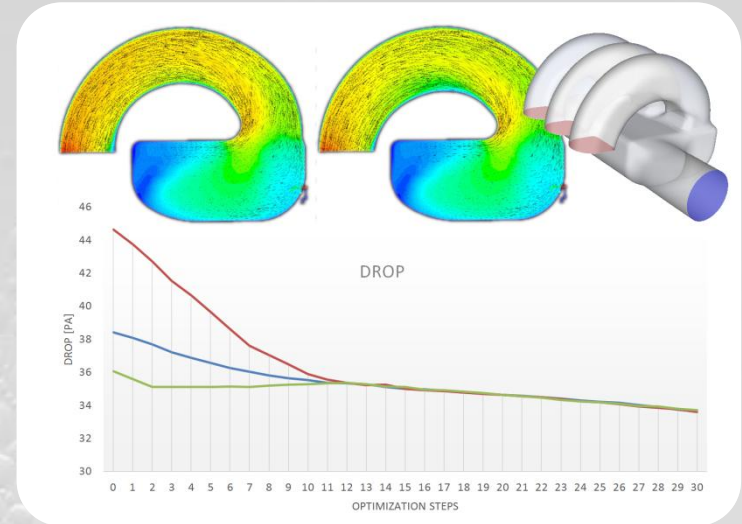
JTI-CS-2013-GRA-01-052



RIBES



- **F**actories **O**f the **F**uture **R**esources, **T**echnology, **I**nfrastructure and **S**ervices for **S**imulation and **M**odelling
- Approved experiment: “Virtual Automatic Rapid Prototyping Based on Fast Morphing on HPC Platforms”





- 10.000 RBF centers FIT
  - 120 minutes Jan 2008
  - 5 seconds Jan 2010
- Largest fit **2.600.000** 133 minutes
- Largest model morphed **300.000.000** cells
- Fit and Morph a **100.000.000** cells model using **500.000** RBF centers within **15 minutes**

#points	2010 (Minutes)	2008 (Minutes)
3.000	0 (1s)	15
10.000	0 (5s)	120
40.000	1 (44s)	Not registered
160.000	4	Not registered
650.000	22	Not registered
2.600.000	133	Not registered



- Single RBF complete evaluation
- Unit random cube
- **GPU:** Kepler 20 2496 CUDA Cores  
GPU Clock 0.71 GHz
- **CPU:** quad core Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2609 0 @ 2.40GHz

#points	CPU	GPU	speed up
5000	0,098402	0,004637	21,2
10000	0,319329	0,011746	27,2
15000	0,667639	0,024982	26,7
20000	1,135127	0,038352	29,6
25000	1,721781	0,054019	31,9
30000	2,451661	0,079459	30,9
35000	3,306897	0,108568	30,5
40000	4,286706	0,134978	31,8
45000	5,390029	0,181181	29,7
50000	6,707721	0,2135	31,4
100000	26,13633	0,745482	35,1
150000	58,96981	1,735367	34,0
200000	115,3628	2,861737	40,3

# Industrial Applications

**(rbf-morph)**<sup>TM</sup>

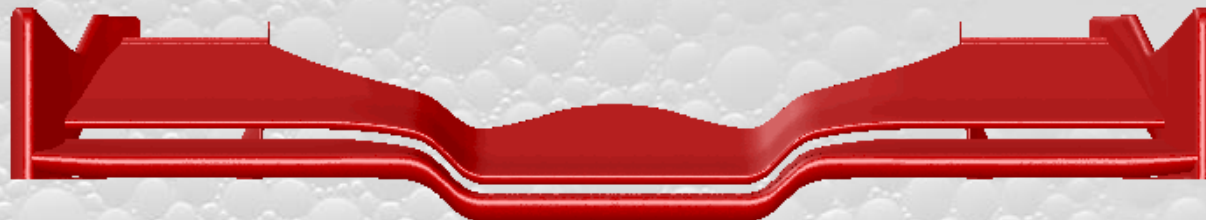
Welcome to the World of Fast Morphing!



**(rbf-morph)**<sup>TM</sup>

Welcome to the World of Fast Morphing!

**Formula 1 Front Wing**



[www.rbf-morph.com](http://www.rbf-morph.com)

2014 ESSS CONFERENCE & ANSYS USERS MEETING  
May 2014 - São Paulo, SP - Brasil



[www.rbf-morph.com](http://www.rbf-morph.com)

RBF Morph, an ANSYS Inc. Partner



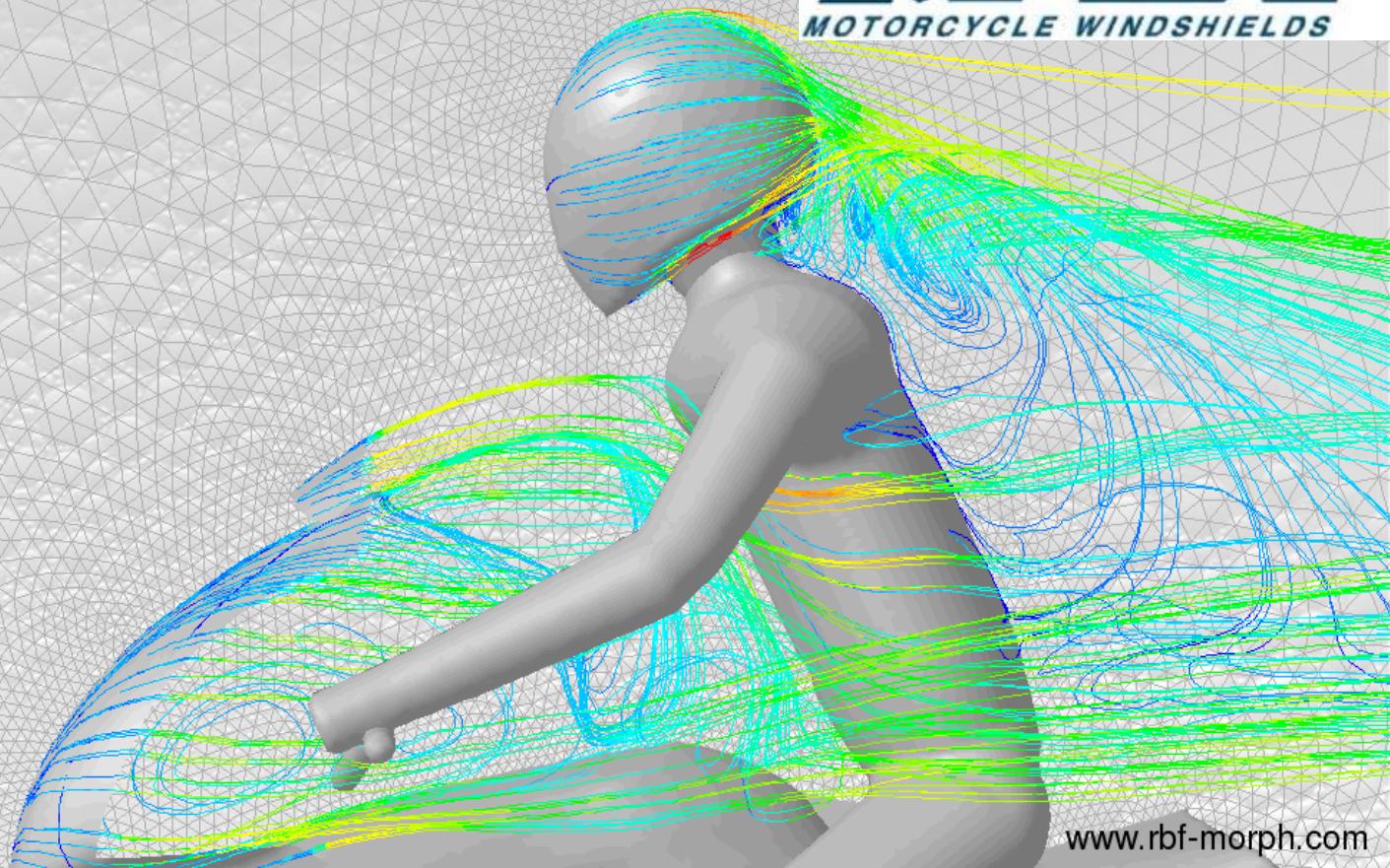
**(rbf-morph)**<sup>TM</sup>

Welcome to the World of Fast Morphing!

**BRICO moto**

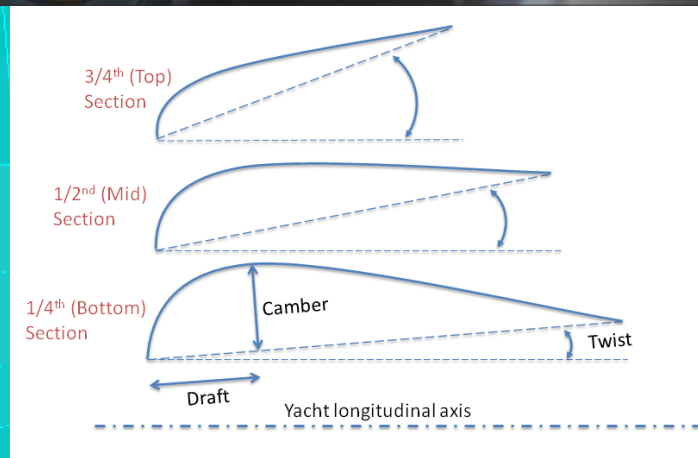
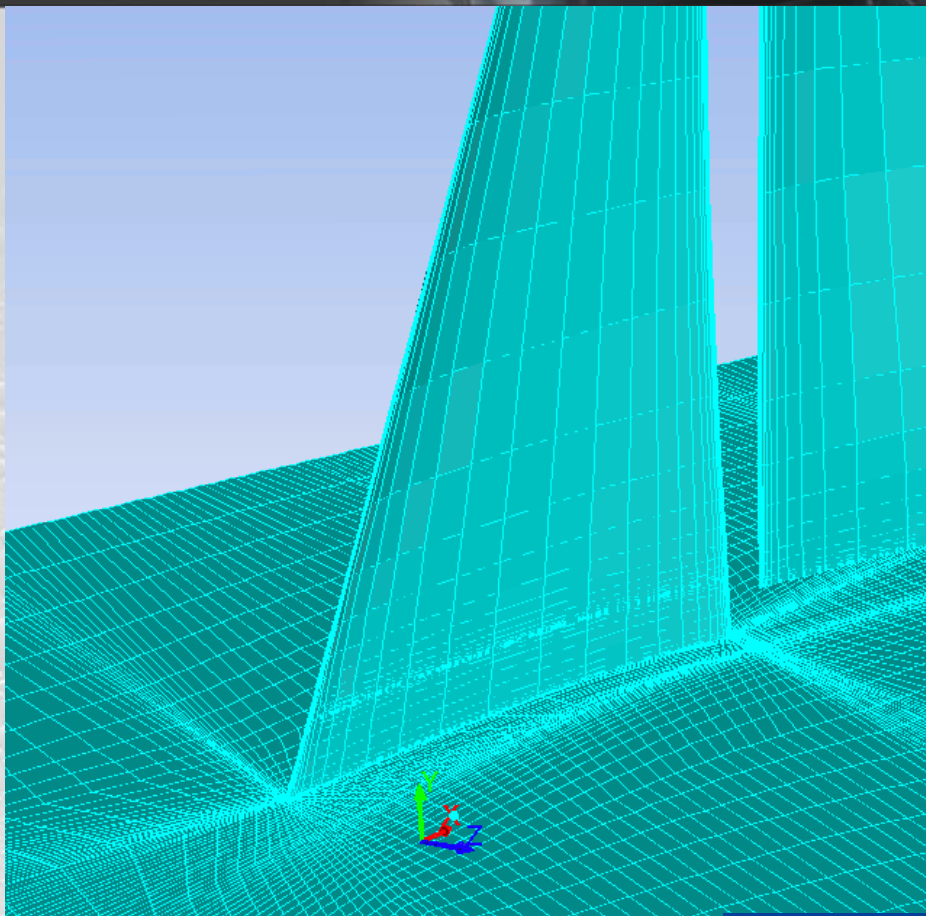
**MRA**<sup>®</sup>  
MOTORCYCLE WINDSHIELDS

**Motorbike Windshield  
(Bricomoto, MRA)**

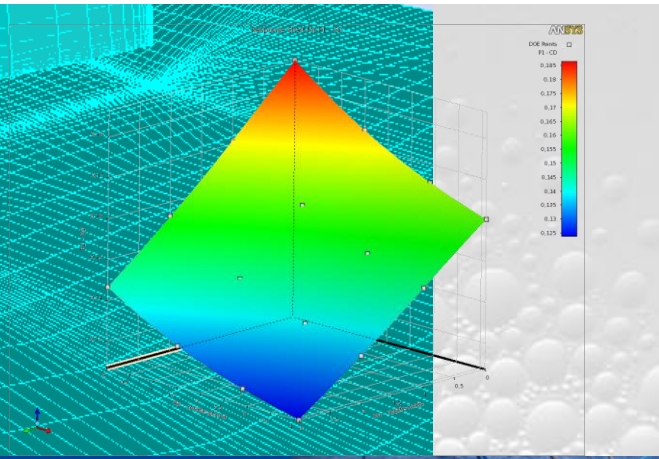


[www.rbf-morph.com](http://www.rbf-morph.com)

Sails Trim (Ignazio Maria Viola, University of Newcastle)



Morphing Preview (A=0)



Newcastle University  
Yacht and superyacht consultancy and research



school of marine science and technology

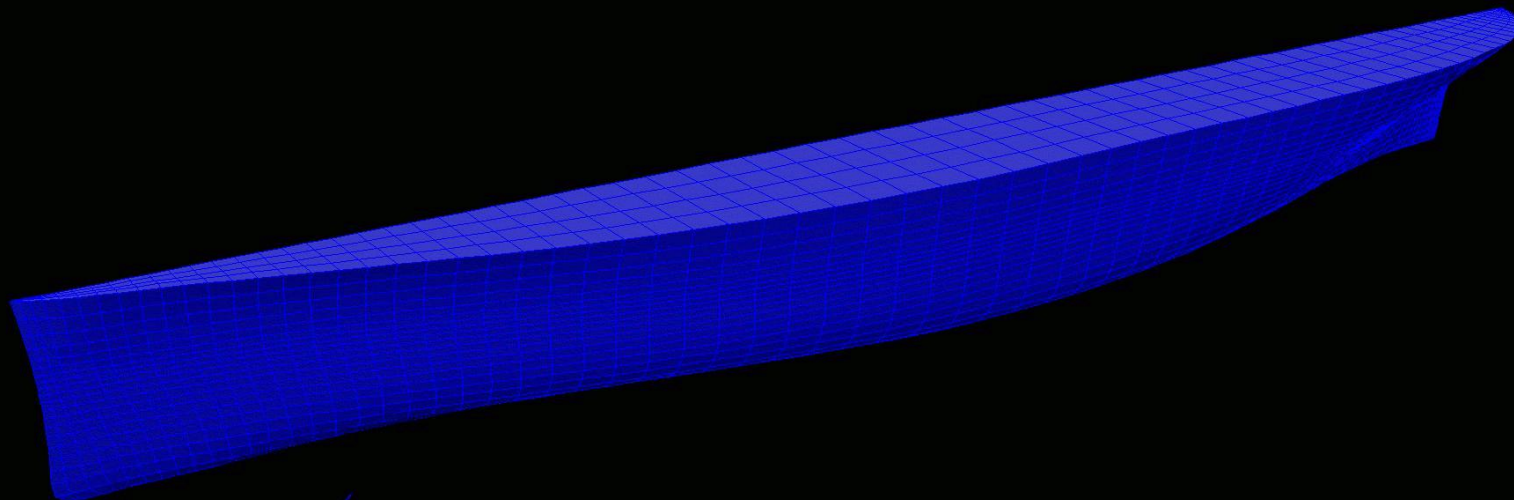
ignazio.viola@ncl.ac.uk



Ship Hull (University of Leeds)



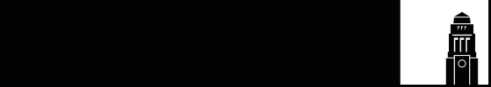
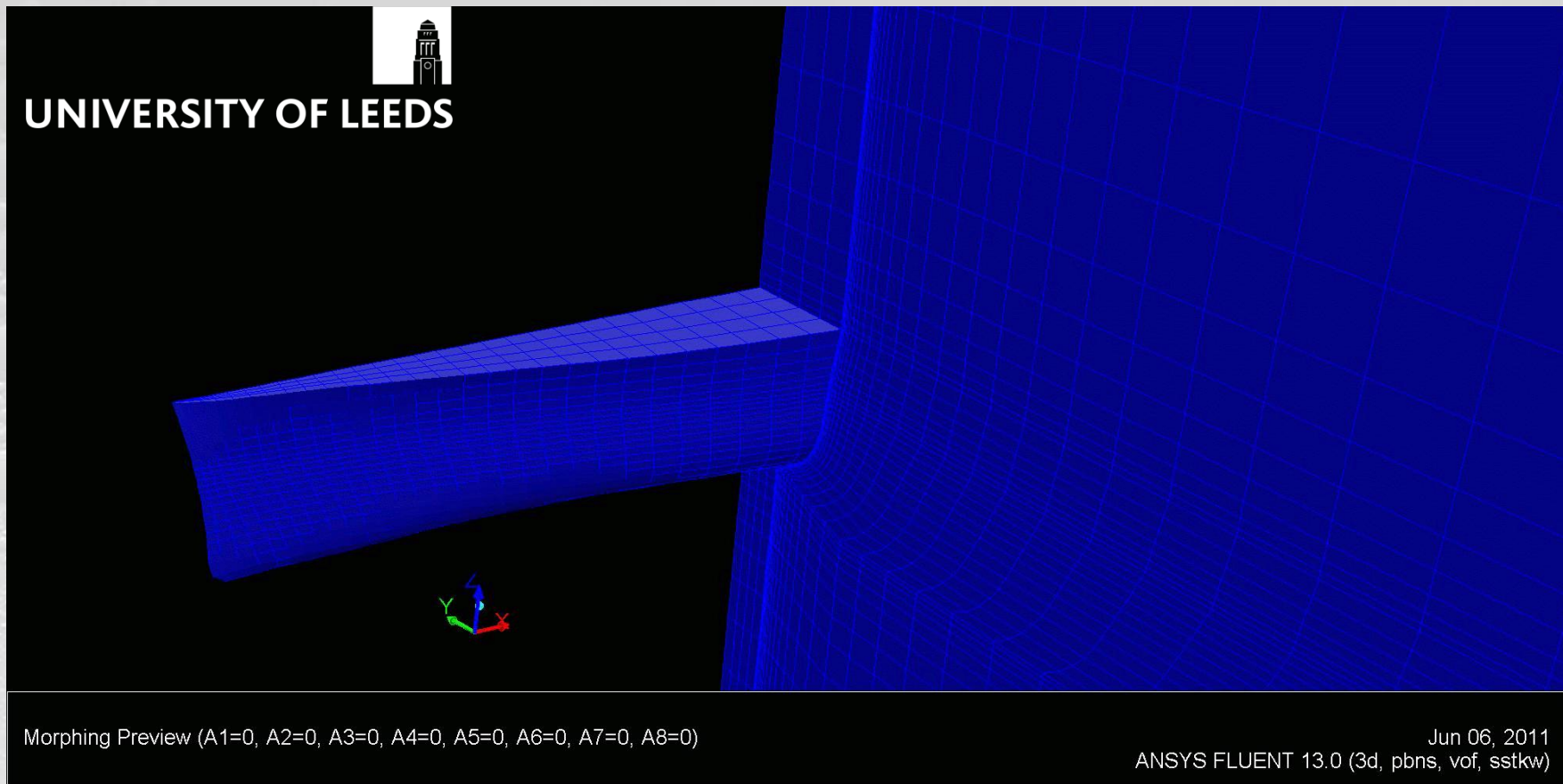
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



Morphing Preview (A1=0, A2=0, A3=0, A4=0, A5=0, A6=0, A7=0, A8=0)

Jun 06, 2011  
ANSYS FLUENT 13.0 (3d, pbns, vof, sstk)

Ship Hull (University of Leeds)



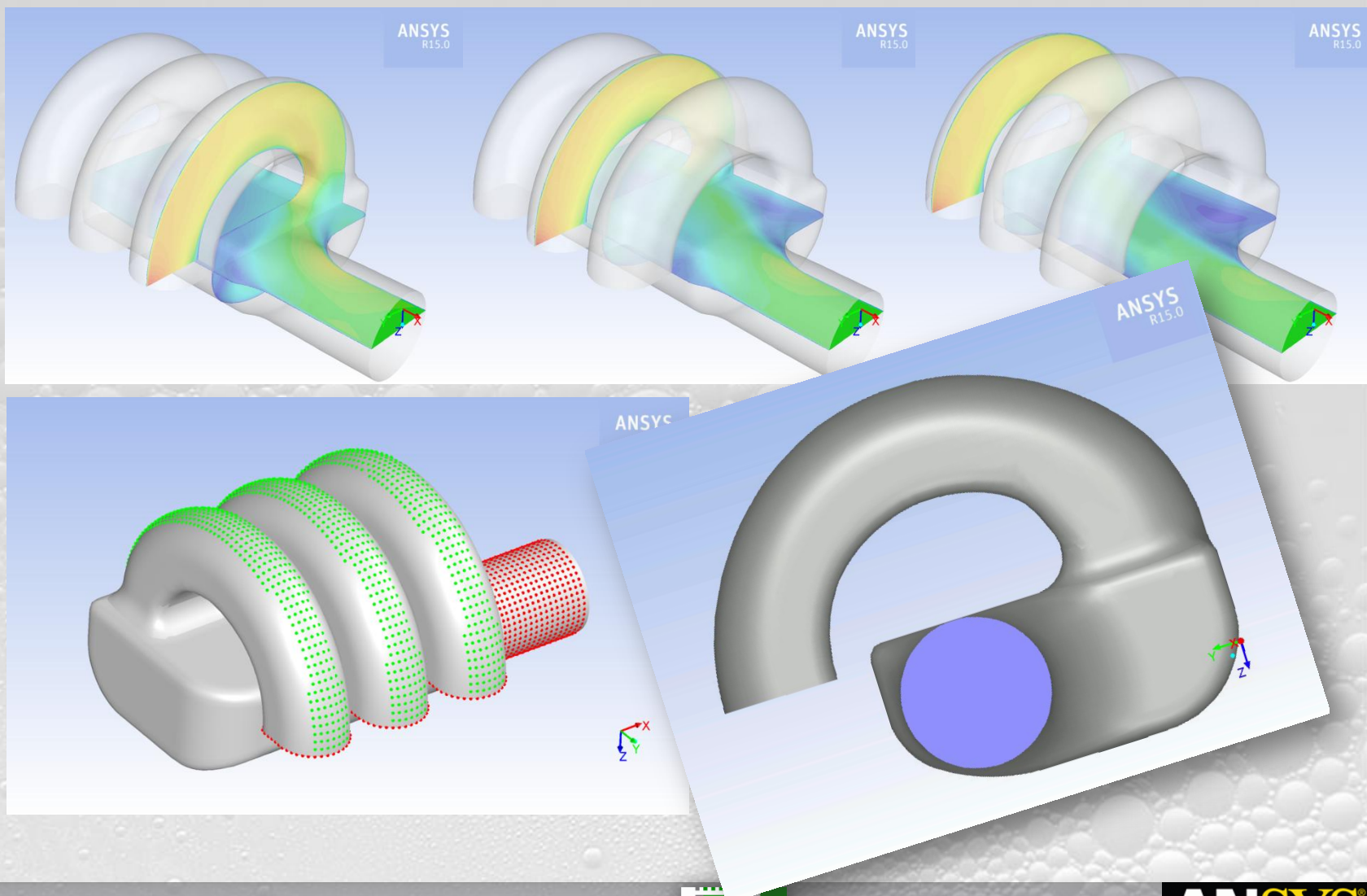
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Morphing Preview (A1=0, A2=0, A3=0, A4=0, A5=0, A6=0, A7=0, A8=0)

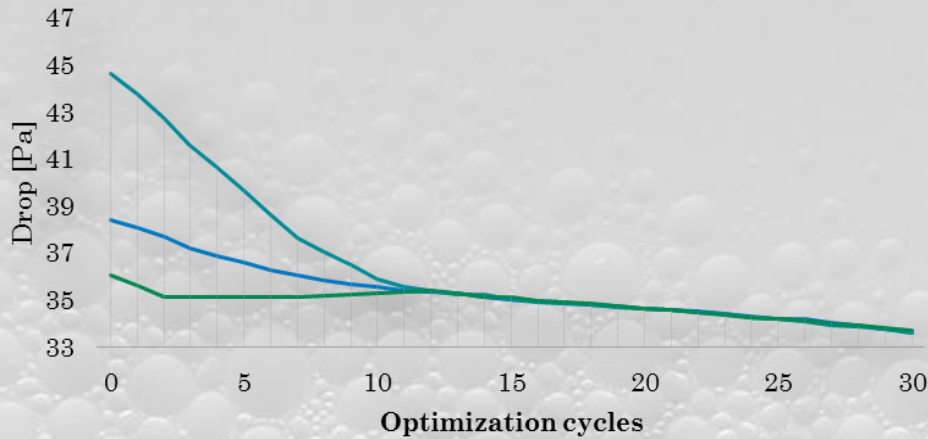
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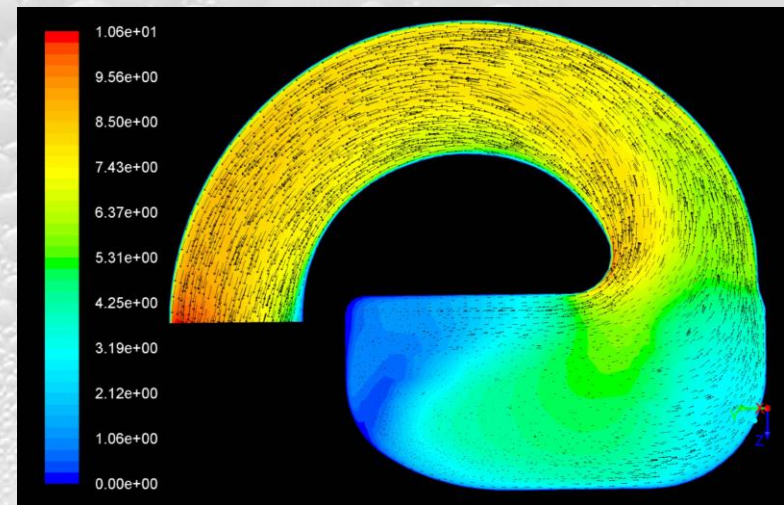
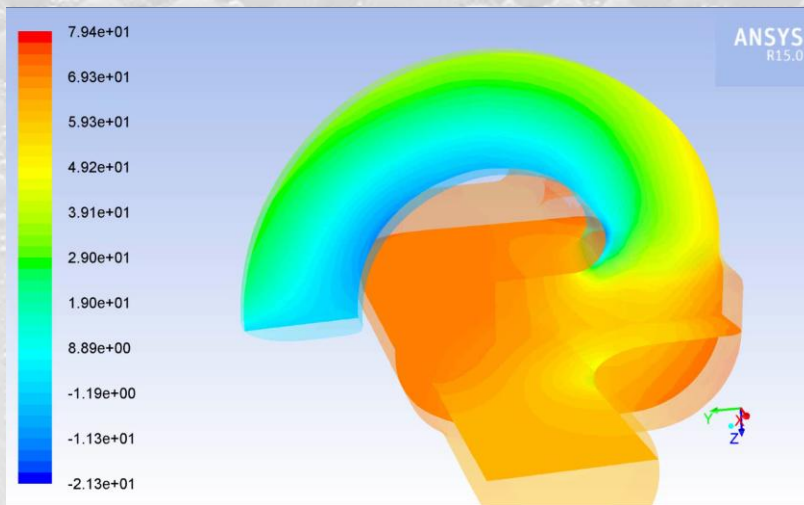
**Engine Air box Adjoint  
shape optimization**



## Engine Air box Adjoint shape optimization

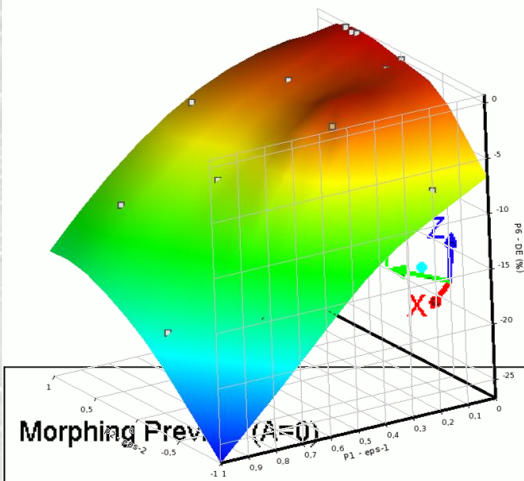


	Mean pressure Drop [Pa]	Unbalance
Baseline	39.7	12.45%
Optimized	33.635	0.12%
Reduction	15.3%	99.0%



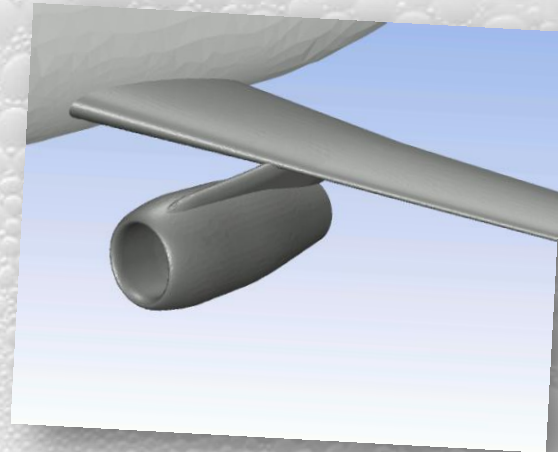
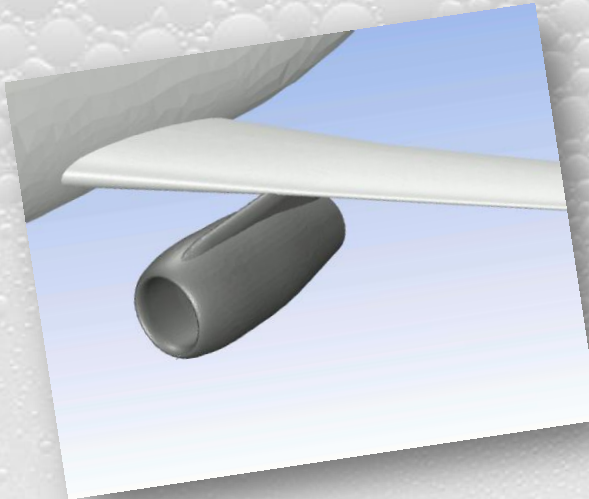
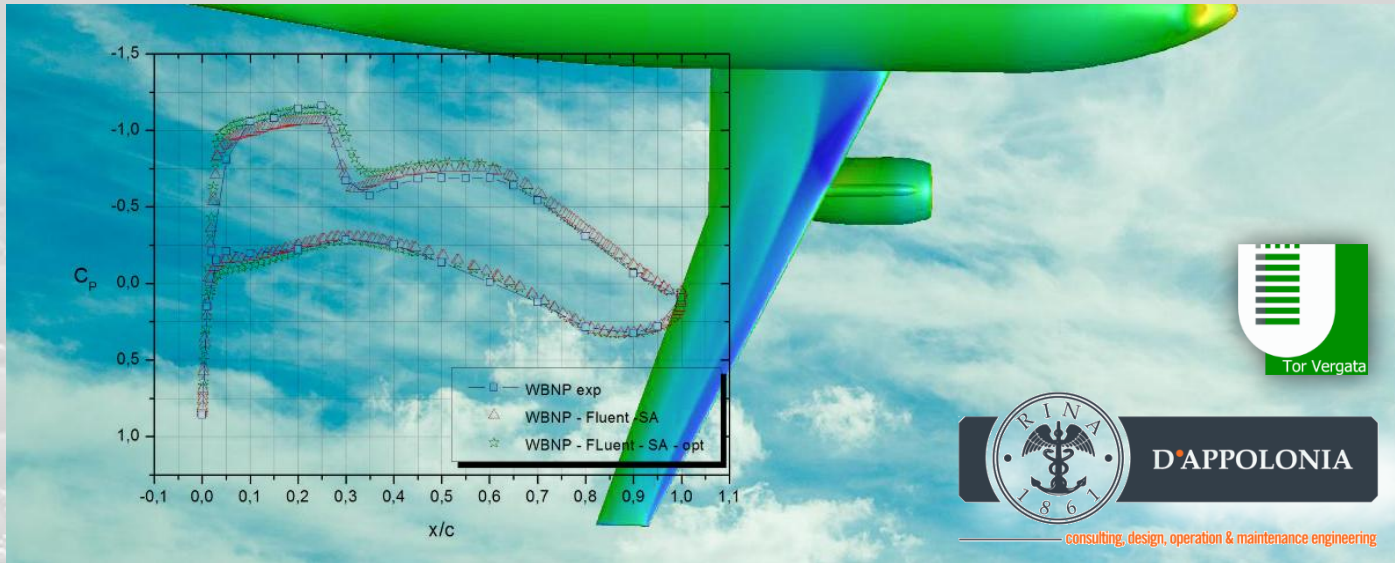


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TOR VERGATA



Optimization of sweep angles

# Optimization of nacelle





**MIRA Reference car  
(MIRA Ltd)**

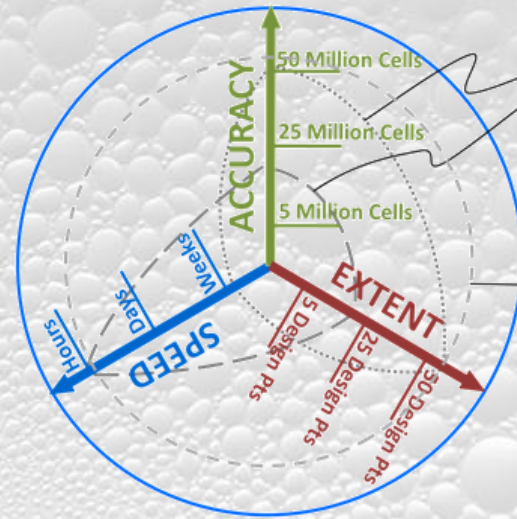
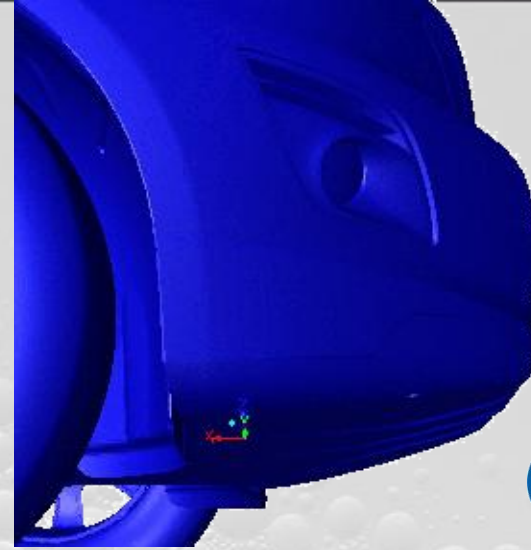
# MIRA Reference Car

## Shape Optimisation using RBF-Morph

Smarter Thinking.

© MIRA Ltd 2011

# 50:50:50 Project Volvo XC60 (Ansys, Intel, Volvo)

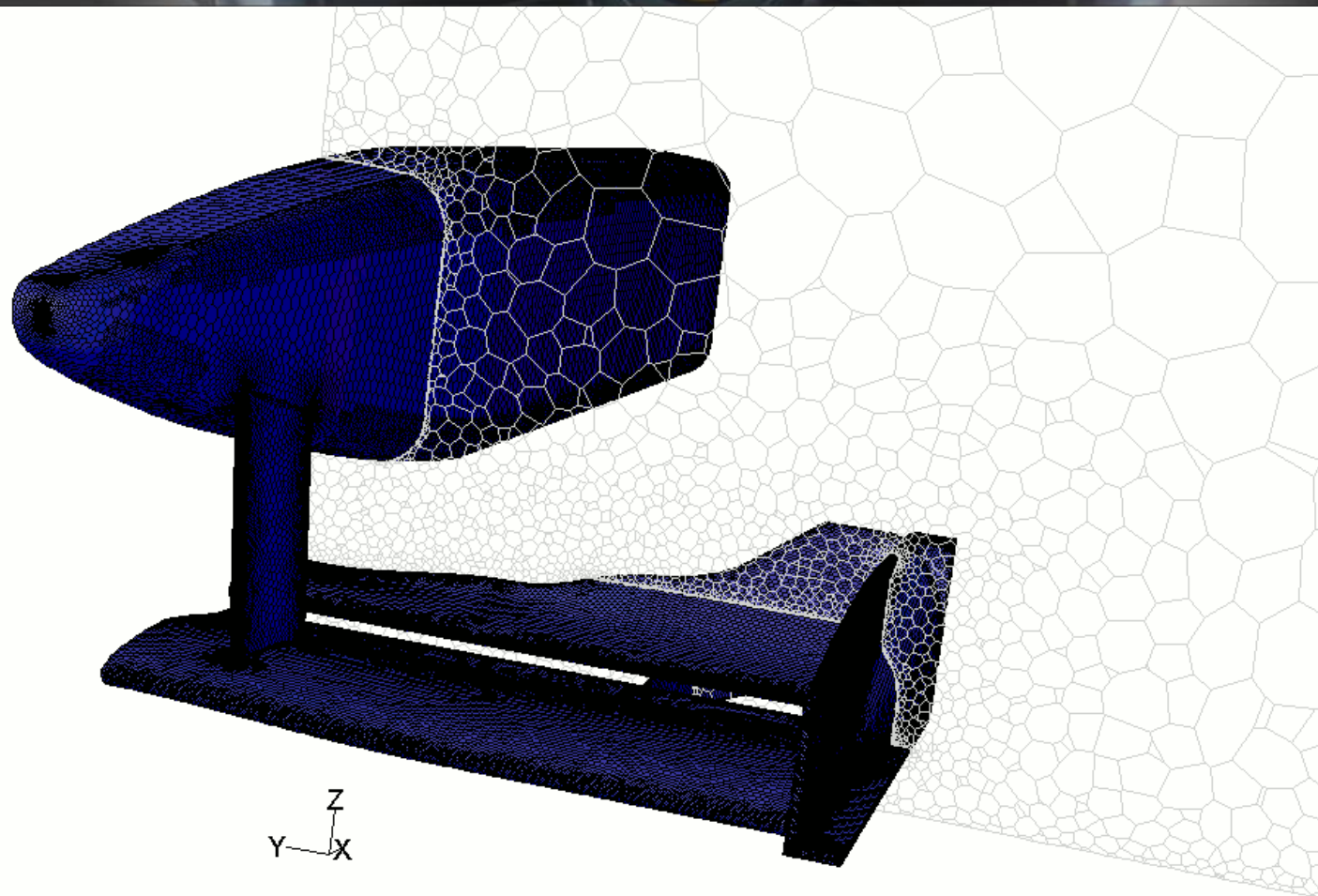


Prior aerodynamics optimization processes have either achieved speed at the expense of accuracy and extent or vice versa

The goal of the current work is to achieve speed without compromising accuracy or extent

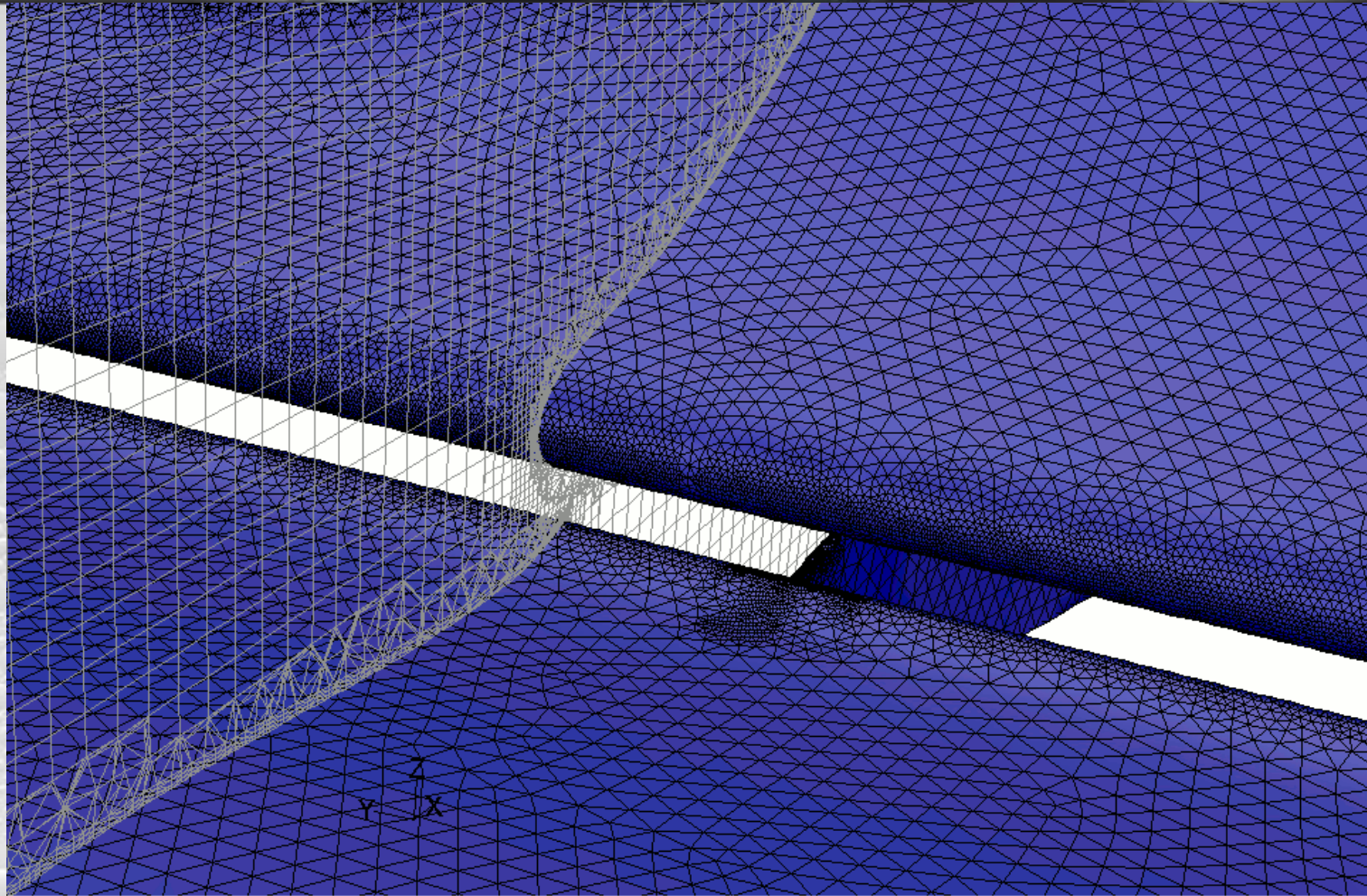


# Generic Formula 1 Front End



Sol=sol-01-c, A=0  
Surface Grid

# Generic Formula 1 Front End

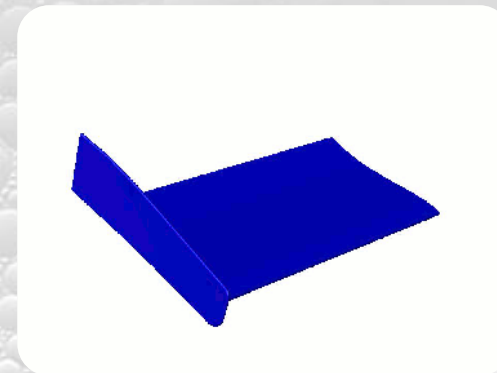
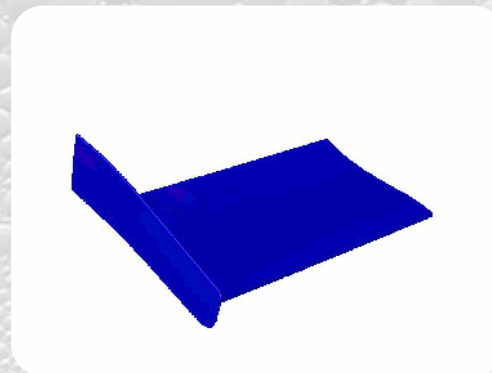
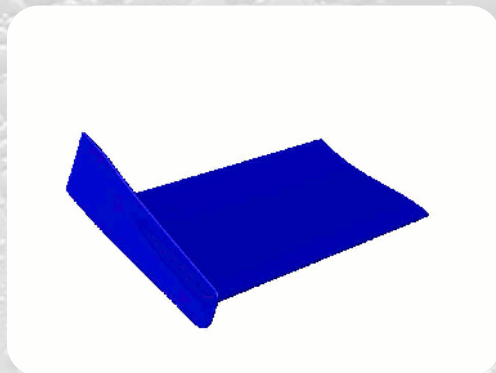
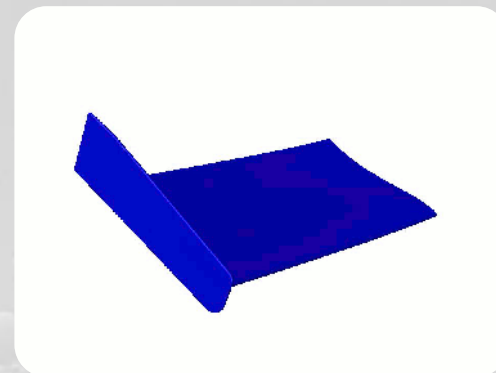
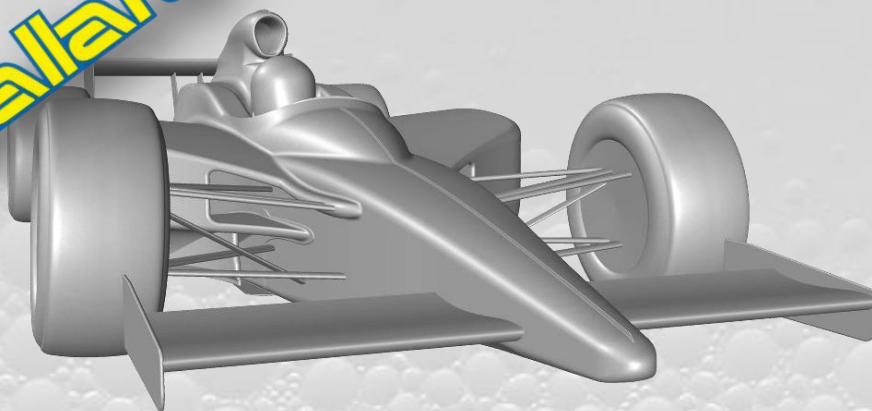


Sol=sol-03-a, A=-5  
Surface Grid



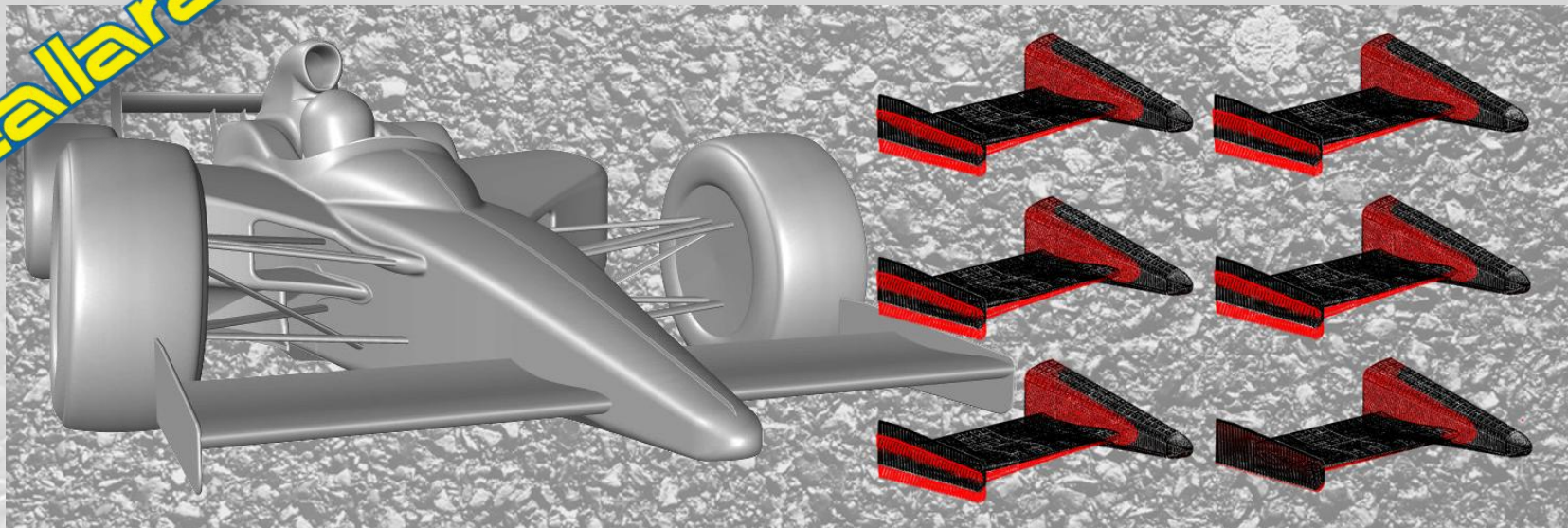
**FSI analysis on a  
Indy race car**

**dallara**



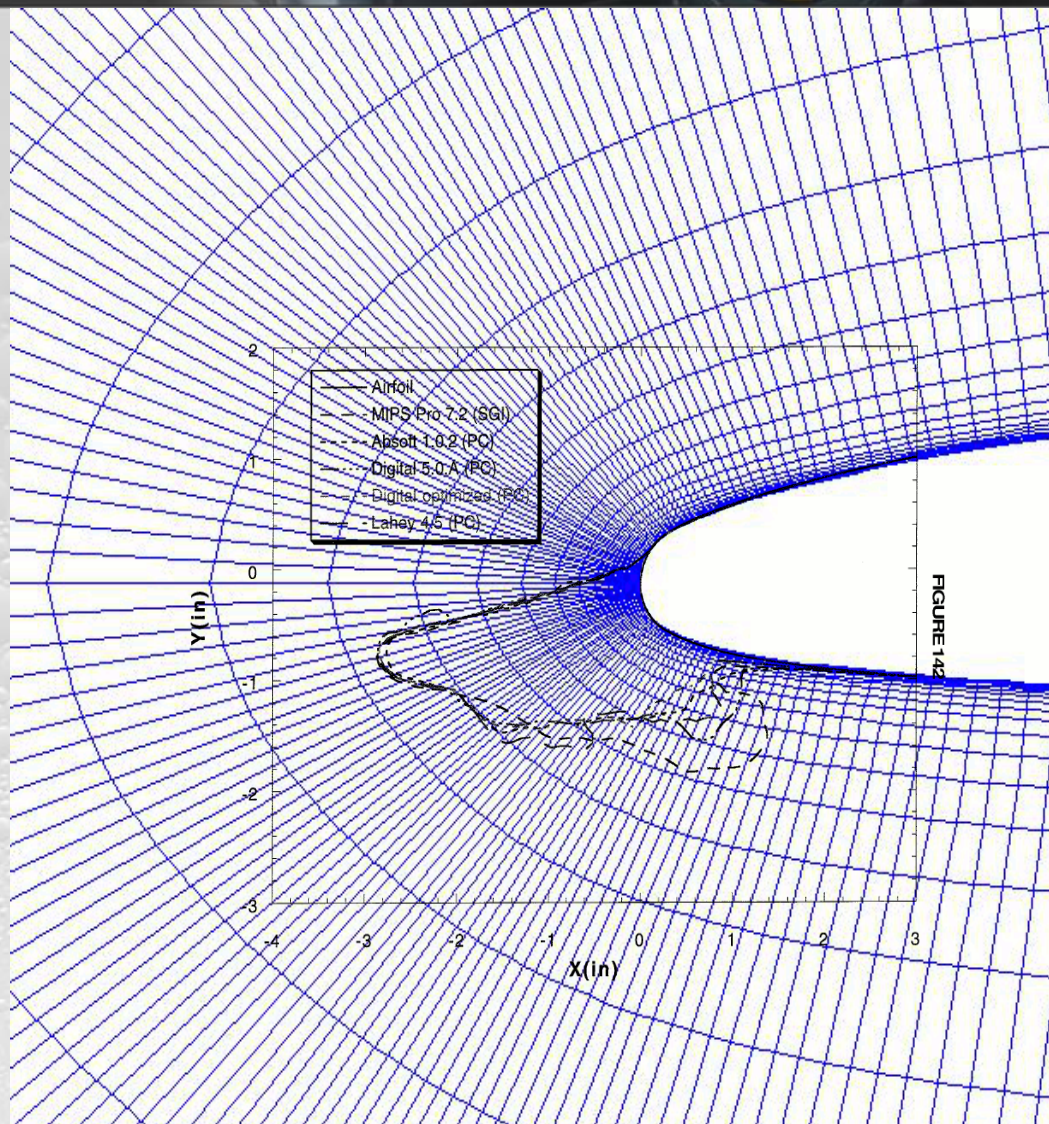
**FSI analysis on a  
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**dallara**

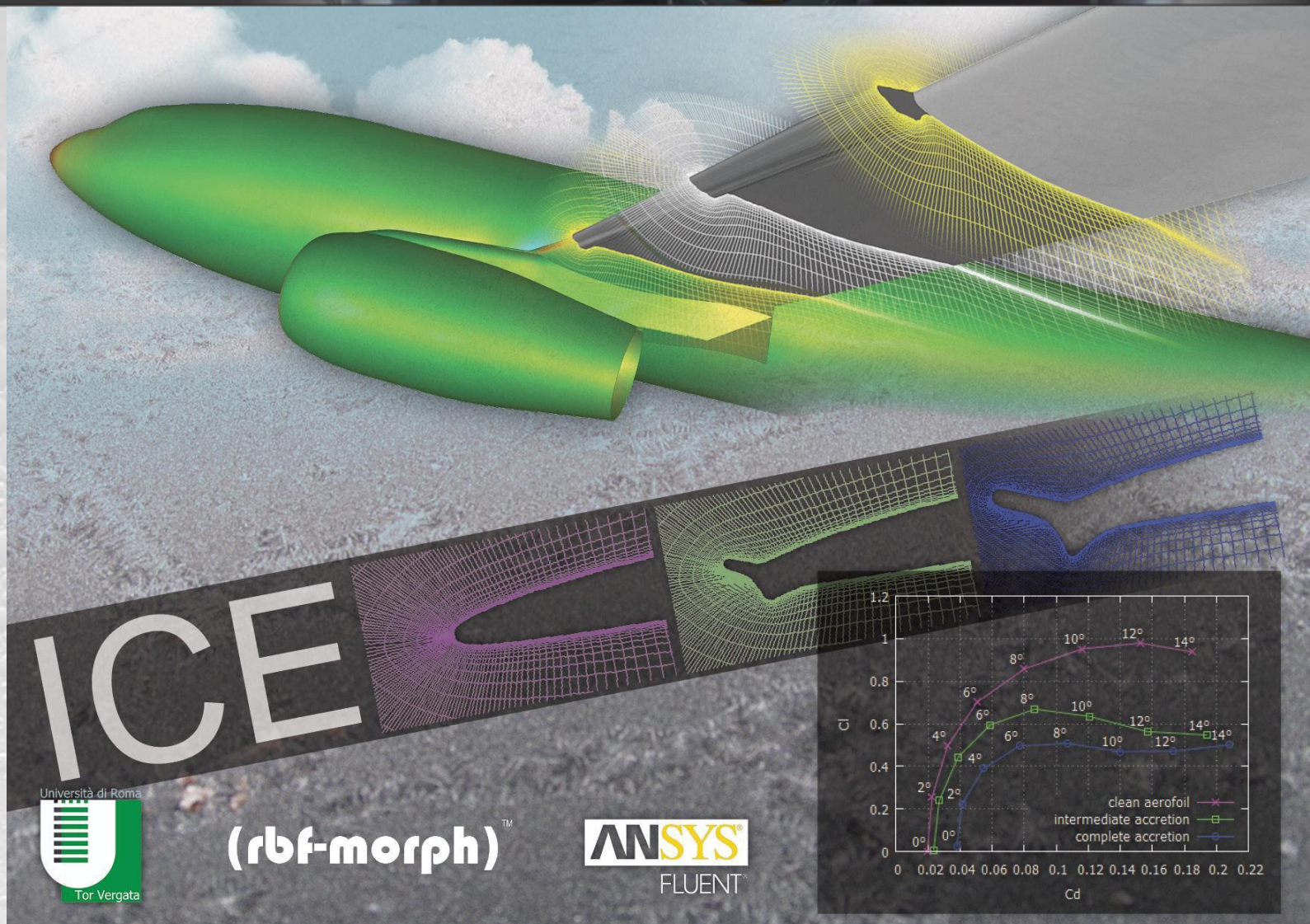


Modes used	Maximum displacement (mm)	Maximum difference (mm)	Maximum error (%)
1	5.941	4.946	8.3
2	5.898	3.817	6.5
3	5.584	1.483	2.7
4	5.56	7.722	1.4
5	5.555	0	0

# Ice accretion morphing

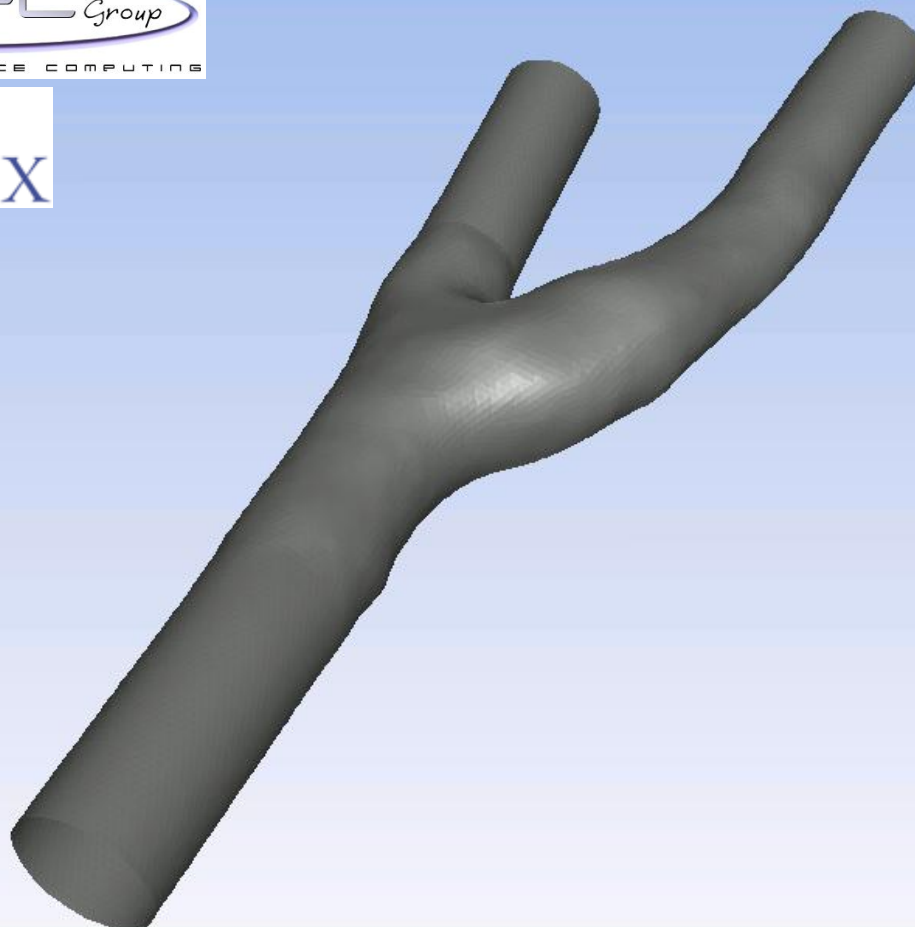


3D accretion morphing





# Carotid Bifurcation (Orobix – CILEA)



Morphing Preview (A=-1)

[www.rbf-morph.com](http://www.rbf-morph.com)

- A **shape parametric** CFD model can be defined using ANSYS Fluent and *RBF Morph* – new stand alone tools allow to widen the range of solvers (CFD, FEA) supported by RBF Morph technology
- **Parametric CFD model** can be easily coupled with preferred optimization tools to steer the solution to an **optimal design** that can be imported in the preferred **CAD** platform (using **STEP**)
- Proposed approach **dramatically** reduces the man time required for set-up widening the CFD calculation capability
- Local mesh control allows to enable multi-physics as well (FSI, icing, adjoint)
- ***M.E. Biancolini, Mesh morphing and smoothing by means of Radial Basis Functions (RBF): a practical example using Fluent and RBF Morph in Handbook of Research on Computational Science and Engineering: Theory and Practice (<http://www.cse-book.com/>)***

# Muito obrigado pela vossa atenção!

Dr. Corrado Groth

Prof. Marco Evangelos Biancolini

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Web: [www.rbf-morph.com](http://www.rbf-morph.com)



Goo.gl/1svYd

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